

Appendix D: Improved Steering Controller and Wheel

```

/*
 * Gazebo - Outdoor Multi-Robot Simulator
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 * Nate Koenig & Andrew Howard
 *
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 * Foundation, Inc., 59 Temple Place, Suite 330, Boston, MA 02111-
1307 USA
 */
/*
 * An improved steering controller for a four-wheeled vehicle
 * Author: J. C. Allen
 * Date: 26 March 2010
 * Based on "General steering controller for any number of wheels and
configuration",
 * Jordi Polo, dated 23 Dec 2007
 */

#include "Global.hh"
#include "XMLConfig.hh"
#include "Model.hh"
#include "Simulator.hh"
#include "gazebo.h"
#include "GazeboError.hh"
#include "ControllerFactory.hh"
#include "Steering_Position2d.hh"
#include "Wheel.hh"
#include "ODEBody.hh"
#include <string.h>

using namespace gazebo;

GZ_REGISTER_STATIC_CONTROLLER("steering_position2d",
Steering_Position2d);

enum {DRIVE, STEER, FULL};

////////////////////////////////////
////////

```

```

// Constructor
Steering_Position2d::Steering_Position2d(Entity *parent )
    : Controller(parent)
{
    this->myParent = dynamic_cast<Model*>(this->parent);

    if (!this->myParent)
        gzthrow("Steering_Position2d controller requires a Model as its
parent");

    Param::Begin(&this->parameters);
    // Load control parameters used by the steering controller
    this->velocityOffset = new ParamT<double>("velocityOffset", 0.0, 0);
    this->useSwaybars = new ParamT<bool>("useSwaybars", true, 0);
    this->swayForce = new ParamT<double>("swayForce", 300.0, 0);
    this->swayForceLimit = new ParamT<double>("swayForceLimit", 15.0, 0);
    this->useConstantVelocityMode = new
ParamT<bool>("useConstantVelocityMode", false, 0);
    this->useConstantSteeringAngleMode = new
ParamT<bool>("useConstantSteeringAngleMode", false, 0);
    this->constantSteeringAngle = new
ParamT<double>("constantSteeringAngle", 0.0, 0);
    this->useSafeVelocity = new ParamT<bool>("useSafeVelocity", true, 0);
    this->useTurnRadius = new ParamT<bool>("useTurnRadius", false, 0);
    this->turnRadius = new ParamT<double>("turnRadius", 46.1, 0);

    // Load default values for the steering controller
    this->defaultTorque = new ParamT<double>("torque", 1000.0, 0);
    this->defaultSteerTorque = new ParamT<double>("steerTorque", 1000.0,
0);

    // Load vehicle characteristics used by the steering controller
    this->tc = new ParamT<double>("turningCircle",11.491, 0);
    this->tw = new ParamT<double>("trackWidth", 1.580, 0);
    this->wb = new ParamT<double>("wheelBase", 2.619, 0);
    this->ssf = new ParamT<double>("ssf", 1.17, 0);
    this->vf = new ParamT<double>("velocityFinal", 27.778, 0);
    this->vt = new ParamT<double>("velocityFinalTime", 5.0, 0);
    this->tr = new ParamT<double>("tireRadius", 0.368, 0);
    this->sw = new ParamT<double>("sectionWidth", 0.235, 0);
    Param::End();

    this->enableMotors = true;

    this->prevUpdateTime = Simulator::Instance()->GetSimTime();

    this->sa=0;
    this->v=0;
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Destructor
Steering_Position2d::~Steering_Position2d()

