



Probabilistic Robotics: The Future of Robotics/Automation + Challenges + Course Review

METR 4202: **Robotics** & Automation

Dr Surya Singh -- Lecture # 13

October 25, 2017

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<http://robotics.itee.uq.edu.au/~metr4202/>

[<http://metr4202.com>]

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Lecture Schedule

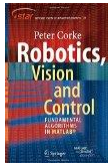
Week	Date	Lecture (W: 3:05p-4:50, 7-222)
1	26-Jul	Introduction + Representing Position & Orientation & State
2	2-Aug	Robot Forward Kinematics (Frames, Transformation Matrices & Affine Transformations)
3	9-Aug	Robot Inverse Kinematics & Dynamics (Jacobians)
4	16-Aug	<i>Ekka Day</i> (Robot Kinematics & Kinetics Review)
5	23-Aug	Jacobians & Robot Sensing Overview
6	30-Aug	Robot Sensing: Single View Geometry & Lines
7	6-Sep	Robot Sensing: Basic Feature Detection
8	13-Sep	Robot Sensing: Scalable Feature Detection
9	20-Sep	Mid-Semester Exam & Multiple View Geometry
	27-Sep	<i>Study break</i>
10	4-Oct	Motion Planning
11	11-Oct	Probabilistic Robotics: Planning & Control (Sample-Based Planning/State-Space/LQR)
12	18-Oct	Probabilistic Robotics: Localization & SLAM
13	25-Oct	The Future of Robotics/Automation + Challenges + Course Review



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Follow Along Reading:

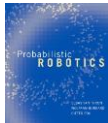


[Robotics, Vision & Control](#)

by [Peter Corke](#)

Also online: [SpringerLink](#)

[UQ Library eBook: 364220144X](#)



Probabilistic robotics

by Thrun, Burgard, and Fox

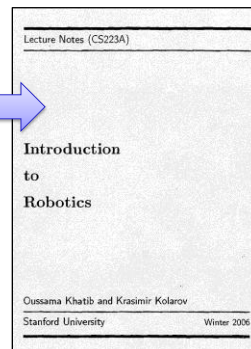
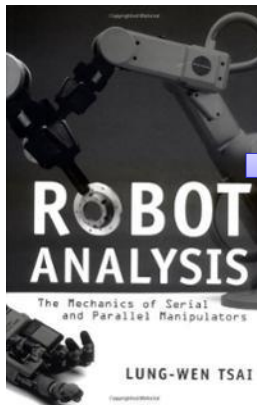
[UQ Library: TJ211 .T575 2005](#)

Today

- Everything
 - It's a review/recap lecture ☺



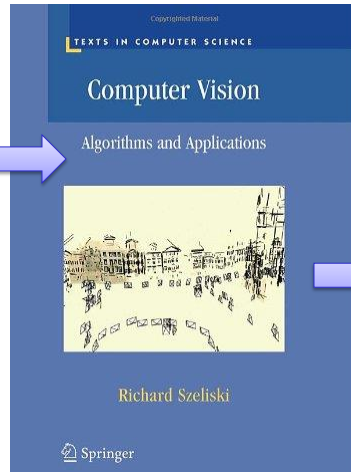
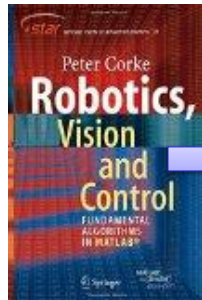
Reference Material



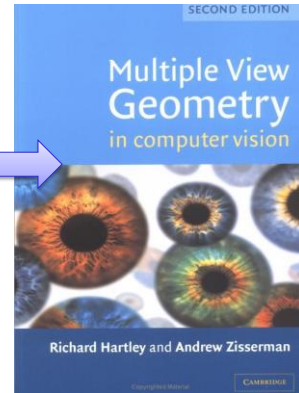
On class webpage
Password: metr4202



Reference Material



[UQ Library/
SpringerLink](#)



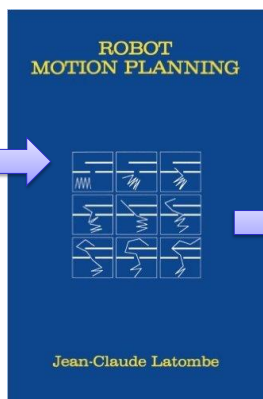
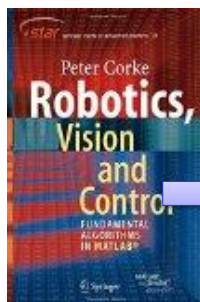
[UQ Library
\(ePDF\)](#)



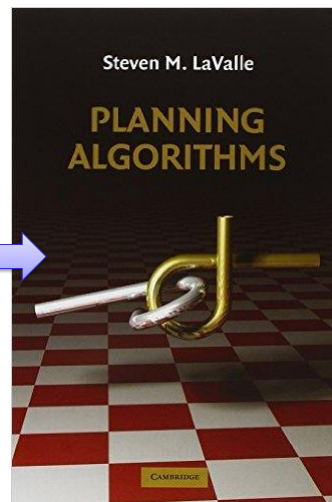
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Reference Material



[UQ Library](#)
(TJ211.4 .L38 1991)



[UQ Library / Online \(PDF\)](#)



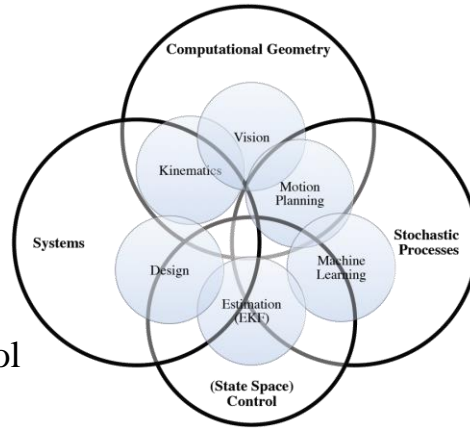
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Learning Objectives

Robotics: Facets of overarching principles

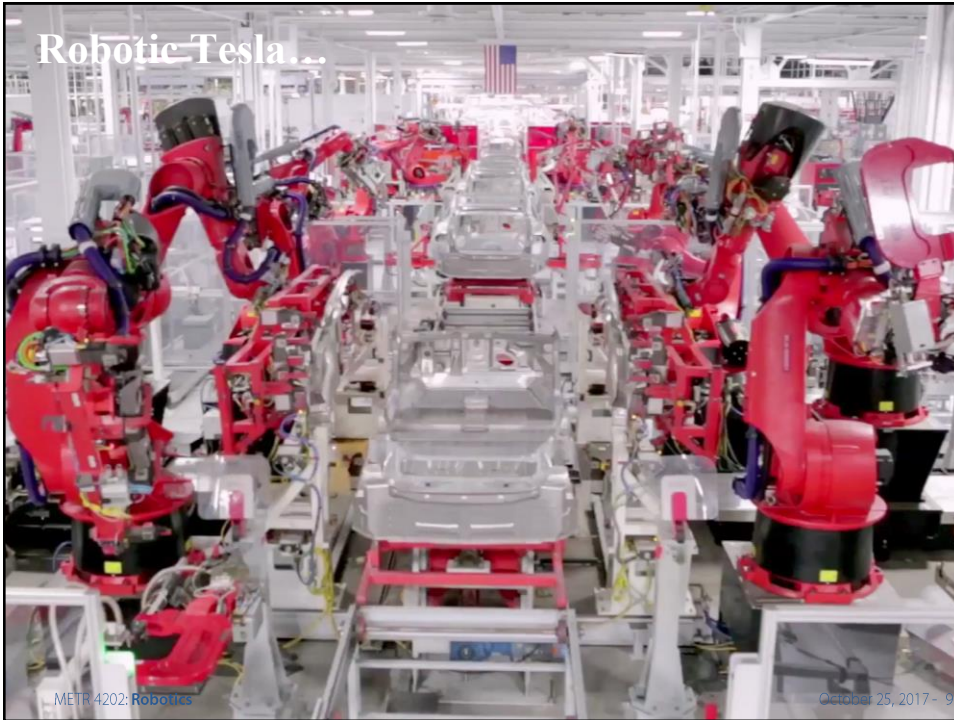
- Scene Geometry
- Structure | Unstructured
- Adaptive models for control
- Interactions:
Deterministic | Probabilistic



Future of Robotics: Self-Driving Vehicles

(Notes from Prof. John Leonard, MIT)

Robotic Tesla...



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Other Robotic Tesla...



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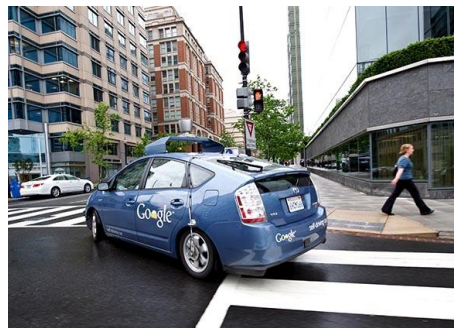
Cars: Software/Robots With 4 Wheels



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Robotics & Automation Has Limits Too



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More to Dynamic “Obstacles” than one’s own Control... Ethics in Engineering



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Q: Why has Google has chosen to exclusively pursue level 4?

