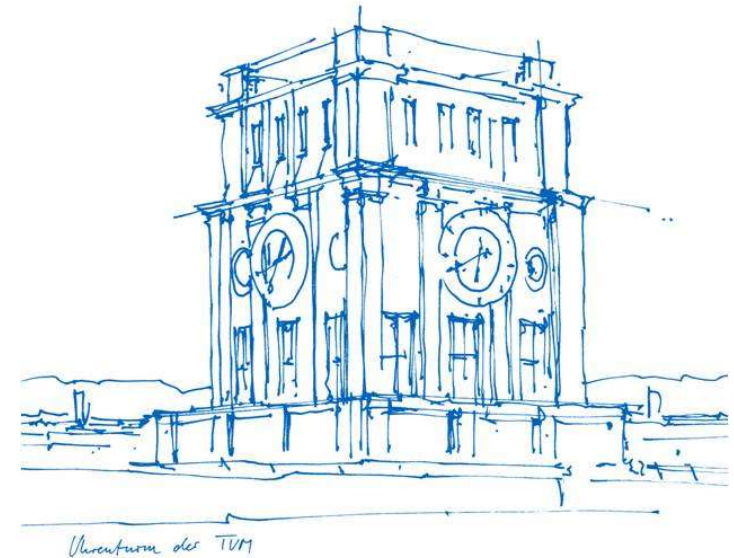


Efficient Motor Skill Learning in Robotics

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Technical University of Munich (TUM)

Institute of Robotics and Mechatronics
German Aerospace Center (DLR)



Reinforcement Learning School, April 8, 2021



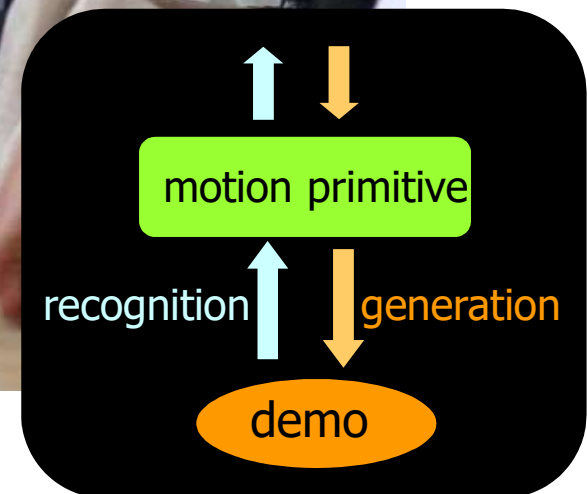
Overview

- Learning from Demonstrations
- Reinforcement Learning in Robotics
- Human Robot Interaction Learning
- Complex Manipulation Task Learning

Imitation Learning

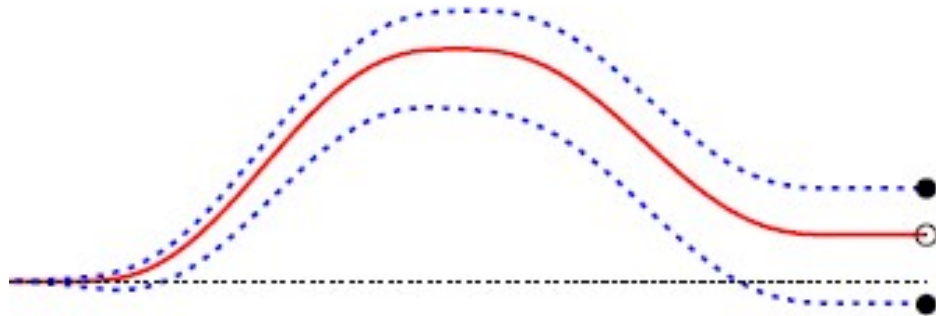


- Developmental Learning
- Neuroscience
- Optimal Control
- Psychology



Imitation Learning in Robotics: Generation vs. Generalization

Reaching to a different goal



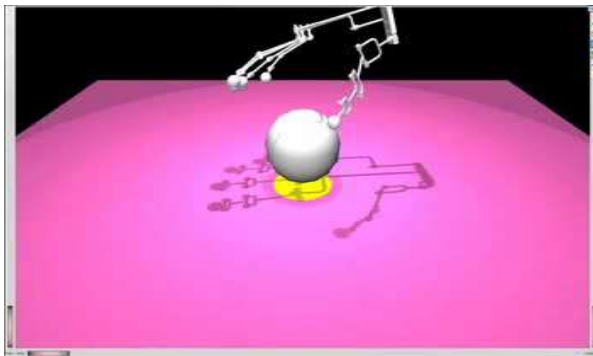
[Schaal et al]

A different intermediate goal



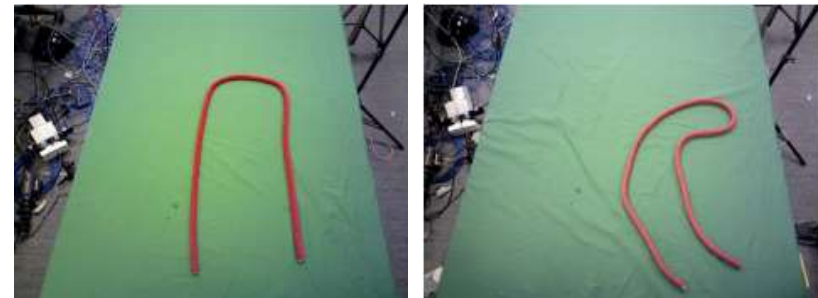
[Pervez, Lee, 2017]

Grasping a different size ball



[Schmidts, Peer & Lee]

Knot Tying



[Abbeel et al]

