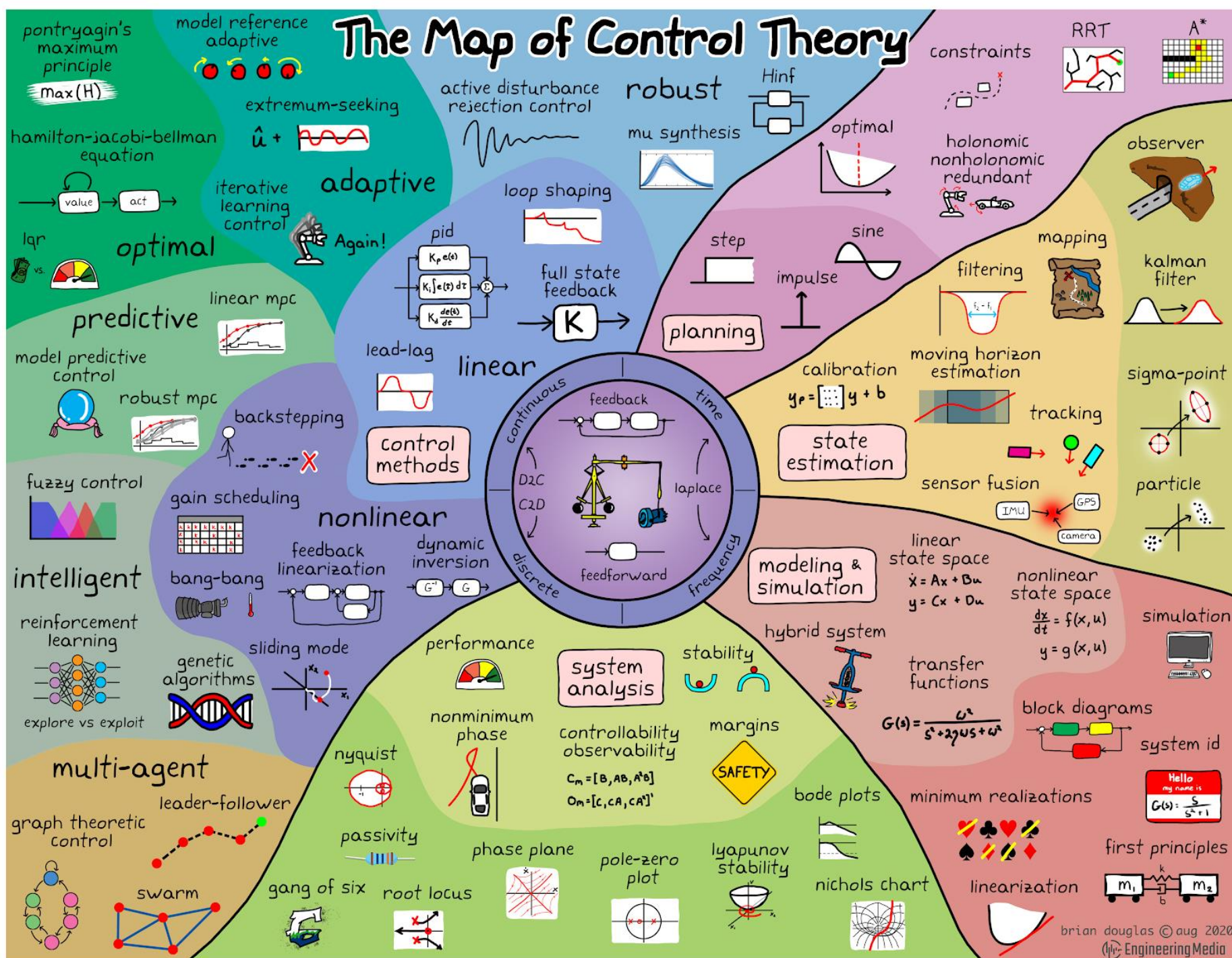


# Force & Impedance Control



Reading: Modern Robotics 11.5, 11.7

# The Map of Control Theory



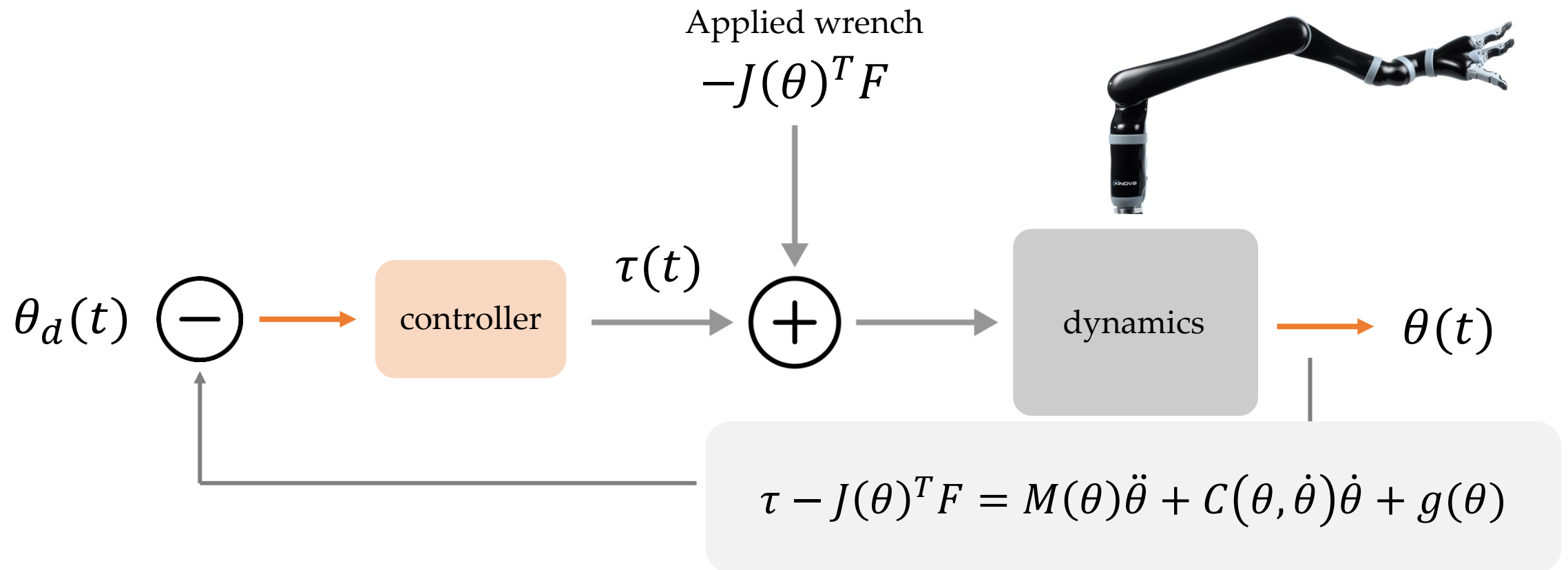
# This Lecture



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- What is force control?
- What is impedance control?
- How do we track a desired trajectory and regulate interaction forces?

# Review

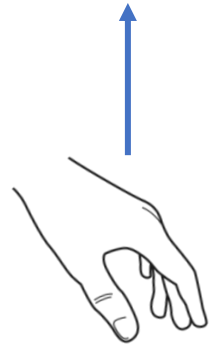


# Review

The overall equation of motion is:

$$\tau - J(\theta)^T F = \underbrace{M(\theta)\ddot{\theta} + C(\theta, \dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + g(\theta)}$$

$\tau$  is the output of  
our chosen controller



$-F$  is the external wrench  
applied by the environment

Dynamics of the robot arm

# Review

The overall equation of motion is:

$$\tau - J(\theta)^T F = M(\theta)\ddot{\theta} + C(\theta, \dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + g(\theta)$$

To reach a desired position (or follow desired trajectory),  
we can use  $\tau = K_P(\theta_d - \theta) - K_D\dot{\theta} + g(\theta)$



A large industrial robotic arm is shown in a factory setting, performing a welding task. The robot's arm is white and blue, and it is positioned over a workpiece. Bright sparks are visible at the point of contact between the robot's tool and the workpiece. The background is dark and industrial, with various pipes and structures visible.

