

MEAM 520

More Robot Hardware

Katherine J. Kuchenbecker, Ph.D.

General Robotics, Automation, Sensing, and Perception Lab (GRASP)
MEAM Department, SEAS, University of Pennsylvania



GRASP LABORATORY

Lecture 19: November 7, 2013



Homework 6:
Velocity Kinematics and Jacobians

MEAM 520, University of Pennsylvania
Katherine J. Kuchenbecker, Ph.D.

October 17, 2013

This paper-based assignment is due on **Sunday, October 27, by midnight (extended)** to the bin outside Professor Kuchenbecker's office, Towne 224. Late submissions will be accepted until Wednesday, October 30, by midnight (11:59:59 p.m.), but they will be penalized by 10% for each partial or full day late, up to 30%. After the late deadline, no further assignments may be submitted.

You may talk with other students about this assignment, ask the teaching team questions, use a calculator and other tools, and consult outside sources such as the Internet. To help you actually learn the material, what you write down must be your own work, not copied from any other individual or a solution manual. Any submissions suspected of violating Penn's Code of Academic Integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. If you get stuck, post a question on Piazza or go to office hours!

These problems are loosely based on problems that appear in the printed version of the textbook, *Robot Modeling and Control* by Spong, Hutchinson, and Vidyasagar (SHV); all of the needed instructions are included in this document. Write in pencil, show your work clearly, box your answers, and staple together all pages of your assignment. This assignment is worth a total of 20 points.

1. Skew-Symmetric Matrices (6 points)

- a. We define $\hat{u} = [x \ y \ z]^T$ to be a unit vector. What is $S(\hat{u})$, the skew-symmetric matrix associated with this unit vector?
- b. Now define $\vec{v} = [0 \ 10 \ 0]^T$ and calculate $S(\hat{u})\vec{v}$.
- c. What is the geometric meaning of the result you obtained in the last step? Draw a sketch with an arbitrarily chosen unit vector \hat{u} to explain. Think about both the magnitude and the direction of the result.
- d. Show that $S^3(\hat{u}) = -S(\hat{u})$.
- e. What is the geometric meaning of the equation $S^3(\hat{u}) = -S(\hat{u})$? Explain using words and a sketch.
- f. $R_{\hat{u},\theta}$ is a rotation matrix representing rotation by the time-varying angle θ about the constant unit vector \hat{u} . By considering equation (2.43) in the book, one can show that $R_{\hat{u},\theta} = I + S(\hat{u}) \sin \theta + S^2(\hat{u}) \text{vers} \theta$, where the versine $\text{vers} \theta = 1 - \cos \theta$. Note that you do not need to show this equivalence. Instead, use this equivalence and the equation from the previous step to show that $\frac{dR_{\hat{u},\theta}}{d\theta} = S(\hat{u})R_{\hat{u},\theta}$.
- g. What is the intuitive meaning of the equation $\frac{dR_{\hat{u},\theta}}{d\theta} = S(\hat{u})R_{\hat{u},\theta}$?

**Homework 6
is graded**

**Pick yours up
from Naomi**

Thank you for taking the midterm on Tuesday.

**One student has not yet taken the exam,
so we will not talk about it at all today.**

[James Dyson Foundation cookies policy](#)

You are not logged in [Click here to login](#)

Choose language:

JAMES DYSON AWARD

[HOME](#) [ABOUT THE AWARD](#) [PROJECTS](#) [REGISTRATION](#) [LOGIN](#) [PARTNERS](#)



JAMES DYSON

The 2013 winner is [Titan Arm](#).
The team have received £30,000 and a further £10,000 will be given to the University of Pennsylvania Engineering department.

You can view the 2013 winner and two runners-up [here](#). Visit the [James Dyson Foundation](#) to find out about next year's competition. Keep up to date by following the James Dyson Foundation on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)

"Titan Arm is obviously an ingenious design, but the team's use of modern, rapid – and relatively inexpensive – manufacturing techniques makes the project even more compelling."

James Dyson

[View Projects](#)

TITAN ARM



Enhance strength

Low cost

Untethered

Data streaming

Long Battery Life

Onboard LiPo batteries run the suit for over 8 hours, take less than 30 minutes to recharge, & can be swapped in under a minute



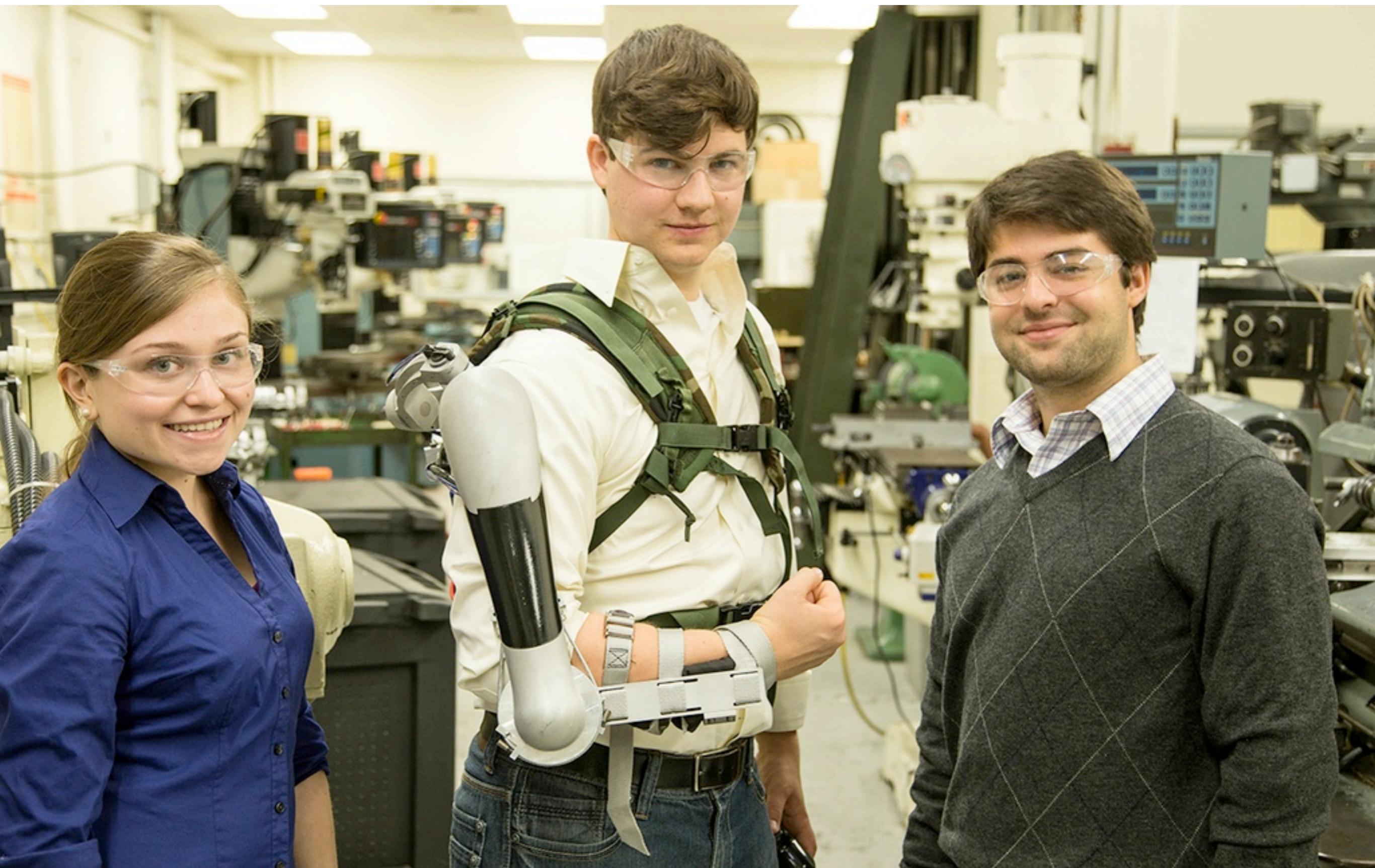
Versatile

The frame and straps adjust to fit anyone in the 15th-90th percentile of US adults by height

Light weight

The entire suit weighs under 9 kg, less than a typical school-bag load

TITAN ARM



Congratulations to Penn Students

Elizabeth Beattie

Nick McGill

Nick Parrotta

*and Niko Vladimirov
advised by Jonathan Fiene*

for winning the

2013 James Dyson Award!

a \$48,000 prize plus \$16,000 for MEAM Department

dyson award - Google Search

https://www.google.com/search?hl=en&gl=us&tbo=nws&authuser=0&q=dyson+award&oq=dyson+award&gs_l=news-cc.3..

[James Dyson Award | Jamesdysonaward.com](http://www.jamesdysonaward.com)
www.jamesdysonaward.org/

Problem solvers wanted. The James Dyson Award celebrates, encourages and inspires the next generation of design engineers.

You visited this page on 11/6/13.

[All results for dyson award »](#)

[!\[\]\(a3ab3a6cb19567aa3d1e8e21af9dbfb9_img.jpg\)](#) [Robotic 'power boost' arm wins James Dyson Award](#)
BBC News - 6 hours ago
A battery-powered robotic arm that boosts human strength has won the 2013 James Dyson award. The Titan Arm, designed by four mechanical ...

[Superhuman Robotic Arm Wins Dyson Award](#)
Discovery News - 3 hours ago

[James Dyson Award 2013: 'Power Boost' Arm Wins Design Prize](#)
Huffington Post UK - 3 hours ago

[An Exoskeleton That Boosts Biceps Wins James Dyson's \\$45000 Prize](#)
In-Depth - Wired - 2 hours ago

[!\[\]\(cd230c51c8ee4b0fd7f4a3b91b64d92f_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(282dbc794e66d463315d219a3348ffee_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(34b3561d046aa840d6be18f41ff0e23b_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(b55dc21f01b8c1c4b399715fd68cdb5d_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(5ed30ea998de50332a4f527db3d052d7_img.jpg\)](#) [Metro](#) [CNET UK](#) [The Engineer](#) [Design Week](#) [TopNews Uni...](#) [TopNews Ar...](#)

[all 26 news sources »](#)

[Low-cost human exoskeleton wins James Dyson Award](#)
Voxy - 9 hours ago
Low-cost human exoskeleton wins James Dyson Award ... strength, has beaten more than 500 entries to win the 2013 James Dyson Award.

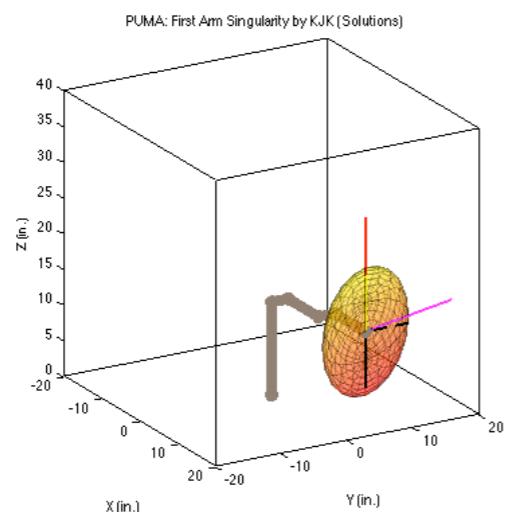
[American robotic arm wins James Dyson design and engineering ...](#)
Wired.co.uk - 20 hours ago
Titan Arm has been announced today as the winner of the 2013 James Dyson award. Augmenting arm strength by 18 kilograms, Titan Arm can ...

[!\[\]\(cf477711cc64dc860a0ec0004ce591dd_img.jpg\)](#) [Titan Arm exoskeleton gives you super strength and wins 2013 ...](#)

Go to "<http://www.jamesdysonaward.org/>"

Solutions to Homework 7
PUMA 260 Singularities and Manipulability

MEAM 520
Introduction to Robotics
University of Pennsylvania
Professor Kuchenbecker
Fall 2013



Solutions to Homework 7
are on reserve
in the Engineering
Library

Untitled2

Editor - /Users/kuchenbe/Documents/teaching/meam 520/assignments/07 manipulability/matlab/analyze_puma_kuchenbe.m

EDITOR PUBLISH VIEW

analyze_puma_kuchenbe.m plot_puma_kuchenbe.m

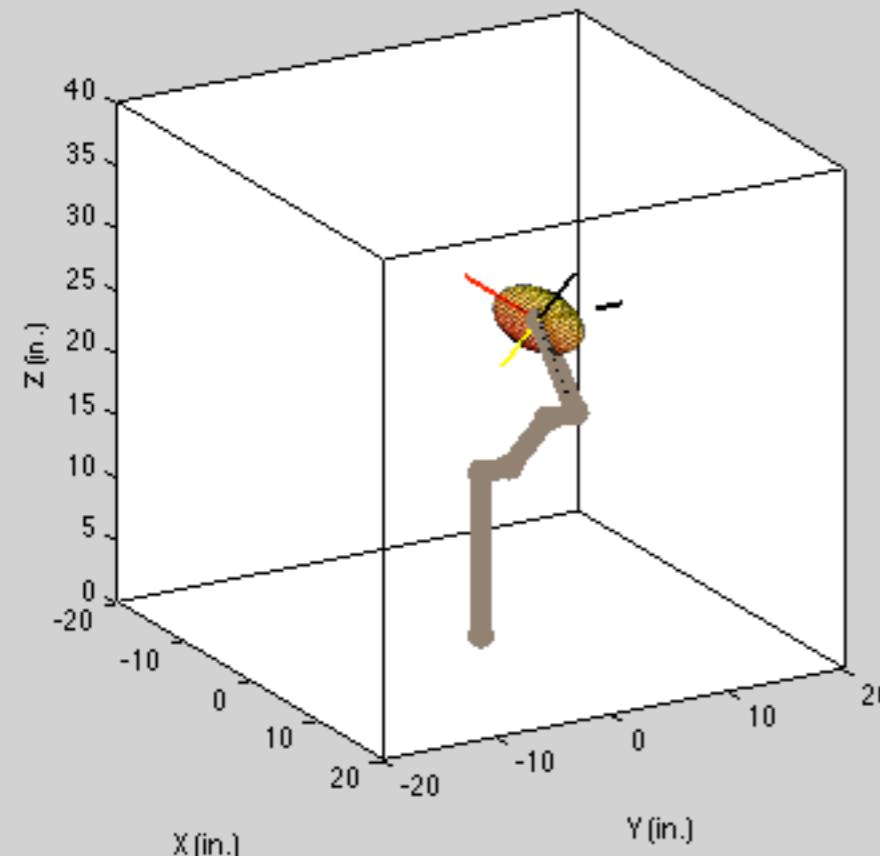
```
1 %%% analyze_puma_kuchenbe.m
2 %
3 % This Matlab script is part of the solutions for Homework 7 in MEAM 520 at
4 % the University of Pennsylvania in Fall of 2013.
5 % Written by Professor Katherine J. Kuchenbecker.
6
7
8 %% SETUP
9
10 % Clear all variables from the workspace.
11 clear all
12
13 % Home the console, so we can more easily find any errors that may occur.
14 home
15
16 % Set student names.
17 studentNames = 'KJK (Solutions)';
18
19
20 %% CALCULATE THE ARM'S SYMBOLIC LINEAR VELOCITY JACOBIAN
21
22 % Define real-valued symbolic variables for all six joint angles, all of
23 % the link lengths and link offsets, and pi.
24 syms theta1 theta2 theta3 theta4 theta5 theta6 a b c d e real
25
26 % Calculate the six A matrices using the provided DH function. These are
27 % all symbolic entities now.
28 A1 = dh_kuchenbe(0, pi/2, a, theta1);
29 A2 = dh_kuchenbe(c, 0, -b, theta2);
30 A3 = dh_kuchenbe(0, -pi/2, -d, theta3);
31 A4 = dh_kuchenbe(0, pi/2, e, theta4);
32 A5 = dh_kuchenbe(0, -pi/2, 0, theta5);
33 A6 = dh_kuchenbe(0, 0, 0, theta6); %<-- Use zero instead of f to put o6 at wrist center.
34
35 % Calculate the transformation matrix from frame 0 to frame 6, which moves
36 % with the end-effector and is at the center of the wrist.
37 T06 = A1*A2*A3*A4*A5*A6;
38
39 % Pull out the position of the wrist center, then pull out its components.
40 d06 = T06(1:3,4);
41 x = d06(1);
42 y = d06(2);
43 z = d06(3);
```

Figure 3

File Edit View Insert Tools Desktop Window Help



PUMA: Third Arm Singularity by KJK (Solutions)



detJv =

$$c * e * \cos(\theta_3) * (e * \sin(\theta_2 + \theta_3) - c * \cos(\theta_2))$$

detJw =

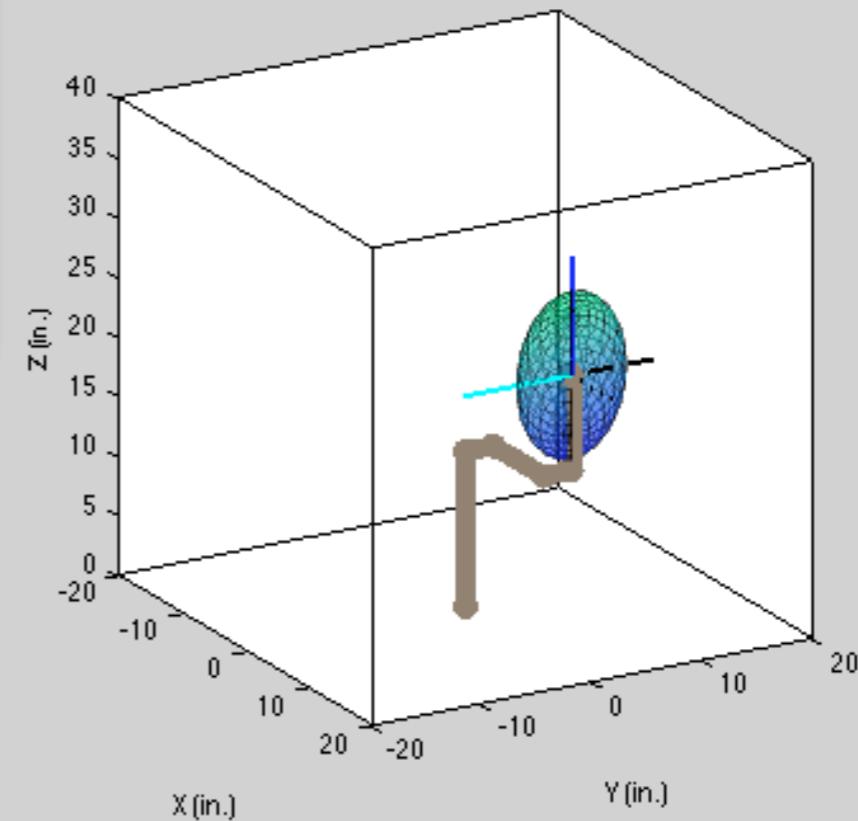
$$-\sin(\theta_5)$$

Figure 4

View Insert Tools Desktop Window Help

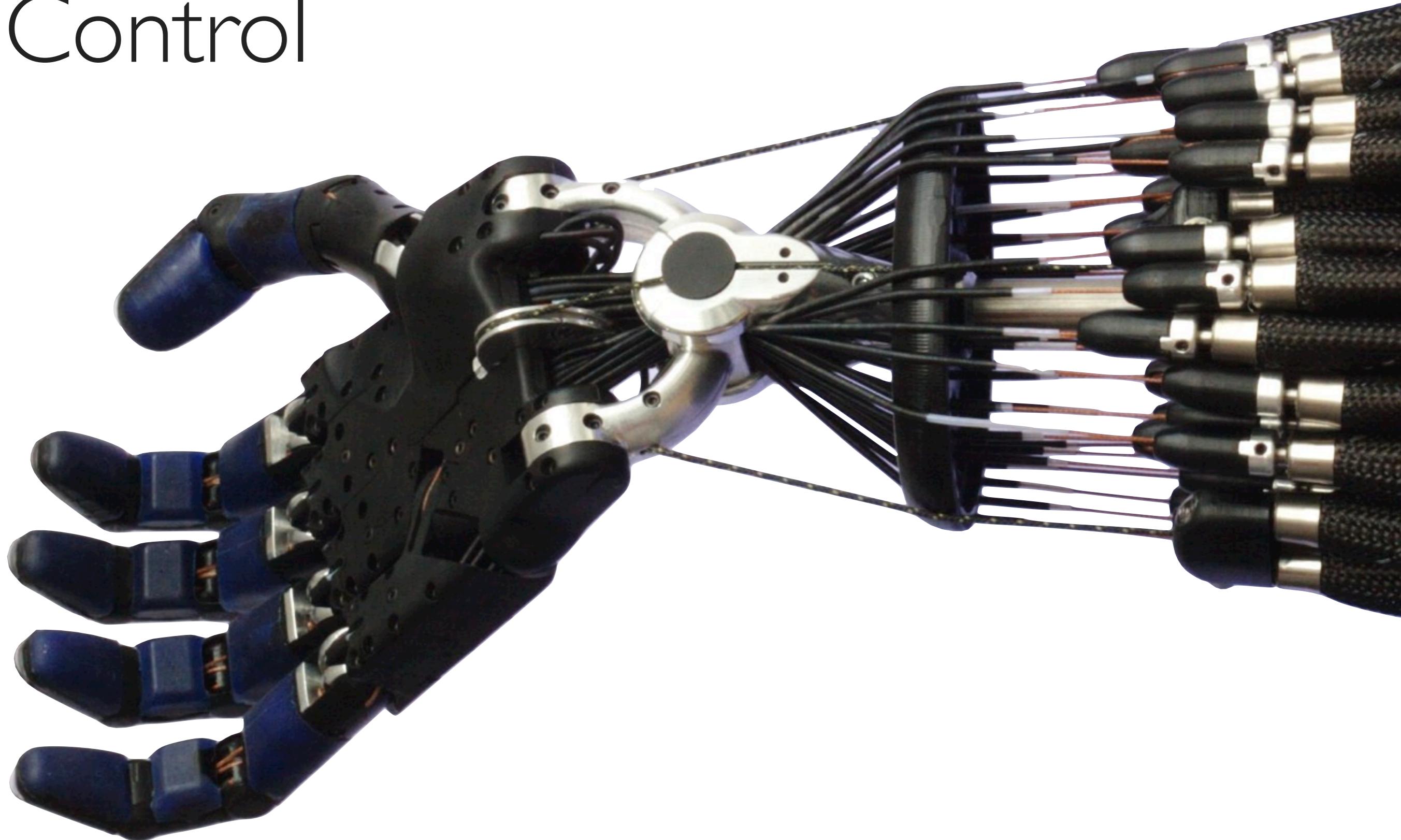


PUMA: First Wrist Singularity by KJK (Solutions)



What questions do you have?

