



CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2016 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) Francisca Vasconcelos	Project Number 36335
Project Title Shape-Shifting Origami Robotics	
Objectives/Goals This work addresses the design of shape-shifting robots, which can transform into any desired shape. Methods/Materials A deformable robot was assembled, consisting of triangular 3D-printed flaps. The flaps are connected by servo joints, so as to create a triangular 2D mesh. This mesh follows the tetrakis tiling pattern (deemed the Universal Creasing Pattern), which can fold into any 3D shape if the flaps are small and plentiful enough. For this, each joint is equipped with a pair of micro servos, creating a hinge that can rotate 360°. The servos move in a coordinated manner, under the control of an Arduino Uno. This is connected to a PWM Servo Driver, which distributes current and voltage so as to control 16 servos simultaneously. The coordinated movement of the hinges enables the robot to transform into target 3D shapes. For this, a computer graphics triangulation algorithm is first used to create a 3D triangle-mesh representation of the shape. An origami simulation algorithm then calculates the collision-free folding trajectories that map the 2D triangle mesh of the robot into the 3D shape mesh. These folding trajectories are converted into movement commands for the robot joints, and delivered by the Arduino. Two new Arduino libraries have been developed to easily control each of the hinges and individual servos. Results Several demonstrations have been developed to illustrate the countless applications and potential of this technology. Conclusions/Discussion While currently an eight-flap robot is implemented, the mathematics and principles can be extended to any number of triangles, enabling robots that can be specialized for countless tasks.	
Summary Statement I built a shape-shifting origami robot, consisting of 3D printed flaps, servos, and an Arudino Uno, that can fold into a variety of shapes and structures.	
Help Received None. I designed, built, and tested the robot entirely by myself (in my bedroom). My parents provided all the used materials and work space.	