

Building an Open-Source Segway®

Geoffrey D. Bennett

January 17, 2007

What

What

- Two-Wheeled

What

- Two-Wheeled
- Ride-On

What

- Two-Wheeled
- Ride-On
- Self-Balancing

What

- Two-Wheeled
- Ride-On
- Self-Balancing
- Robot

How

How

- Lean forward to go forward

How

- Lean forward to go forward
- Lean more to go faster

How

- Lean forward to go forward
- Lean more to go faster
- Lean back to slow down, stop, and go backwards

How

- Lean forward to go forward
- Lean more to go faster
- Lean back to slow down, stop, and go backwards
- Joystick to turn

Who

For people with:

Who

For people with:

- Some construction skills

Who

For people with:

- Some construction skills
- Some electronic skills

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For people with:

- Some construction skills
- Some electronic skills
- Some software skills

Warnings

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- If it's powerful enough to move you around

Warnings

- If it's powerful enough to move you around
- Then it's powerful enough to throw you off

Warnings

- If it's powerful enough to move you around
- Then it's powerful enough to throw you off
- And run you over

More Warnings

More Warnings

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- Common failure modes of motor controllers are not fun

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- Start small

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- Start small
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- Test near non-breakables

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 - Knee Pads

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- See <http://www.tlb.org/scootersafety.html>

Requirements

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- Platform to stand on

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- Gaffer tape

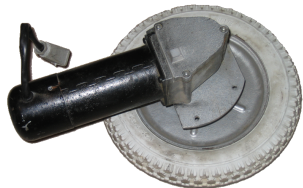
Wheels and Motors

Wheels and Motors

- Buy a second-hand electric wheelchair

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- Buy a second-hand electric wheelchair
- You get two matched motors



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- Buy a second-hand electric wheelchair
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- The motor already has a gearbox attached



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- The hub already has a wheel attached
- The wheel already has a tyre attached
- The hub can be free-wheeled



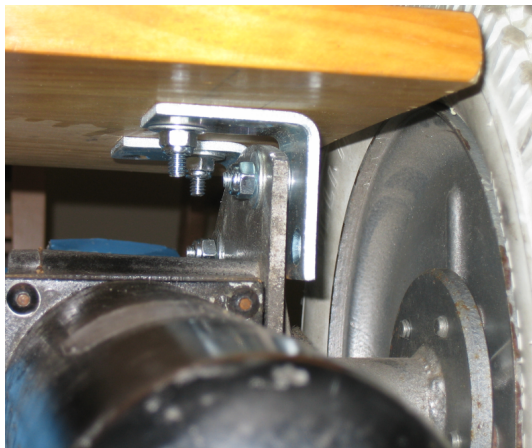
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- No skill required
- At least, not if someone else takes to the wheelchair with the angle-grinder

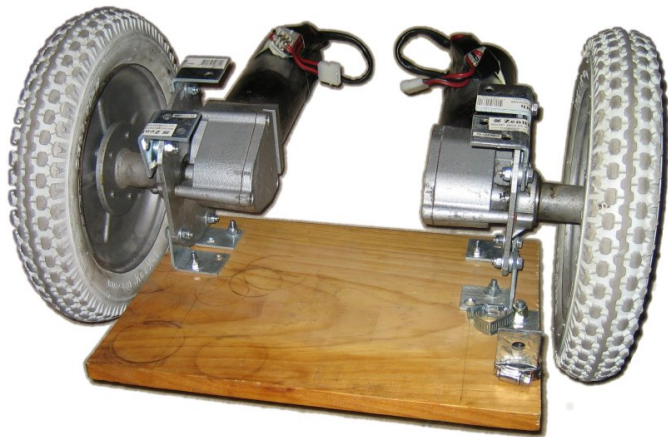
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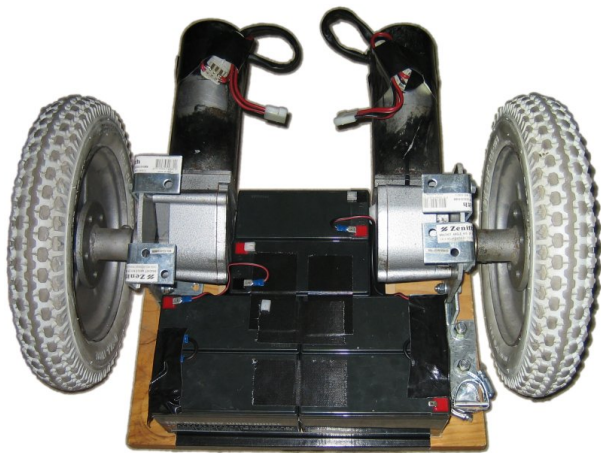
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- (Relatively) Cheap (\approx \$240)
- (Relatively) Easy to Charge
- Heavy
- Output voltage proportional to remaining capacity

