

EPO 2 Final Report

Chantal Chen
Thijs van Esch
Eojin Lim
Pieter Olyslaegers
Kevin Pang
Darren van de Pol
Wilson Rong
Maximiliaan Sobry
Wiktor Tomanek

Supervisor: Dr. ir. Arjan van Genderen
TA: Nassim Beladel, Ian van Ingen, Daniel Paassen

Electrical Engineering BSc
June 16th, 2023

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1

Introduction

For EPO-2 the goal is to develop hardware and software modules to implement a self-operating robot. This report details the design of a robot that needs to execute three challenges on a challenge grid, also called a maze, where small metal disks called 'mines' were added. An overview of the maze is described in Figure 1.1.

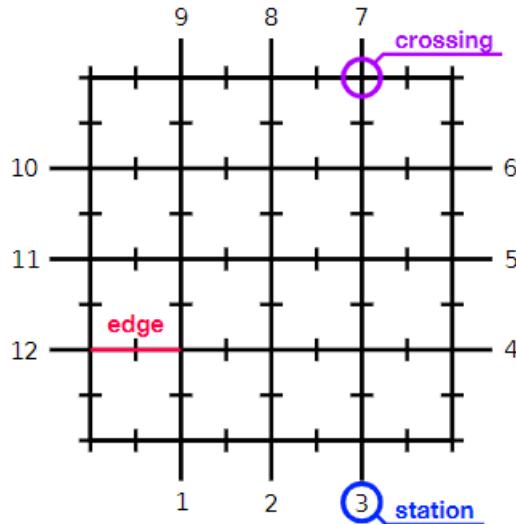


Figure 1.1: The challenge grid

The challenges that the robot must face are the following:

- A The robot is given a sequence of stations it has to visit in order.
- B The same as challenge A, but with mines added to the board at the midpoint of edges. The robot has to detect and avoid these mines.
- C The robot has to map the entire grid and all the mines contained within. When it is finished an extra mine is added, which also needs to be found by the robot.

At the symposium, these challenges need to be completed as quick as possible by the robot. In order to do so, the robot should have the following requirements. It should detect the mines, follow and navigate on the grid (Figure 1.1) and memorize the path it took so that it knows its location all the time. The navigation and location was done by a program written in C. This program was also deciding the path the robot takes.

For the program to be able to decide the path of the robot. It has to be able to communicate with the robot. This communication will be done using the UART protocol and two Xbee modules, one attached to

the robot and the other connected to the laptop. To detect the mines from challenges B and C, a mine sensor will be made using an oscillator and a coil. In the end, all of these systems will be integrated together.

A schematic overview of the EPO-2 robot has been provided in Figure 1.2. In this overview, every module has been assigned a different colour. The corresponding chapters and the components of each module are also indicated.

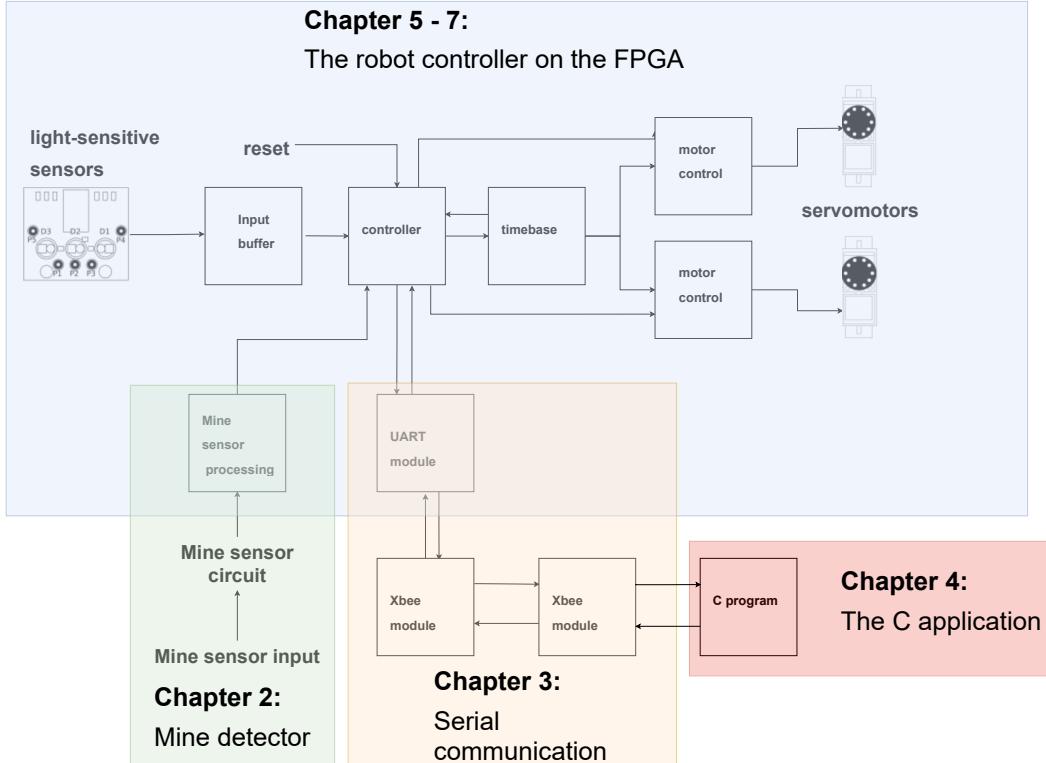


Figure 1.2: Schematic overview of the EPO-2 robot

Four different modules need to be designed and executed.

- Mine Detector: a mine-detecting sensor should be designed and created that is able to detect mines without touching them and allowing robot to avoid them. The mine-detecting sensor will be discussed in Chapter 2.
- The C application: a program with an interface and an algorithm for computing the route should be created in C. The C application will be discussed in Chapter 4
- Serial communication: an interface should be created that can guide the robot via the PC. Serial communication will be discussed in Chapter 3.
- The robot controller on the FPGA: a final state machine should be designed and written in VHDL to be able to follow the line, detect mines and execute the commands of the PC if needed. In Chapter 5, the line follower will be discussed that is part of the robot controller on the FPGA. The robot controller on the FPGA itself will be discussed in Chapters 6 and 7.

2

Mine sensor

2.1. Introduction

In EPO-2 the robot must be able to complete three different challenges. Two of these challenges are involved with obstacles in the robot's path, so-called mines. The robot must be able to detect these mines in its path and avoid them by determining a different path that can be used to reach its destination. To detect these mines in the first place the robot must be equipped with a sensor that is able to detect these mines. In this chapter, the design, testing, assembly, and implementation of such sensor will be explained.

2.2. The requirements

The 'mines' on the field are made of metal disks. Thus the first and most important requirement is that the sensor must be able to sense metal objects.

In order to sense a metal object the circuit must be built with an LC oscillator, which is another requirement. Next to only sensing a mine, the raw input signal has to be processed using code into an actual bit output which is '1' for mine and '0' for no mine.

2.3. The followed design methodology

While designing the mine detector module, the following design methodology was proceeded:

1. The circuit based on the Schmitt Trigger oscillator was designed. This oscillator was introduced in the lab assignment of the Amplifiers and Instrumentation course.
2. The oscillator was tested and the variation in the frequency was measured.
3. VHDL circuit based on the time base counter and a simple finite state machine was designed, written, and tested with the analogue circuitry. The purpose of this program is to count how long the oscillator stays in a certain state, and therefore to measure the frequency of oscillations.

2.3.1. Design

The decision to use a design based on varying inductance was made since this approach is significantly more stable and less dependent on environmental conditions than a design based on varying capacitance.

Figure 2.1 represents the final design of the circuit.

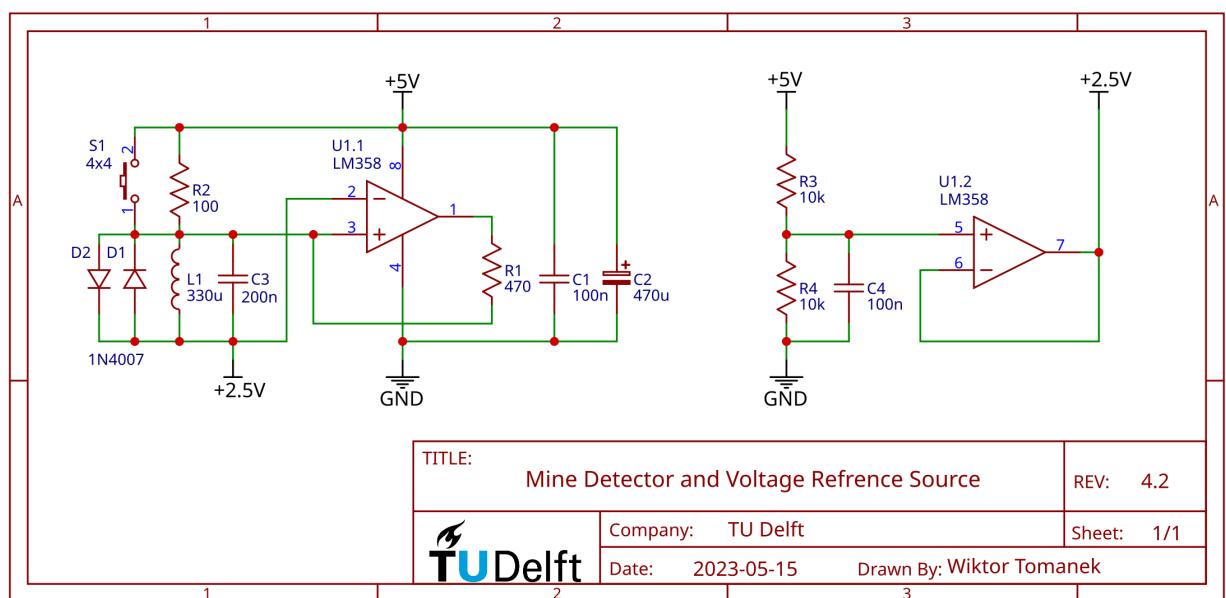


Figure 2.1: Circuit Design

The first step of designing the circuit was to choose coil L1. The goal was to choose the one that shows the biggest change of inductance when the mine is placed below it. Since that depends on the geometry of the coil and the number of possible coils was small and finite, the decision was made to choose it empirically by testing all possible coils with an RLC meter.

The value of the inductance was the less important parameter than the intensity of its variation.

The coil with 330 μ H was chosen. Capacitor C3 creates an LC oscillator with it. Its value was not a very important factor in the system since it only defines the oscillation frequency of the LC tank. This factor is only roughly limited by the fact that very low frequencies ($<1\text{kHz}$) will cause the robot to have a delay to its response and too high frequencies ($>1\text{MHz}$) will be affected by the variations of the environment capacitance and will therefore be unstable and hard to accurately measure. However, the ESR and ESI of the capacitor C3 play an important role in the performance of the circuit, therefore a few configurations were tested and the one with two 100nF capacitors in parallel was chosen since this reduces the ESR and ESI by half and gives a reasonable frequency of around 10kHz.

The next step was to choose resistor R1. A too-small value would cause the circuit to become very saturated and distort the wave. As given in the datasheet of LM358 (LM358 was the only op-amp that was available) - high values of gain cause high harmonic distortions. A too-big value would cause the system to not

have enough gain to overcome the dampening effects and the system would never oscillate. This component was chosen empirically to be of a value of 470 Ohm.

Switch S1 is required because sometimes the system is stable enough that it does not start to oscillate. In that case, S1 is used to "kick-start" it.

Originally S1 was used in series with a 100 Ohm resistor to limit the current however it was noticed that keeping this resistor at all times gives a much smoother waveform. This means that the circuit was still saturating a little too much, so a bit more additional dampening was required to limit the swing of the LC tank. The simplest solution in this case was to just leave this resistor connected at all times and this is the story of the resistor R2 (it is just an additional dampening).

Diodes D1 and D2 were added to make sure that the LC tank will never swing above 0.7V which is a safe peak amplitude before the circuit becomes very saturated and causes significant harmonic distortions.

Lastly, capacitors C1 and C2 provide power filtering. C2 acts as a so-called reservoir that gives high amounts of current when needed, however, it is limited in the reaction time due to the relatively high ESR and ESI of the electrolytic capacitors. C1 corrects for that, thus filtering the high-frequency noise.

One side of the oscillator tank is connected to the output of the op-amp and the other one requires to be connected to the bias voltage of the circuit which ideally is in the middle of the power rails therefore 2.5V in this case, to provide the highest possible output swing. LM358 is a dual op-amp IC, thus the unused amplifier was utilized as a buffer for the reference voltage created with a voltage divider consisting of R3 and R4. Capacitor C4 was just added for additional filtering of any potential noise at the output of the voltage divider.

All capacitors were chosen to have a voltage rating higher than 5V, so they are safe to use in this circuit. Power ratings of the resistors do not play an important role in the design, because currents in the circuit are very low, thus all resistors have 1/4W ratings. Tolerances of the components do not matter because the entire system can be calibrated in VHDL. (Assuming that they are in a range of modern standards.)

2.3.2. Simulations

The designed circuit was first simulated using the LTSpice. It was tested whenever the output of the circuit is indeed as expected, and whenever the frequency of the square wave output is indeed changing along with the change of the inductance, which corresponds to the sensor sensing a metal object.

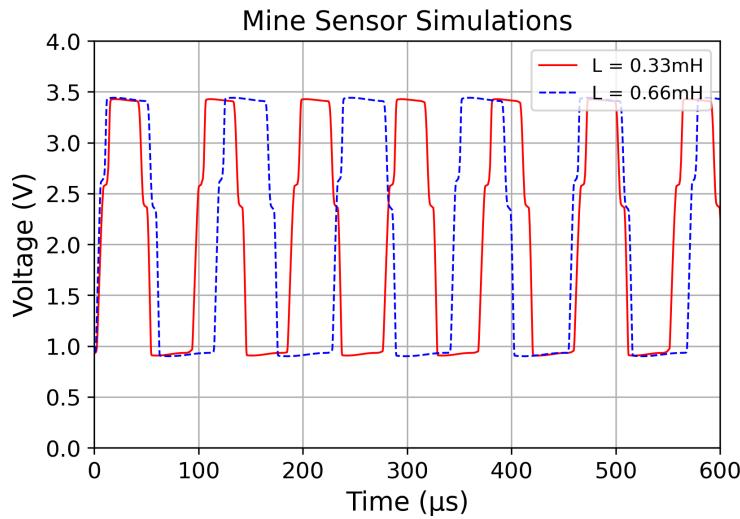


Figure 2.2: Circuit Simulations

Results of the simulations have shown the output of the circuit is indeed a square wave and the frequency of this square wave changes with a changing inductance value. In this case, with a doubled inductance value from $L = 0.33mH$ to $L = 0.66mH$ it is clearly shown in Figure 2.2 that the frequency of the square waves changes as expected. In the presence of the metal plate, the inductance of the inductor increases, giving a bigger period for the square wave. In reality, the increase of inductance in the presence of the 'mine' is around +10%, this was measured using the RLC meter.

In this simulation, $L = 0.36mH$ is not given in the graph since the change in frequency is small and hardly noticeable. Nevertheless, it doesn't matter that this value is not simulated since the main behaviour of; a changing period in the presence of a changing inductance is the most important aspect, which can also be simulated using $L = 0.66mH$.

To sum up, the simulated output has a square wave function in which the period changes along a changing inductance. The simulated circuit works as expected.

2.4. Implementation

2.4.1. Code

After the sensor has been designed and simulated it will be built and integrated with the robot. However, simply connecting the output of the sensor to the FPGA board is not yet enough. The output of this sensor still has to be processed to determine if a mine is detected or not.

With the use of some VHDL code the square wave output can be processed into determining whether there is a mine detected or not. As can be seen in the simulations, in Figure 2.2, the output of the sensor is a square wave function. The wave essentially has a high voltage and a low voltage, which the FPGA board reads as a '1' for high and '0' for low voltage.

Since the '1' and '0' keeps their value for a few microseconds it is possible to count the amount of ones or zeros in 1 period. In the presence of a metal mine, the inductance will increase which causes the period to increase, which means that the amount of time the wave is '1' or '0' holds in a period increases. Essentially, if it is known how many ones or zeros fit in one period without a mine, that value can be compared with the number of ones or zeros in a period with a mine.

Therefore the implemented code has a counter which in this case counts the amounts of zeros. In reality, it does not matter if the ones or zeros are counted since the change in count due to a mine is the important factor. The code is implemented using an FSM. It has 4 stages: a reset stage, a counting stage, a compare stage, and an output stage. In communication with the other EPO-2 groups the output stage, which is the stage that sends a '0' or '1' as output signalling that a mine had been detected, keeps on being on this stage for 10 milliseconds. This means that besides the FSM, there is also another code with a time counter which sends a reset '1' signal to the FSM after the 10 milliseconds have passed. This results in the FSM going back into its first stage, essentially resetting itself to start counting and detecting mines again. In the compare state, the number of zeros counted in one period gets compared to a set threshold. If it exceeds the threshold a '1' as output is given in the detected state to the rest of the system, signalling a mine has been detected. The threshold for the counting in the code will be determined in the testing phase.

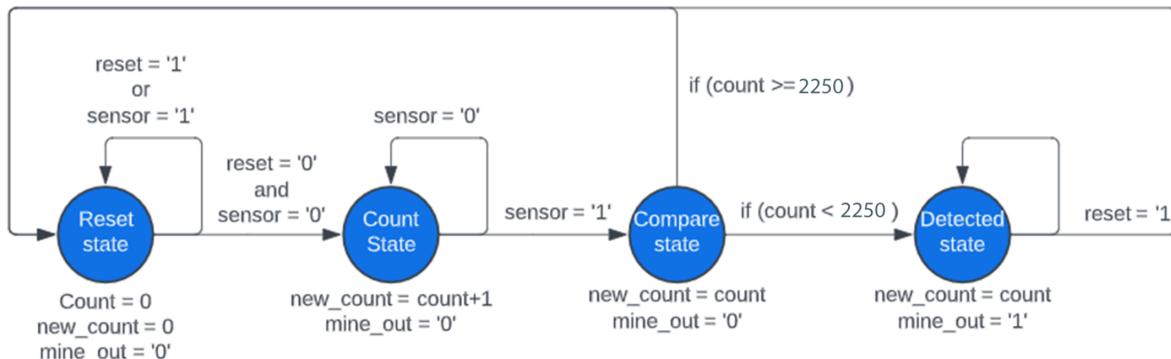


Figure 2.3: Finite State Diagram of the Sensor

In Figure 2.3 above a Finite State Diagram is shown of the code. And in Appendix E the full VHDL code for the mine sensor can be found.

2.4.2. Physical layout

The sensor was assembled on a separate prototyping PCB that connects to the robot as a module, as seen in the Figures 2.4 and 2.5. This solution allowed the circuit to be easily removed and tested separately or modified if needed.

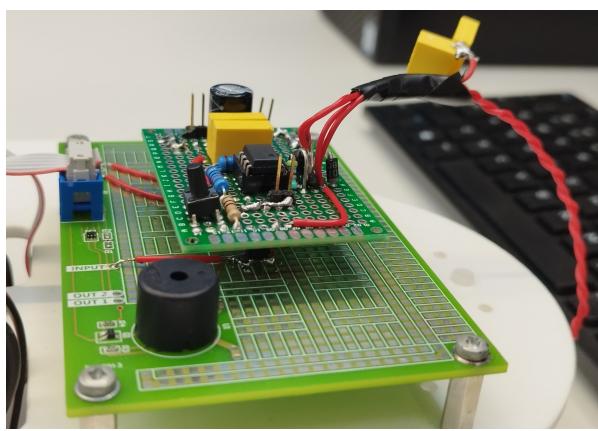


Figure 2.4: Side view

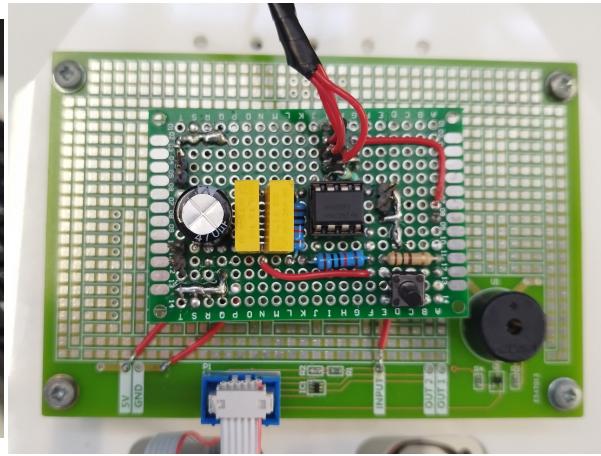


Figure 2.5: Top view

For low ESR applications, foil capacitors were chosen since they were available with low voltage specifications, thus they had compact dimensions.

The last step was to mount the coil using nylon struts and screws as seen in the Figure 2.6. Nylon was chosen since it is a nonmagnetic material and does not interfere with the operation of the oscillator. The spacing between the coil and the table was precisely adjusted with small washers and nuts. The goal was to have the coil as close to the table and the mine as possible for the highest sensitivity, but not too close, since that might cause the robot to push the mine away.

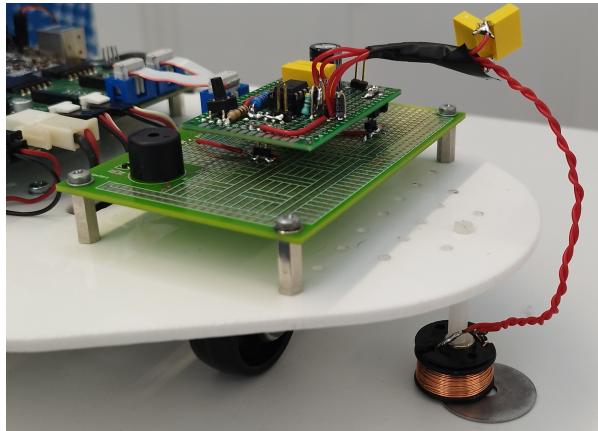


Figure 2.6: Coil view

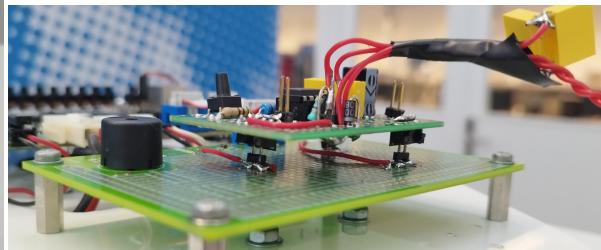


Figure 2.7: Front view

2.5. The testing phase

2.5.1. Physical circuit testing

After assembling the sensor circuit, it was first tested whether the circuit output gives a correct square wave output as seen in the simulations.

Using a probe connected to the output, the output was measured.

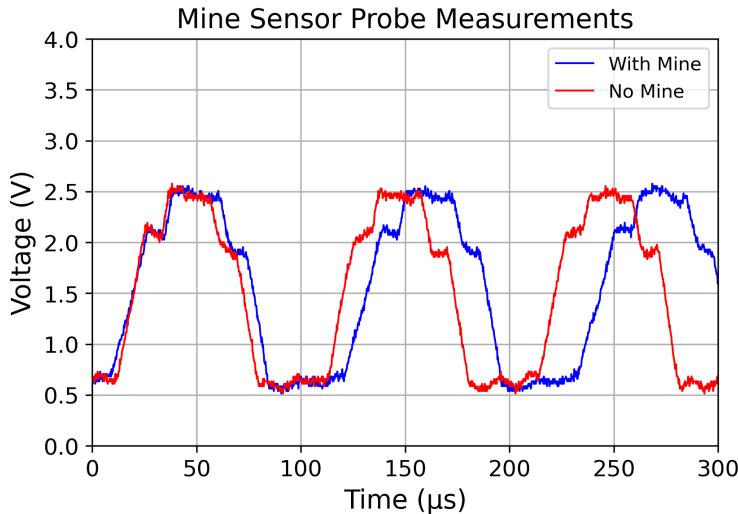


Figure 2.8: Circuit Probe Measurements

As seen in Figure 2.8 the output is mostly a square wave function. The FPGA board considers voltages above 1.2V as a '1'. So the two 'steps' are seen as a '1'. Essentially when looking carefully at the measurements, the amount of time that the signal is a '1' is longer than it is '0' in a period. This is not problematic since the change in the period under the influence of a mine is important, therefore the shape of the 'square' wave signal is fine to work with.

In Figure 2.8 the square wave is plotted with and without a mine. The graph shows a clear change in frequency and with a mine, the period is bigger. Which is expected from the simulations. From this, it can be concluded the sensor sufficiently senses the presence of a mine.

After testing if the built circuit worked as intended. The next step was to determine how many times '0' was counted in 1 period. With this information, a threshold value can be set in the VHDL code.

The FPGA boards run on a 50Mhz clock which has a 20 nanosecond period. It must be determined how many of these periods fit into the '0' state of the output square wave signal of 1 period. The time the signal is below 1.2V could be measured with an oscilloscope. However, the decision was made not to proceed with this approach and instead use the FPGA board directly to count the '0' state of the square wave. In the unlikely event that the circuit may behave a bit differently on the FPGA board. The value counted by the FPGA board is more accurate than the one with a probe-determined count. This method also compensates for the fact that FPGA is still counting while the signal is on one of the edges since the voltage has to cross the threshold.

2.5.2. Sensor FPGA board implementation testing

A simple VHDL code that counts how many periods of 20 nanoseconds fit into the low state of the square wave for 1 period was written, with a bit vector as output. This output was displayed on the FPGA board using the led lights on the board. This gave 2112 counts without a mine and 2400 counts with a mine. After further testing with the code and taking into account the psychical placement of the sensor, the final threshold value of 2250 counts was chosen.

After a threshold was chosen, the sensor with the VHDL code could be tested. After the VHDL Code was implemented on the FPGA board. Two states, the counting stage, and the compare state were checked whether they work as intended, by designating an LED to each state and connecting the probe to them to see the states on the oscilloscope.

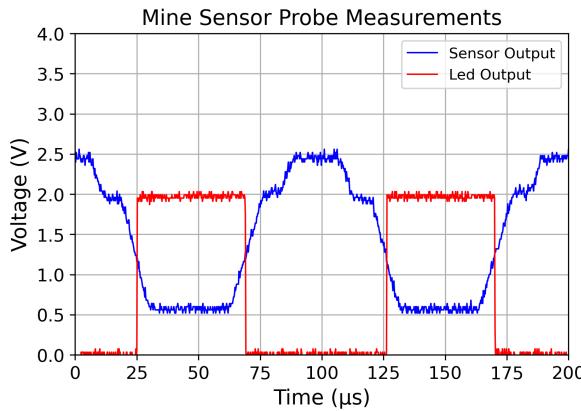


Figure 2.9: Count state

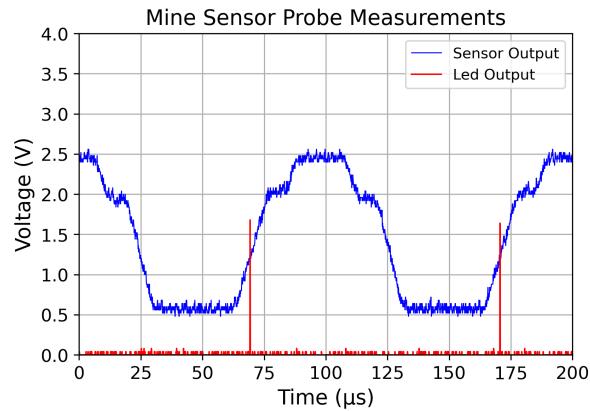


Figure 2.10: Compare state

As can be seen in Figures 2.9 and 2.10 the counting state happens when the square wave signal is '0' and the compare state at the end of the '0' signal when the square wave jumps to a higher voltage. This shows the VHDL Code is indeed counting when the square wave signal is low and after counting immediately goes to the compare state. Out of visual observations where the output in the output state is assigned to a LED. It could be seen that the LED lights up when a metal object is placed below it and stays off when there was no metal mine below the sensor. From these observations and measurements, it can be said confidently that the sensor and the code work as intended.

3

Communication

The controller must be able to communicate with the robot via a wireless connection. It was decided that this communication be done using *XBee* modules. Such modules use their own protocol to communicate with each other while using the well-established UART protocol to communicate with external hardware. This means that both the controller, which runs on a desktop computer, and the robot must implement the UART protocol to communicate with each other. How this was achieved, is described in this chapter.

