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## Robot pizza chef takes on Naples's finest

Oliver Moody, Science Correspondent

June 17 2017, 12:01am, The Times



RoDyMan's movements are based on information from a motion capture suit. It even supports Napoli FC PRISMA LAB

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The long-suffering pizzaioli of Naples have seen many perversions of their art over the years: the deep pan, the stuffed crust, even the Hawaiian.

Now comes RoDyMan, a robot that is learning to flip, spin and knead a lump of dough. It is a skill that takes humans decades to master and RoDyMan — short for robotic dynamic manipulation — is being programmed with information gleaned from video of a master pizza chef in a motion-capture suit. By the time the Naples pizza festival comes round next year, it should have the knack.

RoDyMan is not intended to replace the human touch though. It is in equal parts a mascot for Italian robotics, which is suffering a brain drain, and proof that machines can deal with objects that change shape from split second to split second.

Yet still not everyone is happy: Bruno Siciliano, professor of electronic engineering at University of Naples Federico II and RoDyMan's conceptual father, said local opinion was divided. "The innovative chefs can see what we're trying to do here. The other guys are concerned that some of the pizzaioli could lose their jobs."



fredsausage 2 hours ago

I watched recently as the chef took out of the pizza oven the cooked disc, plated and placed it