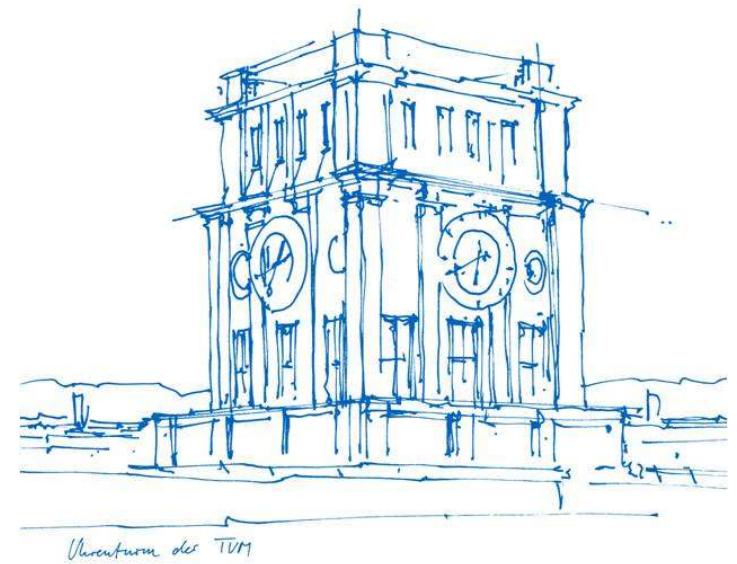


Efficient Motor Skill Learning in Robotics

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Institute of Robotics and Mechatronics
German Aerospace Center (DLR)



Reinforcement Learning School, April 8, 2021



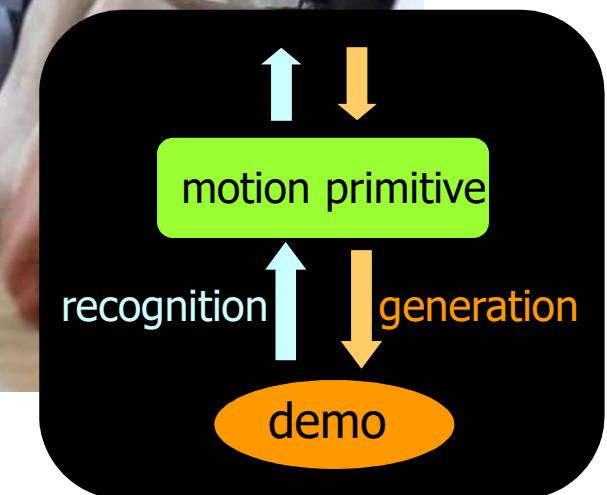
Overview

- Learning from Demonstrations
- Reinforcement Learning in Robotics
- Human Robot Interaction Learning
- Complex Manipulation Task Learning

Imitation Learning

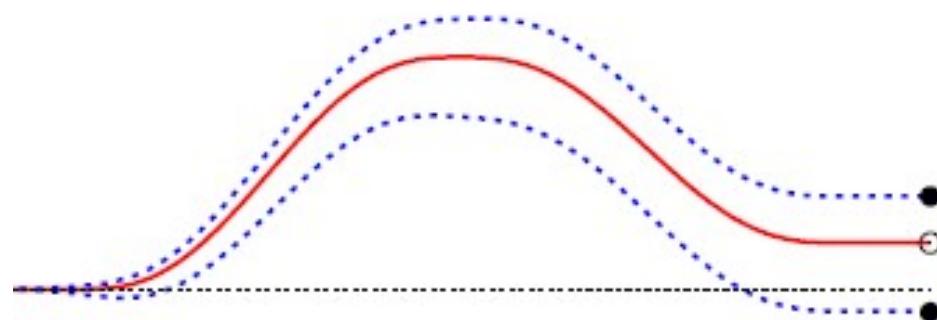


- Developmental Learning
- Neuroscience
- Optimal Control
- Psychology



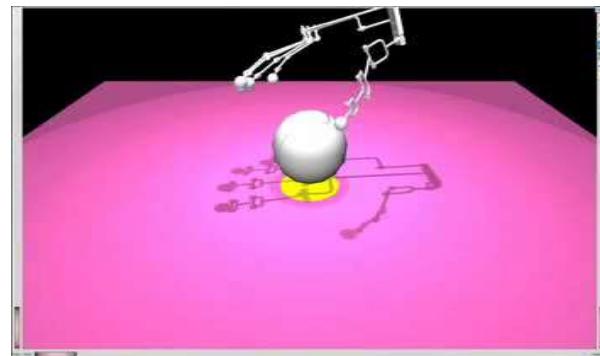
Imitation Learning in Robotics: Generation vs. Generalization

Reaching to a different goal



[Schaal et al]

Grasping a different size ball



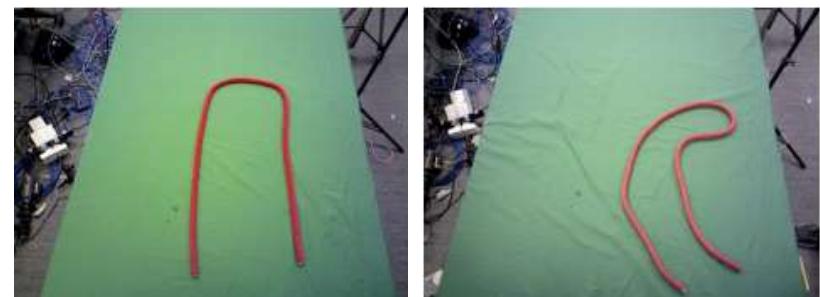
[Schmidts, Peer & Lee]

A different intermediate goal



[Pervez, Lee, 2017]

Knot Tying



[Abbeel et al]

Learning from Demonstrations: Teaching modalities

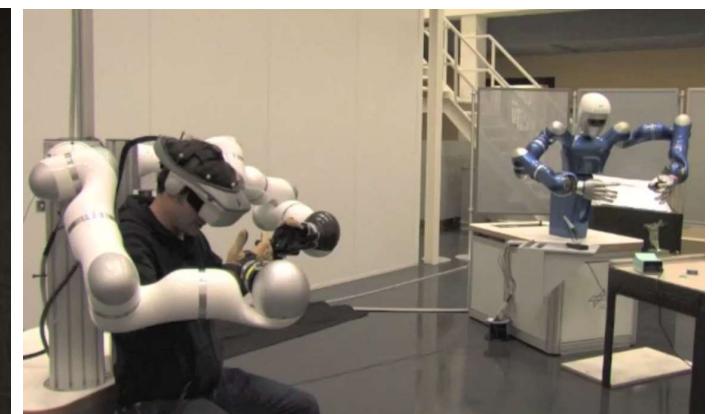
Motion Imitation



Kinesthetic teaching



Teleoperation

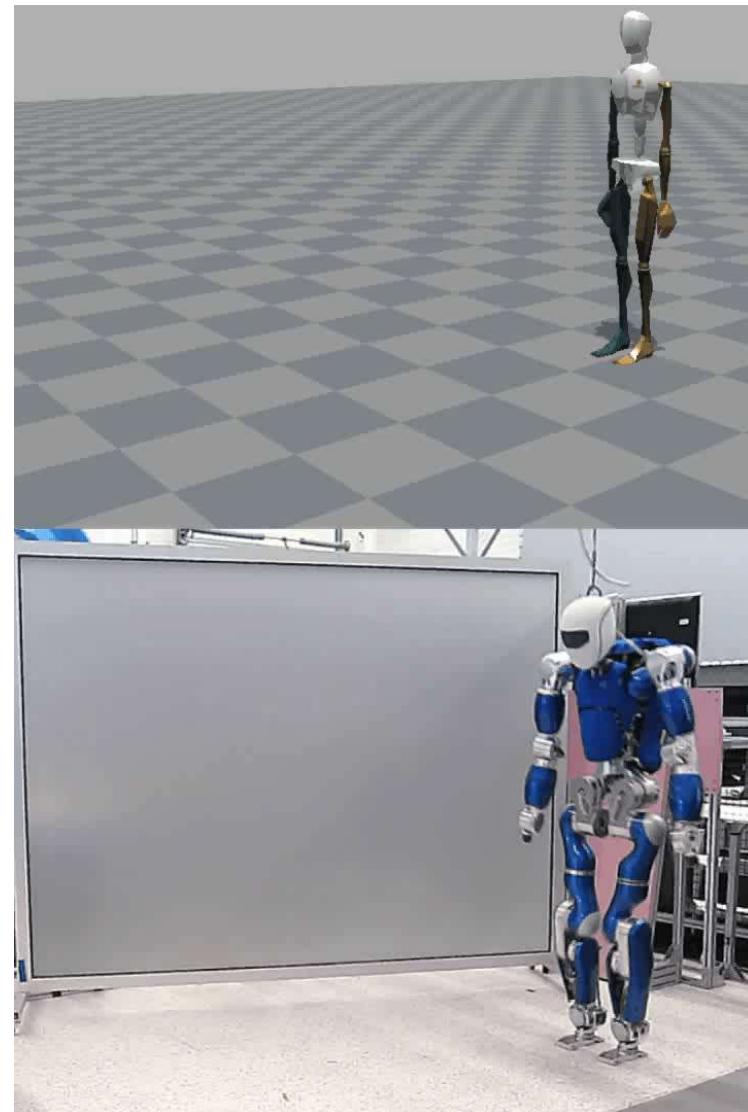
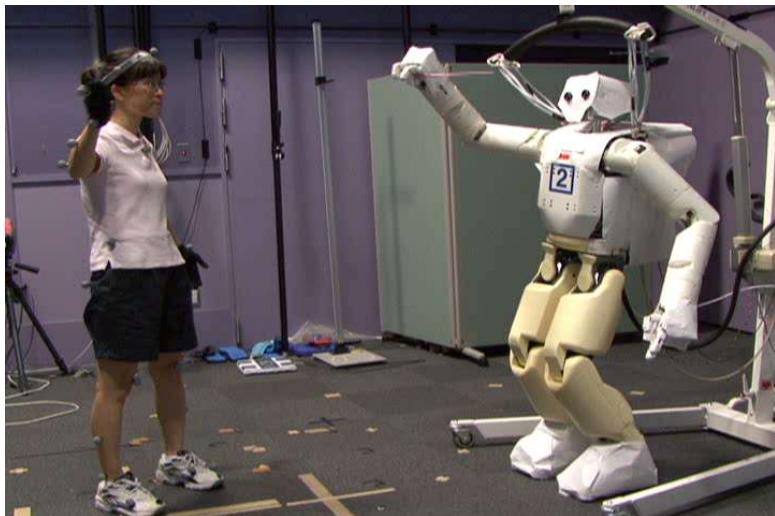


Intuitive
Exteroceptive

High burden
Proprioceptive



Human Motion Imitation by Humanoids



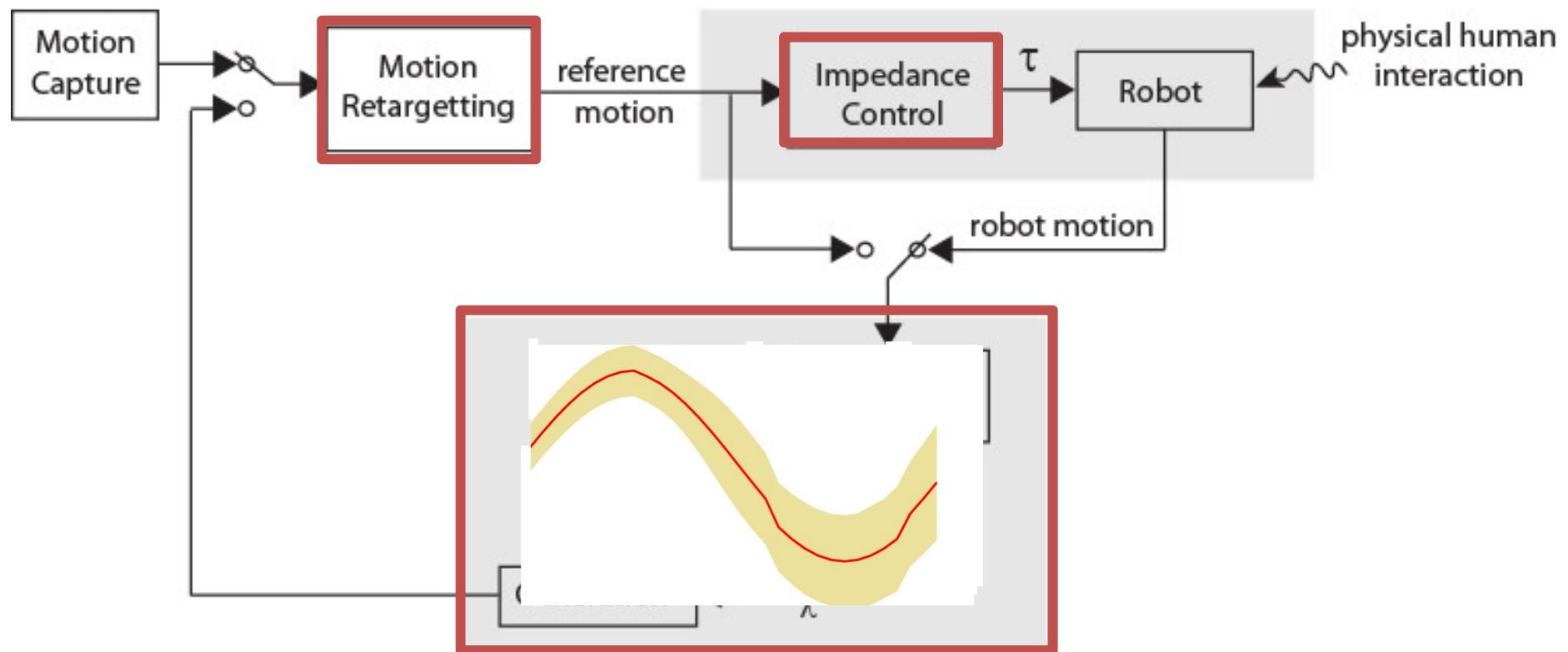
Teaching Pulp Fiction Dance



Learning from human motion
retargeting

Refine a skill by kinesthetic teaching

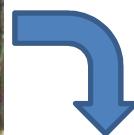
$$\tau = g(q) + M(q)\ddot{q}_d + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q}_d - D\dot{\tilde{q}} - s(\tilde{q})$$