A: They don't trust people to pay attention



t=41.56: "people do really stupid stuff when they are driving...it isn't pretty. The assumption that humans can be a reliable backup for the system was a total fallacy. Once people trust the system, they trust it"

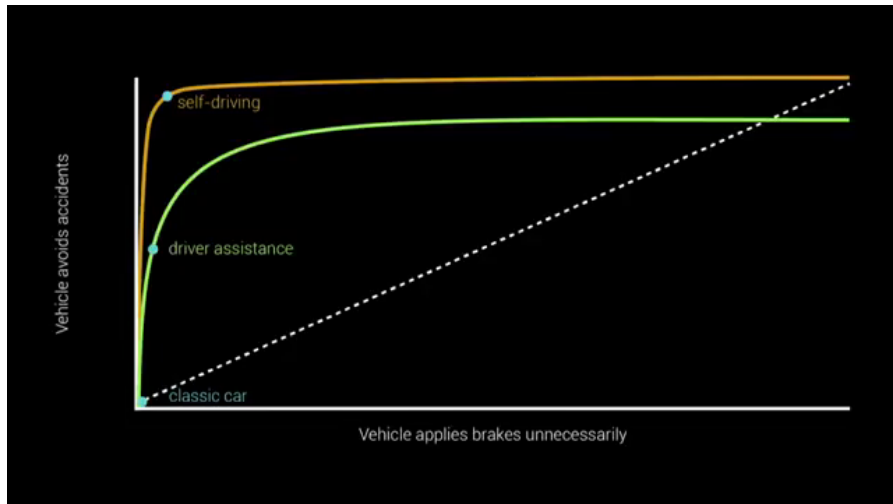


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Astro Teller, Head of GoogleX, March 2015

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“Vehicle Avoids Accidents” vs. “Vehicles Applies Brakes Unnecessarily”



Chris Urmson Keynote Address at the Intelligent Transportation
Systems 25th Annual Meeting & Expo, Pittsburgh, May 2015



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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Google Brings in Chief for Self-Driving Cars

Hiring of Detroit veteran John Krafcik indicates keenness to
commercialize the technology



Google has hired Detroit veteran John Krafcik to run its self-driving car division, sending a message that it is serious about the commercial viability of the autonomous vehicles business.
Photo: Zuma Press

By [ALISTAIR BARR](#) And [MIKE RAMSEY](#)

49 COMMENTS



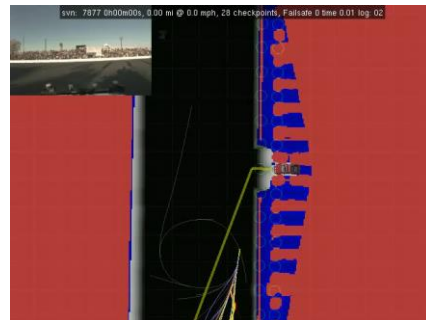
METR 4202: Robotics 2015 11:04 p.m. ET

September 13, 2015

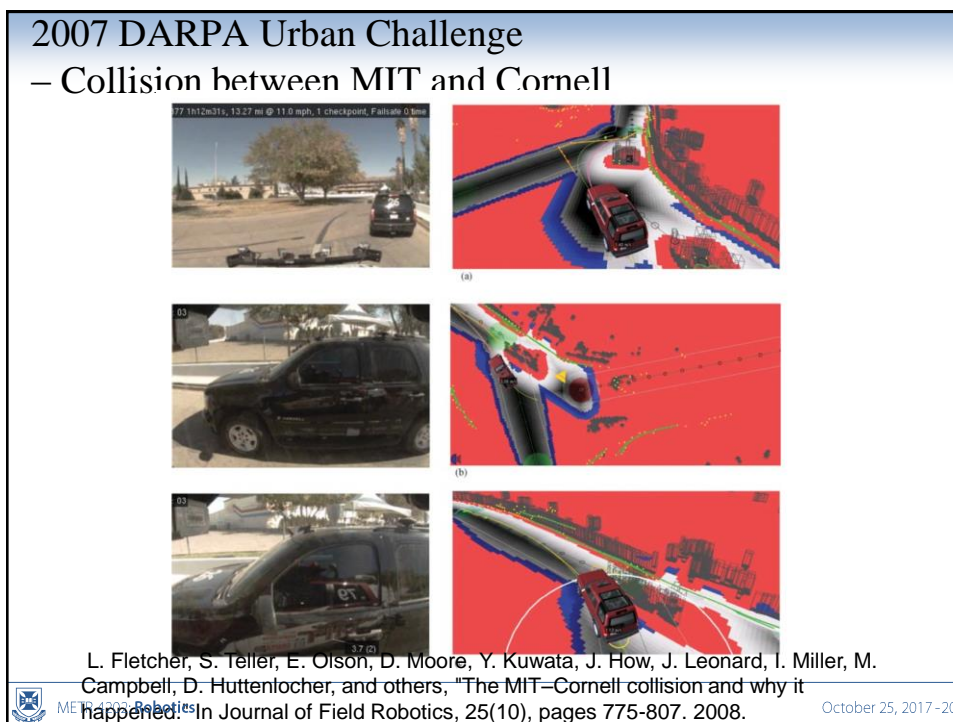
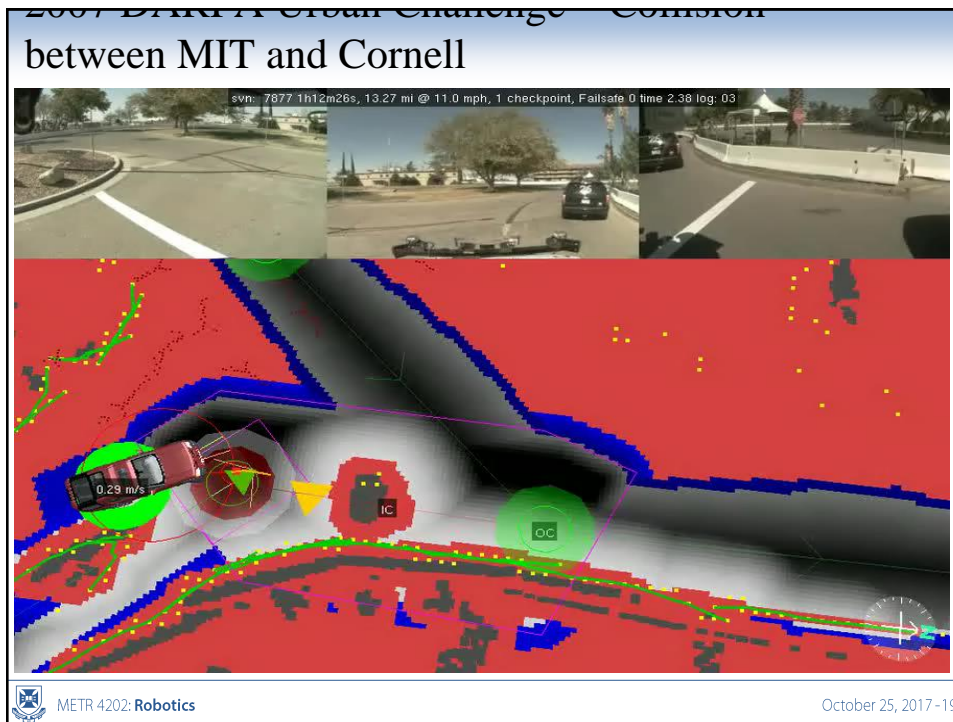
"When the company wanted a team of roboticists, it raided a University Lab to get them. Can high-tech academia survive today's Silicon Valley talent binge?"



MIT DARPA Urban Challenge Team (2006-2007)



by Leonard et al., JFR 2008 ; Karaman and Frazzoli, IJRR 2011; Huang et al., AR 2009



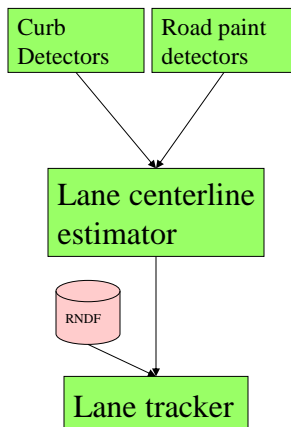
From Prof. Ed Olson (Umich): The logic of whether to represent an "obstacle" as a track (i.e., something with velocity) or as a blob, was this (relevant part is highlighted):

```
int use_track = 0, use_rects = 1;
//      if (t->vmag > 4)
//          use_rects = 0;

if (t->vmag > 3.0 && t->maturity > 8)
    use_track = 1;
double MAX_DIM = 10;
if (t->box.size[0] > MAX_DIM || t->box.size[1] > MAX_DIM)
    use_track = 0;
```



Lane Estimation (PhD Thesis of Albert Huang, supervised by Prof. Seth Teller)

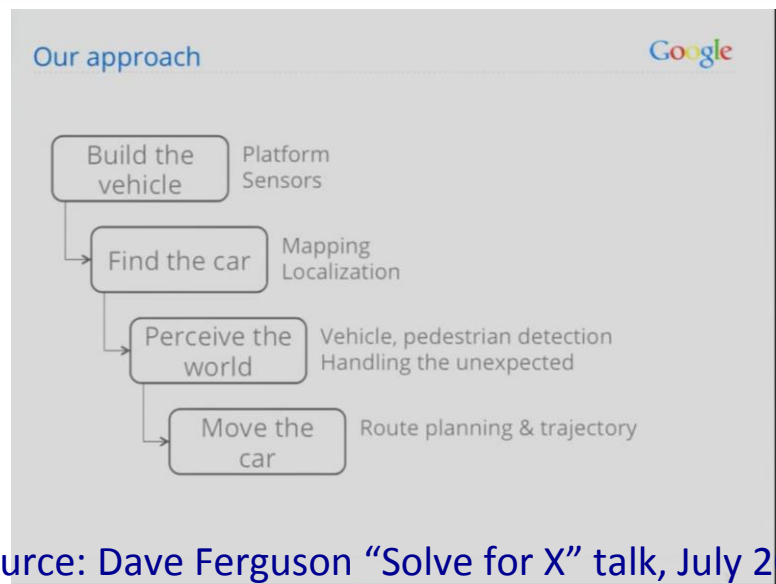


2015: Self-Driving Vehicles Have a Perception Problem



- The Google Car is an amazing research project that might one day transform mobility
- The technology of the Google Car, however, has been over-hyped and is poorly misunderstood
- This has led many people to say that self-driving is a “solved” problem
- “Just because it works for Google”, doesn’t mean it will work for everyone else

How Does Google’s Self Driving Car Work?



