



# Howie Choset

<http://biorobotics.org>



Free Crawling Snake Robots



Manufacturing in  
Confined Spaces

## Basic Research

Mechanism Design: snakes, climbers, spiders

Path Planning: Topology, Multi-robot (fast)

Motion Planning: Snakes, swimmers, runner

Estimation: SLAM, Body pose, Multi-robot

Hybrid Control/Estimation: tie together



Mobile Base Trunkbot

# Snake Robots

Modular Snake Robot  
Robotics Institute

Carnegie Mellon University

Howie Choset

# Hyper-redundant Mechanism

Mobile-trunk

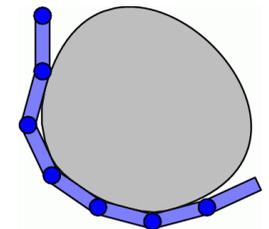
Free-crawling

Manipulation

Biology



Robotic



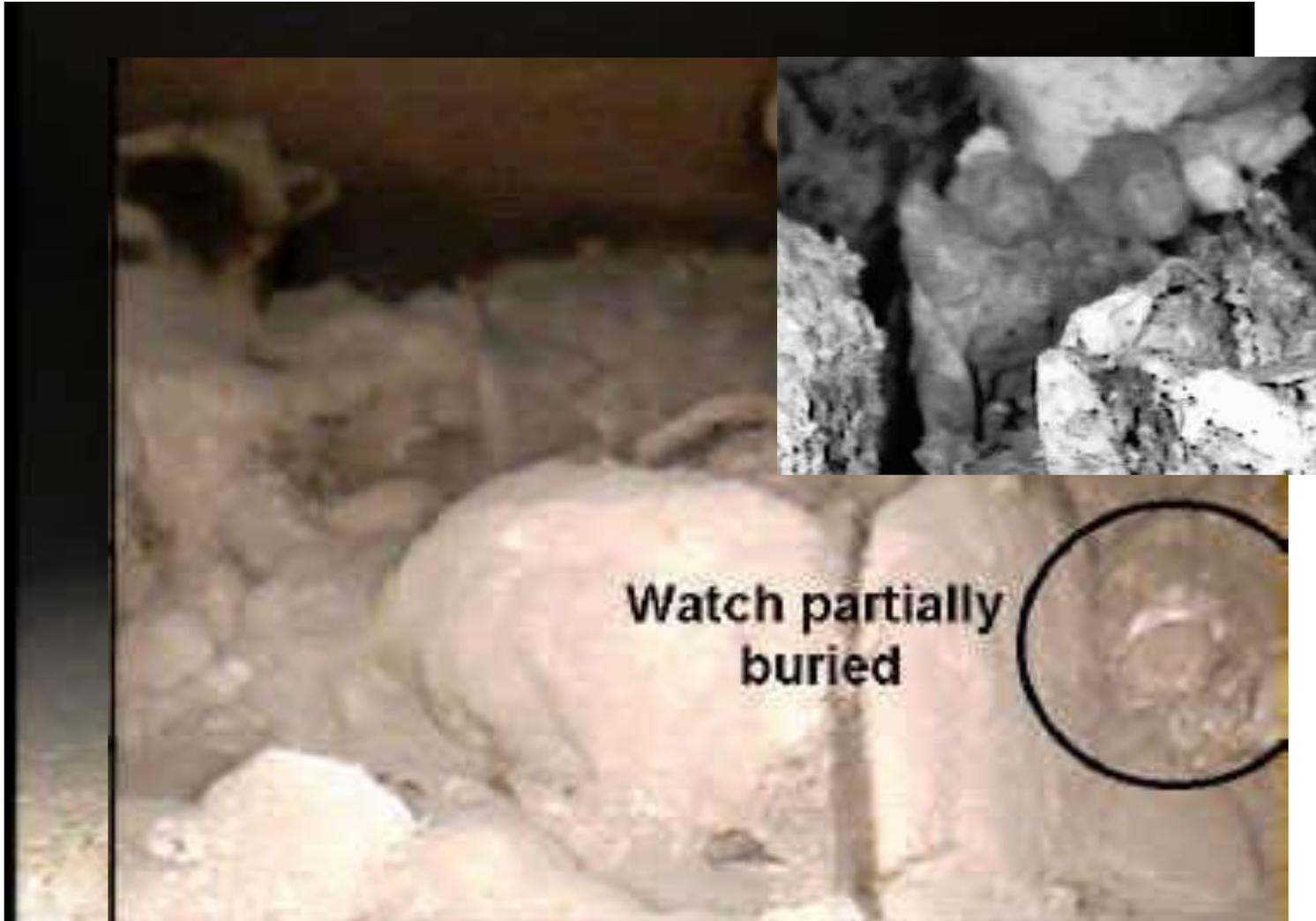
Research

Path Planning  
Estimation/SLAM

Geometric Mechanics  
Gait generation  
Hybrid Controls

Climbing  
Distributed  
Manipulation

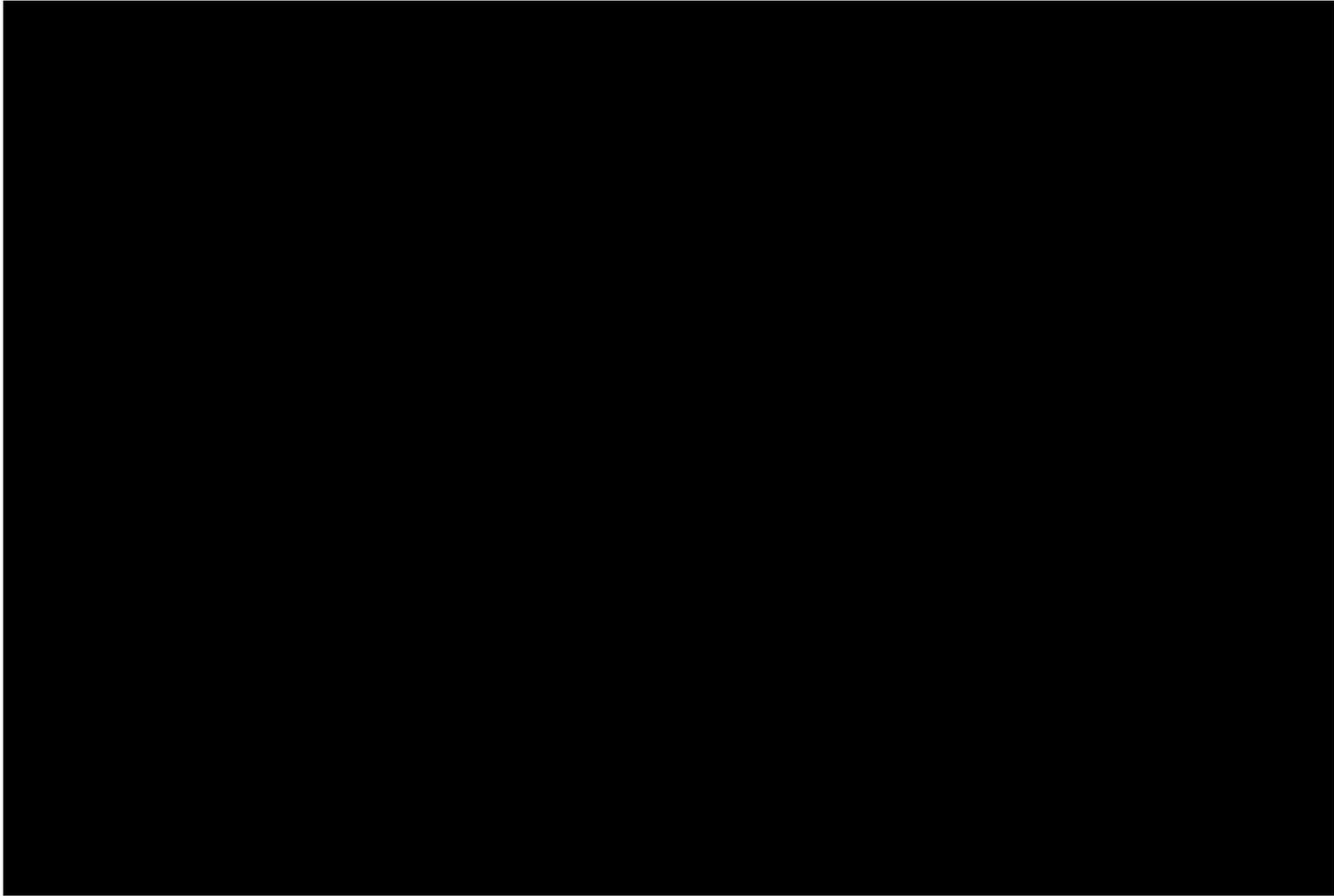
# Search and Rescue



Thanks to Robin Murphy, Texas A & M

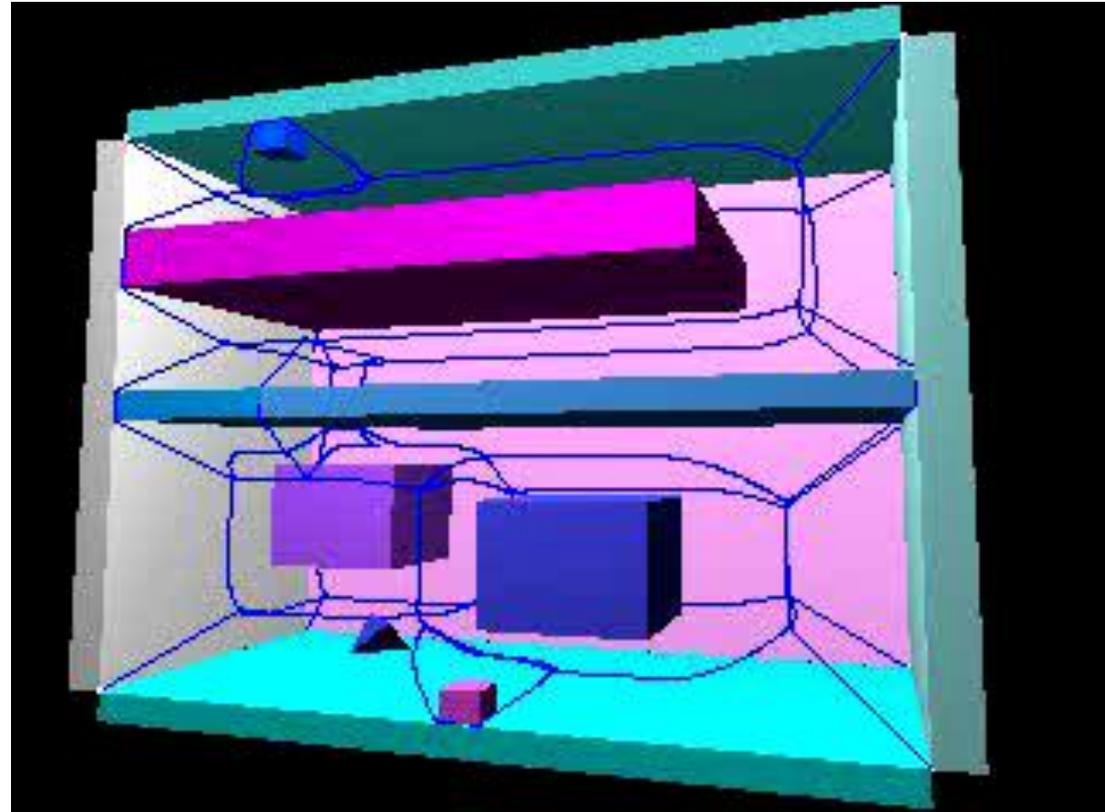
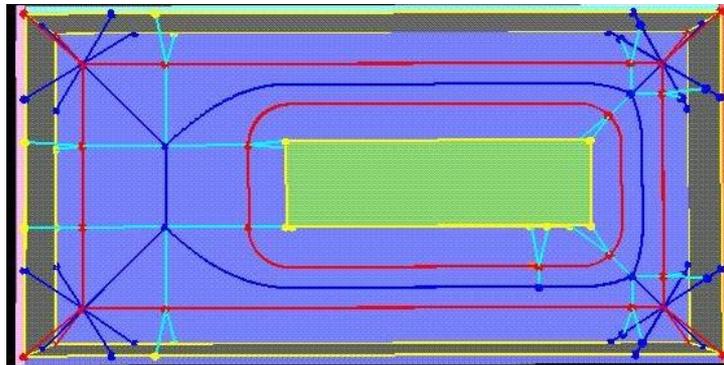
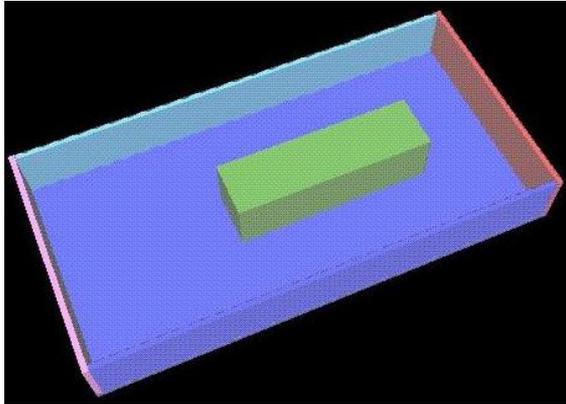


