

Robotics and Control

Fundamental Algorithms in MATLAB®

This textbook offers a tutorial introduction to robotics and control which is light and easy to absorb.

The practice of robotics and control both involve the application of computational algorithms to data. Over the fairly recent history of the fields of robotics and control a very large body of algorithms has been developed. However this body of knowledge is something of a barrier for anybody entering the field, or even looking to see if they want to enter the field — What is the right algorithm for a particular problem?, and importantly: How can I try it out without spending days coding and debugging it from the original research papers?

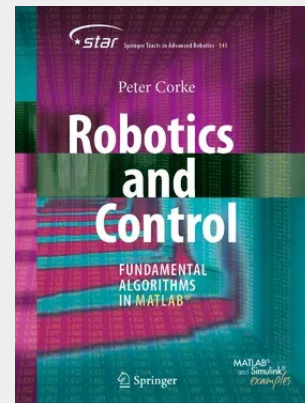
The author has maintained two open-source MATLAB Toolboxes for more than 10 years: one for robotics and one for vision. The key strength of the Toolboxes provides a set of tools that allow the user to work with real problems, not trivial examples. For the student the book makes the algorithms accessible, the Toolbox code can be read to gain understanding, and the examples illustrate how it can be used —instant gratification in just a couple of lines of MATLAB code. The code can also be the starting point for new work, for researchers or students, by writing programs based on Toolbox functions, or modifying the Toolbox code itself.

The purpose of this book is to expand on the tutorial material provided with the toolboxes, add many more examples, and to weave this into a narrative that covers robotics and control separately and together. The author shows how complex problems can be decomposed and solved using just a few simple lines of code, and hopefully to inspire up and coming researchers. The topics covered are guided by the real problems observed over many years as a practitioner of both robotics and control. It is written in a light but informative style, it is easy to read and absorb, and includes a lot of Matlab examples and figures. The book is a real walk through the fundamentals of robot kinematics, dynamics and joint level control, and covers both mobile robots (control, path planning, navigation, localization and SLAM) and arm robots (forward and inverse kinematics, Jacobians, dynamics and joint level control).

“An authoritative book, reaching across fields, thoughtfully conceived and brilliantly accomplished!”

Oussama Khatib, Stanford

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