Mini Project Report on

LINE FOLLOWER ROBOT

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY

IN

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Submitted by:

Student Name	University Roll No.
Anjali	2019532

Under the Mentorship of

Dr. Upma Jain
Assistant Professor

Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Graphic Era (Deemed to be University)
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

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CANDIDATE’S DECLARATION

I hereby certify that the work which is being presented in the project report entitled **“Line Follower Robot”** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering of the Graphic Era (Deemed to be University), Dehradun shall be carried out by the under the mentorship of **Dr.Upma Jain**, **Assistant Professor**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Graphic Era (Deemed to be University), Dehradun.

Name : Anjali University Roll no : 2019532 signature

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In the proceeding sections, an overview of the project and the problem statement at hand will be presented. The introduction will provide a general background on the topic and the problem statement will clearly define the objective and scope of the work.

1.1 Introduction

The field of robotics encompasses intelligent and autonomous machines capable of executing tasks based on pre-programmed instructions or sensor inputs. With applications in diverse fields such as manufacturing, healthcare, and exploration, robots have revolutionized industries by streamlining processes and increasing efficiency.

Among the various types of robots, the Line Follower Robot stands out as a specialized machine designed to track and follow a pre-defined path marked by a visible line on a contrasting surface. Leveraging sophisticated sensors and intelligent control mechanisms, this robot can accurately detect the designated path, making autonomous adjustments to maintain alignment throughout its course.

This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the project, including the methodology, problem statement, and an in-depth literature review. The study explores data collection techniques, model creation, and strategies to achieve optimal accuracy with minimal loss. The report will conclude with the research results and a comprehensive summary.

1.2 Overview

The central focus of this project is to develop a Line Follower Robot using Arduino, IR sensors, and motors. The primary goal is to enable the robot to flawlessly track a visible black line on a contrasting surface. Equipped with IR sensors, the robot detects the line's position and promptly adjusts its movement to ensure continuous adherence to the designated track. The Arduino microcontroller plays a crucial role in processing sensor data, facilitating precise adjustments and maintaining course alignment. This project offers valuable hands-on experience in robotics, control systems, and sensor integration while fostering interest in STEM fields and showcasing the potential of automation across various industries.

1.3 Applications

Line Follower Robots find diverse applications in numerous fields, including:

- **Manufacturing:** These robots significantly enhance manufacturing industries by automating tasks like assembly, welding, and painting, leading to improved efficiency and product quality.
- **Exploration:** Line follower robots are deployed in space exploration and deep-sea research, collecting data from extreme environments while minimizing risks to human life.
- **Industrial Automation:** Integrated into assembly lines, these robots efficiently transport materials and products between workstations, optimizing the manufacturing process.
- **Robotic Competitions:** Line follower robots actively participate in robotics competitions, showcasing their exceptional capabilities in following intricate paths and navigating complex terrains.
- **Educational Tools:** As valuable educational tools, line follower robots offer students the opportunity to explore robotics, sensor integration, and programming, fostering a keen interest in STEM disciplines.

1.4 Problem Statement

The primary objective of this project is to design and construct an autonomous line follower robot which is capable of navigating a predefined path that is marked with a prominent black line on a contrasting background. This endeavor presents several significant challenges that need to be addressed:

- **Hardware Integration:** Ensuring smooth compatibility and effective functionality among various hardware components is crucial in building a reliable line follower robot. Proper integration ensures that all components work seamlessly together to achieve the desired performance for the robot.
- **Decision-Making Algorithms:** Another key aspect of enabling the robot to autonomously track and follow the designated line is developing an efficient decision-making algorithms. Crafting sophisticated algorithms that leverage control theory and logical processing is essential for precise and efficient navigation.
- **Code Optimization:** Optimizing the robot's code is fundamental to ensure quick and accurate responses. Well-optimized code enables the robot to swiftly process sensor

data and execute control commands, resulting in precise line following and improved overall performance.

Addressing these challenges with innovative solutions will play a pivotal role in successfully creating an autonomous line follower robot that can precisely adhere to the specified path.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE SURVEY

The robots find applications in various fields, such as industrial automation, warehousing, and educational platforms. The concept of line follower robots dates back to the mid-20th century. The pioneering work by C.W. Kinney in "Construction of an Automatic Line Follower" (1949)[1] introduced a simple sensor-based line following mechanism. This early development laid the foundation for further research in this field. The purpose of this literature survey is to provide an overview of the various advancements, techniques, and challenges related to line follower robots.

Over time, various sensor technologies are used to improve line detection accuracy. In 1978, G.K. Wallace's "Sensors for Mobile Robots"[2] discussed the use of reflective sensors, microswitches, and infrared sensors to detect lines. Subsequently, D. S. Johnson's "Vision-based Line Detection Algorithms" (1995)[3] presented vision-based techniques using cameras and image processing algorithms for precise line tracking.

Control algorithms play a crucial role in line follower robots' performance. Early works relied on simple PID (Proportional-Integral-Derivative) controllers. A seminal paper by R. K. Patel, "PID Control for Line Following Robots" (2002)[4], demonstrated effective path tracking using a PID algorithm. Later, advanced control strategies like fuzzy logic, neural networks, and genetic algorithms were explored. S. M. Rahman's "Fuzzy Logic-based Line Follower Robot" (2008)[5] highlighted the robot's improved path tracking capabilities using fuzzy control. The fusion of multiple sensors is used to enhance the adaptability of these robots. T. J. Peters' "Sensor Fusion in Robotic Systems" (2010)[6] emphasized the advantages of combining data from different sensors, such as infrared and vision-based sensors, for robust line detection and obstacle avoidance.

H. R. Chen's "Real-Time Path Planning for Line Following Robots" (2013)[7] proposed a dynamic programming approach that considers robot dynamics and line constraints to generate optimal paths. Moreover, J. W. Park's "SLAM for Line Following Robots" (2016)[8] explored Simultaneous Localization and Mapping techniques to create maps of unknown environments during robot navigation.

Line follower robots often encounter challenging scenarios, such as intersections, curves, and faded lines. K. N. Adams' "Enhanced Line Detection Techniques" (2018)[9] investigated edge detection algorithms and machine learning approaches to improve line detection accuracy in complex environments.The concept of swarm robotics involves a group of robots working collaboratively to achieve a common goal. P. M. Johnson's "Swarm Intelligence in Line Following Robots" (2019)[10] discussed how swarm intelligence can be applied to line follower robots for coordinated path following and formation control.

This comprehensive review shows the remarkable advancements achieved in line follower robots, covering a broad spectrum of areas which includes sensor technologies, obstacle detection, computer vision techniques, control algorithms, and path planning strategies. The integration of cutting-edge sensor technologies and sophisticated computer vision algorithms, combined with finely tuned control algorithms, has resulted in a remarkable progress in the overall performance and functionality of line follower robots.

In recent years, the progress in robotics and artificial intelligence has paved the way for even more exciting developments in line follower robots. Researchers are now exploring novel approaches that integrate machine learning and deep learning techniques to enhance line detection and decision-making capabilities. By leveraging vast amounts of data and real-time learning, these robots can adapt to dynamic environments, making them more versatile and efficient in their tasks. With ongoing research and continuous technological advancements, line follower robots are poised to continue playing a pivotal role in future with potential applications in autonomous vehicles, smart factories, and smart cities, further revolutionizing various industries and transforming our daily lives.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology adopted in this study encompasses a series of stages to design and implement the line follower robot, utilizing Arduino programming. The project comprises the following key steps:

3.1 Fundamental Principle:

The primary goal of this endeavor is to create an autonomous line follower robot, capable of tracking and following a predetermined path without the need for external guidance. The robot is equipped with two rear-wheel motors, while the front wheel remains uncontrolled, allowing for enhanced maneuverability. Additionally, two infrared (IR) sensors are positioned at the bottom to detect a black tracking tape on the floor.

By analyzing the data acquired from these IR sensors, the robot makes informed decisions on how to navigate the line. The programmed responses of the robot are as follows:

- If neither sensor detects a black line, the robot continues moving forward along its current trajectory.
- If the right sensor detects a black line while the left sensor does not, the robot executes a right turn.
- If the left sensor detects a black line while the right sensor does not, the robot performs a left turn.
- If both sensors detect a black line, the robot comes to a complete stop.

3.2 Essential Hardware Components:

The line follower robot is built using a set of crucial hardware components, which include:

- **IR Sensors:** These sensors play a pivotal role in detecting the presence or absence of the black tracking tape, effectively guiding the robot's movement along the desired path.
- **Arduino UNO Microcontroller**: Serving as the central processing unit of the robot, the Arduino board processes data from the IR sensors and executes control algorithms to direct the robot's movements accordingly.

- **L298N Motor Driver**: The motor driver acts as a bridge between the Arduino board and the DC motors, ensuring efficient regulation of their speed and direction based on signals received from the microcontroller.
- **3. 4V 2600mAh Batteries**: The power source for the entire robot, these batteries ensure a smooth and uninterrupted operation during the course of the robot's task.
- **Jumper Wires:** Crucial electrical connections are established using jumper wires, facilitating the seamless flow of signals and power.
- **ON/OFF Switch:** The ON/OFF switch provides users with convenient control over the robot's power supply, allowing for easy activation or deactivation as needed.
- **DC Gear Motor with Tyre:** The gear motor with a tyre proficiently converts electrical signals from the motor driver into rotational motion, thus propelling the robot along the designated line.

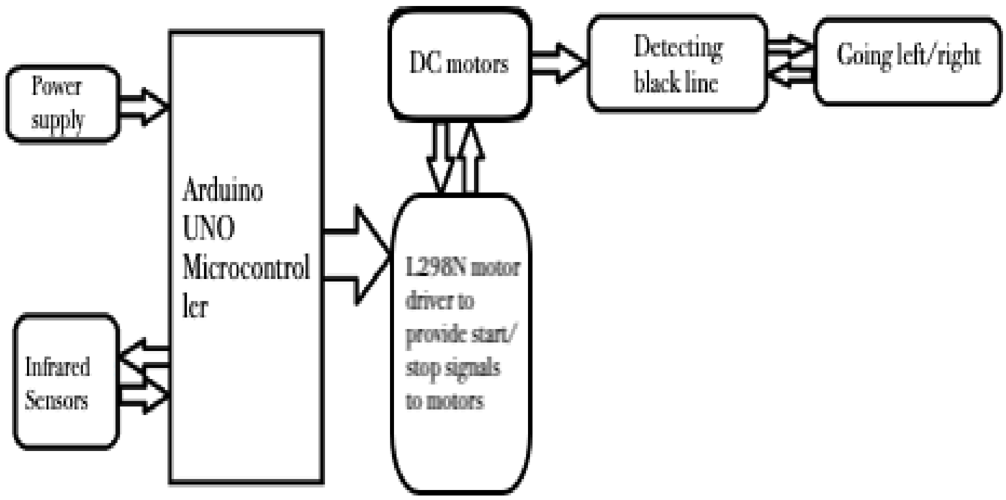

Fig. 3.1 Block Diagram

3.2.1 Infrared Sensor:

In the context of line follower robots, infrared sensors play a critical role as they are specifically designed to detect and track lines on the floor. By emitting infrared light and measuring its reflection or absence, these sensors accurately identify the presence of the black tracking tape. Their strategic placement close to the surface ensures the robot can precisely follow the designated path.

3.2.2 Arduino Board:

The Arduino board is a versatile and widely-used open-source electronics platform renowned for its user-friendly software and hardware features. With a microcontroller and various input/output pins, it provides an accessible means of programming interactive electronic objects, including robots. Among the popular variants, the Arduino UNO stands out, featuring 14 digital input/output pins, 6 analog inputs, a 16 MHz quartz crystal, a USB connection, and a power jack.

