

# Intelligent Robot Control

## Lecture 6: Impedance control

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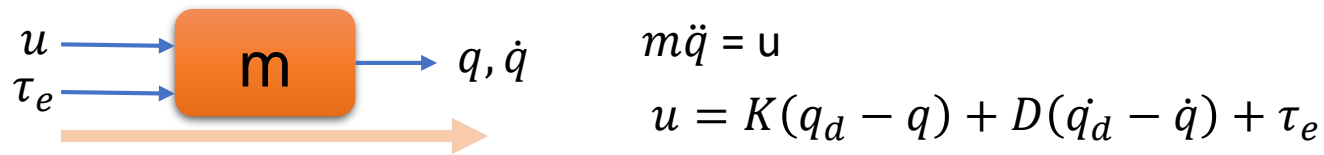
# Impedance control

- Robots also interact with the environment without the need to **control** interaction forces. But the controller must be at least aware that contact may happen and be ready to react.



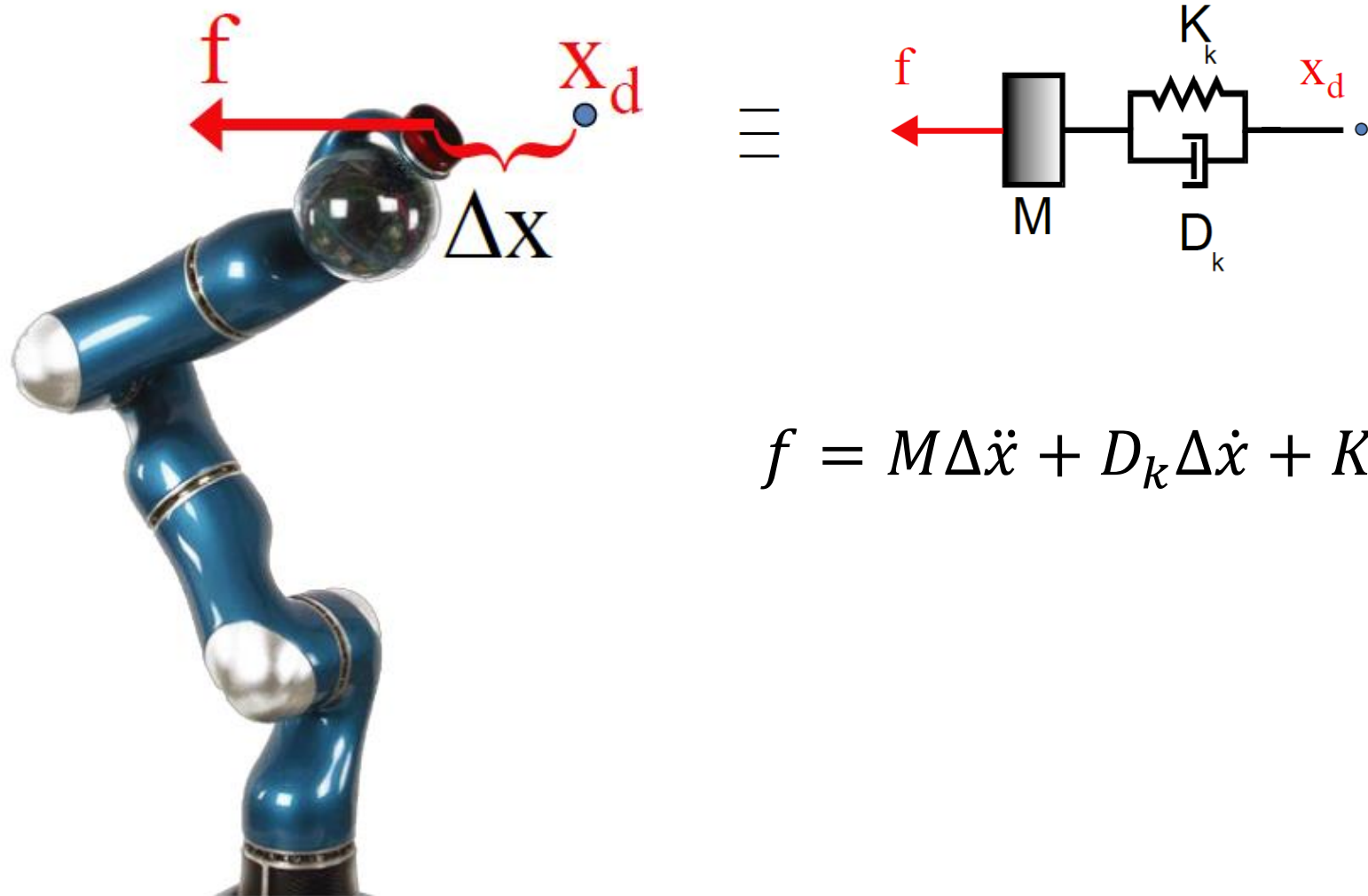
# Impedance control

- Assume the robot is a point mass sliding on the table without friction, which is controlled with a PD position controller. What is the effect of an **external force**?



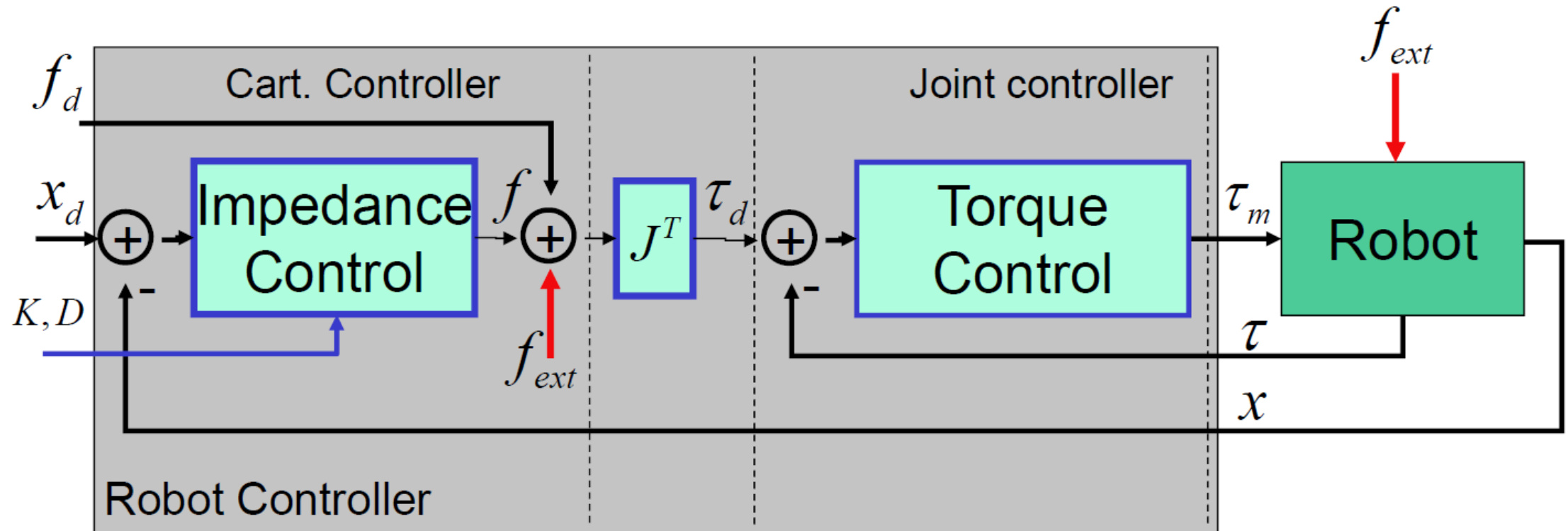
- Assuming there is no reference, we obtain:
  - $m\ddot{q} + D\dot{q} + Kq = \tau_e$
- which is the dynamic equation of a mass-spring-damper system.
- *NOTE*: we can adjust the spring and the damping parameter, but not the mass.
- With the dynamic model of the robot given as  $f_d(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \ddot{\mathbf{q}})$ , a possible control approach is:  $u = K(q_d - q) + D(\dot{q}_d - \dot{q}) + \tau_e + f_d(q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q})$

