



Robotics 2

Detection and isolation of robot actuator faults

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Fault diagnosis problems - 1

- in the diagnosis of faults possibly affecting a (nonlinear) dynamic system various problems can be formulated
- **Fault Detection**
 - recognize that the malfunctioning of the (controlled) system is due to the occurrence of a fault (or not proper behavior) affecting some physical or functional component of the system
- **Fault Isolation**
 - discriminate which particular fault f has occurred out of a (large) class of potential ones, by distinguishing it from any other fault and from the effects of disturbances possibly acting on the system
- **Fault Identification**
 - determine the time profile (and/or class type) of the isolated fault f
- **Fault Accommodation**
 - modify the control law so as to compensate for the effects of the detected and isolated fault (possibly also identified)



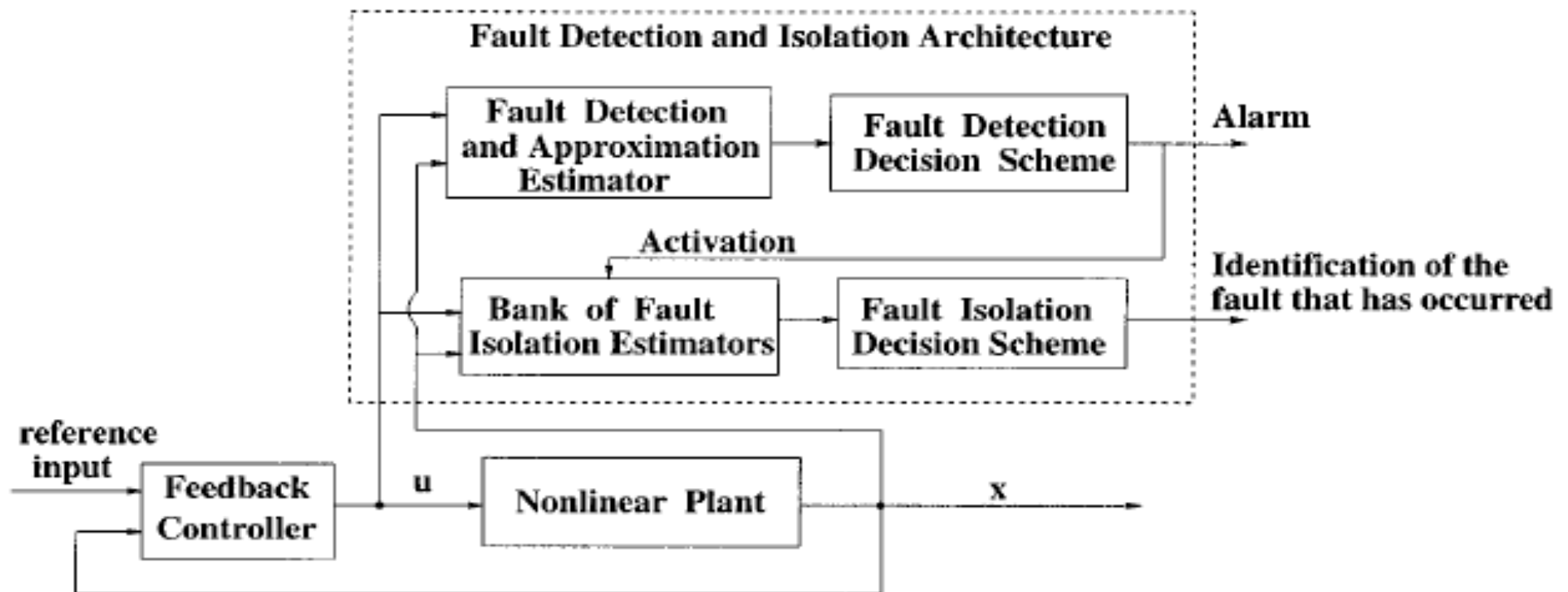
Fault diagnosis problems - 2

- **FDI solution** (simultaneous detection and isolation)
 - definition of an auxiliary dynamic system (**Residual Generator**) whose **output** will depend only on the presence of the fault f to be detected and isolated (and **not** on any other fault or disturbance) and will converge asymptotically to zero when $f \equiv 0$ (**stability**)
 - in case of many potential faults, each component r_i of the **vector r of residuals** will depend on one and only one associated fault f_i (possibly reproducing approximately its time behavior)
 - many of the FDI schemes are **model-based**: they use a nominal (fault- and disturbance-free) dynamic model of the system
- **Fault Tolerant Control**
 - **passive**: control scheme that is intrinsically robust to uncertainties and/or faults (typically having only moderate/limited effects)
 - **active**: control scheme involving a reconfiguration after FDI (with guaranteed performance for the faulted system)



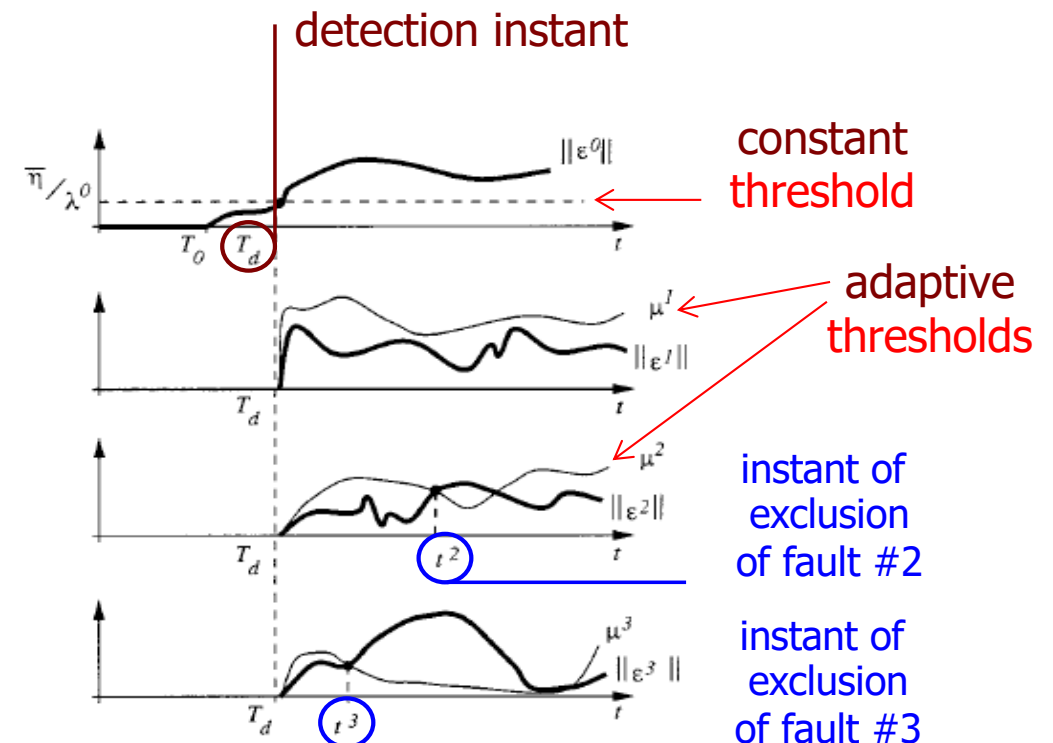
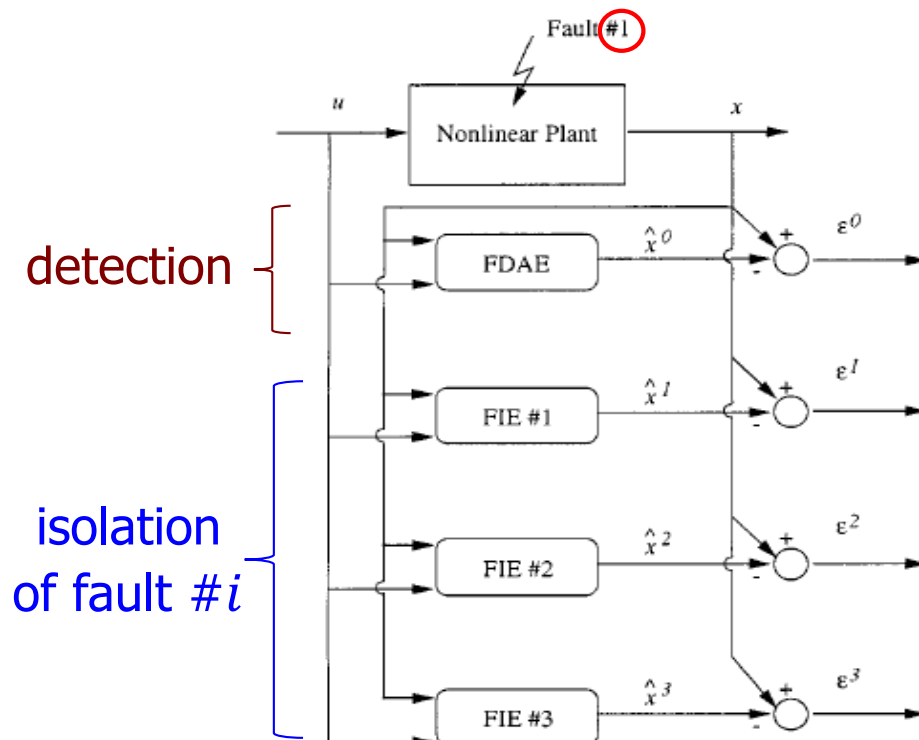
Typical FDI architecture

- bank of $n + 1$ (model-based) estimators
 - 1 for **detection** of a faulty condition
 - n for **isolation** of the specific (in general, **modeled**) fault



Some terminology

- fault types
 - instantaneous (abrupt), incipient (slow), intermittent, concurrent
- **thresholds** for detection/isolation (also adaptive)
 - delay times (w.r.t. the instant T_0 of fault start) vs. false alarms





Actuator faults in robots

$q \in \mathbb{R}^N$

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q, \dot{q}) + g(q) + F_V \dot{q} + F_S \operatorname{sgn}(\dot{q}) = u - u_f$$

actual torque

inertia matrix (> 0)

centrifugal and Coriolis

gravity

viscous and static friction

actuation torques

vector of actuation faults (even concurrent on more axes)

- total fault $u_{f,i} = u_i$
- partial fault $u_{f,i} = \varepsilon u_i$ ($0 < \varepsilon < 1$)
- saturation $u_{f,i} = u_i - \operatorname{sgn}(u_i) u_{i,max}$
- bias $u_{f,i} = b_i$??
- block $u_{f,i} = \dots$
- ... **any type!**



Working assumptions

- signals and measurements available
 - the commanded input torque u , but obviously *not* u_f ...
 - a measure of the **full state** (q, \dot{q}) is available
 - can be relaxed: in practice, with an **estimate** of joint velocities
 - no further sensors are anyway necessary (“**sensorless**”)
- the **robot dynamic model is known**
 - in the absence of faults, and neglecting disturbances
 - **no** pre-specified **model or type of faults** is needed
- **no** dependence on/request of a **specific input** $u(t)$
 - can be anything (open loop, linear or nonlinear feedback)
- **no** dependence on/request of a **specific motion** $q_d(t)$



Generalized momentum

$$p = M(q)\dot{q}$$

with associated dynamic equation

$$\dot{p} = u - u_f - \alpha(q, \dot{q})$$

decoupled components
relative to the single fault inputs

exploiting structure
of centrifugal and
Coriolis terms

$$\alpha_i = -\frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T \frac{\partial M(q)}{\partial q_i} \dot{q} + g_i(q) + F_{V,i} \dot{q}_i + F_{S,i} \operatorname{sgn}(\dot{q}_i)$$

scalar expressions, for $i = 1, \dots, N$



FDI solution

- definition of a **vector of residuals**

$$r = K \left[\int (u - \alpha(q, \dot{q}) - r) dt - p \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} K > 0 \\ \text{diagonal} \end{array}$$

- no need to compute joint accelerations nor to invert the robot inertia matrix $M(q)$
- with perfect model knowledge, the dynamics of r is