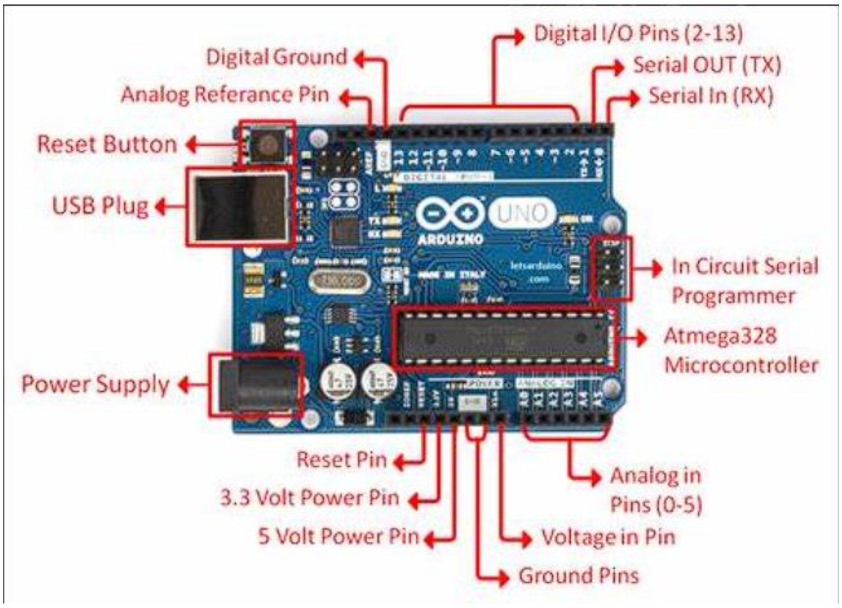

Fig. 3.2 Arduino UNO

3.2.3 L298N Motor Driver:

The L298N motor driver plays a critical role in robot projects, acting as an essential component for controlling DC motors. Serving as an interface between the Arduino microcontroller and the motors, it ensures precise regulation of their speed and direction based on signals received from the microcontroller.

3.2.4 DC Motor:

The DC motor is a vital component within the line follower robot, as it is responsible for converting electrical energy into mechanical energy through the principles of electromagnetic induction. The rotor, housing a current-carrying coil, interacts with the stator's fixed magnetic field, resulting in the generation of mechanical force that prompts the rotor to rotate. The robot's capability to adjust the speed and torque of the DC motor is of utmost importance, as it enables the robot to display flexibility in its movements, adapting its speed and maneuverability to meet the requirements of the line-following task.

3.3 Set of Tools:

The circuit presented in Figure 3.3, created using Tinkercad, serves as a fundamental representation of the line follower robot's concept. The diagram depicts a single L298N motor driver controlling two DC motors.

