

## **Compliant Control with Dynamical Systems**

***When and why should a robot be compliant?***

**Automation in a well-structured environment.**



Kia Sportage factory production line. 2012

## Automation in an unstructured environment.



CNB, 2016

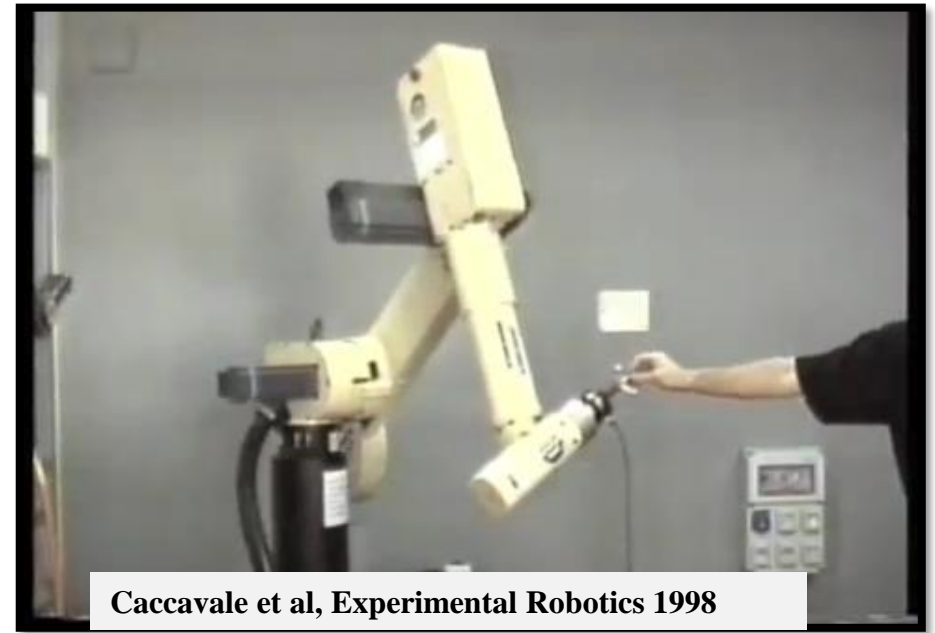


Kia Sportage factory production line.  
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## Safety



## Actively backdrivable

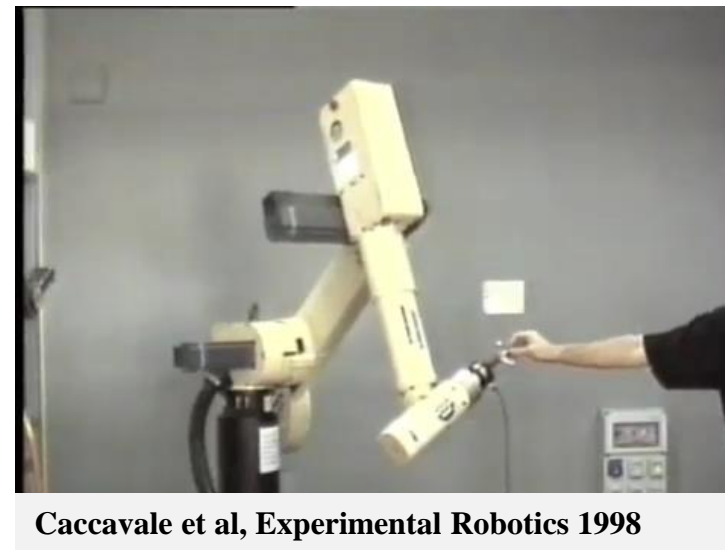




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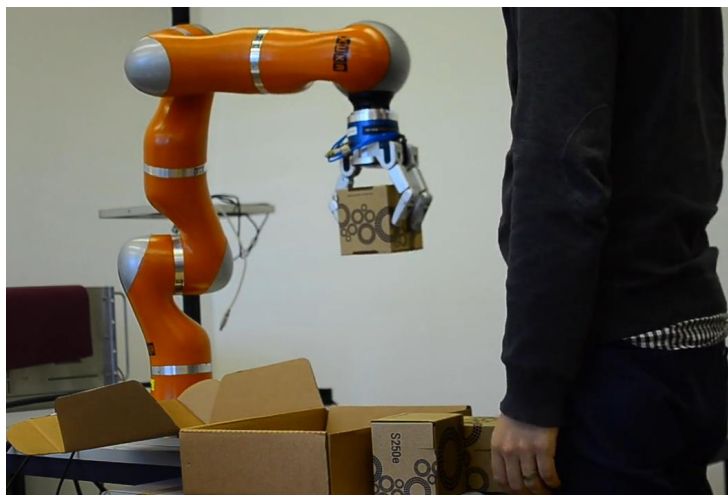


Robotics Lab at DIAG 2012

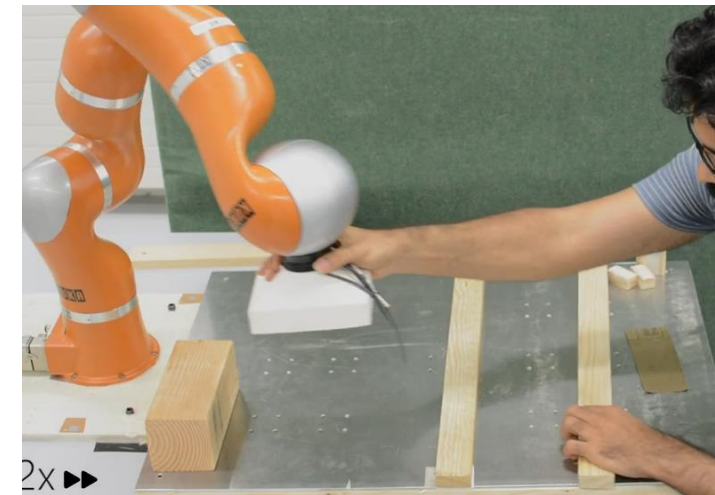


Caccavale et al, Experimental Robotics 1998

## Allows for live interactions with humans during task execution



Kronander, Billard, RAL 2016



Khoramshahi, Billard, Autonomous Robots 2018

# Compliance with impedance control

## *Principle*

## What does Impedance control do?

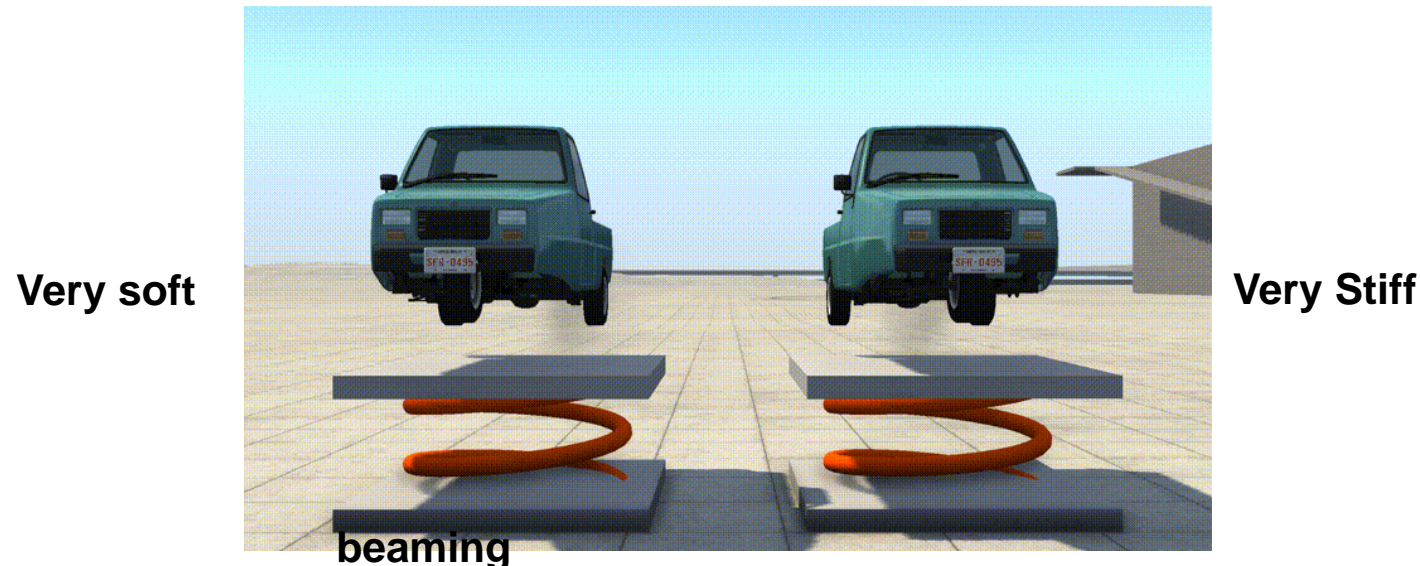
- It imposes a desired dynamic behavior to the interaction between an object (in our case a robot) and environment.

## How does Impedance control work?

- The desired performance is specified through a set of mass-spring-damper equations:

$$m\ddot{x} + d\dot{x} + k(x - x^*) = F_{ext}, \quad m: \text{mass}, d: \text{damping}, k: \text{stiffness}, F_{ext}: \text{External forces}$$

This model describes how the system reacts to the external forces with environment deformation.





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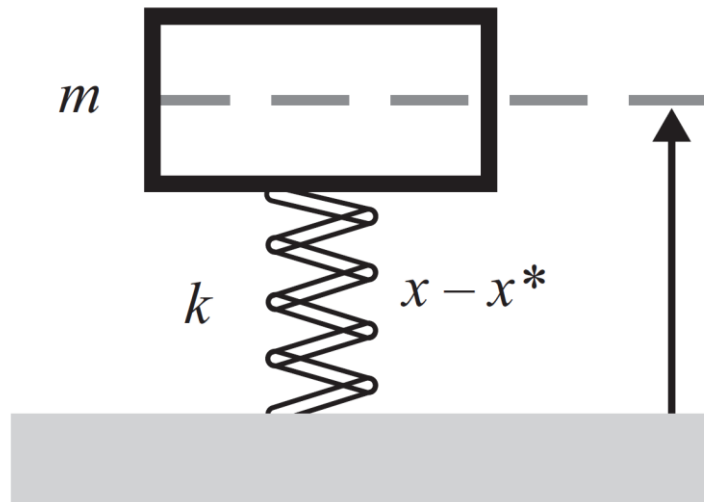
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Very soft



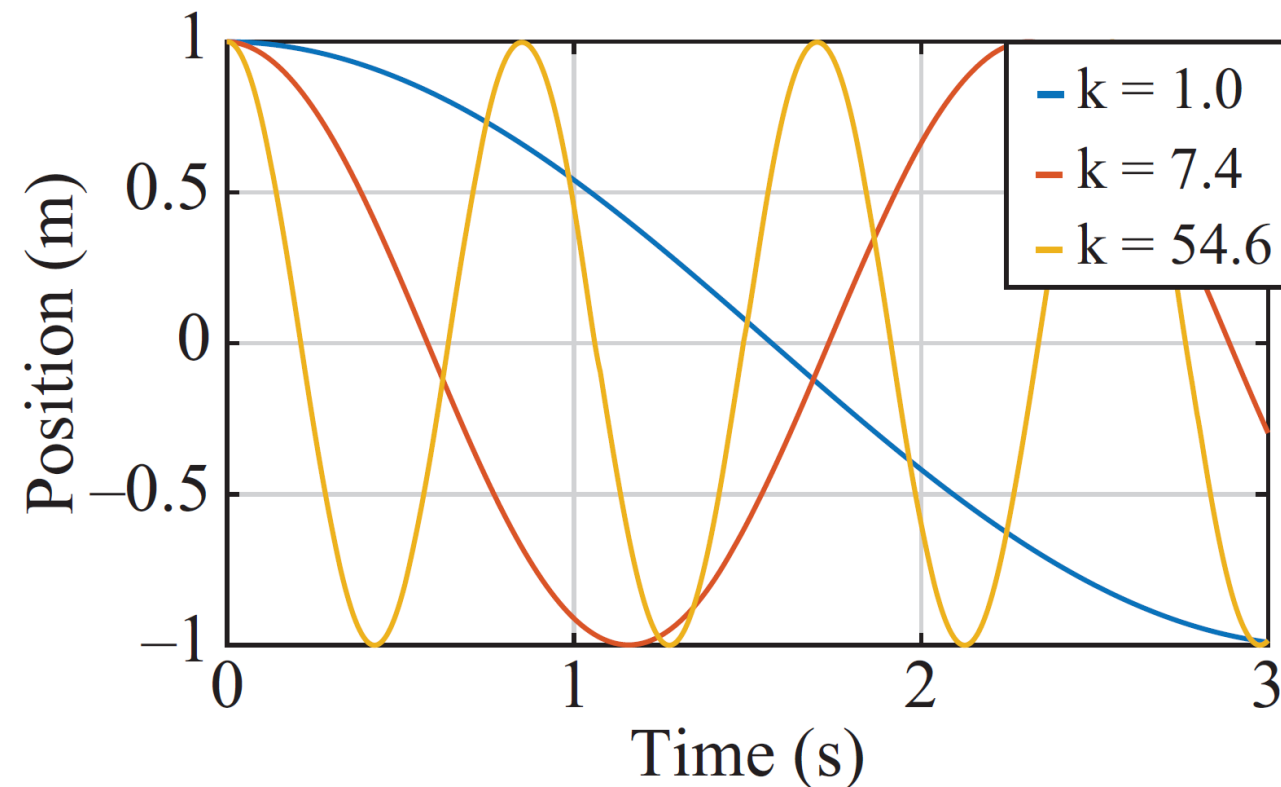
Very Stiff

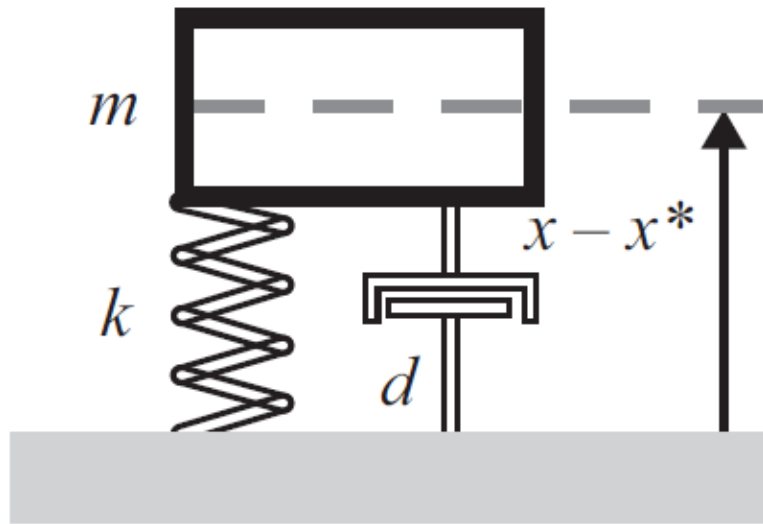




What will the behavior of the system be for different values of the spring constant  $k$ ?

