



# **2022 - 2026**

# **PORTFOLIO**

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**Grace O. Zongo**

# GRACE O. ZONGO

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AT UW-MADISON

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# Sensors Drivers in C++ : Automatic Weather Station



## What?

- Developed sensor drivers in C++ to interface with environmental sensors for an automatic weather station.

## How?

- Implemented low-level C++ drivers to communicate with sensors
  - Handled data acquisition, calibration, and error conditions
  - Integrated sensor drivers into a larger embedded software system
  - Tested functionality on the field

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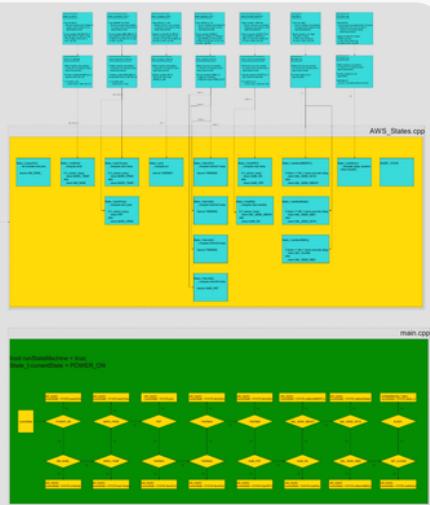
```
14:41:07.407 -> Tm = 39
14:41:07.407 -> Window = 9
14:41:07.407 -> 20.000000 Hz
14:41:07.407 -> Vout = 0.000000 V
14:41:07.412 -> ADG124e08 SLEEP -
14:41:10.295 -> Tm = 40
14:41:11.117 -> - ADG124e08 Power En -
14:41:11.117 ->
14:41:11.117 -> ----- WIND_SPD_SIG -----
14:41:11.117 -> ----- THERMISTOR MS measure -
14:41:12.018 -> Tc = 41
14:41:14.794 -> adc_state errcode state errord
14:41:14.867 -> ----- WDT Disabled -----
14:41:14.899 ->
14:41:14.900 -> ----- WDT Initialized -----
14:41:14.900 -> ----- MSBIN -----
14:41:14.930 -> Version: 2.1.1
14:41:14.930 -> SPI Init
14:41:14.930 -> ADG124e08 Init Complete -
14:41:14.930 -> ADG124e08 Init Complete -
14:41:14.962 -> ADG124e08 Init Complete -
14:41:14.962 -> ADG124e08 RESET 300us -
14:41:14.994 -> ADG124e08 RESET 300us -
14:41:14.994 -> ADG124e08 RESET 300us -
14:41:15.293 ->
14:41:17.815 -> Tc = 2
14:41:17.815 ->
14:41:17.815 -> ----- PMSO_TEMP_Setup -----
14:41:17.815 -> Open the gate
14:41:20.312 -> Tm = 3
14:41:22.819 -> Tm = 4
14:41:25.327 -> Tm = 5
14:41:25.327 -> 15237HE
14:41:25.327 -> -1.000000C
14:41:27.810 -> Tm = 6
14:41:27.810 ->
14:41:27.810 -> ----- PMSO_Press_Setup -----
14:41:27.887 -> ----- Press the gate -----

```

## Results

- Successfully collected and processed environmental data (**pressure, humidity, temperature, etc...**)
  - Successfully implemented frequency sampling techniques using **timers and Interrupt Service Routines (ISR)**
  - Improved **reliability** and **modularity** of the weather station firmware
  - Strengthened embedded C++ programming and hardware-software integration skills

# Finite State Machine in C++ : Automatic Weather Station



## What?

- Designed a finite state machine (FSM) in C++ to manage operational modes of an automatic weather station.

