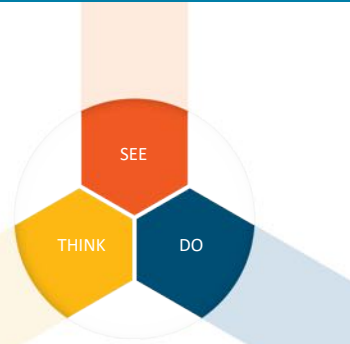


# CONTEXTUAL ROBOTICS INSTITUTE

Robotics for a better tomorrow

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## Roadmap for Robotics 2024

- Mega Trends
- Business Drivers
- Obstacles to Progress
- R&D Opportunities
- Misc



A Roadmap for US Robotics  
Robotics for a Better Tomorrow  
2024 Edition

**Coordinated By:**  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Texas, Austin  
Arizona State University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Stanford University  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
University of North Carolina  
UT Dallas

**Supported By:**  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Pennsylvania  
Engineering Research Center in Robotics  
University of Texas, Austin  
Arizona State University

## Roadmaps



## Mega Trends

- Robotics as the embodiment of AI/ML
- Workforce shortage
- Digital Economy
- Changing Demographics
- Sustainability
- The world is no longer flat

## Speed and scale... yesterday

*Supply side economics of scale*

### Examples



### Implications for firms

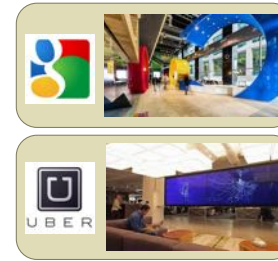
- Costs decline with higher volume of output
- Strong competitive advantages to building larger and larger production facilities

© Henrik I. Christensen, 2015

## Speed and scale ... today

*Demand-side economies of scale*

### Examples



### Implications for firms

- Value grows with growth of networks
- Strong competitive advantages to building out network ecosystem as quickly as possible

© Henrik I. Christensen, 2015

## New Rules for strategy

*Rise of platforms requires a shift in corporate strategy*

### Conventional corporate strategy

Focus on resource control

Focus on internal optimization

Focus on product value

### Platform strategy

Resource orchestration

External interaction

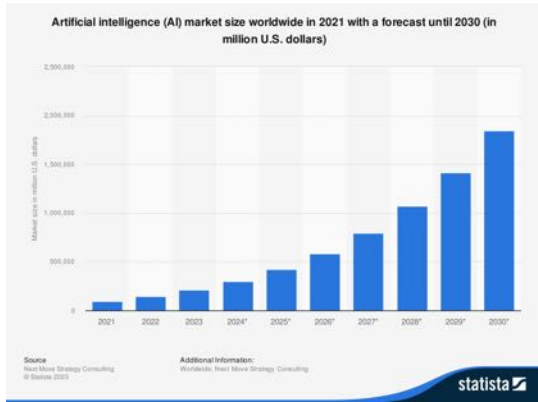
Ecosystem value

Source: Marshall W. Van Alstyne, Geoffrey G. Parker and Sangheet Paul Choudhary, "Pipelines, Platforms, and the New Rules of Strategy," Harvard Business Review, April 2016.

## Robotics embodiment of AI

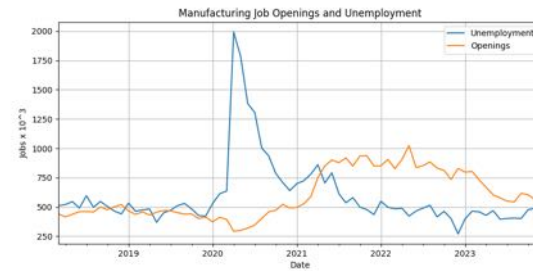
- AI is gaining momentum everywhere
- CAGR projected to be 33% 2021-2027
- In 2020, venture funding into AI was \$40B
- PWC predicts that 85% of companies will adopt AI within 5 years
- 77% of everyday devices utilize some form of AI
- WEC predicts AI will create 58 million new jobs
- 28% annual growth in AI related patents since 2015