Learning from Demonstrations: Teaching modalities

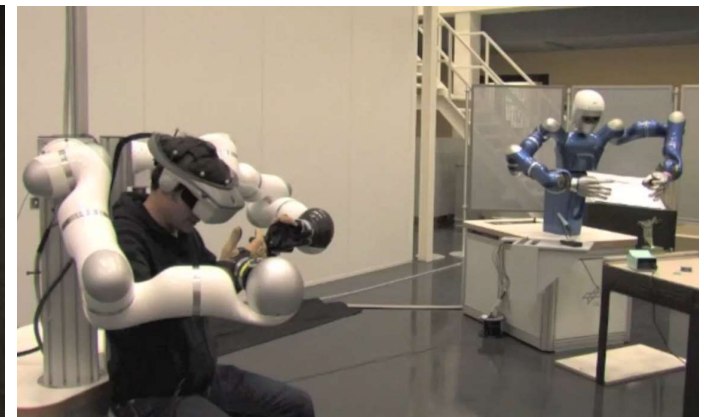
Motion Imitation



Kinesthetic teaching



Teleoperation

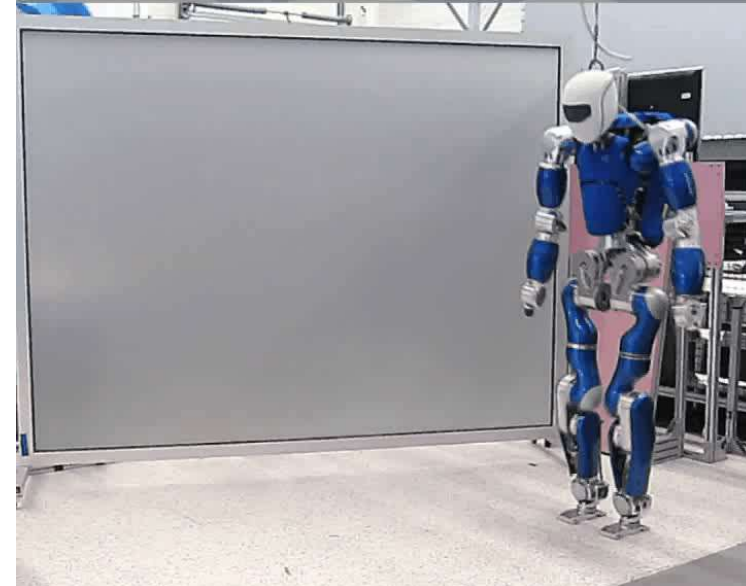
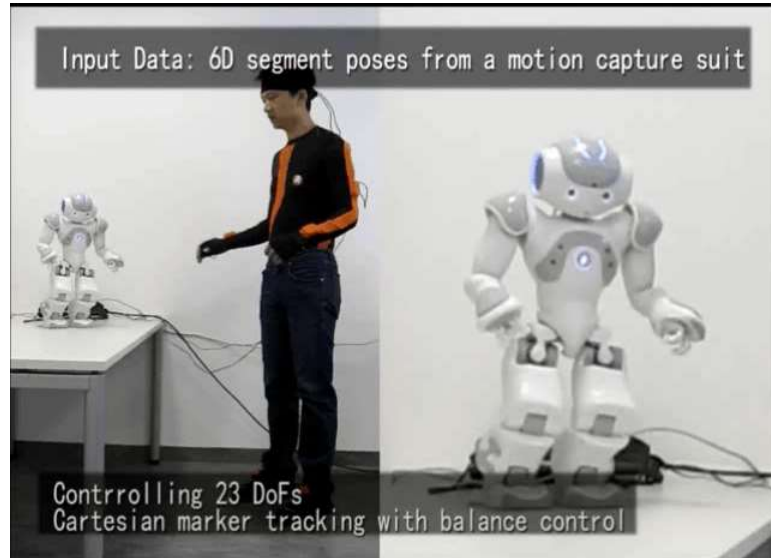
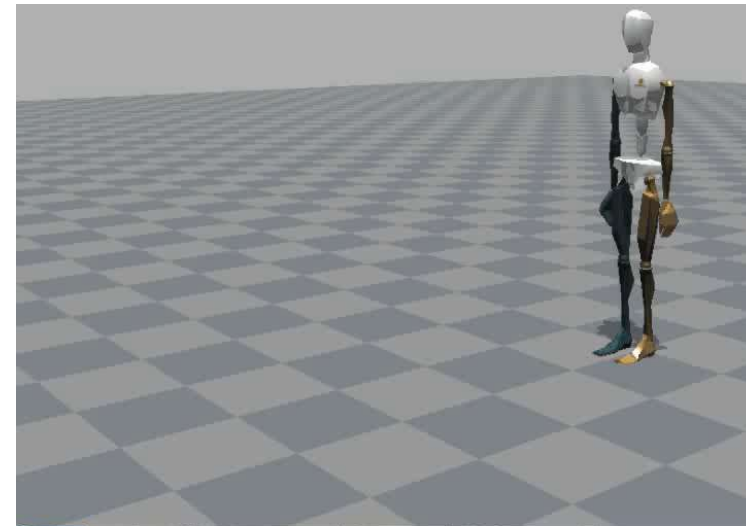
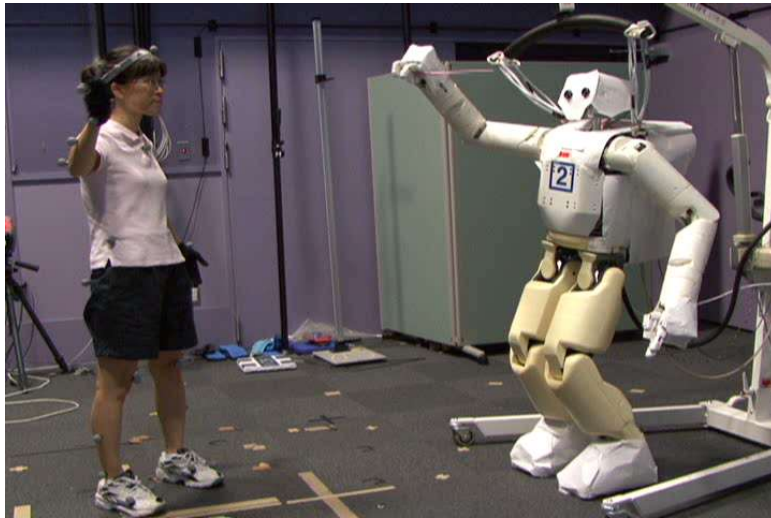


