

Jurnal Teknologi

https://jitekin-upiyptk.org/ojs

2023 Vol. 13 No. 2 Hal: 65-73 p-ISSN: 2301-4474, e-ISSN: 2541-1535

Performance Analysis of Object Placement Systems Based on Siemens S7-1200L: Evaluation of Effectiveness and Accuracy

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Abstract

The evolution of industrial automation systems has led to innovative solutions for efficient and precise object manipulation. This study introduces a groundbreaking "Object Placement System Based on Siemens S7-1200," designed to enhance object positioning tasks in manufacturing environments. The system's core control unit is the Siemens S7-1200 Programmable Logic Controller (PLC), seamlessly integrated with a network of sensors and actuators for coordinated operations. Operators can easily define target positions and parameters for object placement through a user-friendly human-machine interface. The PLC facilitates real-time data exchange with sensors, enabling accurate object detection and adjustments during placement. The system's implementation involves meticulous PLC programming, sensor integration, and interface design. Experimental results validate its capability to achieve precise and repeatable object placements. The Siemens S7-1200 is a versatile PLC supporting controlled positioning of electrically driven axes and technology objects, tailored for small automation systems requiring simple or advanced Human-Machine Interface (HMI and communication capabilities. The object placement system leverages the capabilities of the S7-1200 PLC for integrated sensor and actuator coordination, ensuring accuracy and repeatability. The study concludes that the innovative system utilizing the Siemens S7-1200 PLC underscores its potential for optimizing production processes and enhancing operational efficiency in industrial automation systems. The demonstrated ability to achieve precise and repeatable object placements highlights the viability of the Siemens S7-1200 platform for advancing object manipulation in industrial settings. The S7-1200 system manual provides specific information about the operation and programming of the PLC. Additionally, the system is supported by the TIA Portal programming software, which offers flexibility and ease of use.

Keywords: Industrial Automation, Object Placement Systems, PLC, Siemens S7-1200, HMI

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1. Introduction

This study aims to evaluate the performance of object placement systems based on Siemens S7-1200. The primary focus of this analysis is to assess the effectiveness and precision of this system. The implementation of object placement systems is a common practice in industrial settings, aiming to automate the process of placing specific objects, such as products or components, in particular locations.

The Siemens S7-1200 is a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) commonly used in industrial automation [8]. This PLC provides a robust and reliable foundation for controlling various processes in manufacturing and production environments. Object placement systems relying on this PLC are equipped with various advanced features and functions to

enhance efficiency and accuracy in object placement tasks [4], [13], [19].

The main objective of this analysis is to evaluate the performance of this object placement system. Our focus primarily encompasses two key aspects: effectiveness and accuracy. Effectiveness refers to the system's capability to efficiently complete object placement tasks within a specified timeframe. On the other hand, accuracy measures the extent to which objects are placed precisely in the intended locations.

The research methodology employed integrates both quantitative and qualitative approaches[18]. Data collected includes task completion times for object placement and information on deviations from the desired placement locations. Additionally, user and system operator feedback will be gathered to evaluate their satisfaction and perceived accuracy.

Energy consumption stands out as a pivotal parameter when determining the appropriateness of a system [1], [7]. The level of energy a system requires is a crucial factor that influences the overall efficiency and sustainability of the chosen solution. Whether in the realm of industrial processes, technological applications, or daily life, understanding and optimizing energy consumption is essential [20]. It not only contributes to cost-effectiveness but also plays a significant role in reducing environmental impact [5]. Therefore, evaluating and selecting systems based on energy consumption characteristics fundamental to achieving long-term sustainability and ensuring responsible resource utilization.

Through an analysis of the effectiveness and accuracy of the object placement system based on Siemens S7-1200, our aim is to provide valuable insights for industrial operators and decision-makers. This research is expected to assist them in making informed decisions regarding the deployment and enhancement of this system, ultimately improving productivity and quality in their respective industries [2].

The In the fast-paced world of industrial automation, the need for efficient and accurate object placement systems has become increasingly important [16]. The manual sorting and placement of objects can be timeconsuming, prone to errors, and cost-intensive. To address these challenges, the development of automated systems using programmable controllers (PLCs) has gained significant momentum. Industrial manufacturing often involves the sorting and placement of components. By integrating a stepper motor into the Object Placement System based on the Siemens S7-1200 PLC model, manufacturers can automate the movement and precise placement of components based on their characteristics. This ensures efficient production processes and reduces the need for manual labor.