# AI Growth



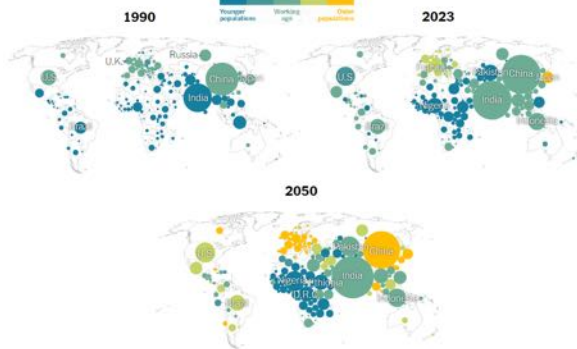
# Workforce shortage

- Post covid we have seen major shortage in workforce



SRC: FRED, BLS

# Workforce - Demographicis



SRC: NYTimes, 2023

# The world is no longer flat

- Delivery time does matter
- High level of customization
- Supply chains are fragile



## Opportunities

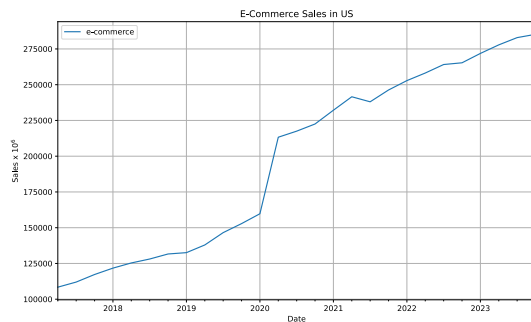
- Reshoring manufacturing
- The “now” economy
- Feeding the world
- Aging Society
- Housing and Infrastructure
- Sustainability
- Expanding Frontiers

## Reshoring manufacturing

- Moving products closer to the customer
- Most products are unique / highly customized



## E-commerce growth

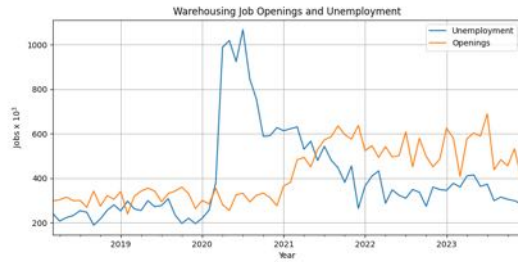


## Challenges

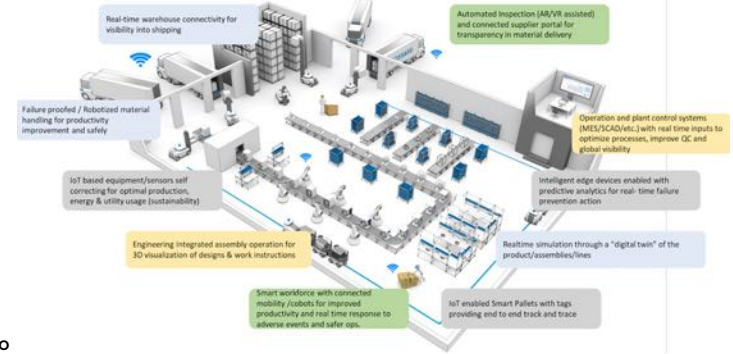
- Workforce
- Lot-Size 1 Operation
- Zero Learning Curve
- Sustainable Economy
- Privacy/Security/Trust/Safety
- Digital Production / Just in Time

