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Welcome Note from the Conference Chairman

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants in this year's International Conference on Robotics and Automation, ICRA99. This conference carries the distinction of being held in Detroit, the heart of the automotive industry in America. It ascertains the strong bond between R&D in academia and research laboratories, and the practice of robotics in industry.

More than any time in the history of this technology, this is an era for effective exchange of information and ideas between the two entities. ICRA99 provides a unique chance for industry engineers to meet with and exploit the minds of some of the most prominent researchers in the world. Reciprocally, this is an unequaled opportunity for researchers to pick the brains of industry practitioners seeking ideas for problems to solve through research, and avenues for industry support.

Only at ICRA conferences is there such a gathering of prominent robotics researchers in one place. This is particularly obvious this year; look up the names, affiliations, and topics of the presentations and you will recognize the wealth of information that will be presented at the conference. The panel sessions explore the frontiers of robotics research while the Banquet speaker Dr. Gustaf Olling of DaimlerChrysler symbolizes the renaissance of the American automotive industry through robotic and information technologies.

Detroit is experiencing a spectacular revival. After decades of relative dormancy, Greater Detroit is now bustling with activity, social, cultural, professional and economic. You are invited to participate in the many cultural and industrial tours available through the conference to see the new Detroit. Across the Detroit River, in Windsor, there is another country and a different culture.

This is a conference organized and managed by volunteers who deserve special thanks. Much hard work and sleepless nights have gone into making this conference a reality. Please let them know that we all appreciate their efforts.

Welcome and please enjoy this great conference.

Hadi Akeel
General Chairman

Foreword

The 1999 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA99) has two unique features. First, the conference is held in the final year of the 20th century which has witnessed the dramatic growth of information technology in recent years. The conference therefore emphasizes the robotics and automation technologies for the next century with integration of information. This leads to the theme of the conference as **Mega-Information Integration for Robotics and Automation in the 21st Century**. Secondly, the conference is held in Detroit, Michigan, the international center for automobile manufacturing which has a constant need of new robotics and automation technologies and enables the conference to attract many industry practitioners, while traditionally most ICRA participants are academicians. In addition, ICRA99 overlaps the annual Robotics Industries Association (RIA) Robot Show and Conference which is held in Cobo Hall, a walking distance from the conference hotel. This overlap further symbolizes the cooperation between academia and industry.

Eight-hundred thirty-five papers covering a wide scope of robotics and automation were submitted to the conference. The Program Committee had a very difficult time to select 521 papers for inclusion in the conference proceedings. While selecting the papers, the Program Committee focused on quality, and broad coverage of the areas as stressed by the conference theme. We regret that many good papers were not selected by the Program Committee because of the limited space. The conference program also includes 5 tutorials and 9 workshops, 3 video sessions, 2 plenary sessions, and a banquet speech. These supplementary programs further enhance the theme of the conference.

I am grateful for the assistance of Peggy Gerds of the Department of Electrical Engineering at The Ohio State University in handling the submitted papers and responses with the authors, and in sending thousands of email messages and letters. I also like to extend my sincere thanks to the General Chair Hadi Akeel, and other members of the Organizing Committee: Michael Bridges, Nikolaos Papanikolopoulos, T.J. Tarn, Rajiv Dubey, Daniel Koditschek, Elsayed Orady, Gary Rutledge, Guy Potok, Jianming Tao, Jason Tsai, Bruno Siciliano and Shin'ichi Yuta as well as the Program Committee members, Local Arrangements Committee members, and Video Proceedings Committee members. Special thanks should go to C.S. George Lee for assisting the publication of the Advance and Final Programs.

Finally we should thank all the authors and participants of the conference. Without them, there will not be a successful ICRA99.

