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# **ME4101A Bachelor of Engineering Dissertation**

# **Soft Robotics Competition 2**

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R O B O S O F T

Singapore · 3-7 April 2023

# Manipulation Challenge



Layout for RoboSoft 2023 Competition [1]

# Soft Finger Configuration

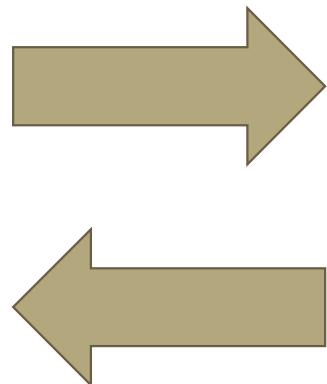


Perpendicular [2]

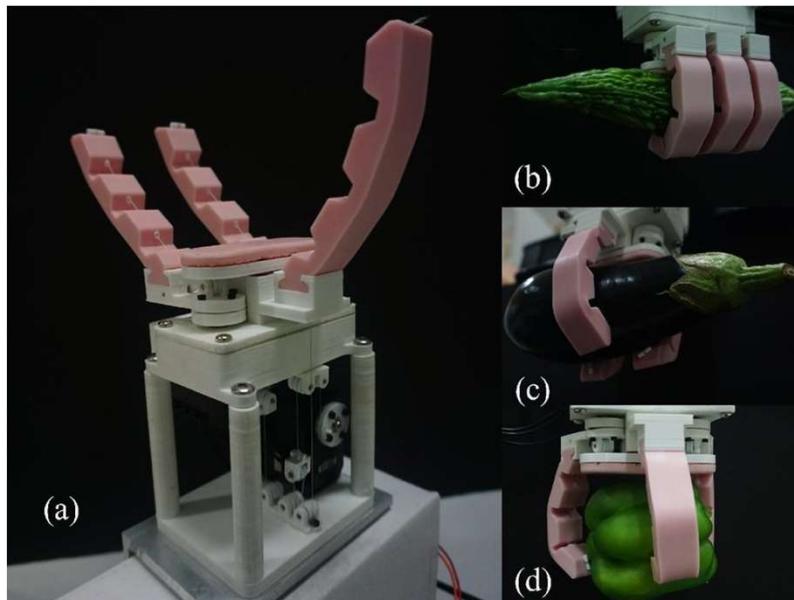


Parallel [2]

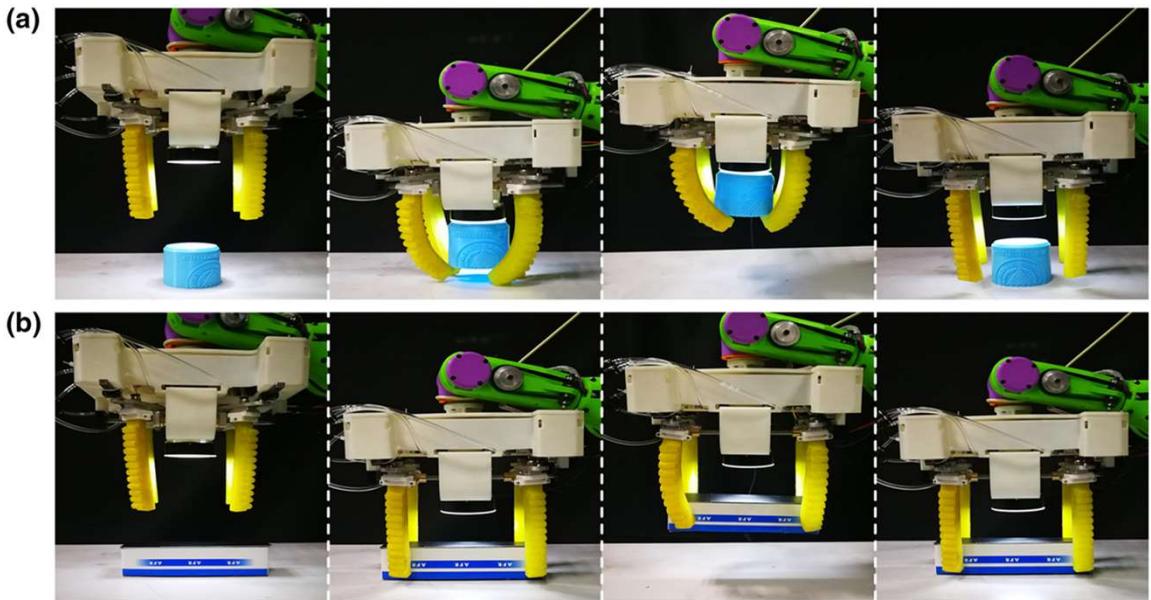
# Automatic Dual-Mode Pneumatic (ADMP) Gripper



# Current configurable soft grippers



Gripper developed by  
Mathew et. al [3]

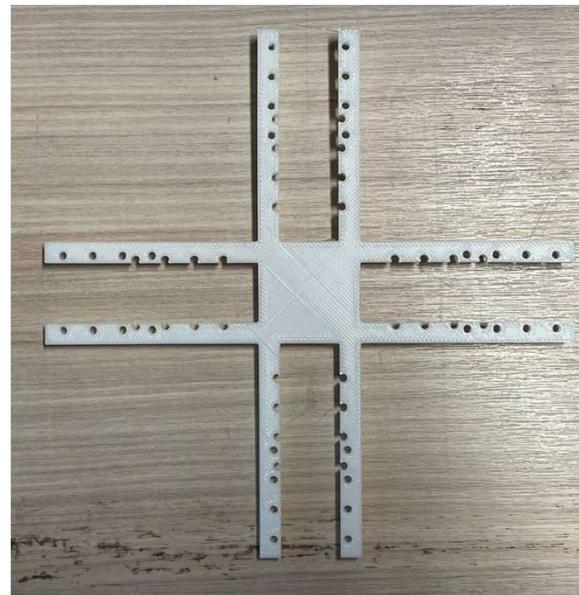


Gripper developed by  
Yuan et. al [4]

# Reconfiguration mechanism

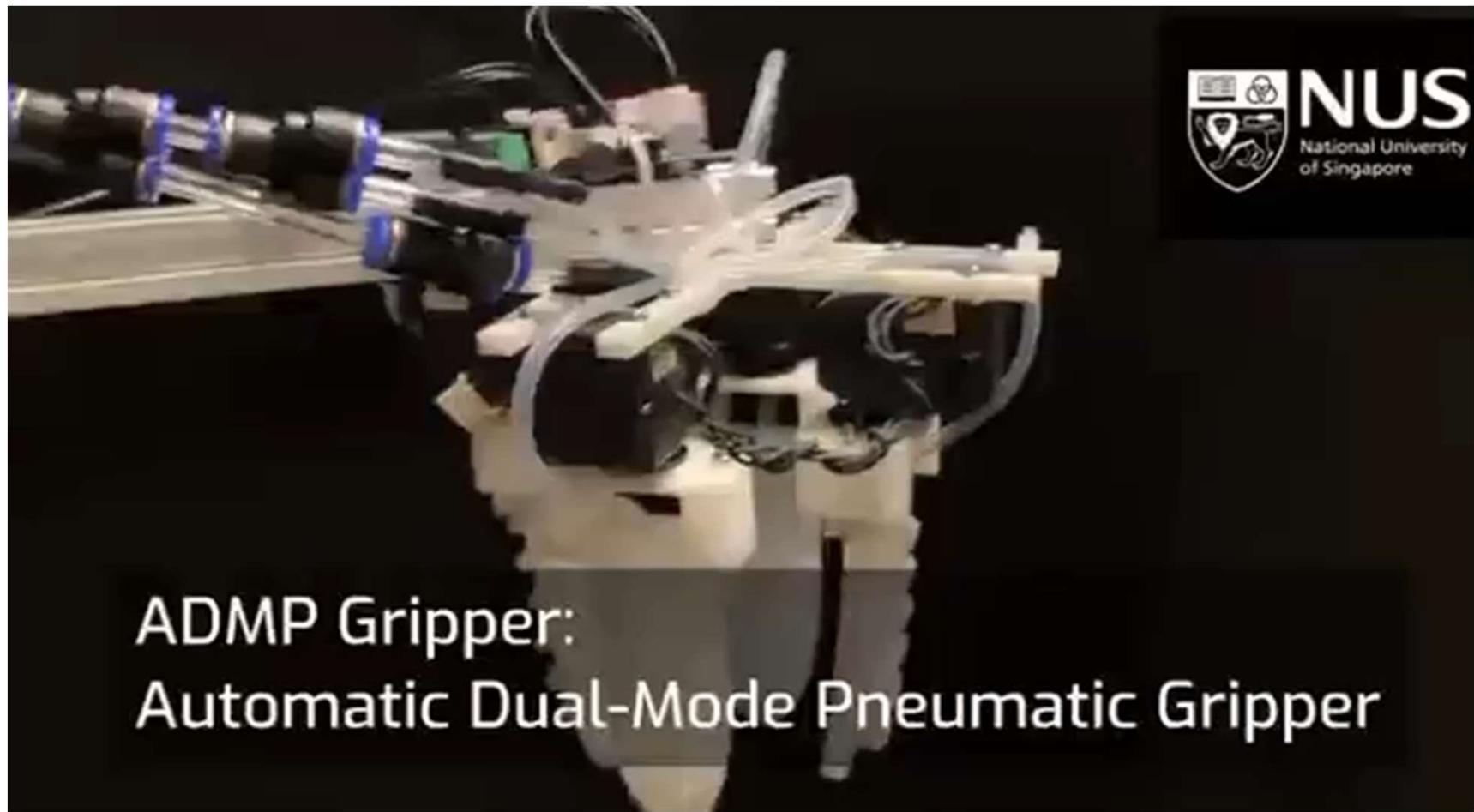


Servo motor [5]



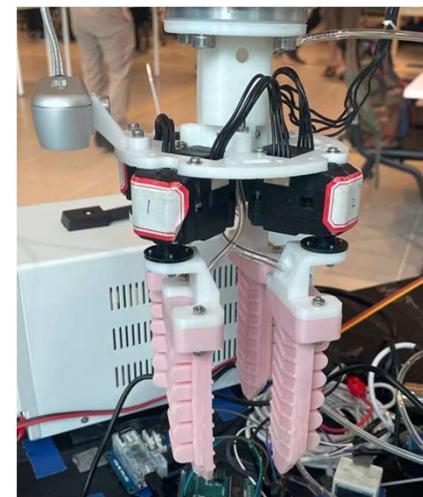
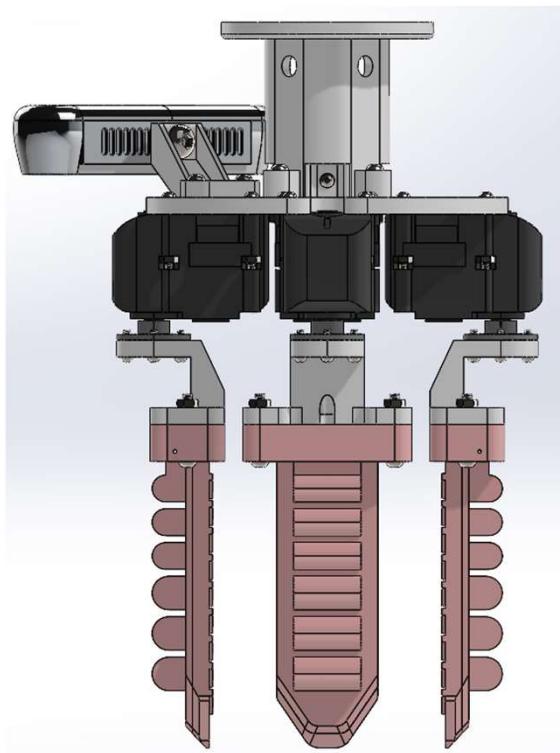
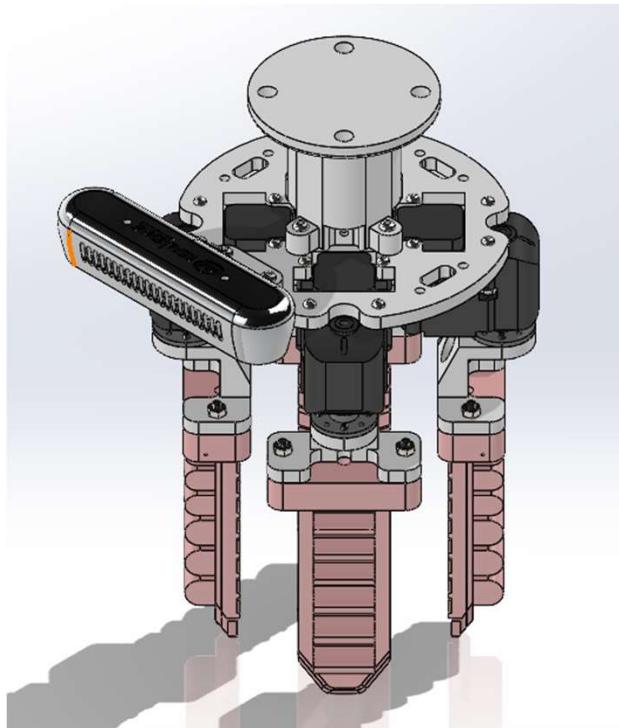
Modified  
gripper base [2]

