

## Minimal Actuation in Legged Locomotion

Prof. Ron Fearing

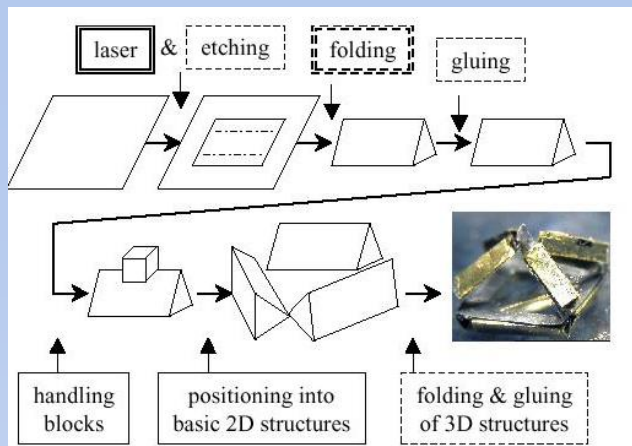
Dept. of EECS

Univ. of California, Berkeley

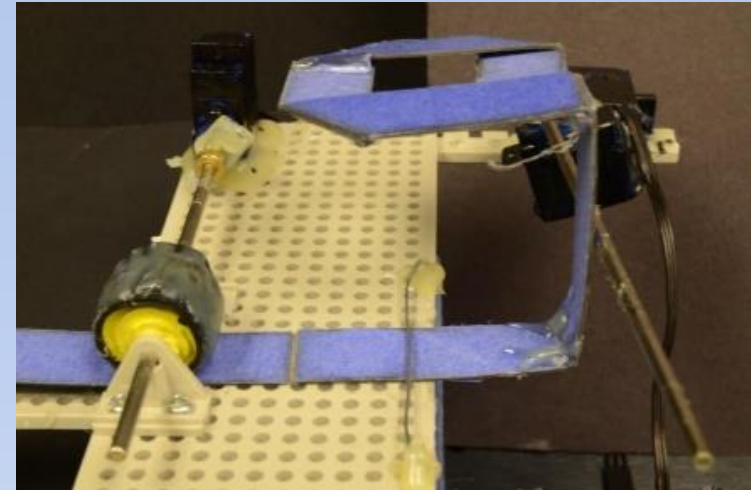
<http://bml.eecs.Berkeley.edu>



# Minimality in Design/Fabrication

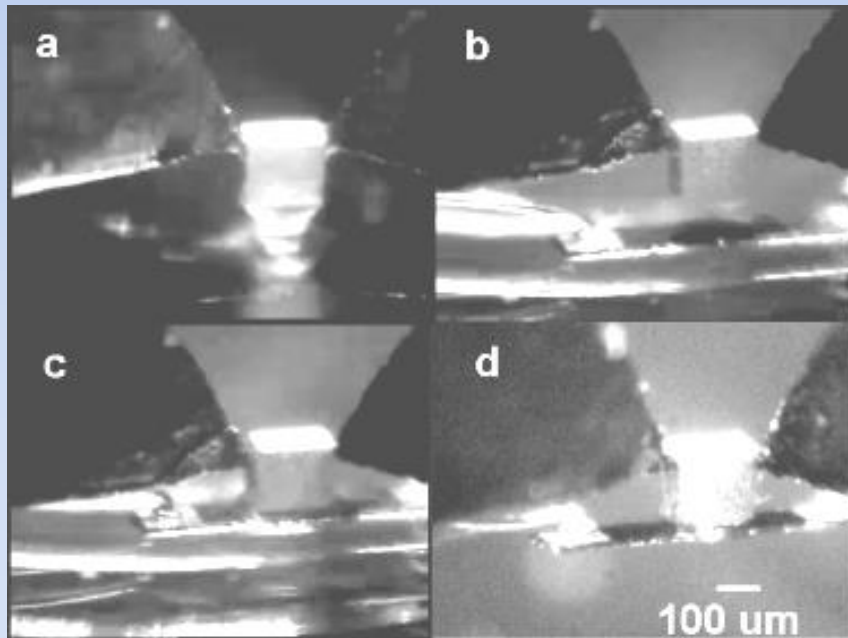


Sahai IROS 2003



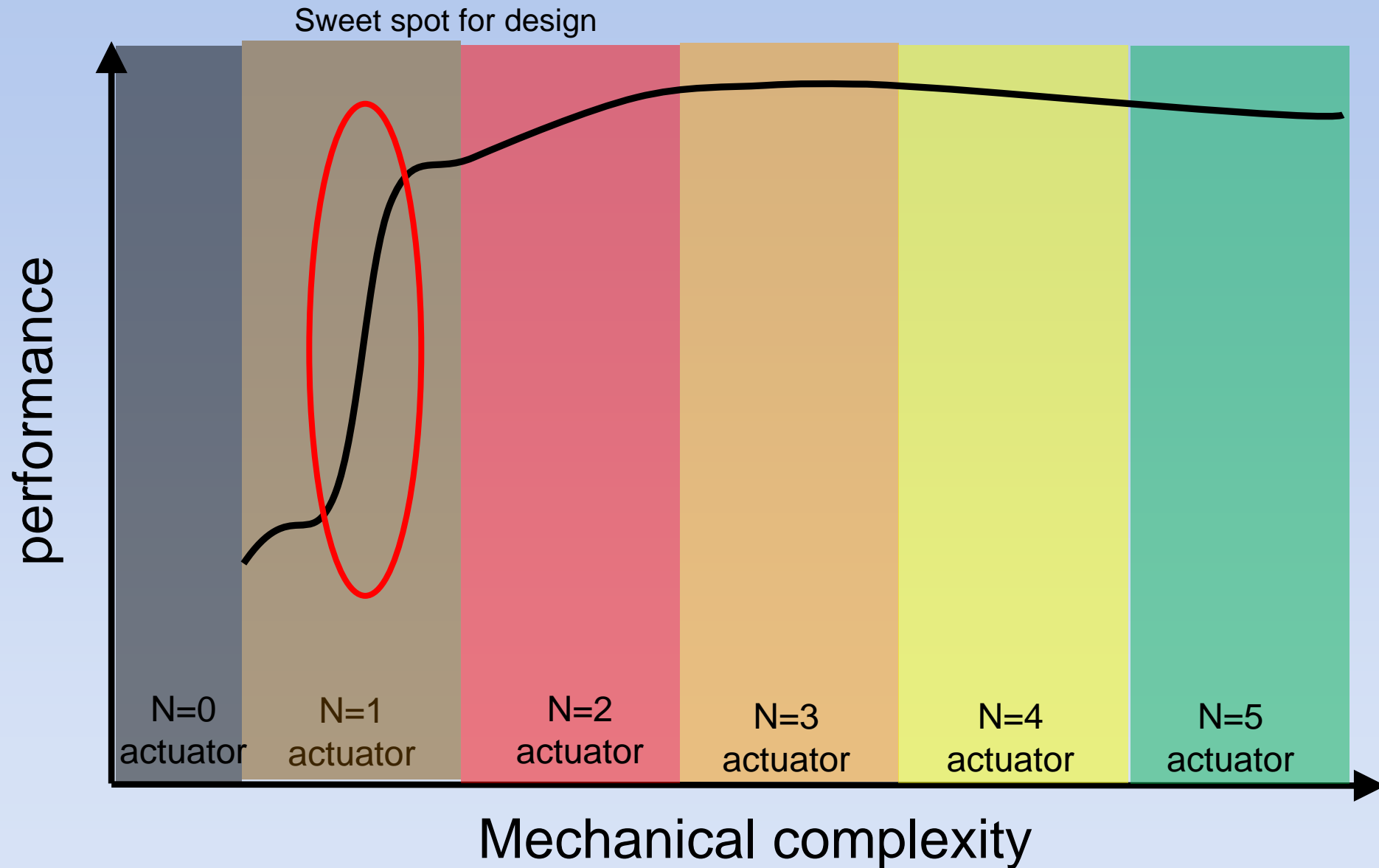
``Robozome''

