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(2009-07-30, ConnorSchenck)

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-- ConnorSchenck - 28 May 2009

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Topic revision: r45 - 2009-07-30 - 17:58:58 - [ConnorSchenck](#)

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 30July2009
(2009-07-30, ConnorSchenck)

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July 30, 2009

Things are winding down; at least I hope so. We just about have a
rough draft of our paper done. It will be good enough for the REU.
Although, next week Taylor and I will be doing some more work on it
since we'll still be here. We should be able to submit it to two
conferences: A workshop at IROS in September and ICRA in May.
Well, back to working on the paper.

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Topic revision: r1 - 2009-07-30 - 18:07:05 - ConnorSchenck

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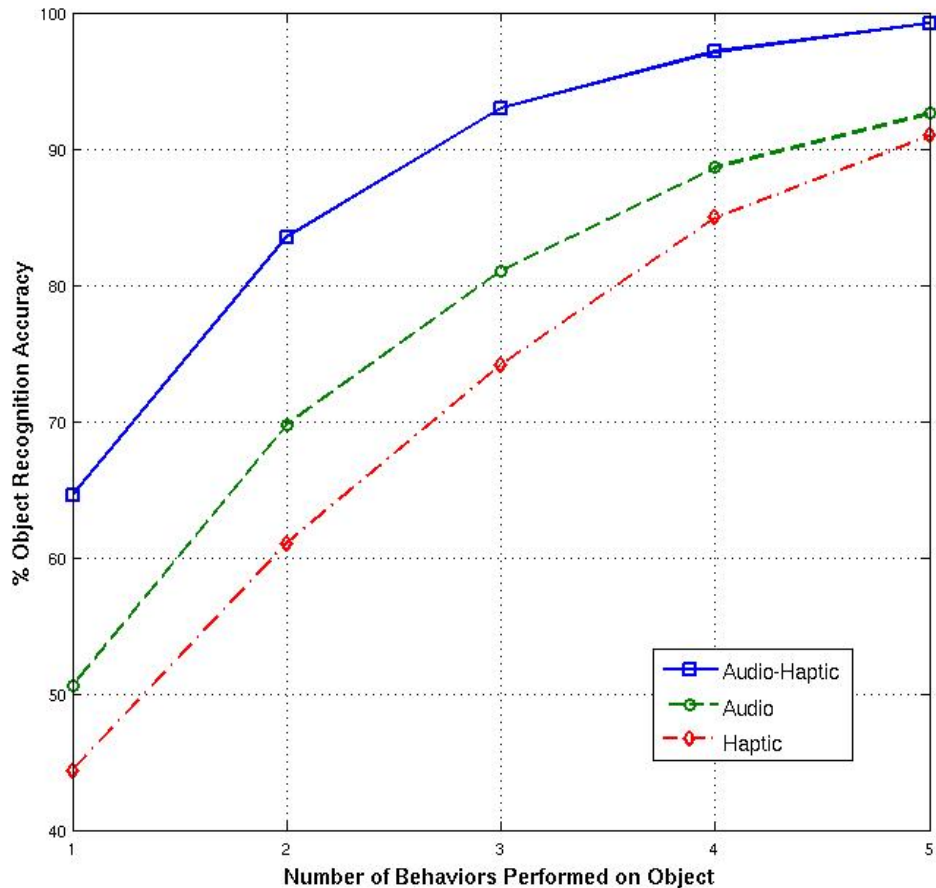
TWiki > □ Main
Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 29July2009
(2009-07-30, UgonnaOhiri)

Edit Attach

July 29, 2009

After I blogged yesterday Jivko brought us results using global alignment. See for yourself:

Those results are amazing! Exactly what we were hoping for all along. They show that using both together is better than either one alone. I'm so happy.

Are poster is finally (hopefully) done. Of course, now that I say that, Professor Stoytchev will show up here in a few minutes and change everything. I'm really tempted to just tell the publications people to go ahead and print it. Ah well, I'll just wait until he shows up.