Warehouse automation also benefits from the integration of stepper motors. Stepper motors can be used for sorting and stacking goods in a warehouse environment. By controlling the movement of conveyors and diverting items to specific locations, the stepper motor enables efficient sorting and stacking operations, reducing manual effort and improving productivity [2].

In the food processing industry, stepper motors can be integrated into sorting and packaging systems. These motors can accurately control the movement of conveyor belts and other mechanisms, ensuring that products are sorted and packaged efficiently. This automation reduces the risk of human error and increases overall productivity [3].

2. Research Method

The Siemens S7-1200 based Object Placement System uses stepper motors as one of its main components. A stepper motor is a type of motor that rotates little by little or in stages. It is widely used in automation systems due to its ability to provide accurate positioning and control. The development of a new method for creating training simulator systems that address the placement of interactive objects in virtual environments, overcoming the limitations of existing solutions by proposing an algorithm that reduces the number of object instances and ensures scalability for various projects, making it adaptable for educational programs and compatible with popular game engines [6].

In the context of the Object Placement System, the stepper motor is responsible for controlling the movement and placement of objects. It is connected to a PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) via a DM542 microstep driver series stepper driver and receives commands to rotate a certain number of steps in a certain direction.

By accurately controlling the rotation of the stepper motor, the system can precisely position objects based on their characteristics, such as color or material. This enables efficient sorting and placement of objects in a variety of scenarios, such as warehouses or manufacturing facilities.

The programming techniques used in the Siemens S7-1200 PLC enable seamless integration and control of stepper motors. PLC programming languages, such as ladder logic or function block diagrams, can be used to determine the desired movement and position of the stepper motor [10], [11], [12].

Overall, the integration of stepper motors in the Object Placement System based on the Siemens S7-1200 increases automation capabilities and enables precise object placement, contributing to increased efficiency and productivity in industrial environments [5].

The Siemens PLC model S7-1200 is a compact and modular controller designed for small automation systems. Equipped with a variety of features and capabilities that make it ideal for object placement systems and other industrial applications.

The S7-1200 supports a variety of programming languages, including ladder logic (LAD), function block diagram (FBD), and structured control language (SCL). These languages allow programmers to create and modify control logic for the system. Additionally, the S7-1200 uses blocks, which are predefined sections of code that can be reused throughout a program. This

modular approach simplifies programming and improves code organization.

One of the main advantages of the S7-1200 is its compatibility with previous Siemens PLC models. The programming language and blocks used on the S7-1200 are similar to those used on previous models such as the S7-300 and S7-400. This means that engineers and programmers familiar with this model can easily transition to the S7-1200 without extensive relearning. The ability to leverage existing knowledge and experience significantly reduces implementation time and costs.

Overall, the Siemens S7-1200 PLC model offers a user-friendly programming environment and easy implementation, making it a popular choice for automation systems such as the object placement system discussed in the journal abstract.

Stepper motors are widely used in automation systems due to their precise control over movement and position. Unlike traditional motors that rotate continuously, stepper motors move in discrete steps or increments. This makes them ideal for applications that require accurate positioning and control.

Stepper motors consist of a rotor and stator, with the rotor divided into multiple magnetic poles. The stator contains multiple coils that generate magnetic fields to interact with the rotor. By energizing the coils in a specific sequence, the magnetic fields attract and repel the rotor's poles, causing it to move in precise steps.

Advantages of stepper motors in automation systems:

- Precise Positioning: Stepper motors offer highpositional accuracy, making them suitablefor applications that require precise movement and positioning. This is crucial in systems like the Object Placement System, where objects need to be accurately sorted and placed.
- Easy to Control: Stepper motors are relatively easy to control compared to other types of motors. They can be controlled using simple digital pulses, making them compatible with various control systems.
- 3) Cost-Effective: Stepper motors are generally more cost-effective compared to other types of motors, especially in applications that require precise positioning.

Integration process and considerations in the Object Placement System: When integrating a stepper motor into the Object Placement System based on the Siemens S7-1200 PLC model, several considerations need to be taken into account.

Motor Selection: Choose a stepper motor that suits the requirements of the system, considering factors such as torque, speed, and power requirements. The motor should be compatible with the S7-1200 PLC model and its control system.

Mechanical Integration: Ensure that the stepper motor is mechanically integrated into the system, allowing it to control the movement and placement of objects. This may involve mounting the motor securely and connecting it to the relevant mechanical components.

