

SCE 594: Special Topics in Intelligent Automation & Robotics

Lecture 25: Impedance Control II



Outline

- Recap last lecture
- Impedance Control of Manipulators
- Admittance Control of Manipulators



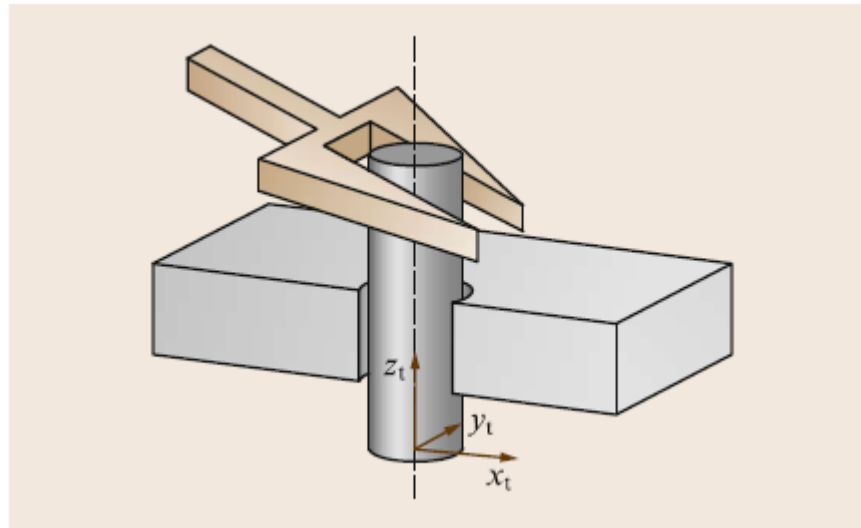
Outline

- Recap last lecture
- Impedance Control of Manipulators
- Admittance Control of Manipulators

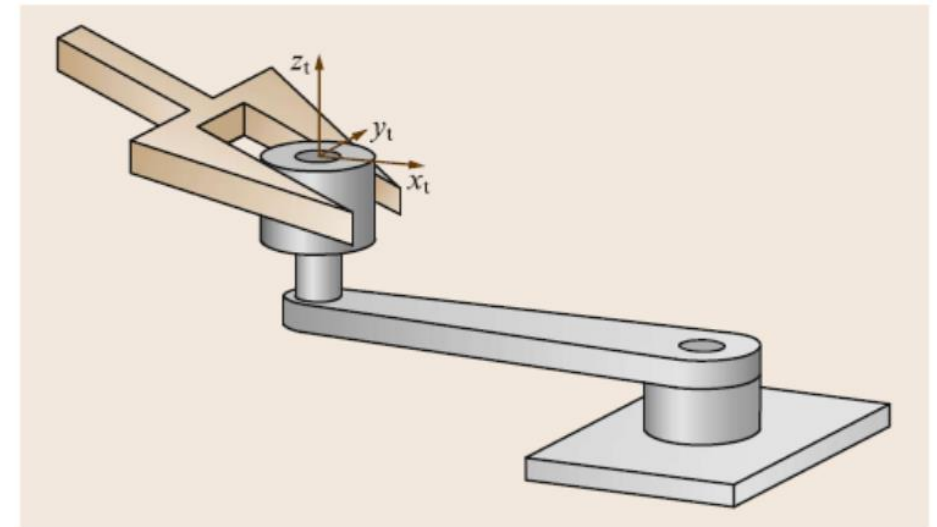


Recap: Interaction Control

- Controlling **either** the pose **or** wrench requires perfect knowledge of the task environment and when contact occurs or not, which is clearly not possible in practice.
- Instead, the **behavior** (relation between the wrench and pose) of the controlled robot could be modified independent of the environment.



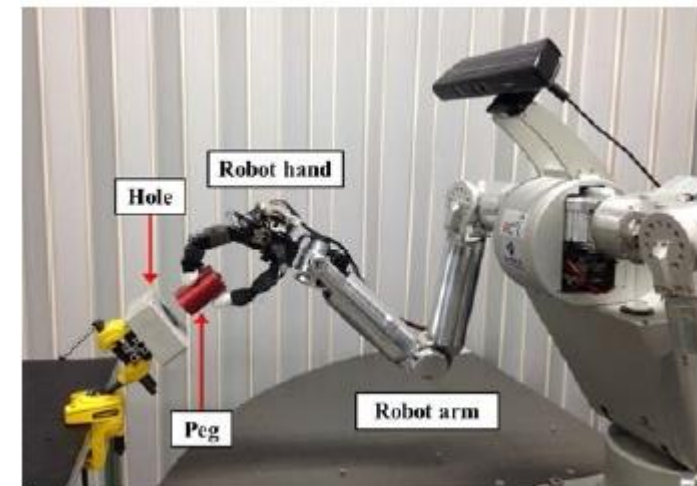
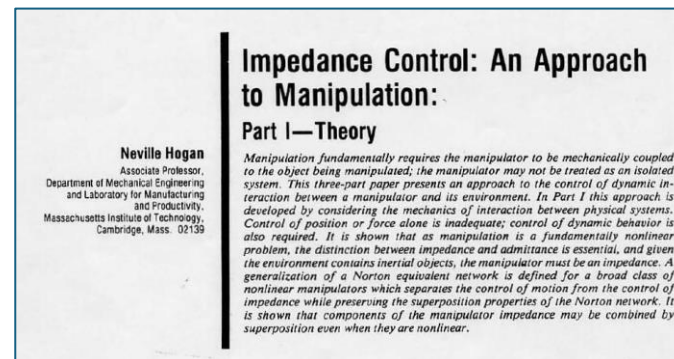
Insertion of a cylindrical peg into a hole