# Cartesian impedance control



$$f = M\Delta\ddot{x} + D_k\Delta\dot{x} + K_k\Delta x$$

# Principle of Impedance control



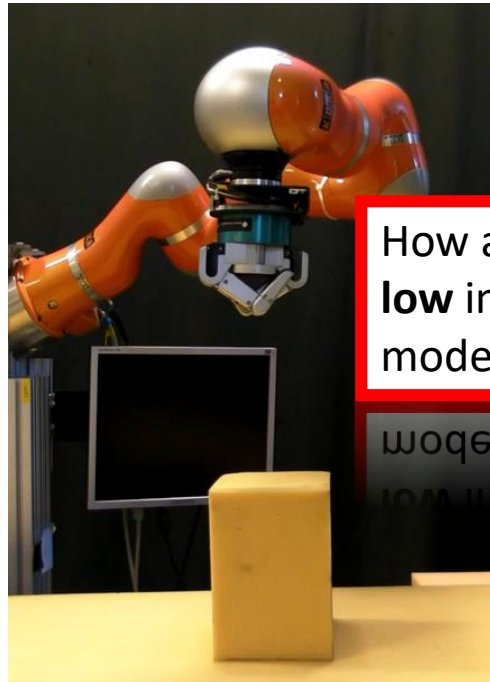
- Inner loop: compliant
- Outer loop: increases stiffness

# Cartesian Impedance Control

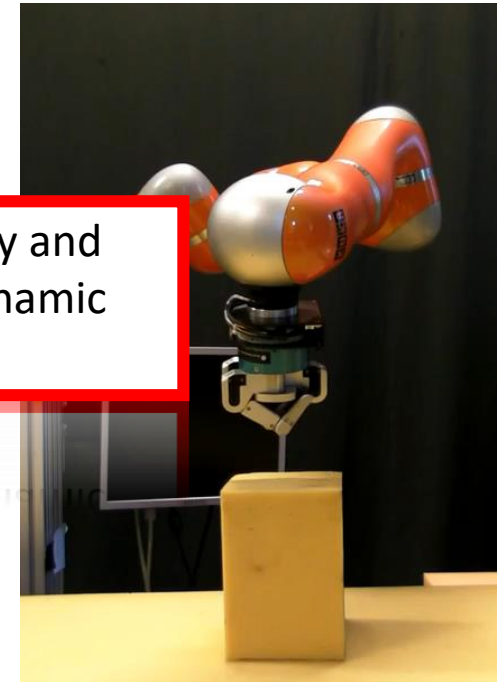
- For a non-redundant, non singular robot with torque interface a simple PD controller in Cartesian coordinates can do the job.
- Cartesian PD-Controller with gravity compensation
  - $F = K_P(x_d - x) - K_d\dot{x}$
- Transformation of the desired Cartesian Forces to desired joint torques
  - $\tau = J^T(q)F + g(q) + \tau_N$
- Null-space torque component for a redundant robot
  - $\tau_N = (I - J^T J^{T\#})\tau_0$
  - $\tau_0$  is an arbitrary joint space torque
  - Pseudoinverse has the property  $J^{\#T} J^T = I$

# Cartesian Impedance Control Example

- In contact: environment imposes position, controller wants to impose position...



How about **high** tracking accuracy and **low** impact forces? „Accurate dynamic model is required!“



## High gains

- **High** tracking accuracy
- **High** impact forces

## Low gains

- **Low** tracking accuracy
- **Low** impact forces

# Impedance control

- In general we would like to have:
  - Good tracking performance, when there is no external force;
  - High reactivity (compliance), when external forces are applied.
- These two requirements are conflicting, in fact:
  - If we increase the gains, we obtain good tracking performance, but the system is robust with respect to external disturbances;
  - If we decrease the gain, the system accommodates for external forces, but the positioning performance are lower.
- What shall we do to obtain both?
  - Accurate dynamic model, for example use Compliant Movement Primitives;
  - or we can use **high gains** and modify the reference position! (Admittance control)

