ELP305 Design and Systems Lab

Dept of Electrical Engineering - IIT Delhi
Report for Experiment 2
Design of a Mule Bot
Submitted by Team G on 17 April 2021
For the period 12 April - 17 April 2021

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1 About This Document

1.1 Text Statistics

Number of sentences	600
Number of words	2700
Percentage of complex words	17.63%
Average number of words per sentences	3.39
Average number of syllables per word	1.64

1.2 Readability Indices

We generated these indices from the onlinetool [1].

1.3 Test Result

Your page has an average grade level of about 7. It should be easily understood by 12 to 13 year olds.

Description Index	**Value**	**Typical range and explanation**
Flesch Kincaid Reading Ease	60.3	Based on a 0-100 scale. A high score means the text is easier to read. Low scores suggest the text is complicated to understand. 206.835 - 1.015 x (words/sentences) - 84.6 x (syllables/words) A value between 60 and 80 should be easy for a 12 to 15 year old to understand.
Flesch Kincaid Grade level	5.8	Grade Level indicators – These equate the readability of the text to the US schools grade level system. Flesch Kincaid Grade Level _0.39 x (words/sentences) + 11.8 x (syllables/words) - 15.59
Gunning Fog Score	5.3	0.4 x ((words/sentences) + 100 x (complexWords/words))
SMOG Index	4.9	1.0430 x sqrt(30 x complexWords/sentences) + 3.1291
Coleman Liau Index*	13.5	5.89 x (characters/words) - 0.3 x (sentences/words) - 15.8
Automated Readability Index (ARI)	4	4.71 x (characters/words) + 0.5 x (words/sentences) - 21.43

2 Requirements

2.1 Electrical Requirements

The Mule Bot should meet the following electrical requirements:

1. A rechargeable battery with a battery life of 4-5 hours (Average time spent by a person in a mall is 2-3 hours [2]).
2. A charging time of less than 8 hours(charging time should be less than the time between subsequent uses).
3. An auxiliary battery capable of running the trolley for a short duration in the event that the main battery discharges completely.
4. A GPS/ Infrared/ Bluetooth/ Radio waves/ IMU on person or Computer Vision based mechanism for the trolley to follow the shopper. The distance from the consumer should be kept around $0.5m$ (maximum $2m$).
5. A manual control override switch in case the trolley goes out of control.
6. An alarm system to address issues like low battery, the bot getting stuck, theft or lock on the lid of the basket which opens with some password/ fingerprint/ face recognition or speech recognition system.
7. It should have a sleep mode, which conserves battery during long periods of inactivity.

2.2 Mechanical Requirements

The Mule Bot should meet the following mechanical requirements:

1. It should not have sharp edges for user's safety.
2. It should be able to lift 40KG (+12KG tolerance) weight (as per the problem statement).
3. The size of the bot is close to that of a shopping cart. Dimensions: $400 \times 500 \times 400m^3$.
4. The base of the bot is rectangular-shaped with four mecanum wheels. It should be able to travel in any direction.
5. It should be able to rotate, drag, move front, back and side-wise.
6. For better user experience it should be shockproof and should not make much noise.
7. An alternative mechanical mechanism to move it in case of electrical failure.
8. Braking mechanism to stop the bot.
9. Centre of gravity towards the lower side to prevent toppling while moving on elevated path like ramps.
10. It should have good suspension for steadiness and robustness.
11. For better maintenance it should be easily cleanable.
12. Bot's maximum speed: 7 km/hr (average walking speed of an adult man is 4-6 km/hr [3]).

2.3 Functional Requirements

The bot should meet the following usage requirements:

1. It should not follow the shopper into clusteyellow spaces.
2. It should adjust its position and distance according to the surroundings (obstacles, other people and mule bots etc.).
3. It can be tracked through a smartphone.
4. The bot should not always be 0.5m from the shopper, i.e. it should be able to figure out when the shopper is coming to fill the trolley.

5. A follow on/ off feature when going into small/ big shops.
6. Phone/ watch/ ring that can remotely control the bot.
7. A setting which allows user to customize minimum distance.
8. It should be able to find its way back to the user (i.e., should not lose the user at turns).

3 Design Mockup

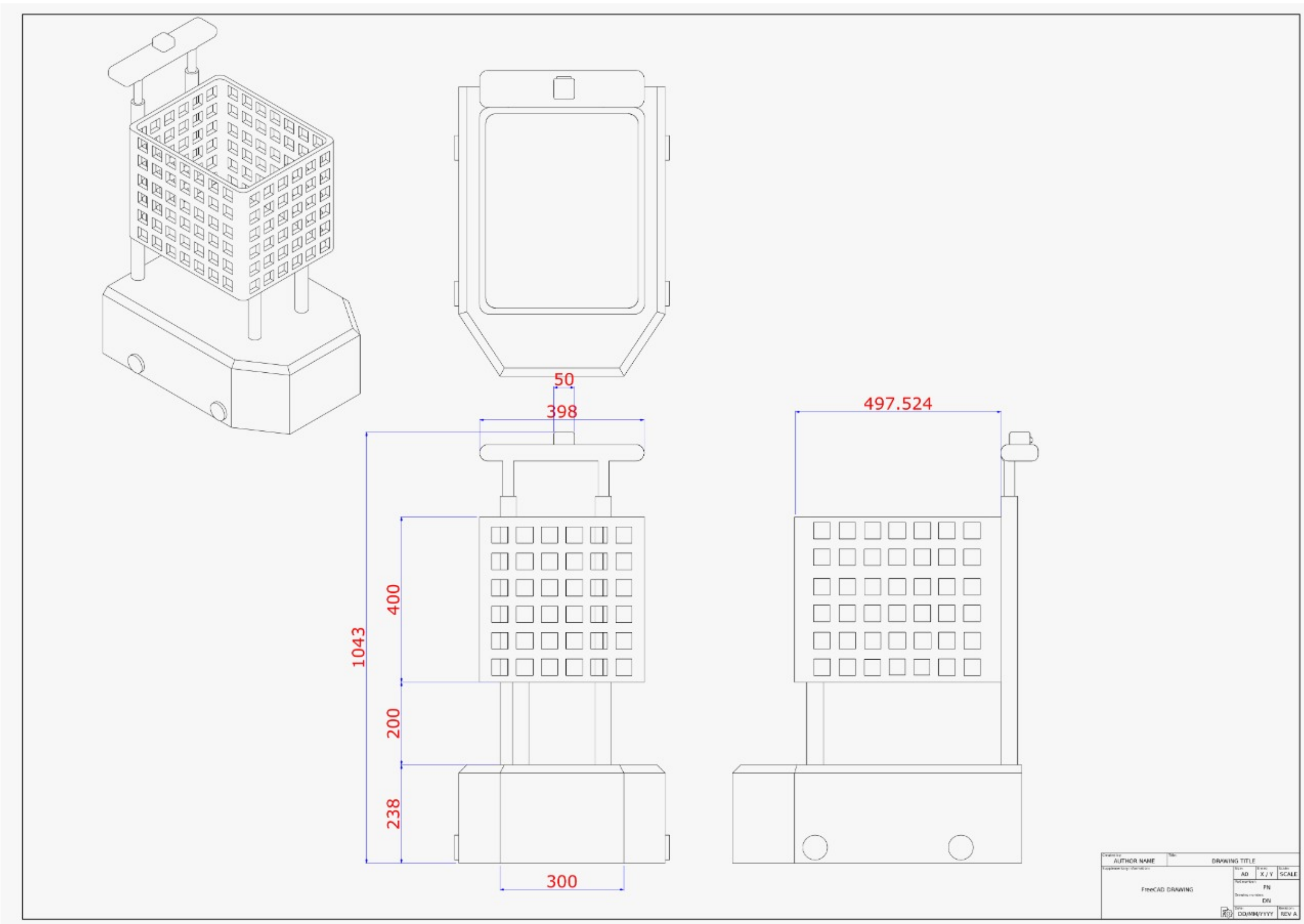


Figure 1: Mockup

4 Hardware Level Specification and Description

4.1 Body

4.1.1 Trolly Dimensions

The dimensions of the trolley are to be $800 \times 485 \times 975$mm. The mockup model shown in the Figure 1 is effectively a cuboid having a length of $800mm$, a breadth of $485mm$ and a height of $975mm$.

