




Cristina Iacono


Automation of robot-assisted surgical procedures

Tutor: Fanny Ficuciello
 Cycle: XXXV Year: 3rd

My background

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MSc degree ▪ Research group/laboratory ▪ PhD start date ▪ Scholarship type 	<p>Automation Engineering at "Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II"</p>  <p>1st November 2019</p> <p>Unina</p>
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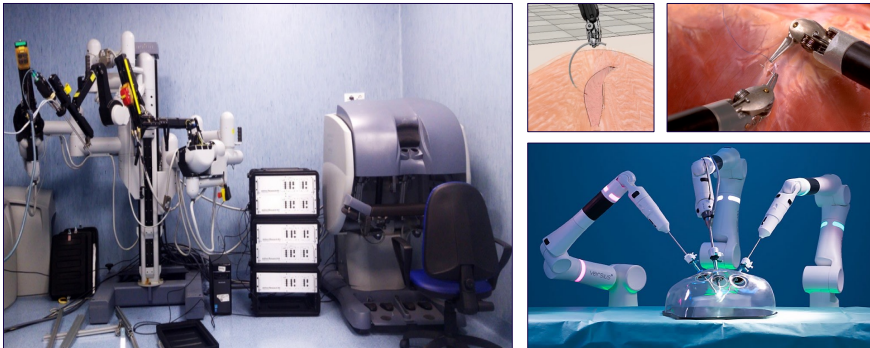


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Research field of interest

Automation of robot-assisted surgical procedures



Summary of study activities

PhD courses:

- Matlab fundamentals
- Innovation management, entrepreneurship and intellectual property
- Statistical data analysis for science and engineering research
- Mathematics and Statistics for Life Sciences
- Strategic Orientation for STEM Research and Writing




MSc courses:

- Robot Interaction Control
- Visione per Sistemi Robotici
- Robotics Lab

PhD Schools: SIDRA 2021:


- Game Theory and Network Systems
- Soft Robots



Summary of study activities


Attended:

- International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2020
- Conference on New Technologies for Computer/Robot Assisted Surgery (CRAS) 2020
- Italian Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Machines (I-RIM) 3D 2020
- Italian Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Machines (I-RIM) 3D 2021
- International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2022



Organized:


- Conference on New Technologies for Computer Robot Assisted Surgery (CRAS) 2022



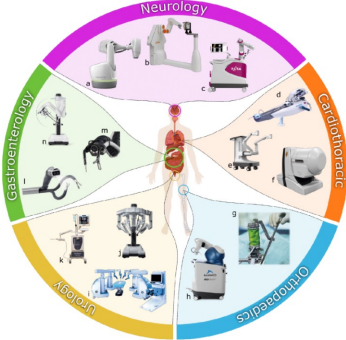
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Surgical Robotics



Limitations:

- Still strongly depends on surgeon's abilities
- Limited vision on the surgical site
- Kinematically complex and repetitive tasks
- Lack of haptic feedback


Objective:

- Automation of surgical tasks in order to reduce surgeon errors, duration of procedures, trauma, and expense





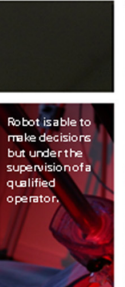
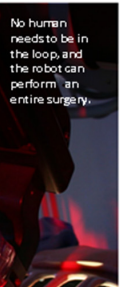
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Autonomy in Surgical Robotics

