DESIGN OF AN AUTOMATIC DOOR SYSTEM FOR AN AUTOMATED TRANSIT NETWORK VEHICLE

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DESIGN OF AN AUTOMATIC DOOR SYSTEM FOR AN AUTOMATED TRANSIT NETWORK VEHICLE

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ABSTRACT

DESIGN OF AN AUTOMATIC DOOR SYSTEM FOR AN AUTOMATED TRANSIT NETWORK VEHICLE

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A 1:3 scale prototype door system for the Spartan Superway automated network transit (ATN) project vehicle was designed and tested. The designed door system is fully autonomous and able to provide necessary accessibility control with maximum protection for the passengers.

The major achievement of this project is the development of a door system prototype that meets design criteria based on the investigation about door system design alternatives for the ATN vehicle. Through the prototyping process, an engineering approach to successfully deliver a door system design from conceptualized users' requirements was established. The mechanical assembly of the system was designed via commercially computer aided design software. Maximum von Mises stress of 111.3 MPa was yielded in the FEA simulation with the deformation within the dimension design tolerance.

The prototype model built in this project has a door opening of 270 mm and motion duration of 4.55 seconds. The prototype is also capable of reporting door operation status and detecting hand crush hazard while the door is closing. The design was validated with simulations and field tests. A control system was designed to fulfill the system operation logic.

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Chapter 1 – Introduction

The development of city transportation systems today has two main tendencies. In Europe and Asia, scheduled public transportation modes like bus, metro and train contribute to the majority of transport capacity. In North American, automobiles are still the main modal choice for most travelers. A transportation system operating in an urban environment, which is highly reliant on automobiles, has many inherent problems. Fossil fuel pollution, declining petroleum reserves worldwide, and traffic jams are leading to worsening quality of life.

Although these features can be alleviated to some degree by current public transportation approaches, the current public transportation system is lacking as a perfect solution. Since many public transportation systems in use today are not fully autonomous, the system cannot be operated for 24 hours a day as the system requires manpower on station when operating. Travelers need time to familiarize themselves with the systems' availability in the area as routes can be very limited in some communities and early arrival at the station is usually necessary to avoid the crowd in rush hours. Many alternative forms of public transportation have been tried in several major cities in the United States, public transportation systems have not been widely adopted due to high cost for initial investment and sustaining funding required for maintenance and operation. In order to contribute to the innovation of transportation solution, the Spartan Superway Automated Transit Network (ATN), also called as Sustainable Mobility System for Silicon Valley (SMSSV), is an interdisciplinary project being developed in San José State University to design a Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system using solar power.

This report presents work done as part of the larger Superway development effort, which is under the supervision of Prof. Burford Furman. The Superway system features small

autonomous vehicles operating on a network of exclusive and usually elevated guideways. The guideways are arranged in a network topology and passenger stations are located adjacent to, but off the main routes. The ATN system provides direct origin-to-destination service with no transfer or stops at intermediate stations. The vehicles are sized for individual or small group travel, and each vehicle typically carries no more than four to six passengers. The system is fully automated with availability of 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in all weather conditions. Users can schedule their travel according to personal demands (Furman et. al., 2014, p.7). This on-demand traveling mode offers the maximum convenience to passengers as the system is designed to adapt to passengers' needs and schedule rather than the other way around, which is what mostly happens in traditional public transportation. The overall system is powered by electricity gathered by solar panels that are mounted above and along the network of guideways and stations. Additionally, a potential benefit may be attractive that each station is able to perform as a charging location for light electric or hybrid powered vehicles on conventional traffic ways, since the ATN itself is a clean energy generator network (Krueger, 2014, p.2).

The features of ATN introduce several requirements to the vehicle door system. Referring to existing operational ATN systems, it is not hard to find the vehicles usually have one door per each side (Furman et al, 2014, p.42). When vehicles are in-station, only the door on the platform side will be opened, and the other stays closed under the control of door signal. In order to increase station capacity and efficiency of transit, the designer of the system must consider vehicle dwell time in station as one of the important factors. Vehicle dwell time in station consists of vehicle maneuvering time to reach the stopped position, door opening time, unloading time, loading time, door closing time, and maneuvering time to departure. The door system is responsible for conducting correct door movement within the required operating time.

Shortening the opening and closing time will be a plus to station operation efficiency (Furman et al, 2014, p.42).

Modern power door systems applied in transit vehicles employ components like DC motors or pneumatic actuators to open and close door leafs and are controlled by electrical circuits (Federal Railroad Administration, 2014, p.16984). The power module must have certain reliability performance, usually measured as mean time or mean distance between failures, according to standards of transportation authorities. Basic dimensions of door opening need to meet requirements for easy accessing for passengers with disability, emergency egress and rescue access (Federal Railroad Administration, 2014, p.16984).

Door control commands can be given by human operators, sensors or other digital devices which connect to transportation system control. The sensing sub-system associated with the door control module are required to provide warning when doors are in motion, respond to obstruction against the closing doors, and perform automatic locking when the vehicle is in motion. Door system design must not only take into considerations for requirements of the vehicle design, but also from consideration for station configuration and operation. This is a must for the door systems in ATN applications if they are to achieve fully autonomous operation with minimum human involvement.

1.1 Objectives

The successful accomplishment of this project is to fulfill the main objective, which is to deliver a prototype design of the customized automatic door system for the Superway project. The system should meet all the functional requirements with concern for passenger safety. It must be noted that design work of this kind is typically implemented by vendors of the door system rather than by the engineering personnel from the main project team when the Superway project goes into actual operation. As the cabin designs for different transportation project varies from each other, the door system design mission has its own uniqueness. Based on the basic door mechanics, changes in geometry, mounting solution and corresponding sensors for safe operation will be customized according to special requirements for a particular transportation project.

Moreover, it is important to note that Spartan Superway project is in its early prototyping phase, and all the sub-projects are aimed to deliver engineering models which carry different systematic functions. Available budgets need to be spent with best cost effectiveness. Therefore, hiring vendors from industry to carry out the door system prototyping work is not a feasible option at this point. Through the engineering processes of this project, the related team members of Spartan Superway project will gain adequate knowledge about customizing sub-systems of the vehicle, and this will contribute to future design work for the overall ATN system.

The engineering work of this door system design project is divided into two main categories, mechanical design and control design. The corresponding control ensures correct door operation. Also, this design project is the first time for the Spartan Superway project team to consider problems in accessibility control, system control, and communication between different sub-systems. The study in this paper also includes station operation and establishment of communication protocol in a systematic scope.

In parallel, a mobile door frame was designed to carry the door system. Demonstrating the early prototypes in conferences and community meetings is one of the main approaches for Spartan Superway team to acquire sponsorship and rise funding. A mobile test bed best suits this

purpose. Also, rather than directly installing the door mechanics into a cabin prototype, the stand alone door system enjoys the maximum freedom of project progress as no interference from the progress in cabin design work will affect the steps in the door system designing.

The engineering work of this master project can be divided into several stages. The objectives that were set for these stages were to:

- Investigate door mechanics design alternatives for the ATN vehicle
- Conceptualize a viable door system design approach for the Spartan Superway ATN
- Investigate and embody regulations & industrial standards for the ATN vehicle's door system
- Design and fabricate a door system prototype
- Validate design by simulation and physical prototyping

Accomplishment of these stage objectives will guarantee successful delivery of an automatic door system design to meet the design requirements.

1.2 Literature Review

1.2.1 Introduction to Literature Review

Door system design for an ATN vehicle must consider various aspects. First of all, the geometry layout of the door mechanics is required to fit into the indoor space of the vehicle. Selection of the proper door mechanics is based on vehicle design and station configuration. The first part of the literature review contributes introduction and discussion for the choice of door mechanism. The second part gives an overview of regulations and design standards

published by several transportation authorities, including concern about door system's functionality and safety in different operation environment. Next comes clarification of the door observation problem and related sensor technology for the solution. Case studies were reviewed for some existing PRT projects and concepts where practical emphasis on the door system were involved. The integration of the traffic control and accessibility control is the major focus. The PRT projects researched were ULTra PRT, Taxi 2000, Vectus, and the Morgantown PRT (Furman et al, 2014, p.42). The literature review attempts to provide detailed discussion in the stated problems and the study can benefit the development of the master project via constructing thorough and rational theoretical preparation for methodology.

1.2.2 Door Mechanism for Powered Automatic Doors

The geometry layout and the physical mechanism of the onboard door system should meet the space requirement and users' convenience. Although there are many manufacturers of door system for transportation purpose, like IFE, Tamware, Norgren etc, the basic mechanism of their products are quite similar. Among the current products in the market, the door mechanism in use can be summarized as, swing plug door, sliding door and plug sliding door. These designs can also be classified as pneumatic powered and electric powered by the category of power supply.

Swing door design is the simplest approach and its high reliability is resulted from the mechanism simplicity (Van der Gucht et al, 2014, p.471). However, swing doors require relative larger indoor space for swinging, and these door systems are commonly seen to be installed on large train or metro coaches, buses and buildings. A swing plug door mechanism is

a further development from the basic swing door system. It eliminates the internal space requirement for swinging, but the swinging out motion still require more gap between the body of the vehicle and the platform than other mechanisms do. For a small six-passenger ATN vehicle, the opening on the coach frame and indoor space are limited, a swing door design may not be an optimal solution. Furthermore, crush protection is hard to design with this kind of mechanics, since motor torque is changing while the door is moving. Also, in a typical swing geometry, a swing door can suffer from a dead point if external impact deforms the arrangement of the linkages, and these incidents will block the door to close successfully as the door may remain at the opening position.



Figure 1. Principle of electric motor powered swing plug door mechanism. Adapted from *Swing Plug Doors Electric*, by IFE Door Systems, 2015, Retrieved Dec 12, 2015, from <u>http://www.ife-tebel.nl/en/products/swingplugdoorselectric/swingplugdoorselectric_1.jsp</u> Adapted with persmission



Figure 2. Principle of electric motor powered sliding door mechanism. Adapted from *Sliding Doors Electric*, by IFE Door Systems, 2015, Retrieved Dec 12, 2015, from http://www.ife-tebel.nl/en/products/slidingdoorselectric/slidingdoorselectric.jsp



Figure 3. Principle of electric motor powered plug sliding door mechanism. Adapted from *Plug Sliding Doors Electric*, by IFE Door Systems, 2015, Retrieved Dec 12, 2015, from <u>http://www.ife-tebel.nl/en/products/plugslidingdoorselectric/plugslidingdoorautomatic.jsp</u> Adapted with persmission

Sliding doors and plug sliding doors share many similarities as both systems require rail or guide ways to guide the opening and closing motion. The required installation space is relatively smaller when compared with swing doors. Plug sliding doors are more favored in some applications like high speed trains or metro trains, since door rail or guide ways is not placed on the surface of the car. This will reduce the air drag while vehicles travel at a high speed. Crush protection can be easily achieved by monitoring parameters like motor torque (electric powered) and air pressure of the actuator (pneumatic powered). Drawbacks can be found in the reliability issue as more components are involved (Cheng et al, 2013, p.219).

Considering the possible types, the plug sliding door approach fits the design requirement for the ATN vehicle best, but a sliding door could be a backup proposal. A further selection for the power module may prefer electric power, since small pneumatic actuators which adapts the proposed scaled down prototype may not be easy to find, and the extra purchase for the air supply tank and the air pump could very likely lead to a budget increase. Moreover, an electric powered door system is more advantageous for a full-sized electrical vehicle design as the pneumatic system increases the payload. However, there will be no major difference between the two approaches when the future project is required to build a full scale model, and the pneumatic powered system may be able to provide more tolerance against dimension error and soft closure. These features will guarantee better sealing of the vehicle.

Answers to the debate as to whether stations need platform screen doors will come from concerns about security and indoor environment control. Platform screen doors provide full height and fully protect the entrance to the guideway. The separation is essentially necessary for application with tracks or in cases that guideways are located in trenches or elevated with certain height. For stations that are elevated, full height screen doors are highly recommended to prevent passengers from falling off the platform. A fully covered platform will be free of wind felt by the passing vehicles, and noise is also isolated.

Ventilation and air conditioning are more effective in a closed environment. For an ATN application, the ticket machines could be installed right next to the platform screen doors and offer easy accessibility at the station entrance. In this configuration, motion sensors mounted on the doorframes would be able to cover the waiting area and the ticket machines, so monitoring of the motion of passengers would be easier to achieve, and the system could determine cases where vehicles are requested by passengers, but the passengers do not get onboard. After a certain time of waiting, the system may dispatch the empty vehicle to another location. This will largely help to improve efficiency and autonomy of the overall ATN system. The main drawback for platform screen doors is their cost. Projects with limited budgets may opt instead for an automatic platform gate approach in which the doors are not full height but can still reach chest-height. However, gates of chest-height are less effective against passengers jumping into guideways on purpose, for example, in suicide attempts. Platform gates are also not recommended for stations which have certain requirements about indoor environment. Sliding door mechanics are compatible with platform screen door/gate systems.

1.2.3 Design Criteria based on Regulations and Design Standards for Transportation

Transportation authorities worldwide have regulations and design standard to give guidelines and basic requirements for onboard door systems. General requirements fall into the categories of door opening, door function in emergency situation, door design to avoid hazards and etc. The design guides for door systems on metro, light rail and train coaches can be useful reference as the existing regulations and standards are tested in the transportation applications. Metro light rail design criteria manual recommends a minimum door opening of 48 inches wide and 80 inches high (Valley Metro Transit System, 2007, p.7-6).

For easy accessibility of wheelchairs, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standard requires a clear door opening of 32 inches. The horizontal gap between the vehicle floor and the platform edge should not exceed four inches, and the minimum two inch vertical step is enforced. This accessibility feature still needs to be maintained when the vehicle reaches 50% of its full capacity (The U.S. Access Board, 1992, p.16). These regulations are achieved by designating the door opening at the proper position on the vehicle body. Furthermore, the automatic pneumatic leveling system used on modern ATN vehicles is able to help to maintain the vehicle floor at the desired attitude in three dimensions when berthing at the station (Raney & Young, 2004, p.10), and a classic vehicle design approach with the chassis as the base is easy to apply such kind of systems. However, an ATN system approach with a suspended vehicle may require more effort in vehicle attitude stability.