Turning a crank with an idle handle

Recap: Impedance Control

- Neville Hogan's idea of impedance control is that instead of commanding exact positions or forces, the robot is controlled to **behave like a mechanical impedance**:
 - It responds to external forces with a desired relationship between force, position, and velocity, like a spring-damper-mass system.
- The key is shaping the robot's **dynamic behavior** — its *stiffness*, *damping*, and *inertia* — to match the interaction task needs.

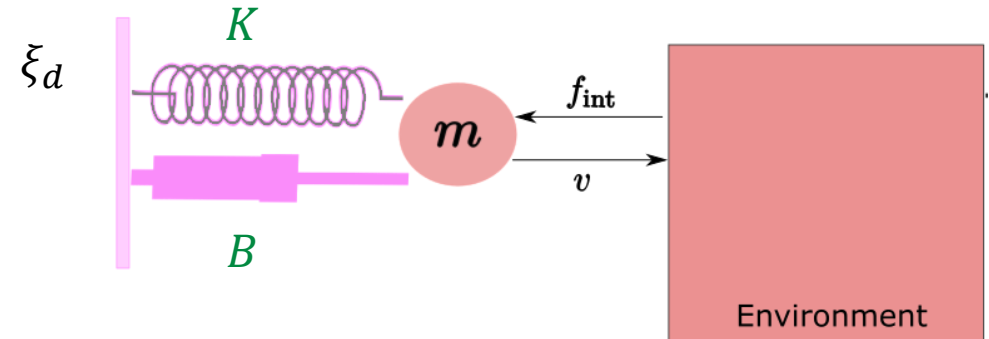


Recap: Impedance Control of a Point Mass

- To provide some intuition, let's start in a simple Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$.
- The governing equations of a point mass (with no gravity) are:
 - $\dot{\xi} = v$, $m\dot{v} = f_{\text{con}} + f_{\text{int}}$
- The goal of impedance control is to implement the task-space behavior

$$m \ddot{q} + B \dot{q} + K q = f_{\text{int}},$$

$$q := \xi - \xi_d,$$



Recap: Impedance Control of a Point Mass

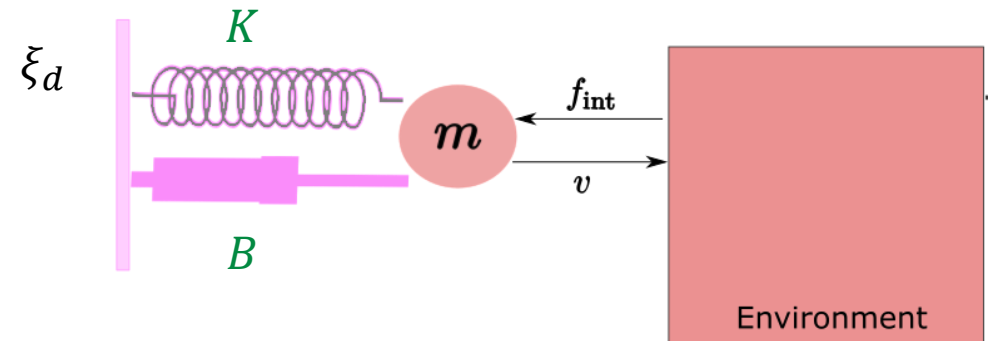
- To provide some intuition, let's start in a simple Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$.
- The governing equations of a point mass (with no gravity) are:
 - $\dot{\xi} = v$, $m\dot{v} = f_{\text{con}} + f_{\text{int}}$
- The goal of impedance control is to implement the task-space behavior

$$m \ddot{q} + B \dot{q} + K q = f_{\text{int}},$$

$$q := \xi - \xi_d,$$

- The impedance control law that yields this impedance behavior is

$$f_{\text{con}} = m\ddot{\xi}_d - B(v - \dot{\xi}_d) - K(\xi - \xi_d)$$



Outline

- Recap last lecture
- **Impedance Control of Manipulators**
- Admittance Control of Manipulators

