

Noah J. Cowan, Ph.D.

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Updated: November 7, 2018

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2001 Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Advisor: Daniel E. Koditschek
Dissertation: Vision-Based Control via Navigation Functions
M.S. 1997 Electrical Engineering and Computer Science University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
B.S. 1995 Electrical Engineering, Ohio State University, Columbus

POSITIONS HELD

Primary Appointments

- ◇ Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
 - 2017–present Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
 - 2010–2017 Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
 - 2003–2010 Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
- ◇ The University of California, Berkeley
 - 2001–2003 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Integrative Biology
Advisor: Robert J. Full

Other, Secondary, and Visiting Appointments

- ◇ Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
 - 2013–present Deputy Directory, Laboratory for Computational Sensing and Robotics (LCSR)
 - 2010–present Secondary Appointment, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
 - 2004–present Secondary Appointment, Department of Computer Science
 - 2003–present Director, Locomotion in Mechanical and Biological Systems (LIMBS) Laboratory
- ◇ The University of Washington, Seattle
 - 2010–2011 Visiting Scholar, Department of Biology

AWARDS AND HONORS

- ◇ **Discovery Award**, Johns Hopkins University, 2015.
- ◇ **Discovery Award**, Johns Hopkins University, 2016.
- ◇ **The Dunn Family Award**, conferred for having . . . *an extraordinarily positive impact upon the lives of one or more undergraduate students . . .* Johns Hopkins University, 2014
- ◇ **Scholar Award in Complex Systems Science**, James S. McDonnell Foundation, 2012
- ◇ **Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE)**, National Office of Science and Technology Policy, 2010
- ◇ **CAREER Award**, National Science Foundation, 2009
- ◇ **Finalist, Best Paper**, IEEE/RSJ Intelligent Robots and Systems Conference, 2006
- ◇ **William H. Huggins Excellence in Teaching Award**, Johns Hopkins University, 2005
- ◇ **Rackham Doctoral Fellowship**, University of Michigan, 2000–2001
- ◇ **Finalist, Best Student Paper**, IEEE Conference on Decisions and Controls, Sydney, Australia, 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Cowan's [postdocs and students](#) in green.

Review Articles

- [R1] **N. J. Cowan**, **M. M. Ankarali**, J. P. Dyhr, **M. S. Madhav**, **E. Roth**, **S. Sefati**, S. Sponberg, **S. A. Stamper**, E. S. Fortune, and T. L. Daniel. Feedback control as a framework for understanding tradeoffs in biology. *Integr Comp Biol* 54(2):223–237, 2014, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/icb/icu050>.
- [R2] **E. Roth**, S. Sponberg, and **N. J. Cowan**. A comparative approach to closed-loop computation. *Curr Opin Neurobiol* 25:54–62, 2014, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.conb.2013.11.005>.

Journal Articles (published)

- [J1] D. Biswas, L. A. Arend, **S. A. Stamper**, B. P. Vágvölgyi, E. S. Fortune, and **N. J. Cowan**. Closed-loop control of active sensing movements regulates sensory slip. *Curr Biol*, 2018. In Press.
- [J2] A. M. Zimmet, **N. J. Cowan**, and A. J. Bastian. Patients with cerebellar ataxia do not benefit from limb weights. *Cerebellum*, 2018. Published Online.
- [J3] E. D. Tytell, J. A. Carr, N. Danos, C. Wagenbach, C. M. Sullivan, T. Kiemel, **N. J. Cowan**, and **M. M. Ankarali**. Body stiffness and damping depend sensitively on the timing of muscle activation in lampreys. *Integr Comp Biol*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icy042>.
- [J4] **M. S. Madhav**, R. P. Jayakumar, **A. Demir**, **S. A. Stamper**, E. S. Fortune, and **N. J. Cowan**. High-resolution behavioral mapping of electric fishes in amazonian habitats. *Sci Rep* 8(1), 2018, <http://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-24035-5>.
- [J5] **E. E. Sutton**, **A. Demir**, **S. A. Stamper**, E. S. Fortune, and **N. J. Cowan**. Dynamic modulation of visual and electrosensory gains for locomotor control. *J R Soc Interface* 13(118):20160057, May 2016, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2016.0057>. PMC4892261.
- [J6] I. Uyanik, **M. M. Ankarali**, **N. J. Cowan**, U. Saranlı, and O. Morgul. Identification of a vertical hopping robot model via harmonic transfer functions. *Trans Inst Measurement Control* 38(5):501–511, 2016, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0142331215583327>.
- [J7] **A. Lamperski** and **N. J. Cowan**. Optimal control with noisy time. *IEEE Trans Autom Control* 61(2):319–333, Feb. 2016, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TAC.2015.2444234>.
- [J8] **M. M. Ankarali**, **S. Sefati**, **M. S. Madhav**, A. Long, A. Bastian, and **N. J. Cowan**. Walking dynamics are symmetric (enough). *J R Soc Interface* 12(108):20150209, 2015, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2015.0209>.
- [J9] **J. P. Swensen**, M. Lin, A. M. Okamura, and **N. J. Cowan**. Torsional dynamics of steerable needles: modeling and fluoroscopic guidance. *IEEE Trans Biomed Eng* 66(11):2707–2717, Nov. 2014, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TBME.2014.2326161>.
- [J10] J.-M. Mongeau, **A. Demir**, C. J. Dallmann, K. Jayaram, **N. J. Cowan**, and R. J. Full. Mechanical processing via passive dynamic properties of the cockroach antenna can facilitate control during rapid running. *J Exp Biol* 217(18):3333–3345, 2014, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1242/jeb.101501>.
- [J11] **M. M. Ankarali**, H. T. Şen, **A. De**, A. M. Okamura, and **N. J. Cowan**. Haptic feedback enhances rhythmic motor control by reducing variability, not improving convergence rate. *J Neurophysiol* 111(6):1286–1299, 2014, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1152/jn.00140.2013>.
- [J12] J.-M. Mongeau, **A. Demir**, **J. Lee**, **N. J. Cowan**, and R. J. Full. Locomotion- and mechanics-mediated tactile sensing: antenna reconfiguration simplifies control during high-speed navigation in cockroaches. *J Exp Biol* 216(24):4530–4541, 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1242/jeb.083477>.

