





Robotic Solutions for Remote Maintenance and Quality Assurance

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Disclaimer

This lecture will present a broader approach on how robotic solutions for remote maintenance and quality control are used at CERN by the BE-CEM group.

Design, controls, operation, maintenance aspects, tools and procedures around the use of robotic systems will be introduced, focusing on **requirements**, **challenges** and **operational constraints** present in CERN accelerator complex.

Detailed info could be found at the Academic Seminar lectures link → https://indico.cern.ch/event/1055745/





- Needs and challenges for robotics at CERN
- > The robotic service in BE-CEM
- Some challenging robotic missions
- Future objectives
- Conclusions



Main needs for robotics at CERN

- Inspection, operation and maintenance of radioactive particle accelerators devices towards maintainability and availability increase
 - ✓ Experimental areas and objects not built to be remote handled/inspected
 - ✓ Any intervention may lead to "surprises"
 - ✓ Risk of contamination



The LHC tunnel



North Area experimental zone



Radioactive sample handled by a robot



Availability of Particle Accelerators

Reliability	Maintainability	Availability
Constant	Decreases	Decreases
Constant	Increases	Increases

But before deploying robots, their reliability must be verified to be really high and recovery scenarios must be foreseen



Main difficulties for robotics at CERN

- Need for maintenance intervention and inspection in harsh and semi-structured environments
- Radiation, magnetic disturbances, delicate equipment not designed for robots, big distances, communication, time for the intervention, highly skilled technicians required (non robotic operators), etc.





Suitable robots for Big Science Facilities

>No single existing robotic solutions can fulfill the needs ➢ Mobility and manipulation capabilities are required

- ✓ A "fusion" of several type of robot would be needed
- A modular robot could fulfill several needs













Robotics and Ethical aspects

Ethical aspects [3] [4]

- ✓ Will robots replace humans?
- ✓ Will robots take our jobs?
- ✓ Will robots make humans unnecessary?
- ✓ Is humanity just a phase in a robotic evolution?







Robotics for us

There is a lot of potential in this technology to be beneficial for people
Ultimately, everything depends on how we decide to use the technology



Robots must improve the quality of work by taking over dangerous, tedious and dirty jobs that are not possible or safe for humans to perform. <u>ALARA principle followed for each intervention</u>





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Robotic Support for CERN: Type of Robots Overview



Telemax robot



Teodor robot



Drone for teleoperation support



Train Inspection Monorail [10] (CERN made)



EXTRM robot (CERN controls)







CERNBot [11-17] in different configurations (CERN made)

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Robotic Support for CERN: Type of Robots Overview



Mechatronics conceptions, designs, proof of concepts, prototyping, series productions, <u>operations</u>, maintenance, tools and procedures



Teodor robot



Drone for teleoperation support



EXTRM robot (CERN controls)



CERNBot [11-17] in different configurations (CERN made)



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Robotics technologies are mainly used for:

- Human intervention procedures preparation
- Environmental measurements, maintenance and inspection in radioactive areas
- Quality assurance
- Post-mortem analysis/inspection of radioactive devices
- Reconnaissance
- Search and rescue
- And others...



Robotic service for remote maintenance

Remote inspection and teleoperation

Robotic controls (kinematics + feedbacks) and operation















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Robotic Lab #1, building 937

Robotic prototyping

- 3D printing
- Robotic arm control, tools vision and algorithms testing (autonomy and teleoperation)
- Participation in the HSSIP and Italian teacher programs to host and mentor high-school students [42]





Desig and 3D printing prototype for the RF cavity inspection robot





Robotic Lab #2, building 927

- Robots testing and commissioning
- Intervention procedures and recovery scenarios commissioning (mockups)
- LHC Tunnel mockup (~ 30 meters)

Virtual reality zone









Main Motivations for Custom Robotic Development #1

- CERN accelerator complex is vast with different type of machines
- Industrial solutions do not cover all CERN needs for remote maintenance and quality control
- Strong need to develop a modular and adaptable robotic framework/system for semistructured and harsh environments







Main Motivations for Custom Robotic Development #2

Industrial robot have <u>very complicated human-robot interfaces demanding intense operators</u> <u>training</u>, controls are not open to be integrated in our control system, communication channel is often via radio signal, not built to reduce contamination risks etc.



