Smart Robotic Quadruped

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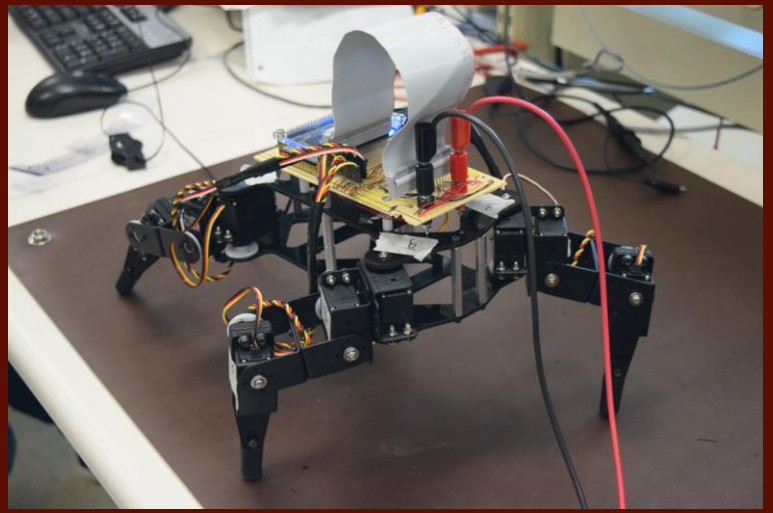


With Special Guest:
Bob the Robot

Motivation

- Interest in robotics and machine learning
- Walking is an interesting challenge
- ECE 449 Intelligent Systems

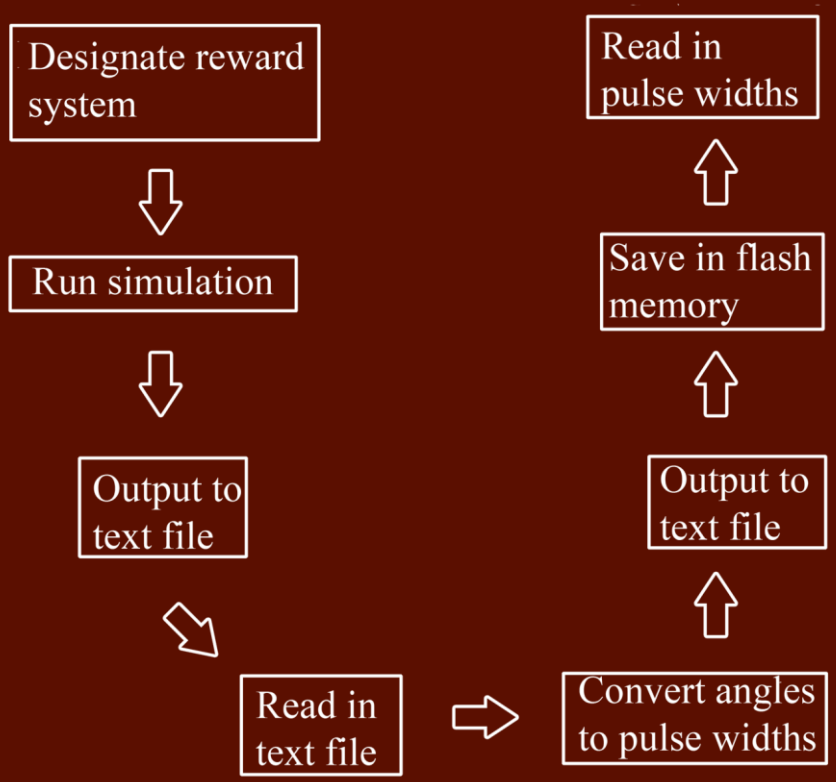
Goals

- Build working robot
- Create accurate simulation of physical robot
- Convert simulation output to pulse width signals
- Hard-code basic motions
- Learned walking motion
- On board adjustments