Robotic Folding of 2D and 3D Structures from a Ribbon,  
Liyu Wang, Mark Plecnik, Ronald Fearing IEEE Int. Conf. Robotics and Automation, Stockholm, May 2016.



Strain gauge attachment using handling block  
Thompson&Fearing, IROS 2001

# Complexity and Minimality for Legged Locomotion



# Complexity

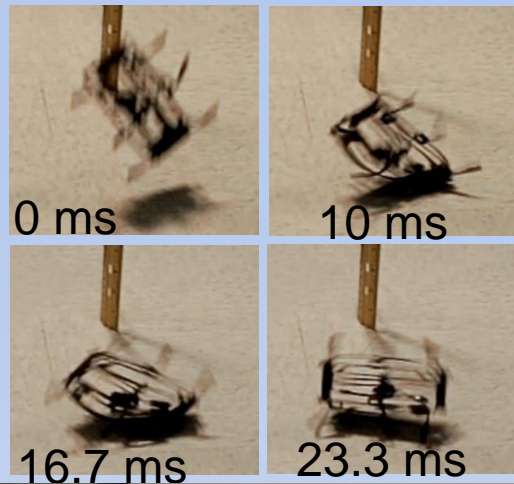
- **Number of motors**
- **Structure: joints, stiffness, feet**
- **Control**
- **Sensing**

**➔ For high speed running:  
1 motor + tuned structure,  
no control or sensing**

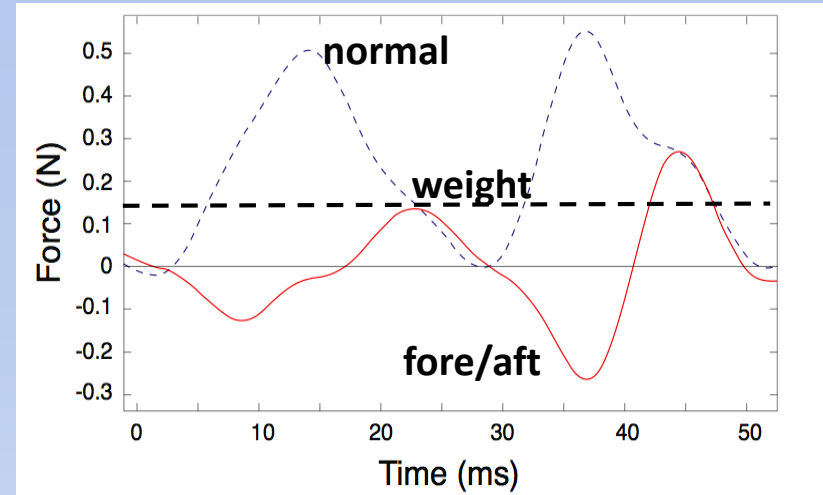
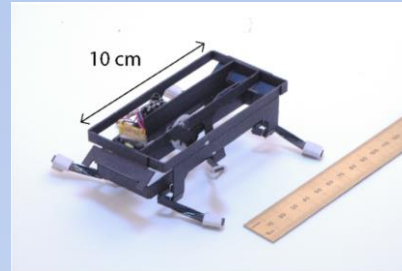
**Claim: tuned structure reduces control and sensing**



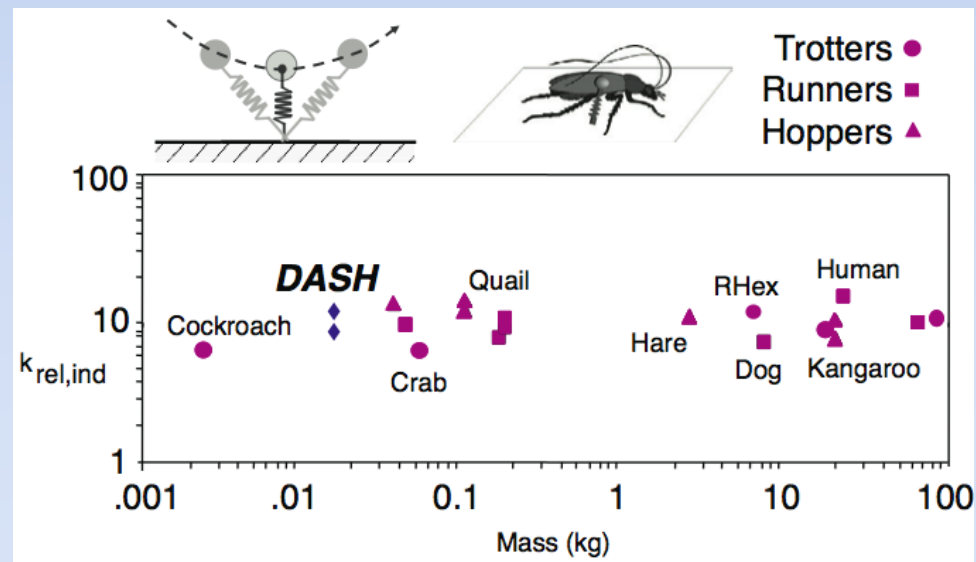
# DASH- Dynamic Autonomous Sprawled Hexapod