Diameter	$152mm$ (6 inch)
Width	89
Rollers	8
Plates	2
Body material	Stainless Steel
Roller material	Rubber
Spacer material	Aluminium
Length of roller	$77mm$
Net weight	$2.3kg$
Load capacity	$50kg$

Table 1: Mecnaum wheel specifications

4.1.2 4 Wheel Mecnum Design

This (6 inch) 152mm Stainless Steel Mecanum wheel right should work with other 3 Mecanum wheels. Each wheel is comprised of 8 rollers,these rollers have an axis of rotation at 45° to the plat of the wheel in a plane parallel to the axis of rotation of the wheel. The wheel is a heavy duty wheel itself, they are sold in assembled units with two thick stainless steel plates. The rollers are made of black rubber. The stainless steel body mecanum wheels of load capacity is higher than aluminum mecanum wheel.The technical details [4] are as follows:

4.1.3 Motor

The technical details of the motor [5] are as follows:

Speed(RPM)	Ratio 1-14
Voltage(V)	6-24 (DC)
Diameter	36mm
Model	36GP-555 permanent magnet planetary encoder gear motor
Size	36*114mm (excluding shaft and terminal block)
Axis length	20 mm one-way shaft
Shaft diameter	8mm D-shaped shaft double ball bearing positioning structure
Wiring specification	PH2.0-6PIN terminal connector
Encoder specifications	AB dual-phase encoder 11 line basic signal voltage 3.3V or 5.0V
Commutation	Brush
Type	Gear Motor
Protect Feature	Drip-proof
Output Power	30W
Construction	Permanent Magnet

Table 2: Motor specifications

4.1.4 Suspension

The suspension is important when the mule bot is under heavy loads. The suspension provides smooth movements and shock absorption. Stainless steel suspension springs with a mass of 300 g are to be employed in the mule bot. Similar, suspension springs can be found here [13].

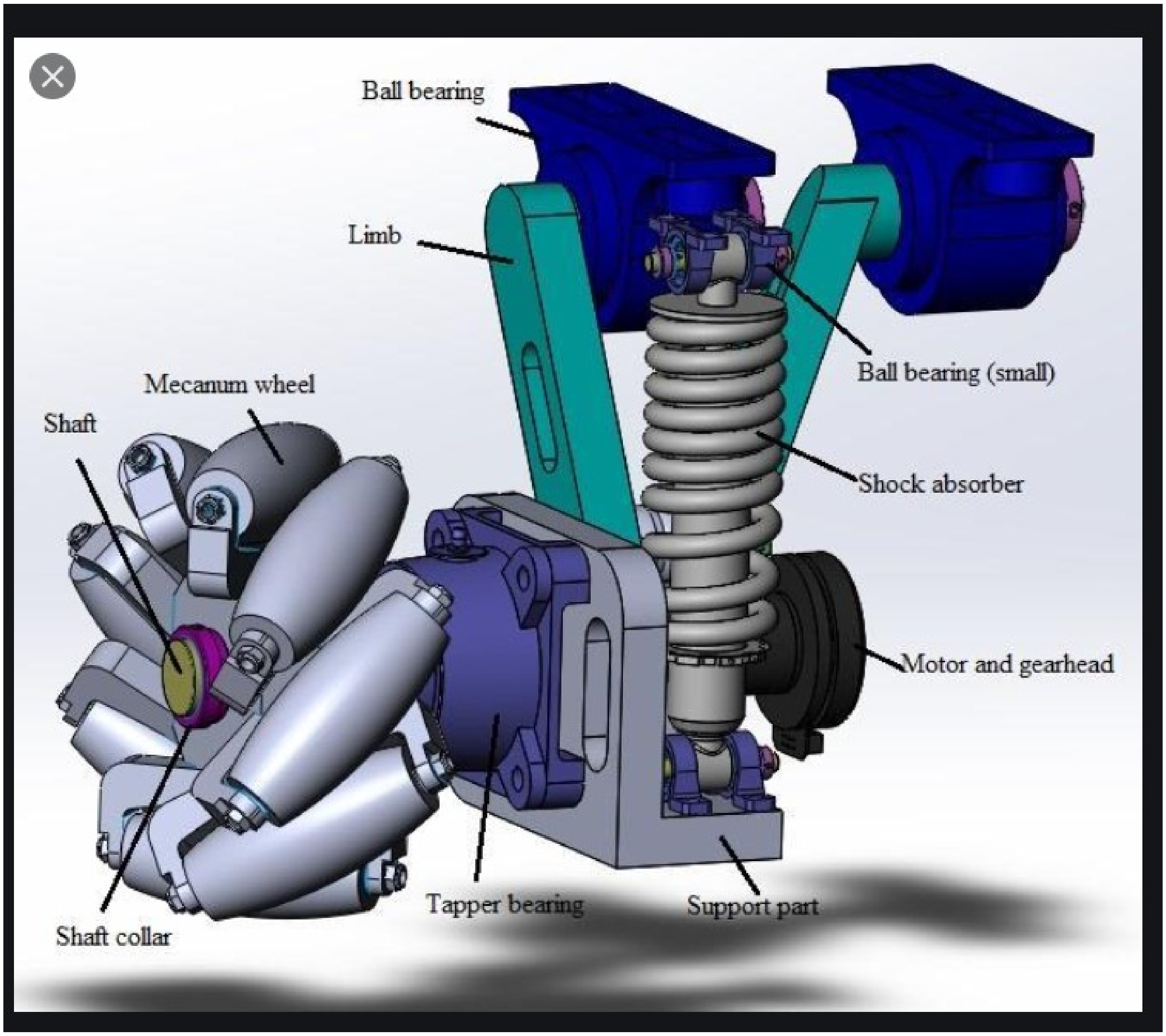


Figure 2: Wheel and Suspension

4.1.5 Aluminium alloy Chassis

We will use Aluminium alloy chassis due to its high strength and light weight.

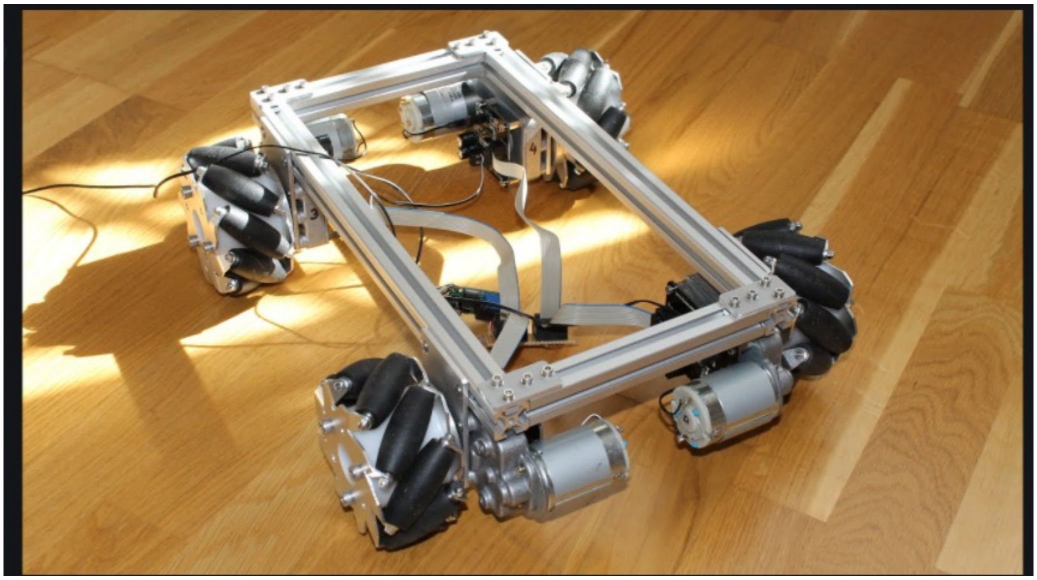


Figure 3: Chassis[26]

4.2 Control System

4.2.1 Raspberry Pi

This is the CPU of the system. All the computation will take place here so it need to have high performance speed and sufficient memory, so we chose Raspberry Pi 4 Model B+. It receives all sensor input processed using AI algorithm and control inputs are generated and send to the motor control driver board. This has high-performance quad-core 64-bit Broadcom 2711, cortex A72 processor, dual-display support at resolutions up to 4K via a pair of micro-HDMI ports which supports hardware video decode at up to 4Kp60, 4GB of RAM, dual-band 2.4/5.0 GHz WLAN. The technical details [6] are as follows:

Brand	Raspberry Pi
Series	Pi 4 Model B, 4 GB
Colour	Green
Item Height	10 cm
Item Width	15 cm
Product Dimensions(cm) LxWxH	20 x 15 x 10
RAM Size	4 GB
Maximum Memory Supported	4 GB
Connectivity Type	Wi-Fi
Operating System	Windows 10
Item Weight	80 g

Table 3: Raspberry Pi specifications

4.2.2 Motor Driver Board

This L293D [21] driver module is a medium power motor driver perfect for driving DC Motors and Stepper Motors. It uses the popular L293D motor driver IC. It can drive 4 DC motors in one direction, or drive 2 DC motors in both the directions. Features of L293D Motor Driver Board:-

- L293D motor driver IC.

