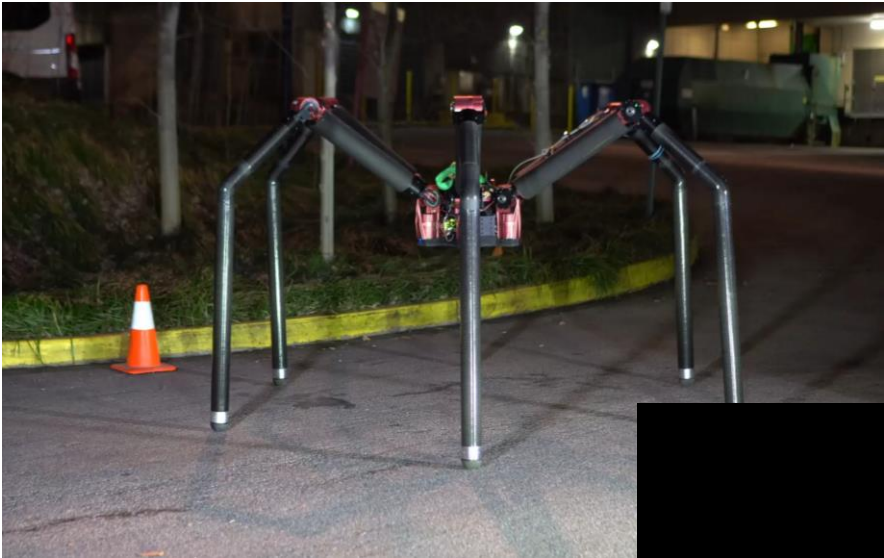
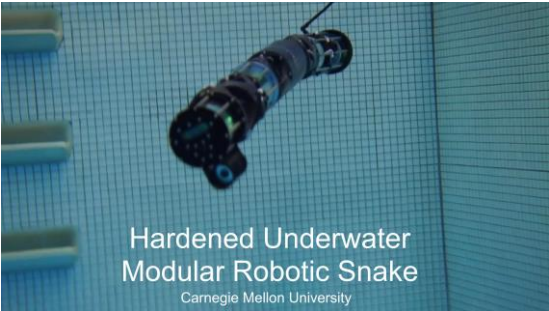
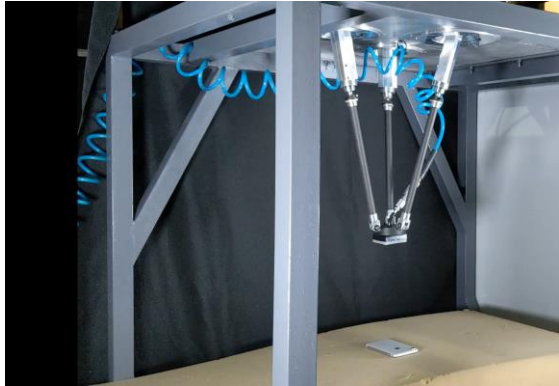
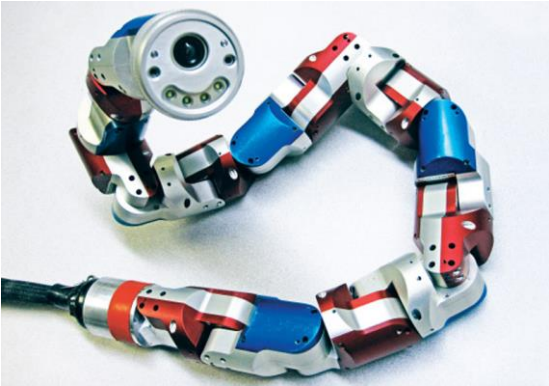


# BioRobotics Lab Travers and Choset



# Theoretical Themes Biorobotics Lab

Dimension Reduction

Run the Pipeline

Geometry

Force / Compliance

Ad-hoc Network

Are there acoustic signs of life in here?

Text Messages to humans

Where do we tell people in this area to go?



Fixed Wing Surveillance Drone

Scan this area for people in the water



Delivery Drone

Amphibious UGV



Streetlight with vision



Edge Compute

Robot/Robot Coordination

Robot/Human Coordination

Low Altitude Drone



Security, Deception

Person spotted in the water here. Keep track of them

Portable Cloudlet



Is someone trapped here?

Power

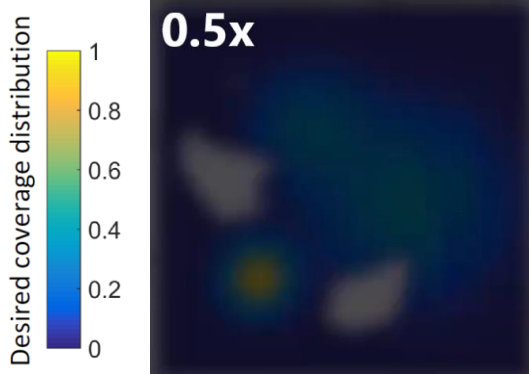
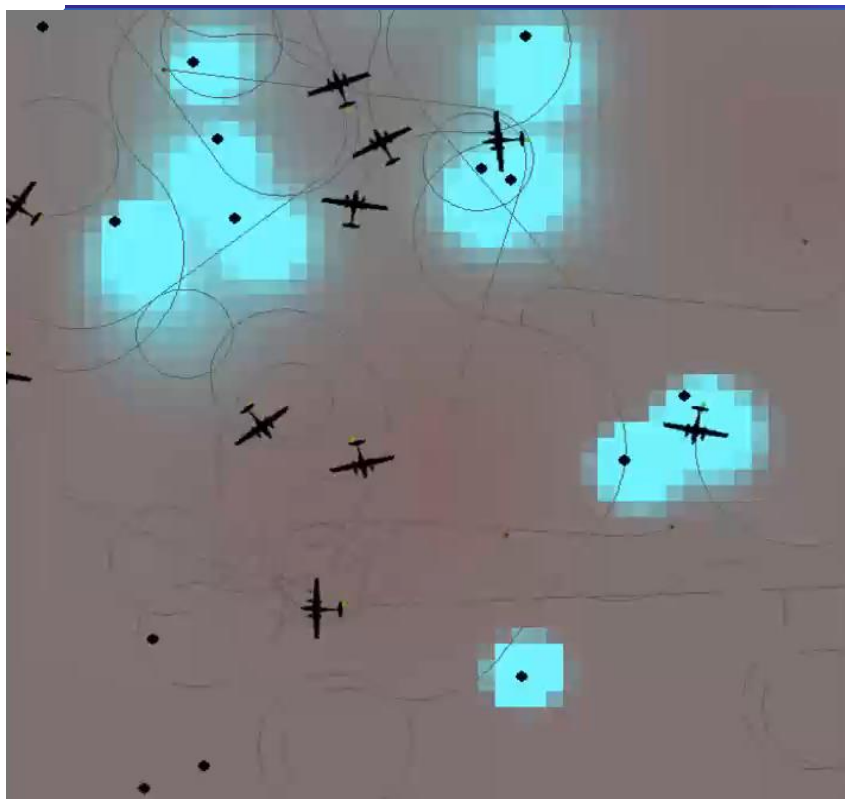
Command Center

Social Media

Perception through haze, water, smoke, around corners



# Multi-agent Heterogeneous Ergodic Search



Agents should spend time in regions in proportion to their expected amount of information.