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1999 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation
Technical Sessions Schedule

May 12, 1999													
OPENING CEREMONY													
PLENARY SESSION: Intelligent Transportation													
8:15-8:30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
WAI 8:30-10:10	Mobile Robot Maneuvering	Navigation in Unknown Environment	Biped Robot I	Underwater Vehicles	Robot Planni. & Program. for Assembly	Discrete Even. Control of Manu. Syst.	Motion Planning I	Robot Control I	Actuator	Teleop. I Force & Pos Control	Contact and Grasping Control	Visual Servo Control I	Tactile Sensing
WAI 10:35-12:15	Mobile Robots and Application	Sensor Based Navigation	Biped Robot II	Underwater Robotics: Sensing, etc.	Flexible Manipulator I	Task Scheduling	Motion Planning II	Robot Control II	Actuators and Joint Actuation	Teleop. II Sensor Based Teleopera.	Contact Geometry	Visual Servo Control II	Sonar Based Sensing
WPI 1:30-3:10	Mobile Robots and Application	Sensor Based Navigation	Biped Robot II	Underwater Robotics: Sensing, etc.	Flexible Manipulator I	Task Scheduling	Motion Planning II	Robot Control II	Actuators and Joint Actuation	Teleop. II Sensor Based Teleopera.	Contact Geometry	Visual Servo Control II	Sonar Based Sensing
WPII 3:35-5:15	Mobile Robot Environment Interaction	Mobile Robot Motion Planning I	Biology- Inspired Methods	Service and Underwater Robots	Flexible Manipulator II	Manufactur. Planning and Scheduling	Constraint & Nonholono. Systems	Robot Control III	Fault Tolerant Robot	Parallel Manipulators	Dexterous Manipulation	Computer Vision in Manufactu.	Contact Sensing

May 13, 1999													
PLENARY SESSION: Robot Art													
Conference Banquet - Banquet Speech - Dr. Gustav Olling, Daimler Chrysler Corp. "CAD/CAM/CAE Applications"													
8:30-10:10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
TAI 8:30-10:10	Mobile Robot Field Applications	Mobile Robot Motion Planning II	Humanoid and Walk. Robots	New Robotic Technol. & Applications	Flexible Robots	Manufactur. Process Control	Control Architectures	Fuzzy Control I	Study of Robot Kinematics	Multiple Manipulator	Grasping Analysis	New Geometry Method in Comp. Vision.	Robotic Sensing & Its Applications
TAII 10:35-12:15	Mobile Robot Localization I	Mobile Robot Motion Planning III	Legged Locomotion I	Space Robots	Calibrat. and Tolerances	Production Planning and Control	Force Control	Fuzzy Control II	Kinematics	Cooperative Robots	Fixture Desi. and Manipu Planning	Calibration- Free Visual Servo	Sensing and Sensor Design
TP1 1:30-3:10	Mobile Robot Localization II	Mobile Robot Motion Planning IV	Legged Locomotion II	Medical Robotics I	Calibrat. and Friction Modeling	Process Planning and Manufactu.	Impedance Control	Robot Control IV	Distance and Contact Calculations	Teleop. III Experiments and Control	Grasping Computation	Real-Time Computer Vision	Sensor Fusion I
TP2 3:35-5:15	Mobile Robot Localization II	Mobile Robot Motion Planning IV	Legged Locomotion II	Medical Robotics I	Calibrat. and Friction Modeling	Process Planning and Manufactu.	Impedance Control	Robot Control IV	Distance and Contact Calculations	Teleop. III Experiments and Control	Grasping Computation	Real-Time Computer Vision	Sensor Fusion I
6:30													

Note: There are three video sessions on May 13, 1999: TAI-VS 10:35-12:15: Video Session I; TPI-VS 1:30-3:10: Video Session II; TP2-VS 3:35-5:15: Video Session III.