The dimensions of the door design are also the result of several considerations to avoid hazards of finger trapping, hand crushing, or potential trapping of any part of the body. For the case of fingers drawn into the space between two door panels of a sliding door, the gap should not be greater than 8 mm. A gap larger than 20 mm will be considered free of hand trap hazard between the two panels trap (ADIS Automatic Doors, 2010, p.2). Finger draw-in and hand insertion could be very likely to happen in an automatic sliding door system with frameless glass panels as the door leafs. For the applications in ATN, vehicle doors are usually designed to slide within the gap between the inner and the outer panels of the vehicle body. For platform screen doors, frameless glass door panels are most often applied, and the best approach to avoid this kind of hazards is to cover the gap with rubber strips or weather seal for potential insertions.



Figure 4. Point of hazard for finger draw in. Adapted from *Design Guide for Automatic Door*, by ADIS Automatic Door, 2010, Retrieved Nov 28, 2014, from <u>http://www.autodoors.com.au/design-guide.html#05</u> Adapted with persmission

Head trap and body trap could occur on the side with no coverage of sliding door panels. The gap between the door panel and the fixed end is less than 200 mm can be considered as the hazard point for head trap and the gap is less than 500 mm can be considered as the potential danger for body trap (ADIS Automatic Doors, 2010, p.3). These hazards may be caused by an improper design of sliding platform screen door. Therefore, an optimal design should place the uncovered side *towards* the guideway. In Figure 6, the platform screen doors used in the Shanghai Metro System show a good example of how to avoid such kind of danger by placing the sliding door panels on the side near the guideway.



Figure 5. Point of hazard for head & body trap. Adapted from *Design Guide for Automatic Door*, by ADIS Automatic Door, 2010, Retrieved Nov 28, 2014, from http://www.autodoors.com.au/design-guide.html#05 Adapted with persmission



Figure 6. Platform screen doors in Shanghai Metro. Adapted from *Dow Corning Structural Sealant Solutions Enable a Safer, More Sustainable Shanghai Metro*, by Dow Corning, 2012, Retrieved Nov 28, 2014, from <u>http://www.dowcorning.com/content/news/metro_platform_screen_doors.aspx_</u>Adapted with persmission

Crushing hazards can also be prevented by rational design of the door observation sensor to cover a sensing area required by the design guide. The danger zone of crushing is considered to be 150 mm on either side of the door and the sensor is required to detect slow moving or stationary person within the zone of 100 mm from the door face. The design guide suggests the speed of the closing door lower than the 27 J kinetic energy level will minimize crushing hazard trap (ADIS Automatic Doors, 2010, p.4).





For other functionality of the door system, passengers should be warned to mind the movement of the door leafs by audio and visual warning signals when doors are opening or closing, and notifications in both two types are needed to be provided synchronously. These FTA regulations have been in effect since 1976 and have great importance to guarantee safe entry and exit for passengers with hearing or visual disability (The U.S. Access Board, 1992, p.19). Visual indication of the door system status or door operation is also required to be provided on the control panel. Each interior control panel must be equipped with status indicators for easy monitoring. This feature is essential for an unmanned ATN vehicle since the

panel is designed to be operated by passengers themselves. Simple and intuitive design for buttons and flush lights will lead to easy operation for passengers without technical knowledge.

The Railway Association of Canada posted some new regulations about door control systems in 2001, which can be applied to ATN projects to enhance transportation security. The door control system must have the redundancy feature that in the event of a control failure of the system, it will not result a sudden opening and remaining open of the door when the vehicle is moving. Normally, the electrical approach to secure the locking of the door when the vehicle is moving is to design a no-motion electrical circuit which determines if the vehicle is moving or not. It causes the passenger door to close when the vehicle accelerates above a pre-determined speed (Federal Railroad Administration, 2014, p.16985). However, in case of malfunction of the no-motion circuit, mechanical lock mechanics should be designed to secure the locked position of the latch at the end of door closure and the power supply shall be isolated from the door motor and door motor control (American Public Transportation Association, 2011, p.3). In an emergency case, mechanics should release the door lock so that manual opening can be proceeded and the equipped by-pass switch can override the no-motion circuit when it has a malfunction (Federal Railroad Administration, 2014, p.16985).

Additionally, manual override can be activated when these control failures happen, and door control can be conducted via manual operation (Railway Association of Canada, 2001, p.15). The American Public Transportation Association requires that the door leafs can be pushed back in powered status, when an obstruction is blocking the closing doors, with an effective push-back force lower than 45 lbf and the peak force not higher than 68 lbf. The mean effective force (F_E) is calculated as

$$F_E = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (F_e)_i}{n} \tag{1}$$

where F_e is the sampled measurement at the same measurement point for several trails and can be calculated as:

$$F_e = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} F(t) dt \tag{2}$$

and time between t_2 and t_1 is the pulse duration. The peak force is the measured maximum value of the force applied on the closing door during the pulse (American Public Transportation Association, 2011, p.7). Specific values for door closing force and speed are varied from regional regulations and standards. The designers should check the design guide as requested. Typical value of force for manual pushing should not exceed 30 pounds for full range of door motion is reported by the Metro light rail design criteria manual and the desired door panel's average closing speed shall not go beyond 7 ft-lb for powered status and 2.5 ft-lb for power deactivated (Valley Metro Transit System, 2007, p.8-4).

Before entering revenue service, the designed door system is required to perform safety tests, including Failure Modes, Effects, and Criticality Analysis (FMECA) and achieve certain reliability standards. For a typical onboard door system, the mean distance between component failure of the door system should be not lower than 90,000 miles and mean time to repair is not allowed to be over 0.75 hour (Valley Metro Transit System, 2007, p.8-11).

1.2.4 Observation and Sensors for Door Systems

In spite of automatic door motion control, another feature of the door system is the safety concern. National transport regulation and safety protocol should be executed while the vehicle is in operation. The research of Transportation Research Board under National Research Council in 1995 indicated serious consequences resulted from faulty door system design or failure of door control. From the statistical data collected by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority-New York City Transit (MTA-NYCT), 516 door related incidents occurred from 1988 through September 1993, on average, 92 incidents yearly. The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) reported 82 incidents from January 1992 to July 1993. Among these, two were from faults in door control, and 44 are related to passengers being struck while by closing doors (National Research Council et al, 1995, p.13). Obstacle detection sensors play a vital role to prevent crushing and enhance overall safety of transit. Since the proposed ATN system is designed to fully autonomous, no crew will be available to identify and respond to all the situations if passenger crushing occurs; the observation sub-system will take the full responsibility to obstacle detection, crush protection, and door system control. Typical observation procedures are shown in Figure 8.

Unloading and loading processes at the station can be divided into three phases for monitoring. First, passengers get off the vehicle as the door opens. Second, boarding begins as the door remains open. Third, late-arriving passengers rush to the door as the door is about to fully closed. The latter two phases require side-door observation as the first phase is the common time when danger with accessibility occurs (National Research Council et al, 1995, p.13).

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) based observation systems are largely used to monitor obstruction for door obstruction. However, these systems are not feasible to automatically send out the warning signal when a blockage occurs. Moreover, manpower monitoring is always required for a CCTV system. For an ATN station with high automation, the manpower can be spared to monitor every CCTV screen is not possible. In other words, reducing the CCTV cameras for door observation helps to increase the automation of station operation that limited CCTV cameras could be used to area surveillance for security. Therefore, other forms of sensing and monitoring are recommended to be deployed. Another feature should be noticed that a platform with only automatic platform gates or without equipment to deny accessibility to the guideway will be asked to pay special attention in monitoring unauthorized trespassing like suicide attempts or homicides by pushing a passenger off the platform into the path of an oncoming vehicle.

Sensors which can be applied to obstacle detection in transportation area are classified into the major categories of active infrared, light curtain, ultrasonic, and through-beam (Pepperl+Fuchs AG, 2013, p.5). These classic solutions easily challenge limited budgets, since the price of the detecting system largely depends on the procurement of sensors. A new fashion of electro-optical (EO) sensing with imaging process algorithms may offer an additional cost saving approach (Bombini et al, 2011, p.10). It has to be pointed out all sensors which are introduced previously have some blind zone due to the installation angle and the sensors' aperture angle. Excluding ultrasonic sensors which usually have short detection range, Field of View (FOV) of many other sensors is designed to focus at the region, 1-2 m ahead or backward the door (Bircher Reglomat AG, 2014, p.9). Ideal sensing coverage should be referred to the related contents in law enforced regulations and design guides for design

requirement for mounting and installation of door observation sensors.



Figure 8. Functionality of crush observation system with crews involved. Adapted from *Aids for rail car side-door observation* (p. 13), by National Research Council (U.S.). Transportation Research Board, Transit Cooperative Research Program, Telephonics Corporation. & United States Federal Transit Administration. 1995, Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, Copyright 1995 by National Academy Press. Adapted with permission.

The principle of active infrared sensors is based on the feature that the receiver detects the reflected light from the emitter. Receivers are configured into a linear array so that the receiver array is able to tell angle of arrival on each receiver. This creates a picture of moving objects in the sensing area. Thus, active infrared sensors are also referred as active infrared scanners in the industry (Pepperl+Fuchs AG, 2013, p.16). Active infrared sensors are chosen in many door systems to detect obstacle on the closing edge of the automatic door for collision protection with a typical FOV of 2200 mm x 1500 mm (WxD) (Pepperl+Fuchs AG, 2013, p.51).

Similarly, light curtain sensors operate according to active infrared principle and use

infrared LED as light source. The difference is a light curtain sensor has more than one light source. It can be applied with swing doors in which case active infrared scanners with one light source are not capable to be used. This multi beam version has an expanded FOV, usually going up to 3300mm. However, the increased blind zone cannot be ignored, and sensors are optimal choice for area scanning in front of platform screen doors (Pepperl+Fuchs AG, 2013, p.32). Assistance from sensors of other types for short range detection is recommended.

A typical ultrasonic sensor in transportation application has a sensing range of 500mm with an unusable area from 0-30mm. It could detect and range objects' motion regardless surface reflection and color which will possibly affect some photoelectric sensors, and ideally to be mounted on the doorframe to monitor motion right on the door step (Pepperl+Fuchs AG, 2013, p.273).

A through-beam sensor contains one emitter and one receiver. Two components should be placed in the same axis for point-to point emission. Objects are detected when passing through the beam. Through-beam sensors have better immunity against surface reflection and higher resistance to the influence caused by angle of incidence (Pepperl+Fuchs AG, 2013, p.16). Light source can be laser or infrared. The detection range is reported up to 6m, but with a limited coverage. The sensors are useful for detecting person presence in front of the door (Pepperl+Fuchs AG, 2013, p.107).

Hand crush protection is not possible to be fully fulfilled with only one of these systems involved. Alternatively, the sensing system could also be asked to respond to the situation like passengers blocking the door by purpose, for example, holding the door to wait for other people entering the vehicle. The details of the door control functionality should be

addressed in future studies.

The difficulty for photoelectric sensors to monitor hand crush hazards lays in the blockage of the observation, and the FOV of these sensors is not able to cover the area where hand crush usually occurs. The position of hand crush is usually blocked by the body of the person who suffers the crush as the mounting points of the photoelectric sensors are commonly selected to be the top of the door. Installing safety edges directly on the door edge is a feasible solution.



Figure 9. FOV of a photoelectric sensor mounted on the top of the door. Adapted from Door safety functions, In *Misubishi Electric*, n.d., Retrieved Nov 28, 2014, from http://www.mitsubishielectric.com/elevator/overview/elevators/s_features01.html Adapted with permission

Safety edges are usually attached to the leading edge of door leafs. Signals are sent by this type of sensors to the door control module to stop the door's motion when activated. There are mainly two methods of activation, pneumatic, electric and electro-optic. These systems can

be wired or wireless. Choices of different sensing edges are made referring to the door configuration and monitoring requirements. Sensors can also be activated by pressing or blocking to achieve holding-door function.

A pneumatic sensing edge contains a flexible hose, which is usually made with rubber to form a closed air chamber, and a pneumatically activated electric switch. Air pressure increase will activate the electric switch when the closing door hits the obstacle. Damage to the sealed air chamber will result failure in detection (DASMA Corporation, 2002, p.1). Advanced design could include pressure monitoring mechanism to solve this problem. This kind of sensing edges need pressure calibration after installation to fit the pressure date when the door is at the closure position with the designed clamping force.

An electrically activated safety edge consists two adjacent conductive strips in the rubber outer cover. Normally, the two strips are separated by a small gap to perform an open circuit. When the edge hits the obstruction, the contact is made and the signal is sent out via the closed circuit. An electric sensing edge can be in 2 wire or 4 wire configuration. Wires are connected to both ends of each conductive strip in 4 wire configuration and the system can self-monitor open or short condition of the edge. 2 wire configuration requires frequent test of conductivity of the strip whether breaks exist on the strip which will jeopardize the functionality of the system (DASMA Corporation, 2002, p.2).

An electro-optical safety edge detects the crush when the hand blocks the transmission of the light beam between the emitter and the receiver (DASMA Corporation, 2002, p.2). The light source is usually laser. The emitter and the receiver can be designed to be buried in the weather seal. The system can be configured to multi parallel beam arrangement or crossing

beam arrangement. In the parallel beam configuration, the smaller separation between each pair of emitter and receiver is, the better the coverage. These electro-optical systems commonly have built-in self-monitoring function to detect system failure. However, the price of electro-optical safety edges is higher than the two previous types and much more suitable for applications with wide door opening, for example, industrial gates for hangers and warehouses.

1.2.5 Case Study

Several ATN systems are operational or under construction, and many concepts are still developing which could be possibly introduced to commercial operation status in near future. The study about door systems in current PRT applications or concept designs will assist the development for the automatic door system which will be applied to Spartan Superway project. In this part of the literature review, four mature PRT cases will be discussed. Each case has a system overview and emphasized analysis on the door system onboard or at the platform. The study focuses on the door mechanics used, door control signal transmission and the interaction between traffic or systematic operation and door operation. These systems included in the study are ULTra PRT, Taxi 2000, Vectus and Morgantown PRT.

