

Lecture 09

IK cont ... &

Manipulation

New Frontiers

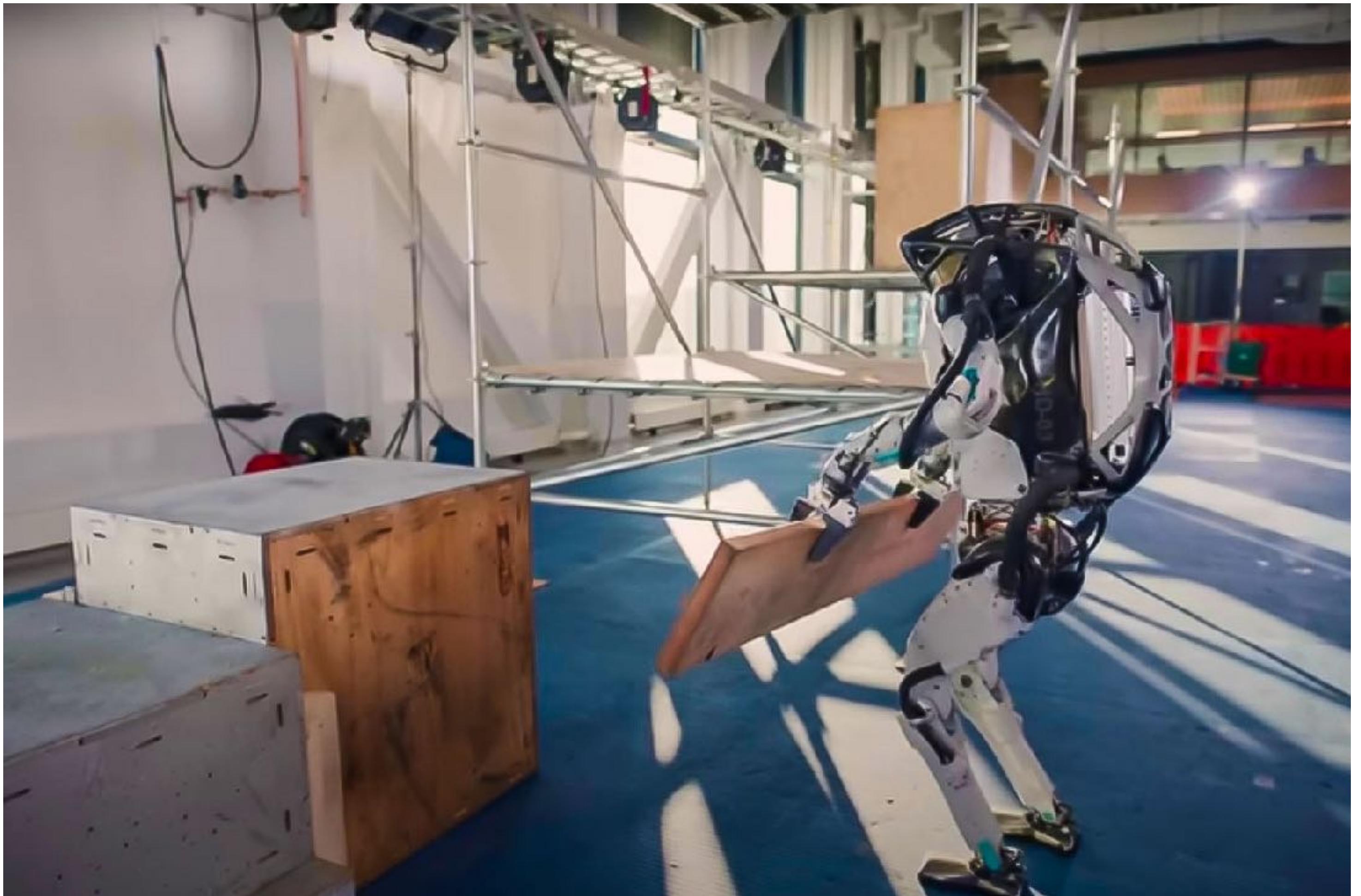


Image Credit - Boston Dynamics



Course Logistics

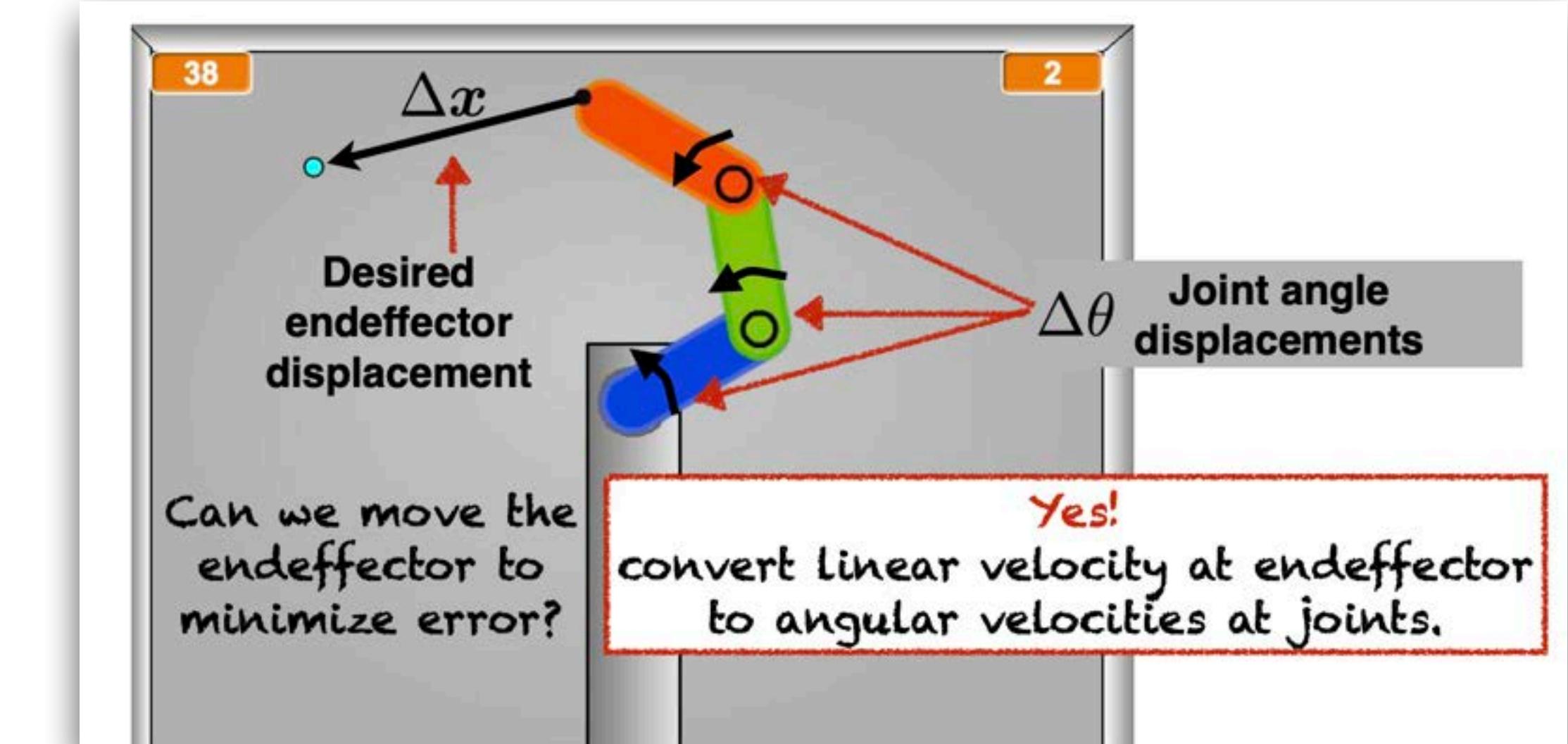
- Quiz 4 was posted yesterday and was due at noon today.
- Project 3 was posted on 02/07 and will be due 02/15 (tomorrow).
- Project 4 will be posted 02/14 (today) and will be due on 02/28.

Previously

Inverse kinematics: how to solve for $q = \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N\}$ from T^0_N ?

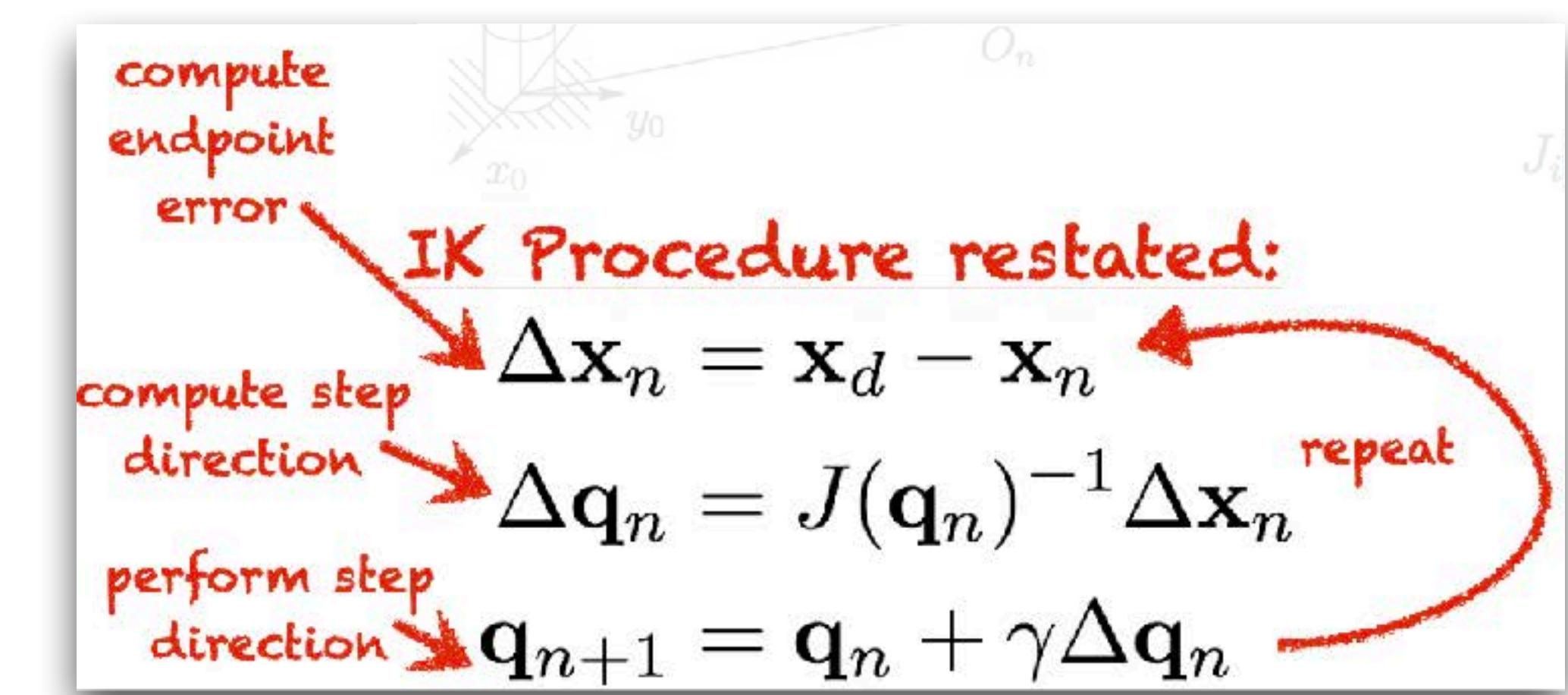
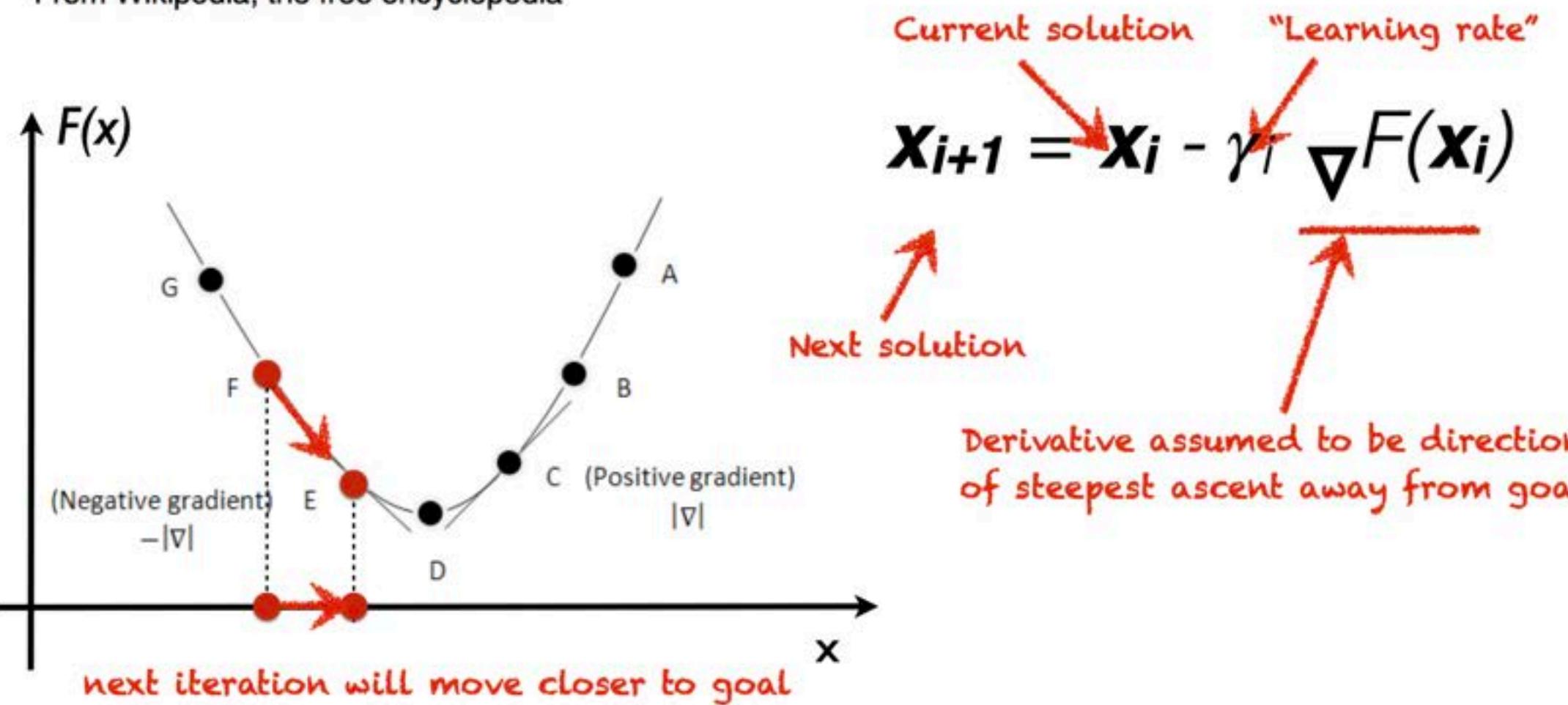
Inverse Kinematics: 2 possibilites

- **Closed-form solution:** geometrically infer satisfying configuration
 - *Speed:* solution often computed in constant time
 - *Predictability:* solution is selected in a consistent manner
- **Solve by optimization:** minimize error of endeffector to desired pose
 - often some form of Gradient Descent (a la Jacobian Transpose)
 - *Generality:* same solver can be used for many different robots