- [J13] A. Rosenberg, **N. J. Cowan**, and D. E. Angelaki. The visual representation of 3D object orientation in parietal cortex. *J Neurosci* 33(49):19352–19361, 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3174-13.2013>. PMC3850047.
- [J14] **S. Sefati**, I. D. Neveln, **E. Roth**, T. Mitchell, J. B. Snyder, M. A. MacIver, E. S. Fortune, and **N. J. Cowan**. Mutually opposing forces during locomotion can eliminate the tradeoff between maneuverability and stability. *Proc Nat Acad Sci* 110(47):18798–18803, 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1309300110>. PMC3839770.
- [J15] **M. S. Madhav**, **S. A. Stamper**, E. S. Fortune, and **N. J. Cowan**. Closed-loop stabilization of the jamming avoidance response reveals its locally unstable and globally nonlinear dynamics. *J Exp Biol* 216(22):4272–4284, 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1242/jeb.088922>.
- [J16] J. P. Dyhr, T. L. Daniel, K. A. Morgansen, and **N. J. Cowan**. Flexible strategies for flight control: an active role for the abdomen. *J Exp Biol* 216(9):1523–1536, 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1242/jeb.077644>.
- [J17] **N. J. Cowan**, E. J. Chastain, D. A. Vilhena, J. S. Freudenberg, and C. T. Bergstrom. Nodal dynamics, not degree distributions, determine the structural controllability of complex networks. *PLoS ONE* 7(6):e38398, 2012, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0038398>. PMC3382243.
- [J18] **S. A. Stamper**, **M. S. Madhav**, **N. J. Cowan**, and E. S. Fortune. Beyond the jamming avoidance response: weakly electric fish respond to the envelope of social electrosensory signals. *J Exp Biol* 215(23):4196–4207, 2012, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1242/jeb.076513>.
- [J19] **S. A. Stamper**, **E. Roth**, **N. J. Cowan**, and E. S. Fortune. Active sensing via movement shapes spatiotemporal patterns of sensory feedback. *J Exp Biol* 215(9):1567–1574, 2012, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1242/jeb.068007>.
- [J20] **K. B. Reed**, A. Majewicz, **V. Kallem**, R. Alterovitz, K. Goldberg, **N. J. Cowan**, and A. M. Okamura. Robot-assisted needle steering. *IEEE Robot Autom Mag* 18(4):35–46, 2011, <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/6096030/>. PMC3460644.
- [J21] **E. Roth**, **K. Zhuang**, **S. A. Stamper**, E. S. Fortune, and **N. J. Cowan**. Stimulus predictability mediates a switch in locomotor smooth pursuit performance for *Eigenmannia virescens*. *J Exp Biol* 214(7):1170–1180, 2011, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1242/jeb.048124>.
- [J22] **V. Kallem**, D. E. Chang, and **N. J. Cowan**. Task-induced symmetry and reduction with application to needle steering. *IEEE Trans Autom Control* 55(3):664–673, Mar. 2010, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TAC.2009.2039241>. PMC2871331.
- [J23] D. C. Rucker, **R. J. Webster III**, G. S. Chirikjian, and **N. J. Cowan**. Equilibrium conformations of concentric-tube continuum robots. *Int J Robot Res* 29:1263–1280, 2010, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0278364910367543>.
- [J24] **S. G. Carver**, **N. J. Cowan**, and J. M. Guckenheimer. Lateral stability of the spring-mass hopper suggests a two step control strategy for running. *Chaos* 19(2), 2009, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.3127577>.
- [J25] **S. G. Carver**, T. Kiemel, **N. J. Cowan**, and J. J. Jeka. Optimal motor control may mask sensory dynamics. *Biol Cybern* 101(1):35–42, 2009, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00422-009-0313-x>. PMC2778031.
- [J26] **V. Kallem** and **N. J. Cowan**. Image guidance of flexible tip-steerable needles. *IEEE Trans Robot* 25(1):191–196, 2009, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TR0.2008.2010357>. PMC2860577.
- [J27] **K. B. Reed**, A. M. Okamura, and **N. J. Cowan**. Modeling and control of needles with torsional friction. *IEEE Trans Biomed Eng* 56(12):2905–2916, Dec. 2009, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TBME.2009.2029240>. PMC2859043.

- [J28] R. J. Webster III, J. M. Romano, and N. J. Cowan. Mechanics of precurved-tube continuum robots. *IEEE Trans Robot* 25(1):67–78, 2009, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TR0.2008.2006868>.
- [J29] S. G. Carver, E. Roth, N. J. Cowan, and E. S. Fortune. Synaptic plasticity can produce and enhance direction selectivity. *PLoS Comp Biol* 4(2), 2008, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.0040032>. PMC2242823.
- [J30] J. Lee, S. N. Sponberg, O. Y. Loh, A. G. Lamperski, R. J. Full, and N. J. Cowan. Templates and anchors for antenna-based wall following in cockroaches and robots. *IEEE Trans Robot* 24(1):130–143, 2008, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TR0.2007.913981>.
- [J31] N. J. Cowan. Navigation functions on cross product spaces. *IEEE Trans Autom Control* 52(7):1297–1302, 2007, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TAC.2007.900834>.
- [J32] N. J. Cowan and E. S. Fortune. The critical role of locomotion mechanics in decoding sensory systems. *J Neurosci* 27(5):1123–1128, 2007, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4198-06.2007>.
- [J33] N. J. Cowan, J. Lee, and R. J. Full. Task-level control of rapid wall following in the American cockroach. *J Exp Biol* 209(9):1617–1629, 2006, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1242/jeb.02166>.
- [J34] R. J. Webster III, J. S. Kim, N. J. Cowan, G. S. Chirikjian, and A. M. Okamura. Nonholonomic modeling of needle steering. *Int J Robot Res* 25(5/6):509–526, May 2006, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0278364906065388>.
- [J35] N. J. Cowan and D. E. Chang. Geometric visual servoing. *IEEE Trans Robot* 21(6):1128–1138, Dec. 2005, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TR0.2005.853491>.
- [J36] N. J. Cowan, J. D. Weingarten, and D. E. Koditschek. Visual servoing via navigation functions. *IEEE Trans Robot Automat* 18(4):521–533, 2002, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/TRA.2002.802202>.

Full-Length Refereed Conference Articles

- [C1] D. Ehrens, F. Assaf, N. J. Cowan, S. V. Sarma, and Y. Schiller. Ultra broad band neural activity portends seizure onset in a rat model of epilepsy. *Conf Proc IEEE Eng Med Biol Soc.* IEEE, July 2018.
- [C2] A. Kunapareddy and N. J. Cowan. Recovering observability via active sensing. *Proc Amer Control Conf*, 2018. Accepted.
- [C3] B. Fuerst, E. E. Sutton, R. Ghotbi, N. J. Cowan, and N. Navab. Bioelectric navigation: a new paradigm for intravascular device guidance. *Proc Med Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention*, vol. 9902. Springer, LNCS, 2016.
- [C4] I. Uyanik, M. M. Ankarali, N. J. Cowan, O. Morgul, and U. Saranli. Toward data-driven models of legged locomotion using harmonic transfer functions. *Int Conf Advanced Robotics*, pp. 357–362, July 2015.
- [C5] I. Uyanik, M. M. Ankarali, N. J. Cowan, U. Saranli, O. Morgul, and H. Ozbay. Independent estimation of input and measurement delays for a hybrid vertical spring-mass-damper via harmonic transfer functions. *IFAC Workshop on Time Delay Systems*, June 2015.
- [C6] S. Sefati, N. J. Cowan, and R. Vidal. Linear systems with sparse inputs: observability and input recovery. *Proc Amer Control Conf*, pp. 5251–5257, 2015.
- [C7] S. Sefati, N. J. Cowan, and R. Vidal. Learning shared, discriminative dictionaries for surgical gesture segmentation and classification. *Proc Med Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention*, October 2015.
- [C8] M. M. Ankarali and N. J. Cowan. System identification of rhythmic hybrid dynamical systems via discrete time harmonic transfer functions. *Proc IEEE Int Conf on Decision Control*, December 2014.

