



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

*Robotics and Automation Seminars*

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## **New Results on Fault and Collision Detection in Robot Manipulators**

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Previous work: mainly with **Raffaella Mattone, Sami Haddadin, Fabrizio Flacco<sup>†</sup>, Claudio Gaz**

New results: include also joint work with **Andrea Cristofaro, Claudio Gaz, Lorenzo Govoni, Pasquale Palumbo, Marco Pennese**



# Summary

## Detection and isolation of fault events for different classes of robots

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- actuator failures and link collisions in robots can both be handled as **system faults**
  - fault detection
  - ... and isolation (FDI)
  - identification of time profiles and classification of fault severity
- **review** of FDI results for robot manipulators with **rigid links** or with **elastic joints**
  - model-based residual methods
  - monitoring energy (only for detection) or generalized momentum (also for isolation)
  - without or with joint torque sensing
- **new results**
  - position-based residual for collisions in **rigid robots**
    - using a novel reduced-order observer for velocity (with experiments on KUKA LWR4 robot)
  - momentum-based residual for collisions in the general class of **robots with elastic joints**
    - with motor-link inertia couplings (Tomei model vs. Spong model)
  - residuals for actuator fault & collision in a **robot with a flexible link (Flexarm)**
    - detection and isolation results with full state measurements
    - detection using a nonlinear observer to estimate modal deformation variables and their rates



# Rigid robots

## Actuator faults – FDI

dynamic  
model

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_F$$

friction

actuator faults  
(of any nature)

generalized  
momentum  
(and its dynamics)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_F - \boldsymbol{\alpha}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \\ \alpha_i = -\frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \frac{\partial \mathbf{M}}{\partial q_i} \dot{\mathbf{q}} + g_i(\mathbf{q}) + f_i(q_i, \dot{q}_i) \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{array} \right.$$

residual  
vector

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{K}_r \left( \mathbf{p} - \int_0^t (\boldsymbol{\tau} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{r}) ds \right) \quad \mathbf{K}_r > 0, \text{ diagonal}$$

FDI property  
of the residual

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{K}_r (\boldsymbol{\tau}_F - \mathbf{r}) \\ \dot{r}_i = K_{r,i} (\tau_{F,i} - r_i) \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{array} \right.$$



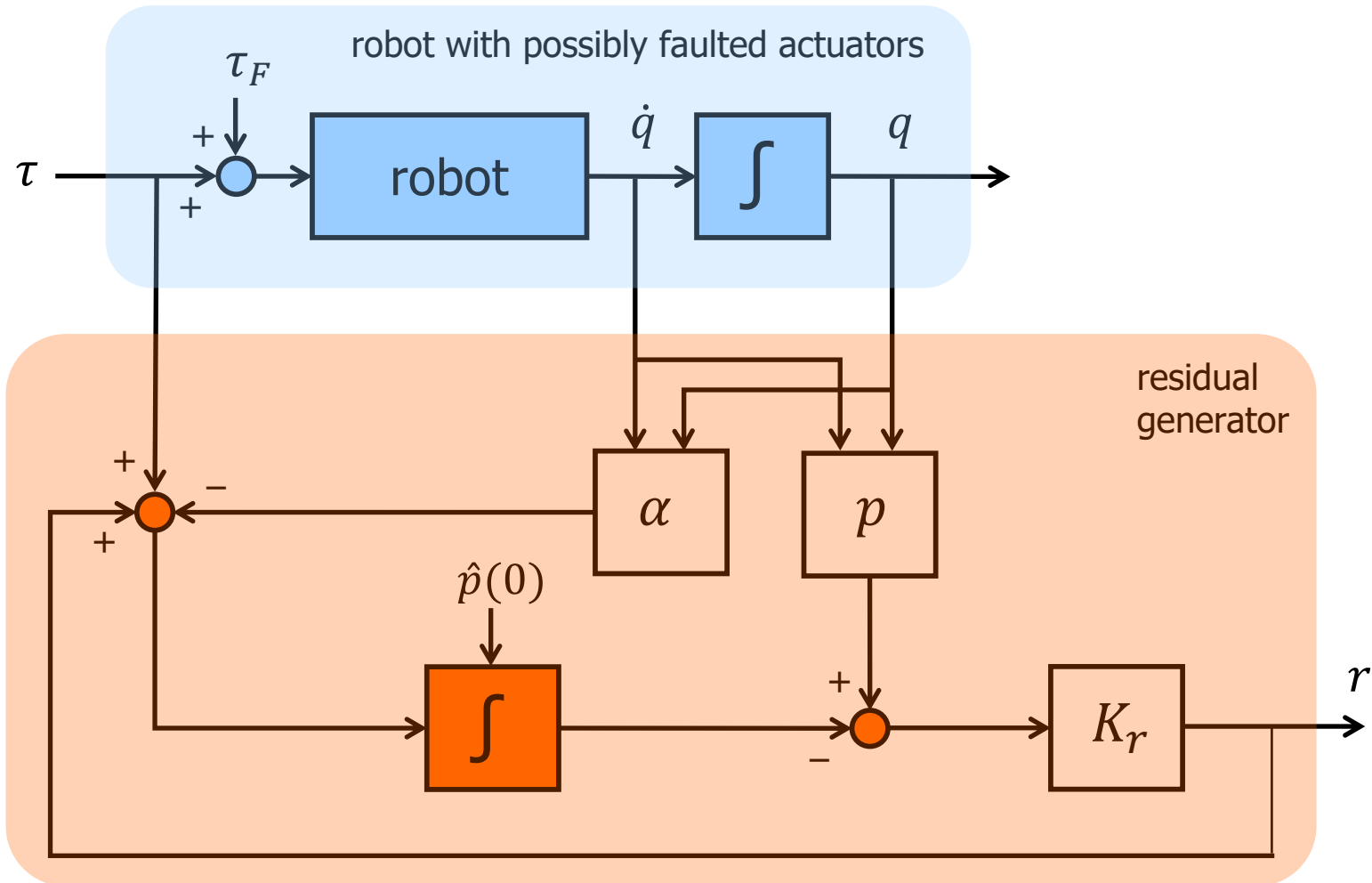
**one-to-one**  
(decoupled!)  
mapping

A. De Luca, R. Mattone “Actuator failure detection and isolation using generalized momenta” ICRA 2003



# Residual generator

Block diagram as a disturbance observer (first-order filtered estimate of  $\tau_F$ )



initialization  
of integrators  
 $\hat{p}(0) = p(0)$   
(zero if robot  
starts at rest)

$$\dot{\hat{p}} = \tau - \alpha(q, \dot{q}) + K_r (p - \hat{p})$$

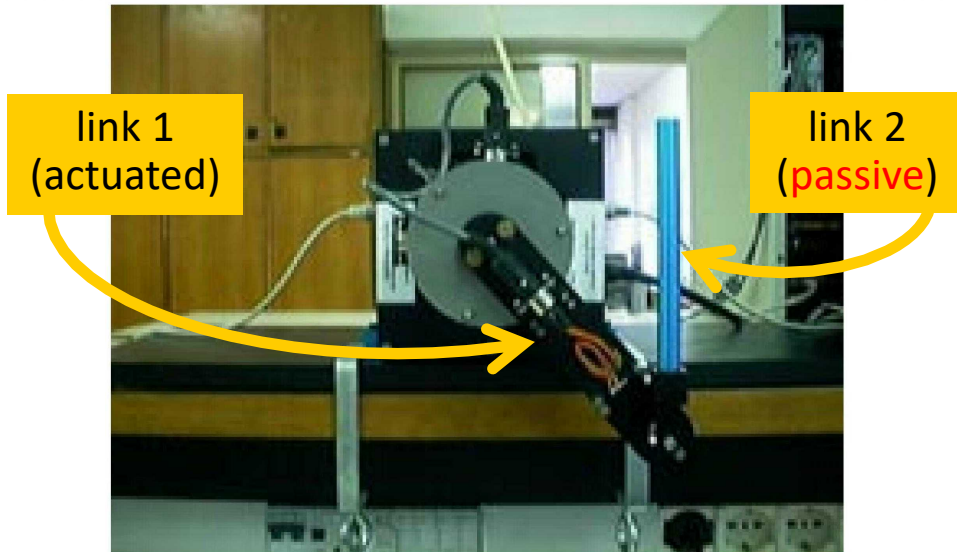
$$r = K_r (p - \hat{p})$$

$$e_{obs} = \tau_F - r \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{e}_{obs} = \dot{\tau}_F - K_r e_{obs} \simeq -K_r e_{obs}$$



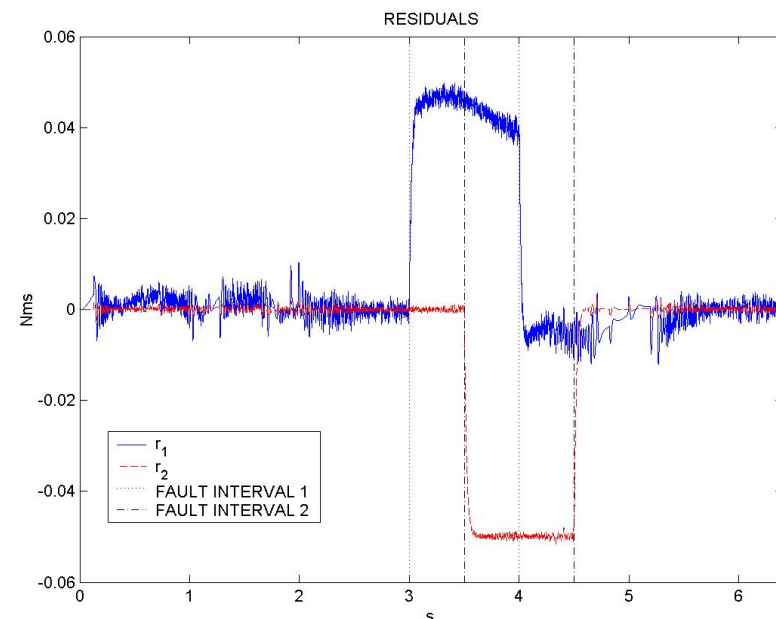
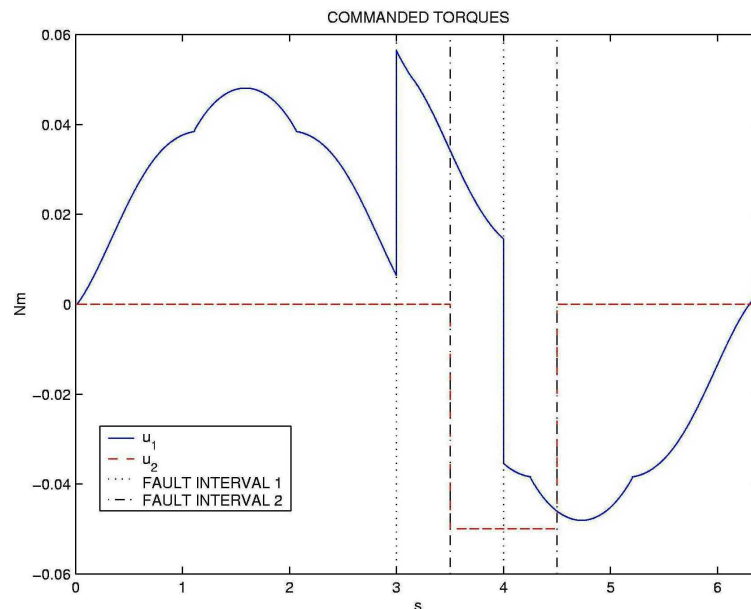
# Actuator FDI

Experimental results on a Pendubot (2R robot, underactuated)



one motor (joint 1), encoders at both joints

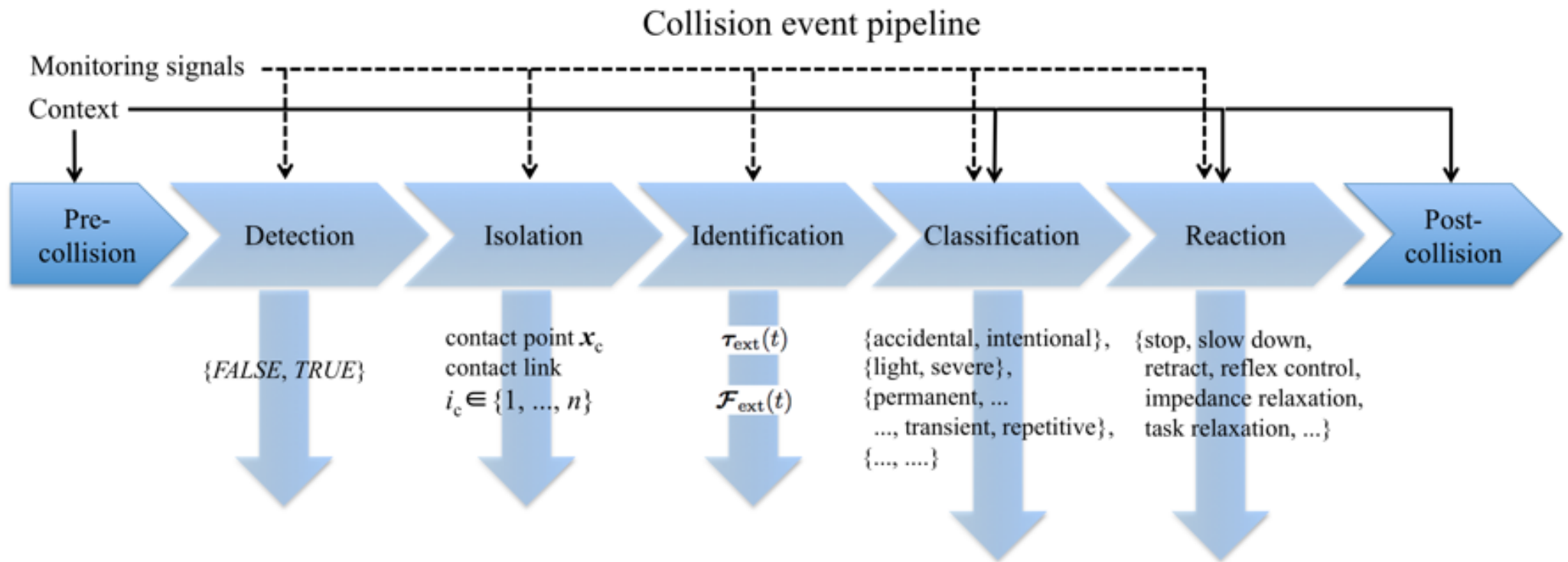
- motor 1 is driven by a sinusoidal voltage of period  $2\pi$  sec (in open loop)
- **bias** fault on  $\tau_1$  for  $t \in [3 \div 4]$  s
- **total** fault on joint 2 for  $t \in [3.5 \div 4.5]$  s
- fault concurrency for  $t \in [3.5 \div 4]$  s





