

# Team 501: Landing System for Uncertain Terrain



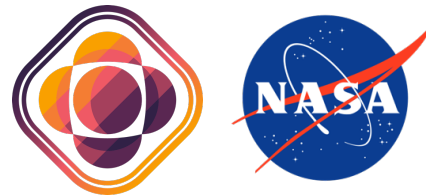
Department of Mechanical Engineering



FAMU-FSU  
Engineering

# Project Disclaimer

*This work was created in partial fulfillment of FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Capstone Course “EML4551-4552C.” The work is a result of the Psyche Student Collaborations component of NASA’s Psyche Mission (<https://psyche.asu.edu>). “Psyche: A Journey to a Metal World” [Contract number NNM16AA09C] is part of the NASA Discovery Program mission to solar system targets. Trade names and trademarks of ASU and NASA are used in this work for identification only. Their usage does not constitute an official endorsement, either expressed or implied, by Arizona State University or National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of ASU or NASA.*



Elzbieta Krekora

# Team Introductions



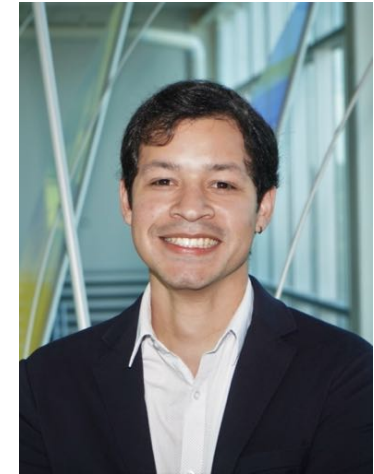
Saralyn Jenkins  
*Mechanical Systems  
Engineer*



Elzbieta Krekora  
*Materials  
Engineer*



Andrew Sak  
*Mechatronics  
Engineer*



Julio Velasquez  
*Mechanical  
Engineer*

Elzbieta Krekora

# Sponsor and Advisor



Engineering Mentor  
Cassie Bowman, Ed.D.  
*Associate Research Professor, ASU*



Academic Advisor  
Camilo Ordóñez, Ph.D.  
*ME Teaching Faculty*

Elzbieta Krekora

# Objective

The objective of this project is to design a landing system capable of safely landing on the range of hypothesized surfaces and terrains of 16 Psyche.

Elzbieta Krekora

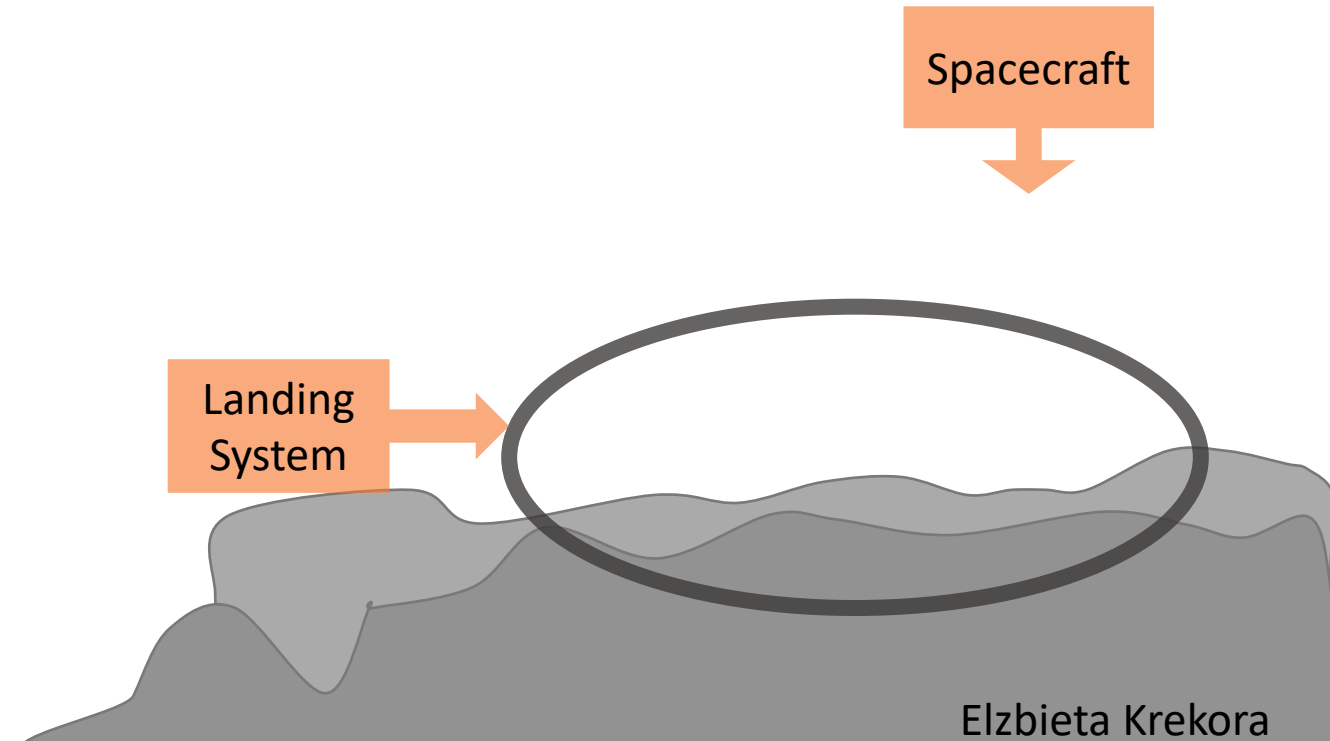


# Project Overview

Psyche: Believed to be an exposed core of an early planetesimal that lost its rocky outer layers due to violent collisions billions of years ago

**Our Mission:**  
To design a possible future landing system (i.e. what lands/supports the spacecraft)

**Terrain:**  
Scientists hypothesize that Psyche may have a range of terrain types (i.e. rocky, uneven and metallic)



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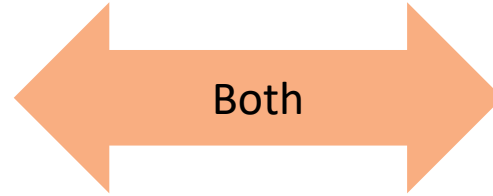
# Assumptions



Attaches to future spacecraft without issue

Operated in minimal gravity, space like temperatures and conditions

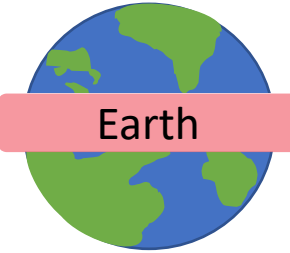
Perform a soft landing on Psyche



Spacecraft approaches perpendicular to surface

Controlled Autonomously

Power supplied by spacecraft



Test model and forces are analogous to Psyche mission variables

Testing terrain resembles assumed surface of Psyche

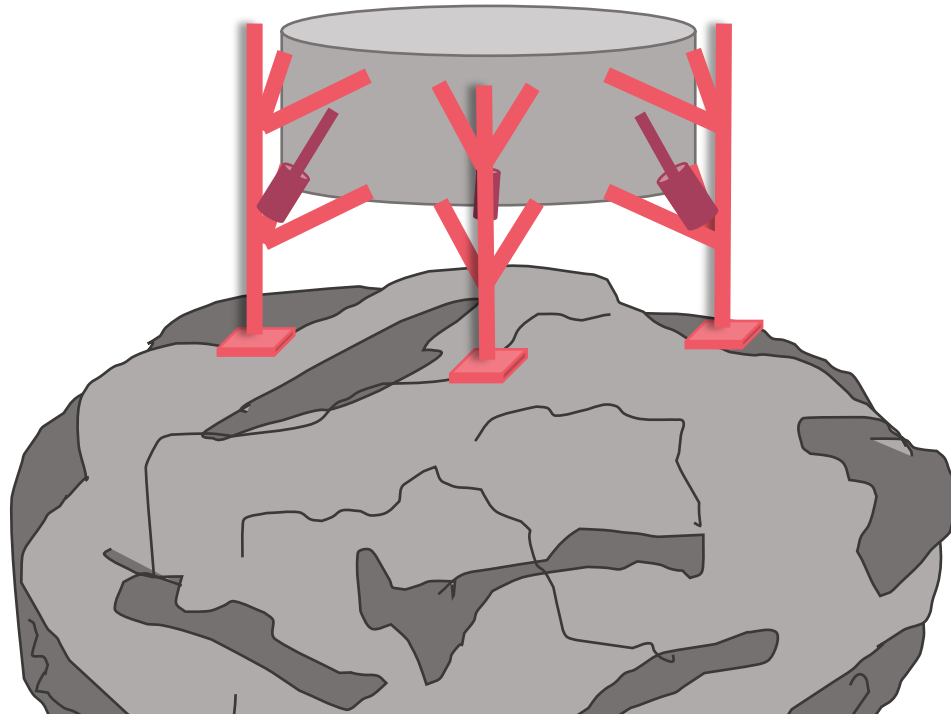
Saralyn Jenkins

# Critical Targets

Dampens impact energy

Prevent lander from tipping

Lander can accommodate for any of the hypothesized surfaces



The system can support the weight of the lander

The lander is stable on Psyche's surface

Saralyn Jenkins



# Validation of Targets



<p><b>Constraints:</b> Mass of Lander and Gravity</p>	<p>Psyche: 150 kg <math>0.144 \frac{m}{s^2}</math></p>	<p>Earth: 23 kg <math>9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}</math></p>	<p>Measure mass with appropriate scale to ensure following values are valid</p>
<p>Max Impact Velocity</p>	<p>Psyche: 6 m/s</p>	<p>Earth: 0.92 m/s</p>	<p>Read from sensors</p>
<p>Supports Weight</p>	<p>Psyche: 21.6 N</p>	<p>Earth: 225.63 N</p>	<p>All components in prototype specked to support weight based on this value</p>

Saralyn Jenkins

# Concept Generation

Brainstorming



Biomimicry



Crapshoot

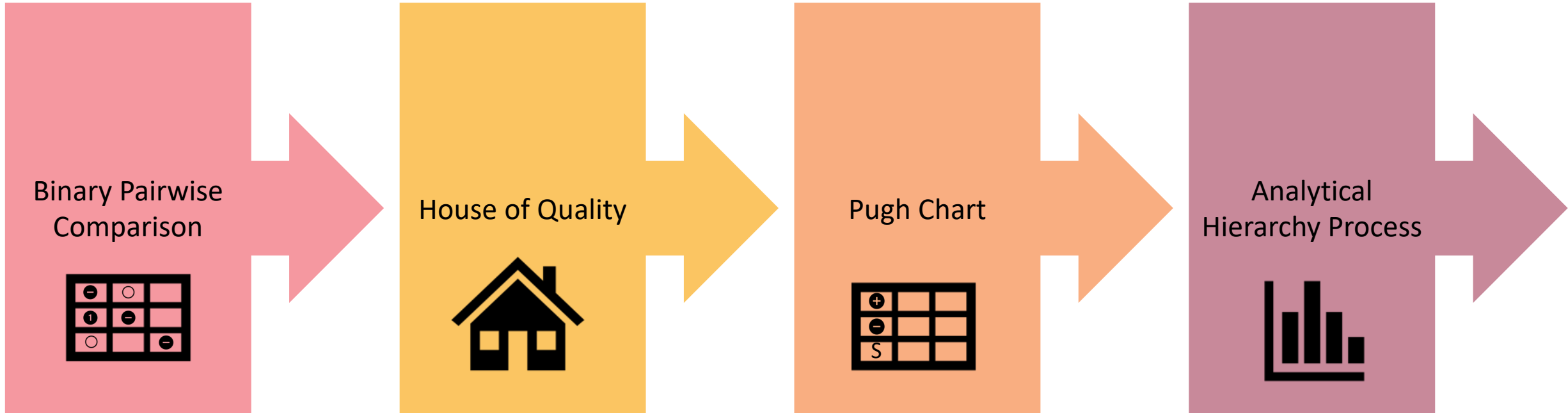


Forced Analogy



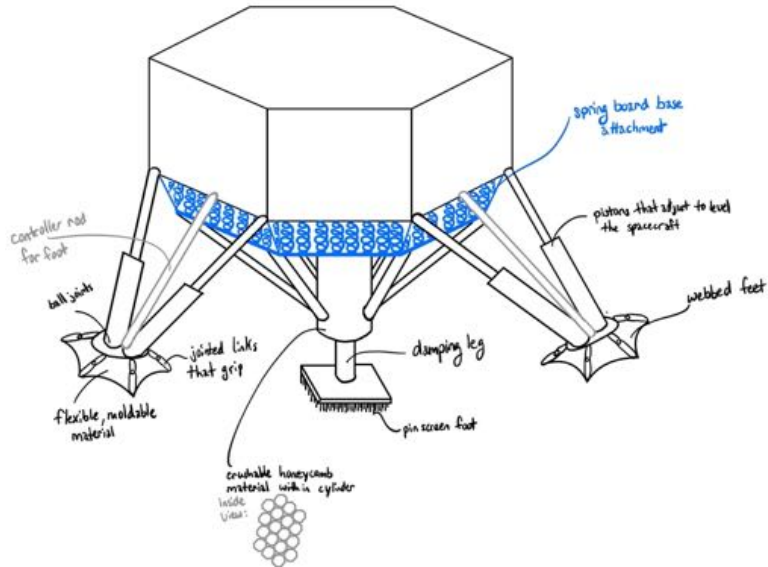
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# Concept Selection Process

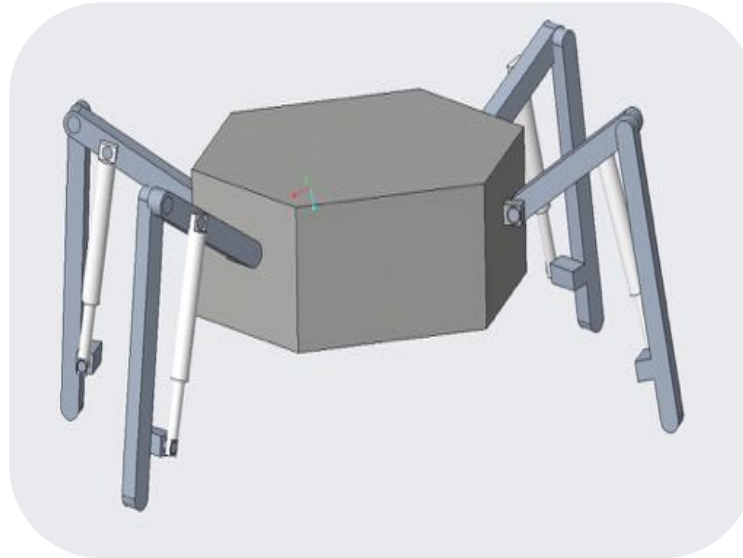


Saralyn Jenkins

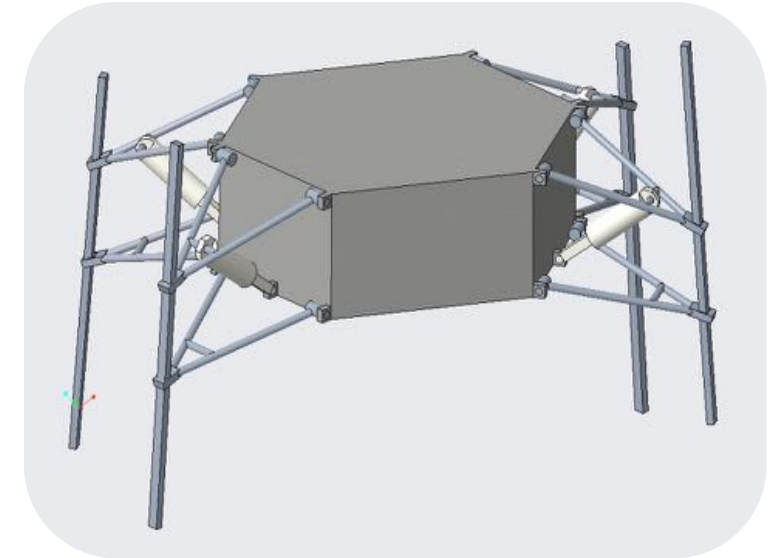
# Top 3 Concepts



Single Impact Leg,  
Springboard Base, 3  
Stability Legs



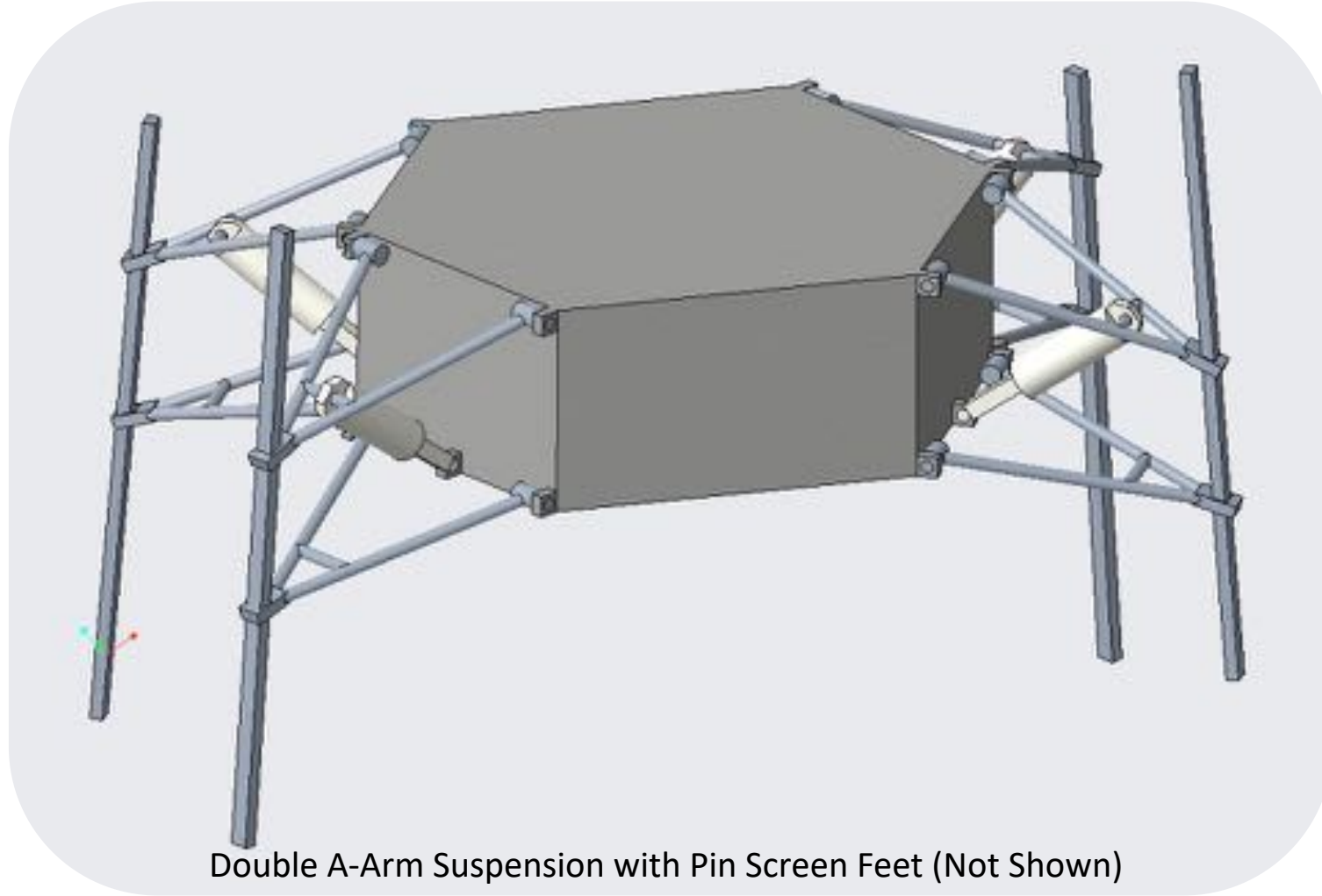
Grasshopper  
Suspension



Double A-arm  
Suspension

Saralyn Jenkins

# Selected Concept



Double A-Arm Suspension with Pin Screen Feet (Not Shown)

