



Engineering Portfolio

Ben Lisenby

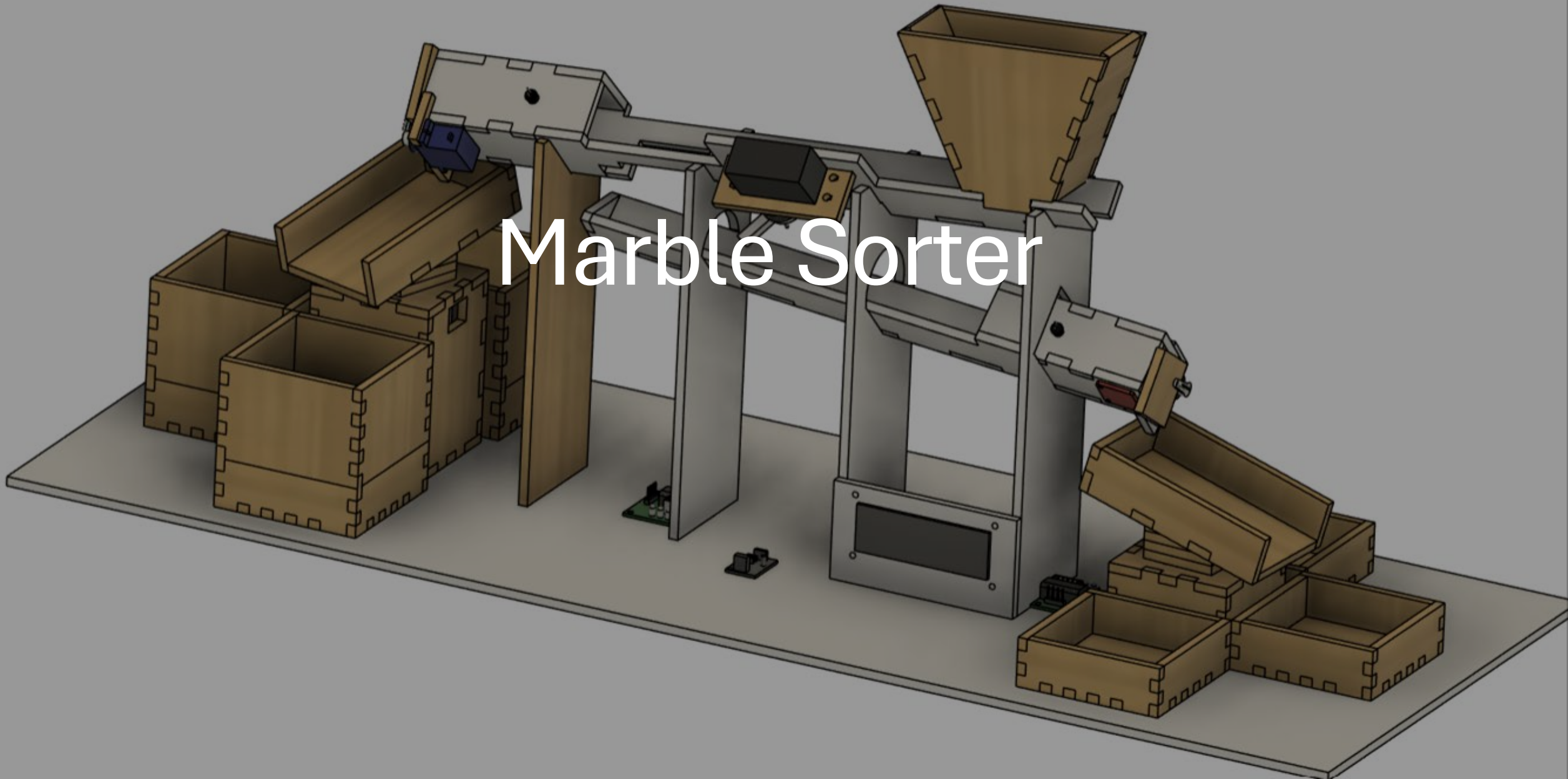


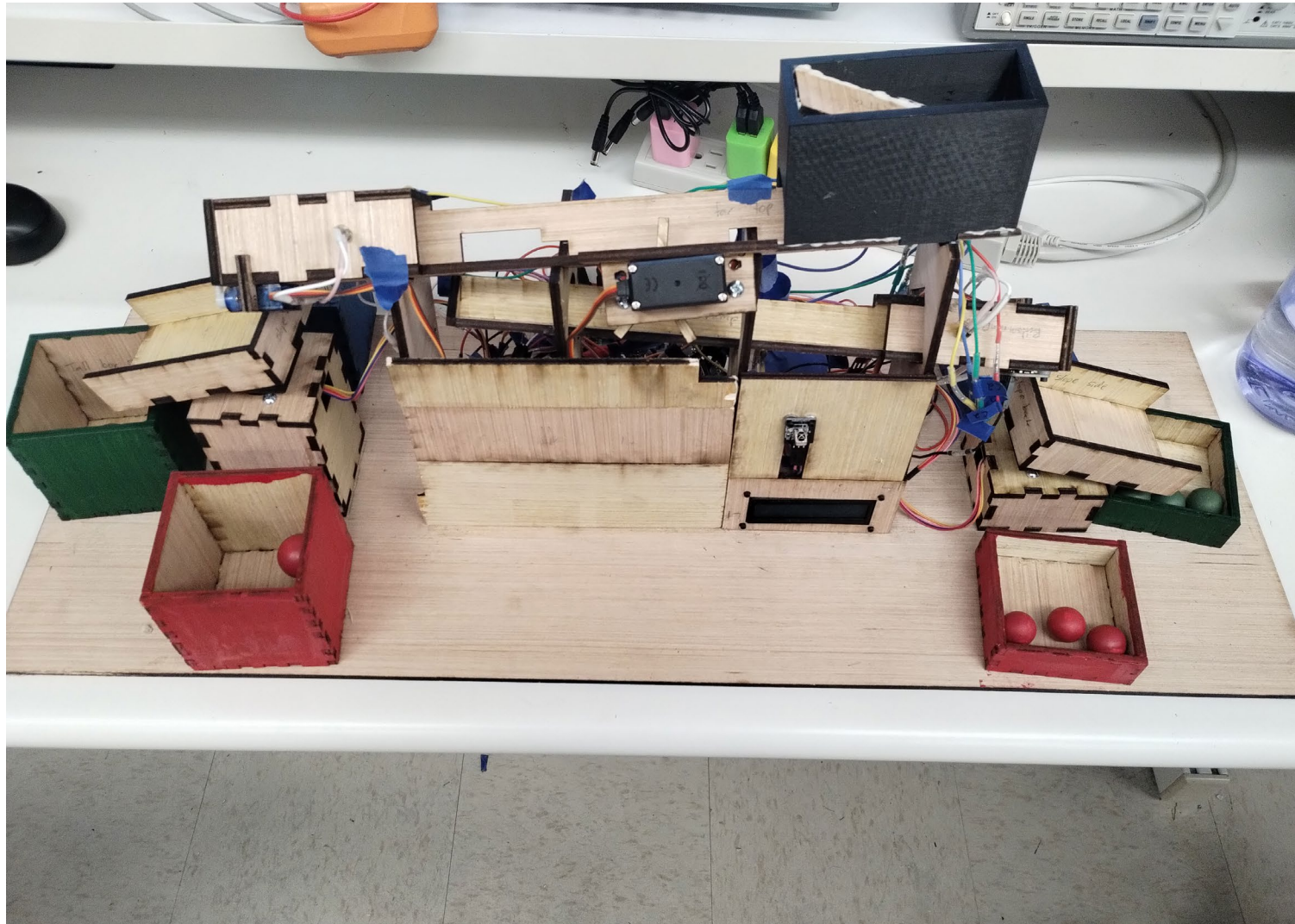
TAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

