





The Shanghai Lectures 2022

Natural and Artificial Intelligence in Embodied Physical Agents

October 27th, 2022

From Zagreb, Croatia

Today's program (CEST)

08:30 sites begin connecting

08:55 all sites are ready

09:00 (Fabio) Welcome

09:15 Introductory Lecture I

10:00 Break

10:10 Introductory Lecture II

11:00 Wrap-up

Goals

- **Education and knowledge for anyone on the planet**
- **Latest technology for knowledge transfer and community building**
- **Spreading idea of “embodied intelligence” —> new way of thinking**
- **Research platform: studying collaboration — intercultural**
- **Strengthening ties between universities**
- **Informed opinion on media reports**

Expected results

- **interactions with important universities from around the world**
- **new collaborations**
- **global exchange with renowned researchers from different backgrounds in the field of intelligence research**
- **new view of intelligence, ourselves, world**

Natural and artificial intelligence

- **suited for wide interdisciplinary audience**
- **no specific prior training required**
- **novel ideas**
- **broad interest in public at large**

Table of contents

- **Global challenges and State of the Art in AI and Robotics**
- **Intelligence - an eternal conundrum**
- **Cognition as computation - successes and failures**
- **Towards a theory of intelligence**
- **Design principles for intelligent systems**
- **Ontogenetic development: from movement to cognition - building brains for bodies: ANNs, ML, DL and other approaches**
- **Evolution - cognition from scratch**
- **Collective intelligence - cognition from interaction**
- **Where is human memory?**
- **How the body shapes the way we think - summary, conclusions, outlook**

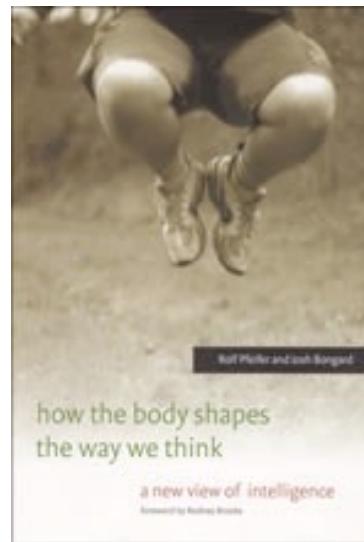
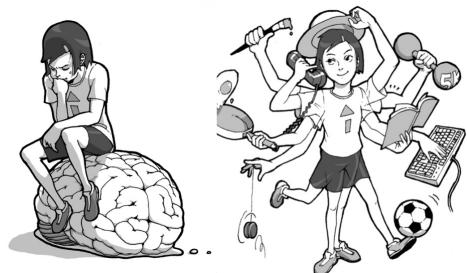
Book for class

Rolf Pfeifer and Josh Bongard

How the body shapes the way we think – a new view of intelligence

MIT Press, 2007

Illustrations by Shun Iwasawa



Typical format of lectures

- **09.00 Student presentation: one of the sites**
- **09.10 Lecture on embodied intelligence (Fabio)**
- **09.55 Break**
- **10.00 Guest speaker**
- **11.00 End of lectures**

Lecture 0

A New Paradigm Physical AI unifying Soft Robotics and AI

Fabio Bonsignorio
Professor, ERA CHAIR in AI for Robotics



University of Zagreb
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing
Laboratory for Autonomous Systems and Mobile Robotics



This project has received funding
from the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research and
innovation programme under the
Grant Agreement No. 952275



www.heronrobots.com

Outline of the talk

- Global Challenges
- Robotics ‘waves’
- Industry 4.0
- I4.0 impact on the Circular Economy
- Another I4.0 side effect: impact on Construction Industry
- Open issues with current ‘paradigms’ and approaches, and the road ahead
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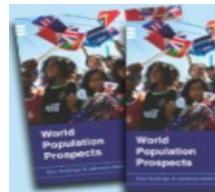
World population projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050

29 July 2015, New York

The current world population of 7.3 billion is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, according to a new UN DESA report, "World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision", launched today.

"Understanding the demographic changes that are likely to unfold over the coming years, as well as the challenges and opportunities that they present for achieving sustainable development, is key to the design and implementation of the new development agenda," said Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

Most of the projected increase in the world's population can be attributed to a short list of high-fertility countries mainly in Africa, or countries with already large populations. During 2015-2050, half of the world's population growth is expected to be concentrated in nine countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America (USA), Indonesia and Uganda, listed according to the size of their contribution to the total growth.





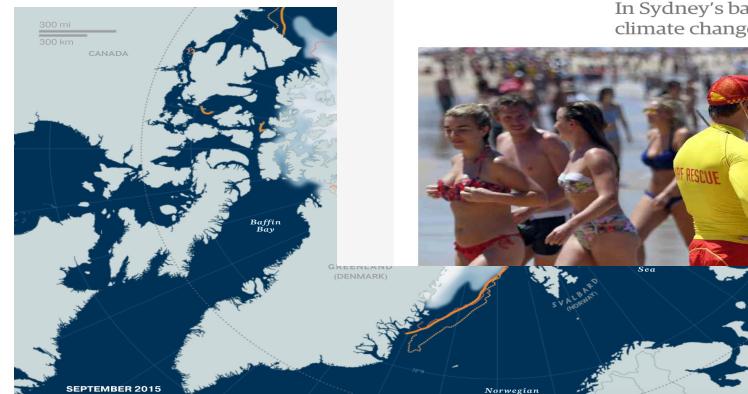
MAGAZINE | JANUARY 2016

See for Yourself: How Arctic Ice Is Disappearing



Since satellites began regularly monitoring the Arctic in the late 1970s, sea ice has declined sharply in extent and thickness. This is thin stuff that doesn't survive the summer melt. The entire Arctic ecosystem, from plants to polar bears, depends on it. We think that, by altering the jet stream, climate change is causing the winds around the North Pole to shift.

Graphics and maps by **Lauren J. Esteban**



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Sydney
Dispatch

Australia's new normal ... as city temperatures hit 47C people shelter from the deadly heat

In Sydney's baking suburbs, fans have sold out – and fears about the effects of climate change are mounting



🌐 English ▾

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Home > News > World > COP25 in Madrid: UN Secretary-General Guterres says planet is 'close to a point of no return'

SPAIN

COP25 in Madrid: UN Secretary-General Guterres says planet is 'close to a point of no return' COMMENTS

By [Sofia Sanchez Manzanaro](#) with EFE • last updated: 03/12/2019 - 10:10



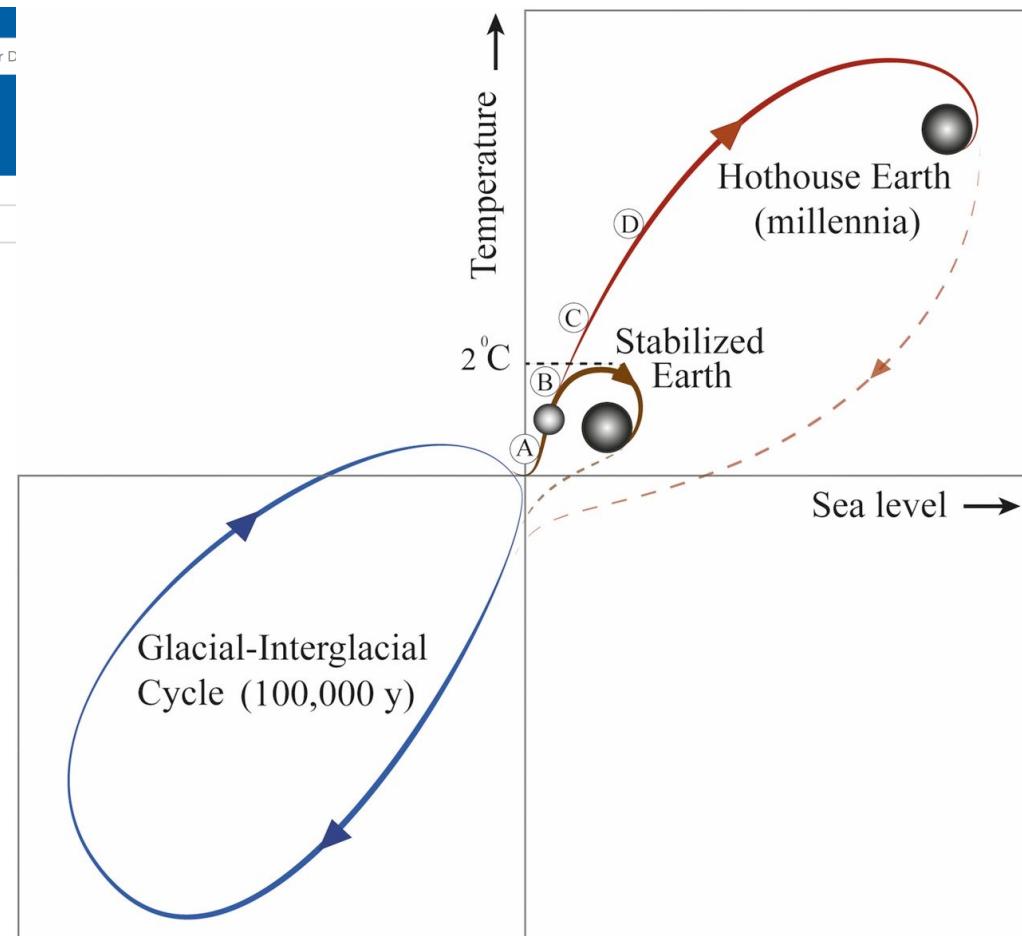
Projected population growth, 2015-2050

Percentage of population change
between 2015 and 2050

- 200+
- 100-200
- 50-100
- 10-50
- -10-10
- -10-20
- <-20

Data source: World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).