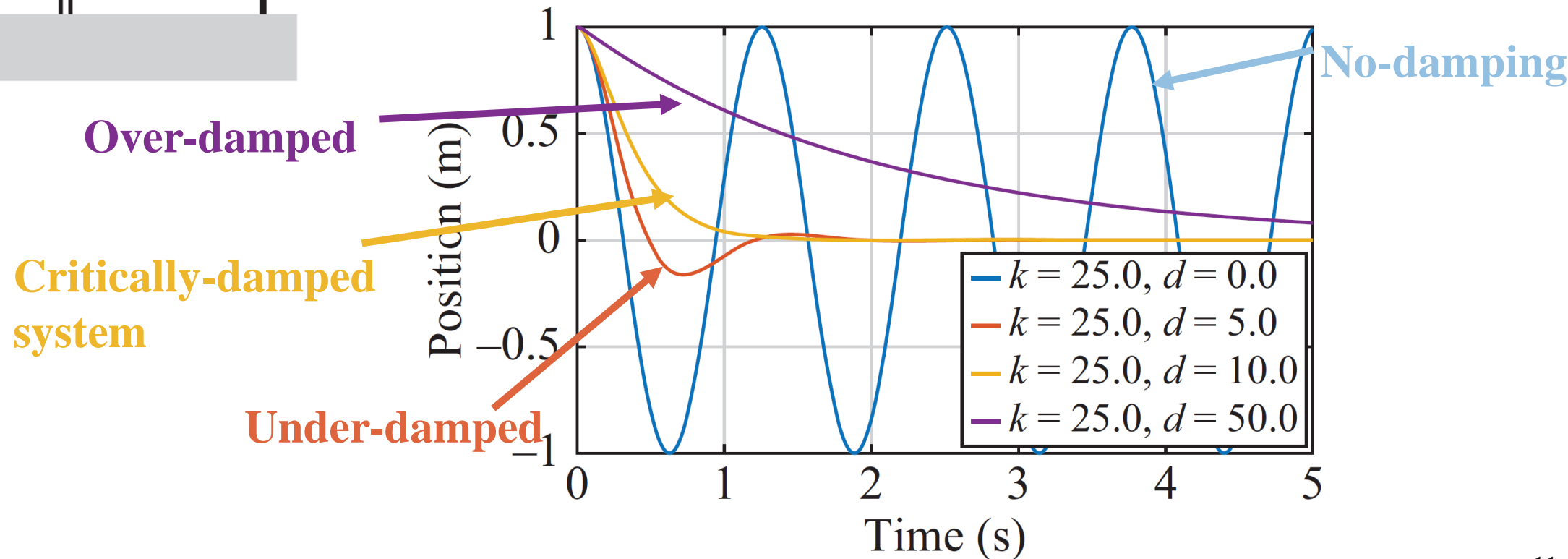
$$m\ddot{x} + k(x - x^*) = F_{ext}$$

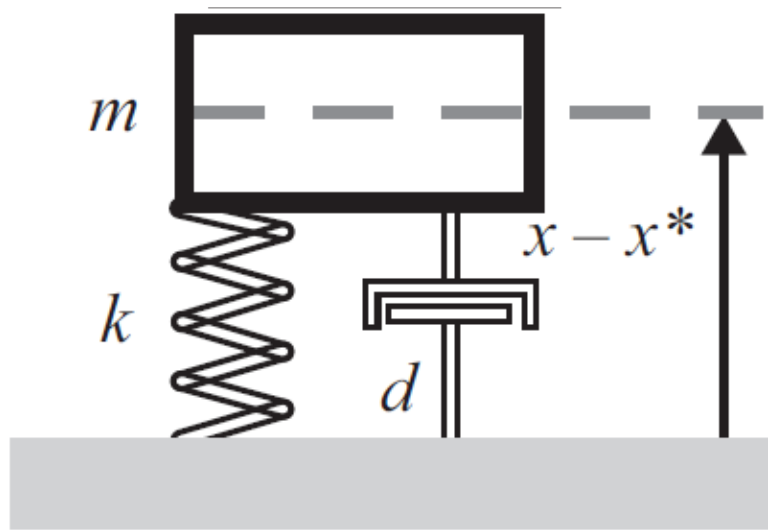




What will the behavior of the system be for different values of the damping constant  $d$ ?

$$m\ddot{x} + d\dot{x} + k(x - x^*) = F_{ext}$$



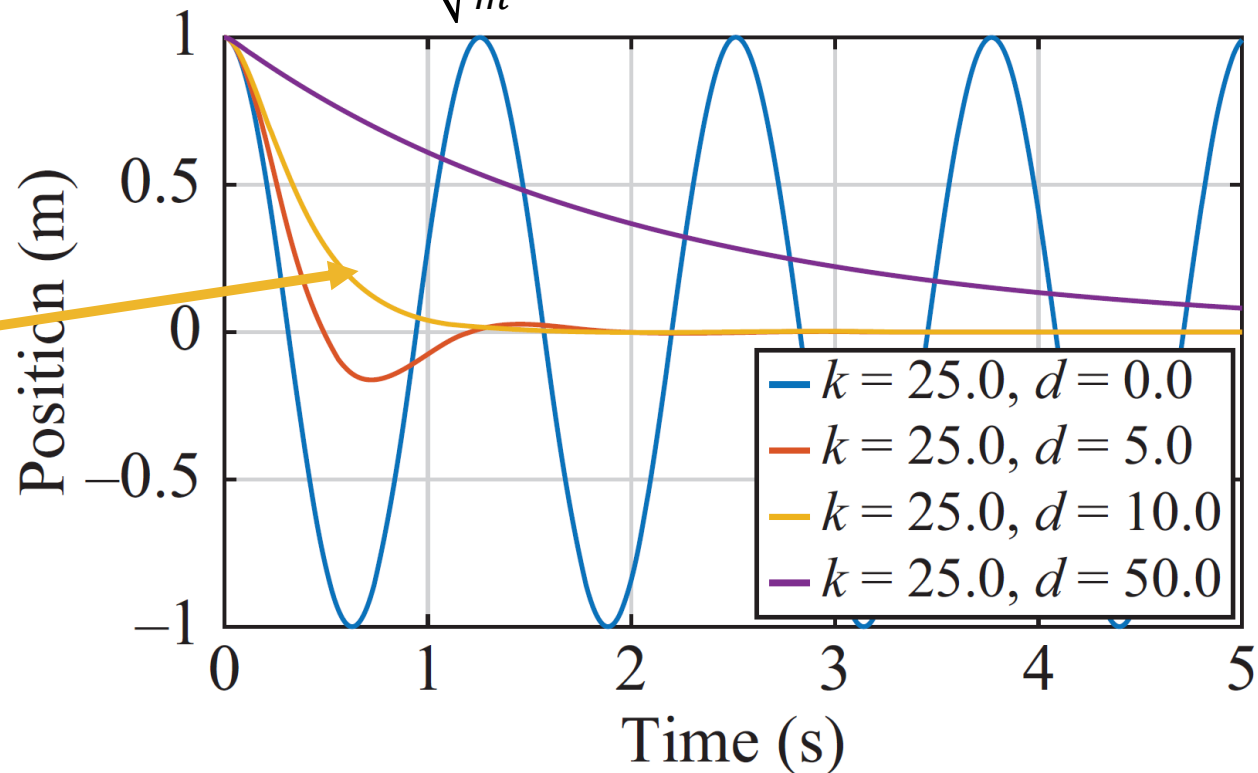


What will the behavior of the system be for different values of the damping constant  $d$ ?

$$\ddot{x} + 2\omega\dot{x} + \omega^2(x - x^*) = F_{ext}$$

$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$  is the natural frequency of the system.

**Critically-damped system**



## What does impedance mean in robotics?

- In control, impedance indicates how much a system resists a harmonic force (i.e., the ratio of the force to the resulting velocity)

$$m\ddot{x} + d\dot{x} + k(x - x^*) = F_{ext}$$

Impedance of a mass-spring-damper is (solution of diff. equation through Laplace transform):

$$\frac{F_{ext}}{\dot{x}} = \frac{s^2m + sd + k}{s}$$

Low  
Impedance



High  
Impedance





# Robot dynamics

- Dynamic of a robot (in the joint space):

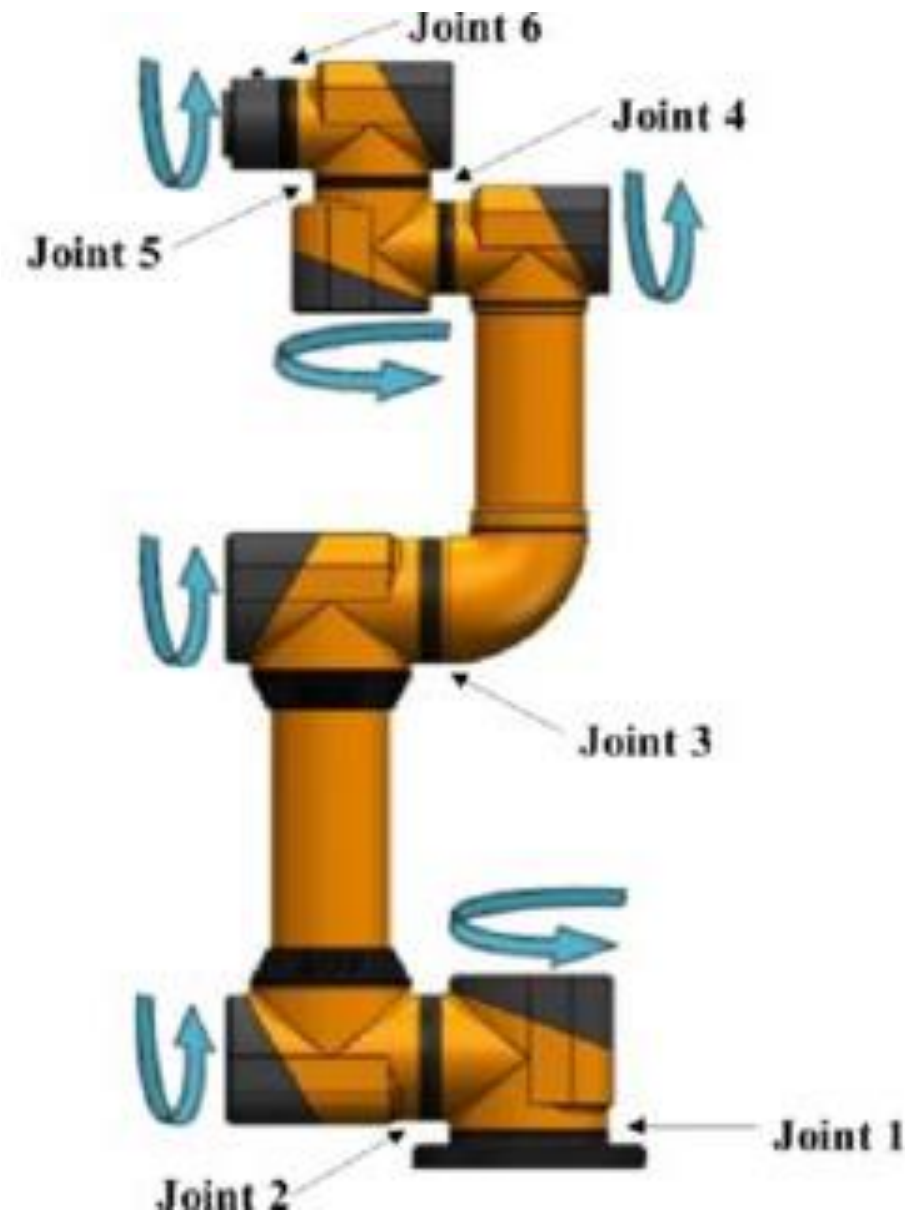
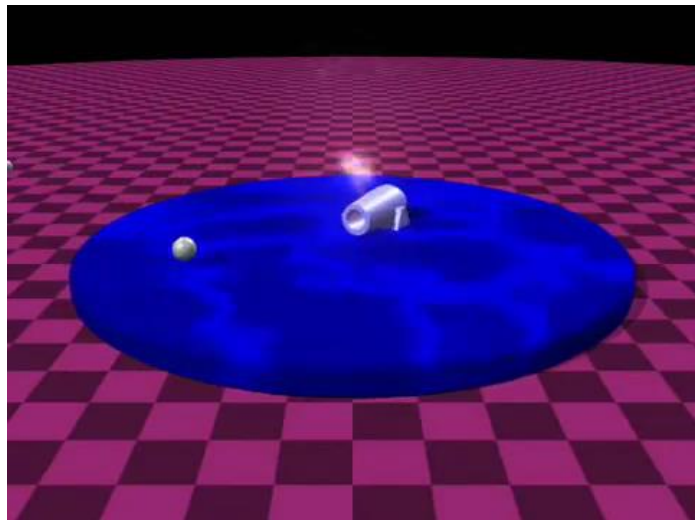
$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) = J(q)^T F_{ext} + \tau$$

