



人
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The
Shanghai
智
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上
海
AI
Lectures
授
课



The ShanghAI Lectures

An experiment in global teaching

Fabio Bonsignorio

The BioRobotics Institute, SSSA and Heron Robots

Today from the BioRobotics Institute, Pontedera (PI)

欢迎您参与
“来自上海的人工智能系列讲座”

Lecture 4

Intelligent Systems: Properties and Principles (continued)

Evolution: Cognition from Scratch

17 November 2016

skype: PhD.Biorobotics

**(only for lecture sites connected by streaming
or ...emergencies :-))**



The need for an embodied perspective

- “failures” of classical AI
- fundamental problems of classical approach
- Wolpert’s quote: Why do plants not have a brain? (but check Barbara Mazzolai’s lecture at the ShanghAI Lectures 2014)
- Interaction with environment: always mediated by body



“English Room” thought experiment

- “this is Spanish for me” (in Austria to say a speech is impossible to understand) - (funny for me, for an Italian Spanish is quite easy :-))



Successes and failures of the classical approach

successes

**applications (e.g.
Google)**

chess

manufacturing

**(“controlled”artificial
worlds)**

failures

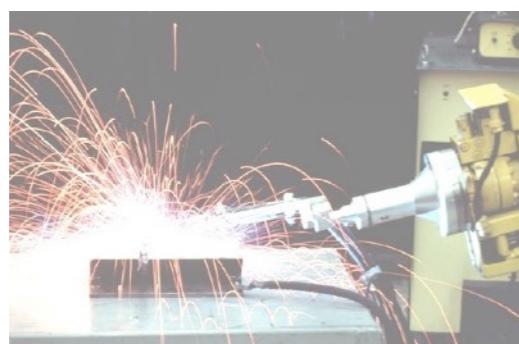
**foundations of
behavior**

**natural forms of
intelligence**

**interaction with real
world**



Industrial robots vs. natural systems



robots



no direct transfer of methods

principles:
- low precision
- compliant
- reactive
- coping with uncertainty

humans

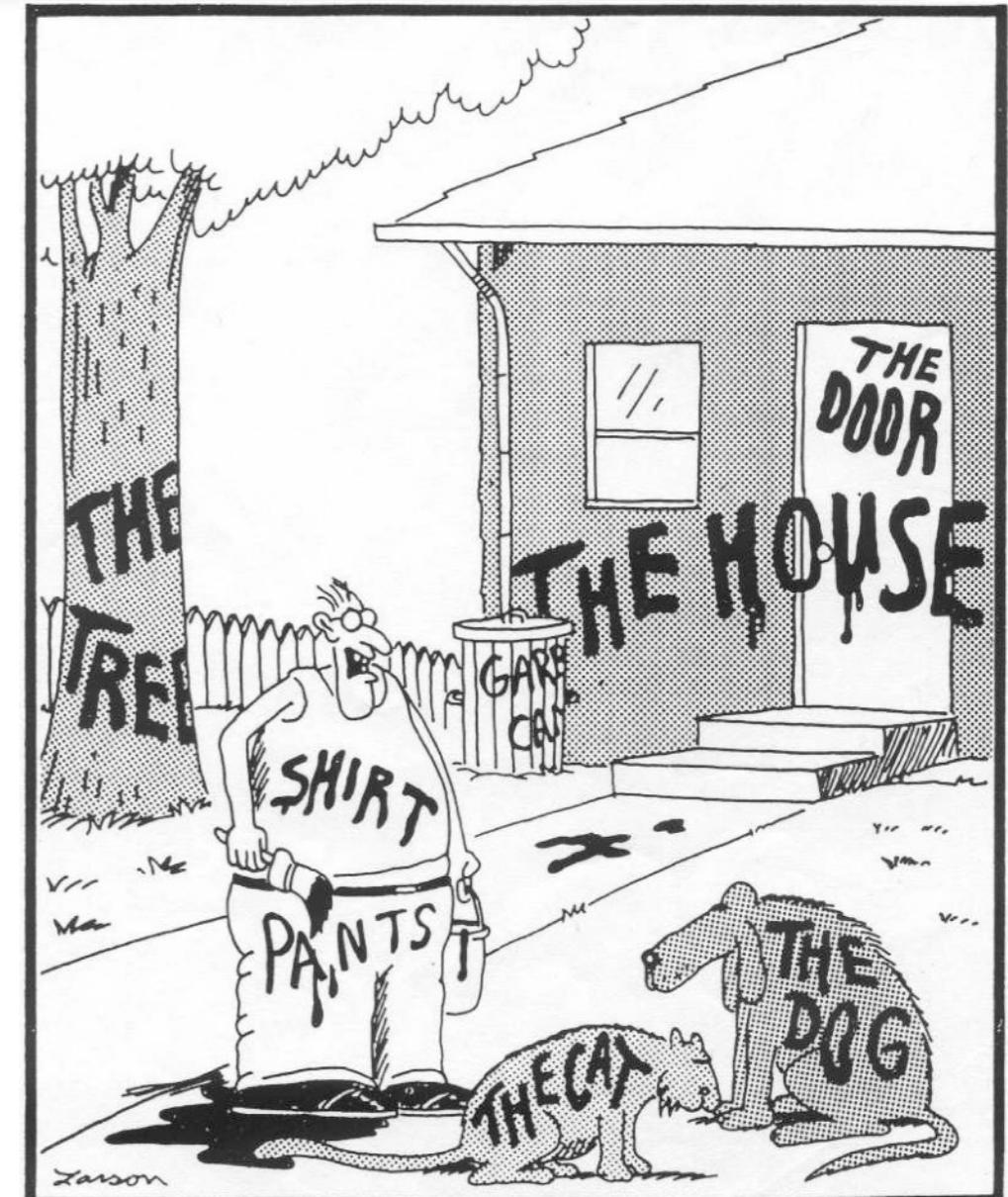


The “symbol grounding” problem

real world:
doesn't come
with labels ...

How to put the
labels??

Gary Larson



"Now! ... That should clear up
a few things around here!"



Two views of intelligence

classical:
cognition as computation



embodiment:
cognition emergent from sensory-motor and interaction processes



The need for an embodied perspective

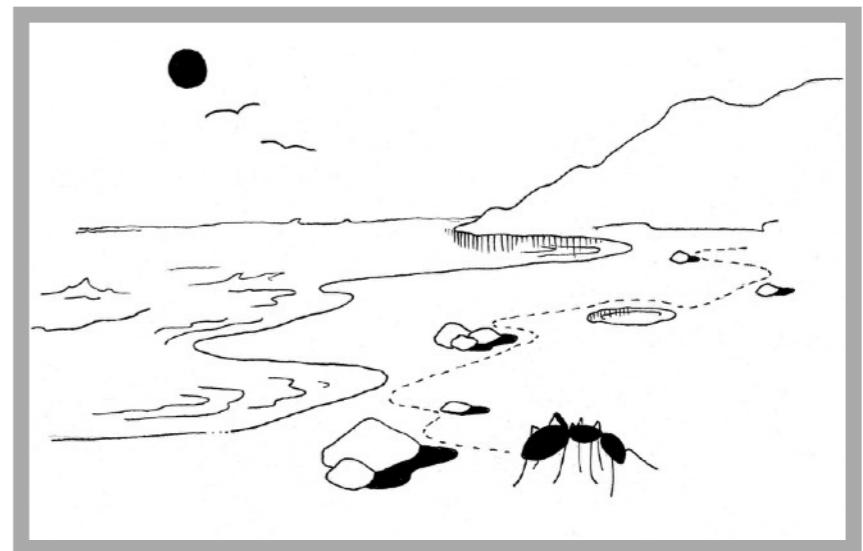
- “failures” of classical AI
- fundamental problems of classical approach
- Wolpert’s quote: Why do plants not ...?
(stay tuned for Barbara Mazzolai’s lecture...)
- Interaction with environment: always mediated by body



