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# Current Status and Development Strategies of Agricultural Robotics Technology

Professor Chengliang Liu  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University





## **Status of International Robotics**

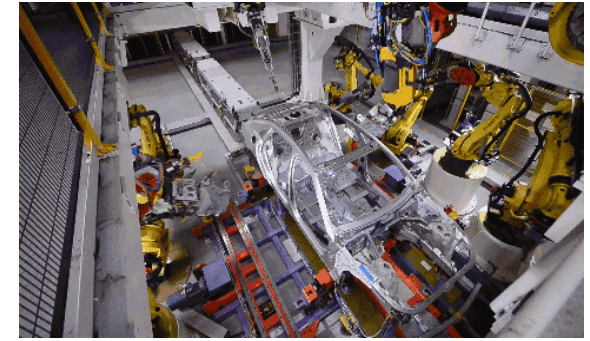
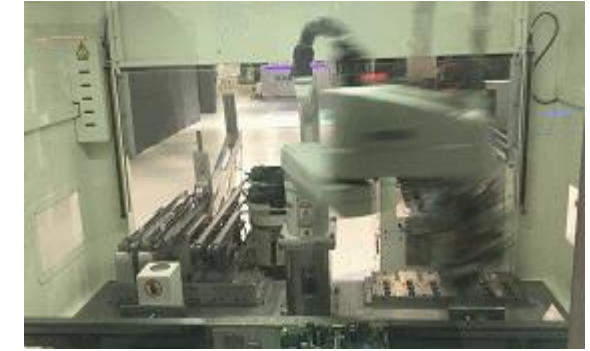
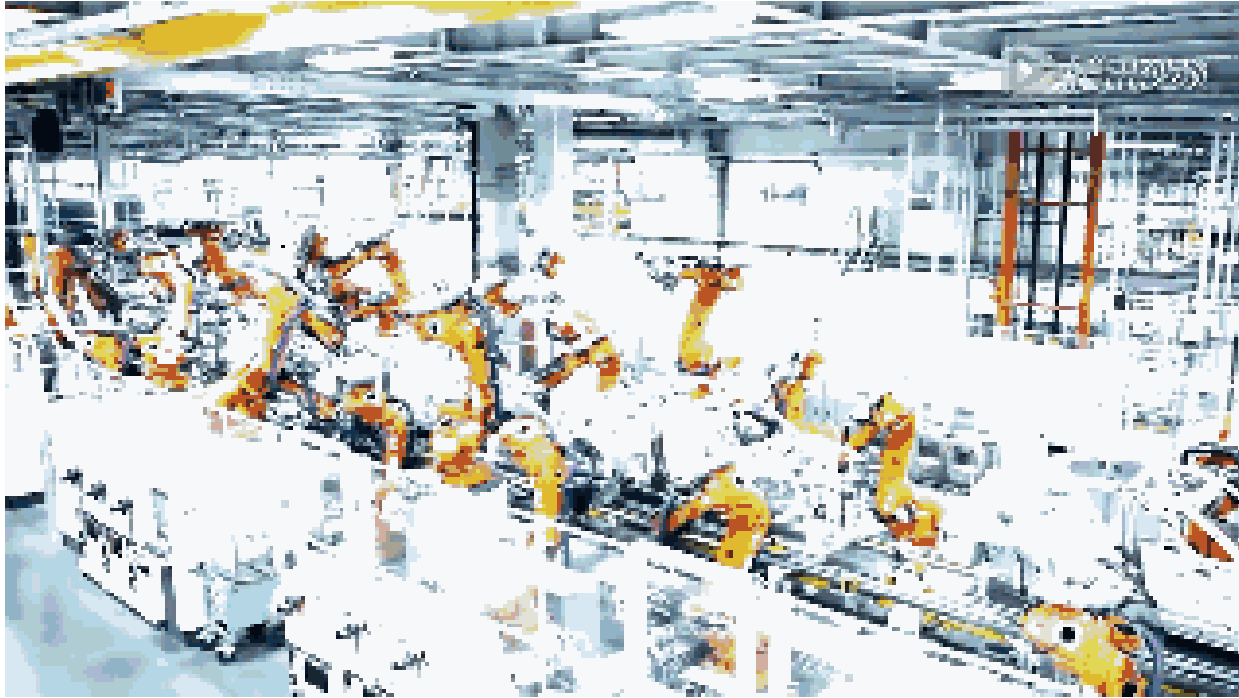
Industrial Robots, Special Robots, Service Robots



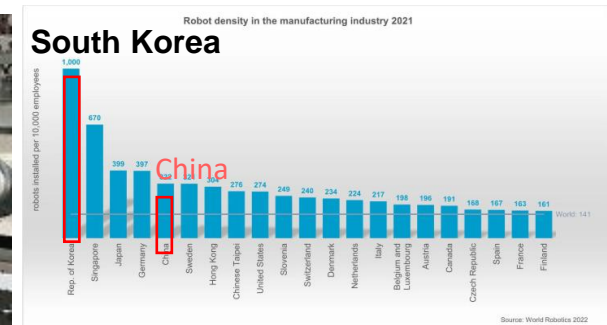
# Industrial robots



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## Multi robot collaboration/human-machine integration



**Number of robots/10k workers :** South Korea: 1000 people, Singapore: 670 people, Japan: 399 people, Germany: 397 people, **China: 322 people**, United States: 277 people



# Special robots



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High speed, high inertia, dynamic stability control → Microscopic, fine, and agile operation

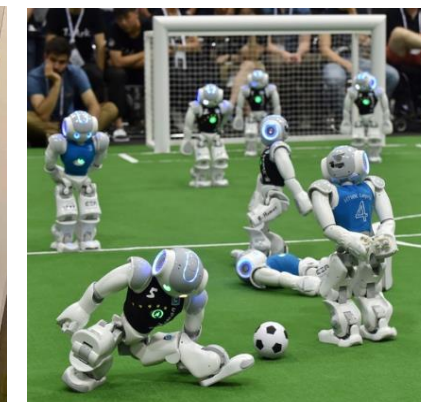
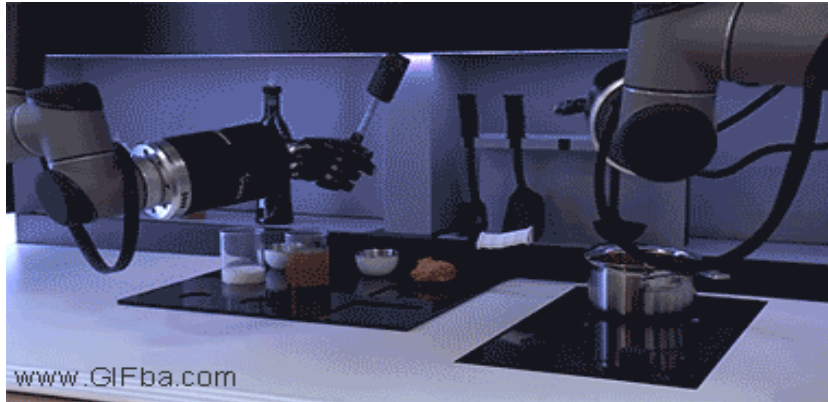




# Service Robots



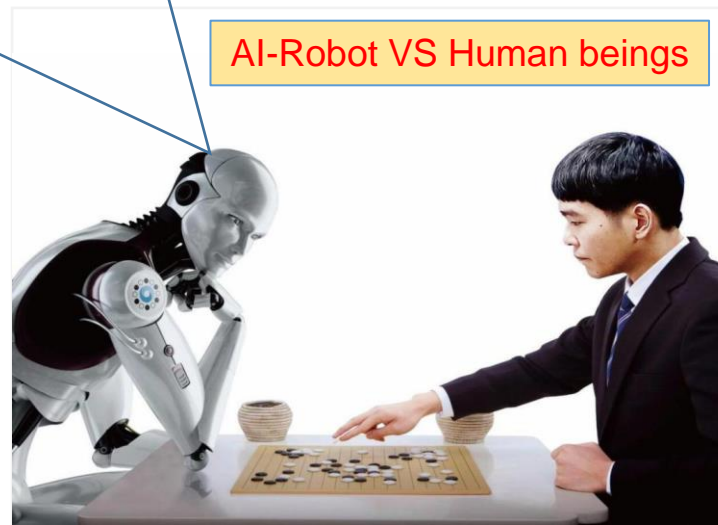
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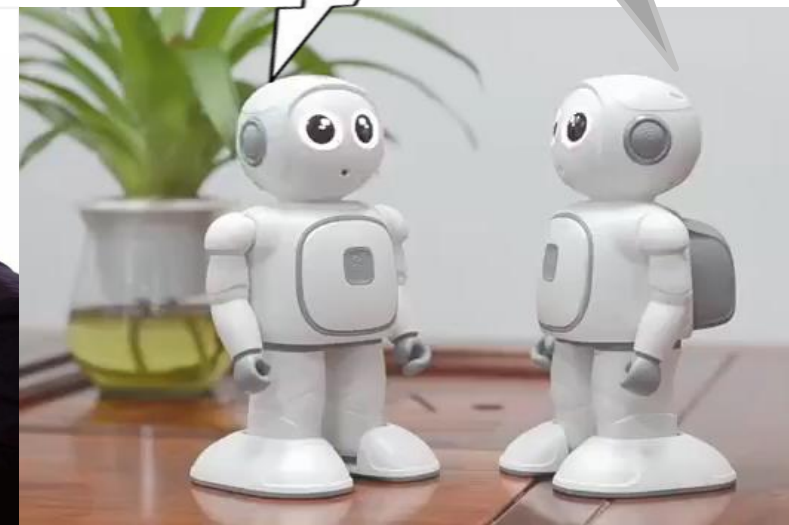
Before **AlphaGo** faced Lee Sedol, the Google DeepMind team first trained the "AlphaGo" neural network with nearly **30 million moves** played by humans, allowing it to learn how to predict how a human professional player will land. Let AlphaGo play against itself, thus creating a massive new game book.