```

```

{
  delete this->velocityOffset;
  delete this->useSwaybars;
  delete this->swayForce;
  delete this->swayForceLimit;
  delete this->useConstantVelocityMode;
  delete this->useConstantSteeringAngleMode;
  delete this->constantSteeringAngle;
  delete this->useSafeVelocity;
  delete this->useTurnRadius;
  delete this->turnRadius;

  delete this->defaultTorque;
  delete this->defaultSteerTorque;

  delete this->tc;
  delete this->tw;
  delete this->wb;
  delete this->ssf;
  delete this->vf;
  delete this->vt;
  delete this->tr;
  delete this->sw;
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Load the controller
void Steering_Position2d::LoadChild(XMLConfigNode *node)
{
  XMLConfigNode *childNode;
  std::string jointName, type;
  double torque, steerTorque;
  double g, r;

  this->myIface = dynamic_cast<PositionIface*>(this->GetIface("position"));

  // Load control parameters used by the steering controller
  this->velocityOffset->Load(node);
  this->useSwaybars->Load(node);
  this->swayForce->Load(node);
  this->swayForceLimit->Load(node);
  this->useConstantVelocityMode->Load(node);
  this->useConstantSteeringAngleMode->Load(node);
  this->constantSteeringAngle->Load(node);
  this->useSafeVelocity->Load(node);
  this->useTurnRadius->Load(node);
  this->turnRadius->Load(node);

  // Load default values for the steering controller
  this->defaultTorque->Load(node);
  this->defaultSteerTorque->Load(node);
}

```

```

// Load vehicle characteristics used by the steering controller
this->tc->Load(node);
this->tw->Load(node);
this->wb->Load(node);
this->ssf->Load(node);
this->vf->Load(node);
this->vt->Load(node);
this->tr->Load(node);
this->sw->Load(node);

std::cout<<"\n\nLoading the controller...\n";
std::cout<<" Load control parameters used by the steering
controller...\n";
std::cout<<" useSwaybars: "<<this->useSwaybars<<"\n";
if (this->useSwaybars)
{
std::cout<<" swayForce: "<<this->swayForce<<"\n";
std::cout<<" swayForceLimit: "<<this->swayForceLimit<<"\n";
}
std::cout<<" useConstantVelocityMode: "<<this->
useConstantVelocityMode<<"\n";
std::cout<<" useConstantSteeringAngleMode: "<<this->
useConstantSteeringAngleMode<<"\n";
if (this->useConstantSteeringAngleMode)
std::cout<<" constantSteeringAngle: "<<this->
constantSteeringAngle<<"\n";
std::cout<<" useSafeVelocity: "<<this->useSafeVelocity<<"\n";
if (this->useSafeVelocity)
std::cout<<" velocityOffset: "<<this->velocityOffset<<"
m/s\n";
std::cout<<" useTurnRadius: "<<this->useTurnRadius<<"\n";
if (this->useTurnRadius)
std::cout<<" turnRadius: "<<this->turnRadius<<"\n";
std::cout<<" Load default values for the steering controller...\n";
std::cout<<" defaultTorque: "<<this->defaultTorque<<"\n";
std::cout<<" defaultSteerTorque: "<<this->
defaultSteerTorque<<"\n";
std::cout<<" Load vehicle characteristics used by the steering
controller...\n";
std::cout<<" turningCircle: "<<this->tc<<" m\n";
std::cout<<" trackWidth: "<<this->tw<<" m\n";
std::cout<<" wheelBase: "<<this->wb<<" m\n";
std::cout<<" ssf: "<<this->ssf<<"\n";
std::cout<<" velocityFinal: "<<this->vf<<" m/s\n";
std::cout<<" velocityFinalTime: "<<this->vt<<" s\n";
std::cout<<" tireRadius: "<<this->tr<<" m\n";
std::cout<<" sectionWidth: "<<this->sw<<" m\n";
std::cout<<"\nLoading the joints...\n";

childNode = node->GetChild("wheel");

while (childNode)
{
// Load default values for individual wheels. These values

```

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override the default values for the steering
// controller, above.
jointName = childNode->GetString("jointName", "", 1);
type = childNode->GetString("type", "", 1);
torque = childNode->GetDouble("torque", **this->defaultTorque, 0);
if (type != "drive")
    steerTorque = childNode->GetDouble("steerTorque", **this->defaultSteerTorque, 0);

std::cout<<" Loading: "<<jointName<<"\n";
std::cout<<" type: "<<type<<"\n";
std::cout<<" torque: "<<torque<<"\n";
if (type != "drive")
    std::cout<<" steerTorque: "<<steerTorque<<"\n";

