ME102B Final Project Report: Monkeybot

Project Opportunity

For our final project for ME102 Fall 2022, we wanted to create a robotic monkey that could climb the monkey bars. We chose a robot that can swing on monkey bars by mimicking the pendulum-type swing that primates employ to advance on tree branches. Based on our weighted matrix and group discussions, we agreed this project would be the best intersection between enthusiasm and feasibility, since the brachiating movement we are designing provides a fun challenge while being easily scalable. Non-flat terrain and above-air projects particularly stood out to us, and we found an opportunity to implement biomimicry with a swinging monkeybot.

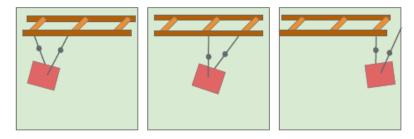
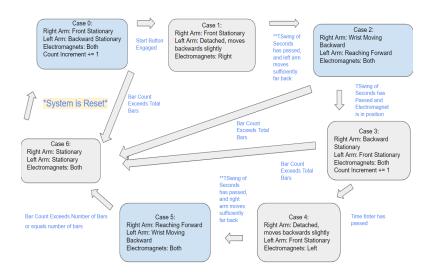


Figure 1. Arm movement of the monkeybot going across the monkey bars.

High-Level Strategy

Our monkeybot utilizes electromagnets as hands¹ that attach and detach from steel-plated monkey bars when current is turned off. DC motors and servo motors are combined to support the required arm movements to swing. The robot begins in a set position, with its right arm forward and left arm backwards on adjacent bars. Once initialized, the left electromagnets turn off and detach from the bar. The left arm's servo motor, located in the shoulder joint of the robot, shifts slightly back to create space for its arcing motion and prevent the arm from hitting the bar. When a set time, tSwing, has passed, and the left encoder position reaches sufficiently far back, the right DC motor wrist joint shifts forward and allows the left to finally reach the next bar. This cycle is repeated until the monkey bars are traversed, recognized by the software through a bar count.



¹ Gears were originally tested as the form of gripper for the monkeybot. However, this method proved to be too difficult and further complicated the simulation calculations necessary. We decided to pivot to electromagnets instead.

Figure 2. State Diagram of the Ideal Swinging Monkeybot

Simulations and encoder readings were used to plan the arm movement from one state to another. In a high level overview of our initial desired functionality and the achieved one, we were unable to mount the monkey strong enough to swing across the bars with our 2 electromagnets on each hand. However, our monkeybot demonstrates each subsystem successfully working and a solid transmission setup with the motors.

Manual and Actuation

We used a combination of materials and fabrication techniques in order to build the monkeybot's arms and body. The main body of the robot was laser cut with 1/4" plywood, and it housed all the electronics and

batteries. 3D-printed housing was designed to hold the 2 electromagnets of varying heights flush with each other on each of the monkey's hands. One of the pulleys controlling wrist movement was rigidly attached to the side of this 3D-printed piece, and a shaft connected it to the rest of the monkey arm. Steel (1/4") and aluminum plates (1/32) were cut in Jacobs Hall's Metal Shop with the Fablight Machine to create the monkey bar and additional support around the arms, respectively. The arms were laser cut with 1/4" wood and assembled with the aforementioned aluminum plates on each side to mitigate deflection.

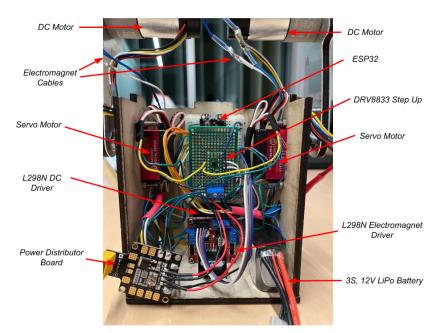


Figure 3. Outlined Assembled Robot

Each arm utilized a DC motor-driven pulley to control wrist angle for the electromagnets. Hence, the arm was manufactured with slots to properly tension the timing belt. Smooth bearings installed external to the belt provided additional tension and helped prevent sagging. High torque servo motors were mounted to the shoulder joint to control arm position and stabilize the body.

Function Critical Calculations

I. First, we calculated the required gripper torque. The monkeybot will hang on a single arm in the most extreme situation. Approximating the robot as a point mass, hanging from a bar with a ¾" diameter (0.019 m), we find an equilibrium state and solve for the single-arm grip strength.