2023-2027

Mechanical Engineering Undergraduate Projects

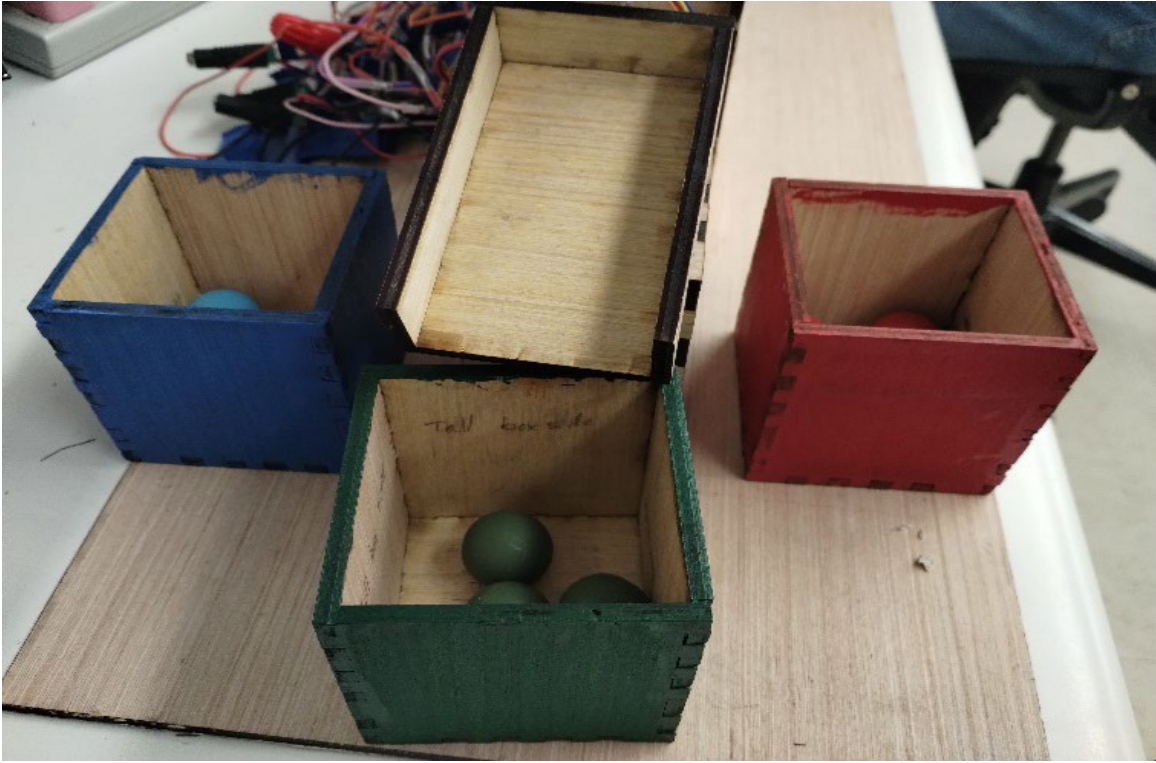
Marble Sorter



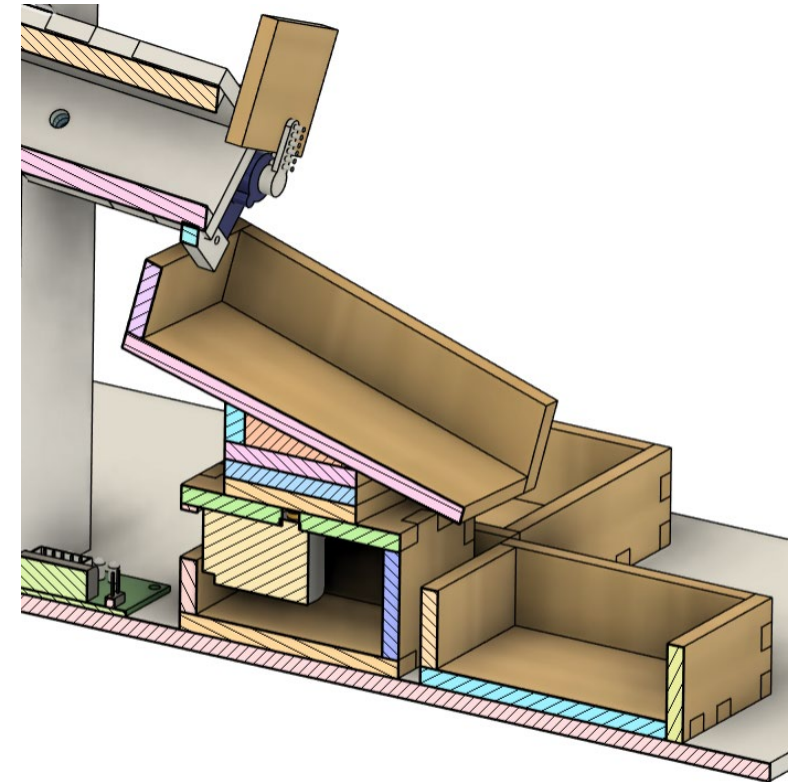


Final Integrated System

- I worked as part of a two-person team to design a machine to sort marbles by color and size.
- Subsystems that I was responsible for:
 - Color sorting system (turntables and gates)
 - Mechanical integration of stepper motors, servos, and sensors
 - Funnel and loading subsystem

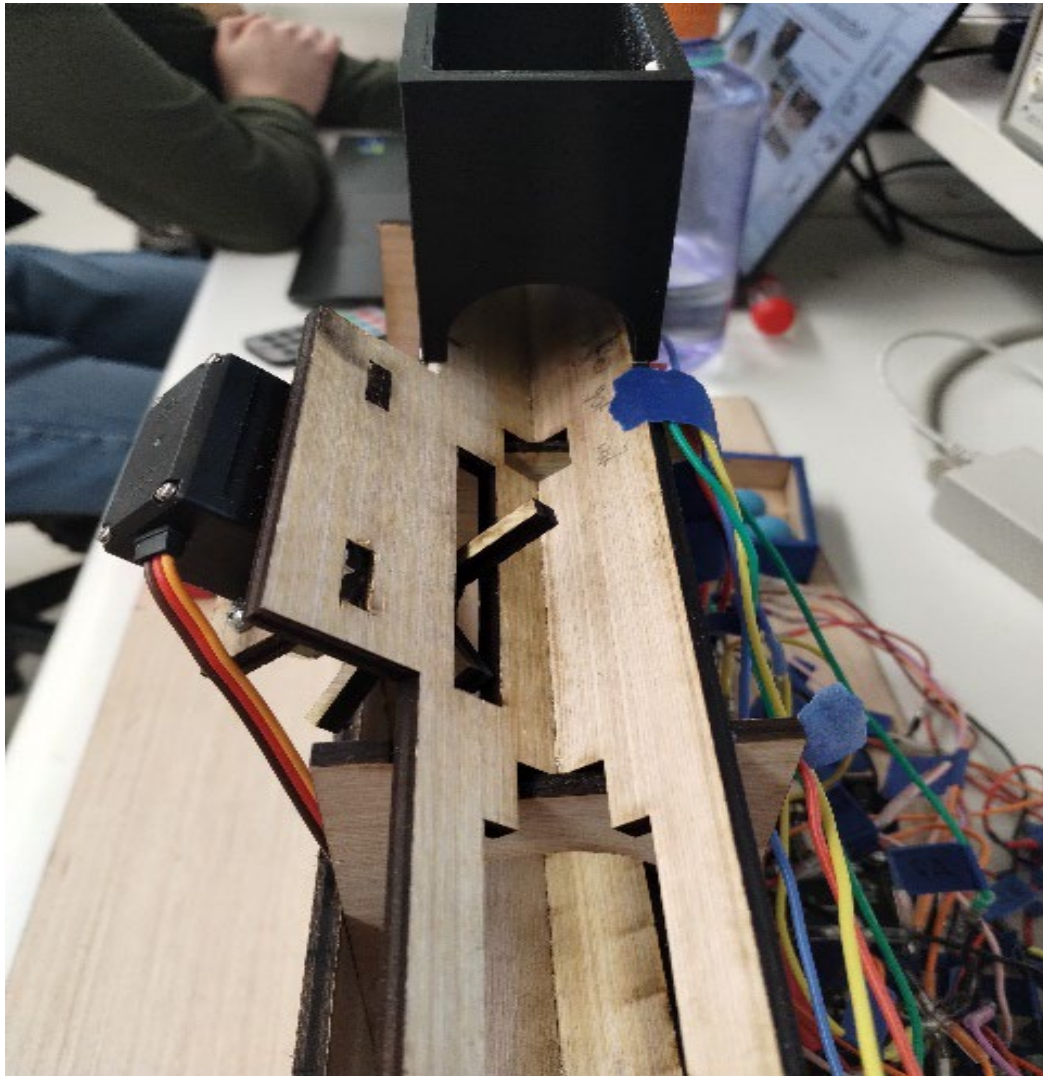


Integrated Color Sorting System



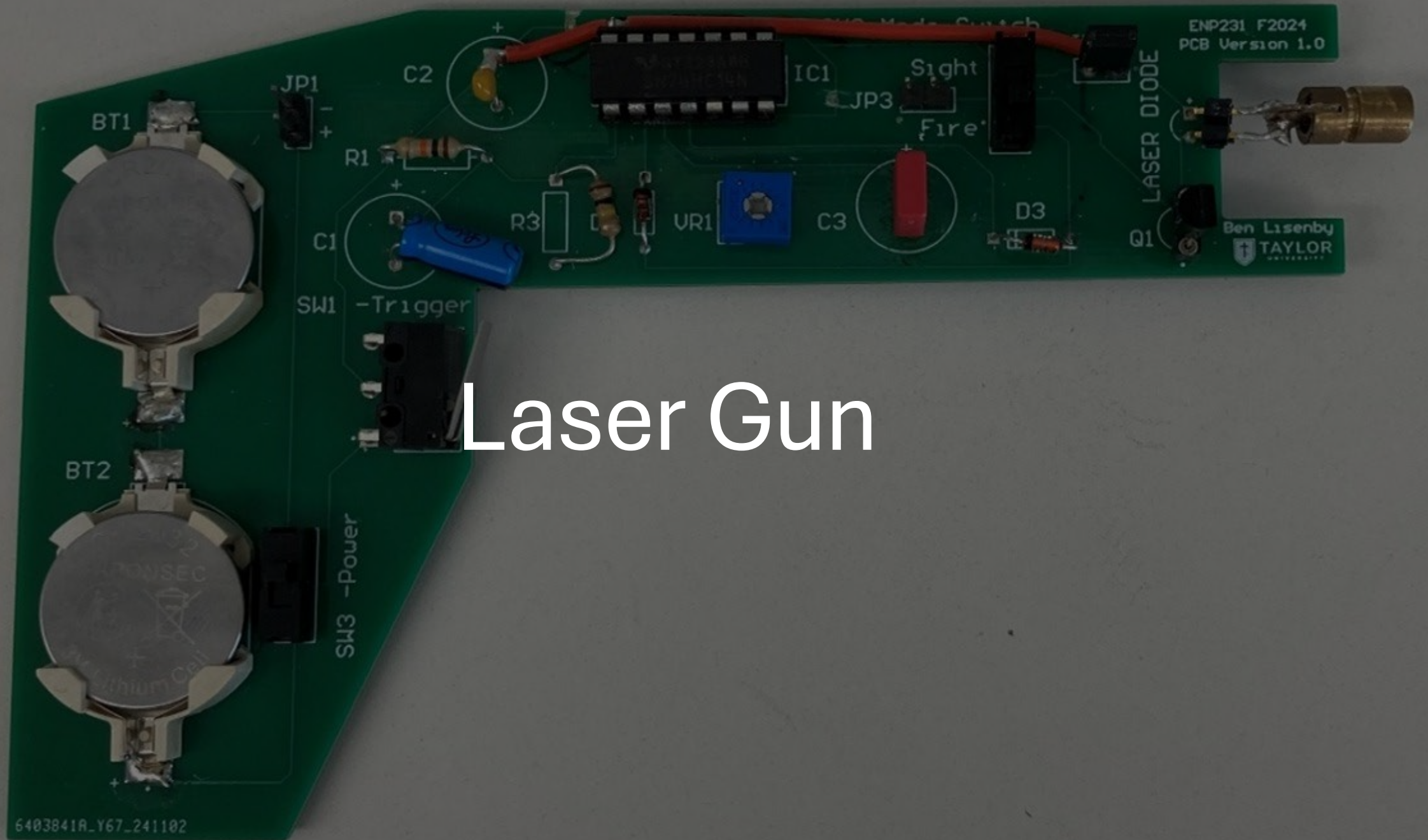
Color Sorting System CAD Section View

- Responsible for design of the color sorting system
- Required interfacing with motors, sensors, and wiring
- Designed for reliability and repeatability
- Gate and turntable design achieved design goals and performed as expected