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# Original Landing Feet Design

Pin screen with closely packed pins that conform to shape of surface it is placed on

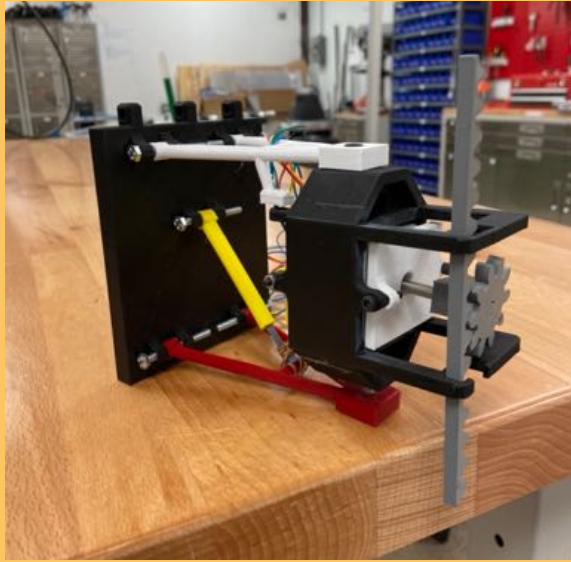


Uneven terrain made of paper

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# Prototyping Process

3D Printing



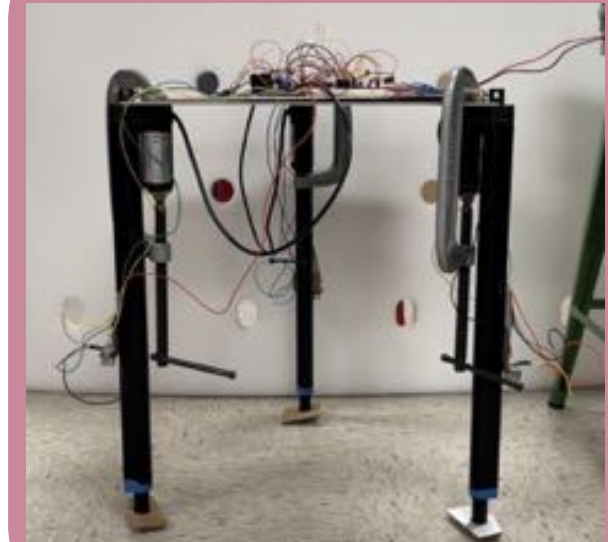
Sizing of Prototype



Testing and Reinforcement of Feet

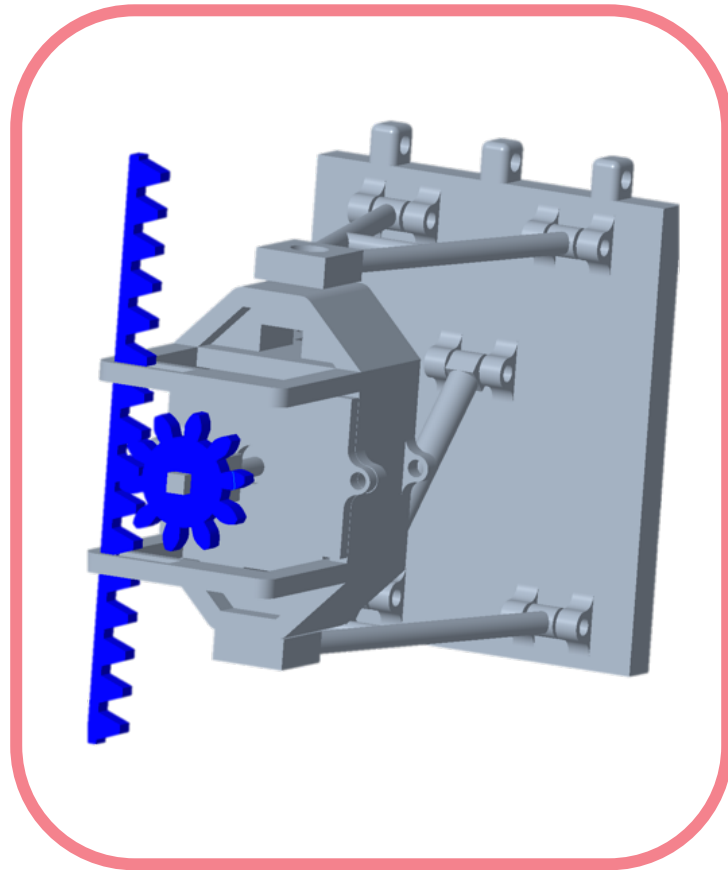


Experimentation of Sensors and Legs

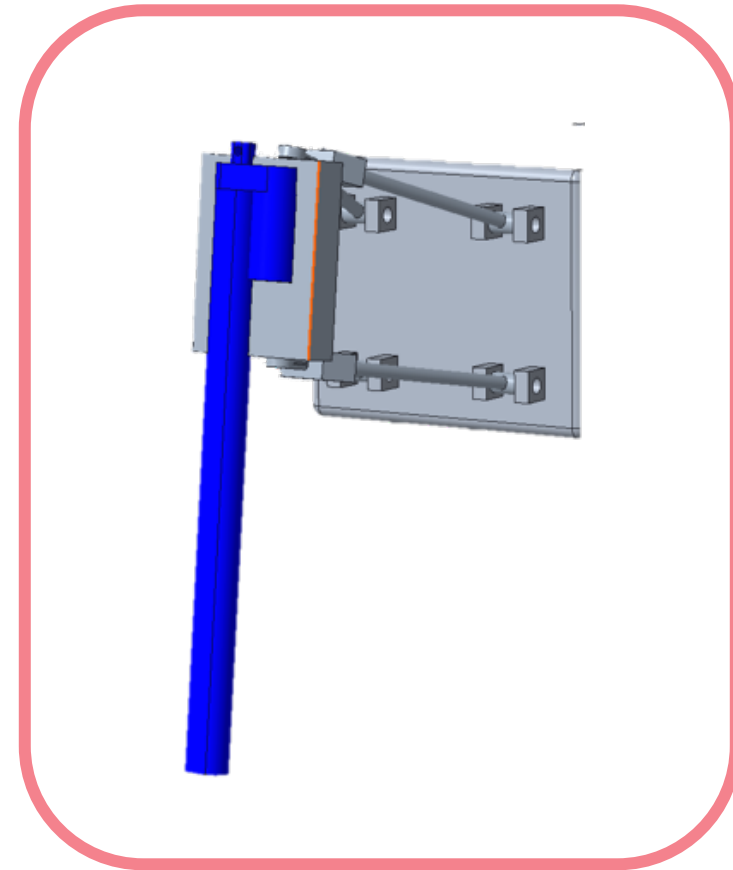
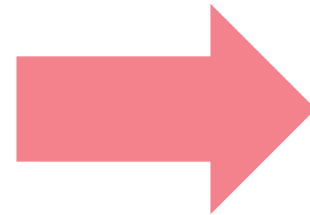


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# Adjustment of Design: Legs



Rack and Pinion

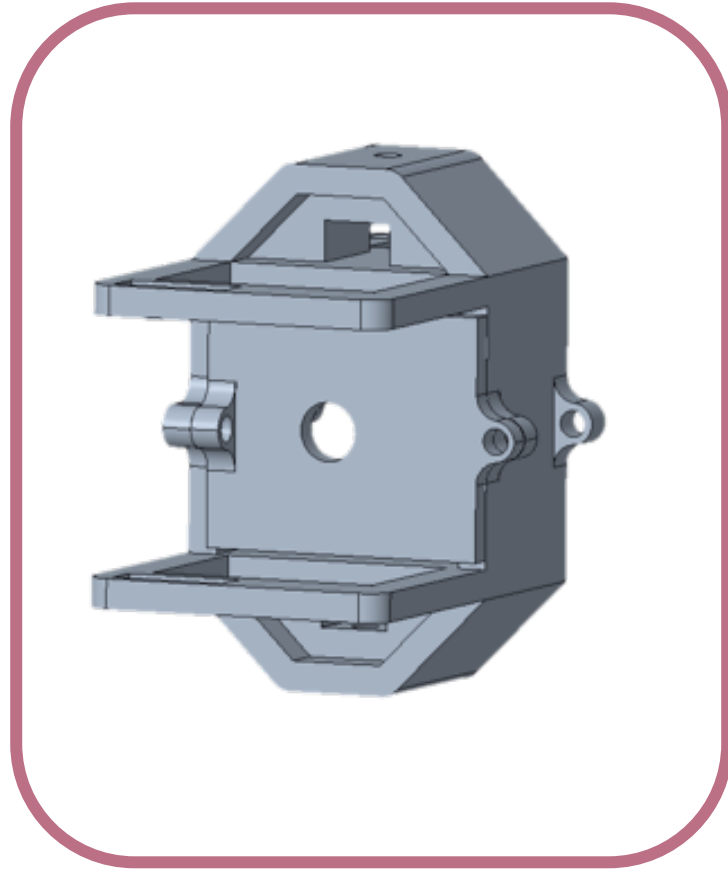


Linear Actuator

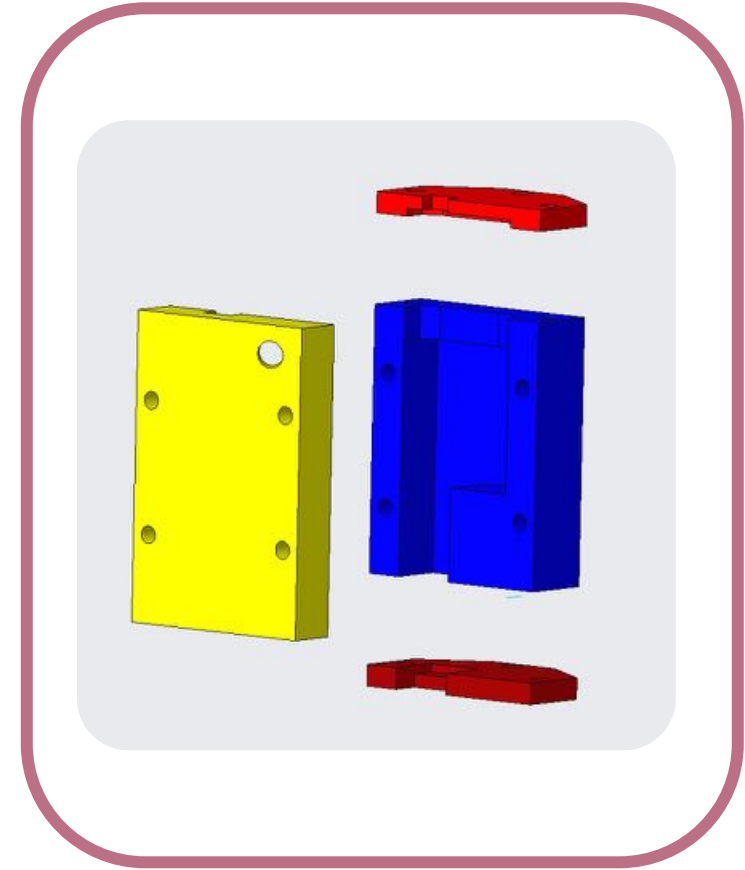
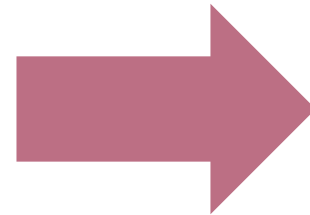
Julio Velasquez



# Adjustment of Design: Knuckle



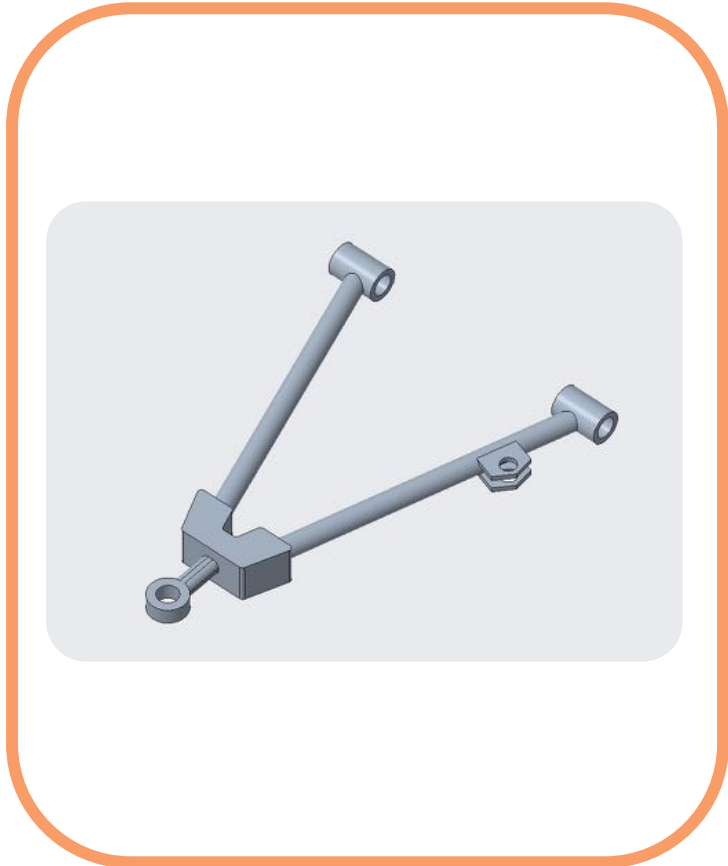
Knuckle



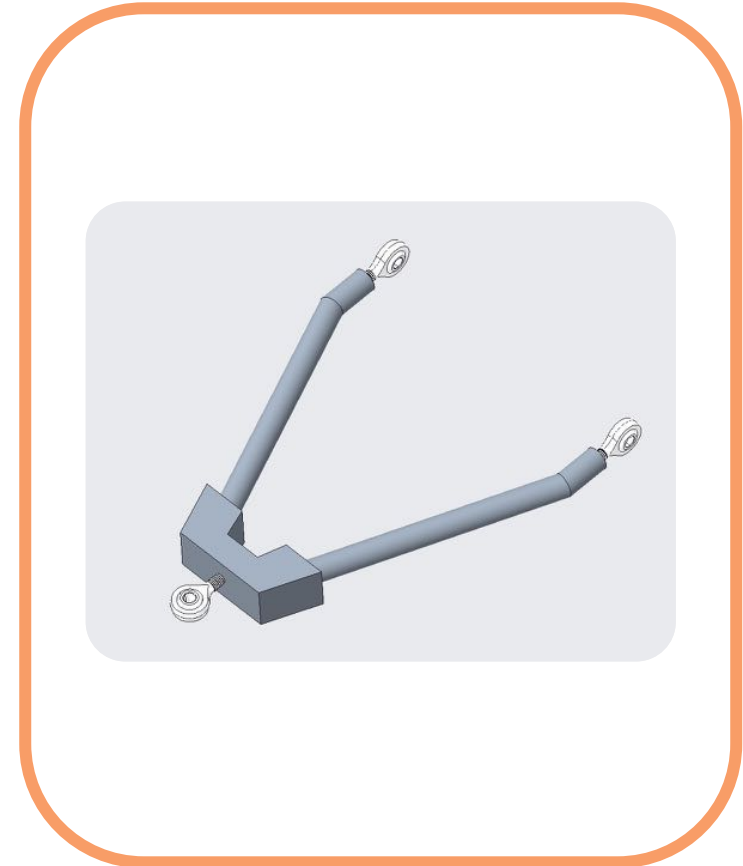
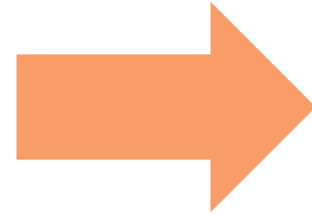
Knuckle Clamp