3.1. The requirements

This section describes the requirements relating to the communication for both the robot and the controller.

3.1.1. The robot

In the manual, it was given that the robot has to use XBee modules with IEEE 802.15.4 standards. These modules support the needs of low-cost and low-power wireless sensor networks. This means that the XBee modules are able to provide reliable delivery of data between devices with minimal power required. They operate within the ISM 2.4 GHZ frequency band and have an indoor range of 30 meters.

With these XBee modules, the robot was required to read incoming data from the PC and write specific data to the PC. In order to let the robot communicate with the XBee module, it will need a VHDL code for a UART transceiver. This code was given on Brightspace and only needed to be implemented with the VHDL Robot top entity.

3.1.2. The controller

If an XBee module is connected to a desktop computer via a USB cable, it appears as a serial device. This means that the controller must have access to the following functions.

- A function to initialize the serial interface.
- A function to write a single byte to the serial interface, after this interface has been initialized.
- A function to read a single byte to the serial interface, after this interface has been initialized.
- A function to properly close the connection to a serial device, again after the interface has been initialized.

These functions must be implemented for the MacOS (BSD) and Linux platforms (both of which luckily use the same interface, because Unix is the best OS, allowing the code for the serial communication to be platform-independent for these two platforms) using the C programming language. It is most certainly not a requirement for this code to function when ran on the Microsoft Windows operating system.

3.1.3. Communication protocol

For the robot and the controller, only having the ability to read and write data does not allow them to communicate. It must be clear what received data actually implies for both the sender and the receiver. This means that a proper communication protocol must be designed. This protocol must meet the following requirements.

- It specifies when incoming data should be expected and when data should be sent for both the robot and the controller.
- It specifies what the robot should do with the data it receives from the controller.
- It specifies what the controller should do with the data it receives from the controller.

3.2. The followed design methodology

This section describes how the robot's UART module and the serial interface were designed.

3.2.1. The robot

The VHDL code that directly operates the XBee modules was already provided. To implement and use this code, the following flags and signals had to be used.

- Outputs:
 - `data_out`: This output is a vector of 8 bits and contains the data that has to be sent.
 - `write_data`: This is the flag that has to be set high to write data.
 - `read_data`: Using this output, data can be read.
- Inputs:
 - `data_ready`: This flag is set high by the UART code when it has successfully received data.
 - `data_in`: This byte-long vector contains the data sent by the laptop.

Next to these signals the RX and TX signals from the UART file also had to be properly integrated with the top entity. By assigning these signals and flags the robot can use the UART code to communicate with the laptop.

3.2.2. The controller

Since reading and writing data to a serial port is not such a nonstandard thing to do, code to achieve this could be found online fairly easily. Code snippets found online should be referenced from where within the application code they were used. These code snippets were modified to obtain the four functions that were required for the controller to have access to. These functions would be named `init_sio`, `write_byte`, `read_byte` and `close_sio` respectively.

3.3. Implementation

This section describes how the robot was programmed to use the UART module, how the controller implemented the serial interface, and what communication protocol would be used for communication between the robot and the controller.

3.3.1. The UART module for the robot

Serial communication via an XBee module is done by the robot using the UART (universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter) protocol. It was decided to make use of serial communication with the following properties.

- The rate at which information is transferred is 9600 baud.
- Each frame contains 8 data bits.
- No parity bits are used.
- Each frame ends after a single stop bit.

3.3.2. Asynchronous serial communication

The serial communication is asynchronous, which means that the clocks of the transmitting and receiving systems are not synchronized. This leads to a problem that the receiving system does not know exactly when a bit of information is arriving over the RX signal. To solve this problem, there will be two additional bits placed which are called the 'Start bit' and the 'Stop bit'. The Start bit will be placed in front of the 8 bits data with useful information and the stop bit will be placed at the end of the 8 bits data. These signals do not carry important data but allow the receiver to synchronize the 8 bits of data. Exchanging data with UART modules goes in several steps. These steps go as follows;

1. With no incoming data or outgoing data, the communication line is in 'BREAK' state with signal level '0'
2. if the communication starts, a moment before the communication line will go into 'IDLE' state with signal level '1'
3. The communication starts with the synchronization of the UART receiver. It synchronizes itself to the falling edge of the start bit which has a signal level '0'. Afterwards, the receiver will start to measure the amount of time elapsed to sample every data bit. Due to the transmission speed being known beforehand, the receiver knows how long each data bit lasts, which allows sampling. To sample accurately, the sampling is done in the middle of each bit.
4. The communication ends with a STOP bit. Its length is one to two times the length of a data bit and can be used as a check for signal integrity. after the stop bit an 'IDLE' signal will occur of any length. The process can now start over again.

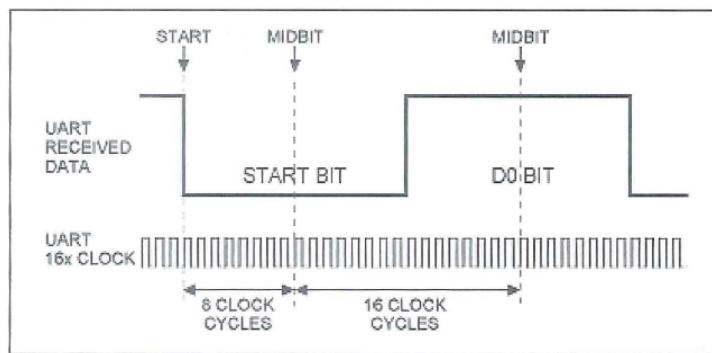


Figure 3.1: frame synchronisation and data bit sampling points

3.3.3. Testing and setting up the robot's ability to communicate

To be able to write between two XBee modules without interference, the modules had to be linked. This can be done by specifying the ID, channel, local and destination address. The software XCTU can be used to configure these devices. When the link is established and the XBee modules are connected to XCTU on two different laptops, data packets could be sent between two laptops.

This method was used every time a problem was encountered. By setting up one XBee with the XCTU and the other with either the robot or the C application one could check whether communication worked manually.

3.3.4. The serial interface

The implementation of the serial interface can be found in Appendix A.3.

3.3.5. The communication protocol

It was decided that the robot should send only send data when this data is needed by the controller. This data could be needed by the controller to calculate the most optimal path, update the current robot status or other things. There are three possible situations the robot can be in causing it to send data to the controller.

1. The robot has encountered an intersection. This would cause the robot to send a byte with value 2.

2. The robot has encountered a dead end. This always means that the robot has 'entered' a station. This would cause the robot to send a byte with value 3.
3. The robot has encountered a mine. This would cause the robot to send a byte with value 4.

The controller will only send data to the robot after it has received a single byte from the robot. This means that the robot may expect to receive a single byte for every status update it sends the controller. Each byte that the controller writes to the serial port is an instruction for the robot. There are four possible instructions that can be sent to the robot. One of these is named ROBOT_UTURN. An instruction to make a U-turn will be sent if the robot has just encountered a dead end or if the robot has encountered a mine. A different instruction is ROBOT_STOP. The controller should only send this instruction if the robot can stop doing everything it is doing. The robot should then loop in the same state until it is reset.

All other instructions exist to allow the controller to tell the robot to go forward, to the left or the right when it is at an intersection. These instructions are listed in the following table.

Opcode	Bit value	Description
ROBOT_LEFT	0b001	Go left at the next intersection.
ROBOT_RIGHT	0b010	Go right at the next intersection.
ROBOT_FORWARD	0b011	Continue driving forward at the next intersection.
ROBOT_STOP	0b100	The robot should stop immediately.
ROBOT_UTURN	0b101	The robot should make a U-turn immediately.

Table 3.1: Opcode with their bit value and description

3.4. The testing phase

To check whether the ZigBee modules were functional and ready to be used it was first tested if the code written to send and receive bytes from the controllers side actually worked. Then, it was verified that the robot was able to use the modules to communicate with the controller.

3.4.1. Testing the serial interface

A test program was written for a desktop computer in order to test if the controller is able to send and receive bytes using an XBee module.

This test program did two things after the serial interface has been initialized. First, it writes each lowercase letter in the alphabet to the serial port. Then, it keeps reading bytes from the serial port until the program is interrupted or some large number of attempts to read a byte have been made. By connecting one XBee module to the test program and connecting to another module using the GNU 'screen' utility it can quickly be established whether the test program does what it is supposed to do.

The program can be found in Appendix B.2.

4

The C application

The goal of the project is for the robot to be able to complete all three assignments. This goal is to be achieved by integrating many different subsystems. One of these subsystems is an application, written using the C programming language, running on a desktop computer.

This program makes use of several algorithms and data that were received from the robot to determine instructions that the robot should execute. In this chapter, the manner in which the application was written, designed and tested will be discussed.

4.1. The requirements

The application has to send the robot to where it needs to go. It does this by writing data (instructions) to a serial port. These instructions will then be sent wirelessly to the robot.

From the viewpoint of the robot, the application requirements boil down to the controller having to send an instruction each time the robot sends data about its state. The application may instruct the robot to make a U-turn or it may direct the robot to go left, right, or forward when it reaches the next intersection.

The application can determine where to send the robot from the arguments given to the program. The program must be able to read key-value pairs and name-only values given to it via the command line. It must also minimize its reading of user input via standard input. This gives the user of the program the ability to programmatically determine the desired arguments instead of having to manually enter them each time, improving the usability of the program.

Another requirement is that the program must have an exit status that either indicates that the program was run successfully or indicates exactly what caused the program to fail. This makes it easier to find errors and troubleshoot them.

Everyone writing code for the program must also make sure that all code that has been written is formatted similarly.

4.2. The followed design methodology

This section describes how the program was written, how the application was structured, and what algorithms were used for determining the most optimal path for the robot to take.

4.2.1. Code styling

Instead of just focusing on a working application, much attention was also given to the quality of the software that was written. This is because software of higher quality is generally easier to debug and maintain. This means that even though it may take longer before the application can be tested, debugging afterwards will be done much quicker. To increase the quality of the written software, the following things were done.

- It was made sure the code style was consistent. This was achieved with the use of the `clang-format` utility, which is included by default with the Clang compiler. This utility allows the specifying of code formatting rules in a file, ensuring that all written code is formatted the same. This `.clang-format` can be found in Appendix D.
- Writing tests that can be used separately from the main application.
- Providing error codes where appropriate, so if something fails we can more easily see what went wrong.
- Splitting the code for the application across multiple files, each containing a set of related functions and other definitions, only including other definitions when required.

4.2.2. Build system

For compiling the code written for the application the open-source build environment *CMake*. CMake is not a compiler. Rather, it is a system that generates another system's build files.

CMake can be configured by writing directives in the build script named `CMakeLists.txt`. This file can be found in Appendix C. This file specifies some build options, sets the compiler flags that enable all warnings and the flags that turn these warnings into errors. Each executable (one for the main application and one for each application test) is specified in this file separately.

4.2.3. The algorithm

For challenges A and B the path that the robot should take is simply the shortest path between its current location and its destination. To determine this path, the Lee algorithm was used.

The Lee algorithm can be used to determine the shortest path between two cells of a two-dimensional matrix. For our robot, this matrix is an array containing 13 rows and 13 columns. Each cell where the robot may not go initially gets assigned a value of -1, while cells, where the robot is allowed to go, are assigned a value of 0. What follows is an in-depth description of how this algorithm functions.

The Lee algorithm works on a 2-dimensional array. For the board the robot will be driving on this array will be a matrix containing 13 rows and 13 columns. Each cell represents either a station, a crossing, or an edge. The remaining cells will have the value -1.

The first thing that will be done by the algorithm is to set the value of the destination cell to 1. Then, the neighboring cell will be assigned the value of the destination cell incremented by one. This process will be repeated for each cell: for each cell with the value i each of its neighboring cells, if no value has been assigned to this cell and the robot could possibly move to that cell, will be assigned the value $i + 1$.

For challenge C the Lee algorithm wasn't optimal, because it is used for finding the shortest path. And for the last challenge every mine cell needs to be visited exactly once to find all the mines in the maze. Therefore it was decided to use a Hamiltonian Cycle.

This algorithm represents a closed loop in the maze where every node(vertex) is exactly visited once. The cells where a mine could potentially be found are replaced by a vertex. See Figure 4.4

For the use of the Hamiltonian cycle, an adjacency matrix needs to be created for the maze. This adjacency matrix is represented in Figure 4.2.

The adjacency matrix indicates with the Boolean value 1 if there is a direct path between two vertices and the Boolean value 0 indicates that there is no direct path. see Adjacent Matrix F.1

For finding the shortest path, we start by calculating the route from the closest vertex (mine cell) to the starting point in the maze. The next vertex is a vertex that is not already taken and has an edge between both vertices. This can be checked by the value 1 in the adjacency matrix. The process is repeated until a cycle is found and the last vertex is the starting vertex.

Finally, the robot starts tracing back the Hamiltonian cycle and visits all the vertices (mine cells) exactly once. Every time a mine is found the Hamiltonian cycle is recalculated with the remaining vertices.

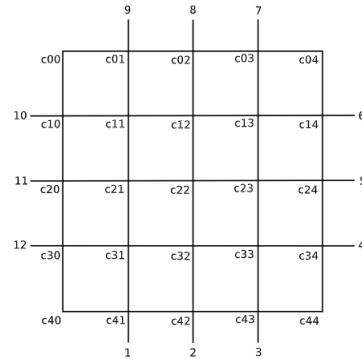


Figure 4.1: 13 by 13 array

	9	8	7	
10	-1 -1 -1 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1	-1 -1 -1 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1	-1 -1 -1 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1	6
11	-1 -1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 -1 -1	-1 -1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 -1 -1	-1 -1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 -1 -1	5
12	-1 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1	-1 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1	-1 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1	4
	1	2	3	

Figure 4.2: maze field

	9	8	7	
10	-1 -1 -1 -1 13 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1	-1 -1 -1 -1 12 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1	-1 -1 -1 -1 12 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1	6
11	-1 -1 13 12 11 12 13 0 0 0 0 -1 -1	-1 -1 12 -1 10 -1 12 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1	-1 -1 12 -1 10 -1 12 -1 0 -1 0 -1 -1	5
12	-1 -1 10 -1 8 -1 10 -1 12 -1 0 -1 -1	-1 -1 10 -1 8 -1 10 -1 12 -1 0 -1 -1	-1 -1 10 -1 8 -1 10 -1 12 -1 0 -1 -1	4
	1	2	3	

Figure 4.3: filled maze field

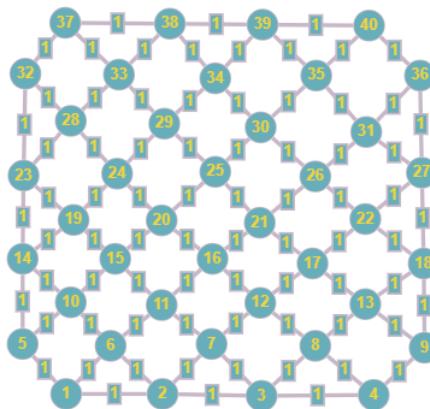


Figure 4.4: Hamiltonian cycle [2]

4.3. Implementation

In this section, it is discussed how the previously discussed design requirements are met.

4.3.1. Application structure

The application has been divided into several modules. Each of these modules is listed separately as a section of Appendix A. Figure 4.5 provides an overview of how data flows to and from each module in the application.

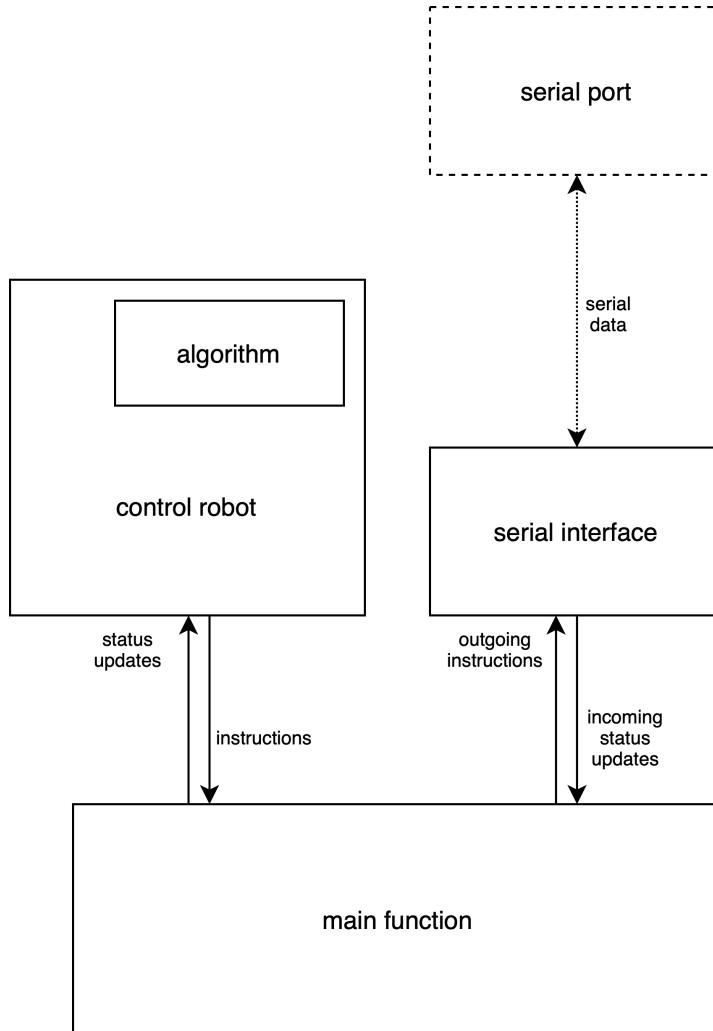


Figure 4.5: Flow of data within the application

4.3.2. Pathfinding

This section covers how the Lee algorithm was implemented.

A basic queue system was implemented in C. This system was used to queue the cells that have neighboring cells that were not given a value yet. Then, the Lee algorithm was implemented as the `calc_path` function.

Due to a lack of time, the algorithm for challenge C could not be implemented. It is expected that any implementation would function as described in the requirements section.

4.3.3. Robot control

The robot control is used directly from the file containing the application's main function. Like most other modules in the application, it has an initialization function that initializes the module. The implementation

can be found in Appendix A.

4.4. Testing

The testing that was done for the application can be divided into two categories.

- Tests without the robot.
- Tests with the robot.

4.4.1. Application testing

Some parts of the application could be tested without the robot.

- The queue system that was used by the algorithms.
- The algorithm(s) that calculate the most optimal path for the robot to take.
- The functions that parse the arguments given to the application.

A test program was written for each of these points. It used the interface it was testing in the way it was intended to check whether it functions correctly. If an unexpected value was encountered in any of the tests, the program would print what value it expected and the actual value along with an error message before exiting with an error code. All test programs can be found in Appendix B.

Each of these tests used the same functions for testing values. These functions were declared in a header file that was included by each source file containing a test.

A shell script was written to run all of these tests automatically. If any of the test programs exited with an error code the script return with a non-zero code, meaning it failed. Using this script it was easy to check whether changes made to the application caused errors in parts of the application that was expected to function correctly. This shell script can be found in Appendix B.4.

The application currently functions as expected. This is indicated by the aforementioned script not indicating that an error occurred.

4.4.2. Robot testing

The application as a whole is difficult to test without actually having the robot connected. Because of this, testing was also done with the robot connected.

Once testing with the robot started many errors were encountered. Some of these errors were caused by the application receiving data from the robot it did not expect. This was however not an error caused by the application code, but by the robot. Once some problems relating to the robot were fixed, there was not enough time left to debug the C application.

5

The line follower

5.1. Introduction

In Chapters 5, 6 and 7 the whole process of designing and testing the VHDL code of the robot will be discussed. However, in order to be able to write a VHDL code for the robot, some basic understanding of the physical parts of the robot as well as some knowledge about a line follower is needed. Since the physical components of the robot (except for the mine-sensor) are given and have been discussed in Chapter 2 of the line follower manual [3] in the course EE1D21 of TU Delft, the physical parts of the robot will not be elaborated further upon in this report. On the other hand, the line follower and its code will be elaborated on, since the VHDL code of the robot is an extension of the line follower.

The general idea of the to-be-designed line follower is to enable a robot to generate the correct signals to control its motors based on the current input of a light-sensitive sensor system, thus enabling it to follow a line. In order to do this several components have to be designed in VHDL. These components are a time base, an input buffer, the motor controls and a (general) controller. In this chapter, the reasons behind the importance of these components and their functionality will be described.

5.2. The requirements

When designing the components, the specifications of the physical parts of the robot have to be taken into account. Therefore, components that have to be designed need to meet several requirements. While there are many specifications of the physical parts of the robot, the most important specifications to keep in mind when designing the VHDL code are that the robot runs on a 50 MHz system clock, the light-sensitive sensors are constantly sending data and that the motors are controlled by pulse width modulation (PWM). The motors that are used are controlled by a pulse sent every 20 ms. [3] With these specifications in mind, the requirements for the components of the VHDL code can be defined. In this section, those requirements will be briefly addressed.

- Time base: should be able to count up to a period of a PWM pulse and get reset by a synchronous reset.
- Input buffer: should ensure that sensor values are not changing during a clock cycle.
- Motor controls: should send the correct PWM signal to control the motors.
- Controller: should determine the direction (and speed) the wheels are turning to, based on the sensor values.

These requirements are taken from the provided line follower manual [3] and should also be kept in mind when designing the VHDL code of the EPO2 robot, which will appear in Chapters 6 and 7.

5.3. Design and Implementation

In Figure 5.1 an overview of the line follower provided by the line follower manual [3] is given. Based on this overview and the given requirements, the VHDL code for line follower was designed and implemented.

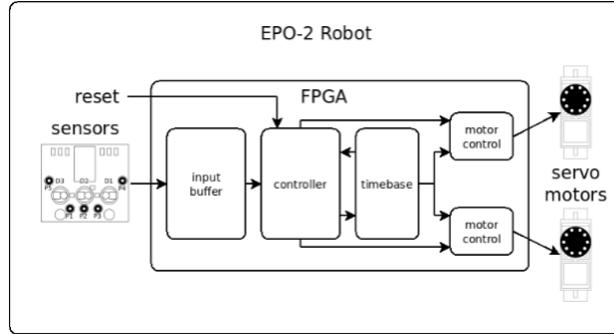


Figure 5.1: Overview of line follower that is used for EPO-2 [3]

It is noticeable that the sensor values of the light-sensitive sensors enter the robot via the input buffer, which then forwards those signals to the controller. The controller in turn sends signals to the time base and motor controls. Lastly, the motor controls generate the right PWM signal so the motors start turning. During this, the time base counts the time and its output is used in the controller and motor controls. In the following sections, an explanation of the light sensors and these four components will be given.

5.3.1. Light-sensitive sensors

Light-sensitive sensors are mounted on the bottom of the robot. They measure the light reflected from the ground and set the output to '0' or '1' when the surface beneath the sensors is black or white respectively [3]. The sensor system consists of three sensors, `sensor_l(eft)`, `sensor_m(iddle)`, and `sensor_r(ight)`, that are attached horizontally such that they are parallel with the rear wheel shaft.

The robot always wants to have the line in the middle, which means the sensor values for `sensor_l`, `sensor_m`, and `sensor_r` are '1', '0' and '1' respectively (short notation: '101'). When the sensor values deviate from these "optimal" values, the robot ought to steer itself back on track until these values are met again.

5.3.2. Time base

As mentioned, a time base needs to be created for the robot to measure the time within the period of a PWM pulse. In order to achieve this, the time base will be implemented with a counter. The whole time base is shown in Figure 5.2, taken from the line follower manual[3]. It is visible that the time base is implemented with two process blocks. It repeatedly counts till 20 ms (the period of a PWM pulse). This is realised by using a register which can store the counted value for more than one clock period. The '`add_1`' block adds a value 1 to that counted value after each clock cycle, given the time base is not reset.

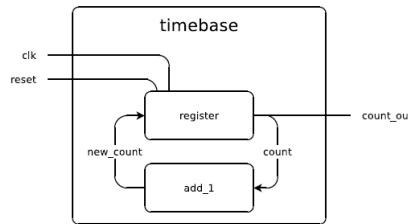


Figure 5.2: Schematic representation of the time base [3]

Since the time base adds a value of '1' each clock cycle, the length of the bit-vectors for the signals, `new_count`, `count` and `count_out` is obtained as follows: The frequency of the global clock is 50MHz, which means that the period is $\frac{1}{50 \times 10^6} = 20 \text{ ns}$. This means that in order to know when a 20 ms period has passed, the counter needs to count up to at least one million ($\frac{20 \times 10^{-3}}{20 \times 10^{-9}} = 1 \times 10^6$). From this, it is decided that

a 20-bit signal should be used because 2^{20} has a value that is just above one million. Along with the VHDL knowledge from the line follower manual, the VHDL code of the time base can be written. The VHDL code of the time base can be found in Appendix G.1.

The counter is an essential part of the line follower, as the duration of the PWM signal generated from the motor control gives the direction of the wheels. More about that will be explained in the subsection Motor Control.

5.3.3. Input buffer

The input signals should not change during a clock cycle. Therefore, to ensure that the input signals for the FSM are stable and an input buffer has been made. This input buffer consists of two 3-bit flip flop, which is placed between the sensors and the controller see Figure 5.1.

The sensor_l_in, sensor_m_in and sensor_r_in are used as inputs of the input buffer and then the 3-bit registers use this input and transfer it to the controller as can be seen in 5.1 and 5.3. This does mean that the output values of the input buffer are not the real-time values, but rather the sensor values from two clock cycles earlier. However, this means the controller component will use data from two clock cycles (=40 ns) earlier. This will cause no problems since 40 ns is way too fast for the motors to react to. This means that in 40 ns the robot will not have changed its position such that its sensor values differ from the sensor values that would have been observed 40 ns earlier.

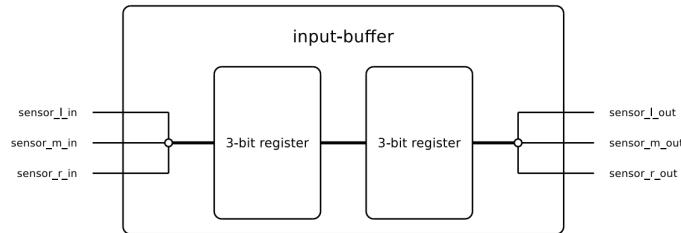


Figure 5.3: Schematic representation of the input buffer[3]

As mentioned, the input buffer is implemented with two 3-bit flipflops. For which the VHDL code can be found in Appendix G.7. Combining two of these components will result in the input buffer described above. The code for that can be found in Appendix G.5.

5.3.4. Motor control

The motor controls are responsible for making the motors turn the wheels clockwise (cw), counterclockwise (ccw) and turning the motors on or off. As described earlier, the motors are controlled by a PWM signal. This signal must have a period of 20 ms and a duty cycle between 5% and 10% [3]. This means that the pulse must be high at least 5 to 10% of the period time if you want the motors to drive the wheels. This knowledge combined with the given notion that a pulse shorter than 1.5 ms will cause the motors to turn counterclockwise and a pulse longer than 1.5 ms will cause the motors to turn clockwise, enables the reader to decide on the duration of the signals the motors should output in order to drive the wheels. Namely, the durations of 1 ms and 2 ms have been chosen to drive the motors counterclockwise and clockwise respectively. These two values satisfy the duty cycle and differ enough from 1.5 ms, so that no ambiguity may occur. See Figure 5.4 below.

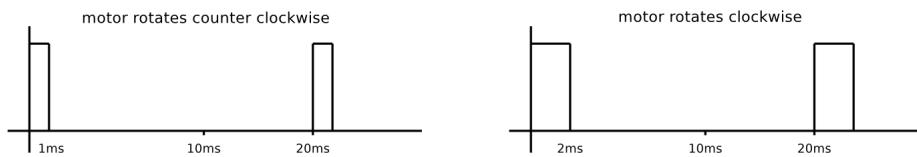


Figure 5.4: Length of pulse signals

The motor control component has been implemented in VHDL by two processes. One process to deter-

mine the next state and one to determine in which the output duration of pulse of a PWM signal, based on an input signal called 'direction'. This signal emerges from the controller component and is '0' if the wheels need to turn counterclockwise and '1' if the wheels need to turn clockwise. The motor control component will then make a pulse of 1 ms or 2 ms using the output signal of the time base as a reference. Lastly, after each period (20 ms), the motor controls are reset with a reset signal coming in from the time base. This way the robot can redo the whole process again. For a more extensive explanation of the motor control see the line follower manual [3]. If the above behaviour and description of the motor control component are implemented, one will obtain the VHDL code seen in Appendix G.3.