# Robot collision events

From coexistence to safe reaction and collaboration



S. Haddadin, A. De Luca, A. Albu-Schäffer “Robot collisions: A survey on detection, isolation, and identification” IEEE Transactions on Robotics 2017



# Rigid robots

Link collisions – FDI

dynamic model  
(with factorization)

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_C$$

Coriolis/centrifugal

friction

joint torques due to link collision

(anywhere, any time)

skew-symmetric property in momentum dynamics

$$\dot{\mathbf{M}}(\mathbf{q}) = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{S}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_C + \mathbf{S}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})$$

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

residual vector

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

$\mathbf{K}_r > 0$ , diagonal

FDI property of the residual

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{K}_r (\boldsymbol{\tau}_C - \mathbf{r})$$



colliding link = largest index of residual component exceeding a detection threshold

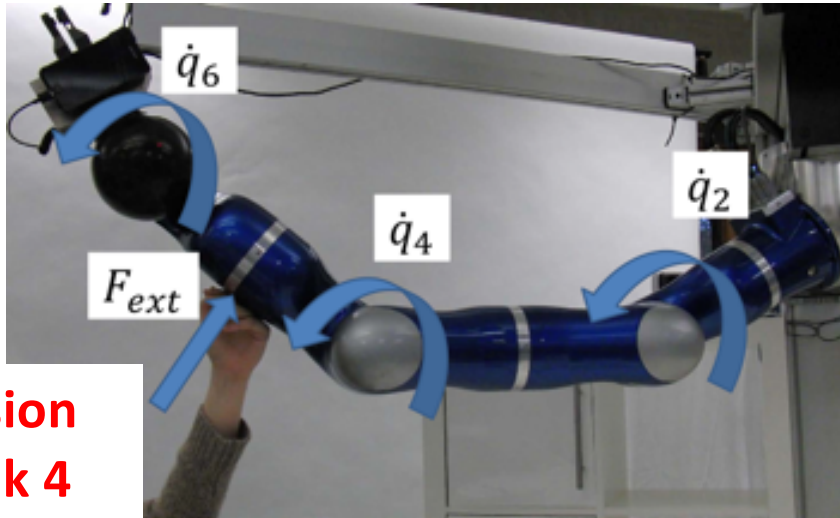
A. De Luca, R. Mattone “Sensorless robot collision detection and hybrid force/motion control” ICRA 2005

A. De Luca, A. Albu-Schäffer, S. Haddadin, G. Hirzinger “Collision detection and safe reaction with the DLR-III lightweight manipulator arm” IROS 2006

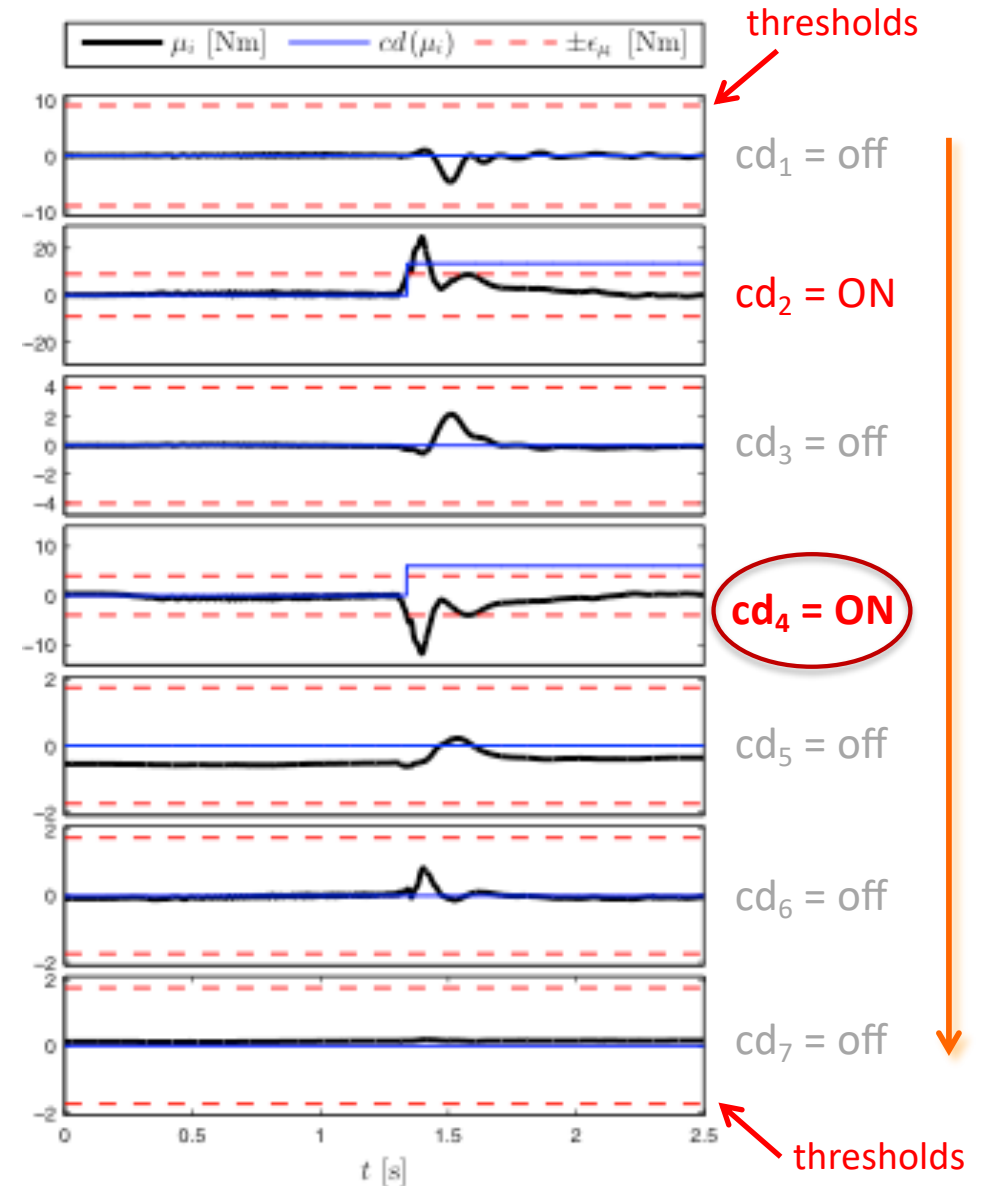
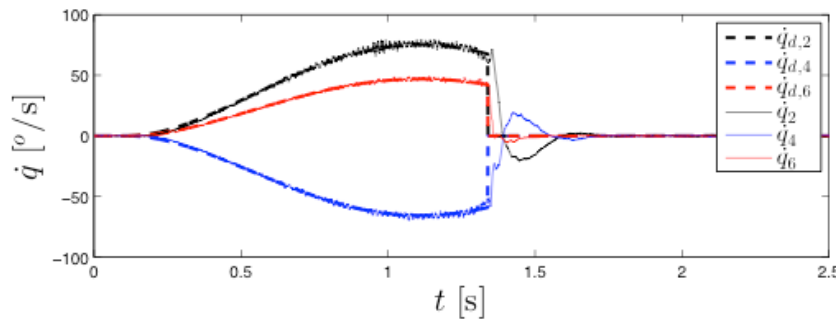
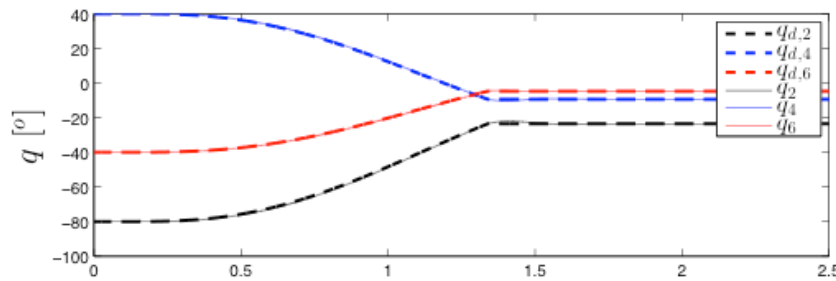


# Isolation of link collisions

Experiment with a position-controlled DLR LWR-III 7R robot while three links are in motion



collision at link 4







# Rigid robots

Link collisions – Detection only (but a simpler scalar residual)

total  
robot energy

$$E = T + U_g = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}}}_{\text{kinetic}} + \underbrace{U_g(\mathbf{q})}_{\text{gravitational}}$$

... and its  
dynamics

$$\dot{E} = \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T (\boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_C - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}))$$

scalar  
residual

$$\sigma = k_\sigma \left( E - \int_0^t (\dot{\mathbf{q}}^T (\boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})) + \sigma) ds \right) \quad k_\sigma > 0$$

**detection only**  
(and with robot  
in motion!)

$$\dot{\sigma} = k_\sigma (\dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \boldsymbol{\tau}_C - \sigma)$$

- scalar and vector residuals  $\sigma$  and  $\mathbf{r}$  can be **used together** to improve thresholding performance in avoiding false positive or false negative collision events ...

A. De Luca, A. Albu-Schäffer, S. Haddadin, G. Hirzinger “Collision detection and safe reaction with the DLR-III lightweight manipulator arm” IROS 2006



# Link collisions

Experiments on a Neura LARA 5 cobot (rigid model, no joint torque sensors)

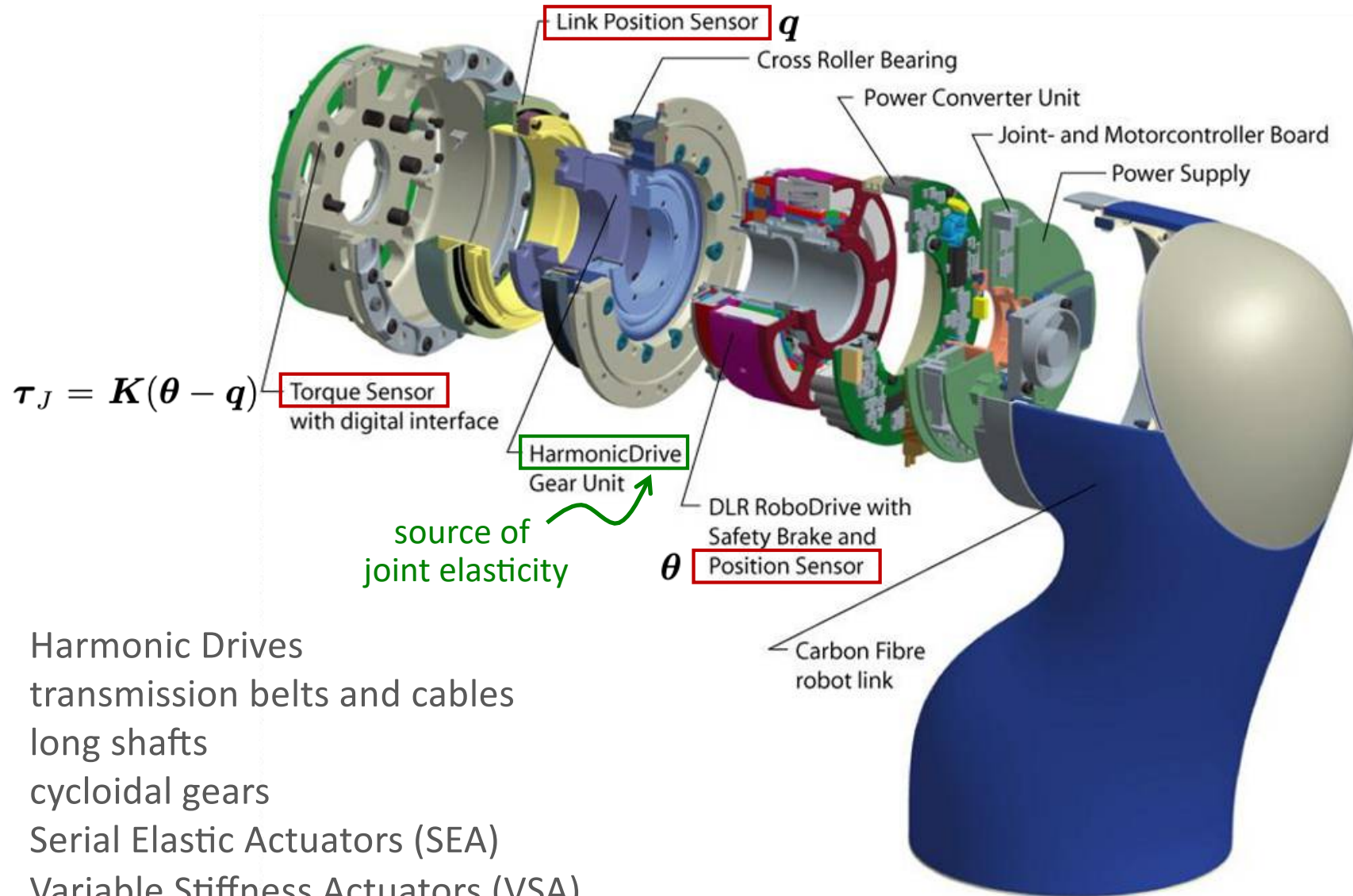


D. Zurlo, T. Heitmann, M. Morlock, A. De Luca “Collision detection and contact point estimation using virtual joint torque sensing applied to a cobot” submitted to ICRA 2023



