

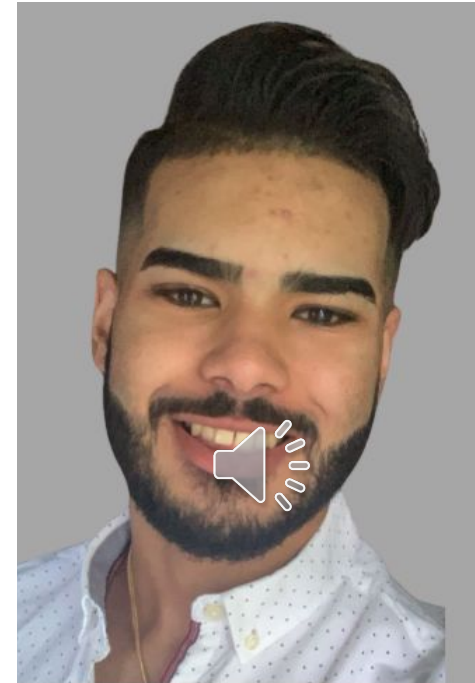
ParaPedal: A Practical Product for Paraplegic Piano Players!

Group 15 – Senior Design
University of Central Florida



Team Members

- Andre Ilanos(Electrical Engineer)
- Benedict Eberhagen (Electrical Engineer)
- Jason Knaebel(Electrical Engineer)
- Rafael Molina (Electrical Engineer)



Motivation & Background

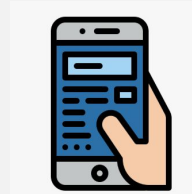
- Inspired by teammate Benedict, a pianist in a wheelchair
- Problem: Cannot use legs to press piano pedals
- Few assistive devices exist; bulky and limited



Goals



Basic: Sustain pedal,
intuitive use, no piano
modification

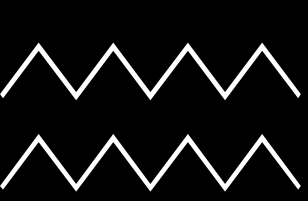


Advanced: 3 pedals,
calibration via
smartphone app,
quiet actuator

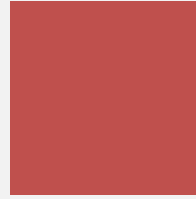


Stretch:
Breath/muscle
input, haptic
feedback





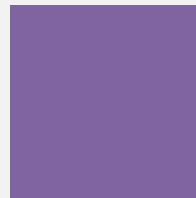
Objectives



Basic: Sustain pedal,
intuitive use, no piano
modification

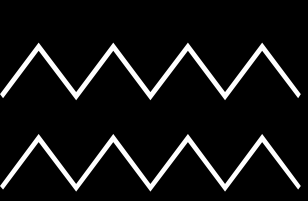


Advanced: 3 pedals,
calibration via
smartphone app,
quiet actuator



Stretch:
Breath/muscle
input, haptic
feedback





Engineering Specifications



Specification Table

Motor System

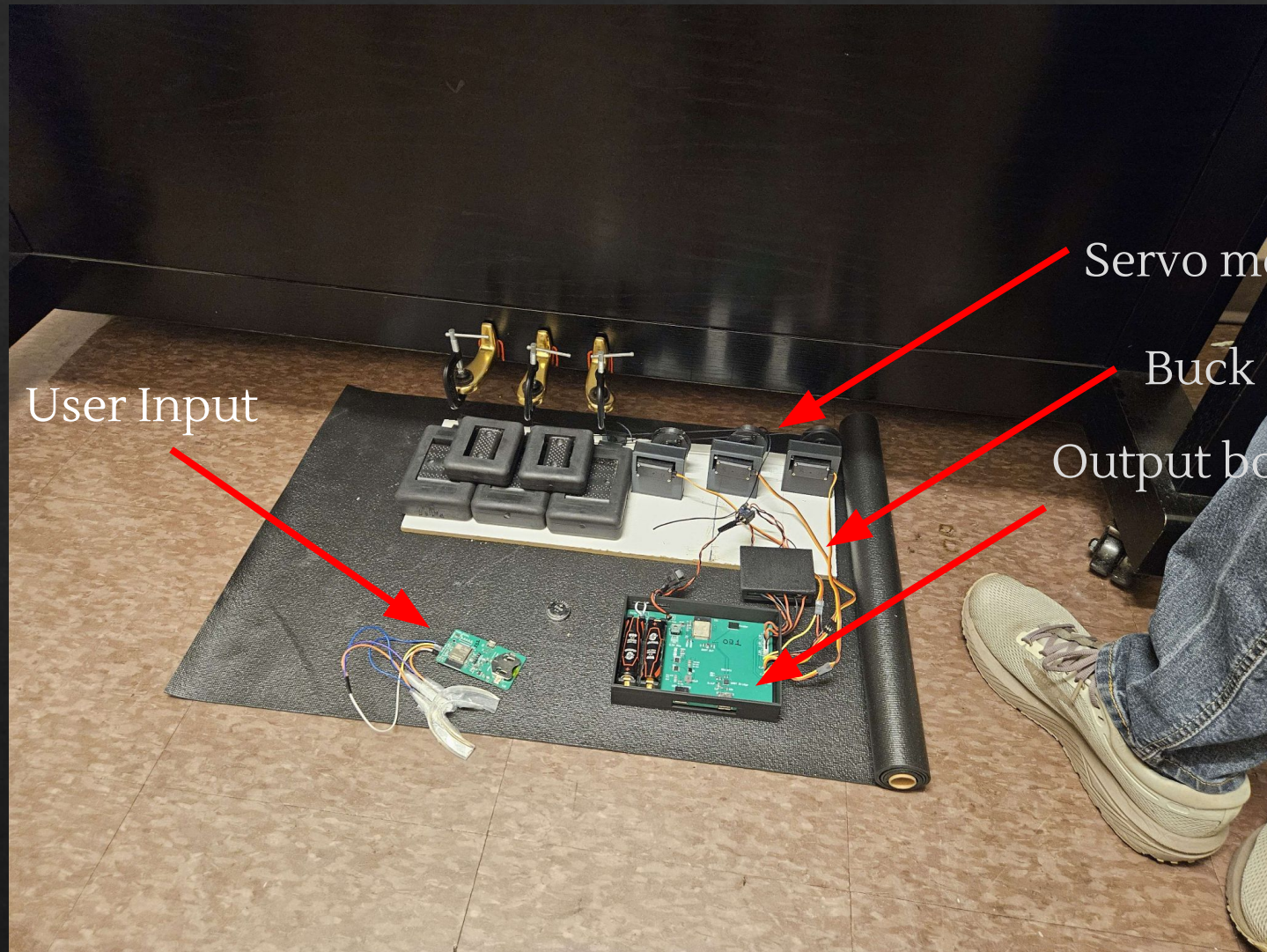
Motor Response Time	500-700 Milliseconds
Maximum Power Consumption	≤ 25 Watts

System Overall

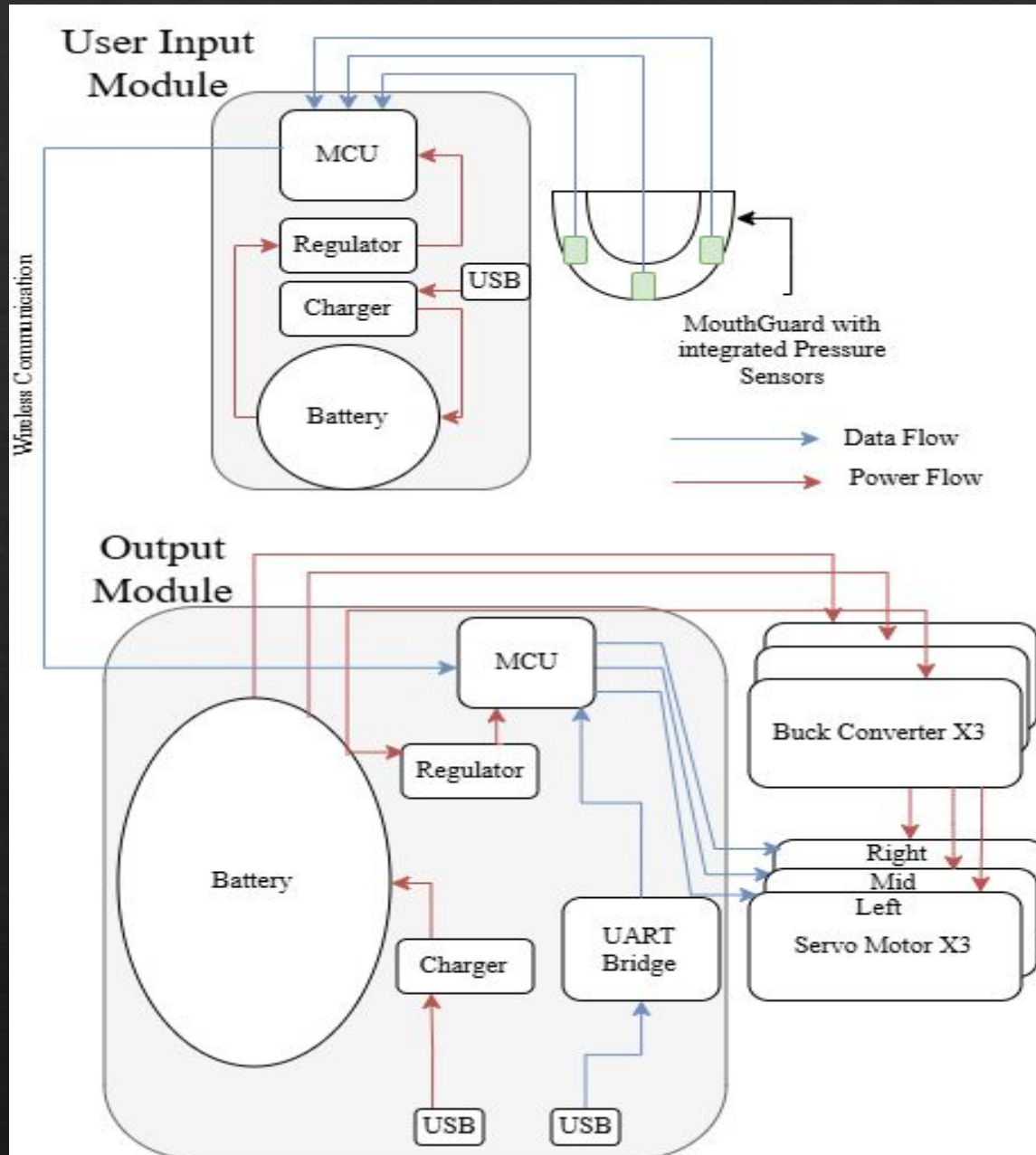
Device Weight	5-10 Kilograms
Battery Runtime	≤ 1 Hour
Communication Range	≥ 4 meters
Response Time	≤ 2 Second
Accuracy	75-85%
System Setup Time	≤ 2 Minutes



