



Tactile Mechanics

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Abstract

The astonishing variety of phenomena resulting from the contact between fingers and objects may be regarded as a formidable trove of information that can be extracted by organisms to learn about the nature and the properties of objects. This richness, which is completely different from that available to the other senses, is likely to have fashioned our somatosensory system at all levels of its organisation, from early mechanics to cognition. The talk will illustrate this idea through examples and show how the physics of mechanical interactions shape the messages that are sent to the brain; and how the early stages of the somatosensory system en route to the primary areas are organised to process these messages.

All welcome to attend. Tea/Coffee served before the lecture will provide an opportunity for networking.



Vincent Hayward is presently on leave from Sorbonne Université. Before, he was with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at McGill University, Montréal, Canada, where he became a full Professor in 2006 and was the Director of the McGill Centre for Intelligent Machines from 2001 to 2004. Vincent Hayward is an elected a Fellow of the IEEE. Since January 2017, he is Professor of Tactile Perception and Technology at the School of Advanced Studies of the University of London, supported by a Leverhulme Trust Fellowship.