Batteries



Accelerometer

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- (smaller range, greater sensitivity is better)

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- Orientation

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“ $\pm 75^\circ/\text{s}$ Yaw Rate Gyro”

Gyroscope

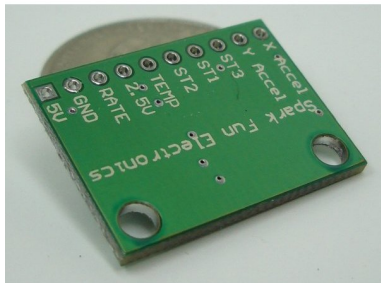
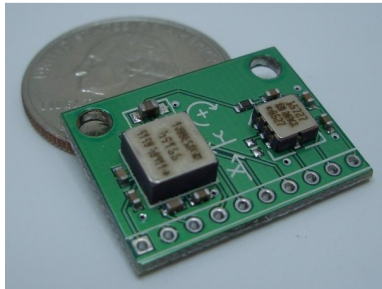
- Detect changes in angle
- Analog Devices ADXRS401
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- 7mm by 7mm by 4mm

Gyroscope

- Detect changes in angle
- Analog Devices ADXRS401
“ $\pm 75^\circ/\text{s}$ Yaw Rate Gyro”
- 7mm by 7mm by 4mm
- $15\text{mV}/^\circ/\text{s}$
- (smaller range, greater sensitivity is better)

Spark Fun Electronics

IMU Combo Board — USD\$114.95



<http://www.sparkfun.com/>

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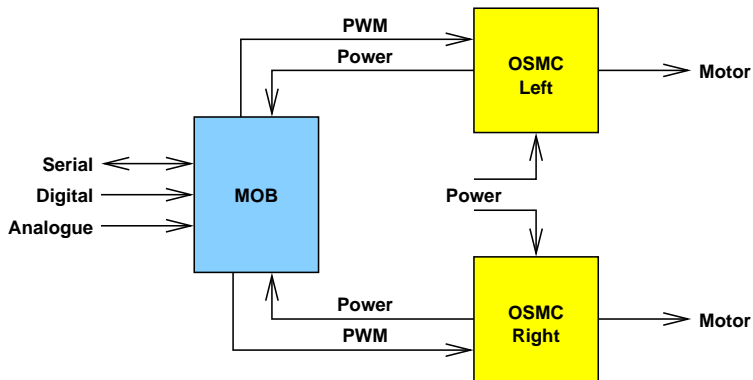
Open-Source Motor Controller (OSMC)

- Applying the open-source software development model to designing a high quality DC motor controller
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- 12–50V, 160A

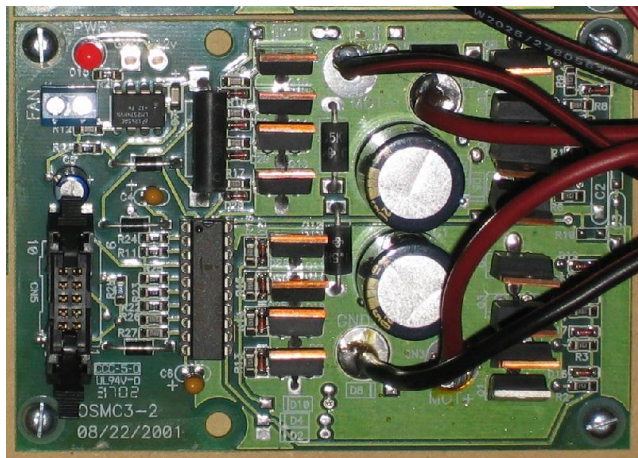
Open-Source Motor Controller (OSMC)