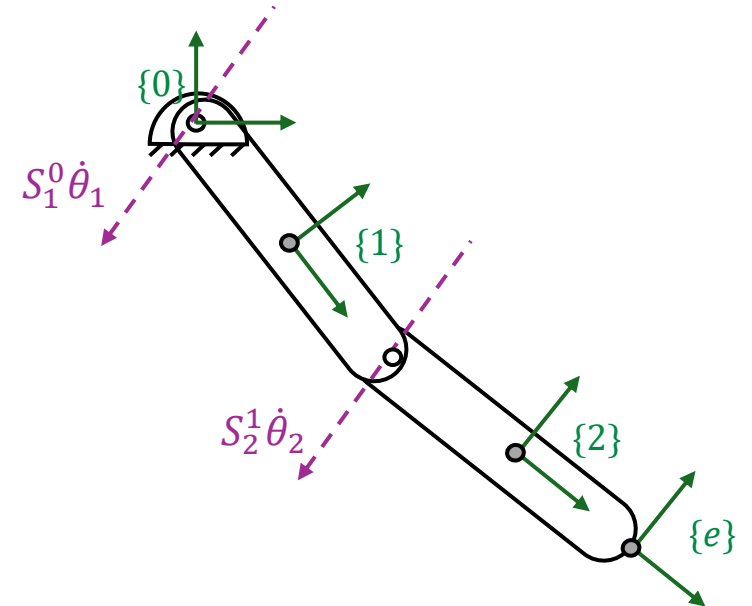


Impedance Control of n -link Manipulator

- Now we consider the impedance control problem of a n -link manipulator governed by

$$M(\theta)\ddot{\theta} + C(\theta, \dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + B(\dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + g(\theta) = \tau_{\text{con}} + \tau_{\text{int}}$$

- where $\tau_{\text{con}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are joint control torques and $\tau_{\text{int}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are torques due to interaction with the environment.

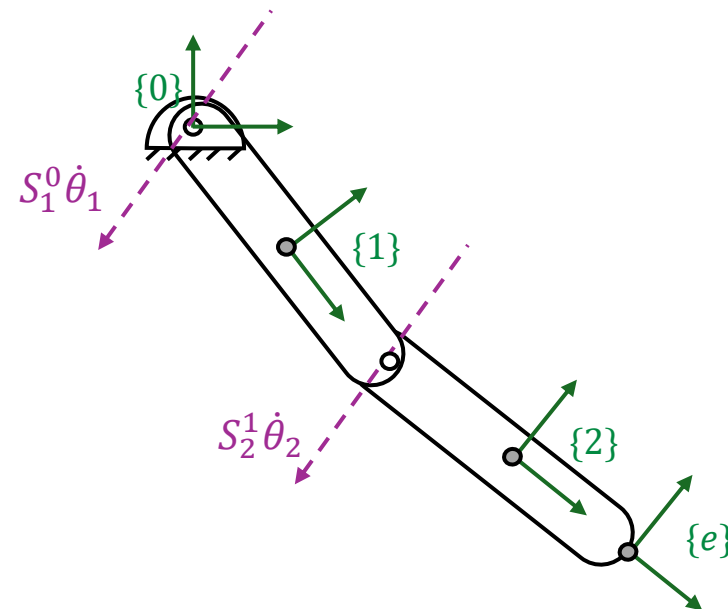
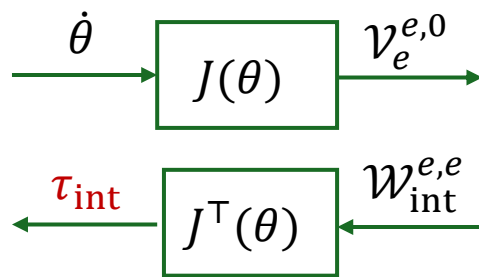


Impedance Control of n -link Manipulator

- Now we consider the impedance control problem of a n -link manipulator governed by

$$M(\theta)\ddot{\theta} + C(\theta, \dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + B(\dot{\theta})\dot{\theta} + g(\theta) = \tau_{\text{con}} + \tau_{\text{int}}$$

- where $\tau_{\text{con}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are joint control torques and $\tau_{\text{int}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are torques due to interaction with the environment.
- Recall that:



where $J(\theta)$ is the geometric Jacobian.

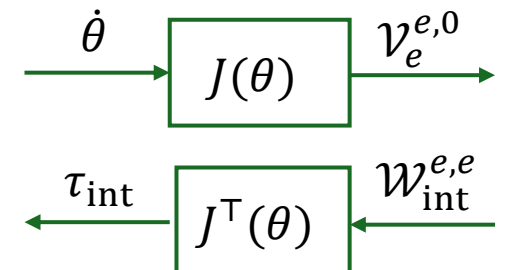


Geometric Jacobian Revisited

- The geometric Jacobian is a matrix that linearly maps the joint velocities to the end-effector's twist

$$\mathcal{V}_e^{e,0} = \begin{pmatrix} \omega_e^{e,0} \\ v_e^{e,0} \end{pmatrix} = J(\theta) \dot{\theta}$$

- It provides an instantaneous kinematic relation between the **joint space** and the **task space**.