Google: Lidar Localization with an a priori map



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<https://plus.google.com/+GoogleSelfDrivingCars/videos>

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SDVs: The Big Questions Going Forward

- Technical Challenges:
- Maintaining Maps
- Adverse Weather
- Interacting with People
- Robust Computer Vision (towards $PD=1.0$, $PFA = 0.0$)?



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SDVs: The Big Questions Going Forward

- Technical Challenges:
- Maintaining Maps
- Adverse Weather
- Interacting with People
- Robust Computer Vision (towards PD=1.0, PFA = 0.0)?
- The big question for Level 3 approaches? (i.e., Musk)
- Can humans be trusted to take control when necessary?



SDVs: The Big Questions Going Forward

- Technical Challenges:
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- Can humans be trusted to take control when necessary?
- The big question for Level 4 approaches? (i.e., Urmson)
- Can near-perfect ROC curves be obtained in a wide variety of demanding settings?



SDVs: The Big Questions Going Forward

- Technical Challenges:
- Maintaining Maps
- Adverse Weather
- Interacting with People
- Robust Computer Vision (towards PD=1.0, PFA = 0.0)?
- The big question for Level 3 approaches? (i.e., Musk)
- Can humans be trusted to take control when necessary?
- The big question for Level 4 approaches? (i.e., Urmson)
- Can near-perfect ROC curves be obtained in a wide variety of demanding settings?
- Level 2.99 – Hidden Autonomy (Human must pay attention, but autonomy will jump in to prevent accidents)



Summary – Self-Driving Vehicles

- Transformative technology that can/will change the world, but many open questions
- Hope for reducing accidents and saving lives
- Admiration for Google's audacious vision and amazing progress
- Impressed by recent efforts by auto manufacturers
- Pride for the robotics community's contributions
- Fear that the technology is being over-hyped
- Uncertainty about open technological challenges, such as:
 - left-turn across high-speed traffic onto busy roads
 - Interpretation of gestures by traffic cops, crossing guards etc
 - Effect of changes in road surface appearance on map-based localization
 - Capability to “predict what will happen next” in demanding situations
 - Operations in adverse weather



Future of Robotics

Move Heaven & Earth

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“Field Arm” Motion Generation



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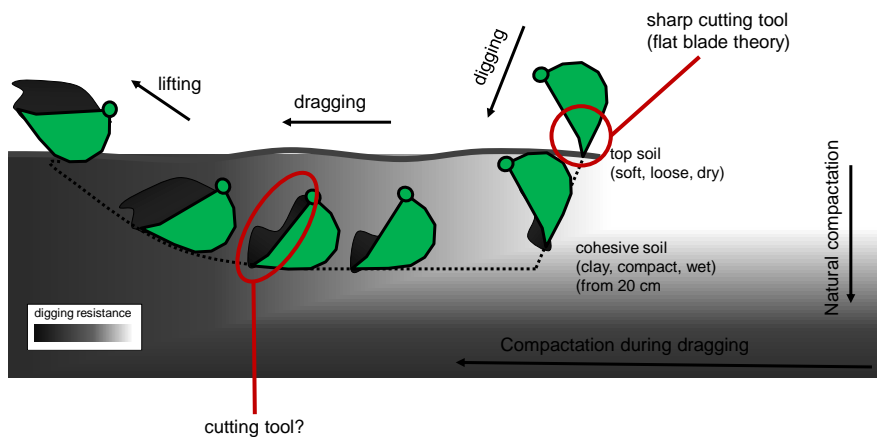
Terrain is Not “Structured,” But It’s Not Random...



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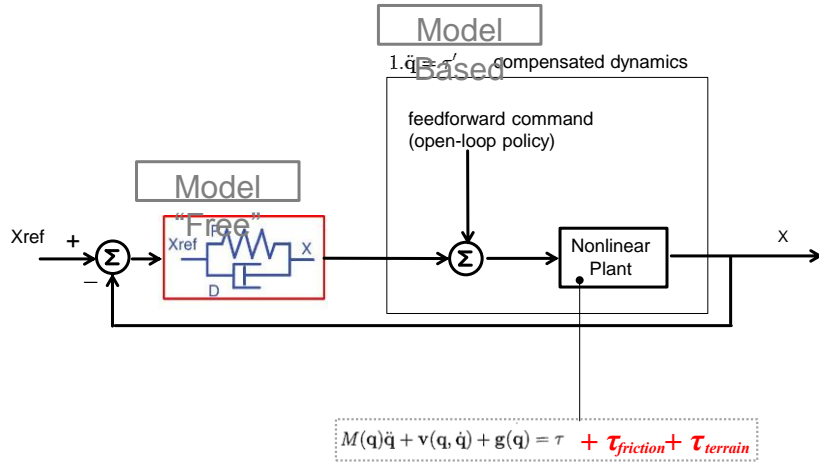
Excavation as Terrain Manipulation



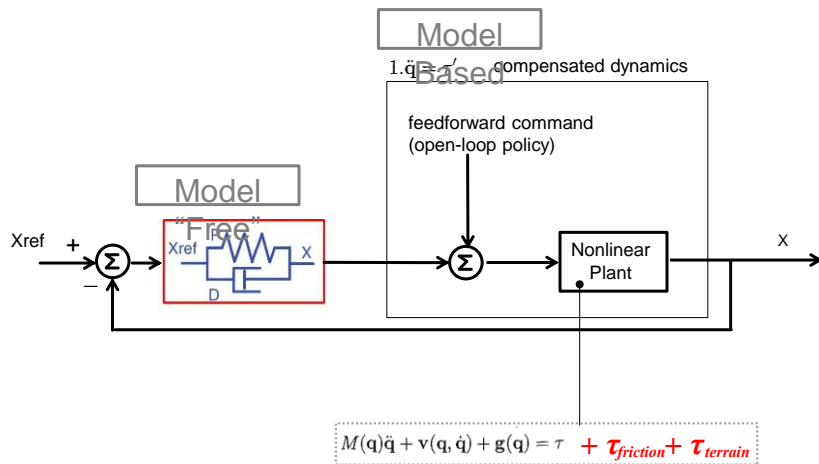
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Operation Space (Computed Torque) (2 DOF Example)



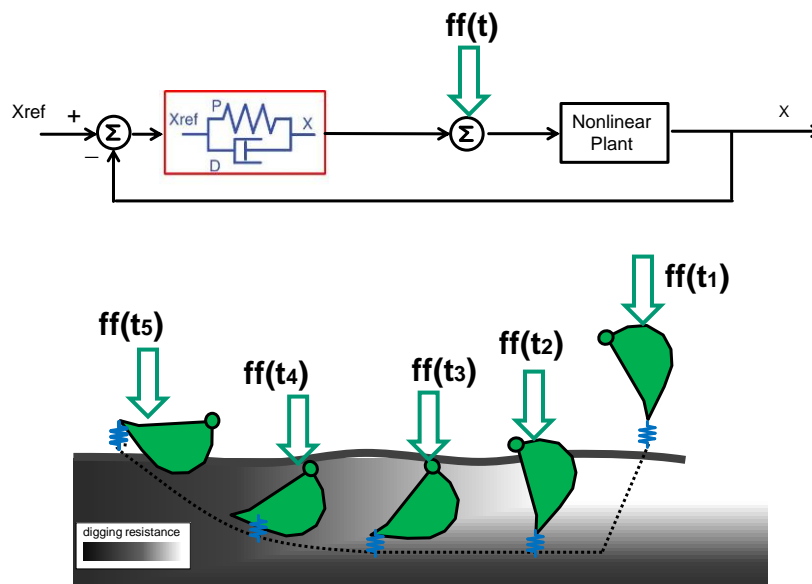
Operation Space (Computed Torque) (2 DOF Example)



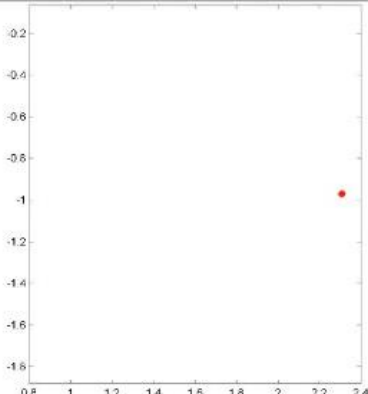

Reminder: Compensated Manipulation



Thus for Excavation ...