# Competition Submission Video



ADMP Gripper:  
Automatic Dual-Mode Pneumatic Gripper

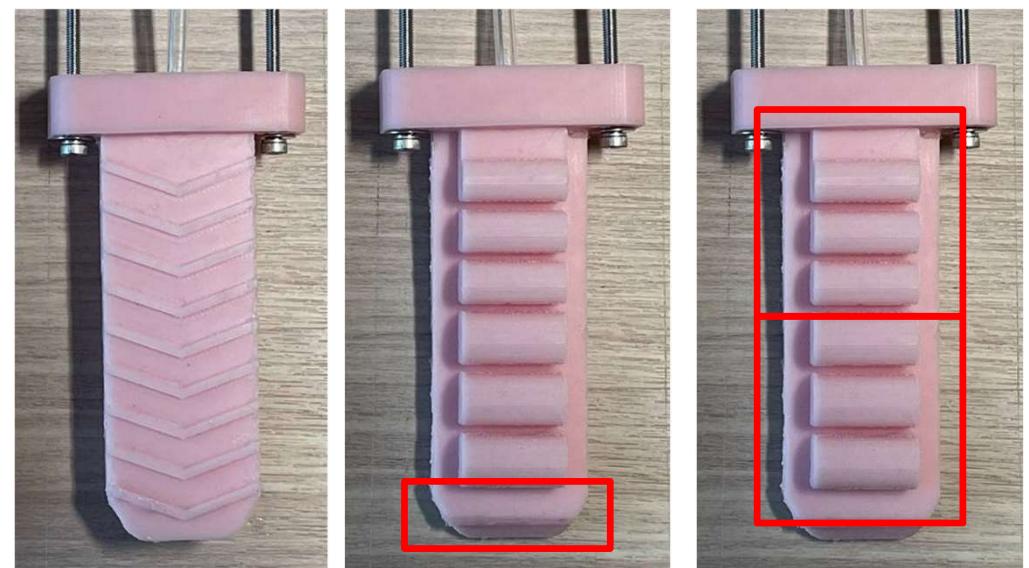
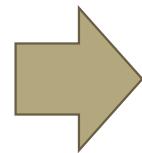
# Version 2 of ADMP Gripper



## Version 2 Soft Finger



Version 1



Grip pattern extended

Wider finger tip

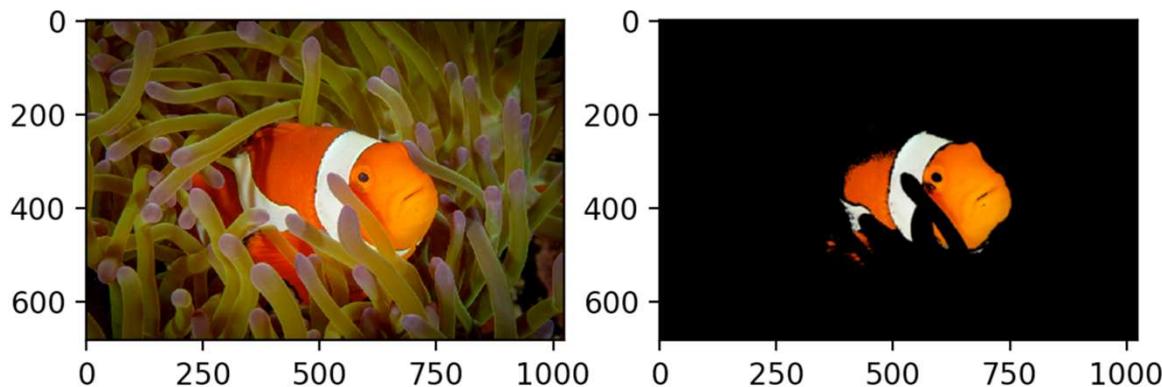
Air chambers larger closer to the base

# Vision System Camera

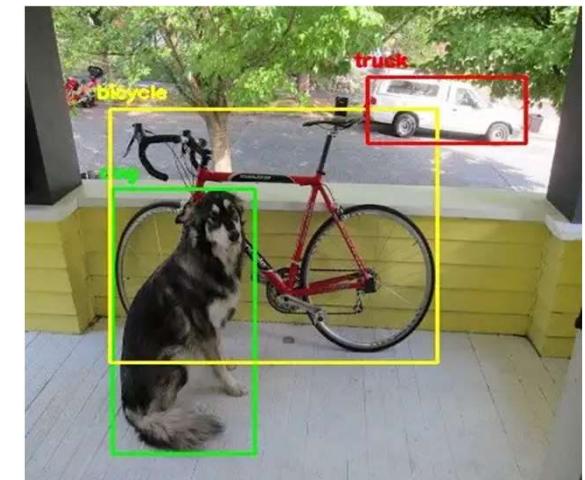


RealSense D415  
Depth Camera [6]

# Vision System



Colour segmentation

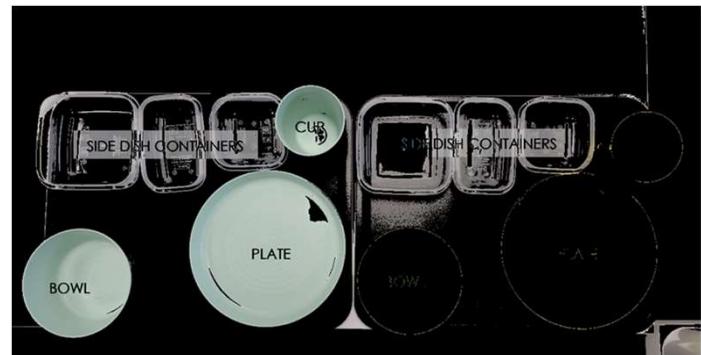


Object Detection System

# Colour segmentation



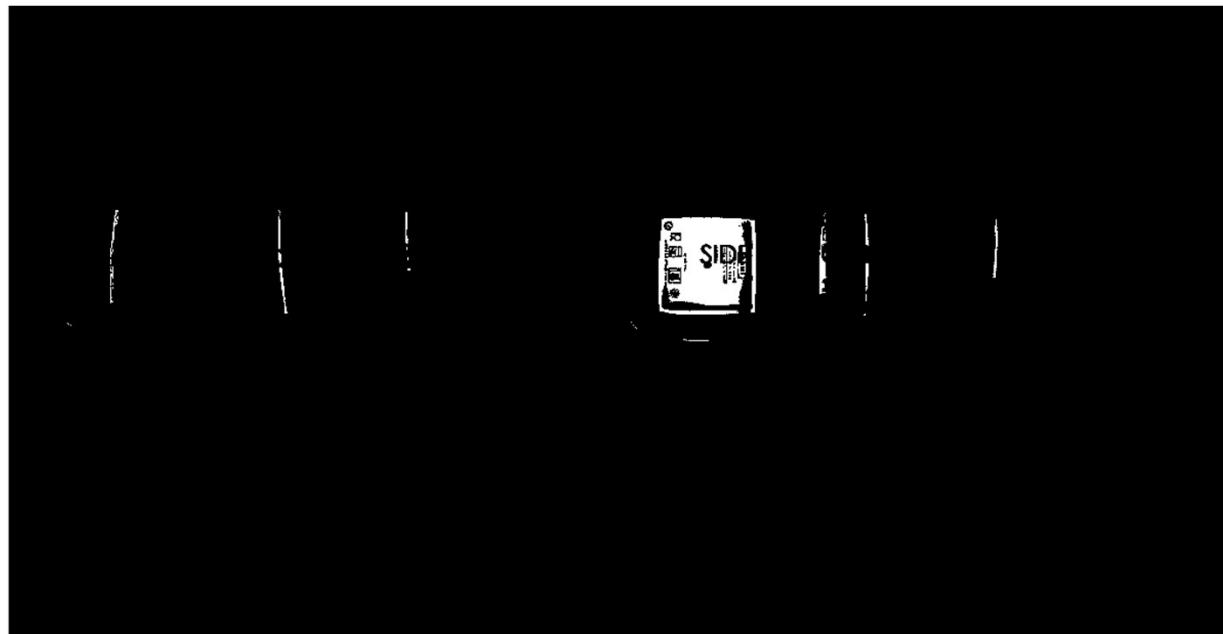
Plates, bowls, cups and containers on the assembly table [1]



# Output of Colour segmentation



# Finding containers



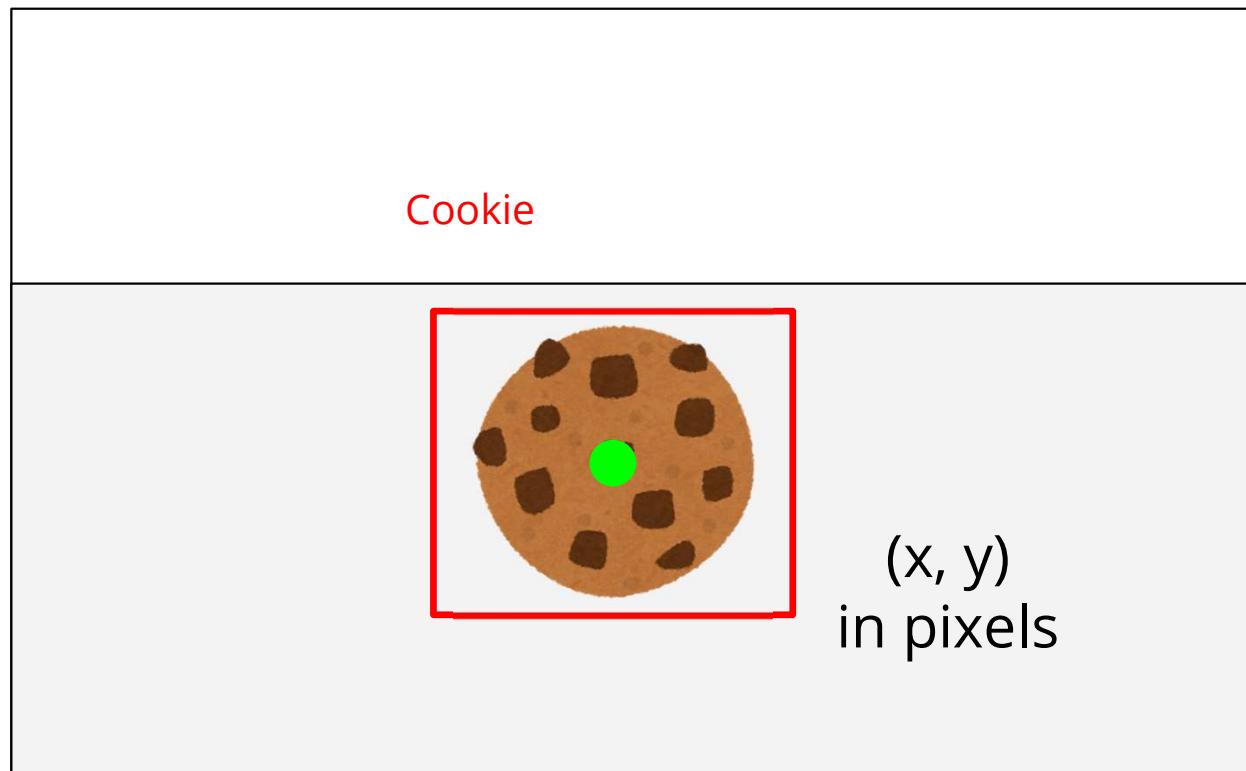
Thresholding would not work  
in low light conditions

# You Only Look Once (YOLO) detection system



Version of YOLO being used in this project [7]

# Pixel location from YOLO



# Conversion from pixels to metres



Things needed to convert pixels to meters [8]:

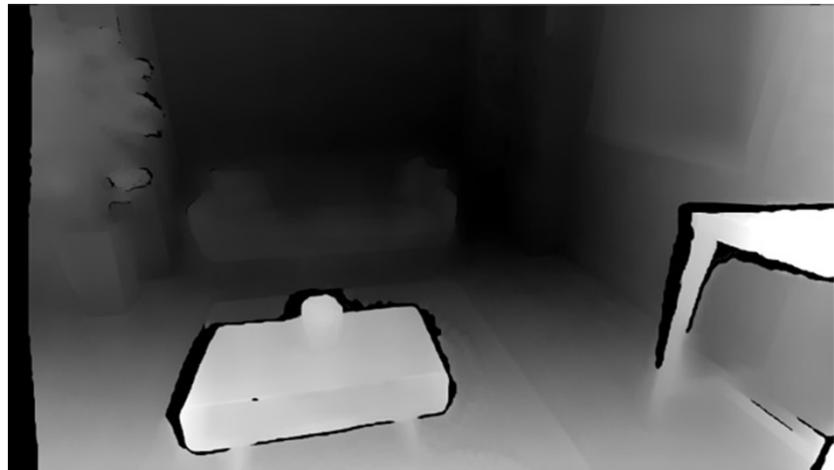
$$\begin{pmatrix} f_x & 0 & W/2 \\ 0 & f_y & H/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Camera's intrinsic matrix



Depth map

# Z coordinate

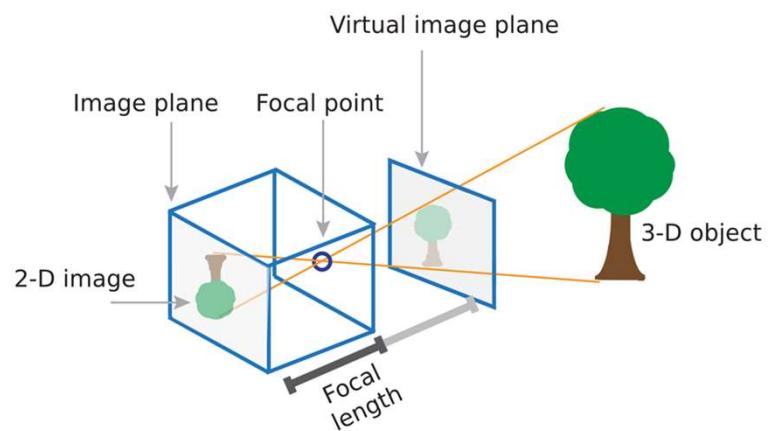


Depth value at  
 $(x, y)$



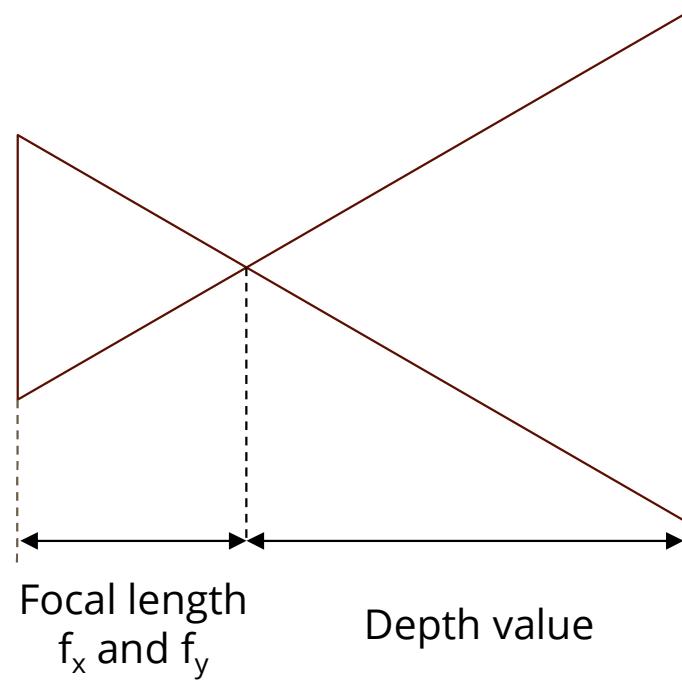
Z  
coordinate

# Conversion ratio



$$\begin{pmatrix} f_x & 0 & W/2 \\ 0 & f_y & H/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Due to similar triangles, conversion ratio can be obtained [8]



# X and Y coordinate

$$\begin{pmatrix} f_x & 0 & W/2 \\ 0 & f_y & H/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left( \text{X coordinate (in pixels)} - \boxed{\text{Principal point in x direction (in pixels)}} \right) \times \frac{\text{Depth value (in metres)}}{\boxed{\text{Focal length (in pixels)}}} = \text{X coordinate (in metres)}$$

$$\left( \text{Y coordinate (in pixels)} - \boxed{\text{Principal point in y direction (in pixels)}} \right) \times \frac{\text{Depth value (in metres)}}{\boxed{\text{Focal length (in pixels)}}} = \text{Y coordinate (in metres)}$$

# Orientation



As the object lies on the table, the food items' orientations will be rotated about the **z-axis**.

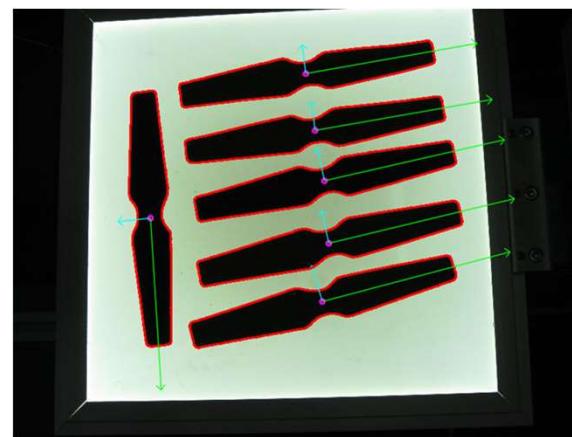
Rotation matrix about the z-axis [9]:

$$Rot_z = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) & 0 \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

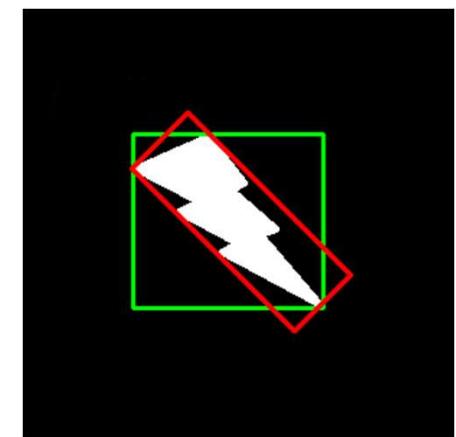
# Methods to find angle of rotation



YOLO



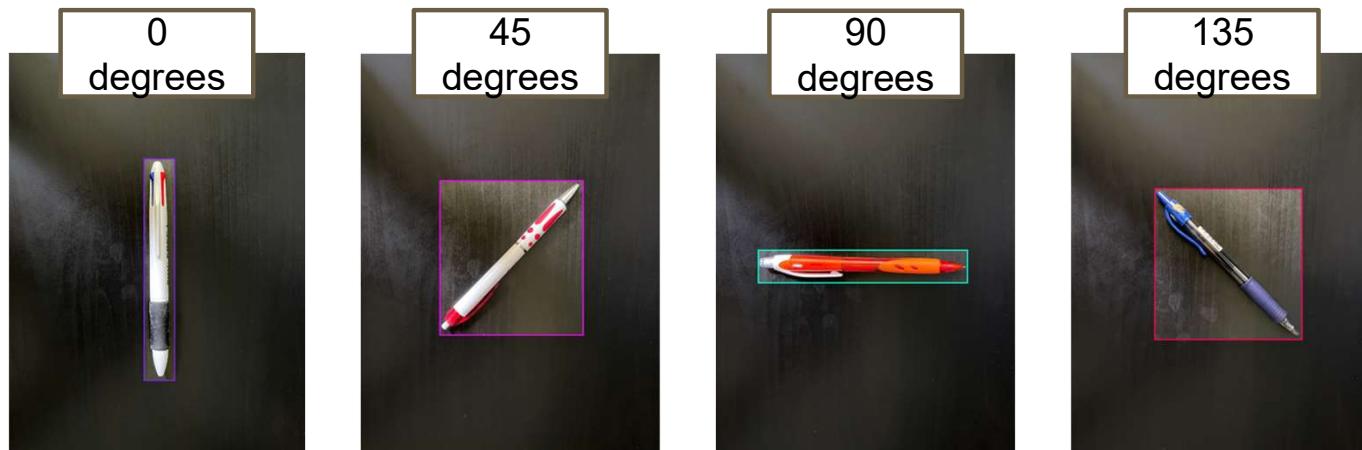
Principal Component Analysis  
(PCA) on a point cloud



Angle of smallest  
rectangle that contains all  
contours

# YOLO

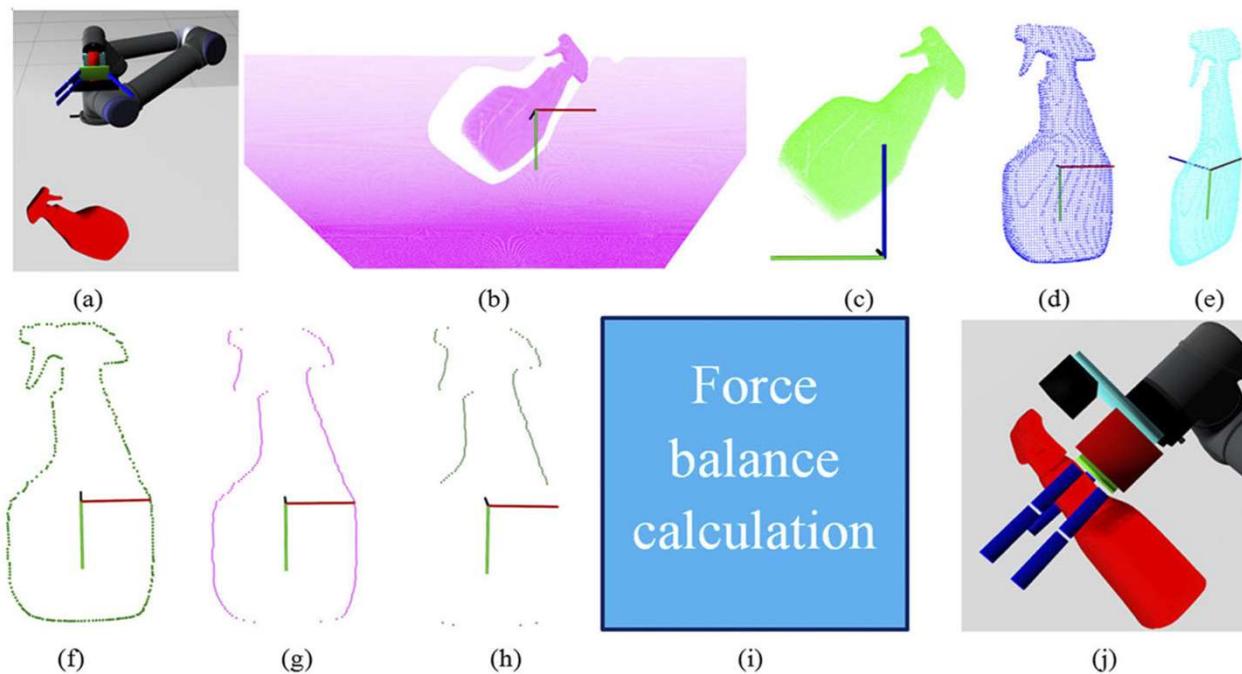
Dataset of pens at different orientations:



Model	size (pixels)	mAP <sup>val</sup> 50-95	mAP <sup>val</sup> 50	Speed CPU b1 (ms)	Speed V100 b1 (ms)	Speed V100 b32 (ms)	params (M)	FLOPs @640 (B)
YOLOv5n	640	28.0	45.7	45	6.3	0.6	1.9	4.5
YOLOv5s	640	37.4	56.8	98	6.4	0.9	7.2	16.5
YOLOv5m	640	45.4	64.1	224	8.2	1.7	21.2	49.0
YOLOv5l	640	49.0	67.3	430	10.1	2.7	46.5	109.1
YOLOv5x	640	50.7	68.9	766	12.1	4.8	86.7	205.7

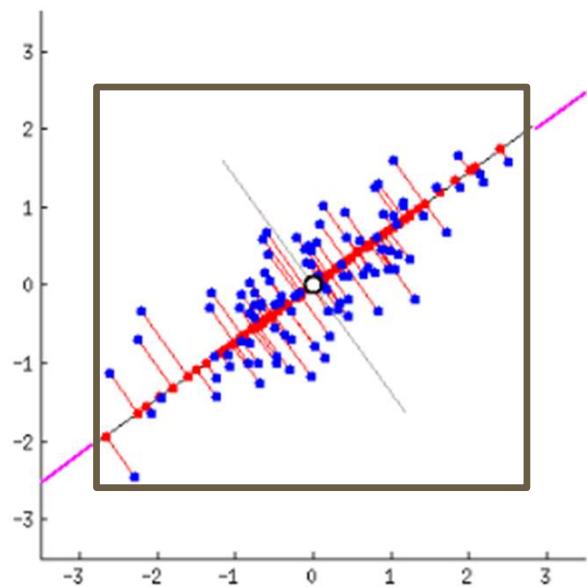
Weights used to train YOLO on [7]

