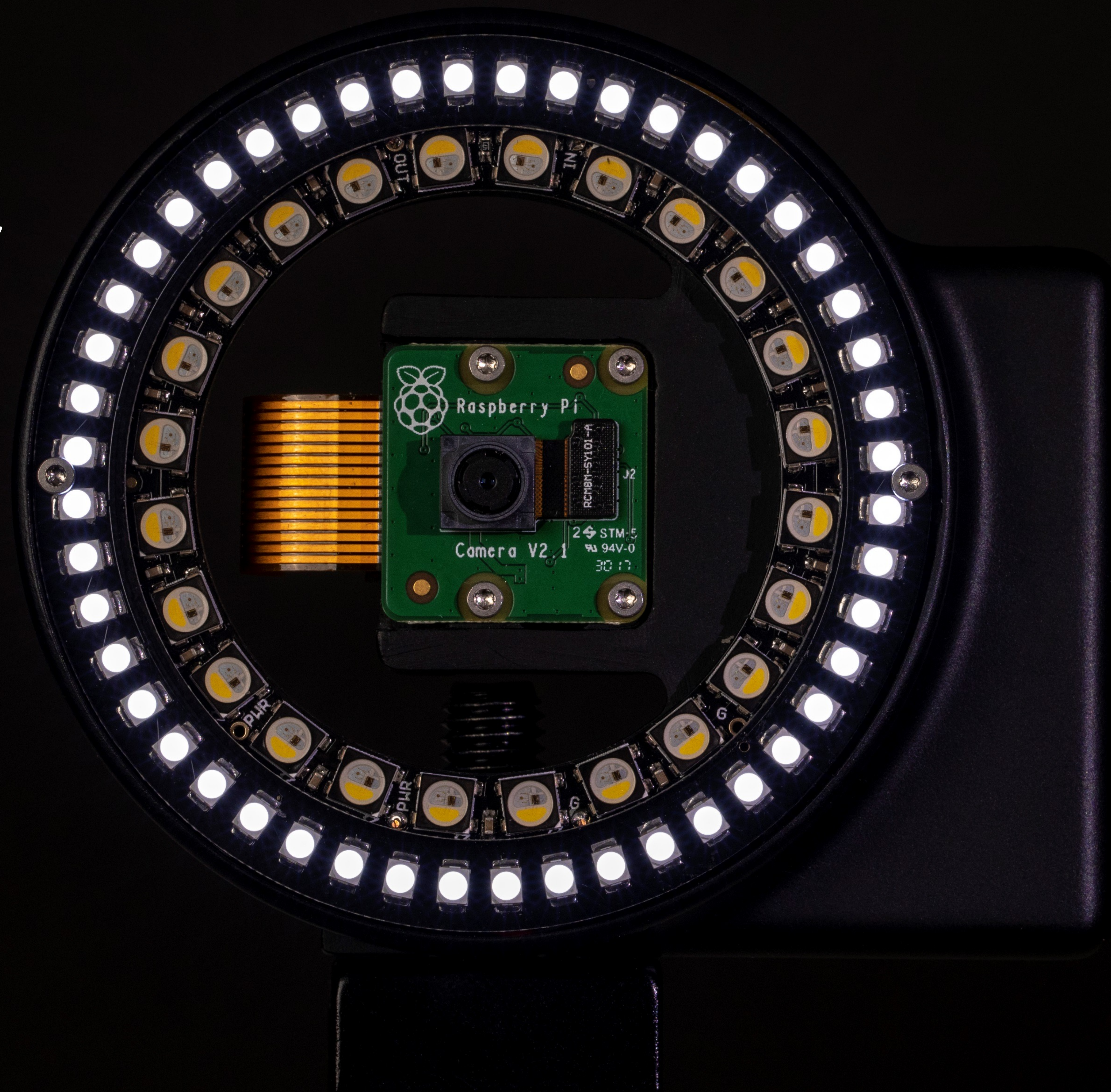


Aaron Jaeger

MIT Media Lab, MAS 2021
Graduate Research Assistant,
Biomechatronics

Robotics Engineering, WPI 2017



Biomechatronics Group, MIT Media Lab

Graduate Research Assistant, Master's Student 2019-2021
Senior Research Support Associate (SRSA) 2017-2019

“The Biomechatronics group seeks to advance technologies that promise to accelerate the merging of body and machine, including device architectures that resemble the body's own musculoskeletal design, actuator technologies that behave like muscle, and control methodologies that exploit principles of biological movement.”

Socket Team

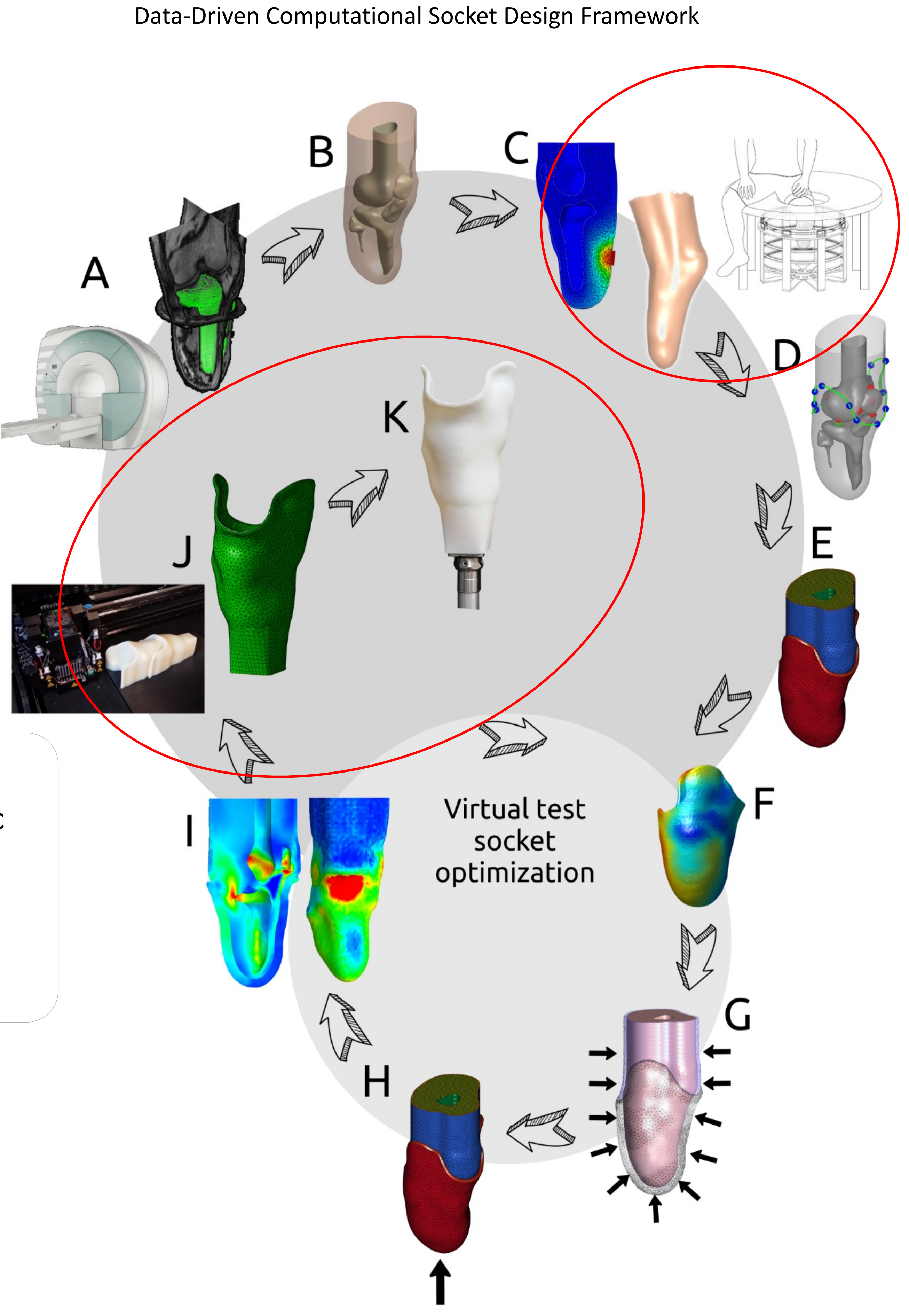
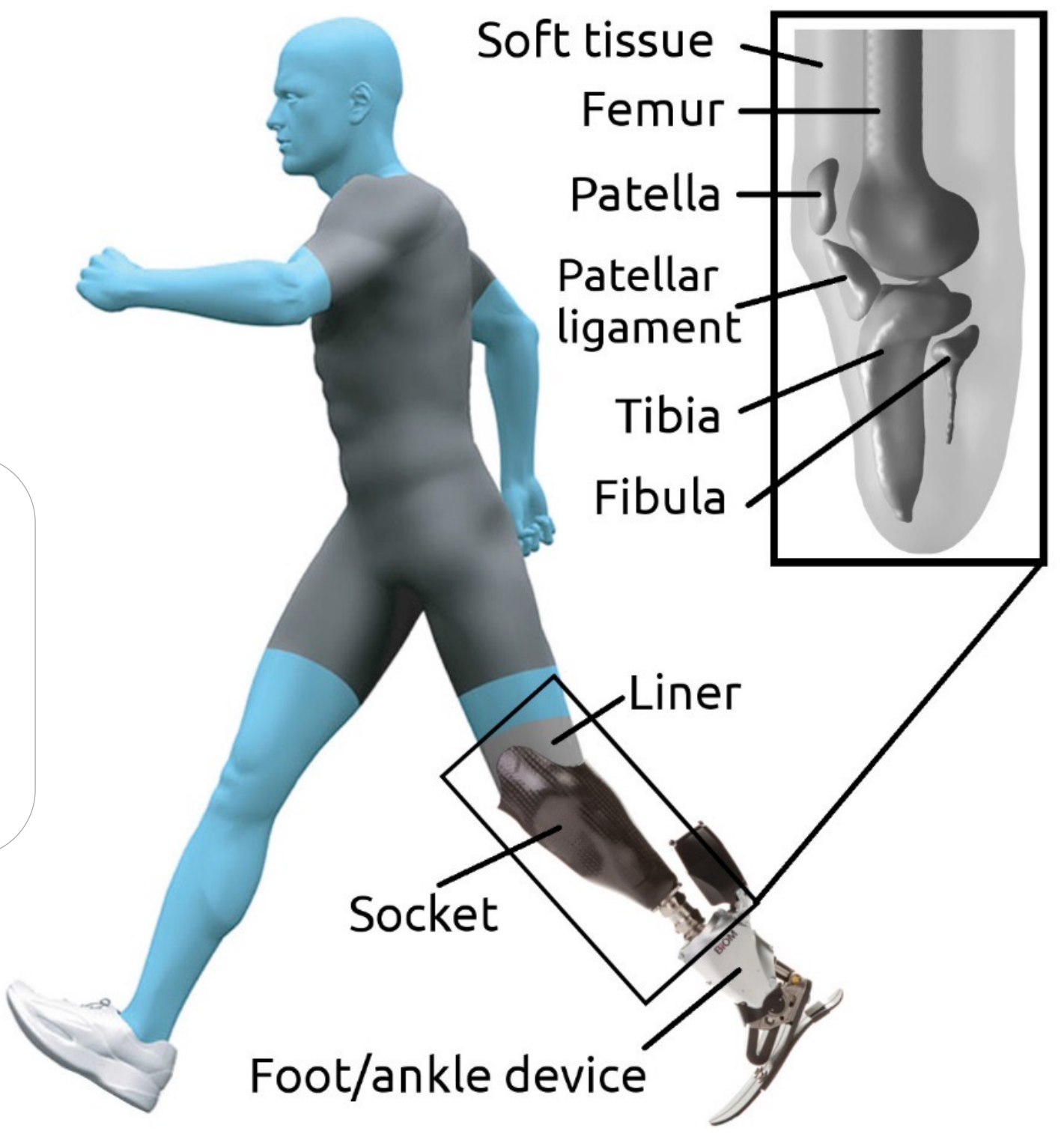
Challenge: Prosthetic sockets are currently manufactured using manual labor and are bespoke to the wearer. This manual process is expensive and often inaccurate, leading to sockets that do not always fit properly or might be poorly constructed.

Goal: Develop a data-driven, computational design framework to design affordable, subject specific prosthetic sockets and replace the traditional manual process.

My Contributions

As Graduate Student: Prototyped a Desktop Automated Fiber Placement machine to manufacture carbon composite prosthetic sockets.

As SRSA: Designed and implemented a patient Scanner and Indenter to measure the time-varying 3D shape and mechanical properties of a residual limb.

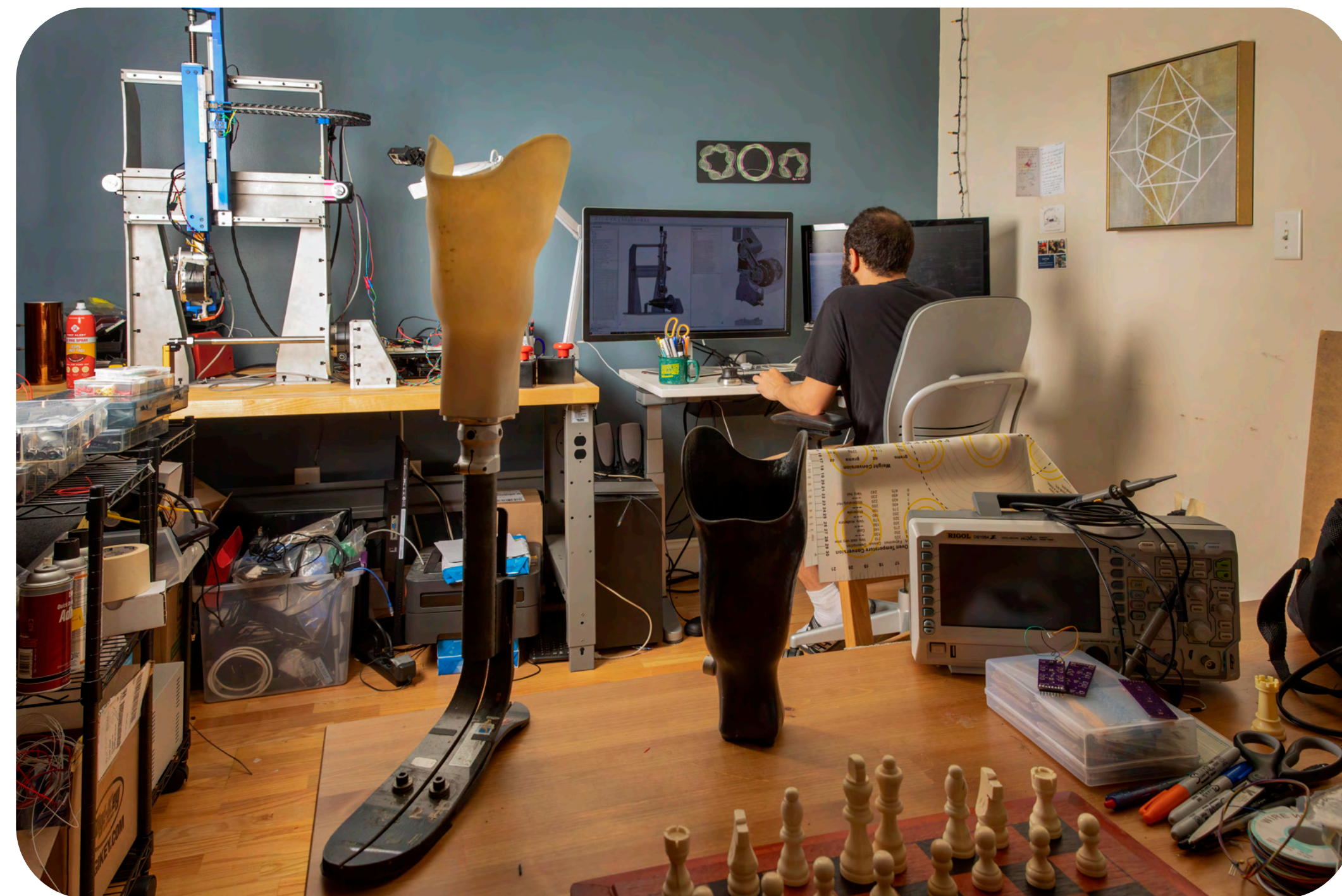


Master's Thesis - 2019-2021: Prosthetic Socket Fabrication

Project:
Prototyped a Desktop Automated Fiber Placement (AFP) machine to manufacture carbon composite prosthetic sockets.

Project Impact:
Desktop scale AFP machine for non-planar surfaces. This work aims to replace the current manual socket fabrication process that is expensive and often inaccurate, leading to sockets that do not always fit properly or might be poorly constructed.

Project Type:
Thesis project. Independently identified a problem, proposed a solution, then defined, analyzed, designed, built, programmed, tested, and evaluated the system.



Remote Media Lab Setup

Setup satellite Media Lab at home for use during the 2020-2021 Covid Pandemic

The Desktop AFP Prototype

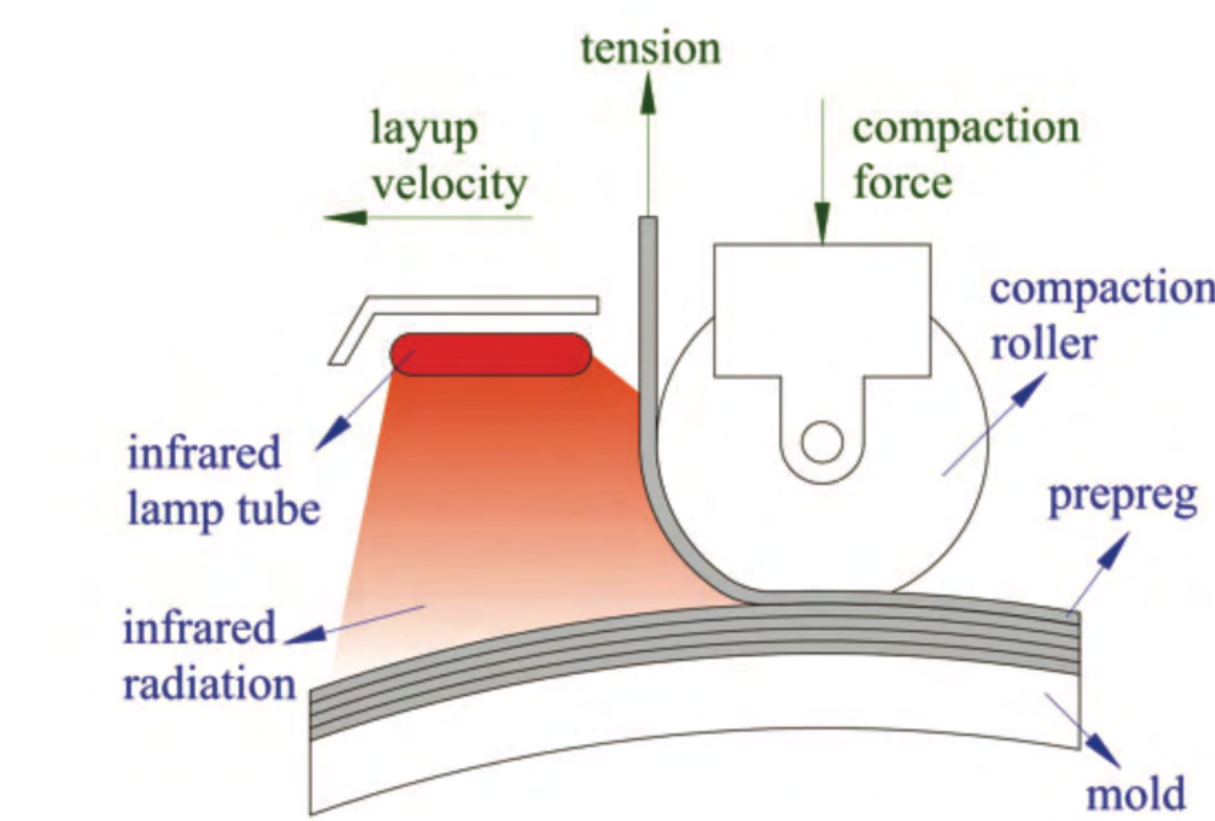
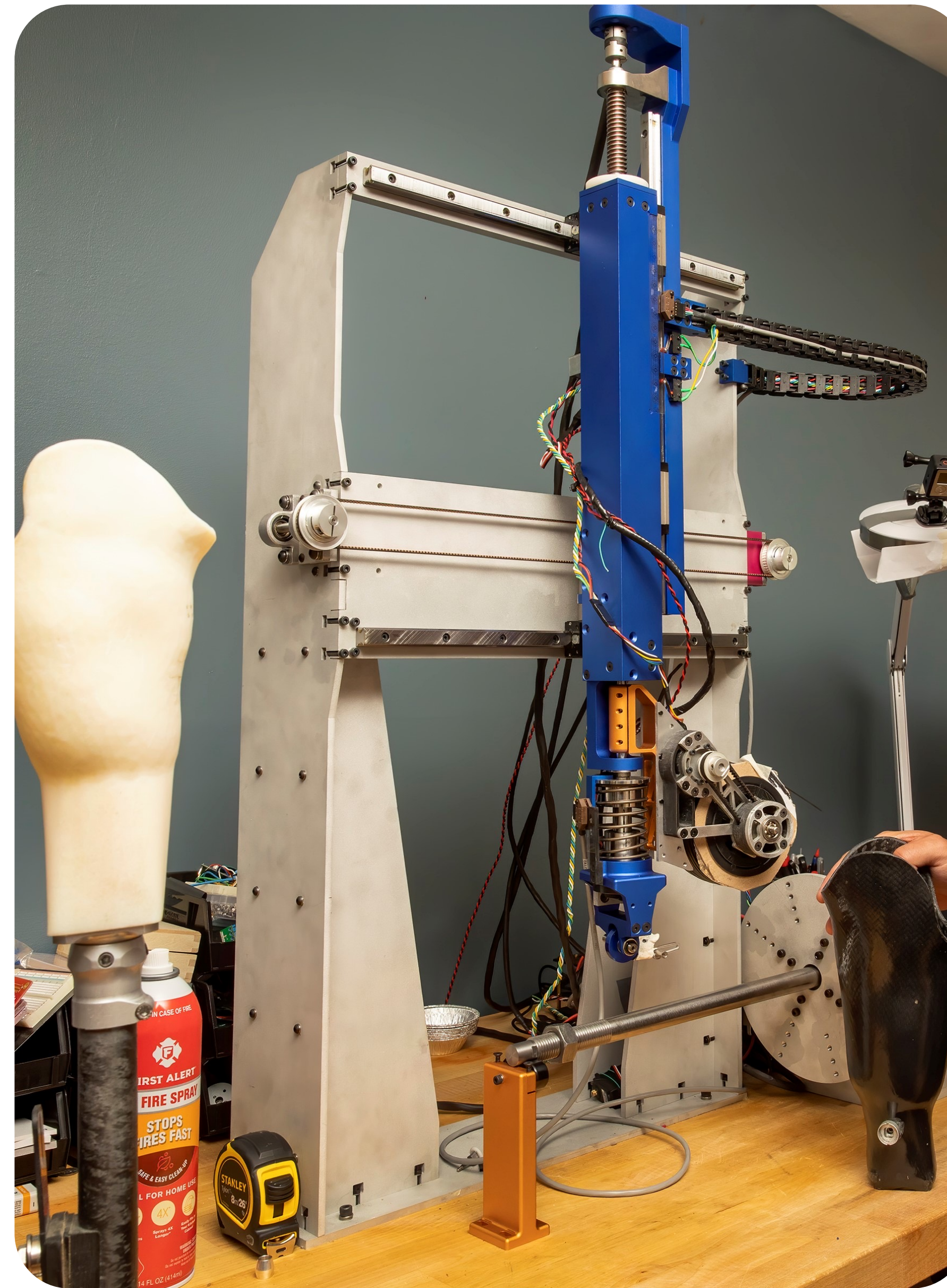
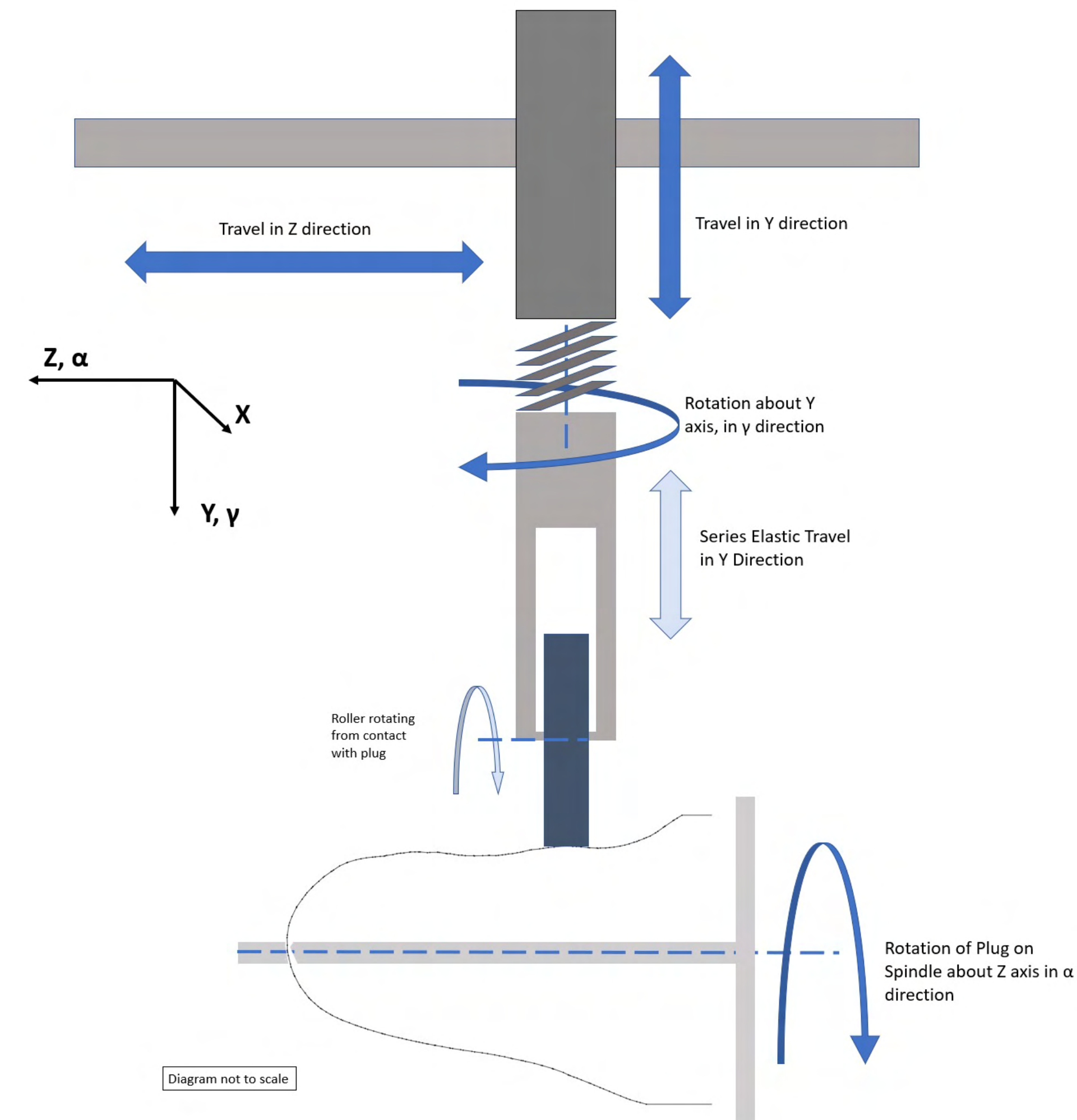


Figure 1. The automated fiber placement (AFP) process.

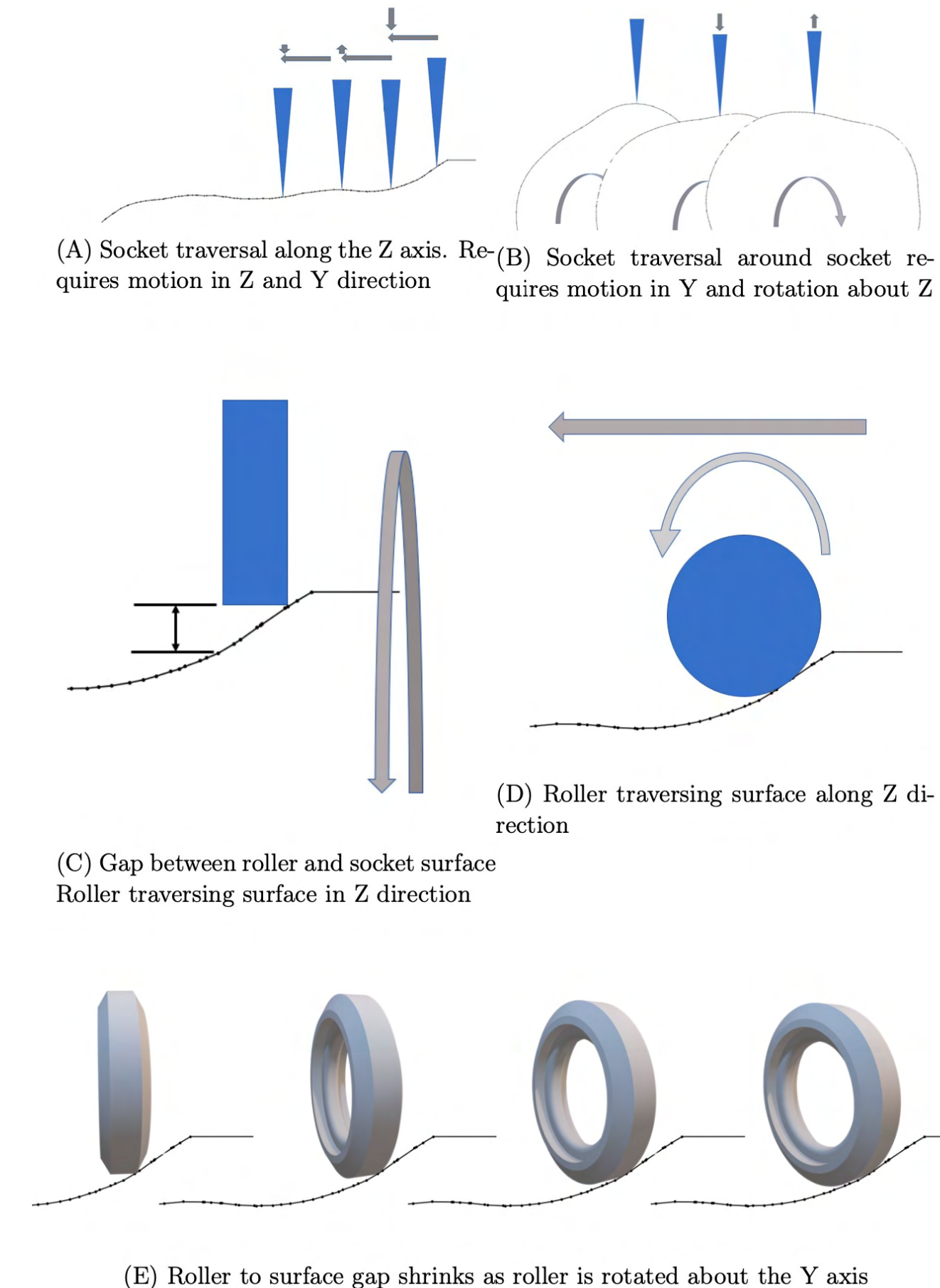
Jiang, J., He, Y., & Ke, Y. (2019). Pressure distribution for automated fiber placement and design optimization of compaction rollers. *Journal of Reinforced Plastics and Composites*, 38(18), 860-870. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0731884419850896>

Automated fiber placement (AFP) is a process commonly used in the aerospace industry to make large, complex composite parts where a robotic gantry lays down individual pre-impregnated strips of fiber tow. This thesis prototyped a proof-of-concept desktop AFP machine with four degrees of freedom designed for building prosthetic sockets for \$10,000 at a scale feasible for small clinics, university research labs, and residential settings. The AFP prototype demonstrated the basic ability to automatically place and laminate strips of fiber. During testing the prototype demonstrated a constant compaction force at 75N with standard deviation of 1.2N over varying surface and of produced the 10N of fiber tension that is required for composite lamination.

Degrees of Freedom in the AFP Prototype



Degrees of Freedom Necessary to Traverse the Socket Geometry



The Traditional Socket Fabrication Process

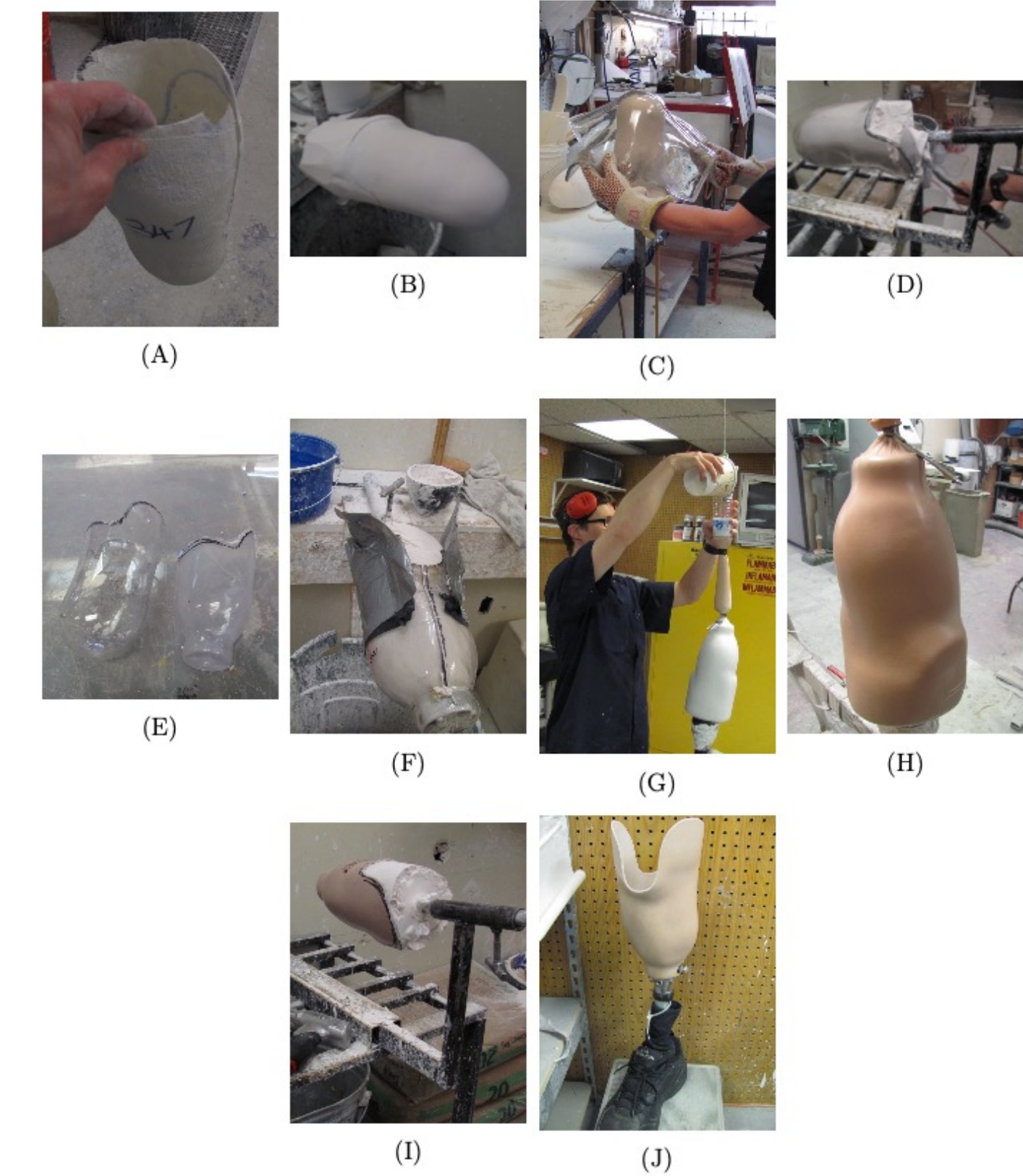


Figure 1-2: The abbreviated socket building process. A) Cast of wearer. B) Positive plaster mold. (C) Forming a temporary check socket. D) Destroying the original mold. E) The plastic check socket. F) Filling the check socket with plaster, and cutting the check socket in half to free the mold. G) Pouring in the resin. H) Massaging down the resin. I) Full wet-out of socket. J) Cut lines added. Time to destroy and remove plaster. K) Finishing the socket. L) The final socket. Taken from [2]

Broken 3D Printed Socket



To test the sockets designed by Biomech's computational design framework the lab was 3D printing test sockets. They were never safe enough to leave the lab because they would eventually break. However, we felt they were sufficient for in-lab testing. Unfortunately, during one subject test a socket broke! This broken socket motivated research into new socket fabrication methods.

Master's Thesis: Software

Software Goals

- User interacts with GUI to send actions and parameters to machine
- Machine parses input
- Machine acts
- Updates user while acting
- Finish action and wait for next command
- User can cancel action if necessary

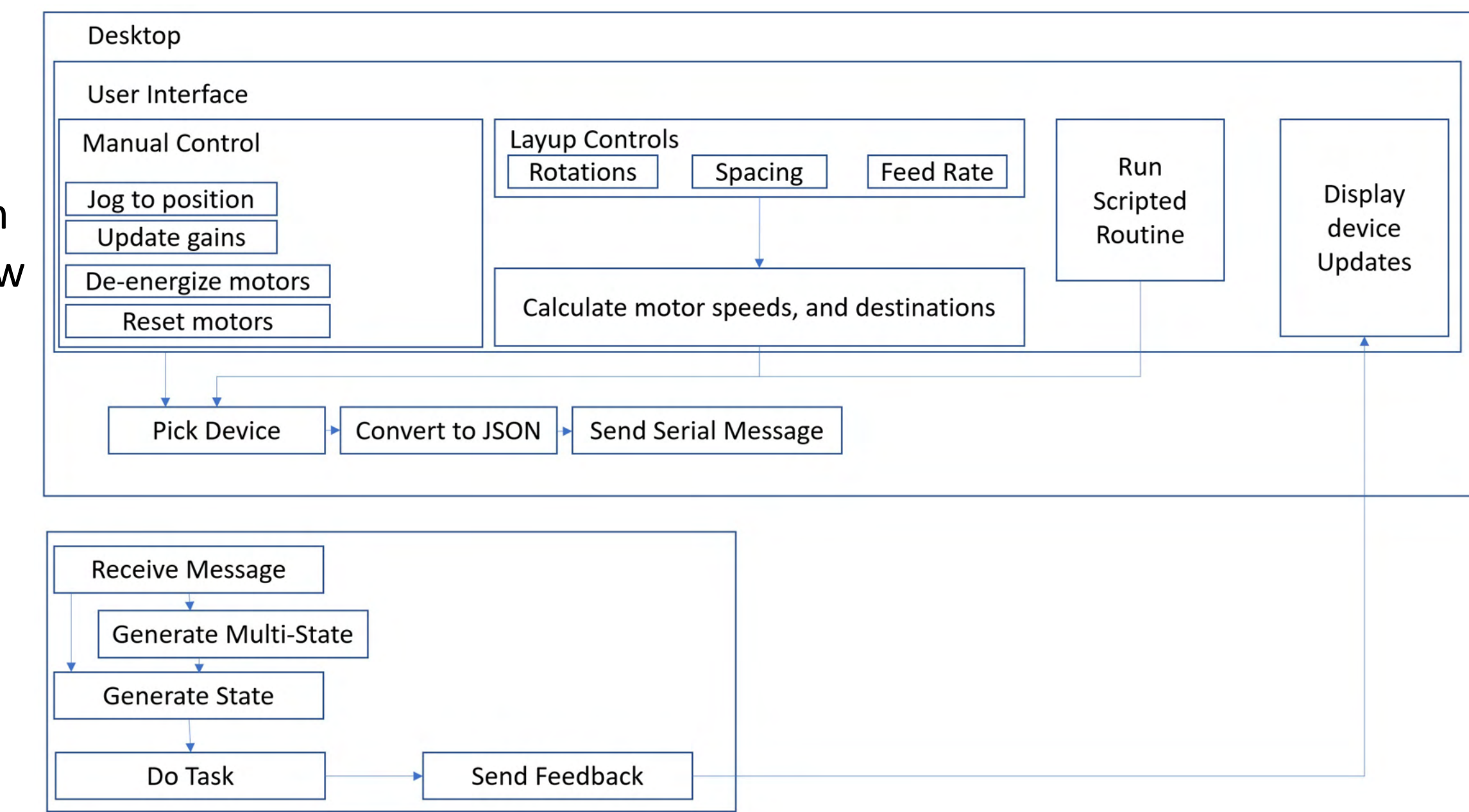
Robot Control:

- Two microcontrollers, one for Series Elastic Actuator (SEA), one for the remaining DOFs
- Devices run non-blocking state machine
- SEA controlled with PID, separate gains for contact and non-contact states.

