

Pipe Inspection Gauge

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Motivation

Natural gas pipelines within residential areas have cracks and fissures that are difficult to identify. This causes delays in natural gas flow and large CO2 leakages.

Proposed Idea

A tethered snake-robot outfitted with an IMU, an ESP32-CAM, an ultrasonic sensors and lighting LEDs that provide feedback to a GUI for users to visually identify pipe cracks. This is intended to work on long distance tunnels so having it tethered enables that long-distance communication



Technical Description

Camera Module: Camera feedback so a user can identify pipe cracks visually, multiple for 360 degree view.

IMU: When the user identifies pipe cracks, the IMU will feed locational information back to a map logger to store the location

Ultrasonic Sensor: Fluctuations in ultrasonic sensor readings can indicate pipe fissures

Lighting LEDs: For environment illumination

GUI: All-in-one package for displaying the camera feed, mapping data, and ultrasonic data

Experiment design

1. 3D print 8-inch diameter pipes and address any leaks (by drilling or painting the inside).
2. Use a controller to navigate a robot inside the 3D-printed pipe.
3. Have a GUI displaying a live camera feed for human visual identification of pipe cracks created in the previous step (minimum size 15x15mm).
4. In the GUI generate a 2D map marking the locations of detected cracks after the investigation.

place holder for gui image

Future Expectation

