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## *Robotics 2*

# Collision detection and robot reaction

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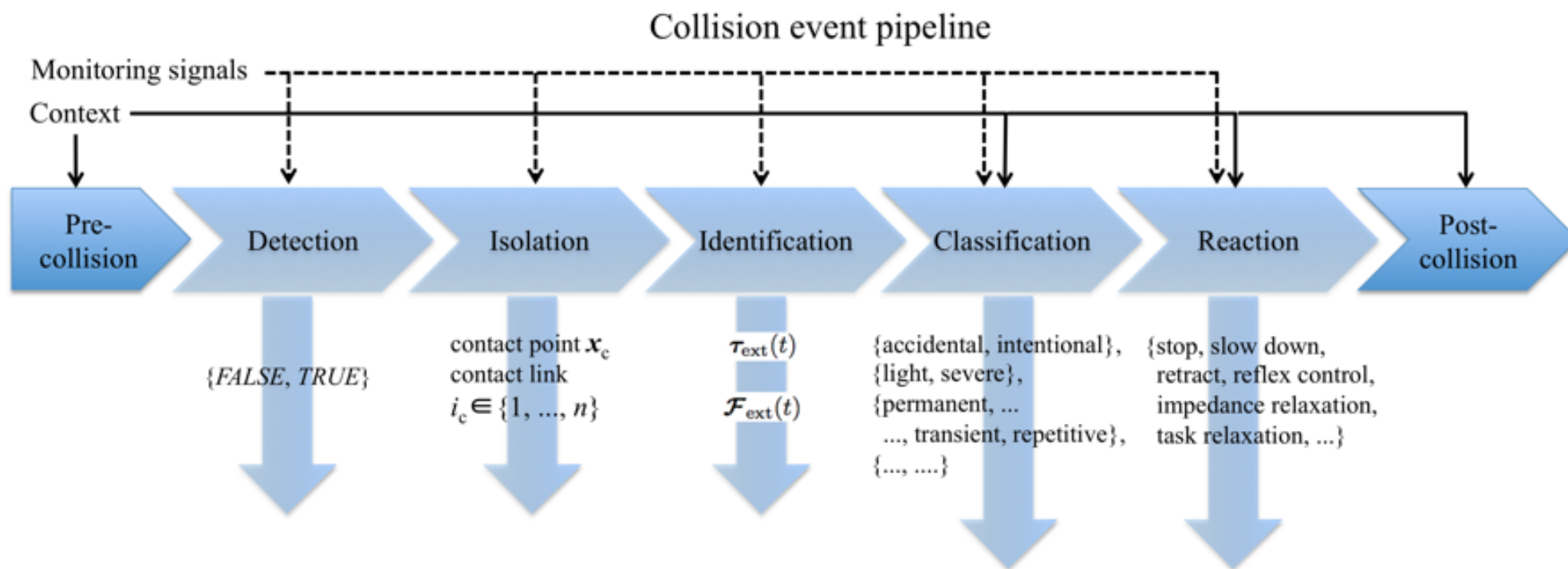
# Handling of robot collisions

- safety in **p**hysical **H**uman-**R**obot **I**nteraction (**pHRI**)
- robot **dependability** (i.e., beyond reliability)
  - **mechanics**: lightweight construction and inclusion of compliance
  - next generation with **variable** stiffness actuation devices
  - typically, more/additional **exteroceptive sensing** needed
  - human-oriented motion **planning** (“legible” robot trajectories)
  - **control** strategies with safety objectives/constraints
- prevent, avoid, **detect** and **react** to collisions
  - possibly, using only robot proprioceptive sensors
- different phases in the collision event pipeline





# Collision event pipeline



S. Haddadin, A. De Luca, A. Albu-Schäffer: "Robot Collisions: A Survey on Detection, Isolation, and Identification," *IEEE Trans. on Robotics*, vol. 33, no. 6, pp. 1292-1312, 2017



# Collision detection in industrial robots

- advanced option available for some robots (ABB, KUKA, UR ...)
- allow **only detection**, **not** isolation
  - based on large variations of control torques (or motor currents)
$$\|\tau(t_k) - \tau(t_{k-1})\| \geq \varepsilon \Leftrightarrow |\tau_i(t_k) - \tau_i(t_{k-1})| \geq \varepsilon_i, \text{ for at least one joint } i$$
  - based on comparison with nominal torques on a desired trajectory
$$\tau_d = M(q_d)\ddot{q}_d + S(q_d, \dot{q}_d)\dot{q}_d + g(q_d) + f(q_d, \dot{q}_d) \Rightarrow \|\tau - \tau_d\| \geq \varepsilon$$
  - based on robot state and numerical estimate of acceleration
$$\ddot{q}_N = \frac{d\dot{q}}{dt} \Rightarrow \tau_N = M(q)\ddot{q}_N + S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) + f(q, \dot{q}) \Rightarrow \|\tau - \tau_N\| \geq \varepsilon$$
  - based on the parallel simulation of robot dynamics
$$\ddot{q}_c = M^{-1}(q)[\tau - S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} - g(q) - f(q, \dot{q})] \Rightarrow \|\dot{q} - \dot{q}_c\| \geq \varepsilon_{\dot{q}}, \|q - q_c\| \geq \varepsilon_q$$
- **sensitive** to actual control law and reference trajectory
- **require noisy** acceleration estimates or on-line **inversion** of the robot inertia matrix

# ABB collision detection

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- ABB IRB 7600

video



- the only feasible robot **reaction** is to **stop!**



# Collisions as system faults

- robot model with (possible) collisions

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = \tau + \tau_K = \tau_{\text{tot}}$$

control torque

joint torque caused by link collision

inertia matrix

Coriolis/centrifugal (with "good" factorization):  $\dot{M} - 2S$  is skew-symmetric

$$\tau_K = J_K^T(q) F_K$$

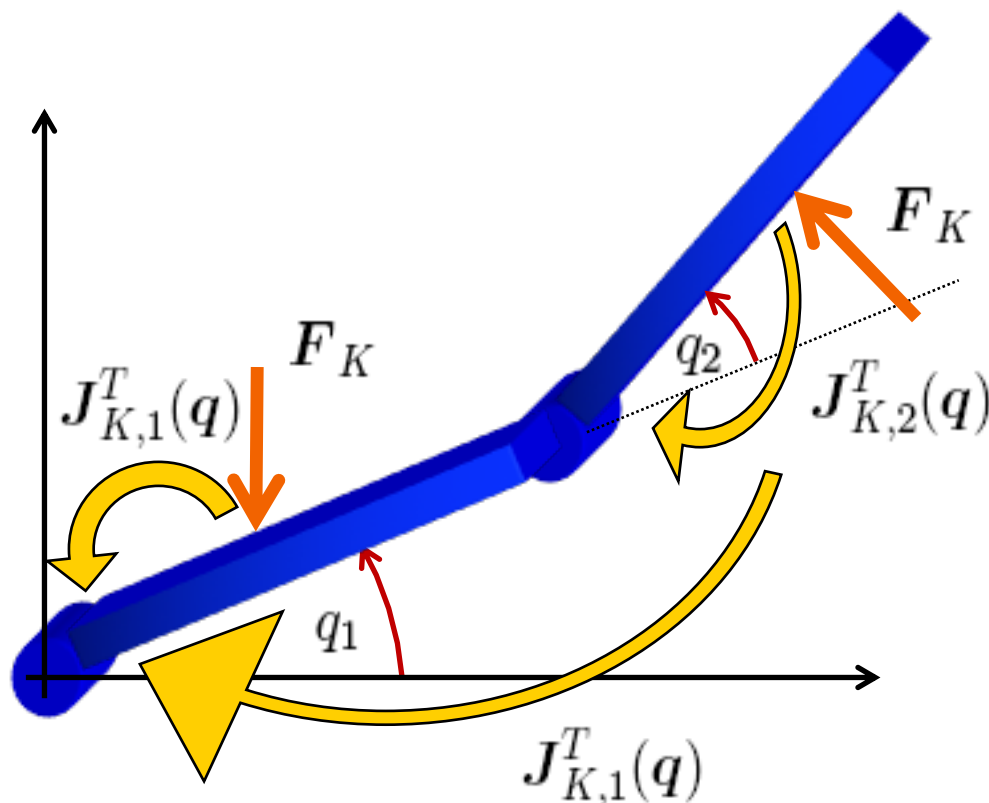
with transpose of the Jacobian associated to the contact point/area

- collisions may occur at **any (unknown) location** along the whole robotic structure
- simplifying assumptions (some may be relaxed)
  - manipulator is an open kinematic chain
  - single contact/collision
  - negligible friction (or has to be identified and used in the model)



# Analysis of a collision

$$V_K = \begin{bmatrix} v_K \\ \omega_K \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} J_{K,\text{lin}}(q) \\ J_{K,\text{ang}}(q) \end{bmatrix} \dot{q} = J_K(q) \dot{q} \in \mathbb{R}^6 \quad F_K = \begin{bmatrix} f_K \\ m_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$



in **static** conditions  
a contact force/torque  
on  $i$ th link is **balanced**  
**ONLY** by torques at  
preceding joints  $j \leq i$

in **dynamic** conditions  
a contact force/torque  
on  $i$ th link **produces**  
**accelerations**  
at **ALL** joints



# Relevant dynamic properties

- total energy and its variation

$$E = T + U = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q} + U_g(q) \quad \boxed{\dot{E} = \dot{q}^T \tau_{\text{tot}}}$$

- generalized momentum and its decoupled dynamics

$$p = M(q) \dot{q}$$

$$\dot{p} = \tau_{\text{tot}} + S^T(q, \dot{q}) \dot{q} - g(q)$$

NOTE: this is a vector version of the same formula already encountered in actuator FDI

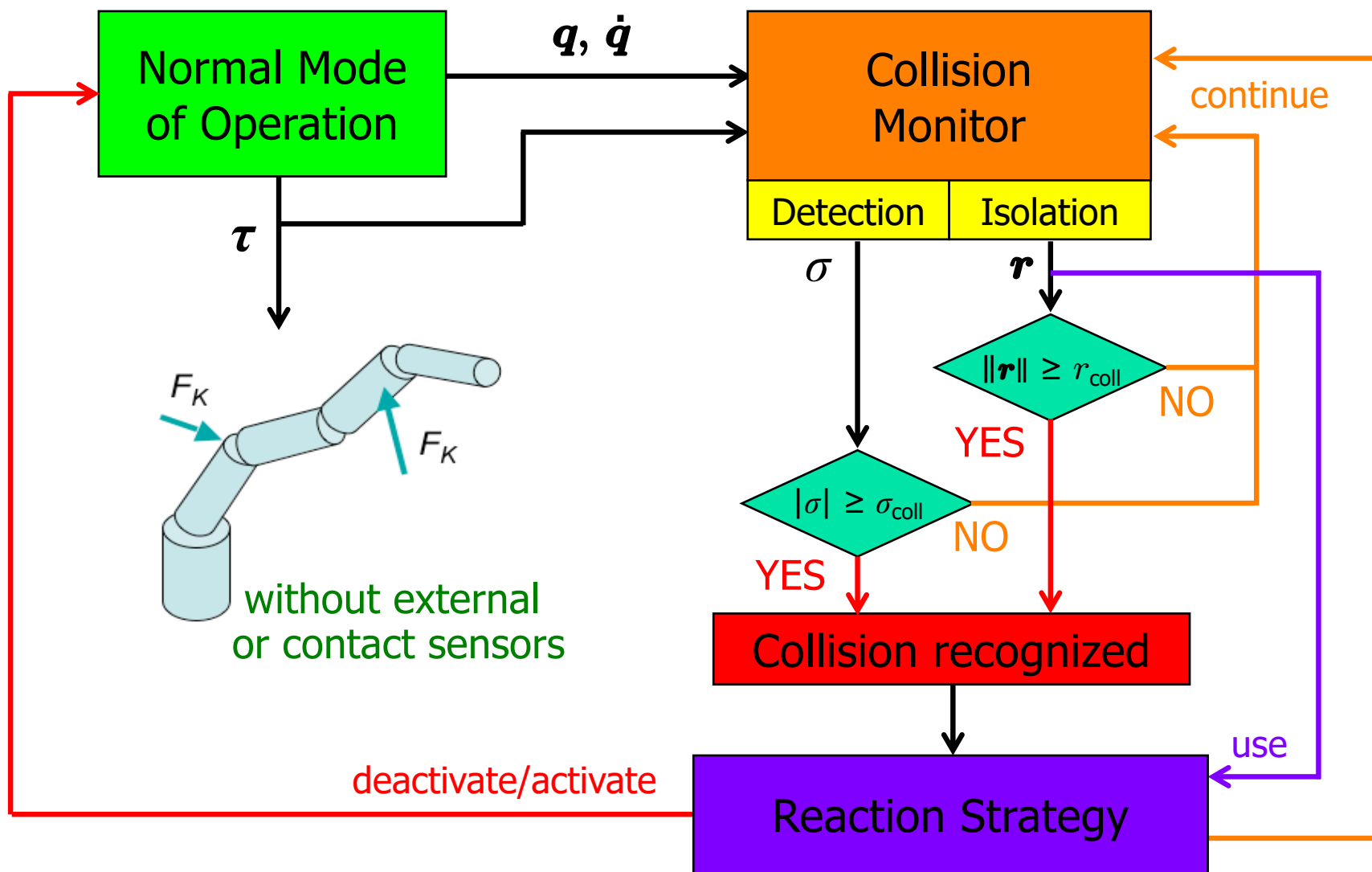
using the skew-symmetric property  $\dot{M}(q) = S(q, \dot{q}) + S^T(q, \dot{q})$

Ex: prove this expression!