机器手就开始做了



AI-Robot VS Human beings



AI vs AI (Chat GPT)  
Cloud Knowledge Base



# Analysis of Hot Words in ICRA and IROS

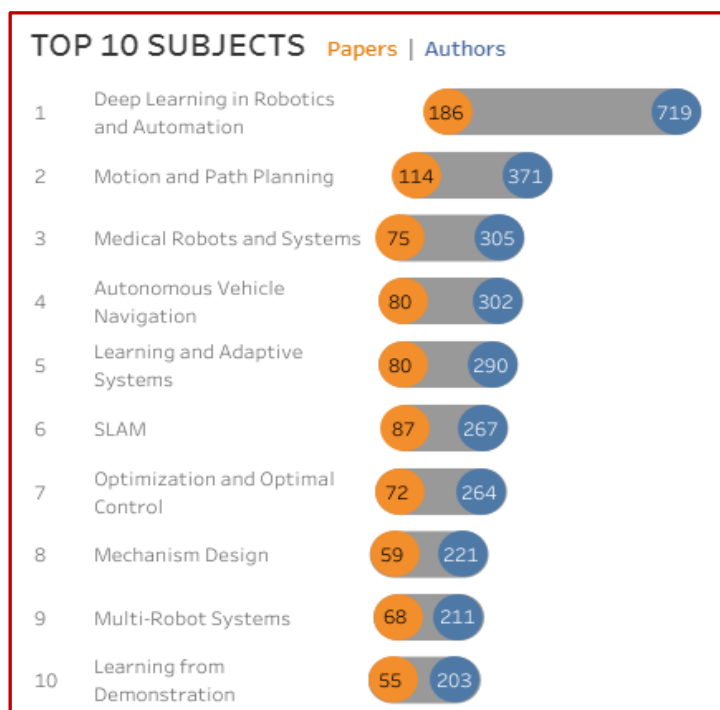


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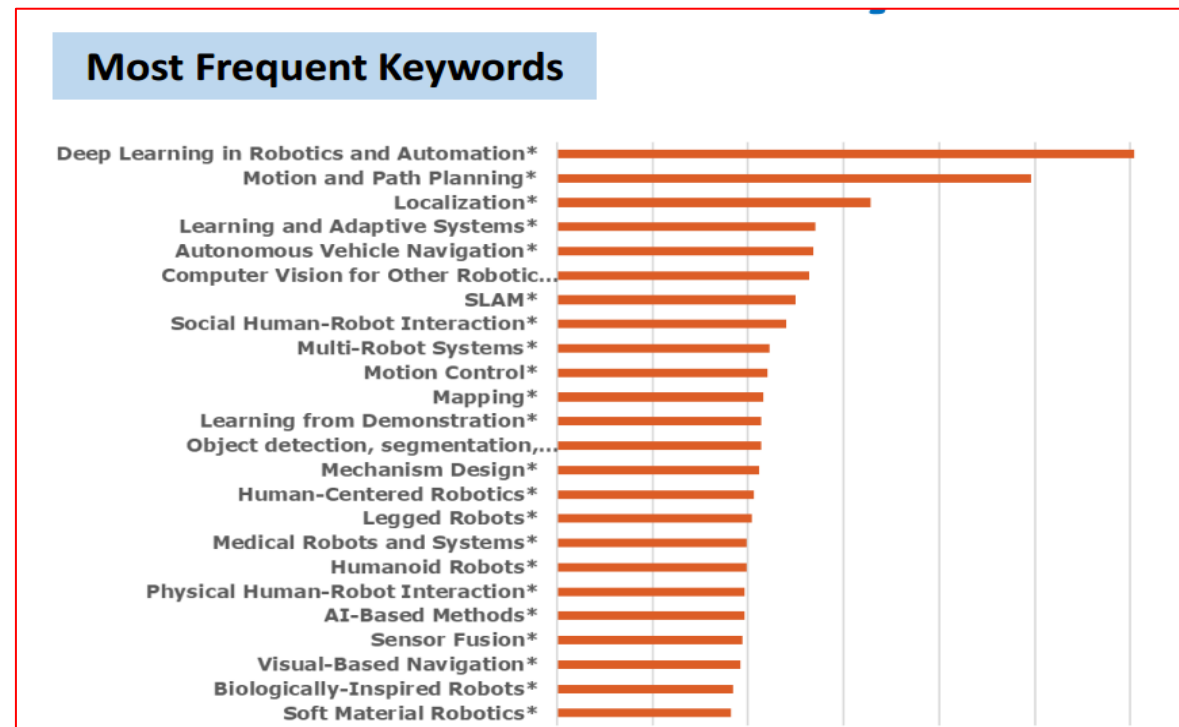


- ❑ **Advanced technologies:** deep learning and neural networks, autonomous navigation and positioning, perception and cognition, flexible robots and soft robots, collaborative robots and human-machine collaboration, multi robot systems and collaboration, human-machine interaction and social robots, autonomous decision-making and planning
- ❑ **Research direction:** Autonomy, Intelligence, Integration, Collaboration

## ICRA2021 Hot Words



## IROS2020 Hot Words





- 1. What kind of robots are needed for agriculture**
- 2. Field robot status and its developing trends**
- 3. Greenhouse robot status and its developing trends**
- 4. Key technologies of Agricultural robot**
- 5. Research on Agricultural Robots at SJTU**



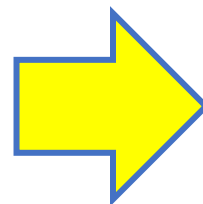
# 1. What kind of robots are needed for agriculture?



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**Harmful**



## Drone Spraying





# 1. What kind of robots are needed for agriculture?



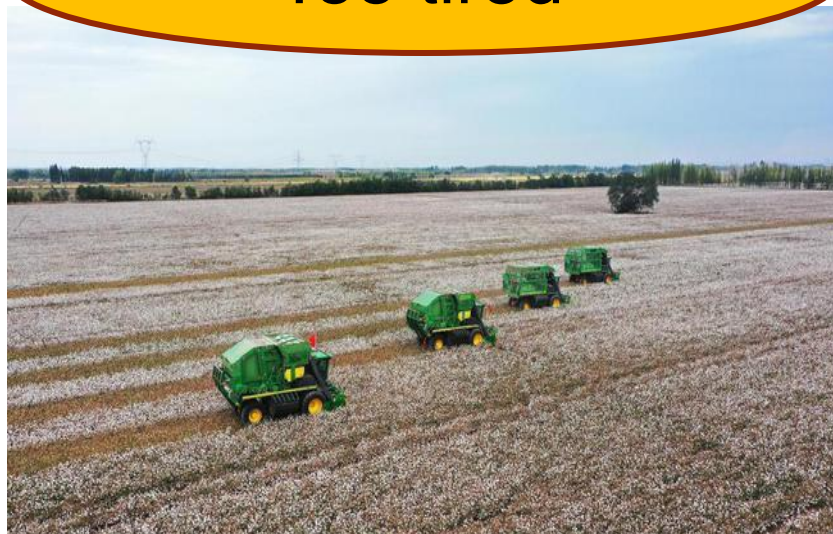
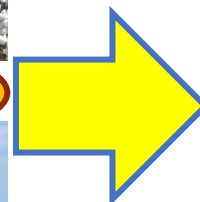
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## Unmanned driving



Too tired





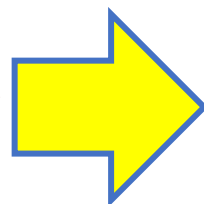
# 1. What kind of robots are needed for agriculture?



