# Lecture Notes in Control and Information Sciences

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## **Experimental Robotics VII**



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#### **Preface**

Experimental Robotics is at the core of validating robotics research for both its systems science and theoretical foundations. Because robotics experiments are carried out on physical, sometimes complex, machines whose controllers are subject to uncertainty, devising meaningful experiments and collecting statistically significant results pose important and unique challenges in robotics. Robotics experiments serve as a unifying theme for robotics system science and algorithmic foundations. These observations have led to the creation of the International Symposia on Experimental Robotics in 1989. The meetings are bi-annual and focus on research where theories and principles have been validated by experiments.

The Seventh International Symposium on Experimental Robotics (ISER 2000) brought together a group of about 80 researchers to discuss recent results and relevant trends in experimental robotics. Held in Waikiki, Hawaii on December 11–13, the symposium was chaired by Prof. Daniela Rus (Dartmouth College) and Prof. Sanjiv Singh (Carnegie Mellon University). Prof. Song Choi from the University of Hawaii chaired the local arrangements committee. The meeting consisted of three invited talks, one invited panel, and fifty-seven contributed presentations in a single track. Each paper was refereed by the program chairs plus at least two members of the program committee. The program committee consisted of:Vincent Hayward (Canada), Oussama Khatib (USA), Herman Bruyninckx (Belgium), Alicia Casals (Spain), Raja Chatila (France), Peter Corke (Australia), Eve Coste-Maniere (France), John Craig (USA), Paolo Dario (Italy), Gerd Hirzinger (Germany), Jean-Pierre Merlet (France), Yoshihiko Nakamura (Japan), Daniela Rus (USA), Kenneth Salisbury (USA), Sanjiv Singh (USA), Tsuneo Yoshikawa (Japan), and Alex Zelinsky (Australia).

Topics reported at ISER 2000 included humanoids and human-robot interactions, perception systems, assembly and manipulation, medical and field applications, locomotion, multi-robot systems, modeling and motion planning, control, and navigation and localization. Several research projects presented at ISER 2000 are clearly breakthroughs in the field and will likely have a big impact in the future. Representatives include the three talks given by our invited speakers. Russell Taylor (Johns Hopkins University) presented an impressive medical robot system and argued a great case for how the impact of Computer-Integrated Surgery on medicine in the next 20 years will be as great as that of Computer-Integrated Manufacturing on industrial production over the past 20 years. Hirochika Inoue (University of Tokyo) described an amazing suite of humanoid robots and their tasks and presented a research agenda for a human-centered robotized society. Ralf Koeppe (DLR, Germany) described their progress with lightweight robotic manipulators and advocated an exciting range of applications to personal and service robotics.

We are very grateful to Dartmouth College and to Carnegie Mellon University for their generous financial support of ISER 2000. We would like to thank all the participants and their contributions, which made our meeting exciting and inspiring. We also thank David Bellows, Alan Guisewite, Monica Hopes, Catherine LaTouche, Dot Marsh and Alison Sartonov for their help with coordinating the meeting and producing the proceedings.

## **Contents**

1. Humanoids and Human-Robot Interaction
Haptically Augmented Teleoperation
Bilateral Teleoperation: Towards Fine Manipulation with Large Time Delay 11 Y. Yokokohji, T. Imaida, Y. Iida, T. Doi, M. Oda, and T. Yoshikawa
Virtual Exoskeleton for Telemanipulation
Design of Programmable Passive Compliance for Humanoid Shoulder
Design, Implementation, and Remote Operation of the Humanoid H6
Cooperative Human and Machine Perception in Teleoperated Assembly
Regulation and Entrainment in Human-Robot Interaction
2. Perception
Advancing Active Vision Systems by Improved Design and Control
S-NETS: Smart Sensor Networks
Six Degree of Freedom Sensing for Docking Using IR LED Emitters and Receivers
Height Estimation for an Autonomous Helicopter
Ladar-Based Discrimination of Grass from Obstacles for Autonomous Navigation
Reality-Based Modeling with ACME: A Progress Report

3. Assembly and Manipulation	
Grasp Strategy Simplified by Detaching Assist Motion (DAM)	131
Force-Based Interaction for Distributed Precision Assembly	141
Design and Implementation of a New Discretely-Actuated Manipulator  J. Suthakorn and G.S. Chirikjian	151
Design and Experiments on a Novel Biomechatronic Hand	159
Autonomous Injection of Biological Cells Using Visual Servoing	169
4. Medical, Space, and Field Applications	
An Active Tubular Polyarticulated Micro-System for Flexible Endoscope  J. Szewczyk, V. de Sars, Ph. Bidaud, and G. Dumont	179
Towards Semi-autonomy in Laparoscopic Surgery through Vision and Force Feedback Control	189
A. Krupa, C. Doignon, J. Gangloff, M. de Mathelin, L. Soler, and G. More	
Optimized Port Placement for the Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting Using the da Vinci Robotic System  È. Coste-Manière, L. Adhami, R. Severac-Bastide, A. Lobontiu, J.K. Salisbury Jr., JD. Boissonnat, N. Swarup, G. Guthart, É. Mousseaux, and A. Carpentier	199
ETS-VII Flight Experiments for Space Robot Dynamics and Control; Theories on Laboratory Test Beds Ten Years Ago, Now in Orbit	209
Experimental Demonstrations for a New Design Paradigm in Space Robotics <i>M.D. Lichter, V.A. Sujan, and S. Dubowsky</i>	219
A First-Stage Experiment of Long Term Activity of Autonomous Mobile Robot—Result of Repetitive Base-Docking Over a Week	229
5. Locomotion	
Comparing the Locomotion Dynamics of the Cockroach and a Shape Deposition Manufactured Biomimetic Hexapod	239