# Monitoring collisions





# Energy-based detection of collisions

- **scalar** residual (computable) ← also via N-E algorithm!

$$\sigma(t) = k_D \left[ E(t) - \int_0^t (\dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \boldsymbol{\tau} + \sigma) ds - E(0) \right]$$

$$\sigma(0) = 0 \quad k_D > 0$$

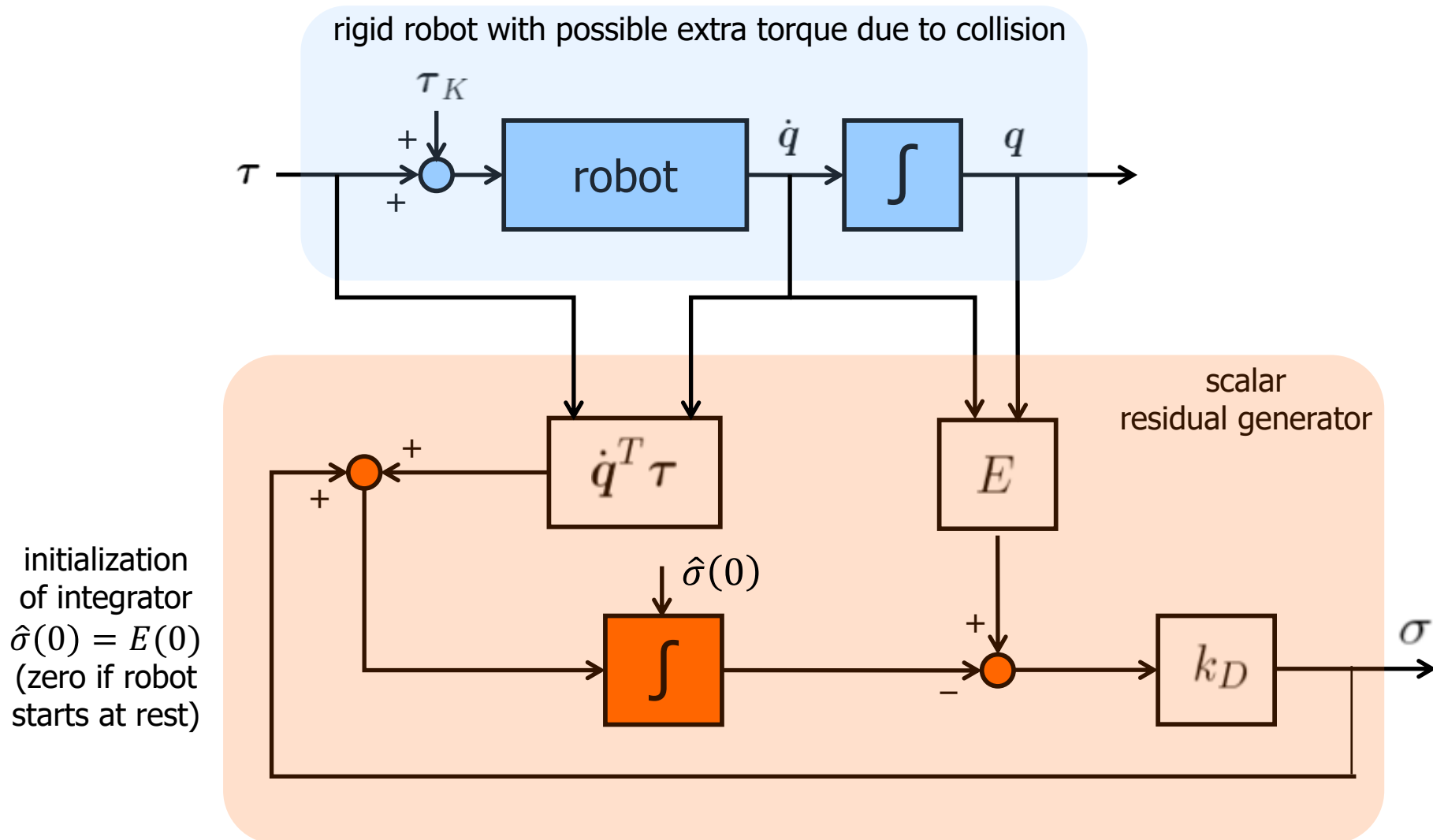
- ... and its dynamics (needed only for analysis)

$$\dot{\sigma} = -k_D \sigma + k_D \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \boldsymbol{\tau}_K$$

a stable first-order linear filter, **excited by a collision!**

# Block diagram of residual generator

## energy-based scalar signal



$$\sigma(t) = k_D \left[ E(t) - \int_0^t (\dot{q}^T \tau + \sigma) ds - E(0) \right]$$



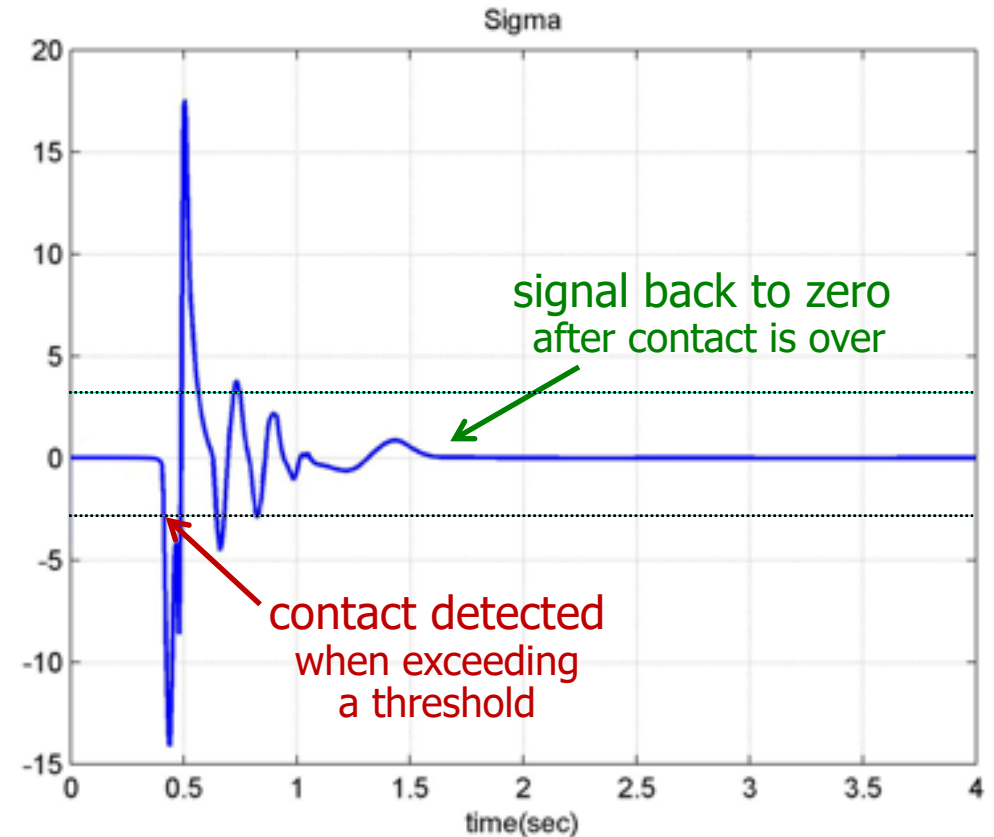
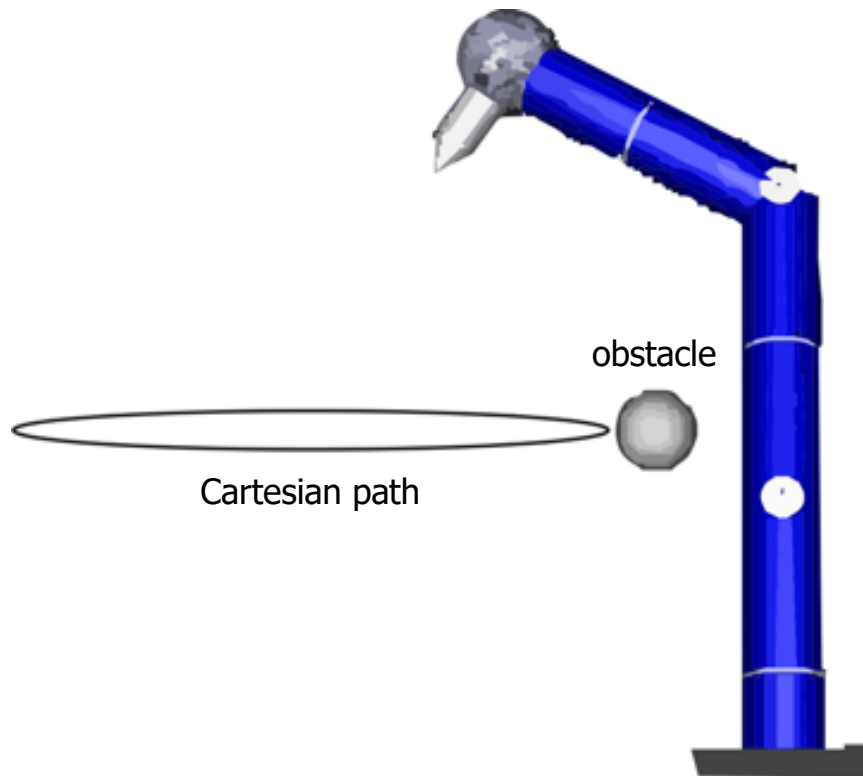
# Analysis of the energy-based method

- very simple scheme (scalar signal)
- it can only detect the presence of collision forces/torques (**wrenches**) that **produce work** on the linear/angular velocities (**twists**) at the contact
- does not succeed when the robot stands still...

$$\dot{q}^T \tau_K = \dot{q}^T J_K^T(q) F_K = V_K^T F_K = 0 \iff V_K \perp F_K$$

$$V_K = \begin{bmatrix} v_K \\ \omega_K \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} J_{K,\text{lin}}(q) \\ J_{K,\text{ang}}(q) \end{bmatrix} \dot{q} = J_K(q) \dot{q} \in \mathbb{R}^6 \quad F_K = \begin{bmatrix} f_K \\ m_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$

