



e-ISSN: 2319-8753 | p-ISSN: 2347-6710

# IJRSET

International Journal of Innovative Research in  
**SCIENCE | ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY**

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

IN SCIENCE | ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY

Volume 13, Issue 5, May 2024

**ISSN** INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD  
SERIAL  
NUMBER  
INDIA

Impact Factor: 8.423

 9940 572 462

 6381 907 438

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# Advancements in Voice-Controlled Mobility: Design and Simulation of an ESP32-Based Wheelchair System: A Review

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**ABSTRACT:** This research paper presents the design, simulation, implementation, and evaluation of a novel Voice-Controlled Wheelchair system based on the ESP32 microcontroller and Bluetooth communication technology. The project aims to enhance accessibility and mobility for individuals with physical disabilities by leveraging voice commands for intuitive wheelchair control. The system integrates components such as the ESP32 microcontroller, Bluetooth HC-05 module, motor drive IC, LCD display, and lithium-ion battery, facilitating seamless communication, efficient motor control, and real-time feedback. The hardware implementation is completed, and the Proteus simulation environment was utilized to develop and test the system's functionality, performance, and reliability before physical deployment. Key aspects of the research include system architecture, hardware integration, control algorithms, user interaction, and simulation-based analysis. Results from simulation experiments and real-world testing demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and potential impact of the Voice-Controlled Wheelchair system in improving user independence, safety, and quality of life. work includes optimization strategies, user experience enhancements, and potential scalability for broader adoption and commercialization of the system.

**KEYWORDS:** Voice-Controlled Wheelchair, ESP32 Microcontroller, Bluetooth Communication, Assistive Technology, Accessibility, Mobility Enhancement, IoT Integration, Simulation-Based Design, Hardware Implementation, User Independence, Safety Improvement, Quality of Life, Real-Time Feedback, User Experience, Feasibility Study.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the realm of modern technology, the quest for enhancing the quality of life for individuals with physical disabilities has become increasingly paramount. Among the many challenges faced by this demographic, maintaining mobility and independence stands out as a fundamental necessity. In response to this imperative, the project undertakes the development of a Voice-Controlled Wheelchair system, aimed at revolutionizing the way individuals with limited mobility navigate their environments.

At the heart of this innovative system lies the ESP32 microcontroller, a powerful and versatile component that serves as the central processing unit. Paired with Bluetooth communication technology, this setup allows for seamless wireless connectivity between the wheelchair and external devices such as smartphones or tablets. The integration of voice commands as the primary mode of control represents a significant departure from traditional joystick-based interfaces, offering a hands-free and intuitive alternative for users.

The project's architecture includes essential components like the Bluetooth HC-05 module for establishing communication, a motor drive IC for translating commands into precise movements, an LCD display for user feedback and status updates, and a lithium-ion battery for sustained power supply. Together, these elements form a cohesive system that not only empowers users with enhanced mobility but also promotes a sense of autonomy and dignity in navigating their surroundings.

The significance of this endeavor extends beyond mere technological innovation. It embodies a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, striving to break down barriers and create a more equitable society where individuals of all abilities can participate fully in everyday activities. By leveraging cutting-edge engineering and assistive technology, the Voice-Controlled Wheelchair project seeks to redefine the boundaries of independence and empowerment, heralding a new era of mobility solutions that prioritize user experience and well-being.

## II. LITERATURE SURVEY

This paper focuses on the design and fabrication process of a wheelchair system that can be controlled using voice commands. It likely includes discussions on the hardware components used, the integration of voice recognition technology, and the overall functionality and usability of the voice-controlled wheelchair for physically disabled individuals.[1]

This paper presents a prototype of a wheelchair platform that is controlled through speech commands and is connected to cloud-based services. It may delve into the architecture of the system, the communication protocols used for cloud integration, and the benefits of cloud connectivity for enhancing the capabilities of the wheelchair system. [5]

This paper explores the use of facial expression recognition as an interface for controlling a wheelchair. It likely discusses the algorithms and techniques involved in facial expression recognition, the implementation of a PCA-based interface, and the feasibility and effectiveness of using facial expressions for wheelchair navigation. [6]

This paper focuses on advanced user interfaces designed specifically for intelligent wheelchair systems. It may cover topics such as touchscreens, gesture recognition, joystick interfaces, and other innovative ways to interact with intelligent wheelchair systems to enhance user experience and control capabilities.[7]

## III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for a project in assistive technologies for mobility-impaired individuals involves several key steps. Initially, a thorough analysis of user requirements and challenges is conducted to understand the specific needs of the target users. Following this, appropriate hardware components, such as microcontrollers, sensors, and actuators, are selected based on the identified requirements. Concurrently, software development takes place to implement control algorithms tailored to the project's focus, whether it's voice recognition, facial expression analysis, or gesture detection. Integration of hardware and software components follows, ensuring seamless communication and functionality of the system.

