



Robotics 2

Collision detection and robot reaction

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Handling of robot collisions

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



PHRIENDS
FP6 STREP
(2006-09)

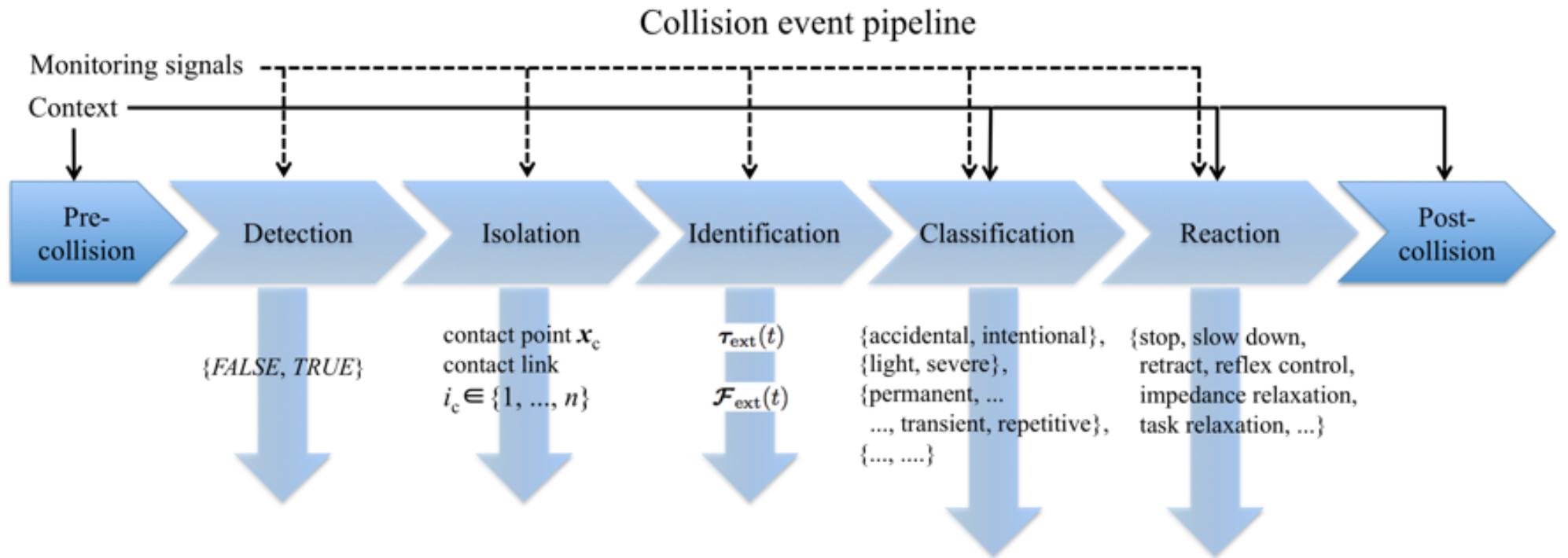


SAPHARI
FP7 IP
(2011-15)





Collision event pipeline



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



Collision detection in industrial robots

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



ABB collision detection

- ABB IRB 7600

[video](#)



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



Collisions as system faults

- robot model with (possible) collisions

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_K = \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{tot}}$$

control torque

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

joint torque caused by link collision

$\boldsymbol{\tau}_K = \mathbf{J}_K^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{F}_K$

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

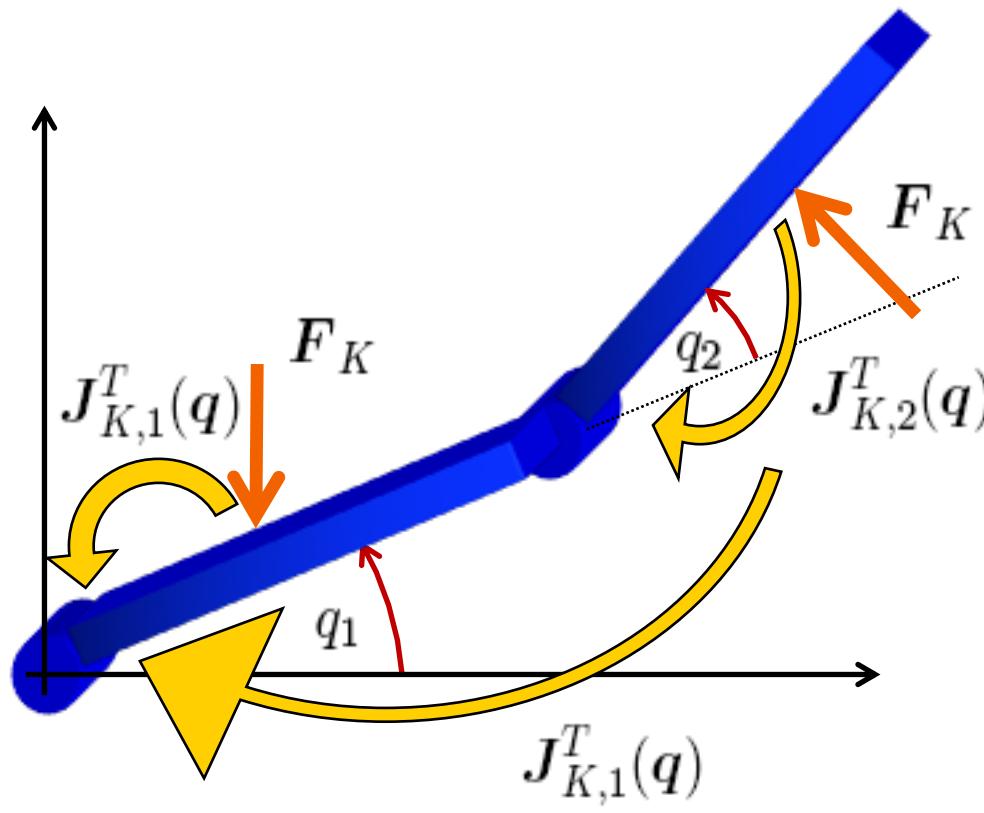
- collisions may occur at **any (unknown) location** along the whole robotic structure
- simplifying assumptions (some may be relaxed)
 - manipulator is an open kinematic chain
 - single contact/collision
 - negligible friction (or has to be identified and used in the model)



Analysis of a collision

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

$$F_K = \begin{bmatrix} f_K \\ m_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$



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

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



Relevant dynamic properties

- total energy and its variation

$$E = T + U = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q} + U_g(q)$$

$$\dot{E} = \dot{q}^T \tau_{\text{tot}}$$

- generalized momentum and its decoupled dynamics

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

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

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

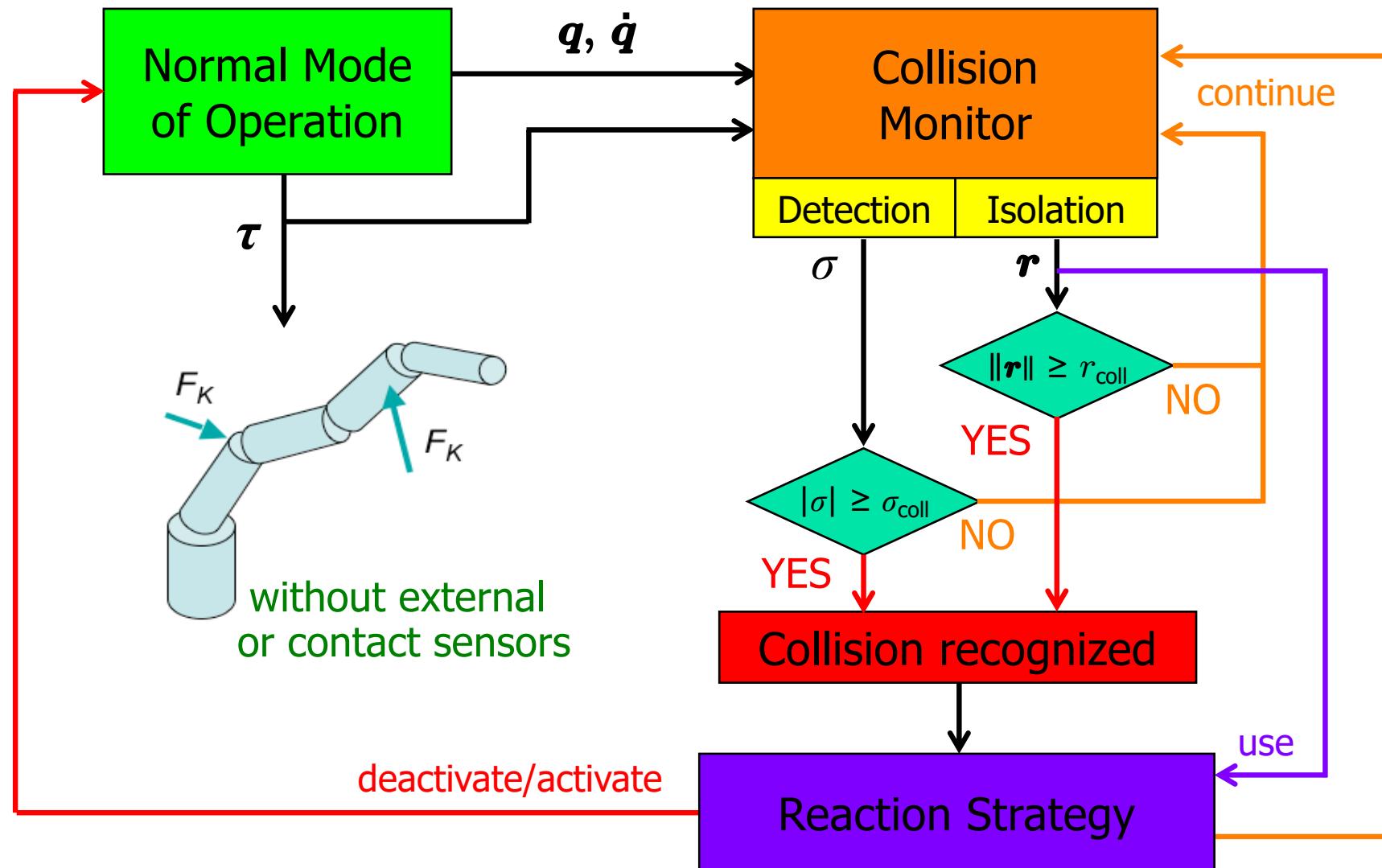
using the **skew-symmetric** property $\dot{M}(q) = S(q, \dot{q}) + S^T(q, \dot{q})$

Ex: prove this expression!