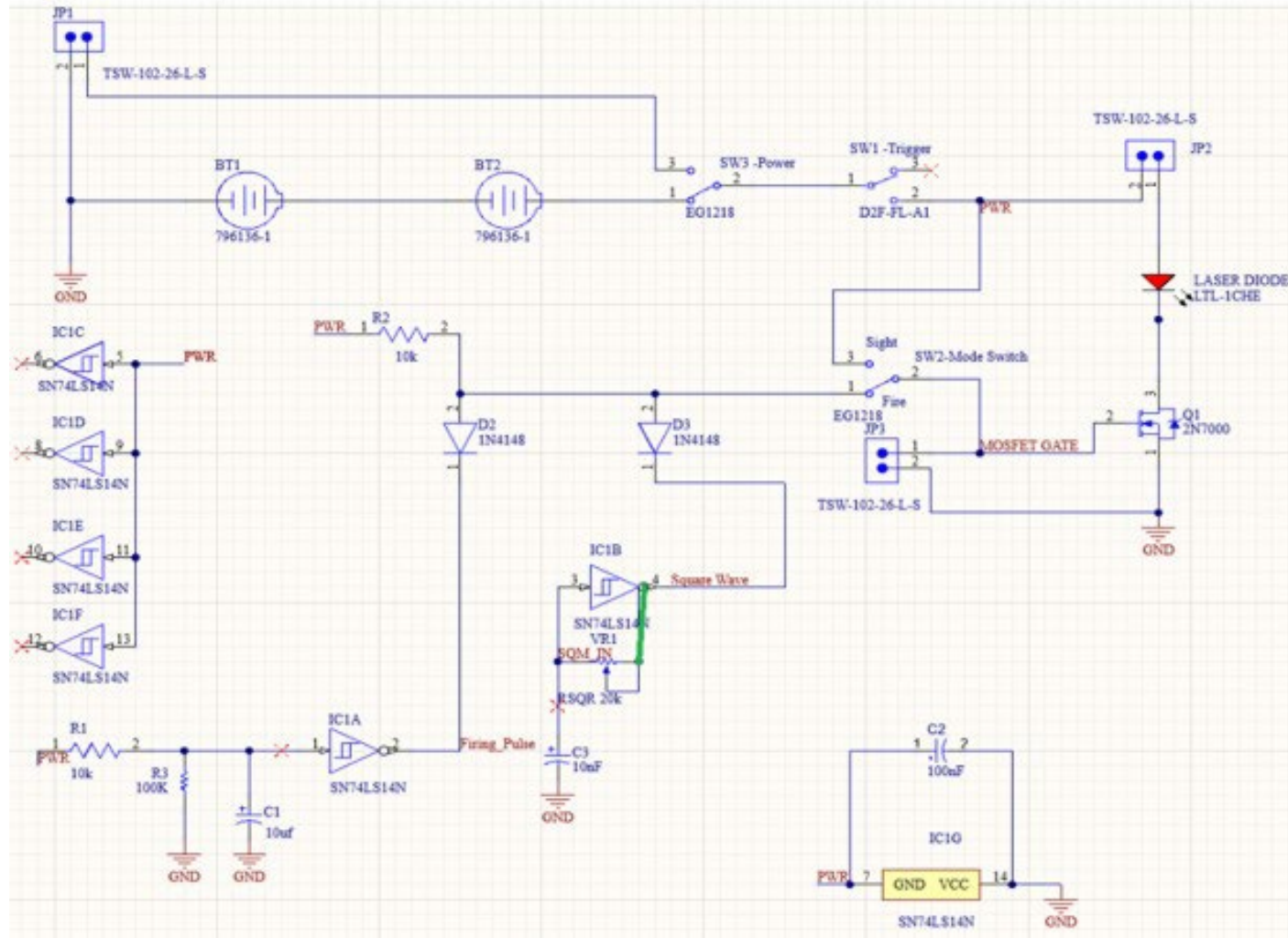


Integrated Loading System

- Responsible for design of loading system
- Solving key problems of single-marble loading and jamming
- Turnstile design ensures one marble is in system at a time.
- Funnel design holds ~10 marbles at a time, reduces jamming, and ensures smooth release
- Design refined through rapid iteration and testing to ensure optimal performance

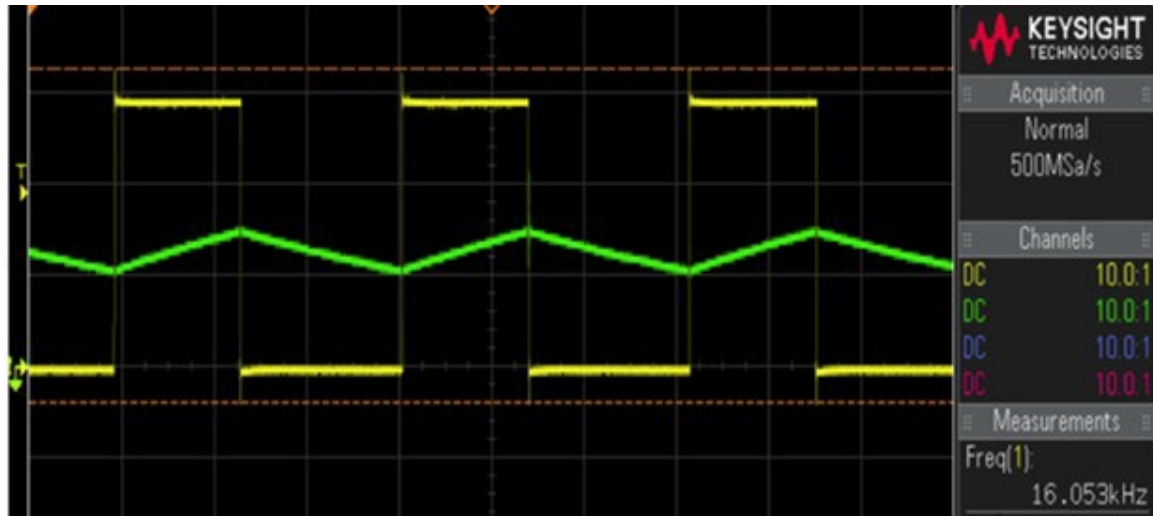


Laser Gun



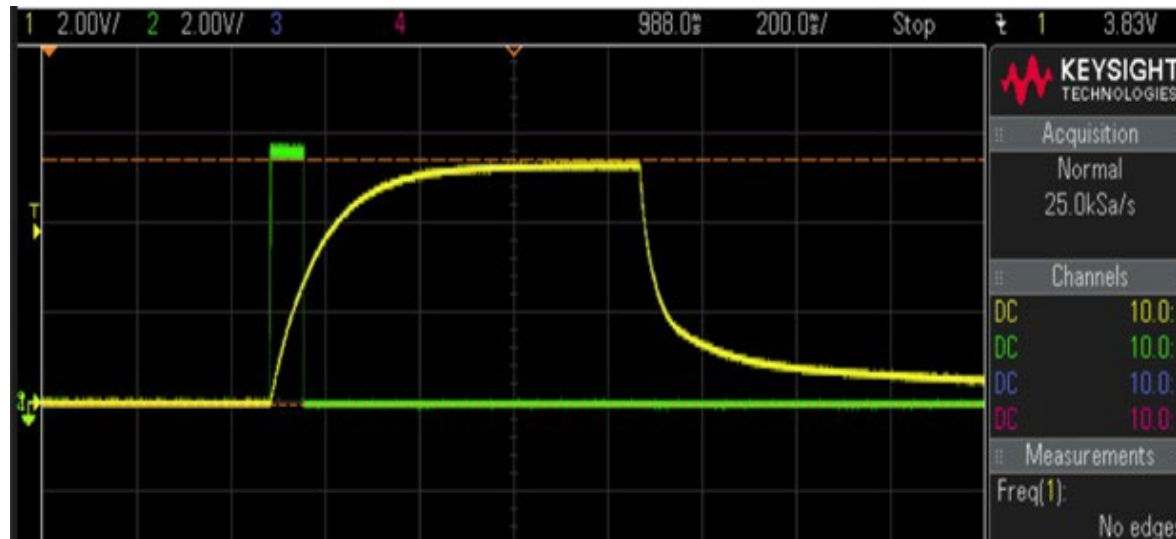
Circuit Schematic

- I designed a laser gun to activate a target by delivering a 16 KHz laser pulse.
- My responsibilities:
 - Designing PCB layout
 - Selecting components to meet design constraints
 - Breadboard prototyping of each subsystem
 - Final assembly and testing

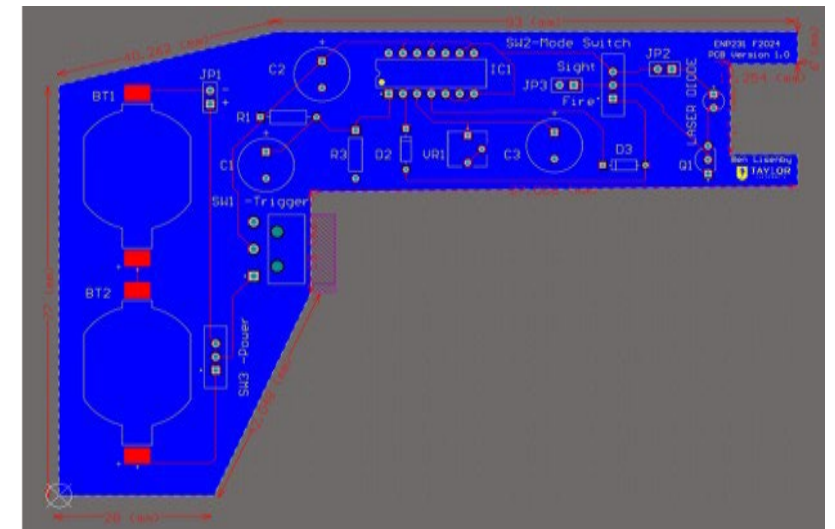


Timing Pulse Verification Oscilloscope Image

- Testing verifies laser gun pulse is set to 16 KHz.
- Capacitor charging curve determined by trigger (leads to firing of laser pulse)
- PCB design completed in Altium and successfully assembled and tested



