

# The playful machine : theoretical foundation and practical realization of self-organizing robots

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## Abstrak

The book provides answers by developing a general principle, homeokinesis, the dynamical symbiosis between brain, body, and environment. That is shown to drive robots to self-determined, individual development in a playful and obviously embodiment-related way, a dog-like robot starts playing with a barrier, eventually jumping or climbing over it, a snakebot develops coiling and jumping modes, humanoids develop climbing behaviors when fallen into a pit, or engage in wrestling-like scenarios when encountering an opponent. The book also develops guided self-organization, a new method that helps to make the playful machines fit for fulfilling tasks in the real world.

The book provides two levels of presentation. Students and scientific researchers interested in the field of robotics, self-organization and dynamical systems theory may be satisfied by the in-depth mathematical analysis of the principle, the bootstrapping scenarios, and the emerging behaviors. But the book additionally comes with a robotics simulator inviting also the non-scientific reader to simply enjoy the fabulous world of playful machines by performing the numerous experiments.