Glossary



Term	Description
Connector terminal	The screw points where wires can be connected to the circuit board. The robot has 16 screw terminals: four sets of three for the front and rear bump sensors, and two sets of two for the motor connections.
Circuit board	Technology which creates electricity: the wires are made of copper and run on both sides of the board, and the electronic components are soldered onto the board to make electrical connections.
Switch controller	Robot control unit with two switches; each switch has three positions.
Differential or Differential speed	The robot has two motors. Although made with identical materials they are never exactly the same, so when the same speed is set on the two motors the robot does not keep a straight path – it moves on a curve because one motor will be slightly faster than the other. The differential adjustment allows the user of the robot to input a small adjustment to make up for this.

Term	Description
Mode	Robots work in many different ways, called modes.
POT	Short for potentiometer. There are three blue POTs on the board, which can be turned to adjust.
	POT-3 POT-2 POT-1
	Minimum position Minimum position
	The computer is able to read the position and convert it into a number from 0 to 255. In modes where adjustments are possible, pressing SWITCH-B allows the robot to read all three POTs.
Solder	A metal that melts at a low temperature and is used to connect components to wires and circuit boards.
Algorithm	A recipe to solve a problem, usually based on a sequence of steps.
Flowchart	Method of describing an algorithm using a set of graphical symbols. The two main symbols are:
	Action The rectangular box
	describes a step
	YES YES
	The diamond box describes a test
	NO Test that has two outcomes -
	1. YES the test is TRUE 2. NO the test is FALSE
	2. INO THE TEST IS I ALGE

Term	Description
Infrared	Our eyes see only part of the full spectrum of radiation, from visible violet to visible red. Just above visible red is radiation called infrared radiation, usually termed 'IR radiation'. Some animals can see infrared (e.g. snakes) and special cameras have been developed that can see it, often used by nature programmes on TV to watch animals at night, as animals emit IR radiation in the form of heat. The following picture shows that the infrared light is just beside the RED end of the visible light spectrum:
	Ado Ado Solvest Spectrum Ado Solvest Spec
	Wavelength (pm) 10-6 10-5 10-4 10-3 10-2 10 1 10 10 2 10 3 10 4 10 5 10 6 10 7 10 8 Thermal Infrared Near & Mid Infrared Infrared
	The most common use of IR is in remote controls.
Sensor	Electronic component that converts a physical quantity (e.g. light, heat, position) into an electrical signal that can be read by a computer.
Strip sequence	Set of commands that are input from two strips of black and white lines on a card. A strip looks like this: