



## **Practical robotics**

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- French version of the presentation (more up to date)
  - See <a href="https://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/robotique\_pratique.pdf">https://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/robotique\_pratique.pdf</a>





Practical robotics

- To be defined depending on robot purpose :
  - Mechanical structure
  - Actuators
  - Sensors
  - Embedded computer
  - Communication
  - Energy

In this presentation, unmanned (without human onboard) **mobile robots between 50 cm and 4 m** will be mainly considered, often **inspired by RC community** 





#### • Vocabulary :

- Manned : a human onboard controls the robot, otherwise it is unmanned
  - UAV : Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, UGV : Unmanned Ground Vehicle, USV : Unmanned Surface Vehicle, UUV : Unmanned Underwater Vehicle
- Autonomous : several possible levels of autonomy (e.g. with continuous monitoring by a human operator vs without any monitoring), the meaning depends on the context, in most cases it means a robot moving without continuous low-level control by an operator
  AGV, ASV, AUV



- Off-the-shelf vs custom platform :
  - There are lots of existing off-the-shelf platforms, or parts of platforms
  - If the purpose of the robot is to test algorithms on a prototype, I can be a good idea to use off-the-shelf parts to minimize construction time
  - If the robot is expected to be significantly modified during its development, it is good to have a total control on its parts
  - Be careful to the reliability of the manufacturers, some parts might quickly disappear from their product line
  - RC community websites can be interesting for certain types of robots



- Mechanical structure :
  - Can be significantly different from existing manned systems
    e.g. the shape or the type of moving pattern (vertical takeoff, reverse flight, strong accelerations, no need for breathable air, etc.)
  - Often need rapid prototyping methods
    - e.g. 3D printers, see also CAD presentation using CATIA : <u>https://moodle.ensta-bretagne.fr/mod/resource/view.php?id=32600</u>





- Actuators :
  - Might be the same as in manned systems, but very often electrical for small robots





- Actuators :
  - Electrical motors : brushed vs brushless, step-by-step or not? Motors brushed DC :

**2 wires** (+ and -, this can be used to identify them)

DC = direct current, can be tested directly on a battery

An electromagnet rotates in a static cage with permanent magnets, its power supply reversing with the axis rotation

The power supply is on the axis, the **contact is made by 2 brushes** (+ and -)







#### Actuators :

- Electrical motors : brushed vs brushless, step-by-step or not?
  Brushless motors :
  - 3 wires (this can be used to identify them)
  - Cannot be tested directly with a battery, need a motor controller/driver/ESC to generate the correct signals
  - No electric contact between rotating part and fixed part
  - The outside part is often rotating and axis is fixed (**outrunner**, invert is **inrunner**)





- Actuators :
  - Electrical motors : brushed vs brushless, step-by-step or not?
    Brushless motors :

We can put them inside a fluid without too much problems (however be careful to mechanical parts corrosion, current leaks if the fluid is conductive and electrolyze...)

Waterproofness in sea water :

In waterproof box filled with oil if high pressure

Directly in the water if mechanical parts are resistant to corrosion and electromagnets protected with a resin





- Actuators :
  - Electrical motors : brushed vs brushless, step-by-step or not?
    Brushless motors :

Often more expensive than brushed but more efficient in terms of power consumption, torque, speed, durability for equivalent size, weight, especially thanks to the absence of brushes (less friction, usure, etc.)





- Actuators :
  - Electrical motors : brushed vs brushless, step-by-step or not? Brushless motors :
    - Often used in aerial RC drones
    - Important parameters (they have also similar meaning for other types of motors) :
      - KV : number of rotations per Volts or RPM/V
      - Corresponding propellers are often listed on the motor documentation, depending on the voltage input
      - If the propeller and/or the voltage is not correct, the maximum thrust might not be obtained, while the power consumption and the motor temperature will be higher...



- Actuators :
  - Electrical motors : brushed vs brushless, step-by-step or not?
    Brushless motors :
    - Empirical observations for propeller choice :
      - The higher the step, the faster the plane
      - The higher the diameter, the bigger the plane
      - The higher the step and the higher the diameter, the bigger the motor and the lower the Kv
      - For multirotors, the energy required to lift 1 gram is between 100 and 200 mW
      - See <u>http://www.ecalc.ch/</u> to choose correctly the motors and propellers depending on the robot characteristics (aerial)





- Actuators :
  - Electrical motors : brushed vs brushless, step-by-step or not?
    Step-by-step motor :
    - >3 wires
    - Need an adequate driver board
    - Very accurate to be able to go to a specific angle (e.g. used in printers)





- Actuators :
  - Electrical motors
    - See FIPA 1 course :

https://moodle.ensta-bretagne.fr/course/view.php?id=1162





- Actuators :
  - Motor controller/driver/ESC

Enable to control the motors from control signals

- Motors : high voltages and currents from the batteries
- Control signals : low voltages and currents coming directly or indirectly from the embedded computer

Examples : PWM signals (the most used in RC community), I2C, etc.





- Actuators :
  - Motor controller/driver/ESC
    - ESC for brushed motors: in decline in the RC community because of the brushless motors price drop...
    - ESC for brushless motors : often used in planes, quadrotors, helicopters in the RC community, so there is not always backward direction support...





Actuators :

Motor controller/driver/ESC
 Example : Robbe Rokraft (brushed motors)











- Actuators :
  - Motor controller/driver/ESC
    - Functioning :
      - Power sent to motors (and therefore their speed) depends on PWM control signal

PWM = Pulse Width Modulation





#### Actuators :

- Motor controller/driver/ESC
  - Functioning :

Correspondence between pulse width and rotation speed

|         | Motor state                                 | Pulse width   |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 0°      | Motor stopped                               | 1.5 ms        |
|         | Rotation in one direction, accelerating     | 1.5 to 2.0 ms |
|         | Rotation in reverse direction, decelerating | 1.0 to 1.5 ms |
| Stopped |   |               |



- Actuators :
  - Motor controller/driver/ESC
    - Calibration :

Some ESC must be calibrated : **max, min, neutral setup** depending on PWM signal, **check the documentation** (special button or starting procedure, might need a specific adapter to connect to computer with a specific configuration software...)