Monitoring collisions





Energy-based detection of collisions

- scalar residual (computable)

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

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

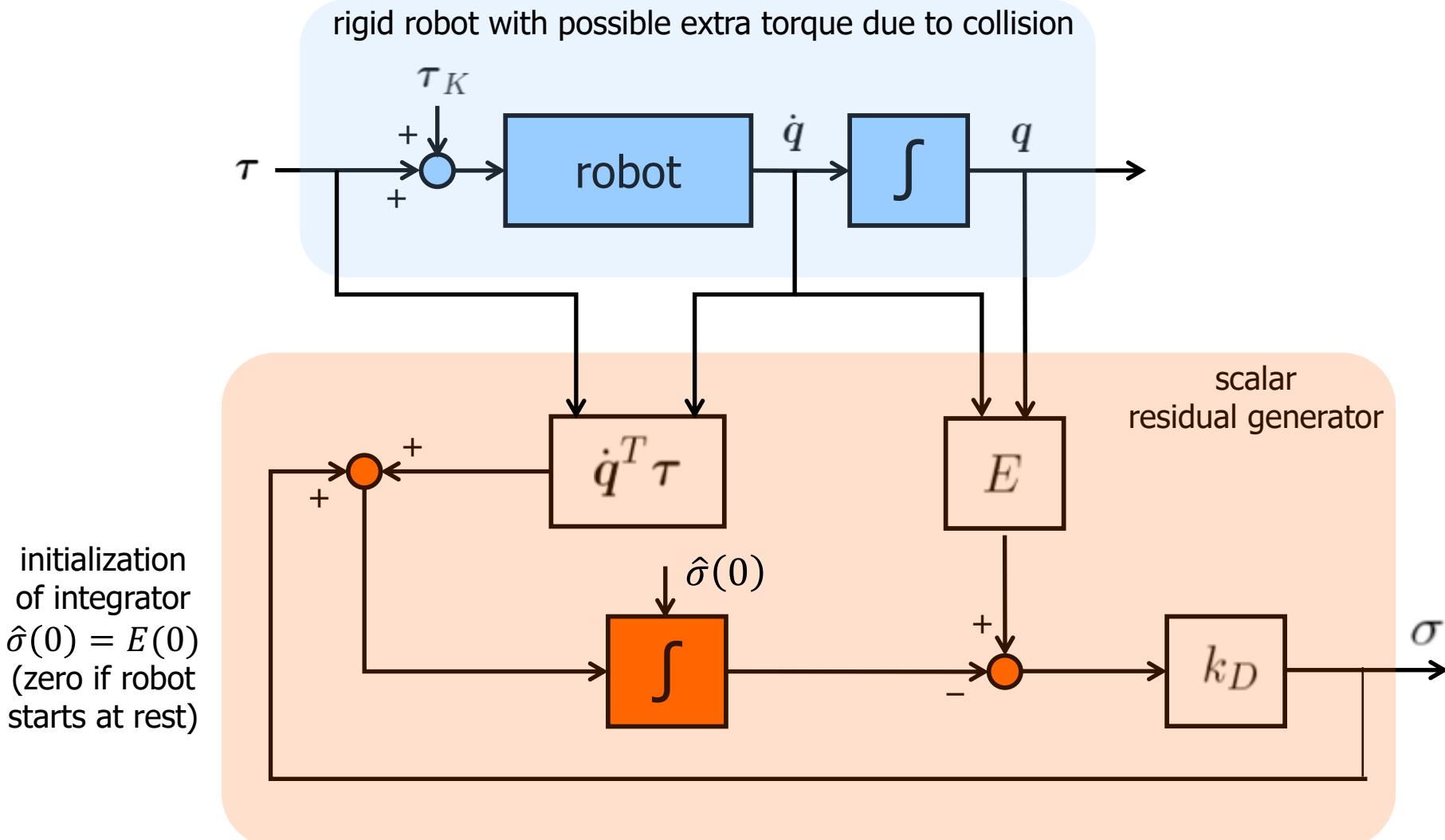
- ... and its dynamics (needed only for analysis)

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

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



Block diagram of residual generator energy-based scalar signal



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



Analysis of the energy-based method

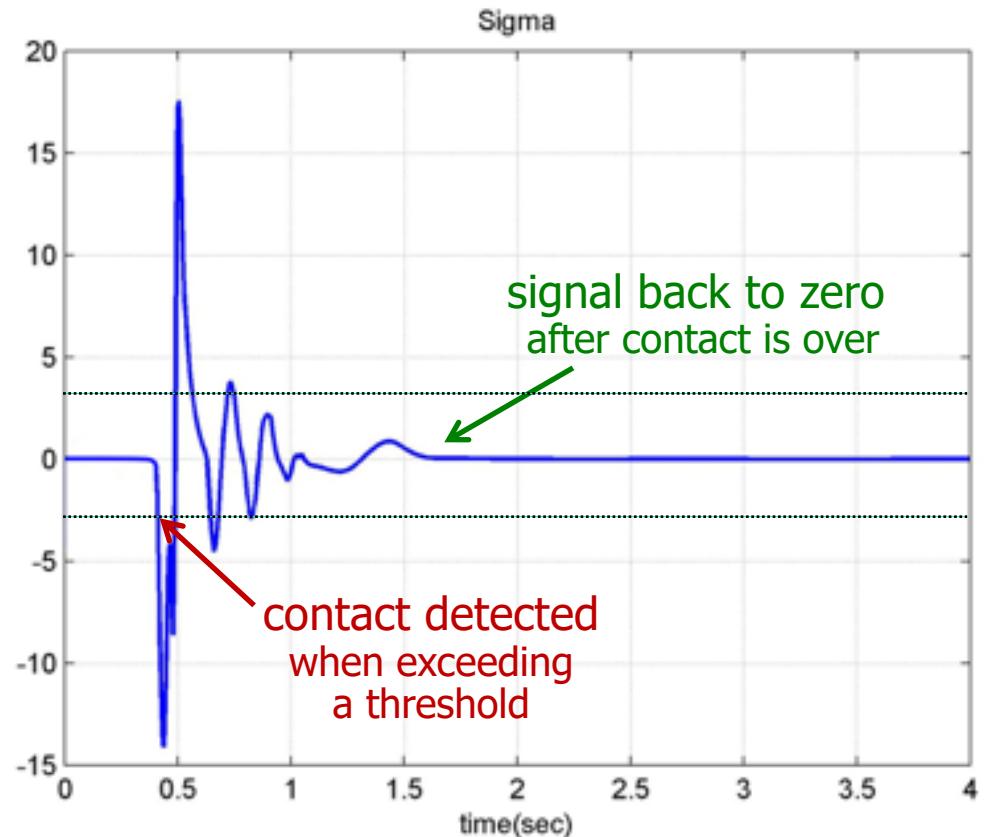
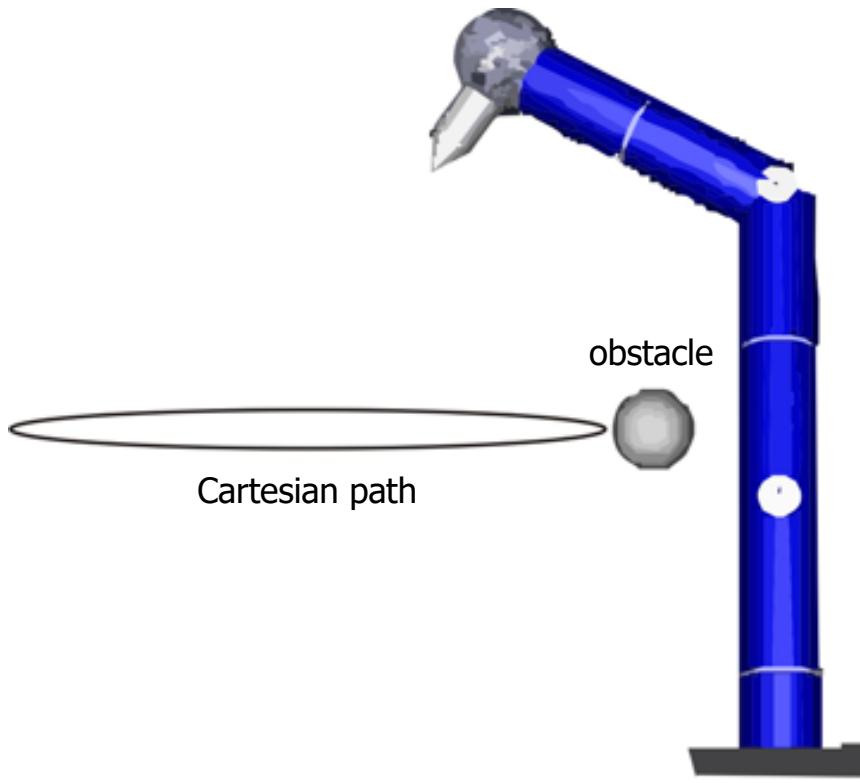
- very simple scheme (scalar signal)
- it can only detect the presence of collision forces/torques (**wrenches**) that **produce work** on the linear/angular velocities (**twists**) at the contact
- does not succeed when the robot stands still...

