

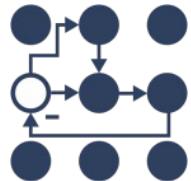
ROS control, an overview

ROSCon 2014

September 12, 2014

Adolfo Rodríguez Tsoroukdissian



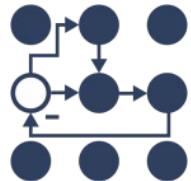


A show of hands

have you ever...

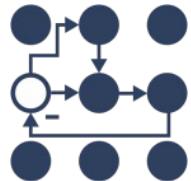
- **used** a controller / robot driver **not** written by you?
- **implemented** a controller / robot driver **yourself**?
 - subject to **realtime** constraints?





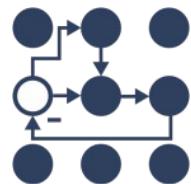
ROS control – an overview

- Big picture and goals
- ROS control & friends
 - Setting up a robot
 - Controllers
 - The control loop
- Demo
- Robots using ROS control



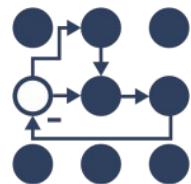
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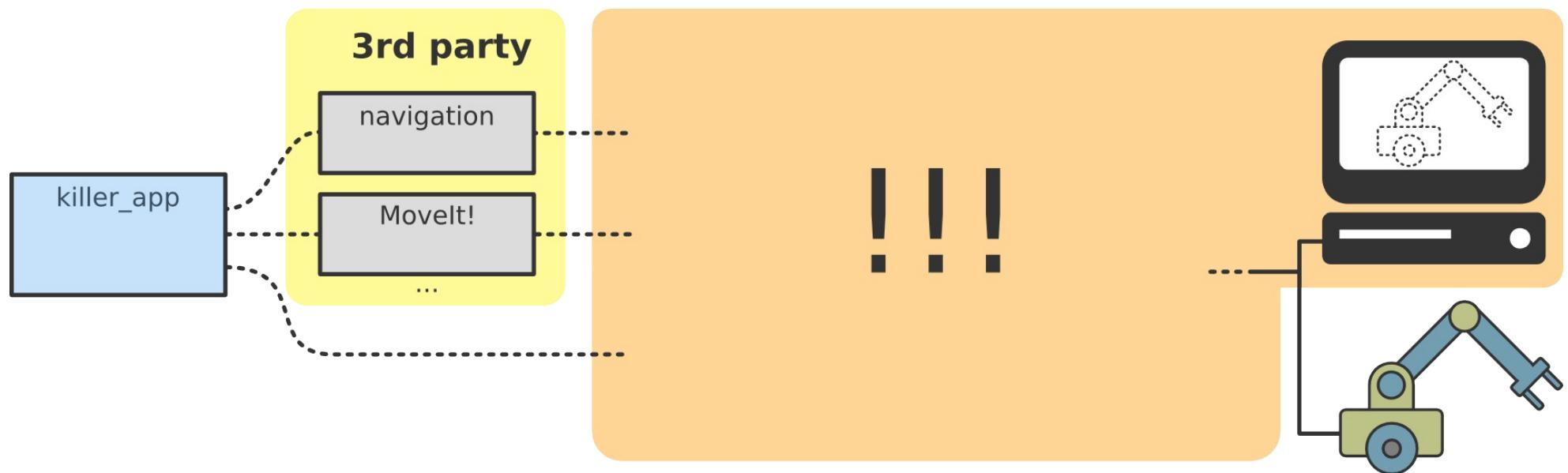


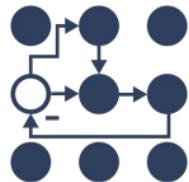
ROS control – the big picture



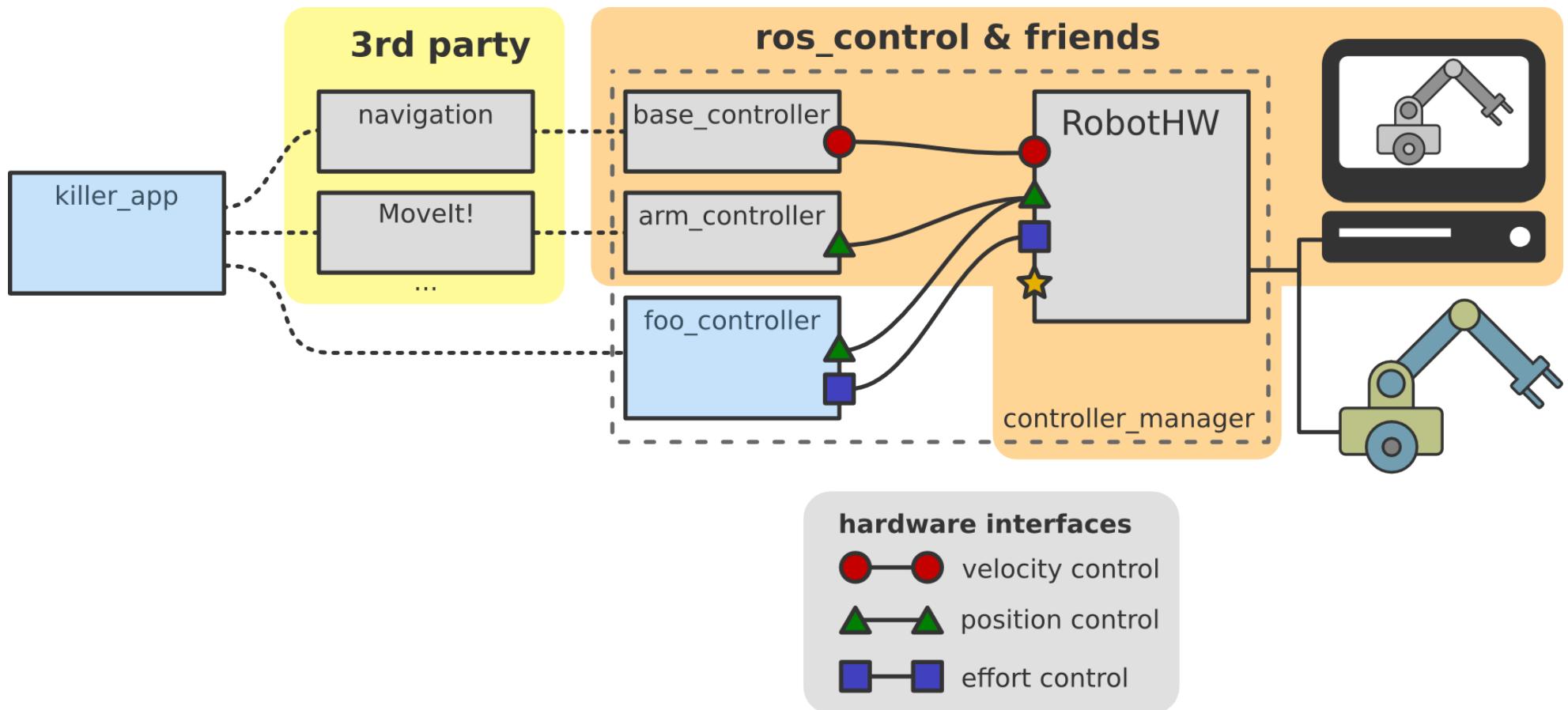


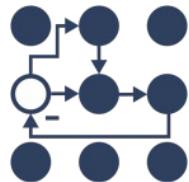
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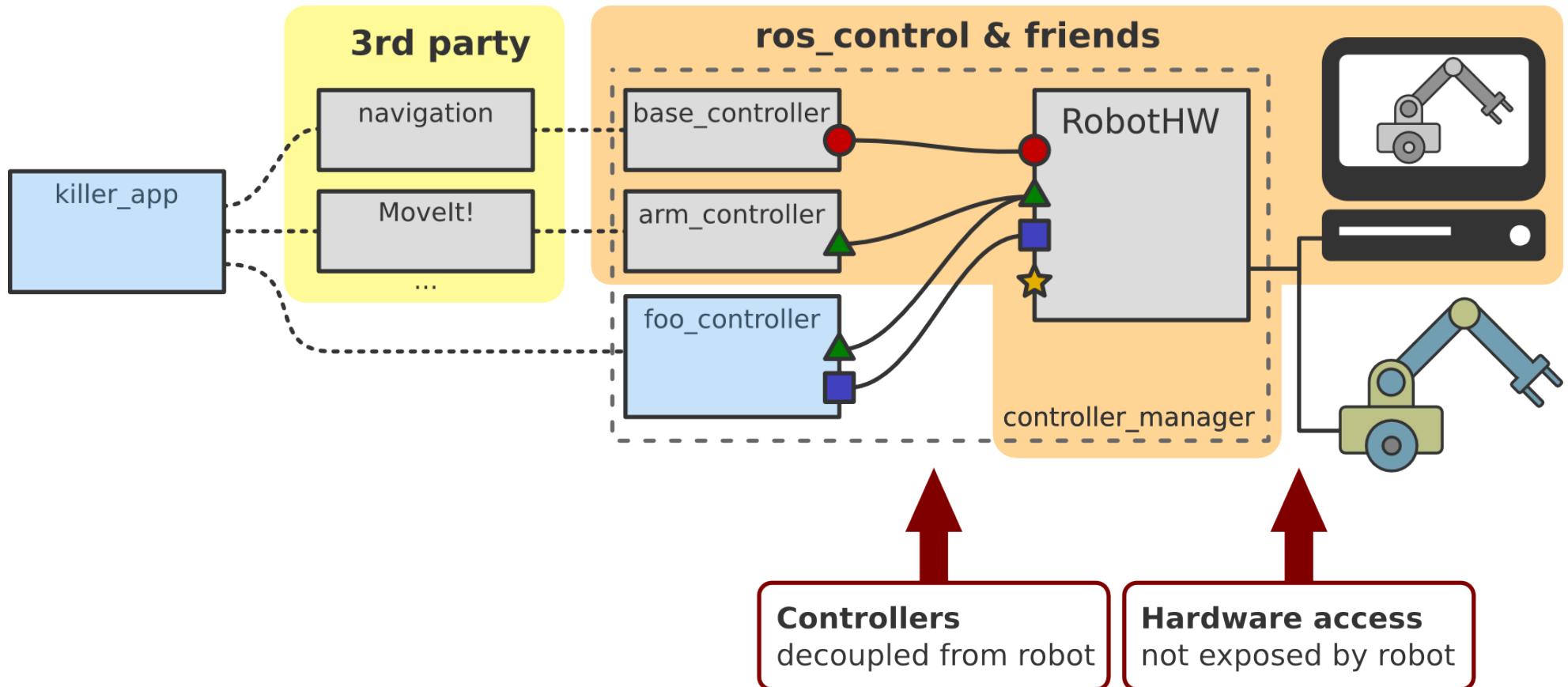


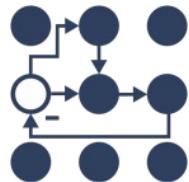
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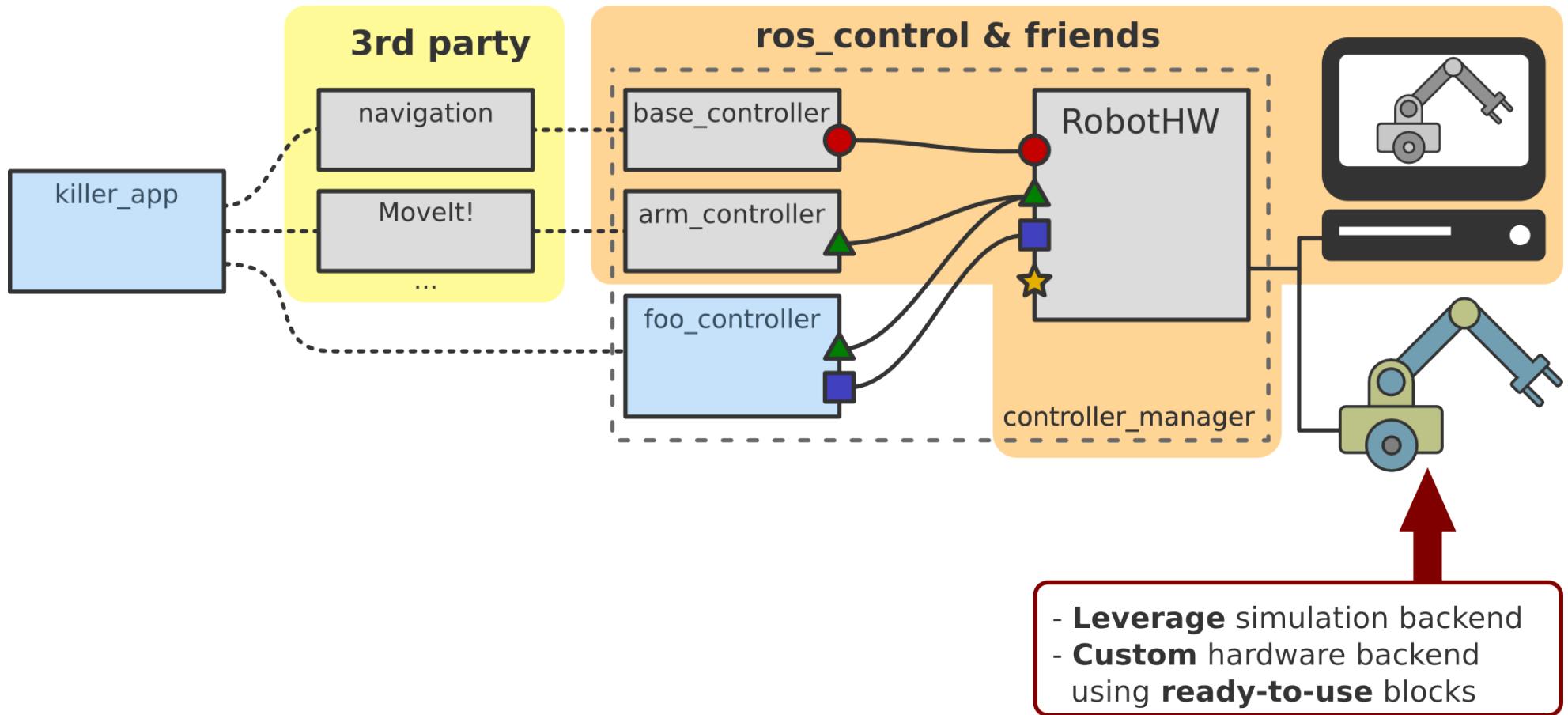


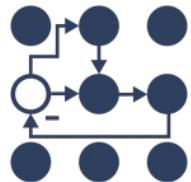
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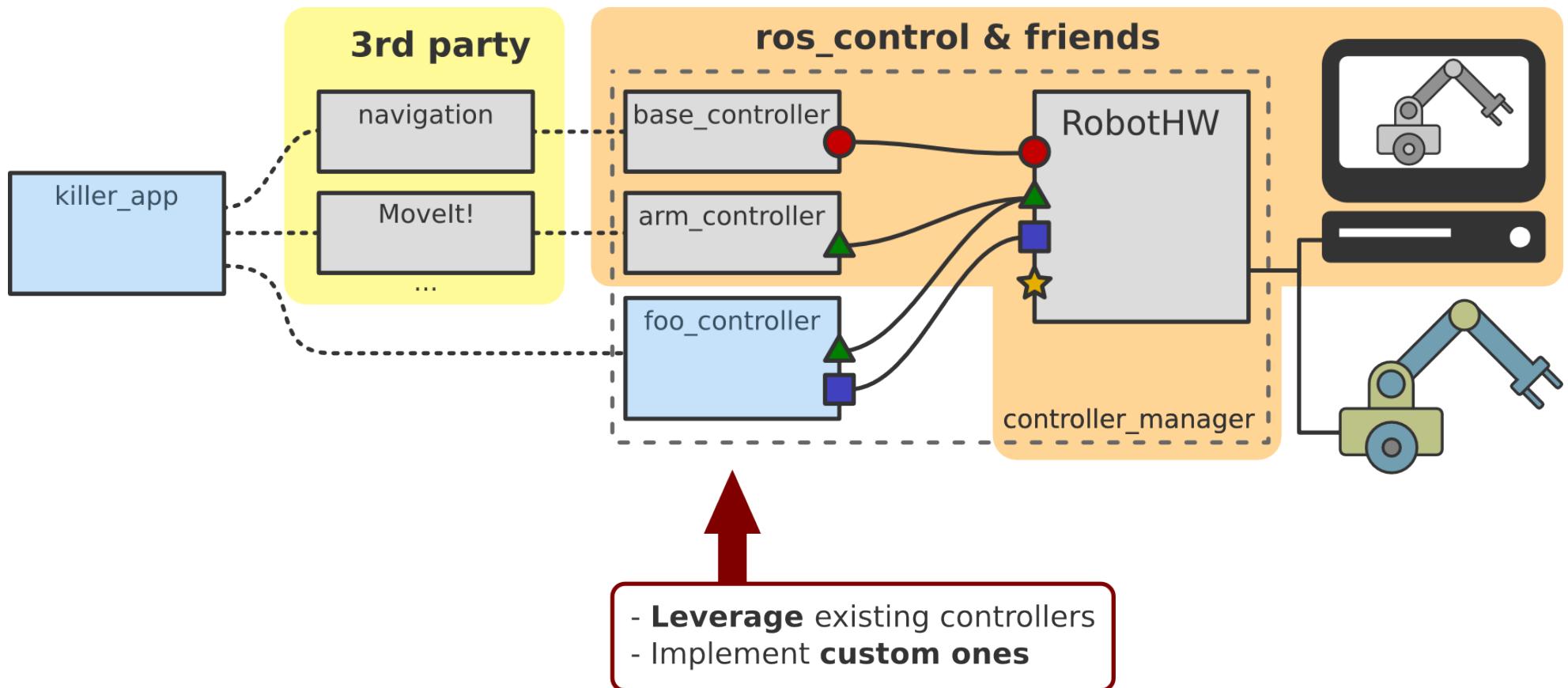


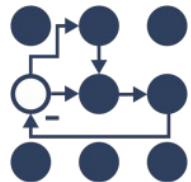
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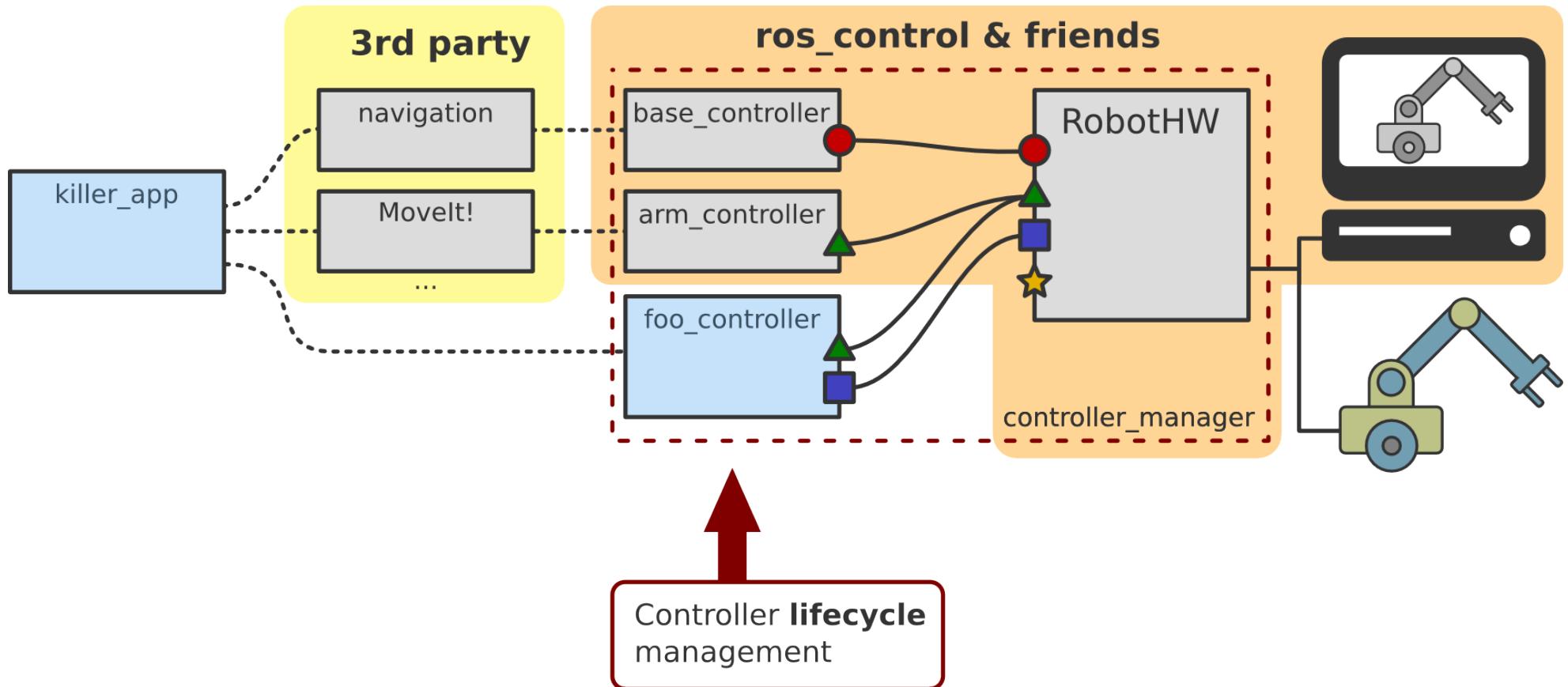


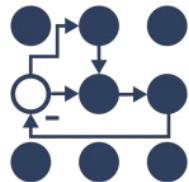
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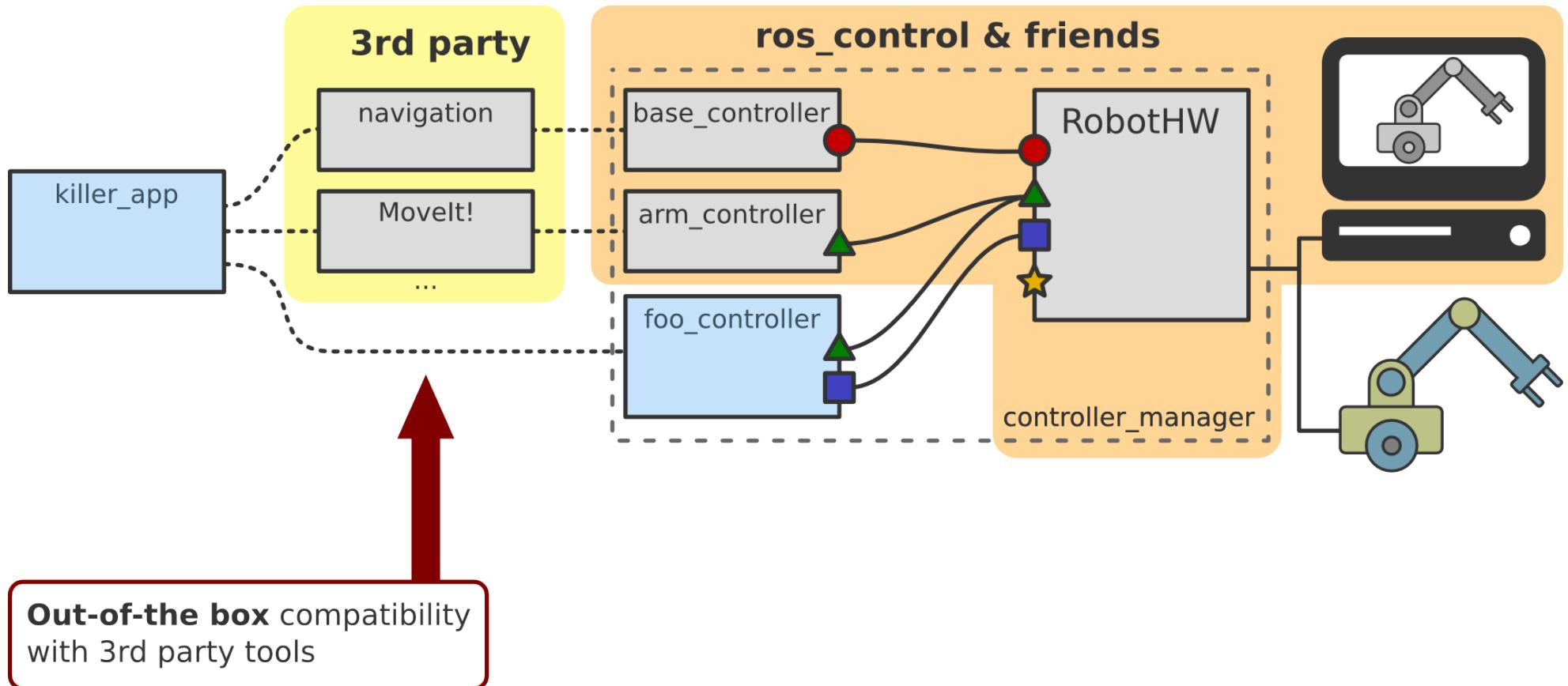


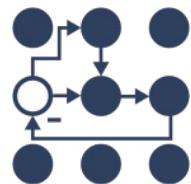
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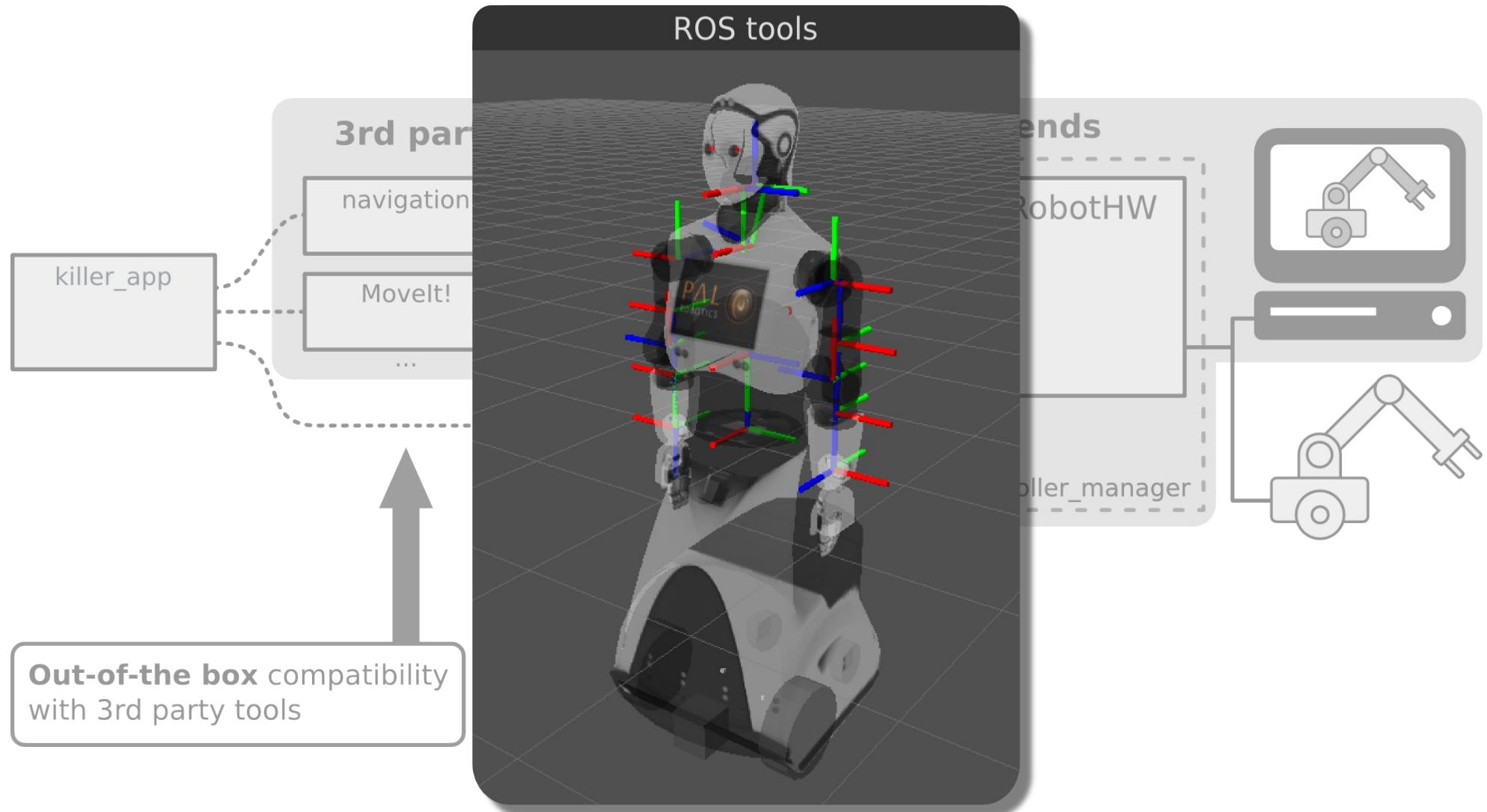


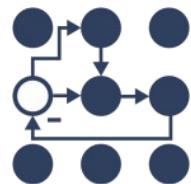
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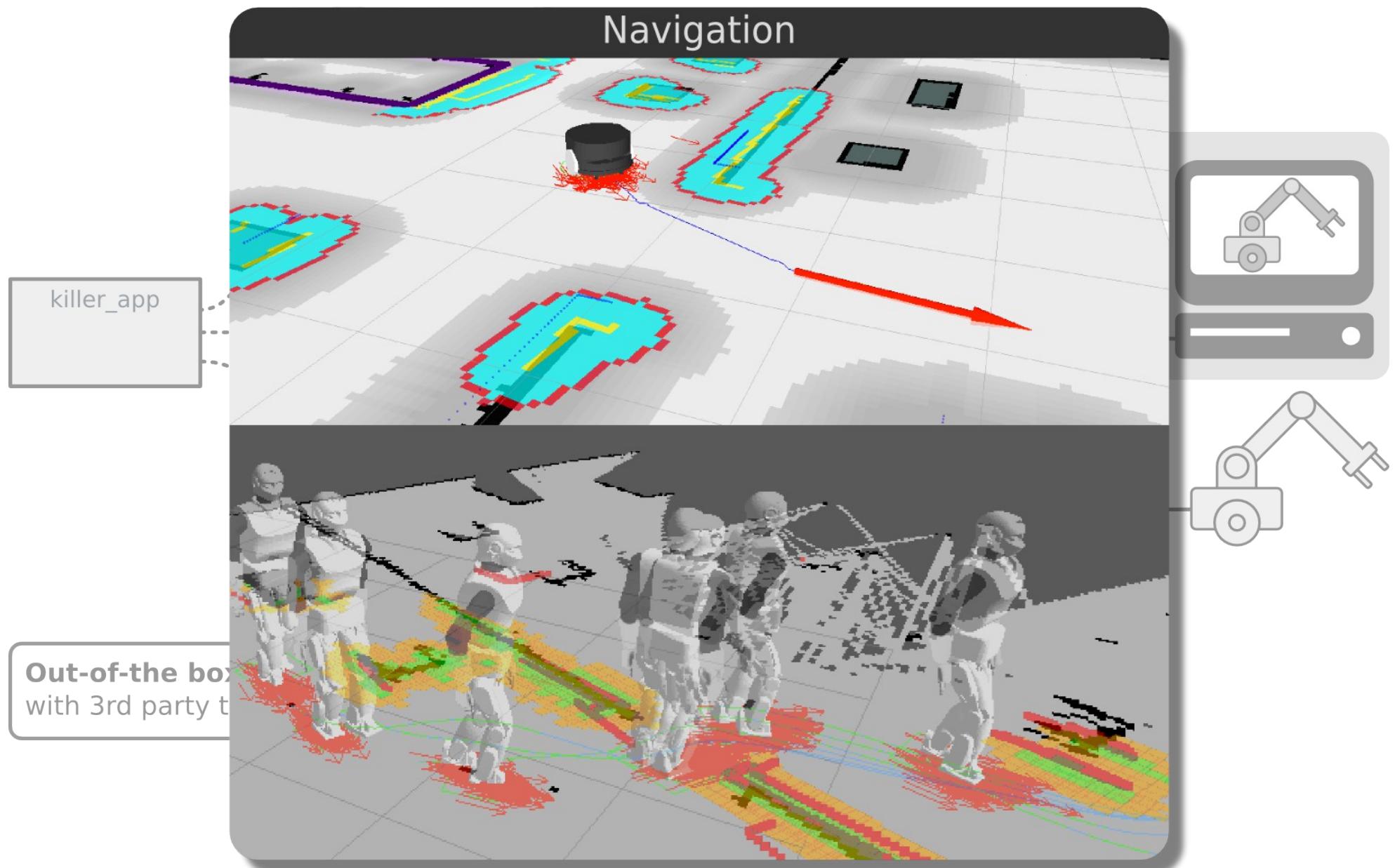