Intuitive
Exteroceptive

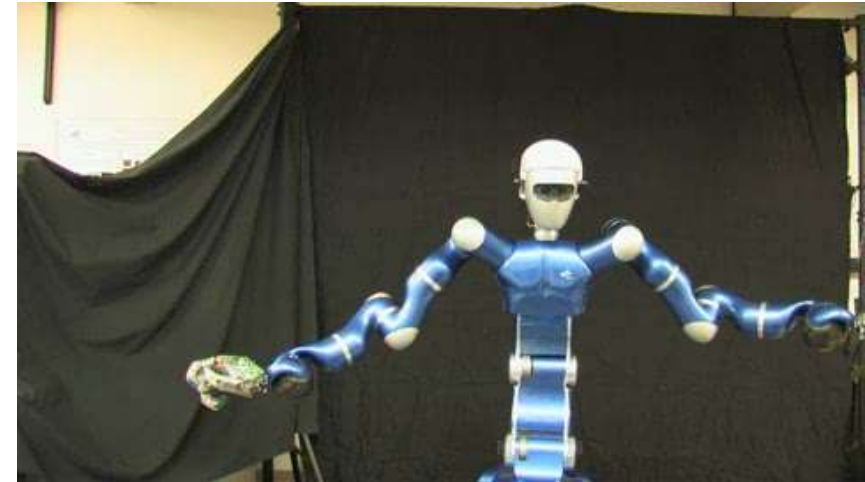
High burden
Proprioceptive



Human Motion Imitation by Humanoids



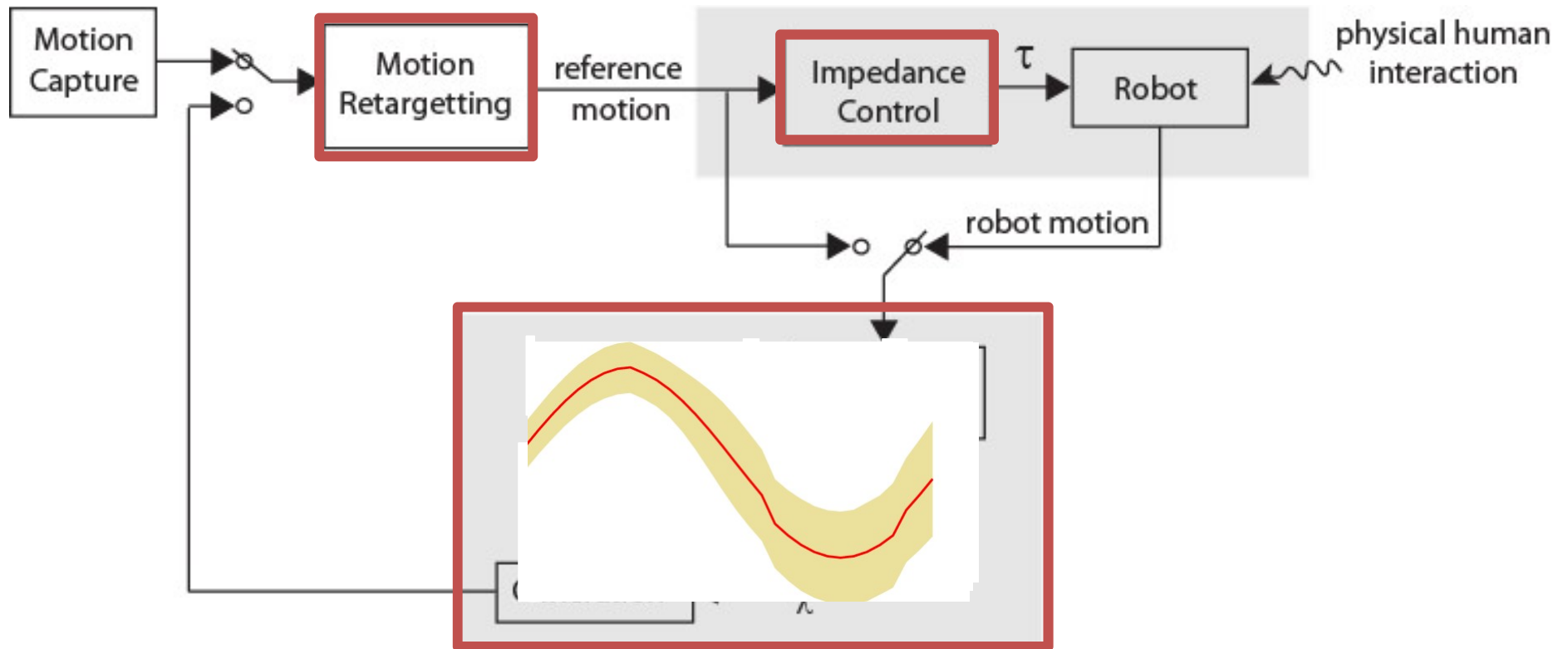
Teaching Pulp Fiction Dance



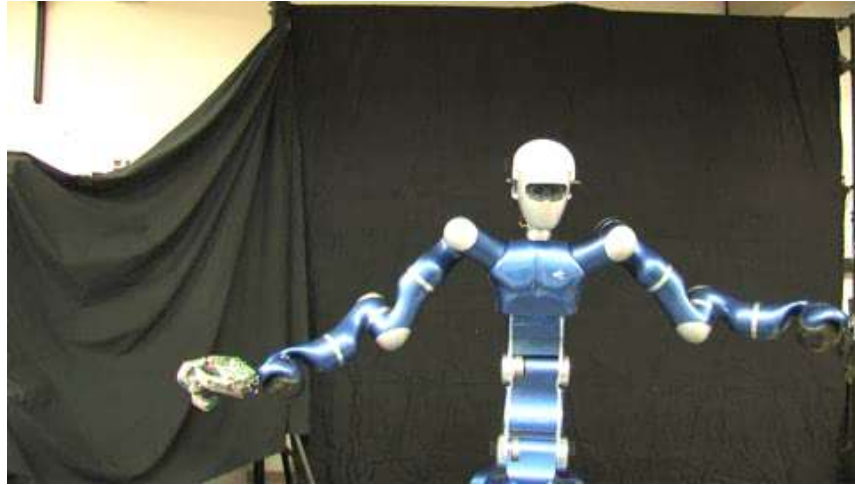
Learning from human motion
retargeting

Refine a skill by kinesthetic teaching

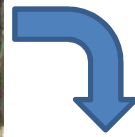
$$\tau = g(q) + M(q)\ddot{q}_d + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q}_d - D\dot{\tilde{q}} - s(\tilde{q})$$



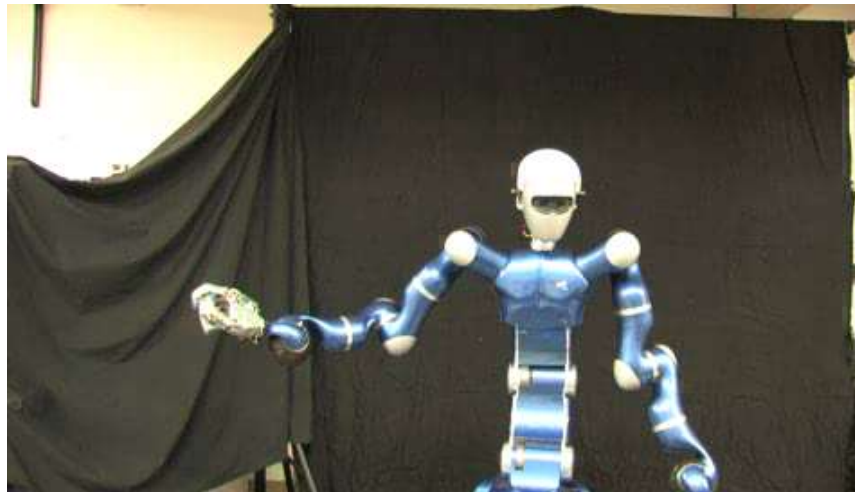
Incremental Learning Steps



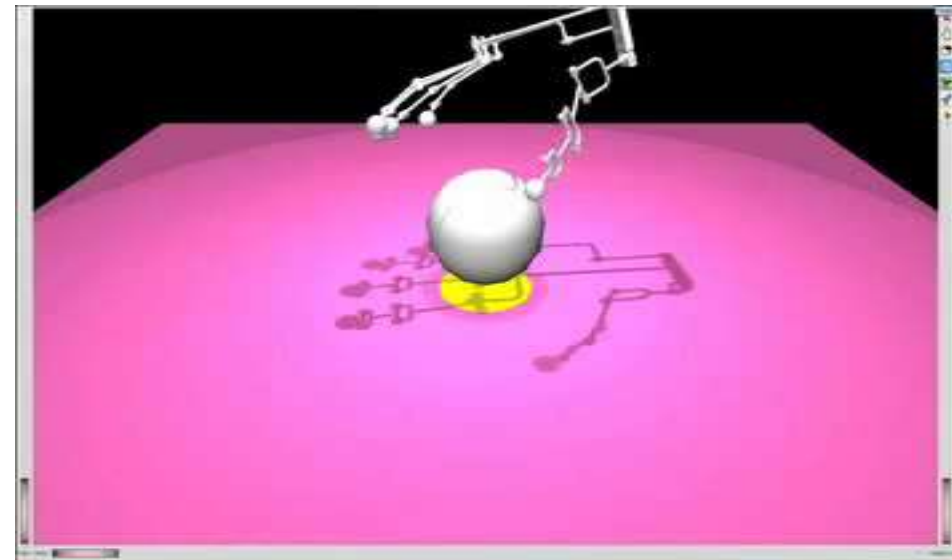
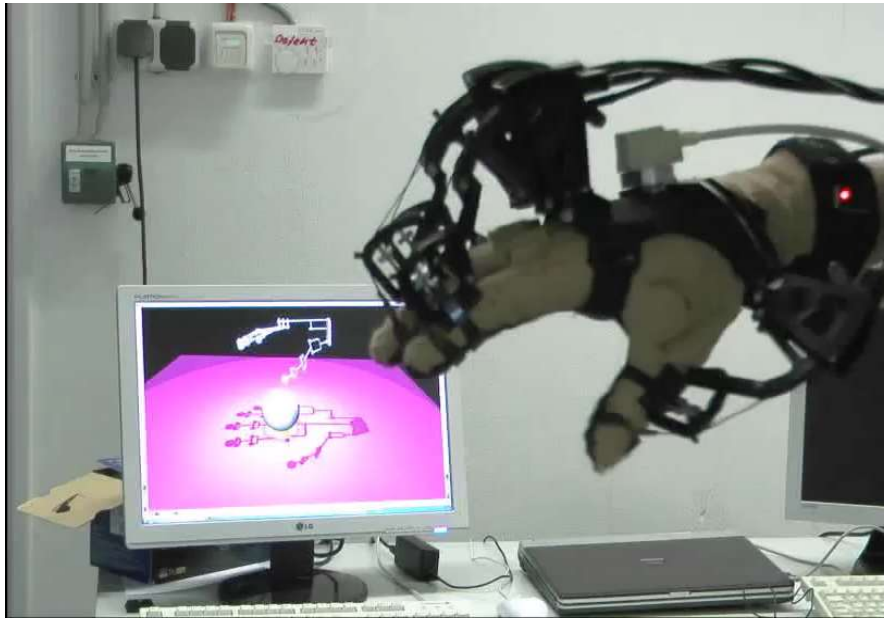
Imitation learning