Our paper is coming along. Ugonna has been working on the related work section, I've been working on methods, and Taylor has been working on the results and conclusions. We should have a rough draft ready by the end of today. Of course, if we have to change our poster again, we won't have one. Oh well, just gotta cross my fingers and hope if all turns out fine.

Add comment

UgonnaOhiri - 29 Jul 2009 - 23:01

LOOK AT THAT GRAPH!

Edit | Attach | Print version | History: r2 < r1 | Backlinks | Raw View | Raw edit | More topic actions

Topic revision: r2 - 2009-07-30 - 04:01:03 - UgonnaOhiri

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 28July2009
(2009-07-28, ConnorSchenck)

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July 28, 2009

So we got our results last night. Jivko made us a KGram program that ran and got decent results. Using both sensory modalities and all five interactions we were able to get a 92% accuracy in recognition rate, which is really good considering how similar a lot of the objects are. Although what's not so great is that what we intended to show, that the use of two modalities is better than either one alone, didn't come out as clear cut as we'd hoped. The combined modalities do much better than proprioception alone, but only marginally better than audio alone. Ah well, they are at least results. We sent our poster in to be printed, so that's not too bad. Jivko also ran global alignment last night, and today we're going to finish up some results with that instead of KGram. The preliminary results Jivko showed us were really good, so we should get much better results. We already sent the poster off to print, so that will only show our KGram results, but our paper should have results from global alignment. Our paper is about half way done as far as first drafts go; Ugonna did a good job of getting that started while Taylor and I ran the results.

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Topic revision: r1 - 2009-07-28 - 18:14:47 - ConnorSchenck

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Disabling individual WikiWords
Prevent a WikiWord from being linked by prefixing it with an exclamation point. Example: To escape SunOs ... Read on »

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 27July2009
(2009-07-27, ConnorSchenck)

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July 27, 2009

So I haven't blogged for the last couple days. Oops, oh well life moves on.

I spent the weekend working in the lab. I ran the self-organizing map on all the data, then ran the distance measure on all of it. Today I ran some preliminary evaluations, and.....ahhhhhhhhhhh crap. I got object recognition rates so bad, worse than chance in some cases. We may be able to fiddle with some constants to improve it some, but there's not a whole lot we can do. We have to have our results finished by the end of today so we can get our poster printed, so we don't have time to rerun any of the data. Taylor went through all my code this morning and double checked to make sure the poor results weren't some coding error somewhere, and it turns out that it wasn't. I think they are a result of our distance metric. Jivko used string matching in his paper, but to save time (since our data set is much larger and string matching runtime scales quadratically) we used an n-gram trie, which was put together by Matt. We knew that the results would be worse, but they shouldn't be this much worse. Jivko ran some data through the trie as well, and he said he also got poor results, although how bad I'm not sure. He should be in in an hour or so, and so we can ask him to see what he thinks we should do. At the moment, since we don't have time to do any major changes, I think we're just going to have to say that our results show that an n-gram trie is ineffective at object recognition. Since Taylor and I will still be here, next week we may try string matching (we have to use all the REU computers for about 2 days straight, which is why we can't do that now). We'll have to keep in touch with Ugonna through email and Google Docs. Hopefully doing that will give us publishable results.

Another option we might consider is instead of doing object recognition, we may do object classification. A lot of the objects are fairly similar, so classification should give us much better results. We'll have to just hand label the classes for the objects, but that shouldn't be too hard. Whichever we choose, I don't think we're going to get the results that we were looking for, at least not using an n-gram trie. But oh well, hopefully we get some results.

