Ankur Desai
Weekly Mentorship Log
Week 1: July 31 – August 4

Goals for the week:

- Meet with mentor, become familiar with mentorship site (NRL)

- Learn about the work being done at the Artificial Intelligence Center

- Understand what I will be doing – figure out a project

- Begin background research into pertinent subject matter

The Project:

      I will be working with the Sony AIBO dog robots. These robots were designed as toys, but because of their open-ended design, they provide an excellent platform for many types of research. The first step in my project is to figure out a way to wirelessly control the AIBOs using Pyro (Python Robotics), a flexible and powerful robot simulator based on the Python programming language. This is a non-trivial task, and will probably be my main focus for the next week or so. For a description of the complete project, please refer to the project proposal.

Complications:

      At the moment, progress on connecting to the AIBOs has bee held up by issues concerning the wireless network. Because of security concerns, all wireless networks at NRL have been shut down. In order to set up a wireless network, we must first go through a lengthy application process that could take between one and two weeks. Since I cannot begin the project until this happens, I plan to spend the next few days researching later portions of the project.