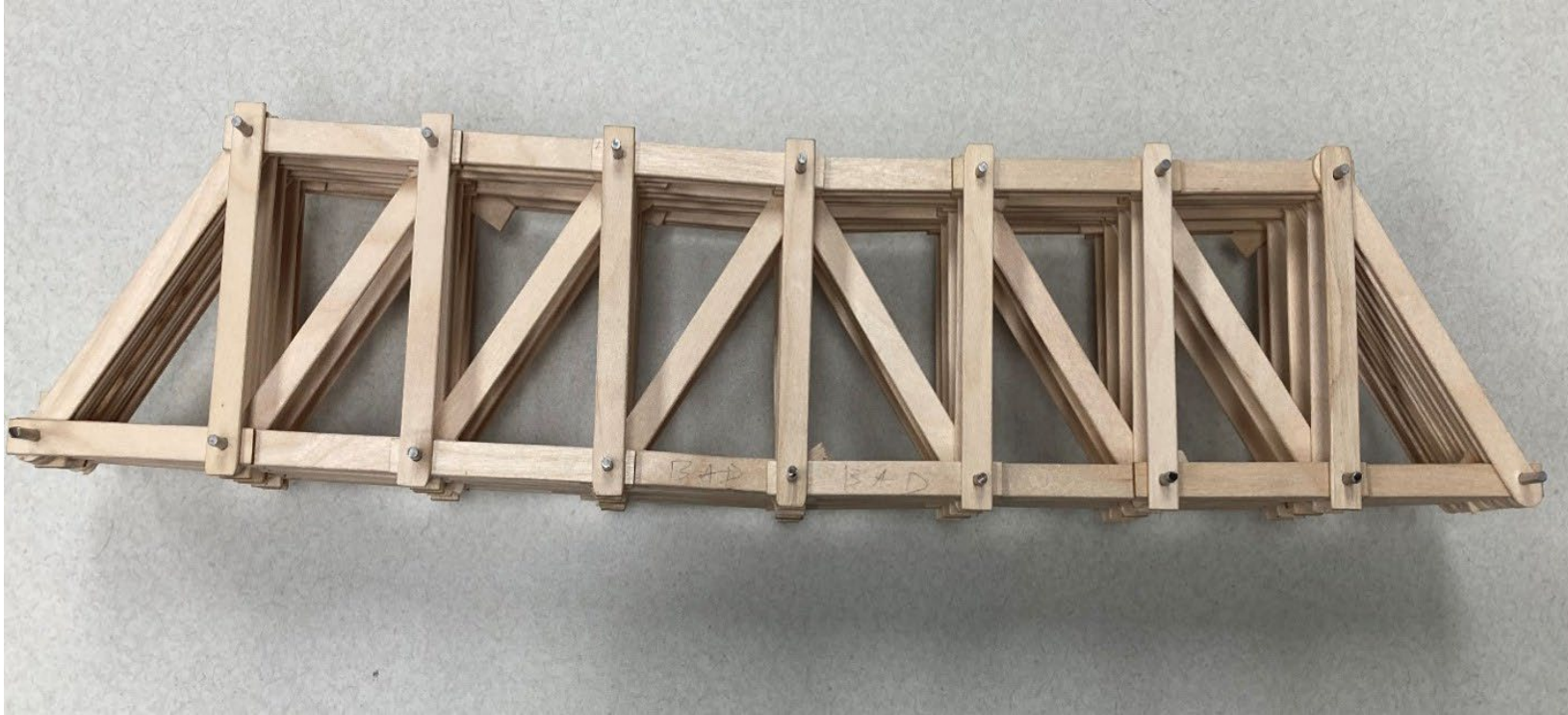
Trigger Verification Oscilloscope Image



Final PCB Layout

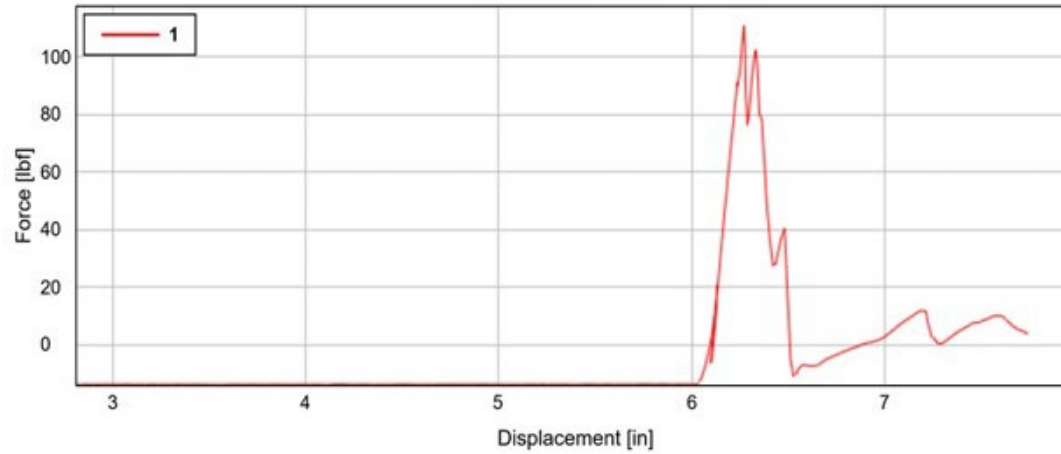
A photograph of a wooden truss bridge model constructed from thin wooden strips, resting on a light-colored table. The bridge features a series of vertical supports and diagonal bracing, forming a series of interconnected triangles. The text "Statics Bridge Project" is overlaid in white on the image.

Statics Bridge Project



Final Bridge Design

- I designed a bridge to withstand an impulse load of 50 pounds-force.
- My responsibilities:
 - Assembled bridge from popsicle sticks and stainless-steel pins
 - Completed structural analysis in excel to validate design and predict failure points
 - Tested to failure to determine actual strength



	Force at Break (Standard) [lbf]	Maximum Force [lbf]	Data point at Yield (Zero slope)
1	6.14	111.57	6272

UTM Testing Data

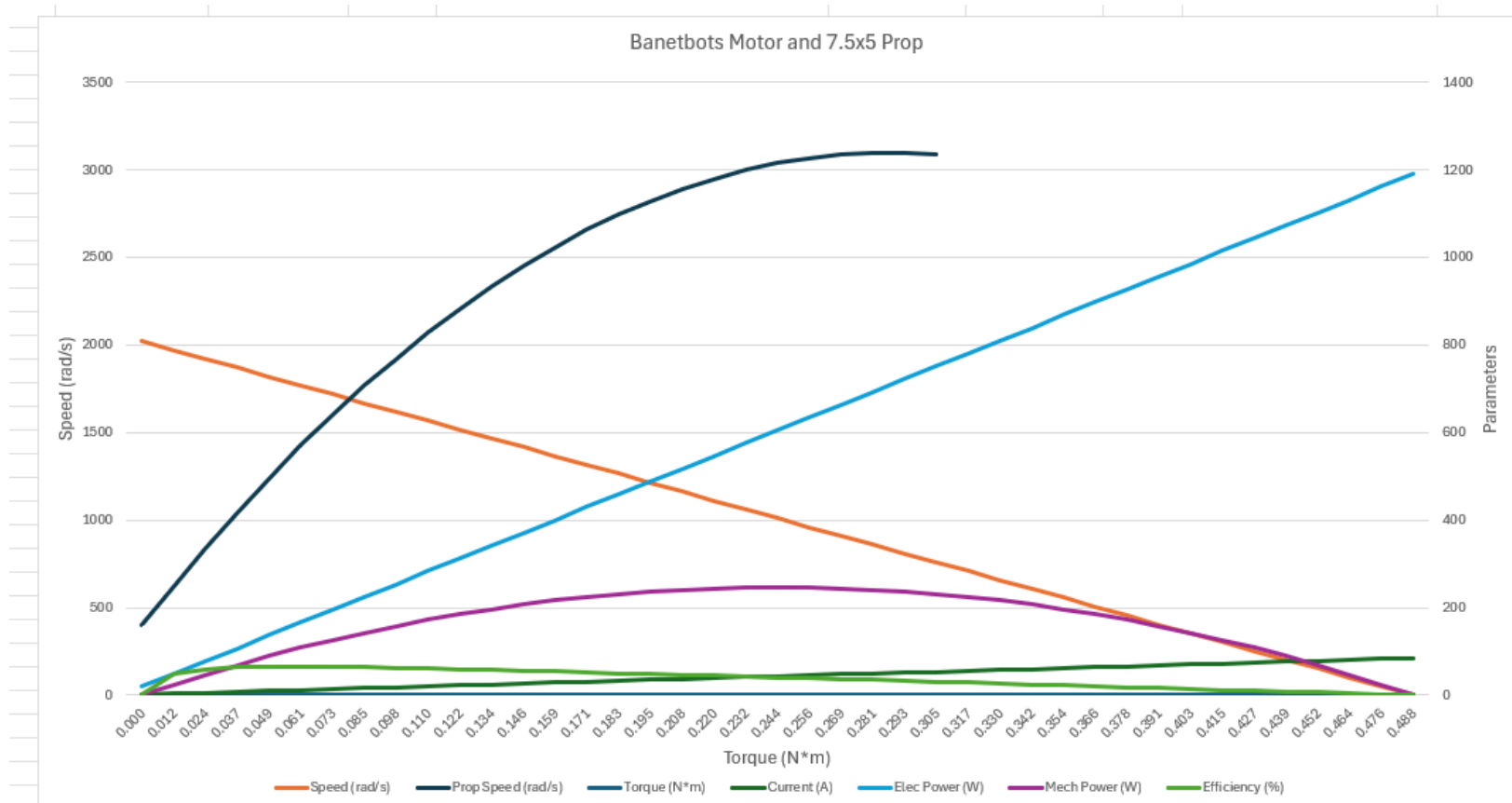
- Tested with Universal Testing Machine (UTM) to failure
- Over 50% stronger than original goal
- Analysis correctly predicted failure points
- Second highest force withstood in Statics class



Bridge Failure Points



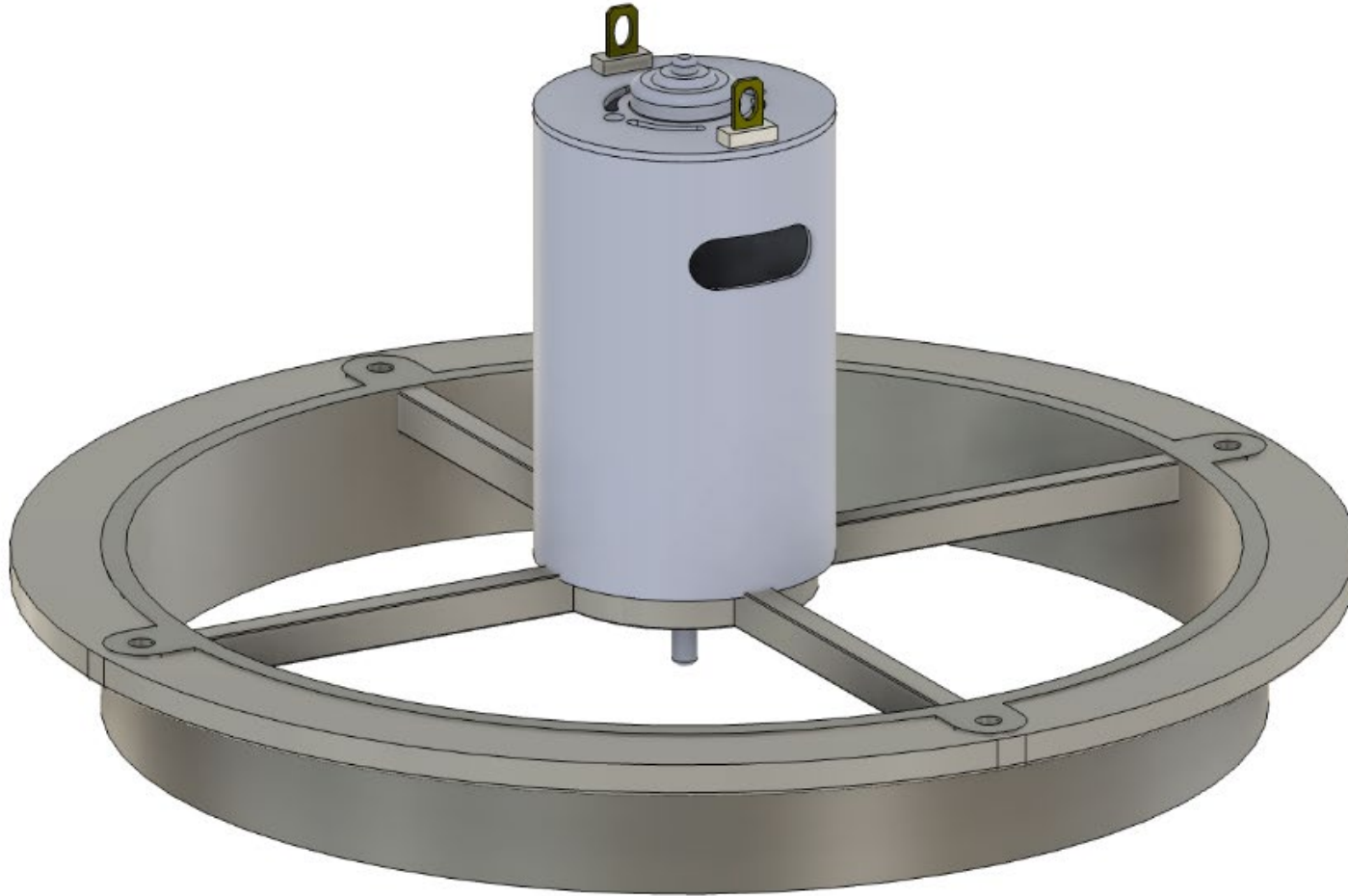
Hovercraft Competition



- Performed Motor Analysis and calculations based on propellor and motor data.
- Found operating point to confirm viability of motor-prop combination.
- This work allowed team to understand behavior of motor and propellor
- Lead to design validation