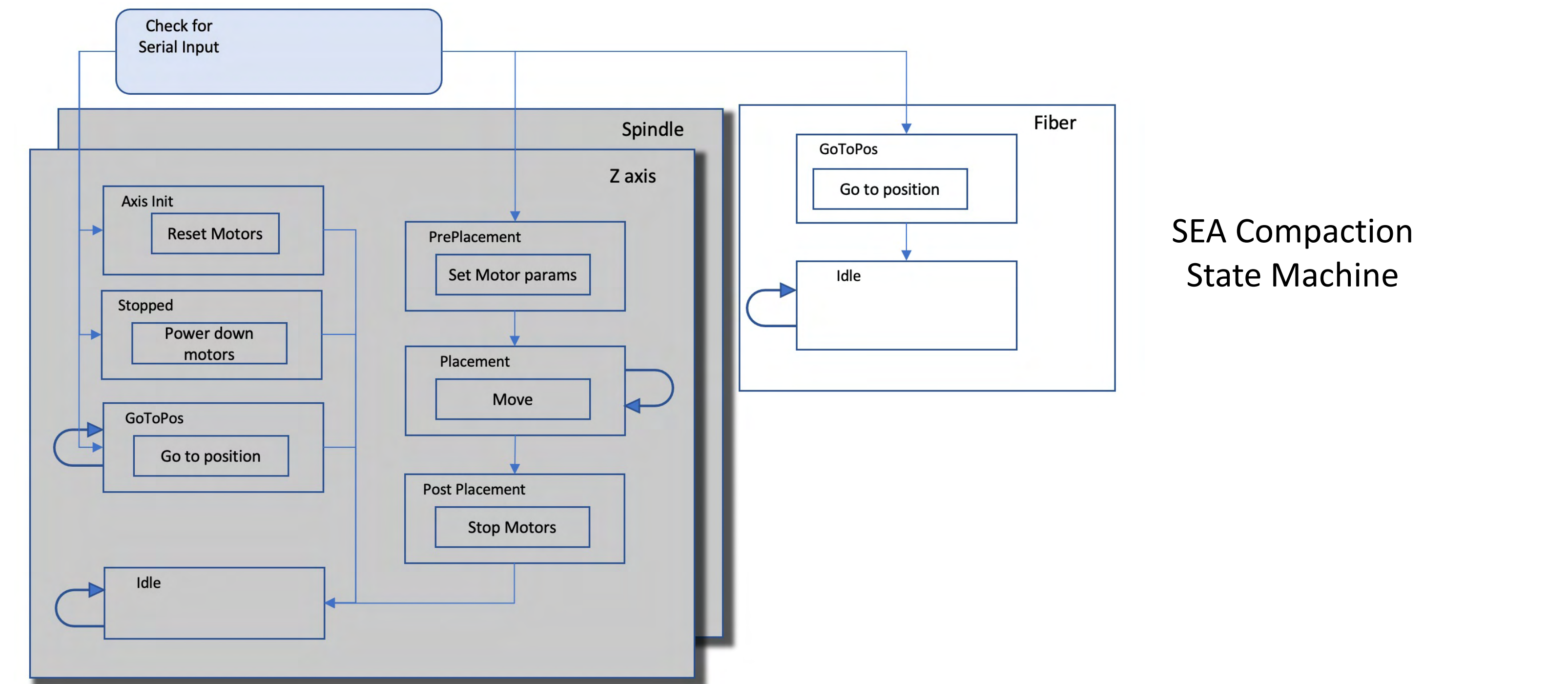
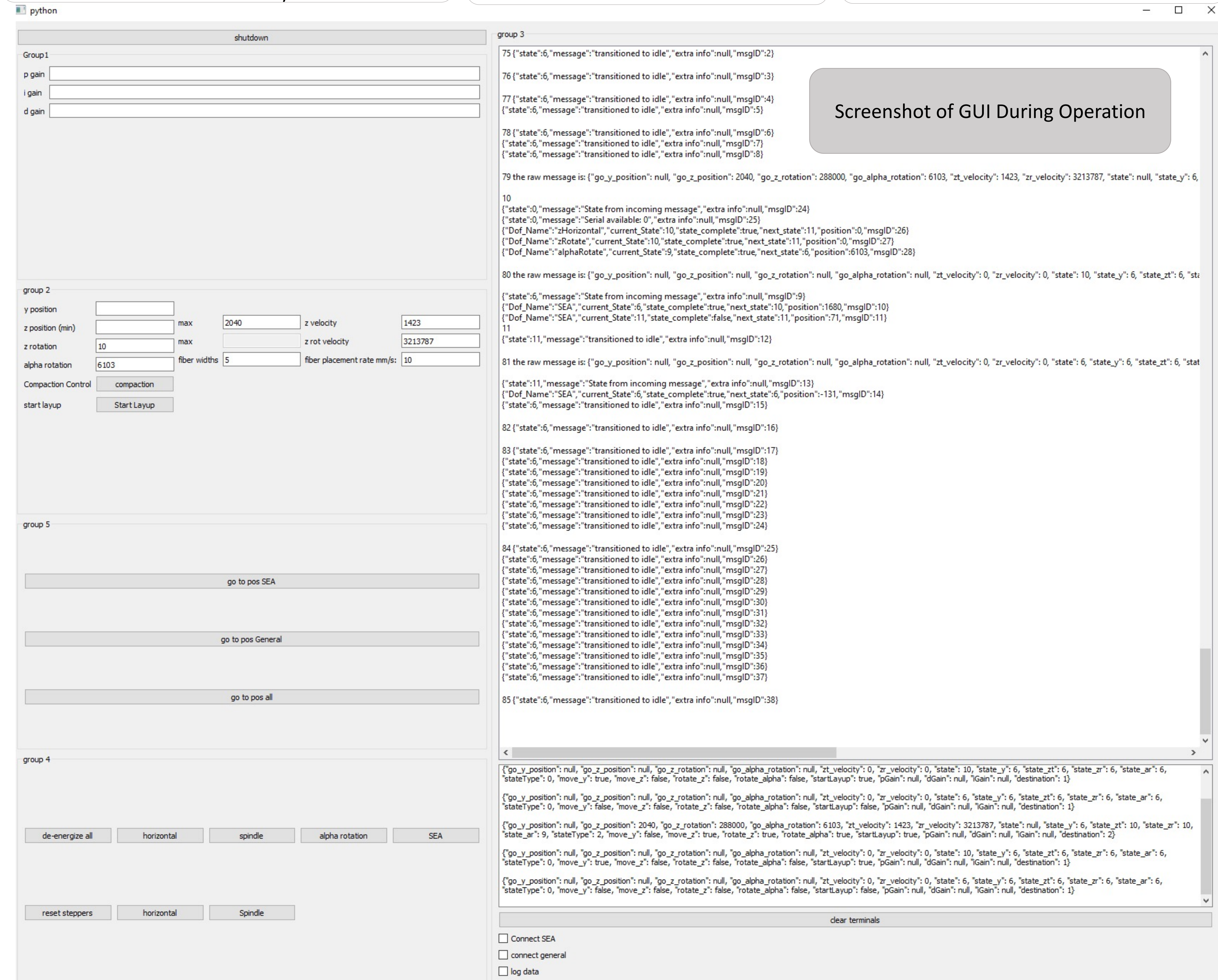
Tools:

- GUI: Python, PyQt
- Device: Teensy, programmed with Arduino
- Environment: Pycharm, Clion with PlatformIO
- Github
- Messages: Json

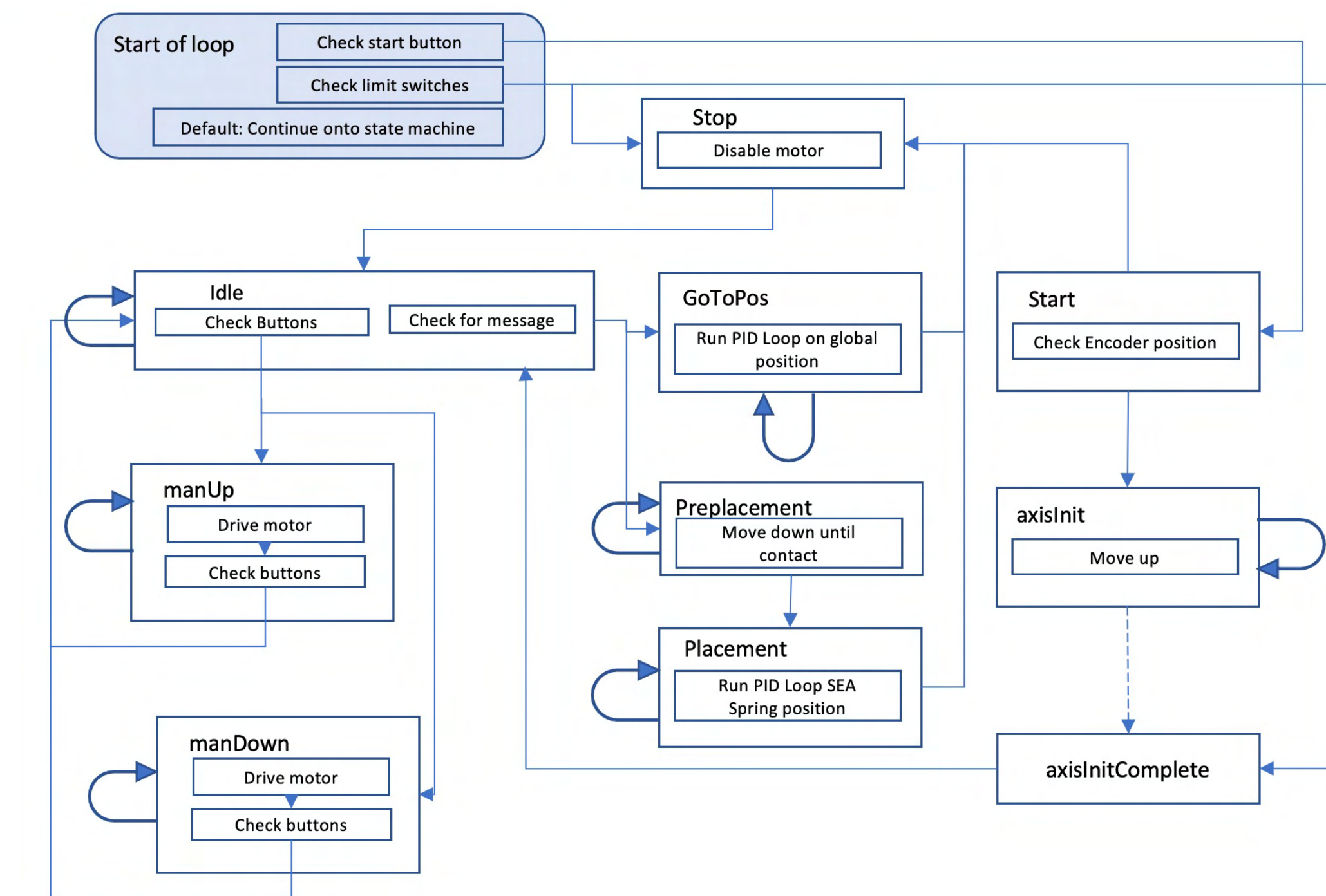
Desktop Program Software Overview



Screenshot of GUI During Operation



All Other DOFs State Machine



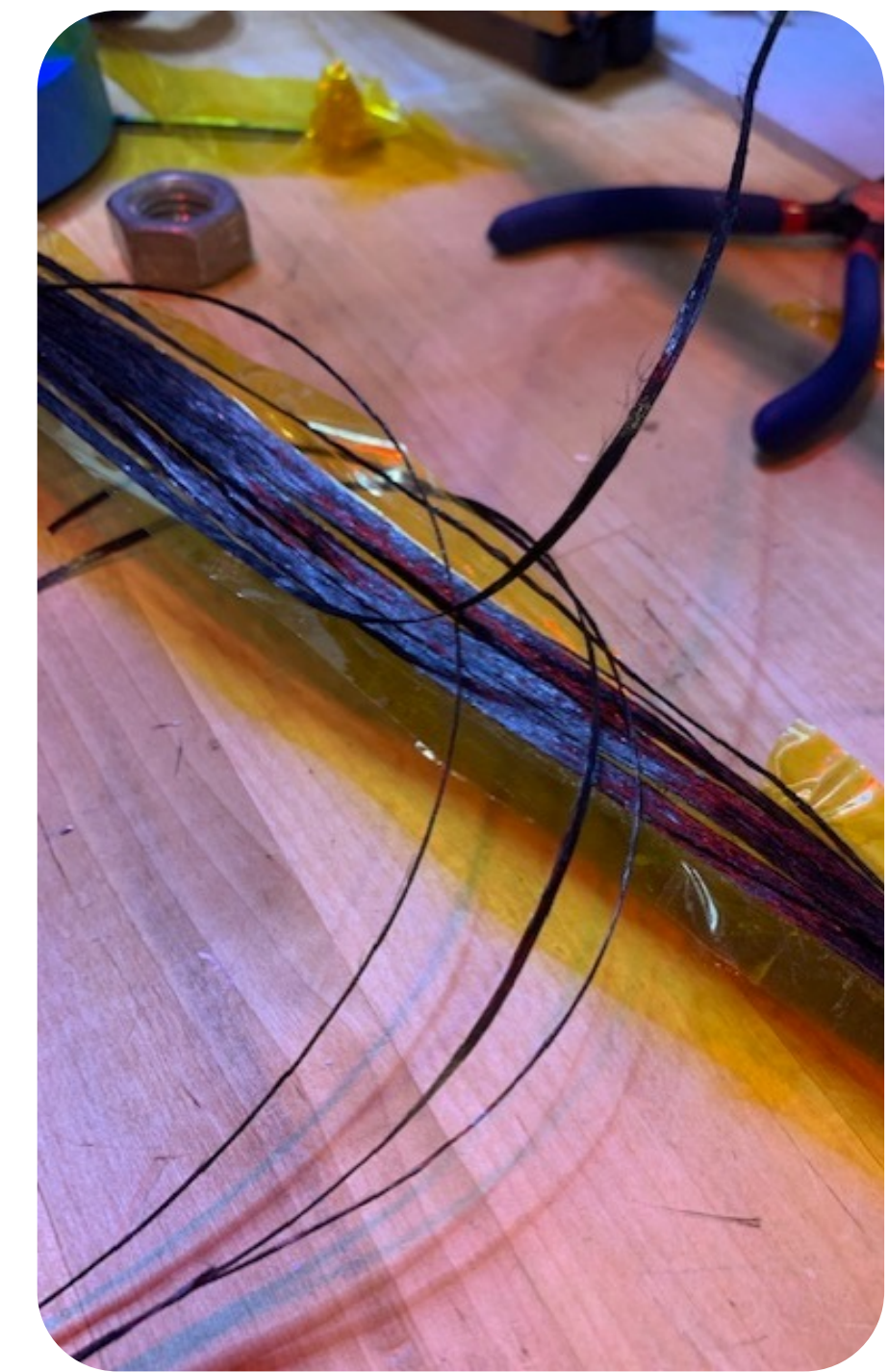
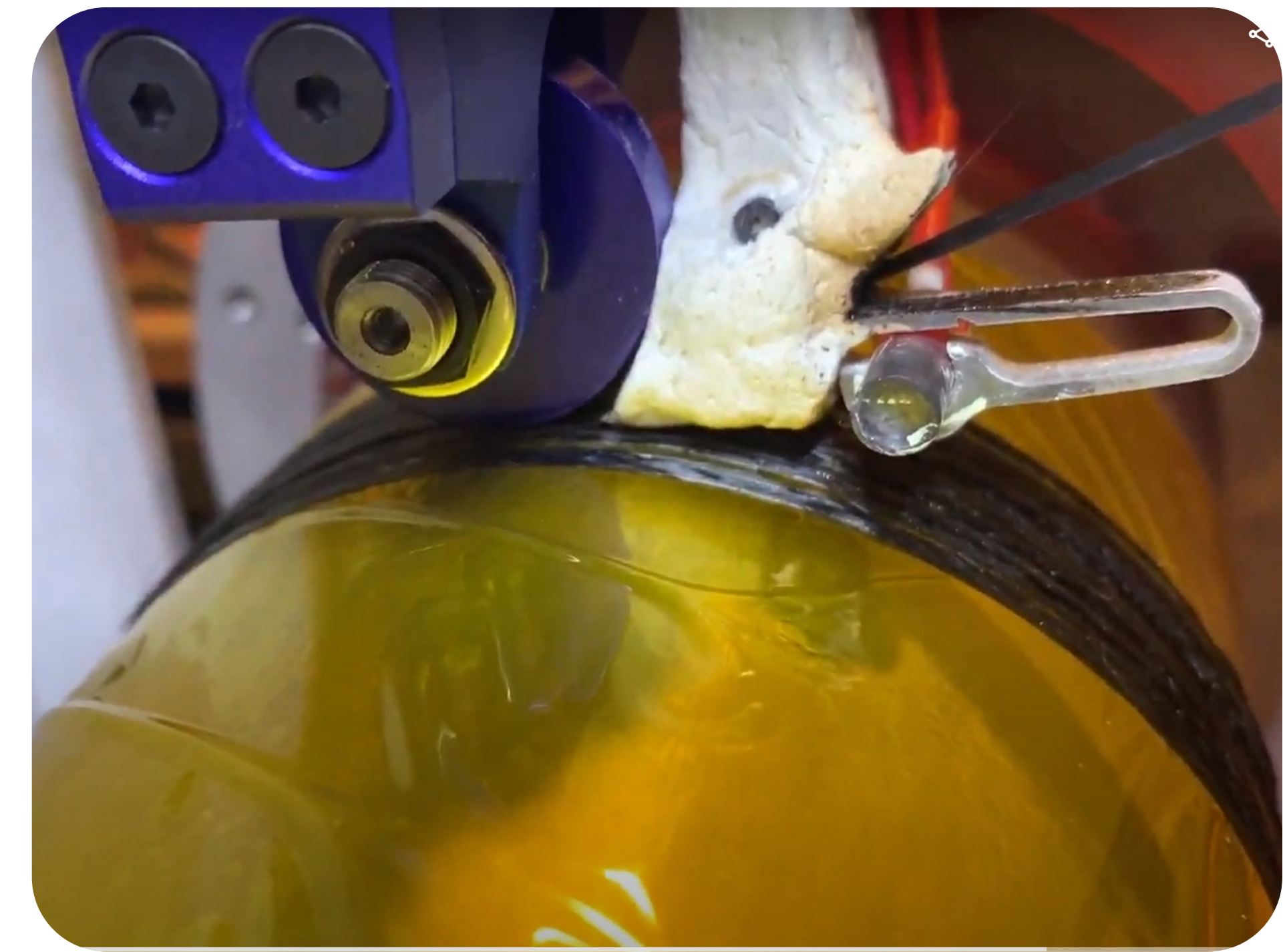
Master's Thesis: Testing and Evaluation

Outcome: The prototype AFP machine demonstrated compaction on non-planar surfaces necessary for fiber placement at a desktop scale.

Evaluation: The evaluation tested the machine's performance against the Functional Requirements included the production of demonstration fiber parts, compaction load testing, structural testing of the machine, and motion control evaluation. The scope of the project did not ultimately include a complete transtibial socket.

A selection of the tests and results from evaluation:

In these tests, AFP machine was made to apply 75N of force as a disk was rotated under the roller. The disks represent shapes the machine would have to make when building a socket. As a control object, one disk was a circle with an axle that was 6.3 mm off-center, making it an eccentric disk. Two additional disks were made from cross sections of a socket recently designed in Biomech. With the eccentric disk spinning with an average surface speed of 27mm/s² the standard deviation of the force applied by the SEA was 1.2N. As the surface height gradually increased the Y axis was slow to react. Eventually, as the height further increased the Y axis began to move and compensate for the new height. The behavior was identical as the surface disk peaked and the surface moved downwards. This is due to PID loop tuning. With a constant surface height, the actuator would approach the desired set-point but would often fall short. The system has sufficient power to fully compress the spring, as happened many times during tuning. PID loops can be used to quickly produce usable performance from an actuator but are difficult to optimally tune. This result shows the system is ready and capable to further develop fiber placement, but warrants testing of a more capable control method. The force output on the socket cross sections were constant within a standard deviation of 1.17N and 1.01N respectively.

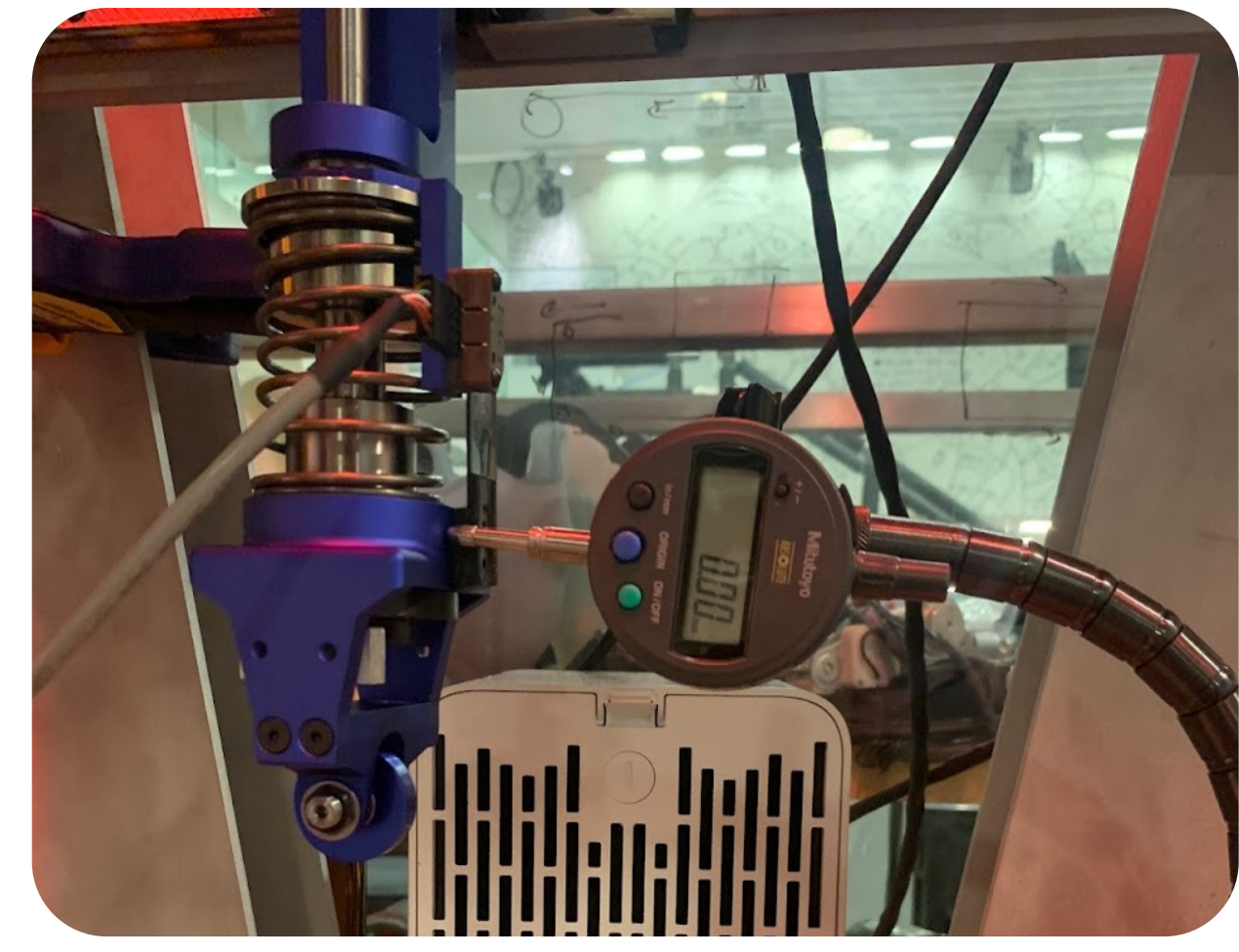
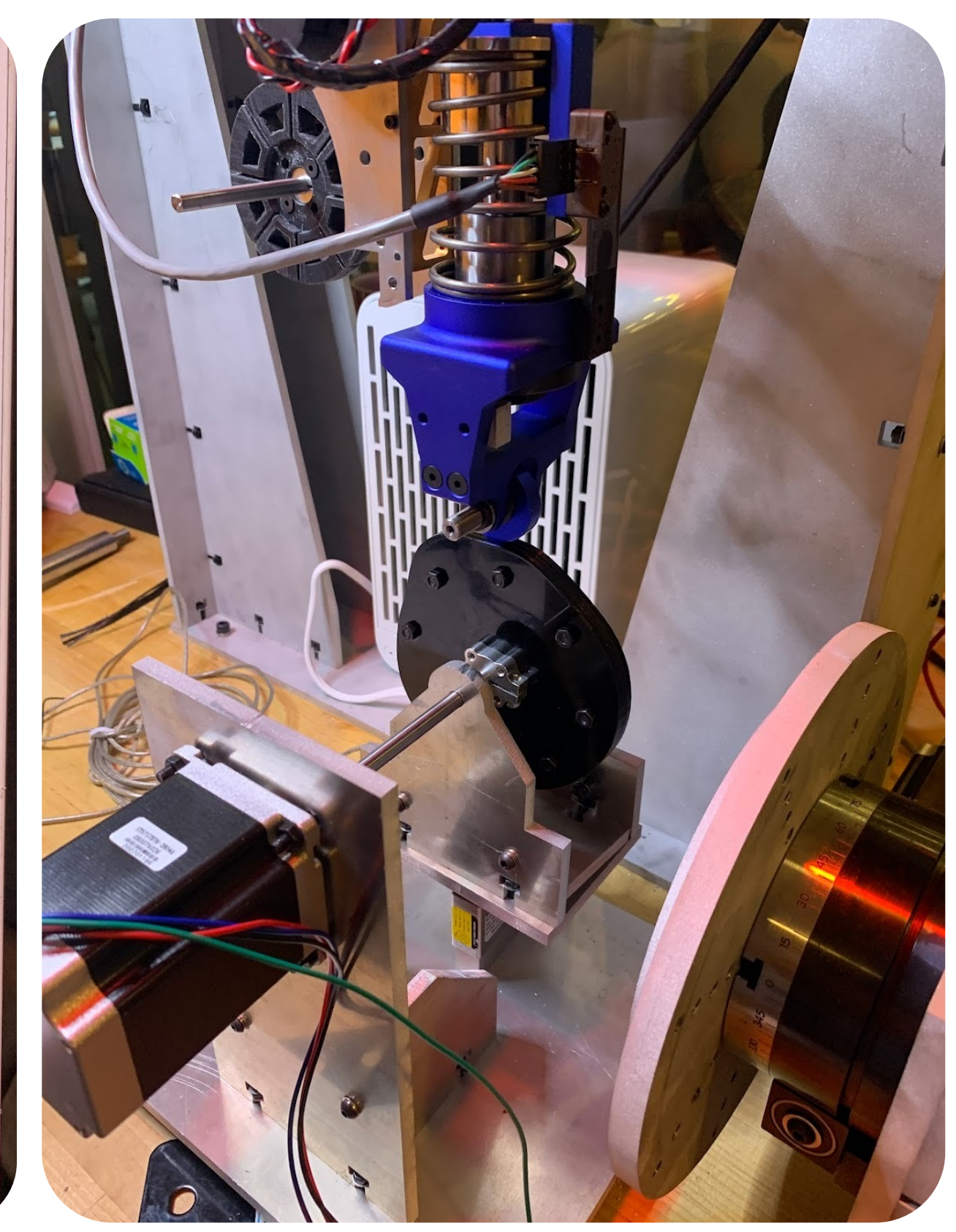
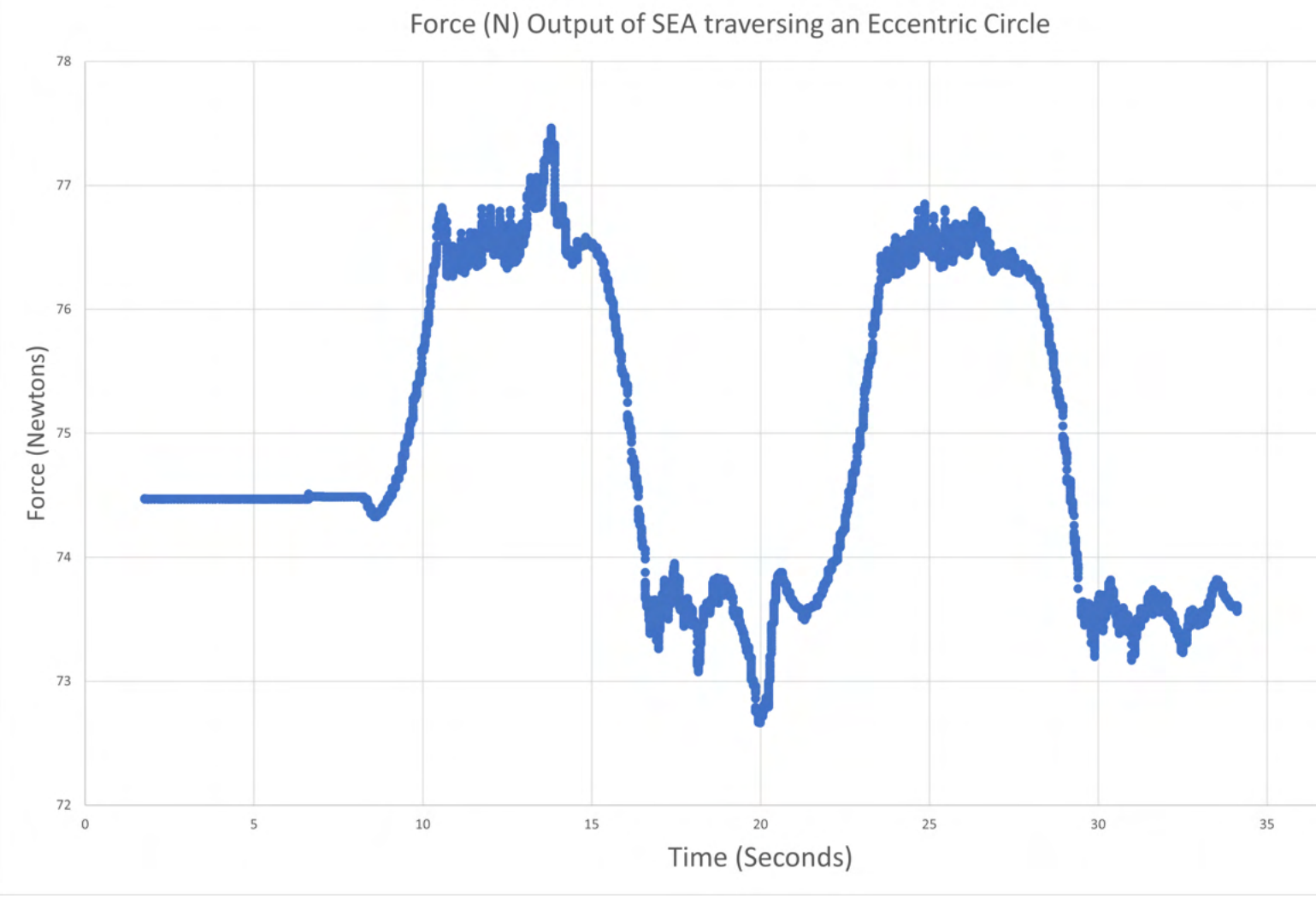
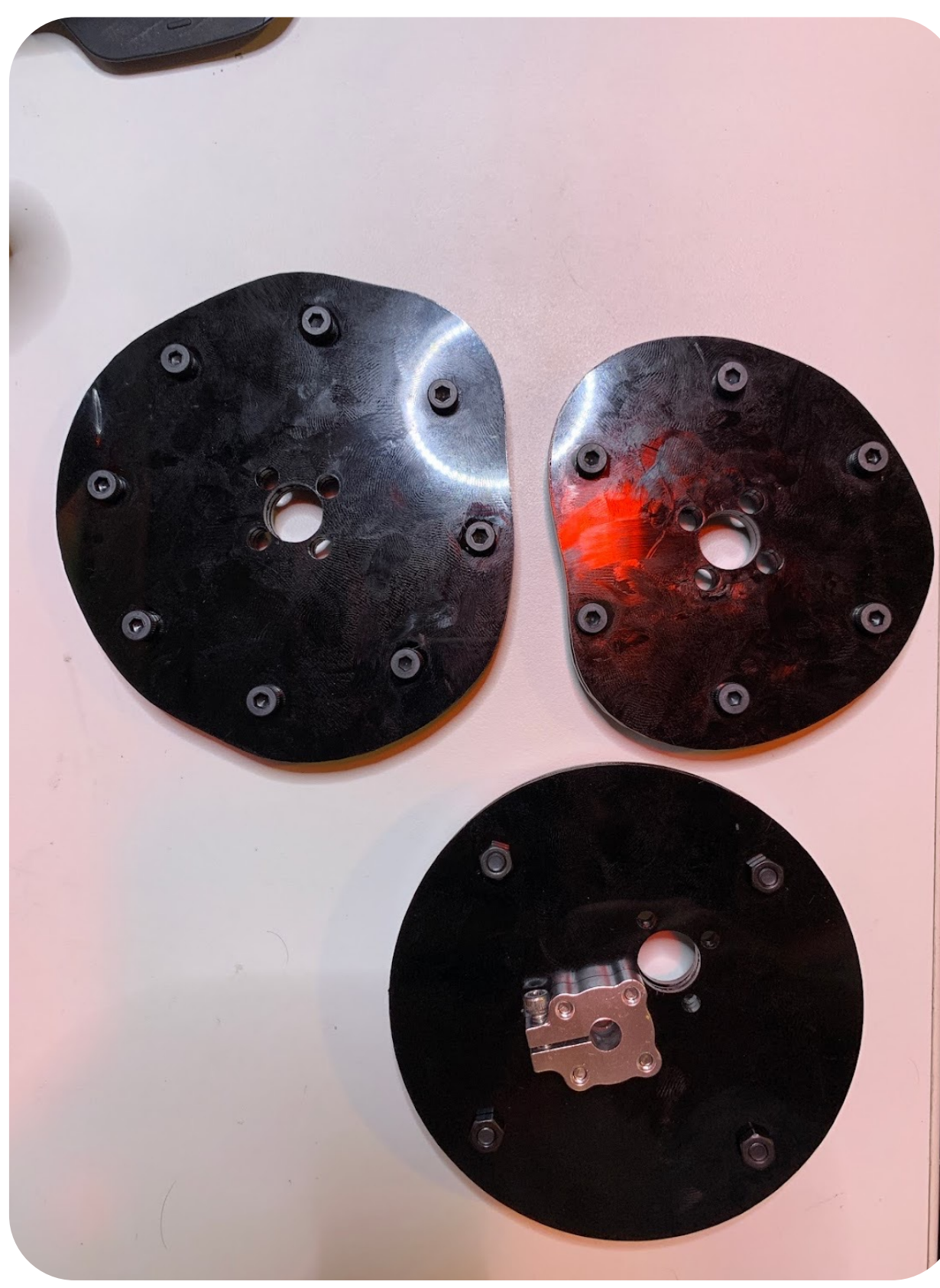


During development, the AFP machine produced lamination samples on a flat surface and a cylinder as shown in Figure 8-10. The cinder blocks were used as a sturdy raised surface as the Y axis cannot contact the table. The wrapping tests were done with an aluminum cylinder with an 114 mm diameter.³ This cylinder is a simpler shape than a transtibial socket and approximates the dimensions of many of Biomech's trial subjects.

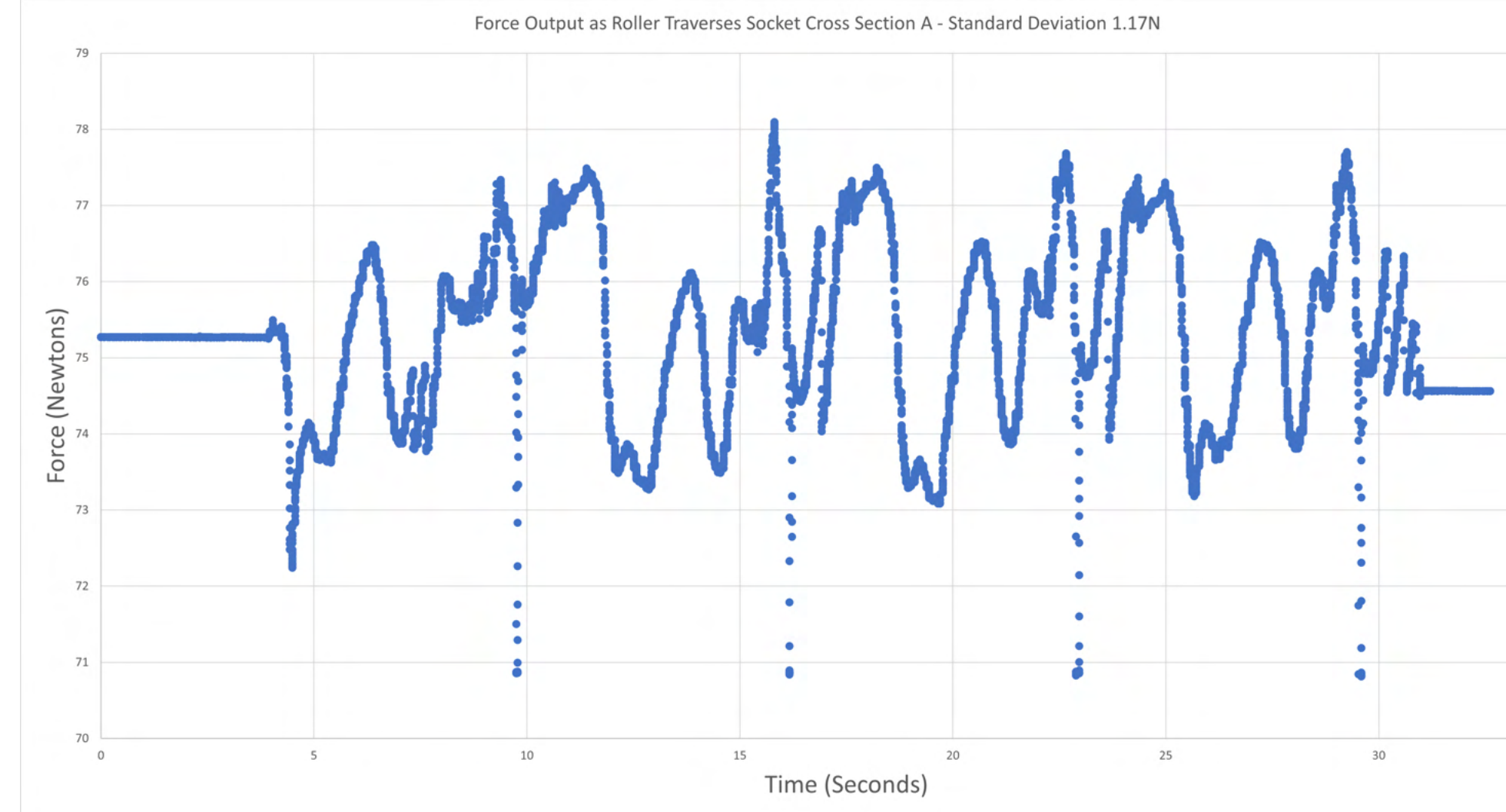
The flat strip tests were conducted when the Y axis, Z translational axis, and Fiber DOF could first be position controlled. The Z axis speed could not yet be adjusted, therefore the fiber feed-rate could not be adjusted. The strip produced is shown in Figure 8-10. This experiment demonstrated that the machine was capable of laminating strips together but also provided insight on many process challenges that had to be addressed

Moving to a cylinder was possible when the feeds and speeds calculations were implemented. The first test was 2mm/s feed-rate and 1 fiber-width of spacing so that adjacent fibers would be touching. The first wrapped part is shown in 8-12A. The first obvious problem with the test was that the secondary heater was not in contact with the cylinder.