- Actuators :
  - Motor controller/driver/ESC
    - BEC (Battery Elimination Circuit) :

On its « **servo connector** », there is usually **5 V (typ. 1-3 A)** available on the red wire (generated from the motor battery through an **internal voltage regulator**)

In the RC community, the purpose is to be able to provide power to the receiver as well as small actuators without needing to add a 5 V battery

On the contrary, some ESC (often those using opto/photo internal components) do not have a BEC and need to get 5 V on their red wire to work (they do not use the motor battery for their own power supply)



- Actuators :
  - Motor controller/driver/ESC BEC (Battery Elimination Circuit) :

Warning: if several ESC with BEC are on the robot, their BEC should not be all connected together => remove the red wire from the servo connector for all ESC except 1 (or all if 5 V is not needed)!

Always be careful when there are several power sources on the robot!

Be careful also to **+ loops or - loops** often possible when using SPS (high power relays), **check** if **common ground** is possible/impossible/necessary, etc.



- Actuators :
  - Motor controller/driver/ESC
    - Important parameters :

ESC supported **current** must be > what the **motor** might need ESC supported **voltage** must be >= max voltage of the **battery** and must agree with what the motor accepts and where it is the most efficient (max speed and torque for a reasonable power consumption and temperature)





- Actuators :
  - Servomotor = small motor + ESC
    - Controlled by PWM
    - Power supply 5 V (usually < 2 A)
    - 2 types of servomotors :
      - Position/angle control : turn e.g. from -40 to +40°
      - Speed control





- Actuators :
  - Interface board

Connects computer part with electronics part (sensors, actuators) Computer part : « brain » through programs on the PC Electronics part : sensors, actuators





- Actuators :
  - Interface board

Example : IOIO board for Android smartphone/tablet, Windows/Linux PC

Connected on the smartphone/computer USB port and is controlled by programs running on the smartphone/PC

Can generate PWM signals, I2C

Can generate and read digital signals

Can read small voltages (from analog sensors such as telemeters, odometers, compass...)





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- Actuators :
  - Interface board
    - Other examples : Pololu Maestro, SSC-32, LabJack for PC









#### • Sensors :

- **Proprioceptive** : provide information about current robot internal state, w.r.t. and internal reference
- Exteroceptive : provide information about robot state w.r.t. its environment
- Exproprioceptive : combination of proprioceptive and

| oxtorocontivo      | capteur                | sous-marin | aérien | proprioceptif | extéroceptif | exproprioceptif |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------|--------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| exteroceptive      | boussole               | +          | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | magnétomètre           | +          | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | inclinomètre           | +          | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | gyromètre              | +          | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | accéléromètre          | +          | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | GPS                    |            | +      |               | +            |                 |
|                    | IMU/AHRS               | +          | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | INS                    | +          | +      |               |              | +               |
|                    | odomètre               |            | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | altimètre barométrique |            | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | capteur de pression    | +          |        | +             |              |                 |
|                    | loch hélice/pression   | +          | +      | +             |              |                 |
|                    | DVL                    | +          |        |               | +            |                 |
|                    | caméra                 | +          | +      |               | +            |                 |
|                    | sonar                  | +          |        |               | +            |                 |
|                    | télémètre ultrason     |            | +      |               | +            |                 |
|                    | télémètre infrarouge   |            | +      |               | +            |                 |
|                    | télémètre laser        |            | +      |               | +            |                 |
|                    | radar                  |            | +      |               | +            |                 |
| Practical robotics | lidar                  |            | +      |               | +            |                 |
|                    | récepteur radios       |            | +      |               | +            |                 |

28/08/2019-31



Sensors :





#### Sensors :

- **Compass** : angle w.r.t. magnetic North.
- 3 axis Magnetometer/ 3D compass : measure the 3 Earth magnetic field components. Be careful to perturbations due to metal parts, electrical currents...
   Magnetic perturbations due to surrounding

environment metal parts : difficult to correct but we could make a cartography of the environment magnetic field

Perturbations due robot parts (may depend on motors speed...): constant perturbations can be taken into account by following a magnetic calibration procedure









Done

🗹 Rotate with each data point 🛛 🗹 Use Auto Accept



- Sensors :
  - Inclinometer : angle w.r.t. horizon
  - Gyrometer : rotating speed
  - Accelerometer : acceleration in translation
  - GPS : latitude, longitude, altitude (not precise), speed

Do not work inside nor underwater (needs a good direct « view » of the satellites in the sky)

Might give outliers when it is at the limit of not getting the signal or if there are multiples reflections on obstacles

Startup time (« fix ») of several minutes depending on conditions

Sometimes, 2 GPS can be used to estimate heading



- Sensors :
  - IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit) : combination of acceleros, gyros, magnetos
  - AHRS (Attitude and Heading Reference System) : IMU with a global digital processing of the different sensors data
  - INS (Inertial Navigation System) : AHRS with the addition of positions and speeds outputs

Often comes with an integrated GPS because getting this values only from inertial data causes an accumulation of errors dues to integrations








- Sensors :
  - Check the documentation to determine if any calibration is possible/necessary
  - If necessary, a simple calibration procedure for heading measurement using a compass/IMU/AHRS can be followed : see <u>http://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/these/thesis\_2011-11-23.pdf</u> (p64)
  - Bad heading measurements are very common problems for autonomous robots



#### Sensors :

Communication types : Analog outputs (e.g. 0..5 V) Digital outputs : P2P: 0 or 1 on one or several bits in parallel RS232/UART serial link Bus: RS485/RS422 CAN **I2C/SMBus** SPI USB Network : Ethernet, Wi-Fi

- Sensors :
  - Communication types :
    - **Point to point link (P2P)** : 2 devices are in exclusive communication
    - **Bus** : communication channel shared between several devices, often with concepts masters and slaves
    - **Network** : several devices and several channels



composan

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bus requête

adresse

données

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composari

1

omposar

0







- Sensors :
  - Communication types :

Often enclosing layers of links types, protocols, see OSI model...

