

Statistics for IROS 2008 and proposals for improving the review process

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1 Principle of the review process of IROS 2008

The steps of the review process were

1. initial submission (firm deadline: February 22)
2. distribution of the papers to the regional chairs
3. distribution of the papers by the regional chairs to associate editors. The job of the associate editors was to make a synthesis of the reviews
4. distribution of the papers to the reviewers by the associate editors
5. in parallel all submitted papers were reviewed by members of the organization committee (these reviews were initiated during the submission time)
6. notification to the authors of conditional acceptance (June 6)
7. submission of the final version (deadline: July 7)
8. all final versions were checked with respect to reviewers comments compliance
9. final acceptance (until July 10)

The reviewers and associate editors were asked to provide a ranking between A (note = 5) and E (note = 1).

After getting the reviews the Program Committee has classified the submitted papers into 4 categories:

1. accepted papers (mean note ≥ 4): 292 papers
2. rejected papers (mean note ≤ 2): 134 papers
3. problematic papers: 168 papers
4. others: 764 papers

The accepted and rejected categories were sent to the regional chairs prior to the PC meeting and we proposed to the regional chairs not to discuss these papers during the PC meeting.

Problematic papers were the one for which there was a significant difference between the reviewers comments or with the organization committee ranking. This problematic papers were discussed by the full PC during the first day of the PC meeting. The remaining papers were discussed during the second day, these papers being discussed among sub-groups of the PC.

The authors were notified of acceptance on June 6 (with a deadline for submitting the final version on July 7) but there were informed that at this stage this was only a conditional acceptance: indeed there has been a check of the final version by some of the Organization Committee members (mostly the one located at Sophia Antipolis) and if the reviewers comments were not taken into account, then the authors were asked to re-upload a corrected final version. After being successfully checked the authors were notified of final acceptance (all of them were notified before July 10).

¹this report reflects the view of the author and not the view of the Organization Committee

2 Submitted papers

- 1358 submitted papers from 45 countries
- largest contributors: Japan (347), USA (186), France (132) South-Korea (98), Germany (94)
- break-out according to IEEE regions: Region 1-7 (222), Region 8 (475), Region 9 (14), Region 10 (578)

2.1 Country repartition

The breakdown by country is presented in table 1.

Japan	347
United States of America	186
France	132
Korea, South	98
Germany	94
Spain	63
China	62
Italy	52
Canada	36
United Kingdom	33
Iran	28
Switzerland	27
Australia	23
Singapore	16
Portugal	16
Taiwan	15
Sweden	14
India	12
Greece	12
New Zealand	9
Mexico	9
Algeria	9
Turkey	8
Netherlands	8
Denmark	8
Belgium	7
Poland	4
Brazil	4
Hungary	3
Finland	3
Tunisia	2
Israel	2
Croatia	2
Austria	2
Venezuela	1
South Africa	1
Slovenia	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Russia	1
Romania	1
Philippines	1
Norway	1
Lebanon	1
Estonia	1
Argentina	1

Table 1: Repartition of the submitted papers by country

2.2 Thematic repartition

The thematic repartition of the submitted papers according to the total count on all keywords is presented in tables 2,3. These tables display the number of submitted papers that have indicated a given theme as first,

second or third keyword.