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Unwillingt to do



## Milking robot





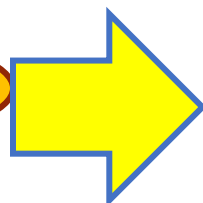
# 1. What kind of robots are needed for agriculture?



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Inefficient



## Transplanting robot





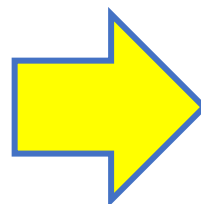
# 1. What kind of robots are needed for agriculture?



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Labour shortage



## Picking robot





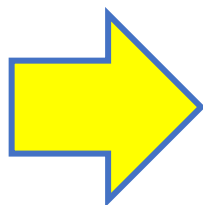
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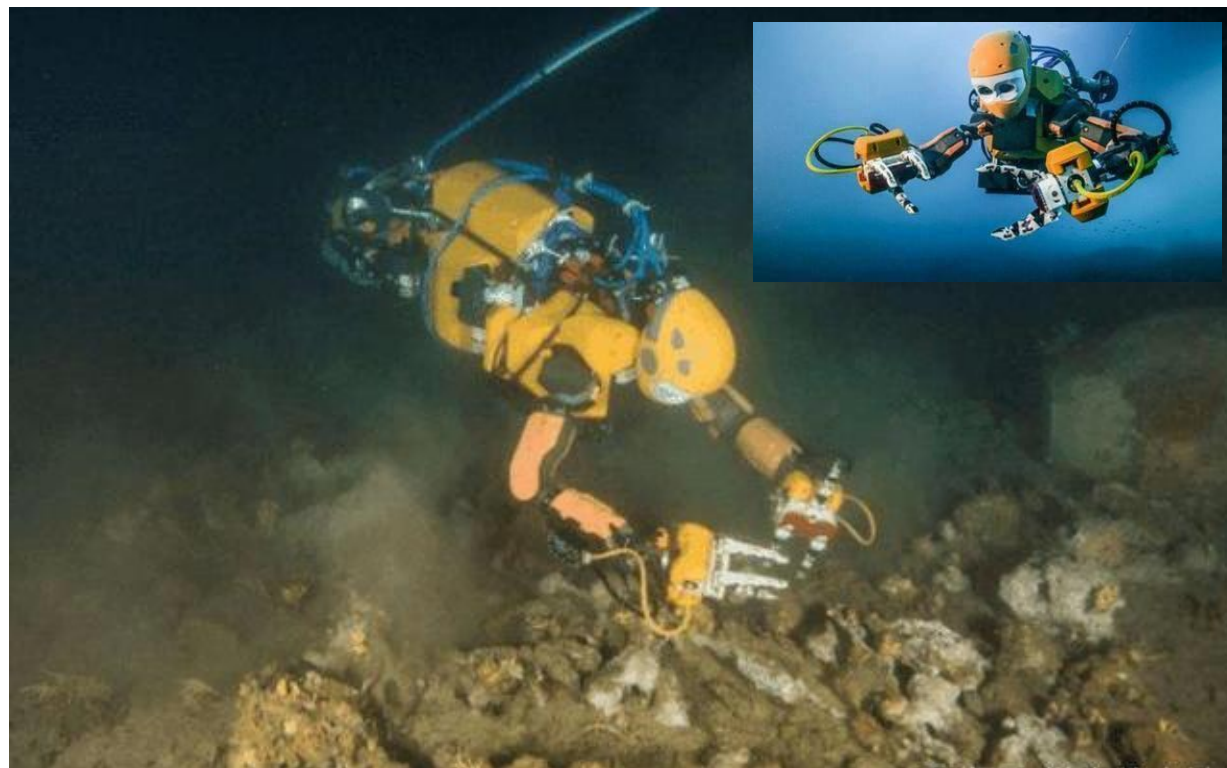
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Harsh scene

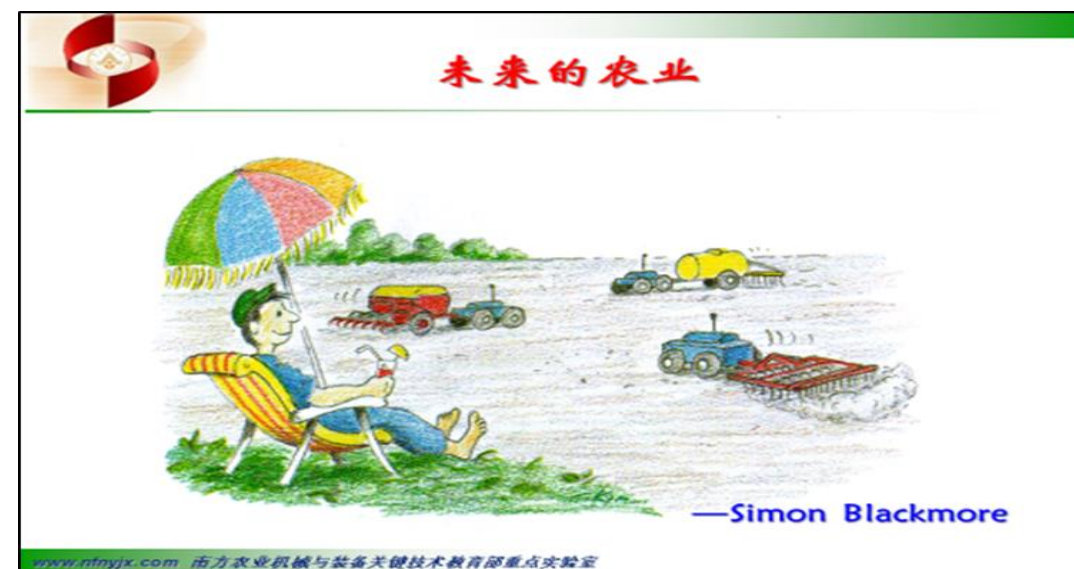
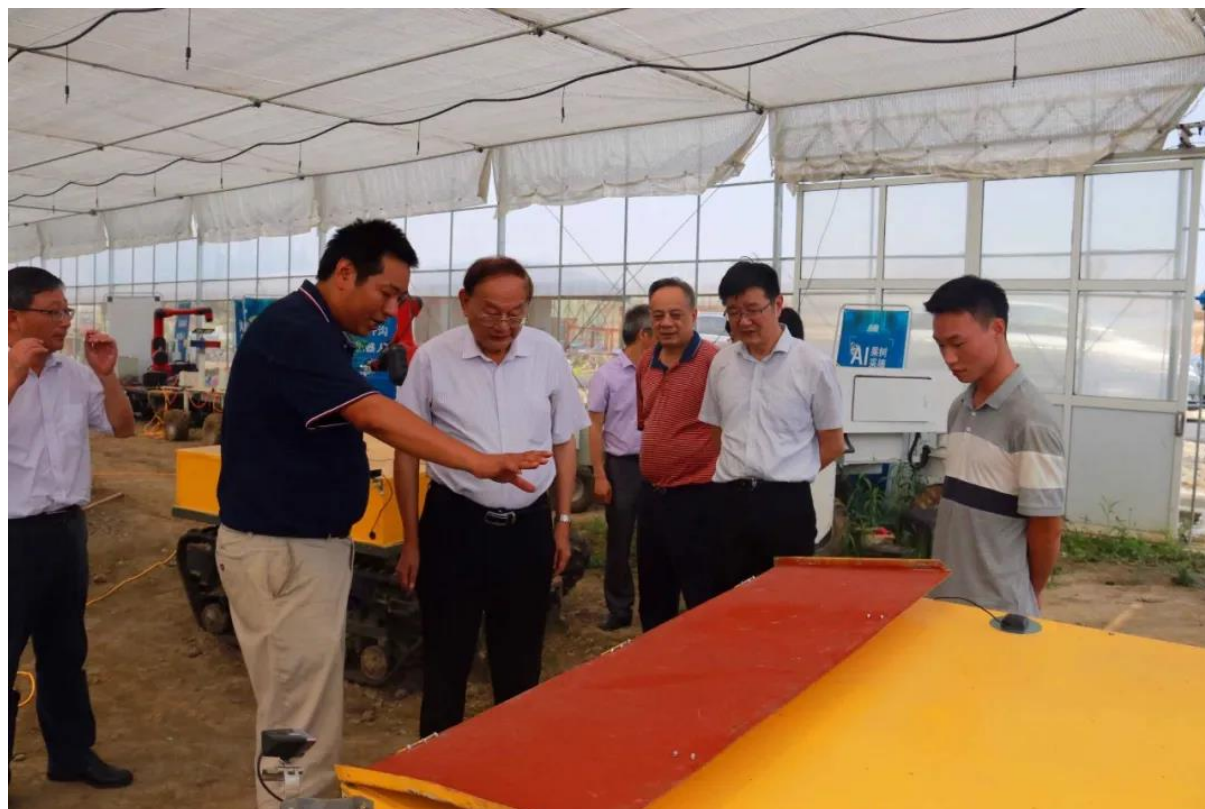