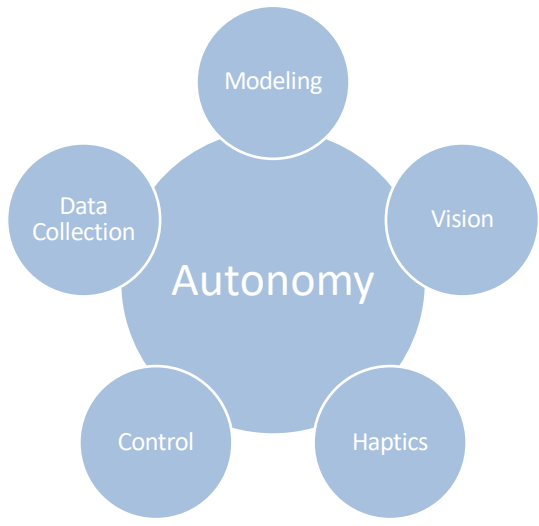
0	1	2	3	4	5
					
Operator performs all tasks including monitoring, generating performance options, selecting the option to perform (decision-making) and executing the decision made.	Operator maintains control of the system while the robot provides certain assistance.	Operator maintains discrete control of the system, and the robot can perform certain operator-initiated tasks automatically.	Operator selects and approves a surgical plan, and the robot performs the procedure automatically but with close surgical oversight by human.	Robot is able to make decisions but under the supervision of a qualified operator.	No human needs to be in the loop, and the robot can perform an entire surgery.
No autonomy	Robot assistance	Task autonomy	Conditional autonomy	High autonomy	Full automation

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 Yang, G.Z., Cambias, J., Cleary, K., Daimler, E., Drake, J., Dupont, P.E., Hata, N., Kazanzides, P., Martel, S., Patel, R.V. and Santos, V.J., 2017. Medical robotics—Regulatory, ethical, and legal considerations for increasing levels of autonomy. *Science Robotics*, 2(4), p.eaam8638.



Contribution



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DVRK Dynamic Model Identification for sensor-less force estimation

Problem:

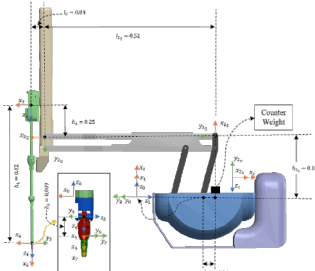
- Control strategies must take into account the robot's interactions with the dynamic and unstructured surgical environment


Solution:

- Identification of the PSM dynamic model

Previous Solutions:


- Fontanelli, Giuseppe Andrea, et al. "Modelling and identification of the da Vinci research kit robotic arms." 2017 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS). IEEE, 2017.
- Wang, Yan, et al. "A convex optimization-based dynamic model identification package for the da Vinci Research Kit." IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters 4.4 (2019): 3657-3664.





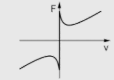
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DVRK Dynamic Model Identification for sensor-less force estimation

Method

- Friction estimation
 - Stribeck effect 
 - Superposition method
- Augmented Lagrangian Particle Swarm Algorithm (ALPSO)

$$\tau_f = \frac{2}{\pi} \arctan(c\dot{q}) \left((F_c + (F_s - F_c)e^{-|\dot{q}|/\dot{q}_s}) + F_v\dot{q} \right)$$


$$\tau_i(q_f^+) = G(q_f^+) + \tau_f(\dot{q}_f^+) \quad \tau_i(q_f^-) = G(q_f^-) + \tau_f(\dot{q}_f^-)$$

$$\tau_f(\dot{q}_f) = \frac{\tau_i(q_f^+) - \tau_i(q_f^-)}{2}$$

Constrained Optimization Problem


$$\underset{\beta_r}{\operatorname{argmin}} \quad \|\tau_m - Y_m\beta_r\|^2 \quad \beta_r \in \mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^r$$

subject to $\begin{cases} g(\beta_r) = 0, & g: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m_g} \\ h(\beta_r) \leq 0, & h: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m_h} \end{cases}$



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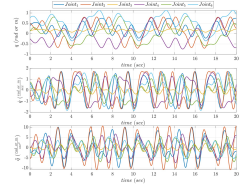
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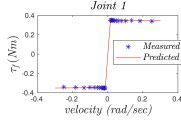
DVRK Dynamic Model Identification for sensor-less force estimation

Y_m

Optimal Excitation Trajectory Generation



Friction Torque Identification




Data collection
 $q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q}, \tau$


ALPSO

β_c

joint	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
W	0.124	0.246	0.329	0.421	0.658	0.426	0.852
F	0.142	0.259	0.327	0.481	0.716	0.382	0.828
N	0.089	0.241	0.295	0.299	0.542	0.316	0.431



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DVRK Dynamic Model Identification for sensor-less force estimation


