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WABOT-2: A ROBOT THAT PLAYS THE ELECTRONIC ORGAN

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INTRODUCTION

This presentation is of a videotape produced by Waseda University in Tokyo. Wabot-2 is short for WAseda RoBOT. The tape explains the principal features of the design of their remarkable anthropomorphic robot. It appears from the tape that the robot was produced as a major student project involving about 50 students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The robot not only plays the organ with its ten fingers and two feet, it also reads music, follows a singer, and communicates with its operator using speech. Over 70 microprocessors are used to achieve this level of performance, each handling either a specific task, e.g. the control of one of the degrees of freedom of a finger, or supervising the operation of several lesser processors.

The tape explains briefly how each part of the system operates, including the speech recognition subsystem. This robot is worthy of attention if only to demonstrate what can presently be achieved in robotics. It has to be admitted, though, that the music it is asked to play in the tape is not very demanding!

The presenter has no further details about the design other than those shown in the tape and asks all those interested in more information to contact Waseda University directly.

REFERENCE

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