- Necessity of having the human, the machine and the interface working together adopting user friendly interfaces
 - ✓ Increase of proprioception reducing operators stress





PDM and PLM





CERNTAURO framework [7]

CERN Telemanipulation semi-Autonomous Unit for Robot Operations

Mechatronic System



- > New robot and robotic control developed [9-39]
 - ✓ Human robot interface
- New user-friendly bilateral tele-manipulation system
 - ✓ Haptic feedback
 - Assisted teleoperation
- Artificial intelligence [30-31-38-40]
 - Perception and autonomy
 - Deep learning
- Operator and robot training system [41]
 - ✓ Virtual and augmented reality
 - Learning by demonstration









CERNTAURO framework

- > In house robotic control system [7]
- > No use of ROS [8]
- > Sensor acquisition, fusion, measurements etc.







Unilateral control scheme of CERNTAURO





Unilateral control scheme of CERNTAURO







Bilateral control scheme of CERNTAURO. Experience of imitation







Bilateral control scheme of CERNTAURO. Experience of imitation



Haptics



How strong is the robot arm? How fast can it move? How much impulse does it have? Haptics lets you understand the way the robot moves Unknown and unstructured environment: How much does it weigh? What happens if I touch it? Does it break easily? Haptics lets you understand your effect on the environment





Bilateral Controls and Haptics





Impedance-Mode Control





Environmental Perception: a use case



LHC Collimators



Close view of the LHC Collimators position switches

> Automatic recognition of collimator position switches and their actuation





Human-Robot-Interface

- Controls all the BE-CEM robots
- Includes enhanced reality modules
- Different inputs device (keyboards, joystick, master arm etc.)
- Operators training options
- Multi screens capability
- Time-delay passivation













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Operator Interface Performance





- Manipulation of radioactive targets
 - CERNTAURO intervention preparation, procedure, tooling and recovery scenarios
 - ✓ Force-feedback based bilateral control





Robotic preventive maintenance and inspection



SPS MKP oilers refill



Remote radioprotection surveys



Cabling status inspection



Temperature sensor installation on AD target



Tunnel structure monitoring



Remote Vacuum Leak detection



Fast reaction to equipment failures in radioactive areas



CHARM Target In place 1 hour after the call





ISOLDE HRS Front-End In place 2 hours after the call



North Area BLM cables connection In place 50 minutes after the call



LHC TDE New robot built in 3 days



Post-Mortem Analysis







Importance of the design phase

Designing machines that can be maintained by robots using appropriate and easily accessible interfaces will increase maintainability and decrease human exposure to hazards















Easier remote or hands-on manipulation than chain-type connection



Procedures and Tools

Several time consuming and costly tools, procedures and Mockups done for intervention on non-robotic friendly interfaces during the last years (several done also in emergency situations)



- ✓ Intervention procedures, recovery scenarios, tools and mock-ups are as important as the robot/device that does the remote intervention
- ✓ Standardization of interfaces → standardized tools and procedures, reduce costs and intervention time





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Train Inspection Monorail



▶ p (proton) > ion > neutrons > p (antiproton) →+> proton/antiproton conversion > neutrinos > electron

LHC Large Hadron Collider SPS Super Proton Synchrotron PS Proton Synchrotron

AD Antiproton Decelerator CTF-3 Clic Test Facility CNCS Cern Neutrinos to Gran Sasso ISOLDE Isotope Separator Chline Device LEIR Low Energy Ion Ring LINAC LINear ACcelerator -10-F Neutrons Time Of Flight