Julio Velasquez

# Adjustment of Design: A-Arms



A-Arm with Revolute Joints

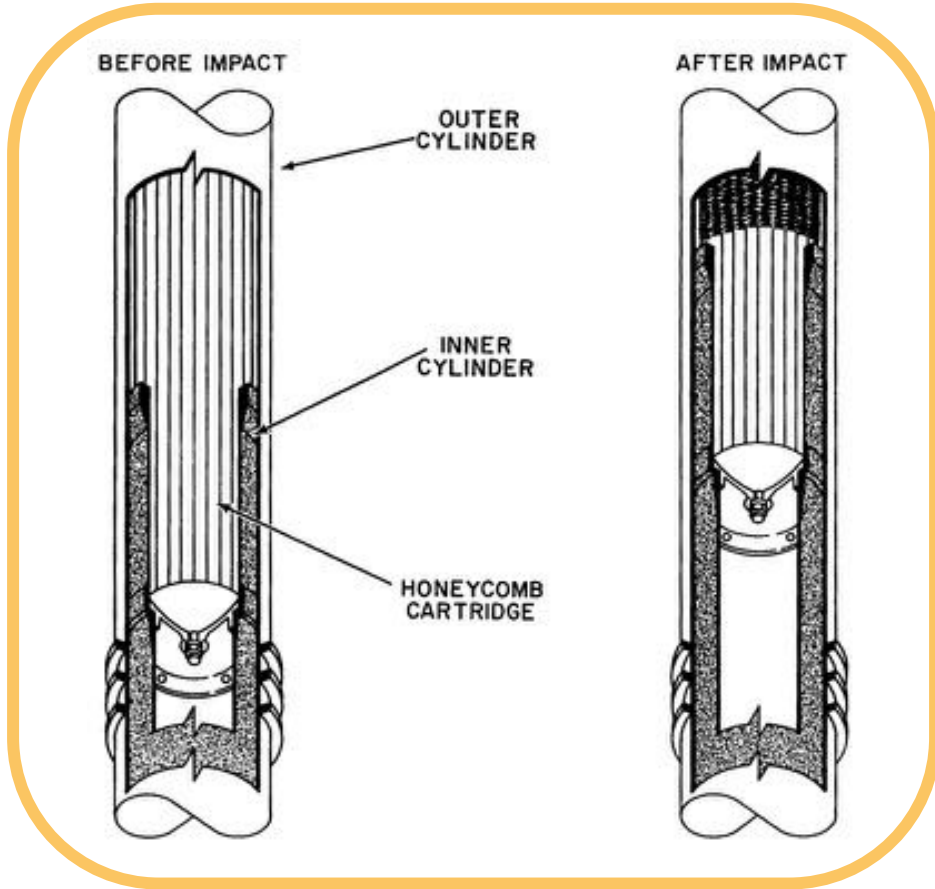


A-Arm with Hem Joints

Julio Velasquez

# Adjustment of Design: Damping

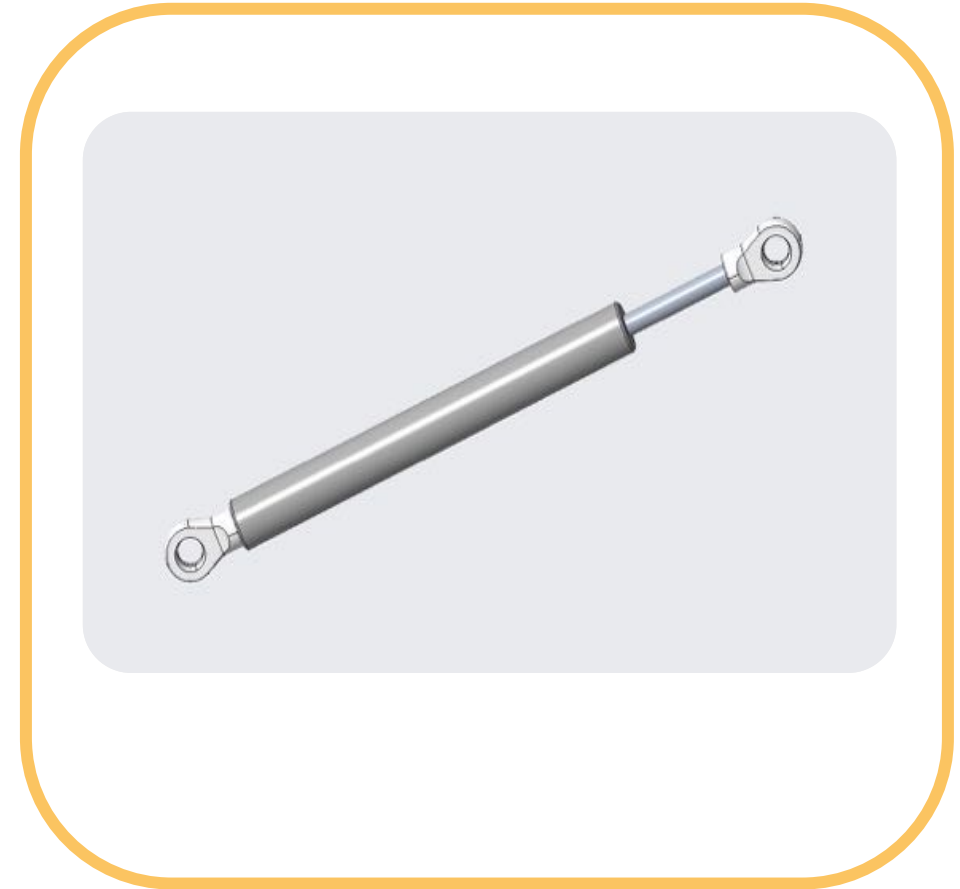
Psyche Model



Crushable Honeycomb Damper



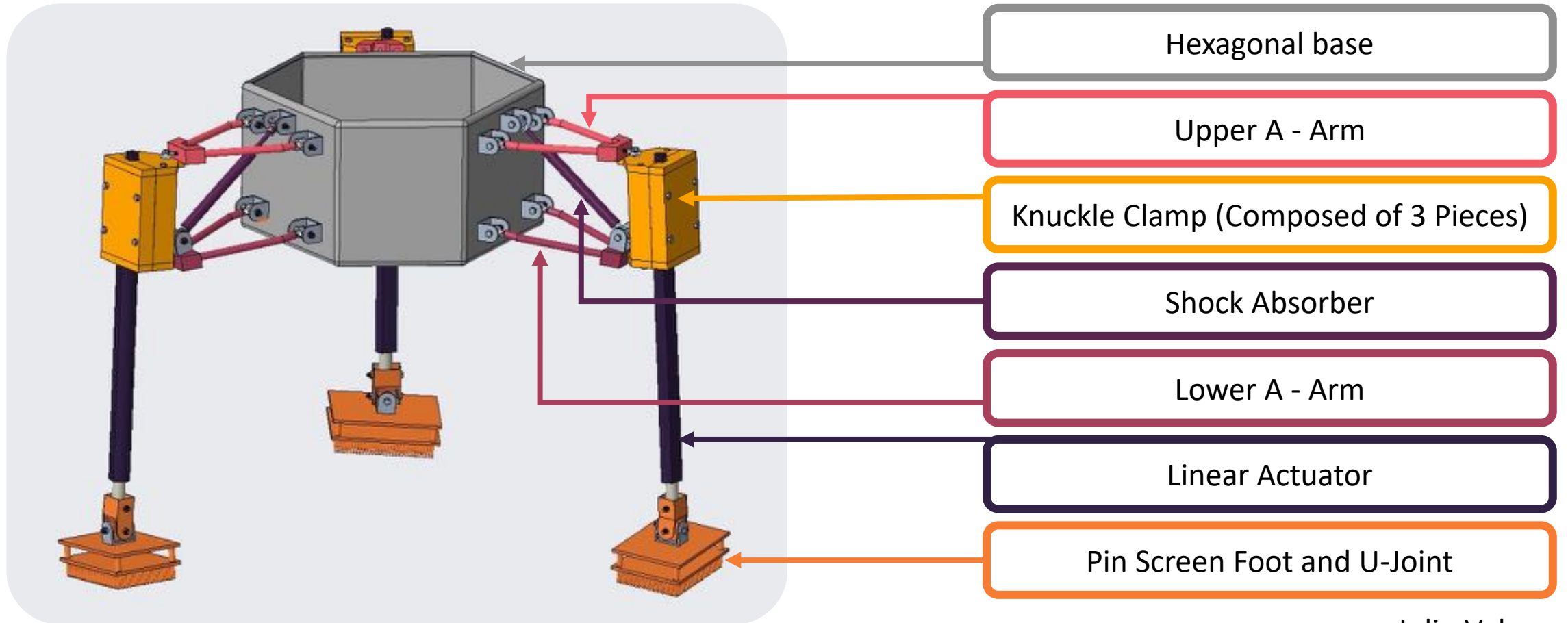
Earth Prototype



Gas Shock Absorber

Julio Velasquez

# Prototype Model: Final



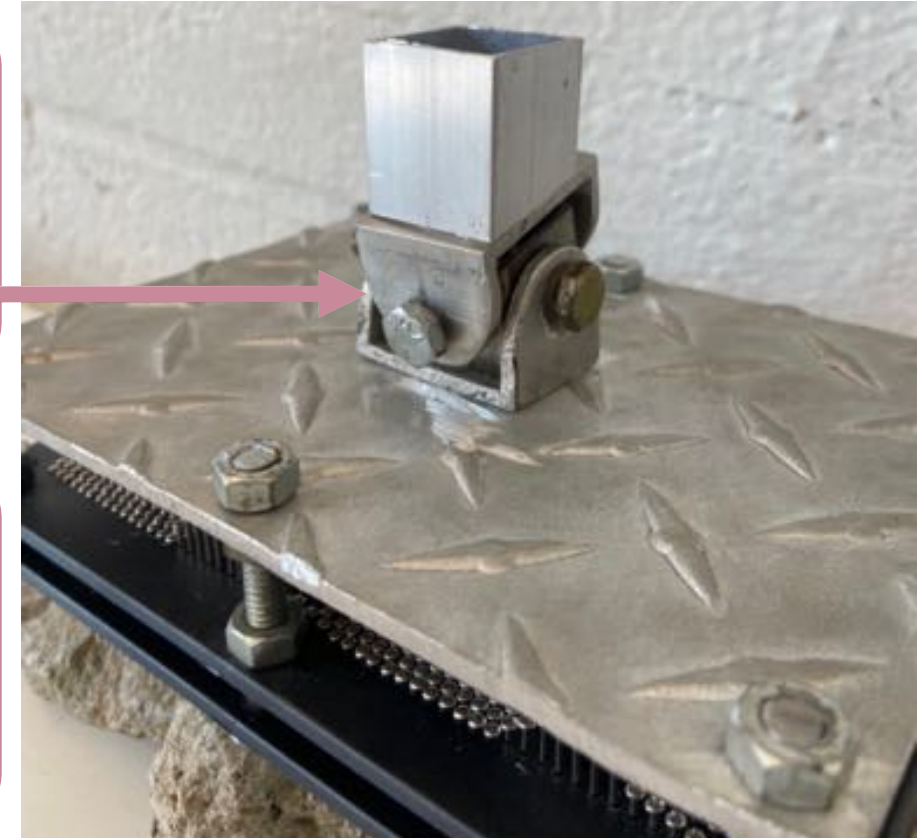
Julio Velasquez

# Landing Feet: Detailed View



U-Joint that attaches to leg and allows tilting of foot

Reinforced with metal screws and metal plate to support up to ~880 N



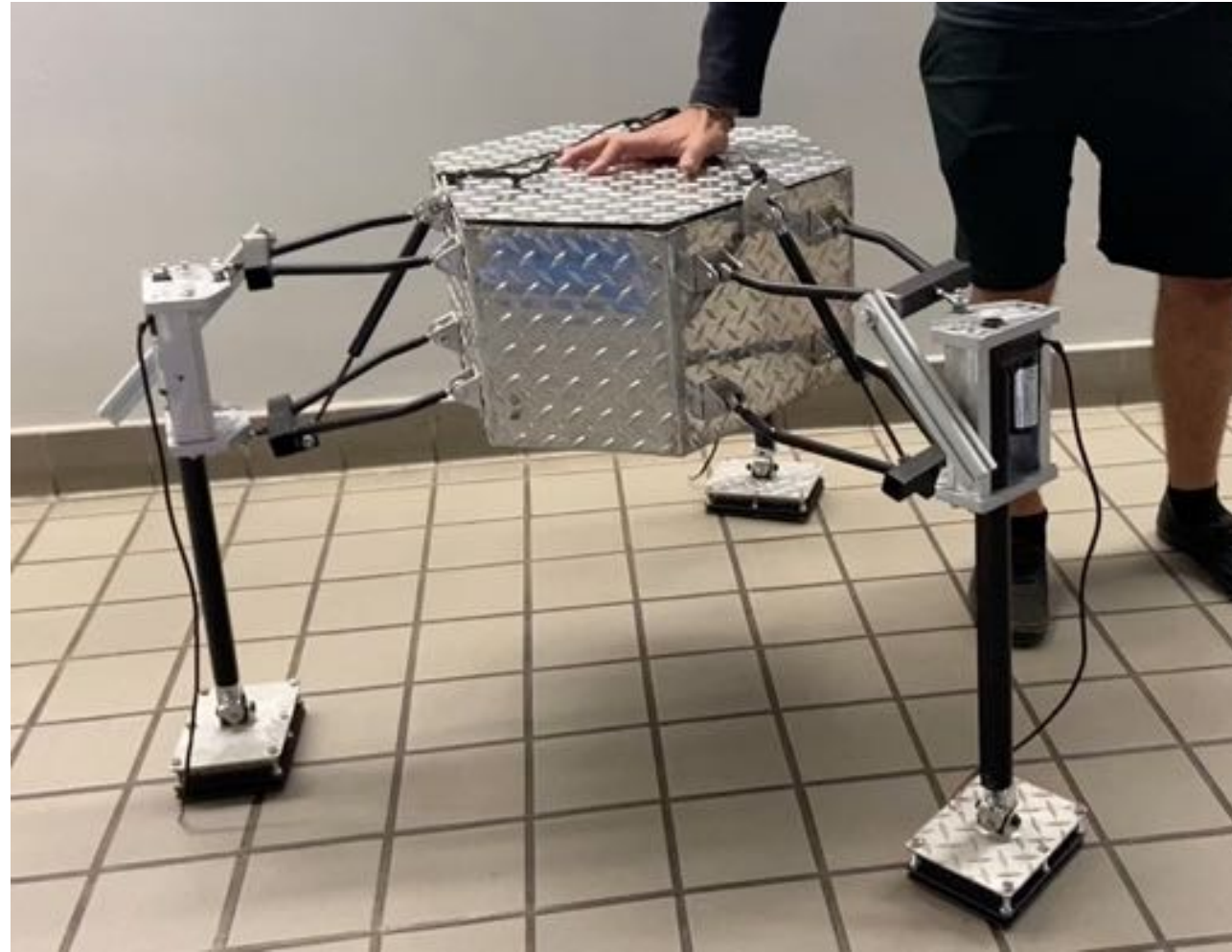
Saralyn Jenkins

# Physical Prototype Assembled



Saralyn Jenkins

# Motion of the Prototype



Saralyn Jenkins

# Test Rig



Pulley to Lift Lander



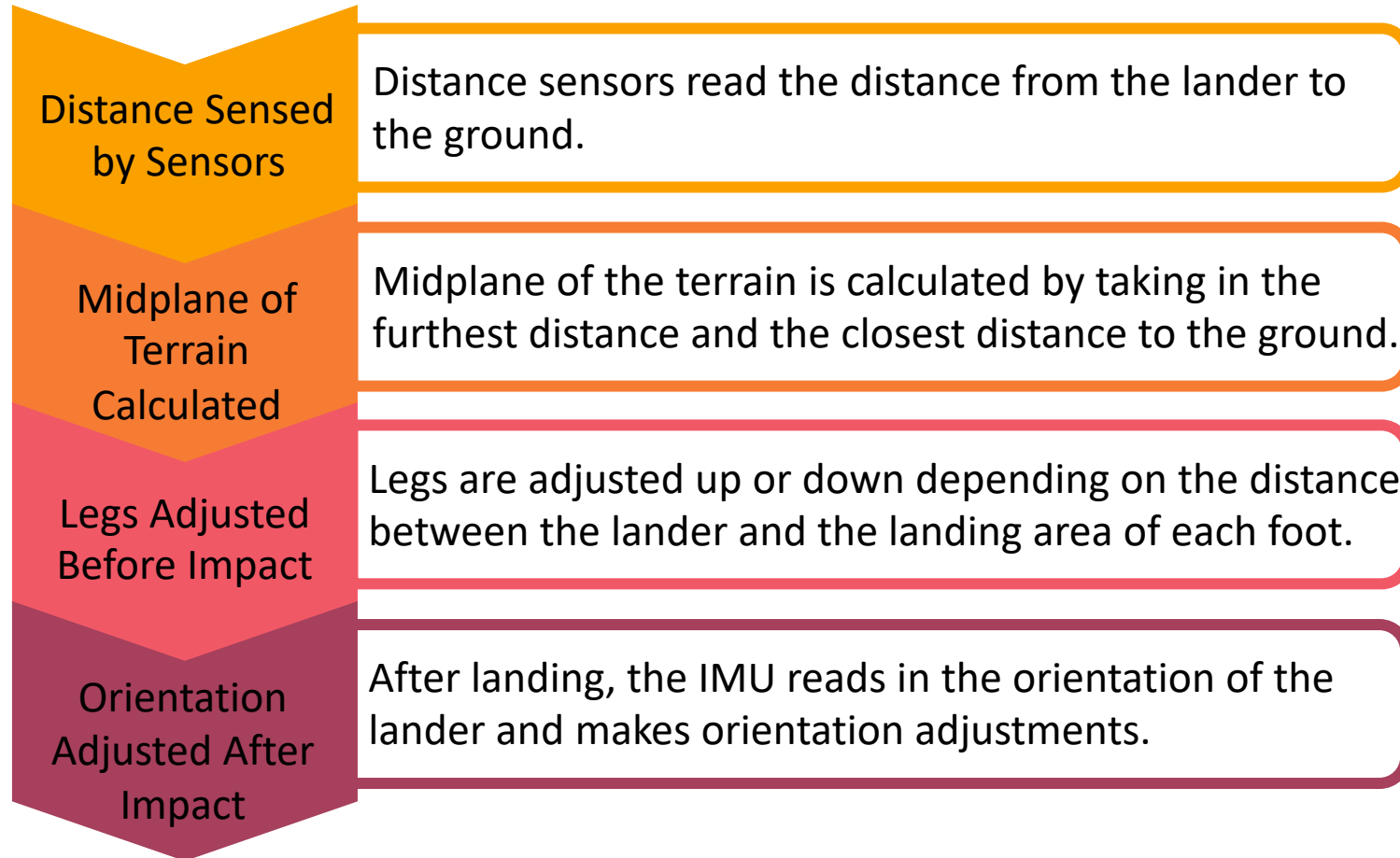
Uneven Terrain



Andrew Sak



# How It Works



Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm

Extend  
Legs  
Halfway

Calculate  
Adjustment  
Lengths from  
Distance  
Sensors

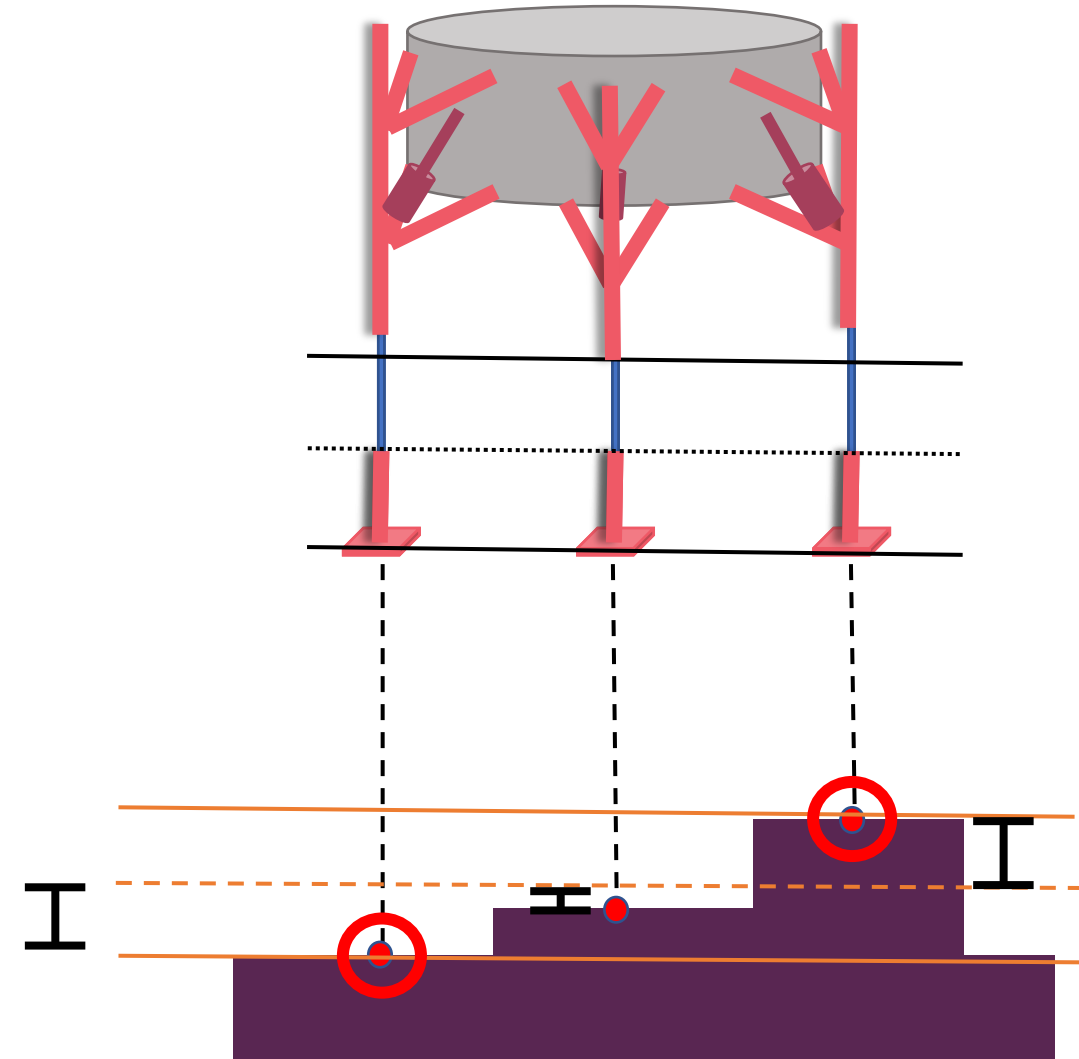
1. Read distance from  
sensor to terrain  
below