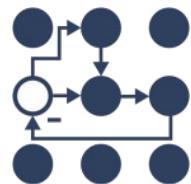
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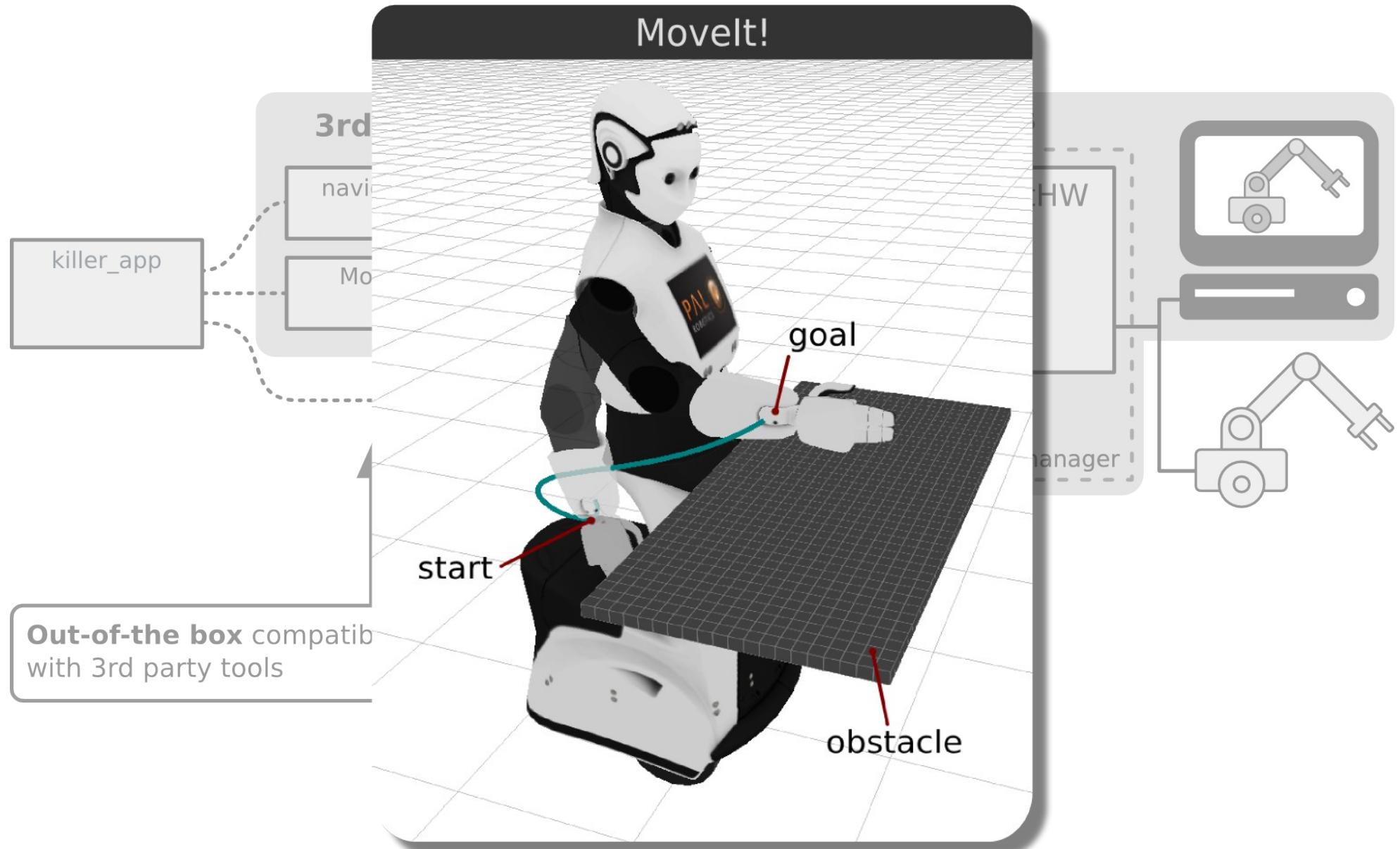


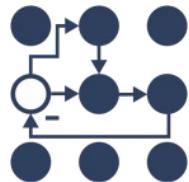
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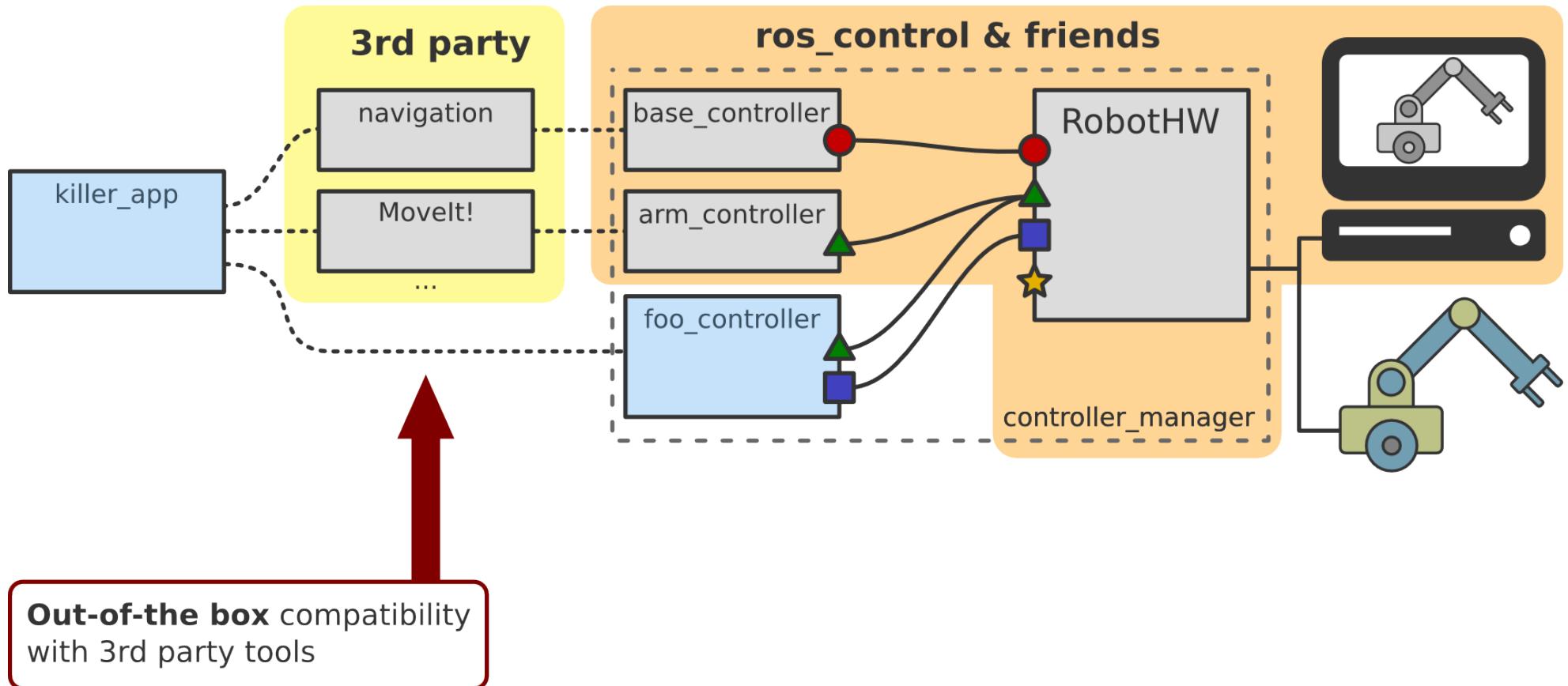


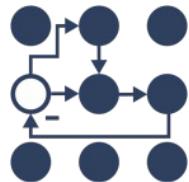
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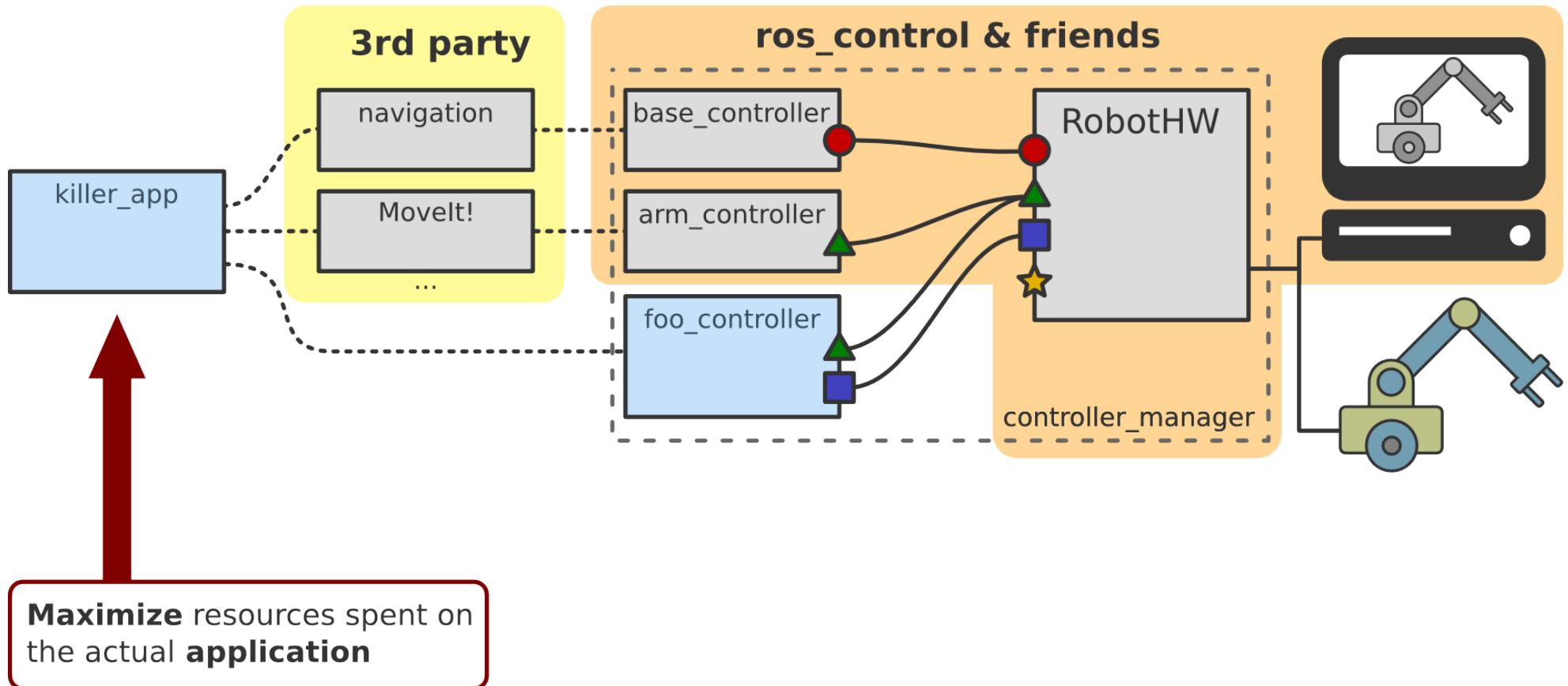


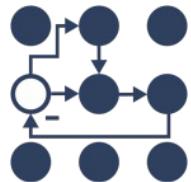
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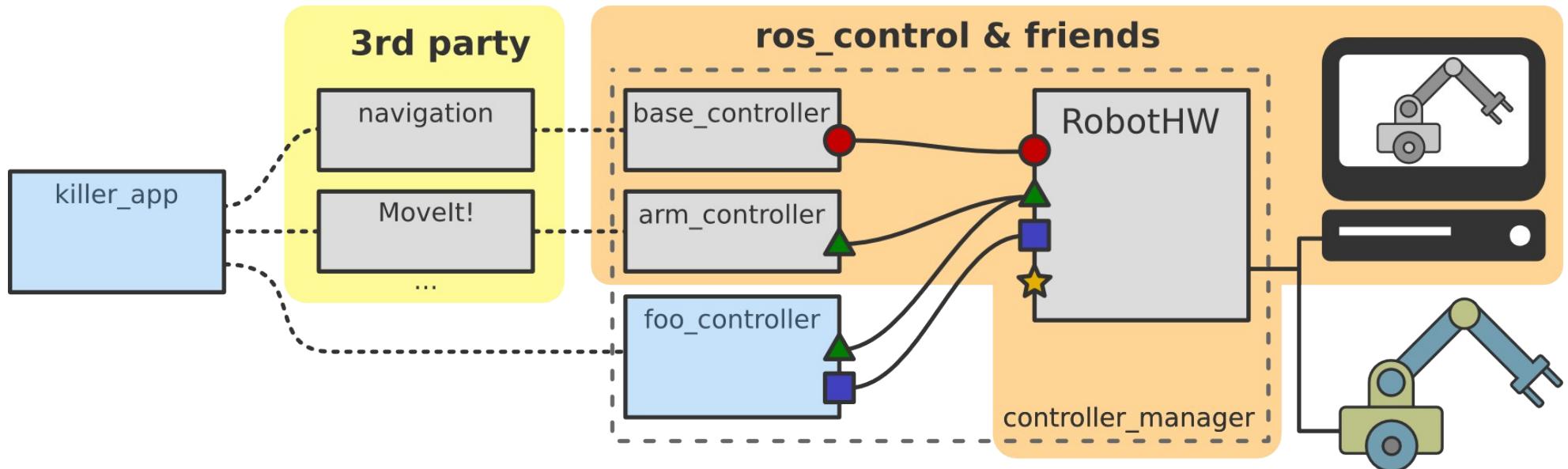


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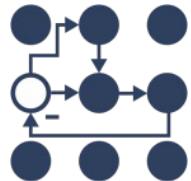




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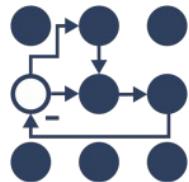


real-time ready



ROS control – goals

- Lower **entry barrier** for exposing HW to ROS
- Promote **reuse** of control code
- Provide **ready-to-use** tools
- **Real-time ready** implementation



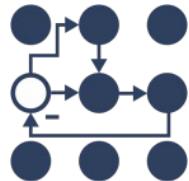
History

→ **pr2_controller_manager** (2009)

- developed mainly by **Willow Garage** (WG)
- PR2-specific

→ **ros_control** (late 2012)

- started by **hiDOF**, in collaboration with **WG**
- continued by **PAL Robotics** and **community**
- **robot-agnostic** version of the pr2_controller_manager



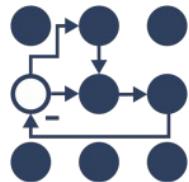
Related work

→ Component-based frameworks

- Orocos RTT
 - ROCK
 - Conman (exposes controller_manager ROS API)
- OpenRTM
- YARP (real-time WIP)

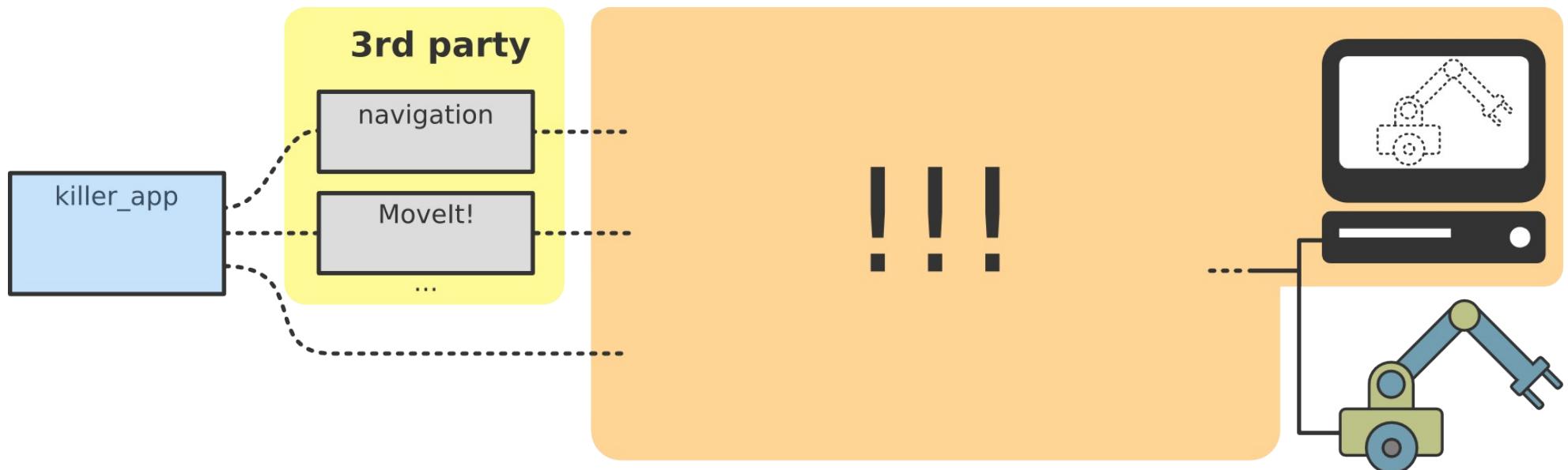
→ Computational graph models

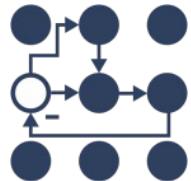
- Ecto
- Microblx
- many, many, non-robotics implementations



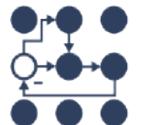
Related work

- No **end-to-end** solution for ROS users (AFAIK)
 - bring standard ROS interfaces **closer to hardware**
 - move integration effort to the **driver level**





code repositories



ros-controls

github.com/ros-controls



control_msgs

messages and actions useful for controlling robots



realtime_tools

tools that can be used from a hard realtime thread



control_toolbox

tools useful for writing controllers and robot abstractions



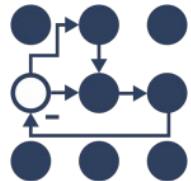
ros_control

generic and basic controller framework for ROS



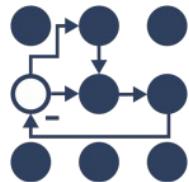
ros_controllers

generic robot controllers for ros_control

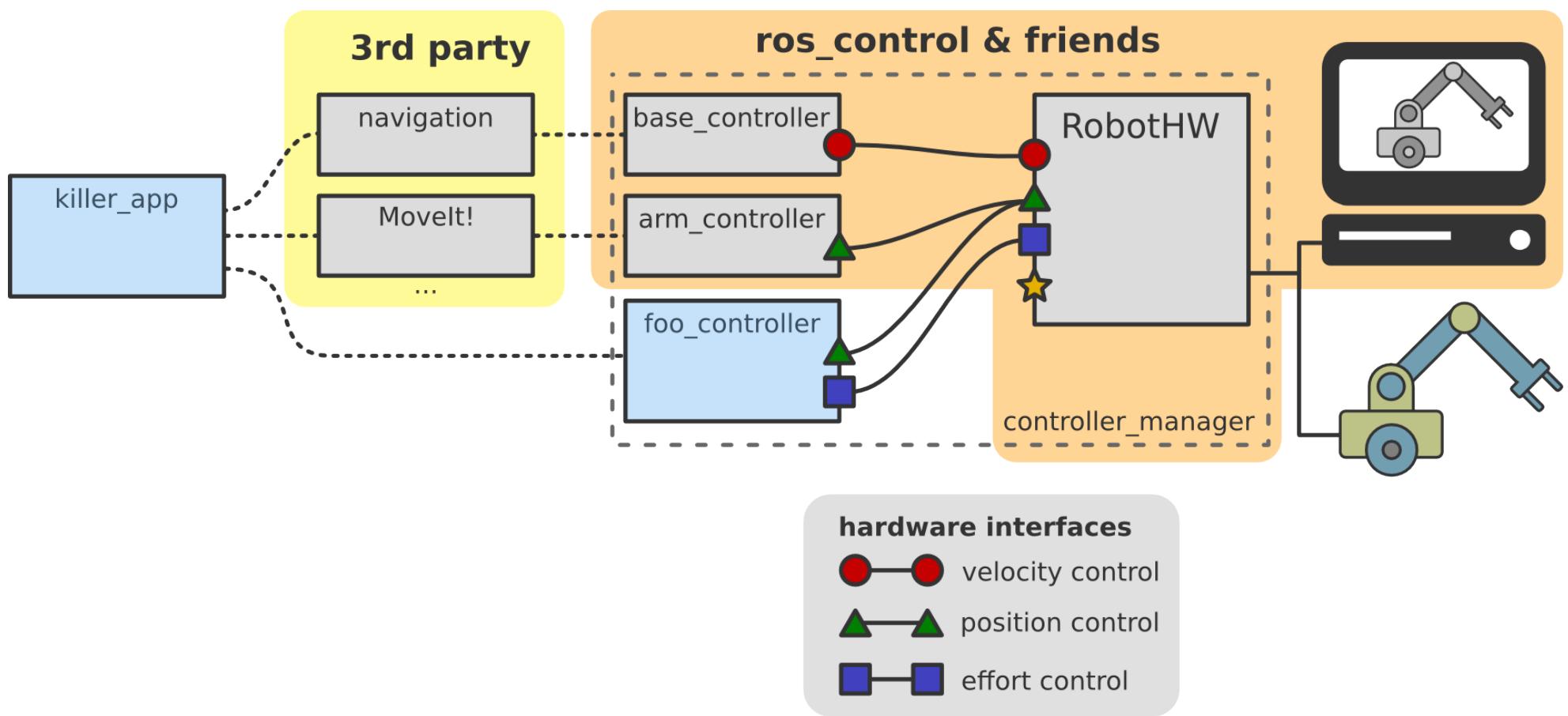


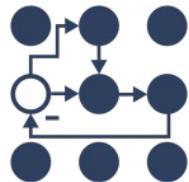
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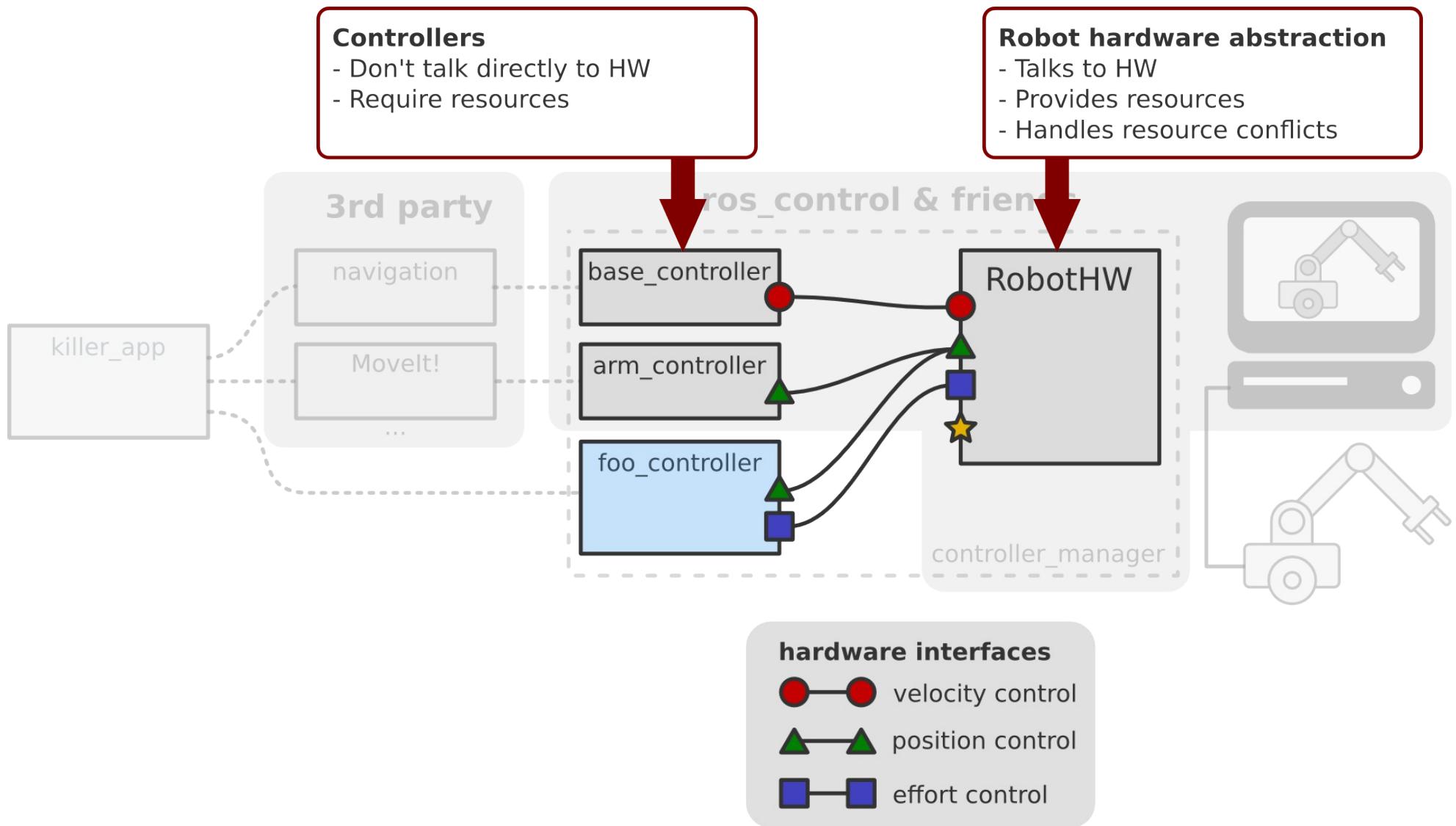


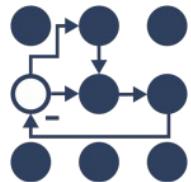
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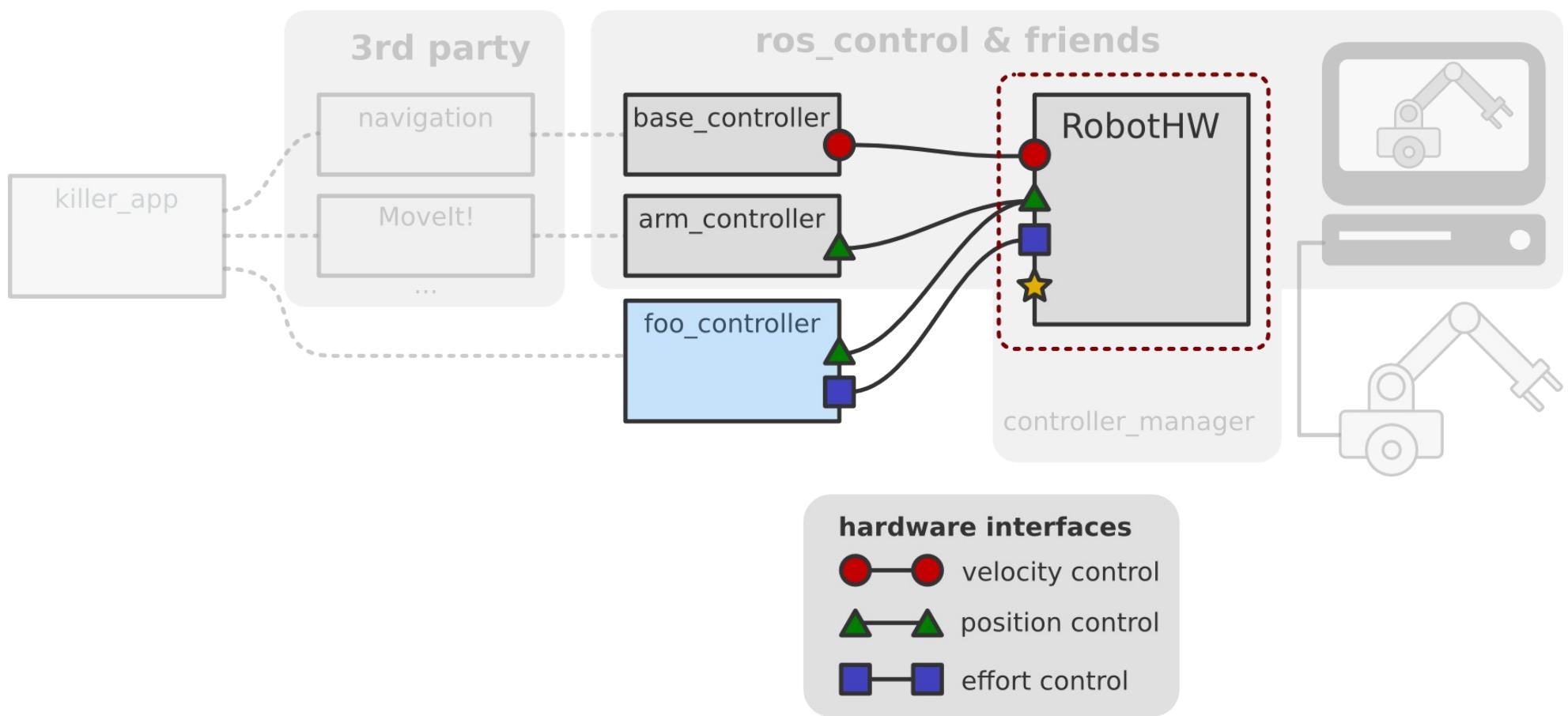


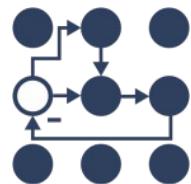
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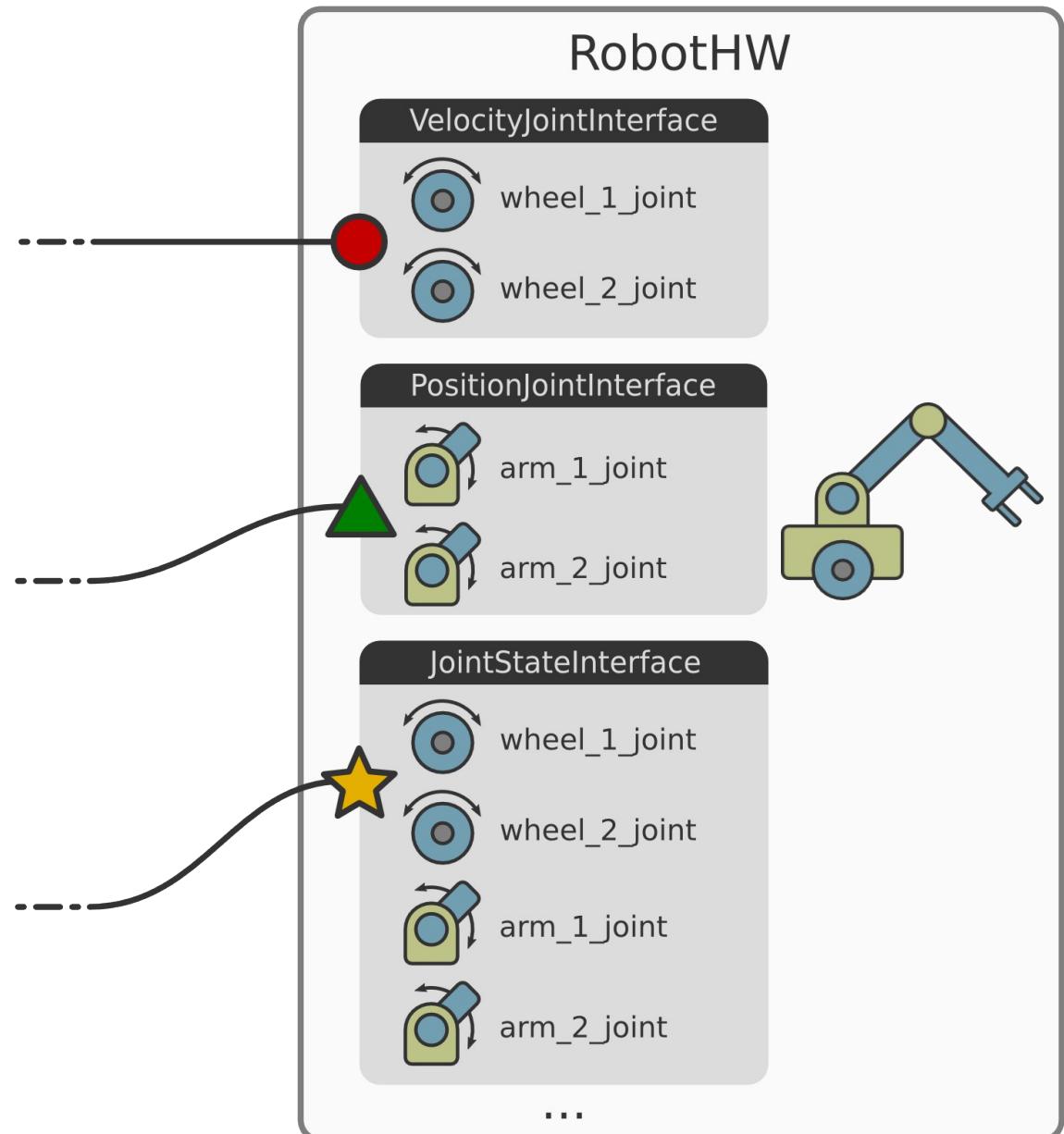