How can we control the  
**wrench** applied  
by the robot?

Speed 5X





# Force Control

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- **Force control** is used when we want to apply forces and torques to the environment
- Intended for settings where the end-effector does is **stationary**

$$\tau - J(\theta)^T F = \underbrace{M(\theta)\ddot{\theta}} + \underbrace{C(\theta, \dot{\theta})\dot{\theta}} + g(\theta)$$

*Since stationary,  $\ddot{\theta} = \dot{\theta} = 0$*

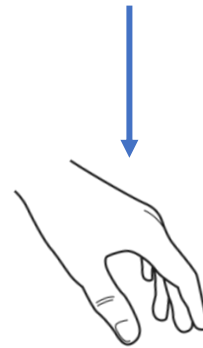
# Force Control

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- **Force control** is used when we want to apply forces and torques to the environment
- Intended for settings where the end-effector does is **stationary**

$$\tau = \underline{g(\theta)} + J(\theta)^T F_d$$

Gravity compensation



$+F_d$  is the wrench we want to apply to the environment

# Force Control

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- **Force control** is used when we want to apply forces and torques to the environment
- Intended for settings where the end-effector does is **stationary**



$$\tau = g(\theta) + J(\theta)^T \left( F_d + K_P(F_d - F) + K_I \int (F_d - F) dt \right)$$

# Force Control

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- **Force control** is used when we want to apply forces and torques to the environment
- Intended for settings where the end-effector does is **stationary**



$$\tau = g(\theta) + J(\theta)^T \left( F_d + \overset{\text{PI force controller}}{\boxed{K_P}(F_d - F) + \boxed{K_I} \int (F_d - F) dt} \right)$$