Example : Keller P33x pressure sensor





- Sensors :
  - Communication types :
    - Warning : the max sensor power supply voltage might be different from the max voltage on its communication pins!
    - Example : several sensors are powered by 5 V while their UART has voltage levels between 0 and 3.3 V

See <u>https://learn.sparkfun.com/tutorials/bi-directional-logic-level-</u> <u>converter-hookup-guide</u>









- Sensors :
  - Communication types :
    - RS232/UART serial link
      - Main signals : GND, TX (Transmit), RX (Receive)

The TX from the PC should be put on the RX from the device, and conversely!



If the sensor only send data (e.g. GPS), it might not be necessary to connect its RX, same for actuators with TX For device firmware update, RTS, CTS, DTR, etc. might be also necessary

Conversely, sometimes these signals might cause problems and should be left disconnected...



- Sensors :
  - Communication types :
    - RS232/UART serial link

Depending on the device protocol, it might be possible to receive/send easily data using **HyperTerminal** (Windows, see <u>http://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/Share/hypertrm.zip</u>) or **minicom**, **gtkterm** (Linux)

See also : <u>http://www.ensta-</u> bretagne.fr/lebars/tutorials/Serial%20port%20C.pdf





- Sensors :
  - Communication types :
    - Bus RS485/RS422

Signals : **A+, A-, B+, B-**, sometimes called also RX+, RX-, TX+, TX-

No GND since voltage levels are measured between the – and + : called symmetric/differential signal, contrary to RS232 where it is called asymmetric since the reference is GND for TX and RX

**Differential signal** => more robust to interferences

Full-duplex : has a separated reception and transmission line (needs 4 wires)

Half-duplex : only use the same line for reception and transmission, therefore must commute between transmitter and receiver mode each time (needs 2 wires)

Sensors :

- Communication types :
  - USB 2.0 bus

Signals : GND, D+, D-, +5 V

High variety of different connectors, to check

Use **high quality cables** (shielded, etc.), avoid cutting the cables or pass through nonstandard connectors, this type of signal is highly fragile in practice...







The type-A plug (left) and type-B plug (right)





Mini USB port on

Pololu Micro Maestro 6



- Sensors :
  - Communication types :
    - USB 2.0 bus

**USB host** vs **USB device** : PC=host, sensor=device in general

Smartphones/tablets : sometimes can support both modes

Power supply of a device :

In general provided by host

If consuption<100 mA no problem in general

Otherwise, a negociation happens between host and device to obtain up to 500 mA

A non-powered USB hub cannot provide more than 100 mA on each of its ports



- Sensors :
  - Communication types : USB 2.0 bus

Plugging a device asking for excessive power can damage the computer!

Warning : PCs often already have integrated hubs, this might also have consequences on expected max bandwidth (480 Mbits/s for a « real » USB 2.0 port)!

Warning : USB 3.0 to USB 2.0 backward compatibility do not always work well, try to use USB 2.0 ports for USB 2.0 devices when possible...



- Sensors :
  - Communication types :
    - USB bus

It is a **complex bus** with its version, bandwidth, power supply management, etc. => we never directly need to code with this protocol, there should be always a more simple protocol on top and **drivers and specific libraries** to use (when it is not just a conversion to RS232, RS485)...

e.g. : Webcams (with OpenCV), Labjack UE9 (with libUSB, see manufacturer), Kinect 2 (with Kinect SDK)





- Sensors :
  - Communication types :
    - I2C/SMBus
      - 3 signals: GND, SDA (data) and SCL (clock)

On Linux, a driver, commands, and an API enable to use this bus if available on the computer





- Embedded computer :
  - Robot intelligence
    - Contains programs defining robot behavior
    - In general, all sensors, actuators, communication devices are directly or indirectly connected on it
    - Used to save the data, even if it is often safer to send them also to the control station in case of the loss of the robot...
    - If not powerful enough, we can try to make some computations on the control station
  - « Computer », « PC », « brain », « intelligence » are often used

as a synonym...

#### Practical robotics

#### Designing a robot

Embedded computer :

 Examples : PC i.e. computer with Intel x86 compatible processor with BIOS/UEFI, etc. HTPC (Home Theater PC)
EeePC 901 (netbook)
Mini ITX
PC/104

| Computer form factors |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Name                  | Size (mm)                  |
| NUC                   | 116.6 x 112 x 34.5         |
| Compute Stick         | 103.3 x 12.5 x 37.6        |
| Zotac Pico            | 66 x 19.2 x 115.2          |
| eeePC 901             | $226\times175.3\times22.9$ |
| Mini TX               | 170 × 170                  |
| Nano ITX              | 120 × 120                  |
| Pico ITX              | 100 × 72                   |
| PC/104                | 96 × 90                    |









- Embedded computer :
  - Examples : computers with ARM processor
    - Smartphone / tablet
      - Smartphone Samsung Galaxy S with Android (with GPS, compass, camera, Wi-Fi, etc. already integrated)

Raspberry Pi







- Embedded computer :
  - Other : Arduino, autopilots (some have often already PWM outputs, etc.)...





- Embedded computer :
  - Warning : even if computers and other embedded boards are more and more small and cheap, take into account the size and price of the connectors and potentially necessary adapters!
    - e.g. Raspberry Pi Zero (5\$) + hub USB (5\$) + micro USB adapter (1\$) + mini HDMI adapter (5\$) + Wi-Fi dongle (5\$) + keyboard/mouse (5\$)...





