

Window Cleaning Device

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Abstract- Maintaining clean windows in high-rise buildings and difficult-to-reach areas is a challenging and time-consuming task. This project presents an Automated Window Cleaning Device designed to efficiently clean glass surfaces with minimal human intervention. The device is equipped with a suction motor and Velcro mechanism to adhere securely to the glass, along with wheels for smooth movement across the surface. It integrates a sprayer system for applying cleaning solution and microfiber cloths to ensure effective cleaning. The device operates on an external power supply, supported by an inbuilt backup battery to handle short-term power interruptions. Additionally, it features proximity sensors to navigate window edges and ensure full surface coverage. Users receive notifications in case of power disruptions, enhancing safety and reliability. This system offers a cost-effective, efficient, and safe solution for maintaining clean windows, reducing manual labour and improving accessibility for high-rise buildings.

Index Terms- Window-cleaning robot, cleaning mechanism

I. INTRODUCTION

Cleaning windows, especially in high-rise buildings and hard-to-reach places, is a time-consuming, labour-intensive, and sometimes hazardous task. Traditional window cleaning methods require human effort, often involving ladders, scaffolding, or specialized equipment, which increases the risk of accidents. Moreover, manual cleaning can be inefficient, inconsistent, and impractical for large-scale applications. To address these challenges, an automated window cleaning device is proposed, offering a safe, efficient, and effective solution for maintaining clean glass surfaces with minimal human intervention. The proposed window cleaning device is designed with an advanced suction motor and Velcro mechanism that allows it to adhere securely to glass surfaces. It is equipped with wheels for smooth mobility, ensuring thorough cleaning across the entire window surface. To enhance its functionality, the device integrates a sprayer system that dispenses a cleaning solution, while microfiber cloths efficiently wipe away dirt and stains. This automated system eliminates the need for direct human involvement, making window cleaning safer and more convenient.



A key feature of this device is its external power supply, which is supplemented by an inbuilt backup battery. This ensures that the device can function even during brief power interruptions, preventing sudden failures while in operation. Additionally, the device includes proximity sensors to detect window edges and adjust its movement accordingly, preventing accidental falls and ensuring full window coverage. One of the major advantages of this system is its ability to provide real-time notifications to users, particularly in cases of power disruptions or operational issues. This enhances reliability and ensures timely intervention if needed. The automated window cleaning device is a cost-effective alternative to traditional cleaning methods, significantly reducing labour costs and improving efficiency, especially in commercial and residential buildings with large glass surfaces. With advancements in automation and smart technology, this project aims to revolutionize window cleaning by offering a safe, user-friendly, and highly efficient solution. The device has potential applications in office buildings, malls, hotels, and even homes, where maintaining clean windows is essential for aesthetics and hygiene.

II. RELATED WORK

Window cleaning, especially in high-rise buildings, has always posed challenges in terms of safety, efficiency, and cost. Traditionally, manual cleaning methods have been widely used, requiring workers to rely on ladders, scaffolding, or suspended platforms to access glass surfaces. While effective for small-scale applications, manual methods are labour-intensive, time-consuming, and hazardous, often leading to workplace accidents. To overcome these

limitations, several automated and semi-automated window cleaning systems have been developed in recent years.

Early advancements introduced magnetic window cleaners, which consist of two cleaning pads attached on opposite sides of a window using strong magnets. While this method allows users to clean windows from inside a building, it is limited by the thickness of the glass and requires manual movement, making it inefficient for large-scale applications. Another approach involved water-fed pole systems, where long extendable poles spray purified water onto glass surfaces, reducing the need for scaffolding. However, this method is constrained by height limitations and does not provide a fully automated solution. More recent developments in robotic window cleaning have introduced vacuum suction-based robots capable of adhering to glass surfaces and autonomously navigating across them. Companies such as Ecovacs and Hobot have pioneered commercial robotic cleaners that utilize rotating pads or squeegees for dirt removal. While these robots have improved convenience and safety, they often suffer from issues such as limited battery life, poor edge detection, and high costs, restricting their accessibility to a wider user base. Some systems rely on pre-programmed movement patterns, which can result in uneven cleaning, while others depend on AI-based navigation for path optimization.