Theme	First keyword	Second keyword	Third keyword	Total
Computer Vision*	50	60	38	148
Motion Control*	21	49	57	127
Humanoid Robots*	60	31	24	115
Localization*	57	31	14	102
Navigation*	34	37	28	99
Learning and Adaptive Systems*	39	39	19	97
Service Robots*	18	33	33	84
Biologically-Inspired Robots*	36	24	22	82
Mechanism Design*	10	35	34	79
Legged Robots*	33	31	12	76
Mapping*	28	24	20	72
Dynamics*	19	37	16	72
Intelligent Vehicles*	33	19	18	70
Recognition*	11	29	29	69
Sensor Fusion*	16	28	23	67
Field Robots*	21	19	26	66
Medical Robots and Systems*	33	19	10	62
Distributed Robot Systems*	23	26	11	60
Wheeled Robots*	20	19	21	60
Kinematics*	5	28	27	60
SLAM*	38	10	11	59
Autonomous Agents*	15	25	15	55
Rehabilitation Robotics*	33	15	4	52
Visual Tracking*	16	21	14	51
Range Sensing*	22	19	10	51
Cooperating Robots*	18	16	15	49
Social Human-Robot Interaction*	27	13	9	49
Haptics and Haptic Interfaces*	25	12	9	46
Control Architectures and Programming*	16	15	14	45
Visual Servoing*	21	14	7	42
Search and Rescue Robots*	16	13	13	42
Force Control*	7	20	14	41
Animation and Simulation*	15	9	16	40
Virtual Reality and Interfaces*	3	19	17	39
Biomimetics*	7	16	16	39
Telerobotics*	18	12	8	38
Aerial Robotics*	26	8	3	37
Grasping*	15	10	11	36
Force and Tactile Sensing*	15	13	7	35
Cognitive Human-Robot Interaction*	8	17	9	34
Marine Robotics*	21	7	6	34
Path Planning for Manipulators*	15	10	8	33
Dexterous Manipulation*	11	9	13	33
Parallel Robots*	22	7	4	33
Manipulation Planning*	5	19	9	33
Micro/Nano Robots*	20	6	7	33
Sensor Networks*	13	12	6	31
Gesture, Posture, Social Spaces and Facial Expressions*	8	18	5	31
Micro-manipulation*	15	11	4	30

Table 2: Thematic repartition of the submitted papers according to the total number of citation in all proposed keywords

The theme repartition according only to the first keyword in the submitted papers is presented in tables 4,5.

Theme	First keyword	Second keyword	Third keyword	Total
Nonholonomic Motion Planning*	11	13	5	29
Behaviour-Based Systems*	9	8	12	29
Networked Robots*	7	10	9	26
Underactuated Robots*	11	9	6	26
Physical Human-Robot Interaction*	10	10	5	25
Surveillance Systems*	16	4	5	25
Adaptive Control*	7	10	8	25
Cellular and Modular Robots*	21	3	1	25
Calibration and Identification*	13	4	8	25
Multifingered Hands*	7	8	9	24
Smart Actuators*	10	10	4	24
Robotics in Hazardous Fields*	5	9	9	23
Robot Companions and Social Robots in Home Environments*	10	4	8	22
Path Planning for Multiple Mobile Robot Systems*	14	4	3	21
Space Robotics*	9	6	6	21
Flexible Arms*	9	6	6	21
Contact Modelling*	6	8	6	20
Redundant Robots*	6	7	7	20
Domestic Robots*	7	6	6	19
Voice, Speech Synthesis and Recognition*	16	3	0	19
Programming Environment*	9	6	4	19
Ubiquitous Robotics*	8	6	4	18
Evolutionary Robotics*	7	5	6	18
Neural and Fuzzy Control*	5	5	7	17
Human Performance Augmentation*	5	7	5	17
Intelligent Transportation Systems*	3	6	7	16
Neurorobotics*	5	7	3	15
Manipulation and Compliant Assembly*	3	6	5	14
Personal Robots*	2	4	7	13
Agent-Based Systems*	5	2	5	12
AI Reasoning Methods*	6	4	2	12
Entertainment Robotics*	6	2	3	11
Robotics in Construction*	4	4	2	10
Education Robotics*	4	2	3	9
Cooperative Manipulators*	1	5	3	9
Sonars*	2	5	0	7
Networked Teleoperation*	2	4	1	7
Robotics in Agriculture and Forestry*	2	2	1	5
Mining Robotics*	2	0	0	2

Table 3: Thematic repartition of the submitted papers according to the total number of citation in all proposed keywords