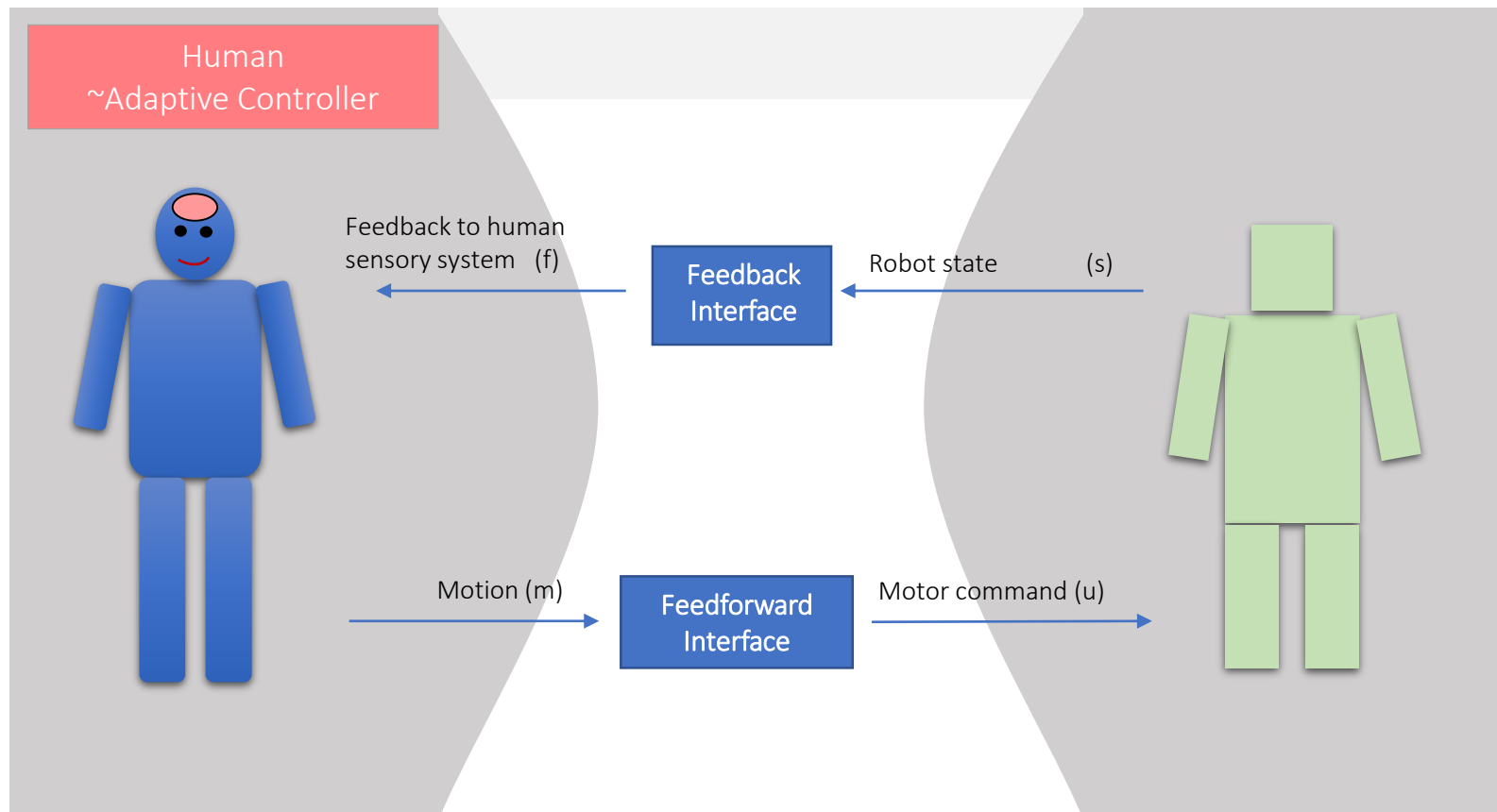


# How to set impedance?

Human-robot collaboration for skill synthesis

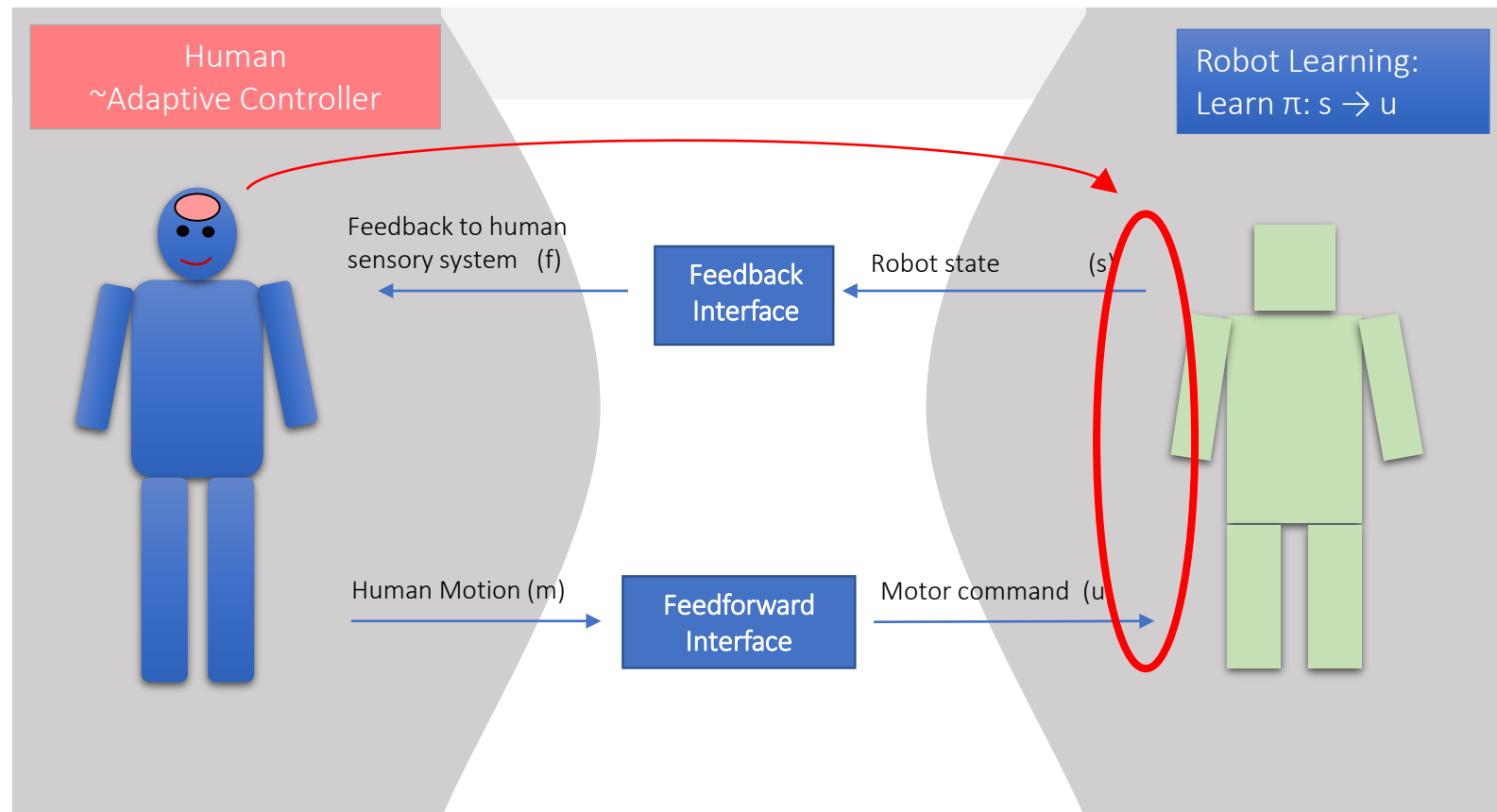
# The paradigm

- Use human **sensorimotor learning** ability to obtain robot behaviors
  - Include the human in the control loop
  - May ask human to do extensive training
  - Utilize the human brain as the adaptive controller