# Principal Component Analysis on Point Cloud

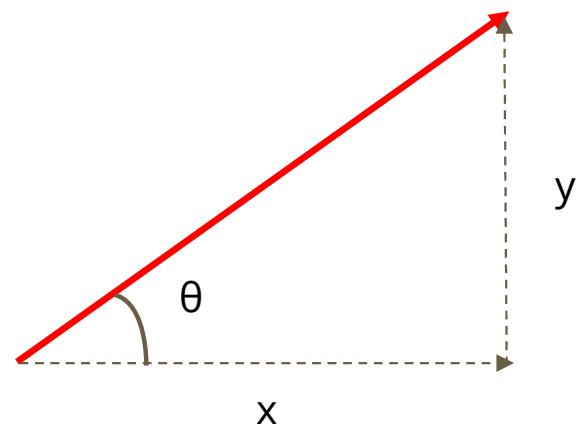


Lei et. al method to grasp objects using PCA  
on a single-view partial point cloud [10]

# Principal Component Analysis on Point Cloud

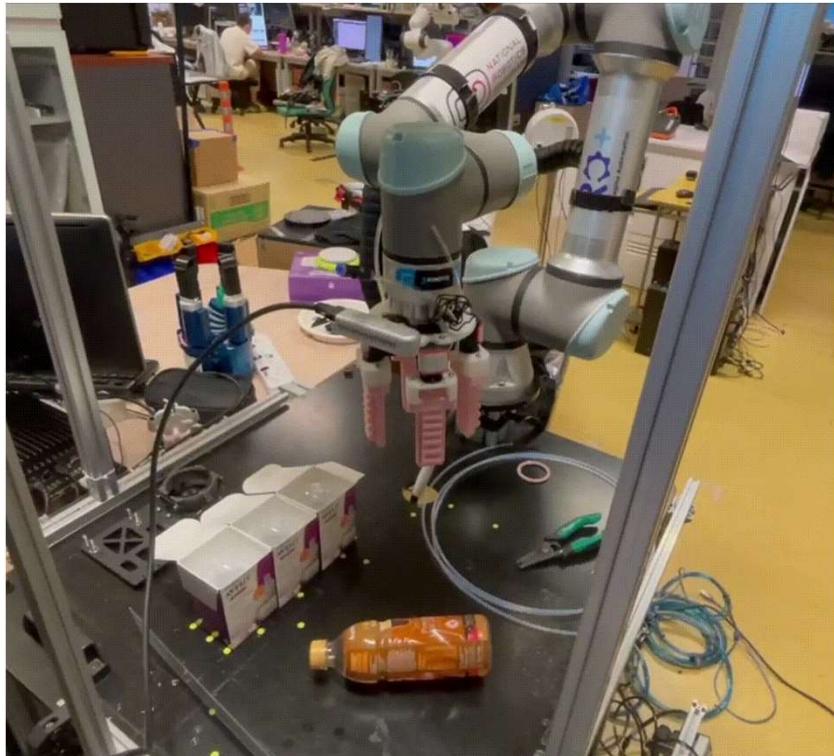


Largest eigenvalue gives us the eigenvector along the axis with the **largest variance** [11]

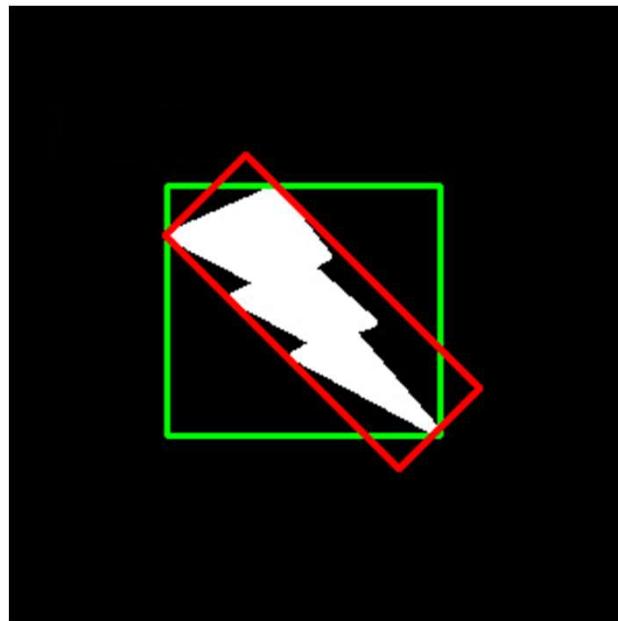


$$\theta = \arctan(y, x)$$

# Principal Component Analysis on Point Cloud

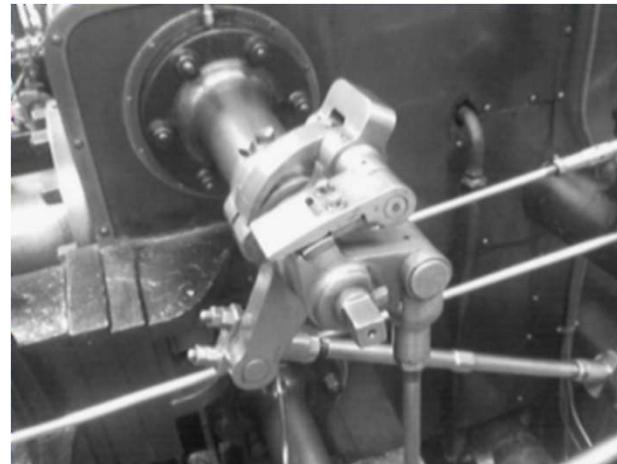
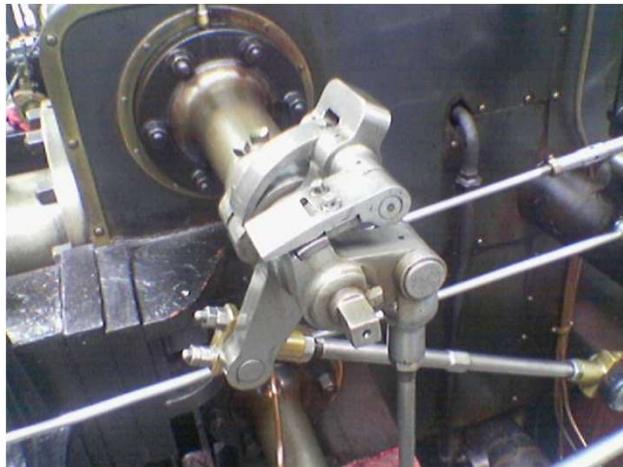


## Angle of smallest rectangle that contains all contours

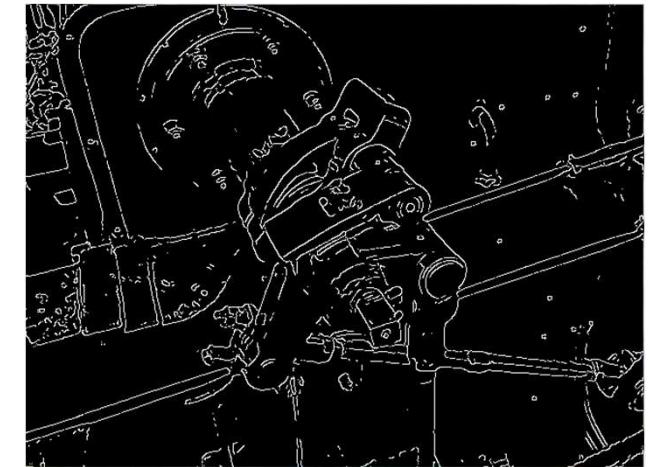


cv2.minRectArea [12]

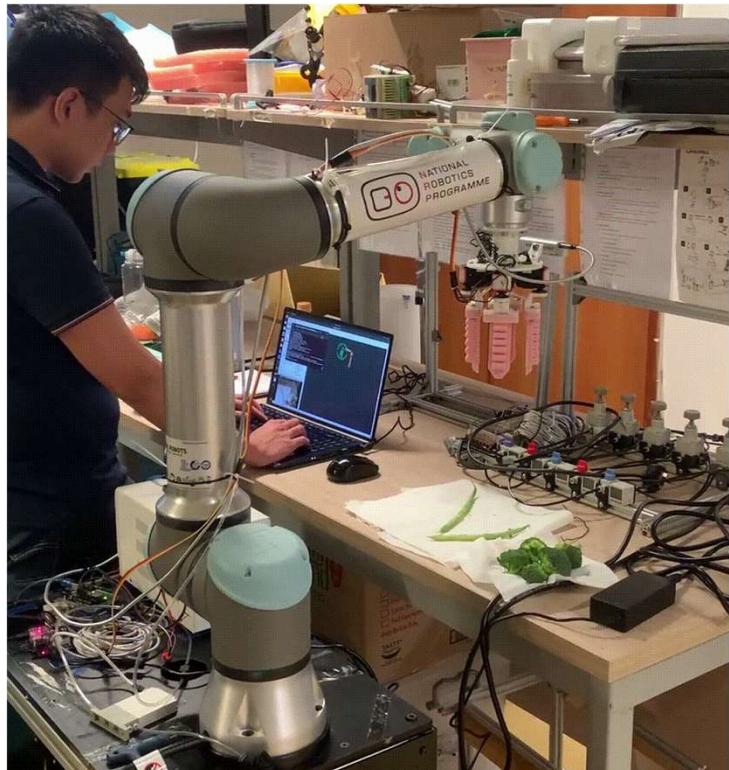
# Angle of smallest rectangle that contains all contours



Canny Edge  
Detection  
using  
`cv2.Canny [13]`



# Angle of smallest rectangle that contains all contours



## Transformation to Base of Robot Arm

$$T_{object}^{camera} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{object}^{camera} & P_{object}^{camera} \\ 0 \ 0 \ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Reference frame needs to be changed from  
the **camera** to the **base** [9]

$$T_{object}^{base} = T_{camera}^{base} \times T_{object}^{camera}$$

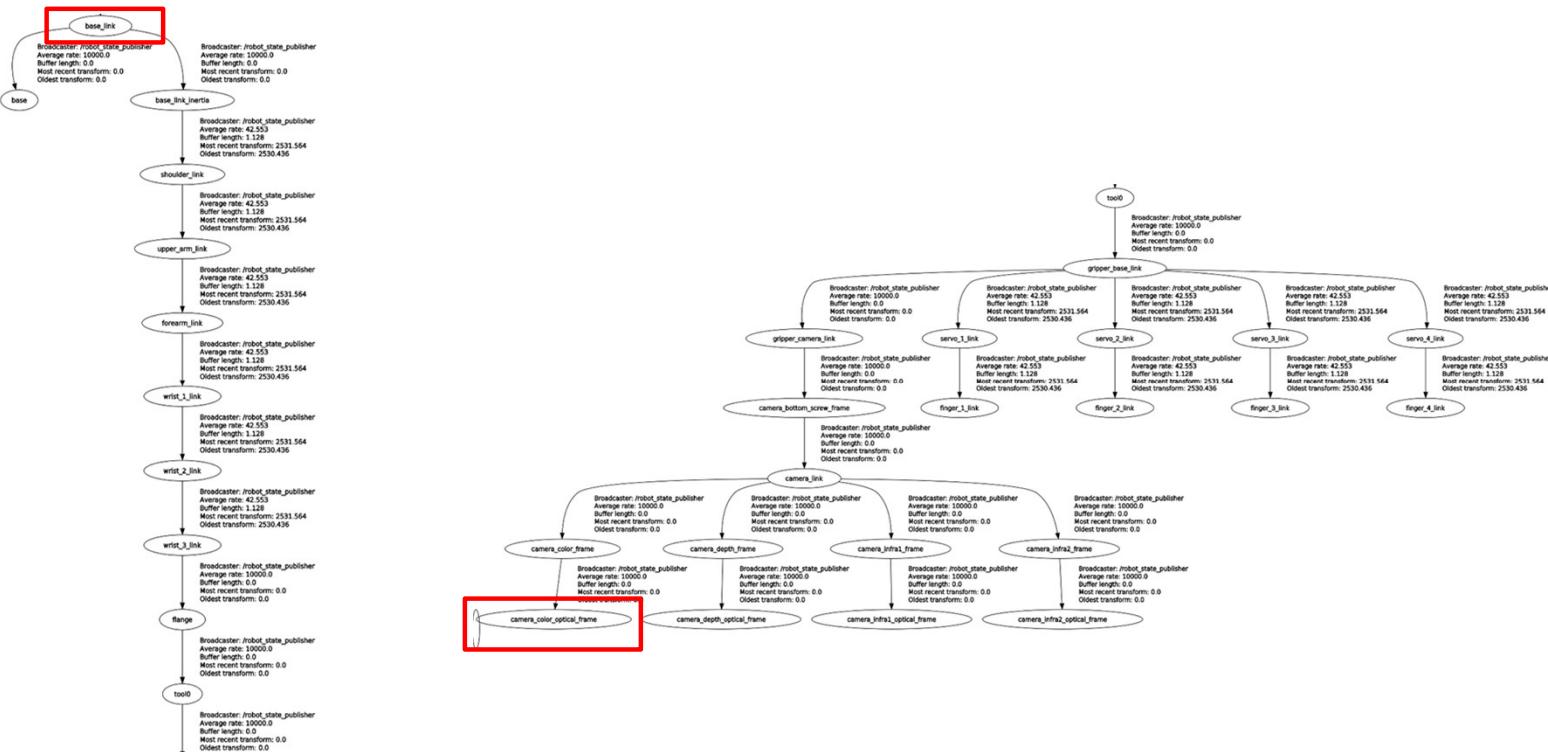
# Transformation to Base of Robot Arm

into the tray. These cameras and sensors cannot be mounted, placed nor connected to the tables. Participants may choose to mount sensors onto the robot or separate holders (like tripods) that can be positioned around the table; these sensors holders should not block view or access to either the tables, the containers, shelf, and the trays.

