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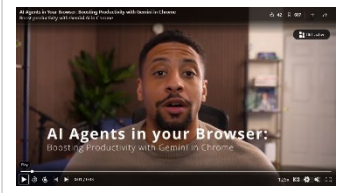

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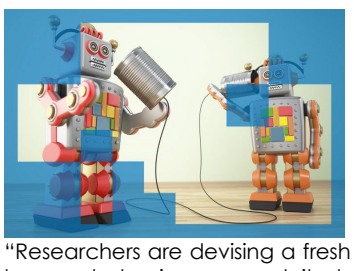
AI AGENTS

The First 'AI Societies' Are Taking Shape: How Human-Like Are They?



"Researchers are devising a fresh way to study human behaviour — and it doesn't involve humans at all.

By training artificial-intelligence agents to mimic the behaviours of people, AI research groups are attempting to replicate the way in which human groups interact, all within simulated AI 'societies'.

Simile, an AI start-up company based in Palo Alto, California, announced in February that it has raised US$100 million in funding to create simulations using AI agents that model human behaviour "in any situation", the company posted on X. It aims to use these simulations to model conflict resolution, policy decision-making and consumer markets."

Source: Nature (5 Mar 2026)

ARCHITECTURE

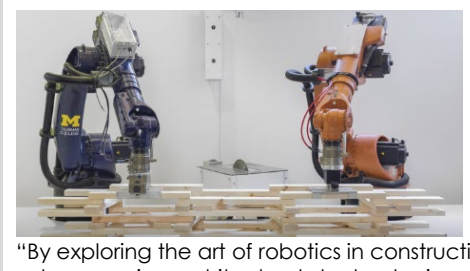
Archiving the Technosphere: How Museum Architecture Mediates Human-Made Systems

"Far from the perception of the exhibition space as a sterile and untouchable, almost sacred place, the contemporary technology museum has emerged as a performative participant in the systems it seeks to document. The architecture of these institutions has become increasingly fluid and bold, often mirroring the velocity and complexity of the systems it houses. They operate as mediators between the human, the ecological, and the technological realms, transforming from encyclopedic warehouses into active educational engines. By spatializing complex scientific data through immersive rooms, these structures make the technological networks of our world accessible, engaging, and tangible."

Source: Archdaily (6 Mar 2026)

ARCHITECTURE

Facing the Age of Robots? Material Innovation in Architectural Structures



"By exploring the art of robotics in construction, advances in architectural technologies are increasingly shaping multiple aspects of human life. From robotic arms and drones to robots that move across large surfaces and even 3D printing robots, their use in construction is accelerating research and the development of new working methods, as well as structural and material experimentation. In collaboration with multiple disciplines and spanning various facets of architecture, the role of robots in the contemporary landscape demonstrates a potential that extends beyond merely automating processes or reducing construction times and costs. This raises the question: Are we building architecture to serve technology, or technology to serve architecture?"

Source: Archdaily (10 Mar 2026)

HEALTHCARE

Scientists Finally Reveal Why Mint Feels Cold

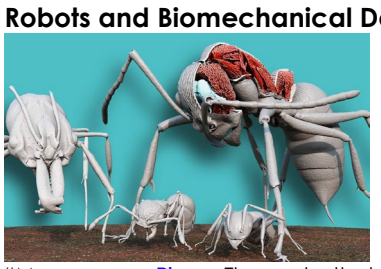
"Stepping outside on a chilly winter morning or placing a mint in your mouth quickly creates a cooling sensation. That feeling begins with a microscopic sensor inside the body that signals the brain when something is cold. Scientists have now produced the first detailed images showing how this sensor works, revealing how it responds both to real drops in temperature and to menthol, the cooling compound found in mint plants. The findings were presented at the 70th Biophysical Society Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

The research centered on a protein channel known as TRPM8. "Imagine TRPM8 as a microscopic thermometer inside your body," said Hyuk-Joon Lee, a postdoctoral fellow in Seok-Yong Lee's laboratory at Duke University. "It's the primary sensor that tells your brain when it's cold. We've known for a long time that this happens, but we didn't know how. Now we can see it."

Source: Biophysical Society (8 Mar 2026)

IMAGING

Entomologists Use a Particle Accelerator to Image Ants at Scale: The Detailed Scans Could Inspire Robots and Biomechanical Designs



"Move over, Pixar. The ants that animators once morphed into googly-eyed caricatures in films such as *A Bug's Life* and *Antz* just received a meticulously precise anatomical reboot.