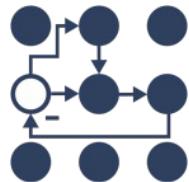
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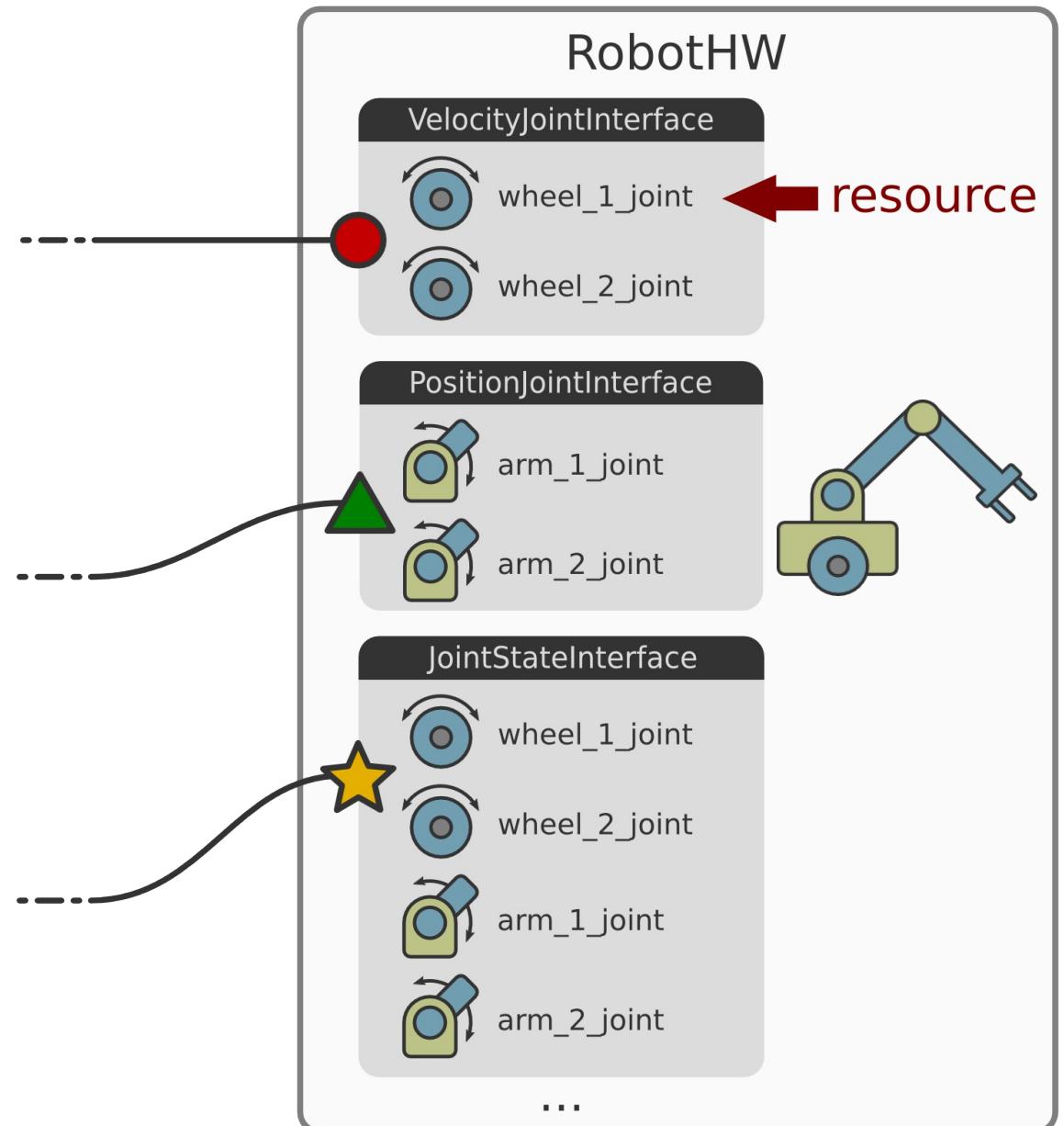


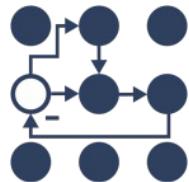
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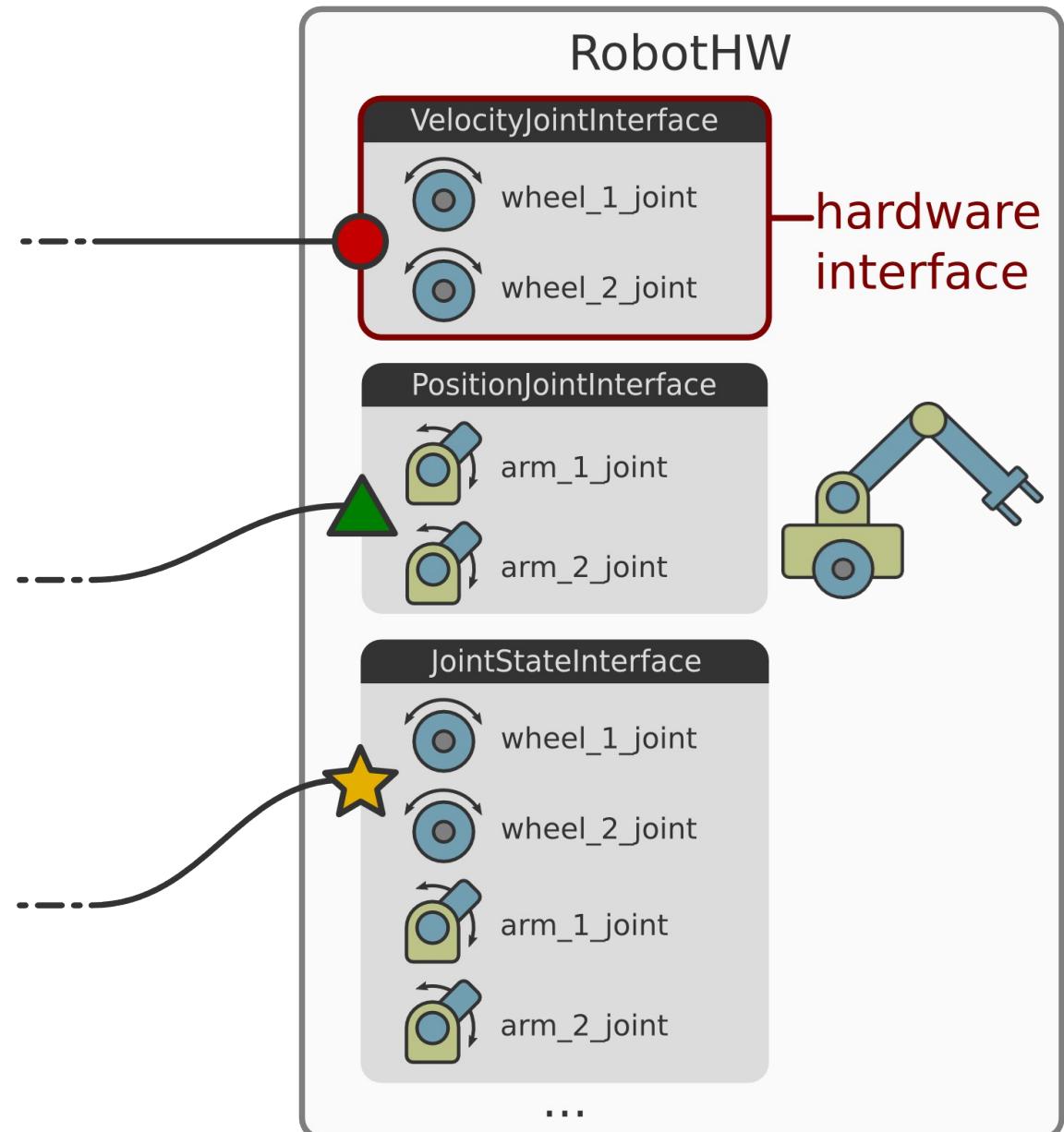


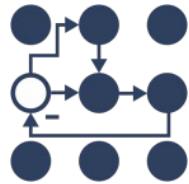
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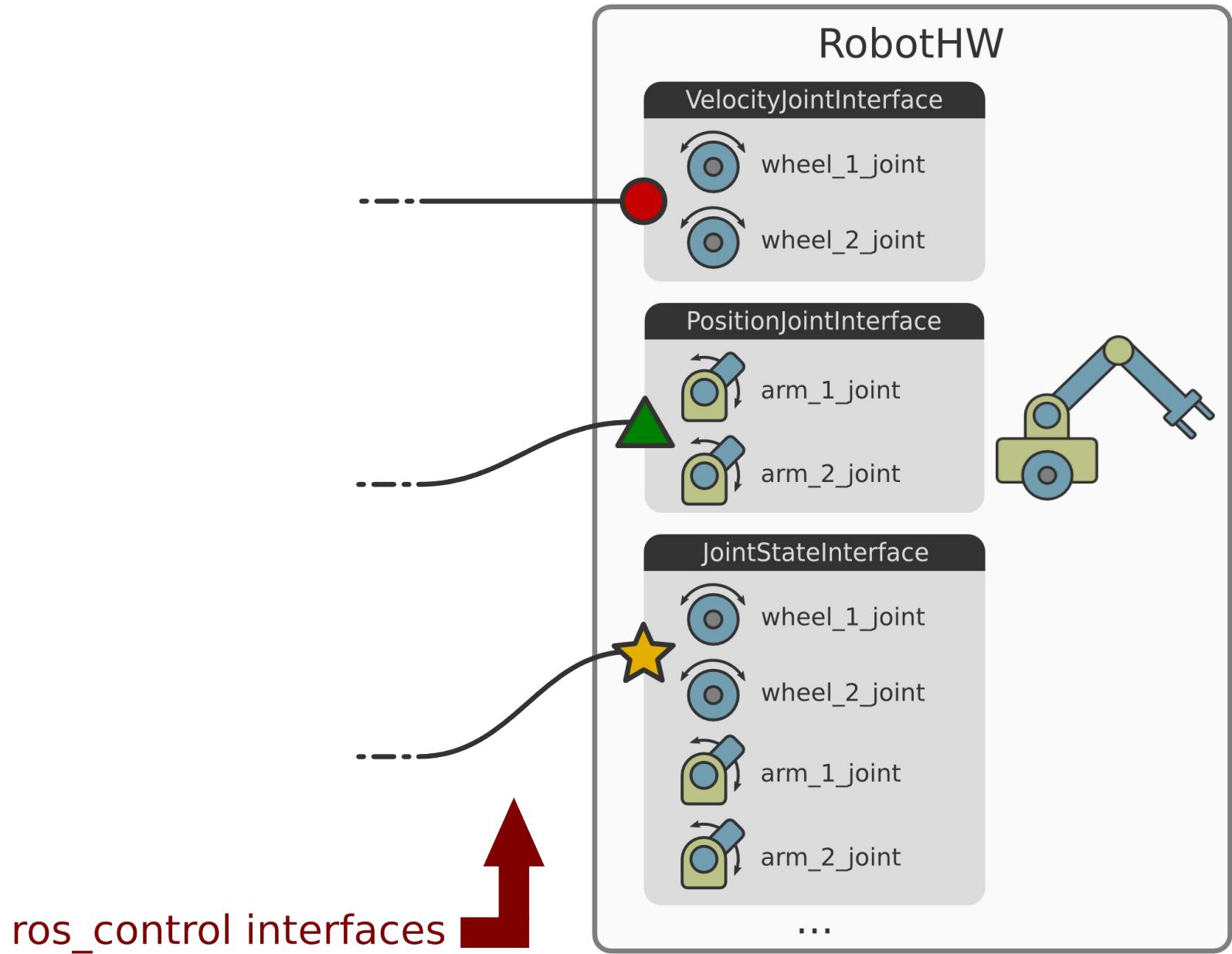


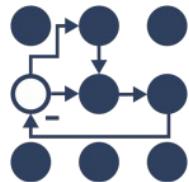
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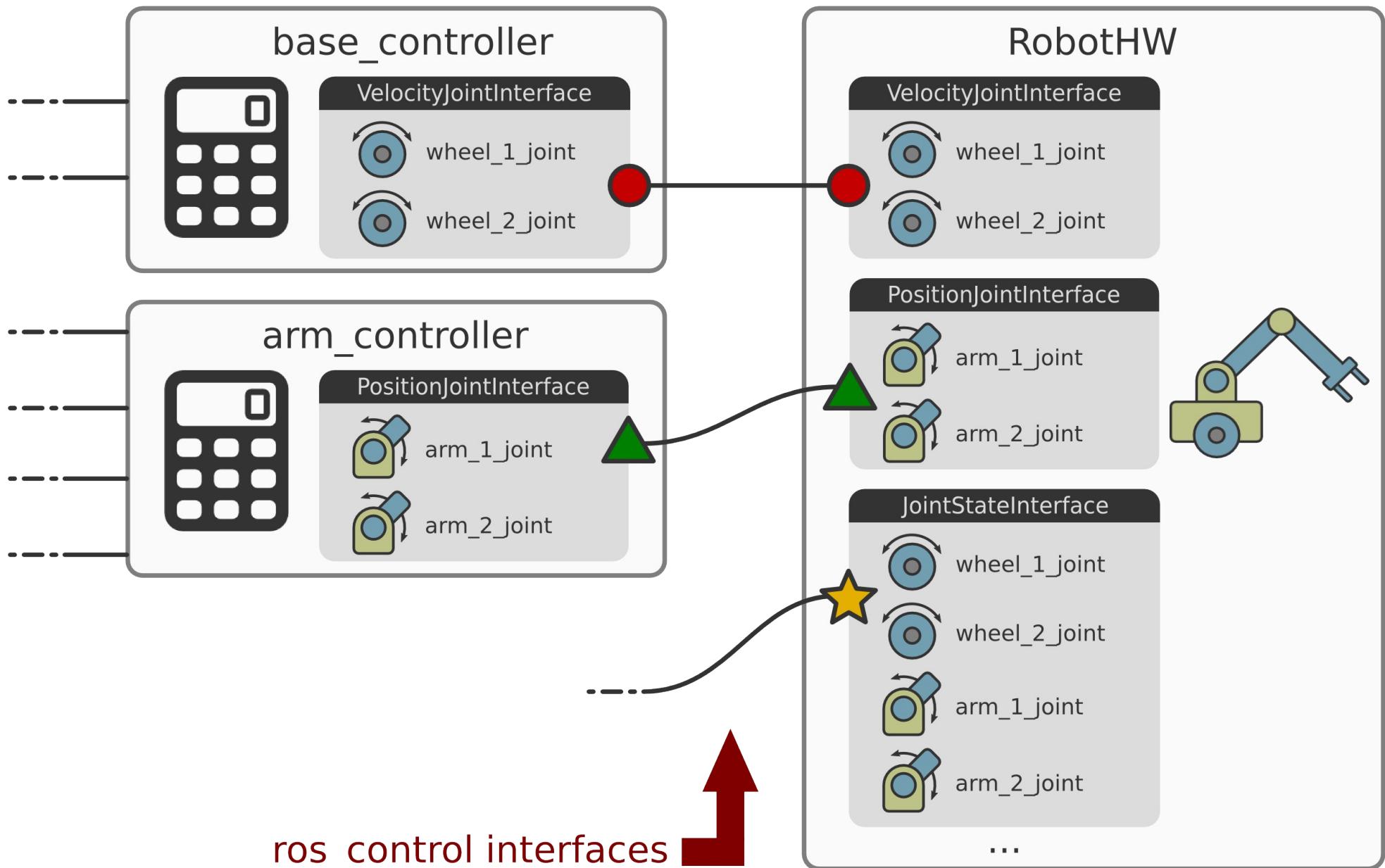


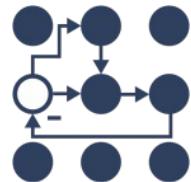
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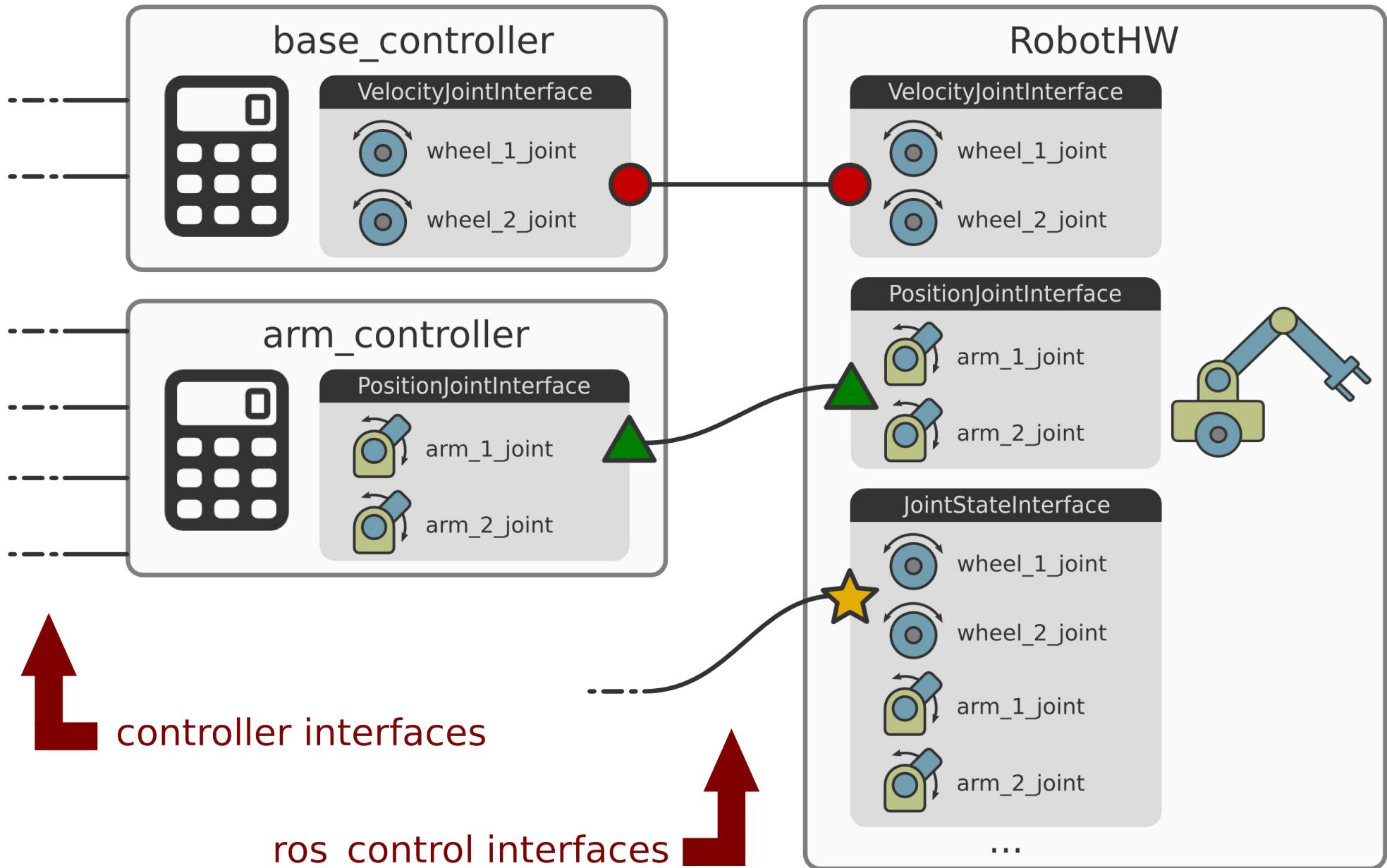


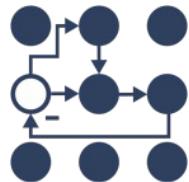
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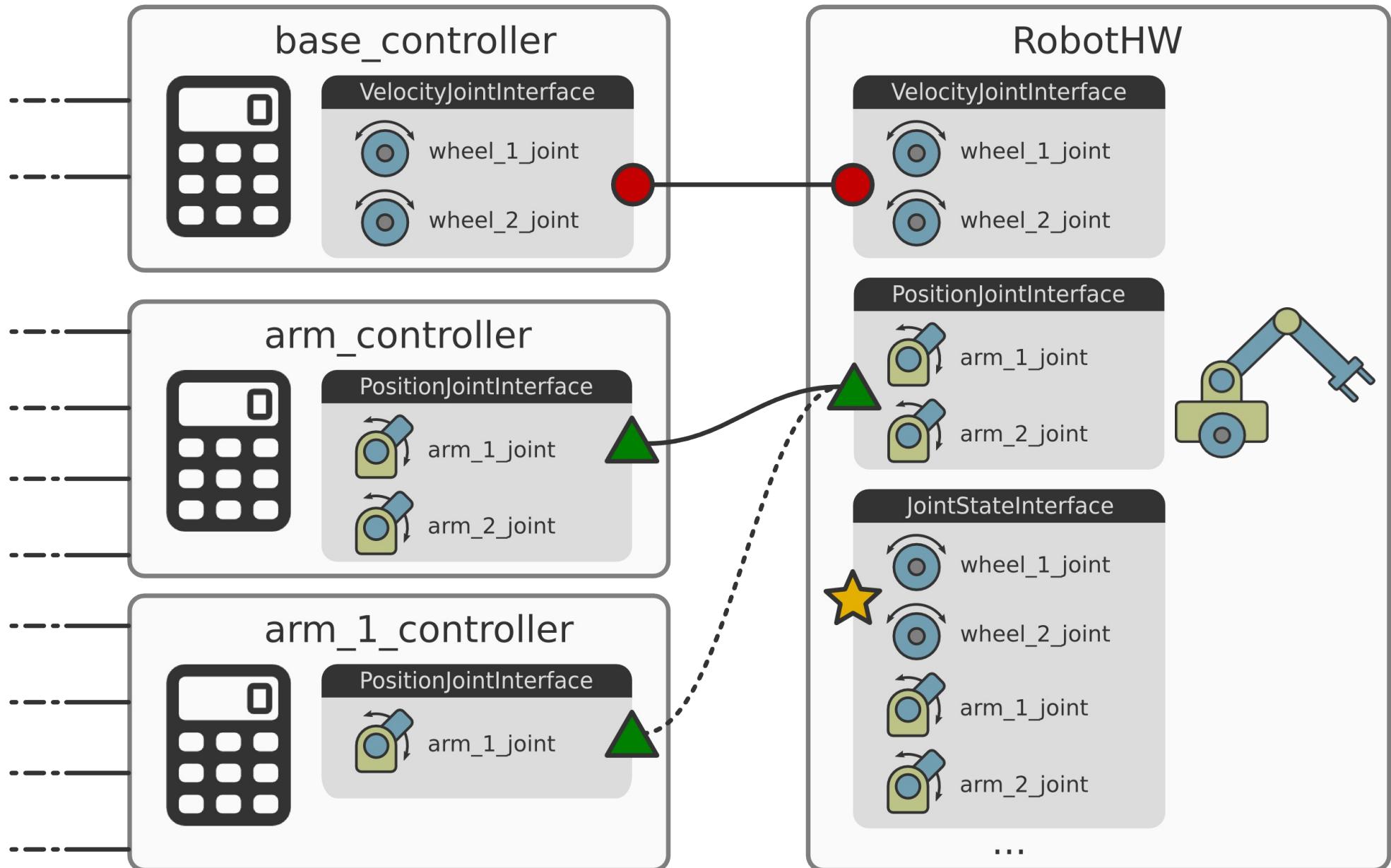


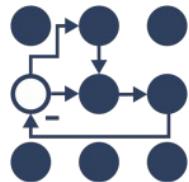
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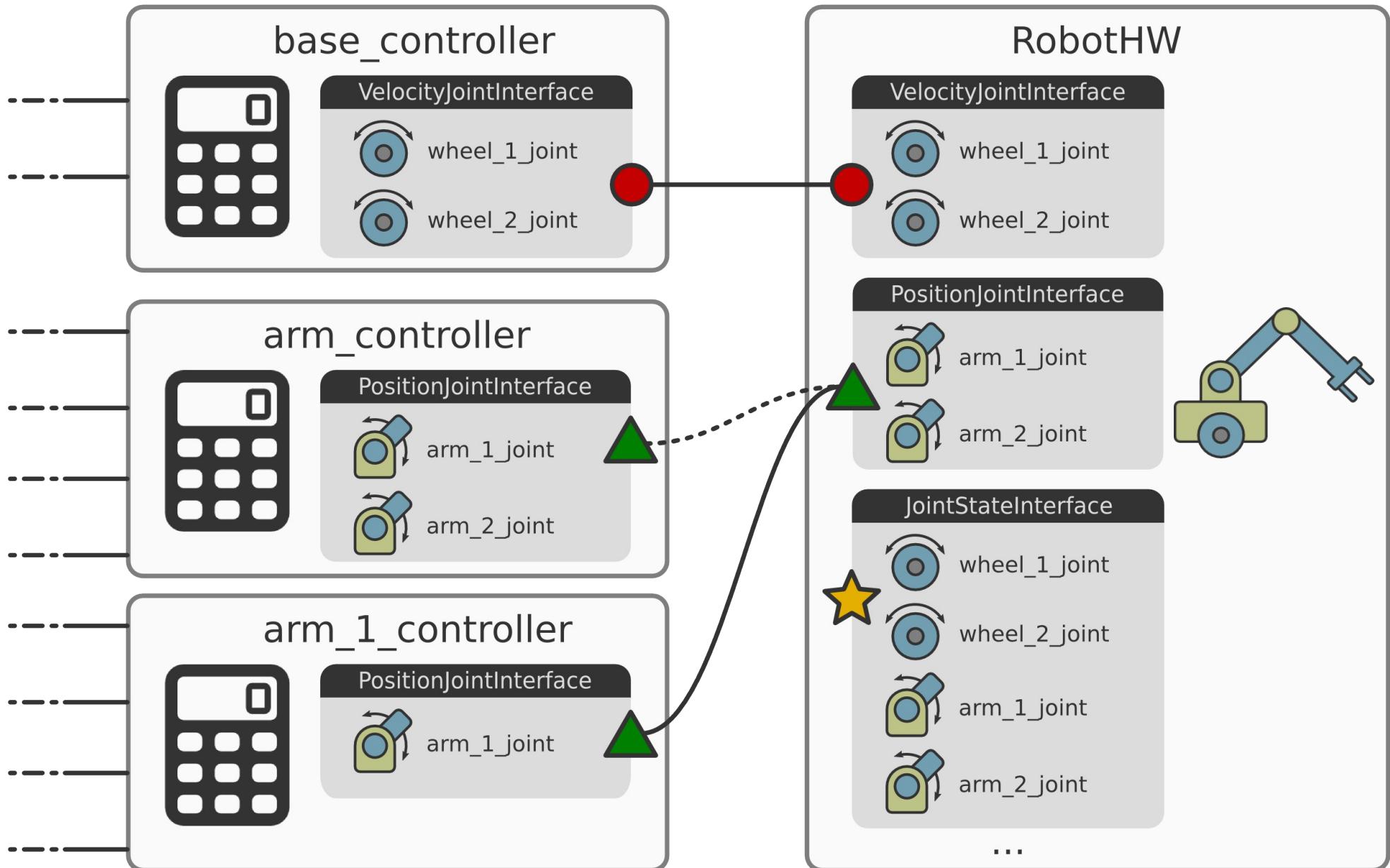


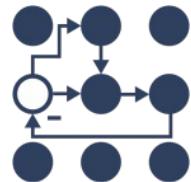
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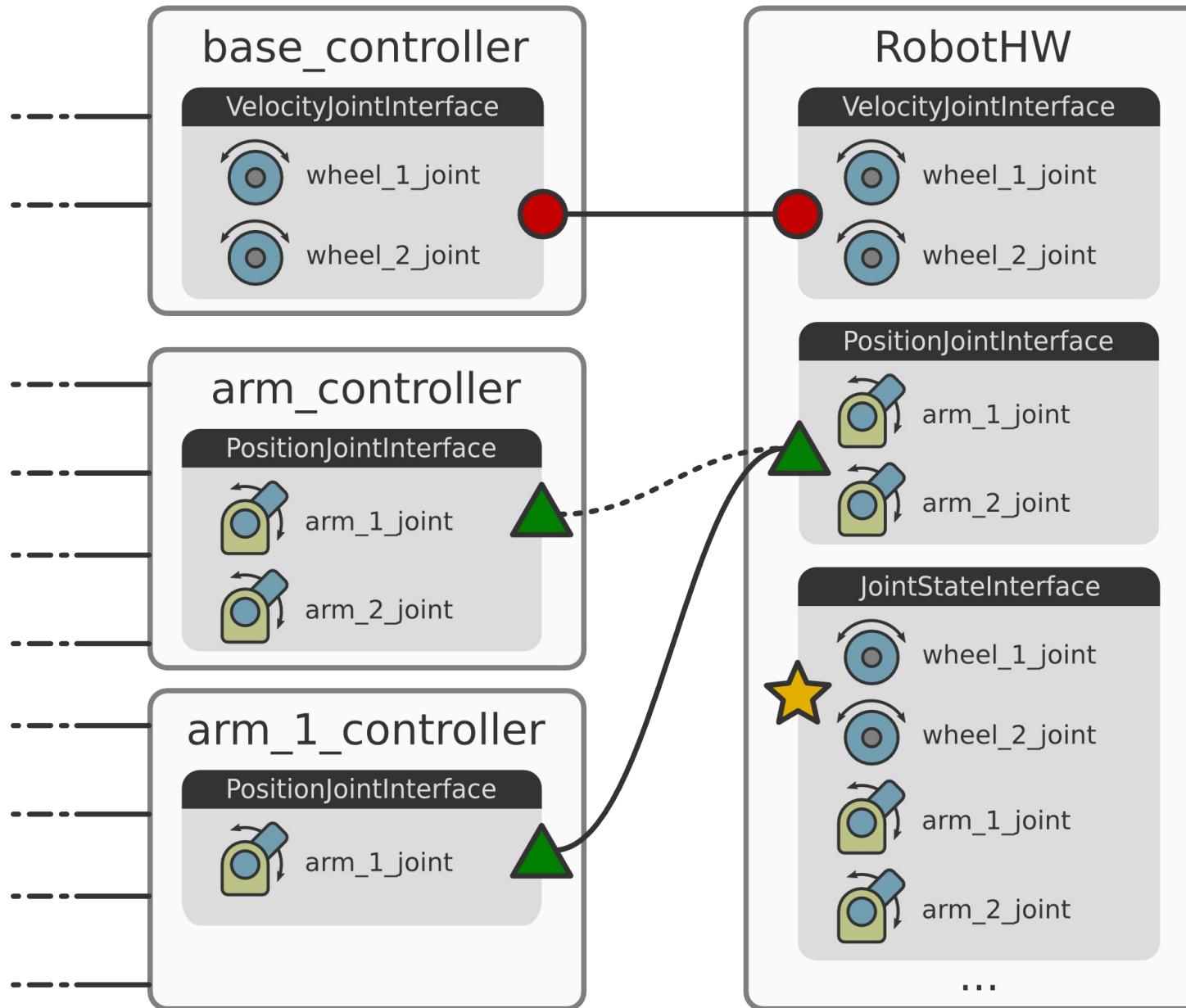


