

UNIVERSITY OF VERONA

MASTER THESIS

Title . . .

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Abstract

Department of Computer Science

Master of Science

Title ...

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List of Abbreviations

LBR	Leicht Bau Roboter
IWA	Intelligent Industrial Work Assistant
EE	End Effector
ROS	Robot Operating System
HMI	Human Machine Interface

Chapter 1

Introduction

The entire work is available on Github at: github.com/michelepenzo/master-thesis.

1.1 Motivations

1.2 Goals

1.3 Thesis Overview

Chapter 2

State of the art

2.1 Robot learning from Demonstration

2.1.1 Kinesthetic Teaching

2.1.2 Teleoperation

2.2 Assembling and modulable tasks

2.3 User study

Chapter 3

The project

This chapter describes the general setup, its components and a small overview on the tools used for develop the project. Finally the project is explained.

3.1 Setup overview

The KUKA LBR IIWA redundant manipulator is programmed using the KUKA's Sunrise Workbench platform and its Java API's. The usage of an open source stack compatible with ROS allows the usage of the robot in a simple way.

A Sunrise project, containing one or more Robotic Application can be synchronized to the robot cabinet and executed from the SmartPad.

The *iiwa_stack* provide a Robotic Application that can be used with the robot. It establishes a connection to machines connected via Ethernet to the robot cabinet via ROS. The machine, with ROS installed, will be able to send and receive ROS messages to and from the Robotic Application. The messages used in this stack are taken from the messages available in a standard ROS distribution, but there are other custom ones inside the *iiwa_msgs* folder.

With the stack is simple to manipulate the messages received from the robot and send new ones as command to it, using Python script or ROS functionalities already implemented as services, topics, actions.

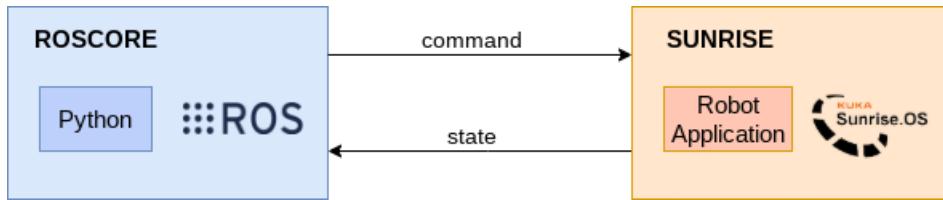


FIGURE 3.1: Robot control via ROS using *iiwa_stack* and Sunrise OS

For further information about *iiwa_stack* see [1] and the related work [2]. Instead for information about Sunrise OS and Workbench see [3].

3.1.1 KUKA Robot Controller

The KUKA LBR IIWA is controlled via the KUKA Robot Controller, also known as the KUKA Sunrise Cabinet. The KRC is responsible for the transmission control inputs as well as the reading the data of the integrated sensors. In our case, for controlling the Kuka we use the Java application provided by the stack that runs into the SmartPad.

3.1.2 Sunrise.Workbench

The Sunrise.Workbench is a tool used to program robot applications in Java, which are loaded into and are executed on the KRC. It offers the possibility to control the robot with the following strategies: position control, velocity control, joint and cartesian impedance control. It can also execute the commonly motion patterns as: spline, point-to-point, linear and circular motions.

Since we have a gripper mounted on media flange, there's a task always active in background that provides a method that can be called via `ros_service` to open and close the two jaw. We also have another background task for the `rgb` led present on media flange.

3.1.3 Safety configuration

A correct thing to do before start the using of the robot is to check and modify the safety configuration loaded by default. In my case:

- I had to set a new value for every joint in robot configuration. I restrict the value about 2 degrees.
- moreover I added a protected workspace. In this case the robot never goes inside the constraint area.

3.2 Project implementation

As described in section 1.2, the goal of the thesis was to ...