Incremental Learning Steps



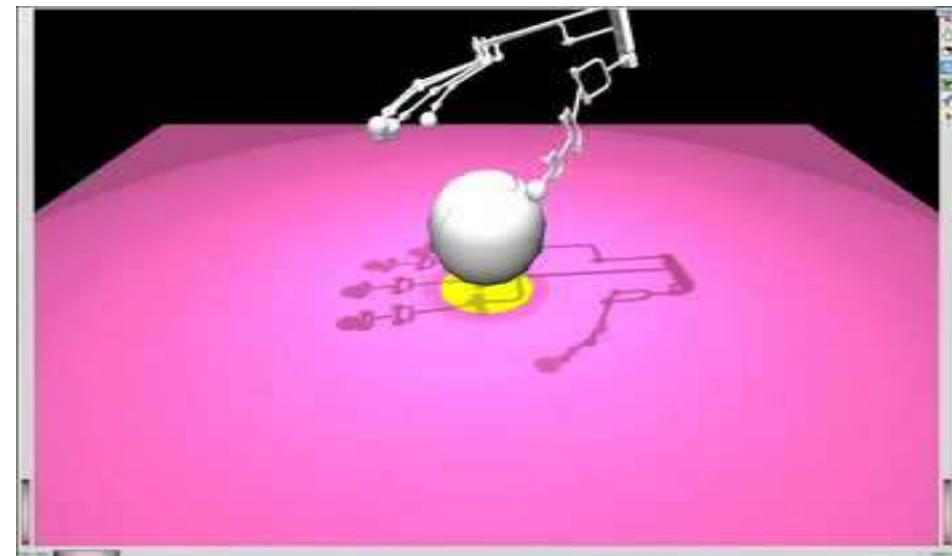
Imitation learning



Kinesthetic Coaching



Grasping Skill Learning from Motion & Force Data



Teleoperation using Cyberglove,
Flock of Birds, & Cybergrasp
(Haptic Feedback)

r [cm]	$\max(f^{in})$ [N]	\bar{f}^{in} [N]	ΔT [ms]			
3.6	3.21	-*	3.20	-*	28	-*
4.0	3.21	5.41	3.20	5.10	11	209
4.8	3.21	7.12	3.20	7.04	39	371
5.6	3.21	12.92	3.20	12.84	88	531
6.0	3.21	-*	3.20	-*	106	-*
Force control	ON	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	OFF

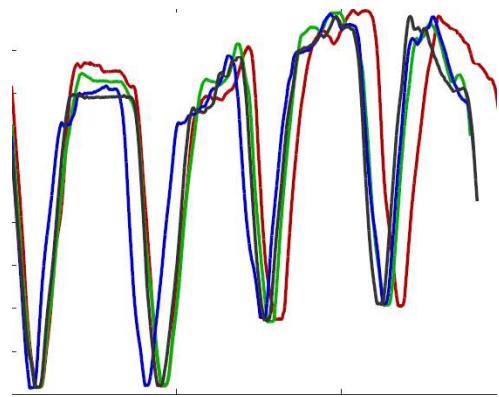
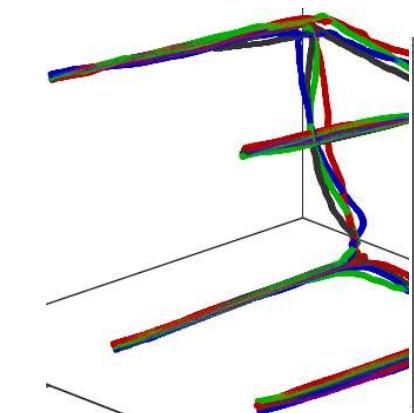
* unsuccessful grasping attempt

What are Challenges in Teaching by Teleoperation?

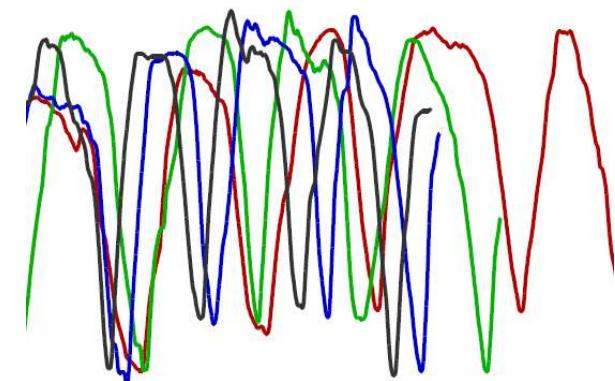
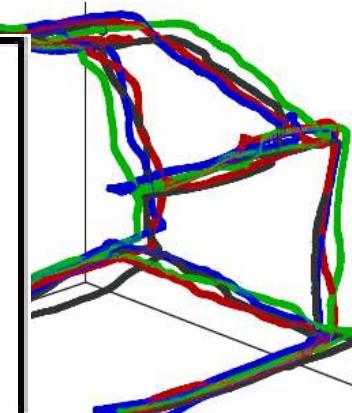
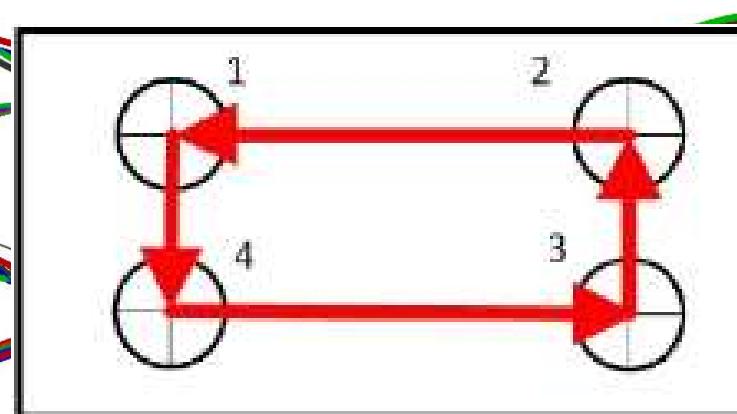


What are Challenges in Teaching by Teleoperation?

Kinesthetic



Teleoperation



- High level of spatial-temporal variations.
- High cost for demonstration

Learning Repetitive Teleoperation Tasks with DMP/GMM

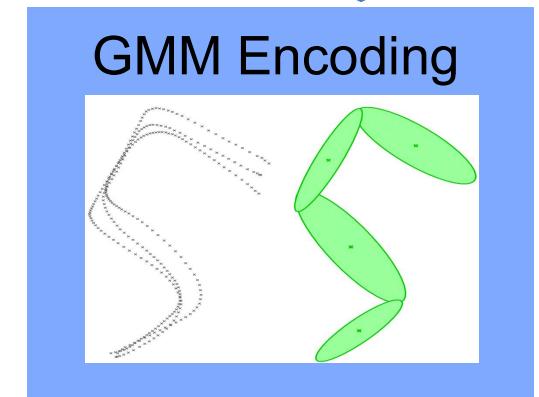
Canonical System $\dot{s} = \tau\omega$

DMP

$$\dot{v} = \tau\alpha_x(\beta_x(g - x) - v) + \tau a \mathcal{F}(s)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{F}_1(s_0) & x_{1,0} & s_0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathcal{F}_1(s_n) & x_{1,n} & s_n \end{bmatrix}^\top$$

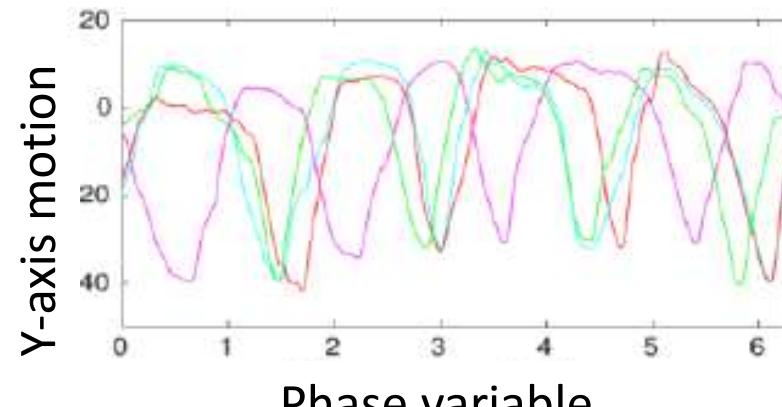
unknown



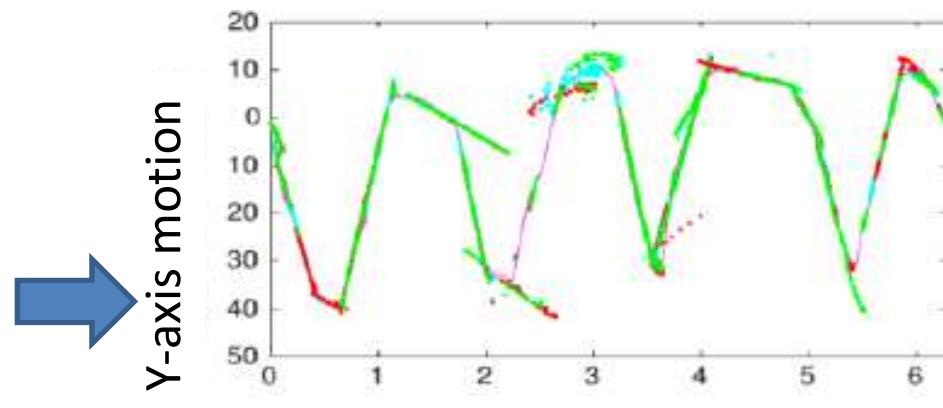
EM
GMM Update

s Update

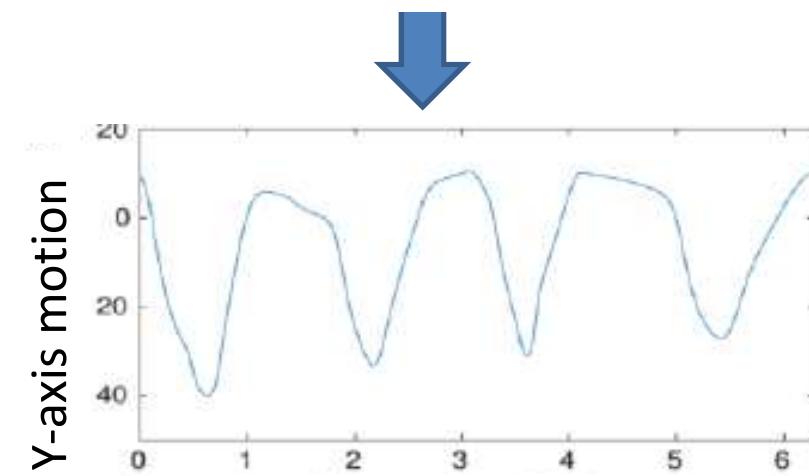
Results



Phase variable
Asynchronous trajectories

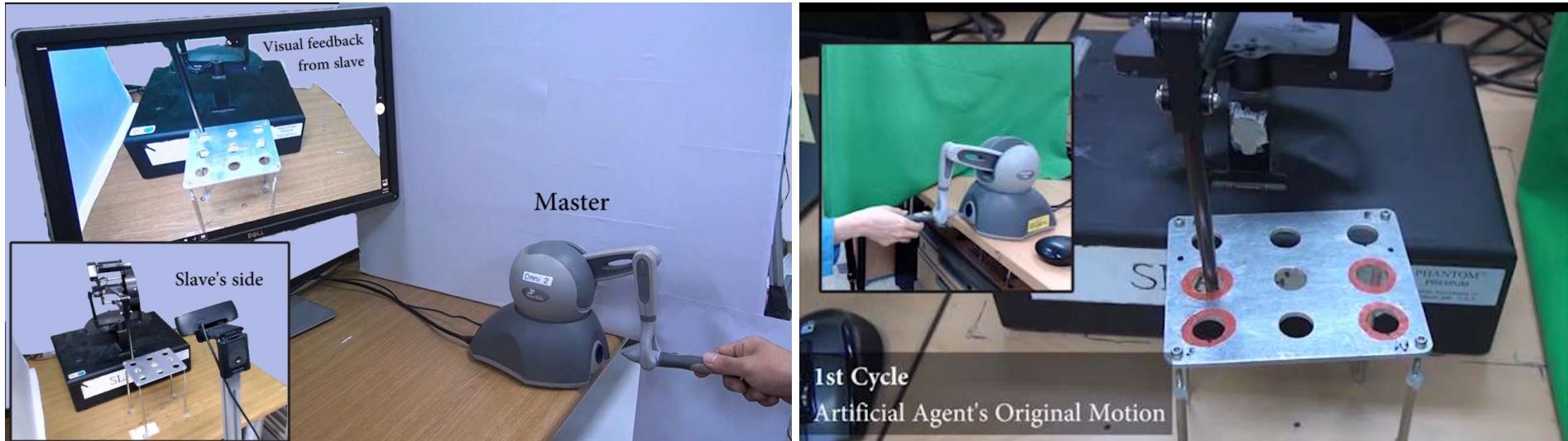


Phase variable
Synchronized data



Phase variable
Reproduced trajectory

Supervisor Teleoperation with Kinesthetic Coupling



Shared Control

- agent: horizontal motion
- human: vertical motion

Re-train the learned skill on the fly
by dynamic authority and kinesthetic
coupling