# Field Deployments



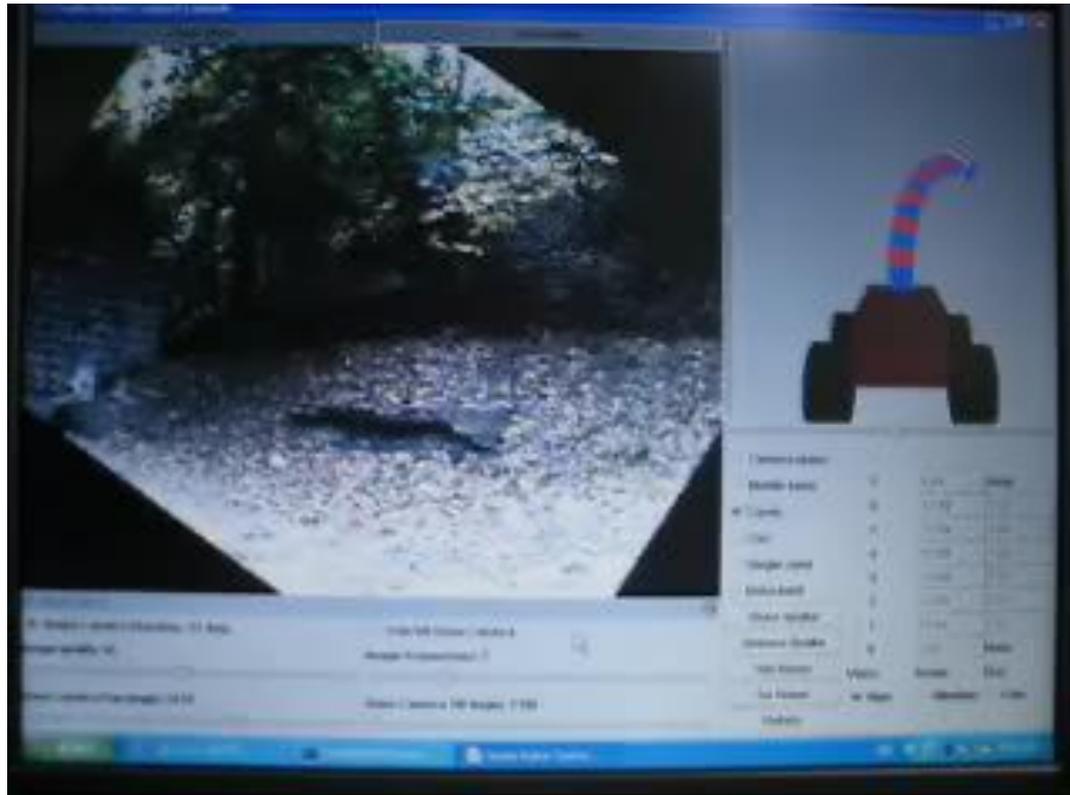
Lebanon, Indiana

# Voronoi Graphs



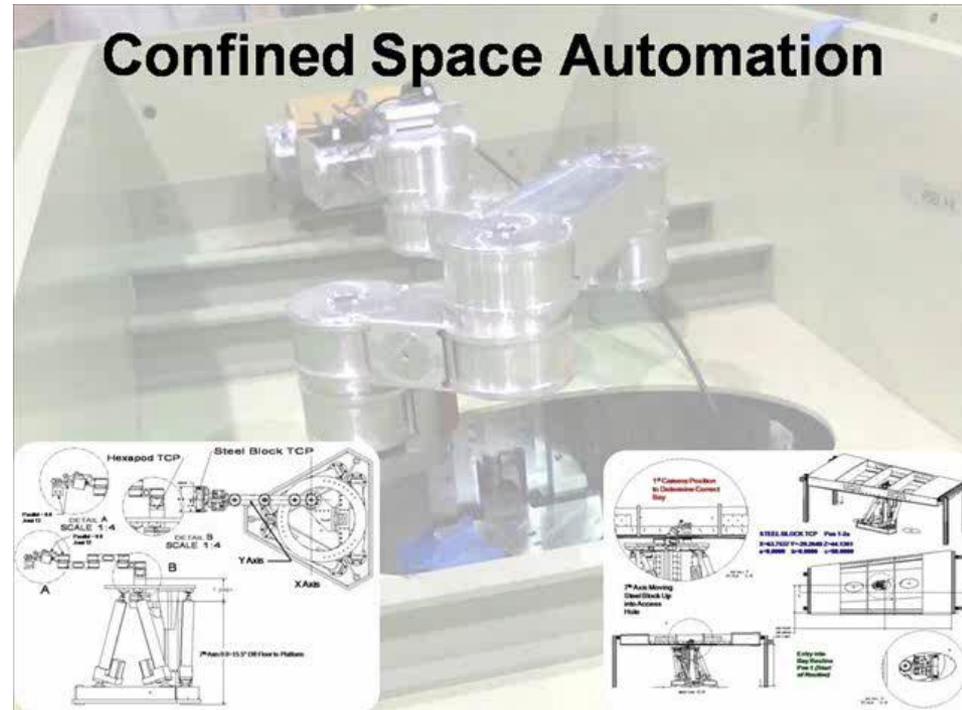
