

Andrix Industry Sample Usage

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TGM - The Institute of Technology Austria

2015 May

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Part I

Introduction

1 About

1.1 PRIA

The Practical Robotics Institute Austria (PRIA) is a non-profit organisation with the aim to promote scientific and technical excellence in schools using robotics as well as the participation and operation of exemplary research projects in fields related to robotics and automation and teaching methods by means of robotics. The Practical Robotics Institute Austria is constituted as an independent non-profit organisation with a scientific advisory board.

Robots are sophisticated, intelligent systems used in factories and everyday life. They allow students to connect theory with practice and exercise team work, project management, problem solving and communication skills in a stimulating setting. Robotics integrates all the skills needed for designing and constructing machines, computers, software, communications systems and networks. It conveys to students the flexibility needed for developing interdisciplinary projects and discovers exciting topics such as movement, navigation, coordination, physical interaction with objects, audio and video processing, cognition and recognition and many others. It also helps them in developing their abstract thinking and to acquire teamwork skills, independence, imagination and creativity. Experiments with robots include many hands-on experiments that make classes more dynamic and fun.

1.2 Our Mission

- To use robotics technology as an instrument to prepare students to work with various mechanical, electrical and software systems.
- To develop environments and tools for teaching robotics that
 - will enable simpler programming and control of robots,
 - are easily interfaced with a broad range of sensors and effectors,
 - can be used to investigate complex problems and tasks,
 - are affordable and open for public use.
- To introduce appropriate educational methodologies for the successful integration of robotics innovation in school classes.
- To organise robotics competitions and measure their educational impact.
- Create innovative control architectures for robotics and industrial automation.
- Develop knowledge-based systems and agent technology for the automation of flexible industrial processes.
- Introduce Augmented Reality and make visualization of industrial processes more efficient and easier to understand.

2 Concept

2.1 Idea

Nowadays computers with ARM architecture are becoming more common. Various smartphones, as well as single-board computers like Raspberry Pi are becoming cheaper and much more affordable. To be able to use ARM Devices as robot controllers, some additional hardware that enables connecting and controlling robot components such as sensors, motors and servos are required. The hardware (aka. Low-Level Control, LLC) and the ARM devices(aka. High-Level Control, HLC) should be able to be connected together using both wired and wireless communications.

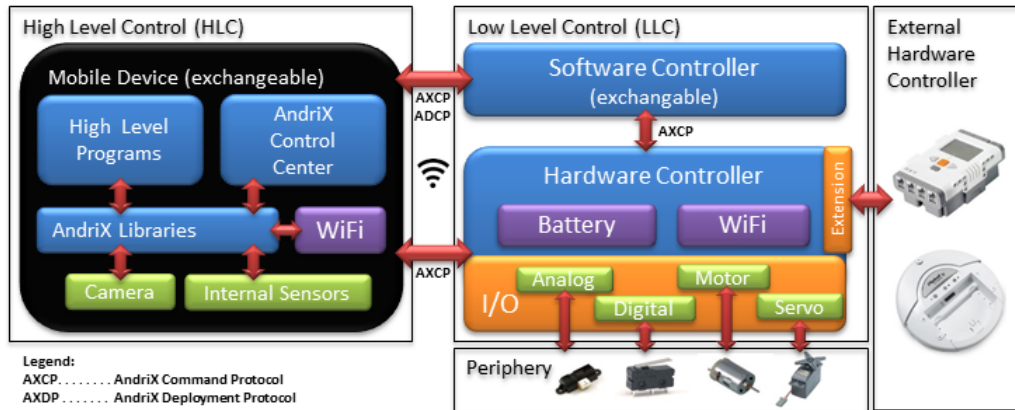


Figure 1: AndriX Concept

AndriX Industry is the concept of implementing this kind of structure in an industrial environment and its controller has to be relatively low-cost, stable and expandable for different uses.

In this project, we use a standard industrial conveyor belt to test our idea. We will connect our AndriX controller (including an Raspberry Pi as the High level control) to an external Motor Controller (aka. External Hardware Controller level) to be able to drive the conveyor belt using a Stepper Motor.

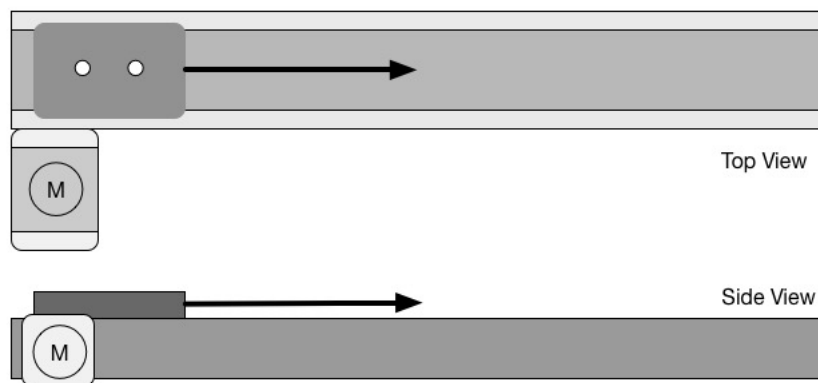


Figure 2: conveyor belt with NEMA stepper motor

The NEMA Stepper motor series is one of the most popular motors in both amateur and professional fields. They are amazingly accurate and powerful, but at the same time very easy to control.

3 Process

3.1 Project steps

To be able to achieve this goal, we planned the project precisely. The following provides a brief overview of our processes:

1. Choosing matching hardware
2. Designing necessary mechanical parts
3. Producing mechanical parts by using CNC or 3D-printer
4. Calculating needed supply power
5. Designing external motor controller
6. Prototyping electronic design
7. Communication protocol
8. Software programming
9. Debug, test and other final process

There are some different conditions which have to be satisfied to achieve our concept. At first, we need to find an industrial conveyor belt, which has to be small enough to let us drive it easily with a stepper-motor without having too many problems. There are mainly two kinds of conveyor belt on the market today - limited and unlimited continuous conveying systems.

