
Preface

In the last 25 years, the field of *robotics* has stimulated an increasing interest in a wide number of scholars, and thus literature has been conspicuous, both in terms of textbooks and monographs, and in terms of specialized journals dedicated to robotics. This strong interest is also to be attributed to the interdisciplinary character of robotics, which is a science having roots in different areas. Cybernetics, mechanics, controls, computers, bioengineering, electronics — to mention the most important ones — are all cultural domains which undoubtedly have boosted the development of this science.

Despite robotics representing as yet a relatively young discipline, its foundations are to be considered well-assessed in the classical textbook literature. Among these, *modelling*, *planning* and *control* play a basic role, not only in the traditional context of industrial robotics, but also for the advanced scenarios of field and service robots, which have attracted an increasing interest from the research community in the last 15 years.

This book is the natural evolution of the previous text *Modelling and Control of Robot Manipulators* by the first two co-authors, published in 1995, and in 2000 with its second edition. The cut of the original textbook has been confirmed with the educational goal of blending the fundamental and technological aspects with those advanced aspects, on a uniform track as regards a rigorous formalism.

The fundamental and technological aspects are mainly concentrated in the first six chapters of the book and concern the theory of manipulator structures, including kinematics, statics and trajectory planning, and the technology of robot actuators, sensors and control units.

The advanced aspects are dealt with in the subsequent six chapters and concern dynamics and motion control of robot manipulators, interaction with the environment using exteroceptive sensory data (force and vision), mobile robots and motion planning.

The book contents are organized in 12 chapters and 5 appendices.

In Chap. 1, the differences between *industrial* and *advanced* applications are enlightened in the general robotics context. The most common mechanical

structures of robot manipulators and wheeled mobile robots are presented. Topics are also introduced which are developed in the subsequent chapters.

In Chap. 2 *kinematics* is presented with a systematic and general approach which refers to the Denavit-Hartenberg convention. The *direct kinematics equation* is formulated which relates joint space variables to operational space variables. This equation is utilized to find manipulator workspace as well as to derive a kinematic calibration technique. The *inverse kinematics problem* is also analyzed and closed-form solutions are found for typical manipulation structures.

Differential kinematics is presented in Chap. 3. The relationship between joint velocities and end-effector linear and angular velocities is described by the geometric *Jacobian*. The difference between the geometric Jacobian and the analytical Jacobian is pointed out. The Jacobian constitutes a fundamental tool to characterize a manipulator, since it allows the determination of singular configurations, an analysis of redundancy and the expression of the relationship between forces and moments applied to the end-effector and the resulting joint torques at equilibrium configurations (*statics*). Moreover, the Jacobian allows the formulation of inverse kinematics algorithms that solve the inverse kinematics problem even for manipulators not having a closed-form solution.

In Chap. 4, *trajectory planning* techniques are illustrated which deal with the computation of interpolating polynomials through a sequence of desired points. Both the case of point-to-point motion and that of motion through a sequence of points are treated. Techniques are developed for generating trajectories both in the *joint space* and in the *operational space*, with a special concern to orientation for the latter.

Chapter 5 is devoted to the presentation of *actuators* and *sensors*. After an illustration of the general features of an actuating system, methods to control electric and hydraulic *drives* are presented. The most common proprioceptive and exteroceptive sensors in robotics are described.

In Chap. 6, the functional architecture of a robot *control* system is illustrated. The characteristics of programming environments are presented with an emphasis on teaching-by-showing and robot-oriented programming. A general model for the hardware architecture of an industrial robot control system is finally discussed.

Chapter 7 deals with the derivation of manipulator *dynamics*, which plays a fundamental role in motion simulation, manipulation structure analysis and control algorithm synthesis. The dynamic model is obtained by explicitly taking into account the presence of actuators. Two approaches are considered, namely, one based on *Lagrange* formulation, and the other based on *Newton-Euler* formulation. The former is conceptually simpler and systematic, whereas the latter allows computation of a dynamic model in a recursive form. Notable properties of the dynamic model are presented, including linearity in the parameters which is utilized to develop a model identification technique. Finally,

the transformations needed to express the dynamic model in the operational space are illustrated.

In Chap. 8 the problem of *motion control* in free space is treated. The distinction between joint space *decentralized* and *centralized* control strategies is pointed out. With reference to the former, the *independent joint control* technique is presented which is typically used for industrial robot control. As a premise to centralized control, the computed torque feedforward control technique is introduced. Advanced schemes are then introduced including PD control with gravity compensation, *inverse dynamics control*, robust control, and adaptive control. Centralized techniques are extended to *operational space control*.