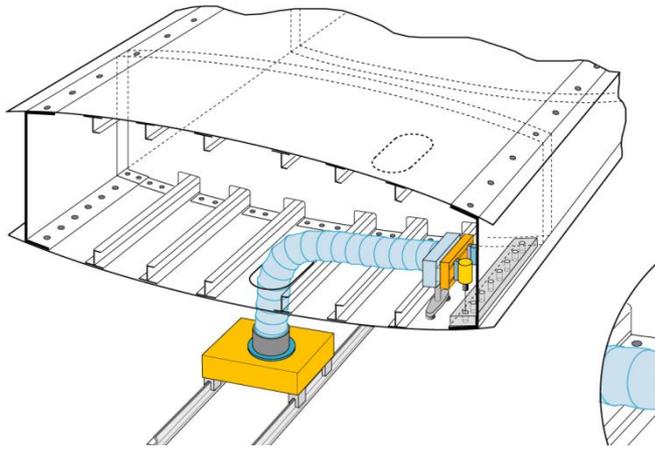
# Situational Awareness

Which way is up?



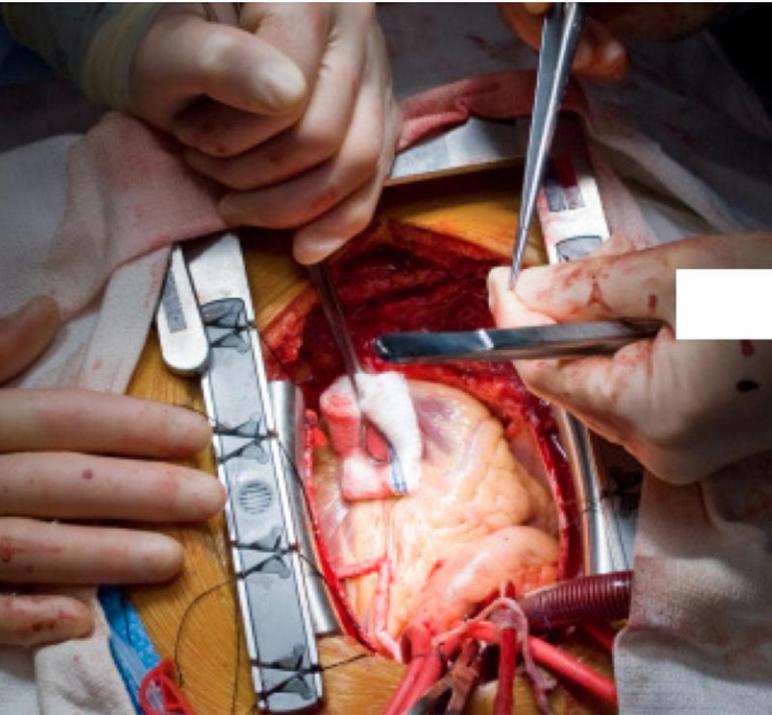
System Interface enables situational awareness