High-Level System Overview



System Diagram



Hardware Selection Process

Categories:
Mouthpiece,
Motor, MCU and
Power



Compared
multiple
technologies for
each



Chose final parts
based on
performance, cost,
usability



Mouthpiece & Sensor

OPTION	PROS	CONS	FINAL CHOICE
BBTO Sports Guard	Cheap, easy to modify	Bulky, not discreet	✗
Goyo Night Guard	Comfortable, discreet, sleek	More expensive	✓ Final Mouthpiece
Capacitive Sensor	Non-contact sensing	Moisture sensitive, complex integration	✗
RP-S5 Force Sensor	Biocompatible, compact, simple analog signal, 1–10 N range	Limited range	✓ Final Sensor

- **Final decision for Mouthguard: Goyo Night Guard**
- **Final decision for Sensor: RP-S5 Force Sensor**



Actuator vs Motor

Option	Pros	Cons	Final Choice
Linear Actuator (20N type)	Direct linear motion	Bulky, slow, noisy, higher cost	✗
Linear Actuator (VEVOR 1500N)	Very high force capability	Overkill, heavy, slow, expensive	✗
Servo Motor – MG995	PWM control, decent torque	Lower torque/precision than MG996R	✗
Servo Motor – MG996R	13 kg·cm torque, ~0.17s/60°, compact & quiet	Limited rotation	✓

- **Final decision: Servo Motor MG996R**



Microcontroller

Option	Pros	Cons	Final Choice
Nordic	Good wireless performance	Limited I/O	✗
STM32	Powerful, flexible	Complex, higher learning curve	✗
ESP32	Wi-Fi + Bluetooth, ADCs, PWM, low power	None significant	✓

- **Final decision: Esp32**



Power Systems

User Input Module		
Major Component	Current / Voltage	Power
Pressure Sensor (RP-S5)	0.5 mA @ 3.3 V	1.65 mW
ESP32-C6 (Main Controller)	25 mA avg @ 3.3 V	82.5 mW
3.3 V Regulator Loss	Output 3.3 V @ 26 mA	10.4mW
Total (User Input)	≈ 95mW	

Output Module		
Major Component	Current / Voltage	Power
ESP32-WROOM (Main MCU)	100 mA @ 3.3 V	0.33 W
3.3 V Regulator – LD33V (LDO)	Input 8.0 V @ 100 mA → Output 3.3 V @ 100 mA	0.47 W(Loss)
Servo Motors (MG996R ×3) via 5 V buck(s)	5 V @ 1A (one servo at a time)	≈ 6.25 W (one servo at a time)
Battery Charger – CN3302 (charging)	-	≈Inactive during operation
Total	≈ 10 W @ 8 V (≈ 3A)	



Batteries and Recharging Unit

Option	Pros	Cons	Final Choice
LIR2450 Coin Cell	Small, lightweight, rechargeable	Limited capacity	✓ (Mouthpiece Input Board)
2×18650 Pack	High current supply, good capacity	Bulkier, needs balancing	✓ (Motor Board)
Charger – TPB4056A20	Cheap, basic protection	Limited features, 1-cell only	✗
Charger – CN3302	USB input, 2-cell support, safe charging	Slightly higher cost	✓

Final decision:

- **Input and Output Battery: LIR2450 Coin Cell and 2×18650 Pack**
- **For Battery charging : CN3302**



Servo Motor Regulators

Option	Pros	Cons	Final Choice
MP9928GF-Z	90% efficiency, handles motor spikes, ~3A+ to use	Large and more complex to implement	✗
XC6204B502MR-G	Flexible voltage options	Cannot supply motor currents (<1A)	✗
MP2338	>90% efficiency, up to ~3A	Near limits under motor transients	✗
LM2596	High efficiency, handles up to 3 A for motor loads, easy to adjust	Bulkier module compared to an LDO	✓

- **Final decision: LM2596**



Input and Output Regulators

Option	Pros	Cons	Final Choice
MCP1700T-3302 (Input Board)	Ultra-low quiescent current ($\sim 1.6 \mu\text{A}$); simple LDO; great for coin-cell battery life	Max 250 mA; not suitable for heavier peripherals	✓
LD33V (Output Board)	Up to $\sim 800 \text{ mA}$; stable 3.3 V for ESP32 + display; easy to integrate	Higher quiescent current ($\sim 6 \text{ mA}$); less efficient than a buck	✓
AMS1117-3.3 (Alternative)	Cheap, widely available; up to 1 A	High dropout ($\sim 1.1 \text{ V}$) and runs hot under load	✗
XC6204B-series (Alternative)	Compact, low noise, simple BOM	Limited output current ($< 1 \text{ A}$) and protection features	✗

Final decision:

- **Input regulator: MCP1700T-3302**
- **Output Regulator: LD33V**



Final Hardware Summary

Subsystem	Final Choice	Why
Power	LIR2450 + 2×18650 + LM2596 + CN3302	Light, efficient, safe
Mouthpiece	Goyo Night Guard	Comfortable, sleek, hidden
Sensor	RP-S5 Force Sensor	Simple, reliable, safe
Actuator	MG996R Servo	High torque, fast, affordable
MCU	ESP32	Wi-Fi + Bluetooth, flexible, low power



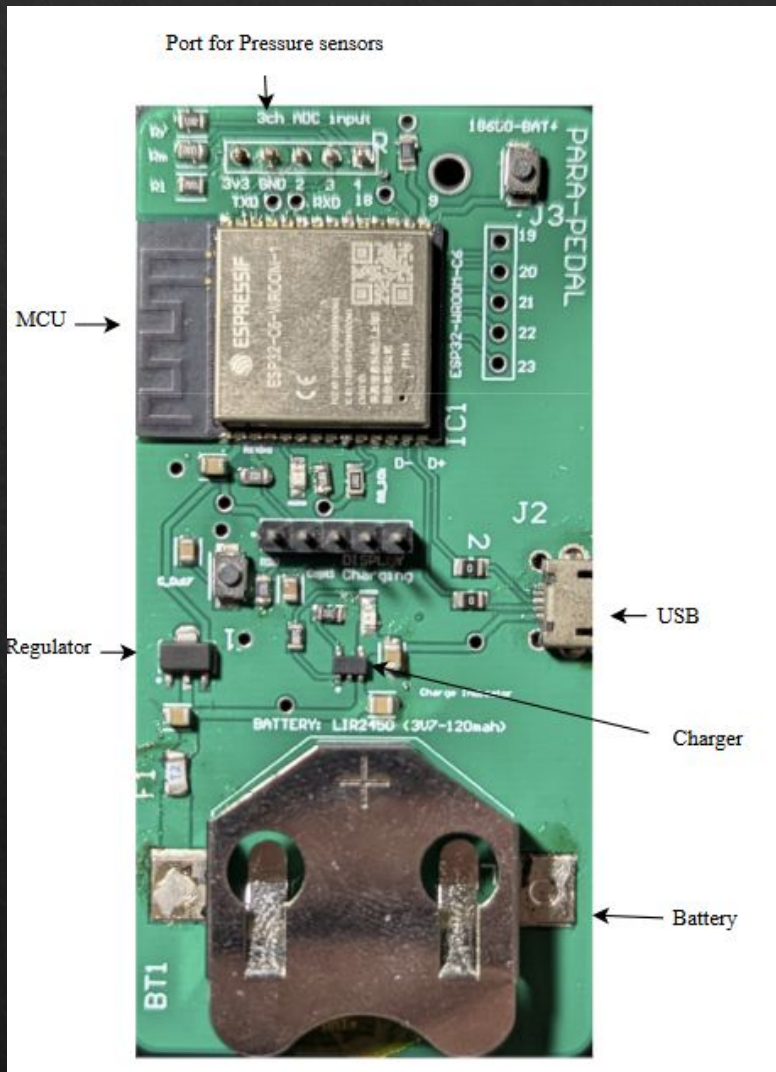
User Input Board

Primary Function

- ◆ To sense the user input
- ◆ Transmit this data to the output controller

Main Components

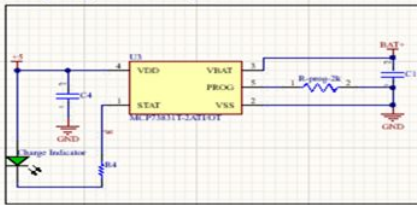
- ◆ MCU :ESP32 - C6
- ◆ Battery :LIR2450 120mah
- ◆ Charger: MCP73831T
- ◆ Regulator: MCP1700T



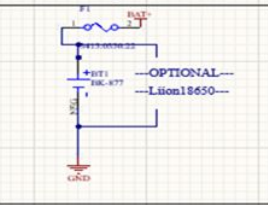
User Input Power Regulation and Control

Power Path

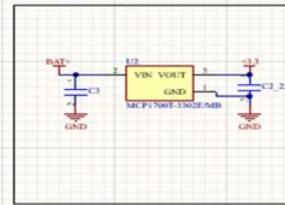
Battery Charger IC - 5V USB input



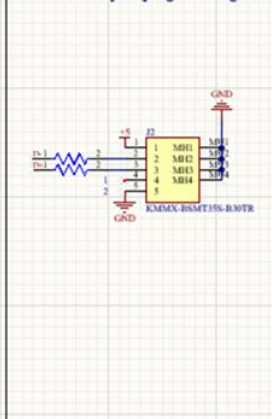
1S Lithium Battery LIP2450 or 18650



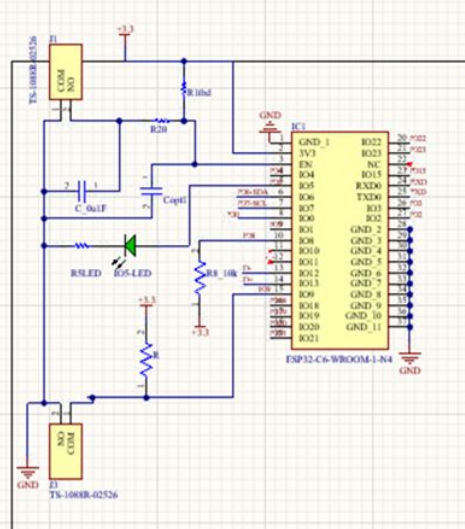
+3.3V Regulator



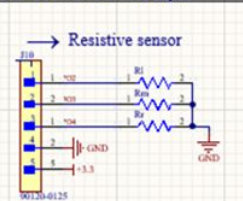
MICROUSB input (programming and charging)



