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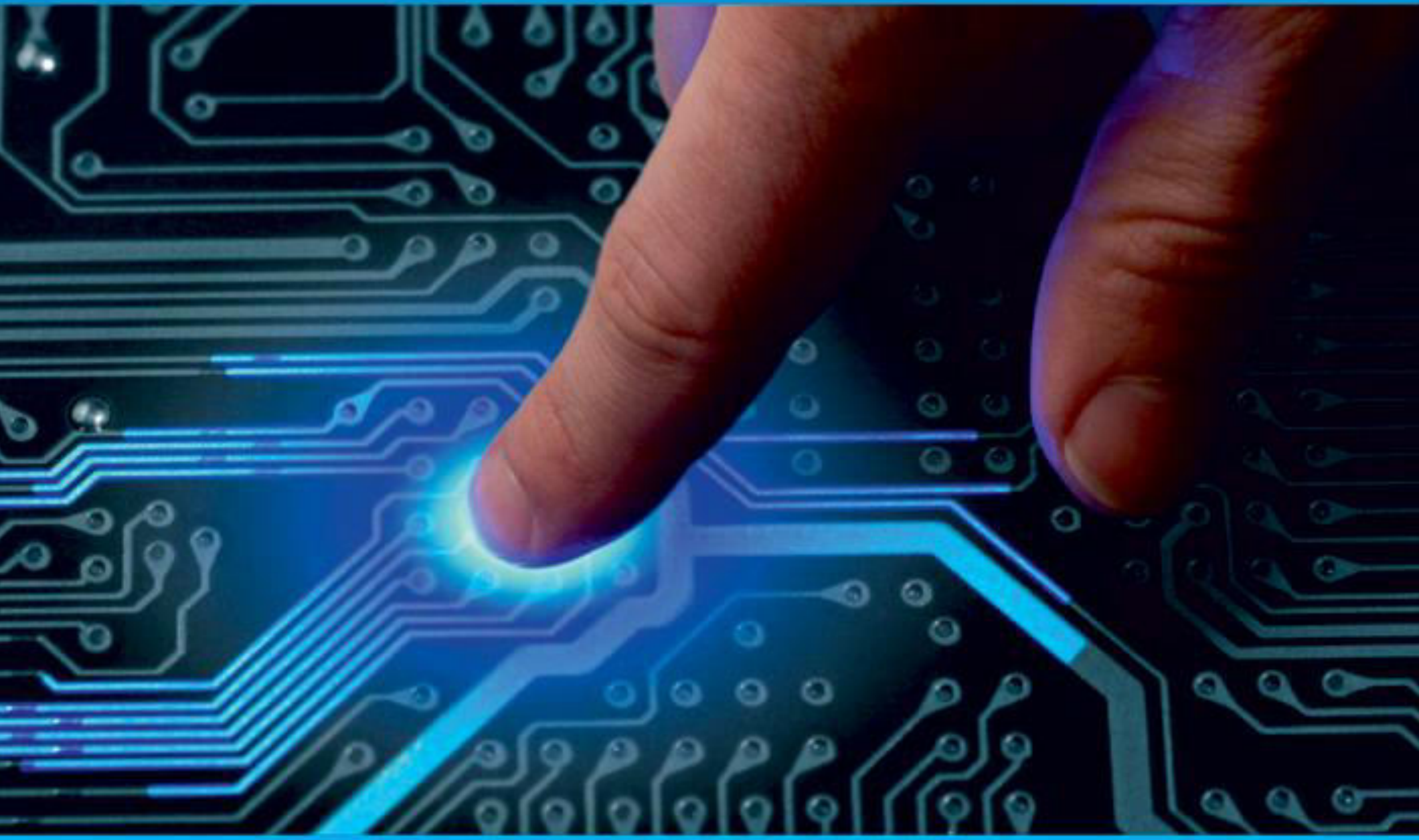

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Wheelchair Control by Head Motion

Poonam Bhopale, Radhika Ghat, Poonam Koli

Lecturer, Department of ENTC, DKTE YCP, Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra, India

ABSTRACT: Traditional Wheelchairs though have certain limitations with the flexibility, heavy weight of the chair and limited functions. Tremendous developments have been made in the field of wheelchair technology. Be that as it may, even these noteworthy advancements couldn't help the quadriplegics to explore wheelchair freely. Loss of mobility due to an injury is usually accompanied by a loss of self-confidence. For many individuals, independent mobility is an important aspect of self-esteem. Quadriplegics are limited in their motion due to damage to their spinal cord. The main goal of our project is to help the quadriplegic patients to move independently from one place to another by the tilt movement of their head which in turn moves the wheel chair without the assistance of another person. The head-controlled wheelchair is designed such that the wheelchair moves in accordance with the movement of the patient's head. An accelerometer is used to recognize head motion. An obstacle detection system consisting of Ultrasonic Sensor and receiver modules is provided such that it can detect obstacle and changes the direction of wheelchair.

KEYWORDS: Accelerometer, Wheelchair, Quadriplegics, IR.

