



Robotics and Automation Seminars
Pisa, January 12, 2023

New Results on Fault and Collision Detection in Robot Manipulators

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Previous work: mainly with **Raffaella Mattone, Sami Haddadin, Fabrizio Flacco[†], 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

- 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)

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

residual
vector

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

FDI property
of the residual

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



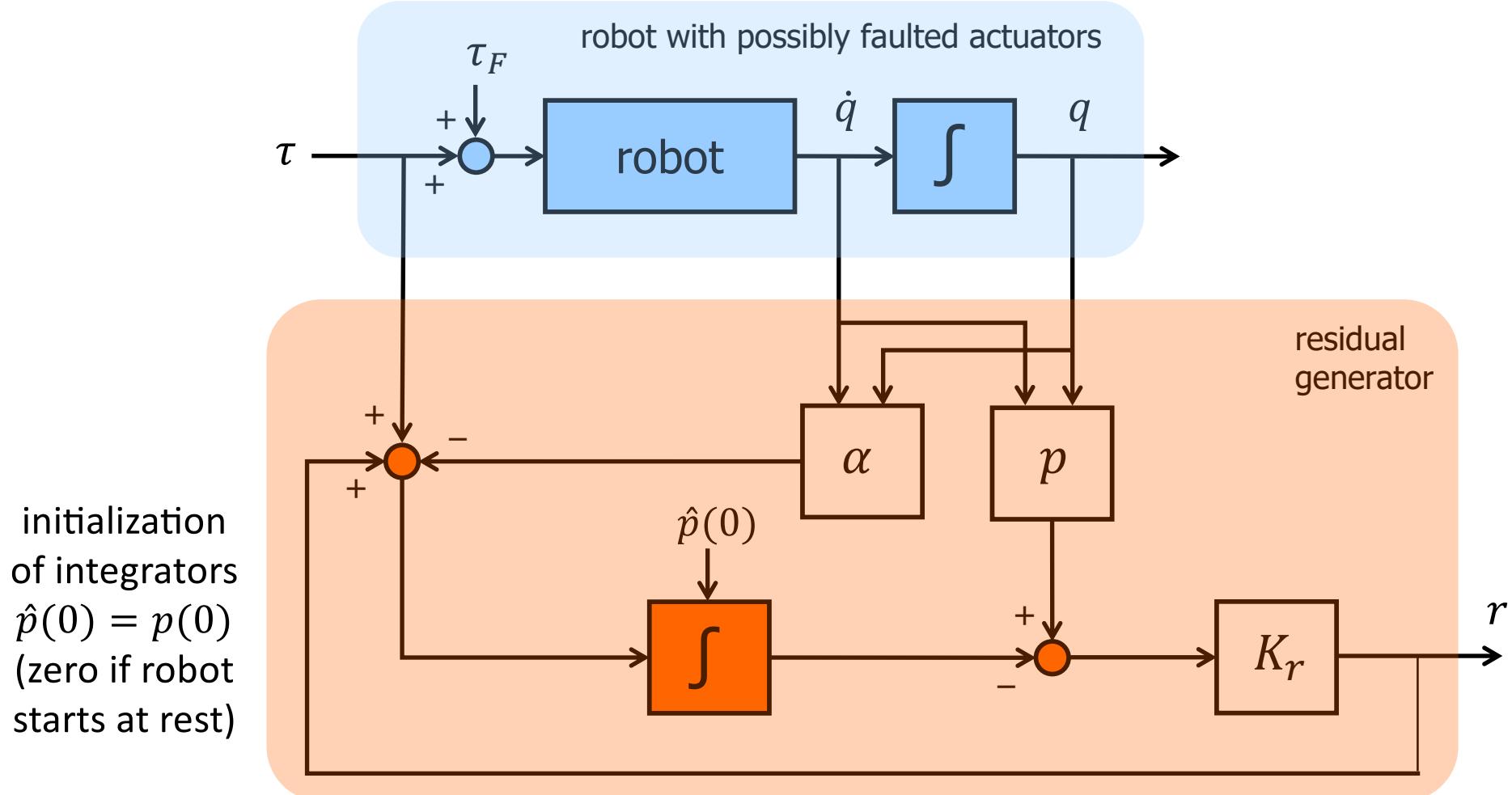
one-to-one
(decoupled!)
mapping

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 τ_F)



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

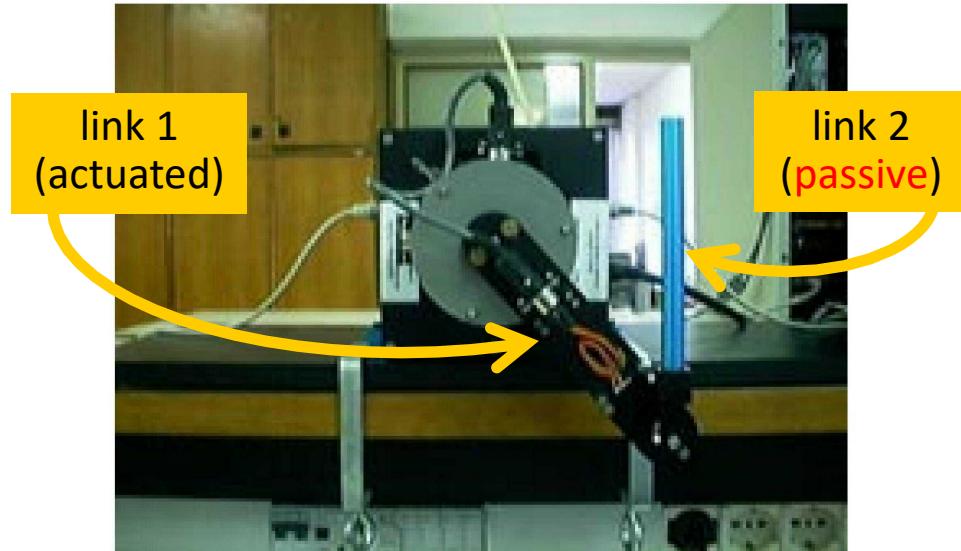
$$r = K_r(p - \hat{p})$$

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



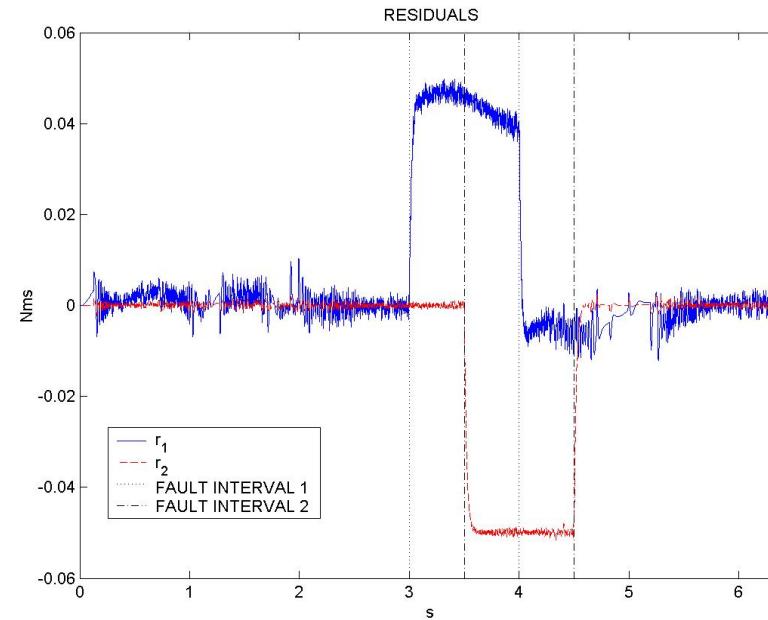
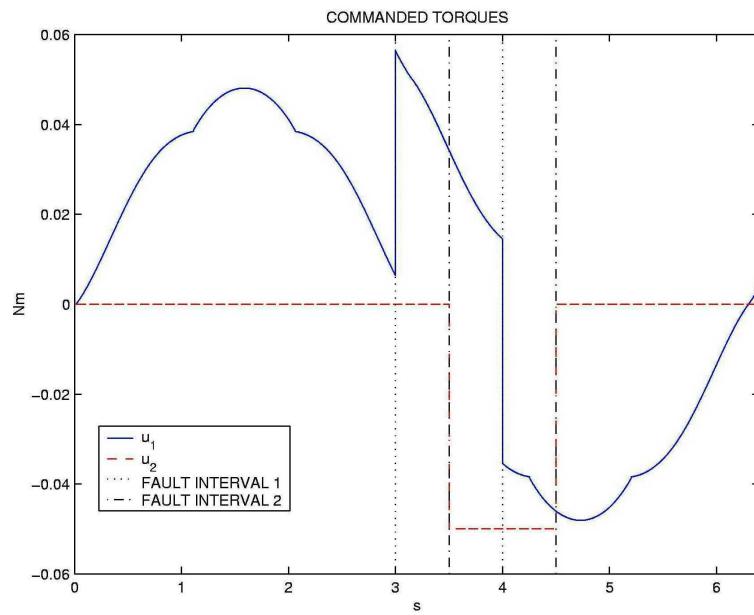
Actuator FDI