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Topic revision: r1 - 2009-07-27 - 18:15:35 - ConnorSchenck

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 22July2009
(2009-07-22, ConnorSchenck)

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July 22, 2009

Well, we seem to have made a lot of progress since yesterday, or so Taylor tells me. Yesterday I figured out how to clean the torque data. It was really noisy, so first I cleared out any outliers, then I ran a running average smooth over it and the data actually looks really nice. I also took the derivative of the data. I started one of our computers in our cluster on cleaning all the torque data; it should finish sometime tomorrow afternoon. We have yet to figure out how to best crop our data (there is extra information before and after each interaction that is effectively 'silence'). Then we have to train our self-organizing map on the data, which Jivko got us code to do that yesterday, so it shouldn't be too hard. After that we're going to run a distance metric to compare all the data points. Matt (one of the grad students in our lab) spent last night writing us some code to do that pretty easily. All that's left to do after that is cross-validation with K-nearest neighbors and we have our results! I see the end, and it is near. Maybe there is a light at the end of the tunnel after all.

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Topic revision: r1 - 2009-07-22 - 18:14:28 - ConnorSchenck

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 21July2009
(2009-07-21, ConnorSchenck)

Edit **Attach**

July 21, 2009

Yesterday after I blogged we were talking with our grad mentors, and they told us some things we needed to change. This meant we weren't able to use all of your computers last night because we had to fix some things. Taylor and I have been working on cropping out irrelevant parts of the audio and proprioceptive data and Ugonna has been working on getting our presentation ready for next Friday. We may try to use your computers on Thursday while we're gone (just let them run all day), if that's okay. I don't think anyone will need to use them.

Add comment

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Topic revision: r1 - 2009-07-21 - 18:05:08 - ConnorSchenck

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 20July2009
(2009-07-21, ConnorSchenck)

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July 20, 2009

Not a whole lot has happened since last Friday. Oh, wait. That's a lie. WE ARE FINISHED COLLECTING DATA! YES!!! Finally we can be rid of that demon-possessed computer. Ugonna finished the collection on Friday night (stayed there until midnight), and I ran the discrete Fourier transform on Saturday. Today Taylor is working on doing the feature extraction, and I'm hoping that we will be ready to do string matching by tonight. We may need to borrow some of your computers for the evening, but I'll come around and ask if we need to.

	Add comment

ConnorSchenck - 21 Jul 2009 - 13:00

that's really funny...and kinda weird lol

HamadiMcIntosh - 20 Jul 2009 - 13:49

Every time I imagine the three of you working I imagine the three of you sightless standing around this computer passing your one eye amongst each other so that you can do work. Lol.

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Topic revision: r3 - 2009-07-21 - 18:00:52 - ConnorSchenck

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 17July2009
(2009-07-20, ZayiraJordan)

Edit Attach

July 17, 2009

Not a lot to report since yesterday. I finally got the video recording to work, so the last 11 objects will have video. We're not going to use it, but Professor Stoytchev wanted the data anyways. We'll be done collecting data after today, so I guess I'm kinda glad that that's finally going to be over.

I spent yesterday afternoon and this morning creating an image that was just a grid of all of our objects. Here is is:

Next week we'll have to work fast to get all of our data processed and get our results. Hopefully they turn out well.

update:
@#$^@#^&#&^@DFGQW$#%TWHGSAW$%TETERYAE%$YWS%WYWS%RHRS%YW#$%YT^%$&#@@#$^%%$&#%HE%^HE%HDR%&YRRY%CX$E%#$#@$&W#%^Y%^H%E^YW$%Y#^W$%HJ^%Y#%&Y$E^&$&#%&^Y#%U$#W%^$#%^%'&$%^#%@$%@#%@^%#$^%@$!@#^#%^&^^(^^&(&^*$^&#$%@#%@%^#@%THGSRTYSYGYD^W#^{Y}Y$E%Y$W%GTED%W#^#

(That incomprehensible text up there is just Connor saying that the audio capture program has started throwing a null pointer exception, which means that all the data taken so far today is useless. Nothing changed, and yet there it is, throwing an exception.)

update update:

Instead of explaining what happened (as that is too boring) I'm going to tell this harrowing tale that is a metaphor for what happened

It started earlier today. I was in the forest, cutting through only light resistance with my two battalions of men. Just as I was thinking 'I wonder what those demons are up to?' a messenger came upon our column. He had clearly been through some heavy fighting to get to us. I took his message and read it with urgency. It stated that General Ugonna had been surrounded by demons while on a routine inspection in the plains. It said he needed immediate assistance as he was in danger of being overrun, so I ordered an about face and we headed at double time to his aide.