- Male burg stick connectors for supply, ground and input connection
- Screw terminal connectors for easy motor connection
- On Board LM7805 Voltage Regulator

4.2.3 Speed Control

An Raspberry Pi appendable, IRF520 MOSFET Driver Module is to be employed for the speed control of the motors. The technical details [7] of the MOSFET based drive are as follows:

Voltage	3-5V
Ports	Digital
Output Load Voltage	0-24 V
Output Current Load	$<$ 5A (1A needed for the heat sink)
Platform	Raspberry Pi 4
MOSFET	IRF520 Power MOS

Table 4: Speed control drive specifications

4.2.4 Charging module

The IMAX B6 80W 6A Charger/Discharger 1-6 Cells is a very advanced charger, able to charge, balance and discharges LiIon, LiPoly, LiFe (A123), NiCd and NiMH batteries. It is microprocessor controlled just like all the best chargers and will balance the individual cells in you Li-XX batteries. The technical specifications [12] are as follows:

DC Input Voltage Range (V)	11-18
Output Power (W)	80 (max)
Charge Current Range (A)	0.1-6
Maximum Discharge Power (W)	5
Discharge Current Range (A)	0.1-1.0
Dimensions(mm) LxWxH	133x87x33
Weight(g)	277

Table 5: Charging module specifications

4.2.5 Gyroscope

The gyroscope chosen for the mule bot are the Murata SCC1300-D02. The technical specifications [11] of this gyroscope are as follows:

Output Type	SPI
Supply Voltage	3.3 and 5.0 V
Axis	3 / 1(X)
Mass	1.17g
Maximum Range	+/-2g,+/-100dps
Sensitivity	1800 LSB/g,50 LSB/dps
Offset Temp. Characteristics	+/-18mg,+/-0.6dps
Amplitude Response	30...55Hz,50Hz

Table 6: Gyroscope specifications

4.3 Sensors

4.3.1 Weight sensor

A generic FZ0728 HX711 weighing sensor [8], which converts mechanical force to electric signals which are then converted and displayed as digital bits.

Model	HX711
Weight(gm)	400

Table 7: Weight sensor specifications

4.3.2 Scanning sensors

RPLiDAR A2M7 360 Degree 16M Range Laser Scanner Kit has a core that runs clockwise to perform a 360 degree laser range scanning for its surrounding environment and then generates an outline map for the environment.

Range radius(m)	16
Thickness(cm)	4(ultra thin)
Sample rate	8000 times per second
Item Dimensions(cm) LxWxH	17.5 x 8.9 x 7.1
Item Weight(gm)	386

Table 8: Scanning sensor specifications

4.3.3 RGBD Sensors

In addition to having a regular RGB camera, RGDB sensors are equipped with an IR sensor to provide information on depth. This enables it to determine both the position and distance of the person accurately.

4.3.4 Indoor real time locating system via Ultra-Wideband [14]

Ultra-Wideband has in comparison to WiFi and bluetooth a very high accuracy, which goes down to 10cm. It also has a very high range and can therefore be used well for industrial applications where exact positioning is required. Ultra-Wideband is a type of short-range radio communication that can be used for indoor localization. In contrast to Bluetooth Low Energy and WLAN, the position determination is not based on the measurement of signal strengths, but on a transit time method (Time of Flight, ToF). The time of flight is measured between a tag and several anchors. For the exact localization of an object at least 3 receivers are necessary (trilateration).

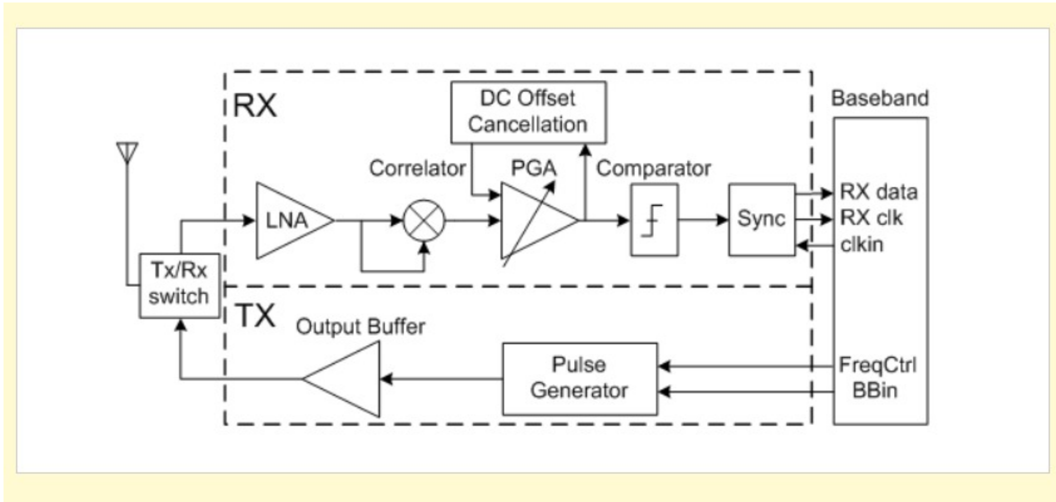


Figure 4: UWB Circuit Diagram

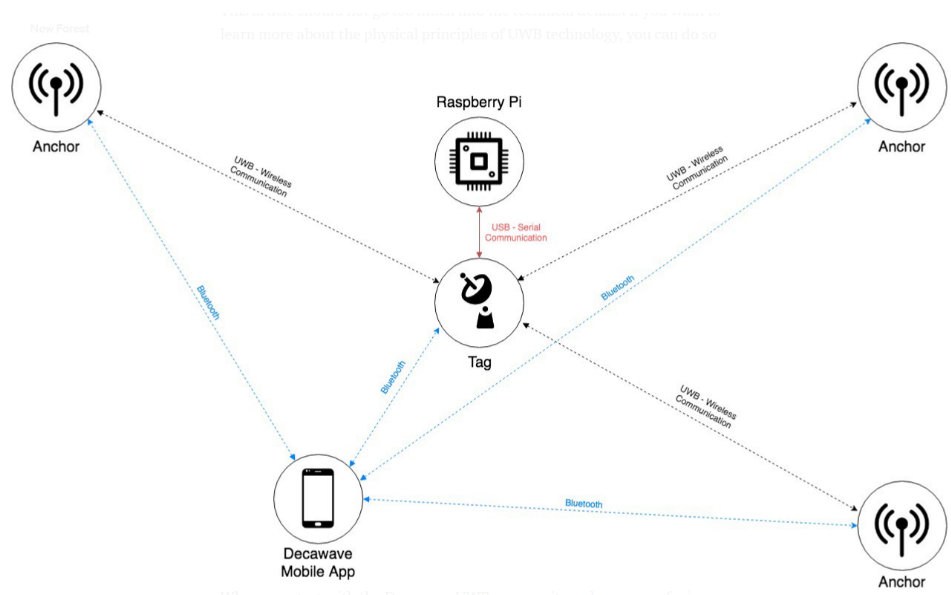


Figure 5: UWB Sensors and Raspberry

4.3.5 Infrared Sensors

An infrared sensor is an electronic device, that emits in order to sense some aspects of the surroundings. An IR sensor can measure the heat of an object as well as detects the motion. These types of sensors measure only infrared radiation, rather than emitting it that is called a passive IR sensor. Usually, in the infrared spectrum, all the objects radiate some form of thermal radiation. When a moving object that generates infrared radiation enters the sensing range of the detector, the difference in IR levels between the two pyroelectric elements is measured.