Gradient descent

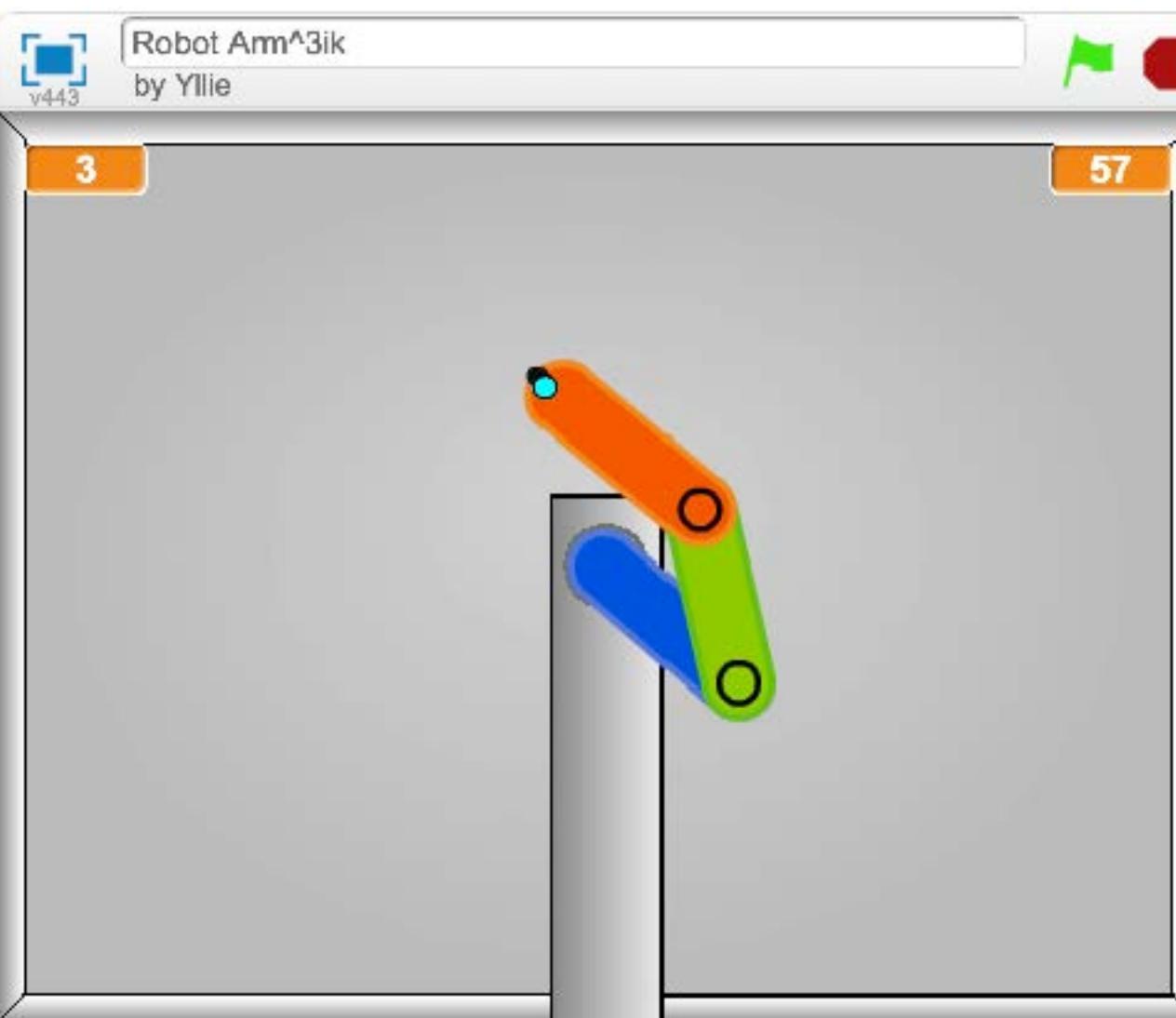
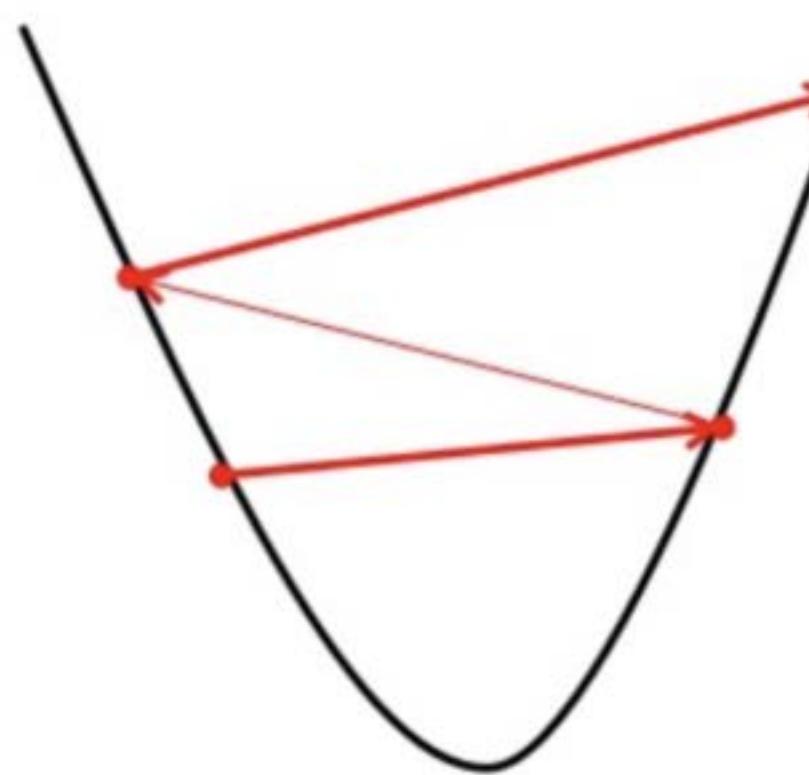
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



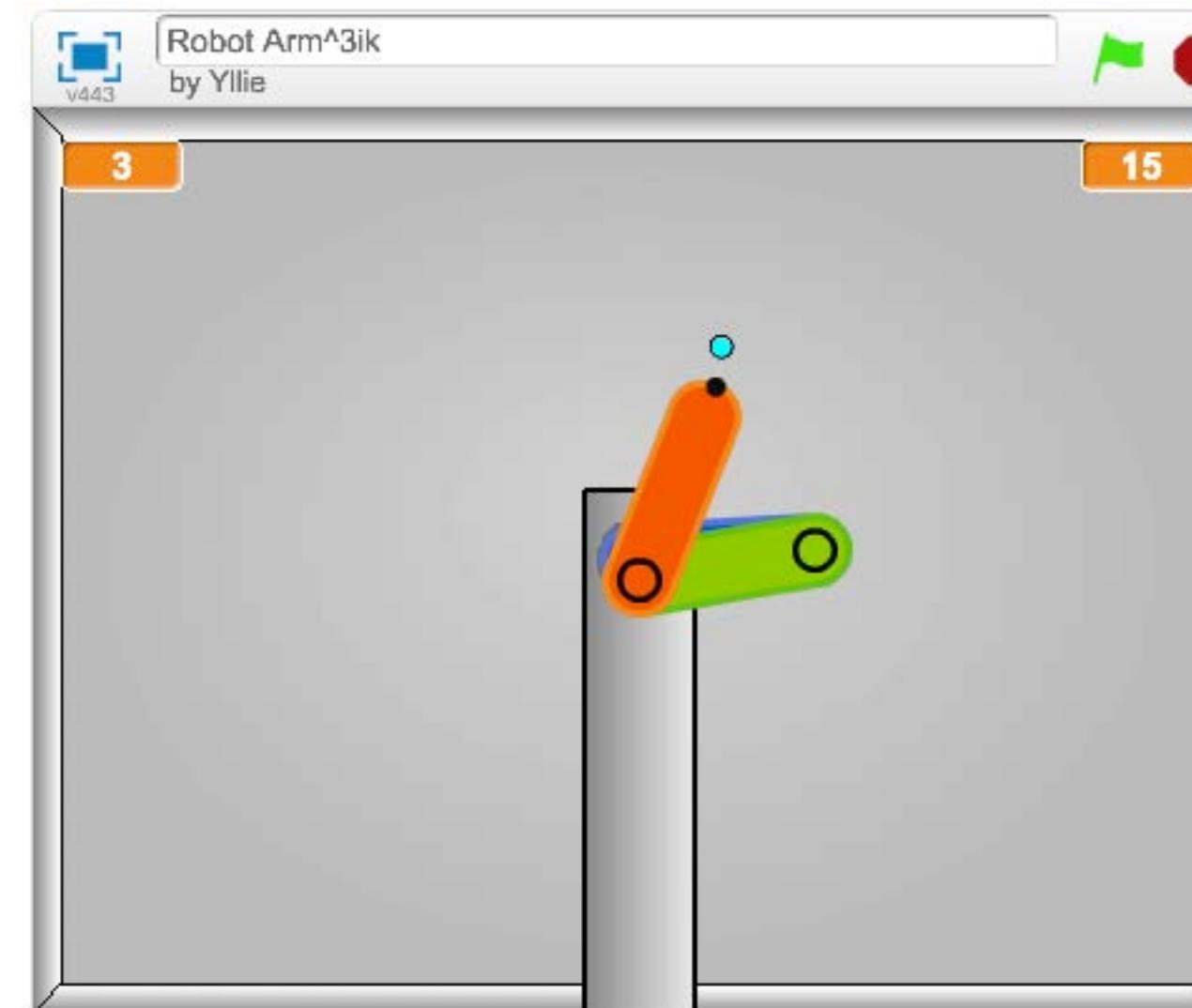
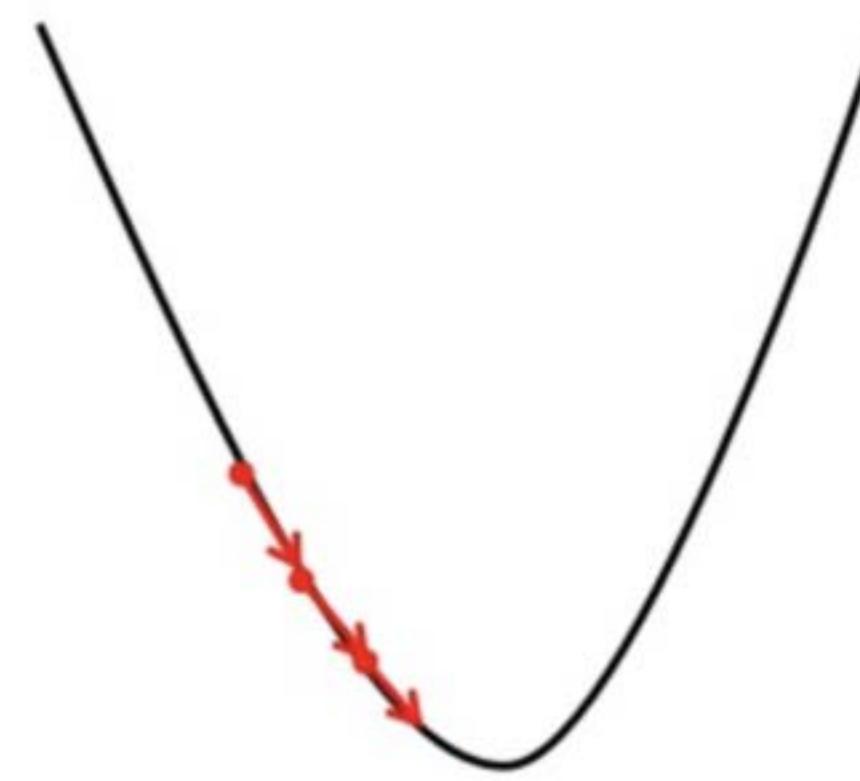
IK by optimization

Inverse kinematics: how to solve for $q = \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N\}$ from T^0_N ?

Big steps -> Aggressive



Small steps -> Conservative



Wait IK should give only the final robot configuration, isn't it?

In these videos, we see the entire path from the initial configuration. What's going on?

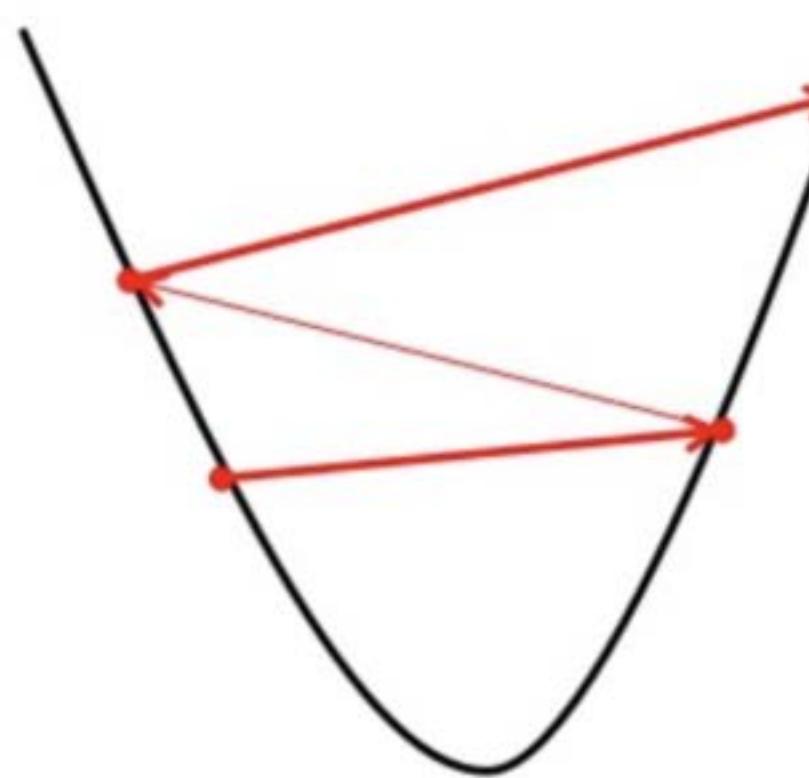
These videos are **illustrating** the optimization steps

In practice, you will use the solution ($q_{desired}$) from the IK solver and invoke a motion planner that will plan a collision free trajectory/path to your solution