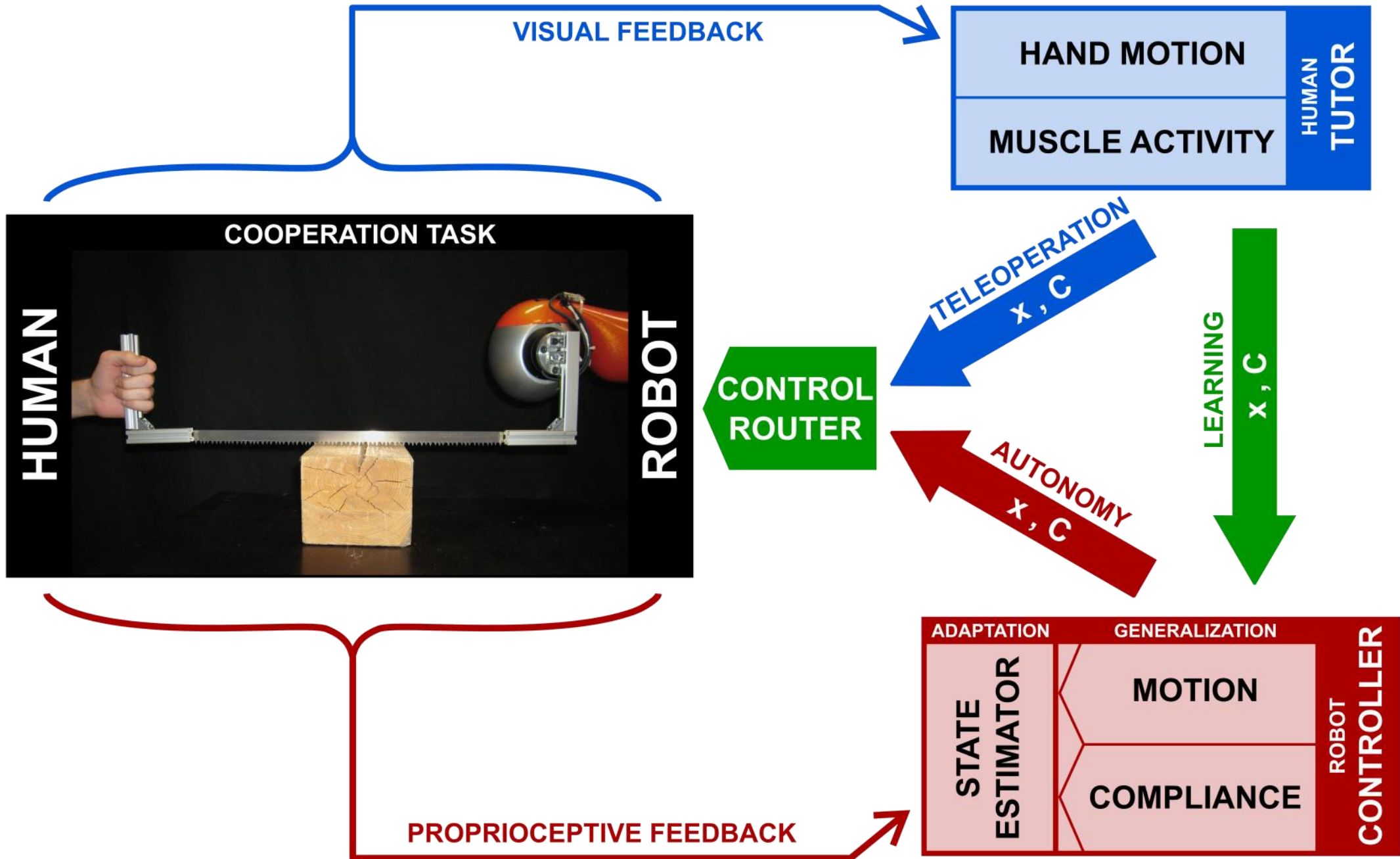
# Skill synthesis for autonomy

For autonomous operation, the key issue is transferring the **control policy** learnt by human to the robot



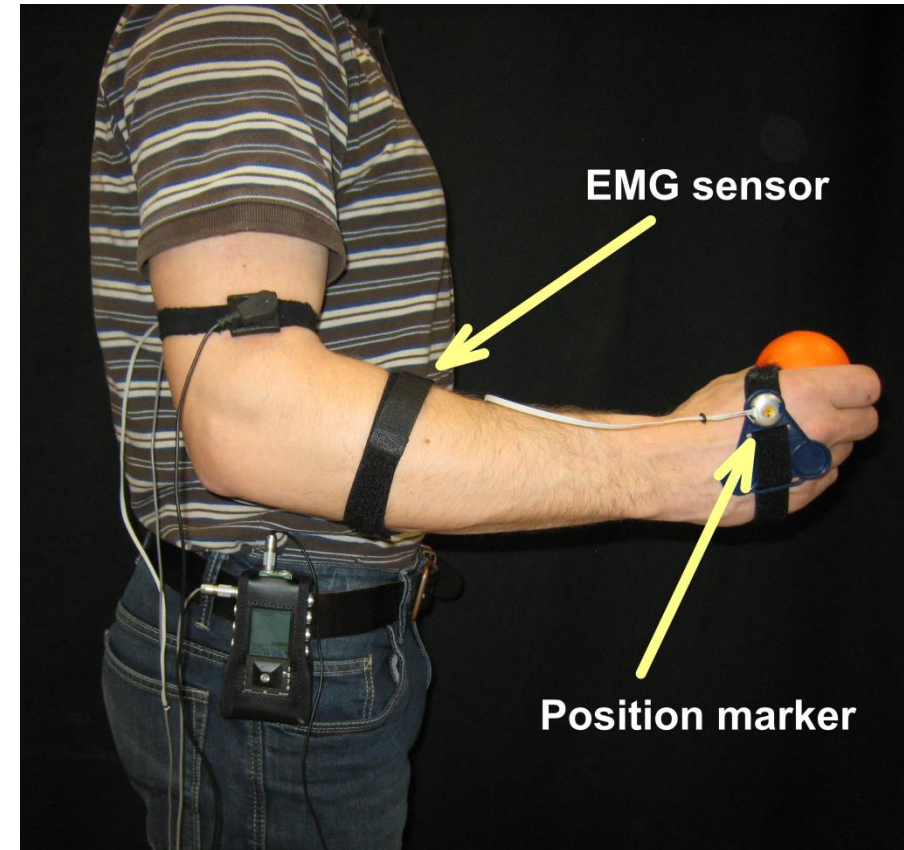
# Why should this paradigm work?