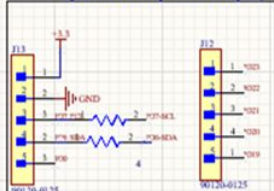
MCU (ESP32-WROOM-C6)



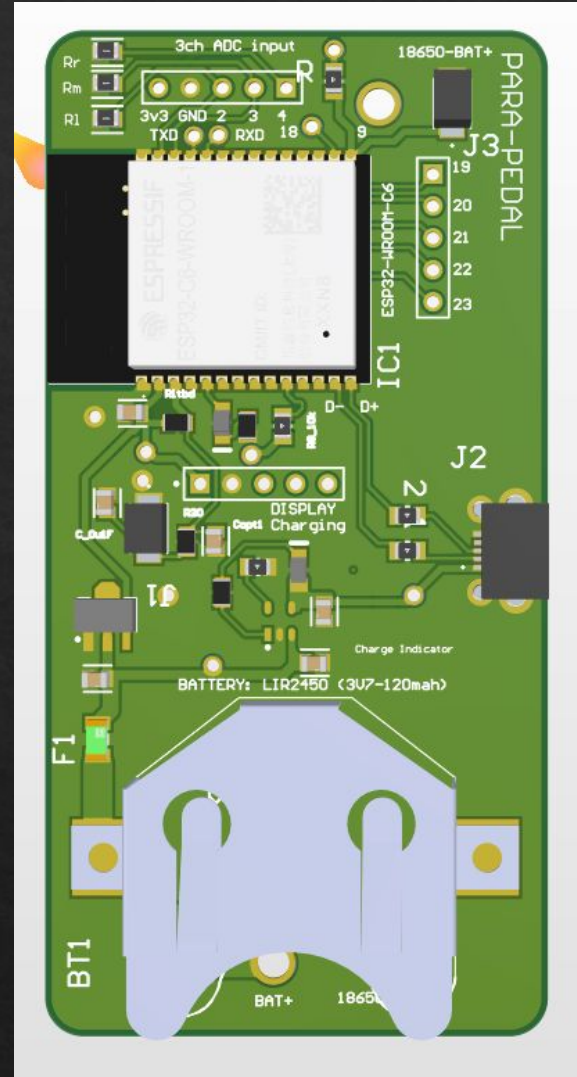
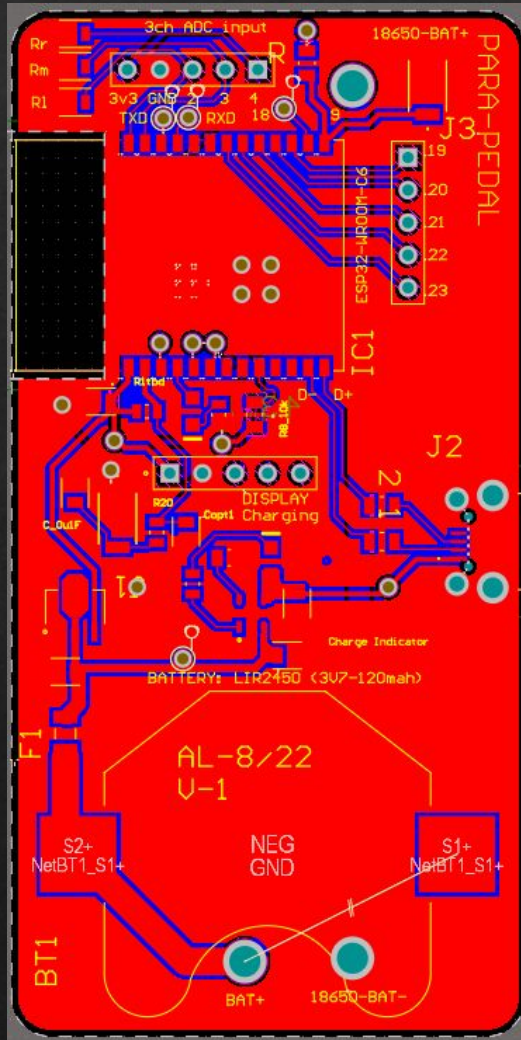
3ch -Pressures sensor Input



Spare GPIO/optional Display



User Input Layout



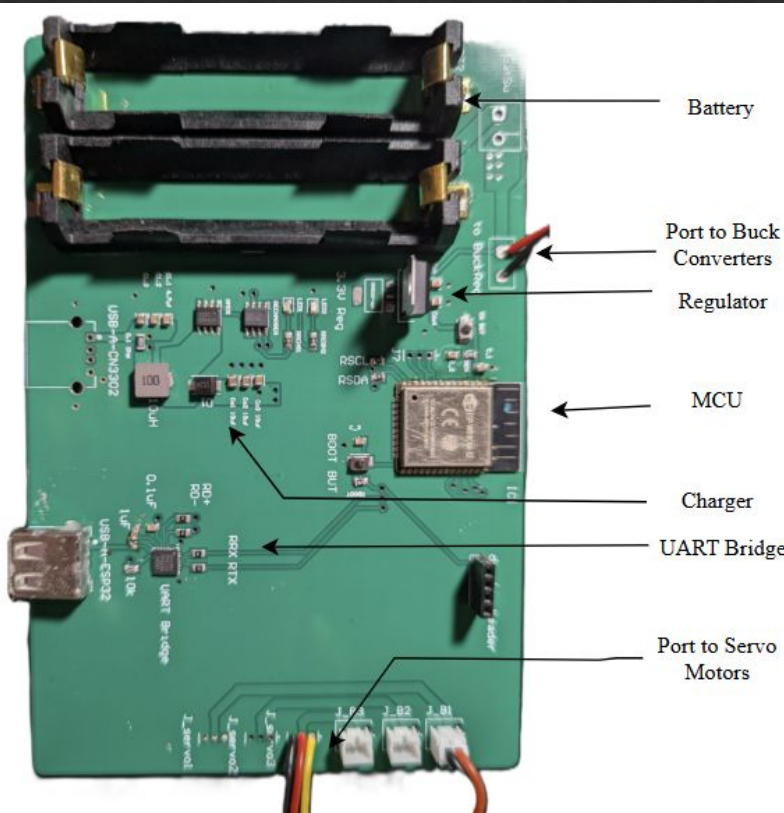
Output Board

Primary function

- ◆ to receive data wirelessly from input board
- ◆ Output PWM to the servo for actuation

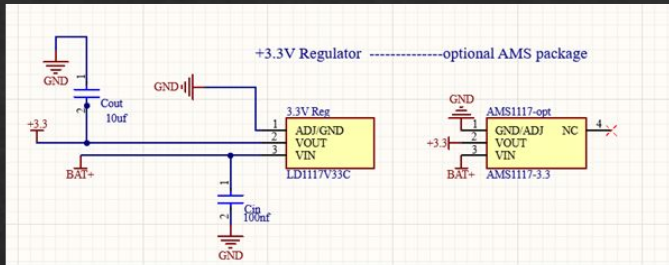
Main Components

- ◆ MCU :ESP32 -32E
- ◆ Battery :2 X 18650 2200mah
- ◆ Charger: CN3302
- ◆ Regulator: LD-33V

