MTRN4230 Robotics

Group 14

Assignment 2

Chat log and other communication

The main methods of communication for the group outside of scheduled class times was facilitated through online platforms such as Facebook Messenger, GitHub, and Google Sheets.

The group chat on Facebook Messenger ensured that everyone could be alerted instantly and easily for meetings and simple communication about the group’s work progress. Polls could be conducted to come up with the ideal meeting time for everyone’s timetable, and simple updates if anyone were to be away. Urgent problems could be instantly addressed and other team members could give input without delay. GitHub on the other hand, allowed for seamless file sharing amongst the group so that each program file is accessible and neatly organized with a time stamp and signature of the last person to edit. The use of a 3rd party GitHub Desktop app also facilitated in live updates if anyone were to be working on the document simultaneously. This helped us be more mindful of who was currently editing the file, and made each member work more efficiently knowing that another member was waiting for their turn to edit the file. Eventually, when code with significant changes were made, the user could also just upload a latest folder on GitHub. Finally, Google sheets was used for deadlines, assigning of tasks, weekly individual and group progress. Once a task typed it, it could be selected to be either ‘In Progress’, ‘Incomplete’ or ‘Complete’. Anytime, an update could be written when additional information was released about the task or whether its progress status could be changed.

The general consensus was that work was consistently being done since the 2nd Assignment task was out. The group split the work up based on code that had to be written on Matlab or RobotStudio. Will and Leon worked predominantly on RobotStudio with the remaining 4 on MatLab. Anna worked on communicating, Jialin on the camera feeds, Calandra on taking inputs in the GUI, and Emma on designing the GUI above managing the group. There were a lot of overlapping tasks that required one person to do one part before the next person could. Also, this meant that there was a lot of collaboration and further breakdown of seemingly simple or straightforward tasks into its specifics.

Overall, the team worked quite well together albeit the notion that we could have been more on task throughout the process. The process was documented on Facebook Messenger, where the team is constantly setting timely reminders of which tasks had to be completed and the items that need to have a head start on so other members start on their respective tasks too. Everyone’s names could be updated on the respective tasks listed on GitHub such that appropriate credit could be given if a contribution was made.