## How?

- Defined system states for data collection, processing, and error handling
  - Implemented FSM logic in C++ for predictable system behavior
  - Integrated FSM with sensor drivers, RTC, and system timing
  - Tested transitions and edge cases for robustness

```

1 extern volatile uint32_t _t_initial; // time in seconds when measurement begins
2 extern volatile bool _USART_RX_STRING_available();
3
4 extern volatile uint_t t_initial; // records the time in seconds before we start the measurement cycle in main (t_initial
5 extern volatile uint_t t; // keeping track of how long the system has been running in seconds, starts at t = RTC->Value
6 extern volatile uint_t tick_clock; // keeping track of how long the system has been running in seconds, but starts at 0 instead
7 extern volatile uint_t cycle_duration; // total time in seconds for the measurement cycle (cycle_duration = t - t_initial
8 extern volatile uint_t print_ticks; // to allow us to print ticks on the screen every second.
9
10
11
12 extern volatile bool error_MPU_Reset; // to check if DZIM9719 is ready
13
14 extern volatile uint8_t sleep_duration; // in seconds. Computed in the SET_ALARM state, normally = 600 - cycle_duration
15
16 // a transmission every 30 minutes in real time, so if the device runs for 120 s
17 // Refer to setalarm() in AWG_Status.cpp to see how the value is computed to prevent
18
19
20 //////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
21 // USART Buffer
22
23 extern char Buffer_USART_0[256];
24 extern char Buffer_USART_1[256];
25 extern char Buffer_USART_2[256];
26
27 //////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
28 // Enumeration of all possible states in the system */
29 typedef enum {
30     NAME_BT = 0, THZ, BAND_WID, BAND_TEMP, BAND_PRES,
31     NAME_PFT, NAME_XB, PFT, THERMO, THERMO2, THERMO,
32     NAME_SND, SND, MAL_SEND_DATA, MAL_SEND_SHINE, SET_ALARM, SLEEP,
33 } State_t;
34
35
36 class SWITCH_STATES{
37 public:
38     State_t powerOn(void);
39     State_t remote(void);
40     State_t hardReset(void);
41     State_t hardPress(void);
42     State_t pft(void);
43     State_t xb(void);
44     State_t thermo(void);
45     State_t thermal(void);
46     State_t thermal2(void);
47     State_t thermal3(void);
48     State_t logpt(void);
49     State_t logpn(void);
50     State_t radioSendData(void);
51     State_t radioSendSHINE(void);
52 };

```

## Results

- Achieved reliable and deterministic system control
  - AWS independently run in Antarctica for a **full year**
  - Implemented sleep mode, reducing system runtime from **10 min to 1 min 30 s**
  - Reduced power consumption during idle mode by **~78%**

# Battery Design & Management Systems : Electric Boat



## What?

- Contributed to the design and management of a battery system and steering controls for an electric boat, focusing on safety, reliability, and performance.

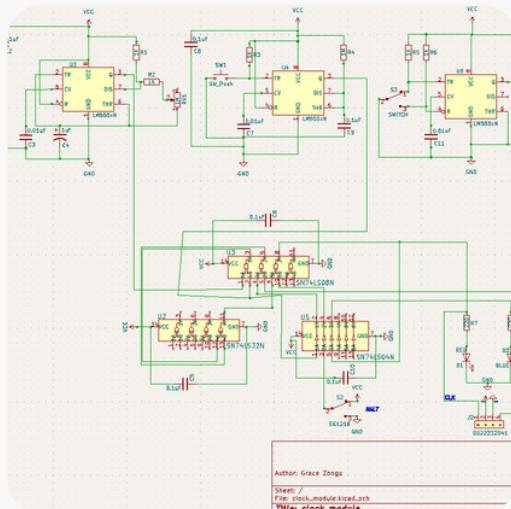
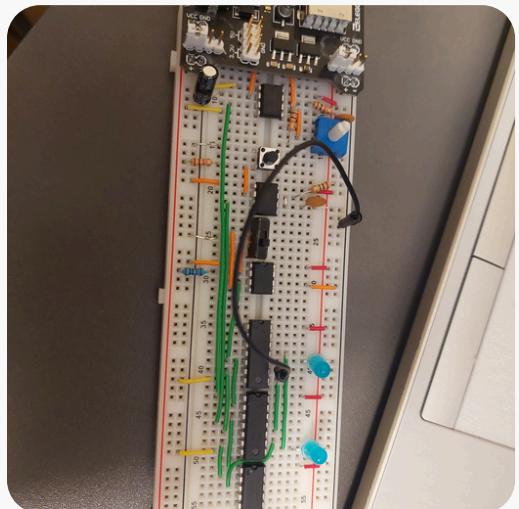
## How?

