

Exercise cooperative Robotics – Bimanual Manipulation

November 26, 2025

1 Introduction

In this exercise, it's required to perform a bimanual manipulation by implementing the task priority algorithm considering two manipulators as a single robot. The manipulator adopted for this assignment is the Franka Emika Panda, a versatile 7-DOF manipulator for researchers (see the datasheet attached and Figure 1). Moreover, a simulation in Python is provided, to visualize the two robots and test your Matlab implementation (see the *Exercises Manipulators* folder in the Teams channel of the course).

The code template for this assignment can be found in the folder *Bimanual_exercise_template* in the Teams channel of this course. The folder contains the file *main.m* and a list of functions and classes that should be implemented to complete the exercise; inside the *Simulation_scripts* and *Tools* folders there are some useful functions already implemented at your disposal. On the *Icat* folder, the set of functions to compute the task priority algorithm are implemented.

2 Assignment

1. To complete this exercise, we need to define the frames that describe the system depicted in Figure 2, the objective is to obtain the complete kinematic chain of the bimanual system. First, define the transformation matrices between the world frame and the two end-effector frames. The transformations between the world and the base of each robot must be computed knowing that:
 - (a) The left arm base coincides with the world frame.
 - (b) The right arm base is rotated of π w.r.t. z-axis and is positioned 1.06 m along the x-axis and -0.01 m along the y-axis.
 - (c) The transformation from each base to the respective end-effector is given in the code and is retrieved from the URDF model thanks to the *Robotic System Toolbox* of Matlab.

Then, define the tool frame for both manipulators; the tool frames must be placed at 21.04 cm along the z-axis of the end-effector frame and rotated with an angle of -44.9949 deg around the z-axis of the end-effector.

After defining the frames involved in the manipulation we can move on to the implementation of the various phases of the mission. The cooperative manipulation mission should be implemented with three different phases: *reach the object*, *move the object*, and *stop the motion*.

2. The first phase foresees to move the tool frame of both manipulators to the grasping points, by implementing the *Tool* equality task, defined as a class inside the *Tasks* folder. Define the goal frames for each manipulator such that their origin corresponds to the grasping points. **HINT:** the position of the grasping points can be computed by knowing the origin of the object frame wO_o and the object length l_{obj} . The goal orientation of the tool frames is obtained by rotating the tool frames 30 deg around their y-axis; the manipulators should reach the configuration depicted in Figure 3.

$${}^wO_o = [0.5, 0, 0.59]^\top (m); \quad (1)$$

$$l_{obj} = 12 \text{ (cm)}. \quad (2)$$

During this phase of the mission, the following safety tasks must be implemented: *end-effector minimum altitude* and *joint limits*. The joint limits specifications can be found in the datasheet of the robot given with this assignment. The minimum altitude from the table should be 15 cm.

3. Once the manipulators reach the grasping points the second phase of the mission should start. Now you have to implement the *Bimanual Rigid Constraint* task to carry the object as a rigid body.

- (a) Define the object frame as a rigid body attached to the tool frame of each manipulator.

HINT: Compute this quantity after reaching the grasping point.

- (b) Define the rigid grasp task.

- (c) Finally, you have to move the object to another position while both manipulators hold it firmly. Below is the object goal position.

$${}^w\mathbf{O}_g = [0.65, -0.35, 0.28]^\top (m) \quad (3)$$

Note that the transition for the *Bimanual Rigid Constraint* should be a binary one, i.e., without smoothness. This is the nature of the constraint, i.e., either it exists or not.

4. Once the object has been moved to the required position you have to implement a final phase of the mission in which the joint velocities are set to zero, and every action is deactivated except for the minimum altitude task.