Ground impact  
at  $\sim 6.5$  m/s



One drive + 1 steering motor

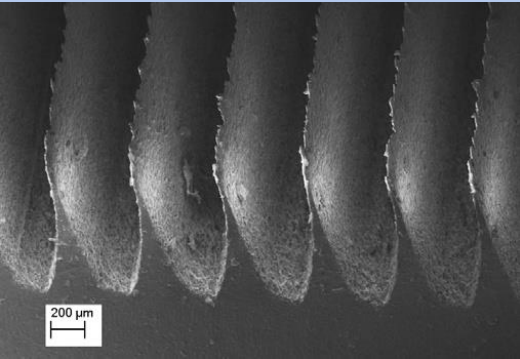


first 10 cm scale folded robot: 2009

Birkmeyer, Peterson, Fearing, IROS 2009



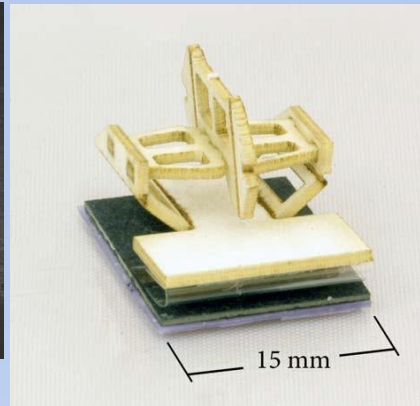
# CLASH robot climbing with PDMS directional adhesive



e.g. Parness et al.  
*JRSI* 2009

video:

<http://robotics.eecs.berkeley.edu/~ronf/Ambulation/Movies/65deg-climb.wmv>



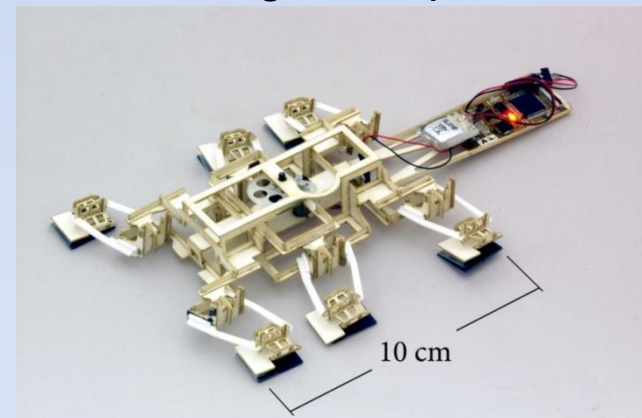
**One drive motor+foot**

Arresting fall down  
70-degree incline

Ankle, tendon, and gecko-inspired adhesive  
working together to rapidly arrest fall

