



人
工

The

Shanghai AI

智
能

Lectures

上
海

授
课

The Shanghai AI 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)

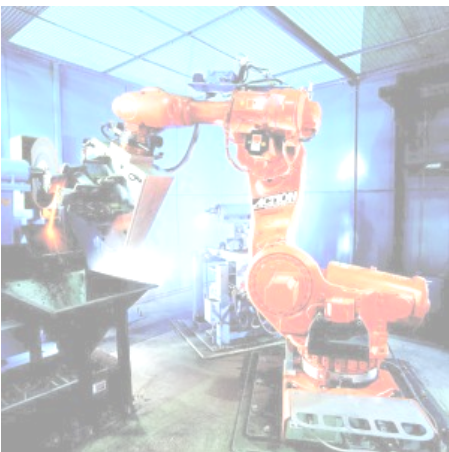
failures

**foundations of
behavior**

**natural forms of
intelligence**

**interaction with real
world**

Industrial robots vs. natural systems



robots

principles:

- low precision
- compliant
- reactive
- coping with uncertainty

humans



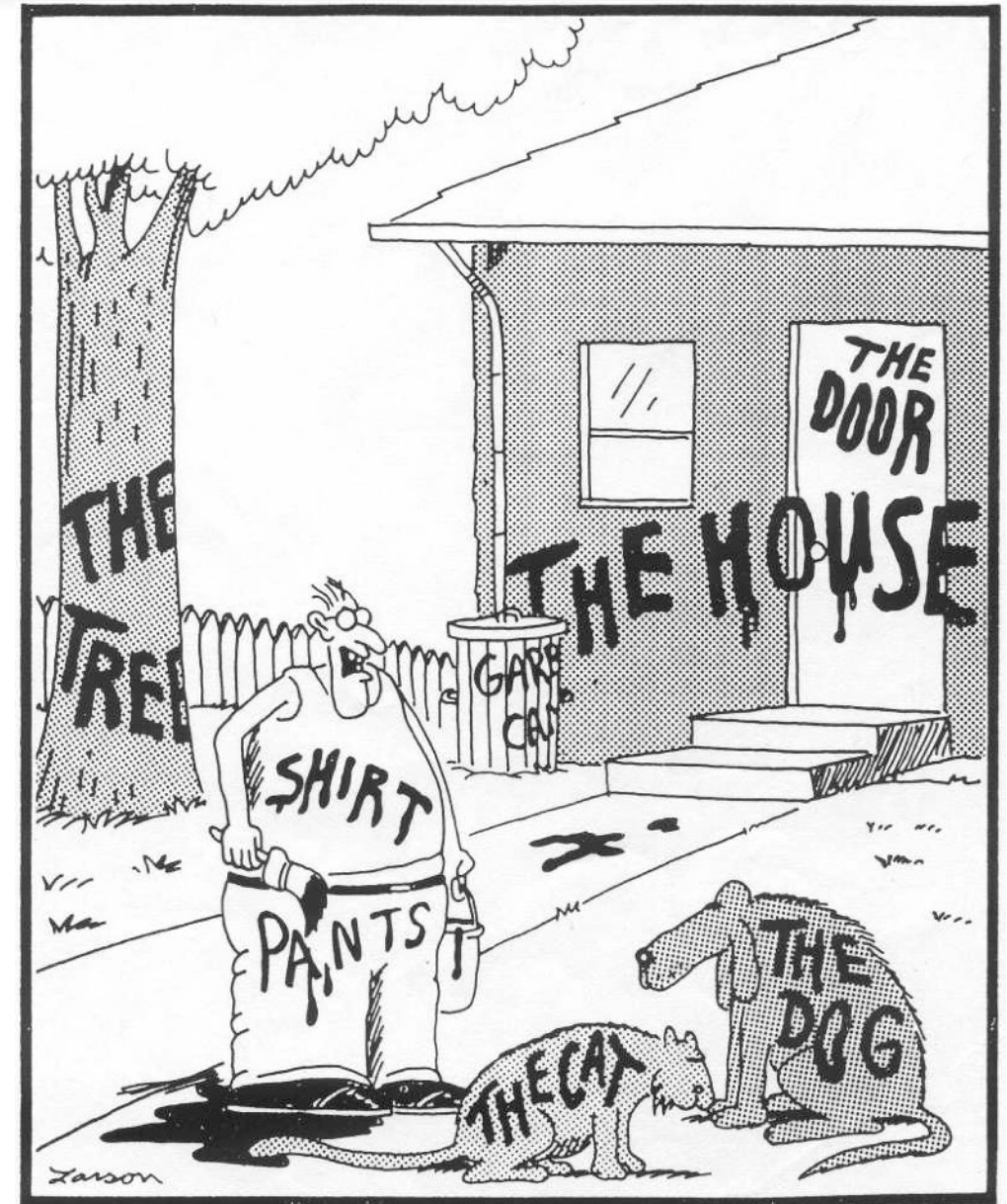
➔ **no direct transfer of methods**

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**



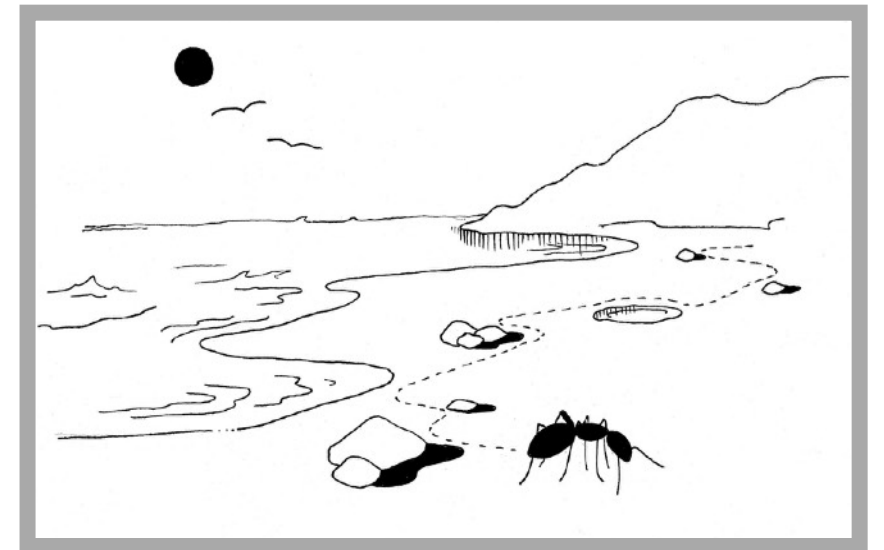
The need for an embodied perspective

- **“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**

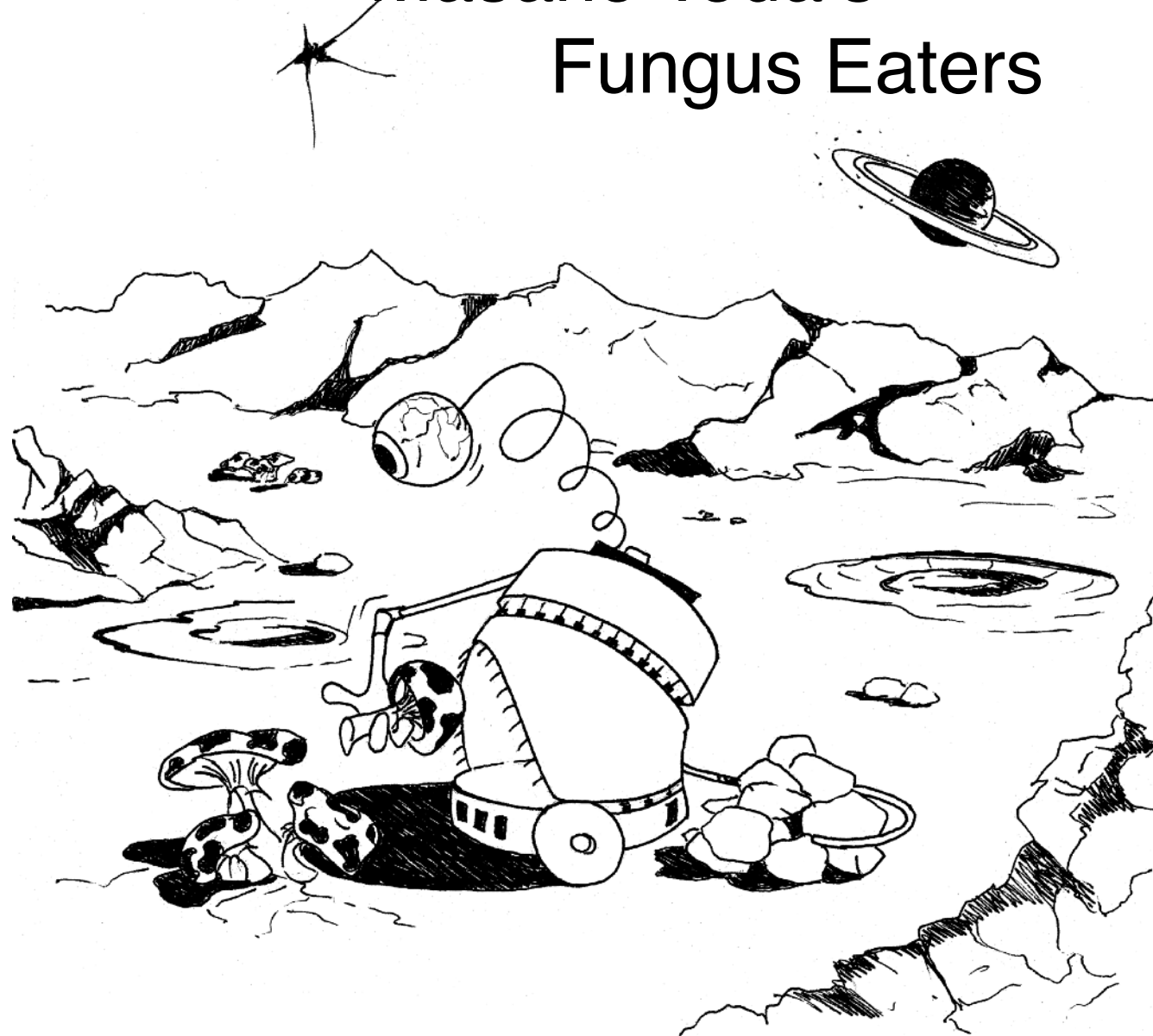


Today's topics

- 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**

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

