

The Future Is Here: A Robot Assembled an IKEA Chair (Without Losing It)

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IKEA has a way of inciting meltdowns—whether you're shopping with your significant other at one of the brand's warehouses or assembling a [Billy bookcase](#), it's safe to assume there will be tears and/or cursing involved. Interested in exploring the true "limits of robotic manipulation," engineers at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore put two robots up to a task that routinely stumps humans: assembling a [Stefan IKEA chair](#). As [Wired](#) reports, the scientists used two industrial robot arms with force sensors and a 3-D camera to complete the project in just 20 minutes. "What the robot does is to first figure out where exactly is the original position of the frame," said engineer Quang-Cuong Pham in the [resulting report](#), "and then calculates the motion of the two arms automatically to go and grasp it and transport it."