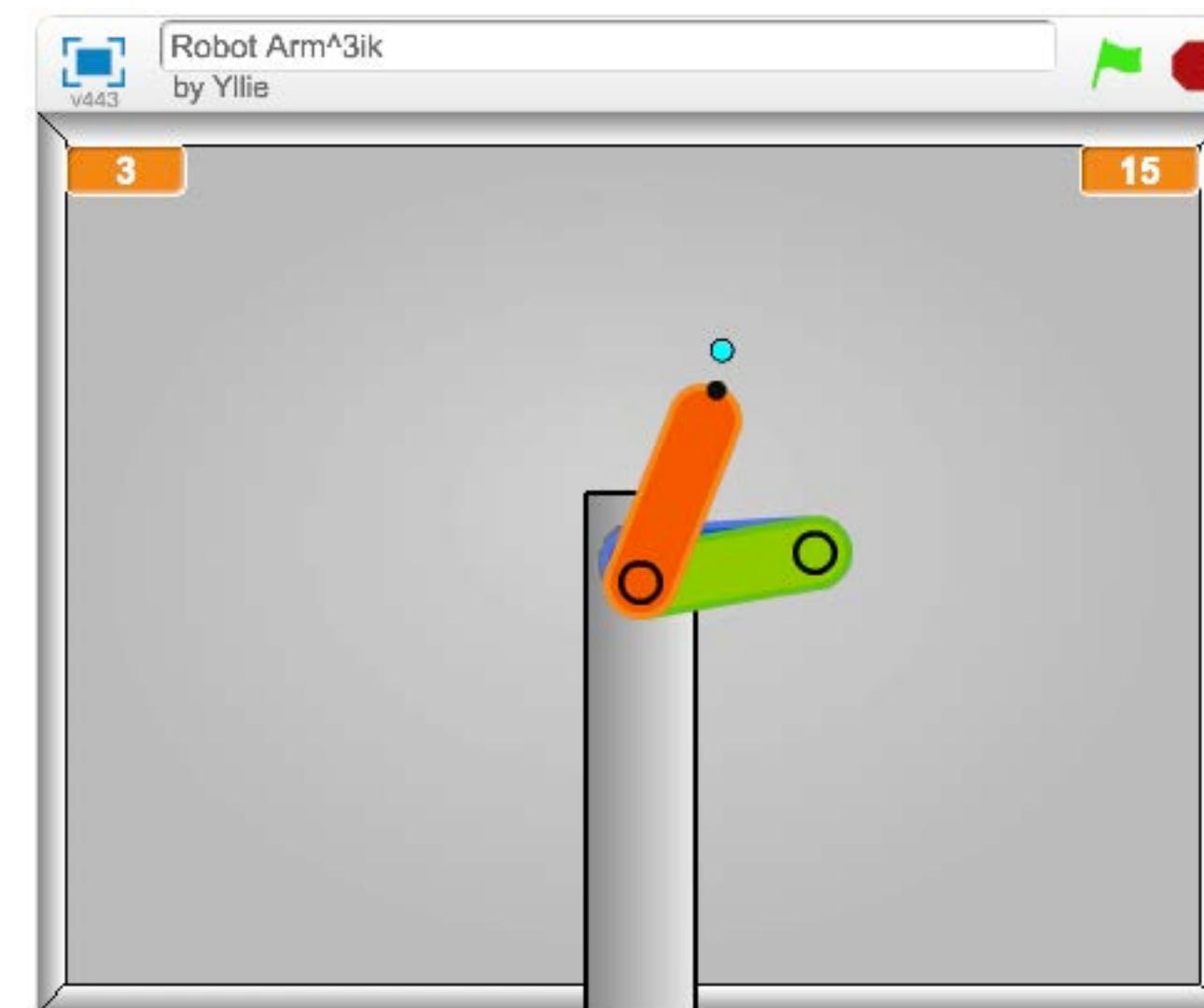
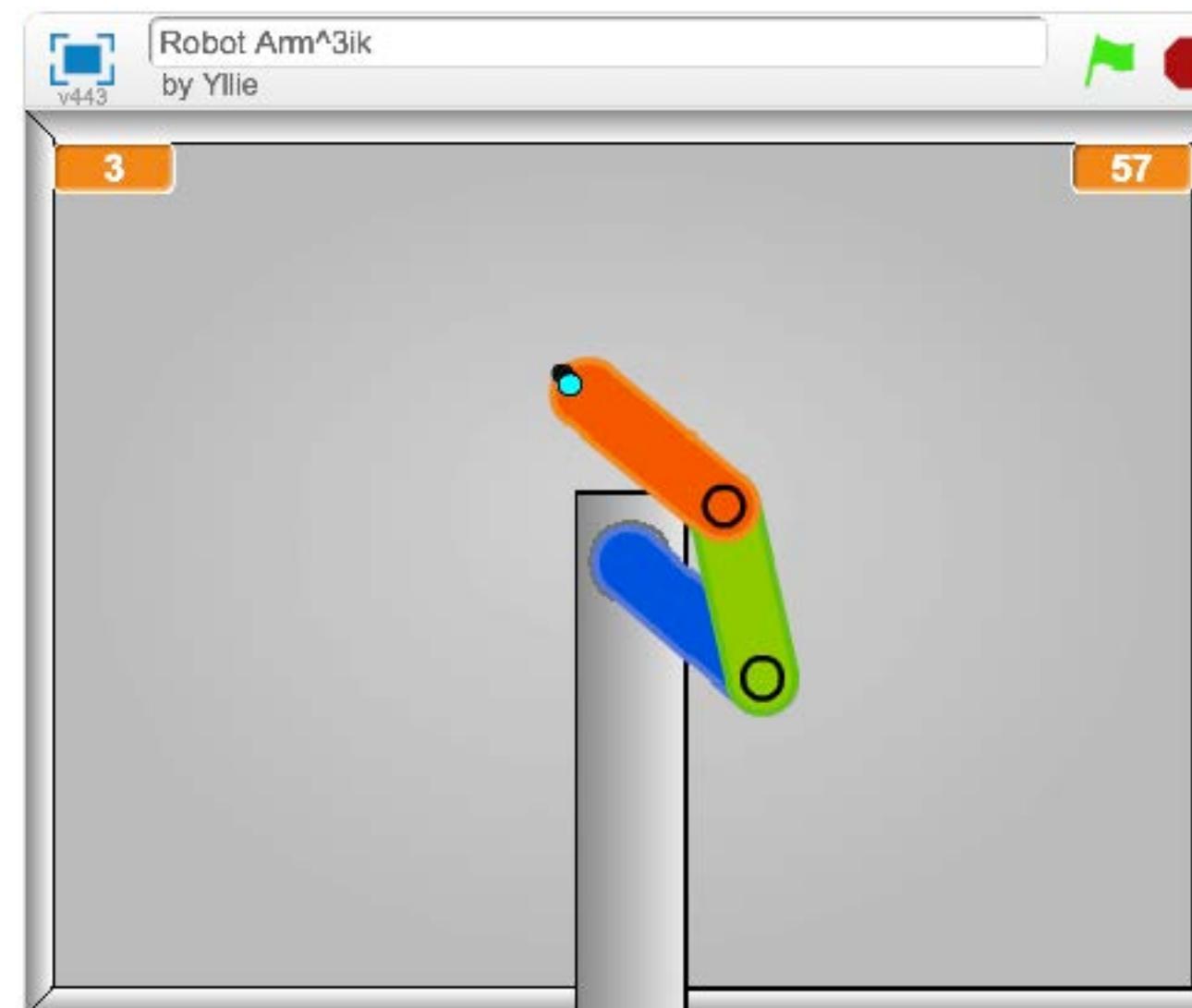
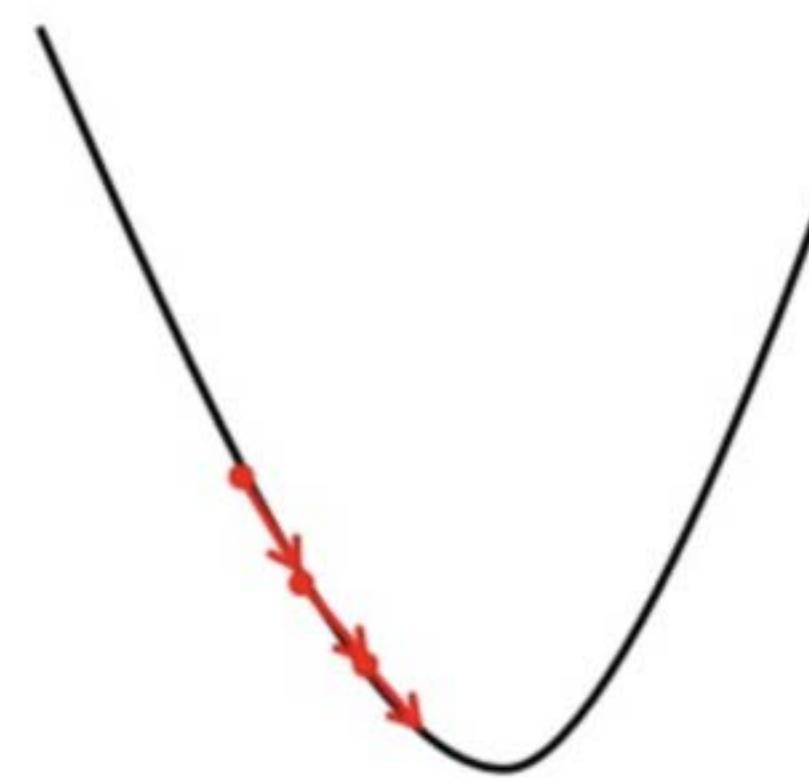
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$$q_{\text{desired}} = \text{IKSolver}(x_{\text{desired}})$$

$$\text{Trajectory} = \text{MotionPlanner}(q_{\text{current}}, q_{\text{desired}})$$

We will talk about this in the future classes

Robot arm and its Jacobian

3D N-joint arm

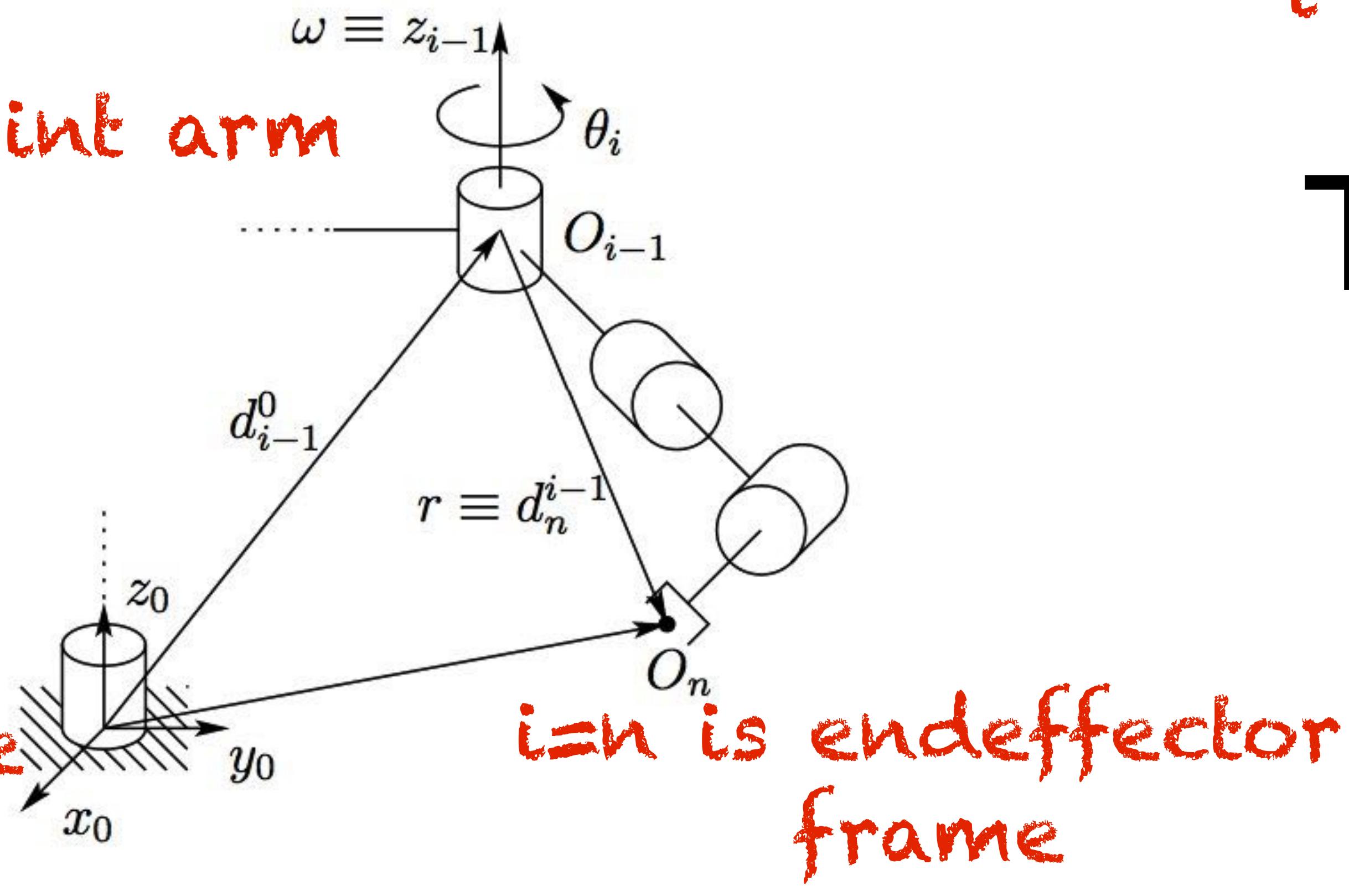


Figure 5.1: Motion of the end-effector due to link i .

$i-1^{\text{th}}$ frame maps to i^{th} column in

The Jacobian

A $6 \times N$ matrix

$$J = [J_1 \ J_2 \ \cdots \ J_n]$$

Robot arm and its Jacobian

Lets focus on
i-1th frame

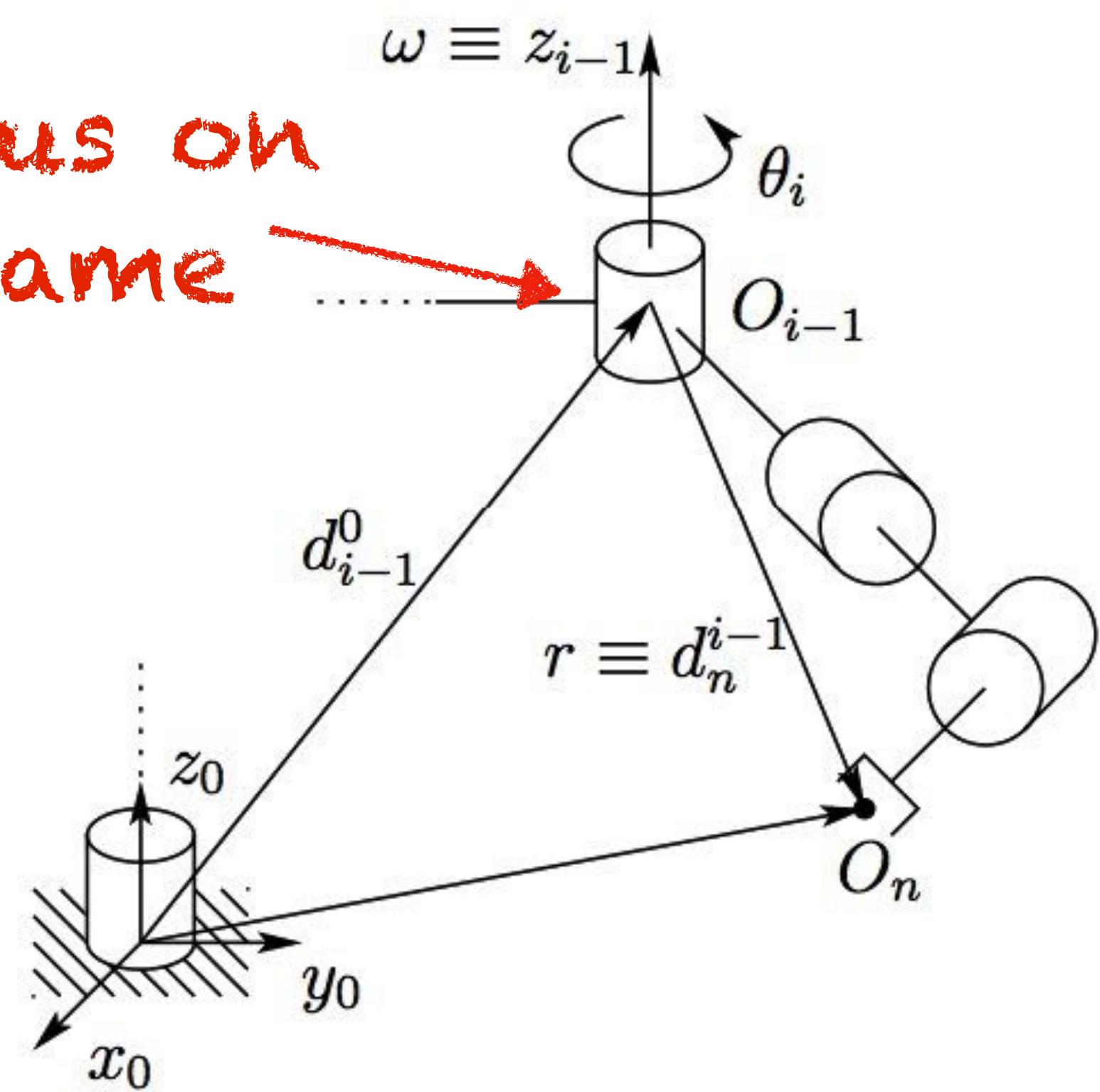


Figure 5.1: Motion of the end-effector due to link i .