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

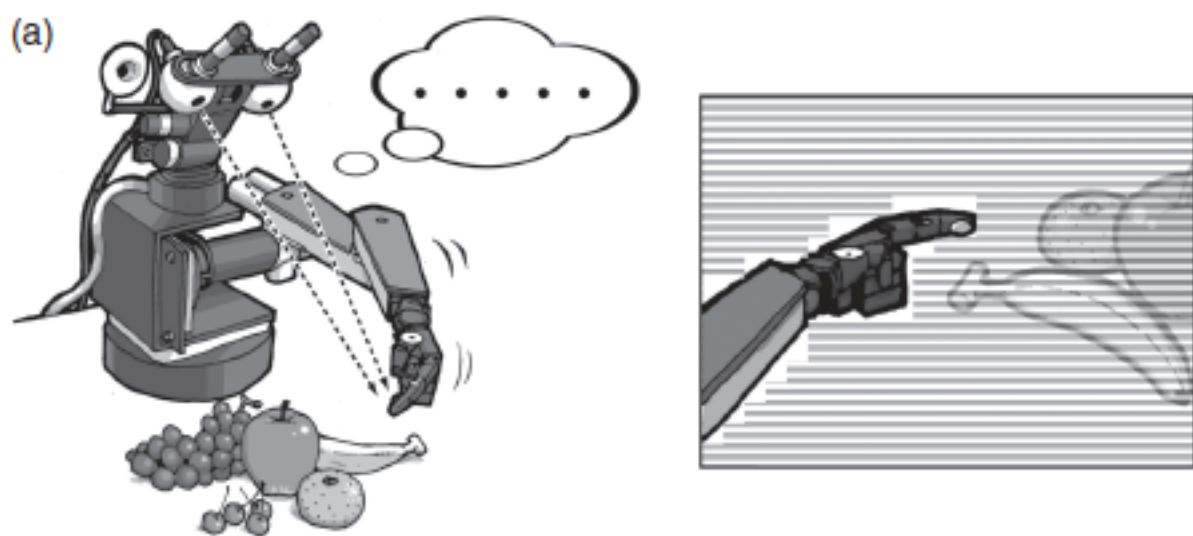
Complete-agent principle

- **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**



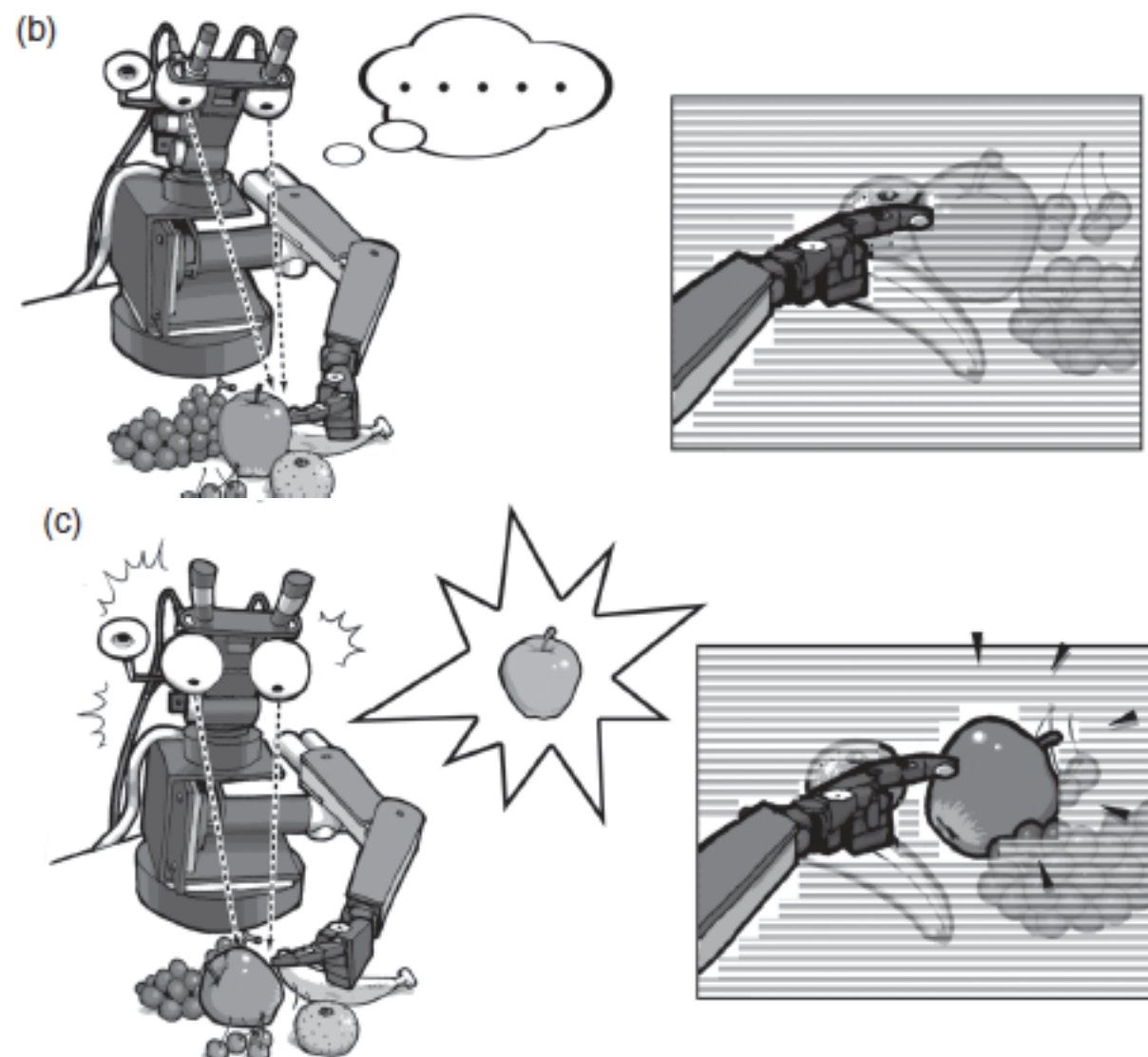
can be exploited!

Recognizing an object in a cluttered environment



**manipulation of
environment can
facilitate perception**

**Experiments: Giorgio Metta
and Paul Fitzpatrick**



Illustrations by Shun Iwasawa

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

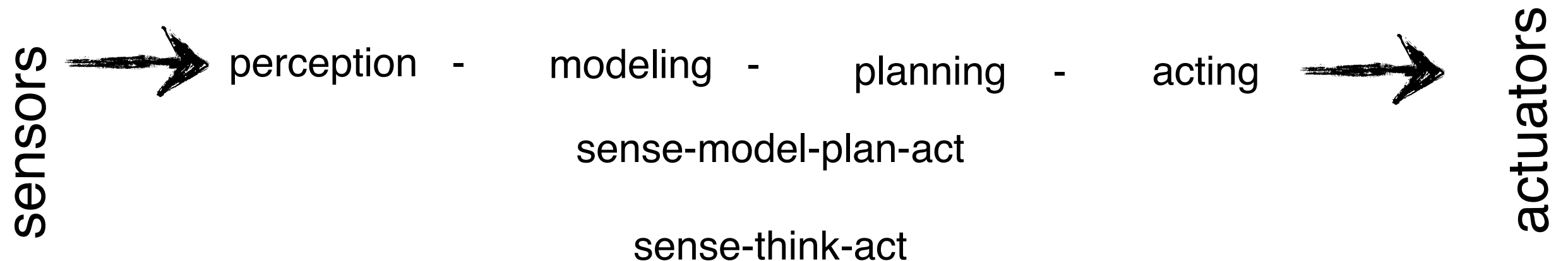
Parallel, loosely coupled processes

intelligent behavior:

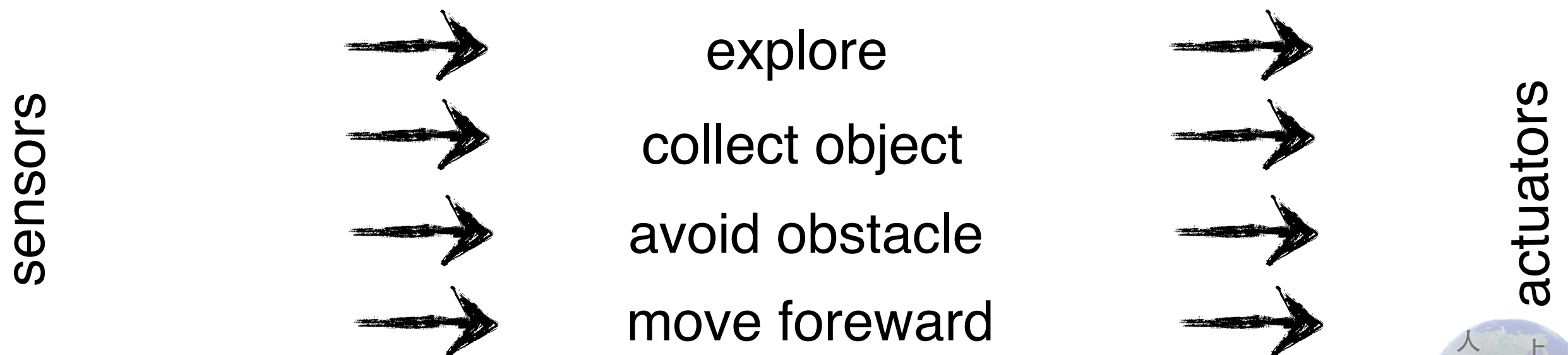
- **emergent from system-environment interaction**
- **based on large number of parallel, loosely coupled processes**
- **asynchronous**
- **coupled through agent's sensory-motor system and environment**