“Frame-of-reference”

Simon’s ant on the beach

- simple behavioral rules
- complexity in interaction,
not — necessarily — in brain
- thought experiment:
increase body by factor of 1000



Today's topics

- short recap
- **characteristics of complete agents**
- illustration of design principles
- parallel, loosely coupled processes: the “**subsumption architecture**”
- case studies: “**Puppy**”, biped walking
- “**cheap design**” and redundancy



Complete agents

— Masano Toda's
Fungus Eaters



Properties of embodied agents

- **subject to the laws of physics**
- **generation of sensory stimulation through interaction with real world**
- **affect environment through behavior**
- **complex dynamical systems**
- **perform morphological computation**



Complex dynamical systems

**non-linear system -
in contrast to a linear one
→ Any idea?**



Complex dynamical systems

concepts: focus box 4.1, p. 93, “How the body
...”
...”

- **dynamical systems, complex systems, non-linear dynamics, chaos theory**
- **phase space**
- **non-linear system – limited predictability, sensitivity to initial conditions**
- **trajectory**



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Design principles for intelligent systems

Principle 1: Three-constituents principle

Principle 2: Complete-agent principle

Principle 3: Parallel, loosely coupled processes

Principle 4: Sensory-motor coordination/ information self-structuring

Principle 5: Cheap design

Principle 6: Redundancy

Principle 7: Ecological balance

Principle 8: Value



Three-constituents principle

define and design

- “**ecological niche**”
- **desired behaviors and tasks**
- **design of agent itself**

design stances

scaffolding



Complete-agent principle

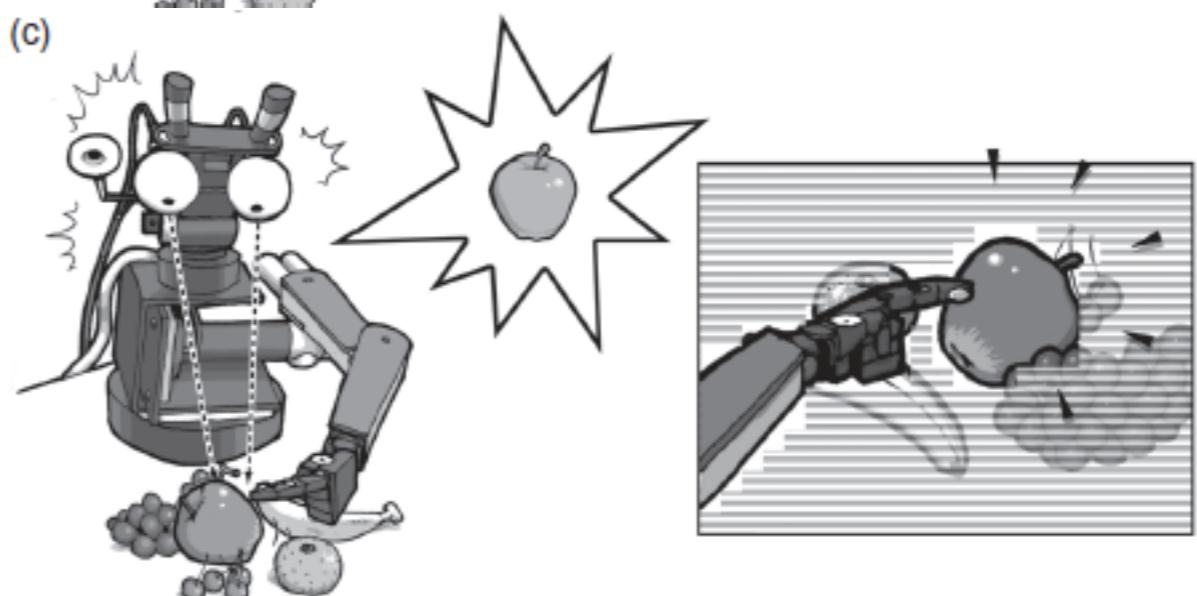
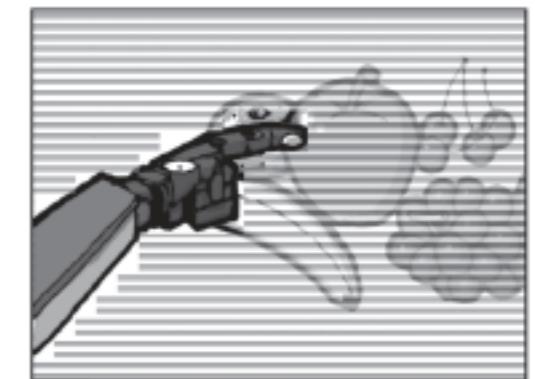
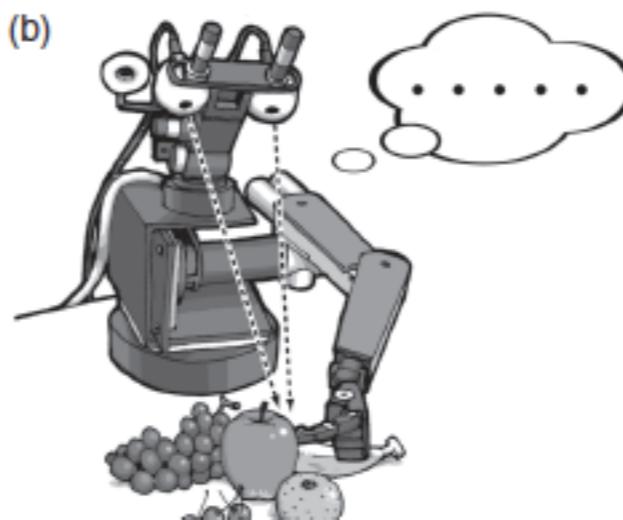
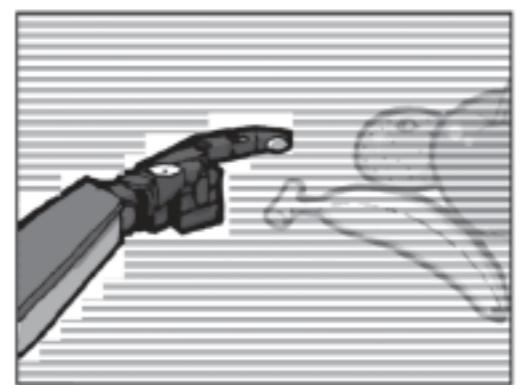
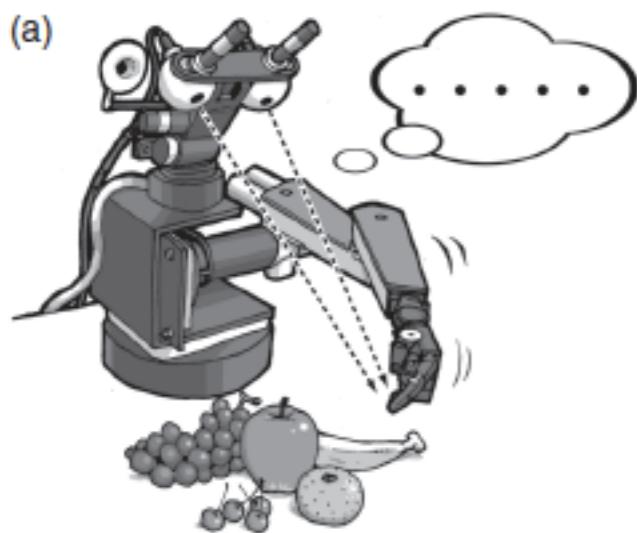
- **always think about complete agent behaving in real world**
- **isolated solutions: often artifacts – e.g., computer vision (contrast with active vision)**
- **biology/bio-inspired systems: every action has potentially effect on entire system**



can be exploited!