Starting from the goal, the work was divided into two phases:

1. create the mode relative to teach by demonstration,
2. create a way to tele-operate the robot in a simple way.

As described in the next sections, in every phase a way to save waypoints and an action on the gripper was implemented. After that the action was captured by the script and was saved in an .csv file. With a dedicated program and that file, all the actions saved into the file can be replicated by the robot. Then the description of the two developed modalities.

3.2.1 Teach by demonstration

As described in section 2.1.1, teach by demonstration or also called *kinesthetic teaching* is a way to move the robot in gravity compensation mode. Using the `iiwa_stack`, the gravity compensation mode was implemented using joint impedance control mode where for every joint in robot configuration a stiffness and damping value is set. Stiffness value must be greater than 0 and it is expressed in Nm/rad , instead damping value must be between 0 and 1. After changing the control mode to joint impedance, the robot seems falls. A force contrary to the gravity must be carried out to keep it up.

On media flange, the green button (③ in figure 3.2) was dedicated for saving commands. When the button is pressed, according to the duration of the pressure an action is recorded:

- one click for save a waypoint;
- 2 seconds pressure for save action on the gripper;

- 5 seconds pressure to exit from teaching program.

When an action is taken, the led strip (① in figure 3.2) change color: green for waypoints, blue for gripper's actions. For safety, as the robot must be held up with the hands, no closing action are performed on two jays. In the next figure the Media Flange mounted on KUKA LBR IIWA.

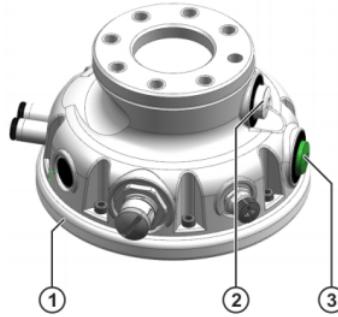


FIGURE 3.2: ① led strip,
② enabling switch, ③ application button

3.2.2 Teach with remote control

As described in section 2.1.2, remote control or *teleoperation* indicates operation of a system or robot at a distance. In our case, teleoperation is intended as control the KUKA LBR IIWA with a **PlayStation 4 pad** and it was developed in two ways:

- *full task space*: in this modality the robot will move respect to the EE. A movement along x , y and z is performed using linear and angular velocity. With linear velocity you will move the pose of the robot in task space, instead with angular you will move the orientation of the EE.
- *reduced joint space*: in this other modality not all joints are considered. Some joint have been blocked, you can move only eh 1, 2 and 6 joint. It's also possible change the orientation of the EE using angular velocity.

Both of them modalities are performed using L1 or R1 as deadman buttons with right or left analog. This two modalities of teleoperation were take from [4]. In both cases, the buttons used are the same:

- \times : close or open gripper, therefore save action and the actual pose;
- Δ : save actual pose;
- \square : change to control mode from position to cartesian impedance, and vice versa.



FIGURE 3.3: The scheme of ps4 pad: the model used for teleoperation

Chapter 4

Materials and methods

4.1 Materials

4.2 Assembly methods

Chapter 5

Experiments

5.1 Participants

5.2 Assembly tasks

Chapter 6

Results

6.1 Results

Chapter 7

Conclusion

7.1 Result discussions

7.2 Conclusions

7.3 Future works

References

- [1] URL: https://github.com/IFL-CAMP/iiwa_stack.
- [2] Hennersperger Christoph et al. "Towards MRI-based autonomous robotic US acquisitions: a first feasibility study". In: *IEEE transactions on medical imaging* 36.2 (2017), pp. 538–548.
- [3] Sebastian Schleisner Hjorth. "Investigation and Implementation of Workspace restrictions for the KUKA LBR iiwa". 2019.
- [4] Christopher E. Mower et al. "Comparing Alternate Modes of Teleoperation for Constrained Tasks". In: *2019 IEEE 15th International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE)* (2019). URL: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8843265>.