- Communication :
  - Actuators control
    - RC receiver on the robot, remote for the operator
      - No need for a PC, designed to be directly connected to the ESC and/or servos
      - Typ. 4-8 PWM

Usual frequencies : nowadays 2.4 GHz, 5.8 GHz, 433 MHz, before 27, 35, 40, 41 MHz

Various modulation/coding type (FM, AM, SSS, SPCM, PPM), various channels around specific frequencies (check quartz if any)

- Communication :
  - Telemetry : orientation, position, speed, battery, etc. info
    Autopilot and/or specific module on the robot, specific module for the operator PC or other
    Usual frequencies : 2.4 GHz, 5.8 GHz, 433 MHz

 FPV (First Person View) : remote camera
Camera with specific module on the

robot, glasses or screen for the operator

Usual frequencies : 2.4 GHz, 5.8 GHz









- Communication :
  - Other : bidirectional communications





- Communication :
  - Range vs bandwidth vs transmit power vs frequency vs antenna size
    - The higher the frequency, the more with can expect to get a high bandwidth
    - The lower the frequency, the more with can expect to get a long range with a low transmit power (i.e. low power requirement)
    - Antenna size decrease when frequency increase
    - Use directional antennas to maximize range, however, need an accurate control towards the right direction



- Communication :
  - Perturbations :
    - Even an unused antenna might cause perturbations
    - A powerful Wi-Fi can perturbate a GPS, even if they are not using the same frequency...
    - Some obstacle types (metal fence) can perturbate significantly
    - Antennas should be as far as possible from the ground...
    - Wi-Fi channels : it can be sometimes better to be on the **same channel** as others, since **protocols are designed to handle this situation**, while if we are on different but close channels unexpected radio interferences not related to the protocol will occur...



- Communication :
  - Air vs water :

Electromagnetic waves do not propagate much underwater :

In **still water**, we can expect to communicate on **a few m** at frequencies of **tens of MHz** while in sea water, there is more attenuation

Similarly, visibility is limited underwater, therefore optical communications are also limited :

In general we detect better yellow or orange objects since they contrast with the water color

However, it is more the blue-green color that is absorbed the least in the water, unfortunately it does not contrast with the water color



- Energy :
  - Usual battery types : Li-Po, Li-Ion, NiMH, Pb
  - Energy (in Wh) = Voltage (in V) \* Capacity (in Ah or often mAh, often noted C)
    - It is this value that should be used to compare 2 batteries
  - Max charge/discharge current
    - e.g. 30C/5C : if e.g. C=2500 mAh, the max discharge current would be 30\*2500 mAh and max charge current would be 5\*2500 mAh





- Energy :
  - Cells : 3S2P => 2 parallel blocks of 3 cells in serial (S for serial, P for parallel)
  - Cell voltage depends on battery type e.g. 3.7 V for Li-Po, 1.2 V for NiMH

Warning : if the voltage of a cell becomes too low (e.g. < 3.5 V for Li-Po), it can be forever! => Use a checker/alarm!



Always unplug it after use since it always draw a little bit of energy!

• See <a href="http://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/robots\_batteries.pdf">http://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/robots\_batteries.pdf</a>



#### Energy :

- Most of the batteries must be charged with intelligent chargers that follows specific current/voltage charge curves that depend on battery type and its state <u>https://youtu.be/vzAOG9ctZRU</u>
- Voltmeter or checker : can prove that a battery is discharged, but not reliable to say that it is charged!
- In particular, Li-Po built from several cells usually have a balance connector that enables the charger to adjust the charge of each cell independently
- Mechanical stress, overcharge, short-circuit = danger! <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz3hCqjk4yc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz3hCqjk4yc</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DcpANRFrl4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DcpANRFrl4</a>







#### Typical RC connectors :

• Power :

T/Deans

**XT60** 



PK3.5 (designed for brushless motors)



#### Control or low power :





BEC JST : 2 wires, GND and often +5V (to check)



- Typical RC connectors :
  - Usual conventions :

http://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/conventions\_connecteurs.pdf

• See also :

http://www.dronetrest.com/t/wires-connectors-and-current-what-youneed-to-know-as-a-drone-builder/1342





- Cables :
  - Check the cables diameter and the connectors quality when the currents are high (e.g. > 5 A)
  - Voltage decreases with the cable length (e.g. -1 V every 10 m depending on cable resistance, current, etc.)
  - If the currents are high, magnetic perturbations may occur for the robot compass => twisting cables can sometimes limit those perturbations
  - Some digital signals should be also carried using **twisted pairs** : e.g. Ethernet, RS232,...
  - For antennas cables extensions, coaxial cables and connectors are necessary, check what are their max frequency and impedance
  - The ground cables set-up should be in star rather than with loops...



- Manipulations, interventions, tests :
  - Unplug the battery for any technical intervention!
  - Only plug the minimum when you are not sure of what you are doing/or about the hardware state to limit damages in case of a problem!
  - Check if your workspace contains metal objets: short-circuits can occur!
  - Take pictures and videos at each step of any mounting/unmounting/test
  - Make a user, test, etc. checklist.