The subsumption architecture

classical, cognitivist



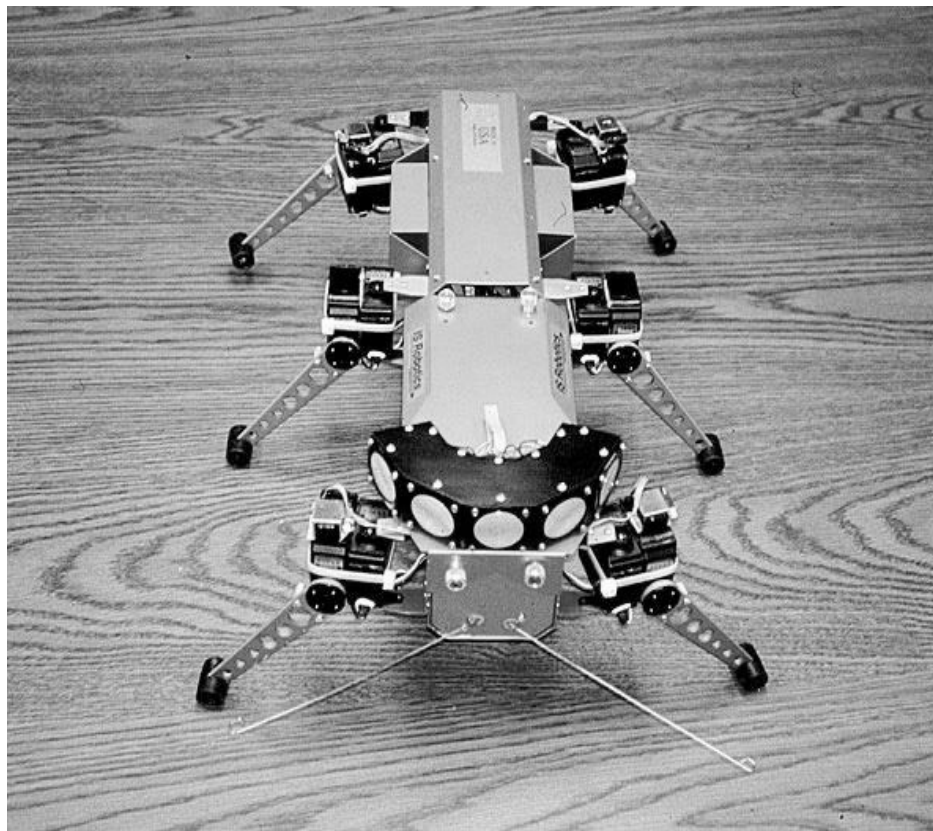
“behavior-based”, subsumption



Mimicking insect walking

- **subsumption architecture
well-suited**

six-legged robot “Ghenghis”