Kinesthetic Coaching



Grasping Skill Learning from Motion & Force Data



Teleoperation using Cyberglove,
Flock of Birds, & Cybergrasp
(Haptic Feedback)

r [cm]	$\max(f^{in})$ [N]		\bar{f}^{in} [N]		ΔT [ms]	
3.6	3.21	-*	3.20	-*	28	-*
4.0	3.21	5.41	3.20	5.10	11	209
4.8	3.21	7.12	3.20	7.04	39	371
5.6	3.21	12.92	3.20	12.84	88	531
6.0	3.21	-*	3.20	-*	106	-*
Force control	ON	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	OFF

* unsuccessful grasping attempt

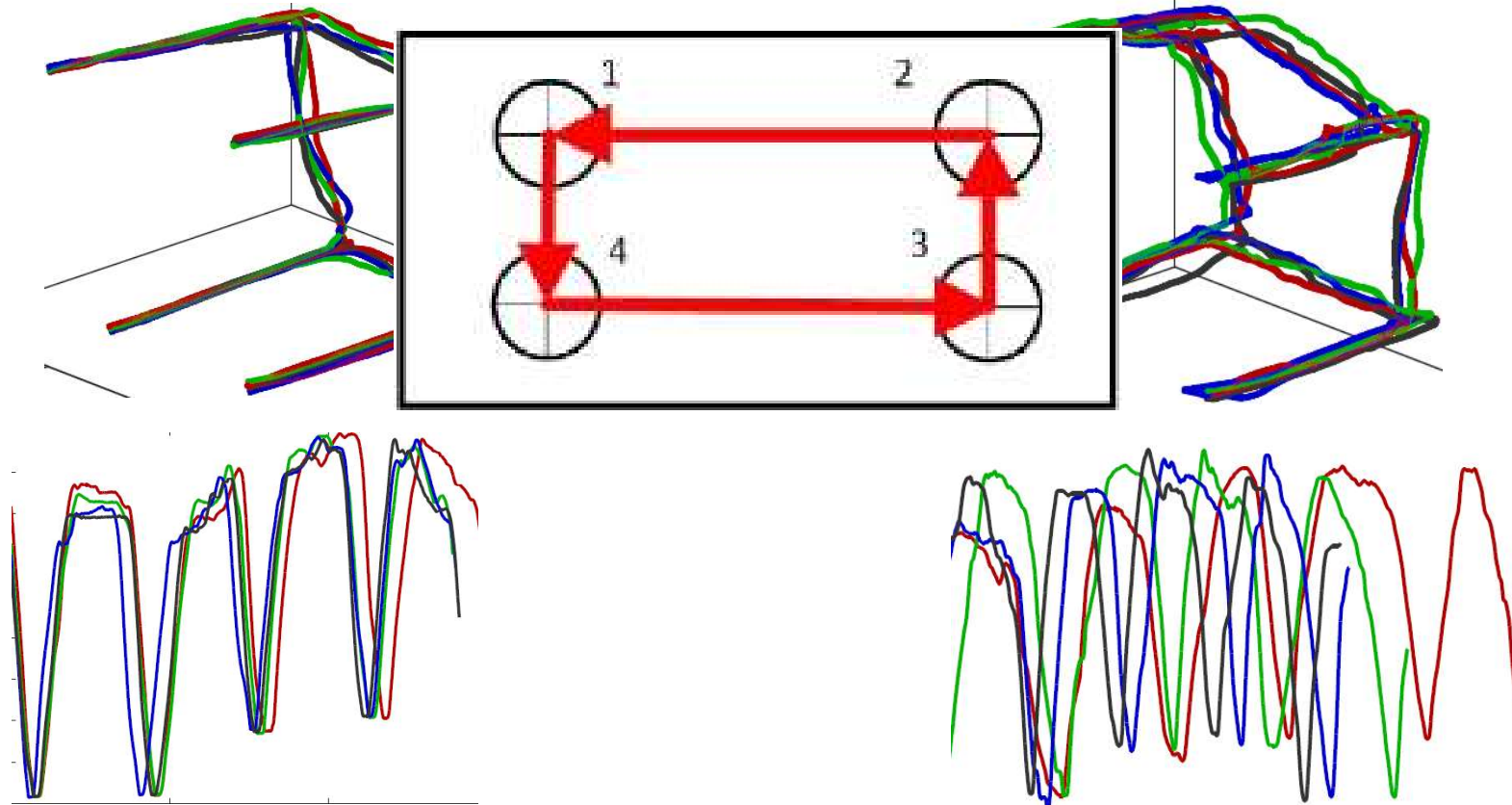
What are Challenges in Teaching by Teleoperation?



What are Challenges in Teaching by Teleoperation?

Kinesthetic

Teleoperation



- High level of spatial-temporal variations.
- High cost for demonstration

Learning Repetitive Teleoperation Tasks with DMP/GMM

Canonical System $\dot{s} = \tau\omega$

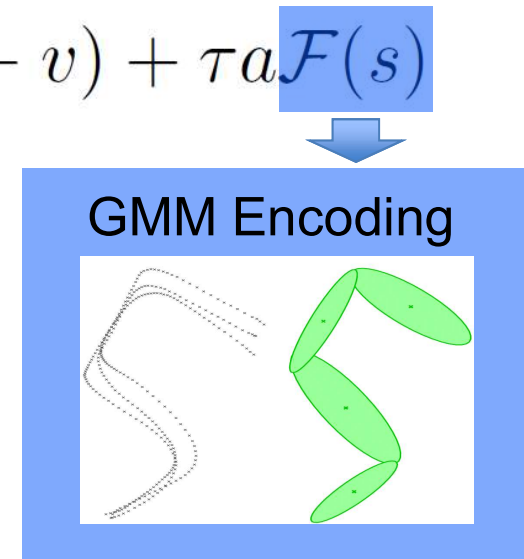
DMP $\dot{v} = \tau\alpha_x(\beta_x(g - x) - v) + \tau a \mathcal{F}(s)$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{F}_1(s_0) & x_{1,0} & s_0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathcal{F}_1(s_n) & x_{1,n} & s_n \end{bmatrix}^\top$$