A.
$$\tau_{gripper} = F_{gripper} \cdot d_{bar} = mglsin\theta \rightarrow F_{gripper} = \mu_S F_N = mglsin\theta/d_{bar} \rightarrow F_N = mglsin\theta/\mu_S d_{bar}$$

B. $F_N = (0.75kg)(9.81m/s^2)(0.2m)(sin30deg)/(0.95)(0.019m) \rightarrow F_N \approx 40.76 \text{ N}$

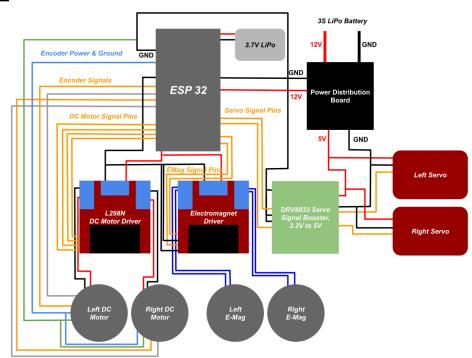
II. Then, we calculate the required torque of the motor at the base by considering the swing period of the system, Tsys. Within Tsys/2 seconds, the arm should be able to sweep through $360 - 30 - 30 = 300^{\circ}$ to

swing to the next bar. We approximate the arm as a simple pendulum driven by the body (point torque), so $T_{svs}/2 = \pi \sqrt{l/g}$.

- A. Equation of motion is $mglsin\theta + \tau_{motor} = I_{zz} \ddot{\theta}$. Since point mass, $I_{zz} = ml^2 \rightarrow mglsin\theta + \tau_{motor} = ml^2\ddot{\theta}$. Using a linear approximation, $\tau_{motor}(t) \approx ml^2\ddot{\theta} mgl\theta$. The solution is of the form $acos(\omega t + \phi)$ for constant torque.
- B. A function that accomplishes the interpolation is: $\theta(t) = \frac{3\pi}{4}(1 \cos(\frac{\pi}{Tsys}t))$. Taking the derivative, we get $\dot{\theta} = (\frac{3\pi^2}{4Tsys})\sin(\frac{\pi}{Tsys}t)$ and $\ddot{\theta} = (\frac{3\pi^3}{4Tsys^2})\cos(\frac{\pi}{Tsys}t)$.
- C. Plugging in, we get $\tau_{motor}(t) = ml^2(\frac{3\pi^3}{4T_{SVS}^2})\cos(\frac{\pi}{T_{SVS}}t) mgl\left[\frac{3\pi}{4}(1-\cos(\frac{\pi}{T_{SVS}}t))\right]$
- D. Plotting this with m = 0.25 kg (arm mass) and l = 0.2 m, with a total revolution of $\Delta\theta$ (degrees), we find $\tau_{max} = (\frac{2.598}{270 deg}) \Delta\theta \rightarrow \tau_{motorMAX} \approx 0.577 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}. \text{ We would not require another gearbox.}$
- III. Now, we approximate the motor shaft and bearing loads. The highest velocity encountered will be at the bottom of the pendulum rotation.
 - A. For one half of an oscillation, $\dot{\theta}_{avg} \approx \frac{2(\pi/3)}{Tsys} = 2.33 \, rad/s$. Using the average angular velocity, we compute a centripetal force, $F_{centr} = \frac{mv^2}{l} = \frac{ml^2\dot{\theta}^2}{l} = ml\dot{\theta}^2$.
 - B. With $m_{robot} = 0.75kg$ and l = 0.2m, $F_{centr} = (0.75kg)(0.2m)(2.33 \, rad/s = 0.814 \, N_{centr})$
 - C. $F_{shaft} = F_{centr} + mg = 8.17 N total!$
 - D. On the gearbox free body diagram, $\sum F_z$: $F_{shaft} + F_{hearing1} + F_{hearing2} = 0$ and

 $\sum M_{bearing1}$: $F_{shaft} l_1 = F_{bearing2} l_2$. For our design, $l_1 = l_2$, so solving for bearing forces we get $F_{bearing2} = F_{shaft} = 8.17 \text{ N}$ and $F_{bearing1} = -2F_{shaft} = -16.34 \text{ N}$. These are both within the allowed force on the shaft and bearings.