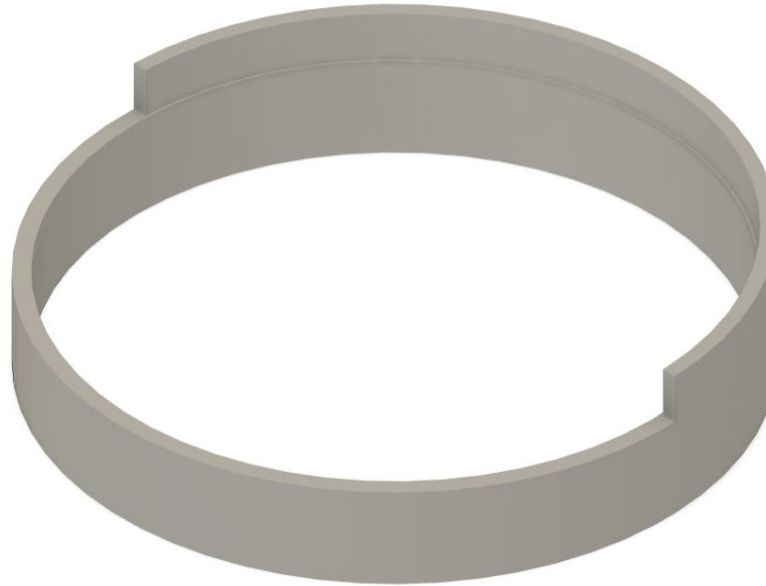
	Torque (N*m)	Speed (rad/s)	Current (A)	Elec Power (W)	Mech Power (W)	Efficiency (%)	Prop Speed (rad/s)	Prop Thrust (N)
At Operating Point:	0.07	1730.68	13.41	187.78	121.42	64.66	1555.17	5.93

Motor Analysis Plot and Data



Lift Fan Subsystem

- Responsible for lift subsystem design
- Key design parameters:
 - Ensuring mounts withstand force of motor
 - Efficient air flow to produce lift
 - Robust interface with hovercraft body



- Key issue was speed (important for competitive edge in competition) Analysis correctly)
- I designed addition to thrust fans to increase speed by 35-50%
- This design addition allowed our team to finish 2nd overall

Thrust Fan Addition



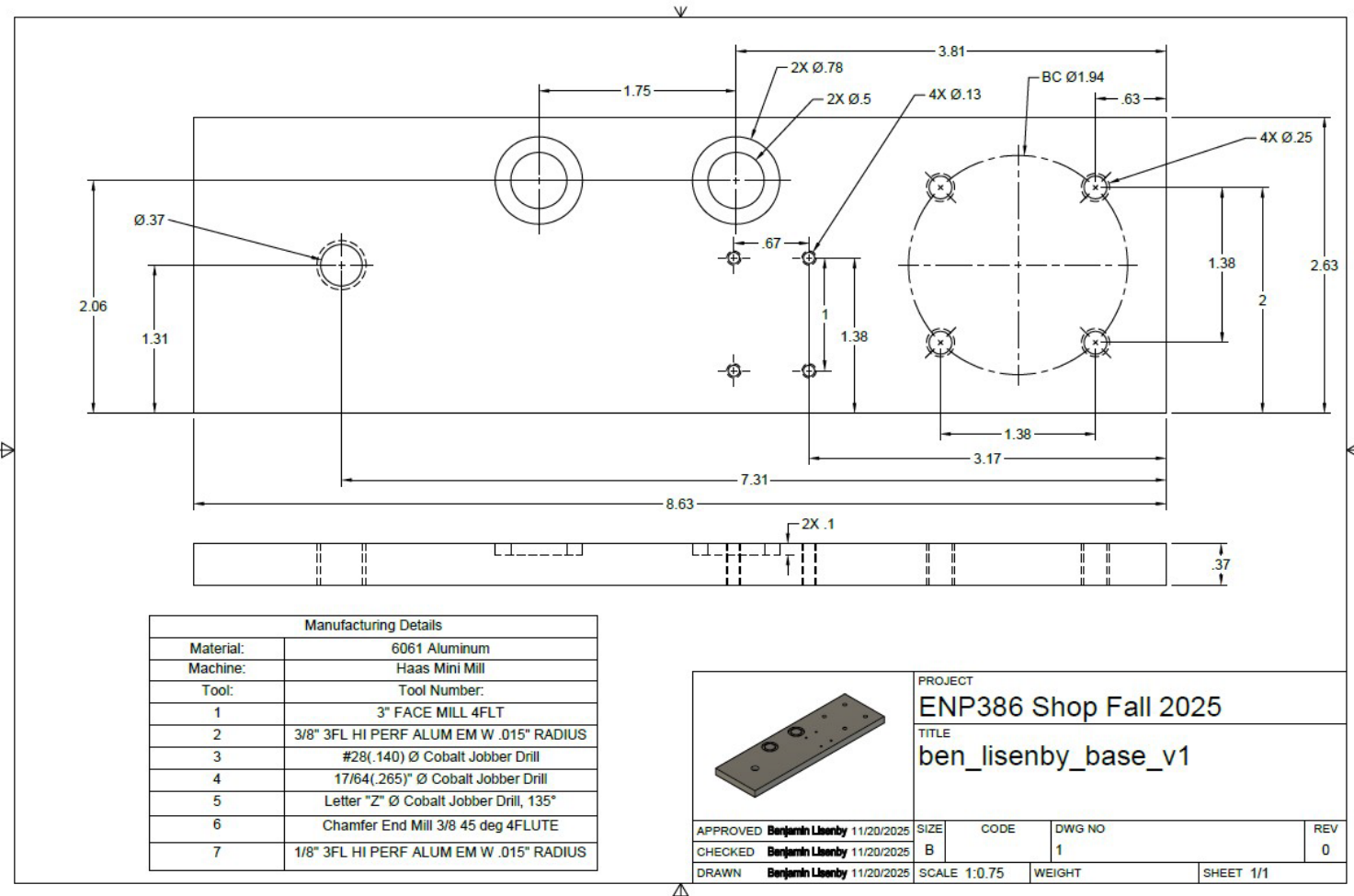
Integrated Hovercraft Image

- Responsible for interfacing with electrical components
 - Mounting solutions for PCB, battery, and motor controllers
 - Wire routing
 - Electrical system integration and testing

A photograph of various precision-machined metal components arranged on a dark, reflective workbench. In the foreground, there is a large, shallow, bowl-shaped metal part with a smooth, polished interior. To its right are two vertical cylindrical rods with threaded sections. Further back, a stack of three smaller, bowl-shaped parts is visible. To the right of the rods is a complex, dark-colored mechanical part with multiple gear-like or stepped features. On the far right, a large, rectangular metal block with a textured, possibly cast or machined surface stands upright. The background is slightly blurred, showing more industrial equipment and a blue surface.

Manufacturing Methods Project

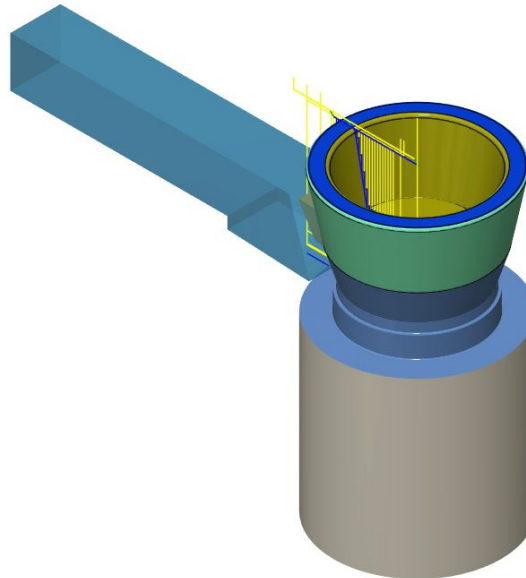
- Main focus of class was design for manufacturing principles and engineering drawings with a focus on CNC machining
- Designed a custom “desk organizer”, using a combination of CNC and manual machining methods



