

# Welcome Everyone to MECH 641/EECE 661 – Robotics

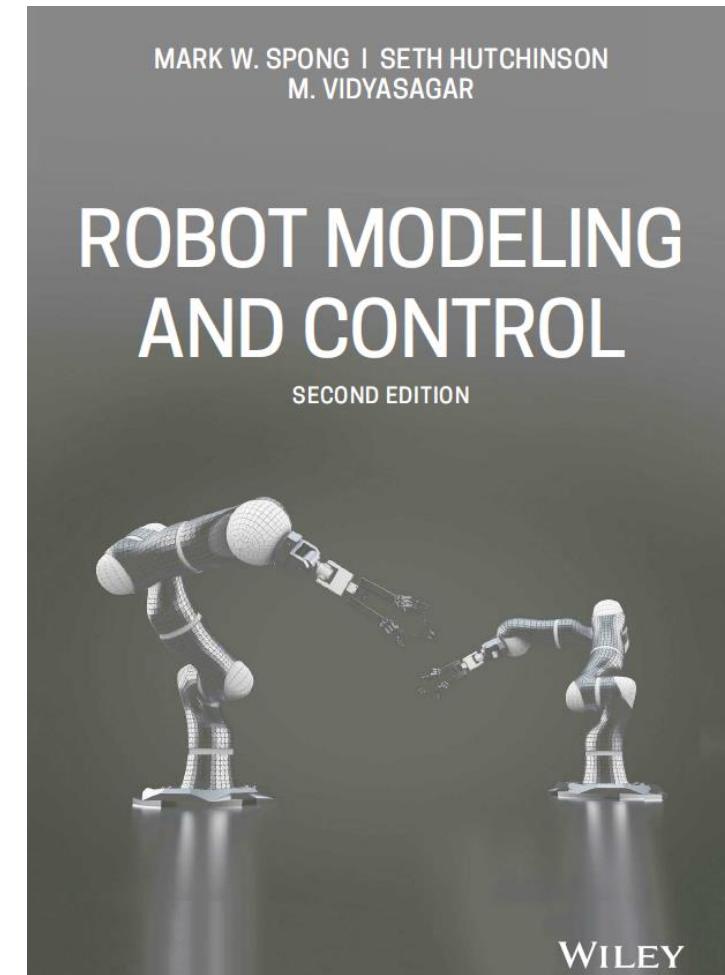
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**Hussein Hussein,**

- **Bechtel 503**
- **email:** [hh224@aub.edu.lb](mailto:hh224@aub.edu.lb)
- **Office hours:** TR 13:00-15:00 - by appointment

## **Unit of Study Description**

- **Classes:** 2 lectures, 1h 15m each
- **Time:** TR 15:30 - 16:45
- **Place:** Bechtel 208
  
- **Lab:** 1 session, 3h
- **Time:** TR 17:00 - 19:45
- **Place:** Oxy 402
  
- **Pre- or Co-requisite:** Control systems

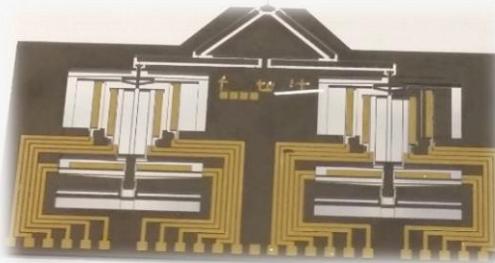




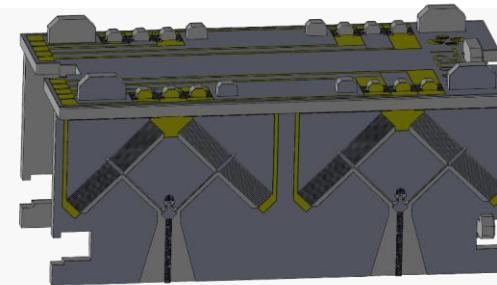
- 2007      Mechanical Engineering, Lebanon
- 2012      Master in Mechatronics, Compiègne, France
- 2015      PhD in Microsystems, Besançon, France
- 2017      Research Scientist, Lirmm, France
- 2019      Postdoc, Kaust, Saudi Arabia
- 2022      Assistant Professor, AUB, Lebanon
- PRESENT



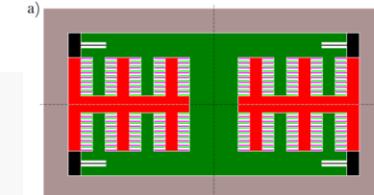
Digital  
micro robotics



Mobile  
micro robotics

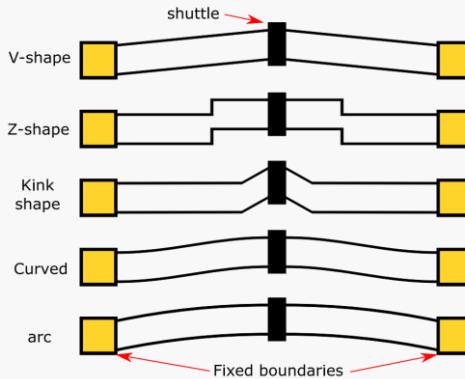


Accelerometer  
with high  
sensitivity

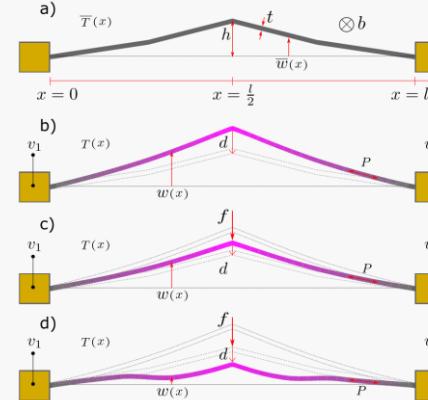


Frame  
Springs  
Fixed electrodes  
Proof mass  
Handle layer  
Symmetric planes