Train Inspection Monorail



▶ p [proton] → ion → neutrons → p [antiproton] → +→ proton/antiproton conversion → neutrinos → electron

LHC Large Hadron Collider SPS Super Proton Synchrotron PS Proton Synchrotron

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ISOLDE / MEDICIS Robots









AD Antiproton Decelerator CTF-3 Clic Test Facility CNC.6 Cern Neutrinos to Gren Sesso 15:00_DE Isotope Separator OnLine DEvice LEIR Low Energy Ion Ring LINAC LINear ACcelerator n-10:F. Neutrons Time Of Flight



ISOLDE / MEDICIS Robots



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CHARMbot











Novel TIM robotic wagon

- 6 DoF (rotational axis) + 1DoF (linear axis) for dexterity
- 2 DoF (harmonic drive, backlashfree) for transversal positioning
- > 1 stabilization axis
- ➣ 5 cameras









Modular Robot/Concept (CERNbot)



CERNbot, CERNbot2, CHARMbot, MIRA, CRANEbot



Modular Controls

> Particle beam target maintenance, integration of CERNTAURO on industrial robot

- ✓ CERNTAURO adaptability → seamless control of multi-robots
- ✓ Manipulation from unstable support





Some Considerations

- Ideally Robots or any remote maintenance device should be "part" of the machine
- > Preventive maintenance with regular inspection tasks reduces the risk of unavailability
- Post-mortem analysis and understandings of failure help in increasing future machine robustness





Current use of Enhanced Reality in BE-CEM- Digital Twins

Simulation of robotic interventions

- ✓ Integration of robots in the environment and choice of robots
- ✓ Intervention procedures
- \checkmark Tools design and test
- ✓ Machines risk assessment
- ✓ Robots training by demonstration
- ✓ Operators training and teleoperations
- ✓ Risk analysis
- ✓ Recovery procedures
- Simulation of human intervention
 - ✓ Human intervention procedures
 - Live radiation levels and cumulated dose while training in VR (Augmented reality in virtual reality)
 - ✓ Intervention training
 - ✓ Risk analysis
 - ✓ Feedbacks for future remote-handling-friendly machines





More on K. Szczurek lecture



Steering New Machines Design

➢ For example, design of the new LHC Collimators motor screw cap

✓ Simulation in VR to check hands on handling and "robot friendliness"

Current solution



New solution







Mixed Reality Human-Robot Interface

- Tunnel tests showed promising results for autonomous operations.
 - ✓ Objects detection using ML.
 - ✓ Live environment reconstruction for obstacle avoidance using enhanced reality.
 - ✓ Trajectory planning.
 - ✓ Preview of motions to check for collisions.





Mixed Reality Human-Robot Interface

Mixed reality will help to generate supervised autonomy





Robotics Interventions

Nr. of Interventions since 2014	Nr. of tasks performed	Robot operation time in harsh environment [h]
150	~500	~ 500

MAIN TELEMANIPULATION TASKS

Screwing

45%

Sewing

7%

Cutting 25%



Remote maintenance test facility (b927)

Continuing developing best practice for equipment design and robotic intervention procedures and tools including recovery scenarios

Grasping

23%



Telemanipulation

34%

TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS

Radiation Survey

19%

econnaissance and visual

inspections

47%

Robotic Support at CERN



Interventions performed



Early intervention robots

- With such large distances, early intervention systems are necessary for example in case of accident or fire
 - Human fire response (Fire Service) in accelerator facilities is judged fundamental but not enough due to response delay, personal risk assessment and reliability.
 - Robotic firefighting allows fire inspection, victim search and initial fire suppression.
 - Robotic firefighting could guide fire service giving environmental information
 - Augmented reality wearable systems
 - Human firefighting remains necessary for rescue operations and final extinguishing.