Recognizing an object in a cluttered environment



Illustrations by Shun Iwasawa

Experiments: Giorgio Metta
and Paul Fitzpatrick

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Parallel, loosely coupled processes

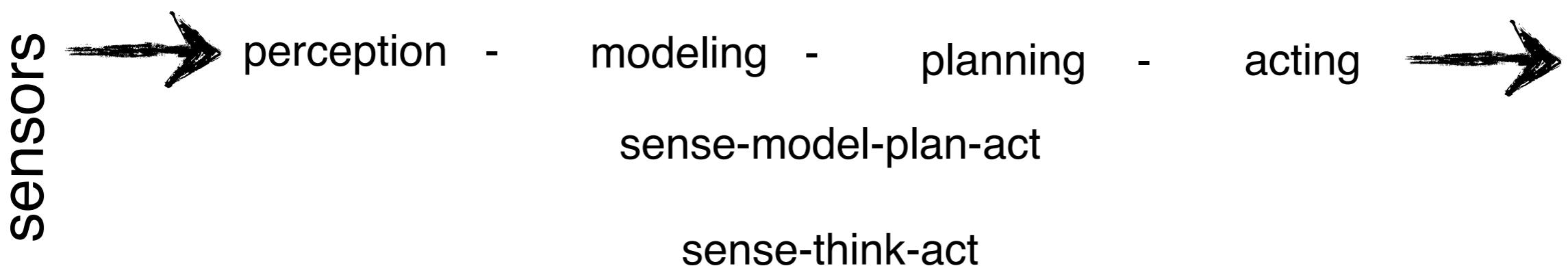
intelligent behavior:

- emergent from system-environment interaction
- based on large number of parallel, loosely coupled processes
- asynchronous
- coupled through agent's sensory-motor system and environment

