UK-Japan Robotics and AI research collaboration workshop
17-18 September 2019

Agenda
Informatics G.07 and Atrium, University of Edinburgh

17 September 2019

10:00 – 12:00 Poster session (all participants)
12:00 - 13:00 Registration and lunch
13:00 - 13:30 Introduction to Edinburgh Centre for Robotics, The Alan Turing Institute and Bayes Centre - Professor Sethu Vijayakumar (Edinburgh Centre for Robotics and The Alan Turing Institute) and Cristian Novotny (Bayes Centre)
13:30 - 13:50 RIKEN presentation
13:50 - 14:10 AIST presentation
14:10 - 14:30 NII presentation
14:30 - 15:00 Coffee break
15:00 - 17:00 Topics of interest related to the workshop themes
All participants to present slides for discussion
18:00 - 21:00 Dinner - Welcome speech by Principal/Vice-Chancellor - Professor Peter Mathieson - Playfair Library
UK-JAPAN robotics and AI research collaboration workshop

Professor Sethu Vijayakumar has been recently announced as Programme Co-Director for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (RAI) at The Alan Turing Institute. The Turing RAI hub is based at the University of Edinburgh where the workshop will take place.

The Alan Turing Institute, the UK’s national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, has initiated agreements with AIST (the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology), one of the largest research institutes in Japan focusing on bridging the gap between research ideas and commercialisation, NII (National Institute of Informatics), an inter-university academic research institute working to advance research and development in informatics-related fields and the RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project, funded by the Japanese government to advance AI technologies and explore their ethical, legal and social impact.

The Turing's collaborative agreements with Japan are part of a wider UK government
announcement relating to new scientific collaborations between UK and Japan in the fields of robotics, AI and the ethical use of data.

Joint activities between the Turing and the three organisations will include researcher exchange placements, developing joint proposals for academic low-Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) research as well as industry-driven high-TRL research. There will also be networking and knowledge exchange activities.

This is the first workshop to identify the collaboration topics and as such a very important first step to create concrete outcomes from the signed agreements and MoUs. Following this workshop in Edinburgh there will be an Industry workshop at The Turing, London to align the high-TRL research focus with industry interest. One of the main objectives of the Industry-focused research is to get companies to support research on robotics and AI.

The proposed 3 key themes for the workshop are:

- Scalable algorithms under constraints
- Methods for efficient multi-agent computations
- Verifiable, robust and explainable decision making for multimodal RAS assets

It would be great if all participants prepare two slides for discussion about their research interest and if they propose any other themes for the research topics.

The expected outcomes of the Edinburgh workshop are:

- List of research topics grouped around key themes and lead PIs
- Agreement on Industry focused research (high TRL)
- Agreement on long-term core research topics (low TRL)
- Research exchange mechanisms
  - Short-term Internships
  - UK and Japanese Government backed Research Funds