

Book of Abstracts

European Workshop On Movement Science

Faculty of Human Movement Sciences
VU University Amsterdam
May 31 – June 2, 2007
www.ewoms.eu

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Mechanics – Physiology – Psychology

Book of Abstracts

VU University Amsterdam

Faculty of Human Movement Sciences

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Conference Program

Thursday, May 31, 2007

10.00 – 11:00	Registration (registration desk) & Coffee Reception (foyer)	
11.00 – 11.15	Welcome (aula)	Peter Beek, Wolfgang Schöllhorn, Willem Verwey
<hr/>		
11.15 – 12:30	Keynote Lecture 1 Chair: Wolfgang Schöllhorn (aula)	Daniel Wolpert Probabilistic models in human sensorimotor control
<hr/>		
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (behind / around aula)	Posters & Industrial Presentations (behind / around aula)
13:30 – 14:45	Symposia (parallel sessions)	1 (aula), 2 (auditorium), 3 (2A05)
14:45 – 15:00	Break (foyer)	
15:00 – 16:15	Free Communications (parallel sessions)	1 (aula), 2 (auditorium), 3 (2A05)
16:15 – 17:45	Poster Session 1 (behind aula)	Industrial Presentations (around aula)
<hr/>		
17:45 – 19:00	Keynote Lecture 2 Chair: Willem Verwey (aula)	David Rosenbaum The problem of serial order in behavior: Lashley's legacy
<hr/>		
19:00	Boat Trip with Dinner	(busses leave from VU campus parking lot)

Friday, June 1, 2007

08.45 – 10:00	Keynote Lecture 3 Chair: Peter Beek (aula)	Jeffrey Hausdorff Gait dynamics, fractals and falls: Finding meaning in the stride-to-stride fluctuations of human walking
<hr/>		
10.00 – 10:15	Break (foyer)	
10.15 – 11.30	Symposia (parallel sessions)	4 (auditorium), 5 (2A05)
11:30 – 11:45	Break (foyer)	
11:45 – 12:30	Plenary Industrial Presentations (auditorium)	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (behind / around aula)	Posters & Industrial Presentations (behind / around aula)
13:30 – 14:45	Symposia (parallel sessions)	6 (auditorium), 7 (2A05)
14:45 – 15:00	Break (foyer)	
15:00 – 16:15	Free Communications (parallel sessions)	4 (auditorium) , 5 (2A05), 6 (2A06)
16:15 – 17:45	Poster Session 2 (behind aula)	Industrial Presentations (around aula)
<hr/>		
17:45 – 19:00	Keynote Lecture 4 Chair: Willem Verwey (aula)	Scott Grafton Motor control is built on scaffolding of goal hierarchies: Insights from functional imaging and magnetic stimulation studies
<hr/>		
20:00	Dinner & Entertainment (Zuiderkerk, Amsterdam)	

Saturday, June 2, 2007

09.15 – 10:30	Keynote Lecture 5 Chair: Wolfgang Schöllhorn (aula)	Art Kuo The six determinants of gait and the inverted pendulum analogy: A dynamic walking perspective
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10.30 – 10:45	Break (foyer)	
10.45 – 12.00	Symposia (parallel sessions)	8 (auditorium), 9 (aula), 10 (2A05)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch (behind / around aula)	Industrial Presentations (around aula)
13:00 – 14:15	Free Communications (parallel sessions)	7 (aula), 8 (auditorium), 9 (2A05)
14:15 – 14:30	Break (foyer)	
14:30 – 15:45	Symposia (parallel sessions)	11 (aula), 12 (auditorium), 13 (2A05)
15:45 – 16:00	Break (foyer)	

16:00 – 17:15	Keynote Lecture 6 Chair: Peter Beek (aula)	Michael Turvey Action and perception at the level of synergies
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17:15 – 17:30	Concluding Remarks (aula)	Peter Beek, Wolfgang Schöllhorn, Willem Verwey
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Exploiting new perception-action solutions in ball bouncing: dynamics of learning and perceptual basis

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How do humans discover stable solutions to perceptual-motor tasks as they interact with the physical environment? We investigated this question using the task of rhythmically bouncing a ball on a racket, for which a passively stable solution is defined. Indeed, a physical model of the task showed the existence of a stable attractor when the racket impacts the ball within a specified range of negative accelerations (Schaal et al., 1996). This means that small perturbations in ball trajectory do not need to be corrected and that ball trajectories relax back to a limit-cycle trajectory within a few cycles.

Previously, it was shown that participants exploit this passive stability but can also actively stabilize bouncing under perceptual control (Morice et al., 2005). Using a virtual ball-bouncing set-up, we created new behavioral solutions for rhythmic bouncing by introducing a temporal delay, expressed also in terms of relative phase (45° to 180°), between the motion of the physical racket held by participants and that of a virtual racket visible of a large screen. Two learning experiments (26 and 24 participants) were carried out to study how participants searched for and performed a new solution in presence of various delays / relative phases (Experiment 1) and whether perceptual basis of the learning process involved temporal or spatio-temporal (relative phase) information (Experiment 2).

Experiment 1 showed that in all delay conditions, participants learned to maintain bouncing just outside the passively stable region, indicating a role for active stabilization. They recovered the approximate initial phase of ball impact in the virtual racket cycle by adjusting the impact phase with the physical racket. With short delays (45°, 90°), the impact phase quickly shifted later in the physical racket upswing. With long delays (135°, 180°), bouncing was destabilized and phase was widely visited before a new preferred phase gradually emerged, during the physical downswing.

The results suggest that new behavioral solutions may be discovered and stabilized through broad irregular sampling of variable space rather than through a systematic search.

Since in Experiment 1 the increase in phase lag co-varied with the increase in absolute delay, it remained an open question whether the dynamics of discovering new perception-action solutions depended on the spatio-temporal relationship between both rackets, or on the time delay between the two. Experiment 2 was carried out to get insight into this question and showed that spatio-temporal information was more likely to be used in the process of learning a new behavioral solution than absolute time information.

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Session 5

Chair: Jaak Duysens

Negotiating expected and unexpected level changes in gait

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While gait on even surfaces has been extensively studied, negotiation of uneven surfaces, often required in daily life, is comparatively uncharted. Stepping down an elevation in ongoing gait is a common task that can cause falls when the level change is unexpected. The aim of the present study was to determine the mechanical requirements of stepping down an elevation and to study how these are dealt with by comparing the mechanics of expected and unexpected stepping down in ongoing gait.

Ten young adult male subjects repeatedly walked over a platform wearing glasses that obstructed vision of the ground. An expected 10 cm height difference was negotiated after 6 m (indicated by a flag at eye height). In some trials, the height difference was unexpectedly encountered already after 4.7 m. Kinematics and ground reaction forces under both feet were measured during the step from the expected or unexpected encounter with the height difference.