- [C9] A. Lamperski and N. J. Cowan. Time-changed linear quadratic regulators. *Proc Euro Control Conf*, July 2013.
- [C10] S. G. Carver, E. S. Fortune, and N. J. Cowan. State-estimation and cooperative control with uncertain time. *Proc Amer Control Conf*, pp. 2990–2995. IEEE, June 2013.
- [C11] J. P. Swensen and N. J. Cowan. Torsional dynamics compensation enhances robotic control of tip-steerable needles. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, May 2012.
- [C12] J. P. Swensen and N. J. Cowan. An almost global estimator on $SO(3)$ with measurement on S^2 . *Proc Amer Control Conf*, June 2012.
- [C13] S. Sefati, I. Neveln, M. A. MacIver, E. S. Fortune, and N. J. Cowan. Counter-propagating waves enhance maneuverability and stability: a bio-inspired strategy for robotic ribbon-fin propulsion. *Proc IEEE Int Conf on Biomed Robot and Biomech*, 2012.
- [C14] E. Roth, M. B. Reiser, M. H. Dickinson, and N. J. Cowan. A task-level model for optomotor yaw regulation in *Drosophila melanogaster*: a frequency-domain system identification approach. *Proc IEEE Int Conf on Decision Control*, 2012.
- [C15] J. P. Dyhr, N. J. Cowan, D. J. Colmenares, K. A. Morgansen, and T. L. Daniel. Autostabilizing airframe articulation: Animal inspired air vehicle control. *Proc IEEE Int Conf on Decision Control*, 2012.
- [C16] A. Demir, M. M. Ankarali, J. P. Dyhr, K. A. Morgansen, T. L. Daniel, and N. J. Cowan. Inertial redirection of thrust forces for flight stabilization. *Proc Conf on Climbing and Walking Robots*, 2012.
- [C17] V. Kallem, D. E. Chang, and N. J. Cowan. Observer design for needle steering using task-induced symmetry and reduction. *World Cong Intl Fed Autom Control*, Aug. 2011.
- [C18] A. De, J. Lee, N. Keller, and N. J. Cowan. Toward SLAM on graphs. *Workshop on the Algorithmic Foundations of Robotics*, pp. 631–646. Springer-Verlag, Springer Tracts in Advanced Robotics, 2010.
- [C19] A. Demir, E. W. Samson, and N. J. Cowan. A tunable physical model of arthropod antennae. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, pp. 3793–3798, May 2010.
- [C20] R. J. Webster III, J. P. Swensen, J. M. Romano, and N. J. Cowan. Closed-form differential kinematics for concentric-tube continuum robots with application to visual servoing. *Proc Int Symp Exp Robot*, vol. 54, pp. 485–494, 2009.
- [C21] K. B. Reed, A. M. Okamura, and N. J. Cowan. Controlling a robotically steered needle in the presence of torsional friction. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, pp. 3476–3481, Apr. 2009. PMC3040793.
- [C22] R. J. Webster III, J. M. Romano, and N. J. Cowan. Kinematics and calibration of active cannulas. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, pp. 3888–3895, 2008.
- [C23] K. B. Reed, V. Kallem, R. Alterovitz, K. Goldberg, A. M. Okamura, and N. J. Cowan. Integrated planning and image-guided control for planar needle-steering. *Proc IEEE Int Conf on Biomed Robot and Biomech*, pp. 819–824, Oct. 2008. PMC2905598.
- [C24] J. Lee, O. Y. Loh, and N. J. Cowan. A hierarchy of neuromechanical and robotic models of antenna-based wall following in cockroaches. *Proc IEEE/RSJ Int Conf Intell Robots Syst*, pp. 3547–3553, Oct. 2007.
- [C25] V. Kallem, D. E. Chang, and N. J. Cowan. Task-induced symmetry and reduction in kinematic systems with application to needle steering. *Proc IEEE/RSJ Int Conf Intell Robots Syst*, pp. 3302–3308, Oct. 2007. PMC2907182.
- [C26] V. Kallem, M. Dewan, J. P. Swensen, G. D. Hager, and N. J. Cowan. Kernel-based visual servoing. *Proc IEEE/RSJ Int Conf Intell Robots Syst*, pp. 1975–1980, Oct. 2007.

- [C27] V. Kallem and N. J. Cowan. Image-guided control of flexible bevel-tip needles. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, pp. 3015–3020, Apr. 2007. PMC3043465.
- [C28] R. J. Webster III, A. O. Okamura, and N. J. Cowan. Toward active cannulas: miniature snake-like surgical robots. *Proc IEEE/RSJ Int Conf Intell Robots Syst*, pp. 2857–2863, 2006.
- [C29] R. J. Webster III, N. J. Cowan, G. S. Chirikjian, and A. M. Okamura. Nonholonomic models for needle steering. *Proc Int Symp Exp Robot*, vol. 21, pp. 35–44, Tracts in Advanced Robotics, June 2006.
- [C30] W. Park, J. S. Kim, Y. Zhou, N. J. Cowan, A. M. Okamura, and G. S. Chirikjian. Diffusion-based motion planning for a nonholonomic flexible needle model. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, pp. 4600–4605, Apr. 2005.
- [C31] A. Lamperski, O. Loh, B. Kutscher, and N. J. Cowan. Dynamical wall-following for a wheeled robot using a passive tactile sensor. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, pp. 3838–3843, 2005.
- [C32] J. Piazzzi and N. J. Cowan. Multi-view visual servoing using epipoles. *Proc IEEE/RSJ Int Conf Intell Robots Syst*, vol. 1, pp. 674–679, Oct. 2004.
- [C33] J. Piazzzi, D. Prattichizzo, and N. J. Cowan. Auto-epipolar visual servoing. *Proc IEEE/RSJ Int Conf Intell Robots Syst*, vol. 1, pp. 363–368, Sept. 2004.
- [C34] N. J. Cowan. Composing navigation functions on Cartesian products of manifolds with boundary. *Workshop on the Algorithmic Foundations of Robotics*, pp. 91–106. Springer, Springer Tracts in Advanced Robotics, 2004.
- [C35] G. Lawrence, N. J. Cowan, and S. Russell. Efficient gradient estimation for motor control learning. *Proc Conf Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence*, 2003.
- [C36] N. J. Cowan, O. Shakernia, R. Vidal, and S. Sastry. Vision-based follow-the-leader. *Proc IEEE/RSJ Int Conf Intell Robots Syst*, vol. 2, pp. 1796–1801, Oct. 2003.
- [C37] N. J. Cowan, E. J. Ma, M. Cutkosky, and R. J. Full. A biologically inspired passive antenna for steering control of a running robot. *Robotics Research*, pp. 540–550. Springer, Springer Tracts in Advanced Robotics, 2003.
- [C38] N. J. Cowan and D. E. Chang. Toward geometric visual servoing. *Control Problems in Robotics*, vol. 4, pp. 233–248. Springer-Verlag, STAR, Springer Tracks in Advanced Robotics, 2002.
- [C39] N. J. Cowan. Binocular visual servoing with a limited field of view. *Mathematical Theory of Networks and Systems*, Aug. 2002.
- [C40] N. J. Cowan, J. D. Weingarten, and D. E. Koditschek. Empirical validation of a new visual servoing strategy. *Proc Conf Control Applications*, pp. 1117–1123, 2001.
- [C41] N. J. Cowan, G. A. D. Lopes, and D. E. Koditschek. Rigid body visual servoing using navigation functions. *Proc IEEE Int Conf on Decision Control*, pp. 3920–3926, 2000.
- [C42] N. J. Cowan and D. E. Koditschek. Planar image based visual servoing as a navigation problem. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, vol. 1, pp. 611–617, 1999.
- [C43] N. J. Cowan and D. E. Koditschek. Toward global visual servos and estimators for rigid bodies. *Proc IEEE Int Conf Robot Autom*, vol. 3, pp. 2658–2663, 1998.