5.3.5. Controller

The controller is the central component of the line follower. It lets all the separate components work with each other and controls the behaviour of the line following based on its inputs. The architecture consists of two processes. The first process ensures that the controller entity works with a synchronous reset and functions on the rising edge of the clock. The second process coordinates the earlier discussed components to let the robot follow a black line. This is done by using a finite state machine which comprises six states. The reset state (state_r) resets the time base and motor direction signals and functions as a "read state" which reads the sensor signals constantly. Based on those sensor signals, the finite state machine will go to one of the other five states and stays in that state for 20 ms. These five states each create different directions signals for the motor controller components, therefore they steer the robot in different directions. The table below was used to connect the different sensor inputs to the correct direction state and thus provide the right output signals for the motor control. Afterwards, the finite state machine goes back to the reset state and repeats this process to coordinate the line following behaviour.

Table 5.5 is used to design the controller for the line follower.

Sensors			Wheels		Motor pulses		Direction
left	middle	right	left	right	left	right	
black	black	black	forward	forward	2 ms	1 ms	forward
black	black	white	stop	forward	0 ms	1 ms	gentle left
black	white	black	forward	forward	2 ms	1 ms	forward
black	white	white	reverse	forward	1 ms	1 ms	sharp left
white	black	black	forward	stop	2 ms	0 ms	gentle right
white	black	white	forward	forward	2 ms	1 ms	forward
white	white	black	forward	reverse	2 ms	2 ms	sharp right
white	white	white	forward	forward	2 ms	1 ms	forward

Figure 5.5: Relation between sensors, wheels, motor pulses and direction [3]

In Appendix G.8, the complete VHDL of the controller as described above can be found.

5.3.6. Robot top entity

This subsection concerns the integration of all the components described in the previous subsections. The robot top entity, as expected, has the sensor values as inputs and the PWM signals for the motors as output. For the integration of the components in VHDL, all the separate components need to be port mapped in the top entity file. This code can be found in Appendix G.10.

5.4. Testing phase

To check whether the line follower works as intended, a testbench for each component of the line follower was made and used to test the behaviour of the components. Using a testbench is essentially, feeding fixed values at the input of the component to be tested and then observing its outputs.

5.4.1. Time base testing

The testbench of the time base can be found in Appendix G.2. It simulates the counter with a clock period of 20 ns. From Figure G.1, it is evident that the counter counts up with one when the clock is on its rising clock edge.

5.4.2. Motor control testing

The testbench of the motor control provided by the line follower manual [3] can be found in Appendix G.4. This testbench simulates a period of 20 ms in clockwise (direction = 1) and counterclockwise direction (direction = 0)[3]. In Figure G.2 there are two noticeable peaks that transition from a low value to a high value and after some time transition back to a low value. The first peak is from 0 ms to 1 ms. During this peak the reset has the value '0' and direction '0' (counterclockwise direction). Since the motors need to turn counterclockwise, the pulse needs to last 1 ms. The second peak is from 20 ms to 22 ms. During this peak, the reset has the value '0' and direction '1' (clockwise direction). Since the motors need to turn clockwise, the pulse needs to last 2 ms. Which corresponds with what we expect and have described in section 5.3.4.

5.4.3. Input buffer testing

The testbench of the input buffer has been made that can be found in Appendix G.6. From Figure G.3, it is evident that the input signals are delayed with two clock cycles, given that no output signals have been initialized, hence the undefined output signals during the first 2 clock cycles.

5.4.4. Controller testing

The testbench of the controller has been made that can be found in Appendix G.9. From Figure G.4, it can be deduced that the motor left direction, motor right direction, motor left reset, motor right reset and the count reset has been set to the correct value with the corresponding sensor values according to Figure 5.5.

For example, when the sensor_l_in is '0', sensor_m_in is '1' and sensor_r_in is '1', which means it detects black white white, it should have a motor pulse of '1' for both left and right according to Figure 5.5. This occurs by setting the motor direction left and right to '1' as described in section 5.4.2. The motor reset signals and the count_reset signal should both be set to '0' since the motors ought not to be reset during the turn. Using the same reasoning as above it can be checked that, the output signals of the controller are indeed correct.

5.4.5. Robot top entity testing

The testbench of the robot top entity provided by the line follower manual [3] can be found in Appendix G.11. Simulating this testbench results in Figure G.5. It can be seen that the output PWM signals based on the input signals correspond with the values in Figure 5.5.

5.5. Conclusion

The line follower is of utter importance for EPO-2 because the VHDL code for the robot is its extension. The components of the line follower consist of a time base, an input buffer, motor controls, and a controller that have all been designed in VHDL code. The functionality of the line follower was checked by creating testbenches and testing whether the output signals correspond to the expected values.

6

Robot Top Entity

6.1. Introduction

As mentioned, for the EPO-2 project, the line follower assignment needs to be expanded. Besides following a black line, it needs to be able to do several more complicated tasks to complete challenges A, B, and C. This chapter will give an overview of what has been changed for the EPO-2 robot with respect to the line follower. For the most part, the components have stayed relatively the same, except for the controller. Furthermore, two more components have been added, which are the mine sensor component and the UART component. Since the controller has been changed drastically, a separate chapter (Chapter 7) has been dedicated to this component. The other components of the EPO-2 robot will be discussed in this chapter.

6.2. Requirements

In the EPO-2 manual, there were no specific requirements, but it rather gave a mission. Next to following a black line, the robot needs to be able to perform tasks based on the C program and detect mines in the maze. [1]

6.3. Design and implementation

In order to let the robot communicate with the C program and detect a mine, a mine sensor component, and a UART component need to be added to the robot entity. This led to new input and output signals going in and out of the controller which ultimately meant that the controller FSM in the line follower needed to be redesigned, as mentioned in the introduction. The EPO-2 manual proposed two different design approaches for a new (more advanced) finite state machine in the controller component. The first manner was to expand the existing controller FSM and the second opted for a multiplexer design. It was chosen to use the first design due to its simplicity in its structure and implementation. However, one large FSM would make it hard to retain a good overview of the structure. Therefore it was chosen to split the FSM into three smaller FSMs. The separation was based on the three different functionalities that needed to be implemented. Their functionalities will be discussed in the next chapter.

6.3.1. Robot top entity

Prior to addressing the new components and changes made to the different components, it is good to have an overview of the different components which the robot now consists of. In Figure 6.1 an overview of the robot is given.

The overview of the robot in Figure 6.1 shows a further developed version of the old line follower. The existing ports from the line follower from Chapter 5 have stayed the same. As for the new mine sensor and UART component new input and output ports have to be added to the controller entity. On top of that, internal adjustments have been made to the time base and motor control components. They will be discussed later on in this chapter.

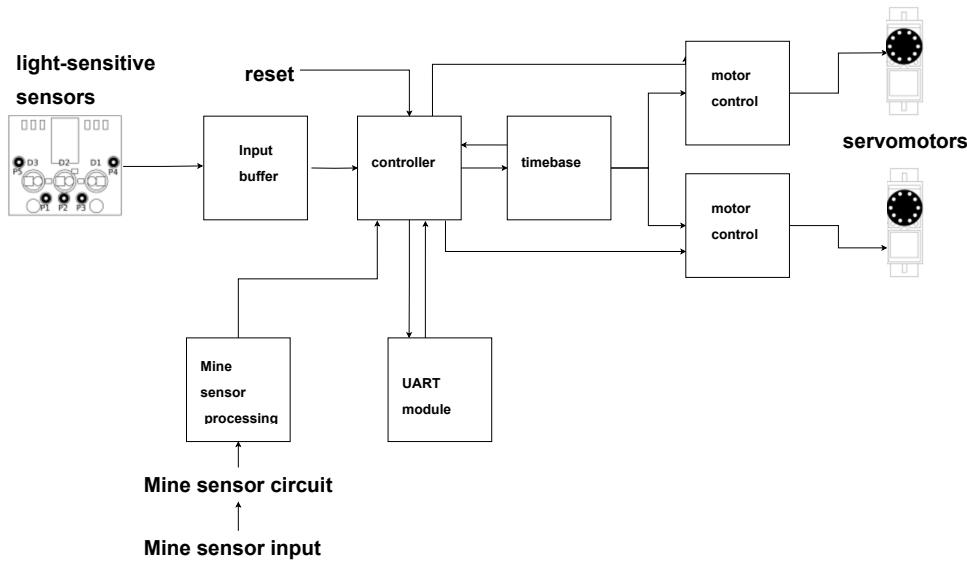


Figure 6.1: Overview of the robot top entity

The mine sensor component sends one output signal to the controller whose input is named `mine_s`. This input port is either zero or one. If the mine detector circuit detects a mine, then `mine_s` will be high. Otherwise, the signal is low. This way the robot knows whether there is a mine ahead. For more information about the mine sensor, refer back to Chapter 2.

The UART component uses RX and TX lines to read and write data to the robot. Therefore in the robot's top entity, the input port RX and output port TX are added. Furthermore, the UART sends a `buffer_empty` signal to the robot entity to let the robot know when the UART module is ready to accept new data for transmission. This signal has been added to the robot top entity named, `buffer_empty`. The code for the UART component was given, and simply portmapped in the top entity. For more information about the UART module, refer back to Chapter 3.

The full robot top entity VHDL code can be found in Appendix H.3.3.

6.3.2. Adjustments made to the time base

In the time base an extra output signal, `reset_out`, has been added. This signal will go high when either the global reset is high or when the time base counter has counted 20 milliseconds. Otherwise, the signal is low. The purpose of this extra signal is to use it as a periodic reset for the servo motors as they needed to be reset every 20 milliseconds. This implementation will be discussed in the next section. The code below shows what adjustment has been made. Only the part that differs from the time base in the line follower is shown. For the complete adjusted time base, see Appendix H.1.

```

process ( clk )
begin
    if ( clk'event and clk = '1' ) then
        if ( (reset = '1') or (unsigned(count) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) ) then
            count <= ( others => '0' );
            reset_out <= '1';                                -- Added reset_out port.
        else
            reset_out <= '0';                                -- Added reset_out port.
            count <= new_count;
        end if;
    end if;
end process;

```

6.3.3. Adjustments made to the motor control

The implementation of the periodic reset of the servo motors is done in the adjusted motor controller. For this periodic reset to work, the motor control uses the `reset_out` signal from the time base as a condition to

go to the reset state (state0). So when reset_out signal is high, the PWM signal will go low. Hence the servo motors will be reset every 20 milliseconds. The code below shows how this is done in VHDL. Only the part that differs from the motor control in the line follower is shown. For the complete adjusted motor control, see figure H.2.

```
process (clk)
begin
    if (rising_edge (clk)) then
        if (reset = '1' OR reset_in = '1') then --added port reset_in
            state <= state0;
        else
            state <= new_state;
        end if;
    end if;
end process;
```

6.4. Testing

Along with the extra components and newly implemented time base, motor control, and drastically changed controller, the robot has been tested. Since the controller is not yet elaborated upon, the testing of the robot will be explained at the end of Chapter 7. Understanding the test results requires an understanding of the biggest component first.

6.5. Conclusion

When expanding the line follower, new components were added and existing ones were adjusted. The mine sensor and UART component were added, to enable the robot to sense mines and communicate with the C program. However, the biggest and most important component that was adjusted, the controller, will be discussed next chapter. In the next chapter, the testing results of the robot will also be found.

7

The controller component of the robot

7.1. Introduction

For a clearer overview of the controller, a separate chapter was created. The corresponding code can be found in Appendix H.3.2. The controller is as seen in Chapter 5, the decision maker of the robot using the input signals. In Chapter 5, these input signals were only light-sensitive sensor signals. However, in the EPO2 robot, the additional input signals are the mine and communication signals. Furthermore, additional output signals are also added to communicate with the C program. This chapter will elaborate on how the controller deals with these extra signals and how it is designed. Last but not least, this chapter will cover the testing of the robot with its new and adjusted components.

The controller consists of four processes, which all have their own purpose. The processes are the clock process, the cross-counter process, the communication process and the motor control process. Each of the processes will be explained in the following subsections.

7.2. Clock process

The clock process ensures that all the events are synchronized with the rising edge of the clock. This means that all the FSMs will transition to the next state when the clock goes high. Furthermore, it arranges a synchronous reset which enforces every FSM to the reset state at the first rising clock edge after the reset signal was high.

7.3. Cross-counter process

As shown in Figure 1.1, the challenge grid does not simply consist of straight black lines and definite crossings. In the middlepoint of all the edges, a small black line can be observed that will be referred to as a patch. Since the robot needs to make decisions at an intersection, hence when the sensor_l_in is '0', sensor_m_in is '0' and sensor_r_in is '0', which means it detects black-black-black, a patch might falsely trigger a decision and thus make decisions at the wrong times. This means that, if the robot can't differentiate the patches from the crossings, it might e.g. turn on a patch, thus leading it to fail the challenge.

The cross-counter FSM is based on the position of the robot on the map and in which direction it's heading. There are four states: state_ptc (patch to crossing), state_crossing, state_ptc (patch to crossing), and state_patch.

The principle is that the robot cycles between these four states and that the state in which this FSM is, should represent where the robot is. When the robot finds itself above a crossing, a signal called 'crossing' is pulled high in order to let the communication FSM know that it can communicate to the C program, so the robot knows what to do at the right time. Below an explanation of the states can be found.

The states are listed below in order of occurrence.

- state_ptc: This state resembles the situation where the next time the robot detects black-black-black, which means that it is at a crossing. It is also the state that the robot returns to after a reset. At the start of a challenge, the robot starts at a station and therefore it first encounters a crossing.

- state_crossing: When the finite state machine is in this state, the robot is actively above a crossing and the crossing signal is set high.
- state_ctp: As soon as the robot continues its trajectory and leaves the crossing (being detected as white-black-white) the finite state machine transfers to this state and pulls the crossing signal low.
- state_patch: The next time black-black-black is detected, the robot is above a patch and therefore the crossing signal should stay low.

A more in-depth schematic of this FSM can be found in Appendix H.1. Additionally, the full cross-counter process can be found in lines 89-126 of Appendix H.3.2.

7.4. Communication process

The functionality of the communication process is to send and read the signals between VHDL and the C application via UART protocol. This process consists of four states:

- state_com_r: reset state of the communication process
- state_com_write: the state where data will be written by VHDL to the C application.
- state_com_wait: the state where the robot waits until the data is sent.
- state_com_read: the state where data will be read by the robot.

The robot needs to send data to C on three different occasions. When the robot detects the mine, when the robot is at a crossing and when the robot is at a station (dead end). State_com_r checks when those events occur using mine_s, crossing and sensors_l/m/r signals. At state_com_write the robot sends specific data based on those events. Table 7.1 provides a clear overview. Next, the FSM will reach the wait states. In these states, named state_com_wait_1 and state_com_wait_2, the write is pulled down immediately and waits for data coming from C. If data_ready is high then data is ready to be read from the Xbee. This is followed by the state_com_read state which reads the data_in vector and sets specific signals high based on the data from C. These signals are used to create a linkage between the communication process and the control motor process in order to let the robot react to the input data. Moreover will be explained in the next section. To ensure a well-functioning communication process, the state_com_read state also checks for the occasions when it doesn't need to write data before going to the state_com_r again. Afterwards, the process can repeat itself again.

Table 7.1: Data sent from the robot to the PC

Bit value	Description
00000010	The robot has encountered a mine.
00000011	The robot has encountered an intersection.
00000100	The robot has encountered a dead end.

7.5. Control motors process

The control motors process is to control the motors for example when the robot has received data from the PC. The whole control motors process can be divided into five main branches: forward, left, right, U-turn and stop branches. With these divisions of the branches, the robot can go towards any direction and stop when needed. The control motors process has been written in lines 243-481 in Appendix H.3.2. In this section, all the different branches of this process are explained.

7.5.1. Reset state

The reset state is the state where the robot starts and is purely utilized as a 'start state'. This means that the robot will not be able to go back to this state, except at the start. This state is trivial because the robot will not ride immediately when he is turned on and solely starts riding when he is on the line. If the robot is on the line, and thus the sensor_l, sensor_m and sensor_r are '101', white black white respectively, the robot will go to the next state the state_f which will be described in section 7.5.2.

7.5.2. Forward branch

The VHDL code for the forward branch consists only of state_f, but it can be considered as the core branch of all the branches and thus also the core for the VHDL code for the motor control itself. The reason for this consideration is that the forward branch is connected to all the branches in the motor control and eventually, every branch returns to the forward branch except the stop branch. The exclusion of the stop branch will be explained in section 7.5.6.

The connections of the states with state_f can be divided into 2 groups. The first group is the line follower, consisting of state_gl, state_sl, state_gr and state_sr. The operation of the line follower has been explained in section 5.3.

The second group is the extension of line follower in the form of branches where this FSM goes to when data signals from the communication process come in. In other words, the robot executes a behaviour base on signals that come from the communication process. This second group of the extension of the line follower consists of state_gl_d, state_sl_d_2, state_gr_d, state_sr_d_2, state_s, state_u_turn and state_u_turn_2. Each branch can be reached by the matching signal that is sent via the communication process described above, for instance when left_signal is '1', the left branch will be reached. Only the U-turn branch can be reached by two signals, U-turn_signal or mine_s, the latter being a signal from the mine sensors (section 2.4.1).

7.5.3. Left branch

The left branch is only reached when the incoming left_signal from the communication process is high and consists of two states, namely consists of state_gl_d and state_sl_d_2 and is implemented as follows. The robot starts at state_gl_d and turns gently left until the sensors detect white white white, meaning that the sensor_l and sensor_m and sensor_r are '111' respectively. The robot is now away from the line it was on and needs to keep turning until he sees the line on his left that's orthogonal to the original line. Thus after detecting '111' with the light sensors, the robot goes to the next state state_sl_d_2, where it turns sharp left till the sensors detect white black white, meaning that the sensor_l and sensor_m and sensor_r are '101' respectively. If the sensors detect '101' the robot goes to state_f and continues on with the maze. The VHDL code of the left branch can be found in the lines 393-416 of appendix H.3.2.

7.5.4. Right branch

The right branch is only reached when the incoming right_signal from the communication process is high and consists of two states, namely consists of state_gr_d and state_sr_d_2 and is implemented as follows. The robot starts at state_gr_d and turns gently right until the sensors detect white white white, meaning that the sensor_l and sensor_m and sensor_r are '111' respectively. The robot is now away from the line it was on and needs to keep turning until it sees the line on its right that is orthogonal to the original line. Thus after detecting '111' with the light sensors, the robot goes to the next state state_sr_d_2, where it turns sharp right till the sensors detect white black white, meaning that the sensor_l and sensor_m and sensor_r are '101' respectively. If the sensors detect '101' the robot goes to state_f and continues on with the maze. The VHDL code of the right branch can be found in the lines 420-447 of appendix H.3.2.

7.5.5. U-turn branch

The robot needs to make a turn when it is at a dead end or when it has detected a mine. The U-turn is made by turning the robot sharp right until it detects the line again. The U-turn consists of two states, the state_u_turn and state_u_turn_2, described in lines 452-477 in Appendix H.3.2.

When one of the two conditions to make a U-turn is met, u_turn_signal gets value '1' assigned and the robot goes from state_f to state_u_turn. In this state, the robot makes sharp right turns until the light-sensitive sensors detect '111' and as a result, the robot goes to state_u_turn_2. In this state, the robot keeps making a sharp right turn until the light-sensitive sensors detect '101', white black white. This is when the robot detects the line again and thus will go back to state_f. However, it also stops turning when the light-sensitive sensors detect '000' because when the robot senses black-black-black, it means it's either on a crossing or patch and thus should go forward and follow the line. The VHDL code for the U-turn can be found in lines 452-478 of Appendix H.3.2.

7.5.6. Stop branch

The robot will only stop and be in the stop branch when the stop_signal coming from the communication process is high. To stop the robot from moving the motor controls are constantly fed high reset signals. Thus the count_reset, motor_l_reset and the motor_r_reset have the output value '1' in this state. The value of the motor_l_direction and the motor_r_direction should not matter, because both motors were reset by the motor_l_reset and the motor_r_reset. The VHDL code for the stop branch can be found in lines 379-386 of Appendix H.3.2.

7.6. Testing

The controller has been tested on functionality. This is done by using LEDs on the FPGA and fixing (brute forcing) a specific opcode at the data_in input vector.

First of all, the behavior of the robot has been tested by fixing data_in to a specific opcode. For example, by fixing the data_in to the value '000000001' in the robot top entity. then the robot is expected to turn left at all times. This has been done with all the opcodes to check whether the robot will behave properly. Below can be found the manner in which data_in value was fixed.

```
LB2: controller port map(
  ...
  -- changed code to test the behaviour of the robot
  data_in =>      "000000001"
  ...
  data_in      => data_uoci,
  ...
)
```

Furthermore, LEDs have been used to show how the state transitions proceeded within the controller. With this information, it could be observed whether the robot was going to the correct state or whether it was going to the wrong state. Aside from testing correct state assignments, signals were also checked with LEDs. To check the states with LEDs by assigning different bits of the data_out value to different LEDs on the FPGA. Therefore, the LEDs need to be added as input ports in the robot's top entity. Below can be found the manner in which the output of the top entity is connected to the LEDs on the FPGA.

```
entity robot is
  port (
    ...
    led_7: out std_logic;
    led_6: out std_logic;
    led_5: out std_logic;
    led_4: out std_logic;
    led_3: out std_logic;
    led_2: out std_logic;
    led_1: out std_logic;
    led_0: out std_logic
  ...
);
```

In the port map of the controller, the bytes of the data_out bit vector have been assigned to different LEDs. The following port map of the controller has been used in the robot top entity to test. The rest of the port map of the controller has stayed the same. These two changes in the top entity of the VHDL code will make the LEDs on the FPGA light up according to the data_out signal. This makes it clear whether the robot is in the expected state when forced into a specific data_in signal.

```
LB2: controller port map(
...
-- changed code to test with the LED
      data_out(7)    => led_7,
      data_out(6)    => led_6,
      data_out(5)    => led_5,
      data_out(4)    => led_4,
      data_out(3)    => led_3,
      data_out(2)    => led_2,
      data_out(1)    => led_1,
      data_out(0)    => led_0,
...
      data_out        => data_uico,
...
)
```

When doing such actions on the robot, the robot has been observed to display the correct outputs given the inputs.

7.7. Conclusion

The above-explained implementation of the controller module was tested for correct operation firstly by putting the internal preexisting signals and signals dedicated to distinguishing the states of the FSMs on LEDs, and then by tests described in Chapter 8. Everything worked as intended.

This design focuses on simplicity and therefore is easy to modify and highly modular, however, it offloads the computational load to the C program, therefore, requiring higher complexity of it.

8

Test results of the robot's performance in the challenges

After constructing all the different components of the robot. It was time to test the robot's performance as a whole and whenever the robot is able to complete the 3 different challenges.

For challenge A, the robot has to visit a certain sequence of stations in a given order. To carry out the challenge, the C application sends orders to the robot via UART.

Unfortunately, communication with the robot did not function well. One of the major problems was that the C application, received too many data packets from the robot, instead of just one at a time. A 'workaround' was implemented for that, which was ignoring the excess packets. However, that gave rise to a new problem. Once the robot had made a U-turn, the C application lost communication and control over the robot.

As stated before in Chapter 4, the C code had been tested and it worked as intended, it was also tested by connecting two Xbees on a pc and pairing the Xbees together. The C program sent its output through one Xbee and the other Xbee would receive it. By reading the receiving Xbee using a serial monitor it was concluded the sent packets from the C program were as they were intended.

Also, the VHDL robot was tested using Xbee modules. Instead of having the C program send data packets to the robot. Robot instructions were manually sent via a the XCTU program to the robot. By having the instructions manually sent using the Xbees, the robot controller performed the instructions as intended. From this, it could be concluded the VHDL code of the controller works fine and that most likely something with the UART connection between the C Program and robot went wrong.

A lot of time went into debugging the problems of the robot, ultimately the U-turn problem after doing a right or left turn was not able to be resolved. This led to the realization that not only challenge A but also challenges B and C could not be executed by group A1_1. As an alternative, the group showed that the robot could at least follow the line and communicate with the C application if it did not have to make a U-turn.

9

Conclusion

The question of whether the project was successful depends truly on the perspective of the judgment. During the symposium, the robot did not complete any of the challenges, however, the project was an educational assignment and we learned a lot through it, therefore it can be called a success from this perspective.

We know what steps to take to debug and fix the issues that stopped us from succeeding, however, we ran out of time to proceed with it.

It might be doubted whether the time problem was actually a problem of the skill, however the huge delay in the troubleshooting and integrating process was caused by the VHDL group and they were willing to correct it with hard work and determination, by working during multiple weekends and afternoons. In the end, they delivered a mostly working code and they learned a lot in the process. The final issue lies in UART communication.

This experience though us how to mitigate such management issues, so they do not have to be corrected with hard work in the future. We can apply this knowledge in any future project.

The most crucial part is to keep a perfect information flow between subgroups. This not only prevents miscommunications regarding the design decisions, but also ensures that all the group members know the state of the progress of other people and help them / push them to work hard, or faster when necessary.

To summarize, this report describes how the robot was designed and thought out, and even though it was not an engineering success it was truly an educational success. We not only gained a lot of hard skills but also soft skills.