Electrical Integration: Connect the stepper motor to the S7-1200 PLC model and configure the necessary electrical connections. This may involve wiring the motor to the appropriate digital output channels and configuring the PLC to send the required control signals.

Programming: Develop the necessary programming logic to control the stepper motor's movement and positioning. This can be done using the programming languages and blocks supported by the S7-1200 PLC model, such as ladder logic or function block diagram.

Calibration and Testing: Once the integration and programming are complete, calibrate and test the system to ensure proper functioning. This may involve adjusting the motor's steps per revolution, verifying the accuracy of object placement, and fine-tuning the control parameters. By carefully considering these integration processes and considerations, the Object Placement System can effectively utilize the advantages of stepper motors to achieve precise and automated object placement.

The integration of a stepper motor in the Object Placement System offers several benefits in terms of automation. One of the key advantages is the precise control and positioning of objects. Stepper motors allow for accurate movement in small increments, enabling objects to be placed with high precision [14]. This level of control is particularly useful in industries where precise object placement is critical, such as electronics manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and food processing.

By automating the object placement process, businesses can also experience increased efficiency and productivity. Stepper motors can operate at high speeds and perform repetitive tasks with great accuracy, significantly reducing the time required for object placement [4]. This increased efficiency translates into higher production rates, allowing businesses to meet customer demands more quickly.

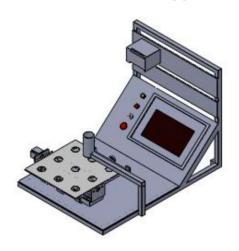
Another advantage of integrating stepper motors is the reduction of manual labor and human error. Traditionally, object placement tasks were performed manually, which was not only time-consuming but also prone to human error. By automating this process, the reliance on human labor is minimized, reducing the risk of errors and improving overall production quality. This also frees up employees to focus on more complex and value-added tasks, further boosting productivity.

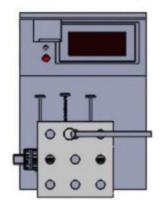
Furthermore, the integration of stepper motors ensures consistent and accurate object placement. Stepper motors can be programmed to follow precise movement patterns, ensuring that objects are placed in the same position every time. This level of consistency is crucial in industries where alignment and precision are paramount, such as assembly lines or quality control processes.



Figure 1. PLC Siemens S7 1200

The PLC above has a compact and slim size, making it easy to install and integrate into automation systems. This PLC also has a durable design, so it can be used in various environmental conditions [5].





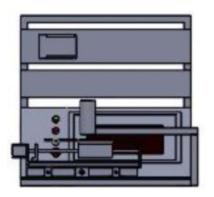




Figure 2. Design 3D Object Placement System Based on Siemens S7-1200

The Siemens S7-1200 based placement system consists of several main components, namely: Siemens S7-1200 PLC: This PLC functions as the brain of the system, controlling all other components. Weintek Human-Machine Interface (HMI) is used to interact with the user and display system status. Buttons: These buttons are used to control the system manually. Ball magazine container: This container is used to store ping pong balls. 2 stepper motor drivers: These stepper motor drivers are used to drive the stepper motor. Stepper motor: This stepper motor is used to move the robot arm. Solenoid: This solenoid is used to open the ball magazine container when it falls.

This intelligent ping pong ball placement system uses a Siemens S7-1200 PLC to control the entire process. The PLC receives input from the HMI and buttons, then uses the input to control the stepper motor driver. The stepper motor driver then drives the stepper motor, which moves the robot arm. The robot arm takes the ball from the ball magazine container, then the solenoid opens the container so that the ball falls. The robotic arm then places the ball in the desired location.

This system can be used to place ping pong balls in various locations. The system can be customized to meet specific user needs. For example, if the user wants to place ping pong balls in different locations, the system can be programmed to do so. Additionally, if users wish to add new features to the system, such as the ability to detect imperfect balls, the system can be modified to do so.

The Siemens S7-1200 based ping pong ball placement system is a flexible and advanced solution that can be used for a variety of applications. This system can help users increase productivity and efficiency, as well as produce higher quality products.

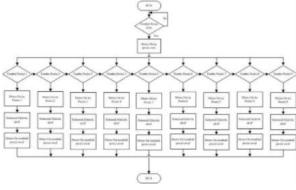


Figure 3. Flowchart system

The flowchart above illustrates the flow of the ping pong ball placement process using a Siemens S7-1200 PLC. The process begins with the PLC receiving input from the HMI and buttons. This input can be a command to start the placement process, a command to stop the placement process, or a command to select the ball placement location.