- Assisted in battery packs design and system-level integration
- Analyzed battery characteristics including voltage, current, and capacity
- Supported development of monitoring and safety strategies
- Identified and implemented optimal steering system for a catamaran hull.
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team to meet project requirements

## Results

- Designed and validated a **dual 18650 Li-ion** battery system supporting **~2.5 hours** of continuous operation at a maximum speed of **8 knots**
- Integrated each battery pack with a **1 kW Blue Robotics T500 thruster**, achieving reliable in-water performance with an average current draw of **~10 A** per motor at full throttle
- Implemented differential thrust control to enable steering without a mechanical rudder
- Contributed to a **2nd place** finish in the Displacement Hull Division at the PEP 2024 Competition

# 555 timer Clock Module



## What?

- Prototyped and designed a clock generation module using a 555 timer to provide a stable timing source for digital circuits.

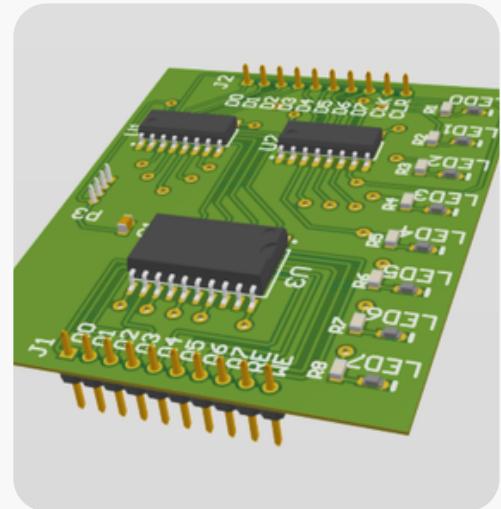
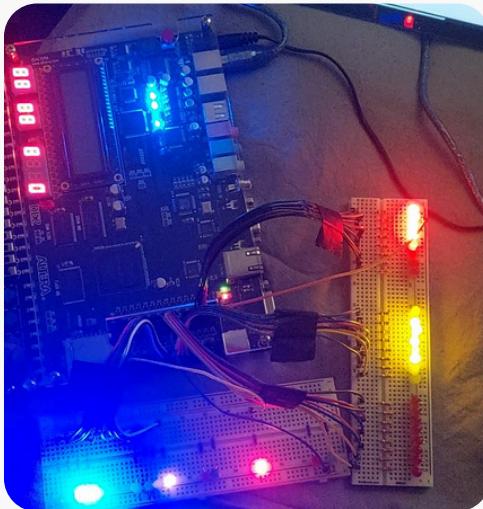
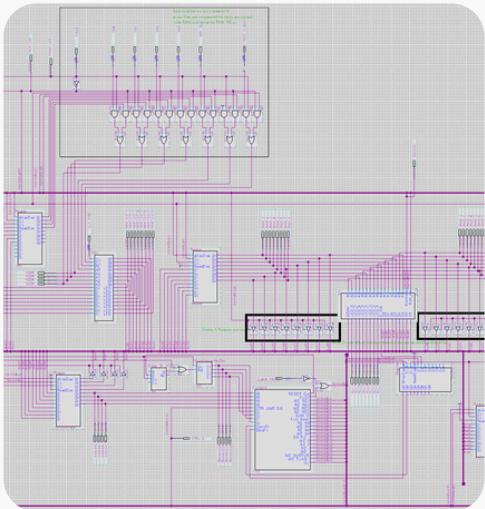
## How?

- Configured the **555 timer** in astable mode to generate a periodic clock signal
- Selected resistor and capacitor values to achieve target frequency
- Built and tested the circuit on breadboard and prototype hardware
- Verified output frequency and duty cycle using measurement tools

## Results

- Generated a stable and reliable clock signal, from manual trigger to **~10 kHz** astable frequency, for use in digital systems
- Reinforced understanding of analog timing circuits and component-level design

# 8-bit CPU Design : FPGA & PCB Design



## What?

- Designed and implemented a custom 8-bit CPU to understand processor architecture, instruction execution, and control logic at the hardware level.
- Extended the design to a **PCB-based implementation** to explore hardware integration, signal integrity, and real-world constraints beyond FPGA simulation.

