

TABLE IV-continued

Reporting Commands		
Command	Example	Description
text	text "This is some text"	The text string sends a text string from the robot to the station, where the string is displayed to the user. This message is used mainly for debugging.
version	version 1.6	This message identifies the software version currently running on the robot. It is sent once at the start of the session to allow the station to do any necessary backward compatibility adjustments.

While certain exemplary embodiments have been described and shown in the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that such embodiments are merely illustrative of and not restrictive on the broad invention, and that this invention not be limited to the specific constructions and arrangements shown and described, since various other modifications may occur to those ordinarily skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile robot system that is controlled through an input device, comprising:

a robot that has a camera located in a camera coordinate system that has at least a first camera axis and a mobile platform located within platform coordinate system that has at least a first platform axis; and,

an input device that can be manipulated to cause said robot to move in at least three directions, each direction causes linear movement of said mobile platform in a drive direction without first rotating said mobile platform, said robot automatically moves and aligns said camera and said mobile platform while said robot is moving such that the first camera axis of the camera coordinate system is aligned with a first platform axis of the platform coordinate system from a state wherein said first camera and said first mobile platform axes were not in alignment.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said input device is a joystick.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein twisting said joystick causes rotation of said camera and pivoting said joystick causes said mobile platform to move.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a remote control station with a camera coupled to a monitor of said robot.

5. A method for controlling a robot, comprising:
providing a robot that has a camera, the camera being located in a camera coordinate system with at least a first camera axis and the mobile platform being located in a platform system with at least a first platform axis;
providing an input device that can be manipulated to cause robot movement in at least three directions;
moving the camera such that said first camera axis is not aligned with said first platform axis; and
moving the robot and automatically aligning the camera and mobile platform while the robot is moving so that the first camera axis of the camera coordinate system is aligned with the first platform axis of the platform coordinate system.

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