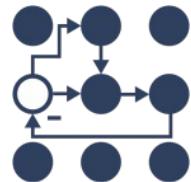
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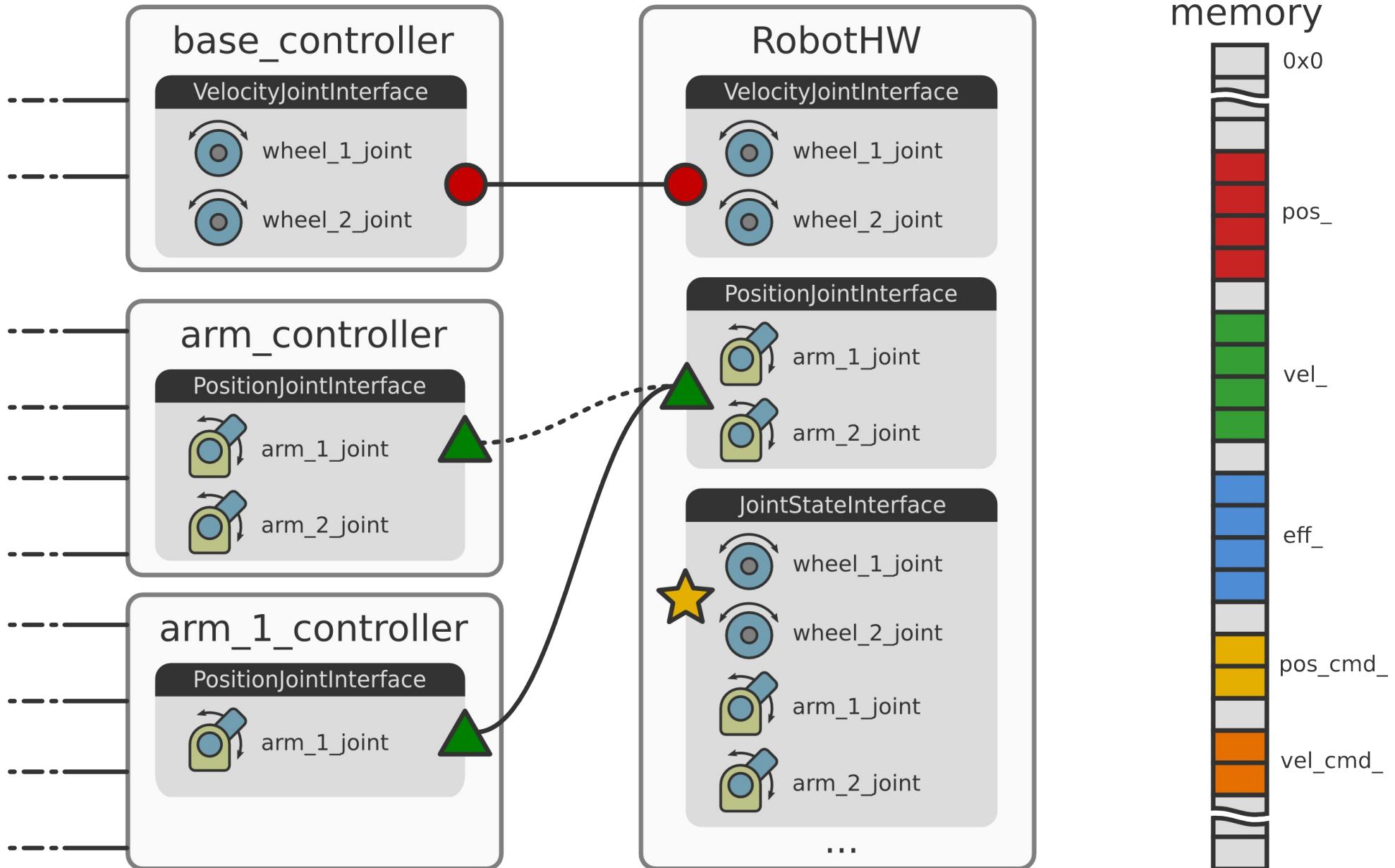


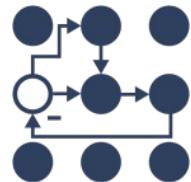
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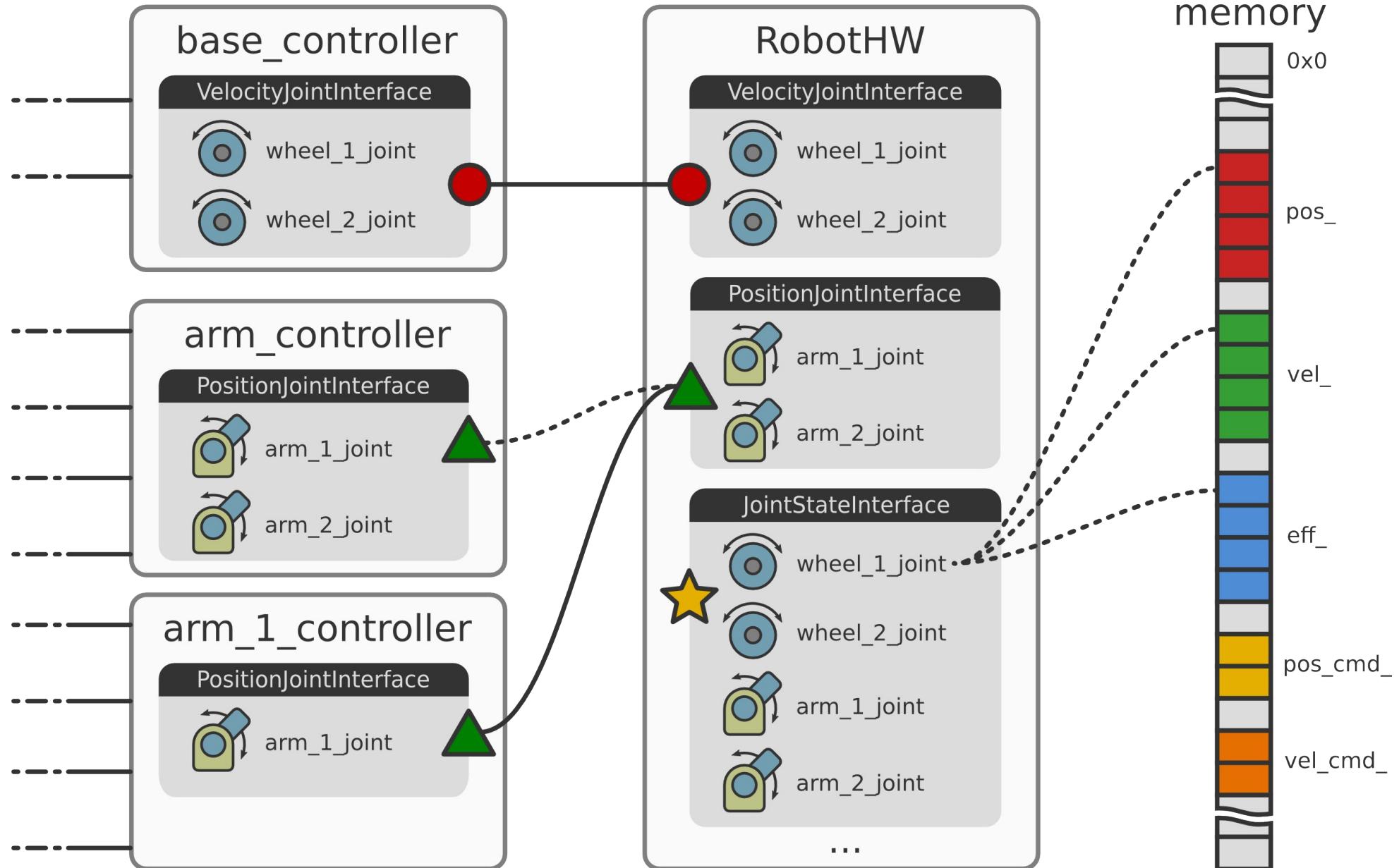


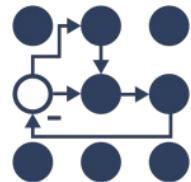
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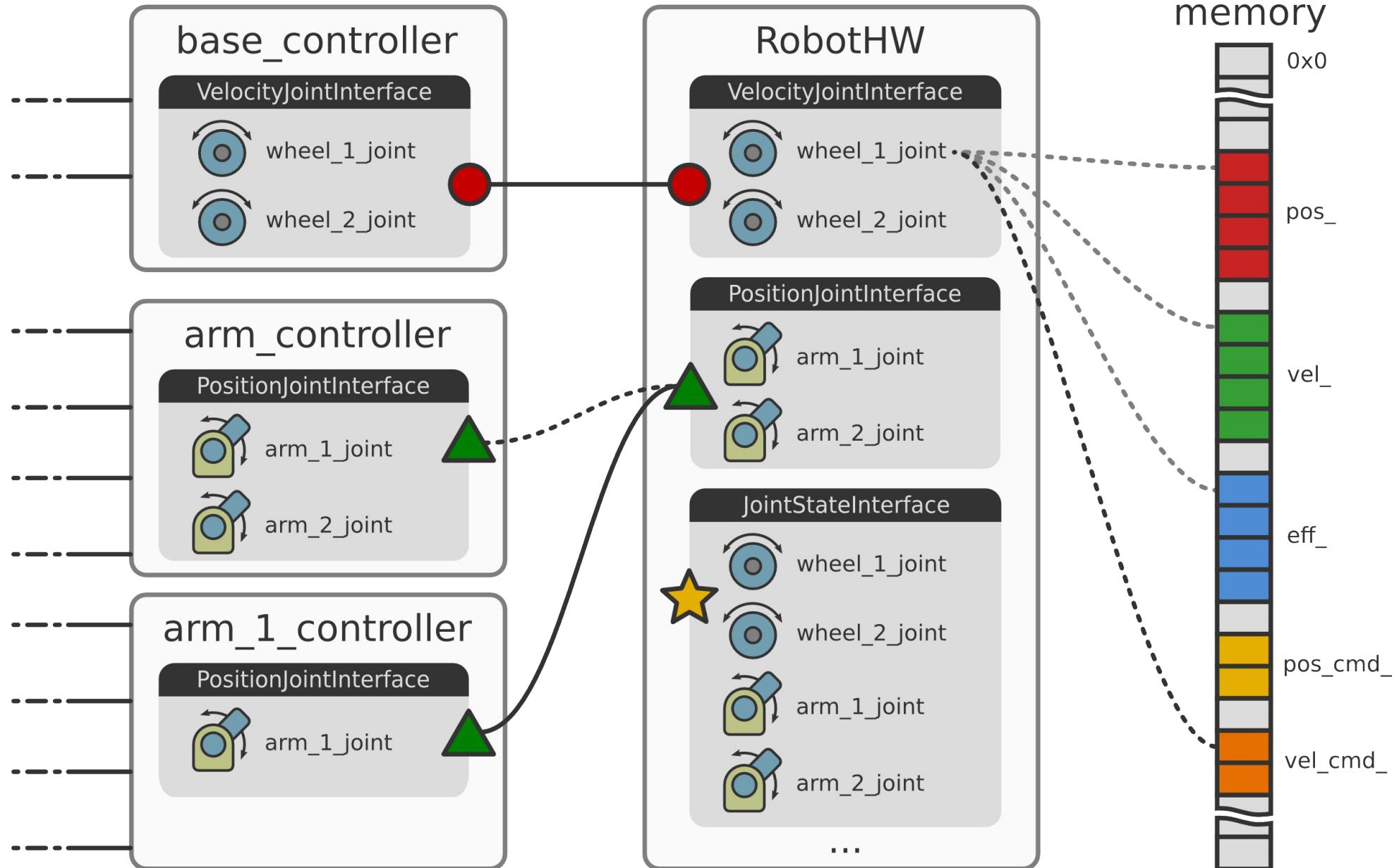


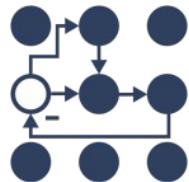
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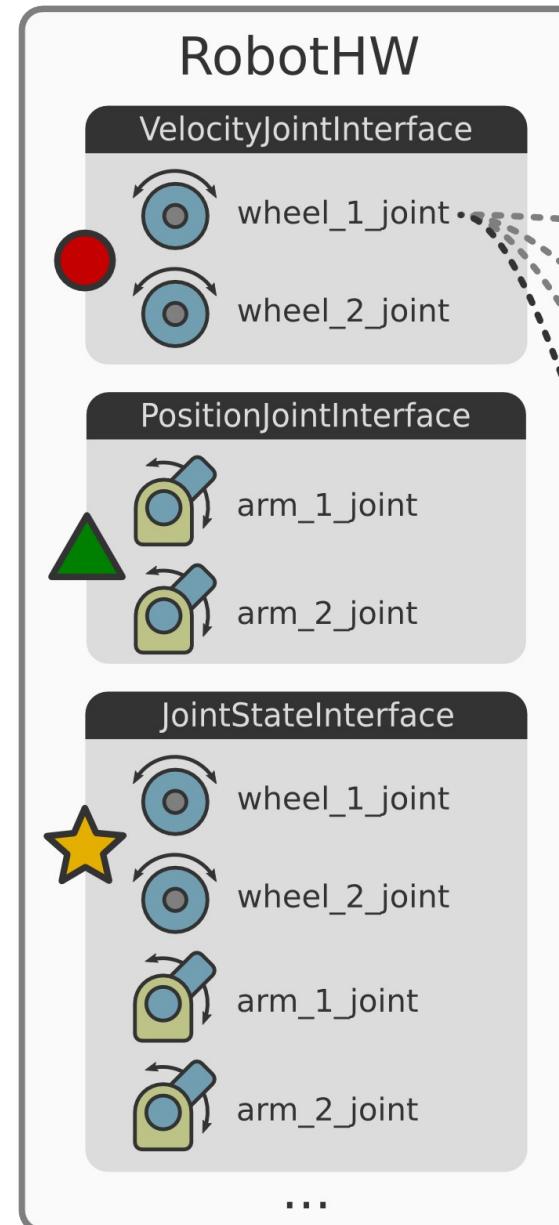
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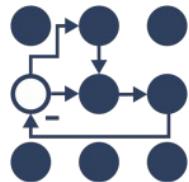




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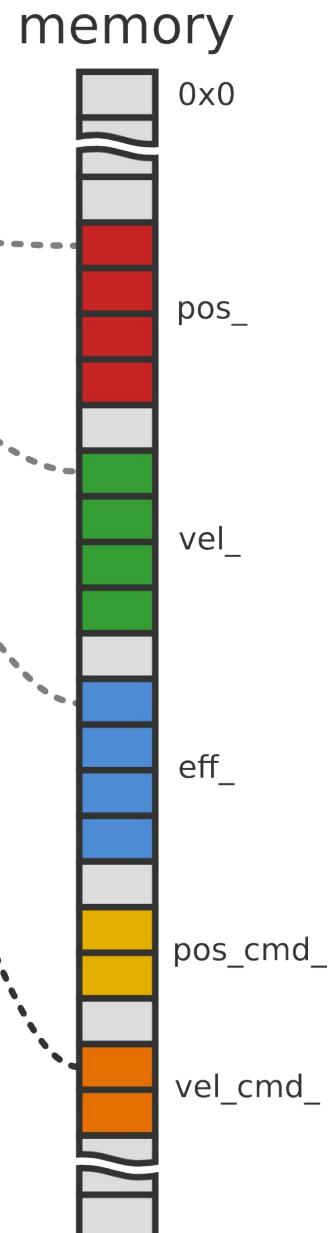
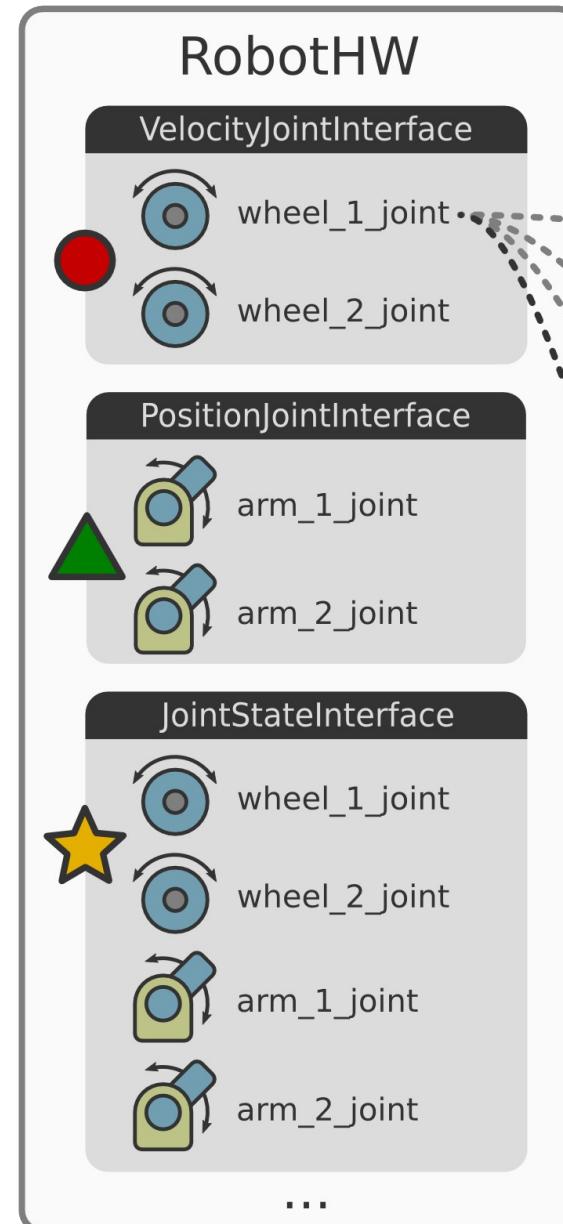
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public hardware_interface::RobotHW  
{  
public:  
    MyRobot(); // Setup robot  
  
    // Talk to HW  
    void read();  
    void write();  
  
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    virtual bool checkForConflict(...) const;  
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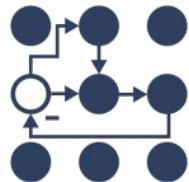




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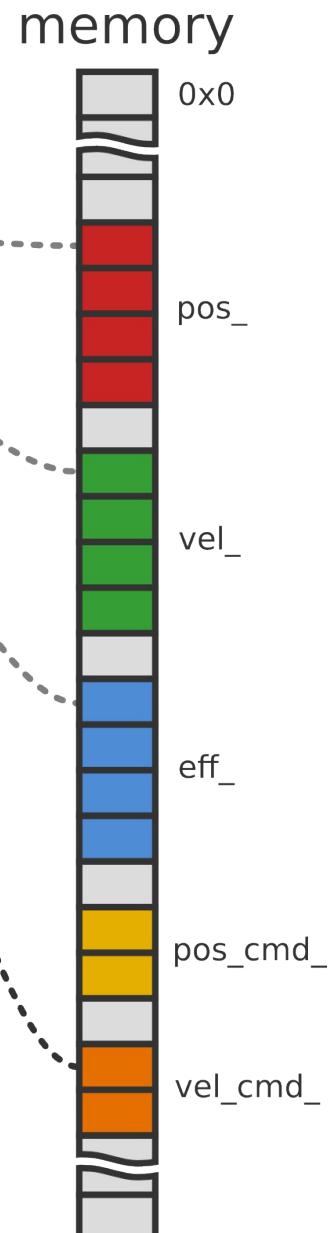
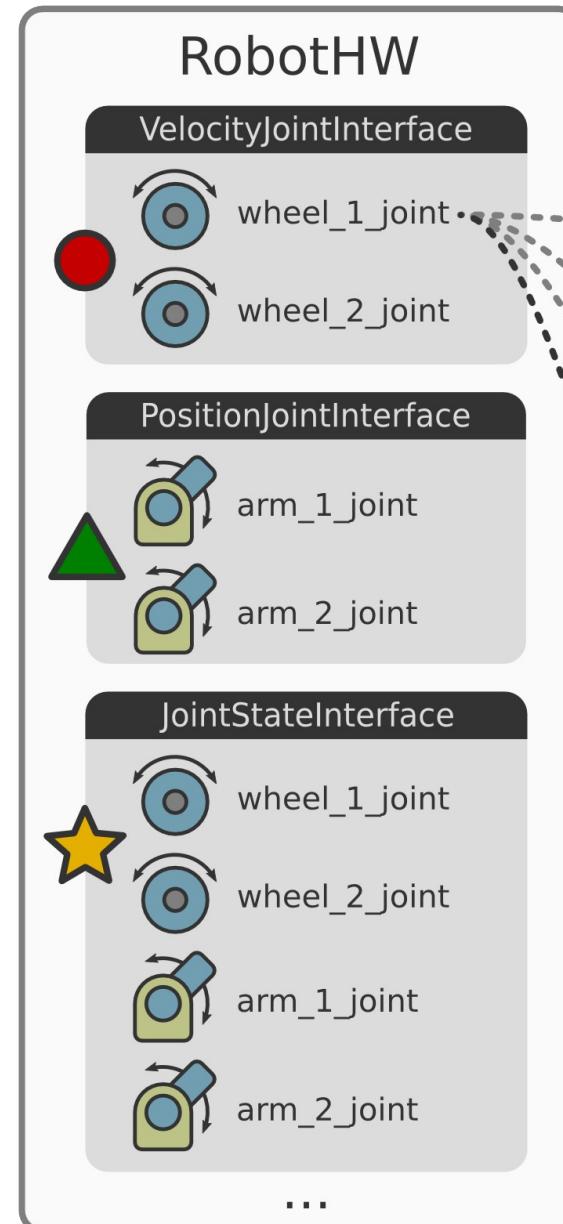
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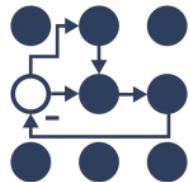




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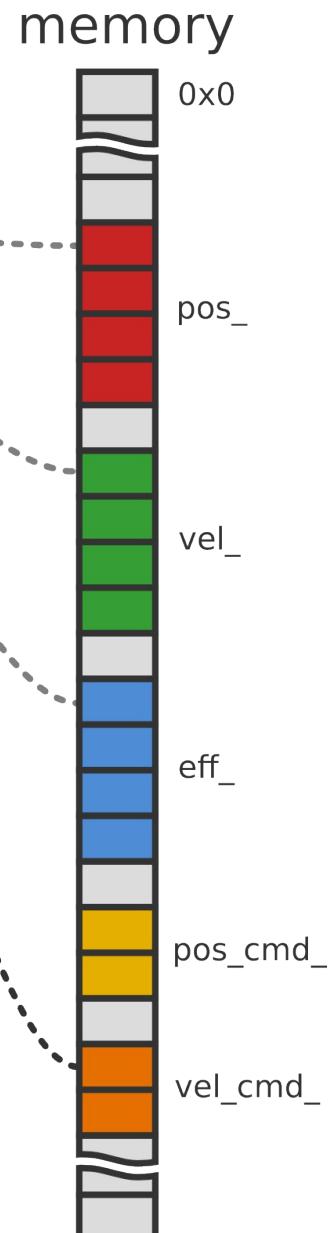
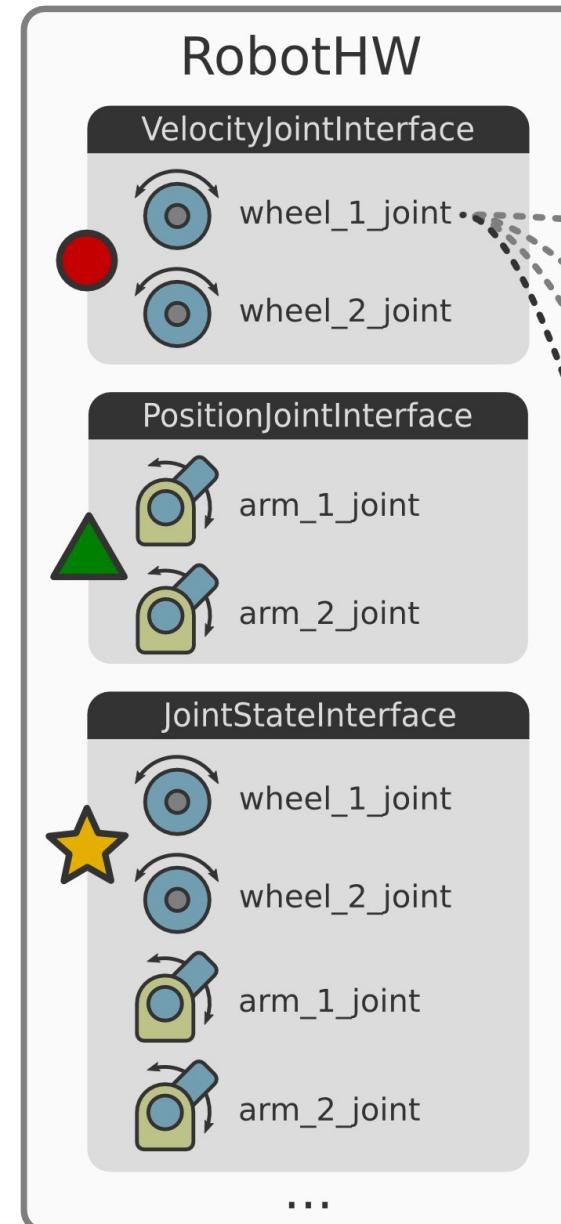


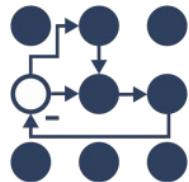


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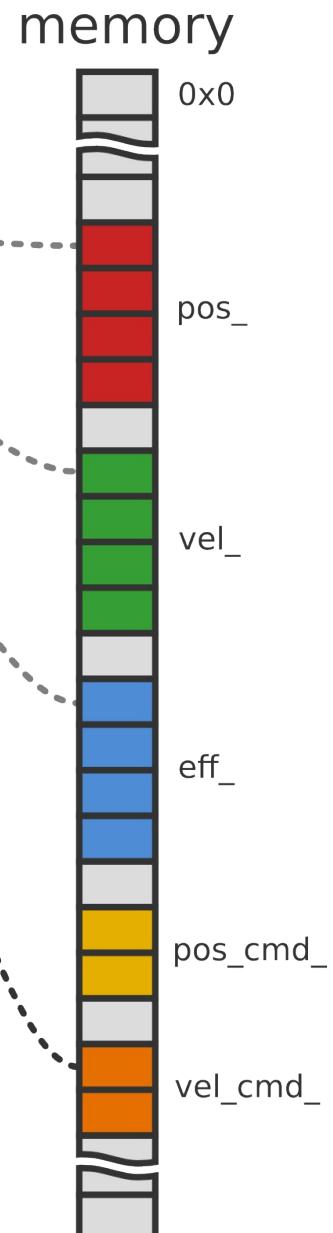
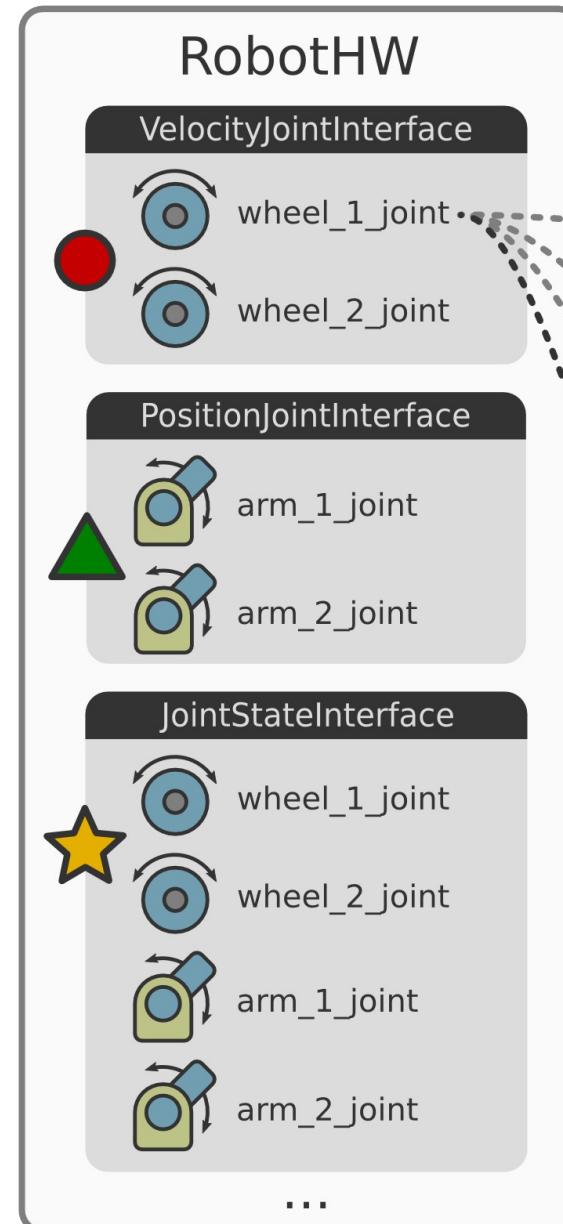
- ROS industrial
- rosserial
- SR RONEX
- custom
- ...