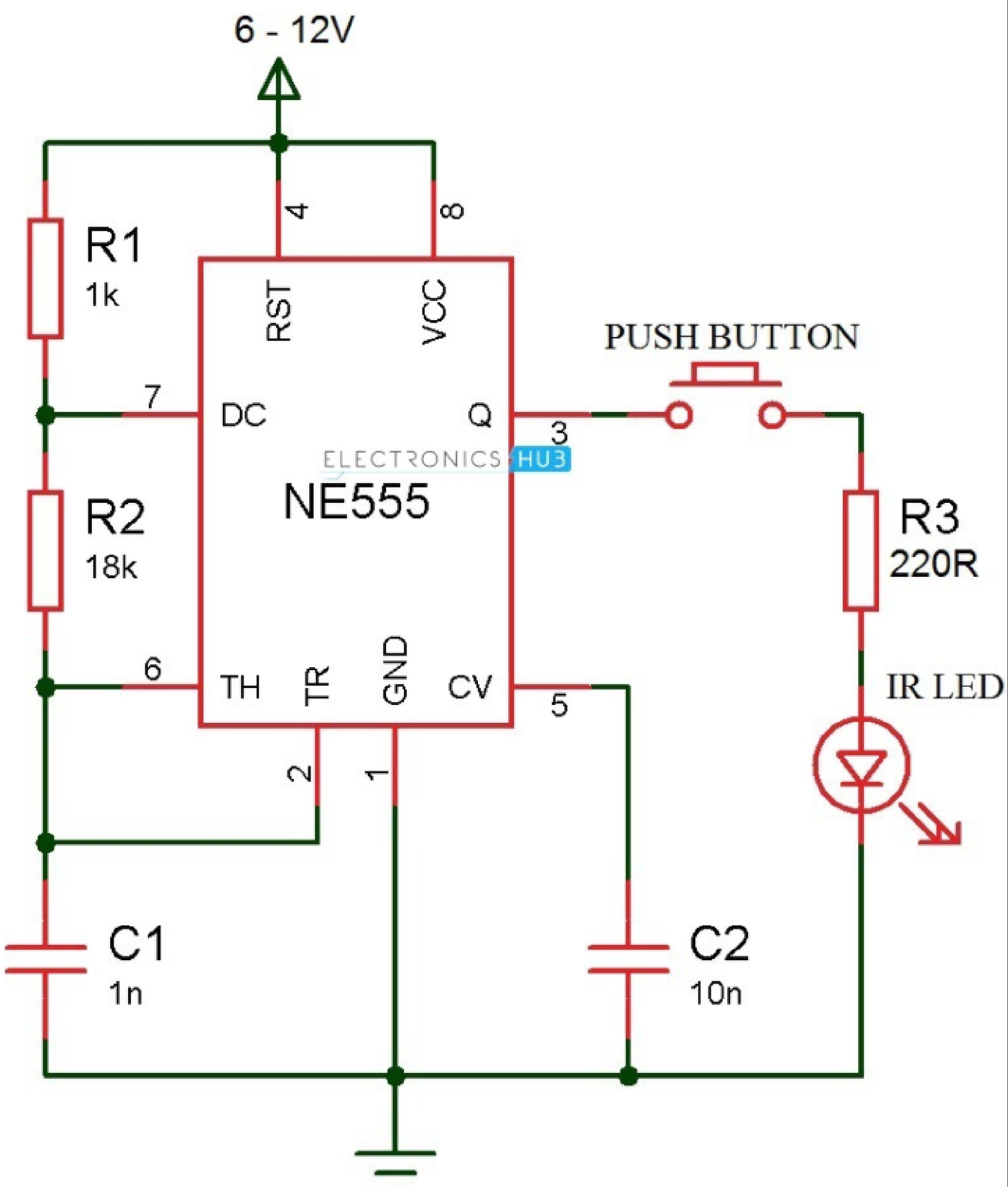


Figure 6: IR Sensor Circuit Diagram - 1

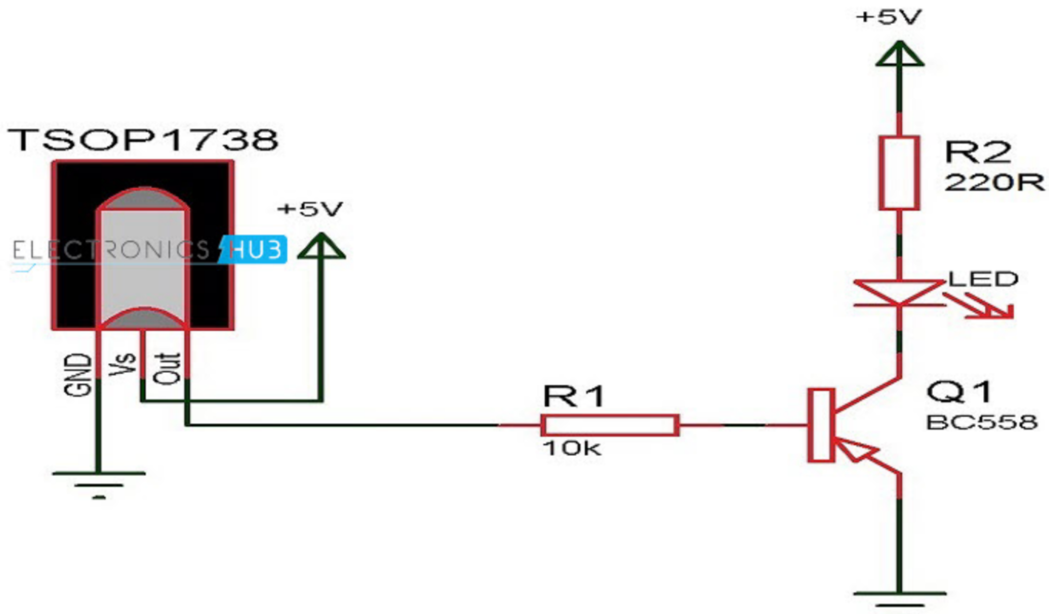


Figure 7: IR Sensor Circuit Diagram - 2

4.4 Power Supply System

It consists of the following components:

4.4.1 BMS

A 24V, 7S, 45A 18650 Li-ion Li-polymer Battery BMS PCB PCM Battery Protection Board is to be employed with the following specifications [9] :

Dimension	$24 \times 62 \times 9mm$
Charging Voltage range	$28.8V - 30V$
Maximal continuous discharging current(upper limit)	60A
Dimensions	2

Table 9: BMS specifications

4.4.2 Single cell

The single cells used are the 18650 3.7V 2600 MAH LI-ION CELL. These cells provide a 3.7V DC output and have a charge holding capacity of 2600 MAH.