*i-1th frame maps to ith column in
The Jacobian*

A $6 \times N$ matrix

$$J = [J_1 \ J_2 \ \cdots \ J_n]$$

*This will
correspond to
ith column*

Robot arm and its Jacobian

Lets focus on
i-1th frame

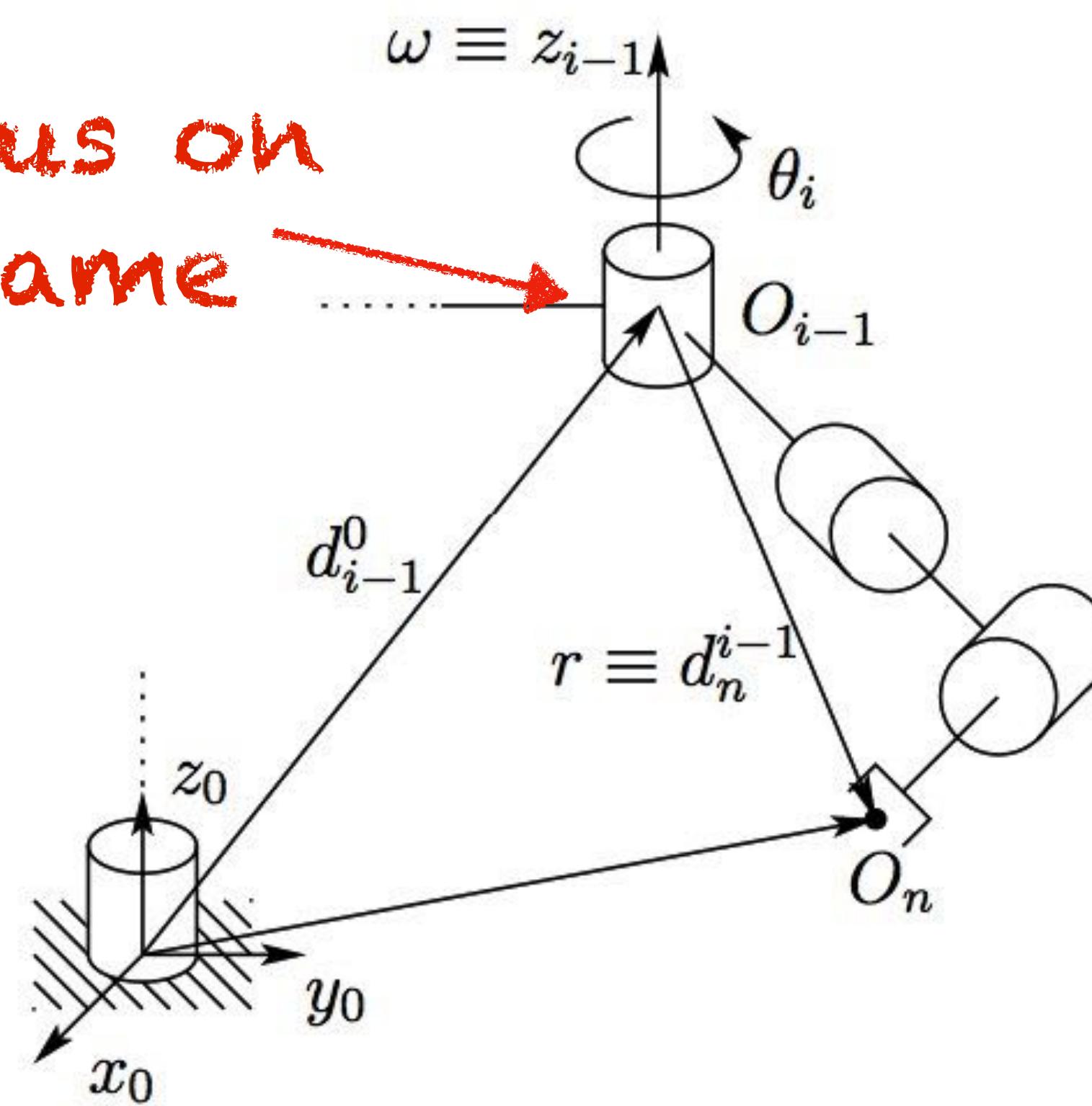


Figure 5.1: Motion of the end-effector due to link i .

J_i for a prismatic joint

$$J_i = \begin{bmatrix} z_{i-1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

J_i for a rotational joint

$$J_i = \begin{bmatrix} z_{i-1} \times (o_n - o_{i-1}) \\ z_{i-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

*i-1th frame maps to *ith column in The Jacobian**

A $6 \times N$ matrix

$$J = [J_1 \ J_2 \ \dots \ J_n]$$

consisting of two $3 \times N$ matrices

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} J_v \\ J_\omega \end{bmatrix}$$

Robot arm and its Jacobian

Lets focus on
i-1th frame

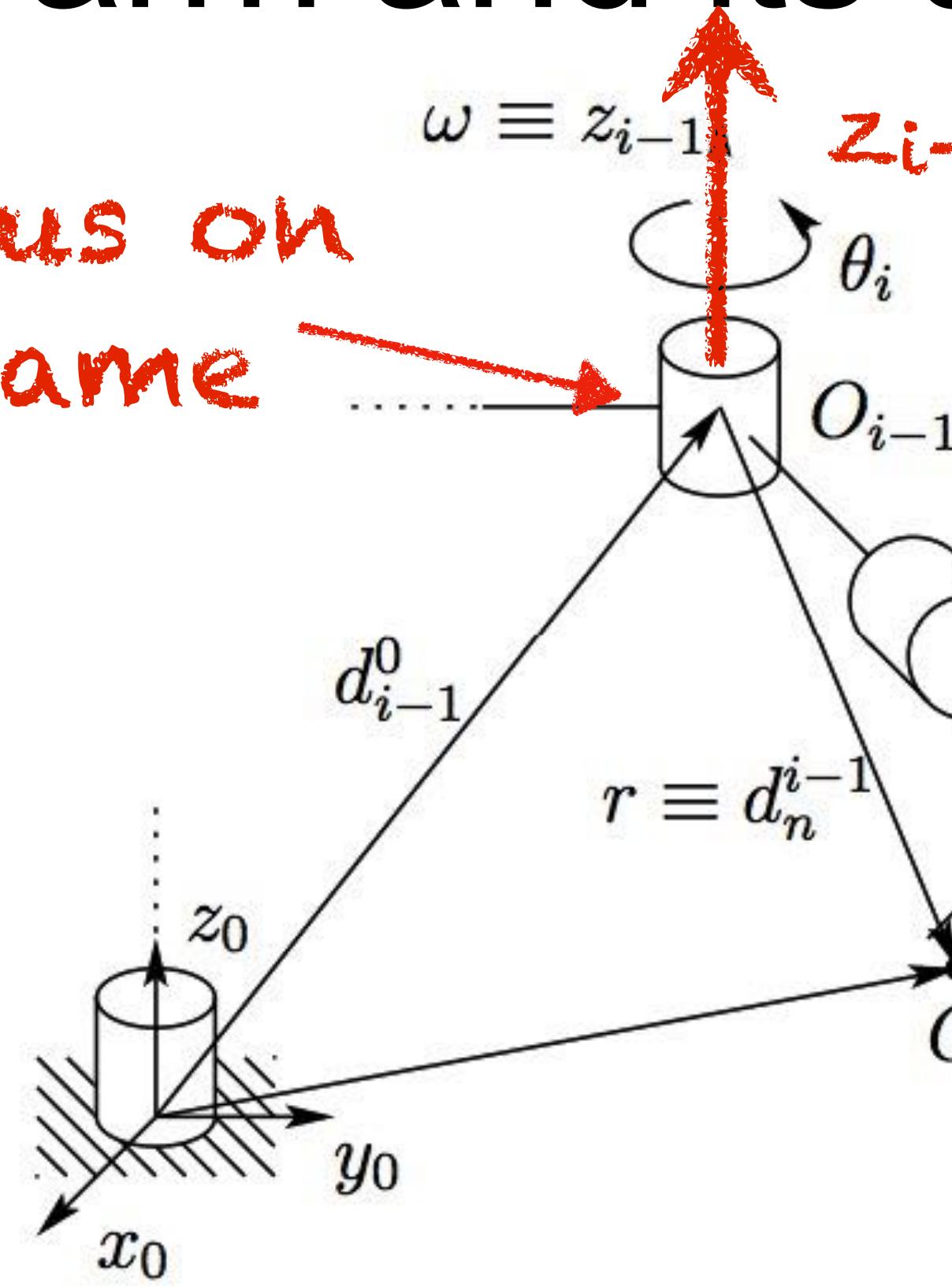


Figure 5.1: Motion of the end-effector due to link i .

z_{i-1} : joint axis

If the $i-1$ th joint is
prismatic

J_i for a prismatic joint

$$J_i = \begin{bmatrix} z_{i-1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

What is z_{i-1} capturing?

z_{i-1} is a 3×1 vector capturing the influence of this joint on the end-effector pose.

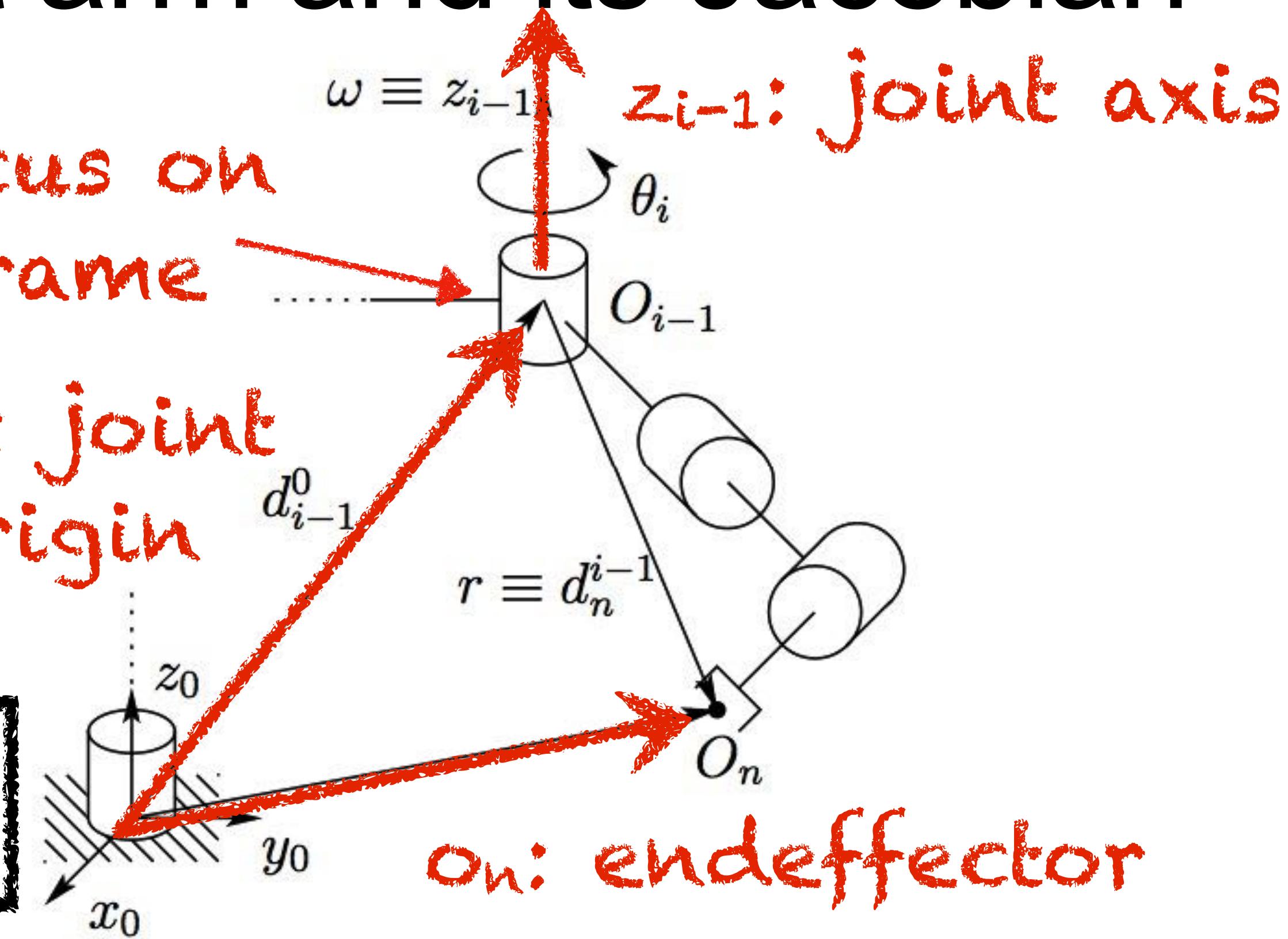
Only influences the translational (linear) component

Robot arm and its Jacobian

Lets focus on
 $i-1$ th frame

O_{i-1} : joint
origin

vectors in
base frame



If the $i-1$ th joint is
revolute

J_i for a rotational joint

$$J_i = \begin{bmatrix} z_{i-1} \times (O_n - O_{i-1}) \\ z_{i-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