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



one motor (joint 1), encoders at both joints

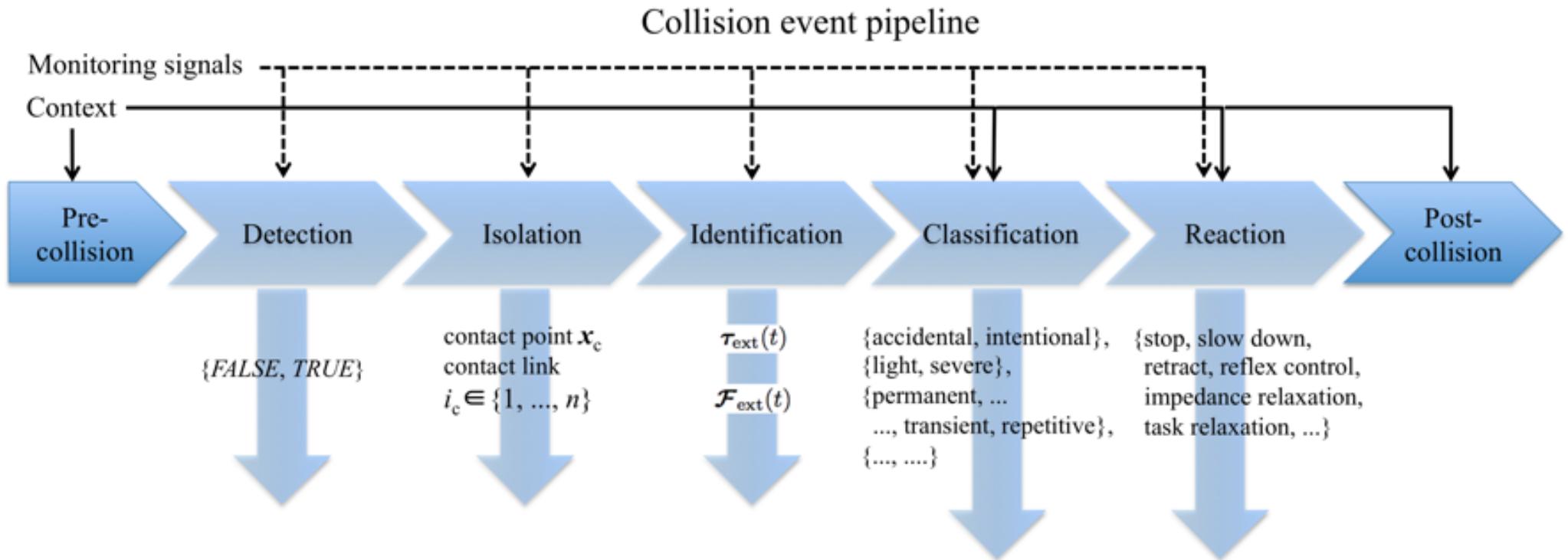
- motor 1 is driven by a sinusoidal voltage of period 2π sec (in open loop)
- **bias** fault on τ_1 for $t \in [3 \div 4]$ s
- **total** fault on joint 2 for $t \in [3.5 \div 4.5]$ s
- fault concurrency for $t \in [3.5 \div 4]$ s





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)

skew-symmetric
property in
momentum
dynamics

residual
vector

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

Coriolis/centrifugal

friction

joint torques due
to link collision
(anywhere, any time)

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

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

$\mathbf{K}_r > 0$, 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

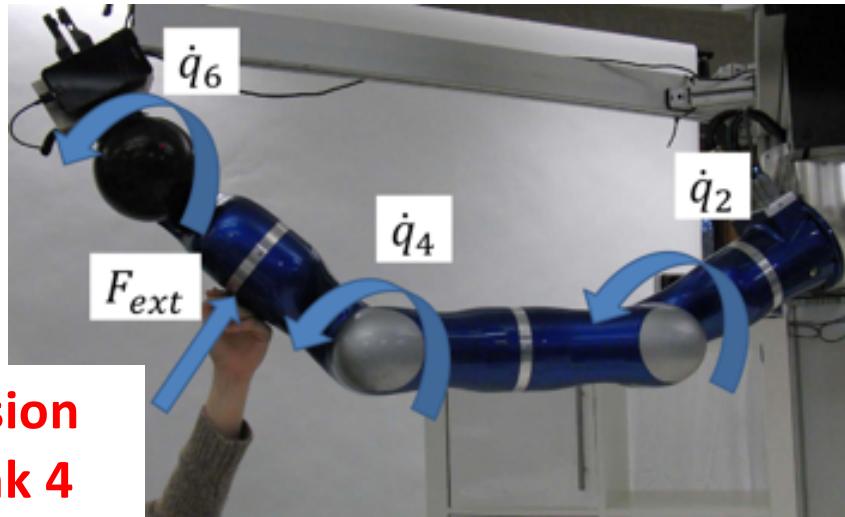
A. De Luca, R. Mattone “Sensorless robot collision detection and hybrid force/motion control” ICRA 2005

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

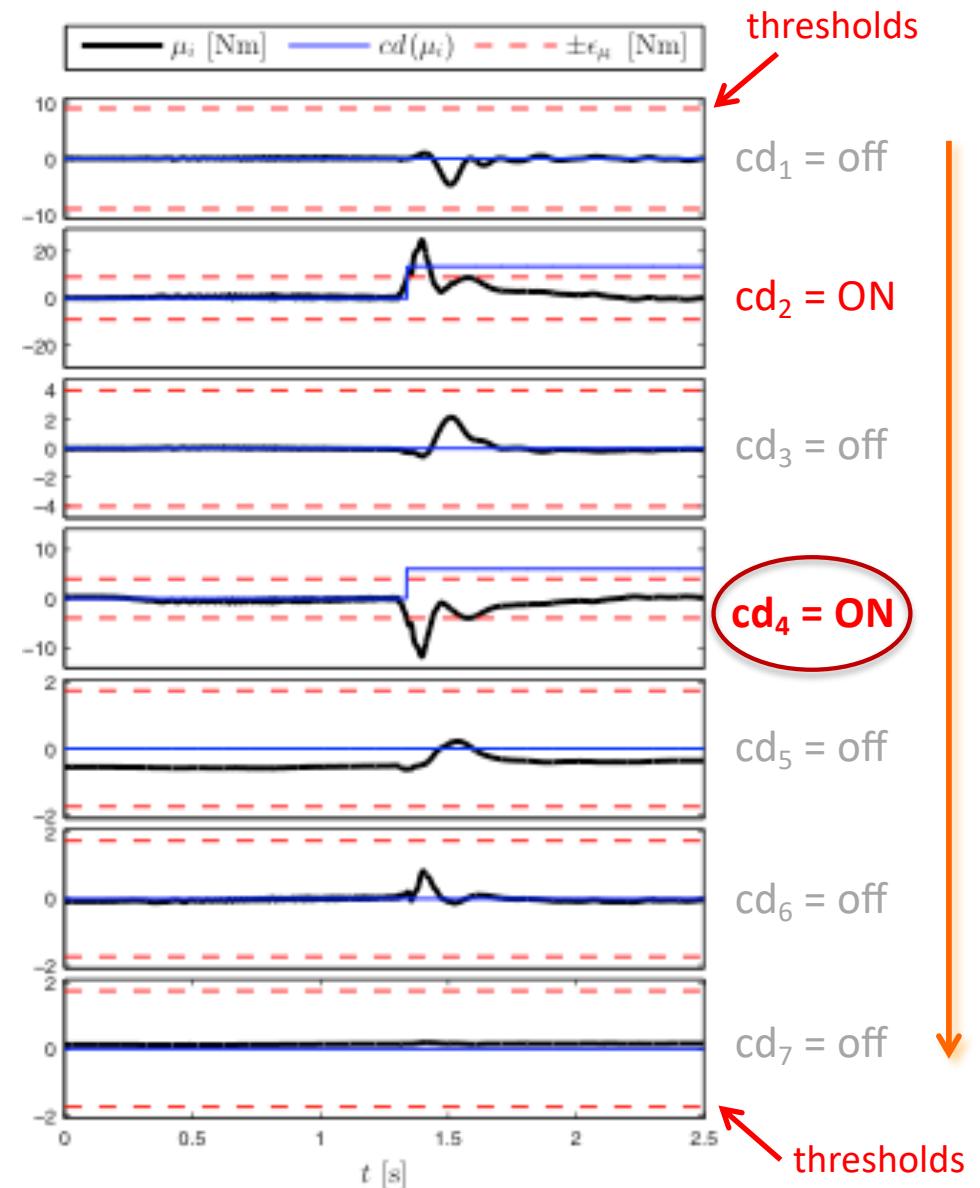
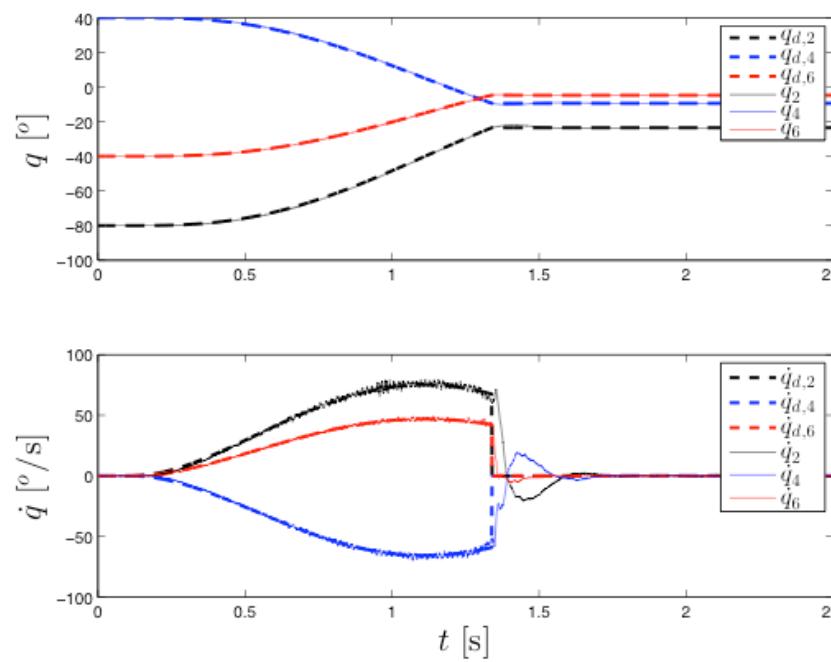


Isolation of link collisions

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

$$E = T + U_g = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} + U_g(\mathbf{q})$$

kinetic 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 σ 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)