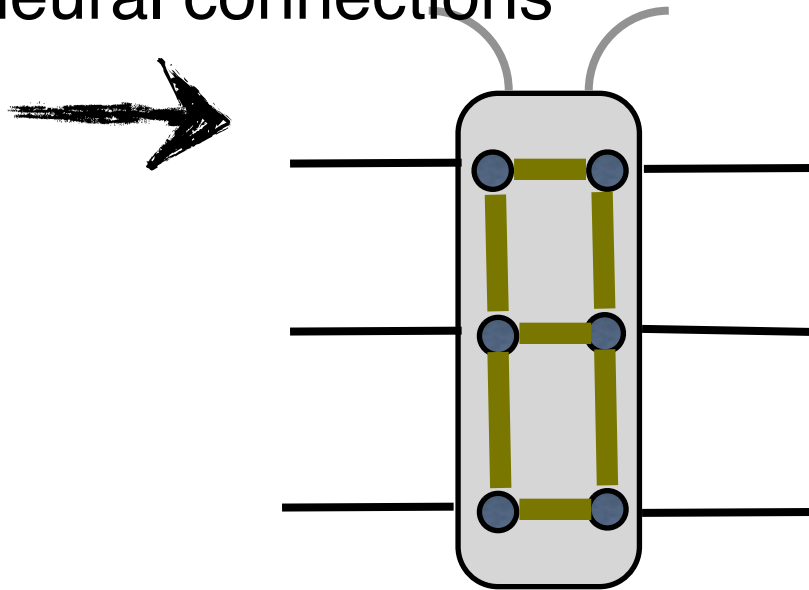


Insect walking



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

neural connections



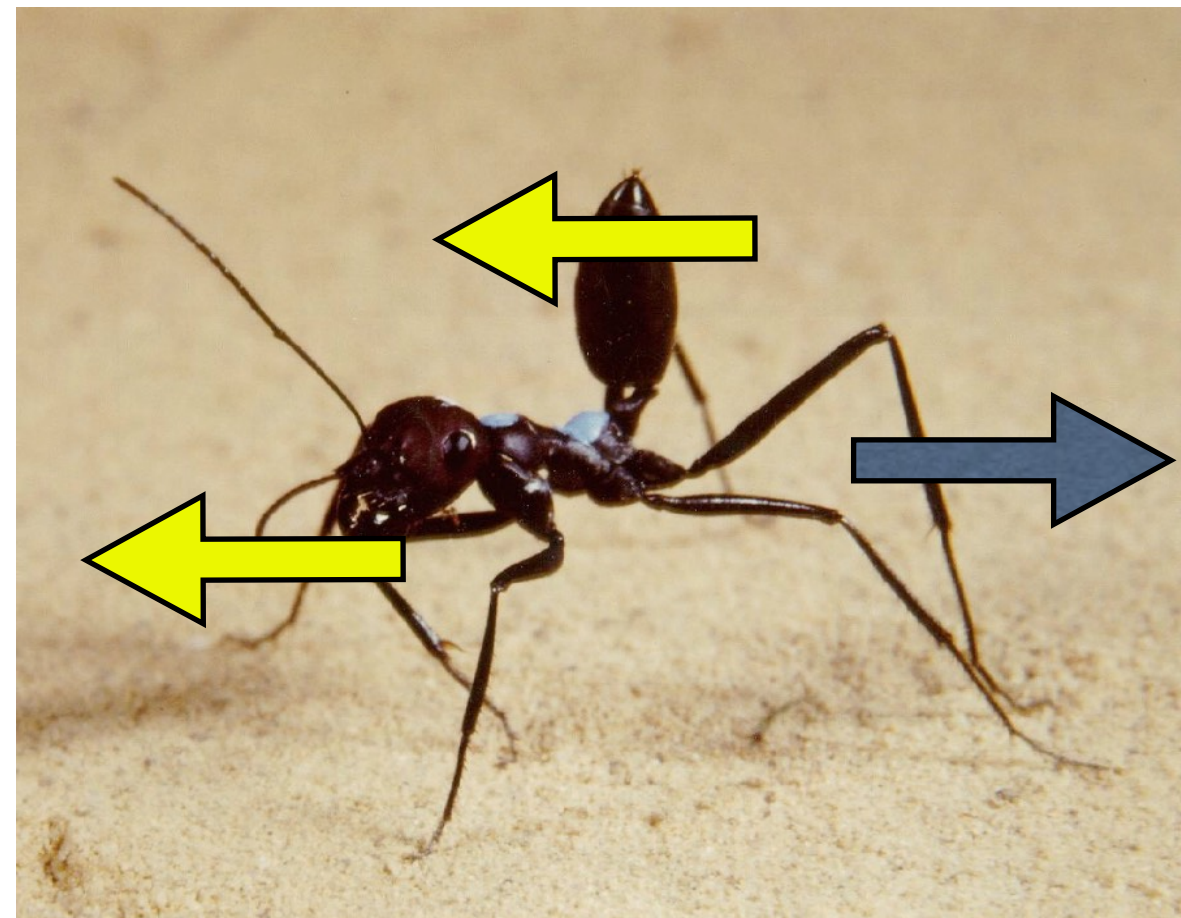
Communication through interaction with

- exploitation of interaction with environment

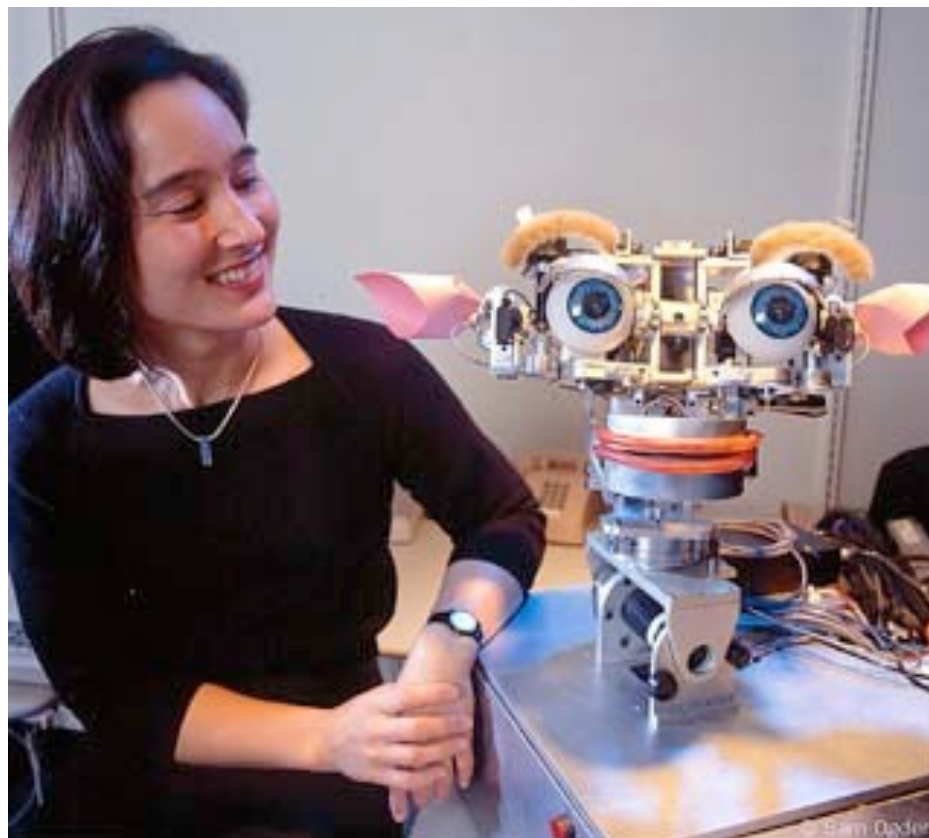
→ simpler neural circuits

angle sensors
in joints

“parallel, loosely
coupled
processes”

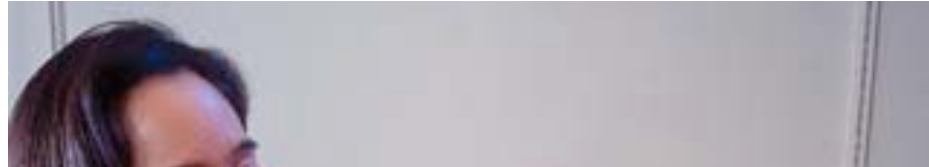


Kismet: The social interaction robot