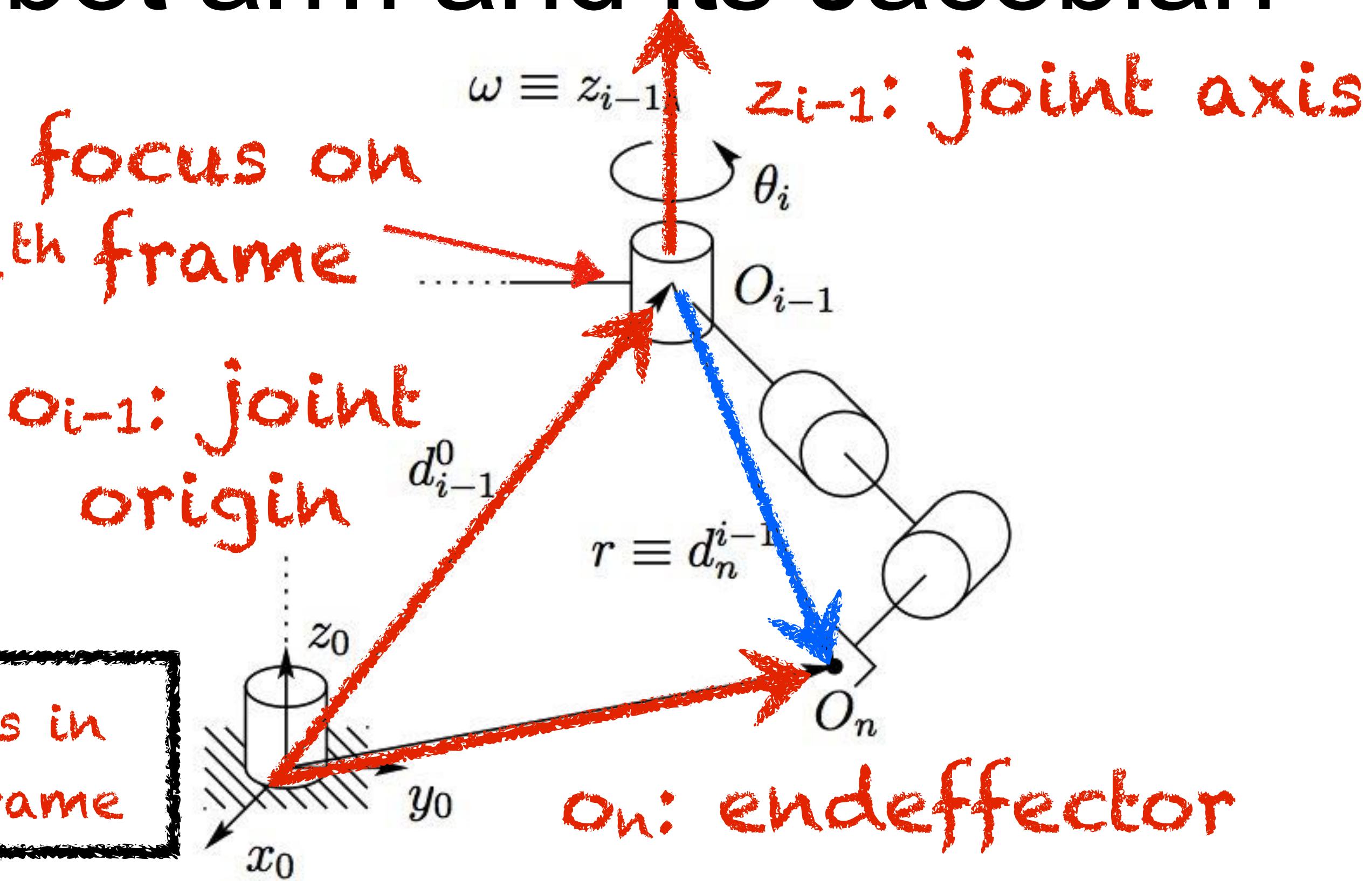
What is $z_{i-1} \times (O_n - O_{i-1})$
capturing?

Figure 5.1: Motion of the end-effector due to link i .

Robot arm and its Jacobian

Lets focus on
 $i-1$ th frame

vectors in
base frame



If the $i-1$ th joint is
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J_i for a rotational joint

$$J_i = \begin{bmatrix} z_{i-1} \times (O_n - O_{i-1}) \\ z_{i-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

What is $z_{i-1} \times (O_n - O_{i-1})$
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Robot arm and its Jacobian

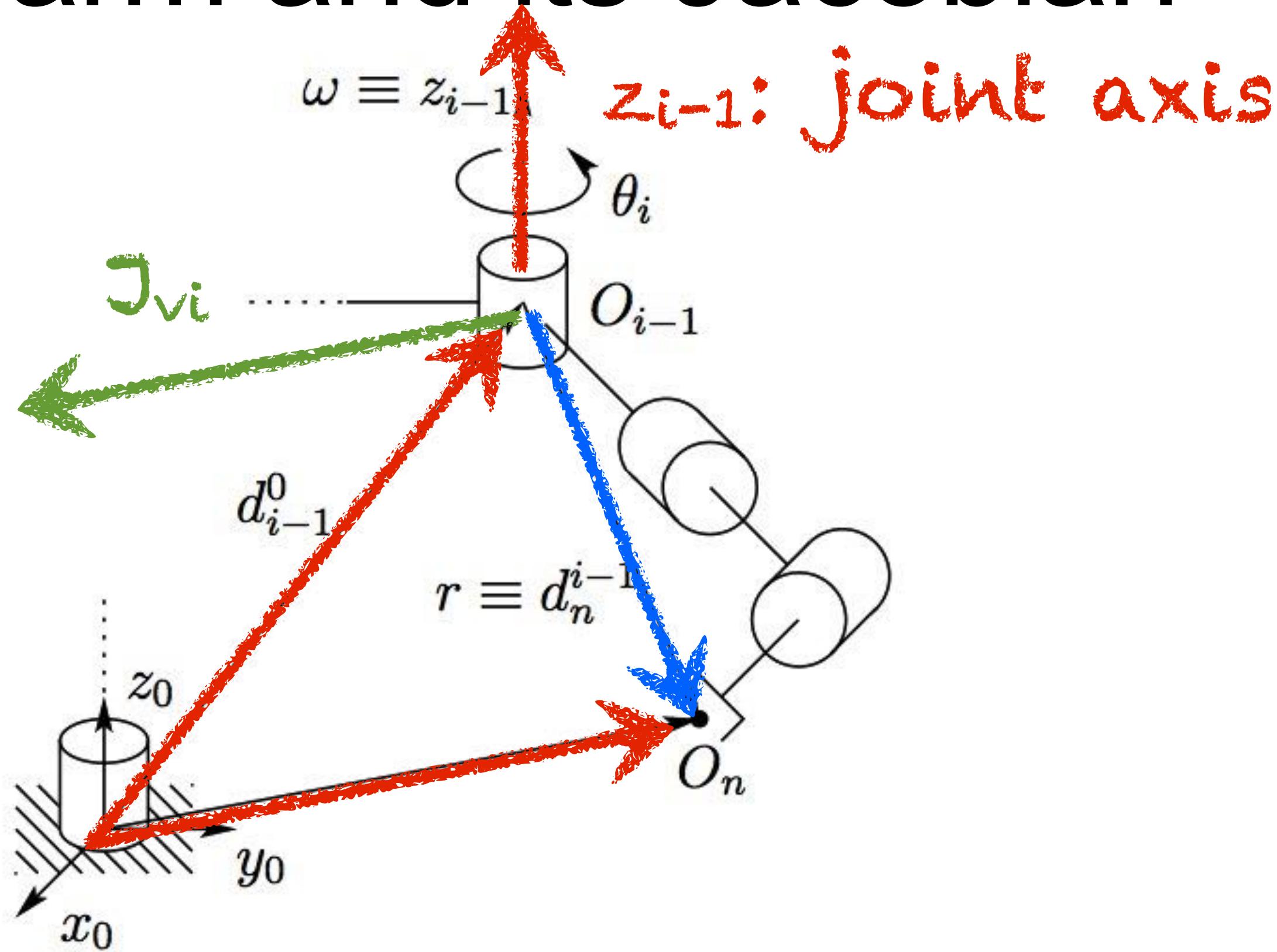


Figure 5.1: Motion of the end-effector due to link i .

If the i -th joint is revolute

J_i for a rotational joint

$$J_i = \begin{bmatrix} z_{i-1} \times (O_n - O_{i-1}) \\ z_{i-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

What is $z_{i-1} \times (O_n - O_{i-1})$ capturing?

The influence of this joint on the end-effector's translational component.

What is z_{i-1} capturing?

The influence of this joint on the end-effector's rotational component.

How to use this Jacobian for IK as optimization?

compute
endpoint
error

IK Procedure restated:

compute step
direction

perform step
direction

$$\Delta \mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{x}_d - \mathbf{x}_n$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{q}_n = [J(\mathbf{q}_n)]^{-1} \Delta \mathbf{x}_n$$

$$\mathbf{q}_{n+1} = \mathbf{q}_n + \gamma \Delta \mathbf{q}_n$$

Check point:

How will you get \mathbf{x}_{n+1} given \mathbf{q}_{n+1} ?

repeat

How to use this Jacobian for IK as optimization?

compute
endpoint
error

IK Procedure restated:

compute step
direction

$$\Delta \mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{x}_d - \mathbf{x}_n$$

perform step
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$$\Delta \mathbf{q}_n = J(\mathbf{q}_n)^{-1} \Delta \mathbf{x}_n$$

$$\mathbf{q}_{n+1} = \mathbf{q}_n + \gamma \Delta \mathbf{q}_n$$

Check point:

Can we compute the J^{-1} all the time?

repeat

How to use this Jacobian for IK as optimization?

compute
endpoint
error

IK Procedure restated:

compute step
direction

$$\Delta \mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{x}_d - \mathbf{x}_n$$

perform step
direction

$$\Delta \mathbf{q}_n = J(\mathbf{q}_n)^{-1} \Delta \mathbf{x}_n$$

$$\mathbf{q}_{n+1} = \mathbf{q}_n + \gamma \Delta \mathbf{q}_n$$

Check point:

Can we compute the J^{-1} all the time?

No

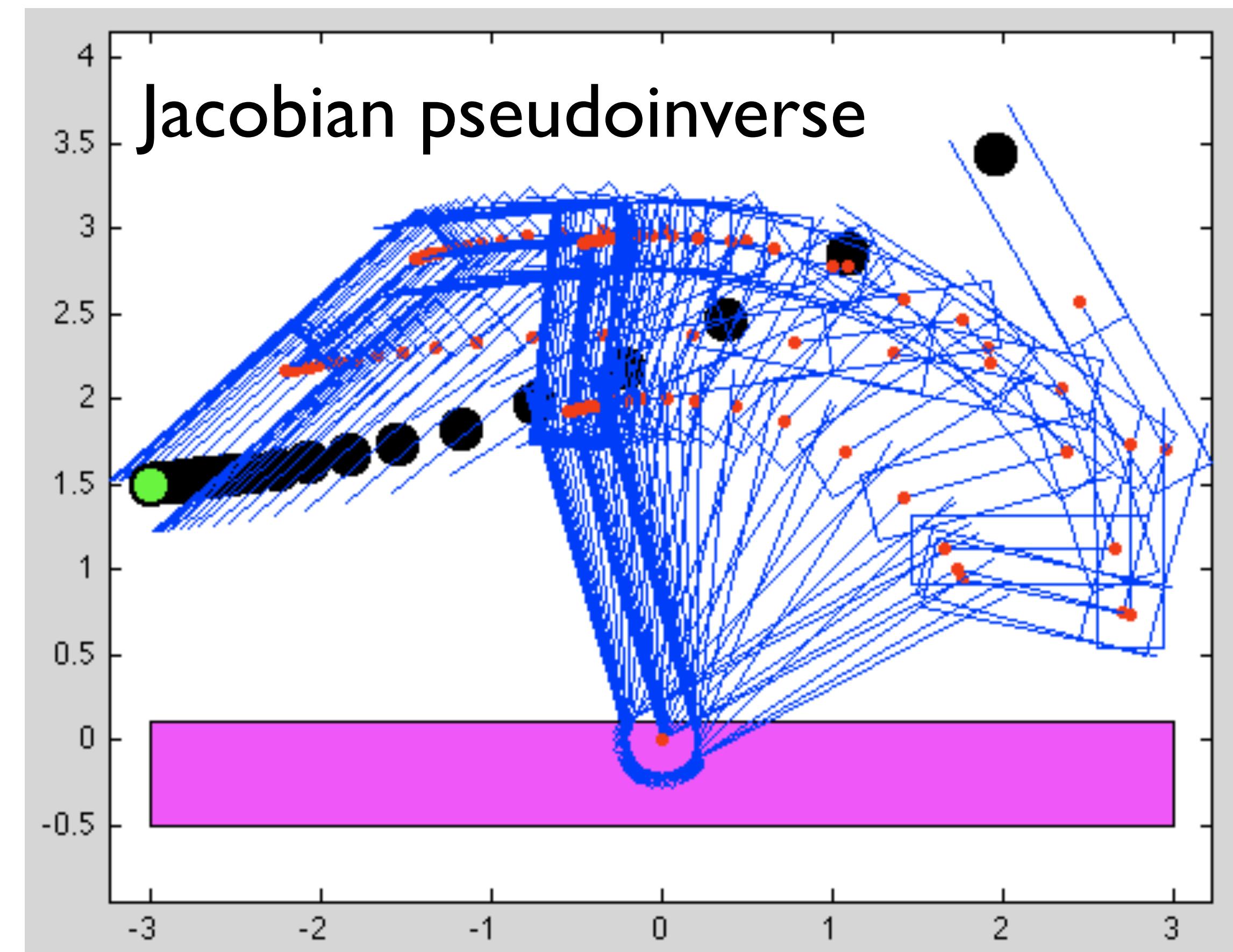
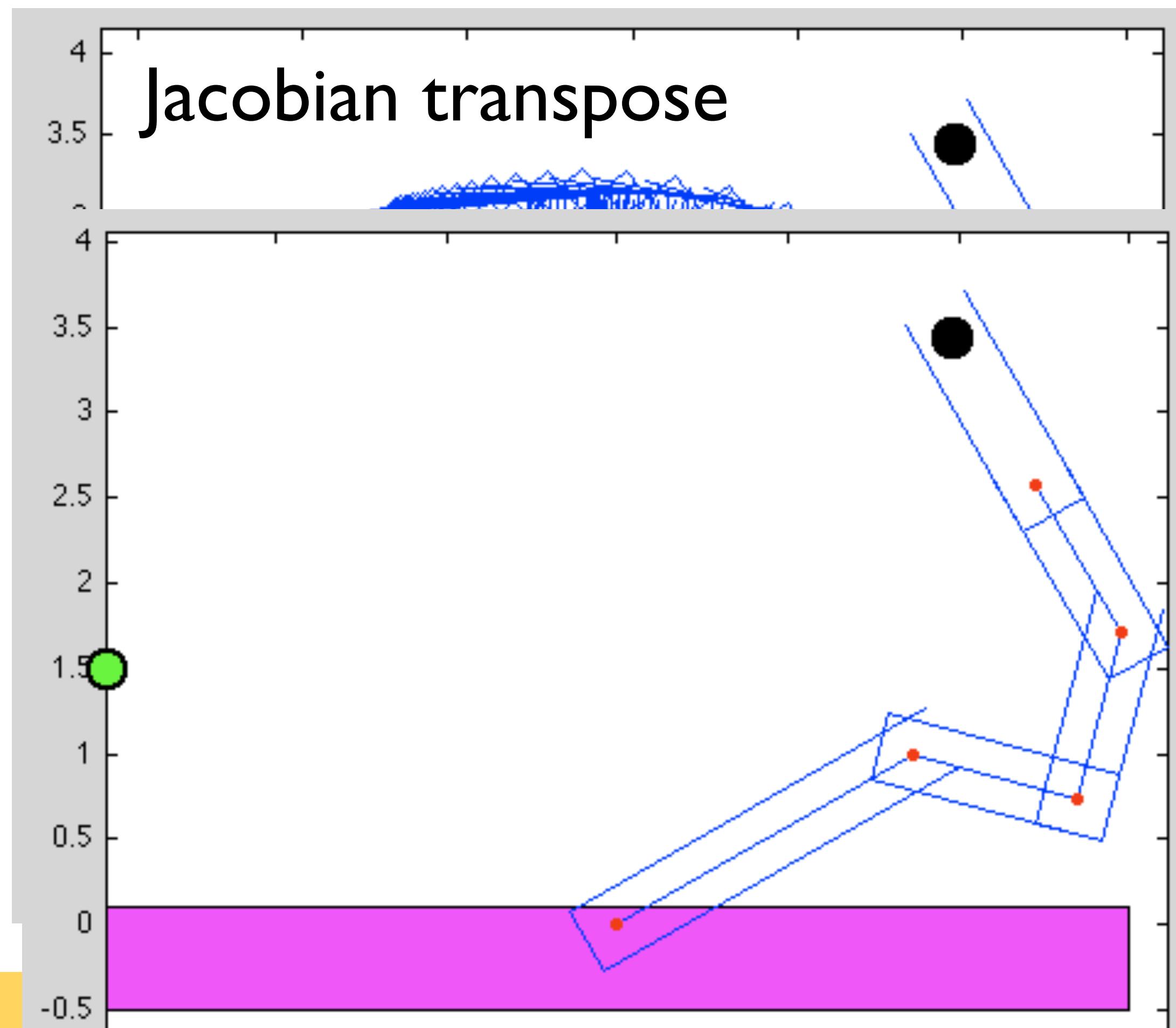
We can use pseudoinverse!