## Sea cucumber fishing robot





## Shanghai sweet agricultural robot





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## Lemken Krone launched unmanned tractors

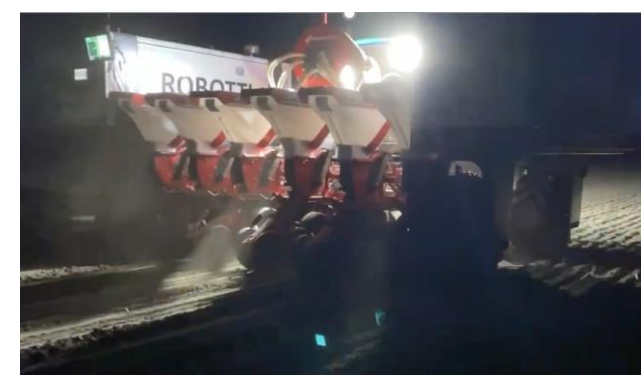




## Norwegian Kverneland Group



Seeding robot





## French Weeding robot: Dino





## French vineyard robot: Pruning robot





### Spanish agricultural robot manufacturer Agrobot: 24-arm strawberry harvesting robot





# Diverse agricultural robots



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Germany 1100 hp NEXAT modular farm machine



University of Sydney - solar charging, four-wheel steering, four-wheel drive RIPPA



Carbon Robotics Laser Automated Weeding Robot (Seattle)



Second Generation Ted #European Winery Vineyard Robot





# Diverse agricultural robots



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John deere

# Autonomous tractor robot work platform

<https://www.deere.com>



[http://www.sohu.com/a/134009698\\_691441](http://www.sohu.com/a/134009698_691441)

- ✓ **Autonomous tractor**
- ✓ Illumination & weather conditions independent
- ✓ Work 7x24





- ✓ **Automated steering system**
- ✓ Radar and vision measurement system
- ✓ Monitoring system
- ✓ Remote control system











Prof. Qin  
ZHANG



- ✓ Precision, site-specific Irrigation control of an apple orchard
- ✓ Bandit Cub: a self-propelled harvest assist and platform machine
- ✓ Intelligent Irrigation Control System for Apple Orchards - Precise Control and Water Saving
- ✓ Self-propelled harvesting assist platforms - for a wide range of orchards in different field conditions

<http://cpaas.wsu.edu>







Christopher  
McCool



Tristan  
Perez

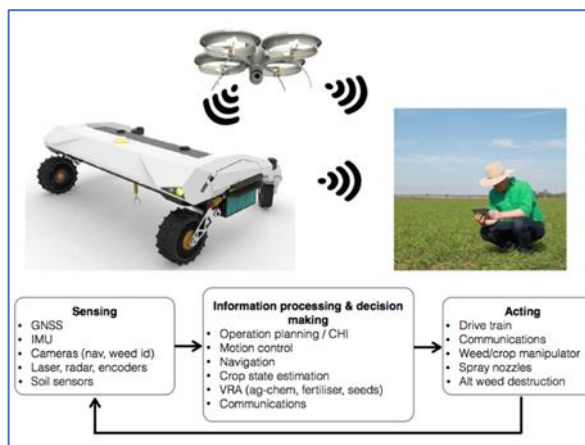


Owen  
Bawden



## "AgBot II" :

- ✓ A new generation of crop and weed management machinery
- ✓ Navigate through a field, apply fertilizer, detect and classify weeds
- ✓ Kill weeds either mechanically or chemically
- ✓ Success rate in weed detection and classification above 90%



## AgBot II

<https://research.qut.edu.au/>







Faculty of Agriculture



Noboru Noguchi

- ✓ Teamwork of Ag Robots
- ✓ Based on wireless communication
- ✓ Advanced task management system
- ✓ Low cost



Robot farming system using multiple robot tractors



Edit: X. Liu





Prof. LUO Xiwen, CAE academician







Prof. CHEN Xuegeng, CAE academician



Autonomous cotton filming planter

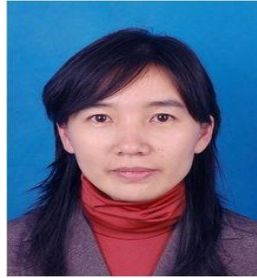
Realize the mechanization of the whole cotton production:

- ❑ Developed new machines ranging from ploughing to cotton stalks returning to the field.
  - ❑ The area of cotton mechanized planting and management mode has reached 38.29 million mu.
  - ❑ Formed a four-in-one mechanization technology system for the whole cotton production.
  - ❑ Solved the management problem of fork weeding
- ✓ Precise single hole sowing
  - ✓ Save labour force enormously
  - ✓ Complete multi-process simultaneously





Prof. ZHAO Chunjiang, CAE academician







Prof. FANG Xianfa

- ✓ Solve the problem of heavy human workload & low work efficiency
- ✓ Integrated operation

<http://www.caams.org.cn/>

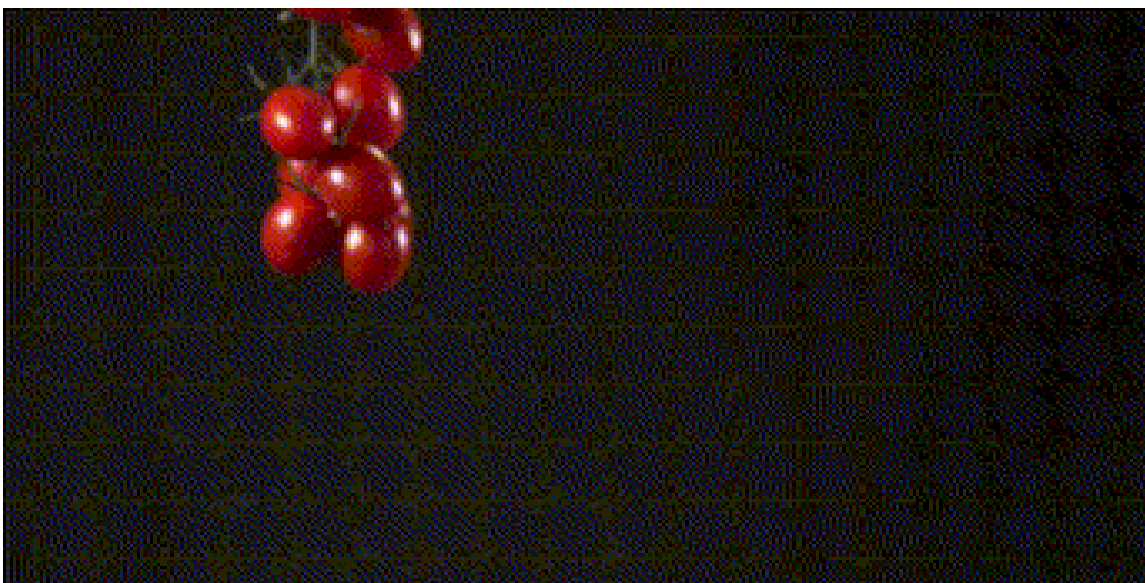
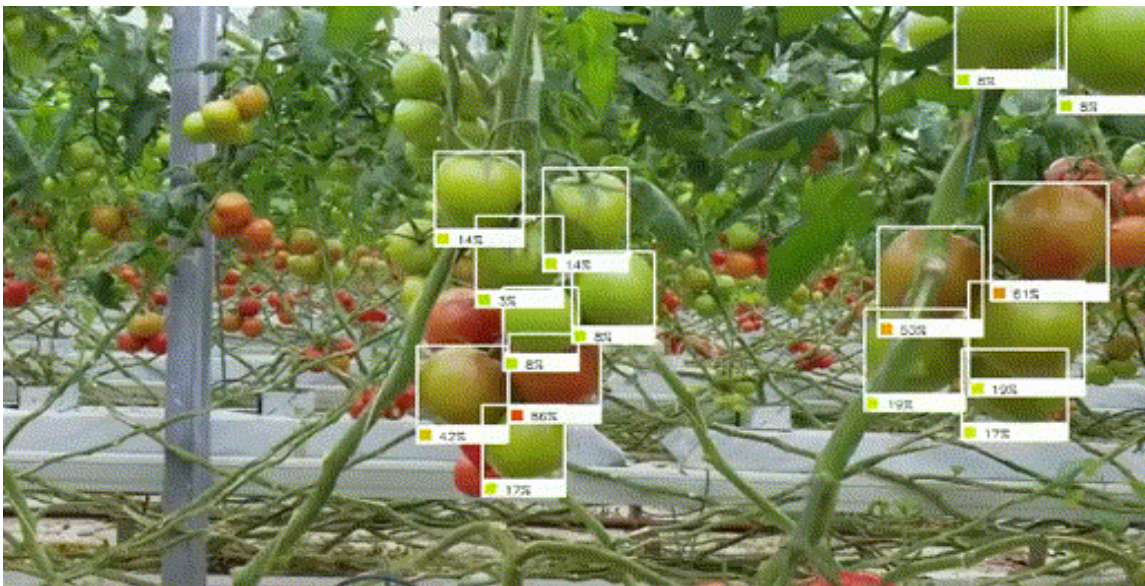