Force control of a manipulator in contact with the working environment is tackled in Chap. 9. The concepts of mechanical *compliance* and *impedance* are defined as a natural extension of operational space control schemes to the constrained motion case. Force control schemes are then presented which are obtained by the addition of an outer force feedback loop to a motion control scheme. The *hybrid force/motion control* strategy is finally presented with reference to the formulation of natural and artificial constraints describing an interaction task.

In Chap. 10, *visual control* is introduced which allows the use of information on the environment surrounding the robotic system. The problems of camera *position and orientation estimate* with respect to the objects in the scene are solved by resorting to both analytical and numerical techniques. After presenting the advantages to be gained with *stereo vision* and a suitable camera *calibration*, the two main visual control strategies are illustrated, namely in the *operational space* and in the *image space*, whose advantages can be effectively combined in the *hybrid visual control* scheme.

Wheeled *mobile robots* are dealt with in Chap. 11, which extends some modelling, planning and control aspects of the previous chapters. As far as modelling is concerned, it is worth distinguishing between the *kinematic model*, strongly characterized by the type of constraint imposed by wheel rolling, and the *dynamic model* which accounts for the forces acting on the robot. The peculiar structure of the kinematic model is keenly exploited to develop both *path* and *trajectory planning* techniques. The *control* problem is tackled with reference to two main motion tasks: *trajectory tracking* and *configuration regulation*. Further, it is evidenced how the implementation of the control schemes utilizes *odometric localization* methods.

Chapter 12 reprises the planning problems treated in Chaps. 4 and 11 for robot manipulators and mobile robots respectively, in the case when obstacles are present in the workspace. In this framework, *motion planning* is referred to, which is effectively formulated in the *configuration space*. Several planning techniques for *mobile robots* are then presented: retraction, cell decomposition, probabilistic, artificial potential. The extension to the case of *robot manipulators* is finally discussed.

This chapter concludes the presentation of the topical contents of the textbook; five appendices follow which have been included to recall background methodologies.

Appendix A is devoted to *linear algebra* and presents the fundamental notions on matrices, vectors and related operations.

Appendix B presents those basic concepts of *rigid body mechanics* which are preliminary to the study of manipulator kinematics, statics and dynamics.

Appendix C illustrates the principles of *feedback control* of linear systems and presents a general method based on Lyapunov theory for control of nonlinear systems.

Appendix D deals with some concepts of *differential geometry* needed for control of mechanical systems subject to nonholonomic constraints.

Appendix E is focused on *graph search algorithms* and their complexity in view of application to motion planning methods.

The organization of the contents according to the above illustrated scheme allows the adoption of the book as a reference text for a senior undergraduate or graduate course in automation, computer, electrical, electronics, or mechanical engineering with strong robotics content.

From a pedagogical viewpoint, the various topics are presented in an instrumental manner and are developed with a gradually increasing level of difficulty. Problems are raised and proper tools are established to find engineering-oriented solutions. Each chapter is introduced by a brief preamble providing the rationale and the objectives of the subject matter. The topics needed for a proficient study of the text are presented in the five appendices, whose purpose is to provide students of different extraction with a homogeneous background.

The book contains more than 310 illustrations and more than 60 worked-out examples and case studies spread throughout the text with frequent resort to simulation. The results of computer implementations of inverse kinematics algorithms, trajectory planning techniques, inverse dynamics computation, motion, force and visual control algorithms for robot manipulators, and motion control for mobile robots are presented in considerable detail in order to facilitate the comprehension of the theoretical development, as well as to increase sensitivity of application in practical problems. In addition, nearly 150 end-of-chapter problems are proposed, some of which contain further study matter of the contents, and the book is accompanied by an electronic solutions manual (downloadable from www.springer.com/978-1-84628-641-4) containing the MATLAB[®] code for computer problems; this is available free of charge to those adopting this volume as a text for courses. Special care has been devoted to the selection of bibliographical references (more than 250) which are cited at the end of each chapter in relation to the historical development of the field.

Finally, the authors wish to acknowledge all those who have been helpful in the preparation of this book.

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Bruno Siciliano
Lorenzo Sciacivco
Luigi Villani
Giuseppe Oriolo



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Siciliano, B.; Sciavicco, L.; Villani, L.; Oriolo, G.

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