#### Design examples for different types of robots









### AGV Buggy (2012)




### AGV euRathlon (future)





### AGV euRathlon (future)



ENSTA Bretagne

### ASV Motorboat (2013)





### ASV Motorboat (2013)





### ASV VAIMOS (2011)





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### ASV VAIMOS (2011)





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#### ASV White Sailboat (2016)





### ASV White Sailboat (2016)



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### AUV SAUC'ISSE (2014)





### AUV SAUC'ISSE (2014)





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### Indoor Quadrotor euRathlon (future)





### Indoor Quadrotor euRathlon (future)





### Plane (future)





#### Plane (future)







Practical robotics



- Goal :
  - Learn how to setup a computer and the necessary network devices to be able to control it remotely when it will be installed inside a robot







- Building a PC :
  - A PC usually has :



An audio card : often integrated inside the motherboard

Ethernet, Wi-Fi network adapters

Passive or active cooling devices : on CPU, GPU

Power supply unit (PSU): e.g. ATX format

Box : contains everything and has buttons (Power, Reset), LEDs (power status, disk activity) and additional ports (USB, audio)







- Building a PC :
  - Typical internal buses and connectors :
    - PCI Express : very fast data bus designed for optional extension boards (video, audio, Wi-Fi, LAN/Ethernet), replace PCI and AGP)SATA : hard disks, SSD, DVD drives, replace ATA/PATA/IDE
    - ExpressCard : very fast data bus designed for laptops optional extension boards, replace PCMCIA

SMBus : for voltage, current, temperature sensors

 To check the compatibility of various devices, see <u>https://pcpartpicker.com/</u>



- Building a PC :
  - Efficient search for PC, robot, etc. parts :
    - Example : powerful display adapter for simulations or sensors data processing (e.g. stereo camera ZED)

Google search "powerful display adapter" gives for example in the 1<sup>st</sup> results "ASUS GeForce GTX 1070 - TURBO-GTX1070-8G display adapter" on amazon.com with only price indication and without technical specifications

=> Search on manufacturer website (NVIDIA) official documentation and compare with product line, search again on Google for other distributors and use their selection functions



- Building a PC :
  - Efficient search for PC, robot, etc. parts :

Distinction between **main component manufacturer** (NVIDIA), its **model** (GTX 1070), **full board manufacturer** (ASUS), its **model** (if several versions available) and the **distributor/reseller** (amazon.fr)





- Building a PC :
  - Efficient search for PC, robot, etc. parts :
    - Search also on Google for tests and reviews on specific websites, customers comments, some distributors make also their own independent tests (warning, sometimes comments can be biaised or fake!)
    - Whenever your choice is made, it can be good to search on Google for "ASUS GeForce GTX 1070 - TURBO-GTX1070-8G problem" to check typical problems reported by users and evaluate the risk to be impacted

- Building a PC :
  - Hardware unit tests :

An ATX PSU can be tested using this procedure :









- Building a PC :
  - Hardware unit tests :

Adequate cooling devices are mandatory as soon as we add the processor : overheat risk!

As soon as we add the RAM, we should be able to configure the majority of the BIOS/UEFI





- PC setup :
  - BIOS/UEFI :

Motherboard configuration tool, integrated inside

- If the BIOS/UEFI do not work any more (e.g. due to wrong settings or a failed update) :
  - Push the Power button during 10 s than unplug 5-10 min
  - Restart 5 times (to make the motherboard understand that 5 startups failed in a row, this can sometimes trigger a reset to default parameters)
  - Invert during 10 s the CCMOS jumper on the motherboard (with power cord unplugged)
  - Remove/replace the motherboard Lithium battery if any (with power cord unplugged)

Check the motherboard documentation if none of these solutions work (e.g. special keys combinations, etc.)

RMA

#### => Be careful for any BIOS/UEFI modification!

- PC setup :
  - BIOS/UEFI :
    - Typical access keys :
      - DEL, F2 Enter Setup : main settings
      - F7 Update BIOS : update from a file on a USB key
      - ESC, F8, F10, F11, F12 Boot Menu Override : start from a temporary device
      - F12 Network Boot
      - CTRL+I : configure a RAID (multiples hard disks in parallel)

| Pheard Modular BIDS v6.88PC, An Energy Star Ally   Copyright (C) 1984-2801, Award Software, Inc.   RK35/RK35PV R1.28 May.30.2001 ADpen Inc.   Nain Processor : Ints/Deviluen III 667MHz(133v5.0)   Newrup Testing : Sof280K GK   SFD Supported   Prinary Master : NEC-PDTP-372850 P76NA380   Prinary Master : DVD-RDN DDL238E 5.0g   Sacondary Slave : None | PhoenixBIDS 4.0 Kelease 6.0<br>Copuright 1985-2009 UMware, Inc.<br>Whare BIDS build 315<br>G39K System RAM Passed<br>SilM Extended RAM Passed<br>Flixed Disk 0: UMware Uirtual IDE Hard Drive<br>ATAPI CD-ROM: UMware Uirtual IDE CDROM Drive<br>Mouse initialized |
|---|--|
| Press MEL to enter SETUP, ESC to skip memory test<br>65/38/2001-1815-463627HF-6669RH89C-00  | Press F2 to enter SETUP, F12 for Network Boot, ESC for Boot Memm. 0:15   |





- PC setup :
  - BIOS/UEFI :
    - Parameters to check :
      - Load optimized settings : often a good starting point
      - **Date, time** : might perturbate the OS if incorrect (put UTC), need a motherboard with battery or supercapacity
      - Halt on no error : e.g. the robot PC should not consider that the absence of the keyboard is an error
      - **APM\AC loss auto restart, Power on if power failure** : on a robot, we do not have always access to the PC Power button, it should start whenever it gets power supply



#### PC setup :

• BIOS/UEFI :

Parameters to check :

**Boot order** : put in first the device containing the OS to ensure that the computer do not try to start on a USB key temporary connected when the computer starts, additionally a specific key enables in general to start from a temporary device if needed

**WOL (Wake On Lan)** : might be used to remotely start a computer **Watchdog** : to disable since it might try to restore default parameters in case of unexpected power loss, which in practice often happens when a robot is working on batteries, the drawback will be that this failsafe function will not help if one day we set wrong parameters in the BIOS...



#### PC setup :

• BIOS/UEFI :

Parameters to check :

AHCI/RAID/IDE, Compatible : if SSD or SATA hard disk and a modern OS, choose AHCI, if the OS cannot access to the hard disk, choose IDE, Compatible (might cause a little bit of performance loss) or check the motherboard documentation to find how to load the correct drivers during OS installation

**OS choice** : if this option exists, a bad choice might cause an OS installation failure or reduced performance (presets often related to power supply, storage settings, etc.)