## Workforce

- Shortage of workforce
- Training of workforce



## Lotsize 1 manufacturing



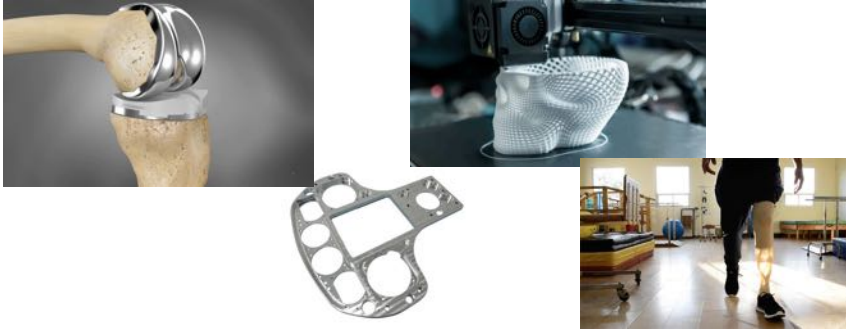
## Zero Learning Curve



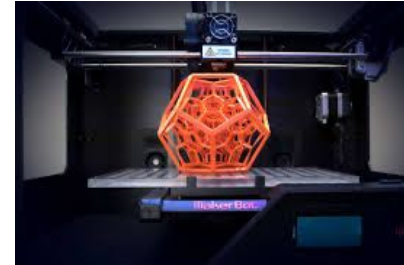
## Urbanization



## Digital Production / Just in time / manufacturing



## 3D printing in mixed materials



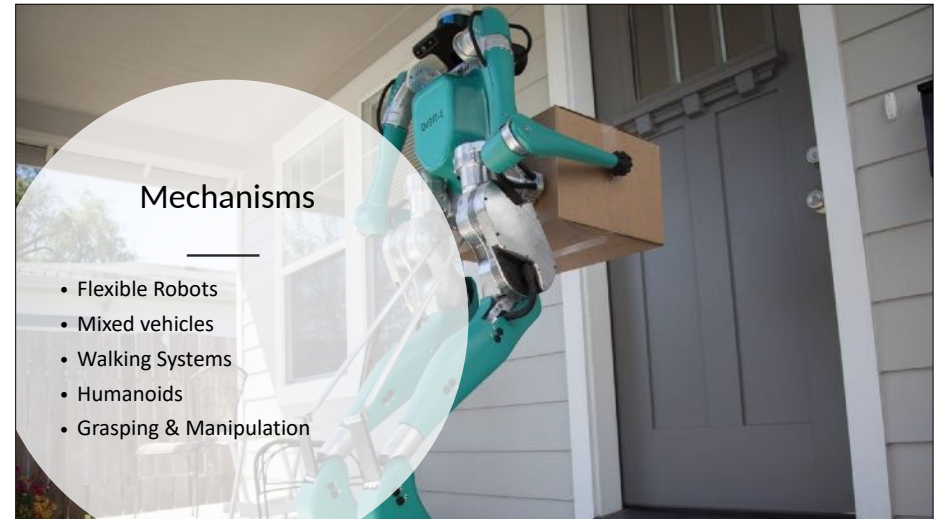
- 3D printing for spare parts
- Agile delivery
- New materials is opening markets
- Combined w. 3D scanning for repair work
- Tools for flexible additive manufacturing?

## Research Opportunities

- Physical Embodiment
- Manipulation
- Perception
- Control
- Planning
- Edge AI
- Machine Learning
- Human Interaction

## Mechanisms

- Flexible Robots
- Mixed vehicles
- Walking Systems
- Humanoids
- Grasping & Manipulation



## Grasping & Manipulation

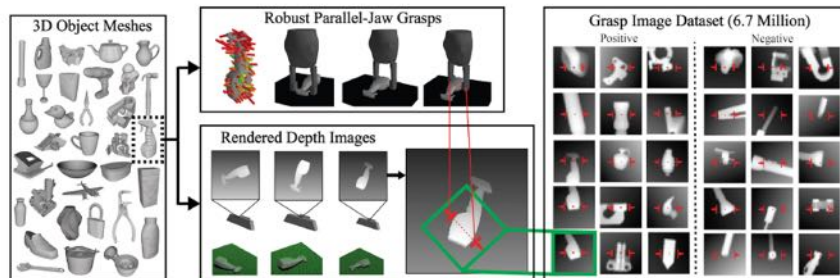
- Beyond Models
- Scaling
- Flexibility
- Safety
- Soft Systems
- Sensorized



