

Today's agenda

- 1 About us
- 2 About this course
- 3 Project design
- 4 Robots and robotics

My history

- PhD research in:
 - MEMS process development, devices, and systems
 - Micro autonomous air vehicles localization and control
 - Wireless communications protocols and hardware
- Postdoctoral research in:
 - Integrated robotic design and design automation
 - Functional specification of robotics
 - Robotics for education
- Other interests:
 - Ultimate frisbee, roller skating
 - Puzzle hunts, board games, elementary school art



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The Laboratory for Embedded Machines and Ubiquitous Robotics



<https://uclalemur.com>

- Overarching research interests:
 - How do we enable robots everywhere?
 - What can we do once we have that?
- Projects:
 - Democratization of engineering
 - Accessible printable robots
 - Mechanical intelligence
 - Distributed state estimation, localization, mapping
 - Robotics for education

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TA: Ruochen Hou

About you

Tell us who you are! Due **this Thursday** 1/11 at **11am**:

- Online questionnaire form for us to better tailor the course to your needs
- Public introduction slides
 - One slide about you personally
 - Three possible final project ideas
 - Will be presented live at Thursday's class

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ECE183: Design of Robotic Systems

- This class is about **design**:
 - Planning
 - Execution
 - Validation
 - Communication

- This class is (mostly) **not**:
 - Book problems
 - Product development
 - Hardware hacking

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Goals of this class

In decreasing order of impact:

- Learn how to successfully plan, execute, and present an engineering design project
- Reinforce engineering skills learned from your past classes
- Learn new tools and technical skills relevant to robotics

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Schedule and structure

- 4 unit class = 12 hrs commitment per week
- Winter term
 - In-class lab activities and project presentations: 6 hrs
 - Recorded lectures: ~2 hrs
 - Additional commitments: ~4 hrs
 - Lab work, project research & planning
- Spring term
 - Final project execution: ~10 hr
 - Meeting with staff: ~1 hr
 - Both scheduled and ad-hoc board meetings
 - Weekly progress reports also posted to the class
 - Peer assessment: ~1 hr

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Lectures

- Pre-recorded lecture videos
 - Design
 - Front loaded to cover project process, deliverables
 - Robotics
 - Some will be mandatory, most will be optional.
 - Additional topics
- Lecture material will be relevant for both lab and project assignments

All lectures are available right now on our course website:

- <https://capstone.uclalemur.com>

All project assignments are available right now on our course git server:

- <https://git.capstone.uclalemur.com/staff/project-assignments>

Suggested pacing given there, feel free to peek ahead

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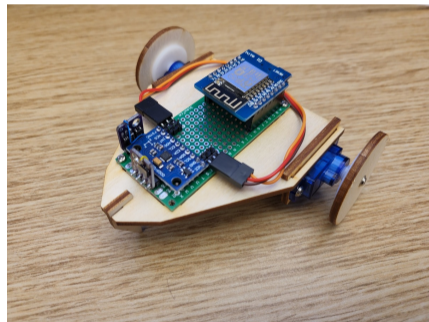
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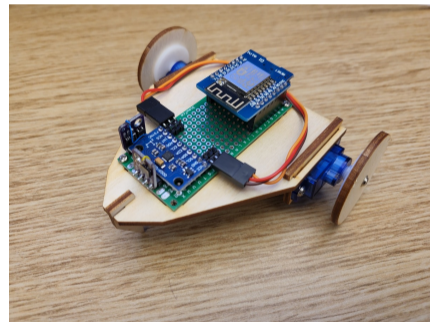
Labs / Mini-project

- Toy problems based on Woodbot
 - Explore variety of modeling / prototyping tools
 - Develop experiments to support design process
- Observe design process examples
- Establish good project management habits
- Better estimate future plans



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Final project

- Formulate, design, justify, evaluate, and present a robotic solution to a problem
- Open-ended definition but must include:
 - Electromechanical mechanisms
 - Computation for processing / intelligence
 - System integration to address application needs
 - Evaluations and justification
 - Novelty

Prerequisites

- Linear algebra
 - Matrix math
 - Linear systems
- Differential equations
 - Multivariable systems
 - State space descriptions
 - Numerical methods
- Probability and Statistics
 - Discrete and continuous random variables
 - Bayesian inference
 - Simulation and modeling

Also

- Programming (Python3)
- Algorithms
- Rigid body mechanics
- Signal processing
- Feedback control

Course communication

Three main sites to keep in mind:

- Class website: <https://capstone.uclalemur.com>
- Bruinlearn: <https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/176994>
- Gitlab repository: <https://git.capstone.uclalemur.edu>

Everything official from us will be handled via these websites:

- Announcements
- Handouts
- Assignments

Make sure your email address is correct, and check email regularly.

