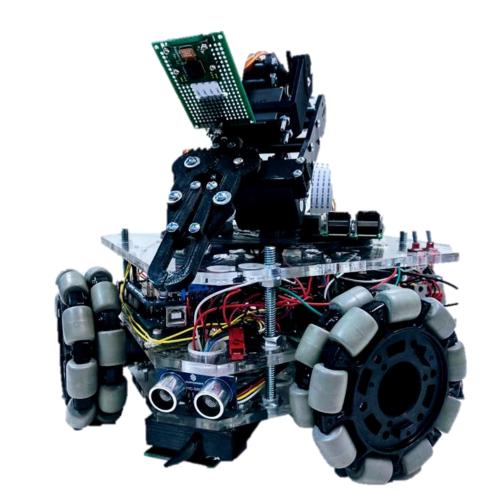
Incorporating Robotics into Electrical Engineering Capstone

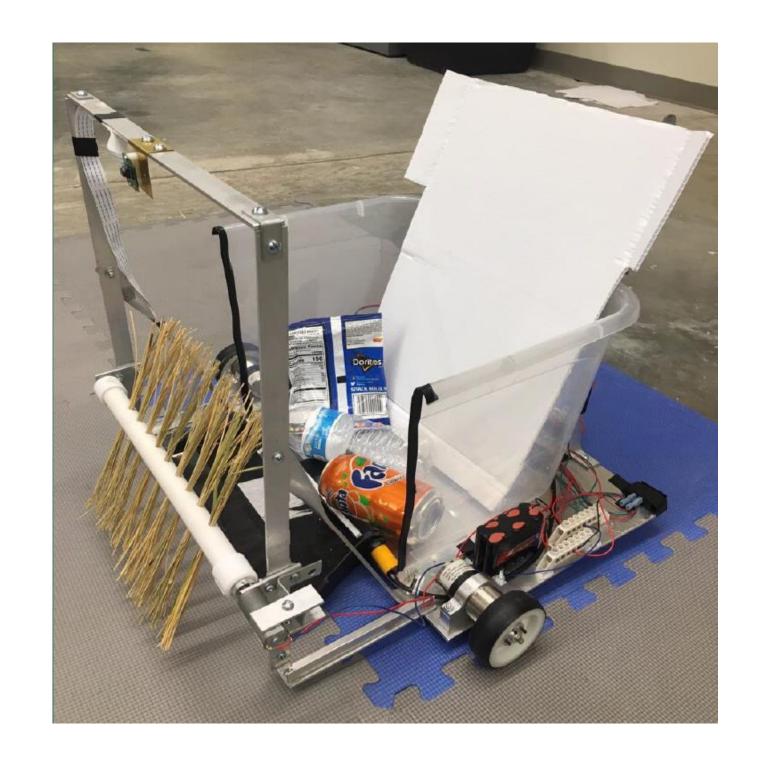
Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