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- 2. Field robot status and its developing trends**
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## Greenhouse robot status

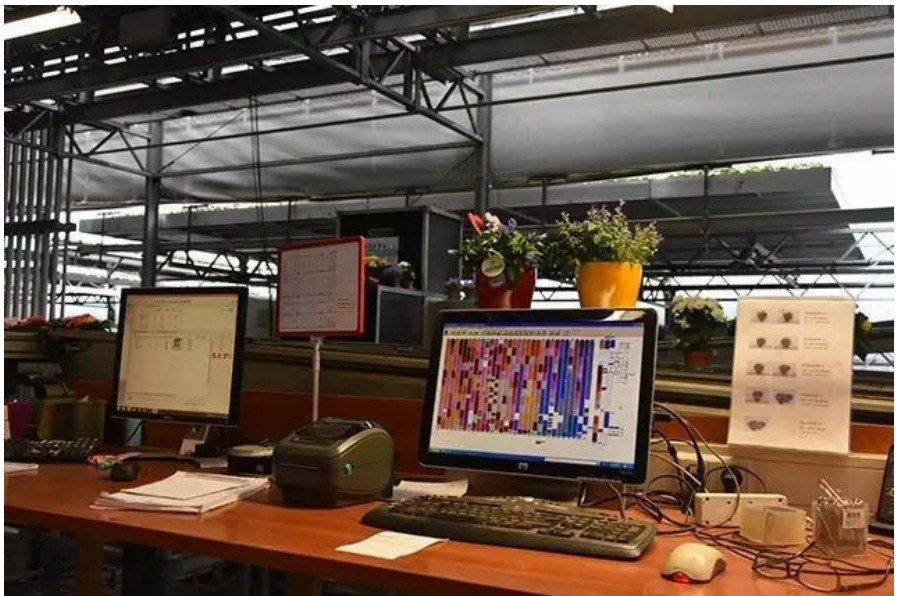
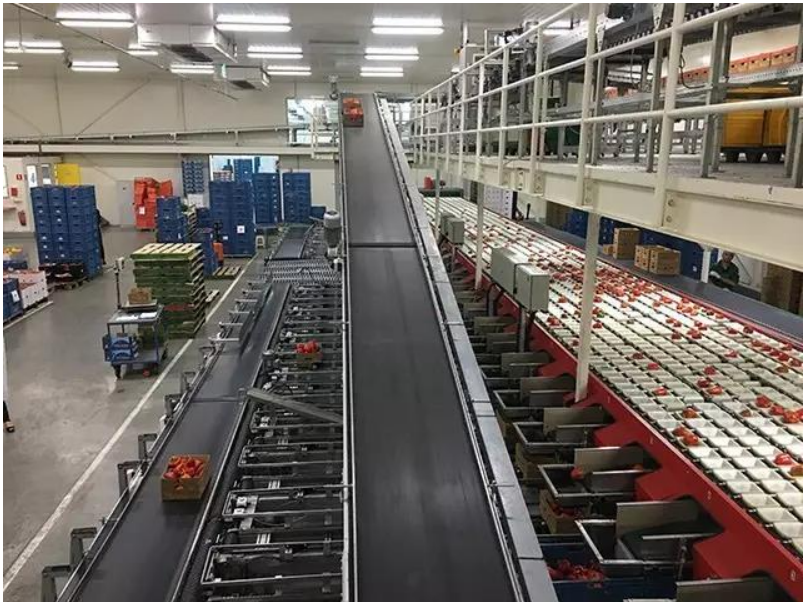




# Greenhouse automation facilities



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- ✓ Plant growth monitoring robot
- ✓ Greenhouse logistics truck
- ✓ Automatic spray robot

<https://berghortimotive.com/nl/>



Plant growth monitoring robot



Automatic spray robot



Greenhouse logistics truck





- ✓ Fruit harvesting robotics
- ✓ Agricultural logistics robot
- ✓ Agricultural machine vision system

<https://www.ffrobotics.com/>

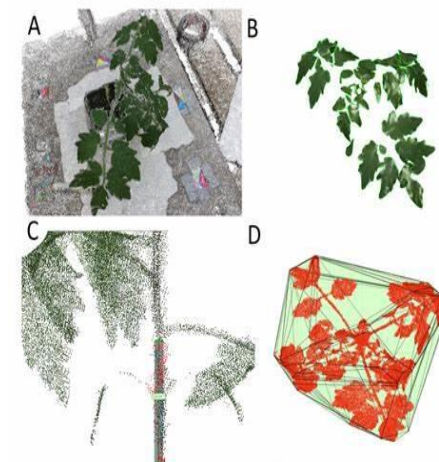
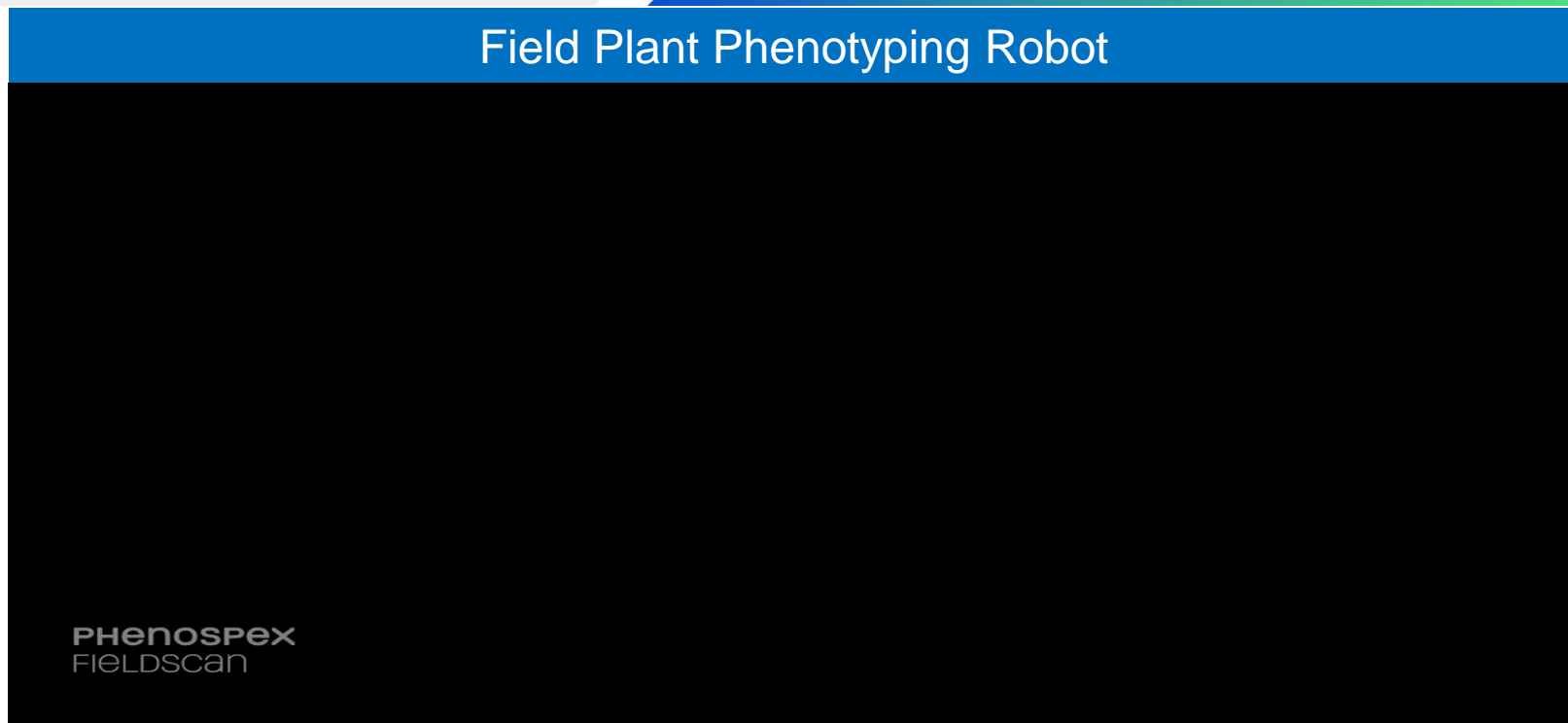