Residual-based sensorless force estimation:

$$r = K_I \left(p - \int_0^t (\tau + C^T(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} - g(q) + r) ds \right)$$

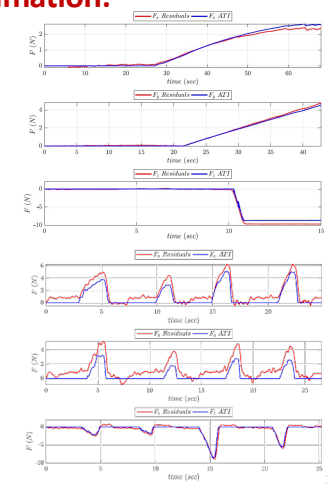
$$\dot{r} = K_I (\tau_{ext} - r)$$

- For sufficiently large gains $r \simeq \tau_{ext}$
- Estimated External Force $\hat{F}_c = (J_c^T(q))^* r$





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Products

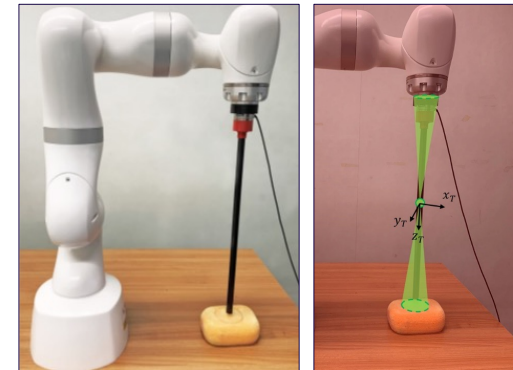
J1	O. F. Argin, R. Moccia, C. Iacono , F. Ficuciello, "da Vinci Research Kit Patient Side Manipulator Dynamic Model using Augmented Lagrangian Particle Swarm Optimization", submitted to IEEE Transaction on Medical Robotics and Bionics
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Control framework for human robot interaction in medical robotics applications

Problem:

- Several medical robotics applications require an RCM constraint
- Reduced workspace to avoid touching dangerous areas



Control framework for human-robot interaction in medical applications

RCM constraint

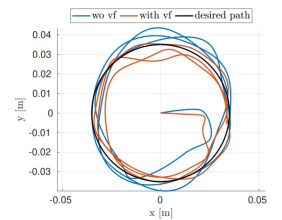
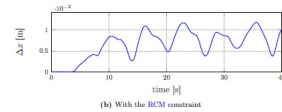
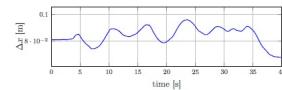
$$p_{RCM} = p_i + \lambda(p_{i+1} - p_i) \quad 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$$

$$\dot{p}_{RCM} = J_{RCM}(q, \lambda) \begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{\lambda} \end{bmatrix}$$

Manual guidance and Virtual Fixtures:

$$M\ddot{p} + D\dot{p} + Kp = f - f_{VF}$$

$$f_{VF} = K_{VF}d + D_{VF}\dot{d}$$



Products

J1	C. Pecorella, C. Iacono, B. Siciliano, F. Ficuciello, "Human-Robot Interactive Framework with Remote Center of Motion and Virtual Fixtures Constraint", in submission to 19th International Symposium on Advances in Robot Kinematics
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Vision-Based Dynamic Virtual Fixtures for Tools Collision Avoidance in Robotic Surgery

Problem Statement:

- Surgical tools can collide and create serious damage to human tissues

Proposed Solution:

Surgical tools collision avoidance method:

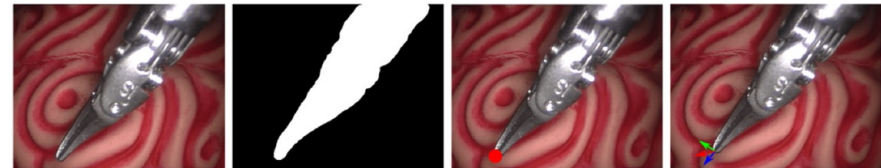
- Forbidden Region Virtual Fixtures (FRVF)
- A marker-less tool tracking method using deep neural network
- Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) for tool pose estimation ensures robust application of VF