3.2 Selecting a suitable conveyor belt

Unlimited continuous conveying systems are the most common version and have been applied in various areas like raw material supply or warehouse transportation systems. They don't need any sensors to detect current position and can be controlled easily by changing the speed of the rotations. Limited conveyor belts work in principle familiar to continuous system, but the position of the belt is controlled precisely use servo motor and has integrated sensors working with Hall effect(magnet) or IR encoders(light), but both of them need an extra circuit to drive them and need an external programme to decode the position.

3.3 Selecting actuator

This is also one of the reasons why we use a stepper motor. NEMA stepper motors are in comparison to other motors much more flexible. It can be controlled easily with two H-Bridge Motor controller or FET-Transistors. We can detect the position just by counting the steps in the register from the microcontroller. Of course it also has a disadvantage - speed. The accuracy and the speed of the motor are proportional to each other and in our case, this can lead to inaccuracies by changing the step resolution, which is not a mechanical problem that can be easily avoided.

3.4 Communication

An agreement for the communication protocol between the AndriX and the external motor controller has to be made too. We are using 9600 bit/s as our communication speed. It is a standard bandwidth and can be controlled by other computers. The electronic controller has to be choosed carefully. We have to calculate and test the maximum supply current the motor need to run stably and compare it with the datasheet from the manufactuer.

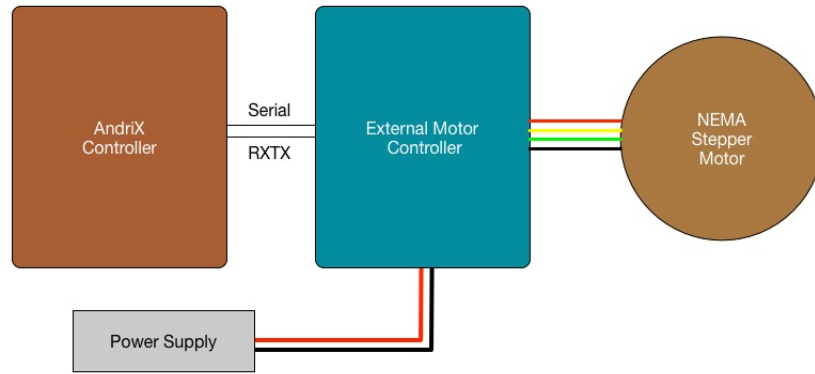


Figure 3: Control Flow

Part II

Design

4 Mechanics

4.1 conveyor belt and Axis

For the conveyor belt, we chose the Bosch Rexroth CKR linear motion series. The CKR Compact Modules are precision, ready-to-install linear systems offering high performance within a compact envelope and selectable length, combined with an economical price-to-performance ratio.

Construction:

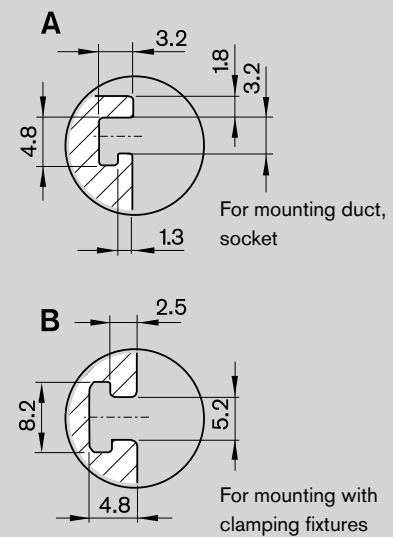
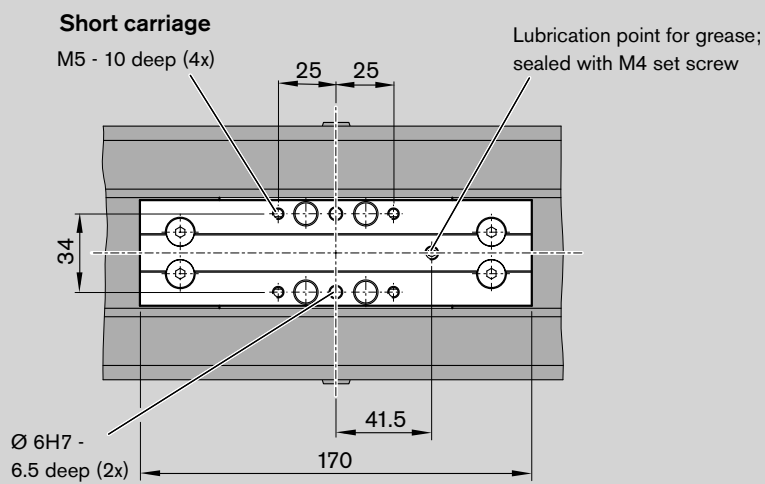
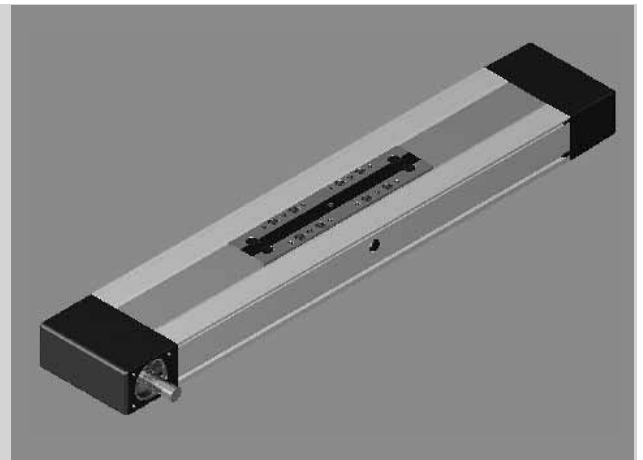
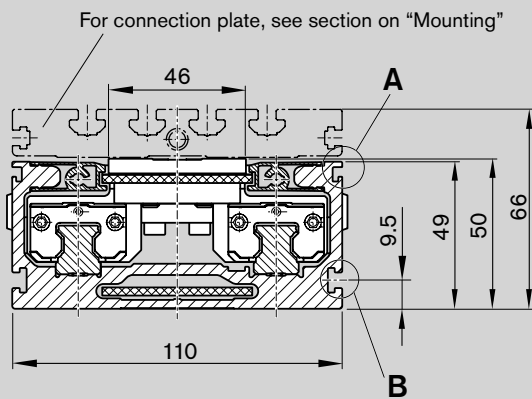
- Extremely compact precision aluminum profile with two integrated ball rail guides for optimal movement of heavy loads at high speeds
- Ready-to-install Compact Modules in selectable lengths up to Lmax
- Short or long aluminum carriage lengths available, depending on application load
- Driven by a pre-tensioned, steel-cord reinforced polyurethane toothed belt

