

# Perception



Intro. to Autonomous Robotics

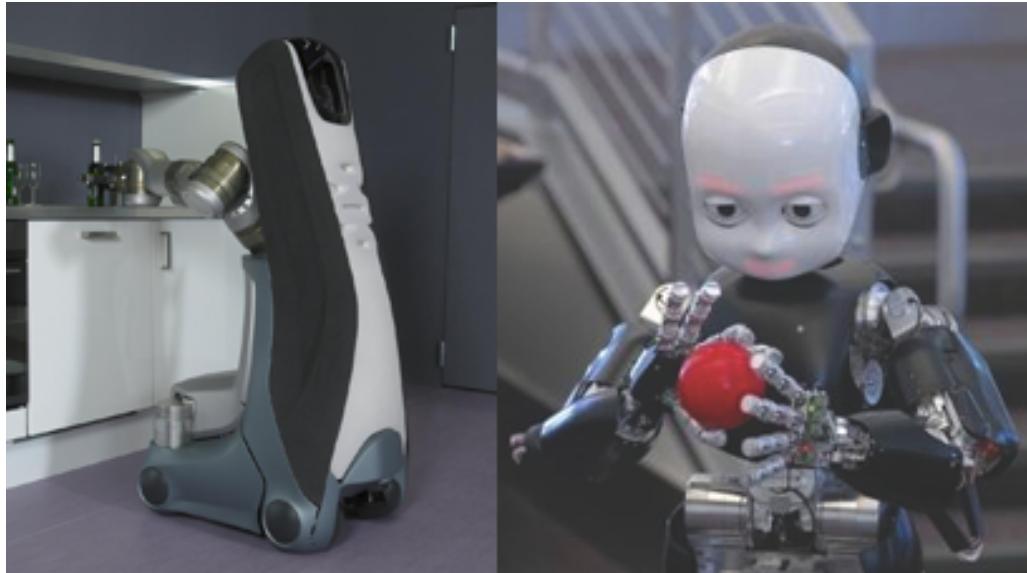
Dr. Chris S. Crawford  
Dept. of Computer Science  
University of Alabama

# Review

- Three Ds
- Environments
- Locomotion
- Types of sensor states
- Do sensors provide state?



# How can robots perceive?



# Perception

- An autonomous systems must acquire **knowledge** about its **environment**
- Perception assists **interaction** with environments, operators, and people
- **Modeling** (e.g. parts, buildings, caves)
- **Monitoring** (e.g. quality, invasive environments)
- **Surveillance** (e.g., banks, parking lots)



# Sensors

- Obtain raw *measurements* of environment properties
- Perception assists *interaction* with environments, operators, and people
- *Modeling* (e.g. parts, buildings, caves)
- *Monitoring* (e.g. quality, invasive environments)
- *Surveillance* (e.g., banks, parking lots) ... and more



# Sensors

- A robot's window to the world (environment)
- Based on conversion of energy from one form to another (transduction)
- Measure a physical quantity, do not provide state

# Sensors Classification

- Classified using two functional axes
  - (**Proprioceptive / Exteroceptive**) & (**Passive / Active**)
- **Proprioceptive**: (“sense of self”)
  - Measures value **internal** to the system, (e.g. battery level, wheel position).
- **Exteroceptive**:
  - Observations of robot’s **external** environment, objects in it. e.g. distance measurements, light intensity)
- **Active**: **emits** energy, (e.g. radar)
- **Passive**: passively **receives** energy, (e.g., camera, microphone)

# Mobile robotics sensors (common)

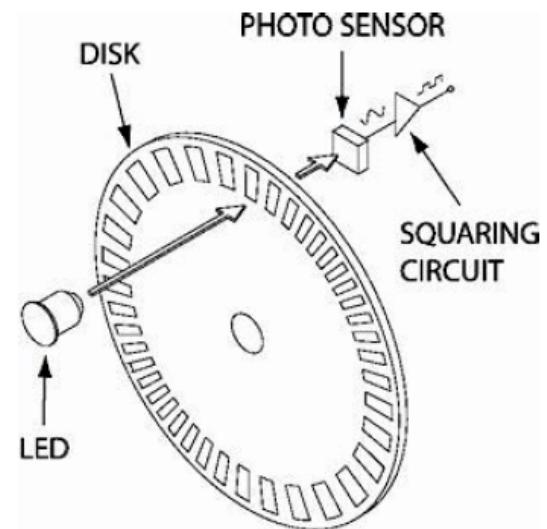
Proprioceptive	Exteroceptive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gyroscope</li><li>• Accelerometer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact switch</li><li>• Bumpers</li><li>• Compass</li><li>• GPS</li><li>• Radar</li><li>• Cameras</li></ul>