$q \in R^6$  (Joint position)

$M(q) \in R^{6 \times 6}$  (Mass matrix)

➤ Symmetric, positive definite

$C(q, \dot{q}) \in R^{6 \times 6}$  (Coriolis and centrifugal forces)



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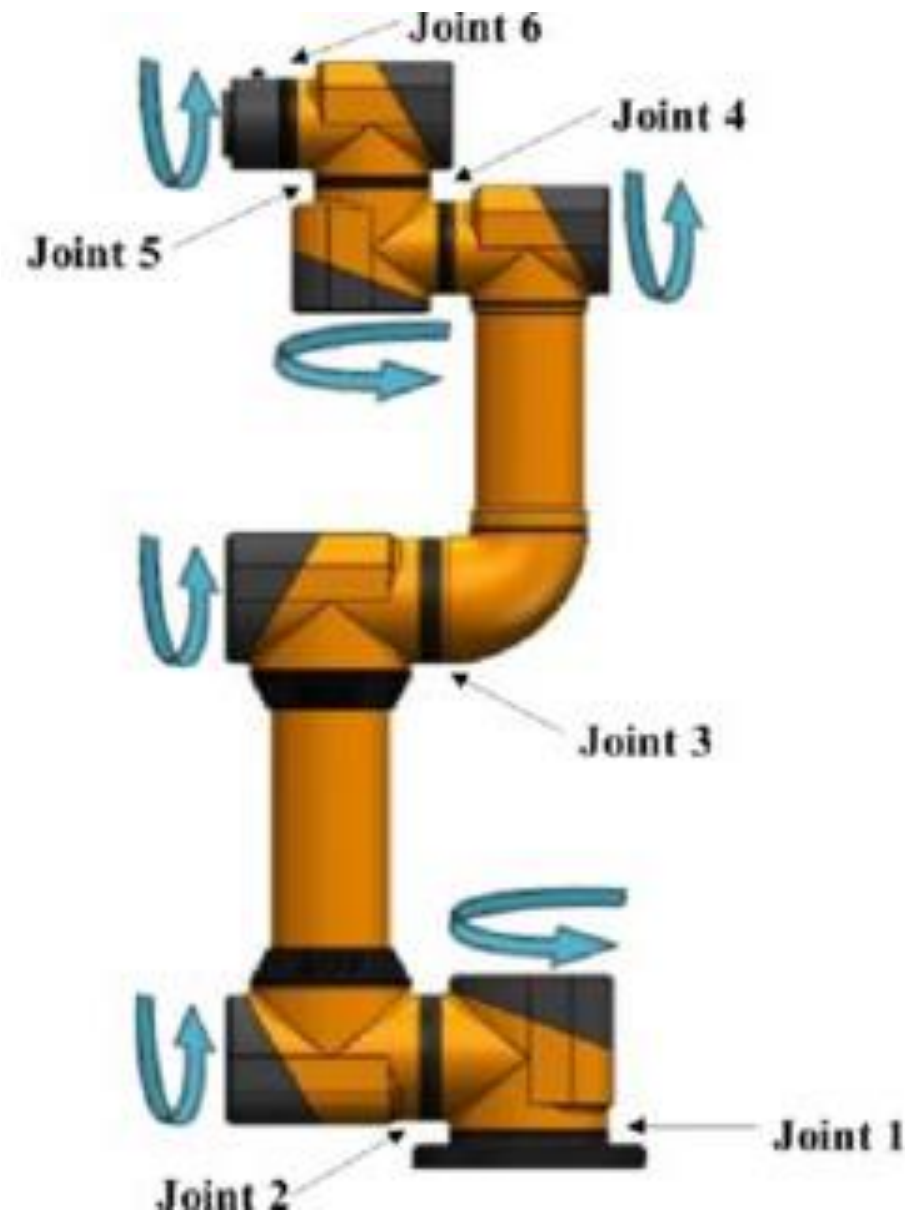
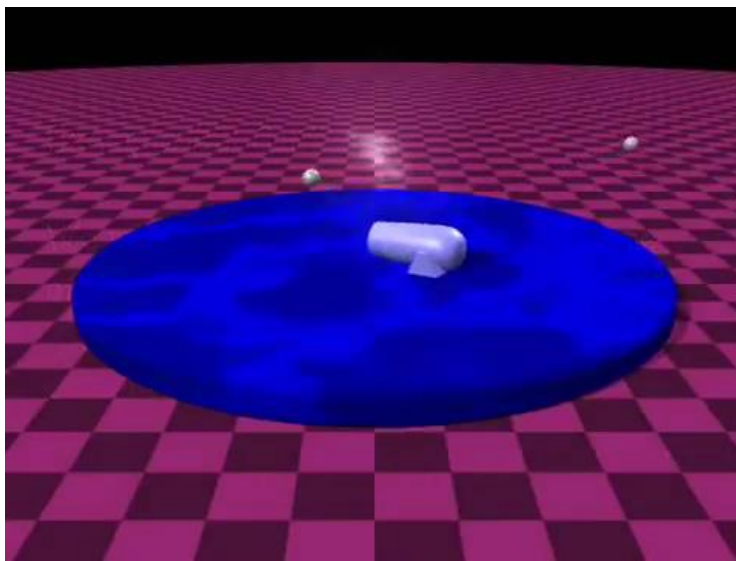
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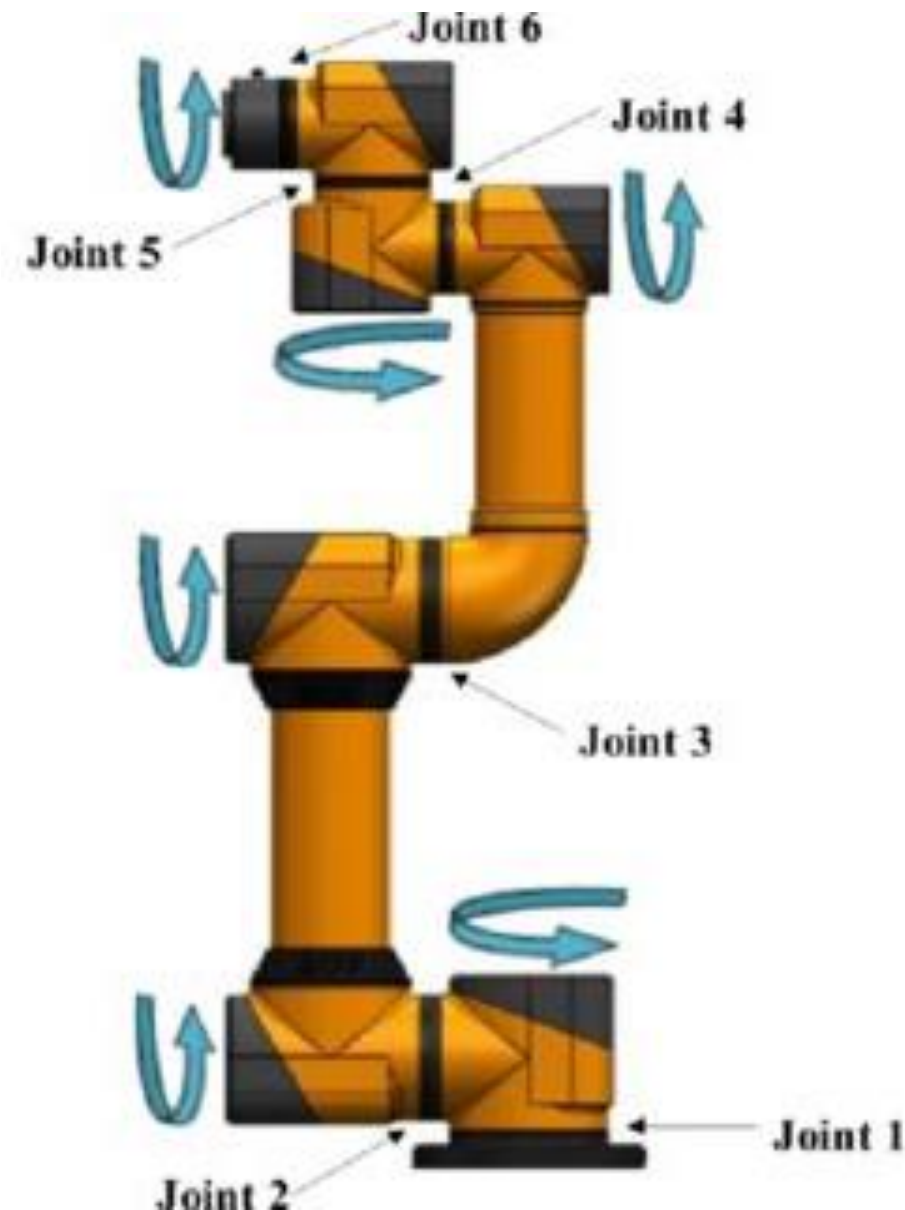
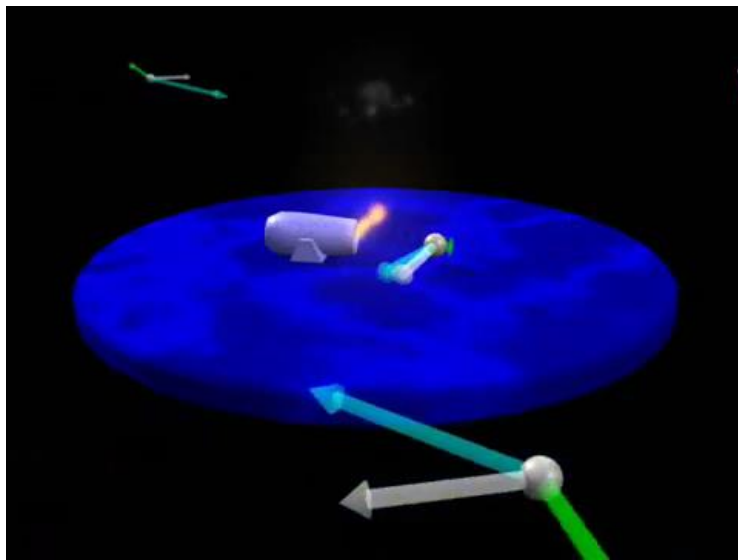
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➤  $\dot{M}(q) - 2C(q, \dot{q})$  is skew symmetric.

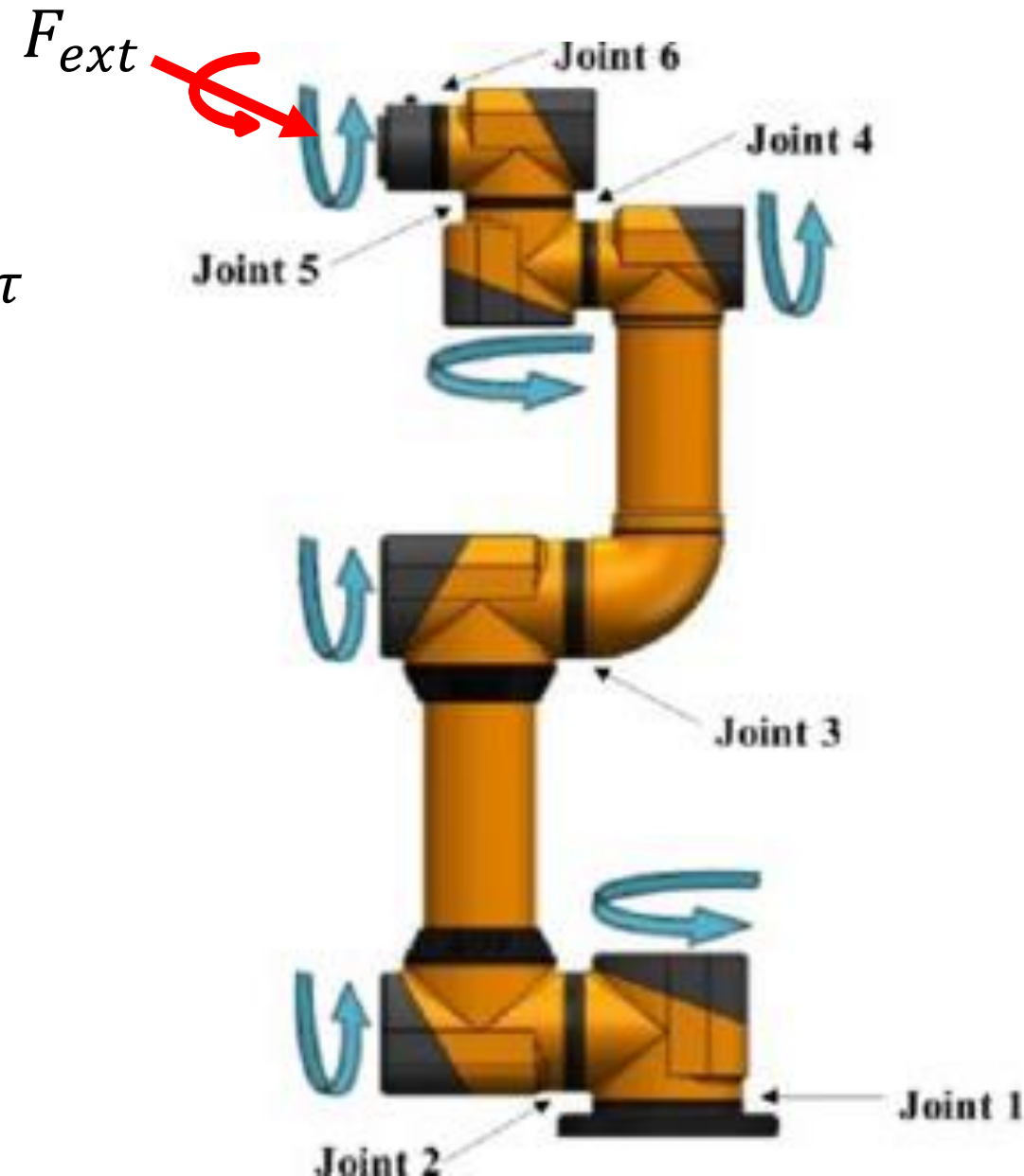
$G(q) \in R^{6 \times 1}$  (Gravity)