Overview

- Learning from Demonstrations
- Reinforcement Learning in Robotics
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Reinforcement Learning in Robotics

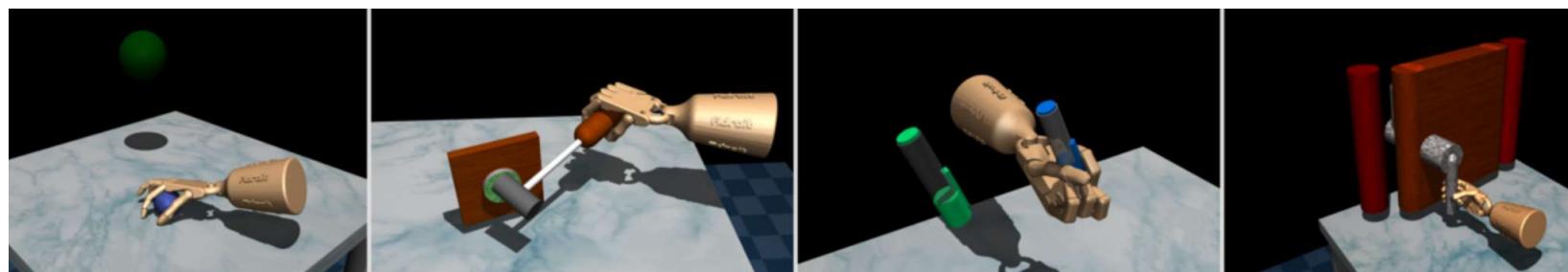
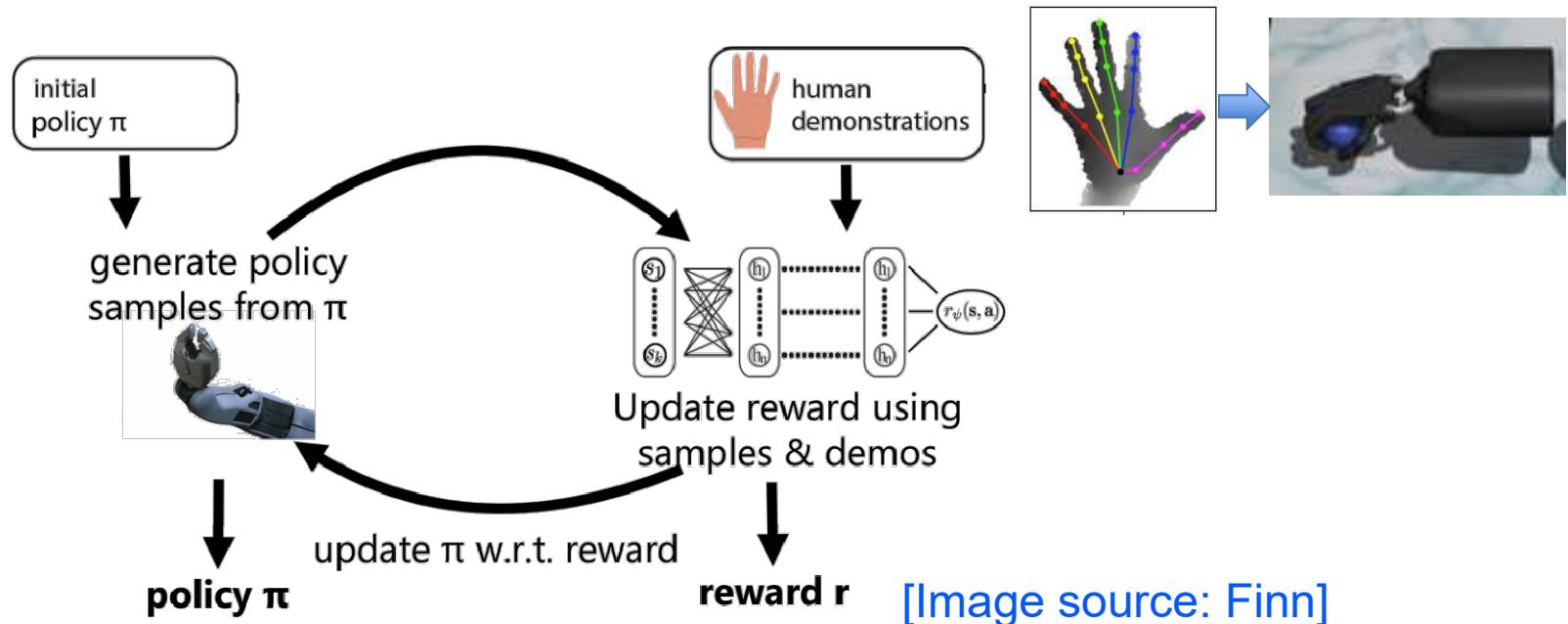
- ❑ Robots can learn how to execute a task by trial-and- error.
 - ❑ Can learn complex and highly dynamic tasks
 - ❑ Limited or no knowledge of robot/environment dynamics needed
-
- Typical problems of RL in robotic domain:
 - ❑ Continuous and high dimensional state and action space
 - ❑ Many rollouts in real world → Time consuming, noisy measurement
 - ❑ Exploration with real robot: robot damages



[Kormushev+ 2010]

Imitation Learning combined with RL

Inverse Reinforcement Learning



[ICDL 2021, submitted]

Imitation Learning combined with RL

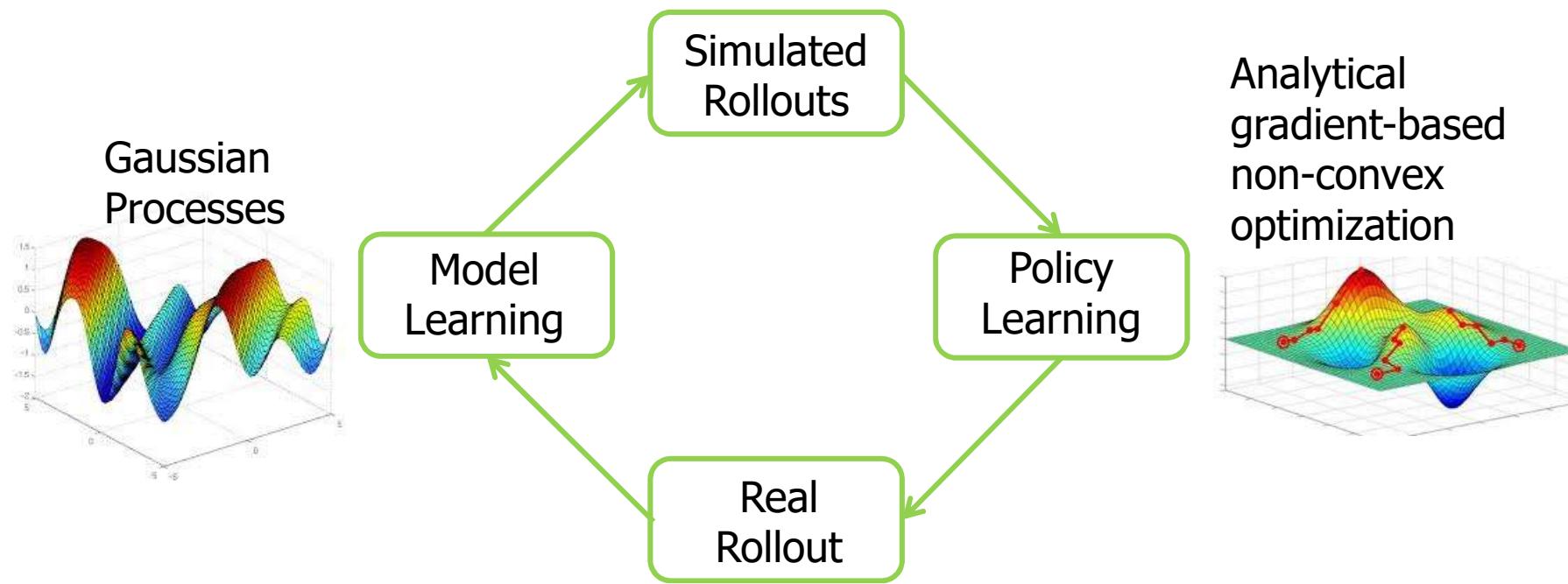
PoWER (Policy Learning by Weighting Exploration with the Returns)
[Kober+ 2009]

- Simple and computationally efficient update rule
- Learn with minimal prior knowledge
- **Policy initialized** with human demonstration



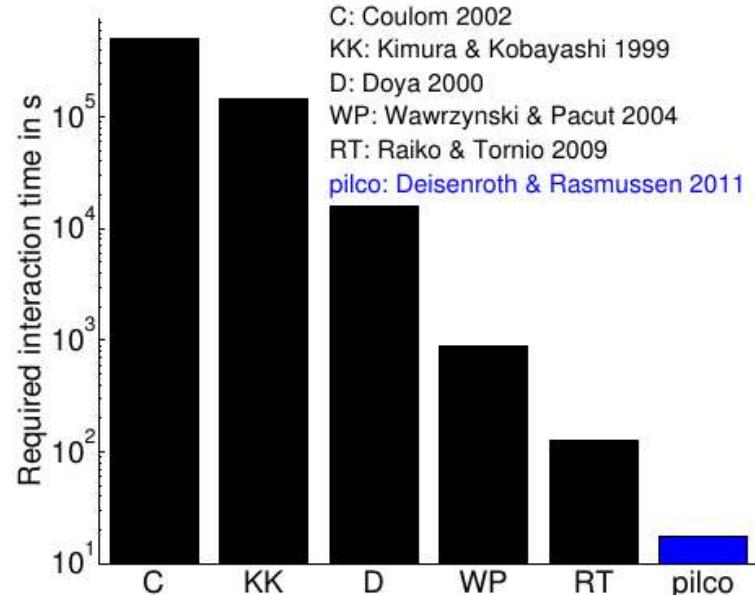
Probabilistic Inference for Learning COnrol (PILCO)

- Model-based policy search approach: Use data collected during the rollout to learn a model of the robot in a data-efficient way
- Find optimal policy on the learned model using simulation
 - Probabilistic long-term prediction to reduce model bias learning problem