I. INTRODUCTION

The report on wheelchair control by head motion focuses on a novel technique that enables controlling a wheelchair through head movements. The project aims to provide independence to physically challenged individuals who rely on wheelchairs for mobility. By utilizing a head motion module, the system recognizes the user's movements to control the wheelchair's direction. The research integrates technology with human needs, emphasizing the importance of human-machine interaction for individuals with physical disabilities.

The system's ability to accurately interpret user commands through head motion has been experimentally validated, demonstrating its effectiveness in translating head movements into wheelchair headset positions. Overall, the project showcases how advancements in technology can significantly impact the lives of physically challenged individuals by providing them with position of head and ease of mobility through innovative solutions like head motion-controlled wheelchairs. There are two types of medical devices that enable independent movement to a person suffering from paraplegia. Those are exoscelets and wheelchairs. Both of these contain electronic systems to enable and improve person's movement ability both in outdoor and indoor conditions. Electronic systems, such as sensors, actuators, communication modules and signal processing units, are used to recognize the activity that the patient is trying to perform and help him carry it out in coordination with the commands given. The application of the two mentioned devices is different. Exoscelets must provide body support which makes them more complex. Also, an error in patient's command recognizing process can lead to very serious consequences – fall and, eventually, injury. Wheelchair operation is based on navigation, which, in this case, is defined as safe transport from the starting point to a given destination.

II. RELATED WORK

Assistive Technologies for Individuals with Disabilities: Assistive technologies play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life and independence of individuals with disabilities. Wheelchair control systems operated by head motion represent one such advancement, offering mobility solutions for people with severe physical impairments that affect their ability to use traditional wheelchair controls.

Historical Development of Head-Controlled Wheelchairs: The development of head-controlled wheelchairs can be traced back to the mid-20th century, with early iterations relying on mechanical switches and joystick adaptations. Over time, advancements in sensor technology, such as gyroscopes, accelerometers, and infrared sensors, have led to more sophisticated head-motion control systems.

Technical Aspects of Head-Motion Control Systems: Modern head-motion control systems utilize a variety of sensors to detect head movements, including tilt, rotation, and nodding. These sensors are integrated with microcontrollers or

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digital signal processors that interpret the user's head gestures and translate them into wheelchair commands.

User-Centered Design and Ergonomics: Effective design of head-controlled wheelchair interfaces requires careful consideration of user needs and preferences. Ergonomic factors, such as comfort, ease of use, and fatigue reduction, are paramount to ensure long-term usability. User feedback and iterative prototyping are essential for refining design iterations and optimizing user experience.

Clinical Applications and User Studies: Clinical studies involving individuals with diverse disabilities, such as spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), have demonstrated the effectiveness of head-controlled wheelchairs in improving mobility and independence. User evaluations assess factors such as control accuracy, task completion time, and user satisfaction, providing valuable insights for system refinement and customization.

Challenges and Future Directions: Despite advancements, head-controlled wheelchair technology still faces challenges, including calibration drift, environmental interference, and adaptation for complex environments. Future research directions may focus on integrating machine learning techniques for adaptive control, enhancing robustness through redundancy and fault tolerance, and exploring novel sensor modalities for improved accuracy and reliability.

Comparison with Alternative Control Methods: Head-motion control systems offer advantages over alternative control methods, such as sip-and-puff interfaces and eye-tracking systems, in terms of intuitive operation and independence from respiratory or ocular limitations. Comparative studies may evaluate performance metrics, such as speed, accuracy, and cognitive workload, to inform decision-making for assistive technology selection.

