CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling one or more animated figures, the method comprising:

receiving first identification information associated with a first animated figure of the one or more animated figures;

generating a first control signal to control the first animated figure based on the first identification information, wherein the first control signal is associated with a first motion pattern;

receiving second identification information associated with a second animated figure of the one or more animated figures;

generating a second control signal to control both the first animated figure and the second animated figure based on the first identification information and the second identification information, wherein the second control signal is associated with a second motion pattern;

receiving, at a control surface, the first control signal and the second control signal;

generating, using control nodes of the control surface, a first magnetic field based at least in part on the received first control signal; and generating, using the control nodes of the control surface, a second magnetic field based at least in part on the received second control signal, wherein the first magnetic field and the second magnetic field are configured to cause at least one of the one or more animated figures on the control surface to actuate from a first configuration to a second configuration.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein an interaction between at least one magnet of the at least one of the one or more animated figures and the first magnetic field, the second magnetic field, or both the first magnetic field and the second magnetic field comprises a repulsion of the at least one magnet.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the interaction comprises an attraction of the at least one magnet of the at least one of the one or more animated figures.

4. The method of claim 1, comprising determining, using a controller, the first control signal or the second control signal based at least in part on an input received at the controller.

5. The method of claim 1, comprising determining, using a controller, the first control signal or the second control signal based at least in part on an animation library, wherein the animation library comprises information associated with a plurality of configurations, wherein the plurality of configurations comprises the first configuration and the second configuration.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein actuating the at least one of the one or more animated figures from the first configuration to the second configuration further comprises inflating or deflating an air bladder.

7. The method of claim 1, comprising receiving the first control signal or the second control signal in response to an input from a user device.

8. The method of claim 1, comprising detecting a position of one of the one or more animated figures using one or more sensors and generating the first control signal or the second control signal further based on the detected position.

9. The method of claim 1, comprising detecting an identifier of the first animated figure and generating the first control signal based on the first identification information received from the detected identifier.

10. An animated figure control system, comprising: an animated figure comprising one or more magnets disposed in or on the animated figure;

a control surface comprising a plurality of individually addressable control nodes wherein each control node of the plurality of individually addressable control nodes is configured to generate a magnetic field in response to a control signal; and

an animation controller configured to: record signals from one or more control nodes of the plurality of individually addressable control nodes associated with a motion pattern of the animated figure;

receive instructions to activate the motion pattern; and generate the control signal, wherein the control signal is configured to cause a first subset of the plurality of individually addressable control nodes to generate a first magnetic field and to cause a second subset of the plurality of individually addressable control nodes to generate a second magnetic field, such that the first magnetic field and the second magnetic field interact with the one or more magnets of the animated figure to cause the animated figure to move according to the motion pattern.

11. The animated figure control system of claim 10, wherein the one or more magnets are in direct contact with the control surface.

12. The animated figure control system of claim 10, wherein the one or more magnets are positioned within the animated figure and are separated from the control surface by a material forming an exterior of the animated figure.

13. The animated figure control system of claim 10, wherein the animation controller is configured to generate the control signal to cause the animated figure to assume a first position based on an effect of the first magnetic field and the second magnetic field on the one or more magnets.

14. The animated figure control system of claim 10, wherein the animation controller is configured to generate a subsequent control signal to cause a third subset of the plurality of individually addressable control nodes to generate a third magnetic field.

15. The animated figure control system of claim 10, wherein the control surface is configured to generate the first magnetic field and the second magnetic field simultaneously.

16. A method of controlling an animated figure, the method comprising: detecting a position of the animated figure on a control surface, the animated figure comprising one or more magnets disposed in or on the animated figure;

controlling a first subset of electromagnetic control nodes of a plurality of electromagnetic control nodes of the control surface to generate a first magnetic field based at least in part on the position;

detecting an updated position of the animated figure after controlling the first subset of electromagnetic control nodes;

determining that the updated position is not part of a motion pattern of the animated figure and controlling one or more electromagnetic control nodes of the plurality of electromagnetic control nodes until the animated figure achieves a predetermined position in the motion pattern; and

resuming the motion pattern after the animated figure achieves the predetermined position by controlling a second subset of electromagnetic control nodes of the plurality of electromagnetic control nodes of the control surface.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein controlling the first subset of electromagnetic control nodes of the plurality of electromagnetic control nodes comprises increasing a strength of the magnetic field generated by the first subset of electromagnetic control nodes.

18. The method of claim 16, comprising detecting an identifier of the animated figure and controlling the first subset of electromagnetic control nodes based on the detected identifier, wherein the motion pattern is based on the detected identifier.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the first subset of electromagnetic control nodes overlaps with but is not identical to the second subset of electromagnetic control nodes.