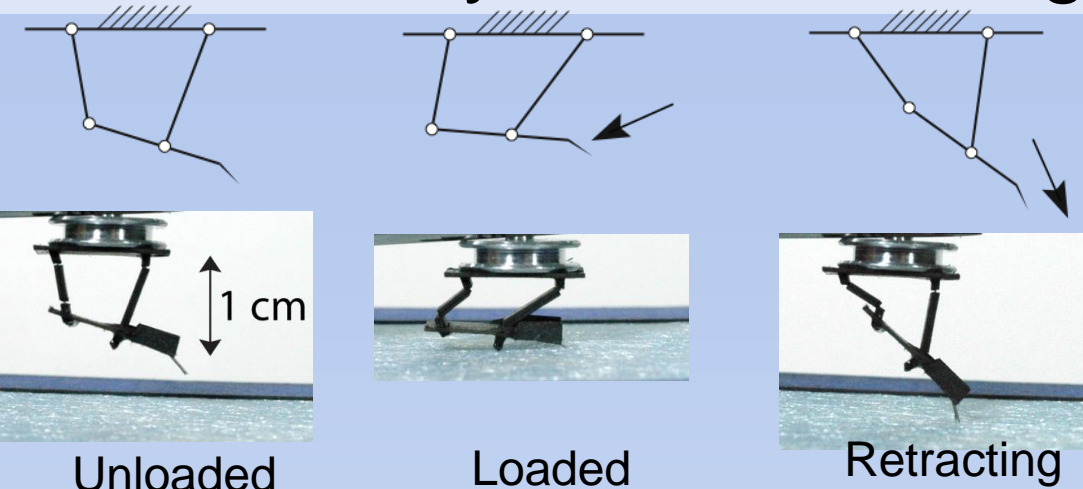
0:20

70 degree slope

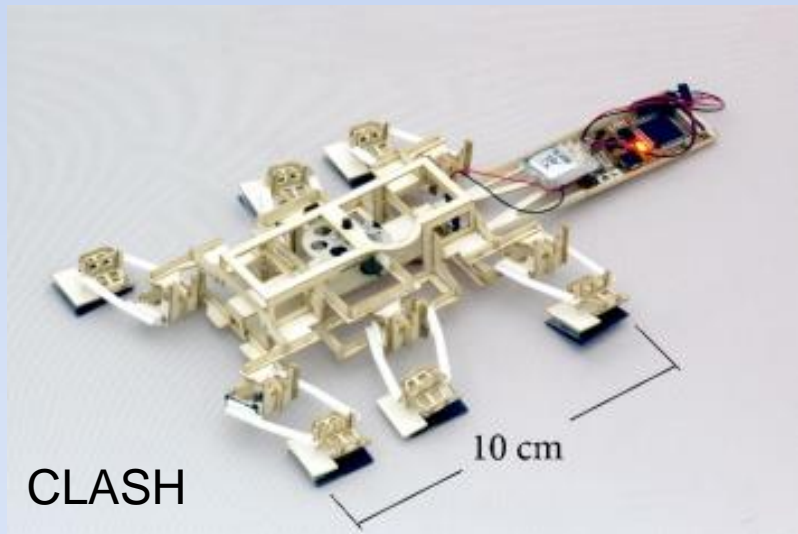


Birkmeyer , Gillies, and Fearing, *IROS* 2012

# Dynamic Climbing with Claws

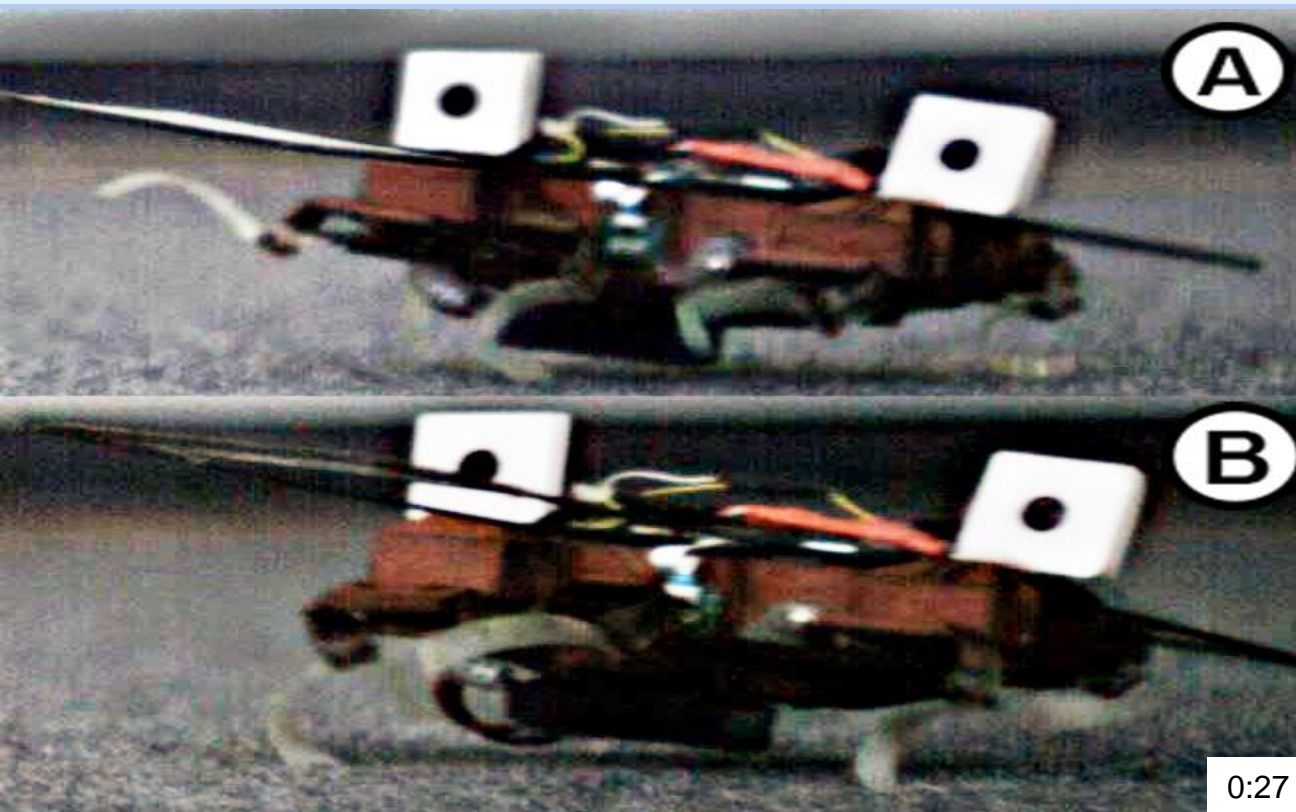


## Claws

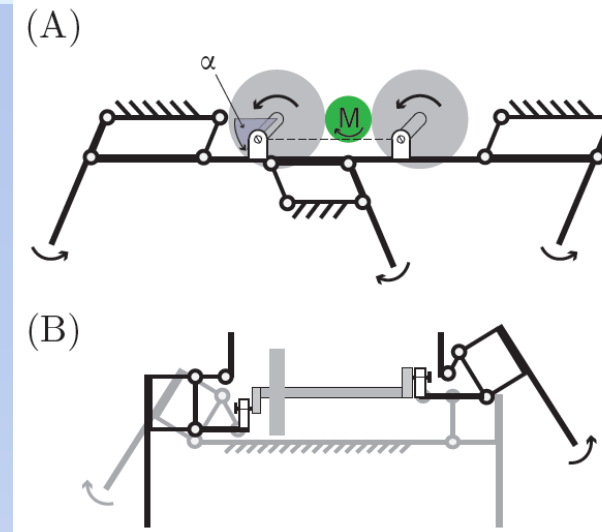




# Running Beyond the Bioinspired Regime



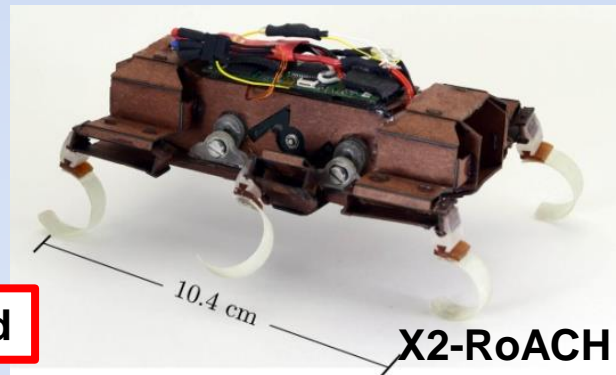
video: [robotics.eecs.berkeley.edu/~ronf/Ambulation/Movies/RunBeyondBioInspired.mp4](http://robotics.eecs.berkeley.edu/~ronf/Ambulation/Movies/RunBeyondBioInspired.mp4)



single motor,  
minimally actuated

VelociRoACH ~30 W/kg  
X2-RoACH ~120 W/kg

47 body lengths/second

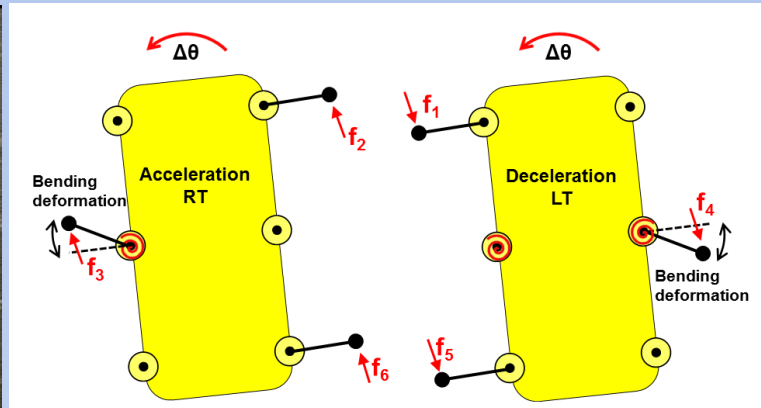


One drive motor (2 sides pinned)