Theme	Number of papers
Humanoid Robots*	60
Localization*	57
Computer Vision*	50
Learning and Adaptive Systems*	39
SLAM*	38
Biologically-Inspired Robots*	36
Navigation*	34
Rehabilitation Robotics*	33
Medical Robots and Systems*	33
Legged Robots*	33
Intelligent Vehicles*	33
Mapping*	28
Social Human-Robot Interaction*	27
Aerial Robotics*	26
Haptics and Haptic Interfaces*	25
Distributed Robot Systems*	23
Range Sensing*	22
Parallel Robots*	22
Visual Servoing*	21
Motion Control*	21
Marine Robotics*	21
Field Robots*	21
Cellular and Modular Robots*	21
Wheeled Robots*	20
Micro/Nano Robots*	20
Dynamics*	19
Telerobotics*	18
Service Robots*	18
Cooperating Robots*	18
Voice, Speech Synthesis and Recognition*	16
Visual Tracking*	16
Surveillance Systems*	16
Sensor Fusion*	16
Search and Rescue Robots*	16
Control Architectures and Programming*	16
Path Planning for Manipulators*	15
Micro-manipulation*	15
Grasping*	15
Force and Tactile Sensing*	15
Autonomous Agents*	15
Animation and Simulation*	15
Path Planning for Multiple Mobile Robot Systems*	14
Sensor Networks*	13
Calibration and Identification*	13
Underactuated Robots*	11
Recognition*	11
Nonholonomic Motion Planning*	11
Dexterous Manipulation*	11
Smart Actuators*	10
Robot Companions and Social Robots in Home Environments*	10
Physical Human-Robot Interaction*	10
Mechanism Design*	10
Space Robotics*	9
Programming Environment*	9
Flexible Arms*	9
Behaviour-Based Systems*	9
Ubiquitous Robotics*	8

Table 4: Thematic repartition of the submitted papers according to the first keyword

Theme	Number of papers
Gesture, Posture, Social Spaces and Facial Expressions*	8
Cognitive Human-Robot Interaction*	8
Networked Robots*	7
Multifingered Hands*	7
Force Control*	7
Evolutionary Robotics*	7
Domestic Robots*	7
Biomimetics*	7
Adaptive Control*	7
Redundant Robots*	6
Entertainment Robotics*	6
Contact Modelling*	6
AI Reasoning Methods*	6
Robotics in Hazardous Fields*	5
Neuro robotics*	5
Neural and Fuzzy Control*	5
Manipulation Planning*	5
Kinematics*	5
Human Performance Augmentation*	5
Agent-Based Systems*	5
Robotics in Construction*	4
Education Robotics*	4
Virtual Reality and Interfaces*	3
Manipulation and Compliant Assembly*	3
Intelligent Transportation Systems*	3
Sonars*	2
Robotics in Agriculture and Forestry*	2
Personal Robots*	2
Networked Teleoperation*	2
Mining Robotics*	2

Table 5: Thematic repartition of the submitted papers according to the first keyword

3 Accepted papers

A total of 661 papers were accepted for presentation leading to an acceptance ration of 48.67%.

3.1 Reviews

About 83% of the reviewers have answered within 7 days to a review request and about 73% of them have delivered the review in time.

On average a papers has been examined by 2.24 reviewers with a standard deviation of 0.51. In addition each paper has been examined by an Associate Editor and one member of the Organization Committee.

The longest review has 9536 characters (1527 words), the shortest one only 19 (4 words) while the mean value of the number of characters (words) in a review is 1418 (227) with a standard deviation of 1137 (185). The number of reviews with over 2000 characters (500 words) is 668 (244) for a total of 3010 reviews (22.2%). The number of reviews with over 1000 characters (300 words) is 1668 (55.4%) (760). There was 125 reviews with less than 200 characters (4.15%) and 275 reviews with less than 50 words (9.14%). Among the 45 reviews that have less than 20 words, 41 were not satisfactory. Five reviewers has uploaded a pdf file as comments.

3.2 Thematic repartition

The number of accepted submissions according to the first keyword provided by the authors is provided in table 6.

The number of submissions according to all keywords provided by the authors is provided in table 7.