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

Kismet: The social interaction robot



Video “Kismet”

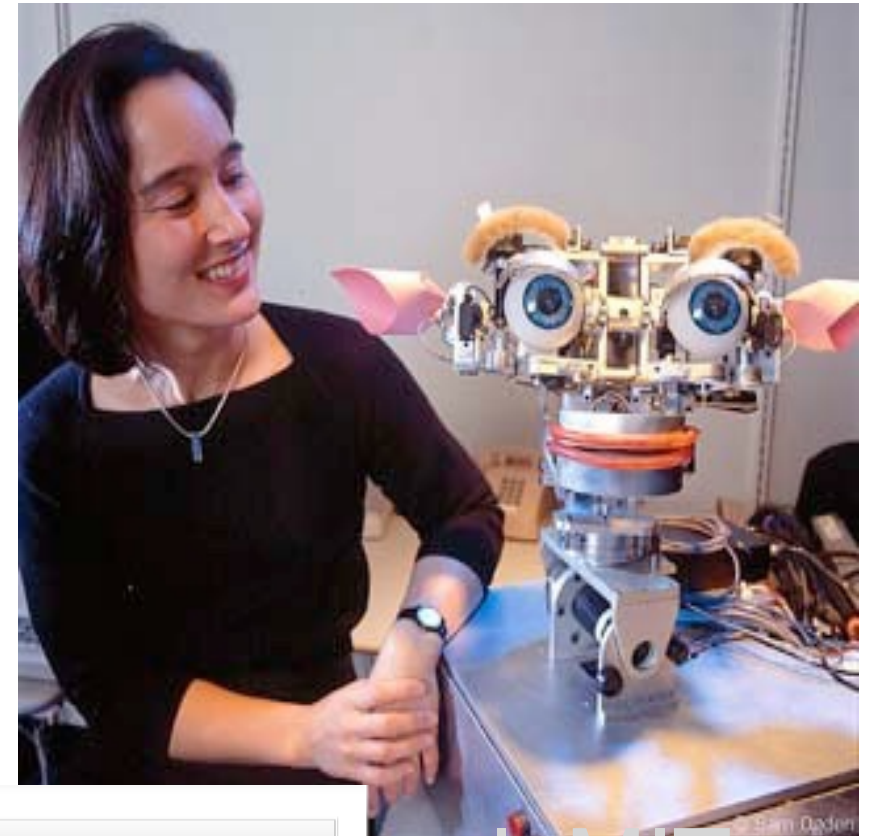


Cynthia Breazeal, MIT Media Lab
(prev. MIT AI Lab)

Kismet: The social interaction robot

Reflexes:

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

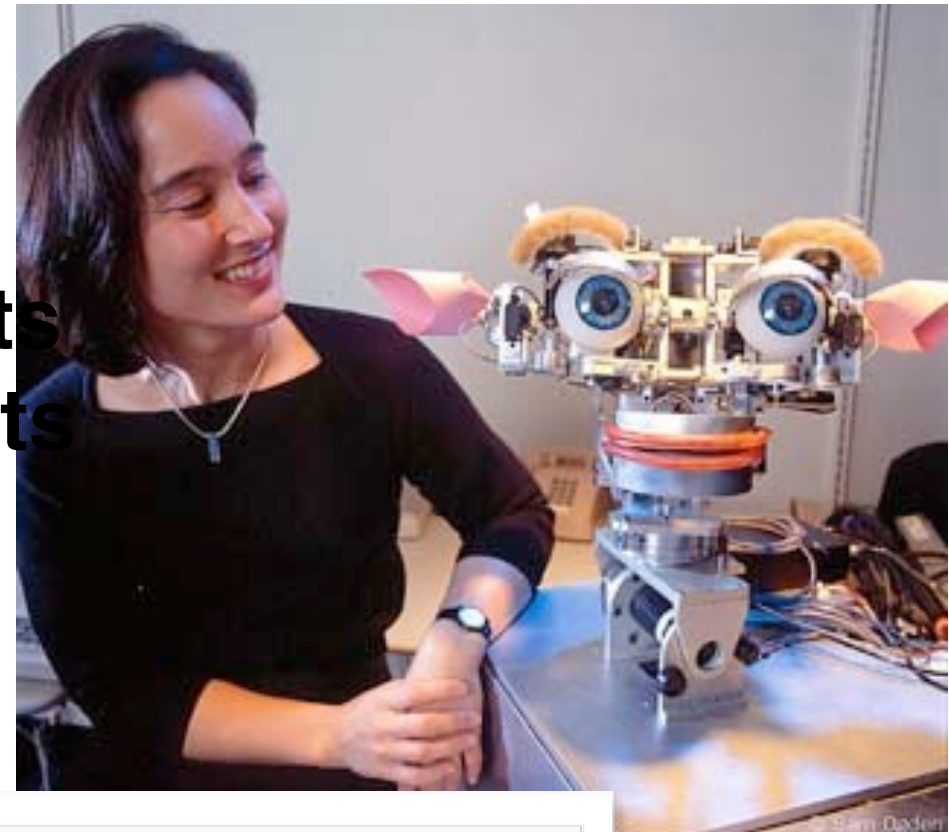


principle of “parallel, loosely coupled processes”

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 ?!?!???