Optional Components:

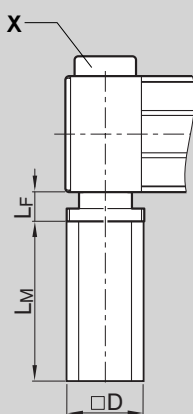
- Maintenance free digital servo drives with integrated brake and pre-installed feedback
- Gear Reduced type LP
- REED or HALL sensor switches available
- Socket with terminals for connection switches
- Aluminum profile cable duct for easy mounting of switches

Capabilities:

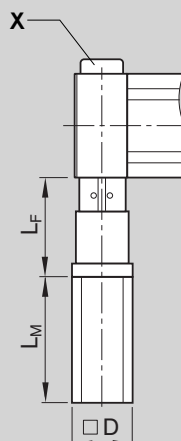
- Speed - up to 5 m/s
- Load Capacity C - up to 56,530 N
- Length - up to 5,500mm
- Height - 40mm to 65mm
- Static Loading - up to 200kg



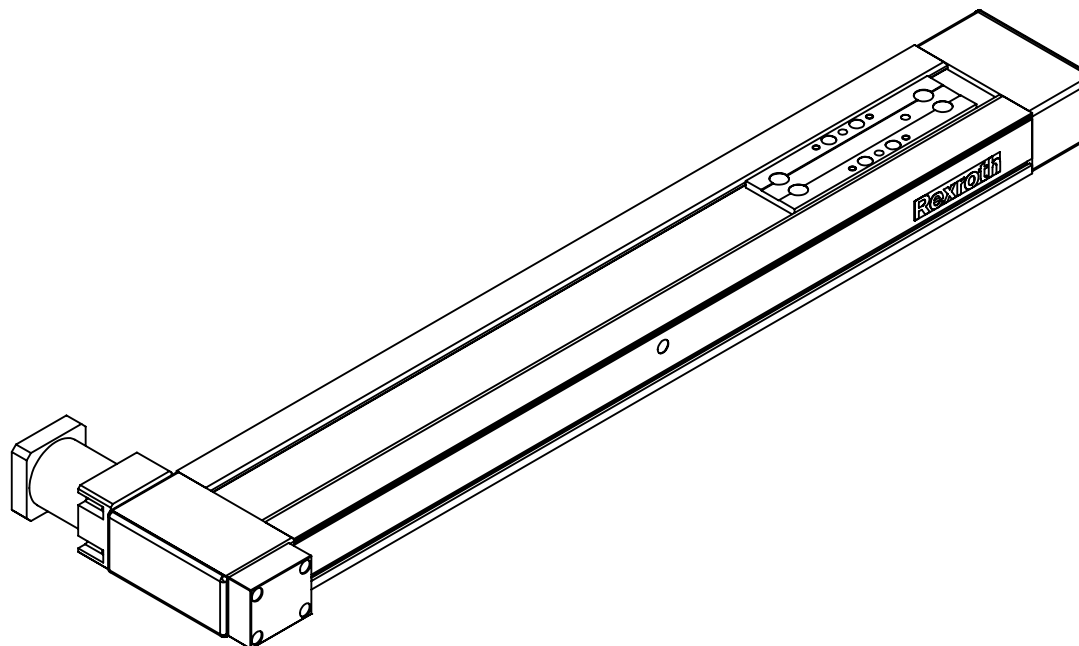
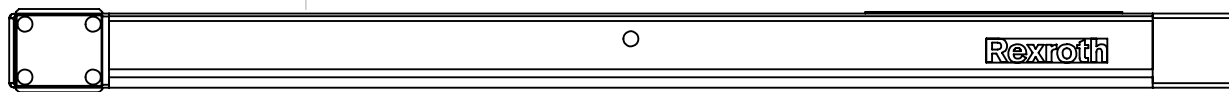
Types MA10 and MA11



Types MG10 and MG11



Type	Motor	Dimensions (mm)			
		D	L _F	without brake	with brake
MA10	MSK 050C	98	46.0	203.0	233.0
MA11					
MG10	MSK 030C	54	93.5	188.0	213.0
MG11	MSM 030C	60	93.5	138.5	171.5



WENN NICHT ANDERS DEFINIERT: BEMASSUNGEN SIND IN MILLIMETER OBERFLÄCHENBESCHAFFENHEIT: TOLERANZEN: LINEAR: WINKEL:			OBERFLÄCHENGÜTE:			ENTGRATEN UND SCHARFE KANTEN BRECHEN			ZEICHNUNG NICHT SKALIEREN			ÄNDERUNG		
	NAME	SIGNATUR	DATUM			BENENNUNG:								
GEZEICHNET														
GEPRÜFT														
GENEHMIGT														
PRODUKTION														
QUALITÄT				WERKSTOFF:										ZEICHNUNGSNR. <div>CKR_110_NN_1_69</div> A4
				GEWICHT:			MASSSTAB:1:1				BLATT 1 VON 1			

4.2 Actuator and motor

The motor we are using is QSH5718-76-28-189 from TRINAMIC. It is a two phase hybrid stepper motors optimized for microstepping and gives a good fit to high accurate control.