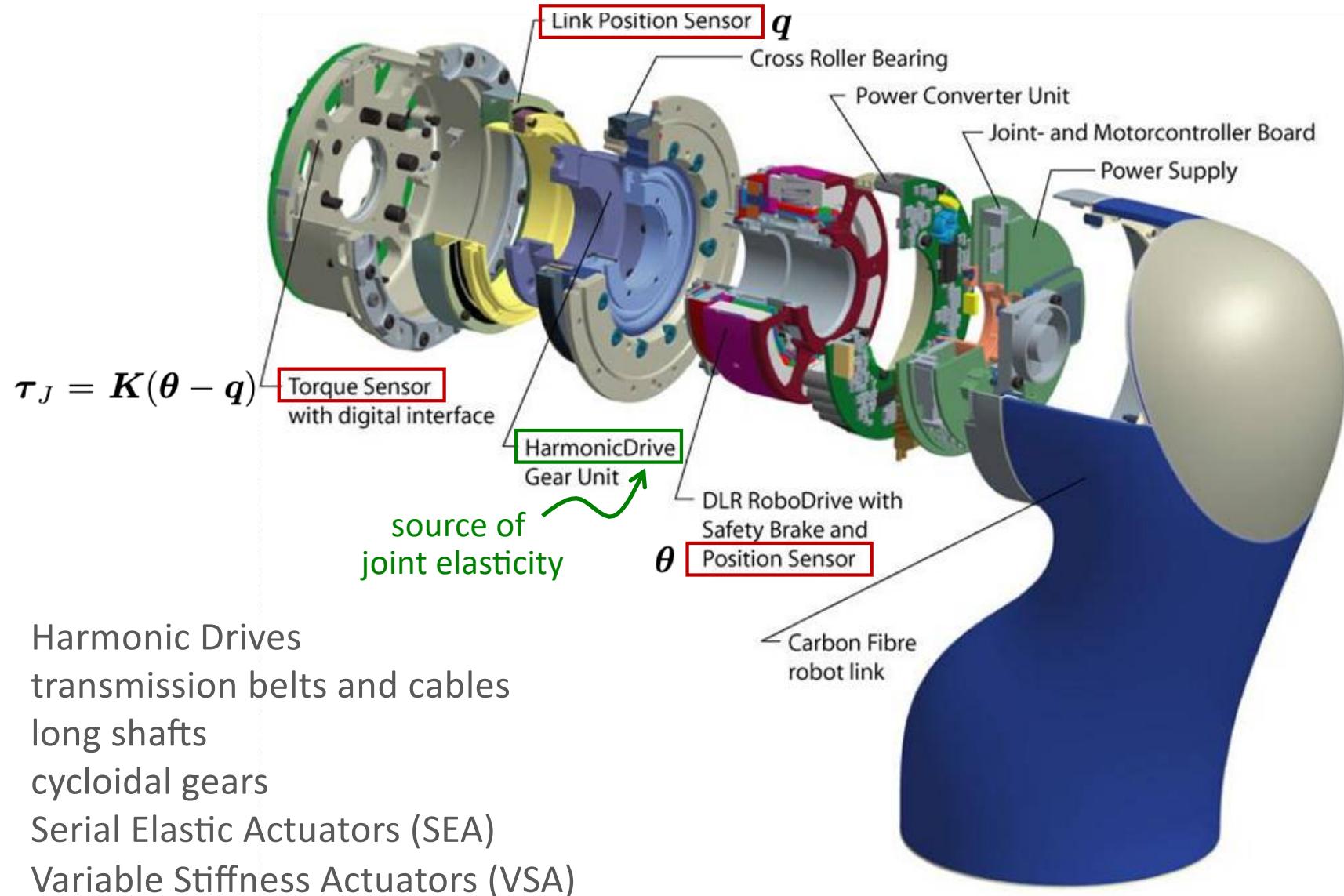


D. Zurlo, T. Heitmann, M. Morlock, A. De Luca “Collision detection and contact point estimation using virtual joint torque sensing applied to a cobot” submitted to ICRA 2023



Sources of joint elasticity

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





Robots with elastic joints

Dynamic model and properties

dynamic model
(with Spong
simplifying
assumption)

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}_J + \boldsymbol{\tau}_C \\ \mathbf{M}_m\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{f}_m(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \boldsymbol{\tau}_J = \boldsymbol{\tau} \end{cases}$$

motor friction

link
equation
motor
equation

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

generalized momentum

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_q \\ \mathbf{p}_{\theta} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \mathbf{M}_m\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{p}_q = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} \text{ (= } \mathbf{p} \text{ of the rigid case)} \quad \leftarrow$$

total robot energy

$$\begin{aligned} E_{EJ} &= T_q + T_m + U_g + U_e \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} + \frac{1}{2} \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^T \mathbf{M}_m \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + U_g(\mathbf{q}) + \frac{1}{2} (\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q})^T \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \mathbf{q}) \end{aligned}$$

elastic energy

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

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

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!**)

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

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)

Hybrid Force/Velocity Control for Physical Human-Robot Collaboration Tasks

Emanuele Magrini Alessandro De Luca

Robotics Lab, DIAG
Sapienza Università di Roma

February 2016

I-RIM 2021 (KUKA KR5)

A Model-Based Residual Approach for Human-Robot Collaboration during Manual Polishing Operations

Claudio Gaz, Emanuele Magrini, Alessandro De Luca

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Informatica, Automatica e Gestionale, Sapienza Università di Roma

May 2017

Dynamic Identification and Collision Detection/Isolation of Robots From Motor Currents/Torques with Unknown Signs

Claudio Gaz, Marco Pennese, Marco Capotondi, Valerio Modugno, Alessandro De Luca

Robotics Lab, DIAG
Sapienza Università di Roma

March 2022



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)

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

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

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

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

Theorem 2. Assume that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\dot{\boldsymbol{q}}\| \leq v$ 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 $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{q}}$.

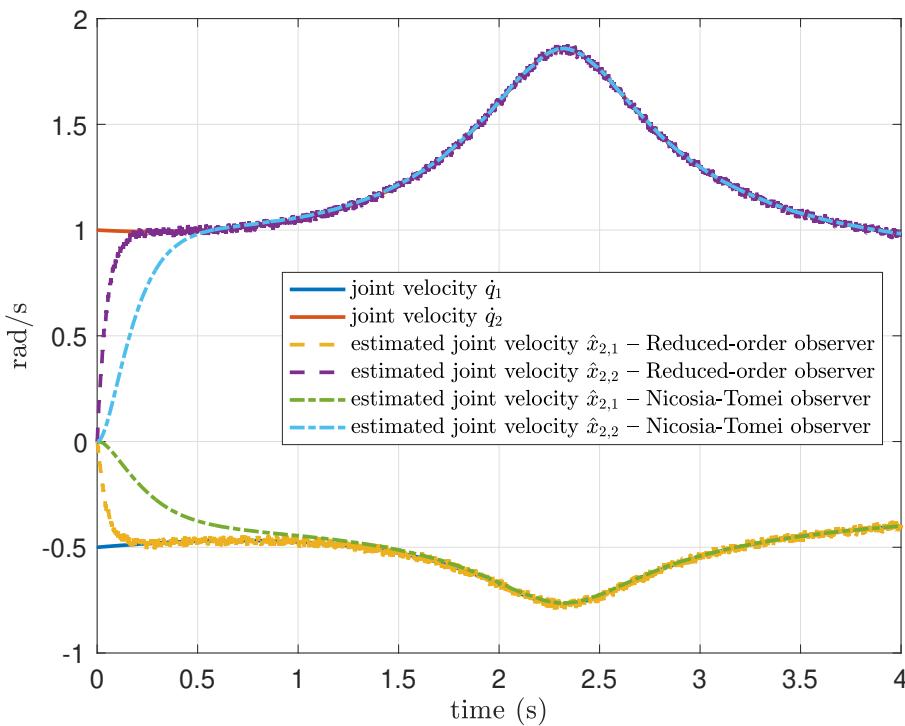
A. Cristofaro, A. De Luca “Reduced-order observer design for robot manipulators” IEEE Control Systems Letters 2023 (online Nov 2022)



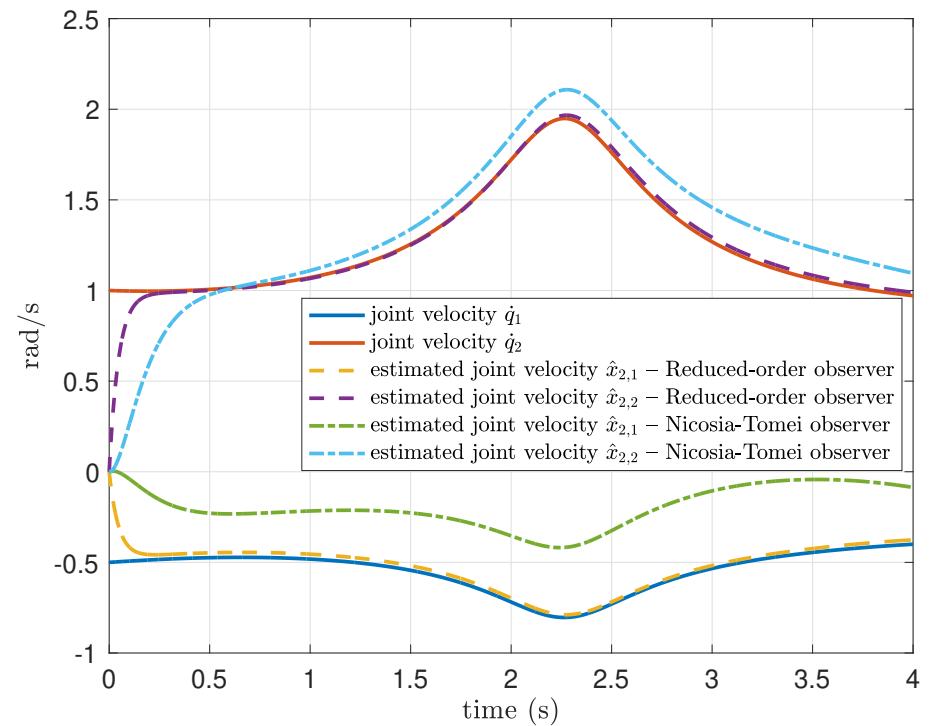
Velocity observer for rigid robots

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



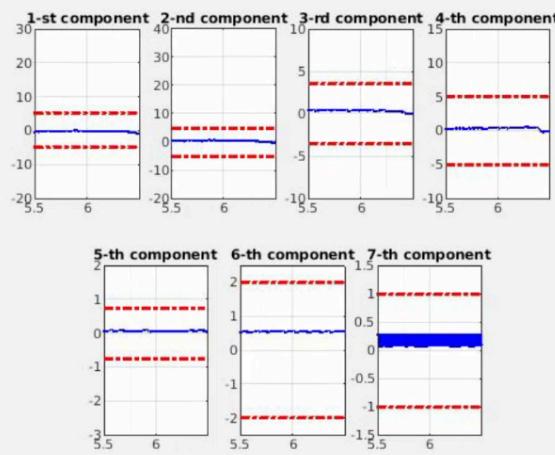
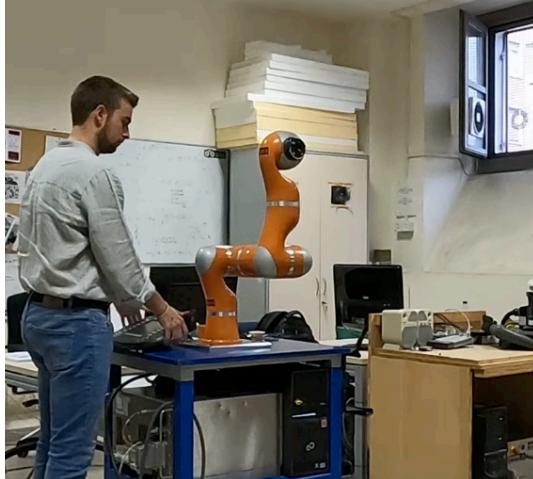
10% error on both link masses

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



Use of position-based residual for collisions

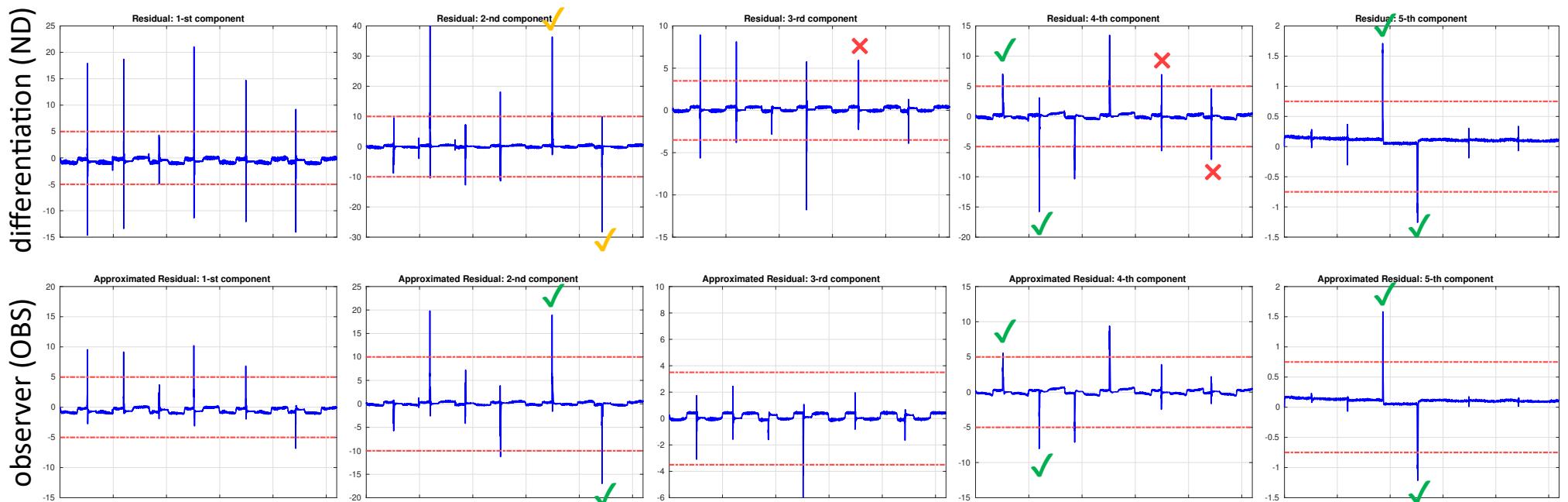
Experiments on a KUKA LWR4 with momentum-based residual using the velocity observer



- 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)

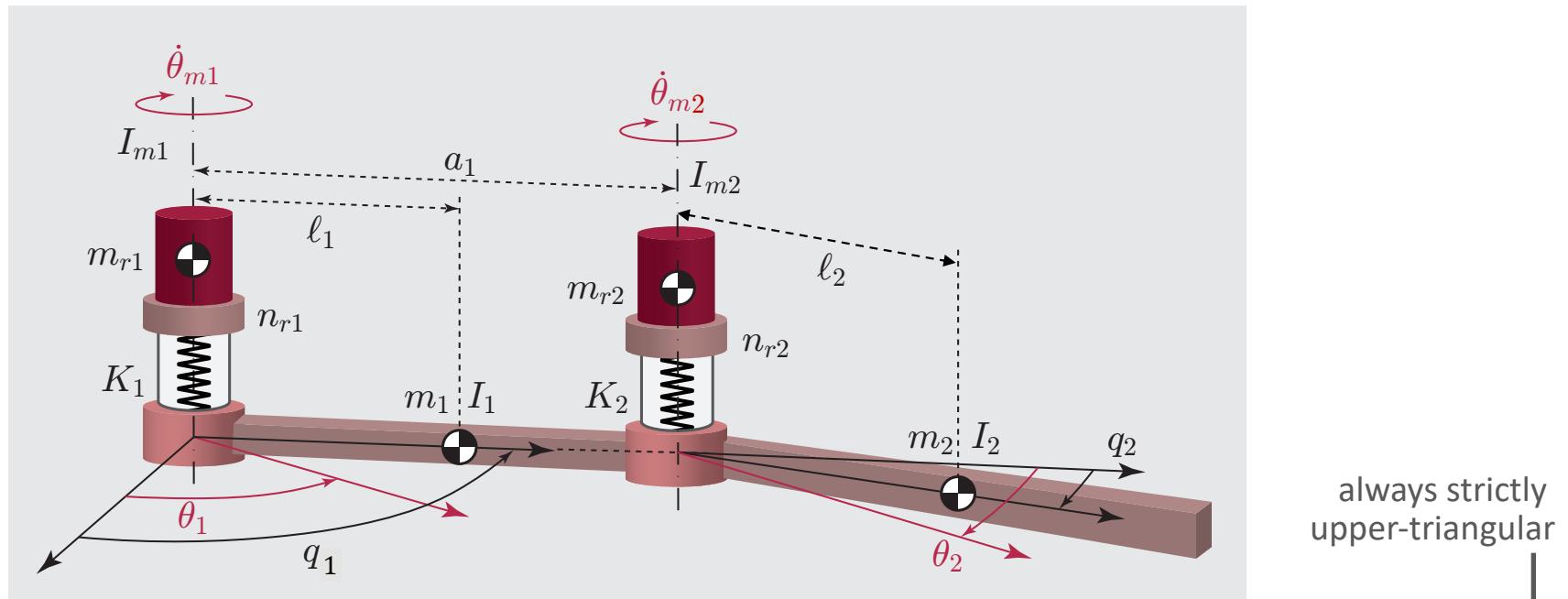




Robots with elastic joints

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**



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)

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

- 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 $\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{q})$

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

- 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

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

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

- new** vector residual for collision detection and isolation

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

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

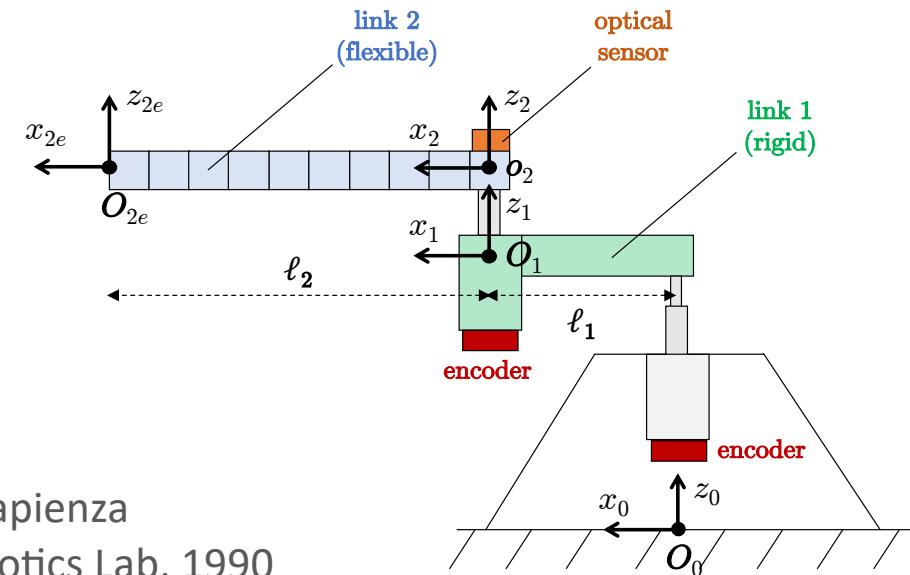
→ $\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{EJ} = \mathbf{K}_r (\boldsymbol{\tau}_C - \mathbf{r}_{EJ})$



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 θ_1
- second **flexible** link:
 - modeled as a bending Euler-Bernoulli beam with dynamic boundary conditions
 - distributed flexibility approximated with n_e modal eigenfunctions ϕ_i and variables δ_i

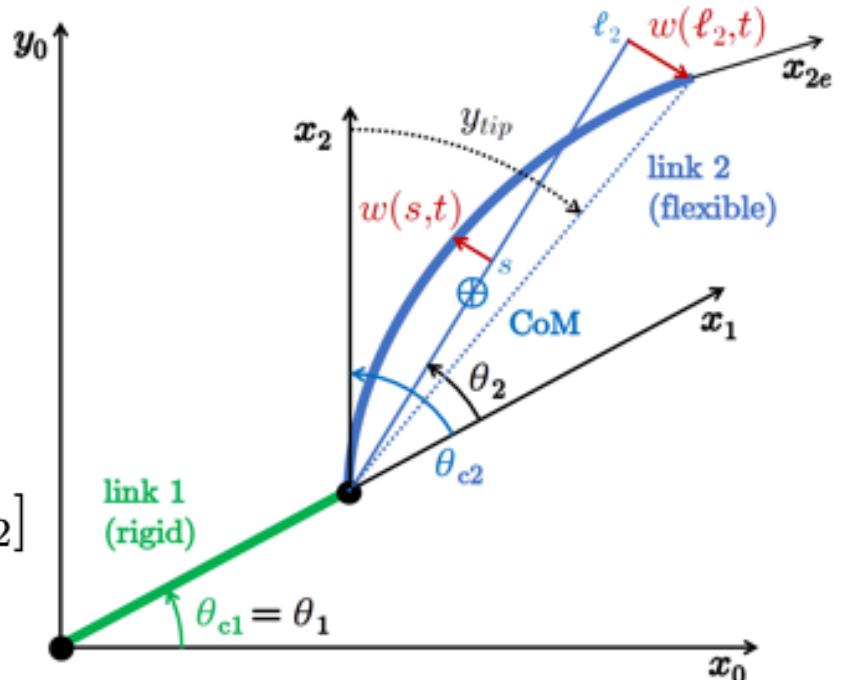
$$w(s, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n_e} \phi_i(s) \delta_i(t) = \boldsymbol{\phi}^T(s) \boldsymbol{\delta}(t) \quad s \in [0, \ell_2]$$

- joint angle θ_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

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

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

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

... with skew-symmetric property

due to modal normalization

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

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}_θ 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 ...)

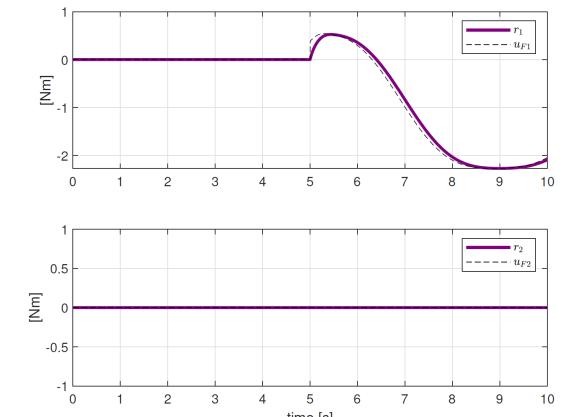
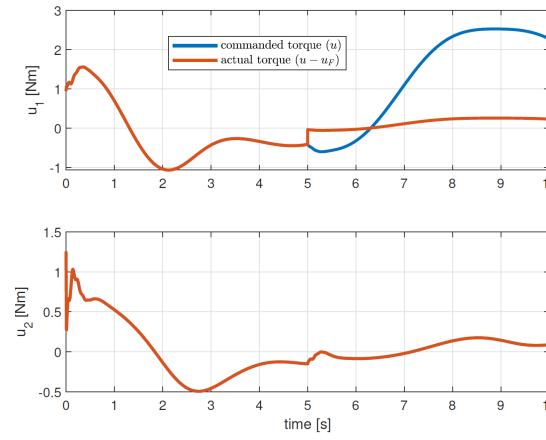
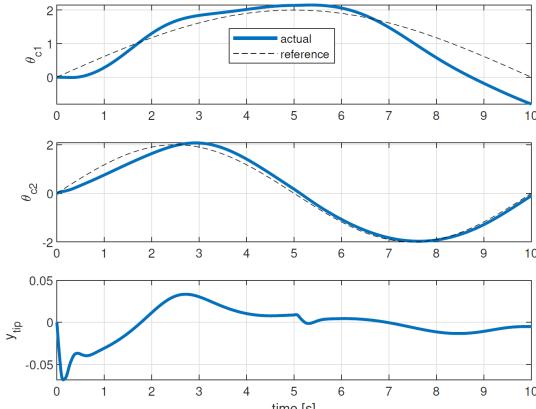
C. Gaz, A. Cristofaro, A. De Luca "Detection and isolation of actuator faults and collisions for a flexible robot arm" CDC 2020



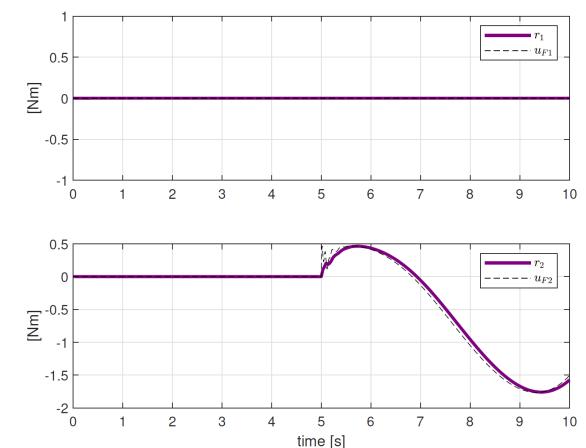
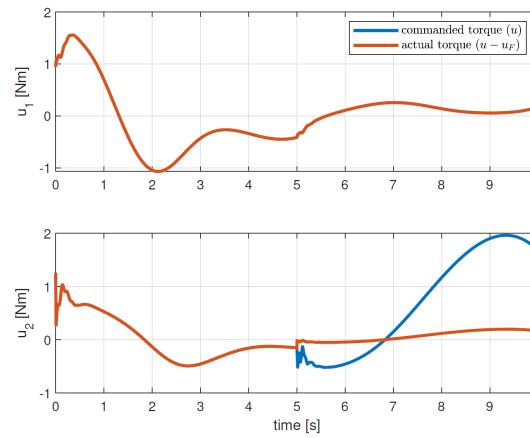
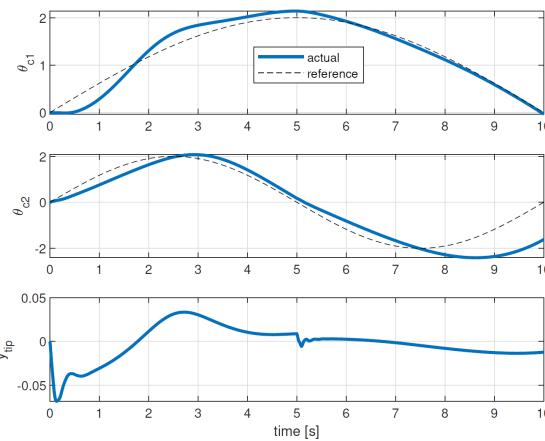
Actuator faults

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



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

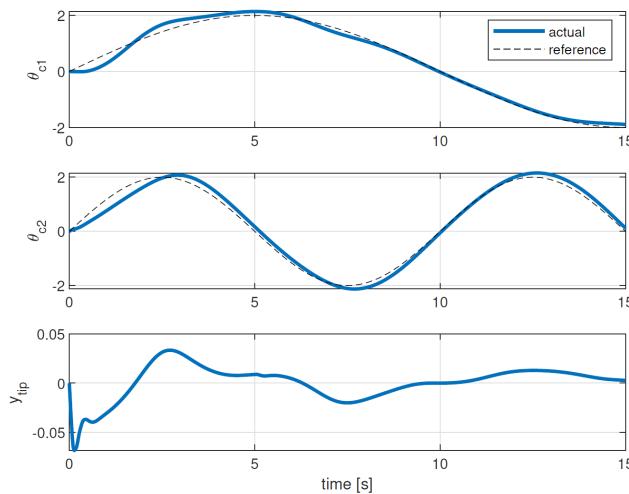




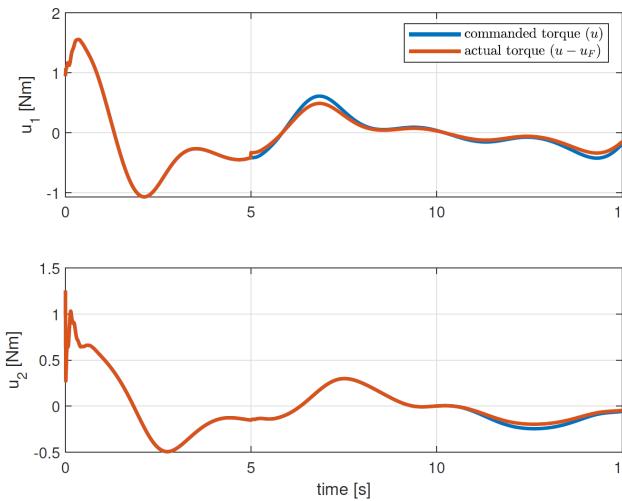
Actuator faults

Simulation results

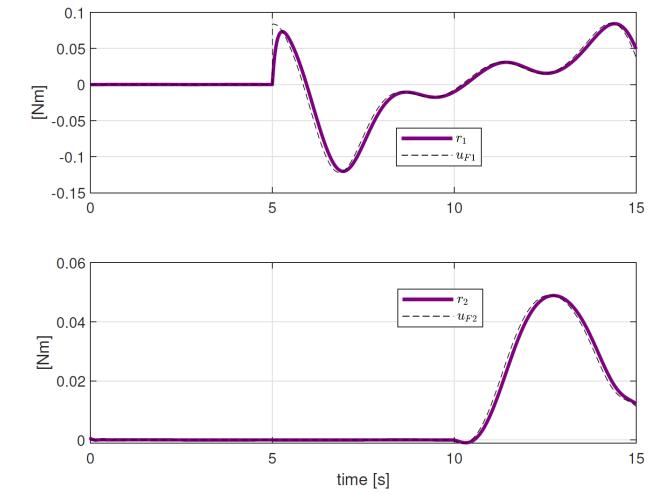
- concurrent faults on both motors: 20% of torque loss for motor 1 from $t_{F1} = 5$ s and for motor 2 from $t_{F2} = 10$ s