Map is updated, say via a Gaussian Process, as information is acquired

$$\phi(t) = \sum_{k=0}^K \Lambda_k |\Gamma_k(t) - \xi_k|^2$$

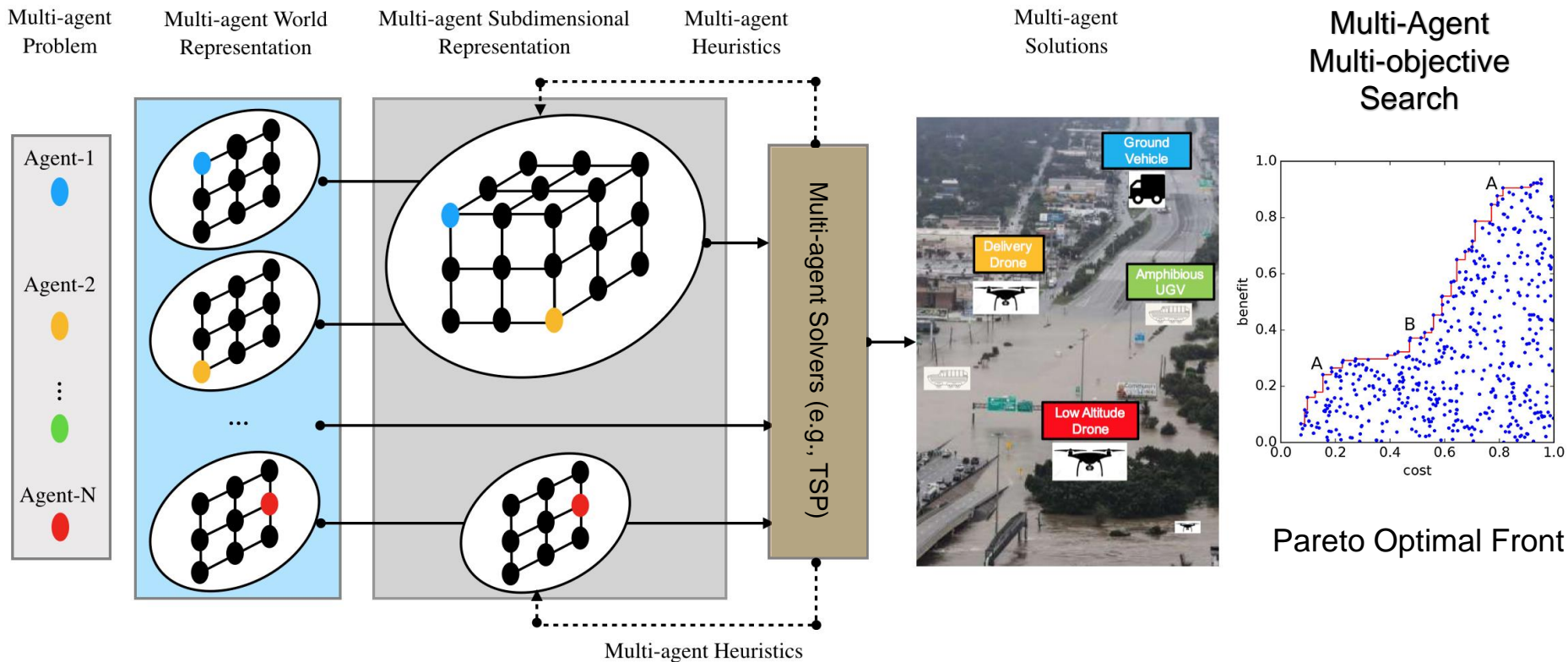
↓
↓  
 Fourier coefficients

Spectral coefficients for heterogeneous search

$$D_{KL}(\Gamma^t, \xi) = \int_X \Gamma^t(x) \log \left( \frac{\Gamma^t(x)}{\xi(x)} \right) dx$$



# Multi-Agent Systems: Bypass the Curse of Dimensionality



# Decentralized Multi-agent Start-goal Planning

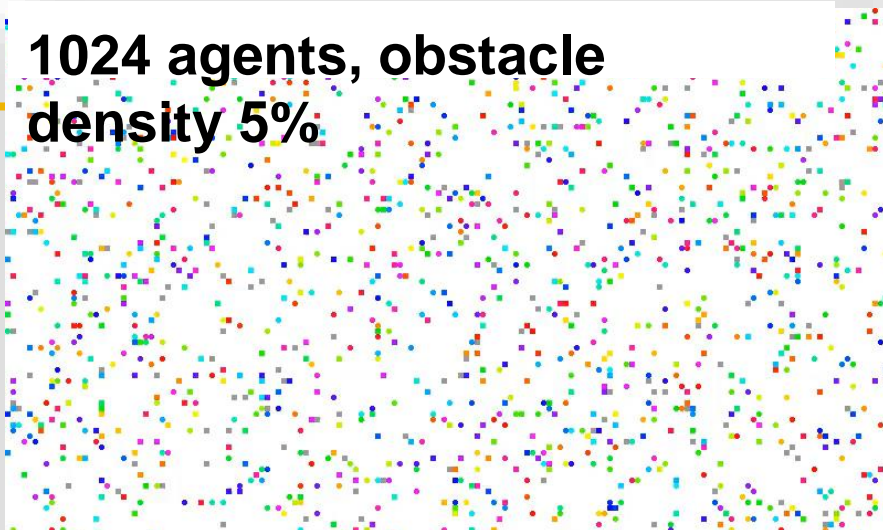
Distributed imitation/reinforcement learning approach

70% of episodes solved via RL. Goal: maximize cumulative rewards

Result: agents get to their goal as fast as possible and rest on it

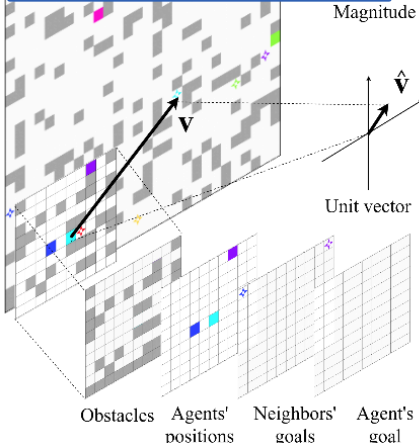
30% of episodes solved using centralized planner (ODrM\*)

Behavior cloning to mimic demonstrations.