One final note

- This class is a bridge between student life and an engineering career
- We want your experience to be valuable and enjoyable
- Feedback is encouraged and always welcome
- This class is likely to evolve over the course of the year

Questions?

Any questions on the administrivia?

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Coursework vs Design

- Problem set
 - **Given:** tool, problem
 - **Do:** apply tool to problem
 - **Goal:** answer to problem
- Exam
 - **Given:** collection of tools, problem
 - **Do:** choose appropriate tool, apply to problem
 - **Goal:** answer to problem

Coursework vs Design

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Coursework vs Design (cont'd)

- Design
 - **Given:** universe of tools, universe of problems
 - **Do:** choose optimal problem, choose optimal tool(s)
 - **Goal:** support that problem + tool are optimal, plan to generate solution using tool(s)
- Product development
 - **Given:** tools, plan
 - **Do:** implement the solution according to the plan
 - **Goal:** solution to problem
- Hacking
 - **Given:** tools
 - **Do:** implement and apply tools
 - **Goal:** experience, intuition, further ideas

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Design process

Project: **technologies** → **solution** → **application**

The design process ensures that the right technologies are engineered in the right way to address the right problem.

If you don't attempt to **discover and validate** your choice of technologies, solution, and application, you're going to have a bad time.

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Why design?

Potential **failure**

- Inappropriate application
 - Google glass: Pervasive (wearable) vision-based computing
- Inappropriate tool / technology
 - Nintendo Virtual Boy: Monochrome stereo-vision display
- Single technology for single application
 - Kodak: Light sensitive film for personal photography
- Single project pathway
 - Blackberry: pocket computer for personal computing via keypad

Why design?

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Validation

- What constitutes support that a problem is “optimal”?
 - Market research
 - User interviews
 - Experimentation / analysis

- What constitutes support that tools are “optimal”?
 - Industrial / academic research
 - Modeling / simulation
 - Experimentation / analysis
 - Extrapolation
 - Comparison

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The process

Single solutions are not enough

- Identify candidates and alternatives
- Select an evaluation method
 - Literature search
 - Analysis
 - Prototyping
- Execute the method to **justify** your choice
- **Process** is more important than product

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Theme: Tech startup

- Build a **company**, not just a demo / device
- Plan extensively to justify ongoing investment
- Results are generated to validate **methods**

- Final deliverables
 - Artifacts, demonstration, presentation, writeup
- **Periodic deliverables**
 - Scoping, plan, design reviews, milestones

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Top-down project definition

- **Application** pull, e.g.:
 - Netflix: Application = on-demand movies
 - Technology option 1: DVDs by mail
 - Technology option 2: streaming downloads
 - Early Uber: Application = app-driven taxi
 - Technology option 1: employed drivers
 - Technology option 2: ridesharing

Bottom-up project definition

- **Technology** push, e.g.:
 - Amazon: Technology = scalable computation
 - Application option 1: product recommendations
 - Application option 2: cloud compute services
 - Recent Uber: Technology = gig workers
 - Application option 1: ridesharing
 - Application option 2: food delivery

Project deliverables: Pre-planning

Goal: Choose **and justify** a specific project, in stages

- Initial ideas:
 - One top-down application with multiple technology options
 - One bottom-up technology with multiple application options
 - A third idea of either type
- **P1**: Individual: build team of like interest, complementary skills
 - Due Thursday in your introduction presentation
- **P2**: Team: get feedback to minimize unexpected challenges and maximize success
 - Starts next week

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Project deliverables: Pre-planning

Goal: Define **and justify** a specific project scope

- **P3**: One technology and application, with multiple pathways, e.g.:
 - Uber: gig workers for ridesharing
 - Build app to connect to connect passengers to drivers
 - Learn models of passenger distribution to command driver patrol routes
- **P4**: Requirements Review (RR) / System Design Review (SDR)
 - Identify all necessary subsystems
 - Explore and understand interactions between subsystems
 - Characterize unknowns, action items, and risk

Project deliverables: Pre-planning

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Project milestone: Shark tank VC pitch