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{q}}^T \boldsymbol{\tau}_K = \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}^T \boldsymbol{J}_K^T(\boldsymbol{q}) \boldsymbol{F}_K = \boldsymbol{V}_K^T \boldsymbol{F}_K = 0 \iff \boxed{\boldsymbol{V}_K \perp \boldsymbol{F}_K}$$

$$\boldsymbol{V}_K = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{v}_K \\ \boldsymbol{\omega}_K \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{J}_{K,\text{lin}}(\boldsymbol{q}) \\ \boldsymbol{J}_{K,\text{ang}}(\boldsymbol{q}) \end{bmatrix} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} = \boldsymbol{J}_K(\boldsymbol{q}) \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} \in \mathbb{R}^6 \quad \boldsymbol{F}_K = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{f}_K \\ \boldsymbol{m}_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$



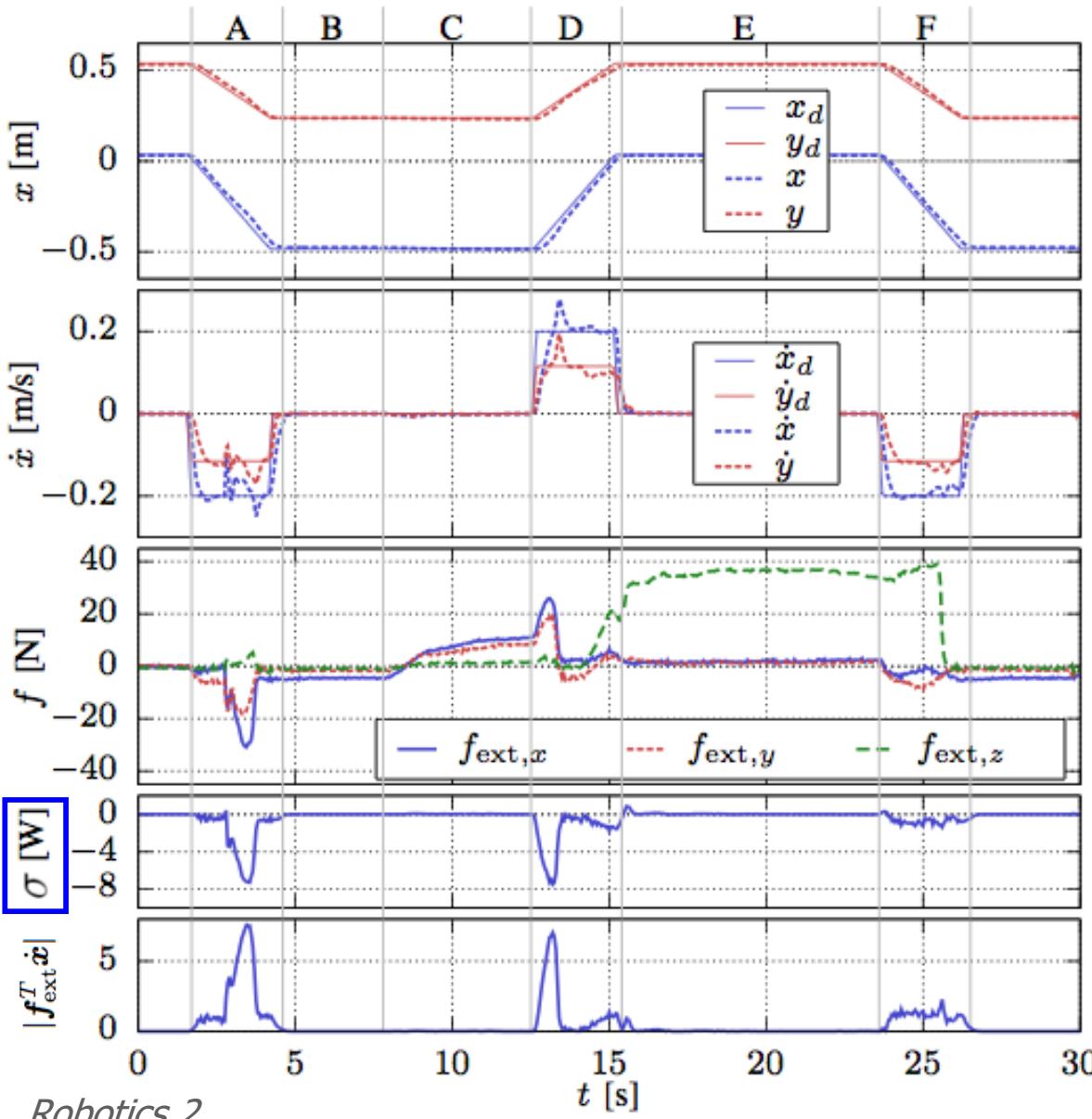
Collision detection simulation with a 7R robot



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



Collision detection experiment with a 6R robot



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

6 phases

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



Momentum-based isolation of collisions

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

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

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

- ... and its decoupled dynamics

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = -\mathbf{K}_I \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{K}_I \boldsymbol{\tau}_K$$

$$\frac{r_j(s)}{\tau_{K,j}(s)} = \frac{K_{I,j}}{s + K_{I,j}}$$
$$j = 1, \dots, N$$

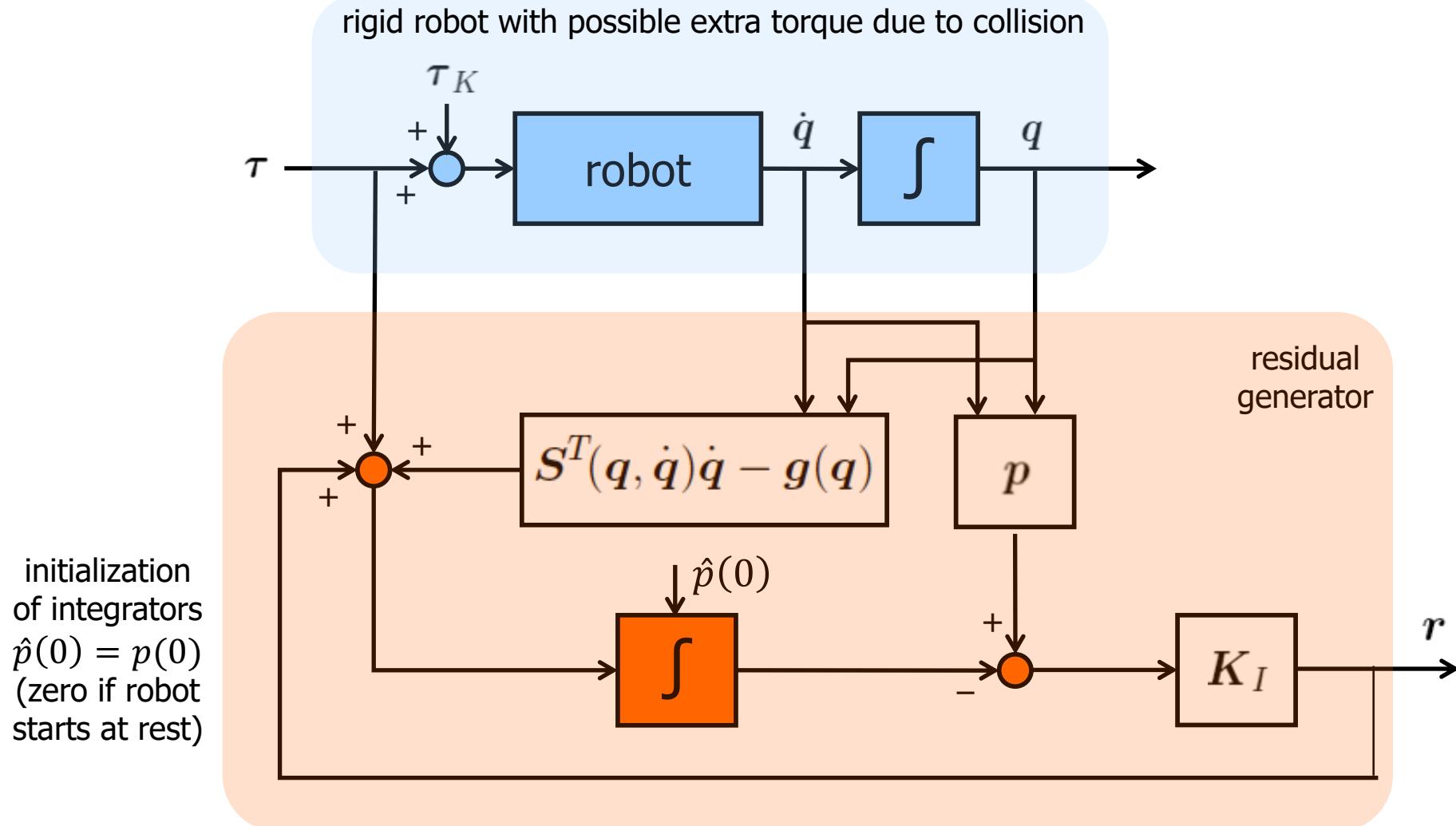
N first-order, linear filters with unitary gains, excited by a collision!

(all residuals go back to zero if there is no longer contact = post-impact phase)



Block diagram of residual generator

momentum-based vector signal



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



Analysis of the momentum method

- ideal situation (no noise/uncertainties)