<u>ULTra PRT</u>

The ULTra PRT system started operating at London Heathrow airpower in 2010. It has a 4 km guideway, three stations and 21 vehicles. Each vehicle can carries four passengers. The vehicles operate with a present headway of 4 seconds and one track is able to donate the capacity of 3600 seats per hour (Lowson, 2011). There is no guided track involved in the system, and all vehicles are autonomously steered on the front wheel and run with four rubber

pneumatic tires. The steering mechanism acquires road condition from laser sensors and navigates with dead reckoning control. Figure 10 shows the vehicle of ULTra system. The damped spring suspension system is conventional. The steel frame, the vehicle propulsion module and the guidance equipment built on the aluminum ladder rack chassis. Four rechargeable lead acid batteries provide the power. The vehicle body is constructed with colored ABS panels (Ultra Global PRT, 2009, p.6).



Figure 10. An ULTra PRT vehicle with the door opened. Adapted from *PRT 4 Midtown*, by Midtown Raleigh Alliance and Ultra Global PRT, 2011, p.4.19. Retrieved from http://www.ultraprt.net/cms/RaleighMidtownPRT_study_12-19-11.pdf. Adapted with permission

Each vehicle can be configured to mount single side or double side electric doors. The door frame is built with ABS panel and bonded laminated glass, the whole structure is steel reinforced. The door system is actuated by DC motors with gearbox to match the rotation speed, and locking linkage system is built-in to ensure operation safety. Doors open with a modified sliding plug door pattern and the design is patented. Such design facilitates passenger-entry with door opening of 1.5m x 0.9m (height x width) (Lowson, 2002, p.10). The door leafs can be considered as a part of the car body when closed. The opening action does

not require the sliding-guide rail to be installed on the outer surface of the body in which way donates a clean surface body and reduces air drag while driving. There is no level change between the platforms and the vehicle floor (Lowson, 2002, p.8). The door system is fully automatic and controlled by microprocessor (Midtown Raleigh Alliance, 2011, p.4.19).

However, the door operation can still be overridden by human action with buttons on the interior control panel in Figure 11. The three buttons offer options as "Open Door," "Close Door," and "Start Journey." But, the door can be commanded to be opened via the door control signal from the command center or the passenger control panel (once the central control authorized the door control to be overridden by passengers onboard) in an emergency scenario (Midtown Raleigh Alliance, 2011, p.4.17).



Figure 11. The interior panel of an ULTra vehicle. Adapted from *PRT 4 Midtown*, by Midtown Raleigh Alliance and Ultra Global PRT, 2011, p.4.19. Retrieved from http://www.ultraprt.net/cms/RaleighMidtownPRT_study_12-19-11.pdf. Adapted with permission



Figure 12. Heathrow four-berth station (a. left) and A "open environment" station (b. right). Adapted from *Advanced Transport Systems ULTra PRT*, by Ultra Global PRT, p.13. Retrieved from <u>http://www.ultraprt.net/cms/ULTraDescriptionOct09.pdf.</u> Adapted with permission

Some station configurations are shown in Figure 12a and Figure 12b. The numbers of vehicle berths are varied according to the station configurations. To separate the passenger waiting area from the berth, each berth has an electric sliding platform screen door which opens synchronously with the vehicle door (Ultra Global PRT, 2009, p.13). There is no crush protection mechanism reported built-in with the onboard door system, and no sensor for monitoring door operation is installed on the vehicle. A classic infrared sensor is mounted on the doorframe of the sliding platform screen door for motion detection. Before the first motion detection can be initiated, passengers should select their journey on the Destination Selection Panel (DSP) (Midtown Raleigh Alliance, 2011, p.5.4). Then, the platform screen door system will decide if there are any personnel at the doorstep via the motion sensor and start door opening. After passengers are seated in the vehicle, door closure signal is sent by the close button on the interior control panel. Therefore, vehicle door control is handed over to the control system at the station when a vehicle is in the berth. Table 1 summarized the test result of elapsed time measurement of vehicle dwell time in station. It reported a door opening time
of 1.5 seconds, closure of the vehicle door and platform screen door cost 5 seconds (Lowson and Hammersley, 2011, p.7). In a typical case to loading four passengers to a vehicle, the loading time is measured as 16 seconds from the start of door open to the end of door close (Lowson, 2005, p.11). Clearly, reducing door open and closure time will shorten the loading cycle and increase station operation efficiency.

Table 1

ULTra PRT loading and unloading times

Loading case	Load/Unload only (seconds)	Including door movements (seconds)	
Single passenger load	4.4	16.9	Open and close
Single passenger unload	3.2	4.7	Close
Four passenger load (no baggage)	9.7	19.7	Open
Four passenger unload (no baggage)	6.9	8.4	Open
Four passenger load (with baggage)	12.8	22.8	Close
Four passenger unload (with baggage)	11.3	12.8	Open

Note. Retrieved from *High Capacity PRT Station Design*, p.7, by Lowson, M. V. and Hammersley, J., 2011, Reprinted with permission.

Taxi 2000

Taxi 2000 concept has 1:15 a scale-down demonstration model of the ATN system

named the Alpha Control System (Krueger, 2014, p.21). The program was initiated by Dr. Ed

Anderson ten years ago and never developed beyond the demonstration. The first Taxi 2000's SkyWeb Express system was constructed and tested by Raytheon in Marlborough, MA. Today, the system is still functional by the control of echoTM (Greenville County Economic Development Corporation, 2014, p. 22). The system is consisted with a 1 mile test track, 3 off-line stations and 20 battery powered vehicles. Each vehicle has a capacity of 3 passengers and runs on a slot track. The guideway has a 3-feet-wide by 3-feet-deep cross section, each track module is fabricated in length of 60 to 90 feet (The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, 2001, p.4-4). The system does not occupy the space for conventional traffic as the guideway is elevated up by 16 feet from the ground. The chassis and wheels, shown in Figure 13a and Figure 13b, consist one part on which the car body is built. Electric power is transmitted via wires on the guideway.





Honeywell Aerospace conducted a third party evaluation of SkyWeb's echoTM control system and reported a headway of 0.5 second (Greenville County Economic Development

Corporation, 2014, p. 22). The vehicle control network uses a star topology and all vehicles' movement is monitored by a real time server at the central control. Dual-way communication is only possible between each vehicle and the central control (Taxi 2000 Corporation, 2010, p.12). Thus, the central control is responsible for collision prevention, boarding control and station approaching control. Unlike other PRT systems which apply self-steerable vehicles, Taxi 2000 vehicles can only travel in the direction as the guideway leads. The off-line station is constructed with a classic track platform fashion, and the ingress vehicles only can be served in series. One obvious disadvantage is that a long waiting time of the previous vehicle will produce a dramatic lag on the schedule of the latter vehicle.



Figure 14. An Taxi 2000 vehicle with the sliding door opened. Adapted from *Skyweb Express transportation for the 21st Century*, by Taxi 2000 Corporation, 2010, p.2. Retrieved from <u>http://faculty.washington.edu/jbs/itrans/SWE%20marketing%20intro.pdf</u> Adapted with permission

The demonstrated vehicle designed is certified by ADA with further customization is available (Taxi 2000 Corporation, 2010, p.9). The door frame itself performs as the cabin with a typical sliding mechanism, and the design is user friendly to passengers with wheelchairs.

The guide rails for the sliding door are installed on the vehicle floor. The passenger interface offers three action buttons; "Go," "Next Stop," and "Emergency." Pressing the "Go" button will start the journey to the desired destination. Pressing "Next Stop" button commands the vehicle to drive to the next station (Taxi 2000 Corporation, 2010, p.9). The "Emergency" button will initiate communication between the vehicle and the control center. The vehicle door will automatically close once passengers press the buttons to start their journey (The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, 2001, p.4-7). Note that the system is elevated from the ground and the door should maintain closed while the vehicle is traveling. Thus, the door system is fully automatic and no passenger interference is allowed, door emergency opening should be authorized by the control center even in an emergency situation.

The onboard door system of the demonstrated vehicle model was not reported to have any motion detection or crush protection functions. However, it is highly recommended that further design should have the ability to detect passenger boarding and leaving the vehicle. The platform edge is on the same level with the vehicle floor, and the gap between the platform edge and the vehicle door should be minimized to protect passengers from falling from the platform. Some study suggested obstacle detection is necessary for platform screen doors in Taxi 2000 approach to enhance safety so that passengers could be allowed to clear the doorway if the door closure is retarded (The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, 2001, p.4-7).

<u>Vectus</u>

Vectus is a PRT project initiated by POSCO, a South Korean steel giant. The construction of the full-size test track started in 2005 after the top level control and logistics

were valid. The test track is located in a former football field in Uppsala, Sweden with a length of 400m. One station is on the off-line loop and three vehicles run on the test track. In 2007, tests started to verify the possibility for a commercial operation. The system applied a conventional railway fashion and the switch from the main loop to the off-line loop was performed by classic track-switches. Vehicles are captive to the track and each pod has four driving wheels and four unpowered guide wheels on the sides. Instead of using battery-rotary motor approach for power, the system was powered by linear induction motors (LIMs) in-track and onboard. This approach lowered the technology threshold and the overall cost of the system (Gustafsson, 2009, p.4). The test track was retired in 2012 after all the tests were completed.

A commercial system was introduced later in Suncheon Bay, South Korea in 2013. The two-way track is 5km long with 40 vehicles operational, and two stations are located at each end of the track. Typical headway is 4-5 seconds, and the system can transport 1313 passengers per hour in one direction (Pemberton, 2012, p.8). The track is elevated from the ground about 5 meters. Each station has four berths, and the track and the platform are separated by the screen door. A vehicle has its own vehicle control system for sensing and monitoring, the central control links with all vehicles via radio communication. The network is applied asynchronously with distributed topography. The vehicle decides its own position and calibrates the measurement with the data sent from the central control. The door operation command is conducted by the onboard vehicle control system once the vehicle is in the station, and doors are automatically locked after the vehicle leafs the station. The pod has two doors on both sides.

Differing from the door system on the test vehicle which uses sliding door mechanism,

the onboard door system of the commercial one applies sliding plug door mechanism and permanent magnet linear motors powered. This design could reduce the numbers of moving parts and enhance the reliability. It reported to achieve 1.5 million cycles before faults occur (Pemberton, 2013, p.10). Door leafs are built with carbon fiber and steel reinforcement. Another design purpose for the application of sliding plug door mechanism is to minimize the gap between the platform edge and the edge of the vehicle floor while maintaining a large door opening for easy access. Thanks to sliding plug door mechanism, the door opening of the new vehicle is 900mm wide by 1950mm high (Pemberton, 2012, p.31). The original test vehicle has a capacity of 4 seats. The commercial version vehicle has a seat capacity of 6-8 passengers and potential space for 6 standing. The interior door control panel is only functional when authorized and the door opens synchronously with the platform screen door. Platform screen doors have crush protection and motion detection sensors installed. The door system has builtin emergency mechanism to allow emergency evacuation on both sides.

Morgantown PRT

The legacy Morgantown quasi-PRT system *started* its commercial operation in Morgantown, West Virginia in 1975. The system has a bi-direction guideway of 13.92 km with five off-line stations and 73 vehicles (Raney & Young, 2004, p.9). Although the vehicles, which are designed to have a capacity of 8 seated and 13 standing, are too heavy to be considered as PRT in modern application of the term, the system demonstrated the potential for point-to-point transportation concept with a reliable operation record for nearly 40 years. Compared with modern PRT which are commonly with 24/7 availability, Morgantown PRT mainly serves for students of West Virginia University so the operation hours are primarily during class hours and closed for Sunday.

Note that when the vehicle carries many people, instead of running a point-to-point fashion, it operates like an automated people mover from one end of the line to the other. The vehicles are electric powered with a 52 kW DC motor, and electric pickups on the two sides of the vehicle are mounted to electrified rails on one side or both sides of the guideway. The vehicle is four-wheeling steering to perform small radius turn. The cabin and doors are constructed with welded steel frame. Automatic sliding doors on each side of the vehicle are DC motor powered and respond to the control channel to determine which door is activated when the vehicle is in the station. The door system is not reported to have any crush protection mechanism, and the legacy door control did not cooperate with any sensors for motion detection. Though no platform screen doors are installed to separate the waiting area away from the guideway as the project with built in the 1970s, an alternative solution is applied to guide vehicles with protective safety guide rails to stop at the exact position when door opening matches the gap in the guardrail. The tolerance of positioning error is reported to be +/- 6 inches (Raney & Young, 2004, p.8). The vehicle uses automatic pneumatic leveling to make the vehicle floor be on the same level of the platform. The door closing signal is sent by the station control unit and is transformed to the actuator command by the vehicle control unit. The additional embedded loops on the guideway send not only the driving command from the central control, but also the door command once the vehicle is parked at the proper position (Raney & Young, 2004, p.10). There is no interior door control panel for passengers and no manual override is allowed. But the danger of passengers falling to the guideway still exists as the waiting area is not fully separated, and the guardrails have no effect to prevent suicide attempts.



Figure 15. Guard fence in a Morgantown PRT station. Adapted from *Morgantown People Mover – Updated*, by Raney, S. and Young, S.E., 2004, p.8. Retrieved from <u>www.cities21.org/morgantown_TRB_111504.pdf.</u> Adapted with permission

The traffic control is built with a star topology structure. The system is automatically assigned to three operation modes, "demand", "schedule" and "circulation". Demand mode is usually applied in off-peak hours and responds to passengers' request immediately or with a typical waiting time of 5 minutes. The governing algorithm balances the system response according to two parameters: passenger wait-time and vehicle occupancy. If no other passengers share the same destination as the request and the maximum waiting time reaches, one vehicle will be dispatched to respond the request. Once the vehicle stops, the door will open as door command sent by the central control unit and boarding information will be shown on the electronic display. The door will close automatically after a boarding time of 20 seconds (Raney & Young, 2004, p.5). The vehicle then travels directly to the destination in a classic point-to-point service fashion. The "Demand" mode is more like modern PRT operation. However, the system cannot tell whether the vehicle is empty or not since no sensor is installed at the station or on the vehicle to report passengers' motion. It could be fairly possible that after the passenger passed the gate machine, rather than boarding the vehicle, he stays at the

waiting area on the platform. The system still considers this situation as a traveling task and drives the vehicle to the proposed station. This is a waste on transportation capacity.

The PRT service of "Demand" mode will be off when peak hours come and all vehicles will be commanded to run predetermined routes via point-to-point fashion to lower waiting time. The routes are designed with pre-knowledge of passengers' traveling patterns which are collected from historical records (Raney & Young, 2004, p.6). Circulation mode is activated in a low-demand period as the vehicles stop at every station like traditional bus service. However, the boarding time will not be changed in these two modes.