N **decoupled** filters,
with unitary gains and
time constants $\tau_i = 1/k_i$

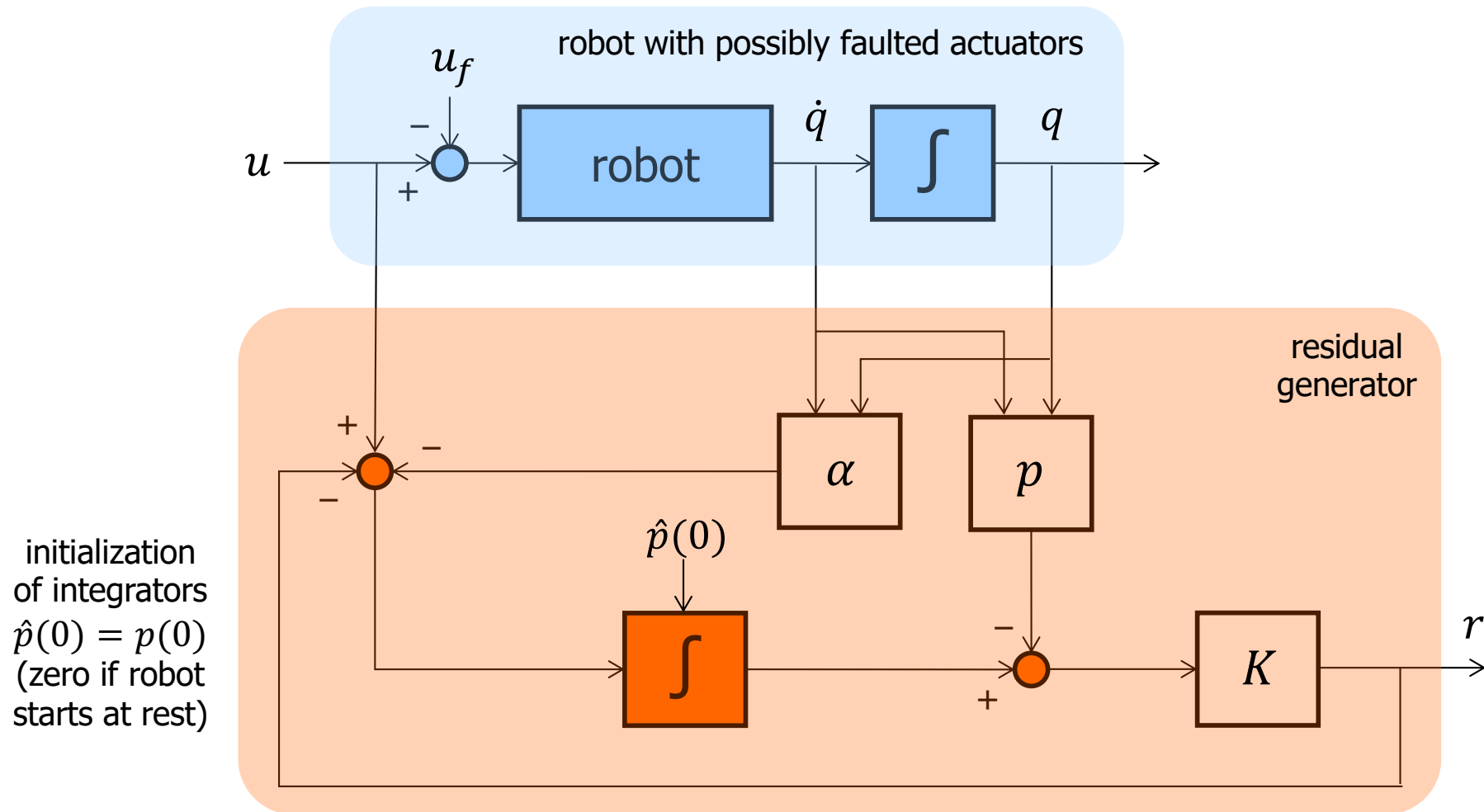
$$\dot{r} = -Kr + Ku_f$$

in the Laplace domain

$$\frac{r_i(s)}{u_{f,i}(s)} = \frac{k_i}{s + k_i} = \frac{1}{1 + \tau_i s}$$

for sufficiently large K , r reproduces the time behavior of u_f

Block diagram of the residual generator



$$r = K \left[\int (u - \alpha(q, \dot{q}) - r) dt - p \right]$$

Residual generator as “disturbance observer”



from the
block diagram...

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\hat{p}} &= u - \alpha(q, \dot{q}) + K(p - \hat{p}) \\ r &= K(\hat{p} - p)\end{aligned}$$

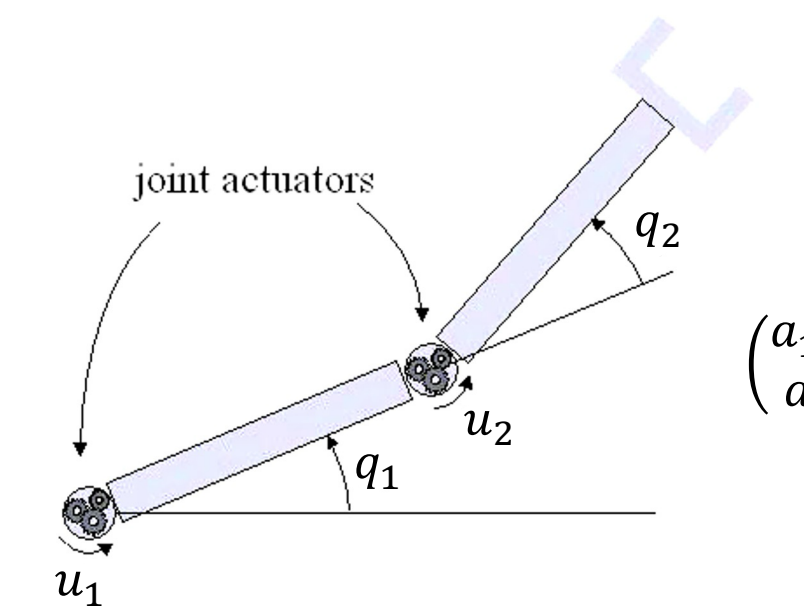


dynamic observer of the unknown actuation faults
($r \approx \rightarrow u_f =$ external disturbances)
with **linear** error dynamics (for constant u_f)

$$\begin{aligned}e_{obs} = u_f - r &\quad \rightarrow \quad \dot{e}_{obs} = \dot{u}_f - \dot{r} = \dot{u}_f - K(\dot{\hat{p}} - \dot{p}) \\ &= \dot{u}_f - K \left((u - \alpha - r) - (u - \alpha - u_f) \right) \\ &= \dot{u}_f - K(u_f - r) = \dot{u}_f - K e_{obs} \cong -K e_{obs}\end{aligned}$$

A worked-out example

- planar 2R robot under gravity



dynamic model (without friction)

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + \underbrace{c(q, \dot{q})}_{= S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q}} + g(q) = u - u_f$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 + 2a_2c_2 & a_3 + a_2c_2 \\ a_3 + a_2c_2 & a_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \ddot{q}_1 \\ \ddot{q}_2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -a_2(2\dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)\dot{q}_2s_2 \\ a_2\dot{q}_1^2s_2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} a_4c_1 + a_5c_{12} \\ a_5c_{12} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 - u_{f,1} \\ u_2 - u_{f,2} \end{pmatrix}$$

computation of the residual vector

$$r = K \left[\int (u - \alpha(q, \dot{q}) - r) dt - p \right]$$

$$p = M(q)\dot{q}$$

$$\alpha_1 = g_1(q) = a_4c_1 + a_5c_{12}$$

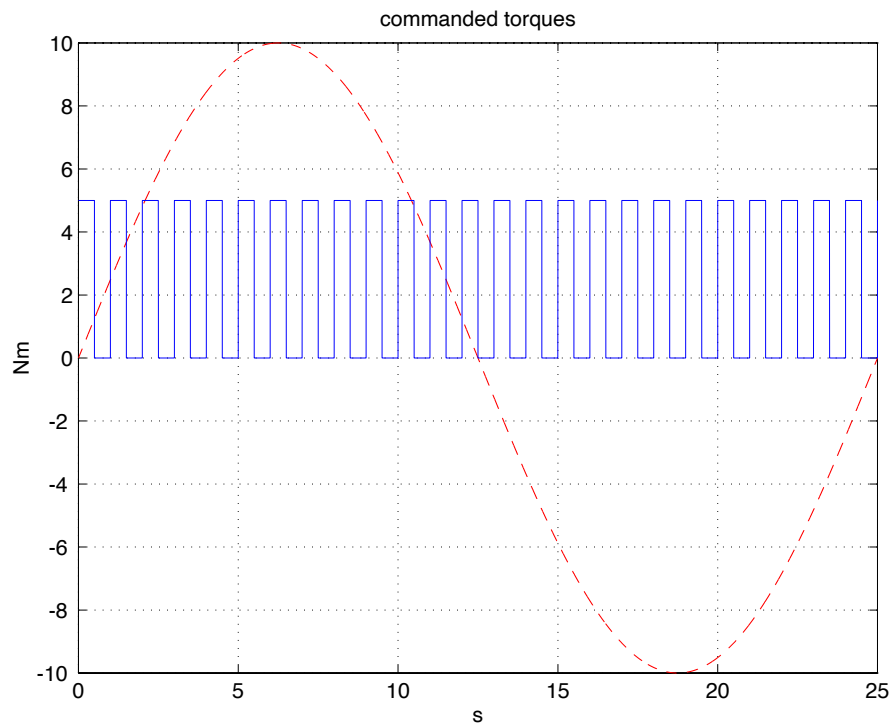
$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_2 &= -\frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T \frac{\partial M(q)}{\partial q_2} \dot{q} + g_2(q) \\ &= a_2(\dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2)\dot{q}_1s_2 + a_5c_{12} \end{aligned}$$



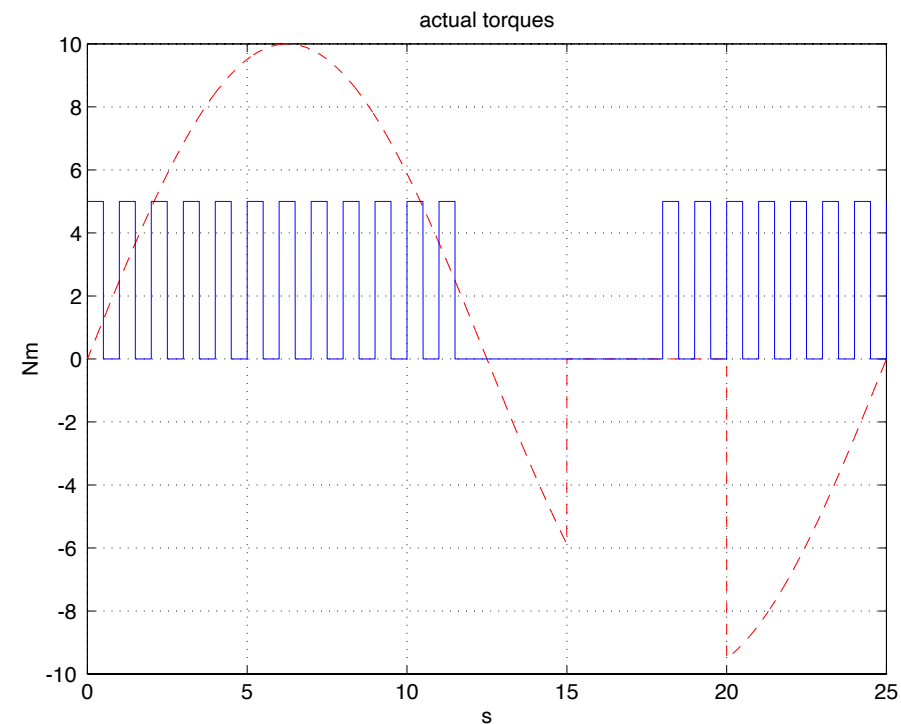
Faults on both actuators

(total, intermittent, concurrent)

commanded torques (in open loop)