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

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

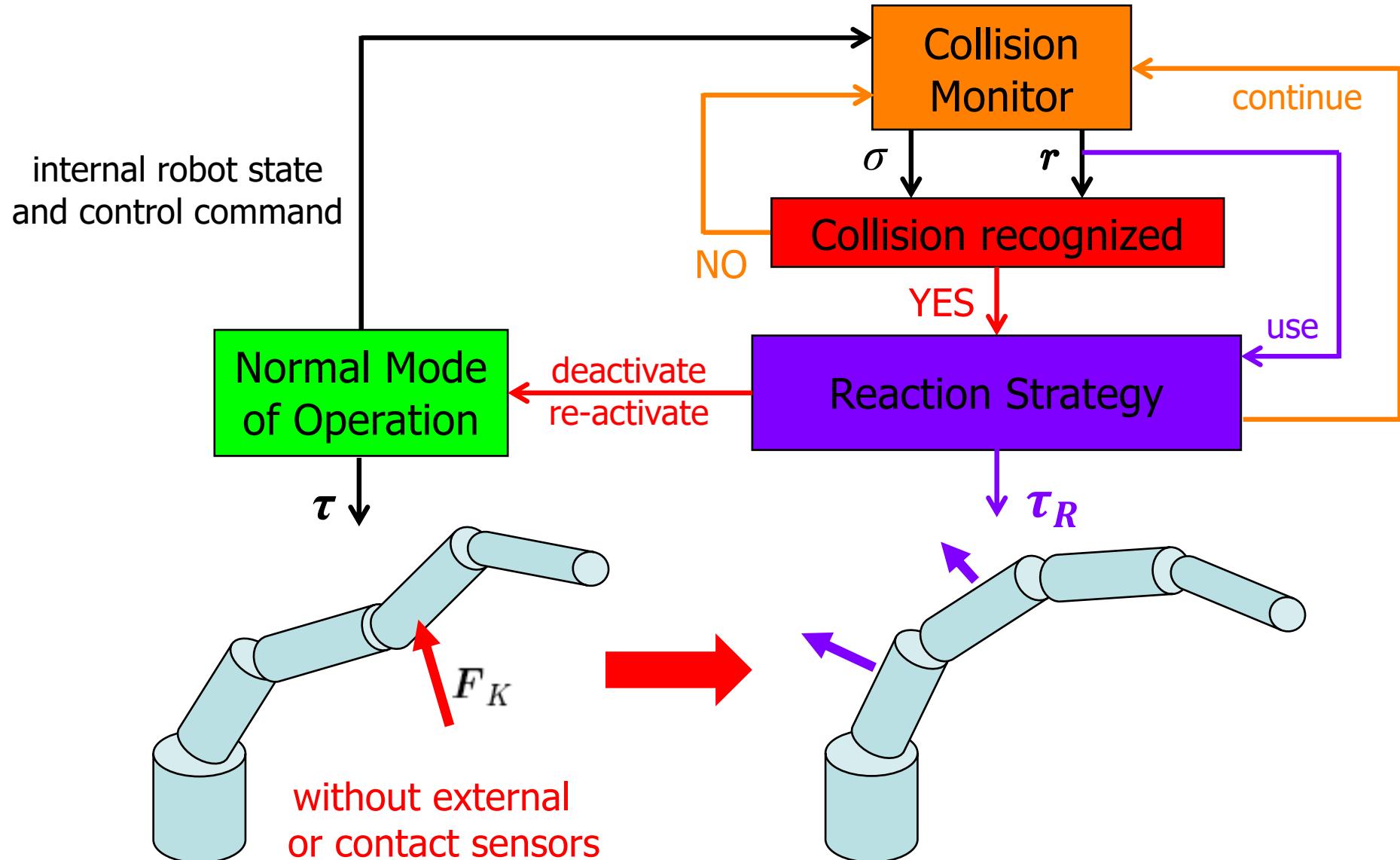
$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{bmatrix} * & \dots & * & * & \boxed{0 & \dots & 0} \\ & & & & \end{bmatrix}^T$$

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

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



Safe reaction to collisions





Robot reaction strategy

- “zero-gravity” control in any operative mode

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

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

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

“joint torque command in same direction of collision torque”

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



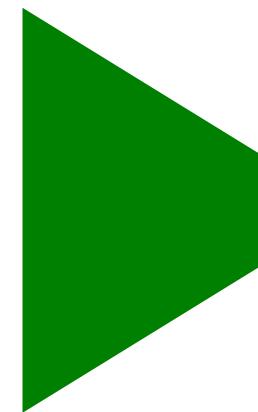
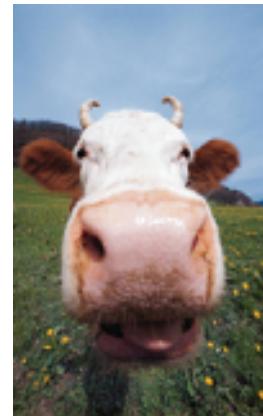
Analysis of the reflex strategy

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

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

“a lighter robot that can be easily pushed way”

from a cow ...



... to a frog!



DLR LWR-III robot dynamics

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

$$M(\boldsymbol{q})\ddot{\boldsymbol{q}} + S(\boldsymbol{q}, \dot{\boldsymbol{q}})\dot{\boldsymbol{q}} + \boldsymbol{g}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}_J + \boldsymbol{\tau}_K$$
$$B_m\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_J = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$
$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_J = \boldsymbol{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{q})$$

motor torques commands

joint torques due to link collision

friction at link side is negligible!

elastic torques at the joints

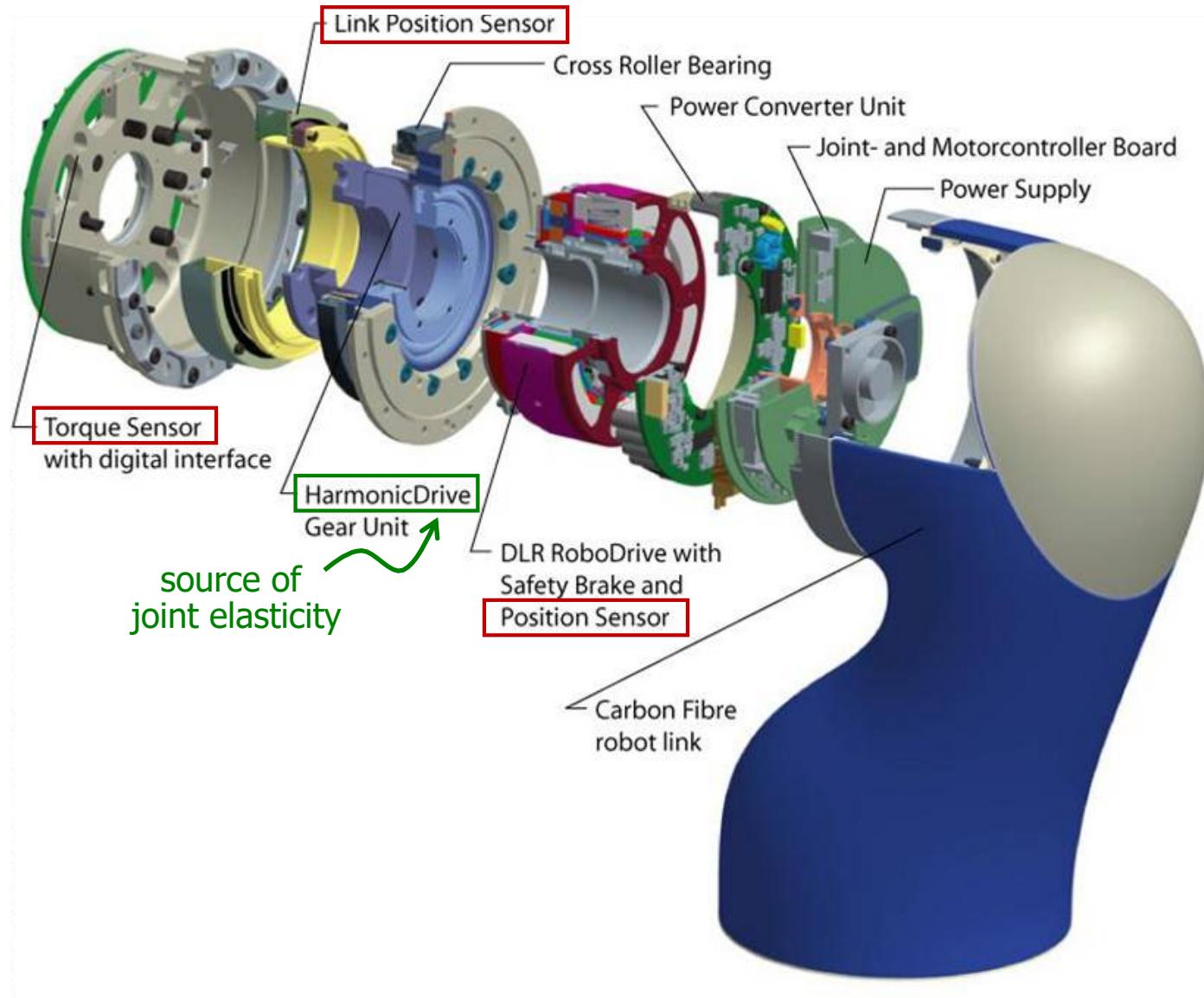
- proprioceptive sensing: motor positions and joint elastic torques

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} \quad \boldsymbol{\tau}_J \quad \rightarrow \quad \boldsymbol{q} = \boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{K}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\tau}_J$$





Exploded joint of LWR-III robot





Collision isolation for LWR-III robot elastic joint case

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

$$\boxed{\tau \rightarrow \tau_J}$$

"replace the commanded torque to the motors with the elastic torque measured at the joints"


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

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

Control of DLR LWR-III robot elastic joint case



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

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

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

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



 motor position link position (diagonal) matrix of joint stiffness



Reaction strategies specific for elastic joint robots

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Experiments with LWR-III robot “dummy” head



