

Foreword

The 2001 Australian Conference on Robotics and Automation (ACRA 2001) was held at the Australian Centre for Field Robotics (ACFR) at The University of Sydney. ACRA 2001 continues a tradition of bringing together the Australian robotics community in an annual event to discuss and to celebrate progress in robotics research.

Australia is home to a vibrant and internationally prominent community of robotics researchers. As the national conference, ACRA brings together the best of this community in an informal setting to present and to discuss new and current work. The conference particularly encourages the interaction of research students and developing academics with the more established community. ACRA continues to play an essential role in introducing and fostering new research talent and in advancing the future profile of Australia as an international leader in robotics.

Two innovations were introduced at ACRA 2001: electronic publication of the Proceedings and associated material on CD-ROM, and a poster session. Electronic publication keeps ACRA in step with other major conferences, and also allows much wider distribution of papers and results. Introduction of a poster session provides an alternate forum to display and to communicate research that is best seen as part of a demonstration or display. Again, this brings ACRA in to line with many international workshops, where the use of poster sessions is becoming increasingly common as a mode of communication.

Both full written papers and posters were peer reviewed for technical and editorial content by a dedicated committee of referees.

Nearly 30 papers were accepted for oral and poster presentation at ACRA 2001. These papers were presented in a single track of six sessions spanning two full days, promoting extended interaction between the various robotics disciplines. In addition to the contributed papers, two invited keynote presentations were given. Professor Paul Lever of the University of Queensland and the CMTE spoke on mining automation, and Professor Claude Sammut of the University of New South Wales spoke about robot soccer. We thank all authors and participants for their contributions.

Hugh Durrant-Whyte
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on behalf of the ACRA 2001 Programme Committee.