Circuit Diagram

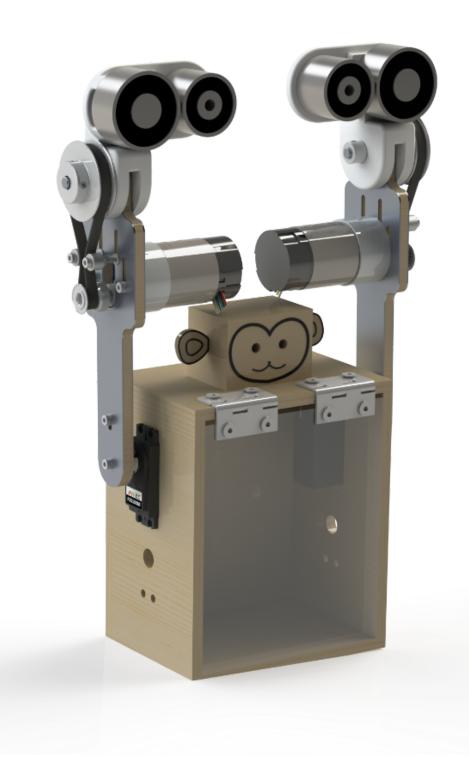


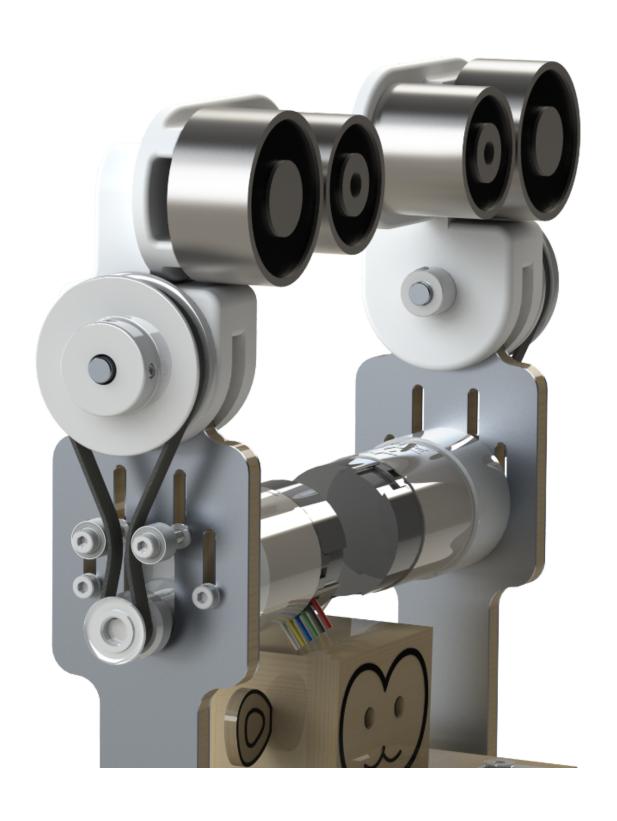
Reflection

Consistent communication between group members was key throughout this project in not only creating a cohesive end product, but also in fostering an environment of inclusivity, mutual respect, and ultimately, greater productivity. We held weekly meetings from the beginning of the semester right up until the showcase to set goals and check in with each other, which worked really well for us. In retrospect, we believe it would have been helpful to manufacture and assemble all components sooner, so that more time could be spent purely debugging and troubleshooting. The controls and simulations for our robot's brachiating movement proved to be more complex than we anticipated, and we realized a bit too late that our electromagnets were not strong enough to handle the full swinging motion.