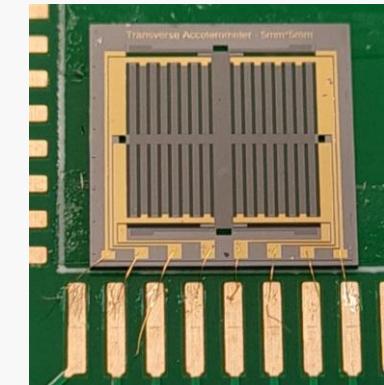
Bistable  
beams



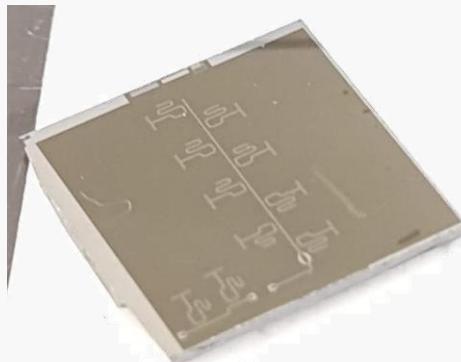
Electrothermal  
Actuators



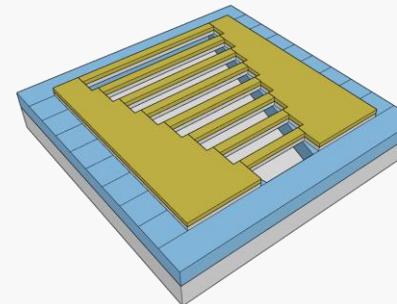
Accelerometer for  
oil exploration  
(with KFUPM and  
Aramco)



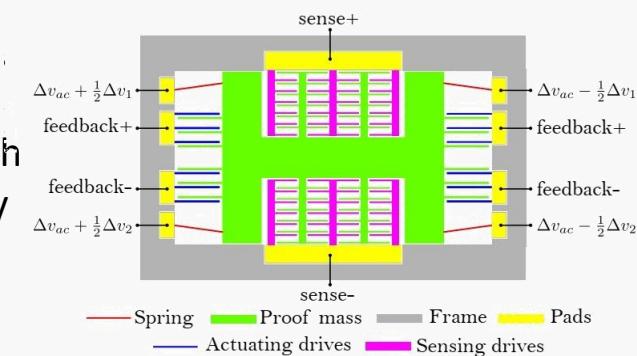
Quantum  
Computing  
elements  
(with KFUPM and  
UC Berkely)



Electrothermal  
bimorph  
(with  
University of  
Washington)



Accelerometer with  
tunable sensitivity  
(with KU Leuven)



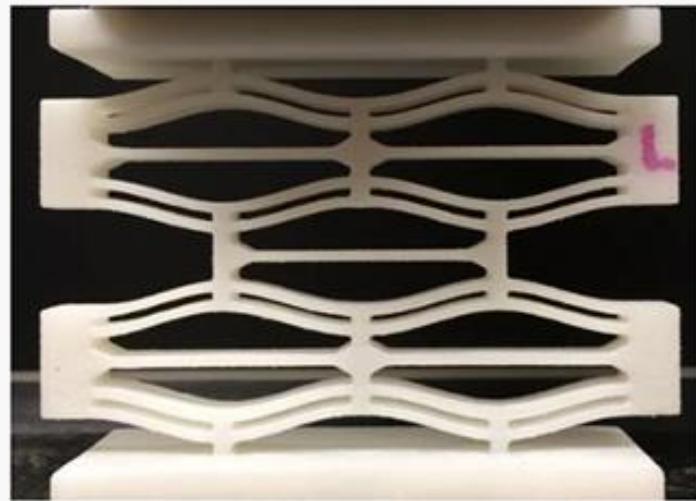


## Cable robotics



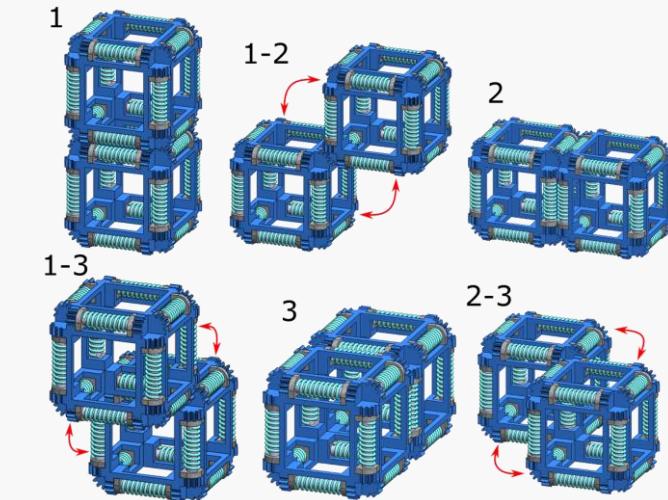
Hephaestus

Highly automatEd PHysical Achievements  
and PerformancES using cable roboTs Unique Systems