III. PROPOSED MTHODOLOGY

A. Block Diagram:

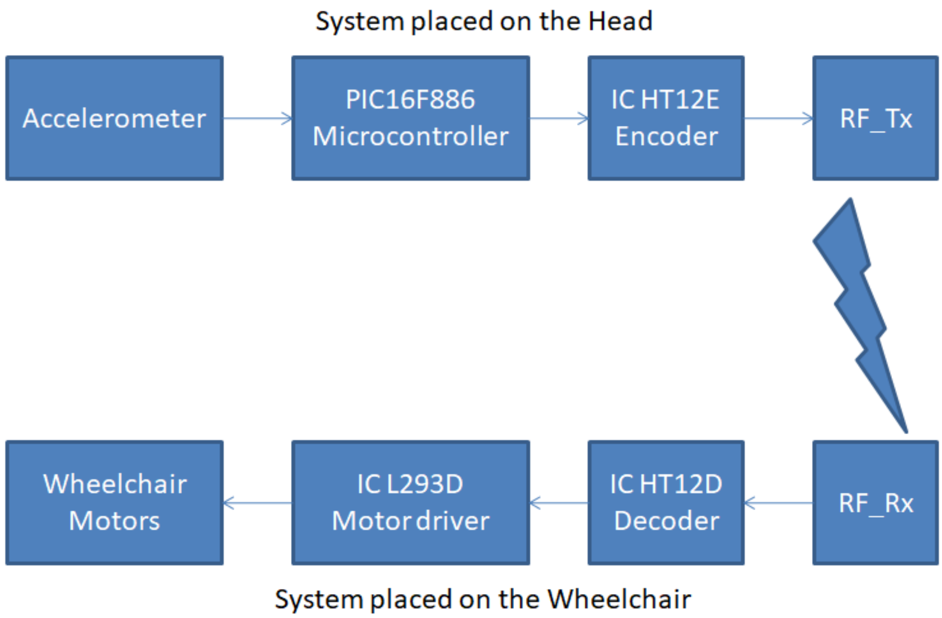

Fig. 1 Block Diagram of Wheelchair Control by Head Motion

B. Description of the Proposed Methodology:
The methodology for motion detection in wheelchair control by head motion involves the following steps:

1. **Sensor selection**: Accelerometers are commonly used to detect head motion. They measure the angular acceleration of the head, which can be processed to determine the direction of head movement.
2. **Data processing**: A novel algorithm is implemented within a microcontroller to process the sensor data. This algorithm translates the head motion data into electric wheelchair joystick position.

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3. **Motion detection**: The microcontroller system detects the head motion and controls the wheelchair accordingly. The system should be able to move instantaneously with head motion with minimal lag (less than 1 second).
4. **Safety measures**: To ensure safety, the system should be designed to avoid false positive inputs, such as the wheelchair moving without the user intending it to. The forward movement command should be something that cannot be provided in an unexpected way, such as a specific facial expression.
5. **Object detection**: An ultrasonic sensor can be used to detect objects close to the surface and give vibration feedback to the user, adding another layer of safety to the wheelchair.
6. **Testing**: The system should be experimentally tested to verify its ability to correctly recognize user commands.
7. **User interface**: The wheelchair should be designed with a user-friendly interface, such as a joystick or buttons, to allow the user to control the wheelchair easily.
8. **Modularity**: The system should be designed to be modular, allowing it to be used with several different types of standard electric wheelchairs.

IV. PRACTICAL SETUP

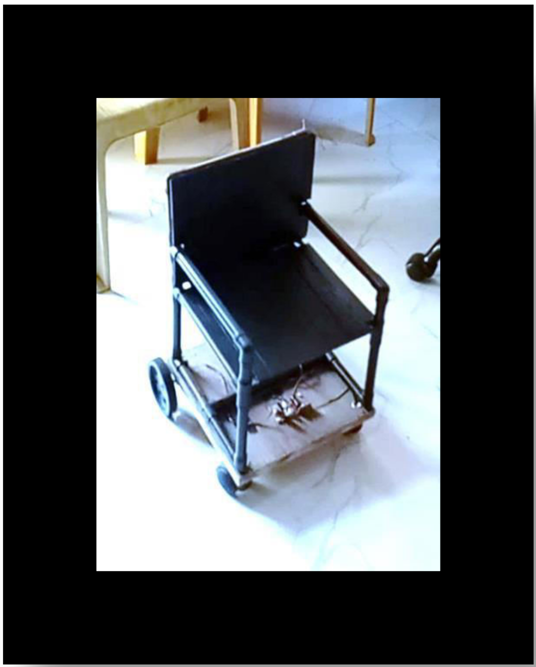

Fig 2. Practical Setup

V. RESULT

The results of research on wheelchair control by head motion indicate that a microcontroller system can be developed to enable standard electric wheelchair control by head motion. The system uses an accelerometer to sense head motion and a microcontroller to process the sensor data, translating user head motion into electric wheelchair position. The system is designed to be low cost and highly reliable, and it has been experimentally tested and verified to correctly recognize user commands.The wheelchair moves in accordance with the movement of the patient's head. This simple circuit can be mounted on any motor powered wheelchair of the patient. The prototype of our proposed project has been tested with small model which made by robotic gear motors and was found to be working

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In conclusion, while head-motion control for wheelchairs presents exciting possibilities for enhancing mobility and independence among individuals with limited mobility, ongoing improvements in technology and user-centered design are essential to maximize the benefits and address potential limitations associated with these systems.The development of head-motion controlled wheelchairs using innovative technologies such as head movement tracking through artificial vision-based systems shows promising advancements in assistive technology. While head-motion control offers a novel

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approach to wheelchair maneuverability, it is crucial to address safety concerns, user comfort, and system efficiency to ensure optimal performance and user satisfaction. Individual user characteristics, such as muscle tone, stability, cognitive abilities, and positioning requirements, play a significant role in determining the suitability and effectiveness of head-motion control systems for wheelchair users.

Further research and development are needed to enhance the reliability, responsiveness, and adaptability of head-motion controlled wheelchairs to cater to a wider range of users with diverse needs and preferences.

The future of wheelchair control by head motion involves addressing safety concerns, improving user comfort, increasing accessibility, integrating advanced technologies, and enhancing patient monitoring and obstacle detection capabilities. These advancements will help to make head-motion controlled wheelchairs more effective and user-friendly for individuals with limited mobility.

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