$F$  is the actual wrench measured  
by the force-torque sensor



# Force Control

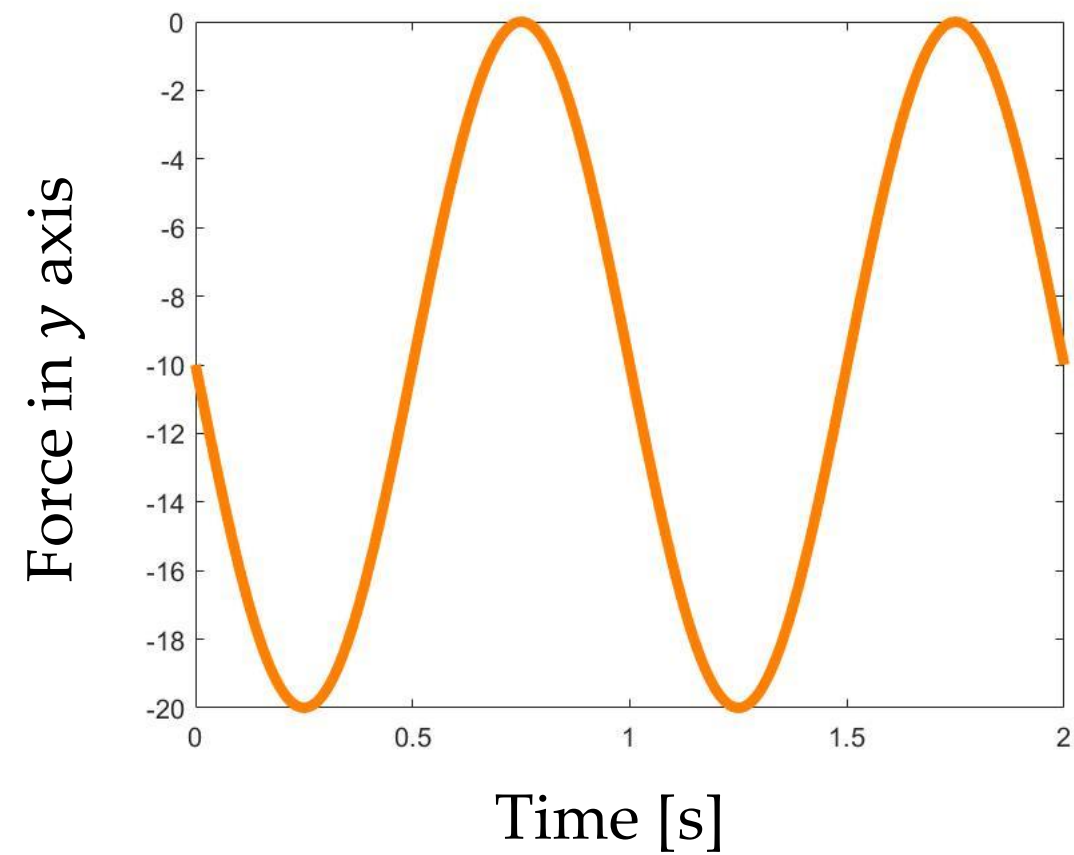
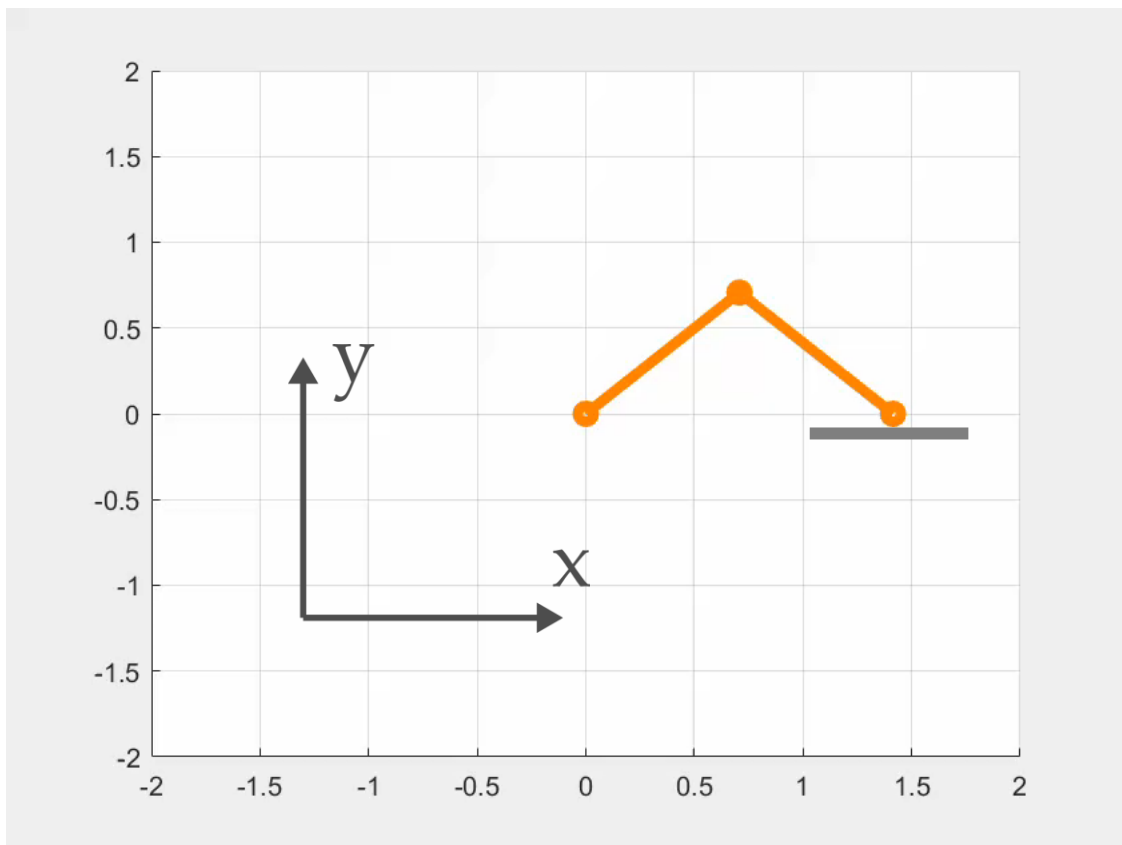
