

# Engineering Design Portfolio

Parth Patel

Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student at The University of Waterloo

### Sustainably Powered Snow and Ice Melting System.



### Capstone Project

#### **Project Scope**

- Design a snow and ice melting system for campus walkways in Ontario, Canada which is powered through a sustainable energy source.
- Build a scaled prototype of the design to prove the system works.

- 1. Designing ideal pipe layout
- 2. FEA on tubing
- 3. Developing control system

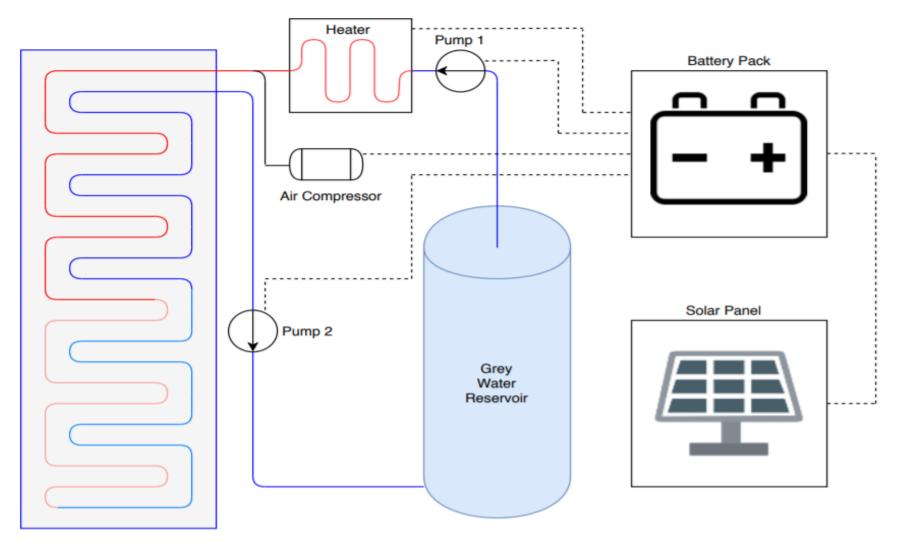


Figure 1: Component Diagram of Hydronic Snow and Ice Melting System

### Sustainably Powered Snow and Ice Melting System.



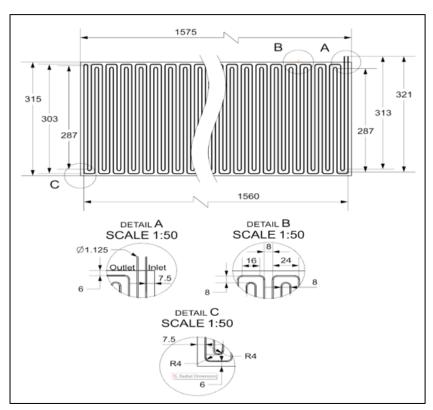


Figure 2: Piping Layout

 A double reverse piping layout was used instead of a regular serpentine pattern for better heat distribution. The spacing between the pipes was determined based on the manufacture's recommendation of a minimum bending radius.

### Capstone Project

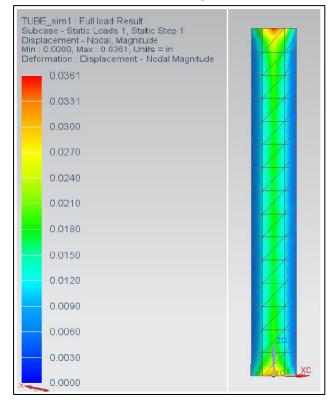


Figure 3: Finite Element Analysis on a Portion of the PEX Tubing

2. A Finite Element Analysis was done on the piping to ensure it can withstand the weight of the concrete and people walking on top. The tubing faces a maximum deflection of 0.0361in under maximum load.

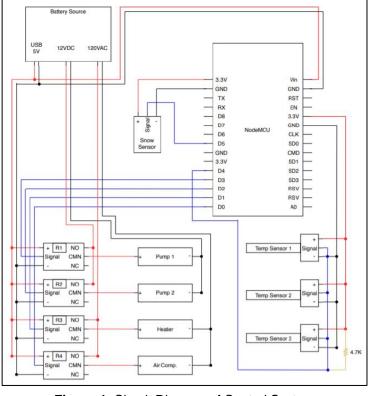


Figure 4: Circuit Diagram of Control System

 To control the mechanical components, temperature sensors and snow sensors were used to provide feedback to the controller. A phone app was also created to monitor the system or control the system manually.