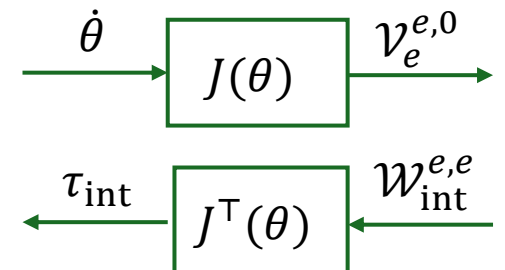
Geometric Jacobian Revisited

- The geometric Jacobian is a matrix that linearly maps the joint velocities to the end-effector's twist

$$\mathcal{V}_e^{e,0} = \begin{pmatrix} \omega_e^{e,0} \\ v_e^{e,0} \end{pmatrix} = J(\theta) \dot{\theta}$$

- It provides an instantaneous kinematic relation between the **joint space** and the **task space**.
- Each column of $J(\theta)$ is a joint screw axis represented in $\{e\}$ frame.

$$J(\theta) := (Ad_{H_0^e(\theta)} S_1^{0,0}, Ad_{H_1^e(\theta)} S_2^{1,1}, \dots, Ad_{H_{n-1}^e(\theta)} S_n^{n-1,n-1})$$



$$J(\theta) \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times n}$$

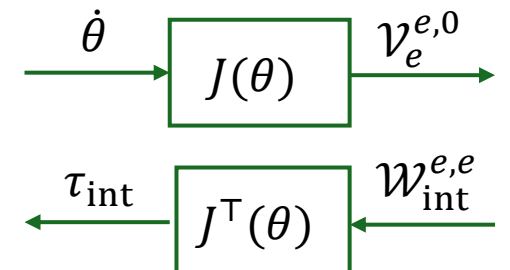


Geometric Jacobian Revisited

- The dual (or simply transpose) of the geometric Jacobian linearly maps any wrench at the end effector to joint torques

$$\tau_{\text{int}} = J^{\top}(\theta) \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e} = J^{\top}(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} \tau_{\text{int}}^{e,e} \\ f_{\text{int}}^{e,e} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Essential to utilize in **interaction control**, human-robot collaboration, and teleoperation.
- Analyzing properties of this matrix is essential for identifying **kinematic singularities** of the robot.



$$J^{\top}(\theta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 6}$$

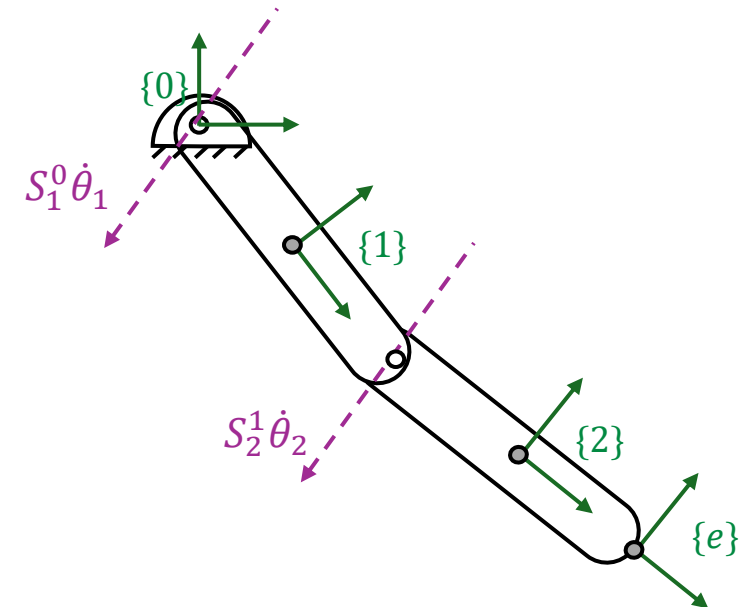
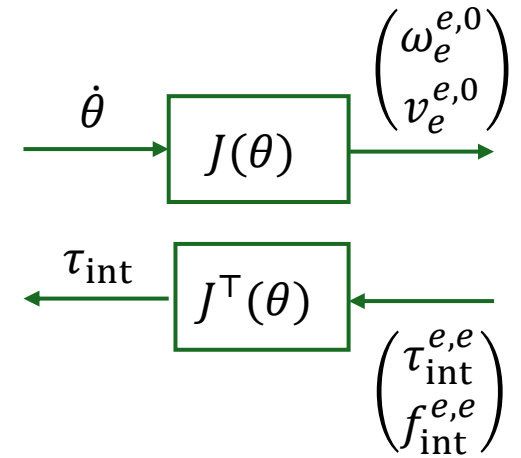


Example: 2-Link Manipulator

- Recall our two-link manipulator example.
- The geometric Jacobian takes the form

$$J(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ j_1(\theta) & 0 \\ j_2(\theta) & l_2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where j_1, j_2 are scalar functions of θ .



$$J(\theta) := (Ad_{H_0^e(\theta)} S_1^{0,0}, Ad_{H_1^e(\theta)} S_2^{1,1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 2}$$

