

Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 16th International Symposium of Robotics Research (ISRR). This is a biennial meeting sponsored and organized by the International Foundation of Robotics Research (IFRR). It is the longest running series of robotics research meetings and dates back to the very earliest days of robotics as a research discipline—the first meeting was organized by Mike Brady and Richard Paul and took place in Bretton Woods (New Hampshire, USA) in August 1983. This most recent meeting was held in the 30th anniversary year of the very first meeting, and represents 30 years at the forefront of ideas in robotics research.

This particular meeting, the 16th in the series, took place in Singapore during 16–19 December 2013. There were similarities and differences compared to the very first ISRR. Importantly, we adopt a single track format, limit the number of participants, and design the program to maximize meaningful technical interactions. The first meeting was by invitation only but more recent meetings have had an open call for papers as well as invited speakers.

The invited papers were nominated by individual IFRR officers, who then collectively voted on those nominations. This meeting continued the reform of the speaker invitation process. This year only 16 of the 45 speakers were invited and for the first time selection was based on the votes of all IFRR officers rather than selection by geographic region as was the previous convention.

The open submission process resulted in 58 papers from 11 countries. Of these 29 were selected by the reviewers for presentation at the meeting, a 50% acceptance rate. These papers were presented in interactive format which enables real conversations between speakers and the audience.

In addition the program had, for the first time, a number of forums on topics such as emerging areas in robotics, learning and control human–robot interaction.

The program included a tribute to remember two very long serving officers of the Foundation, Dr. Georges Giralt and Prof. Ray Jarvis, who passed away during 2013.

In this volume we have collected the papers presented in regular sessions, interactive sessions, and topical forums and organized them into traditional ISRR

categories: control; design; intelligence and learning; manipulation; perception; and planning.

Finally, the meeting would not have been possible without the brilliant organizing team led by Marcelo Ang, and the support of the sponsors. We acknowledge and thank them all.

Masayuki Inaba
Peter Corke



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Inaba, M.; Corke, P. (Eds.)

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