

# *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics*

## **Instructions to Authors**

The *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics* (JRM), founded in 1989, is the world's first journal devoted to this field of study. Since its first issue, the JRM has published over 2,500 works exclusively on robotics and mechatronics. A diverse range of articles that are essential to the journal's global readership are published 6 times a year and are freely available online.

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### **AIMS & SCOPE**

JRM is a peer-reviewed Open Access journal in fields such as robotics, mechatronics, automation, system integration and human-related technology. Its editorial board includes well-established researchers and engineers in the field from the world over.

The scope of the journal includes any and all topics on robotics and mechatronics. As a key technology in robotics and mechatronics, it includes actuator design, motion control, sensor design, sensor fusion, sensor networks, robot vision, audition, mechanism design, robot kinematics and dynamics, mobile robot, path planning, navigation, SLAM, robot hand, manipulator, nano/micro robot, humanoid, service and home robots, universal design, middleware, human-robot interaction, human interface, networked robotics, telerobotics, ubiquitous robot, learning, and intelligence.

The scope also includes, but is not limited to, applications of robotics and automation, and system integrations in the fields of manufacturing, construction, underwater, space, agriculture, sustainability, energy conservation, ecology, rescue, hazardous environments, safety and security, dependability, medical, and welfare.

### **MANUSCRIPT TYPES**

The journal welcomes 6 manuscript types, all of which are peer reviewed.

#### **Papers**

Papers should present new findings and original concepts with complete discussion. They should average be 8 printed pages.

#### **Development Reports**

Development Reports describe technical findings that will actually be useful in practical applications. They should normally be 6 printed pages.

## **Letters**

Letters describe a single result, experiment, or technique of general interest for which a letter treatment is appropriate. They should normally be 2 printed pages.

## **Junior Letters**

Junior Letters are a technical report or a concept proposal, described by students who are under 20 years old. They should normally be 2 printed pages.

## **Discussions**

Discussions are a separate class of short manuscripts. Appropriate items include (but are not limited to) rebuttals and/or counter examples of previously published papers.

## **Reviews**

Reviews summarize a specific subject by introducing the author's own opinions concerning recent progress and future prospects to give a balanced assessment.

## **JOURNAL & ETHICS POLICIES**

The *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics* strives for the highest standards in scholarly publishing.

Before submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors must ensure that they have read and are compliant with the journal's policies. The journal reserves the right to reject without review any manuscript that the Editor-in-Chief believes may not comply with these policies.

The responsibilities of the journal's authors, editors, reviewers and publisher regarding research and publication ethics are described in this section.

The *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics* welcomes manuscript submissions from authors who are anywhere in the world.

Authors of submitted manuscripts warrant that they have read and approved the manuscript, have agreed to its submission, and have the right to publish their work, and that the work contains no slanderous or libelous material. Authors alone are responsible for all statements in their manuscripts.

### **Journal abbreviation**

The journal title is *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics*. It should be abbreviated as "*J. Robot. Mechatron.*"

### **Authorship**

The corresponding author warrants that all authors have seen and approved the author list and order. Changes to the author list after manuscript submission – such as the insertion or removal of author names, or a rearrangement of author order – must be approved by all authors and the relevant Associate Editor or Editor-in-Chief.

Authors are encouraged to consider the Council of Science Editors (CSE) principles governing authorship. According to the CSE guidelines, authors have made substantial contributions to the work; have agreed to be held accountable for their own contributions to

the work; can identify which co-authors are responsible for other parts of the work; have confidence in the integrity of the work; and have reviewed and approved the final manuscript. Contributors who do not qualify for authorship may be included in the Acknowledgements section instead.

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Authors warrant that their submitted manuscript has not been previously published (in part or in whole, in any language), is not in press, and has not been simultaneously submitted for publication elsewhere.

Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press, posted to a preprint server, or published elsewhere. The availability of a manuscript on a publicly accessible preprint server does not constitute prior publication (see ‘Preprints’), but authors should indicate upon submission any posting to a preprint server.

If authors choose to submit their manuscript elsewhere before a final decision has been made on its suitability for publication in the *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics*, they must first withdraw it from the journal.

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Authors warrant that their submission to the journal is their original work. The journal uses the iThenticate system via Crossref’s Crosscheck service to screen manuscripts for unoriginal content. By submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors agree to this screening. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of unoriginal material may be rejected or retracted at the editors’ discretion.

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Editors’ assessment of a submitted manuscript’s novelty will not be influenced by other manuscripts posted to preprint servers after the date of submission to the *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics*. In addition, if you submit your manuscript to the journal at the same time as posting it to a preprint server, the Editors will consider your manuscript for publication.

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The journal encourages authors to grant reasonable requests from colleagues to share any data, materials and experimental protocols described in their manuscript.

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Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving humans or materials derived from humans must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki, its revisions, and any guidelines approved by the authors' institutions. Where relevant, the authors must include a statement in their manuscript that describes the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants regarding participation in the research and publication of the research.