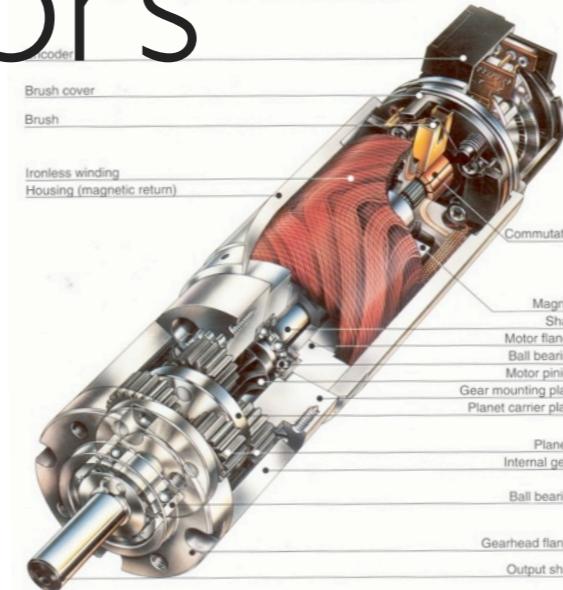
Manipulator Hardware and Control



Brushed DC Motors



DC Brushed
Coil Rotor
Magnetic Stator
Brushes carry current
to the rotor



torque
constant
(N•m/A)

$$\tau_m = k_t i_a$$

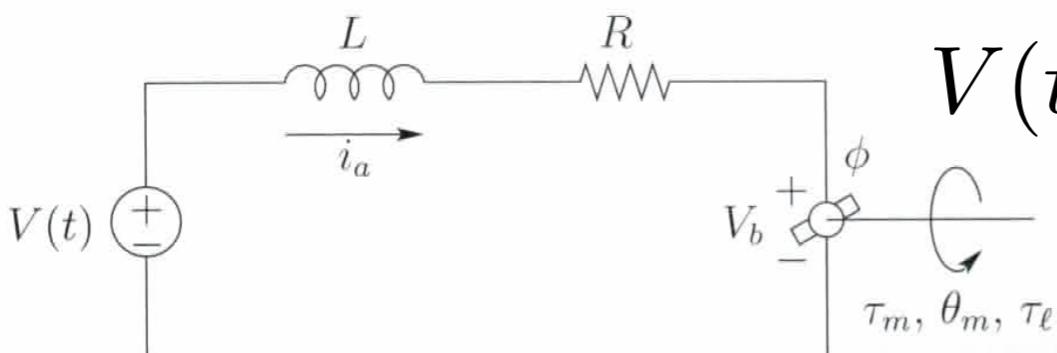
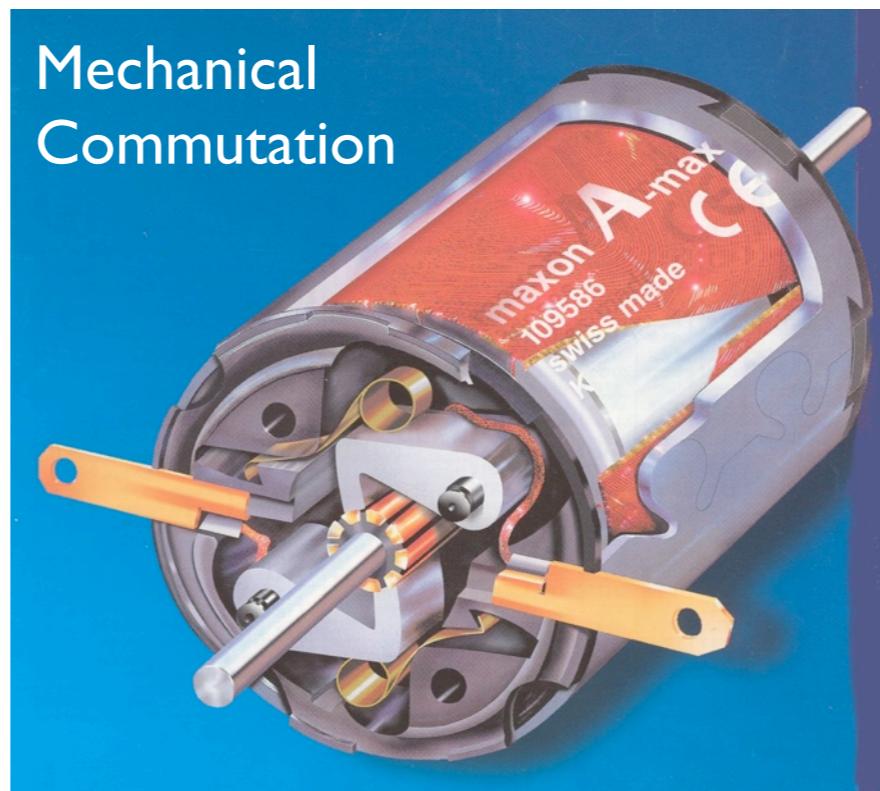
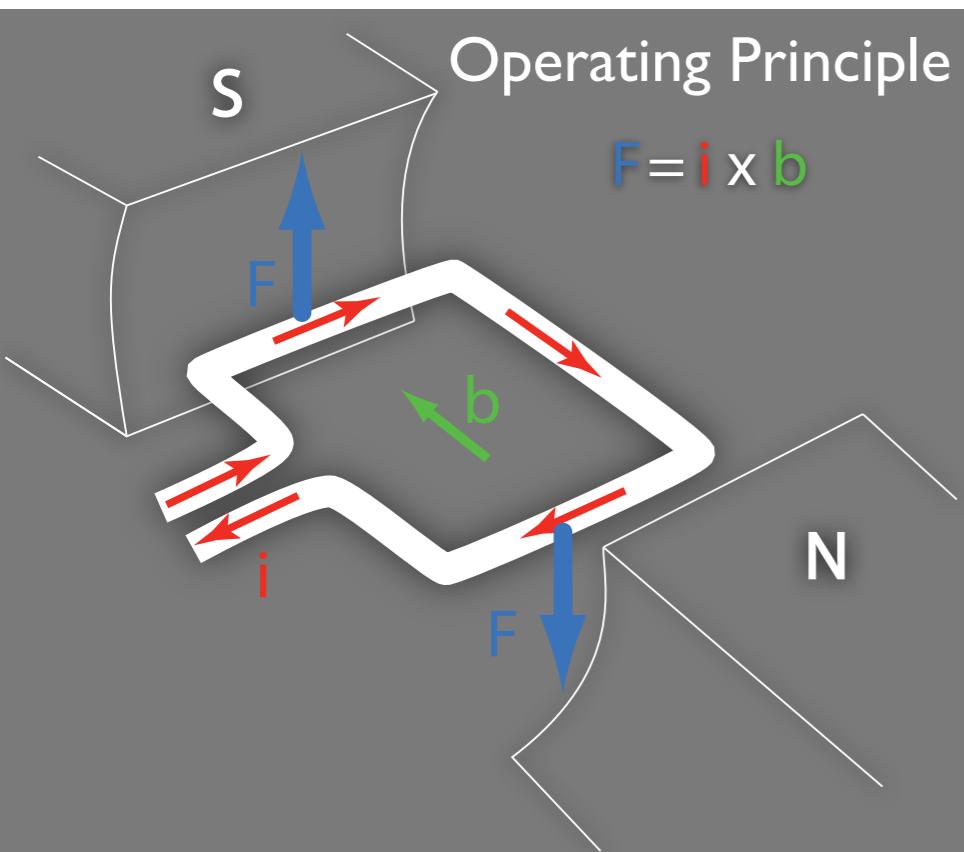
generated torque (N•m)

armature current (A)

back emf constant (V)

$$V_b = k_v \omega_m$$

motor velocity (rad/s)

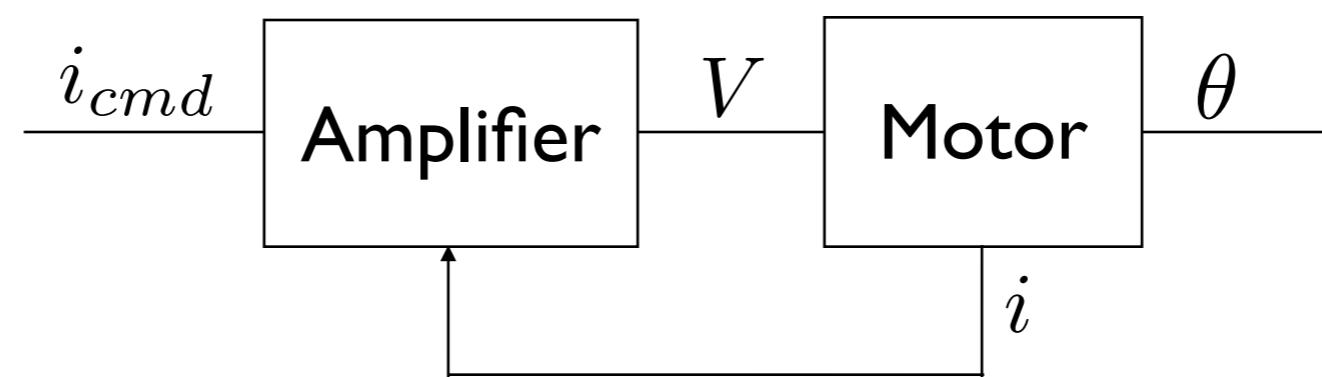


$$V(t) = L \frac{di_a}{dt} + R i_a + k_v \omega_m$$

$$i_a \approx \frac{V(t)}{R}$$

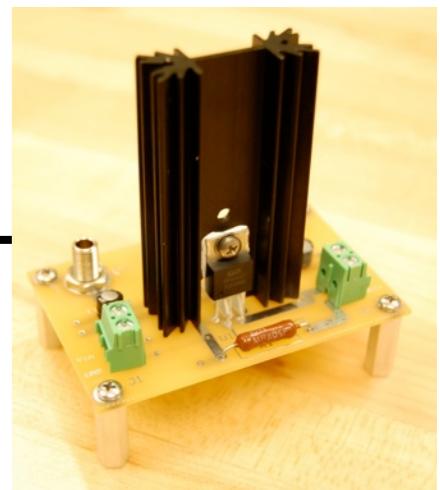
$$k_t = k_v$$

if using meters, kilograms and seconds

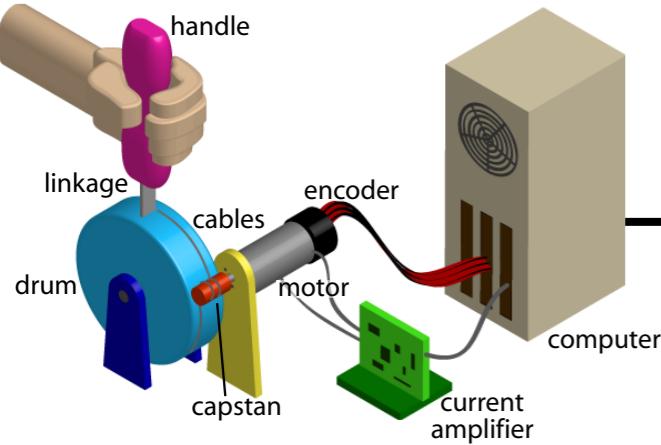


Current Amplifier

$$\tau_m = k_t i_a$$



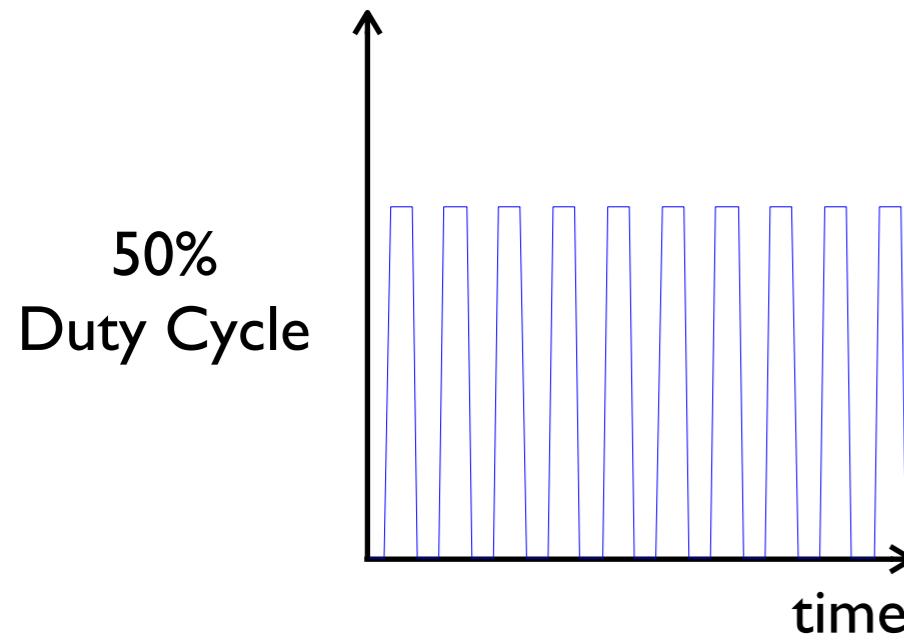
- Takes an information signal (usually an analog voltage) from the computer and drives the requested amount of current through the actuator.
- Note that this is a *current drive* scenario, not a voltage drive. Motor torque is proportional to current, regardless of speed, so we can essentially ignore the motor's electrical dynamics (inductance, back-emf).
- Two common types are Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) and Linear. Linear amplifiers often have higher bandwidth and cause less electrical noise.



PWM Amplifier



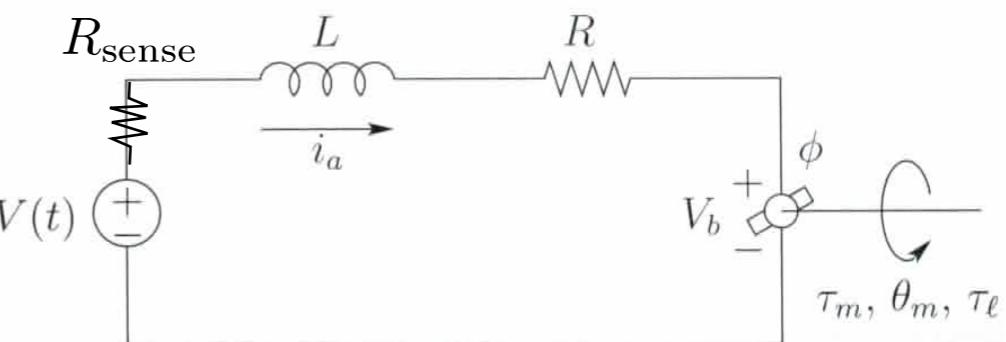
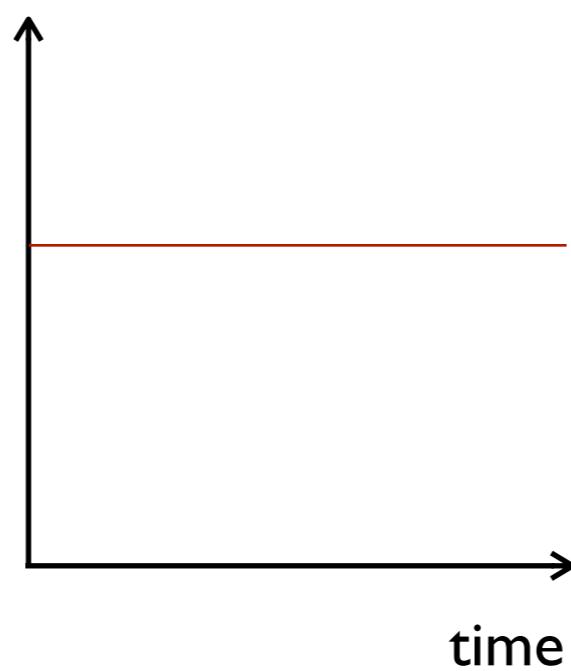
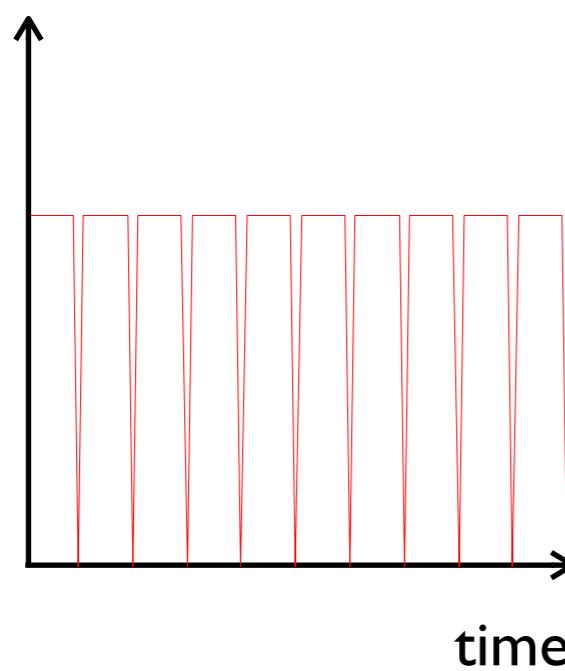
Applied Voltage