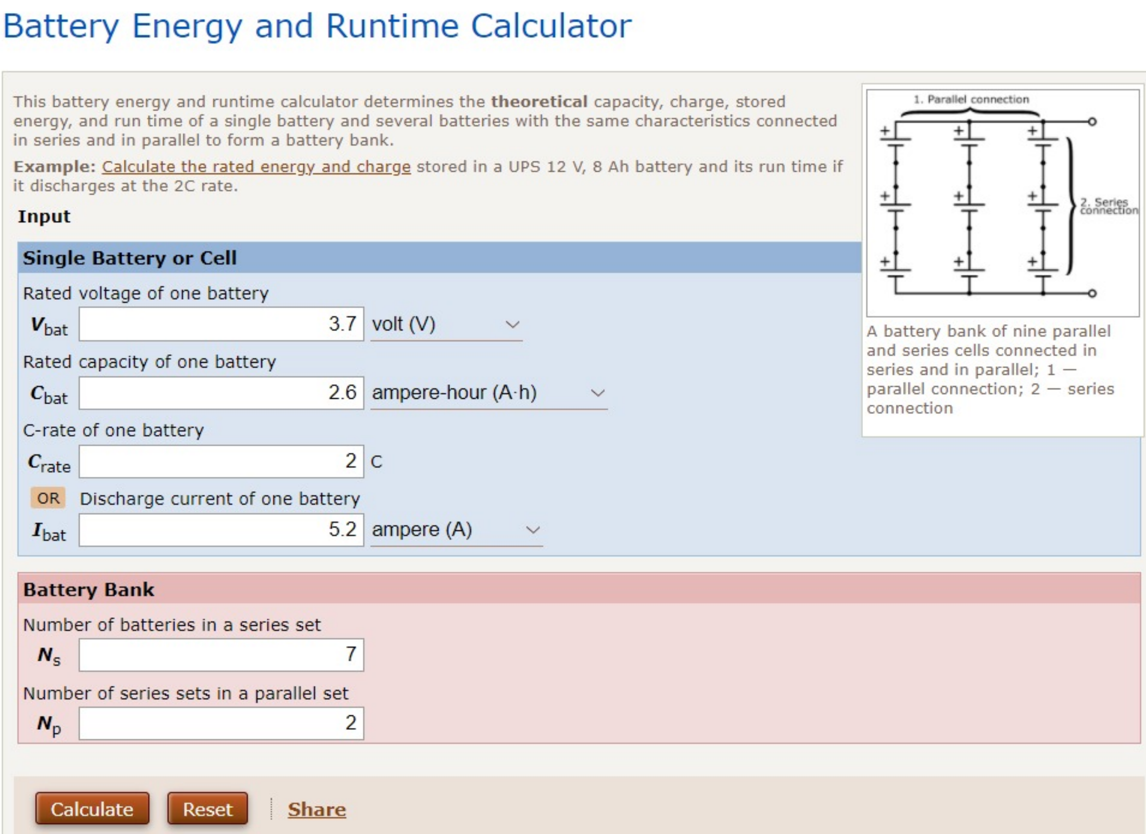


Figure 8: Battery Specifications

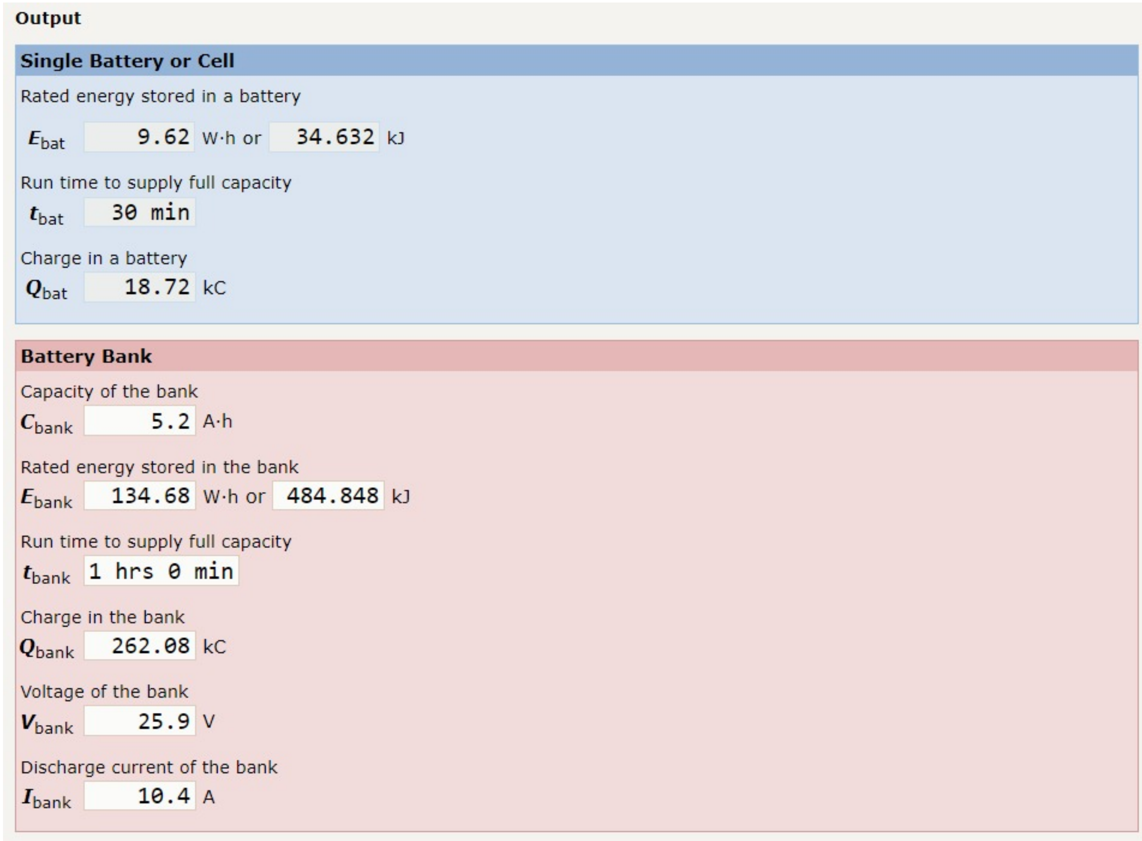


Figure 9: Battery Specifications

4.4.3 Voltage Regulator

Voltage Regulator LM317T [27] of max input voltage $40V$ and max output voltage as $1.2 - 37V$. The technical details are as follows:

Brand	STMicroelectronics
Max Operating Temperature	125 ° C
Product Dimensions(mm) LxWxH	$10.4 \times 4.6 \times 9.15$
Max Output Current	1.5A

Table 10: Voltage Regulator specifications

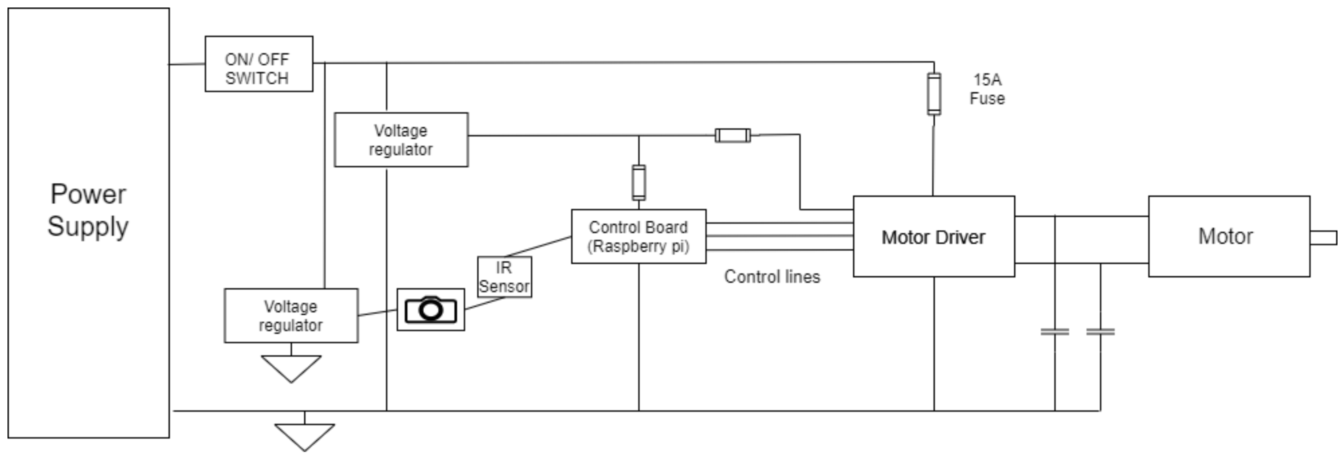


Figure 10: Voltage regulator circuit

4.5 Components for Safety Measures

4.5.1 Weight Sensor

It is to measure the weight carried by the bot and then indicate with an alarm in case of overweight. If an overweight occurs(here, the desired load limit is 40 Kg), then the alarm turns on with a frequency of 1 Hz.

4.5.2 Temperature Sensor

It also continuously monitors the temperature of the bot and gives alert in case of overheating.

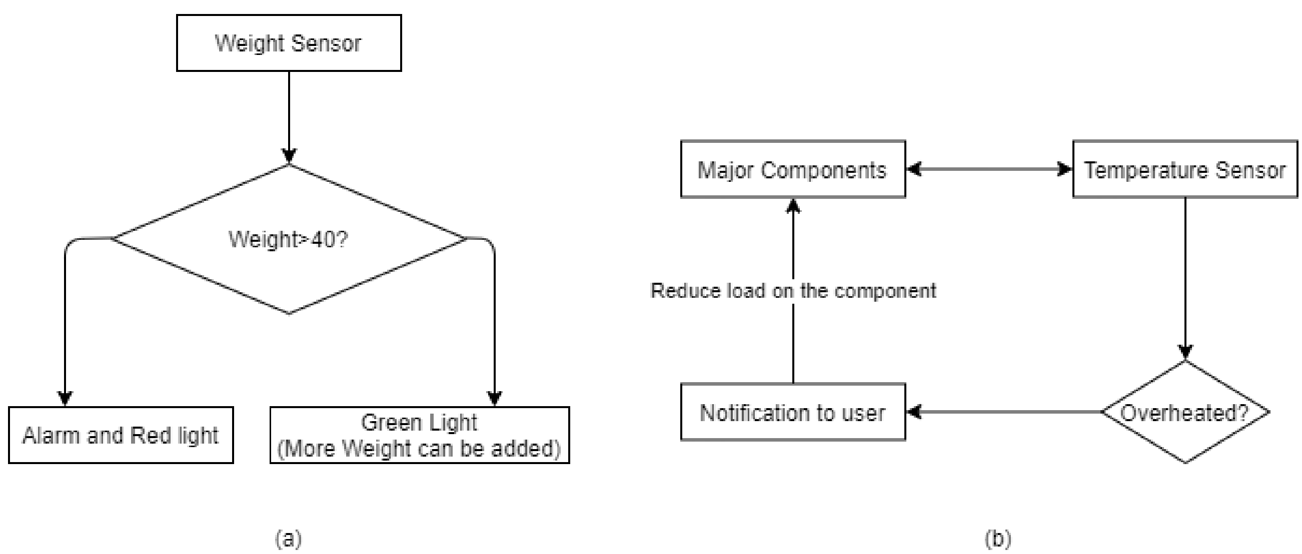


Figure 11: Basic flow chart of weight(a) and temperature(b) sensor

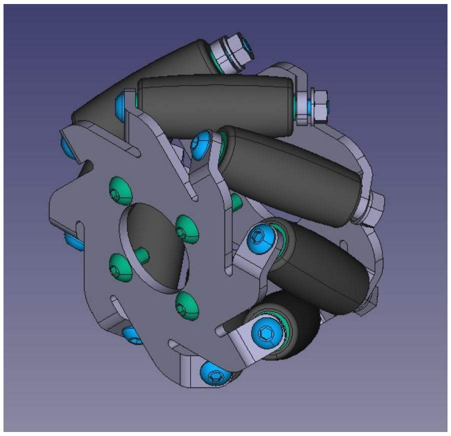
4.5.3 Battery Sensor

It monitors the battery status of the mule bot and gives full battery or low battery notification. We will have different notification options like vibration, alarm, Red/green light.