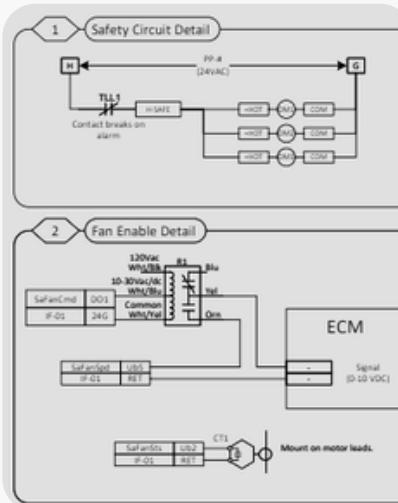
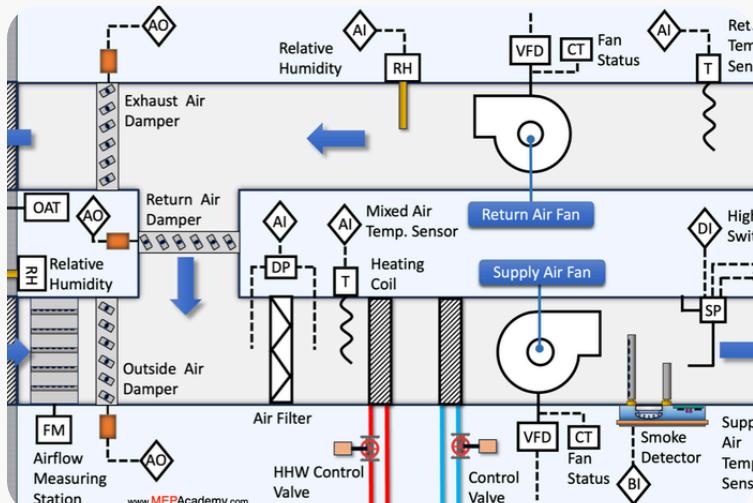
## How?

- Designed datapath and control unit using block diagram design in **Intel Quartus**
- Implemented key components including program counter, 8-bit register, RAM, ALU, and control unit from scratch using logic gates ONLY.
- Defined instruction sets supporting addition and subtraction
- Verified functionality using simulation, testbenches, and **waveform analysis**
- Translated digital CPU design into a **PCB-level hardware architecture**

## Results

- Successfully executed all implemented instructions on FPGA hardware
- Achieved stable operation at **15 kHz** after resolving timing violations
- Improved understanding of design tradeoffs between **FPGA** and **discrete hardware** implementations
- Strengthened understanding of **computer architecture, FSM-based control, and FPGA debugging**
- Earned **1<sup>st</sup> place** at Honors Project Competition

# HVAC System Wiring Diagram : Alpha Controls & Services



## What?

- Developed **HVAC system wiring** diagrams for commercial control systems at Alpha Controls & Services.

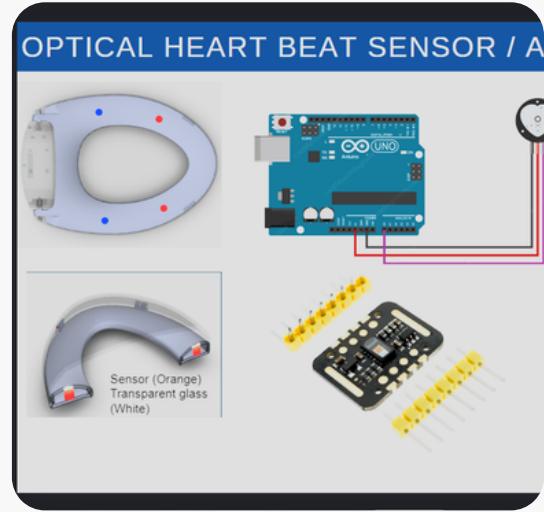
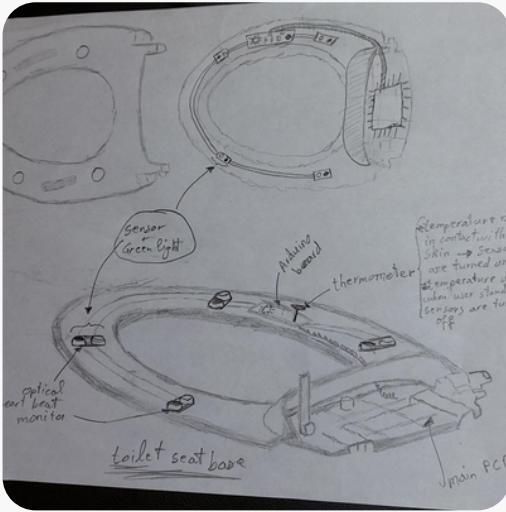
## How?