Equivalent Voltage



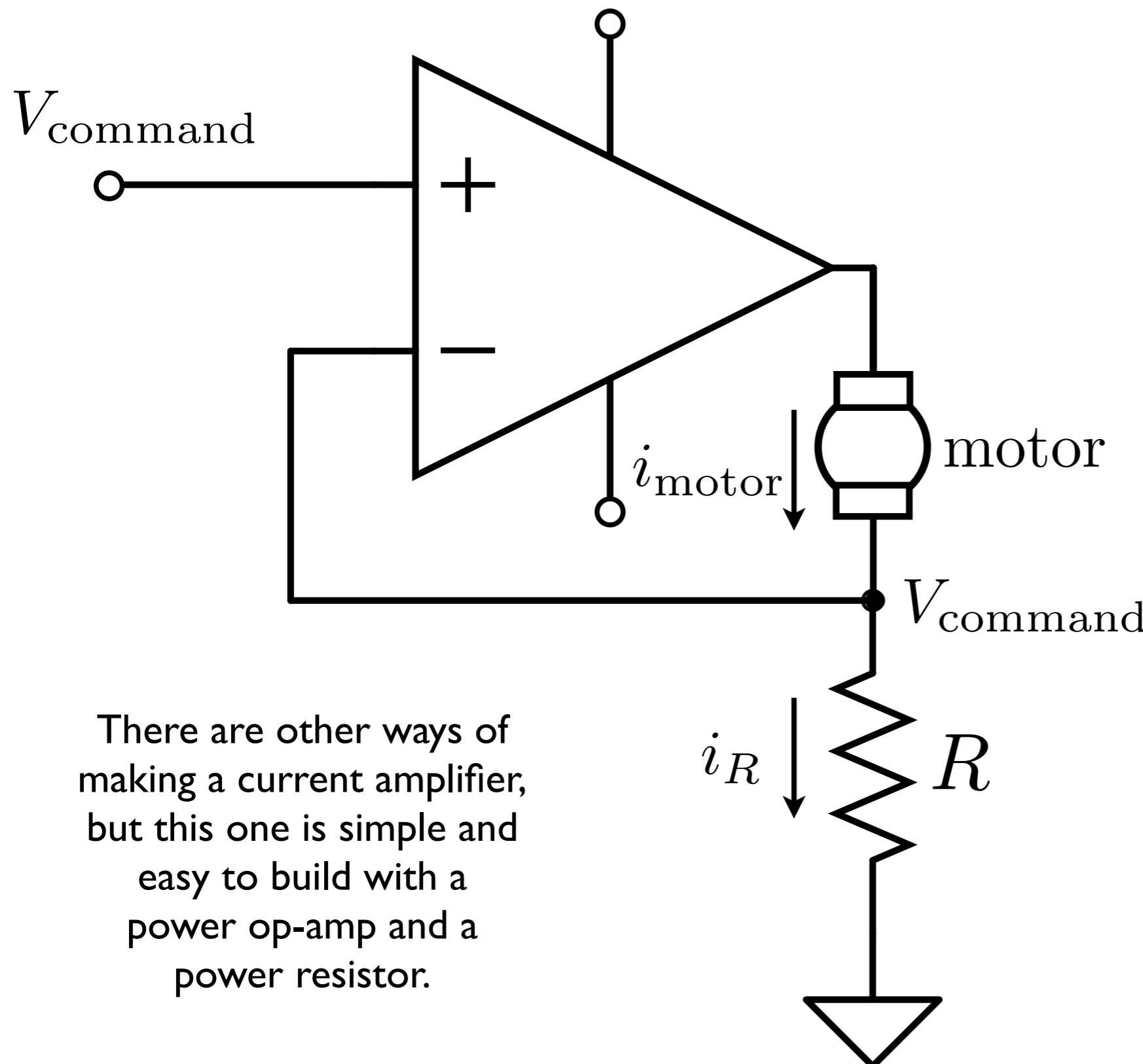
90%
Duty Cycle



$$V(t) = L \frac{di_a}{dt} + R i_a + k_v \omega_m$$

Uses a current-sense resistor in series with the motor for feedback.

Current Amplifier Circuit



Operational amplifier in negative feedback, so it follows the two golden rules of op-amps:

No current enters or leaves the inverting or non-inverting inputs.

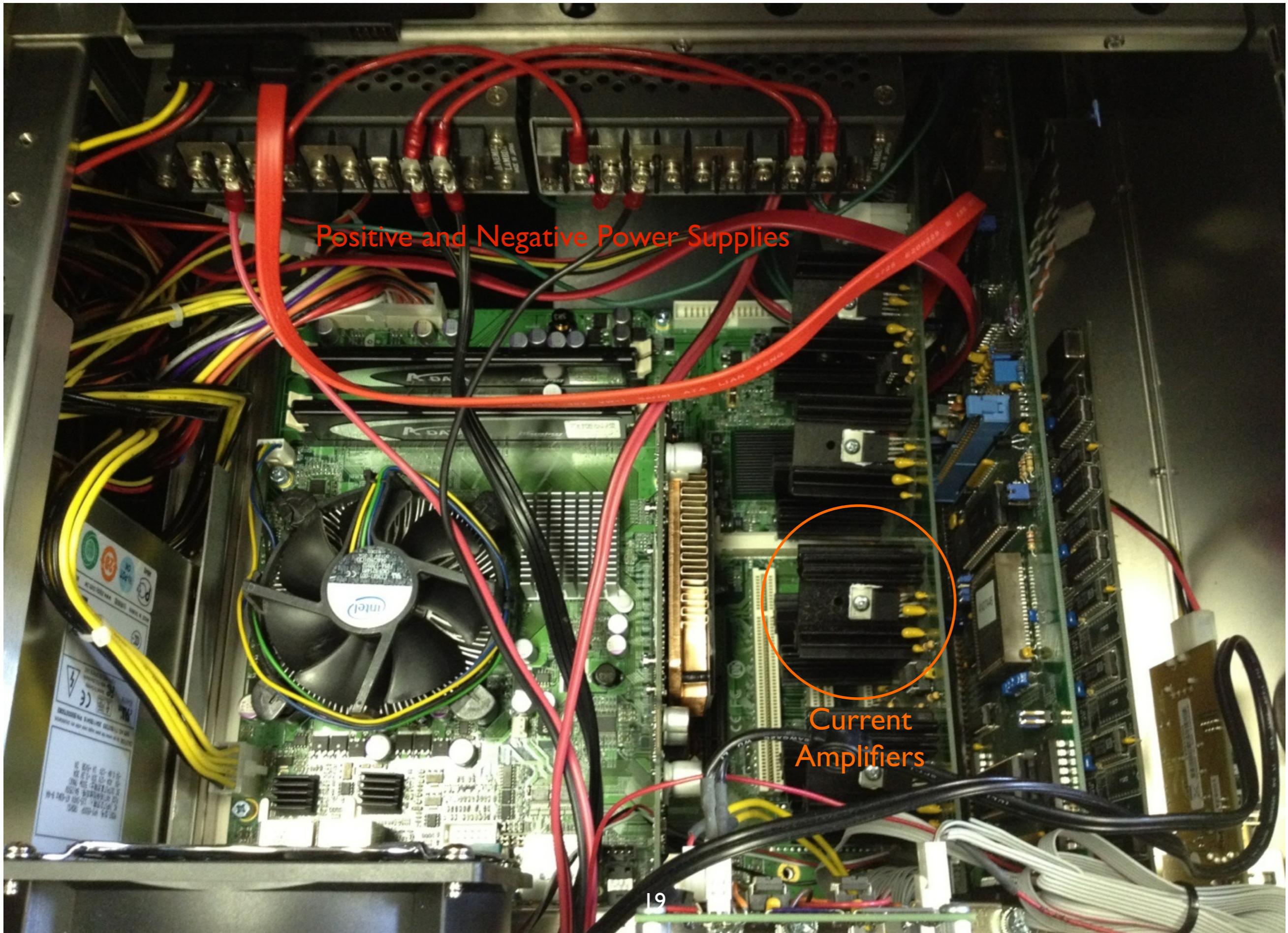
The voltages at the inverting and non-inverting inputs are equal.

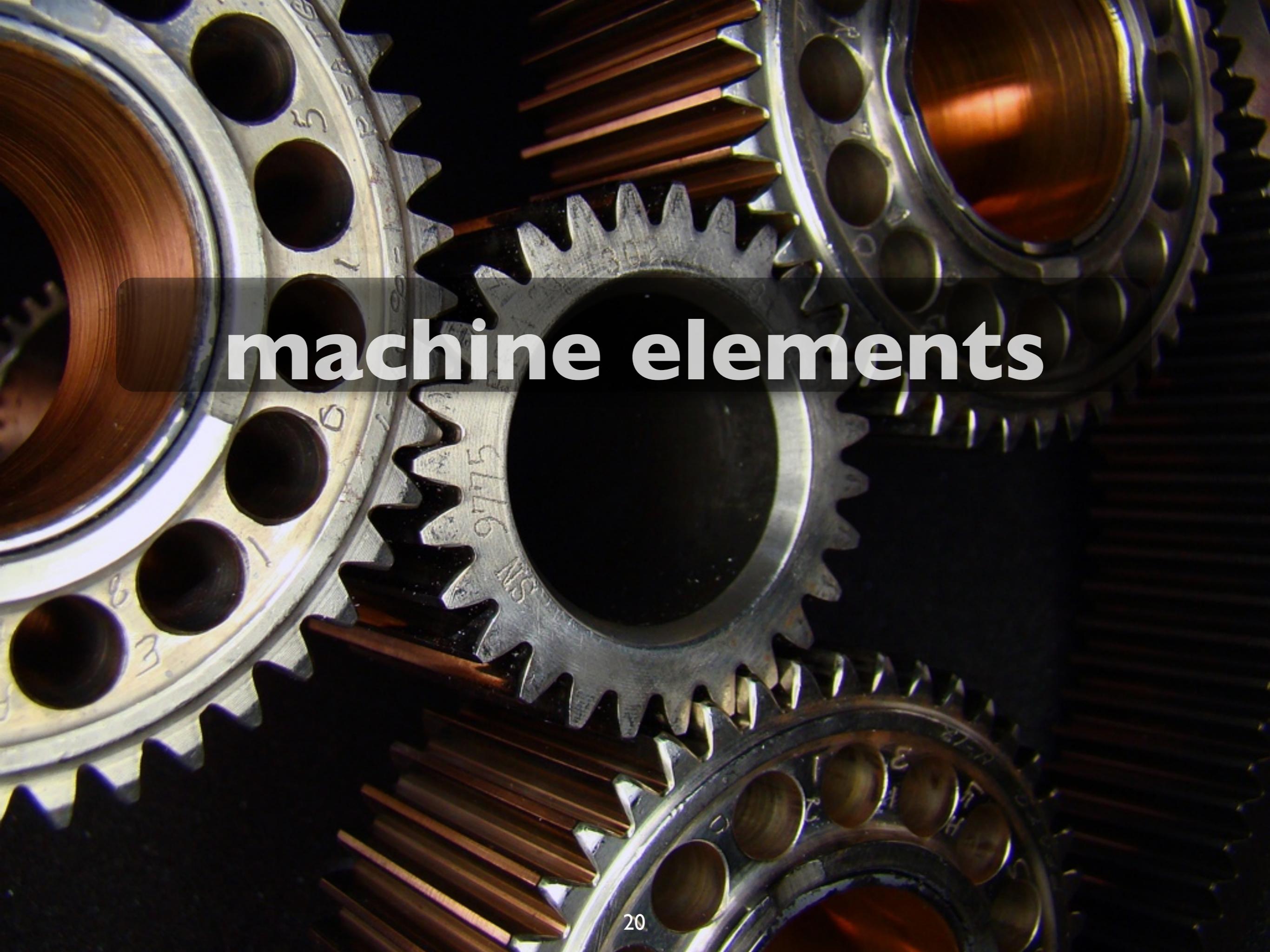
$$i_{\text{motor}} = i_R$$

$$i_R = \frac{V_{\text{command}}}{R}$$

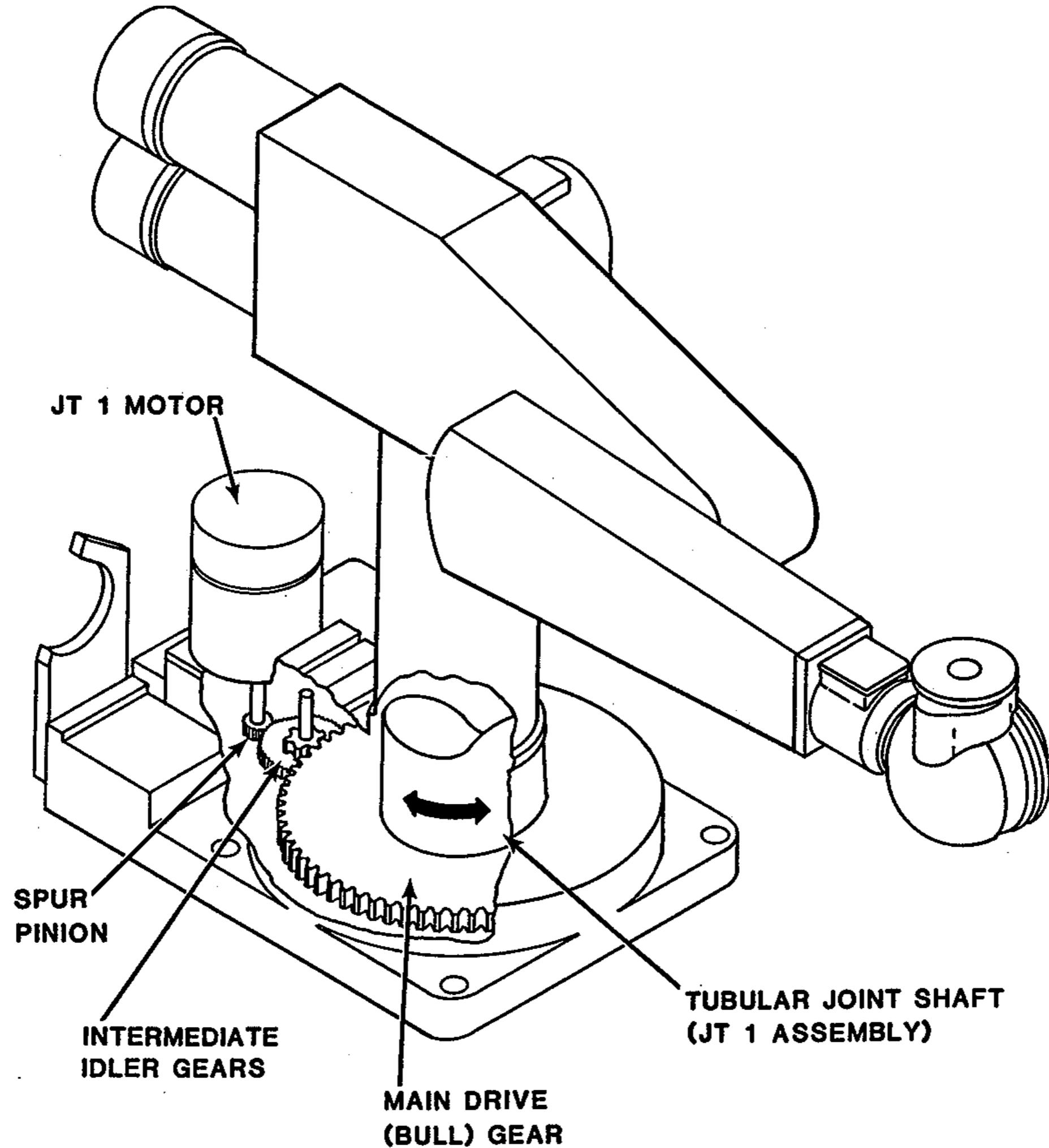
$$i_{\text{motor}} = \frac{V_{\text{command}}}{R}$$