PATENTS

1. N. Navab, N. Cowan, B. Fuerst, E. Fortune. System and Method for Bioelectric Localization and Navigation of Interventional Medical Devices, 2013. U.S. patent pending—application number 13/798,637. (JHU ref. C12356)
2. R. J. Webster III, A. M. Okamura, N. J. Cowan, R. H. Taylor. Active cannula for bio-sensing and surgical intervention, 2005. U.S. patent pending—application number 60/736,789. (JHU ref. 4873)
3. R. J. Webster III, A. M. Okamura, N. J. Cowan, G. S. Chirikjian, K. Y. Goldberg, and R. Alterovitz. [Distal bevel-tip needle control device and algorithm](#), 2005. U.S. patent number 7,822,458 (JHU ref. 4690)

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Current

1. **ARO #72929-EG-MUR:** 09/01/2018–08/31/2023
Title: *Science of Embodied Innovation, Learning and Control*
Investigators: Daniel E. Koditschek (U Penn, PI); Juliy Baryshnikov (UIUC), Robert J. Full & Lucia Jacobs (UC Berkeley), and Noah J. Cowan and Jame J. Knierim (JHU)
Agency: Army Research Office
Award: \$7,500,000 (Subaward to JHU: \$956,999)
2. **NSF #1830893:** 09/15/2018–08/31/2022
Title: *EFRI C3 SoRo: Programming Thermobiochemomechanical (TBCM) Multiplex Robot Gels*
Investigators: David Gracias dgracias@jhu.edu (PI), Noah Cowan, Thao (Vicky) Nguyen, Rebecca Schulman
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$2,000,000 (Suballocation to NJC: ≈\$500,000)
3. **2R01HD0402859-15:** 09/01/2017–08/31/2022
Title: *Mechanisms and Rehabilitation of Cerebellar Ataxia*
Investigators: Amy J. Bastian (PI) and Noah J. Cowan
Agency: National Institutes of Health–NINDS
Award: \$30,000 (Amount of Subaward to Cowan, JHU)
4. **NSF #1825489:** 08/01/2018–07/31/2021
Title: *Collaborative Research: Identifying Model-Based Motor Control Strategies to Enhance Human–Machine Interaction*
Investigators: James S. Freudenberg (PI), Noah J. Cowan, R. Brent Gillespie, and Amy J. Bastian
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$381,470 (Amount to Cowan, JHU)
5. **1R01MH118926-01:** 7/01/2018–3/31/2023
Title: *CRCNS Research Proposal: Collaborative Research: Dynamics of Gain Recalibration in the Hippocampal–Entorhinal Path Integration System*
Investigators: James J. Knierim (PI), Noah J. Cowan, Kechen Zhang, and Kathryn R. Hedrick
Agency: National Institutes of Health–NIMH
Award: \$1,488,302 (Suballocation to NJC: \$547,227)
6. **1R21NS103113:** 07/01/2017–06/30/2019
Title: *Using Feedback Control to Suppress Seizure Genesis in Epilepsy*
Investigators: Sridevi Sarma (PI), Noah J. Cowan
Agency: National Institutes of Health–NINDS
Award: \$410,437 (To NJC: ≈\$29,000)
7. **5R01NS102537-02:** 07/01/2017–06/30/2022
Title: *A Control Theoretic Approach to Addressing Hippocampal Function*
Investigators: Noah J. Cowan (PI) and James J. Knierim
Agency: National Institutes of Health–NINDS
Award: \$2,095,459 (≈ split between PI's)

8. **NSF-IOS #1557858:** 04/01/2016–03/31/2020
Title: *Collaborative Research: Neural Mechanisms of Active Sensing*
Investigators: Noah J. Cowan (PI) and Eric S. Fortune
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$425,000 (To JHU)

Completed

1. **NSF-REU #1460674 :** 4/1/2015–3/31/2018
Title: *Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Site for Computational Sensing and Medical Robotics (CS&MR)*
Investigators: Ralph Etienne-Cummings (PI) and Sridevi Sarma (Co-PI). N. J. Cowan's Role: Senior Personnel.
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$412,151
2. **1R21NS095075-01:** 9/01/2015–08/31/2016
Title: *A Control Theoretic Approach to Addressing Hippocampal Function*
Investigators: Noah J. Cowan (PI) and James Knierim
Agency: National Institutes of Health–NINDS
Award: \$445,500 (\approx split between PI's)
3. **JSMF Scholar Award in Complex Systems Science:** 09/01/2012–8/31/2017
Title: *Decoding Complex Animal Behavior Via Sparsity*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (PI)
Agency: James S. McDonnell Foundation
Award: \$450,000
4. **ARO#15086871:** 5/1/2016–9/30/2017
Title: *Dynamic tuning of instabilities for high power movements in deformable structures*
Investigators: Barry Trimmer (PI), Robert Shepherd, Eric Tytell, and Noah J. Cowan (JHU PI)
Agency: Army Research Office
Award: \$55,231 (to JHU)
5. **JHU Discovery Award:** 9/1/2016–8/30/2017
Title: *The Bat Hand-wing: A Model System for Sensing and Feedback Control in Animals*
Investigators: C. Moss (PI), Rajat Mittal, Joseph Katz, Noah Cowan, Susanne Sterbing-D'Angelo
Agency: Johns Hopkins University
Award: \$100,000 (To NJC: \approx \$15K)
6. **JHU Discovery Award:** 7/01/2015–06/30/2016
Title: *Engineering Approaches to Studying Spatial Representations in the Brain*
Investigators: Noah J. Cowan (PI) and James Knierim
Agency: Johns Hopkins University
Award: \$100,000
7. **NSF-BCS #1230493:** 8/1/2012–7/31/2015
Title: *Understanding the Rules for Human Rhythmic Motor Coordination: From Walking to Juggling*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (JHU PI), J. Jeka, T. Kiemel (Project PI), N. M. Wereley
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$672,413 (To NJC: \$232,079)
8. **ONR N000141110525:** 07/01/2011–06/30/2014
Title: *Multisensory Integration in MSTd for Navigation and Control*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (PI), E. Tytell, C. J. Duffy
Agency: Office of Naval Research
Award: \$751,925 (To NJC: \$355,000)
9. **NSF-CBET #0941674:** 10/1/2009–9/30/2013
Title: *Cyber-Enabled Discovery in Neuromechanical Systems*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (JHU PI), E. S. Fortune, G. Lauder, M. MacIver (Program PI), N. Patankar
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$1,400,000 (To NJC: \$318,000)

10. **NSF-IIS #0845749:** 3/1/2009–2/28/2014
Title: *PECASE: Sensory Guidance of Locomotion: From Neurons to Newton's Laws*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (PI)
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$500,000
11. **William R. Kenan, Jr. Fund for Teaching:** 7/1/2011–6/30/2012
Title: *A Hands-On Introduction to Animal Sensors and Actuators for Engineering Students*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan
Agency: William R. Kenan, Jr. Fund
Award: \$4,800
12. **ONR N000140910531:** 1/31/2009–9/30/2011
Title: *Kalman Filters in Brain Circuits: Multisensory Control in Weakly Electric Knifefish*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (PI) and E. S. Fortune
Agency: Office of Naval Research
Award: \$611,132 (To NJC: \$460,352)
13. **NSF-IOS #0817918:** 9/1/2008–8/31/2011
Title: *Enhancement of Electrosensory Function via Social Interaction*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan and E. S. Fortune (PI)
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$428,408 (To NJC: \$204,900)
14. **NIH-NIBIB R01 #EB006435:** 8/15/2006–5/31/2011
Title: *Steering Flexible Needles in Soft Tissue*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan, G. S. Chirikjian, G. Fichtinger, K. Goldberg, A. M. Okamura (PI)
Agency: National Institutes of Health–NIBIB
Award: \$2,446,313 (To NJC: \$482,717)
15. **NSF-IIS: REU Extension to #0845749:** 3/1/2009–2/28/2010, \$8,000
16. **NSF-CBET #0651803:** 8/15/2007–7/31/2010
Title: *Active Cannulas for Bio-Sensing and Surgery*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (PI), A. M. Okamura, and R. J. Webster III
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$240,000 (To NJC: \$59,411)
17. **NSF-ENG #0748338:** 10/1/2008–9/30/2009
Title: *Manipulating and Perceiving Simultaneously*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan, G. D. Hager (PI), and A. M. Okamura
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$200,000 (to NJC: \$75,000)
18. **NSF-CBET: REU Extension to #0651803:** 8/15/2007–7/31/2008, \$3,000
19. **WSE/APL Partnership Fund:** 9/1/2006–12/31/2007, \$75,000
Title: *Ribbon-Finned Propulsion for Dynamic Maneuvers of Underwater Vehicles*
20. **NSF-ENG #0625708:** 10/1/2006–9/30/2007
Title: *Vision-Based Control of Mechanical Systems via Sampling Kernels*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (PI) and G. D. Hager
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$64,927 (To NJC: \$32,464)
21. **NSF-IOB #0543985:** 4/01/2006–3/31/2009
Title: *Multisensory Control of Tracking Behavior in Weakly Electric Fish*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan (PI) and E. S. Fortune
Agency: National Science Foundation
Award: \$486,198 (To NJC: \$228,140)
22. **NSF-IOB: REU Extension to #0543985:** 4/1/2008–3/31/2009, \$6,000
23. **NSF-IOB: REU Extension to #0543985:** 4/1/2006–3/31/2007, \$6,000
24. **NSF-IOB: REU Extension to #0543985:** 4/1/2007–3/31/2008, \$6,000
25. **Subaward to NSF ERC Core Grant #9731478 (Taylor, PI):** 9/1/2006–8/31/2007, To NJC: \$32,616