actual (faulted) torques



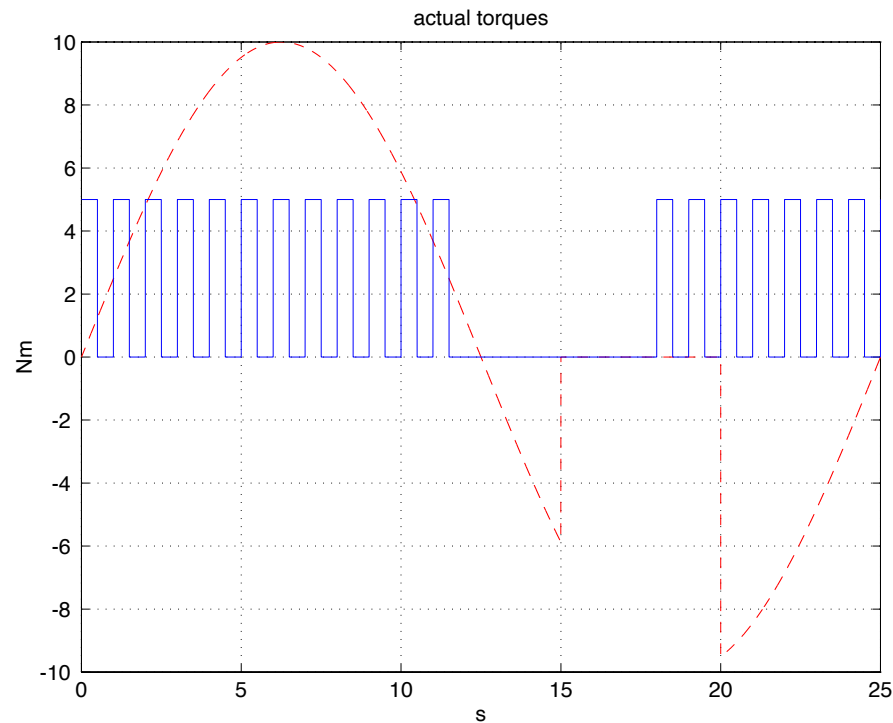
- = first joint (fault for $t \in [15 \div 20]$ sec)
- = second joint (fault for $t \in [12 \div 18]$ sec)

time interval of
fault **concurrency**
 $t \in [15 \div 18]$ sec



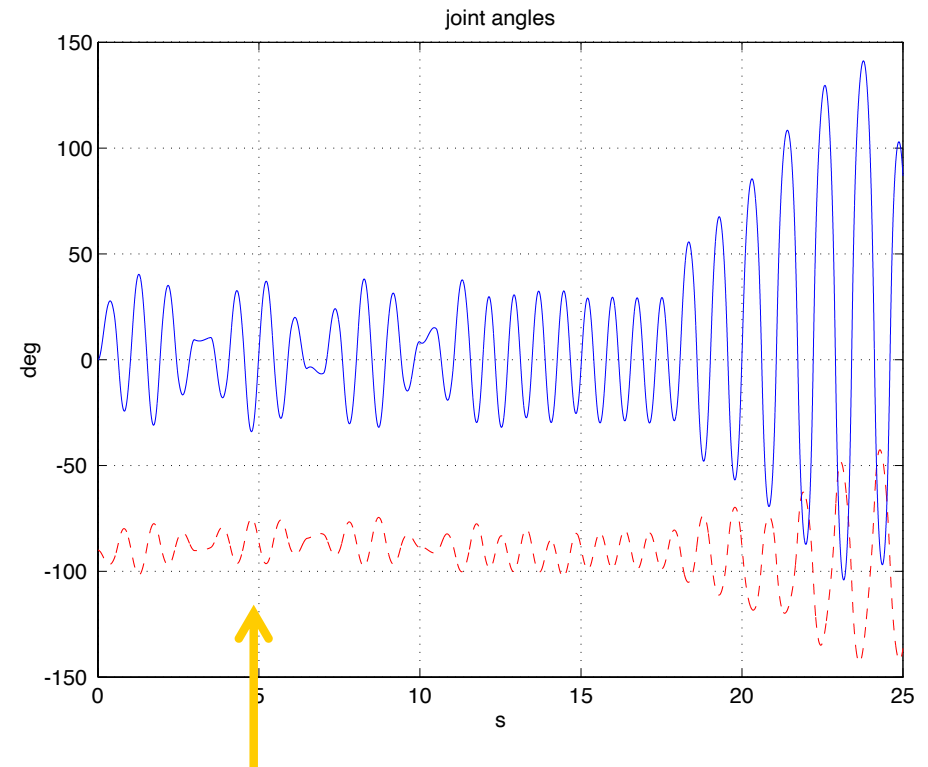
First simulation

actual torques (to the robot)



— = first joint
— = second joint

(measured) joint positions

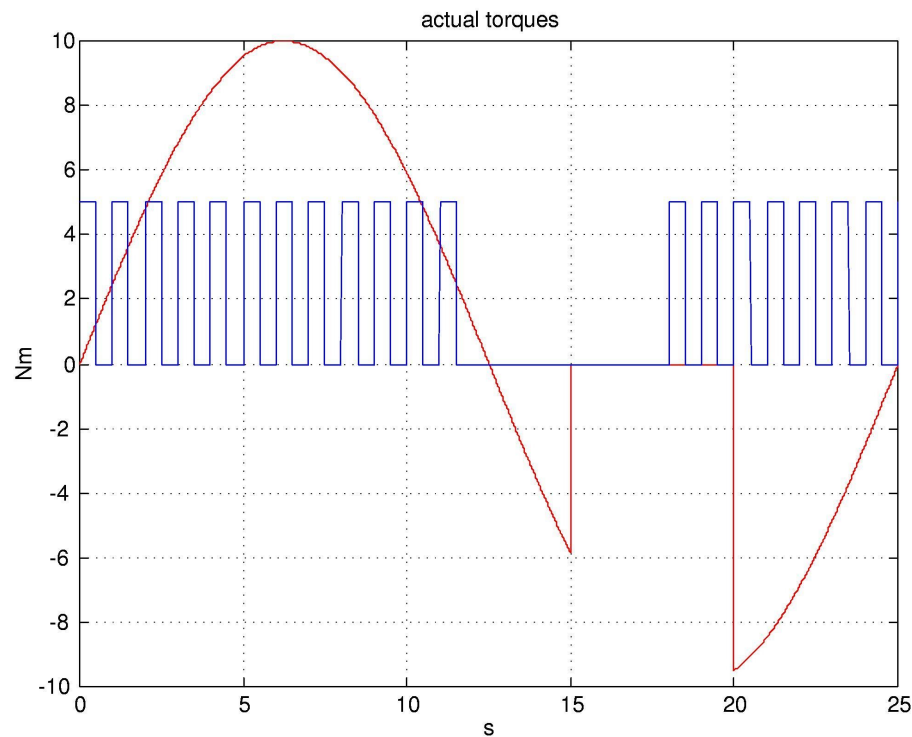


no clear evidence of faults in the dynamic evolution of the system!

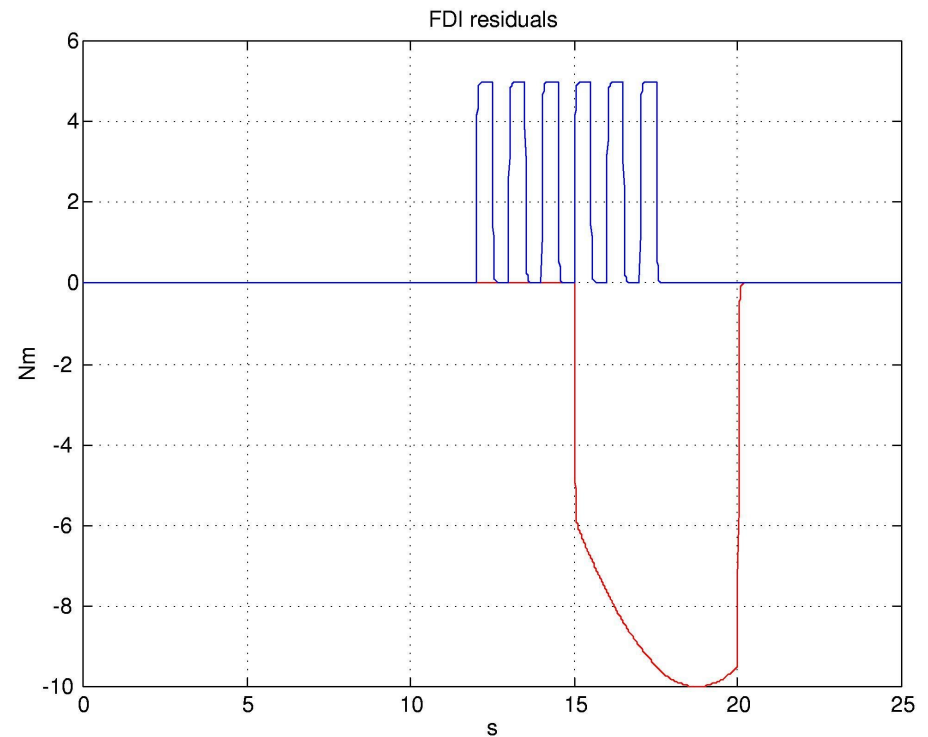


First simulation – FDI

actual torques (to the robot)



residuals



— = first joint

— = second joint

$$K = \text{diag}\{50, 50\}$$

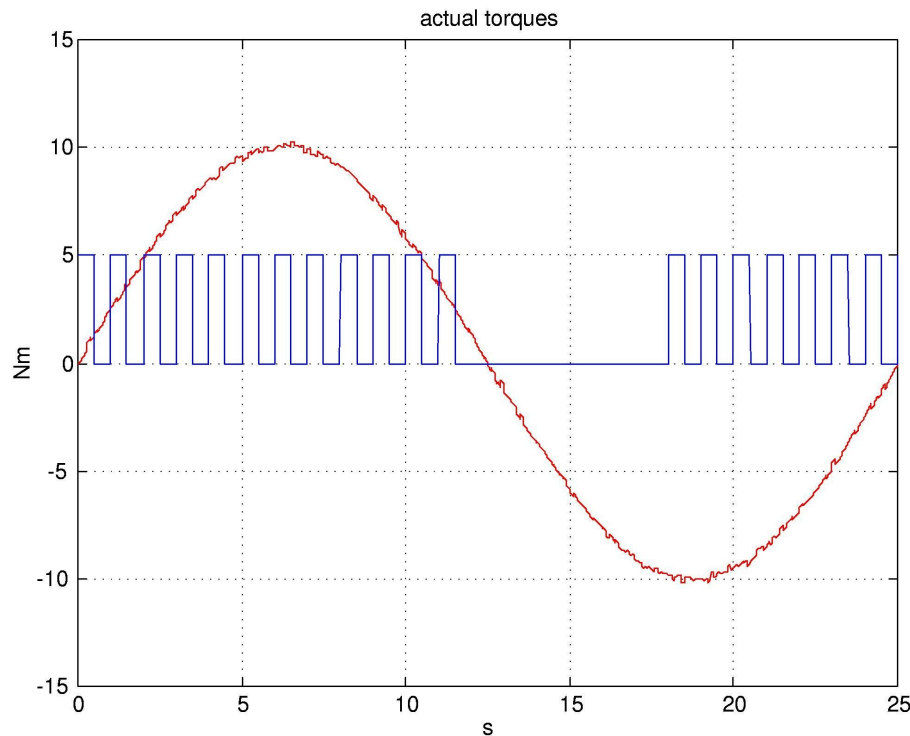
residuals reconstruct the
“missing” parts of the torques
(identification property!)