### Autonomous Maze Solving Robot



4<sup>th</sup> Year Course Project

#### **Project Scope**

Design and build a robot that can navigate a two-level maze autonomously, maneuver around obstacles, and identify a Lego miner placed in the maze. The robot must navigate the maze wirelessly.

- Rapid Prototyping
- 2. Navigating ramps
- 3. Picking up obstacles
- 4. Turning without hitting walls

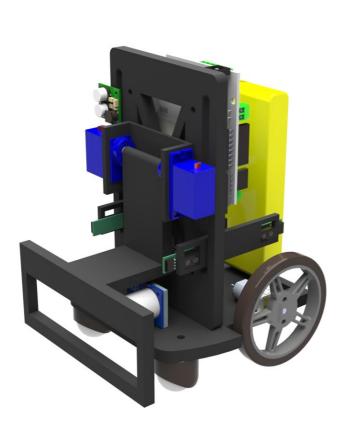


Figure 5: CAD Model of the Autonomous Maze Solving Robot



**Figure 6:** CAD Model of the Autonomous Maze Solving Robot Holding an Object

### **Autonomous Maze Solving Robot**



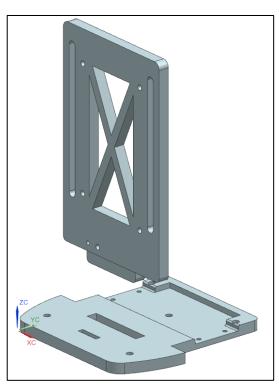


Figure 7: CAD Model of Robot Structure

1. The main structure is split into two main parts so it can easily be 3D printed. The parts were designed to be press-fit together to make prototyping easier. Either of the two parts could be modified and 3D printed again without impacting the other.



Figure 8: Ramp Analysis

2. Tipping was a major concern for the robot which is why the robot was assembled so it could handle slopes two times steeper than the one in the maze.

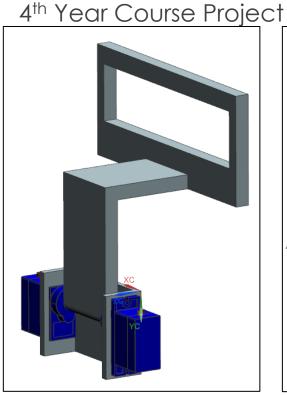


Figure 9: CAD Model of Claw

3. Since the robot did not have to carry around obstacles, only move around them, a simple passive claw was designed to pick and reposition the obstacles.

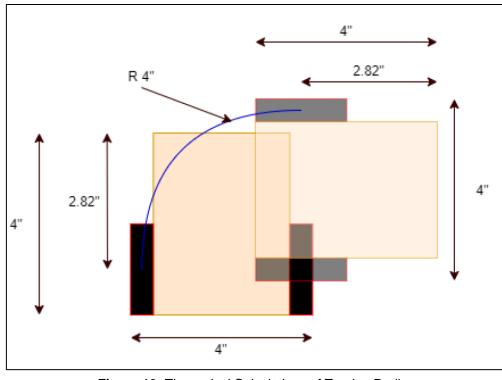


Figure 10: Theoretical Calculations of Turning Radius

4. There were many tight spaces in the maze, so the robot needed to be able to turn easily. Theoretical calculations were done to verify the robot can turn by pivoting on one wheel or turn on the spot by moving both wheels in opposite directions without hitting any of the walls or pillar.

**Lessons Learned:** 

1. Designing for rapid prototyping

2. Calculating tolerances for press fit assemblies

### PLC Based Box Manipulator



4<sup>th</sup> Year Course Project

#### **Project Scope**

- Design a box flipping mechanism that can flip every other box coming in at a steady pace (30 boxes per minute).
- Develop the ladder logic for a PLC to automate the system.

