

Walking robot breaks distance record

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Cornell University's 'Ranger' goes 14.3 miles in 11 hours

By
Stuart Fox



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While it looks more like a toaster with legs than Usain Bolt, Cornell University's Ranger robot has set some track records all the same, including a world record for untethered robotic walking, traveling 14.3 miles in only 11 hours.

Guided by [students](#) with a remote control, Ranger navigated 108.5 times around the Barton Hall indoor track, about 212 meters per lap, and made about [70,000 steps before it had to stop and recharge](#). The 14.3-mile record beats the former world record set by Boston [Dynamics'](#) BigDog, which had claimed the record at 12.8 miles.



Cornell's Ranger robot navigated 108.5 times around the Barton Hall indoor track, recharge.

Previously, Cornell students set a record for a robot walking untethered in April 2008, when Ranger strode about 5.6 miles around the Barton Hall track. [Boston Dynamics' BigDog](#) subsequently beat that record.

One goal for robotic research is to show off the machine's [energy efficiency](#). Unlike other walking robots that use motors to control every movement, the Ranger appears more relaxed and in a way emulates human walking, using gravity and momentum to help swing its legs forward.

The information could be applied to rehabilitation, prostheses for humans and [improving athletic performance](#).

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