Second simulation – FDI

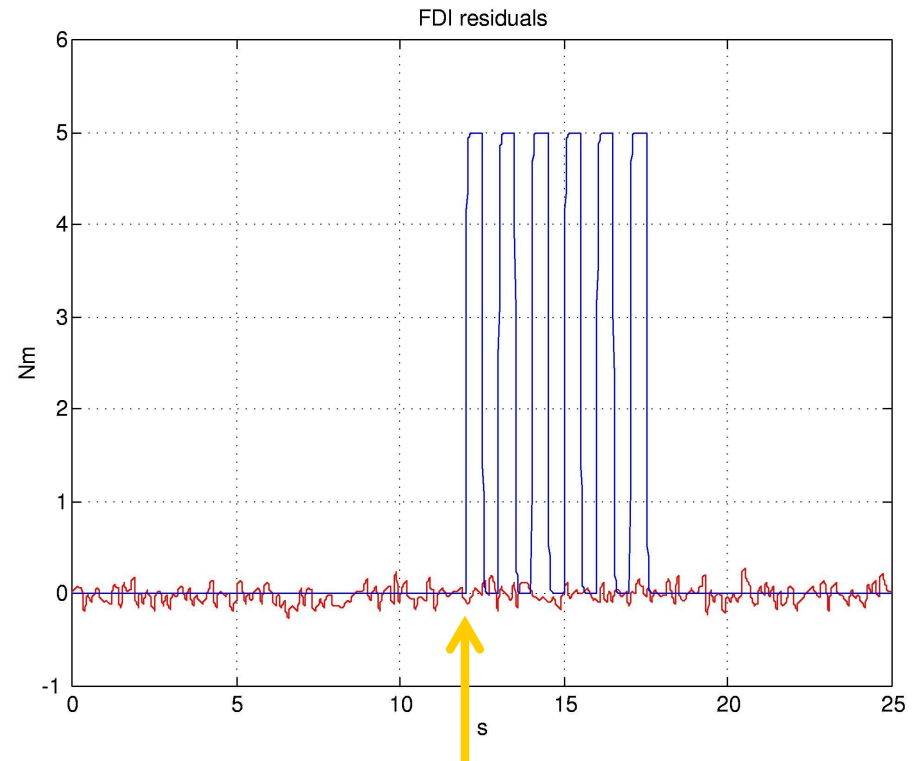
(total fault on second actuator, added noise on first channel)

actual torques (to the robot)



- = first joint
- = second joint (fault for $t \in [12 \div 18]$ sec)

residuals

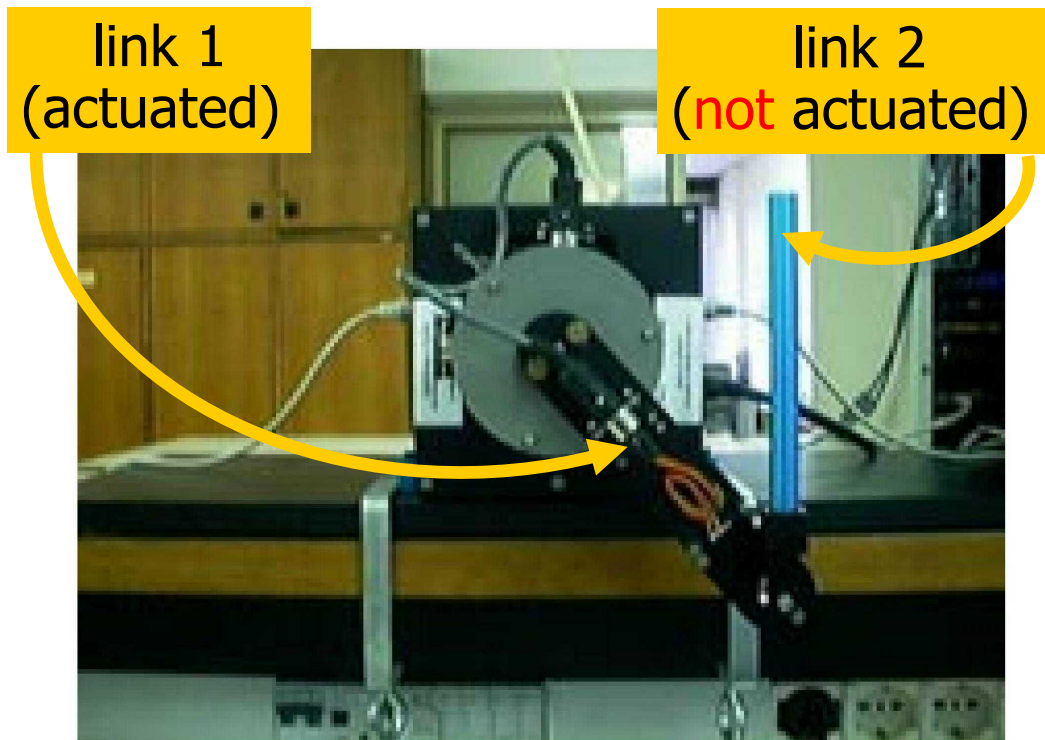


residual r_1 is not affected by faulty actuation, while residual r_2 is not affected by the disturbance on first channel (decoupling property)

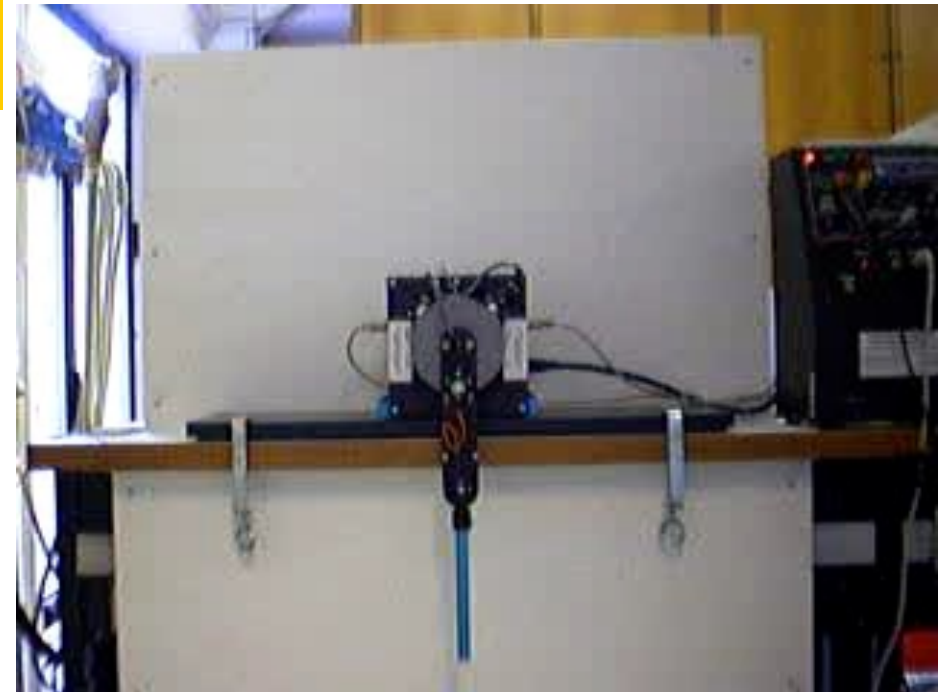
Experimental setup

Quanser Pendubot

[video](#)



with encoders on both joints



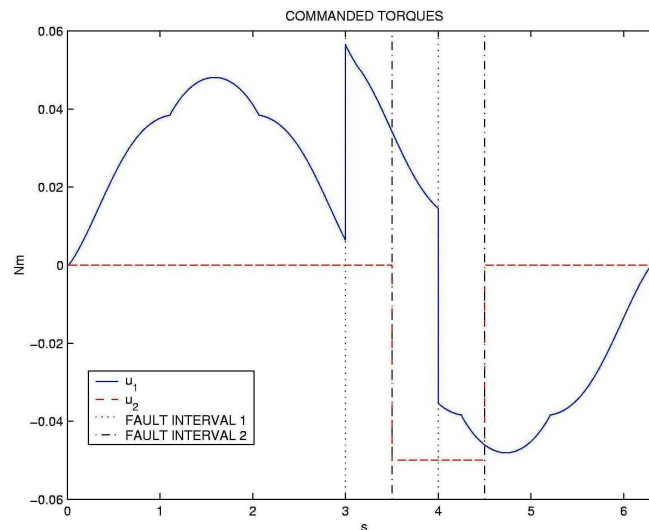
nonlinear control for swing-up

sampling time $T_c = 1$ ms, residual gains $K_i = 50$,
practical thresholds of fault detection $\cong 10^{-2} \div 10^{-3}$ Nm

First experiment

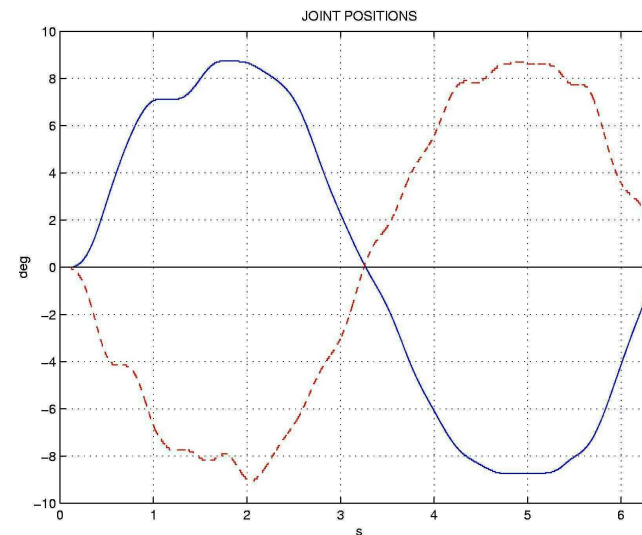
- motor 1 driven by sinusoidal voltage of period 2π sec (open loop)
- **bias fault** on u_1 for $t \in [3 \div 4]$ sec
- **total fault** on second joint for $t \in [3.5 \div 4.5]$ sec (a constant torque is requested, but **no motor at the joint to provide 0.05 Nm...**)
- **fault concurrency** for $t \in [3.5 \div 4]$ sec

commanded torques



— joint 1

joint positions



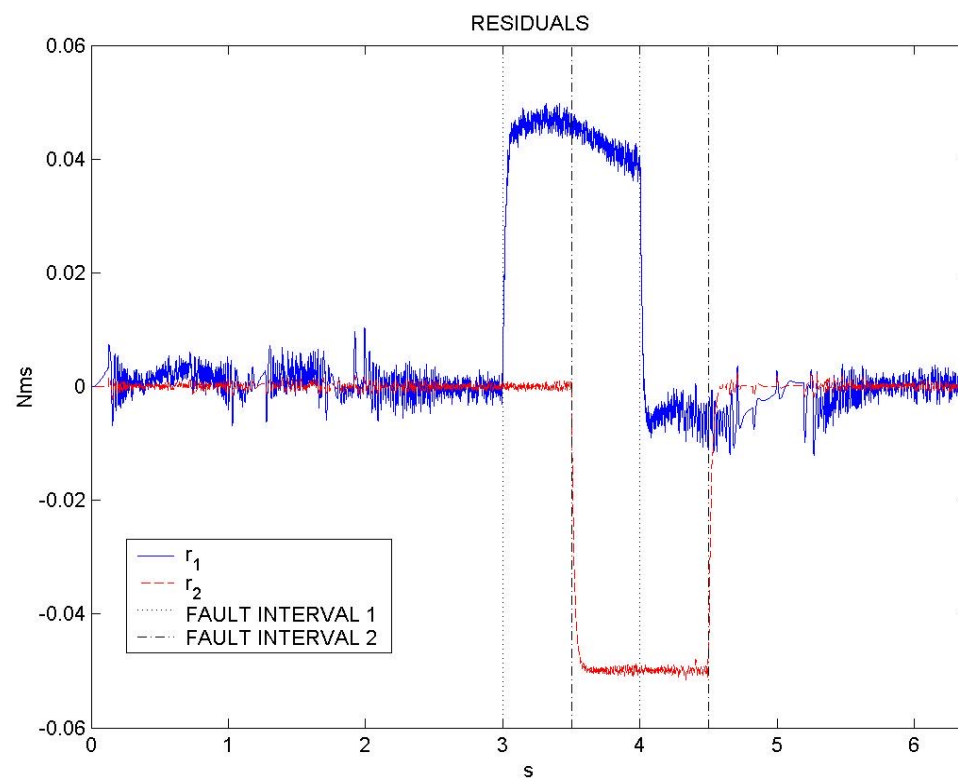
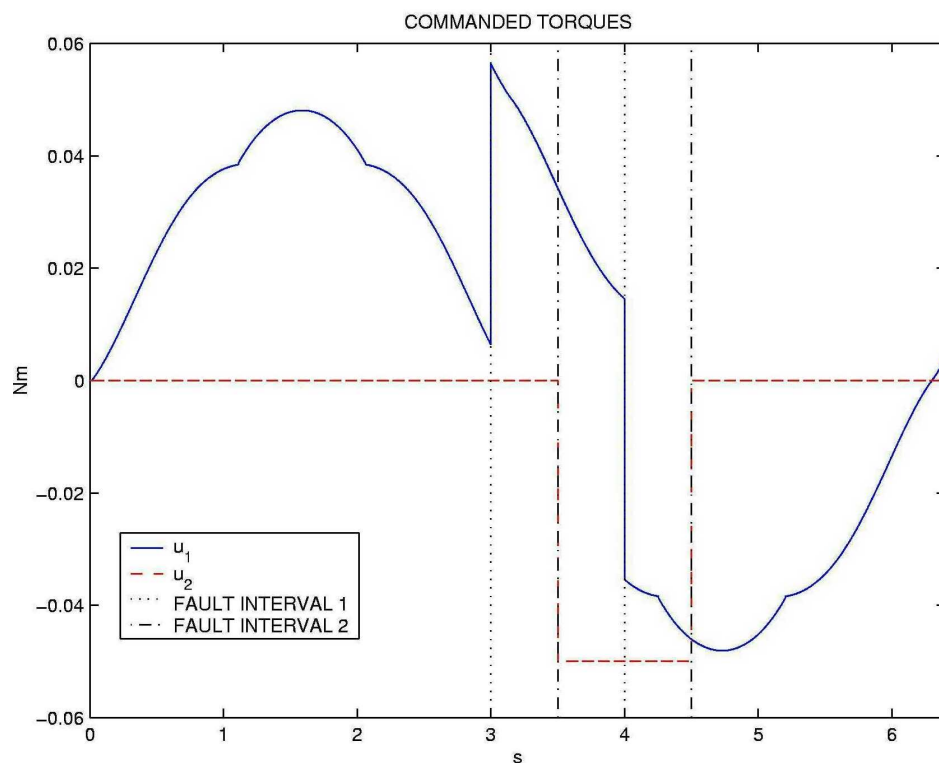
- - - joint 2



First experiment – FDI

commanded torques

residuals



— joint 1

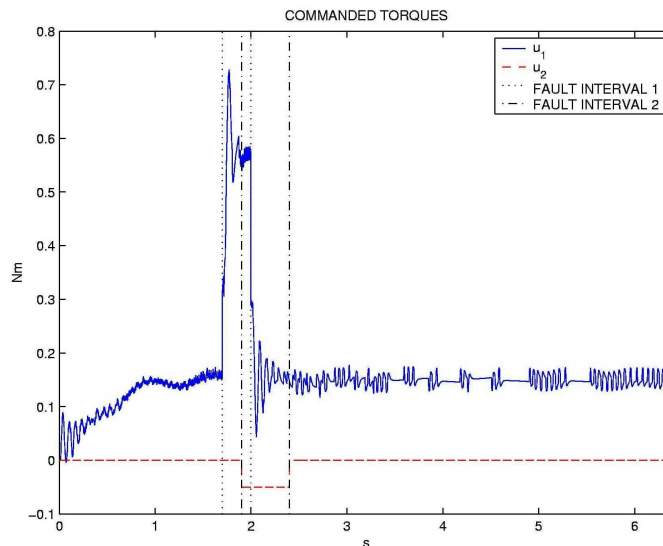
- - joint 2



Second experiment

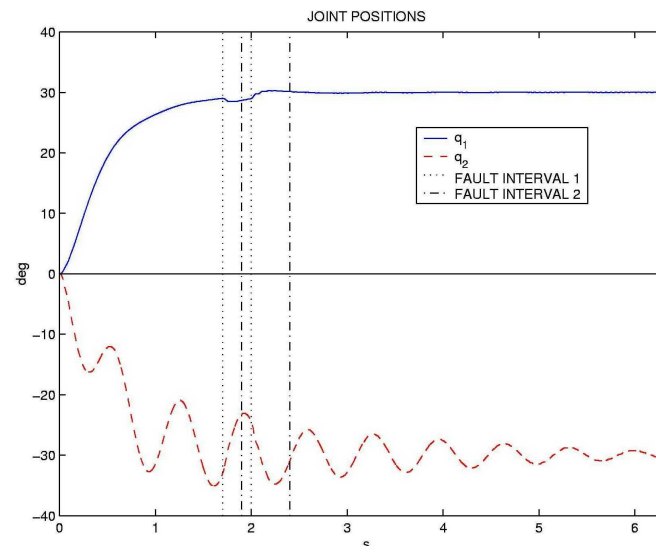
- position regulation of the first joint at $q_{d1} = 30^\circ$ (PID control)
- 50% power loss on motor 1 for $t \in [1.7 \div 2]$ sec
- total fault on joint 2 for $t \in [1.9 \div 2.4]$ sec (no motor...)
- fault concurrency for $t \in [1.7 \div 1.9]$ sec

commanded torques



— joint 1

joint positions

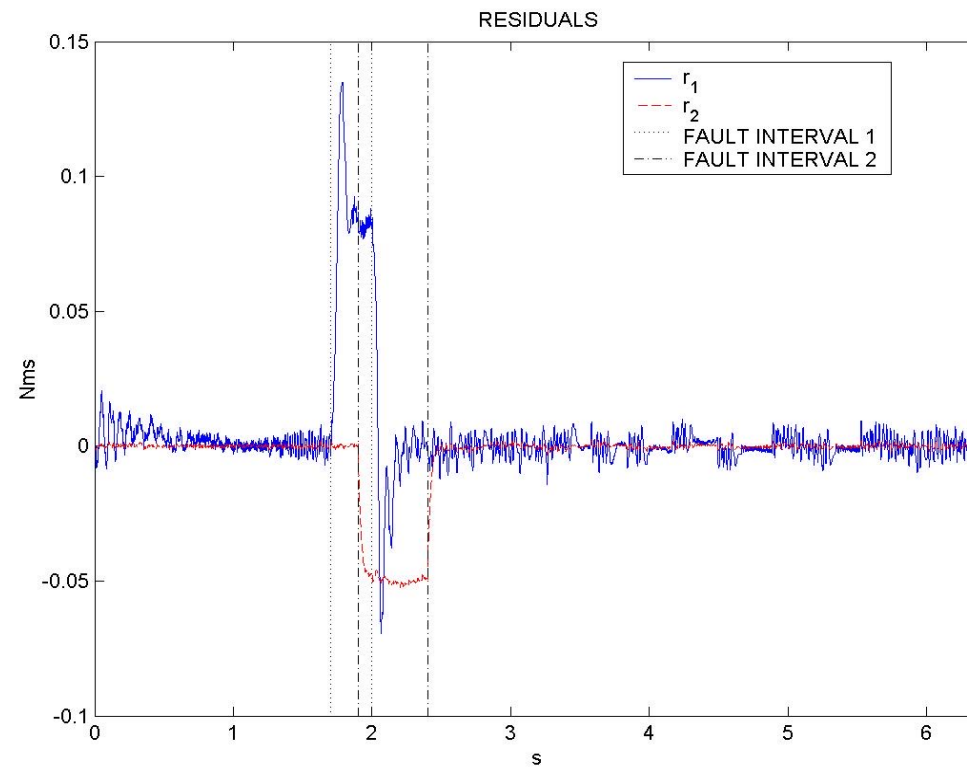
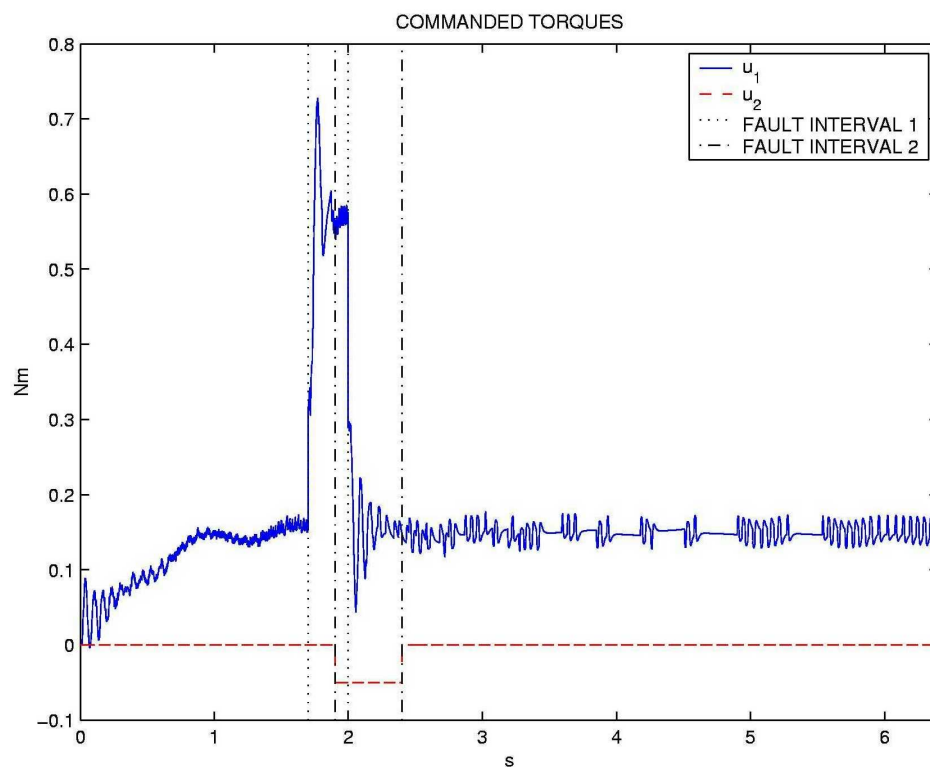


- - - joint 2

Second experiment – FDI

commanded torques

residuals



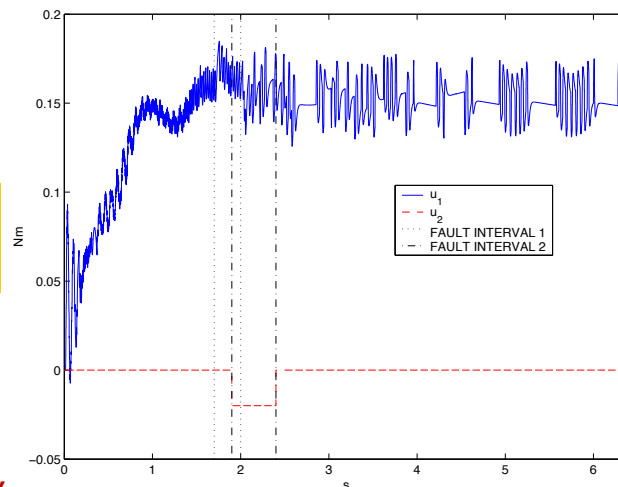
— joint 1

- - - joint 2

Third experiment – FDI

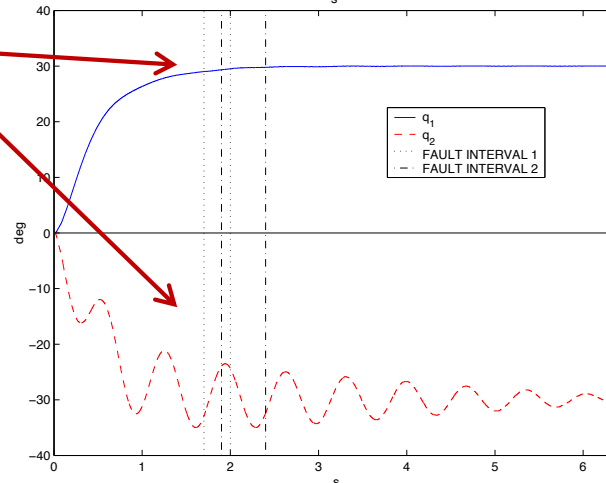
- same as in second experiment, but with only **10% power loss** on motor 1
- due to noisy PWM signals driving the DC motor, a **dynamic filtering** of residuals is used, staying above **[below]** a threshold ($r_{1,thres} = 9 \cdot 10^{-3}$ Nm, $r_{2,thres} = 2 \cdot 10^{-3}$ Nm) for a time $T_{set} = 0.02$ s [$T_{reset} = 0.03$ s] before detecting a fault [**reset to normal operation**]

commanded
torques



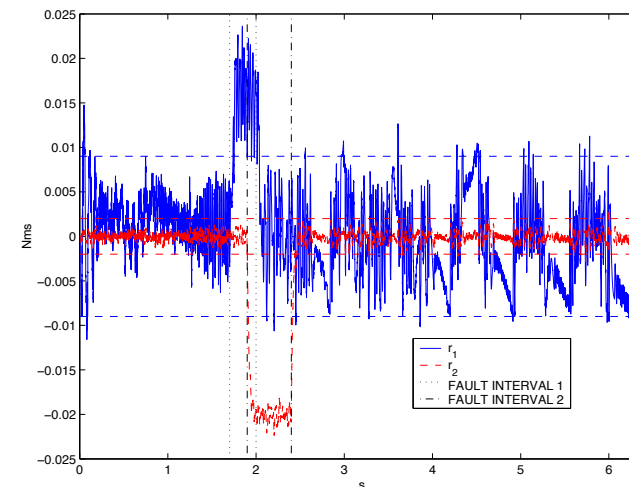
faults are
"unobservable"
in these
evolutions

joint
positions

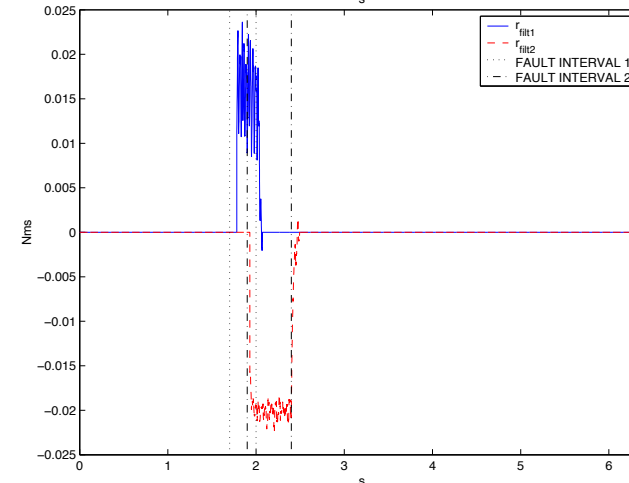


— joint 1

- - - joint 2



residuals



filtered
residuals



Some extensions

- FDI method based on generalized momentum is easily extended to the presence of **flexible transmissions** (elastic joints), **actuator dynamics**, ...
- the scheme can be made **adaptive**, in order to handle parametric uncertainties in the robot dynamic model
- the method can be modified for detection and isolation of significant classes of **sensor faults** (e.g., faults in force/torque sensor at the wrist)
 - applies to all faults that instantaneously affect robot **acceleration** or **torque** (i.e., occurring at the second-order differential level)
- assuming **non-concurrency** (at most a single fault occurs at the same time) of a given set of faults, **relaxed FDI conditions** have been derived
 - of interest when the necessary conditions for multiple FDI are violated
 - involves processing of **continuous** residuals + **discrete** logic for isolation
- the same FDI-type approach has been applied also for **compensation of unmodeled friction** (treated as a “permanent fault” on the system)
- combination of **model-** and **signal-based** approaches to FDI



Isolation of F/T sensor faults

- planar 2R robot with **fault** on force **measure** of sensor on the end-effector

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = u + J^T(q)F = u + J^T(q)(F_m + f_F)$$

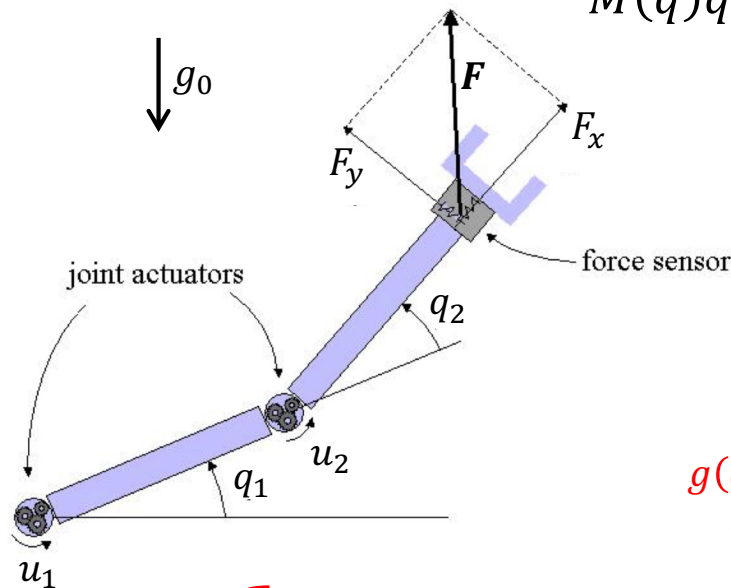
robot Jacobian expressed
in end-effector frame

$$J(q) = \begin{pmatrix} \ell_1 s_2 & 0 \\ \ell_2 + \ell_1 c_2 & \ell_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

adjoint of Jacobian

$$J^{ad}(q) = \begin{pmatrix} \ell_2 & 0 \\ -\ell_2 - \ell_1 c_2 & \ell_1 s_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$J^{ad} = \det(J) \cdot J^{-1}$
⇒ singularity robust!



time derivative of
transposed
Jacobian adjoint

robot inertia

input torque

$$g(q) - S^T(q, \dot{q})\dot{q}$$

residual
generator
(function of
 q, \dot{q}, F_m, ζ)

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\zeta} &= -(J^T)^{ad}(q) \begin{pmatrix} a_4 c_1 + a_5 c_{12} \\ a_5 c_{12} + a_2 s_2 \dot{q}_1 (\dot{q}_1 + \dot{q}_2) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \ell_1 s_2 \dot{q}_2 \\ 0 & \ell_1 c_2 \dot{q}_2 \end{pmatrix} M(q) \dot{q} + (J^T)^{ad}(q) u \\ r &= (J^T)^{ad}(q) M(q) \dot{q} - \zeta \end{aligned}$$

$$\det J^T(q)$$

measured force (nominal)

predicted FDI behavior
in presence of force sensor faults $f_F \in \mathbb{R}^2$

$$\dot{r} = -Kr + \ell_1 \ell_2 \sin q_2 f_F$$

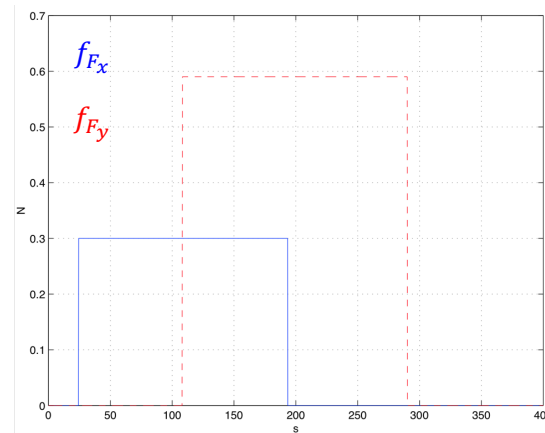
decoupled, though
modulated by q_2

Isolation of F/T sensor faults

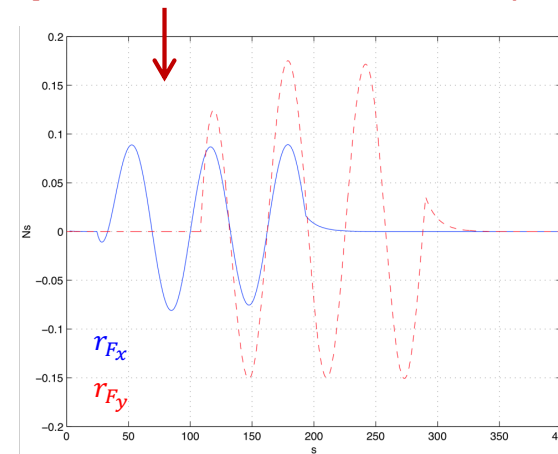
■ simulation on the 2R robot

bias faults

on the two components
of force sensor measures
0.3N on f_{F_x} in $t \in [25 \div 190]$
0.6N on f_{F_y} in $t \in [109 \div 285]$



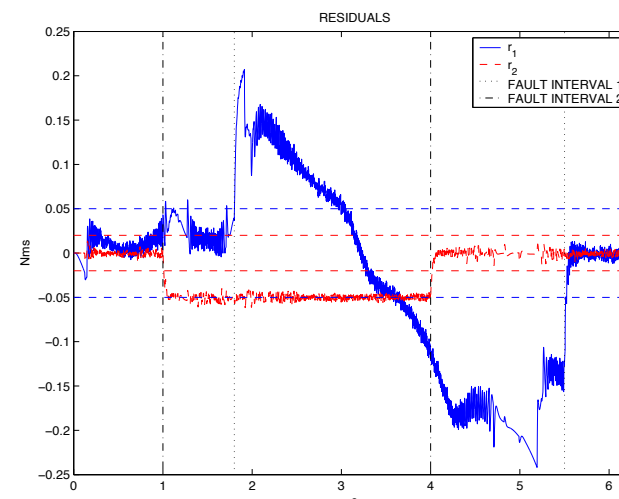
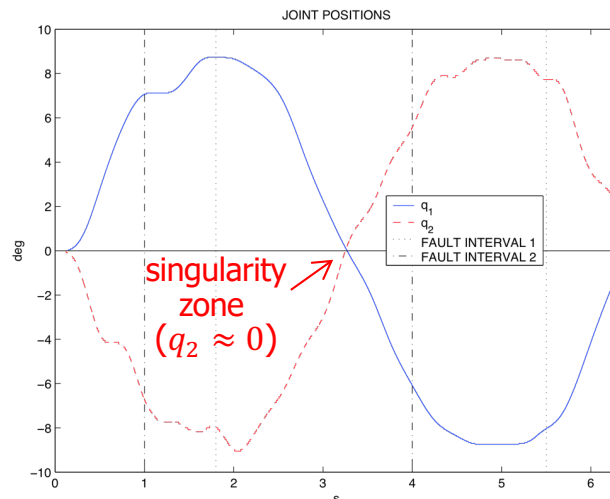
q_2 is tracking a sinusoid ($A = \pi/8$ rad, $\omega = 0.1$ rad/s)



FDI residual
components
(with $K = 0.1I$)

■ experiment on the Pendubot (no force sensor and no contact!)

evolution
of joint
variables



residuals
for emulated bias
measurement faults
-1N on F_x in $t \in [1.8 \div 5.5]$
0.05N on F_y in $t \in [1 \div 4]$

