

References

- [1] H. England, *CS 450 Inspection of highway structures*.
- [2] *Tackling £1 billion cost of motorway closures*, en. [Online]. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tackling-1billion-cost-of-motorway-closures> (visited on 04/08/2025).
- [3] M. Goundry, *private communication*, May 2025.
- [4] RIBA, *Open design competition Gantries for National Highways*, Dec. 2022.
- [5] M. Russo, S. M. H. Sadati, X. Dong, *et al.*, "Continuum Robots: An Overview," en, *Advanced Intelligent Systems*, vol. 5, no. 5, p. 2 200 367, 2023, ISSN: 2640-4567. DOI: 10.1002/aisy.202200367. [Online]. Available: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/aisy.202200367> (visited on 10/22/2024).
- [6] N. Highways, *About us - National Highways*, en-GB, Archive Location: Worldwide Publisher: National Highways, Oct. 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/about-us/> (visited on 05/06/2025).
- [7] E. Drones, *UAV Drone for Roads, Bridges, and Highways Inspections*, en-US. [Online]. Available: <https://equinoxdrones.com/roads-and-highways/>,%20https://equinoxdrones.com/roads-and-highways/ (visited on 04/08/2025).
- [8] N. C. Council, *Highway Inspection & Risk Manual*, Jul. 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/1531204/highways-inspection-risk-manual.pdf> (visited on 04/27/2025).
- [9] B. Zhang, C. Mackie, F. Rooney, L. Deedman, N. Ekechukwu, and S. Hussein, *Final report for een40330 team project*, University of Manchester, MEng Team 9, Final Report, May 2024.
- [10] J. T. Kahnemouei and M. Moallem, "A comprehensive review of in-pipe robots," *Ocean Engineering*, vol. 277, p. 114 260, Jun. 2023, ISSN: 0029-8018. DOI: 10.1016/j.oceaneng.2023.114260. [Online]. Available: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0029801823006443> (visited on 04/29/2025).
- [11] H. Jang, H. M. Kim, M. S. Lee, *et al.*, "Development of modularized in-pipe inspection robotic system: MRINSPECT VII+," en, *Robotica*, vol. 40, no. 5, pp. 1361–1384, May 2022, ISSN: 0263-5747, 1469-8668. DOI: 10.1017/S0263574721001156. [Online]. Available: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/robotica/article/development-of-modularized-inpipe-inspection-robotic-system-mrinspect-vii/98B273939D115F31E0460AB1659F5548> (visited on 04/29/2025).
- [12] S.-g. Roh, D. W. Kim, J.-S. Lee, H. Moon, and H. R. Choi, "Modularized in-pipe robot capable of selective navigation Inside of pipelines," in *2008 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems*, ISSN: 2153-0866, Sep. 2008, pp. 1724–1729. DOI: 10.1109/IR0S.2008.4650968. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/4650968> (visited on 04/29/2025).
- [13] R. Richardson, S. Whitehead, T. Ng, *et al.*, "The "Djedi" Robot Exploration of the Southern Shaft of the Queen's Chamber in the Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt," en, *Journal of Field Robotics*, vol. 30, no. 3, pp. 323–348, 2013, _eprint: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/rob.21451>, ISSN: 1556-4967. DOI: 10.1002/rob.21451. [Online]. Available: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/rob.21451> (visited on 04/29/2025).
- [14] J. B. Kahrs, *Tendon Driven Continuum Robots*, en. [Online]. Available: https://crl.utm.utoronto.ca/_pages/tdcr.html (visited on 10/22/2024).
- [15] J. Burgner-Kahrs, *Tendon Routing Disks and their Effects on Motion Primitives*, en, Feb. 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.opencontinuumrobotics.com/101/2023/02/24/tendon-routing-disks.html> (visited on 10/30/2024).