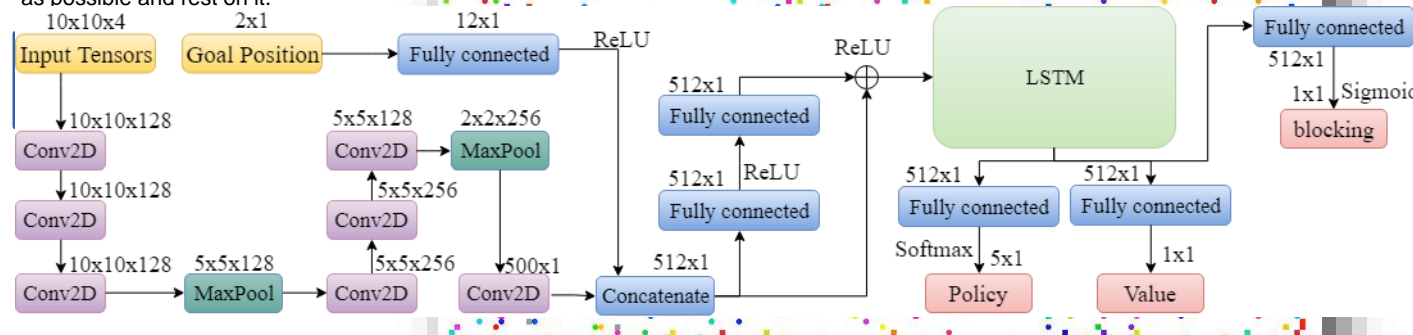
1024 agents, obstacle density 5%

**Secret Sauce?**



**Completely Centralized Learning**  
 Stay on goal,  $r = +0$   
 Finish episode (all agents on goal),  $r =$

**Completely Decentralized Execution**



# Mexico City Earthquake

Hundreds Missing in Mexico City Days After Earthquake, WSJ, Sept 21, 2017

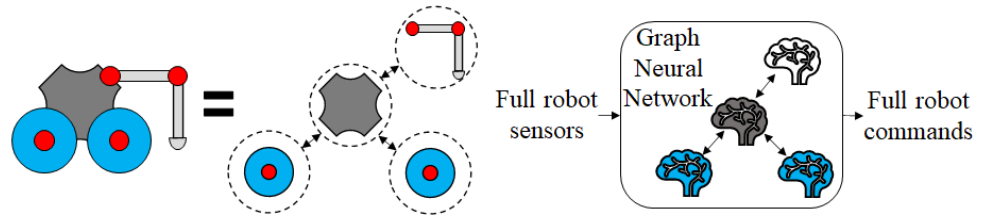
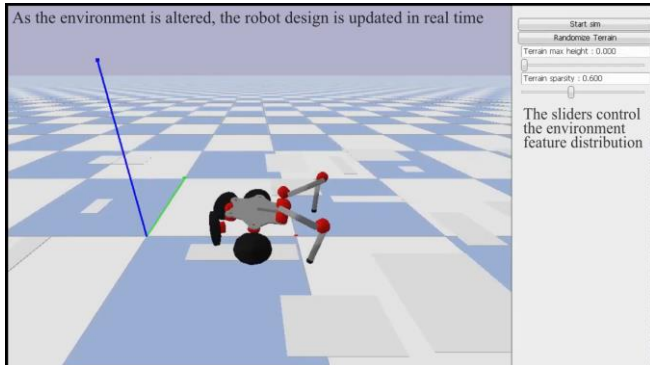
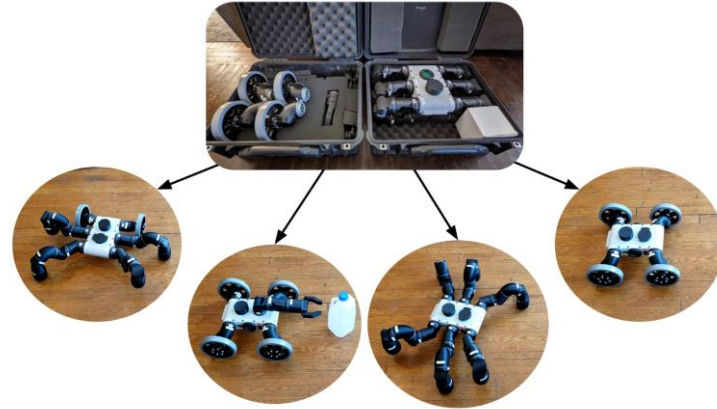


Travers, Whitman, Zavallos

All photos taken by us, © Howie Choset, 2017

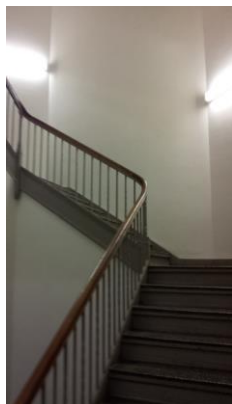


# Science and Engineering of Modularity





# Modularity Gradients / Stair Climbing



*Rapidly load, transport and unload a heavy payload up N flights of stairs in a single trip*

Predicted increase

Predicted decrease

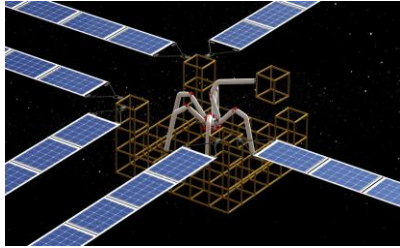
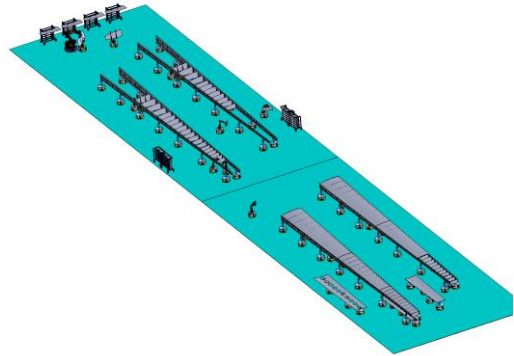
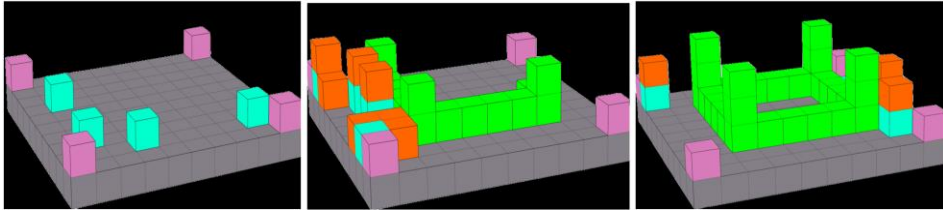
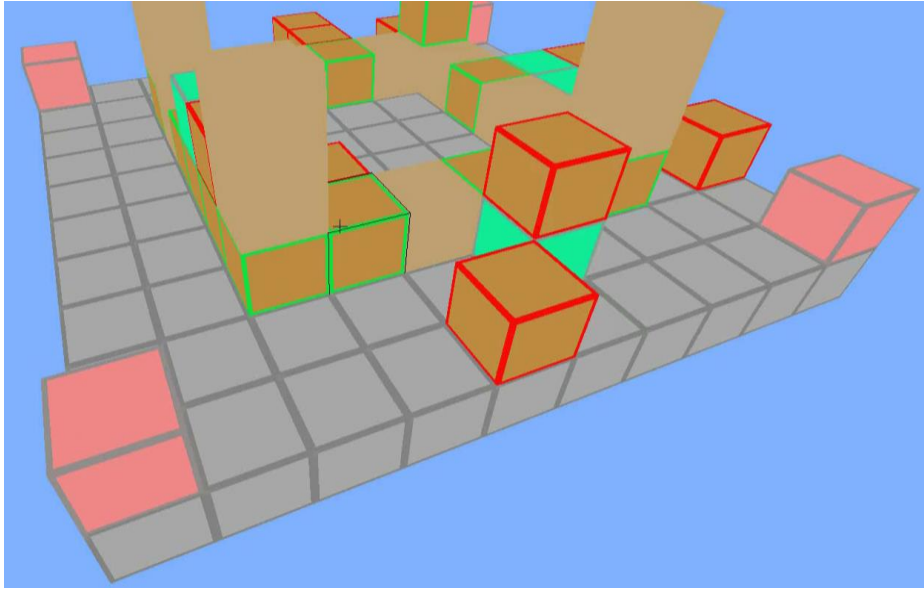
TBD