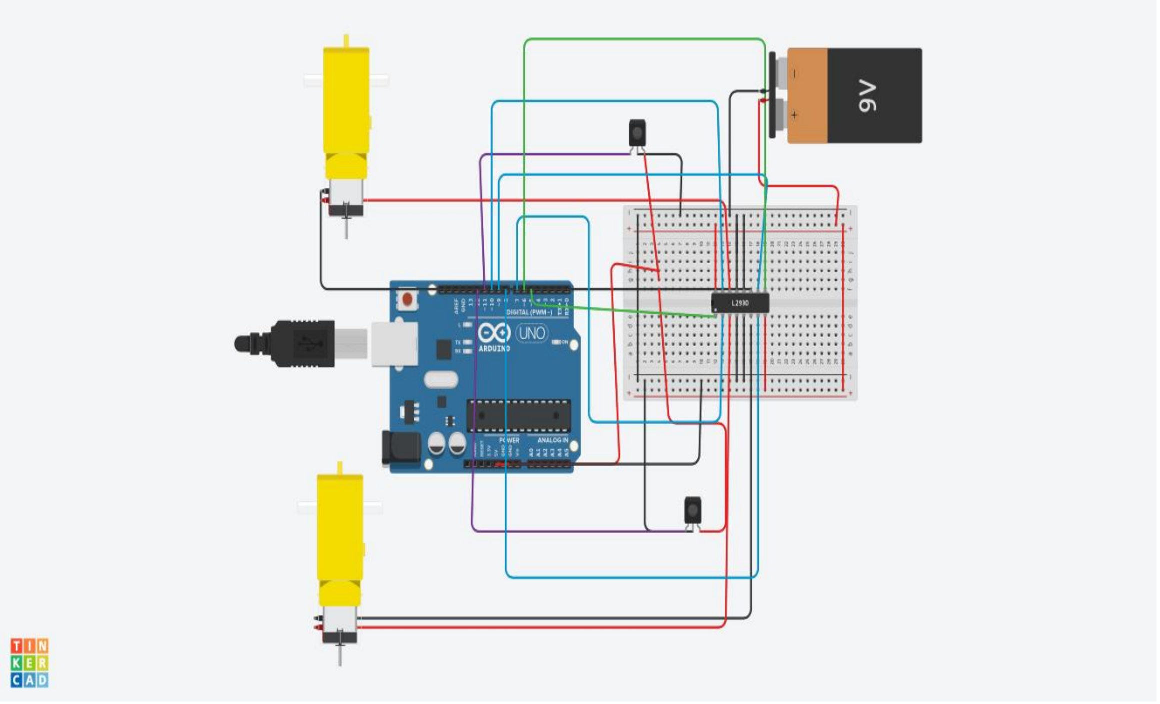

Fig. 3.3 Circuit for Representation

3.4 Philosophical Approach:

The ideology behind the line follower robot revolves around creating a highly efficient autonomous system, capable of accurately tracking and following a predefined path. By skillfully integrating hardware components, such as IR sensors, Arduino UNO, and L298N motor driver, the robot adeptly processes sensor data, executes precise control algorithms, and effectively controls the motors to maintain alignment with the desired line. As a result, the robot navigates the path with unparalleled precision and accuracy, functioning autonomously.

CHAPTER 4

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This project presents a groundbreaking intelligent system featuring a line detection capability with versatile applications in various industries, including manufacturing, healthcare and service sectors. The core of this system lies in the implementation of specialized infrared sensors that effectively detect the presence of a line and relay feedback to the microcontroller unit.

To power this sophisticated system, we employ a battery that initiates the circuit, ensuring seamless operation. The sensor transmitter emits a specific frequency of light, which then interacts with the surface it encounters. Consequently, the sensor receiver captures the reflected frequency and promptly transmits it to the microcontroller for processing.Upon receiving the relevant information, the microcontroller swiftly generates a signal sent to the motor driver IC. With precise control over the motors, based on the signal received, the motor driver IC orchestrates the rotation of the wheels accordingly. This enables the entire system to navigate and align itself seamlessly with the detected line.Fig. 4.1 showcases the final model of our Line Follower Robot, incorporating the cutting-edge features we have developed.