May 14, 1999

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FAI 8.50-10.10	Mobile Robot Localization III	Mobile Robot Systems I	Legged Locomotion III	Medical Robotics II	Learning and Identification	Manufac- turing Automation	Compliance Control	Robotic Stiffness Control	Micro- Manipulator	Tele- Manipulation	Parts Manipulation	Vision-Based Mobile Robotics	Sensor Fusion II
FAII 10.35-12.15	Mobile Robot Inspect and Recommass. Systems	Mobile Robot Systems II	Quadruped Locomotion	Medical Robotics III	Computational Intelligence	Virtual Factory	Genetic Algorithm	Intelligent and Fuzzy Control	Robot Mechanism	Sensor-Based Human/Mac Interaction	Part Feeding and Orienting	Vision Based Navigation I	Sensor Selection and Placement
FPI 1 30-3 10	Mobile Robot Motion Control I	Mobile Robot Sensor-Based Control	Small Scale Mobile Robots	Mobile Robot Mobility & Locomotion	Micro/Nano Manipulation	Assembly Planning	Learning Control	Manipulator Control	Hyper Redundant Robots	Human Robot Interaction I	Reasoning and Handling of Objects	Vision-Based Navigation II	Haptic Display
FPII 3 35-5.15	Mobile Robot Motion Control II	Mobile Robot Sensing	Articulated Locomotion	Multi-Finger Hands	Industr. Appl of Robot and Auto. Tech.	Comp-Aided Assembly Planning	Robot Programming	Neural Network Applications	Redundant Robots	Human Robot Interaction II	Sensor-Based Grasping	Visual Tracking	Haptic Interface

Table of Contents

Welcome	iii
Foreword	iv
Organizing Committee	v
Program at a Glance	vii
Author Index	li

Volume 1 (pages 1-830)

WAI-1

MOBILE ROBOT MANEUVERING

Control of a Car-Like Mobile Robot for Parking Problem	1
<i>Sungon Lee, Youngil Youm, and Wan Kyun Chung</i>	
A Generalization of Path Following for Mobile Robots	7
<i>F. Díaz del Río, G. Jiménez, J. L. Sevillano, S. Vicente, and A. Civit Balcells</i>	
On a Manipulative Difficulty of a Mobile Robot with Multiple Trailers for Pushing and Towing?	13
<i>Wen Li, Takashi Tsubouchi, and Shin'ichi Yuta</i>	
Experiments of Backward Tracking Control for Trailer System	19
<i>Doh-Hyun Kim and Jun-Ho Oh</i>	

WAI-2

NAVIGATION IN UNKNOWN ENVIRONMENT

A Neural Network Approach to Real-Time Collision-Free Navigation of 3-D.O.F. Robots in 2D	23
<i>Xianyi Yang and Max Meng</i>	
Navigation in Partially Unknown, Narrow, Cluttered Spaces	29
<i>Matthias Strobel</i>	
Coastal Navigation: Mobile Robot Navigation with Uncertainty in Dynamic Environments	35
<i>Nicholas Roy, Wolfram Burgard, Dieter Fox, and Sebastian Thrun</i>	
Optimal Motion Planning for a Wheeled Mobile Robot	41
<i>Weiguo Wu, Ping Jiang, and Huitang Chen</i>	

WAI-3

BIPED ROBOTS I

Foot Rotation Indicator (FRI) Point: A New Gait Planning Tool to Evaluate Postural Stability of Biped Robots	47
<i>Ambarish Goswami.</i>	
Point to Point Motion of Skeletal Systems with Multiple Transmission Delays	53
<i>Abhay Kataria, Hitay Özbay, and Hooshang Hemami</i>	
Energy Analysis During Biped Walking	59
<i>Filipe M. Silva and J. A. Tenreiro Machado</i>	

A High Stability, Smooth Walking Pattern for a Biped Robot	95
<i>Qiang Huang, Shuuji Kajita, Noriho Koyachi, Kenji Kaneko, Kazuhito Yokoi,</i> <i>Hirohiko Arai, Kiyoshi Komoriya, and Kazuo Tanie</i>	

WAI-4

UNDERWATER VEHICLES

Hovering and Altitude Control for Open-Frame UUVs	72
<i>M. Caccia, G. Bruzzone, and G. Veruggio</i>	
Real-Time Path Planning and Obstacle Avoidance for an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle	78
<i>Gianluca Antonelli, Stefano Chiaverini, Roberto Finoteilo, and Emanuele Morgavi</i>	
Fault Tolerant Decomposition of Thruster Forces of an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle	84
<i>Tarun Kanti Podder and Nilanjan Sarkar</i>	
Design and Simulation of Amoebot-A Metamorphic Underwater Vehicle	90
<i>I-Ming Chen, Hsi-Shang Li, and Arnaud Cathala</i>	