# Collision detection simulation with a 7R robot

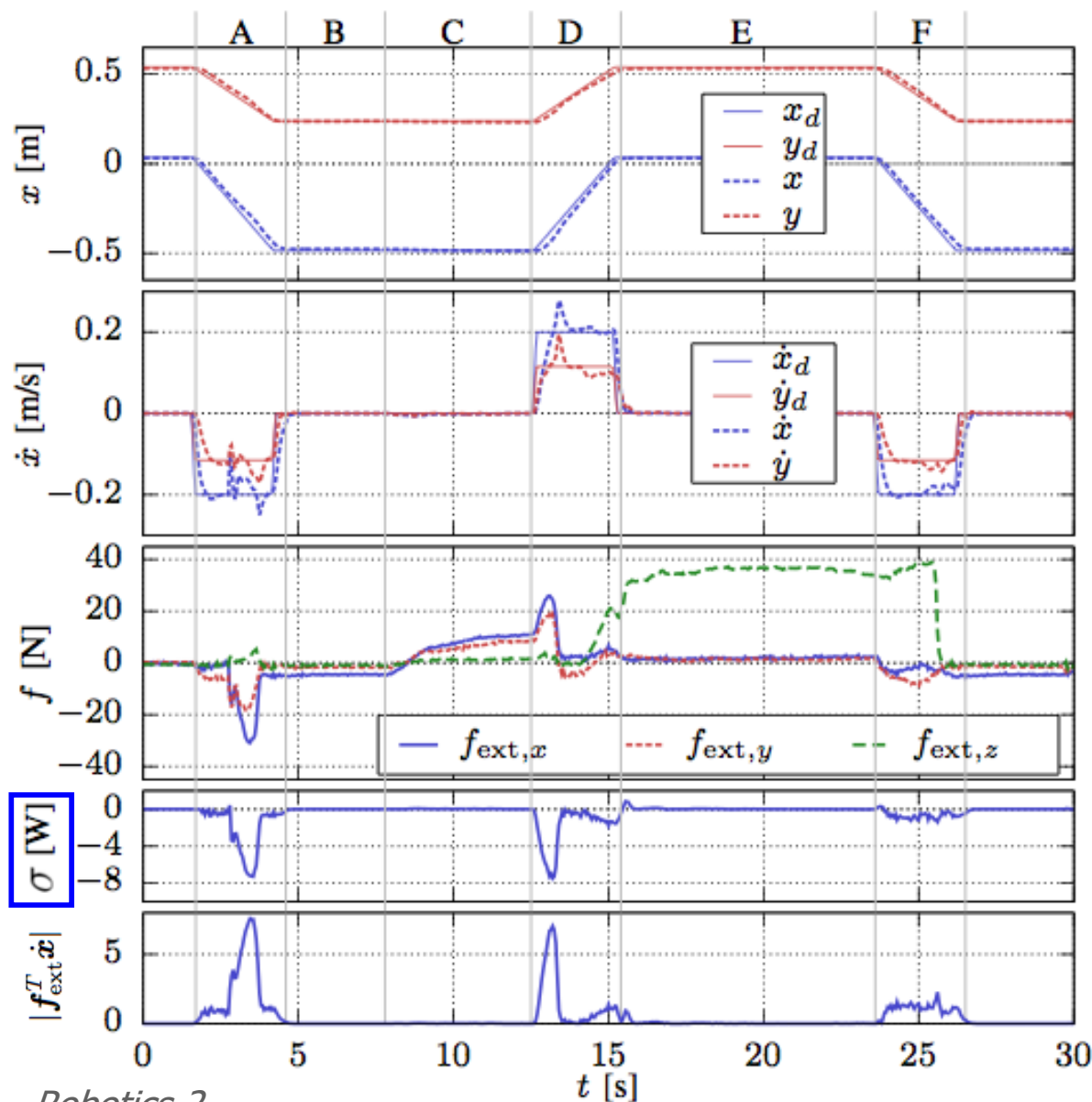


detection of a collision with a fixed obstacle in the work space during the execution of a Cartesian trajectory (redundant robot)



# Collision detection

## experiment with a 6R robot



robot at rest or moving  
under **Cartesian impedance control**  
on a straight horizontal line  
(with a F/T sensor at wrist for analysis)

### 6 phases

- A: contact force applied is acting against motion direction  $\Rightarrow$  **detection**
- B: no force applied, with robot at rest
- C: force increases gradually, but robot is at rest  $\Rightarrow$  **no** detection
- D: robot starts moving again, with force being applied  $\Rightarrow$  **detection**
- E: robot stands still and a strong force is applied in  $z$ -direction  $\Rightarrow$  **no** detection
- F: robot moves, with a  $z$ -force applied  $\approx$  orthogonal to motion direction  $\Rightarrow$  **poor** detection

# Momentum-based isolation of collisions



- residual **vector** (computable) ↖ in case, needs modified N-E algorithm!

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{K}_I \left[ \mathbf{p}(t) - \int_0^t (\boldsymbol{\tau} + \mathbf{S}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{r}) ds - \mathbf{p}(0) \right]$$

$$\mathbf{r}(0) = \mathbf{0} \quad \mathbf{K}_I > \mathbf{0} \text{ (diagonal)}$$

- ... and its **decoupled** dynamics

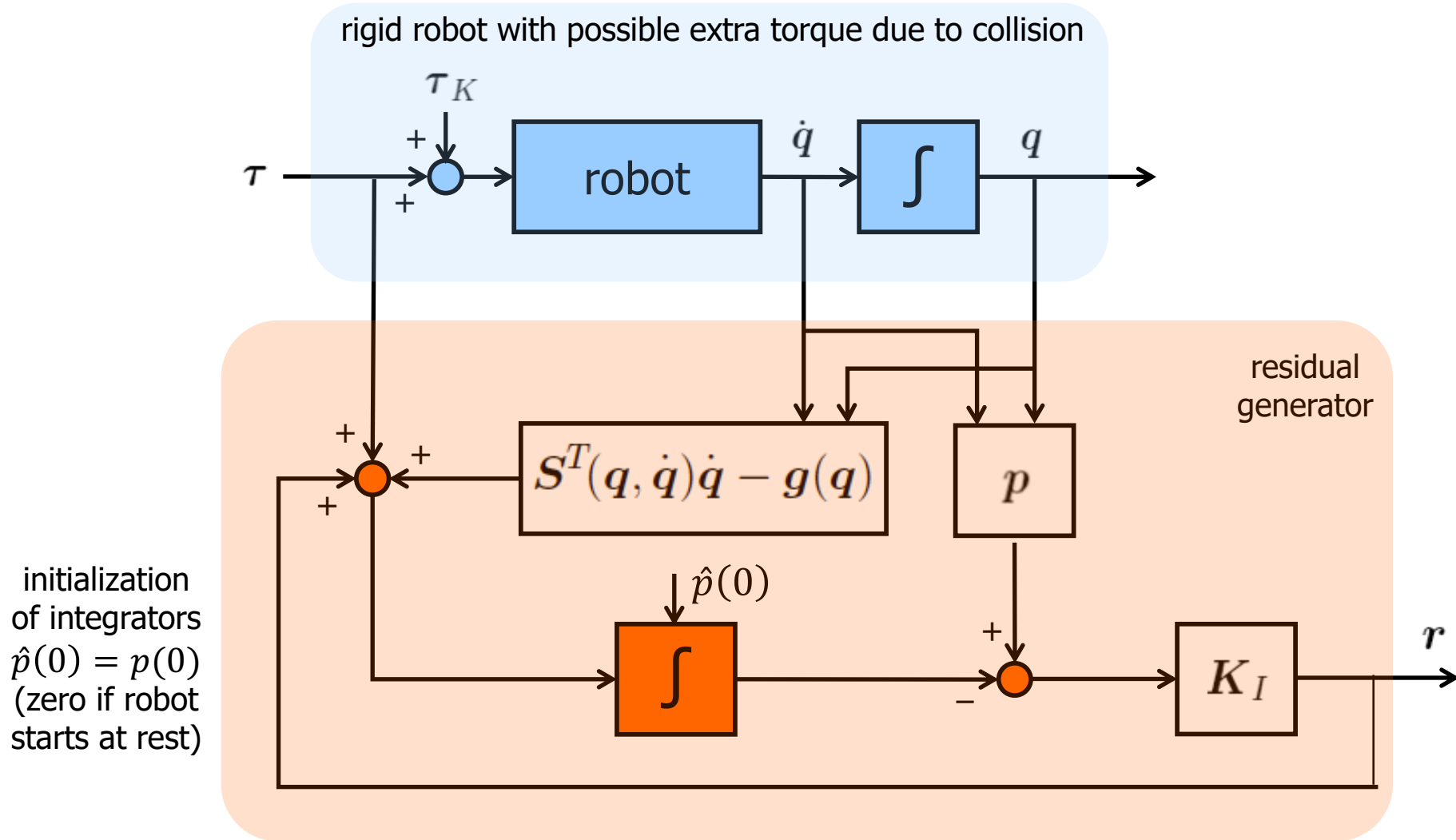
$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = -\mathbf{K}_I \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{K}_I \boldsymbol{\tau}_K \quad \frac{r_j(s)}{\tau_{K,j}(s)} = \frac{K_{I,j}}{s + K_{I,j}}$$
$$j = 1, \dots, N$$

$N$  first-order, linear filters with unitary gains, **excited by a collision!**  
(all residuals **go back to zero** if there is no longer contact = post-impact phase)



# Block diagram of residual generator

## momentum-based vector signal



$$r(t) = K_I \left[ p(t) - \int_0^t (\tau + S^T(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} - g(q) + r) ds - p(0) \right]$$





# Analysis of the momentum method

- ideal situation (no noise/uncertainties)

$$K_I \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \boxed{\boldsymbol{r} \approx \boldsymbol{\tau}_K}$$

- **isolation property**: collision has generically occurred in an area located **up to the  $i$ th link** if

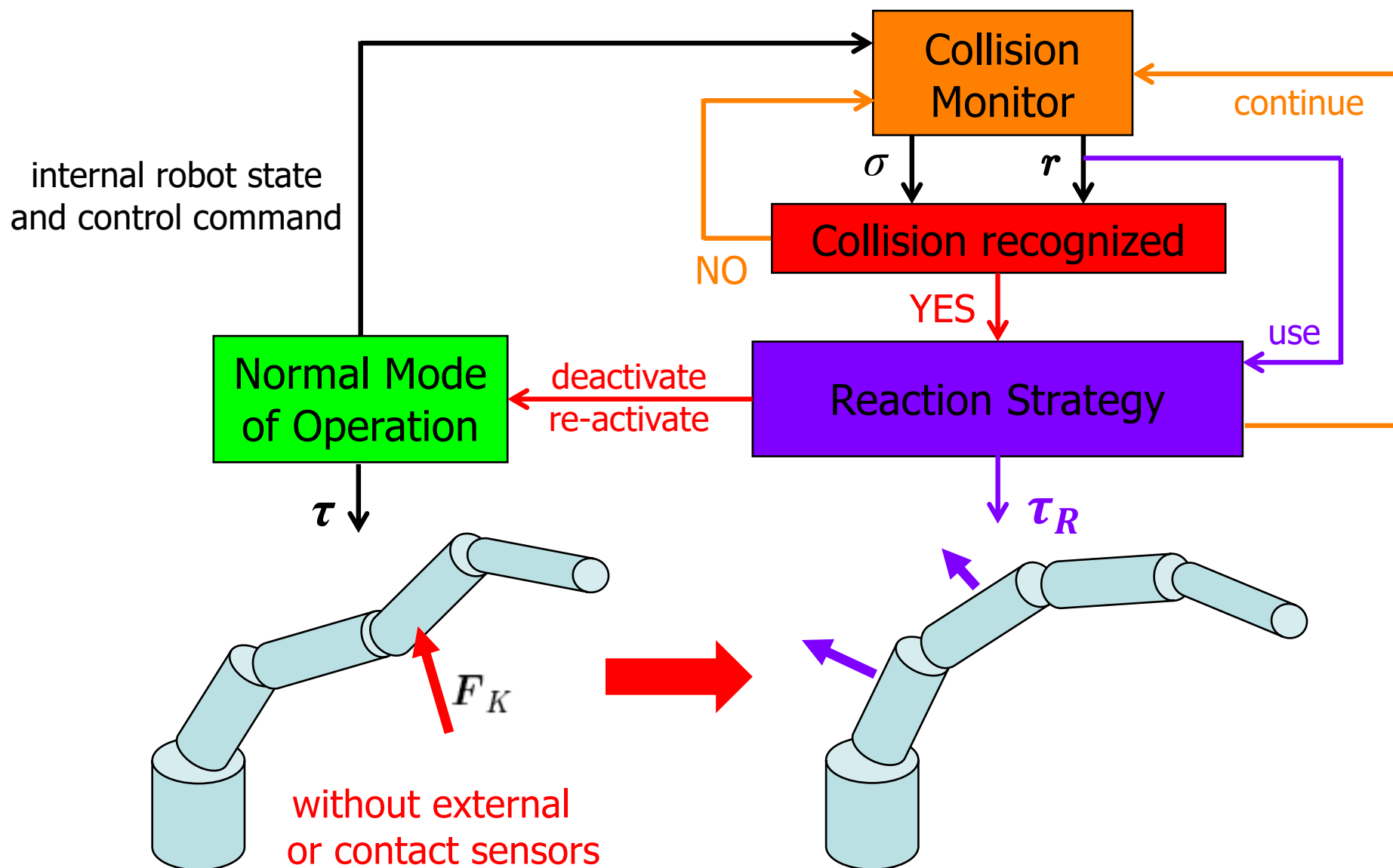
$$\boldsymbol{r} = \begin{bmatrix} * & \dots & * & * & \boxed{0} & \dots & \boxed{0} \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$\uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \uparrow$   
 $i+1 \quad \dots \quad N$