Specification:

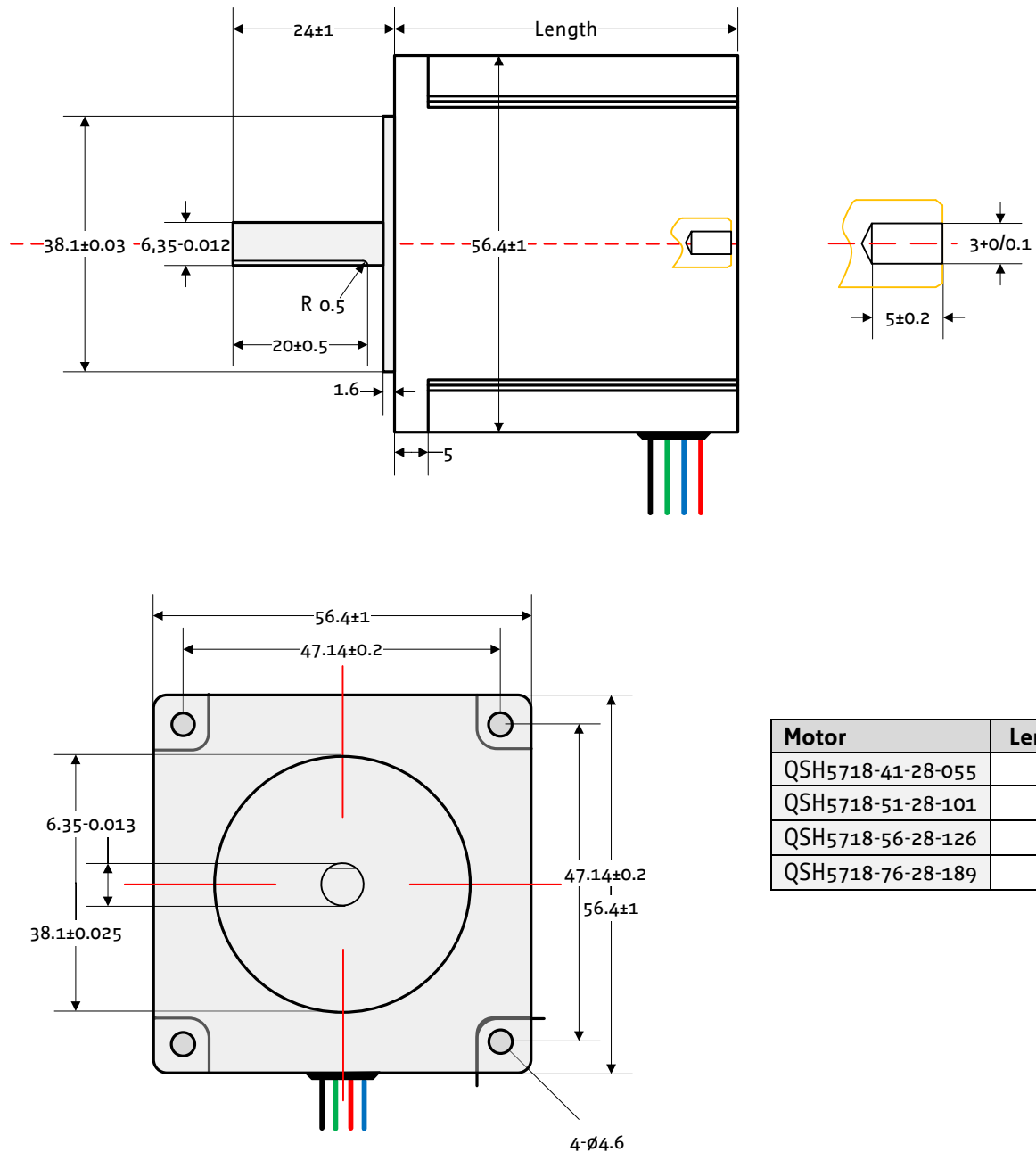
- NEMA 23 mounting Configuration
- Number of Leads: 4
- Step angle: 1.8
- Step Angle Accuracy: 0.05
- Holding Torque: 1.89 Nm
- Max app. Voltage: 75V
- Max Current: 2.8A /Phase
- Max Temp. Rise: +80
- Weight: 1kG
- Dimensions(mm): 56.5 x 56.5 x 76

Specifications	Parameter	Units	QSH5718			
			-41-28-055	-51-28-101	56-28-126	-76-28-189
Number of Leads		N°	4	4	4	4
Step Angle		°	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Step Angle Accuracy		%	5	5	5	5
Rated Voltage	V_{RATED}	V	2	2.3	2.5	3.2
Rated Phase Current	$I_{\text{RMS RATED}}$	A	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Phase Resistance at 20°C	R_{COIL}	Ω	0.7	0.83	0.9	1.13
Phase Inductance (typ.)		mH	1.4	2.2	2.5	3.6
Holding Torque		Nm	0.55	1.01	1.26	1.89
Detent Torque		Nm	0.020	0.035	0.039	0.066
Rotor Inertia		g cm^2	120	275	300	480
Insulation Class			B	B	B	B
Max. applicable voltage		V	75	75	75	75
Max. radial force (20mm D-cut)		N	75	75	75	75
Max. axial force		N	15	15	15	15
Weight		kg	0.45	0.65	0.7	1
Length		mm	41	51	56	76
Temp. Rise (rated current, 2 phase on)		°C	+80 max	+80 max	+80 max	+80 max
Ambient Temperature		°C	-20 +50	-20 +50	-20 +50	-20 +50

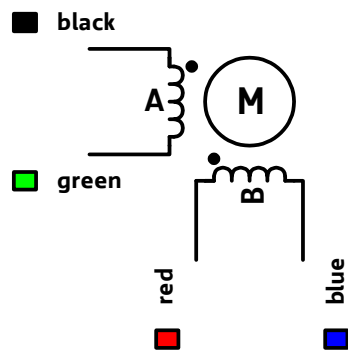
Figure 4: Specifications of QSH5718 Series

4 Mechanical dimensions

4.1 Dimensions



4.2 Leadwire configuration



Cable type 1	Gauge	Coil	Function
Black	UL1007 AWG22	A	Motor coil A pin 1
Green	UL1007 AWG22	A-	Motor coil A pin 2
Red	UL1007 AWG22	B	Motor coil B pin 1
Blue	UL1007 AWG22	B-	Motor coil B pin 2