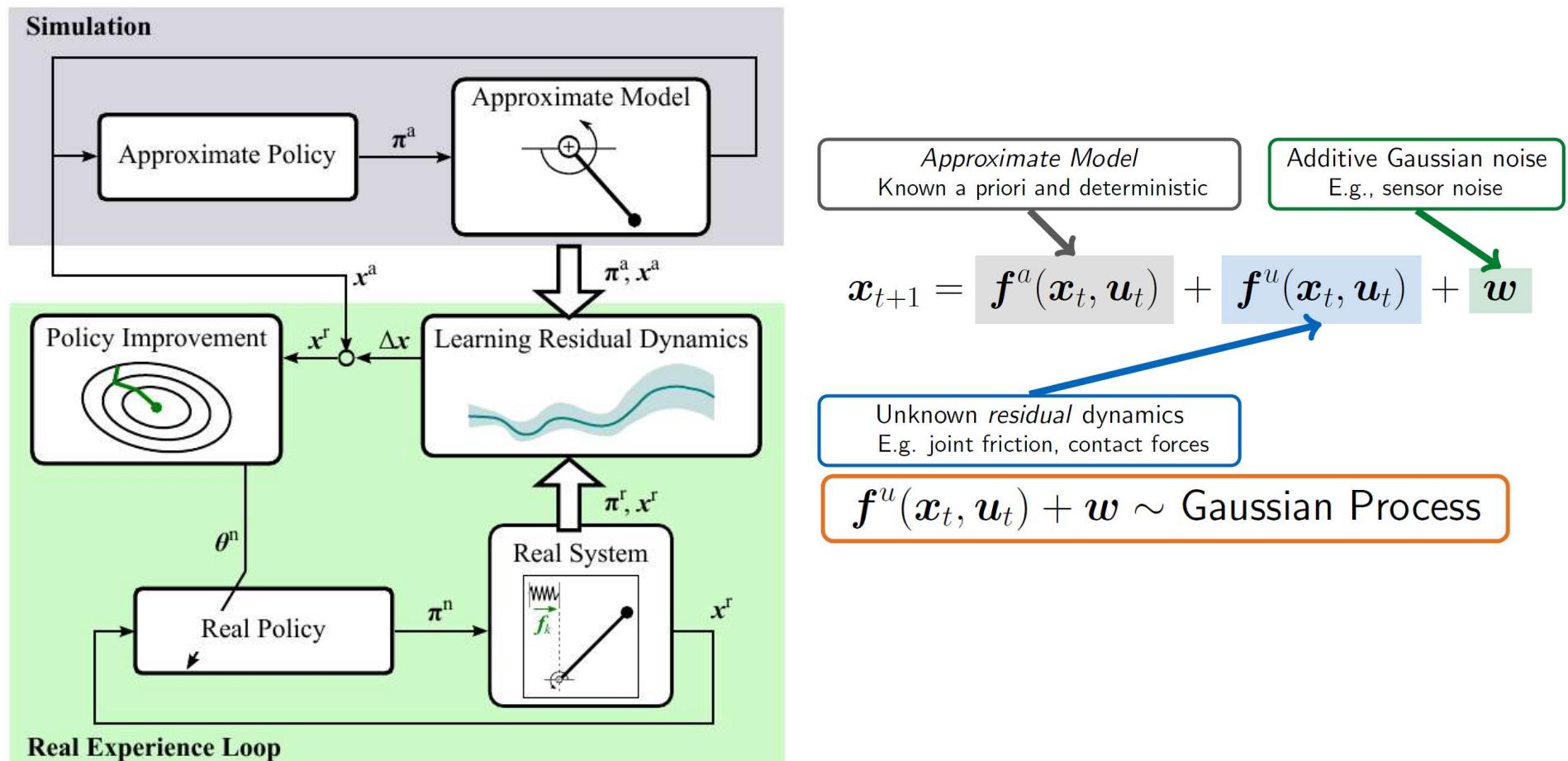
[Deisenroth+ 2015]

Benchmark: Cart-Pole Swing-up



- No knowledge about nonlinear dynamics
- Cost function $c(x) = -\exp(-\|x - x_{target}\|^2)$
- Fast learning speed compared to state of the art
- Learned dynamics models are only confident in areas of the state space previously observed

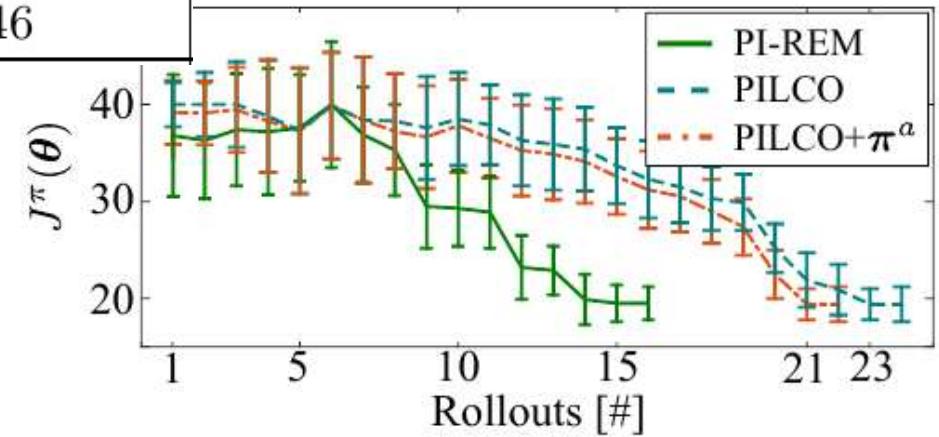
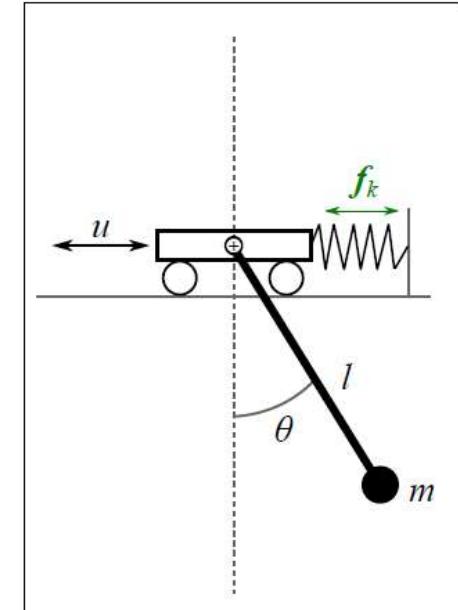
Policy Improvement with REsidual Model learning (PI-REM)



Cart-Pole Swing-up

- Approximate model : Cart-Pole without f_k
- State $x = [p, \dot{p}, \theta, \dot{\theta}]^T$
- Goal $x_g = [0, 0, \pi, 0]^T$

	Stiffness [N/m]	Real rollouts [#]	Real experience [s]
PI-REM	25	2	8
PILCO	25	5	20
PI-REM	50	3	12
PILCO	50	6	24
PI-REM	120	15	30
PILCO	120	23	46

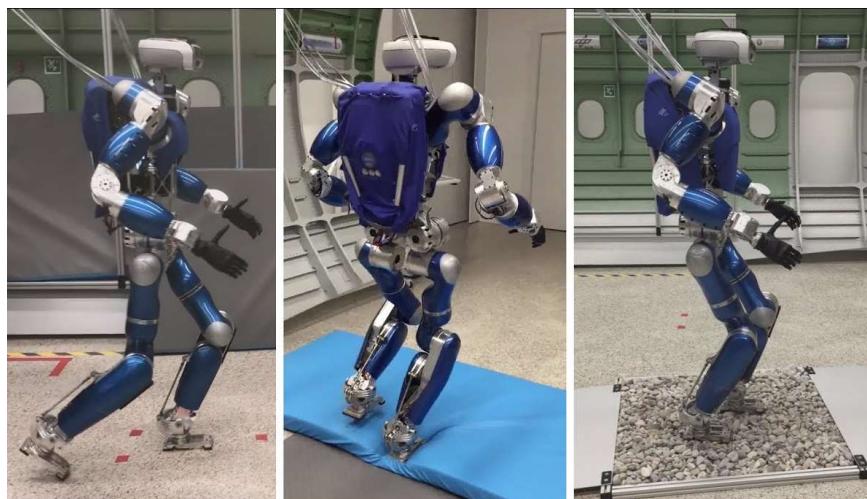


Policy Learning Robust to Irreversible Events

- In-hand manipulation [RA-L 2018]

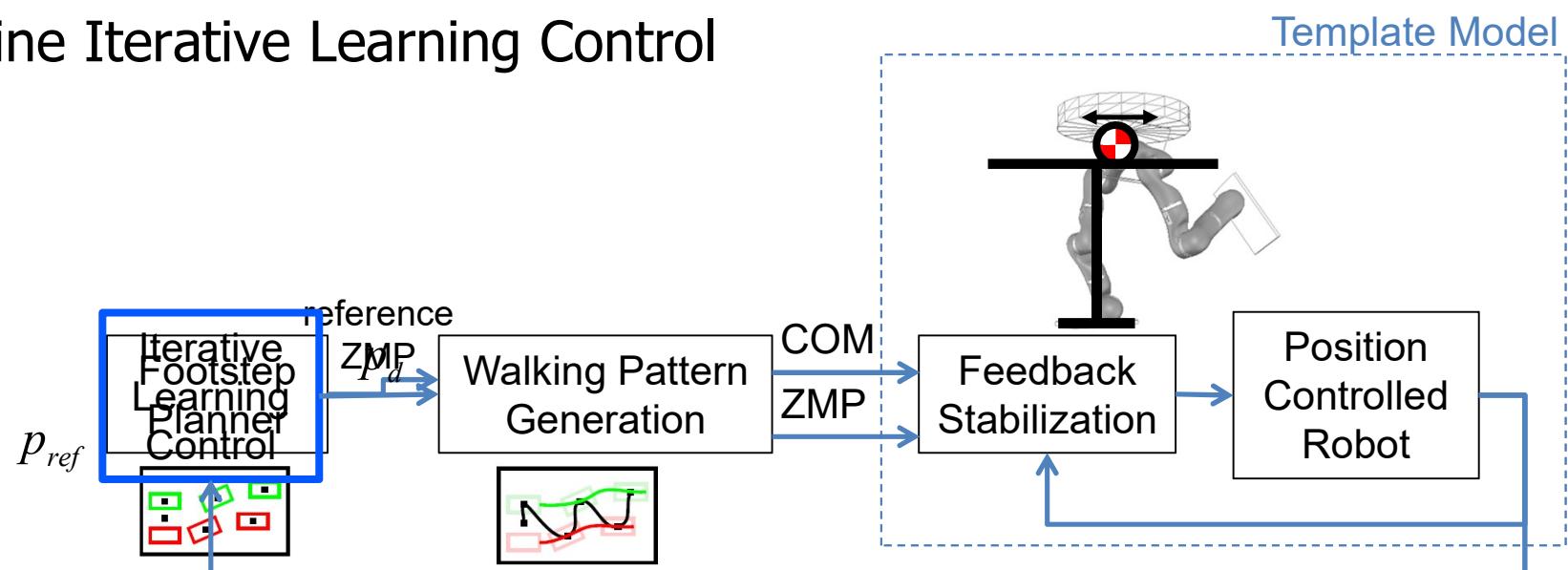
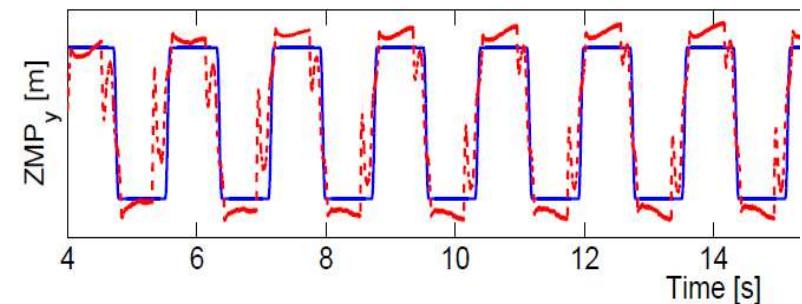


- Bipedal locomotion



Bipedal Walking

- Conventional ZMP Based Walking
 - Feedback stabilization → tracking template model behavior
 - Dynamically consistent walking pattern generation
 - Existing ZMP tracking error
- Online Iterative Learning Control

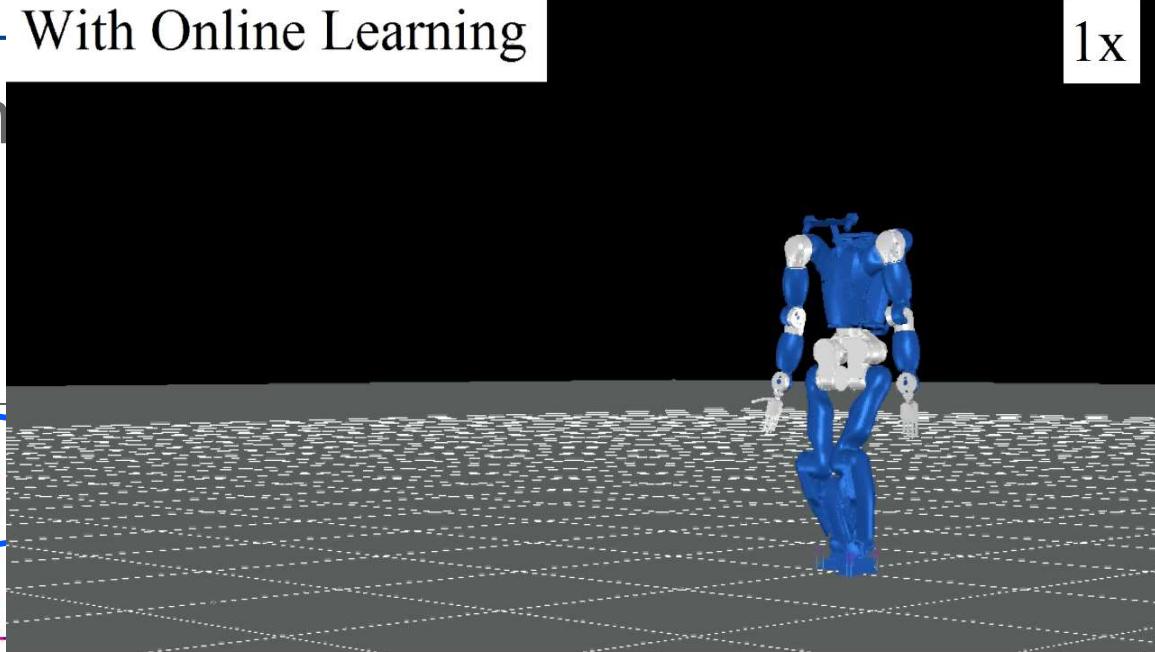
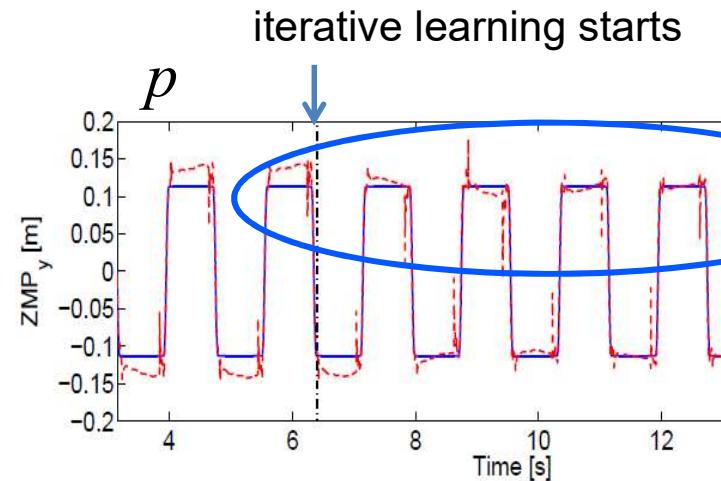