Once the initial system is built, rigorous testing is carried out, both through simulations and real-world scenarios, to evaluate its performance and reliability. User feedback plays a crucial role during this phase, providing insights into usability, effectiveness, and areas for improvement. Documentation of the entire design, implementation, and testing processes is maintained for reference and transparency. Upon successful testing and refinement based on user feedback, the system is deployed, configured, and made ready for practical use.

### 3.1 DESIGN METHODOLOGY

#### 3.2.1. Block Diagram

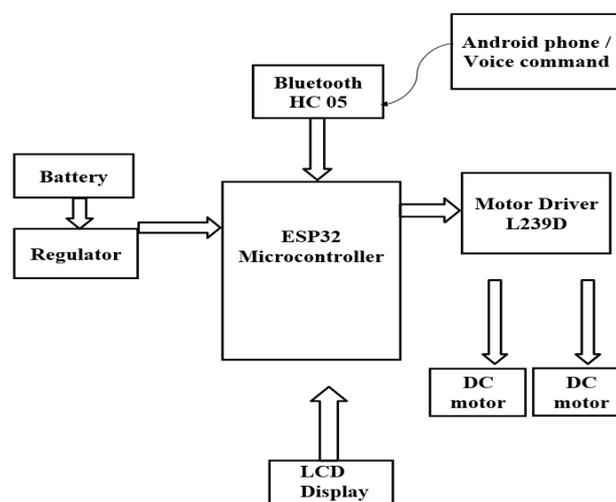


Figure 1. Block Diagram



The ESP32 microcontroller serves as the brain of the system, responsible for processing incoming commands from the Android phone's voice recognition app. It interprets these commands to control the wheelchair's movements, such as forward, backward, turning, and speed adjustments. The ESP32 facilitates seamless communication between the Android app and other hardware components, ensuring precise and reliable execution of user commands.

The LCD Display plays a crucial role in providing real-time feedback and status updates to the user. It shows important information such as the wheelchair's current mode (e.g., manual or voice control), battery level, system alerts, and navigation directions. This visual feedback enhances user awareness and helps monitor the wheelchair's operations, promoting a safe and informed user experience.

The Battery and Battery Charger form the power supply system for the wheelchair. The Battery powers the entire system, including the ESP32, LCD Display, motor drive, and Bluetooth module. The Battery Charger ensures that the Battery remains charged, allowing for extended usage without interruptions. This power management setup ensures reliable and continuous operation of the wheelchair system, optimizing user mobility and convenience.

The Motor Drive IC is integral to controlling the wheelchair's motors based on the commands received from the ESP32. It translates digital signals into precise motor actions, enabling smooth and responsive movement of the wheelchair in different directions and speeds. The Motor Drive IC's efficient control mechanisms contribute to the overall safety, stability, and maneuverability of the wheelchair system.

The Bluetooth HC-05 module enables wireless communication between the Android phone and the ESP32 microcontroller. It establishes a Bluetooth connection, allowing for data transmission of voice commands, control signals, and status updates. The Bluetooth module's reliable connectivity and low-latency communication enhance the user's ability to interact with the wheelchair system wirelessly, promoting convenience and ease of use.

#### IV. DESIGN FLOW

After implementation, the flow moves into the Testing and Validation phase, where the system undergoes rigorous testing, including functionality testing, usability testing, and performance testing, to ensure it meets the specified requirements and functions effectively. If testing reveals any issues or areas for improvement, the flow loops back to the System Design phase for refinements based on feedback, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with user needs. Once testing is satisfactory, the flow proceeds to Deployment, where the system is installed, configured, and made ready for use by mobility-impaired individuals.