## Collaborative Robots



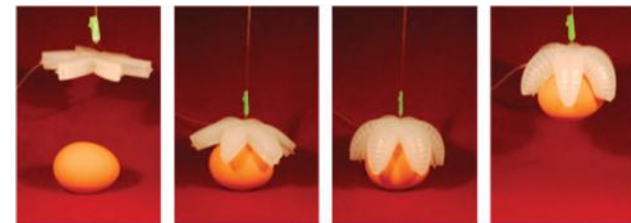
## Grasping seeing real progress



Dex-Net-2.0, Mahler et al, 2017

## Handling flexible objects

- Major progress on deformable grippers

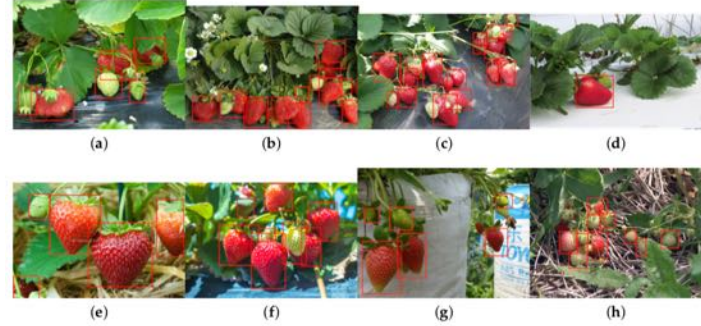


Fast, Robust and Easy to Clean

## Sensing / Perception



## Detection of natural objects such as fruit



Src: DeepFruits

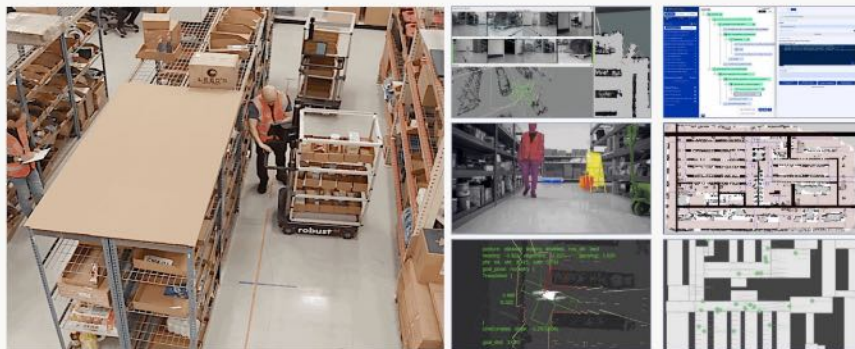
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robust<sup>AI</sup>

Frictionless Automation | a Breakthrough Robotics Product



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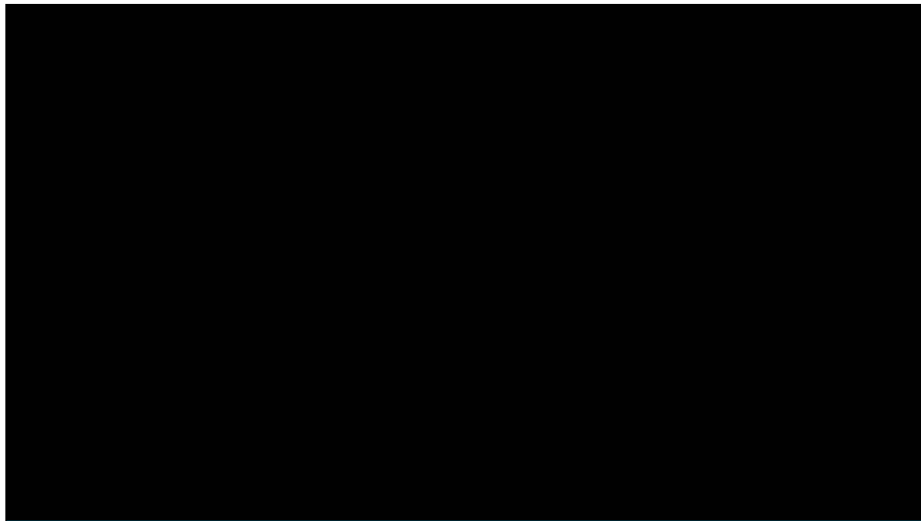
## Robust.AI

- Mapping and deployment within a week
- Fluency in human-machine cooperation (no training)
- Change in workflow to avoid (long) walks
- 30% productivity increase for DHL at 3PL sites
- Vision sensing only brings down BOM - < 10k / unit

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## Planning and Control





  
Grasp


  
Transfer Point


  
Path planning


  
Trajectory generation and control

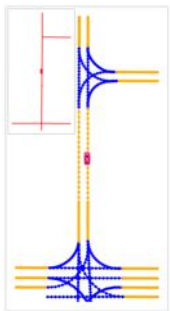
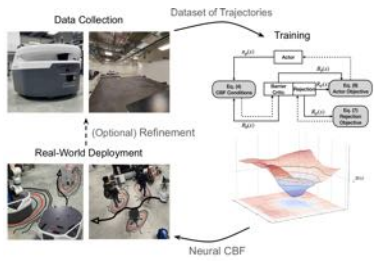