# Sources of joint elasticity

Harmonic Drives in the DLR-KUKA LWR series of lightweight collaborative robots



- Harmonic Drives
- transmission belts and cables
- long shafts
- cycloidal gears
- Serial Elastic Actuators (SEA)
- Variable Stiffness Actuators (VSA)



# Robots with elastic joints

## Dynamic model and properties

dynamic model (with **Spong** simplifying assumption)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}_J + \boldsymbol{\tau}_C \quad \text{link equation} \\ \mathbf{M}_m\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{f}_m(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \boldsymbol{\tau}_J = \boldsymbol{\tau} \quad \text{motor equation} \end{array} \right.$

$\boldsymbol{\tau}_J = \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q})$   
joint elastic torque

generalized momentum

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_q \\ \mathbf{p}_\theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \mathbf{M}_m\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{p}_q = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} (= \mathbf{p} \text{ of the rigid case}) \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}}_\theta = \boldsymbol{\tau} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_J - \mathbf{f}_m(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \end{array} \quad \leftarrow$$

total robot energy  $E_{EJ} = T_q + T_m + U_g + U_e$  elastic energy

$$= \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \frac{1}{2} \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^T \mathbf{M}_m\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + U_g(\mathbf{q}) + \frac{1}{2} (\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q})^T \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q})$$

$$E_q = T_q + U_g (= E \text{ of the rigid case}) \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\dot{E}_{EJ} = \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \boldsymbol{\tau}_C + \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^T (\boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}))$$

A. De Luca, W. Book "Robot with flexible elements" Chapter 11 in B. Siciliano, O. Khatib (Eds.)  
Springer Handbook of Robotics 2016



# Robots with elastic joints

Link collisions – alternatives for vector and scalar residuals

$$\mathbf{r}_{EJ}(t) = \mathbf{K}_r \left( \mathbf{p}_q - \int_0^t (\boldsymbol{\tau}_J + \mathbf{S}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{r}_{EJ}) ds \right)$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{EJ}(t) = \mathbf{K}_r \left( \mathbf{p}_q - \int_0^t (\mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{S}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{r}_{EJ}) ds \right)$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{EJ}(t) = \mathbf{K}_r \left( \mathbf{p}_q + \mathbf{p}_\theta - \int_0^t (\boldsymbol{\tau} + \mathbf{S}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) - \mathbf{f}_m(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{r}_{EJ}) ds \right)$$

$$\sigma_{EJ}(t) = k_\sigma \left( \mathbf{E}_q - \int_0^t (\dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \boldsymbol{\tau}_J + \sigma_{EJ}) ds \right)$$

$$\sigma_{EJ}(t) = k_\sigma \left( \mathbf{E}_q - \int_0^t (\dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q}) + \sigma_{EJ}) ds \right)$$

$$\sigma_{EJ}(t) = k_\sigma \left( \mathbf{E}_{EJ} - \int_0^t (\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^T (\boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{f}_m(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})) + \sigma_{EJ}) ds \right)$$

**FDI property**

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{EJ} = \mathbf{K}_r (\boldsymbol{\tau}_C - \mathbf{r}_{EJ})$$

no use of  
joint stiffness  
(good also for **VSA!**)

no need of joint  
torque sensors  
(best for **SEA!**)

$$\dot{\sigma}_{EJ} = k_\sigma (\dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \boldsymbol{\tau}_C - \sigma_{EJ})$$

**detection only**  
(with robot  
in motion)

S. Haddadin, A. Albu-Schäffer, A. De Luca, G. Hirzinger “Collision detection and reaction: A contribution to safe physical human-robot interaction” IROS 2008 (**Best Application Paper Award**)

S. Haddadin, A. De Luca, A. Albu-Schäffer “Robot collisions: A survey on detection, isolation, and identification” IEEE Transactions on Robotics 2017



# Collision detection and reaction

Portfolio of possible robot behaviors implemented on different systems (5 videos)



the early days (2005-08) ...

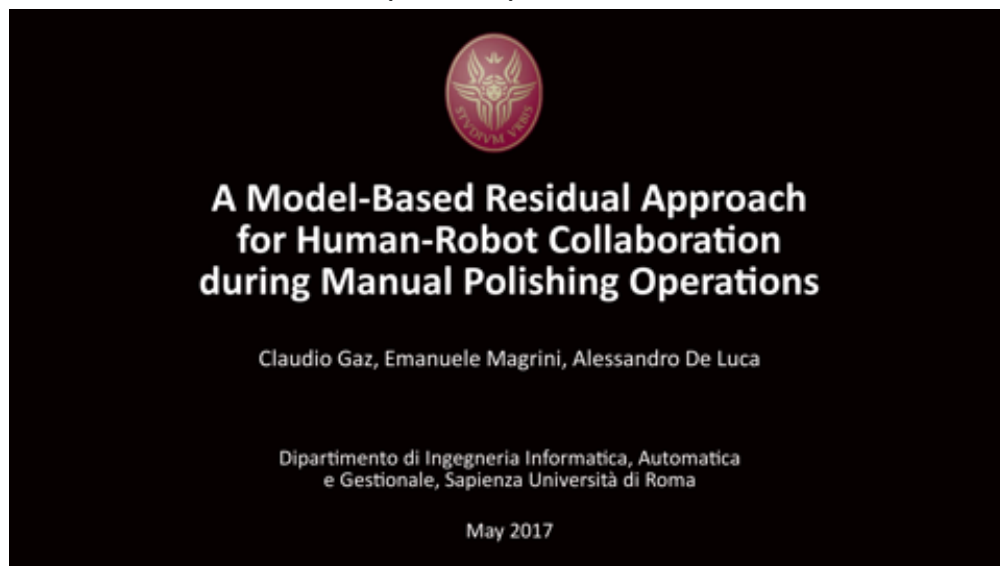


IROS 2016  
(KUKA LWR4)



Mechatronics 2018 (UR 10)

I-RIM 2021 (KUKA KR5)





# Reduced-order velocity observer for rigid robots

Avoiding numerical differentiation of encoder positions

- to be used in output feedback control laws and for collision detection/isolation
- nice to have the same first-order structure of momentum-based residual
- should work in closed-loop or open-loop mode (with possibly unbounded velocity)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{z}} &= \boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \hat{\mathbf{q}})\hat{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}) - k_0 \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\hat{\mathbf{q}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{q}} &= \mathbf{z} + k_0 \mathbf{q} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 1.** Assume that  $\|\dot{\mathbf{q}}\| \leq v_{max}$  is known. Then, for any fixed  $\eta > 0$ , by choosing

$$k_0 \geq (c_0 v_{max} + \eta) / \lambda_{min}(\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}))$$

we obtain **local exponential stability** of the observation error  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \dot{\mathbf{q}} - \hat{\mathbf{q}}$  with a region of attraction  $\mathcal{E}(\eta)$ .

**Theorem 2.** Assume that  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\dot{\mathbf{q}}\| \leq v$  exists but is yet unknown. Then, using a

switching logic to adjust the gain with a hybrid dynamics scheme,

we obtain **local exponential stability** of the observation error  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \dot{\mathbf{q}} - \hat{\mathbf{q}}$ .

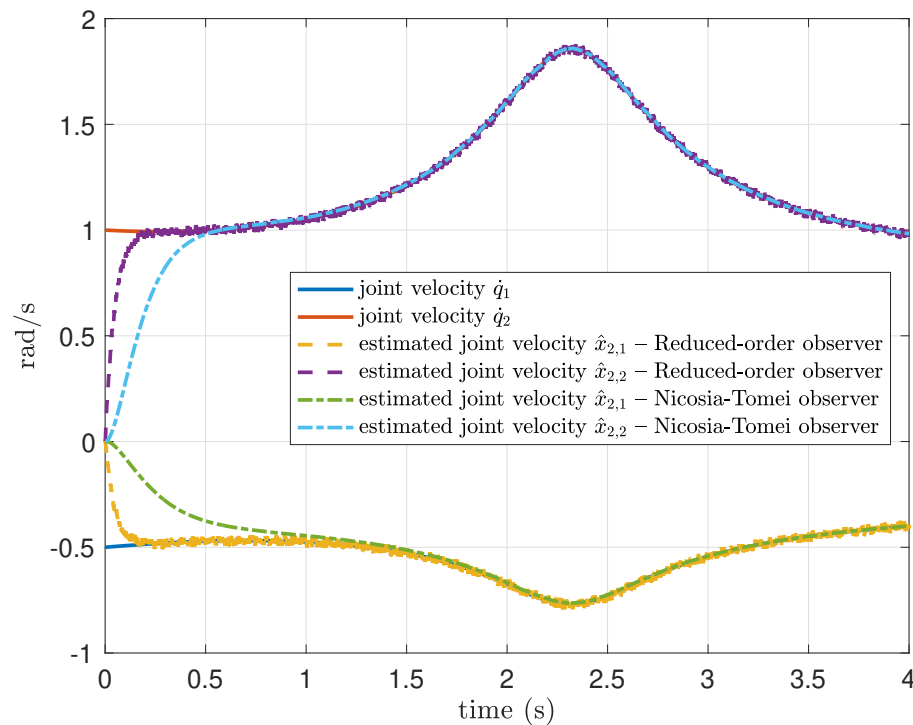
A. Cristofaro, A. De Luca “Reduced-order observer design for robot manipulators” IEEE Control Systems Letters 2023 (online Nov 2022)



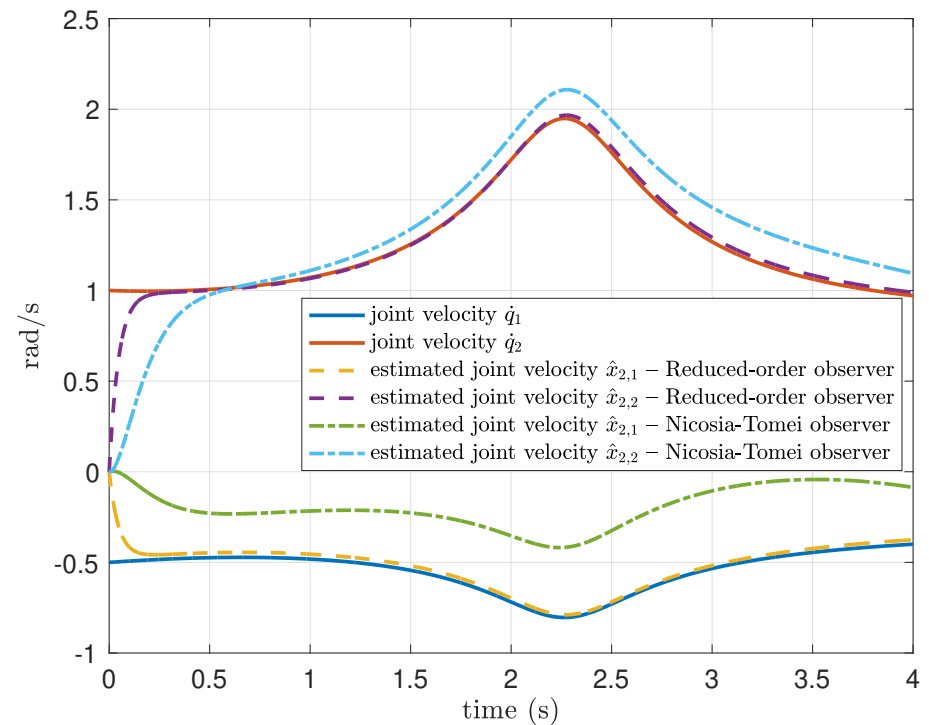
# Velocity observer for rigid robots

Comparative simulations on a 2R planar robot under gravity

- **faster** convergence than with full-order observer (e.g., Nicosia-Tomei IEEE T-AC 1990)
- **robust** with respect to noisy measurements and model uncertainties



presence of noise and quantization



10% error on both link masses

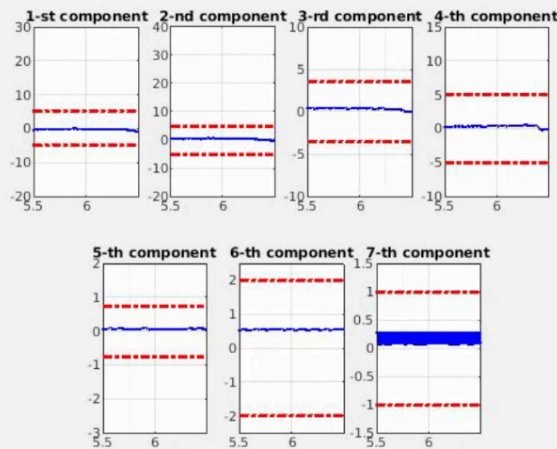
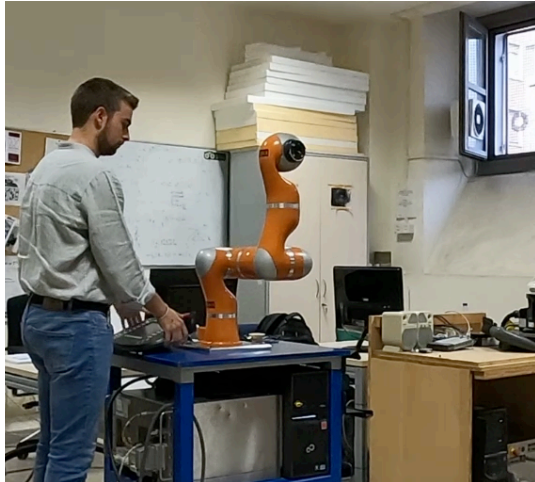
$$\tau = g(q) + \begin{pmatrix} \cos(t/2) \\ -\cos t \end{pmatrix}$$