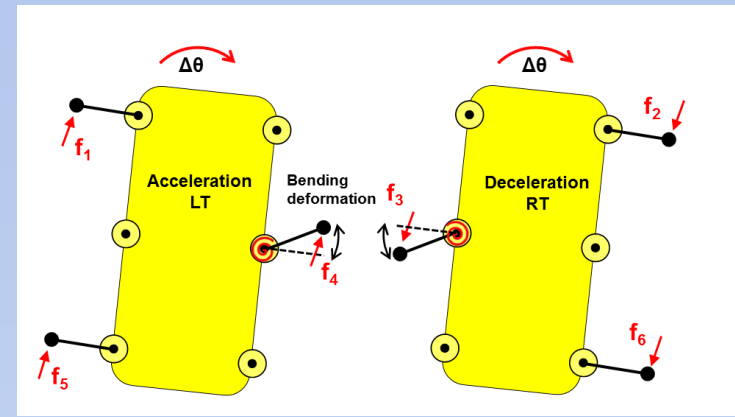




# 1 STAR- steering robot with one actuator



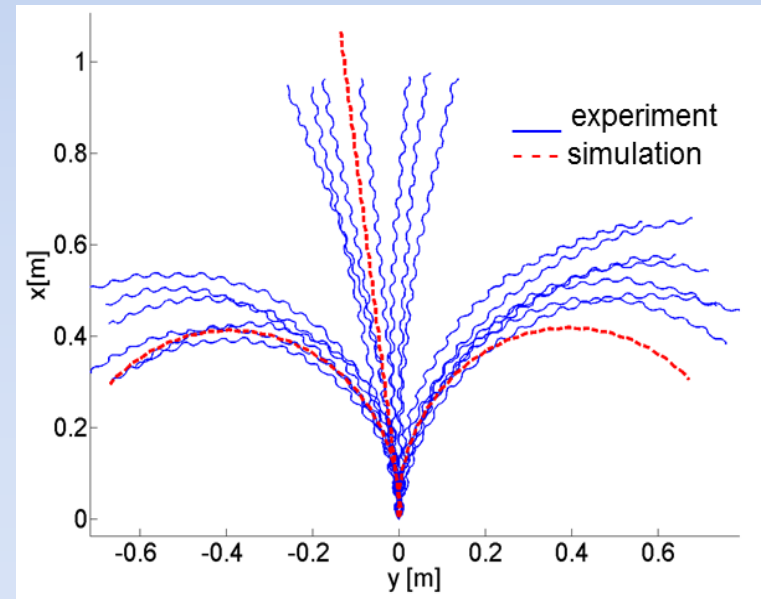
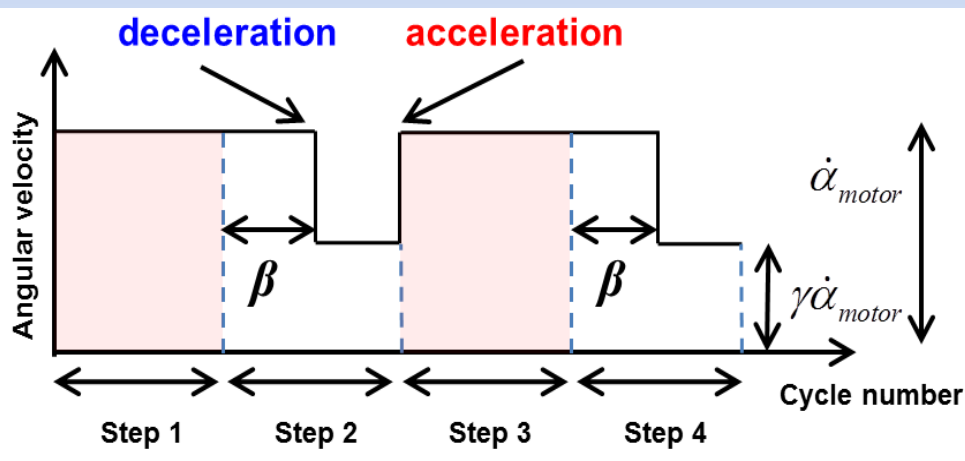
Turn Left