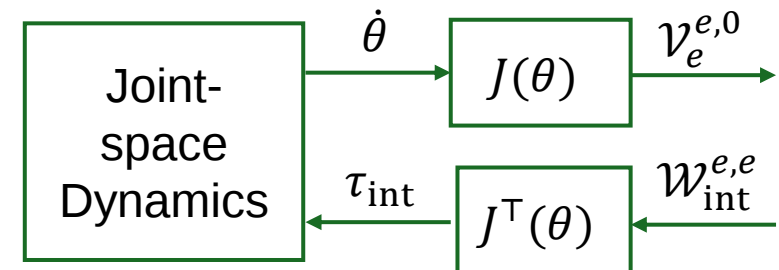


Manipulator Dynamics in the Task Space

- If we do not apply any actuator torques ($\tau_{\text{con}} = 0$), the dynamics in the **joint-space** are given by

$$M(\theta)\ddot{\theta} + c(\theta, \dot{\theta}) + b(\dot{\theta}) + g(\theta) = J^T(\theta) \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

- An interesting question is what does the dynamics “feel like” seen from the robot’s end-effector perspective?



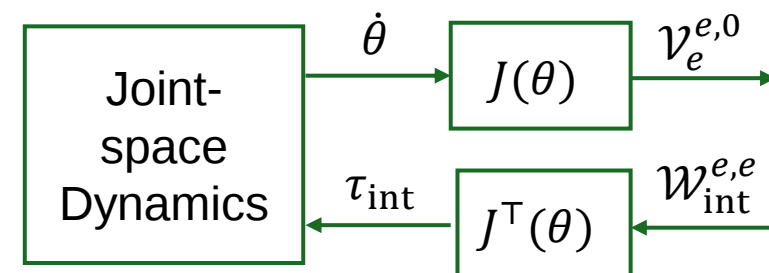
Manipulator Dynamics in the Task Space

- If we do not apply any actuator torques ($\tau_{\text{con}} = 0$), the dynamics in the **joint-space** are given by

$$M(\theta)\ddot{\theta} + c(\theta, \dot{\theta}) + b(\dot{\theta}) + g(\theta) = J^T(\theta) \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

- An interesting question is what does the dynamics “feel like” seen from the robot’s end-effector perspective?
- In other words, someone is pushing/pulling the robot’s end-effector, will feel the dynamics in the **task-space** given by

$$\Lambda(\theta)\dot{\mathcal{V}}_e^{e,0} + \eta(\theta, \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0})\mathcal{V}_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta) = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$



Supplementary material will be provided for reading !



Manipulator Dynamics in the Task Space

- Therefore, a human interacting with an-unactuated robot arm* will experience the behavior given by

$$\underbrace{\Lambda(\theta)} \dot{v}_e^{e,0} + \underbrace{\eta(\theta, v_e^{e,0})}_{\text{Apparent nonlinear friction}} v_e^{e,0} + \underbrace{\gamma(\theta)}_{\text{Apparent gravitational forces}} = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

Apparent
inertia

Apparent
nonlinear friction

Apparent
gravitational forces

* This is only possible in so called back-drivable robots



Manipulator Dynamics in the Task Space

- Therefore, a human interacting with an-unactuated robot arm* will experience the behavior given by

$$\Lambda(\theta)\dot{\mathcal{V}}_e^{e,0} + \eta(\theta, \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0})\mathcal{V}_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta) = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

- With an impedance controller,

$$\Lambda(\theta)\dot{\mathcal{V}}_e^{e,0} + \eta(\theta, \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0})\mathcal{V}_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta) = J^{-\top}(\theta)\tau_{\text{con}} + \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

we can now shape the task-space dynamics to be our **desired behavior**

$$\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

* This is only possible in so called back-drivable robots



Impedance Control of n-link manipulator

- Therefore, the control law that will yields the desired impedance behavior at the end effector

$$\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

will be given by

$$\tau_{\text{con}} = J^T(\theta) [\Lambda(\theta) \dot{\mathcal{V}}_e^{e,0} + \eta(\theta, \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0}) \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta) - (\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q)]$$



Impedance Control of n-link manipulator

- Therefore, the control law that will yields the desired impedance behavior at the end effector

$$\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

will be given by

$$\tau_{\text{con}} = J^{\top}(\theta) \left[\underbrace{\Lambda(\theta) \dot{\mathcal{V}}_e^{e,0} + \eta(\theta, \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0}) \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta)}_{\text{task-dynamics compensation}} - \underbrace{(\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q)}_{\text{desired behavior}} \right]$$



Alternative formulations 1

- Impedance Control law

$$\tau_{\text{con}} = J^{\top}(\theta) \left[\underbrace{\Lambda(\theta) \dot{\mathcal{V}}_e^{e,0} + \eta(\theta, \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0}) \mathcal{V}_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta)}_{\text{task-dynamics compensation}} - \underbrace{(\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q)}_{\text{desired behavior}} \right]$$

- One can also rewrite the impedance control law as

$$\tau_{\text{con}} = \underbrace{M(\theta) \ddot{\theta} + c(\theta, \dot{\theta}) + b(\dot{\theta}) + g(\theta)}_{\text{joint-dynamics compensation}} - J^{\top}(\theta) \underbrace{(\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q)}_{\text{desired behavior}}$$



Alternative formulations 2

- Impedance Control law

$$\tau_{\text{con}} = J^T(\theta) [\Lambda(\theta) \dot{v}_e^{e,0} + \eta(\theta, v_e^{e,0}) v_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta) - (\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q)]$$

- The above controller requires measurement of accelerations of the end effector ($\dot{v}_e^{e,0}, \ddot{q}$) which might be noisy in practice.
- A common alternative is

$$\tau_{\text{con}} = J^T(\theta) [\eta(\theta, v_e^{e,0}) v_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta) - (\mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q)]$$

- However, in this case the actual mass of the manipulator will be apparent to the user at the end-effector (Unless the robot is very lightweight).