# Use of position-based residual for collisions

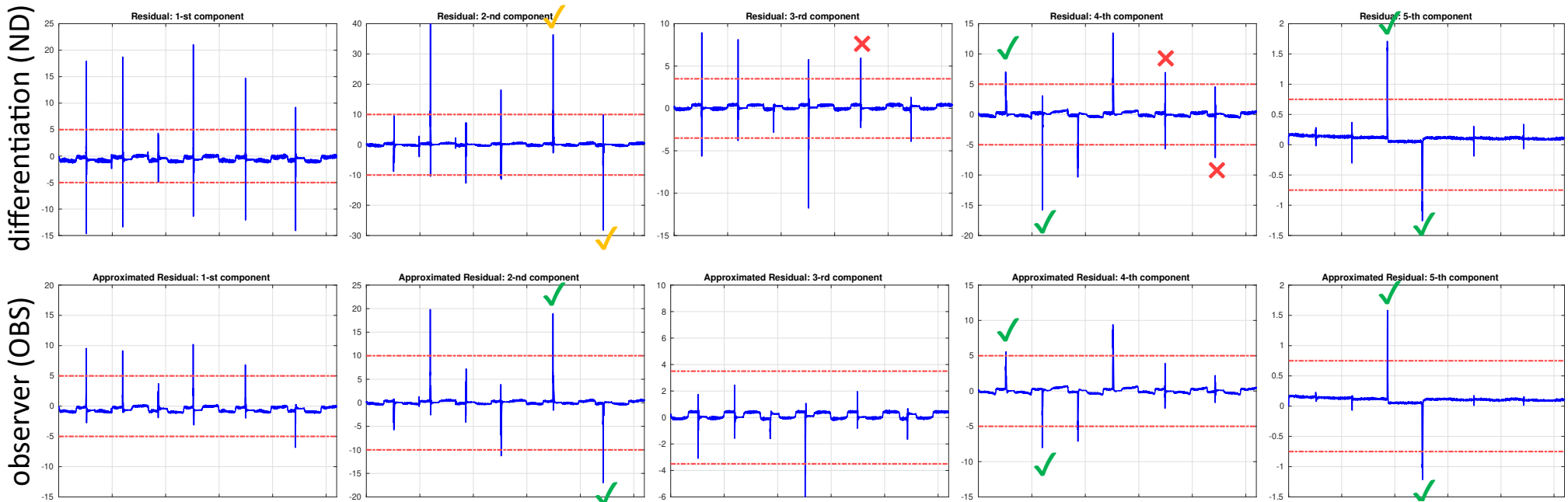
Experiments on a KUKA LWR4 with momentum-based residual using the velocity observer



- numerical differentiation vs. observer
- 6 link collisions in sequence (over 30 s): L4 (twice,  $\pm$ )  $\Rightarrow$  L5 (twice,  $\pm$ )  $\Rightarrow$  L2 (twice,  $\pm$ )
- both methods **detect** collisions **correctly**
- ND has two **false** isolations (#5 and #6)
- OBS **isolates** the colliding link **correctly**

video

only first 5 residuals are shown (out of 7)

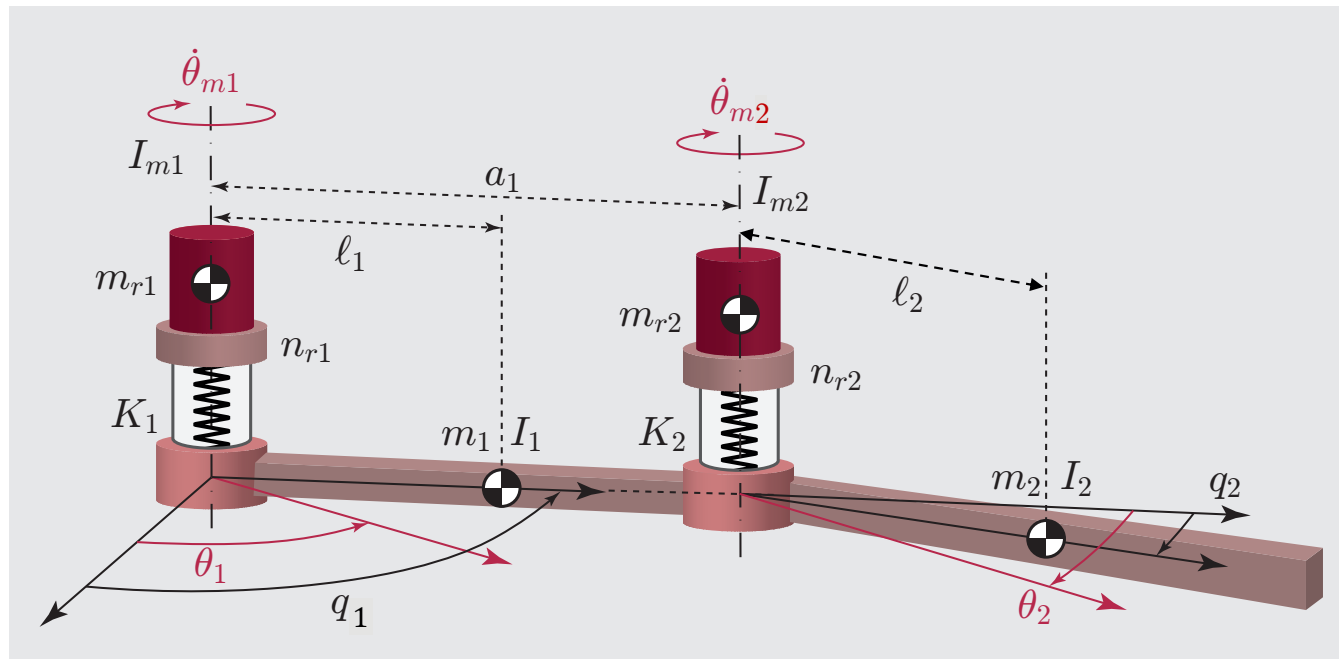




# Robots with elastic joints

A more complete dynamic model

- remove the extra modeling assumption by Spong (ASME Transactions JDSMC 1987)
  - include also the inertial couplings between **motors** and **links**
  - the additional terms become relevant only for **low reduction ratios**  $n_{ri}$ 
    - structural property**: the complete model is **feedback linearizable only** when allowing **dynamic** state feedback



always strictly upper-triangular

with terms in  $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})$

diagonal term in  $\mathbf{M}_m$

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_{m2} &= \frac{1}{2} m_{r2} a_1^2 \dot{q}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_{m2} (\dot{q}_1 + \dot{\theta}_{m2})^2 \leftarrow [\dot{\theta}_{m2} = n_{r2} \dot{\theta}_2] \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} (m_{r2} a_1^2 + I_{m2}) \dot{q}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} (I_{m2} n_{r2}^2) \dot{\theta}_2^2 + I_{m2} n_{r2} \dot{q}_1 \dot{\theta}_2
 \end{aligned}$$

extra term in off-diagonal block  $\mathbf{N}$  or  $\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{q})$  of inertia matrix!



# Robots with elastic joints


## Momentum-based residual for the complete model

- case of **constant** matrix  $\mathbf{N}$  (e.g., all planar manipulators with  $n$  revolute joints)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) & \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{N}^T & \mathbf{M}_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) \\ \mathbf{f}_m(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\tau}_C + \boldsymbol{\tau}_J \\ \boldsymbol{\tau} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_J \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{q}) \qquad \boldsymbol{\tau}_J = \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q})$$

- addition of **constant** terms in the robot inertia matrix does **not** generate new velocity terms, based on Christoffel symbols computation
- new** vector residual for collision detection and isolation

$$\mathbf{r}_{EJ}(t) = \mathbf{K}_r \left( \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{N}\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \int_0^t (\boldsymbol{\tau}_J + \mathbf{S}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{r}_{EJ}) ds \right)$$
$$\mathbf{K}_r > 0, \text{ diagonal}$$


$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{EJ} = \mathbf{K}_r (\boldsymbol{\tau}_C - \mathbf{r}_{EJ})$$



# Robots with elastic joints

## Momentum-based residual for the complete model

- **general** case of configuration-dependent matrix  $\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{q})$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) & \mathbf{N}(\mathbf{q}) \\ \mathbf{N}^T(\mathbf{q}) & \mathbf{M}_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}_q(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) \\ \mathbf{c}_\theta(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) \\ \mathbf{f}_m(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\tau}_C + \boldsymbol{\tau}_J \\ \boldsymbol{\tau} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_J \end{pmatrix}$$

$= \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{q})$  Coriolis/centrifugal  $\boldsymbol{\tau}_J = \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q})$

- rotors of the motors are modeled as **balanced** uniform bodies (with center of mass on rotation axis)  
⇒ the robot inertia matrix and the gravity vector are functions of **link variables**  $\mathbf{q}$  only
- dependencies in the **quadratic velocity terms** follow from Christoffel symbols (tedious) computations

$$\mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}_q(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) \\ \mathbf{c}_\theta(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{S}_{qq}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) & \mathbf{S}_{q\theta}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \\ \mathbf{S}_{\theta q}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\dot{\mathcal{M}}(\mathbf{q}) = \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathcal{S}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \quad \text{extended skew-symmetry property}$$

- **new** vector residual for collision detection and isolation

$$\mathbf{r}_{EJ}(t) = \mathbf{K}_r \left( \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{N}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \int_0^t \left( \boldsymbol{\tau}_J + \mathbf{S}_{qq}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{S}_{q\theta}^T(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{r}_{EJ} \right) ds \right)$$

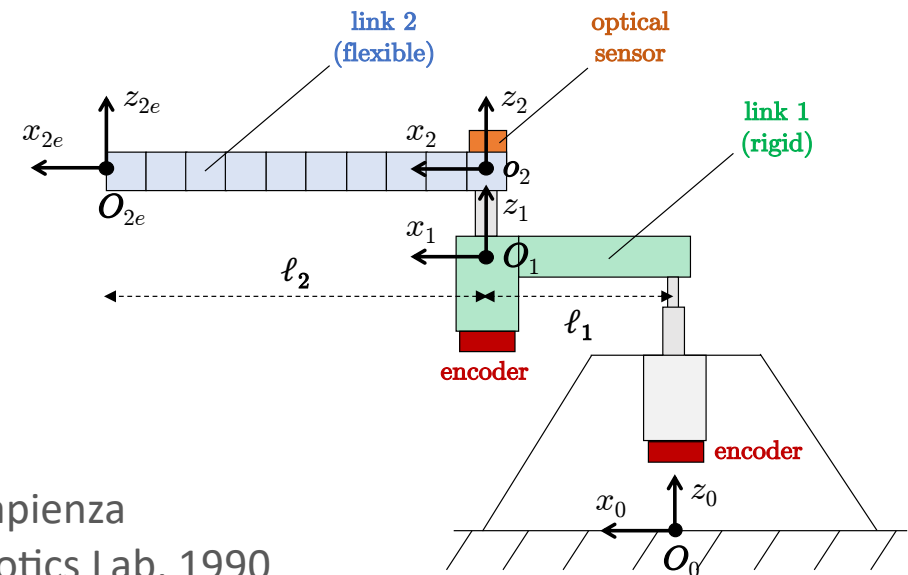
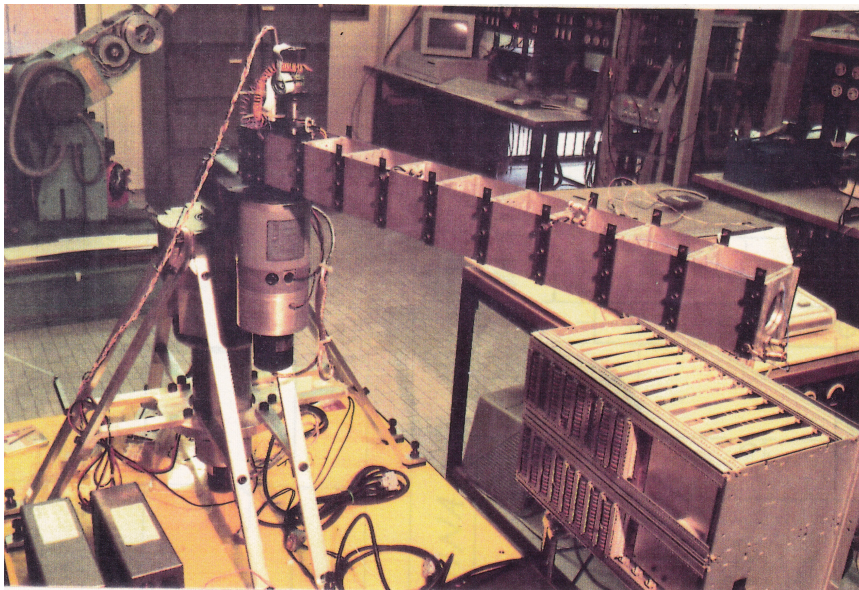
$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{EJ} = \mathbf{K}_r (\boldsymbol{\tau}_C - \mathbf{r}_{EJ})$   $\mathbf{K}_r > 0$ , diagonal