- residual vector contains **directional** information on the torque at the robot joints resulting from link collision (useful for robot **reaction** in **post-impact** phase)



# Safe reaction to collisions





# Robot reaction strategy

- “zero-gravity” control in any operative mode

$$\tau = \tau' + g(q)$$

- upon detection of a collision ( $r$  is over some **threshold**)
  - **no** reaction (**strategy 0**): robot continues its planned motion...
  - **stop** robot motion (**strategy 1**): either by **braking** or by stopping the motion reference generator and **switching** to a **high-gain position control** law
  - **reflex\*** **strategy**: switch to a residual-based control law

$$\tau' = K_R r \quad K_R > \mathbf{0} \quad (\text{diagonal})$$

*“joint torque command in same direction of collision torque”*

\* = in robots with **transmission/joint elasticity**, the **reflex** strategy can be implemented in different ways (**strategies 2, 3, 4**)

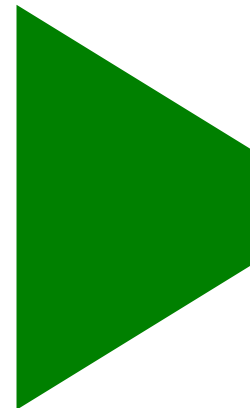
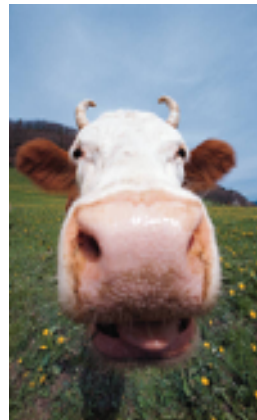
# Analysis of the reflex strategy

- in ideal conditions, this control strategy is equivalent to a **reduction of the effective robot inertia** as seen by the collision force/torque

$$(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{K}_R)^{-1} (\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}_K$$

*“a lighter robot that can be easily pushed way”*

from a cow ...



... to a frog!

# DLR LWR-III robot dynamics

- **lightweight** (14 kg) 7R anthropomorphic robot with harmonic drives (**elastic joints**) and **joint torque sensors**

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = \tau_J + \tau_K$$

motor torques commands

joint torques due to link collision

$$B_m\ddot{\theta} + \tau_J = \tau$$

friction at link side is negligible!

$$\tau_J = K(\theta - q)$$

elastic torques at the joints

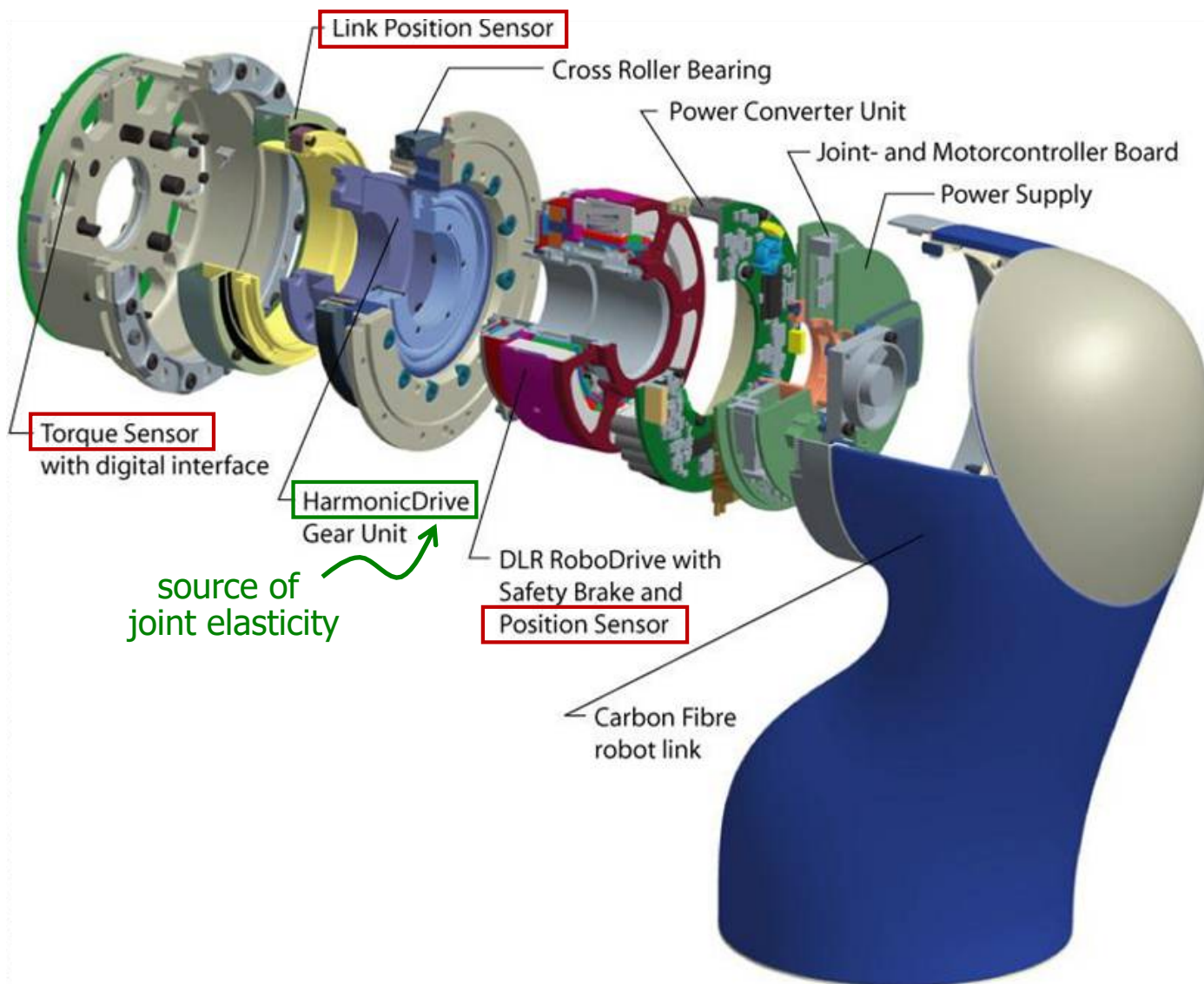
- **proprioceptive** sensing: motor positions and joint elastic torques

$$\theta \quad \tau_J \quad \longrightarrow \quad q = \theta - K^{-1}\tau_J$$





# Exploded joint of LWR-III robot



# Collision isolation for LWR-III robot elastic joint case



- few alternatives for extending the rigid case results
- for collision isolation, the simplest one takes advantage of the presence of joint torque sensors

$$\tau \rightarrow \tau_J$$

“replace the commanded torque to the motors with the elastic torque measured at the joints”

$$r_{EJ}(t) = K_I \left[ p(t) - \int_0^t (\tau_J + S^T(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} - g(q) + r_{EJ}) ds - p(0) \right]$$
$$\dot{r}_{EJ} = -K_I r_{EJ} + K_I \tau_K$$

- other alternatives use
  - link+motor position measures  $\Rightarrow$  needs knowledge also of joint stiffness  $K$
  - link+motor momentum + commanded torque  $\Rightarrow$  affected by motor friction
- motion control is more complex in the presence of joint elasticity
- different active strategies of reaction to collisions are possible

# Control of DLR LWR-III robot

## elastic joint case



- general control law using **full state feedback**  
(motor position and velocity, joint elastic torque and its derivative)

$$\tau = K_P(\theta_d - \theta) - K_D\dot{\theta} + K_{P\tau}(\tau_{J,d} - \tau_J) - K_{D\tau}\dot{\tau}_J + \tau_{J,d}$$

↑  
motor  
position  
error

↑  
elastic joint  
torque error

↑  
elastic joint  
torque ffw  
command

- “zero-gravity” condition is realized only in a (**quasi-static**) **approximate** way, using just motor position measures

$$\bar{g}(\theta) = g(q), \quad \forall(\theta, q) \in \Omega := \{(\theta, q) \mid K(\theta - q) = g(q)\}$$

↑            ↑  
motor      link  
position    position

↑  
(diagonal) matrix  
of joint stiffness





# Reaction strategies

## specific for elastic joint robots

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- **strategy 2: floating** reaction (robot  $\approx$  in “zero-gravity”)

$$\tau_{J,d} = \bar{g}(\theta) \quad K_P = 0$$

- **strategy 3: reflex torque** reaction (closest to the rigid case)

$$\tau_{J,d} = K_R r_{EJ} + \bar{g}(\theta) \quad K_P = 0$$

- **strategy 4: admittance mode** reaction (residual is used as the new reference for the motor velocity)

$$\tau_{J,d} = \bar{g}(\theta) \quad \dot{\theta}_d = K_{R,\theta} r_{EJ}$$

- **further** possible reaction strategies (rigid or elastic case)

- based on impedance control
- sequence of strategies (e.g., 4 + 2)
- **time scaling**: stop/reprise of reference trajectory, keeping the path
- **Cartesian task preservation** (exploits robot redundancy by projecting reaction torque in a task-related **dynamic null space**)