Figure 4.2: Leadwire configuration

5.4 QSH5718-76-28-189

VM: 30V, 2,8A/Phase

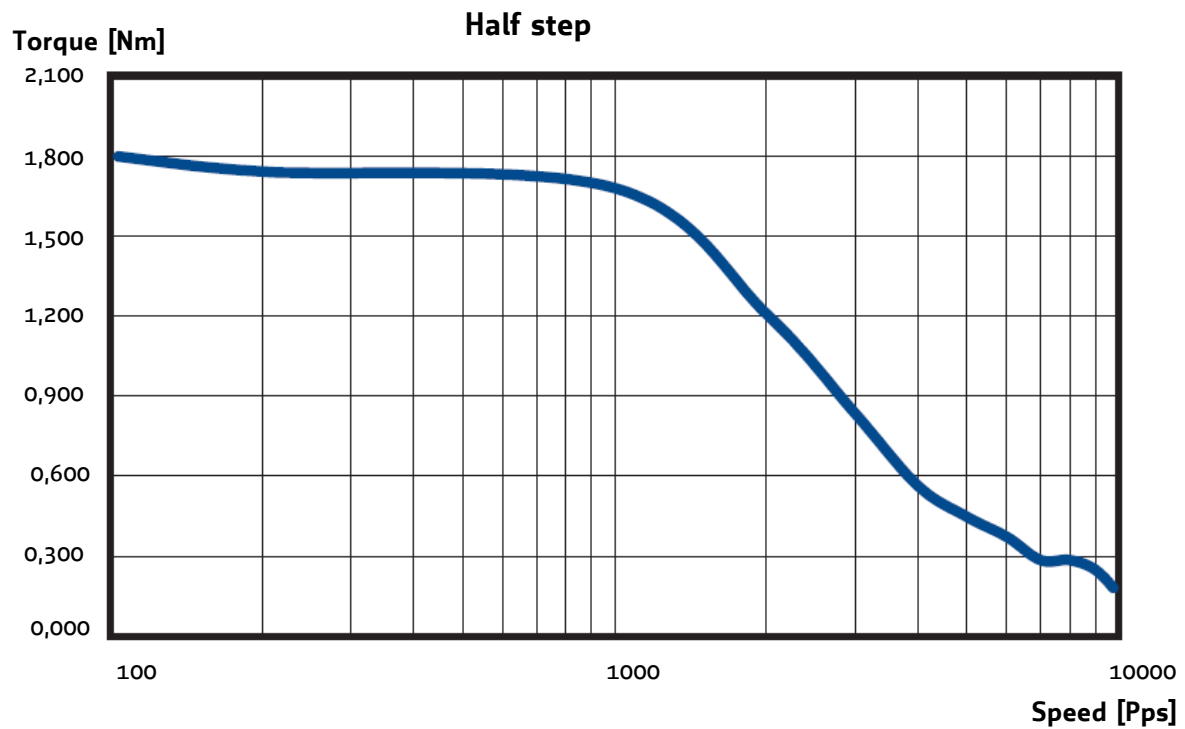


Figure 5.4: QSH5718-76-28-189 speed vs. torque characteristics

5 Electronics

5.1 External motor control unit

The external motor control unit consists of 2 different boards. One board is responsible for communication and translates the commands from the Andriox controller to the actual PWM signal and direction output. Another part of this unit is the motor controller. As the requirement, our stepper motor is bipolar and contents 4 wires. Two in a pair and each pair is only responsible for one coil.

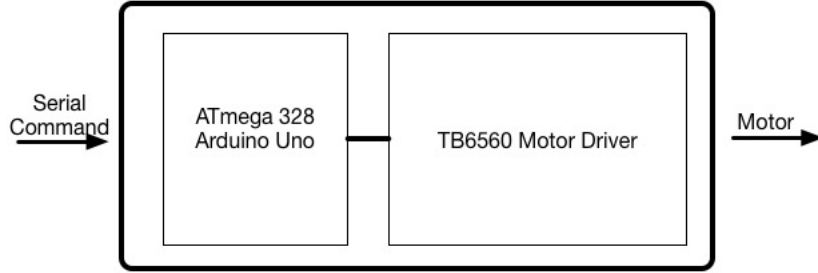


Figure 5: ECU Overview

For communication we decided to use a prototype board - Arduino uno. On the board is a ATmega 328 and has built-in serial communication pins. The standard Arduino IDE has pre implemented libraries for both serial and PWM signals.

The same as the description from the NEMA 23 Motor data sheet, we also found a stepper motor driver with required output current. The core of this board is a Toshiba dual H-bridge chip TB6560.

Model	QSH 5718-76-28-189
Max. Voltage	75 V
Rated phase current	2.8 A
Number of leads	4

Table 1: NEMA 23 requierment

Operating Voltage	12 - 36 V
Max. Output current	1.5 - 3 A/phase
Drive type	Double-pole const. PWM
Compatible Stepper motors	4/6/8 leads

Table 2: TB6560 Data sheet

5.2 Power supply

As we are supplying our motor with 12V, the calculation of the power consumption will be like this:

$$\text{Total power } P_t = \text{External Control Unit } P_e + \text{Motor } P_m \quad (1)$$

$$P_m = I_o \times U_i = 3A \times 12V = 36W \quad (2)$$

$$P_m \gg P_e, \text{so } P_m \approx P_t \quad (3)$$

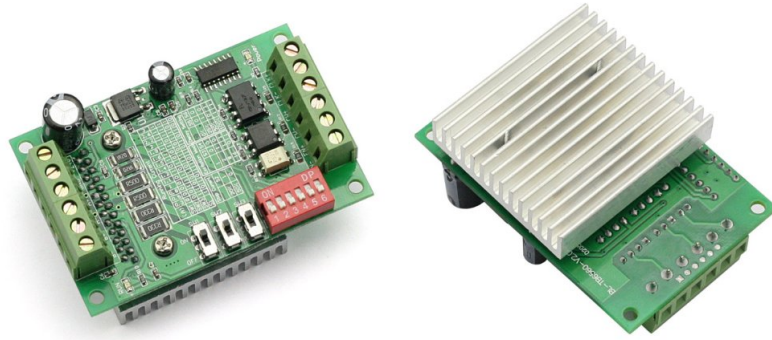


Figure 6: TB6560 Stepper Motor Driver Module

Our power supply must be able to supply at least 40 Watts of power to drive our conveying belt and control units.