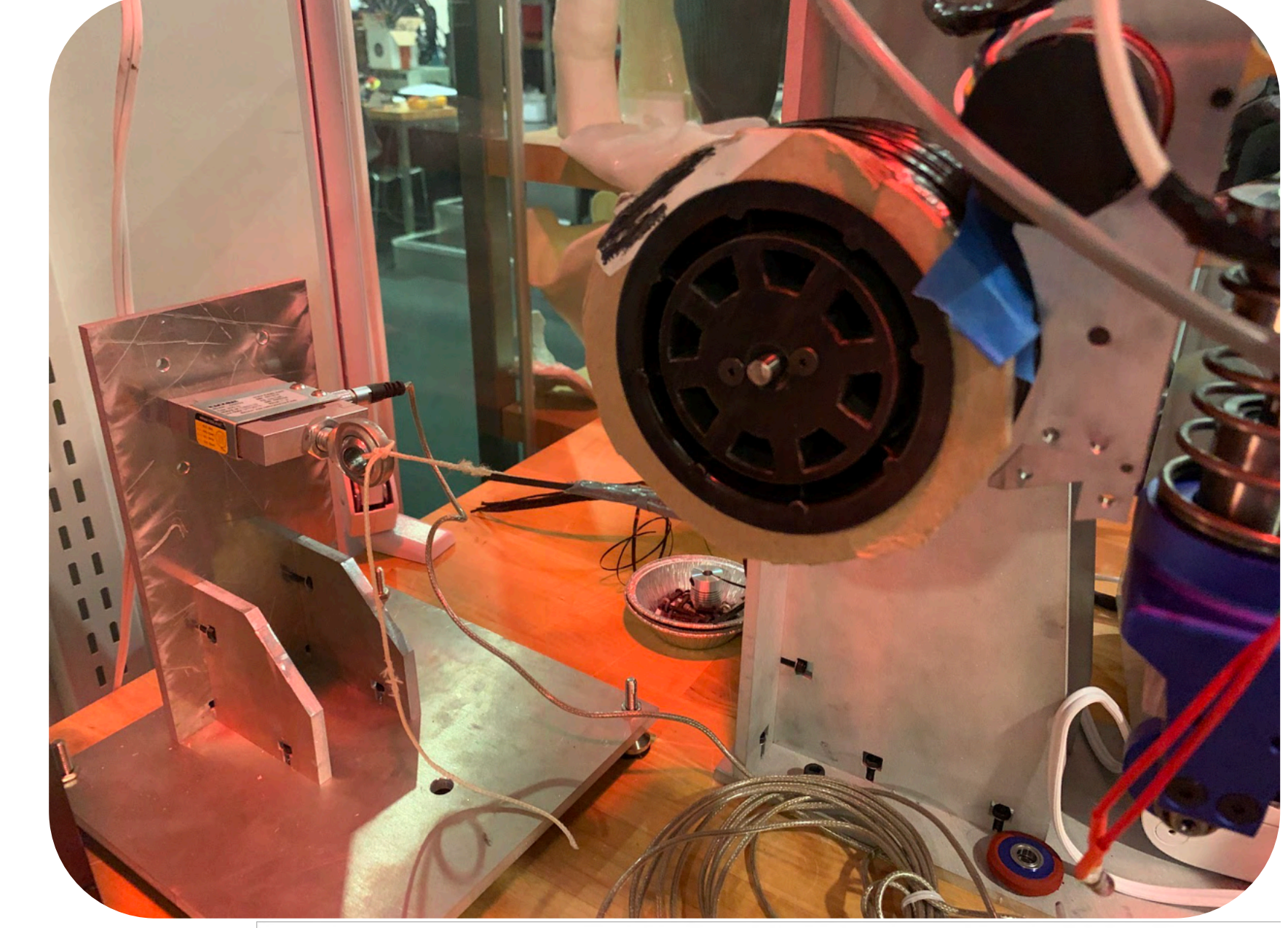
When the part had to be cut to remove it from the cylinder, the fiber still connected to the Kapton[®] as shown in 8-12B. When the tape was removed the fibers fell apart as shown in 8-12B. As the previously placed fibers were not being sufficiently heated, the newly placed fiber was not properly adhering to the previous layer. The test was repeated at a 1mm/s feed-rate. The parts are shown in Figure 8-13. For this test the fiber held together after being removed from the cylinder. The slower feed-rate increased the temperature of the fiber tow being placed and help to improve the adhesion. The part lamination quality could still use improvement. The material build-up on the heater, as shown earlier in 6-5, pushed the fiber tow off-center of the roller and caused the tow to twist as it was being placed.



Fiber DOF Runout
The Shaft-to-spline adaptor part has noticeable runout, the axis does not perfectly rotate around itself. It is difficult to measure the runout directly at the compaction roller. Therefore, the runout was measured with the dial indicator on the circular surface at the top of the roller fork. The runout was measured at 500 tick increments. The maximum runout was at 108° of -0.48mm. Using Abbe Error, that principle that angular error is magnified over increasing distance where $E = h * \sin(\theta)$, the error at the end effector was estimated to be -0.92mm



To measure the fiber tension during placement, the end of the fiber tow was connected to the Futek LSB302 load cell. The tension motor was turned on and the system was moved across the Z axis simulating fiber placement. The results are shown in Figure 8- 5A. The graph shows that the back-driven motor can achieve 10N of tension, however the force was not constant. This was also visually apparent as the fiber seemed to un- spool at an inconsistent rate. Figure 8-5B shows the time in milliseconds that it took for the encoder value to change as the fiber was un-spoiled. This is a measurement of velocity, but without the unit conversions. This graph is useful as it shows that the non-constant tension is a result of the motor and not from another part of the assembly. It also indicates that because the change in velocity is measurable by the micro-controller, the issue could be fixed with software. Currently, the tension motor is given a constant voltage, but this suggests that the performance could be improved by a control loop that varies the motor voltage. Figure 8-5C shows the electrical current drawn by the tension motor during operation. This did not show a discernible pattern, potentially, further testing with a higher sampling rate may provide more useful information.



SRSA Project Overview 2017-2019: Biomechatronics' Patient Scanner

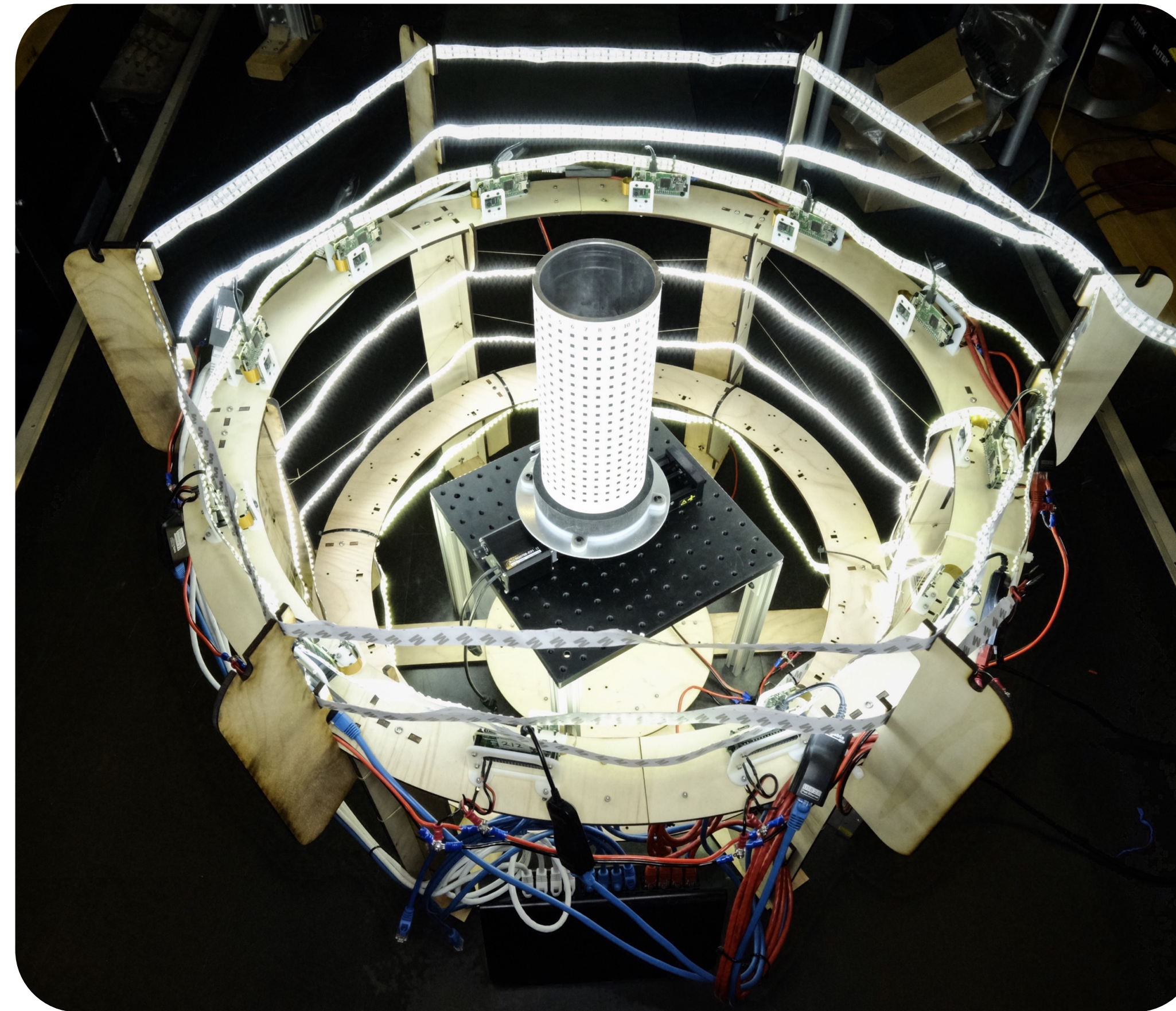
Project: Designed and implemented a patient Scanner and Indenter to capture the time-varying 3D shape and mechanical properties of a residual limb.

Project Impact: This work aims to replace the current manual socket design process that is expensive and often leads to poor fitting sockets. Painful sockets can result in negative health outcomes: weight gain, depression, even further amputation.

Research Impact: Scanner performed data collection for n=18 NIH funded clinical trial. Data from this scanner is included in two peer reviewed publications (cited on next page) Data assisted three research scientists in advancing their careers to professorship. Two additional Master's students depended scanner data for thesis work. The scanner is included in Biomech's Socket Design Patent (Cited next page)

Project Role: The work for the clinical trial was done by a small group of researchers. I was responsible for the entire data acquisition system. I was supervised by Research Scientists and developed the system to meet their data needs. Throughout the project I mentored undergraduate students working for Biomech.

First Prototype of Scanner System



I built this first prototype from discarded materials during my first month in Biomech. It was iterated upon for a year as our research team figured trial protocol.

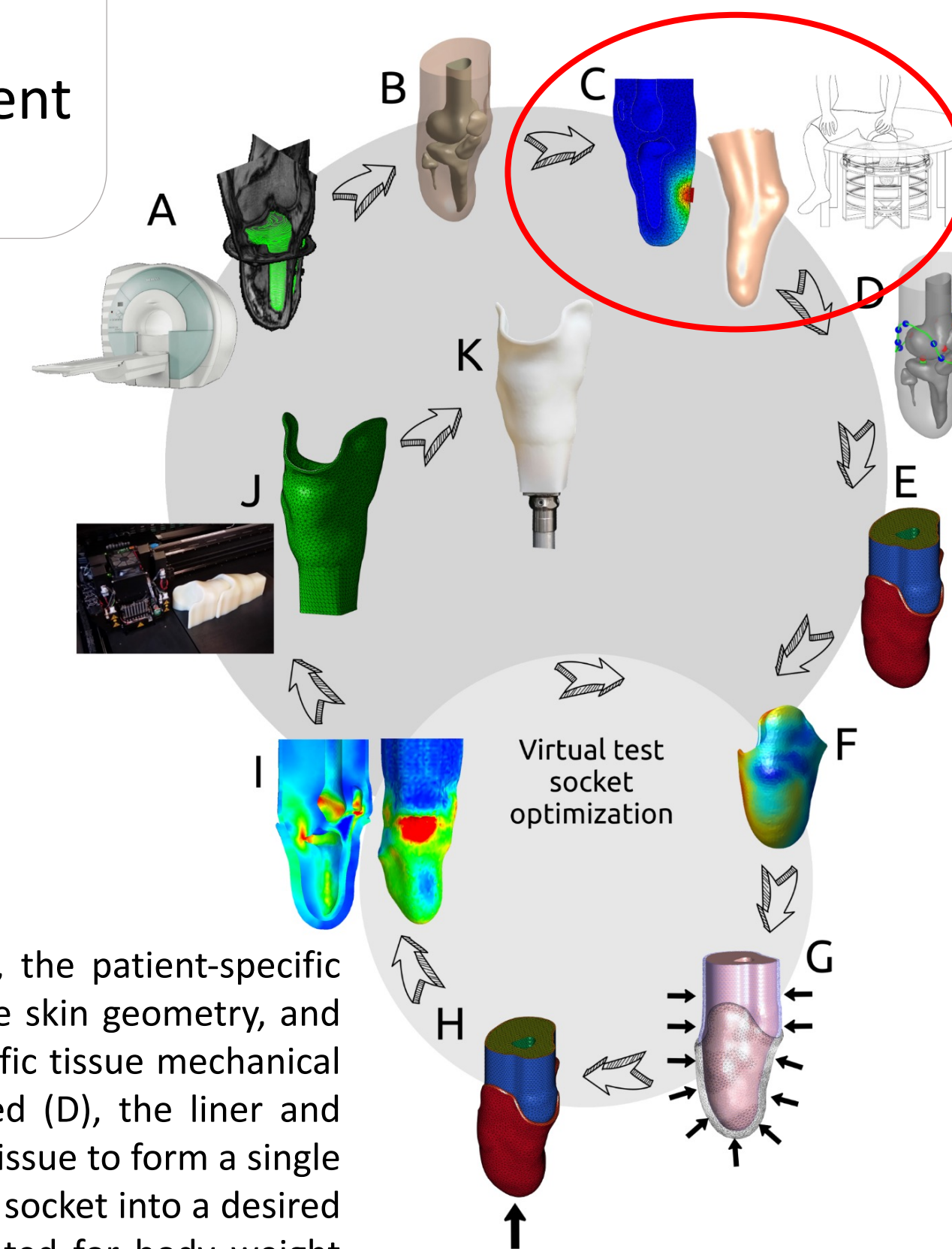


Speckled Residuuum during scanning. Additional markings noting sensitive regions and anatomical locations



3D reconstructions of residuum. Figure Credit: Dana Solav

The designed socket model can be 3D printed using rigid Vero material, and get the rigid socket which can be connected to the foot/ankle system

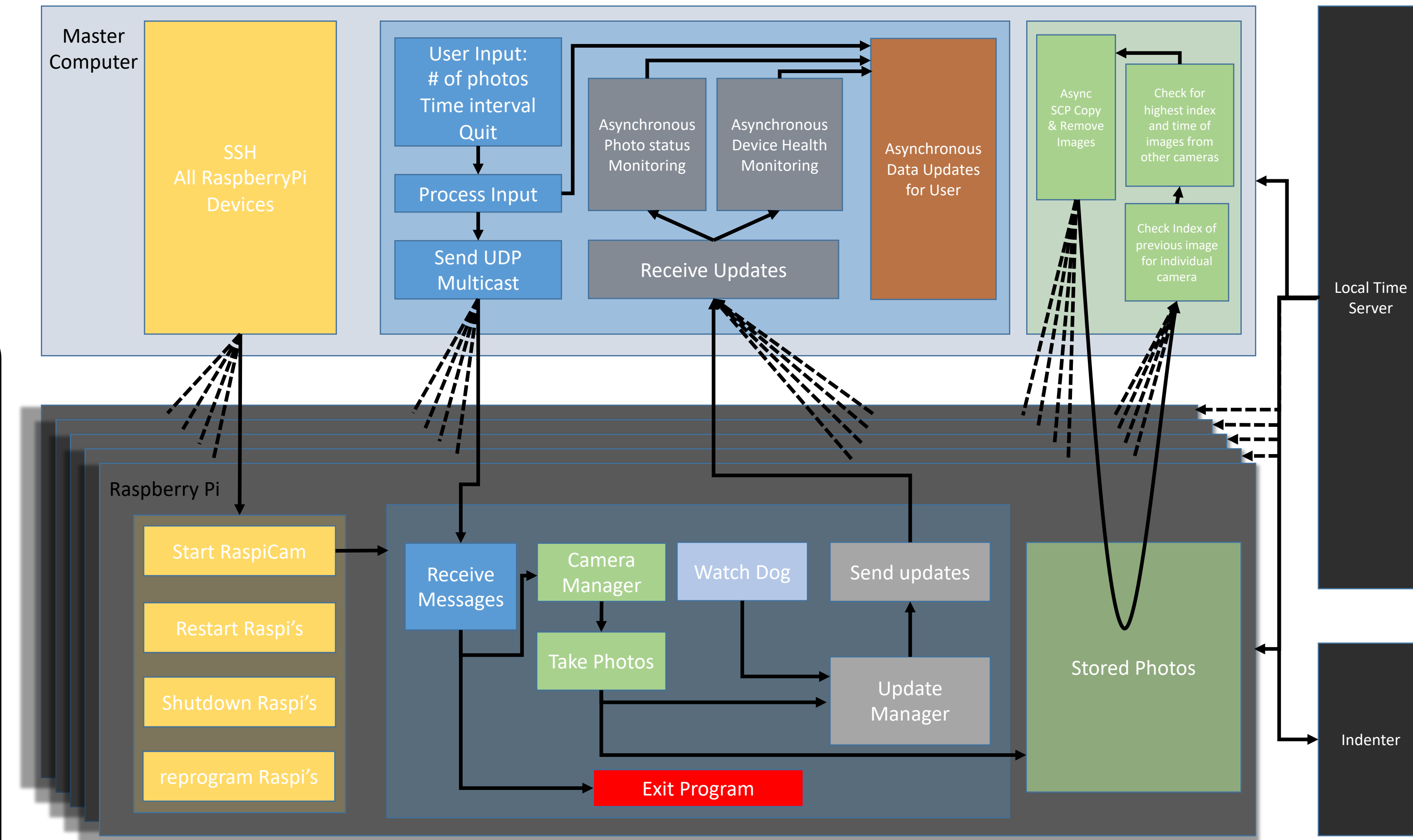


Camera Calibration Object



The calibration object allows for simultaneous stereo calibration for each camera. It features 700 black rectangular planar faces on a white background. The 3D coordinates of the centroids of black dots used to obtain the stereo triangulation parameters

Photo Credit: Jerry Jaeger



High Level Scanner System Software Overview

I had to account for the four following factors when implementing the scanner's software architecture. First, there are a lot of cameras, and the number of cameras continues to increase as our research needs progress, therefore the cameras must be independent units and the system be scalable. Second, the devices are unreliable and prone to crashing, we can't spend an hour with a test subject only to find out the next day that we failed to collect data. Third, the cameras need to capture images simultaneously, however they are not running an RTOS and therefore operate asynchronously. The cameras need to function in parallel but cannot block other devices from operation. Finally, due to the number of cameras, and time sensitivity of every operation, every task must be automated.

Overview of the data-driven computational design framework. By segmenting MRI data (A), the patient-specific geometry is obtained (B). Digital Image Correlation (DIC) is employed to obtain more accurate skin geometry, and indentation tests and inverse FEA informed by DIC can be used to determine the patient-specific tissue mechanical properties (C). Using anatomical landmarks the socket cut-lines can be automatically created (D), the liner and socket source geometries can be offset from the skin surface and can be meshed with the soft tissue to form a single FEA model (E), spatially varying fitting pressures is defined (F), allowing for the morphing of the socket into a desired shape, while also pre-loading the tissue due to donning (G), the designs can now be evaluated for body weight loading (H), enabling skin surface pressure and internal strain analysis (I). The process F-I can be iteratively repeated and optimal designs can be exported for 3D printing based manufacturing (J) of final socket (K). Figure and description: Kevin Moerman, Dana Solav

Biomechatronics Patient Scanner: Scanner Hardware V2

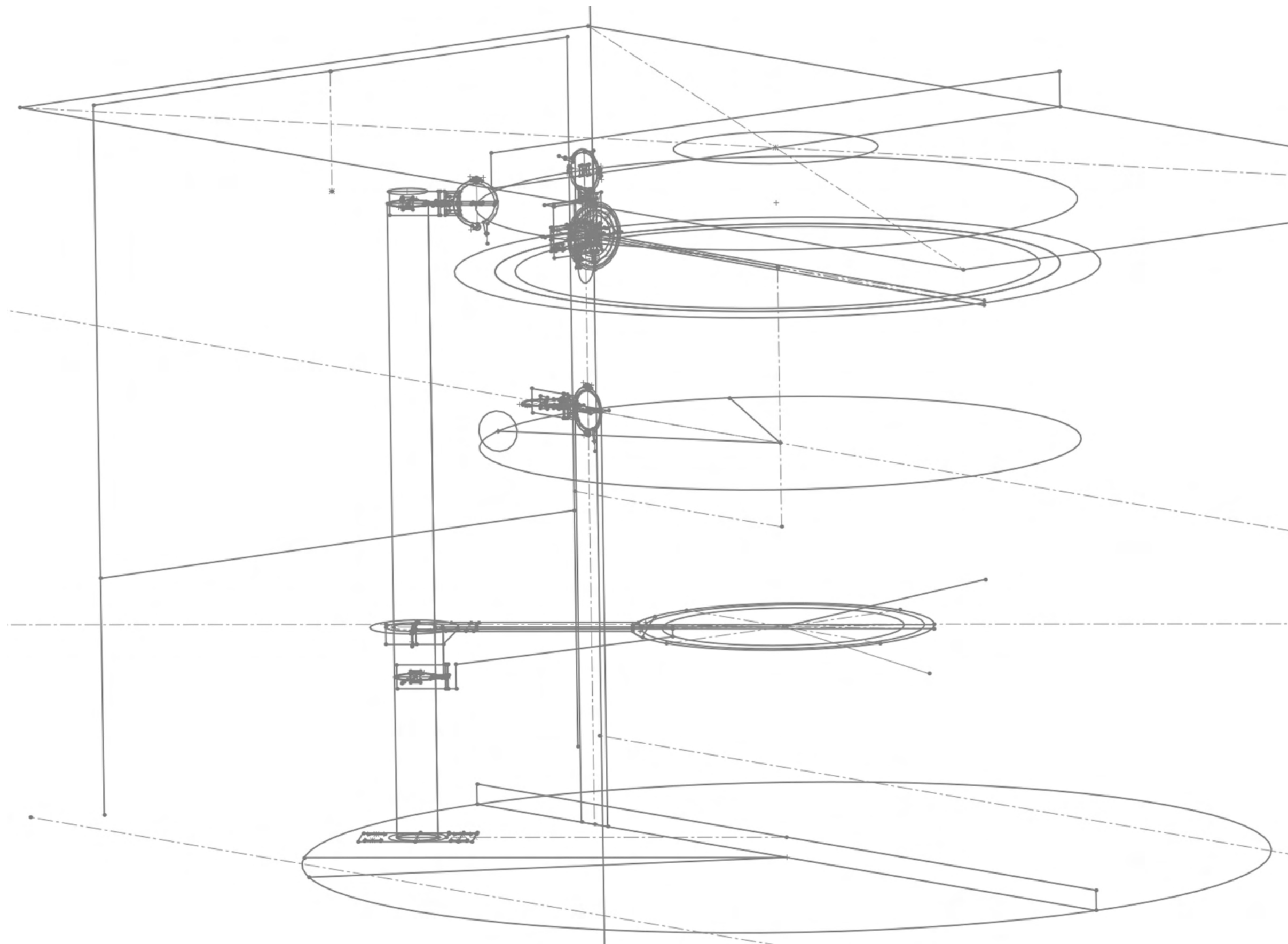
Hardware Revision Goals:

Upgrade the patient scanner based on learnings from first prototype.

Design the system to be a robust and upgradable platform that can support future subject measurement projects.

Gain experience working with outside manufacturers and vendors.

Scanner Master Model Sketch



Scanner Assembly Exploded



Scanner System



Design Considerations

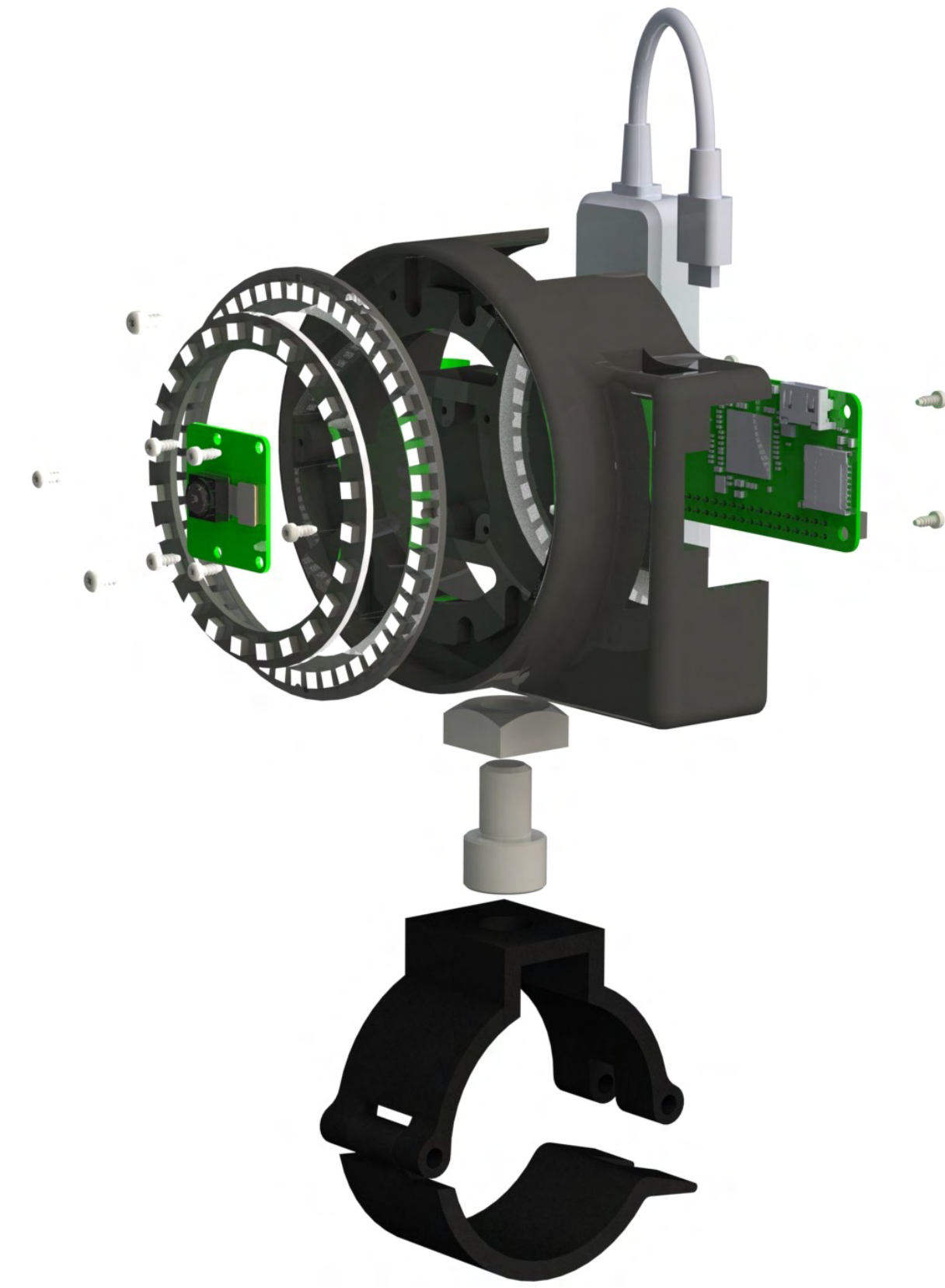
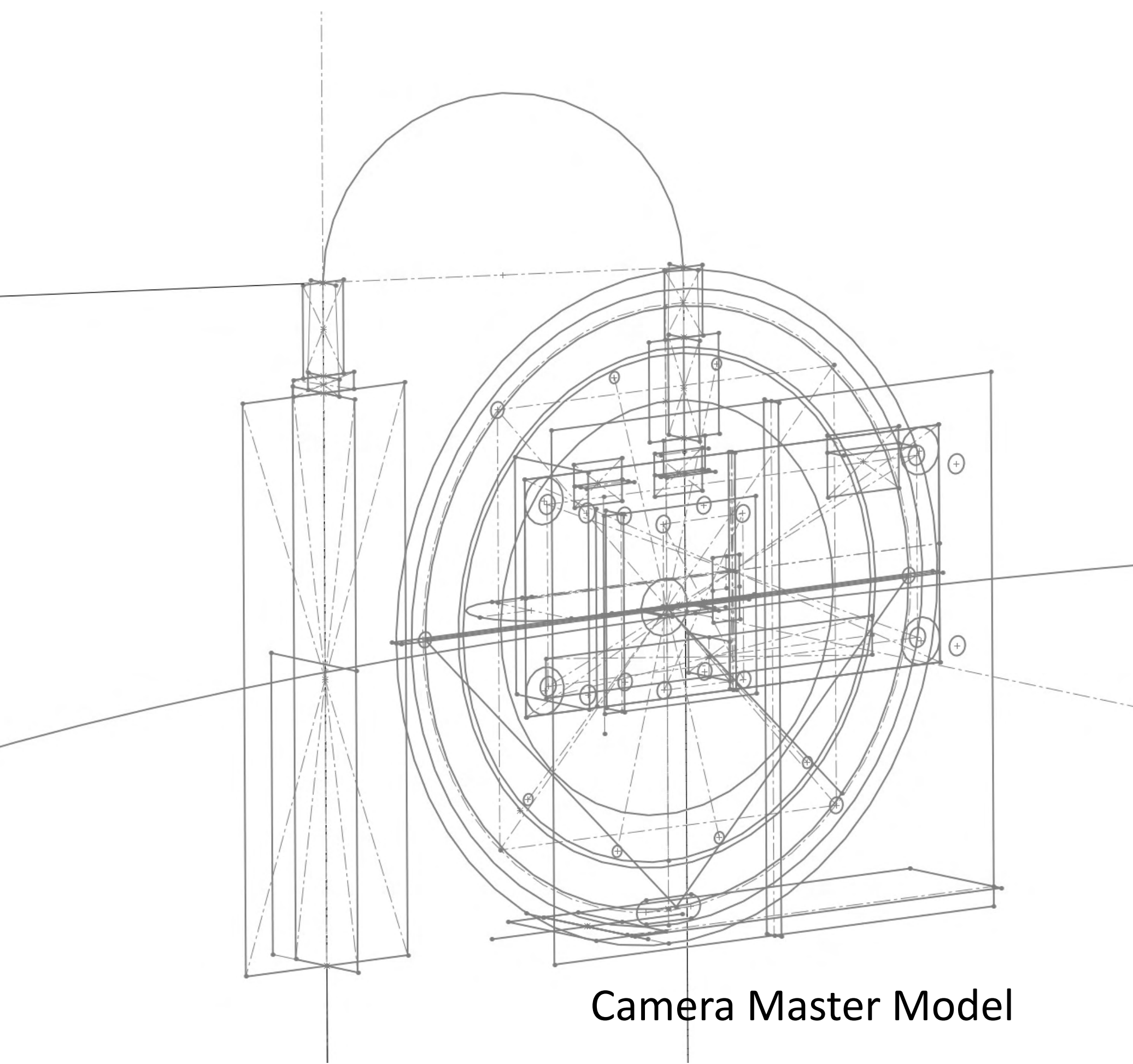
- Scanner frame and components designed to be rigid, and prevent camera calibration issues from accidental contact
- Slotted Rings and legs allow for cleaner internal wiring
- Design allows greater adjustability for repositioning camera location, height, and orientation
- Better wiring, and position adjustment also accommodates adding extra cameras when necessary
- Dual camera rings expand capture volume
- Has large opening and support railing for Indenter
- Components are easily accessible
- Attractive design

Publications supported by the two scanners:

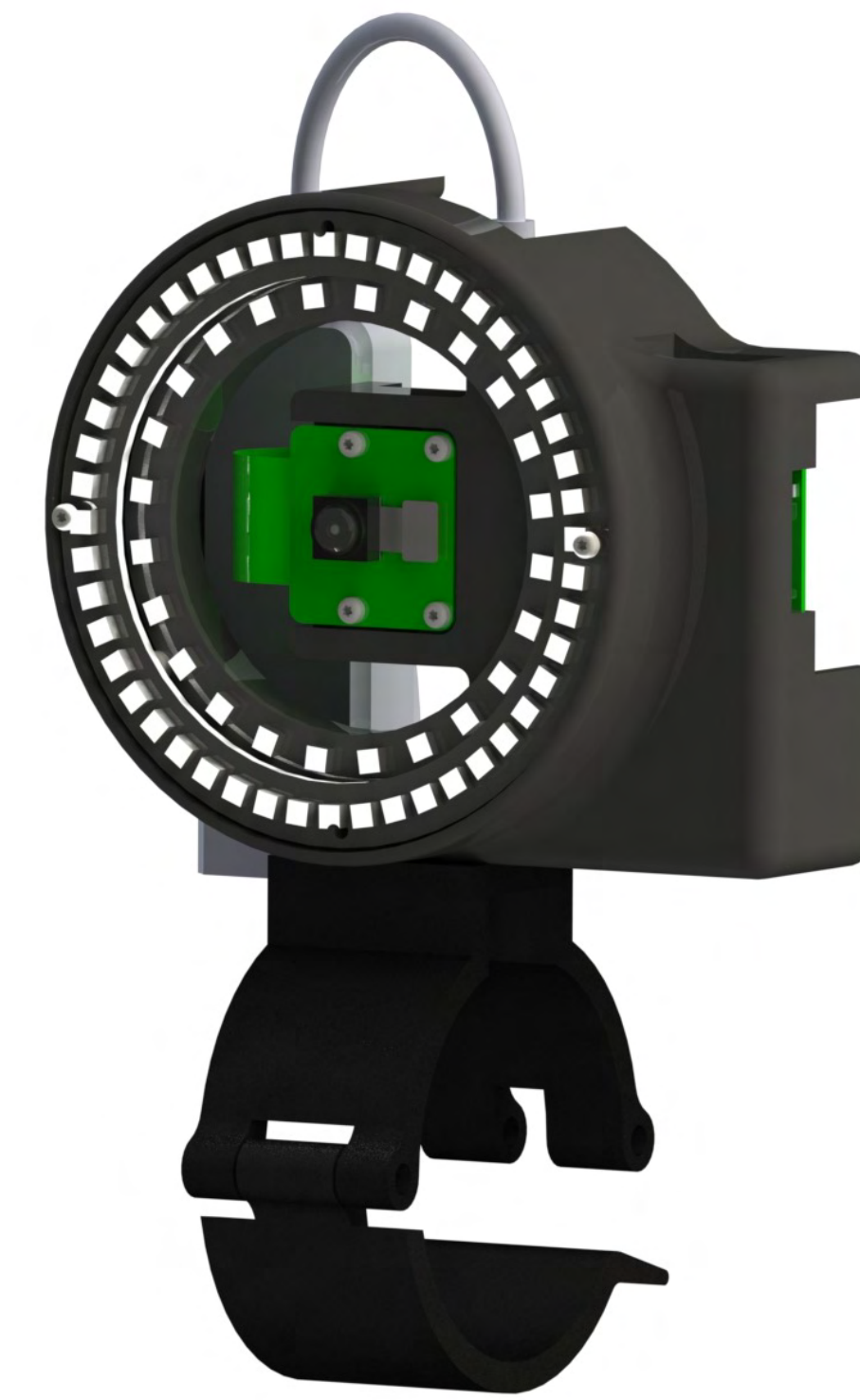
D. Solav, K. M. Moerman, A. M. Jaeger, K. Genovese and H. M. Herr, "MultiDIC: An Open-Source Toolbox for Multi-View 3D Digital Image Correlation," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 6, pp. 30520-30535, 2018, doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2018.2843725.

D. Solav, K. M. Moerman, A. M. Jaeger and H. M. Herr, "A Framework for Measuring the Time-Varying Shape and Full-Field Deformation of Residual Limbs Using 3-D Digital Image Correlation," in *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, vol. 66, no. 10, pp. 2740-2752, Oct. 2019, doi: 10.1109/TBME.2019.2895283.