WAI-5

ROBOT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING FOR ASSEMBLY

Distributed Control of Flexible Transfer System (FTS) Using Learning Automata	96
<i>Toshio Fukuda, Kosuke Sekiyama, Yoshiaki Hasebe, Yasuhisa Hasegawa,</i> <i>Susumu Shibata, Hironobu Yamamoto, and Yuji Inada</i>	
An Integration of Robot Programming and Sequence Planning	102
<i>Xiaobu Yuan and Yuqing Gu</i>	
An Integrated Intelligent Approach and System for Rapid Robotic Assembly Prototyping, Planning and Control	108
<i>X. F. Zha</i>	
A Geometric Algorithm for Hybrid Localization/Inspection/Machinability Problem	114
<i>Y. X. Chu, J. B. Gou, and Z. X. Li</i>	

WAI-6

INVITED SESSION: DISCRETE EVENT CONTROL OF MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

Control of Flexible-Manufacturing Workcells Using Extended Moore Automata	120
<i>A. Ramirez, C. Sriskandarajah, and B. Benhabib</i>	
A Computer Implementable Algorithm for the Synthesis of an Optimal Controller for Acyclic Discrete Event Processes	126
<i>Sarya Ranjan Mohanty, Vigyan Chandra, and Ramesh Kumar</i>	
Discrete Event Control with Active Events	131
<i>Michael Heymann, Feng Lin, and George Meyer</i>	

Performance Analysis of Machining Systems with Modular Logic Controllers	137
<i>Euisu Park, Dawn M. Tilbury, and Pramod P. Khargonekar</i>	

WAI-7

MOTION PLANNING I

Proportional Navigation Guidance in Robot Trajectory Planning for Intercepting Moving Objects	145
<i>M. Mehrandezh, M. N. Sela, R. G. Fenton, and B. Benhabib</i>	
Path Planning for Elastic Plates Under Manipulation Constraints	151
<i>Florent Lamiroux and Lydia E. Kavraki</i>	
Control of Dynamics and Sensor Based Motion Planning for a Differential Drive Robot	157
<i>S. Bobyr and V. Lumelsky</i>	
Range-Sensor Based Navigation in Three Dimensions	163
<i>Ishay Kamon, Ehud Rivlin, and Elon Rimon</i>	

WAI-8

ROBOT CONTROL I

Position Control of a Robot Manipulator Using Continuous Gain Scheduling	170
<i>M. A. Jarrah and Omar M. Al-Jarrah</i>	
A Muscular-Like Compliance Control for Active Vehicle Suspension	3275
<i>Shih-Lang Chang, Chi-haur Wu, and D. T. Lee</i>	
A Taxonomy for Robot Control	176
<i>D. M. Miljanovic and E. A. Croft</i>	
The Extremal Properties of Spatial Stiffness Matrices	182
<i>Shuguang Huang and Joseph M. Schimmels</i>	

WAI-9

ACTUATOR

High Stiffness Control of Direct-Drive Motor System by a Homogeneous ER Fluid	188
<i>Naoyuki Takesue, Guoguang Zhang, Junji Furusho, and Masamichi Sakaguchi</i>	
Development of X-Screw: A Load-Sensitive Actuator Incorporating a Variable Transmission	193
<i>Shigeo Hirose, Craig Tibbetts, and Tetsuo Hagiwara</i>	
Robust Force Controller Design for an Electro-Hydraulic Actuator Based on Nonlinear Model	200
<i>N. Niksefat and N. Sepehri</i>	
Distributed Control Scheme for Motor Networks with Communication-Constrained Channels	207
<i>Kyunghwan Kim and Nicola J. Ferrier</i>	