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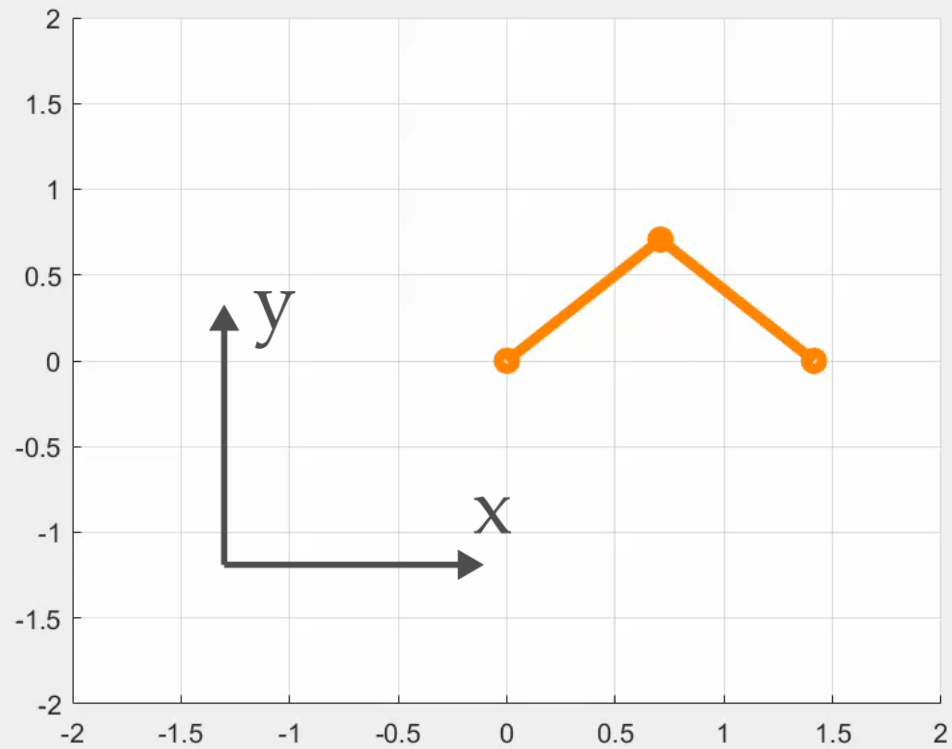
$$\tau = g(\theta) + J(\theta)^T \left( F_d + K_P(F_d - F) + K_I \int (F_d - F) dt \right)$$