resilience



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‘Collapse of Civilisation is the Most Likely Outcome’: Top Climate Scientists

By [Asher Moses](#), originally published by [Voice of Action](#)

⌚ June 8, 2020



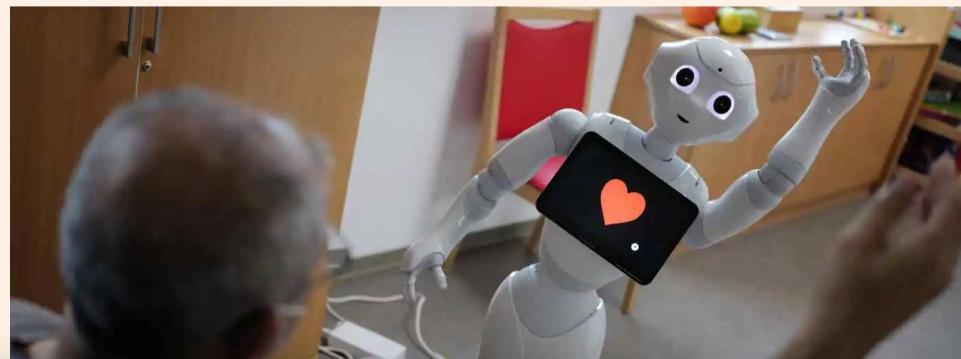
Opinion Artificial intelligence

Robots need to move faster to save the world

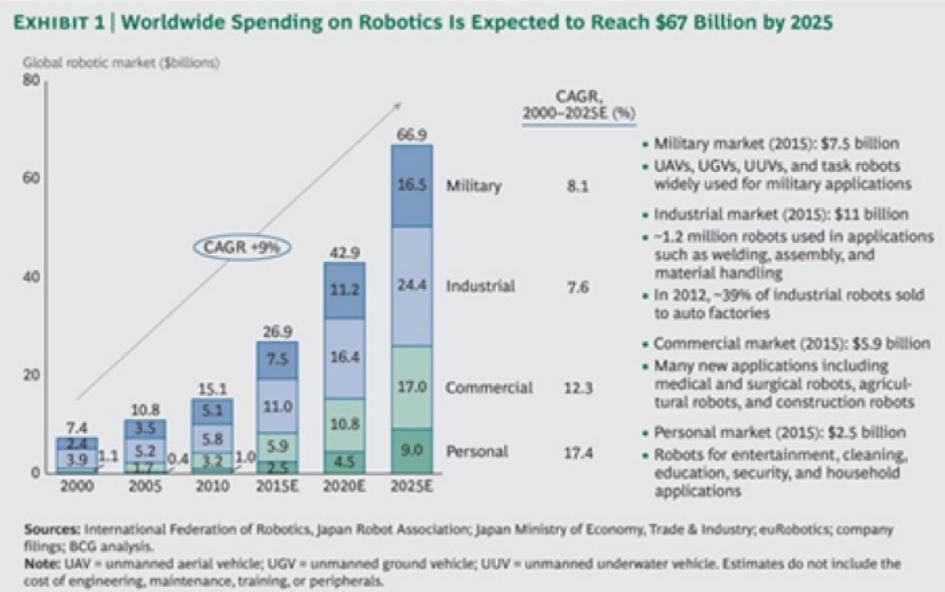
Alarmists say AI will steal jobs, but underlying demographic trends foretell continuing worker shortages

RUCHIR SHARMA

+ Add to myFT

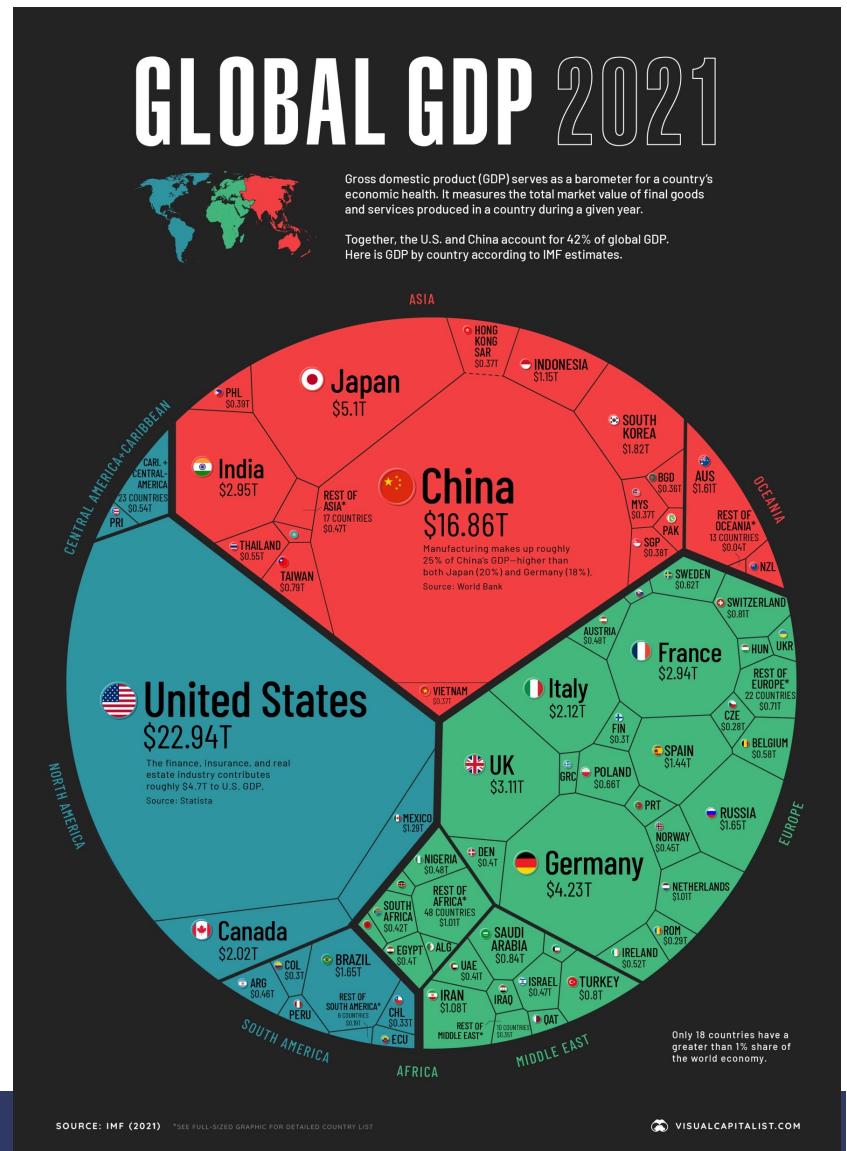


Meanwhile...



1 / 1000!!! of Global Product

Rethinking Robotics for the Robot Companion of the future



New Enabling Scientific Knowledge

+

Some General Trends

- Internet of Things
- Machine Learning/Deep Learning
- ‘some’ AI (mainly Computer vision, Object recognition and Planning)

+

- Ubiquitous Large Very Large Bandwidth
- Decreasing cost of sensors, actuators
- Wright's Law*
- ...