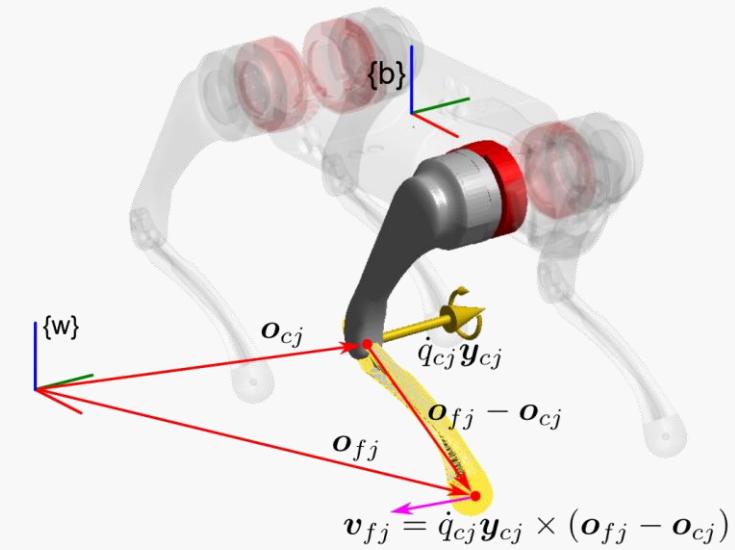


## Metamaterials

## Modular robotics



## Quadruped robotics



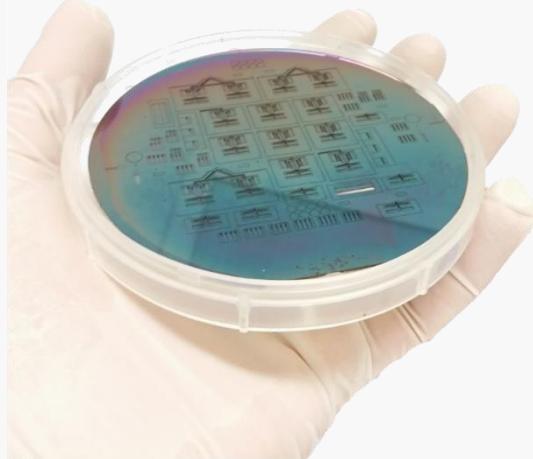
Mechanics, Mechatronics, and Microsystems



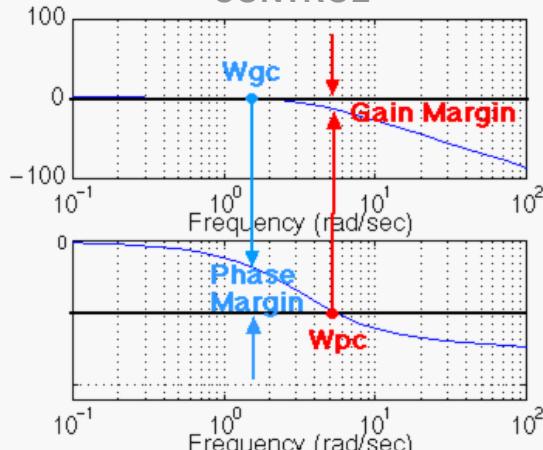
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- . Ge, Y., Huang, T., Hussein, H., Wang, Y., Zhu, Z., Kraft, M., Zheng, Z., & Wang, C. *A Closed Loop Near-Zero Stiffness Mems Accelerometer Based on Electrothermal Buckling*. *23rd International Conference on Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems (Transducers)*. (2025)
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- . Zou, X., Yaqoob, U., Hussein, H., Salama, K. N., & Fariborzi, H. *A Compact Reconfigurable Resonator-Based Direct Current Sensing System*. *Journal of Microelectromechanical Systems* (2022).
- . Hussein, H., Santos, J., Izard, J.B., & Gouttefarde, M. *Smallest Maximum Cable Tension Determination for Cable-Driven Parallel Robots*. *IEEE/ASME Transactions on Robotics* (2021).
- . Hussein, H., Fariborzi, H., Younis, M. *Modeling of Beam Electrothermal Actuators*. *Journal of Microelectromechanical Systems* (2020).
- . Hussein, H., Younis, M., Fariborzi, H. *Task Feasibility of V Shape Electrothermal Actuators*. *Engineering research express* (2020).
- . Hussein, H., Younis, M. *Analytical study of the snap-through and bistability of beams with arbitrarily initial shape*. *Journal of Mechanisms and Robotics* (2020).
- . Hussein, H., Khan, F., Younis, M. *A symmetrical bistable mechanism from combination of pre-shaped microbeams*. *Sensors and Actuators A: Physical* (2020).
- . Khan, F., Hussein, H., Younis, M. *A Spring Shaped Tunable Inductor using Electro-Thermal Actuator in SOI-MUMPs*. *Magnetics Letters* (2020).
- . Hussein, H., Khan, F., Younis, M. *A monolithic tunable symmetric bistable mechanism*. *Smart Materials and Structures* (2020).
- . Hussein, H., Le Moal, P., Younes, R., Bourbon, G., Haddab, Y. & Lutz, P. *On the design of a preshaped curved beam bistable mechanism*. *Mechanism and Machine Theory* (2019).
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- . Bouhadda, I., Ousaid, A. M., Hussein, H., Bourbon, G., Le Moal, P., Haddab, Y. & Lutz, P. *Repeatability and reproducibility analysis of a multistable module devoted to digital microrobotics*. *International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS 2018)*.
- . Hussein, H., Gouttefarde, M. & Pierrot, F. *Static modeling of sagging cables with flexural rigidity and shear forces*. *16th Int. Symposium on Advances in Robot Kinematics (ARK 2018)*.
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- . Hussein, H., Bourbon, G., Le Moal, P., Haddab, Y. & Lutz, P. *Mechanical stop mechanism for Overcoming MEMS fabrication tolerances*. *Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering* (2016).
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- . Hussein, H., Chalvet, V., Le Moal, P., Bourbon, G., Haddab, Y. & Lutz, P. *Design optimization of bistable modules electrothermally actuated for digital microrobotics*. *In Advanced Intelligent Mechatronics conference (AIM 2014)*.