$J(q) \in R^{6 \times 6}$  (Jacobian matrix)

➤  $v = J(q)\dot{q}$ ,  $v$ : speed of end-effector

$F_{ext} \in R^{6 \times 1}$  (External force and torque)

$\tau \in R^{6 \times 1}$  (Control input)



# Robot dynamics

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$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) = J(q)^T F_{ext} + \tau$$

$q \in R^7$  (Joint position)

$M(q) \in R^{7 \times 7}$  (Mass matrix)

➤ Symmetric, positive definite

$C(q, \dot{q}) \in R^{7 \times 7}$  (Coriolis and centrifugal forces)

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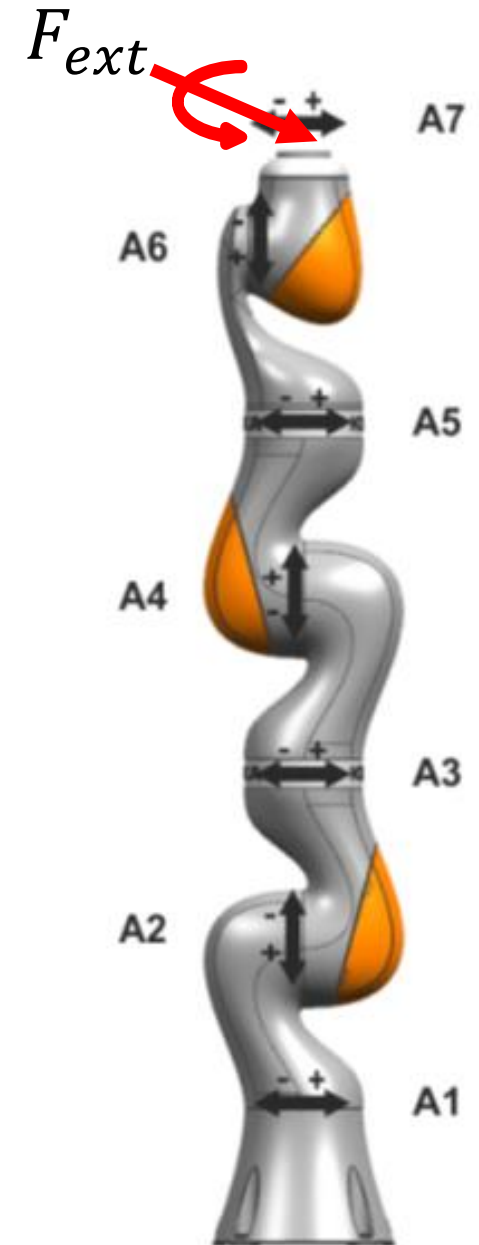
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$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) = J(q)^T F_{ext} + \tau$$

$q \in R^N$  (Joint position)

$M(q) \in R^{N \times N}$  (Mass matrix)

➤ Symmetric, positive definite

$C(q, \dot{q}) \in R^{N \times N}$  (Coriolis and centrifugal forces)

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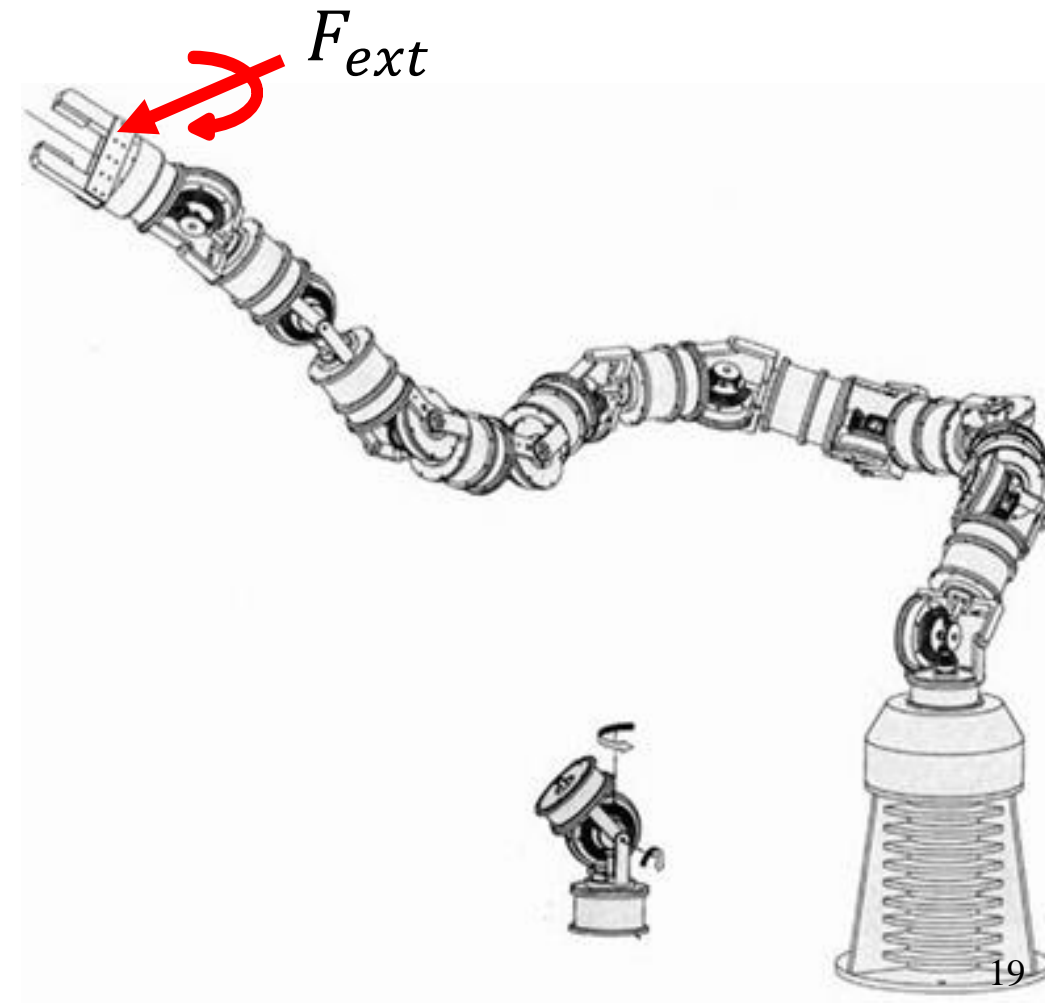
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- Dynamic of a robot (in the joint space):

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) = J(q)^T F_{ext} + \tau$$

How the control input should be designed such that the above system will look like a desired mass-spring-damper while following a desired path?

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A simpler case

How the control input should be designed such that the above system will look like a desired mass-spring-damper:  $\Lambda\ddot{q} + D\dot{q} + Kq = J(q)^T F_{ext}$ ?

Hint:

Feed-back linearization!

- $\tau = C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) + \dots$

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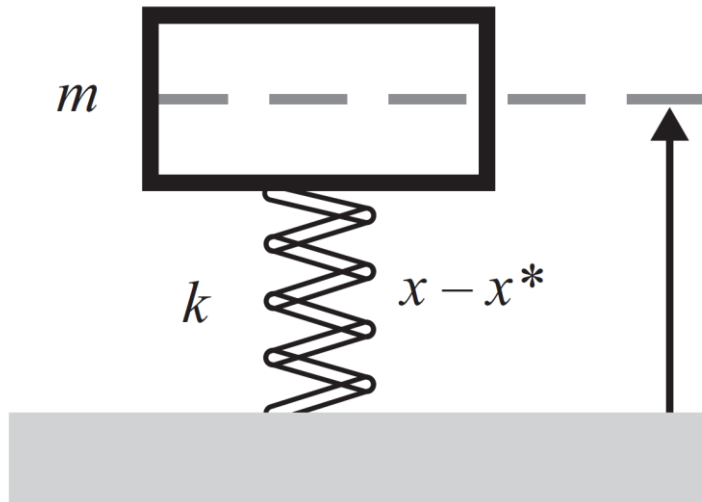
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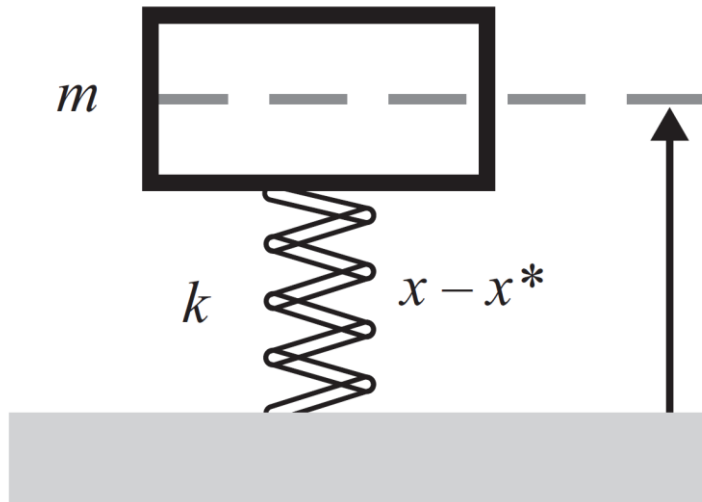
Why we **can't** define  $\tau = C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) + M(q)\ddot{q} - \Lambda\ddot{q} - D\dot{q} - Kq$





**What are the inputs and the outputs in this system?**

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We **can't** define  $\tau = C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) + M(q)\ddot{q} - \Lambda\ddot{q} - D\dot{q} - Kq$  as we can't have  $\ddot{q}$  in both sides!

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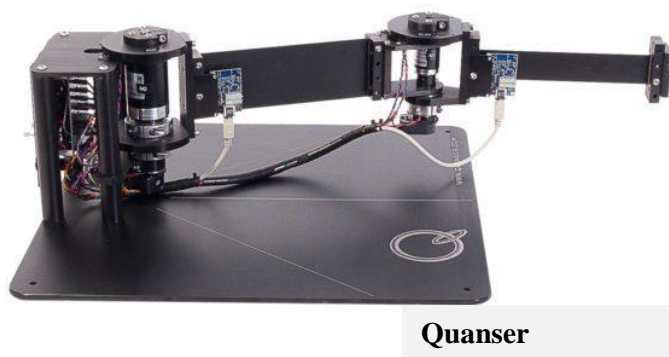
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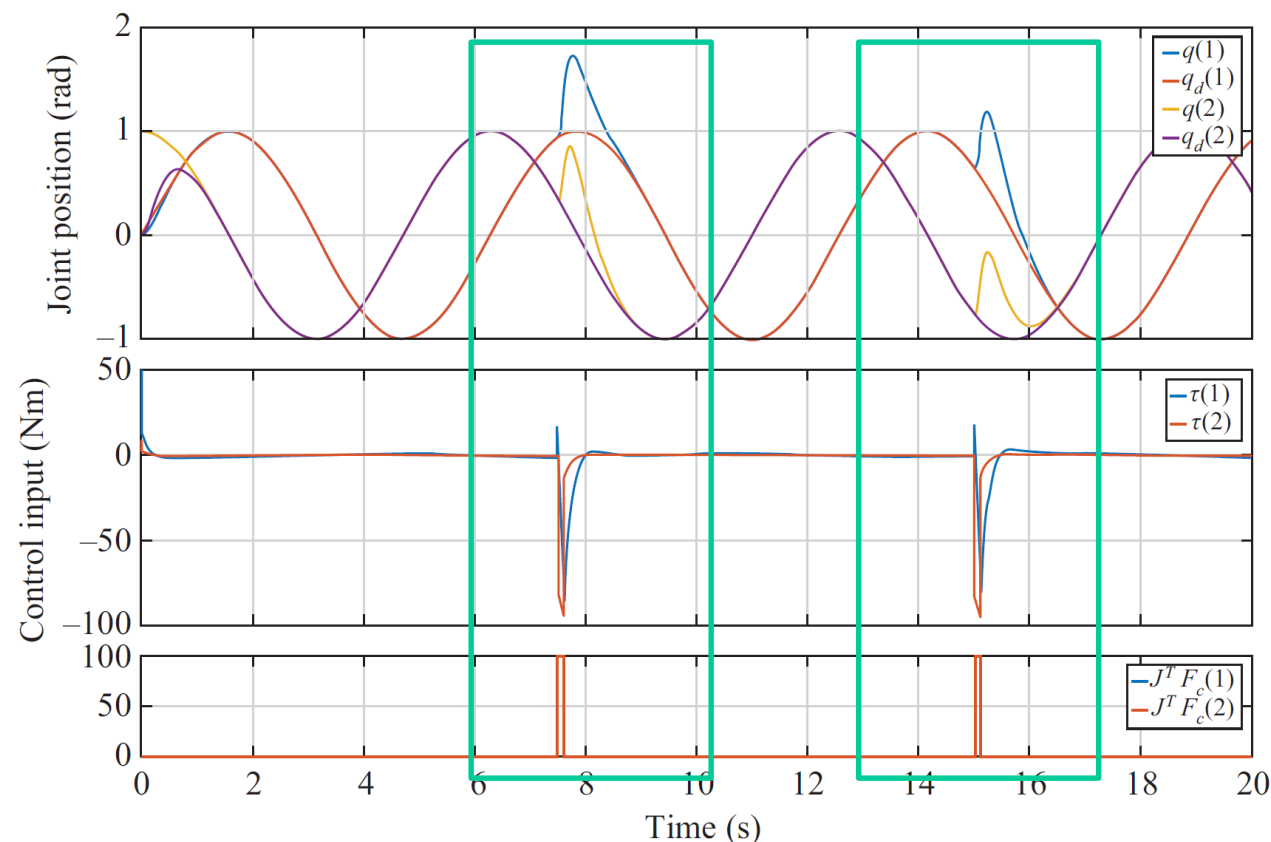
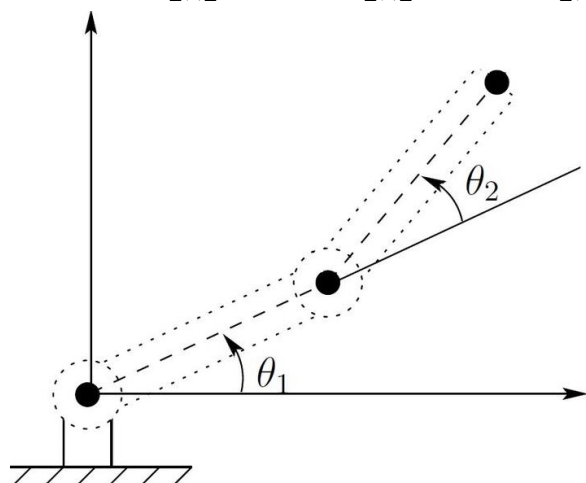
# Example: 2Dof planner robot