4. Find distance from  
midplane to each  
point on surface

2. Find the closest  
point and farthest  
point on surface

5. Overlay distances  
on lander leg frame

3. Find midplane  
between closest and  
farthest point



Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm

Extend  
Legs  
Halfway

Calculate  
Adjustment  
Lengths from  
Distance  
Sensors

Adjust  
Legs

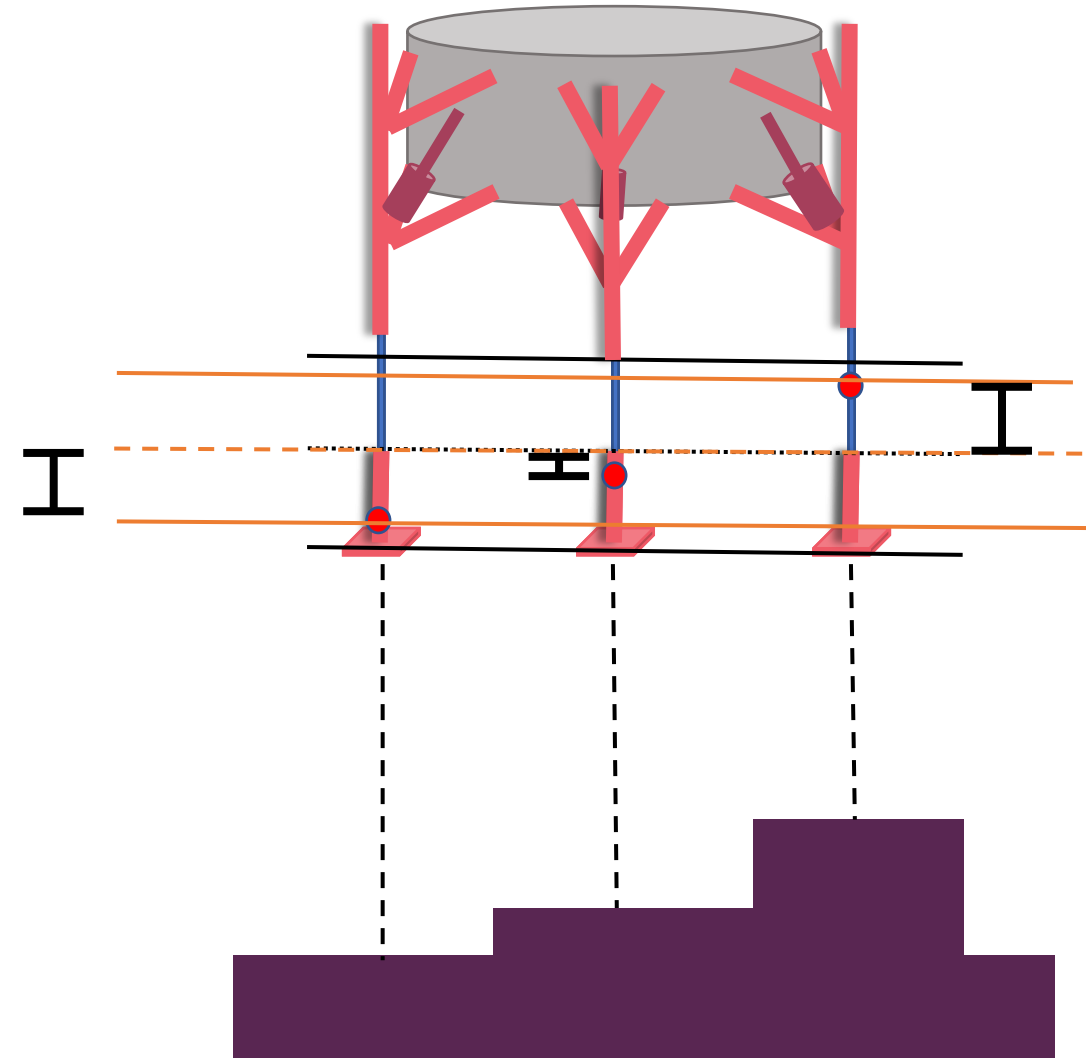
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Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm

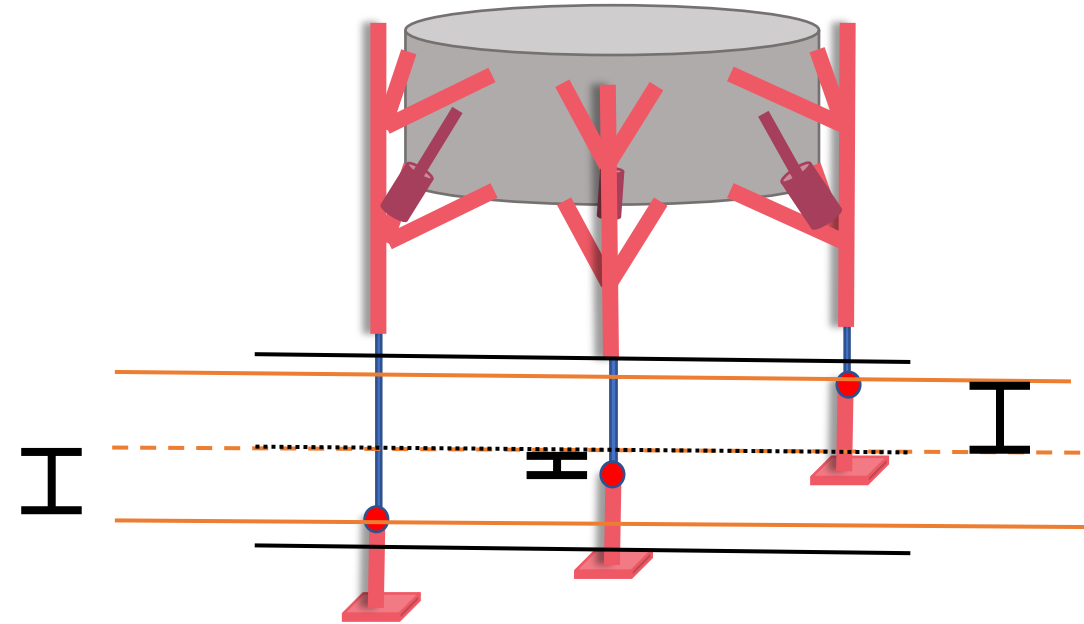
Calculate Adjustment Lengths from Distance Sensors

Adjust Legs

Wait for Impact

Points below the midplane cause actuators to extend

Points above the midplane cause actuators to retract



Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm

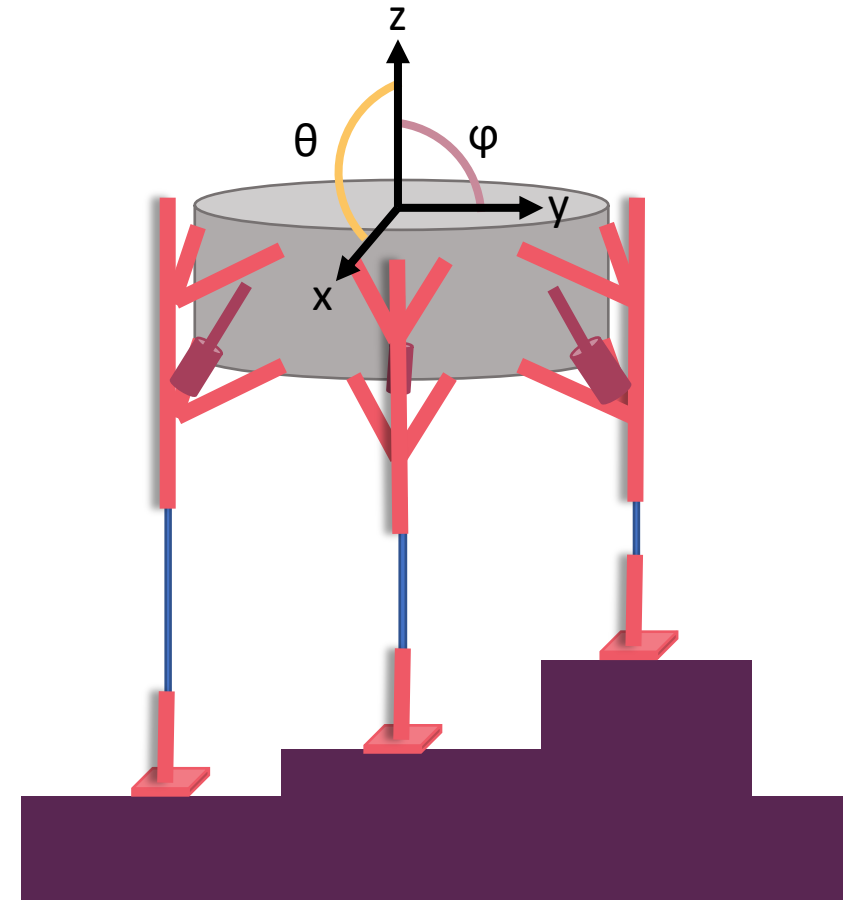
Adjust  
Legs

Wait for  
Impact

Calculate  
Adjustment  
Lengths from  
IMU  
Orientation

The actuators can  
control roll,  $\phi$ ,  
and pitch,  $\theta$

Finds linear  
adjustment lengths to  
minimize angles



Andrew Sak

# Prototype Testing



Andrew Sak

# Prototype After Impact



Landed prototype with  
all landing components  
undamaged

Pin screen feet gripped  
onto terrain



Andrew Sak

# Outputs

## Confirming Impact Velocity

- Distance sensors used to find velocity and displayed on LCD
- Camera outside test rig to measure frames to find velocity

## Confirming Orientation

- Final orientation of IMU displayed onto LCD screen



## Confirming Secured Position

- Landing base inspected for any damage to parts inside
- Any bounce or slide of prototype will be measured via a camera during testing

Elzbieta Krekora



# Future Work

Optimization of  
Sensors



Test Changing  
Height Terrain



Test Crushable  
Honeycomb Damping



Transfer Design to  
Psyche Prototype



Elzbieta Krekora

# Lessons Learned

Create Bill of Materials Early for Multiple Budgets



Plan Machining Before Materials Arrive



Create CAD Model of Testing Rig



Test physical pieces along the way before finalizing CREO models



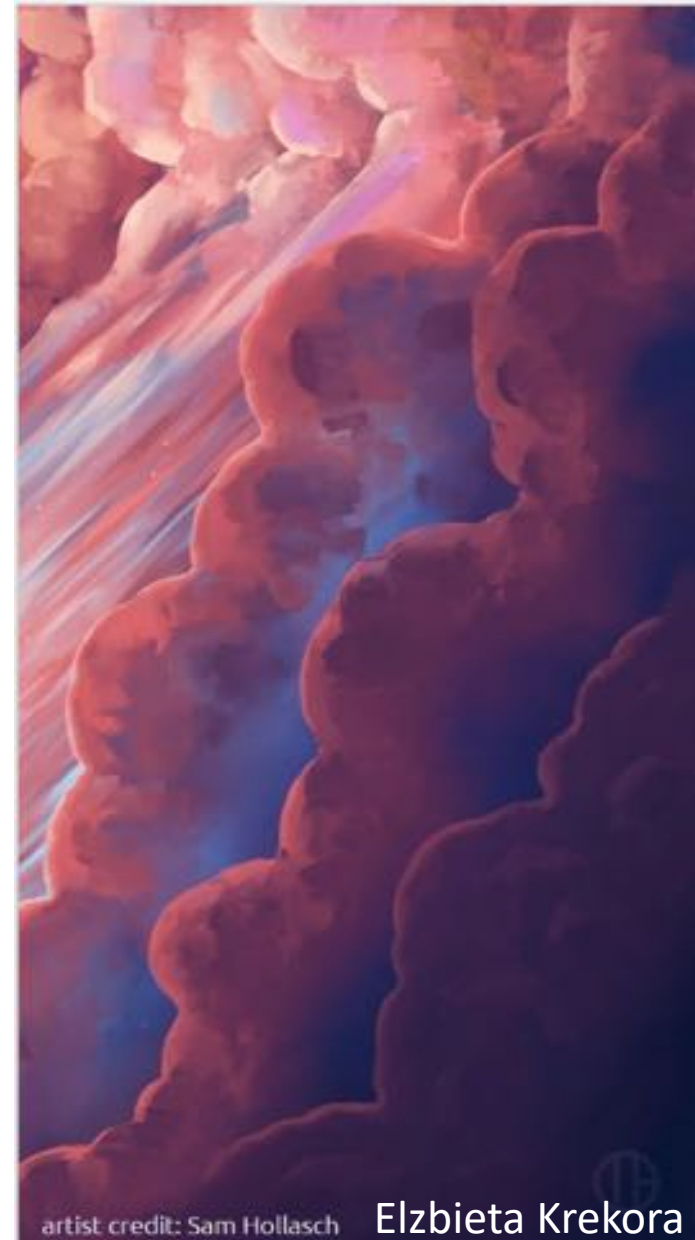
Elzbieta Krekora

# Summary

Psyche is an asteroid with an uneven profile and uncertain terrains.

Our design was created to overcome a range of hypothesized surfaces with sufficient damping, adjustable legs, and gripping/adjustable feet.

Our design choices have been validated through computer modeling/simulation and from physical testing.



artist credit: Sam Hollasch

Elzbieta Krekora

# Contact Information



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Connect on LinkedIn:



**Julio Velasquez**

Email: [jav19e@my.fsu.edu](mailto:jav19e@my.fsu.edu)

Connect on LinkedIn:



# Materials Used for Prototype

## Base:

- Aluminum diamond plate
- 1-inch aluminum square tubing

## A-Arms:

- ½ inch steel tubing
- ¾ inch steel square tubing
- M6-01 nuts
- M6-01 spherical rod ball joints
- 1 ½ inch aluminum U-channel
- Plastic spacers

## Knuckle:

- Aluminum blocks
- M6-01 screws
- M6-01 nuts

## Legs and Feet:

- Linear actuators
- 1 ½ inch U-channel
- 1 inch aluminum square tubing
- ¾ inch steel square tubing
- M6-01 nuts
- M6-01 screws
- Pin screens
- Aluminum diamond plate

## Electronics:

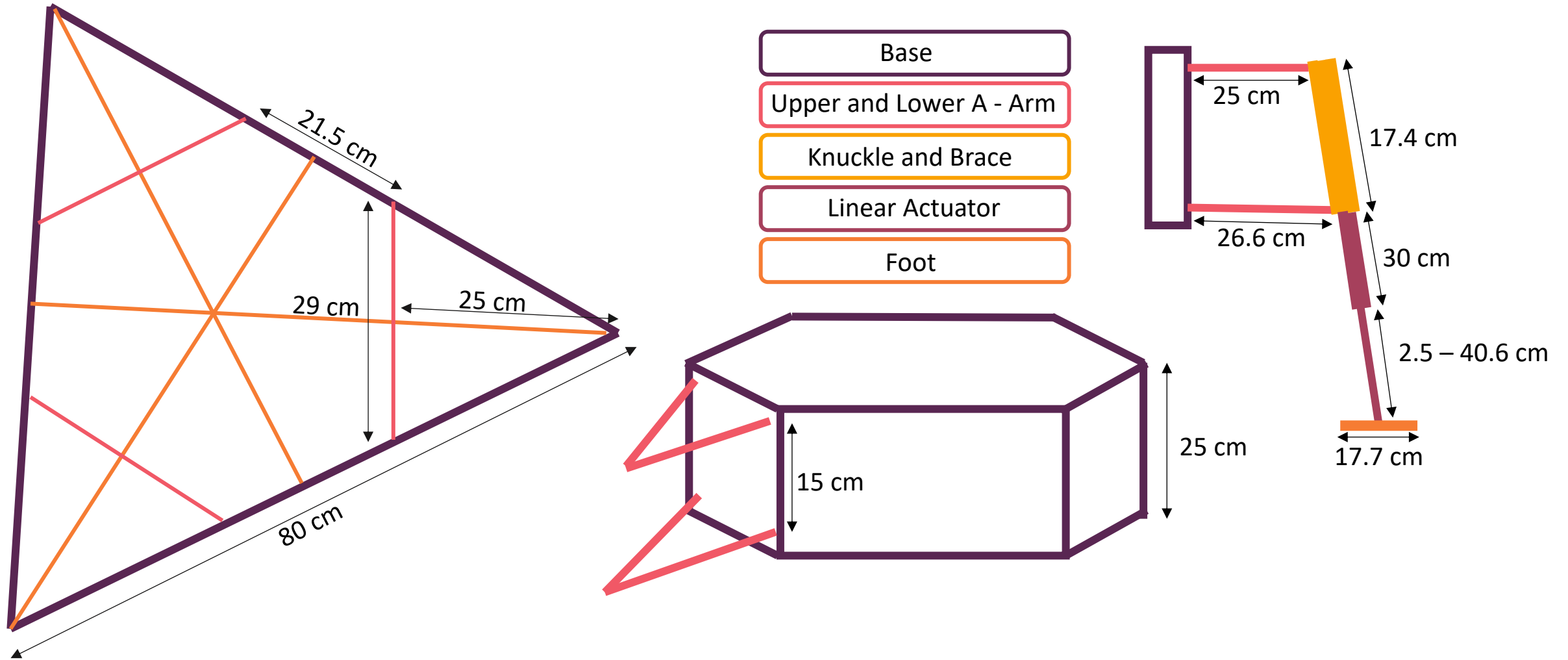
- TOF laser sensor
- 9-DOF IMU
- Linear actuators
- Servo motors
- LCD

## Testing Assembly:

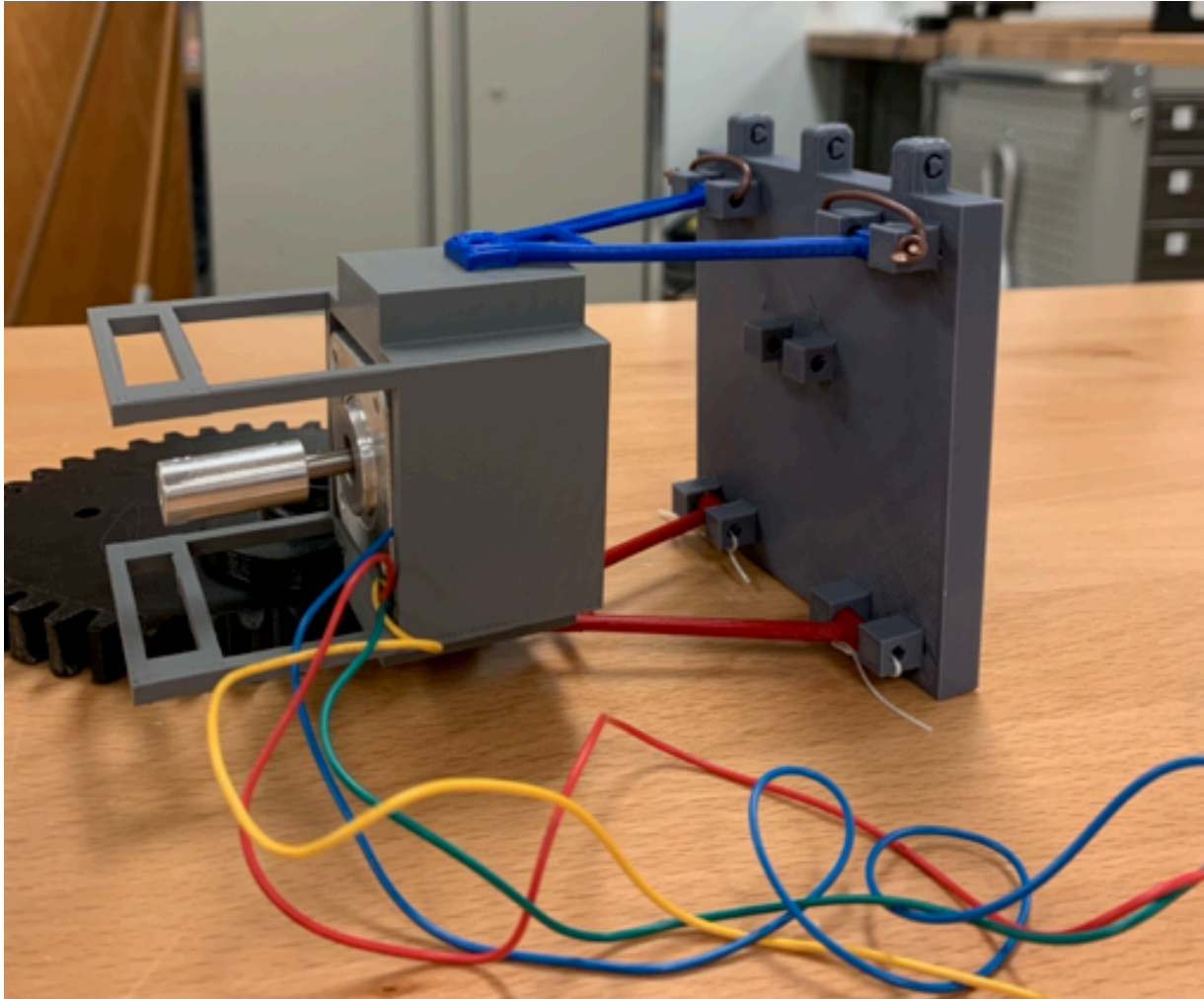
- 2-inch square structure bars
- 90-degree mount brackets
- Floor mounts
- Pulleys
- 25-foot rope
- Counterweight
- ¾ inch plywood
- Sandbags
- Canvas drop cloth
- Polyurethane glue
- Black washed gravel
- Lava rocks
- Basalt gravel

**\*\*NOTE: None of these materials are meant for use in space-like conditions and are for prototyping purposes only\*\***