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving animals or materials derived from animals must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the guidelines approved by the authors' institution(s).

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Following Science Council of Japan (SCJ) policy, the *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics* will not, in principle, publish papers of military-related research.

### **Specimen collection**

Manuscripts describing the collection of archaeological, geological, paleontological or wildlife specimens or samples should include detailed information on their provenance and collection methods. Authors must include a statement in their manuscript describing the

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In the interests of transparency, the journal requires all authors to declare any conflicts of interest in relation to their submitted manuscript. A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an author's ability to conduct or report research impartially. Potential conflicts include (but are not limited to) competing commercial or financial interests, commercial affiliations, consulting roles, or ownership of stock or equity.

Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section of their manuscript.

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### **Received and accepted dates**

The received date is the date on which a manuscript is received by the journal's Editorial Office, and the accepted date is the approval date for publication by the Editorial Committee.

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The journal uses single-blind peer review. All original research manuscripts are sent generally to two anonymous reviewers who evaluate them for originality, validity, novelty, methodology, appropriate citation of relevant work, and the importance of content and conclusions. Further details about the journal's acceptance criteria are listed below.

The time required for peer review depends on many factors, including the time to locate reviewers and the timeliness of their responses. The median time from submission to first decision is 90 days. As an aside, the median time from acceptance to publication is 60 days.

When a manuscript is submitted to the journal, the Editor-in-Chief performs initial screening. Manuscripts that do not fit the journal's scope or are not deemed suitable for publication are rejected without review. The remaining manuscripts are assigned to an Associate Editor who assigns 2 reviewers to assess each manuscript. The Editor-in-Chief may manage the peer review process in some circumstances. The deadline for submission of the reviewers' reports varies by article type.

Once the reviewers' reports have been received, the Associate Editor makes the first decision: acceptance; conditional acceptance with minor revisions; revision and resubmission due to the need for major revisions; or reject. Decisions are made on the totality of the information

available to the Associate Editor: the manuscript, the reviewers' reports, the acceptance criteria, the competition for limited space in the journal, and the aims and ambitions of the journal.

Authors who are asked to revise their manuscript must do so within 2 weeks for 'conditionally accepted' manuscripts and 4 weeks for 'revise and resubmit' manuscripts; otherwise, manuscripts may be treated as new submissions after three months. The Associate Editor may send revised manuscripts to peer reviewers for their feedback or may use his or her own judgement to assess how closely the authors have attended to the reviewers' comments and amended the original manuscript. The Associate Editor then makes a final decision on the manuscript's suitability for publication in the journal. The Editor-in-Chief acts as an arbitrator when necessary.

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Reviewers are invited within 1 weeks of an article being submitted. Reviewers are asked to submit their first review within four weeks of accepting the invitation to review. For 'conditionally accepted' articles, reviewers are asked to return their second review within one week. For 'revise and resubmit' articles, reviewers are asked to return their second review within two weeks. Reviewers who anticipate any delays should inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

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If a manuscript satisfies the journal's requirements and represents a significant contribution to the published literature, the Associate Editor may accept the publication in the journal. The following criteria are used to assess the suitability of manuscripts for publication.

#### **i) Originality and novelty**

Each submitted manuscript is evaluated for novelty and originality in the relevant field of research. Associate Editors assess if the manuscript presents original scholarship and data and draws valid and significant conclusions.

#### **ii) Usefulness**

An objective of the *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics* is to introduce technologies that originate in academia to industry. Associate Editors therefore make judgements about a manuscript's contribution to technological development; potential and possible applications; and implications for broader societal benefit. In addition, they determine if the authors have attended to these issues in the best way possible.

iii) Academic rigor

Associate Editors judge the scientific or academic rigor of each submitted manuscript. The *Journal of Robotics and Mechatronics* only publishes manuscripts that are within the subject scope of the journal, demonstrably rigorous, and within academic norms, and that make valid and defensible conclusions.

iv) Overall standards

The overall standards of a submitted manuscript – that is, the quality of its data, figures and tables, writing, and citations – must be high.

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If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office: [robot@fujipress.jp](mailto:robot@fujipress.jp).

## **MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

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The journal is published in English. Manuscripts are submitted primarily in English, which must be clear, grammatically correct and of a sufficient standard to allow reviewers to be able to assess the manuscript. If the standard of English expression is poor, the manuscript may be returned to authors without peer review.

Manuscripts may be submitted in Japanese, which are translated by Fuji Technology Press Ltd., at the authors' expense, and undergo full peer review.

### **Style and format**

Manuscripts should be prepared in LaTeX (preferred) or Microsoft Word based on the template file available at the journal's website.

Each article should consist of: Title, Authors' full names, Affiliations, Abstract, Keywords, Main text, References, and Figures/Tables.

#### *Title*

The title should describe the content of the article concisely and clearly to facilitate searching by third-party services. Do not use the same main title with numbered minor titles, even for a series of papers by the same authors. Do not use abbreviations in the title, except those used generally in related fields.