1.2.6 Conclusion and Implication of Literature Study

For vehicles will in the SMSSV project, a full electrical approach will be preferred, since the main power source of the system comes from the electricity generated by solar panels. Therefore, the prime mover for the door system is ideally suited to be a DC motor rather than a pneumatic actuator as discussed earlier. A sliding door or sliding plug door is recommended for the door mechanics. The choice between sliding or sliding plug will be based on the gap between the edge of the vehicle floor and the platform edge. A large gap can allow some space for door leafs to slide out. It should be noticed that the allowable gap is resulted from the vehicle's stability performance when berthing. For a vehicles that are suspended from the guideway, sliding door mechanics will minimize the gap as the vehicle berth can be designed closer to the platform edge, since no space is required for door leafs to slide out.

Platform screen doors are highly recommended for suspended and rail track approaches.

If the budget allows for stations with platform screen doors, the designer should consider this option no matter which door approach the project may go with. Wide FOV sensors are optimal for passenger present detection, and the safety edge is a must for each door leaf. The design for door control module needs cooperation with traffic control team, and this issue will be discussed later in related chapters.

Chapter 2 – Methodology

The design processes of this automatic door system can be divided into two parts: structure design and control design. Before going into the design work in each section, a rough scope of the prototyping project was investigated including the design objectives and methods available. This prior study was conducted through literature review and regular meetings with members of Spartan Superway project team. Engineering decisions were made during the process of prototyping with involvement of external requirements coming from the team.

The structure design process in this master project followed these steps:

- 1. Concept
- 2. Design criteria and design specifications
- 3. Numerical Solution
- 4. Finite Element Analysis Simulation
- 5. Scale-down engineering prototyping
- 6. Prototype Test

The design requirements from operation safety and accessibility control are directly reflected in the choice for dimensions and parameter sets for the system. The design criteria section provides additional explanation on the system's functionality. The validation of structure design is conducted not only using analytical and numerical techniques (FEA) and physical testing after assembly, but also in the operation test after the integration with the door control system, so that it can be verified that the system operates successfully or not.

Design for the door control system is a systemic engineering problem and requires contributions from the design for vehicle control system and the integrated transportation control system. The door control system is directly connected to the vehicle control system and acquires its control signal from the vehicle control to determine the authorization for door operation. The communication protocol must be achieved among the actuators and the control system's equipment both on software and hardware level.

The design for the door control system went through these steps:

- 1. Motor selection (based on mchanics design)
- 2. Signal standard & control logic
- 3. Hardware & Software selection
- 4. Integration
- 5. Testing

The initial starting point of door control system design is the selection for the motor which drives the mechanics. Motors in different types and models may require variable input signal which is commonly voltage in AC/DC. Based on this information, means for communication between the actuator and the door control system can be set. Moreover, extra work is asked to establish the communication within the vehicle control system and the door control system. Correct door operation can be defined as the door remains locked while the vehicle is in motion and conduct door movement according to designed operation regulation (opening, closing and waiting with designed timing). This issue is highly related with the vehicle operation on the guideway under the command of integrated control which gives orders to all vehicles operating in the transit network. Establishing of a system-wide communication protocol is a higher level engineering problem with a higher priority.

Chapter 3 – Results and Discussion

3.1 Design Criteria of This Automatic Door System

From the prior study in literature review, the setting of design criteria is discussed in this section. Design criteria directly reflect the user requirements summarized from literature review. The door opening is set to be 1.5 m wide and 2 m high according to the finding from the Metro System Design Manual (Valley Metro Transit System, 2007, p.7-6) to secure accessibility for regular walking passengers and passengers in wheelchairs. In this project a prototype with only a single door panel was built to simplify the design and fabrication effort. A load and a single door leaf model is adequate for demonstration purposes.

The gap between the door edge and the platform edge in horizontal and vertical direction will be a design input for the vehicle design task to guarantee a safe door way for wheelchair users as required by ADA guidelines (The U.S. Access Board, 1992, p.16). The design for gaps between the door leafs and the frame to prevent head or body trapping is not considered, since the prototype is mounted on a free standing frame rather than installed in a cabin design prototype.

Since the model has only one door panel, there is no dimension design to prevent hand crush protection. However, the function of hand crush protection is achieved by detecting the pressure change sent by the safety edge mounted on the edge of the door panel in which way a similar functionality is able to be demonstrated on this prototype.

The door mechanics is selected to be mounted on the ceiling of the cabin. The reason to choose this location for mounting comes from the plan for the guideway layout. The guideway

of Spartan Superway network proposes to use vehicles suspended from the guideway. Thus, the chassis will be located on the upper part of the cabin, and mounting the door mechanics on this strongest part of the vehicle guarantees structure stability. For the prototype, the door mechanics is mounted on a customized free standing frame with certain mobility and the assembly follows the same form of mounting.

The vehicle of this PRT project is planned to be powered by electricity generated by solar panels. The main power source for the door mechanics is a stepper motor served by the power bus of the vehicle.

The parameters for door movement were influence by Prof. Lowson's study on the Ultra PRT system (Lowson and Hammersley, 2011, p.7). The time spent on moving the door panels should be designed as short as possible. In this prototyping project, the time for the door in motion is set to be two seconds and the waiting time for passenger loading and unloading drops in a range from three to four seconds. Notice that the selection of time for movement affects the speed of the door system and directly influences the power required to drive the door mechanics. As long as the parameter setting is in an allowable range of the operating speed limited by the motor, changes can be made at a later time.

Furthermore, for the design criteria which is not a design input, the verification of the achievement will be done in the physical test for the prototype system. The effective push-back force and the peak force will be measured.

Table 2

Summary of Design Criteria

Doorway Width	1.5 m	
Doorway Height	2 m	
Type of Actuator	Hybrid Stepper Motor	
Location of Actuator	Above the door frame	
Power Supply	Vehicle Power Bus/Auxiliary battery	
Opening/Closing Time	4 sec	
Loading/Unloading Time	20-30 sec	
Sensors	Safety Edge/Light Curtain	
System MTBF	Based on Actual Design	

3.2 The Full Scale Door System's Mechanism Design

Designing the mechanism of door is the core of this design project. The layout of mechanism assembly is shown in Figure 17. The door panel is connected to a panel supporting part with bolts. The trajectory of this part is constrained by the door roller running on the guideway. The curvature portion of the guideway contributes the sliding out movement. The end near the curvature portion is the stop position for door closed as the door panel withdraw back into the cabin. The other end is the position where the door mechanism extracts the door panel to its open position.

The roller is selected according to the load vertically applied upon it and the load is numerically calculated with the actual weight of the door panel. The arm system connects the door panel to the main shaft as the shaft constrains possible rotation in the axis which is perpendicular to the front surface of the door panel. Also, a sleeve mechanism shown in Figure 19 is installed at the bottom of the door panel to constrain the rotation about the axis of the main shaft.



Figure 16. The overall layout of the full scale door mechanism



Figure 17. The arm system to support the door panel



Figure 18. The guideway of the mechanism

The mechanics are powered by an electric motor attached to the guide screw. The selected ball screw guide drives the arm system connected to the door panel. A video that shows the motion of an early concept model has been posted to YouTube to give a better understanding of the mechanics (Wang, 2015). The engineering drawings of customized parts are listed in the Appendix E.



Figure 19. The sleeve mechanism at the bottom of the door panel



Figure 20. Ball screw guide driving the arm system

3.2.1 Stress Analysis of Critical Parts

Prior to doing FEA simulation on particular parts and mechanism assembly, numerical solutions are given to check the strength of structure of interest. The panel support shown in Figure 21 is the most important customized part as it supports the door panel and connects the roller and the arm system which constrain the movement of the mechanism. This support structure carries the weight of door panel to the vehicle frame via the loading path as designed. The numerical calculation for checking the strength of this part is simplified to a cantilever beam problem shown in Figure 21 which shows the positions and the directions of forces applied on this specific part.



Figure 21. Loads applied on the panel support

According to the CAD model of the wooden door panel, the weight reading is approximately 28.2 kg. For the purpose of easy conversion and giving extra strength redundancy, the loading applied into the calculation is set to be 30 kgf or 294.2 N. The diagrams of bending force and bending moment are shown in Figure 22.



Figure 22. Diagrams of bending force and bending moment

As the center of gravity of the door panel has an offset of 315 mm from the center of the cross section of interest, the setting of this problem needs an additional torsion moment as a classic combined loading problem of bending and torsion and the torsion moment can be easily calculated as 92.673 Nm.



Figure 23. Combined loading with bending and torsion

Tresca's Criterion (Huang and Gao, 2004, p.628) is applied to do the check as:

$$\sigma_{r3} = \sqrt{\sigma_M^2 + 4\tau_T^2} \le [\sigma]$$
(3)

in which, bending stress is calculated as:

$$\sigma_{\rm M} = \frac{\rm M}{\rm W_Z} \tag{4}$$

where the section modulus of bending W_Z is defined according to the square section of the part:

$$W_Z = \frac{H^4 - h^4}{6H} \tag{5}$$



Figure 24. The cross section view of the panel support

And the shear stress due to torsion is computed via the following equation (Budynas, 1998, p.446):

$$\tau_{\rm T} = \frac{M_{\rm K}}{2\delta(a-\delta)^2} \tag{6}$$

where the thickness of the cross section is labelled as δ .

The calculation of the maximum shear stress also takes the effect of round fillet into consideration and written as:

$$\tau_{max} = a_t \, \tau_T \tag{7}$$

where a_t is the factor of stress concentration which can be calculated as:

$$a_t = 1.74 \sqrt[3]{\frac{\delta_{max}}{r}}$$
(8)

The bending stress and the shear stress are 0.969 MPa and 4.608 MPa correspondingly. Thus, the yield stress in this particular case is computed to be 9.267 MPa. Recalling the yield strength, 370 MPa, of 1018 steel which is selected to fabricate the part, the material is strong enough to carry the designed load.

As shown in Figure 22, the force applied to the bolt attached to the door roller due to bending is 422.912 N or 43.125 kgf. The suppliers in the market provide their products with the maximum loading capacity as one of the vital specifications. A door roller able to handle 100 kgf can meet the design requirement.



Figure 25. A typical sliding door roller can be found in the market. Retrived from http://slide.china-direct-buy.com/v/4/product_detail/6976739/sliding_door_roller.html

3.2.2 Finite Element Analysis of the Strength Problem

The purpose of doing a finite element analysis on the assembly rather than focusing the problem on parts of interest for the saving of computational load and time is to generate an overall picture about the strength problem on the systemic mechanism. The study will verify the strength assumption made in the numerical calculation, help to find the most critical part and give suggestions about material selection.

The setting of FEA simulation on the mechanism assembly follows the theoretical model has been built in the numerical calculation. The fixed supports are applied on the surfaces which provide bolt connections for mounting shown in Figure 26. Loads applied include the combined bending force of 294.2 N due the weight of the panel and torsion loading of 92.673 N-m resulted from the offset of the door panel's center of gravity and standard gravity acceleration.



Figure 26. Fixed supports on the labelled surfaces to simulate mounting



Figure 27. Loads applied in the simulation

The result shows the panel support suffers a stress reading less than 9.5 MPa which meet the numerical result. The maximum happens on the bolt connecting with the roller. This can be explained as the maximum bending force is applied on this part and the loading effect also combines with the torsion torque. However, as long as the roller part is chose with enough redundancy, this loading issue can be easily solved.



Figure 28. The result of the FEA simulation on full scale digital model, the critical part in the system is the thread shaft of the roller with a reading of 111.3 MPa in VM stress.

The simulation completed with convergence achieved in strain energy with 10% error allowance. The maximum stress reading failed to acquire a converged result within allowable error range of 10%. Based on the current stress reading of 111.3 MPa, the actual maximum stress could be very likely higher than the result posted. The maximum stress reading occurs at the fillet between the hex head of the bolt and the cylinder part. This gives a safe factor of 2.2.

Large deformation can easily jeopardize the effectiveness of the mechanism. The result in Figure 29 shows the maximum deformation of 0.335 mm occurs at the tip of the panel support which is due to the torsion. The deformation on the main shaft and components of the arms are all less than 0.11 mm which can be overcome by adding more tolerance in the dimensions. Although the convergence was not achieved in von Mises stress, the more important concern for the mechanism design is to yield a deformation immune solution. For the results in the full scale simulation, this objective is achieved. Moreover, the convergence of strain energy with 2% error provide another solid proof for this judgement.



Figure 29. Deformation of the structure



Figure 30. Strain energy convergence of the simulation



Figure 31. The maximum stress convergence plot of the simulation



Figure 32. Converengence of deformation with 1% error

To compare the stress loading performance, a two arm design similar to a commercial model was analyzed. The nylon wheel only has contact with the side walls and the load is mainly carried by the swing arm with the two arm system balances the weight on the other end of the panel support. It has to be noticed that the as the swing motion contributes to the sliding out motion, there is a vertical displacement on the door panel. Dimensions need to be designed carefully so there is no collision or interference. The same fixed constrain and load conditions were applied to this model in the simulation.



Figure 33. Layout of a commercial model

Deformation and strain energy both were obtained convergence with less than 1% error. The model as the same as the full scale model in this project is able to maintain the deformation in the mechanism within 0.11 mm range. The maximum stress was reported to be 37.9 MPa without convergence achieved due the stress concentration in the fillet on the panel support. The actual maximum may be much larger than this. The drawback of this design is that it requires more space for installation and another shaft needed to link the extra chain of arms. The proposed full scale model enjoys simplicity in mechanics with only one main shaft is required, but the functionality of the full scale model is based on successful manufacture of the guideway part, since the study in this project is not mainly focus on this portion. More study on this highly recommended for the future.



Figure 34. Installation space comparison: full scale model (left) & the commercial model (right)



Figure 35. Maximum stress located at the panel support for the commercial model



Figure 36. Deformation performance of the commercial model



Figure 37. Converengence of strain energy with 1% error



Figure 38. Non-converengence of VM stress



Figure 39. Converengence of deformation with 1% error

3.3 1:3 Scale Prototype Model

Instead of building a full scale model, which is an expensive approach for concept proving, a 1:3 scale prototype was designed and built to validate the design concept. As the door opening for the full scale model is 810 mm, the required traveling distance for the 1:3 scale prototype should be 270 mm. The traveling time is the same as 4 seconds for each opening or closing motion. The structural components were 3D printed with polylactic acid (PLA) rather than machined from metal, so the mechanics do not carry the load of an actual fiber glass door panel. The system may carry a foam core panel about hundred grams as external load.