P5 Goal: Externally **validate** your preliminary justifications

- Explain to potential investors:
 - Project scope (technology, application, and pathways)
 - Resource allocation
 - Time
 - Personnel
 - Expected deliverables
 - Risk/reward analysis
- Initial investments reflect:
 - potential value of solution
 - thoroughness of pre-planning process

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Project deliverables: Planning

P6 Goal: Ensure successful project completion

- Preliminary Design Review (PDR) / Test Readiness Review (TRR)
 - Resolve most impactful unknowns
 - Mitigate most significant risks
 - Decompose project (hierarchically) into individual atomic tasks
 - Allocate / schedule all tasks and all resources
 - Ensure that dependencies are identified and accommodated
 - Manage internal and external uncertainty
 - Define incremental success criteria

Project deliverables: Weekly execution

Goal: Ensure regular progress and allow course correction

- Progress update
 - Comparison of current status to PDR plan
 - Mitigation strategy for shortfalls
 - Refinement of future tasks
 - Clear action plan for upcoming week
- Investment change (stock trading) reflects confidence in plan and execution

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Project planning goals – q1

- Achievable
 - Meet weekly deliverables and final goals
 - Culminate in interactive integrated demo
 - Justify final design
- Ambitious
 - Exercise all your engineering skills
 - Prepare scaleable stretch goals
 - Build a project you can show off
- Impactful
 - Add value beyond just this class
 - Engineer for social / societal good

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Final milestones – q2

- Presentations
 - Sales pitch for product / results
 - Final Design Review (FDR) for process / methods
- Live demos
- Writeups
 - FDR documentation
- Company exit (details to come)

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Engineering philosophy

- Engineering is a combination of technology and communication. The grading policy reflects that.
- The important contribution is the **process**; generating and analyzing results is necessary to **validate** the process
- Answer the What, How, Why of the results:
 - **What** did you accomplish?
 - **How** did you do it?
 - **Why** that way?
- ... and again for the process:
 - **What** is to be learned / understood from this?
 - **How** can this be generalized / applied to other problems?
 - **Why** should anyone (everyone) care?

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Questions

Any questions on course and project expectations?

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What is a robot?

What is a robot?



From WPI: Robotics Engineering

What is a robot?

Ask 10 roboticists, you'll get 12 different answers

Approximate consensus:

“A machine that can sense, think, and act.”

Defining characteristics of a robot

- **Machine:** a physical artifact built by humans
- **Sense:** gather data from the environment
- **Think:** compute, reason, process, plan
- **Act:** effect a change in the environment

- Are any of these optional?

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Robots today

- Industry

- Automobile manufacturing
- Silicon processing
- Pharma testing
- Warehousing

- Military

- Manned vehicles
- Smart weapons
- Unmanned surveillance
- Bomb disposal

- Field and Service

- Space exploration
- Agriculture automation
- Environmental monitoring
- Homeland security

- Consumer

- Home automation
- Toys
- Companionship
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Relevant academic topics

- Electrical and computer engineering
 - Integrated circuits
 - Power systems
 - Communications
- Mechanical engineering
 - Structures
 - Kinematics and dynamics
 - Fluids and thermodynamics
- Computer science
 - Algorithms
 - AI and machine learning
 - Human-robot interaction
- And more...
 - Civil and environmental engineering
 - Material science
 - Bioengineering
 - Statistics
 - Sociology/Psychology
 - Urban studies
 - ...

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Interdisciplinary subjects

- Electromechanical transducers and devices
- Embedded systems programming
- Controllers and control systems
- Manufacturing processes
- Design optimization
- Security, privacy, fairness, equity and inclusion
- ...

Robotics is hard

- Inherently tightly integrated interdisciplinary engineering
- Devices must operate in the real world
 - Analog, continuous, nonlinear, coupled, and dynamic
 - Full of uncertainty
 - Models are necessarily limited in accuracy
- Devices must interact with humans
 - Humans are even more fiddly
 - Two way communication with unknown assumptions
 - Safety regardless of usage
- We are all a part of society