Wheel *wheel=new Wheel();

if (type == "drive")
{
    wheel->Connect(this->myParent->GetJoint(jointName), DRIVE);
    wheel->SetTorque(torque);
}
else
{
    if (type == "steer")
    {
        wheel->Connect(this->myParent->GetJoint(jointName), STEER);
        wheel->SetTorque(0); // If the wheel is not full, FMax2 should
be 0 otherwise joint will lock
    }
    else
    {
        wheel->Connect(this->myParent->GetJoint(jointName), FULL);
        wheel->SetTorque(torque);
    }
    wheel->SetSteerTorque(steerTorque);
}
wheels.push_back(wheel);

childNode= childNode->GetNext("wheel");
}

// Calculate vehicle characteristics used by the steering controller
g = 9.80665; // acceleration due to gravity

std::cout<<"\nCalculated vehicle characteristics used by the steering
controller...\n";

// Calculate maximum velocity and maximum angular velocity at vehicle
center of gravity
if (**this->useTurnRadius)
    r = **this->turnRadius + (**this->tw + **this->sw) / 2;
else
    r = (**this->tc + **this->tw + **this->sw) / 2;

```

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    std::cout<<" Radius used to calculate maximum velocity, maximum
angular velocity, and maximum steering angle at vehicle center of
gravity: "<<r<<" m\n";

    wcgMax = sqrt(**this->ssf * g / r);

    if (**this->useSafeVelocity)
        vcgMax = sqrt(**this->ssf * r * g) + **this->velocityOffset;
    else
        vcgMax = **this->vf;

    std::cout<<" Maximum velocity at vehicle center of gravity:
"<<vcgMax<<" m/s\n";
    std::cout<<" Maximum angular velocity at vehicle center of gravity:
"<<wcgMax<<" rad/s\n";

    // Calculate maximum steering angle at vehicle center of gravity
    sacgMax = atan(**this->wb / r);

    std::cout<<" Maximum steering angle at vehicle center of gravity:
"<<sacgMax<<" rad\n";

    // Calculate constant acceleration
    a = **this->vf / **this->vt;

    std::cout<<" Acceleration: "<<a<<" m/s^2\n\n";

    vcg0 = 0;
    acg0 = 0;
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Initialize the controller
void Steering_Position2d::InitChild()
{
    // Reset odometric pose
    this->odomPose[0] = 0.0;
    this->odomPose[1] = 0.0;
    this->odomPose[2] = 0.0;

    this->odomVel[0] = 0.0;
    this->odomVel[1] = 0.0;
    this->odomVel[2] = 0.0;
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Reset the controller
void Steering_Position2d::ResetChild()
{
    // Reset odometric pose
    this->odomPose[0] = 0.0;
    this->odomPose[1] = 0.0;
}

```

```

this->odomPose[2] = 0.0;

this->odomVel[0] = 0.0;
this->odomVel[1] = 0.0;
this->odomVel[2] = 0.0;
}

////////////////////////////////////
////////////////////////////////////
// Update the controller
void Steering_Position2d::UpdateChild()
{
    // local variables for tire radius, track width, and wheelbase
    double tr, tw, wb;
    // turning radius of wheels 1 through 4 and vehicle center of gravity
    double r1, r2, r3, r4, rcg;
    // linear distance traveled by wheels 1 through 4 and vehicle center
of gravity
    double d1 = 0.0, d2 = 0.0, d3, d4, dcg = 0.0;
    // linear distance traveled by wheels 1 and 2 (used to calculate
vehicle pose)
    double o1, o2;
    // linear velocity of wheels 1 through 4 and vehicle center of
gravity
    double v1, v2, v3, v4, vcg;
    // tangent angles of wheels 3 and 4 and vehicle center of gravity to
circles with turning radii of
    // r3, r4, and rcg
    double a3, a4, acg = 0.0;
    // angular velocity of the STEER OR FULL wheel joints (wheels 3 and
4) or vehicle center of gravity if steering
    // angle is zero
    double wa = 0.0;
    // angular velocity of the DRIVE wheel joints (wheels 1 and 2) or
FULL wheel joints (wheels 3 and 4) or vehicle
    // center of gravity if steering angle is zero in the xz-plane (in
the direction of travel)
    double w = 0.0;

    Time dt;
    int count;

    tr = **this->tr;
    tw = **this->tw;
    wb = **this->wb;

    this->GetPositionCmd();

    dt = Simulator::Instance()->GetSimTime() - this->prevUpdateTime;
    this->prevUpdateTime = Simulator::Instance()->GetSimTime();

    std::vector<Wheel*>::iterator iter;

    // Calculate the current velocity at vehicle cg