- Designing a box flipping mechanism to flip every other box.
- 2. Spacing out boxes
- Mounting the flipping mechanism and stopping mechanism onto an existing conveyor

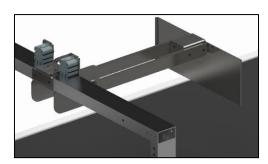


Figure 11: CAD Model of the Box Manipulator

### PLC Based Box Manipulator



4<sup>th</sup> Year Course Project



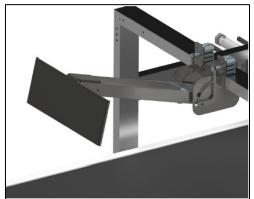
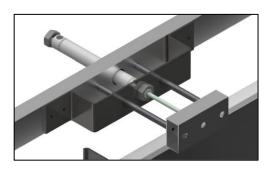


Figure 12: Box Flipping Mechanism

 This design flipped every box passively and pneumatic actuated locks helped skip every other box.



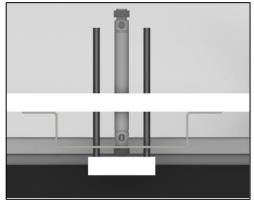
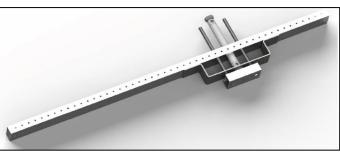
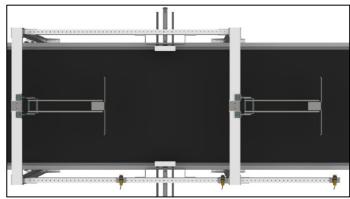


Figure 13: Box Stopping Mechanism

To space out the boxes on the conveyor two pneumatic actuators clamped onto the box and held it in place for a predetermined time.







**Figure 14:** Subassembly of Flipping Mechanism (Left), Subassembly of Stopping Mechanism (Top Right), Full Assembly of Box Manipulator (Bottom Right)

3. Subassemblies were created for individual mechanisms and then put together in the final assembly.

### Cupholder with Integrated Wireless Charger



Designation – National Design League

#### **Project Scope**

Add wireless charging capabilities to the cupholders located in rear seat armrests.

- Adding a wireless charger that can work with existing rear armrests
- 2. Cable management
- Locking the lid in the open or closed position

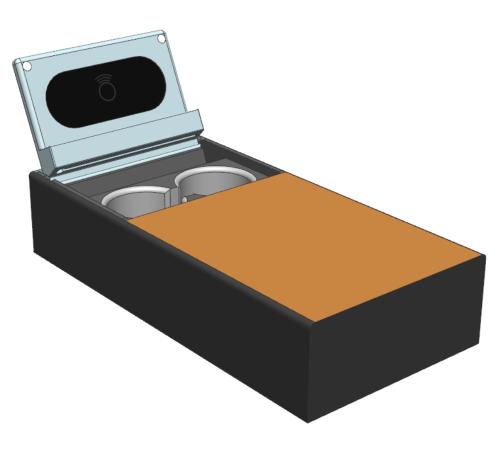


Figure 15: Full Assembly of Wireless Charger Design

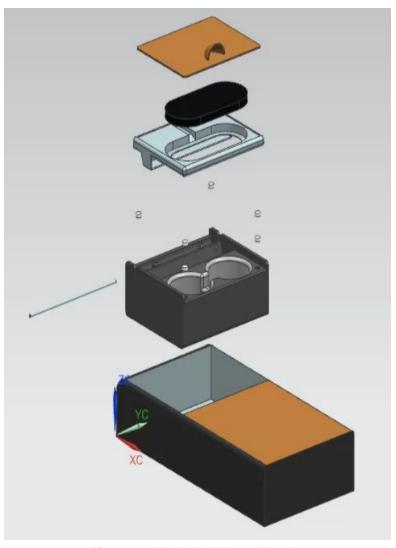


Figure 16: Exploded View of Design

### Cupholder with Integrated Wireless Charger



Designation – National Design League

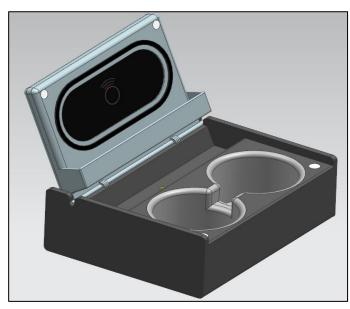


Figure 17: Sub Assembly of Wireless Charger Design

 The wireless charger was integrated into a lid that covers the cupholders when not in use. This design made it easier to implement into existing armrests and still allowed full use of the cupholders while also using the wireless charger.