* Nagy B, Farmer JD, Bui QM, Trancik JE (2013) Statistical Basis for Predicting Technological Progress. PLoS ONE 8(2)
Rethinking Robotics for the Robot Companion of the future



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Older and newer attempts

Juanelo Torriano alias Gianello della Torre, (XVI century) a craftsman from Cremona, built for Emperor Charles V a mechanical young lady who was able to walk and play music by picking the strings of a real lute.



Hiroshi Ishiguro, early XXI century

Director of the Intelligent Robotics Laboratory, part of the Department of Adaptive Machine Systems at Osaka University, Japan

Old ideas



"If every tool, when ordered, or even of its own accord, could do the work that befits it, just as the creations of Daedalus moved of themselves . . . If the weavers' shuttles were to weave of themselves, then there would be no need either of apprentices for the master workers or of slaves for the lords."

Aristotle

(from Politics, Book 1, 1253b, 322 BC)

Old ideas



*The part of the quote "or even of its own accord" is elsewhere translated as "or by seeing what to do in advance"*²

I think this is an important part of the quote, so it's good to go back to the original text:

Aristotle uses the word "προαισθανόμενον" – proaisthanomenon this means literally: pro = before, aisthanomenon = perceiving, apprehending, understanding, learning (any of these meanings in this order of frequency) in my view it is clearly a word that is attributed to intelligent, living agents....i.e. ones with cognitive abilities (!)

personal communication, Dr. Katerina Pastra

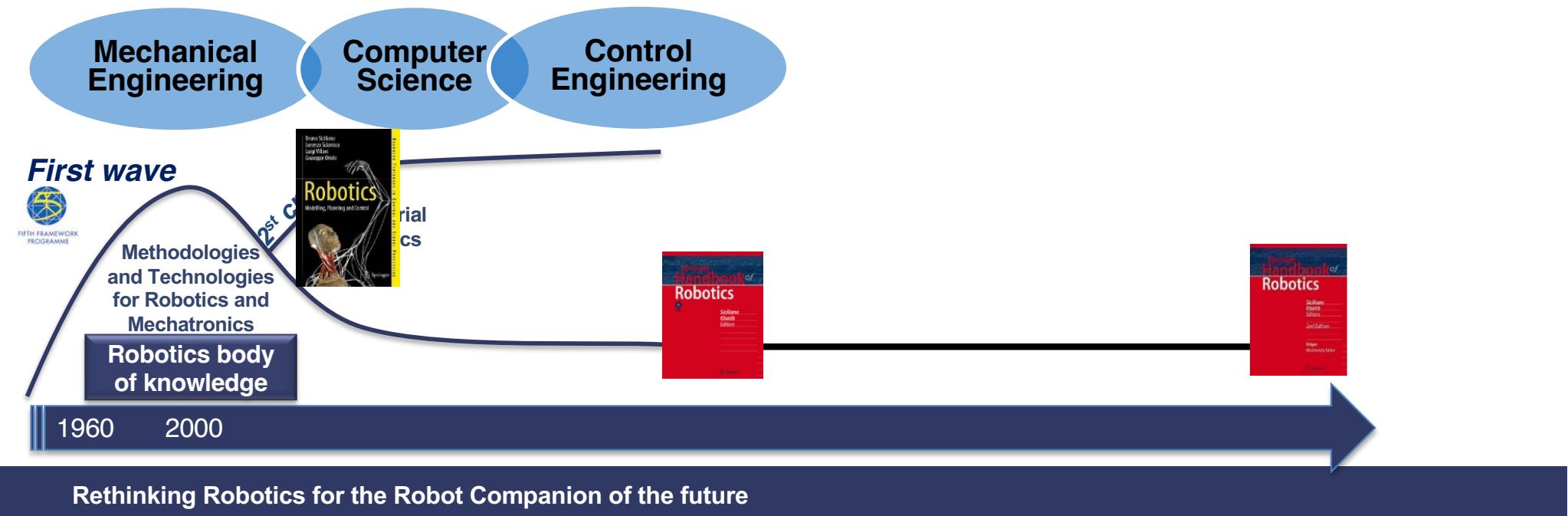
Research Fellow

Language Technology Group

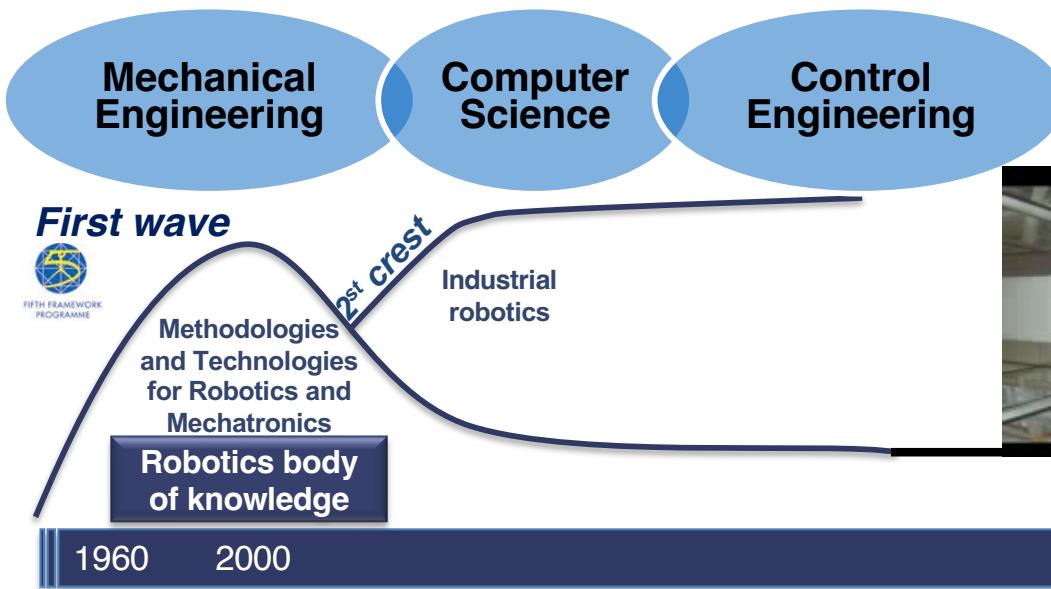
Institute for Language and Speech Processing

Athens, Greece

Recent successes: the first wave



The first wave

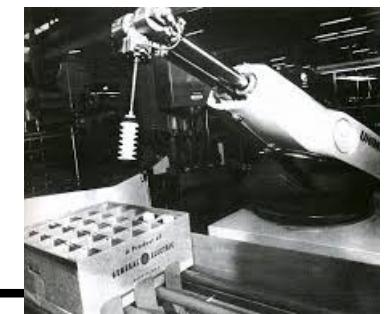
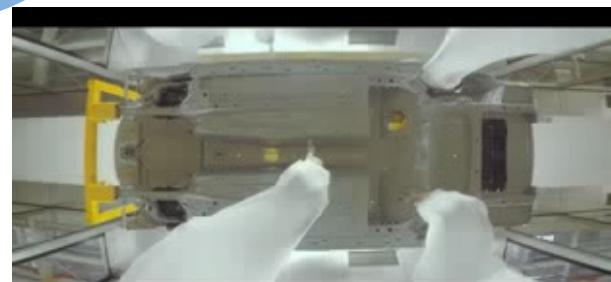


Worldwide annual supply of industrial robots 2001 – 2019*



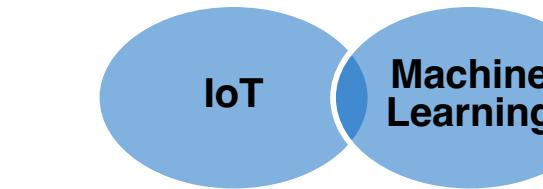
*forecast

Source: IFR (International Federation of Robotics) World Robotics 2019



Rethinking Robotics for the Robot Companion of the future

The second wave



Second wave

First wave



FIFTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

Methodologies and Technologies for Robotics and Mechatronics

Robotics body of knowledge

7th
FIFTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

2nd crest

Advanced, Future and Emerging Robotics & Cognitive Systems

Industrial robotics

2014

Artificial
Intelligence

Industrial leadership and societal impact



2nd crest

Advanced, Future and Emerging Robotics & Cognitive Systems

Industrial leadership and societal impact



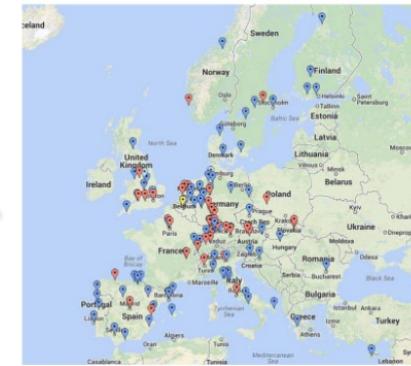
2020

Rethinking Robotics for the Robot Companion of the future

Membership development

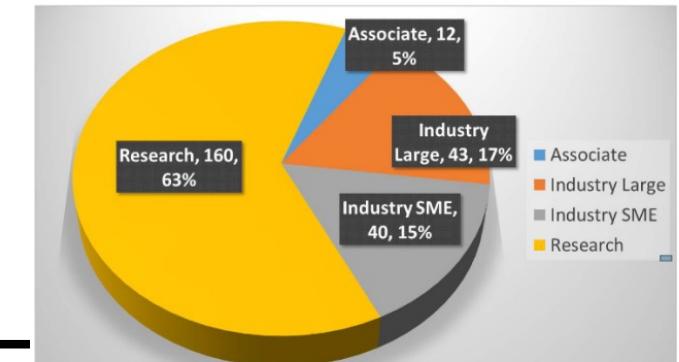


280 member organisations



Legend:

- Industry
- Research
- Associate
- euRobotics AISBL



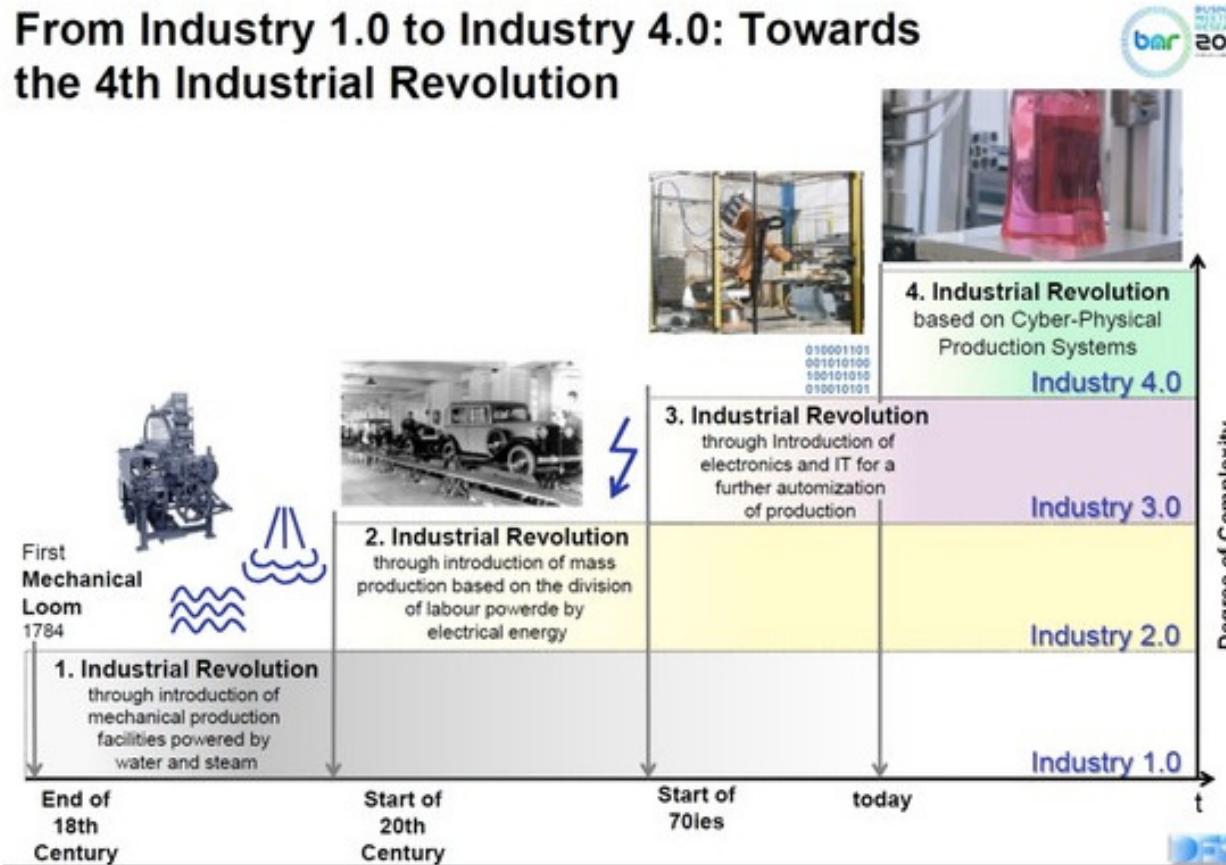
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The second wave

From Industry 1.0 to Industry 4.0: Towards the 4th Industrial Revolution



Why we need that? Today's markets are turbulent

Many market researches since many years (Zook et al., 2001, Ghemawat HBS Blog, 2007, Qin et al., 2008) show how the markets are becoming more and more ‘turbulent’: *the demand of products (shifting towards service-products) becomes more and more diversified as product mix and as product quantity variation versus time.*

Digitalization of European Industry EU Strategy

- a. Digitalization of Products
- b. Digitalization of Services
- c. Digitalizzazione of Processes

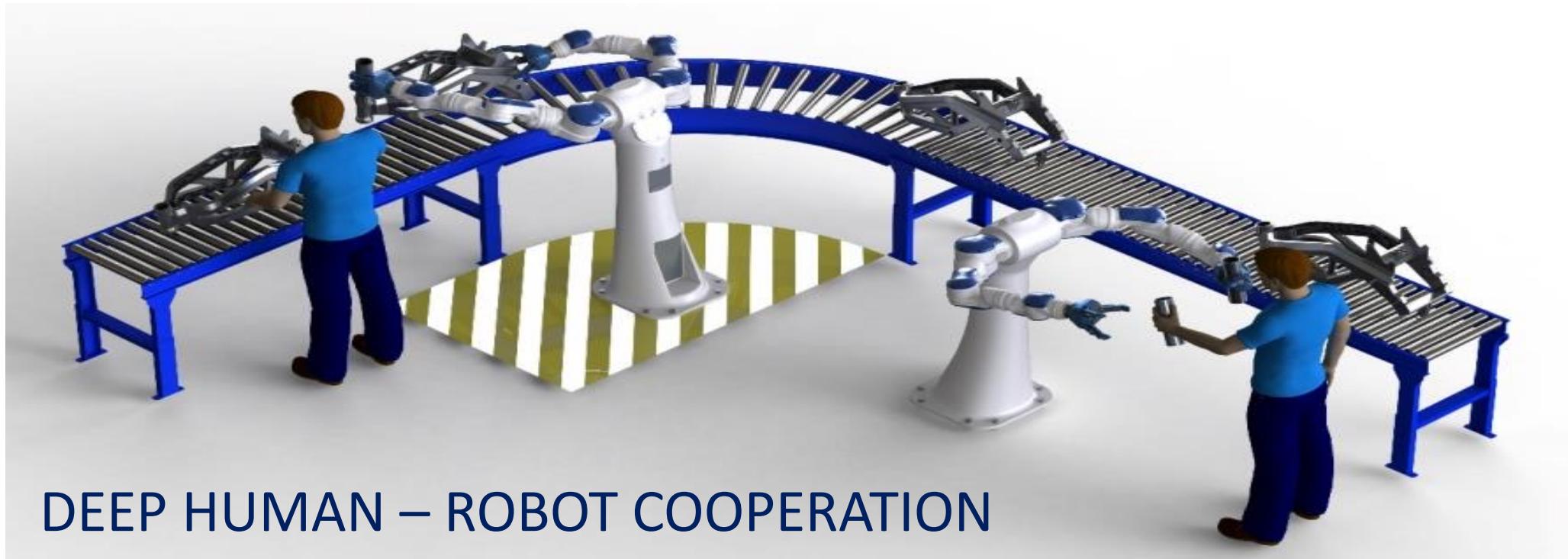
50 G€ of investments by Bruxelles should generate benefits on industry and service sectors revenue for 110 G€/year