26. **NIH R21 #EB003452:** 4/1/04–3/31/2006
Title: *Biomechanical Modeling for Steerable Needles*
Investigators: N. J. Cowan, G. S. Chirikjian, K. Goldberg, A. M. Okamura (PI)
Agency: National Institutes of Health–NIBIB
Award: \$384,323 (To NJC: \$120,000)

INVITED SEMINARS

Plenary and Keynote Lectures

- ◇ Keynote Speaker, Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology, SE Regional Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 2015
- ◇ Keynote Speaker, IEEE Baltimore EDS society, Chapter Meeting, Linthicum, MD, 2015
- ◇ Keynote Speaker, *International Conference on Advanced Robotics (ICAR)*, Istanbul, Turkey, 2015
- ◇ Keynote Speaker, *Annual Awards Dinner*, IEEE Baltimore Section, Baltimore, MD, 2015
- ◇ “Tandem Talk” with Volker Dür, *International Symposium on Adaptive Motion of Animals and Machines*, Darmstadt, Germany, 2013
- ◇ Early Career Spotlight Lecture, *Robotics: Science and Systems Conference*, Atlanta, GA, 2007
- ◇ Plenary Lecture, *International Consortium on Biomimetic Technology for Vibrissal Active Touch (BIOTACT)*, Garmisch, Germany, 2010

Departmental Colloquia & Seminars

- ◇ *Control Systems Seminary*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 2018
- ◇ *Mathematical Biology Seminar*, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ, 2017
- ◇ *Electrical and Computer Engineering Seminar*, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2017
- ◇ *Robotics Institute Seminar*, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2017
- ◇ *Janelia Research Campus Seminar*, Ashburn, VA, 2017
- ◇ *Applied Mathematics*, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, 2016
- ◇ *Biophysics Colloquium*, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, 2015
- ◇ *Biology Colloquium*, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, 2015
- ◇ *GRASP Laboratory Seminar Series*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2015
- ◇ *Biotechnology Seminar Series*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2015
- ◇ *Rehabilitation Science Research Seminar*, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, 2014
- ◇ *Neuroscience Retreat*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, 2014
- ◇ *Applied Dynamics Seminar Series*, University of Maryland, College Park, 2014
- ◇ *Joint seminar for CiBER-IGERT and the Control Theory Seminar Series*, University of California, Berkeley, CA, 2014
- ◇ *Neuroscience Seminar Series*, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 2013
- ◇ *Biorobotics Seminar Series*, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 2013
- ◇ *Coordinated Science Lab*, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL, 2013
- ◇ *Engineering Seminar*, Howard Community College, Laurel, MD, 2013
- ◇ *Robotics Seminar*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2012
- ◇ *Biology Seminar*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2011
- ◇ *Psychology Seminar*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2011
- ◇ *Civil Engineering Seminar Series*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2010
- ◇ *Robotics and Intelligent Machines (RIM) Seminar Series*, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, 2009
- ◇ *Laboratory for Computational Sensing and Robotics (LCSR) Seminar Series*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2009
- ◇ *Machines and Organisms Seminar Series*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 2008
- ◇ *Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Seminar Series*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 2008
- ◇ *Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab Colloquium*, MIT, Cambridge, MA, 2008

- ◇ *Control Systems Seminar Series*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2007
- ◇ *Mechanical & Aerospace Eng. Seminar Series*, George Washington University, Washington, DC, 2007
- ◇ *Johns Hopkins Student Research Group*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2007
- ◇ *Electrical Engineering Seminar Series*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2006
- ◇ *Biomedical Engineering Seminar Series*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2006
- ◇ *GRASP Laboratory Seminar Series*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2004
- ◇ *Mechanical Engineering Seminar Series*, Ohio State University, Columbus, 2004
- ◇ *Control Systems Seminar Series*, University of Washington, Seattle, 2003
- ◇ *Mechanical Engineering Seminar Series*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2003
- ◇ *Computer Vision Seminar Series*, University of California at Berkeley, 2002
- ◇ *Mechanical Engineering Seminar Series*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2001
- ◇ *Electrical Engineering Symposium*, Ohio State University, Columbus 2001

Invited Talks at Symposia, Workshops, Tutorials, and Conferences

- ◇ *Biological Inspired Robotics Summer School*, Imperial College, London, 2017
- ◇ *Winter Workshop on Locomotion*, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, 2017
- ◇ Invited Speaker, *Dynamic Walking Conference*, Ann Arbor, MI, 2016
- ◇ Invited Speaker, *Dynamic Walking Conference*, Columbus, OH, 2015
- ◇ Invited Speaker, *Robotics-Inspired Biology Workshop*, International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Seattle, WA, 2015.
- ◇ *Workshop on Distributed Sensing, Actuation, and Control*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2014.
- ◇ *Dynamics Days*, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, 2014
- ◇ *Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology: Walking the Tightrope between Stability and Change*, Symposium at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, 2014
- ◇ *AMS sectional meeting*, Temple University, 2013.
- ◇ *Grand Challenges in Organismal Biology: Walking the Tightrope between Stability and Change*, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 2013
- ◇ *Yale Workshop on Adaptive and Learning Systems*, Yale, New Haven, Connecticut, 2013
- ◇ Invited Speaker, *Dynamic Walking Conference*, Pensacola, FL, 2012.
- ◇ *Winter Workshop on Locomotion*, Princeton, Princeton, New Jersey, 2012
- ◇ Invited Speaker, *EU-US Frontiers of Engineering Workshop*, sponsored by the NAE and Euro-CASE, Cambridge, England, 2010
- ◇ *Yale Workshop on Adaptive and Learning Systems*, Yale, New Haven, Connecticut, 2008
- ◇ *Workshop on the Neuromechanics of Locomotion*, Mathematical Biosciences Institute, Ohio State University, Columbus, 2008
- ◇ *Needle Steering Workshop, Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention (MICCAI)*, 2008
- ◇ *Tutorial on Computer-Integrated Surgery & Interventional Robotics, IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, Rome, Italy, 2007
- ◇ *Active Sensation Workshop*, Computational Systems Neuroscience Meeting, Park City, UT, 2007
- ◇ *Forty-Fifth Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing*, Urbana, IL, 2007
- ◇ *Neuromorphic Engineering Workshop*, Telluride, Colorado, 2005
- ◇ *Control of Robotic Systems for Manipulation and Cooperation*, Bertinoro, Italy, 2003
- ◇ *Control Workshop*, Ohio State University, Columbus, 2000
- ◇ *Industrial Partners of Computer Science (IPoCSE) Symposium*, Ann Arbor, MI, 2000