Biomechatronics Patient Scanner: Camera Assembly V2



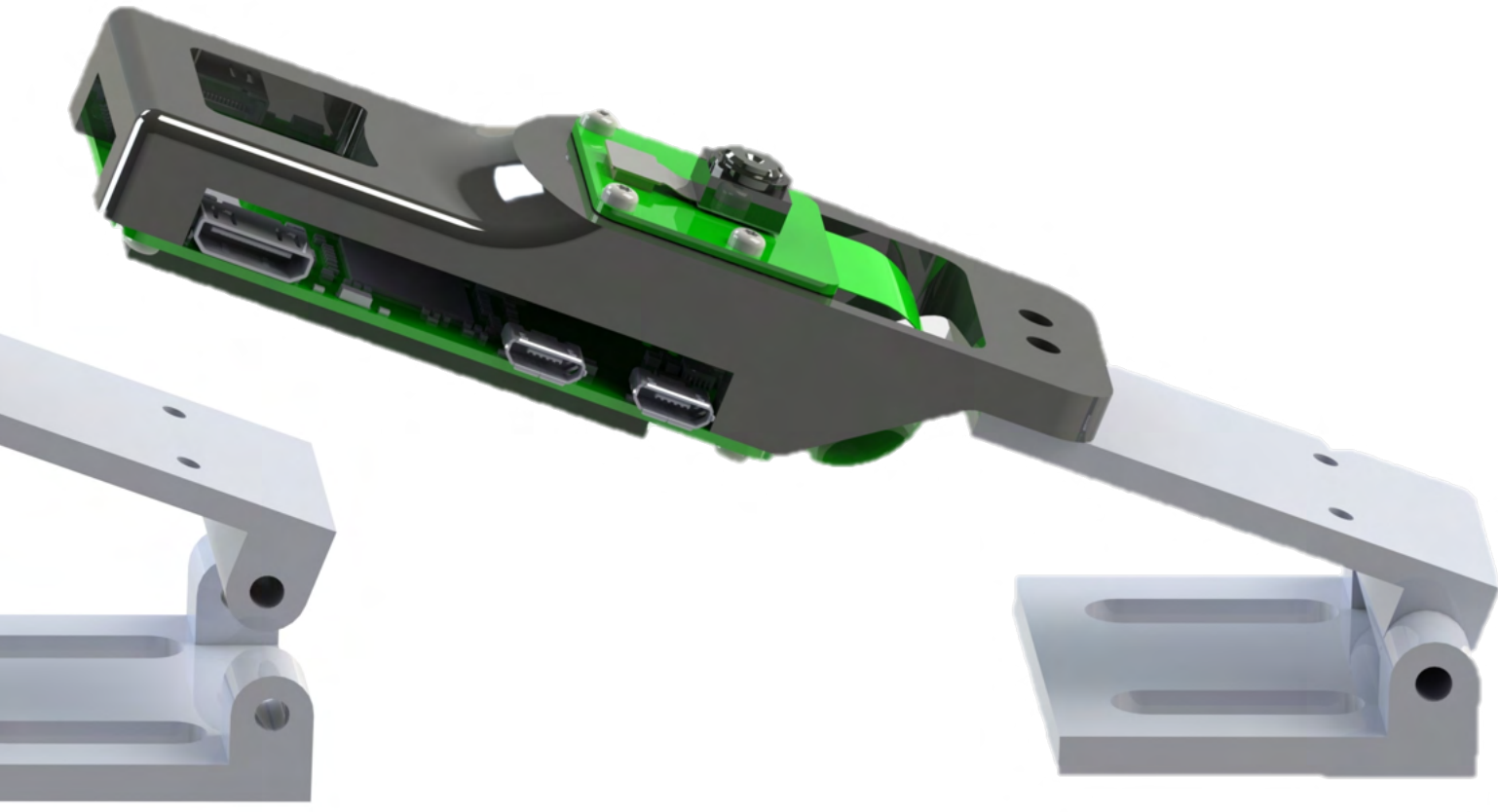
Exploded Camera Assembly



Camera Master Model



Exploded Bottom Camera



Bottom Camera

Camera Case Front



Photo Credit: Jerry Jaeger

Camera Case Front

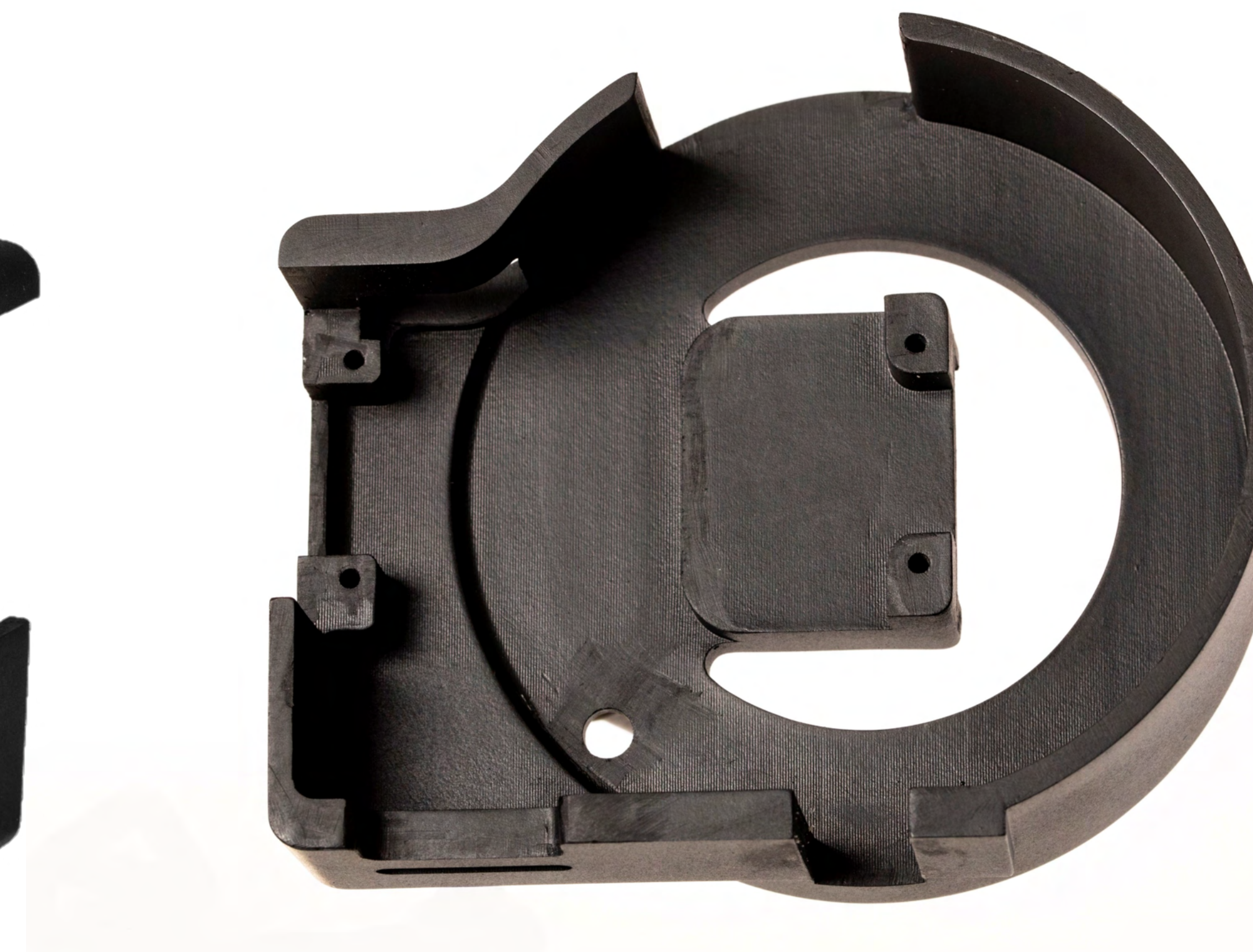


Photo Credit: Jerry Jaeger

Unibody Case Front

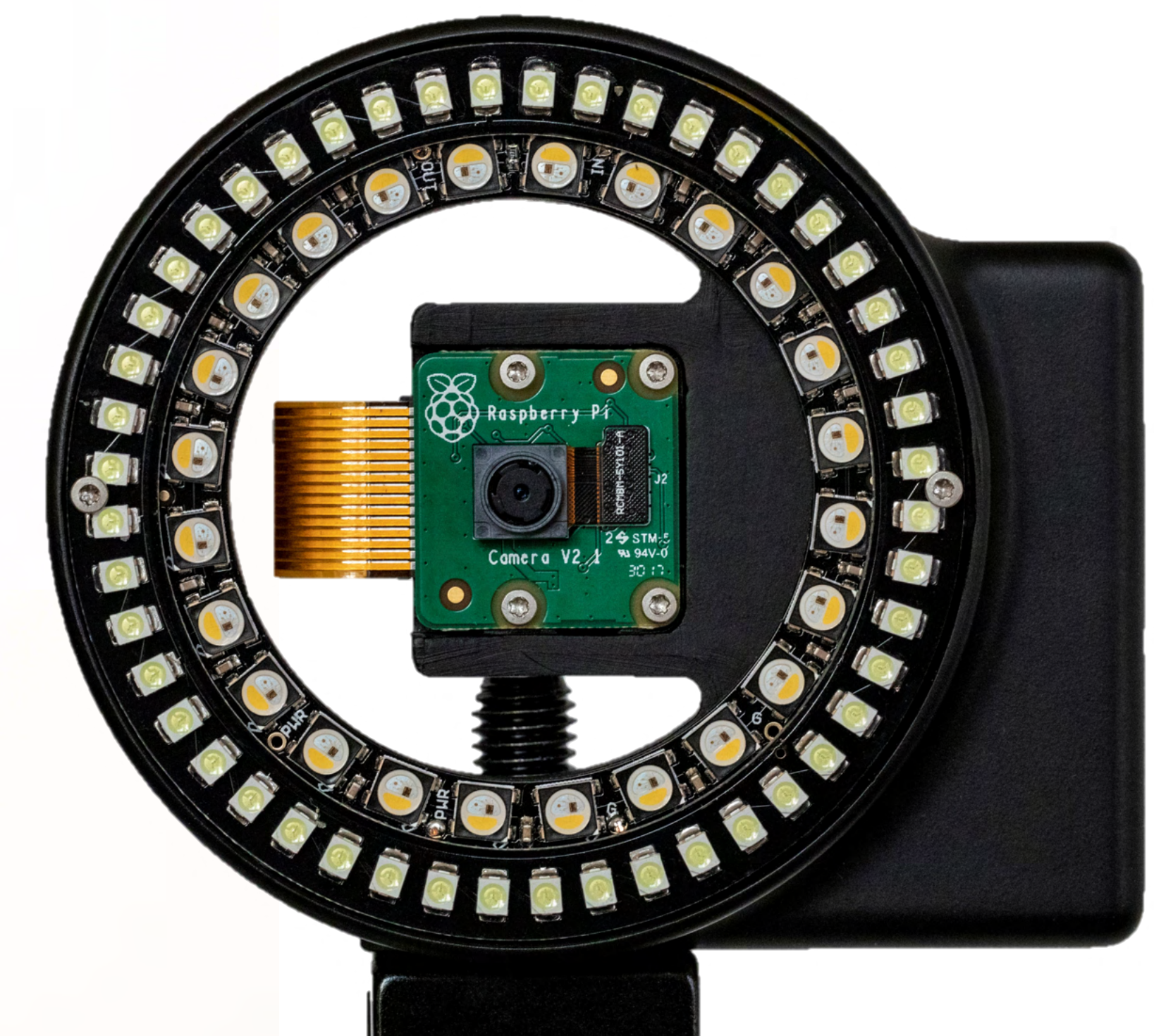


Photo Credit: Jerry Jaeger

Camera Design Considerations

- The new scanner was intended to have 34 cameras
- The unibody case is designed so all parts only require screws to be attached
- Manufactured with vacuum casting process
- No standoffs, spacers, nuts, washers
- Self tap screws reduce manufacturing cost
- Reduced parts simplify assembly, and reduces costs
- Outer LED ring lights up camera field of view, and reduces clutter over previous light
- Inner ring of RGBW lights provide test subject and clinician feedback
 - Scanner currently requires operator to sit behind screen separate from test subject, a light feedback interface was intended to remove the separation

Biomechanics Patient Scanner: Indenter

Project Goals:

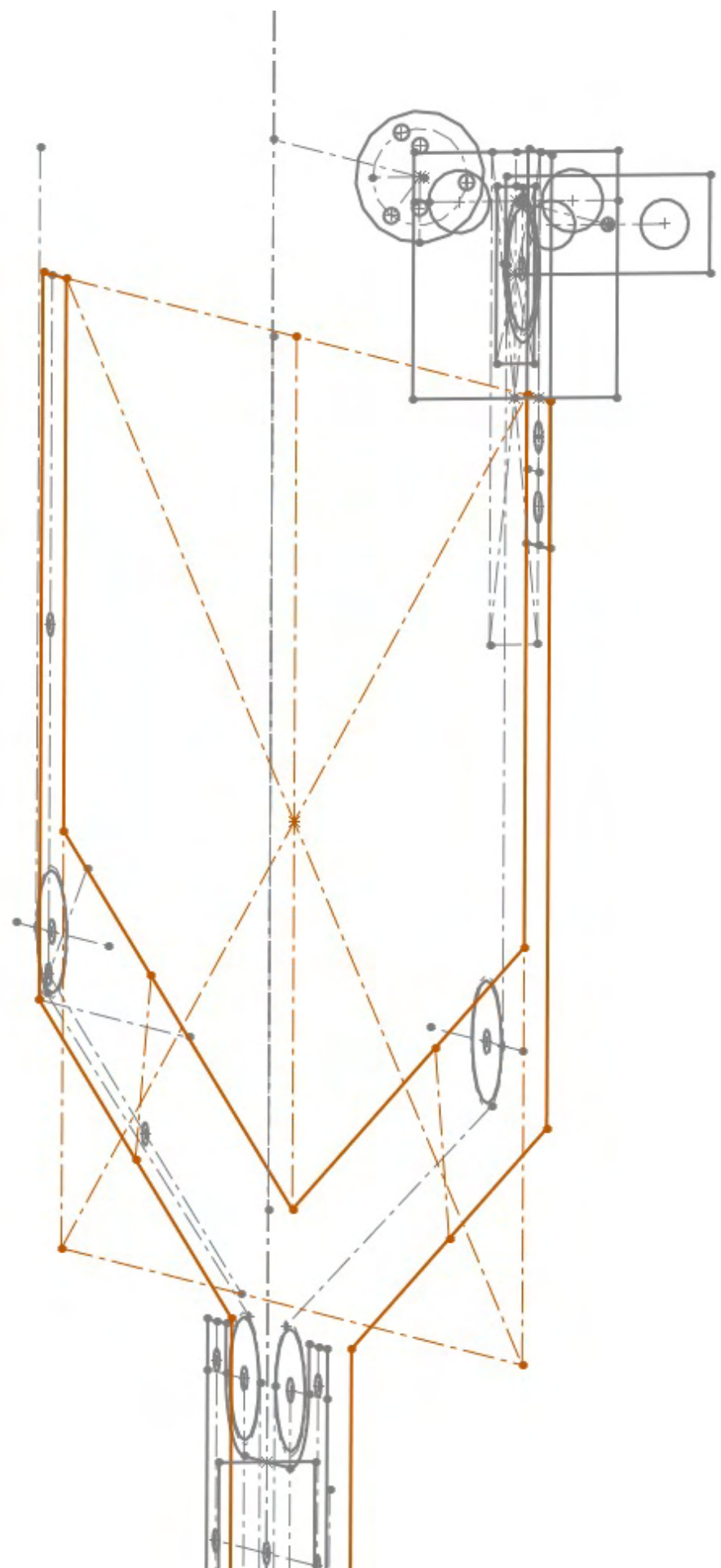
Tool used with patient scanner to determine residual limb soft tissue properties.
Deform tissue and measure force in 6 DOFs

Avoid:

Hurting the test subject
Blocking the cameras
Moving the patient's leg

Design considerations:

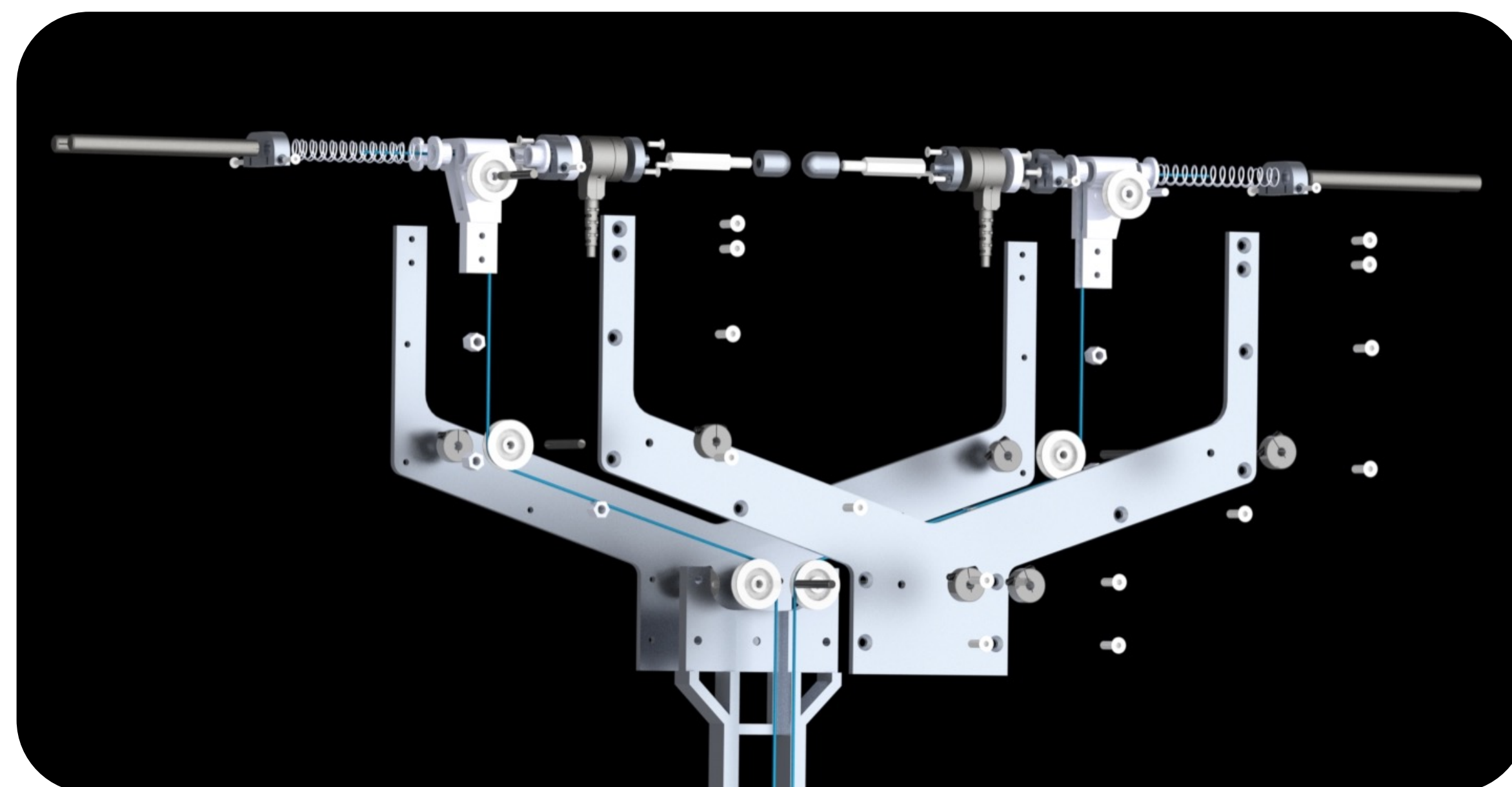
Parts design influenced by available manufacturing method capabilities. It was designed so I could easily machine the parts with a combination of the water jet, and manual mill.



Indenter in Use



Indenter Exploded



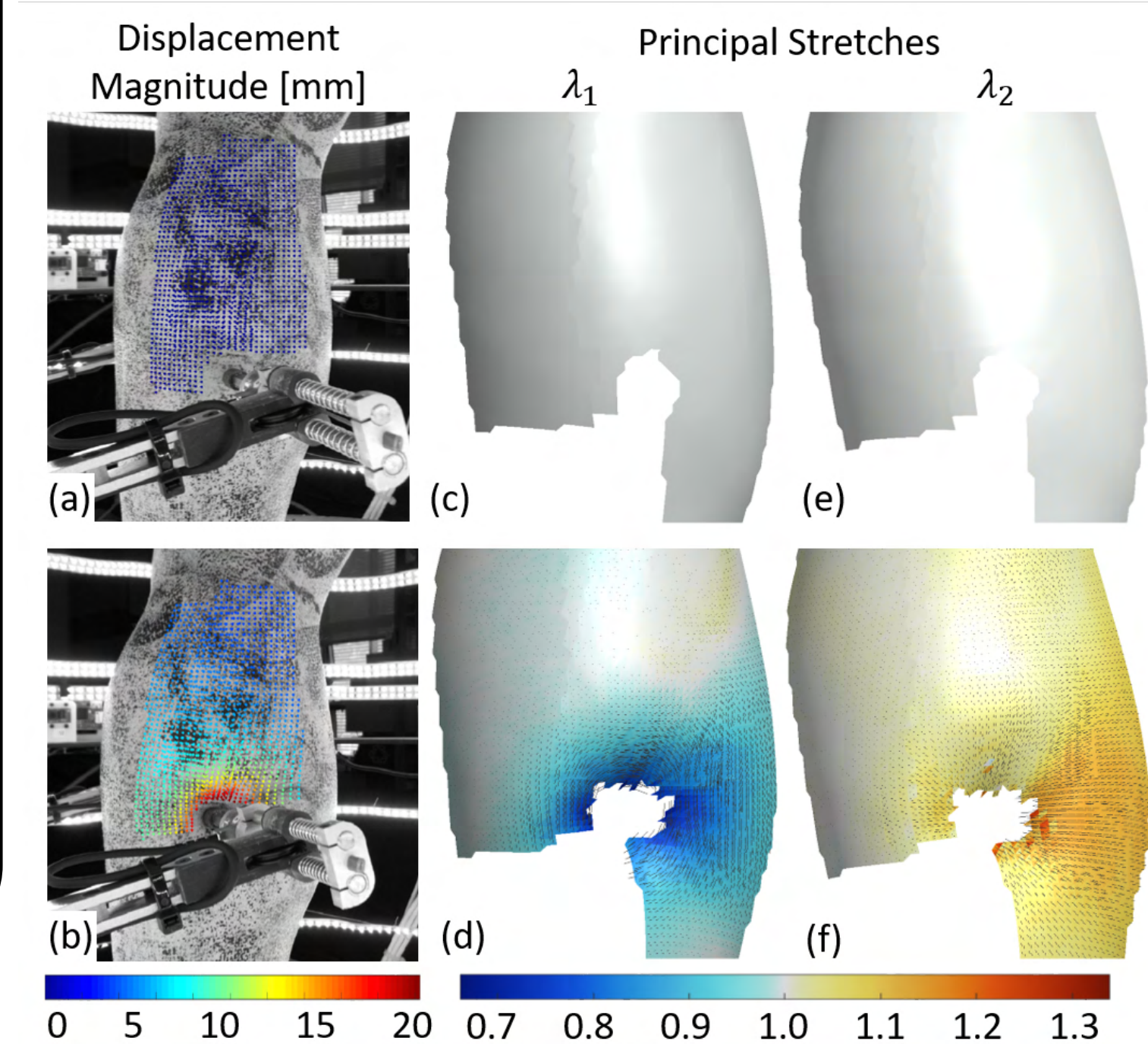
Indenter

Photo Credit: Jerry Jaeger



The data from the indenter and scanner are combined to determine the mechanical properties of the limb's soft tissue. A simulated indenter using the real indenter's measurements presses on simulated soft tissue, defined by best guess Ogden parameters. If the behavior of the simulated soft tissue matches the behavior of the real soft tissue, as measured by the scanner, then the Ogden parameters are correct. If the behavior does not match, the parameters are changed, and the simulation is run again.

Professor Hugh Herr presenting the Indenter at Media Lab Member Meeting Fall 2018



Preliminary testing with the Indenter

Figure Credit: Dana Solav

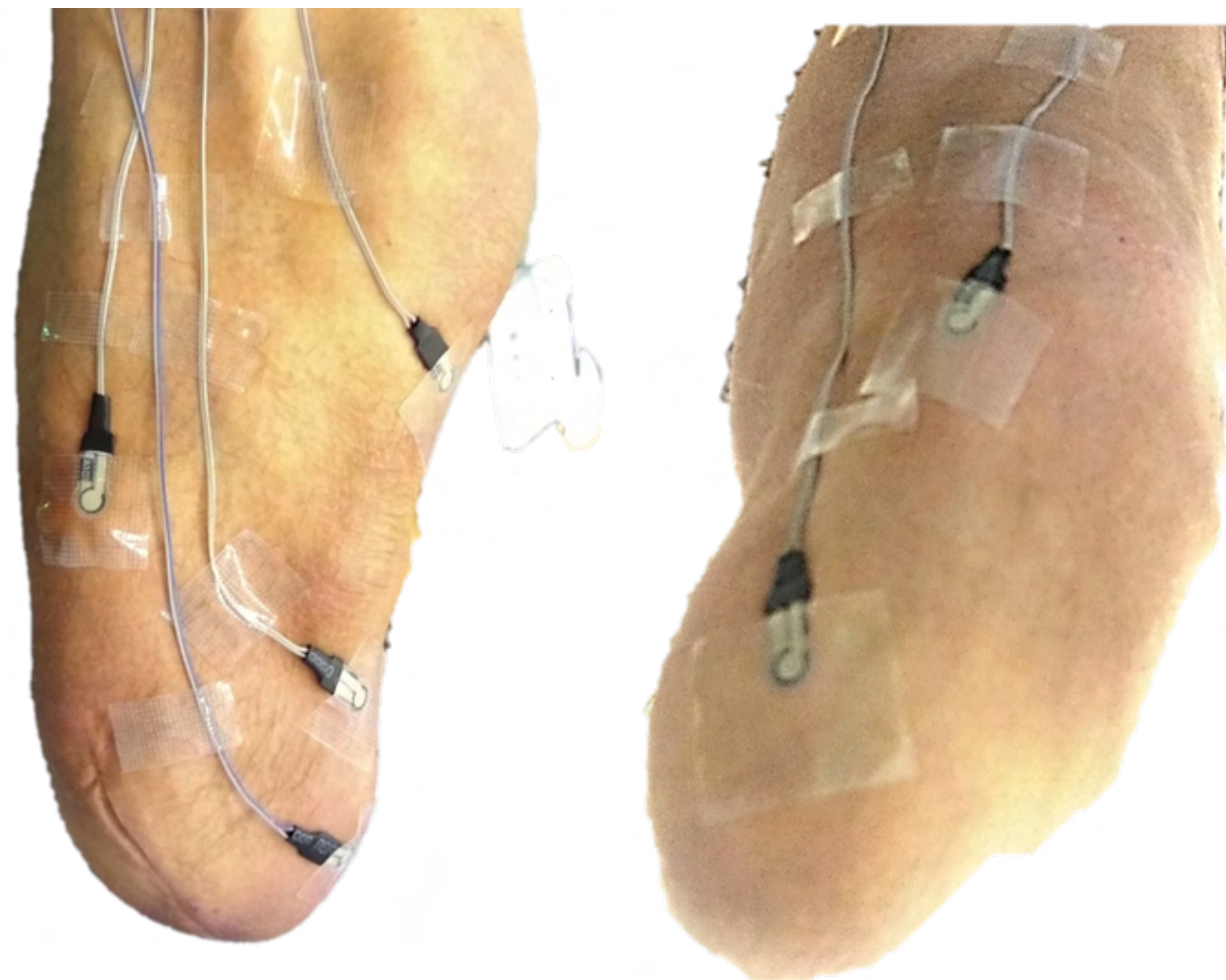
SRSA Project: Socket Validation

Project Goals:
 Compare pressure from the socket on residual limb between the traditional socket and the digitally designed socket.
 Compare actual pressure in socket to pressure expected from simulation.

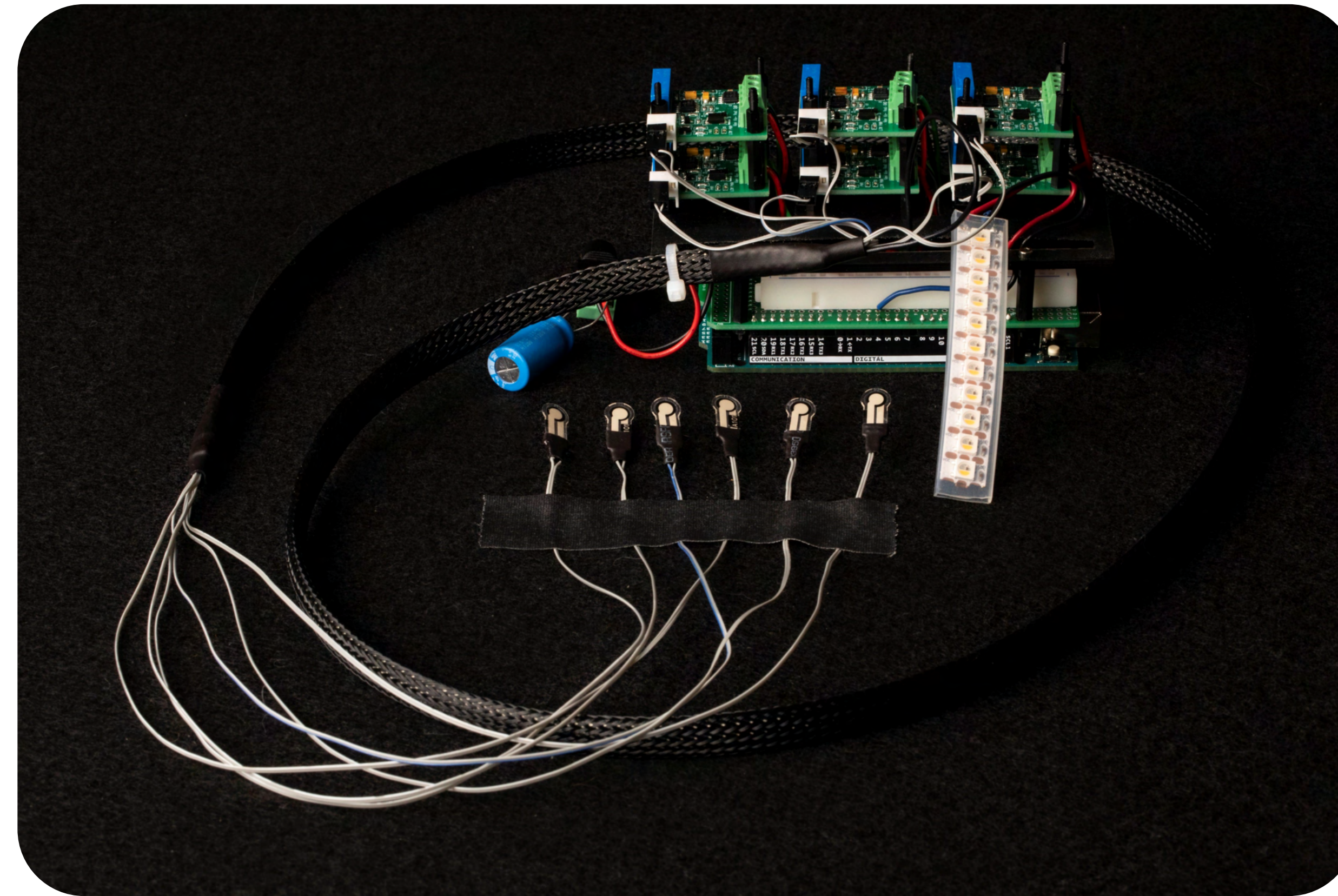
Design Considerations:
 A limited development timeline meant focusing on creating best practices for using commonly used, but unreliable pressure sensors.
 Easy to use UI as this subject trial was especially stressful.
 Data collection had to happen without user error.

Research Outcome:
 Relative pressure comparison between digitally designed socket and traditional socket.
 Developed user friendly pressure sensing tool which new students used to complete NIH trial data collection.
 Provided foundational research for incoming Master's student to work on simulated pressure validation.

Sensors Placed at Anatomically Relevant Points



Socket Pressure Validation Sensors

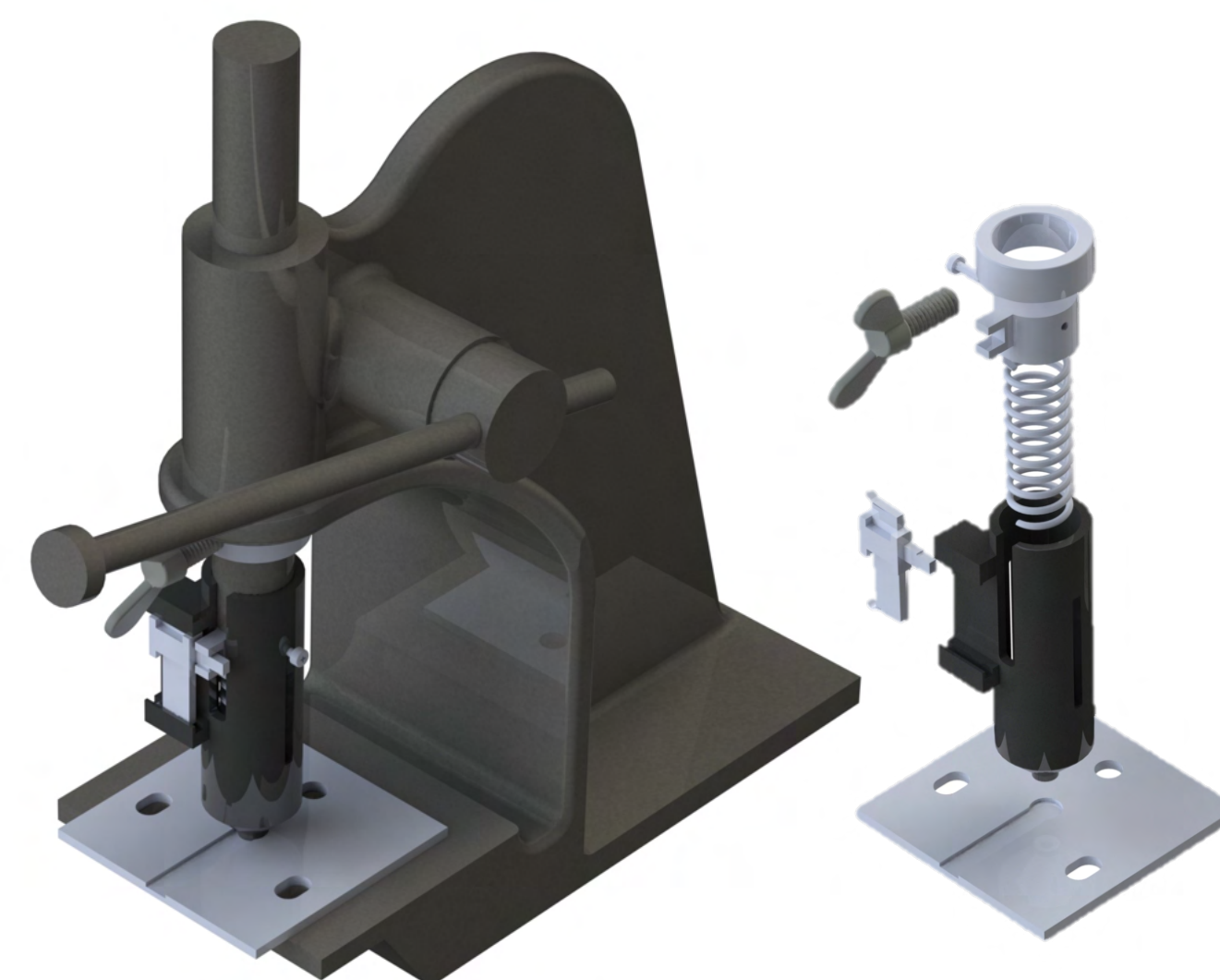


In-socket pressure sensing is unsolved problem. Force sensitive resistors (FSR) are commonly used, but researchers often present the data and ignore their flaws. The sensor behavior changes every time they are used, and gradually drifts while being used. Additionally, the behavior changes when the sensors are bent, as happens when inside of a socket.

After a few different attempts at a calibration method I determined it would be best to drop the ground-truth pressure measurements, and only do a relative and unitless pressure comparison between sockets.