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$$\tau = C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) - M(q)\Lambda^{-1}(D\dot{\tilde{q}} + K\tilde{q}) + (M(q)\Lambda^{-1} - I)J(q)^T F_{ext} + \Lambda\ddot{q}^d$$



$m_1 = 1.0$   $m_2 = 0.5$  Mass of the first and second links  
 $l_1 = 1.0$   $l_2 = 0.5$  Length of the first and second links  
 $\Lambda = I_{2 \times 2}$ ,  $D = 10I_{2 \times 2}$ ,  $K = 25I_{2 \times 2}$

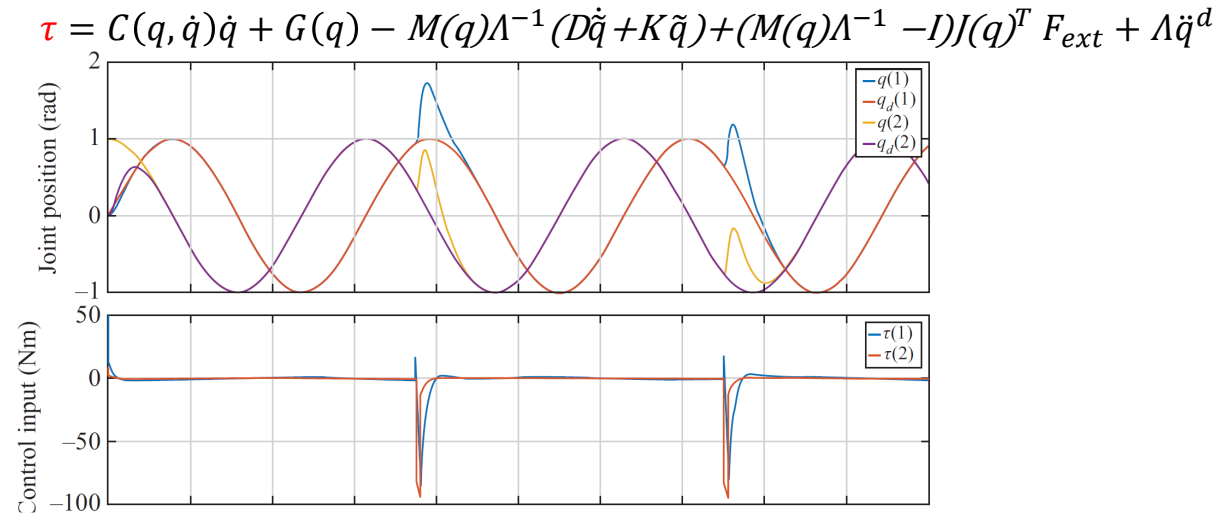


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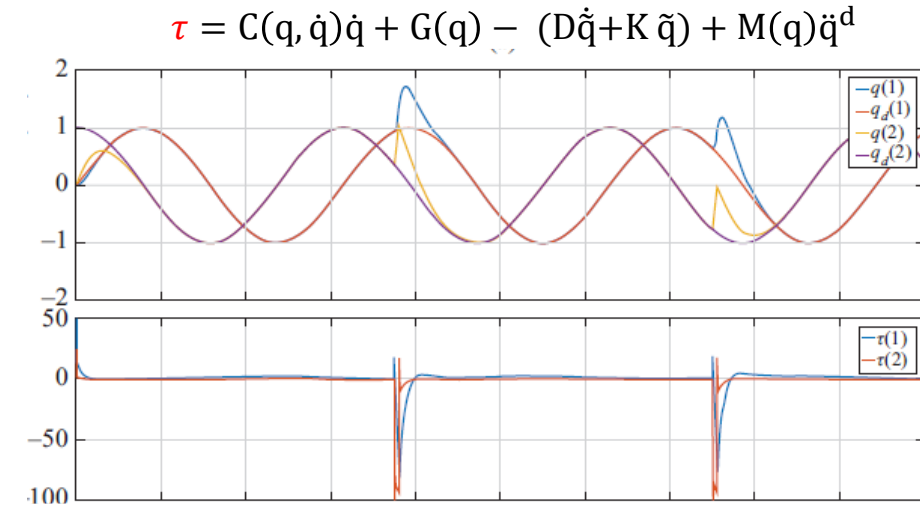
## Example: 2Dof planner robot

$m_1 = 1.0$   $m_2 = 0.5$  Mass of the first and second links  
 $l_1 = 1.0$   $l_2 = 0.5$  Length of the first and second links  
 $\Lambda = I_{2 \times 2}$ ,  $D = 10I_{2 \times 2}$ ,  $K = 25I_{2 \times 2}$

Eq 1

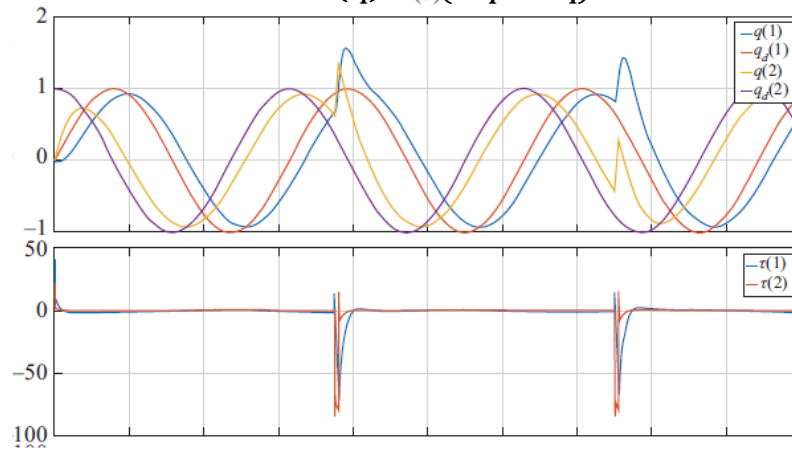


Eq 2



Eq 3

$$\tau = G(q) - (D\ddot{q} + K\tilde{q})$$



Why do you think we can't always implement Eq 1 or Eq 2?  
 (5 minutes open discussion)

## Learning the impedance parameters

# Setting the impedance parameters

The mass-spring-damper depends on choosing well the impedance parameters: matrices  $\Lambda$ ,  $D$  and  $K$ .

$$\Lambda \ddot{\tilde{q}} + D \dot{\tilde{q}} + K \tilde{q} = J(q)^T F_{ext}$$

How to determine the best impedance value?

## Example: Required Impedance for pouring a drink

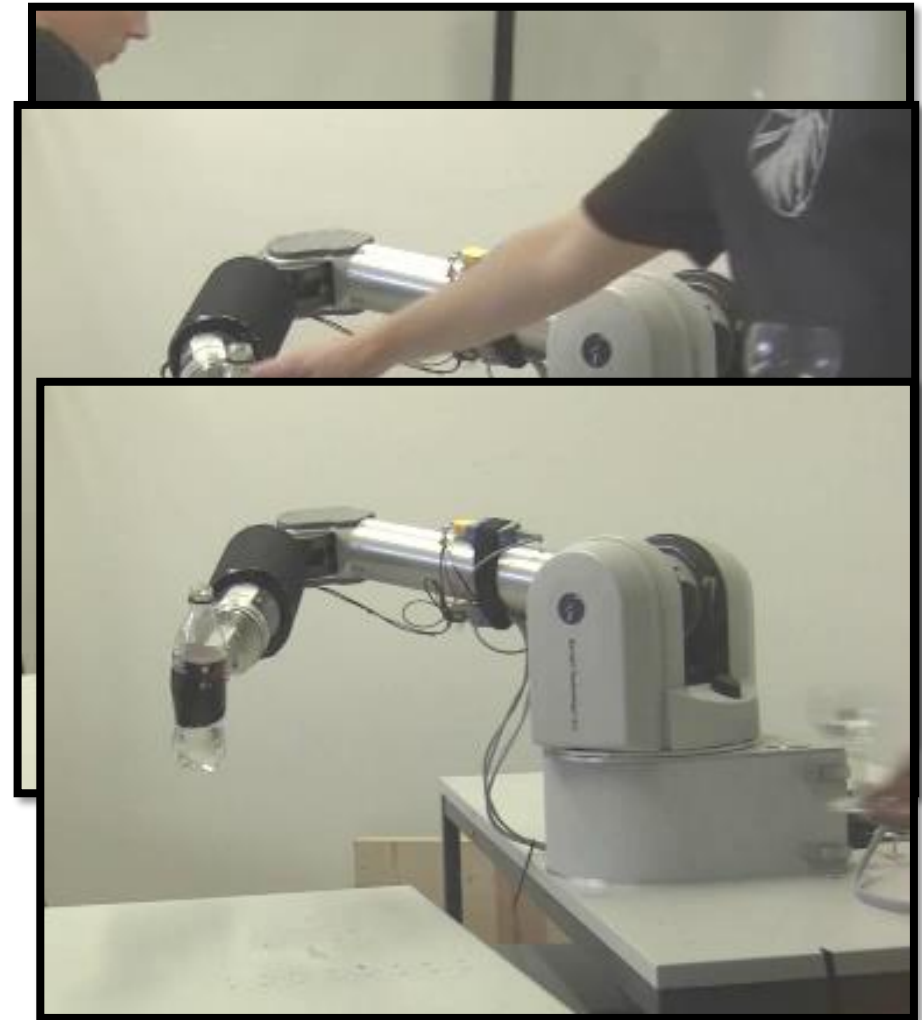
Constant, high stiffness:

Aggressive response to perturbations,  
spills the coke!

Constant, low stiffness:

Good when reaching

Not good when pouring!



# Setting the impedance parameters

How can one determine the best impedance value?

One must set both **the absolute value of impedance and its direction!** *Impedance can be directional.*

Why do you think setting the direction  
of the impedance can be important?  
(5 minutes open discussion)







## Example: Required Impedance for pouring a drink

Constant, high stiffness:  
Aggressive response to perturbations,  
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Good when reaching

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**Learning the impedance parameters**  
*In variable impedance control*



# Setting the impedance parameters

The impedance parameters matrices  $D$  and  $K$ . may vary during the task.