+

Mechanism Design

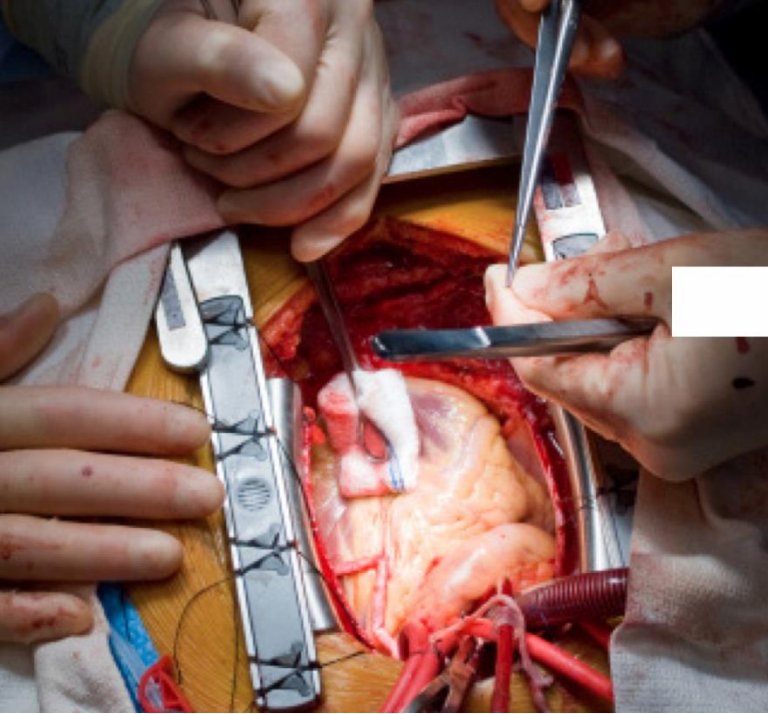
	Max carrying capacity	Max carrying time	Max distance traveled	Max flight of stairs	Max traversable terrain complexity	Time to complete tasks	Battery capacity	Price	Time spent with Logistics
# robots	Does an increase in robots increase the maximum carrying capacity of the system?	Does an increase in robots increase the maximum carrying time the system can carry a payload?	Does an increase in the # of robots increase the maximum distance traveled with a payload?		Does an increase in the number of robots increase the maximum traversable terrain complexity?			Does an increase in the number of robots increase the pricing (both to order and maintenance) of the system?	Does an increase in the number of robots increase the time spent dealing with logistics?
# human assistants	How does an increase in the number of human assistance effect the maximum carrying capability of the system?	How does the # of human assistance effect the maximum carrying time of the system during transport?	How does an increase in the weight of the robot change the maximum carrying time of the system with a payload to transport?	How does an increase in human assistance effect the maximum carrying capability of the system?	How does an increase in the number of human assistance effect the maximum carrying capability of the system?	How does the change in the number of human assistance effect the maximum carrying capability of the system?	How does an increase in the number of human assistance effect the time to complete individual tasks (load, transport, unload) of the system?	How does an increase in the number of human assistance effect the required battery capacity of the system?	How does an increase in the number of human assistance effect the time spent dealing with logistics of the system (i.e. startup time, setting up, fees, charging, transport for software development)?
Robot weight	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the maximum carrying capacity of the system?	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the maximum carrying time of the system with a payload to transport?	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the maximum carrying time of the system with a payload to transport?	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the necessary battery capacity of the robot?	How does the change in the weight of the robot change the time spent dealing with logistics?
Battery capacity	How does the battery capacity change the maximum carrying capacity of a robot?	How does the battery capacity change the maximum carrying time of a robot with a payload?	How does the battery capacity change the maximum distance a robot can travel with a payload?	How does the battery capacity change the maximum flight of stairs the robot can go up with a payload?	How does the battery capacity change the maximum flight of stairs the robot can go up with a payload?	How does the change in the battery capacity effect the maximum traversable terrain complexity?	How does the battery capacity change the time for the robot to complete individual tasks (load, transport, unload)?	How does the battery capacity change the price of a robot?	How does the battery capacity change the time spent dealing with logistics?
Max motor stall torque	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot change the maximum carrying time of the system with a payload to transport?	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot change the maximum carrying time of the system with a payload to transport?	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot change the maximum distance the system can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot effect the maximum traversable terrain complexity?	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot effect the time to complete a task with a payload?	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot effect the necessary battery capacity of the robot?	How does the change in the max motor stall torque of the robot change the time spent dealing with logistics?
Max force output	How does the change in the max force output of the robot change the maximum carrying capacity of the system?	How does the change in the max force output of the robot change the maximum carrying time of the system with a payload to transport?	How does the change in the max force output of the robot change the maximum distance the system can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the max force output of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the max force output of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the max force output of the robot effect the maximum traversable terrain complexity?	How does the change in the max force output of the robot effect the time to complete a task with a payload?	How does the change in the max force output of the robot effect the necessary battery capacity of the robot?	How does the change in the max force output of the robot change the time spent dealing with logistics?
# actuators	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot change the maximum carrying capacity of the system?	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot change the maximum carrying time of the system with a payload to transport?	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot change the maximum distance the system can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot effect the maximum traversable terrain complexity?	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot effect the time to complete a task with a payload?	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot effect the necessary battery capacity of the robot?	How does the change in the # of actuators of the robot change the time spent dealing with logistics?
Payload weight	How does the change in the payload weight change the maximum carrying capacity of the system with a payload to transport?	How does the change in the payload weight change the maximum carrying time of the system with a payload to transport?	How does the change in the payload weight change the maximum distance the system can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the payload weight change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the payload weight change the maximum flights of stairs the robot can travel with a payload?	How does the change in the payload weight effect the maximum traversable terrain complexity?	How does the change in the payload weight effect the time to complete a task with a payload?	How does the change in the payload weight effect the necessary battery capacity of the robot?	How does the change in the payload weight change the time spent dealing with logistics?