- [16] G. Gao, H. Wang, Q. Xia, M. Song, and H. Ren, "Study on the load capacity of a single-section continuum manipulator," *Mechanism and Machine Theory*, vol. 104, pp. 313–326, Oct. 2016, ISSN: 0094-114X. DOI: 10.1016/j.mechmachtheory.2016.06.010. [Online]. Available: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0094114X1630115X> (visited on 10/24/2024).
- [17] H.-S. Yoon and B.-J. Yi, "A 4-DOF flexible continuum robot using a spring backbone," in *2009 International Conference on Mechatronics and Automation*, ISSN: 2152-744X, Aug. 2009, pp. 1249–1254. DOI: 10.1109/ICMA.2009.5246612. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/5246612> (visited on 10/28/2024).
- [18] A. Amouri, A. Cherfia, A. Belkhir, and H. Merabti, "Bio-inspired a novel dual-cross-module sections cable-driven continuum robot: Design, kinematics modeling and workspace analysis," en, *Journal of the Brazilian Society of Mechanical Sciences and Engineering*, vol. 45, no. 5, p. 265, Apr. 2023, ISSN: 1806-3691. DOI: 10.1007/s40430-023-04197-8. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40430-023-04197-8> (visited on 04/22/2025).
- [19] P. Zhou, J. Yao, H. Zhang, X. Zhang, S. Kong, and K. Zhu, "Design and kinematics of a lightweight cruciform continuum robot," English, *Mechanical Sciences*, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 99–109, Mar. 2023, Publisher: Copernicus GmbH, ISSN: 2191-9151. DOI: 10.5194/ms-14-99-2023. [Online]. Available: <https://ms.copernicus.org/articles/14/99/2023/> (visited on 04/22/2025).
- [20] S. Li and G. Hao, *Current Trends and Prospects in Compliant Continuum Robots: A Survey*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0825/10/7/145> (visited on 10/22/2024).
- [21] J. D. Greer, L. H. Blumenschein, R. Alterovitz, E. W. Hawkes, and A. M. Okamura, "Robust navigation of a soft growing robot by exploiting contact with the environment," en, *The International Journal of Robotics Research*, vol. 39, no. 14, pp. 1724–1738, Dec. 2020, Publisher: SAGE Publications Ltd STM, ISSN: 0278-3649. DOI: 10.1177/0278364920903774. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0278364920903774> (visited on 10/01/2024).
- [22] *A soft robot that navigates its environment through growth* | *Science Robotics*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/scirobotics.aan3028> (visited on 10/28/2024).
- [23] H. El-Hussieny, I. A. Hameed, and A. B. Zaky, "Plant-Inspired Soft Growing Robots: A Control Approach Using Nonlinear Model Predictive Techniques," en, *Applied Sciences*, vol. 13, no. 4, p. 2601, Jan. 2023, Number: 4 Publisher: Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, ISSN: 2076-3417. DOI: 10.3390/app13042601. [Online]. Available: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3417/13/4/2601> (visited on 09/28/2024).
- [24] *A Comparison of Pneumatic Actuators for Soft Growing Vine Robots* | *Soft Robotics*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/soro.2023.0169> (visited on 10/28/2024).
- [25] K. Ong, G. Seet, and S. Sim, *Developing a Framework for Semi-Autonomous Control*, en. 2008. [Online]. Available: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/221786353_Developing_a_Framework_for_Semi-Autonomous_Control (visited on 03/31/2025).
- [26] A. Seppänen, J. Vepsäläinen, R. Ojala, and K. Tammi, "Comparison of Semi-autonomous Mobile Robot Control Strategies in Presence of Large Delay Fluctuation," en, *Journal of Intelligent & Robotic Systems*, vol. 106, no. 1, p. 28, Sep. 2022, semi_autonomous_control_w_delays, ISSN: 1573-0409. DOI: 10.1007/s10846-022-01711-3. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10846-022-01711-3> (visited on 04/29/2025).
- [27] J. H. Chung and C. Kim, "Semi-autonomous Control of Robotic Multi-agents," en, in *Robot Intelligence Technology and Applications 2012: An Edition of the Presented Papers from the 1st International Conference on Robot Intelligence Technology and Applications*, J.-H. Kim, E. T. Matson, H. Myung, and P. Xu, Eds., Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer, 2013, pp. 571–587, ISBN: 978-3-642-37374-9. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-37374-9_55. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-37374-9_55 (visited on 04/29/2025).