- Applying the open-source software development model to designing a high quality DC motor controller
- Yahoo OSMC Group
- 12–50V, 160A
- Robot Power sell assembled boards (USD\$475)
<http://www.robotpower.com/>

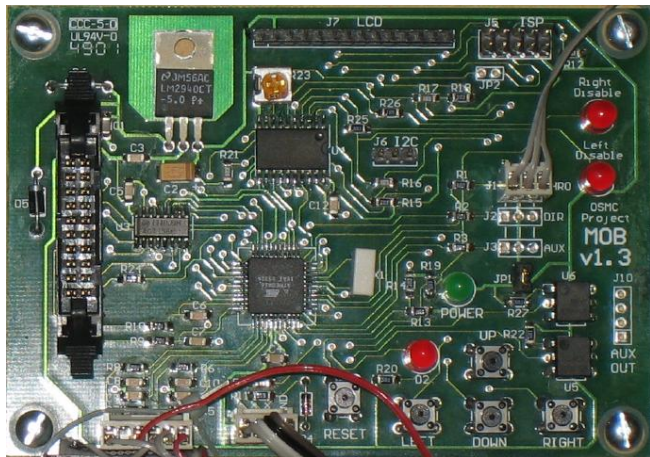
OSMC and Modular OSMC Brain (MOB)



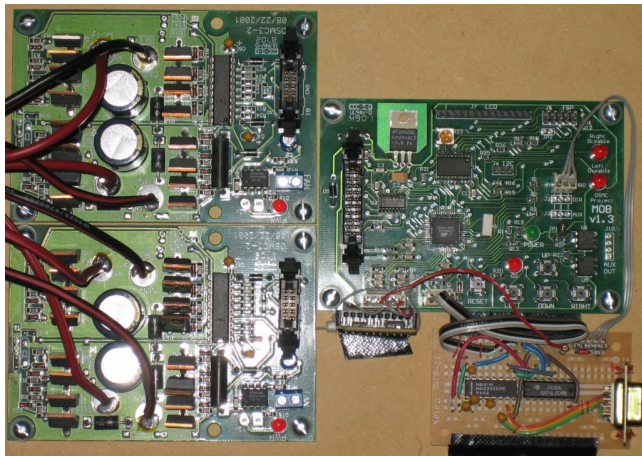
OSMC



MOB



OSMC and MOB



Computing Power

Computing Power

- Atmel ATMega16

Computing Power

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- 8-bit processor

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- Floating point code

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- Floating point code
- Currently 50Hz(ish) update rate

MOB Replacement

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- Atmel STK500 Development Board?
<http://avrwiki.com/>

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- PWM Outputs

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- Serial I/O

Miscellaneous Hardware

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- LCD Display

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- LCD Display
- In-circuit Programming Cable

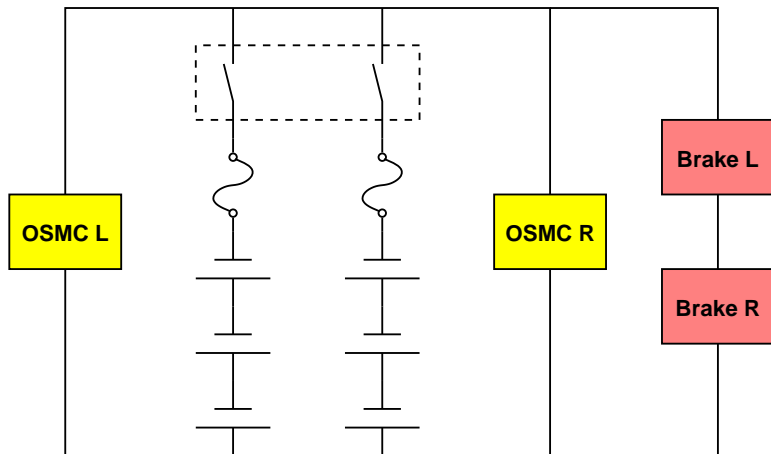
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- LCD Display
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- LCD Display
- In-circuit Programming Cable
- TTL to RS-232 Serial
- Joystick

