CLAIMS

1. An infant care apparatus comprising:

a base;

a drive mechanism, coupled to the base, that has a first electromechanical driver defining a first degree of freedom forming a first axis of motion of a movable infant load seat surface dependent from and movable relative to the base;

an infant support configured so as to be removably coupled to the movable infant load seat surface;

wherein the drive mechanism is a distributed drive mechanism distributed to the base and the infant support, wherein the distributed drive mechanism includes a second electromechanical driver integral with the infant support, the second electromechanical driver being separate and distinct from the first electromechanical driver, and defining a second degree of freedom forming a second axis of motion of the infant support; and

a controller communicably coupled to the distributed drive mechanism and configured so as to move, via the first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver, the infant support coupled to the movable infant load seat surface relative to the base.

2. The infant care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured so as to move the infant support with separate impetus separately imparted to the infant support by a first motion determined by the first axis of motion, of the first degree of freedom, and by a second motion determined by the second axis of

motion, of the second degree of freedom, with a selectably variable motion profile selected with the controller from different selectably variable motion profiles.

3. The infant care apparatus of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to effect selection of the selectably variable motion profile by separate variance of motion characteristics of the separate respective first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver of the distributed drive mechanism, with the infant support coupled to the movable infant load seat surface, from a common selection input to the controller selecting the selectably variable motion profile.

4. The infant care apparatus of claim 3, wherein the controller includes a user interface configured to receive a common selection input from a user for selecting the selectably variable motion profile.

5. The infant care apparatus of claim 2, wherein each of the different selectably variable motion profiles includes at least one of horizontal movements, vertical movements, and rotational movements.

6. The infant care apparatus of claim 1, wherein one or more of the first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver is at least one of a rotatory motor, a linear motor, and a linear actuator.

7. The infant care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the movable infant load seat surface is a curved surface with an apex mated against a substantially planar mating base surface of the base, the movable infant load seat surface being disposed so that the apex moves relative to the base under impetus imparted to the movable infant

load seat surface by a first motion determined by the first axis of motion.

8. The infant care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first electromechanical driver includes more than one separate and distinct electromechanical driver, each of the more than one separate and distinct electromechanical driver being separate and distinct from each other, and defines an independent degree of freedom forming an independent axis of motion, so that the first electromechanical driver defines two or more independent degrees of freedom.

9. The infant care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is mounted within the base.

10. The infant care apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller determines position of the infant support based at least in part on information from one or more sensors of the distributed drive mechanism.

11. An infant care apparatus comprising:

a base;

a drive mechanism, coupled to the base, that has a first electromechanical driver defining a first degree of freedom forming a first axis of motion of a movable infant load seat surface dependent from and movable relative to the base;

an infant support configured so as to be removably coupled to the movable infant load seat surface;

wherein the drive mechanism is a distributed drive mechanism distributed to the base and the infant support, wherein the distributed drive mechanism includes a second

electromechanical driver integral with the infant support, the second electromechanical driver being separate and distinct from the first electromechanical driver, and defining a second degree of freedom forming a second axis of motion of the infant support; and

a controller communicably coupled to the distributed drive mechanism and configured so as to move the infant support relative to the base, via the first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver, coupled to the movable infant load seat surface.

12. The infant care apparatus of claim 11, wherein the controller is configured so as to move the infant support with separate impetus separately imparted to the infant support by a first motion determined by the first axis of motion, of the first degree of freedom, and by a second motion determined by the second axis of motion, of the second degree of freedom, with a selectably variable motion profile selected with the controller from different selectably variable motion profiles.

13. The infant care apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller is configured to effect selection of the selectably variable motion profile by separate variance of motion characteristics of the separate respective first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver of the distributed drive mechanism, with the infant support coupled to the movable infant load seat surface, from a common selection input to the controller selecting the selectably variable motion profile.

14. The infant care apparatus of claim 13, wherein the controller includes a user interface configured to receive a common selection

input from a user for selecting the selectably variable motion profile.

15. The infant care apparatus of claim 12, wherein each of the different selectably variable motion profiles includes at least one of horizontal movements, vertical movements, and rotational movements.

16. The infant care apparatus of claim 11, wherein one or more of the first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver is at least one of a rotatory motor, a linear motor, and a linear actuator.

17. The infant care apparatus of claim 11, wherein the movable infant load seat surface is a curved surface with an apex mated against a substantially planar mating base surface of the base, the movable infant load seat surface being disposed so that the apex moves relative to the base under impetus imparted to the movable infant load seat surface by a first motion determined by the first axis of motion.

18. The infant care apparatus of claim 11, wherein the first electromechanical driver includes more than one separate and distinct electromechanical driver, each of the more than one separate and distinct electromechanical driver being separate and distinct from each other, and defines an independent degree of freedom forming an independent axis of motion, so that the first electromechanical driver defines two or more independent degrees of freedom.