- The ability of the brain to learn novel control tasks by forming **internal models**. The robot can be considered as a tool (e.g. as driving a car, playing an instrument, using chopsticks)
- The flexibility of the **body schema**; extensive human training modifies the body schema so that the robot can be naturally controlled



# Teleoperation using EMG and MOCAP interface

- Real time transfer of:
  - tutor's hand position to robot's end-effector position
  - tutor's muscle activity to robot's end-effector compliance





TEACHING ROBOTS TO COOPERATE WITH HUMANS IN DYNAMIC  
MANIPULATION TASKS BASED ON MULTI-MODAL  
HUMAN-IN-THE-LOOP APPROACH

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2013

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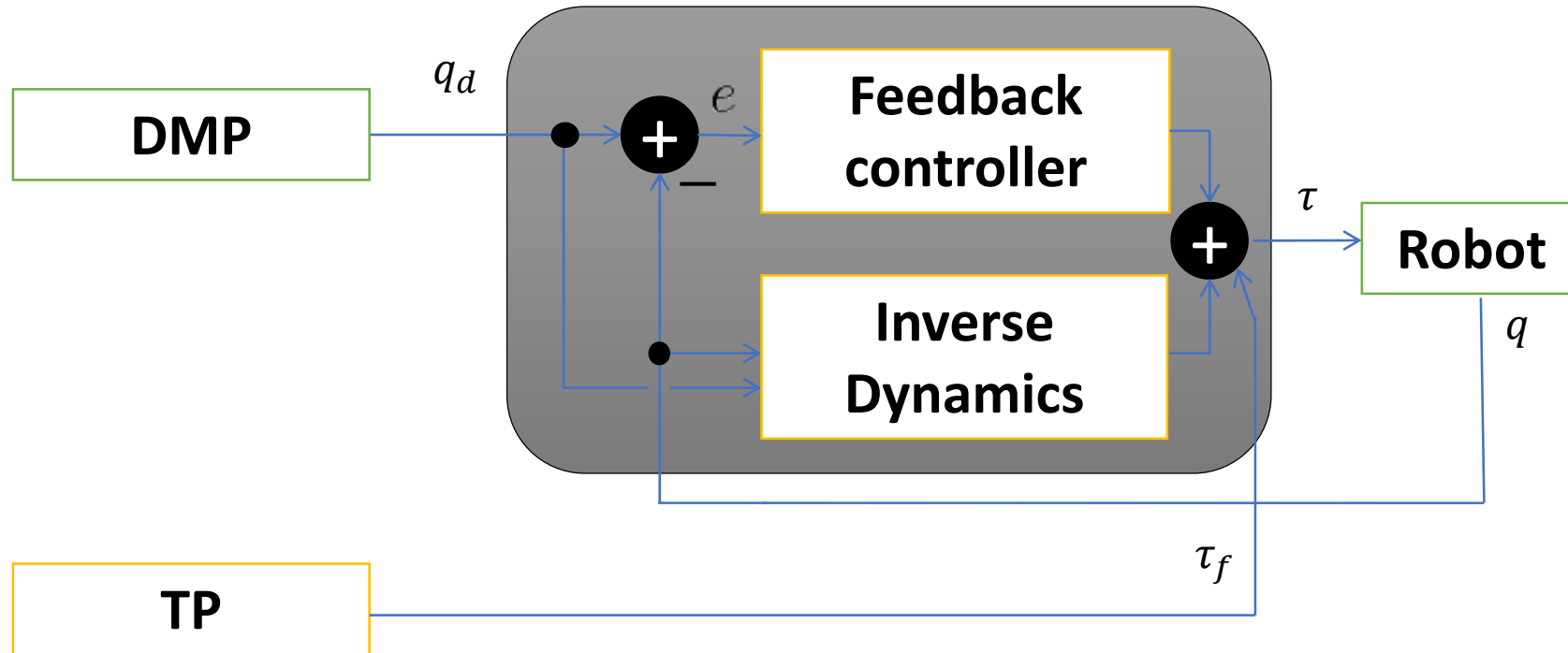
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How to improve tracking  
accuracy when low impedance  
controlled is used?

Compliant movement primitives - CMPs



# Compliant Movement Primitives



- We propose a Compliant Movement Primitive
  - Iterative learning process using low feedback gains
  - Dynamic model of the task is not required
- $$\tau_u = K(q_d - q) + D(\dot{q}) + f_d(q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q}) + \tau_f$$

# Compliant Movement Primitives

- We define compliant movements as a combination of desired position trajectories and corresponding torque signals :

$$\mathbf{h}(t) = [\mathbf{q}_d(t), \boldsymbol{\tau}_f(t)]$$

- Human demonstration is used to gain a set of example motion trajectories

$$\mathbf{Q}_x = \left\{ \left\{ \mathbf{q}_{x1}(t), \mathbf{c}_{q1} \right\}, \left\{ \mathbf{q}_{x2}(t), \mathbf{c}_{q2} \right\}, \dots, \left\{ \mathbf{q}_{xN}(t), \mathbf{c}_{qN} \right\} \right\},$$

where  $\mathbf{c}$  denotes task descriptors, i.e., query points.

- Motion trajectories are encoded as DMPs

# Compliant Movement Primitives

- With the dynamic model given as  $f_d(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \ddot{\mathbf{q}})$ , we propose a controller:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_u = \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{q}_d - \mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{D}(\dot{\mathbf{q}}) + f_d(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \ddot{\mathbf{q}}) + \boldsymbol{\tau}_f$$

- Corresponding torques are gained by using iterative recursive regression with cost

$$\mathbf{e}_r = \mathbf{J}^T (\alpha(\mathbf{x}_d - \mathbf{x}) + \beta(\dot{\mathbf{x}}_d - \dot{\mathbf{x}}))$$

- A set of example torques is gained

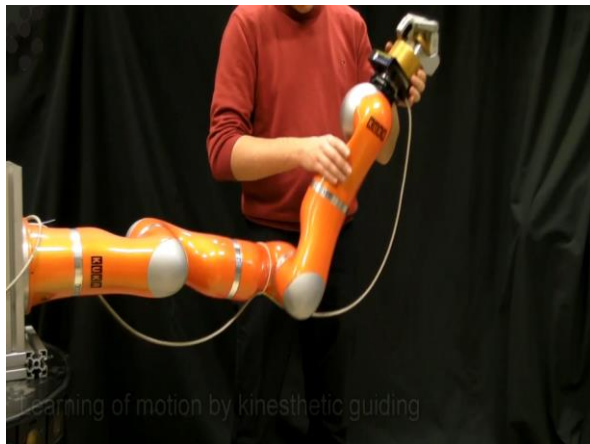
$$\mathbf{T}_x = \left\{ \{\boldsymbol{\tau}_{x1}, \mathbf{c}_{\tau1}\}, \{\boldsymbol{\tau}_{x2}, \mathbf{c}_{\tau2}\}, \dots, \{\boldsymbol{\tau}_{x(NM)}, \mathbf{c}_{\tau(NM)}\} \right\}$$

- Torque trajectories are encoded as a linear combination of basis functions

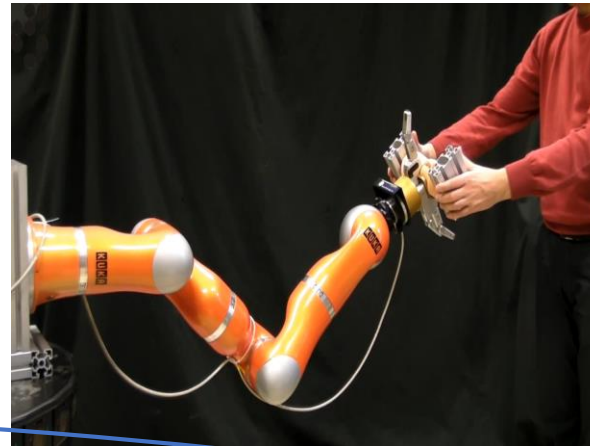
$$\tau_x(s) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N w_{\tau i} \psi(s)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \psi(s)}$$