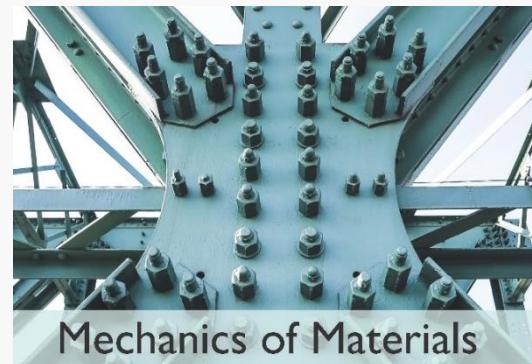
**FALL 22/23**  
**MECH 631**  
MICRO-ELECTO MECHANICAL  
SYSTEMS (MEMS)



**FALL 25/26**  
**MECH 436**  
CONTROL

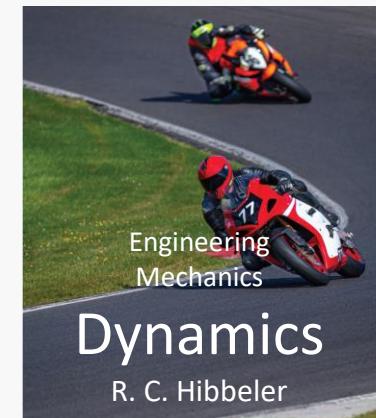


**SPRING 22/23 -/24 -/25 -/26**  
**MECH 320**  
MECHANICS OF MATERIALS



Mechanics of Materials

**FALL 23/24 - 25/26**  
**MECH 230**  
DYNAMICS



Engineering  
Mechanics  
Dynamics  
R. C. Hibbeler

**FALL 23/24**  
**SPRING 22/23 -/24 -/25 -/26**  
**MECH 641/ EECE 661**  
ROBOTICS



# Robotics

- A robot is a machine capable of carrying out a complex series of actions automatically
- Robotics is the interdisciplinary branch of engineering and science that deals with the design, construction, operation, and use of robots
- Imitation of manual actions by humans to replace it for highly repetitive tasks in the industry.
- Using of robots for automated tasks:
  - increased the human performance capacity
  - enhanced the cost, quality and delivery time for different tasks and products.
- Robotics investigates how robots can be used to:
  - automate tasks
  - improve efficiency in various industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and transportation.



A futuristic hallway with blue walls and floor, featuring vertical glowing panels. Five robots are walking away from the viewer: a green humanoid, an orange and black exosuit, a red humanoid, a gold humanoid, and a silver and white armored robot.

# Why robots?

- Robotics is the science of making machines do what humans used to do
- Robots are good for the 3 Ds: jobs that are dirty, dull, or dangerous.
- To date, robots have been used to:
  - replace or substitute for humans
  - Service
  - Medicine
  - assist humans
  - amuse.
- Robots are revolutionizing the way we approach everyday tasks.
- The possibilities of Robotics are endless, Robotics is the future!



# A brief history of Robotics

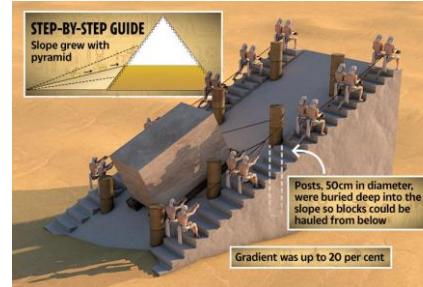
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# A brief history of Robotics

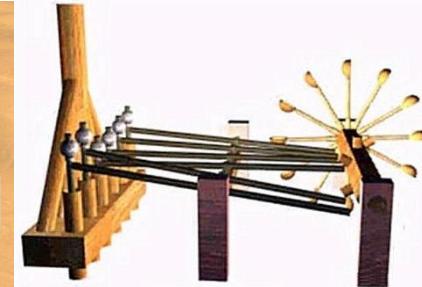
- The word “robot” came into the popular consciousness on 1921, in Prague, with the first performance of Karel Čapek’s play, R.U.R. (Rossum’s Universal Robots).
- The history of robotics can be traced back to ancient times, with the invention of simple machines such as the pulley and lever.
- 240-year-old drawing robots ([Link](#))
- The modern robotics began to take shape in the 20th century with the advent of electronics and computers.
- In the 1940s and 1950s, scientists and engineers began to explore the idea of using machines to automate tasks that are traditionally done by humans.
- 1954: first patent for an industrial robot.
- 1961: the first industrial robot was installed in a General Motors factory.