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 service man?”

Rodney Brooks (1991). “From insects to humans”

volunteer for brief presentation on the “Brooks-Kirsh” debate - or generally, scalability of subsumption (on a later date)

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

Case study: “Puppy” as a complex dynamical

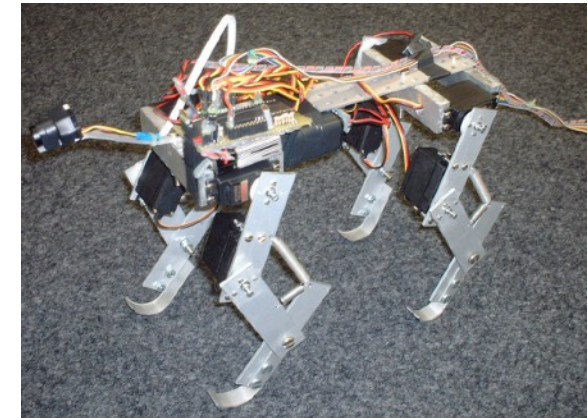
- **running: hard problem**
- **time scales: neural system — damped oscillation of knee-joint**
- **“outsourcing/offloading” of functionality to morphological/material properties**



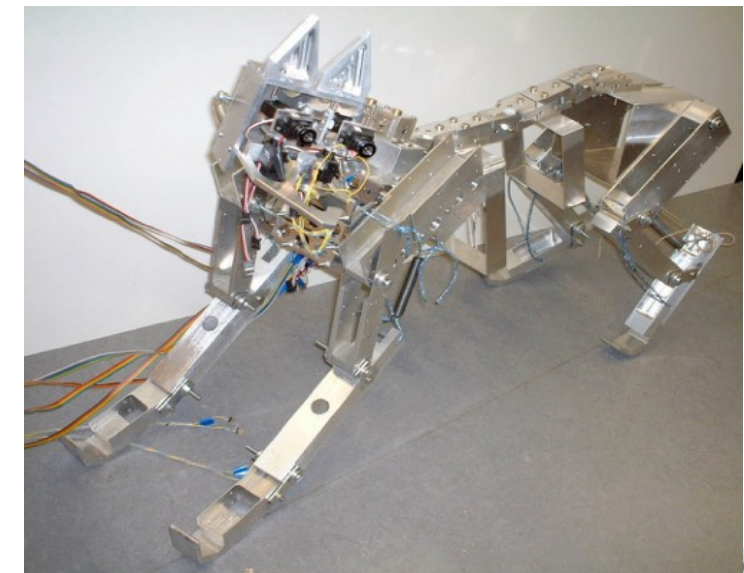
morphological
computation

Recall: “Puppy’s” simple control

rapid locomotion in biological systems



recall: emergence of behavior



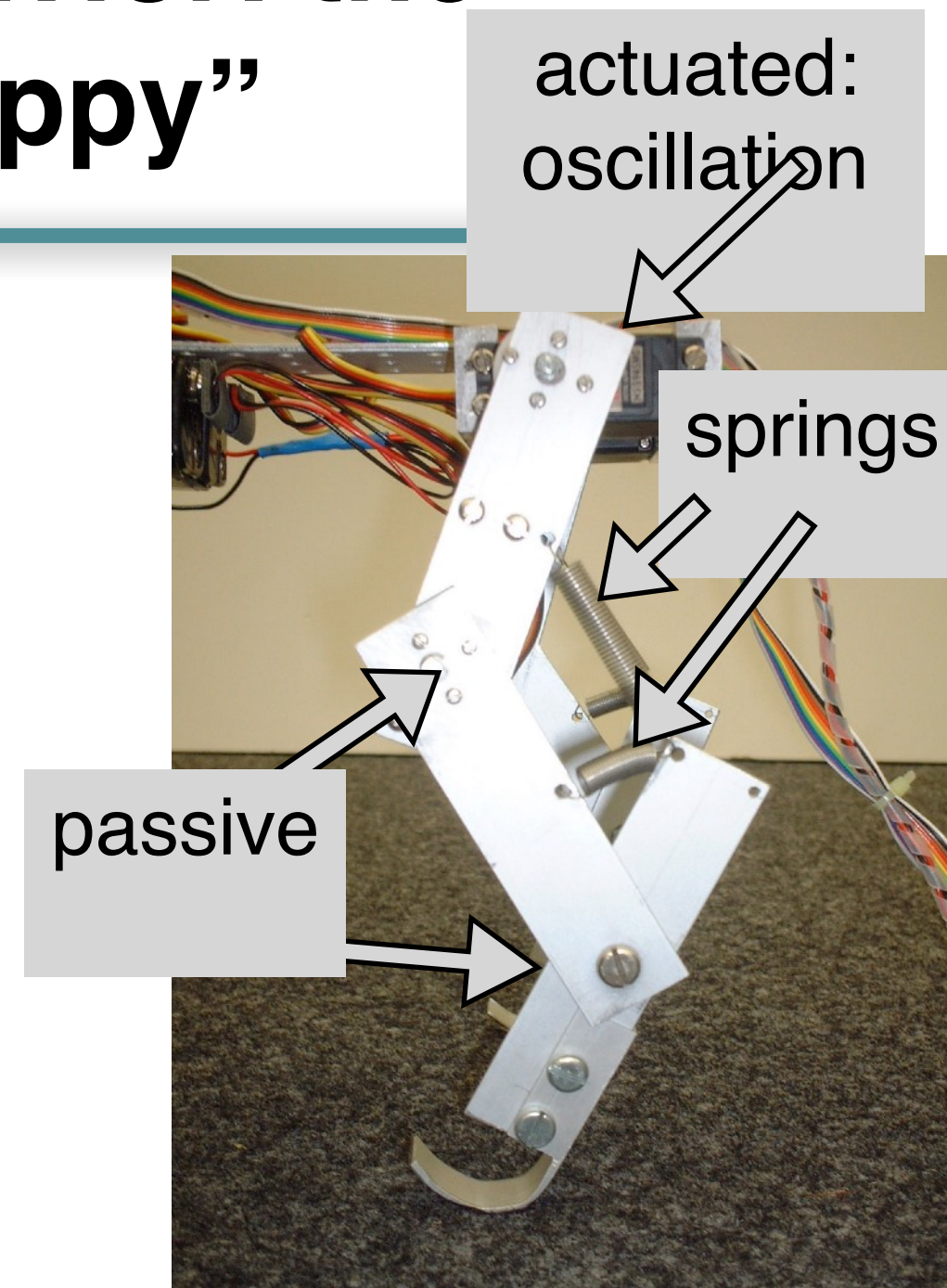
Design and construction:
Fumiya Iida, AI Lab, UZH and ETH-Z

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**
- **no control**



self-
stabilization

principle of
“cheap
design”