5.3 Overall circuit

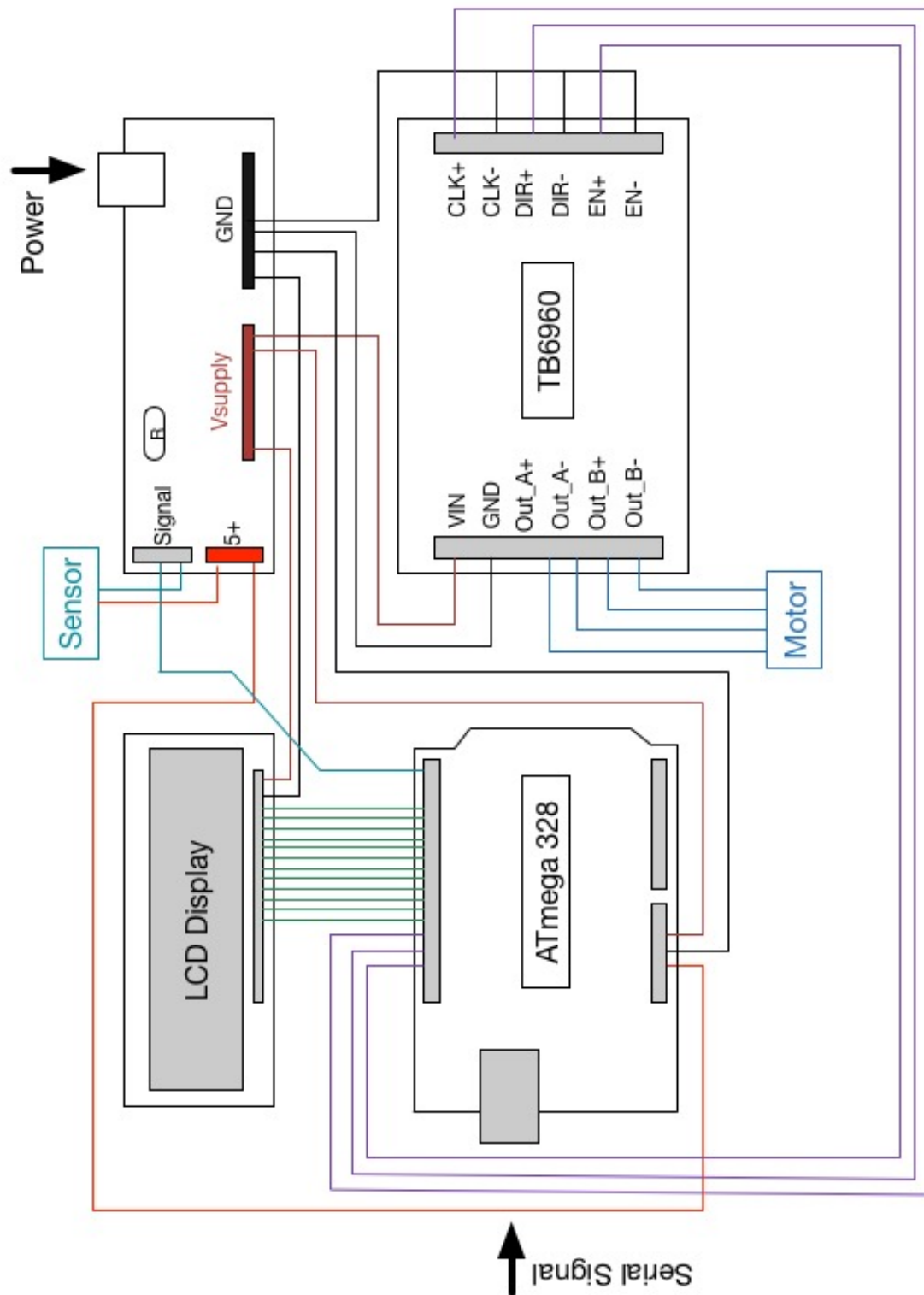


Figure 7: External Control Unit: cabling

6 Software - Ecu

6.1 Logical equivalence

The system logic of the external motor controller has 3 main states: initial, processing and waiting process:

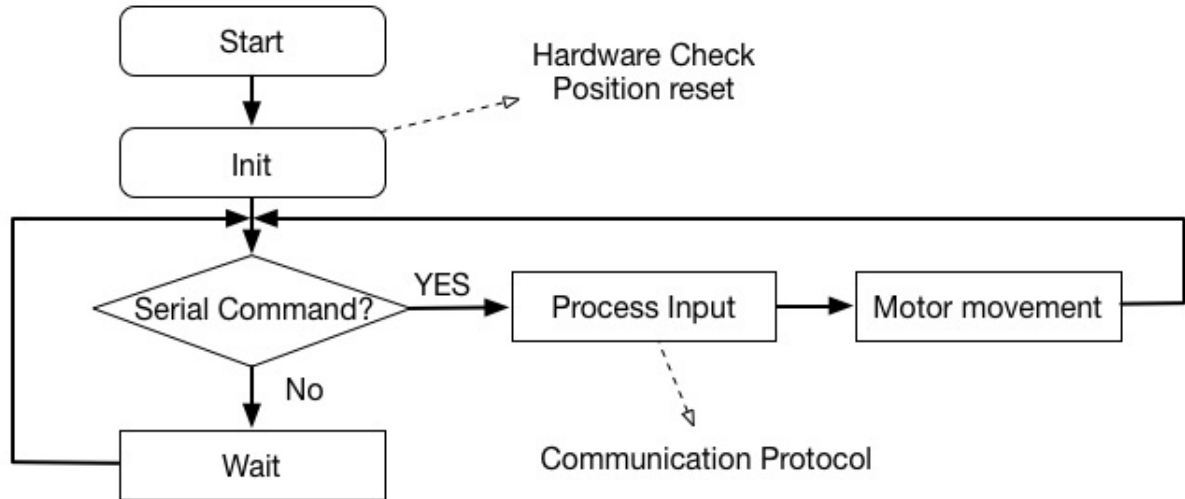


Figure 8: Software Logic

In the boot up phase, the system will first check if all the hardware is connected and reset the position automatically. It sends continuous signals to the motor to move the conveying base back to the origin and if the base has a physical contact with it, the digital sensor will set its output to HIGH.