# Robots with flexible links

## Motivating example: FLEXARM

- **FLEXARM** is a two-link planar direct-drive robot with revolute joints and a **flexible forearm**
  - the first link is very stiff, as opposed to the forearm
  - distributed flexibility is relevant only in the horizontal plane of motion (bending)
  - simple structure, but already with the most relevant nonlinear and coupling dynamic effects
- robot **state** (a finite-dimensional approximation!) **can be measured** by a combination of
  - motor encoders
  - optical sensors
  - strain gauges



@Sapienza  
Robotics Lab, 1990



# A two-link robot with a flexible forearm

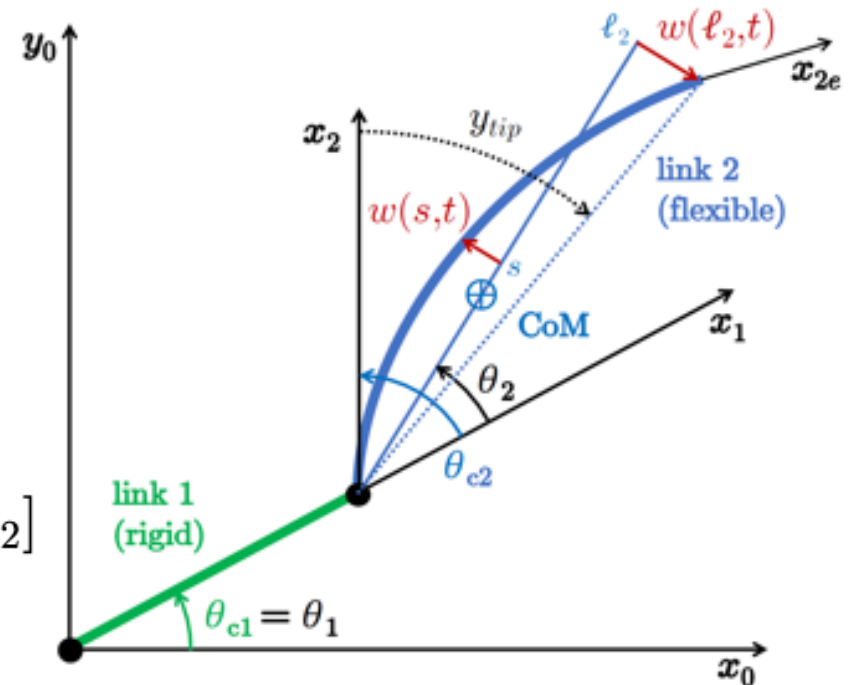
## Relevant system variables

### system variables

- first **rigid** link: joint angle  $\theta_1$
- second **flexible** link:
  - modeled as a bending Euler-Bernoulli beam with dynamic boundary conditions
  - distributed flexibility approximated with  $n_e$  modal eigenfunctions  $\phi_i$  and variables  $\delta_i$

$$w(s, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n_e} \phi_i(s) \delta_i(t) = \boldsymbol{\phi}^T(s) \boldsymbol{\delta}(t) \quad s \in [0, \ell_2]$$

- joint angle  $\theta_2$  pointing at the **CoM** of forearm



### measurable quantities

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_c = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_{c1} \\ \theta_{c2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n_e} \phi'_{i0} \delta_i \end{pmatrix} \quad y_{tip} = \left( \theta_2 + \frac{w(\ell_2, t)}{\ell_2} \right) - \theta_{c2} = \sum_{i=1}^{n_e} \left( \frac{\phi_{ie}}{\ell_2} - \phi'_{i0} \right) \delta_i$$

joint angles **clamped** to the motors  
(measured by **encoders**)

**tip deflection** of the forearm  
(measured by an **optical sensor** at the link base)



# A two-link robot with a flexible forearm

## Dynamic model

generalized  
coordinates

$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\theta} \\ \boldsymbol{\delta} \end{pmatrix} = (\theta_1 \quad \theta_2 \quad \delta_1 \quad \dots \quad \delta_{n_e})^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2+n_e}$$

in the following  
 $n_e = 2$  modes

dynamic  
model

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{K}\boldsymbol{\delta} + \mathbf{D}\dot{\boldsymbol{\delta}} = \mathbf{G}\boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_F$$

input  
matrix

motor  
torques

actuator faults /  
collision torques

structure  
of terms

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{\theta\theta}(\theta_2, \boldsymbol{\delta}) & \mathbf{M}_{\theta\delta}(\theta_2) \\ \mathbf{M}_{\theta\delta}^T(\theta_2) & \mathbf{I}_{n_e \times n_e} \end{pmatrix}$$

due to modal normalization

$$\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{S}_{\theta\theta} & \mathbf{S}_{\theta\delta} \\ \mathbf{S}_{\delta\theta}^T & \mathbf{S}_{\delta,\delta} \end{pmatrix}$$

... with skew-symmetric property

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_{2 \times 2} & \mathbf{O}_{2 \times n_e} \\ \mathbf{O}_{n_e \times 2} & \mathbf{K}_\delta \end{pmatrix}$$

stiffness matrix

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O}_{2 \times 2} & \mathbf{O}_{2 \times n_e} \\ \mathbf{O}_{n_e \times 2} & \mathbf{D}_\delta \end{pmatrix}$$

modal damping  
(+ joint viscous friction)

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{2 \times 2} \\ \mathbf{G}_\delta \end{pmatrix}$$

input matrix

A. De Luca, L. Lanari, P. Lucibello, S. Panzieri, G. Ulivi "Control experiments on a two-link robot with a flexible forearm" CDC 1990



# Actuator fault/collision detection and isolation


Momentum-based residuals for robots with flexible links

- generalized momentum of a manipulator with **flexible links**

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_\theta \\ \mathbf{p}_\delta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{\theta\theta} \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{M}_{\theta\delta} \dot{\boldsymbol{\delta}} \\ \mathbf{M}_{\theta\delta}^T \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{M}_{\delta\delta} \dot{\boldsymbol{\delta}} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}}$$

- vector** residual for actuator faults or collisions detection and isolation

$$\mathbf{r}_\theta(t) = \mathbf{K}_r \left( \mathbf{p}_\theta - \int_0^t \left( \boldsymbol{\tau} + \mathbf{S}_{\theta\theta}^T \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{S}_{\theta\delta}^T \dot{\boldsymbol{\delta}} + \mathbf{r}_\theta \right) ds \right) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

  $\dot{\mathbf{r}}_\theta = \mathbf{K}_r (\boldsymbol{\tau}_F - \mathbf{r}_\theta)$

- ... a **complete** residual  $\mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^{2+n_e}$  could be designed, but  $\mathbf{r}_\theta$  is already sufficient
- threshold** condition for **detection** of an actuator fault/link collision event

$$\exists i \in \{1, 2\} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad |r_i| \geq r_{\text{th}}$$

- usual rules for **isolation** (= **index** of the largest/only component exceeding ...)

C. Gaz, A. Cristofaro, A. De Luca "Detection and isolation of actuator faults and collisions for a flexible robot arm" CDC 2020

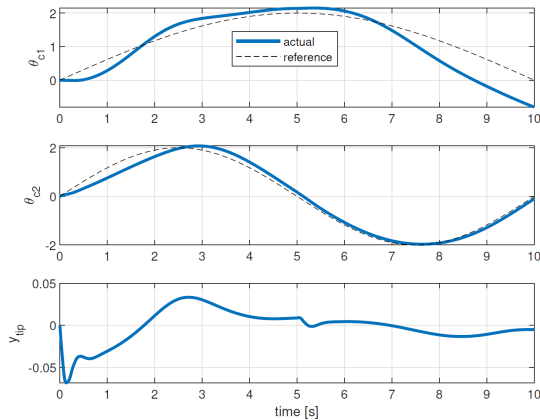




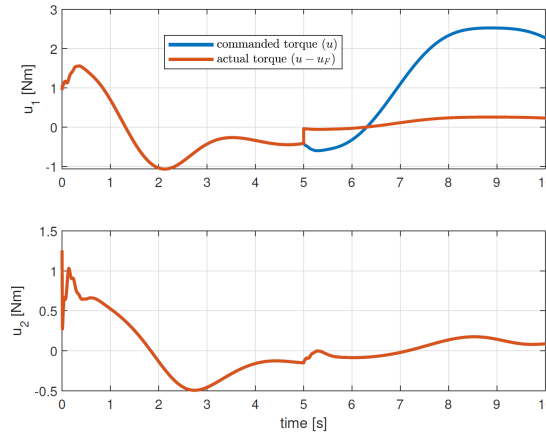
# Actuator faults

Simulation results (in all cases: under **PD control** for tracking sinusoidal **joint** trajectories)

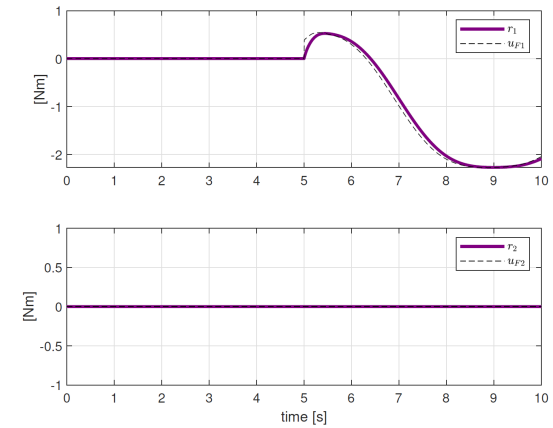
- fault on motor 1: 90% of torque loss from  $t_f = 5$  s



outputs

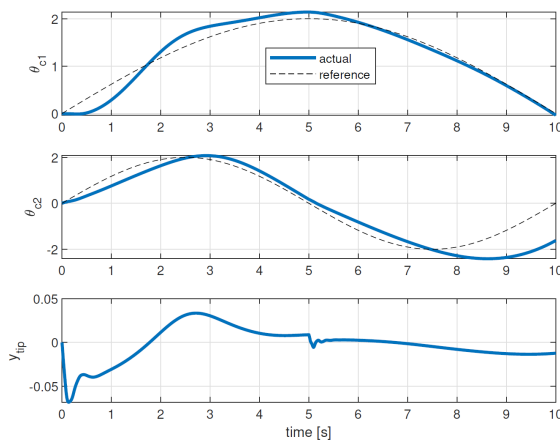


torques

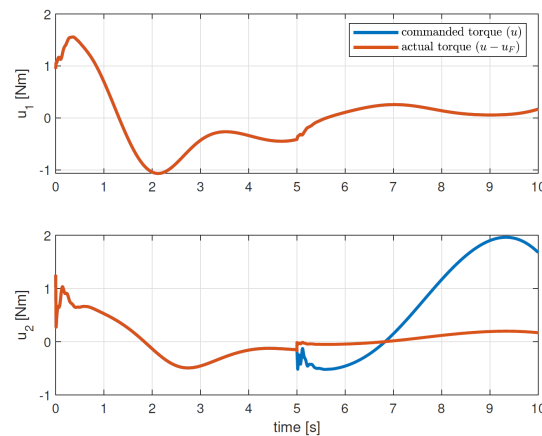


residuals

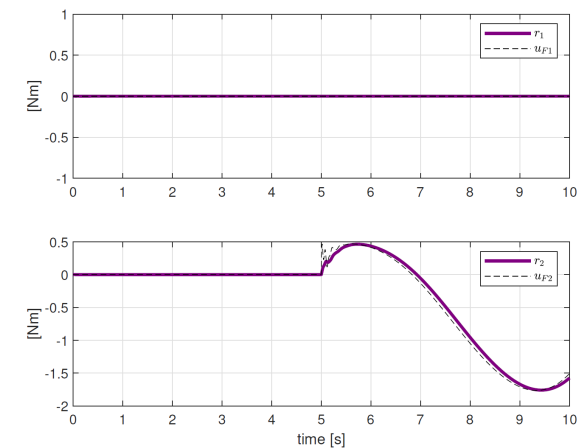
- fault on motor 2: 90% of torque loss from  $t_f = 5$  s



