
Preface

The International Symposium on Experimental Robotics (ISER) is a series of biennial symposia which began in 1989, and is sponsored by the International Foundation of Robotics Research (IFRR). The goal of ISER is to provide the robotics community with a forum for research driven by creative ideas, bold visions, new systems, and novel applications of robotics, emphasizing experimental work. The tradition in ISER is to foster scholarly work that either addresses validation of theoretical paradigms through careful experimentation or contributes to the creation of novel experimental platforms that in turn inspire new theoretical developments. The ISER symposia are conceived to bring together in a small group setting researchers from around the world who are at the forefront of experimental robotics research, to assess and share their views and ideas about the state of the art and to discuss promising new avenues for future research exploration in experimental robotics. The ISER meetings are organized around oral technical presentations in a single-track format.

The Eleventh Symposium was held on July 13-16, 2008 in Athens, Greece. The symposium was chaired by Oussama Khatib (Stanford University, USA), Vijay Kumar (University of Pennsylvania, USA), and George Pappas (University of Pennsylvania, USA). The local organizing committee was chaired by Kostas Kyriakopoulos (National Technical University, Athens). The International Steering Committee for ISER is chaired by Oussama Khatib and includes Marcelo Ang (Singapore), Herman Bruyninckx (Belgium), Alicia Casals (Spain), Raja Chatila (France), Peter Corke (Australia), Eve Coste-Maniere (France), John Craig (USA), Paolo Dario (USA), Vincent Hayward (Canada), Gerd Hirzinger (Germany), Yoshihiko Nakamura (Japan), Paul Newman (UK), Daniela Rus (USA), Kenneth Salisbury (USA), Bruno Siciliano (Italy), Sanjiv Singh (USA), James Trevelyan (Australia), Tsuneo Yoshikawa (Japan), and Alex Zelinsky (Australia).

The program of Eleventh Symposium included 53 technical papers, selected from the open submission through a review process organized by the International Steering Committee. The symposium contributions report on a variety of new theoretical and experimental results, and point to new visions and trends

in the field. The topics of the technical sessions covered a broad spectrum of experimental robotics research activities. The sessions were on design, autonomous driving, cooperation, micro-robots, human-robot interaction, medical robotics, locomotion, localization and mapping, underwater and aerial vehicles, sensing and planning, vision, and manipulation.

This volume includes the complete collection of the contributions presented at the symposium, with authoritative introductions to each section by the chairs of the corresponding sessions. We are grateful to the authors and the participants who have all contributed to the success of this symposium by bringing an outstanding program, excellent technical presentations, and stimulating and insightful discussions. We would like also to express our thanks and gratitude to the local organizing team who have created the perfect environment for fostering technical discussions and promoting intellectual debates in a relaxed setting.

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Oussama Khatib, Stanford University
Vijay Kumar, University of Pennsylvania
George Pappas, University of Pennsylvania



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