19. The infant care apparatus of claim 11, wherein the controller is mounted within the base.

20. The infant care apparatus of claim 11, wherein the controller determines position of the infant support based at least in part on information from one or more sensors distributed drive mechanism.

21. A method for an infant care apparatus, the method comprising:

providing a base having a drive mechanism, coupled to the base, the drive mechanism has a first electromechanical driver defining a first degree of freedom forming a first axis of motion of a movable infant load seat surface dependent from and movable relative to the base;

providing an infant support configured so as to be removably coupled to the movable infant load seat surface, wherein the drive mechanism is a distributed drive mechanism distributed to the base and the infant support, wherein the distributed drive mechanism includes a second electromechanical driver integral with the infant support, the second electromechanical driver being separate and distinct from the first electromechanical driver, and defining a second degree of freedom forming a second axis of motion of the infant support; and

moving, with a controller communicably coupled to the distributed drive mechanism, via the first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver, the infant support coupled to the movable infant load seat surface relative to the base.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the controller is configured so as to move the infant support with separate impetus separately imparted to the infant support by a first motion determined by the

first axis of motion, of the first degree of freedom, and by a second motion determined by the second axis of motion, of the second degree of freedom, with a selectably variable motion profile selected with the controller from different selectably variable motion profiles.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the controller is configured to effect selection of the selectably variable motion profile by separate variance of motion characteristics of the separate respective first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver of the distributed drive mechanism, with the infant support coupled to the movable infant load seat surface, from a common selection input to the controller selecting the selectably variable motion profile.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising receiving with a user interface, of the controller, a common selection input from a user for selecting the selectably variable motion profile.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein each of the different selectably variable motion profiles includes at least one of horizontal movements, vertical movements, and rotational movements.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein one or more of the first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver is at least one of a rotatory motor, a linear motor, and a linear actuator.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein the movable infant load seat surface is a curved surface with an apex mated against a substantially planar mating base surface of the base, the movable infant load seat surface being disposed so that the apex moves relative to the base under impetus imparted to the movable infant

load seat surface by a first motion determined by the first axis of motion.

28. The method of claim 21, wherein the first electromechanical driver includes more than one separate and distinct electromechanical driver, each of the more than one separate and distinct electromechanical driver being separate and distinct from each other, and defines an independent degree of freedom forming an independent axis of motion, so that the first electromechanical driver defines two or more independent degrees of freedom.

29. The method of claim 21, wherein the controller is mounted within the base.

30. The method of claim 21, further comprising, determining, with the controller, a position of the infant support based at least in part on information from one or more sensors of the distributed drive mechanism.

31. A method for an infant care apparatus, the method comprising:

providing a base having a drive mechanism, coupled to the base, that has a first electromechanical driver defining a first degree of freedom forming a first axis of motion of a movable infant load seat surface dependent from and movable relative to the base;

providing an infant support configured so as to be removably coupled to the movable infant load seat surface, wherein the drive mechanism is a distributed drive mechanism distributed to the base and the infant support, wherein the distributed drive mechanism includes a second electromechanical driver integral with the infant support, the second

electromechanical driver being separate and distinct from the first electromechanical driver, and defining a second degree of freedom forming a second axis of motion of the infant support; and

moving the infant support, with a controller communicably coupled to the distributed drive mechanism, relative to the base, via the first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver, coupled to the movable infant load seat surface.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the controller is configured so as to move the infant support with separate impetus separately imparted to the infant support by a first motion determined by the first axis of motion, of the first degree of freedom, and by a second motion determined by the second axis of motion, of the second degree of freedom, with a selectably variable motion profile selected with the controller from different selectably variable motion profiles.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the controller is configured to effect selection of the selectably variable motion profile by separate variance of motion characteristics of the separate respective first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver of the distributed drive mechanism, with the infant support coupled to the movable infant load seat surface, from a common selection input to the controller selecting the selectably variable motion profile.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the controller includes a user interface configured to receive a common selection input from a user for selecting the selectably variable motion profile.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein each of the different selectably variable motion profiles includes at least one of horizontal movements, vertical movements, and rotational movements.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein one or more of the first electromechanical driver and the second electromechanical driver is at least one of a rotatory motor, a linear motor, and a linear actuator.

37. The method of claim 31, wherein the movable infant load seat surface is a curved surface with an apex mated against a substantially planar mating base surface of the base, the movable infant load seat surface being disposed so that the apex moves relative to the base under impetus imparted to the movable infant load seat surface by a first motion determined by the first axis of motion.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein the first electromechanical driver includes more than one separate and distinct electromechanical driver, each of the more than one separate and distinct electromechanical driver being separate and distinct from each other, and defines an independent degree of freedom forming an independent axis of motion, so that the first electromechanical driver defines two or more independent degrees of freedom.

39. The method of claim 31, wherein the controller is mounted within the base.

40. The method of claim 31, wherein the controller determines position of the infant support based at least in part on information from one or more sensors distributed drive mechanism.