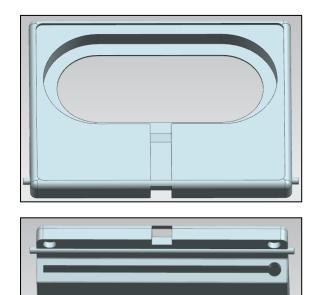


Figure 18: Cable Routing

The design accounted for the spaced required to hold the power cable securely and without any pinch points when opening or closing the lid.

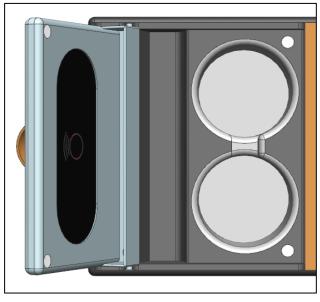


Figure 19: Top View of Charger Design

 It was important for the lid to remain in either the open or closed position, which is why magnets (shown in white in figure 19) were used to securely hold the lid in either of the two positions.

This design was chosen as the best design in the competition by 3 judges and earned an average score of 26.6/30.

### **PCA Pump**

Work (3D Printer Design Assistant)

#### **Project Scope**

Design a 3D model of a PCA pump that can be 3D printed and used in labs for Durham College's Nursing program. The pump should have the same physical features as the real pump and let the instructor showcase different messages where the screen would be.

- Designing for minimal cleaning once printed
- Adding a slot to show different messages on screen
- 3. Designing a clamp to hold the pump on an IV pole



Figure 20: Real PCA Pump

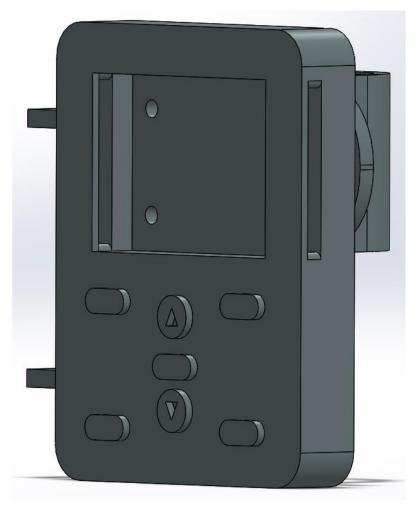


Figure 21: CAD of Model PCA Pump

### **PCA Pump**

Work (3D Printer Design Assistant)

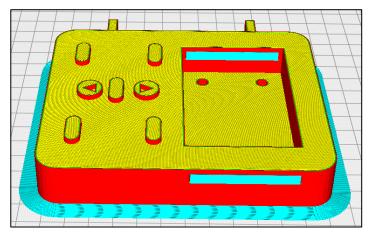
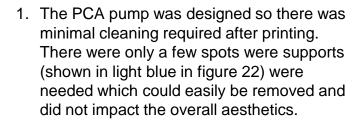


Figure 22: 3D Printing Layer view



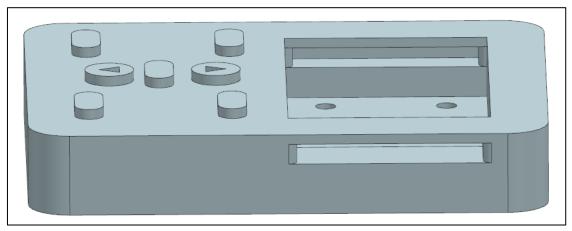


Figure 23: Opening Slot for Manual Screen Inserts

 The customer wanted an opening on the model to display different messages where the screen would be. I created a slot on the side of the model with curved edges to make it easier to slide in different messages quickly.

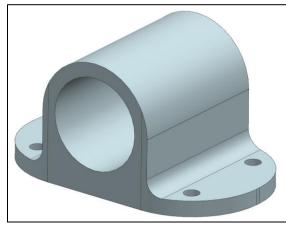


Figure 24: Mounting Bracket

3. I also designed a custom mount which would allow the customer to mount the 3D printed PCA pump onto IV poles in the lab. The mount attached to the PCA pump using off the shelf fasteners.