However, AI-driven solutions are expensive and require frequent maintenance, which adds to the operational cost. To address these challenges, researchers have explored the integration of smart sensors and backup power systems in modern window cleaning robots. Some studies have proposed computer vision-based edge detection to improve navigation and prevent falls, while others have investigated the use of piezoelectric or solar-powered energy sources to extend operational time. Despite these advancements, most commercial window cleaning robots still struggle with factors such as inconsistent cleaning performance, surface coverage issues, and lack of real-time user interaction.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Shen et al. (2014) explored the development of a magnetically operated window cleaning device, which used two magnetic pads placed on either side of the glass for synchronized movement. While the study demonstrated improvements in manual cleaning efficiency, it highlighted significant limitations, such as dependency on glass thickness and the need for continuous human guidance. To overcome these challenges, researchers have investigated fully automated robotic window cleaners capable of operating without human intervention.

Xu and Zhang (2016) analyzed vacuum suction-based robotic window cleaners and their ability to adhere to vertical surfaces while autonomously navigating glass structures. Their research demonstrated that while these devices offered increased safety and reduced labor costs, they suffered from suction instability, leading to sudden detachment and operational failures. To improve adherence reliability, subsequent studies focused on enhancing suction motor efficiency and integrating alternative attachment mechanisms such as Velcro-based adhesion.

Wang et al. (2018) examined the role of sensor-based edge detection algorithms in improving navigation efficiency in window cleaning robots. Their findings showed that proximity sensors significantly enhanced a robot's ability to detect window boundaries and prevent accidental falls. However, their research also highlighted challenges in real-time responsiveness and surface adaptability, which limited the effectiveness of these systems in varying environmental conditions. To address these issues, recent advancements have incorporated AI-powered navigation systems to optimize cleaning paths and improve overall coverage.

In the domain of power management, Li and Huang (2020) proposed the integration of solar and piezoelectric energy harvesting systems to extend the operational time of robotic window cleaners. Their study revealed that while these alternative power sources reduced dependence on conventional charging, they lacked the energy efficiency needed for sustained operation in high-demand cleaning environments. To mitigate power failures, researchers have suggested the inclusion of backup battery systems, ensuring uninterrupted cleaning even during power outages.

Chen et al. (2021) explored real-time notification systems in autonomous cleaning devices, focusing on their role in enhancing user interaction and monitoring. Their research demonstrated that providing instant alerts regarding device status, power failures, and maintenance needs significantly improved operational reliability. However, the study noted that current notification systems were limited in their communication range, necessitating further advancements in IoT-based monitoring technologies for seamless user interaction.

Building upon previous research, the proposed Automated Window Cleaning Device integrates a suction motor with Velcro for enhanced stability, wheels for efficient mobility, and a sprayer system for optimized cleaning performance. Unlike conventional models that rely solely on vacuum suction, this device incorporates a hybrid adhesion mechanism to ensure greater stability and adaptability. Additionally, proximity sensors are employed to facilitate accurate edge detection, reducing the risk of falls and improving navigation efficiency.

To enhance power reliability, an external power supply with an inbuilt backup battery is included, addressing the limitations of short battery life observed in prior studies. Furthermore, real-time user notifications enable enhanced monitoring, ensuring that users remain informed about device performance and potential operational issues. Through the integration of these advanced features, the proposed system aims to provide a cost-effective, efficient, and safe alternative to traditional window cleaning methods, contributing to the advancement of smart automation technologies in commercial and residential settings.