Simulation & Experimentation

With Online Learning

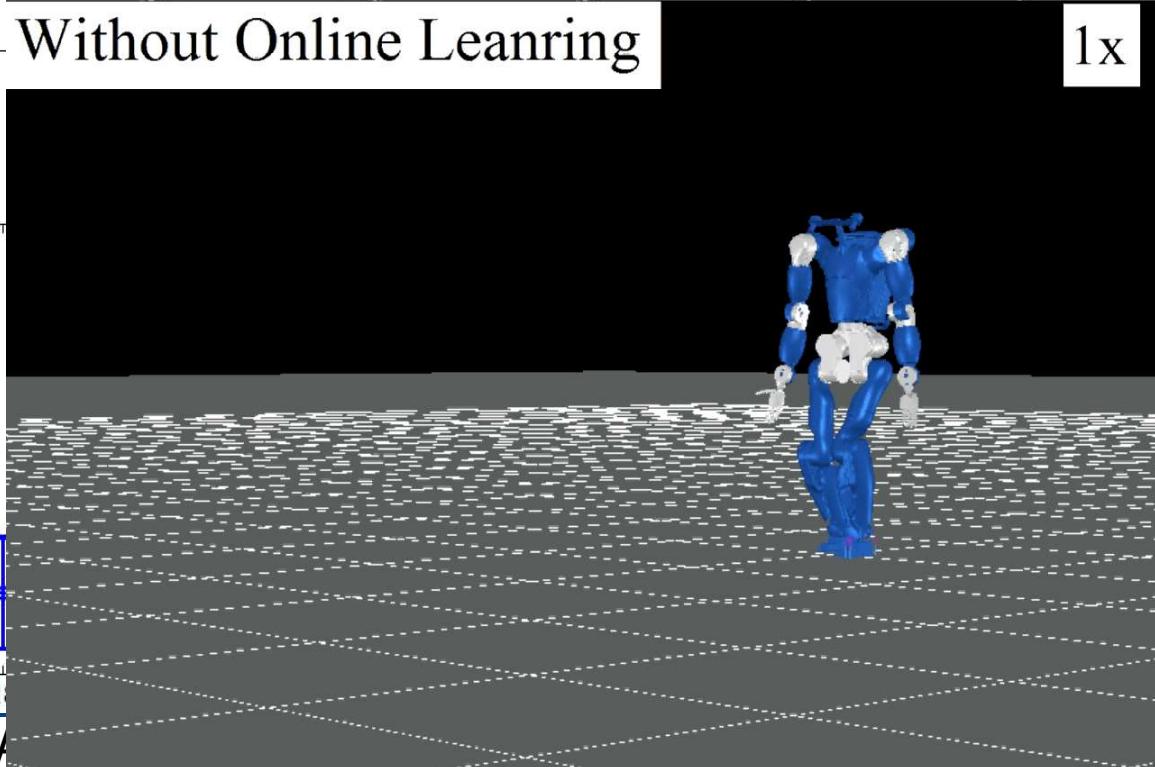
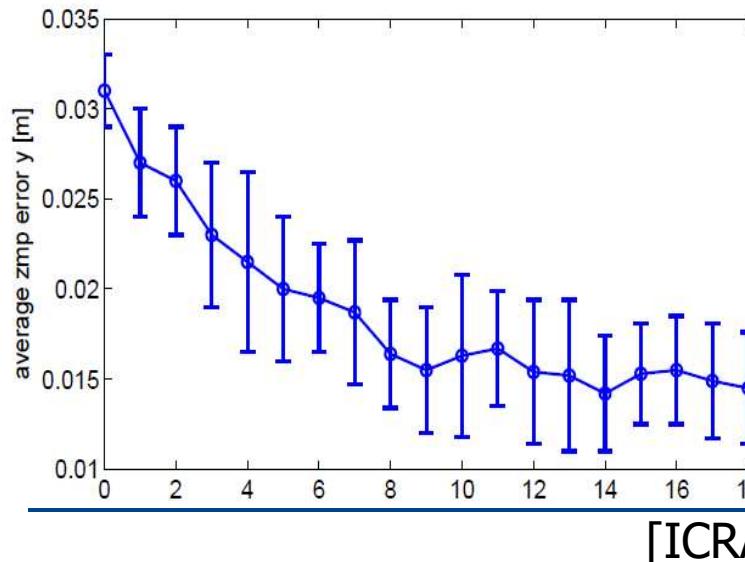
1x

Simulations



1x

Experiments



1x

[ICRA]

Learning Dataset of Compensative ZMP Term

Sagittal Straight Walking (SSW)

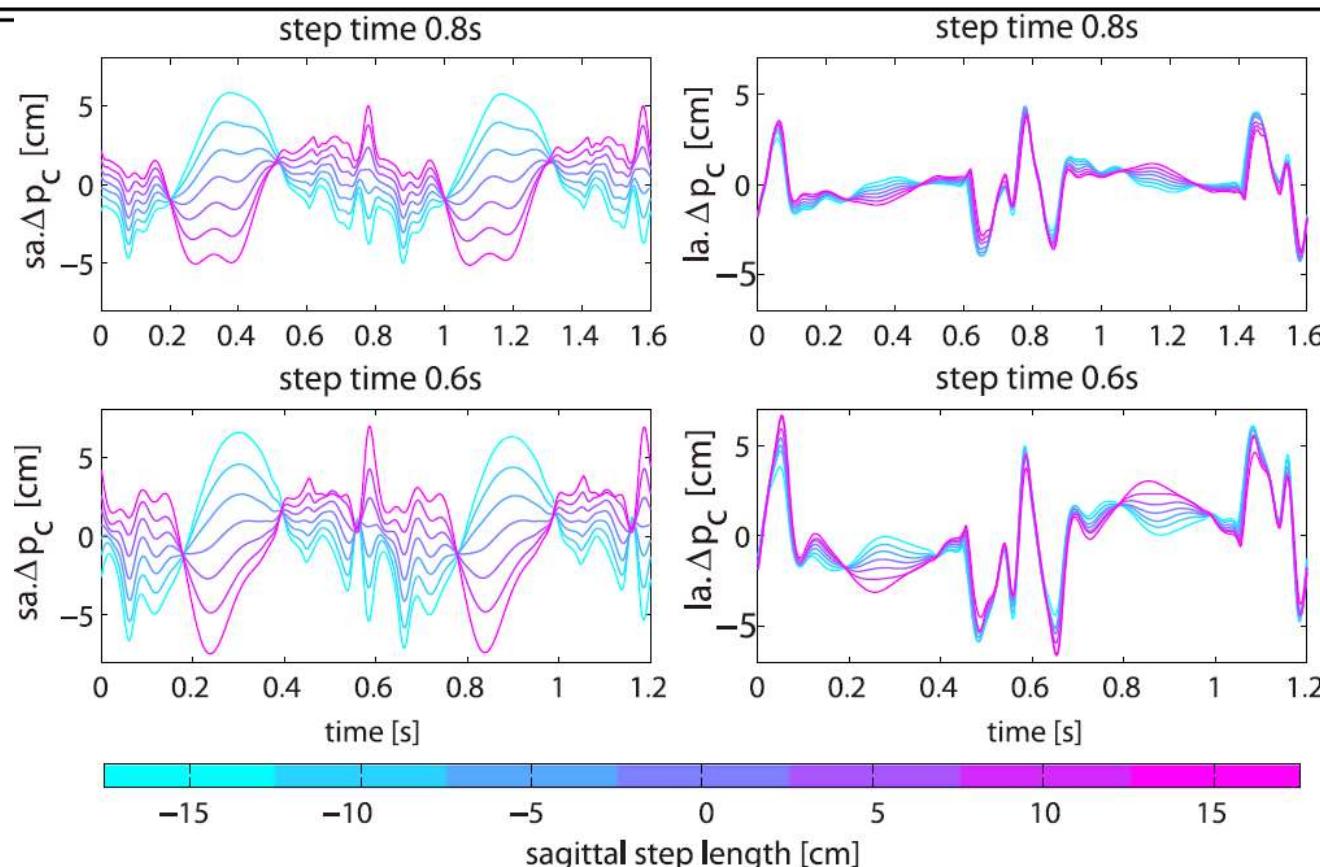
$$\begin{aligned} d_{sa} &= \{-15, -10, -5, 0, 5, 10, 15\} \text{ cm} \\ d_{la} &= 0 \text{ cm} \\ T_s &= \{0.6, 0.8, 1.0\} \text{ s} \end{aligned}$$

Lateral Straight Walking (LSW)

$$\begin{aligned} d_{sa} &= 0 \text{ cm} \\ d_{la} &= \{-7.5, -5, -2.5, 0, 2.5, 5, 7.5\} \text{ cm} \\ T_s &= \{0.6, 0.8, 1.0\} \text{ s} \end{aligned}$$

Circle Walking

$$\begin{aligned} r &= \{0.5, 0.75, 1\} \text{ m} \\ \Delta\alpha &= \{10, 20\}^\circ \\ T_s &= \{0.6, 0.8, 1.0\} \text{ s} \end{aligned}$$



Learning Dataset of Compensative ZMP Term

Sagittal Straight Walking (SSW)

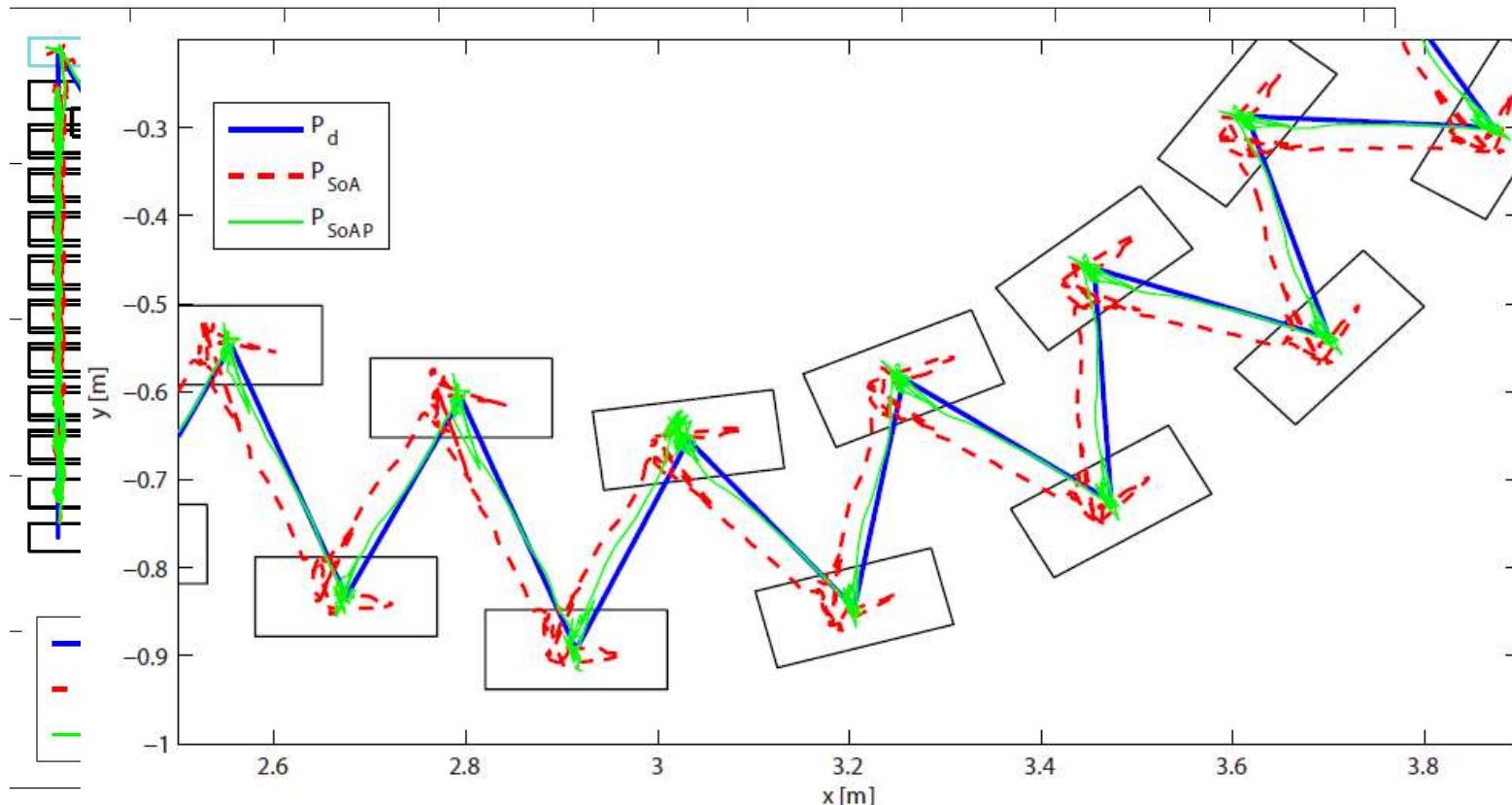
$d_{sa} = \{-15, -10, -5, 0, 5, 10, 15\}$ cm
 $d_{la} = 0$ cm
 $T_s = \{0.6, 0.8, 1.0\}$ s

