

Advances in Cybernetics Technology

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Introduction

Cybernetics is an interdisciplinary study of regulatory systems, their structures, constraints and possibilities. Cybernetics was defined by Norbert Wiener in 1948 as “the scientific study of control and communication in living organism and the machine”. Cybernetics study includes but not limited to artificial learning, adaptation, cognition, convergence, social control, efficacy, efficiency, connectivity and communication [1]. It is known from science fiction; technically modified organism with exceptional skills called as cyborgs -it was originated from the term “cybernetic organism”. As a matter of fact, cyborgs that incorporates technical systems with living organism are already reality. For instance, smart machines that spontaneously operate to changing dynamic conditions, computer supported designs and fabrication based on magnetic tomography datasets or surface modifications for enhanced tissue integration that allowed major development in cybernetics technology [2,3].

Cyborg Cockroach may Someday Save your Life

Researchers at University of Connecticut have used a decade to study and understand the ways of live insects to very tiny computer hardware so that they can maneuver an insect’s movements. Such research is of interest to US Department of Defense for search and rescue operations. One of the novel methods of neuro-controller microcircuit designed at University of Connecticut is part of a tiny electronic ‘backpack’ that can adhere to the insect with its wires connected to the insect’s antennae lobes. By transmitting slight electrical charges to neural tissue in the insect antenna lobe, controller can trick the insect into thinking it has detected an obstruction, causing to move in another direction. A charge transmitted to right antenna makes cockroach move left and charge transmitted to left antenna makes it move right.

A custom designed controller’s values come in the form of an unconventional 9-axis inertial calculation unit inside the device that tracks insect’s linear and rotational acceleration; it analyzes its compass heading and detects ambient temperature surrounding the insect. Various tests have concluded that ambient temperature may have an impact on insects [4]. Figure 1 Illustrates a neuro controller ‘cyborg’ cockroach created at University of Connecticut

could provide more precise operation of micro bio robots, such as use in search and rescue missions inside collapsed buildings. Image Credit: Image courtesy of Abhishek Dutta/UConn [4].

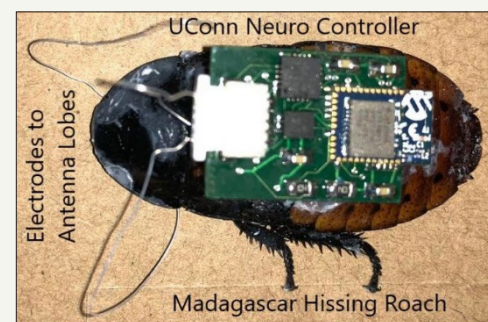


Figure 1: A neuro controller ‘cyborg’ cockroach created at University of Connecticut could provide more precise operation of micro bio robots, such as use in search and rescue missions inside collapsed buildings. Image Credit: Image courtesy of Abhishek Dutta/UConn [4].

Integration of Living Muscles into Robots

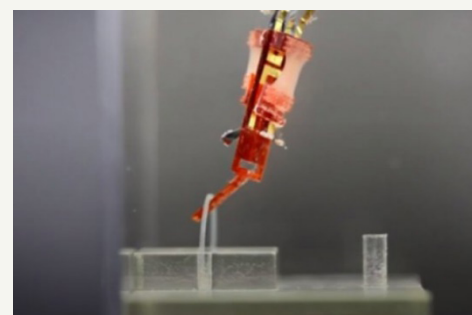


Figure 2: Object manipulations performed by the bio hybrid robots. Image Credit: Shoji Takeuchi, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo [6].

Scientists have created a new and novel technique of developing whole tissues from hydrogel sheets imbued with myoblasts. They assimilated these tissues as antagonistic pairs into a bio hybrid robot which was successfully accomplished in manipulations of objects. This novel method approach overcame earlier boundaries of a short functional life of the tissues and their ability, paving the

way for advanced bio hybrid robots [5,6]. Figure 2 Illustrates Object manipulations performed by the bio hybrid robots. Image Credit: Shoji Takeuchi, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo [6].

Cyborg Tissues

Scientists with collaboration with various other organization have implemented a novel kind of “cyborg” muscle by integrating a three-dimensional network and bio-compatible nanoscale strands into engineered human tissues. This investigation analysis addresses a worry that has been long associated with bio-engineered tissue-to create method capable of sensing chemical and electrical changes in the tissue after it has been grown and implanted. This method might also represent a solution to scientist’s struggles in developing various techniques to directly stimulate engineered tissues and calculate cellular reactions.

Implementing automatic central nervous system as a motivation, researcher’s created mesh-like networks of nanoscale silicon strands that is about 30 to 80nm in diameter shaped like flat planes in a reticular conformation [7,8]. Figure 3 Illustrates a 3-D reconstructed confocal fluorescence micrograph of a tissue scaffold. Image Credit: Charles M Lieber & Daniel S Kohane [8].

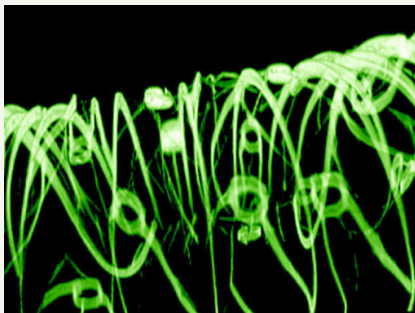


Figure 3: A 3-D reconstructed confocal fluorescence micrograph of a tissue scaffold. Image Credit: Charles M. Lieber and Daniel S. Kohane [8].

Cyborg Surgeon

Even most highly skilled and steady surgeons experience minimal tremors when completing very delicate tasks. Usually, these infinitesimals are insignificant, but surgeons and physician specializing in fine scale surgery, for instance operating inside the human eye or repairing microscopic nerve fibers; freehand agitation can pose a serious risk for patients. By harnessing a specialized optical fiber sensor; a new robotic surgical tool can compensate for this unnecessary movements. It also makes hundreds of precise position corrections each second fast enough to keep physicians’ hand on the target [9,10]. Figure 4 Illustrates the CAD model and prototype of the fiber-optic-sensor-based microsurgical tool, SMART. Image Credit: Courtesy Cheol Song, Johns Hopkins University [10].

Cyborg Moths-Bio Bots

Scientists have created a new technique that can manipulate the flight muscles of moths electronically for monitoring the electrical

signals use to control those muscles. By attaching electrodes to the tissue groups which is responsible for a moth’s flight. Researchers were able to monitor electromyographic signals. The moth is connected to a wireless stage that collects electromyographic data as the moth moves its wings. This work opens the development of remote-controlled bio bots for use of emergency [11,12]. Figure 5 Illustrates Scientists have created novel method for electronically manipulating the flight muscles of moths and monitoring the electrical signals moths use to control those muscles. Image Credit: Alper Bozkurt [12].



Figure 4: The CAD model and prototype of the fiber-optic-sensor-based microsurgical tool, SMART. Image Credit: Courtesy Cheol Song, Johns Hopkins University [10].



Figure 5: Scientists have created novel method for electronically manipulating the flight muscles of moths and monitoring the electrical signals moths use to control those muscles. Image Credit: Alper Bozkurt [12].

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