

Università degli Studi di Perugia

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile e Ambientale



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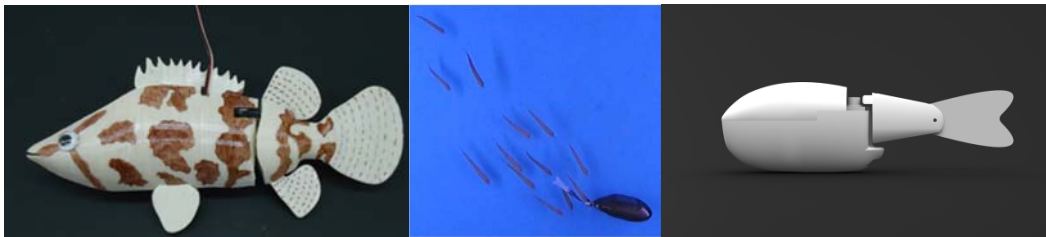
Avviso di Seminario

Mercoledì 9 Ottobre 2013 ore 11:00, Aula 17, Facoltà di Ingegneria

Prof. Maurizio Porfiri

*Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering,
Polytechnic Institute of New York University, Brooklyn, NY 11201*

Fish ‘n’ Robots: not a take-out food



Abstract:

Engineering design of robots is often inspired by nature; recently developed bioinspired robots accurately imitate various aspects of their live counterparts. Yet, the relationship between engineering and nature has often been one-directional: engineers borrow ideas from nature to build more efficient, more appealing, and better performing robotic systems for use in traditional human-centered applications. In some cases, these systems are used as proxies for studying the natural system, but whether these devices can be integrated within the ‘ecological niche’ inspiring their design seldom is experimentally tested. An even more elemental research question pertains to the feasibility of modulating spontaneous behavior of animal systems through bioinspired robotics. In this talk, we discuss recent research findings at the Dynamical Systems Laboratory of the Polytechnic Institute of New York University on the feasibility of integrating robotic fish in experimental paradigms to investigate the behavior of social fish. In this context, robots can be used to offer consistent, customizable, and controllable stimuli for decomposing the complex nature of information sharing and decision making in fish. This talk will address fundamental scientific questions such as: is fish behavioral response influenced by a robotic fish and, if so, what is the consistency of such response? What are the determinants of attraction or repulsion of a robotic fish and can they be modulated through the administration of psychoactive compounds? What is the role of hydrodynamic effects and visual cues? Does the behavior and motion of a

Info: Filippo Ubertini, e-mail: filippo.ubertini@unipg.it tel. 075 5853954, fax 075 5853897

robotic fish influence fish social response? Do fish interact differently with a robotic fish depending on their ‘personality’?

Bio:

Maurizio Porfiri was born in Rome, Italy in 1976. He received M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Engineering Mechanics from Virginia Tech, in 2000 and 2006; a “Laurea” in Electrical Engineering (with honours) and a Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from the University of Rome “La Sapienza” and the University of Toulon (dual degree program), in 2001 and 2005, respectively. From 2005 to 2006 he held a Post-doctoral position with the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Virginia Tech. He has been a member of the Faculty of the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department of the Polytechnic Institute of New York University since 2006, where he is currently an Associate Professor. He is engaged in conducting and supervising research on dynamical systems theory, multiphysics modeling, and underwater robotics. Maurizio Porfiri is the author of more than 130 journal publications and the recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award (Dynamical Systems program) in 2008. He has been included in the “Brilliant 10” list of Popular Science in 2010 and his research featured in all the major media outlets, including CNN, NPR, Scientific American, and Discovery Channel. Other significant recognitions include an invitation to the Frontiers of Engineering Symposium organized by National Academy of Engineering in 2011, the Outstanding Young Alumnus award by the college of Engineering of Virginia Tech in 2012, the ASME Gary Anderson Early Achievement Award by in 2013, and the ASME DSCD Young Investigator Award in 2013.

Tutti gli interessati sono invitati a partecipare.

I responsabili

Prof. Ing. A.L. Materazzi

Ing. F. Ubertini