After the reboot, the system is ready and waits for the serial command from the andrix or PCs. The serial bandwidth has already been set in the initial process and the default is 9600bit/s. Any serial signal during the waiting phase will be stored in a String buffer to futher process. The communication will be base on the protocol from **section 6.3**.

6.2 Function description

To find more detail of a specific function, please go to **section 6.4**.

Name	Use	Input	Return
setup()	Init Setup	—	—
loop()	Main loop	—	depend
serialEvent()	Reading Serial Input and buffer them	—	—
reset()	Reset position to origin	—	—
goToPosition()	Go to position	Integer	—
lcdShow()	Display message on LCD Display	String 1,2	—
lcdBackLightOnOff()	Turn LCD Light On or Off	boolean	—

6.3 Communication protocol

Command ...@	Description @ - end; ... - Commands	Sample Bandwith = 9600 bit/sec
ENA@	Enable the motor	Send: ENA@ – Motor enabled
DIS@	Disable the motor	Send: DIS@ – Motor disabled
RES@	Reset, back to origin	Send: RES@ – Axis back to 0 position
GTP...@	Go to xxx/10 mm position [Max. 4950]	Send: GTP1234@ – Axis go to 123.4mm
SST...@	Set delay of motor(default 0) [2 byte]	Send: SST1@ – Set 1 ms delay for each step
CTP@	send back to the current position [2 byte]	Send: CTP@ ;Return: 123@ – Current Position
CTS@	send back the current speed(delay) [2 byte]	Send: CTS@ ;Return: 1@ – Current Delay
LED...@	Turn LED Display light ON or Off	Send: LED1@ –Light turn On

Table 3: Protocol: Stepper Motor Control

If you want to modify the setting of the communication bandwidth, you will have to programme the external control unit with the source code from **6.4** using Arduino IDE.

Communication sample:

```

1 Normal Operation:
2 1.SEND:          ENA@           \\Enables the motor
3 2.SEND:          GTP1000@       \\Go to Position 10cm
4 3.SEND:          RES@           \\Reset position to 0, all default value
5
6
7 Move Slowly:
8 1.SEND:          ENA@           \\Enables the motor
9 2.SEND:          SST1@          \\Set Delay for 1ms
10 3.SEND:          GTP500@        \\Convayingbelt will move slowly to 5cm
11
12
13 Let conveyor belt to be able to move by hand:
14 1.SEND:          DIS@           \\Disable the motor
15 2.SEND:          RES@           \\WARNING:You must reset the position!
16
17
18 Turn On/Off LED Display backlight:
19 1.SEND:          LED1@          \\Turn On light
20 2.SEND:          LED0@          \\Turn Off light
21 3.SEND:          LED3@          \\Turn On light(Any num.>0 will be 'ON')

```

6.4 Source code

```
1  /*
2   Name:           Stepper Motor Controller (Serial Communication) – 3.5A low power
3   Autor:          Alexander Wurm, Kevin Pan
4   Discription:    Stepper Motor Controller (Serial Communication) – 3.5A low power
5   Last Update:    04.2015
6   Contact:        kpan@student.tgm.ac.at , awurm@student.tgm.ac.at
7  */
8  #include <LiquidCrystal.h>
9  //Pin setups:
10 #define Sensor_Touch_Sensor_Pin 7           //Touch Sensor(init) pin
11 #define Motor_Clock_pin 9                   //Clock(Tacks) CLK+ pin
12 #define Motor_Direction_pin 8               //Direction CW+ pin
13 #define Motor_Enable_pin 10
14 #define Lcd_D7_pin 2
15 #define Lcd_D6_pin 3
16 #define Lcd_D5_pin 4
17 #define Lcd_D4_pin 5
18 #define Lcd_Enable_pin 11
19 #define Lcd_RS_pin 12
20 #define Lcd_Backlight_pin 6
21
22 //Static values:
23 #define Maximum_steps 32250                 //Maximum steps
24 #define Axis_length 4950                    //Maximum Length
25 #define Clock_impuls 100                    //Microsecond
26
27 //Variables:
28 int Current_position = 0;                   //Milimeter
29 float Step_resolution = 0.15349;            //Stepmotor step-resolution in mm
30 String inputString = "";                   // a string to hold incoming data
31 boolean stringComplete = false;             // whether the string is complete
32 int delayOfMotor = 0 ;
33 boolean motor_enable;                       // Remembers the status of motor en/disable
34 LiquidCrystal lcdDisplay(Lcd_RS_pin , Lcd_Enable_pin , Lcd_D4_pin , Lcd_D5_pin , Lcd_D6_pin);
35
36 void setup() {
37   //Lcd Display setup:
38   lcdDisplay.begin(16,2);
39   pinMode(Lcd_Backlight_pin , OUTPUT);
40   lcdBackLightOnOff(true);
41   lcdShow("System:_Starting" ,"Please_Wait..." );
42
43   //Reserving memory spaces for inputStream:
44   Serial.begin(9600);
45   inputString.reserve(32);
46
47   //Motor pin Setup:
48   motor_enable=true;
49   pinMode(Motor_Enable_pin ,OUTPUT);
50   pinMode(Motor_Direction_pin , OUTPUT);
```

```

51  pinMode(Motor_Clock_pin , OUTPUT);
52  pinMode(Sensor_Touch_Sensor_Pin ,INPUT);
53  digitalWrite(Motor_Enable_pin ,LOW);
54  digitalWrite(Motor_Direction_pin , LOW);
55  digitalWrite(Motor_Clock_pin , LOW);
56  delay(2000);
57
58  //Start Reseting Position:
59  lcdShow("Reseting _POS." ," Please _Wait ... ");
60  delay(2000);
61  reset();
62
63  //Finish Reseting Position:
64  lcdShow("Reseting _POS..." ," Finished ... ");
65  digitalWrite(Motor_Enable_pin ,HIGH);
66  motor_enable=false;
67  delay(1000);
68  lcdShow("Waiting _Command" ," _POS" );
69 }
70
71 void serialEvent() {
72     while (Serial.available()) {
73         // get the new byte:
74         char inChar = (char)Serial.read();
75         // add it to the inputString:
76         inputString += inChar;
77         // if the incoming character is a newline, set a flag
78         // so the main loop can do something about it:
79         if (inChar == '@') {
80             stringComplete = true;
81         }
82     }
83 }
84
85 void loop() {
86     if (stringComplete) {
87         String command=inputString.substring(0,3);
88         String showCommand="Command: _"+command;
89         lcdShow(showCommand," _POS" );
90         if(command=="ENA"){
91             //Serial.println("motor enabled");
92             digitalWrite(Motor_Enable_pin , LOW);
93             motor_enable=true;
94         }
95         else if(command=="DIS"){
96             //Serial.println("motor disabled");
97             digitalWrite(Motor_Enable_pin ,HIGH);
98             motor_enable=false;
99         }
100        else if(command=="RES"){
101            //Serial.println("Position resets");

