Introduction

There is significant and increasing interest in autonomous mobile robots — robots that are capable of intelligent motion and action without requiring any external support while executing a given task. Potential applications for autonomous mobile robots are many and it is likely that, e.g., mobile service robots, will be commonplace in the not too distant future. However, this requires that these mobile robots be highly adaptive in order to perform useful activities in a real world. Thus one challenge of current mobile robot research is to find mechanisms which give a mobile robot the capability to learn. It may be said that learning is the key to obtain really useful mobile robots.

Since many of the problems currently encountered in advanced mobile robots will possibly find a solution by applying learning techniques, the central topic of EUROBOT '97, the Second Euromicro Workshop on Advanced Mobile Robots, is “Learning in Mobile Robots.” Most papers included in this volume deal with various aspects of this central topic.

Generally, EUROBOT aims to establish an international open forum for the discussion of state-of-the-art research and of up-to-date topics related to advanced mobile robots. The workshop is intended to be held annually at different European locations, each year concentrating on a single topic.

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Welcome to Brescia!

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