# Decentralized Construction: Reinforcement Learning





# Minimally Invasive Surgery



Reduce post-operative discomfort



Decrease costs



Disseminate care



# Operate on Humans



CEO Catches Stranger After Hours, Prompting Espionage Charges, WSJ, Sept 19 2017

## FDA Clearances



Transoral  
(July 2015)



Laryngeal  
surgeon  
(July 2015)



Transanal  
(May 2017)



Transabdominal  
(Est. 4Q 2018)

First... to be  
clear... that has  
the...  
indi...

4 co  
in 1



Select

 "2017 Best New Product Award"	 "2018 Best-in-Show Award Winner"	 "2016 Gold Medal Winner in Surgical Equipment, Instrumentation and Supplies Category"
 "2016 Top 100 Winner, North America - Most Likely to Change the Way People Live and Work"	 "2016 Global New Product Innovation Award"	 "2015 New England Innovation Awards: Small Business Association of New England Award (SEANE)"
 "2015 Innovative Company Award Winner in the Biotechnology and Life Sciences Category"	 "2014 One of Top 100 Annual Best of What's New Awards: An Innovation That Will Shape The Future"	 "2014 One of Top 100 Annual Best of What's New Awards: An Innovation That Will Shape The Future"

# Ultrasound Guided Medical Robots: Advancing AI and Saving Lives

New AI that:

- Trains with limited, noisy data
- Generalizes to the unexpected
- Explains Itself



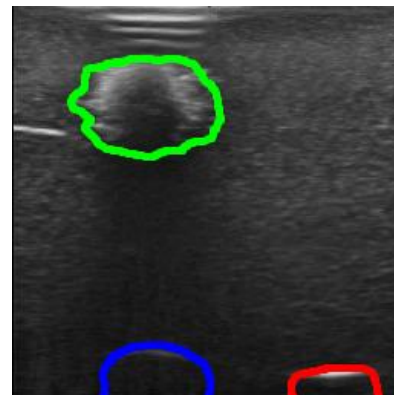
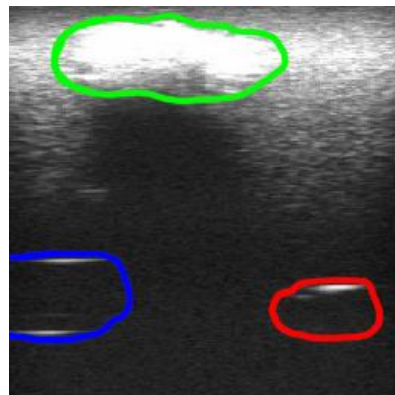
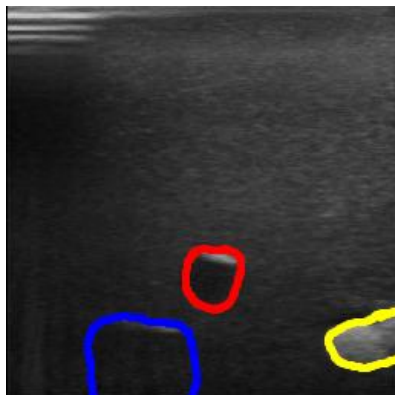
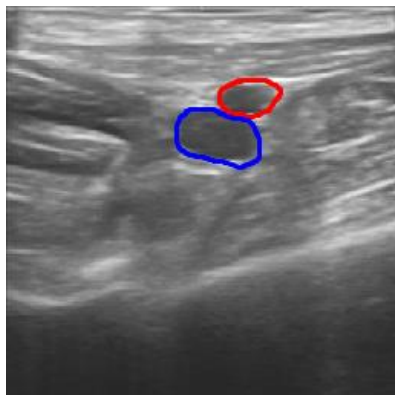
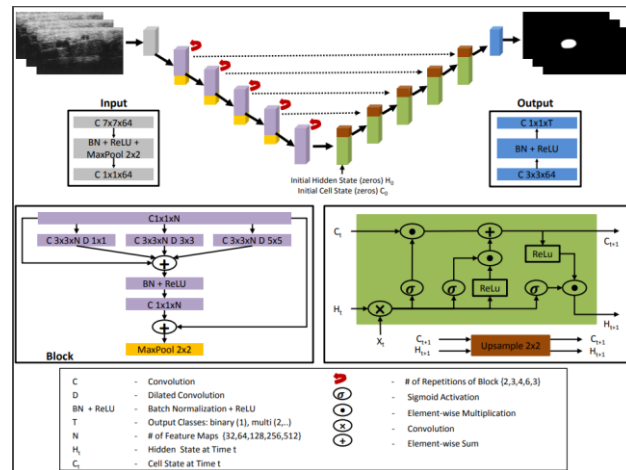
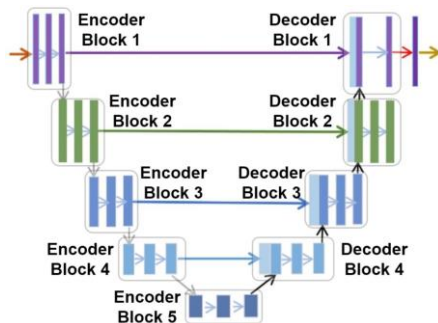
Ultrasound-AI guides  
robot scanning and  
needle insertion