Super Mechano-System: New Perspective for Versatile Robotic System	:49
Using Modular Self-Reconfiguring Robots for Locomotion	:59
Open-Loop Verification of Motion Planning for an Underwater Eel-Like Robot	271
K.A. McIsaac and J.P. Ostrowski	
Quadruped Robot Running With a Bounding Gait	81
Evidence for Spring Loaded Inverted Pendulum Running in a Hexapod Robot 2  R. Altendorfer, U. Saranli, H. Komsuoğlu, D. Koditschek H.B. Brown Jr.  M. Buehler, N. Moore, D. McMordie, and R. Full	.91
6. Multi-robot Systems	
A Framework and Architecture for Multirobot Coordination	03
Motion Control of Distributed Robot Helpers Transporting a Single Object in Cooperation with a Human	13
First Results in the Coordination of Heterogeneous Robots for Large-Scale Assembly	23
Towards A Team of Robots with Repair Capabilities: A Visual Docking System	33
Merging Gaussian Distributions for Object Localization in Multi-robot Systems	43
Principled Communication for Dynamic Multi-robot Task Allocation	53
Progress in RoboCup Soccer Research in 2000	63

## 7. Modeling and Motion Planning

with Eye-in-Hand Systems	373
Motion Planning for a Self-Reconfigurable Modular Robot	385
Experimental Comparison of Techniques for Localization and Mapping Using a Bearing-Only Sensor	395
Robot Navigation for Automatic Model Construction Using Safe Regions	. 405
Simulation and Experimental Evaluation of Complete Sensor-Based Coverage in Rectilinear Environments	. 417
An Interactive Model of the Human Liver	427
8. Control	
The Diameter Fidelity of Class Circulation on the Course Tree depart	
The Biomechanical Fidelity of Slope Simulation on the Sarcos Treadport Using Whole-Body Force Feedback  R. Mills, J.M. Hollerbach, and W.B. Thompson	437
Using Whole-Body Force Feedback	
Using Whole-Body Force Feedback	447
Using Whole-Body Force Feedback  R. Mills, J.M. Hollerbach, and W.B. Thompson  A New Approach to the Control of a Hydraulic Stewart Platform  M.R. Sirouspour and S.E. Salcudean  Design of Life-Size Haptic Environments	447 461
Using Whole-Body Force Feedback  R. Mills, J.M. Hollerbach, and W.B. Thompson  A New Approach to the Control of a Hydraulic Stewart Platform  M.R. Sirouspour and S.E. Salcudean  Design of Life-Size Haptic Environments  Y. Matsuoka and B. Townsend  Micro Nafion Actuators for Cellular Motion Control and Underwater Manipulation	447 461 471
Using Whole-Body Force Feedback  R. Mills, J.M. Hollerbach, and W.B. Thompson  A New Approach to the Control of a Hydraulic Stewart Platform  M.R. Sirouspour and S.E. Salcudean  Design of Life-Size Haptic Environments  Y. Matsuoka and B. Townsend  Micro Nafion Actuators for Cellular Motion Control and Underwater Manipulation  M.Y.F. Kwok, W. Zhou, W.J.Li, and Y. Xu  Control of an Under Actuated Unstable Nonlinear Object	447 461 471 481

Autonomous Rover Navigation on Unknown Terrains Functions and Integration	501
S. Lacroix, A. Mallet, D. Bonnafous, G. Bauzil, S. Fleury, M. Herrb, and R. Chatila	
Map Building and Localization for Underwater Navigation	511
Visually Realistic Mapping of a Planar Environment with Stereo	523
Incorporation of Delayed Decision Making into Stochastic Mapping	533
Tele-Autonomous Watercraft Navigation	543

A new Generationacle of Light-Weight Robot Arms and Multifingered Hands ... 569 G. Hirzinger, J. Butterfaβ, M. Fischer, M. Grebenstein, M. Hühnle

9. Navigation and Localization

R. Jarvis

S.K. Choi and O.T. Easterday

Real Time Obstacle Detection for AGV Navigation

H. Liu, I. Schaefer, N. Sporer, M. Schedl, R. Koeppe