A

C code

A.1. Algorithm-related files

What follows is the contents of the file located at `control/algorithm/board.h`.

```
1 //  
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.  
3 //  
4  
5 #ifndef EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_BOARD_H  
6 #define EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_BOARD_H  
7  
8 #include "location.h"  
9  
10 typedef int** board;  
11  
12 //  
13 // Returns a newly created board with all default values.  
14 //  
15 board new_board();  
16  
17 //  
18 // Returns one of the four different directions the robot can move to from its  
19 // current_loc location.  
20 //  
21 // Note that this function may return a location to which the robot can not  
22 // move.  
23 //  
24 location get_direction(int index, location current);  
25  
26 //  
27 // Returns the value of the given cell on the given board.  
28 //  
29 int read_cell(board b, location loc);  
30  
31 //  
32 // Writes the given value to the given location at the given board.  
33 //  
34 // The given location is assumed to be valid.  
35 //  
36 // This function can be used to write the locations of mines on to the board.  
37 // If this is done, the number -3 should be given for 'value'.  
38 //  
39 void write_cell(board b, location loc, int value);  
40  
41 //  
42 // Returns a boolean indicating whether the given location is valid.  
43 //  
44 int is_valid_loc(location loc);  
45
```

```

46 //
47 // Calculates the shortest path between the start location and the destination.
48 // This path is written to the gl_board.
49 //
50 void calc_path(board b, location start, location end);
51
52 //
53 // Prints the given board to the console.
54 //
55 void print_board(board b);
56
57 #endif //EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_BOARD_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/algorithms/board.c.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include "board.h"
6 #include "default.h"
7 #include "queue.h"
8
9 #include <stdio.h>
10 #include <stdlib.h>
11
12 //
13 // The status code with which the program should exit if an illicit value is
14 // encountered by the algorithm functions and the error is fatal.
15 //
16 #define ALGORITHM_ERROR 6
17
18 board new_board()
19 {
20     int **board = (int **) malloc(sizeof(int *) * 13);
21     for (int i = 0; i < 13; ++i)
22     {
23         board[i] = (int *) malloc(sizeof(int) * 13);
24         for (int j = 0; j < 13; ++j)
25         {
26             board[i][j] = DEFAULT_BOARD[i][j];
27         }
28     }
29     return board;
30 }
31
32 location get_direction(int index, location current)
33 {
34     const static int X_DIFF[] = {-1, 0, 1, 0};
35     const static int Y_DIFF[] = {0, 1, 0, -1};
36     location loc = {current.x + X_DIFF[index], current.y + Y_DIFF[index]};
37     return loc;
38 }
39
40 int is_valid_loc(location loc)
41 {
42     int valid_x = loc.x >= 0 && loc.x < 13;
43     int valid_y = loc.y >= 0 && loc.y < 13;
44     return valid_x && valid_y;
45 }
46
47 int read_cell(board b, location loc)
48 {
49     if (!is_valid_loc(loc))
50     {
51         printf("::\\tattempted to read board value from illicit "
52               "location, causing a segfault\\n");
53         exit(ALGORITHM_ERROR);
54     }
55     return b[loc.x][loc.y];
}

```

```

56 }
57
58 int should_move_to(board b, location loc)
59 {
60     if (!is_valid_loc(loc))
61     {
62         return 0;
63     }
64     int value = read_cell(b, loc);
65     return value == 0;
66 }
67
68 void write_cell(board b, location loc, int value)
69 {
70     if (!is_valid_loc(loc))
71     {
72         printf(" ::\\t attempted to write board value to nonexistent "
73               "cell, causing a segfault\\n");
74         exit(ALGORITHM_ERROR);
75     }
76     b[loc.x][loc.y] = value;
77 }
78
79 void reset_cell(board b, location loc)
80 {
81     int value = read_cell(b, loc);
82     if (value >= 0)
83     {
84         write_cell(b, loc, 0);
85     }
86 }
87
88 void reset_board(board b)
89 {
90     for (int x = 0; x < 13; ++x)
91     {
92         for (int y = 0; y < 13; ++y)
93         {
94             location loc = {x, y};
95             reset_cell(b, loc);
96         }
97     }
98 }
99
100 void calc_path(board b, location start, location end)
101 {
102     reset_board(b);
103     queue *q = create_queue();
104     append_queue(q, end, 1);
105     write_cell(b, end, 1);
106     int distance = -1;
107     while (queue_length(q))
108     {
109         location current_loc;
110         int current_dist;
111         from_queue(q, &current_loc, &current_dist);
112         if (equal_loc(start, current_loc) && distance == -1)
113         {
114             distance = current_dist;
115         }
116         for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i)
117         {
118             location new_loc = get_direction(i, current_loc);
119             if (!should_move_to(b, new_loc))
120             {
121                 continue;
122             }
123             write_cell(b, new_loc, current_dist + 1);
124             append_queue(q, new_loc, current_dist + 1);
125         }
126     }

```

```

127 }
128
129 void print_padded(int value, int print_zero)
130 {
131     if (value == 0 && !print_zero)
132     {
133         printf("    ");
134         return;
135     } else if (value == -1 && !print_zero)
136     {
137         printf("    ");
138         return;
139     }
140     char s[6];
141     sprintf(s, "%d", value);
142     printf("%5s", s);
143 }
144
145 void print_header()
146 {
147     printf("\n row / col");
148     for (int i = 1; i < 13 + 1; ++i)
149     {
150         print_padded(i - 1, 13);
151     }
152     printf("\n");
153     for (int i = 0; i < 79; ++i)
154     {
155         printf("-");
156     }
157     printf("\n");
158 }
159
160 void print_board(board b)
161 {
162     print_header();
163     for (int i = 0; i < 13; ++i)
164     {
165         print_padded(i, 1);
166         printf(" | ");
167         for (int j = 0; j < 13; ++j)
168         {
169             print_padded(b[i][j], 0);
170         }
171         printf("\n");
172     }
173 }
```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/algorithms/default.h.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_DEFAULT_H
6 #define EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_DEFAULT_H
7
8 //
9 // This 2D array holds the initial values for all cells:
10 //
11 const int DEFAULT_BOARD[13][13] = {
12     {-1, -1, -1, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1},
13     {-1, -1, -1, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1},
14     {-1, -1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, -1, -1},
15     {-1, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, -1},
16     { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 },
17     {-1, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, -1},
18     { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 },
19     {-1, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, -1},
20     { 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 },
```

```

21 { -1, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, -1},
22 { -1, -1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, -1, -1 },
23 { -1, -1, -1, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, -1, -1, -1 },
24 { -1, -1, -1, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, -1, -1 }
25 };
26
27 #endif //EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_DEFAULT_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/algorithms/location.h.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_LOCATION_H
6 #define EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_LOCATION_H
7
8 struct location
9 {
10     int x;
11     int y;
12 };
13
14 typedef struct location location;
15
16 //
17 // Returns the location of the given station.
18 //
19 // The given integer should be the identifier of the station. This value should
20 // be in the range [1, 12].
21 //
22 location get_station_loc(int station);
23
24 //
25 // Returns a boolean indicating whether the two given locations are equal.
26 //
27 int equal_loc(location loc0, location loc1);
28
29 #endif //EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_LOCATION_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/algorithms/location.c.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include "location.h"
6
7 #include <stdio.h>
8
9 const int STATION_ROWS[] =
10 {12, 12, 12, 8, 6, 4, 0, 0, 0, 4, 6, 8};
11 const int STATION_COLS[] =
12 {4, 6, 8, 12, 12, 12, 8, 6, 4, 0, 0, 0};
13
14 location get_station_loc(int station)
15 {
16     location loc = {STATION_ROWS[station - 1], STATION_COLS[station - 1]};
17     return loc;
18 }
19
20 int equal_loc(location loc0, location loc1)
21 {
22     return loc0.x == loc1.x && loc0.y == loc1.y;
23 }

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/algorithms/queue.h.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_QUEUE_H
6 #define EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_QUEUE_H
7
8 #include "location.h"
9
10 struct queue_node;
11
12 typedef struct queue_node queue_node;
13
14 struct queue_node
15 {
16     location loc;
17     int dist;
18     queue_node *next;
19 };
20
21 struct queue
22 {
23     queue_node *first;
24     queue_node *last;
25 };
26
27 typedef struct queue queue;
28
29 //
30 // Creates an empty queue and returns its address.
31 //
32 queue *create_queue();
33
34 //
35 // Returns the length of the given queue.
36 //
37 int queue_length(const queue *q);
38
39 //
40 // Appends the given data to the given queue.
41 //
42 void append_queue(queue *q, location loc, int dist);
43
44 //
45 // Removes the first node from the queue. Its data is written to the addresses
46 // given to the function.
47 //
48 void from_queue(queue *q, location *loc, int *dist);
49
50 //
51 // Prints each value in the given queue.
52 //
53 void print_queue(const queue *q);
54
55 #endif //EPO2_CONTROL_ALG_QUEUE_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/algorithms/queue.c.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include <stdio.h>
6 #include <stdlib.h>
7
8 #include "queue.h"
9
10 queue *create_queue()
11 {
12     queue *q = (queue *) malloc(sizeof(queue));

```

```

13     q->first = NULL;
14     q->last = NULL;
15     return q;
16 }
17
18 int queue_length(const queue *q)
19 {
20     queue_node *cursor = q->first;
21     int length = 0;
22     while (cursor != NULL)
23     {
24         length += 1;
25         cursor = cursor->next;
26     }
27     return length;
28 }
29
30 void append_queue(queue *q, location loc, int dist)
31 {
32     queue_node *new_node = (queue_node *) malloc(sizeof(queue_node));
33     new_node->next = NULL;
34     new_node->loc = loc;
35     new_node->dist = dist;
36     int length = queue_length(q);
37     if (length == 0)
38     {
39         q->first = new_node;
40         q->last = new_node;
41     } else
42     {
43         q->last->next = new_node;
44         q->last = new_node;
45     }
46 }
47
48 void from_queue(queue *q, location *loc, int *dist)
49 {
50     if (!queue_length(q))
51     {
52         return;
53     }
54     queue_node *first = q->first;
55     q->first = q->first->next;
56     *loc = first->loc;
57     *dist = first->dist;
58     free(first);
59 }
60
61 void print_queue(const queue *q)
62 {
63     queue_node *cursor = q->first;
64     int index = 0;
65     while (cursor != NULL)
66     {
67         printf("%d\t%d\t%d\t%d\n",
68             index,
69             cursor->loc.x,
70             cursor->loc.y,
71             cursor->dist);
72         index += 1;
73         cursor = cursor->next;
74     }
75 }

```

A.2. Control-related files

What follows is the contents of the file located at `control/comm.h`.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.

```

```

3 //
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_CONTROL_COMM_H
6 #define EPO2_CONTROL_COMM_H
7
8 #include <stdint.h>
9
10 enum state_update
11 {
12     INITIALIZED = 'b',
13     AT_INTERSECTION = 'i',
14     AT_DEAD_END = 'd',
15     AT_MINE = 'm',
16     DONE_TURNING = 'u'
17 };
18
19 typedef enum state_update state_update;
20
21 //
22 // Returns a boolean indicating whether the given byte represents a possible
23 // state update or not.
24 //
25 int is_state_update(uint8_t incoming);
26
27 //
28 // Returns the state update corresponding to the given data.
29 //
30 state_update parse_incoming(uint8_t incoming);
31
32 #endif //EPO2_CONTROL_COMM_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at `control/comm.c`.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include "comm.h"
6
7 int is_state_update(uint8_t incoming)
8 {
9     return incoming >= 0b001 && incoming <= 0b101;
10 }
11
12 state_update parse_incoming(uint8_t incoming)
13 {
14     switch (incoming)
15     {
16         case 0b001:
17             return INITIALIZED;
18         case 0b010:
19             return AT_INTERSECTION;
20         case 0b011:
21             return AT_DEAD_END;
22         case 0b100:
23             return AT_MINE;
24         default:
25             return DONE_TURNING;
26     }
27 }

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at `control/control.h`.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_CONTROL_CONTROL_H
6 #define EPO2_CONTROL_CONTROL_H

```

```

7
8 #include <stdint.h>
9
10 // 
11 // Initializes the robot control.
12 //
13 // The given integer should be the letter of the a. If an illicit
14 // character is given, an error will be printed to the console and the function
15 // will return a non-zero integer.
16 //
17 // All data that is required for the a will be written from standard
18 // input.
19 //
20 int init_control(char a, int start_station);
21
22 //
23 // Handles the given byte as one that was retrieved from the robot.
24 //
25 void handle_incoming(uint8_t data);
26
27 //
28 // Determines if anything should be sent to the robot.
29 //
30 // If data is to be sent to the robot, this data will be written to the given
31 // address and the function will return 1. If nothing is to be sent to the
32 // robot, nothing will be written to the given address and the function will
33 // return with 0.
34 //
35 int get_outgoing(uint8_t *data);
36
37 //
38 // Returns a boolean indicating whether the assignment has been executed.
39 //
40 int assignment_done();
41
42 #endif //EPO2_CONTROL_CONTROL_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at `control/control.c`.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include <stdio.h>
6
7 #include "algorithm/board.h"
8 #include "comm.h"
9 #include "control.h"
10 #include "navigation.h"
11 #include "targets.h"
12
13 char assignment = '\0';
14
15 volatile board gl_board = NULL;
16 location current_loc = { -1, -1 };
17 orientation current_or = NORTH;
18
19 int init_control(char a, int start_s)
20 {
21     assignment = a;
22     gl_board = new_board();
23     print_board(gl_board);
24     current_loc = get_station_loc(start_s);
25     current_or = get_station_or(start_s);
26     calc_path(gl_board, current_loc, cur_target_loc());
27     printf("initialized robot control for assignment %c\n", assignment);
28     return 0;
29 }
30
31 int outgoing_available = 0;

```

```

32 uint8_t outgoing_data = 0;
33
34 void set_outgoing(nav_instruction instruction)
35 {
36     if (outgoing_available)
37     {
38         printf(" !!\\ twriting outgoing even though buffer not empty\\n");
39     }
40     outgoing_available = 1;
41     outgoing_data = to_opcode(instruction);
42     printf("> sending op '%c' (0x%02x)\\n", instruction, outgoing_data);
43 }
44
45 void flip_orientation()
46 {
47     orientation flipped = after_rot(after_rot(current_or, LEFT), LEFT);
48     current_or = flipped;
49 }
50
51 void log_robot_state(state_update robot_state)
52 {
53     switch (robot_state)
54     {
55         case INITIALIZED:
56             printf("> robot initialized\\n");
57             break;
58         case AT_INTERSECTION:
59             printf("> at intersection\\n");
60             break;
61         case AT_DEAD_END:
62             printf("> encountered dead end\\n");
63             break;
64         case AT_MINE:
65             printf("> encountered mine\\n");
66             break;
67         default: // case DONE_TURNING:
68             printf("> robot done turning\\n");
69             break;
70     }
71 }
72
73 int assignment_done()
74 {
75     return targets_left() == 0;
76 }
77
78 //
79 // This function should be called every time an intersection is encountered.
80 //
81 // It updates the robots location and writes the next robot operation to the
82 // output buffer.
83 //
84 void update_location()
85 {
86     if (current_loc.x < 0 || current_loc.y < 0)
87     {
88         current_loc = get_station_loc(1);
89         current_or = NORTH;
90     } else
91     {
92         current_loc = inc_loc(current_loc, current_or, 2);
93     }
94     calc_path(gl_board, current_loc, cur_target_loc());
95     nav_instruction next;
96     next = get_instruction(gl_board, current_loc, current_or);
97     current_or = after_rot(current_or, next);
98     set_outgoing(next);
99 }
100
101 //
102 // This function should be called every time a mine is encountered.

```

```

103 // 
104 // It writes the location of the mine to the board. It does not set any
105 // outgoing data.
106 //
107 void encountered_mine()
108 {
109     location mine = inc_loc(current_loc, current_or, 1);
110     write_cell(gl_board, mine, -3);
111 }
112
113 void handle_incoming(uint8_t data)
114 {
115     if (!is_state_update(data))
116     {
117         if (data)
118         {
119             printf("illicit data from robot: 0x%02x\n", data);
120         }
121         return;
122     }
123     state_update robot_state = parse_incoming(data);
124     log_robot_state(robot_state);
125     switch (robot_state)
126     {
127         case AT_INTERSECTION:
128             update_location();
129             break;
130         case AT_MINE:
131             encountered_mine();
132         case AT_DEAD_END:
133             set_outgoing(U_TURN);
134             inc_target();
135             break;
136         case DONE_TURNING:
137             flip_orientation();
138         default:
139             break;
140     }
141 }
142
143 int get_outgoing(uint8_t* data)
144 {
145     if (outgoing_available)
146     {
147         *data = outgoing_data;
148         outgoing_available = 0;
149         return 1;
150     } else
151     {
152         return 0;
153     }
154 }
```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/navigation.h.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_CONTROL_NAVIGATION_H
6 #define EPO2_CONTROL_NAVIGATION_H
7
8 #include <stdint.h>
9
10 #include "algorithm/board.h"
11
12 enum orientation
13 {
14     NORTH = 6,
15     EAST = 7,
```

```

16   SOUTH = 8,
17   WEST = 9
18 };
19
20 typedef enum orientation orientation;
21
22 /**
23 // Returns the direction the robot will initially be facing if starting at
24 // the given station.
25 /**
26 orientation get_station_or(int station);
27
28 /**
29 // Increments a location.
30 /**
31 // Returns the location that is COUNT cells removed from LOC in the direction
32 // of ORIENTATION_.
33 /**
34 // TODO: provide example for function call
35 /**
36 location inc_loc(location loc, orientation orientation_, int count);
37
38 enum nav_instruction
39 {
40   FORWARD = 'f',
41   LEFT = 'l',
42   RIGHT = 'r',
43   U_TURN = 'u',
44   STOP = 's'
45 };
46
47 typedef enum nav_instruction nav_instruction;
48
49 /**
50 // Returns the direction the robot will be facing after executing the given
51 // instruction when currently facing the given direction.
52 /**
53 orientation after_rot(orientation current, nav_instruction instruction);
54
55 /**
56 // Returns the robot opcode for the given navigation instruction.
57 /**
58 uint8_t to_opcode(nav_instruction instruction);
59
60 /**
61 // Determines the next navigation instruction for the robot, assuming that
62 // it is currently located at the given location and facing the given direction.
63 /**
64 // The location is assumed to be one of an intersection.
65 /**
66 nav_instruction get_instruction(board b, location loc, orientation o);
67
68 #endif //EPO2_CONTROL_NAVIGATION_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/navigation.c.

```

1 /**
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 /**
4
5 #include <stdio.h>
6
7 #include "navigation.h"
8
9 orientation get_station_or(int station)
10 {
11   station = (station - 1) / 3;
12   if (station == 0)
13   {
14     return NORTH;

```

```

15 } else if (station == 1)
16 {
17     return WEST;
18 } else if (station == 2)
19 {
20     return SOUTH;
21 } else
22 {
23     return EAST;
24 }
25 }
26
27 location inc_loc(location loc, orientation orientation_, int count)
28 {
29     int x = loc.x, y = loc.y;
30     switch (orientation_)
31     {
32         case NORIH:
33             x -= count;
34             break;
35         case EAST:
36             y += count;
37             break;
38         case SOUTH:
39             x += count;
40             break;
41         default: // case WEST:
42             y -= count;
43             break;
44     }
45     location incremented = { x, y };
46     return incremented;
47 }
48
49 orientation after_rot(orientation current, nav_instruction instruction)
50 {
51     int diff = 0;
52     if (instruction == LEFT)
53     {
54         diff = -1;
55     } else if (instruction == RIGHT)
56     {
57         diff = 1;
58     } else if (instruction == U_TURN)
59     {
60         diff = -2;
61     }
62     orientation new = current + diff;
63     return new < NORIH ? new + 4 : new;
64 }
65
66 uint8_t to_opcode(nav_instruction instruction)
67 {
68     switch (instruction)
69     {
70         case LEFT:
71             return 1;
72         case RIGHT:
73             return 2;
74         case FORWARD:
75             return 3;
76         case STOP:
77             return 4;
78         default: // U_TURN
79             return 5;
80     }
81 }
82
83 /**
84 // Returns the cell where the robot should move to next.
85 /**

```

```

86 // This cell always lies next to the cell where the robot is currently located.
87 //
88 location next_loc(board b, location current)
89 {
90     int smallest_value = read_cell(b, current);
91     int movement = -1;
92     for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i)
93     {
94         location possibility = get_direction(i, current);
95         if (!is_valid_loc(possibility))
96         {
97             continue;
98         }
99         int value = read_cell(b, possibility);
100        if (value < smallest_value && value > 0)
101        {
102            movement = i;
103            smallest_value = value;
104        }
105    }
106    // TODO: maybe check if movement has actually been set?
107    return get_direction(movement, current);
108 }
109
110 orientation desired_orientation(location current, location next)
111 {
112     if (equal_loc(current, next))
113     {
114         printf("ERROR ...\\n");
115         // TODO: some proper error handling here
116     }
117     if (next.x < current.x)
118     {
119         return NORIH;
120     } else if (next.y > current.x)
121     {
122         return EAST;
123     } else if (next.x > current.x)
124     {
125         return SOUIH;
126     } else // hopefully, next.y < current_loc.y
127     {
128         return WEST;
129     }
130 }
131
132 nav_instruction format_instruction(orientation current, orientation desired)
133 {
134     int diff = (int)current - (int)desired;
135     if (diff == 2 || diff == -2)
136     {
137         printf("ERROR 222\\n"); // TODO: error handling
138         return FORWARD;
139     } else if (diff == 0)
140     {
141         return FORWARD;
142     } else if (diff == 1)
143     {
144         return LEFT;
145     } else // diff == -1
146     {
147         return RIGHT;
148     }
149 }
150
151 nav_instruction get_instruction(board b, location loc, orientation o)
152 {
153     location next = next_loc(b, loc);
154     orientation desired = desired_orientation(loc, next);
155     nav_instruction instruction = format_instruction(o, desired);
156     return instruction;

```

```
157 }
```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/targets.h.

```

1 // 
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 07/06/2023.
3 // 
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_CONTROL_TARGETS_H
6 #define EPO2_CONTROL_TARGETS_H
7
8 #include "algorithm/location.h"
9
10 // 
11 // Initializes the target tracker.
12 //
13 void init_t_tracker(int target_count, int* targets);
14
15 // 
16 // Returns the current target location.
17 //
18 location cur_target_loc(void);
19
20 // 
21 // Returns the current target station.
22 //
23 int cur_target_s(void);
24
25 // 
26 // Sets the target to the target that is to be reached after the current target.
27 //
28 // Should be called when a target has been reached, so calls to 'cur_target_*'
29 // actually return the new target.
30 //
31 void inc_target(void);
32
33 // 
34 // Returns the amount of targets that the robot still has to reach.
35 //
36 int targets_left(void);
37
38 #endif //EPO2_CONTROL_TARGETS_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at control/targets.c.

```

1 // 
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 07/06/2023.
3 // 
4
5 #include "targets.h"
6
7 #include <stdio.h>
8
9 // 
10 // The following is the array containing the station identifiers of the
11 // targets for the robot:
12 //
13 int g_t_count = -1;
14 int* g_targets = NULL;
15
16 int t_index = 0;
17
18 void init_t_tracker(int target_count, int* targets)
19 {
20     g_t_count = target_count;
21     g_targets = targets;
22     t_index = 0;
23 }

```

```
25 int cur_target_s(void)
26 {
27 #if DEBUG_BUILD == 1
28     if (g_targets == NULL)
29     {
30         printf("ERROR: attempt to use target tracker before it was "
31               "initialized\n");
32         return -1;
33     }
34 #endif
35     return g_targets[t_index];
36 }
37
38 location cur_target_loc(void)
39 {
40     int target_s = cur_target_s();
41     return get_station_loc(target_s);
42 }
43
44 void inc_target(void)
45 {
46     printf("> reached target\n");
47     t_index += 1;
48 }
49
50 int targets_left(void)
51 {
52     return g_t_count - t_index;
53 }
```

A.3. Serial communication

What follows is the contents of the file located at `serial/params.h`.

```
1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_SERIAL_PARAMS_H
6 #define EPO2_SERIAL_PARAMS_H
7
8 #define BAUD B9600
9 #define BYTESIZE 8
10 #define PARITY 0
11 #define STOPBITS 0
12 #define PORT "/dev/ttyUSBO"
13
14 #endif //EPO2_SERIAL_PARAMS_H
```

What follows is the contents of the file located at `serial/serial.h`.

```
1 //  
2 // Created by Thijs J.A. van Esch on 30-4-23.  
3 //  
4  
5 #ifndef EPO2_SERIAL_H  
6 #define EPO2_SERIAL_H  
7  
8 #include <stddef.h>  
9 #include <stdint.h>  
10  
11 //  
12 // Initializes the serial interface for serial communication with the robot.  
13 //  
14 int init_sio();  
15  
16 //  
17 // Makes the serial interface connect to the port with the given name.  
18 //  
19 // This function will have no effect if 'init_sio' has been called already.  
20 //  
21 void set_s_port(char *port);  
22  
23 //  
24 // Reads a single byte from the serial interface.  
25 //  
26 // The integer that is returned is the amount of bytes that was actually  
27 // read from the serial port.  
28 //  
29 int read_byte(uint8_t *byte);  
30  
31 //  
32 // Writes a single byte over the serial interface.  
33 //  
34 // The integer that is returned is the amount of bytes that was actually  
35 // written to the serial port.  
36 //  
37 int write_byte(const uint8_t *byte);  
38  
39 //  
40 // Properly closes the connection to the robot.  
41 //  
42 int close_sio();  
43  
44 #endif //EPO2_SERIAL_H
```

What follows is the contents of the file located at `serial/serial.c`.

```
1 //  
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.  
3 //  
4  
5 #include "serial.h"  
6 #include "params.h"  
7  
8 //  
9 // Most of the code in this file is adapted from an answer to a question on  
10 // stackoverflow, which can be found here:  
11 //  
12 // https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6947413  
13 //     /how-to-open-read-and-write-from-serial-port-in-c  
14 //  
15 //  
16  
17 #include <errno.h>  
18 #include <fcntl.h>  
19 #include <string.h>  
20 #include <termios.h>  
21 #include <unistd.h>  
22 #include <stdio.h>  
23  
24 //  
25 // This is the handle for the serial communication.  
26 //  
27 // Its default value is INT32_MIN. The file descriptor will be set from within  
28 // the 'init_sio()' function.  
29 //  
30 int fd = INT32_MIN;  
31  
32 void f_termios(struct termios *tty)  
33 {  
34     tty->c_cflag = (tty->c_cflag & ~CSIZE) | CS8;  
35     tty->c_iflag &= ~IGNBRK;  
36     tty->c_lflag = 0;  
37     tty->c_oflag = 0;  
38     tty->c_cc[VMIN] = 0;  
39     tty->c_cc[VTIME] = 5;  
40     tty->c_iflag &= ~(IXON | IXOFF | IXANY);  
41     tty->c_cflag |= (CLOCAL | CREAD);  
42     tty->c_cflag &= ~(PARENB | PARODD);  
43     tty->c_cflag |= PARITY;  
44     tty->c_cflag &= ~CSTOPB;  
45     tty->c_cflag &= ~CRTSCTS;  
46 }  
47  
48 int setAttrs()  
49 {  
50     struct termios tty;  
51     if (tcgetattr(fd, &tty) != 0)  
52     {  
53         printf("error %d from tcgetattr", errno);  
54         return -1;  
55     }  
56     cfsetospeed(&tty, BAUD);  
57     cfsetspeed(&tty, BAUD);  
58     f_termios(&tty);  
59     if (tcsetattr(fd, TCSNOW, &tty) != 0)  
60     {  
61         printf("error %d from tcsetattr", errno);  
62         return -1;  
63     }  
64     return 0;  
65 }  
66  
67 void set_blocking()  
68 {  
69     struct termios tty;
```

```
70  memset(&tty, 0, sizeof tty);
71  if (tcgetattr(fd, &tty) != 0)
72  {
73      printf("error %d from tcgetattr", errno);
74      return;
75  }
76  tty.c_cc[VMIN] = 0;
77  tty.c_cc[VTIME] = 5;
78  if (tcsetattr(fd, TCSANOW, &tty) != 0)
79  {
80      printf("error %d setting term attributes", errno);
81  }
82 }
83
84 /**
85 // This value may be set from the 'set_s_port' function. If no value is set, the
86 // default port should be used.
87 /**
88 char *port_name = NULL;
89
90 void set_s_port(char *port)
91 {
92     port_name = port;
93 }
94
95 /**
96 // Returns the port that was given to 'set_s_port', or the default port.
97 /**
98 char *get_port()
99 {
100     char *port = port_name;
101     if (port == NULL)
102     {
103         port = PORT;
104     }
105     return port;
106 }
107
108 int init_sio()
109 {
110     if (fd != INT32_MIN)
111     {
112         return 0; // interface has already been initialized
113     }
114     char *port = get_port();
115     fd = open(port, O_RDWR | O_NOCTTY);
116     if (fd < 0)
117     {
118         printf("error %d opening %s: %s\n", errno, port,
119             strerror(errno));
120         return 1;
121     }
122     set_attrs();
123     set_blocking();
124     printf("serial connection established at port %s\n", port);
125     return 0;
126 }
127
128 int read_byte(uint8_t *byte)
129 {
130     if (fd == INT32_MIN)
131     {
132         // attempting to read before interface initialization
133         // return error code -11
134         return -11;
135     }
136     return read(fd, byte, 1) > 0;
137 }
138
139 int write_byte(const uint8_t *byte)
140 {
```

```

141 if (fd == INT32_MIN)
142 {
143     // attempting to write before interface initialization
144     // return error code -13
145     return -13;
146 }
147 return write(fd, byte, 1) > 0;
148 }
149
150 int close_sio()
151 {
152     if (fd == INT32_MIN)
153     {
154         // attempting to close connection before initialization:
155         // nothing to do; simply return
156         return 0;
157     }
158     printf("closed serial connection\n");
159     int error = close(fd);
160     fd = INT32_MIN;
161     return error;
162 }
```

A.4. Utility files

What follows is the contents of the file located at `util/args.h`.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 07/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #ifndef EPO2_ARGS_H
6 #define EPO2_ARGS_H
7
8 //
9 // Sets the given values as globals so other functions relating to the parsing
10 // of command line arguments can use them without them needing to be given
11 // each time.
12 //
13 void set_args(int argc, char *argv[]);
14
15 //
16 // Returns a boolean that is true if the program should only show a help
17 // message describing its arguments and then exit.
18 //
19 int should_help();
20
21 //
22 // Prints a description of the application and each of its arguments.
23 //
24 void show_help(void);
25
26 //
27 // Returns a boolean that is true if the application should skip the prompt
28 // telling the user to press enter to start the robot control.
29 //
30 int start_quick();
31
32 //
33 // Returns the character of the assignment.
34 //
35 // Possible values are '0', 'A' and 'B'. This is a required argument. The
36 // program will exit if an illicit value is given for the 'assignment'
37 // argument.
38 //
39 char get_assignment();
40
41 //
42 // Returns the time in millisecond the program should wait for in between
43 // receiving a byte from the robot and writing one.
```

```

44 //
45 // If none is provided, the function will return 40.
46 //
47 int get_rw_delay();
48
49 //
50 // Returns a string describing the serial port to connect to.
51 //
52 // This is a required argument.
53 //
54 char *get_s_port();
55
56 //
57 // Returns the start station.
58 //
59 int get_start_s();
60
61 //
62 // Returns the amount of target stations that were given.
63 //
64 int target_amount();
65
66 //
67 // Returns an array of target stations.
68 //
69 int *get_targets();
70
71 #endif //EPO2_ARGS_H