Lateral Straight Walking (LSW)

$d_{sa} = 0$ cm
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 $T_s = \{0.6, 0.8, 1.0\}$ s

Circle Walking

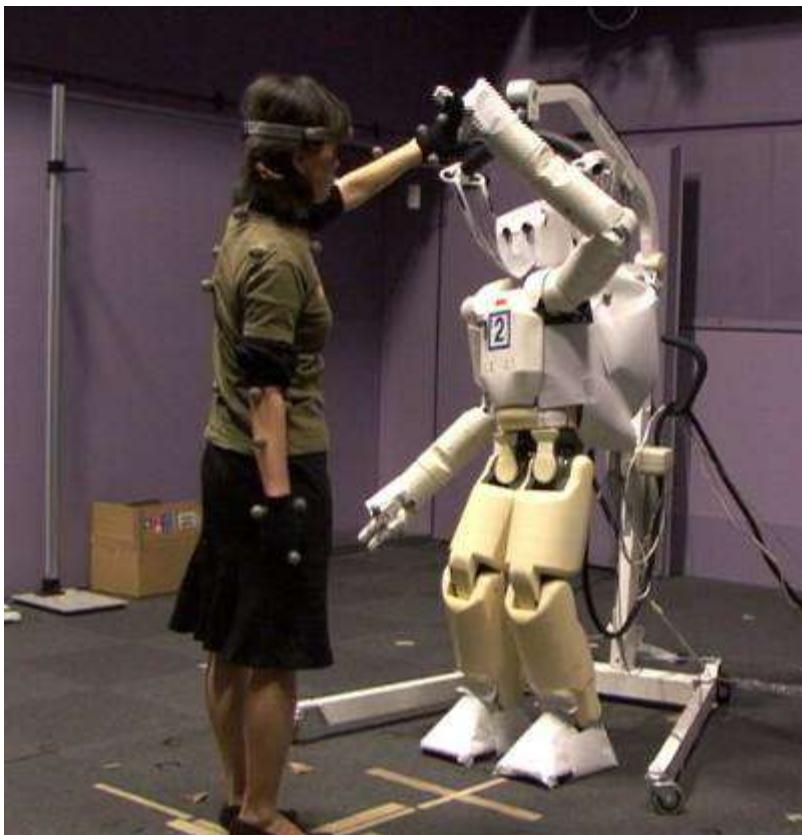
$r = \{0.5, 0.75, 1\}$ m
 $\Delta\alpha = \{10, 20\}^\circ$
 $T_s = \{0.6, 0.8, 1.0\}$ s



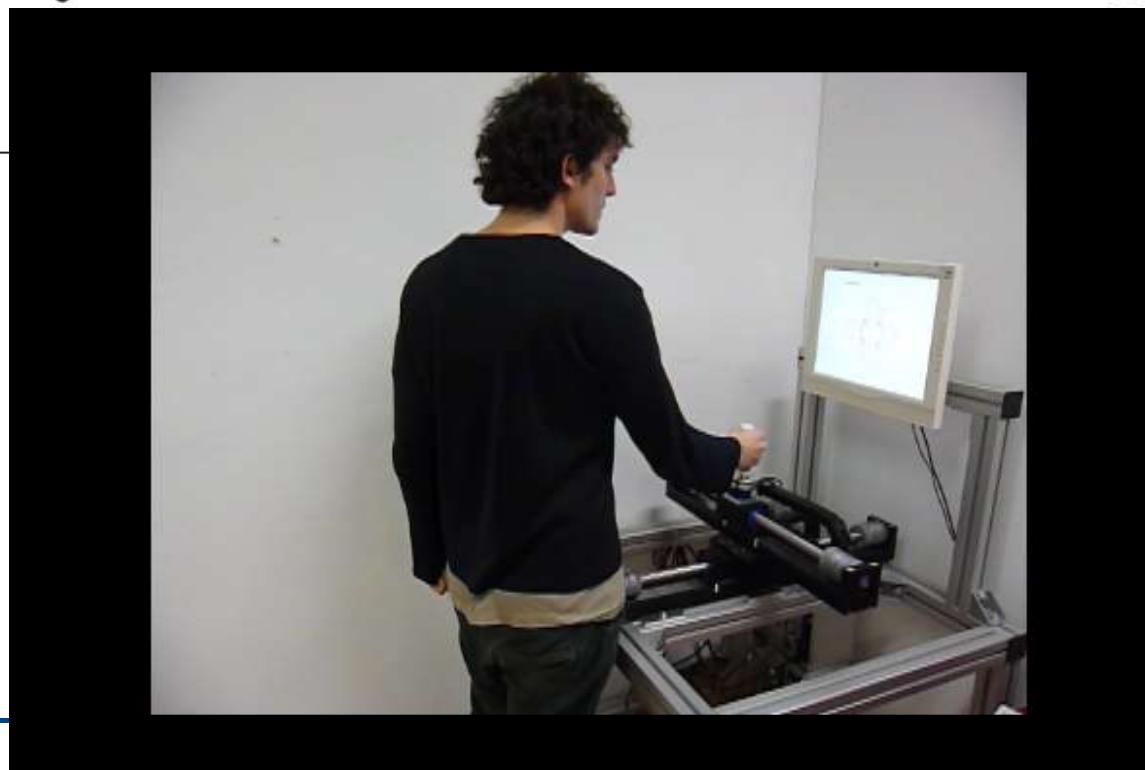
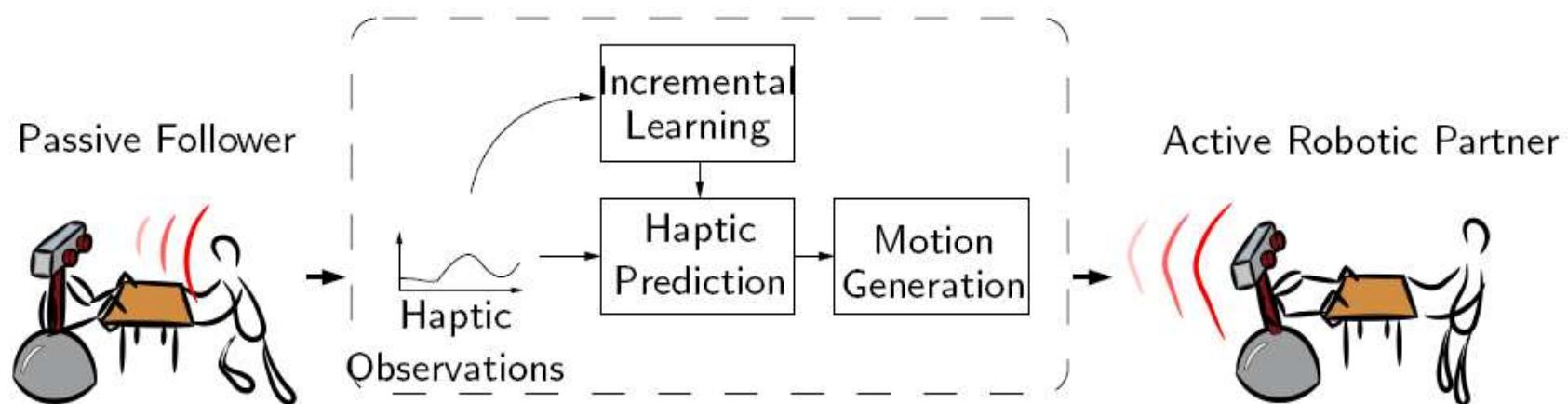
Overview

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Human is not a passive entity, but active, and full of uncertainty.

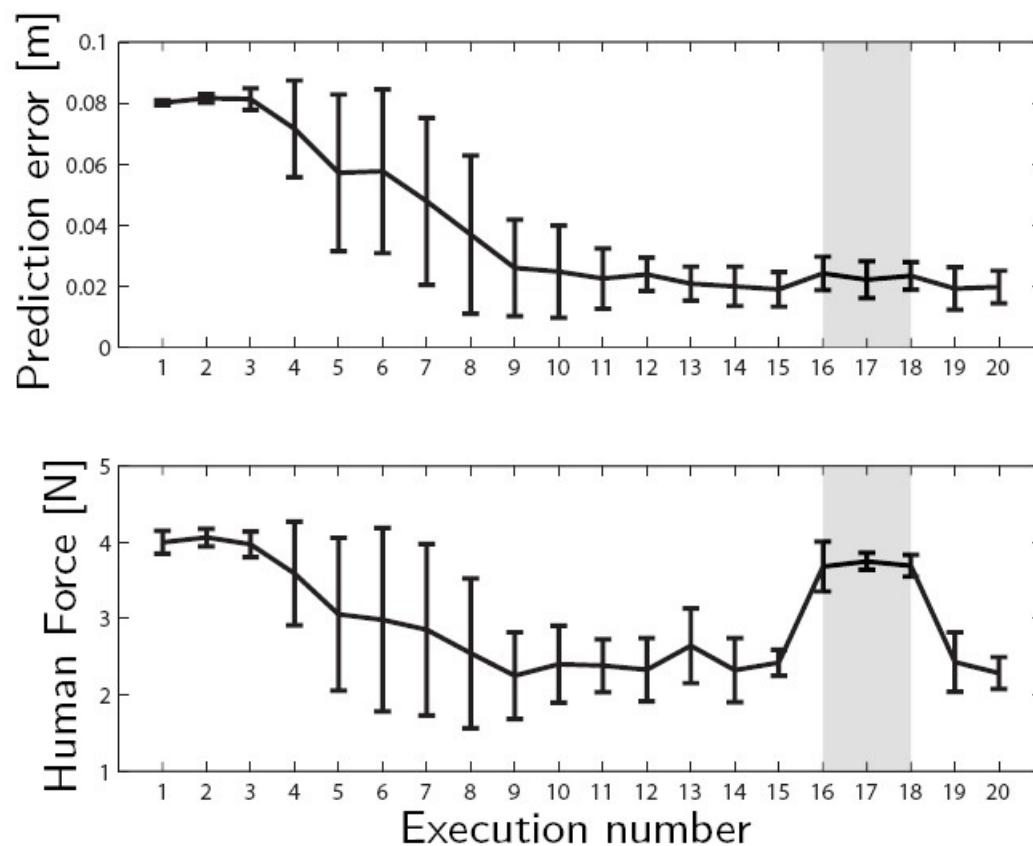


Experience-Driven Robotic Assistant



Experiment in 2D Virtual Scenario

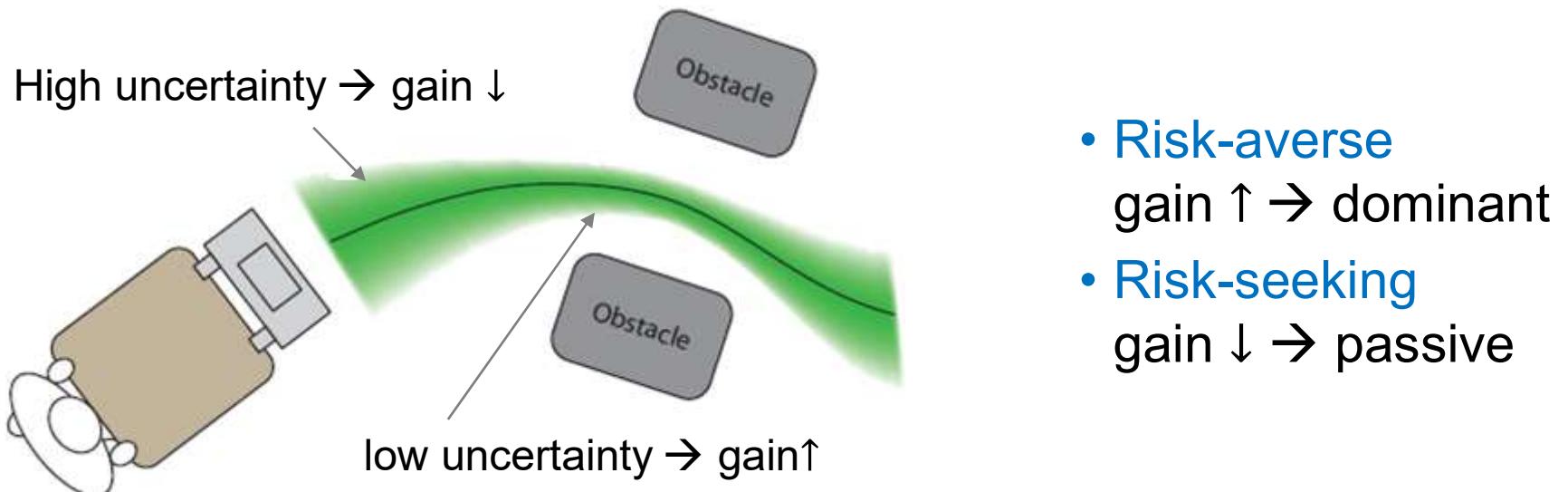
- Robot learning, predicting and assisting during execution
- Repetitions 16 to 18 without assistance