R.U.R. performance, 1921



Pyramid construction  
2550 BC



Taqi Al-Deen's Pump  
1551 AD

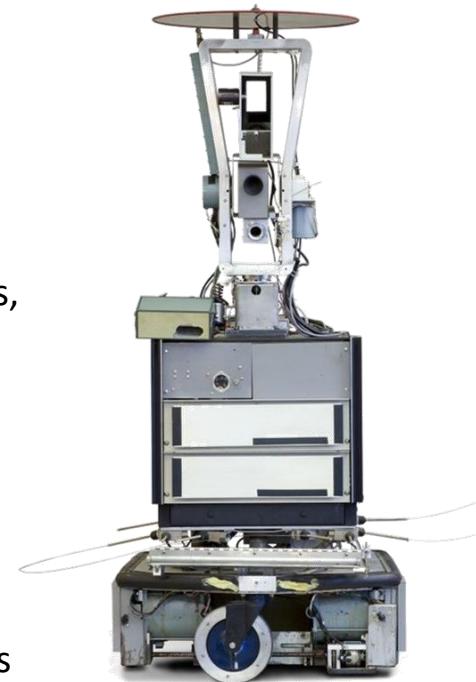


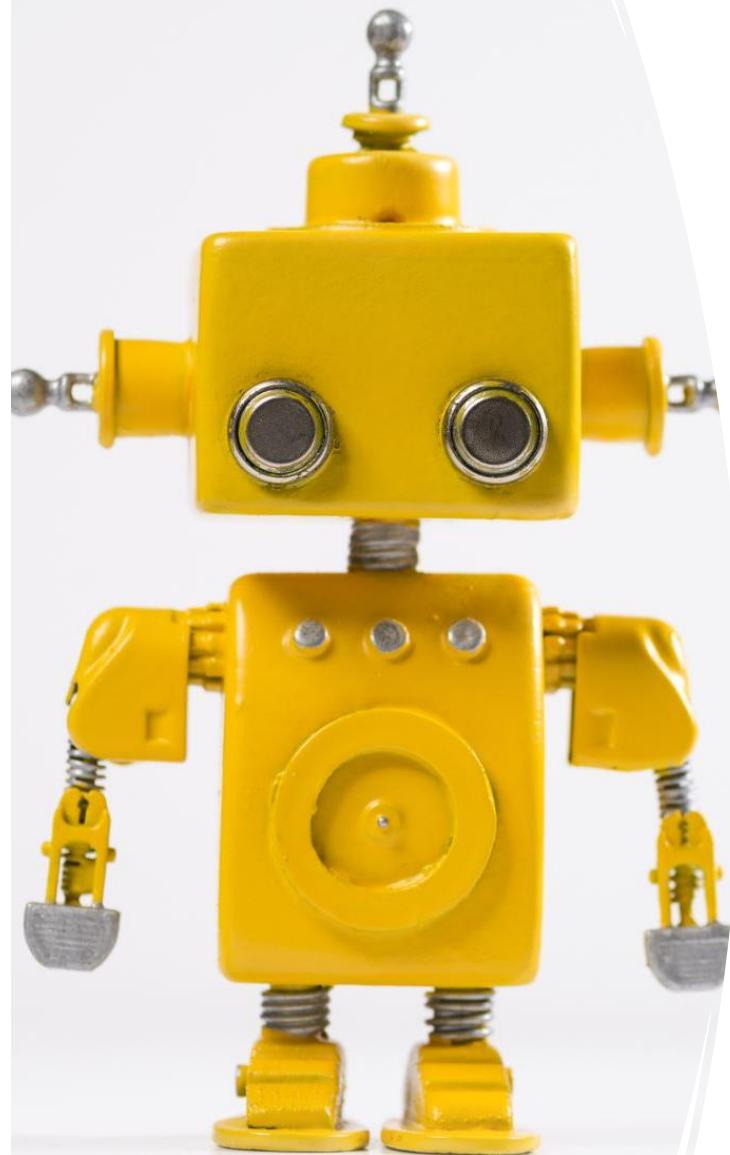
First industrial robot, 1961



# A brief history of Robotics

- In the 1970s and 1980s, robotics continued to advance
  - more sophisticated **sensors and control systems**.
  - Robotics began to be used in a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, agriculture, and construction.
- 1977, the first robot with six-axis of freedom was developed by Kawasaki Heavy Industries.
- In the late 1980s,
  - **mobile robots** began to emerge, with the development of robots that could move around in the environment.
  - first mobile robots were used in manufacturing and logistics, but they soon found applications in other fields such as mining, agriculture, and even space exploration.
- In the 1990s, robots began to be used in
  - more **advanced applications**, such as in surgery, where robotic arms were used to perform delicate procedures.
  - The use of robots in surgery has grown significantly and it's now considered the standard of care for many procedures.





## Robotics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

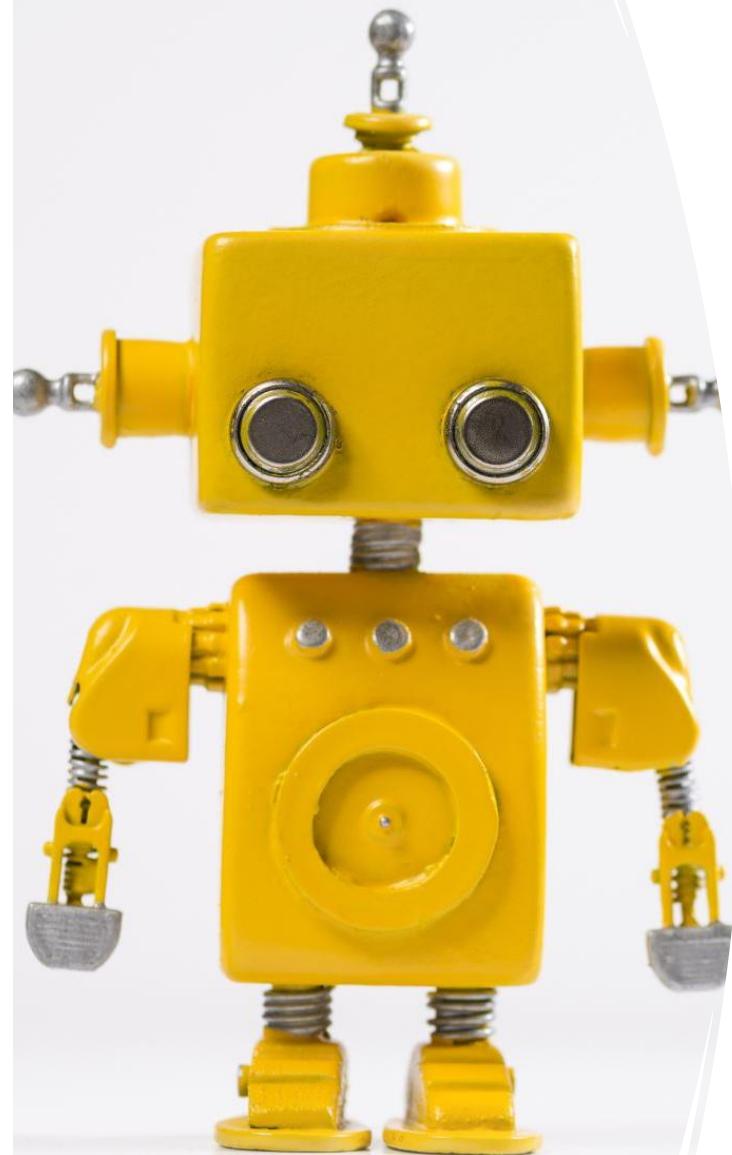
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[Video Link](#)



## A brief history of Robotics

- In the 21st century, Robotics has seen a **rapid development**, with the advent of advanced technologies like **artificial intelligence** and **machine learning**.
- Expanding **beyond the industry and factory**, with more and more robots being used in **healthcare**, **services**, and even in **domestic** environments.
- **More accessible and affordable**, with the rise of DIY robots and the development of low-cost robotic platforms.
- Robotics is now considered to be a key technology for the future and it is expected to play a major role in many areas of our lives.
- The field of Robotics is constantly evolving and advancing, and it's an exciting time to be a part of it.