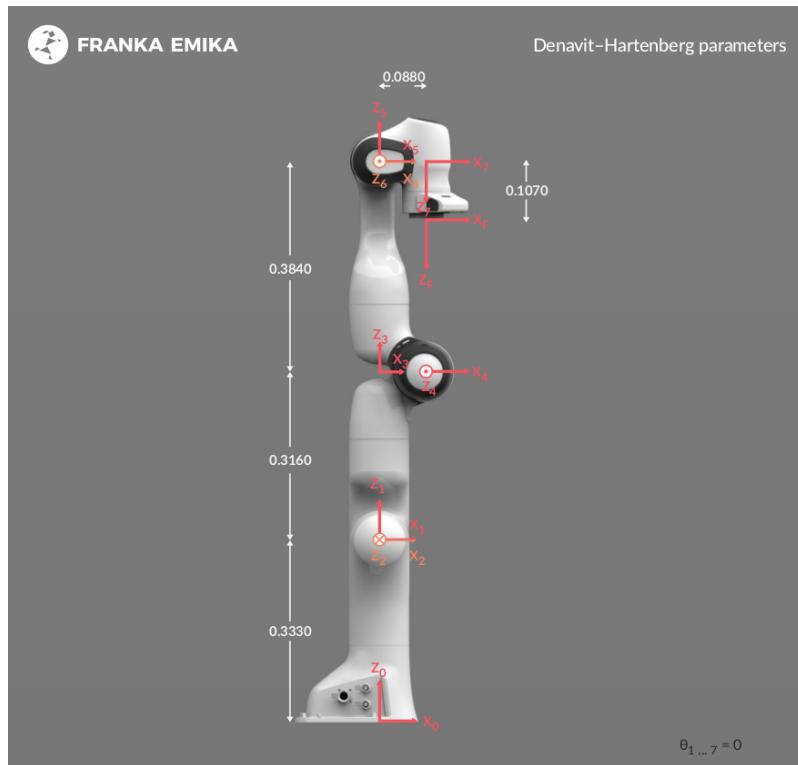


Figure 1: Robot Specifications

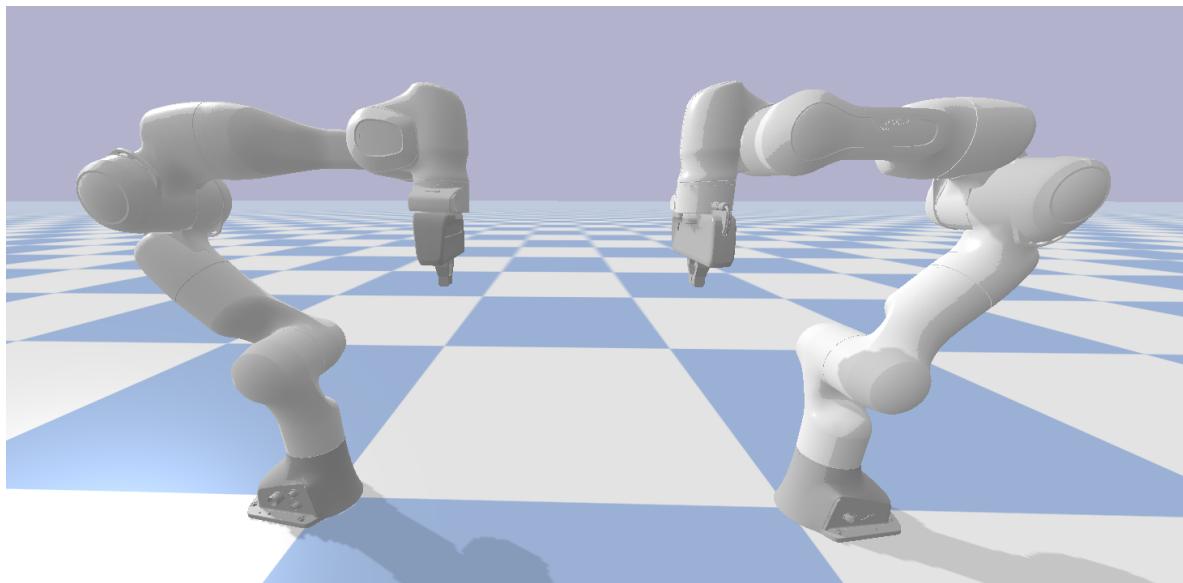


Figure 2: Left and Right Arm of the bimanual system

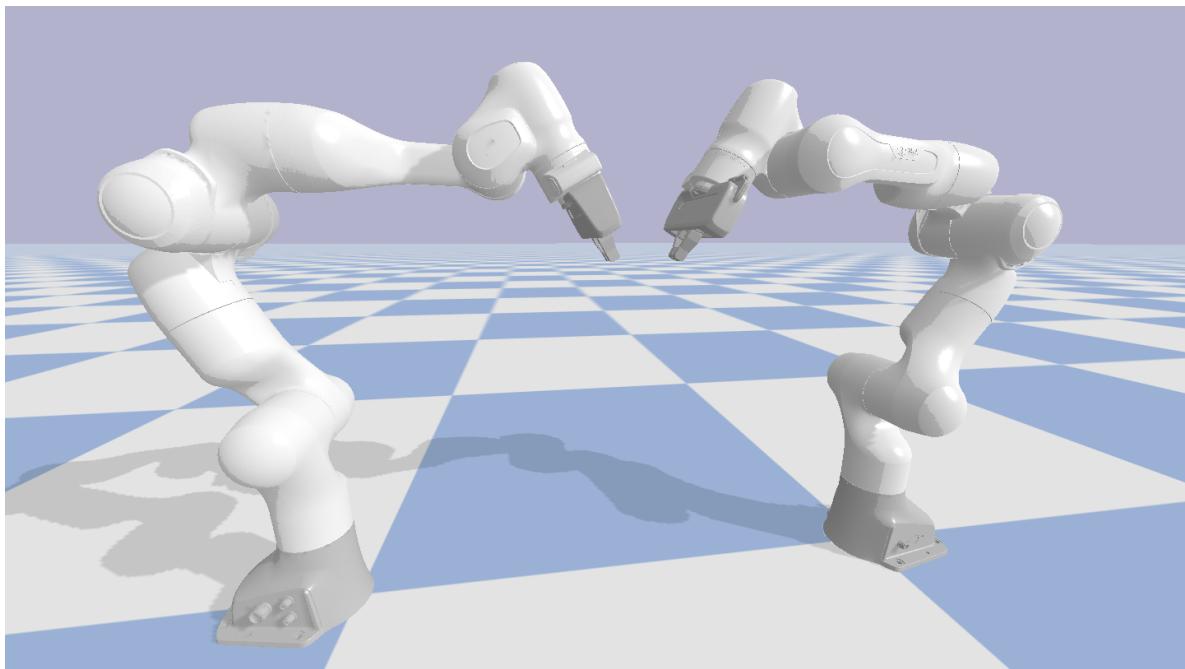


Figure 3: Robot configurations for grasping the object