Vision-Based Dynamic Virtual Fixtures for Tools Collision Avoidance in Robotic Surgery

Solution:

- Tool Segmentation and 3D Reconstruction
- Extended Kalman Filter for pose tracking
- Kinematics and Vision data fusion



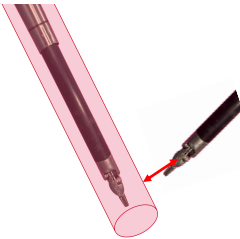


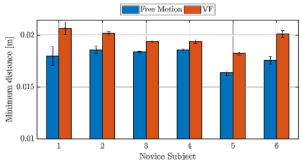
Vision-Based Dynamic Virtual Fixtures for Tools Collision Avoidance in Robotic Surgery

- FRVF defined as the swept surface along the tool axis
- A constraint enforcement is defined

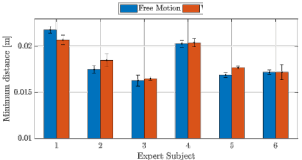
$$f_{vf}(\tilde{x}, \dot{\tilde{x}}) = -K_{vf}\tilde{x} - D_{vf}\dot{\tilde{x}}$$

- Human Subject Study






Novice Subject




Expert Subject

Rocco Moccia, Cristina Iacono, Bruno Siciliano and Fanny Ficuciello, "Vision-based dynamic virtual fixtures for tools collision avoidance in robotic surgery". IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters. 2020 Jan 28;5(2):1650-5.




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Products

J1	R. Moccia, C. Iacono , B. Siciliano and F. Ficuciello, "Vision-Based Dynamic Virtual Fixtures for Tools Collision Avoidance in Robotic Surgery" in IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 1650-1655, April 2020.
W1	C. Iacono , R. Moccia, B. Siciliano, F. Ficuciello, "Vision-Based Dynamic Virtual Fixtures for Tools Collision Avoidance in MIRS", 10th Joint Workshop on New Technologies for Computer/Robot Assisted Surgery, Barcelona, Spain, September 28-30, 2020.
W2	C. Iacono , R. Moccia, B. Siciliano, F. Ficuciello, "Forbidden Region Virtual Fixtures for Surgical Tools Collision Avoidance", Proc. Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machine Conference, Rome, Italy, October 18-20, 2020.



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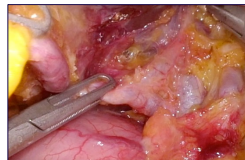


Localization of the biliary tract in laparoscopic images

Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy:

Advantages: faster recovery and better cosmetic results

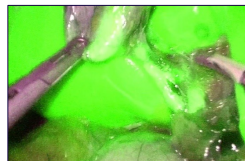
Disadvantages: higher risk of bile duct injury



Indocyanine green (ICG):

Advantage: Enhanced intraoperative visualization of the bile duct

Disadvantage: Challenging to see all the other anatomical structures



Objective:

Help the surgeon to better visualize the biliary tract without the use of ICG

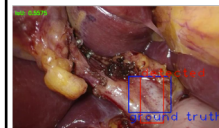


Localization of the biliary tract in laparoscopic images

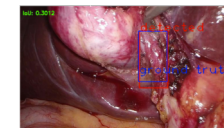
Proposed Solution:

- You Only Look Once (YOLO) on laparoscopic images to localize the biliary duct.
- Construction and annotation of an image database to train the deep learning algorithm
- Average IoU of 67%

	Total Frames	Training	Test
Patient 1	142	15	15
Patient 2	171	34	14
Patient 3	219	-	39
Patient 4	152	74	20
Patient 5	48	5	5
Patient 6	144	-	29
Patient 7	168	14	10
Patient 8	89	18	10
Patient 9	153	14	10
Patient 10	73	20	10
Patient 11	27	14	10
Patient 12	135	-	19



(a) Patient 3.




(b) Patient 4.



(c) Patient 6.




(d) Patient 12.




