



UNIVERSITY
OF TRENTO - Italy
Department of Physics

Prof. Antonio De Simone

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, and SISSA, Trieste

Wednesday 15th December - at 14:00
Polo Ferrari 1 – Room n. A205

MORPHING AND SHAPE CONTROL: FROM MECHANO-BIOLOGY AND BIO-PHYSICS TO MICRO-ROBOTICS

Abstract:

Locomotion strategies employed by unicellular organism are a rich source of inspiration for studying mechanisms for shape control. These strategies are particularly interesting because the organisms and the mechanisms they exploit are invisible to the naked eye, and offer surprising new solutions to the question of how shape can be controlled.

In recent years, we have studied locomotion and shape control in unicellular organisms using a broad range of tools ranging from bio-physics, to theoretical and computational mechanics, to experiment and observations at the microscope, to manufacturing of prototypes. The physical models used to demonstrate the mechanisms exploited by biological organism naturally suggest new solutions for adaptable and deployable structures, morphing devices, robotic applications, smart shape-shifting materials and structures. We discuss here the most recent findings within this stream of research.

Contacts:

Department of Physics
Via Sommarive, 14
38123 Povo, Trento
df.supportstaff@unitn.it

Scientific Coordinator:

Albino Perego