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## Planning

- Strategic Planning
- Tactical Planning
- Execution







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## AUTONOMY

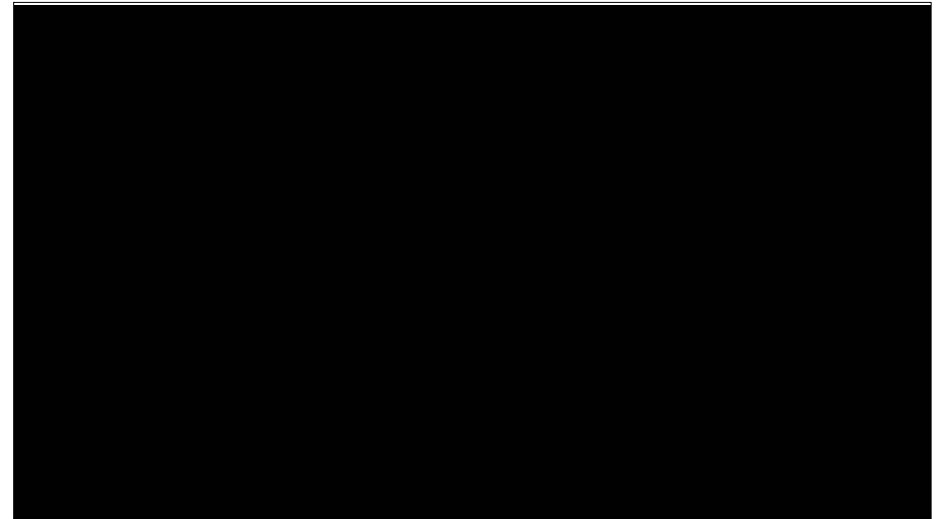
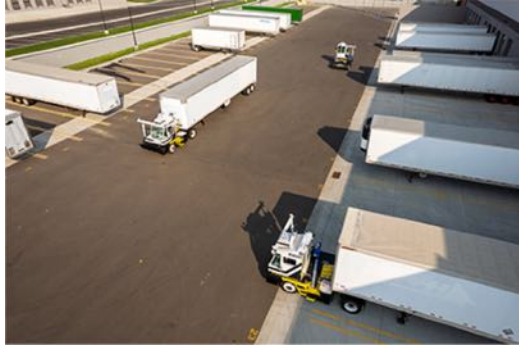
- Off- and on-road autonomy
  - Many promises but less actual deployments
  - The side-effects of autonomy
    - Autonomy may not be the most important factor
    - Full efficiency, environmental impact, safety
  - The challenges of autonomy
    - Certification is far from trivial





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## Outrider Example - Yard Automation



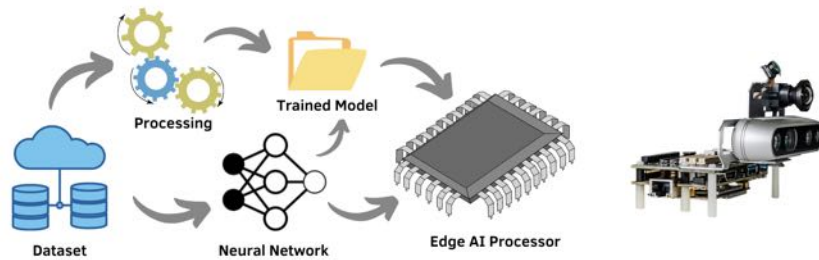
## Trucks

- Aurora
- Wabi
- TuSimple
- Kodiak
- Daimler
- Scania / Volvo
- ...
- General deployment far away
- Fuel savings is an interesting side-effect
- Yard operations likely to be first use case
- Many options for terminal operation - security, ...

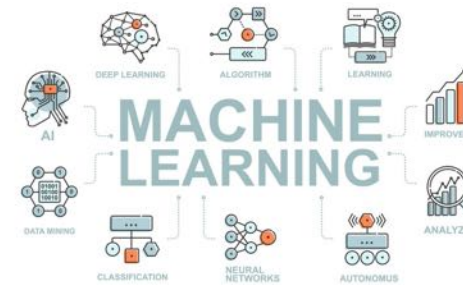


Amazon Scout – Certification is hard

## Edge AI



## Machine Learning



## Next Generation Interfaces



## Workforce Considerations

- Work force changes are happening
- Training will be required at all levels
- K-12 -> Trade Schools -> College
- Continuing education / Lifelong Education
  
- Robotics is a key enabler for STEM education