# Mobile robotics sensors (common)

Active	Passive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GPS</li><li>• Radar</li><li>• Reflectivity sensors</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact switch</li><li>• Bumpers</li><li>• Compass</li><li>• Gyroscope</li><li>• Cameras</li></ul>

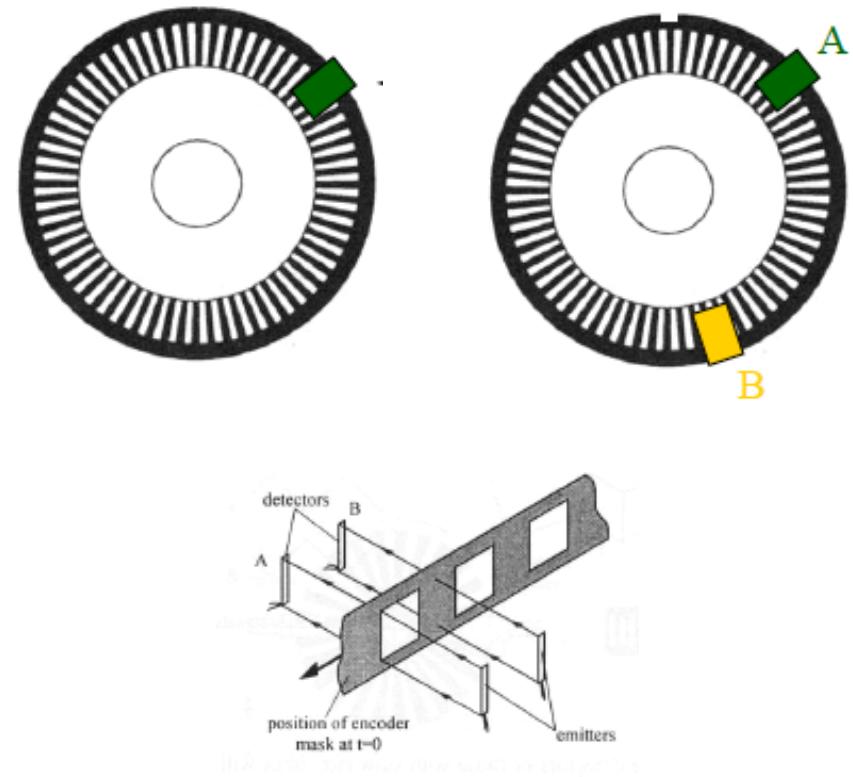
# Wheel/motor Sensors

- Measures internal state and dynamics of a mobile robot
- **Optical encoders** are commonly used to measure speed and position associated with wheels/motors
- **Incremental (Quadrature) encoders** are commonly used in mobile robotics.
- **Odometry** – Wheel movement can be used to estimate the robots position