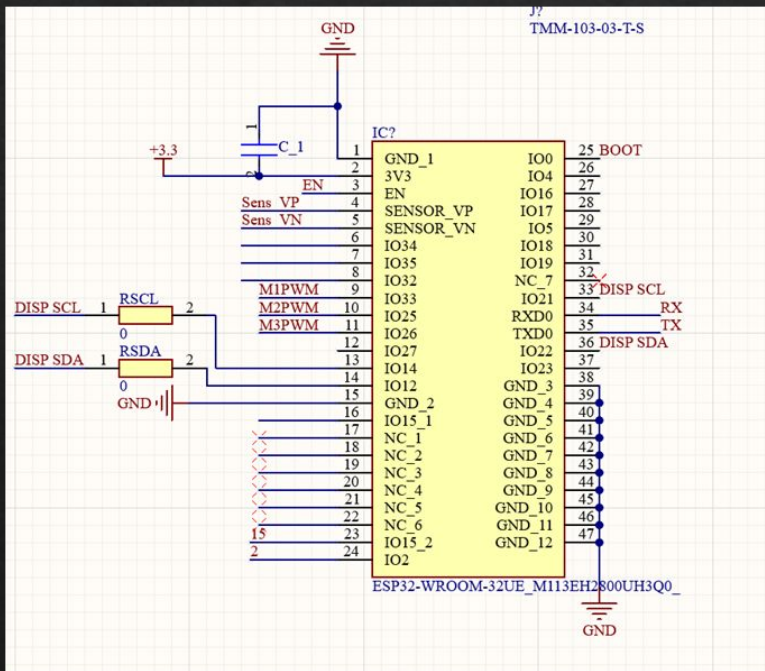


Output board Power management and control

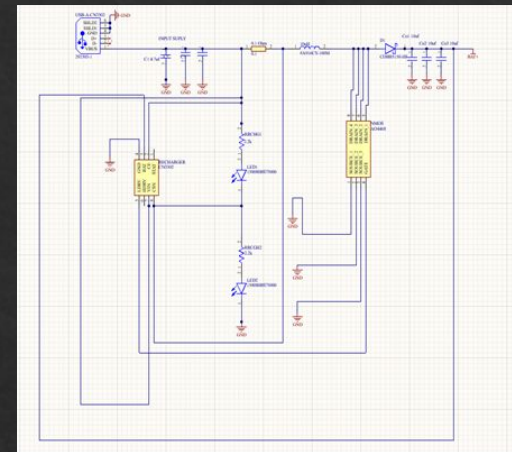
7.4V to 3.3V regulator



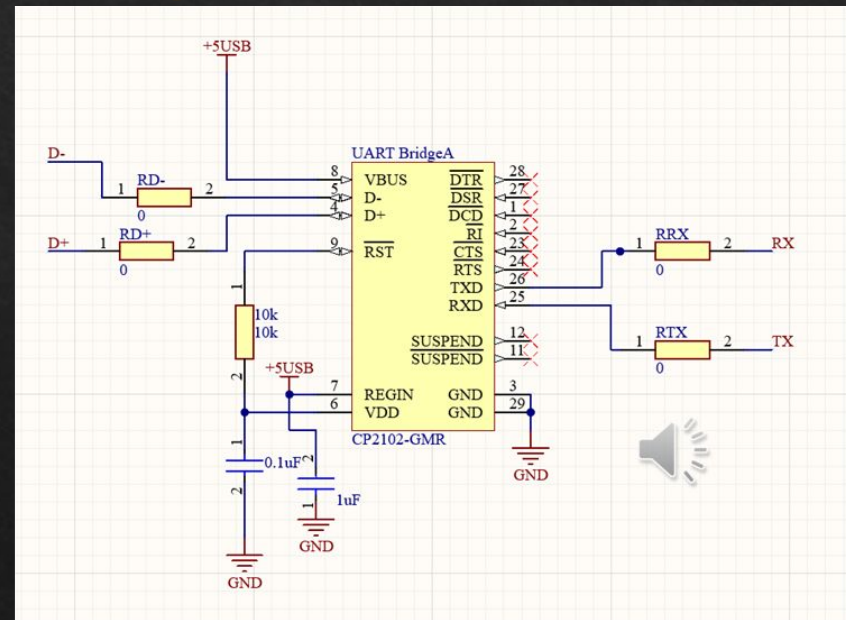
MCU: ESP 32 - WROOM

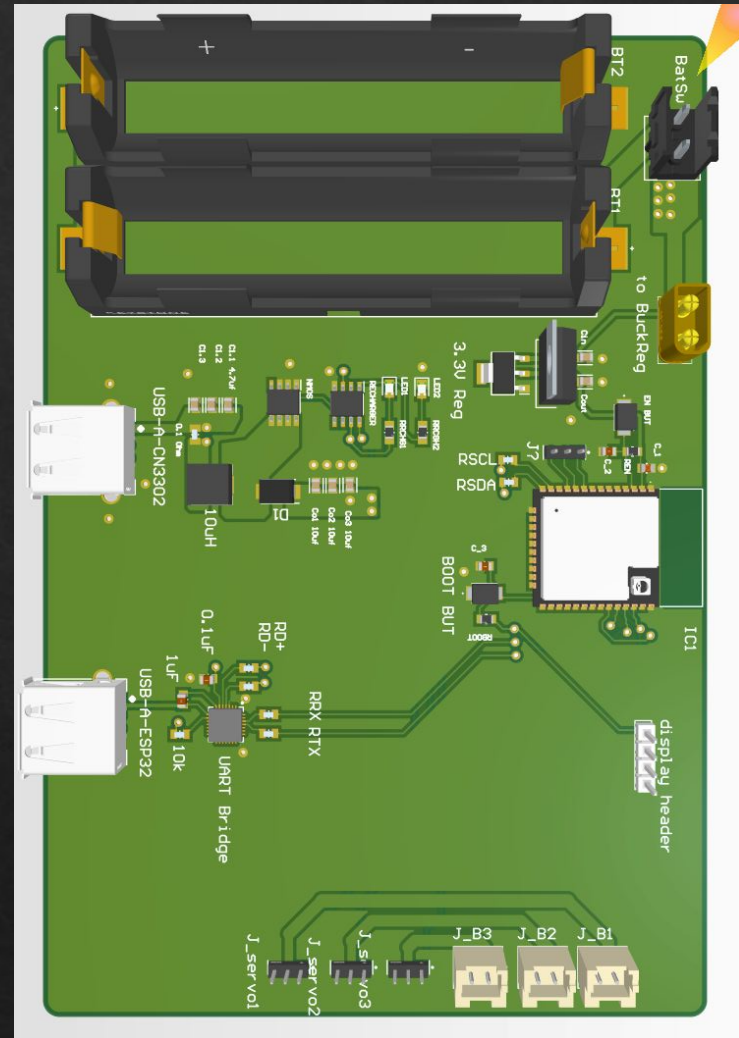


2S Lithium battery charger



UART Bridge :CP2102





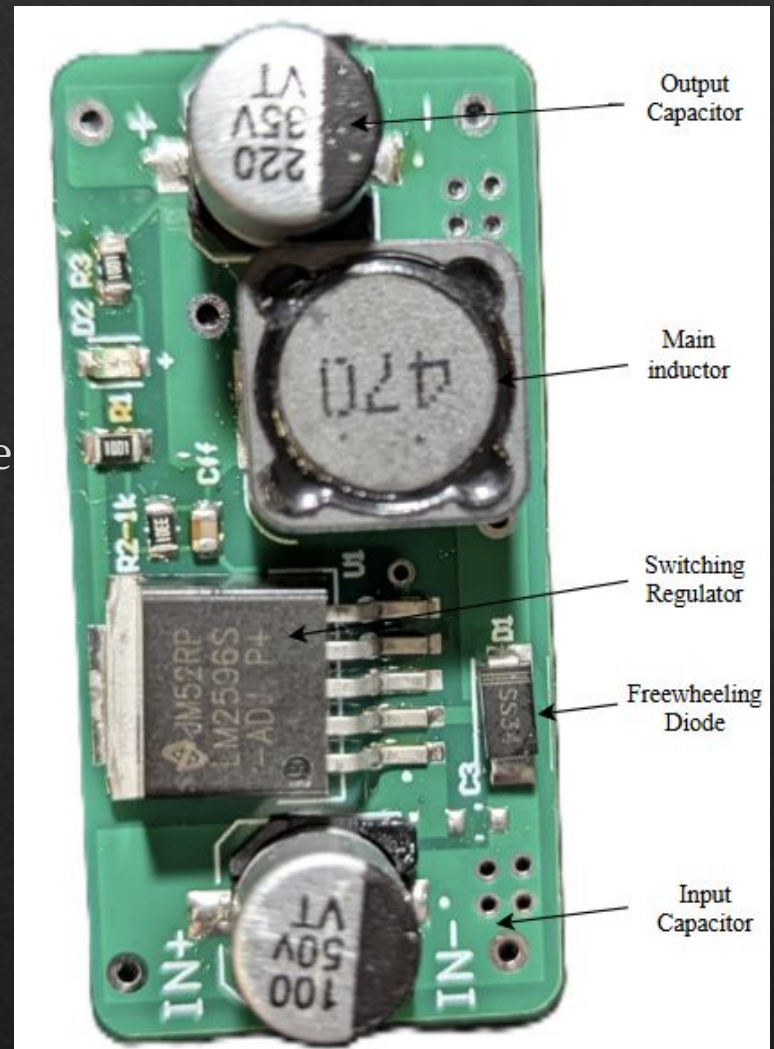
Servo Buck Converter

Primary function

- ◆ Provide sufficient current capacity to the Motors at 5V from Battery source
- ◆ Max current = 2.5A

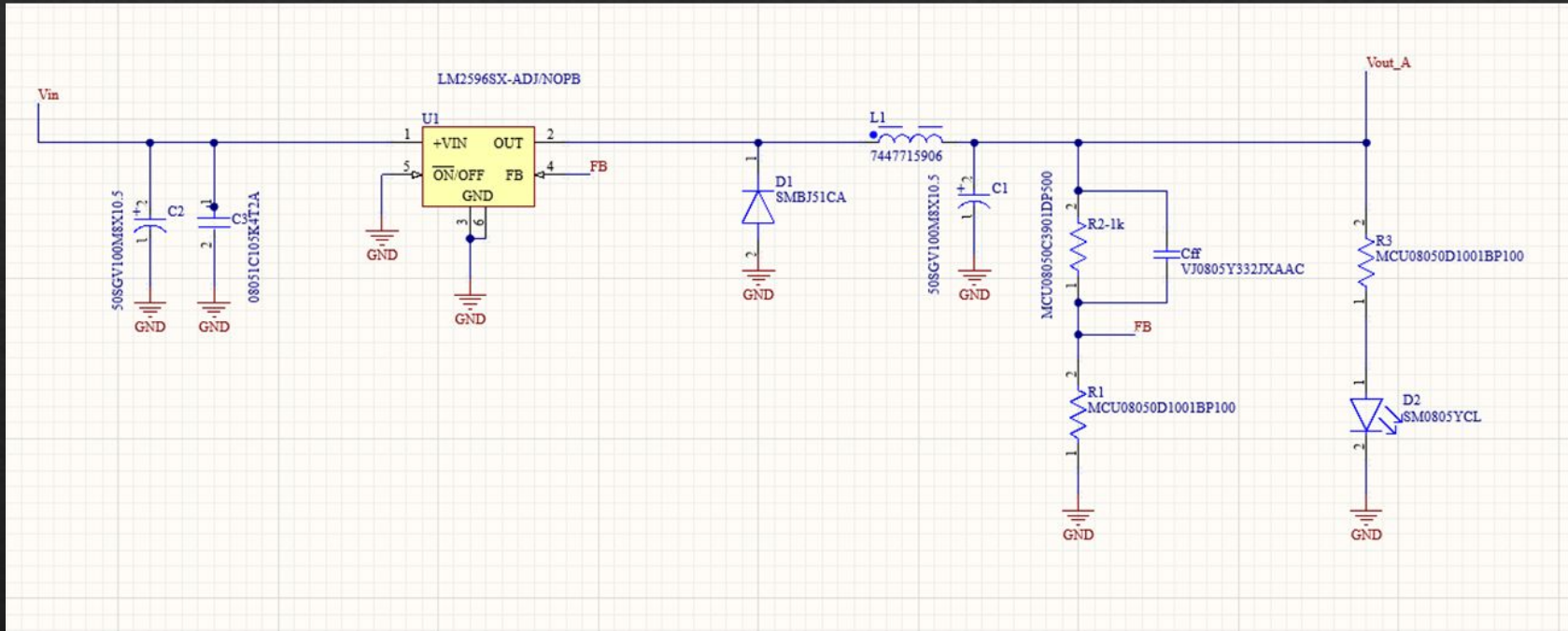
Main Components

- ◆ Buck controller : LM2596-ADJ
- ◆ Freewheeling Diode: SS34
- ◆ Inductor : 47uH