Sample Drawing



Part Designed for
Manufacturing on Lathe

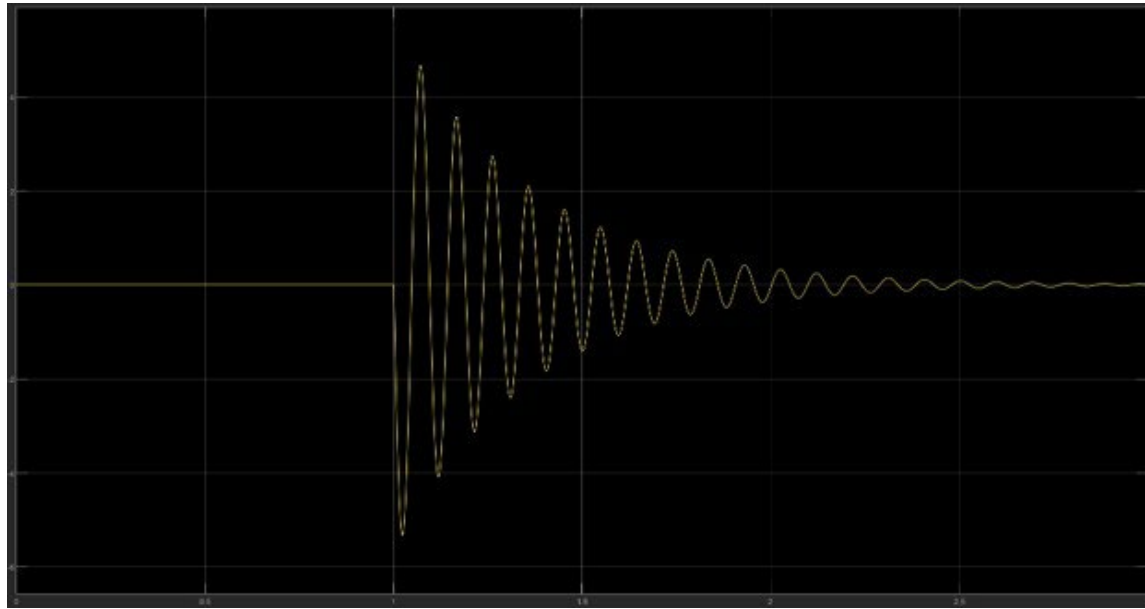


CNC-Machined Part and CAM Simulation

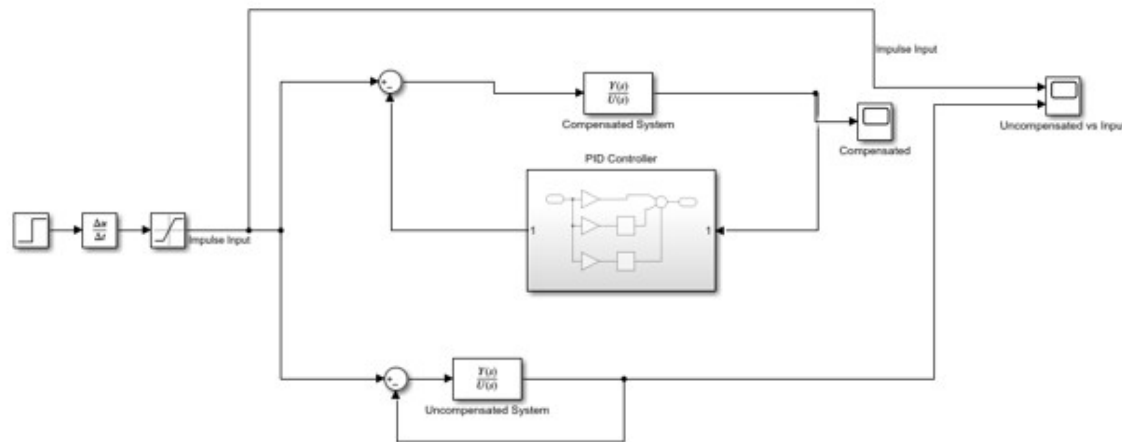
- My deliverables for this project:
 - Part designs that met requirements for manufacturability, function, and form
 - Clear and accurate engineering drawings for all parts, according to drafting best practices
 - CAM programs for all CNC machined parts
 - Fabrication and assembly for each part

Control Systems Project

The image shows a detailed view of a control systems project. A microcontroller board, possibly an Arduino, is the central component, with numerous wires connected to it. These wires are color-coded and organized into bundles. The board is mounted on a white frame, which appears to be part of a larger system, possibly a robot or a test rig. In the background, a laptop is visible, indicating that the system is being controlled or monitored via a computer. The overall setup is complex and suggests a hands-on learning experience in control systems.



PID Controller Simulation Result

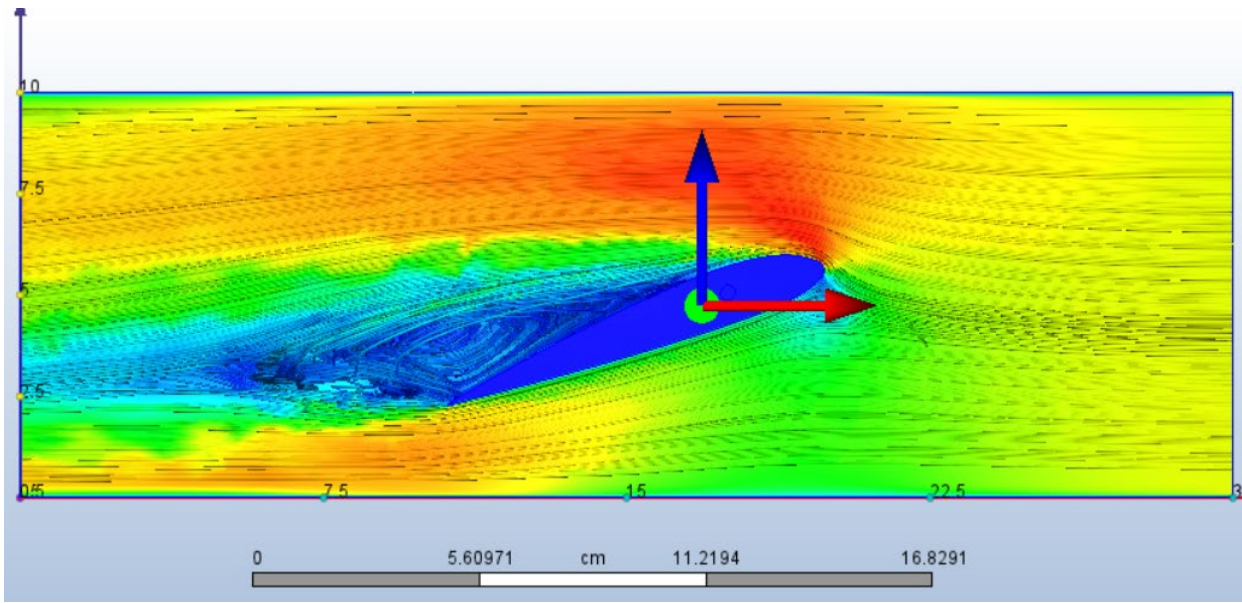


System Block Diagram in Simulink

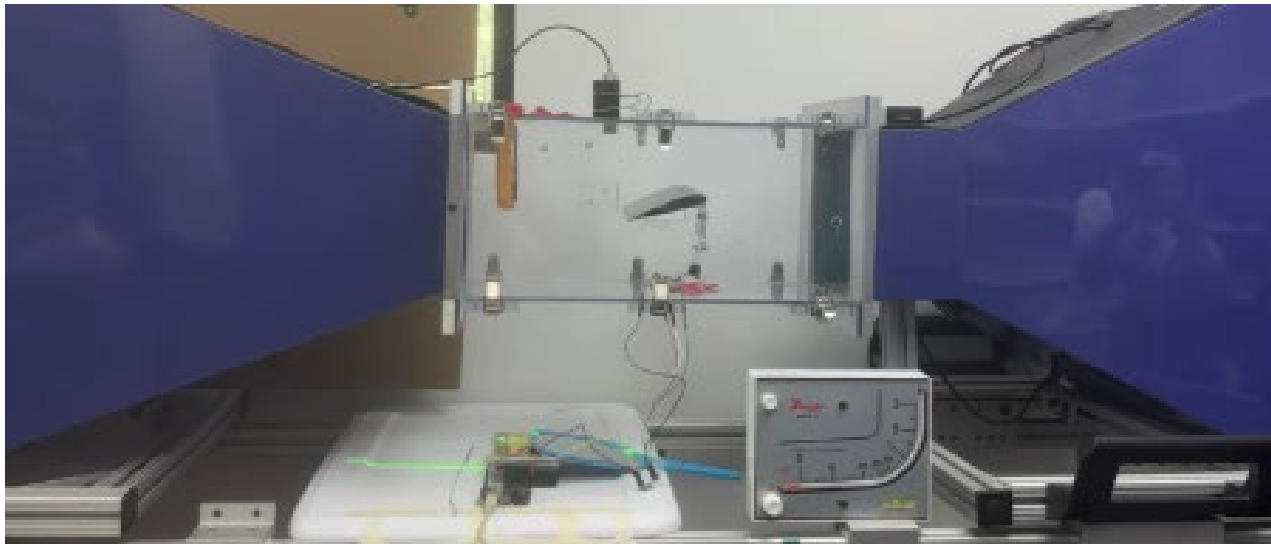
- Goal: balance inverted pendulum for at least 3 seconds
- Control achieved with linear actuation-determined by PID control
- My responsibilities:
 - Mathematical Modeling of uncompensated system
 - MATLAB/Simulink simulation of uncompensated system
 - Simulation and design of PID control to fully balance system

A photograph of a wind tunnel experiment. A model airplane is mounted on a support structure inside the tunnel. The entire scene is overlaid with a green grid, suggesting a simulation or data visualization. The text "Wind Tunnel Simulation and Testing" is centered over the image.

Wind Tunnel Simulation and Testing



Sample CFD Simulation



Experimental Setup

- I worked in a team to measure the drag coefficient of a NACA 2414 Airfoil for varying angle.
- My responsibilities:
 - Literature review to determine accepted values for experiment and determine CFD methods
 - CFD simulations of airfoil at various angles with our experimental constraints
 - Data analysis to compare experimental results with literature and CFD results

Introduction

Airfoil analysis is a vital aspect of aviation design, with testing and simulations being key components to understanding the characteristics of drag. Our experiment set out to compare the drag characteristics of a 2414 NACA airfoil. This was done experimentally in a wind tunnel, and compared to Autodesk simulations, and finally, with values found in the literature.

Background

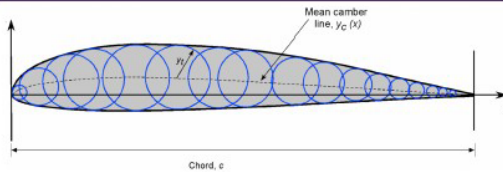


Figure 1: Notated Basic Airfoil Design

The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) has a designated four-digit wing naming convention for airfoil, which is based upon their geometry:

1. First digit describing maximum camber as percentage of chord length. (Chord length: the distance from leading to trailing edge of an airfoil)
2. Second digit describing the distance of maximum camber from the airfoil's leading edge (one unit = one tenth of the total cord length).
3. Last two digits describing maximum thickness of the airfoil as percent of the chord.

In our Case, the NACA 2414 airfoil has a maximum camber of 2% located 40% (0.4 chords) from the leading edge with a maximum thickness of 14% of the chord.

Literature & Expected Results

- Literature Values were sourced from foil.tools an online repository of airfoil data for various Reynolds Numbers.
- Reynolds Number was calculated for measured air speed of 4.6 m/s.
- CFD was used to predict experimental results using the wind tunnel's geometry and measured air speed of 4.6 m/s.

Simulations Approach

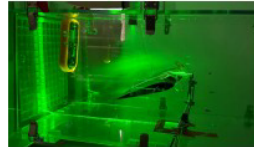


Figure 2: Wind Tunnel with 2414 Foil

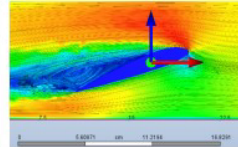


Figure 3: Autodesk CFD Simulation

The wind tunnel's geometry and measured air speed were used to simulate the airflow over the CAD model of the 2414 airfoil. The angle was varied to match experimental data. Each simulation ran for 700-900 iterations with the k- ω SST turbulence model in Autodesk CFD. The above figures compare the experimental results with the CFD results.

Testing Setup & Methods



Figure 4: Wind Tunnel & LED Laser



Figure 5: 2414 Foil & Strain Gauge

Using the department's custom-designed wind tunnel, an experimental flow was induced on the airwing. The testing apparatus has dimensions of 24 x 24 x 44 cm.

Methods

In this experiment, data was collected using the following procedure:

- The foil was attached to the strain gauge stand using duct tape and its orientation was set to the desired angle using a protractor.
- The stand was attached to the bottom of the wind tunnel using duct tape.
- Lead wires were inserted through guide holes in the bottom of the wind tunnel and connected to an arduino.
- The viewing pannel was closed and the wind tunnel was activated.
- The air speed was measured using a flow meter and the strain gauge's output was read by the arduino.
- This process was repeated for angle 0, 7, 10, 18, 20, and 28 degrees.