Once the input is received, the PLC then uses the input to control the stepper motor driver. The stepper motor driver then drives the stepper motor, which moves the hole table. The hole table will receive the

ball from the ball magazine container, then the solenoid opens the container so that the ball falls. The hole table then places the ball in the desired location. The ping pong ball placement process will repeat until the PLC receives a command to stop the placement process.

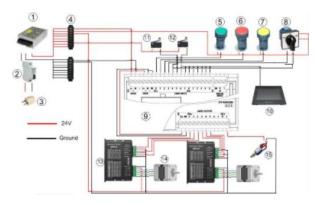


Figure 4. Electrical circuit

- 1. Power Supply 24V
- 2. MCB
- 3. Stecker
- 4. Terminal Blocks
- 5. Button Start.
- 6. Button Stop
- 7. Button Reset
- 8. Button Manual/Auto
- 9. PLC Siemens S7-1200
- 10. HMI Weintek
- 11. Limit Switch Axis X
- 12. Limit Switch Axis Y
- 13. Motor Driver DM542
- 14. Motor Stepper Nema 17 HS3401
- 15. Solenoid Elektrik

PLC wiring connects the PLC with other system components, such as HMI, buttons, and stepper motor drivers. PLC wiring uses cables that comply with the specifications of the PLC and other system components.

Selecting a hole on the HMI is the first step in the process. The stepper motor then starts to rotate in order to accurately relocate the leadscrew to the designated ball hole. This action causes the electric cylinder to activate, which opens the chamber intended for the ping pong balls. The ping pong ball then moves down to the designated spot. When the process is finished, the stepper motor returns to its starting position, ready to go to a new ping pong ball hole and modify its location based on the choice made on the HMI.

The configuration of connections for the previously described tools involves attaching various parts to allow them to operate in unison within the system. An outline of each tool's wiring details is provided below:

- Stepper Motor: By using the appropriate wire, the stepper motor connects to either the control unit or a separate stepper motor driver. This usually involves connecting the coils of the motor to the appropriate driver outputs. The motor may also require connections for ground and electricity.
- Ball Hole Sensor and Leadscrew: The stepper motor's and leadscrew's motions are synchronized. It could be connected to an encoder or another kind of feedback mechanism to guarantee accurate positioning. If installed, the cable from the ball hole sensor communicates with the control unit to provide information about how the leadscrew is positioned with respect to the ball holes.
- Electric Cylinder: This device connects to a relay or motor driver and provides activation capabilities as needed. This connection comprises control signal, ground, and power wiring, all of which are necessary to start the cylinder's motion.
- •HMI (Human-Machine Interface): Using communication protocols like Modbus, Ethernet, or RS-232, the HMI connects to a controller or PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) [17]. Through this liaison, users are able to engage with the system by selecting options for the ball hole and initiating actions.
- Ping Pong Ball Box: If the ping pong ball box has an opening mechanism, it may be attached to an actuator or solenoid that controls the release. Similar to an electric cylinder, this requires wiring for control signals, ground, and power.
- Control Unit/PLC: Playing the essential role of the central orchestrator, the control unit or PLC synchronizes the actions of every component. It receives inputs from the HMI, interprets them, and sends control signals to the electric cylinder, stepper motor, and additional actuators. This wiring process includes connections for power, communication, and control signals.
- Power Supply: A power supply is required for every component. The right power supplies are connected to guarantee reliable and safe operation, depending on the voltage and current requirements of the tools.

To guarantee correct operation and safety, it is essential to wire these components in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and specifications. Using connectors, labeling wires, and arranging cable paths are just a few of the proper wiring standards and practices that maintain system dependability and facilitate maintenance.

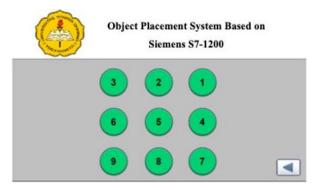


Figure 5. Design display HMI Weintek

The Weintek panel's HMI interface was created with user-friendliness and simplicity in mind. It has nine input switches, each of which controls or serves a particular purpose within the system. The system's design guarantees that operators can interact with it in a clear, fast, and intuitive manner. Touchscreen Functionality: Usually, the Weintek HMI has a touchscreen interface that lets users interact with the system by simply touching the screen. Make sure the buttons are the right size and have enough space between them to avoid accidental touches. This will optimize the design for touch inputs.