Lee B. Hinkle, Jeffrey Stevens, Mark W. Welker

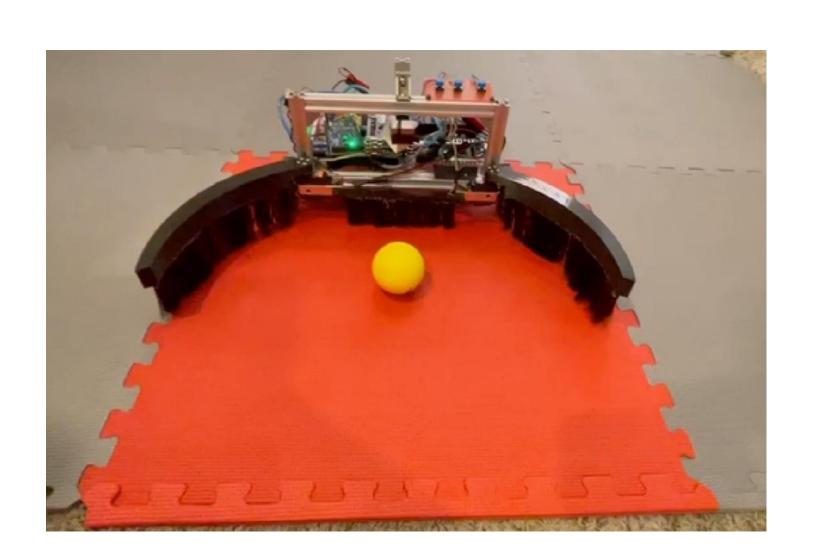




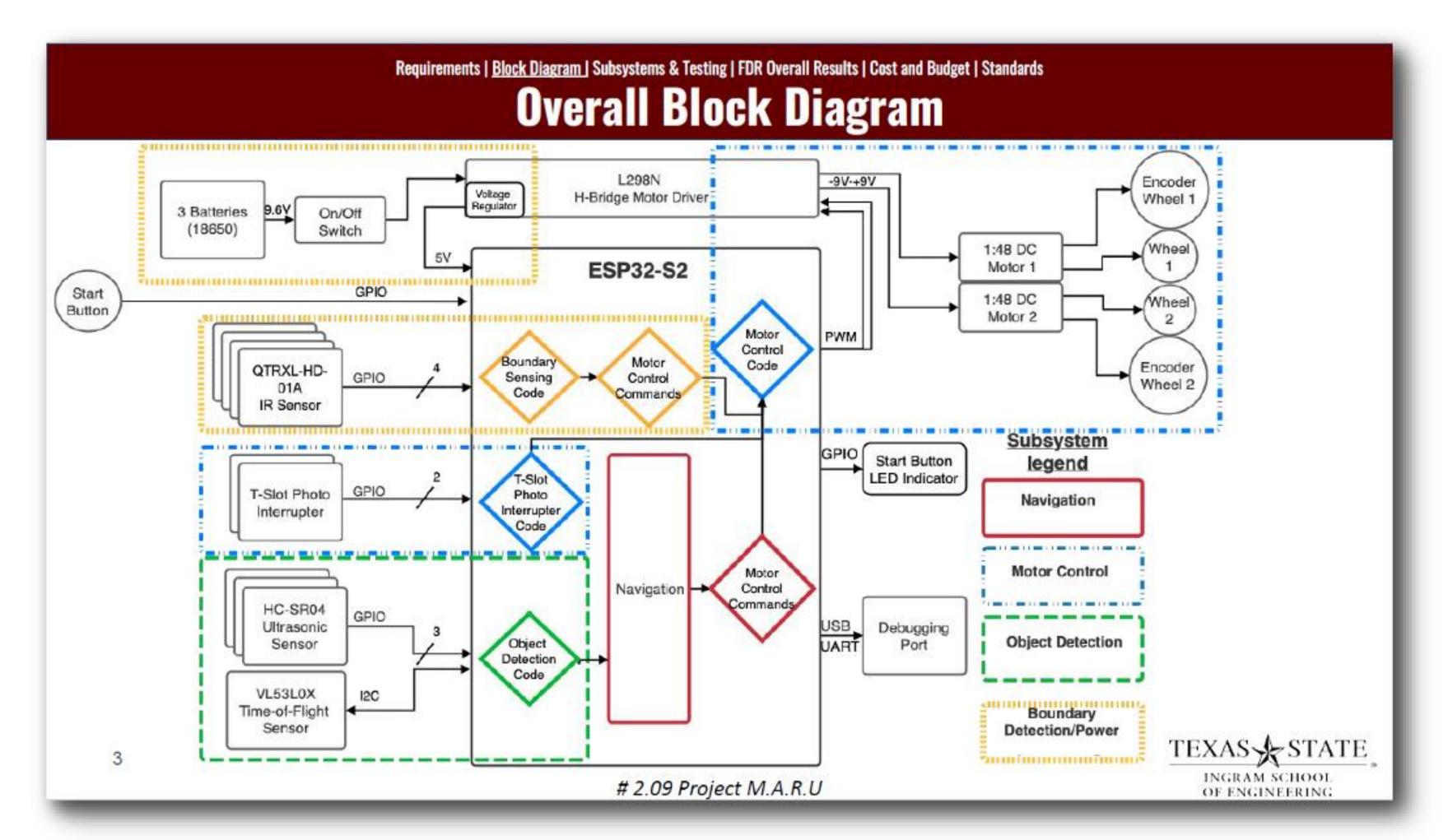
IEEE Region 5 Robotics
Competition 2017
Maze navigation and
object inspection