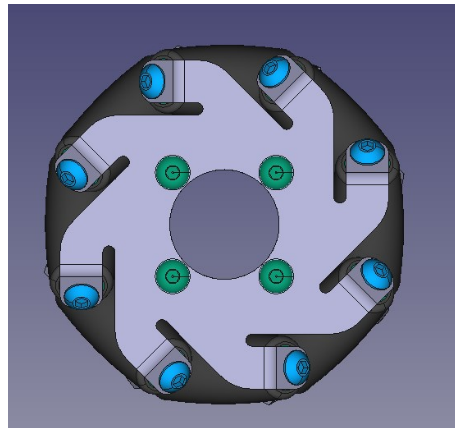
5 Structural design of the Mule bot

The requirements, functionalities, mock-up and the specifications of the individual components required for the design of the Mule bot were discussed in the section above. This section includes the description of the enclosure

or the structure of the Mule bot. The 3D CAD model of the Mule bot was designed using FreeCAD, taking the specifications and the mock-up as a reference.
One of the principal component of the Mule bot is the Mecanum wheel, this wheel is made up of Aluminium and have a diameter of 6 inches. The wheel comprises of 8 rubber rollers and have a weight capacity of 50 Kilograms. The 3D model of the Mecanum wheel is illustrated using the isometric and the side views, which are attached below:



(a) Isometric view of the 3D model of the Mecnaum wheel



(b) Side view of the 3D model of the Mecnaum wheel

Figure 12: 3D model of the Mecnaum wheel

The 3D models of the Mecanum wheels and various other parts are assembled together to build a 3D model for the Mule bot. The various parts are listed in the table below :

Part No.	**Part Name**	**No. of Units**
01	Basket	01
02	Handle	01
03	Mecnaum wheels	04
04	Trolley Base	01

Table 11: Parts of the Mule bot

The Mule bot is assembles using the parts listed in the above table. The labelled isometric view of the 3D model of the Mule bot and the orthographic projections of the 3D model are shown in the figures below:

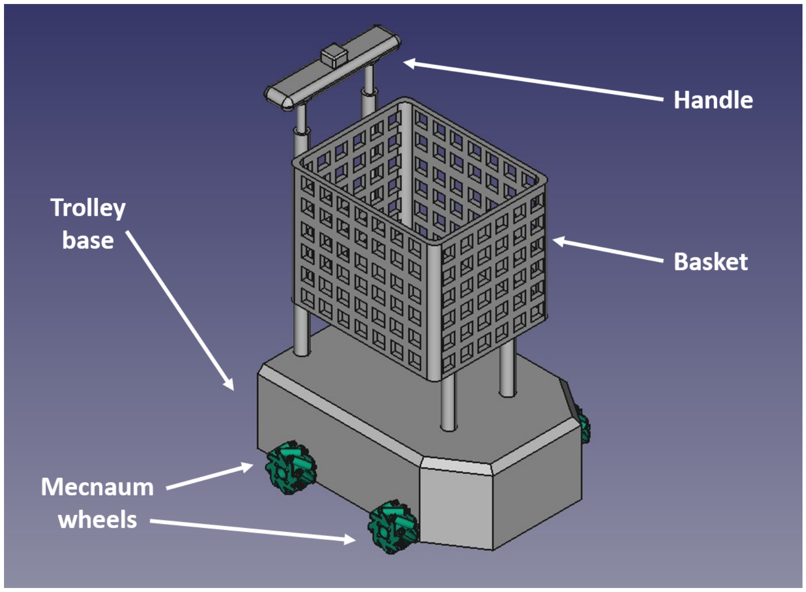


Figure 13: Isometric view of the 3D model of the Mule bot

The orthographic projections of the 3D model include the top, side and the from view along with all the dimensions. The major dimensions of the enclosure of the Mule bot are approximately $1045mm \times 500mm \times 400mm$. The dimensions are extensively labelled in the following figure :

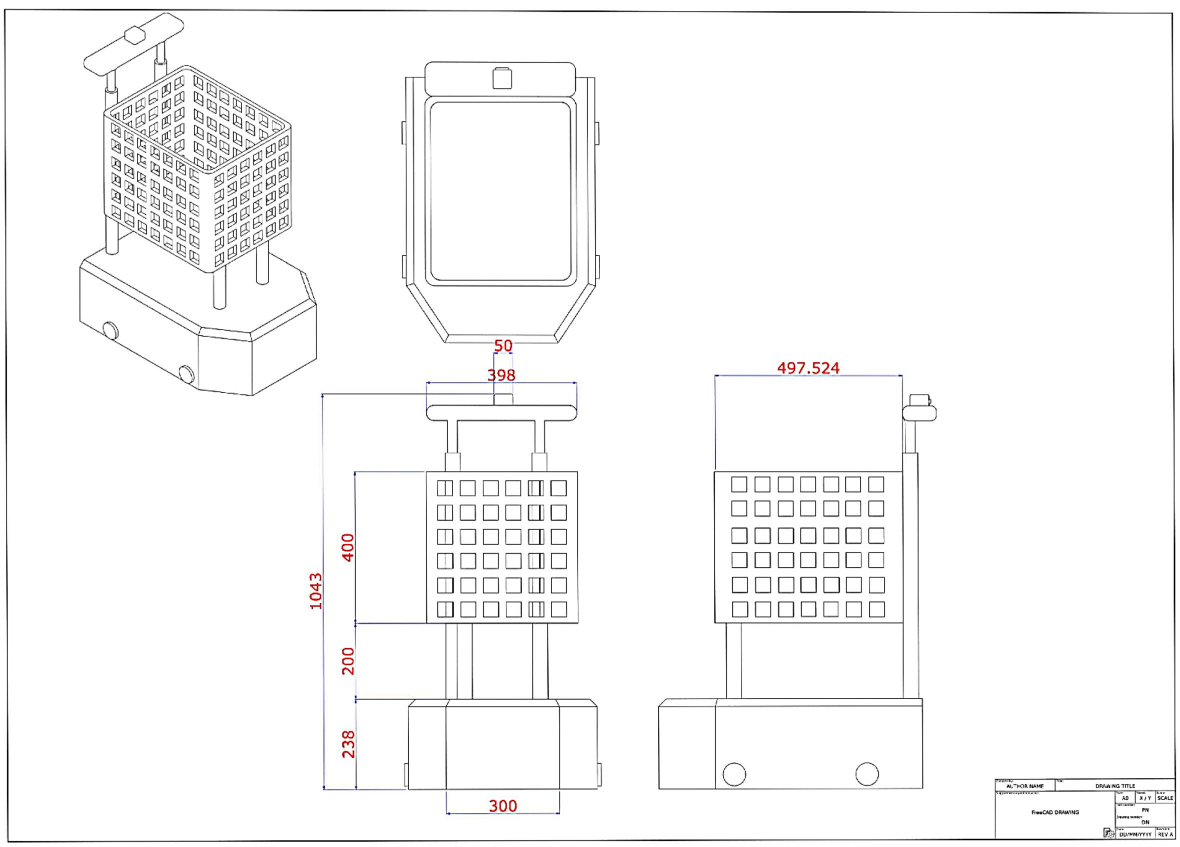


Figure 14: Orthographic projections of the 3D model of the Mule bot

The following figure can be clicked upon to see our proposed Mule bot in action. The picture will take the viewer to our Youtube video:

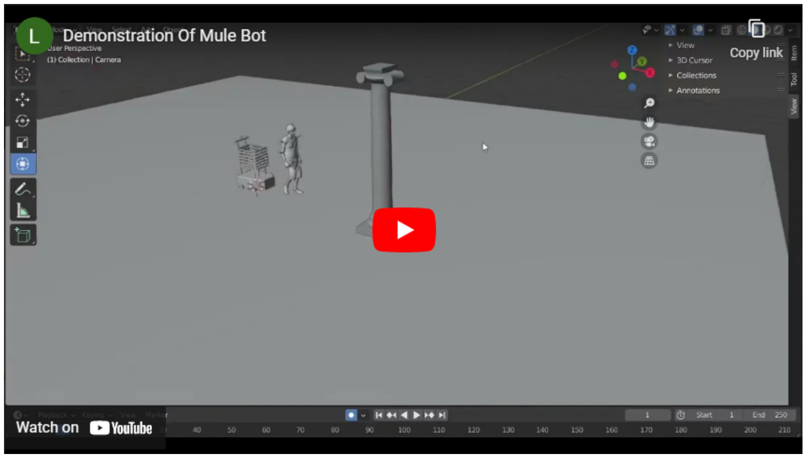
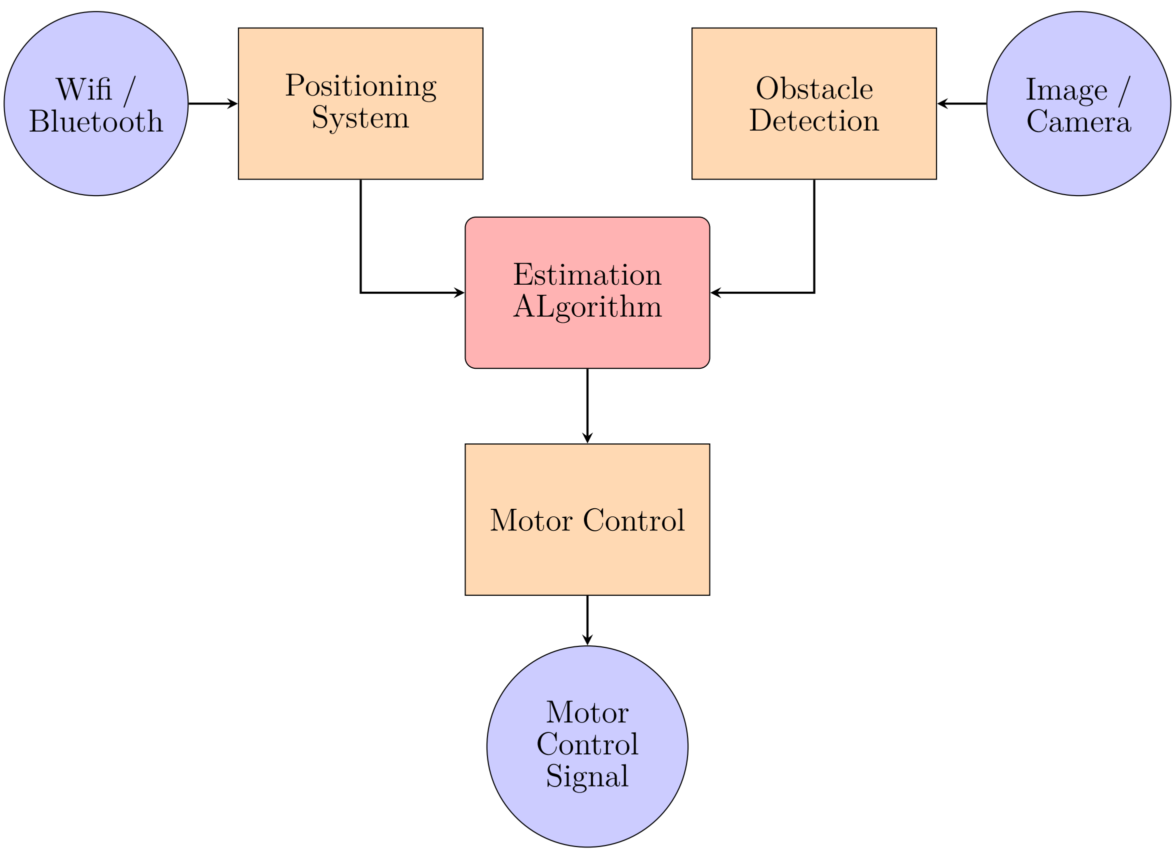


Figure 15: Youtube video of the assembly of our proposed Mule bot

6 Software level Description of the Mule bot

The basic working principle of the Mule bot is illustrated in the following flow-chart :



6.1 Position Estimation

Various techniques were considered to estimate the relative position of the User with respect to the Mule Bot. It was decided to use UWB radio wave technology[14] to estimate the position of the user as other methods such as Bluetooth [23] and WiFi did not promise the required accuracy.

Pre-Requisites

- Anchor points(Ultra-Wide Band Radars) setup inside the mall which estimate user and bot locations with high accuracy, which goes down to centimeter level.(10cm)
- One transmitter with the user. (Preferably a bracelet or watch)
- One transmitter on the mule bot itself.

Algorithm

1. Calculate distances from at least three nearest anchor points for both the user and the bot.Distance calculated on basis of time of flight.
2. Get an estimate of user's and bot's positions and therefore the user's position relative to the bot.
3. Communicate the user's co-ordinates back to the bot.

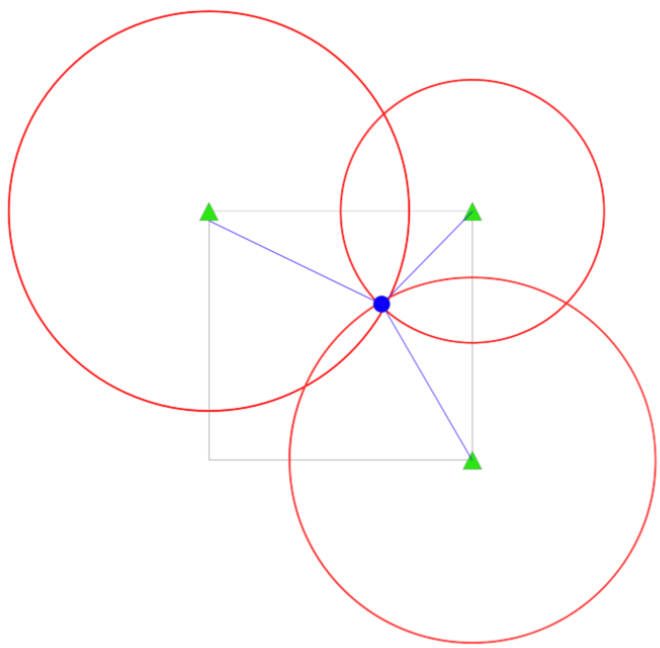


Figure 16: Graphical Representation of anchors(triangles) estimating the location of bot/user(blue dot)

6.2 Obstacle Detection

We will use IR emitter/sensor [24] to detect obstacles and use CNNs [25] to find the distance between the obstacle and the bot using the depth information provided by the RGB-D cameras. An infrared sensor transmits an infrared signal which is bounced from the surface of an object and the signal is received at the infrared receiver. Real-time detection of parameters of obstacle is done for every instant. Data is stored in the form of distance and angle of the obstacle.

6.3 Path Planning and Motor Control

[22] We plan to use the Rapidly Exploring Random Tree(RRT/RRT*) which is a (optimal) sampling-based path planning algorithm to find a clear path from the bot's current location to the user. Taking into account the information of obstacle boundaries, the path is continuously updated. The central idea around the Rapidly Exploring Random Tree(RRT) algorithm is as follows:

1. Build up a tree in the search space through generating "next states"
2. Select a random point and expand the nearest vertex in the tree towards the sampled point

---

Algorithm 1: Pseudo code for the RRT Algorithm

GENERATE_RRT (x_{init}, K, Δt)

  τ.init(x_{init});
  for k=1 to K do
      $x_{rand} \leftarrow$ RANDOM_STATE();
      $x_{near} \leftarrow$ NEAREST_NEIGHBOR(x_{rand}, τ);
      $u \leftarrow$ SELECT_INPUT(x_{rand}, x_{near});
      $x_{new} \leftarrow$ NEW_STATE($x_{near}, u, \Delta t$);
      τ.add_vertex(x_{new});
      τ.add_edge(x_{near}, x_{new}, u);
  Return τ