# CMP Task Learning

- CMP defines a task as a pair of signals:  $\mathbf{h}(t) = [\mathbf{q}_d(t), \boldsymbol{\tau}_f(t)]$
- Three step process:
  1. Motion trajectory  $\mathbf{q}_d(t)$  is gained by human demonstration



2. Iterative learning of torque primitives  $\boldsymbol{\tau}_f(t)$ . Learning is updated based on kinematic trajectory

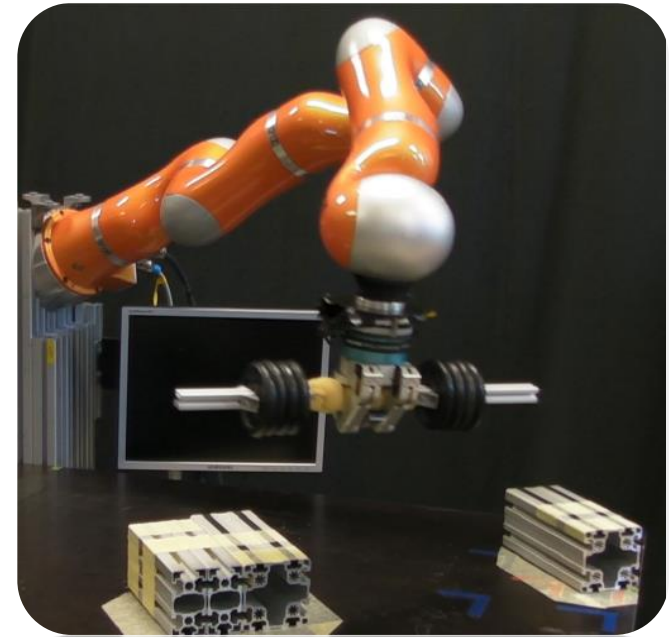


3. Movement and torque primitive are gained, stored and possibly executed.



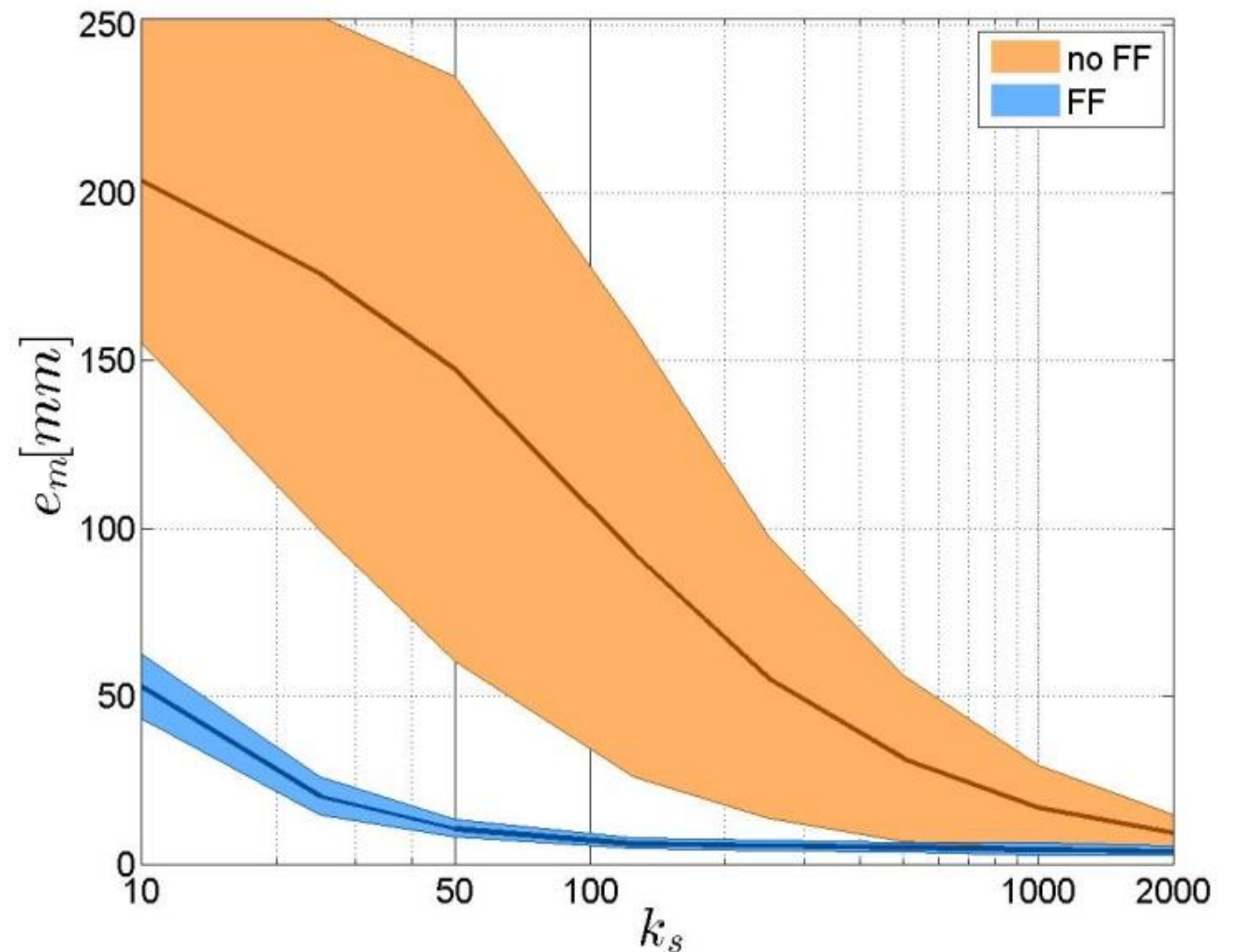
# Evaluation - tracking error

- Pick and place task using a Kuka LWR robot with a BarrettHand
- The task was learned for 3 object weights varying for 2 kg
- The task was executed with varying stiffness using
  - Feedback control
  - Proposed control using learned task-specific dynamics