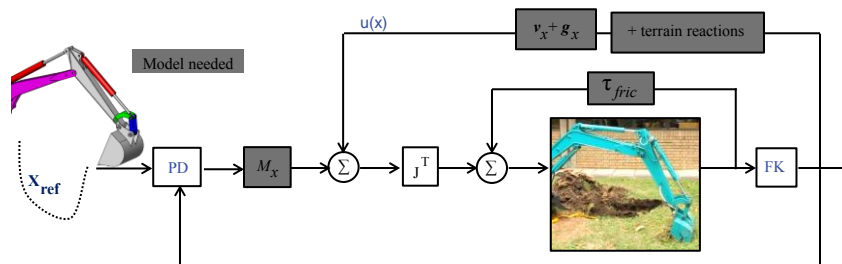
Manipulation under Large Disturbances



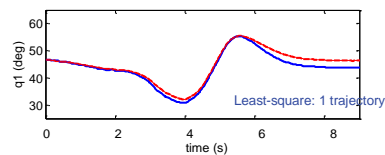
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[illegible]

Local Compensation



- Modelling globally is hard
- Local models are easy, but can destabilize

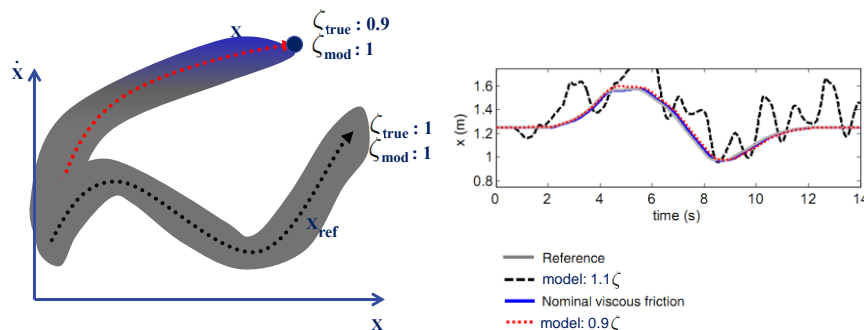


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Local model + Disturbance = **Wrong Compensation**

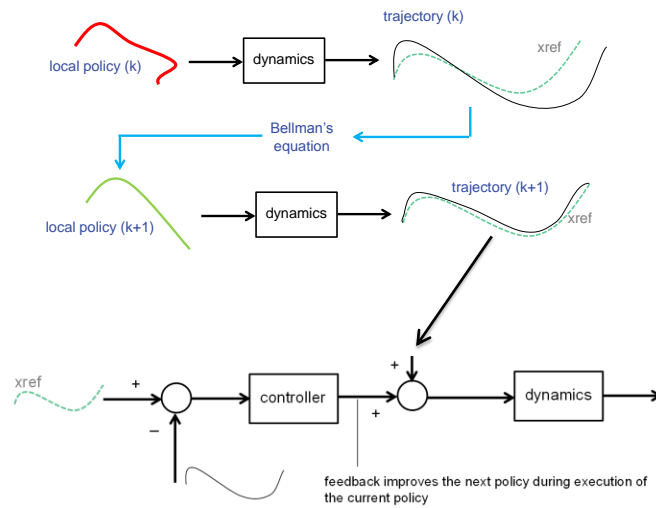
- Unless tracking is perfect, a state that is far from \mathbf{x}_{ref} will require a different model



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Model Updating & Iterative Tracking...



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Pay Dirt!



Clay friction

Broken red bricks

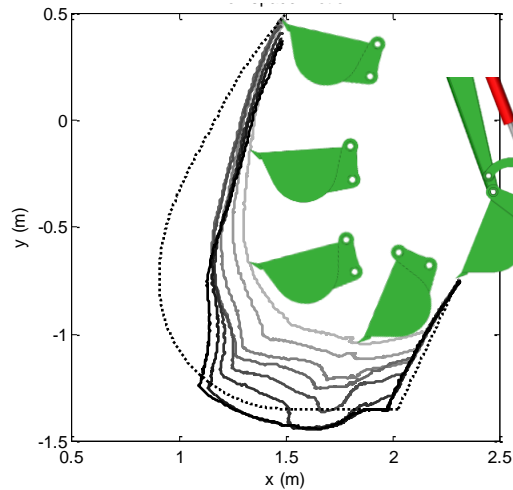
Clay friction



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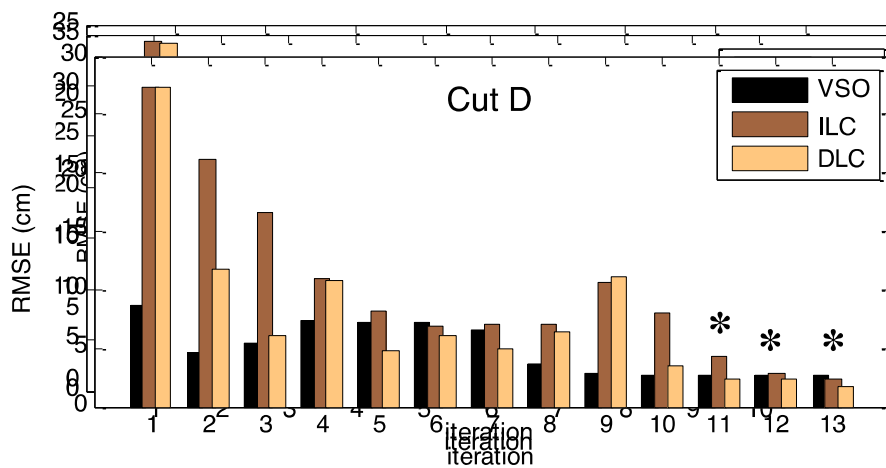
Pay Dirt: Looking at Trajectories



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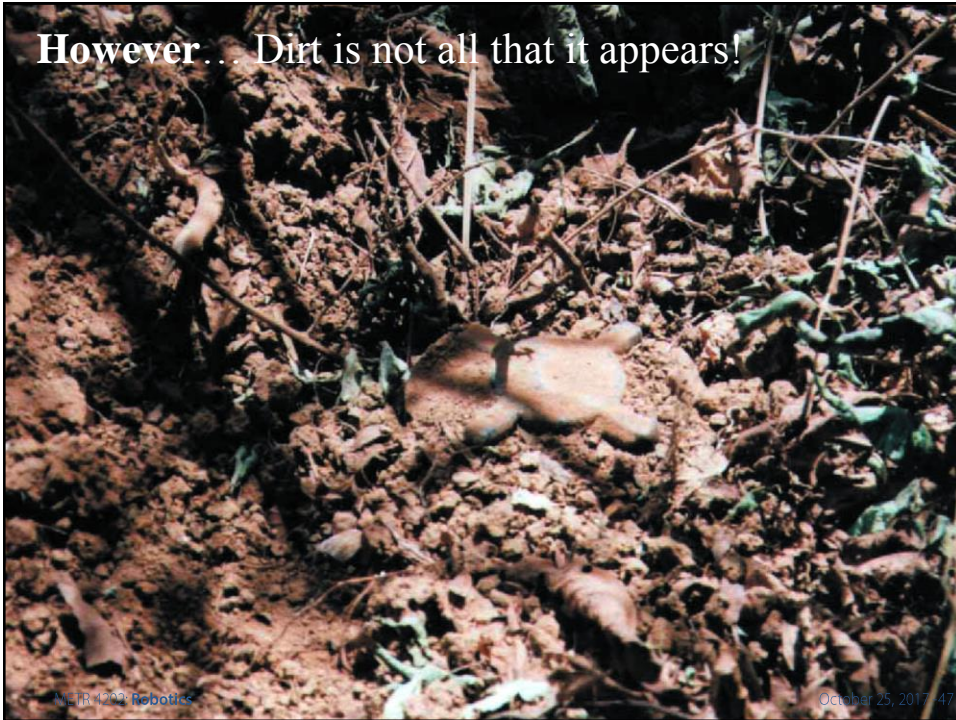
Pay Dirt: Looking at Trajectories



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However... Dirt is not all that it appears!



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Future of Robotics

Medical Robotics

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Conclusion and Future Research Challenges

“Soft” robots yield “hard” problems

Goals:

- My dream is to achieve dynamic motion, **particularly of compliant systems under feedback.**
- To *adapt & learn* in highly dynamic environments
- Can we robustly integrate continuous planning/control with continuum mechanics to extend our reach