Other Invited Presentations

- ◇ Presenter, i2Camp STEM Summer Camp, Baltimore, MD, 2014
- ◇ Presenter, Science Day, School of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Baltimore, MD 2014
- ◇ Presenter / Panelist, *Specific Aims 101*, Sponsored by the Homewood Postdoctoral Association, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2014
- ◇ *Meyerhoff Scholars Bridge Program*, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2009, 2014
- ◇ Presenter / Panelist, *Writing a Successful NSF Proposal*, Sponsored by the Homewood Postdoctoral Association, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2010

ADVISING AND MENTORING

Current Ph.D. Students

- ◇ Shahin Lashkari, Ph.D. Expected 2022
- ◇ Christina Stracquodaine, Ph.D. Expected 2022
- ◇ Ravi Jayakumar, Ph.D. Expected 2018
- ◇ Amanda Edwards (Co-advised with Amy Bastian), Ph.D. Expected 2017
- ◇ Erin Sutton, Ph.D. expected 2017
- ◇ Robert Nickl, Ph.D. expected 2018

Current Postdoctoral Fellows

- ◇ Ismail Uyanik, Ph.D., 2017
- ◇ Manu Madhav, Ph.D., 2014 (Co-advised with James Knierim)

Previous Ph.D. Students

- ◇ M. Mert Ankarali, Ph.D., 2015.
“Variability, Symmetry, and Dynamics in Human Rhythmic Motor Control”.
Assistant Professor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.
- ◇ Alican Demir, Ph.D, 2015.
“Bio-inspired antennal tactile sensing”.
Engineer at Clearguide Medical, Inc.
- ◇ Manu Madhav, Ph.D., March 2014.
“Nonlinear processing of sensory interference drives social behavior in weakly electric fish.”
Postdoctoral Kavli Postdoctoral Fellow at the Mind Brain Institute, Johns Hopkins University.
- ◇ Shahin Sefati, Ph.D., July 2014.
“Modeling Complex Biological and Mechanical Movements: Application to Animal Locomotion and Gesture Classification in Robotic Surgery.”
Engineer at Comcast Research.
- ◇ Eatai Roth, Ph.D. July 2012.
“Task-Level Models for Image-Stabilization Behaviors in Animals”.
Assistant Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington in Intelligent Systems Engineering.
- ◇ Robert J. Webster III, Ph.D. December 2007 (Co-advised with Prof. Allison Okamura).
“Design and Mechanics of Continuum Robots for Surgery”.
Associate professor in mechanical engineering at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Webster Received the Dick Volz Best US PhD Thesis in Robotics and Automation in 2011.
- ◇ Vinutha Kallem, Ph.D. July 2008.
“Vision-Based Control on Lie Groups with Application to Needle Steering”.
Senior Robotics Engineer with Exyn Technologies.
- ◇ Jusuk Lee, Ph.D. January 2009.
“Identifying Feedback Control Strategies of Running Cockroaches and Humans”.
Engineer with the Mechatronics & Manufacturing Technology Center, Samsung Electronics.

- ◇ John Swensen, Ph.D. December 2011.
“Torsional Dynamics and Rotational Estimation of Tip-steerable Needles.”
Assistant Professor at Washington State University.

Previous M.S. Thesis Students

- ◇ Landon Unninayar, M.S. 2004. Now a mechanical engineer at iRobot corporation.
- ◇ Brett Kutscher, M.S. 2004. Now a software engineer at General Dynamics Robotic Systems.
- ◇ Alican Demir, M.S. 2009. Now a Ph.D. student in Dr. Cowan’s laboratory.
- ◇ Avik De, M.S. 2010. Now a Ph.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania.
- ◇ Eva Siehmann, M.S. 2013; performed her thesis research at Johns Hopkins under Dr. Cowan’s supervision. Thesis was awarded at Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, Gelsenkirchen. Eva recieved the Lorenz-Wegen award for best thesis at her university for her work done at JHU.
- ◇ Abhinav Kunapareddy, M.S. 2016.

Previous Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Scientists

- ◇ Sarah Stamper, Ph.D., 2012–2015. Currently a science teacher at the McDonogh School.
- ◇ Andrew Lamperski, Ph.D., 2012. Currently an Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Minnesota.
- ◇ Eric Tytell, Ph.D., Assistant Research Scientist in Mechanical Engineering (co-mentored with Prof. Eric Fortune), 2010-2012.
Currently an Assistant Professor of Biology at the Tufts.
- ◇ Sean Carver, Ph.D. (co-supervised with Prof. Eric Fortune), 2006–2009 (as postdoc) and 2010-2013 (as Assistant Research Scientist).
Currently a Professorial Lecturer in Mathematics at American University.
- ◇ Kyle Reed, Ph.D. (co-supervised with Prof. Allison Okamura), 2007–2009.
Currently an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Florida.
- ◇ Terence Mitchell, Ph.D. (co-supervised with Prof. Eric Fortune), 2009-2011. Now an Assistant Professor of Anatomy at Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine.
- ◇ Erion Plaku, Ph.D. (co-supervised with Profs. Allison Okamura and Greg Hager), 2008–2010
Currently an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Catholic University of America.
- ◇ Jacopo Piazzi, Ph.D. 2003.

Undergraduate and High School Students

Advised at least 40 undergraduate researchers including several students with NSF REU’s (13), Howard Hughes Fellowships (2), and Provost Undergraduate Research Awards (6). Many of these undergraduates have coauthored conference and journal papers. Advised 10 high school students, in cooperation with two local programs, the Ingenuity Project at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (4), and the Women in Science and Engineering program with Garrison Forest school (6). Two of these high school students have co-authored peer-reviewed conference papers.

Dissertation Committees

- ◇ At [Johns Hopkins University](#): Yu Zhou (2004), Jin Seob Kim (2005), James Kinsey (2006), Aris Skliros (2007), Yan Liu (2007), Maneesh Dewan (2007), Wooram Park (2008), Kiju Lee (2008), Stephen Martin (2008), Sarah Webster (2010), Georgios Kaloutsakis (2010), Matthew Moses (2011), Michael Kutzer (2012), Sarah Stamper (2012), Jean Michelle Mongeau (UC Berkeley external member, 2013), Giancarlo Troni (2013), Christopher McFarland (2013), Ryan Murphy (2015), Qianli Ma (2017), Daniel Ehrans (TBD),
- ◇ At other institutions: Jean-Michele Mongeau (University of California, Berkeley; 2013), David Logan (University of Maryland, Collge Park; 2014).

INSTRUCTION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The University of Washington, 2011

- ◇ **(unregistered course)** *Feedback Control of Mechanical Systems for Biologists* (new course)
 - *Semester taught (attendees)*: Spring 2011 (\approx 15 students, postdocs, and faculty)
 - *Course description*: Weekly lectures, practice problems, and sample code provide a theoretically rigorous, experimentally motivated introduction to feedback control of mechanical systems. The course emphasizes the art of applying control theoretic concepts to biology, drawing on recent literature as well as numerous examples from on going work at Johns Hopkins and the University of Washington.