# Experiments with LWR-III robot "dummy" head



dummy head equipped  
with an **accelerometer**

robot straighten horizontally,  
mostly motion of joint 1 **@30°/sec**

# Dummy head impact

video



strategy 0: **no** reaction

planned trajectory ends just after  
the position of the dummy head

video

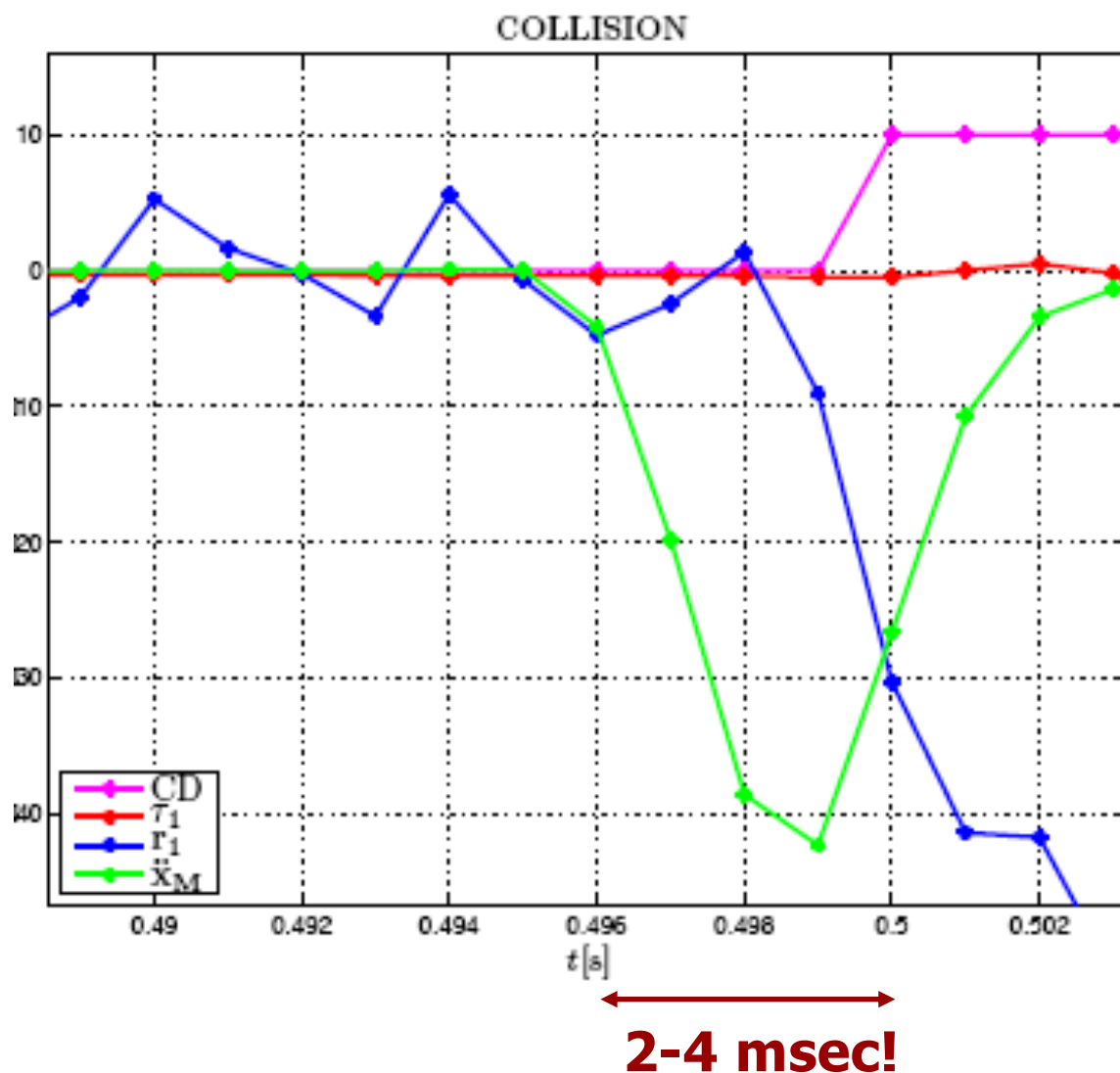


strategy 2: **floating** reaction

impact velocity is rather low here and  
the robot stops switching to float mode



# Delay in collision detection



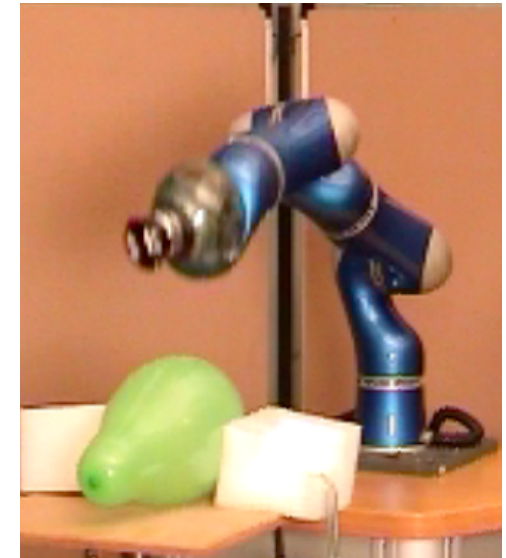
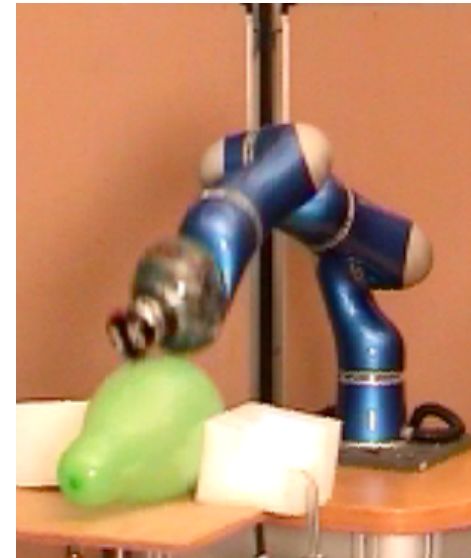
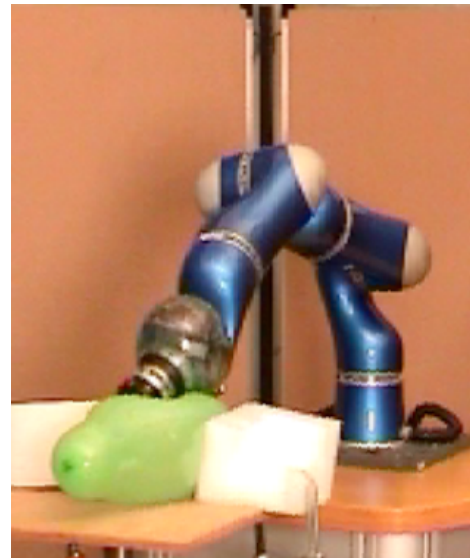
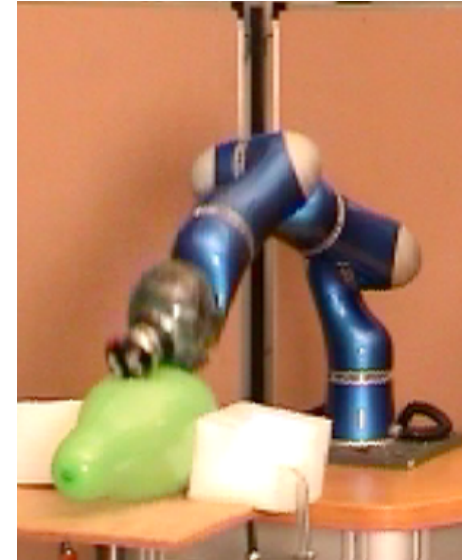
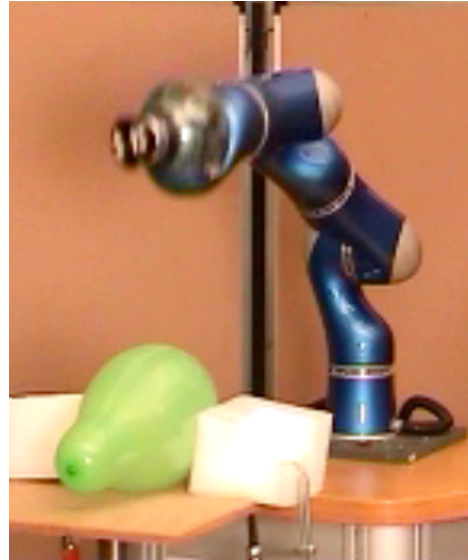
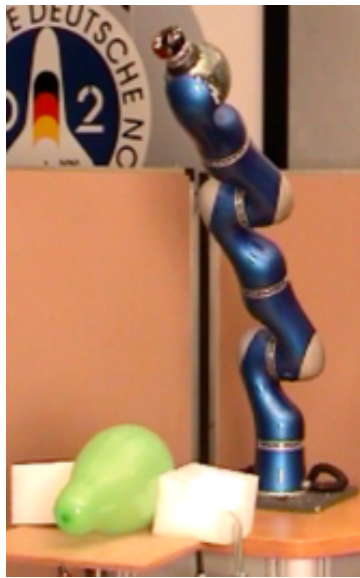
impact with  
the dummy head

- measured (elastic) joint torque
- residual  $r_1$
- 0/1 index for detection
- dummy head acceleration

gain  $K_I = \text{diag}\{25\}$

threshold = 5-10% of  
max rated torque

# Experiments with LWR-III robot balloon impact



possibility of **repeatable**  
comparison of different  
reaction strategies  
at high speed conditions