- [28] F. Wildani, R. Mardiaty, E. Mulyana, A. E. Setiawan, R. R. Nirmalasari, and N. Sartika, "Fuzzy Logic Control for Semi-Autonomous Navigation Robot Using Integrated Remote Control," in *2022 8th International Conference on Wireless and Telematics (ICWT)*, Jul. 2022, pp. 1–5. DOI: 10.1109/ICWT55831.2022.9935458. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9935458> (visited on 05/06/2025).
- [29] C. Song, G. Gao, P. Wang, and H. Wang, "Kinematics and Fuzzy Control of Continuum Robot Based on Semi-closed Loop System," in *2022 2nd International Conference on Robotics, Automation and Artificial Intelligence (RAAI)*, Dec. 2022, pp. 43–51. DOI: 10.1109/RAAI56146.2022.10092975. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10092975> (visited on 05/01/2025).
- [30] A. Parvaresh and S. A. A. Moosavian, "Modeling and Model-free Fuzzy Control of a Continuum Robotic Arm," in *2018 6th RSI International Conference on Robotics and Mechatronics (IcRoM)*, ISSN: 2572-6889, Oct. 2018, pp. 501–506. DOI: 10.1109/ICRoM.2018.8657596. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8657596/figures> (visited on 05/06/2025).
- [31] P. Qi, C. Liu, A. Ataka, H. K. Lam, and K. Althoefer, "Kinematic Control of Continuum Manipulators Using a Fuzzy-Model-Based Approach," *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics*, vol. 63, no. 8, pp. 5022–5035, Aug. 2016, ISSN: 1557-9948. DOI: 10.1109/TIE.2016.2554078. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7452639> (visited on 05/06/2025).
- [32] T. Watanabe, "Effect of button layout on the exploration and learning of robot operation using an unfamiliar controller," *Plos one*, vol. 17, no. 9, e0272782, 2022.
- [33] S. Raeisi, R. Osqueizadeh, M. Maghsoudipour, and A. Jafarpisheh, "Ergonomic redesign of an industrial control panel," *The International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, vol. 7, no. 3, p. 186, 2016.
- [34] B. Keogh, "A play of bodies: A phenomenology of videogame experience," Ph.D. dissertation, RMIT University, 2015.
- [35] B. Alsadik and S. Karam, "The simultaneous localization and mapping (slam): An overview," *Surveying and geospatial engineering journal*, vol. 1, no. 2, pp. 1–12, 2021.
- [36] D. Louis, O. Dharmadi, and R. Rusyadi, "Implementation of visual inertial odometry concept for outdoor autonomous mobile robot and navigation based on ros2," in *2023 International Conference on Advanced Mechatronics, Intelligent Manufacture and Industrial Automation (ICAMIMIA)*, IEEE, 2023, pp. 318–323.
- [37] G. Zhu, H. Qi, and K. Lv, "Dgyolov8: An enhanced model for steel surface defect detection based on yolov8," *Mathematics*, vol. 13, no. 5, pp. 831–831, Mar. 2025. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/math13050831>. [Online]. Available: <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7390/13/5/831>.
- [38] Z. Yao, X. Chen, and C. Shi, "Research on surface environment perception via camera-lidar sensor fusion," pp. 895–899, May 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1109/icaibd57115.2023.10206207>. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10206207>.
- [39] G. Seet, K. W. Ong, and S. K. Sim, "Design and analysis of a bio-inspired wire-driven multi-section flexible robot," *InTech*, 2008. DOI: 10.5772/56025. [Online]. Available: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.5772/56025>.
- [40] *Lever Arm - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/lever-arm> (visited on 05/05/2025).
- [41] P. Rao, Q. Peyron, S. Lilge, and J. Burgner-Kahrs, "How to Model Tendon-Driven Continuum Robots and Benchmark Modelling Performance," English, *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*, vol. 7, Feb. 2021, Publisher: Frontiers, ISSN: 2296-9144. DOI: 10.3389/frobt.2020.630245. [Online]. Available: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/robotics-and-ai/articles/10.3389/frobt.2020.630245/full> (visited on 11/26/2024).