Some changes can be interdependants and require several restarts to appear or be taken into account!

- PC setup :
  - Operating System (OS) installation :



- A CD, DVD or USB key must be specifically prepared so that the PC can start from it and launch the installation
- If the **PC is 32 bit**, only a **32 bit OS** can be used, if the **PC is 64 bit**, we usually have the **choice** (BIOS settings might need to be modified accordingly)

It is better to use the BIOS **Boot Menu Override** function (temporary startup menu) to start temporarily from a device, so that for next restarts, it should not try to start again the beginning of the installation







#### PC setup :

- Operating system (OS) installation :
  - Boot Menu Override :

Devices can be sometimes **listed by categories** and a **dedicated menu** might exist to choose the order inside a category

e.g. some USB can be listed in the Hard disk category along with the internal hard disk, therefore it might be necessary to check also the order inside this category...

Category names can be sometimes misleading, check if you cannot find the desired device...



- PC setup :
  - Operating system (OS) installation :
    - UEFI boot (GPT) vs Legacy boot (MBR) :

PCs with a **BIOS** (before 2010, 32 bit in general) start from hard disks or SSD with a **MBR** (contains a small piece of software as well as the partition table, with size limitations)

PCs with a **UEFI** (after 2010) start differently and are especially compatible with **hard disks > 2 To** and can often also propose to work like a legacy BIOS with MBR disks

=> Choice of one or the other mode has often few impact for a robot (leave default), unless it has a hard disk or SSD > 2 To



- PC setup :
  - Operating system (OS) installation :
    - UEFI boot (GPT) vs Legacy boot (MBR) :

Some PCs can have an **unusual mix between 32 bit or 64 bit UEFI and processors** (e.g. Intel Atom-based computers), in this cas esome OS might need a **specific installation procedure**...

See <u>http://liliputing.com/2014/10/run-ubuntu-zotac-zbox-pico-mini-pc-kinda.html</u>





- PC setup :
  - File systems :
    - A hard disk usually contains several partitions, each one can contain a specific file system
    - A file system defines a folders, files, access rights structure on a partition
    - **Disk image** : file corresponding to a bit per bit copy of a disk (hard disk, SSD, DVD, etc.)
    - Mounting a partition : attribution of a path to access the files and folders from a partition

Partition root : first level from the folder tree of a partition



- PC setup :
  - File systems :
    - Windows :
      - NTFS : best choice if we only use Windows, should work also in recent Linux
      - exFAT : not so much used, FAT32 update
      - **FAT32** : best portability, but with a 4 GB file size limitation and no access rights support
      - **FAT (FAT16)** : good portability with some electronic devices (e.g. micro SD card on Arduino) because simple to manage if we must write our custom driver on a microcontroller

#### Linux :



**ext4** : default choice on recent Linux, not handled by Windows by default **ext2-3** : can be a good choice if data need to be shared with Windows since third-party drivers are available (check limitations : <u>http://www.fs-driver.org/</u>) **vfat** : FAT32, usually Linux cannot be but can be a good choice if data need to be shared with Windows

**swap** : specific virtual memory, can be avoided in general if we have enough RAM



- PC setup :
  - Operating system (OS) startup :
    - Steps :
      - PC power ON

**BIOS/UEFI** starts, makes various checks and load the beginning of hard disks, SSD, USB keys in the order configured and **launch the first valid MBR/GPT** 

MBR/GPT contains a very short piece of software (512-8192 bytes) that can begin to offer choices to the user, or execute the rest of the software on the beginning of a specified other partition (**VBR**, on the **active partition** of the disk in the case of a MBR)


- PC setup :
  - Operating system (OS) startup :
    - Steps :

Some files will begin to be loaded on the partition and the **boot loader** (its code is spread on the beginning of the disk (MBR), the beginning of a partition (VBR), and files on this partition) will then finish to load and will start to look for the operating system, or provide choices to the user

The files from the chosen **operating system** (might be on another partition or disk) will then begin to launch its **kernel**, load **drivers** and **services** and display the **desktop** and the **applications** 

- PC setup :
  - Operating system (OS) startup :
    - Boot loaders :
      - Linux : GRUB, LILO
      - Windows XP : NTLDR
      - Windows Vista, 7, 8, 10 : BOOTMGR

The different parts of the boot loaders are not always directly visible file explorers since some parts are not really standard files (e.g. MBR, VBR), specific low-level tools (e.g. **dd**) might be needed to access to the binary code and save it as a file





default N timeout sec color couleur1 couleur2

# la configuration pour l'OS dont le Grub est installé

| tle  | Le libellé d'OS                                |
|------|--|
| ot   | (hd <disque>,<partition>)</partition></disque> |
| rnel | /boot/vmlinuz-2.x.x.xx root=/dev/hdLN options  |
| itrd | /boot/initrd.img-2.x.x.xx                      |
|      |  |

# à partir d'ici à editer pour les autres OS

# Pour la grande famille GNU/Linux # pour chaque OS a ajouter dans Grub il faut écrire le bloc suivant

| tle        | Le libellé d'OS supplementaires                |
|------------|--|
| oot        | (hd <disque>,<partition>)</partition></disque> |
| ernel      | /boot/vmlinuz-2.x.x.xx root=/dev/hdLN options  |
| nitrd      | /boot/initrd.img-2.x.x.xx                      |
| otnoverify | (hd <disque>,<partition>)</partition></disque> |
|            |  |