```

```

102     reset ();
103 }
104 else if (command=="GTP"){
105     int pos=inputString.substring(3,inputString.length()).toInt();
106     //Serial.print("Going to position: \t"); Serial.println(pos);
107     goToPosition(pos);
108 }
109 else if (command=="SST"){
110     int del=inputString.substring(3,inputString.length()).toInt();
111     //Serial.print("Set delay to: \t"); Serial.println(del);
112     delayOfMotor=del;
113 }
114 else if (command=="CTP"){
115     String out = String(Current_position) + "@";
116     Serial.println(out);
117 }
118 else if (command=="CTS"){
119     if (delayOfMotor==0){
120         Serial.println("0@");
121     }
122     else{
123         String out = String(delayOfMotor) + "@";
124         Serial.println(out);
125     }
126 }
127 else if (command=="LED"){
128     boolean onoff = inputString.substring(3,inputString.length()).toInt();
129     lcdBackLightOnOff(onoff);
130 }
131 else{
132     //Serial.println("SYSTEM: Serial input error");
133     //Serial.print("Input:\t");
134     //Serial.println(inputString);
135 }
136
137 lcdShow(showCommand,"_POS");
138 // clear the string:
139 inputString = "";
140 stringComplete = false;
141 }
142 }
143
144 void reset(){ //RESET THE POSITION BACK TO 0 USING SENSOR
145     if (motor_enable==true){
146         digitalWrite(Motor_Direction_pin, HIGH);
147         while (!digitalRead(Sensor_Touch_Sensor_Pin)){
148             digitalWrite(Motor_Clock_pin, HIGH);
149             delayMicroseconds(Clock_impuls);
150             digitalWrite(Motor_Clock_pin, LOW);
151             delayMicroseconds(Clock_impuls);
152             delay(delayOfMotor);

```



```

153     }
154     Current_position = 0;
155 }
156 }
157
158 void goToPosition(int x_position){
159     if(motor_enable==false){return;}
160
161     //checking if the input value is posible:
162     if(x_position<0 || x_position>4950){
163         return;
164     }
165
166     //calculating the difference:
167     int diff = x_position - Current_position;
168     if(diff>0){
169         digitalWrite(Motor_Direction_pin , LOW);
170     }
171     else if(diff<0){
172         digitalWrite(Motor_Direction_pin , HIGH);
173         diff=-diff;
174     }
175     else {
176         return;
177     }
178
179     //If the position is going back to zero:(will be repalced with a digital button)
180     if(x_position==0){
181         int k = (int)(Current_position/Step_resolution);
182         for(int i=1;i<=k; i++){
183             digitalWrite(Motor_Clock_pin , HIGH);
184             delayMicroseconds(Clock_impuls);
185             digitalWrite(Motor_Clock_pin , LOW);
186             delayMicroseconds(Clock_impuls);
187             delay(delayOfMotor);
188         }
189         Current_position =0;
190         return;
191     }
192
193     int steps = (int)(diff/Step_resolution);
194     for(int i=1;i<=steps; i++){
195         digitalWrite(Motor_Clock_pin , HIGH);
196         delayMicroseconds(Clock_impuls);
197         digitalWrite(Motor_Clock_pin , LOW);
198         delayMicroseconds(Clock_impuls);
199         delay(delayOfMotor);
200     }
201     Current_position = x_position;
202 }
203

```

```

204 void lcdShow(String outputString1,String outputString2){
205     //Cleaning the screen:
206     lcdDisplay.clear();
207
208     //First row:
209     lcdDisplay.setCursor(0, 0);
210     lcdDisplay.print(outputString1);
211
212     //Second Row:
213     lcdDisplay.setCursor(0, 1);
214     if(outputString2 == "_POS"){
215         String out;
216         out = "POS:_" + String(Current_position);
217         out = out + "_mm";
218         lcdDisplay.print(out);
219     }
220     else{
221         lcdDisplay.print(outputString2);
222     }
223 }
224
225 void lcdBackLightOnOff(boolean a){
226     if(a==true){digitalWrite(Lcd_Backlight_pin,HIGH);}
227     else if(a==false){digitalWrite(Lcd_Backlight_pin,LOW);}
228 }

```

Part III

Conclusion

After assembling the mechanical design and putting all electronic components together, we devised a very simple system. We tested the axis accuracy and it is much more precise than we first expected.

7 Results and Comparison

In comparison with some of the industrial standard machines, our solution can be up to 10 times cheaper. Of course, the standard system can control/supply multiple linear or even other kinds of axes at the same time. But one of the biggest advantages of distributed system is flexibility.

Under the same kind of hardware structure, we are able to connect multiple controllers with a central computer, and control them individually. It is also even possible to implement some kind of smart algorithm, which is designed specifically for each individual environment.

In this example we only show one way of using an Andrix controller in Industrial area. It shows us the potential of distributed system and can be one of the most important keys for 'Industrial 4.0'. It will change the way we look at the normal rigid structure.