Additional benefits come from 3D-printing and digital laser cutting, for example, broken parts can be replaced within few hours. Light material guarantees a lighter gross weight of the system. This makes the prototype portable and easy to be reassembled onsite at any conference meetings or exhibitions for demonstration.

The power source was selected to be a stepper motor. Though the stepper motor is not able to apply closed-loop speed control, the precise counting of the distance traveled is favorable for the door mechanics as the displacement control is more critical to determine the timing to deceleration.

3.3.1 Mechanism Design of The Scale Down Model

As mentioned previously, the scale model prototype shares the same mechanics as the full-scale concept. However, the guideway was transformed into a slot cut on a base panel with

side walls on each side, which is different from the C-shaped guiding slot of the full scale model. Since the reduced width of the slot is no longer suitable for off-the-shelf door rollers, a customized roller is designed to fulfill the task. The roller illustrated in Figure 41 is attached with four 10 mm bore ball bearings that serve as wheels, and one bearing of 16 mm bore that acts as a roller in the slot. Two side walls provide guidance for sliding to prevent the roller from spinning about the axis of the M8 screw, which supports the door bracket.



Figure 40. Overall layout of the 1:3 scale model



Figure 41. Roller Assembly

The door mechanics was designed to travel 270 mm within four seconds. This denotes an average linear speed of 67.5 mm per second. This meets the requirement for transmission design. The pitch of the lead screw should be as large as possible. A large lead requires a slow rotation speed, which is an advantage for motor control. For this project, the door is required to stop as quickly as possible when sensors detect hand crush hazard. The motor will spends less time to bring down the rotation speed to zero when operating at a lower speed. The lead screw used in this project is a two-start lead screw with right hand thread of 8 mm lead, which is the largest model affordable. Thus, the simple calculation gives a threshold for rotation speed which is 506.25 rpm. The equations (Budynas and Nisbett, 2011, p.415) show when the angle of friction is greater than the lead angle ($\phi > \lambda$), back-drive may happen.

$$T_{raise} = \frac{Fd_m}{2} \left(\frac{l + \pi \mu d_m}{\pi d_m - \mu l} \right) = \frac{Fd_m}{2} tan(\phi + \lambda)$$
(9)

$$T_{lower} = \frac{Fd_m}{2} \left(\frac{\pi \mu d_m - l}{\pi d_m + \mu l} \right) = \frac{Fd_m}{2} tan(\phi - \lambda)$$
(10)

where

- T = torque
- F = load on the screw
- d_m = mean diameter
- μ = coefficient of friction
- l = lead
- ϕ = angle of friction
- $\lambda = \text{lead angle}$

The nut coupling with the lead screw is made of brass, and the friction between the nut and the steel lead screw ranges from 0.1 to 0.15 with lubrication, and 0.15 to 0.19 for dry contact (Budynas and Nisbett, 2011, p.421). The lead angle is 0.463 in radians, and it has a friction angle of 0.187 when taking the largest friction coefficient of 0.19. Therefore, the chosen lead screw will not back drive under any condition. This provides a self-locking function for the door mechanics. Based on the efficiency equation (Thomson Industries, 2014, p.5), the efficiency of the lead screw assembly is 65.58%.

$$Efficiency = \frac{tan(\lambda)}{tan(\lambda + \phi)}$$
(11)

where

$$\boldsymbol{\phi} = \tan^{-1} f \tag{12}$$

and the coefficient of friction is f.

The load on the screw is mainly the weight of the shaft link which connects the lead screw and the main shaft. The load is nearly 0.014 N and the required torque to drive the mechanism can be computed with (Thomson Industries, 2014, p.5):

$$Torque (N - mm) = \frac{Load(N) \times Lead (mm)}{2\pi \times efficiency}$$
(13)

which gives torque reading of 0.0279 N-mm. This is only the resistance due to the static load. With the consideration of acceleration and deceleration, the magnitude of the driving force should be greater than this value which will be given in the motion study section.

To determine a more accurate value for the required motor torque, a motion study was

done in Solidworks. Since a stepper motor is used as the power source, which can provide linear ramp acceleration and deceleration, the study used a speed profile shown in Figure 42 with 40% of total steps for acceleration and deceleration. Therefore, 20% of the steps were used in a single acceleration phase with a linear acceleration rate. As the traveling time and the distance are the input, the maximum speed and acceleration rate (same as deceleration rate) are balanced to be 708.7 rpm and 3720.9 deg/sec^2 which are shown in Figure 43 and Figure 44.

Because the lead screw is right handed, and when the mechanics starts with counterclockwise turning, the angular velocity reading is negative. A friction coefficient of 0.1 for contact between plastic and dry steel was applied on the contact surface of the main shaft and the shaft link. The same sliding effect also was added on the roller and the basement panel to provide additional resistance to the mechanism.



Figure 42. Speed Profile with 20% steps for acceleration



Figure 43. Angular velocity of the motion study



Figure 44. Reading of angular acceleration and deceleration



Figure 45. Motor torque measurement in motion study


Figure 46. Driving force measurement in motion study

Motor torque, driving force and acceleration rate share the same pattern. Note that the driving force measurement was on the contact surface on the shaft link towards the motor. Thus, the reading was negative at first when acceleration took place as the chain of arms performs as resistance to the shaft link. Maximum motor torque shown in Figure 46 and driving force shown in Figure 46 were required when mechanism needs to accelerate or decelerate. The magnitude of the maximum reading is about 0.3 N-mm which is much larger than the result derived by Equation 13 due the friction and acceleration.



Figure 47. Pressure force on the basement panel

The pressure force between the roller and the base plate shown in Figure 47 was measured in the positive Y direction. For a static load condition, the reading should be positive. The negative drop down happened when the roller entered the curvature portion of the slot. Consider the fulcrum to be the roller, the sliding out movement will generate a pitch up moment which reduced the pressure force. This phenomenon is due to the fact that there is no external load on the panel bracket in the motion study and the actual physical prototype. The weight of a door panel which generates a pitch down moment on the support to balance the moment was neglected and no other constraint was applied to stop the rotation.

However, this effect appeared to have little influence on the motor torque. The mechanics was still able to perform smooth motion. A possible effect that may occur is that wheels on the outside might be lifted up. The roller needs the inner side wall to guide its movement.



Figure 48. Pitch up moment due to sliding out motion

3.3.2 Controller and Hardware Used in the Prototype

The Arduino Mega 2560 was selected to be the main microcontroller for the system. Sensors include one ultrasonic sensor and three limit switches. All the sensors are connected to the Mega controller. All the current status, measurements and timing counting can be monitored real time in the serial monitor on the computer.

The full scale model is designed to be tested with the condition push back the door leafs manually when the motor is still powered. For open loop stepper motor control, this kind of action can cause miss counting steps if the pulse signal is not cut off immediately. Although the scale down demo prototype will not be tested in such scenario, a corresponding solution is still needed to be included in logic control design. To solve the possible drift of position prediction in this kind of situation, two of the limit switches are installed on each end of the main shaft. For the case, the microcontroller miscounts the steps, the two limit switches will give the reference for calibration of traveling limitation.

One yellow LED flashes when the motor coils is on to indicate the mechanism is in motion and the red LED will flash when the system start waiting for the human operator in manual override mode. Since controlling the blinking yellow LED requires one more thread, another Arduino UNO board is used for additional LED control function while meantime the Mega board can be focus on sending out motor control signal without any other interrupts. Call for interrupts in Arduino's integrated development environment (IDE) is very expensive in computation as it stops timing counting and blocks the external serial communication which usually causes a loss of serial data. In the case of this project, calling interrupts is not a favorable coding fashion rather than running two parallel threads as the serial monitor in the

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computer needs to read real-time data from the Arduino boards.

The stepper motor is driven by a M335 chopper driver which takes pulse, direction and coil current control input command from the Mega. The motor runs on its own power source from a 24 VDC power supply that can supply 6.5A of current. The chopper driver limits the peak current to 2.14 A for the protection of the motor. From the motion analysis, the motor speed was found that should reach an average 506.25 rpm and 708.7 rpm with acceleration taken into consideration. The motor was chosen based on a calculation to determine the maximum speed that can be achieved. Current and voltage obeys Ohm's law in each phase of the stepper motor windings. The relation between current, voltage and inductance followsthe equation as:

$$I = \frac{V \times T}{L} \tag{14}$$

in which I is current, V is voltage, L is inductance and T is the time of each phase or each step. Since the current must rise from 0 to its maximum in each phase when the coil is excited. The voltage used in calculation should be average voltage (DayCounter, Inc., 2015).

$$T = \frac{L \times I_{max} \times 2}{V} \tag{15}$$

T gives the shortest time for one step. It turns into clock frequency for motor control. The inverse calculation gives the maximum allowable inductance for the motor. In this case, the inductance should not be larger than 1.4 mH when running with 10 VDC. Thus, a National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) 23 standard motor is selected with 1.4 mH inductance and maximum current of 2.8 A. By checking the speed-torque chart provided by the manufacturer, the motor torque is about 350 N-mm when running at the speed of 700 rpm supplied by 24 VDC power which is sufficient for the application in this project.

Table 3

Motor Specifications

Model No.	Step	Current	Resistance	Inductance	Holding	# of	Detent	Rotor
	Angle	/Phase	/Phase	/Phase	Torque	Leads	Torque	Inertia
	(°)	А	Ω	mH	N-m	No.	g.cm	g.cm
JK57HS41-	1.8	2.8	0.7	1.4	0.55	4	250	150
2804								



Figure 49. Motor control diagram



Figure 50. One of the limit switches

3.3.3 Logic Control Design of 1:3 Scale Prototype

The control system for the door mechanism can be described in the term of finite state machine. The system's function and operation can be conceived as different states. In each state, actuators or sensors may be triggered correspondingly and exit routes are determined by the condition of running.



Figure 51. State machine diagram of the prototype

Authorization Check State. Each operational cycle of the door system starts with checking the authorization command sent from the central traffic control server which gathers the feedback information from all the vehicles or sensors in the network and sends out command based on the judgment about the information. Thus, the server has knowledge about whether a specific pod car is in the station or not and keeps the proper timing to start a door operation. In this state, the door system is continuously monitoring the input command from

the server. For example, the door system should be in lockdown status when the vehicle is moving along the guideway, the door system will only start the door operation when the vehicle stops at the right berth of the station at an allowable time.

In the prototype model, the authorization command is given by manually through a serial communication from the computer linked with the Arduino Mega controller, because the real traffic control server is not available yet for the Spartan Superway Project.

Distance Sensing State. Once the controller has received authorization to start the door operation, the ultrasonic sensor is triggered to sense whether there is any passenger in the waiting area. The output acoustic signal has a pulse repetition frequency (PRF) of 2 milliseconds with a pulse width of 15 microseconds. As the actual frequency output is 4 times less than the input, this give a maximum detection range about 3 meters.

Max Range =
$$\frac{c}{2PRF}$$
 (16)

where c is the speed of sound and is assumed to be 340.29 m/s.

If the presence of passengers is not detected at first, the system will keep sensing while counting the waiting time. Once five minutes has elapsed, and no passenger presence triggers the door operation, the system will feedback the information to the server, and the vehicle will be dispatched to another transit request. In the prototyping phase, this information is sent to the computer which monitors the program processing via serial port. This approach is for maximum efficiency of the network, and design logic can be changed in the future for better user experience. **Door Opening State.** This state is the start point of the door operation if the door operation is triggered by ultrasonic sensor. The door opening state has three entry routes. Each time a new door operation starts, the door mechanism moves from the close position to the open position. The limit switch at the open position will be triggered to help stop the door when the open position is reached. The yellow LED will start flashing to indicate that the motor is in operation. This blinking function will be triggered anytime when the motor is excited when the door is opening or closing. The exit route for the normal operation is the next state which the door system is ordered to wait a period of time to load and unload passengers and then the door will close.

There are two other conditions for which the door will re-open. The first is in case the safety edge is triggered. Normally, the door system will operating automatically if the safety edge has not been triggered more than three times, or else it will enter an auxiliary state after the door is opened again. For the scenario where the door is reopened for three times or more, the manual mode will be activated to let the human operator to judge whether the blockage is intended or accidental. The following state after the transition is door closing state and the human operator will control the timing to re-close the door.

Boarding State & Auxiliary State. The boarding state will only be triggered once after the system finishes opening the door. Then, the system will wait for 30 seconds for passengers to get off and onboard the vehicle during this period of time.

The system will enter an auxiliary state after the safety edge is triggered, and the door is re-opened. Once the safety edge detects the hand crush hazard, the door mechanism will move back to the open position and wait for five seconds to let the obstruction be cleared

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before the door can be re-closed. During these two states, all limit switches are inactivated to prevent mis-triggering the door. All coils of the stepper motor will be switched off for safety reasons.

Door Closing State. Two limit switches will be triggered in this state, the safety edge and the limit switch at the closed position. Corresponding to the three door operation modes, the door closing state has three different exit routes. In the normal operation mode, the door will be closed without any interruption from the safety edge and the operation will transit into mission summary state. Once the safety edge is triggered, the microcontroller will stop the motor immediately and start reversing the mechanism to open position. An auxiliary state variable will be marked and the system will operate into auxiliary mode once this mark is recognized. As mentioned earlier, the system will reopen the door, take a 5 second waiting and re-close the door if there is no obstruction blocking the door way. While in auxiliary mode, the system also keep counting the total times the safety edge has been triggered. For the case the safety edge has been triggered three times which is very rare, the system will enter the manual override state after the safety edge triggered for the third time.

Manual Override State and Mission Summary State. These two states are simple states in which the system determines the operation status and sends out necessary global level information to the server (in the prototype scope, the computer). The manual override state has two exit routes. When the system enters this state for the first time, the system will send out a signal to the server to indicate that the manual override mode is activated and will wait for five minutes for the human operator to come and press the button to stop the wait counter. During this period of time, the red LED will blink as an indication that it is in this state. If the waiting time expires, and no human operator shows onsite, the system will exit the door operation with

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the door in the open positon. The signal will be sent out to the server to remind it of the status. Then, the system will summarize parameters like the system running time, door operation time in the mission summary state and feedback these information to the server.