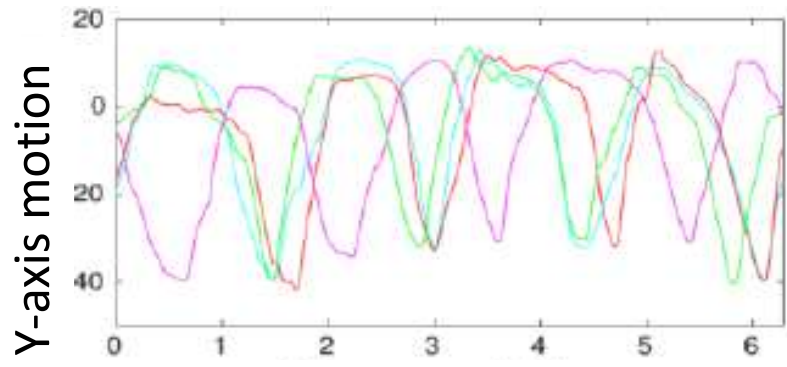
unknown

EM
GMM Update

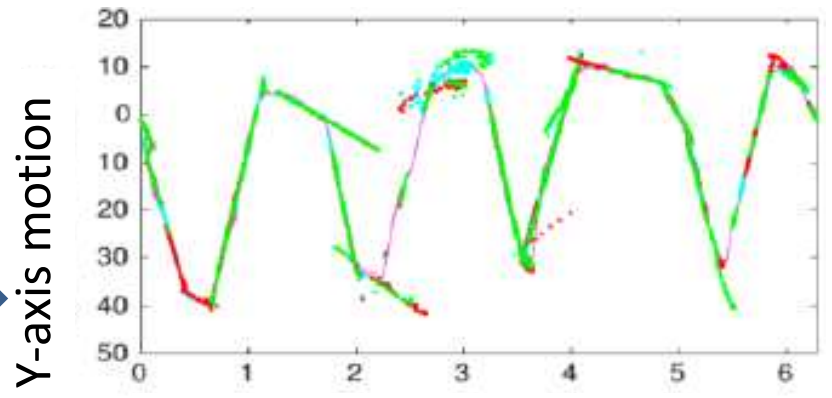
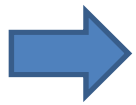
s Update



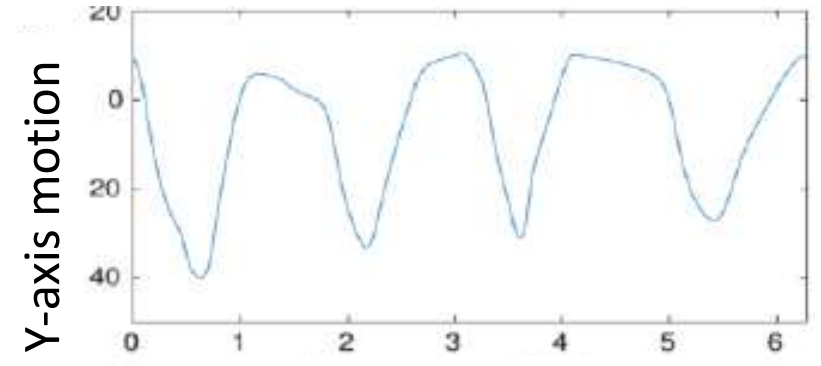
Results



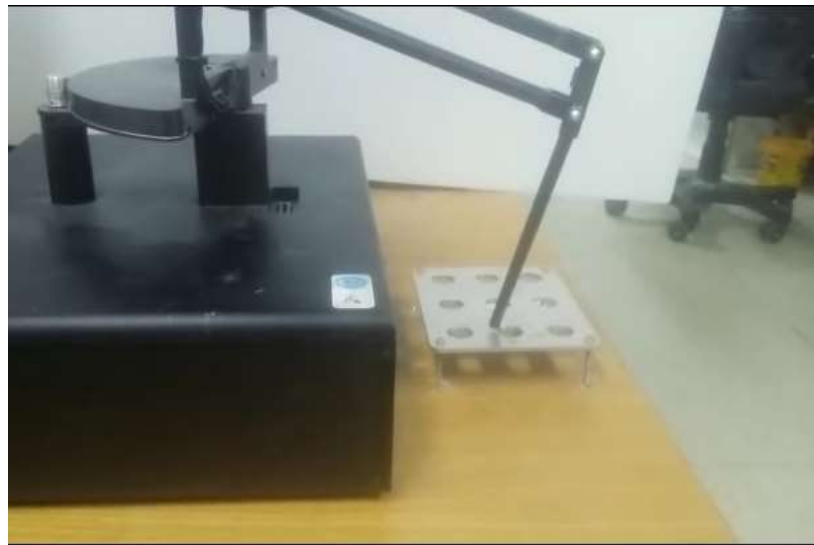
Phase variable
Asynchronous trajectories



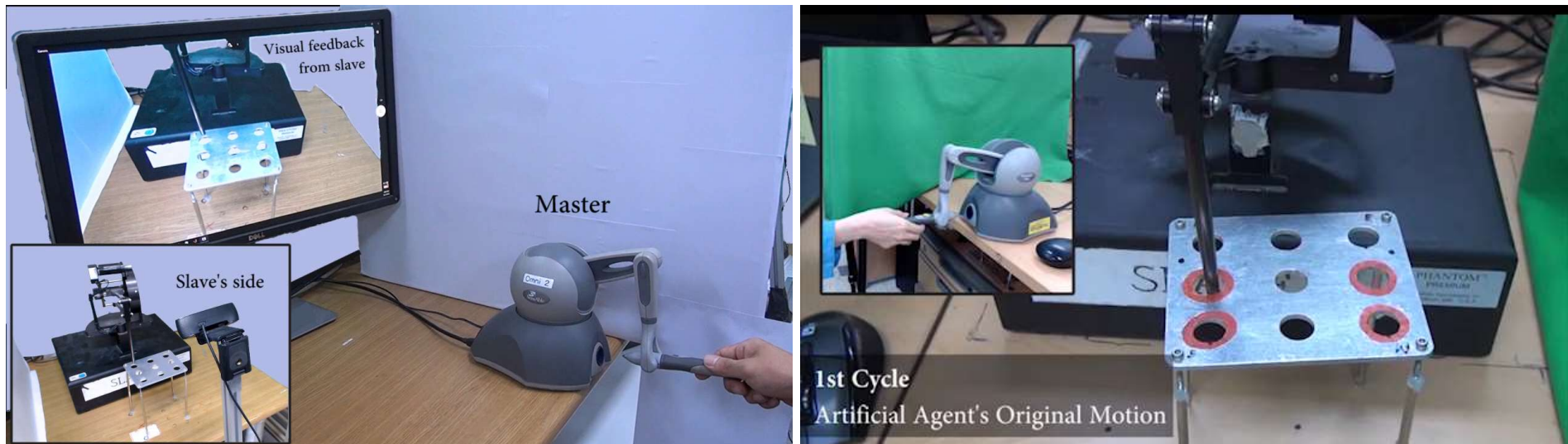
Phase variable
Synchronized data



Phase variable
Reproduced trajectory



Supervisor Teleoperation with Kinesthetic Coupling



Shared Control

- agent: horizontal motion
- human: vertical motion

Re-train the learned skill on the fly
by dynamic authority and kinesthetic
coupling