# Balloon impact

video



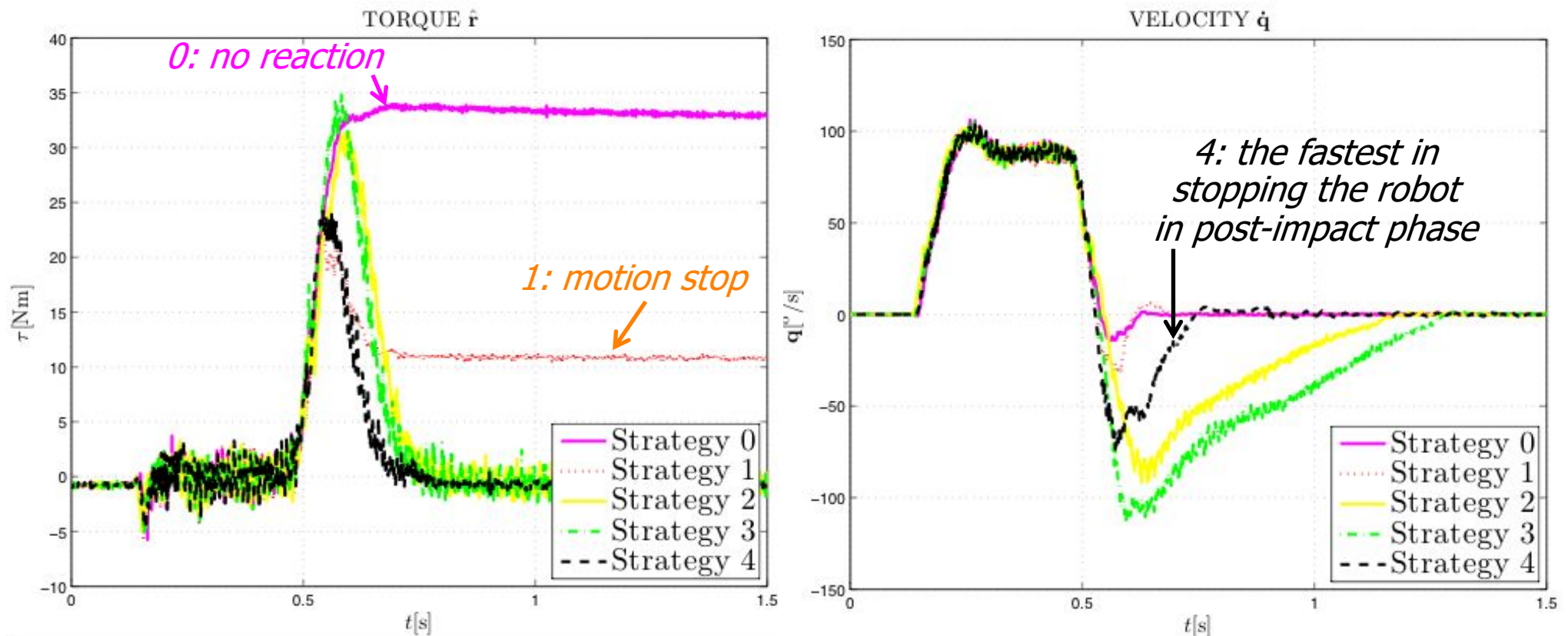
coordinated  
joint motion  
@90°/sec

strategy 4: admittance mode reaction

# Experimental comparison of strategies balloon impact



- residual and velocity at **joint 4** with various reaction strategies



impact at  $90^\circ/\text{sec}$  with coordinated joint motion

# Human-Robot Interaction – 1

- first impact @60°/sec

video



video



strategy 4: admittance mode

strategy 3: reflex torque



# Human-Robot Interaction – 2

- first impact @90°/sec

video

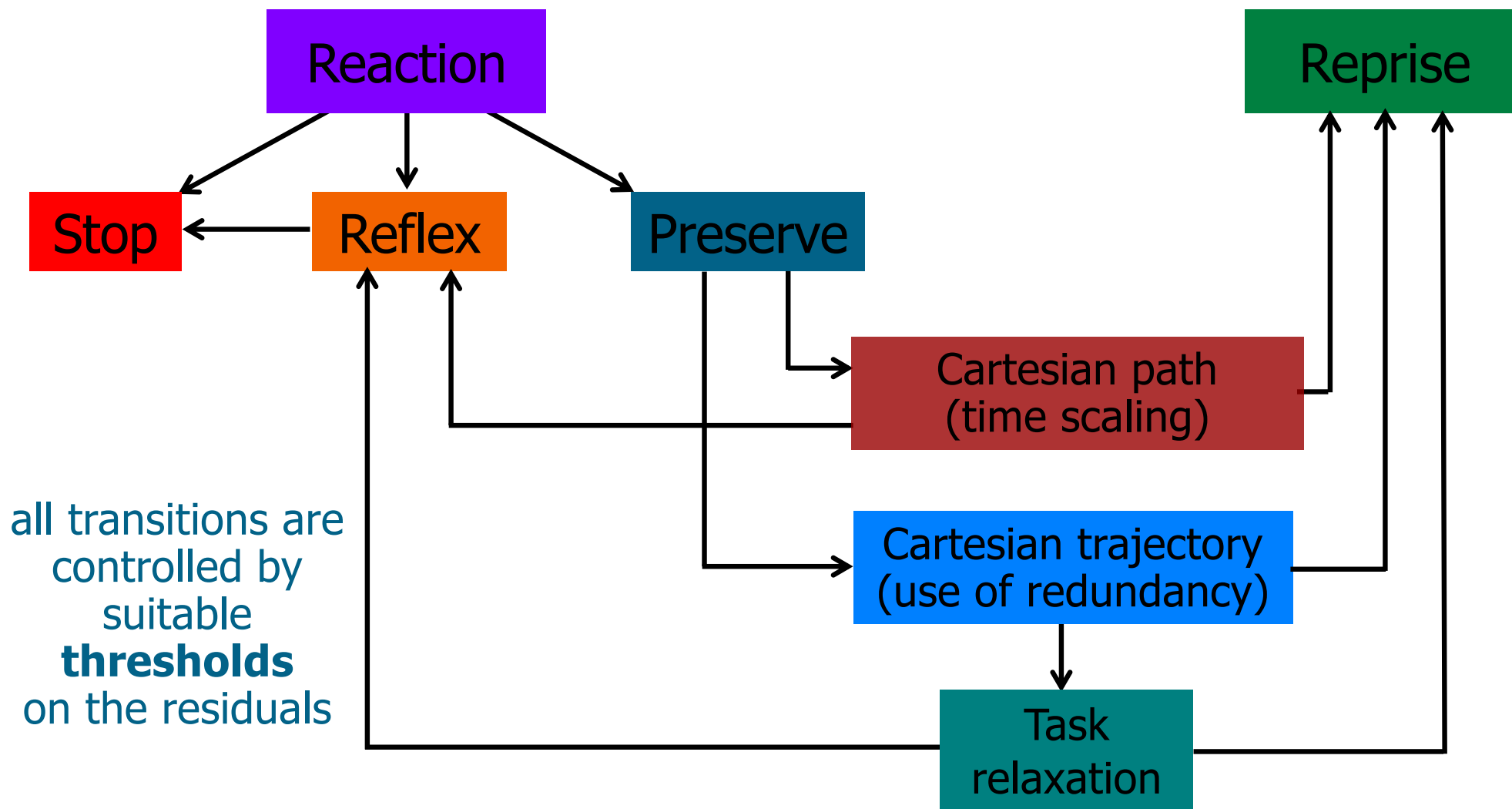


strategy 3: reflex torque

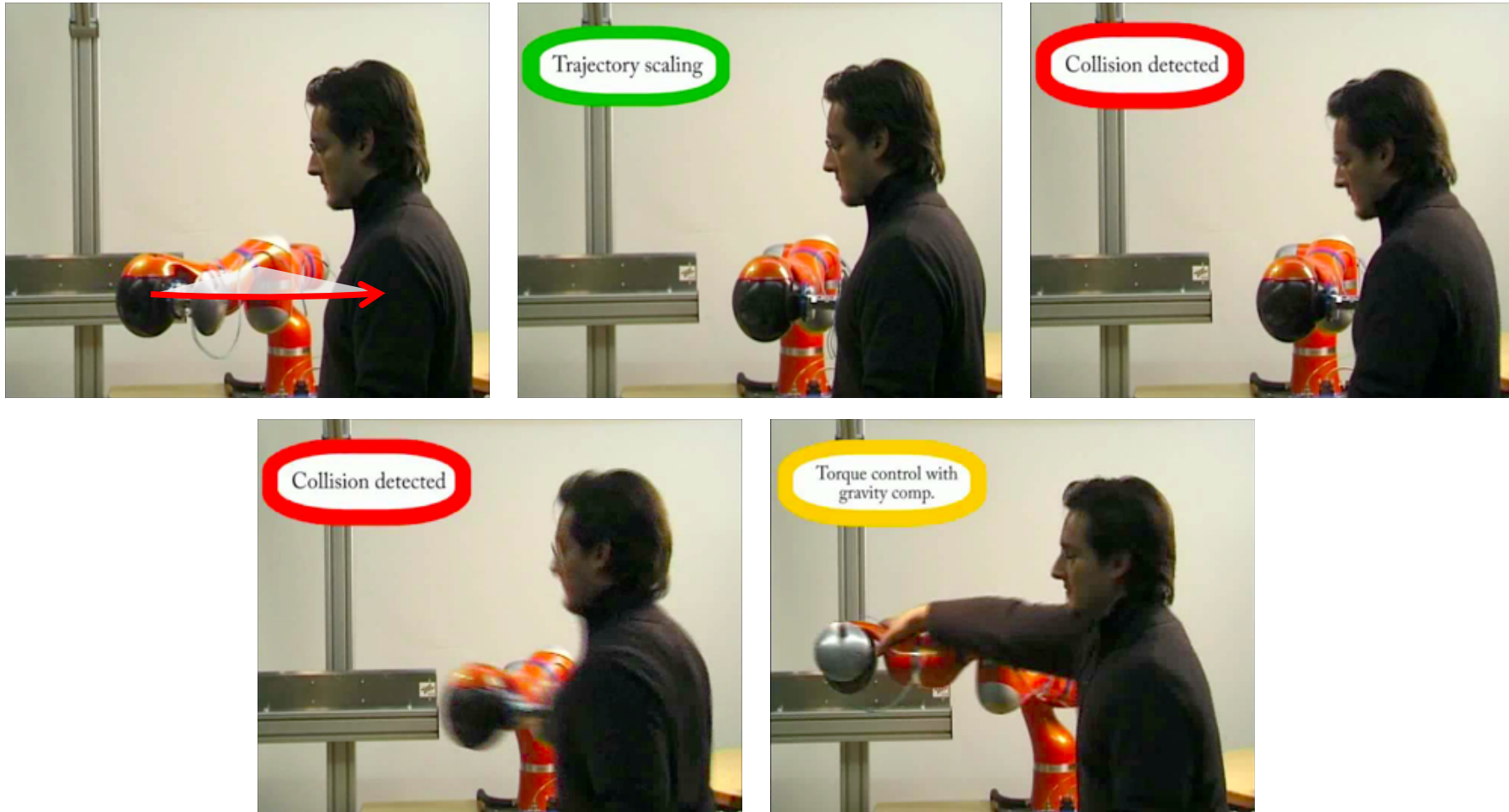


# “Portfolio” of reaction strategies

residual amplitude  $\propto$  severity level of collision



# Experiments with LWR-III robot time scaling



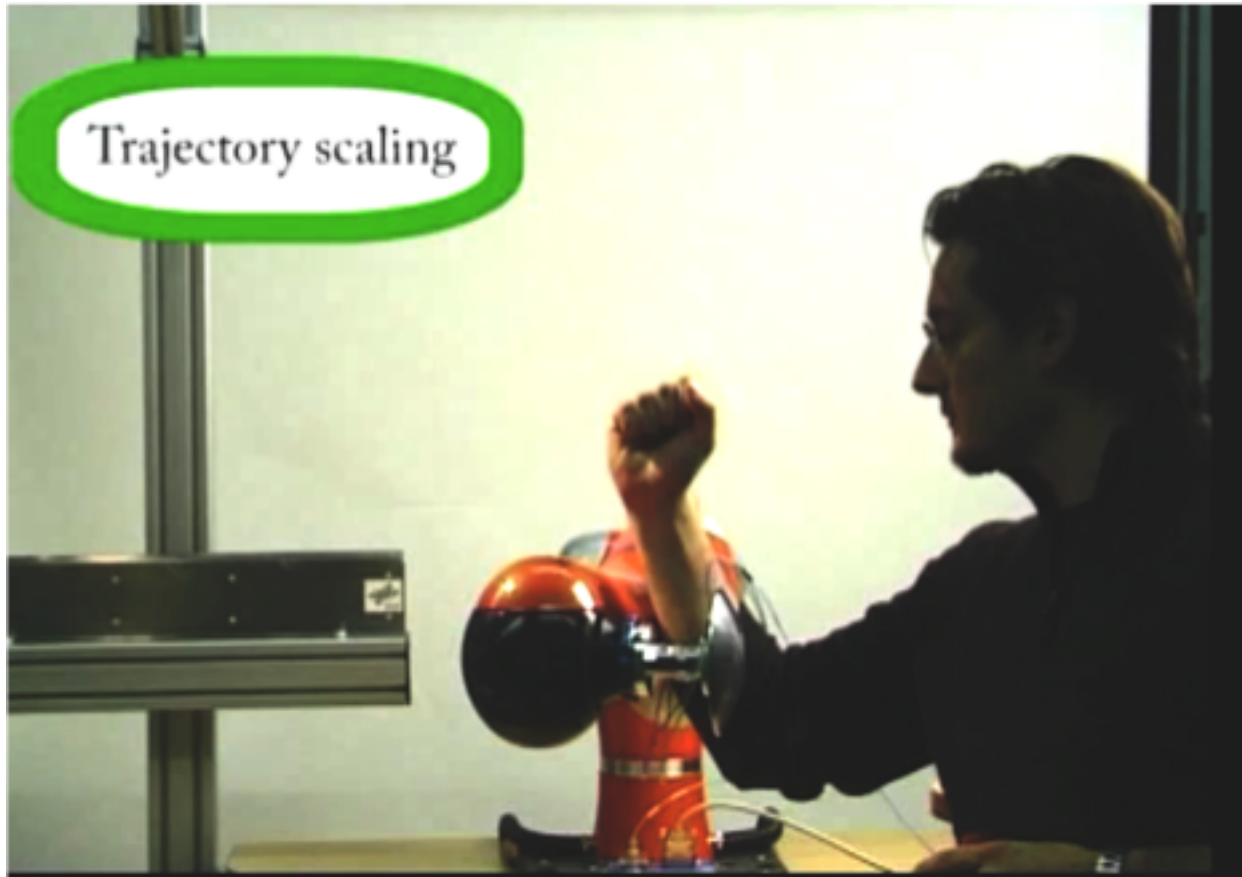
- robot is position-controlled (on a given **geometric path**)
- timing law **slows down, stops, possibly reverses** (and then reprises)