# Pour la famille Windows

| title       | Le libellé d'OS (à mettre ce que tu veux)      |
|-------------|--|
| root        | (hd <disque>,<partition>)</partition></disque> |
| chainloader | +1   |

| Microsoft Hindows    | flewsion 6 3 96001                                 |  |
|----------------------|--|--|
| (c) 2013 Microsoft   | Corporation. All rights reserved.                  |  |
|                      |  |  |
| C:∖Windows∖system3   | 2>bcdedit /enum                                    |  |
| Jindows Boot Manag   | 0.10   |  |
| intracowa bobe manag |  |  |
| identifier           | {bootmgr}  |  |
| device               | partition=C:                                       |  |
| description          | Windows Boot Manager                               |  |
| locale               | en-us  |  |
| inherit              | {globalsettings}                                   |  |
| resumeobject         | {ef0aec6d-b367-11e4-811e-b4c80aff09d8}             |  |
| displayorder         | (current)  |  |
|                      | (ntidr)  |  |
| toolsdisplayorder    | (nendiag)  |  |
| timeout              | 3  |  |
| Windows Boot Loade   |  |  |
| and boot house       |  |  |
| identifier           | {current}  |  |
| device               | partition=C:                                       |  |
| path                 | \Windows\system32\winload.exe                      |  |
| description          | Windows 8.1  |  |
| locale               | en-US  |  |
| inherit              | {bootloadersettings}                               |  |
| recoverysequence     | {ef0aec6b-b367-11e4-811e-b4c80aff09d8}             |  |
| integrityservices    | Enable   |  |
| recoveryenabled      | Yes  |  |
| allowedinmemoryset   | tings 0x15000075                                   |  |
| osdevice             | partition=C:                                       |  |
| systemroot           | \Windows   |  |
| resumeobject         | <pre>{ef 0aec69-b367-l1e4-811e-b4c80aff09d8}</pre> |  |
| n× .                 | H IWA YS OF F                                      |  |
| bootmenupolicy       | Legacy   |  |
| nypervisor launchty  | Hee Off  |  |
| usepiaciormciock     | 163  |  |

### PC setup :

- Operating system (OS) startup :
  - Specific commands or configuration files enable to set options

/boot/grub/menu.lst or /etc/default/grub and update-grub for GRUB

bcdedit, bcdboot, bootsect for BOOTMGR

It is sometimes possible to chain boot loaders one after the other



- PC setup :
  - Operating system (OS) startup :
    - => When a computer does not startup correctly, we should try to identify at which specific step the problems begin to be able to find how to solve it!





- PC setup :
  - Unattended OS installation, mass installations :
     For a group of robots, we might have several computers to set up

Identical computers :

Install everything on one, then make a low-level copy of its hard drive (e.g. with **dd**, **fsarchiver**, **dism**)

Warning : BIOS settings are usually not stored on the hard drive, they must be modified for each PC





- PC setup :
  - Unattended OS installation, mass installations :
    - Heterogeneous computers :
      - An automated installation of the OS and most of the applications can be prepared and launched in parallel on each PC

Windows : autounattend.xml file, see Windows PE, Windows ADK, Windows AIK and usual application installers documentation : Windows Installer, Inno Setup, InstallShield, Nullsoft NSIS, etc. As a last resort, see Autolt to simulate mouse clicks. Keywords : unattended, silent, quiet, passive installations

Ubuntu : preseed.cfg file

Modern versions of Windows and Ubuntu might under some conditions adapt during their first startup if we try to use the method of previous slide, but it is not really supported

- PC setup :
  - Automatic launch of programs at OS startup
    - Linux :
      - cron
      - Files in /etc/init.d
      - Configure auto login and file ~/.bashrc or similar
    - Windows :
      - Task Scheduler
      - Creation of a service, e.g. with srvany.exe tool
      - Configure auto login and C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\StartUp



- PC setup :
  - Startup/stop/configuration of services
    - Linux :
      - Restarting network service :
        - sudo /etc/init.d/networking restart
        - or
        - sudo service network-manager restart
    - Windows :
      - Stopping automatic update service :

#### sc stop wuauserv

- Disabling automatic update service (warning : installation of some applications might fail) :
  - sc config wuauserv start= disabled



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- PC setup :
  - Update management

Be sure to disable automatic download and installation an autonomous system...





- PC setup :
  - Introduction to networks, configuration for remote access, checking possible blockings, etc.

See <a href="https://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/initiation\_reseaux.pdf">https://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/initiation\_reseaux.pdf</a>





- PC setup :
  - Access rights problems

Use **sudo** if message like « permission denied » on Linux, Windows equivalent is right-click « **Run as administrator** », otherwise **chmod -R 777 foldername** or **chmod 777 file** to set specific files or folders access rights on Linux, Windows equivalent is right-click **Properties\Security**.





- PC setup :
  - Access rights problems
    - If problems accessing a serial port device on Linux, add current user to **dialout** group (vi /etc/group), reboot if needed : **sudo addgroup \$USER dialout**

See also <u>https://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/Share/Ubuntu.txt</u> to rename a serial port depending on the device (**udev** rules)



- PC setup :
  - Using specific libraries in C/C++
    - See : <u>http://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/tutorials/Complements\_C-</u> <u>C++.pdf</u>





Practical robotics



#### Purpose :

 Make a robot autonomous i.e. able to do detection, localization, cartography, measurements missions with as few as possible human help





#### Simulation :

• Robot in construction :

Make a software simulator to start testing control algorithms, etc.
Make a simplified or smaller version as hardware simulator of the real robot...