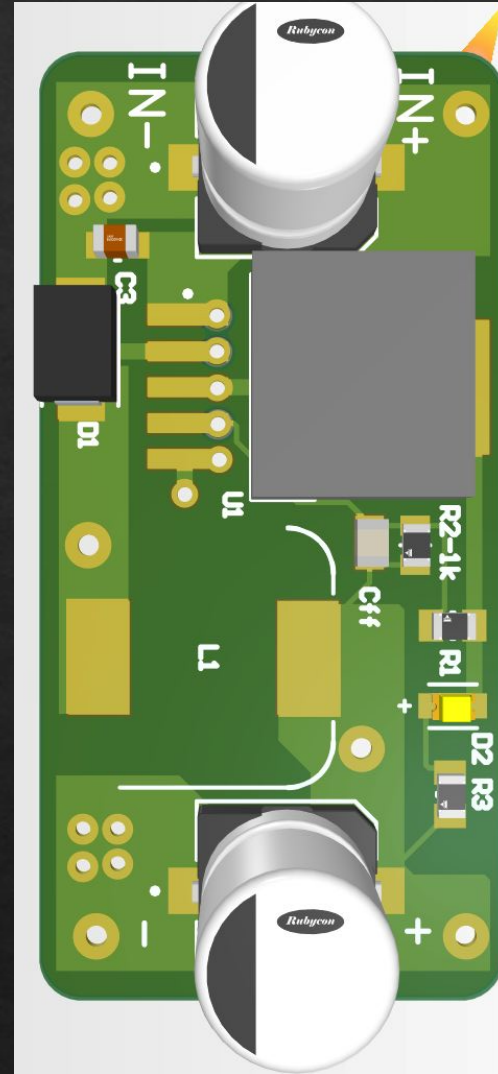
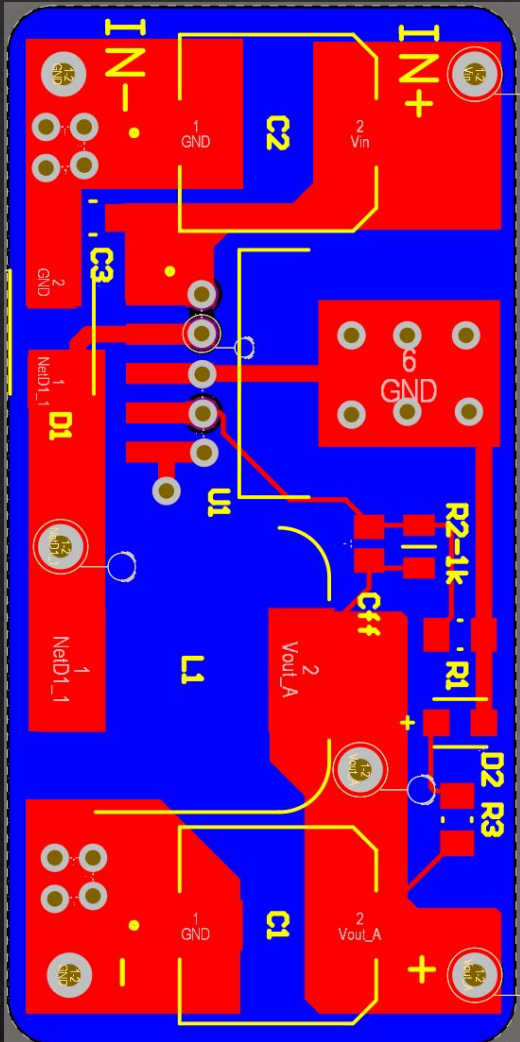


Buck Converter Schematic

Buck Converter: LM2596



Buck converter Layout



Selection of Software



FreeRTOS	Arduino
Good multitasking	Limited multitasking (single-threaded)
Deterministic RTS	Non-deterministic RTS
Good Hardware support	Good Hardware support
High RAM usage	Low overhead
Smaller community libraries	Strong Community libraries



Selection of Software

Python	C++
Vast and easy to use ecosystem	Complex Syntax
Better memory management	User-managed memory
Slower communication	Faster communication
Abstract hardware access	Direct Hardware control
Higher memory usage	Lower memory usage

Selection of Communication Protocols

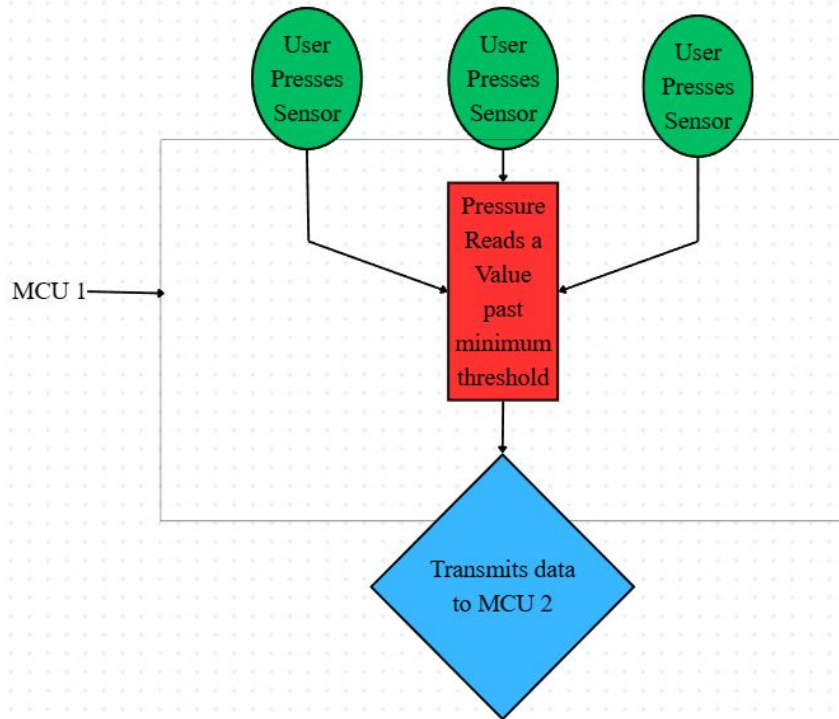
Wired	Wifi	Bluetooth	ESP-now
Great complex protocol handling	Great complex protocol handling	Ok complex protocol handling	Poor complex protocol handling
Range limited by wire size	Longer range 50-100m	Short range 10-40m	Good range 50-100
Great Ability to handle multiple devices	Ok Ability to handle multiple devices	Great Ability to handle multiple devices	Low Ability to handle multiple devices
Good for high throughput	Good for high throughput	Great for short bursts of information	Only small data packets
Medium Power consumption	Higher power consumption	Low power consumption	Lower power consumption
Little to no Latency	High Latency	Ok Latency	Low Latency