Overall results

- Robot assistance ↑
- Human force contribution ↓
- Execution time ↓
- Prediction error ↓

Risk-sensitive Optimal Feedback Control



- Assistive behavior considering both human model *uncertainties*
$$u = K(\xi - \hat{\xi})$$
- Probabilistic human model for desired trajectory and exerted force
$$\hat{\xi} = \{\hat{\mu}_\xi, \hat{\Sigma}_\xi\}, \quad \hat{u} = \{\hat{\mu}_u, \hat{\Sigma}_u\}, \text{ with } \xi = (x \dot{x})^T$$
- Risk sensitive stochastic optimal control
$$J = \sum_{k=1}^T ((\xi_k - \hat{\mu}_\xi)^T \hat{\Sigma}_{\xi,k}^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q \hat{\Sigma}_{\xi,k}^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\xi_k - \hat{\mu}_\xi) + u_r^T R u_r)$$

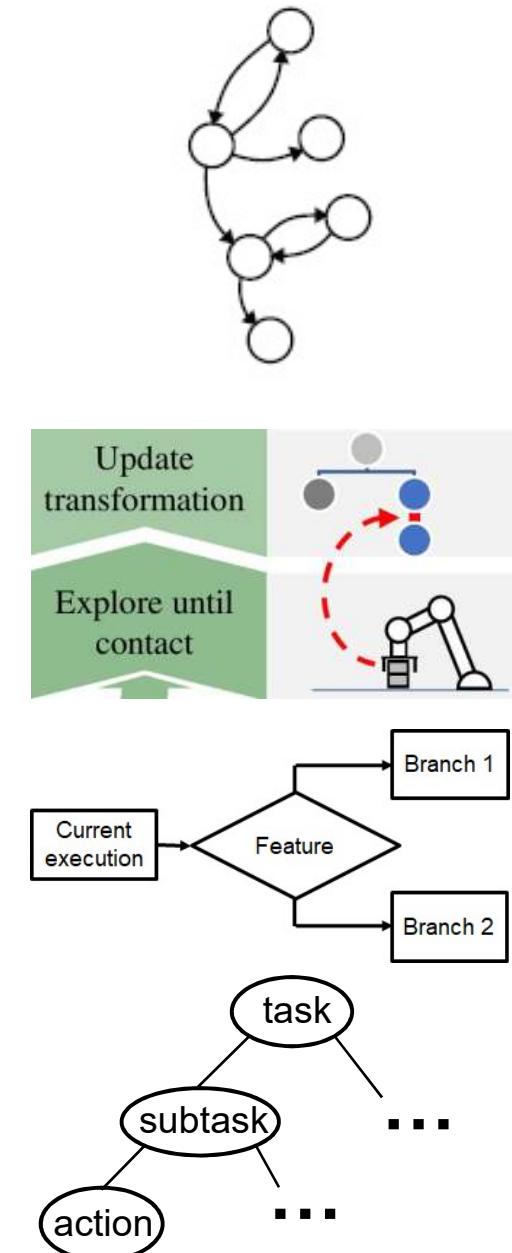
Overview

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Learning complex tasks

Knowledge Representation: To find embedded structure of a task from demonstrations

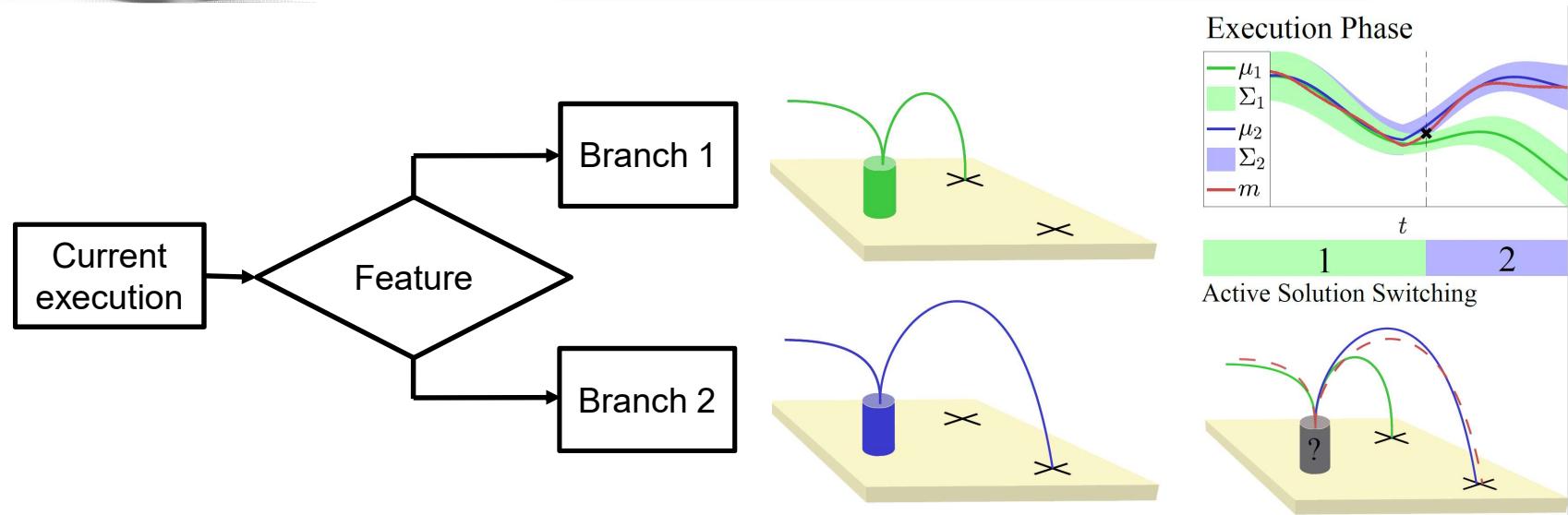
- Temporal structure
 - Clustering skills and learning sequencing order (transition probability)
- Spatial structure
 - task parameters (e.g. coordinate system) of a skill
 - Spatial relation between skills
- Conditional Tasks
 - Decision making based on conditional reasoning
- Hierarchy in symbolic abstraction level
 - Task (e.g. make a coffee) – subtasks (e.g. add water) – skills (e.g. move A to B)



Fixed Sequencing → Conditional Sequencing



NO.	SKILL	ROBOT	DESCRIPTION	PARAMETERS
1	↑	Pick plate	Gordon	Picks up a plate
2	↓	Place plate	Gordon	Places a plate
3	⬇	Drilling	Rick	Drill a hole with a defined diameter in a defined pattern
4	↑	Pick plate	Gordon	Picks up a plate
5	↓	Place plate	Gordon	Places a plate
6				+ ADD SKILL