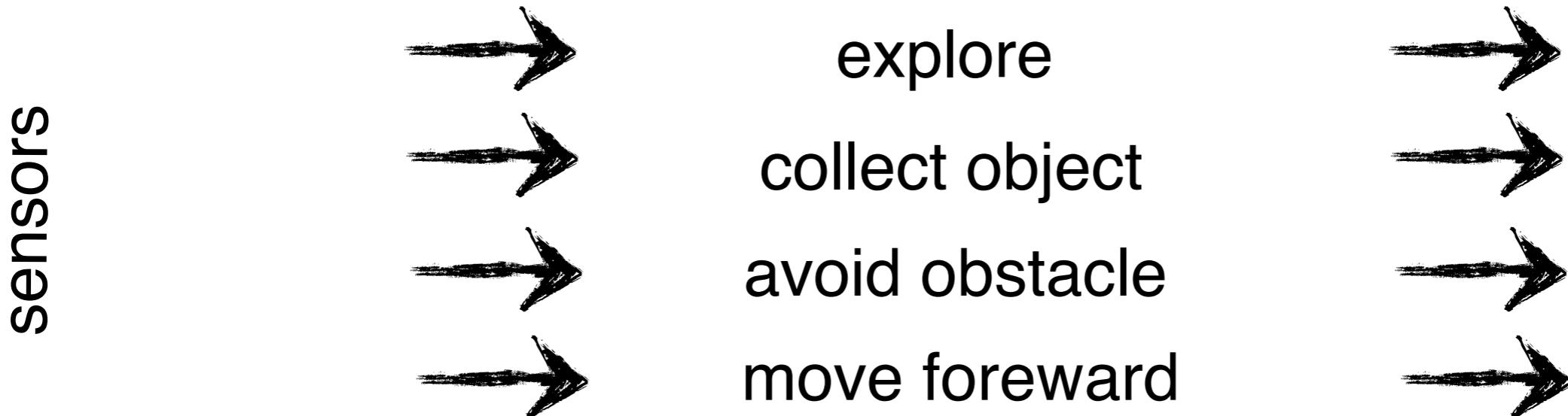


The subsumption architecture

classical, cognitivistic



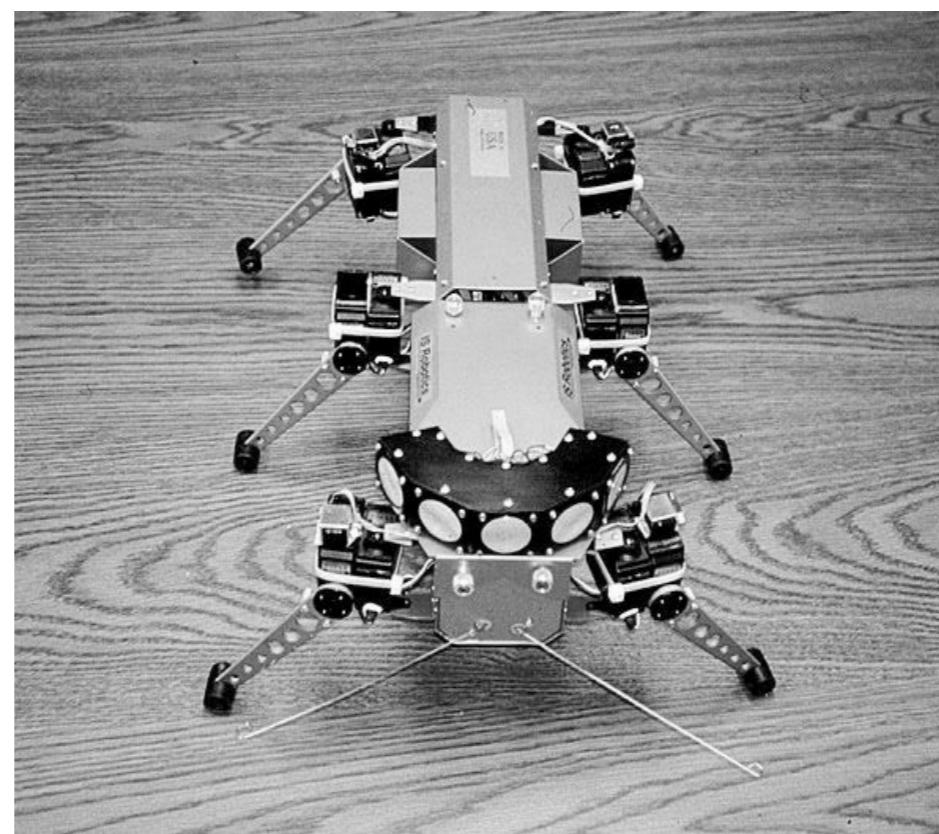
“behavior-based”, subsumption



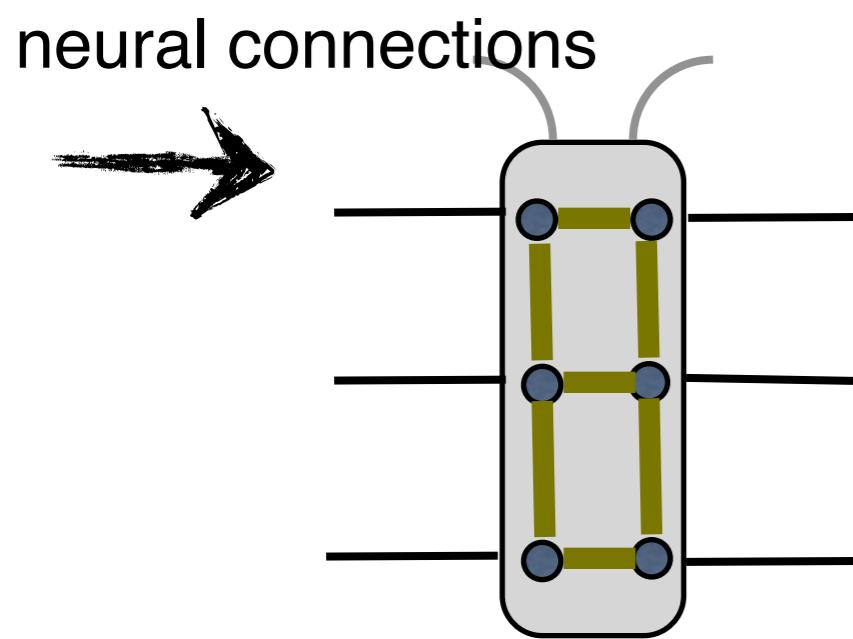
Mimicking insect walking

- **subsumption architecture
well-suited**

six-legged robot “Ghenghis”



Insect walking



- Holk Cruse, German biologist
- **no central control for leg coordination**
 - **only communication between neighboring legs**
 - **global communication: through interaction with environment**

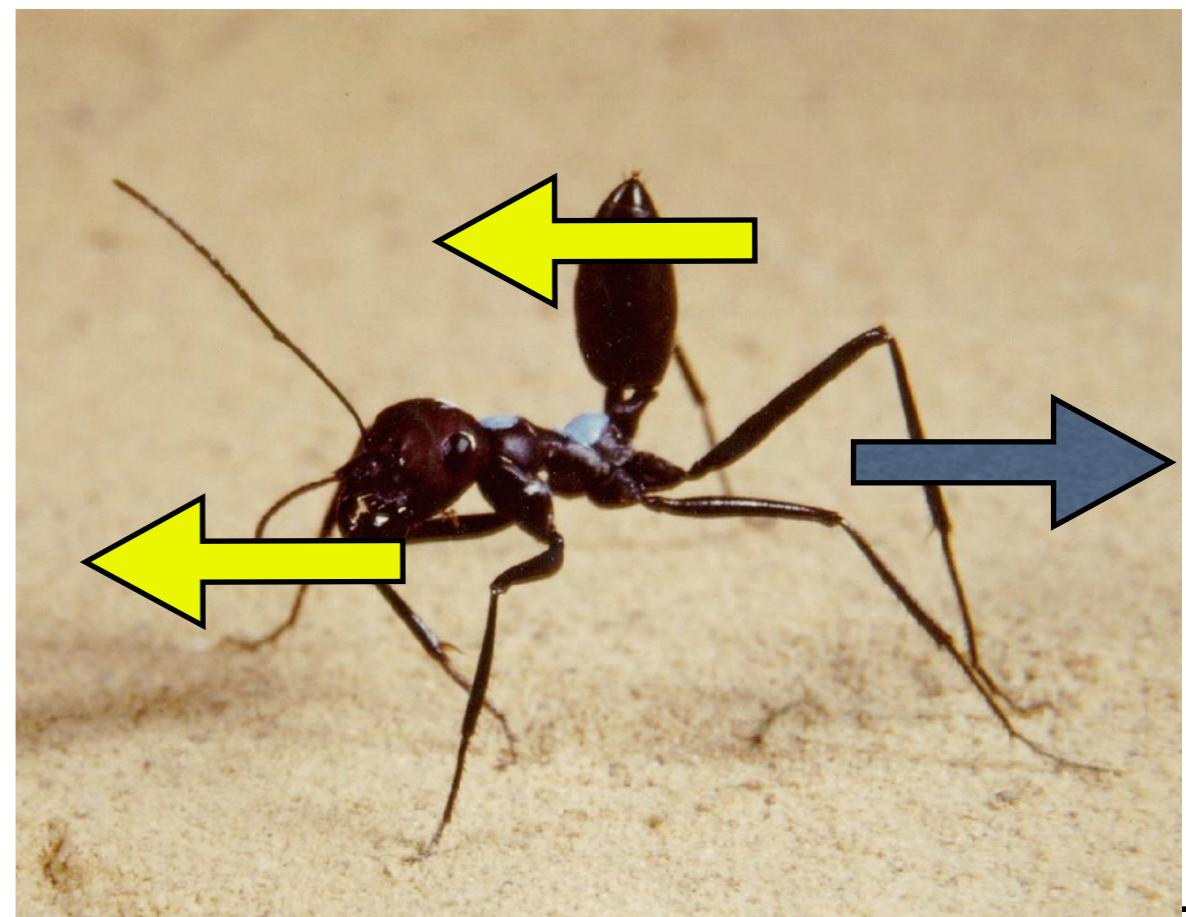
Communication through interaction with

- exploitation of interaction with environment

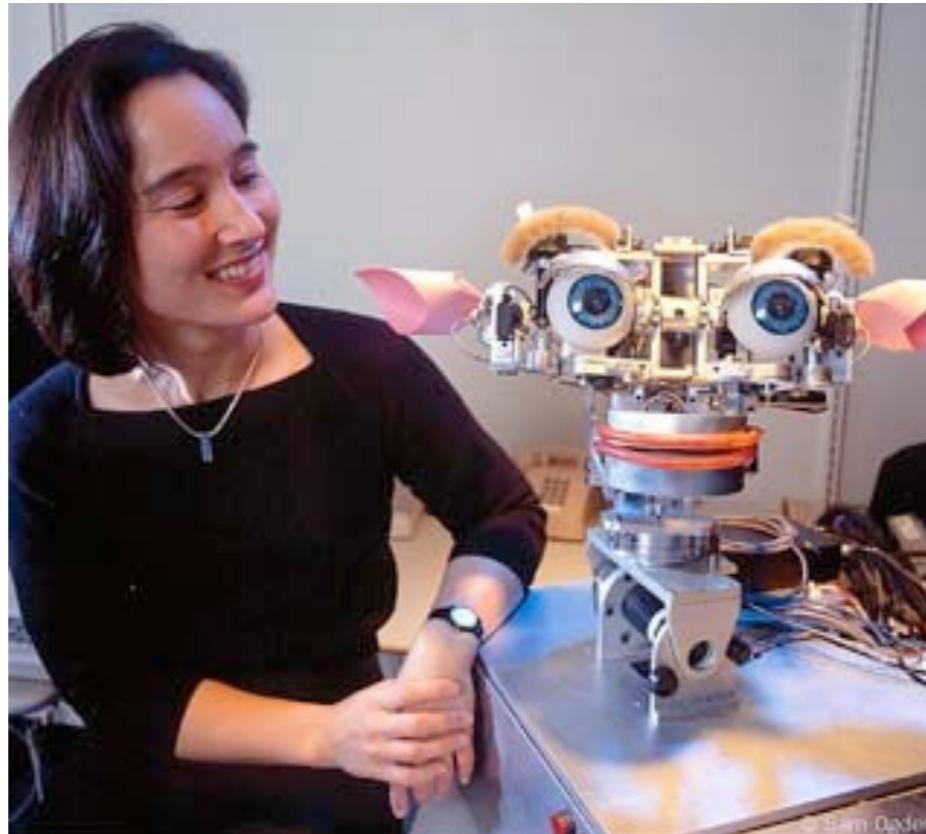
→ simpler neural circuits

angle sensors
in joints

“parallel, loosely coupled processes”