Overview

- Learning from Demonstrations
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Reinforcement Learning in Robotics

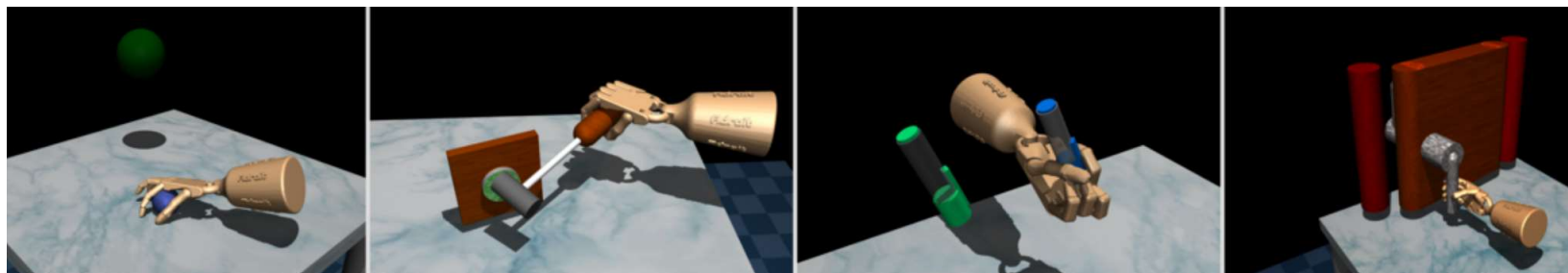
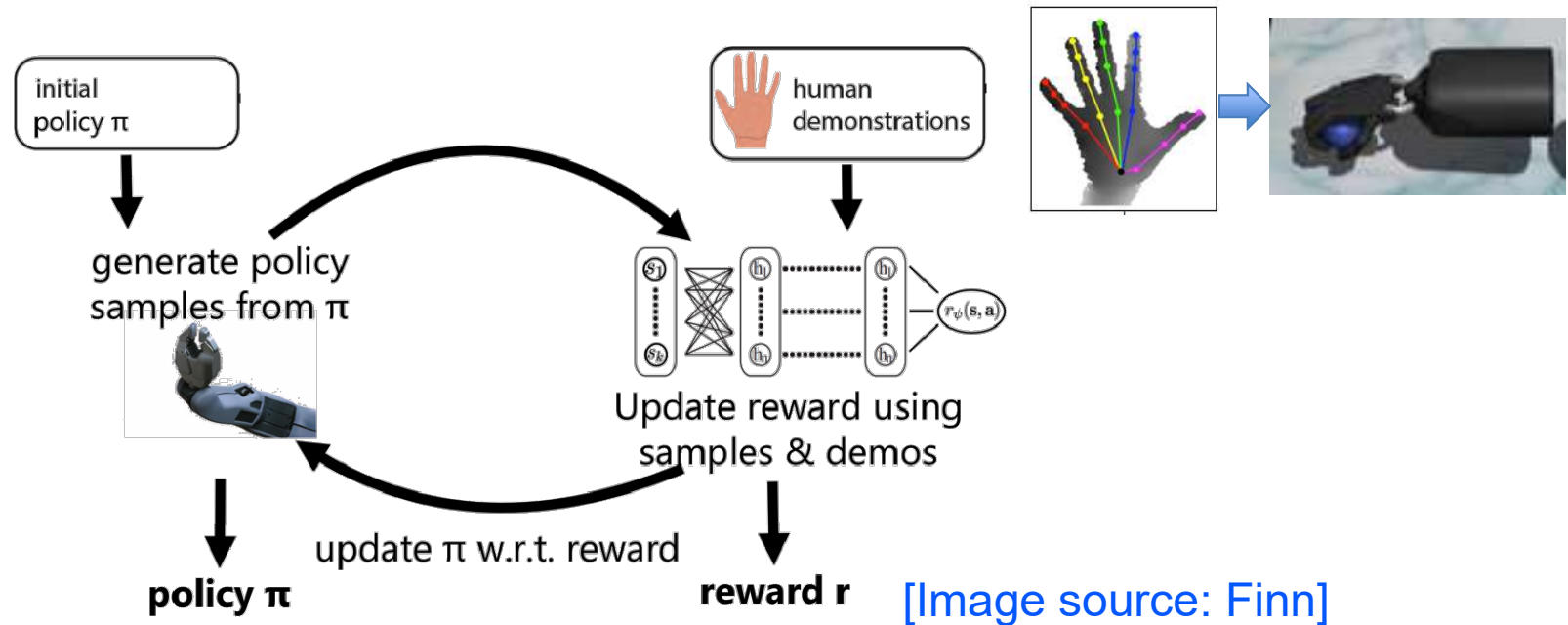
- ❑ Robots can learn how to execute a task by trial-and- error.
 - ❑ Can learn complex and highly dynamic tasks
 - ❑ Limited or no knowledge of robot/environment dynamics needed
-
- Typical problems of RL in robotic domain:
 - ❑ Continuous and high dimensional state and action space
 - ❑ Many rollouts in real world → Time consuming, noisy measurement
 - ❑ Exploration with real robot: robot damages



[Kormushev+ 2010]

Imitation Learning combined with RL

Inverse Reinforcement Learning



[ICDL 2021, submitted]

Imitation Learning combined with RL

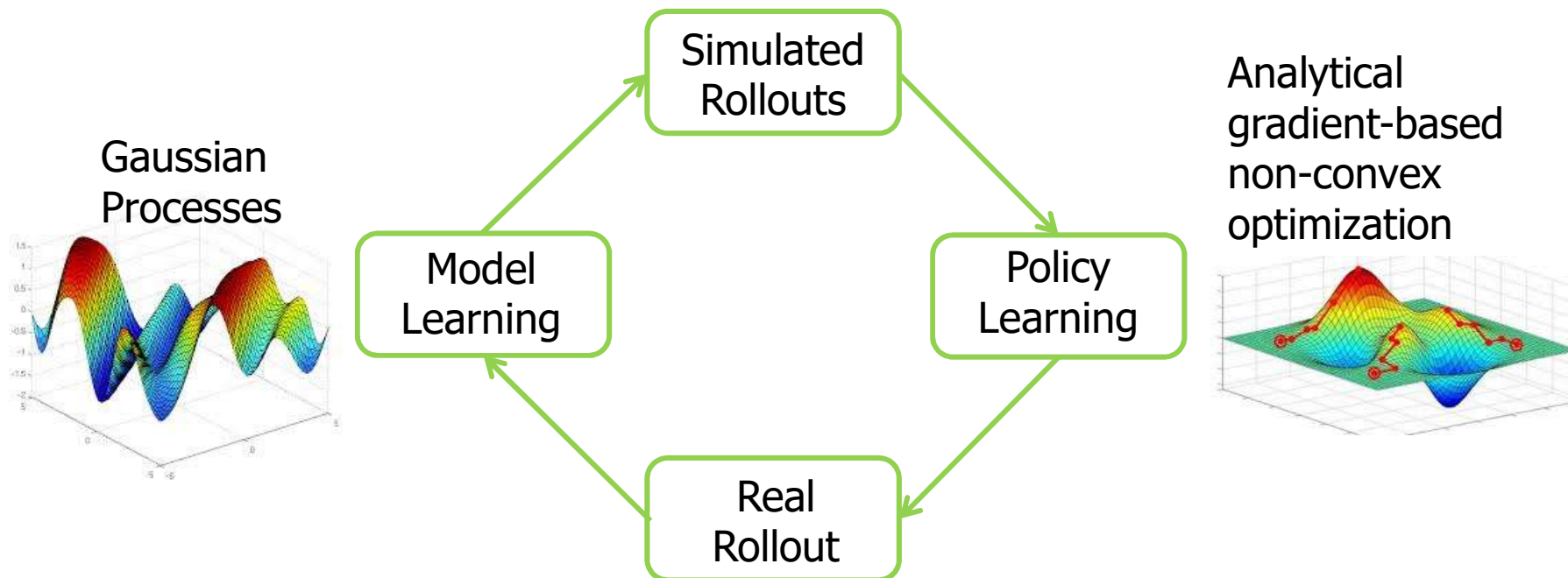
PoWER (Policy Learning by Weighting Exploration with the Returns)
[Kober+ 2009]