# Reaction with time scaling

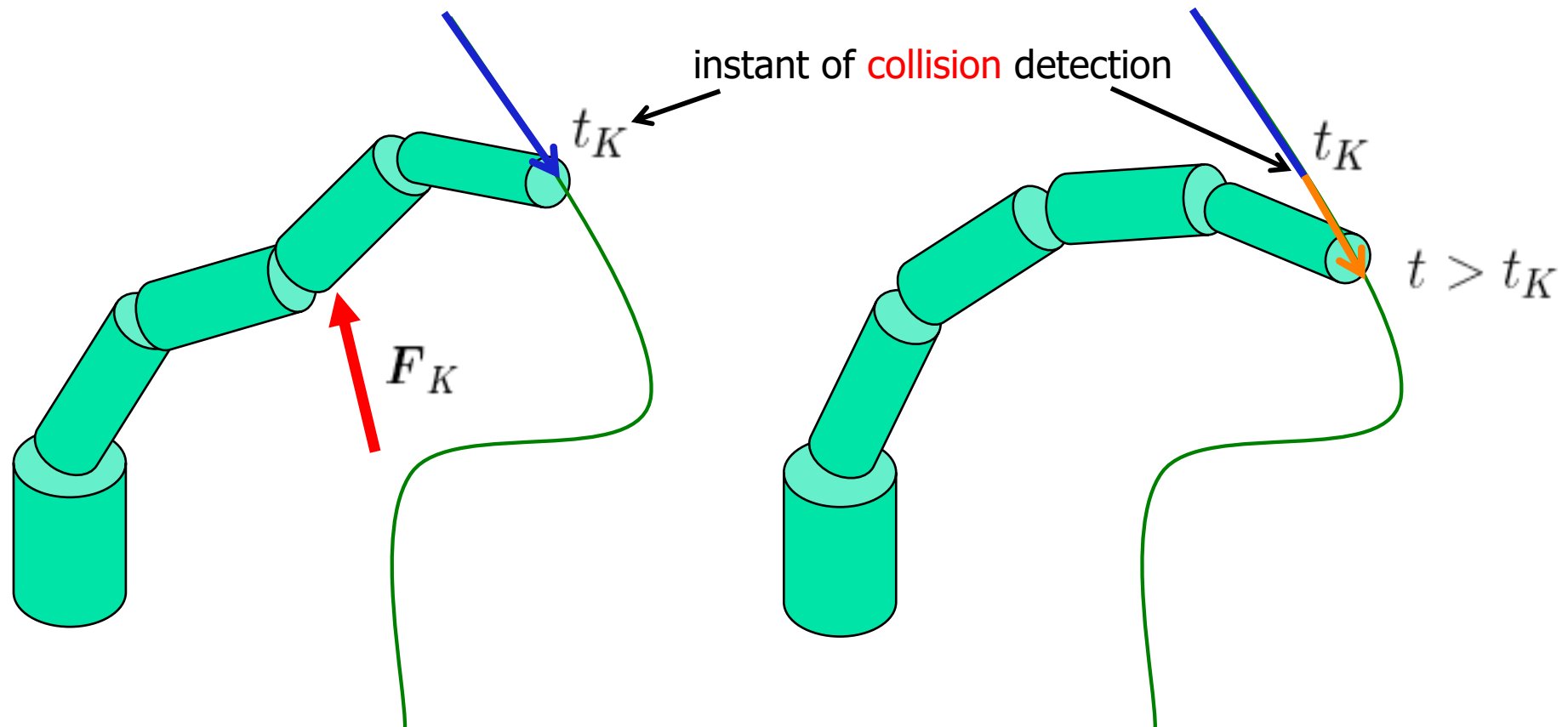
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video



# Use of kinematic redundancy

- **collision** detection  $\Rightarrow$  robot reacts so as to **preserve** as much as possible (and if possible at all) execution of the planned **Cartesian trajectory** for the end-effector





# Task kinematics

- task coordinates  $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$  with  $m < n$  (redundancy)

$$\dot{x} = J(q)\dot{q} \quad \ddot{x} = \dot{J}(q)\dot{q} + J(q)\ddot{q}$$

- (all) generalized inverses of the task Jacobian

$$J(q)G(q)J(q) = J(q), \quad \forall q$$

- all joint accelerations realizing a desired task acceleration (at a given robot state)

$$\ddot{q} = G(q)(\ddot{x} - \dot{J}(q)\dot{q}) + (I - G(q)J(q))\ddot{q}_0$$

↑  
arbitrary joint  
acceleration



# Dynamic redundancy resolution

set for compactness  $n(q, \dot{q}) = S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q)$

- all joint torques realizing a precise **control** of the desired (Cartesian) **task**

$$\tau = M(q)G(q) \left[ \ddot{x}_d + K_P e + K_D \dot{e} - \dot{J}(q)\dot{q} + J(q)M^{-1}(q)n(q, \dot{q}) \right] + \underbrace{M(q)(I - G(q)J(q))M^{-1}(q)}_{\text{projection matrix in the dynamic null space of } J} \tau_0$$

arbitrary joint torque available for reaction to collisions

for any generalized inverse  $G$ , the joint torque has **two** contributions: **one** imposes the task acceleration control, **the other** does not affect it



# Dynamically consistent solution inertia-weighted pseudoinverse

- the most natural choice for matrix  $\mathbf{G}$  is to use the dynamically consistent generalized inverse of  $\mathbf{J}$
- in a dual way, denoting by  $\mathbf{H}$  a generalized inverse of  $\mathbf{J}^T$ , the joint torques can in fact be always decomposed as

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{F} + (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q}))\boldsymbol{\tau}_0$$

- the inertia-weighted choices for  $\mathbf{H}$  and  $\mathbf{G}$  are then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}_M(\mathbf{q}) &= \left( \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{M}^{-1}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q}) \right)^{-1} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{M}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}) \\ &=: \boldsymbol{\Lambda}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{M}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}), \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{H}_M^T = \mathbf{M}^{-1}\mathbf{J}^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}$$

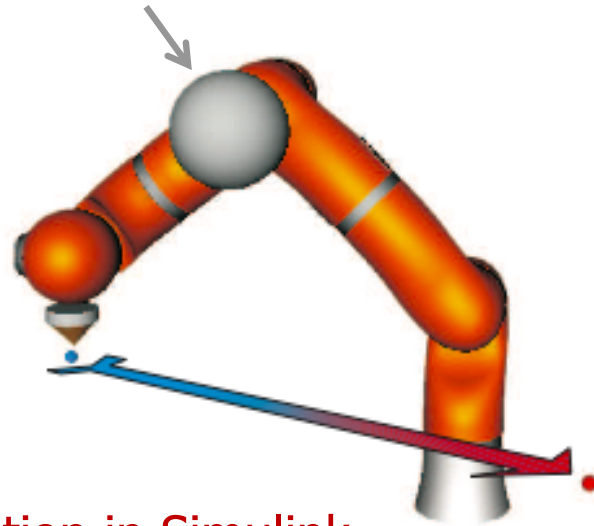
- thus, the dynamically consistent solution is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\tau} &= \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\boldsymbol{\Lambda}(\mathbf{q})(\ddot{\mathbf{x}} - \dot{\mathbf{J}}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{M}^{-1}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})) \\ &\quad + (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{H}_M(\mathbf{q}))\boldsymbol{\tau}_0 \end{aligned}$$



# Cartesian task preservation

spherical obstacle



simulation in Simulink  
visualization in VRML

video



- wish to **preserve** the whole Cartesian task (end-effector position & orientation) reacting to collisions by using only self-motions in the joint space
- if the residual ( $\propto$  contact force) grows too large, orientation is **relaxed** first and then, if necessary, the full task is **abandoned** (priority is given to **safety**)