People recognition and vital monitoring

- Machine learning techniques enhance people detection and vital signals monitoring at distance
- People search and rescue is of primary interest in disaster scenarios
- People monitoring during rehabilitation



Vision system (2D Laser, radar, thermal and 2D-3D camera)



Online respiration monitoring



Online people recognition and tracking



MARCHESE project: Health Contactless Monitoring





Online Tunnel Structure Monitoring

Collaboration with SCE-DOD

- Detects defects (cracks, water leaks, changes) using a Mask-RCNN network.
- High-definition picture collection using TIM and CERNBot
- 3D reconstruction of wall using Structure from Motion techniques to compare time evolution of defects (available on web browser or virtual reality headset)
- HL-LHC condition survey of existing infrastructure carried out with TIM to monitor impact of new civil works





Example of water leak found by TIM2 during TS3 2018



HD camera system for tunnel dome view



System integrated also on other robots



HD cameras mounted on TIM



Example of crack found using vision based machine learning techniques



Robotics used for postmortem analysis

 Robotic milling to machine stainless steel, aluminum, iron etc.













Robot realized for Quality assurance: RF cavity visual inner inspection

- ✓ Automatic system Definitions ✓ 8-10h hours of scan per Camera positions (end-effector): $\chi_{ee} = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_{ee} \\ y_{ee} \\ \psi_{ee} \end{pmatrix} \psi_{ee} = \alpha + \beta$ part Joints Space: $q_{ee} = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 \\ q_2 \end{pmatrix}$ ✓ ~19'000 photos per scan ✓ ~1.5 Tb data per scan ✓ Anti-collision system based Forward & Inverse Kinematics on lasers $\dot{\chi}_{ee} = J_A(q) \dot{q}$ ✓ High resolution camera and $\Delta q \cong J_A(q)^{-1} \Delta \chi_{ee}$ Liquid lens $qNext \cong qActual + \Delta q$ ✓ System unique in the world $w = L_{strate} + L_{surs} - a$
 - Images size: 1 x 1 cm taken at 23 mm distance



Quality control for RP sample positioning

 RP sample changer enhances throughput for spectrographic analysis of samples
Supervised deep learning helps in ensuring heterogeneous sample position for measurement quality control





Super resolution for visual online monitoring #1

- Generates higher resolution less noisy images from small resolution compressed images
- > Two categories:

Low-resolution

image (input)

- Single image super-resolution [7]
- Multiple image super-resolution [8]
- State-of-the-art neural networks produce great results but are not suitable for realtime display

 n_1 feature maps

of low-resolution image

Patch extraction

and representation

 $f_2 \times$

Non-linear mapping

n₂ feature maps of high-resolution image

Reconstruction







igh-resolution

iage (output

Super resolution for visual online monitoring #2

- We merged 2 neural networks : compression noise reduction and resolution enhancement [9]
- Reduce 4G bandwidth consumption for transmitting images
- Generates no lag thanks to real-time capabilities
- Little defects in some images are not critical as images are displayed to the operator at 15 fps
- Multiscale super resolution available (2x, 4x, 8x etc.)





50% jpeg compression; 14 kb



4X resolution enhancement + noise reduction; 282 kb; computation time 4 ms



Brain-Robot Interface for robot arm control

- > Online analysis of brain signal
- Augmented reality glasses used for commands display
- Eyes focus point detected by CNN processing Steady State Visual Evoked Potentials (SSVEP [15]) which are synchronous responses produced in the visual cortex area when observing flickering stimuli





Hardware used for the brain monitoring





Brain-Robot Interface for robot arm control







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Intervention done in 2015

Intervention Examples

> Radioactive sources handling in old dosemeter calibration hall (b.172)

- Source of different shape and weight
- Installed since more than 30 years
- No drawings