outputs



torques



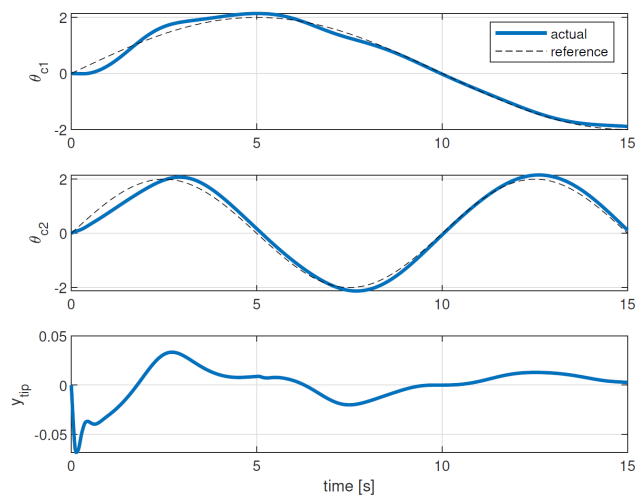
residuals



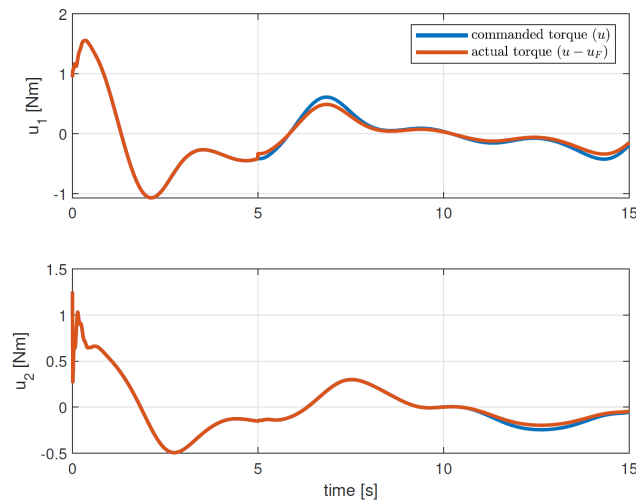
# Actuator faults

## Simulation results

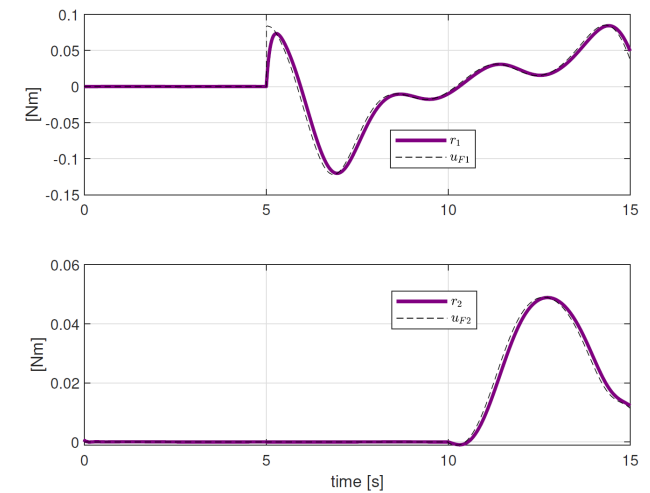
- **concurrent** faults on both motors: 20% of torque loss for motor 1 from  $t_{F1} = 5$  s and for motor 2 from  $t_{F2} = 10$  s



outputs



torques



residuals



it is always possible to **detect** and **isolate** the actuator faults

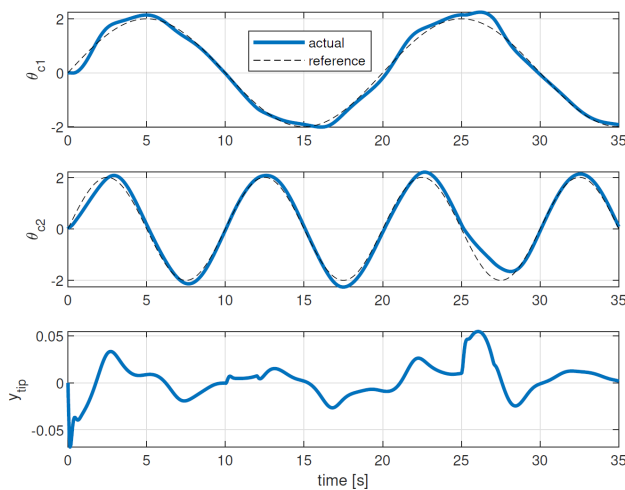


# Link collisions

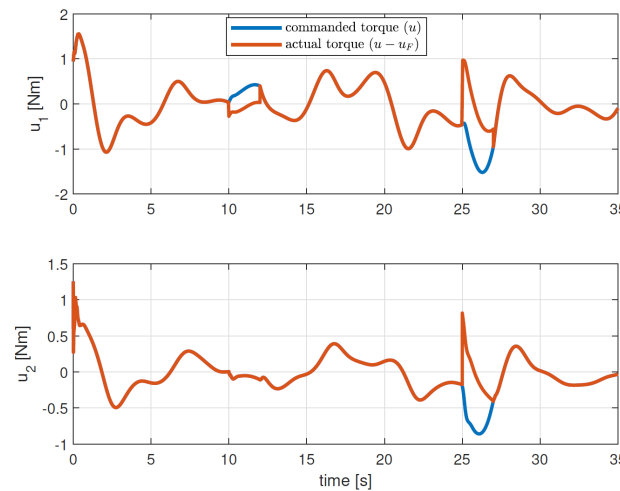
## Simulation results

### ■ collisions on both links

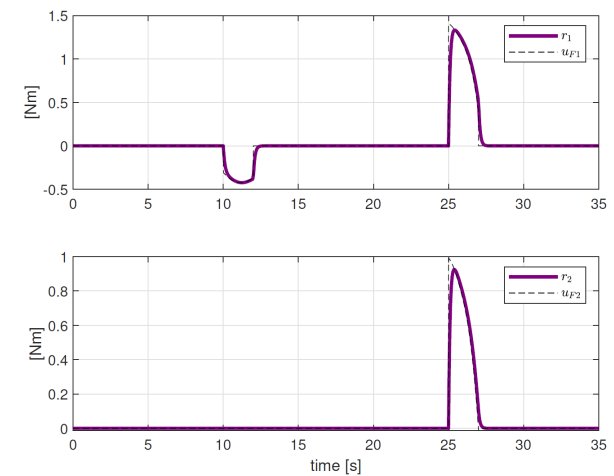
- external force  $\mathbf{F}_C = (1 \ 1)^T$  applied to the end of the (rigid) link 1 for  $t_{F1} \in [10, 12]$  s
- external force  $\mathbf{F}_C = (1 \ 1)^T$  applied to the tip of the (flexible) link 2 for  $t_{F2} \in [25, 27]$  s
- relation from  $\mathbf{F}_C$  to  $\boldsymbol{\tau}_C$  with transpose of the **contact Jacobian**:  $\boldsymbol{\tau}_C (= \boldsymbol{\tau}_F) = \mathbf{J}_C^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{F}_C$



outputs



torques



residuals

➡ in most cases (!?), it is possible to **detect** and **isolate** the link collisions

➡ ... but it is **not** possible to discriminate **actuator faults** from **link collisions**



# Nonlinear state observer

## General setup

- design of **state observers** for input-affine nonlinear system

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}} &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u} & \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^\rho, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^\nu, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^\mu \\ \mathbf{y} &= \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})\end{aligned}$$

- (repeated) Lie derivatives of functions along a vector field

$$L_f h_j(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \quad L_f^k h_j(\mathbf{x}) = L_f \left( L_f^{k-1} h_j(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

- compute the **relative degree** of each of the system (measurable) outputs

$$\begin{aligned}\forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^\nu \quad & L_g L_f^k h_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad \forall k = 0, 1, \dots, r_j - 2 \\ \exists \bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^\nu : \quad & L_g L_f^{r_j-1} h_j(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) \neq 0\end{aligned}$$

- if the system has **vector relative degree**

$$r = r_1 + \dots + r_\mu = \nu$$

a Luenberger-type nonlinear state observer can be designed with local exponential convergence

see e.g. A. Isidori “Nonlinear Control Systems” 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 1995



# A drift-observability nonlinear observer

## General setup

- when the system is **autonomous**, a **drift-observability map** having full rank could be found, which allows the design of a nonlinear state observer with similar convergence properties

$$\Phi_j^T(\mathbf{x}) = \left( h_j(\mathbf{x}) \quad L_f h_j(\mathbf{x}) \quad \dots \quad L_f^{\nu_j-1} h_j(\mathbf{x}) \right)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{\nu_j}$$

$$\mathbf{J}_\Phi(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \Big|_{\mathbf{x} = \Phi^{-1}(\mathbf{z})} \quad \text{nonsingular} \quad \nu_1 + \dots + \nu_\mu = \nu$$

M. Dalla Mora, A. Germani, C. Manes “Design of state observers from a drift-observability property” IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control 2000

- if a vector relative degree **does not hold**, since the control input  $\mathbf{u}$  is typically designed as  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})$ , one can look for and exploit a **drift-like observability** property

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \tilde{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \rightarrow \quad \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$$

$$\Phi_j^T(\mathbf{x}) = \left( h_j(\mathbf{x}) \quad L_{\tilde{\mathbf{f}}} h_j(\mathbf{x}) \quad \dots \quad L_{\tilde{\mathbf{f}}}^{\nu_j-1} h_j(\mathbf{x}) \right)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{\nu_j}$$

$$\mathbf{J}_\Phi(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \Big|_{\mathbf{x} = \Phi^{-1}(\mathbf{z})} \quad \text{nonsingular} \quad \nu_1 + \dots + \nu_\mu = \nu$$

C. Gaz, A. Cristofaro, P. Palumbo, A. De Luca “A nonlinear observer for a flexible robot arm and its use in fault and collision detection” CDC 2022



# Application of the drift-like observer to the FLEXARM

Synthesis procedure (for  $n_e = 2$  modes)

inputs	$\mathbf{u} = \boldsymbol{\tau} \in \mathbb{R}^2$	$\rho = 2$	
measured outputs	$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_{c2} \\ y_{tip} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{q})$	$\mu = 3$	in mechanical systems with outputs $h_j(q)$ $L_{\tilde{f}} h_j(\mathbf{x}) = L_f h_j(\mathbf{x})$
no vector relative degree	$r = r_1 + r_2 + r_3 = 2 + 2 + 2 = 6 < 8 = \nu$		
PD control with observed state(s)	$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{K}_P (\boldsymbol{\theta}_{c,des} - \boldsymbol{\theta}_c) + \mathbf{K}_D (\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{c,des} - \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_c)$		
drift-like observability map	$\mathbf{z} = \boldsymbol{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\Phi}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1(\mathbf{q}) & L_f \theta_1(\dot{\mathbf{q}}) & L_{\tilde{f}}^2 \theta_1(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \\ \theta_{c2}(\mathbf{q}) & L_f \theta_{c2}(\dot{\mathbf{q}}) & L_{\tilde{f}}^2 \theta_{c2}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \\ y_{tip}(\mathbf{q}) & L_f y_{tip}(\dot{\mathbf{q}}) & \end{pmatrix}^T$		
	$\nu_1 + \nu_2 + \nu_3 = 3 + 3 + 2 = 8 = \nu$	$\mathbf{J}_{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}(\mathbf{z}) = \left. \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\Phi}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right _{\mathbf{x} = \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1}(\mathbf{z})}$	nonsingular

nonlinear observer

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} = \mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + \mathbf{g}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})\mathbf{u}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + \mathbf{J}_{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})\boldsymbol{\Gamma}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{h}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}))$$

C. Gaz, A. Cristofaro, P. Palumbo, A. De Luca "A nonlinear observer for a flexible robot arm and its use in fault and collision detection" CDC 2022