*If nothing to push against, robot accelerates*

**Hint:** Include a speed threshold or stop conditions





Nothing to resist applied force, robot falls.

A man in a blue polo shirt with 'ABANCO' on the chest is kneeling and assisting a young child on a robotic exoskeleton. The child is smiling and holding onto the device's handles. The exoskeleton is white and black, with sensors and actuators. The background shows a laboratory setting with white walls, a wooden floor, and a large window with blue and white vertical stripes. A black flexible tube is visible in the foreground on the right.

How can we control  
both **interaction force**  
and **position**?

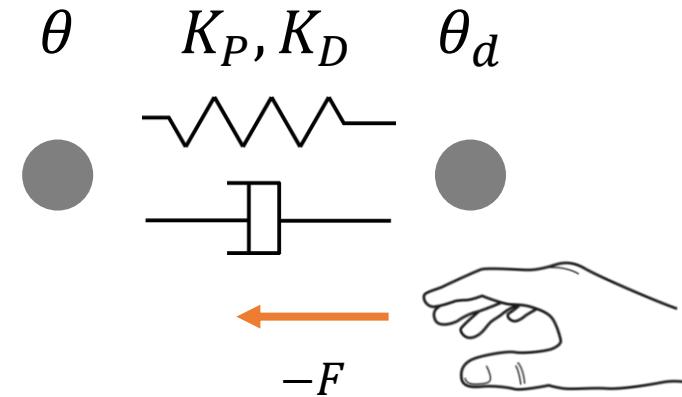




# Impedance Control

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Impedance control makes the robot behave like a **mass-spring-damper** with stiffness, damping, and equilibrium of our choice.