# Cartesian task preservation

## Experiments with LWR4+ robot



video @IROS 2017



### Human-Robot Coexistence and Contact Handling with Redundant Robots

Emanuele Magrini

Alessandro De Luca

Robotics Lab, DIAG  
Sapienza Università di Roma

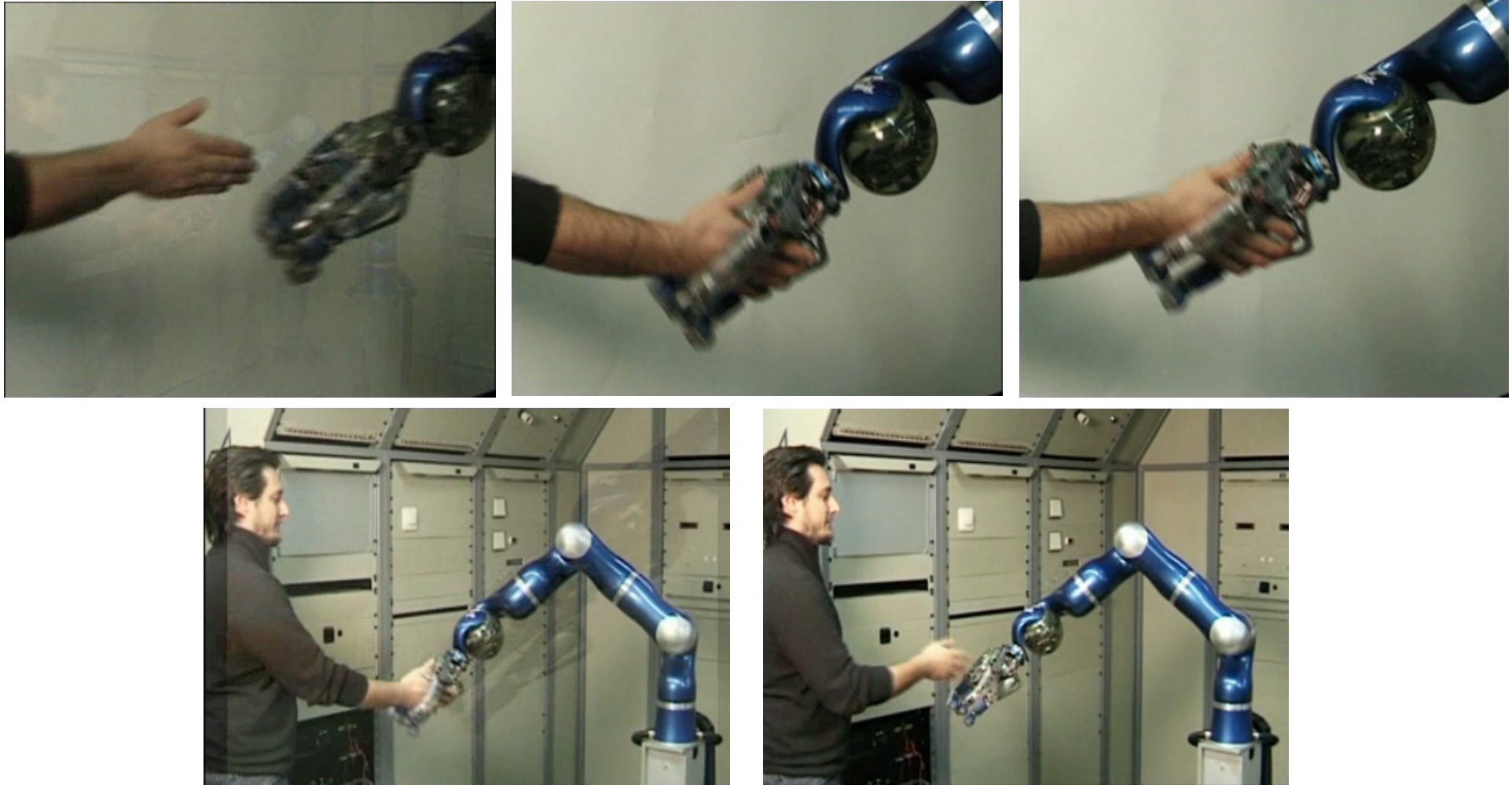
February 2017

idle ⇔ relax ⇔ abort

# Combined use

## 6D F/T sensor at the wrist + residuals

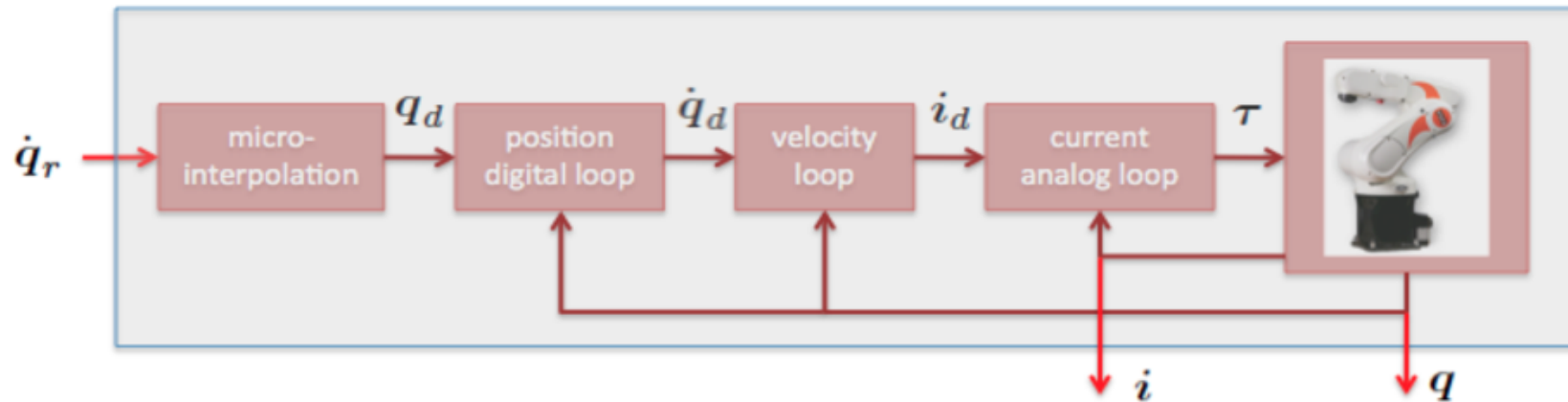
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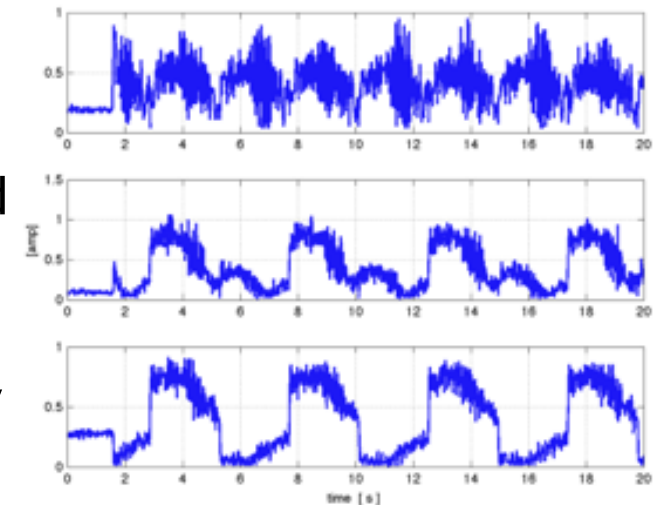
- enables easy distinction of **intentional interactions** vs. **unexpected collisions**
- it is sufficient to include the F/T measure in the expression of the residual!

# HRI/HRC in closed control architectures

## KUKA KR5 Sixx R650 robot



- low-level control laws are **not known nor accessible** by the user: no current or torque commands can be used
- user programs, based also on other exteroceptive sensors (vision, Kinect, F/T sensor) can be implemented on an **external PC via the RSI** (RobotSensorInterface), communicating with the KUKA controller **every 12 ms**
- robot measures available to the user: **joint positions** (by encoders) and [**absolute value of**] **motor currents**
- controller reference is given as a **velocity** or a position **in joint space** (also Cartesian commands are accepted)

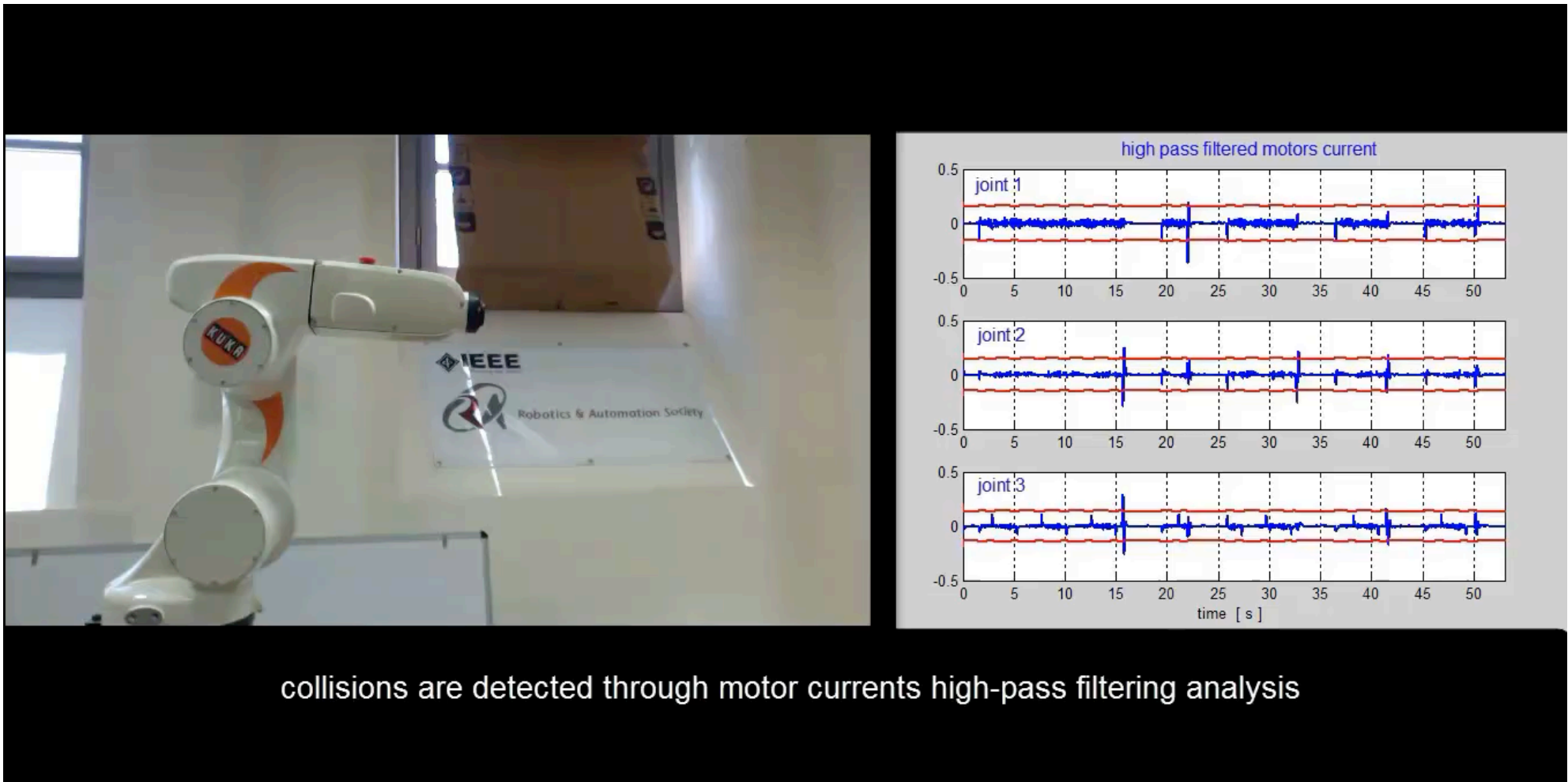


motor currents measured  
on first three joints

# Collision detection and stop



video @ICRA 2013



collisions are detected through motor currents high-pass filtering analysis

high-pass filtering of motor currents (a **signal-based** detection...)

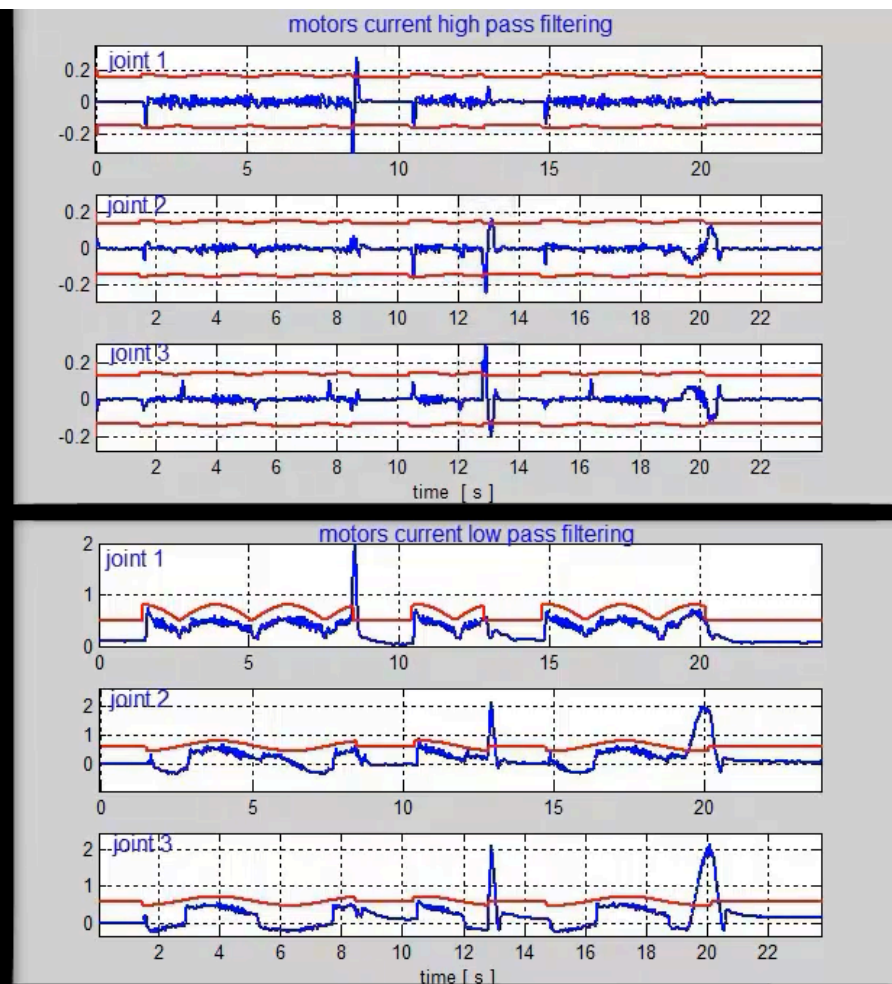
# Distinguish accidental collisions from intentional contact and then collaborate



video @ICRA 2013



intentional contact distinguished by analysis of high-pass and low-pass filtering



with both **high-pass** and **low-pass filtering** of motor currents  
— here collaboration mode is **manual guidance** of the robot

# Other possible robot reactions after collaboration mode is established

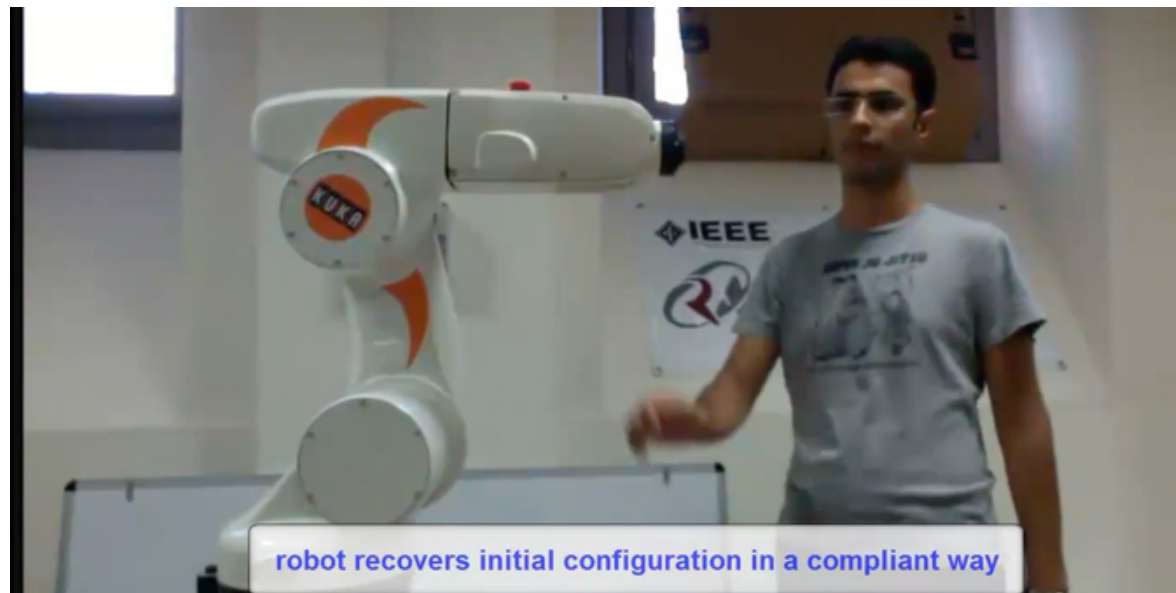


collaboration mode:  
pushing/pulling  
the robot



video  
@ICRA  
2013

collaboration mode:  
compliant-like  
robot behavior



video  
@ICRA  
2013



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