Alternative formulations 3

- Impedance Control law

$$\tau_{\text{con}} = J^T(\theta) [\Lambda(\theta) \dot{v}_e^{e,0} + \eta(\theta, v_e^{e,0}) v_e^{e,0} + \gamma(\theta) - (\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q)]$$

- Another common alternative, that is useful in slow interaction tasks does not compensate the full robot nonlinearities but only the gravity terms:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\text{con}} &= J^T(\theta) [\gamma(\theta) - (\mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q)] \\ &= g(\theta) - J^T(\theta) (\mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q) \end{aligned}$$

Similar to PD controller
+ gravity compensation !



Desired Impedance in 6D !

- Let's take a closer look at the desired impedance behavior

$$\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

- Caution must be considered in defining this impedance in a geometrically consistent manner.



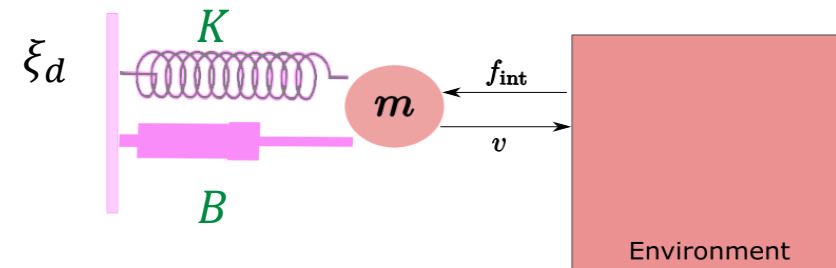
Desired Impedance in 6D !

- Let's take a closer look at the desired impedance behavior

$$\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

- Caution must be considered in defining this impedance in a geometrically consistent manner.
- In the linear case, we had that $q := \xi - \xi_d \in \mathbb{R}^3$, and the impedance behavior:

$$m \ddot{q} + B \dot{q} + K q = f_{\text{int}} ,$$

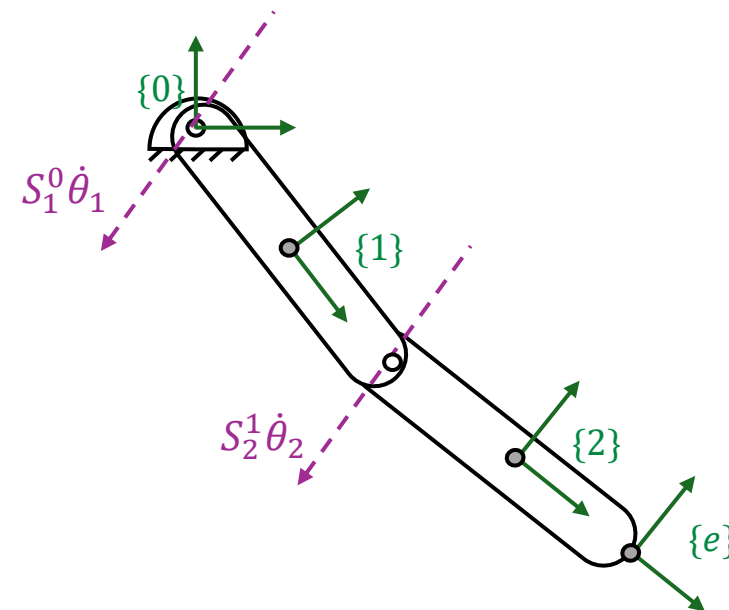


Desired Impedance in 6D !

- Let's take a closer look at the desired impedance behavior

$$\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

- Caution must be considered in defining this impedance in a geometrically consistent manner.
- However, for the end-effector as a rigid body, we cannot simply define $q \in \mathbb{R}^6$ as $q = H_e^0 - H_d^0 \notin SE(3)$.