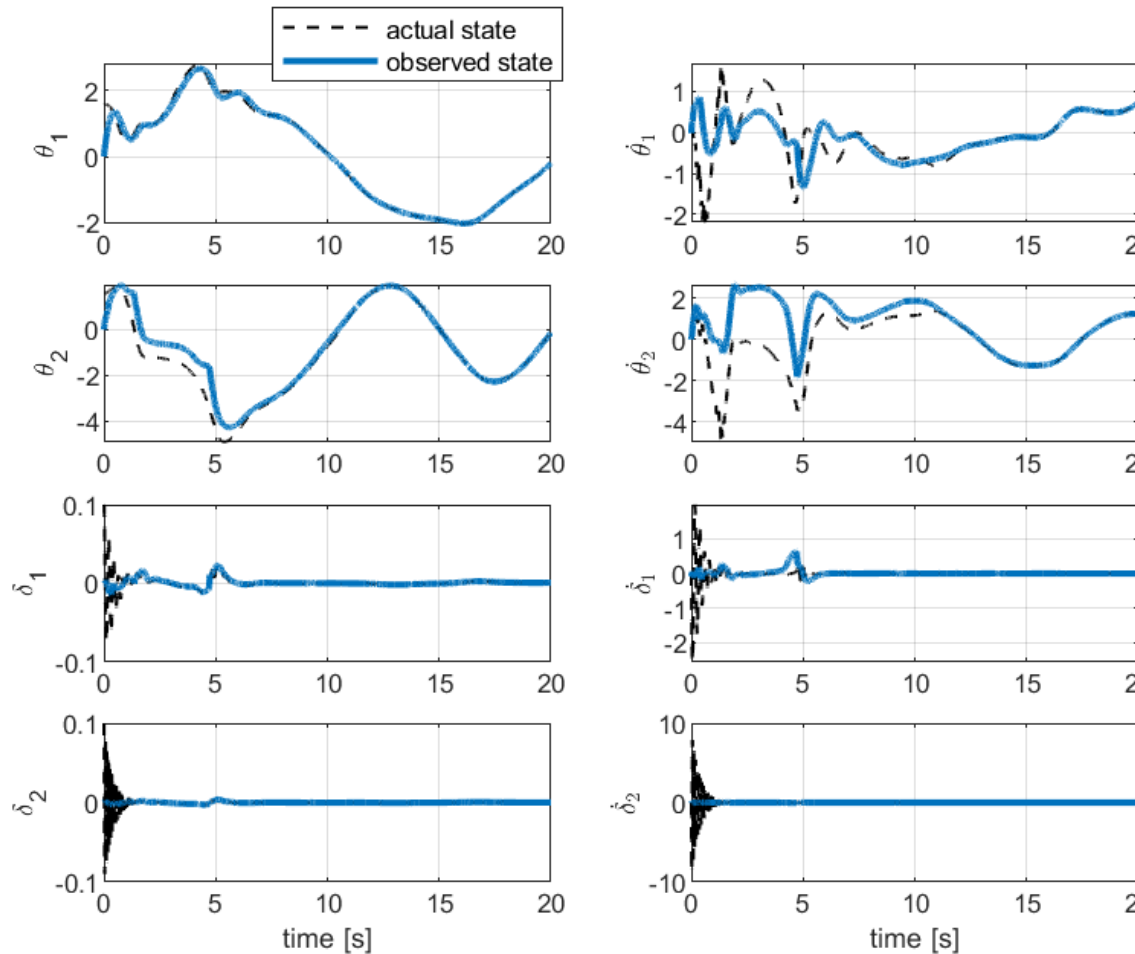
# Dynamic feedback control

Simulation results: observer performance

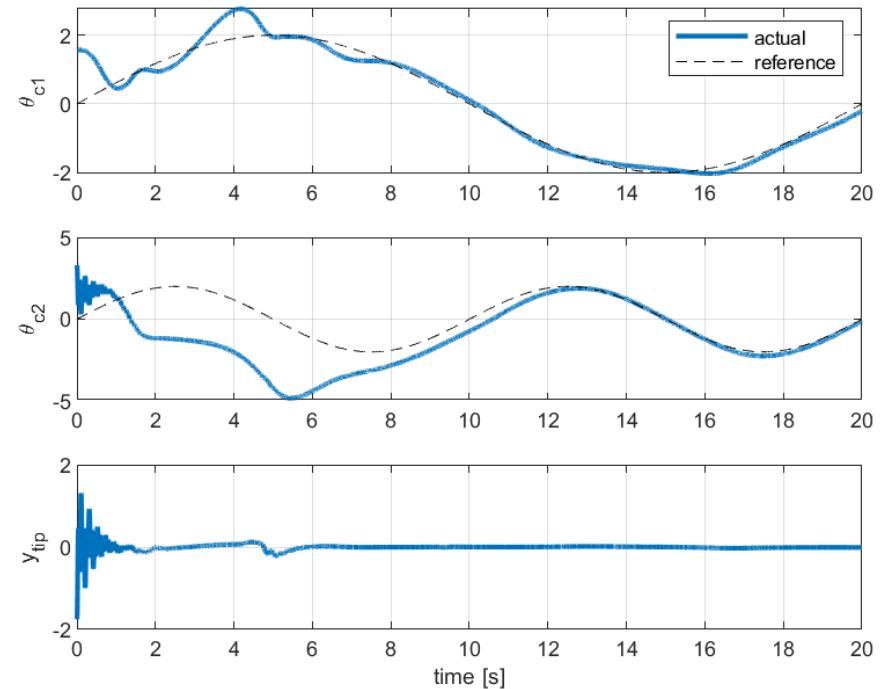
- a PD law with **observed** velocity is applied to track the desired joint trajectories

$$\theta_{c1,des}(t) = 2 \sin 0.05\pi t$$

$$\theta_{c2,des}(t) = 2 \sin 0.1\pi t$$



estimation error convergence for the **8 states**



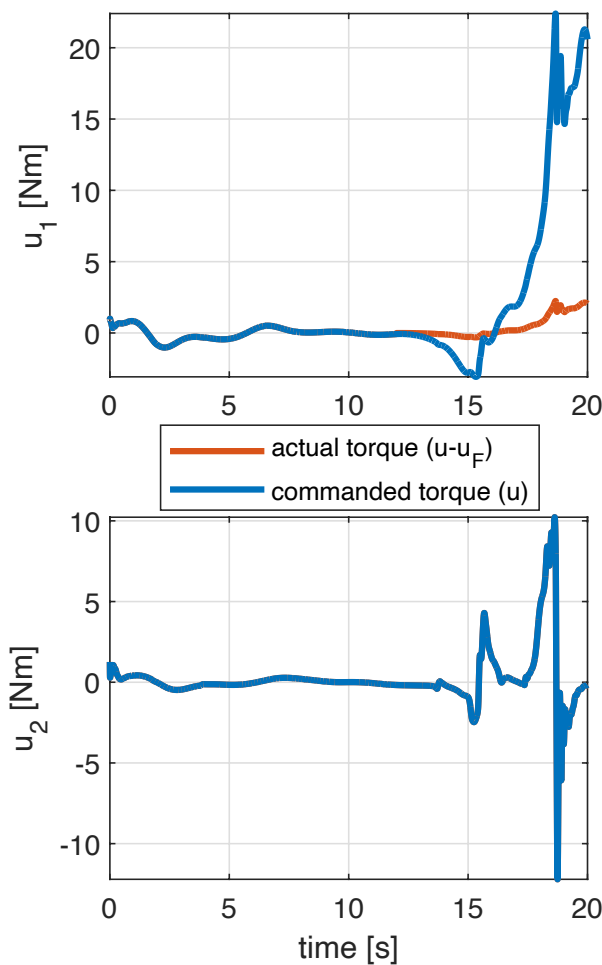
tracking error convergence  
for the **3 outputs**



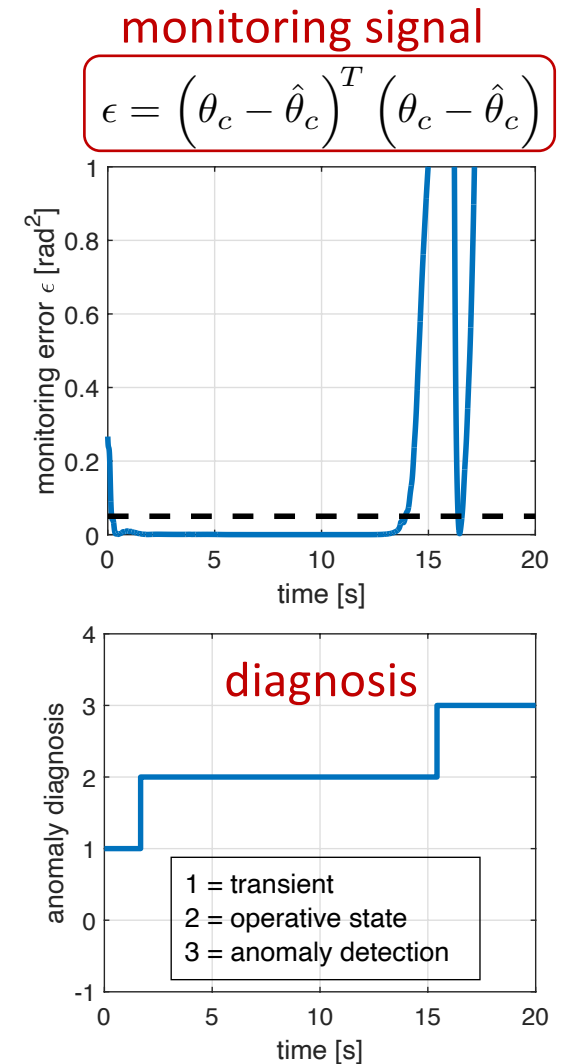
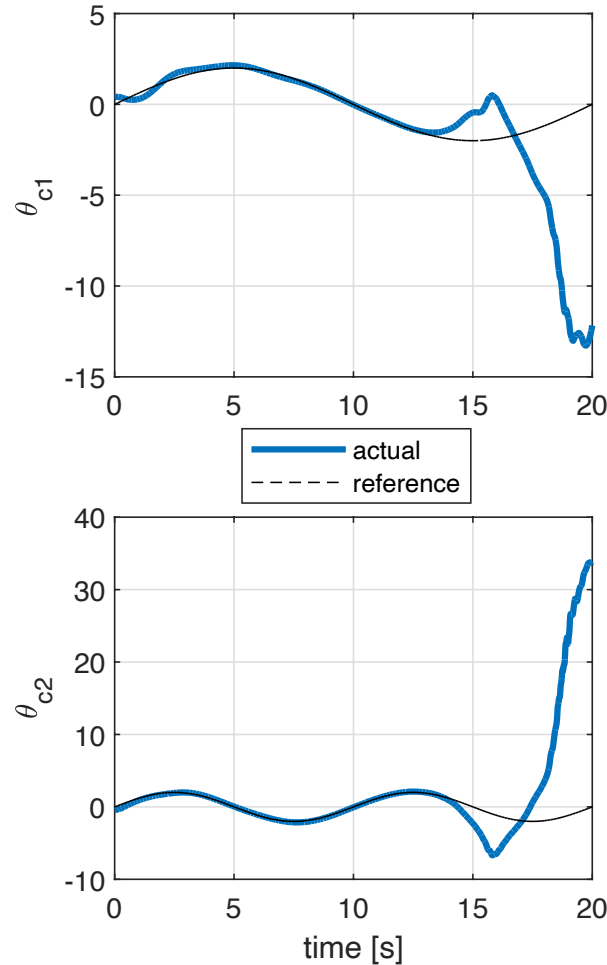
# Actuator fault detection

Simulation results: measurable observer error as monitoring signal

- an abrupt fault occurs for motor 1 at time  $t = 12$  [s], with a 90% power loss



commanded/actual torques and controlled outputs



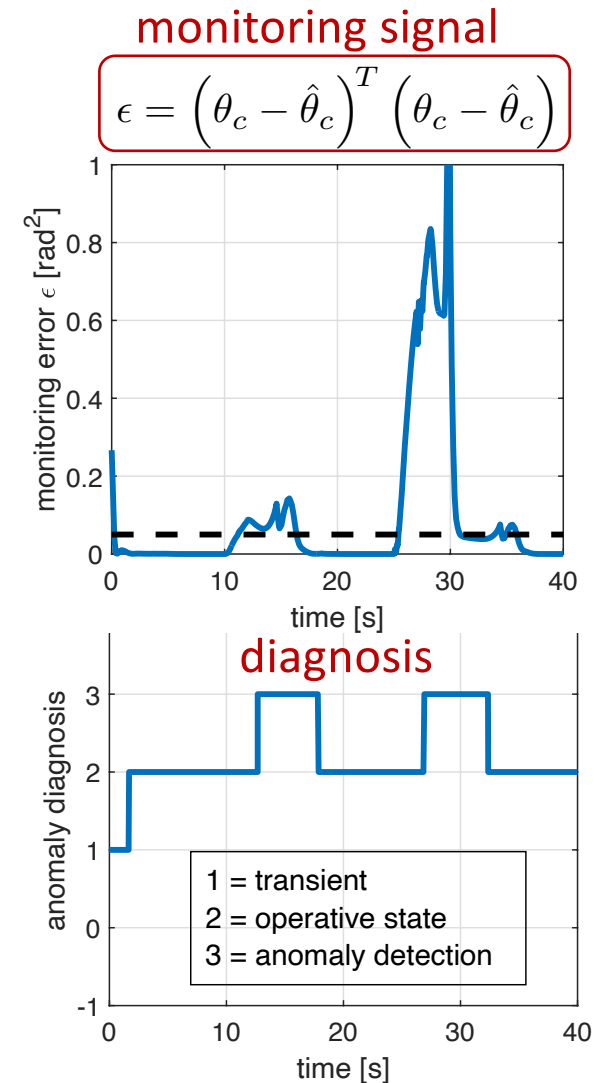
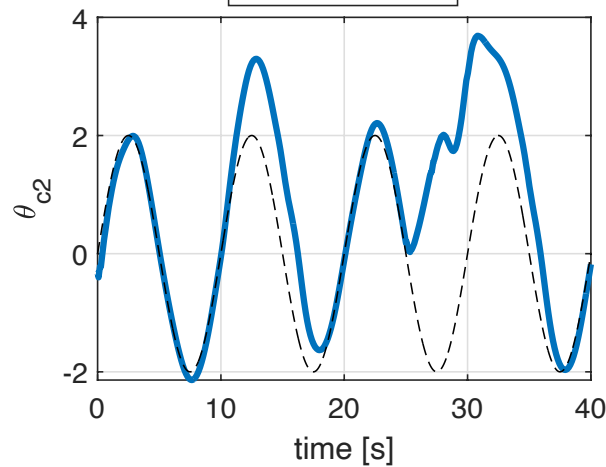
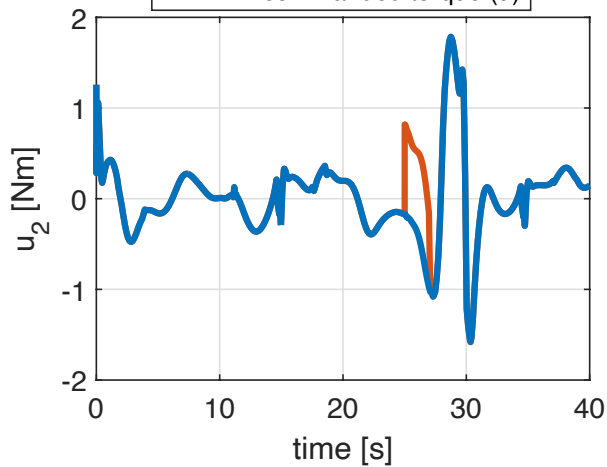
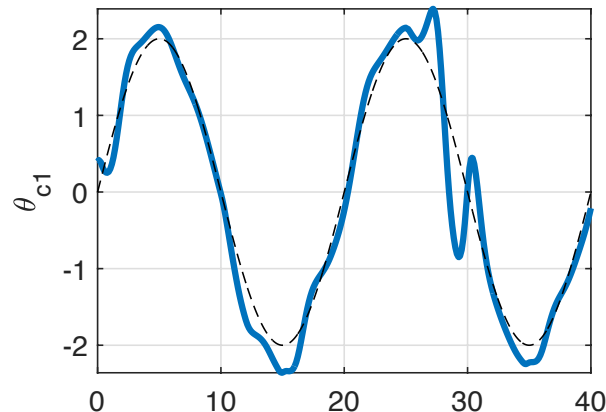
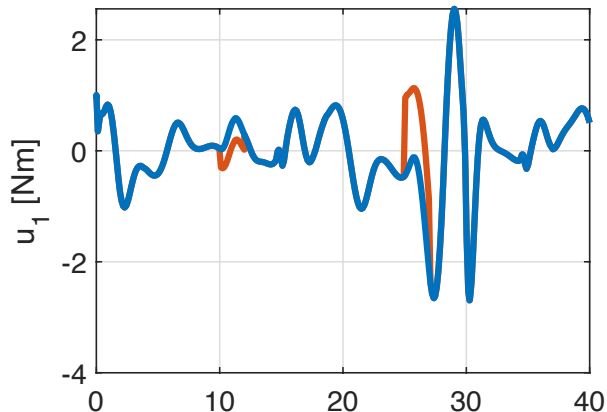