Theme		Theme	
Agent-Based Systems	1	Crawler	1
Education Robotics	1	learning	1
Manipulation and Compliant Assembly	1	Micro-nanomanipulations, MEMS	1
Neuro botics	1	Quadruped robot	1
Robotics in Agriculture and Forestry	1	Sonars	1
Behaviour-Based Systems	2	Evolutionary Robotics	2
Manipulation Planning	2	Mining Robotics	2
Networked Robots	2	Personal Robots	2
Programming Environment	2	Robotics in Construction	2
Ubiquitous Robotics	2	Entertainment Robotics	3
Flexible Arms	3	Intelligent Transportation Systems	3
Neuro robotics	3	Adaptive Control	4
Biomimetics	4	Contact Modelling	4
Control Architectures and Programming	4	Gesture, Posture, Social Spaces and Facial Expressions	4
Human Performance Augmentation	4	Kinematics	4
Multifingered Hands	4	Physical Human- Robot Interaction	4
Robot Companions and Social Robots in Home Environments	4	Robotics in Hazardous Fields	4
Space Robotics	4	AI Reasoning Methods	5
Calibration and Identification	5	Force Control	5
Path Planning for Multiple Mobile Robot Systems	5	Visual Tracking	5
Cognitive Human- Robot Interaction	6	Domestic Robots	6
Mechanism Design	6	Path Planning for Manipulators	6
Autonomous Agents	7	Cooperating Robots	7
Dexterous Manipulation	7	Nonholonomic Motion Planning	7
Sensor Fusion	7	Sensor Networks	7
Surveillance Systems	7	Underactuated Robots	7
Wheeled Robots	7	Animation and Simulation	8
Micro-manipulation	8	Motion Control	8
Service Robots	8	Smart Actuators	8
Distributed Robot Systems	9	Range Sensing	9
Telerobotics	9	Visual Servoing	9
Grasping	10	Voice, Speech Synthesis and Recognition	10
Dynamics	11	Force and Tactile Sensing	11
Mapping	11	Marine Robotics	11
Social Human- Robot Interaction	11	Search and Rescue Robots	12
Biologically- Inspired Robots	13	Field Robots	13
Parallel Robots	13	Recognition	13
Cellular and Modular Robots	14	Medical Robots and Systems	14
Haptics and Haptic Interfaces	15	Intelligent Vehicles	15
Micro/Nano Robots	15	Navigation	16
Rehabilitation Robotics	16	Aerial Robotics	17
Learning and Adaptive Systems	19	Legged Robots	20
SLAM	20	Computer Vision	22
Localization	27	Humanoid Robots	28

Table 6: Number of accepted submissions according to the first keyword provided by the authors

Theme		Theme	
Behavioral Primitives	1	Circular Cross-Section	1
Crawler	1	Distributed robots, Network robot	1
Education Robotics	1	Gait transition	1
Learning	1	Mechanical Design	1
MEMS	1	Micro-nanomanipulations	1
Multi-expert system	1	Muscle tone	1
Neurobotics	1	Pipe Inspection	1
Quadruped robot	1	Rehabilitation Robotics	1
Rhythmoscillator	1	Self-organization	1
Sensorimotor Interaction	1	Sideling Motion	1
Cooperative Manipulators	2	Mining Robotics	2
Networked Teleoperation	2	Agent-Based Systems	3
Robotics in Agriculture and Forestry	3	Evolutionary Robotics	4
Neural and Fuzzy Control	4	Programming Environment	5
Robotics in Construction	5	Sonars	5
Entertainment Robotics	6	Manipulation and Compliant Assembly	6
Networked Robots	6	Path Planning for Multiple Mobile Robot Systems	7
Neurobotics	8	Personal Robots	8
Physical Human-Robot Interaction	8	Redundant Robots	8
Ubiquitous Robotics	8	Human Performance Augmentation	9
Intelligent Transportation Systems	9	Surveillance Systems	9
AI Reasoning Methods	10	Behaviour-Based Systems	10
Calibration and Identification	10	Contact Modelling	10
Flexible Arms	10	Space Robotics	11
Domestic Robots	12	Nonholonomic Motion Planning	12
Robot Companions and Social Robots in Home Environments	12	Speech Synthesis and Recognition	12
Voice	12	Path Planning for Manipulators	13
Robotics in Hazardous Fields	14	Sensor Networks	14
Adaptive Control	15	Manipulation Planning	15
Micro-manipulation	15	Control Architectures and Programming	16
Multifingered Hands	16	Smart Actuators	16
Virtual Reality and Interfaces	16	Biomimetics	17
Gesture	17	Parallel Robots	17
Posture	17	Social Spaces and Facial Expressions	17
Telerobotics	17	Cellular and Modular Robots	18
Force and Tactile Sensing	18	Marine Robotics	18
Visual Tracking	18	Dexterous Manipulation	19
Animation and Simulation	20	Range Sensing	20
Underactuated Robots	20	Cognitive Human-Robot Interaction	21
Cooperating Robots	21	Visual Servoing	21
Autonomous Agents	22	Force Control	22
Grasping	22	Aerial Robotics	23
Micro/Nano Robots	24	Social Human-Robot Interaction	24
Distributed Robot Systems	26	Rehabilitation Robotics	26
SLAM	27	Haptics and Haptic Interfaces	28
Medical Robots and Systems	29	Search and Rescue Robots	29
Kinematics	30	Sensor Fusion	30
Wheeled Robots	30	Intelligent Vehicles	35
Service Robots	35	Mapping	37
Recognition	39	Field Robots	40
Biologically-Inspired Robots	41	Learning and Adaptive Systems	41
Legged Robots	41	Dynamics	42
Mechanism Design	42	Localization	43
Navigation	50	Humanoid Robots	54
Computer Vision	61	Motion Control	62