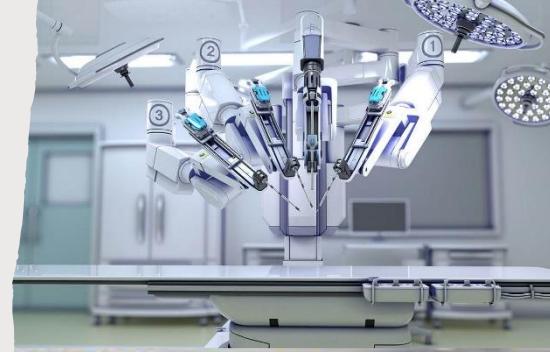
# Robotics in the 21<sup>th</sup> century

[Video Link](#)

# Most common types of robots

## 1 - Industrial robots:

- used in **manufacturing**, **assembly**, and other applications.
- perform **repetitive tasks** with **high precision and speed**.
- **larger** and more **expensive** than other types and used in large factories or industrial settings.



## 2 - Service robots:

- interact with **people** and provide a **service**.
- found in **hospitals**, **hotels**, and **airports**.
- tasks such as **cleaning**, **security**, and **customer service**.



## 3 - Mobile robots:

- can **move around** in their environment
- wide range of applications, such as **logistics**, **agriculture**, **mining**, and **space exploration**.
- autonomous or teleoperated, and they can be either **ground-based**, in **water** or **aerial**.



## 4 - Medical robots:

- assist with **surgeries**, **therapy**, and other procedures.
- tasks such as performing **minimally invasive procedures**, assisting with **rehabilitation**, and **monitoring patients**.



# Most common types of robots

## 5 - Social robots:

- interact with **humans** in a **social manner**
- tasks such as **companionship, education, and entertainment.**



## 6 - Drones:

- **fly and navigate autonomously**
- tasks such as **delivery, surveillance, mapping, and inspection.**



## 7 - Soft robots:

- made of **soft and flexible materials**
- used in areas where **traditional robots can't go**, such as in **delicate environments, or interacting with humans.**



These are also many other specialized robots that are used in specific applications.

As technology continues to advance, the types of robots and the applications for them will continue to expand and evolve.



## Future of robotics

- The future of robotics is expected to be very exciting and dynamic.
  - development of **new technologies and applications**
  - potential to **revolutionize the way we live and work**.
- One of the most important areas of growth for robotics is in the field of **artificial intelligence** (AI). Advances in AI enable robots to perform tasks that were previously **thought to be the exclusive domain of humans**. This include things like natural language processing, image recognition, and decision-making.
- Another area of growth for robotics is in the field of **autonomous systems**, such as **self-driving cars** and **drones**, which have the potential to greatly improve efficiency and safety in transportation, logistics, and other industries.
- Robotics will also have a significant impact in the field of **healthcare**, with the development of **new robotic surgical systems**, **telemedicine robots**, and other **assistive technologies** that will help to improve the quality of care and the lives of patients.



# Future of robotics

- Robots and automation will continue to play an important role in **manufacturing and industry**, with the use of robots in **factories, warehouses, and other industrial settings**.

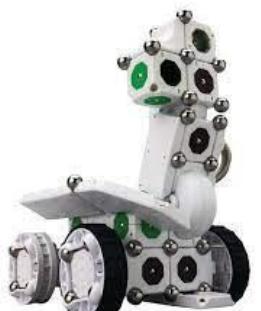
Overall, the future of robotics is very promising, with the potential to greatly **improve efficiency, safety and quality of life** in many industries.

It's an exciting time to **be a part of the field of robotics** and to see how it will continue to shape our world in the future