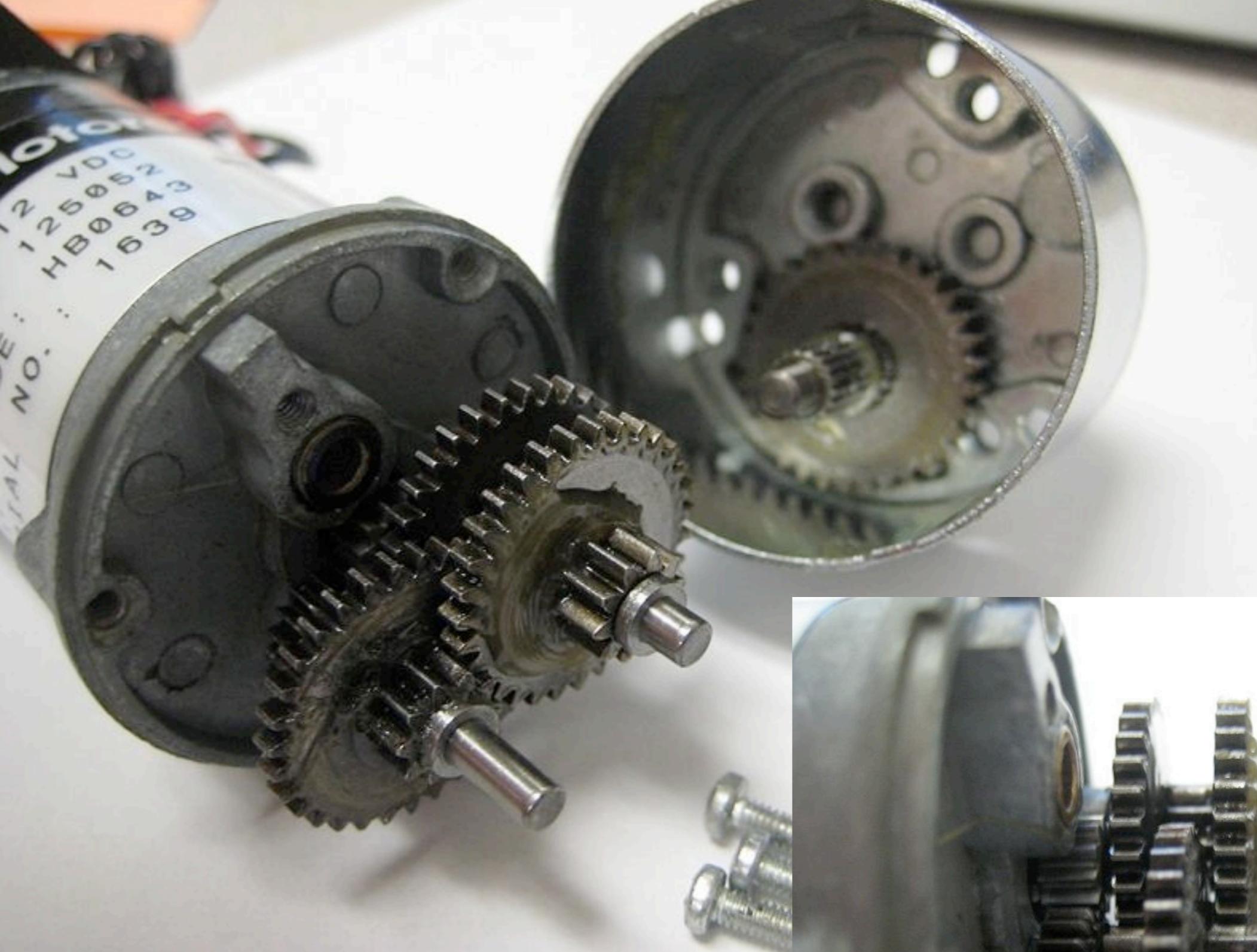
inside the PUMA 260 controller





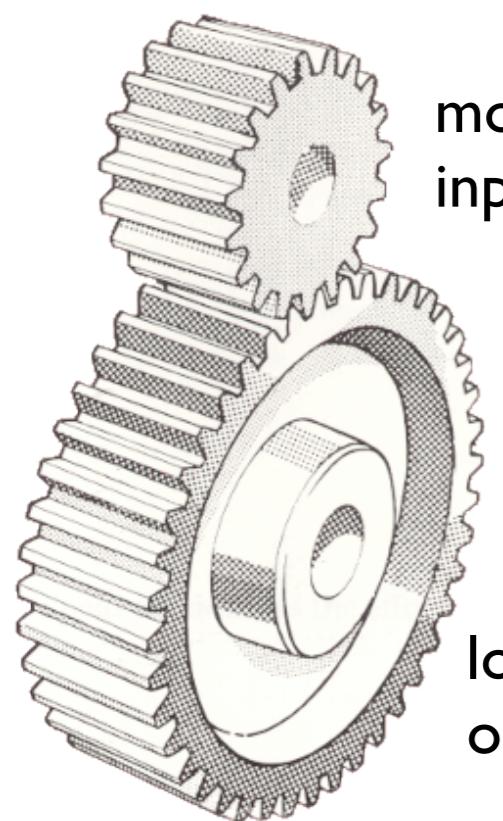
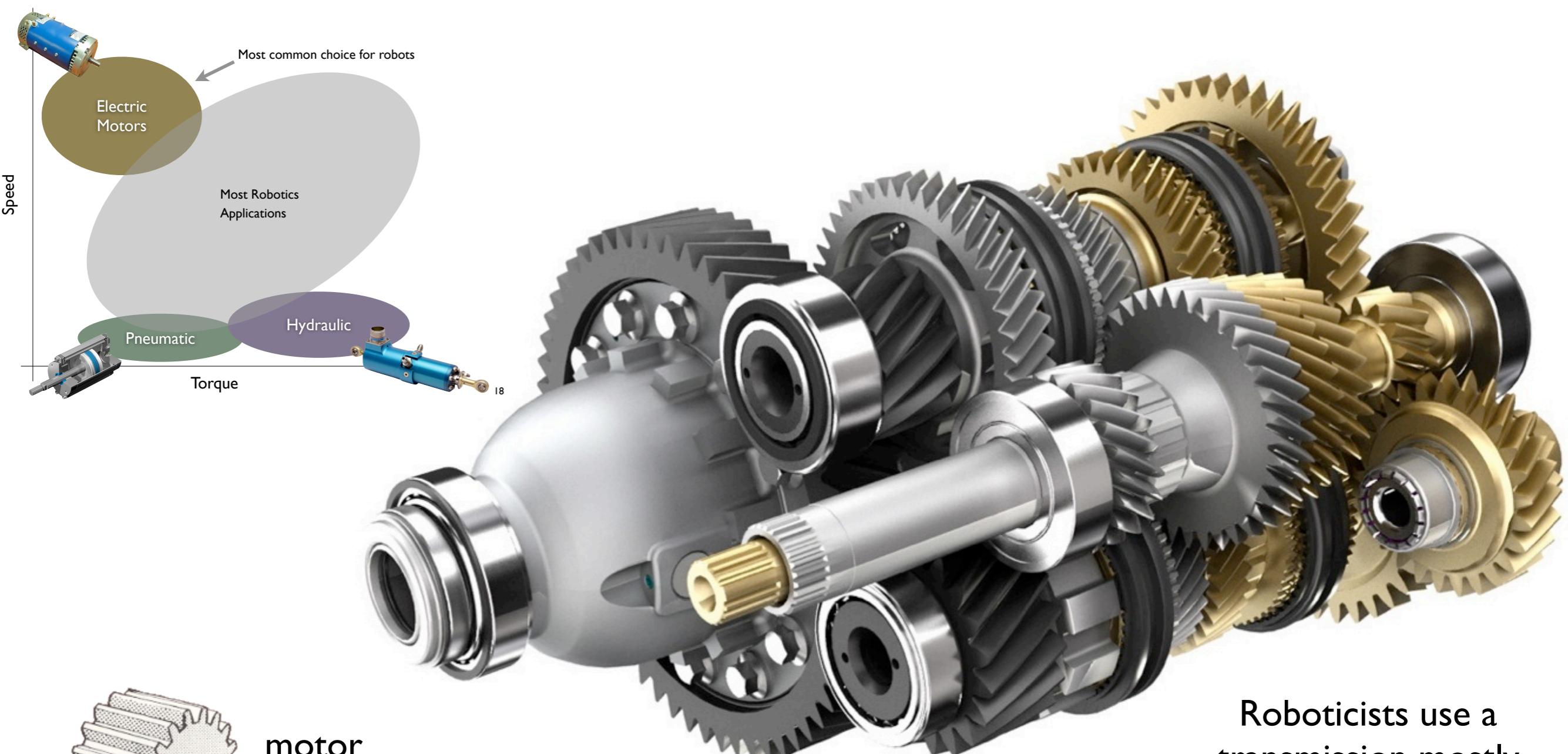
machine elements





Inside the gearhead
of a DC motor





$$N = \frac{\omega_{\text{in}}}{\omega_{\text{out}}} = \frac{\tau_{\text{out}}}{\tau_{\text{in}}} = \frac{n_{\text{out}}}{n_{\text{in}}} = \frac{r_{\text{out}}}{r_{\text{in}}}$$

Speed	Torque	Teeth	Radius
-------	--------	-------	--------

Roboticians use a transmission mostly to increase torque output!

Same equations apply for belts, pulleys, and friction drive



$$N = \frac{r_{out}}{r_{in}}$$

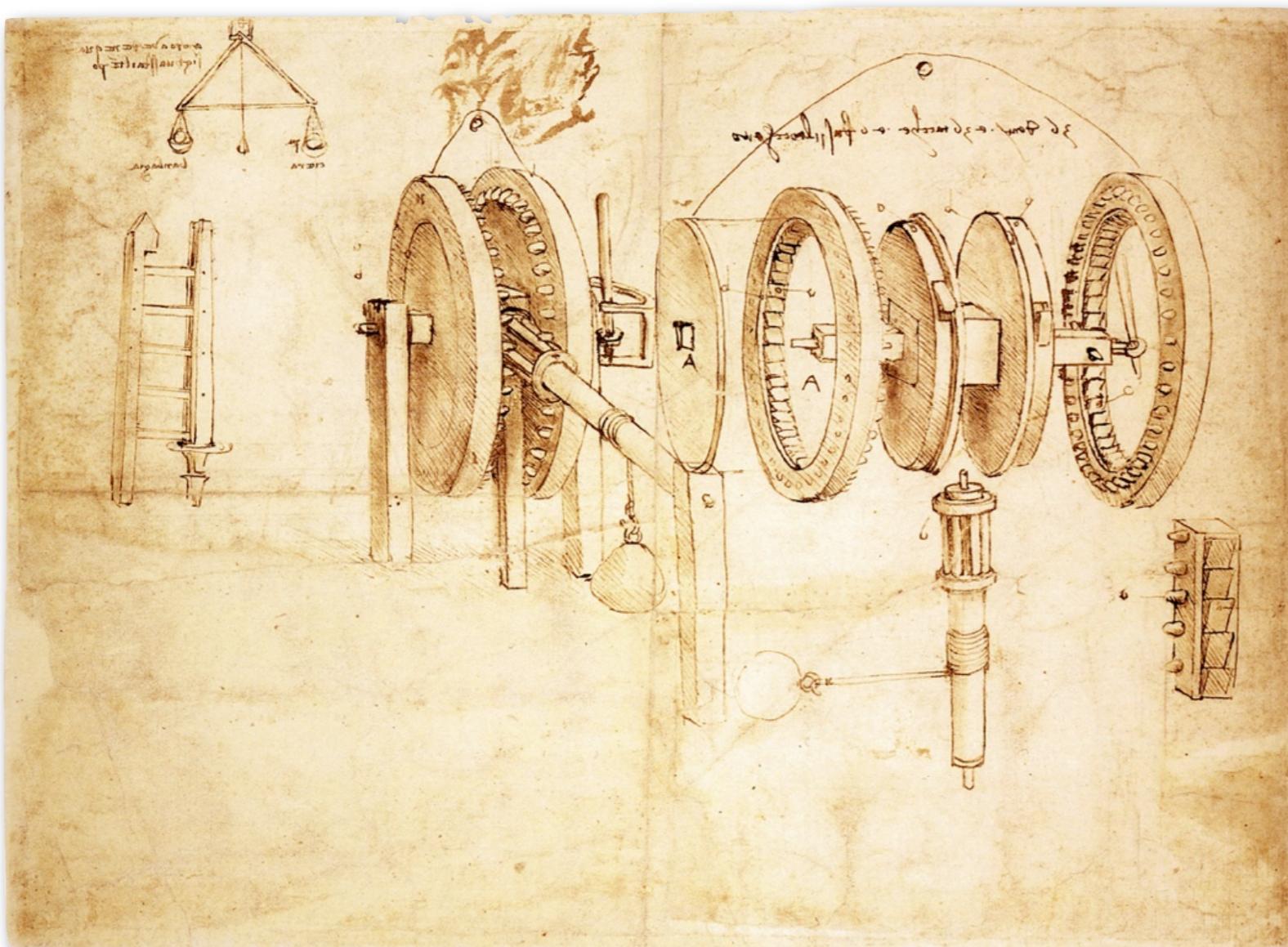
$$N = \frac{3.125 \text{ in.}}{0.625 \text{ in.}}$$

$$N = 5 : 1$$

$$r_{out} = 3.125 \text{ in.}$$

$$d_{in} = 1.25 \text{ in.}$$

$$r_{in} = 0.625 \text{ in.}$$



spur



helical



crossed
helical

bevel



spiral
bevel



hypoid

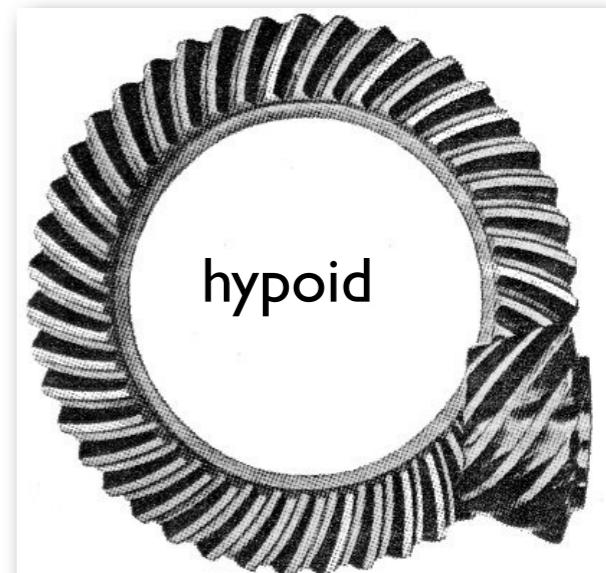


FIGURE 6.14 Hypoid gears. (Courtesy of Gleason Works.)



worm

rack & pinion

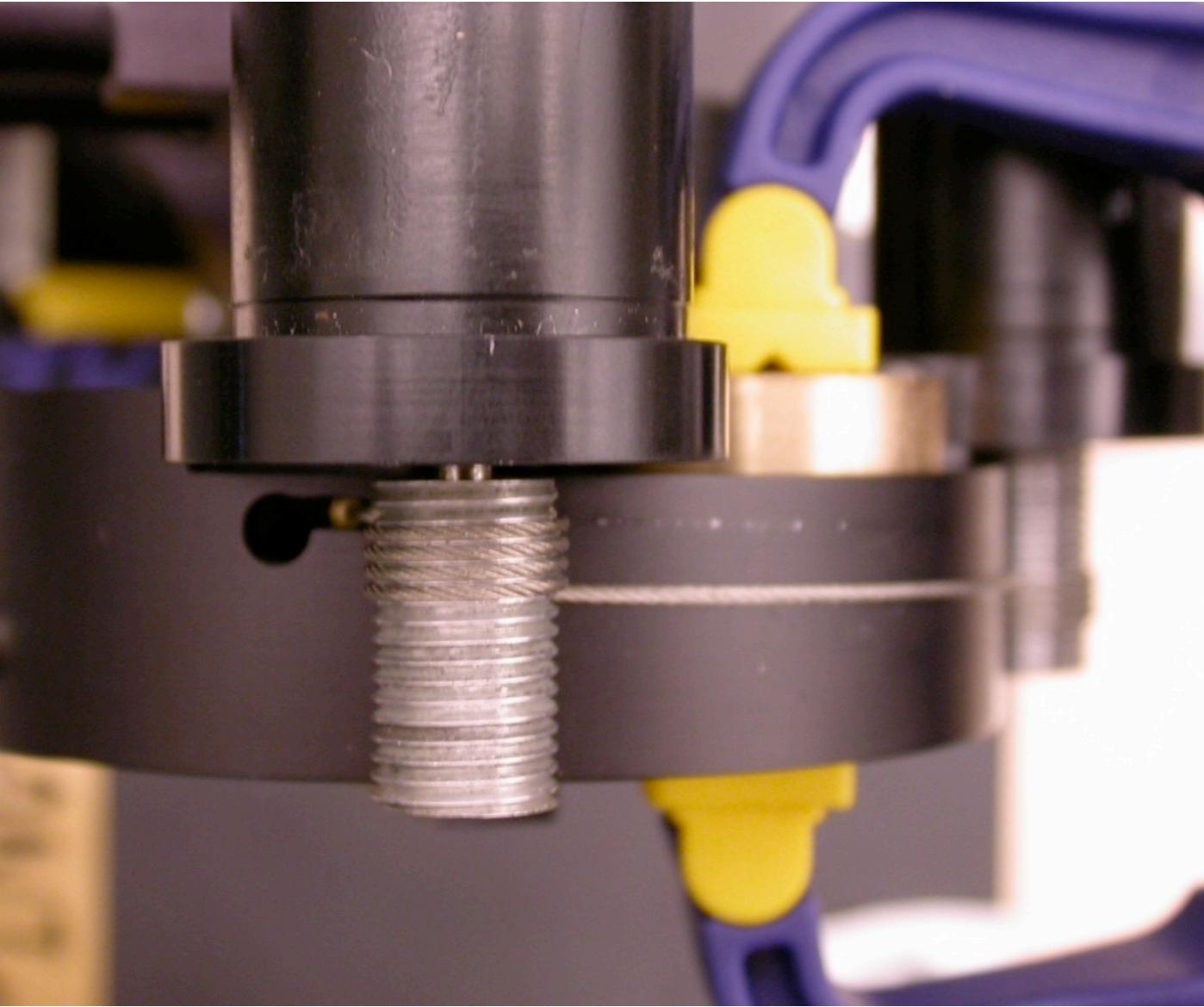


Capstan Drive

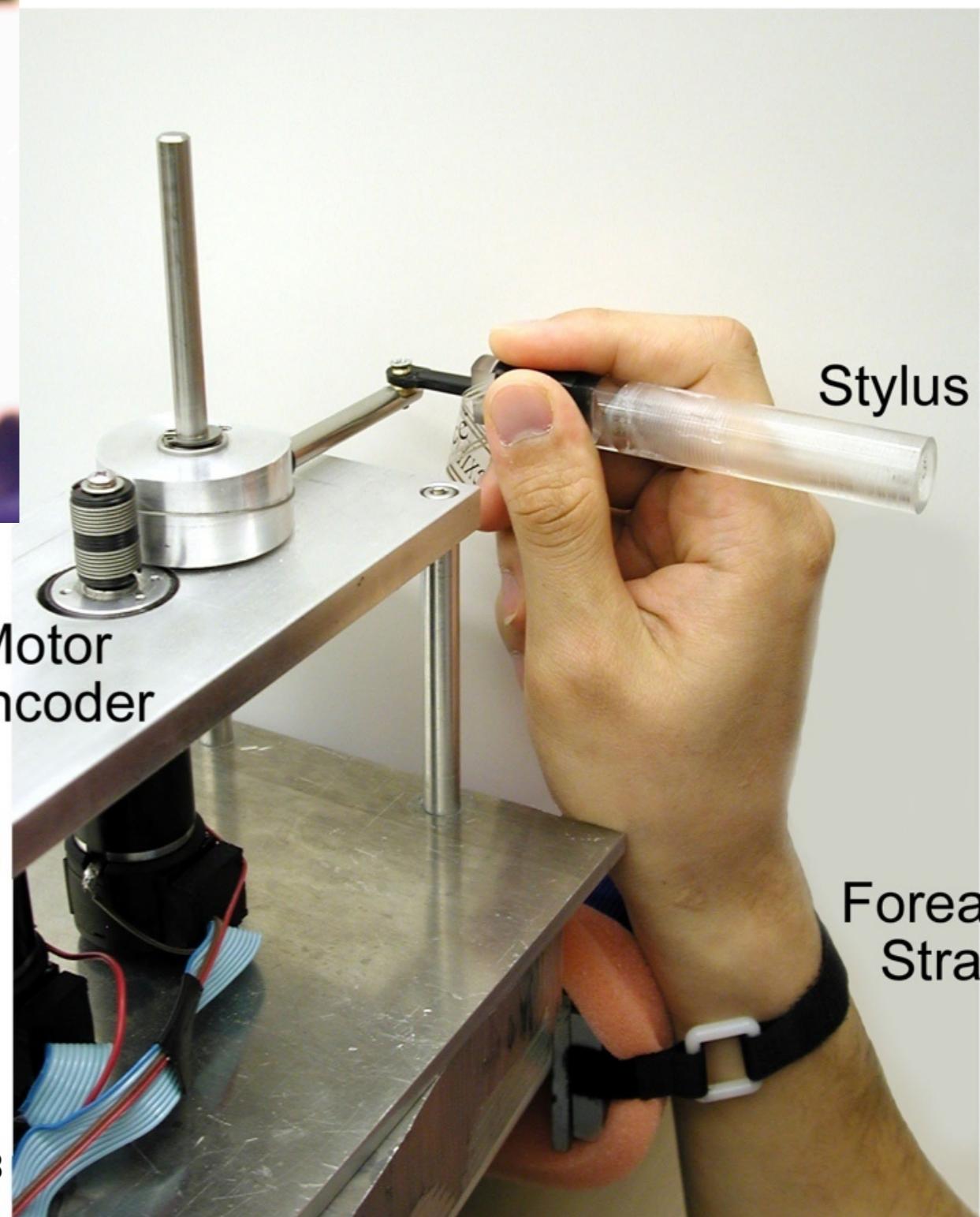


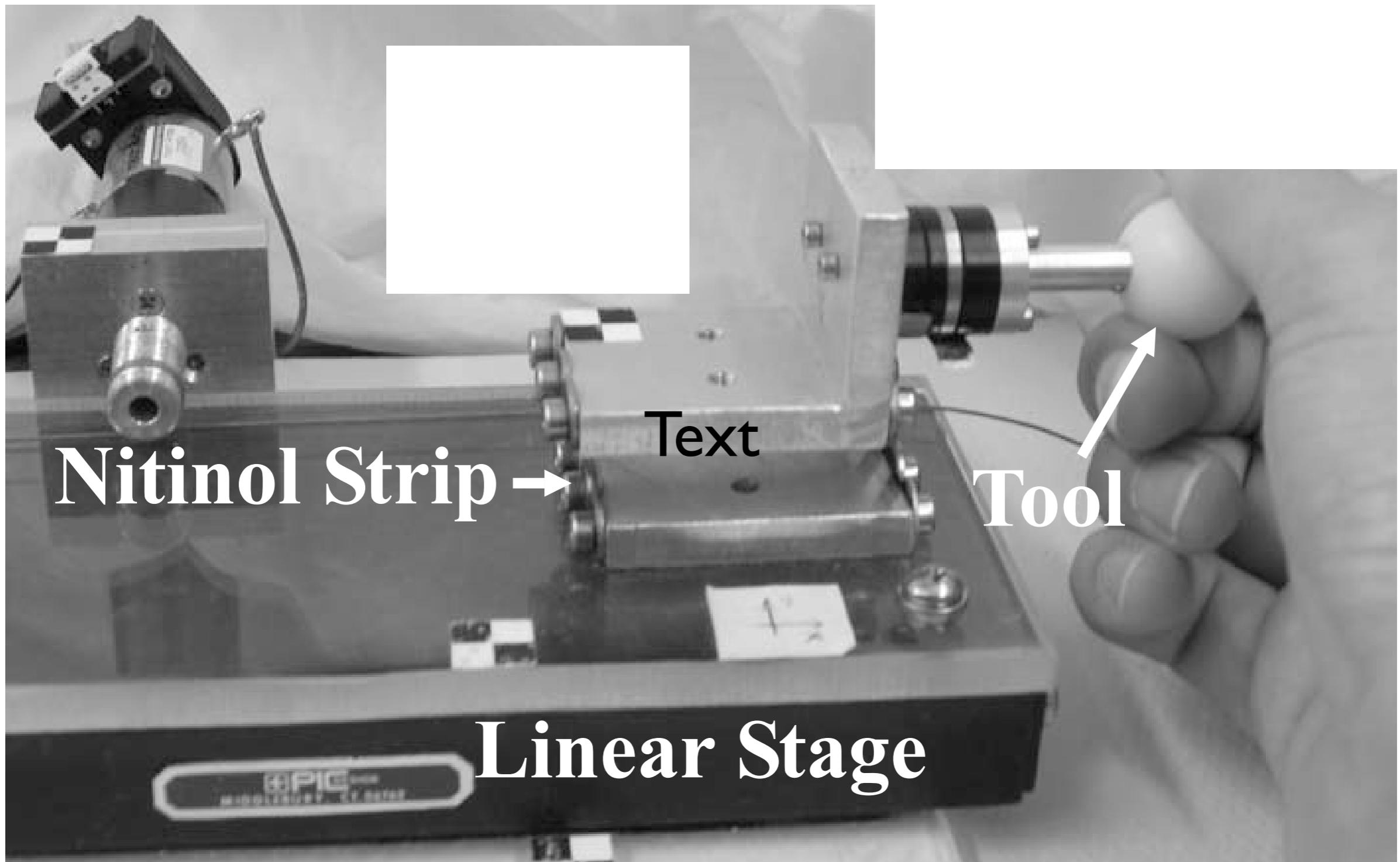
Many high-performance robots and most haptic interfaces use a capstan drive, with thin stranded cables from a company like Sava Industries.