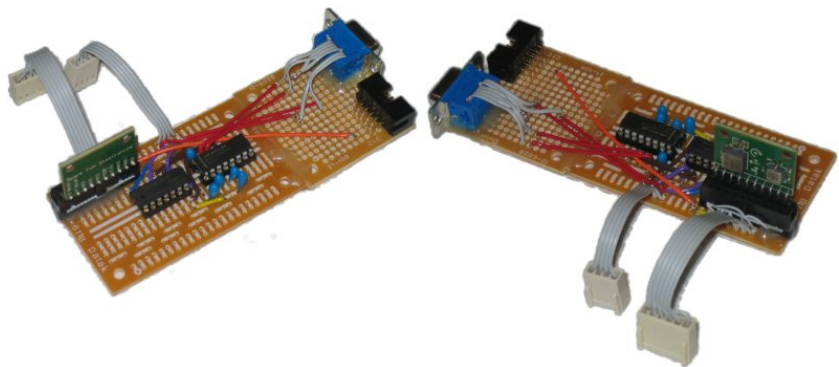
Wiring it up



Wiring it up

- MAX232 data sheet
- Spark Fun IMU Combo board documentation
- MOB schematic

Wiring it up



MOB Default Software

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- Designed for R/C Controlled Robots

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- Designed for R/C Controlled Robots
- Reads standard R/C Control pulses

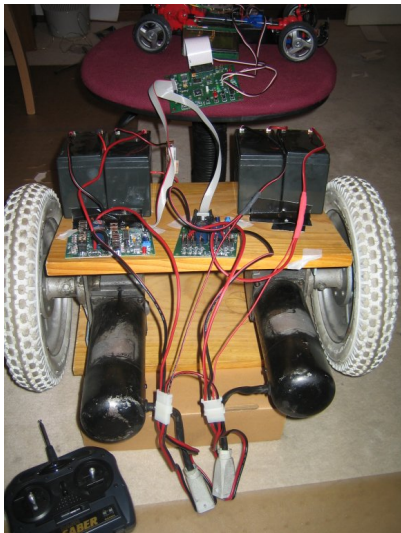
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- Reads standard R/C Control pulses
- Not useful for balancing a robot
- Useful for testing

Testing



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Test Software

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- AVR-GCC

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- AVR-GCC
- Write to the serial port

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- Read the analogue inputs

Test Software

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- Write to the serial port
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- Drive the motors

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Tethered Operation

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- Set low limits so the robot doesn't run over your PC

Tethered Operation

- Implement the balancing algorithm on your PC
- MOB and OSMC do nothing but A-D and D-A conversion
- First test that the wheels go in the right direction
- Set low limits so the robot doesn't run over your PC
- Or pull it off the desk

Balancing

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- If the robot is leaning, drive the wheels in the direction of the lean

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- If the robot is leaning, drive the wheels in the direction of the lean
- If you lean more, go faster

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 - input variable is platform angle

Balancing

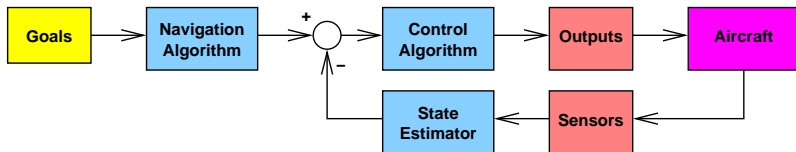
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 - output variable is motor speed
 - by controlling the output variable, attempt to keep the input variable zero

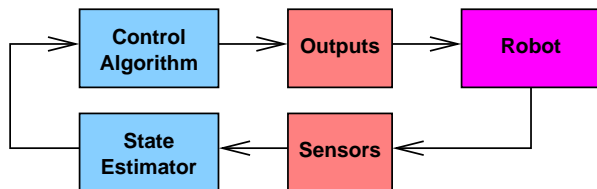
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- $output = K_p * input + K_d * input' + K_i \int_0^t input dt$

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PID Controller

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- $output = K_p * input + K_d * input' + K_i \int_0^t input dt$
- Proportional — if you lean more, go faster
- Derivative — if you lean quickly, go faster
- Integral — if you're still leaning, go faster

Turning

- Make one wheel go slightly faster
- Make the other wheel go slightly slower
(by the same amount, to not affect the balance!)

Turning

- Make one wheel go slightly faster
- Make the other wheel go slightly slower
(by the same amount, to not affect the balance!)
- Turn faster when stationary. Turn slower when travelling.