Table 7: Number of accepted submissions according to all keywords provided by the authors

3.3 Ranking

The ranking given by the reviewers and Associate Editors **for all submitted papers** has a mean value of 3.16829 with a standard deviation of 0.762656. If only the reviewers are considered the mean value is 3.19606855 with a standard deviation of 0.775733. These mean values indicate that in general the submitted papers were of very good quality.

For the **accepted papers** the mean value of the ranking provided by the reviewers and Associate Editors is 3.59766 with a standard deviation of 0.556289884. If only the reviewers are considered the mean value is 3.5965030 with a standard deviation of 0.5924325.

We have also examined the mean value of ranking according to the domains, using as domain definition the first keyword provided by the authors. Table 8 gives the ranking for the domains having at least 10 accepted papers, while tables 9,10) present the ranking for all first keyword domain.

Domain	Nb paper	Mean	SD
Grasping	10	3.38709	.97634
Voice, Speech Synthesis and Recognition	10	3.69696	.66241
Dynamics	11	3.52631	.72622
Force and Tactile Sensing	11	3.69736	.59969
Mapping	11	3.54545	.47816
Marine Robotics	11	3.50000	.64364
Social Human-Robot Interaction	11	3.62857	.80413
Search and Rescue Robots	12	3.53750	.49380
Biologically-Inspired Robots	13	3.57500	.78377
Field Robots	13	3.81707	.56095
Parallel Robots	13	3.67441	.53868
Recognition	13	3.65116	.64099
Cellular and Modular Robots	14	3.53191	.76313
Medical Robots and Systems	14	3.47777	.75435
Haptics and Haptic Interfaces	15	3.41304	.69771
Intelligent Vehicles	15	3.53921	.61331
Micro/Nano Robots	15	3.77450	.76140
Navigation	16	3.75000	.63835
Rehabilitation Robotics	16	3.52777	.70278
Aerial Robotics	17	3.66964	.63347
Learning and Adaptive Systems	19	3.77343	.70613
Legged Robots	20	3.53278	.66254
SLAM	20	3.55645	.50653
Computer Vision	22	3.63698	.57933
Localization	27	3.66091	.78523
Humanoid Robots	28	3.67741	.72826

Table 8: Mean ranking and standard deviation (SD) according to the author’s first keyword for the domains having at least 10 accepted papers

It must be noted that there is a significant difference between the mean values according to the domains. If we restrict the study to the domains which have at least 3 accepted papers the lowest mean value is 3.22 while the highest is 3.905. This clearly indicates that a ranking normalization should have been made before the PC meeting. This has not been done for IROS 2008 as the weighting factor were not available.