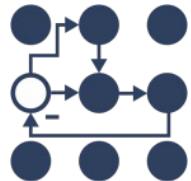




Setting up a robot

```
class MyRobot :  
    public hardware_interface::RobotHW  
{  
public:  
    MyRobot(); // Setup robot  
  
    // Talk to HW  
    void read();  
    void write();  
  
    // Reimplement only if needed  
    virtual bool checkForConflict(...) const;  
};
```

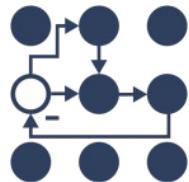




hardware_interface

Robot hardware abstraction

- **Software** representation of robot
- Abstracts **hardware** away
 - **Resource**: actuators, joints, sensors
 - **Interface**: Set of similar resources
 - **Robot**: Set of interfaces
- Handles **resource conflicts**
 - **Exclusive** ownership by default



hardware_interface

Resources and interfaces

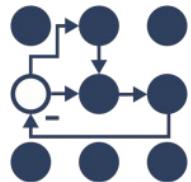
→ Read-only

- Joint state*
- IMU
- Force-torque sensor

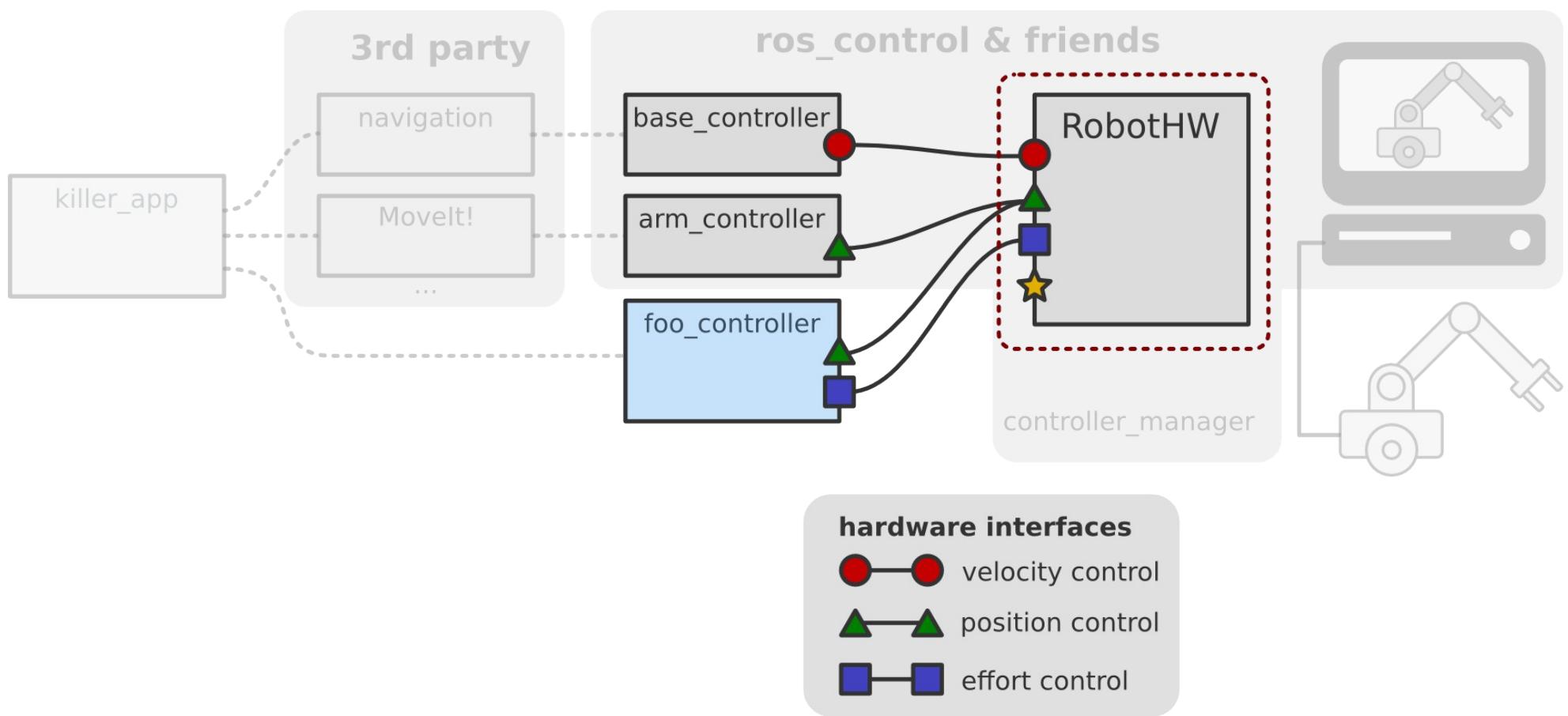
→ Read-write

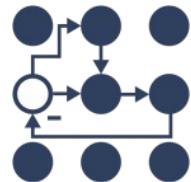
- Position joint*
- Velocity joint*
- Effort joint*

* Equivalent interfaces exist for actuators

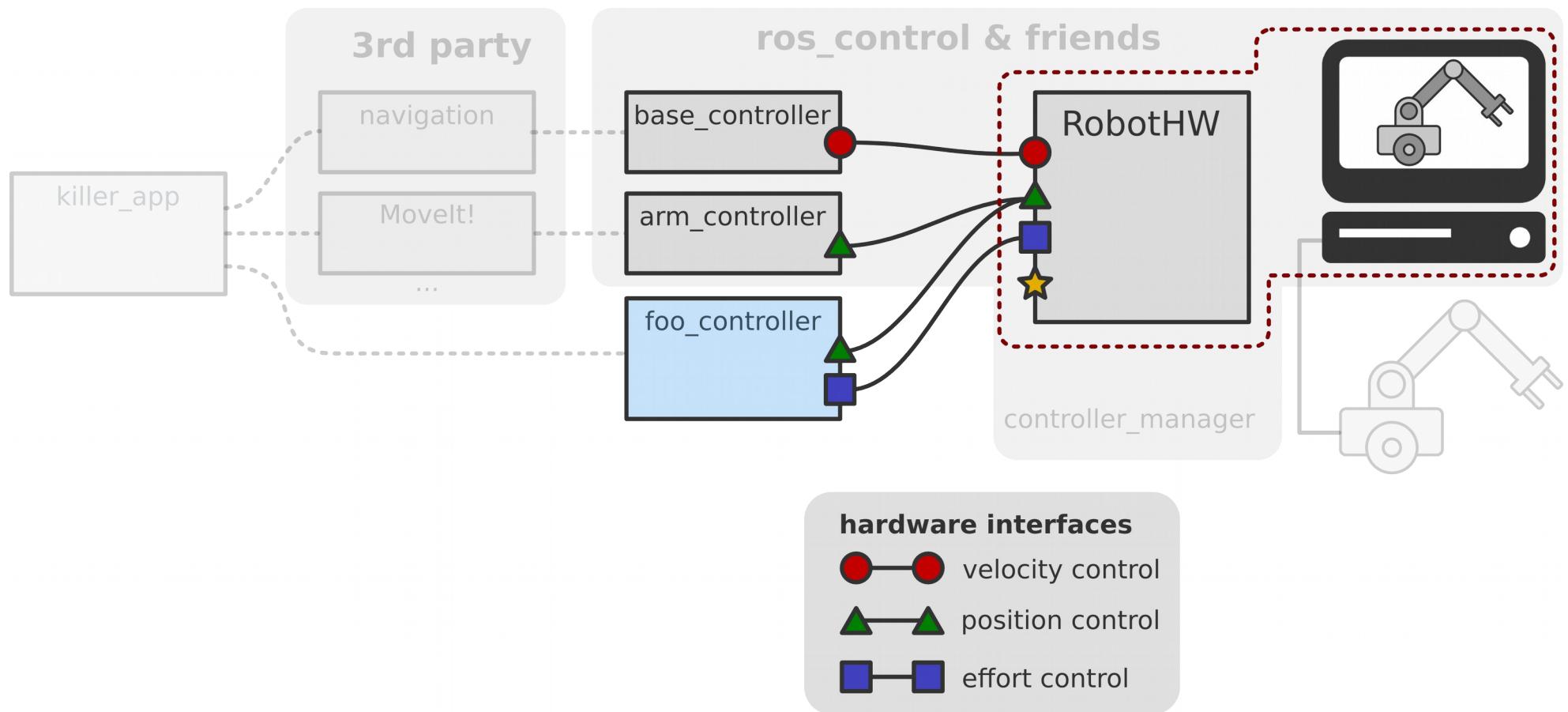


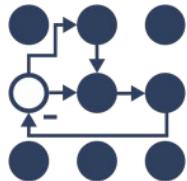
Setting up a robot





Setting up a robot





gazebo_ros_control

→ Lives **outside** ros-controls repos



ros-simulation/gazebo_ros_pkgs

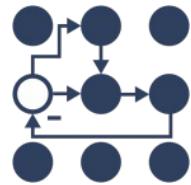
→ **Gazebo** plugin for **ros_control**

- **Default plugin:**

- Populates **joint interfaces** from **URDF**
- Reads **transmission** and **joint limits** specs

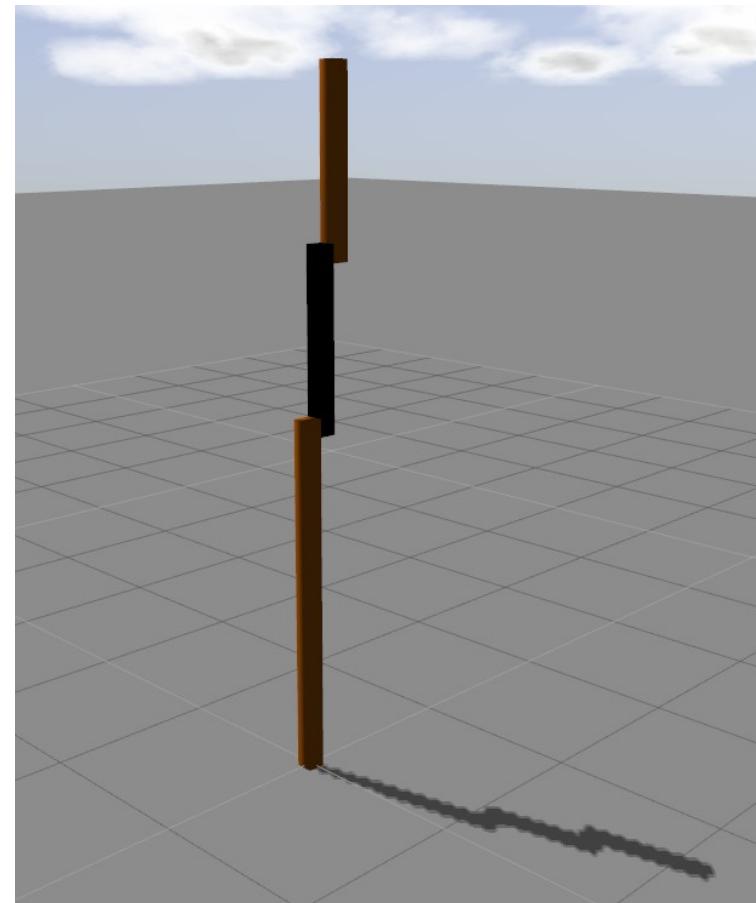
- **Custom plugin:** Up to you

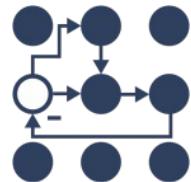
```
<gazebo>
  <plugin name="gazebo_ros_control" filename="libgazebo_ros_control.so">
    <robotNamespace>/my_robot</robotNamespace>
  </plugin>
</gazebo>
```



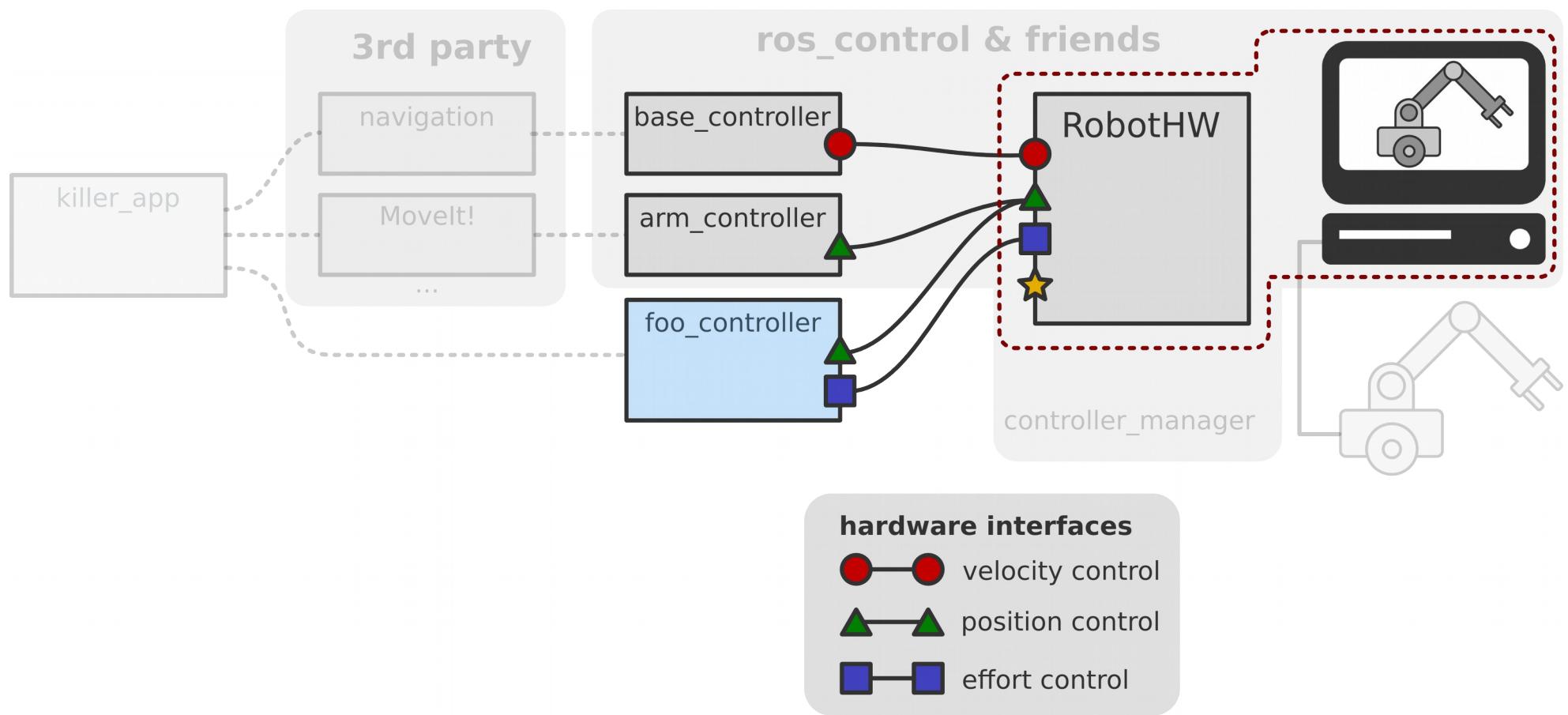
gazebo_ros_control

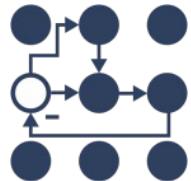
- Test ros_control without coding a RobotHW!
 - Only setup configuration files





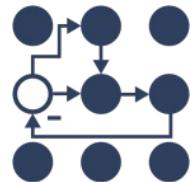
Setting up a robot



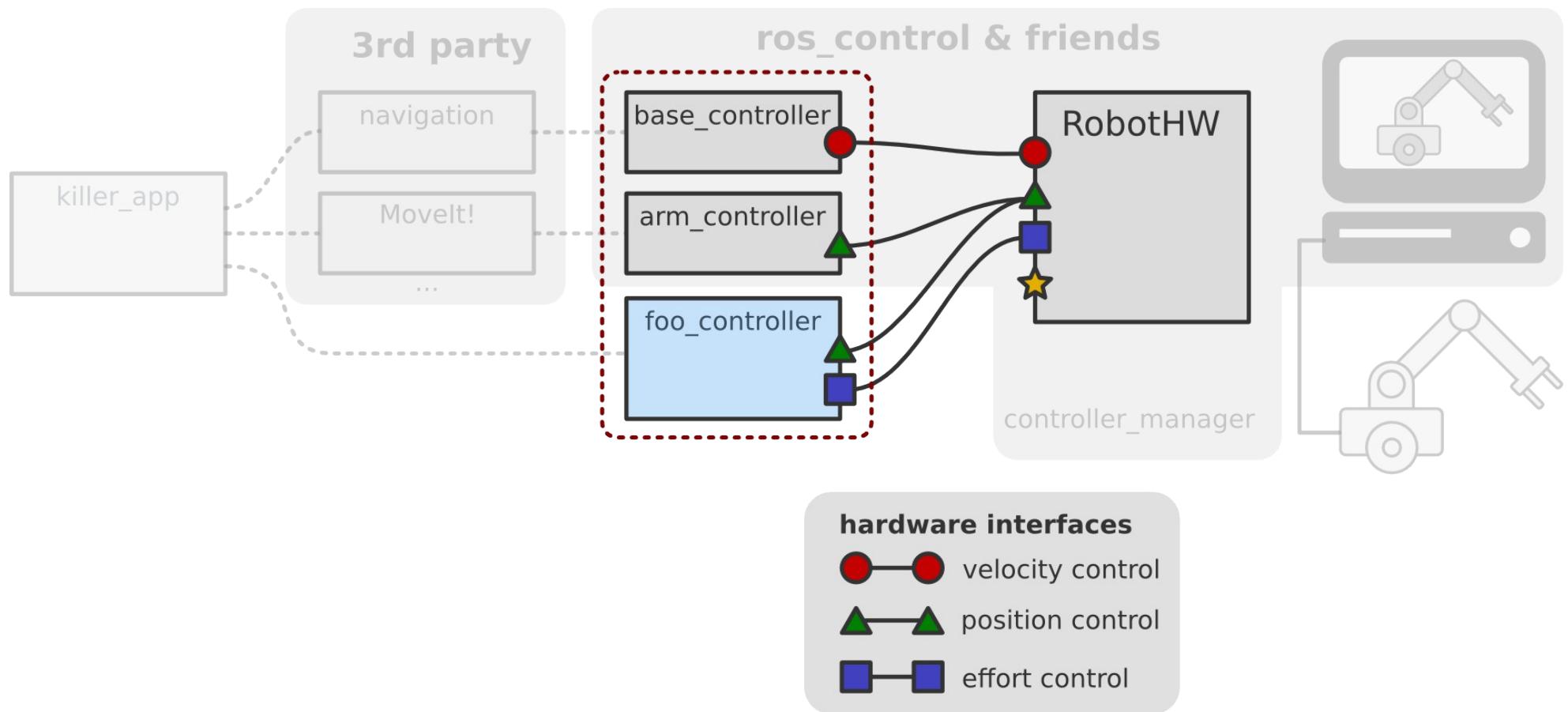


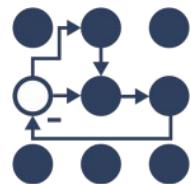
ROS control – an overview

- Big picture and goals
- ROS control & friends
 - Setting up a robot
 - **Controllers**
 - The control loop
- Demo
- Robots using ROS control

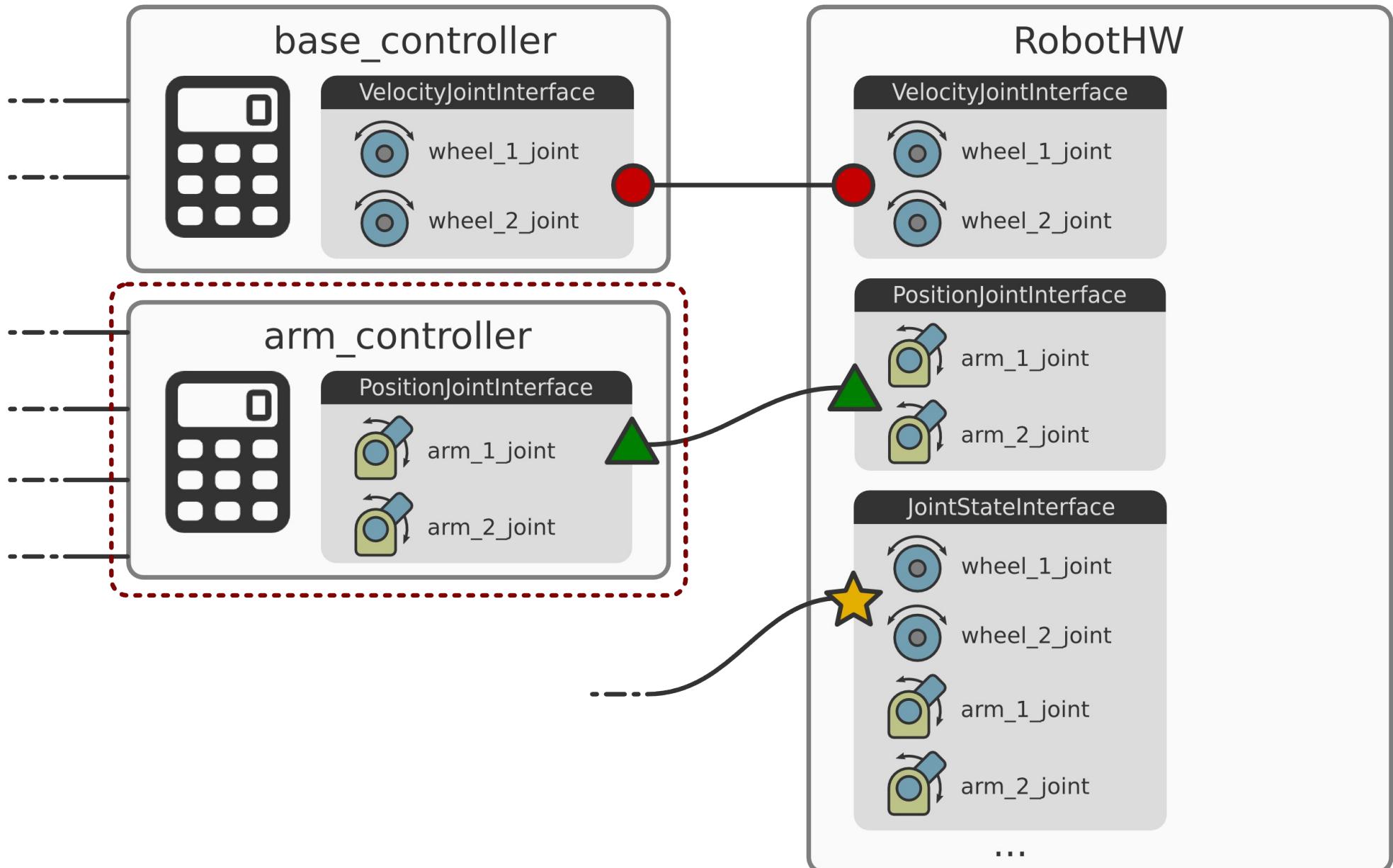


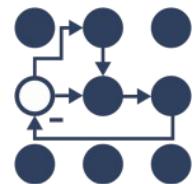
Controllers



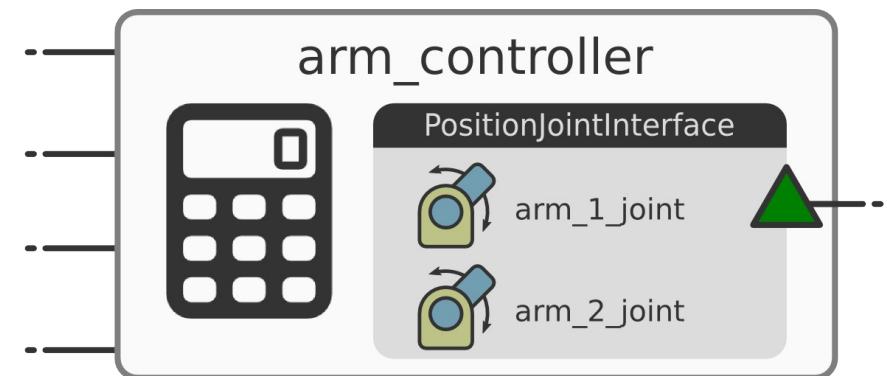


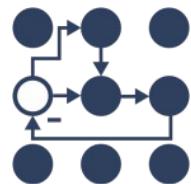
Controllers



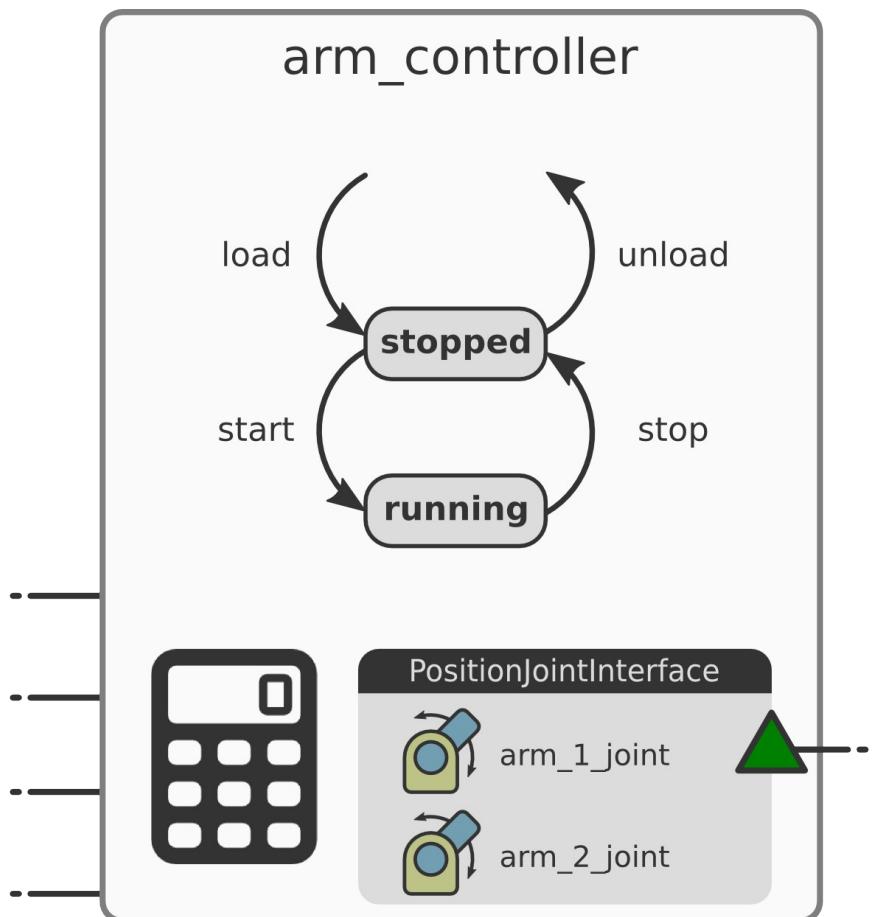


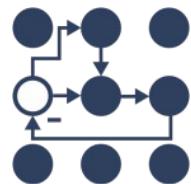
Controllers



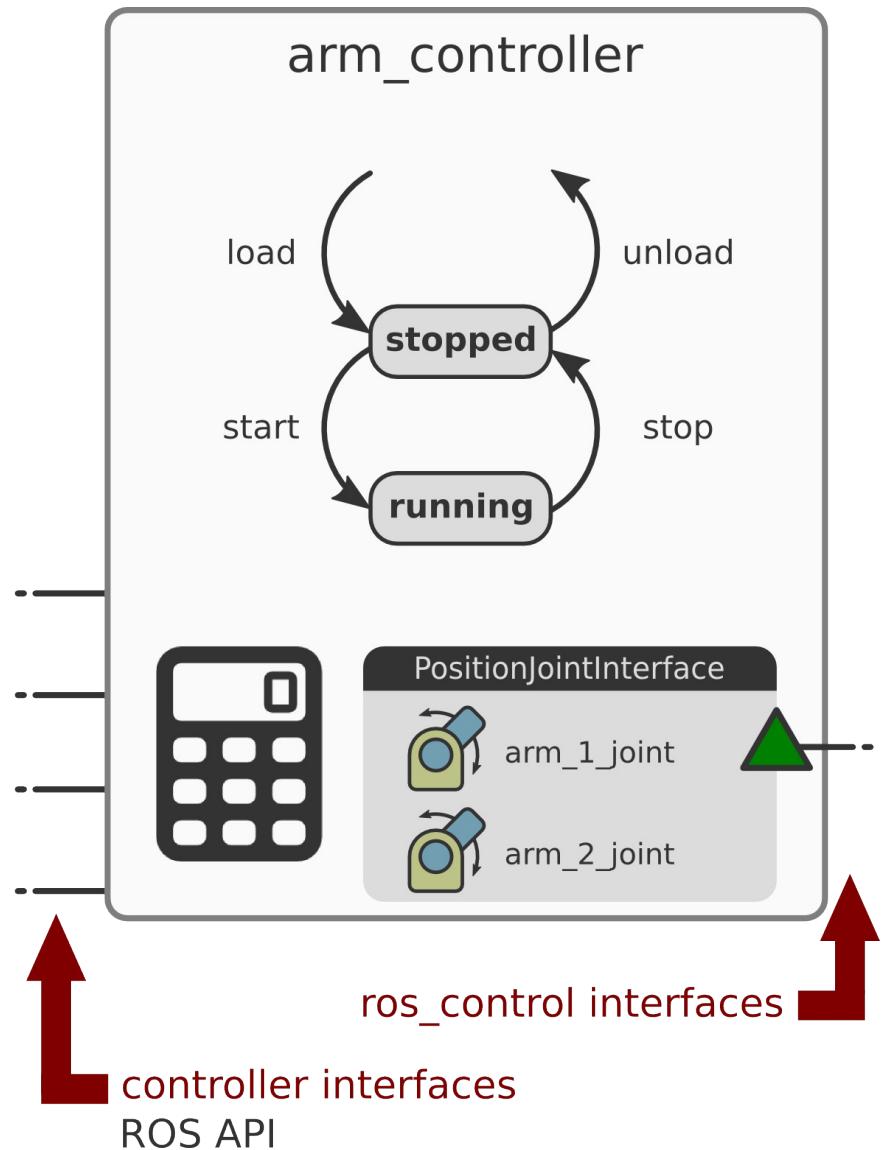


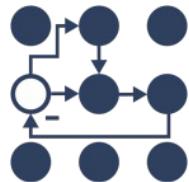
Controllers



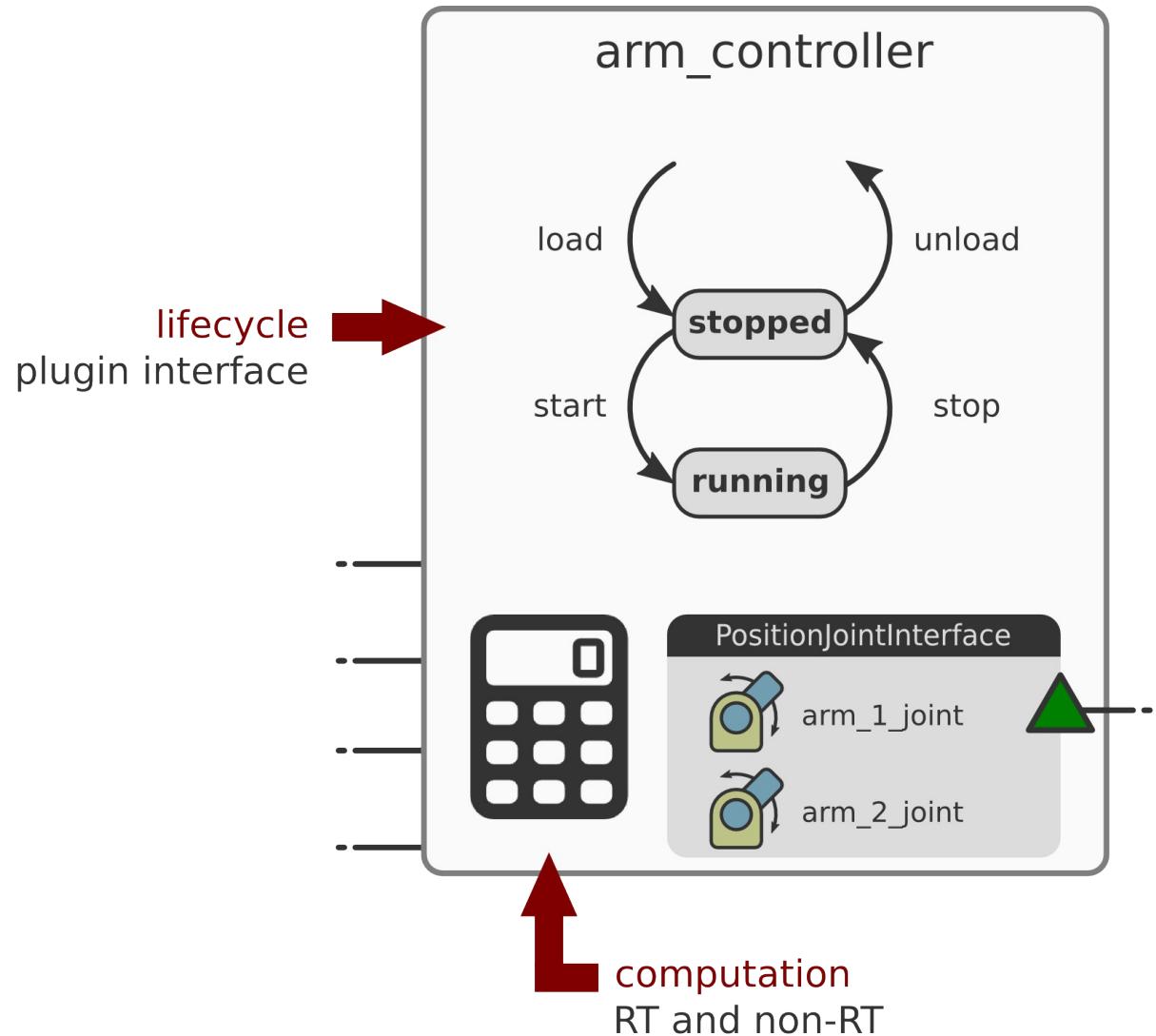


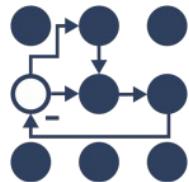
Controllers





Controllers





Controllers

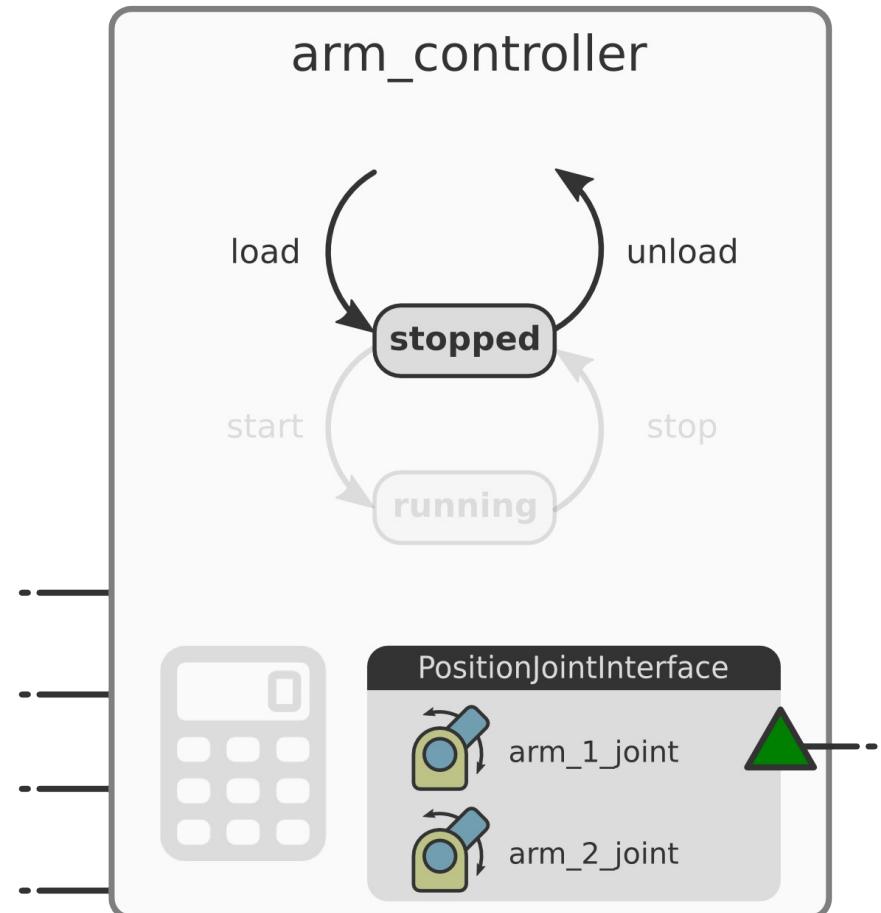
Non real-time operations

→ load

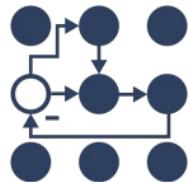
- load + initialize plugin
- check requisites (can fail)
 - hardware resource **existence***
 - configuration
- setup ROS interfaces