Products

W1	<p>C. Iacono, S. Moccia, A. Marzullo, E. De Momi, U. Bracale, F. Ficuciello <i>"Deep learning-based localization of the biliary tract in laparoscopic images acquired during surgical robotic procedures"</i>, Italian Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Machines (I-RIM) 3D 2021, October 8-9, 2021.</p>
W2	<p>C. Iacono, S. Moccia, A. Marzullo, E. De Momi, F. Ficuciello, U. Bracale, <i>"Deep learning-based localization of the biliary tract on white-light images acquired during laparoscopic cholecystectomy"</i>, 11th Joint Workshop on New Technologies for Computer/Robot Assisted Surgery, Naples, Italy, April 25-27, 2022.</p>



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Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Work:

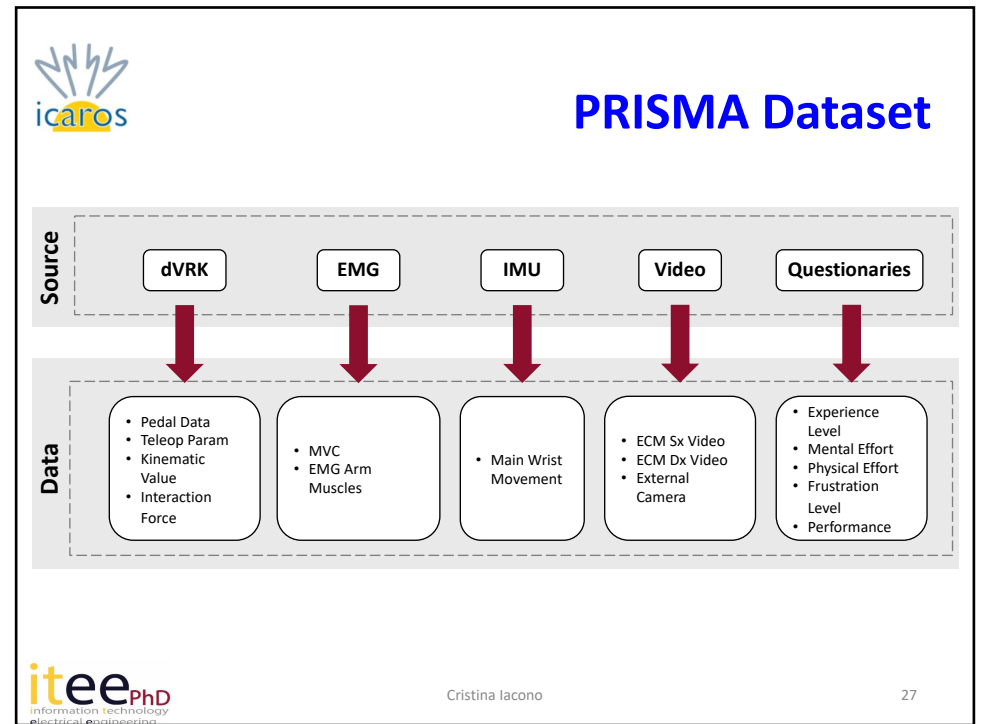
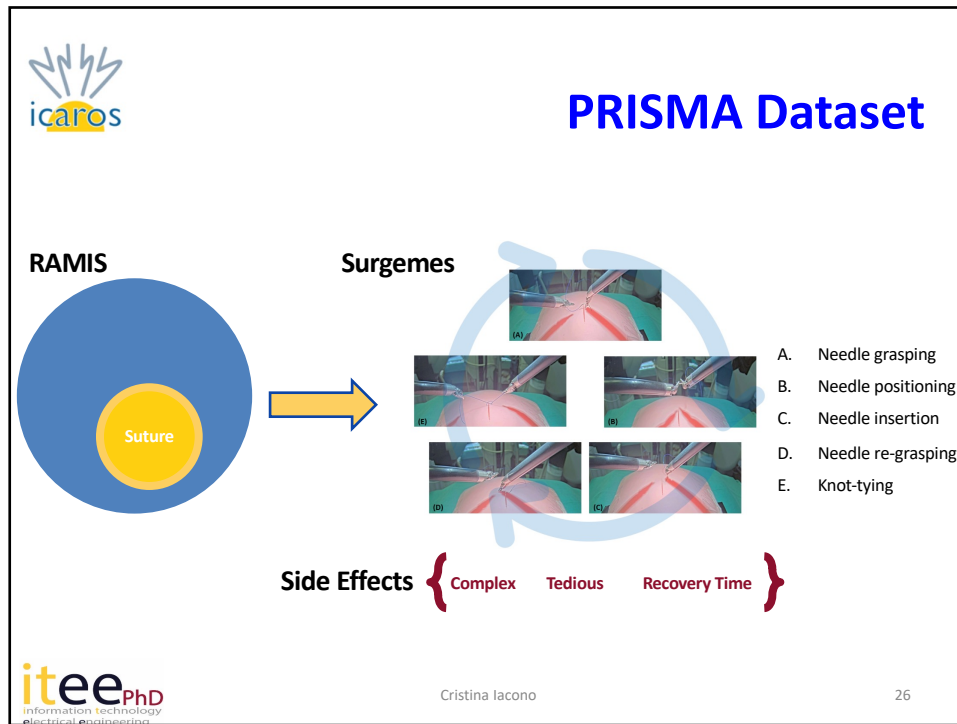
- Recreation of the dVRK WPI setup in ICAROS:
 - Monitor
 - SUJ calibration
- Designed User Study to collect a suturing dataset:
 - Training
 - Compliance
 - Experiment
 - Survey
- Worked on the 2021/2022 AccelNet Surgical Robotics Challenge:
 - Grasp needle and drive through tissue
 - Learning from demonstration