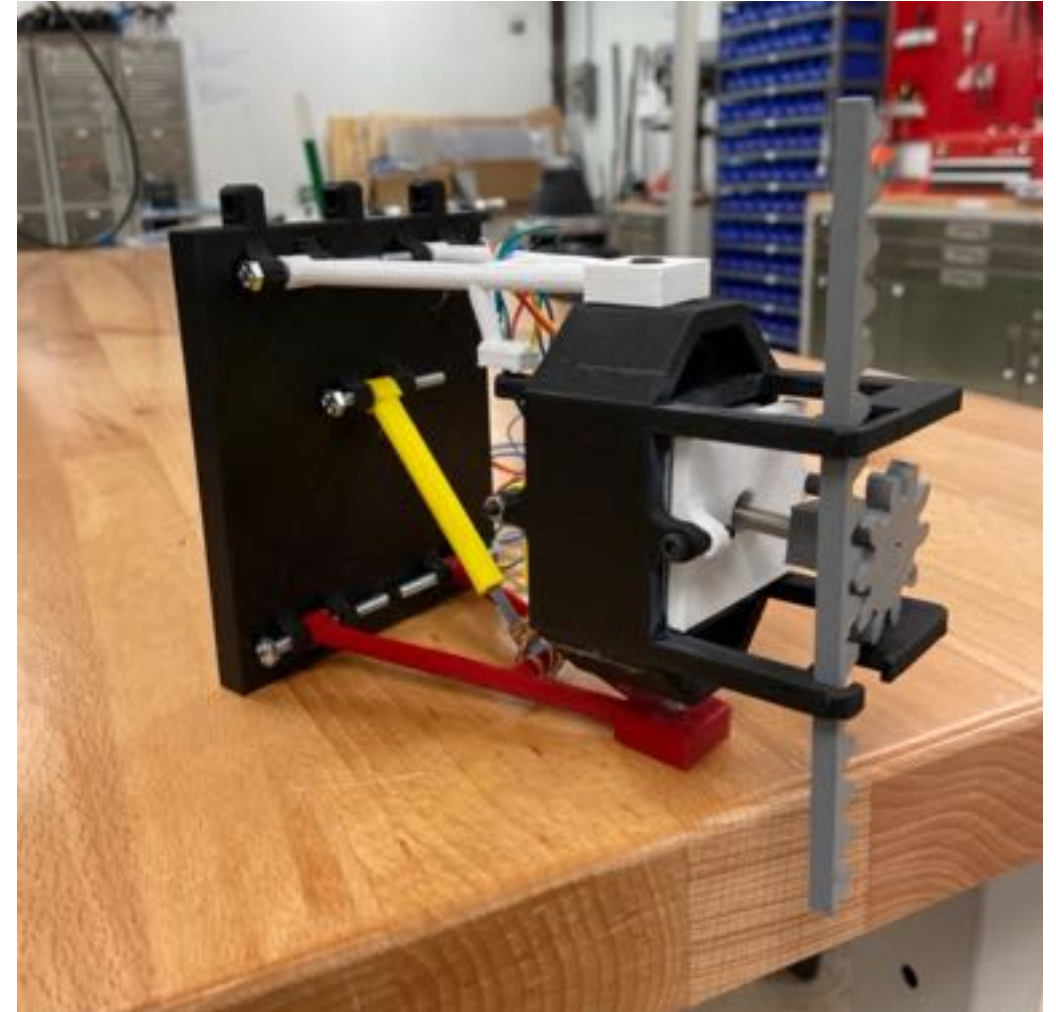
# Sizing of Prototype



# 3D Print of Model



First Print

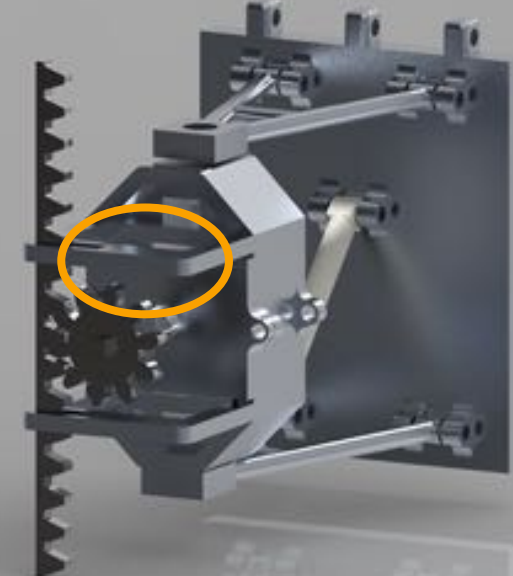


Second Print

# Adjustment of Design: Knuckle



Original Design of Knuckle

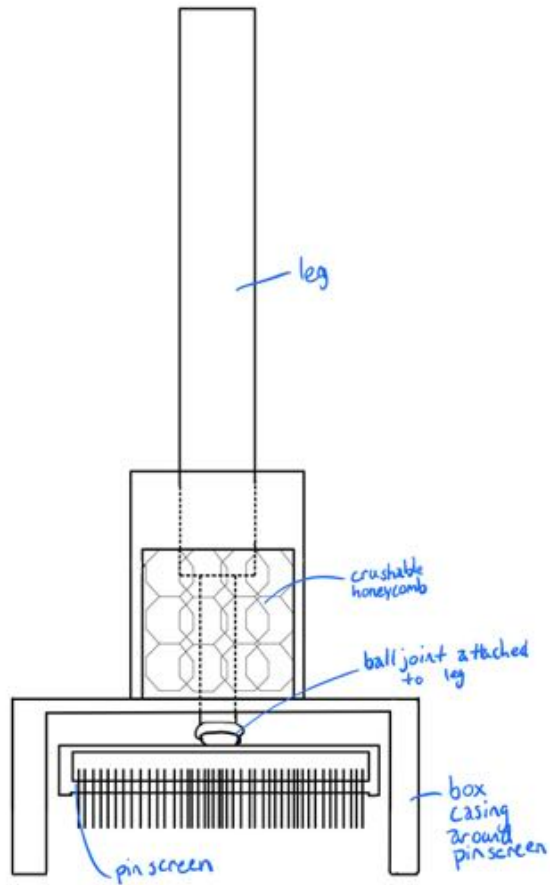


Modified Design of Knuckle

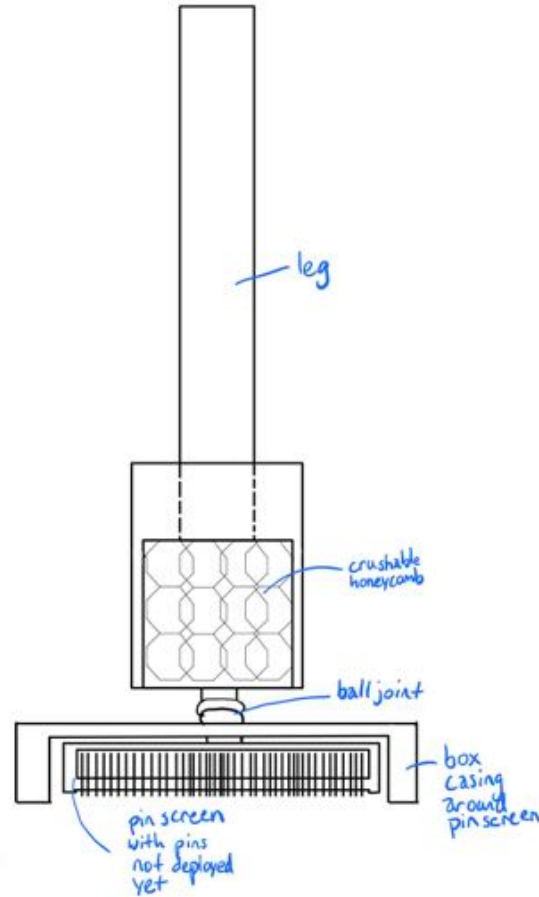
Elzbieta Krekora



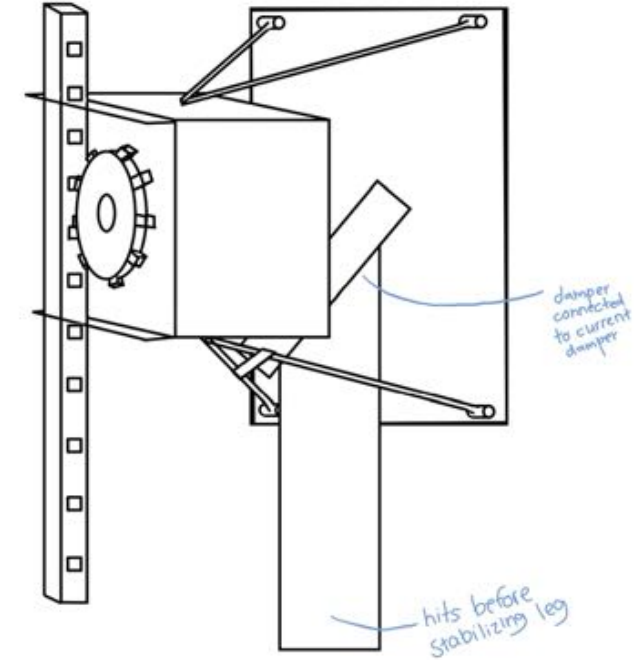
# Adjustment of Design: Additional Damping



Design 1: Damping Attached to Foot (Attachment 1)



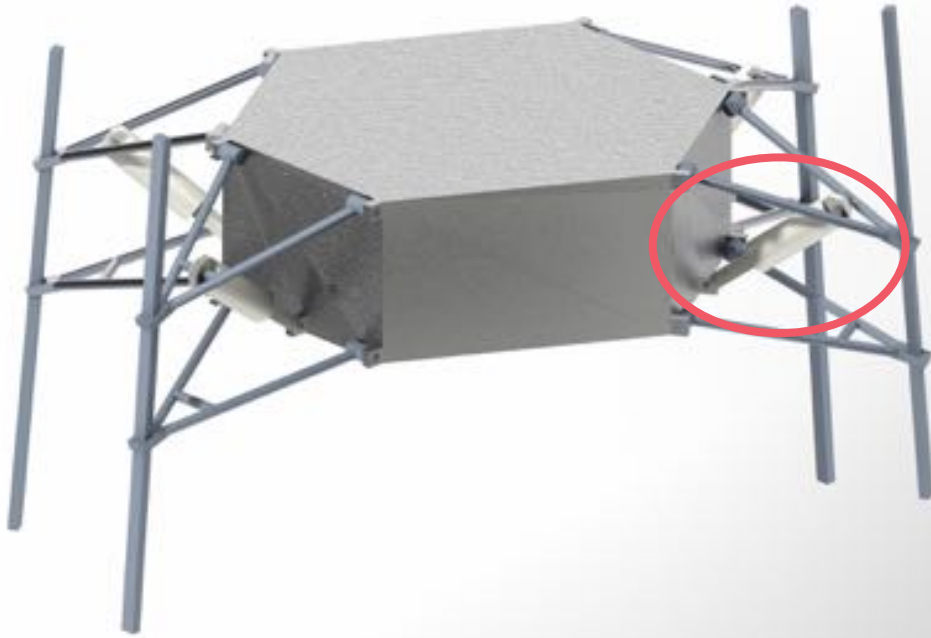
Design 2: Damping Attached to Foot (Attachment 2)



Design 3: Damping Attached to Separate Component

Saralyn Jenkins

# Adjustment of Design: Suspension



Original Design (Feet Not Shown)



Modified Design (Legs and Feet Not Shown)

Elzbieta Krekora

# Landing Feet Reinforcement and Testing

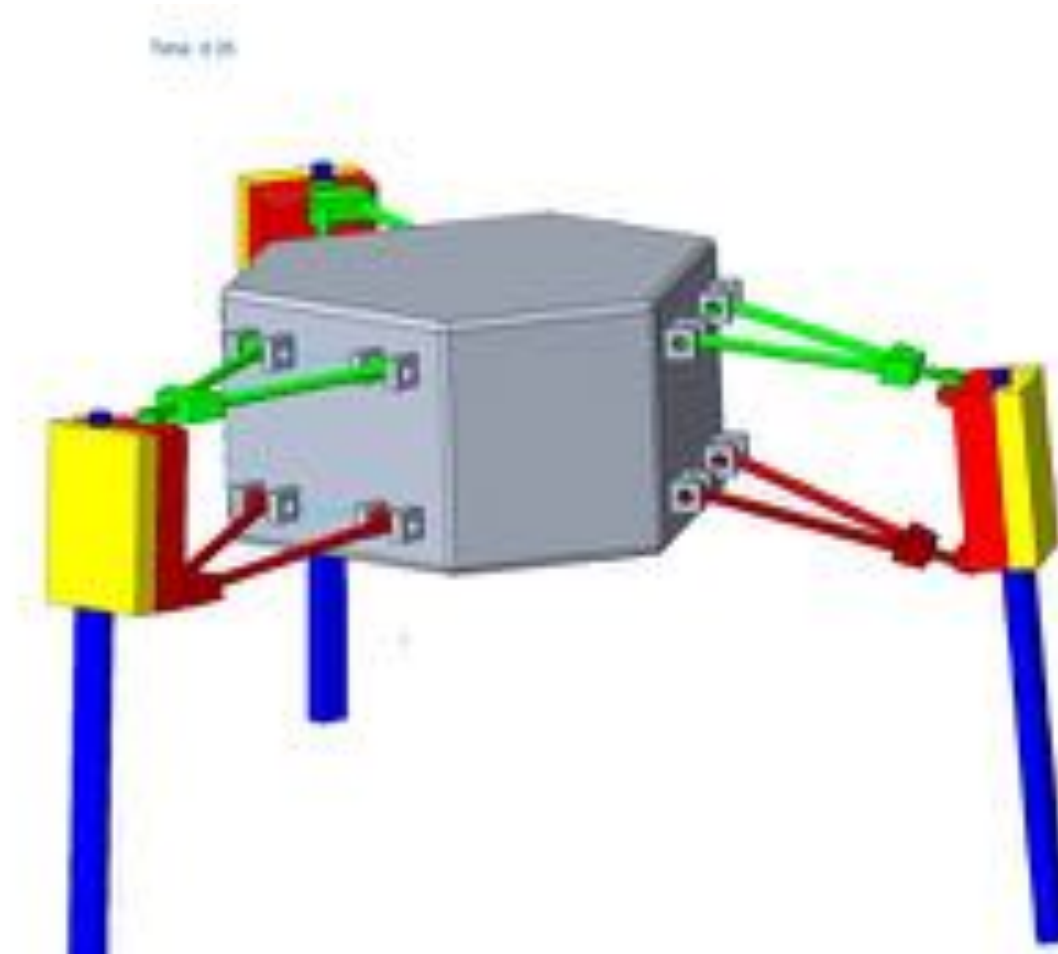


Reinforced with metal screws and metal plate to support up to ~880 N



Julio Velasquez

# Prototype Model: Motion

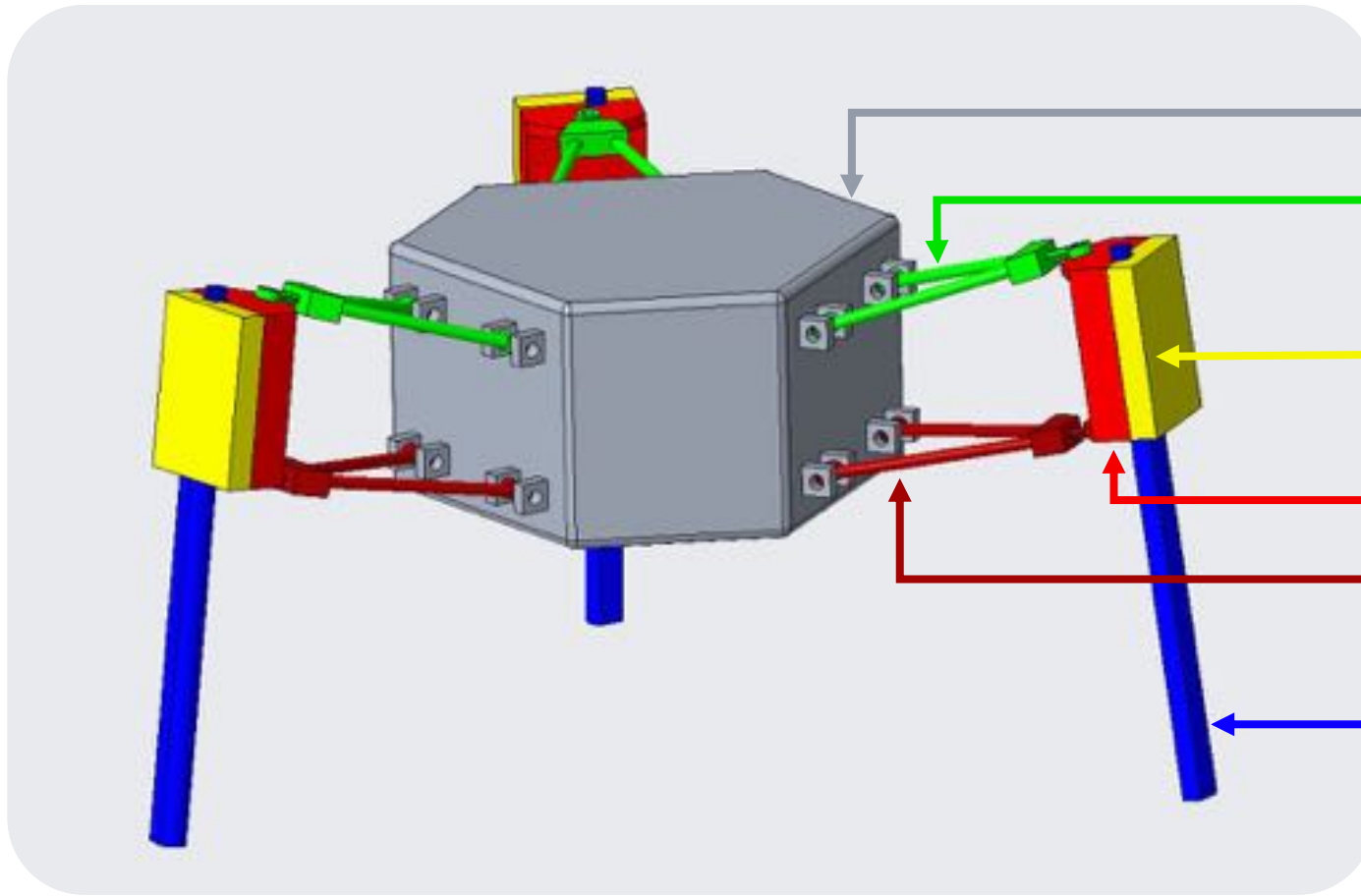


NEED UPDATED ONE

Julio Velasquez

# Prototype Model: Before Final Changes

**Note:** Shock absorber/damper and pin screen feet not shown



Hexagonal base

Upper A - Arm

Knuckle Clamp

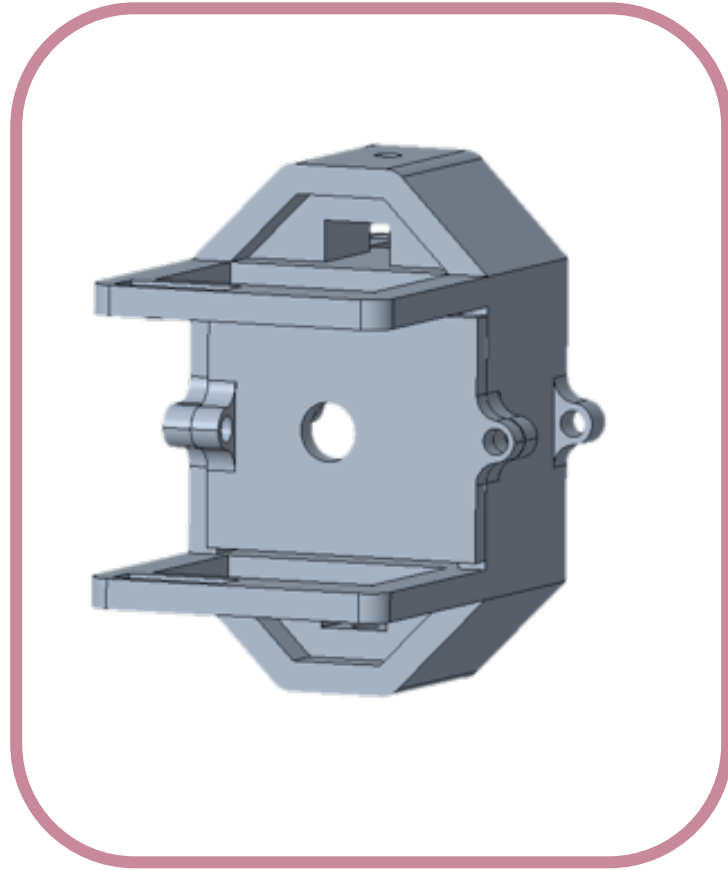
Knuckle

Lower A - Arm

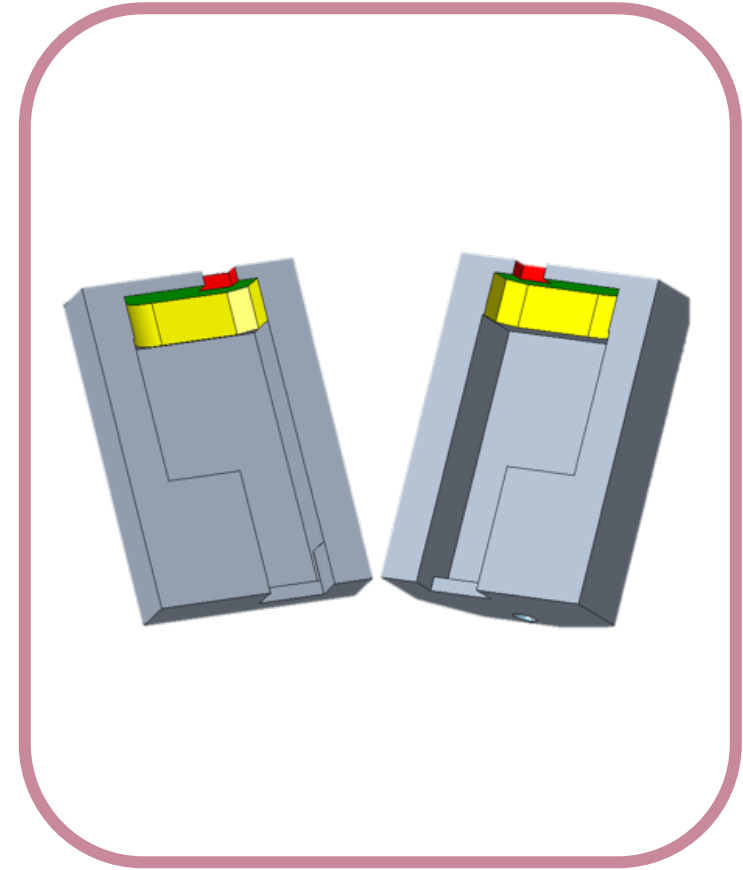
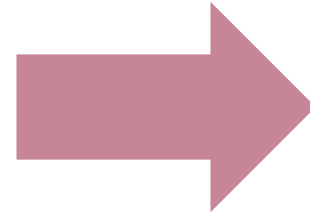
Linear Actuator