- Simple and computationally efficient update rule
- Learn with minimal prior knowledge
- **Policy initialized** with human demonstration



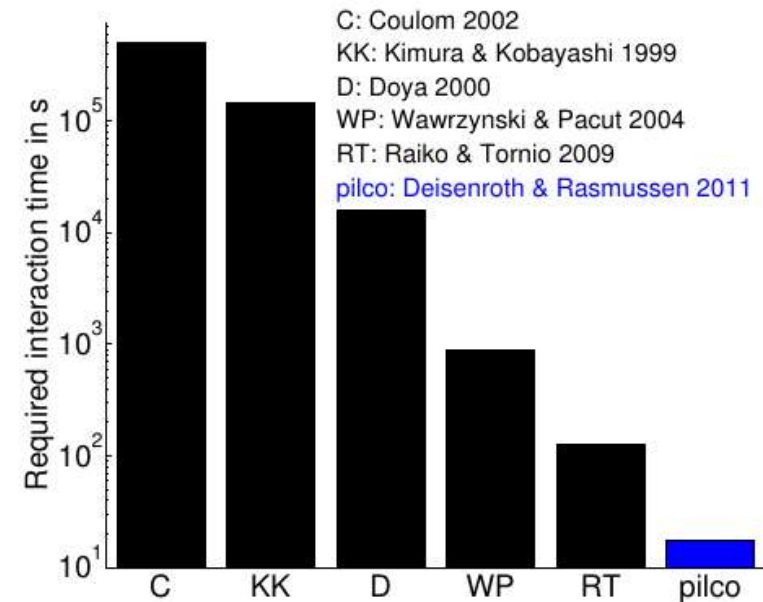
Probabilistic Inference for Learning COntrol (PILCO)

- Model-based policy search approach: Use data collected during the rollout to learn a model of the robot in a data-efficient way
- Find optimal policy on the learned model using simulation
 - Probabilistic long-term prediction to reduce model bias learning problem



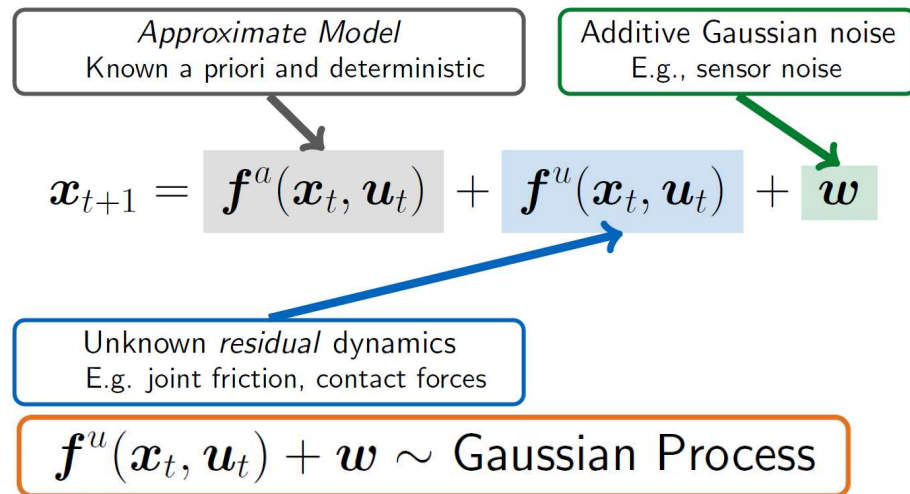
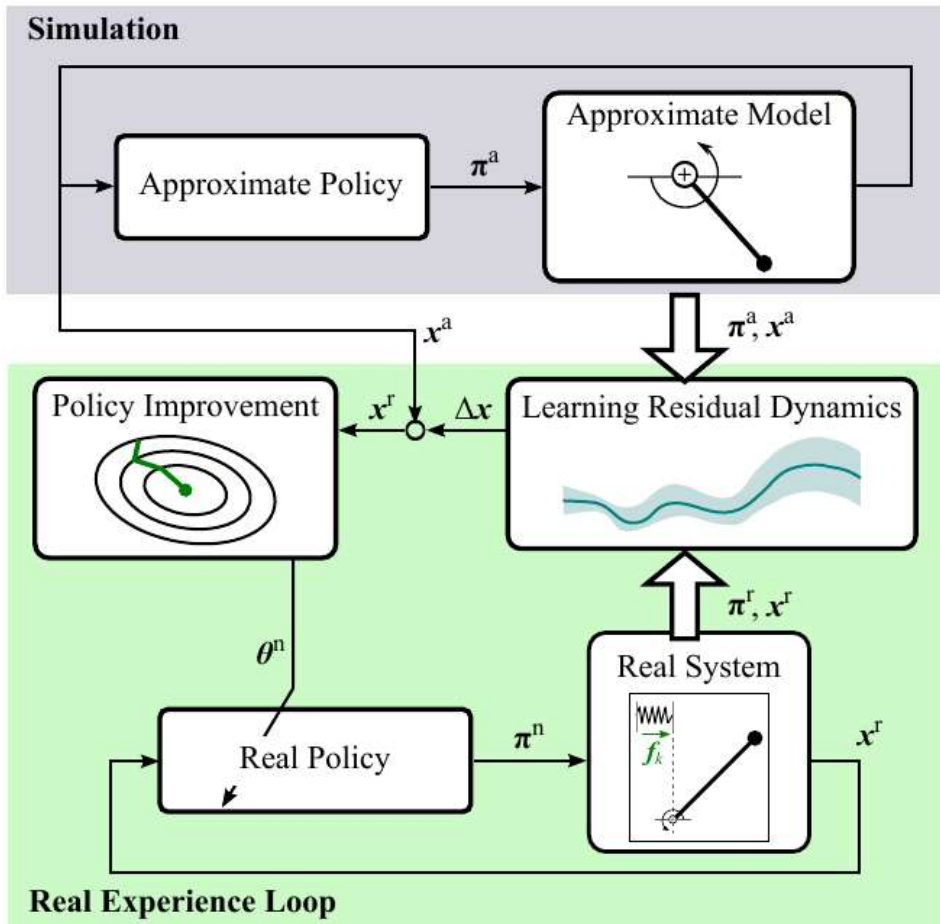
[Deisenroth+ 2015]