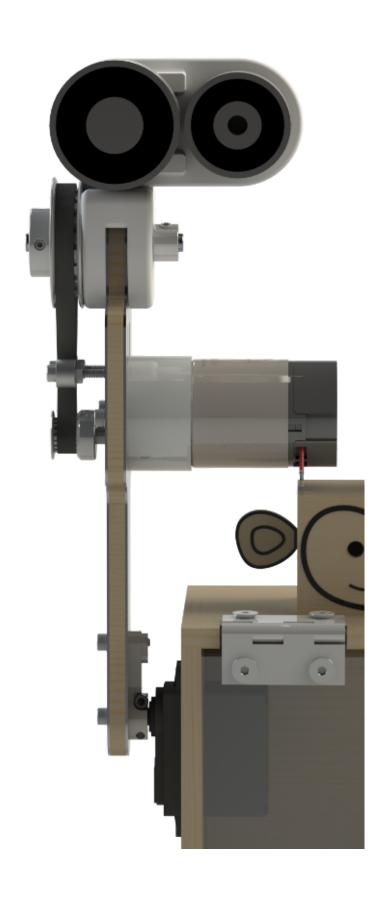
Bill of Materials

Part + Link	Supplier	Quantity	Orders	Total Cost to Acquire
24" x 24" x 0.125" Mild Steel Plate	Jacobs Hall	1	1	\$45
24" x 24" x 0.063" 6061 Aluminum Plate	Jacobs Hall	1	1	\$35
L298N Motor Driver Control Board	Jacobs Hall	2	1	\$6
ESP32	ME Lab Kit	1	1	
DRV8833 Motor Driver	ME Lab Kit	1	1	
Brushed DC Motors	Pololu	2	1	\$104
3S LiPo Battery, 2200 mAh	Amazon	2	1	\$32
Drone Power Distribution Board	Amazon	2	1	\$12
DS 3218 Servo	Amazon	2	1	\$31
6 x 356 mm Aluminum Shaft	Amazon	2	1	\$10
PCB Boards	Amazon	1	1	\$13
20 & 60 Tooth Timing Pulleys	Amazon	2	1	\$14
12V 250N Electromagnet	Amazon	2	1	\$31
12V 200N Electromagnet	Amazon	2	1	\$32









communication.ino (main Arduino INO file)

```
#include "Electromagnet.h"
#include "Motors.h"
#include "StateMachine.h"
Electromagnet emagL(17);
Electromagnet emagR(21);
Motors motors (33, 27, 13, 12, 15, 32, 34, 39, 26, 25);
int numBars = 2;
StateMachine stateMachine(33, 27, 13, 12, 15, 32, 34, 39, 26, 25, 17, 21,
numBars);
void setup() {
Serial.begin(115200);
Serial.println("Starting");
void loop() {
stateMachine.updateState();
stateMachine.motors.driveDes();
```

```
not been initalized.
void detachTest() {
emagL.switchOff();
motors.setDesPos(20, 41, 534, 0);
motors.driveDes();
motors.setDesPos(desAngle, desAngle, 300, -300);
motors.driveDes();
Serial.println(motors.getAngleMotorLeft());
Serial.println(motors.getAngleMotorRight());
delay(15);
void dcTests() {
motors.driveDCR(300);
motors.driveDCL(300);
printEncoder();
void encoderTest() {
```

```
Serial.println(motors.getAngleMotorLeft());
Serial.println(motors.getAngleMotorRight());
void emagTests() {
emagL.emagTest();
emagR.emagTest();
void hangTest() {
motors.setDesPos(60, 60, 0, 0);
motors.driveDes();
emagR.switchOn();
emagL.switchOn();
printEncoder();
void printEncoder() {
Serial.print("enc left: ");
Serial.print(motors.getAngleMotorLeft());
Serial.println();
Serial.print("enc right: ");
Serial.print(motors.getAngleMotorRight());
Serial.println();
void encoder41Deg() {
motors.driveDes();
```

```
void encoderCalibrate() {
    //to be called AFTER setup()
    //move to the 76, 76 position. (76, 76) is left arm forwards, right arm
backwards.
motors.setDesPos(76, 76, 0, 0);
motors.driveDes();
    //Now, move the wrists to vertical in this config and print out the encoder
reading.
    //This gives desired state.
printEncoder();
}
```

Electromagnet.cpp

```
#include "Electromagnet.h"
This file contains an implementation of the Electromagnet class
Initialize an electromagnet object
Inputs:
and off
Electromagnet::Electromagnet() {
  Electromagnet(13);
Electromagnet::Electromagnet(int s pin) {
  sPin = s pin; //store the signal pin
  testPeriod = 3000; //set the test period
  pinMode(sPin, OUTPUT);
```

```
forward signal
void Electromagnet::switchOn() {
  digitalWrite(sPin, HIGH);
forward signal
void Electromagnet::switchOff() {
  digitalWrite(sPin, LOW);
Function to provide a test case for the electromagnet. Runs the electromagnet
void Electromagnet::emagTest() {
  switchOn();
  delay(testPeriod);
  switchOff();
  delay(testPeriod);
```

Electromagnet.h

```
#ifndef Electromagnet_H
#define Electromagnet_H

#include <Arduino.h> //required to access arduino functionality
/*
This file contains a class for interacting with a single electromagnet, or a set of
electromagnets wired to the same terminal on the relay board.
```