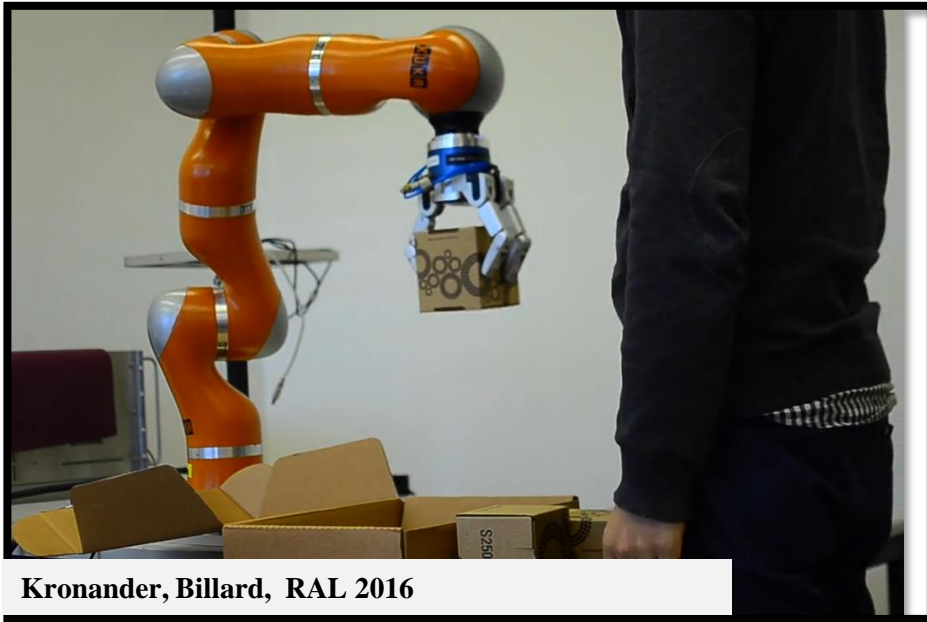
This is expressed by setting an explicit dependency on the state of the system  $\tilde{q}, \dot{\tilde{q}}$ .

$$\Lambda \ddot{\tilde{q}} + \mathbf{D}(\tilde{q}, \dot{\tilde{q}}) \dot{\tilde{q}} + \mathbf{K}(\tilde{q}) \tilde{q} = J(q)^T F_{ext}$$

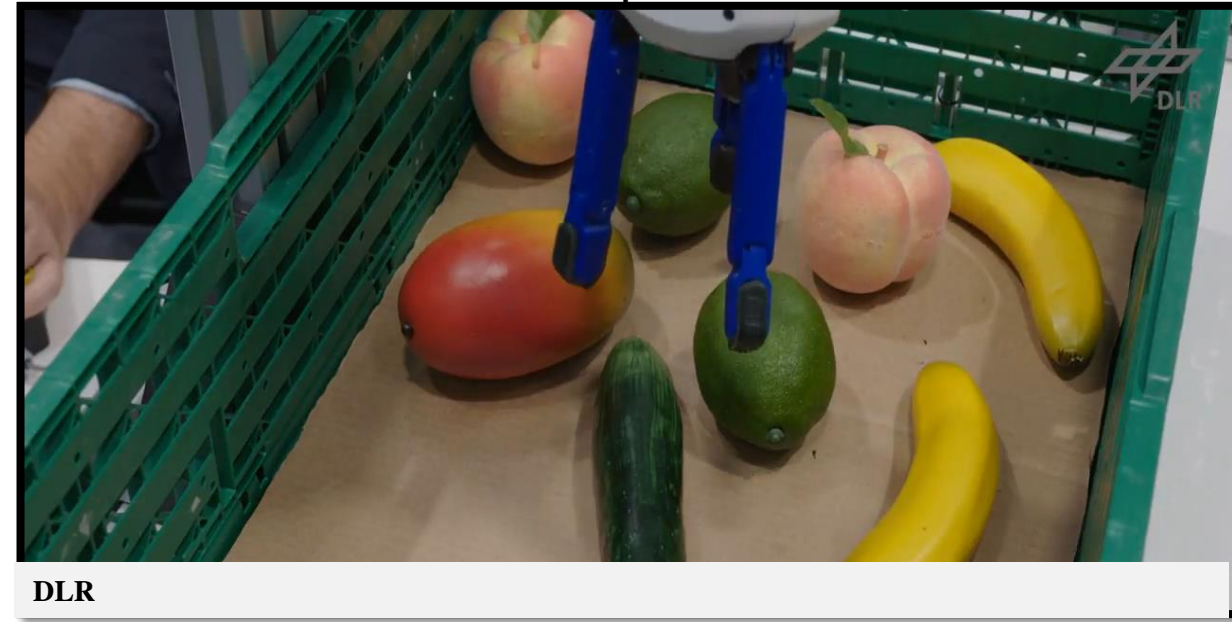
Why setting *variable* stiffness and damping is important at all?

# Variable impedance control

Pick and place



Grasp



There is no universal impedance value!

# Modeling variable impedance

- We start with our original dynamic of a robot (in the joint space):

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) = J(q)^T F_{ext} + \tau$$

How to model the variations of the impedance parameters?

$$\Lambda \ddot{\tilde{q}} + \mathbf{D}(\tilde{q}, \dot{\tilde{q}})\dot{\tilde{q}} + \mathbf{K}(\tilde{q})\tilde{q} = J(q)^T F_{ext}?$$

Hint:

Feed-back linearization!

$\mathbf{D}(\tilde{q}, \dot{\tilde{q}})$  and  $\mathbf{K}(\tilde{q})$  can be modelled by using LPV system:

$$\mathbf{K}(\tilde{q}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K_n} \gamma_i^{K_n}(\tilde{q}) K_i \quad K_i \in R^{N \times N} \quad \gamma_k^{K_n} \in R_{(0,1)}$$

$$\mathbf{D}(\tilde{q}, \dot{\tilde{q}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{D_n} \gamma_i^{D_n}(\tilde{q}, \dot{\tilde{q}}) D_i \quad D_i \in R^{N \times N} \quad \gamma_k^{D_n} \in R_{(0,1)}$$

$$\tau = C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) - M(q)\Lambda^{-1}(\mathbf{D}(\tilde{q}, \dot{\tilde{q}})\dot{\tilde{q}} + \mathbf{K}(\tilde{q})\tilde{q}) + (M(q)\Lambda^{-1} - I)J(q)^T F_{ext} + \Lambda \ddot{q}^d$$



## Modeling variable impedance

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# Example: 2Dof planner robot

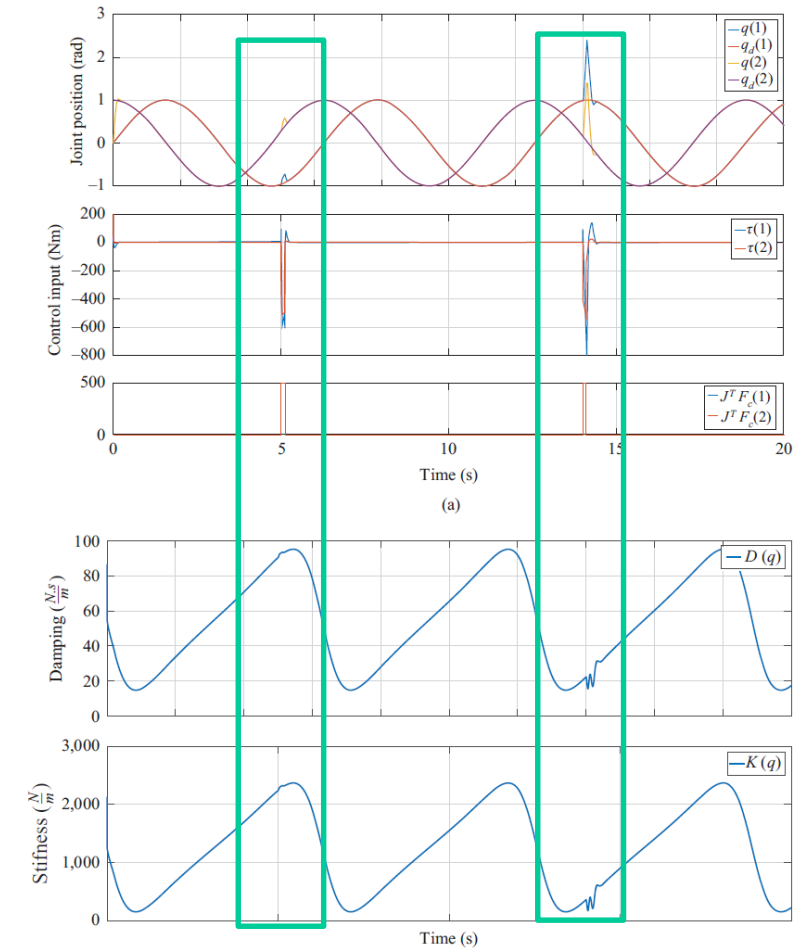
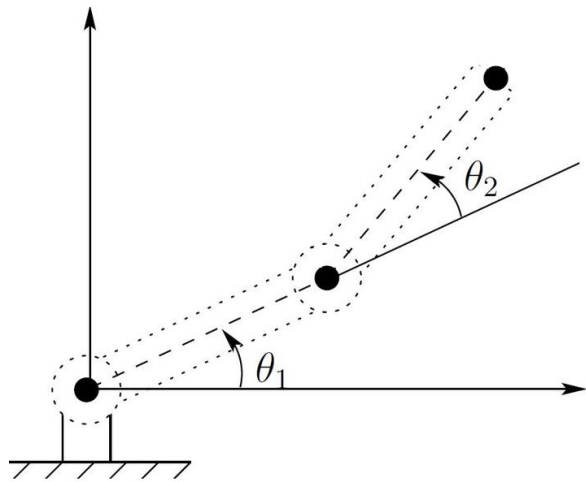
$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) = J(q)^T F_{ext} + \tau$$

$$\tau = C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) - M(q)\Lambda^{-1}(\mathbf{D}(\tilde{q})\dot{\tilde{q}} + \mathbf{K}(\tilde{q})\tilde{q}) + (M(q)\Lambda^{-1} - I)J(q)^T F_{ext} + M(q)\ddot{q}^d$$

$$\mathbf{D}(\tilde{q}) = \frac{10(q - \mu_1)^T(q - \mu_1) + 100(q - \mu_2)^T(q - \mu_2)}{(q - \mu_1)^T(q - \mu_1) + (q - \mu_2)^T(q - \mu_2)}$$

$$\mathbf{K}(\tilde{q}) = \frac{25(q - \mu_1)^T(q - \mu_1) + 2500(q - \mu_2)^T(q - \mu_2)}{(q - \mu_1)^T(q - \mu_1) + (q - \mu_2)^T(q - \mu_2)}$$

$$\mu_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mu_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



**How to teach a robot to stiffen or unstiffen**

## Example: Required Impedance for pouring a drink

Constant, high stiffness:  
Aggressive response to perturbations,  
spills the coke!

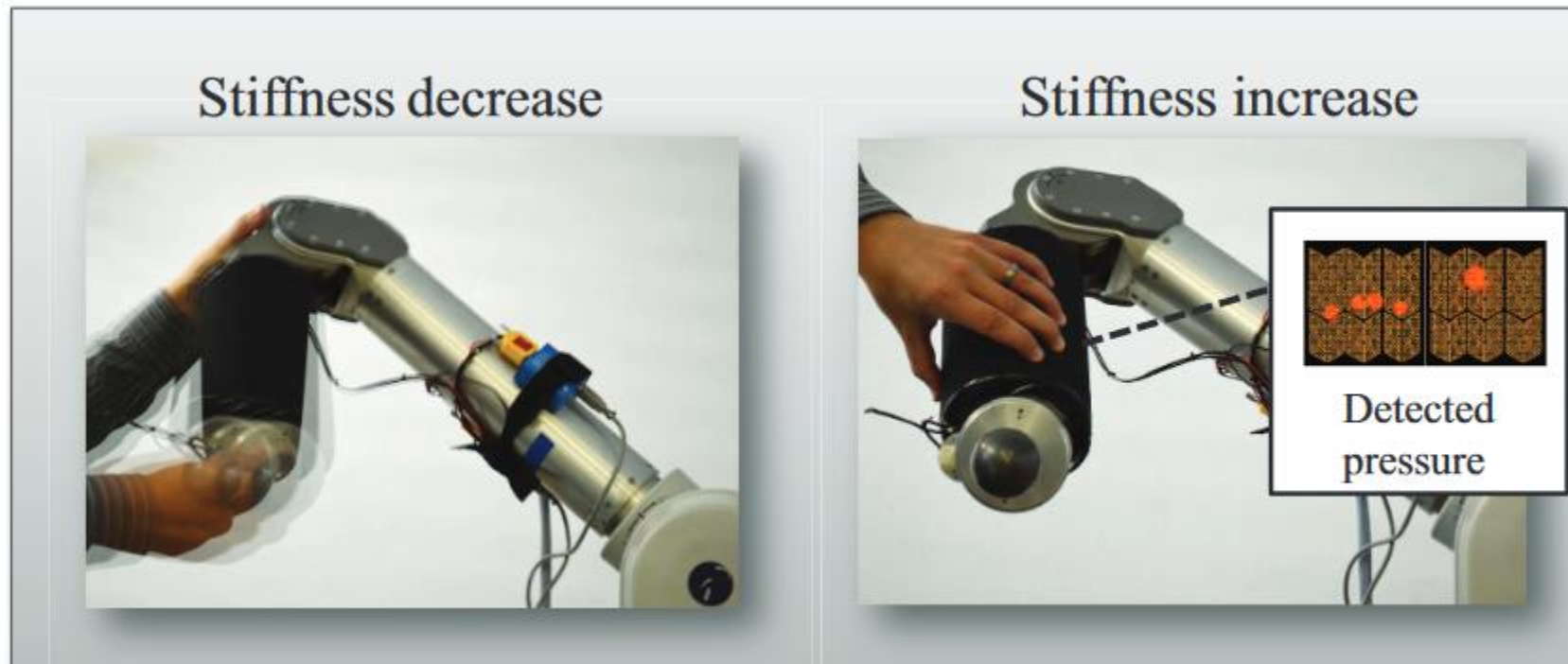
Constant, low stiffness:  
Good when reaching

Not good when pouring!