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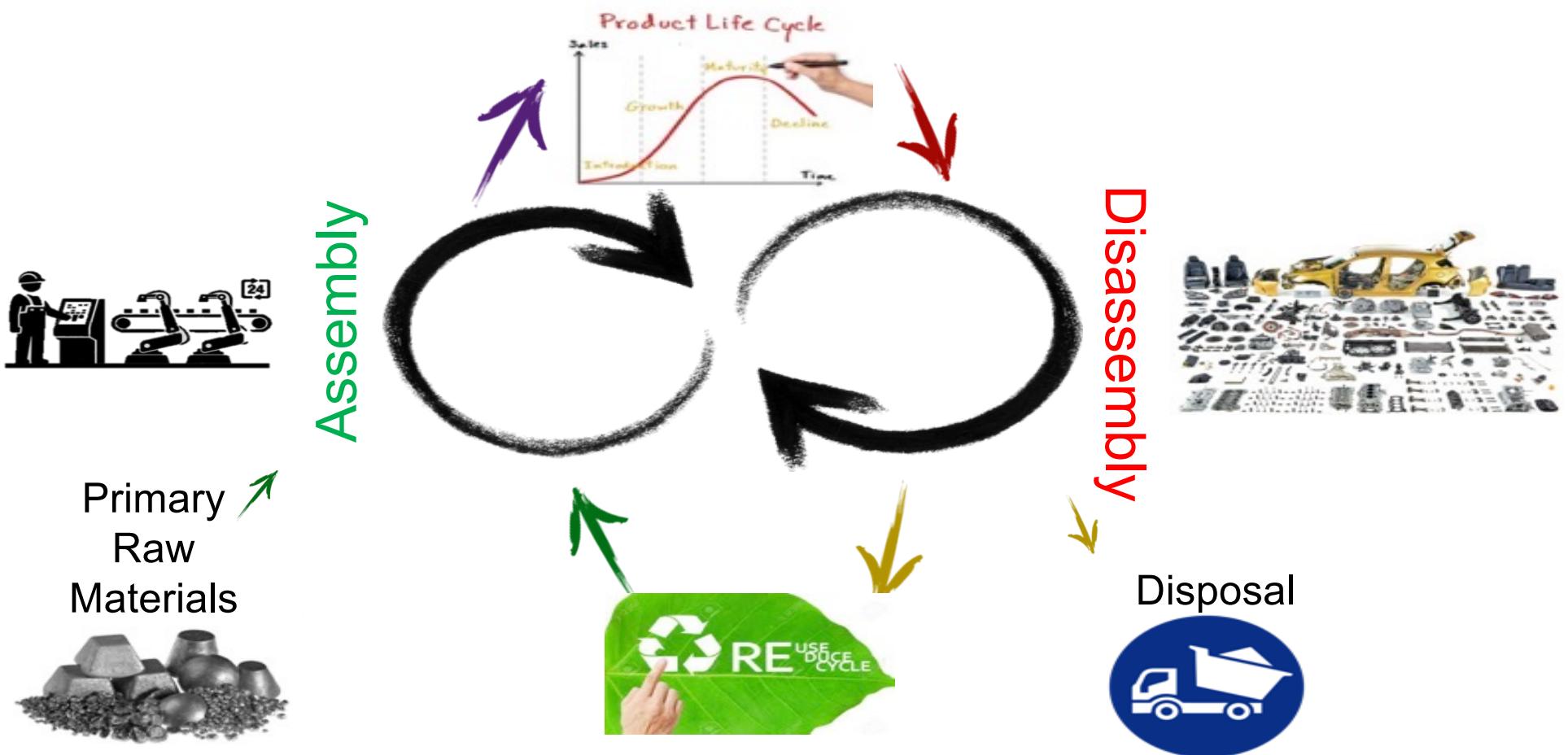
Robots on the Shop-floor

BIO-AUTOMATION: the new frontier of automation ‘eco’, bio-inspired and human centered



DEEP HUMAN – ROBOT COOPERATION

Bio-Automation: Deep Human-Robot cooperation (and workspace sharing) is needed for dismantling (and for lot of 1 artisan quality)



Disassembly Robotic Tasks for Circular Economy

Paolo Dario, Annagiulia Morachioli, Ilaria Strazzulla, Cecilia Laschi, Fabio Bonsignori

Abu Dhabi

25th January 2016



IEEE Life Sciences Grand Challenges Conference

25-26 January, 2016

Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE



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A nice side-effect of Industry 4.0 and CE: Economically and eco-sustainable refurbishment of low quality urban areas



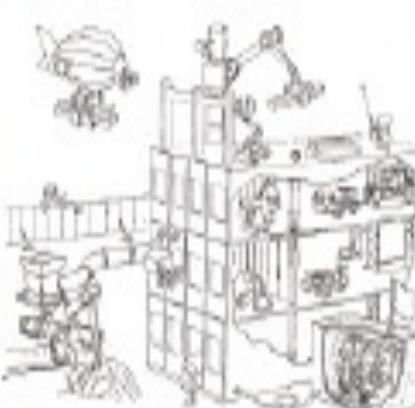
Richard and Su Rogers. Zip-Up Enclosures No. 1 and 2, 1968-71
Model. On behalf of Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners



KieranTimberlake Associates, Stephen Kieran and James Timberlake.
Cellophane House (Exterior)

Pictures from: K. Tadashi Oshima, R. Waern (authors), B. Bergdoll and P. Christensen (eds). *Home Delivery*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, (2008)

Urban Refurbishment



- a) Ambient Innovation; b) Industrialization; c) Site Automation; d) Robotic Deconstruction ('dismantling of buildings and built environments')

from T. Block. TARSA, Teaching Automation, Robotics and Services to Architects, (2010)

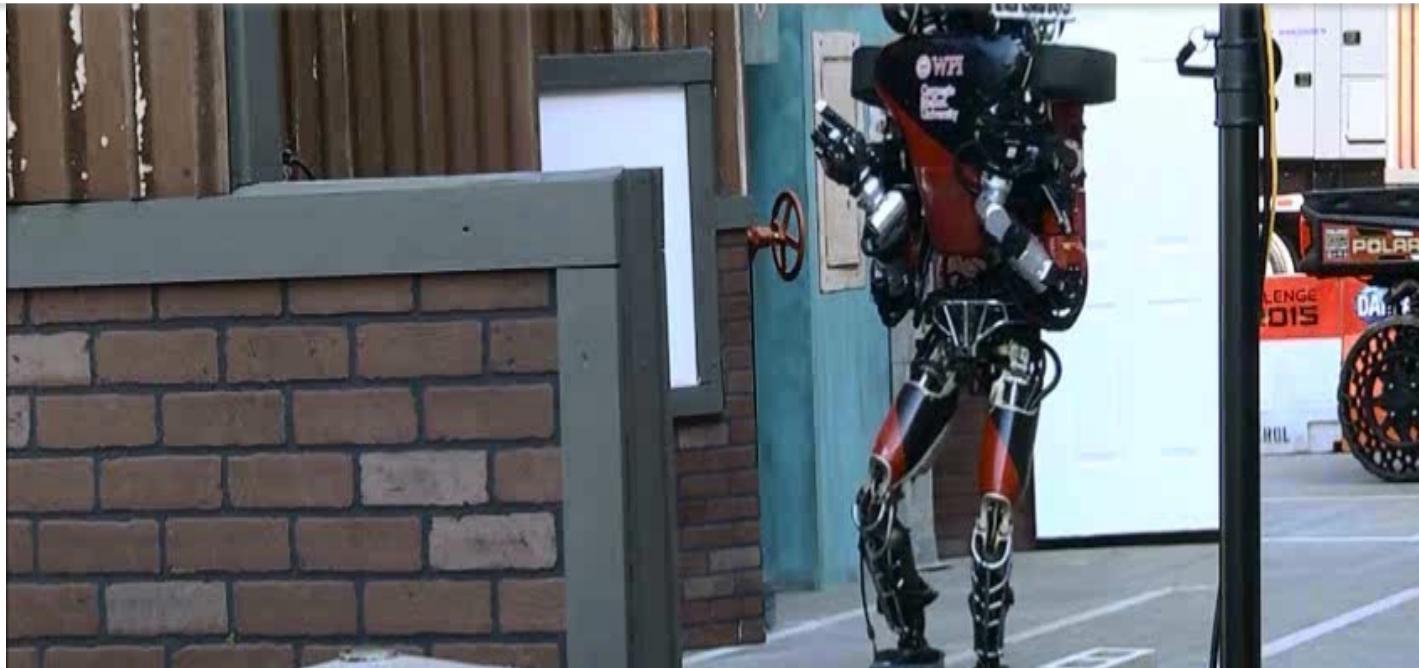
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The second wave: the success stories



DARPA (American Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) challenges have demonstrated how current robots are becoming **more accurate, fast and dexterous in structured and unstructured environments.**



Not everything worked as expected!