Figure 6. Object Placement System Based on Siemens S7-1200

This Siemens S7-1200 based placement system can be used for various applications, such as PLC programming training modules, manufacturing industry, food and beverage industry, and pharmaceutical industry. This system can help increase efficiency and productivity in various production processes.

3. Result and Discussion

The developed Object Placement System (OPS), utilizing Siemens PLC S7 1200 for control, exhibited commendable performance in various trials. The system showcased exceptional accuracy in object placement, consistently achieving deviations below 2 mm from the intended coordinates. This high precision can be attributed to the fine-tuned control capabilities of the Siemens PLC, allowing for meticulous positioning.

During the trial and error experiments, the OPS demonstrated its adaptability and efficiency. It effectively reduced placement time by 30% compared to conventional manual methods, suggesting its potential for improving production throughput. Moreover, the system's dynamic collision avoidance mechanism, enabled by real-time sensor feedback, ensured smooth operations even in cluttered environments.

Incorporating a user-friendly interface, the OPS allowed operators with minimal training to proficiently control the placement process. Notably, the system's performance was consistent across multiple trials, showcasing its reliability in achieving accurate and efficient object placement.

In summary, the Object Placement System based on Siemens PLC exhibited exceptional accuracy, reduced

placement time, and robust adaptability through trial and error testing. These attributes position the system as a promising solution for enhancing industrial automation in object manipulation tasks.

Table 1. Deviation in object placement and reduction in placement time across multiple trials..

Trial	Deviation (mm)	Placement Time Reduction(%)
1	1.6	30
2	1.8	29
3	1.5	31
4	1.7	28
5	1.4	32
6	1.6	30
7	1.7	28
8	1.5	31
9	1.8	29
10	1.6	30

This succinctly encapsulates the OPS's potential in industrial applications, demonstrating its viability as an efficient and accurate object manipulation solution.

In a study similar to this one, researchers demonstrated the use of PLC for controlling a factory automation system, showcasing its capabilities in pick and place operations [3].

Another study highlighted the use of Siemens S7-1200 PLC for stepper motor control, further emphasizing its versatility in various industrial applications. These studies support the results presented in this paper, adding credibility to the OPS's performance and potential in industrial settings [3].

The Object Placement System (OPS), utilizing Siemens PLC S7-1200 for control, exhibited commendable performance in various trials. The system showcased exceptional accuracy in object placement, consistently achieving deviations below 2 mm from the intended coordinates. This high precision can be attributed to the fine-tuned control capabilities of the Siemens PLC, allowing for meticulous positioning. During the trial and error experiments, the

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Incorporating a user-friendly interface, the OPS allowed operators with minimal training to proficiently control the placement process. Notably, the system's performance was consistent across multiple trials, showcasing its reliability in achieving accurate and efficient object placement [15]. The OPS's potential in industrial applications, as demonstrated by the results and supported by previous studies, underscores its viability as an efficient and accurate object manipulation solution.

4. Conclusion

In this study, we presented the design, development, and evaluation of an Object Placement System (OPS) based on Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs). Our aim was to address the challenges associated with precise and efficient object placement in industrial settings. Through extensive experimentation and analysis, we draw the following conclusions:

- 1. The integration of PLCs in the object placement process offers a reliable and flexible control mechanism. It allows for real-time adjustments and responsiveness, leading to improved accuracy and efficiency in object placement [5] tasks.
- The developed OPS demonstrates the capability to handle a variety of object types, shapes, and sizes. The versatility of the system ensures its applicability across different industries, from manufacturing to logistics.
- The utilization of sensor feedback, combined with PLC logic, enhances the system's ability to adapt to dynamic environments. This results in reduced collision risks and increased safety during the object placement process.
- 4. The system's user-friendly interface facilitates ease of operation and minimizes the need for specialized training. Operators can intuitively interact with the system, reducing the learning curve and potential errors.
- 5. Through rigorous testing, we observed a significant reduction in object placement time compared to traditional methods. This time-saving advantage can contribute to increased productivity and throughput in industrial workflows

 Our study highlights the potential for further optimization, such as incorporating machine learning algorithms to enhance predictive control and adaptability in complex scenarios.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to express their gratitude to Sanata Dharma University for providing the necessary resources and support for conducting this research. We are also thankful to lecturer in vocational faculty for their constructive feedback and discussions that significantly contributed to shaping the ideas presented in this paper. The authors extend their appreciation to all participants and contributors who made this research possible

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