Yang Chen

Visiting Post-doc (ETH Zurich), JSPS Research Fellow (PD)

Phone: 81-07039953300 | Email: chenyang@ai.iit.tsukuba.ac.jp

Address: Zurich

Personal website: https://robot-yang.github.io/



Summary

I am a robotics researcher and life-long learner. I obtained Ph. D. degree in human informatics from University of Tsukuba in March 2023 and currently working as a visiting post-doc at ETH Zurich and research fellow (PD) of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). My research interests include but are not limited to human augmentation, human-robot interaction, mobile robotics, teleoperation, human sensing, assistive technology, etc.

Research goal: Use robotics technology to empower humans.

Education

• Jilin University

Sep. 2013-Jun. 2017

Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering (Excellent Engineers Training Program, Ministry of Education) Supervised by Prof. DongF. Wang

Bachelor thesis: Explore the Way of Designing the Piezoelectric Dividing Structure to Both Realize the Stress Distributing Evenly and Achieve Largest Output Voltage

• University of Tsukuba

Oct. 2017-Apr. 2018

Research student

• University of Tsukuba

Apr. 2018-Mar. 2020

Master of Human Informatics

Master thesis: Torso Control System and Autonomous Docking Support for a Standing Mobility Device

University of Tsukuba

Apr. 2018-Mar. 2023

Ph. D Program in Empowerment Informatics

Doctoral thesis: A Study on Upper-body based Shared Navigation Control for Assistive Mobility Devices Supervised by Prof. Kenji Suzuki

Internship & Visiting researcher

• ETH Zurich

Lab: SMS Lab & SCAI Lab

June.2023-Dec. 2023

Research topic: Shared control for a holonomic wheelchair Supervised by: Prof. Robert Riener & Dr. Diego Paez-Granados

• École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

Aug. 2019-Oct. 2019

Lab: Learning Algorithm and System Laboratory (LASA)

Research topic: Autonomous docking system for a standing mobility device

Supervised by Prof. Aude Billard

• National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)

Aug. 2021-Present

Lab: CNRS-AIST JRL (Joint Robotics Laboratory),

Research topic: Complementary SLAM for Immersive Teleoperation with A Humanoid

Supervised by Prof. Fumio Kanehiro

Current Main Projects

Control interface for hands-free navigation of personal mobility vehicles

Oct. 2017-Present

This work aims to explore an intuitive and simple control interface for personal mobility devices that would allow hands-free locomotion.

• Virtual landmark-based control of docking support for assistive mobility devices

Oct. 2018-Present

This works proposes an autonomous docking support approach for assistive mobility devices like intelligent wheelchairs to assists the user in approaching a rest surface, such as a chair or bed. A stable nonlinear feedback control is constrained to field of view (FOV) by transforming the target volume to a virtual landmark pose. The effectiveness is demonstrated with a real-time implementation on a standing mobility vehicle - Qolo, using embedded RGBD sensing.

• Enhanced Visual Feedback with Decoupled Viewpoint Control in Immersive Humanoid Robot Teleoperation using SLAM

Aug. 2021-Present

This work aims to enhance the tele-visualization experience for the operator in humanoid robot teleoperation, we construct a virtual space for decoupled viewpoint control, and we use a prebuilt mesh to complement the real-time point

Publication

- Y. Chen, D. Paez-Granados, M. Hassan, and K. Suzuki, "Upper-Body Based Control Interface with compliant coupling support for Assistive Mobility Devices", IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics, 2023. (In preparation)
- Xiaoxi Zhang, <u>Y. Chen</u>, M. Hassan, and K. Suzuki, "Development of a Hands-free Human-guided Smart Stroller Using a UWB Localization System", Sensors, 2023. (**In preparation**)
- R. Cisneros-Lim'on, A. Dallard, M. Benallegue, K. Kaneko, H. Kaminaga, P Gergondet, A Tanguy, Rohan P. Singh, L. Sun, Y. Chen, C. Fournier, M. Tsuru, S'elim C. Moussaouil, G. Lorthioir, Y. Osawa, G. Caron, M. Morisawa, A. Escande, K. Ayusawa, I. Kumagai, M. Ono, K. Shirasaka, S. Wada, H. Wada, F. Kanehiro and A. Kheddar, "A cybernetic avatar system to embody human telepresence for connectivity, exploration and skill transfer" International Journal of Social Robotics, 2023. (Under review)
- <u>Y. Chen</u>*, T. Kuwahara*, Y. Nishimura[†], K. Suzuki, "WeMo: A Prototype of Wearable Mobility Device Adapting to User's Natural Posture Changes", Sensors, 2023. (**Peer-reviewed**, **link**)
- R. Cisneros, A. Dallard, M. Benallegue, K. Kaneko, H. Kaminaga, P. Gergondet, A. Tanguy, C. Fournier, Rohan P. Singh, <u>Y. Chen</u>, Sélim C. Moussaoui, G. Lorthioir, Y. Osawa, M. Tsuru, L. Sun, M. Morisawa, G. Caron, F. Kanehiro, A. Kheddar, "Enhancement of Team JANUS' cybernetic avatar system for exploration and skill transfer", *ICRA 2023 Workshop Toward Robot Avatars*. (Peer-reviewed, <u>link</u>)
- Santiago P. Torrendell, <u>Y. Chen</u>, H. Kadone, M. Hassan, K. Suzuki, "Design of a Multi-Degree-of-Freedom Elastic Neck Exoskeleton for Persons with Dropped Head Syndrome", 6th IEEE-RAS International Conference on Soft Robotics (RoboSoft), 2023. (**Peer-reviewed**, <u>link</u>)
- Y. Chen, L. Sun, M. Benallegue, R. Cisneros-Limón, Rohan P. Singh, K. Kaneko, A. Tanguy, G. Caron, K. Suzuki, A. Kheddar, and F. Kanehiro, "Enhanced Visual Feedback with Decoupled Viewpoint Control in Immersive Humanoid Robot Teleoperation using SLAM," IEEE-RAS International Conference on Humanoid Robots (Humanoids), 2022. (Peer-reviewed, link)
- R. Cisneros, M. Benallegue, K. Kaneko, H. Kaminaga, G. Caron, A. Tanguy, R. Singh, L. Sun, A. Dallard, C. Fournier, M. Tsuru, <u>C. Yang</u>, Y. Osawa, G. Lorthioir, F. Kanehiro, A. Kheddar. "Team JANUS Humanoid Avatar: A cybernetic avatar to embody human telepresence". RSS 2022 Workshop on "Towards Robot Avatars: Perspectives on the ANA Avatar XPRIZE Competition", New York City, U.S.A., 2022. (Peer-reviewed, link)
- D. Paez-Granados, H. Kadone, M. Hassan, <u>Y. Chen</u>, & K. Suzuki, "Personal Mobility With Synchronous Trunk-Knee Passive Exoskeleton: Optimizing Human-Robot Energy Transfer", IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics, 2021. (**Peer-reviewed, IF = 5.673, link**)
- Y. Chen, D. F. Paez Granados, B. Leme and K. Suzuki, "Virtual Landmark Based Control of Docking Support for Assistive Mobility Devices," in IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics, doi: 10.1109/TMECH.2021.3081426. (Peer-reviewed, IF = 5.673, link)
- Y. Chen, D. Paez-Granados, H. Kadone and K. Suzuki, "Control Interface for Hands-free Navigation of Standing Mobility Vehicles based on Upper-Body Natural Movements," 2020 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2020, pp. 11322-11329, doi: 10.1109/IROS45743.2020.9340875. (Peerreviewed, link)
- <u>Y. Chen</u>, D. Paez-Granados, and K. Suzuki, "Holistic body machine interface solution for standing mobility vehicle for the lower-body impaired-integrating autonomous docking system-," in The Proceedings of JSME annual Conference on Robotics and Mechatronics (Robomec) 2020. The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, 2020, pp. 2P1–D10. (Non-peer-reviewed, link).
- Y. Chen, D. Paez-Granados and K. Suzuki, "Torso Control System with A Sensory Safety Bar for a Standing Mobility Device," 2019 International Symposium on Micro-NanoMechatronics and Human Science (MHS), 2019, pp. 1-5, doi: 10.1109/MHS48134.2019.9249303. (Peer-reviewed, <u>link</u>)
- Y. Liu, <u>Y. Chen</u> et al., "Developing MEMS electric current sensors for end use monitoring of power supply: Part VIII segmentation design and empirical analysis of piezoelectric layers based on cantilever beam structure," 2018 Symposium on Design, Test, Integration & Packaging of MEMS and MOEMS (DTIP), 2018, pp. 1-4, doi: 10.1109/DTIP.2018.8394240. (Peer-reviewed, link)