outputs



torques



residuals



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

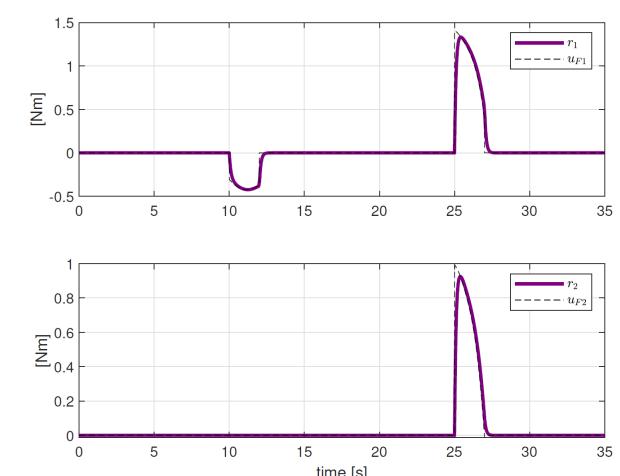
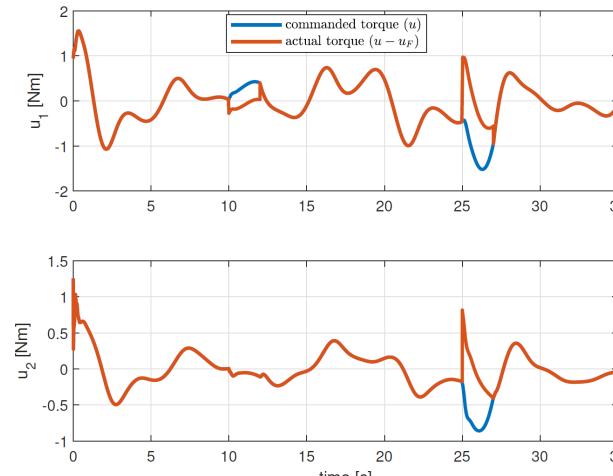
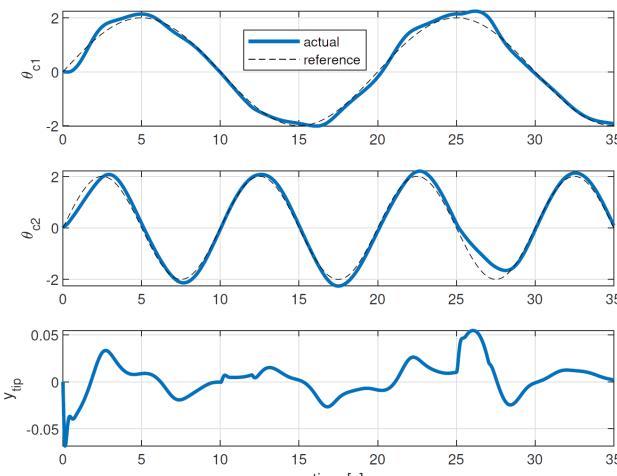


Link collisions

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



→ 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

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

- (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**

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

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

see e.g. A. Isidori “Nonlinear Control Systems” 3rd 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

$$\Phi_j^T(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} h_j(\mathbf{x}) & L_f h_j(\mathbf{x}) & \dots & L_f^{\nu_j-1} h_j(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{\nu_j}$$

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

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

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

$$\Phi_j^T(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} h_j(\mathbf{x}) & L_{\tilde{f}} h_j(\mathbf{x}) & \dots & L_{\tilde{f}}^{\nu_j-1} h_j(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{\nu_j}$$

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

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 $h_j(q)$ |
| no vector relative degree | $r = r_1 + r_2 + r_3 = 2 + 2 + 2 = 6 < 8 = \nu$ | | $L_{\tilde{f}} h_j(\mathbf{x}) = L_f h_j(\mathbf{x})$ |
| PD control with observed state(s) | $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{K}_P (\theta_{c,des} - \theta_c) + \mathbf{K}_D (\dot{\theta}_{c,des} - \dot{\theta}_c)$ | | |
| drift-like observability map | $\mathbf{z} = \Phi(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1(\mathbf{q}) & L_f \theta_1(\dot{\mathbf{q}}) & L_{\tilde{f}}^2 \theta_1(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \\ \theta_{c2}(\mathbf{q}) & L_f \theta_{c2}(\dot{\mathbf{q}}) & L_{\tilde{f}}^2 \theta_{c2}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \\ y_{tip}(\mathbf{q}) & L_f y_{tip}(\dot{\mathbf{q}}) \end{pmatrix}^T$ | | |
| | $\nu_1 + \nu_2 + \nu_3 = 3 + 3 + 2 = 8 = \nu$ | $\mathbf{J}_\Phi(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \Big _{\mathbf{x}=\Phi^{-1}(\mathbf{z})}$ | nonsingular |
| nonlinear observer | $\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} = \mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + \mathbf{g}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})\mathbf{u}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + \mathbf{J}_\Phi^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})\boldsymbol{\Gamma}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{h}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}))$ | | |

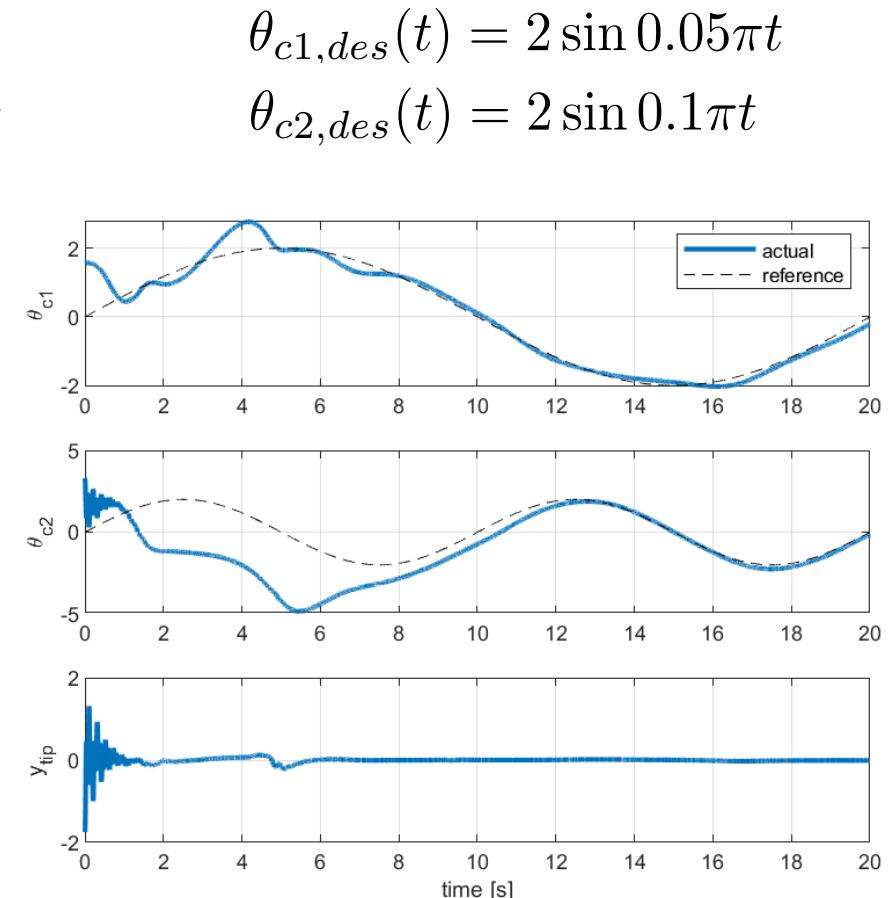
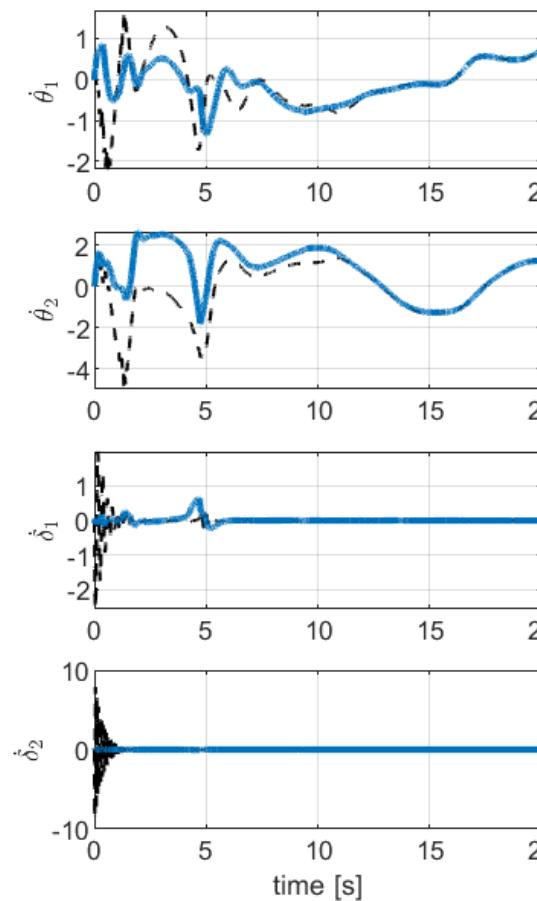
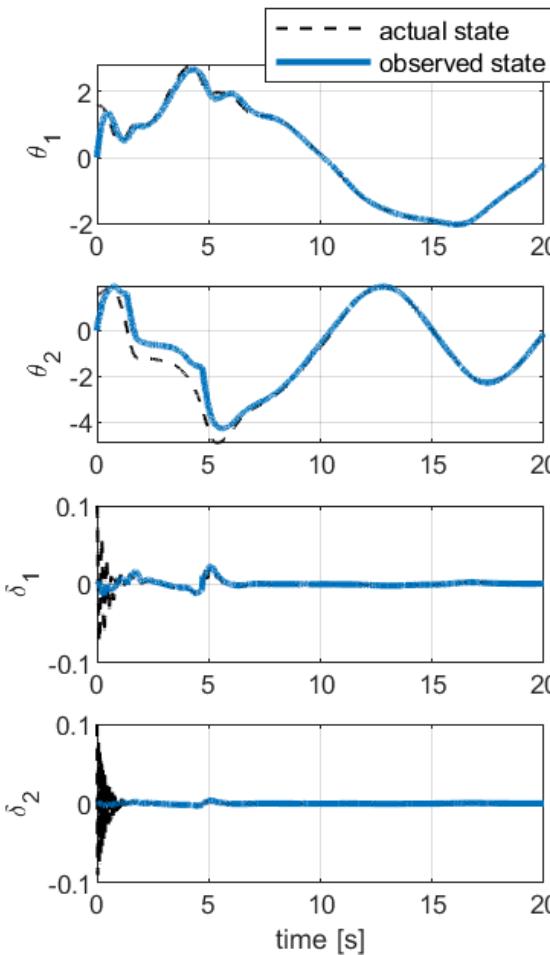
C. Gaz, A. Cristofaro, P. Palumbo, A. De Luca "A nonlinear observer for a flexible robot arm and its use in fault and collision detection" CDC 2022