Kismet: The social interaction robot



Cynthia Breazeal, MIT Media Lab
(prev. MIT AI Lab)

Kismet: The social interaction robot



Video “Kismet”

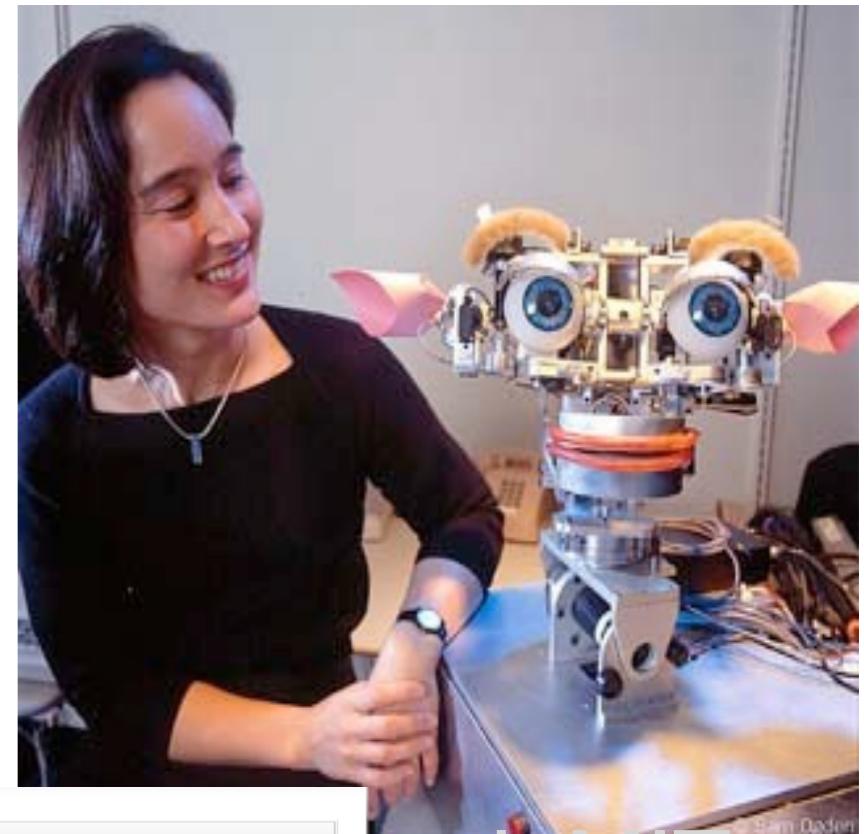


Cynthia Breazeal, MIT Media Lab
(prev. MIT AI Lab)

Kismet: The social interaction robot

Reflexes:

- turn towards loud noise
- turn towards moving objects
- follow slowly moving objects
- habituation



principle of “parallel, loosely coupled processes”

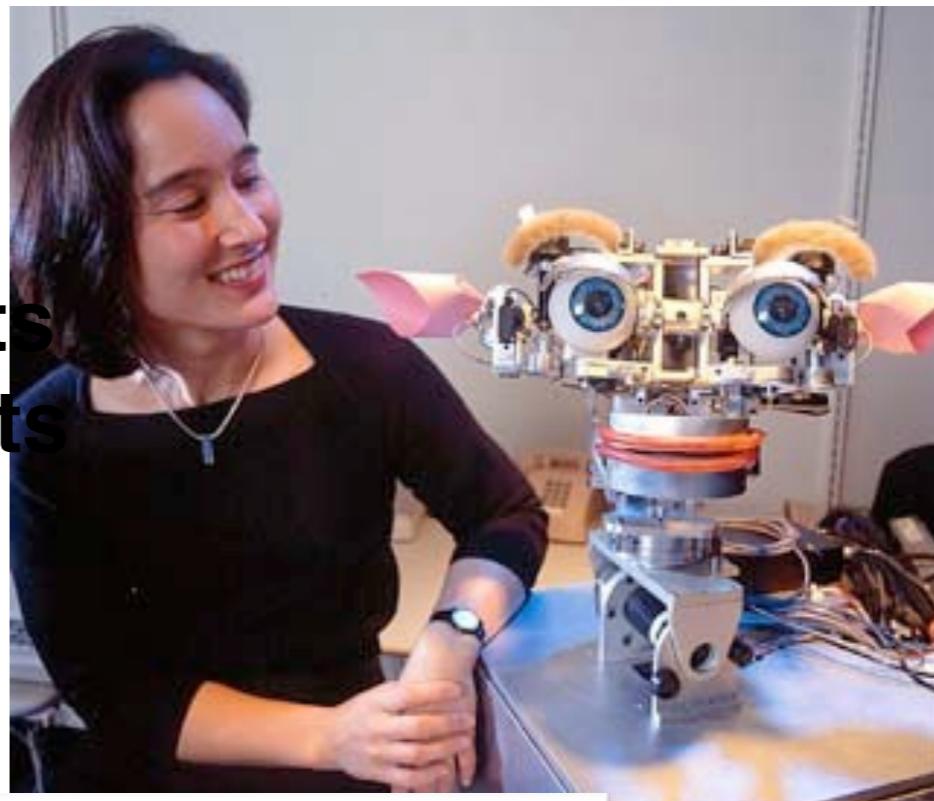
real, MIT
ras (prev. MIT AI Lab)



Kismet: The social interaction robot

Reflexes:

- turn towards loud noise
- turn towards moving objects
- follow slowly moving objects
- habituation



social competence: a collection of
reflexes ?!?!???

real, MIT
ras (prev. MIT AI Lab)



Scaling issue: the “Brooks-Kirsh” debate

insect level → human level?

David Kirsh (1991): “Today the earwig, tomorrow man?”

Rodney Brooks (1997): “From earwigs to humans.”



Scaling issue: the “Brooks-Kirsh” debate

insect level → human level?

David Kirsh (1991): “Today the ant, tomorrow man?”