 Existing teleoperated robot or vehicle driven by a human : Add sensors and record the actuators inputs to get an idea on its dynamic behavior

These data can be then used to design a simulator



### Simulation :

- Advantages to prepare simulations : Less risks to break hardware
  - Easier to debug
  - etc.
- Drawbacks :
  - Sometimes difficult to obtain models that describe correctly the robot => make experiments in teleoperated mode and record data if possible
  - Too complex model => maybe split in several more simple simulators to test specific aspects
  - Risk to develop algorithms that do not work in practice => make HIL (Hardware In the Loop) simulations



 Example of HIL (Hardware In the Loop)simulation : with VAIMOS

Practical robotics



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 Example of HIL (Hardware In the Loop) simulation : with VAIMOS





 Example of HIL (Hardware In the Loop) simulation : with VAIMOS





- Robots simulation in MATLAB :
  - See <u>http://www.ensta-</u> bretagne.fr/lebars/simu\_robots\_matlab.ppt
- Simple control of a robot to follow waypoints :
  - See <u>http://www.ensta-</u> bretagne.fr/lebars/buggy\_control\_simple.ppt





- From waypoints following to line following :
  - Basic waypoint following :
    - The robot follows a heading in direction of its waypoint
    - Waypoint reached when in a predefined radius
    - Problem : nothing prevent the drift between waypoints (because of currents...)





- Line following :
  - The heading to follow will be the line between the 2 current waypoints, with an attractive angle to the line depending on the distance to the line





- Primitive controller stage for heading control
  - Rudder control

$$\delta_r = \begin{cases} \delta_r^{\max} . \sin\left(\theta - \overline{\theta}\right) & \text{if } \cos\left(\theta - \overline{\theta}\right) \ge 0\\ \delta_r^{\max} . \text{sign}\left(\sin\left(\theta - \overline{\theta}\right)\right) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

 A supervisor sends heading to follow to the primitive heading controller depending on the current line

$$\begin{array}{l} e = \det \left( \frac{\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}}{\|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}\|}, \mathbf{m} - \mathbf{a} \right) \\ \varphi = \operatorname{atan2}(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) \\ \overline{\theta} = \varphi - \frac{2 \cdot \gamma_{\infty}}{\pi} \cdot \operatorname{atan}\left(\frac{e}{r}\right) \end{array}$$

Navigation manager sends lines to supervisor and validates lines
Validation condition

$$|\mathbf{b}_j - \mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{m} - \mathbf{b}_j 
angle \geq 0$$







#### Potential fields :

- Enable the combination of attractive, repulsive points or lines
- Example : prey and predator in a square where they are not allowed to escape





- Other control algorithms :
  - See <u>http://robmooc.ensta-bretagne.fr/</u>





#### Localization :

- Knowing its position at all times is mandatory in most of the cases
- However, sensors are not always available to return directly an accurate position whatever the conditions...
   Example : GPS works well when we are on a road with a clear view of the sky, however it does not work at all in a long tunnel

 Therefore, theoretical and numerical methods need to be developed to get estimations : these methods are called state observer



#### Localization :

- In 1A (Automatics), you might have learned Luenberger observers for linear systems, others can be made depending on the specificities of the system :
  - **Dead-reckoning** : uses state equations to predict the next position at t+dt from the current one at t
  - Computations using geometrical relations : distance and/or angles to marks (objects whose position is more or less known) relations

Kalman Filter : see http://www.ensta-

bretagne.fr/lebars/Obs\_et\_filt\_de\_Kalman.ppt

Set-membership methods : see https://www.ensta-

bretagne.fr/jaulin/iamooc.html



#### Localization :

 Note : in robotics, state estimation, state observer will be often a synonym of localization, position estimation since it is often the position that we really want to estimate, among the state variables





#### Localization :

- Usual coordinate systems conversions :
  - Usual coordinate systems :
    - NED (North-East-Down)
    - NWU (North-West-Up)
    - ENU (East-North-Up)
    - WGS84 (axes orientation like ENU)
  - Distinctions between différents types of altitude (e.g. distance w.r.t. bottom often for a submarine), depth (distance w.r.t. surface), that can be different depending on the sensor and the physical effect

used



#### Localization :

- Usual coordinate systems conversions :
  - NED->ENU : 90-yaw, -pitch, roll
  - WGS84 to local ENU coordinate system : see <u>http://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/lebars/these/thesis\_2011-11-23.pdf</u> (p28) or « A simple controller for line following of sailboats » on <u>http://www.ensta-bretagne.fr/jaulin/</u> to take into account the fact that the Earth cannot be assumed as flat for long distances





#### • Cartography :

#### • Drawing of the robot environment

e.g. combination of lidar, sonar, camera, Kinect, etc. data.





• Cartography :

 Example of interesting sensor for cartography : Kinect 2 Xbox One

Gather several sensors :

- A Full HD color camera
- An (active) infrared camera
- Several microphones



• Cartography :

- Example of interesting sensor for cartography : Kinect 2 Xbox One It returns :
  - Color images
  - Infrared images











- Cartography :
  - Example of interesting sensor for cartography : Kinect 2 Xbox One
    - Since these images come from separated sensors, several problems have to be considered :
      - Different view point -> areas visible on one sensor but not on another
      - Different resolution and angular limits (FOV)
      - Symetries, etc.



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- Cartography :
  - Example de sensor interessant pour la cartography : Kinect 2 Xbox One
    - Then, knowing the angular limits of the camera and the depth ranger, color image and depth image information can be combined to draw a point clouds in 3D...








#### • Cartography :

- Example de sensor interessant pour la cartography : Kinect 2 Xbox One
  - Example : 3D representation of a group of red pixels from the color image, whose corresponding grey levels in the depth picture represent a distance of 4.2 m, if images of e.g. 320 x 240 resolution with a FOV 70.6 x 53.8









#### SLAM (Simultaneous Localization And Mapping) :

- The robot often knows or measure :
  - Its initial and final position
  - Its dynamic model (state equations)
  - Its navigation data (orientation, speed, etc.)
  - Its teledetection data (camera, sonar, etc. images)
- Idea of SLAM :

Estimate the position of marks from its own position estimation Use the position of this marks to localize itself



Practical robotics





- SLAM (Simultaneous Localization And Mapping) :
  - Data association : knowing if a mark is a new one or an already known one can somtimes be a problem itself
  - Outliers (bad data) : determining if a sensor data is correct or not is also a real problem