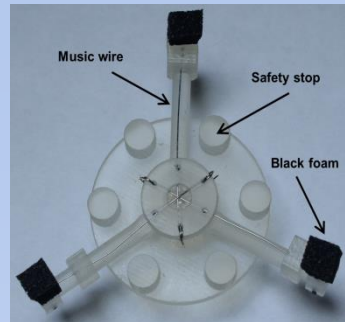
Turn Right

D. Zarrouk and R.S. Fearing, *IEEE Transactions on Robotics*, Feb. 2015.

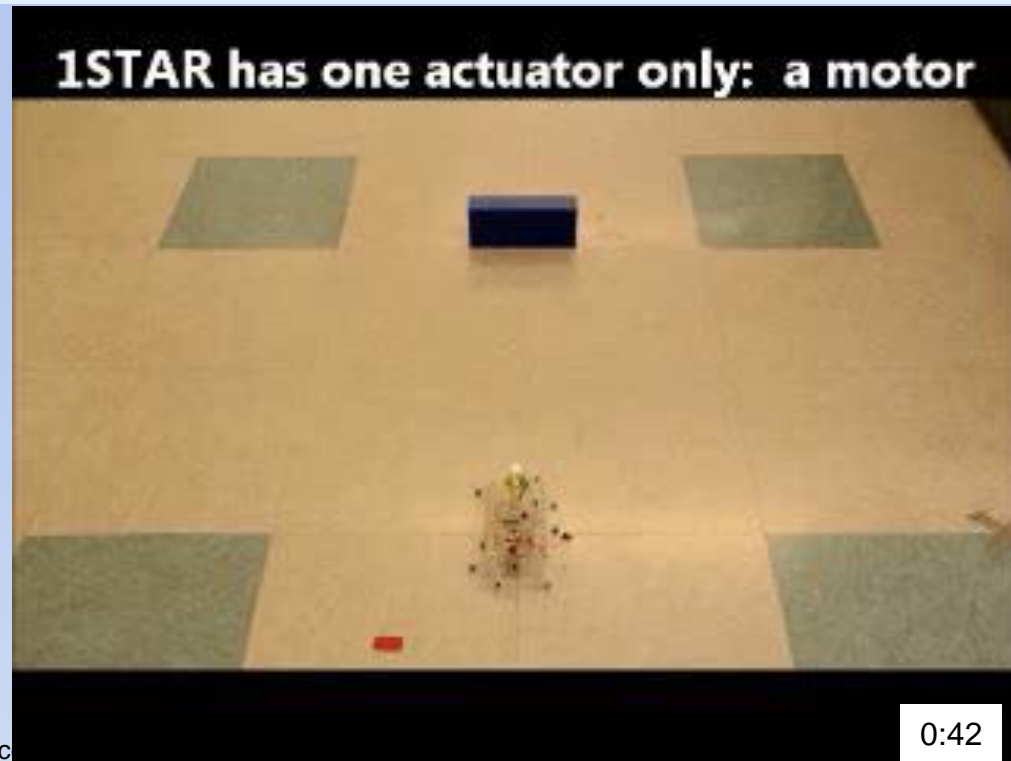
D. Zarrouk and R.S. Fearing, IROS 2012



# 1 STAR- steering robot with one actuator



**Compliant Leg**

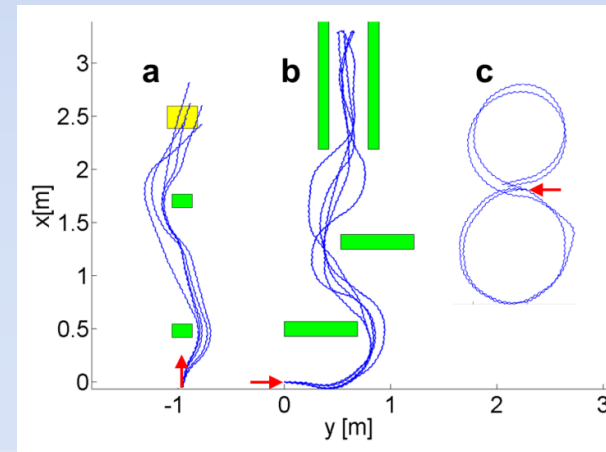


1star-exc

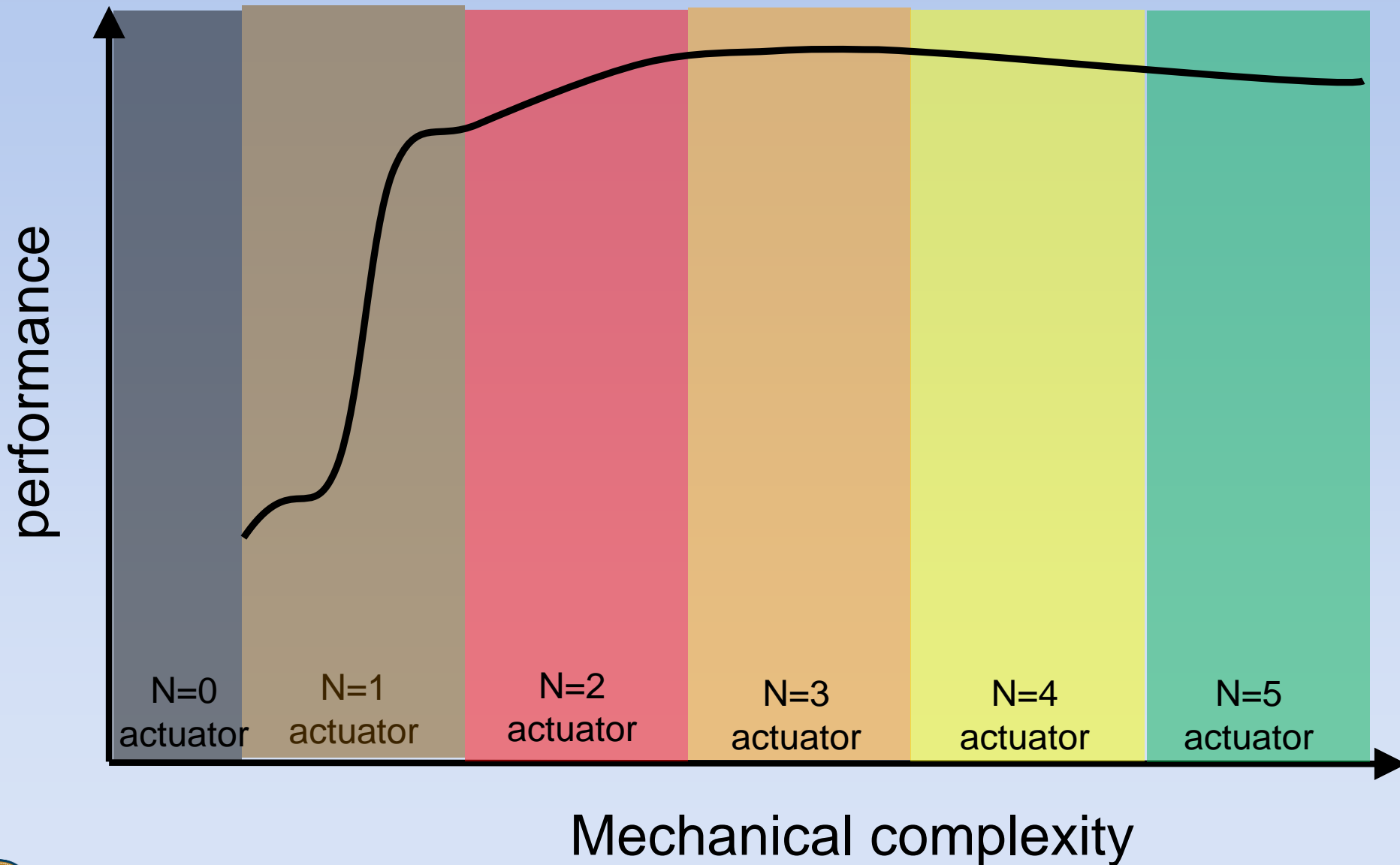
video: <http://robotics.eecs.berkeley.edu/~ronf/Ambulation/Movies/1Star-ICRA14.mp4>

D. Zarrouk and R.S. Fearing, Controlled In-Plane Locomotion of a Hexapod Using a Single Actuator, *IEEE Trans. on Robotics*, 2015.

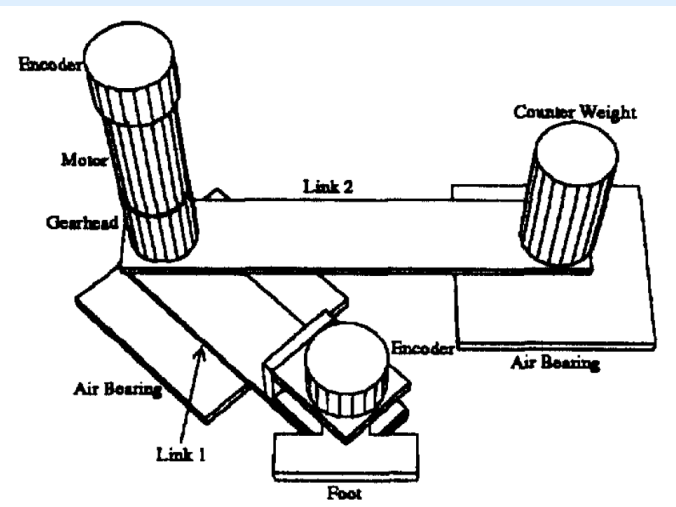
D. Zarrouk and R.S. Fearing, "Compliance-Based Dynamic Steering for Hexapods," IROS 2012



# Complexity and Minimality for Planar Jumping



# 1 motor 2 link Acrobot (1992)



Berkemeier and Fearing  
IROS 1992, ICRA 1994, TRA 1998

Hopping gait

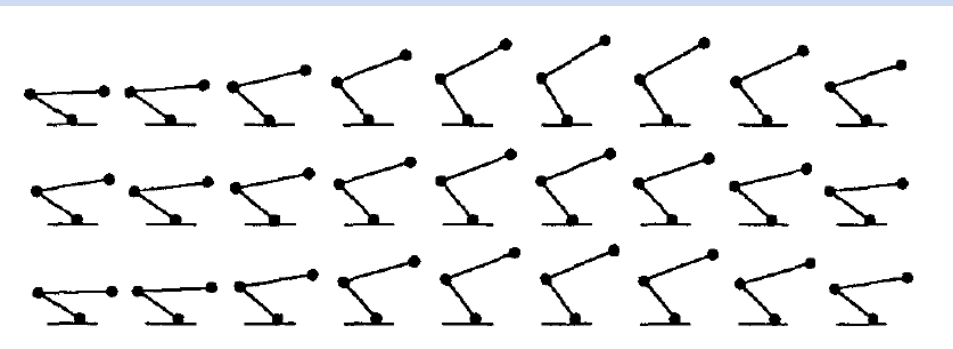


Figure 6: Frames for Sliding Gait

Sliding and Hopping Gaits  
for the  
Underactuated Acrobot.  
M. Berkemeier and R. Fearing  
IEEE TRA 1998