Rules for the competition [1]

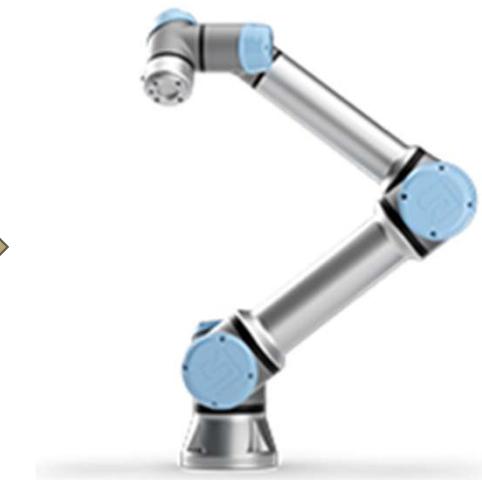
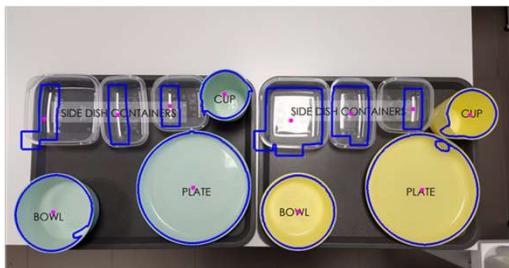


# tf2 ROS package

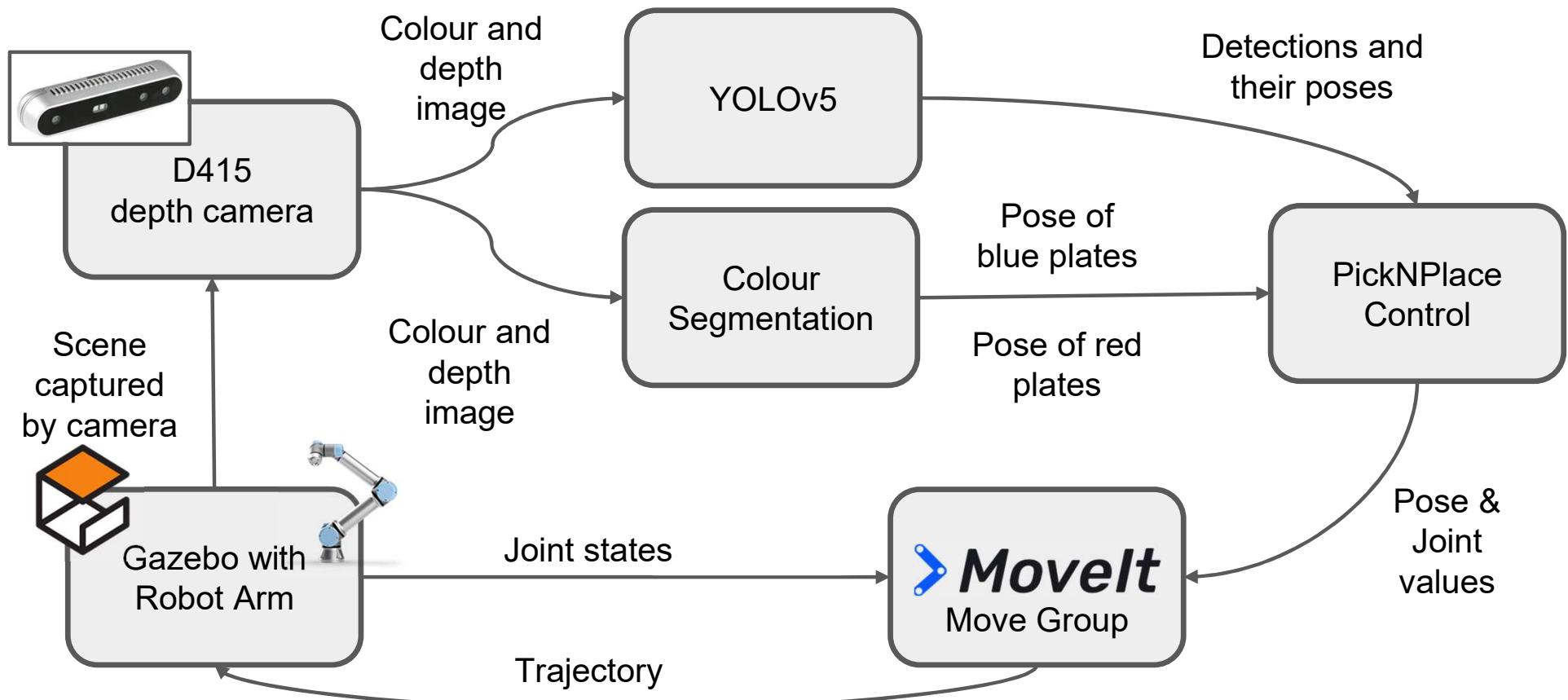


Connection from base link to the camera's reference frame using tf2 ROS package [14]

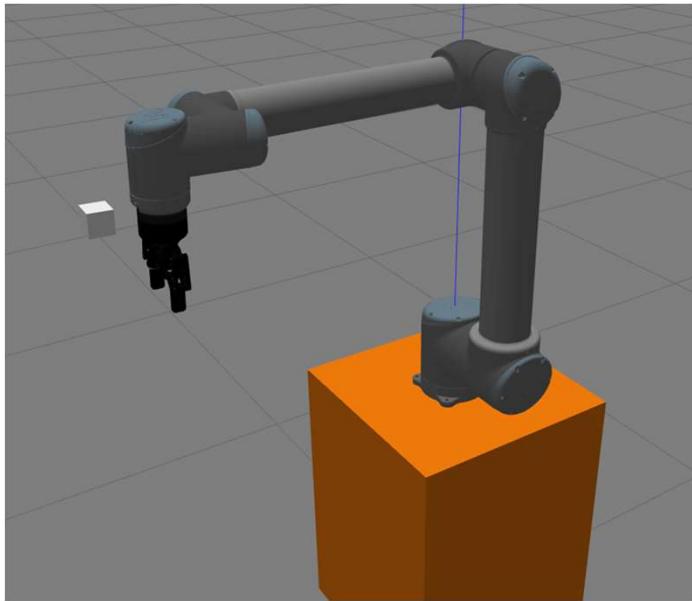
# Robot Operating System (ROS)



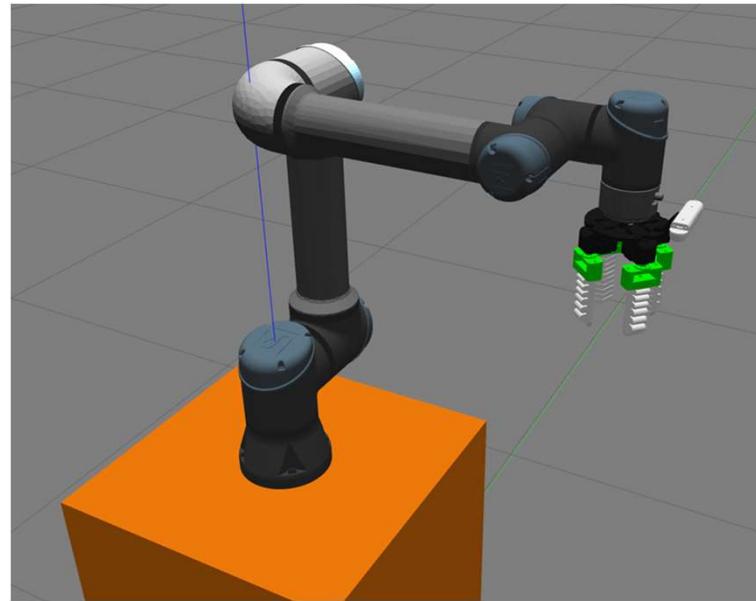
# High Level ROS architecture for simulation



# Robot Arms



- UR10 robot arm [15]
- Robotiq 2F-85 gripper [16]
- Kinect camera



- UR5e robot arm [15]
- ADMP gripper
- D415 depth camera [17]

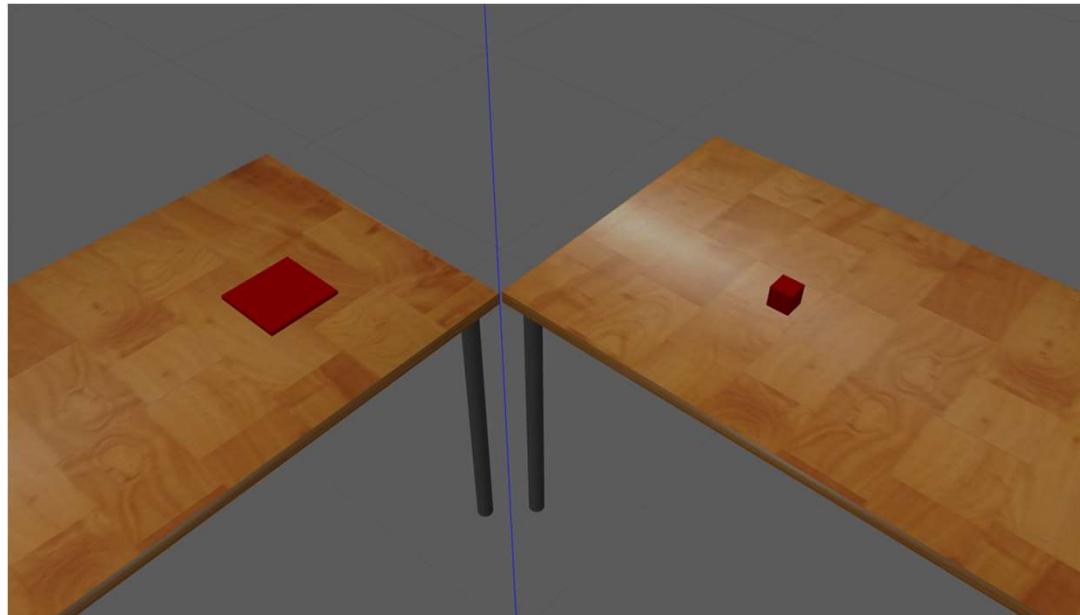
# YOLO



Trained YOLO on a dataset of 3D shapes [18]

Weights:  
yolov5s

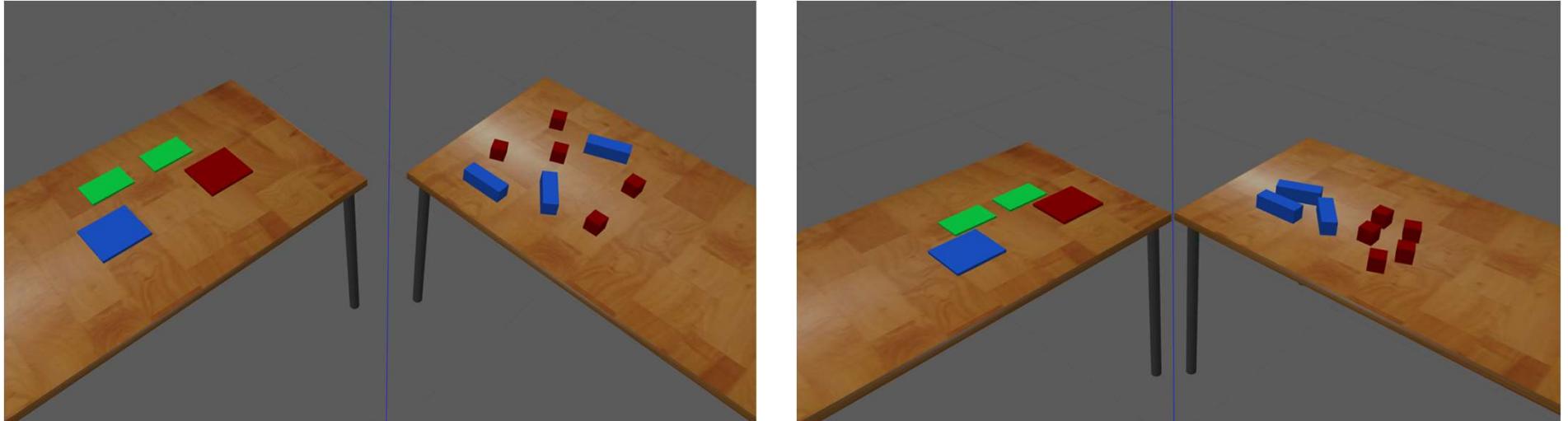
# Simulation Environment



## 1st Environment

Task: Pick up a **red cube** from the source table and place it onto the **red plate** on the assembly table.