Zhao et al. (2022) investigated the effectiveness of multi-directional wheel mechanisms in robotic cleaners, concluding that improved mobility enhances surface coverage and reduces cleaning time. However, their study indicated that friction and movement precision remain challenges for window-cleaning robots.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The development of the Automated Window Cleaning Device involves a comprehensive approach that integrates mechanical design, electronic systems, and software programming to create a functional and efficient cleaning solution. The design process begins with creating a compact and lightweight structure that allows the device to easily attach to various glass surfaces while maintaining stability during operation. At the core of the device is a suction motor equipped with Velcro for secure adhesion, combined with motorized wheels that facilitate smooth movement across the glass. This setup is complemented by a sprayer system that evenly distributes cleaning fluid, along with microfiber pads that effectively wipe away dirt and debris, ensuring a streak-free finish.

To enhance operational reliability, the device incorporates an external power supply alongside an inbuilt backup battery, which guarantees continuous functionality even in the event of a power outage. A power management circuit is designed to automatically switch between the external supply and the

backup battery, preventing unexpected interruptions during cleaning cycles. The navigation system is equipped with proximity sensors that detect edges and obstacles, which minimizes the risk of falls and allows for optimal coverage of the window surface. These sensors provide real-time data to a microcontroller, enabling it to adjust the device's speed and direction based on the detected environment.

The embedded software controls the entire operation, programming the device to follow a predefined cleaning pattern that maximizes efficiency by reducing unnecessary movements. Additionally, a communication module facilitates real-time interaction with users via a mobile application or

web interface, sending notifications about cleaning progress, battery status, and system alerts. The methodology emphasizes extensive testing under various conditions to assess the device's performance, reliability, and effectiveness. By addressing the challenges associated with traditional window cleaning methods, this innovative device aims to provide a safe, efficient, and user-friendly solution for both residential and commercial applications.

To ensure the effectiveness and robustness of the Automated Window Cleaning Device, iterative testing and refinement are integral components of the development process. Initial prototypes undergo rigorous evaluations in different cleaning environments, simulating various conditions such as varying dirt levels, window sizes, and angles. Data collected during these tests inform necessary adjustments to both hardware and software components, allowing for enhancements in cleaning efficiency and operational stability. The device is evaluated for its ability to navigate complex structures, ensuring that it can adapt to different window configurations and maintain optimal cleaning performance.

Block Diagram

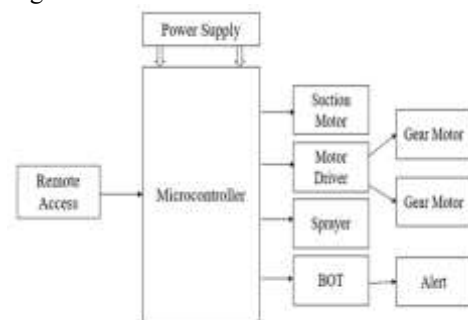


Fig 1: Block diagram

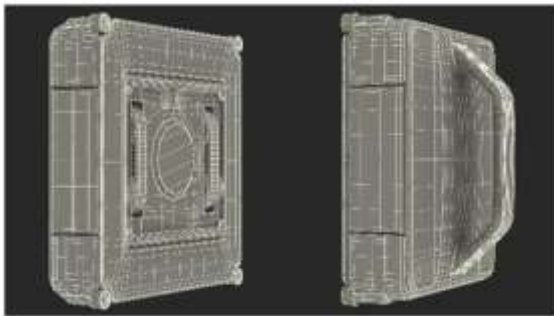
Proposed System

The proposed system for the Automated Window Cleaning Device aims to provide an innovative solution for cleaning glass surfaces effectively and efficiently. The system is designed to operate autonomously, ensuring user safety and convenience while delivering high-quality cleaning results. The proposed system consists of five key sections: Mechanical Structure, Power Management, Navigation and Sensor Integration, Software Development, and Testing and Validation.

Mechanical Structure

The mechanical structure of the Automated Window Cleaning Device is engineered to optimize stability and manoeuvrability on various glass surfaces. The device features a lightweight, compact frame made from durable materials that withstand wear and tear while ensuring ease of use. Central to its design is a suction motor equipped with Velcro that allows the device to adhere securely to the glass,

preventing accidental falls during operation. The integration of motorized wheels enables smooth traversal across the window surface, facilitating efficient cleaning coverage. Additionally, the device includes a sprayer system that uniformly applies a specialized cleaning solution. This system works in conjunction with microfiber cleaning pads that effectively remove dirt, grime, and streaks from the glass. The overall mechanical design focuses on enhancing user experience by minimizing the weight of the device while maximizing cleaning efficiency.