dummy head equipped
with an **accelerometer**

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



Dummy head impact

video



strategy 0: no reaction

planned trajectory ends just after
the position of the dummy head

video

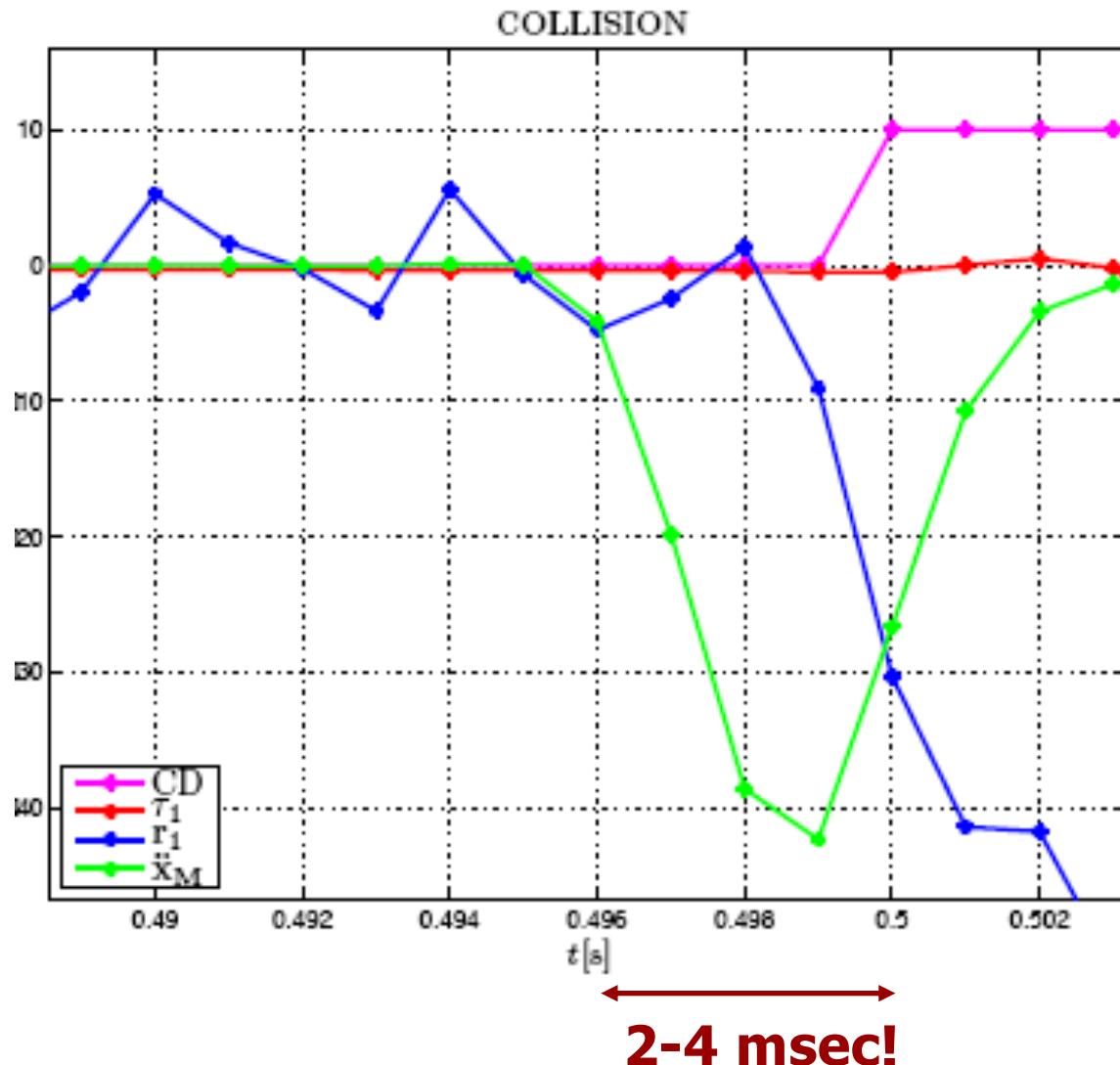


strategy 2: floating reaction

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



Delay in collision detection



impact with
the dummy head

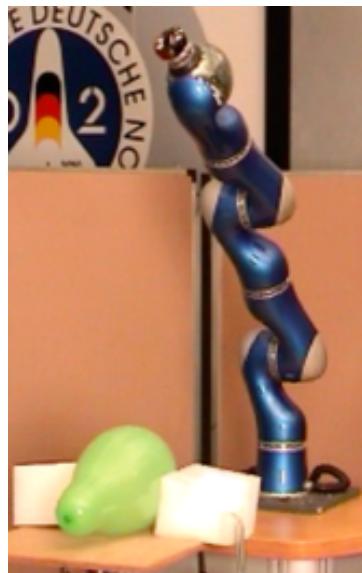
- measured (elastic) joint torque
- residual r_1
- 0/1 index for detection
- dummy head acceleration

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

threshold = 5-10% of max rated torque



Experiments with LWR-III robot balloon impact



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



Balloon impact

video



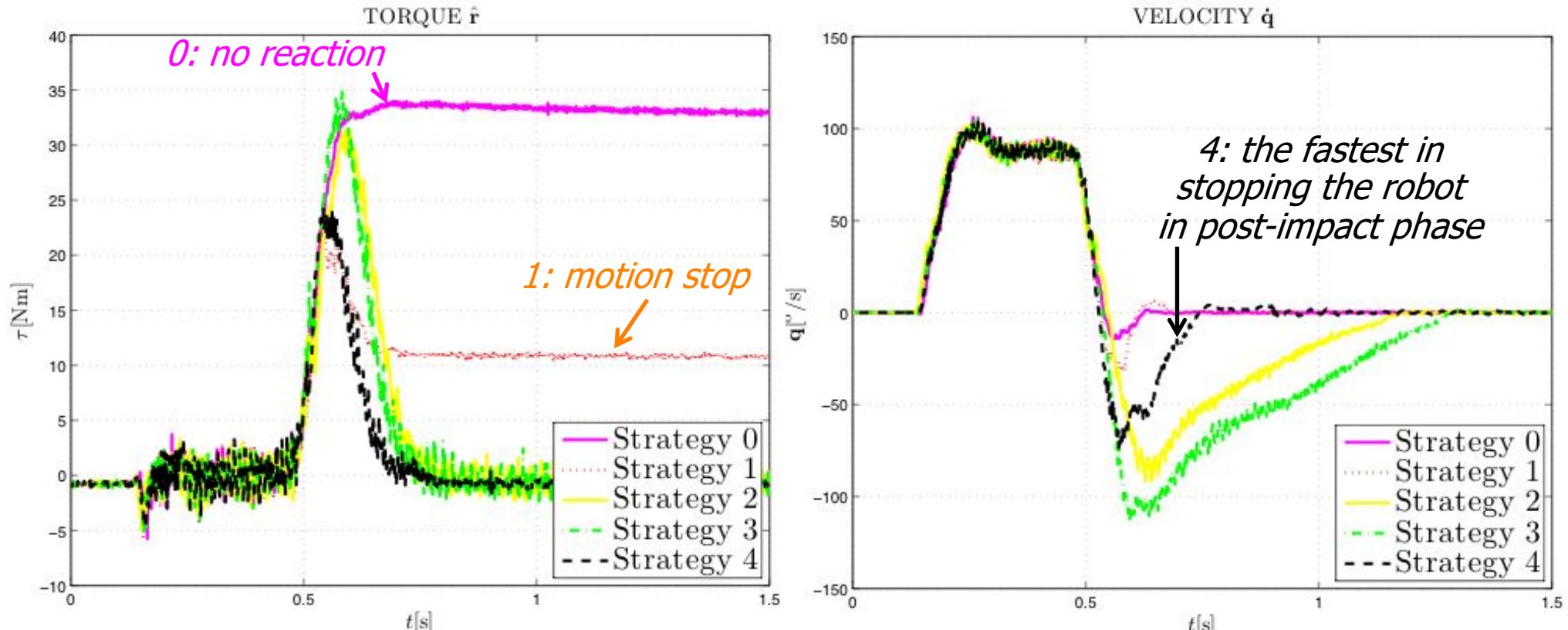
coordinated
joint motion
 $@90^\circ/\text{sec}$