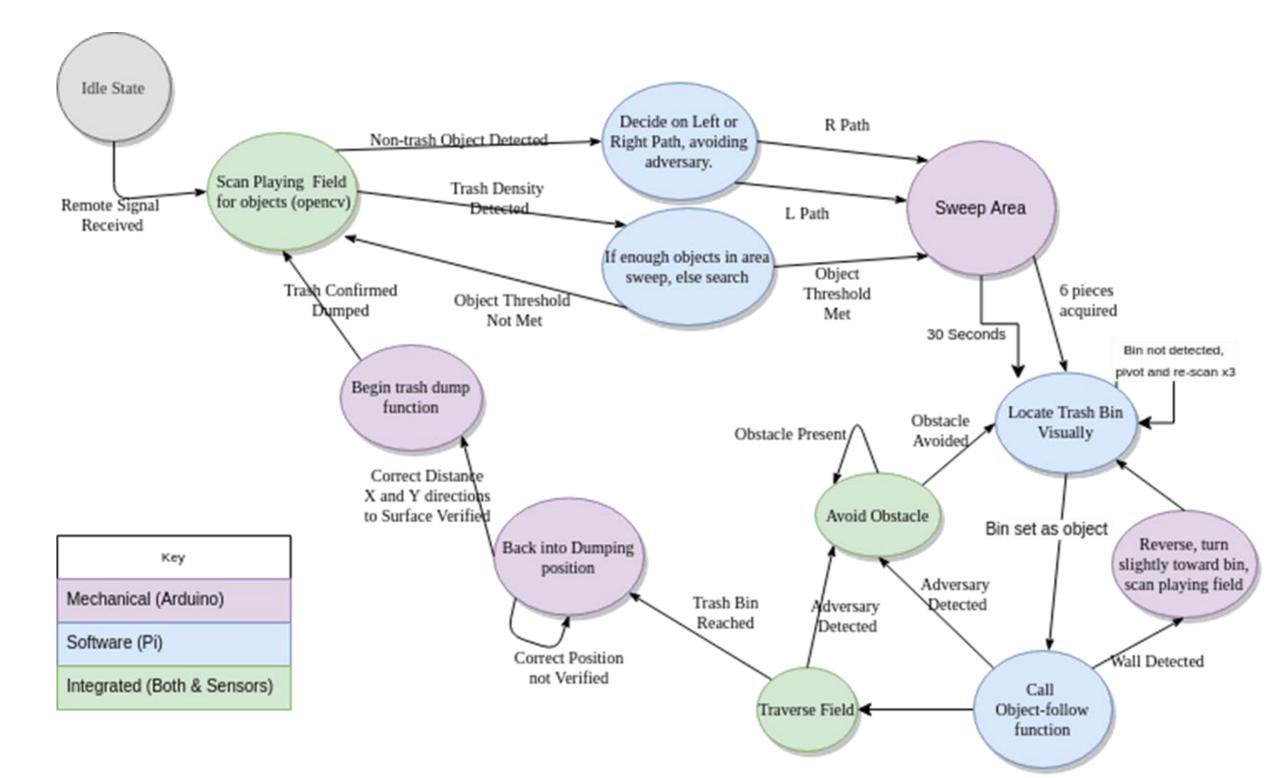
IEEE Region 5 Robotics
Competition 2020
Identify, pick-up, and
dispose of trash



Robo-Fetch 2020 Retrieve a thrown ball



Example FDR Block Diagram – 2022 Sumo Bot



Example FDR Navigation State Machine – 2020 Trash Bot

Key Learnings

Consider mechanical complexity carefully!

- Use partial or inadequate starter kits
- Set clear expectation kits are not enough

Challenging constraints are good (and help w/ ABET)

- Bill-of-Material cost
- Size, weight, battery life

Each student's subsystem must be considered

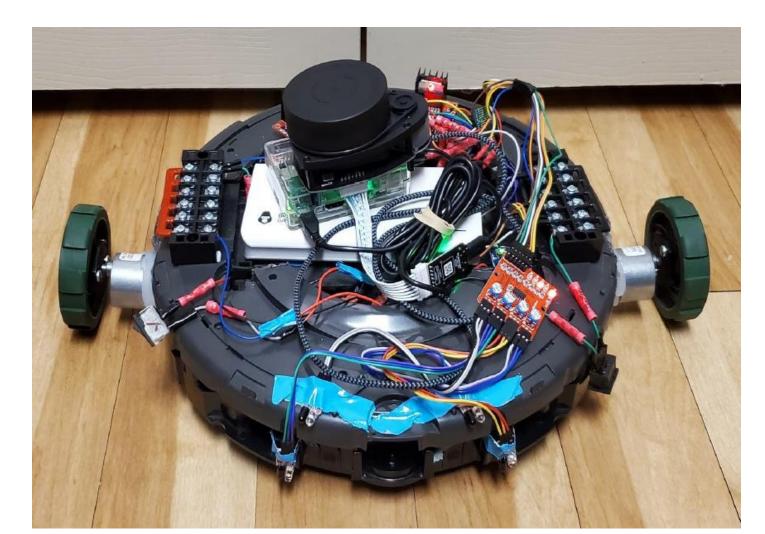
- Subsystems should include HW + SW if possible
- Power...trivial? Navigation...overlooked?
- "Chassis" cannot be only subsystem for an EE Require multiple performance demonstrations