Shortly after the development of this project researchers from University of Washington published their concerns over the use of FSRs for ground truth pressure sensing, and the impracticality of calibration.
 Swanson, E. C., Weathersby, E. J., Cagle, J. C., and Sanders, J. E. (July 15, 2019). "Evaluation of Force Sensing Resistors for the Measurement of Interface Pressures in Lower Limb Prosthetics." ASME. *J Biomech Eng.* October 2019; 141(10): 101009. <https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4043561>

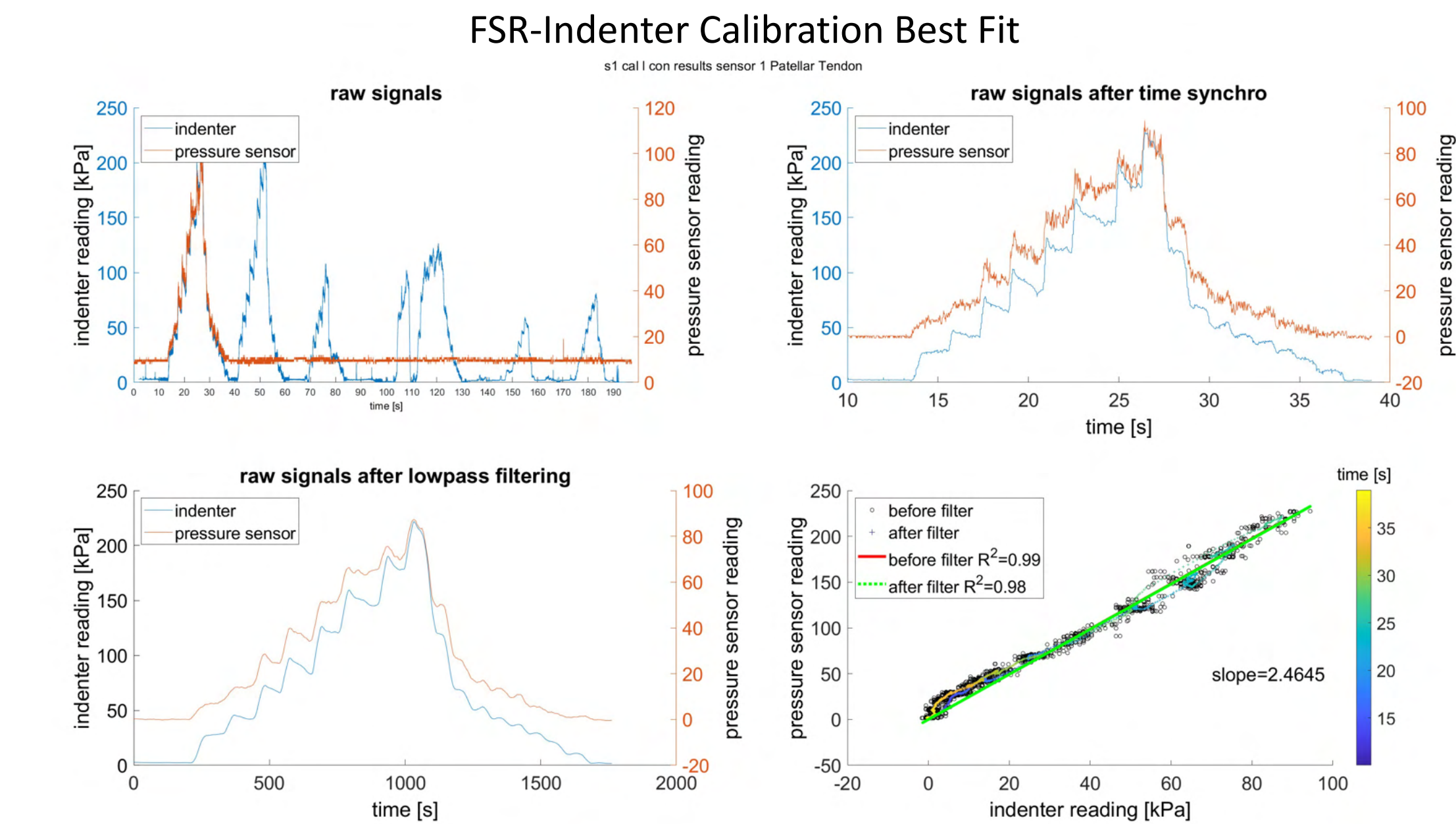
Mentee Project: Sensor Calibration Tool



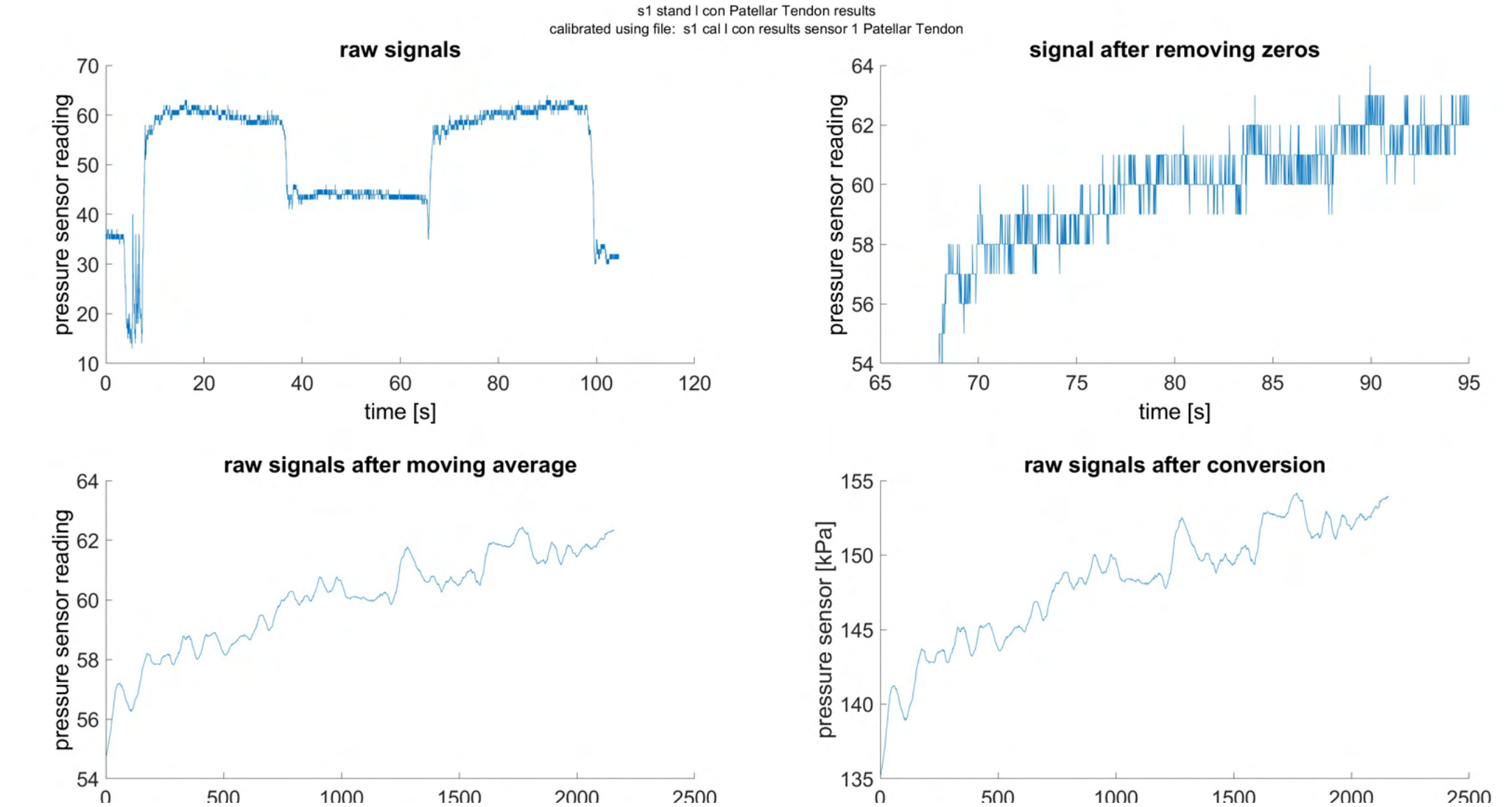
This is a custom force press that can apply and hold a desired load 0-50 N to an FSR. It was one of the tools I used in an attempt to calibrate the sensors. This was designed by an undergraduate working with me in the lab. I have worked project teams as an undergrad and mentored many elementary and high school students on their own projects, however, supervising a student was a new experience.

Calibrating FSR using the Indenter's load cell

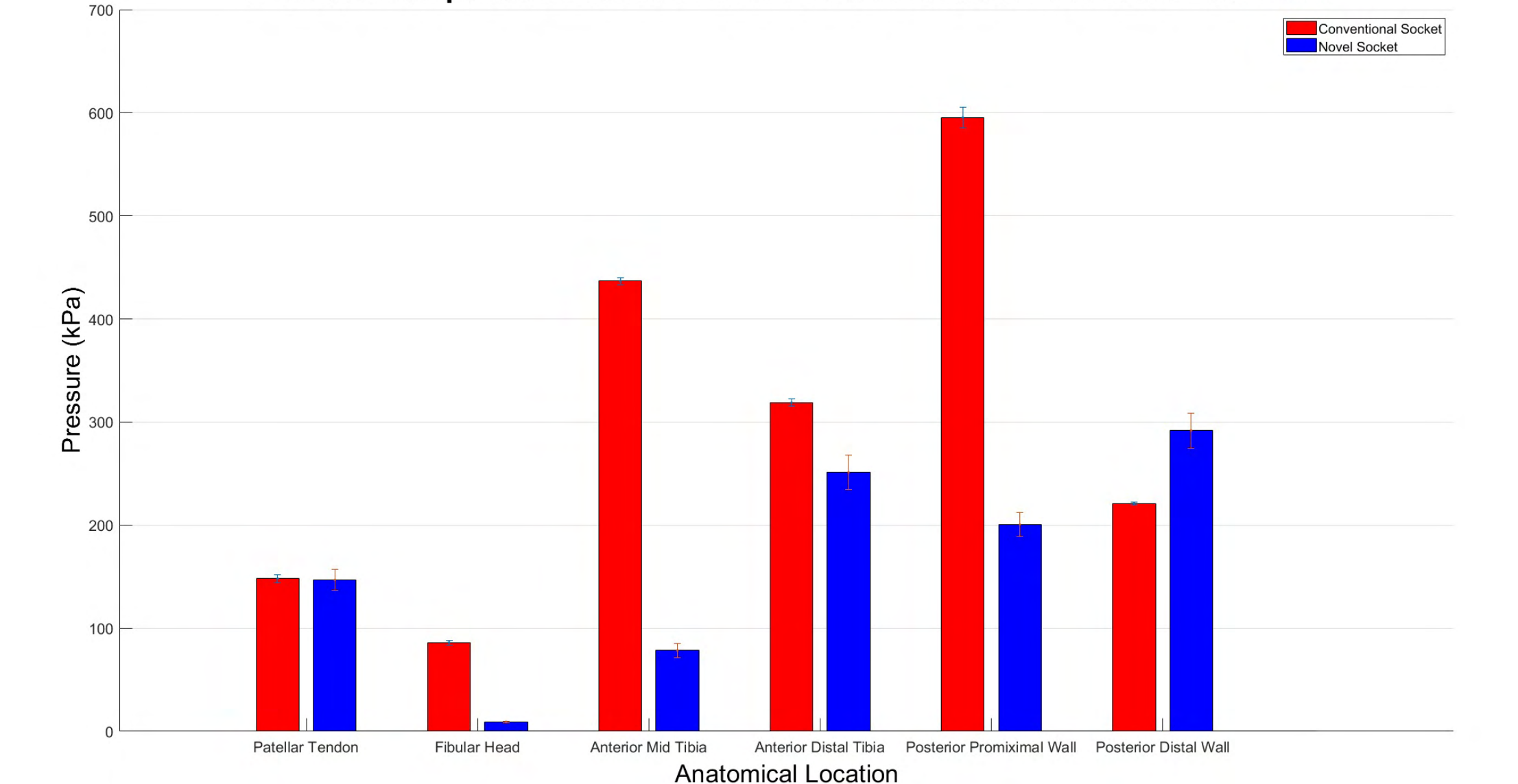
The final attempted sensor calibration method involved squeezing the indenter on the FSR sensors placed on the limb. This had the potential to calibrate the sensors in-situ and account for any bending. It proved to be unreliable, yet was still an interesting project. To bar graph below required managing 24 datasets for calibration, applying the calibration results in the correct order to 12 raw data sets. Followed correctly importing 12 calibrated datasets in order into the graph.



Converting raw analog sensor data to calibrated pressure



Pressure Comparison Between Novel and Conventional Sockets Under Load



MIT Medical Device Design Course 2.75 – 2019

Project Objective:

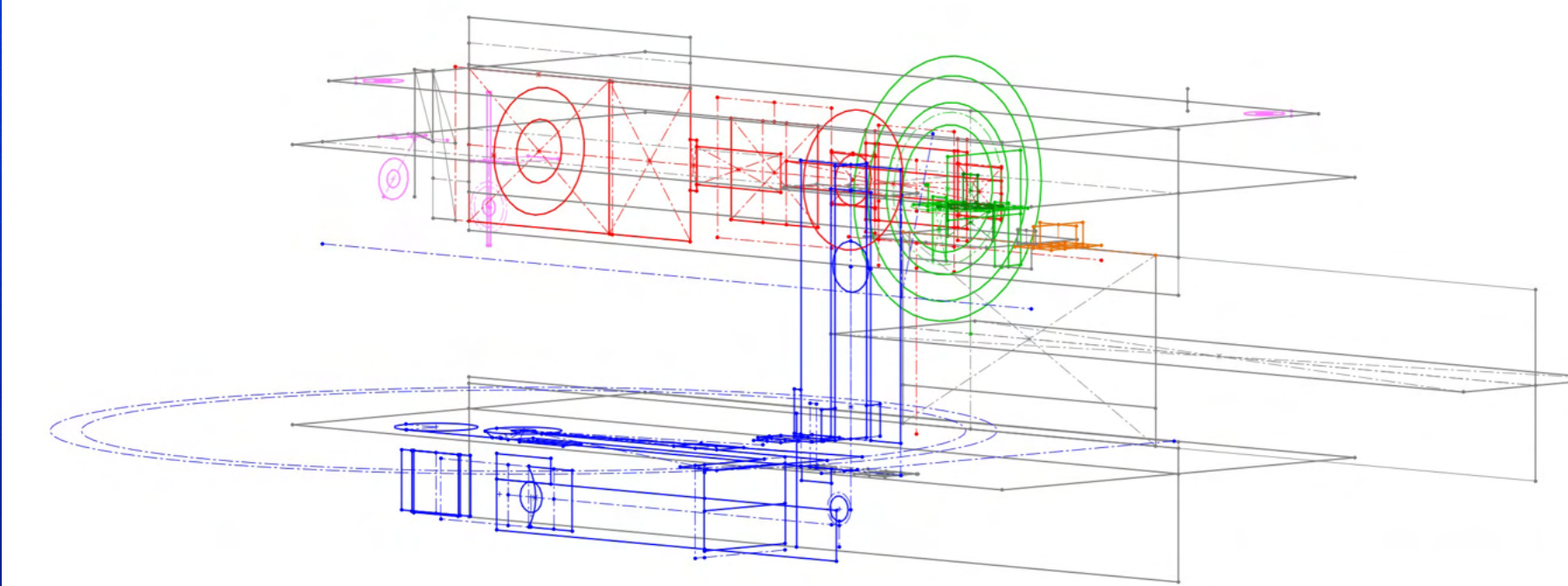
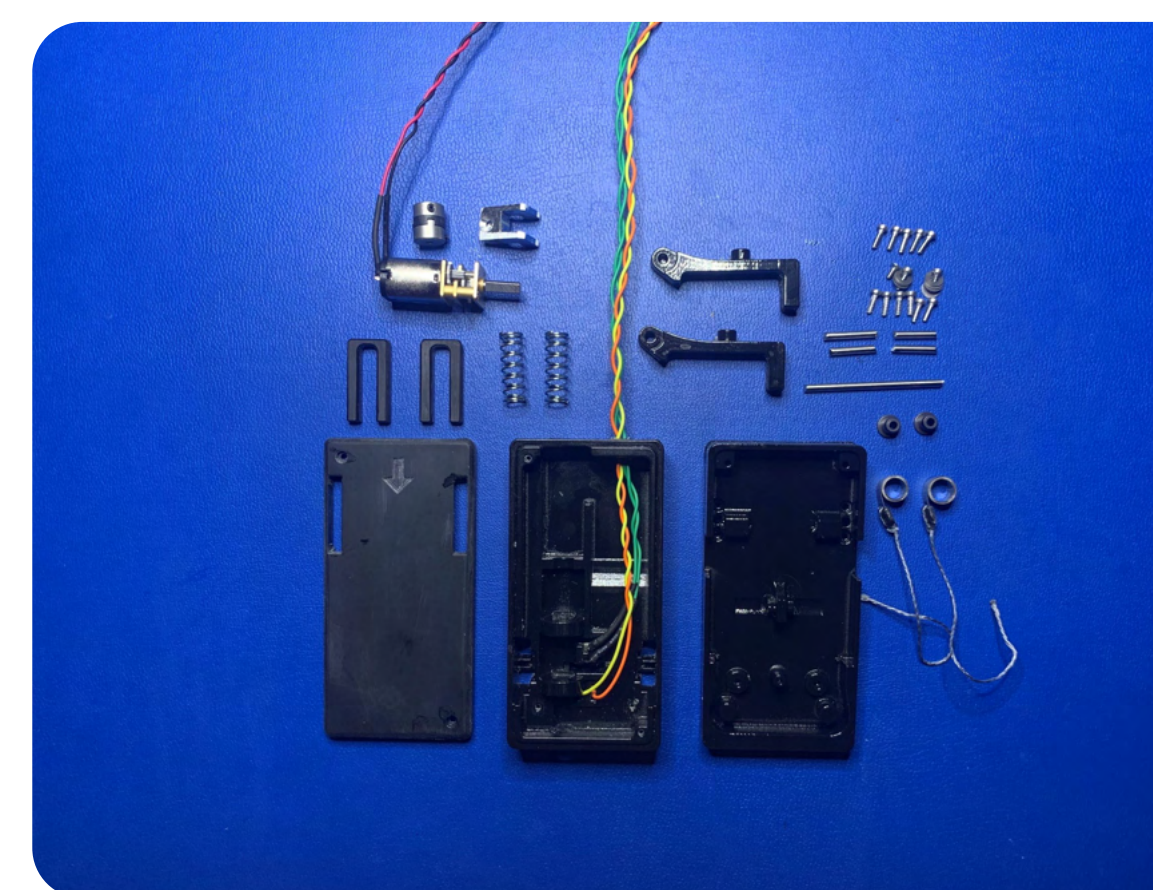
Dr Ryan Carroll from Mass General Hospital presented the need for a device to precisely measuring blood oxygen perfusion. Perfusion can help determine the severity of a health problem in cases of extreme dehydration, sepsis, and organ failure. Currently a doctor will pinch and release patient's finger and watch as the skin goes from a pale white back to a normal red. The time it takes for this transition is the capillary refill time (CRT) and is one method to determine perfusion.

Outcome:

My team demonstrated a small finger clip that could automate the process and produce precise time measurements CRT.

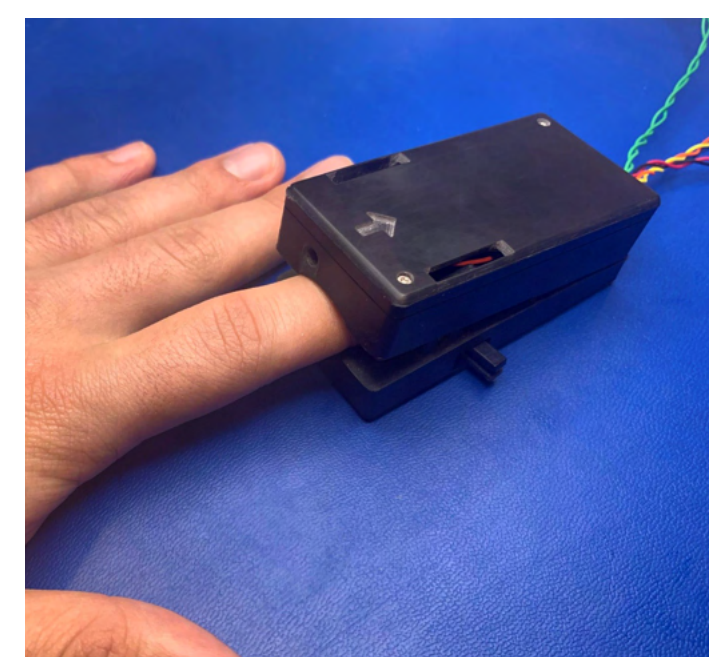
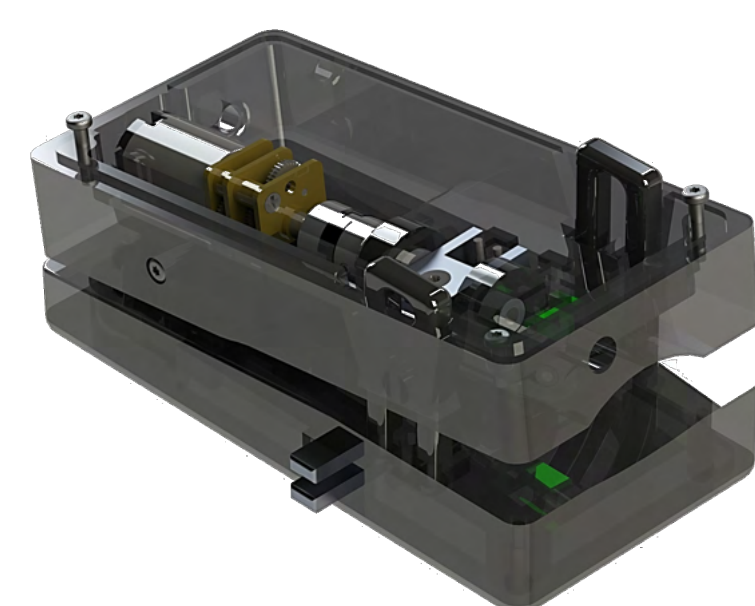
Team Role:

Team Leader, led experimentation planning, task formulation. Mentored less experienced teammates. Responsible for the mechanical design.



Final Presentation Slides:

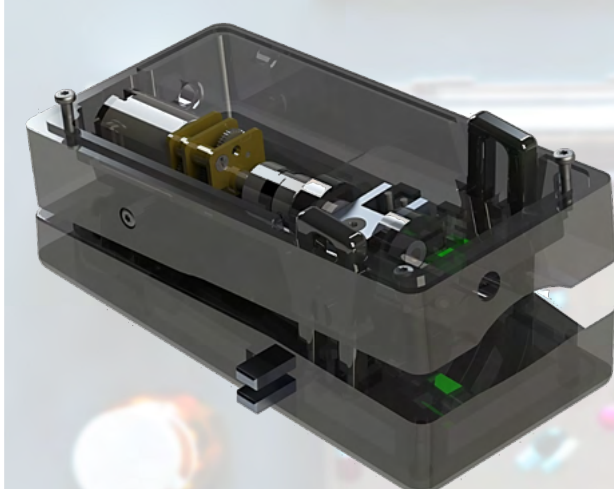
Our approach



A hand-held device with exterior features similar to a pulse oximeter that applies a certain force to the fingernail, and measures CRT with a photoresistor.

Design description

- Two modules:
- Sensor
 - Pressure applicator

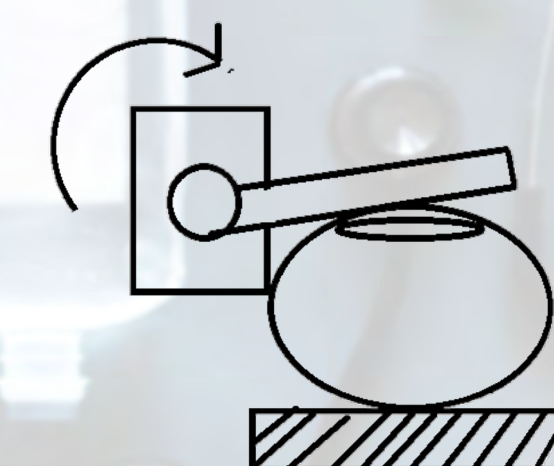


I. Sensor



Light intensity going through the photoresistor, placed above the nail, changes during the perfusion process.

II. Pressure applicator



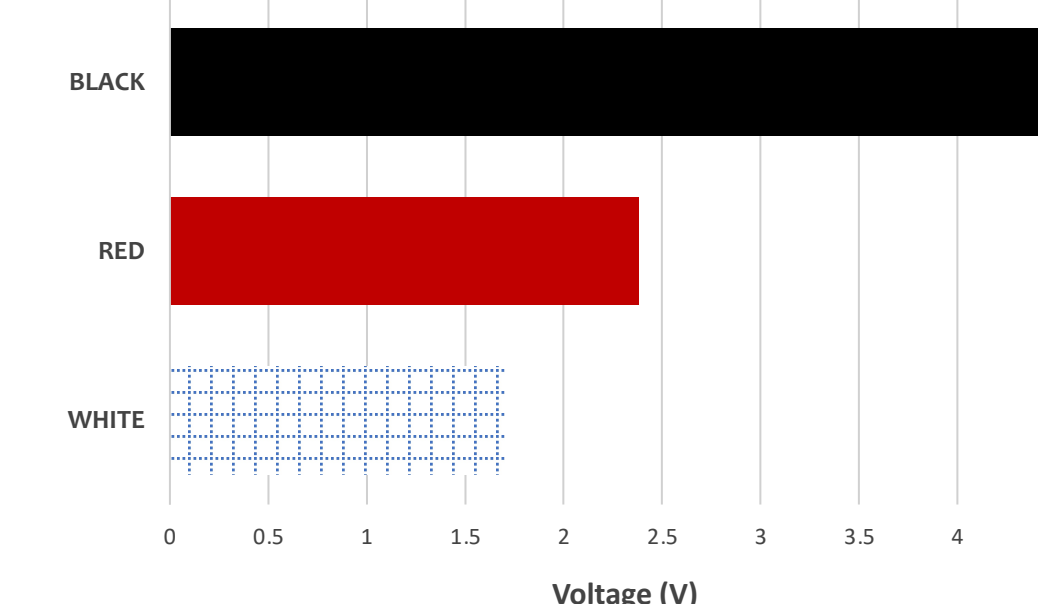
Force applied to the nail is driven by a motor.

Test results

– how we made sure it measures CRT

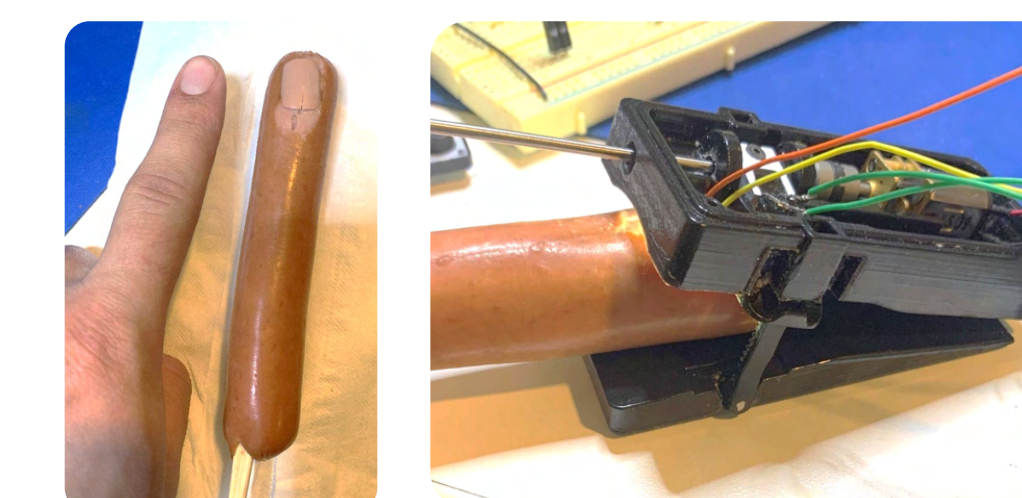
I. Photoresistor can differentiate different colors.

Test results with finger-shaped objects with different colors

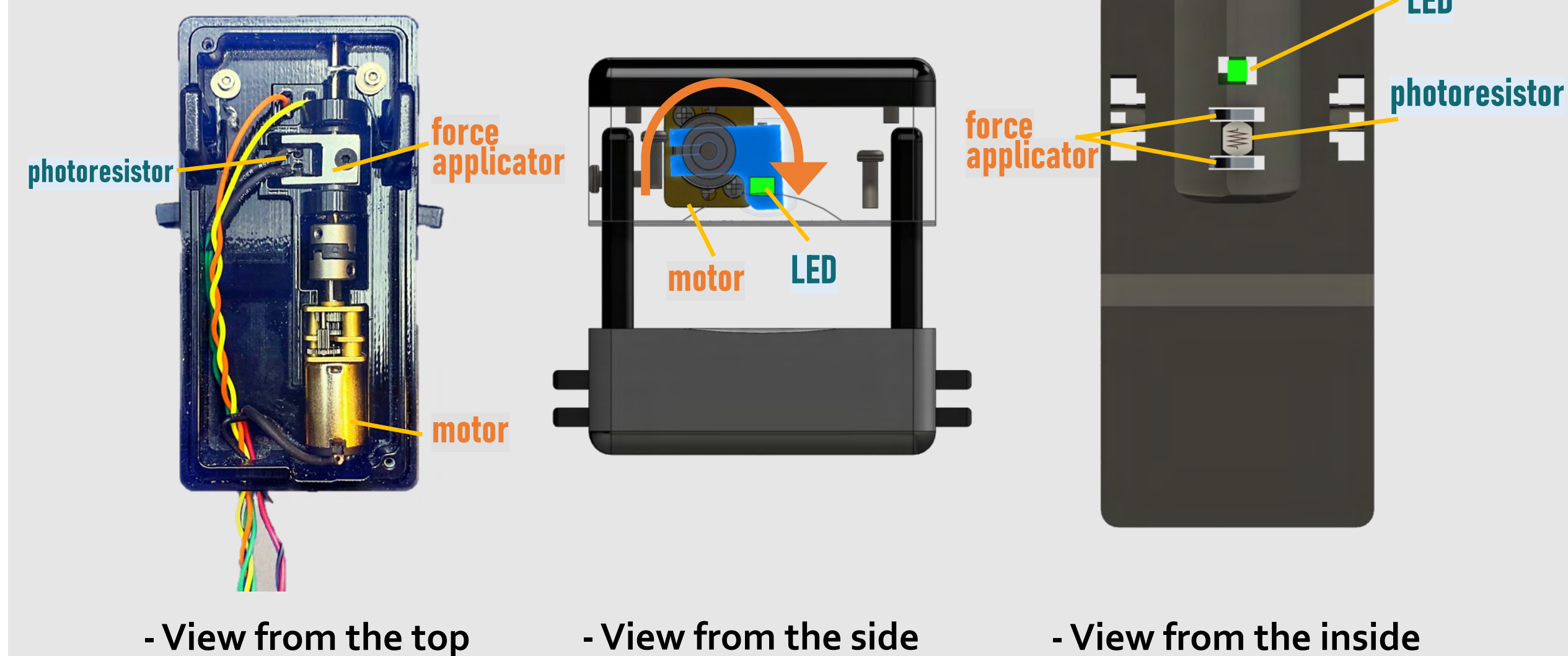


II. Voltage difference as a result of movement is insignificant compared with that of color change.

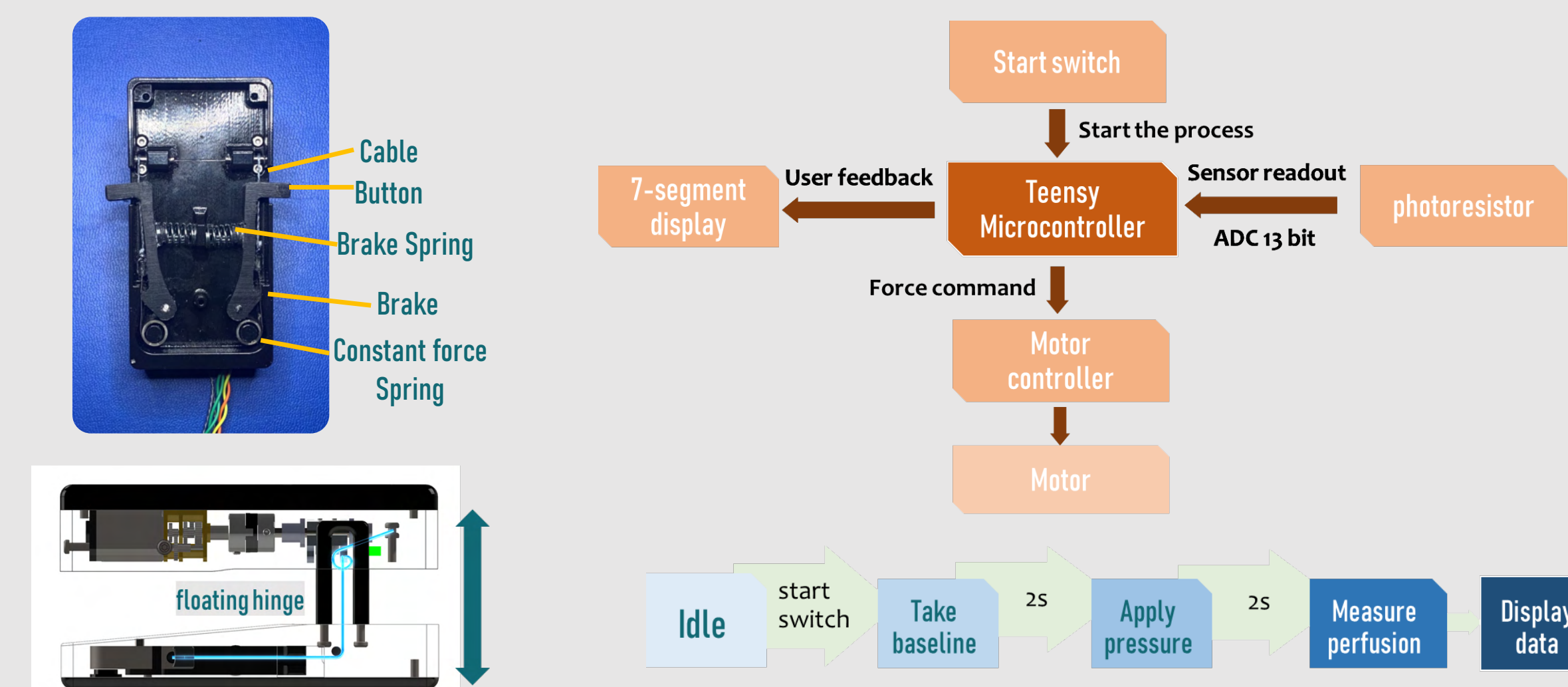
phantom test #1: hot dog



Design Details – components



Design Details – mechanical / electrical

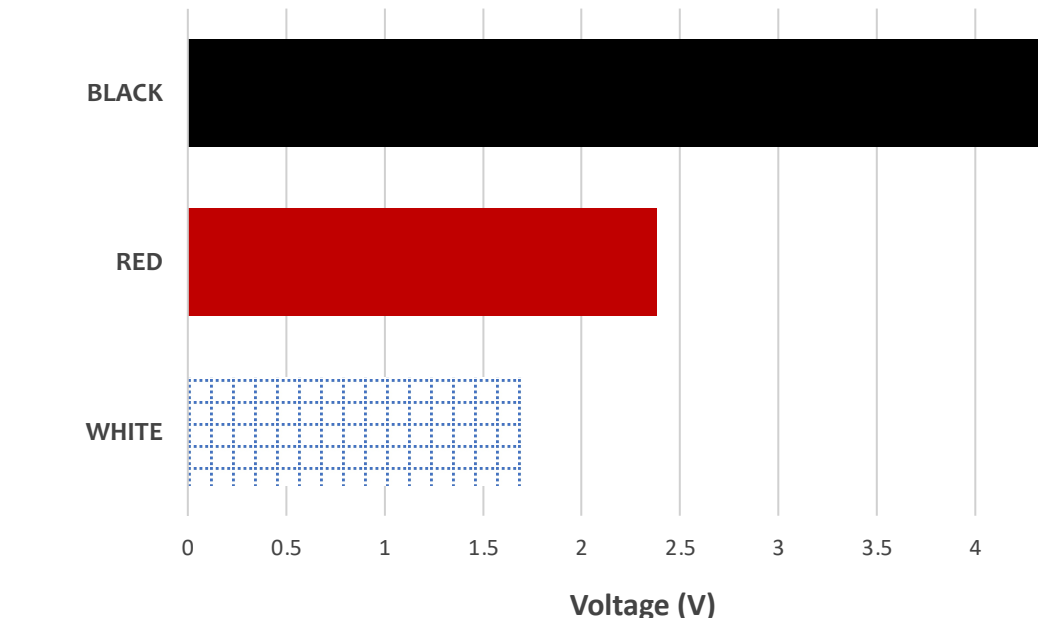


Test results

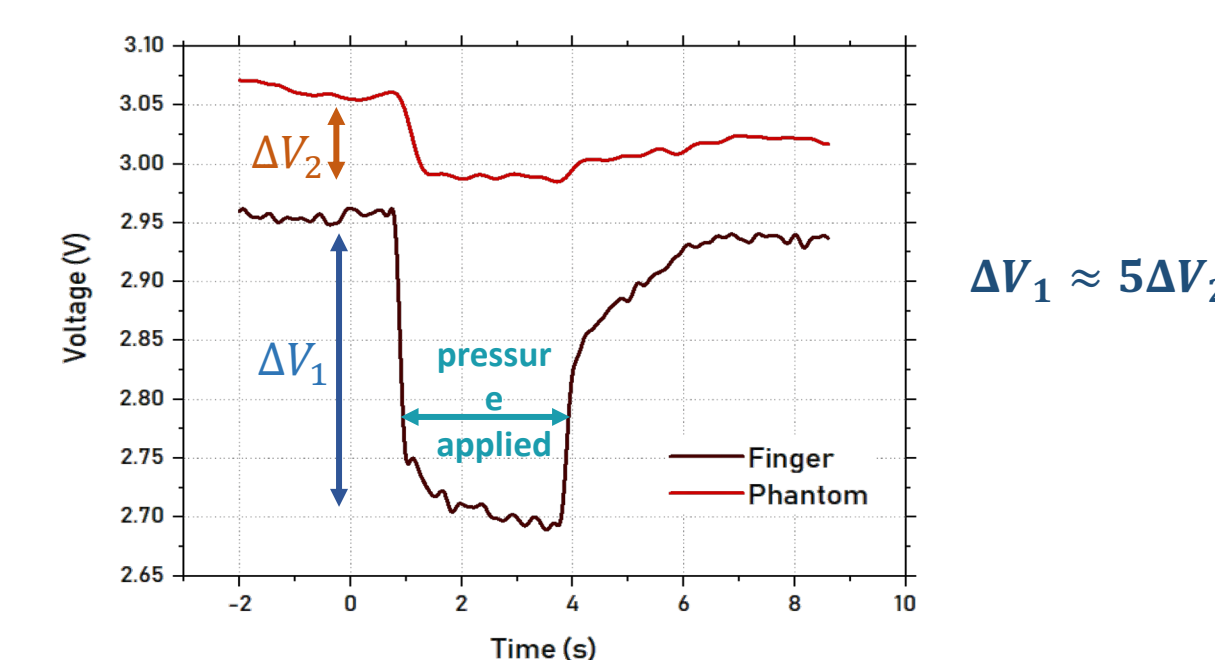
– how we made sure it measures CRT

I. Photoresistor can differentiate different colors.

Test results with finger-shaped objects with different colors



II. Voltage difference as a result of movement is insignificant compared with that of color change.



Markhor: Robotic Mining Platform – WPI 2017

Domenic Bozzuto (RBE, CS), Rene Jacques (RBE), Aaron Jaeger (RBE), Brian Peterson (ME), Yu-sen Wu (RBE, ME)
Advisors: Michael Ciaraldi, Kenneth Stafford

Project Goals:

Design and build robot to compete in the NASA Robotic Mining Challenge capable of in a Martian environment and collecting and depositing 100kg “icy” Regolith (crushed basalt and gravel).