# Robots at AUB



Dr Robot X80



Exofabulatronixx 5200



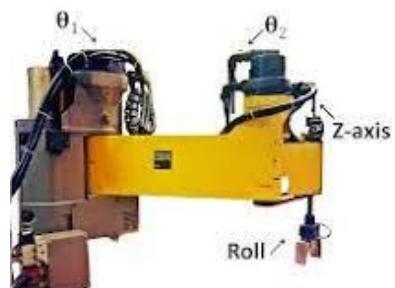
BMW AG



Robotis Premium



Mindstorms EV3



IBM SCARA 7540



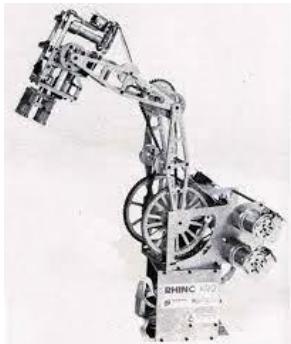
Kuka Youbot



Nao Robot



Kobuki



Rhino



Husky



Unitree Go1



Unitree Go2



Robots for the Robotics lab  
Dobot CRA10 and Unitree Go1 & Go2

# Syllabus

- **Textbook**

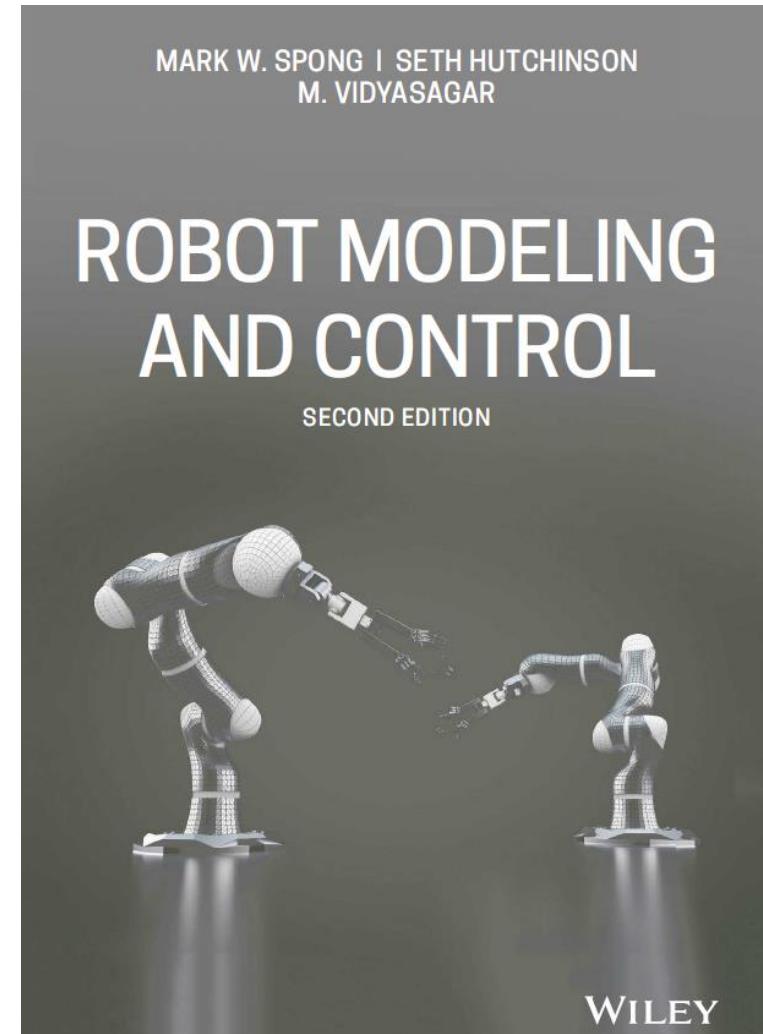
- M.W. Spong, S. Hutchinson and M. Vidyasagar. "*Robot Modeling and Control*", John Wiley, Second edition, 2018

- **Class Meetings and Office Hours**

- **LEC:** TUE & THU 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm BECHTEL 208
- **LAB:** TUE or THU 5:00 pm – 7:45 pm IOEC 402
- **OH:** TUE & THU: 01:00 pm – 03:00 pm BECH 503

- **Personnel**

- **Lecturer:** Hussien Hussein (Bechtel 503–[hh224@aub.edu.lb](mailto:hh224@aub.edu.lb))
- **Lab instructor:** Samer Bou Karam (IOEC 411–[sb137@aub.edu.lb](mailto:sb137@aub.edu.lb))



# What is this course about?

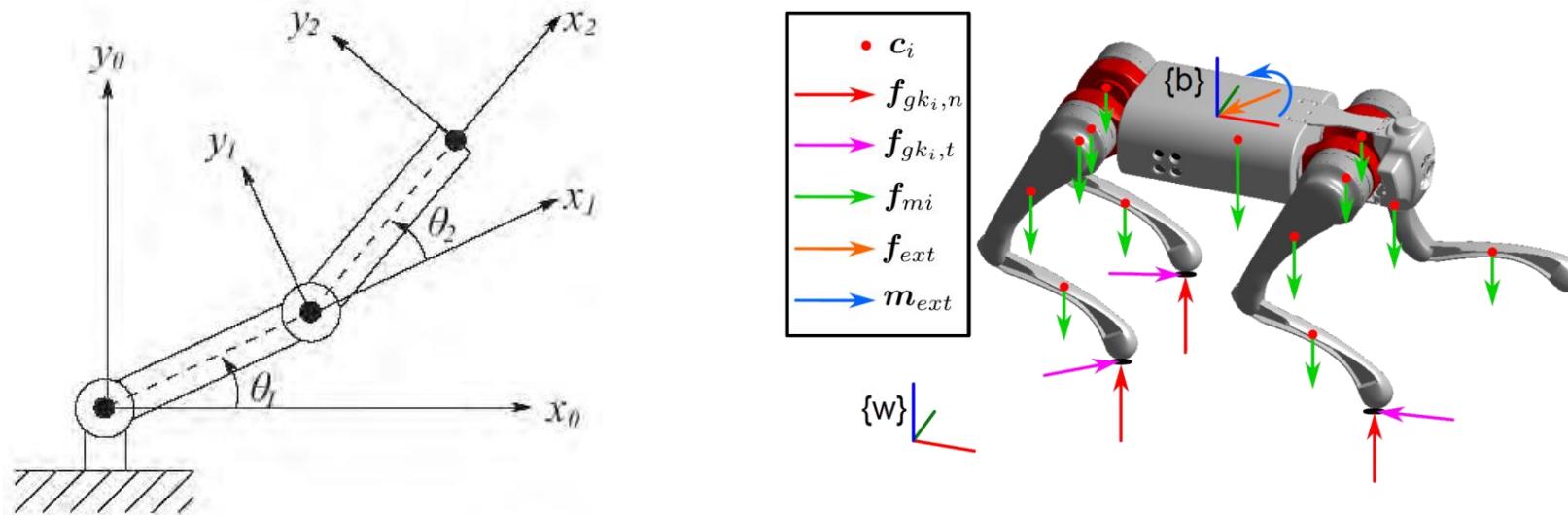
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- We want robot arms (typically serial manipulator) do some desired task. To accomplish this, one needs to be well versed in the following topics
  - **Robot modeling**
    - Kinematics
    - Dynamics
  - **Planning**
    - Motion planning
    - Trajectory generation
  - **Control**
    - Traversing a trajectory
    - Motor controller for joints



# Robot modeling

- **Kinematics:** is the study of motion without a regard to forces.
  - Knowing the geometry of the links and the type of the joints are enough to locate any point on the robot