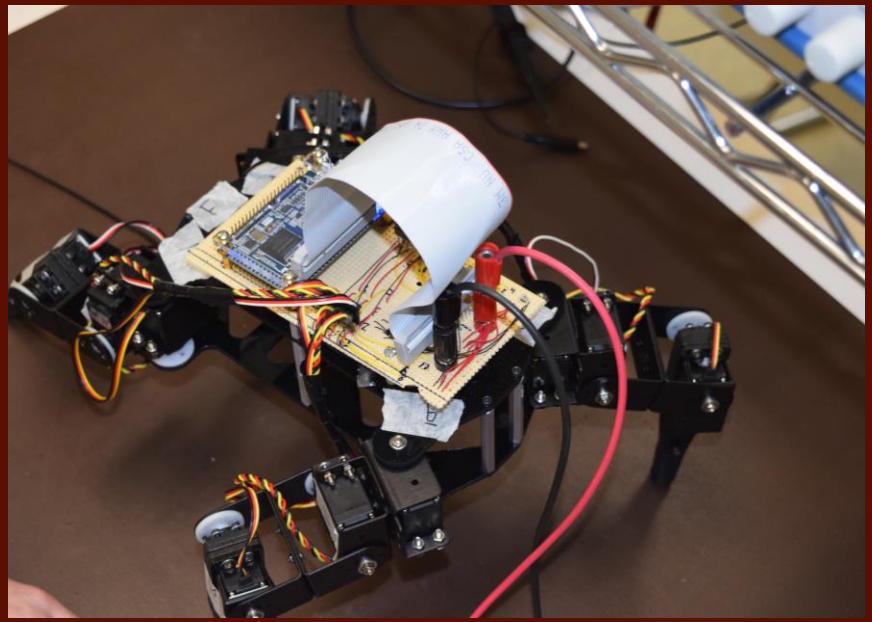
Overview

Design Plan

- Simulation is run; All learning done on PC
- Simulation outputs are converted to pulse width signals
- Pulse widths are saved in memory
- On board program reads pulse widths