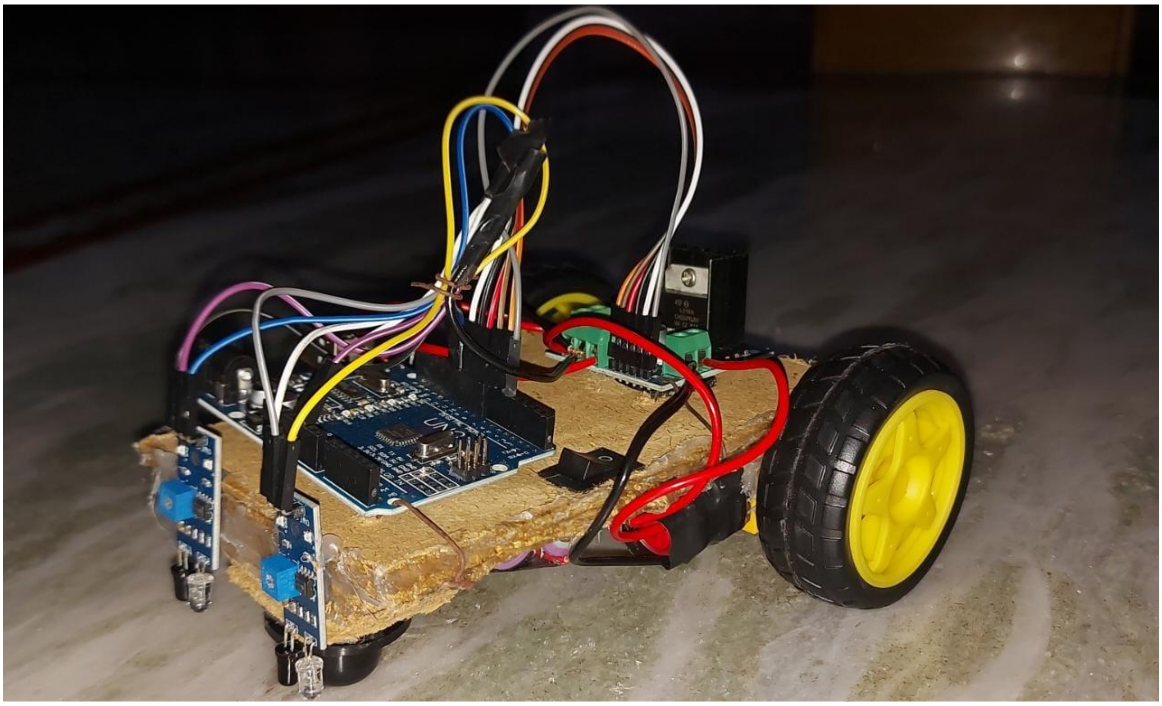

Fig. 4.1 Line Follower Robot

Line follower robots have real-time applications in various sectors, including warehouse material handling, agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, education, and entertainment.

Line Follower Robot in Warehouse Material Handling

Line follower robots find a significant application in automated material handling within warehouses and distribution centers. Equipped with sensors and navigation algorithms, these robots follow marked paths on the warehouse floor, efficiently transporting goods from one location to another.

For example, suppose company XYZ, a large e-commerce retailer, deploys line follower robots in their warehouse. These robots autonomously navigate the warehouse floor, picking up items from inventory shelves and delivering them to packing stations. By using line follower robots, Company XYZ streamlines its material handling processes, reducing operational costs and improving overall efficiency.

SCOPE IN OTHER FIELDS:

1. Agriculture: Line follower robots are used for precision planting and crop monitoring. For instance, a farmer uses a line follower robot to plant seeds in straight rows, ensuring optimal plant growth.
2. Manufacturing: In the manufacturing sector, line follower robots assist in assembly line operations. A company employs these robots to transport components along the production line, improving workflow and reducing manual labor.
3. Logistics and Warehousing: Line follower robots find application in logistics and warehousing beyond material handling. Amazon's fulfillment centers utilize these robots for efficient package transportation within the warehouse, optimizing order processing.
4. Healthcare: Line follower robots are utilized in healthcare facilities for contactless delivery of medical supplies and documents. A hospital deploys these robots to transport medication and equipment to different departments, reducing human contact and minimizing errors.
5. Education: Line follower robots serve as educational tools for teaching robotics and programming. Students in a robotics course at a university build and program their line follower robots for practical learning experiences.
6. Entertainment: Theme parks use line follower robots for interactive displays and guided tours. "RoboGuide" at a futuristic park takes visitors on a pre-defined path through captivating exhibits, enhancing the entertainment experience.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In conclusion, the implementation of the infrared-sensor-equipped line follower robot presents a versatile and promising solution with wide-ranging applications across multiple sectors. Its autonomous navigation capabilities have the potential to revolutionize various industries, offering benefits such as contactless delivery and reduced staff workload in healthcare, increased efficiency in industrial processes, enhanced education and agricultural practices.

Throughout the course of this project, we have successfully developed and demonstrated the line follower robot's exceptional ability to accurately track and align itself with predefined paths, thanks to the utilization of advanced infrared sensor technology and precise motor control. Rigorous evaluations have verified the robot's competence in following the black line path.

Looking forward, there are exciting opportunities for further enhancements to elevate its functionality and performance. By incorporating a Bluetooth module and a camera, the robot can be remotely monitored to detect obstacles, making it even more useful in a range of scenarios. Furthermore, integrating sensors capable of detecting multiple colors would significantly expand its potential applications in various environments.

Enhancing the robot's speed and agility would enable it to excel in tasks that demand quick responses and precise movements, thus proving invaluable in dynamic and time-sensitive situations. As technology continues to evolve, line follower robots are poised to play an indispensable role in shaping the future of automation and robotics.

With the ongoing progress in artificial intelligence and machine learning, these robots can become even more sophisticated and autonomous, adapting effortlessly to complex and dynamic surroundings.

The meticulously designed line follower robot has the potential to become a trusted companion, enhancing and streamlining various aspects of daily life in both professional and personal settings. Embracing this innovation and proactively addressing challenges will undoubtedly pave the way for a future where line follower robots become integral components of diverse industries, empowering humans and simplifying tasks in unprecedented ways.

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