For the case that a human operator arrives and successfully turn off the timer for waiting him to be onsite by pressing the "manual override" button, the system will give the door closing control to the operator. The operator will need to press another button to re-trigger the closing motion after he or she makes sure there is no obstruction in the doorway. The reason that two buttons are needed to retrigger reclosing is to prevent the operator miss triggers the closing without carefully checking whether the doorway is clear or not. Thus, the door system will enter the mission summary state if the door is closed successfully.

3.3.4 Motor Test and Input Guidance

The stepper motor is one of the core components of the prototype. The test run of the motor before full integration of mechanism, electronics and software is critical motor control design. The test contributes a guideline for input setting against actual motion performance.

The stepper motor is controlled by step counting. Pulse-width modulation (PWM) is a common modulation technique used for generating the step signal. By changing the duty cycle, the pulse width is modulated to a proper value and the average voltage is tuned to the value calculated by Equation $T = \frac{L \times I_{max} \times 2}{V}$

(15. Recall the case running a speed profile to finish one opening or closing motion within 4 seconds, the maximum speed in this profile requires a signal of 2362.5 steps per second which

is 2362.5 Hz for the term of pulse signal. The average voltage needed is 10.54 V which gives 44.1% duty cycle when supplied by a 24 VDC power supply.



Figure 52. Diagram of duty cycle concept

However, constant pulse width is only useful in sending pulse for constant speed running. For acceleration application, the timer interval needs dynamically changing as long pulse is usually needed for the first step to start the motor from 0 speed and timer delay keeps shortening while the speed at the current time is increasing. Deceleration is the same story as acceleration as the process is inversed (Quinones, 2012, p.25). The timer interval is generated as

$$SPS_timer_register = \frac{timer_oscillator}{SPS}$$
(17)

where SPS is steps per second or the speed of the motor, the register is a 16-bit integer given to the timer to generate pulses with corresponding timer interval. For example, 4000 steps per second or 4000 Hz pulse signal gives the motor 1200 rpm. The oscillator on Atmega 2560 processor has a clock speed of 16 MHz. Thus, the register should be 4000 or one pulse will be generated every 4000 clock time.



Figure 53. A typical speed profile

Delay in acceleration. Each time a pulse is created an interrupt will be called and the timer will be cleared and this event happens in a scope of microsecond or less. Clearly, the accuracy of timing to fire a pulse mainly depends on the accuracy of the oscillator. Temperature and voltage are the main factors for accurate timing of the oscillator and the Atmega 2560 processor may have 10% drift from the calibrated value when running in an environment of 25°C (Atmel, 2014, p.44). Furthermore, calculations need to be done to determine the pulse width and the delay to fire the next pulse when the interrupt-service routine (ISR) is called. These calculations dependent on the computation load may slow down the CPU time when ISR is in processing.

The calculation about the timer interval and the timer delay can be given as

$$\delta t = \frac{c}{f}$$
(18)
$$\omega = \frac{\alpha f}{c}$$

where *c* is the timer count, *f* is the timer frequency and δt gives the delay to fire next step. The angular velocity and step angle are in radian (Austin, 2004, p.1). The acceleration between two adjacent timers can be written as

$$\varpi' = \frac{2\alpha f^2(c_1 - c_2)}{c_1 c_2(c_1 + c_2)}$$
(20)

while the linear ramp acceleration against time can be described as integration as follow,

$$\theta(t) = \int_0^t \overline{\omega}(\tau) d\tau = \frac{\overline{\omega}' t^2}{2} = n\alpha$$
(21)

Thus, the time to fire n_{th} step should be:

$$t_{n} = \sqrt{\frac{2n\alpha}{\varpi'}}$$
(22)

And the delay can be written as

$$\delta t = \frac{f}{c_n} (t_{n+1} - t_n) \tag{23}$$

Since the initial the initial count is given as

$$c_0 = f \sqrt{\frac{2\alpha}{\varpi'}}$$
(24)

the count at any specific step is calculated as

$$c_n = c_0(\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n})$$
 (25)

To summarize, the successive ratio for timer count is:

$$\frac{c_n}{c_{n+1}} = \frac{\sqrt{1+1/(n-1)}}{1-\sqrt{1-1/n}}$$
(26)

after Taylor expansion, we have the second order approximation as,

$$\frac{c_n}{c_{n+1}} = \frac{4n-1}{4n+1}$$
(27)

From Equation 22, the steps needed to reach a given speed can be obtained as

$$n = \frac{\varpi^2}{2\alpha \varpi'}$$
(28)

From Equation 25and 28, it is not hard to conclude that the timer frequency does not have effect on the step ratio and the acceleration determines the relative ratio between each steps. The accuracy of the second order approximation can erase the error less than 5.886E-06 after 25 times of iteration and the error keeps decreasing. But, the error for the first step is 44.853% and the calculation of the timer count is based on the value of the previous step, recalling from Equation 27, the error in each timer count will maintain at 47.93% and the delay in acceleration is the sum of the delay in each step. Without any treatment, the delay of actual timing to generate pulse will reach 200 ms after 100 steps.

Two treatments can be applied to reduce the delay. Treatment about c_0 in Equation 29 will shorten the delay time to fire the second pulse which contributes quick start. Treatment of c_1 in Equation 30 gives a perfect linear ramp acceleration.

$$c_0 = 0.676f \sqrt{\frac{2\alpha}{\varpi'}}$$
(29)

$$c_1 = 0.405c_0$$
 (30)



Figure 54. Ratio of step and relative error of approximation



Figure 55. Delay of 2nd order approximation

By Equation 28, the steps needed to reach a given speed is a function about the acceleration. Thus, the relationship between the delay of acceleration or deceleration and the speed profile used in the motion can be mapped since the speed profile is a function about the percentage of the total traveling steps used in acceleration and the traveling time. In the case of a speed profile, the shorter the traveling time is, the higher the maximum speed in the profile. Also, the longer the constant speed phase is, the more rapid the acceleration is.



Figure 56. Speed profile mapping with 2nd order approximation

In Figure 56, a triangular speed profile with 12 second traveling time will have nearly 6 ms delay in acceleration. The profile with rapid acceleration can spend less steps to reach the target speed. The treatment about c_1 can reduce the delay by half and obtain linear ramp acceleration with small amount of delay.



Figure 57. Speed profile mapping with treatment on c_1



Figure 58. Speed profile mapping with treatment on c_0

Due to the short delay in the first step, treatment on c_0 will results fire pulse earlier than the timing of pulse generation in an exact linear ramp. Also, the delay by applying constant pulse width in acceleration can be on few second level as the system considers itself running with constant speed while the actual response is still in acceleration. For the case of applying acceleration, rapid acceleration or deceleration is more favorable as fewer steps will be spend in these phases.



Figure 59. Speed profile mapping with constant pulse width

Delay in constant speed running. Finding the delay when the system is performing constant speed running requires gathering data from test runs. Samples were collected from 18 speed points from 100 to 1800 rpm and five measurements were taken at each speed point. The stepper motor codes used in the experiment are Arduino's in-built stepper motor control library (stepper.h) and well developed control program, Accelstepper, which is based on Equation 28 and 27 with acceleration algorithm applied.



Figure 60. Input verus output in frequency for Accelstepper code



Figure 61. Input versus output in frequency for Stepper.h code

Both of the two codes cannot follow on the pace of the exact input. Accelstepper failed to keep increasing the speed when input frequency went higher than 4600 Hz. This gives the maximum output of 1148.67 Hz for the pulse signal which reflects an angular velocity of 344.6 rpm. The Arduino's default control code followed the same pattern, but the maximum speed could reach 445.8 rpm which is 1486.16 Hz for step signal. This difference can be explained by the algorithm used by Accelstepper code keeps computing the steps to go and step ratio to maintain when firing each step via using Equation 28 and 27. Recall Equation 17, when the speed is reaching a certain high value, δt may not be enough to let the processor to do the computation. A higher grade processor can solve this problem. As the speed as dynamically changing in small amount when the motor was controlled by Accelstepper code has a better performance in maintaining the speed as the standard deviation of samples shown in Figure 58.



Figure 62. Comparison of sample deviation



Figure 63. Minimum pusle width failed to start the motor for Stepper.h code



Figure 64. Constant speed difference between the two codes



Figure 65. Comparison of constant speed delay

Furthermore, the experiment could not continue after the input for stepper.h code went beyond 1486. 67 Hz as the motor failed to start. This donated the minimum pulse width to start the motor which is 350 μ s with a duty cycle of 50%. The comparison of constant speed delay shown in Figure 65 indicates the processing delay can be largely reduce by setting the system running at high speed as the timer register is shorter compared with the one for lower speed. The shorter interval between each two ISRs guarantees smaller time counting drift.

Except the speed chopping off for Accelstepper code at high rpm, the pattern for input frequency setting versus the frequency of the pulse signal can be represented as the difference ratios in FigureFigure *60* and Figure Figure *61*, which are 1.02 and 1.003. With these two factors, the delay in constant speed running can be calculated as,

delay (ms) =
$$\left| \frac{1}{f_{input}} - \frac{1}{f_{exact}} \right| \times 1000$$
 (31)

Minimizing delay via speed profile mapping. The method to mapping the delay corresponding to the speed profile is straight forward. Delays in acceleration and constant speed phase are calculated according to the acceleration and the constant speed provided by the speed profile. The total delay of each motion cycle is the sum of these two portions. Since the actual speed is four times slower than the input, the actual steps needed to reach the same physical distance is quadrupled. Recalling the theoretical calculation in motion study, the 270 mm traveling distance of the prototype needs 6750 steps to cover with a motor of 200 steps per revolution. The actual input value to cover the same distance should be 27,000. However, the computation simulation still applied 6750 steps since the motion analysis was based on the 6750 step case. And the actual delay can be calculated by timing the difference ratio.

In the case of 6750 steps, comparison between Figure 66 and Figure 67 shows both of the two treatments performed similar in total delay for one motion cycle under different speed profile. Both of the two methods can achieve no delay running with correct selection of speed profile. The delay in the case by using constant pulse width method from stepper.h code had a larger delay of 45m s. The difference is clear that without any treatment in acceleration using constant pulse width to control the stepper motor will cause larger delay as the system is considered to be running with constant speed for the whole mission duration.



Figure 66. Total delay in a speed profile running with treatment on c_1 for 6750 steps



Figure 67. Total delay in a speed profile running with treatment on c_0 for 6750 steps



Figure 68. Total delay in a speed profile running with treatment on c_1 for 27000 steps



Figure 69. Total delay in a speed profile running with treatment on c_0 for 27000 steps



Figure 70. Total delay in a speed profile running by using stepper.h code for 6750 steps



Figure 71. Total delay in a speed profile running by using stepper.h code for 27000 steps

For more steps were spent in constant speed running, delays in constant speed phases are dominated in several 27,000 step cases. Compared with the delay in acceleration stages, the delays in constant speed running were in the scope of second. More than that, reducing the steps spent in constant speed running can only be achieved by applying a triangular speed profile since no method can be used to minimize this kind of lag rather than using better processors. In a triangular speed profile, 50% of the steps are spent in acceleration and the other 50% in deceleration. With the available treatment to deal with the delay in acceleration and deceleration, the total delay can be minimized. Furthermore, the maximum traveling speed can only be obtained in a triangular speed profile if the traveling time is constrained. This result matches the study we have in Figure 65 that there will be less delay as the system runs at the maximum speed available.



Figure 72. Maximum rpm mapping versus speed profile

Proper input for different codes. With the previous study, the optimized setting for the motor control can be summarized as follow:

For Accelstepper code, a triangular speed profile is preferred. With the achievable maximum speed of 344.6 rpm, the total delay for each motion cycle can be minimized to millisecond level and the total delay is nearly equal to the traveling speed.



Figure 73. Performance of Accelstepper code via using a triangular speed profile

For Stepper.h code, applying the pulse signal with smallest pulse width is recommended. However, the code loses reliability as mission time goes since the timer count is not dynamically updated. Timing drift after a long time running may result to fail to generate pulse signal with correct frequency. This is mainly led from the fact that the ISR is not called at correct time and the physical test shares the same conclusion as the motor was unable to increase to preset value and run at very low speed with loud noise generated.



Figure 74. Performance of Stepper.h code via using a triangular speed profile

To summarize the findings, both of the two codes can be applied in the control program and the two approaches were successfully tested. The difference of performance mainly depends on how long the program may run. For the case with the longest run time including initial passenger waiting period and safety edge being triggered for multi times, stepper.h code is very likely cannot reaccelerate to desired speed after multi stops. The reason has been explained in the previous content as the timing drift. Though Accelstepper code does not have a maximum speed as high as the one produced by stepper.h code, this code is still recommended for application for reliability reason.

Chapter 4 – Conclusion and Recommendations

This prototyping project delivered a mature approach for automatic door system design with a functional prototype. The strength of the full scale door mechanism' structure is validated with simulations. Current FEA results show maximum von Mises stress of 111.3 MPa. The deformation is within the dimension tolerance. It is expected that the full scale can maintain its mechanism effectiveness under designed loading condition. The convergence of the stress reading can be validated with physical tests about strength on the prototype product.

The FEA simulation shows the commercial model similar to IFE design may be more superior in carrying heavy load. But the CAD modeling shows the dimension design has more constrains as the equilibrium point of the panel support should be placed at a much backward location. This will make the panel support harder to be balanced and complicates the transmission mechanism. Building a small scale model with a mechanism of such kind can help to understand the operation before further investment is put into this design direction.

Moreover, the manufacturability of the components for the full scale was not studied in detail, since this was not the main aim of the project. Future work can contribute in this area, so that the feasibility of building a full scale model will be thoroughly vetted.

The transmission system right now is just a simple shaft coupling between the lead screw and the motor shaft. This is not a problem for light load application. For a full scale model carrying a 20 kg door panel, some impact absorbing measures are highly recommended. Applying a transmission belt to replace the rigid coupling should be considered for full scale prototyping.

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The 1:3 scale prototype is fully functional with designed logic control achieved. The door motion was managed to finish within 4 seconds with properly selected speed profile. Retesting the integrated system with a fast controller is highly recommended. The control board like Arduino Due with an AT91SAM3X8E processor is an affordable option. The rule of thumb for the timer is the higher clock frequency the better. With a fast processor, the delay in constant speed running can be largely reduced.