Motors.cpp

```
#include "Motors.h"

/*
This file contains an implementation of the motors class.

*/

/*
Init function for a motor class

*/
Motors::Motors() {
    Motors(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10);
}
Motors::Motors(int servo_pin_L, int servo_pin_R, int m_pin_1_L, int m_pin_2_L, int m_pin_1_R, int m_pin_2_R, int enc1_L, int enc2_L, int enc1_R, int enc2_R){
    //define the servo_pin_L;
    servoPinL = servo_pin_L;
    servoPinR = servo_pin_R;

    //define the motor pins
    mPin1L = m_pin_1_L;
    mPin2L = m_pin_2_L;
```

```
mPin1R = m pin 1 R;
  mPin2R = m pin 2 R;
  encPin1R = enc1 R;
  encPin2R = enc2 R;
  pinMode(servoPinL, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(servoPinR, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(mPin1L, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(mPin2L, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(mPin1R, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(mPin2R, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(encPin1L, INPUT);
  pinMode(encPin2L, INPUT);
  pinMode(encPin1R, INPUT);
  pinMode(encPin2R, INPUT);
  ESP32Encoder::useInternalWeakPullResistors = UP; //Enable weak pullups
  encoderL.attachHalfQuad(encPin1L, encPin2L);
  encoderL.setCount(0); //INITIALIZE the encoder count to be zero!!
  encoderR.attachHalfQuad(encPin1R, encPin2R);
  encoderR.setCount(0); //INITIALIZE the encoder count to be zero!!
degrees is a bar starting position.
  desPosServoL = 60;
  desPosServoR = 60;
  desPosMotorL = 0;
  desPosMotorR = 0;
```

```
servoFreqLow = 500; //500 for the Pololu servo
servoFreqHigh = 2500; //2500 for the Pololu servo
MAX PWM = 180;
MIN PWM = 0;
Kp = 1;
ESP32PWM::allocateTimer(0);
ESP32PWM::allocateTimer(1);
ESP32PWM::allocateTimer(2);
ESP32PWM::allocateTimer(3);
servoL.setPeriodHertz(50);
servoR.setPeriodHertz(50);
motorL1.setPeriodHertz(50);
motorL2.setPeriodHertz(50);
motorR1.setPeriodHertz(50);
motorR2.setPeriodHertz(50);
servoL.attach(servoPinL, servoFreqLow, servoFreqHigh);
servoR.attach(servoPinR, servoFreqLow, servoFreqHigh);
motorL1.attach(mPin1L, servoFreqLow, servoFreqHigh);
motorL2.attach(mPin2L, servoFreqLow, servoFreqHigh);
motorR1.attach(mPin1R, servoFreqLow, servoFreqHigh);
motorR2.attach(mPin2R, servoFreqLow, servoFreqHigh);
servoL.write(startPos); //writes it NOT to the vertical but to 60
```

```
servoR.write(startPos);
void Motors::setDesPos(int des pos servo L, int des pos servo R, int
des pos motor L, int des pos motor R) \{
  desPosServoL = des pos servo L;
  desPosServoR = des pos servo R;
  desPosMotorL = des pos motor L;
  desPosMotorR = des pos motor R;
void Motors::driveDes() {
  driveServos(desPosServoL, desPosServoR);
  driveDCL(desPosMotorL);
  driveDCR(desPosMotorR);
Function to drive the two servo motors
void Motors::driveServos(int desPosL, int desPosR) {
  servoL.write(desPosL);
  servoR.write(desPosR);
```

```
Function to return the current angle of the DC motor, as read by the encoder
Returns:
int Motors::getAngleMotorLeft() {
  return (int32 t)encoderL.getCount();
int Motors::getAngleMotorRight() {
  return (int32 t)encoderR.getCount();
The right arm has a negative feedback gain as it is flipped.
Inputs:
void Motors::driveDCL(int des pos) {
  int controlInput = floor(Kp*(des pos - (int32 t)encoderL.getCount()));
  if (controlInput >= 0) {
       controlInput = min(MAX PWM, max(MIN PWM, controlInput));
      motorL1.write(controlInput);
      digitalWrite(mPin2L, LOW);
      controlInput = -1*controlInput;
       controlInput = min(MAX PWM, max(MIN PWM, controlInput));
```

```
digitalWrite(mPin1L, LOW);
      motorL2.write(controlInput);
void Motors::driveDCR(int des pos) {
  int controlInput = floor(-Kp*(des pos - (int32 t)encoderR.getCount()));
  if (controlInput >= 0) {
      controlInput = min(MAX PWM, max(MIN PWM, controlInput));
      Serial.println(controlInput);
      motorR1.write(controlInput);
      digitalWrite(mPin2R, LOW);
      controlInput = -1*controlInput;
      controlInput = min(MAX PWM, max(MIN PWM, controlInput));
      Serial.println(controlInput);
      digitalWrite(mPin1R, LOW);
      motorR2.write(controlInput);
void Motors::driveOLTest() {
```

```
digitalWrite(mPin2R, LOW);
  motorR1.write(180);
}

void Motors::dcControllerTest() {
    //give the controller a small setpoint that it must reach.Assume it starts
at zero.
    int setpt = 300;
    driveDCR(setpt);
}
```