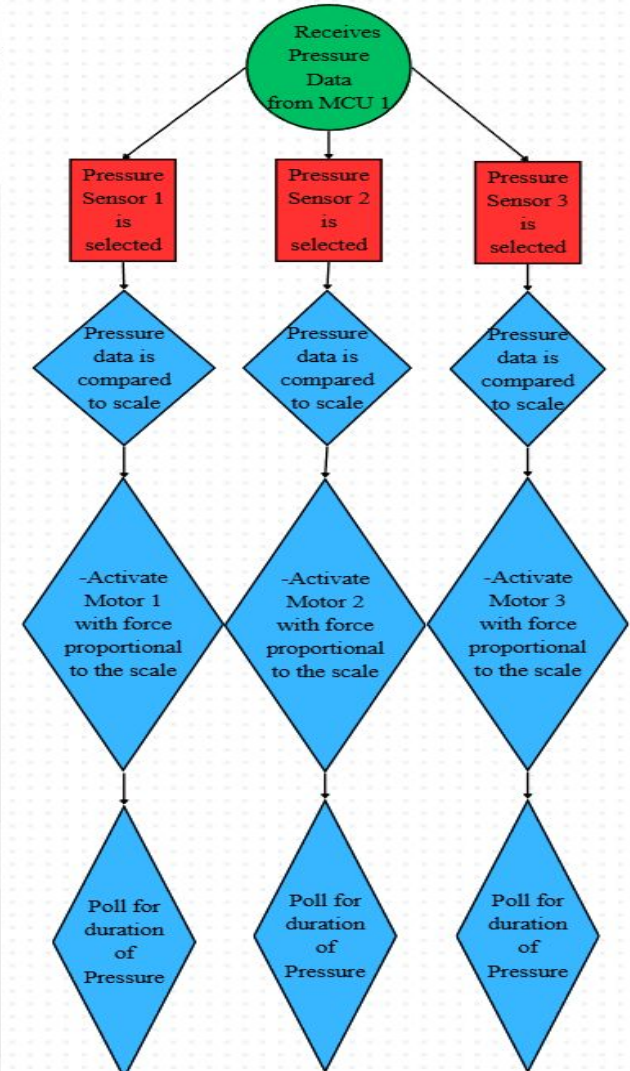
Software design



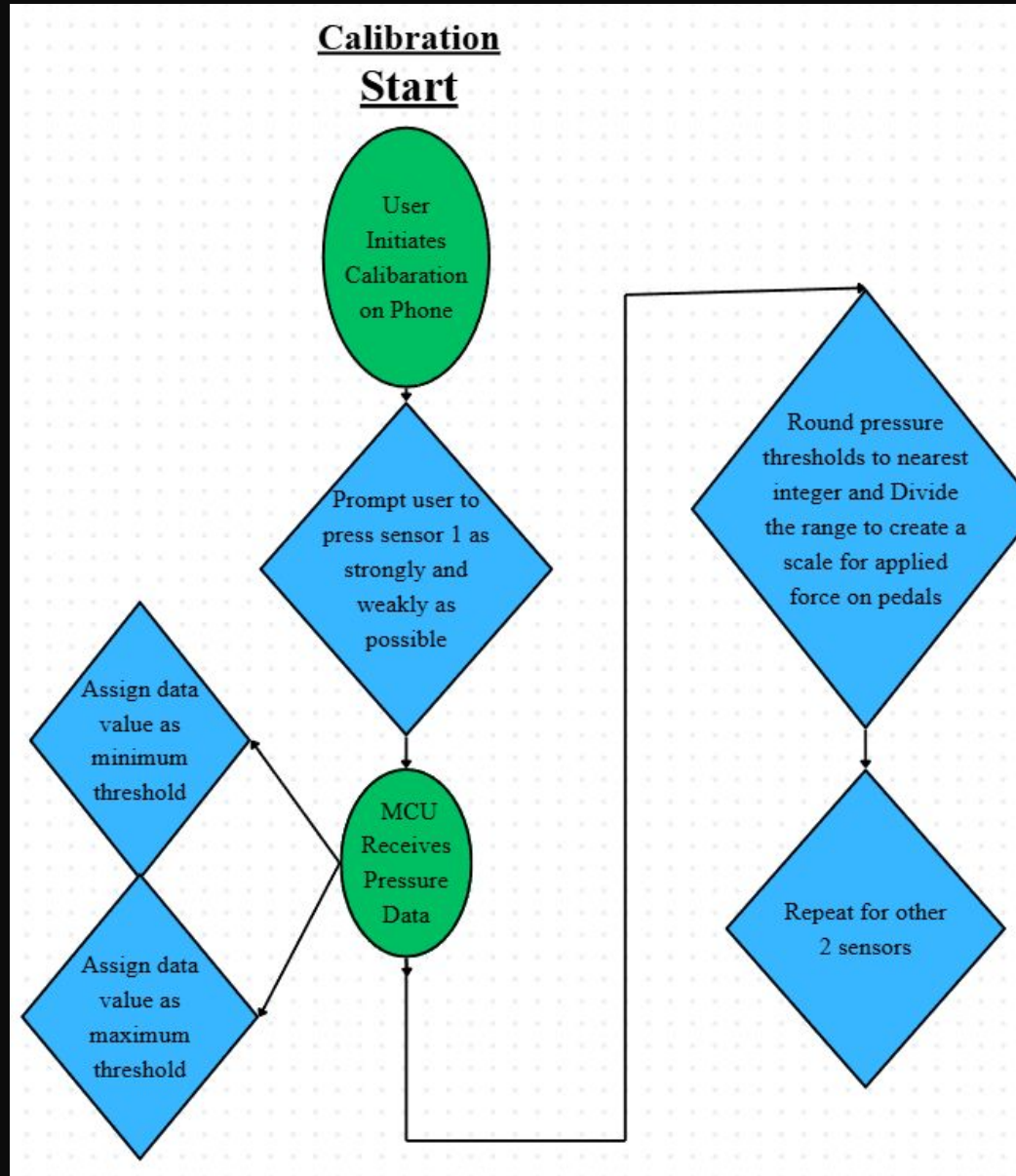
Mouthpiece with 3 Dynamic Sensors



MCU 2 →



Software design



Testing

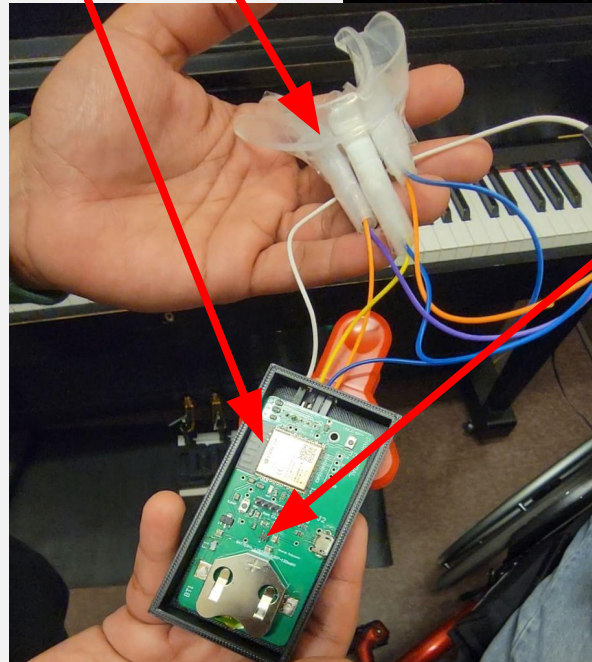
- **Functional Testing:** Verifying if the system fulfills specifications and requirements for both hardware and software.
- **Quantitative Benchmarks:** Confirming a ≤ 2 s response time, ≥ 4 m wireless communication range, ≥ 1 hr battery life, and regulator testing at maximum load(5V, 3A).
- **User Experience Evaluation:** Feedback from our teammate Benedict who has paraplegia in terms of comfort, usability, and ease of learning.

ESP-NOW
Communication

Pressure
Sensors

Recharging
Units

Regulator
Array



Control Software Testing

- The PWM generation system was tested by simulating sensor input values via software variables.
- Motor responded with a 500ms average, transitioning smoothly between “pedal on” and “pedal off” states.
- Logic loop and signal pathways from the controller to the servos proven functional.



```
22 static const char *TAG = "PRESSURE_STREAM";
23
24 // --- Pins (ESP32-C6, GPIO2/3/4 are ADC-capable) ---
25 #define CHM_GPIO2 2 // Sensor 1
26 #define CHM_GPIO3 3 // Sensor 2
27 #define CHM_GPIO4 4 // Sensor 3
28
29 // --- Streaming rate & averaging ---
30 #define STREAM_DELAY 10
31 #define STREAM_DELAY_PWM5_TO_TICKS(1000 / STREAM_HZ)
32 #define AVG_SAMPLES 32
33
34 // --- Wi-Fi / ESP-NOW ---
35 #define WIFI_CHANNEL 1 // Set same channel on sender/receiver
36 static const uint_t PEER_MAC[6] = { 0x78, 0x1C, 0x3C, 0xCB, 0xD0, 0xFB }; // <-- REPLACE with receiver's STA MAC
37
38 static adc_oneshot_unit_handle_t adc1;
39 static adc_cal_handle_t cali = NULL;
40 static bool cali_enabled = false;
41
42 /* ----- Payload ----- */
43 typedef struct __attribute__((packed)) {
44     uint32_t ms;
45     int16_t v0;
46     int16_t v1;
47     int16_t v2;
48     int16_t units; // 0 = mV, -1 = raw_counts (negative raw returned)
49 } pressure_pkt_t;
50
51 /* ----- ADC calibration ----- */
52 static bool adc_calibration_init(adc_unit_t unit, adc_atten_t atten, adc_cal_handle_t *out) {
53     adc_cal_handle_t h = NULL;
54     bool ok = false;
55
56     #if ADC_CAL_SCHEME_CURVE_FITTING_SUPPORTED
57     adc_cal_curve_fitting_config_t cfg = { unit_id = unit, atten = atten, bitwidth = ADC_BITWIDTH_DEFAULT };
58     if (adc_cali_create_scheme_curve_fitting(cfg, &h) == ESP_OK) ok = true;
59     #elif ADC_CAL_SCHEME_LINE_FITTING_SUPPORTED
60     adc_cali_line_fitting_config_t cfg = { unit_id = unit, atten = atten, bitwidth = ADC_BITWIDTH_DEFAULT };
61     if (adc_cali_create_scheme_line_fitting(cfg, &h) == ESP_OK) ok = true;
62     #endif
63
64     *out = h;
65     if (ok) ESP_LOGI(TAG, "ADC calibration enabled");
66     else ESP_LOGM(TAG, "ADC calibration not available; printing raw counts if needed");
67     return ok;
68 }
```

Input Board code

```
99 void calibration_task(void *arg);
100
101 // ----- Initialization -----
102 // -----
103
104 void init_wifi() {
105     Serial.println("Initializing Wi-Fi (AP+STA)...");
106     WiFi.mode(WIFI_AP_STA);
107     if (strlen(AP_PASSPHRASE) == 0) WiFi.softAP(AP_SSID, nullptr, WIFI_CHANNEL);
108     else WiFi.softAP(AP_SSID, AP_PASSPHRASE, WIFI_CHANNEL);
109     WiFi.begin(); // start STA interface without connecting - required for esp-now mac access
110     delay(200);
111     WiFi.macAddress(&s_sta_mac);
112     IPAddress apIP = WiFi.softAPIP();
113     Serial.printf("AP IP %s CH %d\n", AP_SSID, apIP.toString().c_str(), WIFI_CHANNEL);
114     Serial.printf("MAC: %02X:%02X:%02X:%02X:%02X:%02X\n",
115         s_sta_mac[0], s_sta_mac[1], s_sta_mac[2],
116         s_sta_mac[3], s_sta_mac[4], s_sta_mac[5]);
117 }
118
119 void init_espnow() {
120     Serial.println("Initializing ESP-NOW...");
121     if (esp_now_init() != ESP_OK) {
122         Serial.println("ESP-NOW init failed");
123         return;
124     }
125     esp_now_register_recv_cb(espnow_recv_cb);
126     Serial.println("ESP-NOW ready");
127 }
128
129 void init_pwm() {
130     Serial.println("Initializing PWM...");
131     ledcSetup(PWM_CH0, PWM_FREQ, PWM_RESOLUTION);
132     ledcAttachPin(PWM_CH0, PWM_FREQ, PWM_RESOLUTION);
133     ledcSetup(PWM_CH1, PWM_FREQ, PWM_RESOLUTION);
134     ledcAttachPin(PWM_CH1, PWM_FREQ, PWM_RESOLUTION);
135     ledcSetup(PWM_CH2, PWM_FREQ, PWM_RESOLUTION);
136     ledcAttachPin(PWM_CH2, PWM_FREQ, PWM_RESOLUTION);
137     ledcAttachPin(PWM_CH0, PWM_FREQ, PWM_RESOLUTION);
138     // Initialize to middle position
139     ledcWrite(PWM_CH0, map_adc_to_pwm_calibrated(0, 0));
140     ledcWrite(PWM_CH1, map_adc_to_pwm_calibrated(0, 1));
141     ledcWrite(PWM_CH2, map_adc_to_pwm_calibrated(0, 2));
142     Serial.println("PWM ready");
143 }
144
145 void init_display() {
146     Serial.println("Initializing display...");
147 }
```