```

What follows is the contents of the file located at util/args.c.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 07/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include "args.h"
6
7 #include <errno.h>
8 #include <stdio.h>
9 #include <string.h>
10 #include <stdlib.h>
11
12 //
13 // The error code for encountering a missing argument or encountering an
14 // illicit value for an argument.
15 //
16 #define MISSING_ARG_ERROR 4
17
18 //
19 // The error code for encountering a missing argument or encountering an
20 // illicit value for an argument.
21 //
22 #define ARG_VALUE_ERROR 5
23
24 struct arg_list_node;
25
26 typedef struct arg_list_node arg_list_node;
27
28 struct arg_list_node
29 {
30     char* name;
31     char* value;
32     arg_list_node* next;
33 };
34
35 struct arg_list
36 {
37     arg_list_node* first;
38     arg_list_node* last;
39 };

```

```

40
41 typedef struct arg_list arg_list;
42
43 arg_list args = { NULL, NULL };
44
45 int arg_amount()
46 {
47     arg_list_node* cursor = args.first;
48     int count = 0;
49     while (cursor != NULL)
50     {
51         count += 1;
52         cursor = cursor->next;
53     }
54     return count;
55 }
56
57 void append_arg(char* name, char* value)
58 {
59     arg_list_node* new = (arg_list_node*)malloc(sizeof(arg_list_node));
60     new->next = NULL;
61     new->name = name;
62     new->value = value;
63     int count = arg_amount();
64     if (count == 0)
65     {
66         args.first = new;
67         args.last = new;
68     } else
69     {
70         args.last->next = new;
71         args.last = new;
72     }
73 }
74
75 //
76 // Returns a true value if the given argument is not properly formatted.
77 //
78 int parse_arg(char* arg, char** arg_name, char** arg_value)
79 {
80     int t_count = 0;
81     char* token = strtok(arg, " -");
82     *arg_value = NULL;
83     while (token != NULL)
84     {
85         if (!t_count)
86         {
87             *arg_name = token;
88         } else if (t_count == 1)
89         {
90             *arg_value = token;
91         } else
92         {
93             printf("invalid argument '%s'\n", arg);
94             return 1;
95         }
96         t_count += 1;
97         token = strtok(NULL, " ");
98     }
99     return 0;
100 }
101
102 void set_args(int argc, char* argv[])
103 {
104     for (int i = 1; i < argc; ++i)
105     {
106         char* arg_name, * arg_value;
107         parse_arg(argv[i], &arg_name, &arg_value);
108         append_arg(arg_name, arg_value);
109     }
110 }
```

```
111
112 void print_args_amount()
113 {
114     int arg_count = arg_amount();
115     if (arg_count)
116     {
117         printf("a total of %d arguments were given:\n", arg_count);
118     } else
119     {
120         printf("no arguments were given\n");
121         return;
122     }
123 }
124
125 /**
126 // Returns a boolean indicating whether any value has been given for the
127 // argument with the given name.
128 /**
129 int arg_is_set(char* arg_name)
130 {
131     arg_list_node* cursor = args.first;
132     while (cursor != NULL)
133     {
134         if (strcmp(cursor->name, arg_name) == 0)
135         {
136             return 1;
137         }
138         cursor = cursor->next;
139     }
140     return 0;
141 }
142
143 /**
144 // Returns NULL if no value has been given for the argument with the given name.
145 /**
146 char* get_arg_value(char* arg_name)
147 {
148     arg_list_node* cursor = args.first;
149     while (cursor != NULL)
150     {
151         if (strcmp(cursor->name, arg_name) == 0)
152         {
153             return cursor->value;
154         }
155         cursor = cursor->next;
156     }
157     return NULL;
158 }
159
160 int should_help()
161 {
162     return arg_is_set("print_help");
163 }
164
165 // TODO: write help message to print
166 void show_help(void)
167 {
168     printf("help\n");
169 }
170
171 int start_quick()
172 {
173     return arg_is_set("start_quick");
174 }
175
176 char get_assignment()
177 {
178     if (!arg_is_set("assignment"))
179     {
180         return '\0';
181     }

```

```

182 char assignment = *get_arg_value("assignment");
183 if ('A' <= assignment && assignment <= 'Z')
184 {
185     assignment += 32;
186 }
187 return assignment;
188 }
189
190 int get_rw_delay()
191 {
192     static char* key = "rw_delay";
193     if (!arg_is_set(key))
194     {
195         return 40;
196     }
197     char* value = get_arg_value(key);
198     int rw_delay = (int)strtol(value, NULL, 10);
199     if (rw_delay == 0)
200     {
201         /* here we'll assume that a user may give an illicit number,
202            but not a number that would not fit in a 32-bit integer */
203         if (errno == EINVAL)
204         {
205             printf("illicit value for %s: '%s'\n", key, value);
206         }
207     }
208     return rw_delay;
209 }
210
211 char* get_s_port()
212 {
213     static char* key = "serial_port";
214     if (!arg_is_set(key))
215     {
216         printf(" :: no value given for '%s'\n", key);
217         exit(MISSING_ARG_ERROR);
218     }
219     return get_arg_value(key);
220 }
221
222 int get_start_s()
223 {
224     static char* key = "start_station";
225     if (!arg_is_set(key))
226     {
227         printf(" :: no value given for '%s'\n", key);
228         exit(MISSING_ARG_ERROR);
229     }
230     char* val = get_arg_value("start_station");
231     int start_station = (int)strtol(val, NULL, 10);
232     if (start_station < 1 || start_station > 12)
233     {
234         printf(" :: illicit value given for '%s': '%s'\n", key, val);
235         exit(ARG_VALUE_ERROR);
236     }
237     return start_station;
238 }
239
240 int target_amount()
241 {
242     static char* key = "target_stations";
243     if (!arg_is_set(key))
244     {
245         printf(" :: no value given for '%s'\n", key);
246         exit(MISSING_ARG_ERROR);
247     }
248     char* targets = get_arg_value(key);
249     int count = 1;
250     while (*targets)
251     {
252         if (*targets == ',')

```

```

253     {
254         count += 1;
255     } else if (*targets < '0' || *targets > '9')
256     {
257         printf(" :: illicit value given for '%s': '%s'\n",
258               key, targets);
259         exit(ARG_VALUE_ERROR);
260     }
261     targets++;
262 }
263 return count;
264 }
265
266 int* get_targets()
267 {
268     static char* key = "target_stations";
269     int t_count = target_amount();
270     if (t_count == -1)
271     {
272         printf(" :: no value given for '%s'\n", key);
273         exit(MISSING_ARG_ERROR);
274     }
275     char* given = get_arg_value(key);
276     /* t_count should be positive or equal -2, but just to make sure we
277      check t_count <= 0 */
278     if (t_count <= 0)
279     {
280         printf(" :: illicit value given for '%s': '%s'\n", key, given);
281         exit(ARG_VALUE_ERROR);
282     }
283     char copy[100];
284     strcpy(copy, given);
285     int* targets = (int*)malloc(sizeof(int) * t_count);
286     char* token = strtok(copy, ",");
287     int t_index = 0;
288     while (token != NULL)
289     {
290         int converted = (int)strtol(token, NULL, 10);
291         if (converted < 1 || converted > 12)
292         {
293             printf(" :: illicit value given for '%s': '%s'\n",
294                   key, given);
295             exit(ARG_VALUE_ERROR);
296         }
297         targets[t_index] = converted;
298         t_index += 1;
299         token = strtok(NULL, ",");
300     }
301     return targets;
302 }
```

A.5. Main function

```

1
2 #include <stdio.h>
3 #include <stdlib.h>
4 #include <unistd.h>
5
6 #include "control/control.h"
7 #include "control/targets.h"
8 #include "serial/serial.h"
9 #include "util/args.h"
10
11 void wait_for_start()
12 {
13     if (start_quick())
14     {
15         return;
16     }
```

```
17 printf("to start, press ENTER");
18 char _;
19 scanf("%c", &_);
20 }
21
22 void line_follower()
23 {
24     char* s_port = get_s_port();
25     set_s_port(s_port);
26     init_sio();
27     int second_byte = 0;
28     int actual_data = 0;
29     uint8_t last_op = 0;
30     while (1)
31     {
32         if (actual_data >= 200)
33         {
34             break;
35         }
36         uint8_t incoming;
37         int bytes_read = read_byte(&incoming);
38         if (bytes_read && incoming)
39         {
40             if (second_byte)
41             {
42                 uint8_t outgoing = last_op;
43                 printf(" >> writing last op\n");
44                 write_byte(&outgoing);
45                 usleep(400 * 1000);
46                 second_byte = 0;
47             } else
48             {
49                 printf(" :: received 0x%02x\n", incoming);
50                 uint8_t outgoing = 3;
51                 if (actual_data == 5)
52                 {
53                     outgoing = 5;
54                 }
55                 printf(" >> writing 0x%02x\n", outgoing);
56                 write_byte(&outgoing);
57                 usleep(400 * 1000);
58                 last_op = outgoing;
59                 second_byte = 1;
60                 actual_data += 1;
61             }
62         } else if (bytes_read)
63         {
64             printf(" .. writing 0\n");
65             uint8_t outgoing = 0;
66             write_byte(&outgoing);
67             usleep(400 * 1000);
68         }
69     }
70 }
71
72 void assignment_a()
73 {
74     char* s_port = get_s_port();
75     set_s_port(s_port);
76     init_sio();
77     int rw_delay = get_rw_delay();
78     printf("rw_delay: %d\n", rw_delay);
79     int* targets = get_targets();
80     init_t_tracker(target_amount(), targets);
81     init_control('a', get_start_s());
82     wait_for_start();
83     while (!assignment_done())
84     {
85         uint8_t incoming = 0;
86         int bytes_read = read_byte(&incoming);
87         if (incoming == 0)
```

```
88     {
89         printf("received NULL from robot\n");
90         continue;
91     }
92     if (bytes_read == 1 && incoming)
93     {
94         if (!incoming)
95         {
96             printf("received zero\n");
97             continue;
98         }
99         handle_incoming(incoming);
100        uint8_t outgoing;
101        if (get_outgoing(&outgoing))
102        {
103            write_byte(&outgoing);
104            usleep(rw_delay * 1000); // rw_delay is in ms
105        }
106    }
107 }
108 free(targets);
109 }
110
111 int main(int argc, char* argv[])
112 {
113     set_args(argc, argv);
114     if (should_help())
115     {
116         show_help();
117         return 0;
118     }
119     char assignment = get_assignment();
120     if (assignment == '0')
121     {
122         line_follower();
123     } else if (assignment == 'a')
124     {
125         assignment_a();
126     } else
127     {
128         printf("unknown or not implemented assignment: '%c'\n",
129                assignment);
130     }
131     return 0;
132 }
```

B

Application testing

B.1. Testing interface

What follows is the contents of the file located at `tests/testing.h`.

```
1 //  
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 08/06/2023.  
3 //  
4  
5 #ifndef EPO2_TESTING_H  
6 #define EPO2_TESTING_H  
7  
8 //  
9 // Exits with an error code if ACTUAL does not equal EXPECTED. An error will be  
10 // printed stating that VARNAME has a wrong value.  
11 //  
12 void assert_equal(int actual, int expected, const char *varname);  
13  
14 #endif //EPO2_TESTING_H
```

What follows is the contents of the file located at `tests/testing.c`.

```
1 //  
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 08/06/2023.  
3 //  
4  
5 #include <stdlib.h>  
6 #include <stdio.h>  
7  
8 #include "testing.h"  
9  
10 //  
11 // The status code with which the program should exit if a test failed.  
12 //  
13 #define TEST_ERROR 7  
14  
15 void assert_equal(int actual, int expected, const char *varname)  
16 {  
17     if (actual != expected)  
18     {  
19         printf("wrong value encountered for '%s'\n", varname);  
20         printf(" :: expected %d, encountered %d\n", expected, actual);  
21         exit(TEST_ERROR);  
22     }  
23 }
```

B.2. Serial communication test

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 07/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include <stdio.h>
6 #include <unistd.h>
7
8 #include "../serial/serial.h"
9
10 char *SERIAL_PORT = "/dev/cu.usbserial-AE01CSS5";
11
12 void write_something()
13 {
14     uint8_t c = 'a';
15     while (c != 'z' + 1)
16     {
17         int bytes_written = write_byte(&c);
18         if (!bytes_written)
19         {
20             printf("no bytes written\n");
21         }
22         usleep(200 * 1000);
23         c += 1;
24     }
25 }
26
27 void read_something()
28 {
29     int it_c = 0;
30     while (it_c < 999777)
31     {
32         uint8_t incoming = 0;
33         int bytes_read = read_byte(&incoming);
34         if (bytes_read && incoming)
35         {
36             printf("received data: %c (0x%02x)\n",
37                   incoming, incoming);
38         } else if (bytes_read)
39         {
40             printf("received NULL\n");
41         }
42         it_c += 1;
43     }
44 }
45
46 int main()
47 {
48     set_s_port(SERIAL_PORT);
49     init_sio();
50     write_something();
51     read_something();
52     return 0;
53 }
```

B.3. Application tests

What follows is the contents of the file located at `tests/queue.c`.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include <stdio.h>
6
7 #include "../control/algorithm/queue.h"
8
9 #include "testing.h"
10
11 //
12 // The name of this test.
```

```

13 // 
14 static const char *TEST_NAME = "queue";
15 
16 // 
17 // Tests if items can be properly added to the queue.
18 // 
19 queue *append_test()
20 {
21     queue* q = create_queue();
22     assert_equal(queue_length(q), 0, "queue_length");
23     location loc = {0, 0};
24     append_queue(q, loc, 1);
25     assert_equal(queue_length(q), 1, "queue_length");
26     append_queue(q, loc, 2);
27     append_queue(q, loc, 3);
28     assert_equal(queue_length(q), 3, "queue_length");
29     return q;
30 }
31 
32 // 
33 // Tests if items can be properly removed from the queue.
34 // 
35 void remove_test(queue *q)
36 {
37     int dist;
38     location loc;
39     from_queue(q, &loc, &dist);
40     assert_equal(dist, 1, "distance (0)");
41     from_queue(q, &loc, &dist);
42     assert_equal(dist, 2, "distance (1)");
43     assert_equal(queue_length(q), 1, "queue_length (3)");
44     from_queue(q, &loc, &dist);
45     assert_equal(dist, 3, "distance (2)");
46     assert_equal(queue_length(q), 0, "queue_length (4)");
47 }
48 
49 int main()
50 {
51     printf(" -- %s test\n", TEST_NAME);
52     queue *q = append_test();
53     remove_test(q);
54     printf("%s test success\n", TEST_NAME);
55     return 0;
56 }
```

What follows is the contents of the file located at `tests/algorithm.c`.

```

1 // 
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 06/06/2023.
3 // 
4 
5 #include <stdio.h>
6 
7 #include "../control/algorithm/board.h"
8 
9 #include "testing.h"
10 
11 // 
12 // The name of this test.
13 // 
14 static const char* TEST_NAME = "algorithm";
15 
16 void check_board_values(board actual, int expected[13][13], const char *type)
17 {
18     for (int x = 0; x < 13; ++x)
19     {
20         for (int y = 0; y < 13; ++y)
21         {
22             if (!expected[x][y])
23             {
```

```

24     continue;
25 }
26 char varname[100];
27 sprintf(varname, "%s board_value (%d/%d)", type, x, y);
28 assert_equal(actual[x][y], expected[x][y], varname);
29 }
30 }
31 }
32
33 /**
34 // The expected value of a board after applying the Lee algorithm to calculate
35 // the shortest path from station 1 to station 12.
36 /**
37 // A value of zero means that any value as obtained from the algorithm for that
38 // cell will be considered valid.
39 /**
40 static int NO_MINES_EXPECTED[13][13] =
41 {
42     { 0, 0, 0, 0, 13, 0, 15, 0, 17, 0, 0, 0, 0 },
43     { 0, 0, 0, 0, 12, 0, 14, 0, 16, 0, 0, 0, 0 },
44     { 0, 0, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 0, 0 },
45     { 0, 0, 8, 0, 10, 0, 12, 0, 14, 0, 16, 0, 0 },
46     { 9, 8, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 },
47     { 0, 0, 6, 0, 8, 0, 10, 0, 12, 0, 14, 0, 0 },
48     { 7, 6, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 },
49     { 0, 0, 4, 0, 6, 0, 8, 0, 10, 0, 12, 0, 0 },
50     { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 },
51     { 0, 0, 4, 0, 6, 0, 8, 0, 10, 0, 12, 0, 0 },
52     { 0, 0, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 0, 0 },
53     { 0, 0, 0, 0, 8, 0, 10, 0, 12, 0, 0, 0 },
54     { 0, 0, 0, 0, 9, 0, 11, 0, 13, 0, 0, 0 }
55 };
56
57 /**
58 // Tests if the algorithm can determine the most optimal path for a board that
59 // contains no mines.
60 /**
61 void no_mines_test()
62 {
63     board b = new_board();
64     calc_path(b, get_station_loc(1), get_station_loc(12));
65     check_board_values(b, NO_MINES_EXPECTED, "no mines");
66     printf("%s (no mines) test success\n", TEST_NAME);
67 }
68
69 /**
70 // The expected value of a board after applying the Lee algorithm to calculate
71 // the shortest path from station 1 to station 12.
72 /**
73 // A value of zero means that any value as obtained from the algorithm for that
74 // cell will be considered valid.
75 /**
76 static int WITH_MINES_EXPECTED[13][13] =
77 {
78     {0, 0, 0, 0, 13, 0, 15, 0, 17, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
79     {0, 0, 0, 0, 12, 0, 14, 0, 16, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0},
80     {0, 0, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 0, 0},
81     {0, 0, 8, 0, 10, 0, 12, 0, 14, 0, 18, 0, 0},
82     {9, 8, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, -3, 19, 20, 21},
83     {0, 0, 6, 0, 8, 0, 10, 0, -3, 0, 20, 0, 0},
84     {7, 6, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, -3, 23, 22, 21, 22, 23},
85     {0, 0, 4, 0, 6, 0, -3, 0, 24, 0, 22, 0, 0},
86     {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, -3, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 24, 25},
87     {0, 0, 4, 0, -3, 0, 28, 0, 26, 0, 24, 0, 0},
88     {0, 0, 5, -3, 31, 30, 29, 28, 27, 26, 25, 0, 0},
89     {0, 0, 0, 0, 32, 0, 30, 0, 28, 0, 0, 0, 0},
90     {0, 0, 0, 0, 33, 0, 31, 0, 29, 0, 0, 0, 0}
91 };
92
93 /**
94 // Writes the location of some mines to the board.

```

```

95 //
96 void set_mines(board b)
97 {
98     int x = 4, y = 9;
99     for (int i = 0; i < 7; ++i)
100    {
101        location loc = { x + i, y - i };
102        write_cell(b, loc, -3);
103    }
104 }
105
106 //
107 // Runs the test for the algorithm.
108 //
109 void test_algorithm()
110 {
111     board b = new_board();
112     set_mines(b);
113     calc_path(b, get_station_loc(1), get_station_loc(12));
114     check_board_values(b, WITH_MINES_EXPECTED, "with mines");
115     printf("%s (with mines) test success\n", TEST_NAME);
116 }
117
118 int main()
119 {
120     printf(" -- %s test\n", TEST_NAME);
121     no_mines_test();
122     test_algorithm();
123     return 0;
124 }
```

What follows is the contents of the file located at `tests/navigation.c`.

```

1 //
2 // Created by Thijs van Esch on 12/06/2023.
3 //
4
5 #include <stdio.h>
6 #include <stdlib.h>
7
8 #include "../control/navigation.h"
9
10 #include "testing.h"
11
12 //
13 // The name of this test.
14 //
15 static const char* TEST_NAME = "navigation";
16
17 //
18 // The board that will be used for determining navigational instructions.
19 //
20 static int BOARD[13][13] =
21 {
22     { -1, -1, -1, -1, 13, -1, 15, -1, 17, -1, -1, -1, -1 },
23     { -1, -1, -1, -1, 12, -1, 14, -1, 16, -1, -1, -1, -1 },
24     { -1, -1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, -1, -1 },
25     { -1, -1, 8, -1, 10, -1, 12, -1, 14, -1, 16, -1, -1 },
26     { 9, 8, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 },
27     { -1, -1, 6, -1, 8, -1, 10, -1, 12, -1, 14, -1, -1 },
28     { 7, 6, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 },
29     { -1, -1, 4, -1, 6, -1, 8, -1, 10, -1, 12, -1, -1 },
30     { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 },
31     { -1, -1, 4, -1, 6, -1, 8, -1, 10, -1, 12, -1, -1 },
32     { -1, -1, 5, -1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, -1, -1 },
33     { -1, -1, -1, -1, 8, -1, 10, -1, 12, -1, -1, -1 },
34     { -1, -1, -1, -1, 9, -1, 11, -1, 13, -1, -1, -1 }
35 };
36
37 board get_board()
```

```

38 {
39     board b = (int **) malloc(sizeof(int *) * 13);
40     for (int x = 0; x < 13; ++x)
41     {
42         b[x] = (int *) malloc(sizeof(int) * 13);
43         for (int y = 0; y < 13; ++y)
44         {
45             b[x][y] = BOARD[x][y];
46         }
47     }
48     return b;
49 }
50
51 void nav_test()
52 {
53     board b = get_board();
54     location loc;
55     nav_instruction instruction;
56     loc.x = 10;
57     loc.y = 4;
58     instruction = get_instruction(b, loc, NORTH);
59     assert_equal((int)instruction, (int)'f', "instruction (0)");
60     loc.y = 6;
61     instruction = get_instruction(b, loc, EAST);
62     assert_equal((int)instruction, (int)'l', "instruction (0)");
63 }
64
65 int main()
66 {
67     printf(" -- %s test\n", TEST_NAME);
68     nav_test();
69     printf("%s test success\n", TEST_NAME);
70     return 0;
71 }
```

B.4. Test script

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
```

```

TEST_NAMES=("queue" "algorithm" "navigation")

for T_NAME in "${TEST_NAMES[@]}"
do
    EXECUTABLE="cmake-build-debug/test_${T_NAME}"
    if [ ! -x "$EXECUTABLE" ]
    then
        echo " !! no executable seems to exist for test '$T_NAME'"
        echo "      skipping ..."
        continue
    fi
    echo "running test '$T_NAME' ..."
    if ! $EXECUTABLE
    then
        echo "test '$T_NAME' failed"
        exit 1
    fi
done

echo ""
echo "TEST SUCCESS"
```

C

Application build file

```
cmake_minimum_required(VERSION 3.22)
project(epo_redone C)

set(CMAKE_C_STANDARD 11)

#
# To disable much debug logging, set to 0 here.
#
add_compile_definitions(DEBUG_BUILD=1)

#
# Turning on all warnings, and warnings become errors
#
add_compile_options(-Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic)

#
# The following are the lists containing the source files:
#
set(
    SERIAL_SRC
    serial/serial.c
    serial/serial.h
    serial/params.h)

set(
    ALG_SRC
    control/targets.c
    control/targets.h
    control/algorithm/board.c
    control/algorithm/board.h
    control/algorithm/default.h
    control/algorithm/location.c
    control/algorithm/location.h
    control/algorithm/queue.c
    control/algorithm/queue.h)

set(
    CONTROL_SRC
```

```
 ${ALG_SRC}
control/comm.c
control/comm.h
control/navigation.c
control/navigation.h
control/control.c
control/control.h)

set(
    UTIL_SRC
    util/args.c
    util/args.h)

#
# The main executable
#
add_executable(epo_redone ${SERIAL_SRC} ${CONTROL_SRC} ${UTIL_SRC} main.c)

#
# Tests:
#
set(
    TEST_SRC
    tests/testing.c
    tests/testing.h)

add_executable(test_serial ${TEST_SRC} ${SERIAL_SRC} tests/serial.c)

add_executable(test_queue ${TEST_SRC} ${ALG_SRC} tests/queue.c)
add_executable(test_algorithm ${TEST_SRC} ${CONTROL_SRC} tests/algorithm.c)
add_executable(test_navigation ${TEST_SRC} ${CONTROL_SRC} tests/navigation.c)
```

D

Code formatting

What follows is the `.clang-format` file used for the C-code written for this project. This file contains rules that the formatter can use to automatically format all code.

```
# Generated from CLion C/C++ Code Style settings
BasedOnStyle: LLVM
AccessModifierOffset: 0
AlignAfterOpenBracket: Align
AlignConsecutiveAssignments: None
AlignOperands: DontAlign
AllowAllArgumentsOnNextLine: false
AllowAllConstructorInitializersOnNextLine: false
AllowAllParametersOfDeclarationOnNextLine: false
AllowShortBlocksOnASingleLine: Always
AllowShortCaseLabelsOnASingleLine: false
AllowShortFunctionsOnASingleLine: None
AllowShortIfStatementsOnASingleLine: Always
AllowShortLambdasOnASingleLine: All
AllowShortLoopsOnASingleLine: true
AlwaysBreakAfterReturnType: None
AlwaysBreakTemplateDeclarations: MultiLine
BreakBeforeBraces: Custom
BraceWrapping:
    AfterCaseLabel: false
    AfterClass: true
    AfterControlStatement: Always
    AfterEnum: true
    AfterFunction: true
    AfterNamespace: true
    AfterUnion: true
    BeforeCatch: true
    BeforeElse: false
    IndentBraces: false
    SplitEmptyFunction: true
    SplitEmptyRecord: true
BreakBeforeBinaryOperators: NonAssignment
BreakBeforeTernaryOperators: false
BreakConstructorInitializers: BeforeColon
BreakInheritanceList: BeforeColon
ColumnLimit: 0
```

```
CompactNamespaces: false
ContinuationIndentWidth: 8
IndentCaseLabels: true
IndentPPDirectives: None
IndentWidth: 8
KeepEmptyLinesAtTheStartOfBlocks: true
MaxEmptyLinesToKeep: 1
NamespaceIndentation: All
ObjCSpaceAfterProperty: false
ObjCSpaceBeforeProtocolList: true
PointerAlignment: Left
ReflowComments: false
SpaceAfterCStyleCast: false
SpaceAfterLogicalNot: false
SpaceAfterTemplateKeyword: false
SpaceBeforeAssignmentOperators: true
SpaceBeforeCpp11BracedList: false
SpaceBeforeCtorInitializerColon: true
SpaceBeforeInheritanceColon: true
SpaceBeforeParens: ControlStatements
SpaceBeforeRangeBasedForLoopColon: true
SpaceInEmptyParentheses: false
SpacesBeforeTrailingComments: 0
SpacesInAngles: false
SpacesInCStyleCastParentheses: false
SpacesInContainerLiterals: false
SpacesInParentheses: false
SpacesInSquareBrackets: false
TabWidth: 8
UseTab: ForContinuationAndIndentation
```

E

Mine sensor

E.1. Mine sensor top entity

```
1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5 entity mine_sensor_top is
6     port ( clk           : in std_logic;
7             mine_sensor_in : in std_logic;
8             mine_out        : out std_logic
9         );
10 end entity mine_sensor_top;
11
12 architecture structural of mine_sensor_top is
13     component mine_sensor is
14         port ( clk       : in std_logic;
15                 reset    : in std_logic;
16                 sensor   : in std_logic;
17                 mine_out: out std_logic
18             );
19     end component mine_sensor;
20
21     component mine_counter is
22         port ( clk           : in std_logic;
23                 mine_out      : in std_logic;
24                 reset         : out std_logic
25             );
26     end component mine_counter;
27
28 signal mine_reset_signal, mine_out_signal: std_logic;
29
30
31 begin
32     mine_detector  : mine_sensor port map (
33                                     clk      => clk,
34                                     reset   => mine_reset_signal,
35                                     sensor  => mine_sensor_in,
36                                     mine_out => mine_out_signal
37                               );
38
39     count         : mine_counter port map (
40                                     clk      => clk,
41                                     mine_out => mine_out_signal,
42                                     reset   => mine_reset_signal
43                               );
44     mine_out <= mine_out_signal;
45 end architecture structural;
```

E.2. Mine sensor FSM

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5 entity mine_sensor is
6     port ( clk           : in  std_logic;
7            reset         : in  std_logic;
8            sensor        : in  std_logic;                      mine_out      : out std_logic );
9 end entity mine_sensor;
10
11 architecture behavioural of mine_sensor is
12
13 type sensor_states is (reset_state, count_state, compare_state, detected_state);
14 signal count, new_count: unsigned (11 downto 0) := to_unsigned(0,12);
15 signal state, next_state : sensor_states;
16 begin
17     process(clk)
18     begin
19         if (rising_edge(clk)) then
20             if (reset = '1') then
21                 state <= reset_state;
22                 count <= (others => '0');
23             else
24                 state <= next_state;
25                 count <= new_count;
26             end if;
27         end if;
28     end process;
29
30     process(state, count, sensor)
31     begin
32         case state is
33             when reset_state =>
34                 mine_out <= '0';
35                 new_count <= (others => '0');
36                 if (sensor = '1') then
37                     next_state <= reset_state;
38                 else
39                     next_state <= count_state;
40                 end if;
41
42             when count_state =>
43                 mine_out <= '0';
44                 if (sensor = '0') then
45                     new_count <= count + 1;
46                     next_state <= count_state;
47                 else
48                     new_count <= count;
49                     next_state <= compare_state;
50                 end if;
51
52             when compare_state =>
53                 mine_out <= '0';
54                 new_count <= count;
55                 if (count > 2250) then
56                     next_state <= detected_state;
57                 else
58                     next_state <= reset_state;
59                 end if;
60
61             when detected_state =>
62                 mine_out <= '1';
63                 new_count <= count;
64                 next_state <= detected_state;
65
66             when others =>
67                 end case;
68         end process;
69     end architecture behavioural;

```

E.3. Mine sensor counter reset

```
1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5 entity mine_counter is
6     port ( clk           : in std_logic;
7            mine_out      : in std_logic;
8            reset         : out std_logic
9        );
10 end entity mine_counter ;
11
12 architecture behavioural of mine_counter is
13
14     signal count, new_count : unsigned (19 downto 0);
15
16 begin
17     process ( clk )
18     begin
19         if ( clk'event and clk = '1' ) then
20             if ( mine_out = '0' ) then
21
22                 count <= ( others => '0' );
23                 reset <= '0';
24
25             elsif ( count = 4000 ) then
26
27                 count <= count;
28                 reset <= '1';
29
30             else
31                 count <= new_count;
32
33             end if;
34         end if;
35     end process;
36
37
38     process ( count )
39     begin
40
41         new_count <= count + 1;
42
43     end process;
44 end architecture behavioural;
```

F

Appendix for C

Table F.1: Schematic overview of the adjacent matrix

G

VHDL codes and their corresponding testbenches for the line follower

G.1. Time base

```
1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5 entity timebase is
6     port ( clk           : in std_logic;
7            reset         : in std_logic;
8            count_out    : out std_logic_vector (19 downto 0)
9        );
10 end entity timebase ;
11
12 architecture behavioural of timebase is
13
14     signal count, new_count : unsigned (19 downto 0);
15
16 begin
17     process ( clk )
18     begin
19         if ( clk'event and clk ='1' ) then
20             if ( reset = '1' ) then
21                 count <= ( others => '0' );
22             else
23                 count <= new_count;
24             end if;
25         end if;
26     end process;
27
28
29     process ( count )
30     begin
31
32         new_count <= count + 1;
33
34     end process;
35
36     count_out <= std_logic_vector ( count );
37 end architecture behavioural;
```

G.2. Time base testbench

To check whether the timebase works as intended, a testbench was made. The simulation of this testbench can be observed in Figure G.1.