→ unload

- destroy + unload plugin



*not the same as resource **conflict** handling



Controllers

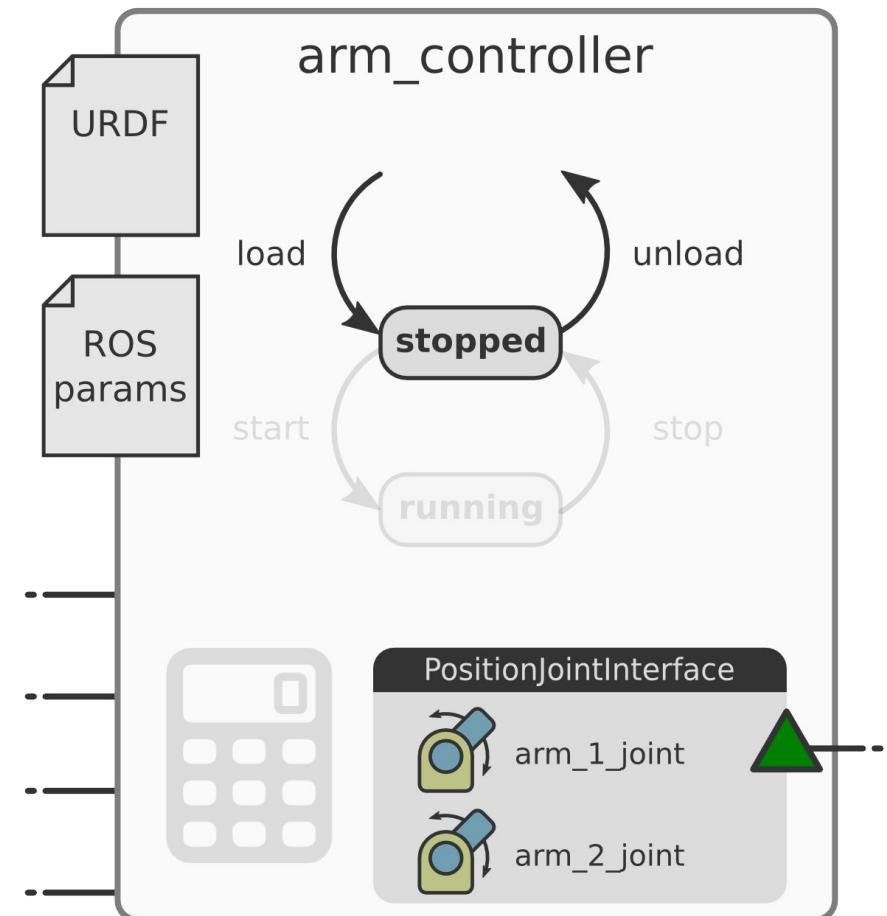
Non real-time operations

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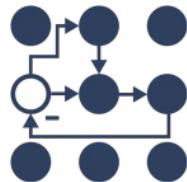
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 - configuration
- setup ROS interfaces

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- destroy + unload plugin



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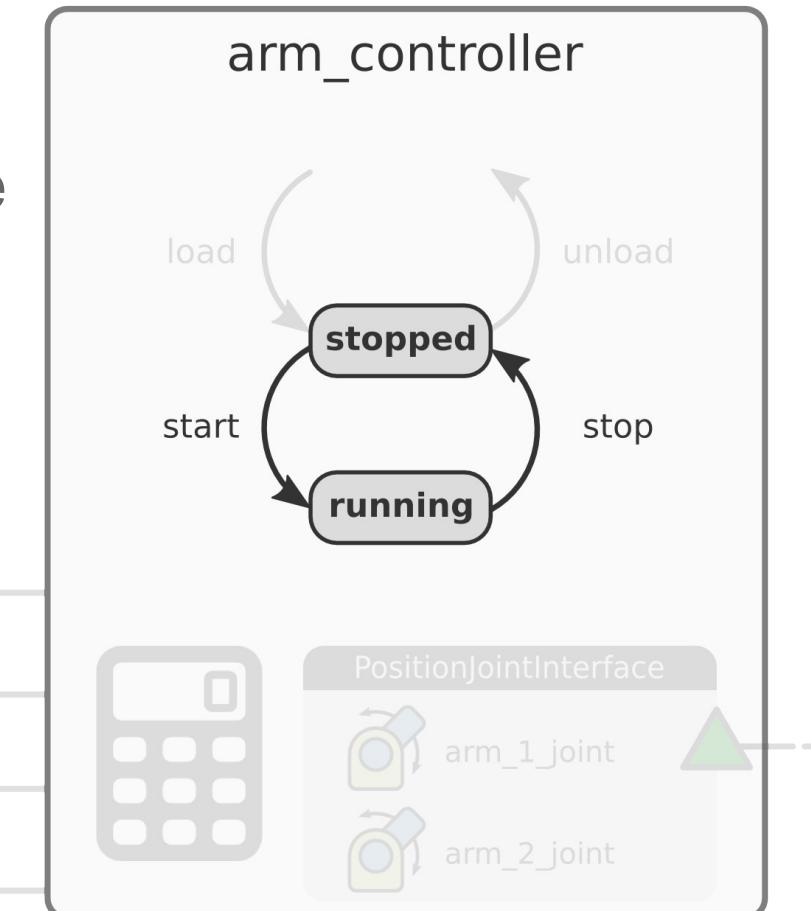
Controllers

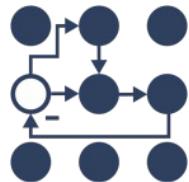
Real-time safe operations

- **start** executed before first update
 - resource **conflict** handling
 - typical policy: semantic zero



- **stop** executed after last update
 - typical policy: cancel goals



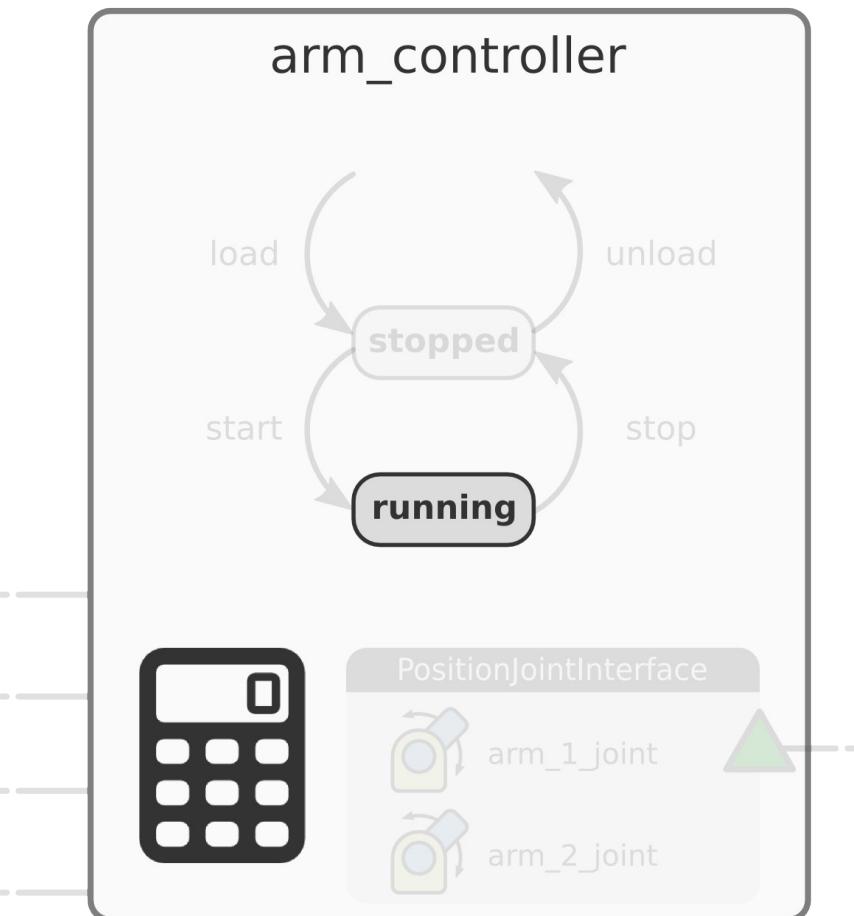


Controllers

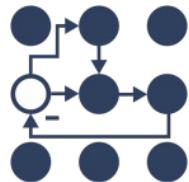
Real-time safe* operations

→ update

- real-time safe computation
- executed periodically



*requirement on implementation

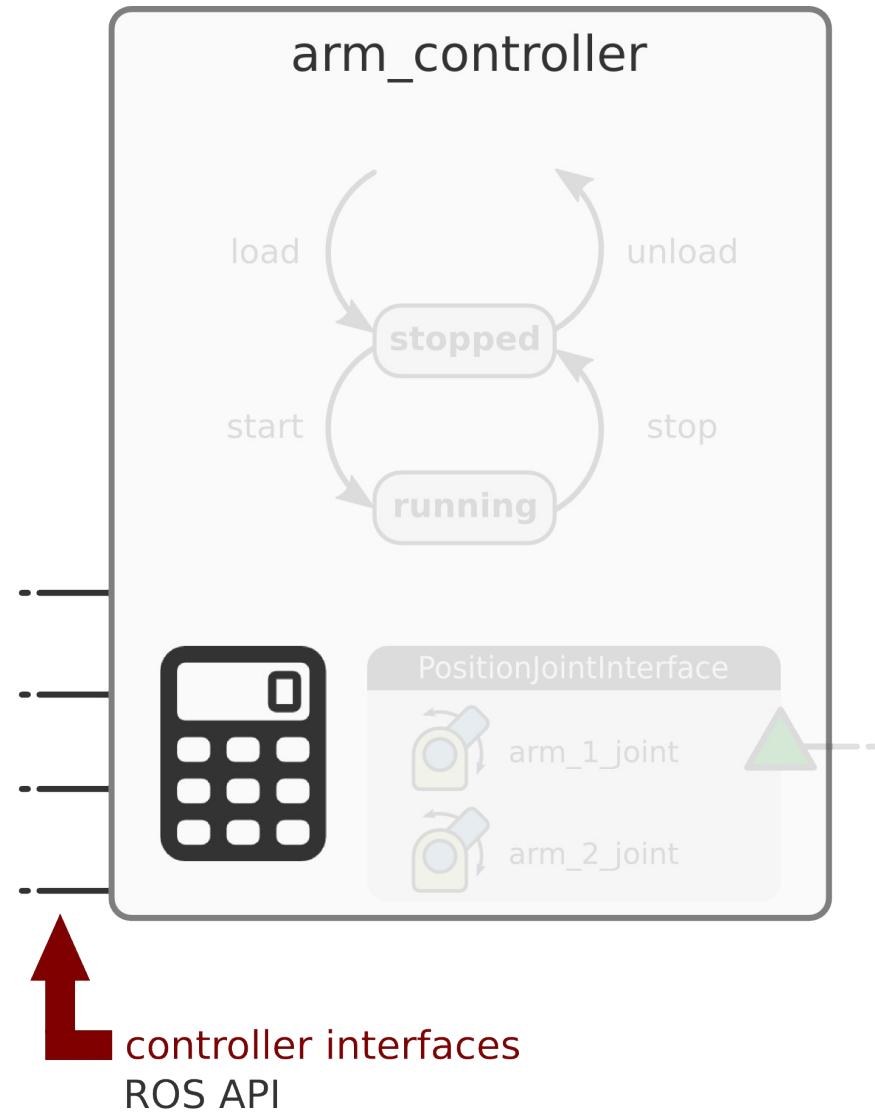


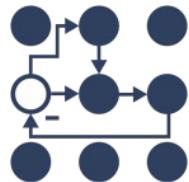
Controllers

Non real-time operations

→ callbacks

- non real-time computation
- executed asynchronously

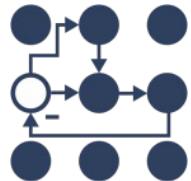




Controllers

Summary

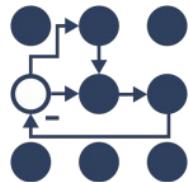
- Dynamically loadable **plugins**
- Interface defines a simple **state machine**
- Interface clearly **separates**
 - operations that are **non real-time**
 - operations required to be **real-time safe**
- Computation
 - **controller update:** periodic, real-time safe
 - **ROS API callbacks:** asynchronous, non real-time



control_toolbox

→ Tools useful for writing **controllers** or **robot abstractions**

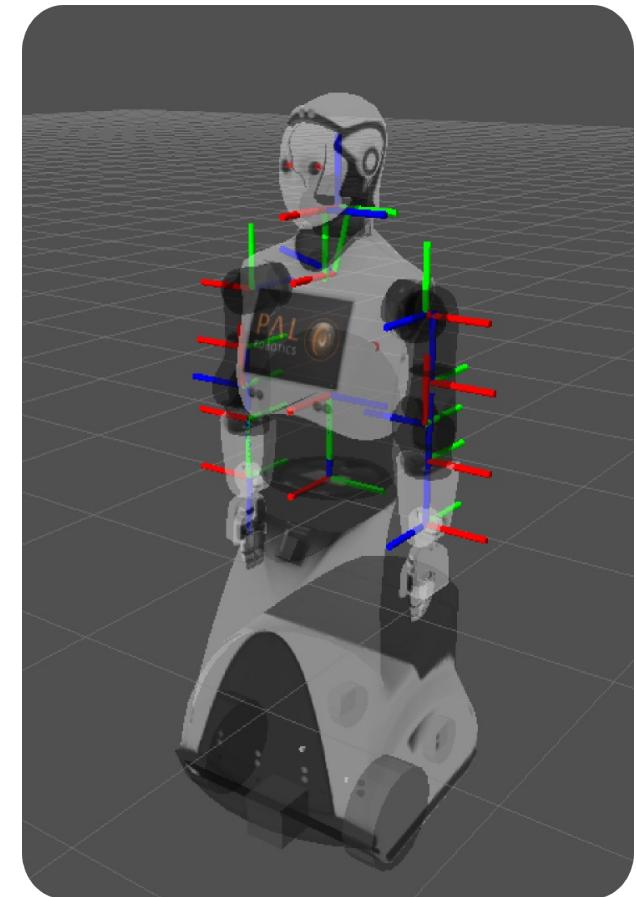
- **Pid** PID loop
- **SineSweep** for joint frequency analysis
- **Dither** white noise generator
- **LimitedProxy** for convergence without overshoot
- ...

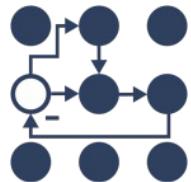


ros_controllers repo

Sensor state reporting

- **joint_state_controller**
 - publishes: `sensor_msgs/JointState` topic
- **imu_sensor_controller**
 - publishes: `sensor_msgs/Imu` topics
- **force_torque_sensor_controller**
 - publishes: `geometry_msgs/Wrench` topics



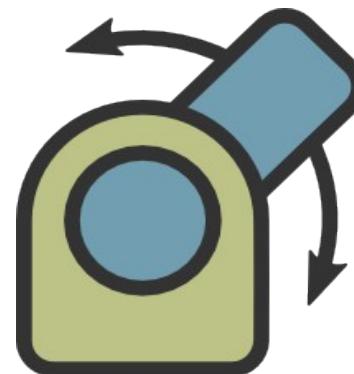
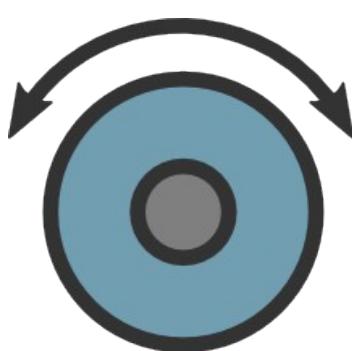


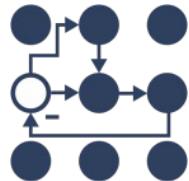
ros_controllers repo

General purpose

- **[position,velocity,effort]_controllers**

- single-joint controllers in different control spaces

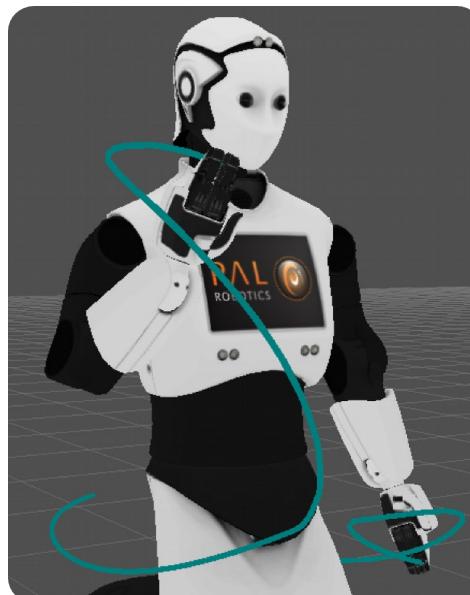


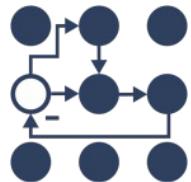


ros_controllers repo

joint_trajectory_controller

- multi-joint trajectory interpolator
- commands:
 - **control_msgs/FollowJointTrajectory** action
 - **trajectory_msgs/JointTrajectory** topic
- compatible with: **Movelt!**



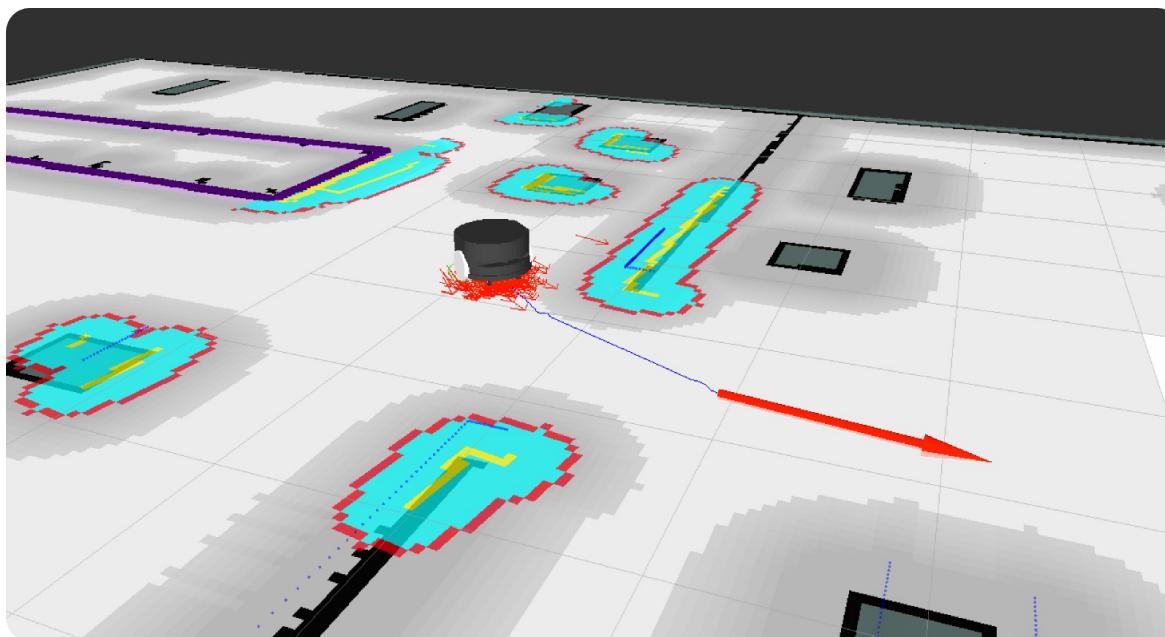


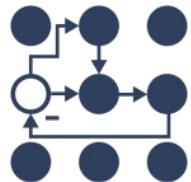
ros_controllers repo

Navigation

→ **diff_drive_controller**

- commands: **geometry_msgs/Twist** topic
- publishes: odometry to **tf** and **nav_msgs/Odometry** topic
- compatible with: the **ROS navigation stack**





ros_controllers repo

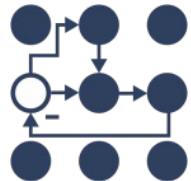
Manipulation

→ **gripper_action_controller**

- single-dof gripper controller
- commands:
 - **control_msgs::GripperCommandAction** action
- compatible with: **Movelt!**

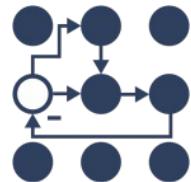


source: Willow Garage Flickr photostream

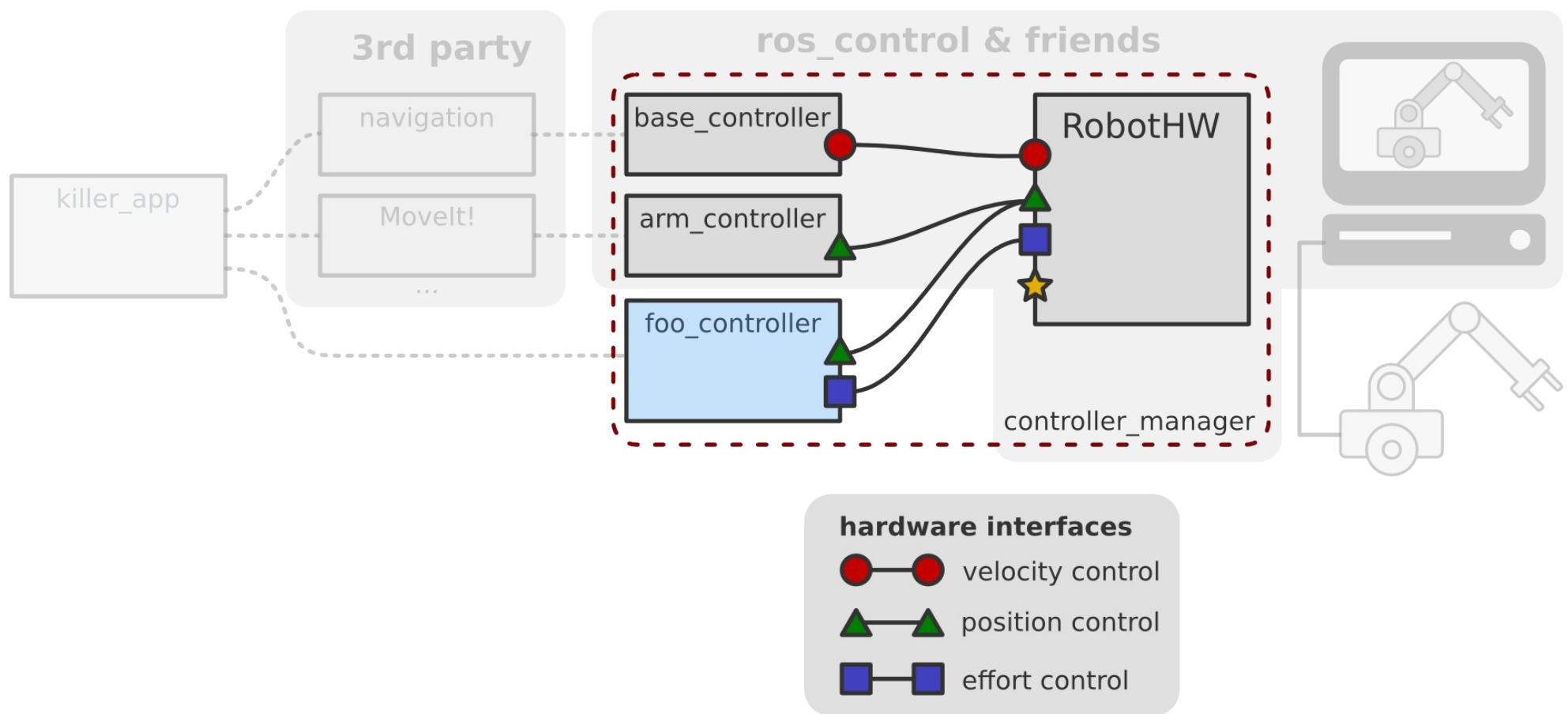


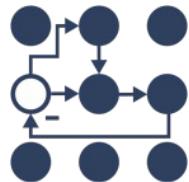
ROS control – an overview

- Big picture and goals
- ROS control & friends
 - Setting up a robot
 - Controllers
 - **The control loop**
- Demo
- Robots using ROS control



The control loop

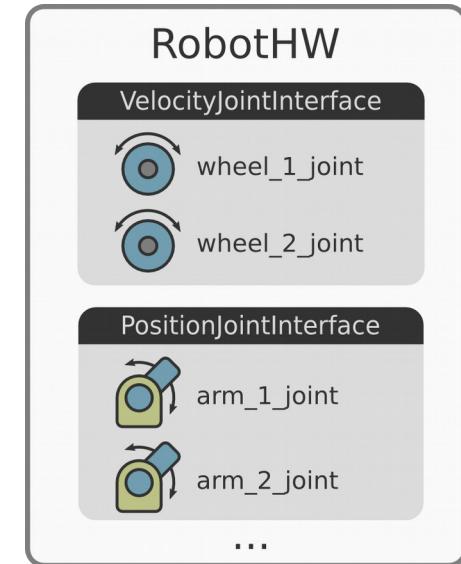




controller_manager

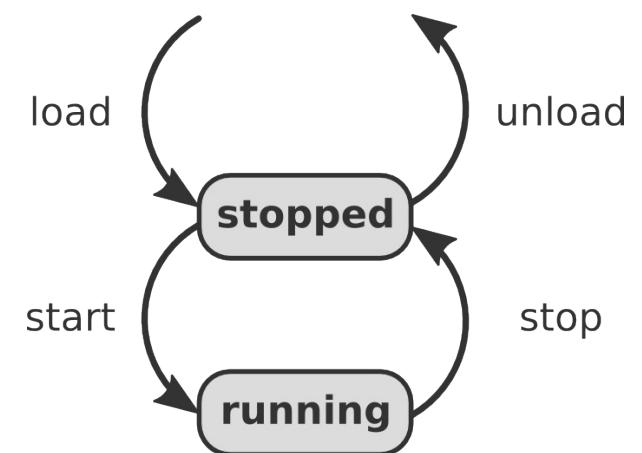
→ Robot resource management

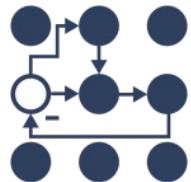
- knows available resources
- enforces resource conflict policy



→ Controller lifecycle management

- **transitions** controller state machine
- **updates** running controllers
- **periodic, serialized** updates

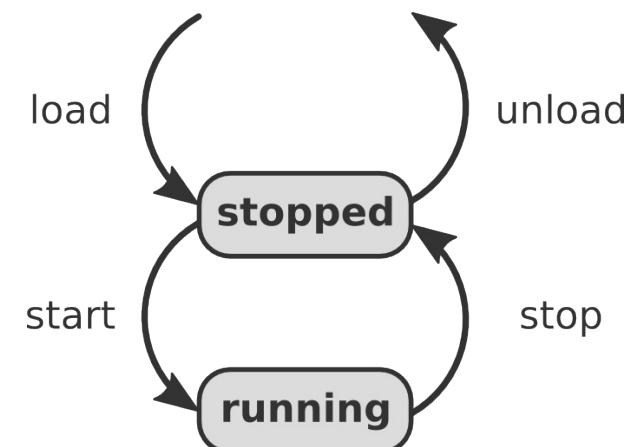


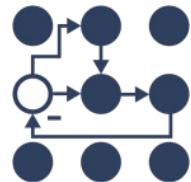


controller_manager

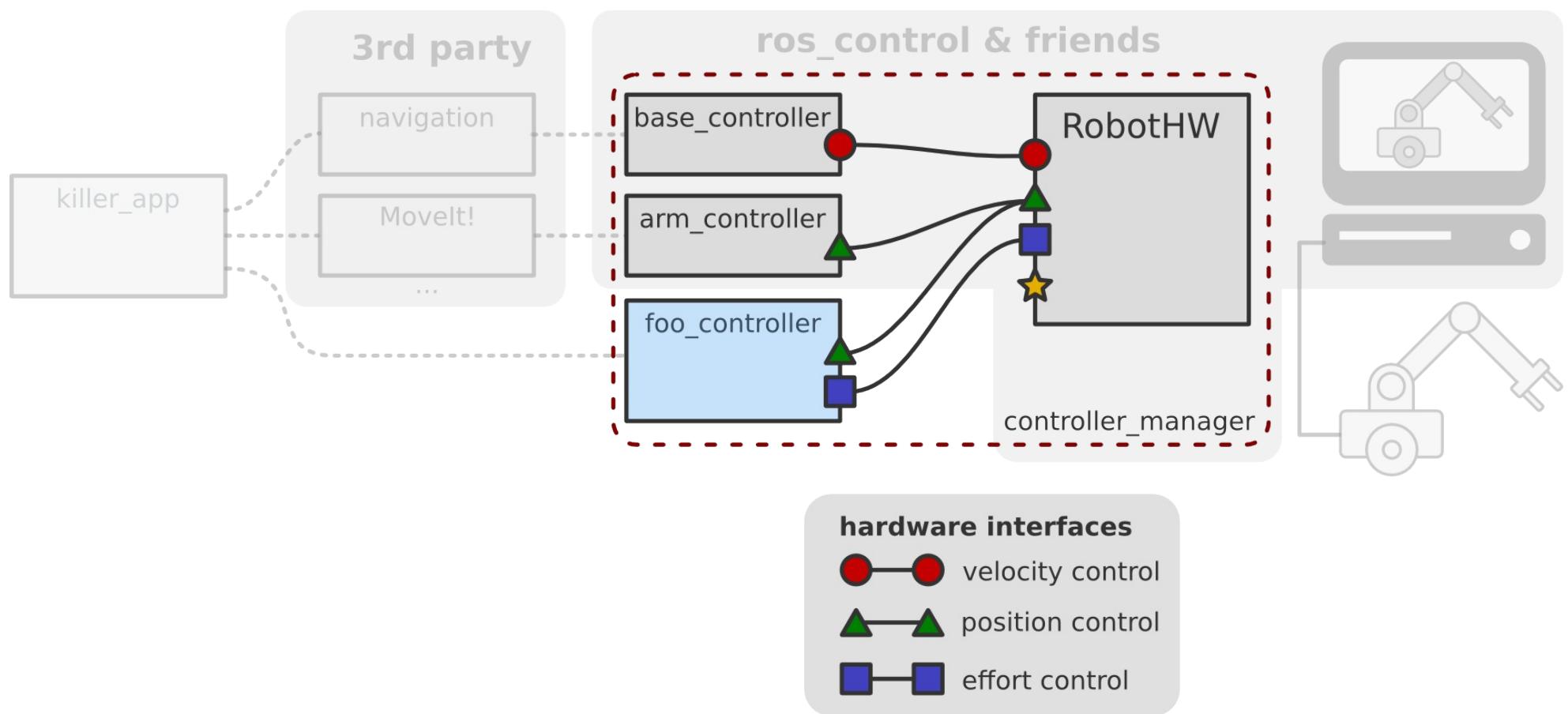
ROS service API

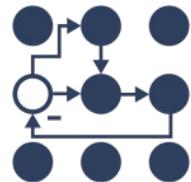
- Controller lifecycle management
 - load_controller
 - unload_controller
 - switch_controller
- Queries
 - list_controllers
 - list_controller_types
- Other
 - reload_controller_libraries



