Service Robotics – State of the Art in an Emerging Market

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Timeline of Robotics

1921
Karel Čapek

1941
Isaac Asimov

1954
Prog.Arm

1961
Unimation

1968
Shakey

1980
100,000 robots

1984
Service robots

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Asimov’s “Laws of Robotics”

- **Law One**
  - A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

- **Law Two**
  - A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.

- **Law Three**
  - A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.
What are Service Robots?

- Service robots refill vehicles, reconstruct nuclear power plants, take care of the elderly, observe museums, explore other planets or clean aircrafts. So what are service robots?
- Service robots form an intermediate stage in the evolution from the industrial robot to the personal robot, which might be an important part of our lives in 20 years.
- Service robots are mobile, manipulative, interact with human beings, or perform tasks autonomously that relieve the human being. They fulfill tasks for humans and facilities: They perform services.

*IEEE and IPA-FhG database on Service Robotics*
Demands for Service Robots

- **Usability**
  - Man-Machine-Interface
  - Usable by Laymen/Laywomen
- **Service on a High Level**
  - Robust
  - Efficient
  - Precise
  - Cost-Effective
- **Reliability**
  - Safety
  - Availability
  - Dependability
Safety in Service Robotics

Increasing Safety Demands

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Kinds of Service Robots

- Agriculture
- Care / Rehabilitation
- Cleaning
- Construction
- Demining
- Entertainment
- Fire-Fighting
- Hobby / Leisure Time
- Hotel / Restaurant
- Marketing
- Medical
- Mining
- Monitoring
- Office
- Reconstruction
- Refueling
- Sorting
- Space
- Underwater

IEEE and IPA-FhG database on Service Robotics
Market Analysis

- **Surveillance**: 50+300
- **Reha**: 200+200
- **Underwater**: 400+200
- **Cleaning**: 300+500
- **Refueling**: 50+800
- **Medicine**: 800+7000
- **Household**: 2000+12500


UN/ECE and IFR (1999)
Surveillance and Inspection

- **Application Domains**
  - Inspection of Sewer Systems
  - Guarding Buildings, etc.

- **Demands**
  - Robust
  - Safe

- **Benefits**
  - Inspection of previously unreachable areas
  - Rationalization

- **Examples**
  - MAKRO (AiS-GMD, Germany)
  - CyberGuard (Cybermotion, France)
Rehabilitation

- **Application Domains**
  - Elderly, Ill, and Handicapped Persons
  - (Clinical) Rehabilitation

- **Demands**
  - Dependable and Safe
  - Easy to Use
  - Adaptable to the Individual

- **Benefits**
  - Improvements for the User's Mobility, Autonomy, and Quality of Life

- **Example**
  - Rolland (Bremen)
Cleaning

- **Application Domains**
  - Stations, Office Buildings
  - Planes, Boats, etc.

- **Demands**
  - Safe
  - Robust

- **Benefits**
  - Rationalization
  - Saving of Time

- **Examples**
  - ACROMATIC (Hako, Germany)
  - Skywash SW33 (Putzmeister, Germany)
Refueling

- **Application Domain**
  - Automatic Gas Stations

- **Demands**
  - Robust and Fault-Tolerant
  - Precise

- **Benefits**
  - Saving of Time
  - Reducing Risks to Health
  - Correct Selection of Fuel

- **Example**
  - AutoFill (Sweden)
Medicine

- **Application Domains**
  - Support for Operations
  - (Minimal Invasive) Surgery

- **Demands**
  - Precise
  - Fail-Safe

- **Benefits**
  - Higher Precision during Operations

- **Example**
  - Surgical Robotics Lab (Charite, Berlin)
Household

- **Application Domains**
  - House Keeping at Home or Gardening

- **Demands**
  - Safe
  - Easy to Use
  - Cheap

- **Benefits**
  - Automation of “Unpleasant” Tasks
  - Rationalization in Commercial Fields

- **Examples**
  - Vacuum-Cleaners (Kärcher, Germany)
  - Lawn-Mowers (Friendly Robots, Israel)
Entertainment

- Application Domains
  - Shows
  - Museums
  - Amusement Parks

- Demands
  - Safe
  - Robust

- Benefits
  - New Possibilities for Entertainment

- Example
  - EXPO Theme Park “Mobility” (ZKM / IML-FhG)
Future of Service Robotics