#### *Authors*

Provide the full names of the author(s).

#### *Affiliations*

Provide the full names and addresses of institutions (including laboratory, department, institute and/or university, city, state and country). When authors belong to more than one institution, their respective addresses should be indicated by superscript asterisks.

### *Keywords*

A maximum of five keywords should be provided.

### *Units*

SI or SI-derived units should be used. More information on SI units is available at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) website.

### *Abbreviations*

Each abbreviation should be defined in parentheses together with its non-abbreviated term when it first appears in the text (except in the Title and Abstract).

### *Abstract*

The Abstract should clearly express the content of the paper in a single paragraph and include the question being addressed, experimental approach, main results and outcomes, and conclusions. Abstracts should be 200–250 words and must not exceed 4,000 characters (including spaces). Avoid using specific abbreviations.

### *Introduction*

The Introduction should provide enough background information to allow the reader to understand the purpose of the investigation and its relationship with other research in related fields. It should not be an extensive literature review.

### *Materials and Methods*

The description of the methods should be brief, but sufficiently detailed to allow the experiments to be repeated. The sources of atypical equipment or materials should be described, and the location (city, country) of the supplier or manufacturer stated (in parentheses).

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This section includes a description of the main, notable or interesting results of the research. Tables and figures, including photographs, can be used to present the experimental results (see below). Long explanations of the data presented in tables and figures are not necessary.

### *Discussion*

The Discussion section provides authors with the opportunity to present their interpretation of the results. Novel models or hypotheses may be proposed in this section only if they are supported by the results obtained in the experiments. Avoid repeating descriptions of the experimental results in this section.

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The Conclusion should summarize the key points of the manuscript in a concise paragraph.

### *Acknowledgments*

This section should be brief. Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements.

## References

Articles, chapters published in journals, preprints, books, and other formats such as technical reports, patents, and lectures must be fully referenced in the References section. Websites must be listed in “Supporting Online Materials” separately from References. The use of any other materials or personal communications should be described in the text.

The journal uses a modified Vancouver reference style. References are numbered consecutively in the order they are cited in the main text. Use a maximum of two names when referring to authors in the text, for example “Kobayashi and Smith.” For more than two authors, provide only the last name of the first author followed by “et al.” For example, “Arai et al.”

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### References:

#### <Journal article>

- [1] T. Arai et al., “Development of a Direct-Drive Human-like Manipulator,” *J. Robotics Society of Japan*, Vol.5, No.1, pp. 27-35, 1985.
- [2] H. Yang, T. Takaki, and I. Ishii, “Simultaneous Dynamics-Based Visual Inspection Using Modal Parameter Estimation,” *J. Robot. Mechatron.*, Vol.23, No.1, pp. 180-195, 2011.

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- [4] T. Mouri and H. Kawasaki, “A novel anthropomorphic robot hand and its master slave system,” M. Hackel (Eds.), “Humanoid Robots, Human-like Machines,” I-Tech Education and Publishing, pp. 29-42, 2007.

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- [5] Rumelhart, McClelland and the PDP Research Group, “Parallel Distributed Processing,” The MIT Press, 1988.
- [6] M. Wisse and R. Q. v. d. Linde, “Delft pneumatic bipeds,” Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, 2007.

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- [7] J. Furusho et al., “A Performance Evaluation Method of a Passive-Type Force Display and Rehabilitation System with Redundant Brakes,” *Proc. IEEE Int. Conf. on Rehabil. Robotics*, pp. 950-955, doi: 10.1109/ICORR.2009.5209504, 2009.
- [8] T. Yamada and T. Morimatsu, “Remarks on RBF Controller Induced from Neural Network Controller,” *Proc. of the 34th SICE Annual Conf.*, pp. 725-726, 1996.

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- [9] “Three Dimension Motor,” Japanese Patent 1946377, 1985.
- [10] J. A. Norling, “Anaglyph stereoscopy,” U.S. Patent US2135197A, 1937.

### Supporting Online Materials:

#### <Website>

- [a] Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, Survey of tourist population by Scenic spots, <https://www.travel.taipei/zh-tw/statistical-bulletin/number-of-visitors> [Accessed June 6, 2019]
- [b] IES Virtual Environment, “Egress: Simulex User Guide,” 2014, [http://www.iesve.com/content/downloadasset\\_5633](http://www.iesve.com/content/downloadasset_5633) [Accessed August 1, 2018]

### *Tables*

A title and caption must be provided above each table. The caption should be brief, but informative, complete and clear.

### *Figures*

A title and caption must be provided below each figure. Figure captions should include enough experimental or other detail to make the figures easily interpretable; however, avoid duplicating detail from the Materials and Methods.

## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS**

Manuscripts that are accepted for publication are copyedited and typeset by the journal's production team before publication. All communication regarding accepted manuscripts is with the corresponding author.

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When a manuscript is accepted, authors must submit the final manuscript files and required materials to the Editorial Office via email. Full instructions will be provided in the notification of acceptance.

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