We have run a simulation on the initially accepted (with a ranking ≥ 4) and rejected papers (with a ranking ≤ 2). If a domain normalization factor deduced from the above tables has been taken into account there will have been roughly 100 papers that will have a different status. If we denote by IA the initially accepted papers, by IR the initially rejected papers and by TD the category to be discussed by the PC we estimate that about 30-40 papers may have moved from IA to TD, from IR to TD and from TD to IA or IR. It is however difficult to determine if such changes will have modified significantly the final output of the selection.

Domain	Nb paper	Mean	SD
Adaptive Control	4	3.75000	.49098
Aerial Robotics	17	3.66964	.63347
Agent-Based Systems	1	4.00000	0
AI Reasoning Methods	5	3.70000	.54589
Animation and Simulation	8	3.38888	1.08740
Autonomous Agents	7	3.47727	.64649
Behaviour-Based Systems	2	3.14285	.22906
Biologically-Inspired Robots	13	3.57500	.78377
Biomimetics	4	3.50000	.70710
Calibration and Identification	5	3.65625	.46899
Cellular and Modular Robots	14	3.53191	.76313
Cognitive Human-Robot Interaction	6	3.65000	.33391
Computer Vision	22	3.63698	.57933
Contact Modelling	4	3.79166	.37499
Control Architectures and Programming	4	3.70833	.68844
Cooperating Robots	7	3.23913	.84756
Crawler	1	3.83333	0
Dexterous Manipulation	7	3.69047	.58611
Distributed Robot Systems	9	3.40000	.39664
Domestic Robots	6	3.62500	.84962
Dynamics	11	3.52631	.72622
Education Robotics	1	3.66666	0
Entertainment Robotics	3	3.38888	.13605
Evolutionary Robotics	2	3.83333	0
Field Robots	13	3.81707	.56095
Flexible Arms	3	3.59090	.23577
Force and Tactile Sensing	11	3.69736	.59969
Force Control	5	3.84375	.23227
Gesture,Posture,Social Spaces and Facial Expressions	4	3.33333	.35355
Grasping	10	3.38709	.97634
Haptics and Haptic Interfaces	15	3.41304	.69771
Humanoid Robots	28	3.67741	.72826
Human Performance Augmentation	4	3.73076	.60211
Intelligent Transportation Systems	3	3.77272	.27340
Intelligent Vehicles	15	3.53921	.61331
Kinematics	4	3.45833	.23933
Learning	1	3.16666	0
Learning and Adaptive Systems	19	3.77343	.70613
Legged Robots	20	3.53278	.66254
Localization	27	3.66091	.78523
Manipulation and Compliant Assembly	1	3.37500	0
Manipulation Planning	2	4.00000	.57734
Mapping	11	3.54545	.47816
Marine Robotics	11	3.50000	.64364

Table 9: Mean ranking and standard deviation (SD) according to the author’s first keyword

Domain	Nb paper	Mean	SD
Mechanism Design	6	3.44444	.75767
Medical Robots and Systems	14	3.47777	.75435
Micro-manipulation	8	3.58000	.79863
Micro-nanomanipulations, MEMS	1	4.00000	0
Micro/Nano Robots	15	3.77450	.76140
Mining Robotics	2	3.58333	.43300
Motion Control	8	3.74137	.78872
Multifingered Hands	4	3.73076	.68917
Navigation	16	3.75000	.63835
Networked Robots	2	3.71428	.61087
Neuro robotics	4	3.85000	.76909
Non holonomic Motion Planning	7	3.76190	.43251
Parallel Robots	13	3.67441	.53868
Path Planning for Manipulators	6	3.55263	.49710
Path Planning for Multiple Mobile Robot Systems	5	3.22222	.71289
Personal Robots	2	3.41666	.43301
Physical Human-Robot Interaction	4	3.44117	1.06275
Programming Environment	2	3.57142	.38179
Quadruped robot	1	3.50000	0
Range Sensing	9	3.68965	.57949
Recognition	13	3.65116	.64099
Rehabilitation Robotics	16	3.52777	.70278
Robot Companions and Social Robots in Home Environments	4	3.50000	1.04083
Robotics in Agriculture and Forestry	1	4.00000	0
Robotics in Construction	2	3.58333	.14432
Robotics in Hazardous Fields	4	3.42307	.60229
Search and Rescue Robots	12	3.53750	.49380
Sensor Fusion	7	3.90476	.53132
Sensor Networks	7	3.65909	.50200
Service Robots	8	3.50000	.69388
SLAM	20	3.55645	.50653
Smart Actuators	8	3.48000	.74031
Social Human-Robot Interaction	11	3.62857	.80413
Sonars	1	2.66666	0
Space Robotics	4	3.73333	.45426
Surveillance Systems	7	3.54545	.61351
Telerobotics	9	3.70312	.30367
Ubiquitous Robotics	2	3.58333	.72168
Underactuated Robots	7	3.62500	.41926
Visual Servoing	9	3.50000	.83852
Visual Tracking	5	3.25000	.58630
Voice,Speech Synthesis and Recognition	10	3.69696	.66241
Wheeled Robots	7	3.45454	.87110

