

Book review:

Martin Grunwald, Lothar Beyer (edts):

Der bewegte Sinn, Grundlagen und Anwendungen zur haptischen Wahrnehmung.

Birkhäuser, Basel, 2001, ISBN 3-7643-6516-1, 168,00 sFr

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Information can be collected by different sensors which collect acoustic and visual data, and, in addition, haptic information. The touch is a significant source to inform ourselves about our environment, and is obviously used to pan, steer and control our daily activities. This textbook describes recent results of this interesting science in five chapters: it starts with historical aspects and the definition including philosophic considerations. The second part informs about neurophysiologic data focussing on the central somatic system and the plasticity of the somato-sensoric system. Psychologic aspects can be read in the third compartment, whereas clinical data and application are given in the fourth part. The last part deals with specific applications such as man-machine interactions, haptic information in space research, handling of cars or presentation of food for blind people. The textbook offers a broad spectrum and deep insight into a cognitive field which often "sleeps" in a side box, which is, however, of great importance to move and control ourselves in our daily environment.

Klaus Kayser