



IEEE ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
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AWARDS

Nominate a Colleague for the 2027 IEEE Robotics and Automation Award

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Award for contributions in the field of robotics and automation is accepting nominations. The nomination deadline is 15 January 2026.

[Learn More](#)

MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY NEWS

IEEE RAS Members: Your Voice Matters

The [RAS Administrative Committee \(AdCom\) Election](#) is underway! This 6-week election is your opportunity to help shape the future of the Robotics and Automation Society. All eligible RAS members will receive voting instructions by email. Make sure your IEEE membership is active and your contact info is up to date

Your Feedback Matters: Tell Us What You Think

IEEE Robotics and Automation Society is listening! We're gathering feedback on our publications, conferences, education programs, and more.

Your insights will help us improve and innovate. Please take the [Member Services Committee Survey](#) and make your voice heard by 15 November!

Applications for 2026 IDEA Travel Grants Now Open!

Are you passionate about robotics and automation but haven't published in the last 3 years? The RAS IDEA Travel Support Program is designed to help underrepresented individuals attend top IEEE RAS conferences, including ICRA, IROS, CASE, and more, with funding of up to US\$3,300 in funding for travel, registration, and lodging.

This IDEA program is open to all!

Applications close on 30 November 2025, 11:59PM PST

[Learn More](#)

Renew Your RAS Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership! By being a part of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, you've taken a significant step in your professional journey. Renew today!

[Renew Today!](#)

CONFERENCES



Thanks for attending our RAS Events at IROS!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the various Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) events at the International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2025 in Hangzhou, China!

Your participation, insightful questions, and engaging discussions made our workshops, technical sessions, and networking events truly successful. It was fantastic to connect with so many members of the global robotics community, share the latest advancements, and plan for the future.

We hope you left IROS feeling inspired and energized. Keep an eye on your inbox for follow-up resources and updates on upcoming RAS activities. We can't wait to see you at the next event!

Congrats to the IROS 2025 Social Media Ambassadors!

Please join us in giving a massive round of applause to the exceptional group of RAS Student Ambassadors who represented our society so admirably at IROS 2025!

Thank you, Lukas, Xiaoxuan, and Stanley, for being such outstanding representatives of the next generation of robotics and automation leaders. We are incredibly proud of your hard work!





ICRA@40 Sessions Available On-Demand

It's been one year since we marked 40 years of robotics excellence at ICRA@40, and now, we're bringing that milestone to your screen. One session at a time, we're releasing the keynotes, panels, and reflections that made the anniversary unforgettable.

[Watch Sessions](#)

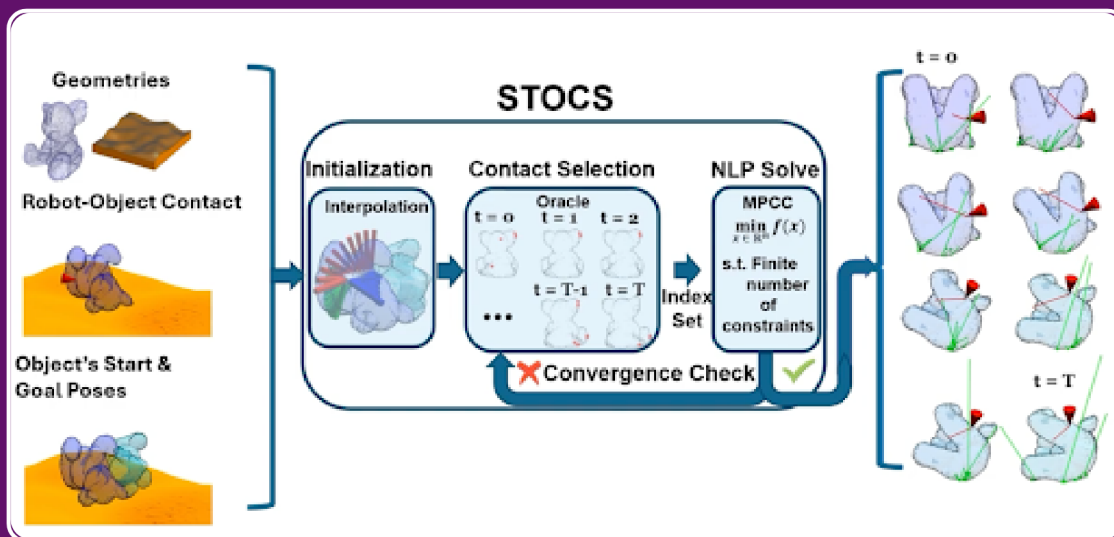
PUBLICATIONS

Upcoming Deadlines

22 November - [Call for Paper Deadline: ToH SI on WHC 2025](#)

31 December - [Call for Paper Deadline: ToH SI on Haptics for the Arts](#)

Publication Spotlight



[Read more](#)

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Simultaneous Trajectory Optimization and Contact Selection for Contact-rich Manipulation with High-Fidelity Geometry

In this *IEEE Transactions on Robotics* paper, the authors propose STOCS, a novel algorithm that embeds contact point & timing selection into contact-implicit trajectory optimization — dramatically improving planning speed and enabling complex contact-rich motions on high-fidelity 3D geometry.

Authors: Mengchao Zhang, Devesh K. Jha, Arvind U. Raghunathan, and Kris Hauser

SPECTRUM ROBOTS GUIDE

ROBOT OF THE MONTH

[Furhat](#) is a conversational robot head with a back-projected face designed to interact with humans in social settings. With highly expressive facial animations and a vast library of voices, it is used in academic research, education, and commercial innovation around the world.

[Learn More](#)



Discover Furhat on the [IEEE Spectrum Robots Guide](#), which RAS co-sponsors. This Guide is an interactive catalog featuring hundreds of real-world bots, including humanoids, drones, self-driving cars, and more. Browse detailed technical specs and read the latest news in the robotics field!

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IEEE • 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854
USA