Rodney Brooks invited me to volunteer for brief presentation on the

“Brooks-Kirsh” debate - or generally, scalability of subsumption (on a later date)

to



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Case study: “Puppy” as a complex dynamical

- running: hard problem
- time scales: neural system – damped oscillation of knee-joint
- “outsourcing/offloading” of functionality to morphological/material properties

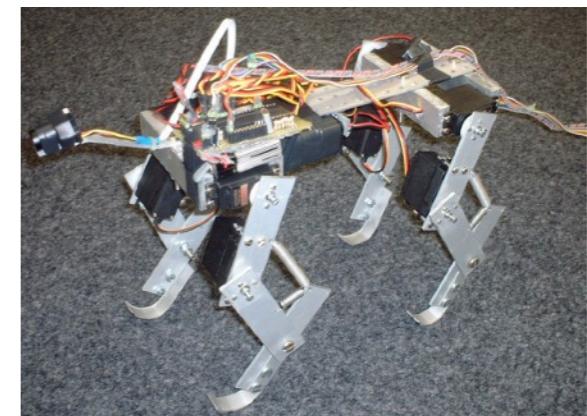


morphological
computation

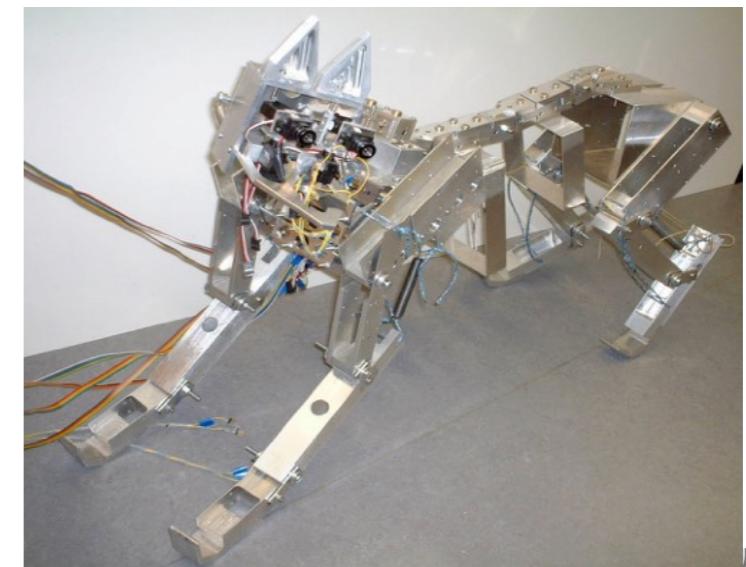


Recall: “Puppy’s” simple control

rapid locomotion in biological systems



recall: emergence of behavior



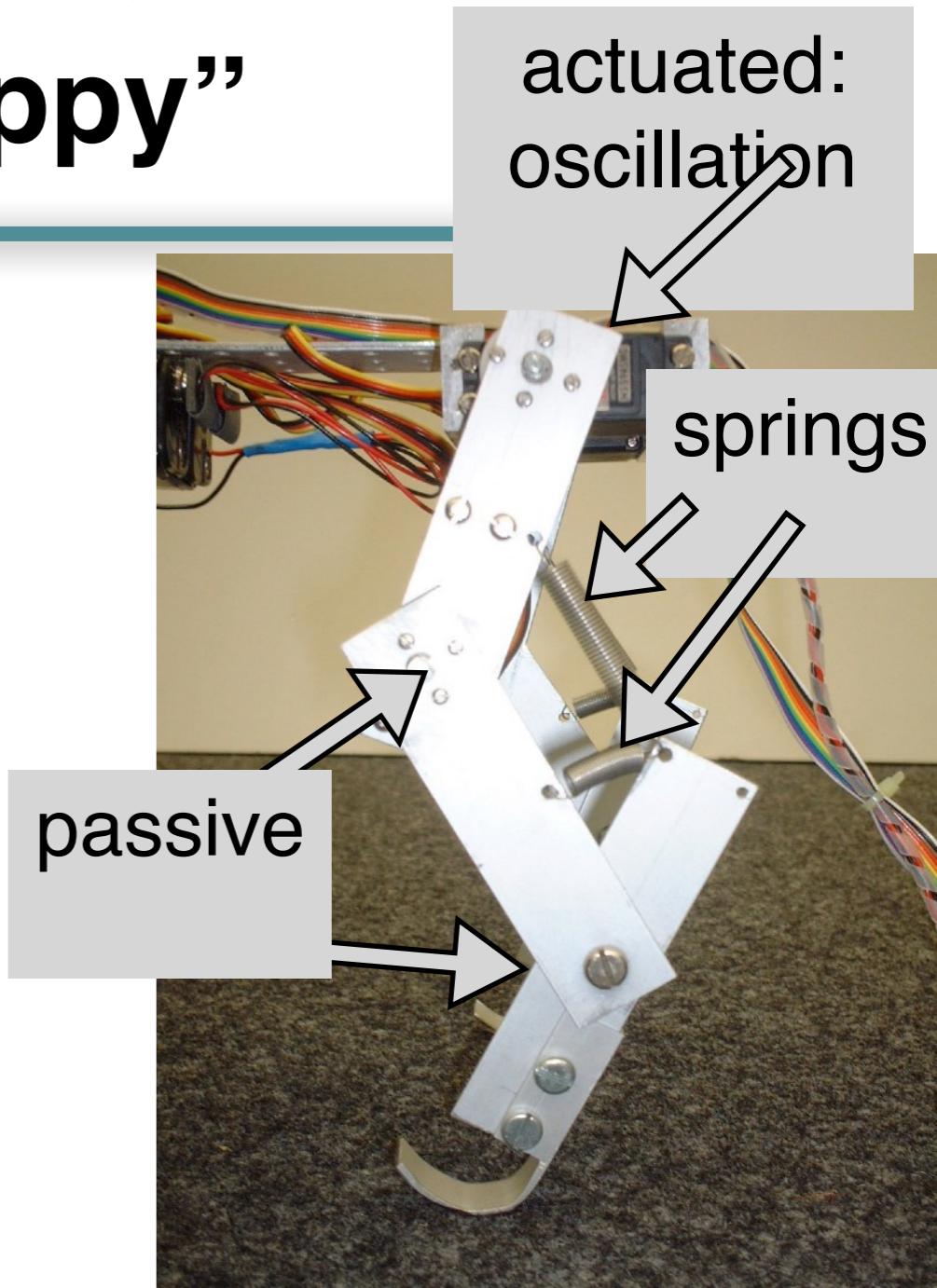
Design and construction:
Fumiya Iida, AI Lab, UZH and ETH-Z

Emergence of behavior: the quadruped “Puppy”