# Aircraft Automation (Boeing)



Sarh, Freeman,  
Brown, Hamilton, Schwerin, Wagner

# Minimally Invasive Surgery



Reduce discomfort: no crack chest

Reduce cost: shorter hospital stay

Disseminate care: more can be done

# Surgical Snake Robot



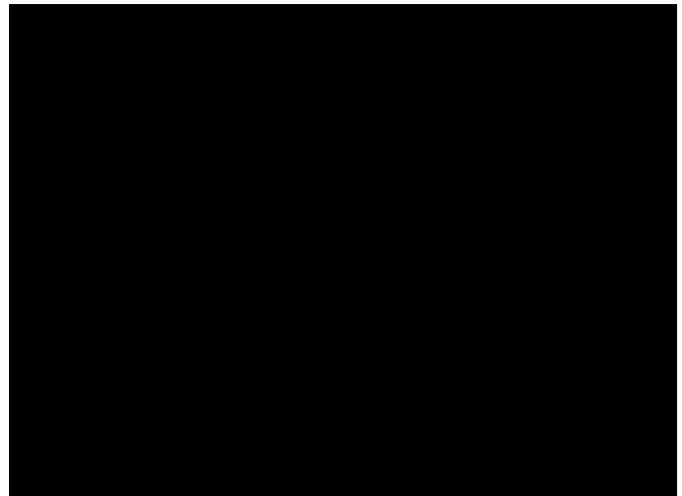
**vs.**



+



=

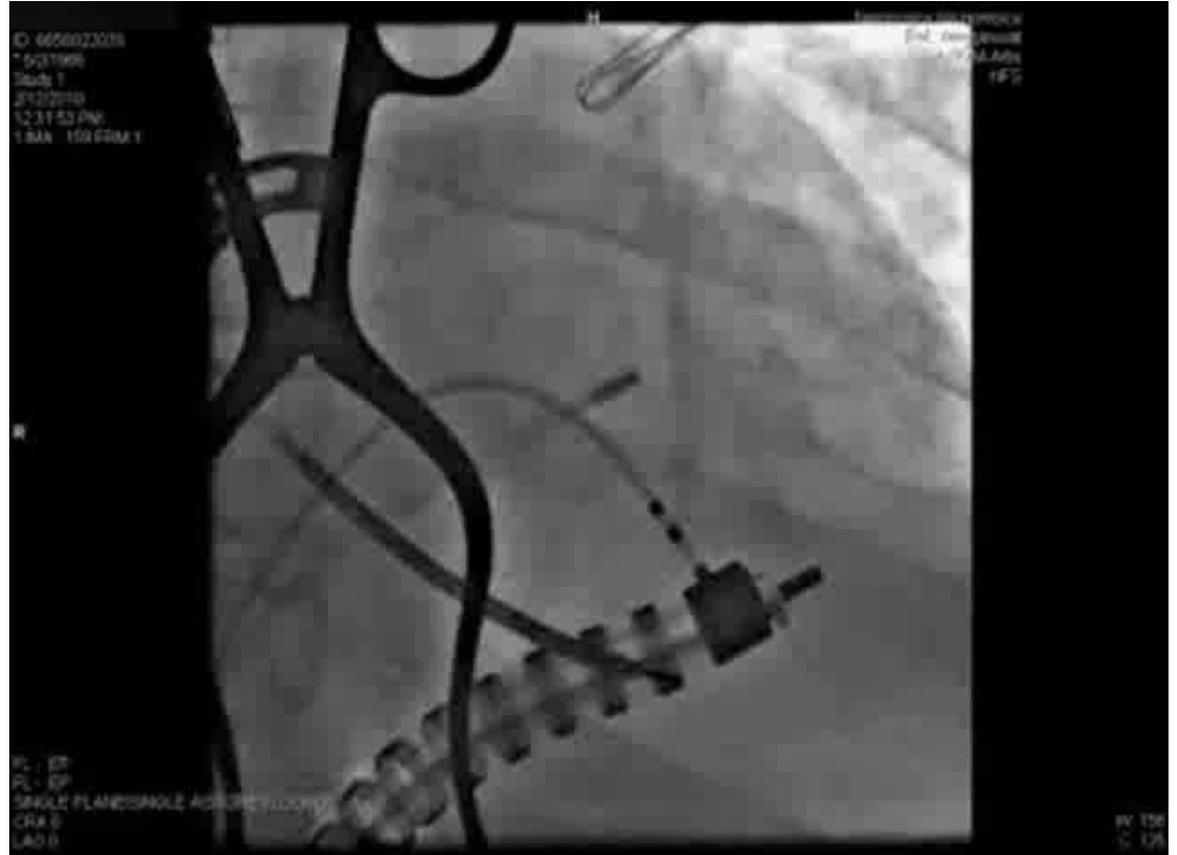
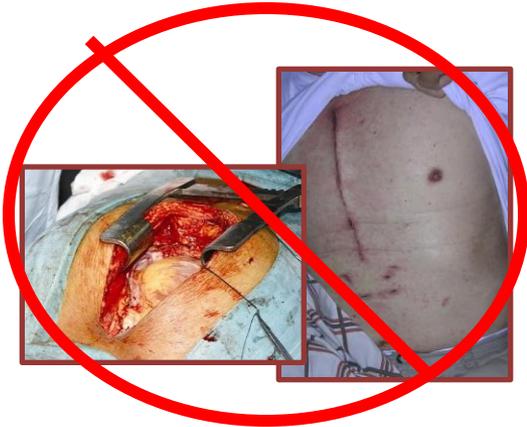
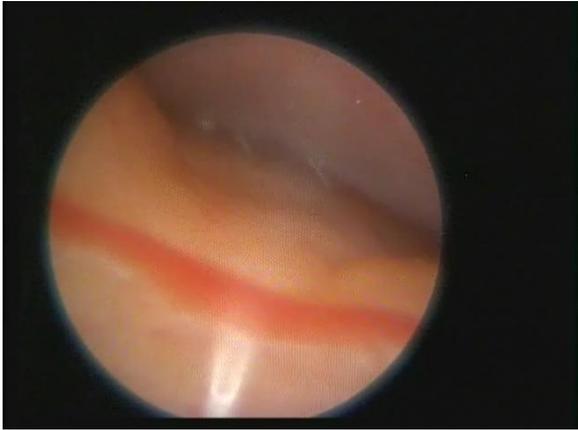