- The rotation of the motor shaft is coupled to the rotation of a larger drum or the motion of a linear stage by wrapping cables around a capstan.
- When pre-tensioned, cables provide a very stiff connection with zero backlash.
- We don't use belts or gears because we need motion to be smooth and efficient. Users dislike vibration.



DC Motor
with Encoder

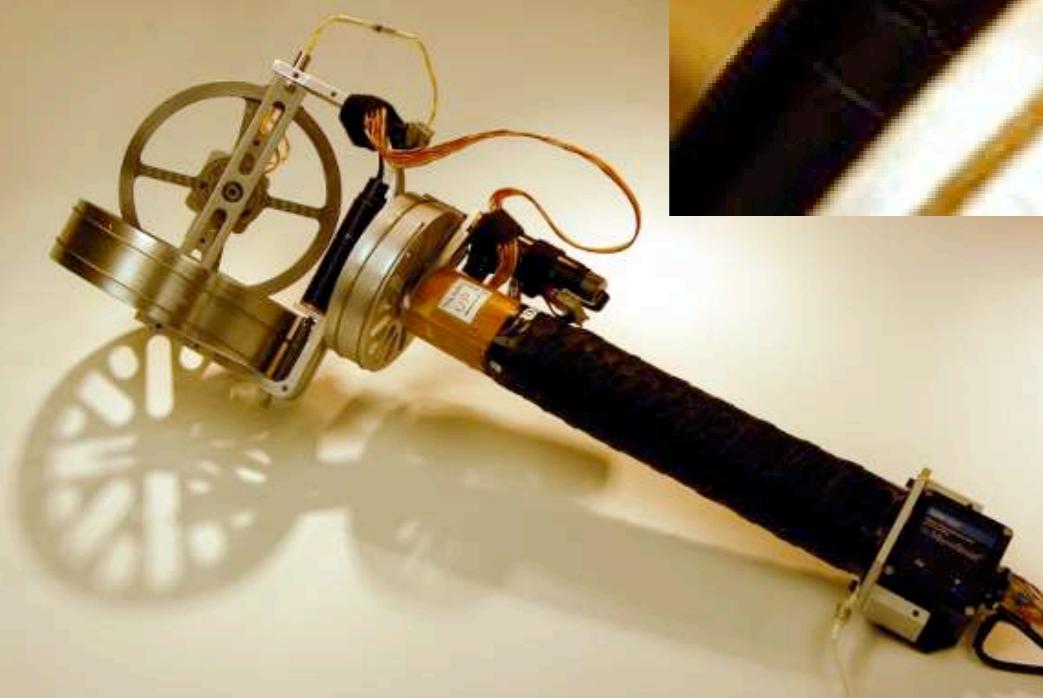
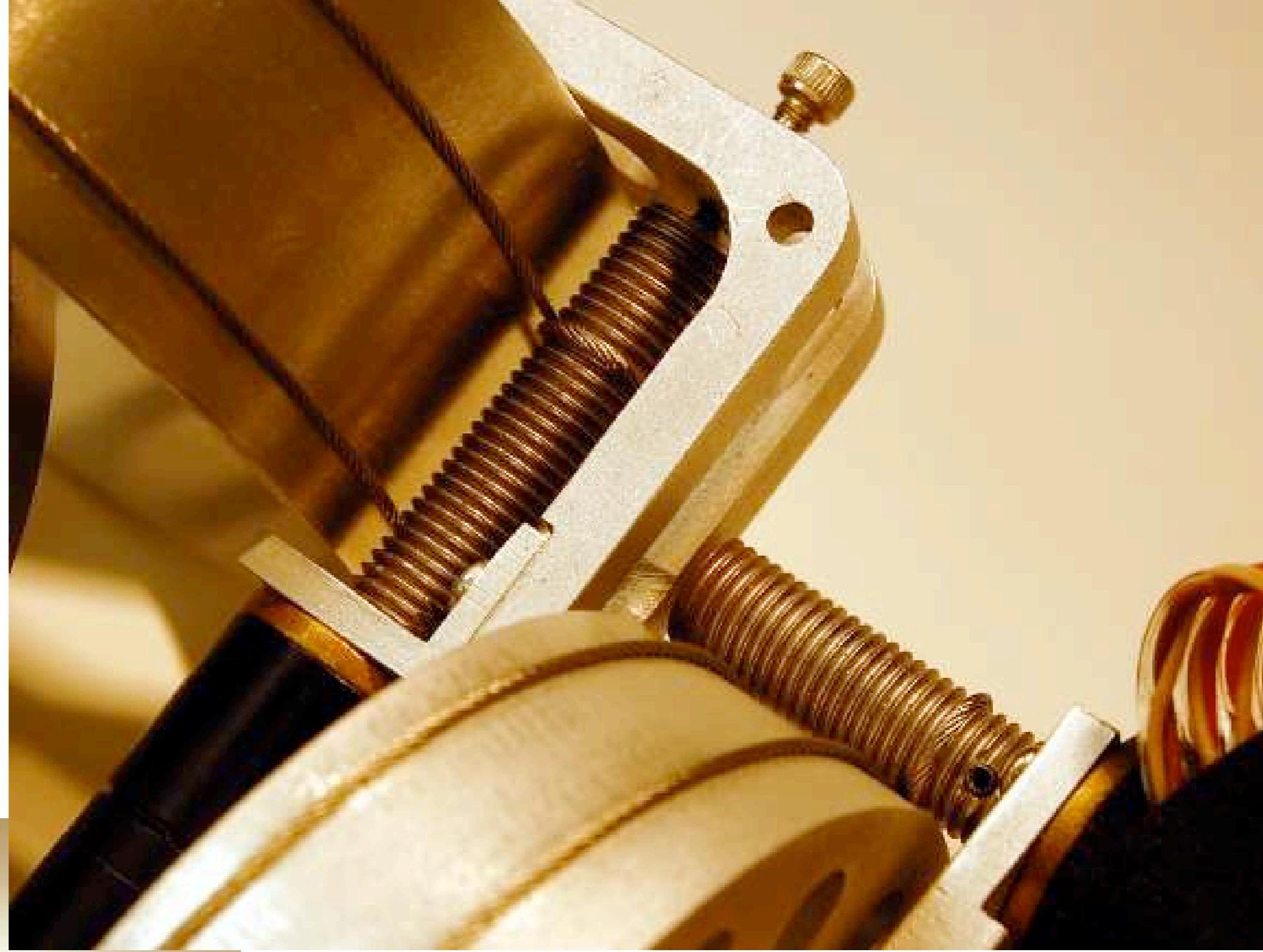




Capstan Drive



- The gear ratio is the ratio of the diameters (or equivalently the ratio of the radii). $\rho = \frac{d_d}{d_c}$
- The drum is almost always larger than the capstan, so rho is greater than one. $\tau_d = \rho \tau_m$ $\omega_m = \rho \omega_d$
- The drum torque is greater than the motor torque.
- The motor speed is greater than the drum speed.
- A drawback - the user feels amplified versions of the motor's inertia and friction, goes with gear ratio squared.

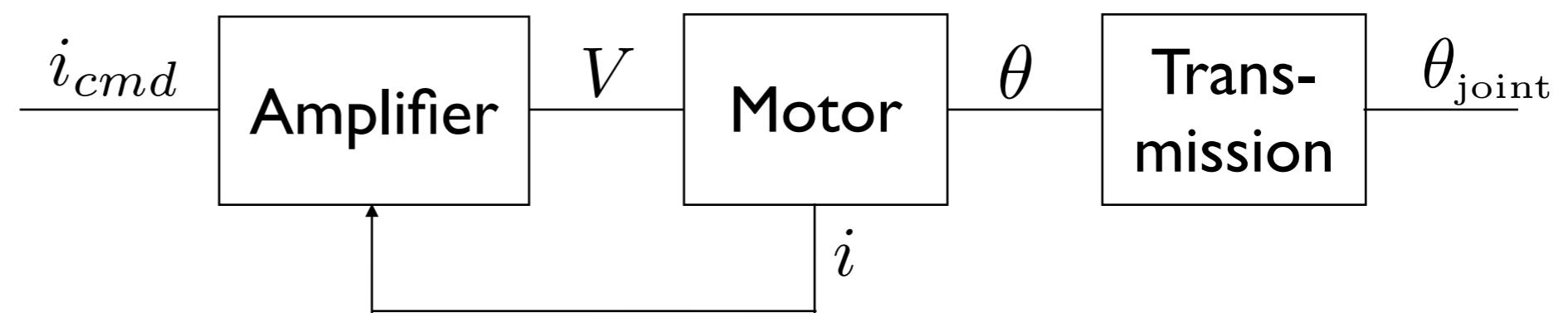


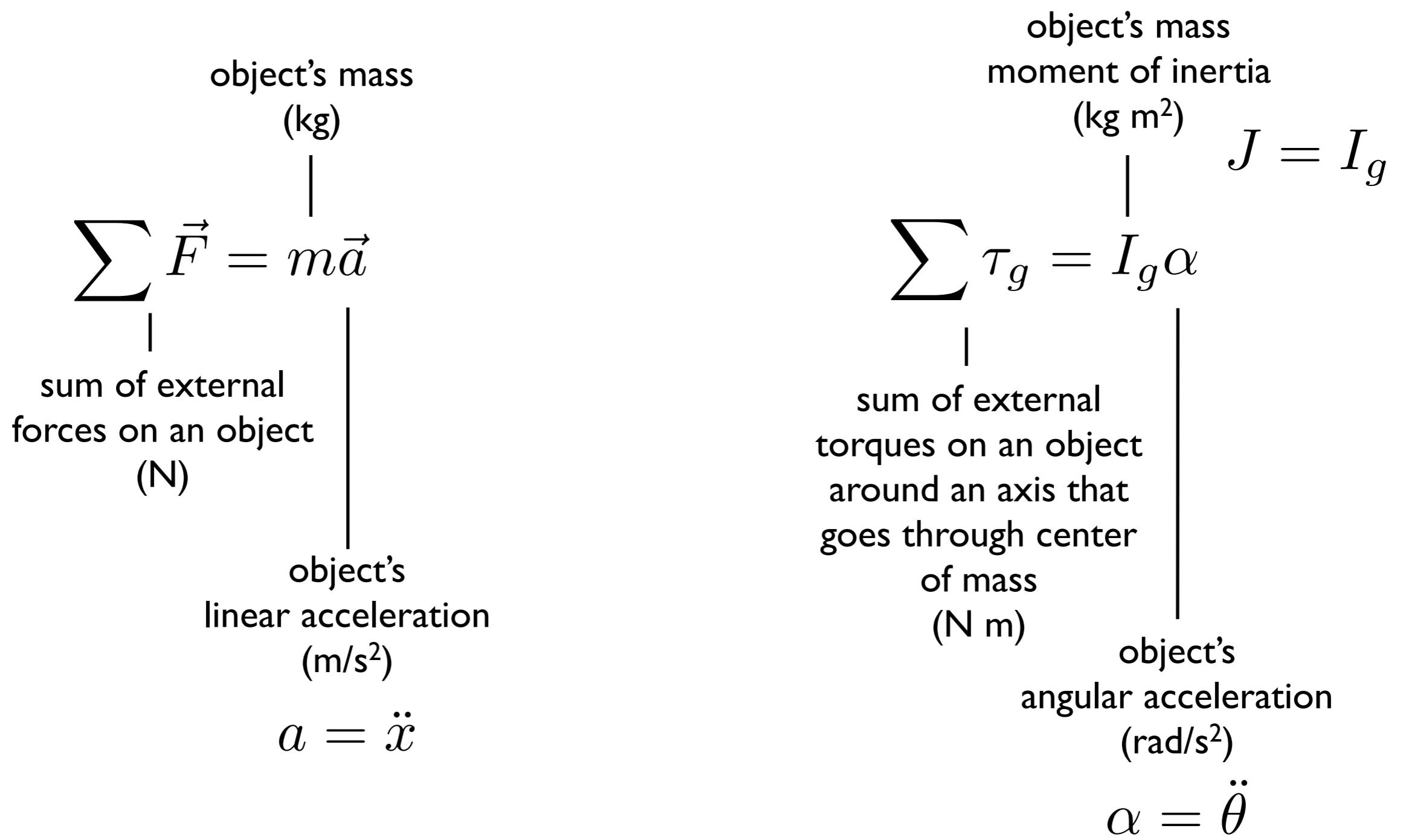
Images from the Masters thesis of Kyle Winfree,
“An Ungrounded Haptic Torque Feedback Device: The iTorqU”

Also need good bearings!

Rolling resistance is much lower than sliding friction.

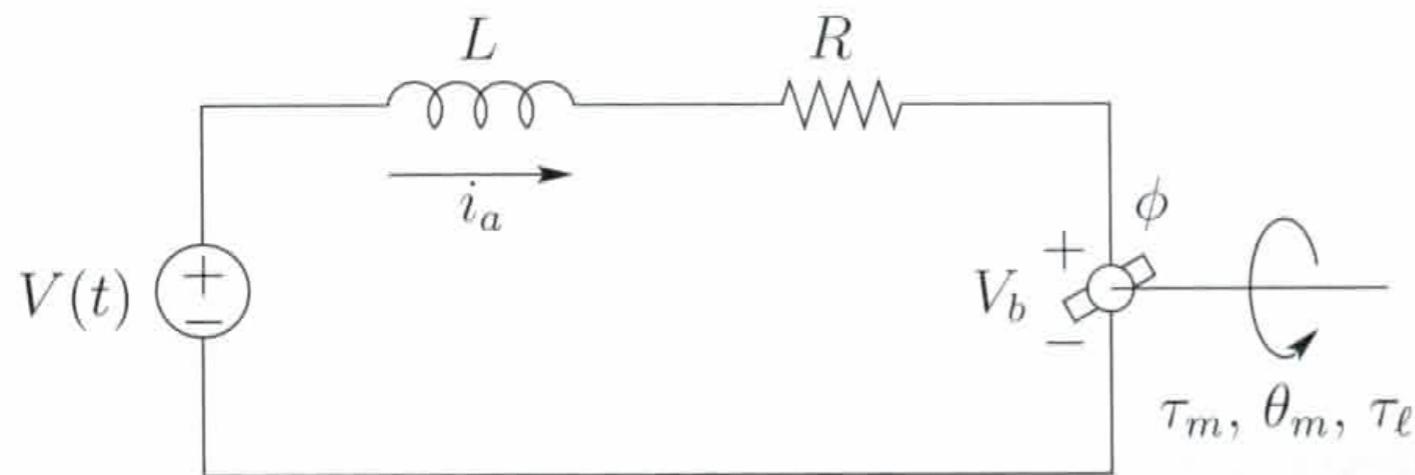






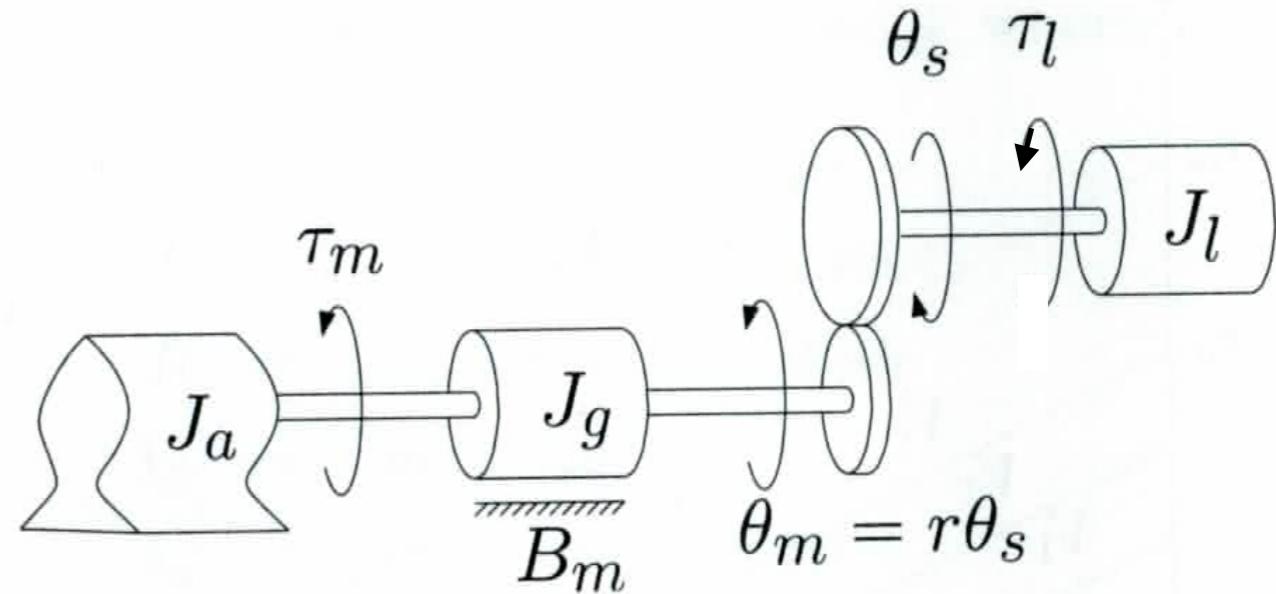
Joint Dynamics (SHV 6.2)

Linear Model of Electrical and Mechanical Dynamics



$$V(t) = L \frac{di_a}{dt} + Ri_a + k_v \omega_m$$

SHV shows the load torque in the wrong direction and confusingly calls gear ratio “r”



$$\tau_m = k_t i_a$$

gearhead
inertia

$$\sum \tau \text{ on motor} = \tau_m - \tau_l/r - B_m \dot{\theta}_m = (J_a + J_g) \ddot{\theta}_m$$

motor output torque	load torque over g.r.	viscous motor friction	motor inertia	motor angular acceleration

This system of differential equations describes the motor's response.
Other effects can matter too, especially backlash and static friction.

Typically, roboticists treat each joint independently, as a single-input/single-output (SISO) model.

This is adequate for applications that don't involve very fast motions, especially if the transmission has a large gear reduction, which helps decouple the links from one another.

This is what we do on the PUMA.

A Biological Inspiration

Mechanical Structure

Bones
Joints

Frame / Links
Joints

Actuators

Muscles

Electric Motors
Hydraulics
Pneumatics
SMA, etc.