• Increasing in difficulty, ever two comestors

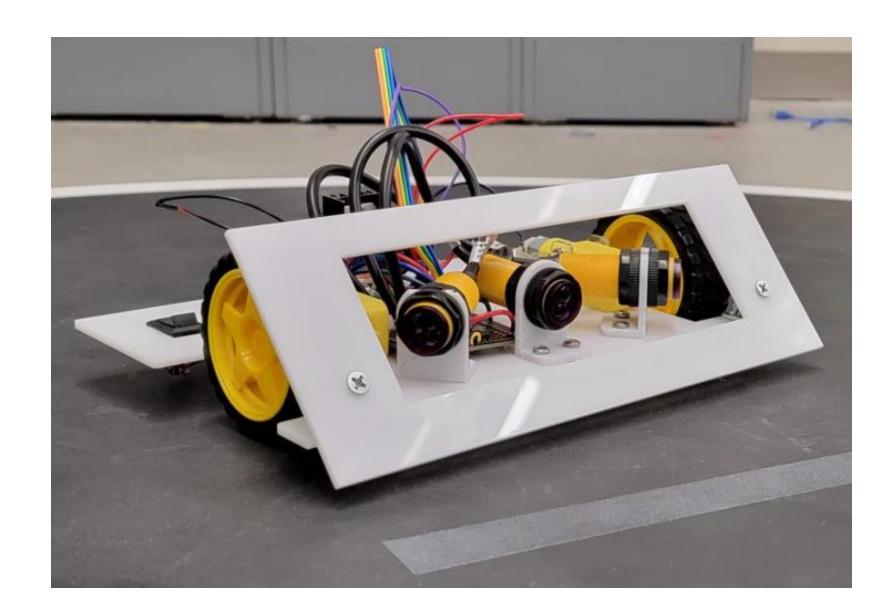
- Increasing in difficulty over two-semesters
- Each subsystem should be exercised

Form multiple teams, each with own design

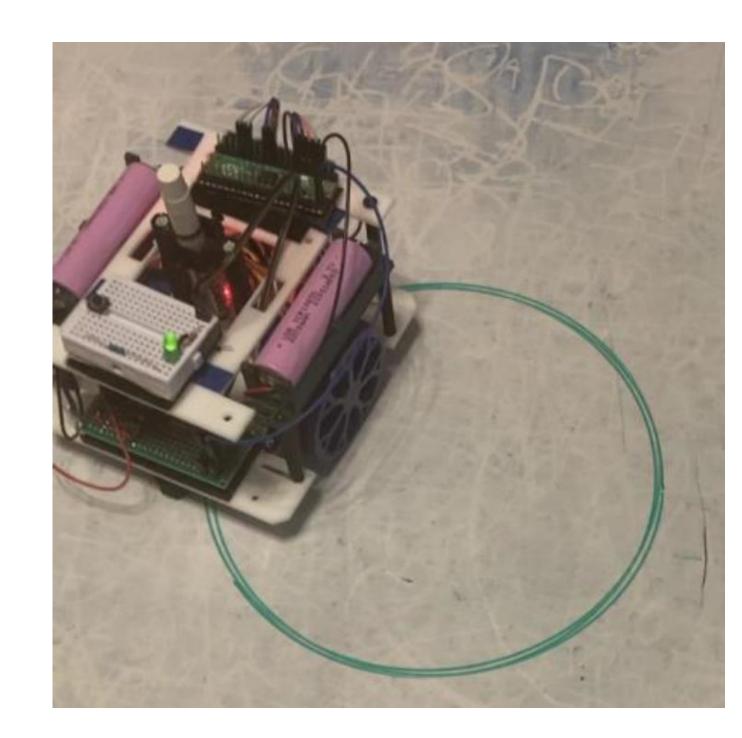
- Encourage "co-op-etition"
- Peer pressure is real
- Competitions are popular with students & guests



Automated Floor
Cleaning Robot 2020
Add capability to
existing robot chassis



Sumo-Bots 2021
Detect opponent and push off ring



Pen-Bots 2022
Stepper motor based line-drawing robots