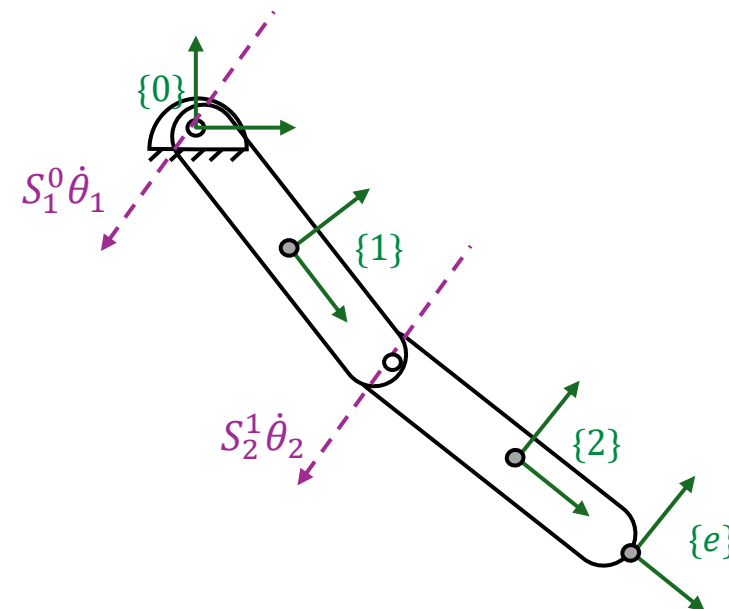


Desired Impedance in 6D !

- Let's take a closer look at the desired impedance behavior

$$\mathfrak{M} \ddot{q} + \mathfrak{B} \dot{q} + \mathfrak{K} q = \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e}$$

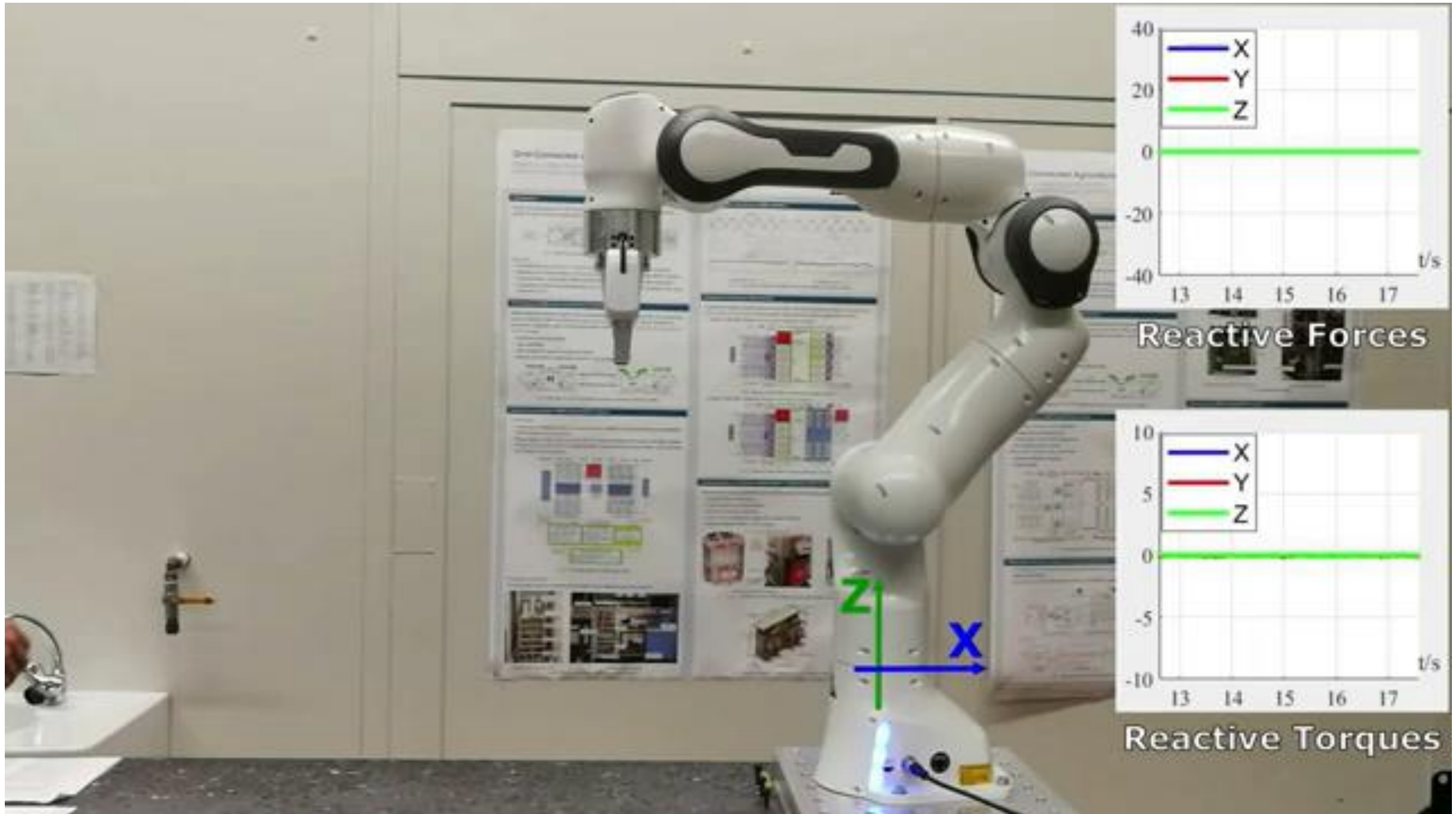
- Caution must be considered in defining this impedance in a geometrically consistent manner.
- However, for the end-effector as a rigid body, we cannot simply define $q \in \mathbb{R}^6$ as $q = H_e^0 - H_d^0 \notin SE(3)$.