Sensors

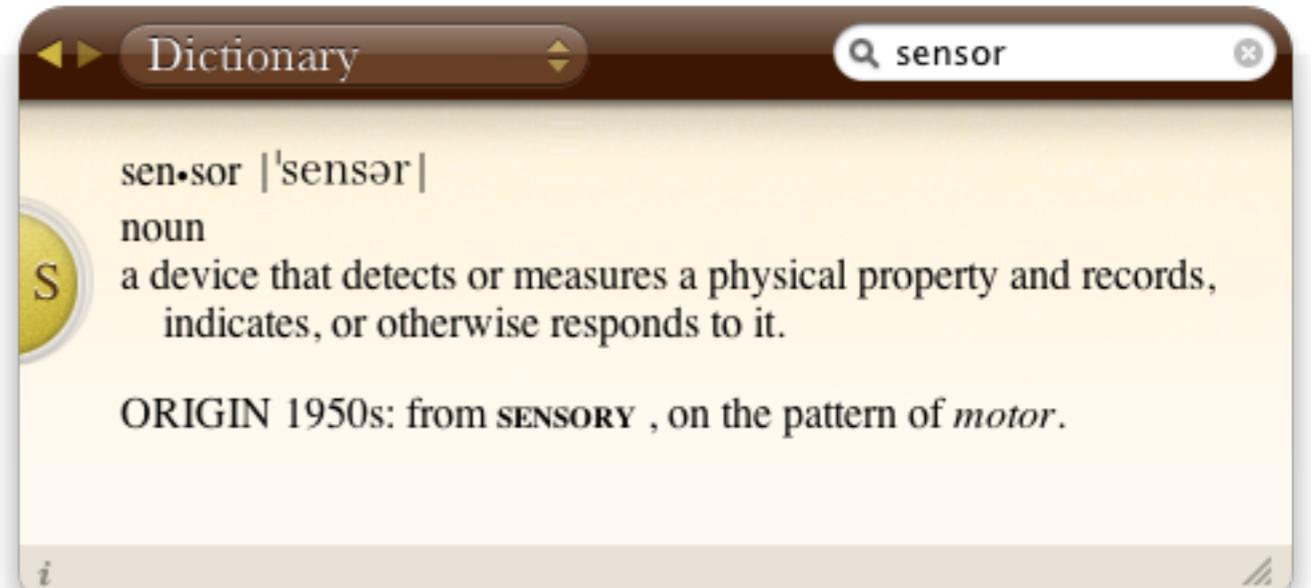
Kinesthetic
Tactile
Vision
Vestibular

Encoders
Load Cells
Vision
Accelerometers

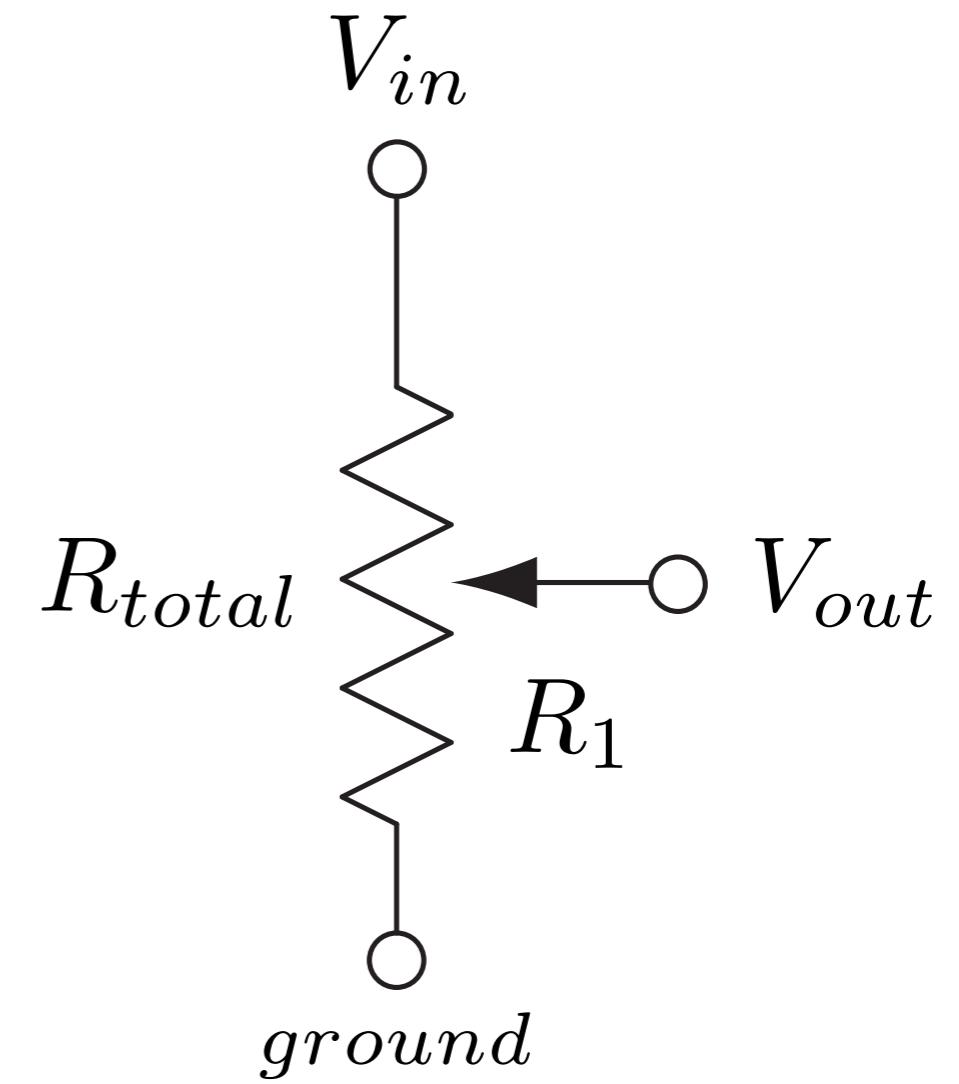
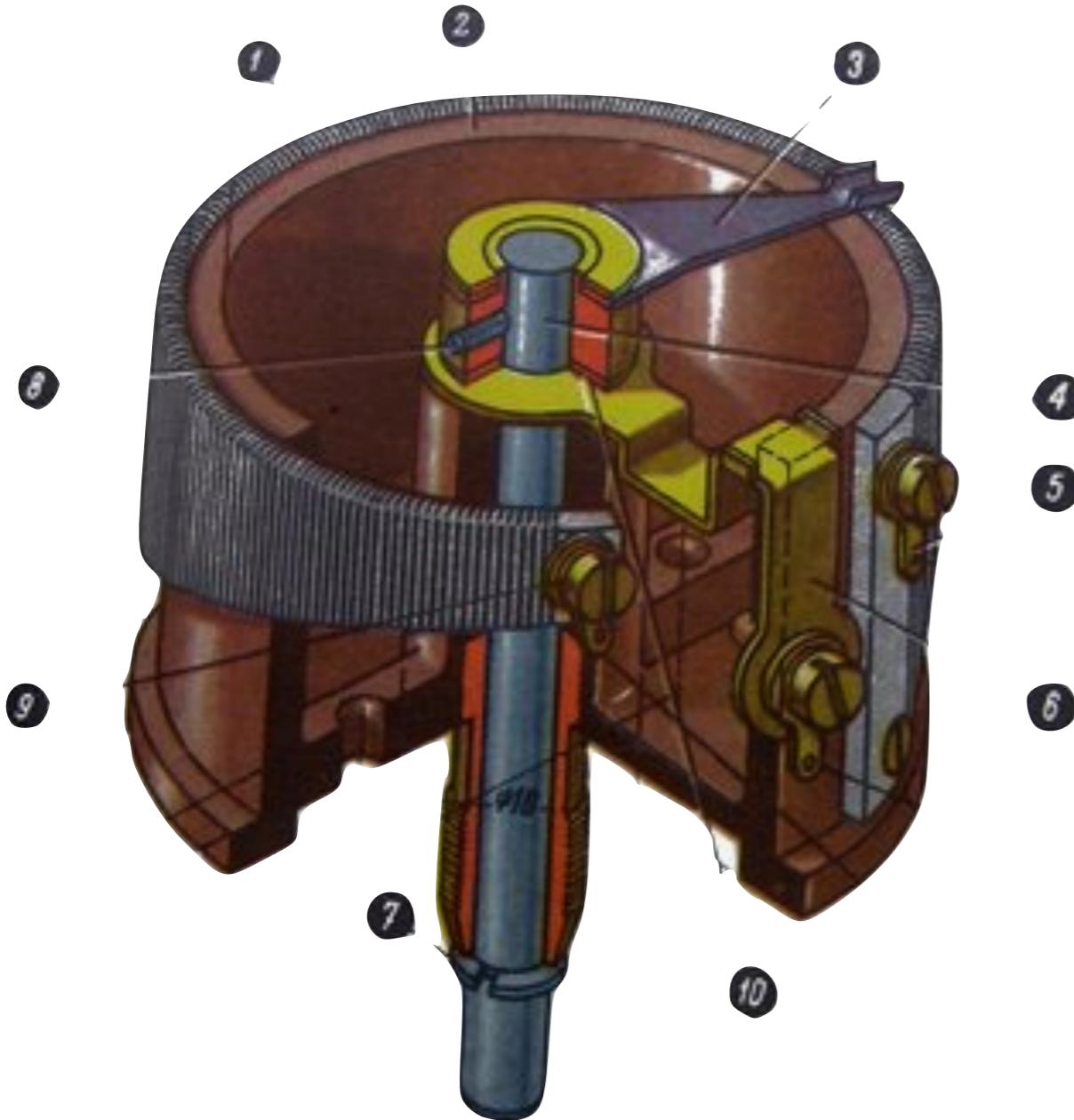
Controller

Brain
Spinal Cord Reflex

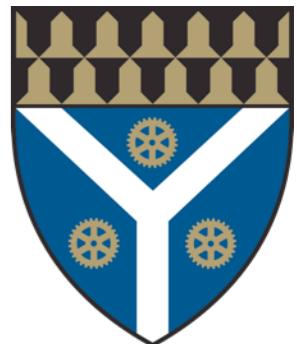
Computer
Local feedback



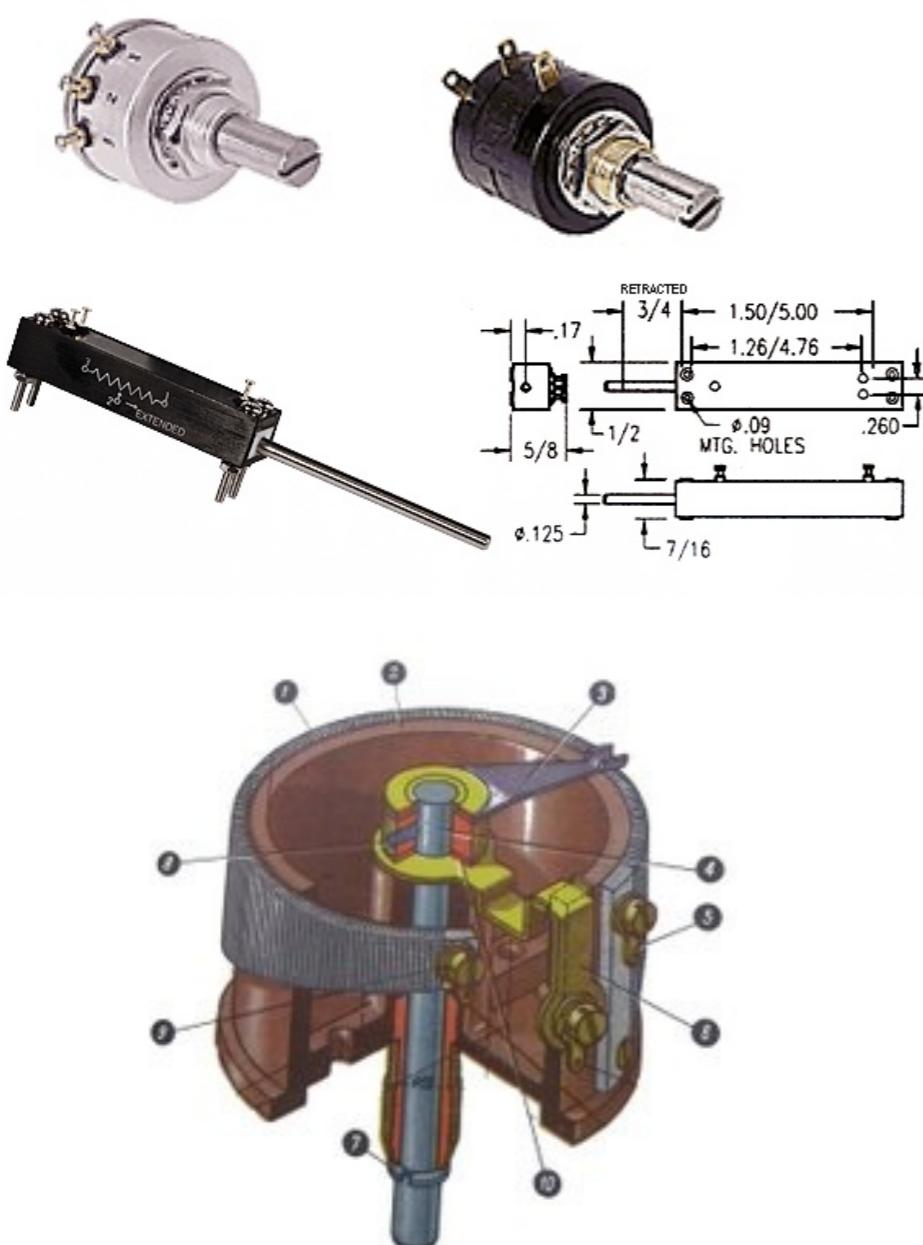
potentiometers



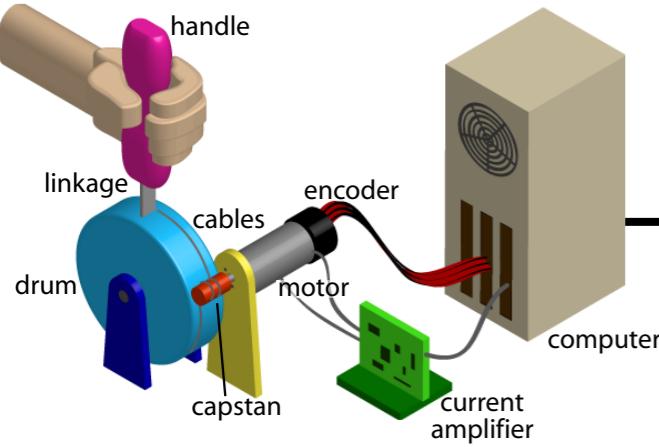
$$V_{out} = \frac{R_1}{R_{total}} V_{in}$$



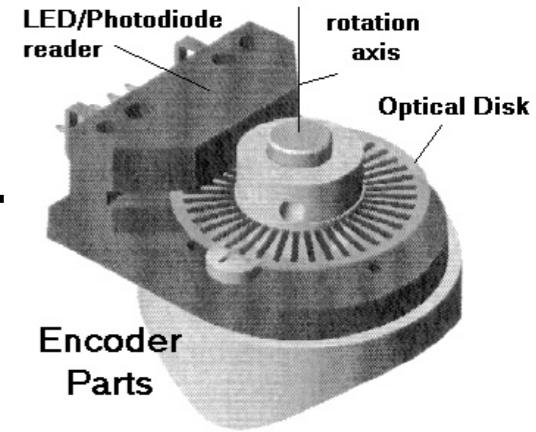
Potentiometers



- Typically rotary, but linear exist.
- Cheap and easy.
- Moving parts means it can wear out.
- Hard to waterproof or dustproof.
- Susceptible to electrical noise from other system elements.
- Has non-negligible friction.



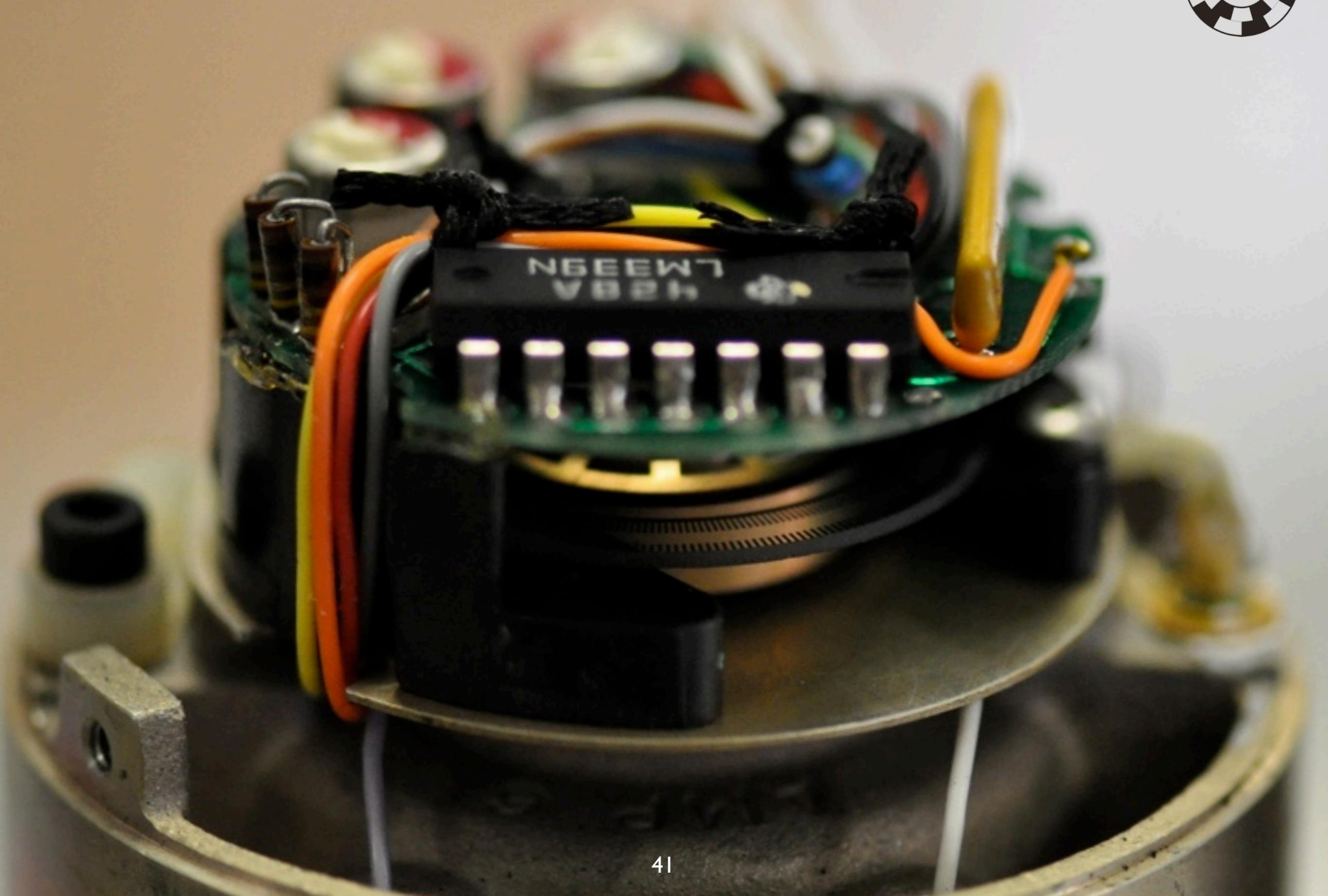
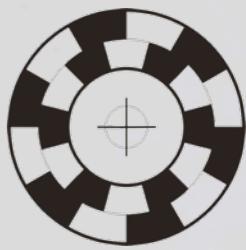
Encoder

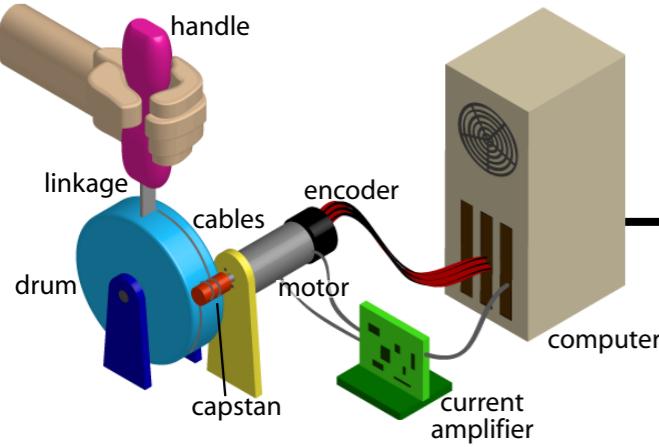


The most common motion sensor in haptics and robotics is the incremental optical encoder.