## Field Plant Phenotyping Robot

- ✓ Plant Phenotyping
- ✓ Environmental Stress
- ✓ Plant Growth Monitoring
- ✓ Individual to Group Analysis

<http://phenospex.com/>

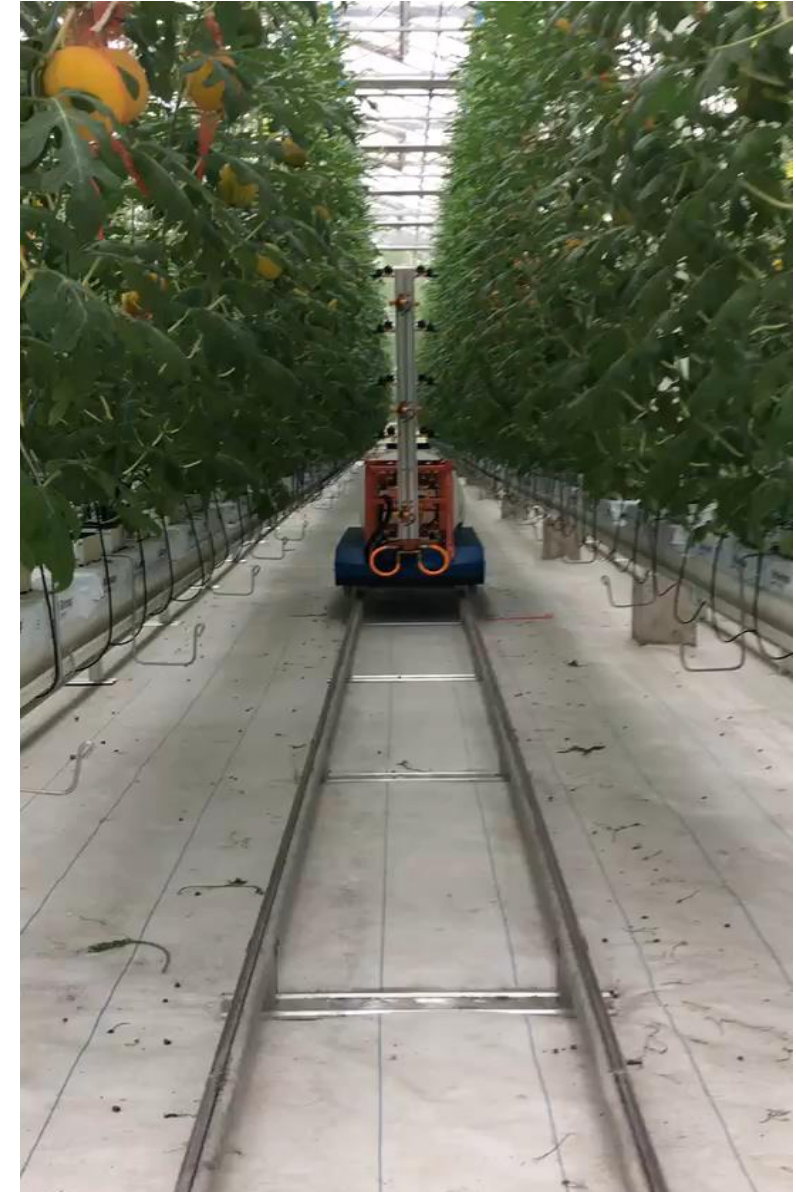






Prof. LI Wei

- ✓ Tomato harvesting robot
- ✓ Cucumber harvesting robot
- ✓ Rail suspension transfer car
- ✓ Fruit grading production line
- ✓ Facility logistics robot





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## Agricultural robot system (Agribots)

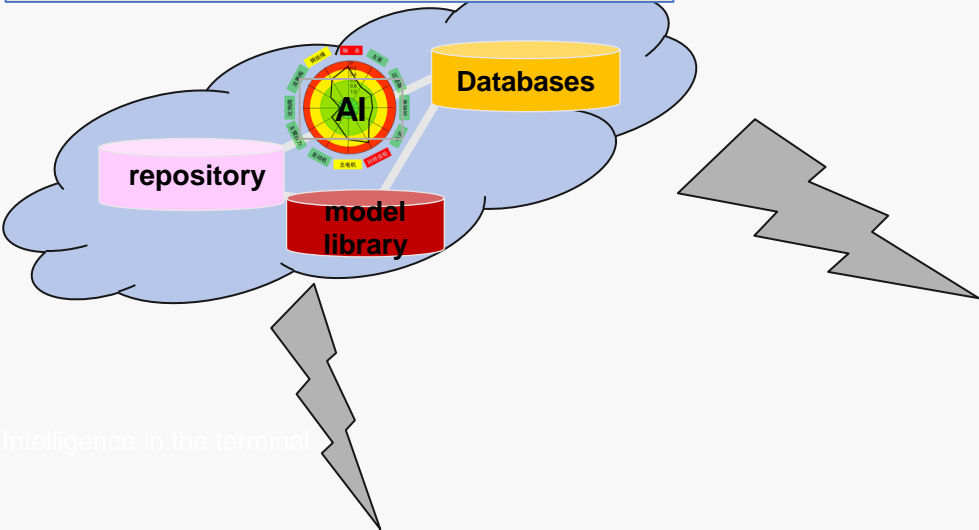
$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Robots} & & \text{Sensing+Decision+Control} & & \text{BigData+Cloud-AI+IOT} & & \\ \hline \text{noumenon} & + & \text{Intelligence} & + & \text{System} & = & \text{Agribots} \end{array}$$

**Definition of Agricultural Robots** —It refers to multi-degree-of-freedom autonomous operational equipment with perception, decision-making, control, and execution capabilities used in agricultural production, which mainly includes information perception systems, decision and control systems, operation execution mechanisms, and autonomous mobile platforms. That is, "eyes, brain, hands, and feet".