Overview

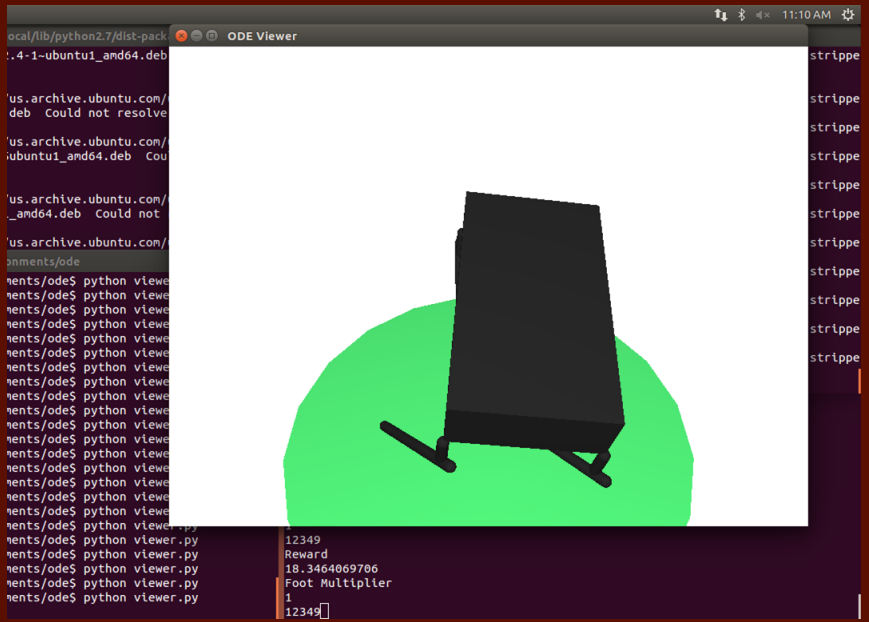


Current Functionality

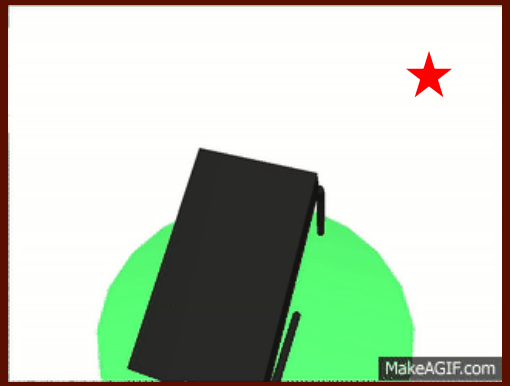
- Hardcoded Modes
  - Walk
  - Dance
  - Weight Shift
  - Simulation
- Simulation output conversion
- Battery powered tether

Simulation

- Simulation used a combination of ODE and OpenGL for physics simulating, and PyBrain for the machine learning aspect
- The machine learning uses a reward based system, allowing for fine tuned control over learned motion
- The simulation is taught through a combination of neural networks and reinforcement learning