# Link collision detection

Simulation results: measurable observer error as monitoring signal

- contact force applied on link 1 from  $t = 10$  to  $12$  s and on link 2 from  $t = 25$  to  $27$  s



commanded/actual torques and controlled outputs



# Conclusions

## Take-home messages

- a physically-based residual approach (momentum/energy) to detect and isolate missing dynamic terms in robots (faults, collisions, unmodeled motor friction, ...)
  - widely used in research and industry (DLR LWR/humanoids, KUKA iiwa, PAL Robotics, ...), often “rediscovered” in later papers under various forms (e.g., disturbance observer)
  - applies equally well to different robotic systems – arms, UAVs (in contact!), humanoids – including manipulators with flexible elements (joints, links) and deformable soft robots!!
  - exact (decoupled) FDI in mechanical systems: max # faults = # generalized coordinates
- main application in safe physical Human-Robot Interaction (pHRI)
  - localization of contact point(s) and identification of Cartesian collision/contact forces
    - [sometimes for free](#) → combined with particle filters → using RGB-D or vision sensors
  - classification problems
    - [distinguishing](#) intentional contacts (for collaboration) from accidental collisions (fast reaction)
    - severity of actuator faults (for on-line system reconfiguration)
- being model-based, the main limitation is robustness to uncertainty
  - requires good dynamic models – especially difficult is capturing friction in rigid robots
  - combine multiple FDI approaches: model-based, signal-based, and isolation logics
  - go adaptive? use machine learning techniques?



## Additional bibliography

Download pdf for personal use at [www.diag.uniroma1.it/deluca/Publications](http://www.diag.uniroma1.it/deluca/Publications)

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- more papers [2004-17]

A. De Luca, R. Mattone “An adapt-and-detect actuator FDI scheme for robot manipulators” ICRA 2004

A. De Luca, R. Mattone “An identification scheme for robot actuator faults “ IROS 2005

L. Le Tien, A. Albu-Schäffer, A. De Luca, G. Hirzinger “Friction observer and compensation for control of robots with joint torque measurements” IROS 2008

A. De Luca, L. Ferrajoli “A modified Newton-Euler method for dynamic computations in robot fault detection and control” ICRA 2009

A. De Luca, F. Flacco “Integrated control for pHRI: Collision avoidance, detection, reaction and collaboration” BioRob 2012 (Best Paper Award)

M. Geravand, F. Flacco, A. De Luca, “Human-robot physical interaction and collaboration using an industrial robot with a closed control architecture,” ICRA 2013

E. Magrini, F. Flacco, A. De Luca “Estimation of contact forces using a virtual force sensor” IROS 2014

E. Magrini, F. Flacco, A. De Luca “Control of generalized contact motion and force in physical human-robot interaction” ICRA 2015

E. Magrini, A. De Luca “Hybrid force/velocity control for physical human-robot collaboration tasks” IROS 2016

G. Buondonno, A. De Luca “Combining real and virtual sensors for measuring interaction forces and moments acting on a robot” IROS 2016

E. Magrini, A. De Luca “Human-robot coexistence and contact handling with redundant robots” IROS 2017

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## ... bibliography and video

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- more papers [2018-21]

C. Gaz, E. Magrini, A. De Luca “A model-based residual approach for human-robot collaboration during manual polishing operations” Mechatronics 2018

E. Magrini, F. Ferraguti, A.J. Ronga, F. Pini, A. De Luca, F. Leali “Human-robot coexistence and interaction in open industrial cells” Robotics and Computer-Integrated Manufacturing 2020

M. Iskandar, O. Eiberger, A. Albu-Schäffer, A. De Luca, A. Dietrich “Collision detection and localization for the DLR SARA robot with sensing redundancy” ICRA 2021

M. Pennese, C. Gaz, M. Capotondi, V. Modugno, A. De Luca “Identification of robot dynamics from motor currents/torques with unknown signs,” I-RIM 2021 (Best Student Paper Award)

- videos

F. Flacco, A. De Luca “Safe physical human-robot collaboration” IROS 2013 (Best Video Award Finalist)

**YouTube channel:** [RoboticsLabSapienza](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) **Playlist:** [Physical human-robot interaction](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=...)

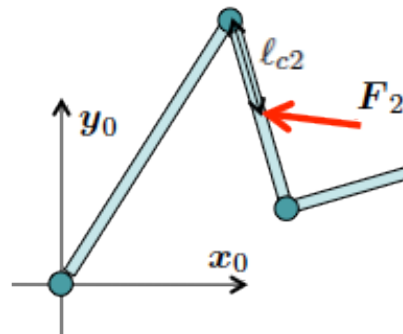
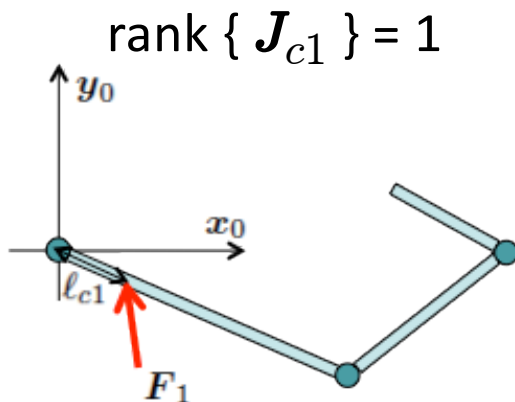


# Estimation of contact force

Sometimes, even **without** external sensing

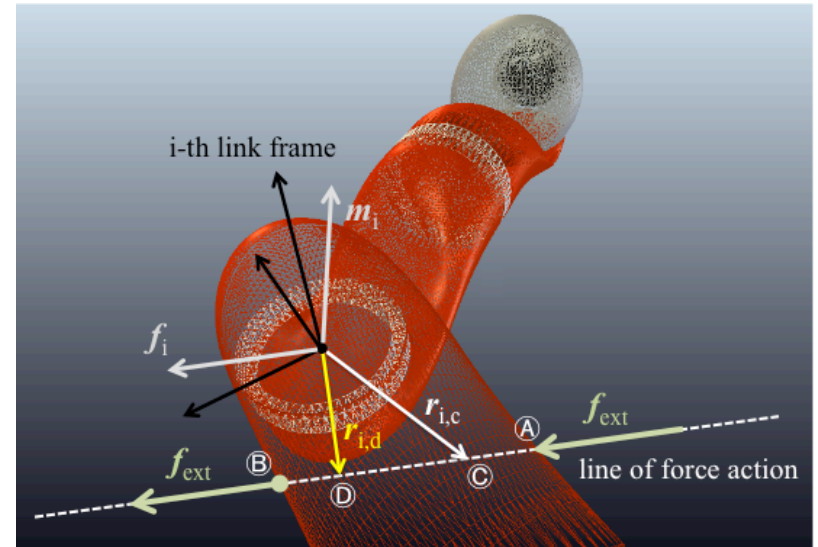
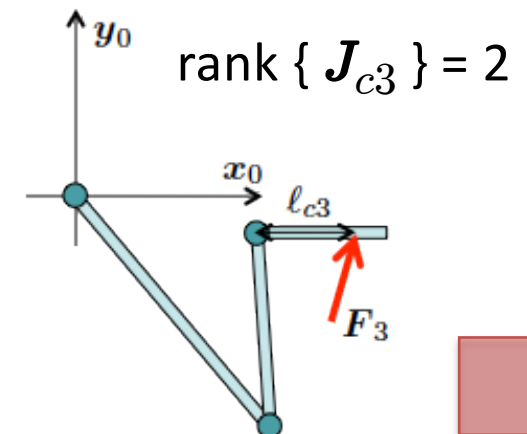
- if contact is sufficiently “down” along the kinematic chain ( $\geq 6$  residuals available), estimation of **pure contact forces** needs no external information ...
- a simple 3R planar case, with contact on different links; one can estimate:

only **normal** force to link,  
if contact point is known  
(1 informative residual signal)



rank  $\{ J_{c2} \} = 2$

full force on link,  
if contact point is known  
(2 informative residuals)



full force on link, **even without** knowing contact  
(3 informative residuals)





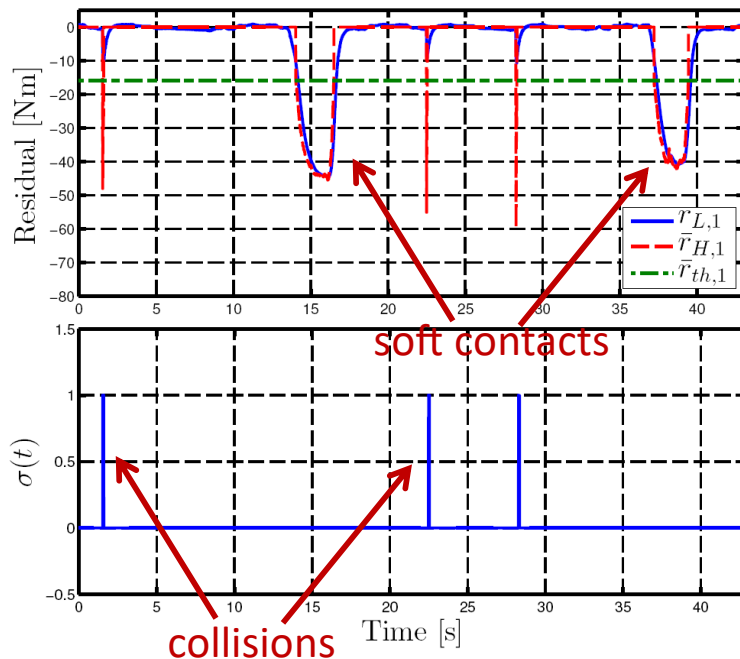
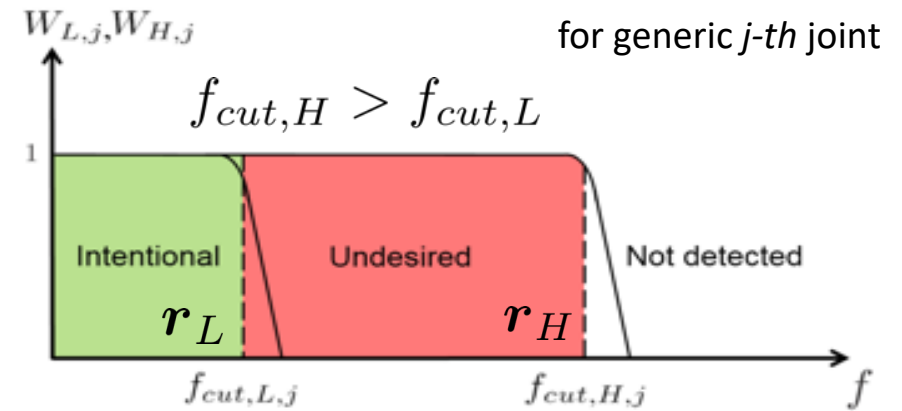
# Collision or collaboration?

Distinguishing **hard/accidental** collisions and **soft/intentional** contacts

- using suitable **low** and **high** bandwidths for the residuals (first-order stable filters)

$$\dot{r} = -K_I r + K_I \tau_K$$

- a **threshold** is added to prevent false collision detection during robot motion



video