## Decisions in the cloud

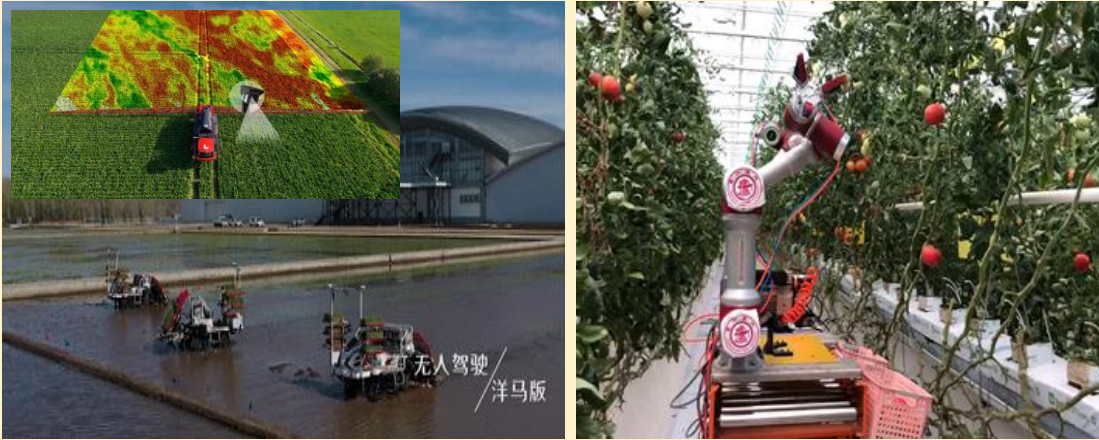


Intelligence in the terminal

## Control on the screen



## Intelligence in the terminal



APP



管 控 A P P

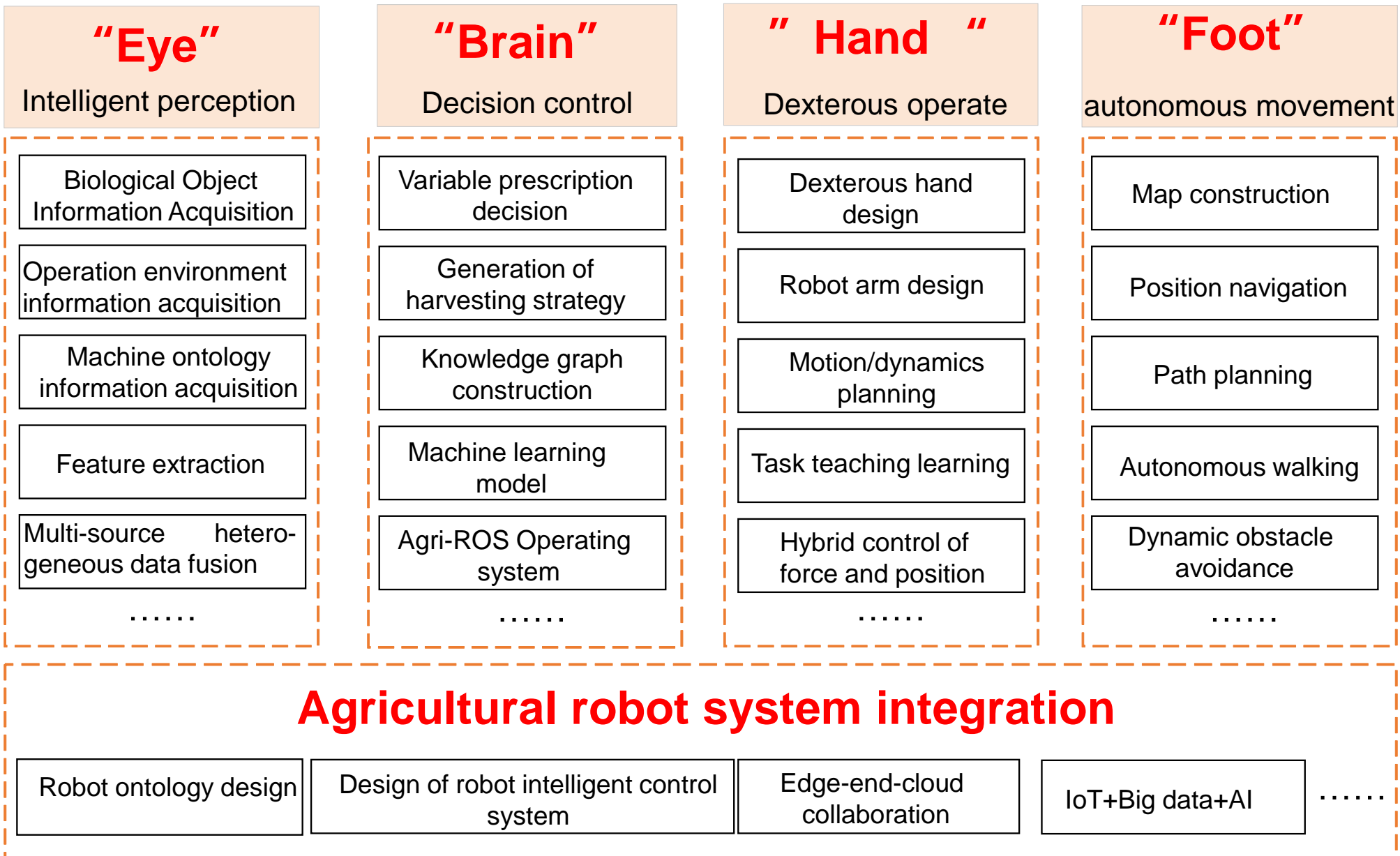


作 业 调 度 与 运 行 管 理 A P P



预 报 A P P

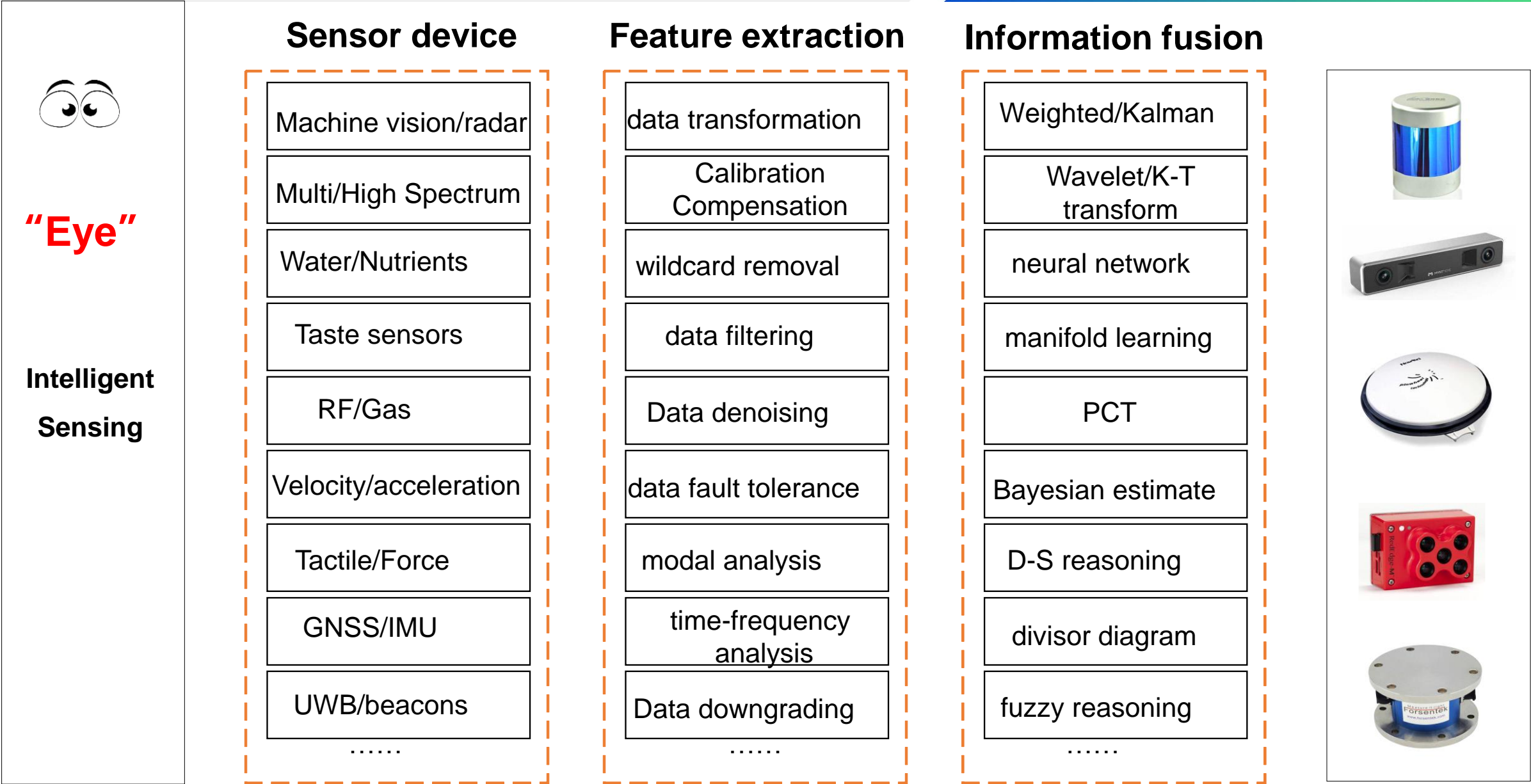






# 1. Intelligent sensing technology (‘Eyes’)

## Sensing & Perception





## 2. Intelligent Decision Technology (" Brain ")

### Brain& Intelligence



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**"Brain"**

**Wisdom  
decision-  
making**

### Control platform

Communication  
system

Human-machine  
interactive system

Multi-fieldbus

Underlying  
Hardware driver

System Software  
Library

Controller  
Hardware

...

### Algorithmic tools

Environmental  
reconstruction

Motion control

Task coordination  
and optimisation

Deep learning

Knowledge representation  
and reasoning

Migration of  
knowledge

knowledge graph  
construction

...

### Job decisions

Operational control  
and assessment

Job path trajectory  
planning

Positioning Navigation  
Autonomous Driving

Variable Prescription  
and Control

Task generation  
and planning

Harvesting strategies  
and control

O&M scheduling

...

**Agri-ROS operating system**





# 3. Dexterous work technology (" Arm ")

## Arms & End-effectors



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### Arm design

Mechanical arm  
configuration synthesis

Rigid-flexible coupled  
arm design

Electro-mechanical-  
hydraulic-pneumatic hybrid  
actuation

Underactuated robotic  
hand design

Flexible end effector

Eye-in-hand  
configuration design

Integrated sensing and  
grasping design

Wearable exoskeleton

.....

### Job planning

Kinematic planning

Dynamic planning

Multi-arm task planning

End-effector pose  
planning

Task teaching  
interaction

Hand-eye coordination  
planning

Path trajectory planning

Real-time collision  
avoidance planning

.....

### Job control

Optimal working posture  
estimation

Active compliance  
adjustment

Dynamic visual servoing

Force/position hybrid  
control

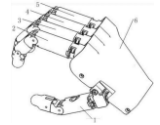
Trajectory tracking  
control

Active disturbance  
rejection control

Admittance/impedance  
control

Operational skill  
reinforcement learning

.....