$(J^T)^{ad} \rightarrow \text{diag}\{s_2, 1\} J^{-T}$
in previous scheme

Isolation of non-concurrent faults

- faults of the actuators **AND** faults of the force sensor components (possibly occurring **simultaneously**) **CANNOT** be detected **AND** isolated
 - for a mechanical system with N dofs, the **max # of faults allowing FDI is N !**
- with **non-concurrency**, e.g., 2 actuator + 2 F/T sensor faults in 2R robot

dependence of residuals on considered faults

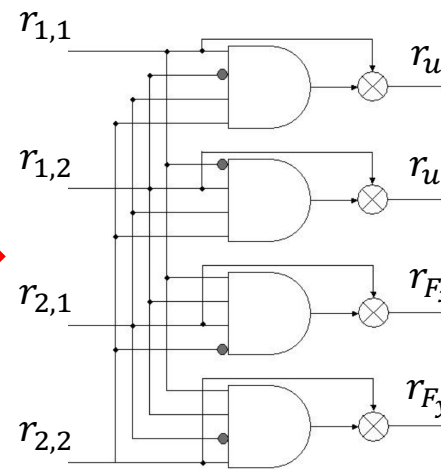
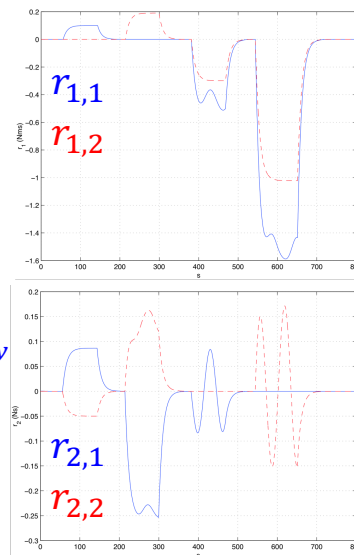
residual fault	$r_{1,1}$	$r_{1,2}$	$r_{2,1}$	$r_{2,2}$
f_{u_1}	1	0	1	1
f_{u_2}	0	1	1	1
f_{F_x}	1	1	1	0
f_{F_y}	1	1	0	1



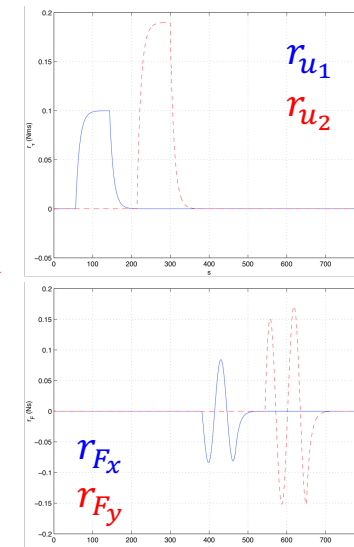
isolation matrix

$r_{2,1}$ $r_{2,2}$	1 1	1 0	0 1	0 0
$r_{1,1}$ $r_{1,2}$				
1 0	f_{u_1}	NA	NA	NA
0 1	f_{u_2}	NA	NA	NA
1 1	NC	f_{F_x}	f_{F_y}	NA
0 0	NA	NA	NA	no fault

time sequence of non-concurrent bias faults:
 $f_{u_1} \rightarrow f_{u_2} \rightarrow f_{F_x} \rightarrow f_{F_y}$



isolation logics



hybrid residuals allowing isolation of 4 faults

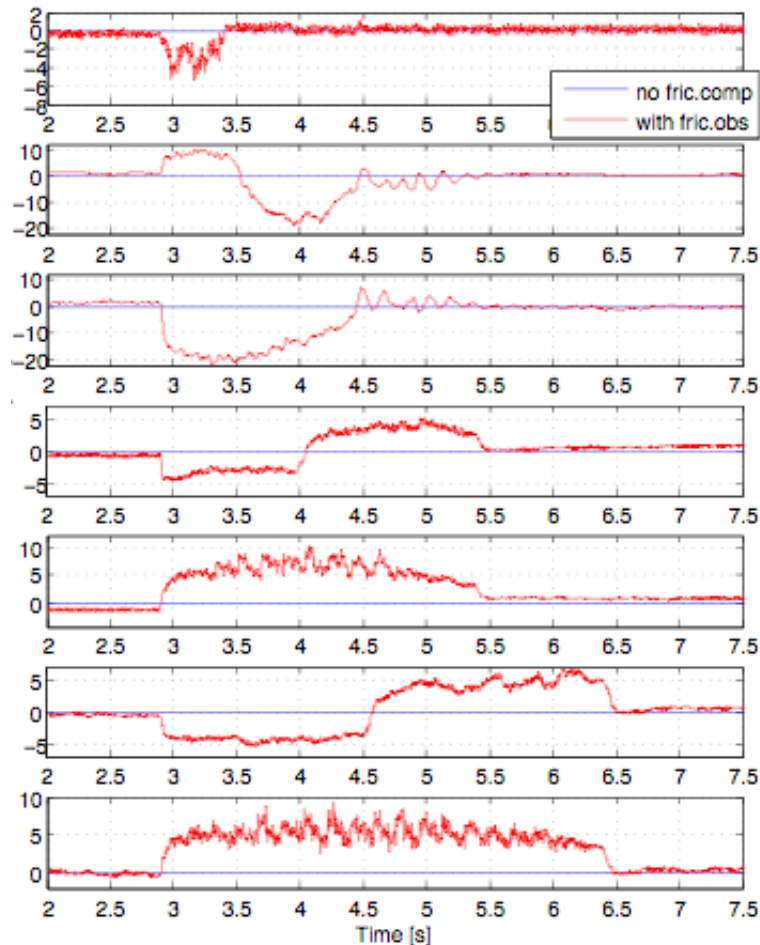
Experiments on friction compensation



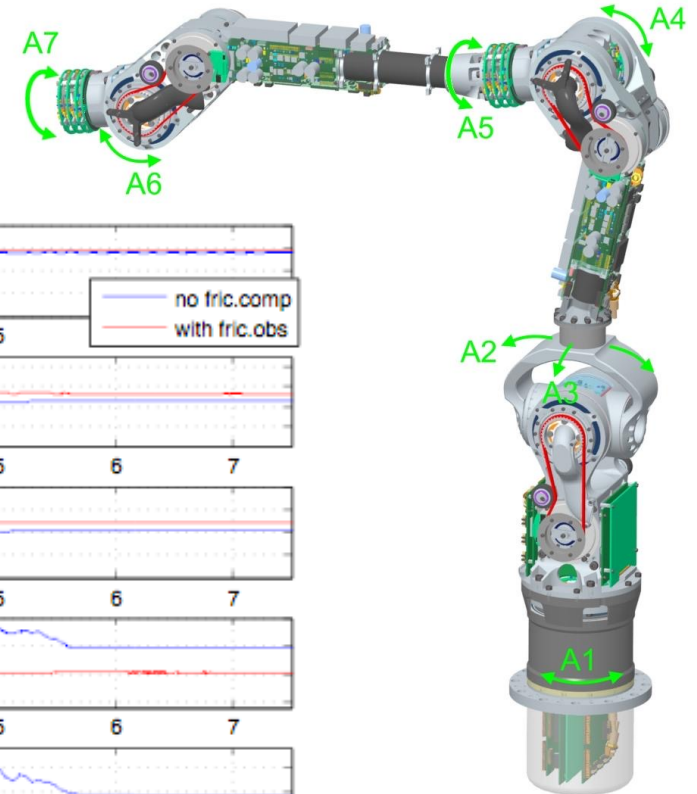
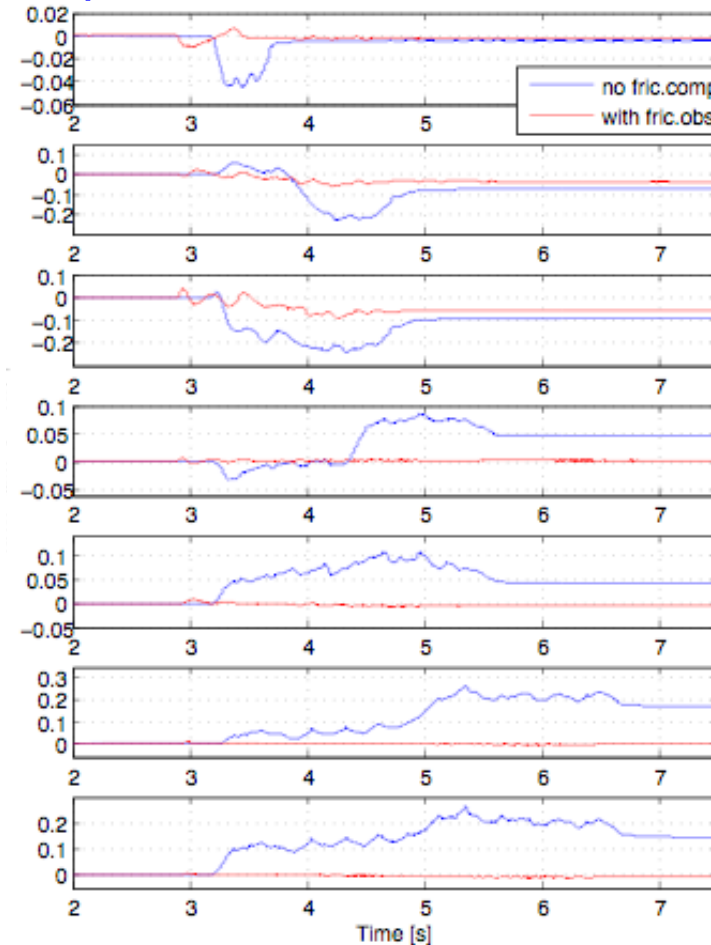
- results on the DLR 7R medical robot

used then on-line
in control law...

friction estimate via residuals



position error

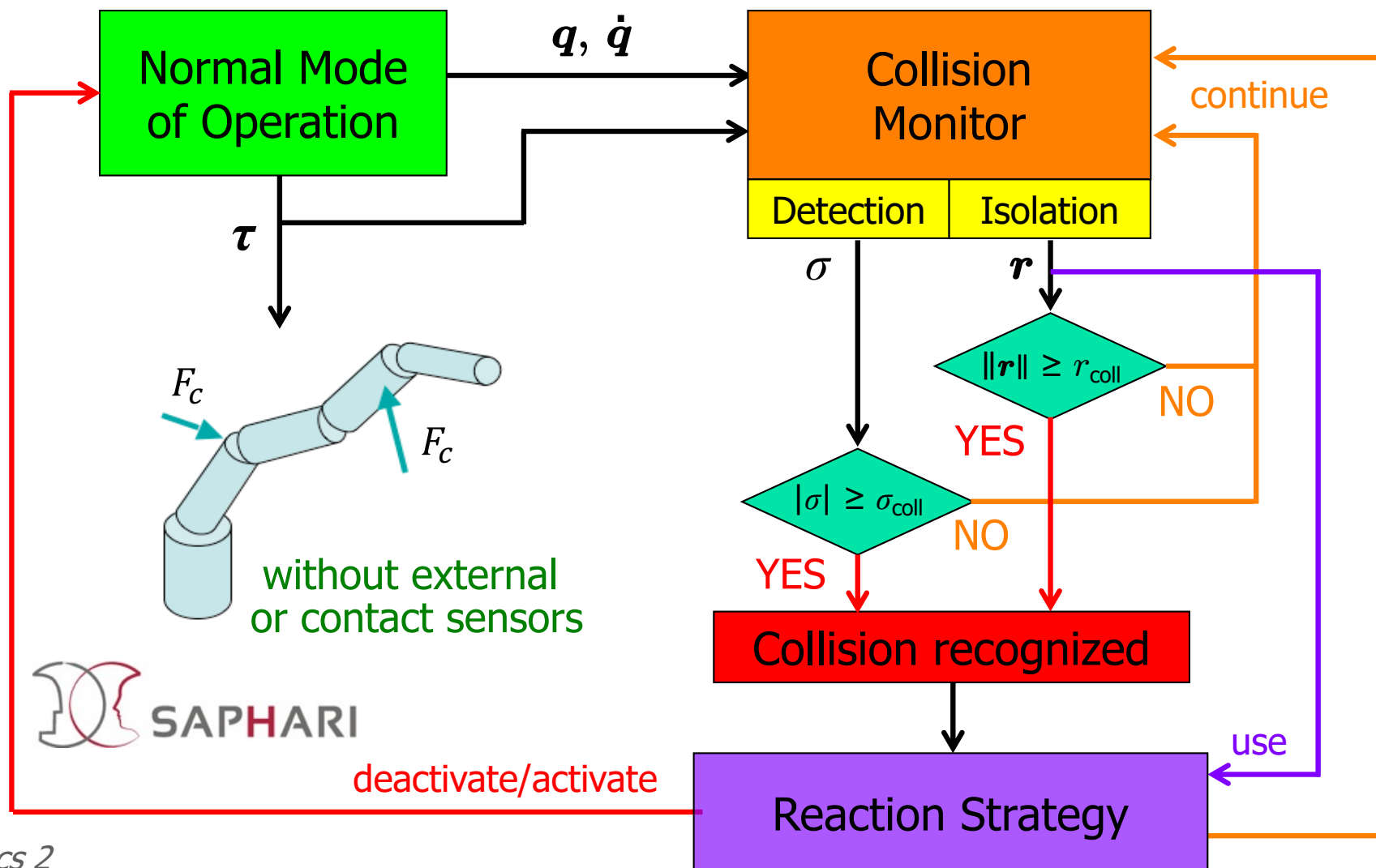


HD at the joints
⇒ elastic joint
dynamic model

Collision detection and isolation

"sensorless" residuals

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = \tau + \tau_c \quad \tau_c = J_c^T(q)F_c \text{ (both terms unknown)}$$