- For matrix A with dimensions $N \times M$ with full rank
- Left pseudoinverse, for when $N > M$, (i.e., "tall", less than 6 DoFs)
$$A_{\text{left}}^{-1} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \quad \text{s.t.} \quad A_{\text{left}}^{-1} A = I_n$$
- Right pseudoinverse, for when $N < M$, (i.e., "wide", more than 6 DoFs)
$$A_{\text{right}}^{-1} = A^T (A A^T)^{-1} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad A A_{\text{right}}^{-1} = I_m$$

Jacobian Pseudoinverse



Matlab 5-link arm example: Jacobian Pseudoinverse



Error Minimization by Jacobian Pseudoinverse

$$J(\mathbf{q})\Delta\mathbf{q} = \Delta\mathbf{x}$$

Jacobian gives mapping from configuration displacement to endeffector displacement

$$\Delta\mathbf{q} = J(\mathbf{q})^{-1}\Delta\mathbf{x}$$

Inverse of Jacobian maps endeffector displacement to configuration displacement

$$\arg \min_{\Delta\mathbf{q}} \|\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\Delta\mathbf{q} - \Delta\mathbf{x}\|^2$$

But, inverse of Jacobian is rarely an option. Why?

Instead, find configuration displacement that minimizes endeffector error squared

Error Minimization by Jacobian Pseudoinverse

$$\arg \min_{\Delta q} \|J(q)\Delta q - \Delta x\|^2$$

Instead, find configuration displacement that minimizes endeffector error squared

$$\begin{aligned} C &= (J(q)\Delta q - \Delta x)^2 \\ &= (J(q)\Delta q - \Delta x)^T (J(q)\Delta q - \Delta x) \\ &= \Delta q^T J(q)^T J(q)\Delta q - \Delta q^T J(q)^T \Delta x - \Delta x^T J(q)\Delta q + \Delta x^T \Delta x \\ &= \Delta q^T J(q)^T J(q)\Delta q - 2\Delta q^T J(q)^T \Delta x + \Delta x^T \Delta x \end{aligned}$$

Define cost function expressing squared error

Error Minimization by Jacobian Pseudoinverse

$$C = \Delta\mathbf{q}^T J(\mathbf{q})^T J(\mathbf{q}) \Delta\mathbf{q} - 2\Delta\mathbf{q}^T J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x} + \Delta\mathbf{x}^T \Delta\mathbf{x}$$

Define cost function
expressing squared error

$$\frac{dC}{d\Delta\mathbf{q}} = 2J(\mathbf{q})^T J(\mathbf{q}) \Delta\mathbf{q} - 2J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x} + 0$$

Take cost derivative

Set to zero and solve for configuration displacement

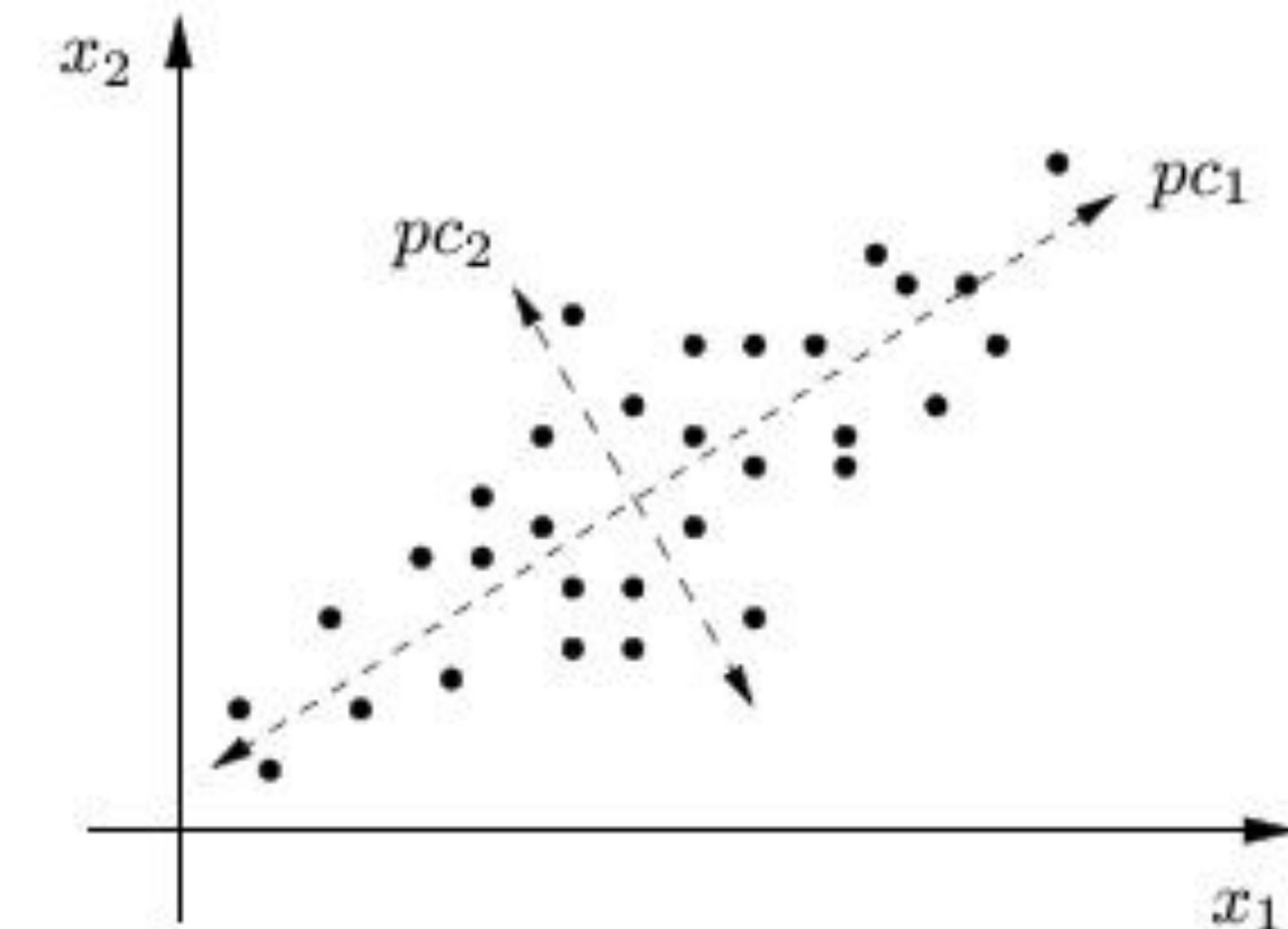
$$0 = 2J(\mathbf{q})^T J(\mathbf{q}) \Delta\mathbf{q} - 2J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x}$$

$$J(\mathbf{q})^T J(\mathbf{q}) \Delta\mathbf{q} = J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x} \quad \text{Normal form}$$

$$\Delta\mathbf{q} = (J(\mathbf{q})^T J(\mathbf{q}))^{-1} J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x}$$



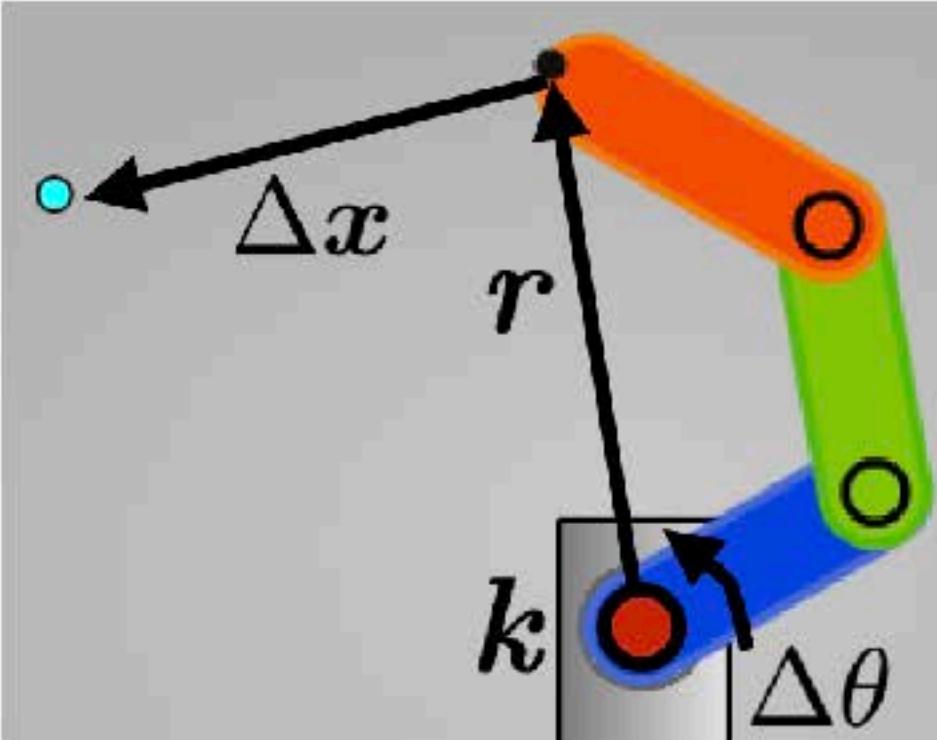
Pseudoinverse, More Generally



- Pseudoinverse of matrix A : $A^+ = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T$ approximates solution to linear system $Ax=b$
- The pseudoinverse A^+ is a least squares “best fit” approximate solution of an **overdetermined** system $Ax=b$, where there are more equations (m) than unknowns (n), or vice versa
- Often used for data fitting, as a singular value decomposition

Didn't we say Jacobian Transpose in the earlier lecture and not inverse?

Jacobian Transpose



The diagram shows a robotic arm segment with a green link and a blue base. A red vector k represents the joint rotation axis, and a black vector r represents the position of the end effector relative to the joint origin. A blue arrow labeled Δx indicates the desired end effector displacement. A black arrow labeled $\Delta\theta$ indicates the angular displacement for joint i .

$$\Delta\theta = (\underline{k} \times \underline{r})^T \Delta x$$

joint rotation axis
Angular displacement for joint i
 $\Delta\theta$
 \underline{k}
 Δx
 \underline{r}
vector from joint origin to endeffector
desired endeffector displacement
Jacobian for joint i

Procedure (for each joint):

- 1) Compute Jacobian
- 2) Update joint angles using Jacobian transpose
- 3) Repeat forever (or until error minimized)

We can also use **Jacobian Transpose**

Jacobian Transpose revisited



Error Minimization by Jacobian Transpose

$$C = \Delta\mathbf{q}^T J(\mathbf{q})^T J(\mathbf{q}) \Delta\mathbf{q} - 2\Delta\mathbf{q}^T J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x} + \Delta\mathbf{x}^T \Delta\mathbf{x}$$

Define cost function
expressing squared error

$$\frac{dC}{d\Delta\mathbf{q}} = 2J(\mathbf{q})^T J(\mathbf{q}) \Delta\mathbf{q} - 2J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x} + 0$$

Take cost derivative wrt.
change in configuration

$$\left. \frac{dC}{d\Delta\mathbf{q}} \right|_{\Delta\mathbf{q}=0} = 2J(\mathbf{q})^T J(\mathbf{q}) \Delta\mathbf{q} - 2J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x} \Big|_{\Delta\mathbf{q}=0}$$