Output Board code

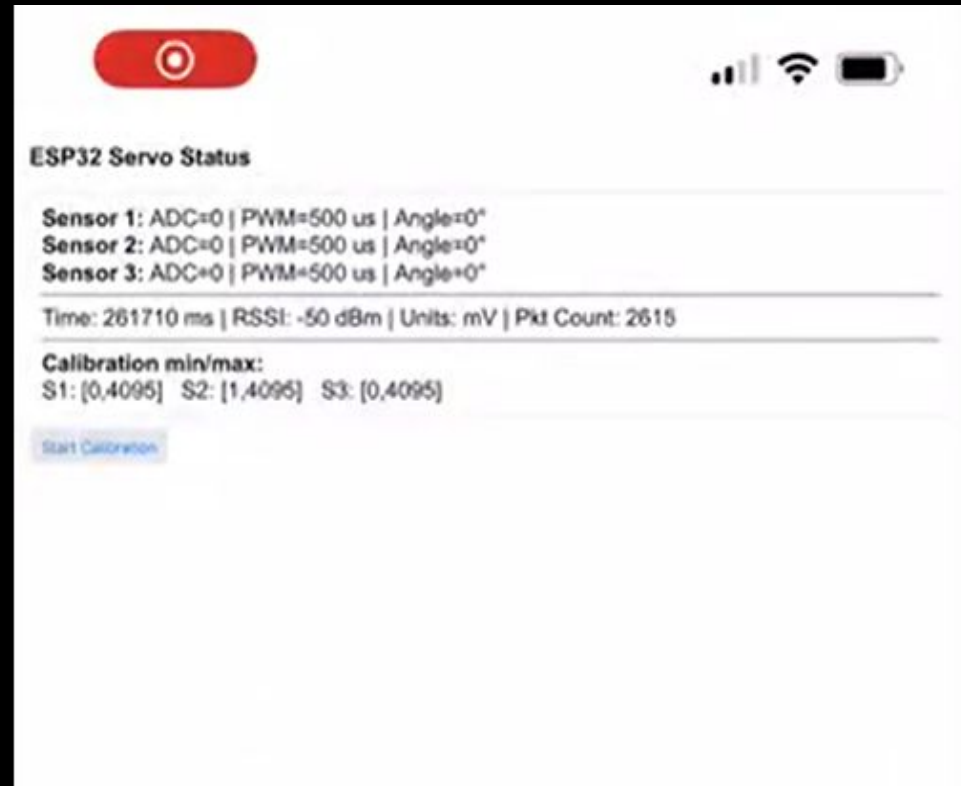
Functions Display Web-interface code

```
267 void handleBoot() {
268     String html = R"rawliteral(
269     <!doctype html>
270     <html>
271     <head>
272     <meta charset="utf-8"><title>ESP32 Servo Status & Calibration</title>
273     <style>
274     body{font-family:Arial;margin:10px;
275     .card{border:1px solid #ddd;padding:12px;border-radius:8px;margin-bottom:10px}
276     button{padding:8px 12px;font-size:16px;border-radius:6px;
277     .counter{font-weight:bold}
278     </style>
279     </head>
280     <body>
281     <h2>ESP32 Servo Status</h2>
282     <div id="status" class="card">Loading...</div>
283     <button id="calBtn">Start Calibration</button>
284     <div id="calInfo" class="card" style="display:none"></div>
285
286     <script>
287     async function fetchStatus(){
288         try {
289             const res = await fetch('/status');
290             const j = await res.json();
291             const s = document.getElementById('status');
292             if(!j.have_packet) {
293                 s.innerHTML = '<i>No packet yet</i>';
294             } else {
295                 let html = '';
296                 html += <div><b>Sensor 1:</b><b> ADC</b>:'+j.v0+' | PWM:'+j.pwm_us+' us | Angle:'+j.angle1+'</div>;
297                 html += <div><b>Sensor 2:</b><b> ADC</b>:'+j.v1+' | PWM:'+j.pwm_us+' us | Angle:'+j.angle1+'</div>;
298                 html += <div><b>Sensor 3:</b><b> ADC</b>:'+j.v2+' | PWM:'+j.pwm_us+' us | Angle:'+j.angle2+'</div>;
299                 html += <div>';
300                 html += <div>Time: '+j.ms+' ms | RSSI: '+j.rssi+' dBm</div>;
301                 html += <div>';
302                 html += <div>';
303                 html += <div><b>Calibration min/max</b>:'+j.min+'<b>'+j.max+'</div>;
304                 html += <div>S1: ['+j.min+', '+j.max+'] 6nsec; S2: ['+j.min+', '+j.max+'] 6nsec; S3: ['+j.min+', '+j.max+']</div>;
305                 s.innerHTML = html;
306             }
307
308             // Show calibration info if active
309             const ci = document.getElementById('calInfo');
310             if(j.calibration_active) {
311                 ci.style.display = 'block';
312                 s.innerHTML = <b>Calibration active</b><b>Press sensor: <b>Sensor '+j.current_sensor1+'</b><b>Seconds left: <span class="counter">'+j.seconds_left+'</span>;
313             } else {
314                 ci.style.display = 'none';
315             }
316         } catch (e) {
317             console.log(e);
318         }
319     }
320 }
```

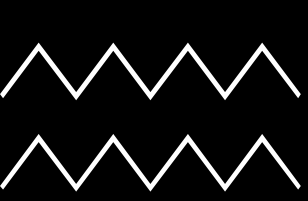
Calibration Testing



- The test was initiated by activating the "setup mode" button on the device's web page.
- During the subsequent 5-second automated sampling period, the user applied minimal and maximal tongue pressure to each of the three sensors,
- Upon completion measured ADC value ranges were stored as the new operational thresholds.
- To confirm, post-calibration inputs were applied to the mouthguard. The servo motors were observed to actuate with a full and proportional range of motion in direct response to the newly calibrated pressure inputs, confirming the calibration process was successful.



[CalibrationTest.mov](#)



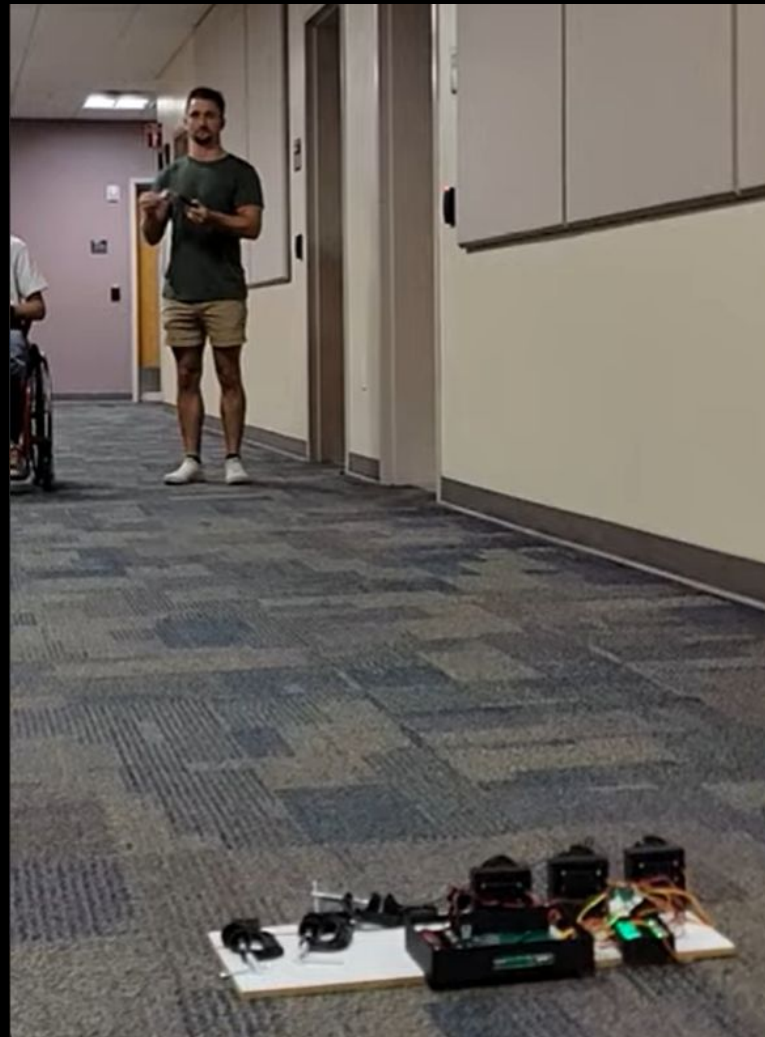
Software Bugs & Solutions



- **Problem 1:** Wasn't able to transmit the full range of the users' input.
- **Solution:** Replaced ADC_6db with ADC_11db, increasing our sensor voltage from 1.1V to 3.3V.
- **Problem 2:** Servo Motor twitching, nearly unresponsive.
- **Solution:** Decreased the PWM frequency from 80Hz to 50Hz.
- **Problem 3:** Insufficient motor torque for the final output setup
- **Solution:** Increased regulator output from 5V to 6V by replacing feedback resistor

Communication Range Testing

- The motor was consistently actuated from the input device and an increasing range.
- The motor consistently actuated with a delay of below 1s at 5m at beyond
- These results exceeded our system requirements for communication range



<https://youtube.com/shorts/2e0glyle1Q8>

Battery Life Testing

- Input board:
 - Output board connected to a DC power supply.
 - Constant data transmission with the Output Board to consistently drain the battery.
 - Batteries dropped from 4.1V, to 3.6V over 1 hour.