# Simulation Environment

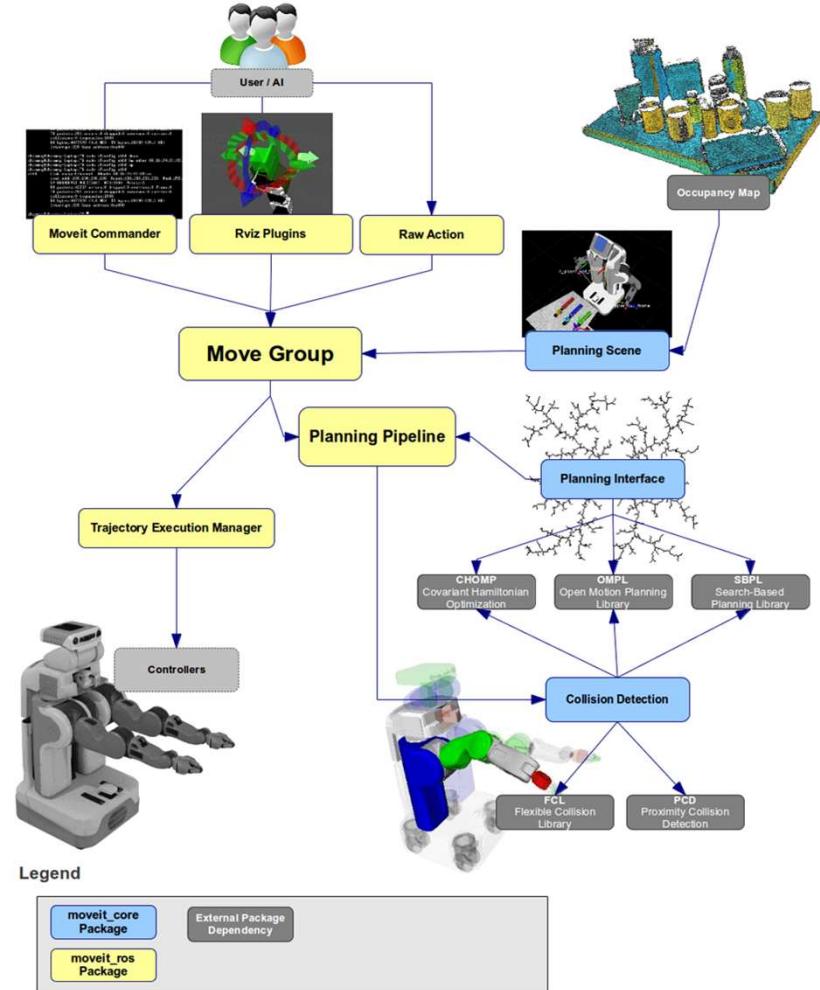


## 2nd Environment

Task: To place two **red cubes** on both the **red** and **blue** plates  
and a **blue cuboid** on each of the **green plates**.

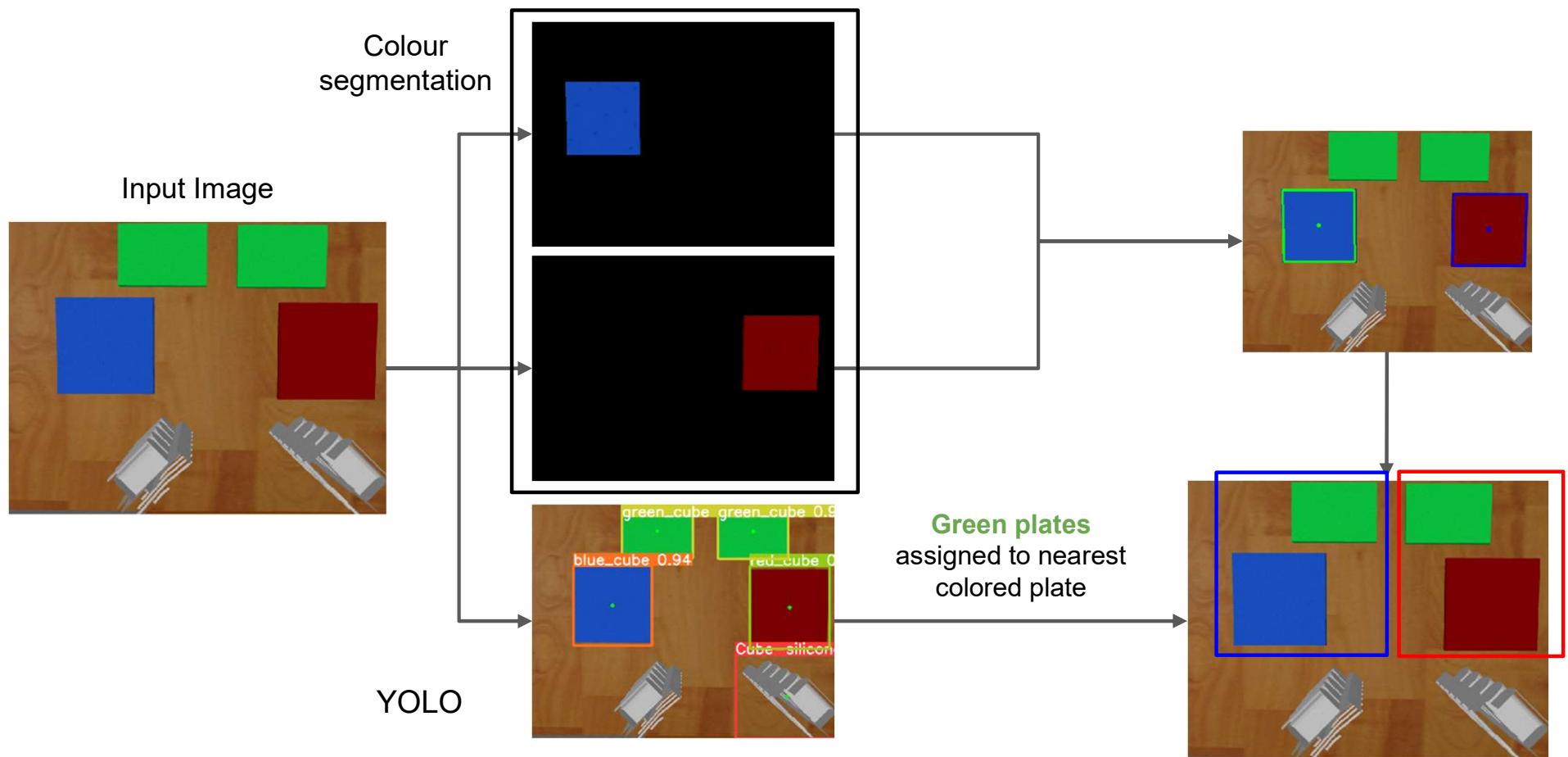
# Movelt

- Allows inverse kinematics calculations [19]
- Can control robot arm with a Python file using Movelt commander [20]

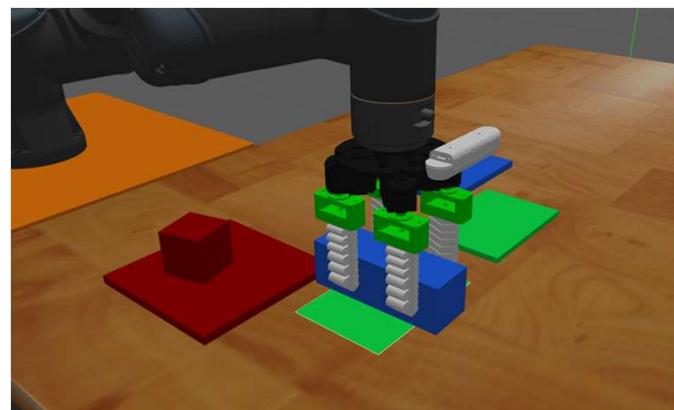
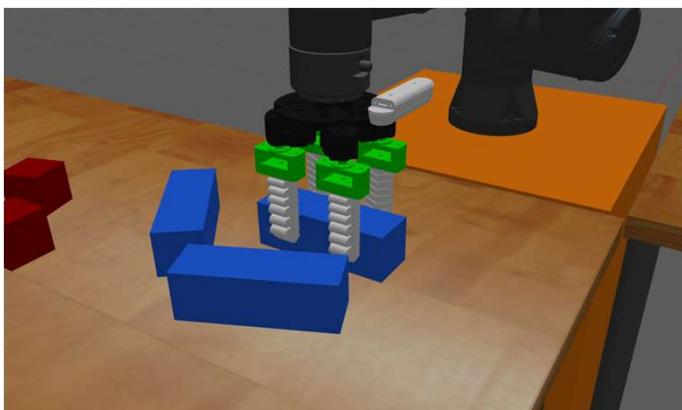
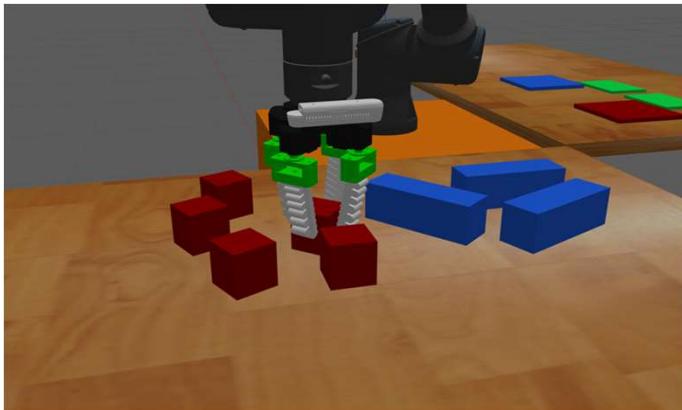


High Level Diagram of MoveIt [20]

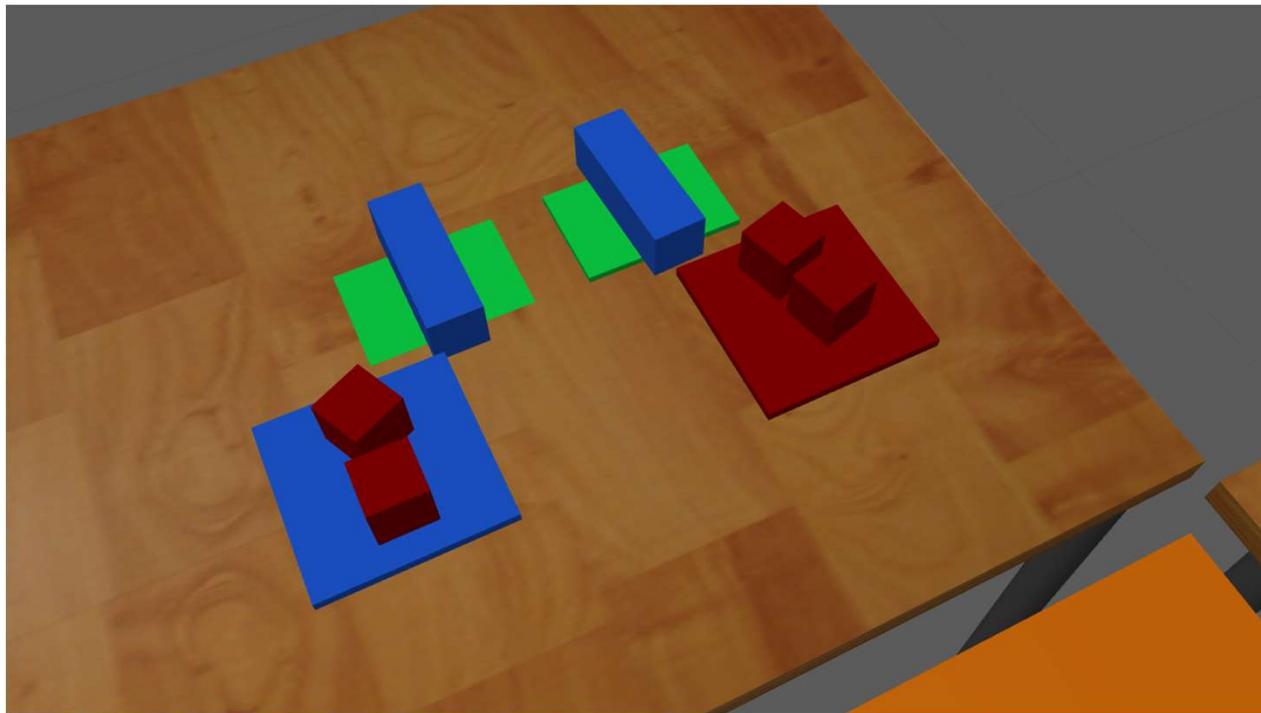
# Control File For Complex Pick and Place Task