Evaluate at convergence point, where
change in configuration is zero

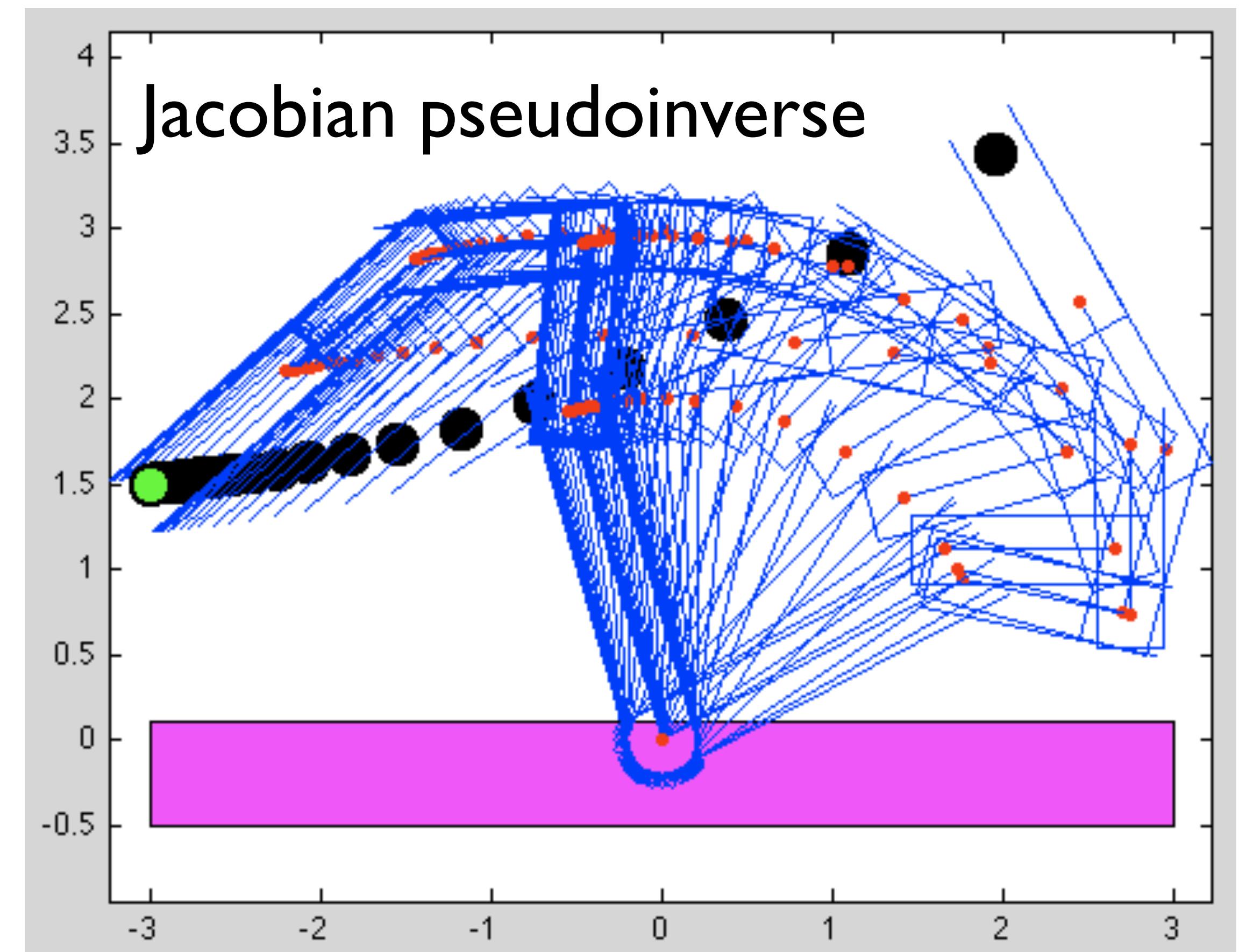
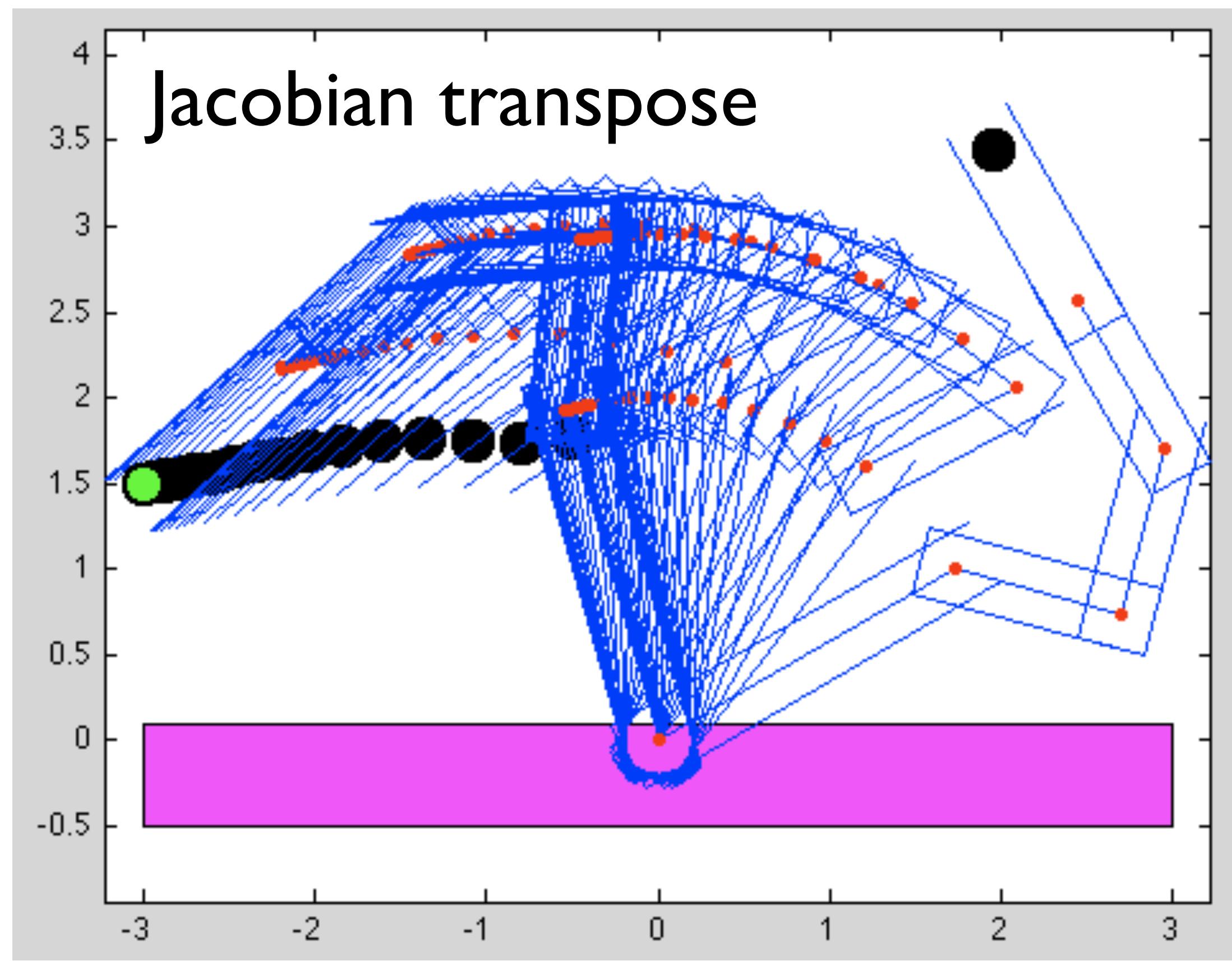
$$= 2J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x}$$

$$= \boxed{\gamma J(\mathbf{q})^T \Delta\mathbf{x}}$$

step length (gamma) chosen
as update step scale



Matlab 5-link arm example: Jacobian transpose



Manipulation New Frontiers



Image Credit - Boston Dynamics



Definition of Manipulation

Mason, Matthew T. "Toward robotic manipulation."

Annual Review of Control, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems 1 (2018): 1-28.



Annual Review of Control, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems

Toward Robotic Manipulation

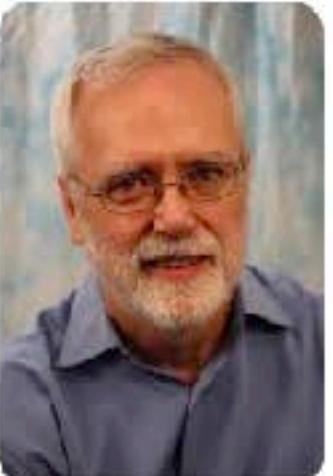
Matthew T. Mason

Robotics Institute and Computer Science Department, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, USA; email: matt.mason@cs.cmu.edu

Carnegie Mellon University
Robotics Institute

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Statement	Research	Publications	Students/Affiliates
I am formally retired at CMU, although still supervising students as they finish and graduate. Most of my activity has shifted to my position as Chief Scientist at Berkshire Grey. I work in robotics. The primary venue for my work is the Manipulation Lab (MLab) .			

Annu. Rev. Control Robot. Auton. Syst. 2018.
1:19.1–19.28

The *Annual Review of Control, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems* is online at
control.annualreviews.org

<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-control-060117-104848>

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Keywords

robot, manipulation, evolution, engineering

Abstract

This article surveys manipulation, including both biological and robotic manipulation. Biology inspires robotics and demonstrates aspects of manipulation that are far in the future of robotics. Robotics develops concepts and principles that become evident only in the creative process. Robotics also provides a test of our understanding. As Richard Feynman put it: "What I cannot create, I do not understand."

This lecture uses the structure and material from this review paper!



Definition of Manipulation

Very few definitions of manipulation appear in the robotics literature. A European research road map defined manipulation as “the function of utilising the characteristics of a grasped object to achieve a task” (1, p. 38). A NASA road-mapping effort yields the following: “Manipulation pertains to making an intentional change in the environment or to objects that are being manipulated” (2, p. 13). My own earlier attempt at defining manipulation was “using one’s hands to rearrange one’s environment” (3, p. 1). Rather than sorting the pros and cons of those definitions, let us apply the shotgun method and identify every approach that we can.

Mason, Matthew T. "Toward robotic manipulation." Annual Review of Control, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems 1 (2018): 1-28.



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Definition of Manipulation

Definition 1 (etymological). Manipulation refers to the activities performed by hands.

Definition 2 (genus/differentia, ends only). Manipulation is when an agent moves things other than itself.

Definition 3 (genus/differentia, ends and means). Manipulation is when an agent moves things other than itself through selective contact.

Definition 4 (bottom up). Manipulation is pick-and-place manipulation plus in-hand manipulation plus mechanical assembly plus . . .

Definition 5. Manipulation refers to an agent's control of its environment through selective contact.

Mason, Matthew T. "Toward robotic manipulation." Annual Review of Control, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems 1 (2018): 1-28.

Animal Manipulation



Animal Manipulation



Smaller-scale manipulation exhibited by flagella and cilia
starting billion years ago

<https://makeagif.com/gif/flagella-cilia-VjpqAa>



Animal Manipulation

“The brain of an ant is one of the most marvellous atoms of matter in the world, perhaps more marvellous than the brain of man.” - Darwin



LOVE
NATURE

Intermediate-scale Manipulation Weaver ants ~20 million years ago

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pkjpC4O_TM

Animal Manipulation

Intermediate-scale Manipulation Dung Beetle

Mobile Manipulation???



Locomotion is a form of manipulation??
Duality Principle

<https://youtu.be/xNjynt6oCcQ>

<https://cdn2.vectorstock.com/i/1000x1000/53/51/big-dung-beetle-that-pushes-dirty-ball-vector-19965351.jpg>

https://t3.ftcdn.net/jpg/01/62/59/04/360_F_162590489_5lcesYmlOK0RC4T4r5lydft8aQmpCwI7.jpg

Animal Manipulation

Large-scale Manipulation using Tool - Chimpanzee



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inFkERO30oM>

Animal Manipulation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YePKbjODrto>



Animal Manipulation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXi3xJriGZY>

Animal Manipulation



<https://gifdb.com/images/high/insect-fly-rubbing-hands-tnpegh6d412vjafu.gif>

Human Manipulation



https://media.cnn.com/api/v1/images/stellar/prod/210807101343-restricted-01-neeraj-chopra-olympics-08-07-2021.jpg?q=w_2953,h_1984,x_0,y_0,c_fill

<https://www.espncricinfo.com/photo/shoaib-akhtar-in-action-against-bangladesh-309353?objectId=306979>

https://media.gq.com/photos/5e30a0329d87db000817865a/master/w_1600%2Cc_limit/03-how-kobe-bryant-changed-sneaker-history-gq-kanuary-2020.jpg

Human Manipulation



https://live.staticflickr.com/6086/6098540957_6bfd63d5d1_b.jpg



<https://qph.cf2.quoracdn.net/main-qimg-3252de8ffb3474dd57f5a534d343a7c3-lq>

Human Manipulation

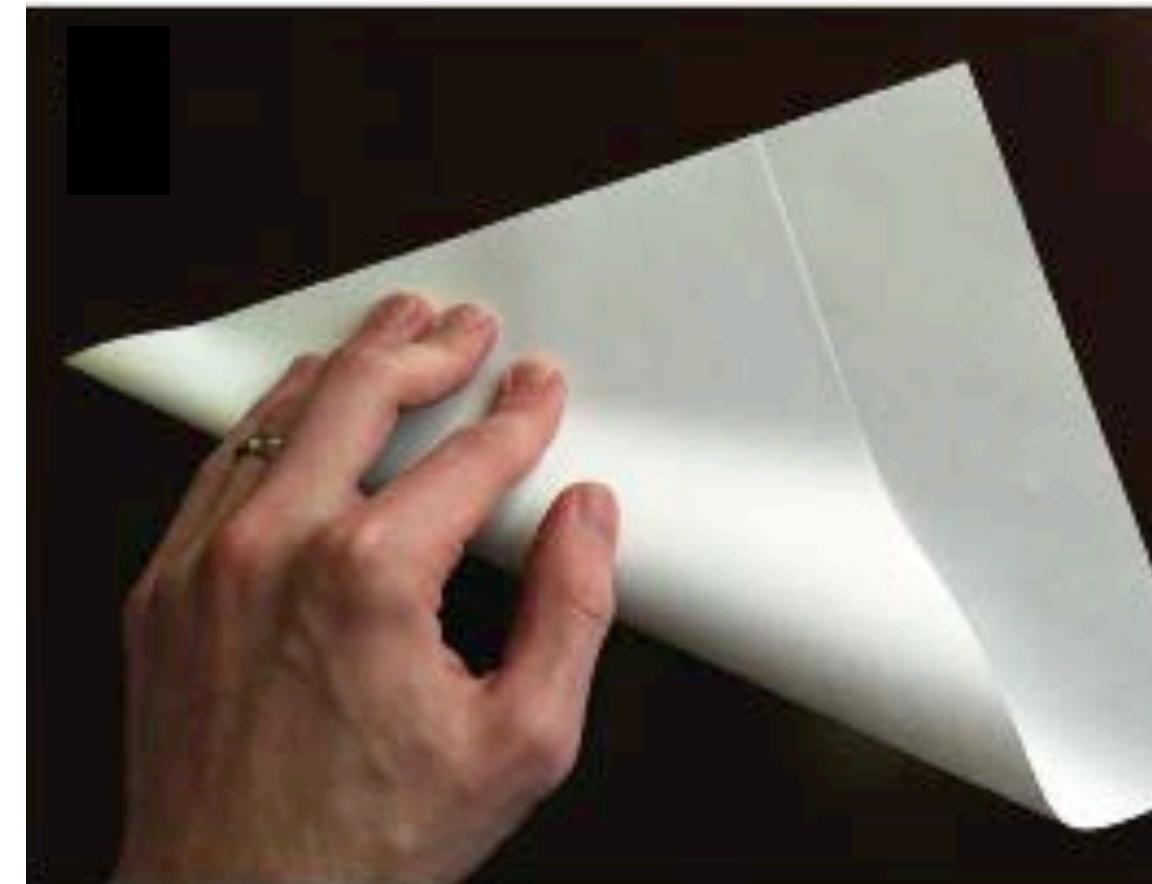


Figure 2

Examples of human manipulation. (a) Throwing a baseball. (b) Knapping a stone tool. (c) Folding origami. (d) Cutting a potato. (e) Bimanual manipulation of a potato while the knife is parked in an ulnar grasp. (f) Pushing potato slices with a knife and spread fingers. Panel *a* from video (<https://youtu.be/jZKvJY6gDfg>) by Power Drive Performance (<http://www.pitcherspowerdrive.com>), reproduced with permission. Panel *b* by Helen Beare (<https://australianmuseum.net.au/image/stone-tools-initial-reduction-flaking>), reproduced with permission from the Australian Museum. Panel *c* from video by YouTube user kiwiwhispers ASMR (<https://youtu.be/SNfLEnnP6Nc>), reproduced with permission. Panels *d-f* adapted from frames of *The French Chef* (28).

Figure from - Mason, Matthew T. "Toward robotic manipulation." Annual Review of Control, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems 1 (2018): 1-28.