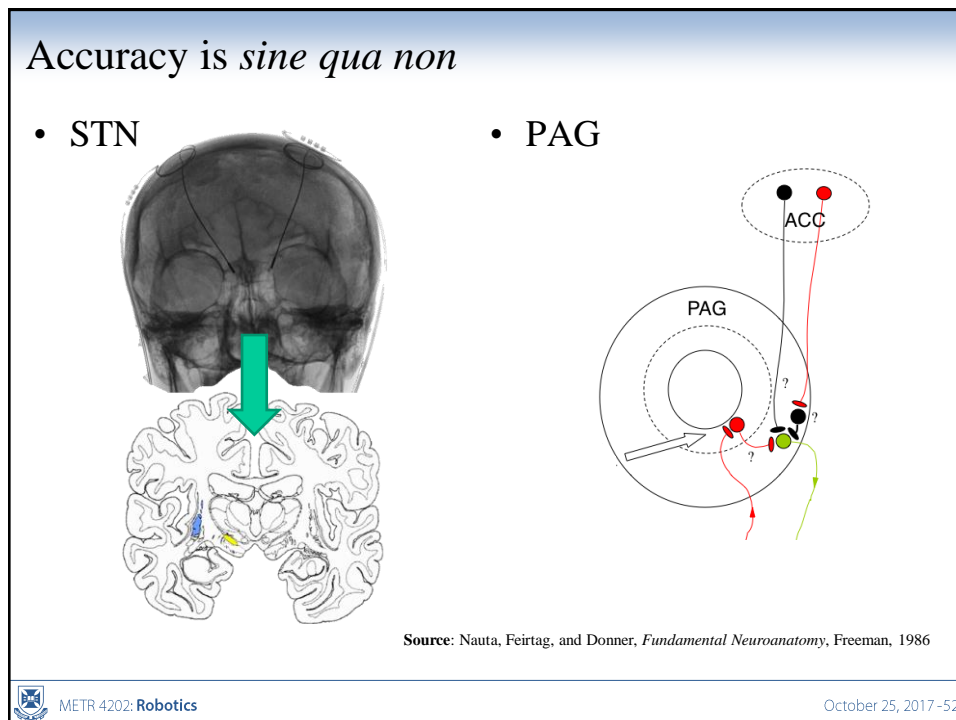
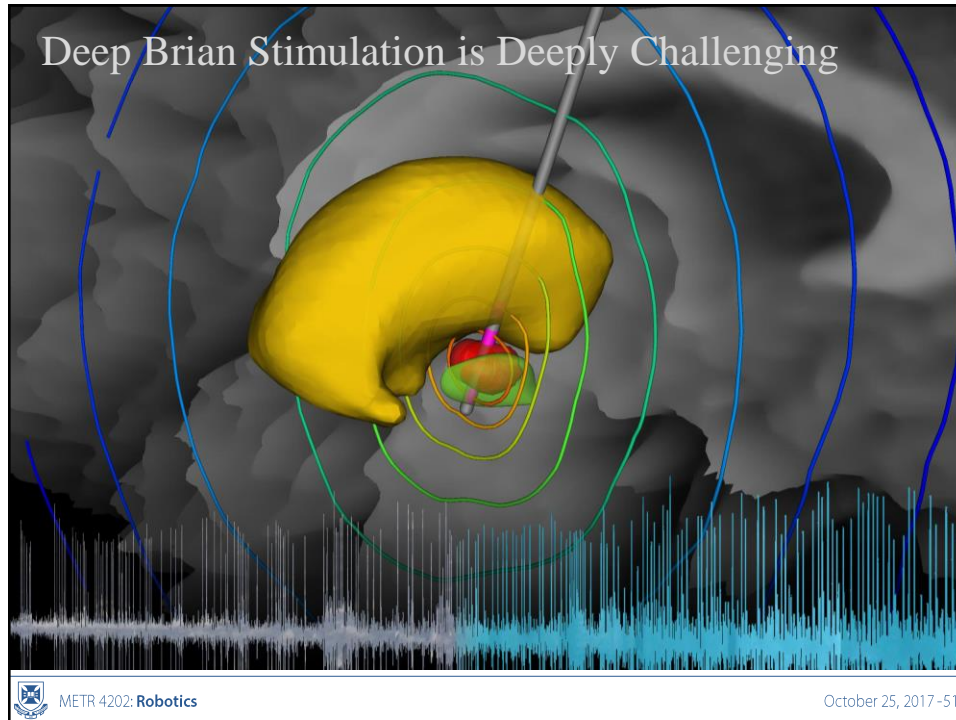
Open Questions:

- Robustness – we would love to have guarantees of performance, but we do not have them for most approaches
- Representation – how can we integrate many different types?
- We need dynamic understanding and robust control (recent work in computer vision/machine learning is exciting, but current precision-recall curves indicate we have a long way to go)

Clinically-motivated applications:

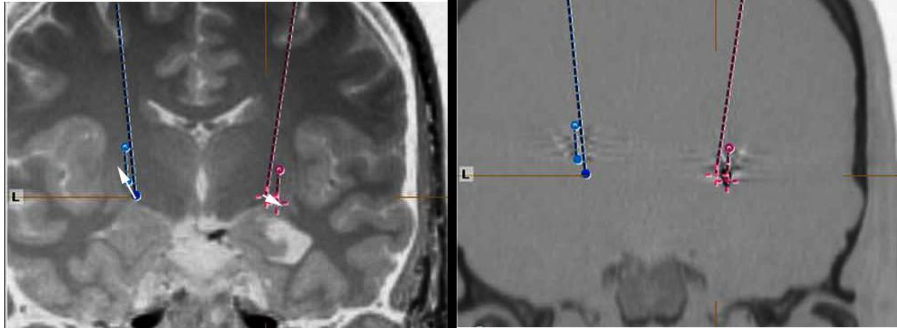
- **Surgical robotics and guided therapeutic techniques**





Accuracy is *sine qua non*

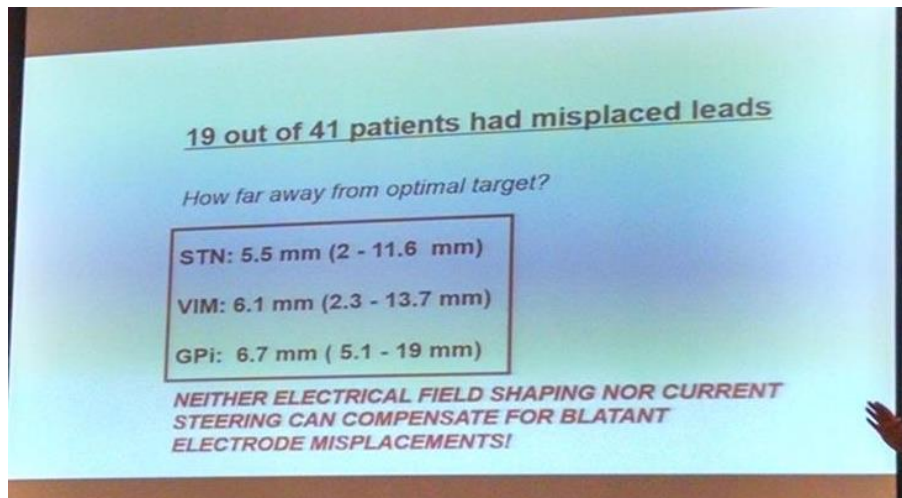
- Accuracy of Frame Based Stereotactic Placement via CT/MRI Comparison



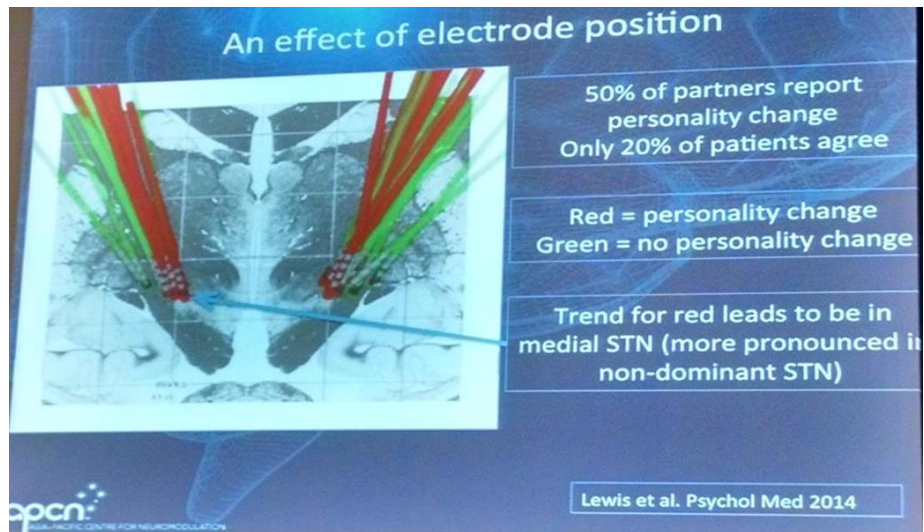
Source: Holloway, Docef, *Neurosurgery* 72[ONS Suppl 1]:ons47–ons57, 2013



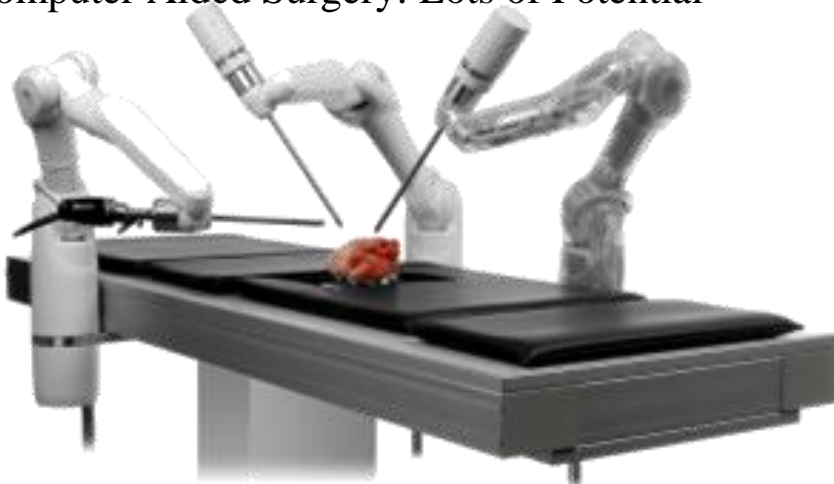
DBS Targeting is Hard



It has consequences...