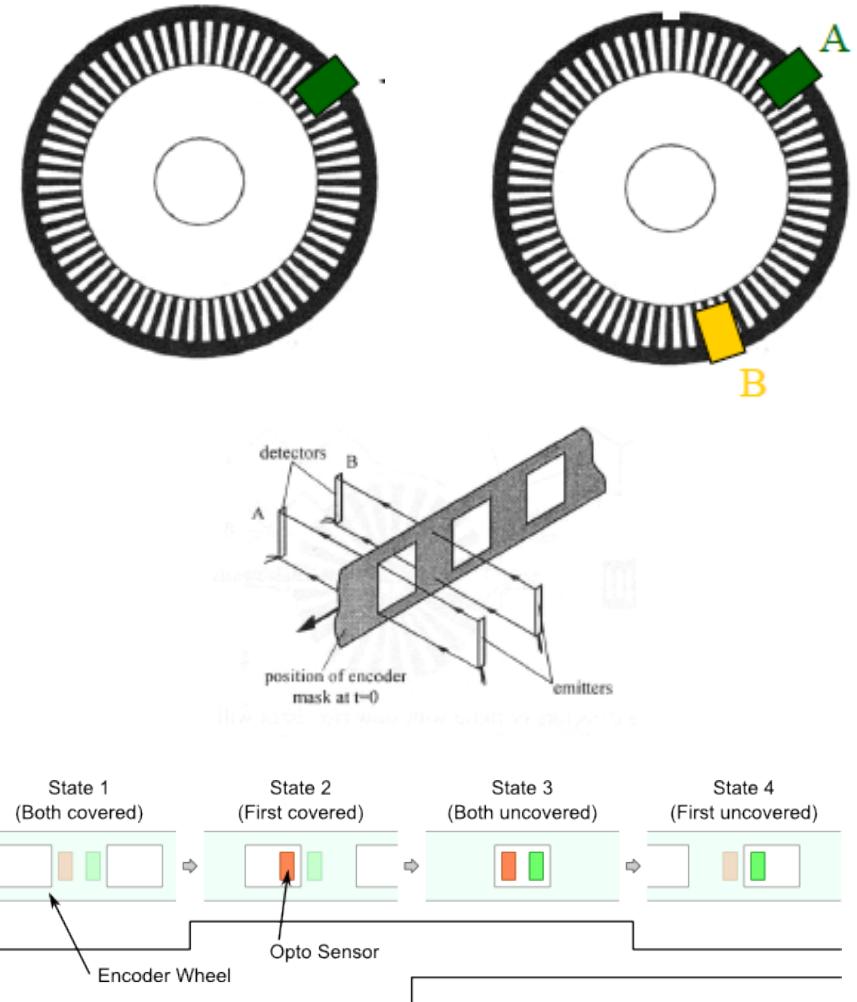
# Wheel/motor Sensors

- Measures internal state and dynamics of a mobile robot
- **Optical encoders** are commonly used to measure speed and position associated with wheels/motors
- **Incremental (Quadrature) encoders** are commonly used in mobile robotics.
- **Odometry** – Wheel movement can be used to estimate the robots position



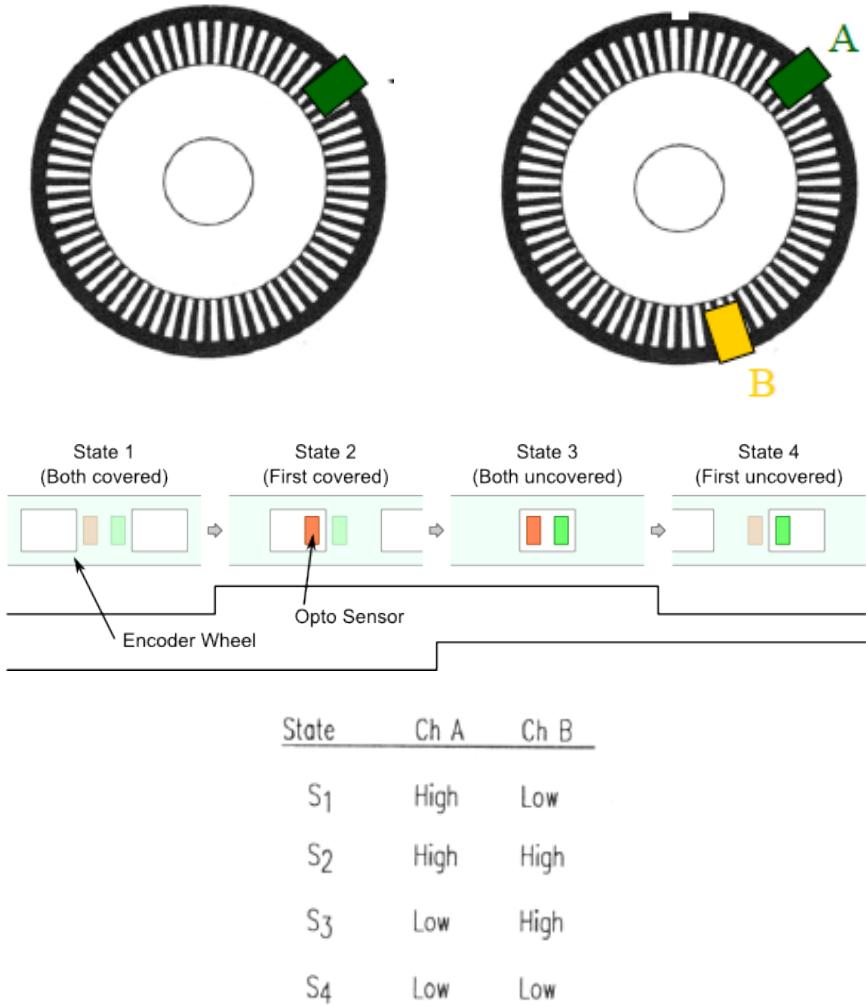
# Wheel/motor Sensors

- Measures internal state and dynamics of a mobile robot
- **Optical encoders** are commonly used to measure speed and position associated with wheels/motors
- **Incremental (Quadrature) encoders** are commonly used in mobile robotics
- **Odometry** – Wheel movement can be used to estimate the robots position



# Wheel/motor Sensors

- Measures internal state and dynamics of a mobile robot
- **Optical encoders** are commonly used to measure speed and position associated with wheels/motors
- **Odometry** – Wheel movement can be used to estimate the robots position
- **Incremental (Quadrature) encoders** are commonly used in mobile robotics.