Elements of Robotic Manipulation

- Programmed Motion
- Compliant Motion
- Structured pick-and-place manipulation
- Unstructured pick-and-place manipulation
 - Path planning
 - General-purpose grippers
 - Grasp and placement pose planning
- Assembly and task mechanics
- In-hand Manipulation
- Nonprehensile Manipulation
- Whole-X Manipulation

Programmed Motion

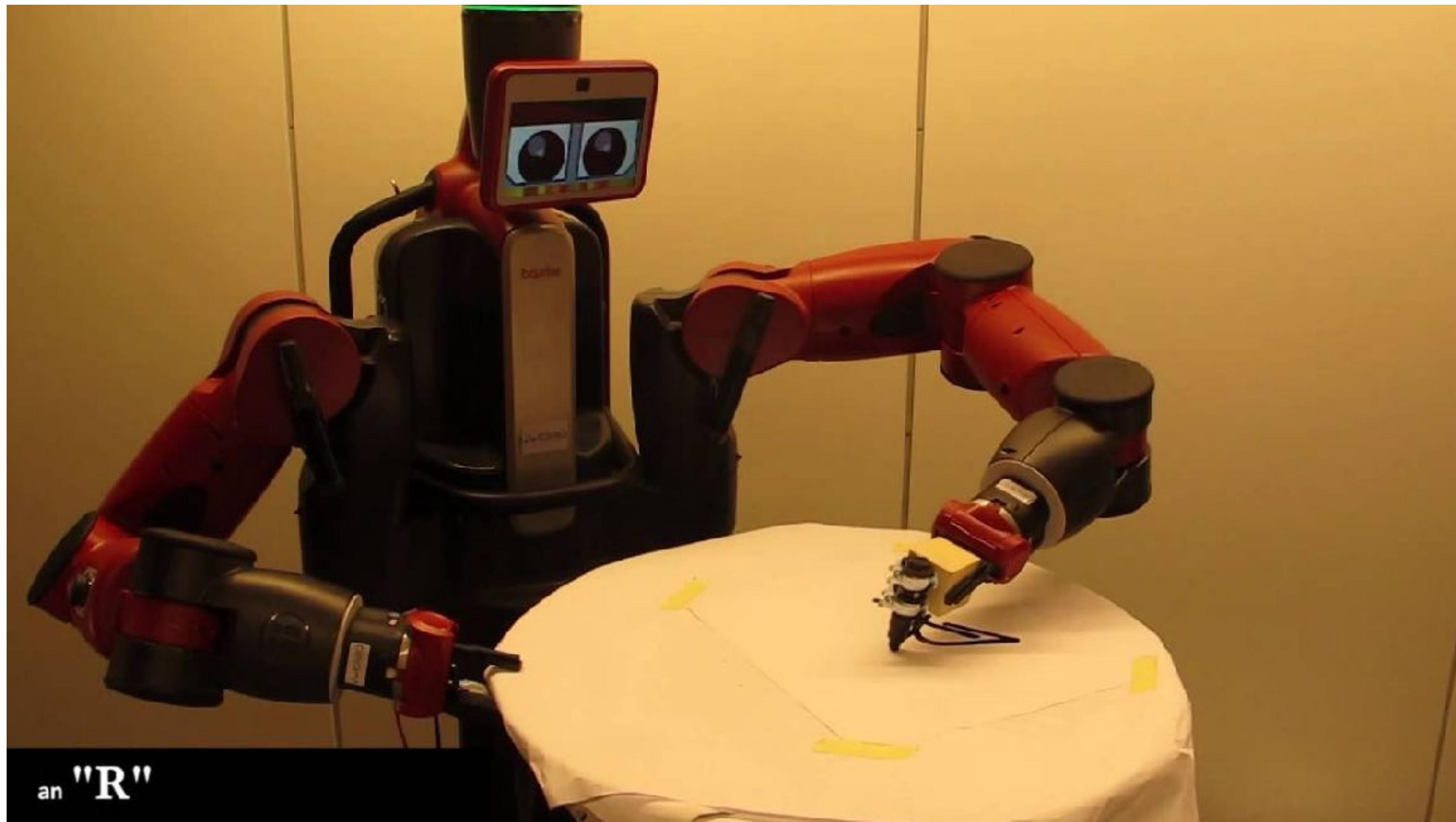
- Rests on the developments in motors, transmissions, encoders, kinematics, mechanism design, dynamic modeling and control



<https://www.therobotreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/kuka-robots-cars.jpg>

Compliant Motion

- Context of teleoperation
- Hybrid-position/force control
- Impedance control



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=KU--TOMDDFU>

Structured pick-and-place manipulation

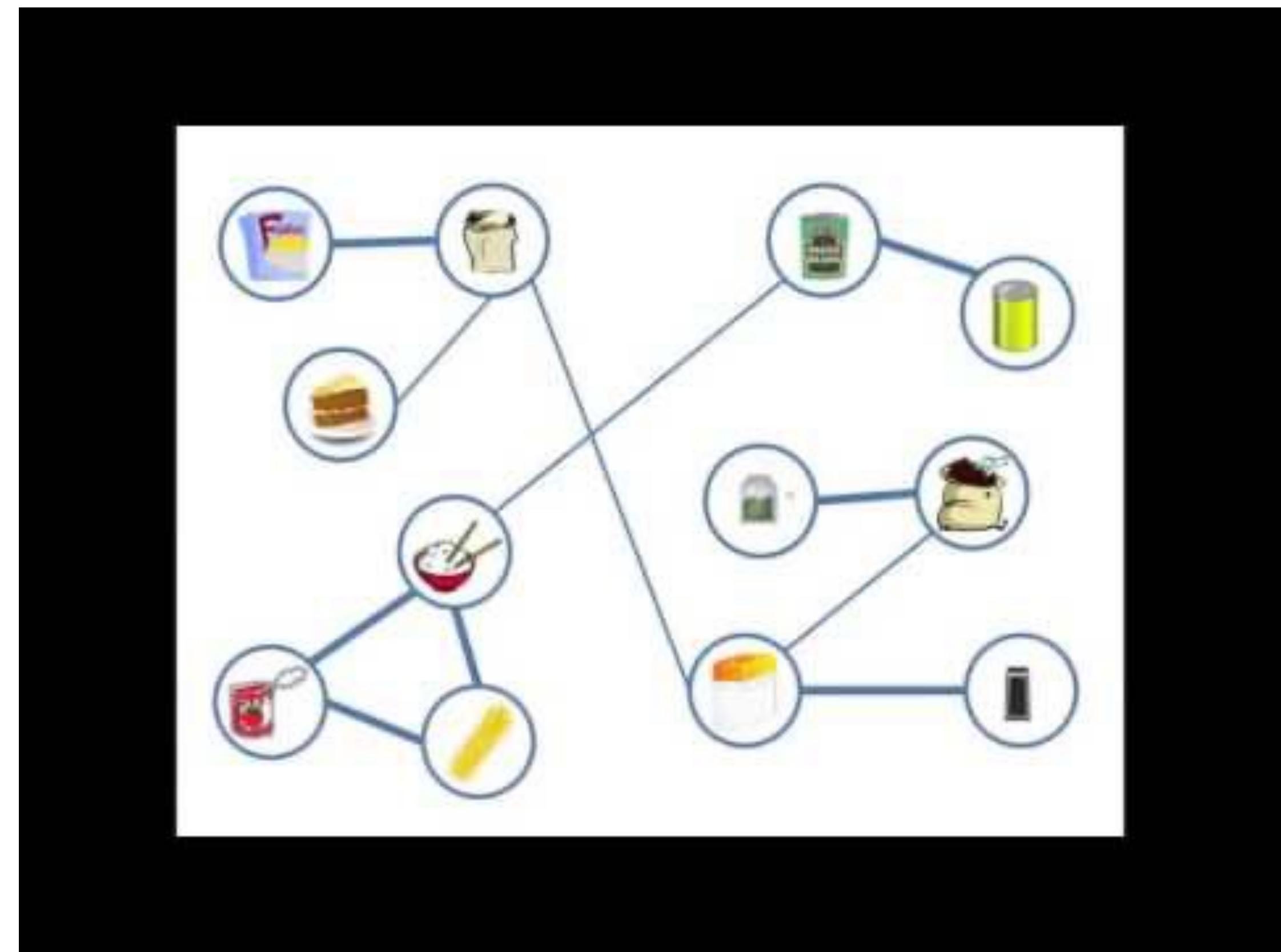
- Moving a sequence of objects one at a time from one place to another.
- Structured environment and scenario
 - Objects are identical
 - Motion is repetitive
 - Gripper design and motion programming is done offline.



<https://youtu.be/wg8YYuLLoM0?feature=shared&t=80>

Unstructured pick-and-place manipulation

- Planning software to produce arm motions
- Grippers that can handle a broad range of objects
- Grasp pose planning
- Stable placement pose planning

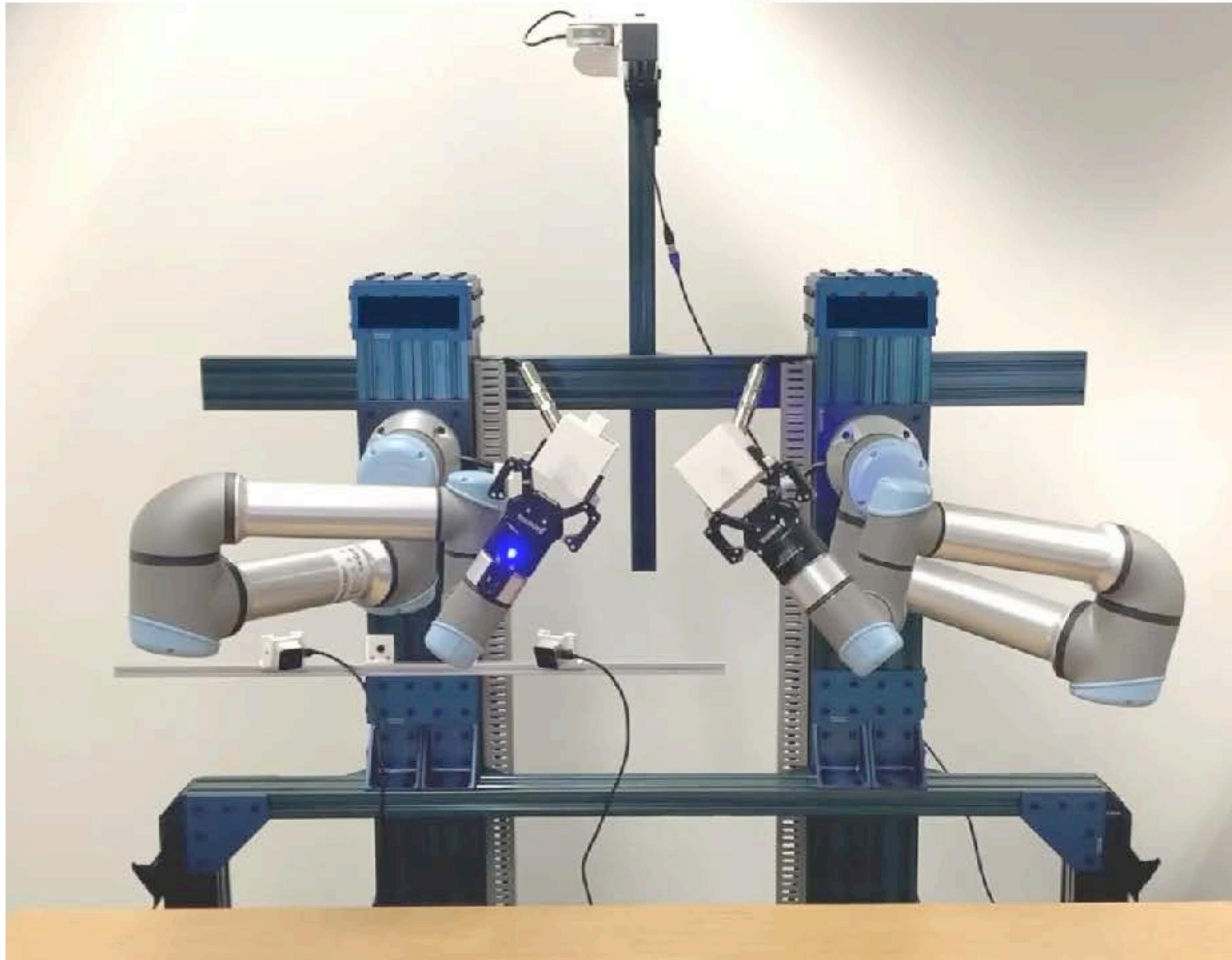


Abdo, Nichola, Cyrill Stachniss, Luciano Spinello, and Wolfram Burgard. "Organizing objects by predicting user preferences through collaborative filtering." *The International Journal of Robotics Research* 35, no. 13 (2016): 1587-1608.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=_icB8QcycMM

Robotic Assembly Task

Task: Geometry Informed Object Assembly



Chahyon Ku, Carl Winge, Ryan Diaz, Wentao Yuan, Karthik Desingh

"Evaluating Robustness of Visual Representations for Object Assembly Task Requiring Spatio-Geometrical Reasoning," Accepted ICRA 2024.

In-hand Manipulation



Chen, Tao, Jie Xu, and Pulkit Agrawal. "A system for general in-hand object re-orientation." In *Conference on Robot Learning*, pp. 297-307. PMLR, 2022.

Whole-body manipulation



Kindle, Julien, Fadri Furrer, Tonci Novkovic, Jen Jen Chung, Roland Siegwart, and Juan Nieto. "Whole-body control of a mobile manipulator using end-to-end reinforcement learning." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2003.02637* (2020).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qobNCMUMV4>

Taxonomy of Grasps

Opp: VF:	Power						Intermediate				Precision				
	Palm		Pad				Side		Pad			Side			
	3-5	2-5	2	2-3	2-4	2-5	2	3	3-4	2	2-3	2-4	2-5	3	
Thumb Abducted															
	1: Large Diameter 	31: Ring Finger 	28: Sphere 3 Finger 	18: Extension Type 	19: Distal Type 	23: Adduction Grip 			21: Tripod Variation 	9: Palmar Pinch 	8: Prismatic 2 Finger 	14: Tripod 	27: Quadpod 	12: Precision Disk 	20: Writing Tripod
	2: Small Diameter 			26: Sphere 4-Finger 					24: Tip Pinch 	33: Inferior Pincer 					
	3: Medium Wrap 														
	10: Power Disk 														
	11: Power Sphere 														
Thumb Adducted															
	17: Index Finger Extension 	4: Adducted Thumb 							16: Lateral 	25: Lateral Tripod 					
	5: Light Tool 								29: Stick 	32: Ventral 					
	15: Fixed Hook 														
	30: Palmar 													22: Parallel Extension 	

Fig. 4. GRASP taxonomy that incorporates all previous grasp classifications. The grasps are classified in the columns according to their assignment into power, intermediate and precision grasp, the opposition type, and the VF assignment. The assignment of the rows is done by the position of the thumb that can be in an abducted or adducted position.

Feix, Thomas, Javier Romero, Heinz-Bodo Schmidmayer, Aaron M. Dollar, and Danica Kragic. "The grasp taxonomy of human grasp types." *IEEE Transactions on human-machine systems* 46, no. 1 (2015): 66-77.



Why is robot manipulation challenging?

- Mechanism
- Perception
- Modeling and Control
- Planning
- Uncertainty

Future research challenges

1. Is there a fundamental and precise metric for comparing manipulative behaviors, or for comparing tasks, that would provide a basis for measuring progress in the field?
2. How can we best take advantage of advances in machine learning to advance our understanding and improve our technology?
3. How do we develop the adaptability, robustness, and breadth of behaviors exhibited by animals and humans?

Mason, Matthew T. "Toward robotic manipulation." Annual Review of Control, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems 1 (2018): 1-28.

Next lecture:
Planning