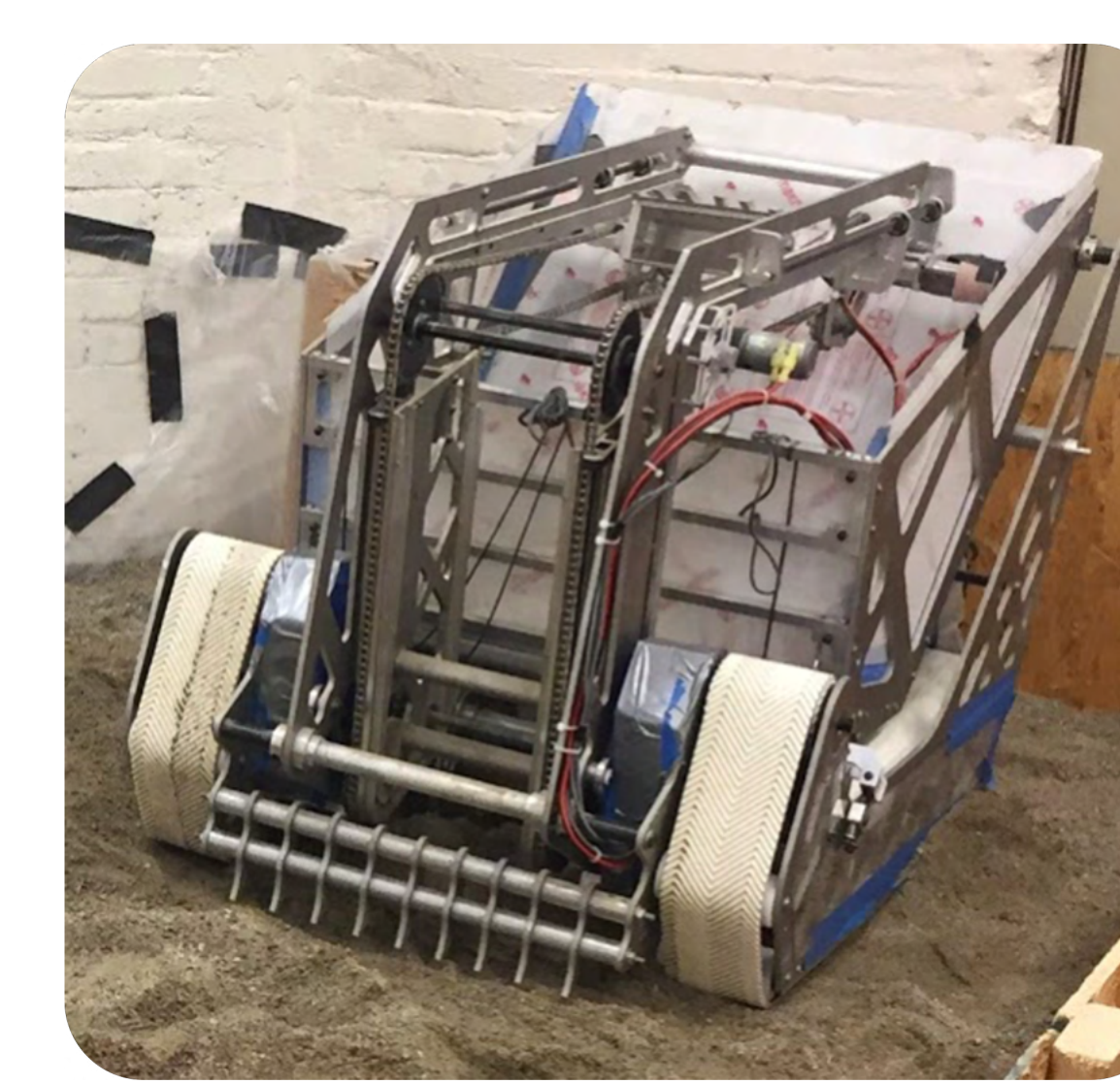
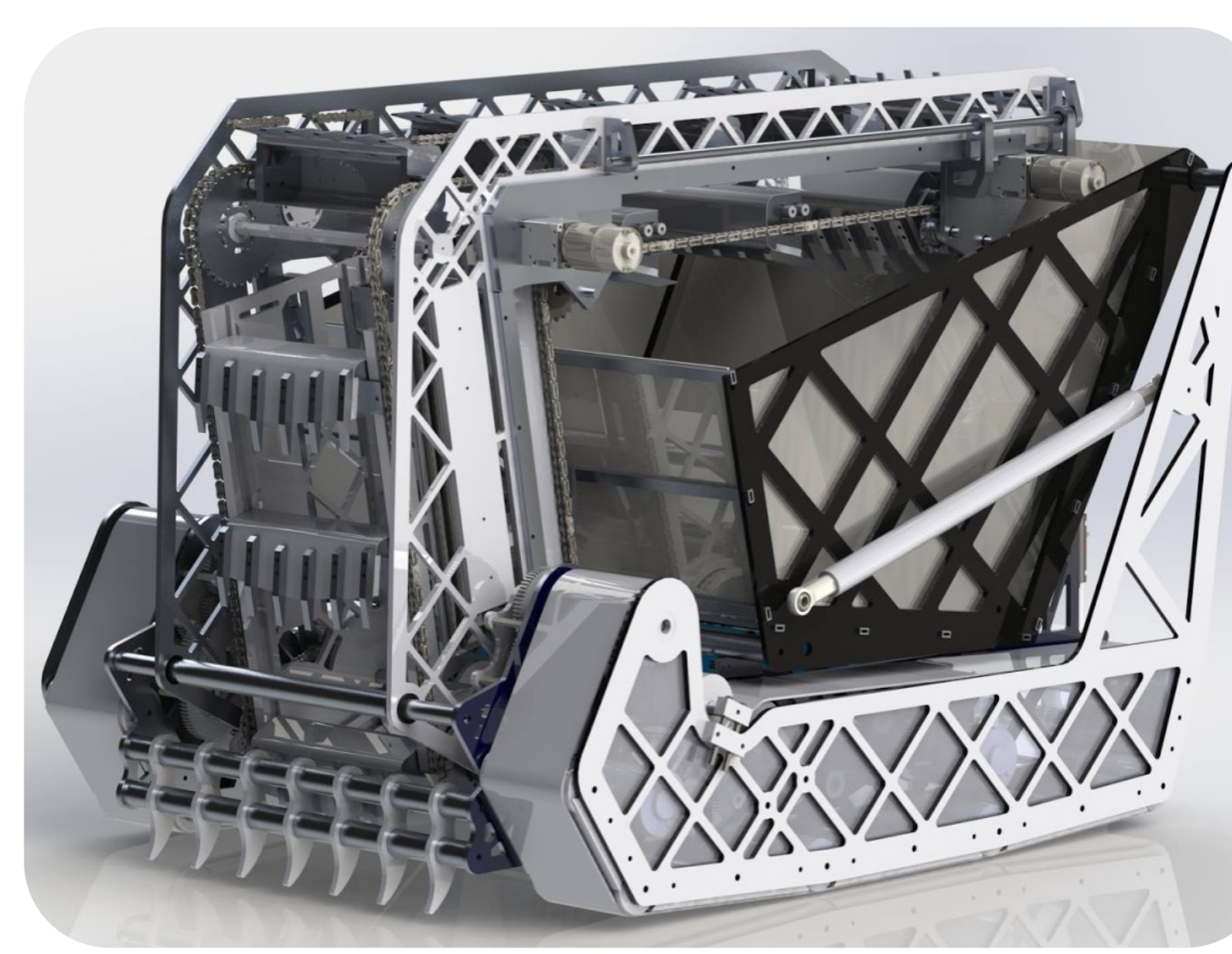
Roles:

Prototyped and experimented with new mechanism designs. Used testing results to inform design revisions. Machinist. Resource coordinator. The “glue” of the team.

Demo and project presentation: [Google Drive Presentation](#)

Additional Competition info [NASA](#)

Abstract
 In-situ resource utilization, or the use of the resources available in a foreign environment, is crucial to the success of manned missions to Mars; however, it is a severely underdeveloped technology. This project explores the development of a rover capable of operating in a simulated Martian environment. The rover is capable of mining large amounts of simulated ice chunks from below the surface, driving its payload to a collection station, and unloading all the collected material. This project is partially inspired by NASA’s Robotic Mining Competition which served to establish a set of guidelines around which the robot was constructed.

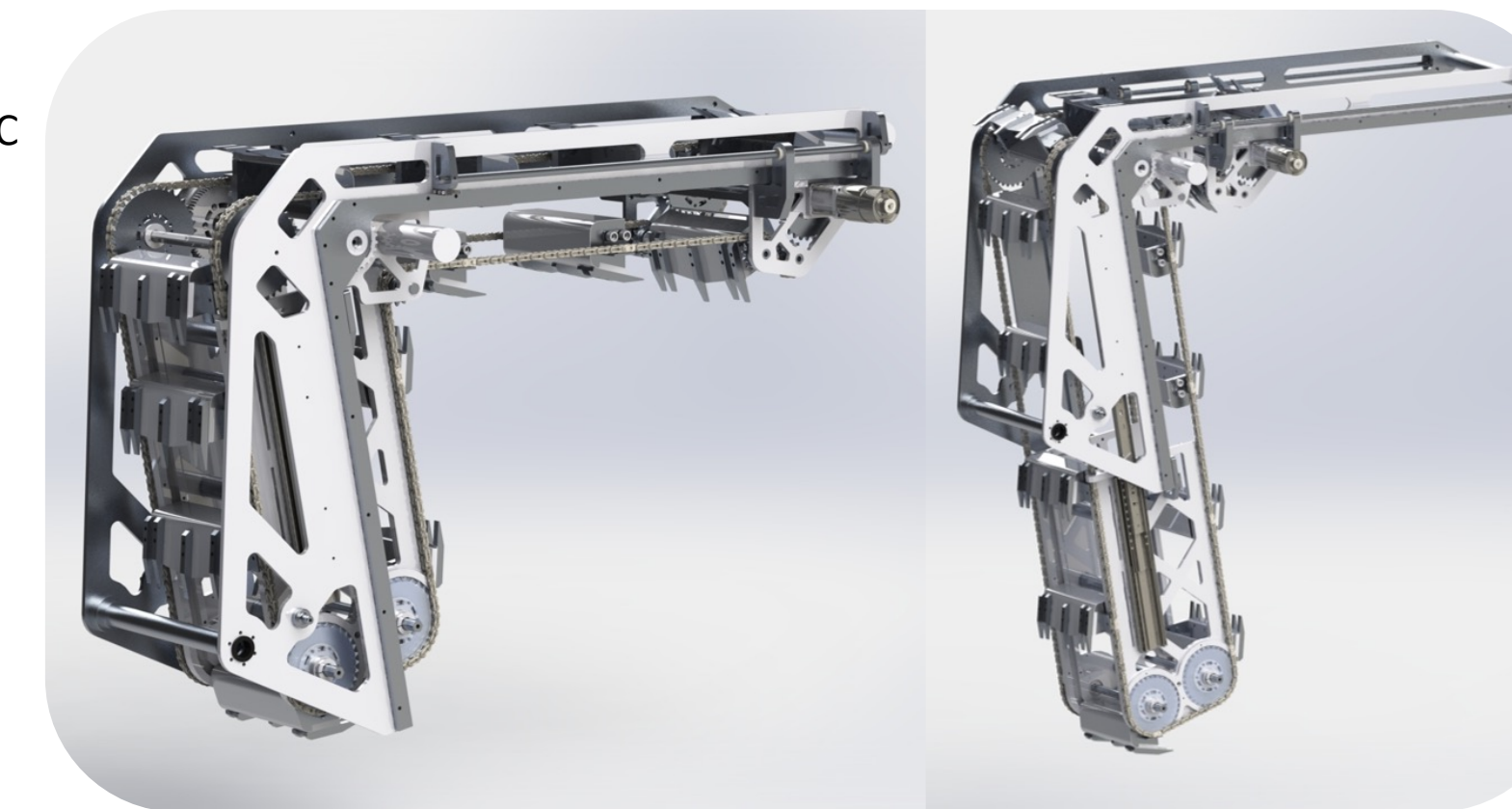
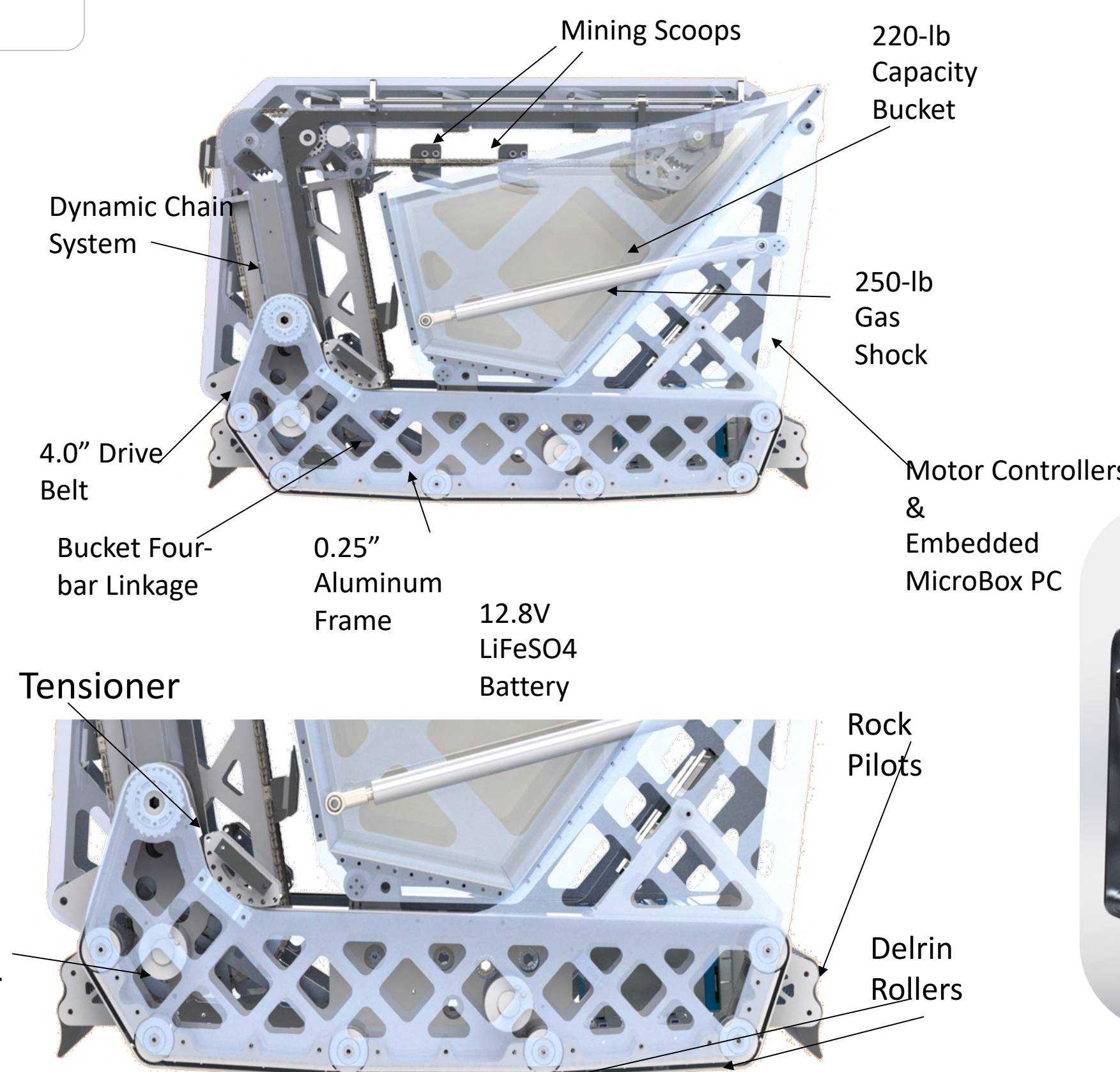


Markhor (front) during testing



Top: Markhor (back) at RMC
 Bottom: Markhor depositing Regolith

Specifications	
Dimensions (LxWxH)	40in x 28in x 29in
Weight	80 kg (176 lbs.)
Rated Payload	100 kg (220 lbs.)
Maximum Speed	0.254 m/s (10 in/s)
Operating Time	10 min
Material Collection Rate	0.4 kg/s (14 oz/s)
Collection Depth	0.4 m (16 in)



Dynamic Chain collection system, compressed and extended state



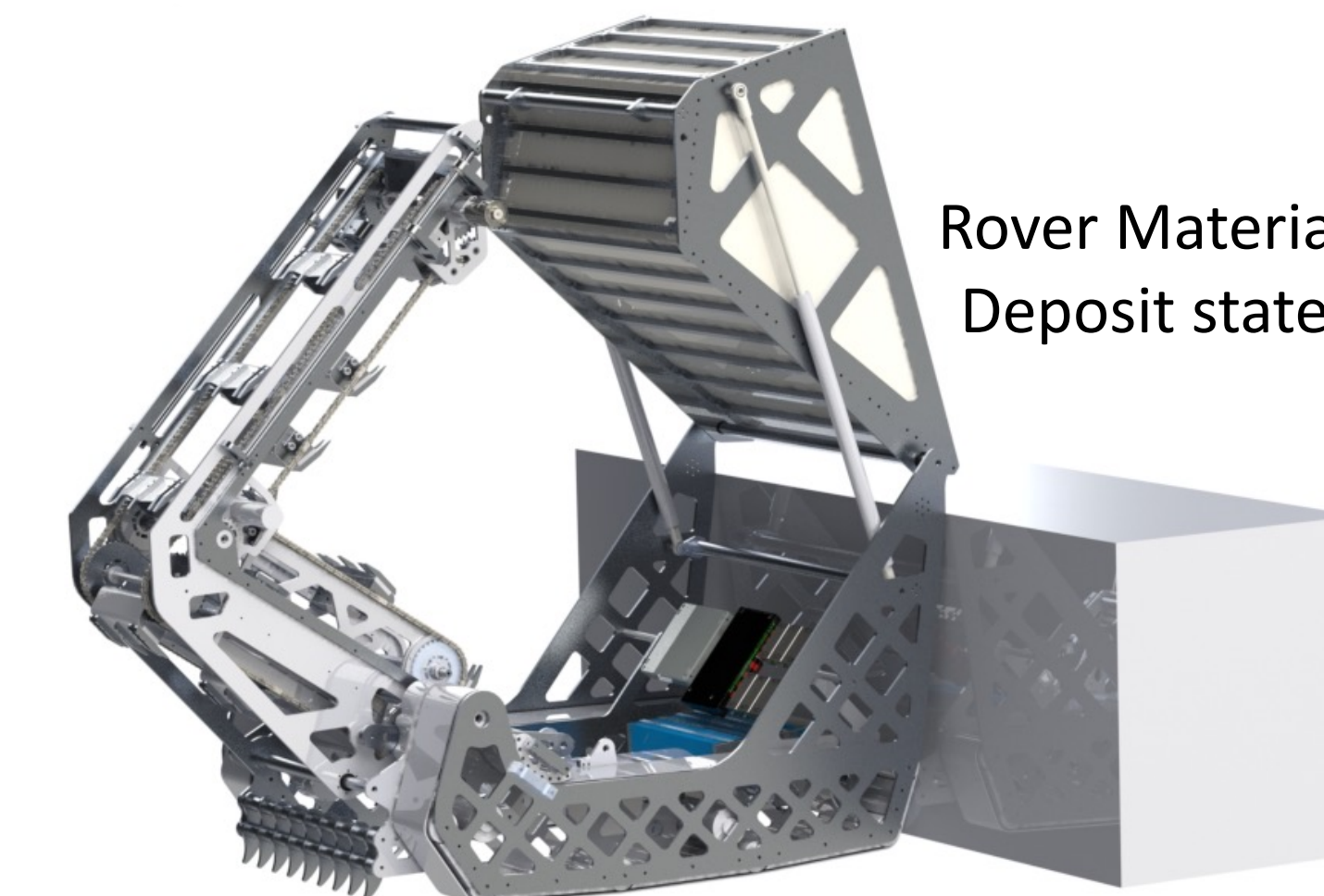
Collection System



Our early collection prototypes taught us three important things. First breaking through the surface of gravel requires a lot of pressure, and the teeth on the scoops cannot be in a line. Second breaking through dirt and gravel causes a big disturbance, if the scoop is dragged through the gravel in a line after initial breakthrough then we can collect more material. Third, bucket ladder systems are very efficient at digging, however, can be fragile. Having the scoops follow a guide track transfers the digging load from the scoops to the track rather than the scoop to the chain.



When transferring material from scoops to bucket the scoops are rotated beyond 60 degrees due to the high cohesion of regolith



Lifting 100kg of material requires a lot of energy, and heavy, slow and expensive linear actuators. As a joke I suggested using a winch to lower the bucket lifted by a fully passive gas-shock lift system the bucket.

Negotiated interdepartmental cooperation to convert Professor Bergstrom’s office into simulated Mars test facility with two tons of sand.



WPI-CMU Darpa Robotics Team – 2014-2015:

Project:

WPI competed in the Darpa Robotics Challenge developing robotic disaster response capabilities.

Outcomes:

WPI's Atlas robot completed 7/8 of the competition tasks. WPI was the only team that did not fall and require a reset.

Project Role:

Undergraduate Research Assistant. Member of User Interface, robot testing, and robot maintenance teams. Responsible for robot egress hardware and aftermarket sensors.

Atlas Walking Through Door

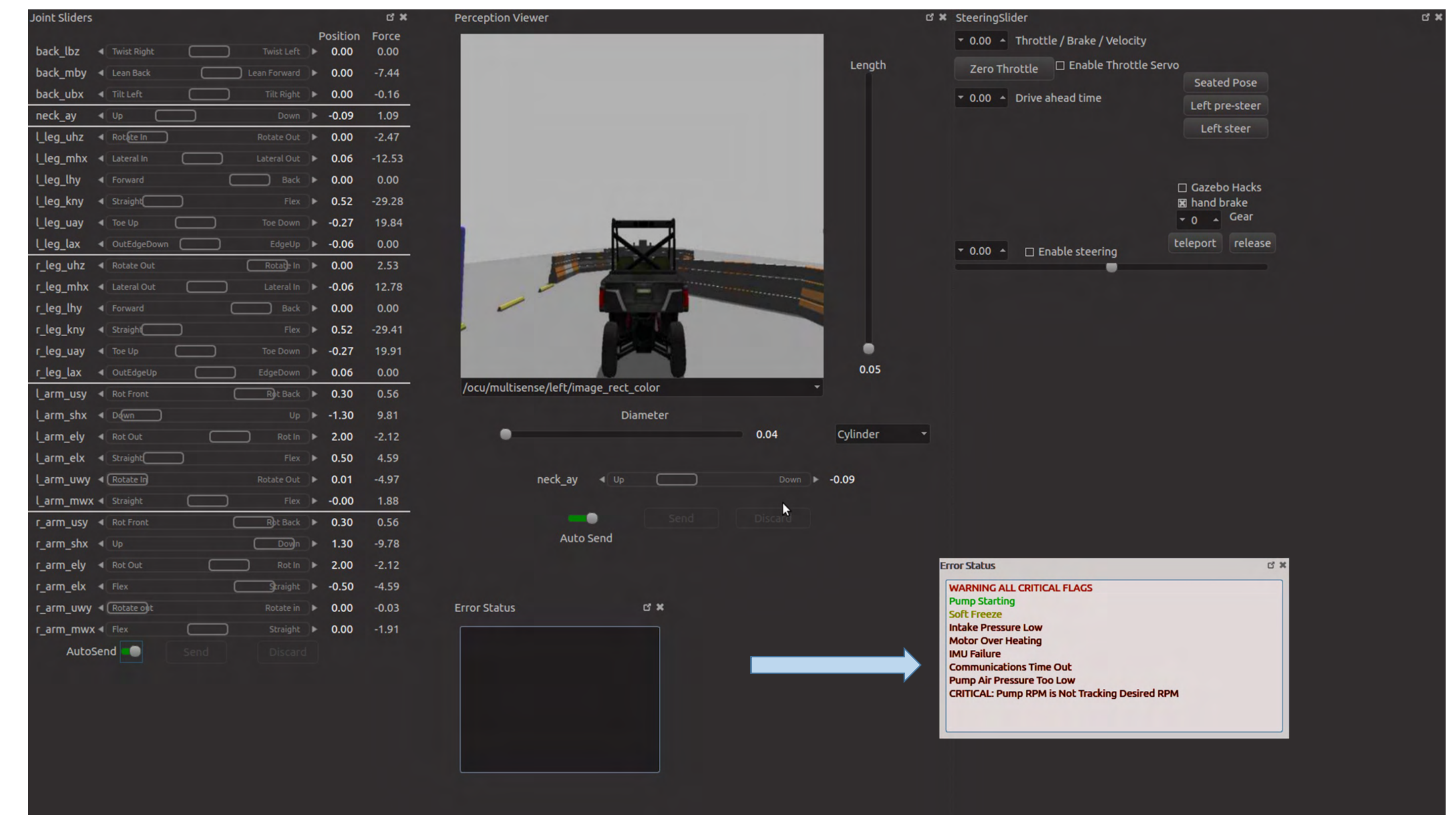


I love my paint job, thanks Aaron!
Also, those cameras on my hands were a great addition, certainly made grabbing the door handle easier

Operator Controlling Robot



My ROS GUI Widgets



Widgets:

Joint Sliders

- Joint sliders display live joint angles and torques
- Sliders also allow user to manually set joint angle
- Angle and torque change color when approaching their limits

Error Status

- Parses error codes
- displays human readable critical system faults

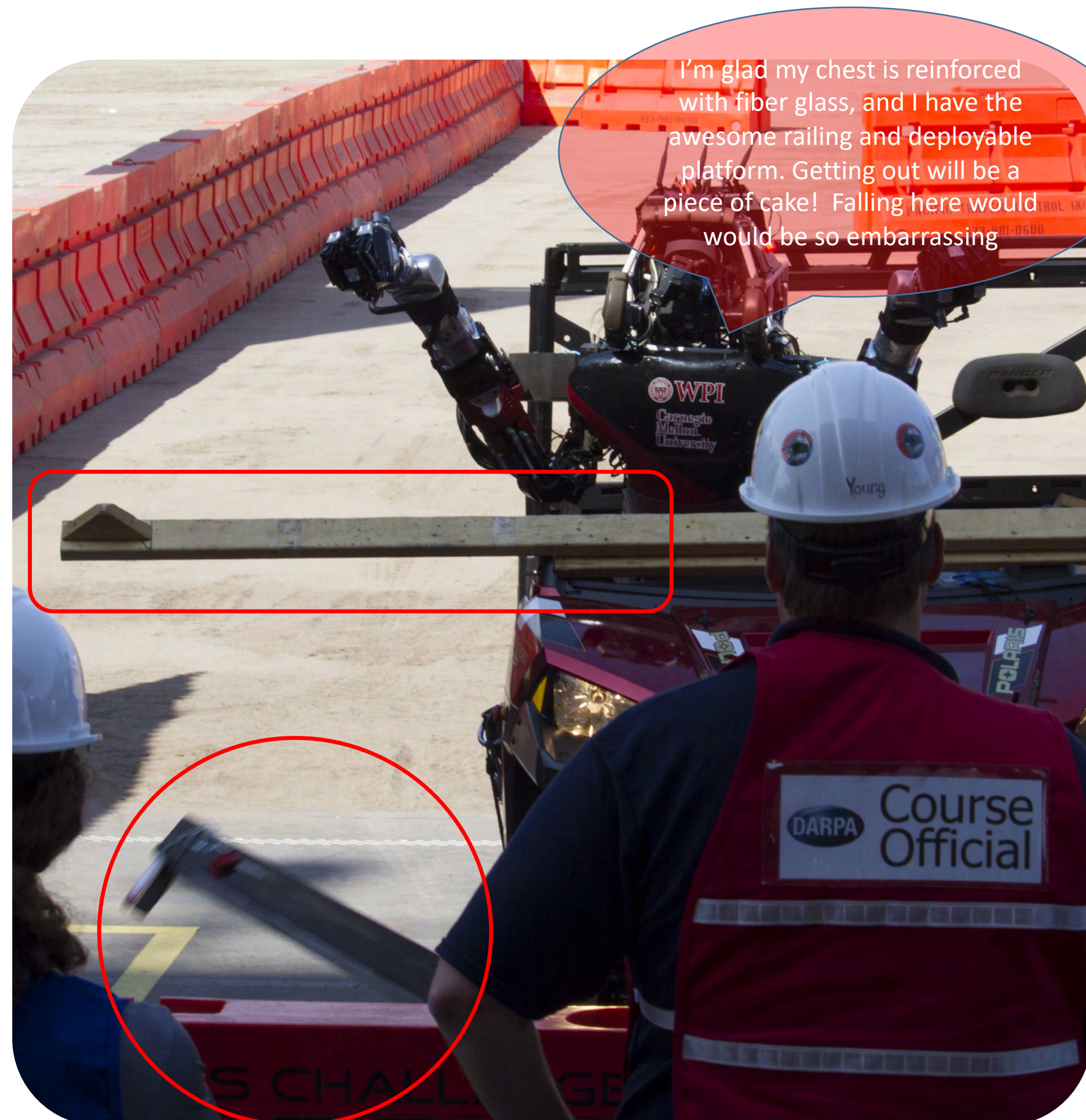
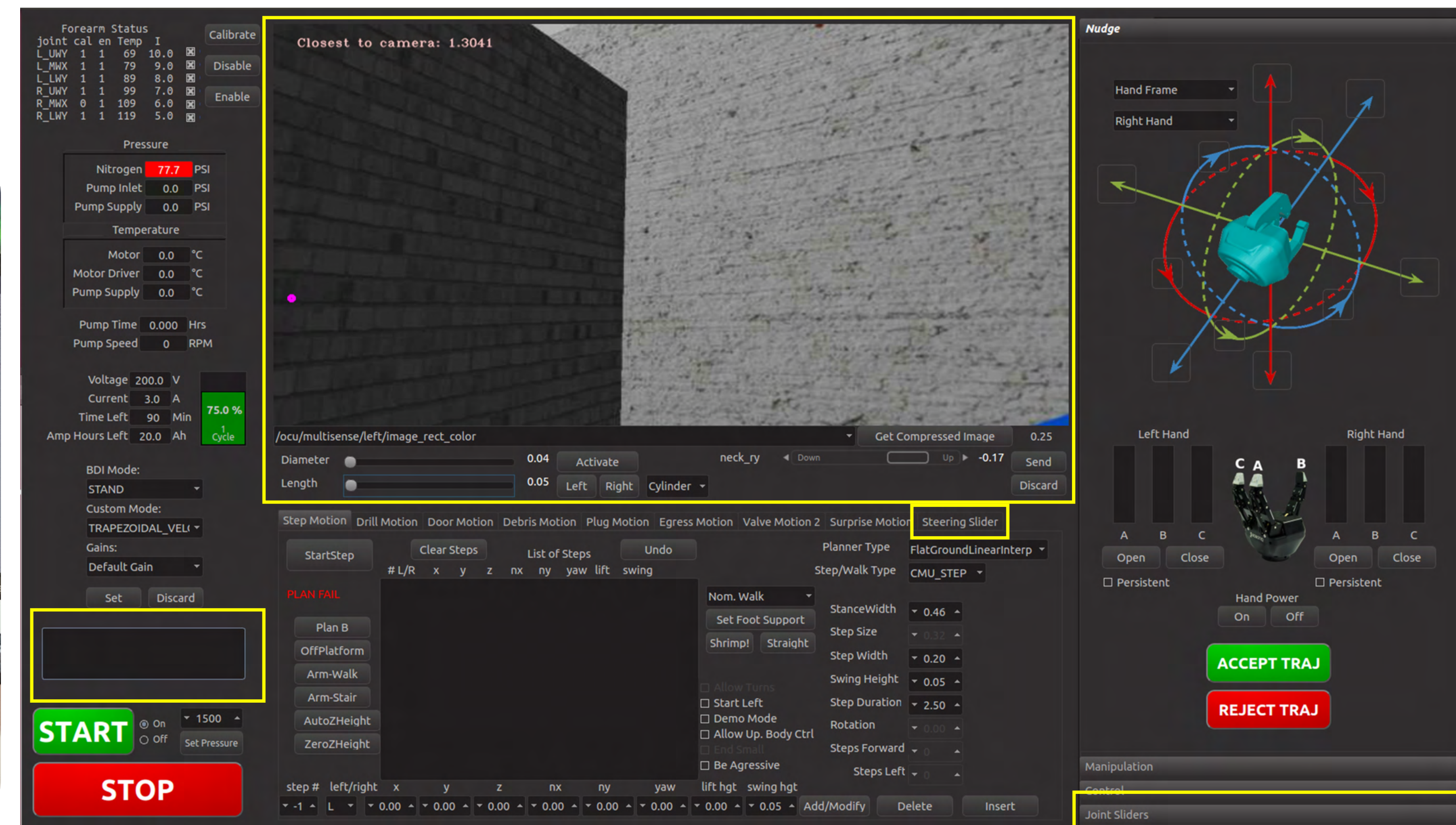
Perception viewer

- Perception viewer displays selected camera views
- Allows user to move head angle without opening joint sliders widget
- Allows user to set parameters for object selection

Steering slider

- widget used for Atlas to drive the car
- The widget was added to include additional features after my initial development

My Widgets Located Within the Robot Control GUI



I'm glad my chest is reinforced with fiber glass, and I have the awesome railing and deployable platform. Getting out will be a piece of cake! Falling here would be so embarrassing

Atlas car egress with the help of assistive car additions
#NOFALLSNORESETS

MIT Media Lab – 2016: Project Express

Project Goal:

A design framework to allow for self expression through painting adaptable to any physical limitations.

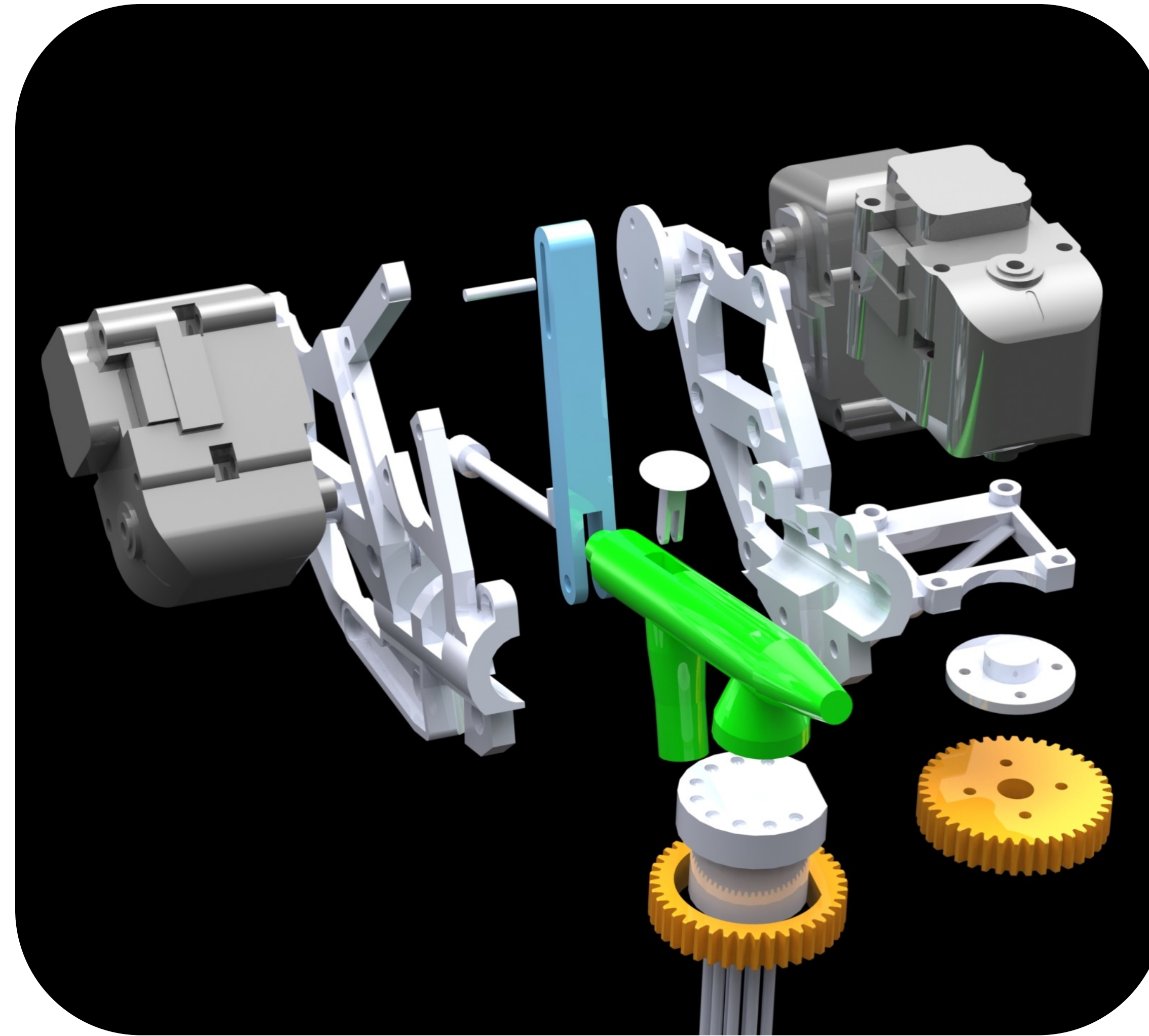
Contributions:

Designed the hardware attachments to robotically control an airbrush.
Evaluated performance requirements for the motor and linear screw for the x-y gantry designed to move the airbrush across the canvas.

Role:

Unofficial visiting student for Tal Achituv's Master's thesis during winter break.