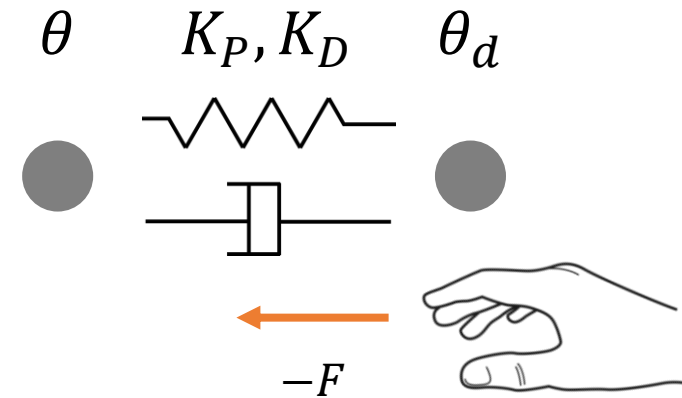


# Impedance Control

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Impedance control makes the robot behave like a **mass-spring-damper** with stiffness, damping, and equilibrium of our choice.

We choose stiffness matrix  $K_P$ , damping matrix  $K_D$ , and desired trajectory  $\theta_d(t)$ ,  $\dot{\theta}_d(t)$



# Impedance Control

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$$\tau - J(\theta)^T F = M(\theta)\ddot{\theta} + C(\theta, \dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + g(\theta)$$

Overall equation of motion

$$\tau = K_D(\dot{\theta}_d - \dot{\theta}) + K_P(\theta_d - \theta) + M(\theta)\ddot{\theta}_d + C(\theta, \dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + g(\theta)$$

Set the damping and stiffness

Feedforward dynamics cancellation



# Impedance Control

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$$M(\theta)\ddot{\theta}_d - M(\theta)\ddot{\theta} + K_D(\dot{\theta}_d - \dot{\theta}) + K_P(\theta_d - \theta) = J(\theta)^T F$$

We do not cancel out the mass matrix because measuring acceleration is challenging

$$M(\theta)\ddot{e} + K_D\dot{e} + K_P e = J(\theta)^T F$$

*Closed-loop dynamics with*

$$e = \theta_d - \theta, \dot{e} = \dot{\theta}_d - \dot{\theta}, \ddot{e} = \ddot{\theta}_d - \ddot{\theta}$$

# Impedance Control

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$$M(\theta)\ddot{e} + K_D\dot{e} + K_P e = J(\theta)^T F$$