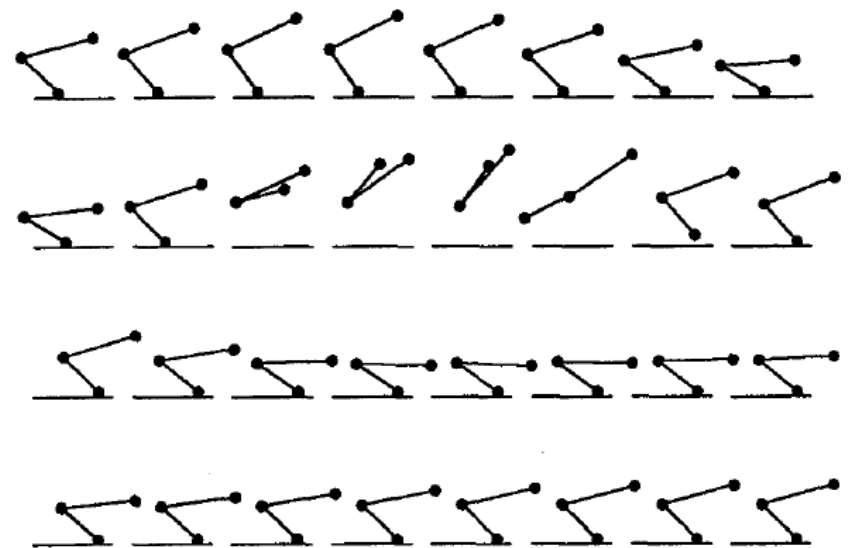
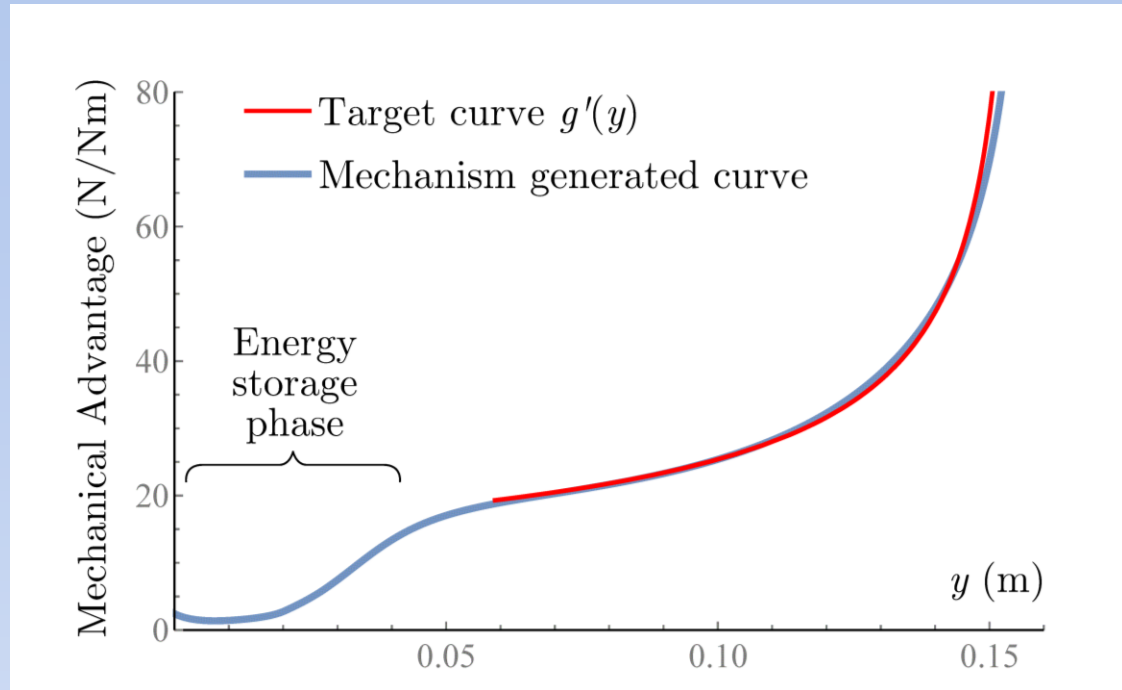
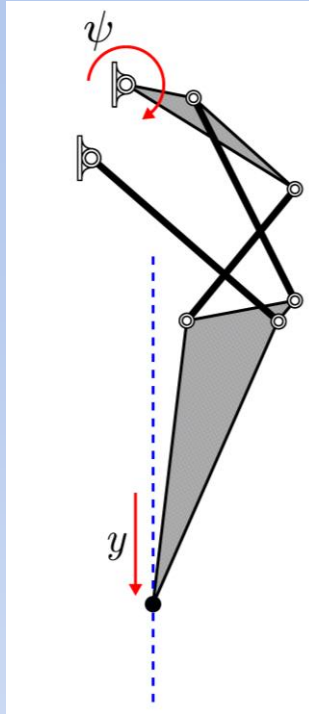