Upon arriving, I noticed that it was a relatively small demon force surrounding General Ugonna. After breaking through to him, I inquired as to why he was unable to defeat them with his obviously superior numbers. He said that they were wielding a new weapon: the Null Pointer Exception. This weapon had been utterly decimating his men.

But together, I reasoned, we could defeat them. Wave after wave of men charged into the demons, but none prevailed. After many hours spent in vain, we decided that the battle could not be won, and so we retreated to the mountains, letting the demons hold the plains, for now.

In the mountains we consulted the wise sensai Jivko Sinapov. He gave me two green sticks that were arranged to look as if they were two forward slashes. He said they were called 'comments' and that this would help us defeat the demons. He said that they would not destroy them, but they would contain them.

We returned to the plains, new weapon in hand. A battle ensued. After the dust settled, the demons were defeated; we were VICTORIOUS! But we still had work to do, and even though the battle had been won, the war was far from over.

[ ] Add comment

ZayiraJordan - 20 Jul 2009 - 09:53

Good stuff!! I know how hard is to make those image grids! Good job! (what did u use?)

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Topic revision: r3 - 2009-07-20 - 14:53:57 - ZayiraJordan

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(2009-07-16, ConnorSchenck)

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July 16, 2009

So I finished my calculations for how to optimize the distribution of calculation tasks given C number of processor cores available and n number of data points. Here are the equations:

$$T(n) = \sum_{x=1}^{n-1} n - x$$

$$G(q) = T(n) /*(q-1) + 1$$

$$S(q) = n - 0.5 - \sqrt{(n-0.5)^2 - 2*G(q)}$$

There is a typo. There is supposed to be a 'C' between the '/' and the '' in the second equation

So the first equation calculates the total number of comparisons that need to be made. The second, given q (the current core number), calculates what comparison that core should start at. The final one takes that and calculates what data point to start at for that core. I've already written the program that can be run on multiple computers, it just needs to know how many total cores are available, how many data points there are, and what the current core number is.

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 15July2009
(2009-07-15, BellaManoim)

Edit | **Attach**

July 15, 2009

We are now 3/5 of the way to being complete with our data collection. Although it seems as if it is taking longer and longer to take data. For some reason, some random part of the trial process will fail and force us to redo that trial. This is starting to happen about 50% of the time, which means our data collection is twice what it should be. I talked to Shane, and he said that the issue was somewhere deep in Barrett's (the manufacturer of our robotic arm) code, so there's really nothing we can do about it short of rewriting all of it. Oh well, we should be able to finish by the end of the week.

I've finished string matching for the moment, and now I'm working on finding a function that, given n number of data points and c processor cores, how to distribute the comparisons over the cores so they do the same amount of work. We have to build a lookup up table of similarity between all of our data points. We have about 2500 data points in each of our modes of perception (audio and proprioceptive). It takes about 5 seconds to run one comparison, and we'll need to run 2500^2 comparisons, so you can do the math of how long that will take on one core. So we're going to need to parallelize this process. If anyone reading this wouldn't mind, we may need to use your computer in the VRAC for an overnight to run these calculations, if that would be okay. Hopefully this works.

[   ]   **Add comment**

BellaManoim - 15 Jul 2009 - 15:47

that sounds like a whole lot of busy computers

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Topic revision: r2 - 2009-07-15 - 20:47:39 - BellaManoim

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 14July2009
(2009-07-14, UgonnaOhiri)

Edit **Attach**

July 14, 2009

Not a whole lot new to report since yesterday. I'm just about done with the string matching, although it's going to be quite computationally expensive. The John Deere tour this morning was a little interesting, and it was definitely a nice reprieve from the usual. We have two weeks from Friday to be finished, and I'm starting to think that we might make it. After I finish string matching I'm going to start working on the more administrative stuff like the poster and the paper until Taylor and Ugonna finish what they are doing.