CAD Screenshots

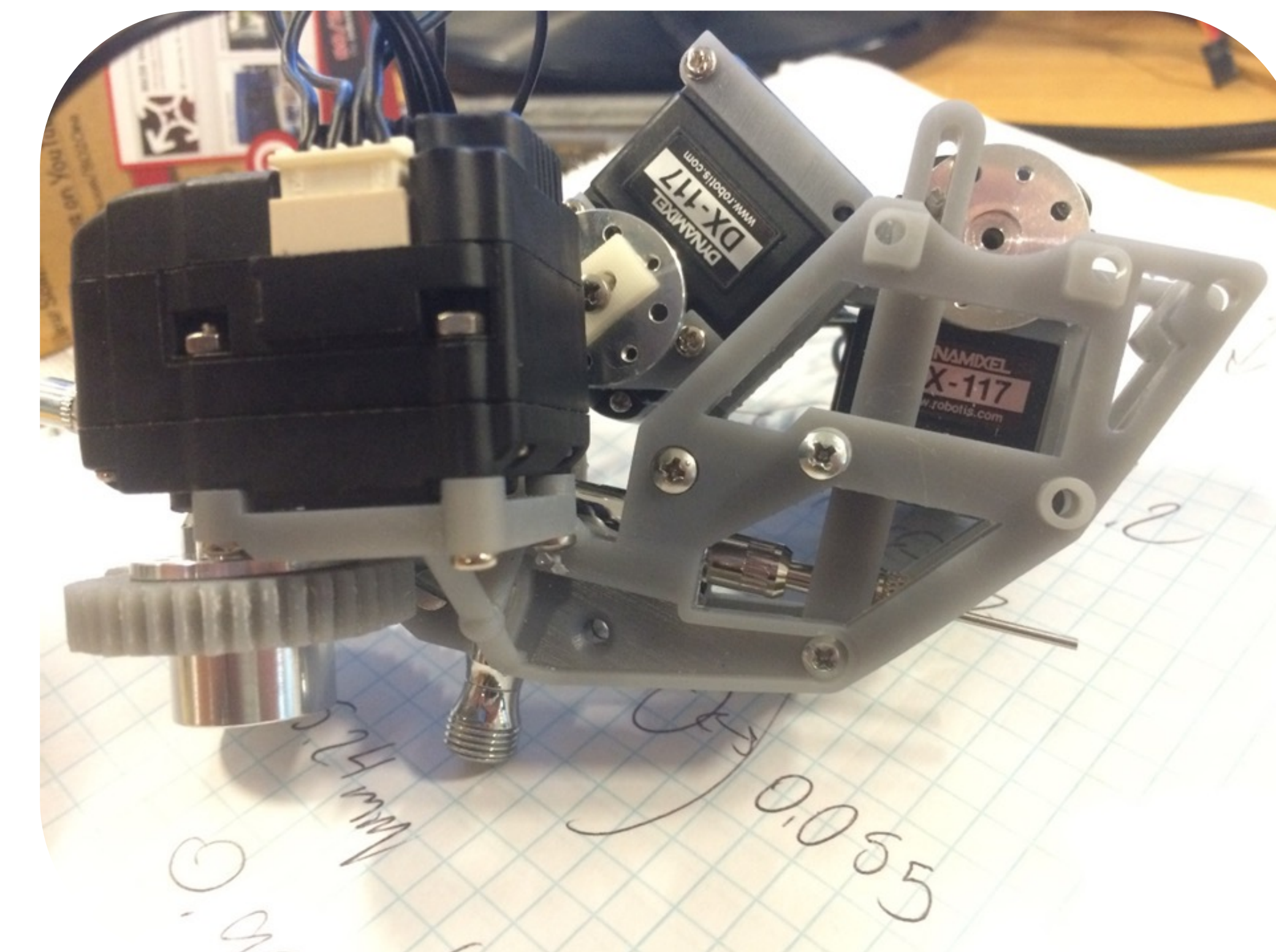
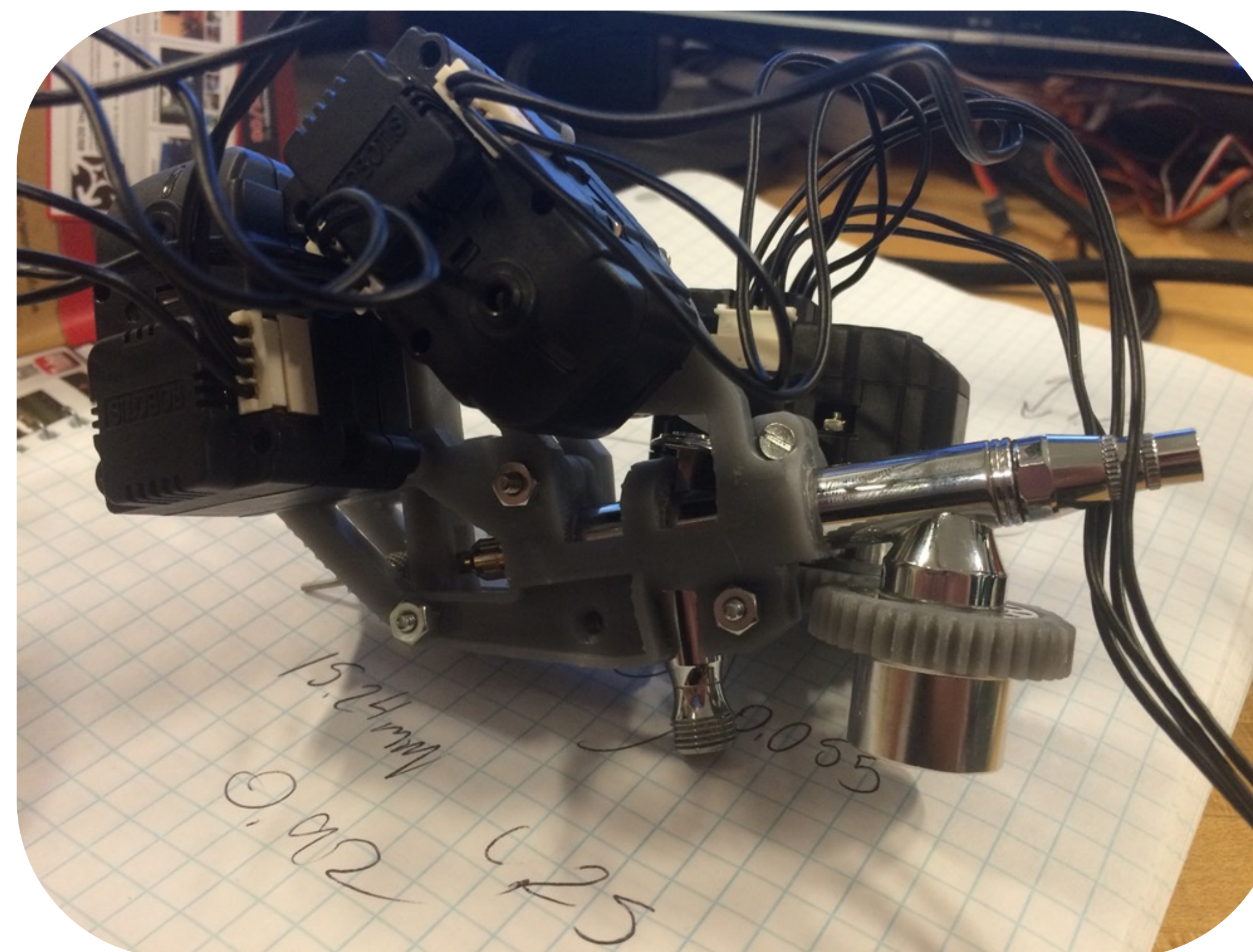


Airbrush Attachments Assembled



Tal's Thesis:
<http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/106064>

Samples of artwork enabled by robotically controlled Airbrush and gantry



All photos courtesy of Tal Achituv

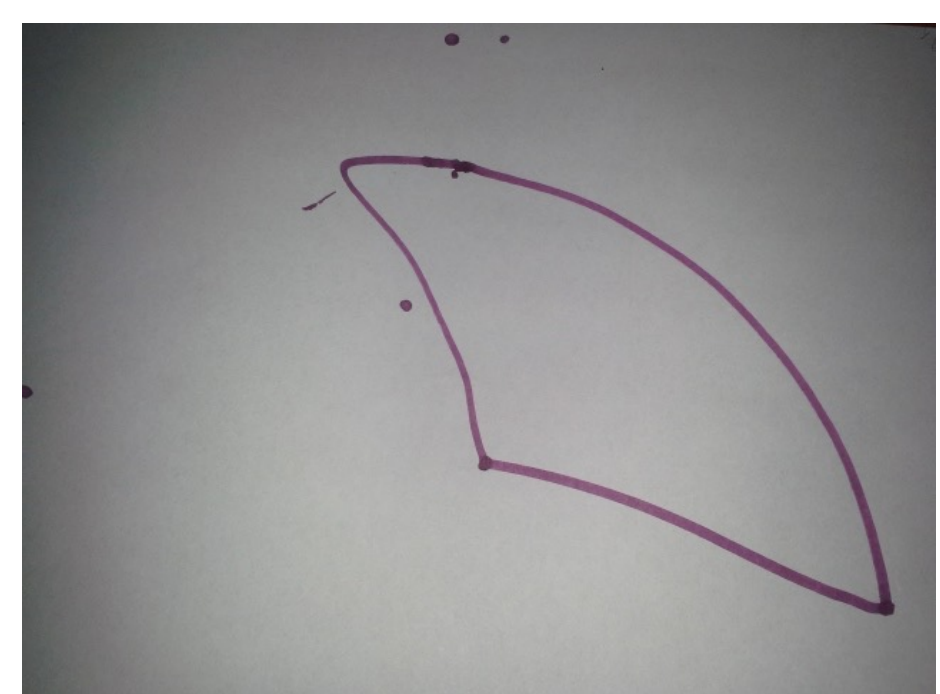
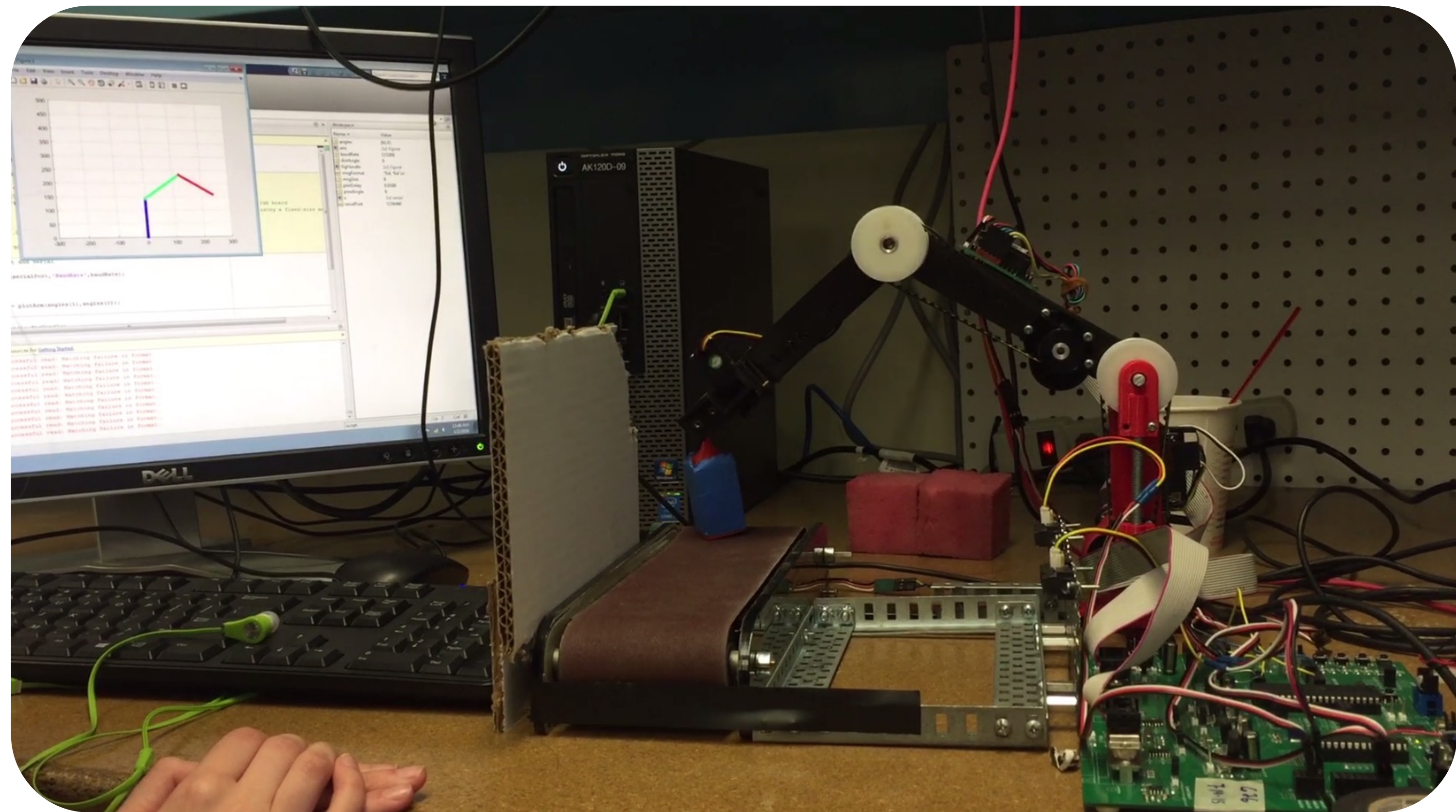
WPI Robotics Engineering (RBE) Course 3001 – 2016

Project: Programmed position control of 2 degree of freedom robotic arm on embedded system. Arm capable of sorting blocks by weight. [Demo Video](#).

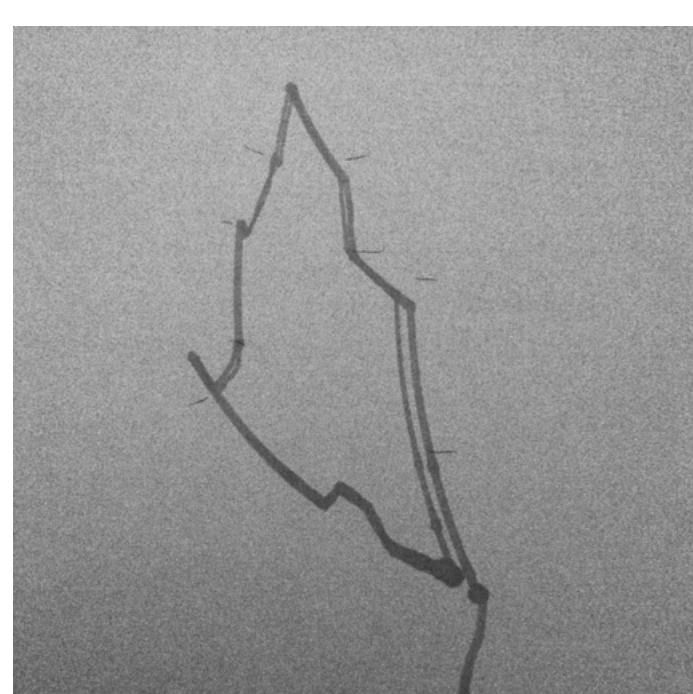
Contributions: Inverse kinematic solver and PID control loop.

Project type: WPI class project. This project, and the WPI projects on the following slides were completed in the last 2-4 weeks of a 7 week course on 3-4 person teams.

2 DOF Robot Arm



Triangle drawn only going to coordinates of endpoints



Triangle drawn going to intermediary points. 2DOF life is rough

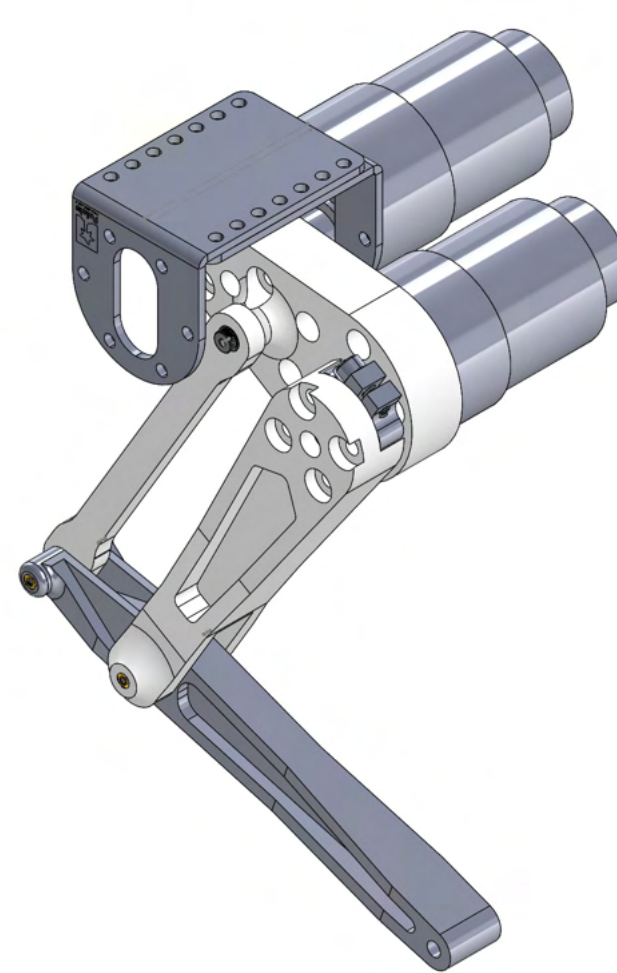
MIT 2.74 Bio-Inspired Robotics – 2019 Prof. Sangbea Kim 2 DOF Legs Revisited

Labs focused on impedance controllers and using the current draw of the motor in addition to the encoder position as the control inputs for the for actuator.

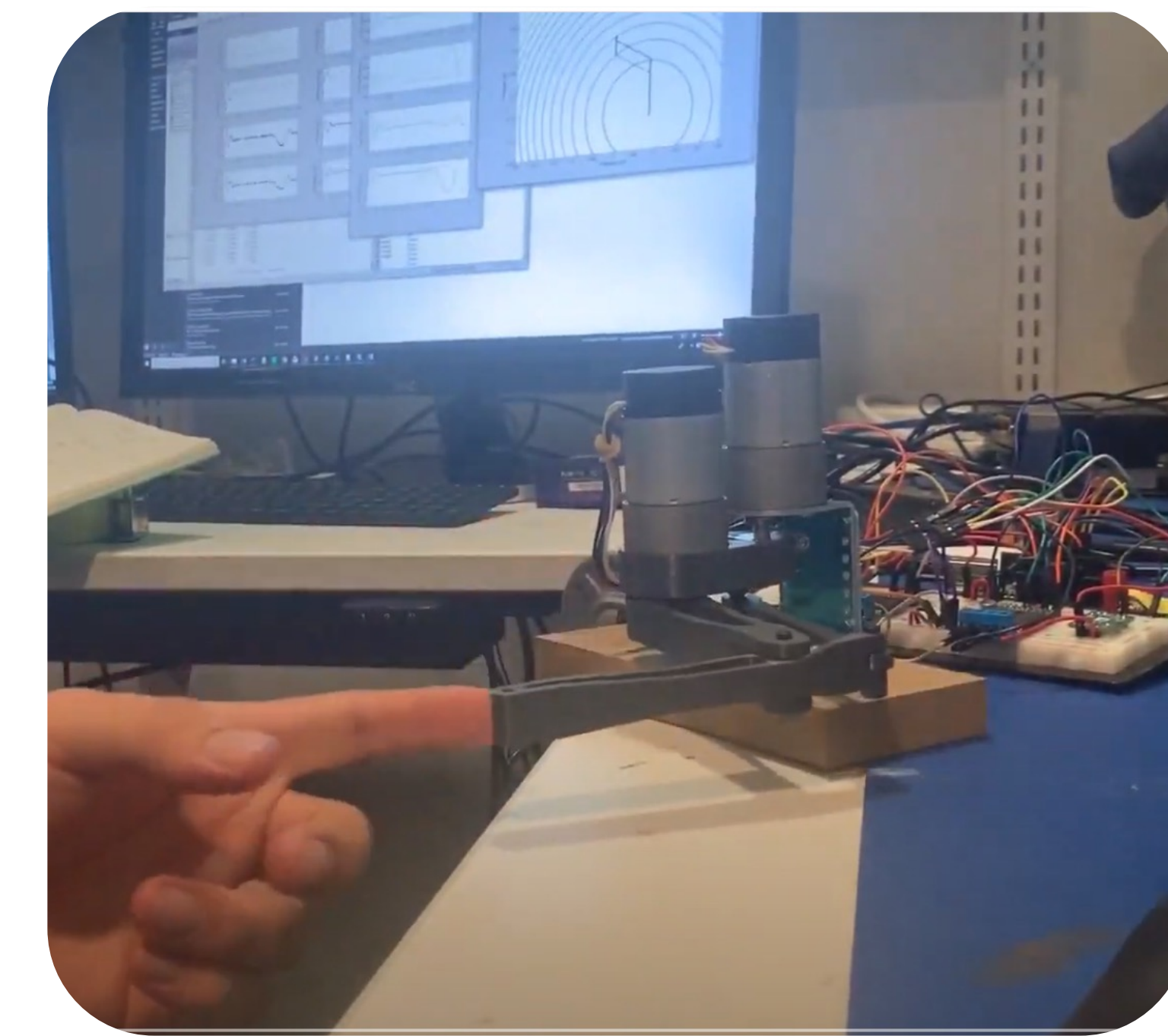
The assignments were to implement various control schemes, then playing with the parameters to explore their effect on the behavior.

The final project was open ended. My four-person team explored manual turning vs simulation-based tuning for a robot dropped from two feet.

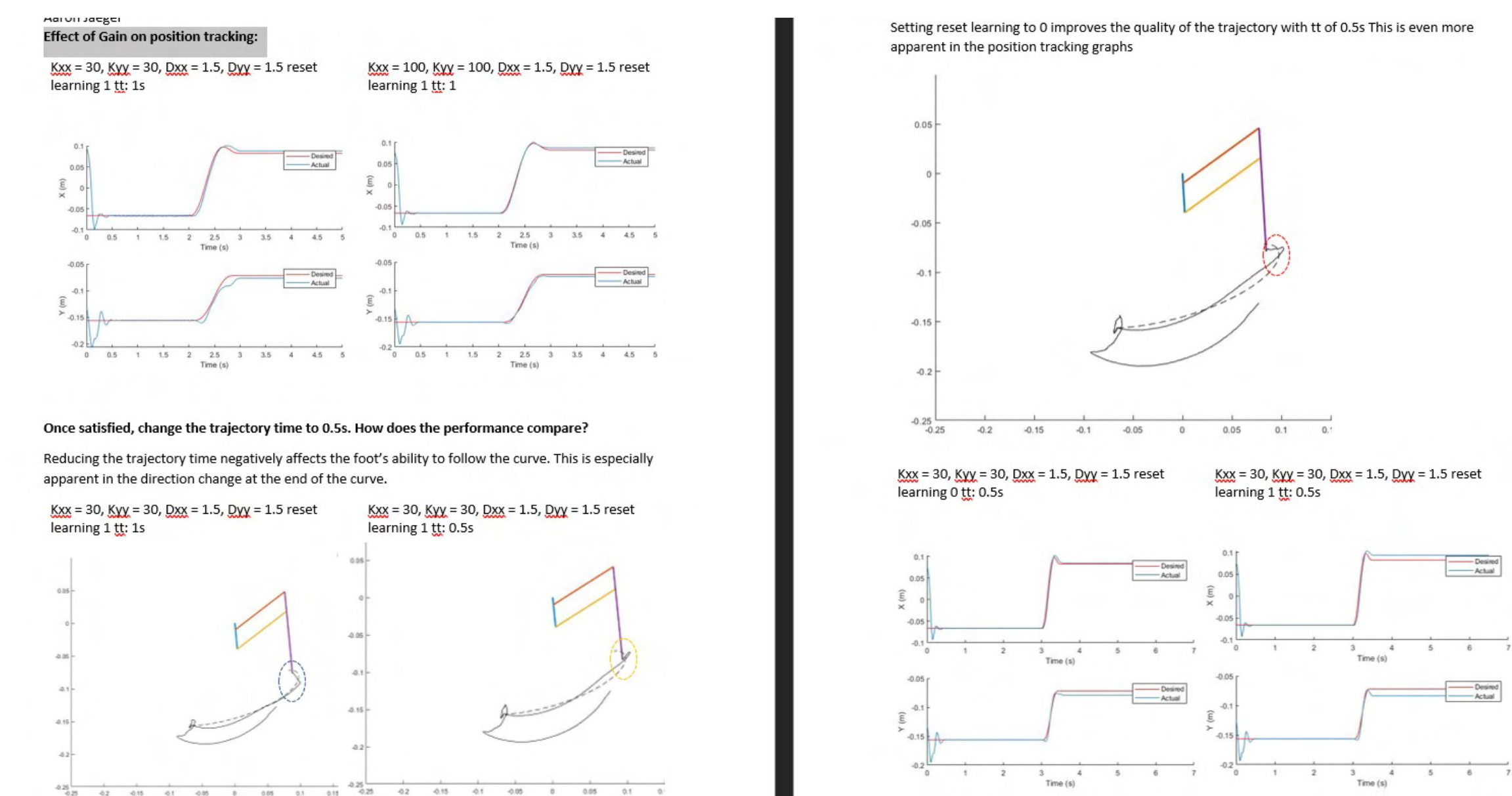
2 DOF parallel robot leg used for class assignments



Testing the Robot Leg



Exploring Control Parameters



Final Project Leg Landing

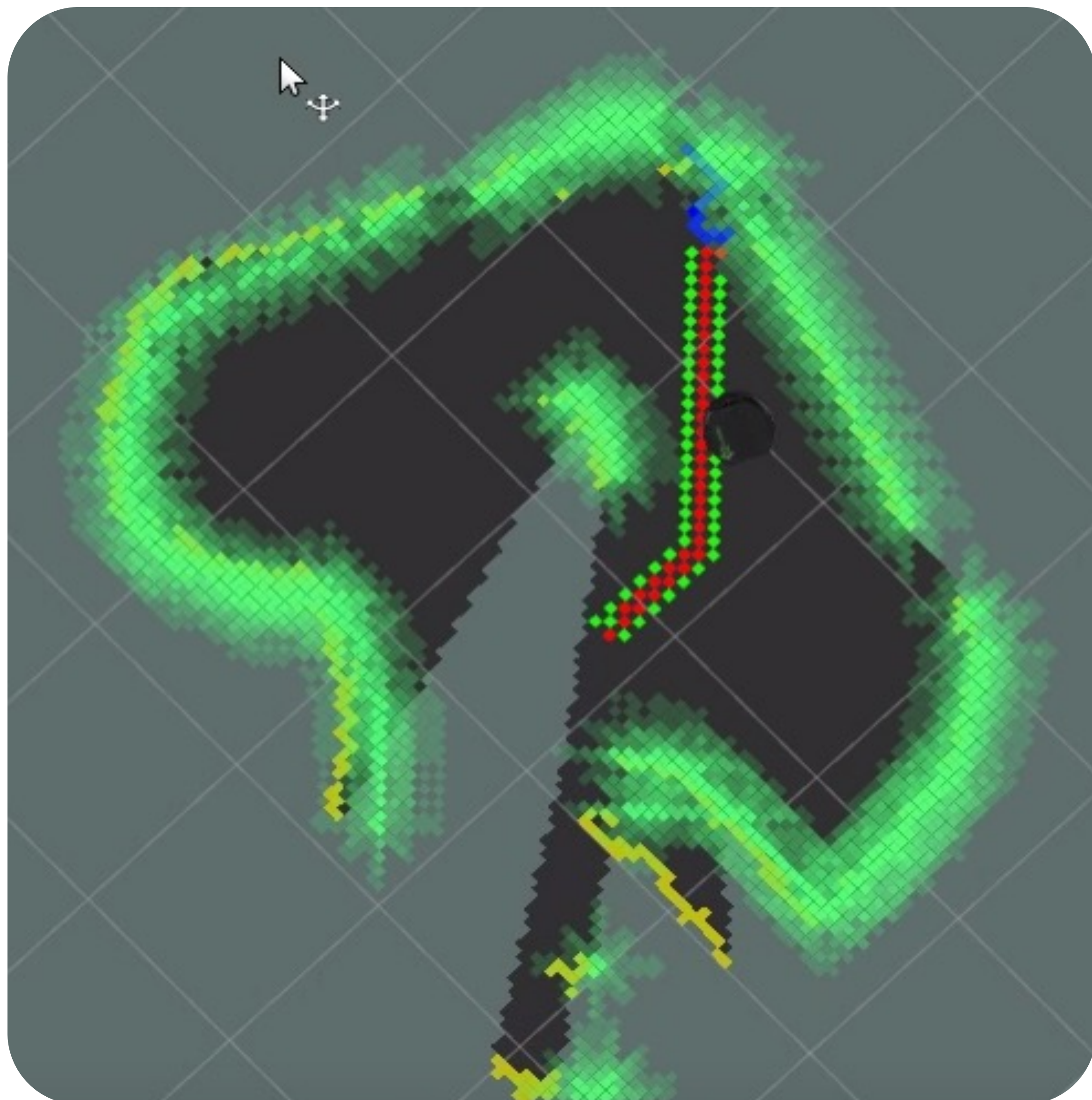


Project :

In a 3-Person team we developed exploration algorithm in Python for a Turtlebot robot running ROS. The Robot started in unknown environment and explored unknown frontiers until the entire region was mapped. [Project Writeups](#)

Contribution: I wrote the A* Path planner. To reduce path-planning run time my A* algorithm only expanded diagonally neighboring nodes. This reduced number of expanded nodes by half, required no “map resizing function” and kept the map resolution functionally identical. Run time was cut by more than 50%. Zigzags were filtered out after shortest path determined.

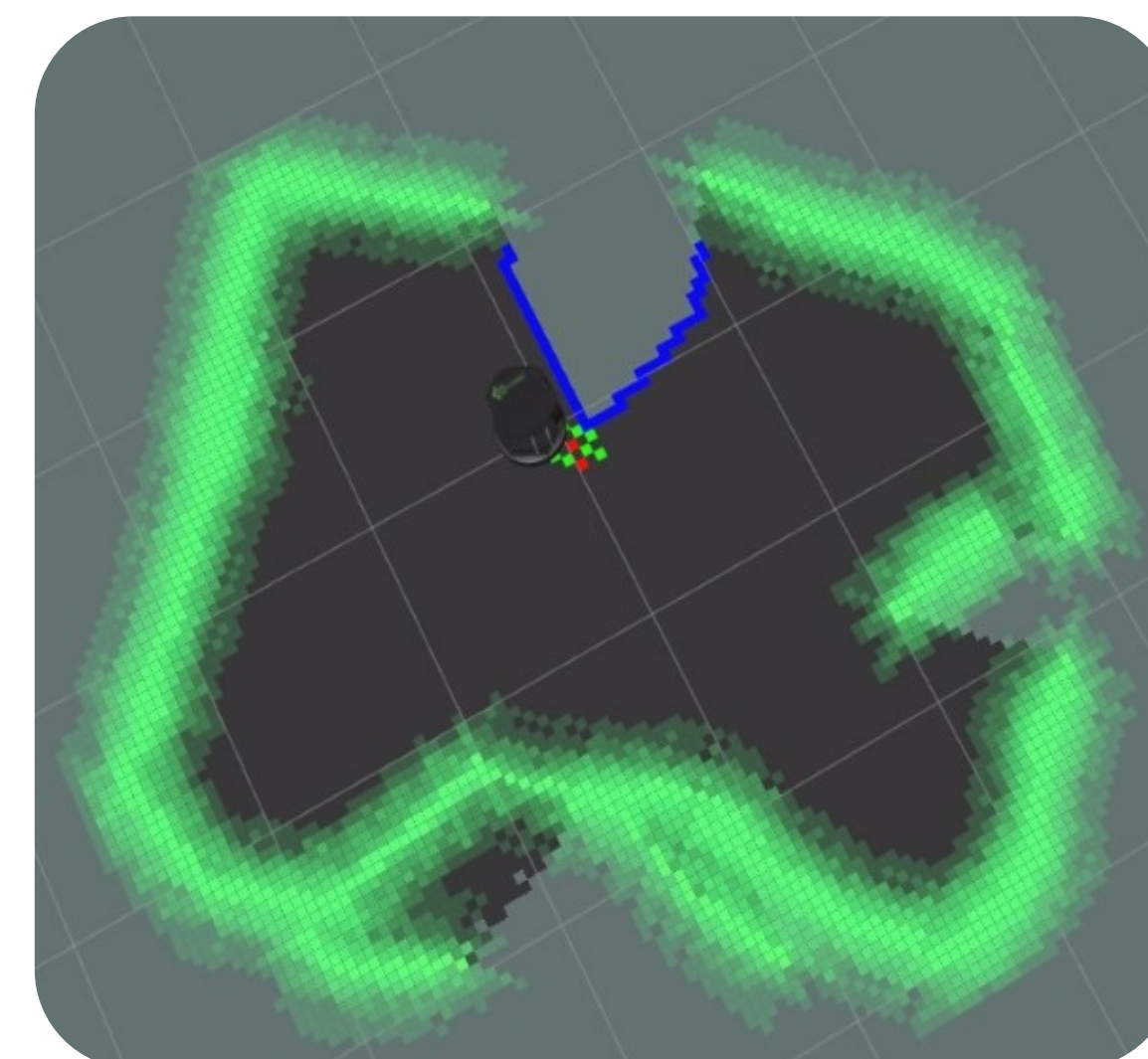
Robot Navigating to Unexplored Region,
Planned Path Displayed



Robot in Operation



Robot at Final Unexplored Area

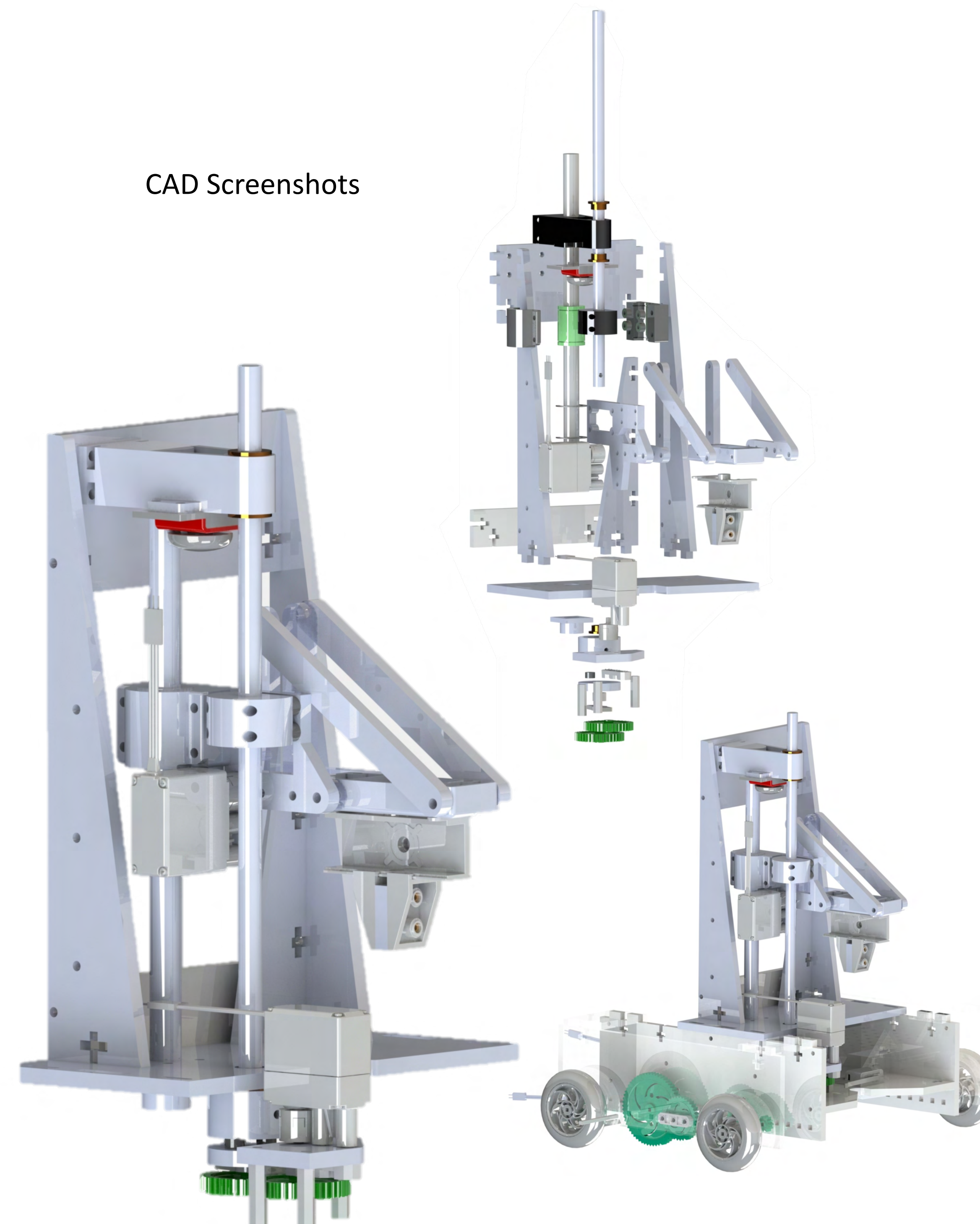


Project :

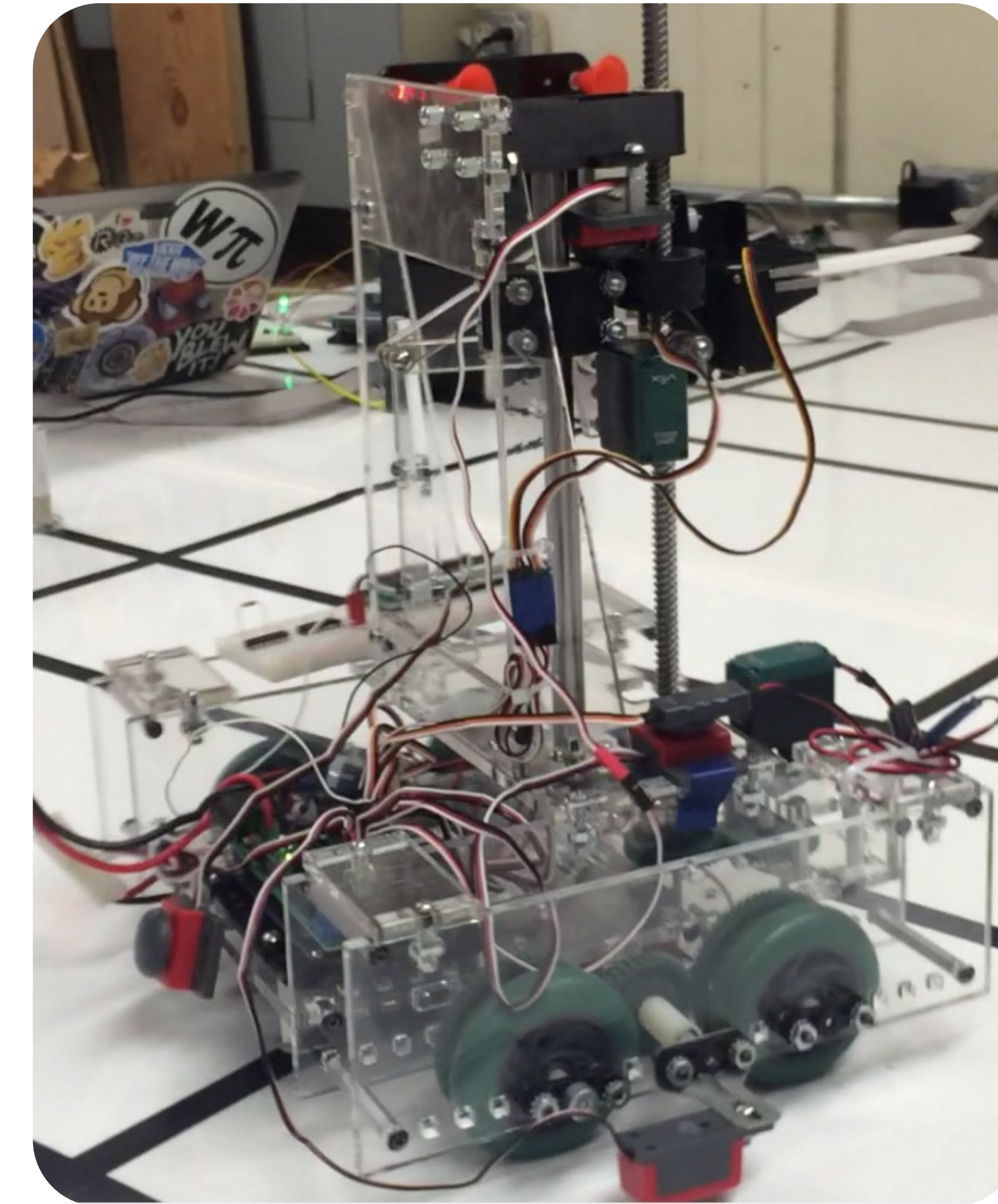
4 person team had to design and implement a robot that could operate in simulated nuclear facility, picking up “spent fuel rods,” placing the rods in horizontal holder, and retrieving and replacing a new fuel rod in “reactor”.

Contribution: I designed the rod extraction mechanism.