The second wave: the current approach shows some limitations

On the other hand the debriefing of DARPA DRC shows clearly that humanoid robots are still far from the required level of capabilities in fact many metrics, such as time-to-completion, are highly application or task specific.

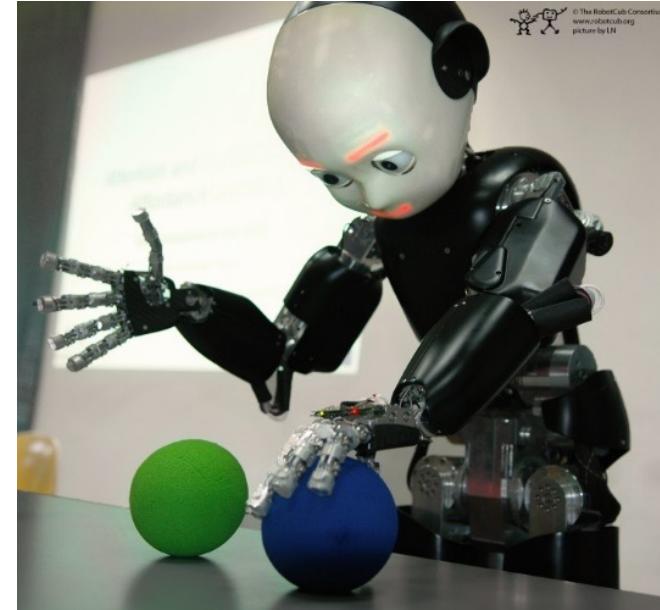


According to H.Yanco a minimum of 9 people were needed to teleoperate latest DRC's robots!!!

Pursuing new frontiers: The robotics bottleneck

Today, more functionality means:

- **more** complexity, energy, computation, cost
- **less** controllability, efficiency, robustness, safety



The Robotics waves



Third wave

Bionics & Bioinspiration

Simplification, Self-organisation

Cognitive Science

Society

Second wave

7
SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Advanced, Future and Emerging Robotics & Cognitive Systems

1st crest
2nd crest



Industrial leadership and societal impact

First wave



FIFTH FRAMEWORK

Methodologies and Technologies for Robotics and Mechatronics

Robotics body of knowledge

1960

2014

2017

2020

2030

FLAG-ERA
RoboCom++
FET
FLAGSHIP
Proof-of-concept Project



Rethinking Robotics for the Robot Companion of the future

BioRobotics and Bionics convergence



Neuralink is developing ultra high bandwidth brain-machine interfaces to connect humans and computers.

CNBC MARKETS BUSINESS NEWS INVESTING TECH POLITICS CNBC TV

SAMSUNG Born Disruptive

TECH DRIVERS CLOUD ▶ SOCIAL ▶ MOBILE ▶ DATA

Elon Musk: I'm about to announce a 'Neuralink' product that connects your brain to computers

- Elon Musk says he will soon announce a Neuralink product that can make anyone superhuman by connecting their brains to a computer.
- He says Neuralink increases the data rate between the brain and computers and will give humans a better shot at competing with AI.
- Musk made the comments before he smoked weed and drank on Joe Rogan's podcast.

Todd Haselton | @robottodd
Published 10:26 AM ET Fri, 7 Sept 2018 | Updated 3:08 PM ET Tue, 11 Sept 2018

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Elon Musk's Neuralink brain-chip venture reportedly looks into rodent experiments

BY ALAN BOYLE on March 28, 2018 at 4:56 pm

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Softness is a strength

Soft robotics expand the boundaries of robot abilities

Massimo Brega/Kepach Production

Rethinking Robotics for the Robot Companion of the future



The marvellous progress of Robotics and AI...'Look Ma, No Hands' syndrome?



iSprawl



Soft gripper



OCTOPUS



Universal gripper



Tuft Softworm



Inflatable robotic arm



X-RHex

Soft robotic fish

PoseiDrone

Origami robot

Rehabilitation glove

Octobot



Mostly stiff
Few selectively compliant elements

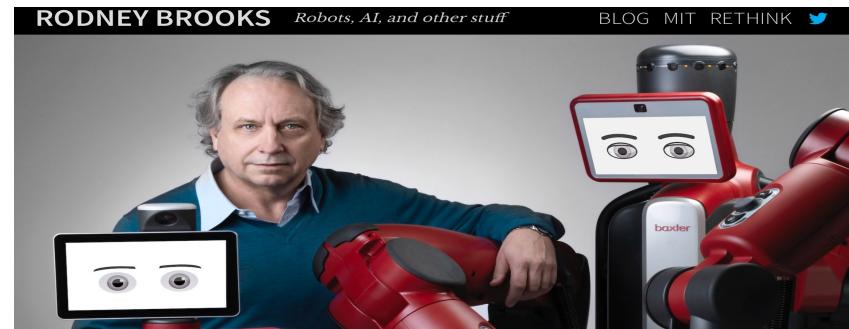
Entirely soft

Also sprach Rodney Brooks ☺

JUNE 17, 2017 — ESSAYS

Edge Cases For Self Driving Cars

rodneybrooks.com/edge-cases-for-self-driving-cars/



“Perhaps through this essay I will get the bee out of my bonnet that fully driverless cars are a lot further off than many techies, much of the press, and even many auto executives seem to think. They will get here and human driving will probably disappear in the lifetimes of many people reading this, but it is not going to all happen in the blink of an eye as many expect. There are lots of details to be worked out.”

Also sprach Marc Raibert ☺

MATT SIMON SCIENCE 10.15.10 12:04 AM

YOU'RE EXPECTING TOO MUCH OUT OF BOSTON DYNAMICS' ROBOTS

SHARE



At the WIRED25 festival in San Francisco Sunday evening, Boston Dynamics' SpotMini robot got onstage and did what no other quadruped robot has done before: It danced the



MOST POPULAR

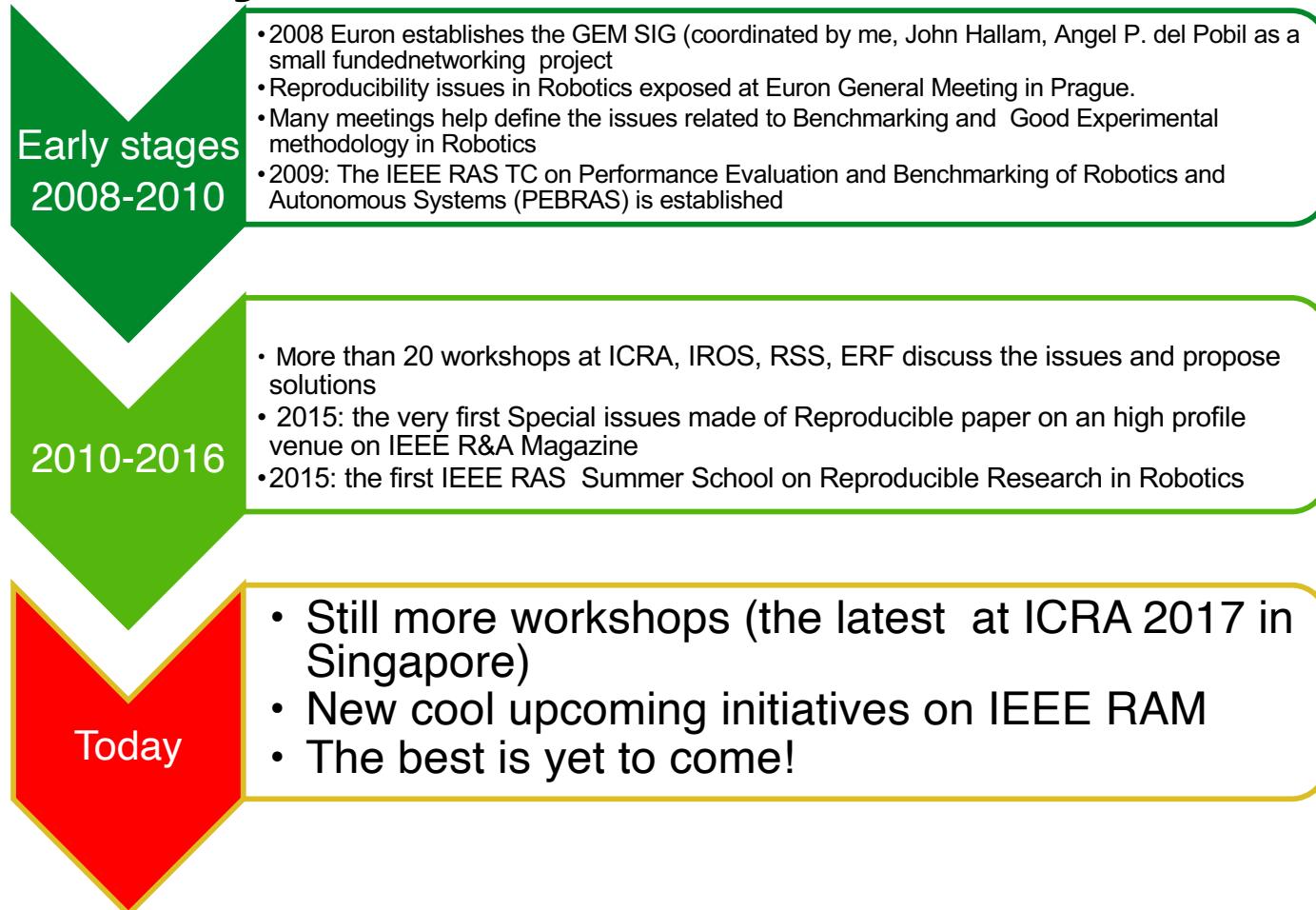
SECURITY
The Highly Dangerous 'Triton' Hackers Probed the US
ANDY GREENBERG