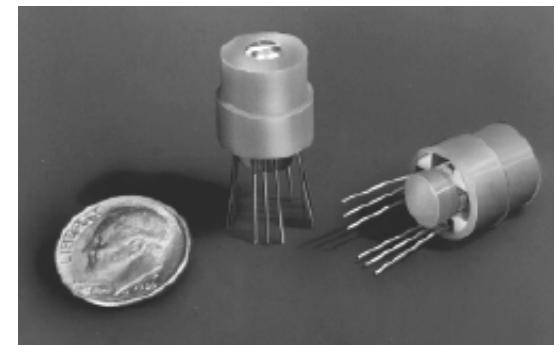


# Heading Sensors

- Heading sensors can be **proprioceptive** (gyroscope) or **exteroceptive** (compass)
- Commonly used to determine a robot's **orientation**.
- Together with **velocity** information it can give us information about movement to a **position** (estimate). **Dead reckoning** (ship navigation).

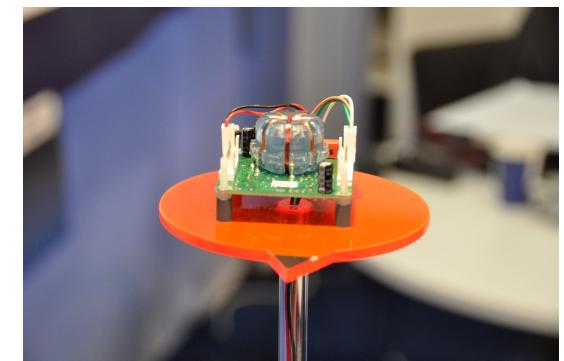
# Heading Sensors: Hall-Effect Compass

- Measures orientation using the Earth's magnetic field.
- Two common types of sensors used to measure direction of magnetic field: **Hall effect** and **flux gate** compasses.
- **Hall effect:**
  - Small and inexpensive
  - Poor resolution
  - Slow



# Heading Sensors: Flux gate Compass

- Measures orientation using the Earth's magnetic field.
- Two common types of sensors used to measure direction of magnetic field:  
**Hall effect** and **flux gate** compasses.
- **Flux gate:**
  - Higher **resolution** and **accuracy**
  - **Larger** and more **expensive** than hall-effect compass