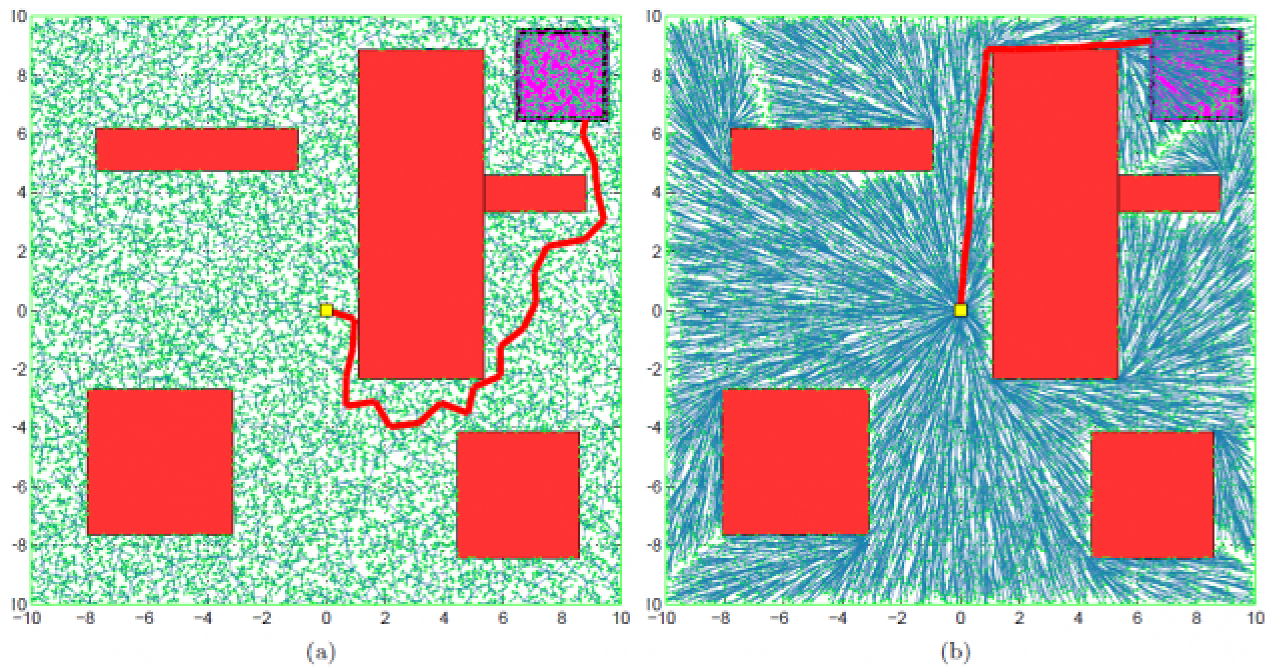


Figure 17: A comparison of RRT (a) and RRT* (b) algorithms on a simulation example with obstacles

After the optimal path is decided, control signals are passed on to the four motors of the bot to:

- increase/decrease speed depending on the distance to the user/nearest obstacle in the chosen path
- re-orient the mule bot according to the chosen path or on encountering an obstacle

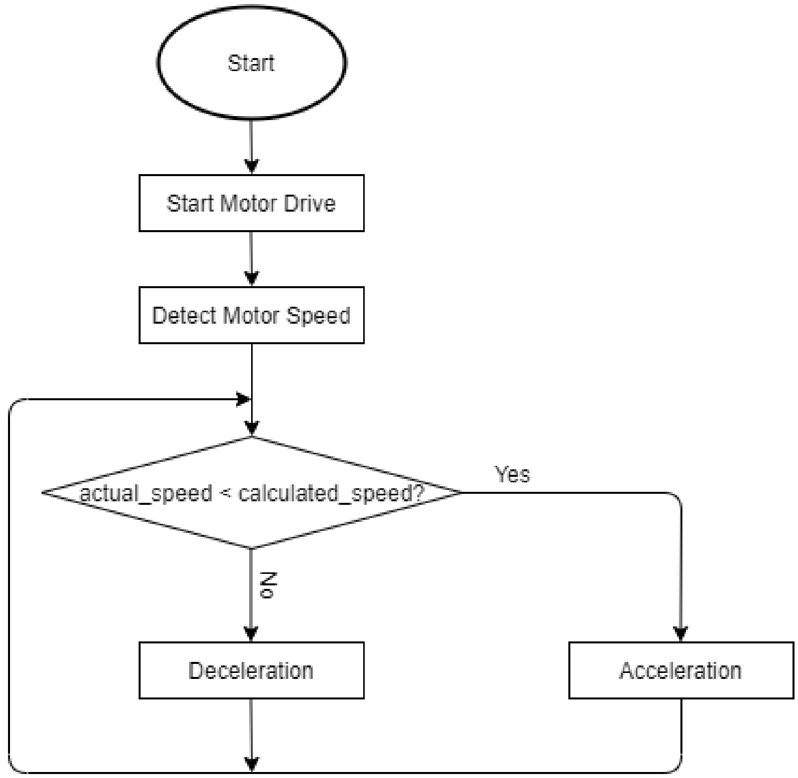


Figure 18: Basic flow chart of motor speed control

6.4 Fault Detection and Analysis

Real-time continuous scanning to ensure all parts are working correctly. Look for flags like increased power consumption, abnormal high temperatures and broken connections in the circuit. Send an alarm to the user's device in case of any malfunctions.

6.5 Find my basket

The app also helps us to find our basket in shopping centres if the user lost it and lock it until he/she get it back. We will be able to see the location of the bot in the app. It can play a sound/ blink light if prompted by the user.

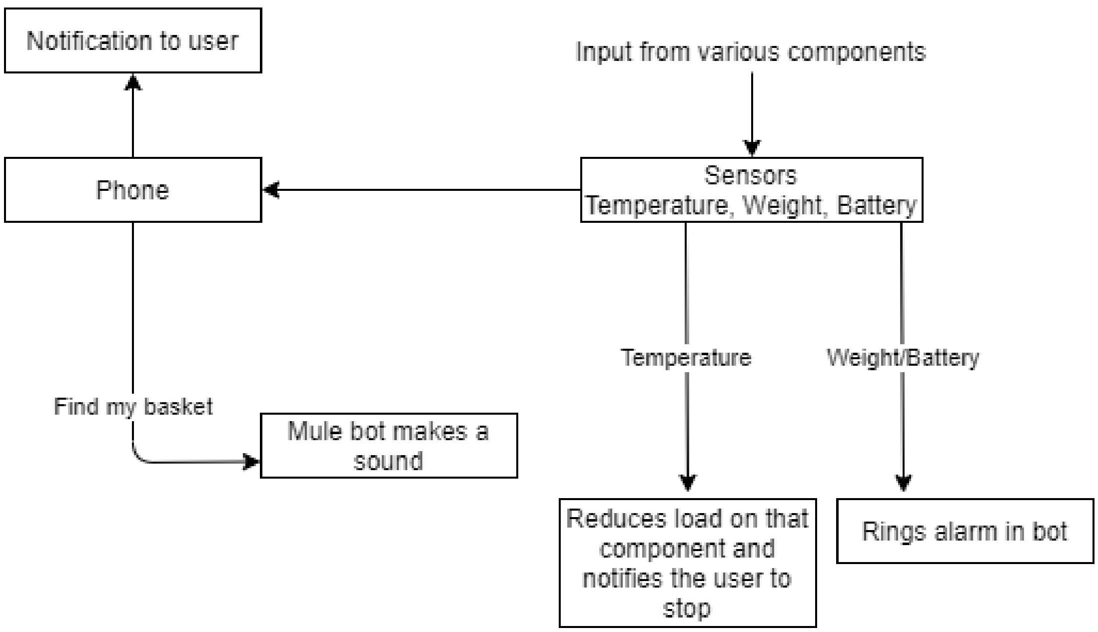


Figure 19: Basic flow chart of Safety Measures

7 Budget

Week 1			
Tasks	**Members**	**Cost (elpu/ person/ week)**	**Total Cost (elpu)**
Design (PCB +Electrical)	14	1	14
Requirements	6	1	6
Documentation	7	2	14
Total			34

Week 2			
Tasks	**Members**	**Cost (elpu/ person/ week)**	**Total Cost (elpu)**
Design Enclosure	13	3	39
Specs	6	1	6
Simulation Schematics	11	3	33
Documentation	7	2	14
Total			92

Week 3 and Week 4			
Tasks	**Members**	**Cost (elpu/ person/ week)**	**Total Cost (elpu)**
Design			
Software	7	7	49
Hardware	7	7	49
Specifications	6	4	24
Enclosure	9	6	54
Documentation	9	5	45
Total			221

Total Budget	**347**

Table 12: Budget

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