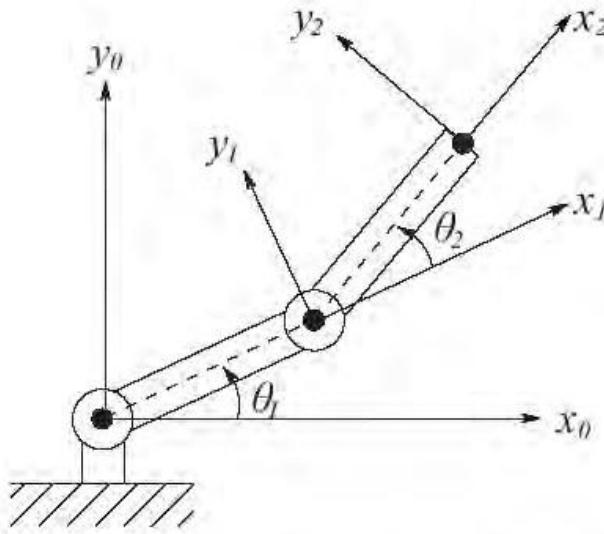


- **Dynamics:** is the study of motion considering the effect of forces on a mechanical system
  - Knowing the mass and inertia of the links, the motion of the robotic system can be described provided that one knows the external forces acting on the robot.

# Planning

- Motion planning: path

- Formalizing the task of the robot, such as, going from a start to a goal location (fastest time, least control energy, etc.)



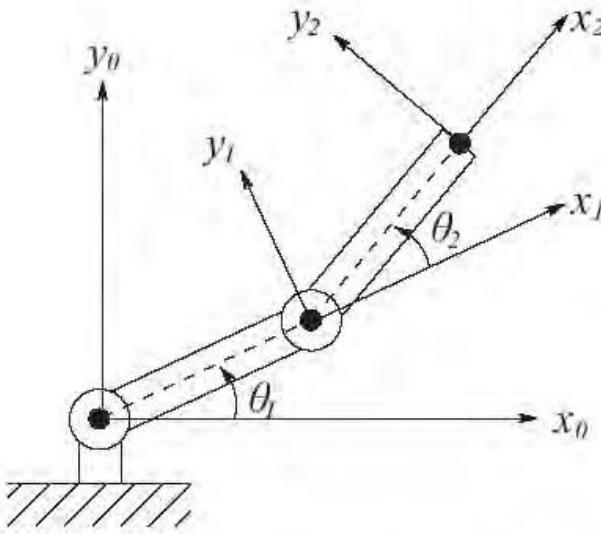
- Trajectory generation: path + schedule

- Formalizing how to connect two configurations, how the robot should proceed from a start to a goal

# Control

- **Traversing a trajectory:**

- Finding the motor angles that make the end effector or a robot traverse a trajectory



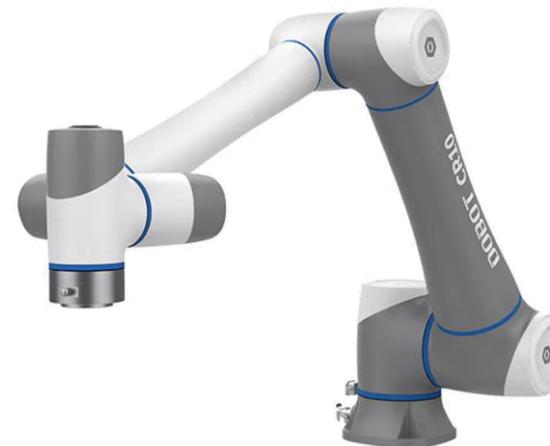
- **Motor controller for a joint:**

- Finding the motor input that makes a motor angle maintain a certain value or follow a prescribed function of time.

## Lab sessions



GAZEBO



- **Labs span topics such as:**

- Working with Ros 2 on Ubuntu
- Building functional Ros applications
- Using Ros packages (Rviz, gazebo)
- Advanced project including application of the student solutions on the robotic arm platform and Unitree Go1 and Go2
- Use LLM for robots decision making







Topic	Learning Activities	Due Dates
Introduction to Robotics (Chapter 1)	Lecture	1 week
Rigid Motions (Chapter 2)	Lecture, Homework	2 weeks
Forward Kinematics (Chapter 3)	Lecture	2 weeks
Jacobians (Chapter 4)	Lecture	3 weeks
Inverse Kinematics (Chapter 5)	Lecture	1 week
Dynamics (Chapter 6)	Lecture, Homework	2 weeks
Motion Planning and Trajectory Generation (Chapter 7)	Lecture, Homework	1 week

Topic	Due Dates
Lab Project 1: ROS Nodes to control a Robot	Half of the semester
Lab Project 2: Control robots in Ros for a cooperative application	End of the semester

# Grading

## Assessment

Team quizzes and activities	10%
Midterm	20%
Lab project	25%
Final	45%

Midterm: Chapters 2, 3, and 4

Final: DH + Chapters 4, 5 and 6

- Forum
- Presentation/Video Segment
- Matlab-based assignments and exams
- Team assignments and quizzes

weeks	Tuesday	Thursday
1	13-Jan	15-Jan
2	20-Jan	22-Jan
3	27-Jan	29-Jan
4	3-Feb	5-Feb
5	10-Feb	12-Feb
6	17-Feb	19-Feb
7	24-Feb	26-Feb
8	3-Mar	5-Mar
9	10-Mar	12-Mar
10	17-Mar	19-Mar
11	24-Mar	26-Mar
12	31-Mar	2-Apr
13	7-Apr	9-Apr
14	14-Apr	16-Apr
15	21-Apr	23-Apr
16	29-Apr	



## Team formation

- 2-3 members per team
- Choose your teams on Moodle

## Grading

- Grades will be over 10 pts
- First 3 teams will have 1,2 and 3 extra points on the total

# Office hours

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
08:00 - 09:00					
09:00 - 10:00					
10:00 - 11:00		Mechanics of Materials		Mechanics of Materials	
11:00 - 12:00					
12:00 - 13:00					
13:00 - 14:00		Office Hours		Office Hours	
14:00 - 15:00					
15:00 - 16:00					
16:00 - 17:00		Robotics		Robotics	

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# Do you want to make some nice research?

In Mechanics, Mechatronics, and Microsystems

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