Reduce discomfort: no crack chest

Reduce cost: shorter hospital stay

Disseminate care: more can be done

# First Human Use

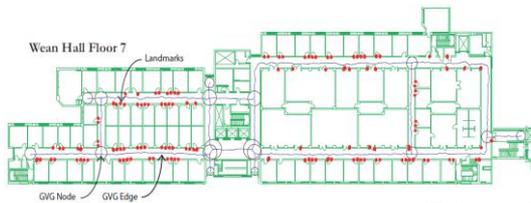


**Patient discharged one day later without clinical sequelae!**

# Situational Awareness

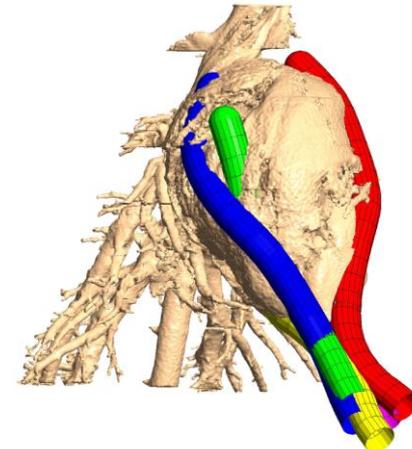
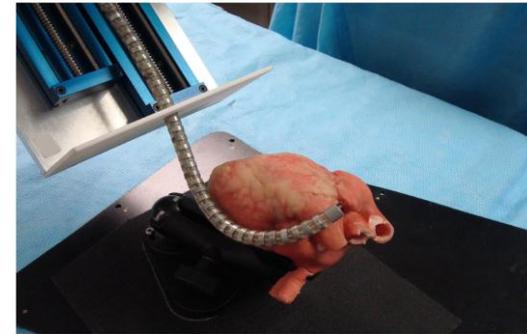
## SLAM for Mobile Robots

$$p(X_k^h, G_k^h | z_{0:k}, u_{1:k}) =$$
$$\eta p(z_{0:k} | X_k^h, G_k^h, u_{1:k}) p(X_k^h, G_k^h | u_{1:k})$$
$$\eta p(z_{0:k} | X_k^h, G_k^h, u_{1:k}) p(X_k^h | G_k^h, u_{1:k}) p(G_k^h | u_{1:k})$$
$$\eta p(z_{0:k} | X_k^h, G_k^h, u_{1:k}) p(G_k^h | u_{1:k}),$$

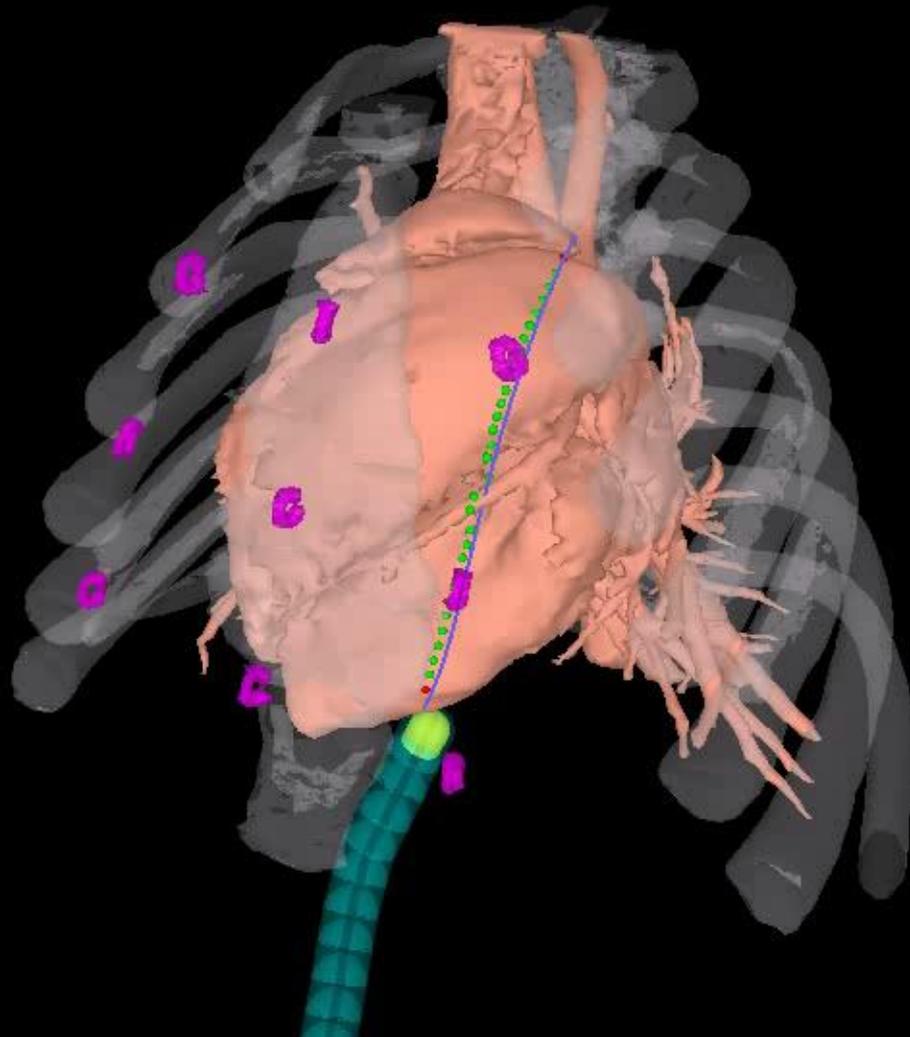


(Tully 2007)

## BodySLAM



# Steering



# Locomoting Snake



# Search and Rescue (Murphy)



Disaster City™

# Archeology (Bard, Fattovich, El-Maguid, Hawass)

## THE ROUTE TO PUNT

BU professor Kathryn Bard has found remnants of ancient Egyptian ships that once traded with the mysterious land of Punt, which she believes was located on the Horn of Africa, somewhere between present-day Eritrea and Somalia.