```



```

if (v >= 0)
{
    if (v > 0.2) // we want to be able to "turn" the steering wheel
without acceleration
    {
        vcg = vcg0 + a * ( v - 0.2 ) / ( 0.5 - 0.2 ) * dt.Double();
        if (vcg > vcgMax)
            vcg = vcgMax;
    }
    else // useConstantVelocityMode controls whether the vehicle
"coasts" to a stop or maintains constant velocity
        // when the "gas pedal" is not depressed
    {
        if (**this->useConstantVelocityMode) // maintain constant
velocity
            vcg = vcg0;
        else // "coast" to a stop
        {
            vcg = vcg0 - a * dt.Double();
            if (vcg < 0)
                vcg = 0;
        }
    }
}
else // v < 0
{
    vcg = vcg0 - 3 * a * v / -0.1 * dt.Double();
    if (vcg < -vcgMax / 5)
        vcg = -vcgMax / 5;
}

// Calculate the distance at vehicle cg
dcg = vcg * dt.Double();

if (**this->useConstantSteeringAngleMode)
    sa = **this->constantSteeringAngle;

// Calculate the angle at vehicle cg
if (sa < -DTOR(10)) // right turn
{
    if (sa < -sacgMax)
        sa = -sacgMax;
    if (acg > sa)
        acg = acg0 - wcgMax * dt.Double();
    if (acg <= sa)
        acg = sa;
}
else if (sa > DTOR(10)) // left turn
{
    if (sa > +sacgMax)
        sa = +sacgMax;
    if (acg < sa)
        acg = acg0 + wcgMax * dt.Double();
    if (acg >= sa)

```

```

        acg = sa;
    }
    else // sa == 0
        acg = acg0;

    if ( fabs(acg) < 0.0001 ) // if fabs( acg ) < 0.0001, acg is
effectively 0, so we set rcg greater than the diameter of the earth
        rcg = 999999999;
    else if ( fabs(acg) < 0.05 ) // if fabs( acg ) < 0.05, we use small
angle approximation (alpha = tan(alpha))
        rcg = fabs( wb / acg );
    else
        rcg = fabs( wb / tan(acg) );

count = 0;
for (iter=this->wheels.begin(); iter!=this->wheels.end(); iter++)
{
    if (this->enableMotors)
    {
        // Calculate the turning radius for each wheel
        if (sa < 0) // right turn
        {
            r1 = rcg + tw / 2;
            r2 = rcg - tw / 2;
            if (count == 0) // left_front_wheel_hinge
            {
                r3 = sqrt( r1 * r1 + wb * wb );
                a3 = acg * r3 / rcg;
                wa = a3;
                d3 = dcg * r3 / rcg;
                v3 = d3 / dt.Double();
                w = v3 / tr;
            }
            else if (count == 1) // right_front_wheel_hinge
            {
                r4 = sqrt( r2 * r2 + wb * wb );
                a4 = acg * r4 / rcg;
                wa = a4;
                d4 = dcg * r4 / rcg;
                v4 = d4 / dt.Double();
                w = v4 / tr;
            }
            else if (count == 2) // left_rear_wheel_hinge
            {
                wa = 0;
                d1 = dcg * r1 / rcg;
                v1 = d1 / dt.Double();
                w = v1 / tr;
            }
            else if (count == 3) // right_rear_wheel_hinge
            {
                wa = 0;
                d2 = dcg * r2 / rcg;
                v2 = d2 / dt.Double();