Simulation



Trial 1

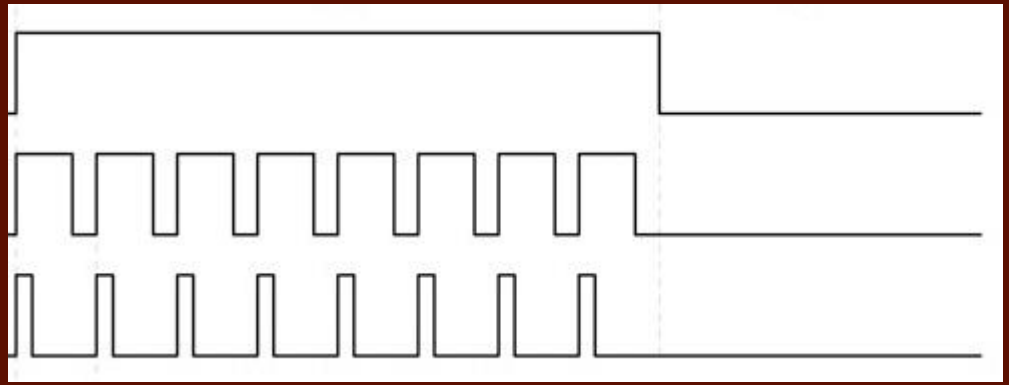
Trial 740

Trial 10500

Trial 20000

Pulse Width Modulation

- Square wave form
- Defines the angle of the servo motor



Converting from Simulation to Real World

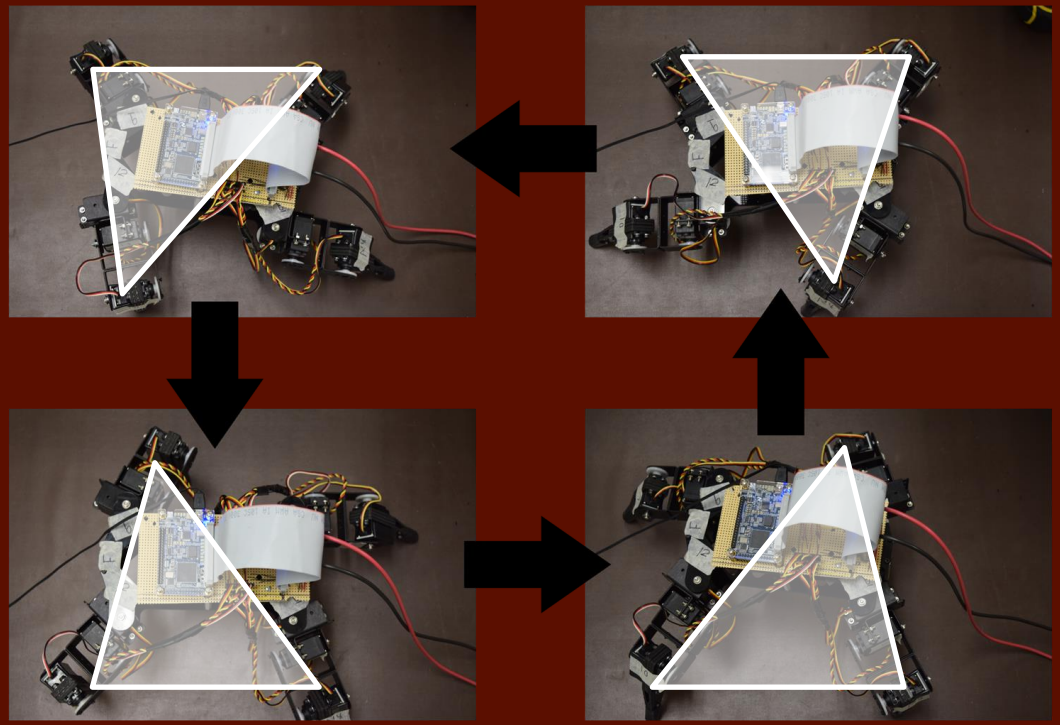
- Slippage between gears
- Varying pulse width ranges
- Rotation around differing points
- Degree conversion for ease of use

```
#Read simulation Data from text file
f_in = open(sim_input, 'r')
content = f_in.readlines()
f_in.close()

#Convert to list of angles
for x in range(0, len(content)):
    content[x] = content[x].replace('[','').split(',')
    if (len(command) >= 2):
        if (command[-1] != 'OSTimeDlyHMSM(0, 0, 0, 20);'):
            command.append('OSTimeDlyHMSM(0, 0, 0, 20);')
    for i in range(0, len(content[x])):
        content[x][i] = content[x][i].replace(']', '')
        content[x][i] = math.floor(math.fabs(math.degrees(float(content[x][i]))))
        if (len(servos[i]) >= 2):
                if (content[x][i] != servos[i][-2]):
                    command.append(string)
        string = conversion(content[x][i] ,servo_defs[i])
        if (len(servos[i]) >= 2):
            if (content[x][i] != servos[i][-2]):
                command.append(string)


#Write new servo cmds to text file
f_out = open(servo_output, 'w')
for x in range(0, len(command)):
    f_out.write(str(command[x])+'\n')
f_out.close()
```

Robot motion versus simulation motion

Learning to Walk Again…..

- The stances shown allow for a total weight shift from front to back legs and back again
- 3 point balance allows for a large safety margin for the torque of our servos



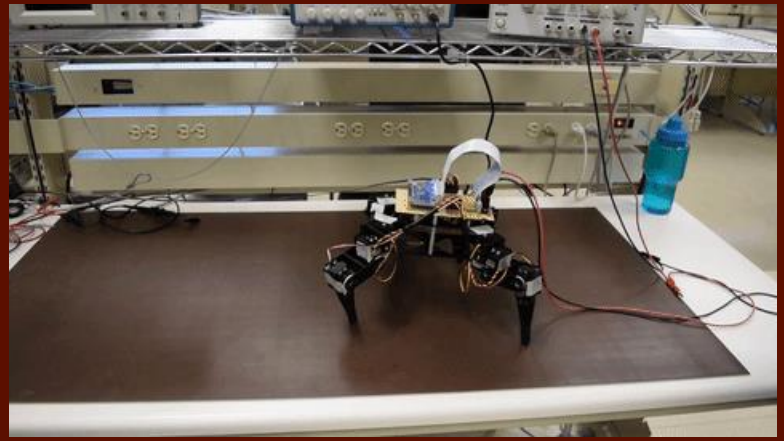
Learning to Walk Again…..

- Simulated and exaggerated weight shifting was necessary to allow for balance during steps

DEMO

Challenges

- Physical calibration
- Math and precision
- Simulation reward system to achieve a proper forward motion



Questions?