- simple control (oscillations of “hip” joints)
- spring-like material properties (“under-actuated” system)
- self-stabilization, no sensors
- “outsourcing” of functionality



morphological
computation



Self-stabilization: “Puppy” on a treadmill

Video “Puppy” on treadmill



Self-stabilization: “Puppy” on a treadmill

Video “Puppy” on treadmill
slow motion

- no sensors
- no control



self-
stabilization

Self-stabilization: “Puppy” on a treadmill

Video “Puppy” on treadmill
slow motion

- no sensors
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principle of
“cheap
design”

self-
stabilization

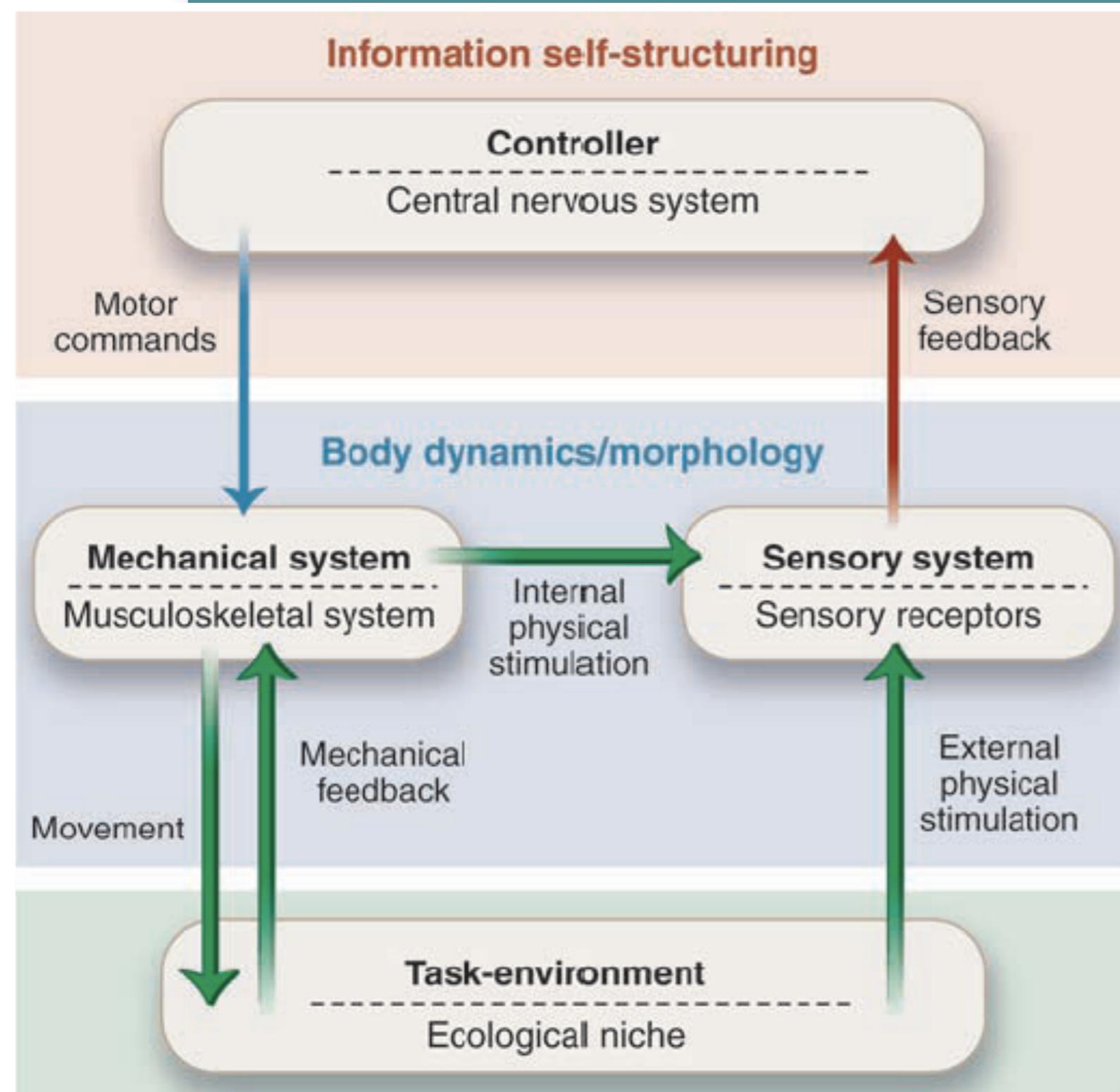
The memory of the aplysia

Video “the memory of the
aplysia”

a small brain
in a vat?



Implications of embodiment

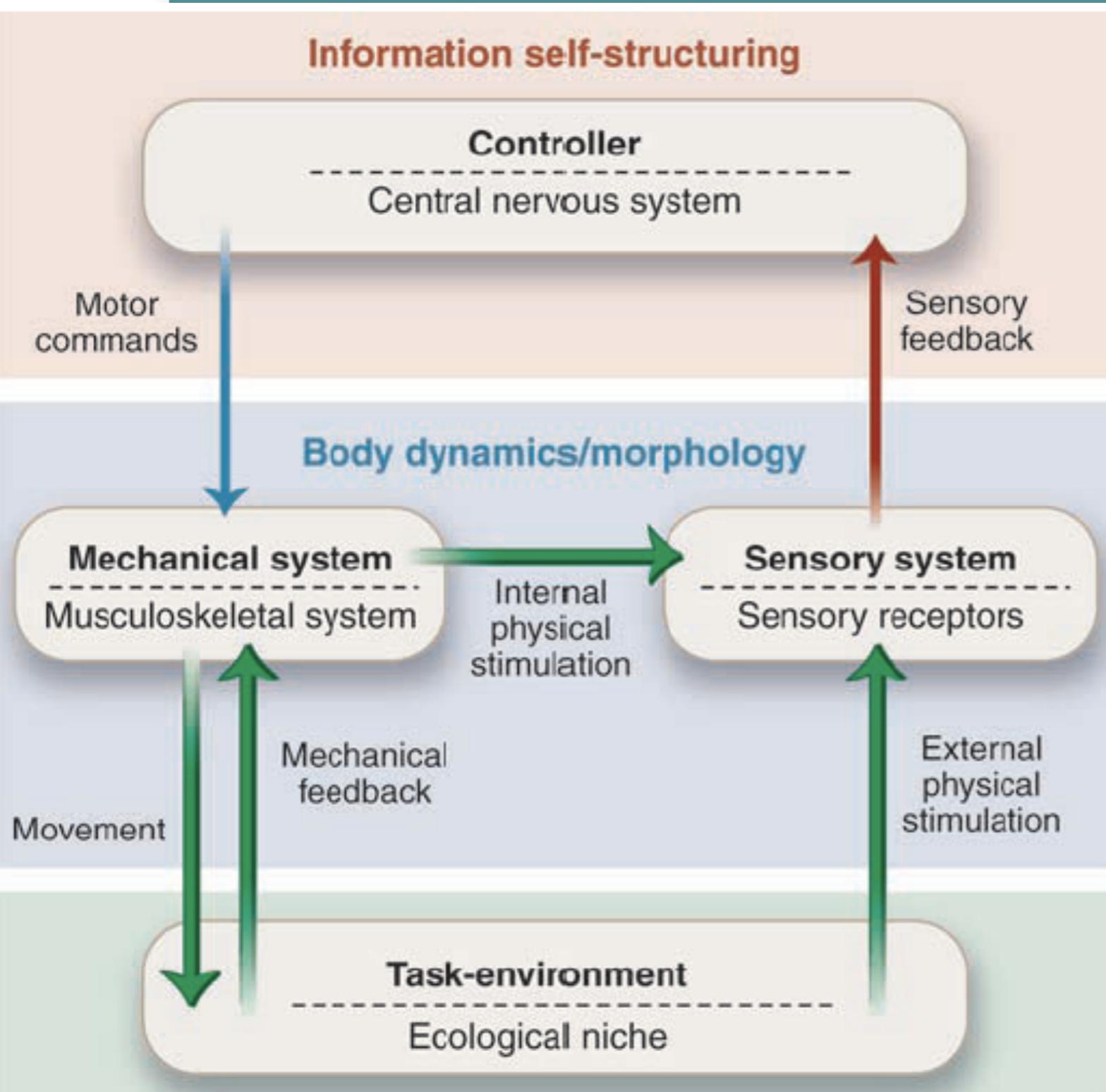


“Puppy”

Pfeifer et al., Science,
16 Nov. 2007



Implications of embodiment



“Puppy”
which part of
diagram is
relevant?