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Topic revision: r2 - 2009-07-14 - 20:46:44 - UgonnaOhiri

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Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 13July2009
(2009-07-13, ConnorSchenck)

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July 13, 2009

Well, for those of you who missed it, paint balling was AWESOME!

Anyway, to more relevant topics. So on Friday at the end of the day, we met with Professor Stoytchev. He finally approved our setup for taking data, so on Saturday morning we were able to get started. We've been taking turns gathering data while the other two get to work doing other things. Ugonna is working on figuring out how to do a Fourier Transform of a wave file; I'm working on string matching; and Taylor is working on feature extraction and the guts of the learning algorithm. When we get it all put together, we'll have Ugonna's program do the Fourier Transform of the audio data, then feed that to the feature extraction. That will return a bunch of vectors that are discrete states from the feature extractor (essentially strings), which will then be fed to my part of the code, which will attempt to match them and create a similarity measure between each. Taylor's learning algorithm will then use this to compare each vector against each other and find the closest matching ones for the data we are looking for (*This isn't the data you're looking for*) lol.

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(2009-07-15, MichaelOren)

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July 10, 2009

Well well well, we met with Professor Stoytchev yesterday afternoon. We spent the day taking data, only to have him tell us that we were doing it all wrong, and to change it. Hopefully we got everything fixed today; We are going to restart data collection after journal club this afternoon and if he comes back and says we're doing it wrong again, well, I don't, I may just have a heart attack. As it is, we are behind schedule and the probability of us finishing is getting lower by the day. If Mike is reading this, then I have to say that I'm sorry but we won't be submitting anything for our paper/poster for a while because we need to spend all of our available time on our project.

[   ]   Add comment

MichaelOren - 14 Jul 2009 - 20:40

But the paper/poster is part of your project (arguably the most important part...)

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Topic revision: r2 - 2009-07-15 - 01:40:51 - MichaelOren

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Smilies are common in e mail messages and bulletin board posts. They are used to convey an emotion, such ... Read on »

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TWiki > ◻ Main Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 9July2009
(2009-07-10, ConnorSchenck)

Edit **Attach**

July 9, 2009

This morning we started taking data for our project. We're almost done with the first trial, only 9 more to go. Hopefully that doesn't take too long. We're going to watch Matt Miller, a grad student in our lab, practice his thesis defense at 2 this afternoon. We're going to watch the real thing tomorrow morning at 10.

[   ]   Add comment

BellaManoim - 09 Jul 2009 - 15:26

please look at the email Pam sent and sign up for our study

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Topic revision: r3 - 2009-07-10 - 18:04:40 - ConnorSchenck

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💡 **TWiki Tip of the Day**
SpreadSheetPlugin for dynamic content
Over 60 formulae are available through the SpreadSheetPlugin. For Example: $AVERAGE() $IF ... Read on »

TWiki > ⬜ Main Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 8July2009
(2009-07-08, LinhPham)

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July 8, 2009

We are nearing time to begin taking data. Ugonna has nearly finished the audio code, and I have pretty much finished the haptic and interactions code. I spent the better part of this morning trying to figure out why some of my code didn't work. I needed to open a TCP socket in one program so it could tell the other to start recording. But everytime I would try to have it listen for connections, it would throw a seg fault. I had used the exact same code in a program before and it had worked fine, so I was very puzzled. I even tried to use code that I found that the grad students had used, but that also seg faulted when listening for connections. So, after having spent hours banging my head against the wall, I just decided to use UDP instead, which I got working just before lunch. Left to finish this afternoon: Rerecord a couple of the interactions, retime the interactions, and figure out how to get position data from the hand.