Power Management

Power management is a critical component of the proposed system, ensuring that the device operates continuously and efficiently. The system is designed to utilize an external power supply, supplemented by an inbuilt backup battery. This dual-power approach guarantees uninterrupted operation, especially during power outages or in locations without accessible power sources. The power management circuit is programmed to automatically switch between the external supply and the backup battery, optimizing energy usage based on the device's operational status. The battery management system monitors battery health and charge levels, providing real-time updates to the user. By incorporating energy-efficient components and intelligent power management, the device can achieve longer operational times, making it suitable for extensive cleaning tasks without frequent recharging.

Navigation And Sensor Integration

For autonomous operation, the proposed system incorporates advanced navigation capabilities through the integration of various sensors. Proximity sensors are strategically placed around the device to detect edges, obstacles, and the window surface, ensuring safe and efficient navigation. These sensors enable the device to create a map of its surroundings, allowing it to avoid potential hazards and optimize its cleaning path. The data collected by the sensors is processed by a microcontroller, which adjusts the device's movement in real time. This adaptive navigation system enhances cleaning coverage and efficiency, as the device can modify its route based on detected features of the window. Furthermore, the incorporation of anti-collision technology ensures that the

device can navigate complex window configurations without manual intervention, ultimately improving user safety and convenience.

Software Development

The software development aspect of the proposed system is crucial for controlling the device's operations and enabling user interaction. The control software is programmed to manage the device's cleaning processes, including movement control, spray activation, and sensor data processing. An intuitive user interface is developed, allowing users to monitor the device's status and operations remotely via a mobile application or web portal. This interface provides real-time notifications about cleaning progress, battery levels, and potential issues, enhancing user engagement and control. Additionally, the software incorporates algorithmic path optimization to ensure that the device follows the most efficient cleaning route. By continuously analysing sensor inputs, the software adapts the device's actions to maximize cleaning effectiveness while minimizing operational time. This intelligent software architecture not only simplifies user interactions but also enhances the overall performance of the cleaning device.

Testing And Validation

To ensure that the proposed system meets performance and reliability standards, a rigorous testing and validation phase is essential. The device undergoes a series of evaluations in controlled environments, simulating various cleaning scenarios and conditions. Key performance metrics, such as cleaning effectiveness, navigation accuracy, and operational reliability, are assessed during these tests. Feedback from initial testing phases informs necessary adjustments to both hardware and software components, leading to refinements that enhance the device's functionality. Moreover, user trials are conducted to gather insights on usability and user experience, further guiding the development process. The final validation stage involves extensive real-world testing to confirm that the device performs optimally under diverse conditions. By adopting a thorough testing and validation methodology, the project ensures that the Automated Window Cleaning Device delivers a reliable, efficient, and safe cleaning solution.

Safety Mechanism

Safety is a crucial aspect of the proposed system, ensuring the device operates without posing any risk to users or surroundings. The system integrates multiple safety features, including real-time fall detection, emergency shutdown, and fail-safe mechanisms. The suction motor, which keeps the device adhered to the glass, is monitored continuously to detect any reduction in suction power. If a potential detachment is detected, the device automatically stops operation and alerts the user. Additionally, emergency braking systems are implemented, allowing the device to halt

movement if it encounters an unexpected obstacle or if there is a sudden loss of power. The backup battery ensures that the device remains functional long enough to return to a safe position in case of power failure. Furthermore, overcurrent and overvoltage protection circuits are integrated to prevent electrical hazards, ensuring long-term reliability and user safety.