# Deep Learning Architectures

## Domain Generalization:

- Transfer Learning
- Data Augmentation
- Bayesian Modelling

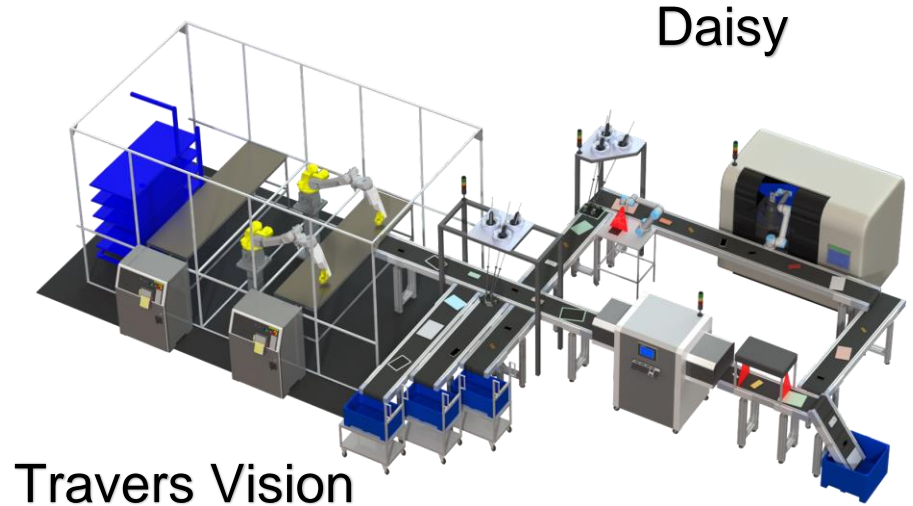




# E-waste recycling



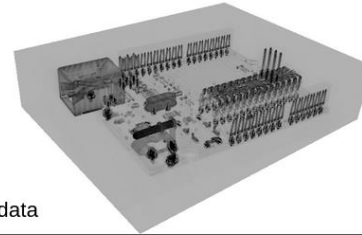
E-waste is a tremendous problem



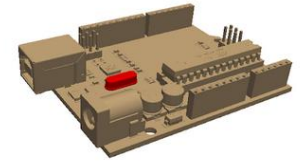
# E-waste recycling



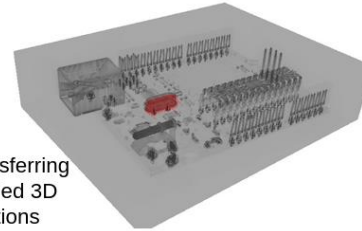
E-waste is a tremendous problem



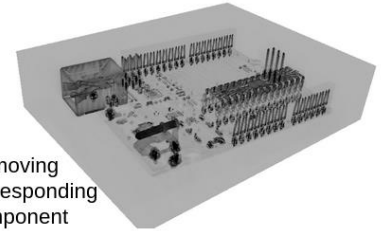
CT data



Aligned CAD

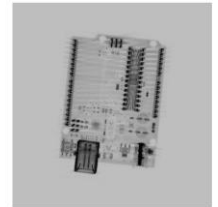
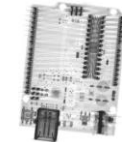
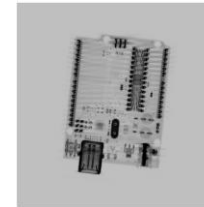