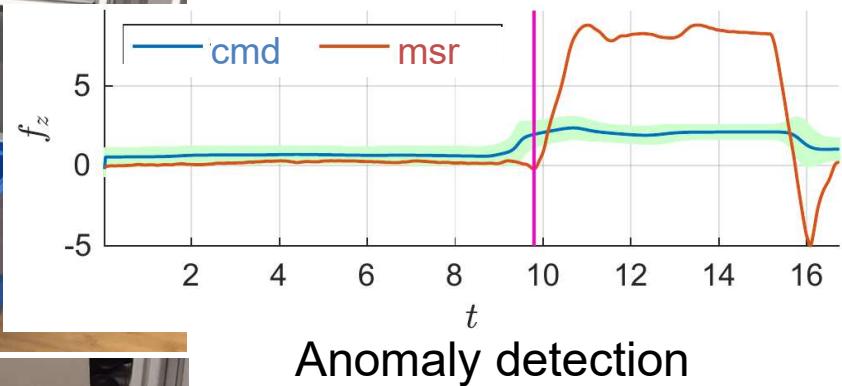


Experiment: Milk Carton Sorting

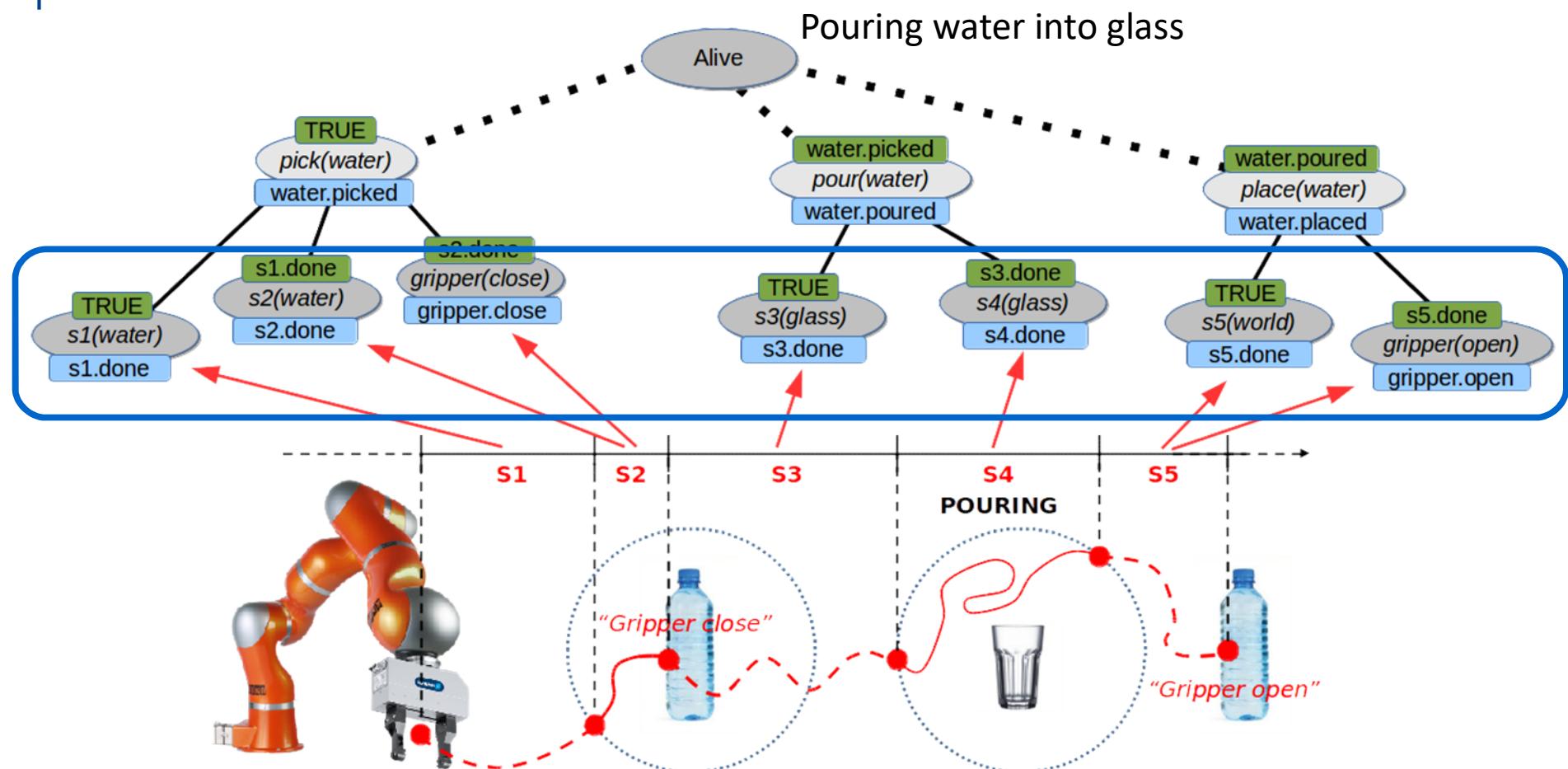
Demonstrations
w/o labeling



Execution



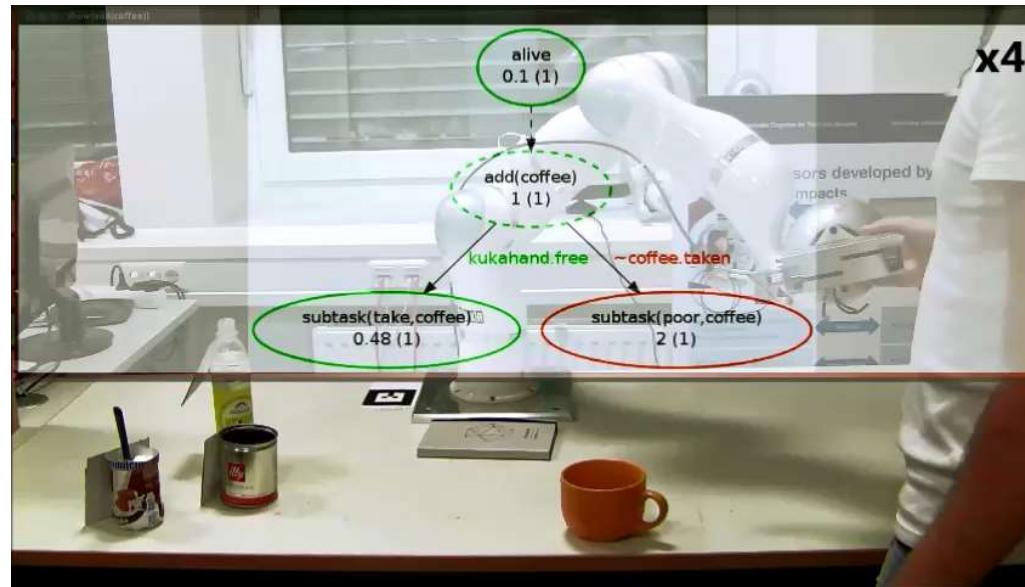
Learning Hierarchical Structured Tasks



- Bridging low level MP learning and high level symbolic reasoning
- integrating imitation learning, attentional supervision, and cognitive control to learn and flexibly execute structured tasks

Experiment: coffee making

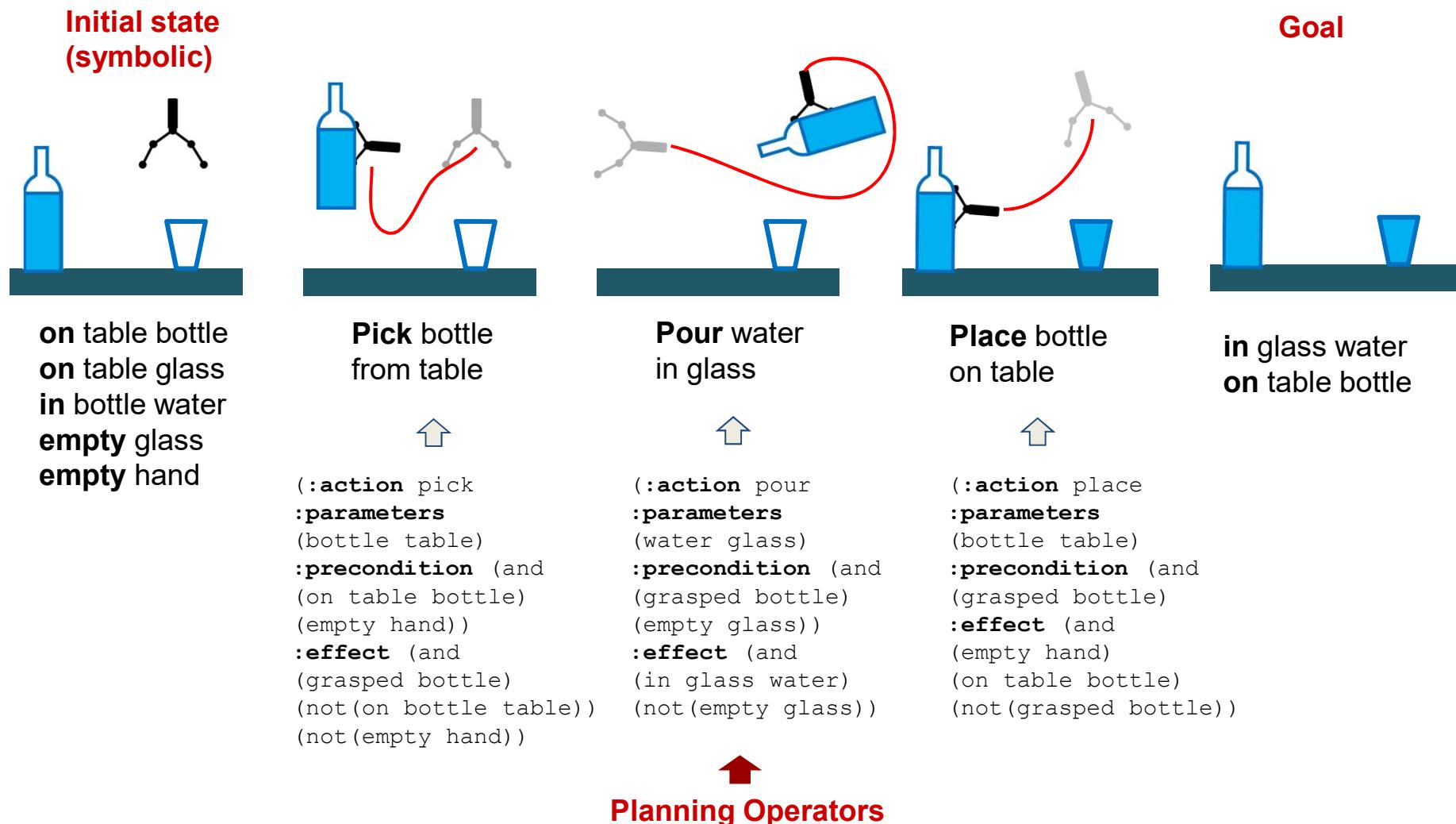
Teaching



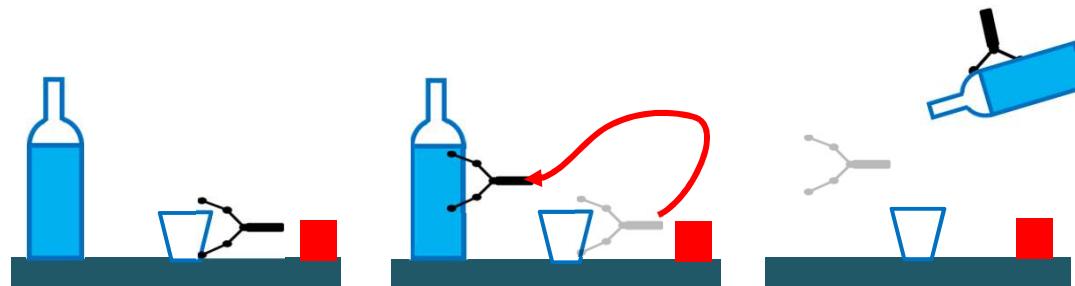
Execution



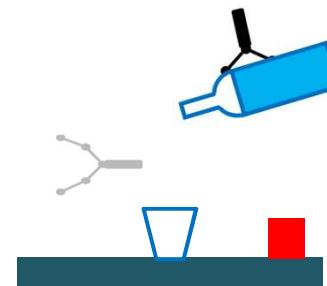
Task Planning and Motion Planning



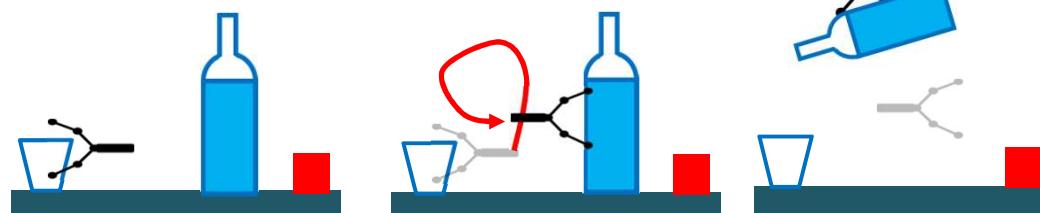
Action Context



Pick side bottle table

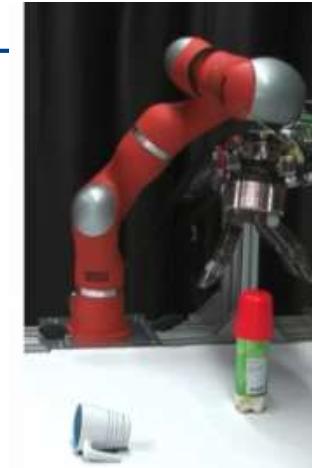


Same symbolic action but different motions!



Pick side bottle table

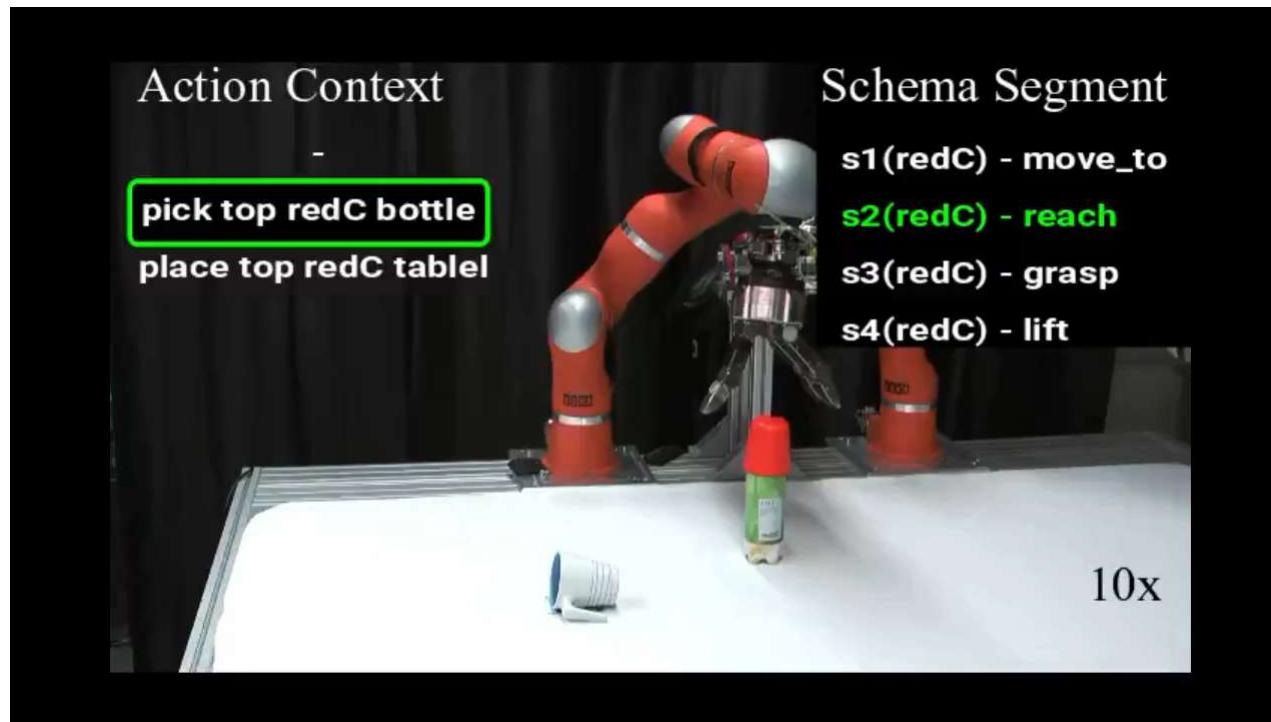
Experiments: Pouring Water



Initial state



Goal state



[Agostini et al, Manipulation Planning using Object-centered Predicates and Hierarchical Decomposition of Contextual Actions, RA-L 2020]

Summary: Challenges in Robot Learning

- *Skill transfer from Human to Robot* is a promising way towards intuitive programming and efficient motor skill learning.
- *Sample-efficient and Safe Reinforcement Learning in Physical World* can be achieved by leveraging imitation learning, approximate model knowledge, and learning in simulation.
- *Understanding human's behaviors and their uncertainties* leads to smooth and adaptive human robot interaction..
- In order to learn *complex robotic manipulation* tasks, it is essential to find the embedded structure of a task: sequencing, conditions, hierarchical abstraction.

What's next in robot learning?

- Robot learning requires an integrated architecture covering symbol grounding from sensing, symbolic reasoning, motion planning and adaptive control in physical world.
- Continual learning for Wide-Ranging Data
 - A robot can collect a large amount of information from a large variety of sensors, but rather low number of data. Simulator helps, but often do not reflect reality in a sufficient level of details.
- Social Interaction in Robot Learning Control
 - Account for the way in which data are collected.
 - Iterative interaction with the users can be exploited to influence the quality and nature of the collected data.
 - Linked with active learning with multimodal social interaction aspect.

Thank you for your attention

Thanks to Collaborators :

- Thomas Eiband
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- Alberto Finzi
- Hiba Latifee
- Riccardo Caccavale