WAI-10

TELEOPERATION I: FORCE AND POSITION CONTROL

The Distributed Controller Architecture for a Masterarm and Its Application to Teleoperation with Force Feedback	213
<i>Sooyong Lee, Jangwook Lee, Dae-Sung Choi, Munsang Kim, and Chong-Won Lee</i>	
Action Synchronization and Control of Internet Based Telerobotic Systems	219
<i>Ning Xi and T. J. Tarn</i>	
Free and Constrained Motion Teleoperation via Naturally-Transitioning Rate-to-Force Control	225
<i>Robert L. Williams II, Jason M. Henry, Mark A. Murphy, and Daniel W. Repperger</i>	
Teleoperation with Adaptive Motion/Force Control	231
<i>Wen-Hong Zhu and S. E. Salcudean</i>	

WAI-11

CONTACT AND GRASPING CONTROL

Automatic Generation of High-Level Contact State Space	238
<i>Xuerong Ji and Jing Xiao</i>	
Planning of Regrasp Operations	245
<i>Sascha A. Stoeter, Stephan Voss, Nikolaos P. Papanikolopoulos, and Heiko Mosemann</i>	
Experimental Investigation into Contact Transition Control with Joint Acceleration Feedback Damping	251
<i>J. D. Han, Y. C. Wang, and W. L. Xu</i>	
Analytical Conditions for the Rotational Stability of an Object in Multi-Finger Grasping	257
<i>M. M. Svinin, K. Ueda, and M. Kaneko</i>	

WAI-12

VISUAL SERVO CONTROL I

Visual Servoing with Linearized Observer	263
<i>Koichi Hashimoto and Toshiro Noritsugu</i>	
A Novel Visual Servoing Approach Involving Disturbance Observer	269
<i>Joon-Soo Lee, Il Hong Suh, Bum-Jae You, and Sang-Rok Oh</i>	
Performance of a Partitioned Visual Feedback Controller	275
<i>Paul Y. Oh and Peter K. Allen</i>	
Neural Network-Based Vision Guided Robotics	281
<i>Kevin Stanley, Q. M. Jonathan Wu, Ali Jerbi, and William A. Gruver</i>	

WAI-13

TACTILE SENSING

An Integrated Tactile/Shear Feedback Array for Stimulation of Finger Mechanoreceptor	287
<i>Darwin G. Caldwell, N. Tsagarakis, and C. Giesler</i>	

Tactile Sensing with Minimal Wiring Complexity	293
<i>Martin Nilsson</i>	
A Micromachined Piezoelectric Teeth-like Laparoscopic Tactile Sensor: Theory, Fabrication and Experiments	299
<i>J. Dargahi, S. Payandeh, and M. Parameswaran</i>	
The Role of Contact Area Spread Rate in Haptic Discrimination of Softness	305
<i>Guilio Ambrosi, Antonio Bicchi, Danilo De Rossi, and Enzo Pasquale Scilingo</i>	
WPI-1	
MOBILE ROBOTS AND APPLICATIONS	
A Sensor Guided Autonomous Parking System for Nonholonomic Mobile Robots	311
<i>K. Jiang and L. D. Seneviratne</i>	
Kinodynamic Motion Planning for All-Terrain Wheeled Vehicles	317
<i>Moëz Cherif</i>	
The Formula One Tire Changing Robot (F-T.C.R.)	323
<i>Raul Mihali and Tarek Sobh</i>	
The Path Planning of Mobile Manipulator with Genetic-Fuzzy Controller in Flexible Manufacturing Cell	329
<i>Xiaowei Ma, Yili Fu, Yufei Yuan, Wang Wei, Yulin Ma, and Hegao Cai</i>	
WPI-2	
SENSOR-BASED NAVIGATION	
On-Line Sub-Optimal Obstacle Avoidance	335
<i>Zvi Shiller</i>	
High-Speed Navigation Using the Global Dynamic Window Approach	341
<i>Oliver Brock and Oussama Khatib</i>	
An Autonomous Sensor-Based Path-Planner for Planetary Microrovers	347
<i>S. L. Laubach and J. W. Burdick</i>	
On the Near-Optimality of Sensor-Based Navigation in a 2-D Unknown Environment with Simple Shape	355
<i>Hiroshi Noborio and Kenji Urakawa</i>	
WPI-3	
BIPED ROBOTS II	
Physical Interaction Between Human and a Bipedal Humanoid Robot: Realization of Human-Follow Walking	361
<i>Samuel Agus Setiawan, Sang Ho Hyon, Jin'ichi Yamaguchi, and Atsuo Takanishi</i>	
Development of a Bipedal Humanoid Robot: Control Method of Whole Body Cooperative Dynamic Biped Walking	368
<i>Jin'ichi Yamaguchi, Eiji Soga, Sadatoshi Inoue, and Atsuo Takanishi</i>	