Julio Velasquez

# Adjustment of Design: Knuckle



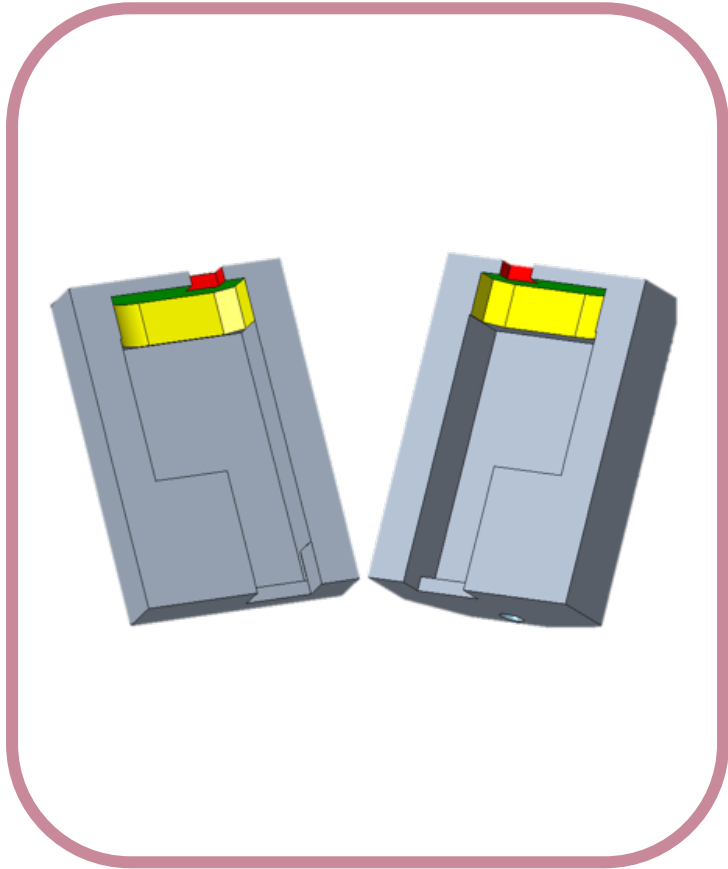
Knuckle



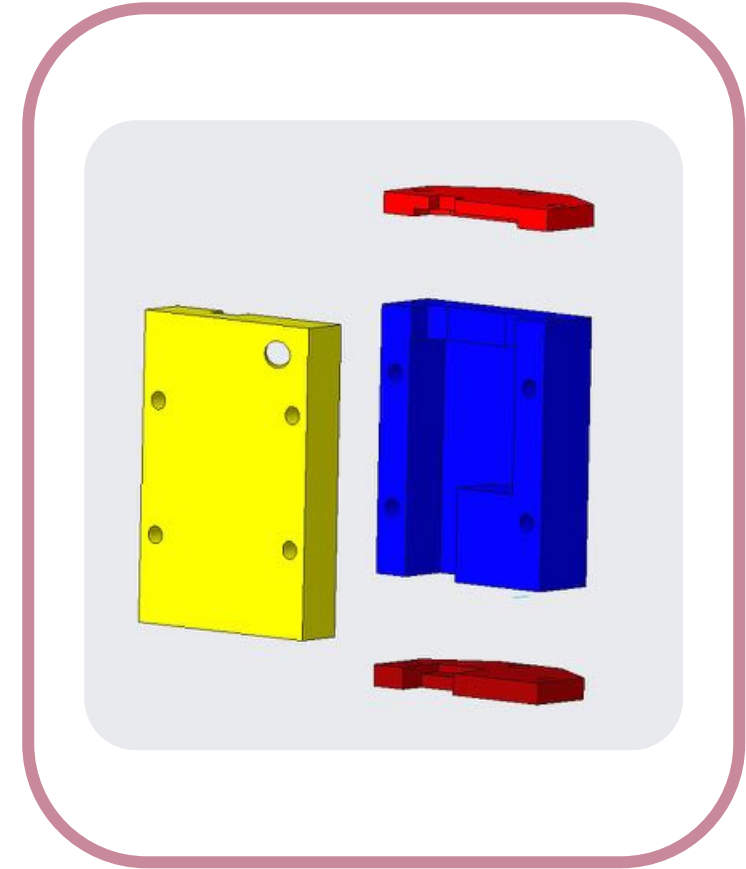
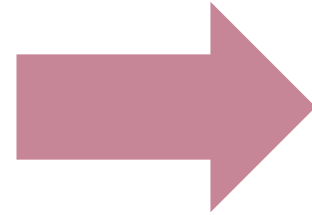
Knuckle Clamp

Julio Velasquez

# Adjustment of Design: Knuckle



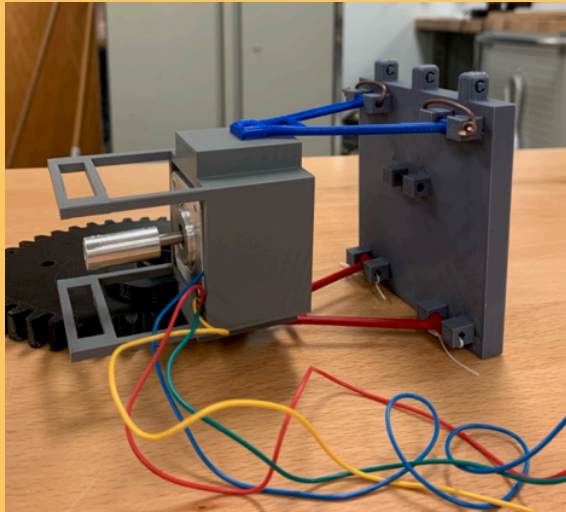
Knuckle Clamp



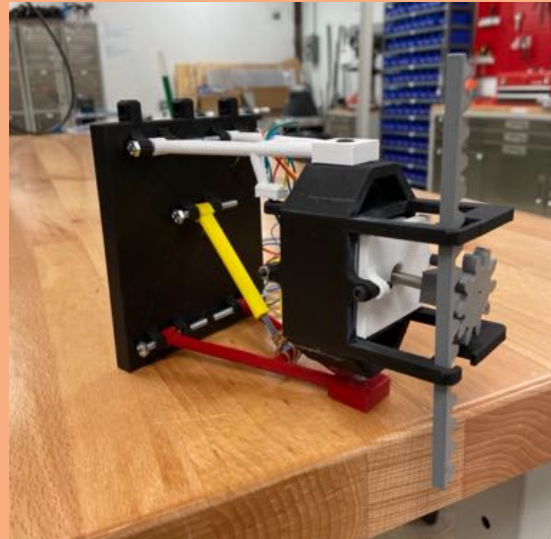
Knuckle Clamp Version 2

Julio Velasquez

# Evolution of Prototype



First 3D Print of Original Design



Second 3D Print of Adjusted Design



Landing Legs Changed to Linear Actuators

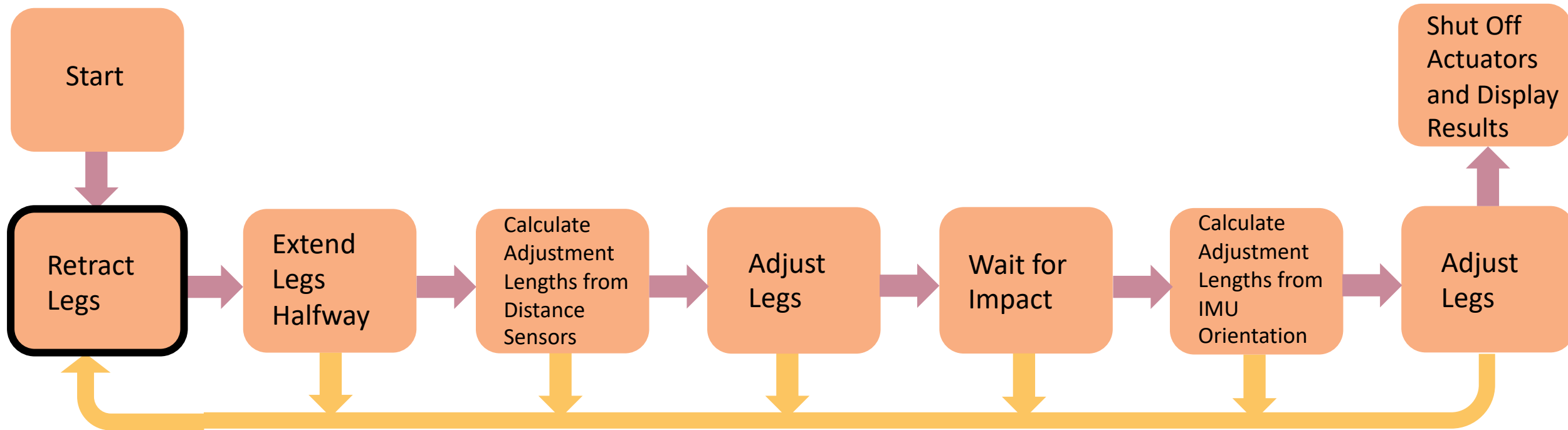


Final Prototype in the Process of Being Assembled

Elzbieta Krekora

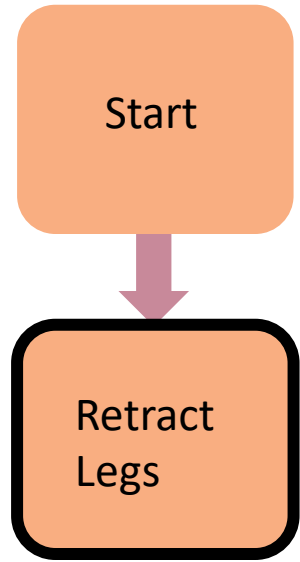


# Lander Algorithm



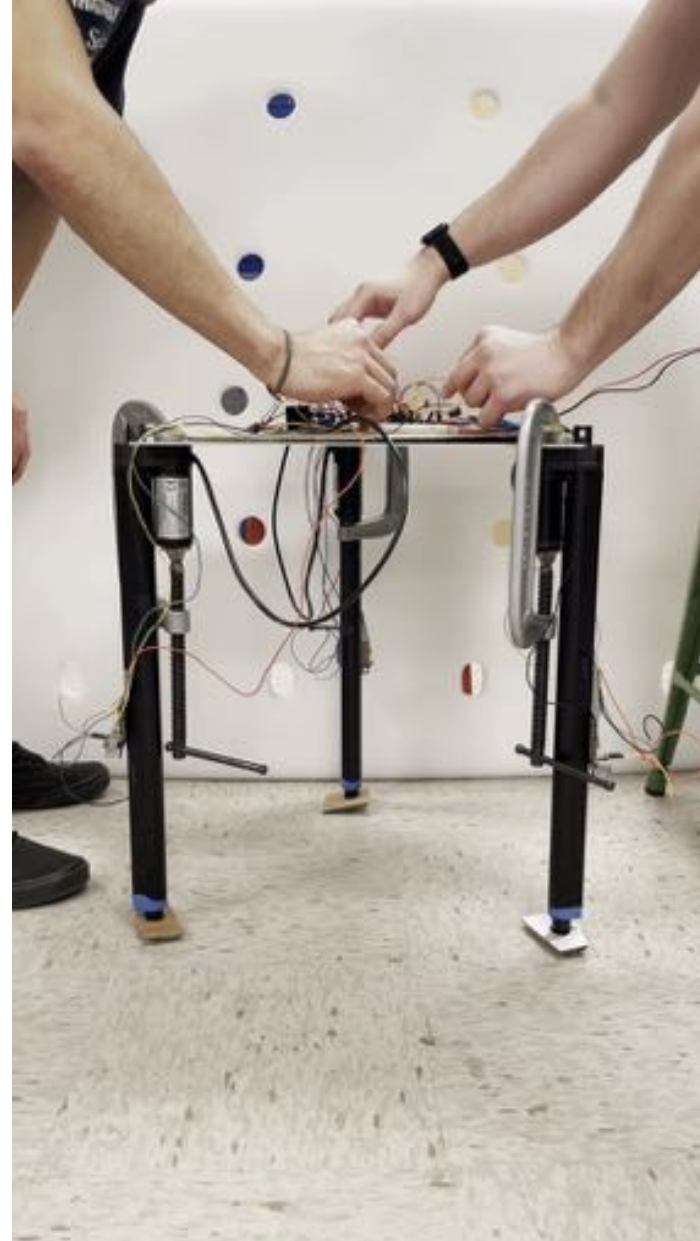
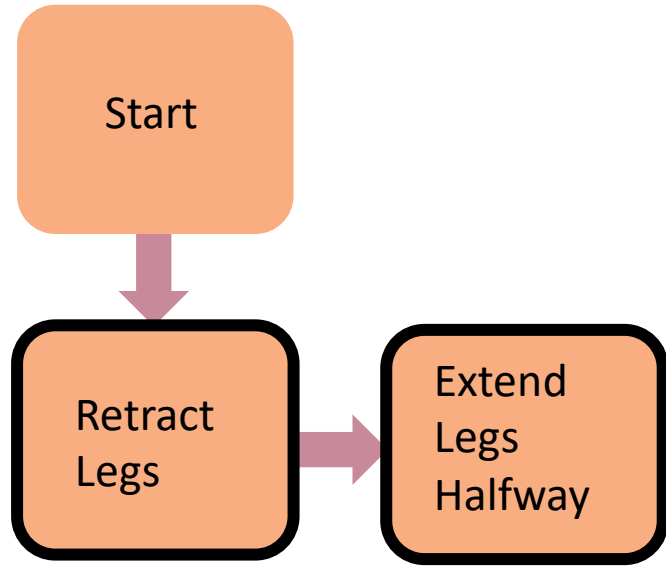
Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm



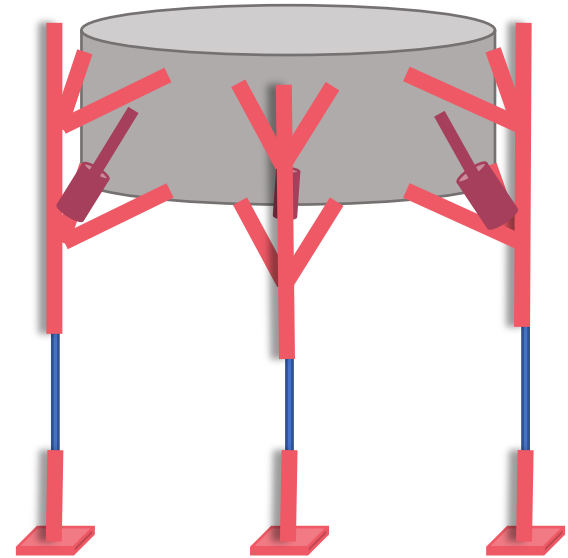
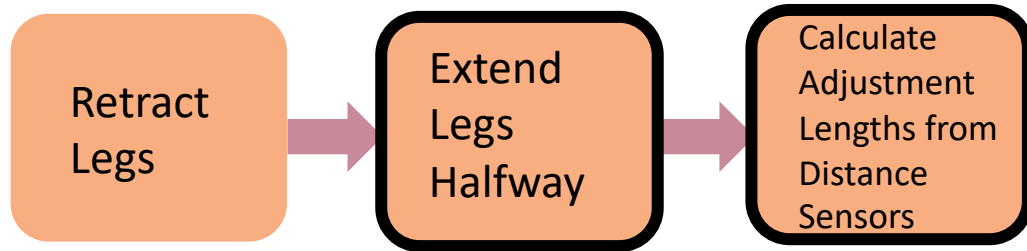
Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm



Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm



Andrew Sak

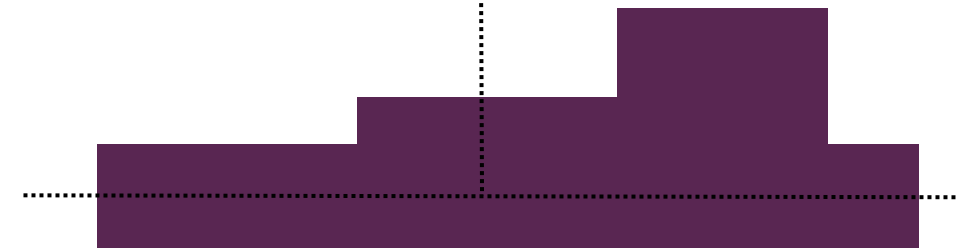
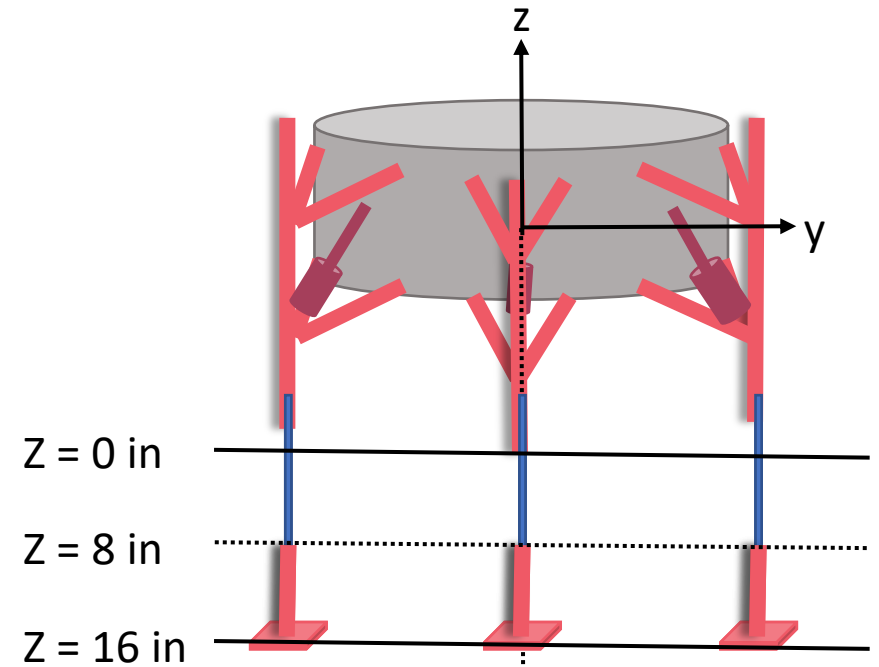
# Lander Algorithm