strategy 4: admittance mode reaction

Experimental comparison of strategies balloon impact



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



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



Human-Robot Interaction – 1

- first impact @ $60^\circ/\text{sec}$

video



strategy 4: admittance mode

video



strategy 3: reflex torque



Human-Robot Interaction – 2

- first impact @90°/sec

video

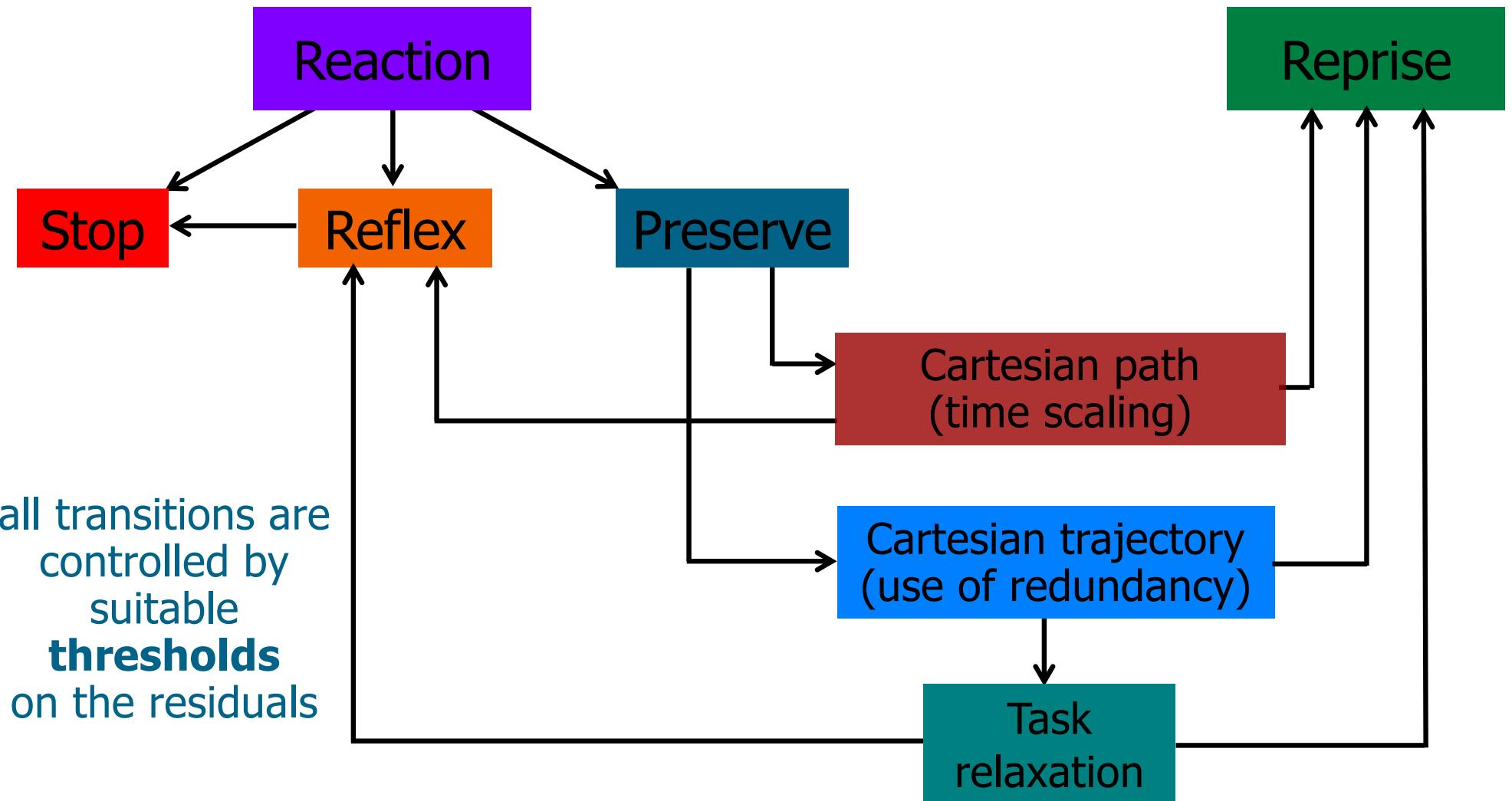


strategy 3: reflex torque



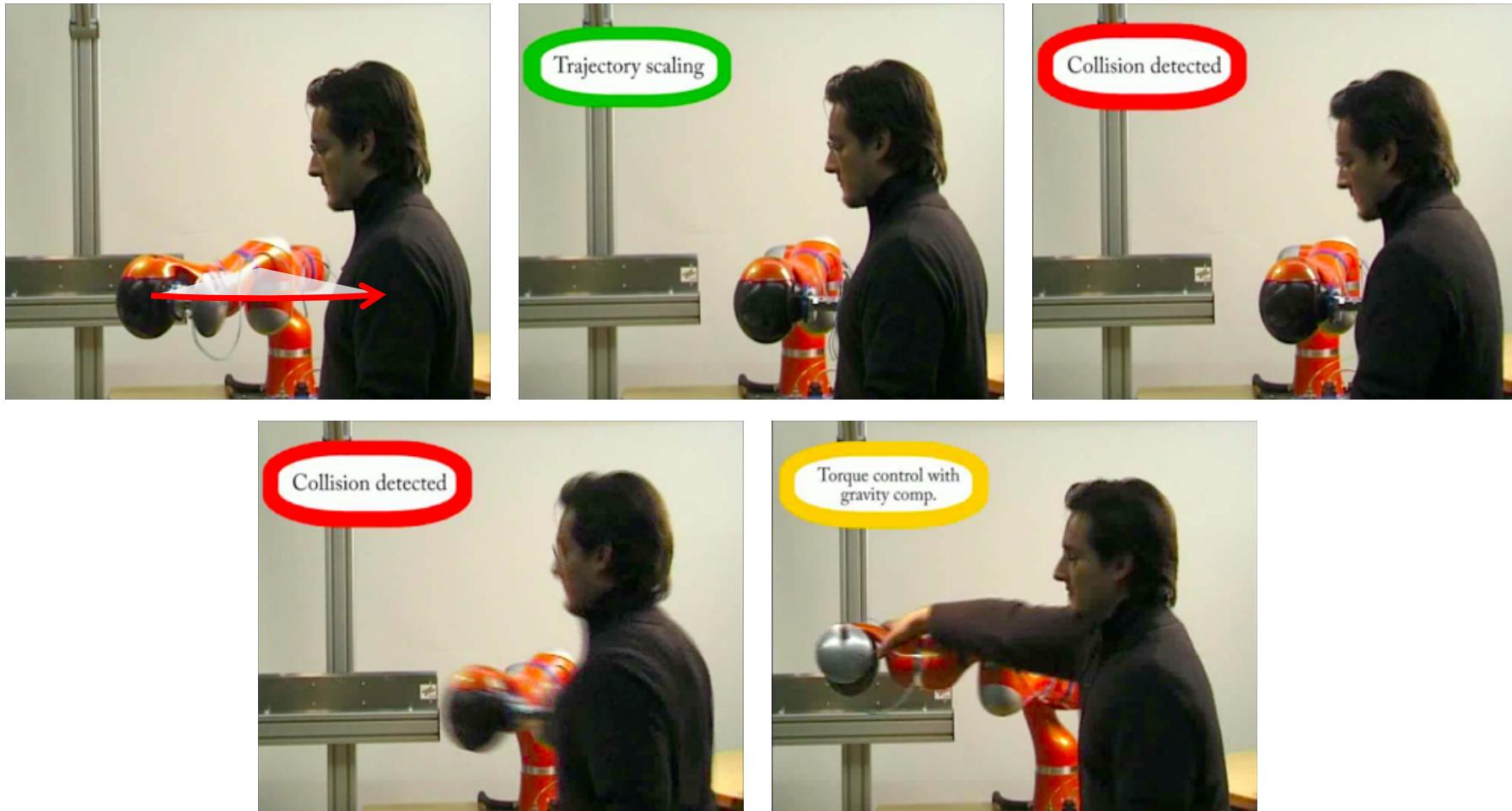
“Portfolio” of reaction strategies

residual amplitude \propto severity level of collision





Experiments with LWR-III robot time scaling

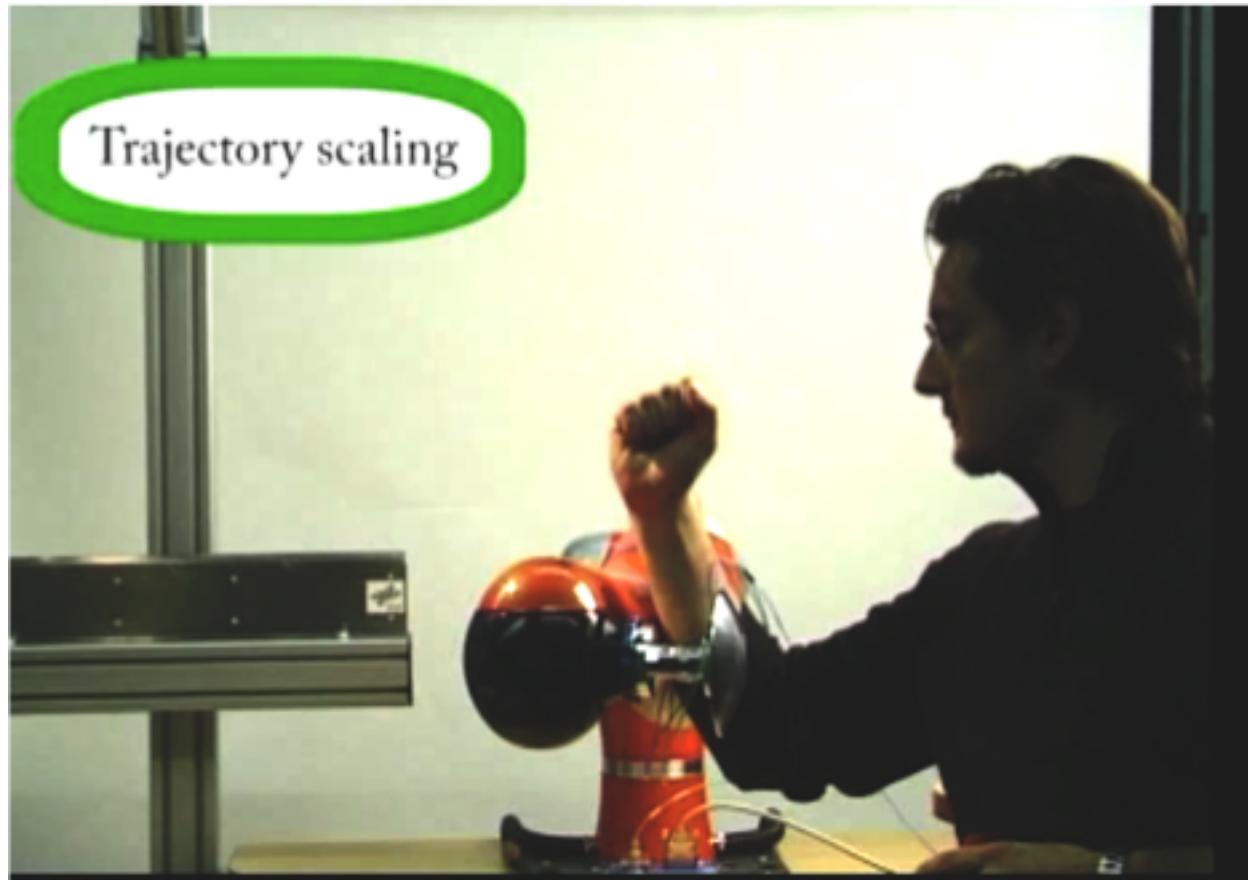


- robot is position-controlled (on a given **geometric path**)
- timing law **slows down, stops, possibly reverses** (and then reprises)



Reaction with time scaling

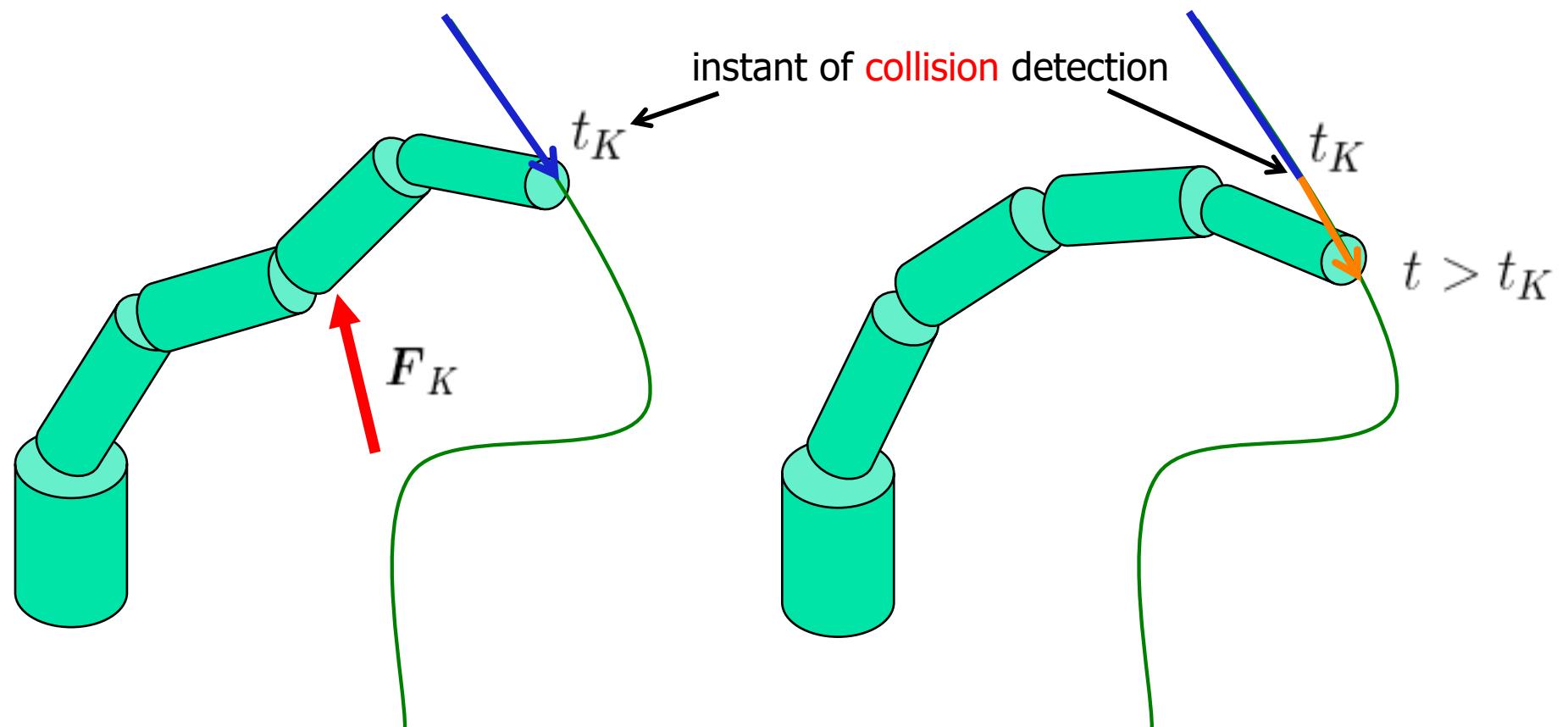
[video](#)





