

Review:

The design of a robot reflects the purpose of the robot.

Some elements in Robot Design are:

- 1. The type of locomotion
- 2. Style of end-effectors (hands)
- 3. Appearance

Locomotion:

- Wheels fast, cheap, energy efficient but limited by terrain
- Tracks better than wheels on bumpy or soft terrain, but not as good as legs
- Legs great for rough terrain but slow and inefficient
- Flying ignores terrain and fast, but limits the weight the robot can carry
- Stationary lets the work come to the robot which may limit application outside

End-effectors (hands):

- Tools customized tools to perform task quickly and efficiently
- Simple gripper can grab most objects but lacks fine dexterity
- Human-like hands can interact with humans easier and use human centric tools
- Suction cups/bag-like grippers can pick up fragile items safely

Appearance:

- Human-like is useful for tasks that require interaction with people or operating in the vicinity of humans
- Awkward looking robots are acceptable in industrial and manufacturing environments

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Challenge Questions:

For these questions, think about what kind of design decisions would need to be made for a particular task. For example, a robot operating in Antarctica may have tracks to drive over the snow, while a robot used in your house would need an end-effector capable of opening doors.

Create two different tasks for a robot to solve.

| | Choose a task for your robot: Examples (don't use these): | Choose your design elements: * Locomotion | Explain how those design | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| | collecting strawberries, excavating | * End-effectors | elements help the robot to perform | | |
| | earth for basement, mowing lawn | * Appearance | its job. | | |
| Task 1 | | | | | |
| Task 2 | | | | | |
| Explain why the two tasks result in different design elements and different robots. | | | | | |
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