Transferring labeled 3D locations

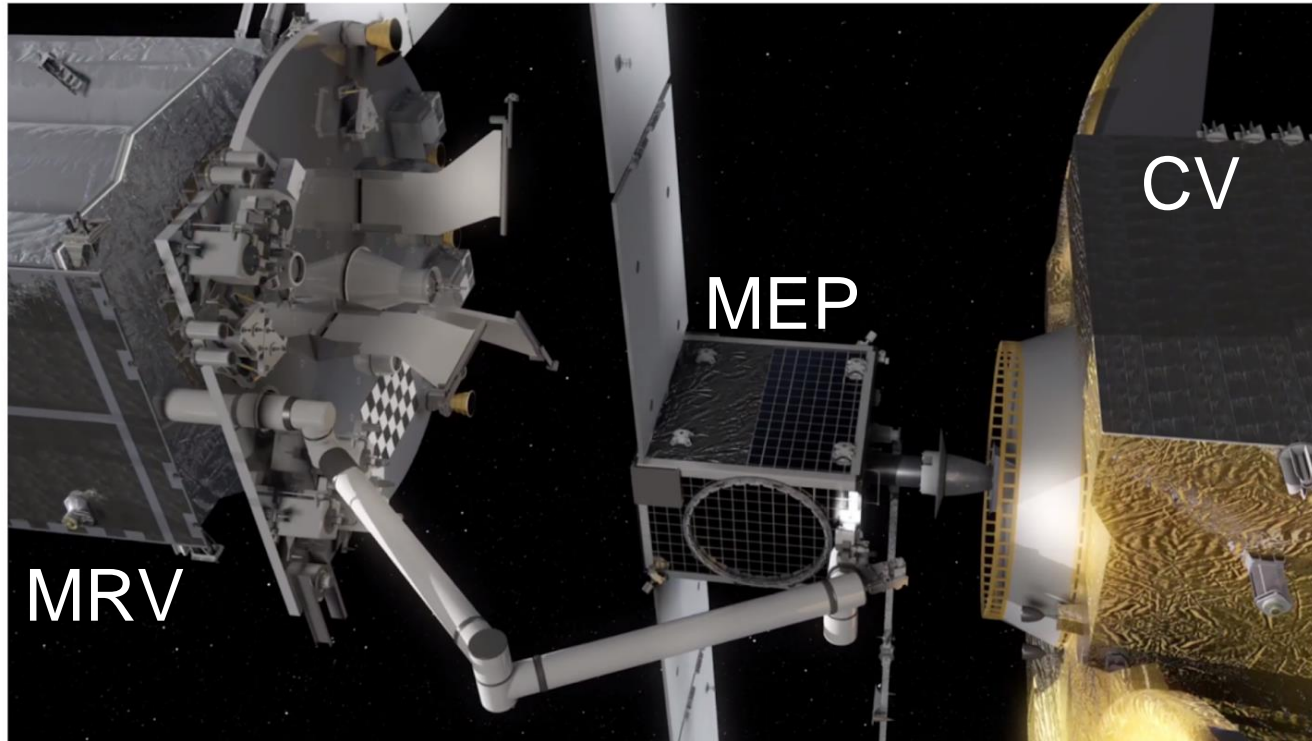


Removing corresponding component

Generate different 2-D images under different conditions



# Recycling in Space



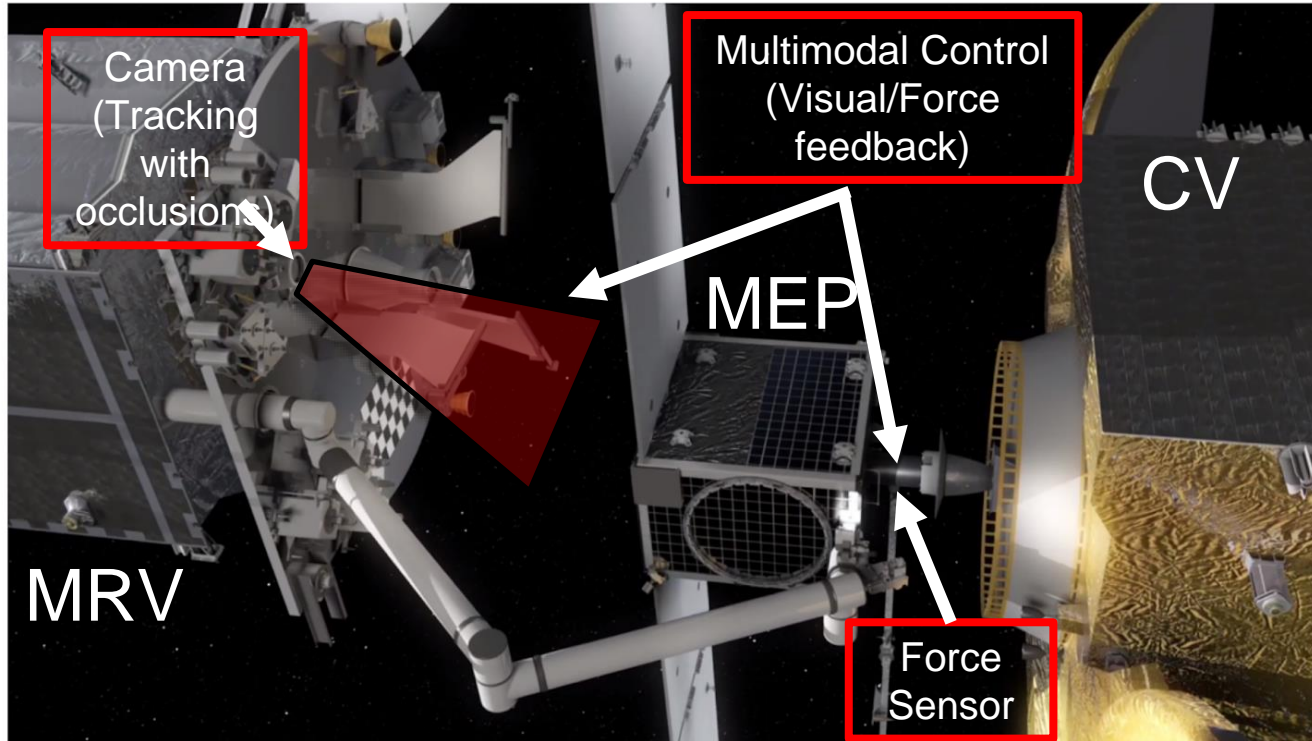
MRV – Mission Robotic Vehicle

MEP – Mission Extension  
Payload

CV – Client Vehicle



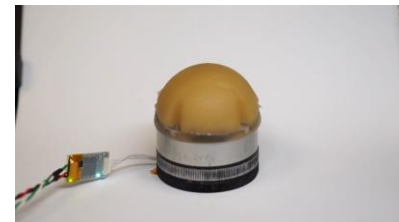
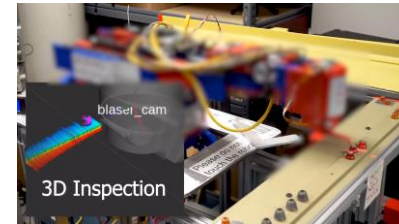
# Challenges



MRV – Mission Robotic Vehicle

MEP – Mission Extension Payload

CV – Client Vehicle



# Geometric Mechanics + Gaits



Body  
Velocity

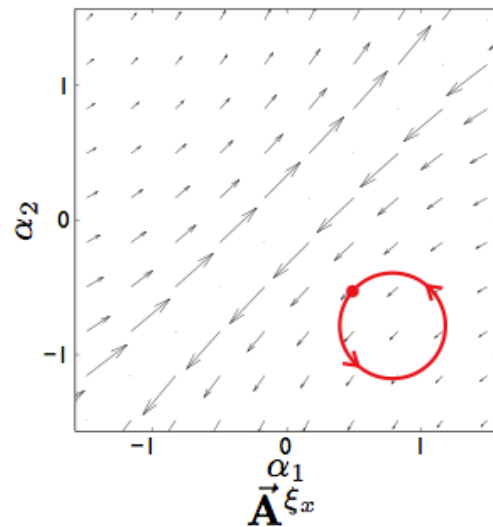
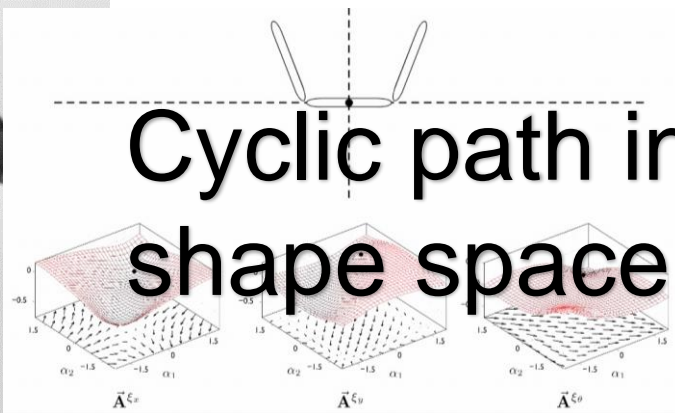
Shape  
Velocity

$$\int_{\phi} \xi dt \equiv \mathbf{A}(\phi) \int_{\alpha} \mathbf{A}(\alpha) d\alpha$$

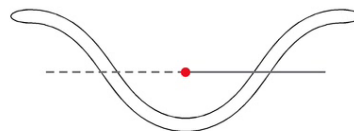
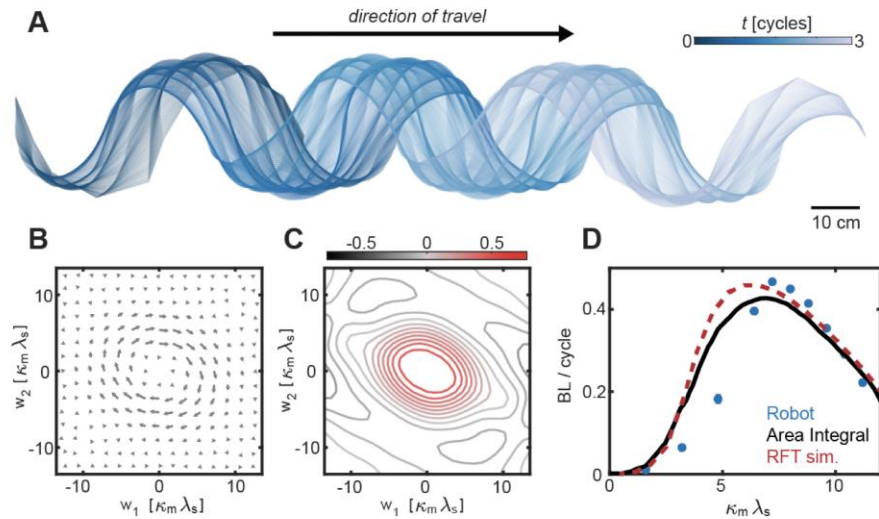
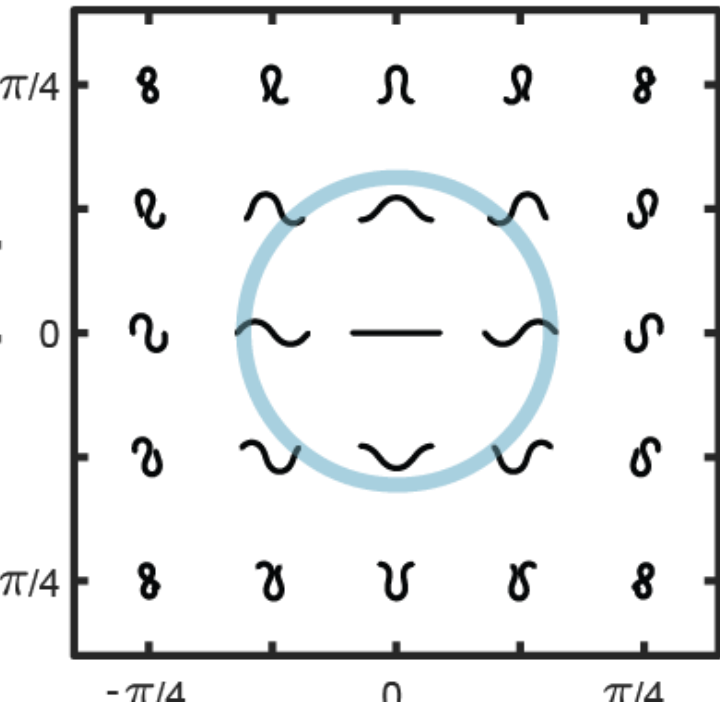
Connection