Use of kinematic redundancy

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





Task kinematics

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

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

- (all) generalized inverses of the task Jacobian

$$\mathbf{J}(q)\mathbf{G}(q)\mathbf{J}(q) = \mathbf{J}(q), \quad \forall q$$

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

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

arbitrary joint
acceleration



Dynamic redundancy resolution

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

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

$$\tau = M(\mathbf{q})G(\mathbf{q}) \left[\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_d + K_P e + K_D \dot{e} - \dot{\mathbf{J}}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})M^{-1}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \right] + \underbrace{M(\mathbf{q})(I - G(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q}))M^{-1}(\mathbf{q})\tau_0}_{\text{projection matrix in the dynamic null space of } \mathbf{J}} \quad \begin{matrix} \downarrow \\ \text{arbitrary joint torque available for reaction to collisions} \end{matrix}$$

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



Dynamically consistent solution inertia-weighted pseudoinverse

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

$$\tau = J^T(q)F + (I - J(q)^T H(q))\tau_0$$

- the inertia-weighted choices for H and G are then

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

$$G = H_M^T = M^{-1}J^T\Lambda$$

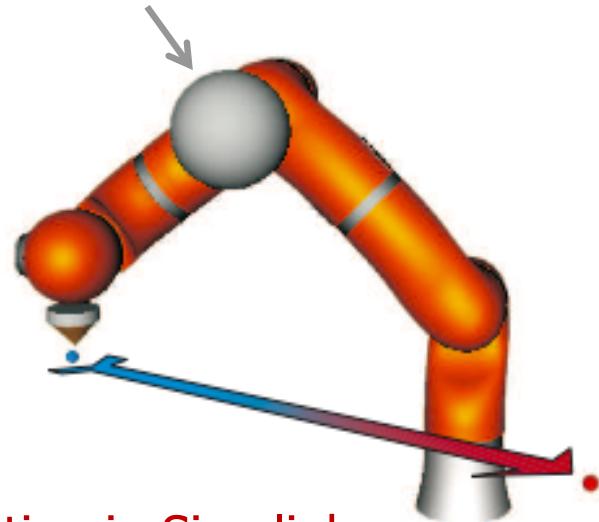
- thus, the **dynamically consistent** solution is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &= J^T(q)\Lambda(q)(\ddot{x} - J(q)\dot{q} + J(q)M^{-1}(q)n(q, \dot{q})) \\ &\quad + (I - J^T(q)H_M(q))\tau_0 \end{aligned}$$



Cartesian task preservation

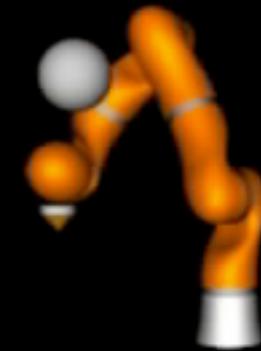
spherical obstacle



simulation in Simulink
visualization in VRML

video

Collision Reaction - No Task Relaxing



Angle 1

Slow 4x

De Luca, Ferrajoli @IROS 2008

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

Cartesian task preservation

Experiments with LWR4+ robot



video @IROS 2017



Human-Robot Coexistence and Contact Handling with Redundant Robots

Emanuele Magrini

Alessandro De Luca

Robotics Lab, DIAG
Sapienza Università di Roma

February 2017

idle \Leftrightarrow relax \Leftrightarrow abort



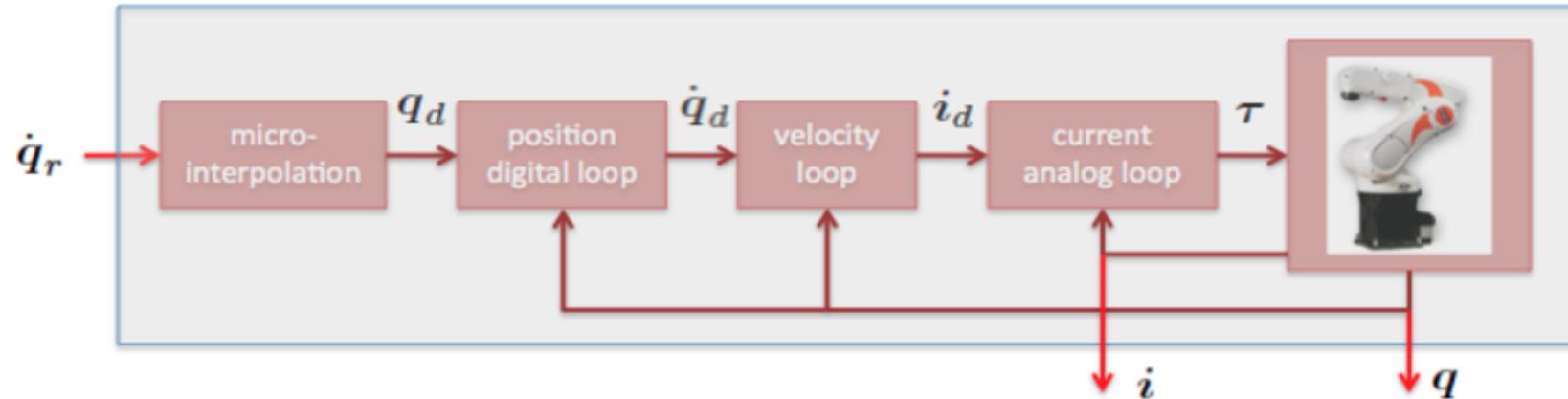
Combined use 6D F/T sensor at the wrist + residuals



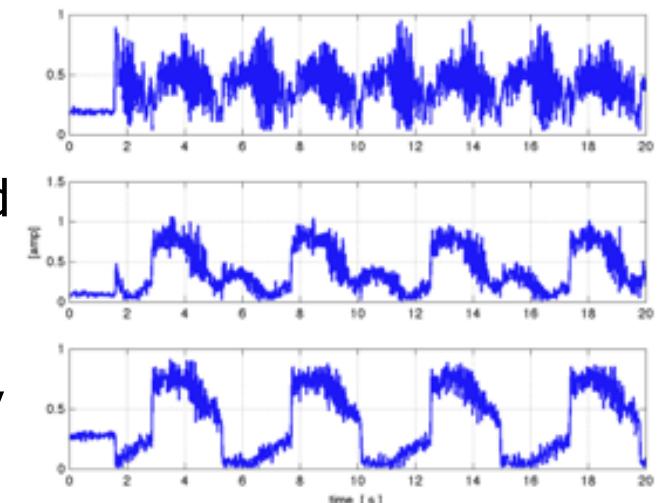
- enables easy distinction of **intentional interactions** vs. **unexpected collisions**
- it is sufficient to include the F/T measure in the expression of the residual!