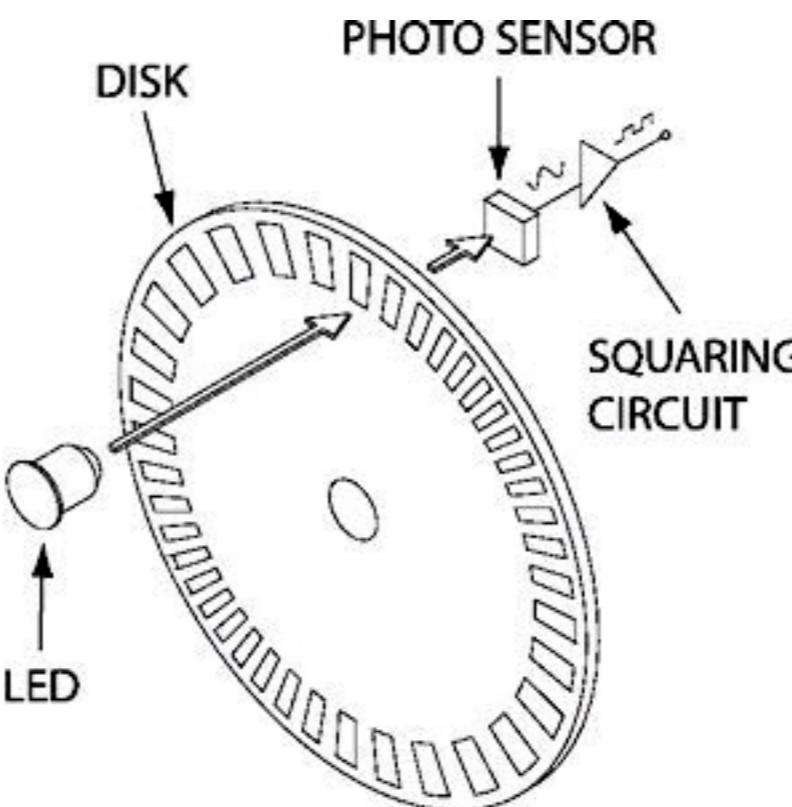
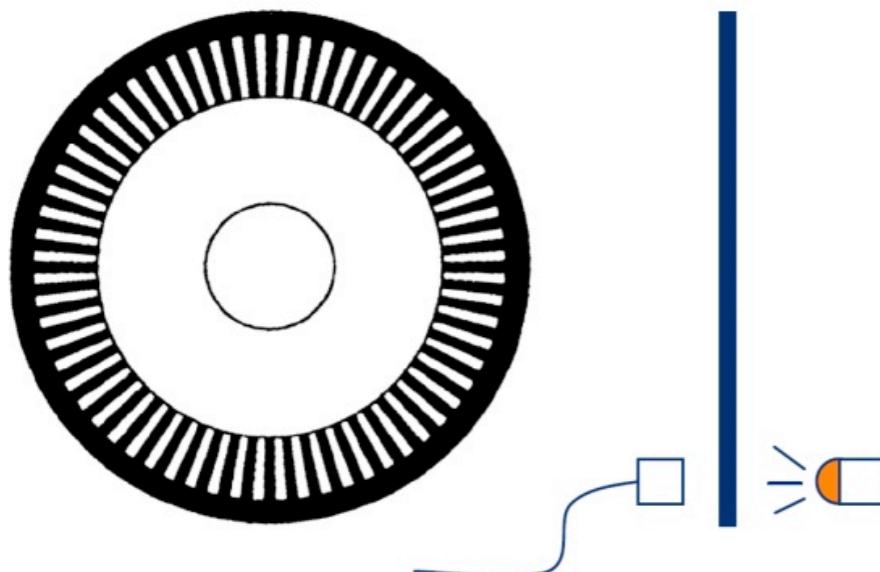
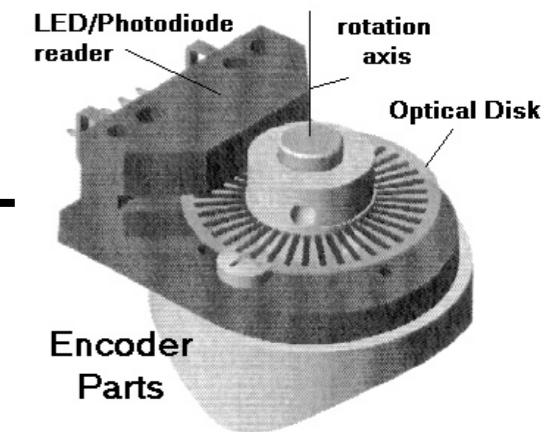
- A thin disk is attached to the rotating shaft whose angle you want to measure, usually the motor.
- The disk has slits cut into it in a regular pattern.
- A light shines on the disk on one side, and photo sensors are located on the opposite side.
- Produces a number of pulses per revolution, with higher resolution being more expensive.

Puma260 base-joint optical encoder



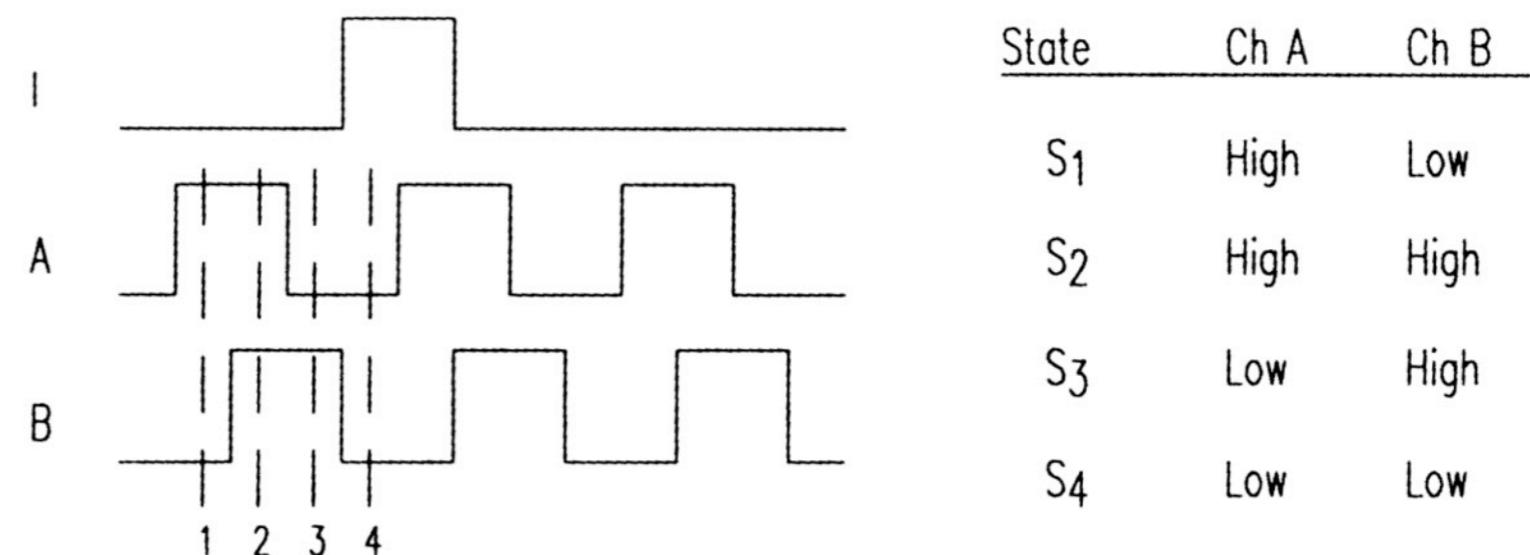


Encoder

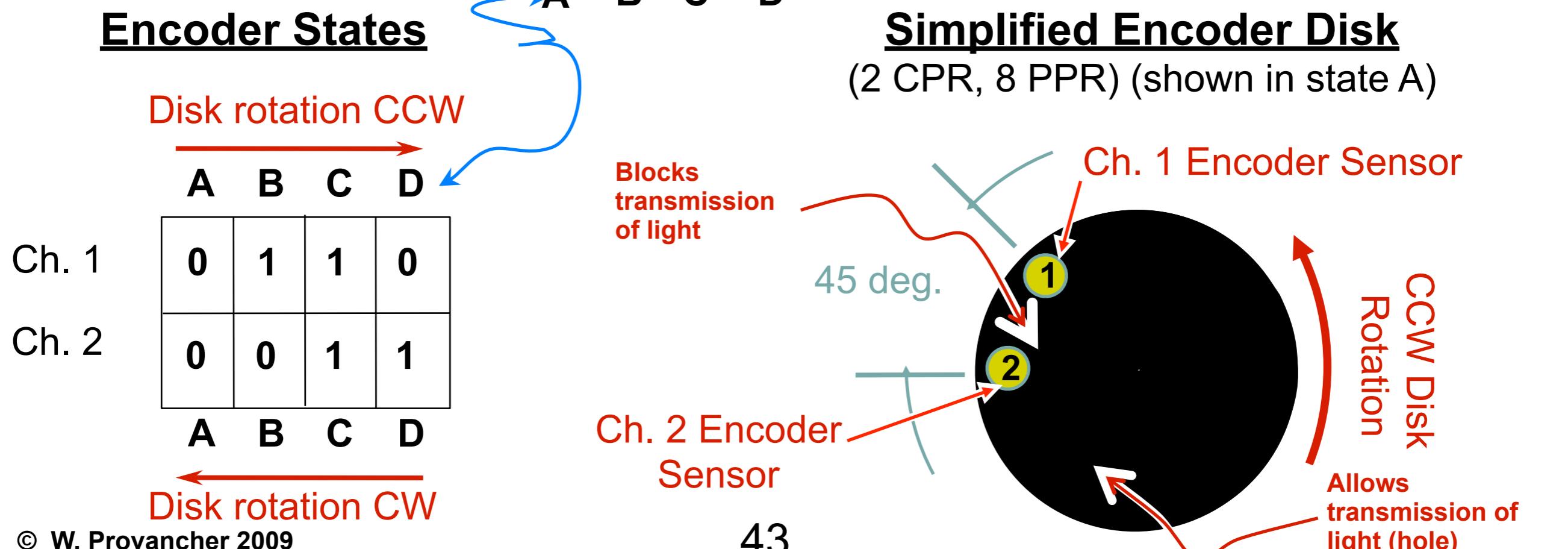
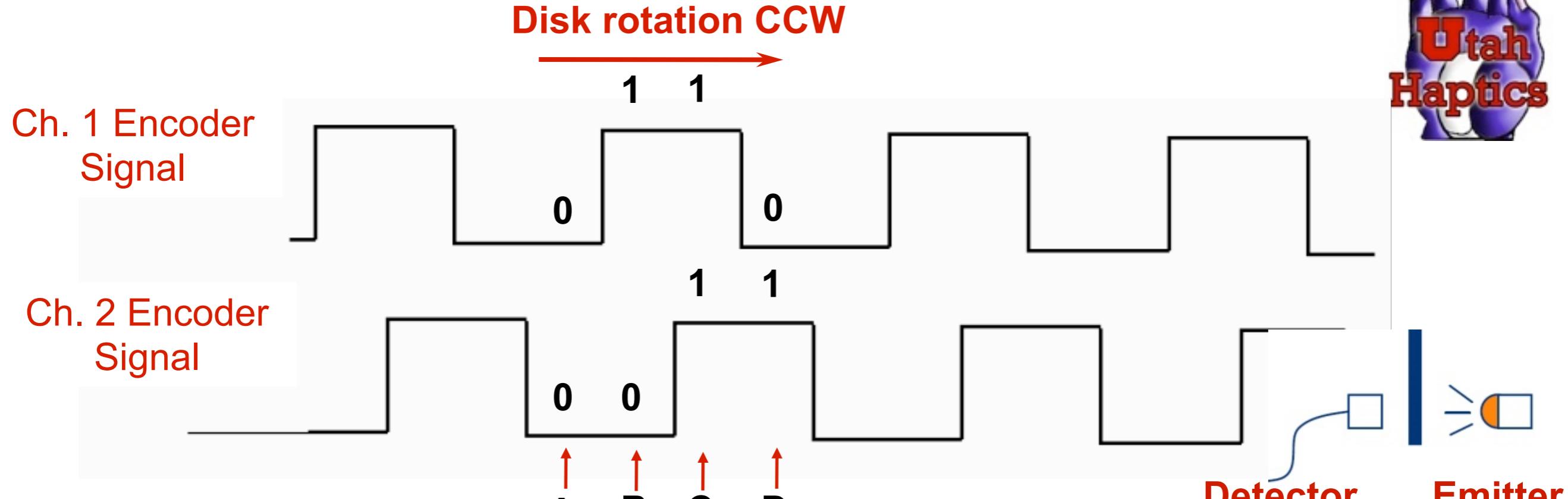


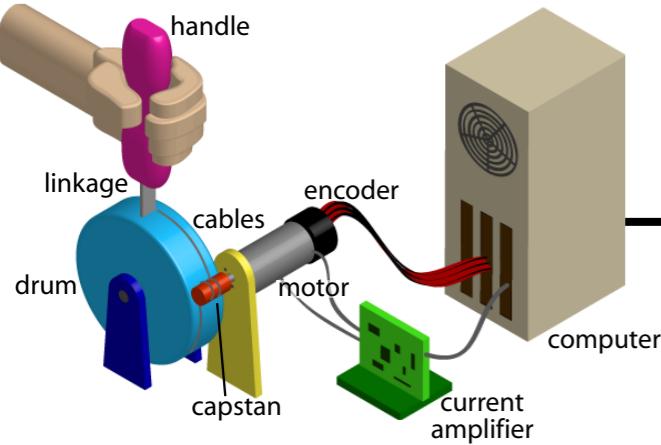
$$\Delta = \frac{2\pi}{4n}$$

Two channels of pulses, 90 degrees out of phase: quadrature

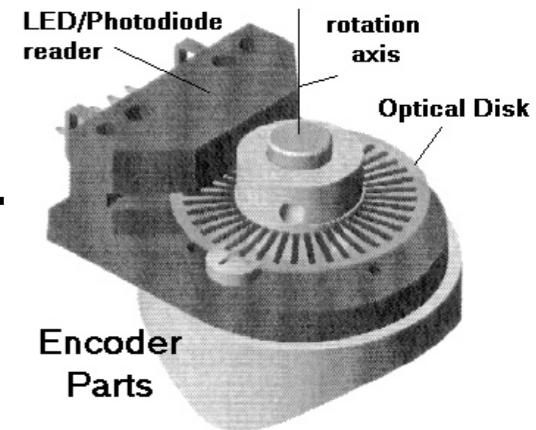


Quadrature Encoder States & Decoding





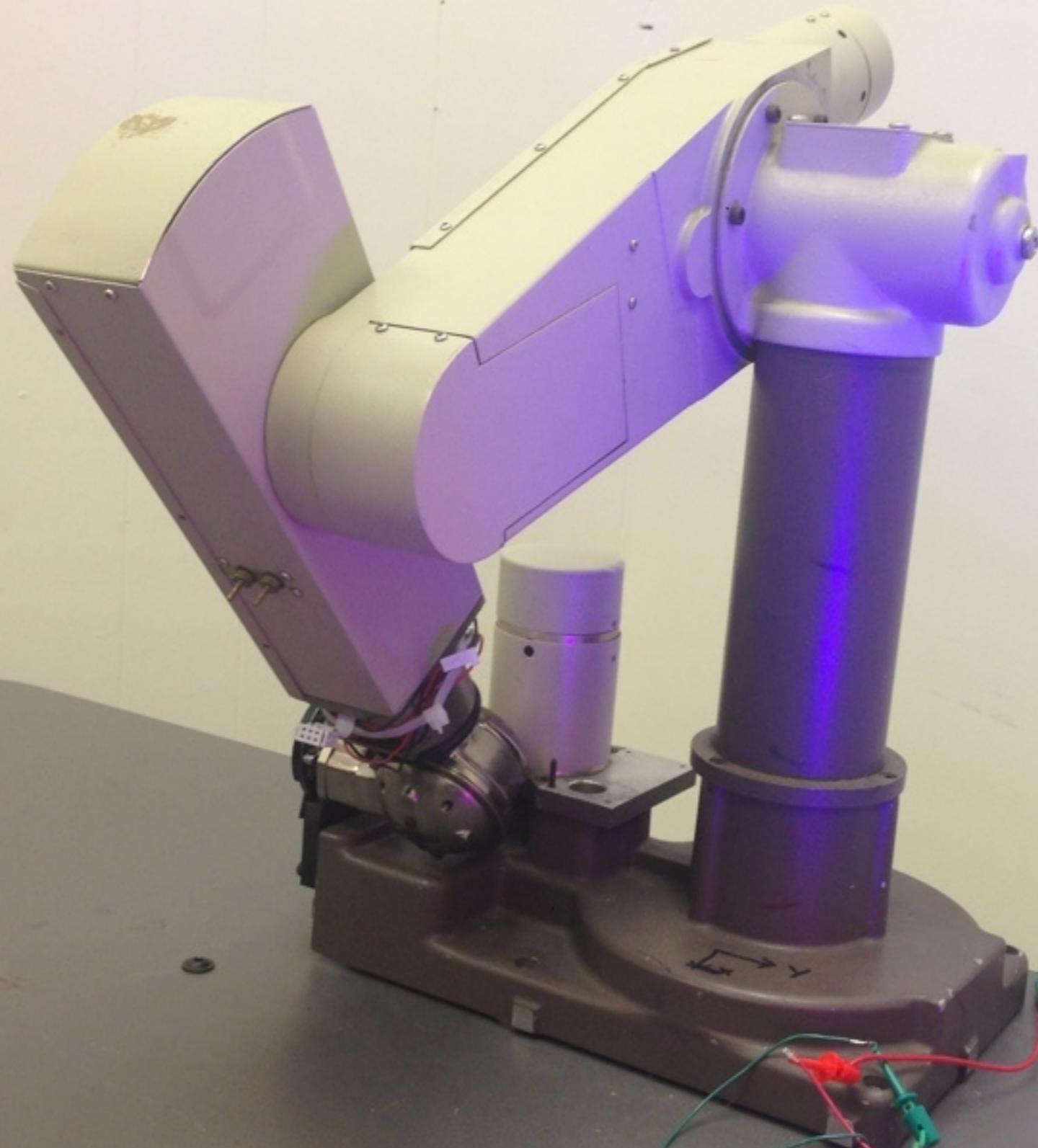
Encoder

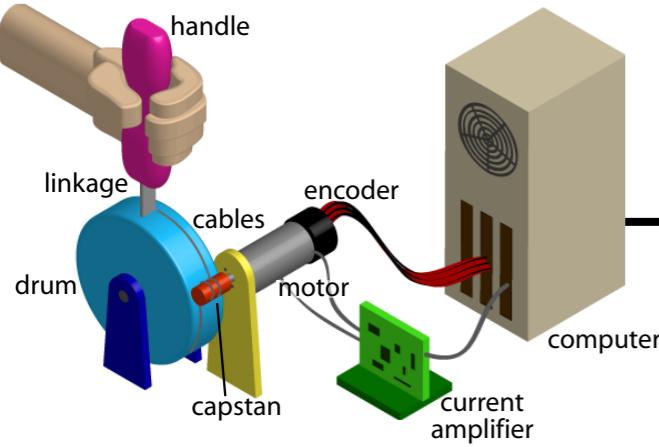


Ramifications of using incremental or optical encoders:

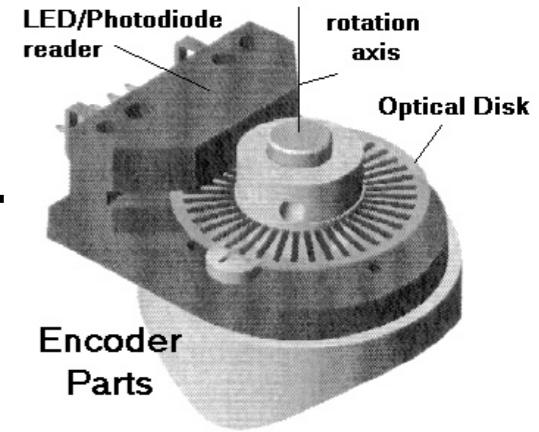
- The system has no knowledge of absolute position, because it's always just counting pulses.
- How can you solve this?
 - Calibration pose (SensAble, PUMA)

PUMA calibration pose





Encoder



Ramifications of using incremental or optical encoders:

- The system has no knowledge of absolute position, because it's always just counting pulses.
- How can you solve this?
 - Calibration pose (SensAble, PUMA)
 - Secondary sensors with absolute readings (da Vinci)
- Sometimes problems occur at high velocities.
- No noise on position, but uncertainty due to resolution, and significant noise on velocity.

$$\theta_m = \Delta(Q - Q_{zero})$$

absolute encoders

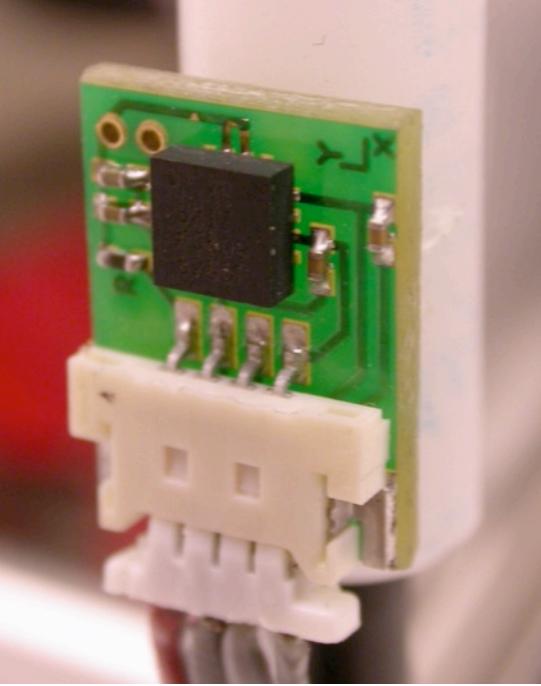
Unique combination of values for each orientation.