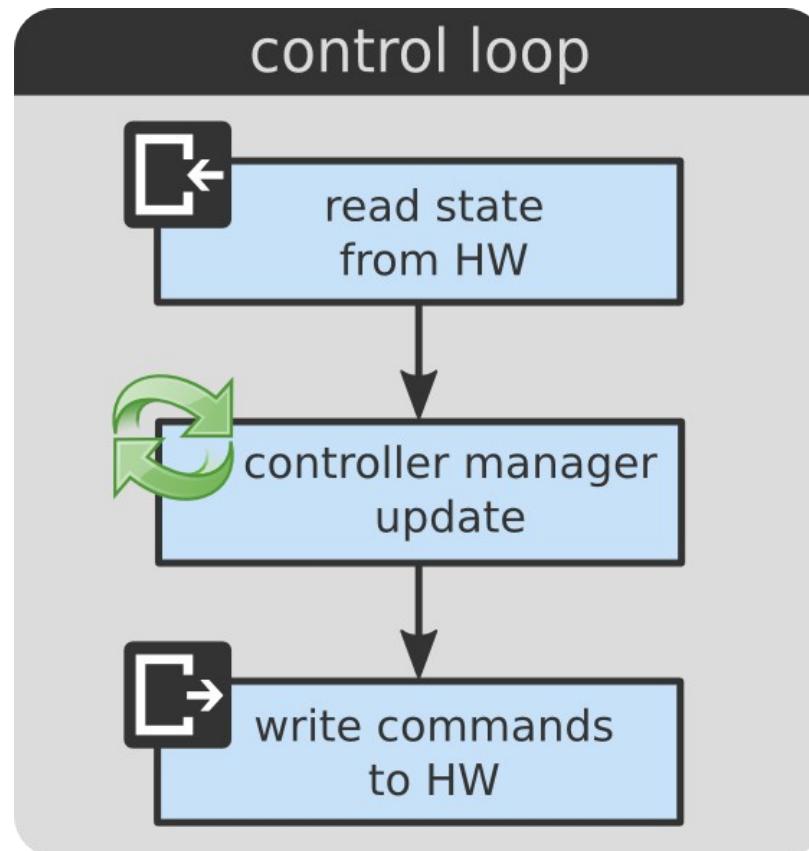


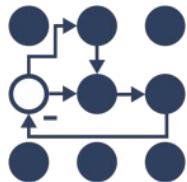
The control loop





The control loop





The control loop

```
#include <ros/ros.h>
#include <my_robot/my_robot.h>
#include <controller_manager/controller_manager.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    // Setup
    ros::init(argc, argv, "my_robot");

    MyRobot::MyRobot robot;
    controller_manager::ControllerManager cm(&robot);

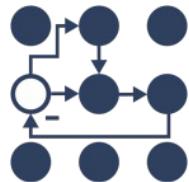
    ros::AsyncSpinner spinner(1);
    spinner.start();

    // Control loop
    ros::Time prev_time = ros::Time::now();
    ros::Rate rate(10.0);

    while (ros::ok())
    {
        const ros::Time time = ros::Time::now();
        const ros::Duration period = time - prev_time;

        robot.read();
        cm.update(time, period);
        robot.write();

        rate.sleep();
    }
    return 0;
}
```



The control loop

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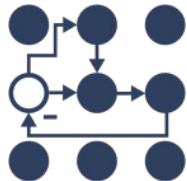
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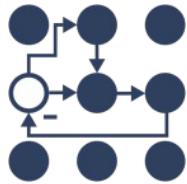
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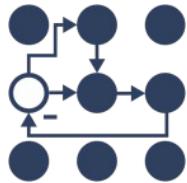
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The control loop

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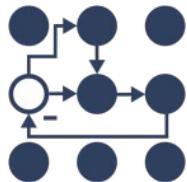
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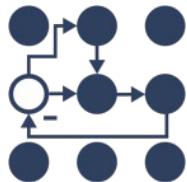
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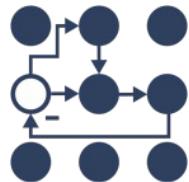
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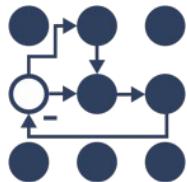
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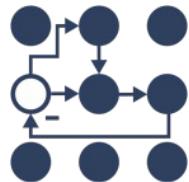
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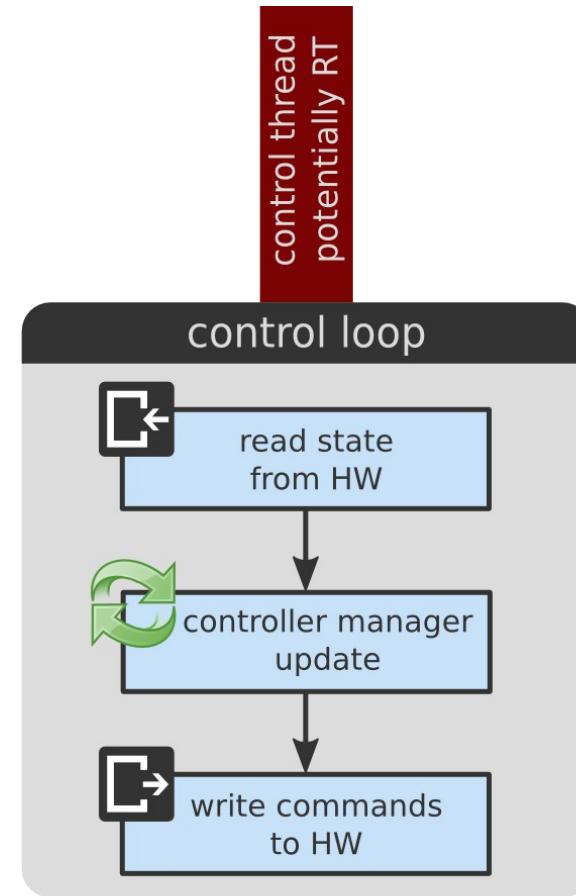
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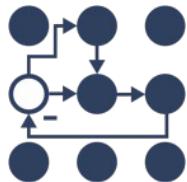
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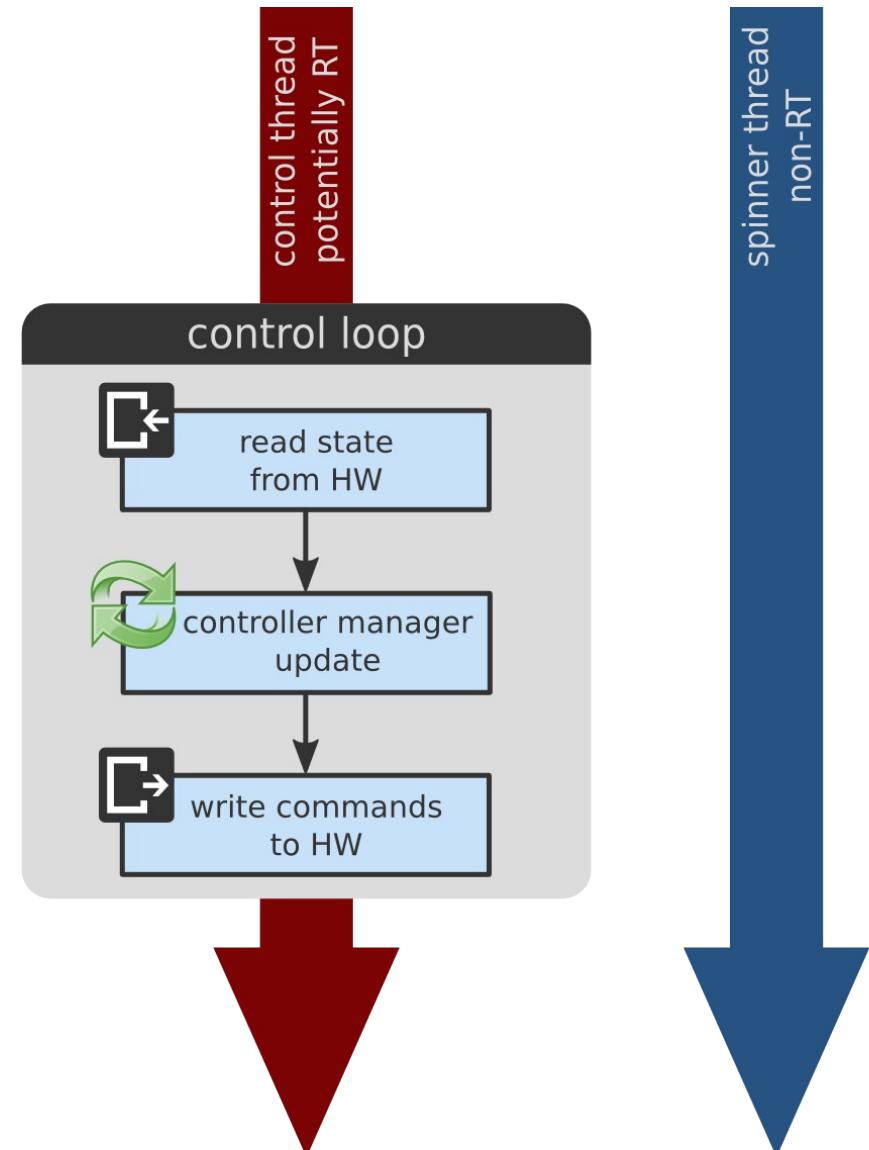
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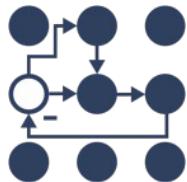
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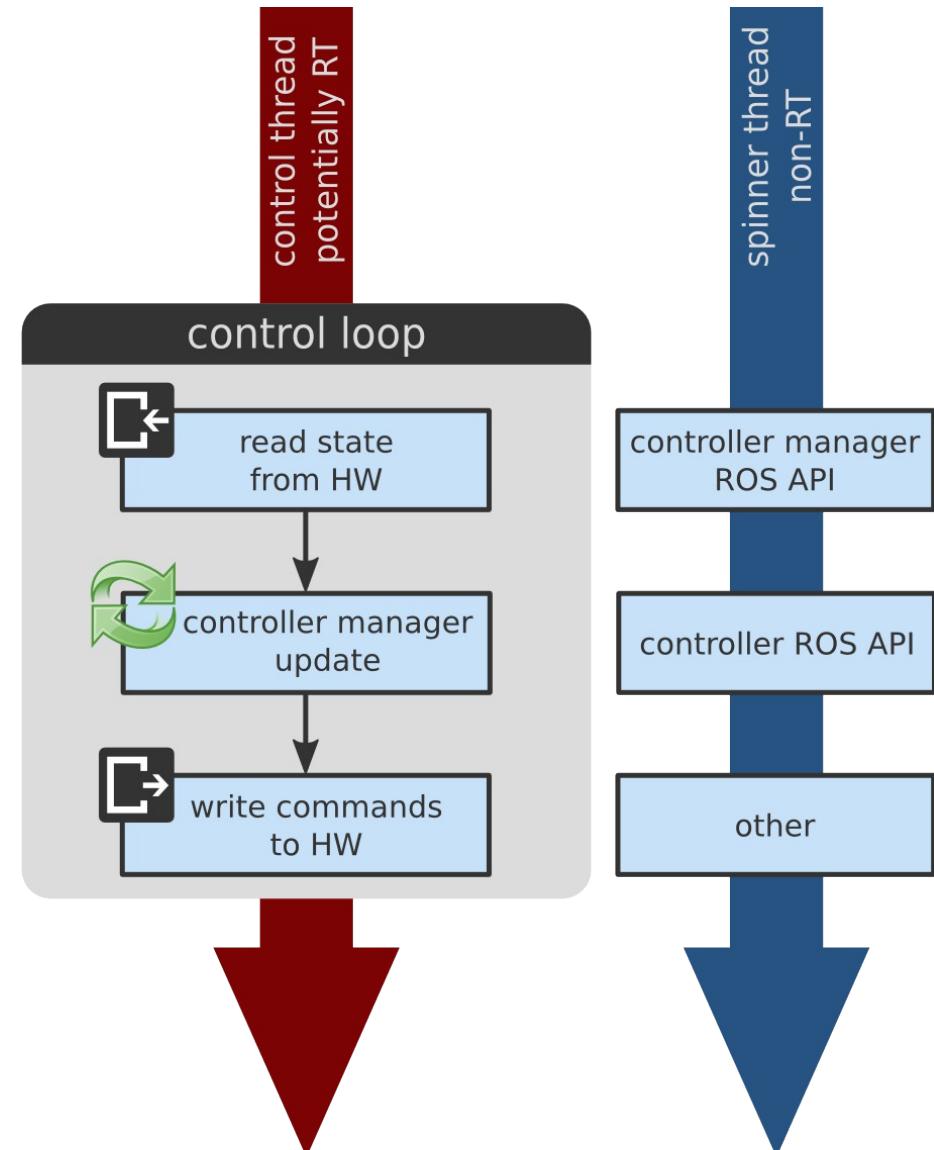
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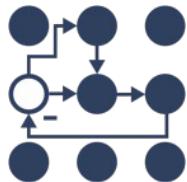
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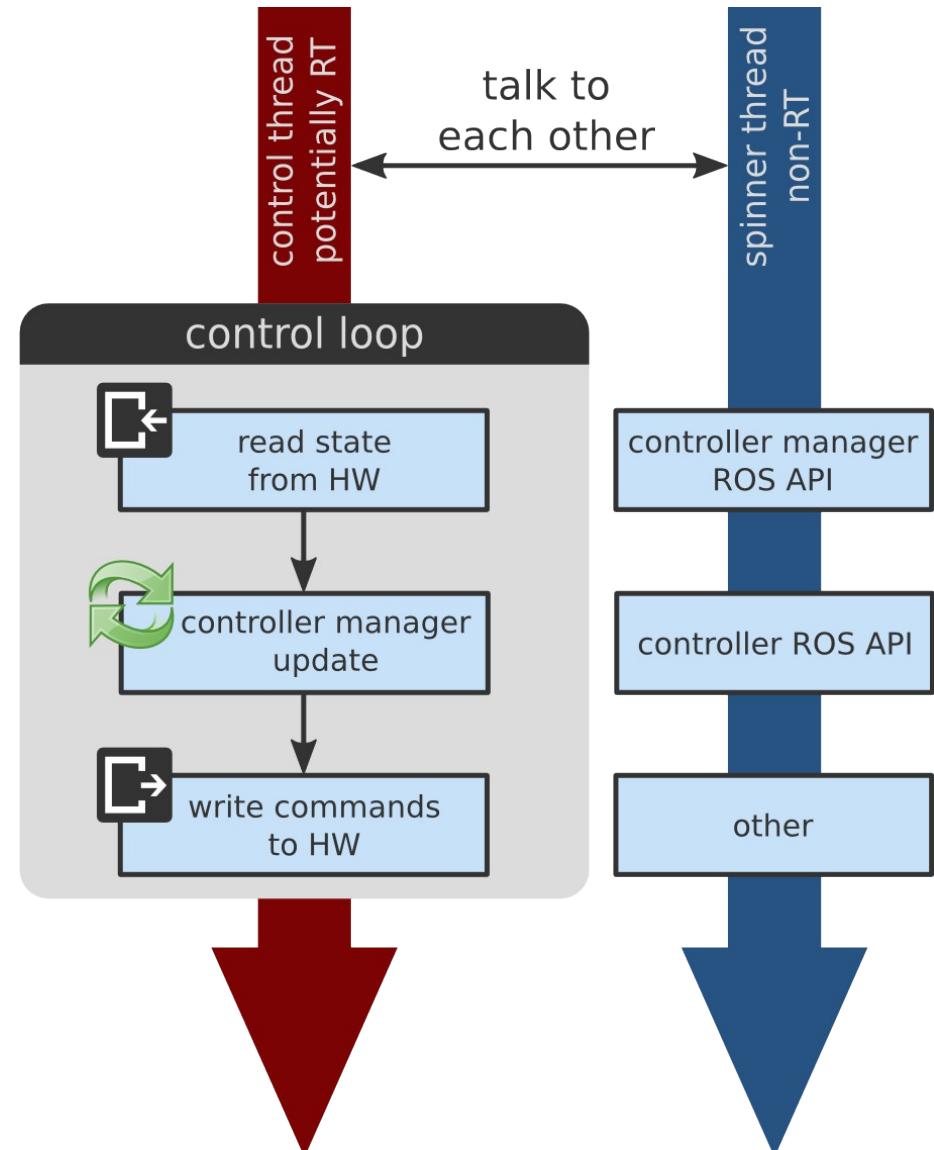
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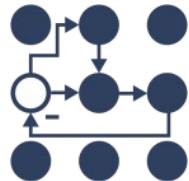
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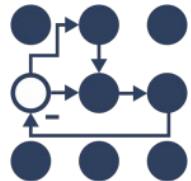




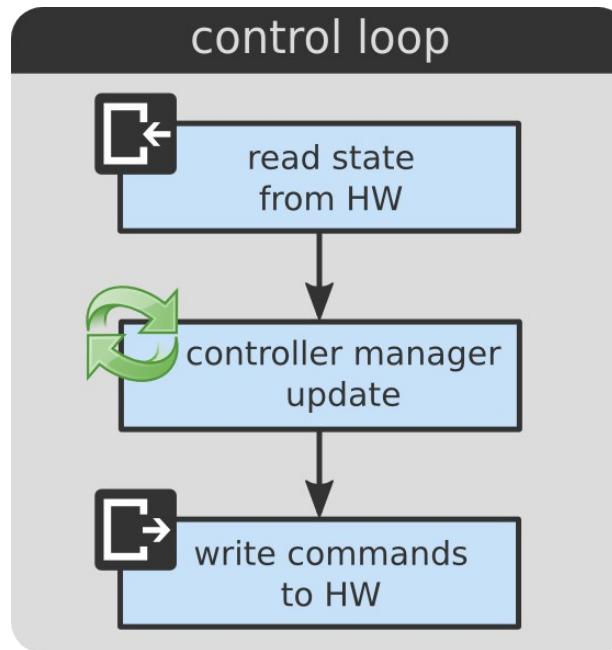
realtime_tools

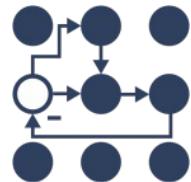
→ Tools usable from a **real-time** thread

- **RealtimePublisher** Publish to a ROS topic
- **RealtimeBuffer** Share resource with non-RT thread
- **RealtimeClock** Query system clock
- ...

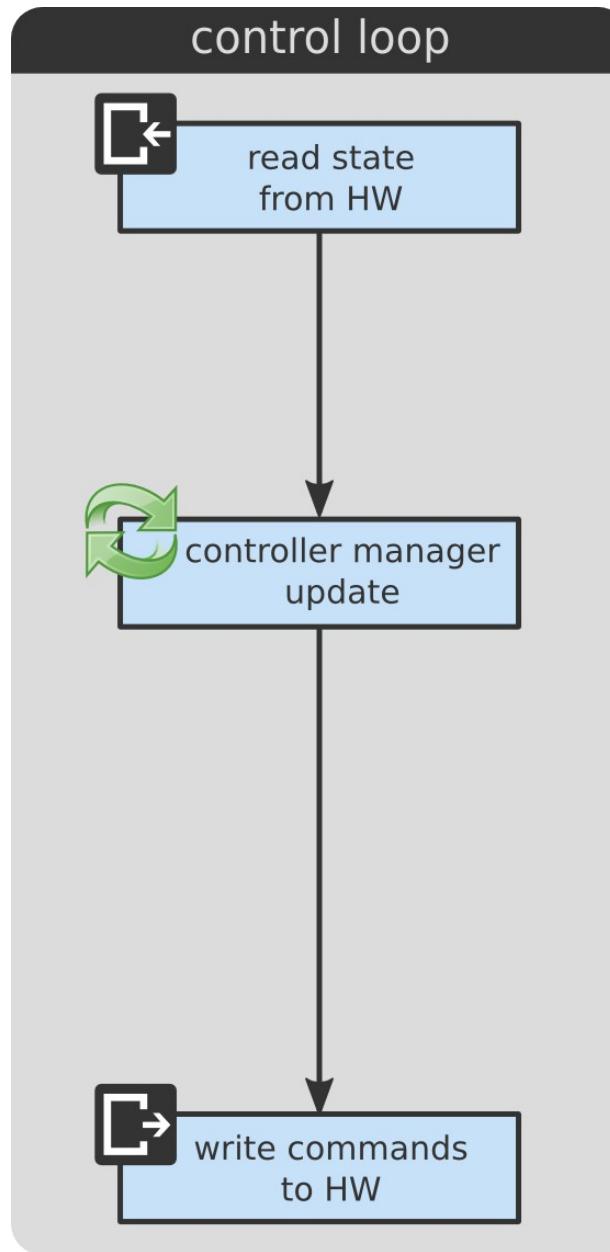


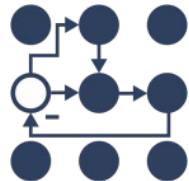
The control loop – Part II



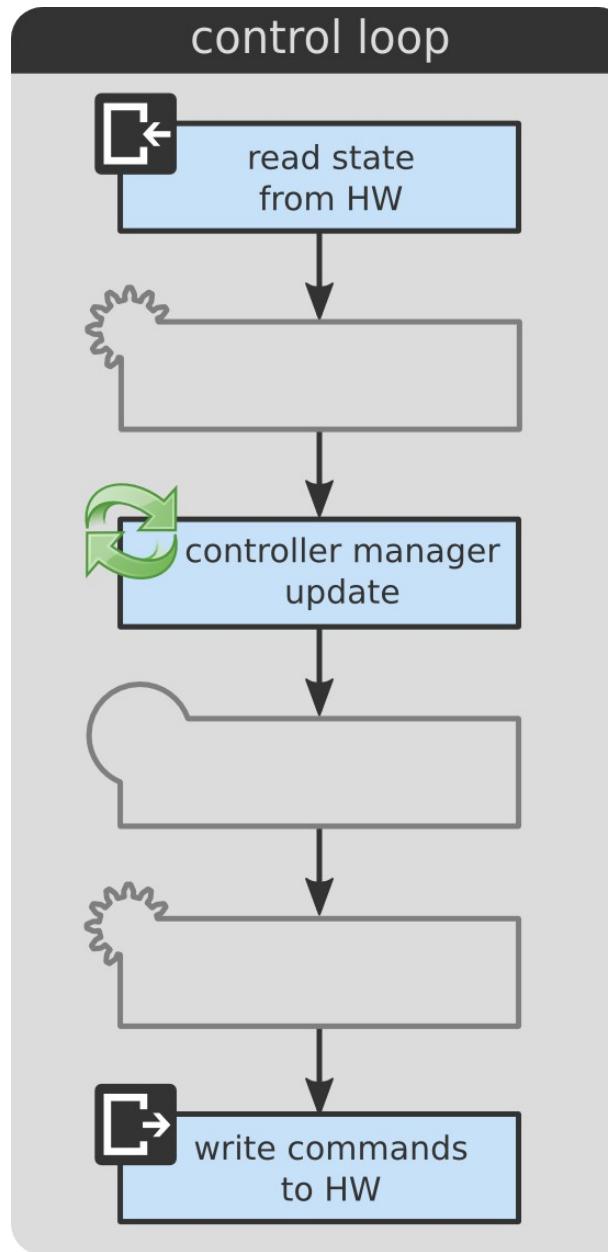


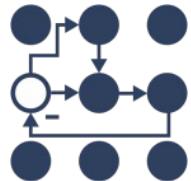
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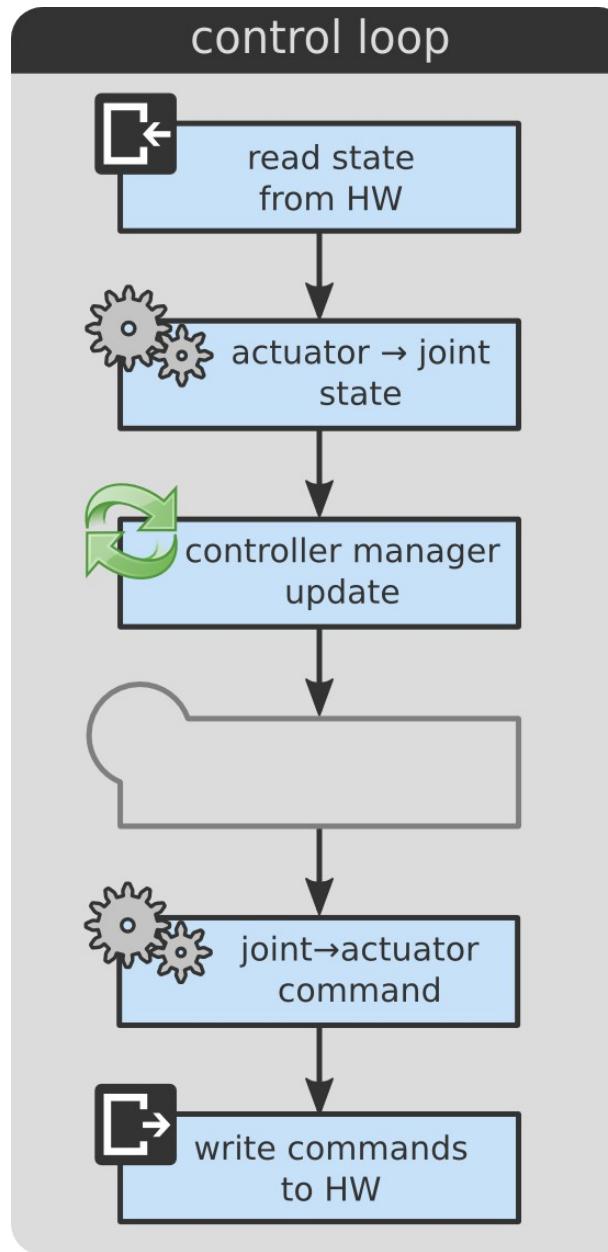


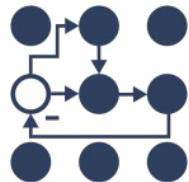
The control loop – Part II





The control loop – Part II





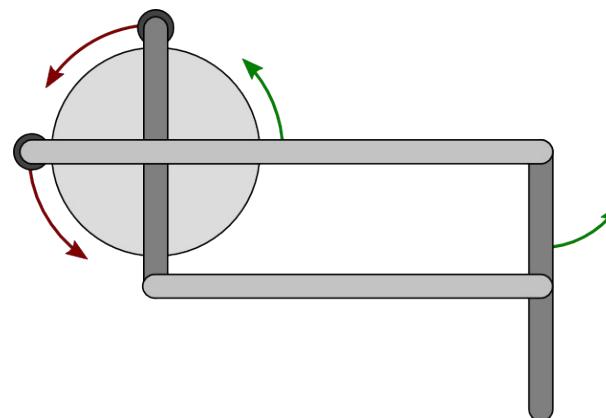
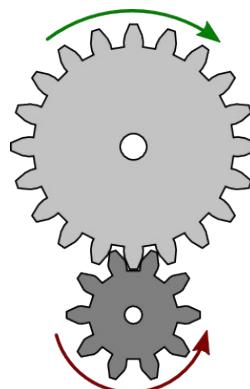
transmission_interface

→ Mechanical transmission representation

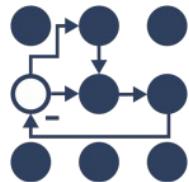
- propagate between **actuator** ↔ **joint** spaces...
- **position**, **velocity** and **effort** variables

→ Available transmissions

- Simple reducer
- Four-bar linkage
- Differential

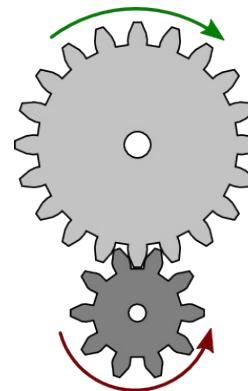


source: cgimotion.com

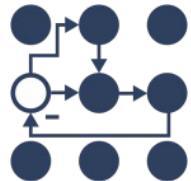


transmission_interface

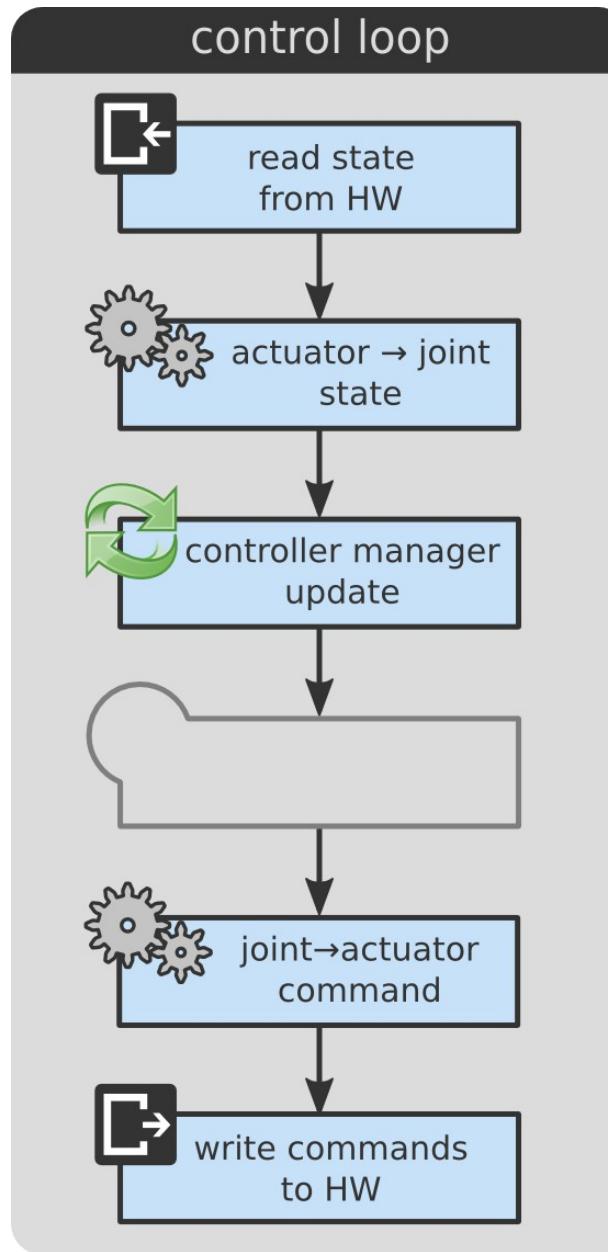
- **Plugins** for loading from URDF
 - **Simplifies** populating **RobotHW** interfaces

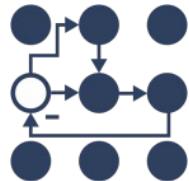


```
<transmission name="arm_1_trans">
  <type>transmission_interface/SimpleTransmission</type>
  <actuator name="arm_1_motor" >
    <mechanicalReduction>42</mechanicalReduction>
  </actuator>
  <joint name="arm_1_joint">
    <hardwareInterface>hardware_interface/PositionJointInterface</hardwareInterface>
  </joint>
</transmission>
```