The model I designed was used my Durham College's Nursing program to provide students with more hands-on learning without spending thousands of dollars on real PCA pumps which were not being utilized for anything other than display purposes.

### FIRST Robotics



### Extracurricular

#### **Project Scope**

Design, prototype, manufacture, assemble, and program a robot within six weeks to compete in the annual FIRST Robotics Competition.

- 1. Designing Drive Systems
- 2. Designing object manipulators
- 3. Prototyping
- Design for Manufacturing (DFM) and Design for Assembly (DFA)



Figure 25: 2018 Final Robot



Figure 26: 2016 Final Robot



Figure 27: 2017 Final Robot

### FIRST Robotics



#### Extracurricular

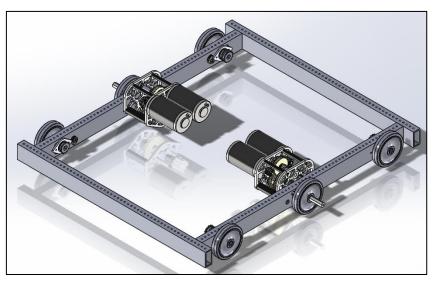


Figure 30: 2018 Base Assembly

 Designed various drive systems to compete in annual FIRST robotics competitions. Each year the challenge was different so the drive system would need to change each year. The drive systems were designed to be easily manufactured, assembled, and maintained.

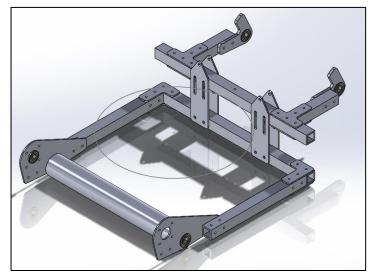


Figure 28: 2019 Object Manipulator Assembly

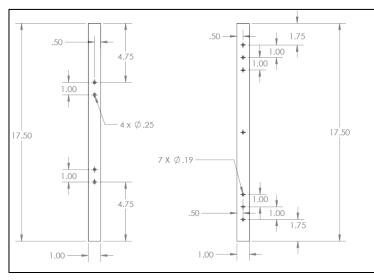


Figure 29: Object Manipulator Part Draft

2. Like the drive system, each year different object manipulators would need to be designed. I sketched concepts and created CAD models of possible prototypes while focusing on design for manufacturing, design for assembly, and repairability. I also considered possible sensor placements within the design for future automation.

## FIRST Robotics Extracurricular



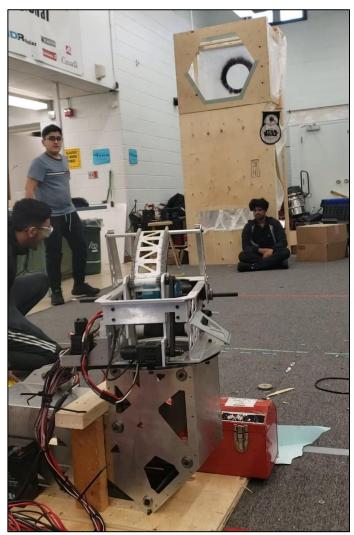


Figure 31: 2020 Shooter Prototype



Figure 32: 2020 Intake Prototype

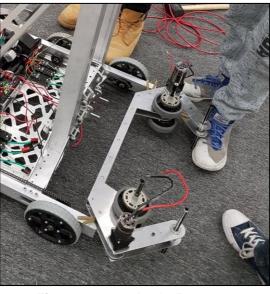


Figure 33: 2018 Intake Prototype

- Prototypes were created using wood and metal to evaluate designs. The wooden parts and some box tubing parts were manufactured in-house while other box tubing and sheet metal parts were sent out to be laser cut. Tests were designed to check the accuracy, versatility, and reliability of the prototypes.
- 4. Manufacturing capabilities were taken into consideration early in the design stage. Therefore, all parts were designed so they could easily be manufactured with a 3-axis CNC machine or laser cut and bent as required. Additionally, appropriate tolerances made it easier to assemble parts and clearance holes in the parts made it easier to assemble and maintain the system throughout the season.