Experimental Results

The following graphs compare experimental results with CFD and literature values.

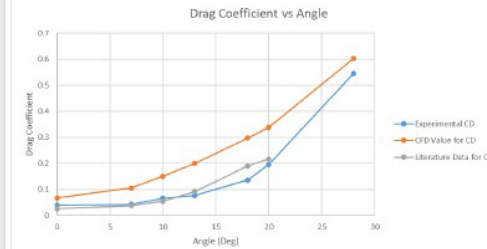


Figure 6: Drag Coefficient vs. Angle

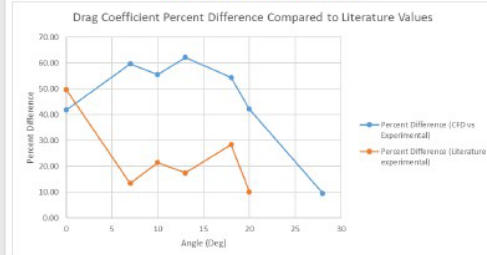
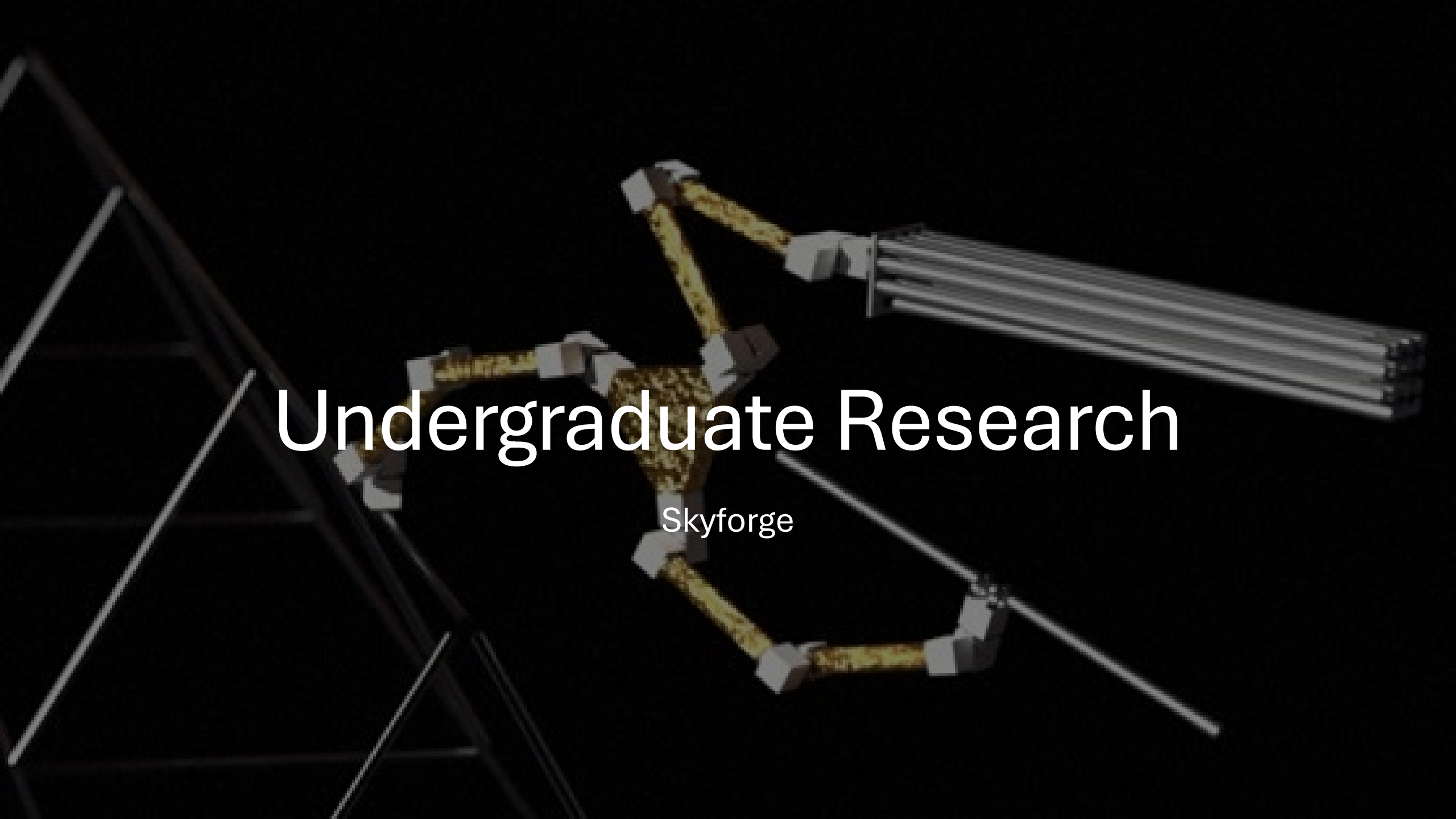


Figure 7: Error in Drag Coefficient

Research Conclusions

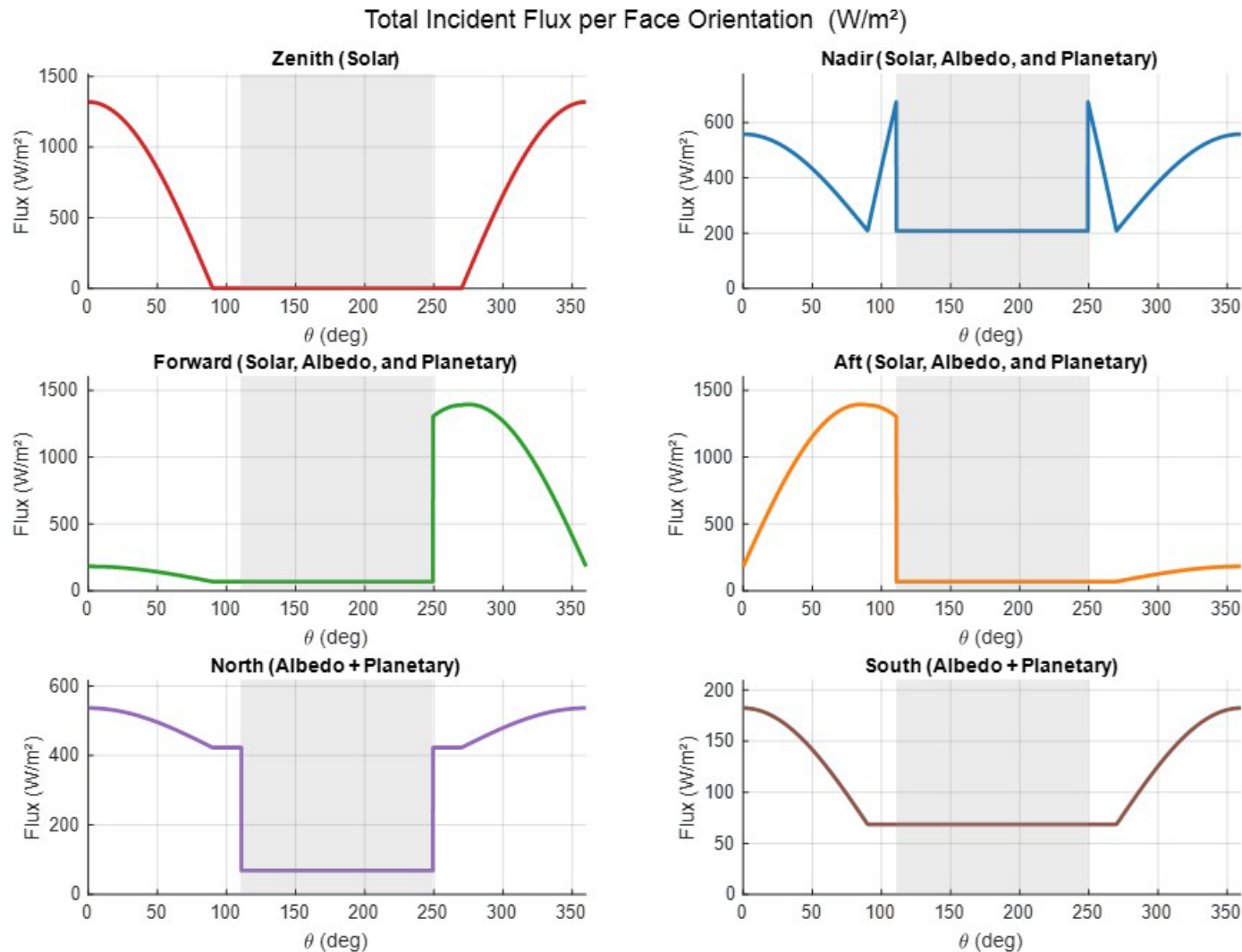
- The average error between experiment and literature was 23.4%, while the average error between experiment and CFD was 46.4%.
- CFD error can be attributed to difficulties in simulating low reynolds number.
- Error in both CFD and experiment can be attributed to effect of walls, entrance area, and stand on airflow.
- CFD consistantly overestimates drag coefficient and is most accurate far from stall angle.
- Experimental results underestimate drag coefficient before stall and overestimates drag coefficient after stall angle.

- My team designed a poster, summarizing our project
- We presented our findings at a spring poster session