- Created detailed wiring diagrams for **HVAC control systems**
- Ensured compliance with electrical standards and **safety requirements**
- Coordinated with engineers, programmers, and technicians to support installation
- Reviewed designs for clarity and accuracy

## Results

- Produced clear, accurate wiring documentation for real installations
- Improved understanding of HVAC control systems and industrial wiring practices

# Smart toilet seat : Bemis manufacturing



## What?

- Worked on the development of a smart toilet seat system in collaboration with Bemis Manufacturing, focusing on electrical functionality and integration.

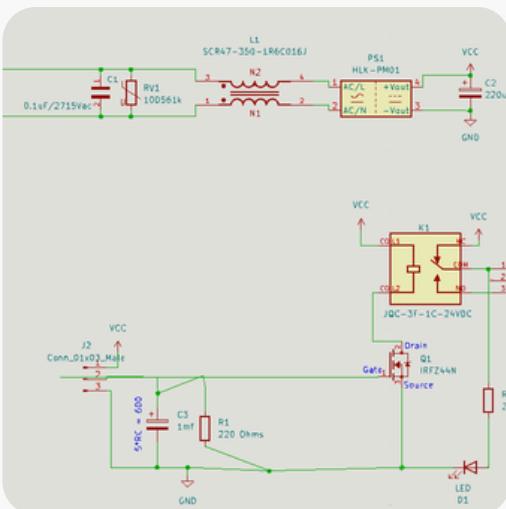
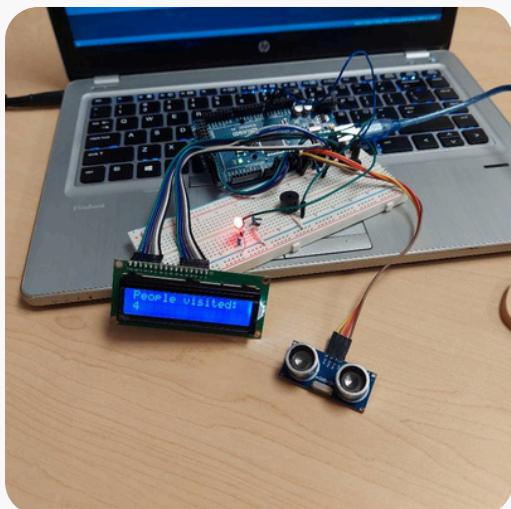
## How?

- Contributed to system-level electrical design and component integration
- Assisted with testing of electrical features
- Collaborated with industry engineers to meet product requirements
- Documented design decisions and test results

## Results

- Supported development of a functional smart consumer product
- Gained experience working with industry standards and real-world constraints
- Strengthened collaboration and communication skills in an industrial setting

# Affordable Occupancy sensor : Prototype & PCB



## What?

- Prototyped and developed a low-cost occupancy sensor to detect human presence for energy-efficient automation applications.

## How?

- Designed sensor circuitry and signal conditioning for reliable detection
- Created schematic and PCB layout for a compact prototype
- Integrated sensor output with digital processing logic
- Tested sensor accuracy and responsiveness under different conditions

## Results

- Successfully detected occupancy with consistent performance
- Delivered a functional, low-cost prototype suitable for developing countries
- Gained experience in sensor integration and PCB prototyping