```
1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3
4 entity testbench is
5 end entity testbench;
6
7 architecture struct of testbench is
8
9     component counter is
10         port ( clk      : in std_logic;
11                reset    : in std_logic;
12                count_out : out std_logic_vector(19 downto 0)
13            );
14
15     end component counter;
16
17
18     signal clk      : std_logic;
19     signal reset    : std_logic;
20     signal count_out : std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
21
22 begin
23
24     clk    <=      '1' after 0 ns,
25                      '0' after 10 ns when clk /= '0' else '1' after 10 ns;
26
27     reset <=      '1' after 0 ns,
28                      '0' after 11 ns,
29                      '1' after 20000020 ns;
30
31
32 T1: counter port map ( clk      => clk,
33                         reset    => reset,
34                         count_out => count_out);
35
36 end architecture struct;
```

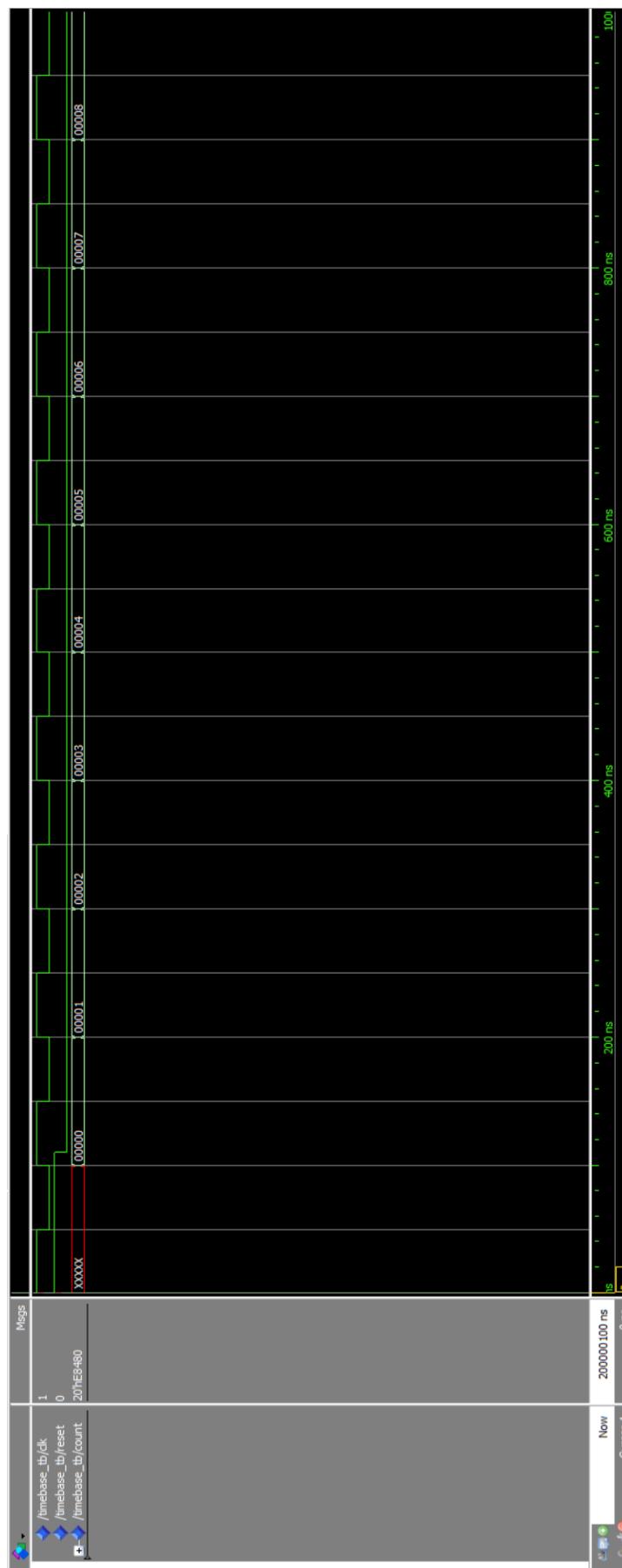


Figure G.1: Testbench of the timebase

G.3. Motor control

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5 -- Please add necessary libraries:
6
7 entity motorcontrol is
8     port ( clk           : in    std_logic;
9            reset         : in    std_logic;
10           direction   : in    std_logic;
11           count_in    : in    std_logic_vector (19 downto 0); -- Please enter upper bound
12
13           pwm          : out   std_logic
14       );
15 end entity motorcontrol;
16
17 architecture behavioural of motorcontrol is
18
19     type motorcontrol_state is (state0, state1, state2);
20
21     signal state, new_state: motorcontrol_state;
22
23 begin
24
25     process (clk)
26     begin
27         if (rising_edge (clk)) then
28             if (reset = '1') then
29                 state <= state0;
30             else
31                 state <= new_state;
32             end if;
33         end if;
34     end process;
35
36
37     process (direction, count_in, state)
38     begin
39         case state is
40
41             when state0 => pwm <= '0';
42                 new_state<=state1;
43
44
45             when state1 => pwm <= '1';
46                 if (direction ='0' and unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(50000, 20)) then
47                     new_state <= state2;
48
49                 elsif (direction ='1' and unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(100000, 20))
50                     then new_state <= state2;
51
52             else
53                 new_state <= state1;
54             end if;
55
56
57             when state2 => pwm <='0';
58                 new_state <= state2;
59
60         end case;
61     end process;
62 end architecture behavioural;

```

G.4. Motor control testbench

To check whether the motor control works as intended, a testbench was made. The simulation of this testbench can be observed in Figure G.2.

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3
4 entity motor_tb is
5 end entity motor_tb;
6
7 architecture structural of motor_tb is
8
9     component timebase is
10         port ( clk : in std_logic;
11                 reset : in std_logic;
12
13                 count_out : out std_logic_vector (19 downto 0)
14             );
15     end component timebase;
16
17     component motorcontrol is
18         port ( clk : in std_logic;
19                 reset : in std_logic;
20                 direction : in std_logic;
21                 count_in : in std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
22
23                 pwm : out std_logic
24             );
25     end component motorcontrol;
26
27     signal clk, reset, direction : std_logic;
28     signal count : std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
29     signal pwm : std_logic;
30
31 begin
32
33     lbl0: timebase port map (
34         clk => clk,
35         reset => reset,
36         count_out => count
37     );
38
39     lbl1: motorcontrol port map (
40         clk => clk,
41         reset => reset,
42         direction => direction,
43         count_in => count,
44         pwm => pwm
45     );
46
47     -- 20 ns = 50 MHz
48     clk <= '0' after 0 ns,
49             '1' after 10 ns when clk /= '1' else '0' after 10 ns;
50
51     reset <= '1' after 0 ns,
52             '0' after 20 ns,
53             '1' after 20000000 ns,
54             '0' after 20000020 ns,
55             '1' after 40000000 ns,
56             '0' after 40000020 ns;
57
58     direction <= '0' after 0 ns,
59             '1' after 20000000 ns;
59 end architecture structural;
```

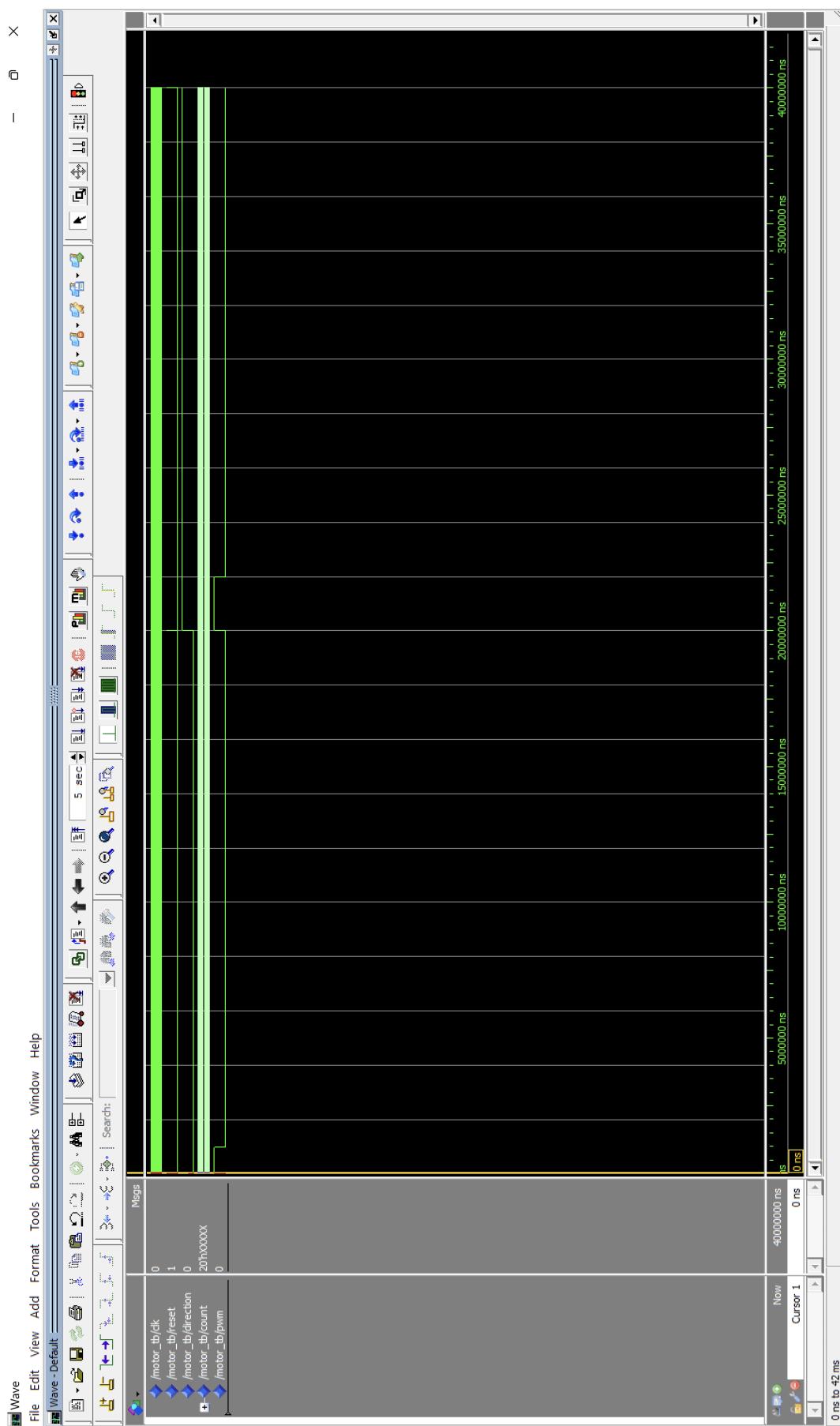


Figure G.2: Testbench of the motor control

G.5. Input buffer

```
1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4 -- Please add necessary libraries:
5
6
7 entity inputbuffer is
8     port ( clk           : in    std_logic;
9
10        sensor_l_in      : in    std_logic;
11        sensor_m_in      : in    std_logic;
12        sensor_r_in      : in    std_logic;
13
14        sensor_l_out     : out   std_logic;
15        sensor_m_out     : out   std_logic;
16        sensor_r_out     : out   std_logic
17    );
18 end entity inputbuffer;
19
20
21
22
23 architecture structural of inputbuffer is
24
25 component flipflop is
26
27     port(clk, sensor_l_in, sensor_m_in, sensor_r_in: in std_logic;
28           sensor_l_out, sensor_m_out, sensor_r_out: out std_logic);
29 end component;
30
31 signal s1, s2, s3: std_logic;
32
33 begin
34
35 FF1: flipflop port map( clk => clk,
36
37             sensor_l_in => sensor_l_in,
38             sensor_m_in => sensor_m_in,
39             sensor_r_in => sensor_r_in,
40
41             sensor_l_out => s1,
42             sensor_m_out => s2,
43             sensor_r_out => s3);
44
45 FF2: flipflop port map( clk => clk,
46
47             sensor_l_in => s1,
48             sensor_m_in => s2,
49             sensor_r_in => s3,
50
51             sensor_l_out => sensor_l_out,
52             sensor_m_out => sensor_m_out,
53             sensor_r_out => sensor_r_out);
54
55 end structural;
```

G.6. Input buffer testbench

To check whether the input buffer works as intended, a testbench was made. The simulation of this testbench can be observed in Figure G.3.

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5 entity inputbuffer_tb is
6 end entity inputbuffer_tb;
7
8 architecture structural of inputbuffer_tb is
9
10    component inputbuffer is
11        port ( clk           : in  std_logic;
12               sensor_l_in   : in  std_logic;
13               sensor_m_in   : in  std_logic;
14               sensor_r_in   : in  std_logic;
15
16               sensor_l_out   : out std_logic;
17               sensor_m_out   : out std_logic;
18               sensor_r_out   : out std_logic
19           );
20    end component inputbuffer;
21
22
23
24    signal clk, sensor_l_in, sensor_m_in, sensor_r_in, sensor_l_out,
25        sensor_m_out, sensor_r_out: std_logic;
26
27
28 begin
29     lb10: inputbuffer port map(
30         clk           => clk,
31         sensor_l_in   => sensor_l_in,
32         sensor_m_in   => sensor_m_in,
33         sensor_r_in   => sensor_r_in,
34         sensor_l_out   => sensor_l_out,
35         sensor_m_out   => sensor_m_out,
36         sensor_r_out   => sensor_r_out
37     );
38
39     clk           <= '0' after 0 ns,
40                 '1' after 10 ns when clk /= '1' else '0' after 10 ns;
41
42
43     sensor_l_in    <= '0' after 0 ns,
44                  '1' after 5 ns,
45                  '0' after 35 ns;
46
47     sensor_m_in    <= '0' after 0 ns,
48                  '1' after 15 ns;
49
50     sensor_r_in    <= '0' after 0 ns,
51                  '1' after 20 ns;
52
53 end architecture structural;

```

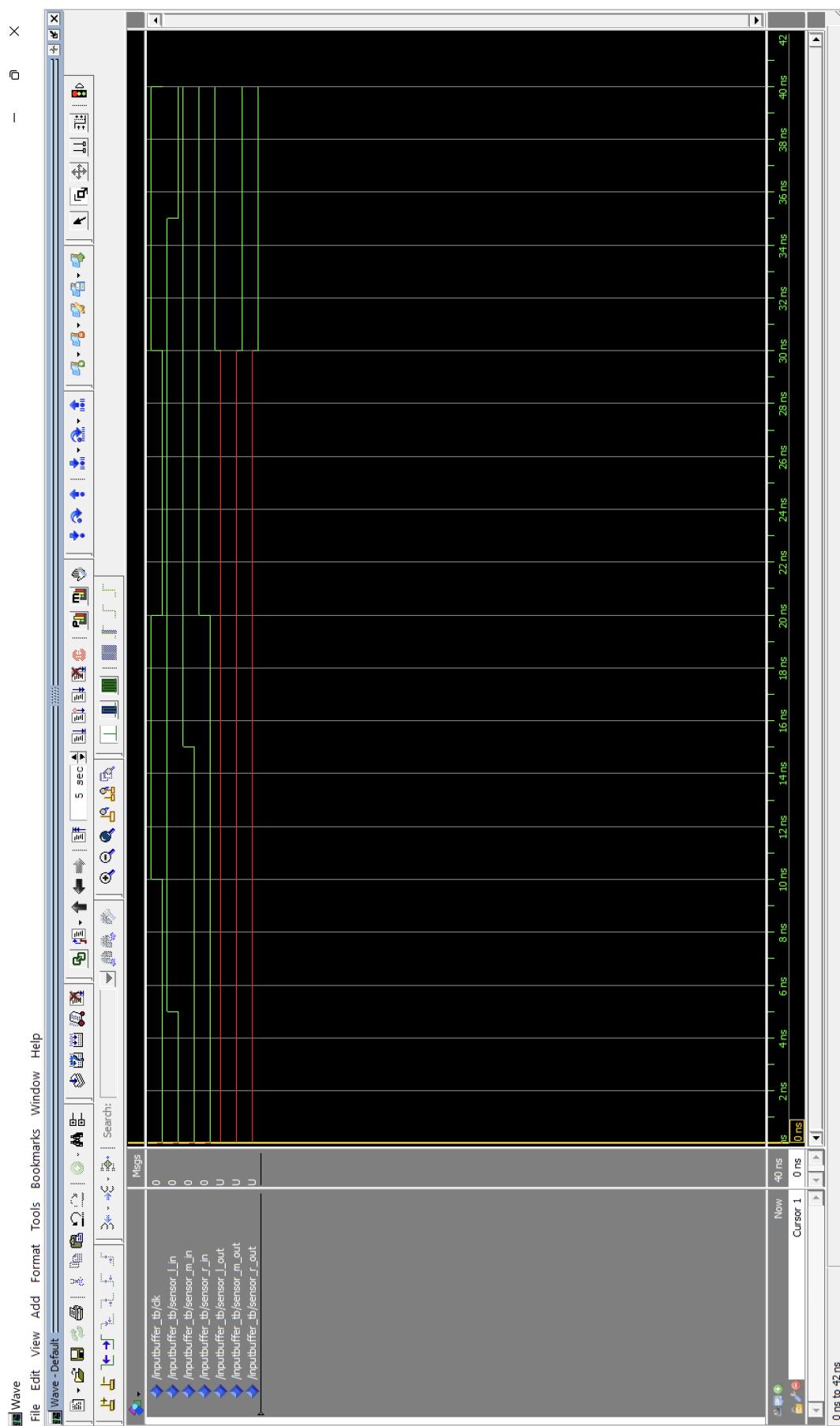


Figure G.3: Testbench of the inputbuffer

G.7. 3bit flipflop

```
1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4 -- Please add necessary libraries:
5
6
7 entity flipflop is
8     port ( clk           : in    std_logic;
9             sensor_l_in   : in    std_logic;
10            sensor_m_in   : in    std_logic;
11            sensor_r_in   : in    std_logic;
12
13            sensor_l_out  : out   std_logic;
14            sensor_m_out  : out   std_logic;
15            sensor_r_out  : out   std_logic
16
17        );
18 end entity flipflop;
19
20
21 architecture behavioral of flipflop is
22
23 begin
24     process (clk)
25     begin
26         if rising_edge(clk) then
27             sensor_l_out <= sensor_l_in;
28             sensor_m_out <= sensor_m_in;
29             sensor_r_out <= sensor_r_in;
30
31         end if;
32     end process;
33
34 end behavioral;
```

G.8. Controller

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5
6 entity controller is
7     port ( clk           : in    std_logic;
8            reset         : in    std_logic;
9            sensor_l      : in    std_logic;
10           sensor_m     : in    std_logic;
11           sensor_r      : in    std_logic;
12
13           count_in      : in    std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
14           count_reset   : out   std_logic;
15
16           motor_l_reset : out   std_logic;
17           motor_l_direction : out   std_logic;
18
19           motor_r_reset : out   std_logic;
20           motor_r_direction : out   std_logic
21       );
22
23
24 end entity controller;
25
26 architecture behavioural of controller is
27
28     type controller_state is (state_r, state_f, state_gl, state_sl, state_gr, state_sr);
29
30     signal state, new_state: controller_state;
31
32
33 begin
34     process (clk)
35     begin
36         if (rising_edge (clk)) then
37             if (reset = '1') then
38                 state <= state_r;
39             else
40                 state <= new_state;
41             end if;
42         end if;
43     end process;
44
45
46
47     process (sensor_l, sensor_m, sensor_r, count_in, state)
48     begin
49         case state is
50
51             when state_r =>          count_reset <= '1';
52                                     motor_l_reset <= '1';
53                                     motor_r_reset <= '1';
54
55                                     motor_l_direction <= '0';
56                                     motor_r_direction <= '0';
57
58             if ((sensor_l = '0') and (sensor_m = '0') and (sensor_r = '0')) then
59                 new_state <= state_f;
60
61
62             elsif (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '1') then
63                 new_state <= state_gl;
64
65
66             elsif (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '1' and sensor_r = '0') then
67                 new_state <= state_f;
68
69

```



```
141
142         if (unsigned(count_in) < to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
143             new_state <= state_s1;
144
145         elsif (unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
146             new_state <= state_r;
147
148         end if;
149
150
151     when state_gr =>      count_reset <= '0';
152                           motor_l_reset <= '0';
153                           motor_r_reset <= '1';
154
155                           motor_l_direction <= '1';
156                           motor_r_direction <= '0';
157
158         if (unsigned(count_in) < to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
159             new_state <= state_gr;
160
161         elsif (unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
162             new_state <= state_r;
163
164         end if;
165
166
167     when state_sr =>      count_reset <= '0';
168                           motor_l_reset <= '0';
169                           motor_r_reset <= '0';
170
171                           motor_l_direction <= '1';
172                           motor_r_direction <= '1';
173
174         if (unsigned(count_in) < to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
175             new_state <= state_sr;
176
177         elsif (unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
178             new_state <= state_r;
179
180         end if;
181
182     end case;
183   end process;
184 end architecture behavioural;
```

G.9. Controller testbench

To check whether the controller works as intended, a testbench was made. The simulation of this testbench can be observed in Figure G.4.

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5
6 entity controller_tb is
7 end entity controller_tb;
8
9
10 architecture structural of controller_tb is
11
12     component timebase is
13         port ( clk : in std_logic;
14                 reset : in std_logic;
15
16                 count_out : out std_logic_vector (19 downto 0)
17             );
18     end component timebase;
19
20
21
22     component motorcontrol is
23         port ( clk : in std_logic;
24                 reset : in std_logic;
25                 direction : in std_logic;
26                 count_in : in std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
27
28                 pwm : out std_logic
29             );
30     end component motorcontrol;
31
32
33
34     component controller is
35         port ( clk : in std_logic;
36                 reset : in std_logic;
37
38                 sensor_l : in std_logic;
39                 sensor_m : in std_logic;
40                 sensor_r : in std_logic;
41
42                 count_in : in std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
43                 count_reset : out std_logic;
44
45                 motor_l_reset : out std_logic;
46                 motor_l_direction : out std_logic;
47
48                 motor_r_reset : out std_logic;
49                 motor_r_direction : out std_logic
50             );
51     end component controller;
52
53
54     signal clk, reset, sensor_l_in, sensor_m_in, sensor_r_in: std_logic;
55     signal count : std_logic_vector(19 downto 0);
56     signal sensors : std_logic_vector(2 downto 0);
57     signal motor_RD, motor_LD, motor_RR, motor_LR, count_RS : std_logic;
58
59
60
61 begin
62     LBl: controller port map(
63         clk => clk,
64         reset => reset,
65         sensor_l => sensor_l_in,
66         sensor_m => sensor_m_in,
67         sensor_r => sensor_r_in,

```

```
67                               count_in          => count,
68                               count_reset      => count_RS,
69                               motor_l_direction => motor_LD,
70                               motor_r_direction => motor_RD,
71                               motor_l_reset     => motor_LR,
72                               motor_r_reset     => motor_RR);
73
74
75 LB2: timebase port map ( clk => clk , reset => count_RS , count_out => count);
76
77
78
79     clk           <=      '0' after 0 ns,
80                           '1' after 10 ns when clk /= '1' else '0' after 10 ns;
81
82     reset         <=      '1' after 0 ns,
83                           '0' after 20 ns,
84                           '1' after 20000000 ns,
85                           '0' after 20000020 ns,
86                           '1' after 40000000 ns,
87                           '0' after 40000020 ns;
88
89     sensors       <=      "000" after 0 ms,
90                           "001" after 70 ms,
91                           "010" after 110 ms,
92                           "011" after 150 ms,
93                           "100" after 190 ms,
94                           "101" after 230 ms,
95                           "110" after 280 ms,
96                           "111" after 330 ms;
97
98     sensor_l_in   <=      sensors(2);
99     sensor_m_in   <=      sensors(1);
100    sensor_r_in   <=      sensors(0);
101
102
103 end architecture structural;
```