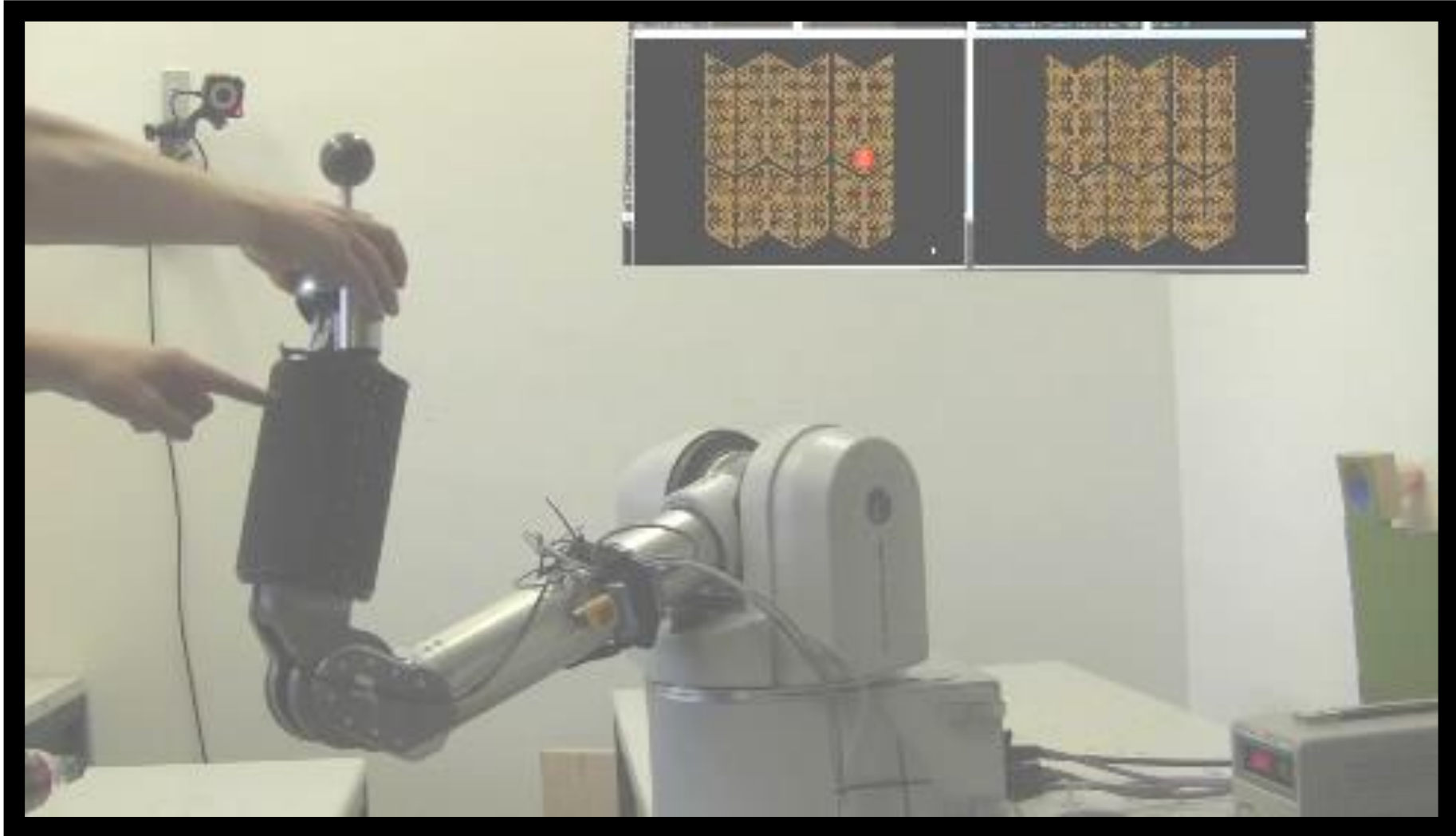
# Learning the Desired Impedance Profiles

- **Learning VIC from kinesthetic teaching:**
- An operator physically interacts with the robotic to adjust the desired stiffness
- A higher perturbation amplitude results in less stiffness
- The stiffness profile can be learned/adjusted online



## Tactile information

*Artificial skin for detecting the grasp pressure*



## Teaching increase in stiffness exploiting tactile sensing on robot arm

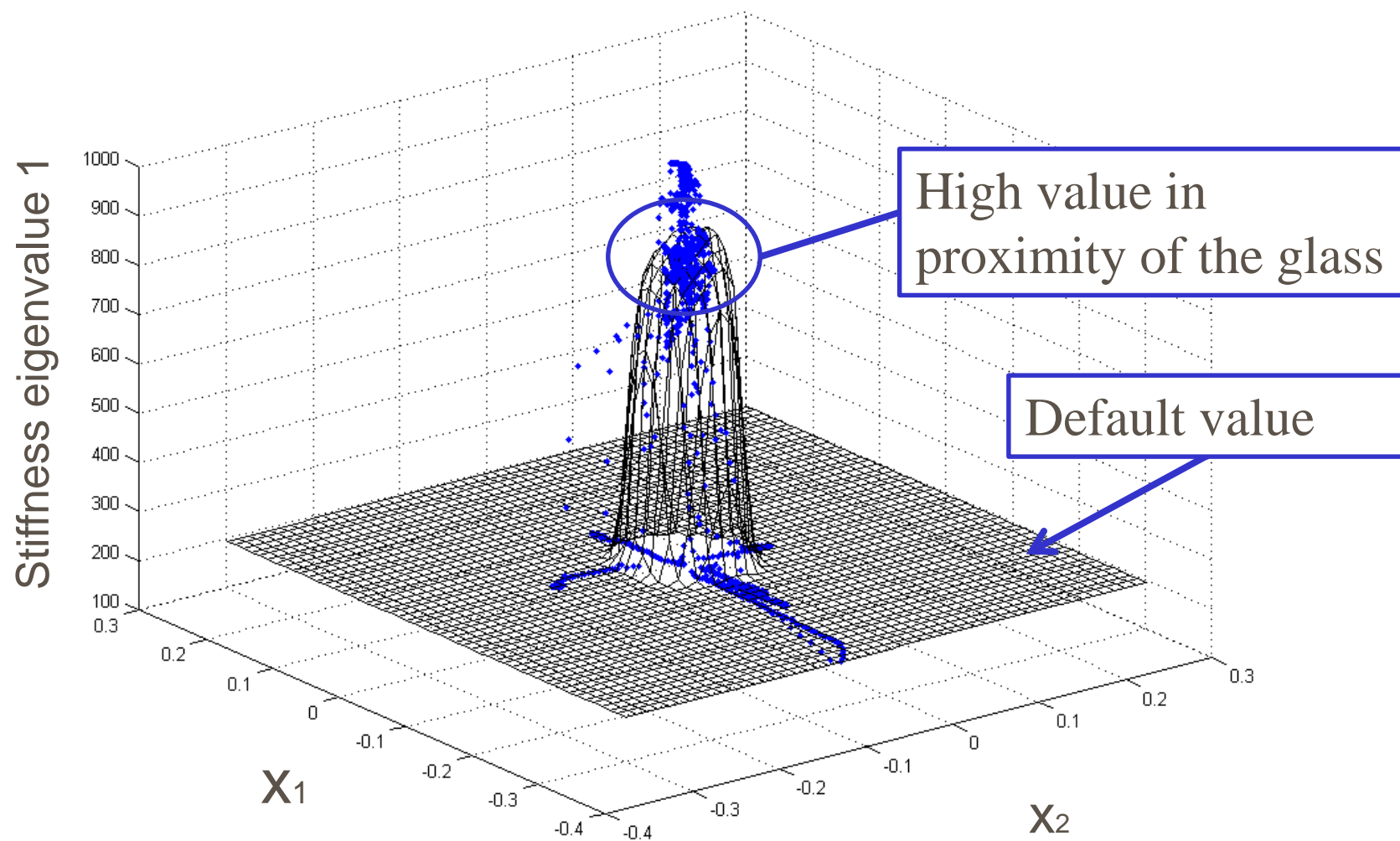




## Teaching how and when to increase stiffness

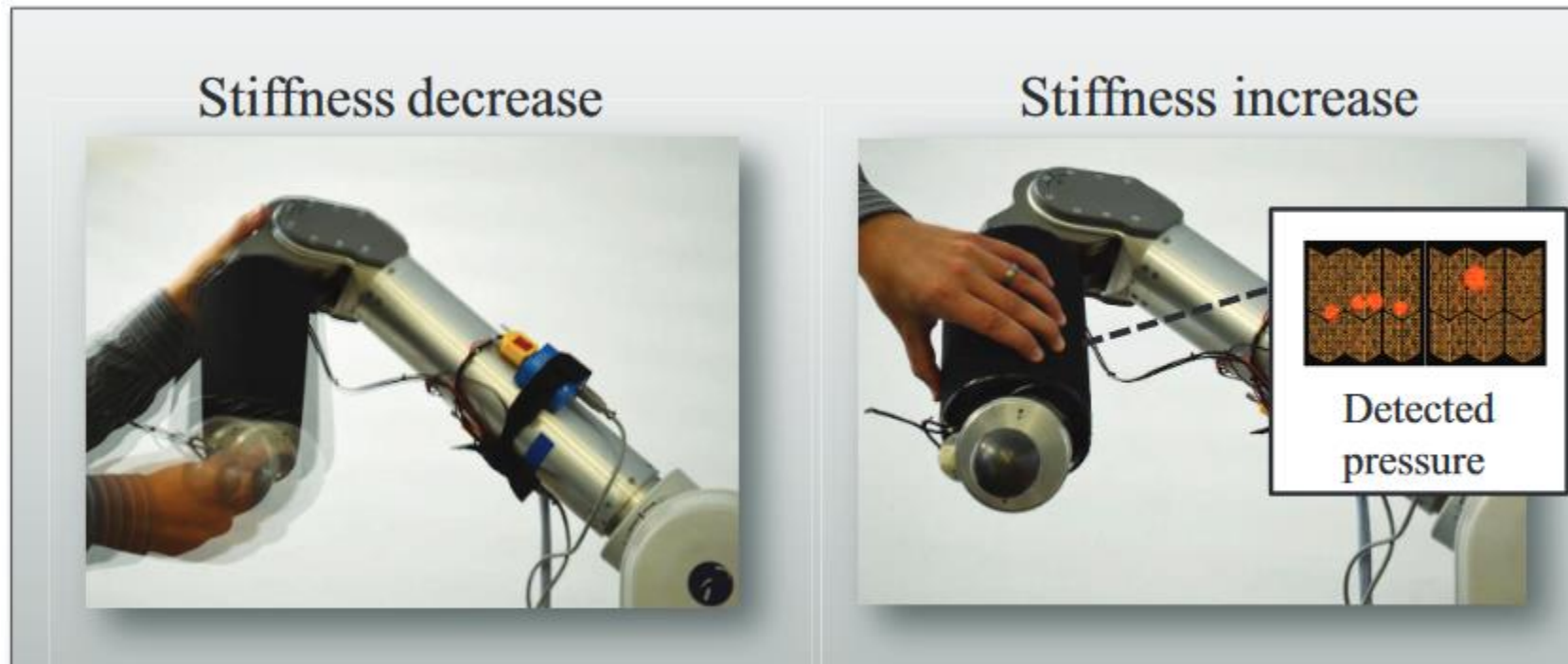


# Teaching how and when to increase stiffness



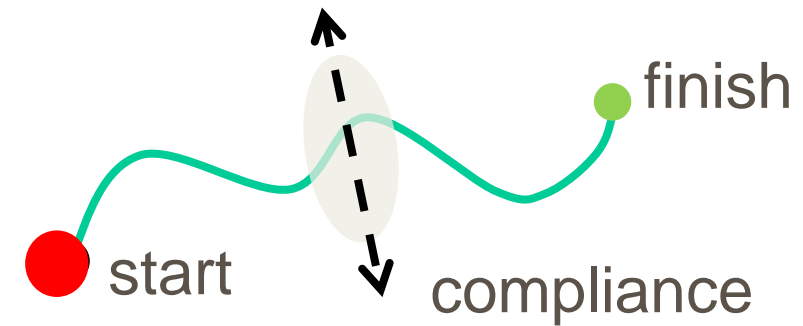
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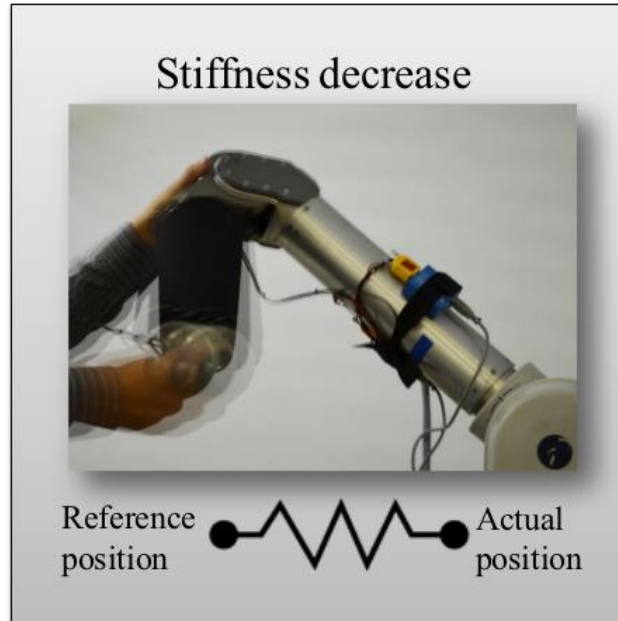


## Teaching stiffness profile

- ❑ Start from a known task with strong stiffness
- ❑ To reduce the stiffness, the teacher wiggles the robot during task execution.