# Control File For Complex Pick and Place Task



# Control File For Complex Pick and Place Task



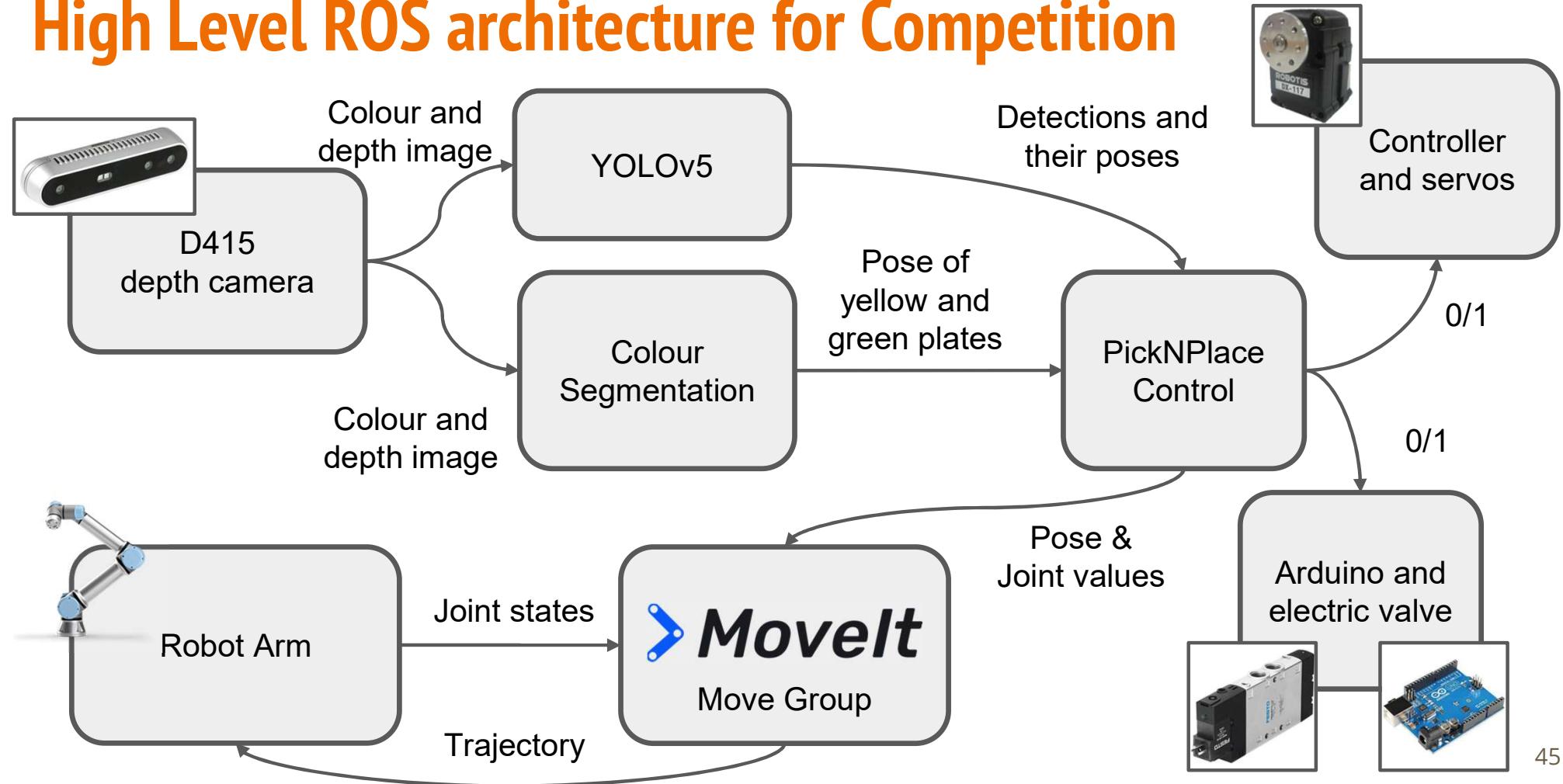
## Control File For Complex Pick and Place Task

```
pick_count : {"red_cube": 2, "blue_cube": 1}
```

```
place_count : {"red_cube": 0, "blue_cube": 0}
```

Code will run until all classes in  
pick\_count == place\_count

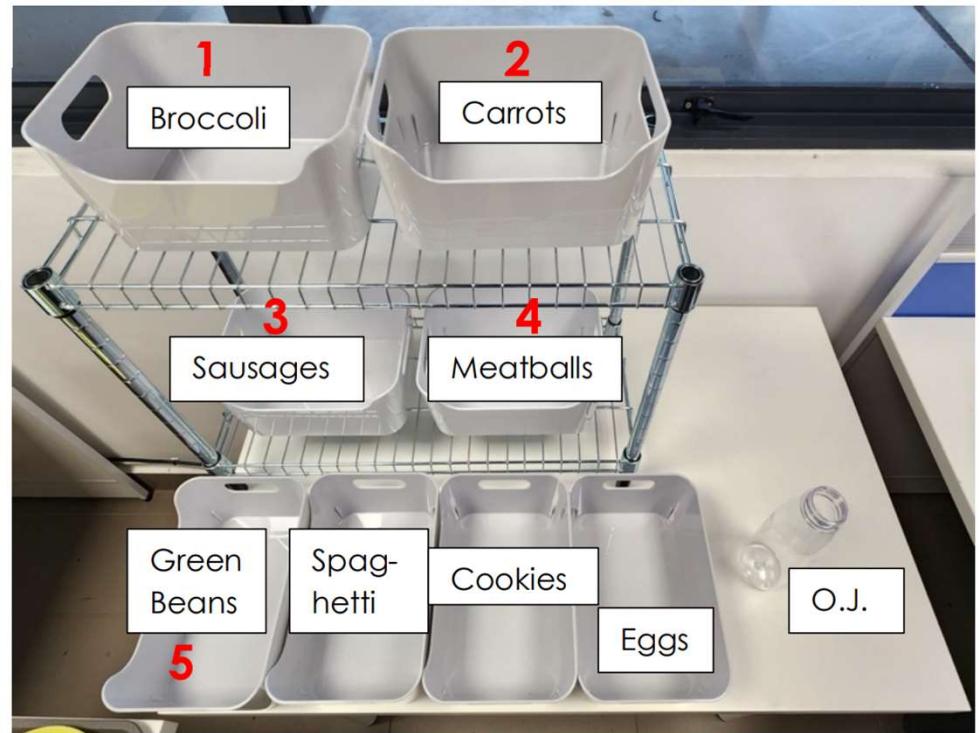
# High Level ROS architecture for Competition



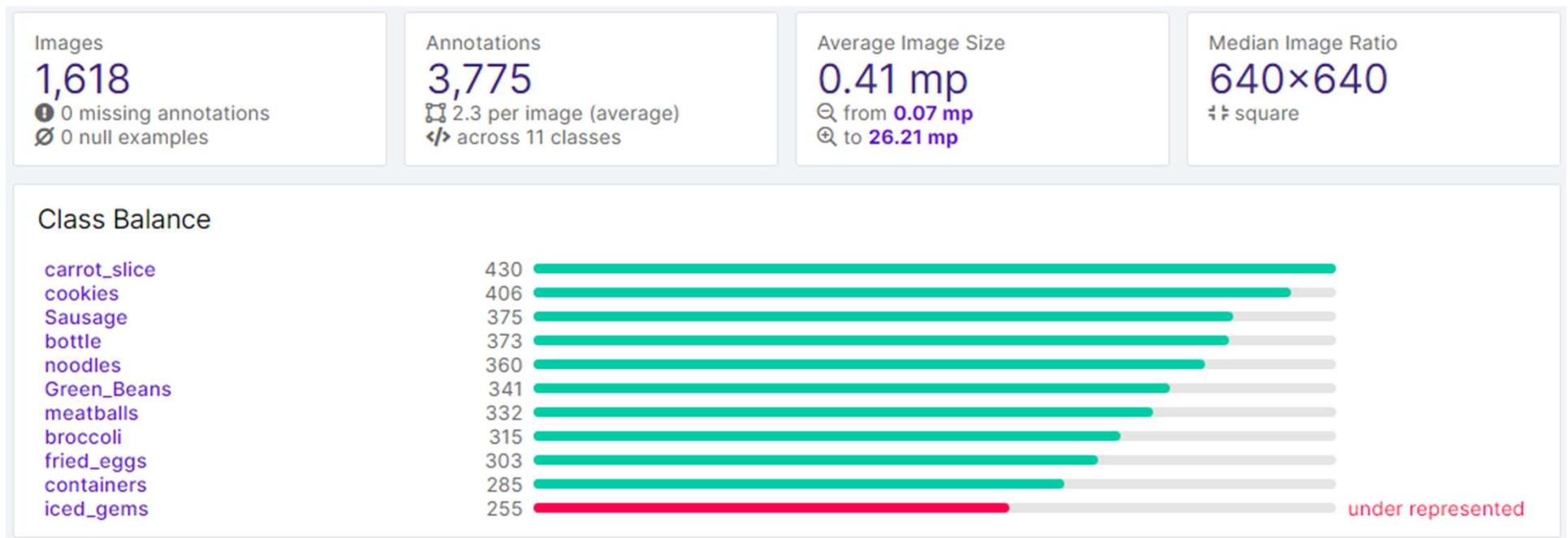
# Testing before Competition



Iced Gems Biscuits



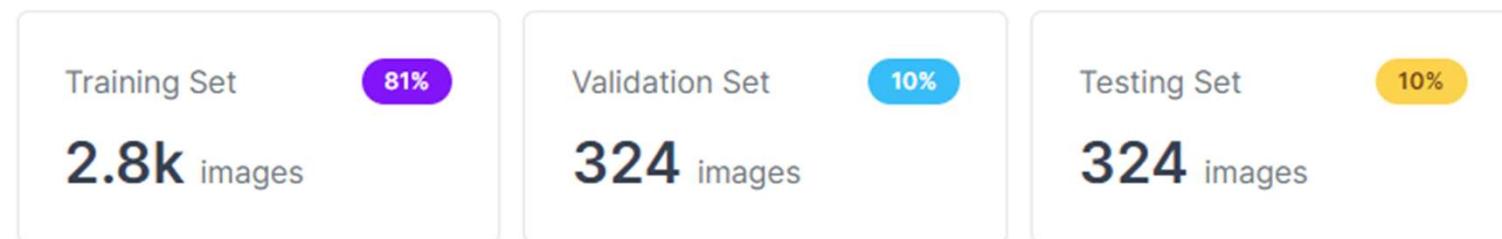
# Dataset for YOLO



Number of images in dataset with how many classes are present [21]

# Dataset for YOLO

## TRAIN / TEST SPLIT



## PREPROCESSING

Auto-Orient: Applied  
Resize: Fit (black edges) in 640×640

## AUGMENTATIONS

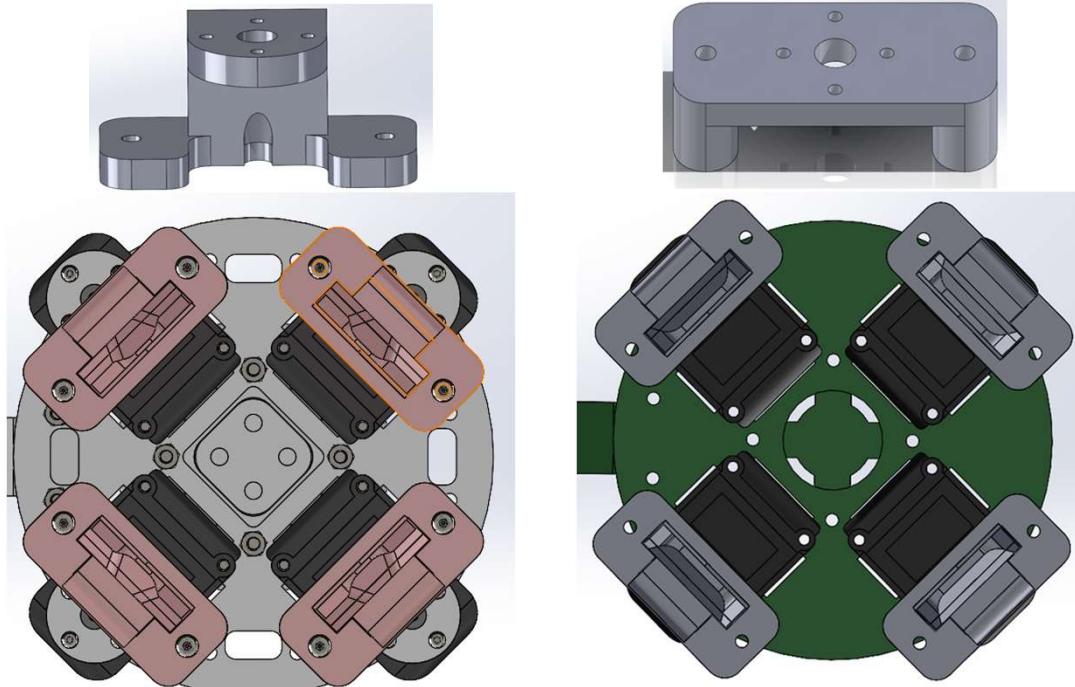
Outputs per training example: 3  
Flip: Horizontal, Vertical  
90° Rotate: Clockwise, Counter-Clockwise, Upside Down