Pfeifer et al., Science,
16 Nov. 2007



How to quantify?



End of lecture 4

Thank you for your attention!



stay tuned for lecture 5

“Collective Intelligence: Cognition from Interaction”



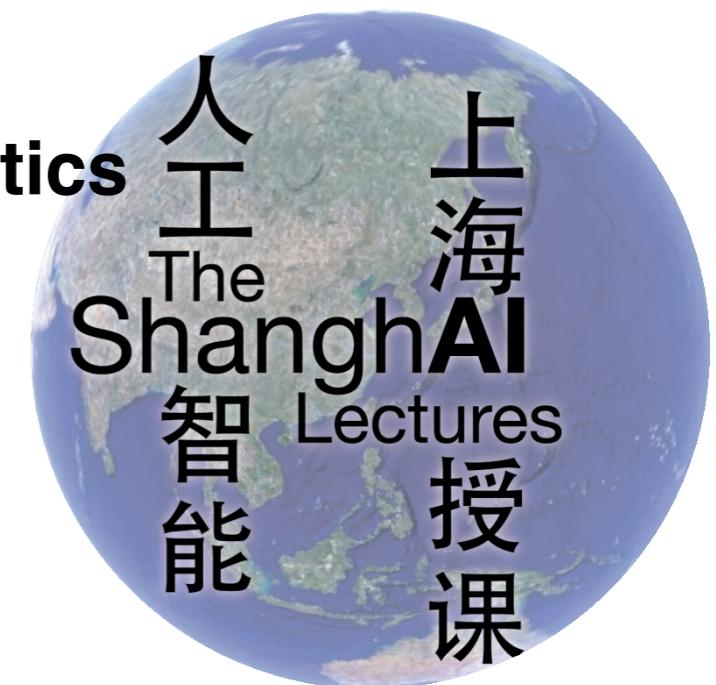
Fabio Bonsignorio

Prof, the BioRobotics Institute, SSSA
CEO and Founder Heron Robots
Santander - UC3M Chair of Excellence 2010



Research interests

- embodied intelligence, cognition/AI and robotics
- experimental methods in Robotics and AI
- Advanced approaches to Industry 4.0
- synthetic modeling of life and cognition
- novel technologically enabled approaches to higher education and lifelong learning



The ShanghAI Lectures
2013-2016

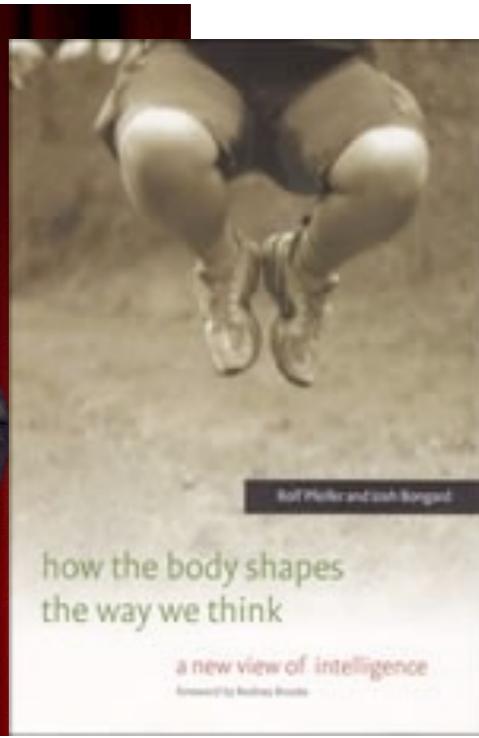


Rolf Pfeifer

Prof,

Institute for Academic Initiatives, Osaka University, Japan
Dept. of Automation, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Prof Em., Former Director AI Lab, Univ. of Zurich

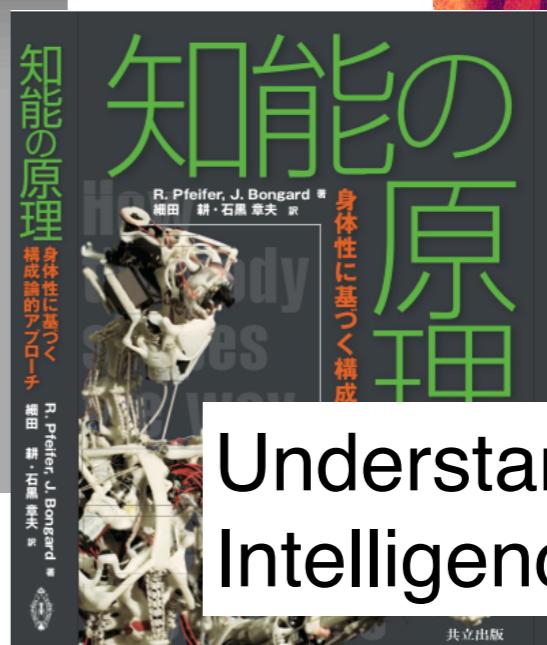
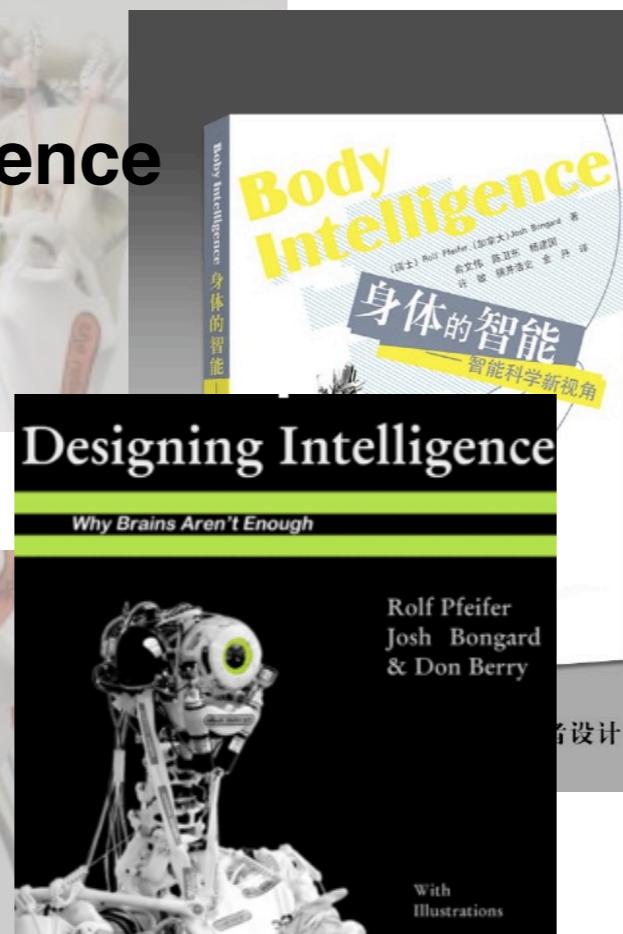


Research interests

- embodied intelligence
- bio-inspired robotics
- self-organization and emergence
- educational technologies

The ShanghAI Lectures

Participating sites 2009–2010



How the body shapes
the way we think

MIT Press