Biped Robot Locomotion in Scenes with Unknown Obstacles	375
<i>M. Yagi and V. Lumelsky</i>	

Blind Walking of a Planar Bipedal Robot on Sloped Terrain	381
<i>Chee-Meng Chew, Jerry Pratt, and Gill Pratt</i>	

WPI-4

INVITED SESSION: UNDERWATER ROBOTICS: SENSING, NAVIGATION, AND CONTROL

Motion Coordination of Underwater Vehicle-Manipulator Systems Subject to Drag Optimization	387
<i>Nilanjan Sarkar and Tarun Kanti Podder</i>	

Experimental Study on Adaptive Control of Underwater Robots	393
<i>J. Yuh, Jing Nie, and C. S. G. Lee</i>	

Advances in Doppler-Based Navigation of Underwater Robotic Vehicles	399
<i>Louis Whitcomb, Dana Yoerger, and Hanumant Singh</i>	

Passive Arm Based Dynamic Positioning System for Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicles.....	407
<i>Liu Hsu, Ramon R. Costa, Fernando C. Lizarralde, and José Paulo Vilela Soares da Cunha</i>	

WPI-5

FLEXIBLE MANIPULATORS I

A Robust Controller Design Method for a Flexible Manipulator with a Time Varying Payload and Parameter Uncertainties	413
<i>Jee-Hwan Ryu, Dong-Soo Kwon, and Youngjin Park</i>	

An Infinite-Dimensional Analysis of a PD-Controlled Single Flexible Link in Collision	419
<i>Francis Ching and David Wang</i>	

Scaling Laws for the Dynamics and Control of Flexible-Link Manipulators	427
<i>Milind Ghanekar, David W. L. Wang, and Glenn R. Heppler</i>	

Modeling and Control of a New Three-Degree-of-Freedom Flexible Arm with Simplified Dynamics	435
<i>J. A. Somolinos, V. Feliu, L. Sánchez, and J. A. Cerrada</i>	

WPI-6

TASK SCHEDULING

Task Scheduling on Spacecraft by Hybrid Genetic Algorithms	441
<i>Il-Jun Jeong, George Papavassilopoulos, and David S. Bayard</i>	

Elevator Group Control with Accurate Estimation of Hall Call Waiting Times	447
<i>Young Cheol Cho, Zavarin Gagov, and Wook Hyun Kwon</i>	

Dynamic Vehicle Routing Using Hybrid Genetic Algorithms	453
<i>Wan-rong Jih and Jane Yung-jen Hsu</i>	

A New Generation of Evaluation Tool for On-Line Design and Scheduling in an Advanced Manufacturing System	459
<i>Ming-Hung Lin and Li-Chen Fu</i>	

WPI-7

MOTION PLANNING II

CONTROLAB MUFA: A Multi-Level Fusion Architecture for Intelligent Navigation of a Telerobot	465
<i>E. P. L. Aude, G. H. M. B. Carneiro, H. Serdeira, J. T. C. Silveira, M. F. Martins, and E. P. Lopes</i>	
Randomized Kinodynamic Planning	473
<i>Steven M. LaValle and James J. Kuffner, Jr.</i>	
Weightlifting Motion Planning for a Puma 762 Robot	480
<i>Chia-Yu E. Wang, Wojciech K. Timoszyk, and James E. Bobrow</i>	
Computing Fault Tolerant Motions for a Robot Manipulator	486
<i>Scott K. Ralph and Dinesh K. Pai</i>	