"Arm"

Dexterous  
operate





# 4 . Mobile platform technology (‘Foot’)

## Mobile Platform



### Mobile platforms

### Positioning navigation

### Autonomous movement



“Foot”

Autonomous movement

Modular lightweight design

High ground clearance stability design

Wheel-leg composite design

Drive optimization power distribution

Walking state perception

Walking-operating speed matching

Load-sensitive control

SoC technology

.....

Field satellite positioning

Underwater sonar positioning

Optical/magnetic/acoustic hybrid positioning

Laser/vision/radar positioning

Environment map construction

Path tracking navigation

Crop row navigation

SLAM navigation

.....

Wheel-leg ground contour following cooperation

Walking stability control

Autonomous obstacle avoidance and negotiation

Path trajectory tracking control

Mobile behavior scheduling and monitoring

Eye-hand-foot coordination control

Operational area task management

Multi-agent queue control

.....





# Autonomous mobile platform



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At this stage, China's agricultural unmanned

BeiDou Navigation+Microwave Radar+  
Vehicle-mounted Industrial Controller



BeiDou Navigation



Vehicle-mounted  
Industrial Controller



Microwave Radar

High cost, complex systems and  
poor reliability

Future agricultural machinery unmanned program

GPS/BDS+ Vision/LiDAR ...+ **AI chip**



GPS



controller +AI chip



Vision/LiDAR

**Strong computing power, high integration  
and high cost performance**



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**Prof. LIU Cheng-liang**



## Research Interests

- ✓ Intelligent control of agricultural machinery
- ✓ Agricultural robots

## Application scenarios

- ✓ Smart fields
- ✓ smart orchards
- ✓ smart facilities



Unmanned rice live streaming machine



Cotton picking machine control system



Rice field weeding robot



Variable fertilization rotary tiller seeder



Smart Orchard Spray Robot



Smart facility complete set of robots



Dual arm coordinated picking robot



Agricultural Machinery AI Chip Module



Smart Agriculture Control Platform



# First Intelligent Yield Measuring System



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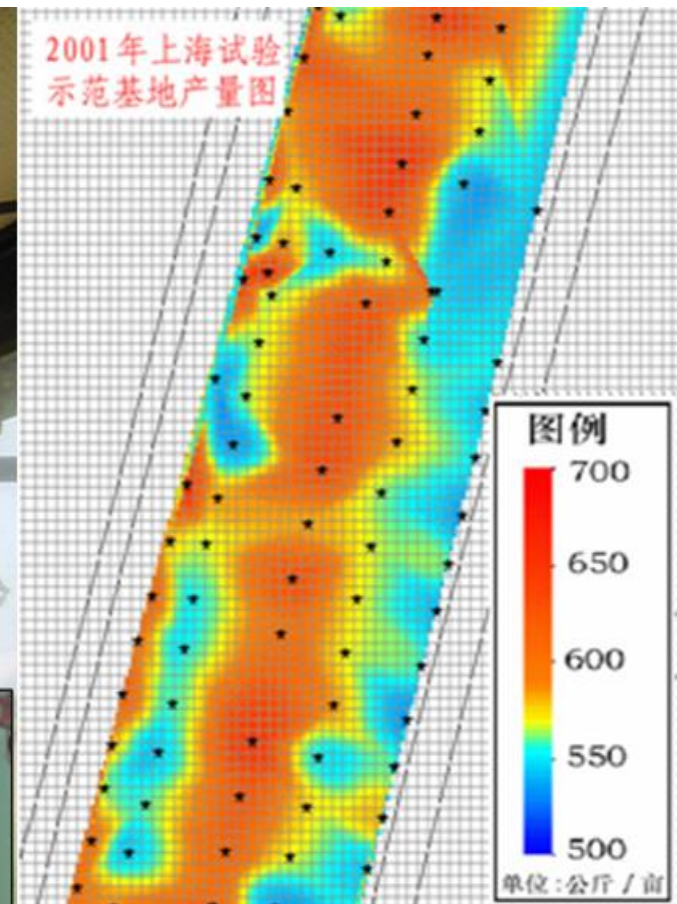
## First Intelligent Yield Measuring System for Combines by SJTU

农业工程首席科学家汪懋华院士  
亲自爬到联合收割机顶部了解查  
看“精准农业”设备运转情况。



## First Yield Mapping 2001

2001年上海试验  
示范基地产量图





# Unmanned rice seeder



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## Shanghai Songjiang Unmanned Farm



Multi machine collaboration



## ■ Key technologies:

- ✓ **Control system:** unmanned driving controller based on AI chip;
- ✓ **Integrated navigation:** Beidou+vision+radar, recognition and obstacle avoidance;
- ✓ **Path planning:** toolization of homework path planning software;
- ✓ **Tracking error:** less than 2.5cm.

## Unmanned Farm on Chongming Island, Shanghai





# Rice field weeding robot



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## ■ Key technologies:

- ✓ **Control system:** unmanned driving controller based on AI chip;
- ✓ **Integrated navigation:** Beidou+vision+radar+INS;
- ✓ **Path planning:** automatic homework path planning software tool;
- ✓ **Four wheel drive:** four-wheel steering, coordinated control;

Weed removal rate>90%; Less than 5% of seedlings are damaged  
5 acres per hour

## Promotion and application in Yexie Town, Songjiang District, Shanghai



## Operation Experiment in Zhuangxing Town, Fengxian District, Shanghai





# Cotton picker unmanned driving system



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- **Core technologies:** power load adaptive energy consumption control, dynamic stability control, precise operation control -- **The first domestic cotton picking machine control system**



- **Key technologies:**

Production measurement sensor system

Automatic Matching System

Energy consumption control system

Intelligent control system

上海交大基于ISO-BUS的自主控制系统



# Smart facility agriculture - Series equipment



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## ■ Key technologies

- ✓ Robotization of the whole process of cultivation - planting - management – harvesting
- ✓ Indoor centimeter-level high-precision positioning
- ✓ Multi-machine cooperative operation technology with cloud brain control

## Robotic equipment for facility agriculture





# Smart facility agriculture - Series equipment



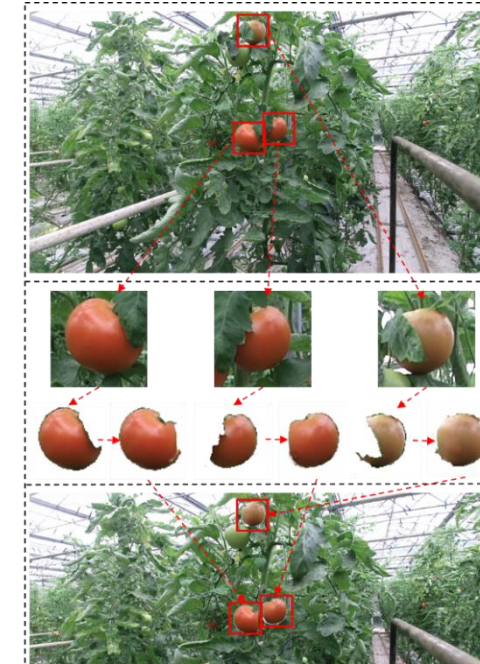
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Dual arm vegetable and fruit picking robot

## ■ Key technologies

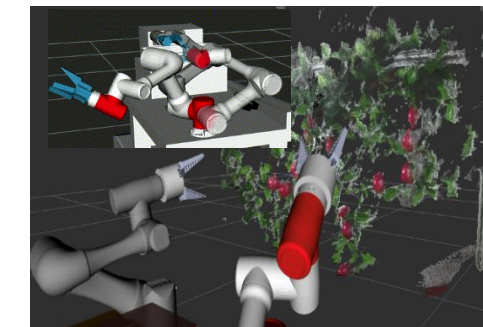
- ✓ Fruit localization, ripeness recognition
- ✓ AGV autonomous localization, navigation and obstacle avoidance
- ✓ Hands coordinated gripping operation control



Eye-occluded target  
recognition localization



Hand Flexibility Low Loss End  
Rapid Prototyping



Arm Reinforcement Learning  
Obstacle Avoidance Planning



Dual-arm cooperative  
anthropomorphic job control



# Smart Orchard - Targeted spraying robot



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## ■ Key technologies

- ✓ AI chip-based driverless controller
- ✓ BDS+Vision/IMU/Odometer combination navigation
- ✓ Canopy Density Point Cloud Recognition;
- ✓ Variable precision target spraying



Henan Sanmenxia \*Wave  
Agricultural Base



Single-side nozzle spray ring  
segmentation





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# THANK YOU