#### **Getting Started with Robots**



#### Introductions

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#### What Will Our Takeaways Be Today?

- Understand four main categories of robots
- Become familiar with options at different grade/age levels
- Suggest a classroom use for each one
- Share ideas for learning activities using robots



#### What Isn't Included

- Industrial robots (Chris Wyant cwyant3@wsutech.edu)
  - Fanuc, Yaskawa, Kawasaki, etc.
  - Fixed or track based arm with 1 or more attachments
  - Important in several CTE programs
- Drones
  - Used in surveying, agriculture, insurance, and many other occupations
  - Require FCC license (Part 107) in most outdoor applications
  - Educationally similar to the robots discussed
- Custom robots
- Virtual robots

## 4 Main Types of Educational Robots

- Physically coded robots
  - Generally, the easiest to start out with
- Introductory programmable robots
  - Toylike, foundational programming, often in GUI or blocks
- Computer-programmable robots
  - Greater range of abilities, often greater range of sensors
- Kit-based robots
  - Modular and flexible
  - Middle/high school, student club activities
  - Can teach engineering as well

## **Physically Coded Robots**

- KIBO (Kinderlab Robotics)
  - Based on pedagogy research out of Amherst
  - Programmed by pointing robot at string of blocks
  - Starts at \$220 per kit, retail, discounts for multiple
  - Comes with curriculum ideas
- KUBO
  - Exclusive through PITSCO \*\*
  - Programmed by snapping together puzzle pieces
  - Starts at \$179 per kit
  - Curriculum ideas available online

\*\* KSDE does not promote specific vendors, but PITSCO is a Kansas vendor







## More Physically Coded

- mTiny (MakeBlock)
  - Looks like an e-pet
  - Coded via cards
  - Retails for \$149
- "Play based learning"
- Generally younger students

## Introductory Programmable Robots

- Mix of play-based and activity-based learning
- Probably the largest category
- Dash/Dot/Cue family
  - Dash mobile unit; Dot immobile unit
  - GUI, Blockly, Wonder programming
  - Cue can be programmed in Javascript or Swift
  - Dot \$80
  - Dash \$150
  - Cue \$200





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#### More Intro Programmable Robots

- Sphero family
  - Mini, Bolt, Sprk+ "STEAM"
  - Varying level of sensors
  - Programmable with block based or Javascript, C++, Python, Ruby
  - Mini: \$50, Sprk+ \$130, Bolt: \$150
  - Also Ollie (tube shaped, much faster)
  - Also BB-8, BB-9, R2D2, etc.





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### More Intro Programmable Robots

- Winky ("your new friend")
  - Ages 5-12
  - Proprietary programming language
  - Spins, eyes change, ears swing
  - Al robot
  - 199 Euro retail
- Roybi ("personalized learning")
  - Private tutor in robot form (chemistry, languages, etc.)
  - Cloud-based educational curriculum
  - Parents can track activities
  - Still in development; retail <\$200



## More Intro Programmable Robots

#### • Miko 2

- Age 5-10
- Al interaction with face on screen, dancing, sounds
- Telephone interface
- Parent control app
- Retails for \$249
- Smart Buddies (PITSCO)
  - Lessons include topics on diversity and conflict resolution
  - Interactive storytelling
  - Grades 3-5





#### **Computer Controllable Robots**

- Families cross lines (like Sphero)
- Edison
  - Programmable through
    - Bar codes
    - "EdBlocks" (graphical language)
    - "EdScratch" (block codes)
    - "EdPy" (text based coding)
  - Assembled (expansion sets available)
  - \$49 single
  - \$114 starter pack
  - \$990 classroom 30 pack



#### More Computer Controllable Robots

- Robomaster S1
  - Battlebot
  - Scratch and Python coding
  - Multi-directional motion
  - IR and plastic bead cannon
  - First-person camera
  - 31 sensors including sound and gesture readers
  - Retails for \$549
  - Add-ons available
  - Some assembly required



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#### **Kit-Based Robots**

- Some(/much) Assembly Required
- Prices range from really inexpensive to the other end
- Complexity ranges greatly
- mBot (makeBlock)
  - Metal-framed assembly
  - Wireless control
  - Programmed in Scratch
  - 30-45 minute assembly
  - Retails \$69 and up
  - Expansion kits available



#### • LEGO

- One of the bigger players in the market
- Boost (Creative Toolbox)
  - 5 robots in one
  - Requires tablet or Android device
  - Proprietary block-based coding
  - Age 7-12
  - Retails \$159
- Mindstorm
  - EV3 controller
  - Ages 10+
  - Retails \$349









- Tin Can Robot
  - Requires assembly and one used soda can
  - Doesn't do a lot but move forward, but it's cute
  - Retails \$10
  - Same company sells Soda Can Robug and
    - Brush Robot





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- Sparki "The Easy Robot for Everyone"
  - Arcbotics
  - Block-based or C++ programming
  - Arduino based
  - Middle school and up
  - \$149 retail
- MITU MI
  - Similar to Mindstorm but more parts
  - >1000 parts
  - \$80 retail



- MicroDuino Mix Kits (PITSCO)
  - Grades 3-8
  - Magnetic, snap-together pieces
  - Scratch based programming
  - \$199 and up
- Tetrix Prime (PITSCO)
  - Grades 6-12
  - EV3 or proprietary controller
  - Curriculum Available
  - Flexible modularity
  - \$499 retail





#### • TETRIX MAX (PITSCO)

- Grades 9-12
- Engineering required
- \$595 retail for basic set
- EV3 or proprietary brain



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- VEX (Classroom and/or Competition)
  - VEX 123
    - Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
    - \$100 retail
    - Physical coding or GUI on portable devices
  - VEX GO
    - 3-6 grade
    - \$149 retail
    - Block based coding
  - VEX IQ
    - 6 grade and up
    - \$347 retail for kit



- FIRST (Classroom and/or Competition)
  - FLL (First Lego League)
    - Based on LEGO robots
    - Also include science and teamwork challenges
    - PK-8
  - FTC (First Tech Challenge)
    - Robots require construction
    - 7-12
  - FRC (First Robotics Competition)
    - Robots require engineering
    - 9-12
    - International competition





Please take a moment and complete an Evaluation:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfO1uVIiwGLWVW7Uj8 805ESB8eIJbOI8BDk227wAM8fID6Sdw/viewform?usp=sf\_link

https://forms.gle/V1CA9vo8Uwfma7Fh7

# Let's DO THIS!



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