- [42] P. Rao, Q. Peyron, and J. Burgner-Kahrs, "Using euler curves to model continuum robots," in *2021 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, IEEE, 2021, pp. 1402–1408.
- [43] P. S. Gonthina, A. D. Kapadia, I. S. Godage, and I. D. Walker, "Modeling variable curvature parallel continuum robots using euler curves," in *2019 International conference on robotics and automation (ICRA)*, IEEE, 2019, pp. 1679–1685.
- [44] A. Amouri, A. Cherfia, A. Belkhiri, and H. Merabti, "Bio-inspired a novel dual-cross-module sections cable-driven continuum robot: Design, kinematics modeling and workspace analysis," *Journal of the Brazilian Society of Mechanical Sciences and Engineering*, vol. 45, no. 5, p. 265, 2023.
- [45] Amazon.com: FLASH HOBBY 45KG Coreless Servo 8.4V High Torque Full Metal Gear Servo, IP67 Waterproof Steering RC Servo with Control Angle 360° for 1/10 Scale RC Cars, Trucks & Robot Parts (Continuous Rotation) : Toys & Games. [Online]. Available: <https://www.amazon.com/FLASH-HOBBY-Coreless-Waterproof-Continuous/dp/B0CCD8P11R?th=1> (visited on 04/29/2025).
- [46] woodenCaliper, *Cycloidaldrive: Fusion360 script for creating cycloidal drive sketch*, <https://github.com/woodenCaliper/CycloidalDrive>, Accessed: 2025-04-30, 2025.
- [47] M. Arteaga and R. Kelly, "Robot control without velocity measurements: New theory and experimental results," *IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation*, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 297–308, Apr. 2004, ISSN: 2374-958X. DOI: 10.1109/TRA.2003.820872. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/1284415> (visited on 05/01/2025).
- [48] M. Li, R. Kang, S. Geng, and E. Guglielmino, "Design and control of a tendon-driven continuum robot," EN, *Transactions of the Institute of Measurement and Control*, vol. 40, no. 11, pp. 3263–3272, Jul. 2018, Publisher: SAGE Publications Ltd STM, ISSN: 0142-3312. DOI: 10.1177/0142331216685607. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0142331216685607> (visited on 04/28/2025).
- [49] C.-H. Kuo, Y.-C. Chen, and T.-Y. Pan, "Continuum Kinematics of a Planar Dual-Backbone Robot Based on Pseudo-Rigid-Body Model: Formulation, Accuracy, and Efficiency," en, in *Volume 5A: 41st Mechanisms and Robotics Conference*, Cleveland, Ohio, USA: American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Aug. 2017, V05AT08A015, ISBN: 978-0-7918-5817-2. DOI: 10.1115/DETC2017-67853. [Online]. Available: <https://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/IDETC-CIE/proceedings/IDETC-CIE2017/58172/Cleveland,%20Ohio,%20USA/259495> (visited on 10/30/2024).
- [50] Actuonix Motion Devices, *L16 Series Linear Actuator Datasheet*, Accessed: 2025-05-05, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.actuonix.com/assets/images/datasheets/ActuonixL16Datasheet.pdf>.
- [51] ASM International, *ASM Handbook, Volume 18: Friction, Lubrication, and Wear Technology*. Materials Park, OH: ASM International, 1992.
- [52] S. I. Plastics, *Lexan polycarbonate resin datasheet*, Available at: <https://www.sabic.com>, 2022.
- [53] T. Industries, "Properties of carbon fiber composite materials," *Toray Technical Data Sheet*, 2023, Available at: https://www.toray.com/products/prod_01.html.
- [54] InvenSense Inc., *Mpu-6000 and mpu-6050 product specification revision 3.4*, <https://invensense.tdk.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MPU-6000-Datasheet1.pdf>, Available: <https://invensense.tdk.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MPU-6000-Datasheet1.pdf>, Aug. 2013.
- [55] B. Sensortec, *BST BNO055 DS000 12*, Available online, 2014. [Online]. Available: https://cdn-shop.adafruit.com/datasheets/BST_BNO055_DS000_12.pdf.
- [56] STMicroelectronics, *VL53L1X Datasheet*, Aug. 2024.