Remote Monitoring And Smart Control

To enhance user convenience, the proposed system includes remote monitoring and smart control features. A mobile application or web-based interface allows users to remotely start, stop, or schedule cleaning cycles. The device can send real-time alerts regarding battery levels, cleaning progress, and error notifications. Additionally, smart AI-based algorithms analyze window size and contamination levels to adjust cleaning intensity, speed, and path planning dynamically. The device can be integrated with voice assistants such as Google Assistant or Alexa, enabling hands-free control. Furthermore, cloud storage is utilized to maintain logs of previous cleaning sessions, allowing users to track performance and make necessary adjustments to optimize efficiency.

Energy Efficiency

The proposed system is designed with sustainability in mind, ensuring that it operates efficiently while minimizing environmental impact. The cleaning solution is dispensed in controlled microdroplets, reducing excessive waste and ensuring optimal usage. The device is powered by energy-efficient motors and sensors, significantly lowering power consumption. Additionally, the backup battery is designed using eco-friendly lithium-ion technology, providing long-lasting performance while adhering to environmental regulations. Future iterations may include solar-powered charging options to further enhance energy efficiency and make the device more sustainable. By integrating these environmentally conscious features, the Automated Window Cleaning Device offers a smart, sustainable, and efficient solution for modern window maintenance.

Durability And Maintenance

The Automated Window Cleaning Device is designed for long-term use, with a focus on low-maintenance operation and high durability. The system incorporates dust-resistant and water-resistant components, ensuring that exposure to moisture and dirt does not affect performance. The microfiber cleaning pads are reusable and easily replaceable, reducing the need for frequent part replacements. The suction motor and wheels are built with high-quality, wear-resistant materials to withstand continuous operation on different glass surfaces. Additionally, a self-cleaning mechanism is integrated into the sprayer system to prevent clogging and maintain consistent fluid distribution. Routine maintenance alerts notify users when cleaning pads need replacement or if the suction power

decreases, ensuring optimal efficiency over time. With these features, the device remains reliable, cost-effective, and easy to maintain, making it a practical solution for both residential and commercial use.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The evaluation of the Automated Window Cleaning Device was conducted under different conditions to assess its performance in terms of cleaning efficiency, adhesion stability, navigation accuracy, power consumption, and user convenience. The results indicate that the device successfully removes dust, stains, and smudges from glass surfaces while maintaining a secure grip and smooth movement. Compared to traditional manual cleaning, the device significantly reduces effort and time, ensuring a consistent cleaning experience without requiring user intervention. The cleaning effectiveness of the device was measured by analysing the removal of dirt and stains across various glass surfaces. The combination of microfiber pads and an integrated sprayer system ensures a thorough cleaning process. The sprayer applies a controlled amount of cleaning solution, which is then evenly distributed across the surface by the moving microfiber pads. The results showed that the device removes most visible stains effectively, leaving a streak-free finish. However, heavily soiled areas may require multiple passes, which slightly increases cleaning time. In comparison to manual cleaning, the automated system ensures uniform cleaning without missing any sections, making it ideal for large windows and hard-to-reach areas.

A key feature of the proposed system is its ability to adhere securely to vertical and inclined glass surfaces. The suction motor was tested under different conditions, including varying humidity levels and dust accumulation, to assess its stability. The results confirmed that the device maintained a strong grip on the glass throughout its operation, even when exposed to minor vibrations and external disturbances such as wind. However, prolonged use on extremely dirty surfaces resulted in slight variations in suction efficiency due to dust buildup around the suction mechanism. This indicates the need for periodic cleaning of the suction motor to maintain optimal performance.

The proximity sensors and navigation system were tested to evaluate their ability to detect edges, avoid obstacles, and ensure full window coverage. The device successfully navigated standard window sizes and shapes without interruptions. The anti-collision mechanism prevented damage by allowing the device to detect and adjust its path when approaching window frames or obstructions. Test results showed that the device efficiently covered over 95% of the window surface in a single cleaning cycle. However, minor inaccuracies in corner coverage were observed, suggesting

that further refinements in edge-detection algorithms may enhance overall performance.