Figure 8: Frames for Hopping Gait



# 1 motor 8 bar linkage jumper (2016)

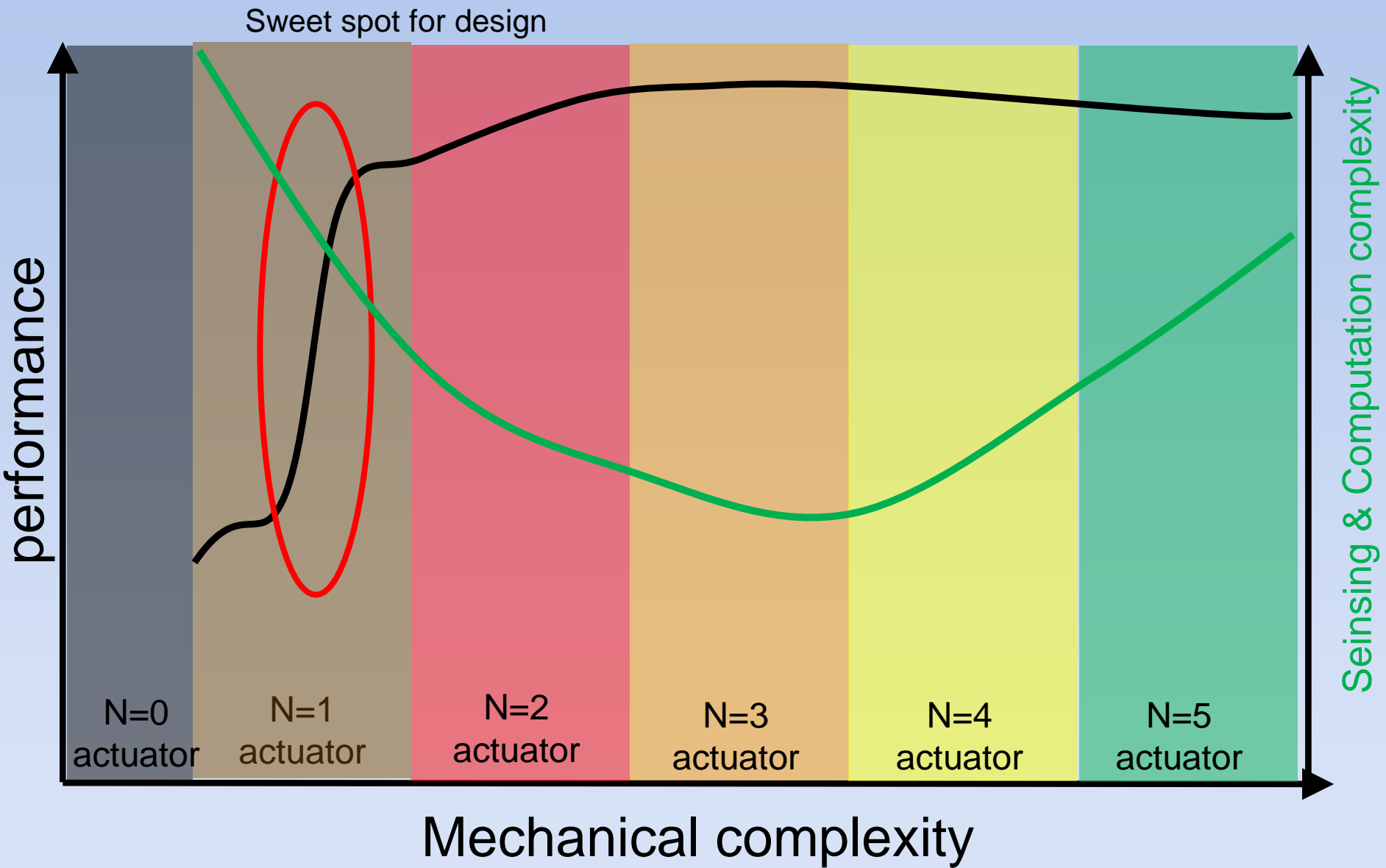


## Built in to mechanism:

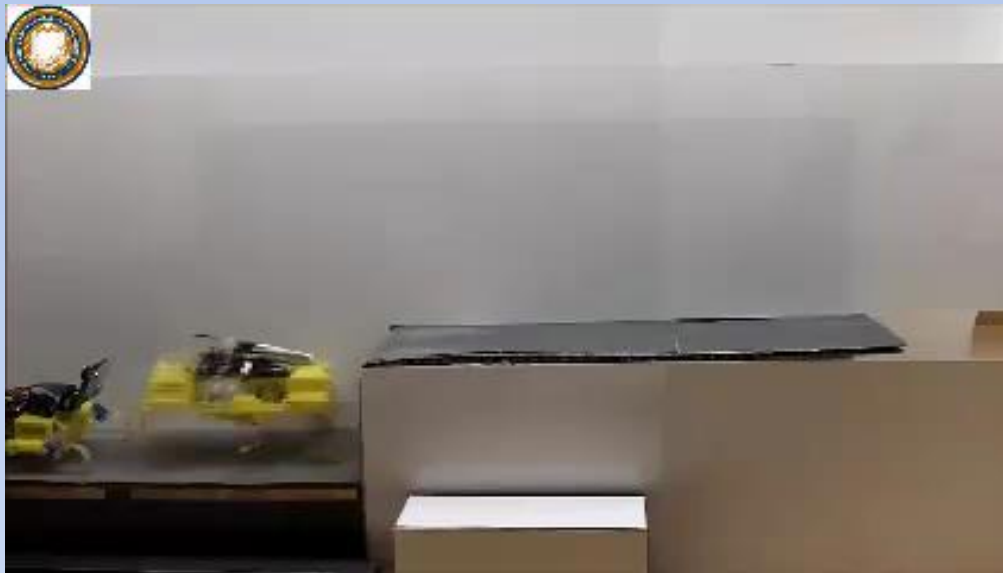
- Compliance
- Straight line motion
- Constant acceleration
- Energy storage
- Minimum angular velocity at takeoff

Haldane, Plecnik, Yim, Fearing, submitted

# Complexity and Minimality for legged locomotion



# Step climbing by Dexterous Manipulation (joint operation)

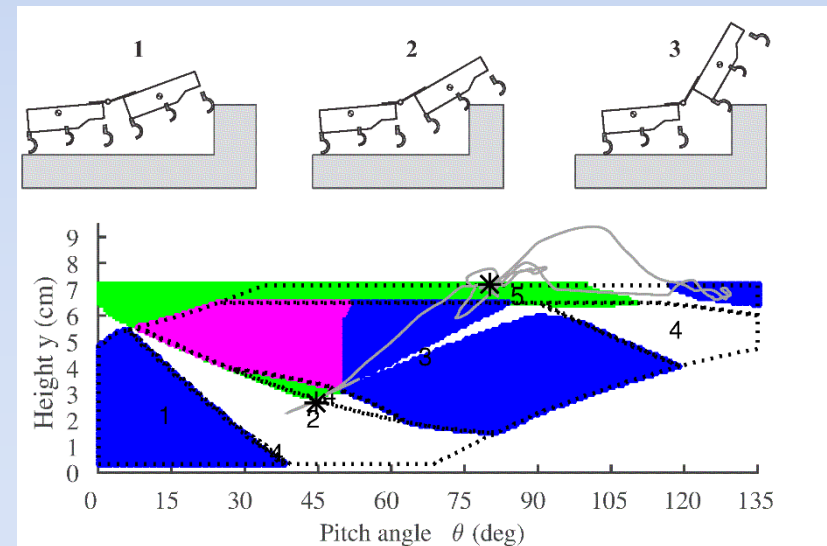
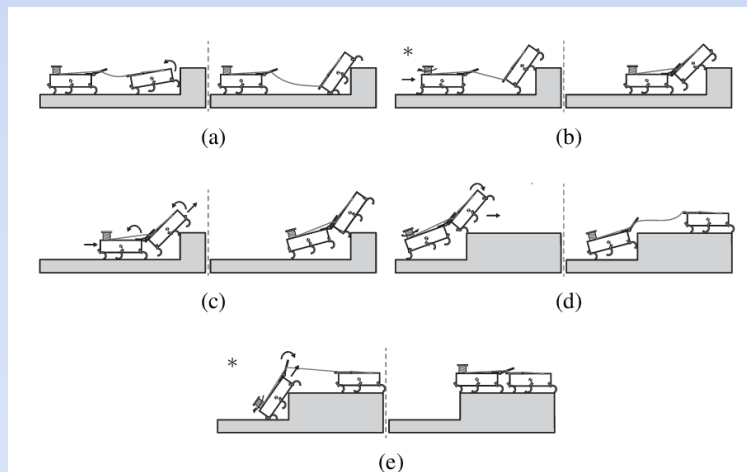


**2 robots X 2 drive motors  
+ 1 motor driven tether**

**Joint complexity?**

0:29

C. Casarez ICRA 2016



# Conclusions

## Minimally-actuated dynamic ambulation

(possible tool for biological questions):

1. dynamics from structure and interactions, not nervous system (passive stabilization)
2. Contact mechanics + compliance may have bigger effect than control (for underactuated systems)
3. rich dynamic behavior can be exploited for yaw maneuverability
4. high power density from using single motor

What about combining minimal robots to get complex behavior at linear cost?

