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Robots moving closer to humans

Springer 'Handbook of Robotics' unveiled at International Conference on Robotics and Automation

Robots today are making a considerable impact on many aspects of modern life, from industrial manufacturing to healthcare. Reaching for the human frontier, robotics is also vigorously engaged in the growing challenges of new emerging domains. Interacting, exploring, and working with humans, the new generation of robots will increasingly touch people's lives. The prospect of practical robots among humans follows half a century of robotic developments that established robotics as a modern scientific discipline.

At the pinnacle of these developments, new Springer Handbook of Robotics is making its debut at the International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), in Pasadena, CA, USA, in May 2008. The handbook provides a comprehensive collection of the international accomplishments in the field and presents the very latest research in robotics. From the foundations to the social and ethical implications of robotics, the handbook sets new standards for future developments and challenges in this scientific discipline.

Designed for research and practice, the handbook is edited by the internationally renowned robotics experts Bruno Siciliano and Oussama Khatib. This mammoth task was supported by an outstanding team of seven part editors on: Robotics foundations; Robot structures; Sensing and perception; Manipulation and interfaces; Mobile and distributed robotics; Field and service robotics; and Human-centered and life-like robotics. A total of 165 authors worked on this authoritative handbook, the result of five years of editing work and more than 10,000 emails to the editors' mailboxes.

Bruno Siciliano is Professor of Control and Robotics and Director of the PRISMA Lab in the Department of Computer and Systems Engineering at the University of Naples, Italy. His current research is in force control, visual servoing, dual-arm/hand manipulation, lightweight flexible arms, human-robot interaction and service robotics. Professor Siciliano is the President of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS).

Oussama Khatib is Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, CA, USA. His current research, which focuses on human-centered robotics, is concerned with human motion synthesis, humanoid robotics, haptic teleoperation, medical robotics and human-friendly robot design. Professor Khatib is the President of the International Foundation of Robotics Research (IFRR).

The coverage of all specialist fields infringing into robotics makes this handbook a reliable desk reference for scientists and engineers in the industry. It also provides basic and more advanced content for scholars from related disciplines such as biomechanics, neurosciences, virtual simulation, animation, surgery, and sensor networks, among others.

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The Springer Handbook of Robotics is part of a product line founded in 2004 by Springer, setting standards in physics and technology, and includes the Springer Handbook of Nanotechnology. These desk references are edited by scientific experts, with the support of numerous authors from the world of research. All handbooks include a DVD, which can be used to search the book's content. Alongside the print editions, users can also access the books online via www.springerlink.com.

The editors are available for interview

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