- Output Board:
 - Actuated all three servo motors in sequence consistently
 - Starting voltage was 8.2 V, ending at 8.1V one hour later

Battery Charger Testing

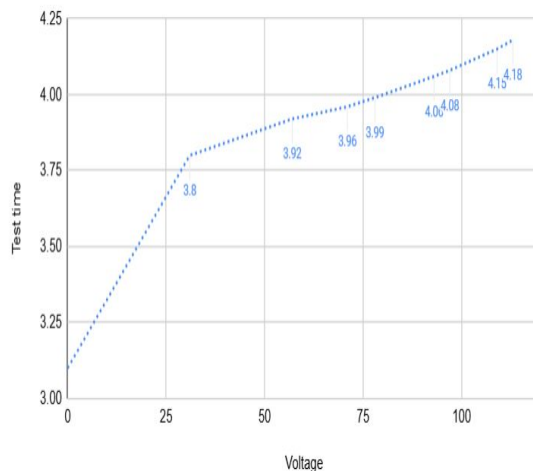


- The Input Board recharged from 3.1V to 4.18V data in 113 minutes.
- The Output Board recharged from 7.44V to 8.11V in 119 minutes.
- The only problem we encountered was replacing BQ25887 recharging unit with a CN3302 unit.

INPUT CHARGING

Voltage	Time	Test time
3.1	3:23	0
3.8	3:54	31
3.92	4:20	57
3.96	4:34	71
3.99	4:41	78
4.06	4:56	93
4.08	5:00	97
4.15	5:12	109
4.18	5:16	113

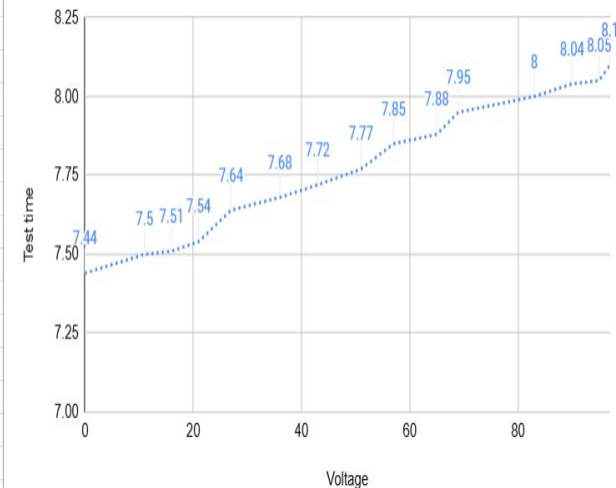
Test Time(minutes) vs. Voltage : Input Charging



OUTPUT CHARGING

Voltage	clock Time	Test time
7.44	5:35	0
7.5	5:46	11
7.51	5:51	16
7.54	5:56	21
7.64	6:02	27
7.68	6:11	36
7.72	6:18	43
7.77	6:26	51
7.85	6:32	57
7.88	6:40	65
7.95	6:44	69
8	6:58	83
8.04	7:05 AM	90
8.05	7:10	95
8.1	7:12	97
8.11	7:34	119

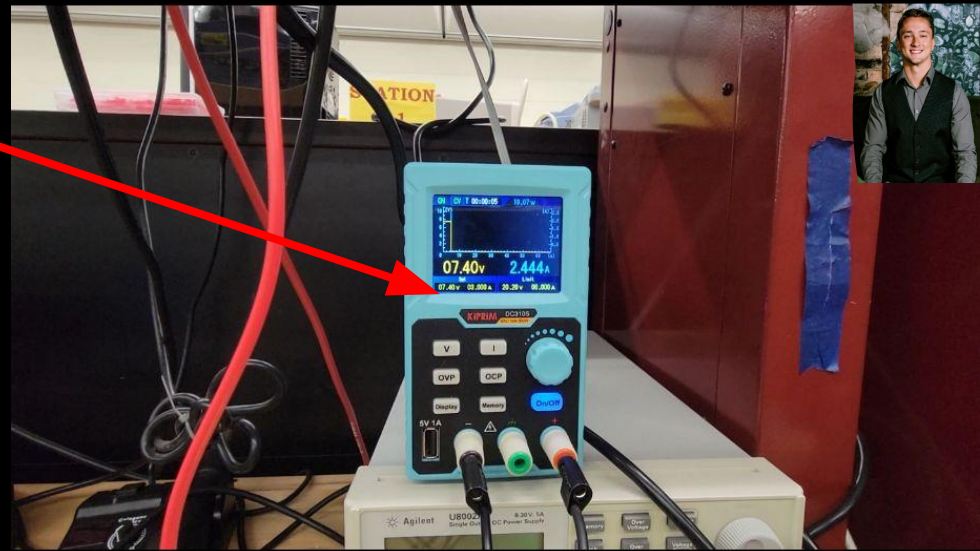
Test Time(minutes) vs. Voltage: Output Charging



7.40V , 2.44A DC
Supply

Regulator Testing

- The buck converter was tested by supplying power through an adjustable DC power supply set to 7.4V and an adjustable load.
- The adjustable load began at 2A, [0.5A above the servo motors' usual current draw (1.5A)].
- The load was slowly increased the Working Load Current for the servos (2.5A).
- The output voltage remained within the acceptable range.



2.5A
Current

5.11V
output

Budget



Budget							
Comment	Description	Designator	Footprint	LibRef	Quantity	Manufacturer Part Number	Cost
MP2338GTL	Battery to 5V Buck				10		\$11.30
MS621FE-FL11E	MS Lihium Rechargeable Battery	Lion Battery?	SEIK-MS621FE-FL11E-2_V	CMP-00029-00000-1	2		\$13.29
ESP32-WROOM-32D	WIFI MODULE 32MBITS SPI FLASH	PeripheralController	FP-ESP32-WROOM-32D-MFG	CMP-194065-000003	1	ESP32-WROOM-32D	\$5.38
Boot Select button	Push Button Normally Opened	S1		Push Button NO	1		\$1.94
CP2102-GMR	Single-Chip USB to URAT Bridge	U?	SLAB-QFN-28-3125x3125TP_M	CMP-2000-04924-1	1		\$8.88
LP2966IMM-1833/NOPB	Dual 150mA Ultra Low-Dropout Regulator	U?	MUA08A_N	CMP-0062-02215-2	10		\$15.40
BQ25887	Battery Manager				2		\$10.00
18650 Battery Case					2		\$9.99
18650 Batteries					2		\$3.00
Satin String Spool					1		\$6.99
Servo Pulley					20		\$3.99
MG996R	Servo Motor				4		\$18.00
RP-S5	Resistive Pressure Sensors				2		\$9.50
Mouthguard					20		\$8.99
						Total Budget	\$122.66

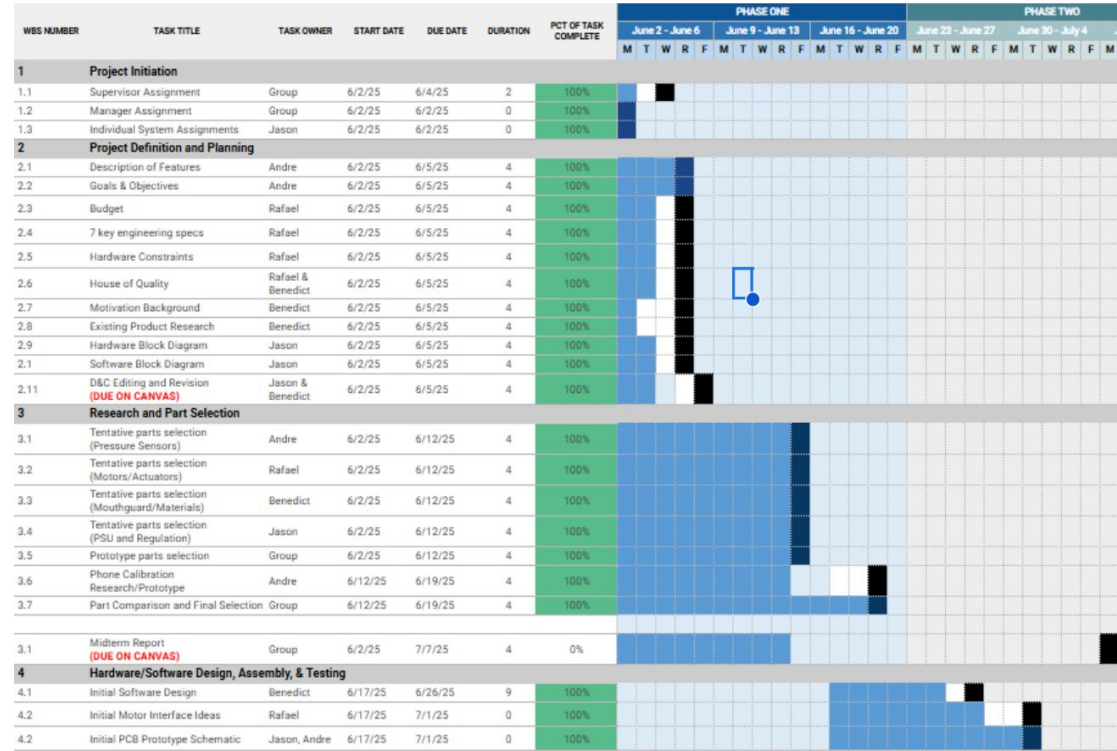
- Compared to our budget expectations, we spent 509% more than expected through R&D at \$624.49 spent in total.
- Removing the R&D expenses, the production cost (without 3D printing cost) we exceeded the budget by 205% at \$251.53 production cost.

Production Cost -w/o 3D printing							
Comment	Description	Designator	Footprint	LibRef	Quantity	Manufacturer Part Number	Cost
Digikey component order	Components				1		\$106.63
JLC PCB order 2	Final Boards				1		\$91.85
MG996R	Motors				3		\$22.00
Mouthguards	Mouthpeices				1		\$9.00
RP-S	Resistive Pressure Sensor				3		\$15.05
Satin String Spool	String				1		\$7.00
						Total Poduction	\$251.53

Work Distributions

Gantt Chart

- While there is a table of work distributions, all members are actively communicating and working on every aspect of development.
- This allows all members to learn about topics we are weak in and teach others about topics within our strong areas.
- The Gantt chart is a more accurate depiction of our work distributions.



Work Distributions

Name	Primary Tasks	Secondary Tasks
Jason	Manager, Power	PCB
Andre	PCB Design	Coding
Rafael	Motors	PCB
Benedict	Coding	PCB



Final Tests & Conclusion



- Finally, our final product met all constraints, with some 3D Printed mechanical adjustments