Add comment

LinhPham - 08 Jul 2009 - 13:27

I hate it when I try to code something one way but it doesn't work. Then I find a way that works, but you never know why the other way didn't...

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Topic revision: r2 - 2009-07-08 - 18:27:57 - LinhPham

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💡 **TWiki Tip of the Day**
WebChanges to see recent activity
Each TWiki web has a WebChanges topic that lists recent activity from all editors of the web. This page ... Read on »

TWiki > Main Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 7July2009
(2009-07-07, ConnorSchenck)

Edit **Attach**

July 7, 2009

Yesterday was relatively productive. Jivko showed us the code he used, and Ugonna is working on altering it for our use. Taylor is currently working on setting up the learning program, and I am just about done with the interactions and recording of haptic (formerly known as proprioceptive) data. I made a lot of progress this morning, and I should be done this afternoon.

Here's a puzzle for those with a lot of programming experience. So yesterday I was programming for the robot, and I needed to load each of its interactions. Previously I had done this by requesting an integer (corresponding to the correct interaction) from the user and passing that to the load function. Well, I tried to just pass it a straight up integer and every time I did it would throw a seg fault, but for some reason having the user type in the integer worked. I was very stumped. I ended up just putting the integer in a string and using sscanf to parse it out. Does anyone know what could have caused such an unusual error?

Add comment

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Topic revision: r1 - 2009-07-07 - 18:04:12 - ConnorSchenck

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💡 **TWiki Tip of the Day**
Commenting with hidden text
To hide sections of a TWiki topic, use HTML comments. Example comment within a sentence: Visible ...
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TWiki > 🟨 Main Web > Blogs > ConnorSchneckSBlog > 6July2009
(2009-07-06, ConnorSchenck)

Edit **Attach**

July 6, 2009

So we are back in Ames. This morning's ethics course was very interesting, especially the debates that we had. There isn't a whole lot to blog about, but in a few minutes we are going to meet with Shane and Jivko in the dev rob lab, hopefully we make some good progress.

Add comment

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Topic revision: r1 - 2009-07-06 - 19:25:38 - ConnorSchenck

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(2009-07-06, HamadiMcIntosh)

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💡 **TWiki Tip of the Day**
File attachments
One can attach files to any topic. The action of attaching a file to a topic is similar to attaching ... Read on »

July 1, 2009

This is pretty cool. We are currently sitting in the Las Vegas airport, otherwise known as McCarran International Airport, waiting for our flight which takes off at 1 am, or for about another couple hours. Normally that would suck, having to just chill here for a couple hours, but unlike most other airports, McCarran has **free** wireless internet and actually has power outlets. I hope the Memphis airport does as well. You can tell we're in Vegas because there are slot machines all over the airport, but they all say no people under 21 allowed :(. Ah well, we saw the strip on the flight in and it was pretty cool.

As far as the conference goes, today was a fairly uneventful day. We listened to a couple talks this morning that I thought were somewhat interesting (they were about coordinating multiple robots to do stuff) but weren't really relevant to what we want to do. The talks in the afternoon didn't really pertain to our research area so we skipped them and instead hung around on University of Washington's campus. I have to say, it is a very beautiful campus and the temperature in Seattle this time of year is about right.

The conference as a whole was somewhat interesting, but I think we didn't really come away from it with a better idea about how to do our project like we would have liked. Ah well, at least it gave us some insight as to what else is going on in robotics. Oh, and by the way, if Steve, Pam, Mike, or Zayira is reading this, we most likely will get back to Ames in the early afternoon tomorrow, but I do not suspect that we will make it in to the lab as we probably won't get much sleep on our flights and will be very tired.

Add comment

HamadiMcIntosh - 06 Jul 2009 - 13:05

I've spent a lot of time in airports. I've had to stay overnight in airports as well. That's really not fun.

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Topic revision: r2 - 2009-07-06 - 18:05:04 - HamadiMcIntosh

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