You might have seen the video a few days ago of Atlas doing parkour, bounding up a multi-leveled structure with ease. While the performance seemed effortless, it took over 20 attempts. After the robot gets in the groove, though, its success rate is around 90 percent.¹ “In our videos we typically show the very best behavior,” Raibert said. “It’s not the average behavior or the typical behavior. And we

- 'Look Ma, No Hands' syndrome?
- Replication of experiments
- Performance benchmarks, challenges and competitions to allow comparisons of results
- Needed to foster research advancement and enable practical application of research achievements

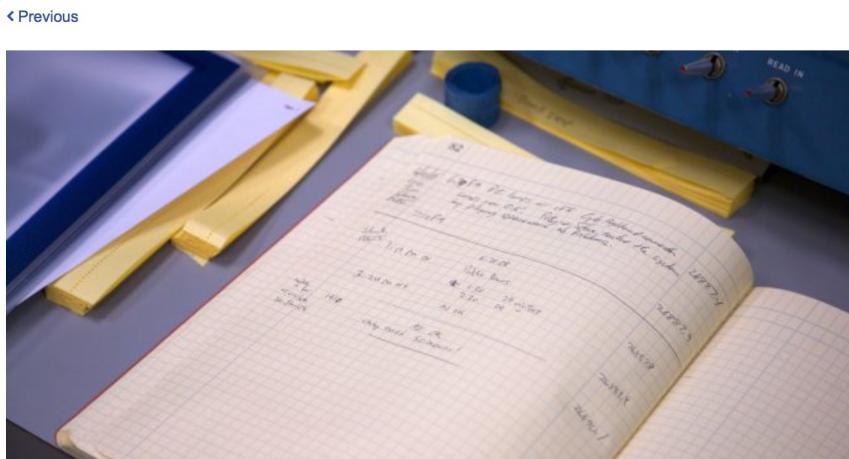
Much Needed to define 'How good' is a robot at performing tasks

A bit of History



We are not alone: the ‘reproducibility crisis’

The screenshot shows the header of the EveryONE PLOS ONE community blog. The header features the "EveryONE" logo with "PLOS ONE" underneath, followed by a decorative graphic of overlapping colored circles (orange, blue, green, pink). Below the header is a dark navigation bar with three links: "About This Blog", "About PLOS ONE", and "Events".



Promoting reproducibility by emphasizing reporting: PLOS ONE’s approach

The screenshot shows the "nature" journal website. The top navigation bar includes links for "Home", "News & Comment", "Research", "Careers & Jobs", "Current Issue", "Archive", "Audio & Video", and "For Authors". Below this, a breadcrumb navigation shows "Archive" → "Specials and supplements archive" → "Challenges in irreproducible research". A "SPECIAL" section is highlighted with a red oval. The section title is "CHALLENGES IN IRREPRODUCIBLE RESEARCH". The text below reads: "Science moves forward by corroboration – when researchers verify others' results. So how do we advance if we can't repeat or corroborate findings from other labs? No one knows for sure, but it's a problem." To the right of the "SPECIAL" section is a "See all specials" link. The background of the "SPECIAL" section features an illustration of three petri dishes with pipettes above them.

An experiment in Robotics is a well defined (stochastically) repeatable set of (stochastically) reproducible behaviors in well defined set of (stochastically) similar set of environments (see clinical studies in Medicine, Biology, Psychology, etc.)



Performance evaluation



Dyson's robot vacuum cleaner should be considered more intelligent than the Roomba?

How to compare, classify and rank complex adaptive behaviors (Intelligent/Cognitive)?

A new kind of papers?

- ‘description’ : a journal paper text+figures+ multimediaaccording to GEM Guidelines (or similar)
- Data sets (attachments, not just ‘multimedia’)
- Complete ‘code’ identifiers and or downloadable code (executables may be enough)
- ‘HW’ description or HW identifier (if it is identifiable)
...



THE REGULATION OF ROBOTICS IN
EUROPE: LEGAL, ETHICAL AND ECONOMIC
IMPLICATIONS
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL | 3 - 8 JULY 2017, PISA, ITALY

Reproducible Research now an IEEE priority

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Research Reproducibility and Performance Evaluation for Dependable Robots

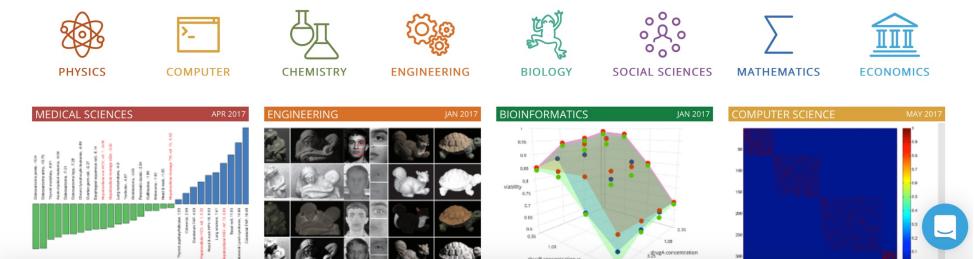
By Eugenio Guglielmelli

This issue of *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine (RAM)* focuses on reproducibility and measurability of robotics re-

issue, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society demonstrates that we are well aware of and perfectly in line with



ability was introduced for computer systems in 1992 by the late Dr. Jean Claude Laprie, a senior researcher at



R(eproducible)-Articles on IEEE R&A Magazine

Medium-Long term

Prescribing criteria for statistical significance

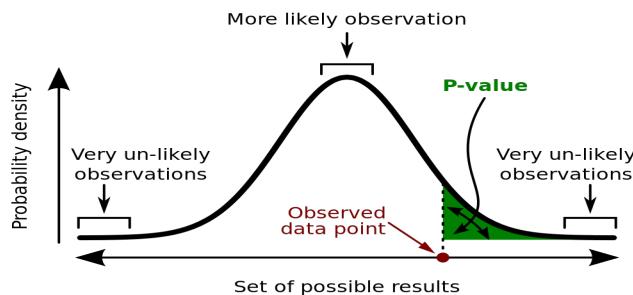
Basic

Important:

$$\Pr(\text{observation} \mid \text{hypothesis}) \neq \Pr(\text{hypothesis} \mid \text{observation})$$

The probability of observing a result given that some hypothesis is true is *not equivalent* to the probability that a hypothesis is true given that some result has been observed.

Using the p-value as a "score" is committing an egregious logical error: **the transposed conditional fallacy**.



A **p-value** (shaded green area) is the probability of an observed (or more extreme) result assuming that the null hypothesis is true.

Picture source: wikipedia

Advanced



Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research

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Your one-stop-shop for writing and publishing high-impact health research

find reporting guidelines | improve your writing | join our courses | run your own training course | enhance your peer review | implement



Library for health research reporting

The Library contains a comprehensive searchable database of reporting guidelines and also links to other resources relevant to research reporting.

Search for reporting guidelines

Not sure which reporting guideline to use?