HRI/HRC in closed control architectures

KUKA KR5 Sixx R650 robot



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

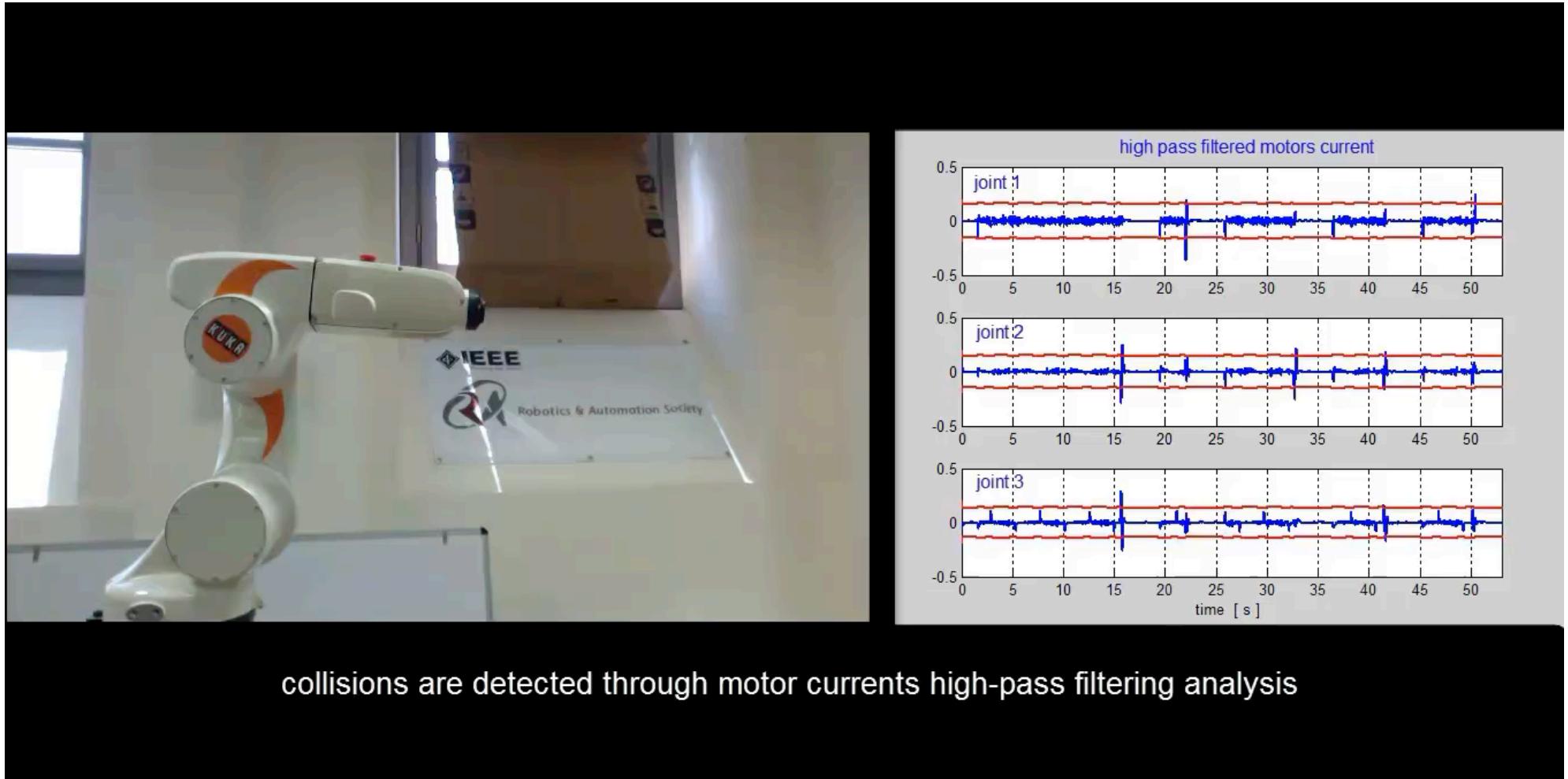


motor currents measured
on first three joints



Collision detection and stop

video @ICRA 2013

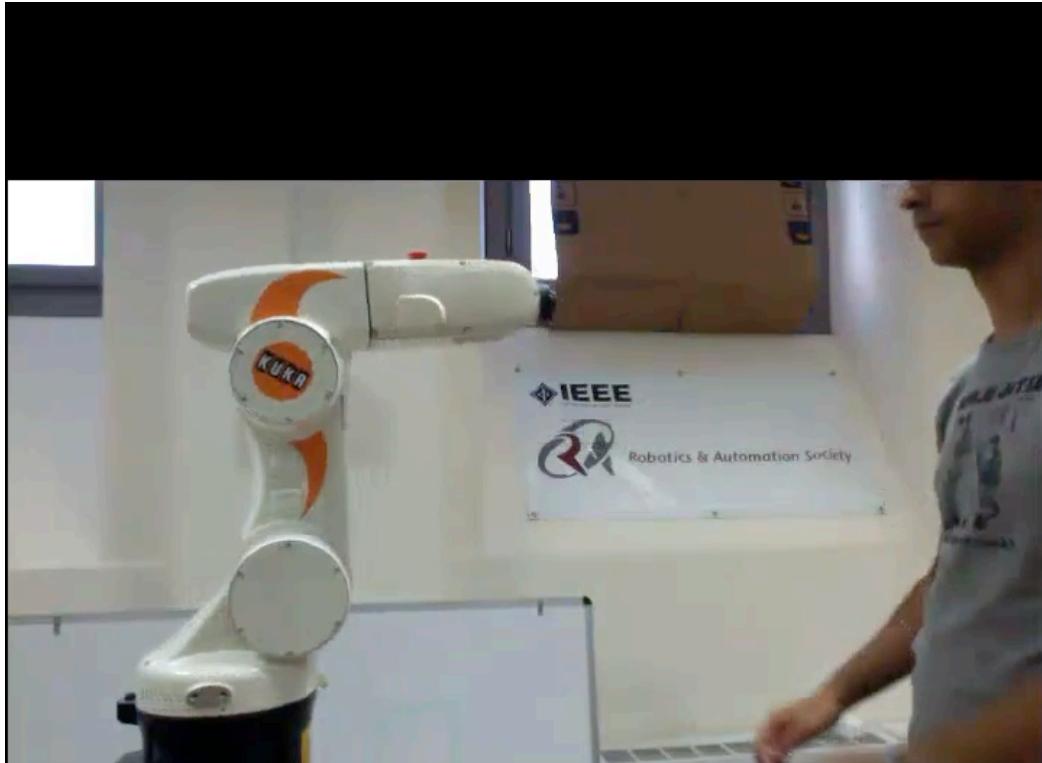


high-pass filtering of motor currents (a signal-based detection...)

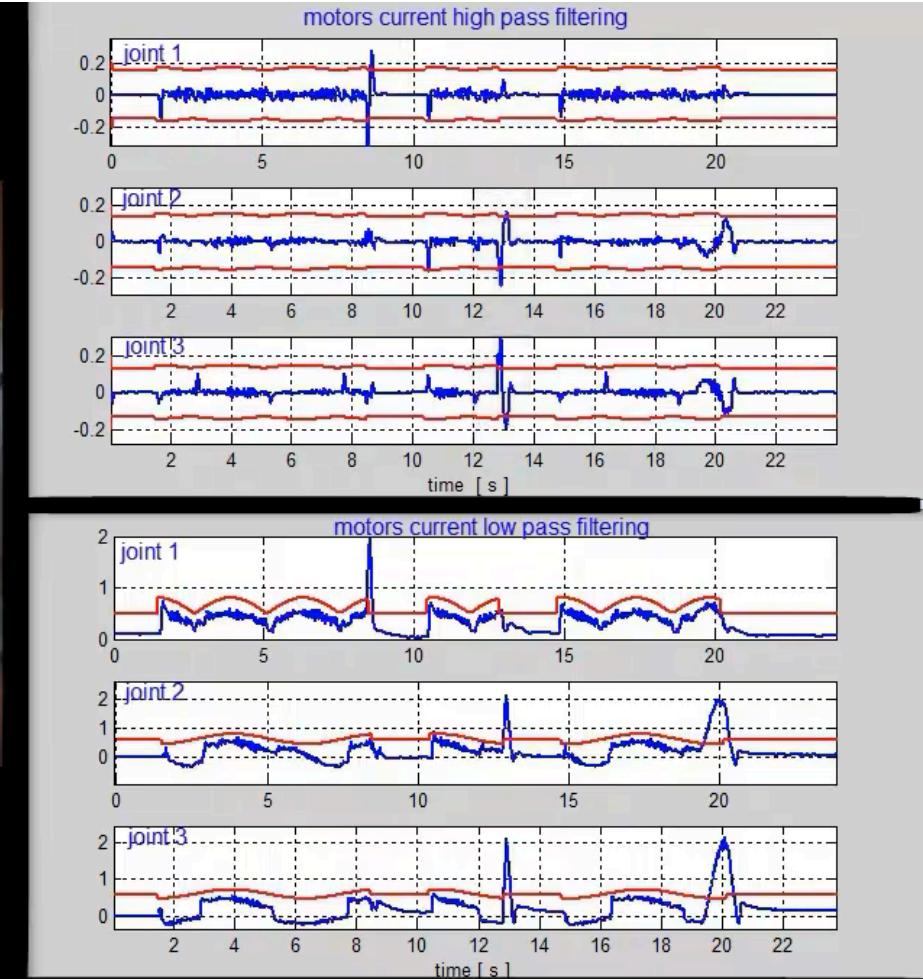


Distinguish accidental collisions from intentional contact and then collaborate

video @ICRA 2013



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



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



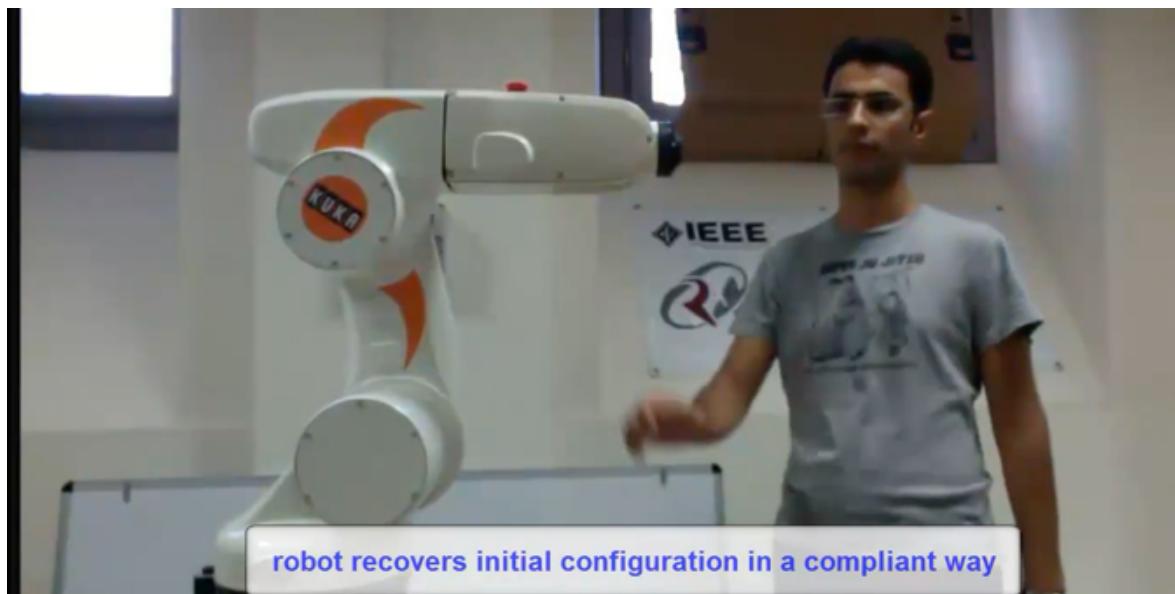
Other possible robot reactions after collaboration mode is established

collaboration mode:
pushing/pulling
the robot



video
@ICRA
2013

collaboration mode:
compliant-like
robot behavior



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