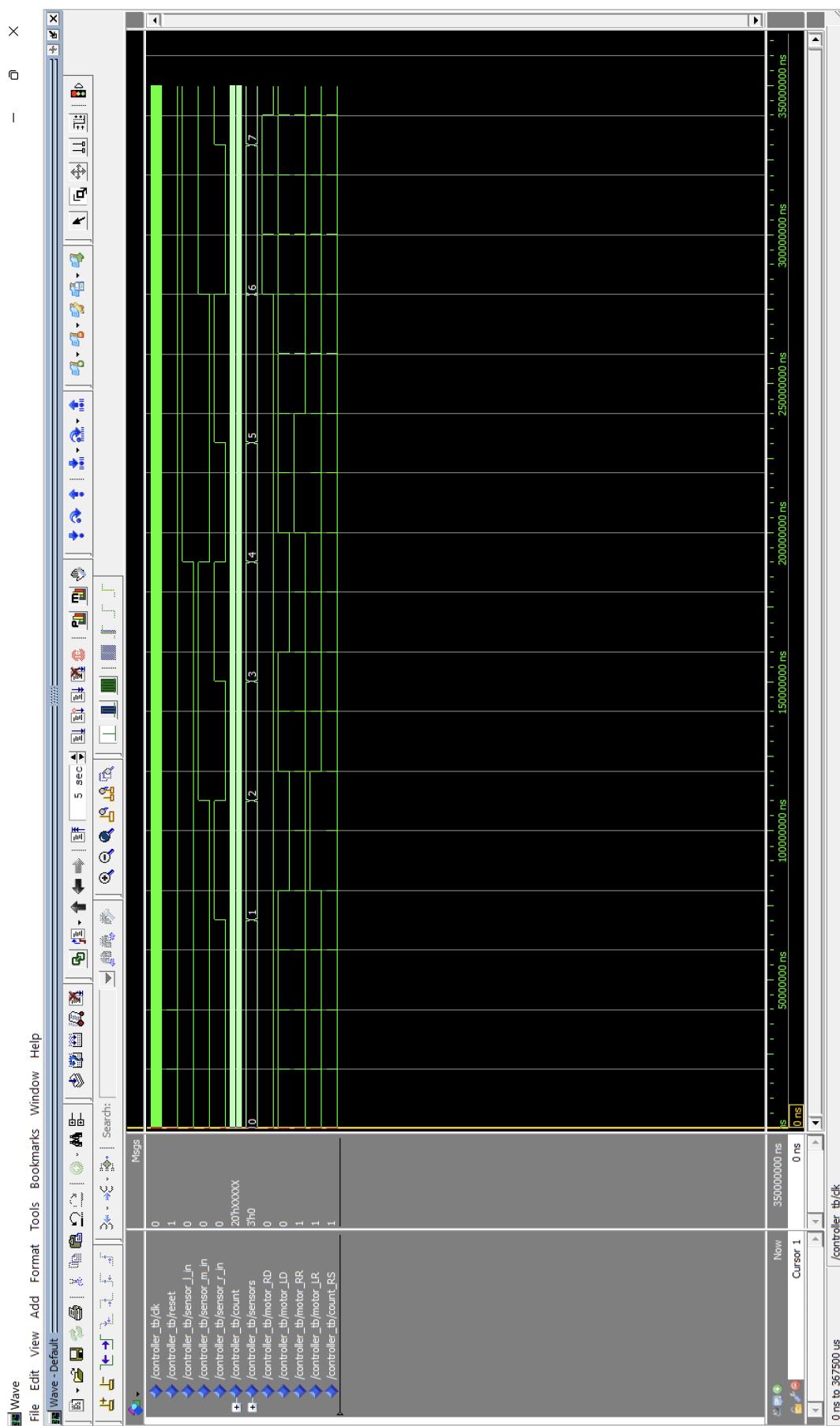


Figure G.4: Testbench of the controller

G.10. Robot

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3
4 entity robot is
5     port ( clk          : in  std_logic;
6            reset        : in  std_logic;
7
8            sensor_l_in   : in  std_logic;
9            sensor_m_in   : in  std_logic;
10           sensor_r_in  : in  std_logic;
11
12           motor_l_pwm   : out std_logic;
13           motor_r_pwm   : out std_logic
14       );
15 end entity robot;
16
17 architecture structural of robot is
18
19 component inputbuffer is
20     port ( clk          : in  std_logic;
21
22            sensor_l_in   : in  std_logic;
23            sensor_m_in   : in  std_logic;
24            sensor_r_in   : in  std_logic;
25
26            sensor_l_out   : out std_logic;
27            sensor_m_out   : out std_logic;
28            sensor_r_out   : out std_logic
29       );
30 end component inputbuffer;
31
32 component controller is
33     port ( clk          : in  std_logic;
34            reset        : in  std_logic;
35
36            sensor_l      : in  std_logic;
37            sensor_m      : in  std_logic;
38            sensor_r      : in  std_logic;
39
40            count_in     : in  std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
41            count_reset   : out std_logic;
42
43            motor_l_reset : out std_logic;
44            motor_l_direction : out std_logic;
45
46            motor_r_reset : out std_logic;
47            motor_r_direction : out std_logic
48       );
49
50 end component controller;
51
52
53 component timebase is
54     port ( clk          : in std_logic;
55            reset        : in std_logic;
56            count_out    : out std_logic_vector (19 downto 0)
57       );
58 end component timebase ;
59
60
61 component motorcontrol is
62     port ( clk          : in  std_logic;
63            reset        : in  std_logic;
64            direction    : in  std_logic;
65            count_in     : in  std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
66
67            pwm          : out std_logic
68       );
69 end component motorcontrol;

```

```
70
71
72
73 signal sensor_l, sensor_m, sensor_r, count_rs, motor_l_rs, motor_l_d, motor_r_rs, motor_r_d: std_logic;
74 signal count: std_logic_vector(19 downto 0);
75
76 begin
77 LB1: inputbuffer port map(
78
79             clk          =>      clk,
80             sensor_l_in  =>      sensor_l_in,
81             sensor_m_in  =>      sensor_m_in,
82             sensor_r_in  =>      sensor_r_in,
83
84             sensor_l_out  =>      sensor_l,
85             sensor_m_out  =>      sensor_m,
86             sensor_r_out  =>      sensor_r);
87
88
89 LB2: controller port map(
90             clk          =>      clk,
91             reset        =>      reset,
92
93             sensor_l     =>      sensor_l,
94             sensor_m     =>      sensor_m,
95             sensor_r     =>      sensor_r,
96
97             count_in     =>      count,
98
99             count_reset   =>      count_rs,
100
101            motor_l_reset  =>      motor_l_rs,
102            motor_l_direction  =>      motor_l_d,
103
104            motor_r_reset  =>      motor_r_rs,
105            motor_r_direction  =>      motor_r_d);
106
107 LB3: timebase port map(
108             clk          =>      clk,
109             reset        =>      count_rs,
110             count_out    =>      count);
111
112
113
114 MCL: motorcontrol port map(
115             clk          =>      clk,
116             reset        =>      motor_l_rs,
117             direction    =>      motor_l_d,
118             count_in     =>      count,
119
120             pwm          =>      motor_l_pwm);
121
122
123 MCR: motorcontrol port map(
124             clk          =>      clk,
125             reset        =>      motor_r_rs,
126             direction    =>      motor_r_d,
127             count_in     =>      count,
128
129             pwm          =>      motor_r_pwm);
130
131 end architecture structural;
```

G.11. Robot testbench

To check whether the robot top entity works as intended, a testbench was made. The simulation of this testbench can be observed in Figure G.5.

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3
4 entity robot_tb is
5 end entity robot_tb;
6
7 architecture structural of robot_tb is
8
9     component robot is
10         port ( clk           : in  std_logic;
11                 reset        : in  std_logic;
12
13                 sensor_l_in   : in  std_logic;
14                 sensor_m_in   : in  std_logic;
15                 sensor_r_in   : in  std_logic;
16
17                 motor_l_pwm    : out std_logic;
18                 motor_r_pwm    : out std_logic
19             );
20     end component robot;
21
22     signal clk, reset          : std_logic;
23     signal sensor_l, sensor_m, sensor_r : std_logic;
24     signal sensors            : std_logic_vector(2 downto 0);
25     signal motor_l_pwm, motor_r_pwm : std_logic;
26
27 begin
28
29     lbl0: robot port map      (
30                                     clk           => clk,
31                                     reset        => reset,
32                                     sensor_l_in  => sensor_l,
33                                     sensor_m_in  => sensor_m,
34                                     sensor_r_in  => sensor_r,
35                                     motor_l_pwm   => motor_l_pwm,
36                                     motor_r_pwm   => motor_r_pwm
37                               );
38
39     -- 20 ns = 50 MHz
40     clk           <= '0' after 0 ns,
41                     '1' after 10 ns when clk /= '1' else '0' after 10 ns;
42
43     reset        <= '1' after 0 ns,
44                     '0' after 40 ms;
45
46     sensors      <=
47         "000" after 0 ns,    -- bbb
48         "001" after 70 ms,   -- bbw
49         "010" after 110 ms,  -- bwb
50         "011" after 150 ms,  -- bww
51         "100" after 190 ms,  -- wbb
52         "101" after 230 ms,  -- wbw
53         "110" after 270 ms,  -- www
54         "111" after 310 ms;  -- www
55
56     sensor_l      <= sensors(2);
57     sensor_m      <= sensors(1);
58     sensor_r      <= sensors(0);
59
60 end architecture structural;
```

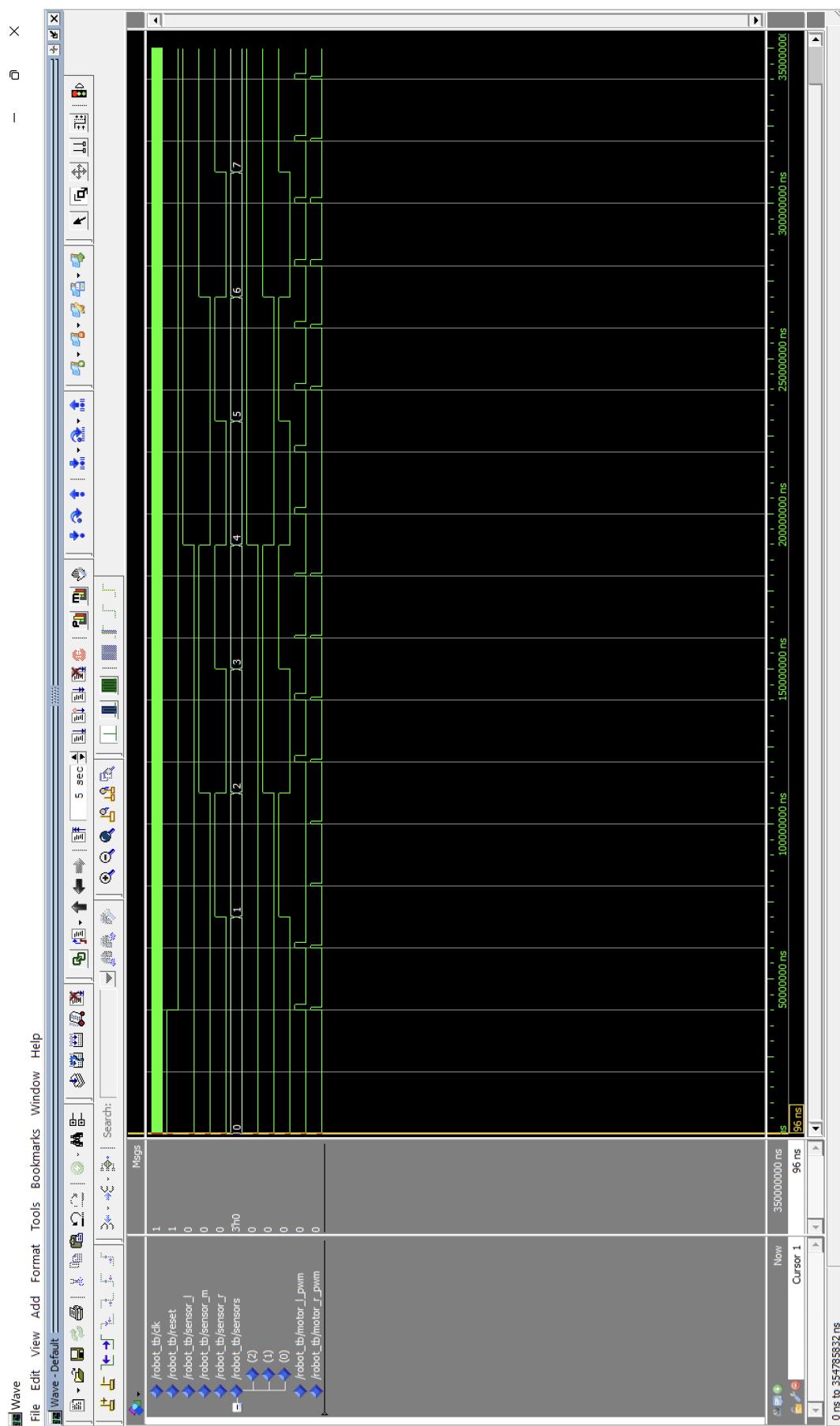
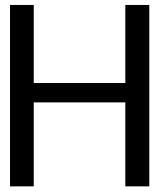


Figure G.5: Testbench of the robot



VHDL codes for the EPO2 Robot

H.1. Time base of the robot

```
1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5 entity timebase is
6     port ( clk           : in std_logic;
7            reset         : in std_logic;
8            count_out      : out std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
9
10           --New periodic reset
11           reset_out      : out std_logic
12       );
13 end entity timebase ;
14
15 architecture behavioural of timebase is
16
17     signal count, new_count : unsigned (19 downto 0);
18
19 begin
20     process ( clk )
21     begin
22         if ( clk'event and clk ='1' ) then
23             if ( (reset = '1') or (unsigned(count) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) ) then
24                 -- or (unsigned(count) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20) added
25                 count <= ( others => '0');
26                 reset_out <= '1';          -- Added reset_out signal.
27             else
28                 count <= new_count;
29                 reset_out <= '0';
30             end if;
31         end if;
32     end process;
33
34     process ( count )
35     begin
36
37         new_count <= count + 1;
38
39     end process;
40
41     count_out <= std_logic_vector ( count );
42 end architecture behavioural;
```

H.2. Motor controller of the robot

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4
5
6 -- Please add necessary libraries:
7
8 entity motorcontrol is
9     port ( clk           : in    std_logic;
10        reset         : in    std_logic;
11        direction     : in    std_logic;
12        count_in      : in    std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
13
14        reset_in      : in    std_logic;
15        -- input signal that comes from the timebase reset_out output signal.
16        pwm          : out   std_logic
17    );
18 end entity motorcontrol;
19
20 architecture behavioural of motorcontrol is
21
22     type motorcontrol_state is (state0, state1, state2);
23
24     signal state, new_state: motorcontrol_state;
25
26 begin
27
28     process (clk)
29 begin
30         if (rising_edge (clk)) then
31             if (reset_in = '1') then          -- added (reset_in = '1')
32                 state <= state0;
33             else
34                 state <= new_state;
35             end if;
36         end if;
37     end process;
38
39
40     process (direction, count_in, state, reset)
41 begin
42     case state is
43
44         when state0 => pwm <= '0';
45             if (reset = '0') then
46                 new_state <= state1;
47             else
48                 new_state <= state0;
49             end if;
50
51
52         when state1 => pwm <= '1';
53             if (direction ='0' and unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(50000, 20)) then
54                 new_state <= state2;
55
56             elsif (direction ='1' and unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(100000, 20))
57                 then new_state <= state2;
58
59             else
60                 new_state <= state1;
61             end if;
62
63
64         when state2 => pwm <='0';
65             new_state <= state2;
66
67
68
69

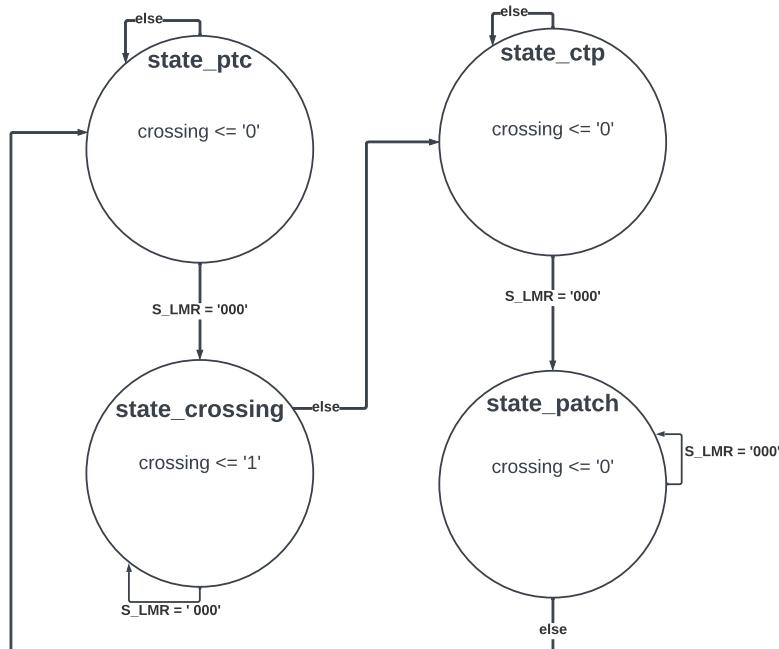
```

```
70           end case;
71       end process;
72 end architecture behavioural;
```

H.3. Controller of the robot

H.3.1. Final state machines of the controller

In figure H.1, H.2 and H.3, the final state machine of the cross counter process, communication process and the control motor process is provided respectively.



Abbreviations arrows:

- S_LMR = sensor_l sensor_m sensor_r

Figure H.1: final state machine crosscounter process

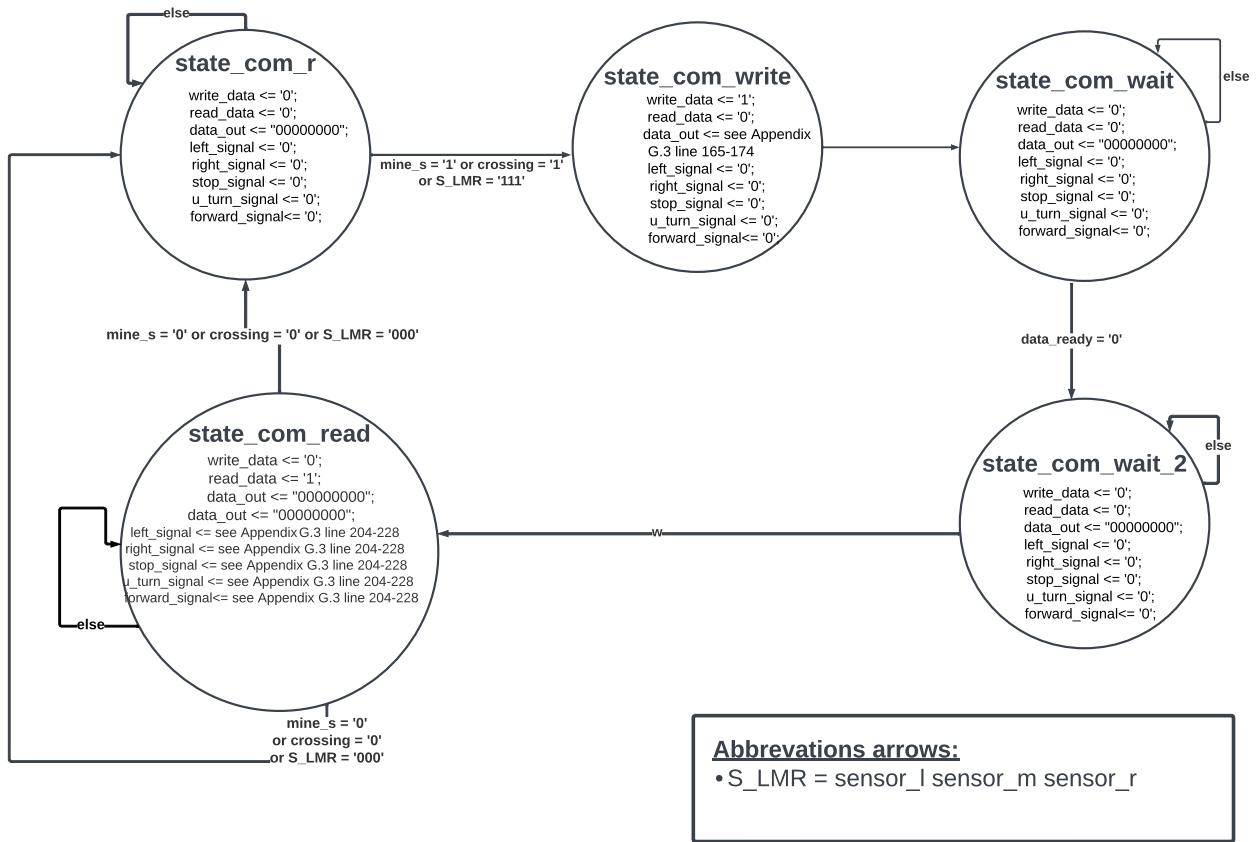


Figure H.2: final state machine communication process

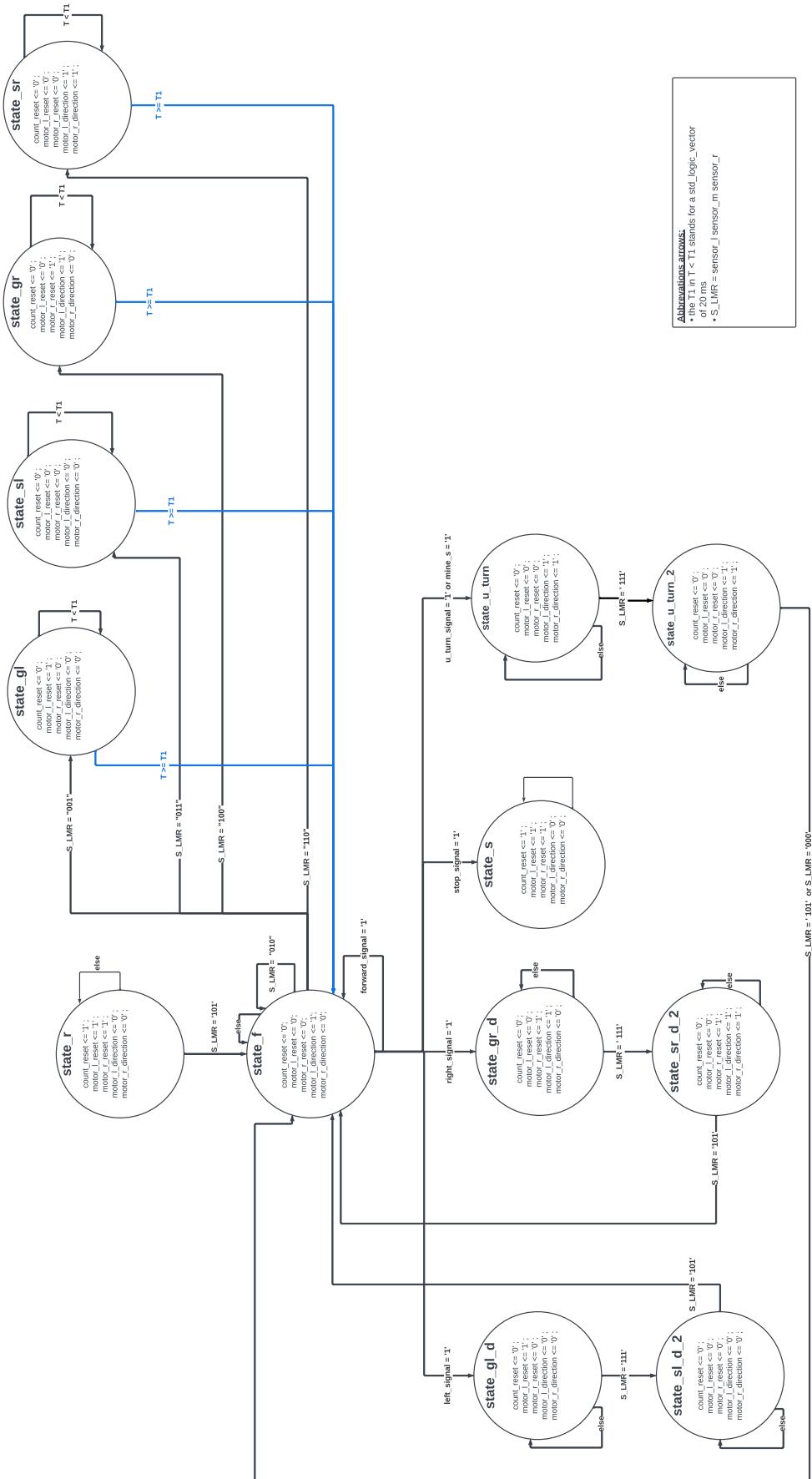


Figure H.3: final state machine control motor process

H.3.2. VHDL code of the controller

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3 use IEEE.numeric_std.all;
4 -- Please add necessary libraries:
5
6
7 entity controller is
8     port ( clk           : in  std_logic;
9            reset         : in  std_logic;
10           sensor_l      : in  std_logic;
11           sensor_m      : in  std_logic;
12           sensor_r      : in  std_logic;
13           count_in       : in  std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
14
15           data_in        : in  std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
16           data_ready     : in  std_logic;
17           mine_s         : in  std_logic;
18
19           data_out       : out std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
20           write_data    : out std_logic;
21           read_data     : out std_logic;
22
23           count_reset   : out std_logic;
24
25           motor_l_reset : out std_logic;
26           motor_l_direction : out std_logic;
27
28           motor_r_reset : out std_logic;
29           motor_r_direction : out std_logic
30
31
32           );
33
34
35
36
37 end entity controller;
38
39
40 architecture behavioural of controller is
41
42     type controller_state is
43         (state_r,
44          state_s,
45          state_gl_d, state_sl_d_2,
46          state_gr_d, state_sr_d_2,
47          state_f, state_gl, state_sl, state_gr, state_sr,
48          state_u_turn, state_u_turn_2
49     );
50
51     type crossing_state is
52         (state_ptc, --state patch to crossing
53          state_crossing, --state when on crossing
54          state_ctp, --state crossing to patch
55          state_patch --state when on patch
56     );
57
58     type communication_state is
59         (state_com_r,
60          state_com_write,
61          state_com_wait, state_com_wait_2,
62          state_com_read
63     );
64
65     signal state, new_state: controller_state;
66     signal state_p, new_state_p: crossing_state;
67     signal state_com, new_state_com: communication_state;
68     signal crossing: std_logic;
69     signal left_signal, right_signal, stop_signal, forward_signal, u_turn_signal: std_logic;
70     signal count_turn, new_count_turn : unsigned (27 downto 0);

```

```

71 begin
72     process (clk)
73 begin
74     if (rising_edge (clk)) then
75         if (reset = '1') then
76             state    <= state_r;
77             state_p <= state_ptc;
78             state_com <= state_com_r;
79
80         else
81             state    <= new_state;
82             state_p <= new_state_p;
83             state_com <= new_state_com;
84         end if;
85     end if;
86 end process;
87
88 --FSM voor cross counting
89     process (sensor_l, sensor_m, sensor_r, state_p)
90 begin
91     case state_p is
92
93         when state_ptc =>      crossing <= '0';
94
95             if (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '0') then
96                 new_state_p      <=      state_crossing;
97             else
98                 new_state_p      <=      state_ptc;
99             end if;
100
101        when state_crossing =>  crossing <= '1';
102
103            if (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '0') then
104                new_state_p      <=      state_crossing;
105            else
106                new_state_p      <=      state_ctp;
107            end if;
108
109        when state_ctp =>       crossing <= '0';
110
111            if (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '0') then
112                new_state_p      <=      state_patch;
113            else
114                new_state_p      <=      state_ctp;
115            end if;
116
117        when state_patch =>    crossing <= '0';
118
119            if (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '0') then
120                new_state_p      <=      state_patch;
121            else
122                new_state_p      <=      state_ptc;
123            end if;
124
125        end case;
126    end process;
127 --End FSM crosscounting
128
129
130
131 --Process for communication
132     process (state_com, mine_s, crossing, sensor_l, sensor_m, sensor_r, data_ready, data_in, count_turn)
133 begin
134     left_signal <= '0';
135     right_signal <= '0';
136     stop_signal <= '0';
137     u_turn_signal <= '0';
138     forward_signal<= '0';
139
140     case state_com is
141

