Robot Controllers in Animation

Control Systems



Where do the control laws come from?

- Observation
- Biomechanical literature
- Optimization
- Intuition

Hierarchy of control laws

- 1. State machine
- 2. Control actions
- 3. Low level control

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Running state machine



Hierarchy of control laws

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Flight duration



Forward Velocity







Ground speed matching



Balance: roll, pitch, yaw



Mirroring: hips and shoulders



Control laws for all states

Neck: turn in desired facing direction Shoulder: mirror hip angle Elbow: mirror magnitude of shoulder Wrist: constant angle Waist: keep body upright

Control laws for flight phase

Active leg:

- Swing leg forward for touchdown
- Straighten knee

Idle leg:

- Mirror hip angles of active leg
- Hold knee and ankle at flight angle

Control laws for heel contact phase

Active leg:

- Pitch control with hip
- Allow ankle to extend
- Knee acts as a spring

Idle leg:

- Mirror hip angles of active leg
- Shorten knee to prevent foot contact
- Hold at flight angle

Control laws for heel/toe contact and toe contact

Active leg:

- Pitch control with hip
- Extend ankle for thrust
- Extend knee for thrust

Idle leg:

- Mirror hip angle of active leg
- Shorten knee to prevent foot contact
- Hold ankle at flight angle

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Low level control

$$\tau = k(\theta_d - \theta) + k_v(\theta_d - \theta)$$



Difference between walking and running

- Walking: double support
- Running: flight phase
- Energy transfer patterns
 - Inverted pendulum
 - Pogostick

Walking state machine