Cyclic path in  
shape space



# Basis Functions / Shape Template

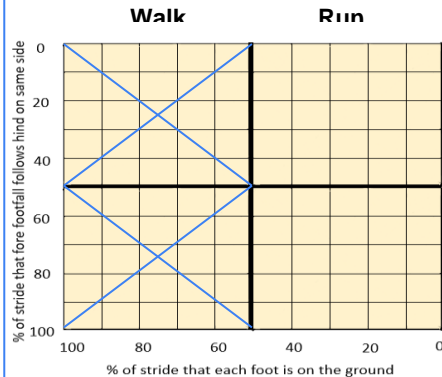
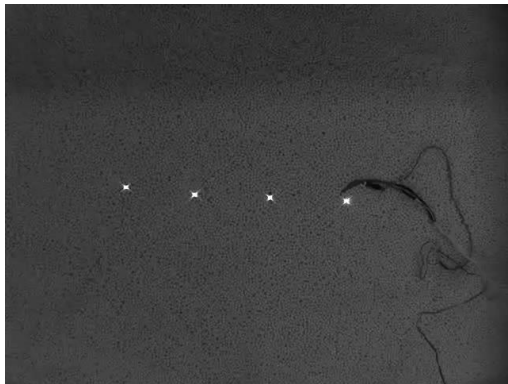
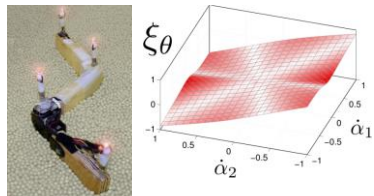




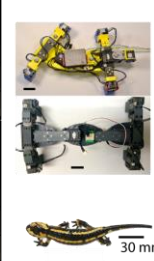
# Contact (Dan Goldman)



1 cm



a. Quadruped

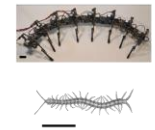


30 mm

b. Hexapod



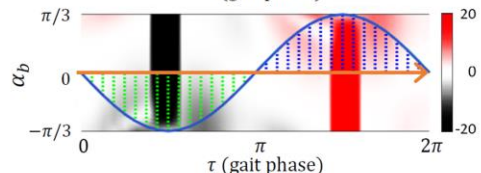
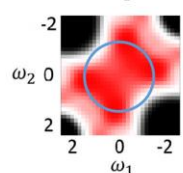
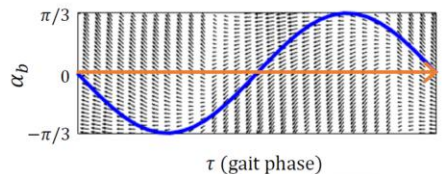
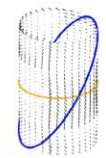
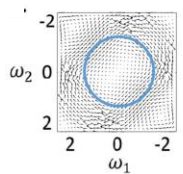
c. Centipede



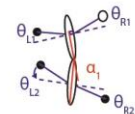
d. Limbless



200  $\mu$ m



a. Quadruped



a.1 Lateral sequence walk



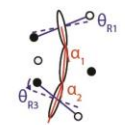
a.2 Trot



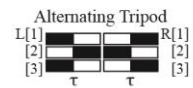
a.3 Pace



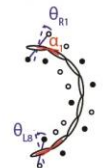
b. Hexapod



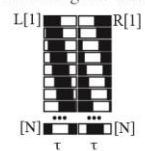
■ Stance phase  
□ Swing phase



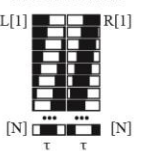
d. Myriapod



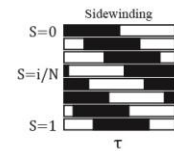
d.1 Retrograde wave



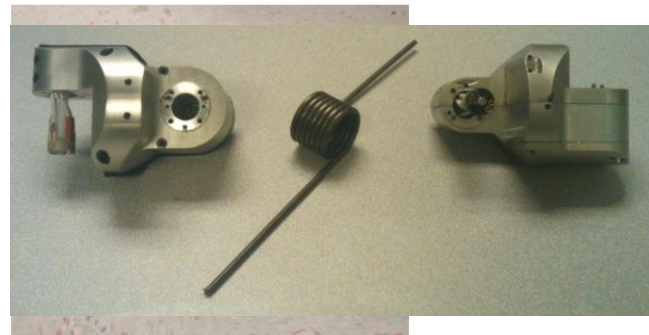
d.2 Direct wave



d. Sidewinder



# Adaptable



With position control only, must rely on


- difficult computational models
- lots of sensed data, high resolution
- High bandwidth information
- Limitations on size and speed of robot

Animals

- Reactive control / decentralized
- Low resolution sensors
- Low bandwidth information
- Highly dynamic at a variety of scales

$$m\ddot{\theta}_d + b\dot{\theta}_d + k(\theta_d - \theta_0) = \tau_d$$

$$\theta_d = \kappa \sin(\eta s - \omega t)$$


$$m'\ddot{\kappa} + b'\dot{\kappa} + k'(\kappa - \kappa_0) = \tau'_d$$



# Shape-Based Admittance Control





# Shape-Based Admittance Control



# Capabilities of Biorobotics Lab

Snake Robots  
(Land and Sea)

Novel  
Mechanisms

Modular  
Robots

Confined  
Space  
Robotics

Multi-Agent  
Planning

Force-based  
Control

Reinforcement  
Learning

Imitation  
Learning

Mapping

Registration

Miniaturization

Medical  
Robotics