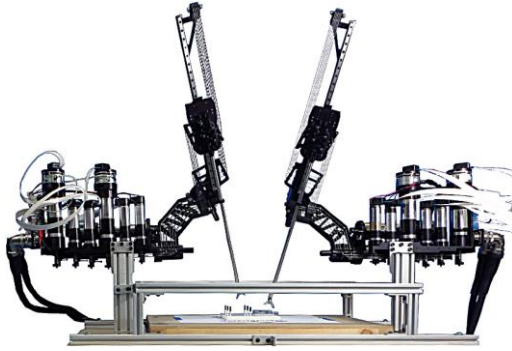
Computer Aided Surgery: Lots of Potential



- Unstructured environment (patient tissue) makes this harder



Neurosurgical Robotics

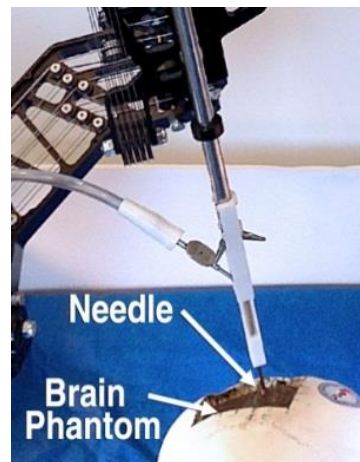
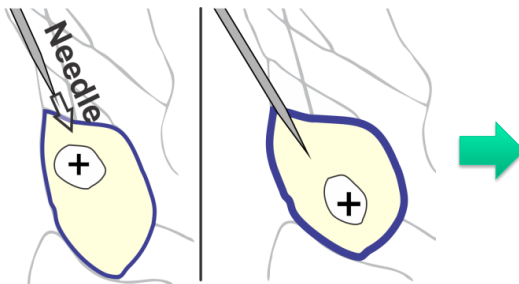


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Neurosurgical Robotics:

- **Biomechanics approach:**
Predict expected tissue trajectories



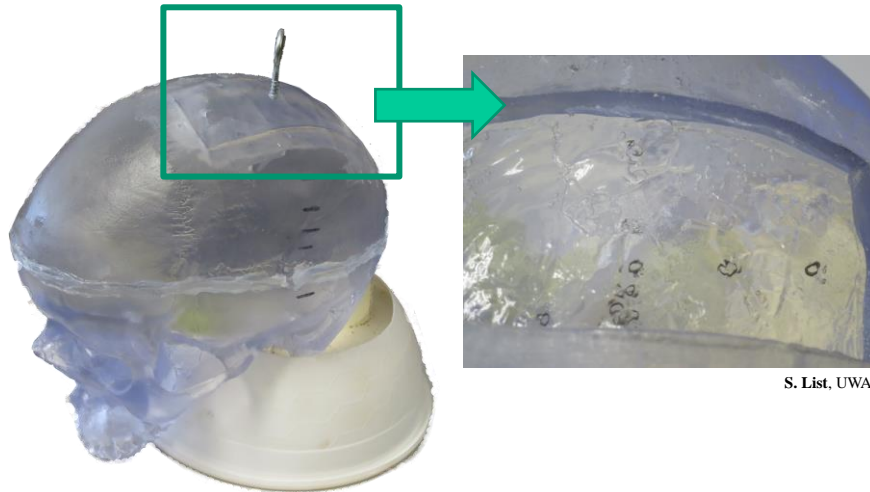
ARC DP160100714



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“Soft” is “Hard” (but not impossible)



S. List, UWA

→ Many Issues: Including Craniotomy Induced Brain Shift

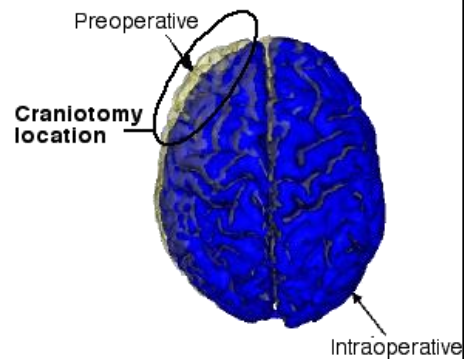


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Soft Tissue Mechanics: Brain Shift/Brain Sag

Ex: Image-guided neurosurgery



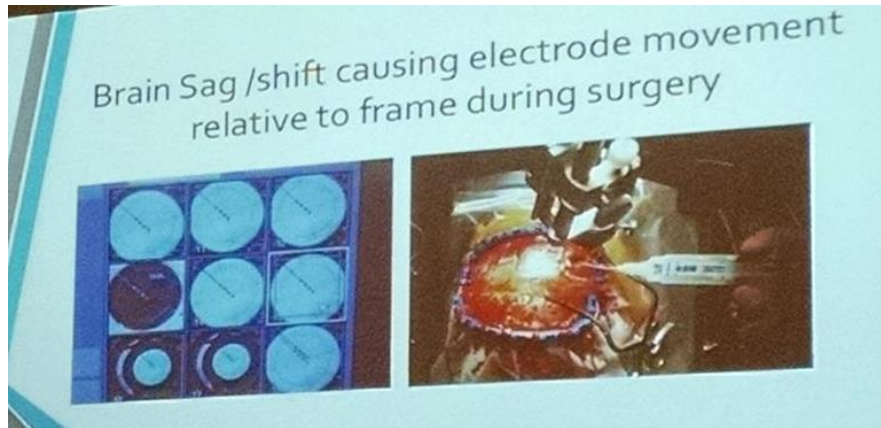
Courtesy: SPL, Harvard



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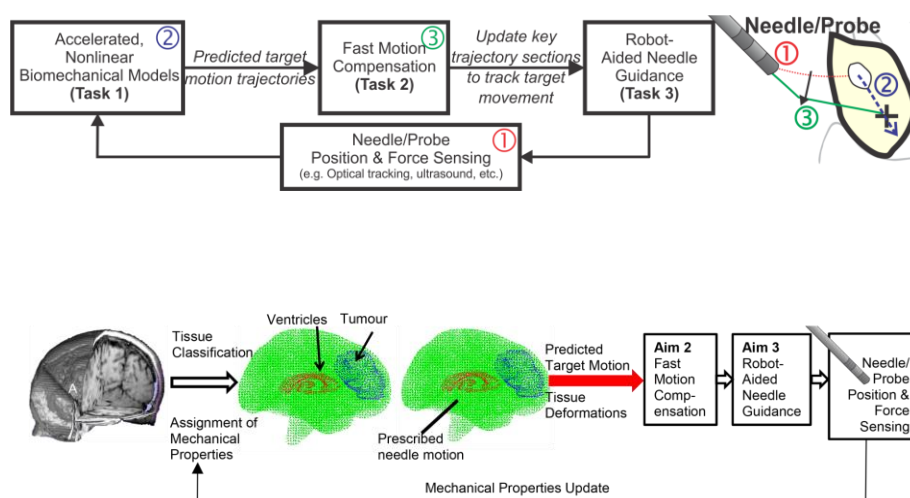
Brain Shift Identified in Neurosurgery Community



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A Robotic “Plan”: Handling Brian Shift

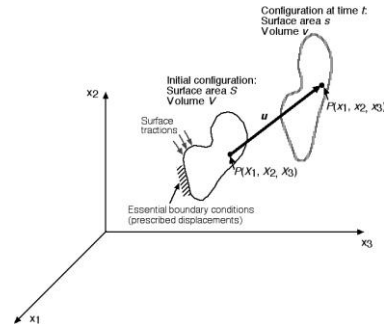
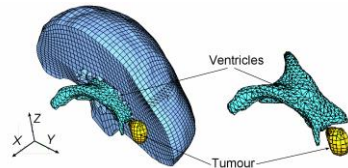


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Treating Brain Shift Mechanically

- Post this as a Biomechanics Problem
- Non-linear Continuum Mechanics Problem



$$\int_V \tau_{ij} \delta \varepsilon_{ij} dV = \int_V f_i^B \delta u_i dV + \int_S f_i^S \delta u_i dS$$



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Qualitative Evaluation – Canny Edges



Biomechanics



BSpline

Red contours –
Intra-operative

Blue contours –
Warped pre-operative

Green contours –
Overlap

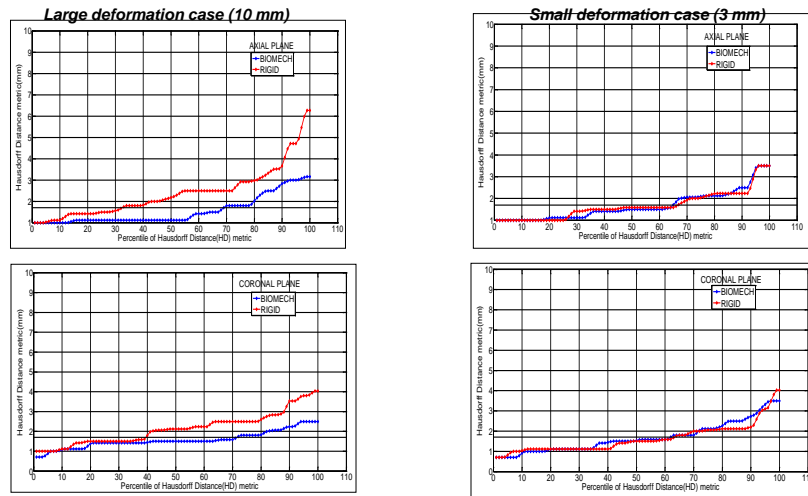
Mostayed et al. (2013) *Annals of Biomed. Eng.* 41(11), 2409-2425