Intervention done in 2015, b172





Challenging Teleoperation Example#1

- Radioactive source handling at 2.5 m height using CERNbot 2
 - ✓ Intervention not possible to be performed by humans
 - ✓ Bimanual operation, novel procedures and tooling
 - CERNTAURO RH procedures and recovery scenarios allowed intervention acceptance by big science facility management
 - ✓ CERNTAURO bilateral master-slave control allowed precise telemanipulation of delicate objects





Challenging Teleoperation Example#1





Challenging Teleoperation Example#2

LHC TDE inspection

CERNbot v1.0 core














Challenging Teleoperation Example#2

LHC TDE inspection











Challenging Teleoperation Example#3 Support for the dismantling of n_ToF target





Robotics used for postmortem analysis (SPS - TIDVG)





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Main Robotics Interventions in 2020

BDF T6: Removal and samples extraction CERNBot + Teodor







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Future main missions

> old nToF target opening, robots for NA (TCCD), ntoF NEAR target exchange, new CMS VAX maintenance with CRANEbot, ATLAS shielding doors robotic milling

> VAX remote maintenance





Robots for Search and Rescue

> First test of for **FB-CERNbot** collaboration for search and rescue in disaster zones



Collaboration with HSE-FRS



Robots for Search and Rescue

Collaboration with HSE-FRS



2D IMAGE

IR+RADAR (for respiration and heart beat monitoring

Video of CERNbot searching for victims in disaster zones with presence of heavy smoke, comparison of standard 2D image with IR+RADAR



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Modular Robots

- > Adaptive traction system for ground robots
- Drones and hyper-redundant (snake) robot for inspection and teleoperation support (third eye) in confined space (including beam pipe inspection)
- Fusing hydraulic and mechanic technologies for a novel robotic arm (more precision and payload) for portable machining/CNC system allowing in-situ interventions on highly radioactive objects
- > Improvement of autonomy of robotic operation using machine learning







User-friendly teleoperation system

> Novel Master device equipped with haptic devices to increase operators proprioception

> Autonomous operation based on learning by demonstration technology

Integration and commissioning of Machine Learning technologies for operator awareness and autonomy improvements





BLMs detection and 6 DoF pose estimation using ML



BLMs detection and pose estimation framework





Examples of BLMs detection/segmentation using ML



TIM Junior





ROV inside TIM wagon to be lowered down in the LHC











TIM Junior

















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SCHUNK ARM ASSEMBLY

CRNPRTJR0004

Robots for Future Accelerators (FCC)

>Novel robotics platforms and controls for remote maintenance and interventions





Robots for Future Accelerators (FCC)

H. Gamper PhD work



Established partnerships for European Projects

We are chairing the Teleoperation topic group of the EuRobotics consortium (<u>https://www.eu-robotics.net/</u>)

Consortiums built for European Projects calls (RECONDITION, BIANCA, HUROSHARE, SCORE, POLE)

>Participation in the European robotic Challenge (EUROC) and Puresafe projects









Conclusions

- Particle accelerators devices are normally installed for many years and tasks of dismantling radioactive objects is inherited by the future generation of physicists/technicians/engineers
- Maintenance and dismantling tasks, over a lifetime of a particle accelerator device, must be taken into account at design phase
- Robotic intelligent and robust systems can increase personnel safety and machine availability in performing such tasks
- > Ready-to-use industrial solutions do not exist for user friendly remote maintenance and inspection
- We gained an important knowledge and experience in designing, producing and applying robots in harsh and hazardous environment
- External collaboration with research centers and Universities is crucial to improve, to share knowledge and to take advantage of the cutting edge technology



Are Robot "serving" humans?





Are Robot "serving" humans? ... or we are serving robots?





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Many colleagues contributed to the robotic activities during the last years Lots of students (TRNEE, TECH, DOCT)





Robots and robotic instrumentation need a crew to use them and maintain and experts in-house to be effective





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Additional detailed info could be found at the CERN Academic Seminar lectures on Robotics → https://indico.cern.ch/event/1055745/





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