Block diagram of the residual generator

momentum-based collision **detection** and **isolation**



$$r(t) = K_I \left(p(t) - \int_0^t (\tau + S^T(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) - r) ds - p(0) \right) \Rightarrow \boxed{\dot{r} = K_I(\tau_c - r)}$$

$K_I > 0$, diagonal

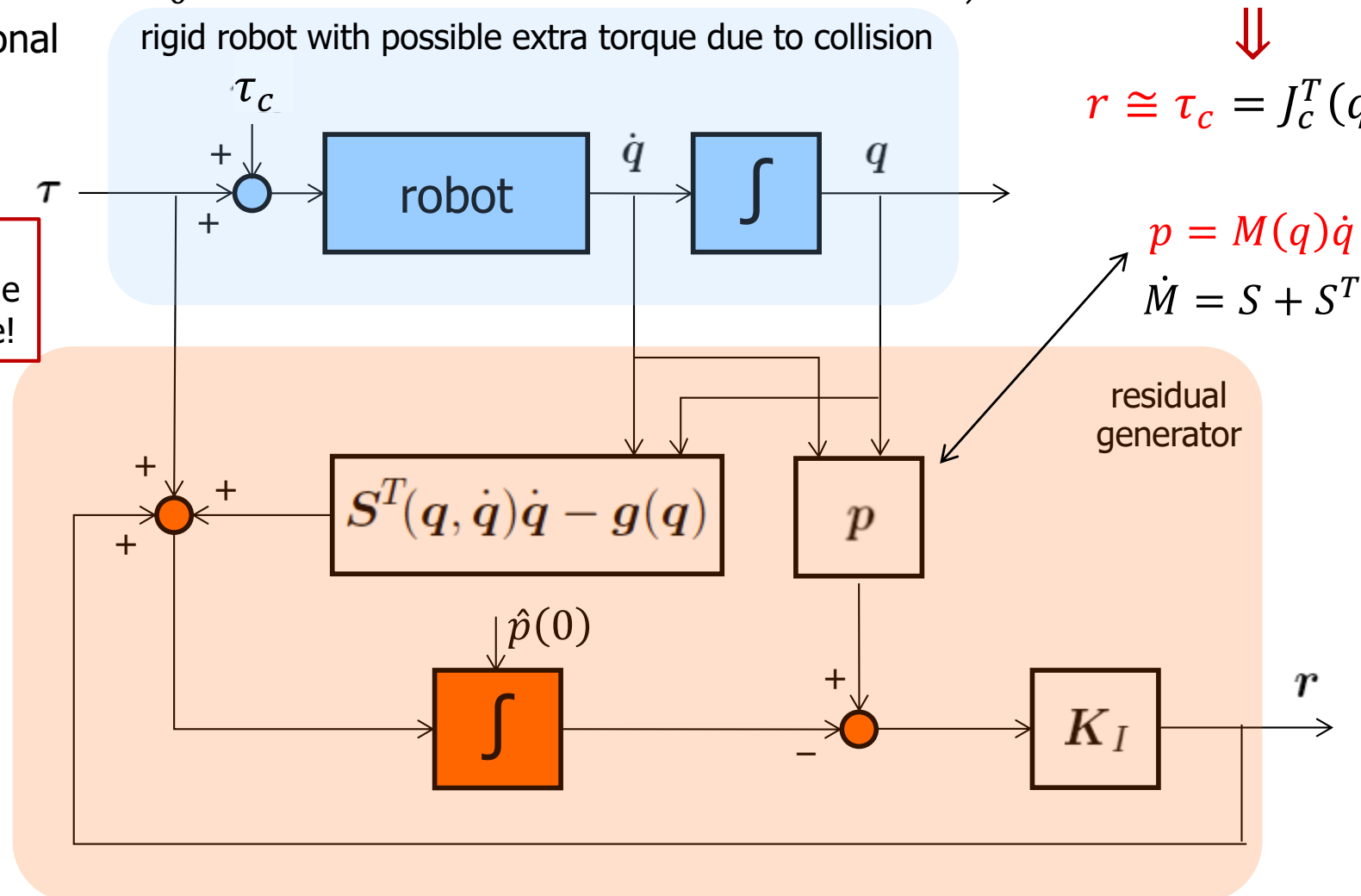
rigid robot with possible extra torque due to collision



$$r \cong \tau_c = J_c^T(q)F_c$$

more details in
the **pHRI** module
on my web page!

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



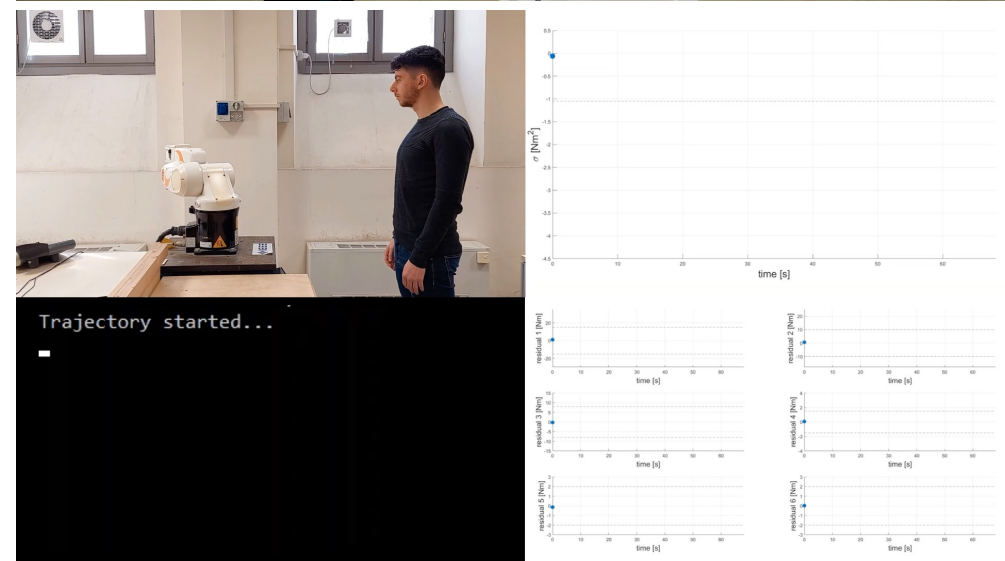
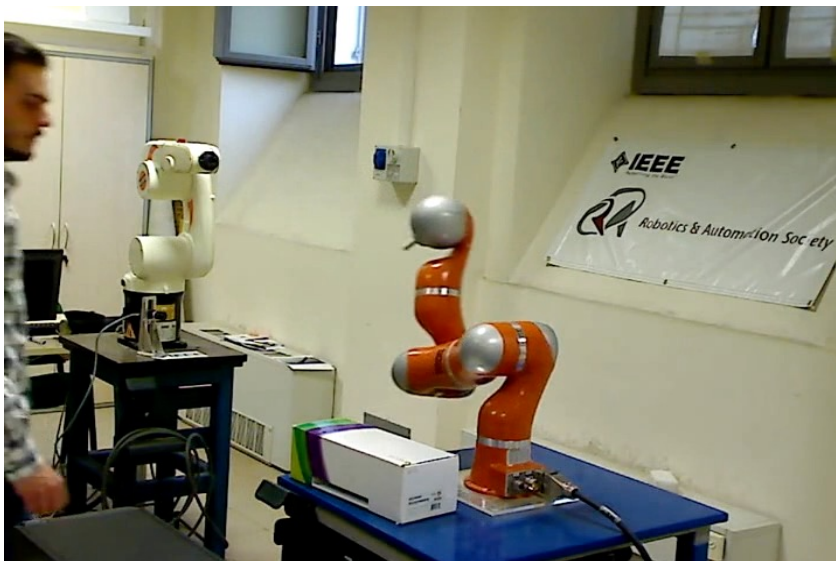
Collision detection and isolation experiments with different robots over the years ...



DLR III - 2006

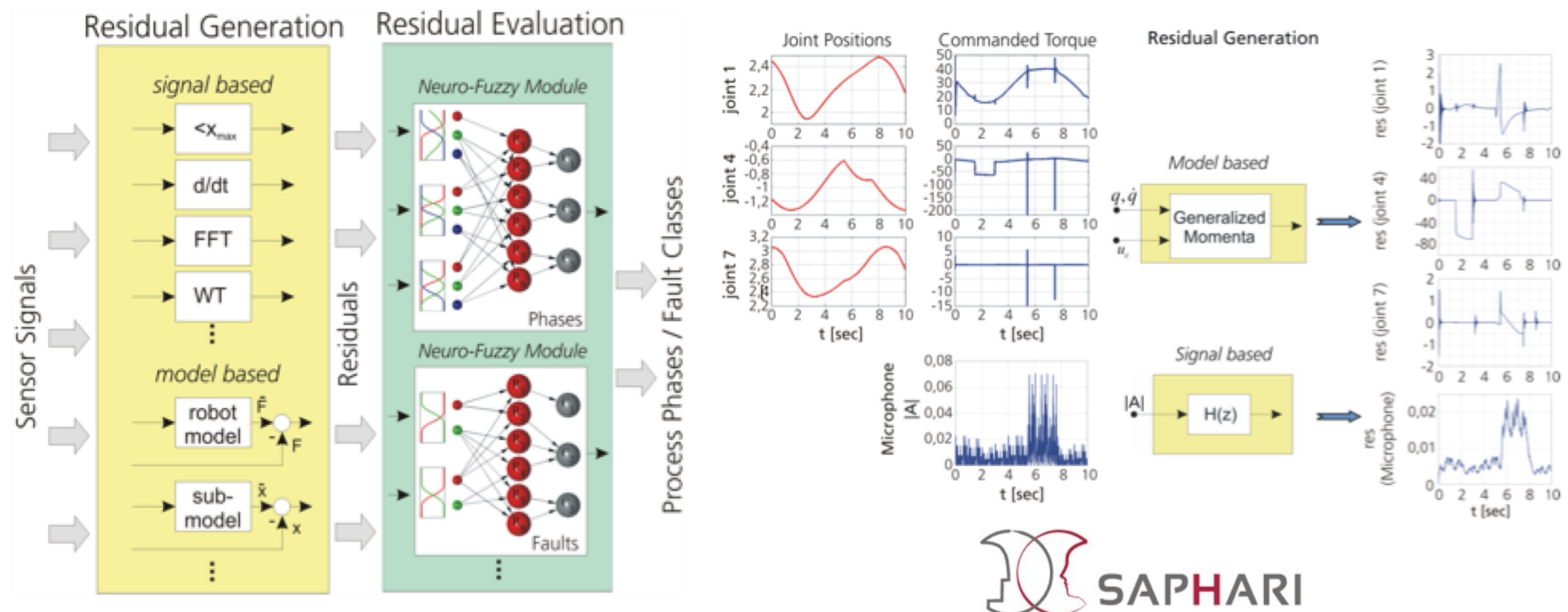


Neura - 2023



Model- and signal-based FDI

- detection and isolation features can be enhanced by combining multiple sensor inputs and different approaches
 - **model**-based (exact, but require accurate models)
 - **signal**-based (approximate, but without special requirements)
- so as to obtain the “best of both worlds”





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