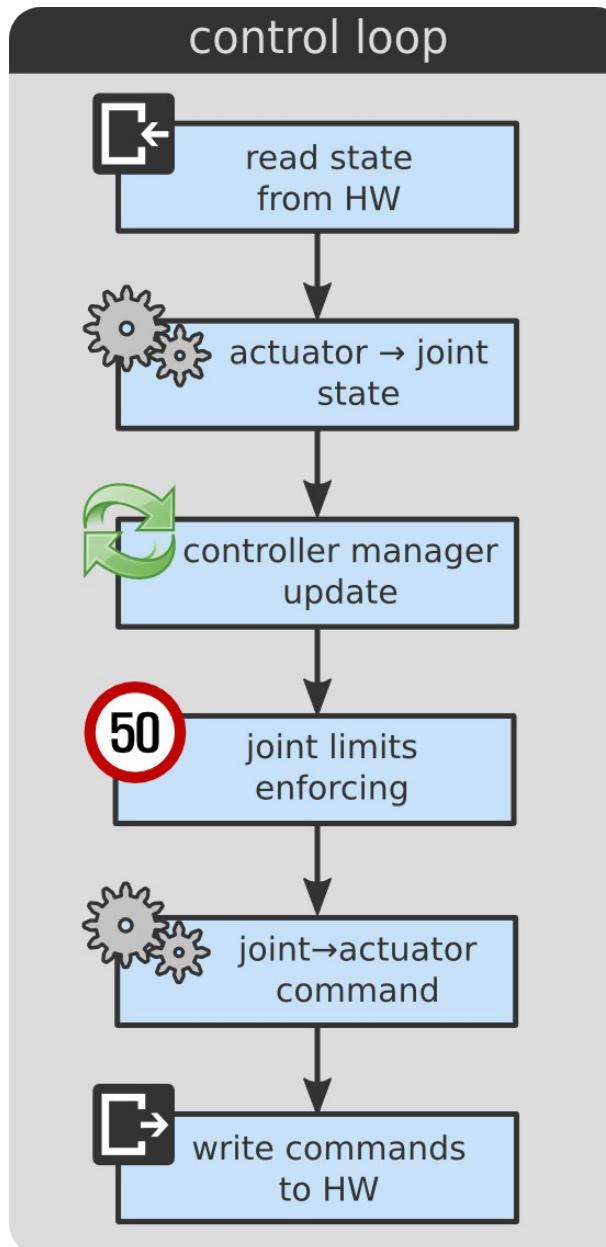


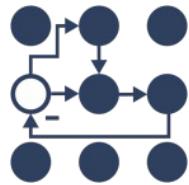
The control loop – Part II





The control loop – Part II

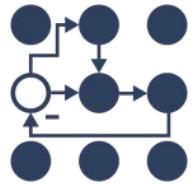




joint_limits_interface

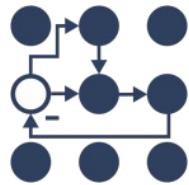
- **Last line of defense** before commanding HW
 - Don't trust controllers ;-)
- **Simple, fast, low-level** strategies





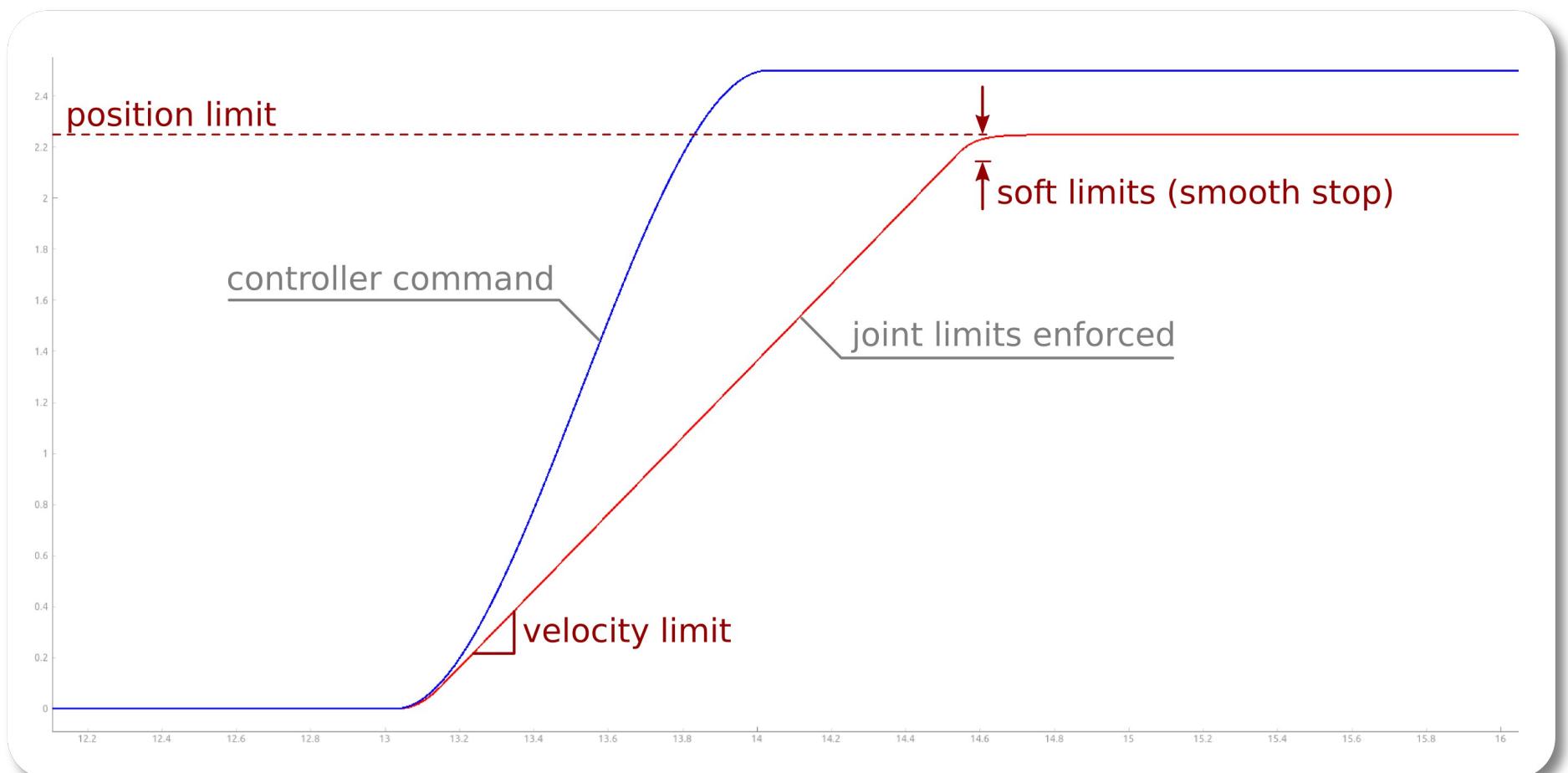
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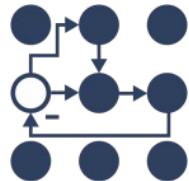
- Data structures for **representing** joint limits
- Methods for **populating** them
 - URDF
 - yaml (à la MoveIt! + jerk)
- Methods for **enforcing** joint limits
 - soft limits (PR2-like) and clamping
 - for different hardware interfaces



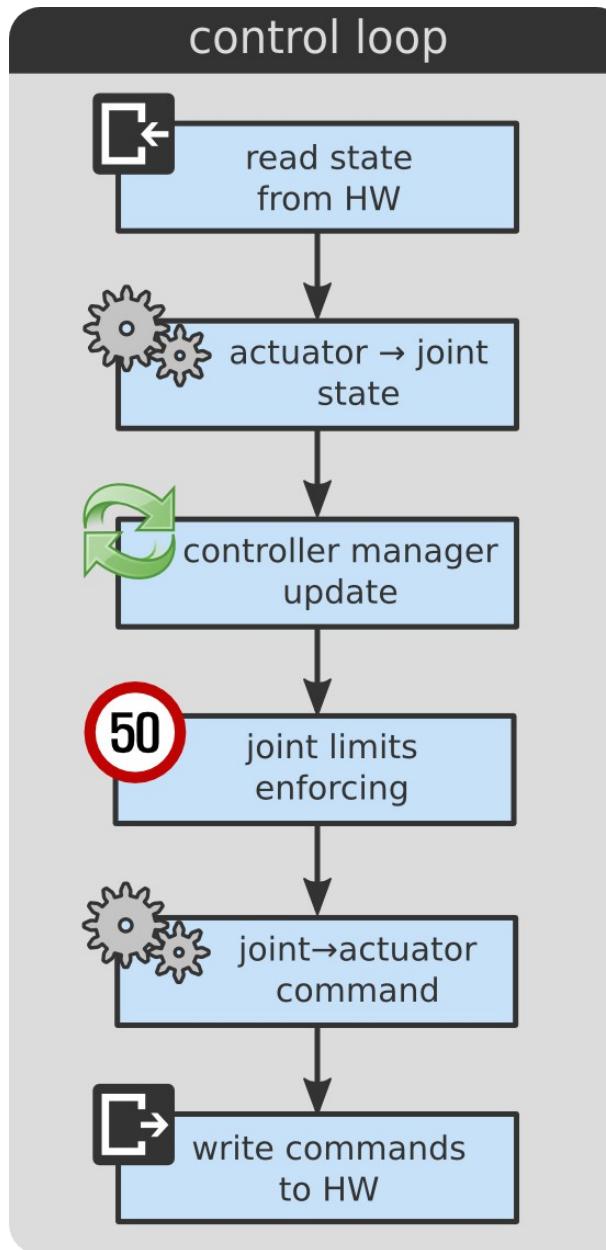
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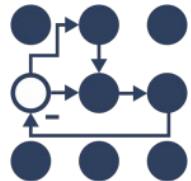
Example



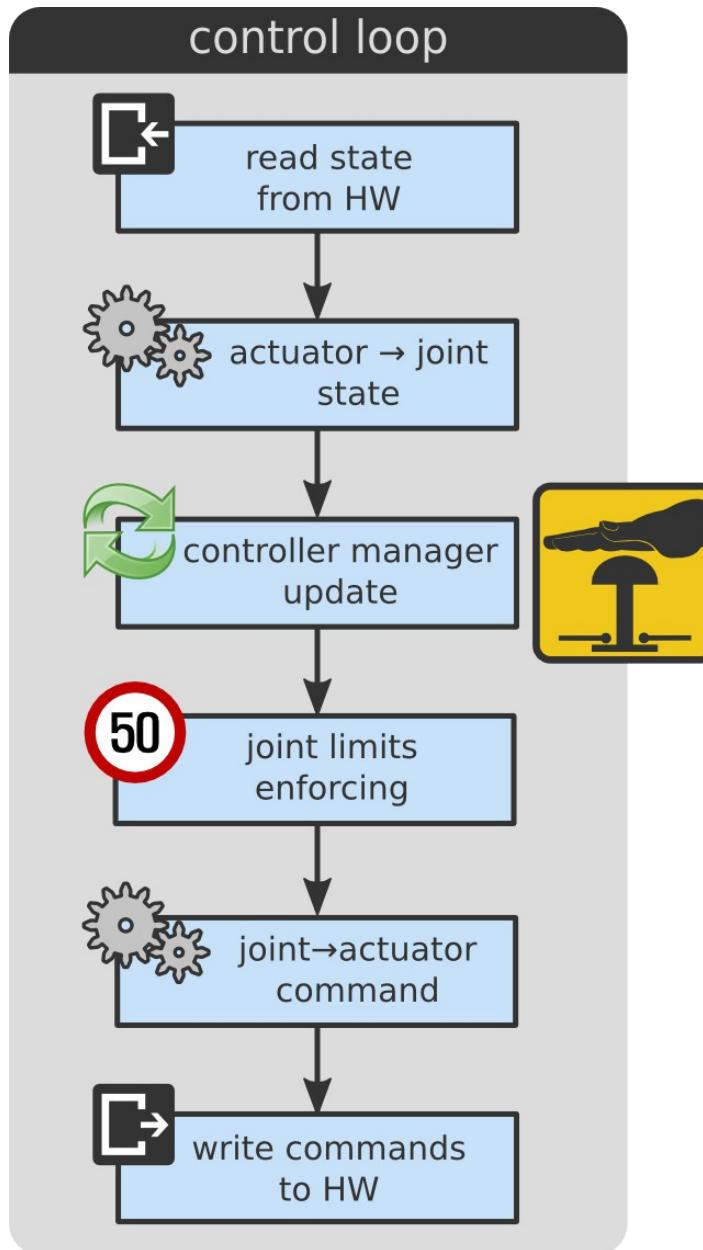


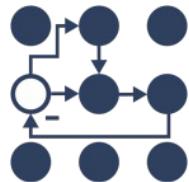
The control loop – Part II





The control loop – Part II





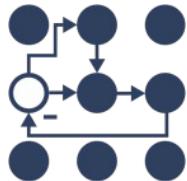
E-stop handling

- Typically **robot-specific**
 - Emergency vs protective (risk reducing) stop
 - Remove energy sources vs hazard control
 - ...



Relevant standards:

ISO 10218-1:2011 Robots and robotic devices – Safety requirements for industrial robots
ISO 13482:2014 Robots and robotic devices – Safety requirements for personal care robots



E-stop handling

→ Recovery behavior (release stop)

- What's the **sane** thing to do?
- Let **running controllers** decide!

→ Reset controllers

- on **controller_manager update**
- **stop + start + update**, in a **single** control cycle
- Typical policy:



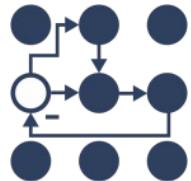
stop
cancel goals



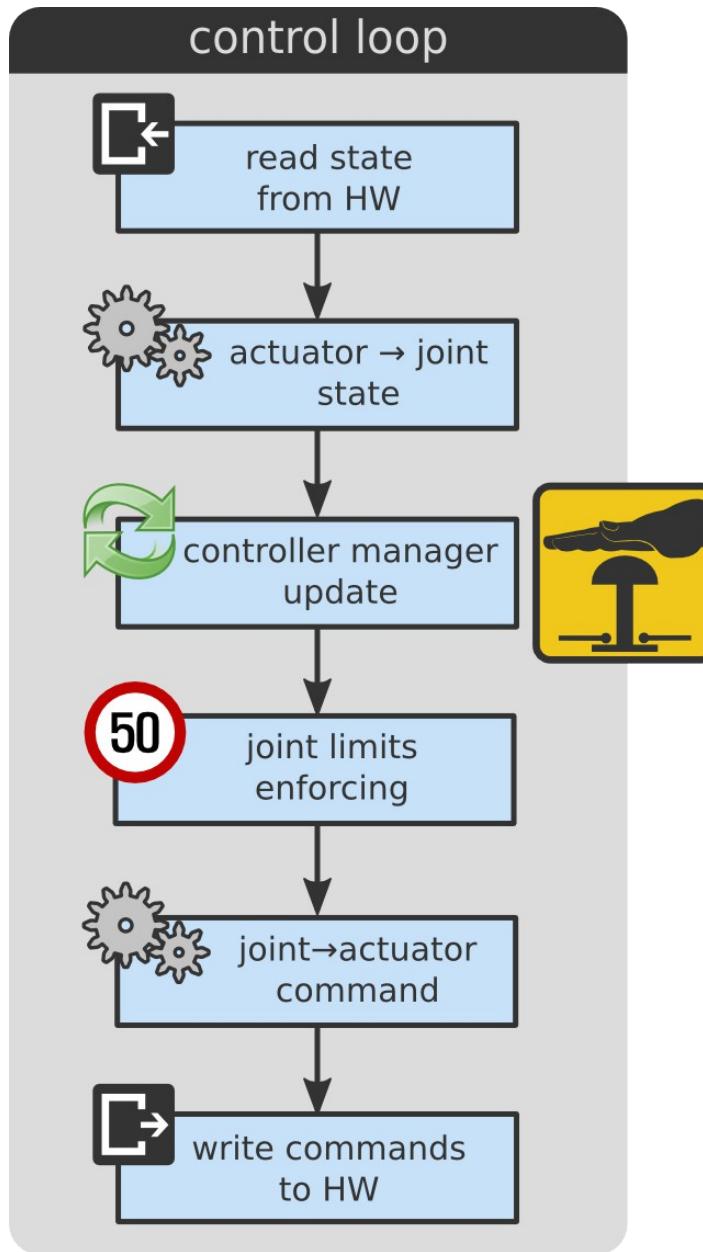
start
semantic zero

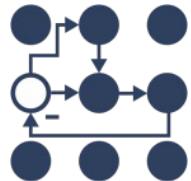


update
sane behavior!



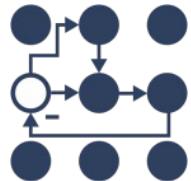
The control loop – Part II





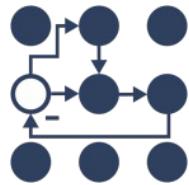
ROS control – an overview

- Big picture and goals
- ROS control & friends
 - Setting up a robot
 - Controllers
 - The control loop
- Demo
- Robots using ROS control



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Robots using ROS control

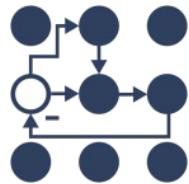
Bauman Moscow State University

Space robotics based on functional model testbed
Russia

- Kawasaki FS 020N
- Kawasaki FS 003N
- Schunk EZN64 gripper
- Schunk SDH hand
- ATI delta F/T sensor



ros_control + ROS-I



Robots using ROS control

Fraunhofer IPA

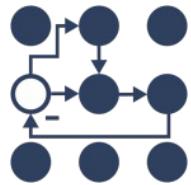
Robots and assistive systems – Germany

- Schunk LWA4d
7 dof manipulator



- Schunk LWA4p
6dof manipulator



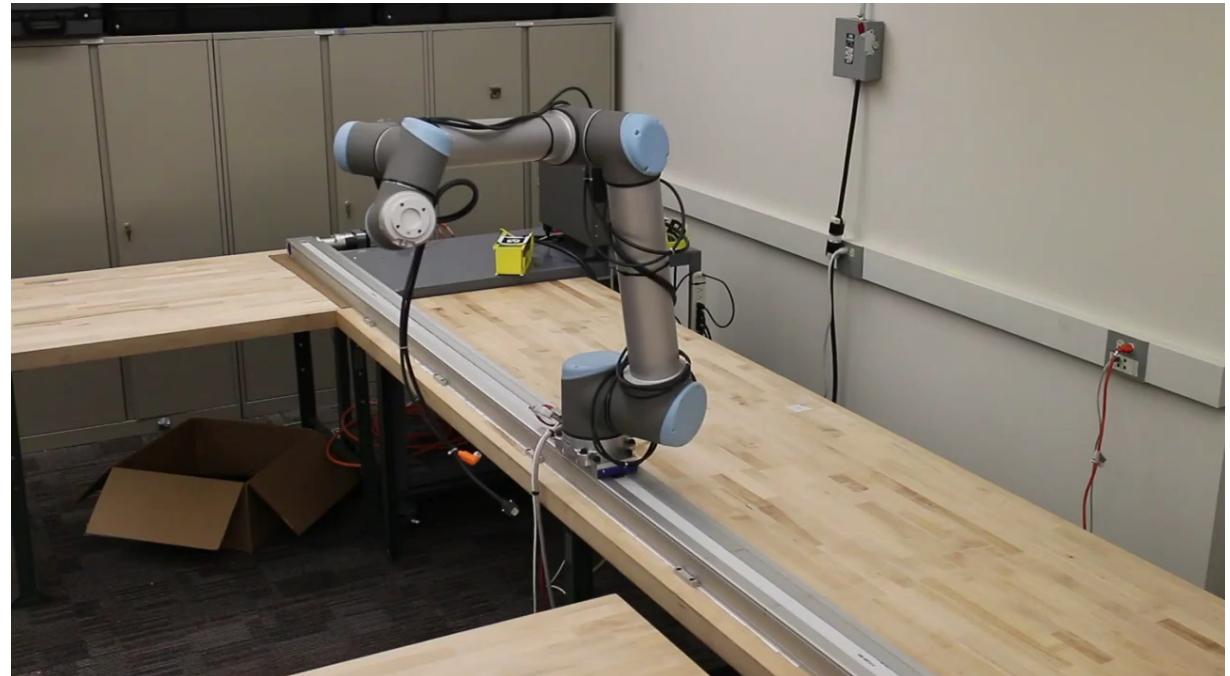


Robots using ROS control

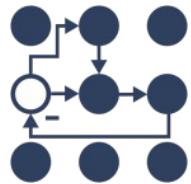
Georgia Tech (IRIM)

Collaborative assembly – USA

- UR-10
6dof manipulator
- Indradyn motor
In Schunk linear rail



ros_control + ROS-I



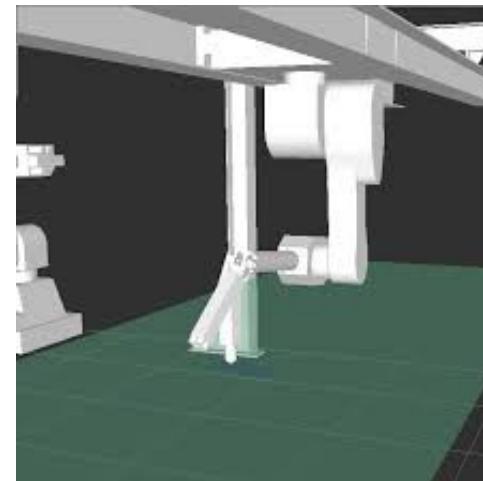
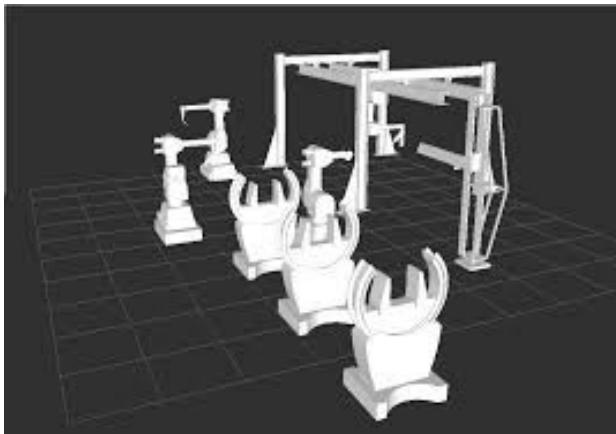
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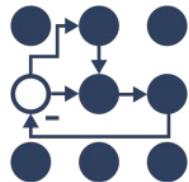
hiDOF

Contracting, technology transfer – USA

→ Industrial robots

- Next-gen steel beam fabrication
- Plasma cutting, pick and place





Robots using ROS control

LAAS – Gepetto team

Motion of anthropomorphic systems – France

→ PR2

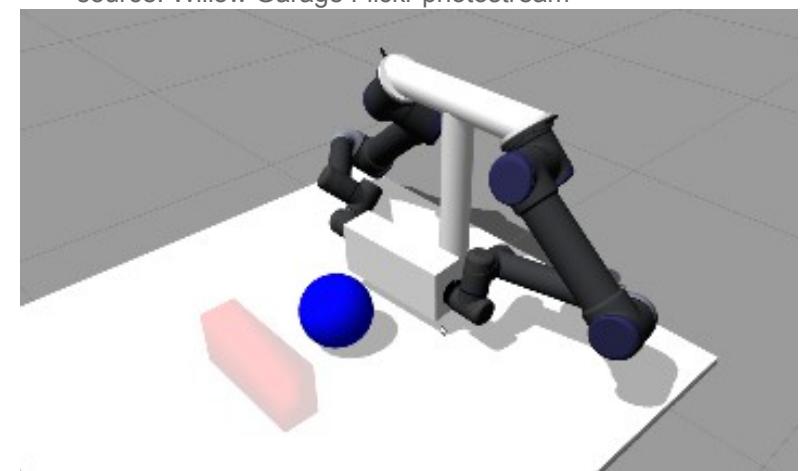
Implement stack of tasks

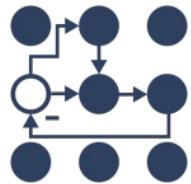


source: Willow Garage Flickr photostream

→ 2x UR-5 (simulation)

Manipulation testbed





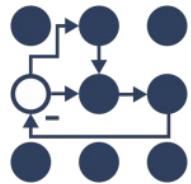
Robots using ROS control

PAL Robotics

Service robotics – Spain

- PMB2
50kg payload mobile base
- Stockbot
Robotic inventory solution
- REEM
Humanoid service robot
- REEM-C
Biped research robot



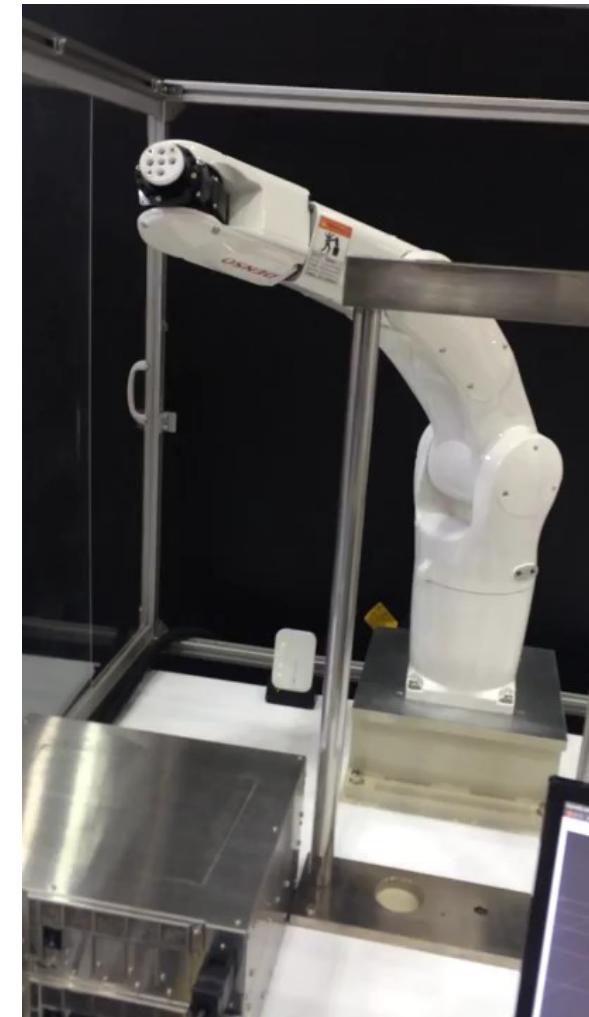


Robots using ROS control

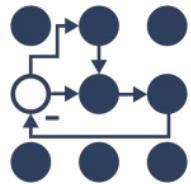
TORK

Open source robotics – Japan

→ Denso VS060 (WIP)
Industrial manipulator



ros_control + ROS-I

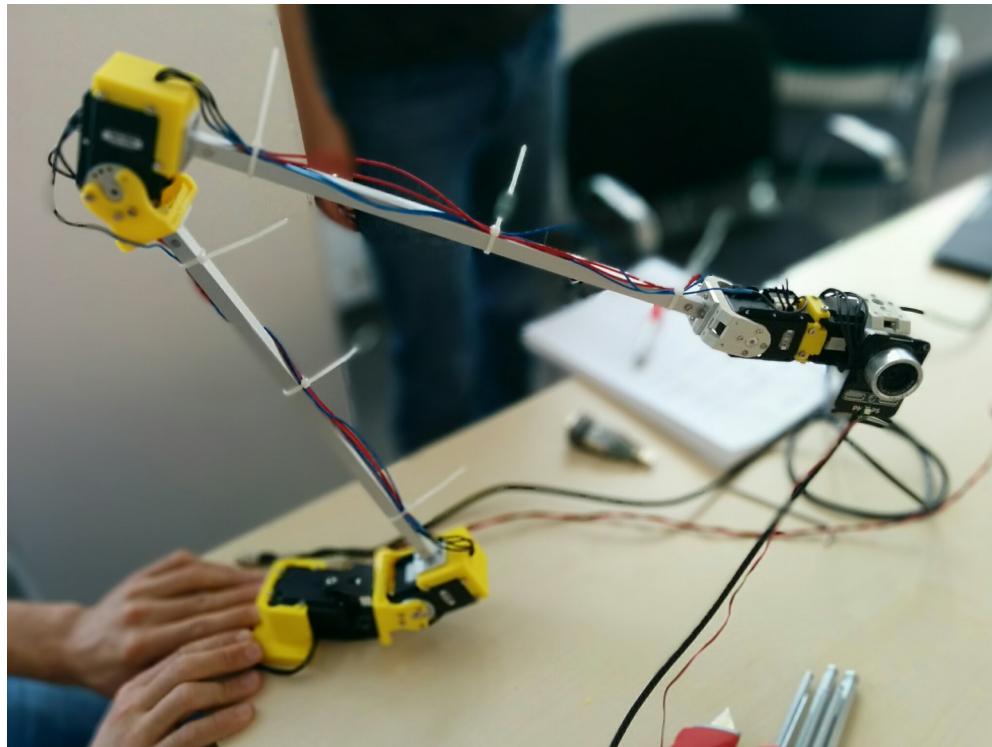


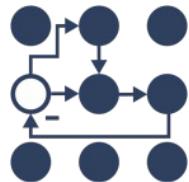
Robots using ROS control

TU Darmstadt

Search and rescue – Germany

- Dynamixel-based 3D printed arm
Camera arm control



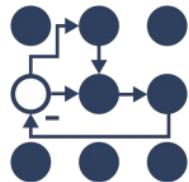


Robots using ROS control

**Joint workshop of team TEDUSAR,
TU Darmstadt,
TU Graz,**
Search and rescue / manipulation – International

→ Schunk LWA4P
6dof manipulator



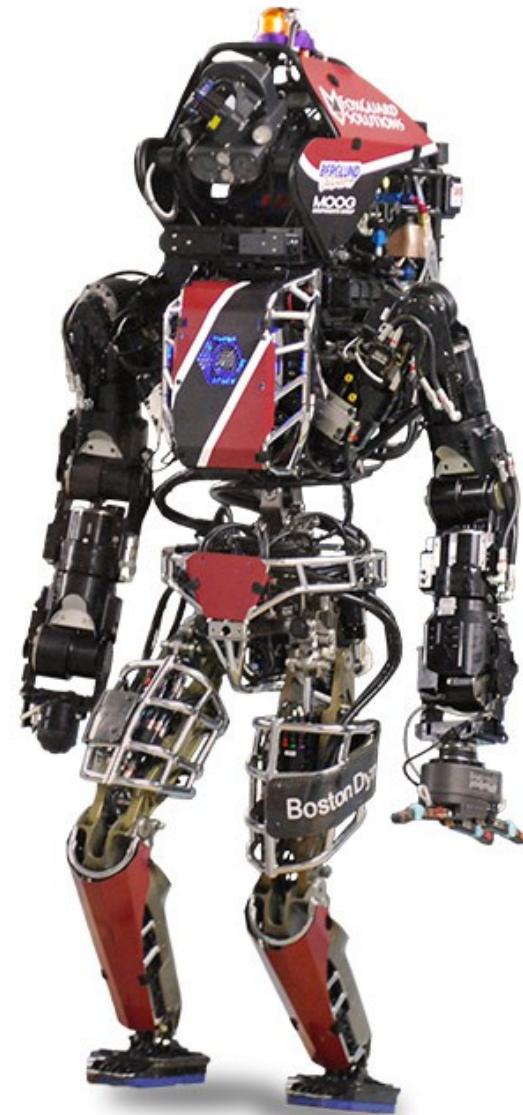


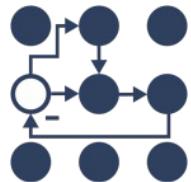
Robots using ROS control

Team VIGIR

TORC Robotics
TU Darmstadt
Virginia Tech
Oregon State University
Search and rescue – USA, Germany

→ ATLAS (WIP)
Hydraulic biped robot





What's next?

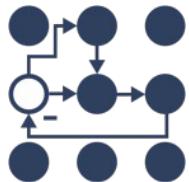
ros_control 1.0

→ features

- library of **robots** and **controllers**
- composable robots
- controllers with multiple hardware interfaces
- joint mode switching
- multiple controller update rates

→ general

- stabilize APIs
- user and dev documentation
- high test coverage, everywhere



What's next?

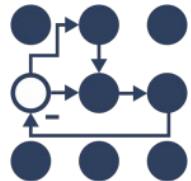
ros_control 2.0

→ more flexibility

- functional / data blocks (ie. controller chaining)
- lift periodic + serialized controllers requirement
- dynamic interfaces

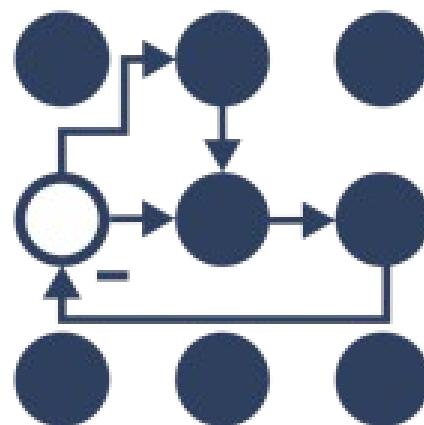
→ dependency compromise

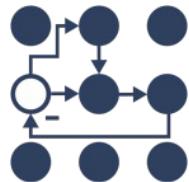
- build upon something that exists (no effort duplication)
- keep dependencies light
- learning curve: not steeper



Get involved

- **code** github.com/ros-controls
- **SIG** [ros-sig-robot-control](https://ros.org/sig-robot-control)
- **answers.ros.org** please tag your questions

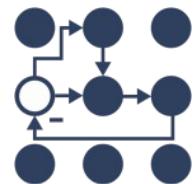




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- Felix Messmer
- Vijay Pradeep
- Mike Purvis
- Jim Rothrock
- Hilario Tomé



Questions?