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Comparison: Hausdorff Distance Metric



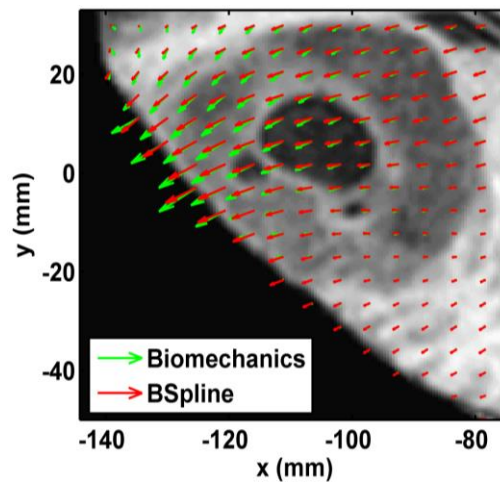
- Comparison of Biomechanics-based & rigid registrations



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Qualitative Evaluation: Deformation Field



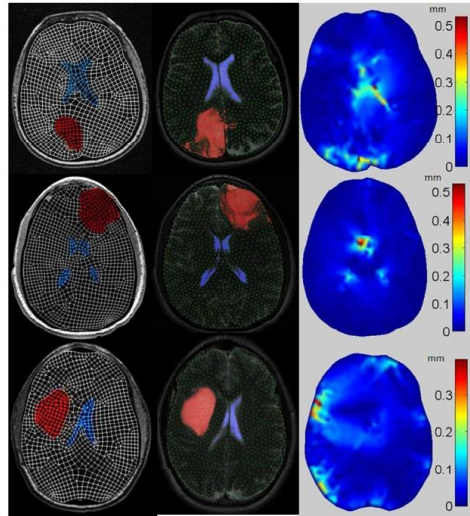
Mostayed et al. (2013) Biomechanical Model as a Registration Tool for Image-Guided Neurosurgery: Evaluation Against BSpline Registration. *Annals of Biomedical Engineering*. 41(11), 2409-2425



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Accuracy for Mesh-free Models



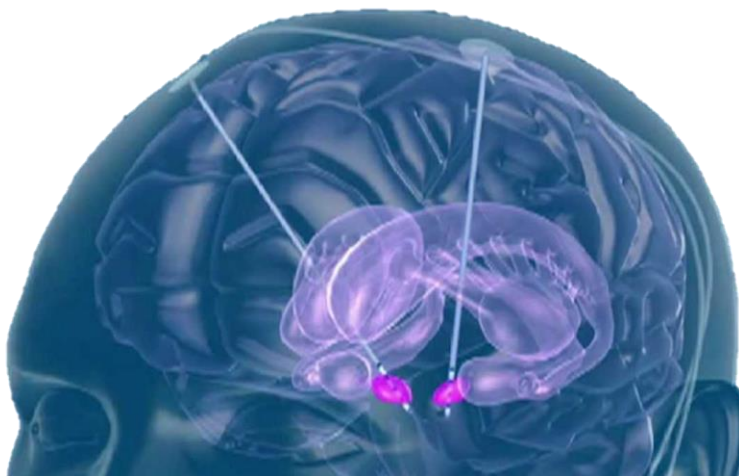
Left: Finite Element Models

Middle: Fuzzy Mesh-free Model

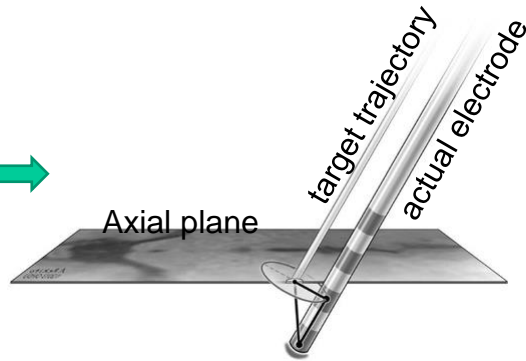
Right : Difference of the simulation results



Targeting: We Already Do Careful Preoperative Planning



The Best Laid Plans ...



Source: Burchiel, McCartney, *et al.*, *J Neurosurg* 119:301–306, 2013

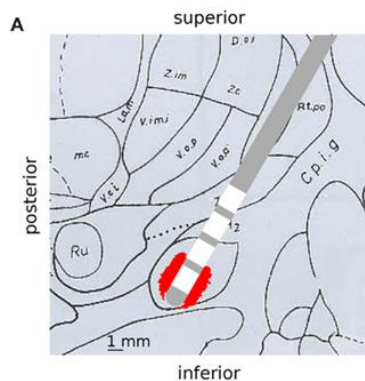


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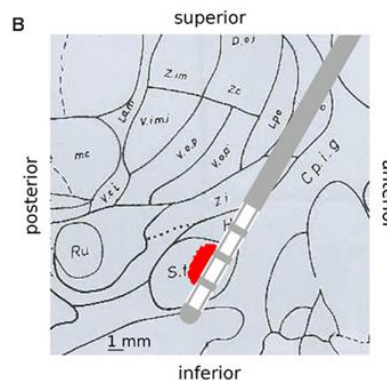
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Does This Suggest Steering/Path Correction?

- Plan:



- Result:



- Stereotactic (Leksell) frames alone are not enough...
- Brain Shift, Compliance, Drift, etc.

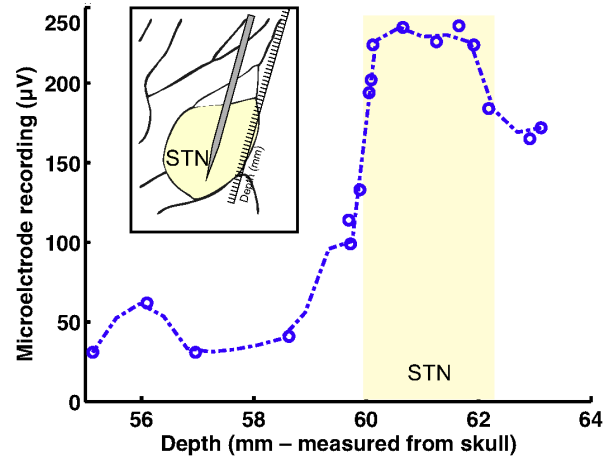


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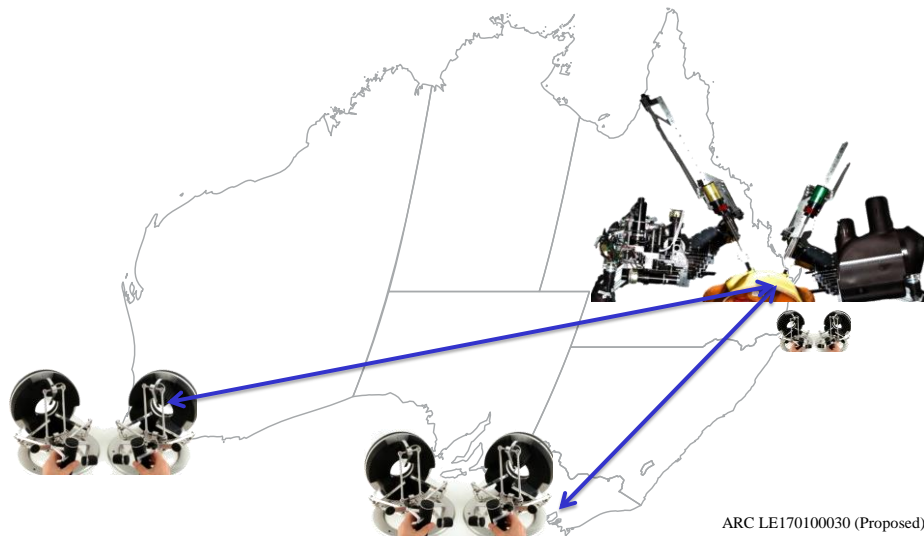
October 25, 2017 -72

In-Vivo Feedback: Incorporating MER

Incorporating tissue signal signatures



What's Next: Open Access Robotics Infrastructure for High-Fidelity Telesurgical Research



Future of Robotics

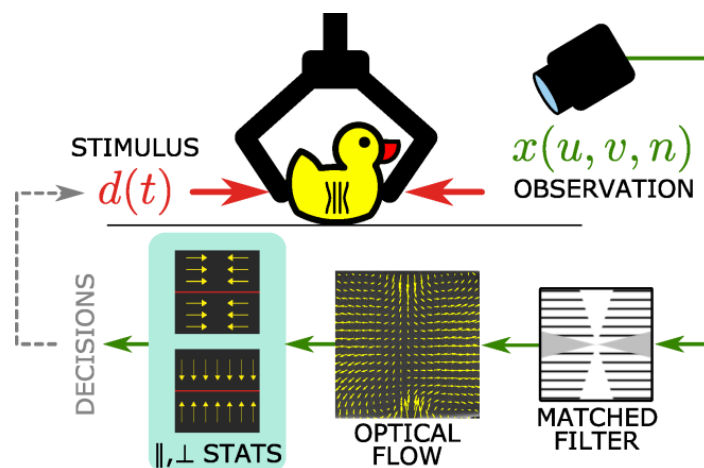
Computational Imaging



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What's Next? Incorporating Stiffness: Visual Deformable Object Analysis