Benefit: don't have to recalibrate
Drawbacks: complexity, cost, wiring

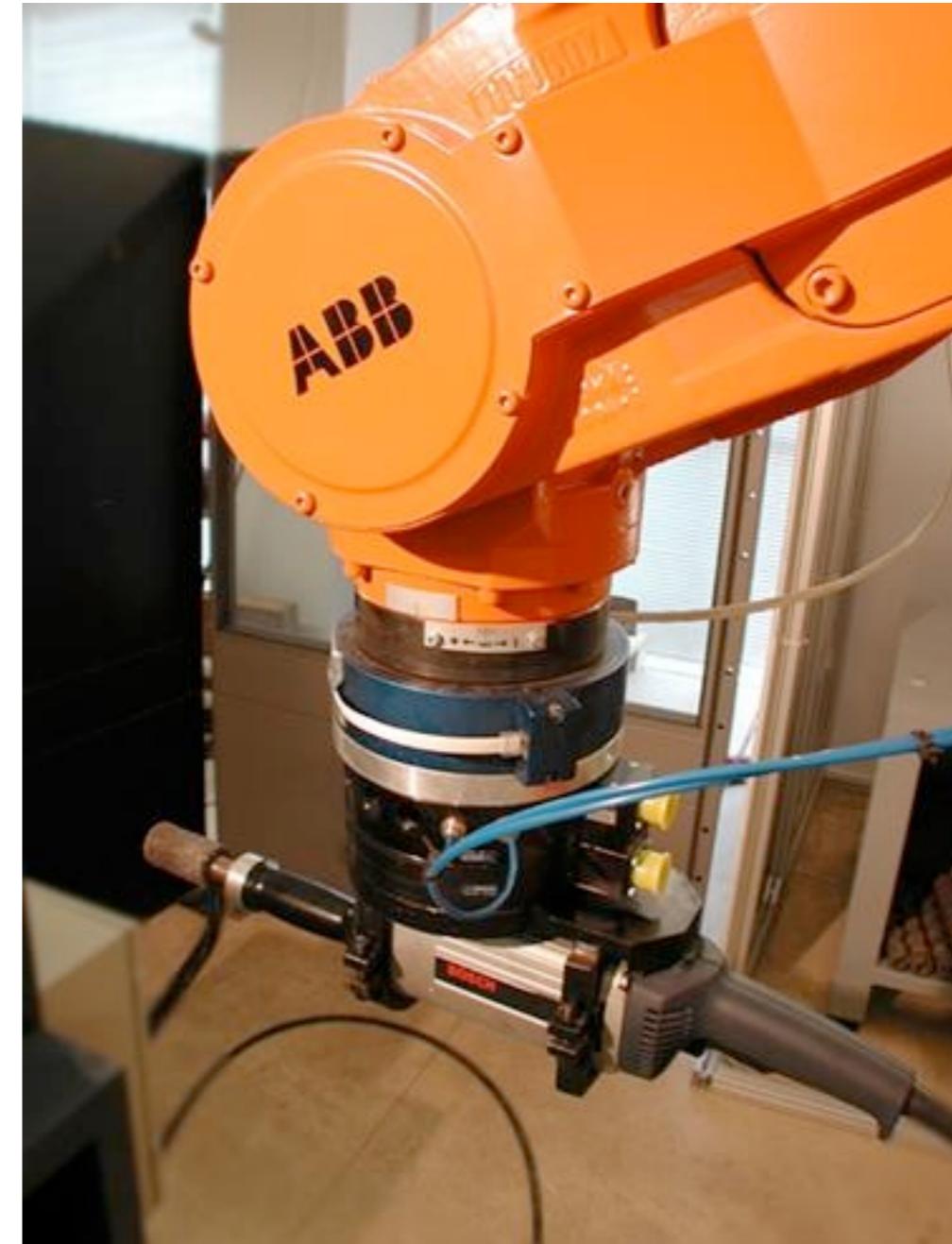


other sensors

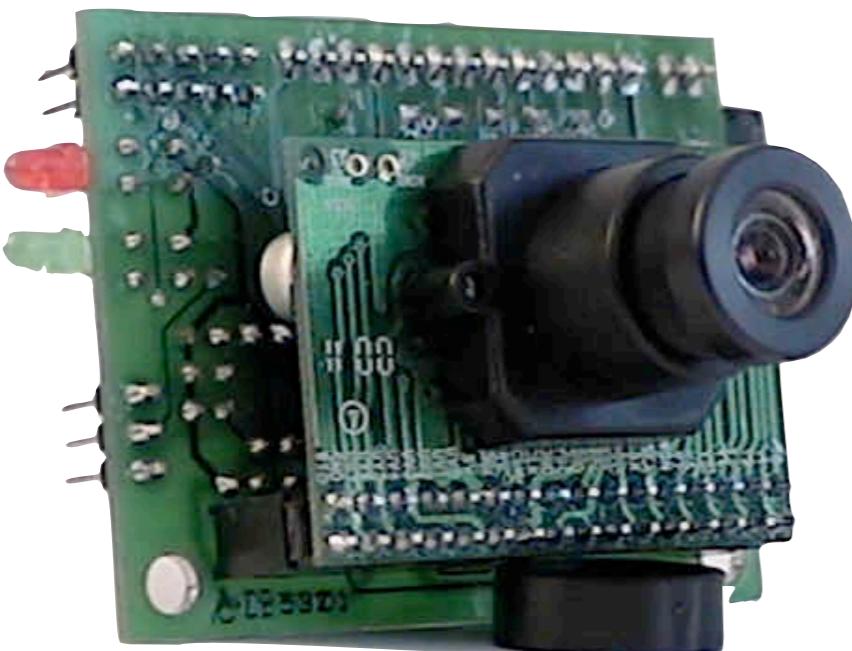
Acceleration



Force / Torque

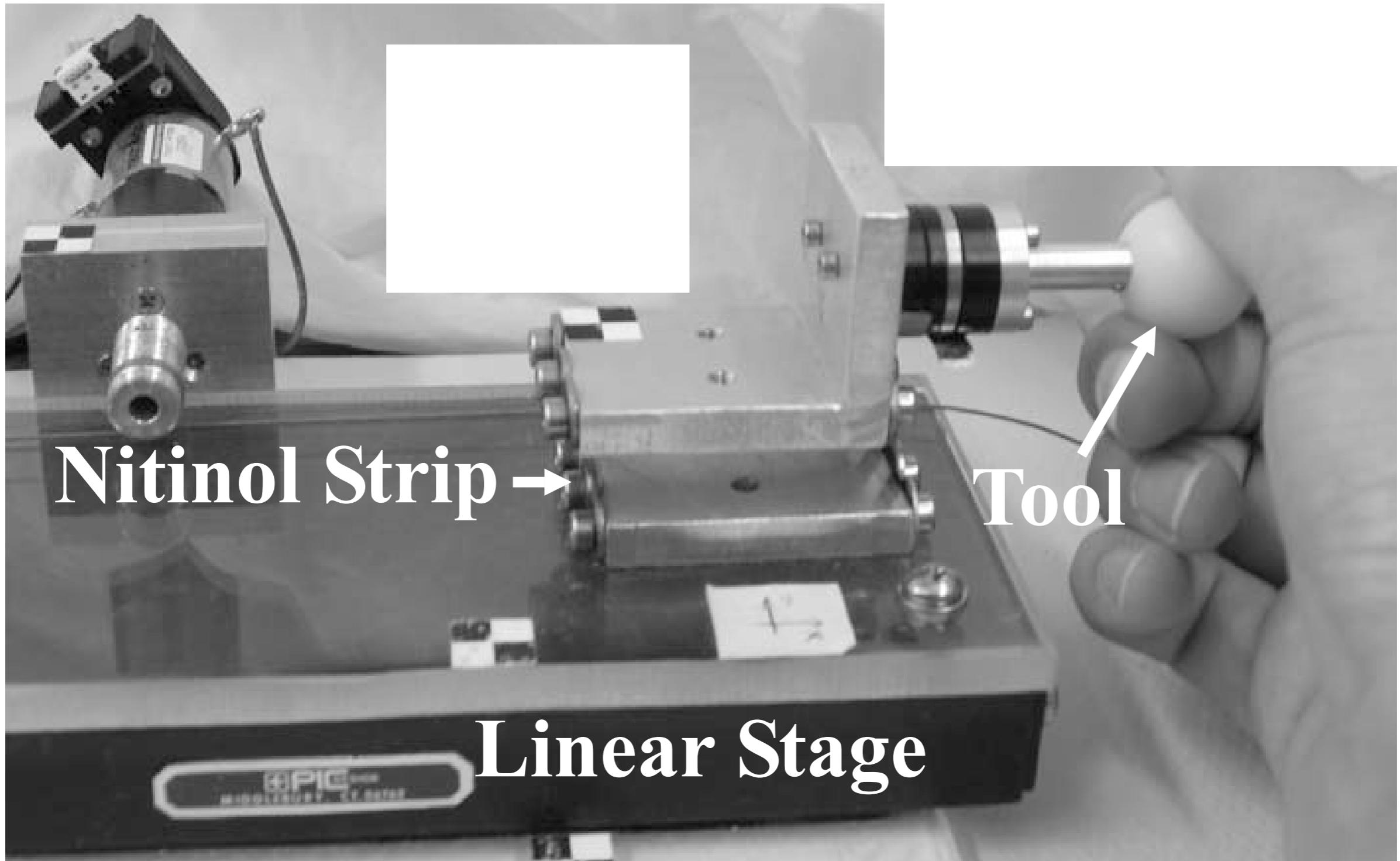


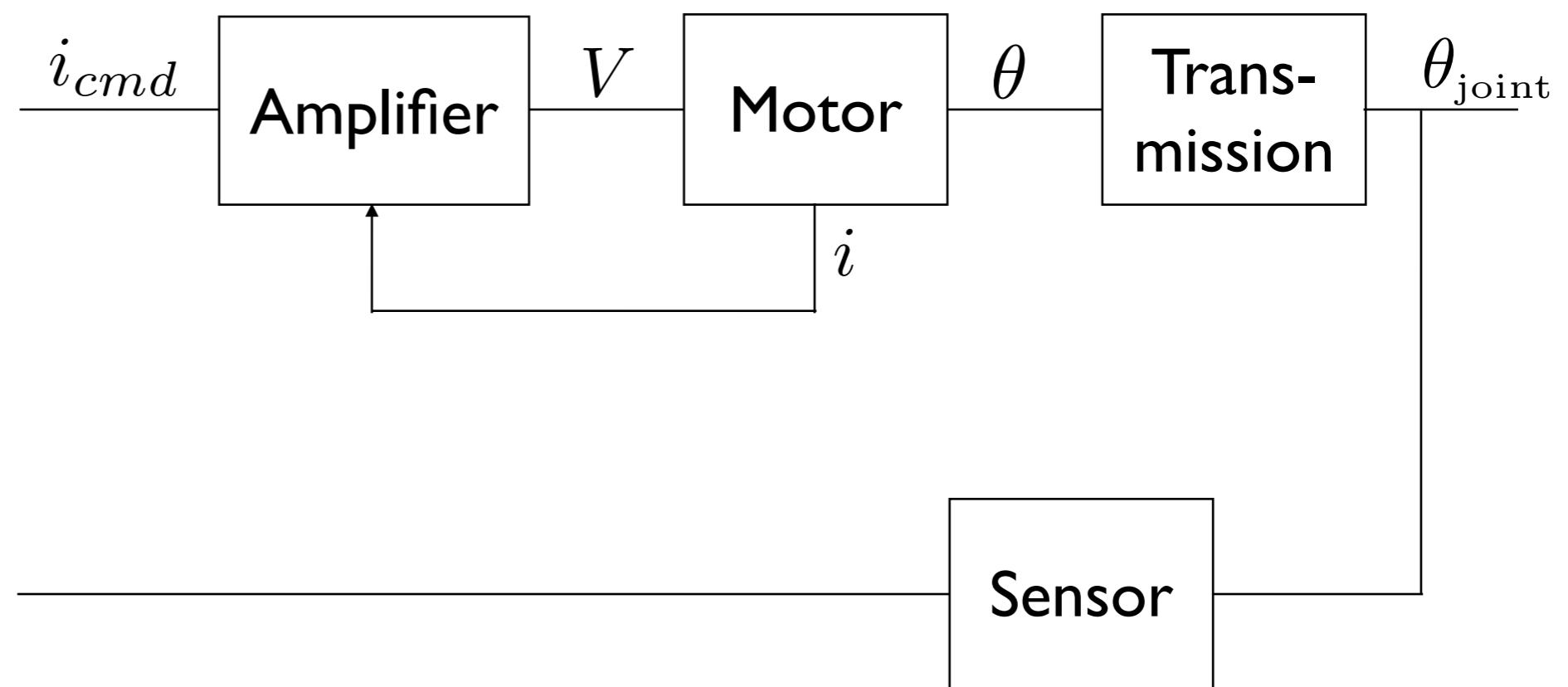
Vision



What sensors do you see?

Optical encoder





I am in the process of creating Homework 8.

It will probably ask you to characterize a simulated robot joint and design an appropriate controller.

We will start inverse kinematics on Tuesday.

Homework 6:
Velocity Kinematics and Jacobians

MEAM 520, University of Pennsylvania
Katherine J. Kuchenbecker, Ph.D.

October 17, 2013

This paper-based assignment is due on **Sunday, October 27, by midnight (extended)** to the bin outside Professor Kuchenbecker's office, Towne 224. Late submissions will be accepted until Wednesday, October 30, by midnight (11:59:59 p.m.), but they will be penalized by 10% for each partial or full day late, up to 30%. After the late deadline, no further assignments may be submitted.

You may talk with other students about this assignment, ask the teaching team questions, use a calculator and other tools, and consult outside sources such as the Internet. To help you actually learn the material, what you write down must be your own work, not copied from any other individual or a solution manual. Any submissions suspected of violating Penn's Code of Academic Integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. If you get stuck, post a question on Piazza or go to office hours!

These problems are loosely based on problems that appear in the printed version of the textbook, *Robot Modeling and Control* by Spong, Hutchinson, and Vidyasagar (SHV); all of the needed instructions are included in this document. Write in pencil, show your work clearly, box your answers, and staple together all pages of your assignment. This assignment is worth a total of 20 points.

1. Skew-Symmetric Matrices (6 points)

- a. We define $\hat{u} = [x \ y \ z]^T$ to be a unit vector. What is $S(\hat{u})$, the skew-symmetric matrix associated with this unit vector?
- b. Now define $\vec{v} = [0 \ 10 \ 0]^T$ and calculate $S(\hat{u})\vec{v}$.
- c. What is the geometric meaning of the result you obtained in the last step? Draw a sketch with an arbitrarily chosen unit vector \hat{u} to explain. Think about both the magnitude and the direction of the result.
- d. Show that $S^3(\hat{u}) = -S(\hat{u})$.
- e. What is the geometric meaning of the equation $S^3(\hat{u}) = -S(\hat{u})$? Explain using words and a sketch.
- f. $R_{\hat{u},\theta}$ is a rotation matrix representing rotation by the time-varying angle θ about the constant unit vector \hat{u} . By considering equation (2.43) in the book, one can show that $R_{\hat{u},\theta} = I + S(\hat{u}) \sin \theta + S^2(\hat{u}) \text{vers} \theta$, where the versine $\text{vers} \theta = 1 - \cos \theta$. Note that you do not need to show this equivalence. Instead, use this equivalence and the equation from the previous step to show that $\frac{dR_{\hat{u},\theta}}{d\theta} = S(\hat{u})R_{\hat{u},\theta}$.
- g. What is the intuitive meaning of the equation $\frac{dR_{\hat{u},\theta}}{d\theta} = S(\hat{u})R_{\hat{u},\theta}$?

**Homework 6
is graded**

**Pick yours up
from Naomi**



From: Charity Payne
Subject: GRASP Seminar this Friday, November 8th - Aaron Ames
Date: November 4, 2013 2:54:30 PM EST
To: grasp-seminar@lists.seas.upenn.edu , cis-faculty@lists.seas.upenn.edu , cis-postdocs@lists.seas.upenn.edu , cis-phd@lists.seas.upenn.edu , cis-ms@lists.seas.upenn.edu , cis-mcit@lists.seas.upenn.edu , cggt-ms@lists.seas.upenn.edu

Fall 2013 GRASP Seminar

Friday, November 8th at 11am

Wu & Chen Auditorium

Aaron Ames

Texas A&M University

"Controlling the Next Generation of Bipedal Robots"

Abstract: Humans have the ability to walk with deceptive ease, navigating everything from daily environments to uneven and uncertain terrain with efficiency and robustness. Despite the simplicity with which humans appear to ambulate, locomotion is inherently complex due to highly nonlinear dynamics and forcing. Yet there is evidence to suggest that humans utilize a hierarchical subdivision among cortical control, central pattern generators in the spinal column, and proprioceptive sensory feedback. This indicates that when humans perform motion primitives, potentially simple and characterizable control strategies are implemented. If these fundamental mechanisms underlying human walking can be discovered and formally understood, human-like abilities can be imbued into the next generation of robotic devices with far-reaching applications ranging from prosthesis to legged robots for space exploration and disaster response.

This talk presents the process of formally achieving bipedal robotic walking through controller synthesis inspired by human locomotion, and demonstrates these methods through examples of experimental realization on numerous bipedal robots. Motivated by the hierarchical control present in humans, we begin by viewing the human as a "black box" and describe outputs, or virtual constraints, that appear to characterize human walking. By considering the equivalent outputs for the bipedal robot, a novel type of control Lyapunov function (CLF) can be constructed that drives the outputs of the robot to the output of the human; moreover, the parameters of this CLF can be optimized so that stable robotic walking is provably achieved while simultaneously producing outputs of the robot that are as close as possible to those of a human. This CLF forms the basis for a Quadratic Program (QP) yielding locomotion that dynamically accounts for torque and contact constraints. The end result is the generation of bipedal robotic walking that is remarkably human-like and is experimentally realizable, together with a novel control framework for highly dynamic behaviors on bipedal robots. This is evidenced by the demonstration of the resulting controllers on multiple robotic platforms, including: AMBER 1 and 2, NAO, ATRIAS and MABEL. Furthermore, these methods form the basis for achieving a variety of walking behaviors—including multi-domain and rough terrain locomotion—and have demonstrated application to the control of prosthesis.

Biography: Dr. Aaron D. Ames is an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University with a joint appointment in Electrical & Computer Engineering. His research interests center on robotics, nonlinear control, hybrid systems and cyber-physical systems, with special emphasis on foundational theory and experimental realization on bipedal robots. Dr. Ames received a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a BA in Mathematics from the University of St. Thomas in 2001, and he received a MA in Mathematics and a PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences from UC Berkeley in 2006. At UC Berkeley, he was the recipient of the 2005 Leon O. Chua Award for achievement in nonlinear science and the 2006 Bernard Friedman Memorial Prize in Applied Mathematics. Dr. Ames served as a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Control and Dynamical System Department at the California Institute of Technology from 2006 to 2008. In 2010 he received the NSF CAREER award for his research on bipedal robotic walking and its applications to prosthetic devices. Dr. Ames is the head of the A&M Bipedal Experimental Robotics (AMBER) Lab that designs, builds and tests novel bipedal robots with the goal of achieving human-like bipedal robotic walking.