Writing today in *Nature Methods*, an international team of entomologists, accelerator physicists, computer scientists, and biological imaging specialists describe a new 3D atlas of ant morphology.

Dubbed Antscan, the platform features micrometer-resolution reconstructions that lay bare not only the insects' armored exoskeletons but also their muscles, nerves, digestive tracts, and needle-like stingers poised at the ready.

Those high-resolution images—spanning 792 species across 212 genera and covering the bulk of described ant diversity—are now freely available through an interactive online portal, where anyone can rotate, zoom, and virtually "dissect" the insects from a laptop.

"Antscan is exciting!" says Cameron Currie, an evolutionary biologist at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, who was not involved in the research. "It provides an outstanding resource for comparative work across ants.""

Source: IEEE Spectrum (5 Mar 2026)

NANO PIXEL

World's Smallest OLED Pixel Could Transform Smart Glasses

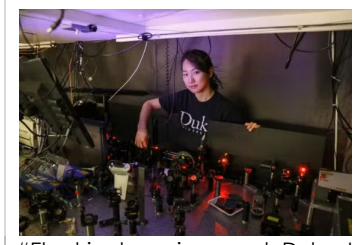
"Smart glasses are widely seen as a breakthrough technology because they can project digital information directly into a person's line of sight. Yet real world adoption has lagged, largely because the hardware required to power these displays has been bulky and impractical. A major obstacle comes from classical optics, which suggests that shrinking efficient light emitting pixels down to the scale of the light's own wavelength should not work.

Physicists at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU) have now overcome that barrier. Using specially designed optical antennas, the team has built what they describe as the smallest pixel ever created. The research group, led by Professors Jens Pflaum and Bert Hecht, reported the advance in the journal Science Advances."

Source: University of Würzburg (4 Mar 2026)

OPTOELECTRONICS

Trapping Light on Thermal Photodetectors Shatters Speed Records



"Electrical engineers at Duke University have demonstrated the fastest pyroelectric photodetector to date that works by absorbing heat generated by incoming light.

Capable of capturing light from the entire electromagnetic spectrum, the ultrathin device requires no external power, operates at room temperature and can be readily integrated into on-chip applications. The advance could form the basis of a new class of multispectral cameras capable of impacting a wide range of fields such as skin cancer detection, food safety inspection and large-scale agriculture.

As the foundation of traditional digital cameras, semiconductor photodetectors work by sparking an electric current when struck by visible light that is interpreted by a computer into a cohesive image. But semiconductors, like human eyes, can only view a narrow range of frequencies on the electromagnetic spectrum.

A common approach to capturing more exotic frequencies of light uses pyroelectric detectors, which generate electric signals when heated up after absorbing light. But these types of devices have long lagged behind the effectiveness of traditional digital cameras in a myriad of ways, as producing enough heat in difficult-to-capture frequencies has made them bulky and slow.

"Commercial pyroelectric detectors aren't very responsive, so they need a very bright light or very thick absorbers to work, which naturally makes them slow because heat doesn't move that fast," said Maiken Mikkelsen, professor of electrical and computer engineering at Duke. "Our approach cleverly integrates near-perfect absorbers and super-thin pyroelectrics to achieve a response time of 125 picoseconds, which is a huge improvement for the field."."

Source: DUKE (4 Mar 2026)

RESEARCH

Scientists Warn Fake Research Is Spreading Faster Than Real Science

"A new study from Northwestern University warns that coordinated scientific fraud is becoming increasingly common. From fabricated data to purchased authorships and paid citations, researchers say organized groups are manipulating the academic publishing system.

To investigate the issue, scientists combined large scale analysis of scientific publications with detailed case studies. While misconduct is often portrayed as the work of individual researchers cutting corners, the Northwestern team discovered something far more complex. Their findings reveal global networks of people and organizations working together to systematically exploit weaknesses in the publishing process."

Source: Northwestern University (7 Mar 2026)

ROBOTICS

Scientists Build A “Periodic Table” For AI

“Artificial intelligence is now routinely used to combine and interpret different kinds of information, including text, images, audio, and video. Yet one major obstacle remains. Developers must decide which algorithm is best suited for a specific task, and that choice is often complicated and time consuming in the fast growing field of multimodal AI.

