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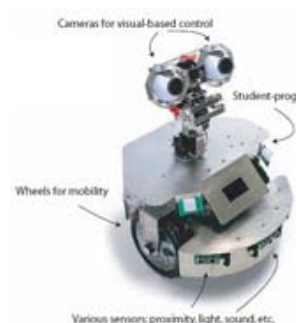
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When you're feeling stressed, do you need everything clean *now*? Do you also find everything and everyone getting in your way? Then the [emotion-sensing Roomba vacuum cleaner](#) is for you—it can sense if you're feeling stressed or relaxed, and act accordingly.

If your stress level reads high, the robot will start cleaning but keep its distance, while if your stress is low, Roomba will come closer to you, as a pet does its owner.

A special headband captures bioelectric signals from your forehead, and control software then translates your muscle tension readings into how much stress you're feeling. The more tense your muscles, the higher your stress level is interpreted to be.

If your reading falls in between either extreme, the robot will continue in its current mode until the stress level reaches a threshold that tells it to change behavior.

What differentiates the vacuum from other robots is that it's controlled by human emotion, and doesn't rely on express verbal commands—like the perfect (nonexistent) boyfriend or girlfriend, it can read your mind and do what you want, not what you say.

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DiscoBlog is Discover's compendium of quirky, funny, and surprising science news from the edge of the known universe. The blog is written by:

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