## Other CAD Projects

### Course and Lab Projects

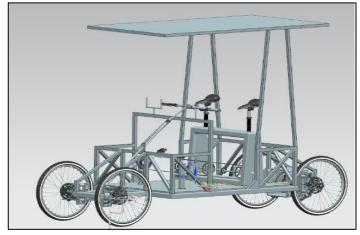


Figure 34: Quadracycle Design (3rd Year)

The Quadracycles was designed as part of a 3<sup>rd</sup> year class design competition. The quadracycle was designed by reusing parts from a regular bicycle.

This design was chosen as the best design by the class and earned extra credit from the professor for its complexity.

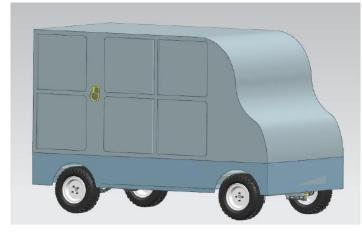


Figure 35: Autonomous Delivery Vehicle Design (3rd Year)

The autonomous delivery vehicle was designed for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year design project. The main goal of the project was to produce a concept vehicle and conduct a Finite Element Analysis on the structure of the vehicle.

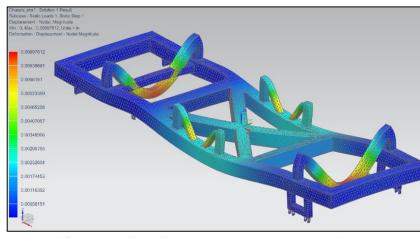


Figure 36: Finite Element Analysis on Vehicle Frame

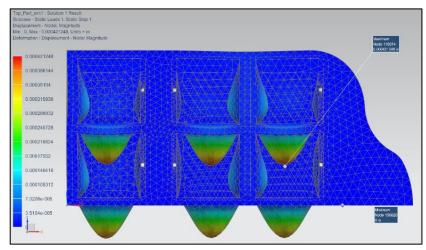


Figure 37: Finite Element Analysis on Vehicle Body

### Other CAD Projects

### Course and Lab Projects

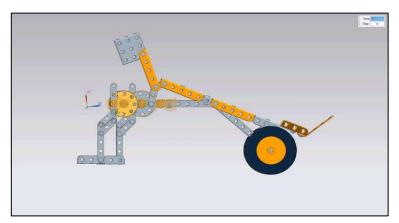


Figure 38: Rickshaw Design (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

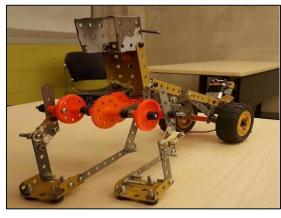


Figure 39: Rickshaw Prototype (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

The rickshaw was created for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year design project. The main goal of this project was to design a rickshaw and create a motion simulation to show the movement of the gears and how they would move the legs.

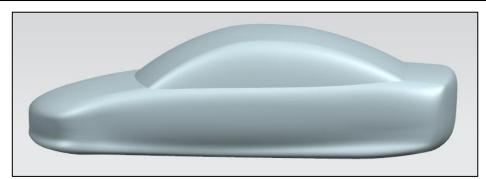
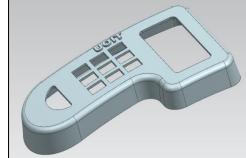


Figure 40: Car Body (3rd Year Lab Assignment)



**Figure 41:** Enclosure (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Lab Assignment)

Through my undergrad courses, I have gained the required skills for advanced part modeling, creating complex assemblies, making drafts, and creating a bill of materials.

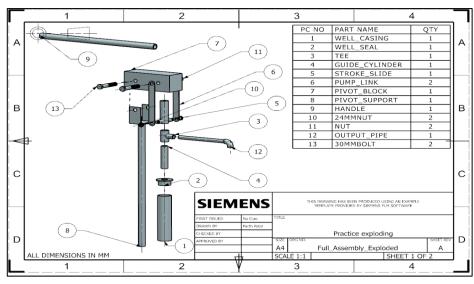


Figure 42: Hand Pump Exploded View (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Lab Assignment)