Robotics research

Paradig Sessions - Tuesday, Nov 3

Day	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	14:00-15:00
			TURP (2.0-6.0) Industrial Forum 1
		13:00-14:00 TURP (3.0-6.0) CSP Forum	14:00-15:00 TURP (3.0-6.0) Industrial Forum 2
1	TURP (2.0-6.0) Collaboration and Misclassification	TURP (2.0-6.0) 3D Vision and Pose Estimation	TURP (2.0-6.0) 3D Perception and Segmentation
2	Deep Learning for Action Systems	Deep Learning for Computer Vision	Deep Learning for Object Systems
3	Learning and Adaptation Systems I	Learning and Adaptation Systems II	Learning and Adaptation Systems III
4	Autonomous Navigation I	Autonomous Navigation II	Autonomous Navigation III
5	Robot Safety	Autonomous Navigation IV	Autonomous Navigation V
6	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics III
7	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications III
8	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle Development, AI and ITS	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics

4

Technical Sessions - Wednesday, Nov 4

Day	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	14:00-15:00	16:00-18:00
1	SMART (2.0-6.0) Deep Learning and Segmentation I	SMART (2.0-6.0) Deep Learning and Segmentation II	SMART (2.0-6.0) Deep Learning and Segmentation III	SMART (2.0-6.0) Deep Learning and Segmentation IV
2	Deep Learning for Action Systems	Deep Learning for Computer Vision	Deep Learning for Object Systems	Deep Learning for Action Systems
3	Learning from Motion and Path Planning I	Learning from Motion and Path Planning II	Learning from Motion and Path Planning III	Learning from Motion and Path Planning IV
4	Autonomous Navigation I	Autonomous Navigation II	Autonomous Navigation III	Autonomous Navigation IV
5	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics IV
6	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications IV
7	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation IV
8	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle Development, AI and ITS	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics

5

Technical Sessions - Thursday, Nov 5

Day	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	14:00-15:00	16:00-18:00
1	TURP (2.0-6.0) Sensor Fusion and Sensor Based Control	TURP (2.0-6.0) Sensor Fusion and Sensor Based Control	TURP (2.0-6.0) Sensor Fusion and Sensor Based Control	TURP (2.0-6.0) Sensor Fusion and Sensor Based Control
2	Deep Learning for Action Systems	Deep Learning for Computer Vision	Deep Learning for Object Systems	Deep Learning for Action Systems
3	Learning from Motion and Path Planning I	Learning from Motion and Path Planning II	Learning from Motion and Path Planning III	Learning from Motion and Path Planning IV
4	Autonomous Navigation I	Autonomous Navigation II	Autonomous Navigation III	Autonomous Navigation IV
5	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics IV
6	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications IV
7	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation IV
8	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle Development, AI and ITS	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics

6

Technical Sessions - Friday, Nov 6

Day	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	14:00-15:00	16:00-18:00
1	TURP (2.0-6.0) Social Human-Robot Interaction I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Social Human-Robot Interaction II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Social Human-Robot Interaction III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Social Human-Robot Interaction IV
2	Deep Learning for Action Systems	Deep Learning for Computer Vision	Deep Learning for Object Systems	Deep Learning for Action Systems
3	Learning from Motion and Path Planning I	Learning from Motion and Path Planning II	Learning from Motion and Path Planning III	Learning from Motion and Path Planning IV
4	Autonomous Navigation I	Autonomous Navigation II	Autonomous Navigation III	Autonomous Navigation IV
5	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics IV
6	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications IV
7	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation IV
8	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle Development, AI and ITS	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics

7

Technical Sessions - Saturday, Nov 7

Day	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	14:00-15:00	16:00-18:00
1	TURP (2.0-6.0) Human Factors and Human-Robot Interaction I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Human Factors and Human-Robot Interaction II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Human Factors and Human-Robot Interaction III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Human Factors and Human-Robot Interaction IV
2	Deep Learning for Action Systems	Deep Learning for Computer Vision	Deep Learning for Object Systems	Deep Learning for Action Systems
3	Learning from Motion and Path Planning I	Learning from Motion and Path Planning II	Learning from Motion and Path Planning III	Learning from Motion and Path Planning IV
4	Autonomous Navigation I	Autonomous Navigation II	Autonomous Navigation III	Autonomous Navigation IV
5	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Aerial Robotics IV
6	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Computer Vision and Applications IV
7	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation III	TURP (2.0-6.0) Autonomous Navigation IV
8	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle Development, AI and ITS	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics	Cutting Edge Topics: Autonomous Vehicle and Robotics