Extend  
Legs  
Halfway

Calculate  
Adjustment  
Lengths from  
Distance  
Sensors

Lander approach is  
perpendicular to a  
predetermined plane

Linear actuators are  
extended halfway



Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm

Extend  
Legs  
Halfway

Calculate  
Adjustment  
Lengths from  
Distance  
Sensors

Adjust  
Legs

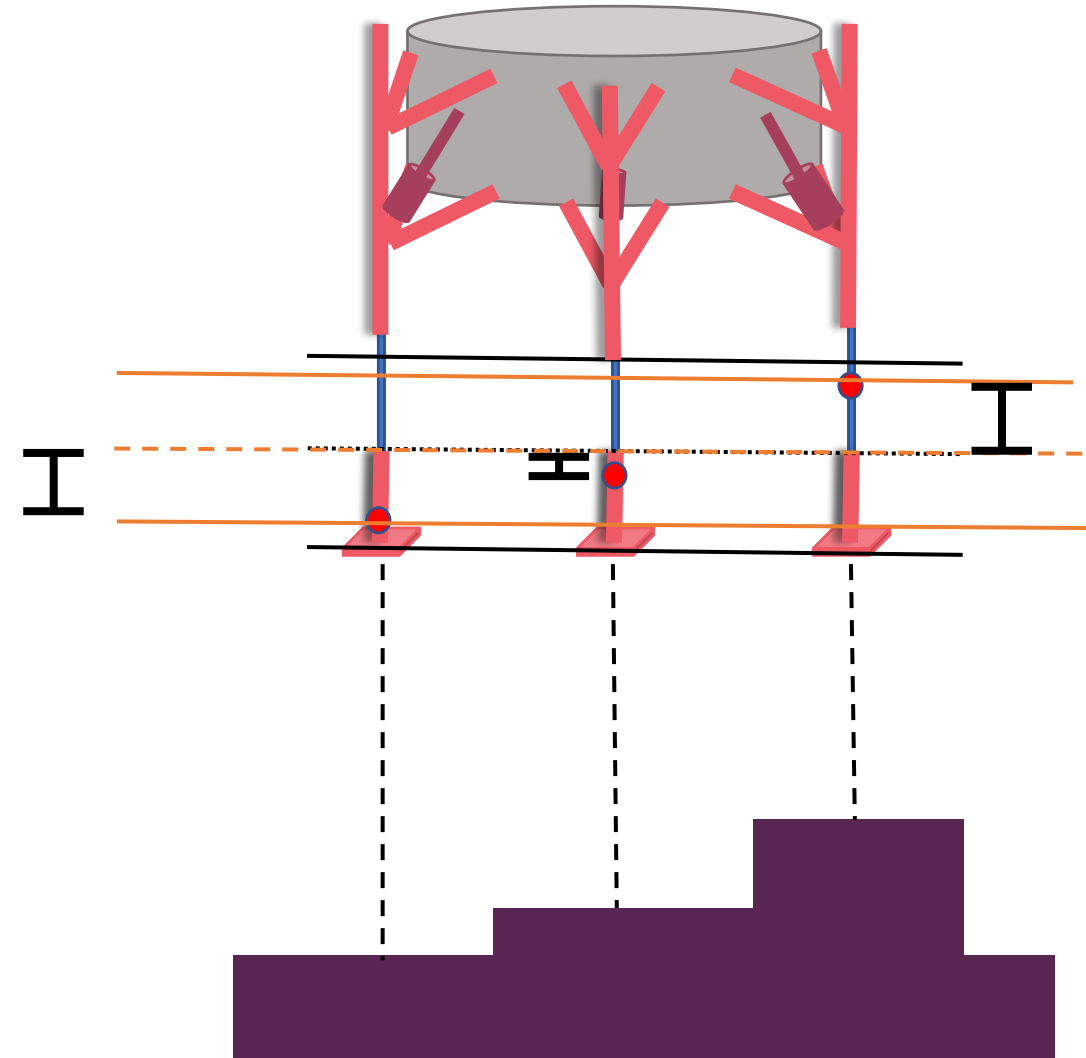
1. Read distance from  
sensor to terrain  
below

4. Find distance from  
midplane to each  
point on surface

2. Find the closest  
point and farthest  
point on surface

5. Overlay distances  
on lander leg frame

3. Find midplane  
between closest and  
farthest point



Andrew Sak

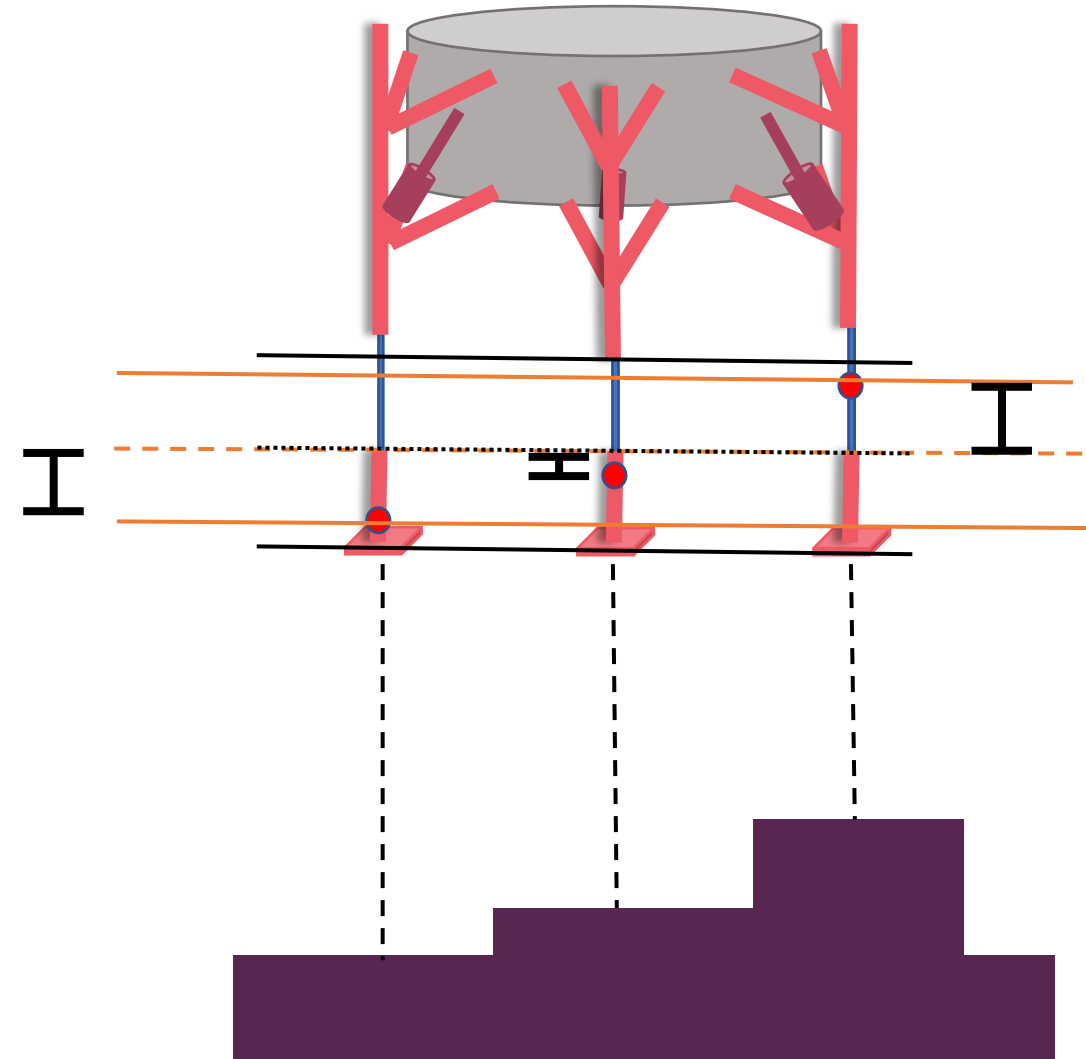
# Lander Algorithm

Calculate Adjustment Lengths from Distance Sensors

Adjust Legs

Points below the midplane cause actuators to extend

Points above the midplane cause actuators to retract



Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm

Calculate Adjustment Lengths from Distance Sensors

Adjust Legs

Points below the midplane cause actuators to extend

Points above the midplane cause actuators to retract



Andrew Sak



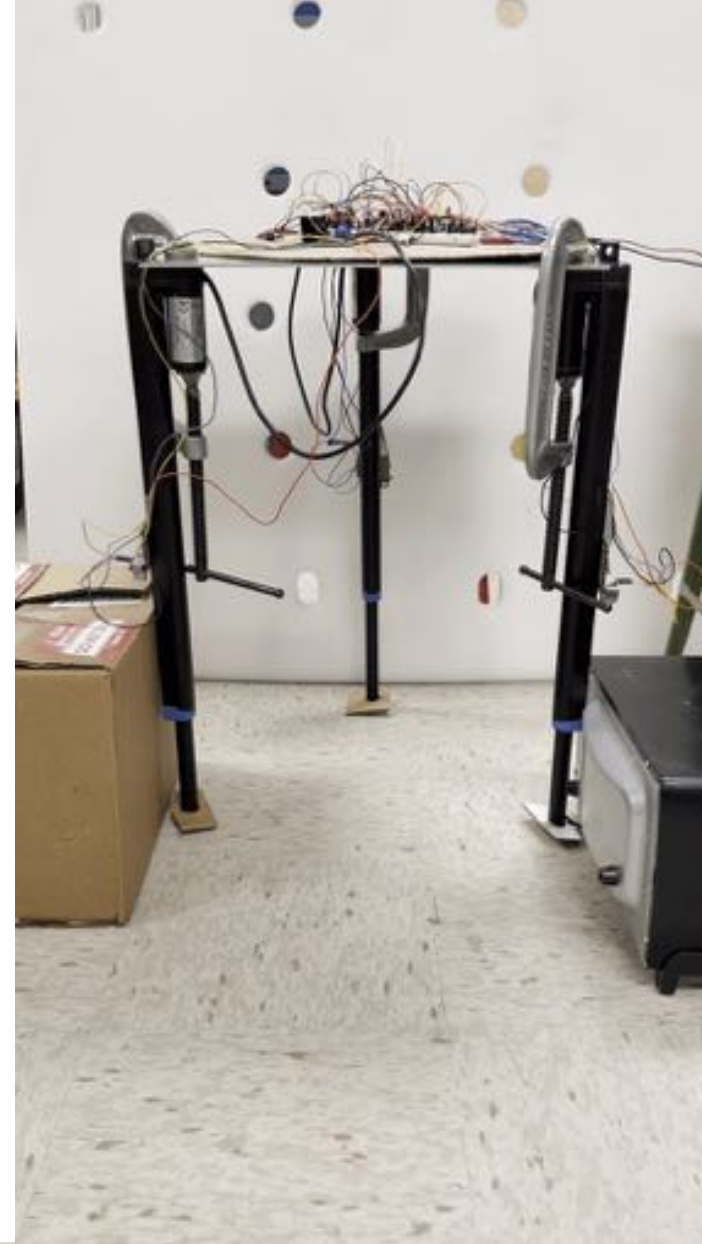
# Lander Algorithm

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Andrew Sak

# Lander Algorithm

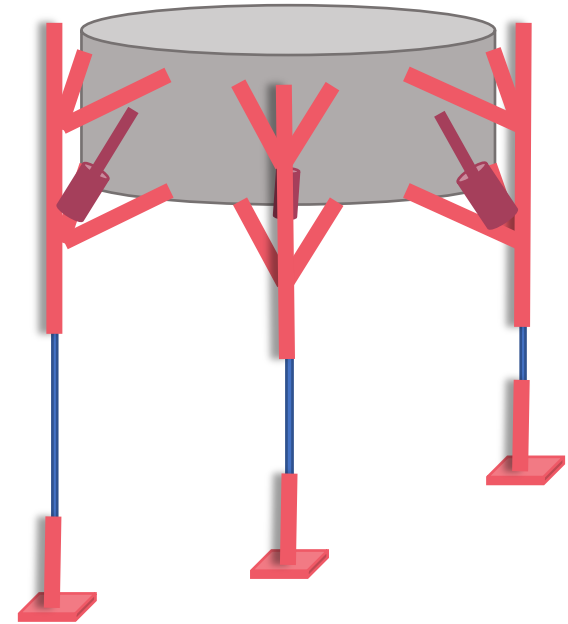
Calculate Adjustment Lengths from Distance Sensors

Adjust Legs

Wait for Impact

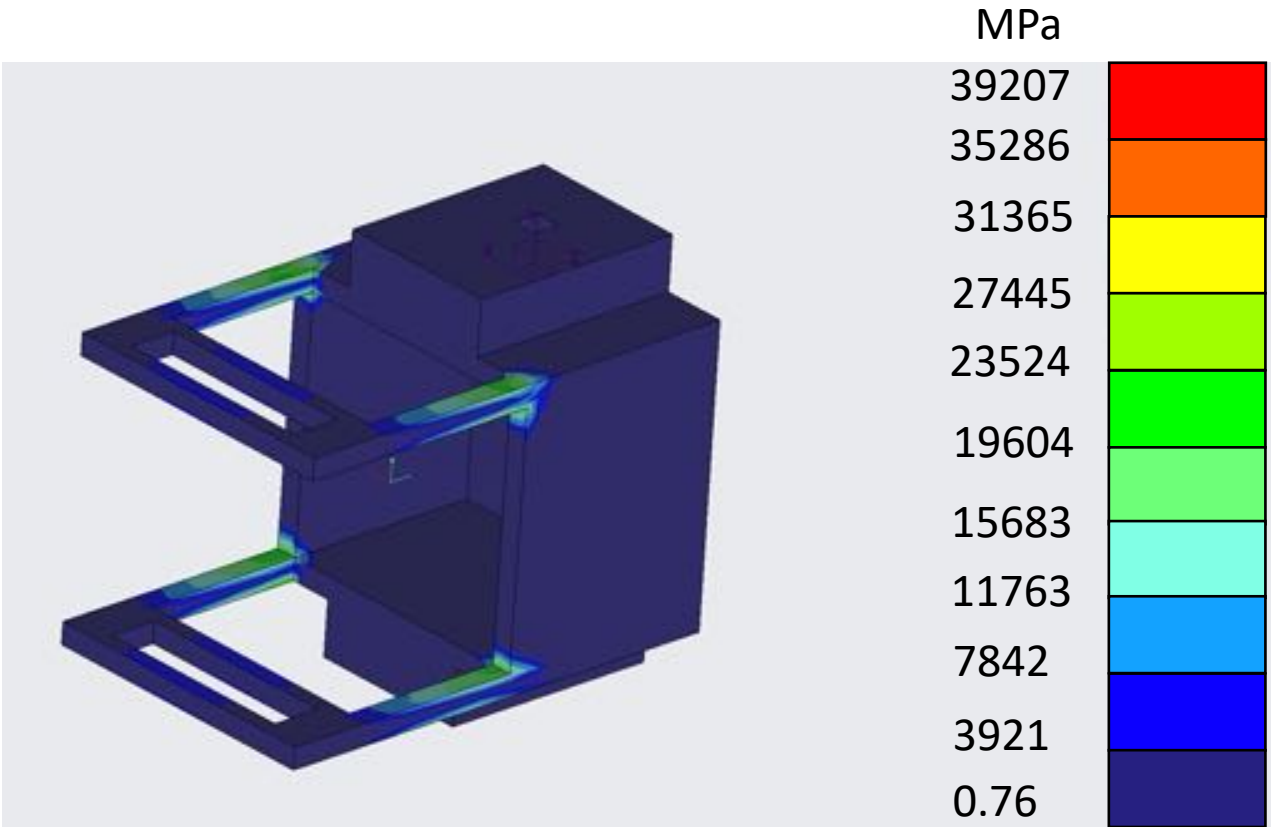
Points below the midplane cause actuators to extend