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Prisma Dataset

Prisma Dataset:

- **Goal:** Collect data to automatize the Suture Task
- **Data:** 33 Kinematic variables, Video from ECM and External Camera, EMG and IMU from the Surgeon and Surgeon's mental and physical fatigue recorded by questionnaires
- **Task:** Discontinued Suture
- **Gestures:** 5 Suture Step Classification

JIGSAWS:

- **Goal:** Collect Data to train novice surgeon
- **Data:** 19 Kinematic variables and Video from ECM
- **Task:** Continue Suture
- **Gestures:** 10 Suture Step Classification



Ex vivo testing of a miniaturized probe for prostate tissue characterization


Problem:

Characterization of mechanical properties of insane and healthy prostate tissues

Objective:

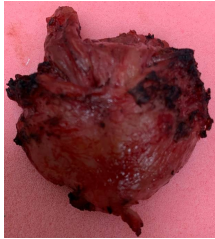
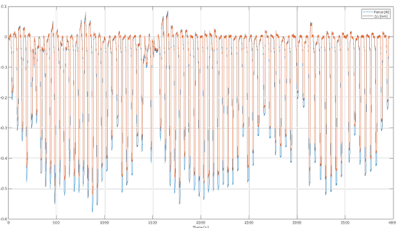
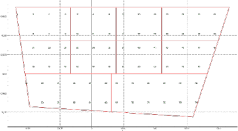
Testing on phantom tissues and ex-vivo tissues a miniaturized probe based on optical fiber






Ex vivo testing of a miniaturized probe for prostate tissue characterization

Results:
Creation of a dataset of elasticity measurements of prostate

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Other Products

W1	M. Caianiello, C. Iacono , A. Imperato, F. Ficuciello, "Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient from Success: A New Approach for Robot-Assisted Suturing", Proc. Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machine Conference, Rome, Italy, October 20-22, 2023.
C1	M. Caianiello, C. Iacono , A. Imperato, F. Ficuciello, "Exploring the Use of Deep Reinforcement Learning Algorithms for Wound-Approaching Trajectories in Robot-Assisted Minimally Invasive Surgery", 2023 21th International Conference on Advanced Robotics (ICAR), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, December 2023

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Conclusions

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Autonomy

Modeling
PSM dynamic model

Vision
Tool pose estimation
Organ localization

Control
Remote Center of Motion
Virtual Fixures
Impedance Control

Haptics
Sensor-less force estimation
Haptic cues to surgeons
Stiffness mapping

Data Collection
Prisma Dataset
Prostate Characterization
Biliary Tract Dataset

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Thank you for your attention!

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