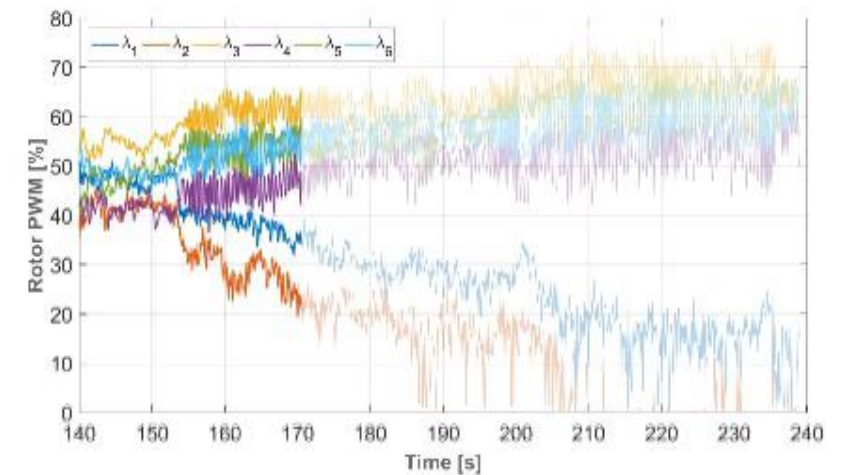
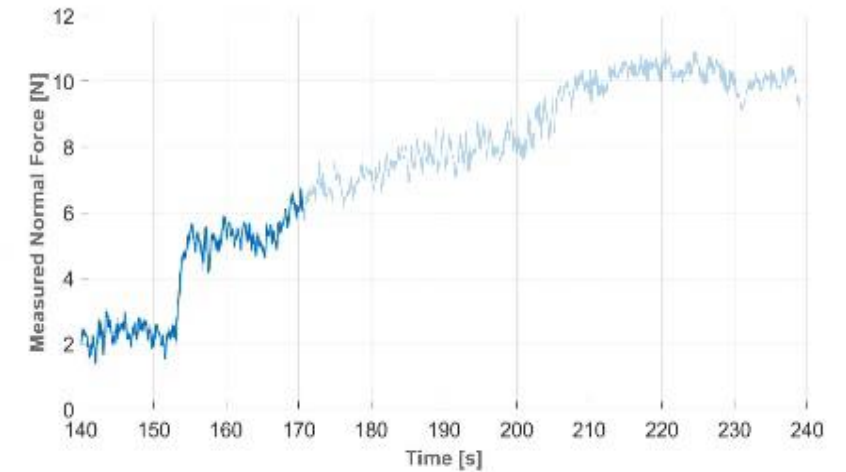
Supplementary material will be provided for reading !



Impedance Control of Franka Panda



Impedance Control of Fully-actuated Hexarotor



Outline

- Recap last lecture
- Impedance Control of Manipulators
- **Admittance Control of Manipulators**

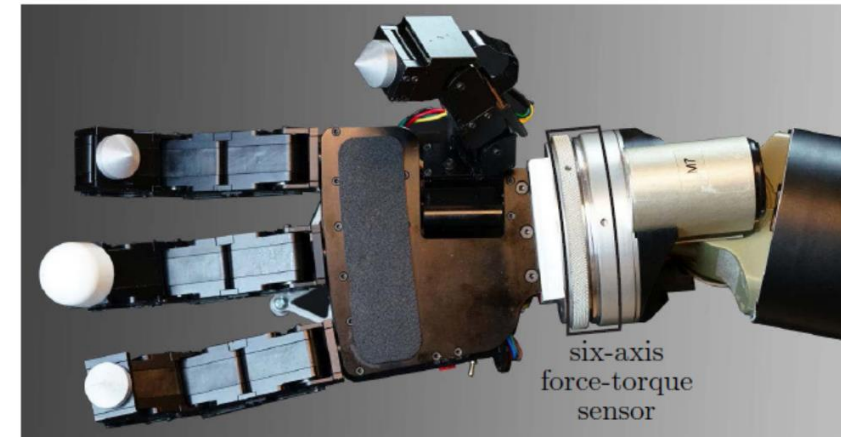


Admittance Control

- In an admittance-control algorithm, the wrench applied by the user at the end-effector is sensed using a force/torque sensor.
- The robot then should respond with the desired end-effector acceleration $\ddot{q}_d$ satisfying

$$\ddot{q}_d = \mathfrak{M}^{-1}(-\mathfrak{B}\dot{q} - \mathfrak{K}q + \mathcal{W}_{\text{int}}^{e,e})$$

- Using the inverse kinematics, one can transform this to desired joint accelerations $\ddot{\theta}_d$ and then use the inverse dynamics to calculate the control torques.



Impedance: Motion input, Force output
Admittance: Force input, Motion output

Admittance Control of UR5e

Admittance control
with low dampning



Admittance Control of Quadrotor