```

```

        w = v2 / tr;
    }
}
else if (sa > 0) // left turn
{
    r1 = rcg - tw / 2;
    r2 = rcg + tw / 2;
    if (count == 0) // left_front_wheel_hinge
    {
        r3 = sqrt( r1 * r1 + wb * wb);
        a3 = acg * r3 / rcg;
        wa = a3;
        d3 = dcg * r3 / rcg;
        v3 = d3 / dt.Double();
        w = v3 / tr;
    }
    else if (count == 1) // right_front_wheel_hinge
    {
        r4 = sqrt( r2 * r2 + wb * wb);
        a4 = acg * r4 / rcg;
        wa = a4;
        d4 = dcg * r4 / rcg;
        v4 = d4 / dt.Double();
        w = v4 / tr;
    }
    else if (count == 2) // left_rear_wheel_hinge
    {
        wa = 0;
        d1 = dcg * r1 / rcg;
        v1 = d1 / dt.Double();
        w = v1 / tr;
    }
    else if (count == 3) // right_rear_wheel_hinge
    {
        wa = 0;
        d2 = dcg * r2 / rcg;
        v2 = d2 / dt.Double();
        w = v2 / tr;
    }
}
else // sa == 0
{
    wa = 0;
    w = vcg / tr;
}

(*iter)->Update(-w, -wa, **this->updatePeriodP);

if (**this->useSwaybars)
{
    Swaybars();
}

count += 1;

```

```

    }
    else
    {
        (*iter)->Stop();
    }
}

vcg0 = vcg;
acg0 = acg;

o1 = dt.Double() * tr * this->myParent-
>GetJoint("left_rear_wheel_hinge")->GetVelocity(0);
o2 = dt.Double() * tr * this->myParent-
>GetJoint("right_rear_wheel_hinge")->GetVelocity(0);

// Compute odometric pose
this->odomPose[0] += (o1 + o2) / 2 * cos( this->odomPose[2] );
this->odomPose[1] += (o1 + o2) / 2 * sin( this->odomPose[2] );
this->odomPose[2] += (o1 - o2) / tw;

// Compute odometric instantaneous velocity
this->odomVel[0] = (o1 + o2) / 2 / dt.Double();
this->odomVel[1] = 0.0;
this->odomVel[2] = (o1 - o2) / tw / dt.Double();

this->PutPositionData();
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Finalize the controller
void Steering_Position2d::FiniChild()
{
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Get commands from the external interface
void Steering_Position2d::GetPositionCmd()
{
    if (this->myIface->Lock(1))
    {
        this->v = this->myIface->data->cmdVelocity.pos.x;
        this->sa = this->myIface->data->cmdVelocity.yaw;

        this->enableMotors = this->myIface->data->cmdEnableMotors > 0;

        this->myIface->Unlock();
    }
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Update the data in the interface

```

```

void Steering_Position2d::PutPositionData()
{
    if (this->myIface->Lock(1))
    {
        // TODO: Data timestamp
        this->myIface->data->head.time = Simulator::Instance()-
>GetSimTime().Double();

        this->myIface->data->pose.pos.x = this->odomPose[0];
        this->myIface->data->pose.pos.y = this->odomPose[1];
        this->myIface->data->pose.yaw = NORMALIZE(this->odomPose[2]);

        this->myIface->data->velocity.pos.x = this->odomVel[0];
        this->myIface->data->velocity.yaw = this->odomVel[2];

        // TODO
        this->myIface->data->stall = 0;

        this->myIface->Unlock();
    }
}

////////////////////////////////////
////////////////////////////////////
// "Anti-sway bar" implementation
void Steering_Position2d::Swaybars()
{
    Vector3 wheelAnchor;
    Vector3 bodyAnchor;
    Vector3 axis;
    Vector3 force;
    double displacement, amt;

    std::string hinge[4];

    hinge[0] = "left_front_wheel_hinge";
    hinge[1] = "right_front_wheel_hinge";
    hinge[2] = "left_rear_wheel_hinge";
    hinge[3] = "right_rear_wheel_hinge";

    for (int i = 0; i < 4; i++)
    {
        bodyAnchor = this->myParent->GetJoint(hinge[i])->GetAnchor(0);
        wheelAnchor = this->myParent->GetJoint(hinge[i])->GetAnchor(1);
        axis = this->myParent->GetJoint(hinge[i])->GetAxis(1);

        displacement = (bodyAnchor.z - wheelAnchor.z) * axis.z;
        if (displacement > 0)
        {
            amt = displacement * **this->swayForce;

            if (amt > **this->swayForceLimit)
            {
                amt = **this->swayForceLimit;
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```
    }
    // "downforce"
    force.Set(-axis.x * amt, -axis.y * amt, -axis.z * amt);
    this->myParent->GetJoint(hinge[i])->GetJointBody(1)-
>SetForce(force);
    // "upforce"
    force.Set(axis.x * amt, axis.y * amt, axis.z * amt);
    this->myParent->GetJoint(hinge[i^1])->GetJointBody(1)-
>SetForce(force);
    }
  }
}
```

```

/*
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 * Nate Koenig & Andrew Howard
 *
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 * along with this program; if not, write to the Free Software
 * Foundation, Inc., 59 Temple Place, Suite 330, Boston, MA 02111-
1307 USA
 *
 */
/*
 * An improved wheel for a four-wheeled vehicle
 * Author: J. C. Allen
 * Date: 26 March 2010
 * Based on "Wheel that can not be steered",
 * Jordi Polo, dated 18 Dec 2007
 */

#include "Global.hh"
#include "XMLConfig.hh"
#include "Model.hh"
#include "Body.hh"
#include "Joint.hh"
#include "World.hh"
#include "gazebo.h"
#include "GazeboError.hh"
#include "ControllerFactory.hh"
#include "Steering_Position2d.hh"
#include "Wheel.hh"
#include <string>

using namespace gazebo;

enum {DRIVE, STEER, FULL};

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Constructor
Wheel::Wheel()
{
}