Another way to ease the motor control problem is to use the lead screw with a larger lead. The larger the lead, the slower the rotation speed is. Most common large leads can be found in the market are 25mm, 50mm and 78 mm. However, lead screws with large pitch are usually expensive, but they are necessary for a full scale model. To close a door with a 810 mm door way within 4 seconds, a rotation speed of 1518.25 rpm is required when using a lead screw with 8 mm lead. And the full scale model will have a heavy door panel, the torque requirement increases as well.

Current control system uses a fixed waiting time for boarding. A more intelligent approach can be developed with an application of a laser or infrared beam sensor. The sensor can be mounted at the side wall of the cabin near the door step. Each time, one passenger walks through the doorway, the sensor can detect the blockage of the beam and count for one person onboard. By comparing the number of passengers in the transit request from the ticketing service, the intelligent sensing technique can tell how many more passengers has to wait. This kind of control design will efficiently reduce the boarding time and help the ATN system to achieve a higher level management intelligence. Such kind of logic control design can be easily prototyped with laser beam sensors and photo resistors compatible with Arduino control circuit.

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Additional network integration can be arranged for a near term project to integrate the existing door system into the small scale traffic system. The communication can be fulfilled by Wifi communication via an XBee shield. Also the inaccurate timing issue may have a solution like timing calibration on a network level. Changing the existing C++ language to a real-time coding language like Java virtual machine is a long term goal for the project team that will benefits the skills in system and network design in the future.

Overall with the achievement so far, more future work will keep contributing to the development of the Spartan Superway ATN project.

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Appendix A: User Guides for 1:3 Scale Demonstration Prototype

1) General:

This early prototype is a 1:3 scale down model for a full scale design. The prototype model is developed for demonstration, control system validation and systematic integration with other components in the transit network of Spartan Superway.

- a. Carefully read this user guide before implement any test, demonstration activity, disassembly and modification.
- b. Do not apply heavy load over 1 kgf to any 3D printed and wooden components.
- c. Do not put any high heat source close to any 3D printed, wooden and electronic components. The melting point of 3D printed PLA parts is 150°C.
- d. Broken PLA parts can be reconnected by applying plastic glue or epoxy.
- e. Broken parts are not allowed to be used in any test, demonstration activity, disassembly and modification.
- f. Check specifications of all electronic components before any operation.
- g. Contact Spartan Superway team if having any problem.
- 2) Transportation:
 - a. Dissemble the roller assembly, panel support and mid-link before transportation. Dissembled components can be carried in a standard 12 inch toolbox case.
 - b. Properly store tiny pieces like 10mm ball bearing, 16mm ball bearing or shaft coupling (include headless hex screw) while transportation to prevent parts missing.

- c. Check if any mechanical part is broken before transportation. Broken piece should be repaired before any transportation. Cracks can be repaired by applying epoxy to prevent further growing.
- d. Motor assembly, lead screw assembly, basement and side walls can be transported with the main assembly. Place the main assembly on horizontal surface with maximum contact surface while transportation.
- 3) Assembly:
 - a. Check if there is any missing piece before assembly.
 - Repair any broken parts before assembly. Leave repaired parts at least 2 hours to let epoxy dry.
 - Powered tools are not allowed to use to tighten M8 thread connection on midlink, upper-link and panel support. Tighten gently with caution to prevent cracking
- 4) Disassembly:
 - a. Check if there is any missing piece immediately after disassembly.
 - b. Repair any broken parts immediately after disassembly.
 - c. Store tiny pieces properly.
 - d. Unload M8 thread connection on mid-link, upper-link and panel support gently to prevent cracking.
- 5) For Demonstration:
 - a. Check if there is any miss-connected pins or wiring before apply power to any electronic components and circuits. Inverting the DC power supply wiring on the M335 driver is not allowed. Miss connection may cause under-power on the sensors and the Arduino boards which is a common source of

dysfunctionality. Test run is highly recommended for checking any dysfunctionality.

- b. Check setting for the M335 driver corresponding to motor specification before connect the driver to any power supply. The default NEMA 23 motor included in the system has a maximum current tolerance of 2.8A.
- c. Using the control code provided by the developer for demonstration is highly recommended. Any damage to the system due to self- modification to the code is at user's own risk.
- d. The system can be operated with full configuration at a motor speed lower than 480 rpm. Disconnect panel support and mid-link from the upper link before operate the system at any speed higher than 480 rpm to prevent potential collision between mechanical parts. Any damage to the system due to operating the system at high speed with full assembly configuration is at user's own risk.
- e. Cut off the power supply to the motor and press the reset button on the Arduino Mega board immediately when collision occurs between mechanical parts.
- f. Press the reset buttons on both of the two boards before start a new mission.This will reset onboard RC oscillator to ensure accurate timing.
- g. Triggering the safety edge limit switch when the mechanism almost reaches the closing point may cause the system fail to respond as this kind of action confuses the step counting. Modifying the judgement statement for door close detection by eliminate the step counting will cause the mechanism fail to close the door. Again, self-modification to the control code is not recommended.

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Appendix B: Door System Design Guide for A Full Scale Model

1. General

Developing a full scale prototype model is a further step from basic concept validation of 1:3 scale model the main purpose of which is to provide a testbed for logic control design and a demonstration example. Unlike the scale down model, the major objectives of full scale model development is to test functionality and reliability of the door system model mature enough to a commercial model. The main features needed to be validated in Research & Development (R&D) of a full scale door system model should be:

- a. Standard & regulations based design method.
- b. Mechanism's durability and functionality in all designed conditions.
- c. Mechatronics integration with reliability study on industrial standard level.
- d. Compatible control software design and test.
- e. Selection of vendors' for major components.
- 2. Mechanism
 - A full scale carbon fiber door may weight 20-30 kg. The strength design should follow this load threshold to determine the design start point. Additionally, some unexpected condition should also be considered like passengers might lean against the door panel causing extra load to the mechanism.
 - b. Design a lead screw with lead over 25mm is highly recommended. To cover a rough 800mm traveling distance within 4 seconds, a linear velocity higher than 200mm. By using a lead screw with large lead can reduce the rotation down to 480 rpm. The motor will have better sudden stop performance.
 - c. For a two panel application, two one-direction lead screws with different

direction is required. However, such configuration complicates mounting and bearing arrangement. Further simplification can be made by designing a lead screw with threads in both of the two directions.

- d. Roller/Guiding slot configuration is not suitable for heavy. A configuration without roller is more preferred for heavy load due to full scale door panel.
- e. Transmission mechanism needs some impact absorbing measure. Potential solution can be applying rubber transmission belt.
- f. Gaps between door panel and door frame need to be covered by rubber strips to prevent finger draw in/trap hazard.
- g. The system should a mechanism for platform screen door. A compatible option can be a sliding door mechanism with direct purchase from multiple vendors in the market. The price is usually ranged from \$250 to \$500 with load capacity up to 50 kgf.
- Durability test via FEA simulation should include simulation about dynamic loading cycle. Physical tests needs to follow law enforced regulations and standards.
- 3. Accessibility
 - a. Strictly implement ADA regulation for accessibility for designing the door opening. The height of the door opening can be chosen according to the height of the vehicle. Minimum height of 1.6m is recommended for a cabin design with no standing capacity.
 - b. Accessibility is compromised when horizontal gap or vertical step excess maximum limits. The door control system may be designed to block the accessibility when this kind of conditions occur.

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- Accessibility should be not compromised by shrunk internal spacing after passengers onboard. This design problem needs to be solved with cooperation of cabin design.
- 4. Sensing & Indication
 - a. All sensors applied in the full scale system should be commercial products with certificated reliability validation.
 - b. Flashing LED with embedded blinking function can be used for visual indication without control requirement from the micro-controller.
 - c. Audio indication needs to be integrated.
- 5. Embedded Electronics
 - A faster processor is required when more sensors and output devices added into the door system.
 - b. An oscillator with higher operating frequency and lower timing drift can fix existing timing problems.
- 6. Logic Control
 - a. An integrated door control system will control the onboard door mechanism and the platform screen door mechanism. Machine to machine communication comes through wireless communication. To obtain simultaneous operation, the master-slave logic control problem is expected to be solved.
 - b. Implementation of no motion circuit.
 - c. Global communication in the network for local machine will be expected to achieve remote control and override.

Item Number	Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Source
1	Arduino Mega 2560 R3	1	\$45.95	\$45.95	SJSU
2	Arduino UNO R3	1	\$29.95	\$29.95	SJSU
3	JK57HS41-2804 Hybrid Stepper Motor	1	\$24.29	\$24.29	Banggood (SKU228738)
4	M335 CNC Stepper Driver	1	\$28.69	\$28.69	eBay (391288435609)
5	400mm Lead Screw 8mm Pitch with Brass Nut	1	\$14.97	\$14.97	eBay (221862151864)
6	Collision Sensor Switch	3	\$3.49	\$10.47	eBay (171969259787)
7	8mm Bore Diameter Zinc Alloy Mounted Ball Bearing	2	\$2.07	\$5.54	Banggood (SKU246813)
8	Mounting Bracket with Screw Nut For 57mm NEMA23 Stepper Motor	1	\$4.99	\$4.99	Banggood (SKU229681)
9	18 x 25mm CNC Stepper Motor Coupler 6.35 to 8mm	1	\$1.99	\$1.99	Banggood (SKU236031)
10	16 x8 x5mm Ball Bearing	1	\$3.12	\$3.12	Banggood (SKU039330)
11	5 x10 x4mm Ball Bearing	4	\$2.09	\$2.09	Banggood (SKU051348)
12	24VDC 6.5A Power Supply	1	\$25.03	\$25.03	SJSU
13	HC-SR04 Ultrasonic Sensor	1	\$1.96	\$1.96	SJSU
Total				\$199.04	

Appendix C: Bill of Materials for the 1:3 Scale Prototype

Note: Customized parts, parts for mechanical connection and wiring are not included.

Appendix D: Selected Content from M335 User Manual

Electrical Specifications

D	M335				
Parameters	Min	Typical	Max	Unit	
Output Current	0.6		3A	А	
Supply Voltage	+12	+24	+30	VDC	
Logic Signal Current	7	10	16	mA	
Pulse Input	0	-	300	kHz	
Isolation Resistance	500			MΩ	

Pin Interface

Pin Function	Details		
PUL+(+5V)	Pulse signal: Single pulse (pulse/direction) mode. 4-5V when PLU- HIGH, 0-0.5V when PUL-LOW. For reliable response, pulse width should be longer than 1.5µs. Series connect resistors for current-limiting when +12V or +24V used.		
PUL-			
DIR (+5V)	DIR signal: This signal has low/high voltage levels, representing two directions		
DIR-	PUL signal by 5µs at least. 4-5V when DIR-HIGH, 0-0.5V when DIR- LOW. Please note that motion direction is also related to motor-driver wiring match. Exchanging the connection of two wires for a coil to the driver will reverse motion direction.		
EN+ (+5V)	Enable signal: (NPN control signal, PNP and Differential control signals are on the contrary, namely Low level for enabling.) for enabling the driver and low level for disabling the driver. Usually left unconnected (ENABLED)		
EN-			