# Teaching range of tolerance - stiffness



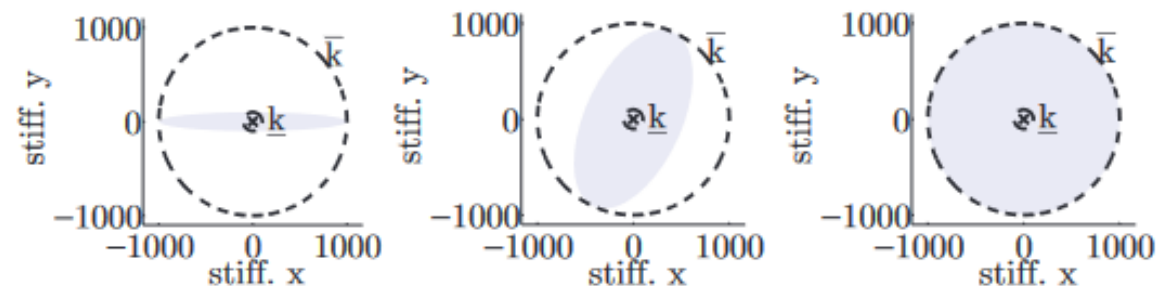
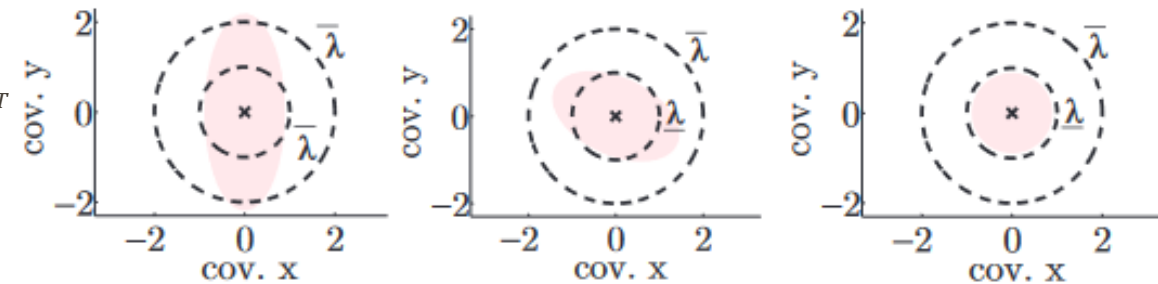
Eigenvalue Decomposition of Covariance of Data (perturbation over a time window):

$$\frac{1}{M} \sum_{t=S}^t (x_t - \mu_t)(x_t - \mu_t)^T = U \Lambda U^T$$

Stiffness aligned with main axes of perturbation

$$K = U \Lambda^{-1} U^T$$

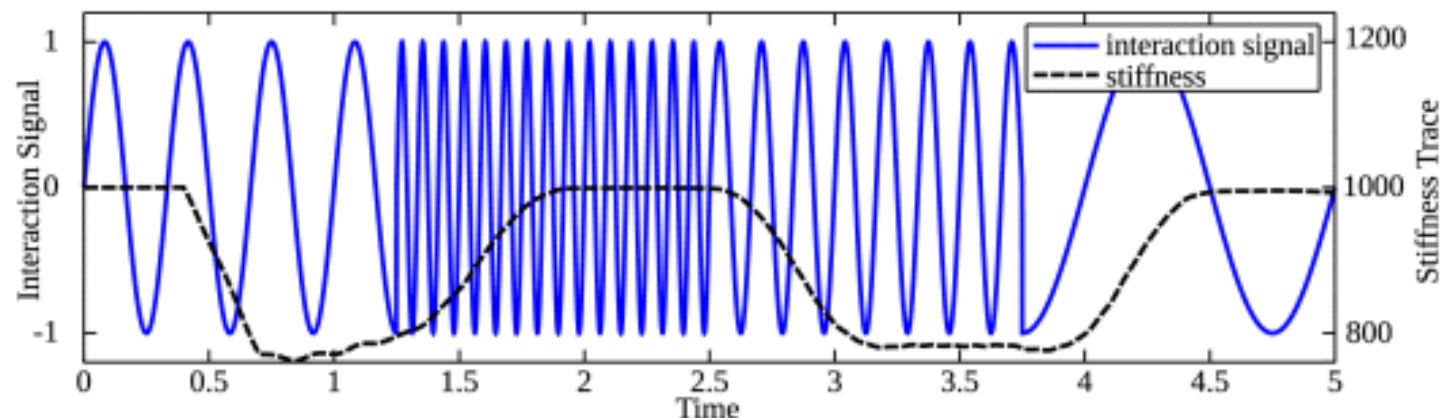
$$\frac{1}{M} \sum_{t=S}^t (x_t - \mu_t)(x_t - \mu_t)^T$$



Eigenvalues inversely proportional to stiffness

$K$

# Modeling and learning state-dependent varying stiffness



*Example of a sinusoidal time-varying signal*

*Change in frequency are converted into stiffness changes*

The time-varying stiffness is converted into a **state-dependent** varying stiffness  $K(x)$ .

To learn the varying stiffness, one learns a dependency between the position  $x$  and the Cholesky factor  $L$  through **Gaussian Mixture Model**, using the variance of the data during demonstration.

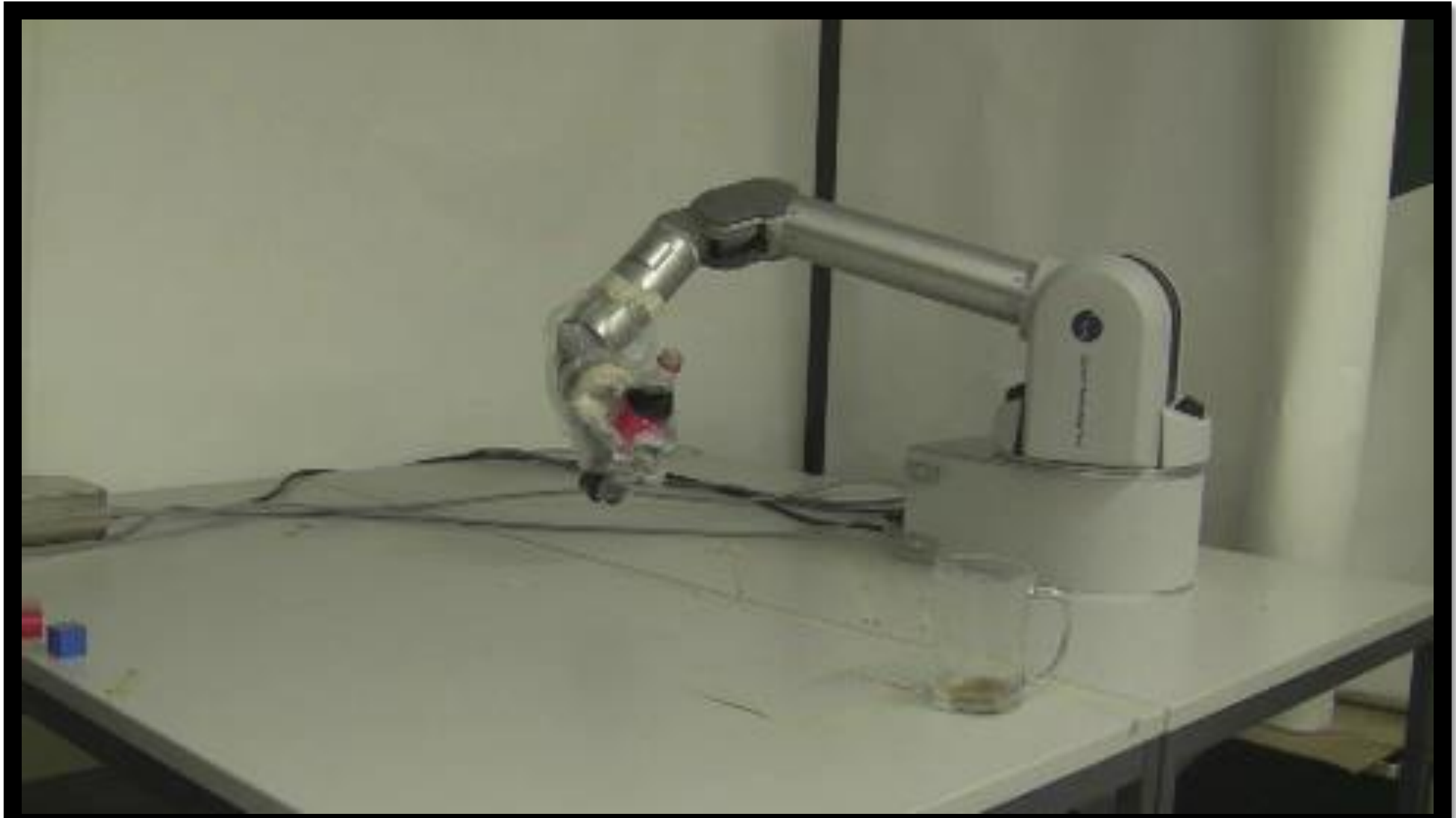
$$p(x, L) = \sum_{k=1}^K p(x, L; \mu^k, \Sigma^k), \quad \mu^k, \Sigma^k : \text{Gauss means and covariance matrices}$$

Stiffness matrix is expressed through Cholesky's decomposition  $K(x) = L(x)L(x)^T$  **Why ?**

At run time, for a query point  $x^*$ , the stiffness matrix is obtained through Gaussian Mixture regression:  
 $K(x^*) = L(x^*)L(x^*)^T, L(x^*) = E\{p(L/x^*)\}$



## Reproduction with correct compliance





# Teaching Right Amount of Stiffness for Lighting up a match



## Joint Stiffness Modulation through Physical Human- Robot Interaction

# Teaching Right Amount of Stiffness for Lighting up a match

- High stiffness needed for accurate match positioning before the striking motion.
  - Low stiffness is necessary to reduce contact forces in the striking phase.
- 
- Joint torque sensors used to measure the interaction.
  - Teach a local reduction of the stiffness in the striking phase.

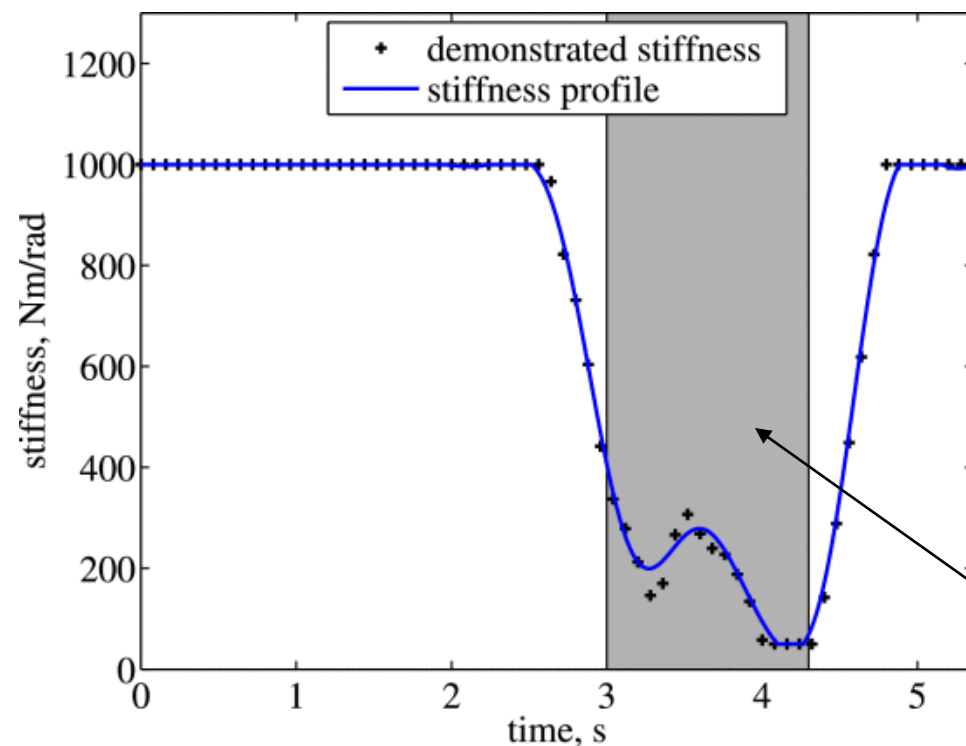


# Teaching Right Amount of Stiffness for Lighting up a match



Teaching Stiffness at Joint Level

# Teaching Right Amount of Stiffness for Lighting up a match



Sole the stiffness profile for the elbow joint is taught.

The remaining six joints of the robot had a constant stiffness of 1,000 Nm/rad

**Striking phase**

Here the stiffness profile for each joint is learned through Gaussian Process Regression (GPR).

## Lighting a match: results from 20 trials

	Broke	Broke and lit	Not lit	Lit	Success rate
Constant high stiffness	4	11	2	3	15%
Constant low stiffness	0	3	14	3	15%
Learned varying stiffness	0	2	1	17	85%



## Lighting a match: results from 20 trials

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Learned varying stiffness	0	2	1	17	85%

Why do you think the constant low stiffness profile resulted in numerous *Not lit* cases?



## Summary

### Why compliant control?

- Compliant control is crucial to enable robots **to interact safely** with their environment and in particular with humans.

### How to program robots to become compliant?

- Compliance is usually obtained by controlling the robot through **impedance control**.
  - Another approach could be using compliant or variable impedance actuators.
- By setting the **impedance parameters (stiffness and damping)**, one can modulate the response of the robot to external forces.
- As the compliance depends on the task and may also vary along the task, it is important to set stiffness and damping as **varying parameters**, that varies with time or state of the system (see exercises).

### How to teach robots the right compliance ?

- Kinesthetic teaching** can be used to train the robot to stiffen or unstiffen, using the robot's tactile and force sensing.
- State-dependent stiffness profiles** can be **learned** through standard machine learning for regression.