The memory of the aplysia

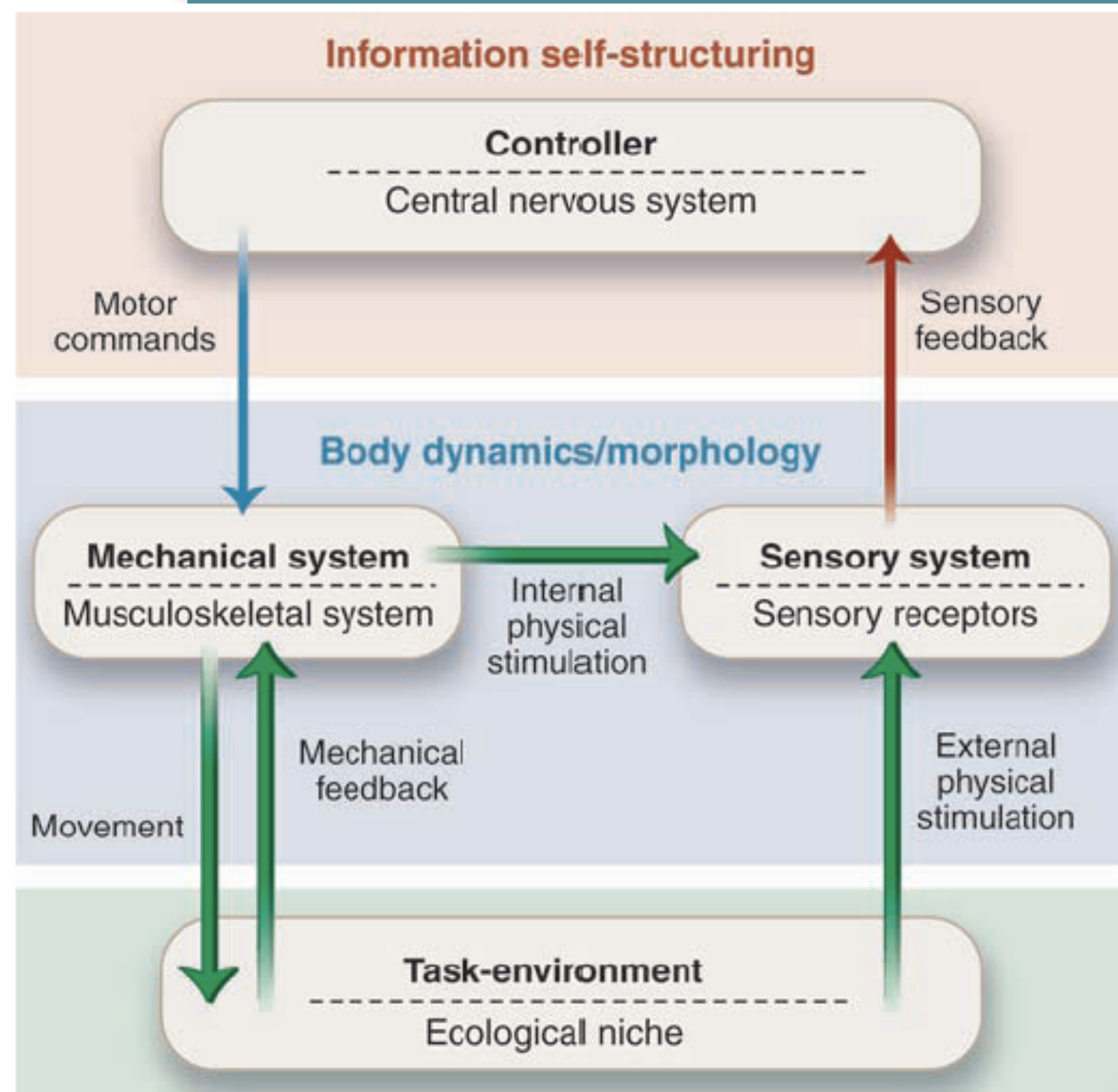
Video “the memory of the
aplysia”

a small brain
in a vat?