- [57] Benewake, *Product Manual of TFmini Plus TFmini Plus LiDAR Module*, Available online, 2024. [Online]. Available: https://cdn.sparkfun.com/assets/1/4/2/1/9/TFmini_Plus_A02_Product_Manual_EN.pdf.
- [58] Benewake, *TF-Luna LiDAR module (Short-range distance sensor)*, Available online, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://en.benewake.com/uploadfiles/2024/04/20240426135842086.pdf>.
- [59] Benewake, *Product Manual of TFmini-S TFmini-S LiDAR Module*, Available online, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://cdn.sparkfun.com/assets/8/a/f/a/c/16977-TFMini-S-Micro-LiDAR-Module-Product-Manual.pdf>.
- [60] Texas Instruments, *INA219 Zero-Drift, Bidirectional Current/Power Monitor With I2C Interface*, Available online, 2008. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ti.com/lit/ds/symlink/ina219.pdf>.
- [61] R. Pi, *Raspberry pi documentation - camera*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.raspberrypi.com/documentation/accessories/camera.html>.
- [62] *the picamera2 library*₂₀₂₅. Mar. 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://datasheets.raspberrypi.com/camera/picamera2-manual.pdf>.
- [63] *handson technology user guide mg996r metal gear servo motor*. [Online]. Available: https://www.handsontec.com/dataspecs/motor_fan/MG996R.pdf.
- [64] *9g 270°metal servo with analog feedback (1.5kg) sku:ser0046*. [Online]. Available: https://mm.digikey.com/Volume0/opasdata/d220001/medias/docus/56/SER0046_Web.pdf.
- [65] Ultralytics, *Yolo11*, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://docs.ultralytics.com/models/yolo11/>.
- [66] S. Ramakrishna, *Cracks object detection dataset (v1, 2024-01-20 3:45pm) by sri ramakrishna engineering college*, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://universe.roboflow.com/sri-ramakrishna-engineering-college-qdkxv/cracks-0a1tt/dataset/1>.
- [67] Ultralytics, *Raspberry pi*, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://docs.ultralytics.com/guides/raspberry-pi/#how-do-i-set-up-ultralytics-yolo11-on-a-raspberry-pi-without-using-docker>.
- [68] *Introduction — libcamera*₂₀₁₈, 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://libcamera.org/introduction.html>.
- [69] S. Thrun, W. Burgard, and D. Fox, *Probabilistic Robotics*. Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 2005.
- [70] “Tf2 — ros 2 documentation: Humble documentation.” Available: <https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/Concepts/Intermediate/About-Tf2.html>, ROS.org. (2025), [Online]. Available: <https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/Concepts/Intermediate/About-Tf2.html>.
- [71] Open Robotics, *Why ROS 2?* [Online]. Available: https://docs.ros.org/en/foxy/_downloads/2a9c64e08982f3709e23d20e5dc9f294/ros2-brochure-ltr-web.pdf (visited on 04/22/2025).
- [72] Y. Shen, Z. Zhang, M. R. Sabuncu, and L. Sun, *Real-Time Uncertainty Estimation in Computer Vision via Uncertainty-Aware Distribution Distillation*, arXiv:2007.15857 [cs] Citation Kye: cv_uncertainty, Nov. 2020. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2007.15857. [Online]. Available: <http://arxiv.org/abs/2007.15857> (visited on 05/07/2025).
- [73] E. Avallone and T. B. III, *Marks’ Standard Handbook for Mechanical Engineers*, 11th. New York, NY, USA: McGraw-Hill, 2006.
- [74] CRADLE Robotics and AI, *Centre for robotic autonomy in demanding and long lasting environments*, Accessed: 2025-05-08, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://cradlerobotics.co.uk/>.

A Appendices

Appendices and code are also available on github at: <https://github.com/georg22tech/NHclimber>

A.1 CONOPS and Design Requirements

Concept of operations and design requirements document.

A.2 Risk Registers

Documents detailing identified project delivery risks and mitigation strategies, created at various stages throughout the project.

A.3 Meeting Presentations, Agendas and Minutes

Documents from team coordination meetings and meetings with supervisors or sponsors.

A.4 Team Charter

Document outlining initial agreement on goals and responsibilities within the team, including the process for raising and sorting complaints.

A.5 Gantt Charts and Task Tracking

Timeline visualisations of project schedule and project flow. Task tracking spreadsheets and documents used during project.

A.6 Raspberry Pi Code

Source code used in embedded motor control

A.7 PiPico Code

Code for microcontroller communication

A.8 Project Budget and Expenditure

Financial tracking of project phase

A.9 Mechanical Design CAD Files

3D models and technical drawings

A.10 Motion Tracking in Videos Code

Scripts used for tracking movement in recorded footage

A.11 Modelling and Simulation Code

MATLAB and Python simulation files

A.12 Electronics Design Files

Circuit schematics and PCB layouts

A.13 GUI Testing Table

Modular testing of GUI features

A.14 YOLOv11n Training Dataset

Dataset used to train YOLOv11n model

A.15 Control Methodology Diagrams

Diagrams used in the creation and explanation of control methods.