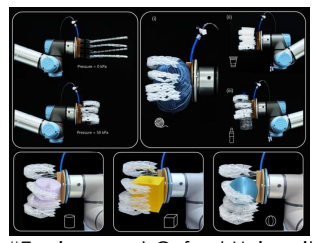
Physicists at Emory University have proposed a clearer, more systematic approach. Writing in The Journal of Machine Learning Research, they describe a new mathematical framework that organizes AI methods and guides the design of algorithms for specific problems.

"We found that many of today's most successful AI methods boil down to a single, simple idea -- compress multiple kinds of data just enough to keep the pieces that truly predict what you need," says Ilya Nemenman, Emory professor of physics and senior author of the study. "This gives us a kind of 'periodic table' of AI methods. Different methods fall into different cells, based on which information a method's loss function retains or discards."."

Source: Emory University (4 Mar 2026)

ROBOTICS

New Ultra-Low-Cost Technique Could Slash the Price of Soft Robotics



“Engineers at Oxford University have developed a rapid, ultra-low-cost method for manufacturing soft robots using common lab equipment. The method has been published today (8 March) in *Advanced Science*.

The new technique enables researchers to fabricate soft robotic actuators - the flexible components that power movement - in under 10 minutes at a material cost of less than $0.10 (US Dollars) per unit.

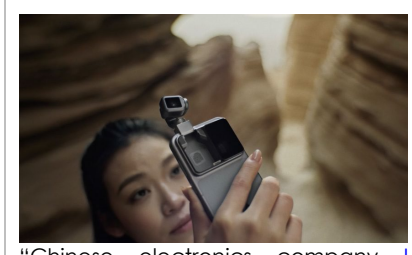
Principle Investigator and corresponding author Professor Antonio Forte (Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford) said: “By lowering the financial and technical barriers to fabrication, this advance could significantly democratise and accelerate soft robotics research and prototyping across laboratories, start-ups, and educational settings."

Soft robots, made from compliant materials that bend and deform, are increasingly used in applications ranging from delicate object handling to search-and-rescue technologies. However, traditional manufacturing methods often rely on silicone moulding, specialist 3D printing systems, or complex textile lamination processes - all of which can be time-consuming, costly, and equipment-intensive.”

Source: Eurekalert! (8 Mar 2026)

SMARTPHONES

Honor's Robot Phone Is a Smartphone with an Articulating Arm



“Chinese electronics company Honor has previewed a smartphone with an articulating robot arm at this week's Mobile World Congress.

Described by Honor as "a new species of smartphone", the Robot Phone was reimagined to take advantage of new AI capabilities. The company likened it to "packing a robot into a smartphone".

Shown as a concept at previous events but now said to be launching in late 2026, the phone features a small robotic arm topped with a gimbal-based 200-megapixel camera.

The motorised gimbal system enables the phone to record more professional-looking video that pans, tilts and stays level despite movement.

Honor's vision for the functionality of the robot arm does not stop at content creation, however, as the company suggests that it will also form the basis for a more "human", expressive style of interaction with the phone."

Source: Dezeen (4 Mar 2026)

SOFTWARE DESIGNERS

"Software Designers Must Abandon Their Roles as the Custodians of Libraries, Logic and Grids"

“**There's been plenty of talk about the neutral, pared back and increasingly homogenous design of today's electronic devices.** Less frequently discussed, but arguably more significant, is how this trend has affected the software that lies within.

For decades, the creators of software have followed a dogma of experiential seamlessness, productive efficiency and the reduction of cognitive load. This has resulted in an industry where templates are king, conventions define decisions, and every errant bump is smoothed away in service of global standardisation.

Every interaction feels optimised, streamlined and joyless

Good design has now become synonymous with invisible design, but by removing every point of difference, we have removed any notion of character. By removing every seam, we have also made this world slippery, leaving us with very little to intellectually or emotionally grab onto.

As a result, the apps I use to hire plumbers look and feel remarkably similar to those I use to watch skiers do backflips. Every brand feels the same, every function feels the same, every interaction feels optimised, streamlined and joyless. By any measure, these pieces of software are miracles of engineering and triumphs of logic, yet they feel profoundly underwhelming to live with."

Source: Dezeen (3 Mar 2026)