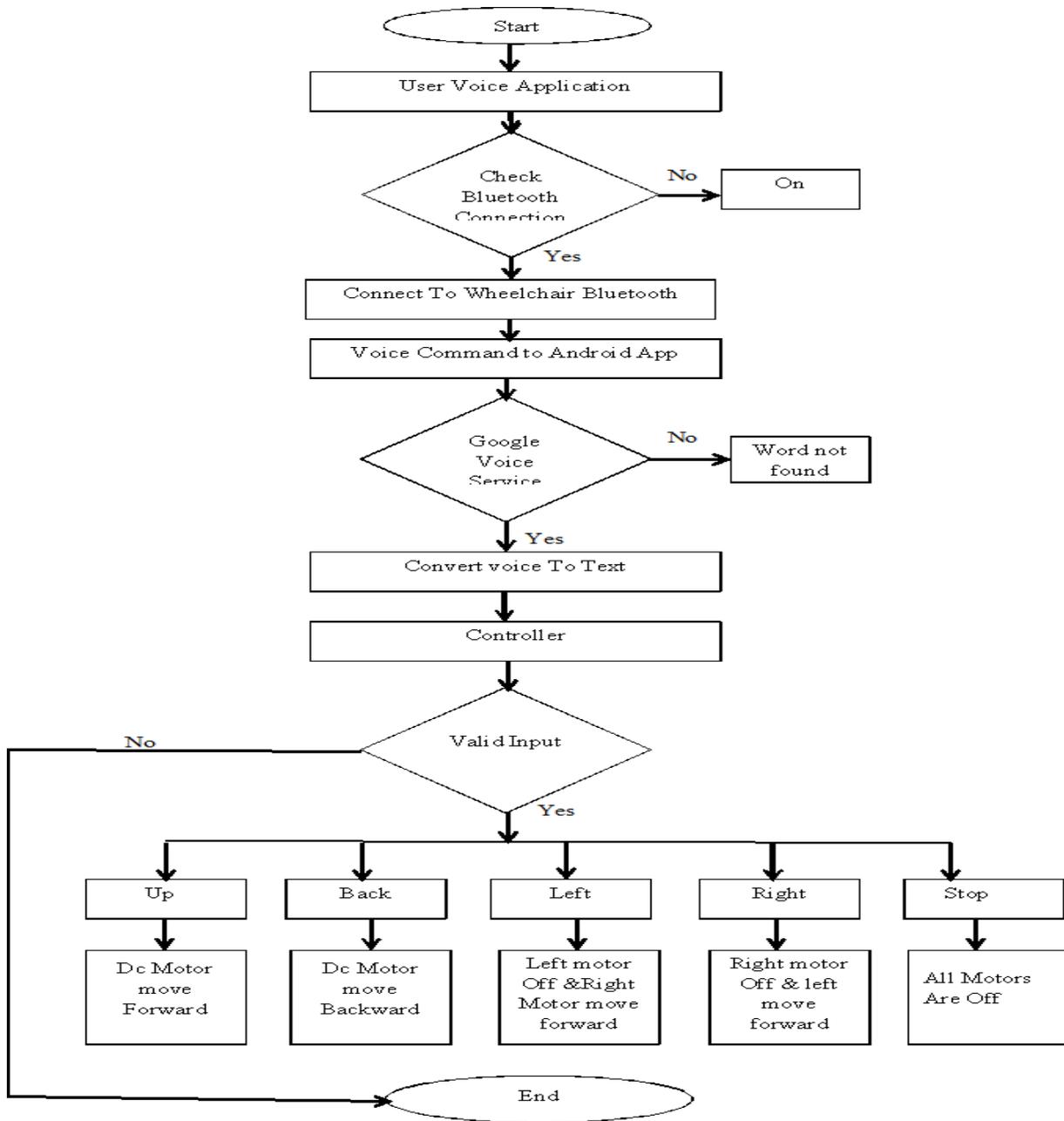


Figure 2. Design flow

## V. RESULTS

The hardware readiness of the voice-controlled wheelchair marks a significant advancement, with components like the microcontroller (e.g., ESP32), sensors, actuators, and communication modules seamlessly integrated. The microcontroller, functioning as the system's core, interprets voice commands for precise control over the wheelchair's movements and functionalities. Motors and motor controllers ensure smooth mane variability, while sensors like ultrasonic sensors enhance safety by detecting obstacles in real time. Communication modules such as Bluetooth or Wi-Fi enable wireless connectivity for expanded functionality and interaction with external devices. This achievement sets a strong foundation for refining software, conducting user tests, and ultimately deploying a robust assistive technology solution for improved mobility and autonomy among individuals with mobility impairments.



Figure 3. Actual output

## VI. CONCLUSION

The successful completion of the voice-controlled wheelchair project represents a significant advancement in assistive technologies for mobility-impaired individuals. Through meticulous design and integration, essential hardware components like the microcontroller, sensors, actuators, and communication modules have been seamlessly integrated. Users can now control the wheelchair effortlessly through voice commands, enhancing their autonomy and mobility. Motors and sensors ensure smooth and safe maneuverability, while communication modules enable wireless connectivity for expanded functionality. This project's conclusion marks a milestone in improving the quality of life for mobility-impaired individuals, with ongoing refinements aimed at further enhancing system functionality and user experience.

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