Dynamic feedback control

Simulation results: observer performance

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



estimation error convergence for the 8 states

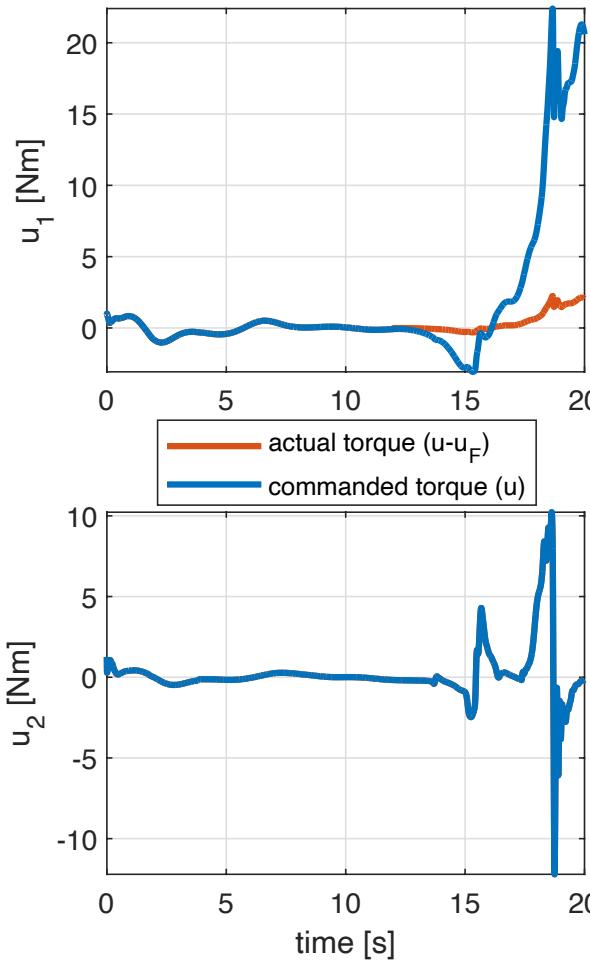
tracking error convergence
for the 3 outputs



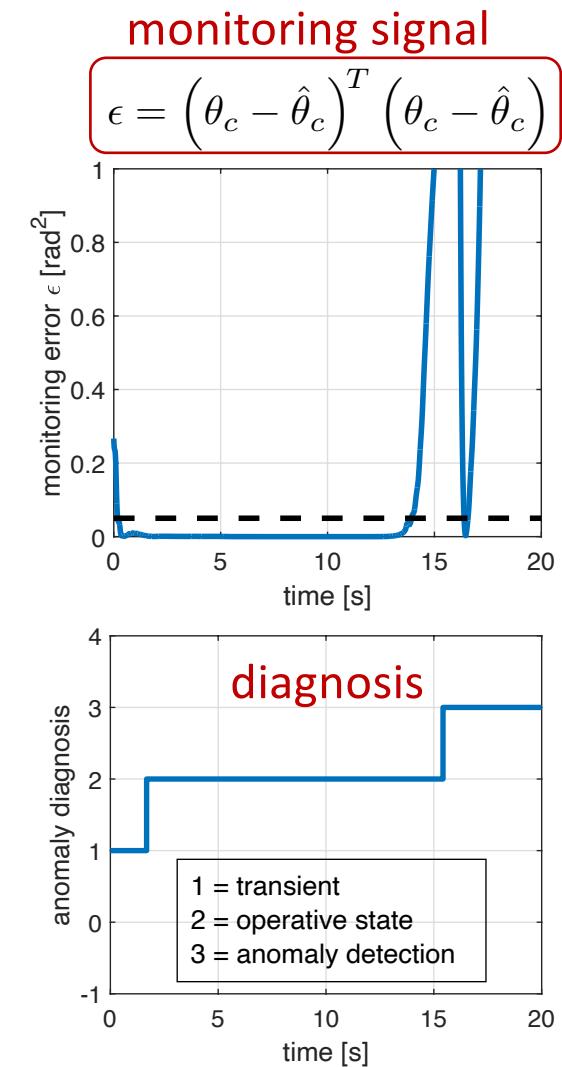
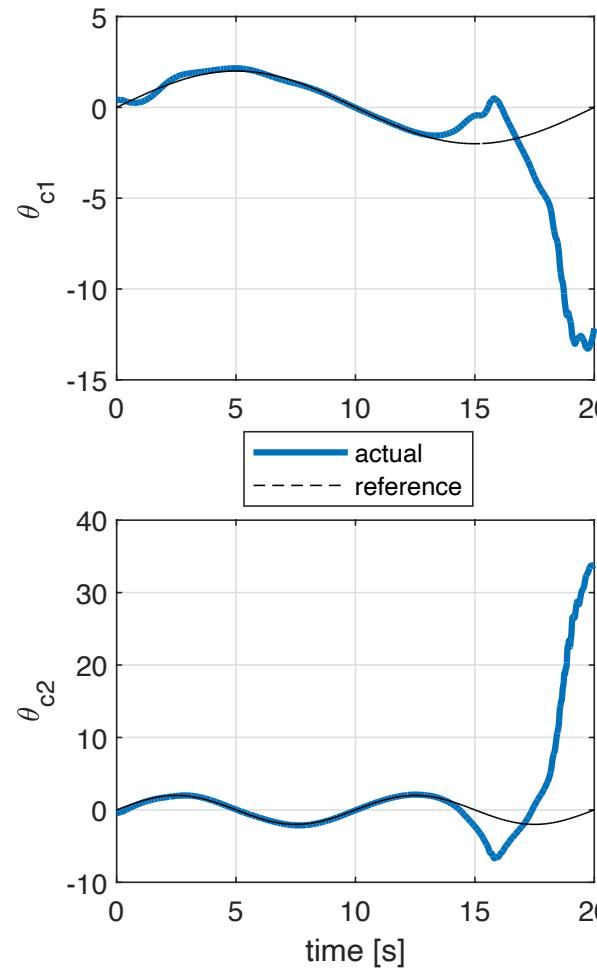
Actuator fault detection