Johns Hopkins University, 2003–present

Key: EN.530=Mechanical Engineering

- ◇ **Robotics MSE** (Administered 2013–present)
 - The Robotics MSE at Johns Hopkins is a multidisciplinary Master’s program that recruits students locally via JHU’s BS/MSE program, nationally, and internationally.
 - The MSE incorporates courses from Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Biomedical Engineering, and Applied Math and Statistics.
 - The program has grown since its inception in 2013 to approximately 20 new students to be enrolled in Fall 2016.
 - The minor was approved by the Academic Council in Spring 2010.
- ◇ **Robotics Minor** (Co-Developed with Greg Hager, Minor Advisor from 2010–present)
 - The Robotics Minor at Johns Hopkins is a multidisciplinary minor that emphasizes an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on three core technical areas: 1) Robot kinematics and dynamics; 2) Systems theory, signal processing, control; 3) Computation and sensing.
 - The minor incorporates courses from Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Biomedical Engineering, and Applied Math and Statistics.
 - The minor is open to all undergraduates at Johns Hopkins and is offered by the faculty of the [Laboratory for Computational Sensing and Robotics \(LCSR\)](#).
 - The minor was approved by the Academic Council in Spring 2010.
- ◇ **EN.530.485** *Physics and Feedback in Living Systems* (new course)
 - *Semesters taught (enrollment)*: Fall 2013 (9), Fall 2015 (10)
 - *Course description*: The complex mechanisms of living systems cannot be reduced to a set of base pairs: genes are only one part of mystery of life. Rather, organisms must develop, move, interact, and function in their natural environment, and thus are constrained by the laws of physics. For example, during locomotion an animal must accelerate according to Newton’s laws by applying forces between itself and the environment. Beyond physical principles alone, biological systems extensively use feedback to enhance stability and facilitate adaptation in the presence of a changing world. This course examines the critical roles that physical principles and feedback mechanisms play in life, with special emphasis on animal locomotion and its control.
- ◇ **EN.530.420** *Robot Sensors and Actuators*
 - *Semesters taught (enrollment)*: Fall 2012 (64)
 - *Course description*: Introduction to modeling and hands-on use of actuators and sensors including DC brush motors, stepper motors, position sensors (such as encoders, synchros, resolvers), and sonar sensing. Integration of these sensors and actuators into mechatronic systems using microcontrollers, including digital I/O, analog/digital conversion.
 - *Final Project*: Implemented an ambitious course final project involving Molecular gastronomy in collaboration with Chef Jerry Pellegrino. See full video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6XBoEyC8HY>
- ◇ **EN.530.241**: *Electronics and Instrumentation* (redeveloped course)
 - *Semesters taught (enrollment)*: Fall 2004 (26), Fall 2005 (38), Fall 2006 (29), Spring 2007 (34), Spring 2008 (28)

- *Course description:* Undergraduate, laboratory-based introduction to basic analog electronics and instrumentation with emphasis on basic electronic devices and techniques relevant to mechanical engineering.
- *Modification:* Interdisciplinary labs and examples are drawn from biology, specifically instrumentation for weakly electric knifefish. The final project is to develop a field-ready instrumentation amplifier for measuring electric signals in weakly electric knifefish.
- ◇ **EN.530.343:** *Design and Analysis of Dynamic Systems* (existing course)
 - *Semester taught (enrollment):* Spring 2009 (39), Spring 2010 (38), Spring 2017 (79)
 - *Course description:* Modeling and analysis of damped and undamped, forced and free vibrations in single and multiple degree-of-freedom linear dynamical systems. Introduction to stability and control of linear dynamical systems.
- ◇ **EN.530.616:** *Introduction to Linear Dynamical Systems* (redeveloped course)
 - *Semesters taught (enrollment):* Spring 2007 with René Vidal (15), Fall 2008 (18), Fall 2009 (8)
 - *Course description:* A beginning graduate course in linear systems theory.
 - *Modification:* Course emphasizes a linear-algebraic perspective on linear systems theory.
- ◇ **EN.530.646:** *Robot Devices, Kinematics, Dynamics, and Control* (redeveloped course)
 - *Semesters taught (enrollment):* Spring 2005 (14), Fall 2008 (13), Fall 2012 (18), Fall 2014 (31), Fall 2015 (34), Fall 2016 (48), Fall 2017 (TBD)
 - *Course description:* A beginning graduate course that provides an introduction to the mathematical and physical principles used in robotics. Beginning Fall 2015, this course has been redeveloped to incorporate a hardware component using the 6DOF UR5 robot.
 - *Modification:* Course emphasizes a Lie-group-theoretic approach to robotics.
- ◇ **EN.530.676:** *Locomotion in Mechanical and Biological Systems* (new course)
 - *Semesters taught (enrollment):* Spring 2004 (21), Spring 2006 (6), Fall 2011 (12)
 - *Course description:* Graduate course on mechanics and control in locomotion. Topics include modeling (e.g. Lagrangian mechanics, gray-box modeling), dynamical systems theory (nonholonomic systems, piecewise holonomy, Poincaré analysis, and Floquet theory), design (control synthesis, mechanical design), and data analysis from real animal locomotor control experiments.
- ◇ **EN.530.677:** *Feedback Control of Walking and Running* (new course)
 - *Semester taught (enrollment):* Spring 2008 (7)
 - *Course description:* Graduate course on the modeling, control, and adaptation of human and robotic bipedal walking and running. Topics include basic manifold theory, Hamiltonian and Lagrangian mechanics, impacts and conservation of momentum, limit cycles and Poincaré analysis, hybrid zero dynamics. The course culminates in a formal treatment of feedback control of walking and running for robotics as well as recent models of human locomotor control being developed by my laboratory.
- ◇ **EN.530.649:** *System Identification* (new course)
 - *Semester taught (enrollment):* Spring 2012 (15), Spring 2014 (7), Spring 2015 (3)
 - *Course description:* This course covers several fundamental approaches system identification, including spectral, prediction error, subspace, and “online” (adaptive) identification methods. The emphasis will be on LTI systems, but some time will be devoted to system identification for classes of nonlinear dynamical systems, such as those that are linear in parameters. Prerequisites: 580.616/530.616, Introduction to Linear Dynamical Systems.

Guest Lectures at Johns Hopkins University, 2003–present

Key: EN.613=Computer Science; AS.200=Psychological and Brain Sciences

- ◇ **EN.600.436:** *Algorithms for Sensor-Based Robotics* (guest lecture)
 - *Semester of guest lecture (attendance):* Fall 2004 (30), Fall 2012 (30)
 - *Description:* Lecture on Navigation Functions as a method for robot motion planning.
- ◇ **AS.200.613:** *Fundamentals of Psychological & Brain Sciences* (guest lecture)
 - *Semester of guest lecture (attendance):* Fall 2012 (20)
 - *Description:* Lecture introducing the concept of dynamical systems to graduate students in the Psychological and Brain Sciences department assuming little or no prior background in this area.

The University of Michigan, 1995–1997, Graduate Student Instructor

- ◇ **EECS 215 *Introduction to Electronic Circuits*** (1995). Laboratory instructor for introductory undergraduate Electrical Engineering circuits lab.
- ◇ **EECS 460: *Control Systems Analysis and Design*** (1996). Session instructor for introductory course in classical control systems theory and design.
- ◇ **EECS 463: *Modern Control Systems Design Lab*** (1997). Laboratory instructor for advanced undergraduate team-based laboratory course in control systems design.
- ◇ **Co-developed EECS 461: *Embedded Control Systems*** (1999-2000). Co-developed this new course with J. Freudenberg and B. Gillespie. A team-based laboratory course that teaches the integration of real-time software and hardware systems, mechanical design, and systems theory. Course received [writeup in Mathworks newsletter](#).