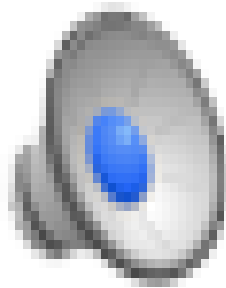
Dansereau, Singh, Leitner, *ICRA 2016*



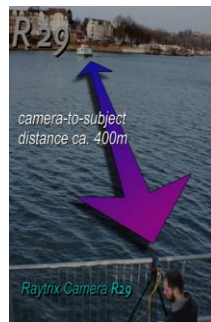
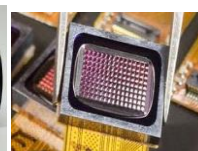
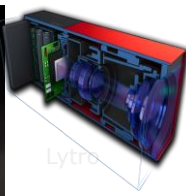
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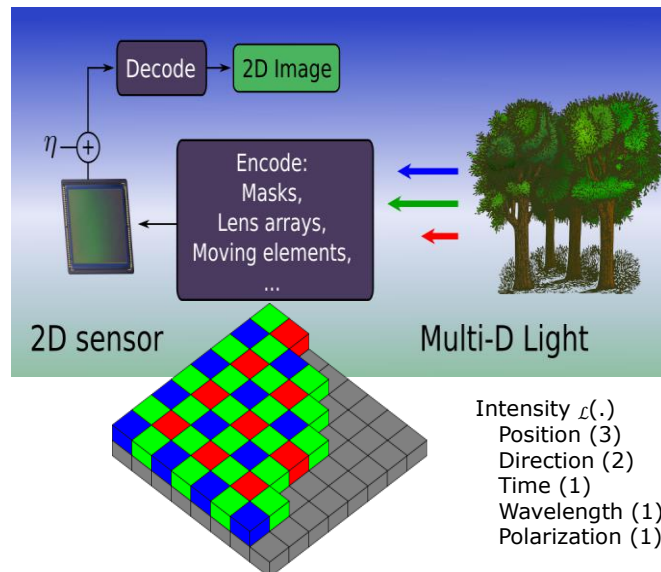
Visual Deformable Object Analysis



Industry Example: Computational Imaging



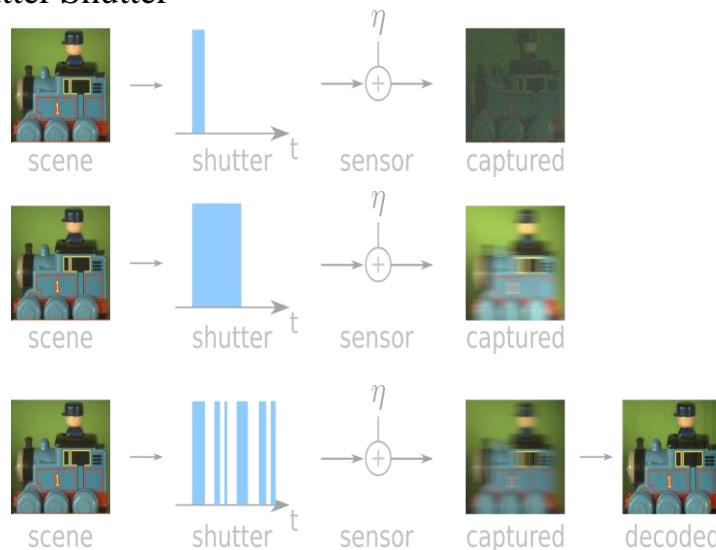
Another Example: Computational Imaging



Another Example: Computational Imaging

- Flutter Shutter

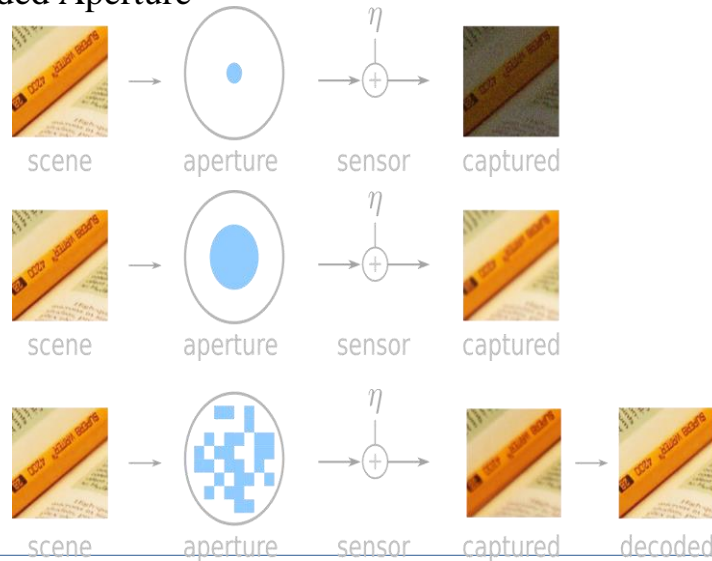
[raskar2006]



Another Example: Computational Imaging

- Coded Aperture

[gottesman89, levin2007, zhou2009 and others]



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Some 2018 Robotics Thesis Topics

Projects (2018 RDL S. Singh)	
ID	Title
1	Light Fields in Motion
2	Image Sensing and Control
3	One Sweet Robot
4	Remote Access CT imaging Laboratory for clinical skills education and training
5	Semi-Automatic Tracking of Athletes Diving using Pre-selected Keypoints
7	(RDL*) Dermatology Outback
8	Interactive Ball / Beeper Ball - Smart Tones
9	Affine Breathing: Tracking
10	Underactuated Robotics: Katita Walks The Line
11	Assistive Ultrasound Support
13	SuperResolve 3D [NEW]
14	Privacy Preserving Roadmap Planning [NEW]
15	Color My World (Art Meets Robotics) [NEW]
16	Robots: In Play (Probabilistically) [NEW]
17	Project with Sound and Hearing and Mechatronics [NEW]
18	Biomedical Engineering Meets Robotics [NEW] [ARC DP co-funding]
19	(Virtual) Robotics and Experimental Platform [NEW]
20	BYO Robot Project [NEW]



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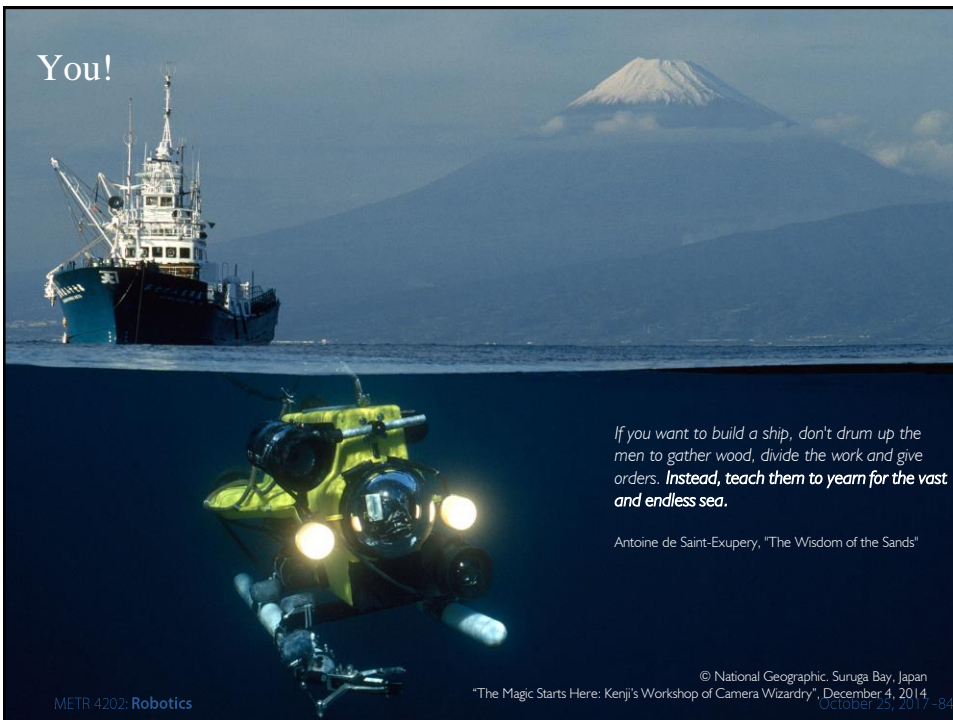
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Future of Robotics!

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You!



*If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work and give orders. **Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.***

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, "The Wisdom of the Sands"

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© National Geographic, Suruga Bay, Japan
"The Magic Starts Here: Kenji's Workshop of Camera Wizardry", December 4, 2014
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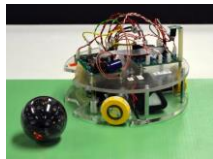
UQ Robotics: Dynamic Systems in Motion

Diverse international
research group

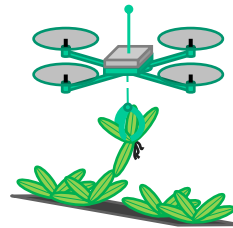
Hanna Kurniwati
(NUS/MIT)

Paul Pounds
(ANU/Vale)

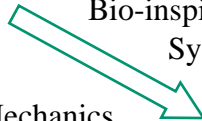
Surya Singh
(Stanford/Syd)



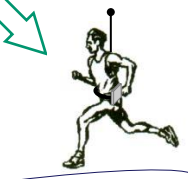
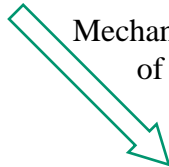
Aerial Systems



Bio-inspired
Systems



Mechanics
of motion



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SECaT Time! ... Brought To You By the Number 5



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