Appendix E: Selected Drawings of Customized Parts for 1:3 Scale Model











Appendix F: Selected Drawings of Customized Parts for Full Scale Model







Appendix G: Code for Arduino Mega Controller

```
1. #include <PWM.h> //PWM setting
   #include <AccelStepper.h> // Motor control
2.
3.
4.
   //defien states
5.
   #define State_Authorization_Check 1
6. #define State_Ultrasonic_Distance_Check 2
7.
   #define State_Door_Open 3
8. #define State_Door_Waiting 4
9. #define State Door Close 5
10. #define State Door Manual Override 6
11. #define State Door AUX Waiting 7
12. #define State_Door_Mission_Time_Counting 8
13.
14. static int state;
15. static int auxiliary_state;
16. static int ManualOverride_state;
17. static int DoorOperationCycle;
18. static int DoorOpenedCycle; //how many times door opened during the
  mission
19. //static int DoorCloseCycle;//how attenpts door tried to close during
   the mission
20. static int DoorClosedCycle; //how many times door closeed during the
  mission
21.
22.
    //Time Counting & Command
23. String Authorization;
24. int Max DoorOperationCycle = 3;
25.
26. unsigned long WaitingTime_NoResponse = 300000;//5 min (threshold)
27. unsigned long NonOverrideWaitingTime = 300000; //2 min (threshold)
28. unsigned long AUX_Waiting_Time = 5000;//5 sec (threshold)
29. unsigned long AUX_Waiting_Start;
30
31. static unsigned long mission_time; //overall mission time
32. static unsigned long mission_start;
33.
34. static unsigned long Timegone_NoResponse;// time before waiting loop
  for no response
35.
36. static unsigned long DoorOperationStart;
37.
38. static unsigned long DoorOpeningStart;
39. static unsigned long DoorOpenedTime;
40.
41. static unsigned long DoorWaitingStart;
42. static unsigned long DoorWaitingEnd;
43. static unsigned long DoorWaitingTime;
44.
45. static unsigned long DoorClosingStart;
46. static unsigned long DoorClosedTime;
47.
48. static unsigned long DoorOperationTimeGone;
```

```
49. static unsigned long NoneManualOverrideTime;
50. static unsigned long NoneManualOverrideStart;
51.
52. int ManualOverridePin = 40; //Manual Override Switch
53. int RestartByOverridePin = 41; //human operator have the trigger of
  door closing motion
54.
55. //Ultrasonic Sensor
56. int TriggerDistance = 100; //mm
57. int TriggerPin = 31; //Sensor Trigger pin
58. int EchoPin = 30; //Sensor Echo pin
59. float pingTime; //time for ping to travel from sensor to target and
  return
60. float Ultrasonic_Distance; //Distance to Target in mm
61. float SpeedOfSound = 340.29; //Speed of sound in m/s when temp is 20
   Celsius degrees
62.
63. //LED control
64. int YellowLED_Trigger = 52;
65. int RedLED_Trigger = 53;
66.
67. //Motor parameters
68. int MotorSpeed = 1800;
69. int MotorAccel = 1600;
70. static int DoorOpened = 6750;
71. static int DoorOpened_CCW = -DoorOpened;
72. static int DoorClosed = 0;
73. unsigned long WaitingTime = 30000; //Door Waiting Time 30 sec
   (threshold)
74.
75. //PWM Motor control using TIMER 3
76. int E1 = 2; //PWM Output
77. int M1 = 3; //Direction Ouput
78. int MotorEnablePin = 5; //Switch off coils when not using
79.
80. //Accelstepper setup
81. AccelStepper stepper(AccelStepper::DRIVER, E1, M1);
82.
83. //PWM parameters
84. float DutyCycle = 0.441;
85. int DutyCycle_16bits = DutyCycle * 65535;
86. int DutyCycle_8bits = DutyCycle * 255;
87. int MotorFrequency = 31250;
88.
89. //Limit Switch
90. int pin_ZeroPosition = 22; //pin for the zero position limit switch
   (closed)
91. int pin_OpeningPosition = 23; //pin for the opening position limit
  switch
92. int pin_SafetyEdge = 24; //pin for the limit switch as safety edge
93.
94. void setup() {
95. Serial.begin(250000);
96.
97. //state initiation
98. state = State_Authorization_Check;
99. ManualOverride_state = 0;
```

```
100. auxiliary_state = 0;
101. DoorOperationCycle = 0;
102. DoorOpenedCycle = 0;
103. //DoorCloseCycle=0;
104.
105. //Ultrasonic Sensor setup
106. pinMode(TriggerPin, OUTPUT);
107. pinMode(EchoPin, INPUT);
108.
109. //LED setup
110. pinMode(YellowLED_Trigger, OUTPUT);
111. pinMode(RedLED_Trigger, OUTPUT);
112.
113. //turn off all LEDs
114. digitalWrite(YellowLED_Trigger, LOW);
115. digitalWrite(RedLED_Trigger, LOW);
116.
117. //PWM frequency setting up
118. Timer3_Initialize();
119. Timer3_SetFrequency(MotorFrequency);
120. pwmWriteHR(E1, DutyCycle_16bits); //Pin 2 duty cycle
121. InitTimersSafe(); //Initializes all timers except Timer0
122.
123. //Motor setup
124. stepper.setEnablePin(MotorEnablePin);
125. stepper.disableOutputs();//cut off coils
126. stepper.setPinsInverted(true, true, true, true, true);
127. stepper.setMaxSpeed(MotorSpeed);
128. stepper.setSpeed(MotorSpeed);
129. stepper.setAcceleration(MotorAccel);
130.
131. //Limit Switch setup
132. pinMode(pin_ZeroPosition, INPUT);
133. pinMode(pin_OpeningPosition, INPUT);
134. pinMode(pin_SafetyEdge, INPUT);
135.
136. //Aux Mode
137. pinMode(ManualOverridePin, INPUT);
138. pinMode(RestartByOverridePin, INPUT);
139. }
140. void loop() {
141. state checking:
142.
     switch (state) {
143.
144.
        145
        case State_Authorization_Check:
          Serial. println("Please give order for door operation"); //
146.
  remind for authorization input
147.
          while (Serial.available() == 0) {}
                                                // wait for input
          Authorization = Serial.readString(); // read string from serial
148.
  port
149.
          if (Authorization == "Y") {
150.
            state = State Ultrasonic Distance Check;
151.
            mission start = millis();
152.
            Serial.println("Door Operation Authorized");
          }
153.
154.
          else {
```

```
155.
            state = State_Door_Mission_Time_Counting;
156.
            Serial.println("Door Operation not Authorized");
157.
           }
158.
          break;
159
        //********Distance Measuring*********e
160.
        case State_Ultrasonic_Distance Check:
161.
162.
          Serial.println("Sesnor triggered");
          do { //First time of measurement
163.
164.
            digitalWrite(TriggerPin, LOW); //Set trigger pin low
165.
            delayMicroseconds(2000); //Let signal settle
166.
            digitalWrite(TriggerPin, HIGH); //Set trigPin high
167.
            delayMicroseconds(15); //Delay in high state
168.
            digitalWrite(TriggerPin, LOW); //ping has now been sent
169.
            delayMicroseconds(10); //Delay in low state
170.
            pingTime = pulseIn(EchoPin, HIGH); //pusleIn returns
171.
   microseconds
            pingTime = pingTime / 1000000; //pingTime is presented in
172.
   seconds
173.
            Ultrasonic_Distance = SpeedOfSound * pingTime; //distance to
   the object in mm
174.
            Ultrasonic Distance = Ultrasonic Distance / 2;
            Ultrasonic_Distance = Ultrasonic_Distance * 1000;
175.
176.
177.
            Serial.print("The Distance to Target is: ");
178.
            Serial.print(Ultrasonic Distance);
179.
            Serial.println(" mm");
180.
            if ((millis() - mission_start) > WaitingTime_NoResponse) {
181.
              Timegone_NoResponse = millis() - mission_start;
182.
              state = State_Door_Mission_Time_Counting;
183
              Serial.println("No passenger waiting, Vehicle Dispatched to
   other response");
184.
              goto state_checking;
185.
            }
186.
            else
187.
              continue;
188.
           }
189.
          while (Ultrasonic_Distance > TriggerDistance);
190.
          state = State_Door_Open;
          Timegone_NoResponse = millis() - mission_start;
191.
192.
          Serial.println("Door Operation triggered");
193.
          DoorOperationStart = millis();
194.
          break;
195.
        //*********Door Opening*******
196.
197.
        case State_Door_Open:
198.
          DoorOpeningStart = millis();
199.
          digitalWrite(YellowLED_Trigger, HIGH);//Yellow LED blinking
200.
          stepper.enableOutputs();//coils on
201.
          stepper.moveTo(DoorOpened_CCW); //the direction starts with
   counter clockwise
202.
203.
          while (stepper.currentPosition() != DoorOpened CCW &&
   digitalRead(pin OpeningPosition) == HIGH) { //Limit switch at the
   opening position check whether the door is opened or not
204.
            stepper.run();
```

```
205.
          }
206.
207.
          stepper.disableOutputs();//cut off coils
208.
209.
          stepper.setCurrentPosition(-DoorOpened);//opened position
   calibration
210.
          DoorOpened CCW = stepper.currentPosition();
211.
212.
          digitalWrite(YellowLED_Trigger, LOW);//Yellow LED stops blinking
213.
          Serial.println("Door Opened");
214.
          delayMicroseconds(2000);
215.
          DoorOpenedTime = millis() - DoorOpeningStart;
216.
          DoorOpenedCycle++;
217.
          if (ManualOverride_state == 0 && auxiliary_state == 0)
218.
            state = State_Door_Waiting;
          else if (ManualOverride_state == 0 && auxiliary_state == 1)
219.
220.
            state = State_Door_AUX_Waiting;
221.
          else if (ManualOverride_state == 1) {
222.
            Serial.println("Please re-close the door");
223.
            while (digitalRead(RestartByOverridePin) == LOW) {}
224.
            state = State_Door_Close;
          }
225.
226.
          break;
227.
228.
        //******Door Waiting*********
229.
230.
        case State Door Waiting:
231.
          stepper.disableOutputs();//cut off coils
232.
          DoorWaitingStart = millis() - DoorOperationStart;
233.
          while ((millis() - DoorWaitingStart) < WaitingTime); {}</pre>
          Serial.println("Door Waiting Time Out");
234.
235.
          delayMicroseconds(2000);
236.
          DoorWaitingEnd = millis() - DoorOperationStart;
          DoorWaitingTime = DoorWaitingEnd - DoorWaitingStart;
237.
238.
          state = State_Door_Close;
239.
          break;
240.
241.
        242.
243.
        case State_Door_Close:
          if (DoorOperationCycle < Max_DoorOperationCycle ||
244.
  ManualOverride_state == 1) {
245.
            //DoorCloseCycle++;
246.
            DoorClosingStart = millis();
247.
            digitalWrite(YellowLED_Trigger, HIGH);//Yellow LED stops
  blinking
248.
            stepper.enableOutputs();//coils on
249.
            stepper.moveTo(DoorClosed);
250.
251.
            //safety edge enabled as well as limit switch at closed
  position
252.
            while (stepper.currentPosition() != DoorClosed &&
  digitalRead(pin SafetyEdge) == HIGH && digitalRead(pin ZeroPosition) ==
   HIGH) {
253.
              stepper.run();
254.
             }//motor will stop at any of these three conditions is
   triggered
```

```
255.
256.
             stepper.stop();//stop the motor
257.
             stepper.disableOutputs();//cut off coils
258.
            digitalWrite(YellowLED_Trigger, LOW);//Yellow LED stops
  blinking
259.
260.
           //safety edge triggered
261.
            if (digitalRead(pin_SafetyEdge) == HIGH) {
262.
               Serial.println("Door is obstructed");
263.
              delayMicroseconds(2000);
264.
               state = State_Door_Open;
265.
              auxiliary_state = 1;
266.
              DoorOperationCycle++;
267.
              goto state_checking;
268.
            }
269.
270.
            //end of normal door closing operation
            else if (stepper.currentPosition() == DoorClosed ||
271.
   digitalRead(pin_ZeroPosition) == LOW) {
272.
273.
               stepper.setCurrentPosition(0);//closed position calibration
274.
              DoorClosed = stepper.currentPosition();
275.
              DoorClosedTime = millis() - DoorClosingStart;
276.
277.
               Serial.println("Door Closed");
278.
               delayMicroseconds(2000);
279.
              DoorOperationTimeGone = millis() - DoorOperationStart;
280
              DoorClosedCycle++;
281.
              DoorOperationCycle++;
282.
               state = State_Door_Mission_Time_Counting;
283.
               goto state_checking;
284.
             }
285.
         }
286.
          else
287.
            state = State_Door_Manual_Override;
288.
          break;
289.
290.
291.
        //********Manual Override Mode*******
292.
        case State_Door_Manual_Override:
          Serial.println("Door Operation is not completed, please give
293.
  command");
294.
          delayMicroseconds(500);
295.
          NoneManualOverrideStart = millis(); //Time for no manual
   override start
296.
          digitalWrite(RedLED_Trigger, HIGH);//Red LED blinking
297.
298
          //wait 30 sec for manual response
299.
          while ((millis() - NoneManualOverrideStart) <</pre>
  NonOverrideWaitingTime && digitalRead(ManualOverridePin) == LOW) {}
300.
          digitalWrite(RedLED_Trigger, LOW);//Red LED stops blinking
301.
302.
          if (digitalRead(ManualOverridePin) == HIGH) {
303.
            goto Manual Override;
304.
           }
305.
          NoneManualOverrideTime = millis() - NoneManualOverrideStart;
306.
```

```
307.
          DoorOperationTimeGone = millis() - DoorOperationStart;
308.
          state = State_Door_Mission_Time_Counting;
309.
          Serial.println("No Manual Override in given time");
310.
          delayMicroseconds(2000);
311.
          goto state checking;
312.
313. Manual Override:
314.
         state = State_Door_Open;
315.
          ManualOverride state = 1;
316.
          NoneManualOverrideTime = millis() - NoneManualOverrideStart;
317.
          Serial.println("Manual Override Mode triggered");
318.
          delayMicroseconds(2000);
319.
          break;
320.
321.
       //****AUX Waiting****
322.
        case State_Door_AUX_Waiting:
323.
324.
          AUX_Waiting_Start = millis();
325.
         while ((millis() - AUX_Waiting_Start) < AUX_Waiting_Time) {};</pre>
326.
         state = State_Door_Close;
327.
          break;
328.
329.
       330.
331.
       case State_Door_Mission_Time_Counting:
332.
333.
          mission time = millis() - mission start;
334.
          mission_time = mission_time / 1000; //mission time in seconds
335.
336.
          mission_start = mission_start / 1000; //waiting time for command
   in seconds
337.
          Timegone_NoResponse = Timegone_NoResponse / 1000; //None
338.
  Response Waiting time in seconds
339.
340.
          DoorOperationStart = DoorOperationStart / 1000;
341.
          DoorOpenedTime = DoorOpenedTime / 1000;
342.
          DoorWaitingStart = DoorWaitingStart / 1000;
343.
          DoorWaitingEnd = DoorWaitingEnd / 1000;
344.
          DoorWaitingTime = DoorWaitingTime / 1000;
          DoorClosedTime = DoorClosedTime / 1000;
345.
346.
          DoorOperationTimeGone = DoorOperationTimeGone / 1000; //Door
   Operation Time
347.
          NoneManualOverrideTime = NoneManualOverrideTime / 1000;
348.
349
          //***print out results*****
350.
351.
          Serial.print("Mission Start Time: ");
352.
          Serial.print(mission_start);
          Serial.println(" sec");
353.
354.
          Serial.print("Mission Time: ");
355.
          Serial.print(mission_time);
356.
          Serial.println(" sec");
357.
          Serial.print("None Response Time: ");
          Serial.print(Timegone_NoResponse);
358.
359.
          Serial.println(" sec");
          Serial.print("Door Operation Start: ");
360.
```

```
123
```

```
361.
           Serial.print(DoorOperationStart);
362.
           Serial.println(" sec");
363.
           Serial.print("Door Opened Time: ");
364.
           Serial.print(DoorOpenedTime);
365.
           Serial.println(" sec");
366.
           Serial.print("Door Waiting Start: ");
367.
           Serial.print(DoorWaitingStart);
368.
           Serial.println(" sec");
369.
           Serial.print("Door Waiting End: ");
370.
           Serial.print(DoorWaitingEnd);
           Serial.println(" sec");
371.
372.
           Serial.print("Door Waiting Time: ");
373.
           Serial.print(DoorWaitingTime);
374.
           Serial.println(" sec");
375.
           Serial.print("Door Closed Time: ");
376.
           Serial.print(DoorClosedTime);
377.
           Serial.println(" sec");
378.
           Serial.print("Door Operation Time: ");
379.
           Serial.print(DoorOperationTimeGone);
380.
           Serial.println(" sec");
381.
           Serial.print("Time to Override: ");
382.
           Serial.print(NoneManualOverrideTime);
           Serial.println(" sec");
383.
384.
           Serial.print("Times Door Opened: ");
385.
           Serial.println(DoorOpenedCycle);
386.
           //Serial.print("Attempts Door Closing: ");
387.
           //Serial.println(DoorCloseCycle);
           Serial.print("Times Door Closed: ");
388.
389.
           Serial.println(DoorClosedCycle);
390.
           Serial.print("Times Door Operation: ");
391.
           Serial.println(DoorOperationCycle);
392.
           Serial.println(" ");
393.
           state = State_Authorization_Check;
394.
          break;
395.
       }
396. }
```