Training Set with augmented images, Validation Set and Testing Set [21]

# Test Run



# Reason for inability to pick up the sunny side egg

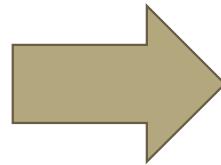


**7cm gap**  
Too narrow, Cannot pick  
up bottle

**9cm gap**  
Can fit but unable to pick  
up small items



## Issues with YOLO detections



Misidentify as

- Carrot slices
- Bottle

Correctly identifies when light is shone on it

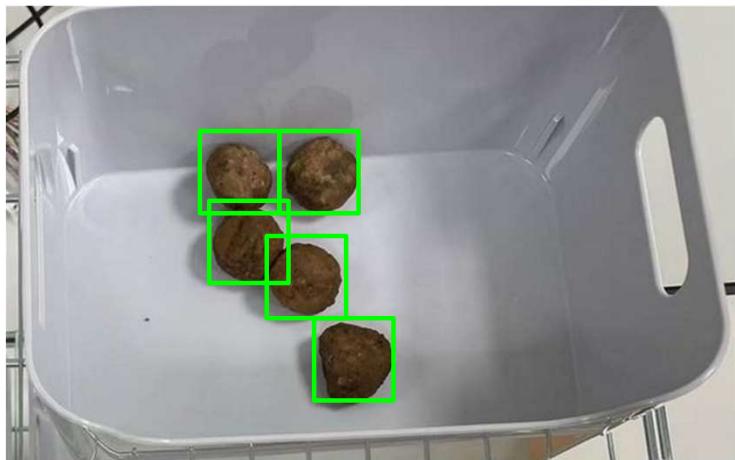
**Solution:** Camera looks at 1 tray at a time

## Arrangement of food on tray

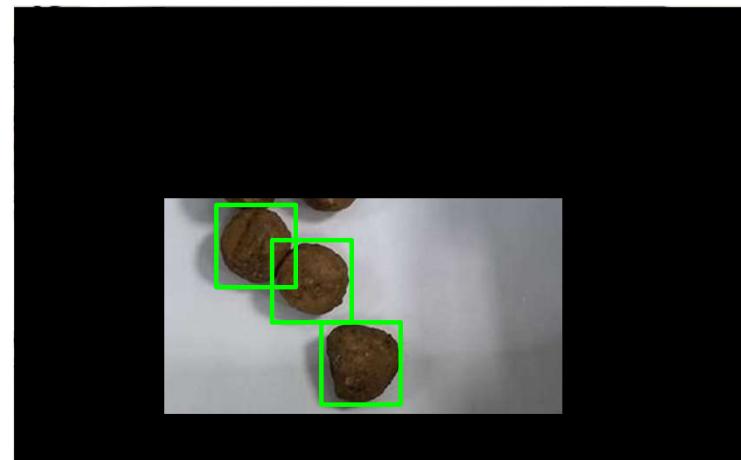


Containers are sorted by the **area** and **height** of the bounding box

# Collision with the tray walls



Food items near the wall will cause the gripper to **collide with the tray wall**

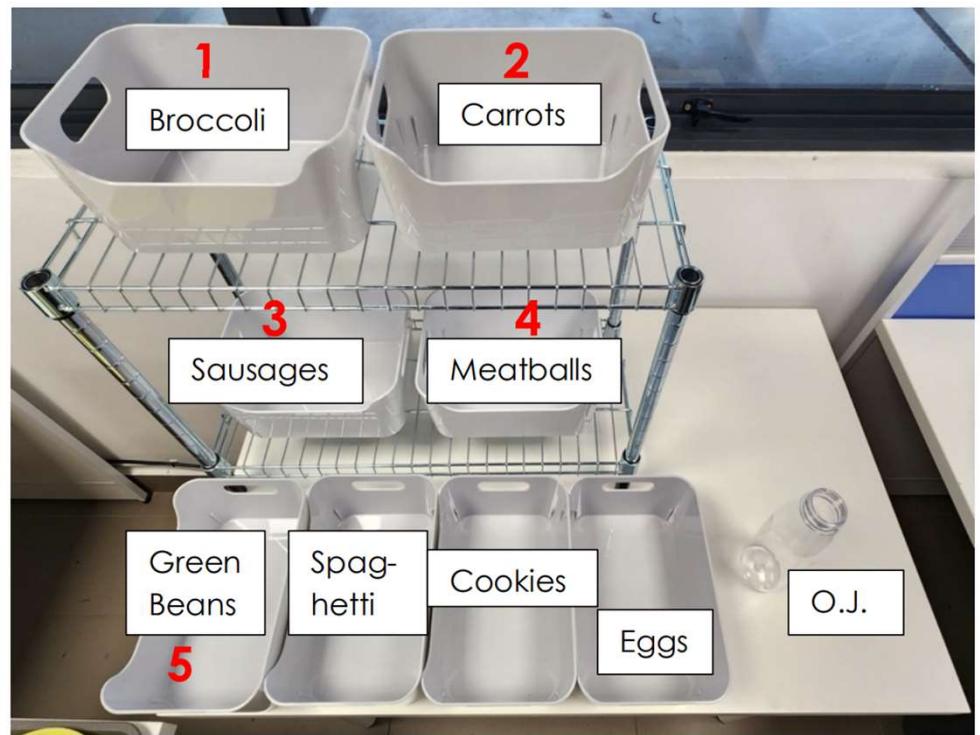


**Apply a mask** so that only the food items near the middle are detected

# Competition Run



Replaced No.5: Green Beans

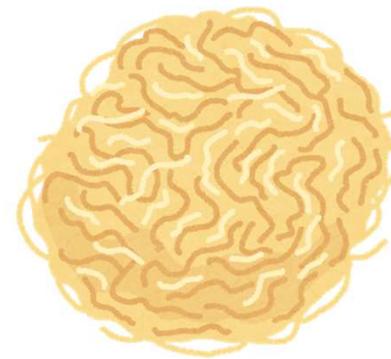


# Competition Run



# Results

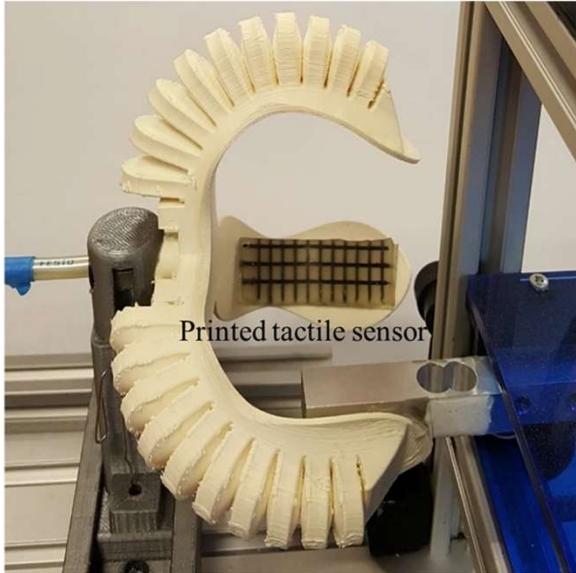
Food placed on the tray



**Score: 30 points**

Placed 4th among the 6 teams

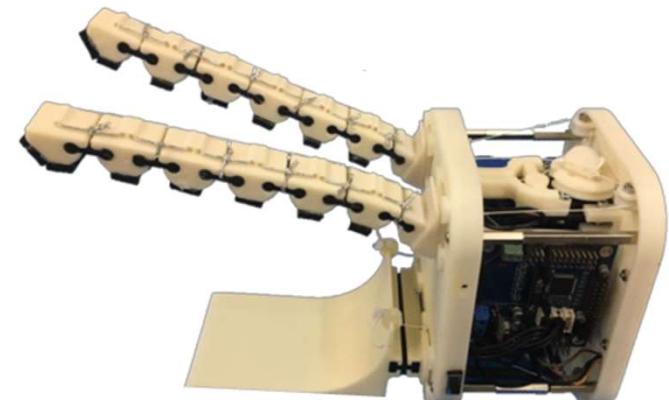
# Improvements on ADMP Gripper



Tactile sensors to detect if an item is grabbed [22]



Vacuum pump to widen the gap between the fingers



Each finger individually controlled for different gripping patterns [23]

# Improvements on Vision System



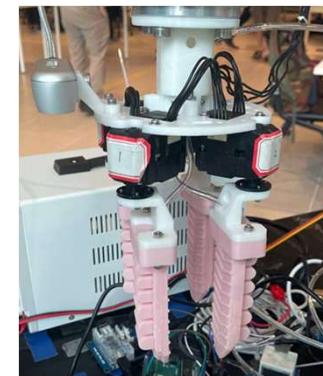
Newer version of YOLO [24]

Model	size (pixels)	mAP <sup>val</sup> 50-95	mAP <sup>val</sup> 50	Speed CPU b1 (ms)	Speed V100 b1 (ms)	Speed V100 b32 (ms)	params (M)	FLOPs @640 (B)
YOLOv5n	640	28.0	45.7	45	6.3	0.6	1.9	4.5
YOLOv5s	640	37.4	56.8	98	6.4	0.9	7.2	16.5
YOLOv5m	640	45.4	64.1	224	8.2	1.7	21.2	49.0
YOLOv5l	640	49.0	67.3	430	10.1	2.7	46.5	109.1
YOLOv5x	640	50.7	68.9	766	12.1	4.8	86.7	205.7

Larger and more accurate weights run on stronger graphics card



# Conclusion



# References

- [1] M. Calisti, A. Causo, A. McConnell, J. Hughes, and J. Booth, "RoboSoft Competition 2023: Scenarios and rules," *RoboSoft Competition 2023*, 24 Jan 2023. [Online]. Available: [https://softroboticsconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/RoboSoft-Competition-2023\\_v6.pdf](https://softroboticsconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/RoboSoft-Competition-2023_v6.pdf) [Accessed: 31 March 2023].
- [2] Z. Wang, K. Or, and S. Hirai, "A dual-mode soft gripper for food packaging," *Robotics and Autonomous Systems*, vol. 125, p. 103427, Jan. 2020.
- [3] A. T. Mathew, I. Hussain, C. Stefanini, I. M. Ben Hmida, and F. Renda, "Resoft Gripper: A reconfigurable soft gripper with monolithic fingers and differential mechanism for versatile and delicate grasping," *2021 IEEE 4th International Conference on Soft Robotics (RoboSoft)*, pp. 372–378, Apr. 2021.
- [4] Z. Yuan, L. Wu, X. Xu, and R. Chen, "Soft pneumatic gripper integrated with multi-configuration and variable-stiffness functionality," *Cognitive Computation and Systems*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 70–77, Feb. 2021.
- [5] "DX-117," (n.d.). *ROBOTIS e-Manual*. [Online]. Available: <https://emanual.robotis.com/docs/en/dxl/dx/dx-117/>. [Accessed: 31 Mar 2023].
- [6] "Intel® RealSense™ Depth camera D415," (n.d.). *Intel RealSense*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.intelrealsense.com/depth-camera-d415/>. [Accessed: 31 Mar 2023].
- [7] G. Jocher, et. al, "Ultralytics/yolov5: V7.0 - yolov5 SOTA RealTime Instance Segmentation," *Zenodo*, 22 Nov 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://zenodo.org/record/7347926>. [Accessed: 31 Mar 2023].
- [8] "What is Camera Calibration?," (n.d.). *MathWorks*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.mathworks.com/help/vision/ug/camera-calibration.html>. [Accessed: 31 Mar 2023].
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# End of Presentation

Thank you