Presentation at international conference

- <u>Y. Chen</u>, M. Hassan, D. Paez-Granados, Yosuke Eguchi, Mehdi Benallegue, and K. Suzuki, "Torso Control Interface with Compliant Coupling for Assistive Mobility Devices", Humanoids 2022 Workshop on "the Advances in Close Proximity Human-Robot Collaboration", 2022. (**Oral**, <u>link</u>)
- <u>Y. Chen</u>, L. Sun, M. Benallegue, R. Cisneros-Limón, Rohan P. Singh, K. Kaneko, A. Tanguy, G. Caron, K. Suzuki, A. Kheddar, and F. Kanehiro, "Enhanced Visual Feedback with Decoupled Viewpoint Control in

- Immersive Humanoid Robot Teleoperation using SLAM," IEEE-RAS International Conference on Humanoid Robots (Humanoids), 2022. (Poster, peer-reviewed)
- Chen, Y., Paez-Granados, D., Leme, B., and Suzuki, K., "Virtual Landmark Based Control of Docking Support for Assistive Mobility Devices", IEEE/ASME International Conference on Advanced Intelligent Mechatronics, 2021. (Oral, peer-reviewed)
- Y. Chen, D. Paez-Granados, H. Kadone, and K. Suzuki, "Control interface for hands-free navigation of standing mobility vehicles based on upper-body natural movements," in 2020 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS). IEEE, 2020. (Oral, peer-reviewed)
- Y. Chen, D. Paez-Granados, and K. Suzuki, "Torso Control System with A Sensory Safety Bar for a Standing Mobility Device," in International Symposium on Micro-Nano Mechatronics and Human Science (MHS-2019), MEXT, Ed. Nagoya, Japan: IEEE, 2019. (Oral, peer-reviewed)

Presentation at domestic conference

- Y. Chen, D. Paez-Granados, and K. Suzuki, "Holistic body machine interface solution for standing mobility vehicle for the lower-body impaired-integrating autonomous docking system-," in The Proceedings of JSME Annual Conference on Robotics and Mechatronics (Robomec). (Poster, non-peer-reviewed)
- Chen Yang, Diego Paez-Granados, Kenji Suzuki, "Upper-Body Sensing Based Control System with Docking Support on A Standing Mobility Device", 生体医工学シンポジウム, 予稿・抄録集, 2019, 1A-23. (Poster, non-peer-reviewed)

Honors & Awards

Mathematical Modeling Contest Third Prize

Dec. 2015

1st prize in First Robot Competition of Jilin University

Mar. 2017-May 2017

Finalist (5/80, \$500,000 grant received) in Toyota Mobility Unlimited Challenge Apr. 2018-Dec. 2020 The \$4 million Mobility Unlimited Challenge supports radical improvements in the mobility and independence of people with lower-limb paralysis through smarter assistive technology. We (Team Qolo) developed a mobile exoskeleton on wheels, allowing users to sit or stand with ease.

JST SPRING Fellowship Qualified Student (Class 1)

Oct. 2021-Mar 2022

Finalist of the ANA Avatar XPRIZE international competition: Team Janus

Mar. 2018-Present

Activities

Interdisciplinary Workshop for Leading Students 2018 (IW4LS): 1st prize in final presentation Apr. 2018 Summer workshop Vitality& City in Netherlands Aug. 2018

Summer workshop in Waseda University: 1st prize in final presentation

Oct. 2018

Visit Shiseido Museum, NEC laboratory, Hitachi laboratory, Fujitsu laboratory

Skills

Programming language: Python, MATLAB, C++

Software tools: Linux, ROS, Unity

3D/2D Modelling: CATIA, Solid works, AutoCAD, Fusion 360

Electronics: EAGLE

Language: Chinese (native), English (full professional proficiency), Japanese (N2)

Research Grants

2019

Challenge Grant 300,000 Japanese yen

2020

Challenge Grant 300,000 Japanese yen

2021

300,000 Japanese yen Challenge Grant 250,000 Japanese yen

JSP SPRING Research Grant

2022-2024

Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows 2300,000 Japanese yen

Scholarship

2015~2017

- University Scholarship (3rd-class), Jilin University
- 2018~2021
 - Special Fellows Scholarship, University of Tsukuba
- 2021~2022
 - JST SPRING Fellowship (1st-class), JST
- 2022~2024
 - JSPS Fellowship (DC2), JSPS

Academic Service (review)

- RAL 2022 [2]
- IROS 2022 [1]
- T-MECH 2022 [1]
- HRI 2023 [1]