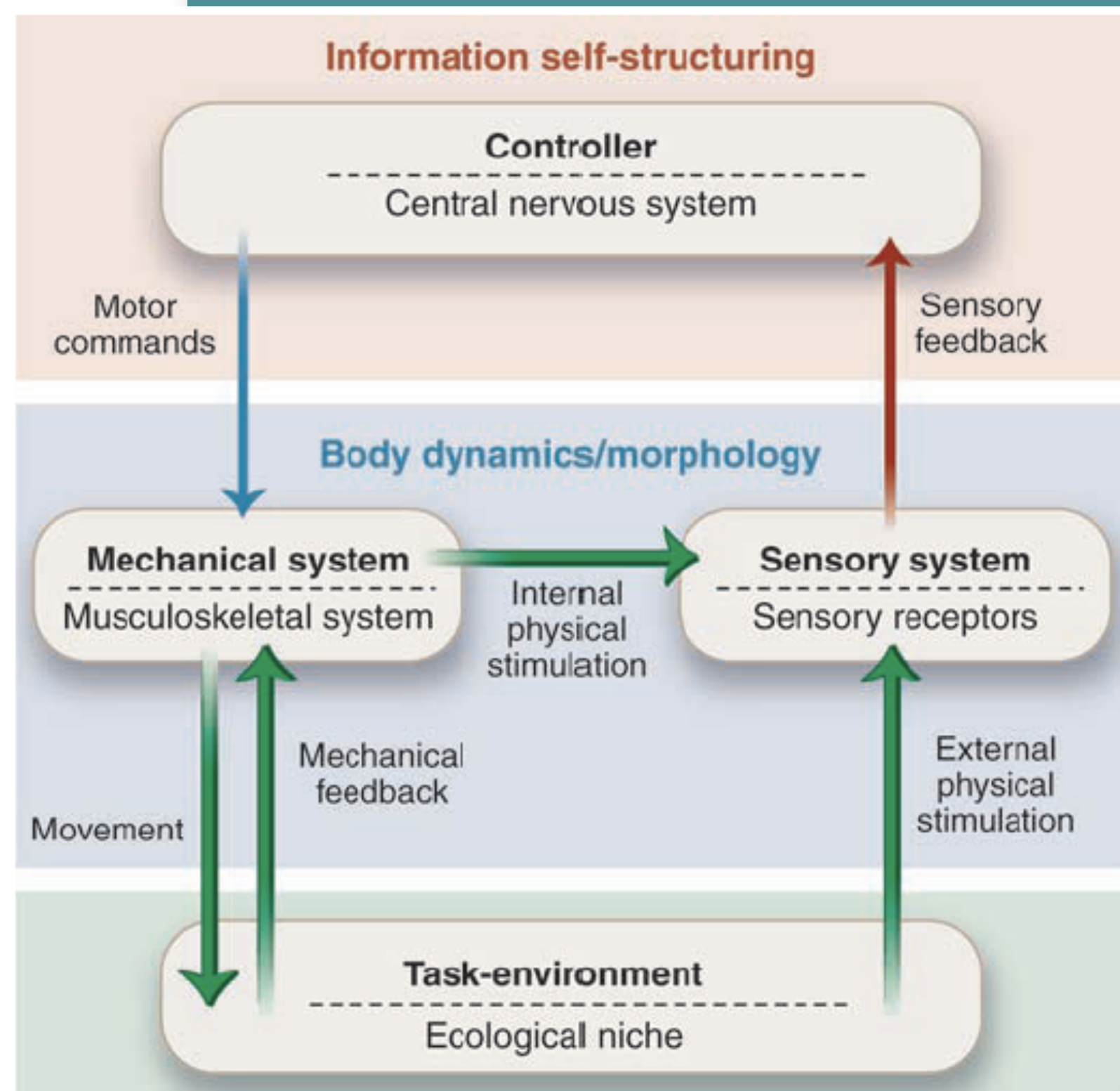
Implications of embodiment

“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

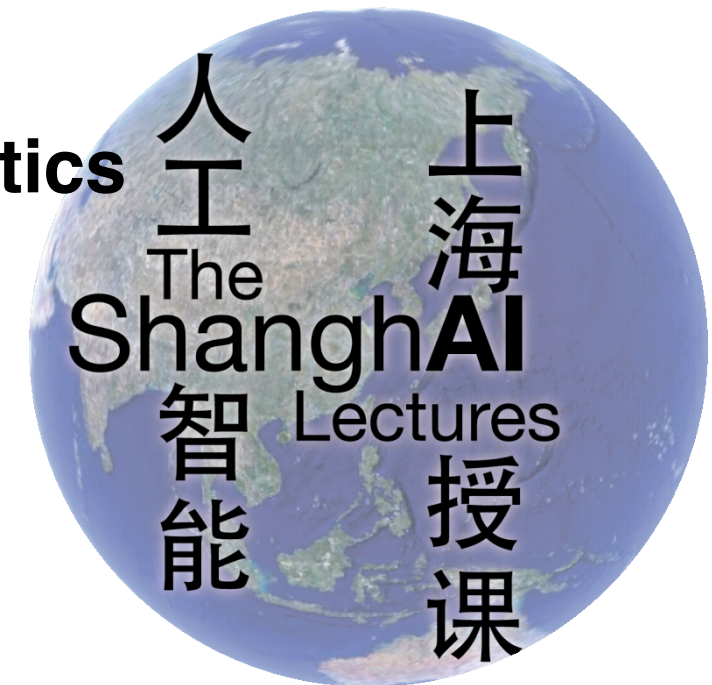
CEO and Founder Heron Robots

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 AI Lectures
2013-2016



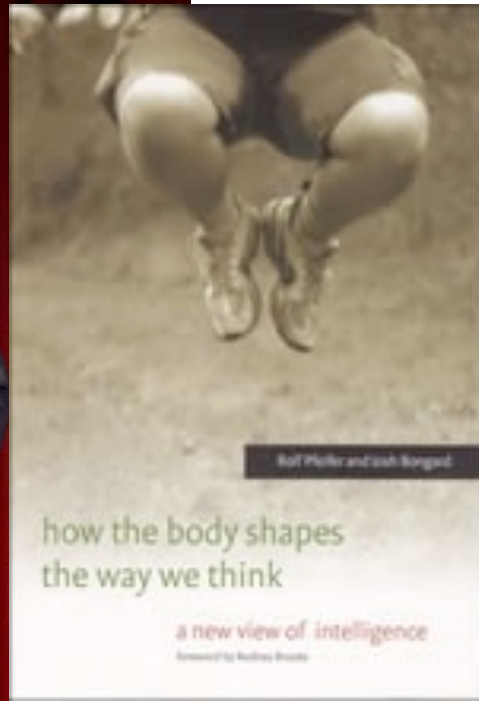
Rolf Pfeifer

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



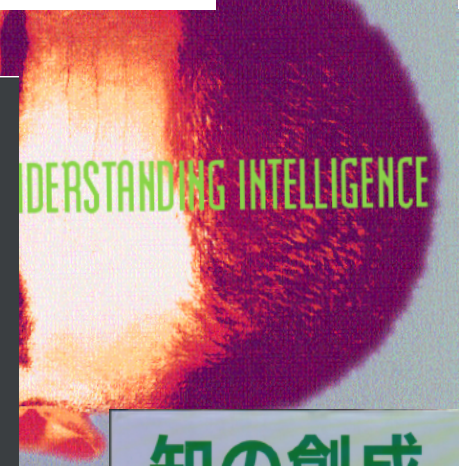
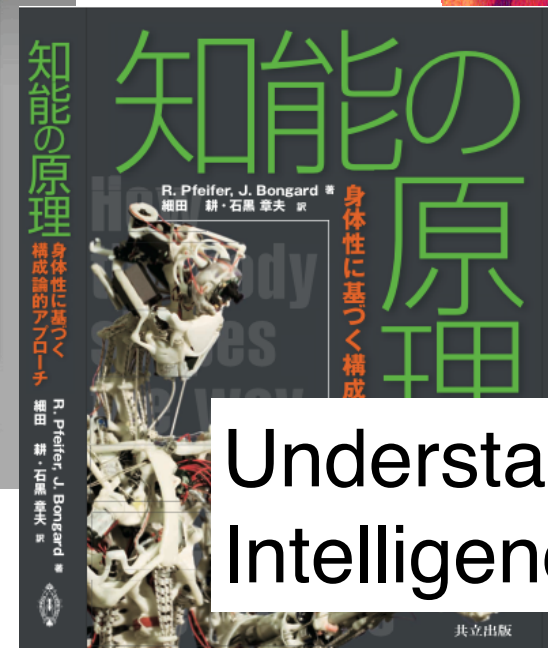
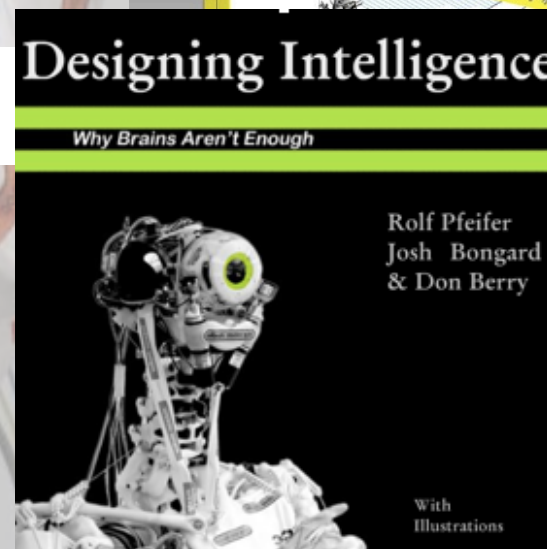
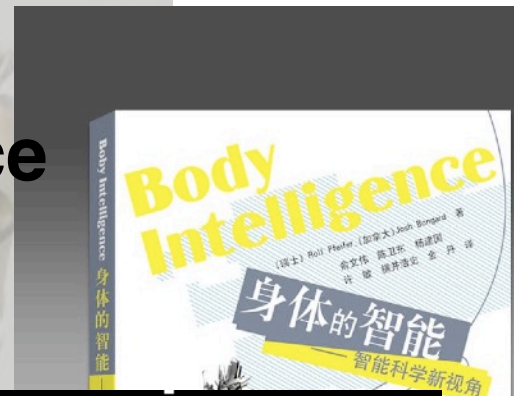
Research interests

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

How the body shapes
the way we think

MIT Press

The ShanghAI Lectures



Understanding
Intelligence