Table 10: Mean ranking and standard deviation (SD) according to the author's first keyword

3.4 Incorrect final version

The Organization Committee has asked the authors of 51 papers (7.7%) to correct their final version of. Two papers were not corrected within the deadline and were finally rejected.

The check of the final version was announced since the call for papers and is a labor intensive process for the Organization Committee. We believe however that such check allows to really improve the quality of the presented papers.

4 Posters session

It was not initially planned to have a poster session at IROS but in view of the number of papers that were close to be accepted the Organization Committee has decided to offer another opportunity of presentation according to the following rules:

1. authors of accepted papers were free to present also a poster and were automatically selected
2. authors of rejected papers willing to submit a poster were submitted to a selection by the Organization Committee
3. authors of rejected papers whose poster was accepted have to submit a single page extended abstract that is include in the DVD proceedings
4. the number of poster slots was limited to 60

We have received 165 poster proposals, 43 of which were issued from already accepted authors. Among the 122 remaining proposals the Organization Committee has selected 17 papers for presentation during the poster session.

4.1 Differences of number of pages between initial/final version

The Web conference indicated that the normal number of pages for a contributed paper was 6, while it was possible to submit a paper with up to 8 pages, provided that an extra-page fee was paid. A substantial number of papers were initially submitted with $6 + n$ pages while the number of pages in the final version was 6:

- 147 papers (22%) were initially submitted with $6 + n$ pages and have a final version with 6 pages
- 32 papers (4.8%) have initially 8 pages and a final version of 6 pages
- 154 papers (23%) have a final version with more than 6 pages
- 16 papers have an initial version with 6 pages and a final one with 7 pages
- 1 paper has an initial version with 6 pages and a final one with 8 pages

We believe that submitting an initial version with 8 pages and a final one of 6 pages is unfair as the paper that has been reviewed and has been accepted may be significantly different from the final version. Hence we propose either to limit the maximum number of pages to 7 or to indicate to authors that there cannot be more than one page difference between the initial and final version.

5 Improving the review process

5.1 Improvement of PaperPlaza

5.2 Single line review

When a single line review is submitted the Associate Editor should receive a specific email. He/she may flag the review as valid or ask the reviewer to improve the review.

5.2.1 Major changes

Reviewers should be able to categorize their recommendations as minor or essential. Essential changes will be especially examined by the PC and the authors must be able to submit short comments on their changes when submitting the final version.

5.3 Comparison of final and initial version

Comparing the initial submission and the final one is a tedious process that may be alleviated by using software tools. What we have done is to convert the pdf to an ascii file (using the Unix `ps2ascii` command) and compare the files using a variant of the `diff` command that find similarities between sentences. But clearly such approach, although quite helpful, may be improved, especially as the conversion into an ascii file is not perfect. Furthermore the “CONFIDENTIAL” paragraph that is added by PaperPlaza to the initial version should be placed in such way not to modify the layout of the paper (e.g vertically in the margin) to simplify the comparison between initial and final versions.

PaperPlaza should provide a more efficient tool to compare the initial and final versions.