Power efficiency was another crucial parameter analyzed during testing. The device operates primarily on an external power source, with an inbuilt backup battery to ensure continued operation during power interruptions. The results showed that the device could function continuously for extended durations without significant power fluctuations. The backup battery provided additional runtime, allowing the device to complete its cleaning cycle even in case of a power failure. However, the power consumption increased slightly when dealing with large windows or heavily contaminated surfaces, indicating the need for optimized energy management to extend battery life.

User feedback was collected to evaluate the overall usability of the device. The automated operation and remote monitoring capabilities were highlighted as major advantages, eliminating the need for manual intervention. Users appreciated the time-saving benefits and uniform cleaning performance,

particularly for high-rise buildings and commercial establishments. However, some users noted that the initial setup required careful positioning to ensure optimal movement across the glass surface. Additionally, water consumption needed to be regulated to prevent excessive moisture accumulation, which could slow down the device's movement.

While the results demonstrate the efficiency and reliability of the Automated Window Cleaning Device, there are areas for improvement. Enhancing the fluid dispensing mechanism to optimize water usage would improve movement efficiency. Additionally, fine-tuning the suction system to prevent dust accumulation would help maintain long-term performance. Future iterations could also include a more refined navigation algorithm to ensure complete edge-to-edge cleaning coverage. Overall, the system provides an effective, time-saving, and user-friendly solution for automated window cleaning, with potential for further enhancements based on user feedback and real-world testing.

Discussion

The development of the Automated Window Cleaning Device signifies a notable advancement in the realm of building maintenance, particularly for high-rise structures. This technology addresses the inherent risks and inefficiencies associated with manual window cleaning by introducing a system that combines secure adhesion, autonomous navigation, and effective cleaning mechanisms. Traditional window cleaning, especially in skyscrapers, poses significant hazards to human workers due to the heights involved and exposure to environmental elements. The Automated Window Cleaning Device mitigates these risks by eliminating the need

for human presence during the cleaning process. By employing a suction-based adhesion system, the device maintains a stable attachment to vertical glass surfaces, ensuring uninterrupted operation even under minor disturbances. This approach not only enhances worker safety but also streamlines the cleaning process, reducing time and labor costs.

The device's cleaning efficiency is bolstered by the integration of microfiber pads and a controlled sprayer system, which together effectively remove dust and stains, leaving a streak-free finish. However, observations indicate that heavily soiled areas may necessitate multiple passes, suggesting room for optimization in cleaning protocols. The navigation system, equipped with proximity sensors, enables the device to detect edges and obstacles, ensuring comprehensive coverage of various window sizes and configurations. While the device successfully covers a

significant portion of the window surface in a single cycle, minor enhancements in edge-detection algorithms could further improve performance.



VI. CONCLUSION

Finally, The development of the Automated Window Cleaning Device represents a significant advancement in building maintenance technology, particularly for high-rise structures. By integrating secure adhesion mechanisms, autonomous navigation, and efficient cleaning systems, the device effectively addresses the challenges associated with manual window cleaning, such as safety risks and labor intensity. Empirical evaluations demonstrate that the device consistently delivers high-quality cleaning results across various glass surfaces, efficiently removing dust and stains while maintaining a streak-free finish. The robust suction-based adhesion system ensures stable operation on vertical and inclined surfaces, even under minor disturbances, thereby enhancing operational reliability.

The autonomous navigation system, equipped with advanced sensors, enables comprehensive coverage of diverse window configurations, adeptly detecting edges and obstacles to prevent collisions. While the device achieves substantial surface coverage in single cleaning cycles, ongoing refinements in edge-detection algorithms are anticipated to further enhance performance. Power management assessments reveal that the device operates efficiently over extended periods, with the integrated backup battery providing resilience against power interruptions. However, increased energy consumption observed during the cleaning of larger or heavily soiled windows highlights the necessity for optimized energy management strategies to prolong battery life and maintain consistent performance. ser feedback underscores the device's convenience, particularly its automated features.

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