# Pipes

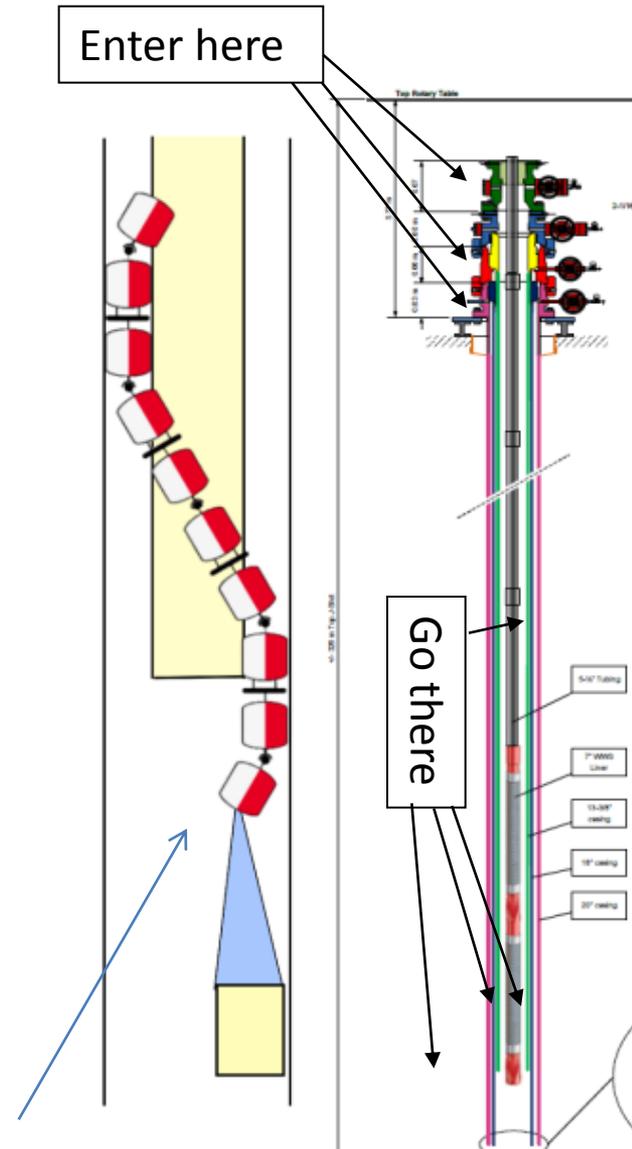
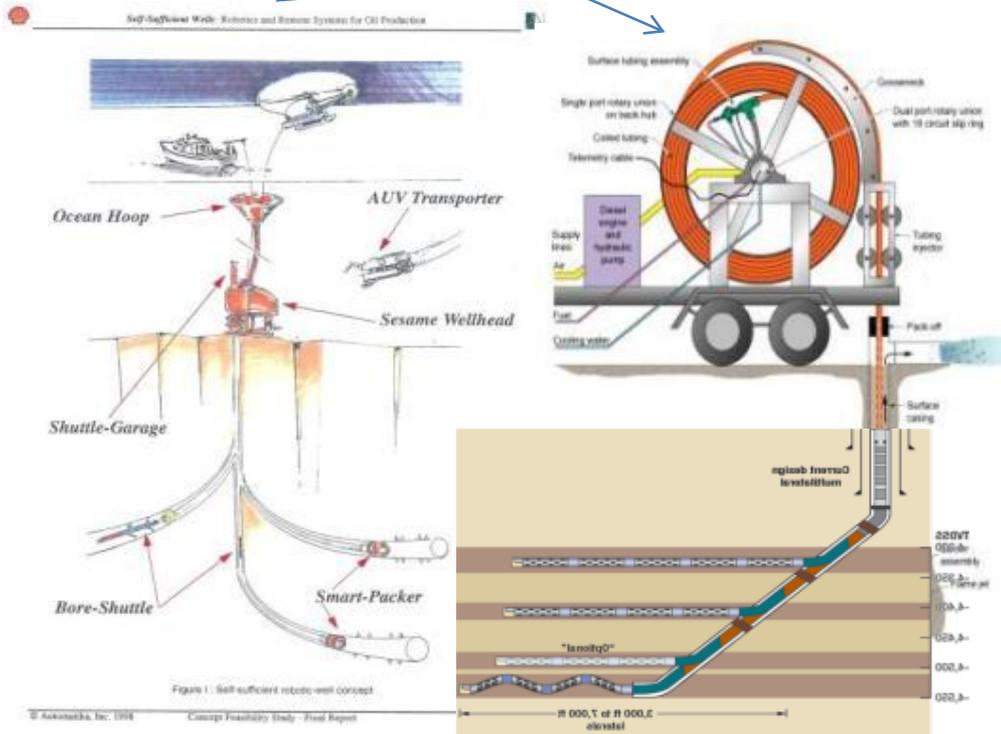
Created with a  
**non-activated** version  
[www.avs4you.com](http://www.avs4you.com)

[www.modsnake.com](http://www.modsnake.com)

# Snake Ideas for Tomorrow from Shell

Re/place sensors & tools in wells, fish, isolate:

Direction & best practices today



# Subsurface Snake Robots applications

- In-well, in-casing
  - Fishing
  - Sensor (re)placement
  - Tool (re)placement, downhole cleanup
- Wireline / Coiled Tubing / Tractor.... ---→ Snake!
  - Dragon wells: extend reach
  - Multilateral well, freely navigate bifurcating fingers
  - Not just the inner riser, go downhole annular spaces also. Negotiate packers.
  - 90 deg turns, navigate 1-D bends, creep through valves, screens, packers
- Extra-casing, travel into the reservoir
  - Directional drilling – abrasive jet drilling
  - Cavern spaces downhole, space for smart kit, build a mining chamber downhole
  - Sensors, 1000nds of sensors (fibers, smart Dust) in & under the production zone: snakes that dig tiny holes for sensors only (T, P, Q, seismic, tracers)
  - Fracking: snakes that enter and map the fractured space – how deep, wide are they really?