```

```

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Destructor
Wheel::~Wheel()
{
    delete this->joint;
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Connects the wheel to a given Joint
void Wheel::Connect(Joint *joint, int type)
{
    this->joint = joint;
    this->type = type;

    if (!this->joint)
    {
        std::ostringstream stream;
        stream << "The controller couldn't get the joint " <<this->joint-
>GetName();
        gzthrow(stream.str());
    }

    // avoid an initial impulse to the joints that would make the vehicle
    flip
    this->joint->SetAttribute(Joint::FUDGE_FACTOR, 0, 0.1);
}

////////////////////////////////////
//////////
// Stops the wheel
void Wheel::Stop()
{
    switch (this->type)
    {
        case DRIVE:
            this->joint->SetVelocity(0, 0);
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(0, 0);
            break;
        case STEER:
            this->joint->SetVelocity(0, 0);
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(0, 0);
            this->joint->SetVelocity(1, 0);
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(1, 0);
            break;
        default:
            this->joint->SetVelocity(0, 0);
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(0, 0);
            this->joint->SetVelocity(1, 0);
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(1, 0);
    }
}
}

```



```

////////////////////////////////////
////////////////////////////////////
// Set the torque
void Wheel::SetTorque(double newTorque)
{
    this->torque = newTorque;

    switch (this->type)
    {
        case DRIVE:
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(0, this->torque);
            break;
        case STEER:
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(1, this->torque);
            break;
        default:
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(1, this->torque);
    }
}

////////////////////////////////////
////////////////////////////////////
// Get the torque
double Wheel::GetTorque()
{
    return this->torque;
}

////////////////////////////////////
////////////////////////////////////
// Set the steering torque
void Wheel::SetSteerTorque(double newTorque)
{
    this->steerTorque = newTorque;

    switch (this->type)
    {
        case DRIVE: // drive wheels have no steering axis
            break;
        case STEER:
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(0, this->steerTorque);
            break;
        default:
            this->joint->SetMaxForce(0, this->steerTorque);
    }
}

////////////////////////////////////
////////////////////////////////////
// Get the steering torque
double Wheel::GetSteerTorque()
{
    return this->steerTorque;
}

```

```
}

////////////////////////////////////
////////////////////////////////////
// Update the wheel
void Wheel::Update(double speed, double steer, double rate)
{
    switch (this->type)
    {
        case DRIVE:
            this->joint->SetVelocity(0, speed);
            break;
        case STEER:
            this->joint->SetVelocity(0, rate * (steer - this->joint-
>GetAngle(0).GetAsRadian()));
            break;
        default:
            this->joint->SetVelocity(0, rate * (steer - this->joint-
>GetAngle(0).GetAsRadian()));
            this->joint->SetVelocity(1, speed);
    }
}
}
```