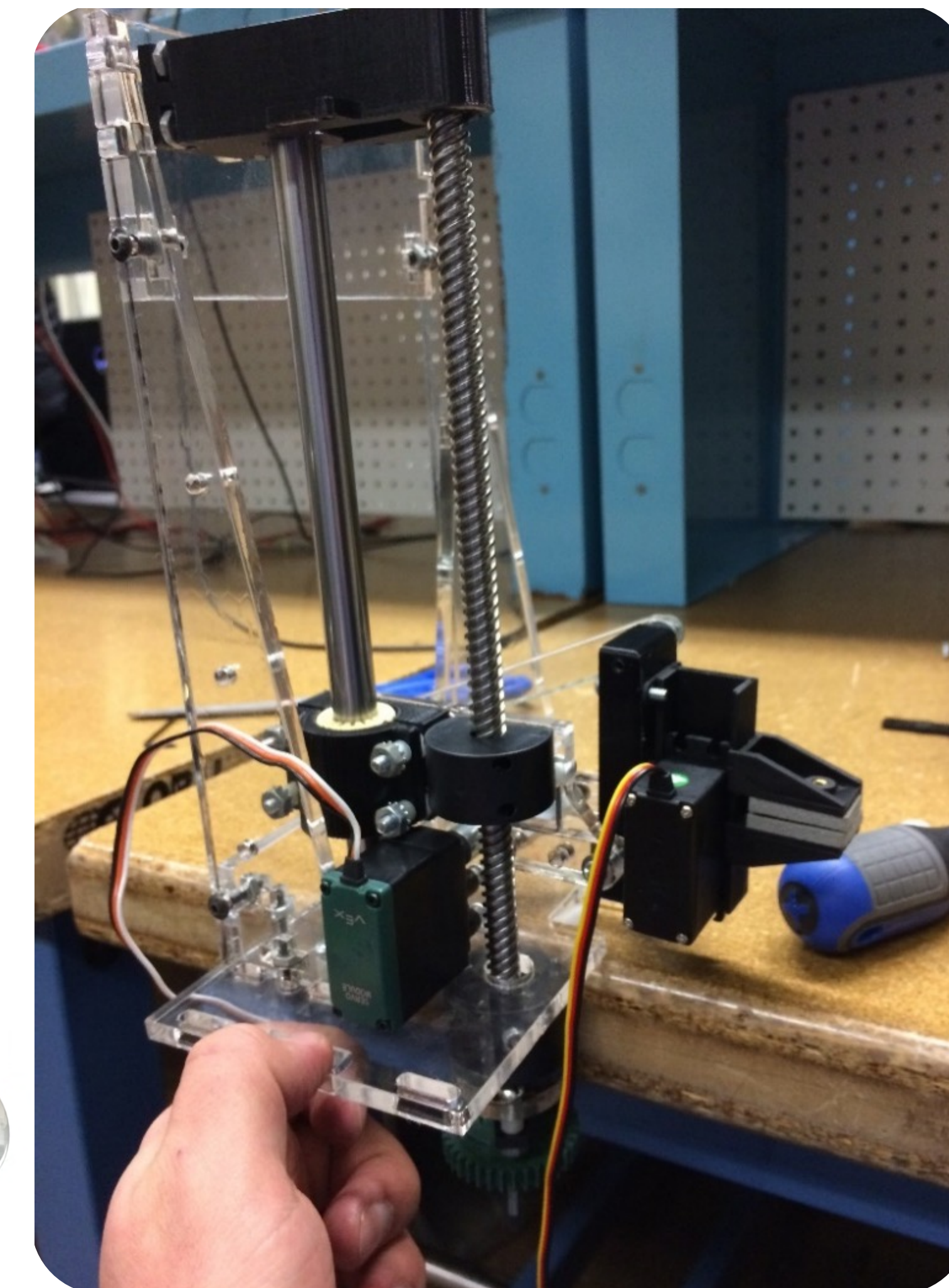
CAD Screenshots



Full Robot



Rod Extraction Mechanism



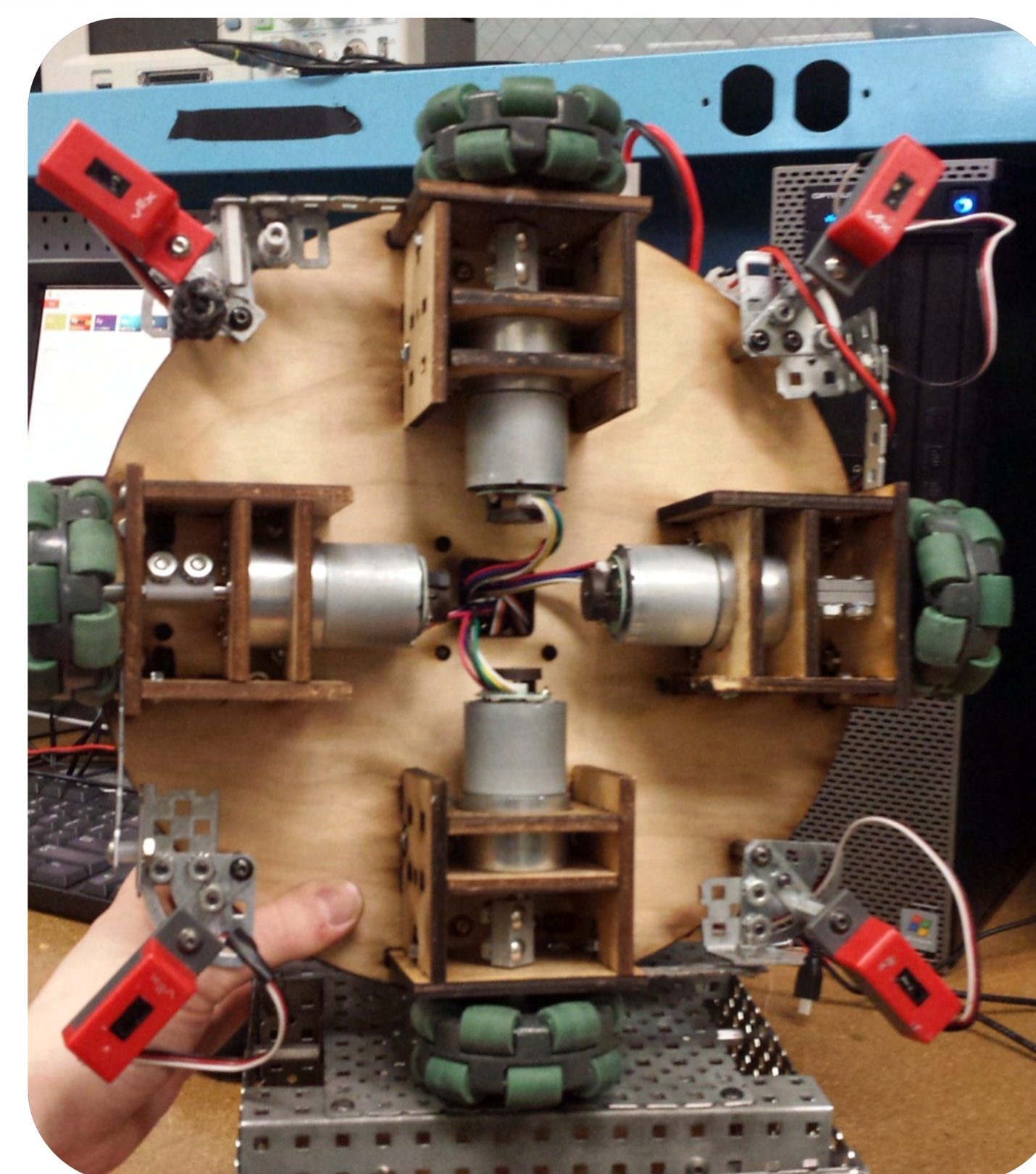
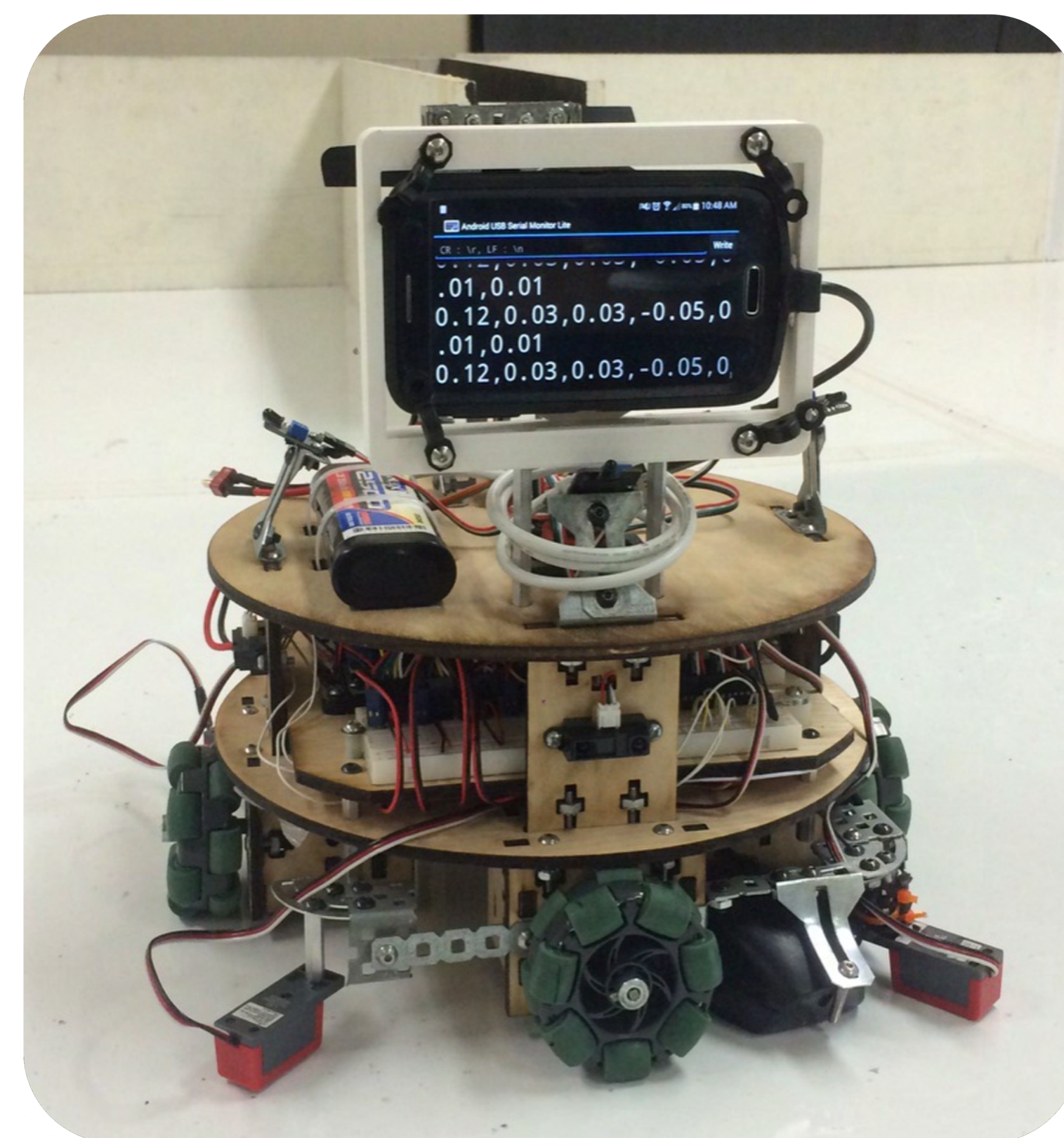
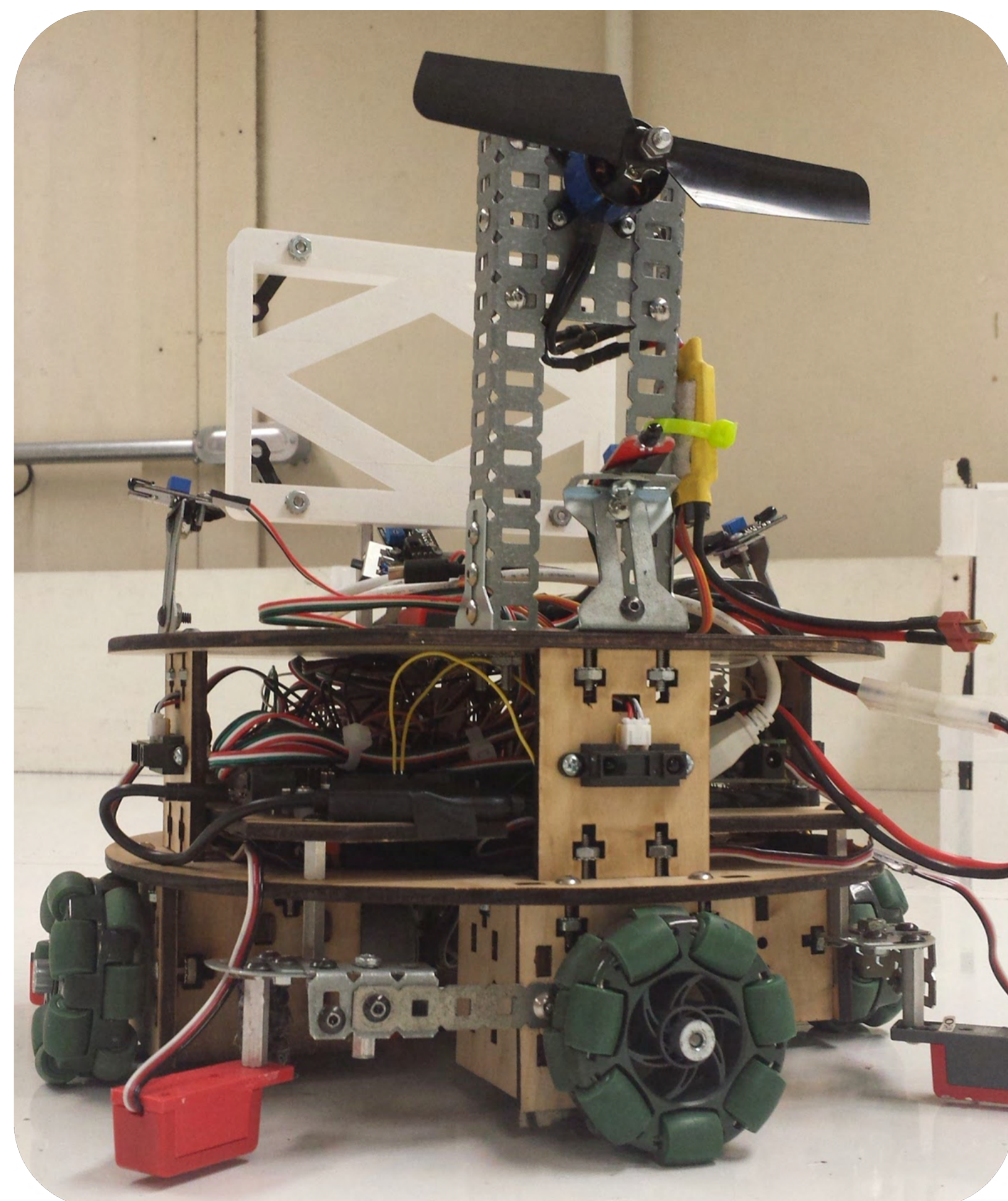
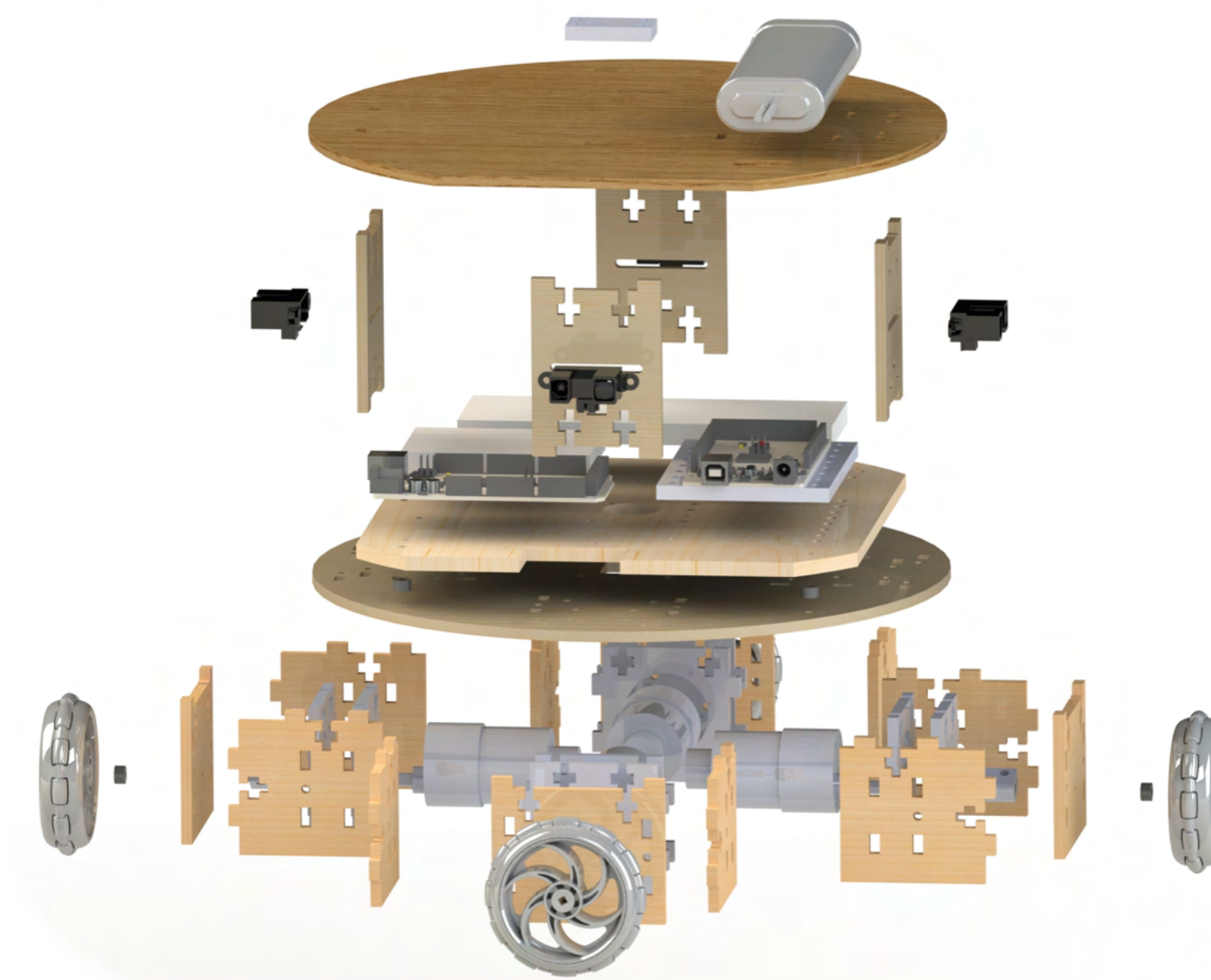
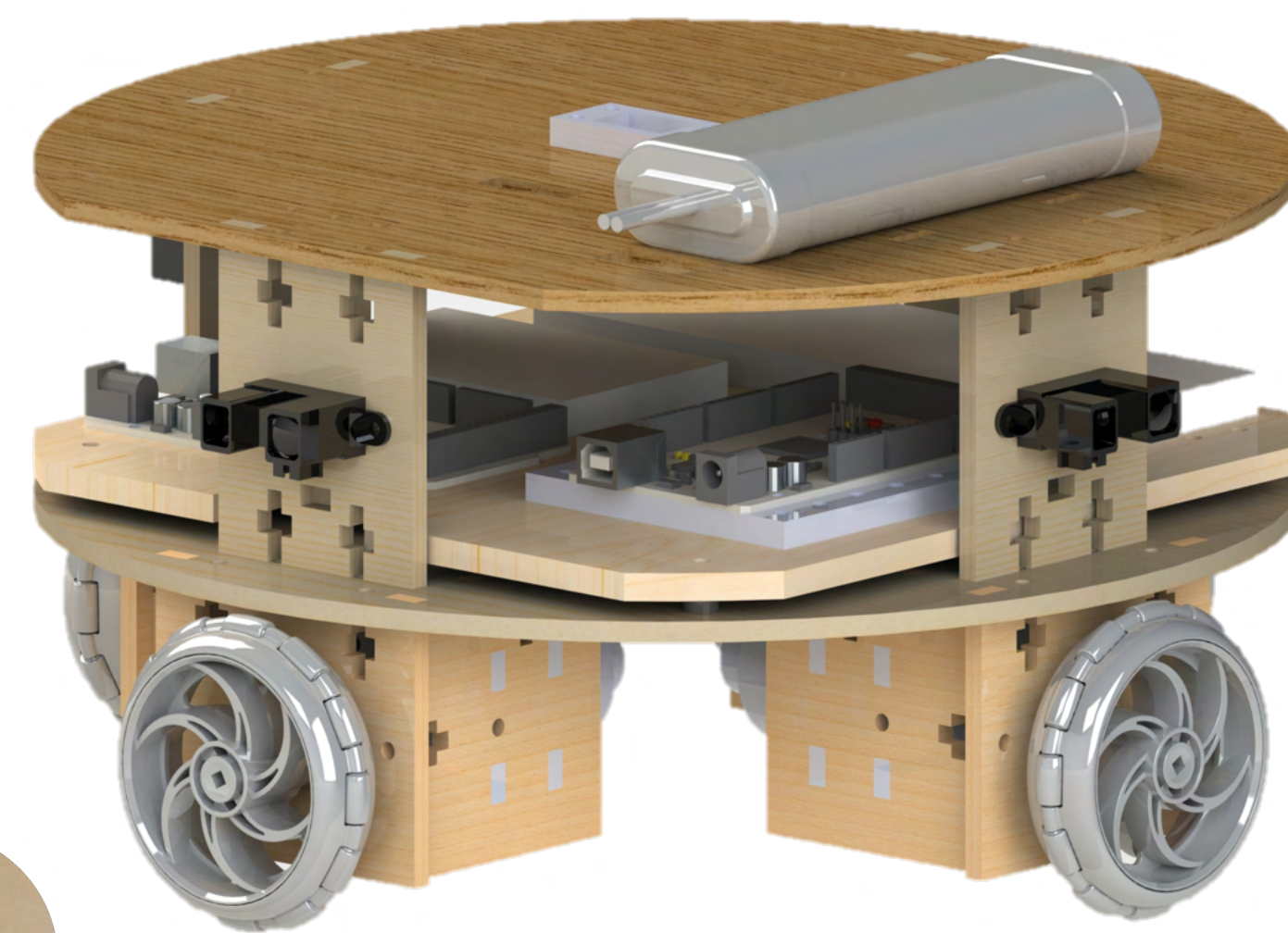
WPI RBE Course 2002 – 2015

Project :

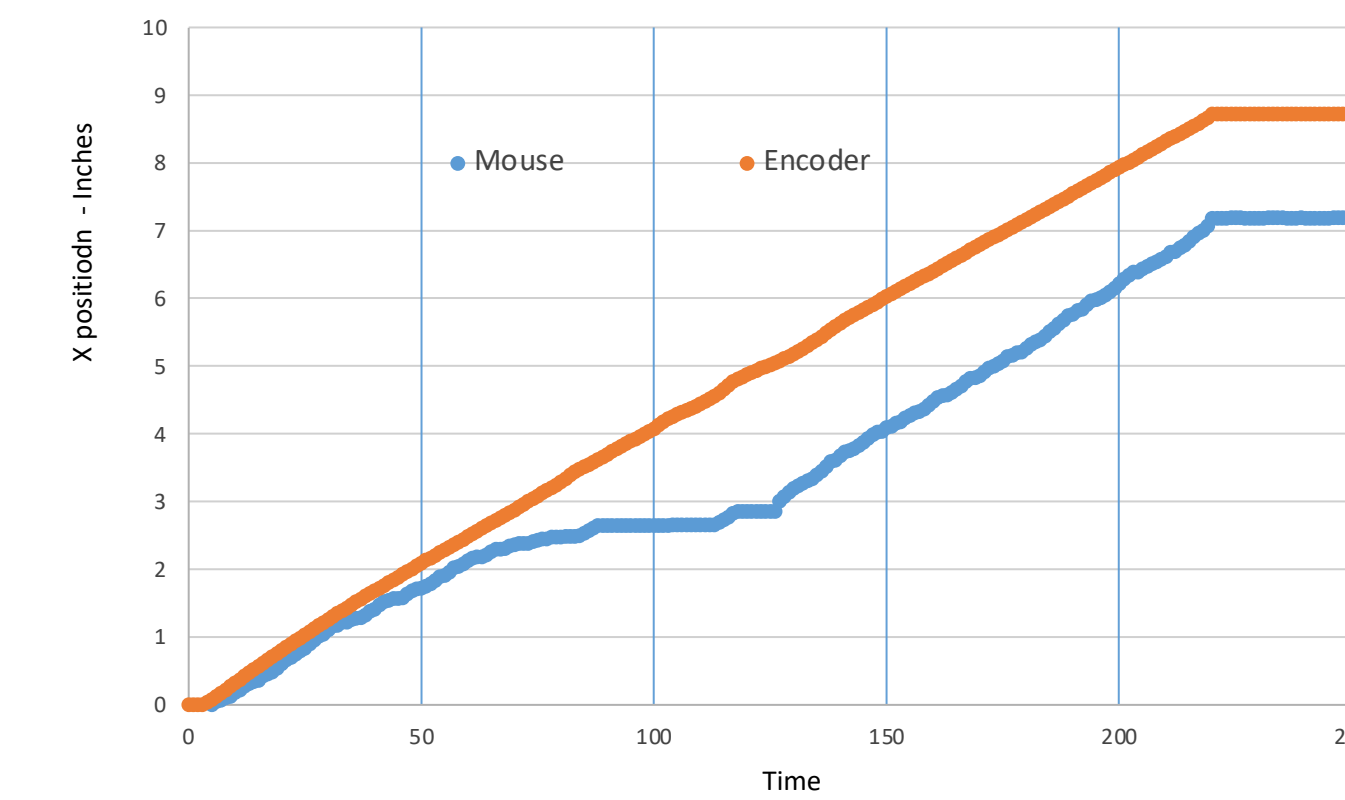
3-person team was tasked with making a robot to drive around a maze, find a candle, extinguish the flame, and report the location the flame.

Contributions: I designed the full Robot assembly and took advantage of the rapid prototyping resources available to us. The robot was manufactured from laser-cut parts and assorted vex components.

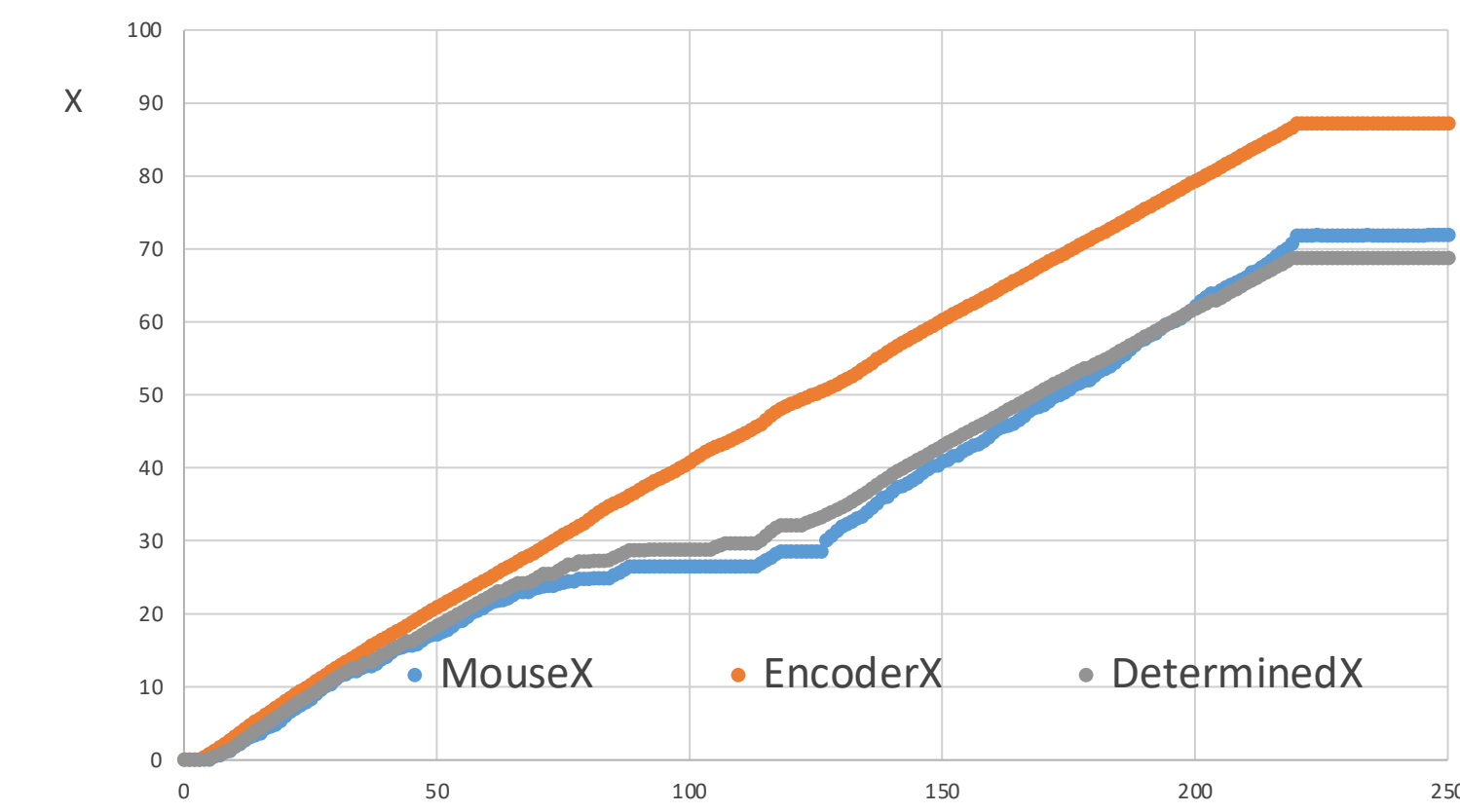
One issue our robot faced was wheels that kept slipping on the whiteboard-surface used as the maze floor. I used a computer mouse to detect when the robot was slipping and compensate for the encoder error. I found that over larger distances the encoder was more reliable than the mouse.



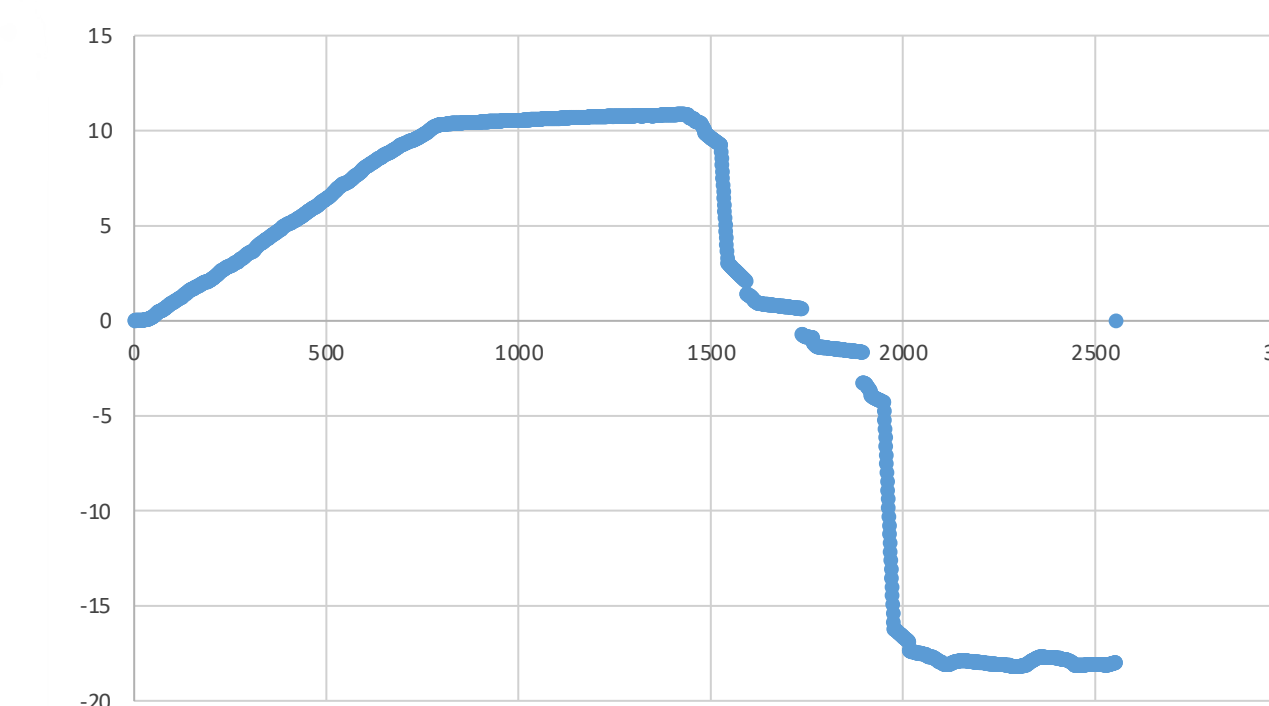
Robot Horizontal Position
Wheel Slip
Encoder v Mouse



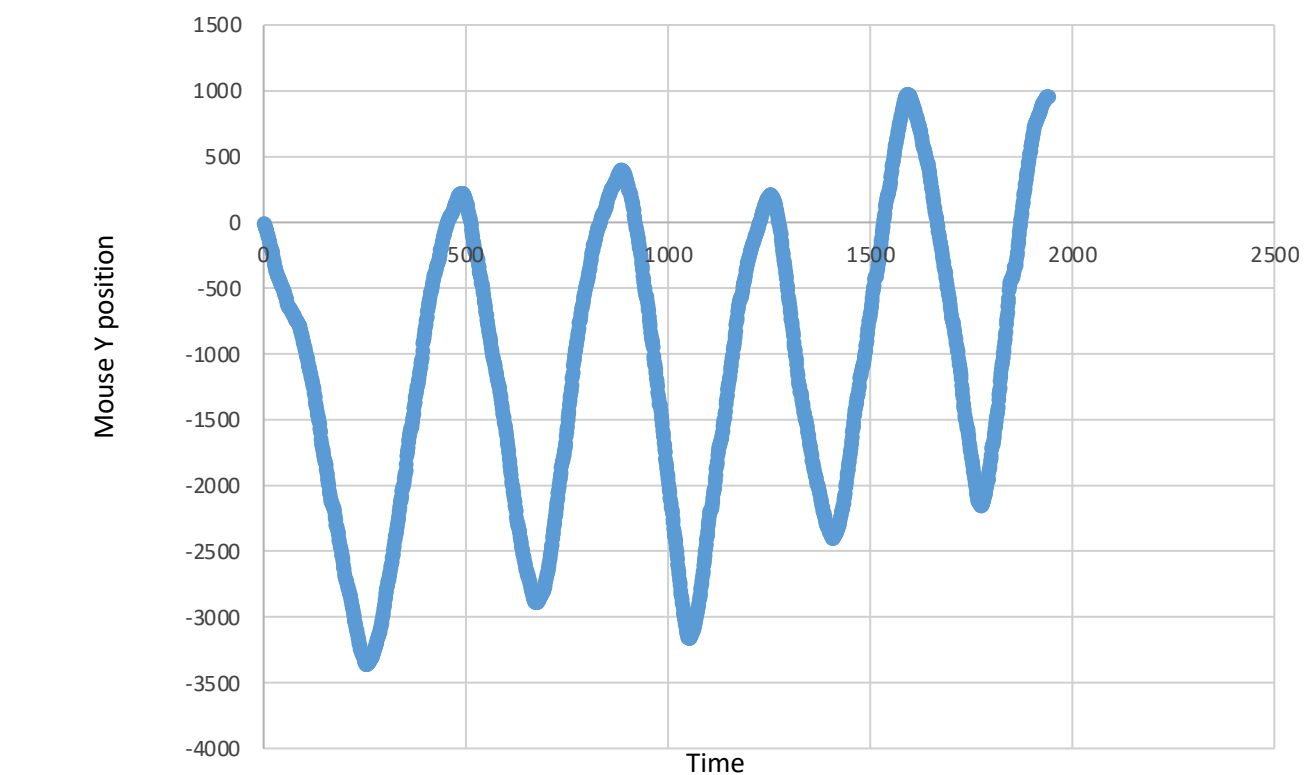
Robot's Horizontal Position
With Software Correction



Mouse Y position / time
Mouse is broken



Mouse Vertical
8" Of travel
Back and Forth



In the testing process I even discovered that my own mouse was broken and needed to be replaced.

Parts

- 4x Pololu motors for driving
- 4x 3200 count/revolution encoders (1 per wheel)
- 4x SHARP IR sensors, in each cardinal direction
- 4x Flame Sensors
- Brushless DC motor (for fan)
- IR mouse
- Android Smartphone (for Serial Output)

• CAD Design Accounted for Unknown Features:

- Fan Assembly
- Function and Characteristics of Flame sensor
- Size and Mounting Options of Mouse
- LCD Holder
- Light Sensors

WPI Course 3733 Software Engineering, Campus Mapping – 2016

Project :

Develop a mapping app for campus that allowed the user to go between any two rooms on different floors and in different buildings. This was a 9-member team that started from scratch to design the mapping app and an app to design the maps all in 4 weeks.

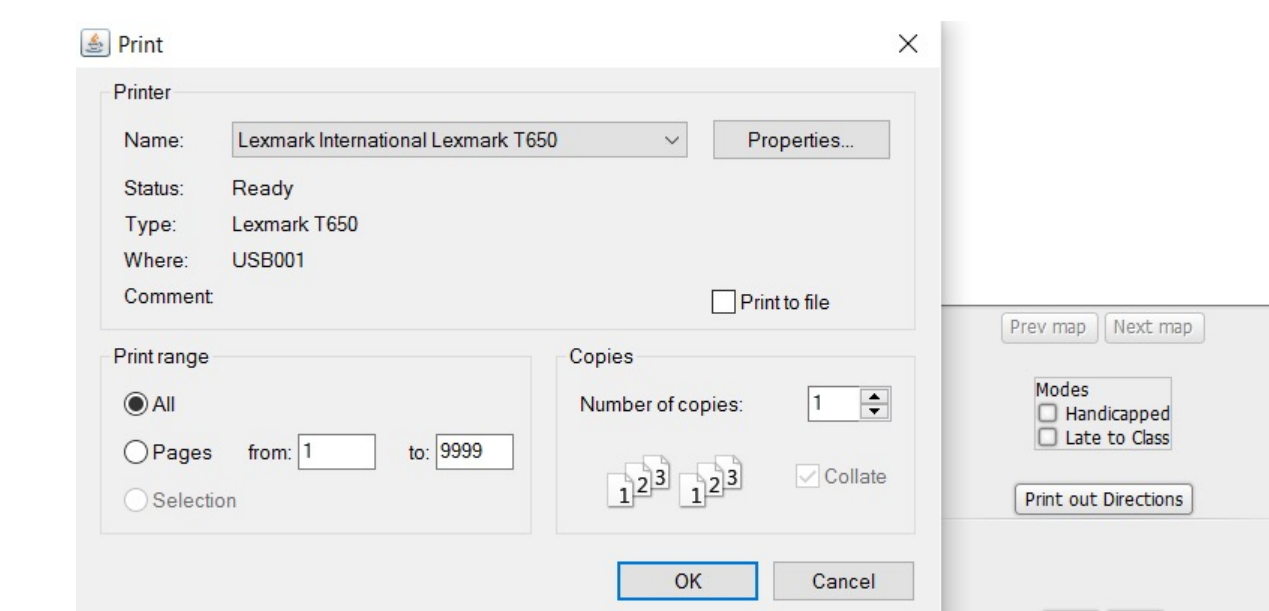
Lessons Learned:

This was an early project in my career which taught me how NOT to run a team. The team culture was toxic, work timeline was ridiculous, and exhausted team members wrote poor code and even worse, pushed changes that broke or overwrote other team members' work. This experience shaped my approach to project management, emphasized the importance of a positive team culture and healthy work habits.

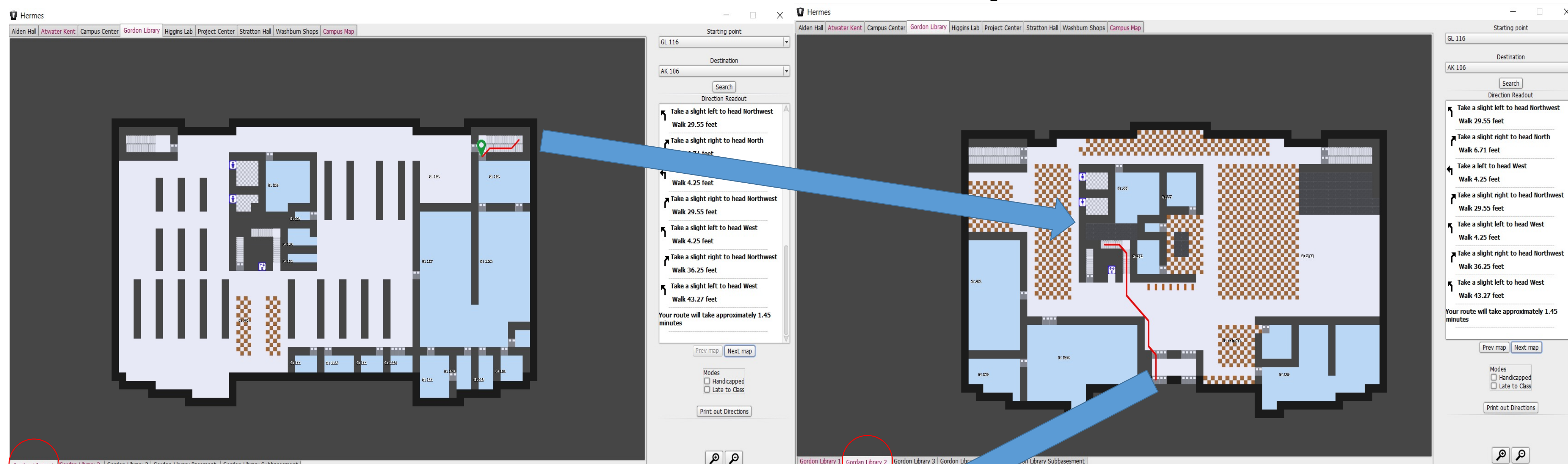
Contributions:

- Path smoothing
- Human readable directions
- Directions export to printer
- Testing
- Bug fixing
- Fixing Git merge conflicts, and other Git user mistakes

Instructions Printing



Planned Path from Between Buildings



Pre-Smoothed Path



Smoothed Path