# Snakes in a Pipe



# Modeling Snake-like Gaits

Hatton, Tesch, Lipkin, Peck, Choset

Benefit:  
Reduce Dimensionality  
Improve paths

Generalized Serpenoid Curve

$$\alpha(n, t) = \begin{cases} \beta_{\text{odd}} + A_{\text{odd}} \sin(\theta_{\text{odd}}) \\ \beta_{\text{even}} + A_{\text{even}} \sin(\theta_{\text{even}} + \delta) \end{cases} \quad \text{;} \text{ from?}$$

$$\theta_{\text{odd,even}} = (\Omega_{\text{odd,even}} n + \omega_{\text{odd,even}} t),$$



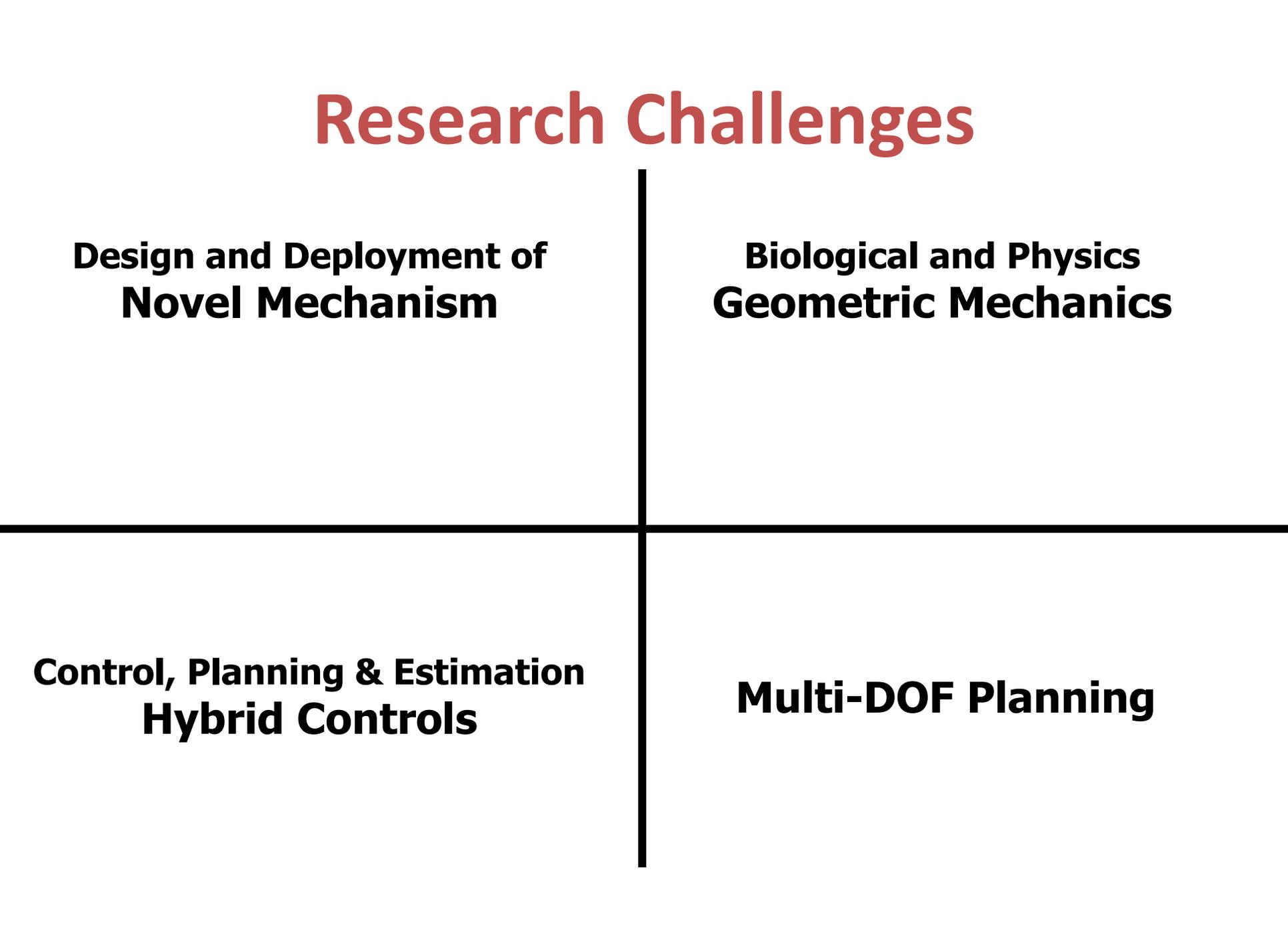
# Physics and Biology

Goldman, Hu and Hatton



# Snakes in Space

# Research Challenges



**Design and Deployment of  
Novel Mechanism**

**Biological and Physics  
Geometric Mechanics**

**Control, Planning & Estimation  
Hybrid Controls**

**Multi-DOF Planning**

# Follow-the-leader Locomotor

**SAIC**  
*From Science to Solutions*

 **Carnegie Mellon**  
**THE ROBOTICS INSTITUTE**

**Serpentine  
Robotics**