Motors.h

```
#ifndef Motors H
#define Motors H
#include <Arduino.h> //required to access the arduino functions.
#include <ESP32Servo.h> //Servo library
#include <ESP32Encoder.h> //encoder library
class Motors {
      Motors(); //default constructor
      Motors (int servo pin L, int servo pin R, int m pin 1 L, int m pin 2 L,
int m pin 1 R, int m pin 2 R, int enc1 L, int enc2 L, int enc1 R, int enc2 R);
       void setDesPos(int des pos servo L, int des pos servo R, int
des pos motor L, int des pos motor R);
      void driveDes();
      int getAngleMotorLeft();
      int getAngleMotorRight();
      void driveServos(int desPosL, int desPosR);
      void driveDCL(int des pos);
      void driveDCR(int des pos);
      void driveOLTest();
      void dcControllerTest();
```

```
Servo servoL;
Servo servoR;
Servo motorL1;
Servo motorL2;
Servo motorR1;
Servo motorR2;
int servoPinR;
int mPin1L;
int mPin2L;
int mPin1R;
int mPin2R;
int encPin1L;
int encPin2L;
int encPin1R;
int encPin2R;
ESP32Encoder encoderL;
ESP32Encoder encoderR;
int MAX PWM;
int desPosServoL;
int desPosServoR;
```

```
//desired angular position of the motors
int desPosMotorL;
int desPosMotorR;

//Servo frequencies
int servoFreqLow; //500 for the Pololu servo
int servoFreqHigh; //2500 for the Pololu servo
};

#endif
```

StateMachine.cpp

```
#include "StateMachine.h"
This file contains an implementation of the State Machine class
Inputs:
StateMachine::StateMachine() {
   StateMachine (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13);
StateMachine::StateMachine(int servo pin L, int servo pin R, int m pin 1 L,
int m_pin_2_L, int m_pin_1_R, int m_pin_2_R, int enc1_L, int enc2_L, int
enc1 R, int enc2 R, int s_pin_L, int s_pin_R, int num_bars) {
   motors = Motors(servo_pin_L, servo_pin_R, m_pin_1_L, m_pin_2_L, m_pin_1_R,
m pin 2 R, enc1 L, enc2 L, enc1 R, enc2 R);
   eMagLeft = Electromagnet(s pin L);
   eMagRight = Electromagnet(s pin R);
```

```
state = 0;
  barCounter = 0;
  numBars = num bars;
Function to update the state based on the current values of the system
void StateMachine::updateState() {
  switch (state) {
      case 0:
           Serial.println("hi");
```

```
updateDesStates();
eMagLeft.switchOn();
eMagRight.switchOn();
if (firstRound == true) {
    firstRound = false; //set it such that it is not the first
    delay(100000);
   delay(tInter);
if (barCounter >= numBars) {
   state = 6;
    state = 1;
   barCounter++; //increment the bar counter
```

```
updateDesStates();
eMagLeft.switchOff();
eMagRight.switchOn();
callCounter ++;
if (callCounter >= callCutoff) {
    callCounter = 0;
    state = 2;
```

```
updateDesStates();
    eMagLeft.switchOn();
    eMagRight.switchOn();
    callCounter ++;
    if (callCounter >= callCutoff) {
        callCounter = 0;
        state = 3;
case 3:
    updateDesStates();
```

```
eMagRight.switchOn();
    delay(tInter);
    if (barCounter >= numBars) {
        state = 6;
        state = 4;
        barCounter++; //increment the bar counter
case 4:
    updateDesStates();
    eMagLeft.switchOn();
```