WPI-8

ROBOT CONTROL II

PID Control of Robotic Manipulator with Uncertain Jacobian Matrix	494
<i>C. C. Cheah, S. Kawamura, S. Arimoto, and K. Lee</i>	
Stabilization of the Pendulum on a Rotor Arm by the Method of Controlled Lagrangians	500
<i>Anthony M. Bloch, Naomi Ehrich Leonard, and Jerrold E. Marsden</i>	
Real-Time Motion Control in the Neighborhood of Singularities: A Comparative Study Between the SC and the DLS Method	506
<i>Dragomir N. Nenchev, Yuichi Tsumaki, and Masaru Uchiyama</i>	
Task-Space Tracking Control Without Velocity Measurements	512
<i>Fabrizio Caccavale, Ciro Natale, and Luigi Villani</i>	

WPI-9

ACTUATORS AND JOINT ACTUATION

Control Performance of an Air Motor: Can Air Motors Replace Electric Motors?	518
<i>S. R. Pandian, F. Takemura, Y. Hayakawa, and S. Kawamura</i>	
Development of a Pneumatic Muscle Actuator Driven Manipulator Rig for Nuclear Waste Retrieval Operations	525
<i>Darwin G. Caldwell, N. Tsagarakis, G. A. Medrano-Cerda, J. Schofield, and S. Brown</i>	
Joint Actuation Switching in Closed-Chain Mechanisms for High Task Adaptability	531
<i>Sungbok Kim</i>	
Development of Dual Mode X-Screw: A Novel Load-Sensitive Linear Actuator with a Wide Transmission Range	537
<i>Tetsuo Hagiwara and Shigeo Hirose</i>	

WPI-10

TELEOPERATION II: SENSOR-BASED TELEOPERATION

Vision-Based End-Effector Alignment Assistance for Teleoperation	543
<i>S. E. Everett, Y. Isoda, R. V. Dubey, and C. Dumont</i>	
Image Based Predictive Display for Tele-Manipulation	550
<i>Martin Jägersand</i>	
Task-Based Data Exchange for Remote Operation System Through a Communication Network	557
<i>Takafumi Matsumaru, Syun'ichi Kawabata, Tetsuo Kotoku, Nobuto Matsuhira, Kiyoshi Komoriya, Kazuo Tanie, and Kunikatu Takase</i>	
Collision Control in Teleoperation by Virtual Force Reflection: An Application to the ROBTET System	565
<i>M. Hernando, E. Gambao, E. Pinto, and A. Barrientos</i>	

WPI-11

CONTACT GEOMETRY

A Simple Characterization of the Infinitesimal Motions Separating General Polyhedra in Contact	571
<i>Ernesto Staffetti, Lluís Ros, and Federico Thomas</i>	
Contact Analysis of Spatial Fixed-Axes Pairs Using Configuration Spaces	578
<i>Ido Drori, Leo Joskowicz, and Elisha Sacks</i>	
Identification of Contact Conditions from Contaminated Data of Contact Moment	585
<i>Tetsuya Mouri, Takayoshi Yamada, Yasuyuki Funahashi, and Nobuharu Mimura</i>	
Interactive Manipulation of Articulated Objects with Geometry Awareness	592
<i>Min-Hyung Choi and James F. Cremer</i>	

WPI-12

VISUAL SERVO CONTROL II

A Two Loops Direct Visual Control of Direct-Drive Planar Robots with Moving Target	599
<i>Rafael Kelly, Fernando Reyes, Javier Moreno, and Seth Hutchinson</i>	
Exponentially Stable Positioning of a Rigid Robot Using Stereo Vision	605
<i>Wen-Chung Chang and A. S. Morse</i>	
Planar Image Based Visual Servoing as a Navigation Problem	611
<i>Noah J. Cowan and Daniel E. Koditschek</i>	
Visual Servoing with Dynamics: Control of an Unmanned Blimp	618
<i>Hong Zhang and James P. Ostrowski</i>	

WPI-13

SONAR-BASED SENSING

A Diffuse Reflection Model for Time of Flight Sonar	624
<i>Paul Gilkerson and Penelope Probert</i>	