Increasing  $K_D$  and  $K_P$  **increases the impedance:**

*the human must apply large external forces to move the robot*

Decreasing  $K_D$  and  $K_P$  **decreases the impedance:**

*the human can backdrive or guide the robot with small forces*

# Impedance Control

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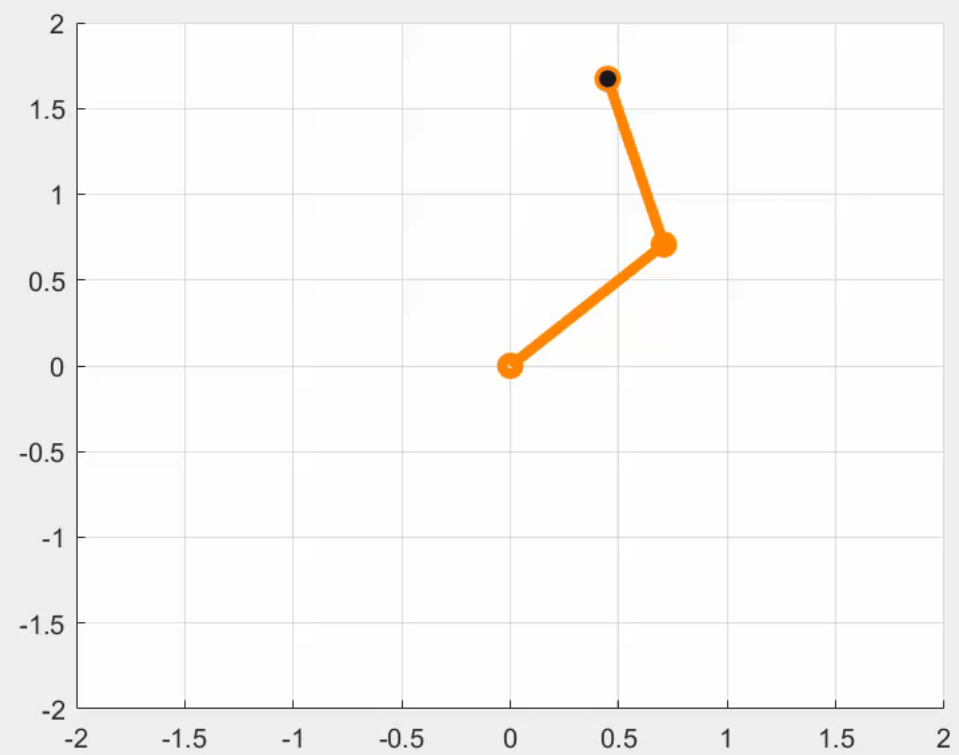
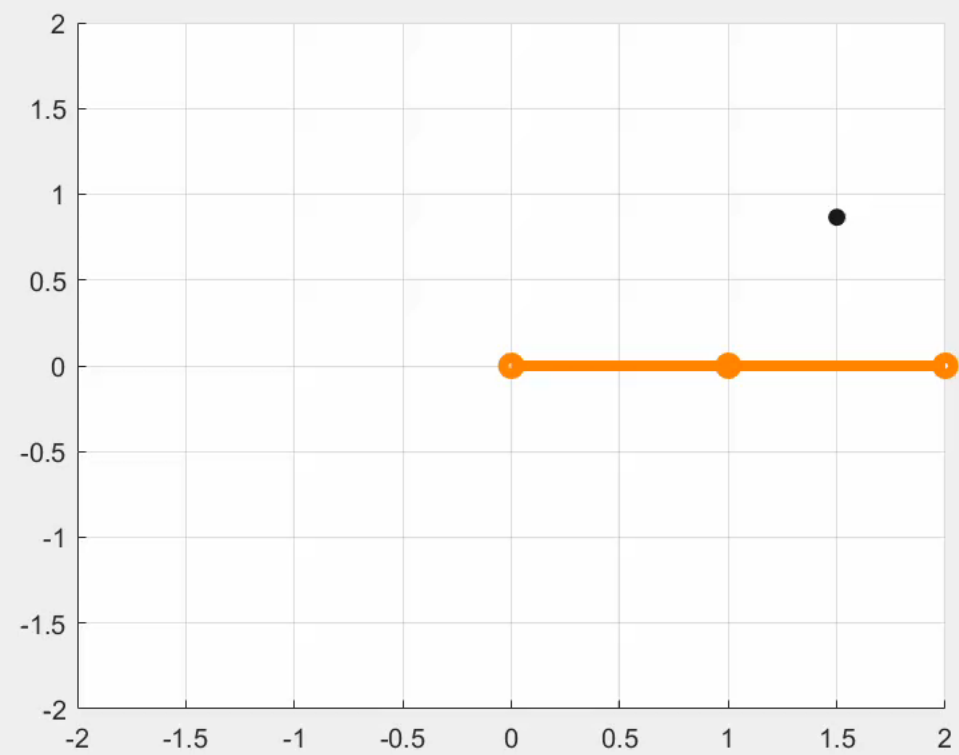
**In Practice.** Need accurate estimate of  $M$ ,  $C$ , and  $g$  to cancel dynamics

$$\tau = K_D(\dot{\theta}_d - \dot{\theta}) + K_P(\theta_d - \theta) + \hat{M}(\theta)\ddot{\theta}_d + \hat{C}(\theta, \dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + \hat{g}(\theta)$$

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We never have exact models.  
Use estimates  $\hat{M}$ ,  $\hat{C}$ , and  $\hat{g}$

Methods like **robust** and **adaptive** control (*not covered here*) address model errors





# This Lecture



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- What is force control?
- What is impedance control?
- How do we track a desired trajectory and regulate interaction forces?

# Next Lecture



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- How do we get the robot's desired trajectory in the first place?
- Starting motion planning