```

```

142      when state_com_r =>
143          read_data <= '0';
144          data_out <= "00000000";
145          write_data <= '0';
146
147          if (mine_s = '1') then
148              new_state_com <= state_com_write;
149
150          elseif (crossing = '1') then
151              new_state_com <= state_com_write;
152
153          elseif ((sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '1' and sensor_r = '1')) then
154              new_state_com <= state_com_write;
155
156          else
157              new_state_com <= state_com_r;
158          end if;
159
160
161      when state_com_write =>
162          read_data <= '0';
163          write_data <= '1';
164          new_state_com <= state_com_wait;
165
166          if (mine_s = '1') then
167              data_out <= "00000100"; --Mine detected
168          elseif (crossing = '1') then
169              data_out <= "00000010"; -- at crossing
170          elseif (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '0')
171              then data_out <= "00000011"; -- at dead end
172          else
173              data_out <= "00000000";
174          end if;
175
176      when state_com_wait =>
177          write_data <= '0';
178          read_data <= '0';
179
180          data_out <= "00000000";
181
182          if (data_ready = '0') then
183              new_state_com <= state_com_wait_2;
184          else
185              new_state_com <= state_com_wait;
186          end if;
187
188      when state_com_wait_2 =>
189          write_data <= '0';
190          read_data <= '0';
191
192          data_out <= "00000000";
193
194          if ((data_ready = '1')) then
195              new_state_com <= state_com_read;
196          else
197              new_state_com <= state_com_wait_2;
198          end if;
199
200      when state_com_read =>
201          write_data <= '0';
202          data_out <= "00000000";
203          read_data <= '1';
204
205          if (data_in = "00000001") then
206              left_signal <= '1';
207
208          elseif (data_in = "00000010") then
209              right_signal <= '1';
210
211          elseif (data_in = "00000011") then
212              forward_signal <= '1';

```

```

213
214
215             elsif (data_in = "00000100") then
216                 stop_signal <= '1';
217
218
219             elsif (data_in = "00000101") then
220                 u_turn_signal <= '1';
221
222             else
223                 left_signal <= '0';
224                 right_signal <= '0';
225                 stop_signal <= '0';
226                 u_turn_signal <= '0';
227                 forward_signal <= '0';
228             end if;
229
230             if (mine_s = '0' or crossing = '0' or (sensor_l = '1' and
231 sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '1')) then
232                 new_state_com <= state_com_r;
233             else
234                 new_state_com <= state_com_read;
235             end if;
236         end case;
237     end process;
238
239 --End process for communication
240
241
242 --Process for motors
243     process (sensor_l, sensor_m, sensor_r, count_in, state, mine_s,
244             left_signal, right_signal, stop_signal, forward_signal, u_turn_signal, count_turn)
245     begin
246         case state is
247
248             when state_r =>
249                 count_reset <= '1';
250                 motor_l_reset <= '1';
251                 motor_r_reset <= '1';
252
253                 motor_l_direction <= '0';
254                 motor_r_direction <= '0';
255
256             -- this part makes the robot start working without initializing signal coming in from uart.
257             if (sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '1') then
258                 new_state <= state_f;
259
260             else
261                 new_state <= state_r;
262             end if;
263
264             when state_f =>
265                 count_reset <= '0';
266                 motor_l_reset <= '0';
267                 motor_r_reset <= '0';
268
269                 motor_l_direction <= '1';
270                 motor_r_direction <= '0';
271
272             if (left_signal = '1') then
273                 new_state <= state_gl_d;
274
275             elsif (right_signal = '1') then
276                 new_state <= state_gr_d;
277
278             elsif (stop_signal = '1') then
279                 new_state <= state_s;
280
281             elsif (forward_signal = '1') then
282                 new_state <= state_f;
283
284             elsif (u_turn_signal = '1' or mine_s = '1') then

```

```

284                     new_state <= state_u_turn;
285
286         elseif (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '1') then
287             new_state <= state_gl;
288
289         elseif (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '1' and sensor_r = '0') then
290             new_state <= state_f;
291
292         elseif (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '1' and sensor_r = '1') then
293             new_state <= state_sl;
294
295         elseif (sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '0') then
296             new_state <= state_gr;
297
298         elseif (sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '1') then
299             new_state <= state_f;
300
301         elseif (sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '1' and sensor_r = '0') then
302             new_state <= state_sr;
303
304         else
305             new_state <= state_f;
306
307     end if;
308
309
310
311     when state_gl =>
312         count_reset <= '0';
313         motor_l_reset <= '1';
314         motor_r_reset <= '0';
315
316         motor_l_direction <= '0';
317         motor_r_direction <= '0';
318
319         if (unsigned(count_in) < to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
320             new_state <= state_gl;
321
322         elseif (unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
323             new_state <= state_f;
324         end if;
325
326
327
328     when state_sl =>
329         count_reset <= '0';
330         motor_l_reset <= '0';
331         motor_r_reset <= '0';
332
333         motor_l_direction <= '0';
334         motor_r_direction <= '0';
335
336         if (unsigned(count_in) < to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
337             new_state <= state_sl;
338
339         elseif (unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
340             new_state <= state_f;
341
342     end if;
343
344
345     when state_gr =>
346         count_reset <= '0';
347         motor_l_reset <= '0';
348         motor_r_reset <= '1';
349
350         motor_l_direction <= '1';
351         motor_r_direction <= '0';
352
353         if (unsigned(count_in) < to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
354             new_state <= state_gr;

```

```

355
356         elsif (unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
357             new_state <= state_f;
358
359
360
361     when state_sr =>          count_reset <= '0';
362                               motor_l_reset <= '0';
363                               motor_r_reset <= '0';
364
365                               motor_l_direction <= '1';
366                               motor_r_direction <= '1';
367
368         if (unsigned(count_in) < to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
369             new_state <= state_sr;
370
371         elsif (unsigned(count_in) >= to_unsigned(1000000, 20)) then
372             new_state <= state_f;
373
374         end if;
375
376
377 -- stop branch, bestaande uit state_s_write en state_s_read.
378
379     when state_s      =>          count_reset           <= '1';
380                               motor_l_reset        <= '1';
381                               motor_r_reset        <= '1';
382
383                               motor_l_direction    <= '0';
384                               motor_r_direction    <= '0';
385
386             new_state <= state_s;
387 -- end state, you never leave this, because if you come here you are finished with challenge.
388
389
390 -- left branch door data van thijs, bestaande uit state_gl_d, state_gl_d_2
391 --We need to make sure the robot turns early enough so lmr = 110 when we encounter the line again.
392
393     when state_gl_d =>          count_reset           <= '0';
394                               motor_l_reset        <= '1';
395                               motor_r_reset        <= '0';
396
397                               motor_l_direction    <= '0';
398                               motor_r_direction    <= '0';
399
400         if ((sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '1' and sensor_r = '1')) then
401             new_state <= state_sl_d_2;
402         else
403             new_state <= state_gl_d;
404         end if;
405
406     when state_sl_d_2 =>          count_reset           <= '0';
407                               motor_l_reset        <= '0';
408                               motor_r_reset        <= '0';
409                               motor_l_direction    <= '0';
410                               motor_r_direction    <= '0';
411
412         if (sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '1') then
413             new_state <= state_f;
414         else
415             new_state <= state_sl_d_2;
416         end if;
417
418
419 -- right branch door data van thijs, bestaande uit state_gr_d, state_gr_d_2
420     when state_gr_d =>          count_reset           <= '0';
421                               motor_l_reset        <= '0';
422                               motor_r_reset        <= '1';
423
424

```

```

425                     motor_l_direction <= '1';
426                     motor_r_direction <= '0';
427
428             if ((sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '1' and sensor_r = '1')) then
429                 new_state <= state_sr_d_2;
430             else
431                 new_state <= state_gr_d;
432             end if;
433
434
435         when state_sr_d_2 =>
436             count_reset <= '0';
437             motor_l_reset <= '0';
438             motor_r_reset <= '0';
439
440             motor_l_direction <= '1';
441             motor_r_direction <= '1';
442
443             if (sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '1') then
444             -- same comment as state_gl_d_2.
445                 new_state <= state_f;
446             else
447                 new_state <= state_sr_d_2;
448             end if;
449
450 --u-turn branch implemented as two sharp right states, we turn sharp right until we see lmr = 101 again.
451
452         when state_u_turn =>    count_reset <= '0';
453                                         motor_l_reset <= '0';
454                                         motor_r_reset <= '0';
455
456                                         motor_l_direction <= '1';
457                                         motor_r_direction <= '1';
458
459             if (sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '1' and sensor_r = '1') then
460                 new_state <= state_u_turn_2;
461             else
462                 new_state <= state_u_turn;
463             end if;
464
465
466         when state_u_turn_2 =>  count_reset <= '0';
467                                         motor_l_reset <= '0';
468                                         motor_r_reset <= '0';
469
470                                         motor_l_direction <= '1';
471                                         motor_r_direction <= '1';
472
473             if ((sensor_l = '1' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '1') or
474 (sensor_l = '0' and sensor_m = '0' and sensor_r = '0') ) then
475                 new_state <= state_f;
476             else
477                 new_state <= state_u_turn_2;
478             end if;
479
480         end case;
481     end process;
482 end architecture behavioural;

```

H.3.3. EPO2 Robot top entity

```

1 library IEEE;
2 use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;
3
4
5 entity robot is
6     port (
7
8         clk          : in    std_logic;
9         reset        : in    std_logic;
10
11        sensor_l_in   : in    std_logic;
12        sensor_m_in   : in    std_logic;
13        sensor_r_in   : in    std_logic;
14
15        sensor_mine_in : in    std_logic;
16
17        rx           : in    std_logic;
18        tx           : out   std_logic;
19        buffer_empty  : out   std_logic;
20
21        motor_l_pwm   : out   std_logic;
22        motor_r_pwm   : out   std_logic;
23
24        --led_7 : out std_logic;
25        --led_6 : out std_logic;
26        --led_5 : out std_logic;
27        --led_4 : out std_logic;
28        --led_3 : out std_logic;
29        --led_2 : out std_logic;
30        --led_1 : out std_logic;
31        led_0 : out std_logic
32
33    );
34 end entity robot;
35
36 architecture structural of robot is
37
38 component inputbuffer is
39     port ( clk          : in    std_logic;
40
41         sensor_l_in   : in    std_logic;
42         sensor_m_in   : in    std_logic;
43         sensor_r_in   : in    std_logic;
44
45         sensor_l_out   : out   std_logic;
46         sensor_m_out   : out   std_logic;
47         sensor_r_out   : out   std_logic
48    );
49 end component inputbuffer;
50
51 component controller is
52     port ( clk          : in    std_logic;
53             reset        : in    std_logic;
54
55             sensor_l       : in    std_logic;
56             sensor_m       : in    std_logic;
57             sensor_r       : in    std_logic;
58
59             count_in      : in    std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
60
61             --new inputs
62             data_in       : in    std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
63             data_ready    : in    std_logic;
64             mine_s        : in    std_logic;
65
66
67             --new outputs
68             data_out      : out   std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
69             write_data    : out   std_logic;
70             read_data     : out   std_logic;

```

```

71 -- 
72         count_reset          : out    std_logic;
73
74         motor_l_reset         : out    std_logic;
75         motor_l_direction     : out    std_logic;
76
77         motor_r_reset         : out    std_logic;
78         motor_r_direction     : out    std_logic
79
80     );
81
82 end component controller;
83
84
85 component timebase is
86     port ( clk           : in     std_logic;
87            reset         : in     std_logic;
88
89            reset_out      : out   std_logic;
90
91            count_out     : out   std_logic_vector (19 downto 0)
92        );
93 end component timebase ;
94
95
96 component motorcontrol is
97     port ( clk           : in     std_logic;
98            reset         : in     std_logic;
99            direction     : in     std_logic;
100           count_in      : in     std_logic_vector (19 downto 0);
101
102           reset_in      : in     std_logic;
103
104           pwm           : out   std_logic
105        );
106 end component motorcontrol;
107
108 component uart is
109     port (
110         clk           : in     std_logic;
111         reset         : in     std_logic;
112
113         rx            : in     std_logic;
114         tx            : out   std_logic;
115
116         data_in        : in     std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
117         buffer_empty   : out   std_logic;
118         write          : in     std_logic;
119
120         data_out       : out   std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
121         data_ready     : out   std_logic;
122         read           : in     std_logic
123     );
124 end component uart;
125
126 component mine_sensor_top is
127     port ( clk           : in     std_logic;
128            mine_sensor_in : in     std_logic;
129            mine_out       : out   std_logic;
130            led_0          : out   std_logic
131        );
132 end component mine_sensor_top;
133
134 signal sensor_l, sensor_m, sensor_r, count_rs, reset_periodical, motor_l_rs, motor_l_d, motor_r_rs,
135     motor_r_d: std_logic;
136 signal count: std_logic_vector(19 downto 0);
137
138
139 -- new signals
140 signal data_uico: std_logic_vector (7 downto 0); --uart in controller out
141 signal data_uoci: std_logic_vector (7 downto 0); -- uart out controller in

```



```
213          --data_out(6)    => led_6,
214          --data_out(5)    => led_5,
215          --data_out(4)    => led_4,
216          --data_out(3)    => led_3,
217          --data_out(2)    => led_2,
218          --data_out(1)    => led_1,
219          --data_out(0)    => led_0,
220
221          data_out           => data_uico,
222          write_data         => write_sig,
223          read_data          => read_sig,
224      --
225
226          count_reset        => count_rs,
227
228          motor_l_reset      => motor_l_rs,
229          motor_l_direction   => motor_l_d,
230
231          motor_r_reset      => motor_r_rs,
232          motor_r_direction   => motor_r_d
233      );
234
235
236 T1: timebase port map(
237     clk      => clk,
238     reset    => count_rs,
239     count_out=> count,
240     reset_out=> reset_periodical
241 );
242
243 MCL: motorcontrol port map(
244     clk      => clk,
245     reset    => motor_l_rs,
246     direction=> motor_l_d,
247     count_in=> count,
248
249     reset_in  => reset_periodical,
250     pwm      => motor_l_pwm
251 );
252
253
254 MCR: motorcontrol port map(
255     clk      => clk,
256     reset    => motor_r_rs,
257     direction=> motor_r_d,
258     count_in=> count,
259
260     reset_in  => reset_periodical,
261     pwm      => motor_r_pwm
262 );
263
264
265 end architecture structural;
```

Project plan

I.1. Introduction & background

The purpose of the project is to develop hardware and software modules to implement a self-operating robot. For this project, we are divided into groups of nine students. Each of the groups is split up into several groups with various tasks.

The main objective of the robot is to enable it to drive, in the least amount of time possible, through a given route and avoid mines placed along the route. An overview of the parts will be shown in the next chapter. We have 3 challenges A, B, and C that need to be completed, these challenges are described in chapter two of this project plan.

In order to make the robot the group is divided into subgroups with the following tasks below.

- Mine Detector: two students will work on building a mine-detecting sensor, that will be able to detect mines on a distance.
- C-Code: two students will work on creating a program with an interface and an algorithm for computing the route.
- Serial Communication: two students will work on creating an interface that can guide the robot via the PC.
- VHDL: three students will work on the FSM to perform the line-following and detecting the mines.

The precise tasks and objectives of the individual subgroups will also be shown more in-depth in chapter two. It is common knowledge that every project has its limits. Whether they come from within the group or from the outside, it is always good practice to mention and thus be aware of them. Chapter three will cover some of these limits as well as the task distribution of the group. Furthermore, chapter four will describe the tasks of each subgroup each week. This schedule will be used as precisely as possible.

Lastly, chapter five will cover some risks that might be troublesome for the project. The difference between a limit, as mentioned in chapter three, and a risk is its manageability. Risks can be mitigated while limits are given. Thus chapter five will also propose solutions/precautions to the mentioned risks.

The project will last eight weeks and in the ninth week, there will be oral exams. We have been taught background information in the third semester of the study which we should apply in this project, however, we will learn more about the obstacles, lessons, and details involved with creating the hardware and software modules to implement a self-operating robot.

In the end, we will perform the three challenges and compete against other teams. If all our sub-systems will work correctly we should successfully complete these challenges and perhaps become #1.

I.2. Project Results

I.2.1. Physical objective

The objective of this project is to construct an autonomous robot based on the line follower project from the labs of the Digital Systems B course. The robot has to not only utilize IR sensors to follow the line but also be able to pass the challenges outlined below while navigating through the map (sometimes referred to as "the maze"), as described in Chapter 1 of the project manual.

The routing algorithm is executed on the computer that communicates with the robot through UART and XBee wireless modules, which completes the entire autonomous system.

- In the first challenge the robot has to visit a series of stations in the given order.
- The second challenge consists of the first one and the addition of "mines" which are metal disks that have to be avoided by the robot.
- During the last challenge more mines will be placed in the maze and the robot has to find them all. In stage 2 a new mine will be added and the robot has to find it also.

The structure of the robot is shown in Figure 1.2 of the project manual and summarized here in the figure below.

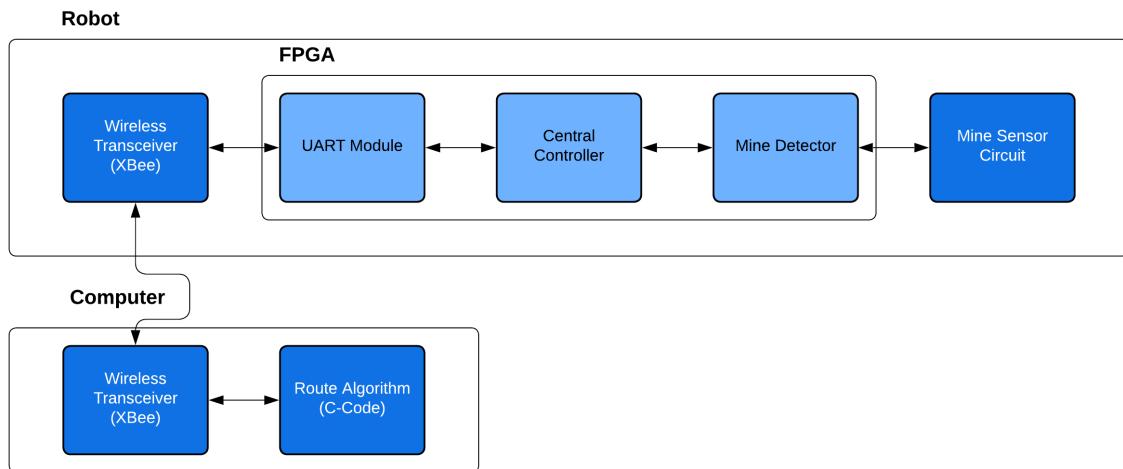


Figure I.1: Block diagram of the entire system.

The workload was split into the following parts that correspond to every subgroup in the project:

- VHDL: The line follower's FSM from the lab sessions of Digital Systems B needs to be extended in order to complete the functionality of the robot as it needs to detect a mine for example. After the FSM has been designed it needs to be written in VHDL.
- Serial Communication: The main objective of this section is to create an interface that can guide the robot via the PC. This will be done using the XBee modules that communicate with each other with the ZigBee protocol and with the external hardware via a UART protocol. To achieve this we will write a small application in C (programming language) for the laptop and a corresponding VHDL program for the robot.
- C-code: The objective for the smart robot is to create a separate program with a simple user interface. This program will be implemented into a larger program that will control the robot. We will describe an algorithm that can be used to compute the route through the maze and also a data structure to implement this algorithm.
- Mine detector: One of the important aspects of the smart robot is the ability to detect mines in their path when going from position A to position B. The robot must detect the mines and avoid them and thus redetermine a new path. In order to detect them a mine detector sensor must be built. This sensor must also be able to roughly determine the mine distance to the robot. It will be implemented using an LC oscillator.

I.2.2. Learning objectives

Besides creating a working autonomous robot system, the goal is to master certain learning objectives of the EPO project.

After completion of the project, we will be able to apply the theoretical concepts of the first year in practice. Another important aspect is that we will be able to methodologically design an electronic system utilizing a project-based team approach. At last, we will learn and practice critical thinking and the ability to find information in relevant sources such as datasheets and manuals, as well as critically assess and utilize those pieces of information.

I.3. Project activities

In order to achieve the project's results, the group must divide the tasks evenly and communicate with each other clearly. A detailed description of the workload distribution with a timeline can be found in the next chapter.

Regarding communication and file management, the group will use a shared Google Drive, WhatsApp, and GIT. In this chapter, we will briefly talk about what each group member will be responsible for and the roles of the meetings of the team. Furthermore, we will go over some of our constraints in the second part of this chapter.

I.3.1. Task distribution

As mentioned, efficient task distribution is key in order for the project to end with success. Below in table I.1 the subgroups of our project can be found.

Sensors	Darren van de Pol, Wiktor Tomanek
VHDL	Chantal Chen, Eojin Lim, Wilson Rong
C code and Serial Communication	Thijs van Esch, Maximiliaan Sobry
Serial Communication	Kevin Pang, Pieter Olyslaegers

Table I.1: Subgroups

I.3.2. Project limits

Every project has its limits, and this one is no exception. Some of these limits are the physical quality of the robot, time limit, our ability to work together, our limited knowledge about robots, no beforehand advanced experience with robots, circuitry, etc. Below we will elaborate on some of the major limits of our project.

Physical quality of the robot

This one is quite easy to explain. We have a limited amount of money so the components (capacitors, inductors, resistors, batteries, PCBs, etc.) will not be of any accuracy, which means the physical quality of the robot we are building will have some limitations. Nevertheless, we can maximize the quality of our robot system by implementing our knowledge of electrical engineering as best as possible.

Time limit

Time is also a factor when we are talking about the limits of our system. The more time we have the better we can adjust, troubleshoot and solve problems. This means that we have to manage our time very efficiently in order to maximize the possible outcome.

Limited knowledge

The knowledge of the group is also limited. There is still a lot of it to acquire for the group members and this project is one way to do that. Not every member of the group may keep up with the pace required, therefore, resulting in a delay.

Surely, there are more project limits, but these are the most important. It is therefore crucial to minimize the negative effects of these limits on our project whenever we can.

I.4. Organization & Schedule

For a group to work as efficiently as possible, there has to be a concrete plan to work toward the end goal. For this project, we have to work in four subgroups with each its own tasks. In this chapter, we will discuss what and when each group has to complete in order to fulfill the requirements for this project.

I.4.1. Plan

In the table Schedule are all of the tasks described to whom or what subgroup has to do within a certain amount of time, which can deviate, from the corresponding deadline.

I.4.2. Schedule

In the table, the letters E, S, C, SC, and V stand for Everyone, Sensors, C-code, Serial communication, and VHDL respectively.

Week	Subgroup	Task
1	E	Task distribution, reading the manual and starting the project plan.
1	S	Sketching a general design of the mine sensor sub-circuit.
1	V	Study manual and determine tasks that need to be done for the VHDL (FSM) part of the project.
1	SC	Make tutorials in the manual and learn how to work with ZigBee.
1	C	Refresh C-coding and read through the manual.
2	S	Finishing the design, simulating and assembling the analog board.
2	C	Sketch a general design of the route planner and start coding it.
2	SC	Finish the tutorials and start the C code of the serial communication.
2	V	Start drawing FSD and writing the VHDL code and communicating with sensor and UART subgroup regarding their signals of the FSM.
3	S	Writing the VHDL code for the frequency counter and distance approximator.
3	C	Finalize the route planner in C.
3	SC	Finalize the serial communication and eliminate possible errors.
3	V	Continue writing the VHDL code for the FSM.
4	C	Improve the C-code and remove any errors.
4	V	Start finishing writing the VHDL code for the FSM.
5	C	Test the improved C-code.
6	V	Debugging the VHDL code if necessary and finishing the VHDL code.
7	V	Debugging and finishing the VHDL code if necessary.
7	E	Test with Roversim if possible.
8	E	Testing and final symposium.
8	E	Completing the final report.
9	E	Preparing the oral presentation.

Table I.2: Schedule

The group will try to follow this schedule as strictly as possible. However, in case of being behind schedule, one should make efforts to get back on track. On the other hand, if one is ahead of the schedule, one can always finish his/her part and perhaps assist the other subgroups.

I.5. Risks Analysis

In this chapter, we will review several risks with a high likelihood of occurring and how to counter or resolve the possible issues that might ensue.

The risks are divided into three categories based on their main cause.

I.5.1. Causes

Time related risks

Time-related risks involve the possibility of a team not fulfilling their work in time, which results in missing important deadlines. This can be caused by: miscommunication among team members, procrastination, misunderstanding of the assignment, and lack of motivation.

Member related risks

These risks are caused by a team member not fulfilling their workload or contributing to the project, which can be caused by a lack of time, motivation, or laziness. Unexpected personal issues are part of member-related risks. Even small occurrences such as missing meetings and not attending lab sessions can fall under member-related risks.

Communication related risks

These risks are caused by bad communication. For example a miscommunication of who will finish the report or working on a problem that is already finished or unnecessary. The unclear communication between members can lead to small disputes. In the worst case, those might escalate into quarrels that leave long-lasting grudges between members.

I.5.2. Avoiding and solving risks and issues

Time related risks

An easy way to avoid time-related risks is to keep track of the progress within the group and make good planning at the start of the project.

In this planning, we clearly state the expectations and deadlines so everyone can clearly see what has to be done and when. This way, we can avoid anyone misreading or misunderstanding an assignment. Expectations and deadlines will be made clear and there will be consequences, which are elaborated in the member-related risks subsection.

Member related risks

These issues can be countered by following up on the progress of each individual and assessing their input. If it is noticed that a member doesn't take his responsibilities seriously, actions will be taken.

Members will be held accountable if they are frequently late or miss meetings. Attendance will be noted for important meetings, as well as being late without a good reason. The attendance will be checked by the chair. He will relay this information to the secretary who will note this down in a public list.

A member could also compromise the group by delivering work that is unfinished or sub-par. Therefore it is important that everyone's work gets checked by the rest before submission. Before handing anything in, everyone has to go over everyone's work. Nothing will be submitted without unanimous approval.

Each subgroup will choose its own specific way of penalizing members. Penalties will be handed out on a case-by-case basis. This is important as many circumstantial factors might be at play (someone is late because of the NS, or traffic). It is important to remember that sub-member work is not necessarily the result of ill intent. Possible penalties might include: having them finish the work on the weekend, assigning them a lower grade at the end, and expulsion from the project [Worst case].

In the case that a member would drop out, the workload will have to be redivided among the remaining members to the best of our ability.

Communication related risks

These risks can be prevented by making a good plan and writing it down. Everyone should check if they clearly understand their tasks and duties, before finalizing any plan

Communication will mainly happen with each other on WhatsApp and during lab sessions on Monday and Thursday.

Risks due to human error

To prevent situations where a human error or problem with a programming environment causes a loss of code or its corruption, the GitHub repository will be used and accessed by all members through the usage of GIT. "The stupid content tracker" program as its manual describes it. This will track all the progress made to the code and ensure that when the problem occurs it can be simply reverted. GIT will also be very useful for revision tracking thus increasing the efficiency of workflow.

I.5.3. Conclusion of risks analysis

Most, if not all of the expected and probable risks are easy to avoid with clear planning and a clear task allocation that everyone follows. It is important to have a clear power structure that keeps the individual subgroups accountable according to that planning and ensures the quality of work.

I.6. Conclusion

In short, the goal of this project is to construct an autonomous robot that is able to pass a set of challenges. It should be able to find a solution to the maze, using an onboard infrared sensor and the instructions given to it by an algorithm running on a computer. These instructions will be passed to the robot via wireless communication.

The workload has been split over four subgroups. The first of them will write the VHDL code for a finite-state machine that will allow the robot to detect obstacles in the path. Another group is responsible for the serial communication between the computer and the robot. They will write a special subprogram for the computer and the corresponding VHDL code for the robot. The third group will write the software that will be solving the maze and sending corresponding instructions to the robot. The last group is responsible for making a sensor that can detect mines in the maze.

There are also risks and limitations that pose a challenge to this project. For example, the time constrain, or risks related to miscommunication between group members, as outlined in Chapters 3 and 5. Our goal is to carefully analyze them and utilize corresponding solutions and tools that will help us to minimize the possibility of failure during this project. Examples of those tools are even workload division, Gantt Chart, and GIT.

In the end, careful execution of the content of this project plan will ensure this project's success.

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