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

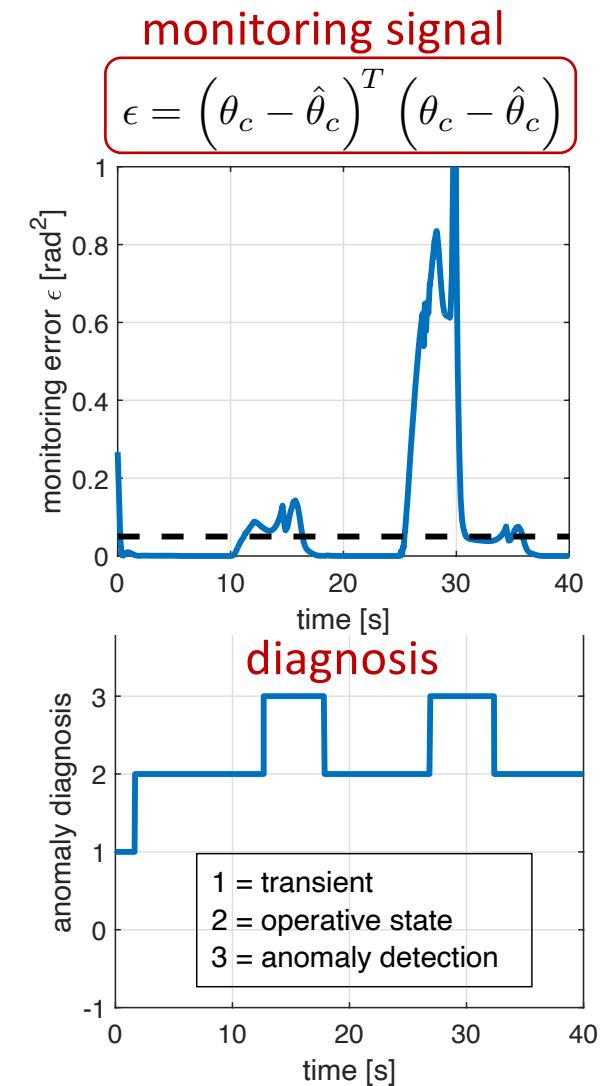
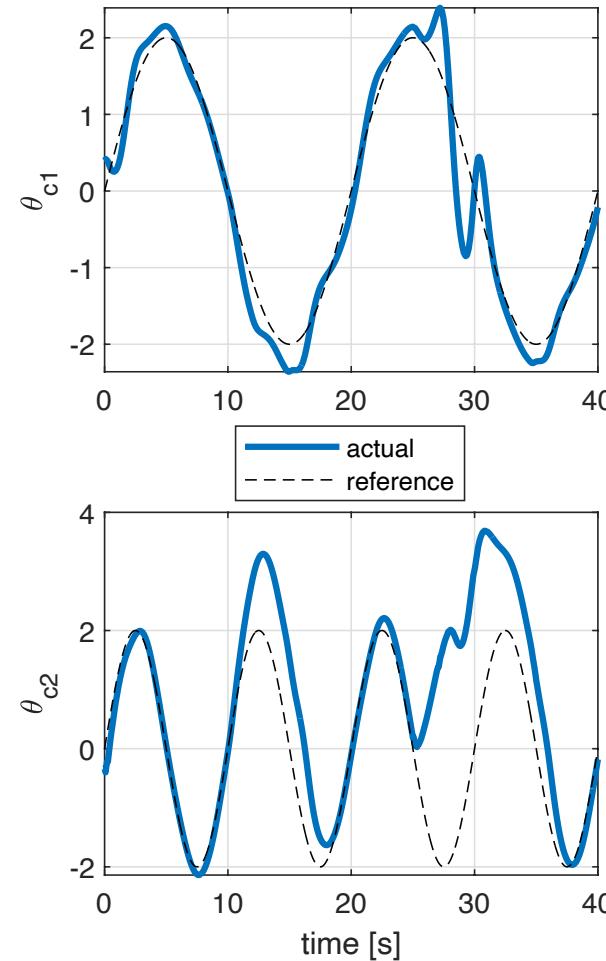
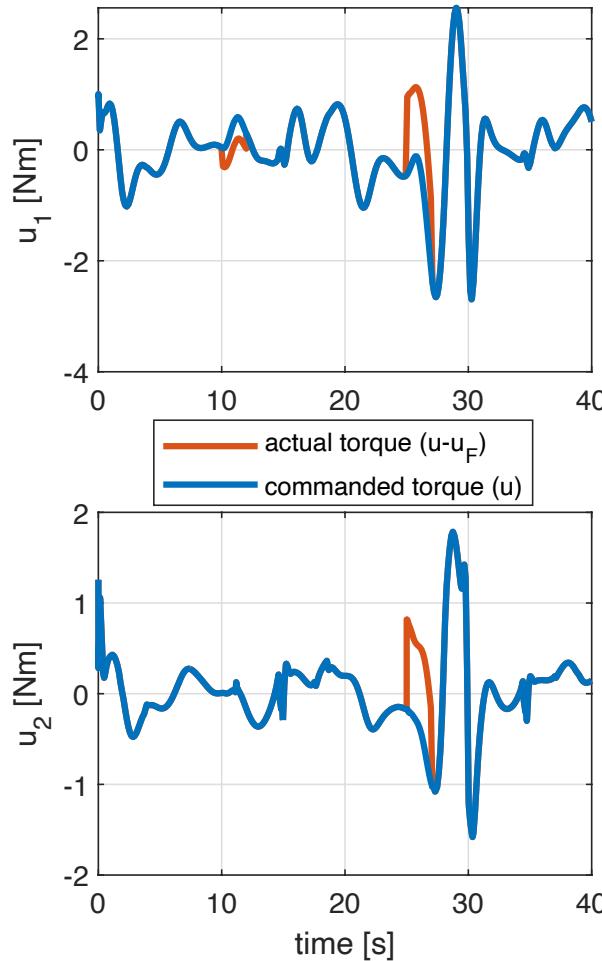




Link collision detection

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





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

- 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



... bibliography and video

Download pdf for personal use at www.diag.uniroma1.it/deluca/Publications

- 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/user/RoboticsLabSapienza) **Playlist:** [Physical human-robot interaction](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD9zXWVJLjyfOOGvPQHgqCwzGKUoMmD)

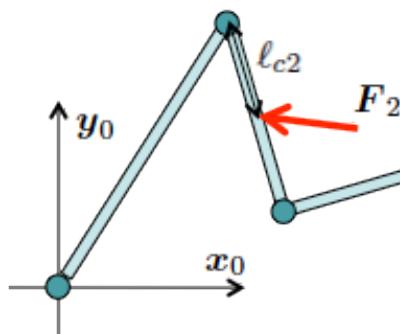
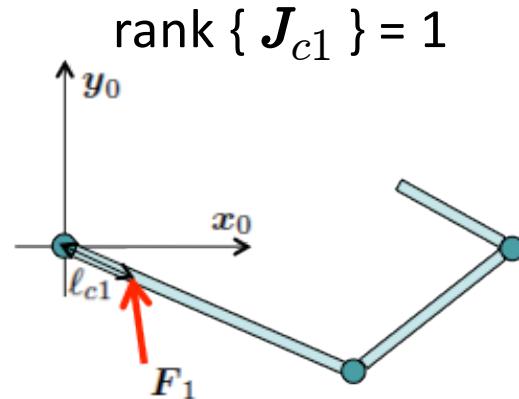


Estimation of contact force

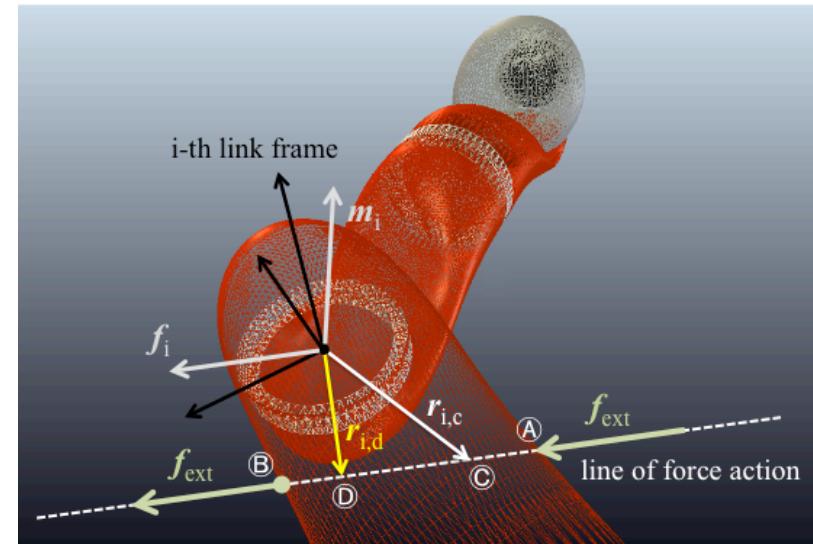
Sometimes, even **without** external sensing

- if contact is sufficiently “down” along the kinematic chain (≥ 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:

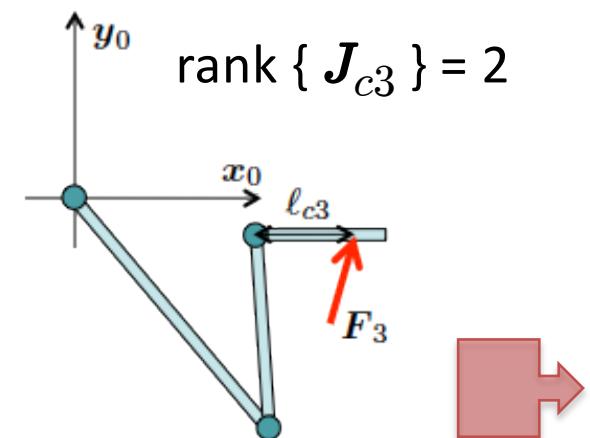
only **normal** force to link,
if contact point is known
(**1** informative residual signal)



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



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





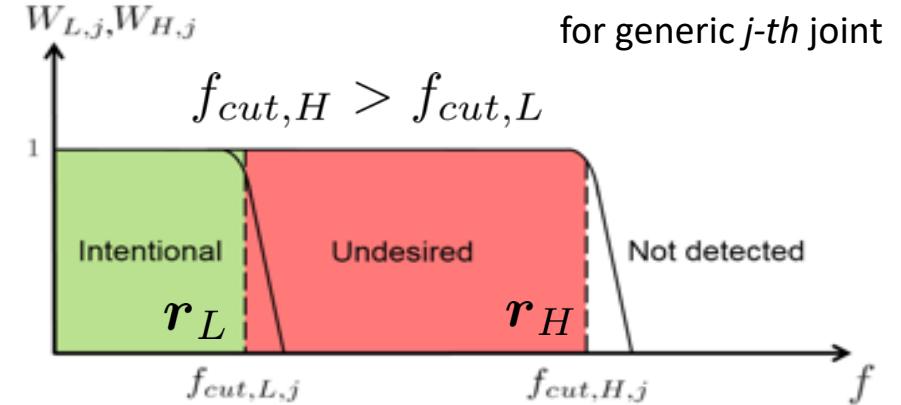
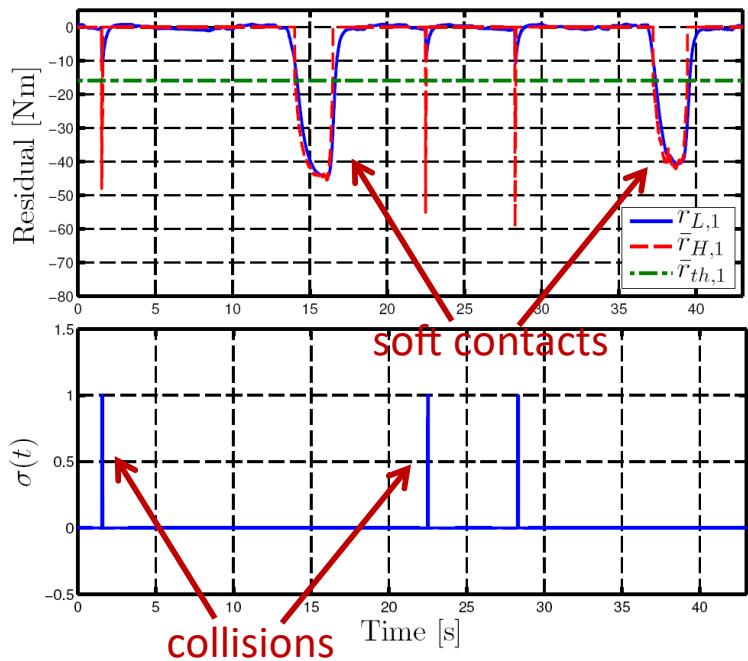
Collision or collaboration?

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