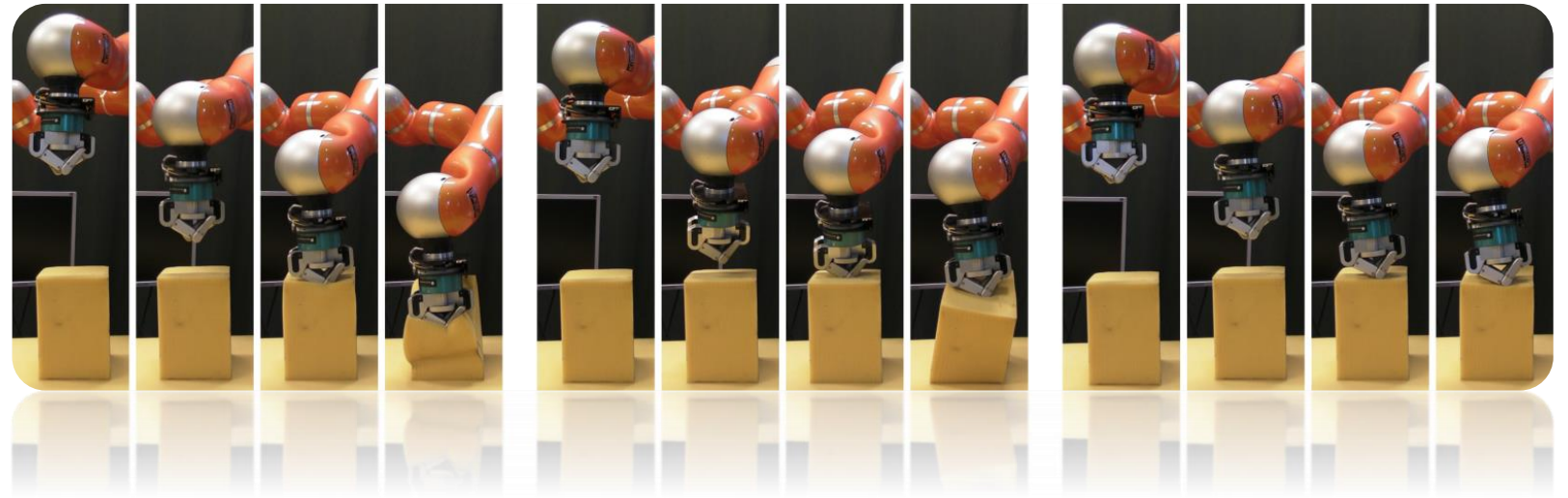
# Evaluation - tracking error

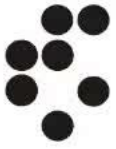
- Maximum error for each task:  
$$e_m = \max(\|\mathbf{p}(t) - \mathbf{p}_d(t)\|).$$
- Tracking error is marginal with stiffness  $>50$
- This low stiffness value was selected for collision evaluation



# Evaluation – unexpected collision

- A simple downward task was learned
- Unexpected collision with an object
- Three different control approaches
  - High gain feedback
  - Low gain feedback
  - Proposed approach





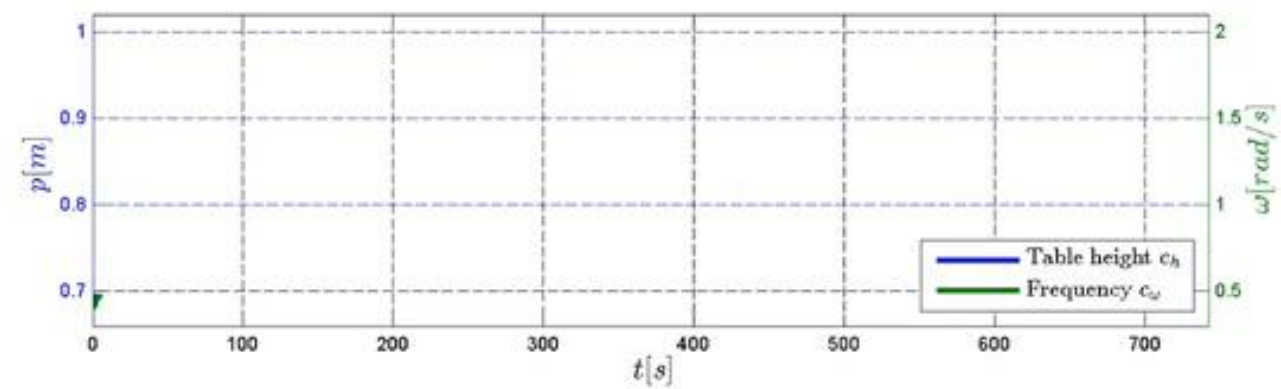
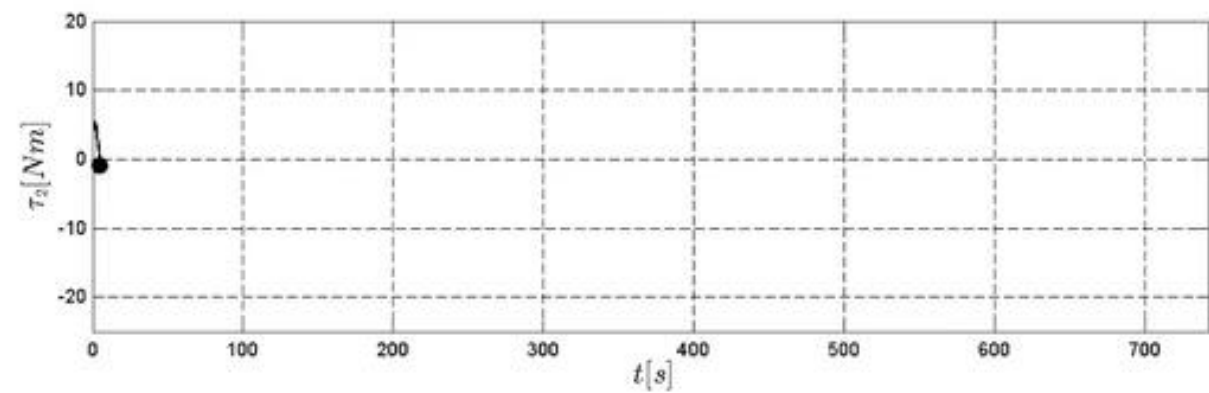
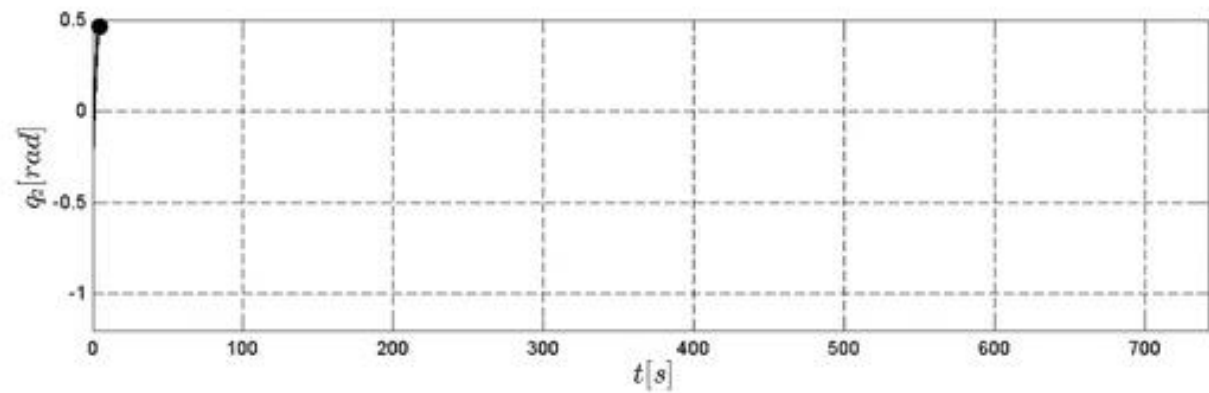
# Collision evaluation