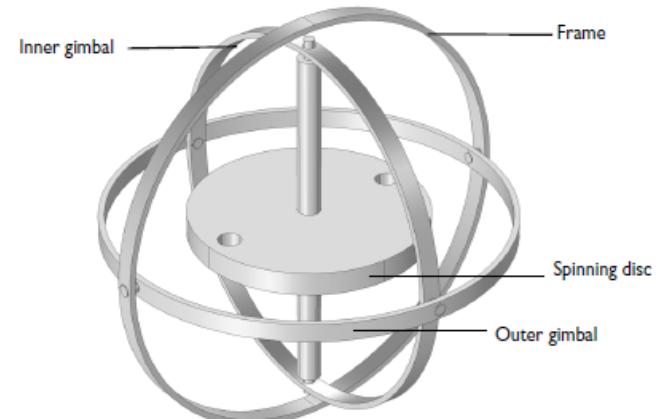
# Heading Sensors: Magnetic Compass

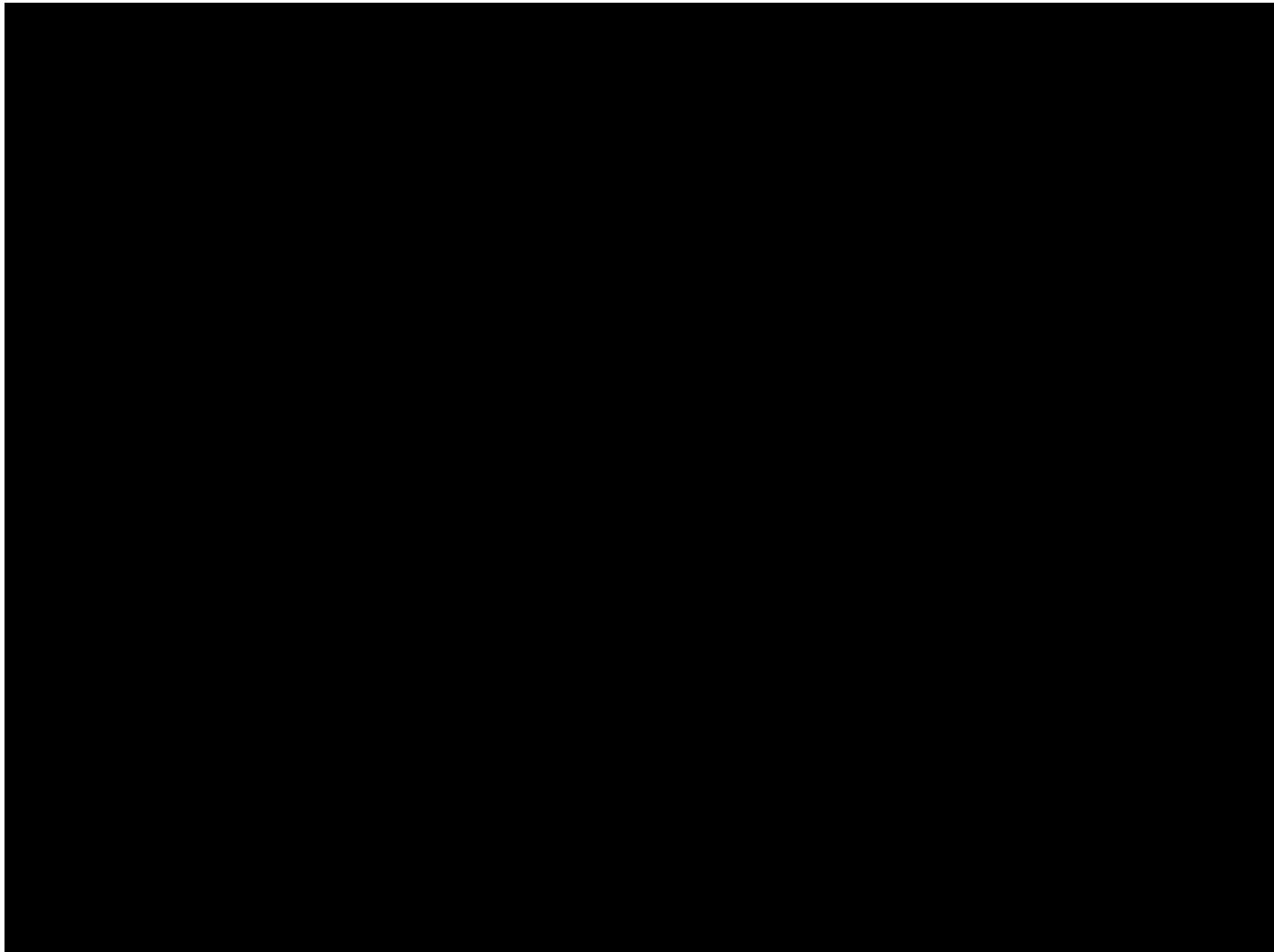
- Using Earth's magnetic field has drawbacks
  - Disturbances caused by other magnetic objects
  - Vibration
  - Often avoided in indoor environments



# Heading Sensors: Mechanical Gyroscopes

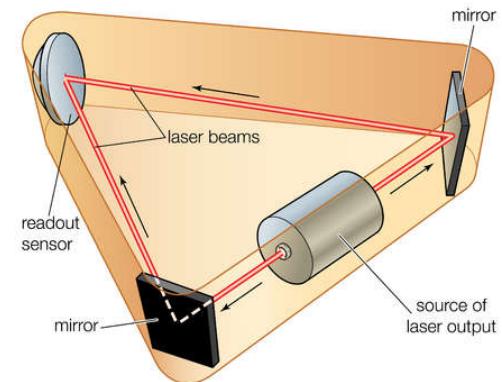
- Heading sensors that preserve orientation to a fixed reference frame
- Provides absolute measure for heading
- Angular momentum associated within a spinning wheel keeps the axis stable
  - This allows measurement of a system relative to where it started





# Heading Sensors: Optical Gyroscopes

- First commercially used in early 1980s in airplanes to measure angular speed.
- Two laser beams shot from same source (clockwise and counterclockwise)
- Laser beam traveling in direction of rotation has slightly shorter path (higher frequency)
- Difference in frequency of two beams is proportional to angular velocity



# HW 1: Sensors