eMagLeft.switchOn();

```
eMagRight.switchOff();
callCounter ++;
if (callCounter >= callCutoff) {
    callCounter = 0;
   state = 5;
updateDesStates();
eMagLeft.switchOn();
eMagRight.switchOn();
callCounter ++;
```

```
if (callCounter >= callCutoff) {
              callCounter = 0;
              state = 0;
         eMagLeft.switchOn();
         eMagRight.switchOn();
void StateMachine::state0() {
  Serial.println("hi");
  updateDesStates();
  eMagLeft.switchOn();
  eMagRight.switchOn();
  if (firstRound == true) {
      firstRound = false; //set it such that it is not the first traversal
      delay(100000);
```

```
delay(tInter);
void StateMachine::state1() {
  updateDesStates();
  eMagLeft.switchOff();
  eMagRight.switchOn();
void StateMachine::state2() {
  updateDesStates();
  eMagLeft.switchOn();
  eMagRight.switchOn();
void StateMachine::state3() {
  updateDesStates();
  eMagLeft.switchOn();
  eMagRight.switchOn();
  delay(tInter);
```

```
void StateMachine::state4() {
  updateDesStates();
   eMagLeft.switchOn();
   eMagRight.switchOff();
void StateMachine::state5() {
   updateDesStates();
   eMagLeft.switchOn();
   eMagRight.switchOn();
int StateMachine::getState() {
  return state;
Function to update the desired states of each motor depending on the state
void StateMachine::updateDesStates() {
   if (state == 0) {
      motors.setDesPos(backwardSlightServoL, forwardServoR,
backwardSlightDCL, forwardDCR);
      motors.setDesPos(backwardFullServoL, forwardServoR, backwardFullDCL,
forwardDCR);
```

```
} else if (state == 2) {
    //set the desired motor states
    motors.setDesPos(forwardServoL, backwardSlightDCR, forwardDCL,
backwardSlightDCR);
} else if (state == 3) {
    //set the desired motor states
    motors.setDesPos(forwardServoL, backwardSlightDCR, forwardDCL,
backwardSlightDCR);
} else if (state = 4) {
    //set the desired motor states
    motors.setDesPos(forwardDCL, backwardFullDCR, forwardDCL,
backwardFullDCR);
} else {
    //set the desired DC states to be whatever they currently are
    return;
}
```

StateMachine.h

```
#ifndef StateMachine_H
#define StateMachine_H
#include <Arduino.h> //required to access the arduino functions.
#include "Electromagnet.h"
#include "Motors.h"
/*
This file contains a class for the state machine of the system, which manages the different
trajectories based on the state of the system.
*/
class StateMachine {
   private:
        int barCounter;
        int numBars;
        int tInter;
        //Store desired states for each stage
        int forwardServoR = 41; //right front, left back
```

```
int forwardServoL = 76; //left front, back right position
      int backwardFullServoL = 20;
       int backwardSlightServoR = 76; //In this position, it's sitting on a
      int backwardSlightServoL = 41;
       int forwardDCR = 0; //right arm forward, left arm back
       int forwardDCL = 942; //DC motor position when left arm is forward, WRT
       int backwardFullDCR = 534; //don't really care about wrist at full back
       int backwardFullDCL = -1593;
       int backwardSlightDCR = 1045; //DC motor position when right arm sits
back on a bar
       int backwardSlightDCL = 0;
      int flopL = 534; //flop back angle to minimze the profile of the
      int flopR = -1593;
      bool firstRound = true;
       int callCounter = 0;
       int callCutoff = 50; //gives around 1s of motion.
      void updateDesStates();
      Motors motors;
      Electromagnet eMagLeft;
      Electromagnet eMagRight;
      int state;
      StateMachine();
       StateMachine(int servo pin L, int servo pin R, int m pin 1 L, int
m_pin_2_L, int m_pin_1_R, int m_pin_2_R, int enc1_L, int enc2_L, int enc1_R,
int enc2 R, int s pin L, int s pin R, int num bars);
      void updateState();
      void state0();
```

```
void state1();
void state2();
void state3();
void state4();
void state5();
int getState(); //retrieve the state of the system
};
#endif
```