Specialty Courses, Short Courses, etc

- ◇ **The Math, Science, Robotics, and Practice of Juggling.**
 - *Semester taught (enrollment):* Fall 2014 (13)
 - *Course description:* Three week course taught as part of the [Odyssey](#) program at [Johns Hopkins University](#). In this hands-on course, students learn about the math, science, and engineering of juggling, as well as learn the craft of juggling itself.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Special Courses Taken

- ◇ Neural Systems and Behavior, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA, 2010

Advisory Committees

- ◇ Scientific Advisor to the International Consortium on Biomimetic Technology for Vibrissal Active Touch (BIOTACT), 2009-2010

International Program Chairs

- ◇ General Co-Chair: 15th [International Conference on Climbing and Walking Robots \(CLAWAR\)](#), 2012
- ◇ Area Chair: Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS) Conference, 2012

Technical Reviews and Program Committees

- ◇ Journal reviews (partial list):
 - Biological Letters
 - Experimental Brain Research
 - IEEE Transactions journals: Robotics, Automation Science and Engineering, Oceanic Engineering, Automatic Control, Biomedical Circuits and Systems
 - Journal of Experimental Biology
 - PLoS Biology, PLoS Computational Biology, and PLoS ONE
 - Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences
 - Science
 - Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS)
- ◇ Conference and Workshop Program Committees
 - Living Machines: 2012, 2013
 - Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS) Program Committee: 2005, 2009, 2011, 2013
 - Workshop on the Algorithmic Foundations in Robotics (WAFR), 2008
 - Workshop on Dynamic Vision at European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), 2005, 2006, 2007
 - International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2006, 2008, 2010
 - International Conference on Advanced Robotics (ICAR), 2007
 - Fast Motions in Robotics and Biomechanics, 2005
 - Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2005

- Robot Motion and Control (RoMoCo), 2005, 2009, 2011
- ◇ Grant Reviews:
 - NSF Site Visitor, 2015.
 - NSF College Of Reviewers, 2013–present
 - NSF Panelist (2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017) and ad hoc reviewer
 - Isreali Science Foundation ad hoc reviewer, 2015-2017.
 - Canada Foundation for Innovation (2012) ad hoc reviewer

Workshops and Tutorials

- ◇ Co-Organizer (with Xinyan Deng and Soon-Jo Chung) Bio-Inspired Robotics Workshop, Robot Science and Systems (RSS) 2012
- ◇ Organizer, Ribbon-Fin Propulsion Workshop I, Johns Hopkins University, March 23-24, 2007
- ◇ Co-Organizer (with Hong Zhang) Vision-based Control of Mobile Robots, *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems*, Las Vegas, NV, October 2003

Professional Memberships

- ◇ Senior Member, IEEE
- ◇ Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB)
- ◇ Society for Neuroscience (SfN)

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Fostering Research in the Baltimore Area

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|--------------|---|
| 2013–2014 | STEM Achievement in Baltimore Elementary Schools (SABES), Team Lader |
| 2006–present | Faculty Mentor, Baltimore Ingenuity Project |
| 2005–present | Faculty Mentor, Women in Science and Engineering Program |
| 2011–2013 | Faculty Mentor, Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program |
| 2013 | Judge, 20th Annual Undergraduate and Graduate Research Symposium, Morgan State University |

Johns Hopkins University, Department of Mechanical Engineering (ME)

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|--------------|--|
| 2014–2015 | Chair, Robotics Faculty Search Committee |
| 2011–2014 | Chair, Graduate Recruiting Committee |
| 2013–present | Member, ME Web / ME News Letter Committee |
| 2013–present | Member, Grad Program, Affairs + MEGA Committee |
| 2013 | Bio Faculty Search Committee, Mechanical Engineering |
| 2012 | Bio Faculty Search Committee, Mechanical Engineering |
| 2011–2012 | Member, Grad Program and Affairs Committee |
| 2005–2010 | Web/Publicity Committee |
| 2003–2017 | Advisor, Tau Alpha Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma |
| 2003–2010 | Computing Facilities Committee (Chair: 2004–2006, 2008-2009) |
| Fall 2004 | Chair, ME Seminar Series |

Johns Hopkins University, Laboratory for Computational Sensing and Robotics (LCSR)

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|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2013–2017 | Deputy Director, LCSR |
| 2013–present | Chair, Graduate Recruiting Committee |
| 2013–present | Laboratory Safety Coordinator |

Johns Hopkins University, G.W.C. Whiting School of Engineering (WSE)

2016	Member, Computer Science Department Review Committee.
2010–present	WSE IT Faculty Advisory Committee
2010–2012	Program Coordinator, Robotics Minor
2012	Faculty Search Committee, Laboratory for Computational Sensing and Robotics (LCSR)
2007–2010	WSE Communications Committee
2009	Reviewer, Student Initiatives Fund
2009	Faculty Advisor, Shaffer Hall Lobby Working Group
2008	Selection Committee, Vredenburg Scholarship
2005	Selection Committee, Westgate Scholarship

Johns Hopkins University

2017–present	Member, Homewood Graduate Board.
2017–present	Member, Doctor of Philosophy Board.
2014–present	Member, JHU Library Advisory Committee (LAC).
2011–present	Member, Homewood Academic Computing Advisory Committee (HAC).
2010–present	Faculty Advisor, Homewood Postdoctoral Association
2011–2013	PI Partner, Financial Reporting Project
2009	Grant Preparation, Submission, and Award Faculty Working Group
2010	PI Partner, Best Environment for Research and Scholarship (BERS)

The University of Michigan

2000–2001	Mentor, Systems Division Mentorship Program
1996–2000	Staff mentor, University of Michigan Mentorship Program
1998–1999	EECS Department Representative, ASEE Student Chapter

The Ohio State University

1992–1995	Active Member Eta Kappa Nu, Gamma Chapter at Ohio State University (President: 1994–1995; Vice President: 1993–1994)
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SELECTED POPULAR PRESS

2018	NIH Director’s Blog: “From Juggling to Biomechanics” by Dr. Francis Collins
2014	Press for Ankarali et al, 2014, J. Neurophysiol. <ul style="list-style-type: none">◊ YouTube Video: “Juggling Study May Shed Light on How Our Senses Help Us Run”.
2013	Press for Dyhr et al, 2013, J. Exp. Biol. <ul style="list-style-type: none">◊ BBC News, <i>Science and Environment</i>: “Footage reveals how insects use their bodies to hover”.◊ Highlighted in <i>Inside JEB</i>: “The Abdomen: The Secret to Stabilising Flight”.◊ io9.com: “Roboticians discover the secret of insect flight, and it’s not wings”.
2012–2013	Press on Electric Fish: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◊ Futurity.org: “‘Double-play’ motion keeps critters stable and agile” Associated YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RHRZTIvg-w◊ Science Nation video produced for the National Science Foundation: “Electric Fish Charges up Research on Animal Behavior - Science Nation”
2012–2013	Press related to course project for 530.420 Robot Sensors and Actuators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◊ “A quest for the perfect piece of toast”, JHU Magazine.◊ “Johns Hopkins Students Engineer the Perfect Toast”, Baltimore Fish Bowl.◊ “Engineering students get deliciously inventive”, Hopkins Gazette

◇ Associated Youtube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6XBoEyC8HY>

2012

“Bio Bots”, Johns Hopkins Engineering Magazine



2012

“Hammer Flip”, Provost’s Project on Innovation. Associated youtube video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNGRgCXfKk4>

2005-2006

Press on Cockroach Navigation / Locomotion:

- ◇ Science Magazine: “Scurrying Roaches Outwit Without Their Brains”
- ◇ National Geographic News: “Cockroaches Inspire Robot Antenna Design”
- ◇ Inside JEB: “Keeping Cockroaches On Course”