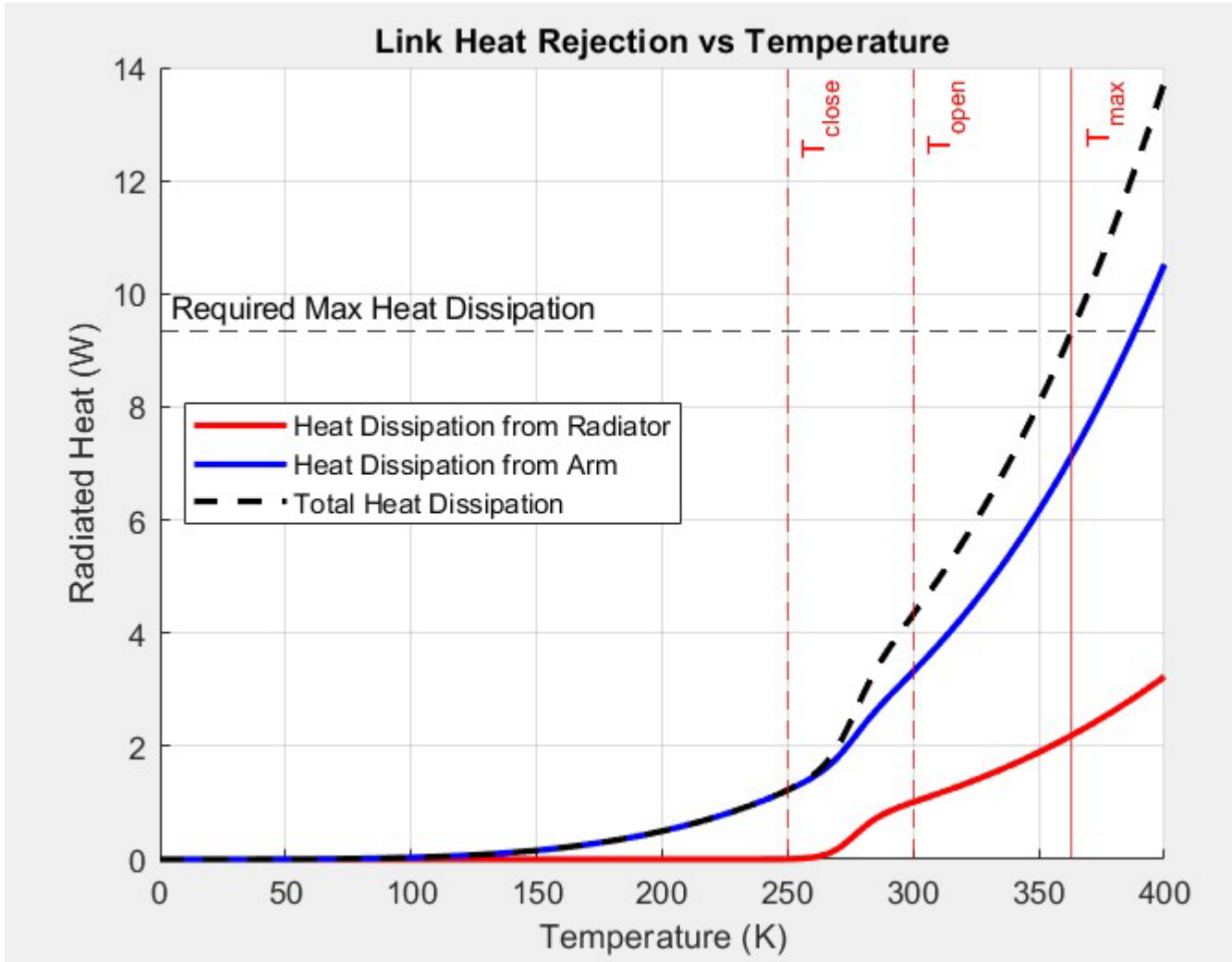
Undergraduate Research

Skyforge



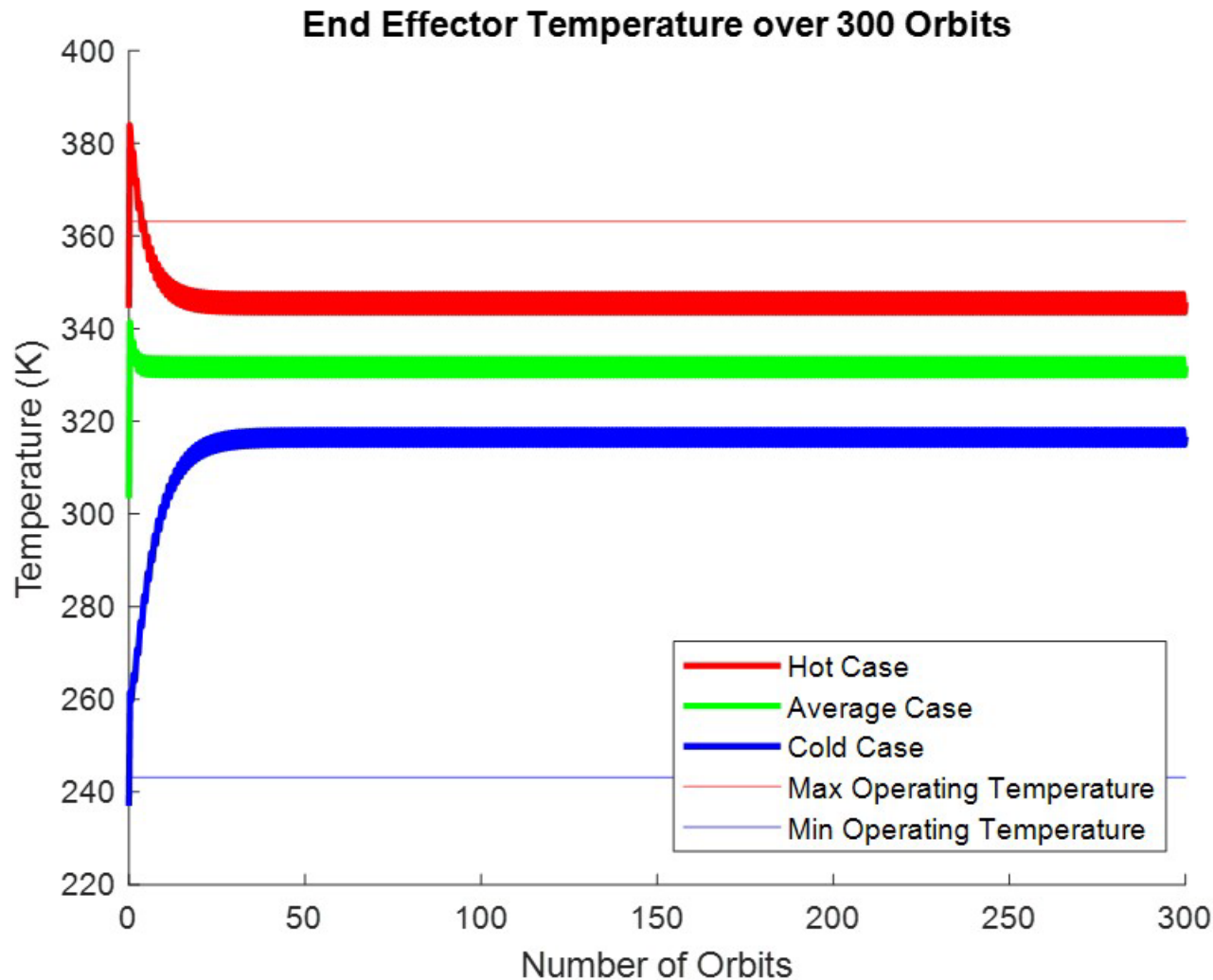
Environmental Heat Flux Based on Spacecraft Orientation

- I own thermal modeling and simulation for a space-based robotic system
- Cross-disciplinary research:
 - Coding
 - Thermal simulation
 - Mission architecture
 - Orbital dynamics
 - Mechanical design for space-based operation
 - Interfacing with electrical and mechanical engineers on other research teams
 - TVAC testing



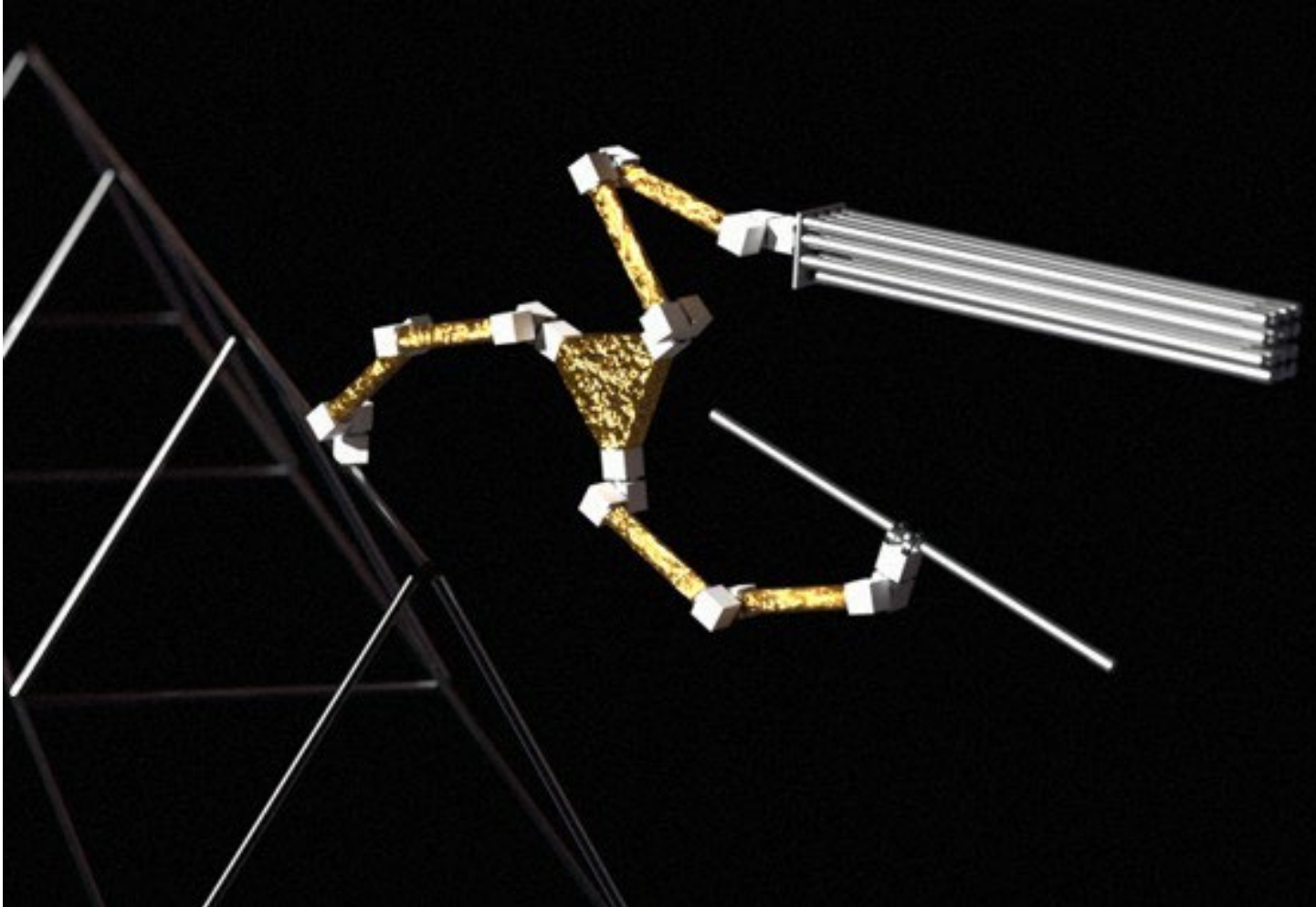
Heat Rejection impact from Thermal Louver Actuation

- My research team's goal is to develop an actively actuated thermal louver to vary radiator area with response to temperature
- Main part of my work is modeling the thermal behavior of the robot arm
- Louver actuation increases radiator area, which increases heat dissipation
- My work helps both establish and validate the current thermal louver design



Temperature of End Effector over 300 Orbits

- Researched and formulated worst case scenarios for hot/cold cases
- Final code displays temperature over desired number of orbits for each joint and link in 6 DOF robot arm
- Incorporates contact resistance from bolted connections, transient conduction modeling, radiation losses, and environmental heating



Artist's Render of Robotic System in Space during Operation

- Impact of work:
 - Inform thermal design requirements for other design teams
 - Validate louver design
 - Inform mission architecture
- Research is still ongoing (I will update once my work in this research group is complete in Spring 2027)
- Future work (Fall 2026 & Spring 2027):
 - Thermal Simulation to refine initial design
 - Heat Sink/Thermal Strap Design
 - Electrical System Integration
 - Design and Manufacturing of Thermal Louver
 - Integrated system testing in TVAC conditions