Points above the midplane cause actuators to retract

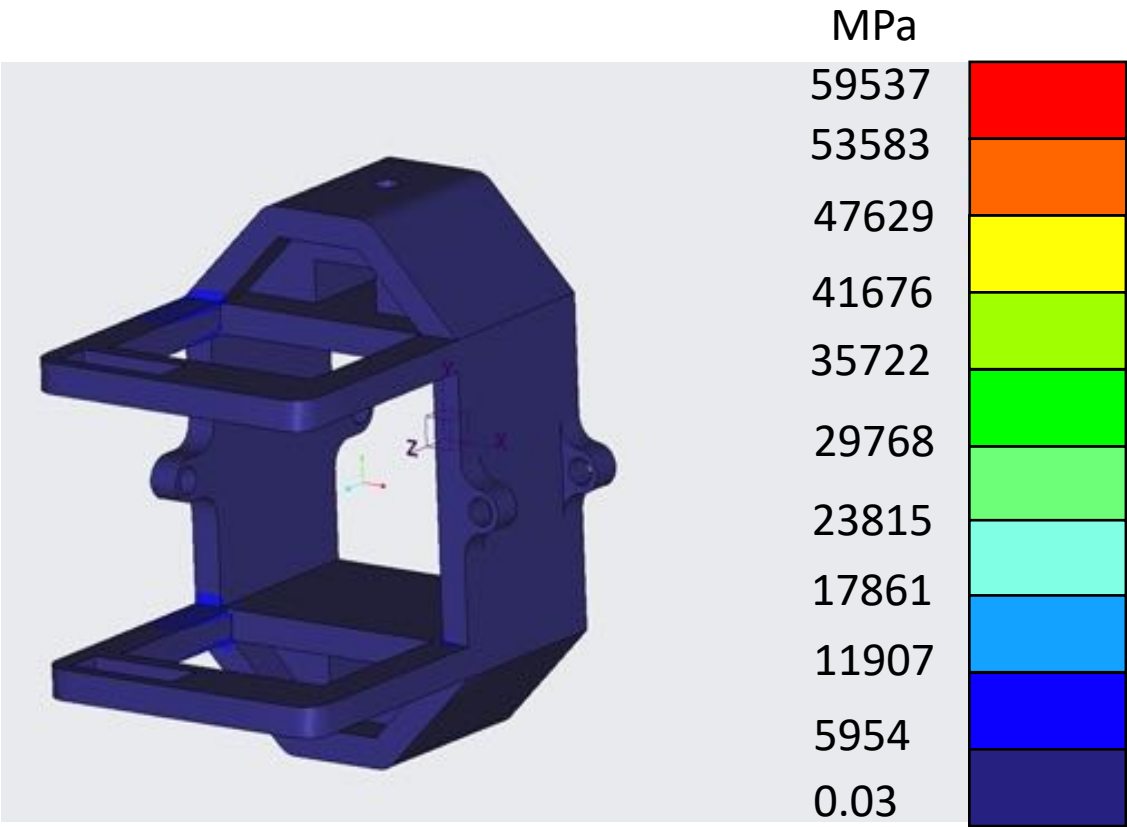


Andrew Sak

# Creo Simulation: Knuckle



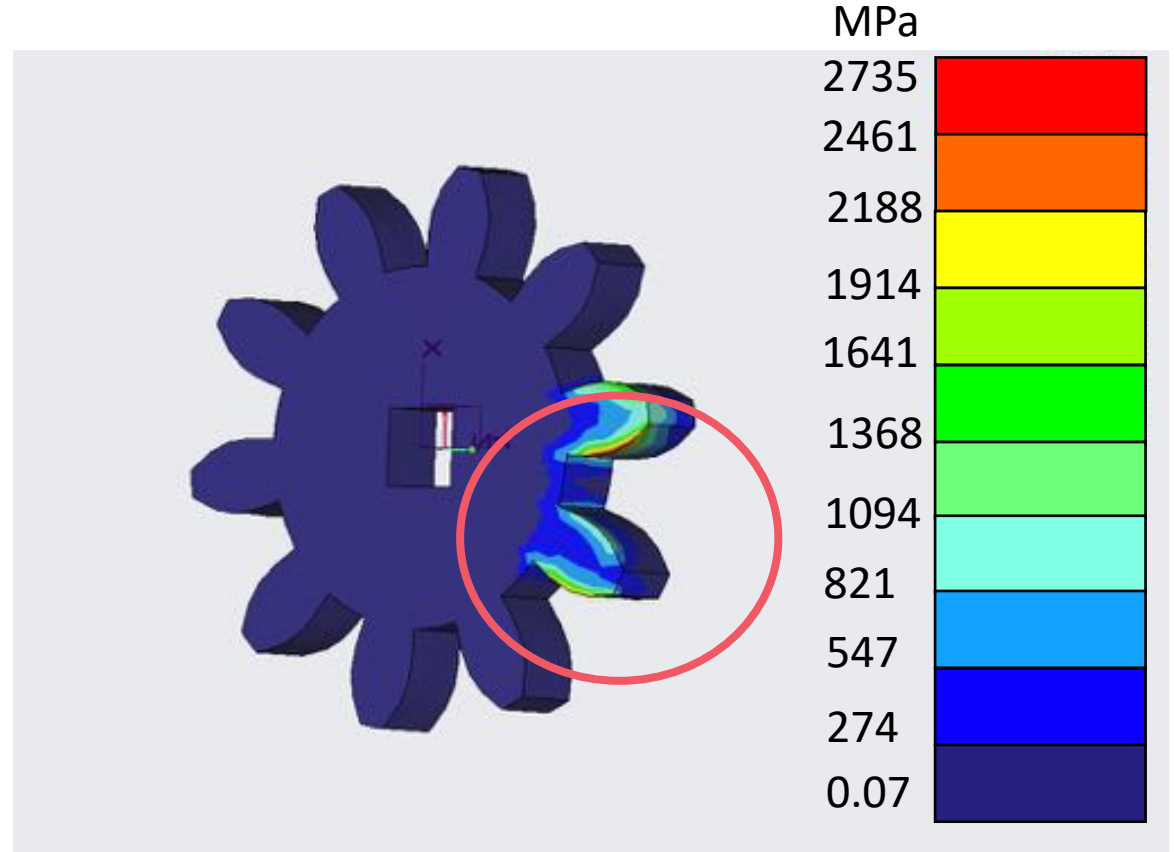
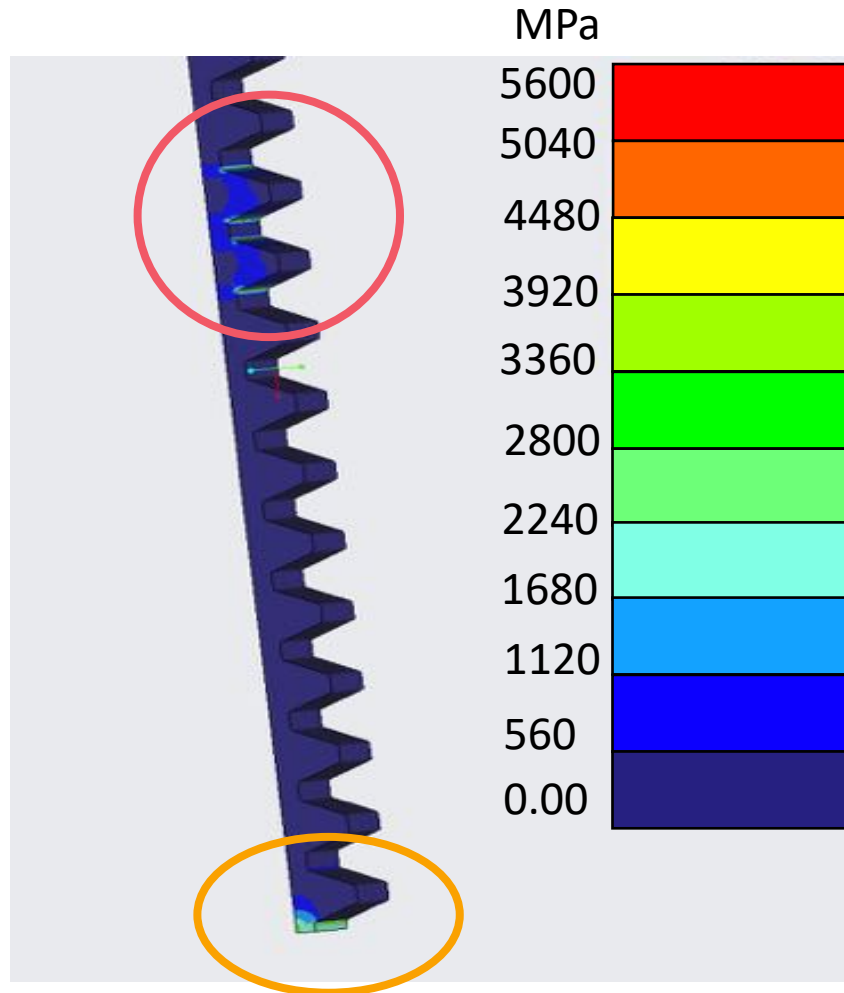
Original Design of Connector



Modified Design of Connector

Saralyn Jenkins

# Creo Simulation: Rack and Pinion

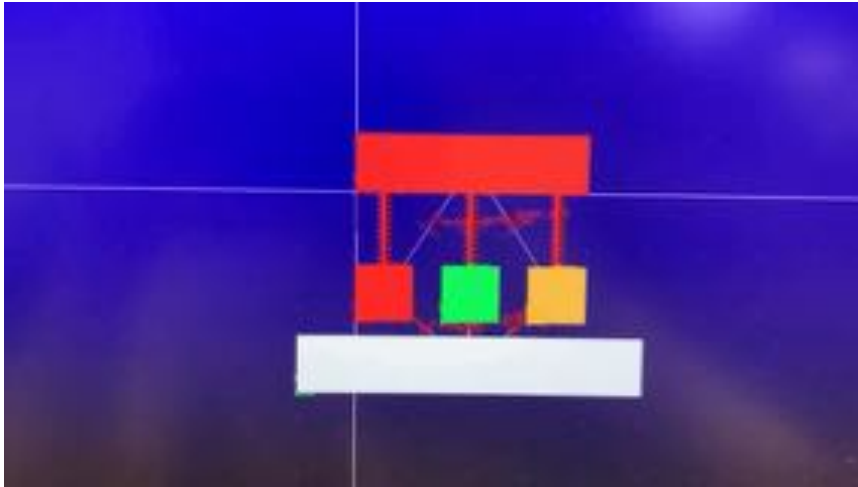


Contact Point  
with Ground

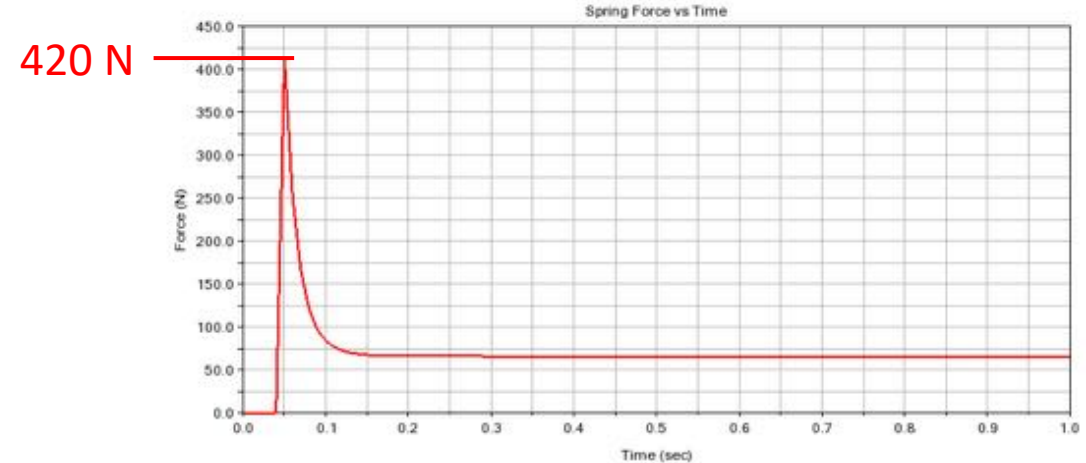
Contact Point  
Between  
Gears

Saralyn Jenkins

# Simple Adams Simulation



Successful Dampers



Saralyn Jenkins

# Binary Pairwise

Binary Pairwise Matrix

	The system is autonomous	Supports the spacecraft and associated components	Withstands or dissipates the potential energy from the fall and impact velocity	Adjusts to the hypothesized terrains of Psyche	The system does not have to be reusable	Total
The system is autonomous	-	0	0	0	1	1
Supports the spacecraft and associated components	1	-	0	1	1	2
Withstands or dissipates the potential energy from the fall and impact velocity	1	1	-	1	1	3
Adjusts to the hypothesized terrains of Psyche	1	0	0	-	1	1
The system does not have to be reusable	0	0	0	0	-	0

- Customer needs are listed in rows and the same customer needs listed in columns
- Compared against each other to determine ranking of customer needs
- 1 is assigned if row customer need is more important than the column customer need; 0 for vice versa

# House of Quality

		Engineering Characteristics							
Improvement Direction		↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓
Units		m <sup>2</sup>	kg	m; m/s; m/s <sup>2</sup> .deg	deg to tip	N	m	deg	m
Customer Requirements	Importance Weight Factor	Houses Components Hardware	Supports Weight	Reads Lander Data	Prevents Tipping	Dampens Impact Energy	Senses Surrounding Topography	Adjusts Orientation	Secures Position on Asteroid
The system is autonomous	1	1		9	9			9	9
Supports the spacecraft and associated components	2	3	9		3	3		3	3
Withstands or dissipates the potential energy from the fall and impact velocity	3		9	3		9			1
Adjusts to the hypothesized terrain of Psyche	1			9	9	1	9	9	9
The system does not have to be reusable	0	1				3			3
Raw Score	206	7	45	27	24	34	18	24	27
Relative Weight %		3.40	21.84	13.11	11.65	16.50	8.74	11.65	13.11
Rank Order		6	1	3	5	2	7	5	3

- Gives a ranking of the engineering characteristics governing our project from most important (1) to least important (8)
- Importance weight factor chosen from Binary Pairwise
- Determined if engineering characteristic contributed to fulfilling customer need
  - Values of 0,1,3, or 9 assigned; 0 being no contribution and 9 being the highest level of contribution

# Pugh Chart

Engineering Characteristics	Concept 7	Concept 2	Concept 6	Concept 8
Houses Components\Hardware	- DATUM -	S	S	S
Supports Weight		-	+	+
Reads Lander Data		S	S	S
Prevents Tipping		+	+	+
Dampens Impact Energy		+	S	S
Senses Surrounding Topography		S	S	S
Adjusts Orientation		+	+	+
Secures Position on Asteroid		-	S	S
<b>Total Pluses</b>			3	3
<b>Total Minuses</b>		2	0	0

- Four Pugh Charts were used in total; this is the last one of the series
- Started by choosing a datum to compare the concepts too; Mars Phoenix Lander
- Every chart after the first had a new datum which was a concept similar to the last datum
- (+) assigned if that concept fulfills that engineering characteristic better than the datum; vice versa for (-); (S) if it's the same

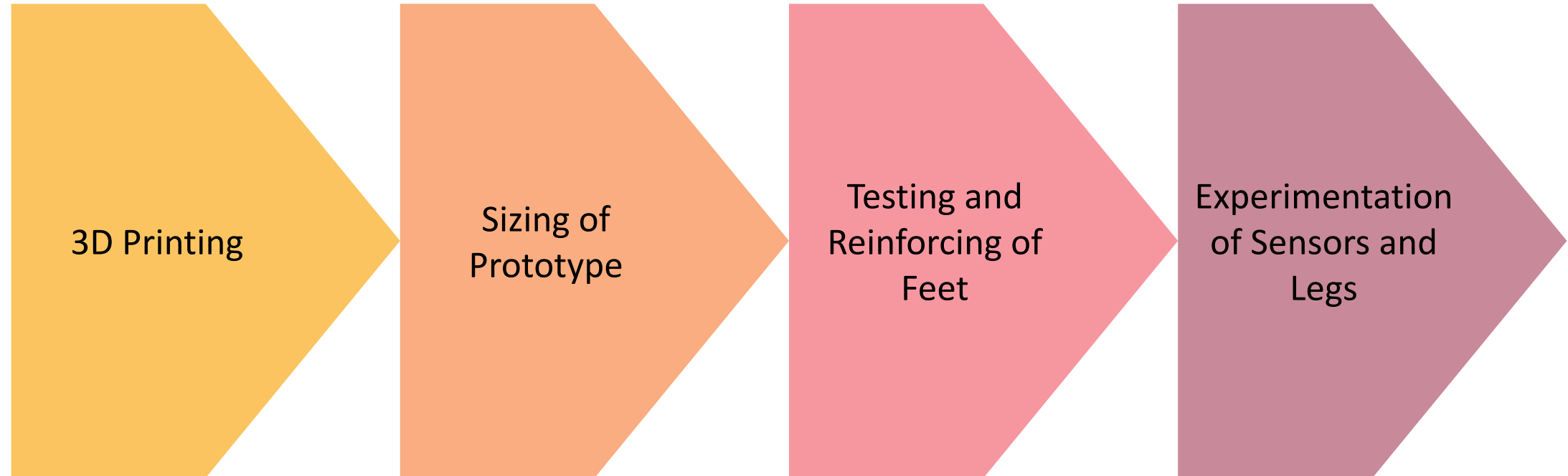


# Analytical Hierarchy Process

	Supports Weight	Dampens Impact Energy	Prevents Tipping	Secures Position on Asteroid	Reads Lander Data
Supports Weight	<b>1.00</b>	3.00	1.00	1.00	0.33
Dampens Impact Energy	0.33	<b>1.00</b>	1.00	0.33	0.11
Prevents Tipping	1.00	1.00	<b>1.00</b>	1.00	3.00
Secures Position on Asteroid	1.00	3.00	1.00	<b>1.00</b>	9.00
Reads Lander Data	3.00	9.00	0.33	0.11	<b>1.00</b>
Sum	6.33	17.00	4.33	3.44	13.44

- Engineering characteristics are ranked against each other with 1 denoting equal weight and 9 denoting a strong preference to one over the other
- The first one gets a weight factor for each characteristic
- This same process was done for each individual characteristic against the three final concepts

# Prototyping Process



Elzbieta Krekora



**Mustard**

#f9a000  
0C 36M 100Y 2K  
250R 160G 0B  
PMS 7408U

**Gold**

#f47c33  
0C 50M 80Y 4K  
245R 125G 50B  
PMS 152U

**Coral**

#ef5966  
0C 63M 57Y 6K  
239R 89G 102B  
PMS 192 U



**Magenta**

#a53f5b  
0C 62M 45Y 35K  
165R 63G 91B  
PMS 2041 U

**Purple**

#592651  
0C 57M 9Y 65K  
89R 38G 81B  
PMS 2356 U

**Dark Purple**

#302144  
29C 51M 0Y 73K  
48R 33G 68B  
PMS 2695 U

Elzbieta Krekora



# Prototype/Testing

Saralyn Jenkins



# Results

## Confirming Impact Velocity

- Distance sensors used to find velocity and displayed on LCD
- Camera outside test rig to measure frames to find velocity

## Confirming Orientation

- Final orientation of IMU displayed onto LCD screen

## Confirming Secured Position

- Landing base will be inspected for any damage to parts inside
- Any bounce or slide of prototype will be measured via a camera during testing

Andrew Sak

# Assumptions



Operated in minimal gravity, space like temperatures and conditions

Attaches to future spacecraft without issue

Perform a soft landing on Psyche

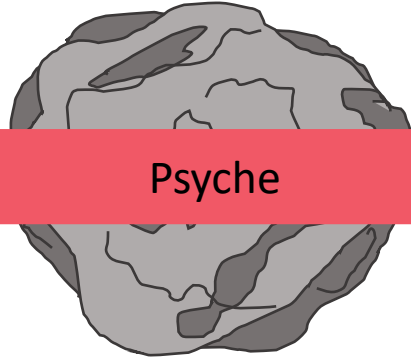
Test model and forces are analogous to Psyche mission variables

Controlled Autonomously

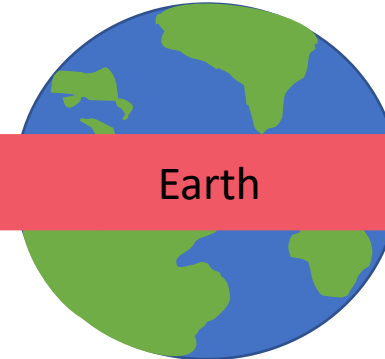
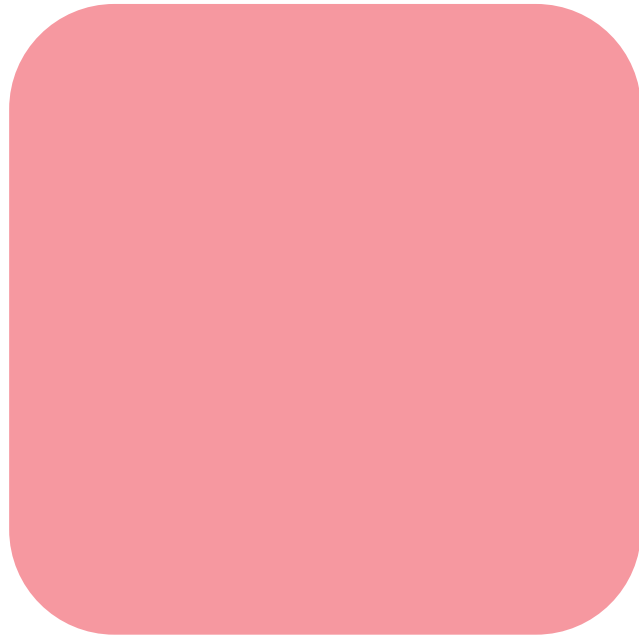
Power supplied by spacecraft

Elzbieta Krekora

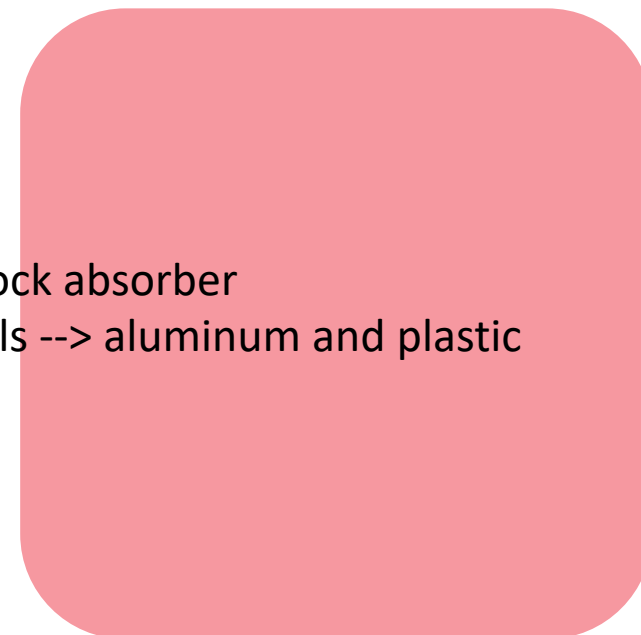
# Transfer of Design



Psyche



Earth



Idk if we need this,  
But I made it just in case we  
Want to clarify

Honey comb -> shock absorber  
Spacegrade materials --> aluminum and plastic