

Rodney Allen Brooks

b. 12/30/1954 in Adelaide Australia



Education

- Received his undergraduate degree in Pure Mathematics from Flinders University in Southern Australia.
- Moved to the U.S. in the 1970's and received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stanford University.

Impressive Job List

- After graduating, he took a faculty position from Stanford, and later was offered research positions at Carnegie Melon, and MIT.
- Became a full-time faculty member at MIT in 1984, where he currently works as a Professor of Robotics.

Elephants Don't Play Chess

- Brooks strongly opposes the idea of a "thinking" robot, or the symbolic processing approach.
- Instead, he focuses on trying to get robots to perform sensorimotor functions and interact with the environment. This approach is viewed as boring by much of the AI community.

Fast, Cheap & out of Control

- Brooks was a subject of this documentary by Errol Morris. The title was taken from a famous paper he wrote in 1989.
- The focus of the paper was on the use of robots in space exploration. To sum it up, Brooks says less is more.

Recent Publications

- Cambrian Intelligence: The Early History of the New AI - 1999.
- The Relationship Between Matter and Life - 2001
- Flesh and Machines: How Robots will Change Us - 2002.

Atheism

- “I have found it difficult to have religious beliefs and scientific ones.”
- “If you believe that then you must reject most of modern science. You may as well try to tell me that the world is flat. It is an equally preposterous claim.”