Reporting guidelines under development



Reporting guidelines for main study types

	Randomised trials	CONSORT	Extensions	Other
Observational studies	STROBE	Extensions	Other	
Systematic reviews	PRISMA	Extensions	Other	
Case reports	CARE	Extensions	Other	
Qualitative research	SRQR	COREQ	Other	
Diagnostic / prognostic studies	STARD	TRIPOD	Other	
Quality improvement studies	SQUIRE		Other	
Economic evaluations	CHEERS		Other	
Animal pre-clinical studies	ARRIVE		Other	
Study protocols	SPIRIT	PRISMA-P	Other	

<http://www.equator-network.org/>

Medium-Long term

Introducing more detailed classification of articles (see
ACM 'badging')



<https://www.acm.org/publications/policies/artifact-review-badging>

Robotics and the art of science

Nature Machine Intelligence **1**, 259 (2019) | [Download Citation ↓](#)

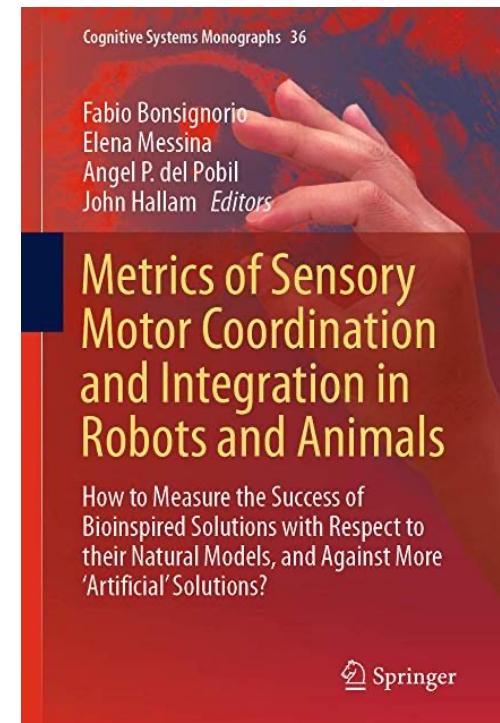
Bringing reproducibility to robotics.

It is an exciting time to work in robotics. There are plenty of interesting challenges in designing machines that intelligently interact with both humans and their environment, and a range of techniques and insights from engineering, computer science, physics, biomechanics, psychology and other fields are available to help solve them. The International Conference on Robotics and Automation, organized by the IEEE, is a lively affair: over 4,000 par-

It is an exciting prospect that robotics can start growing as a scientific discipline, with clearly defined methods of evaluation and measurements in place.

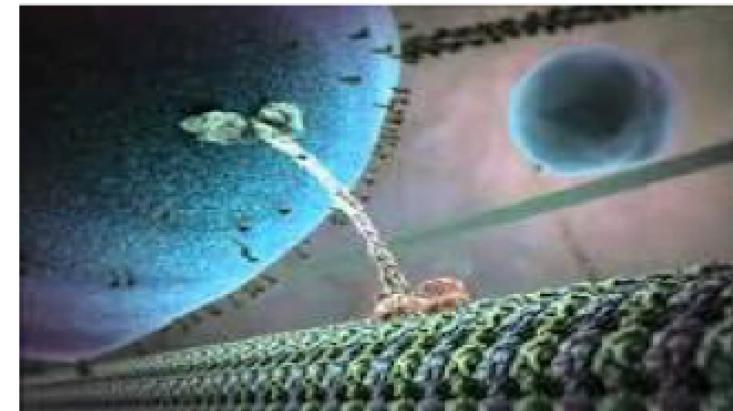
References

1. Leitner, J. *Nat. Mach. Intell.* **1**, 162 (2019).
[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)
2. Bonsignorio, F. & Del Pobil, A. P. *IEEE Robot. Autom. Mag.* **22**, 32–35 (September, 2015).
3. Bonsignorio, F. A. *IEEE Robot. Autom. Mag.* **24**, 178–182 (September, 2017).



Is It Alive?

Big Questions lie in front of us!



Two views of intelligence

classical:
cognition as computation

embodiment:
**cognition as the agent from sensory-
motor and interaction processes**

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Soft Robotics: a working definition

Variable impedance actuators and stiffness control

- * Actuators with variable impedance
- * Compliance/impedance control
- * Highly flexible (hyper-redundant or continuum) robots

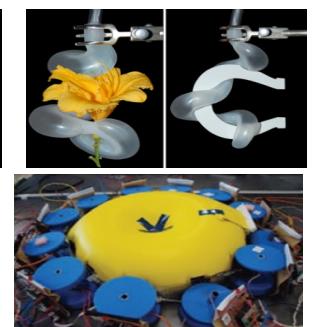
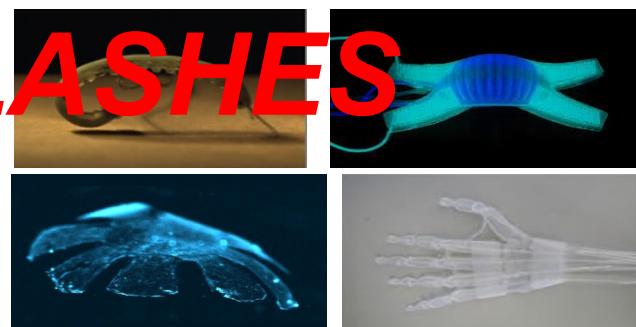


PARADIGM CLASHES

IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine,
Special Issue on Soft Robotics, 2008
A. Albu-Schaffer et al. (Ed.s)

Use of soft materials in robotics

- * Robots made of soft materials that undergo high deformations in interaction
- * Soft actuators and soft components
- * Control partially embedded in the robot morphology and mechanical properties



Kim S., Laschi C., and Trimmer B. (2013) Soft robotics: a bioinspired evolution in robotics, *Trends in Biotechnology*, April 2013.
Laschi C. and Cianchetti M. (2014) "Soft Robotics: new perspectives for robot bodyware and control" *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology*, 2(3)

Outline of the talk

- Global Challenges
- Robotics ‘waves’
- Industry 4.0
- I4.0 impact on the Circular Economy
- Another I4.0 side effect: impact on Construction Industry
- Open issues with current ‘paradigms’ and approaches, and the road ahead
- What to do

Dont' miss the next lectures 😊

Thank you!

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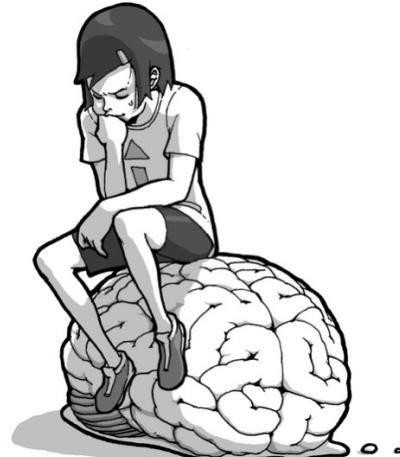
stay tuned for lecture 1!

“Intelligence — an eternal conundrum”

on November 3, 2022, 09:00-11:00 CET

(no more summer time in Europe)

www.shanghailectures.org



Short Bio

The ShanghAI Lectures 2013-



Prof. Fabio Bonsignorio is **ERA Chair in AI for Robotics** at FER, University of Zagreb, Croatia. He is **Founder and CEO of Heron Robots (advanced robotics solutions)**, see www.heronrobots.com. He has been visiting professor at the **Biorobotic Institute of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa** from 2014 to 2019. He has been a professor in the Department of System Engineering and Automation at the **University Carlos III of Madrid** until 2014. In 2009 he got the **Santander Chair of Excellence in Robotics** at the same university. alla stessa università. He has been working for some 20 years in the high tech industry before joining the research community.

He is a **pioneer and has introduced the topic of Reproducibility of results in Robotics and AI**. He is a **pioneer in the application of the blockchain to robotics and IA (smart cities, smart land, smart logistics, circular economy)**. He coordinates Topic Group of euRobotics about **Experiment Replication, Benchmarking, Challenges and Competitions**. He is co-chair IEEE Robotics & Automation Society (RAS) Technical Committee, TC-PEBRAS (PErformance and Benchmarking of Robotics and Autonomous Systems).

He is **Distinguished Lecturer per la IEEE Robotics and Automation Society**. Senior Member of IEEE e member of the Order of the Engineers of Genoa, Italy.

He coordinates the task force robotics, in the G2net, an EU network studying the application of **Machine Learning and Deep Learning (Apprendimento Profondo)** to **Gravitational wave research, la Geophysics and Robotics**.

Has given invited seminars and talks in many places: MIT Media Lab, Max Planck Institute, Imperial College, Politecnico di Milano in Shenzhen, London, Madrid, Warsaw, San Petersbourg, Seoul, Rio Grande do Sul....