8

Day	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	14:00-15:00
11	TURP (2.0-6.0) Cutting Edge Topics: Human-Motion Understanding for Intelligent Robots and Systems	TURP (2.0-6.0) Human-Motion Understanding for Intelligent Robots and Systems	TURP (2.0-6.0) Human-Motion Understanding for Intelligent Robots and Systems
12	TURP (2.0-6.0) Legged Robots I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Legged Robots II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Legged Robots III
13	TURP (2.0-6.0) Mobile Robots I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Mobile Robots II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Mobile Robots III
14	TURP (2.0-6.0) Behavior Based Systems	TURP (2.0-6.0) Behavior Based Systems	TURP (2.0-6.0) Behavior Based Systems
15	TURP (2.0-6.0) Grouping and Object Tracking	TURP (2.0-6.0) Grouping and Object Tracking	TURP (2.0-6.0) Grouping and Object Tracking
16	TURP (2.0-6.0) Probabilistic Robotics I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Probabilistic Robotics II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Probabilistic Robotics III
17	TURP (2.0-6.0) Multi-Robot Systems I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Multi-Robot Systems II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Multi-Robot Systems III
18	TURP (2.0-6.0) Manipulation Planning I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Manipulation Planning II	TURP (2.0-6.0) Manipulation Planning III
19	TURP (2.0-6.0) Soft Robot: Modeling, Control and Learning	TURP (2.0-6.0) Soft Sensors and Actuators I	TURP (2.0-6.0) Soft Sensors and Actuators II

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Robotics topics

- Human-robot interaction
- Unmanned aerial systems
- Robot vision
- Sensor fusion
- Micro/nano robots
- Surgical robotics
- Manipulation planning and control
- Swarm robotics
- Learning from demonstration
- Grasping
- Marine robots
- Soft-bodied robots
- Haptic interfaces
- Humanoid and bipedal locomotion
- Joint / mechanism design
- Networked robots
- Cooperative manipulators
- Localization
- Formal methods
- ...

Recent robotics projects



IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation

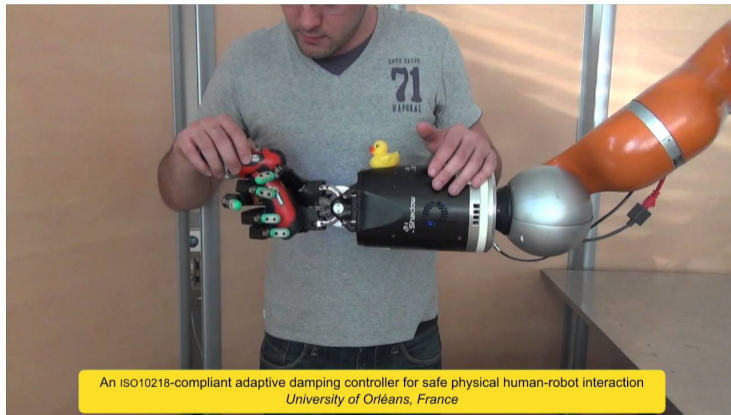
May 26-30, Seattle, WA



Recent research results

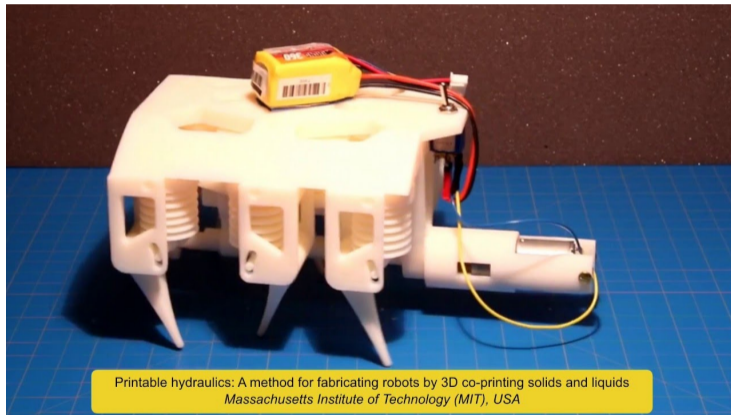


Recent research results



An ISO10218-compliant adaptive damping controller for safe physical human-robot interaction
University of Orléans, France

Recent research results



Printable hydraulics: A method for fabricating robots by 3D co-printing solids and liquids
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

Recent research results



Next up

- Due before the start of this Thursday's class:
 - Online questionnaire
 - Introduction slides
- Thursday classes:
 - Introductions, meet-and-greet, lab + project team forming
- Due before the start of next Monday's class:
 - Prereq's homework
 - 2 lectures