*High gain feedback control*

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High tracking accuracy,  
high impact forces



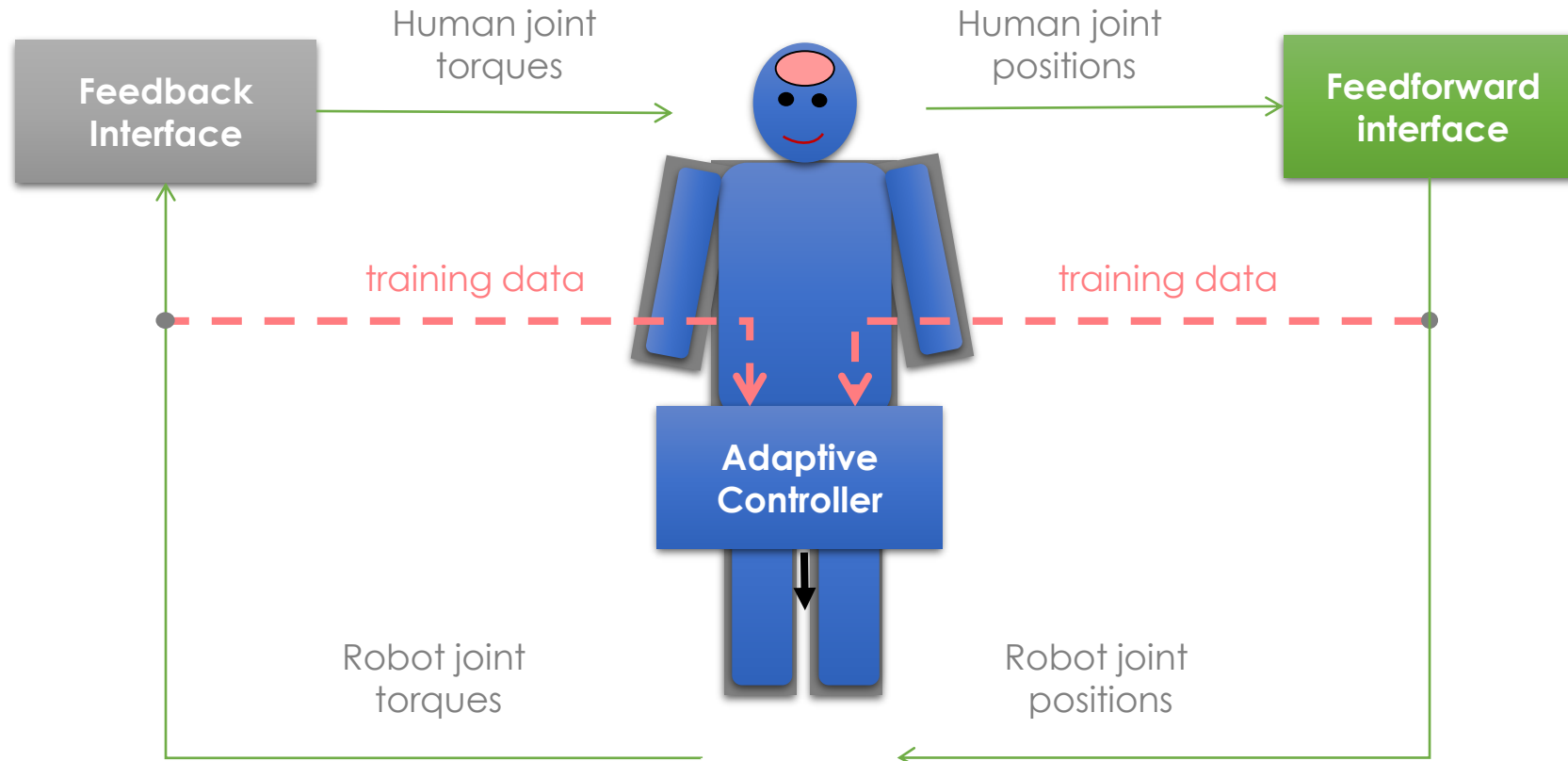


# Exoskeleton control

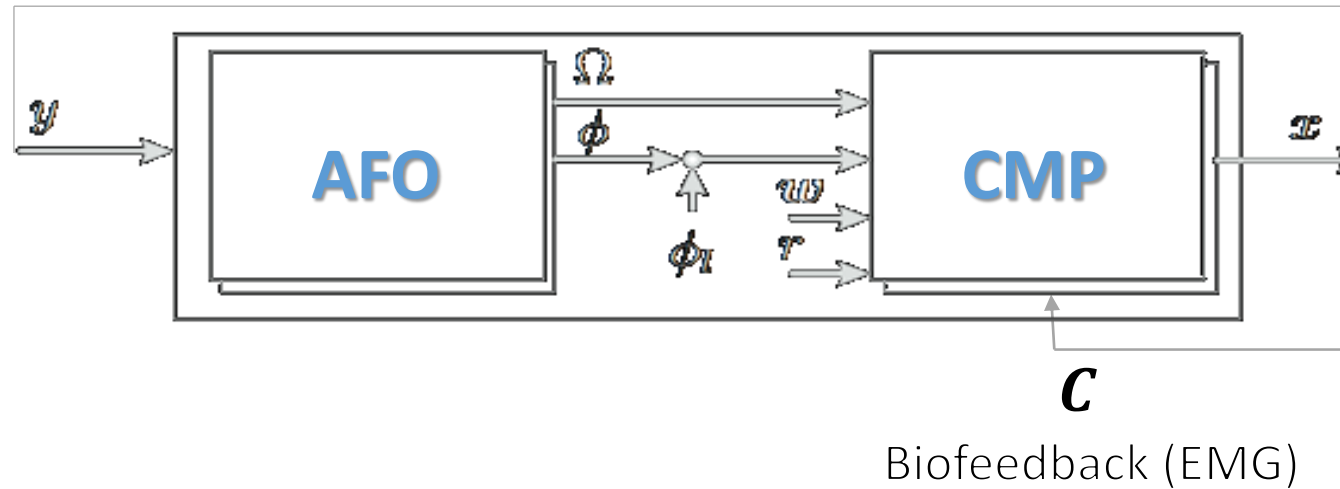
Learning from and like humans

**Human and robot are  
physically coupled!!!**

# Exoskeleton-robot interaction



# Exoskeleton control



Physically coupled

- Trajectory was updated with the use of human biofeedback signal
- Human muscle activity from each of the antagonist muscle groups that operate a certain joint by the means of electromyography (EMG) was used