Measuring the Platform Angle

- Gyro input gives us angular rate

Measuring the Platform Angle

- Gyro input gives us angular rate
- but it drifts a lot

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- Accelerometer input gives us acceleration due to gravity
- and due to us accelerating
- When not accelerating, the inverse-sine of the accelerometer input gives us angle
- isn't high accuracy
- and is susceptible to vibration
- but it doesn't drift
- How to combine them?

Measuring the Platform Angle

- Gyro input averaged over time should be zero

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- Track angle changes with the gyro

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- If the tracked angle is different to the angle from the accelerometer, track towards it slowly

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- Assume initial angle is given by the accelerometer
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- Subtract any acceleration force we apply to the motors from the accelerometer reading

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- Assume gyro starts off stationary
- Assume initial angle is given by the accelerometer
- Track angle changes with the gyro
- If the tracked angle is different to the angle from the accelerometer, track towards it slowly
- Subtract any acceleration force we apply to the motors from the accelerometer reading
- When moving, rely less on the accelerometer reading

No Trigonometry Necessary!

- $\sin(x) \approx x$ (for small x)

Sensor Positioning

- If the accelerometer isn't centered between the wheels, turning can be detected as leaning

Soft-start

- In the first few seconds of running, slowly ramp up to avoid lurching.

Regulator Voltage

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- ADXRS401 has a 2.5V precision output

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- Use to measure regulator voltage and scale inputs appropriately

Battery Voltage

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- OSMC and MOB have wired $V_{batt}/10$ to an ADC input

Battery Voltage

- OSMC and MOB have wired $V_{batt}/10$ to an ADC input
- Use to measure battery voltage and scale outputs appropriately

Parameter Tuning

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- Perl-Gtk

Parameter Tuning

- Perl-Gtk
- Wireless Bluetooth Serial

Open Issues

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- Remove backlash in the hubs

Open Issues

- Remove backlash in the hubs
- Current monitoring

Open Issues

- Remove backlash in the hubs
- Current monitoring
- Low battery voltage warning

Open Issues

- Remove backlash in the hubs
- Current monitoring
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- Larger wheels

Open Issues

- Remove backlash in the hubs
- Current monitoring
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- Replace wood with metal

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Open Issues

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- Current monitoring
- Low battery voltage warning
- Larger wheels
- Replace wood with metal
- Replace joystick with strain gauge
- Detect when rider not present

Going too fast

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- Solution: before that happens, “push back” on the rider by making the wheels go even faster

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- At some point, the motors can't go any faster
- Then you fall, because the wheels can't keep up with you
- Solution: before that happens, “push back” on the rider by making the wheels go even faster
- (implemented, but not test or tuned yet, so is disabled)

Safety

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- If the platform angle is “too large”, shut down

Safety

- If the platform angle is “too large”, shut down
- If the kill or dead-man switch is tripped, shut down

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- If the platform angle is “too large”, shut down
- If the kill or dead-man switch is tripped, shut down
- If the battery voltage is getting low, limit the maximum speed more than usual

Safety

- If the platform angle is “too large”, shut down
- If the kill or dead-man switch is tripped, shut down
- If the battery voltage is getting low, limit the maximum speed more than usual
- If the motor current is too high, warn the user

Thanks to...

Thanks to...

- Trevor Blackwell



Thanks to...

- Trevor Blackwell

Thanks to...

- Trevor Blackwell
- Paul Schulz

Thanks to...

- Trevor Blackwell
- Paul Schulz
- Michael Bennett

Thanks to...

- Trevor Blackwell
- Paul Schulz
- Michael Bennett
- Mark Pulford

Thanks to...

- Trevor Blackwell
- Paul Schulz
- Michael Bennett
- Mark Pulford
- Lindy Bennett

Thanks to...



Thanks to...



Thanks to...



Questions?

Questions?

- How much do the parts cost?

Questions?

- How much do the parts cost?
- How far can you go on one charge?

Questions?

- How much do the parts cost?
- How far can you go on one charge?
- How long can you go for on one charge?

Questions?

- How much do the parts cost?
- How far can you go on one charge?
- How long can you go for on one charge?
- How fast can you go?

Questions?

- How much do the parts cost?
- How far can you go on one charge?
- How long can you go for on one charge?
- How fast can you go?
- Project Web Page?

<http://www.netcraft.com.au/geoffrey/meta/>