Benchmark: Cart-Pole Swing-up



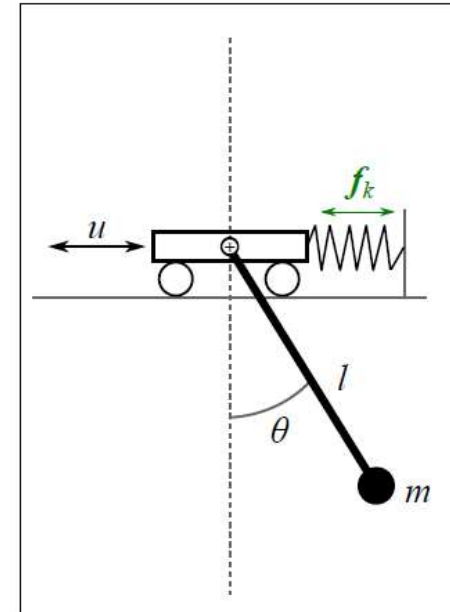
- No knowledge about nonlinear dynamics
- Cost function $c(x) = -\exp(-\|x - x_{target}\|^2)$
- Fast learning speed compared to state of the art
- Learned dynamics models are only confident in areas of the state space previously observed

Policy Improvement with REsidual Model learning (PI-REM)

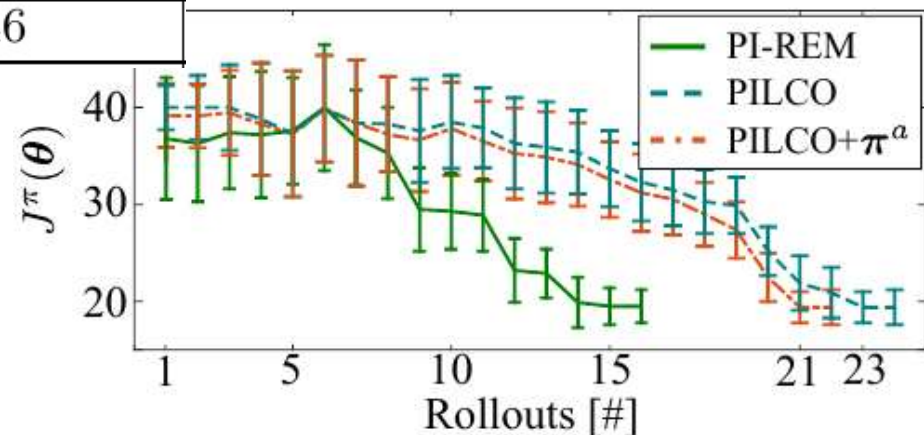


Cart-Pole Swing-up

- Approximate model : Cart-Pole without f_k
- State $x = [p, \dot{p}, \theta, \dot{\theta}]^T$
- Goal $x_g = [0, 0, \pi, 0]^T$

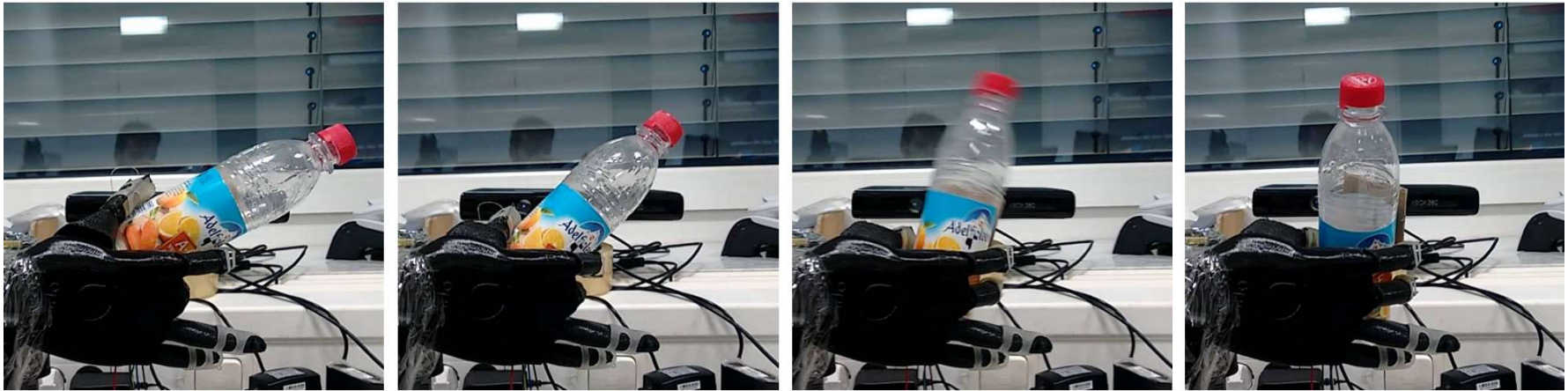


	Stiffness [N/m]	Real rollouts [#]	Real experience [s]
PI-REM	25	2	8
PILCO	25	5	20
PI-REM	50	3	12
PILCO	50	6	24
PI-REM	120	15	30
PILCO	120	23	46

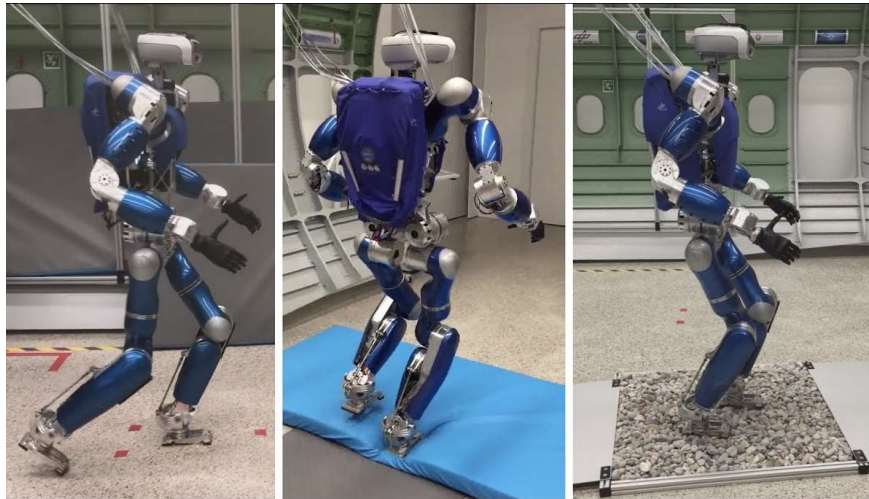


Policy Learning Robust to Irreversible Events

- In-hand manipulation [RA-L 2018]



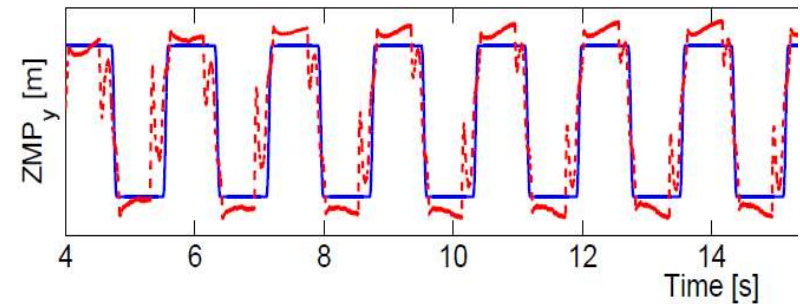
- Bipedal locomotion



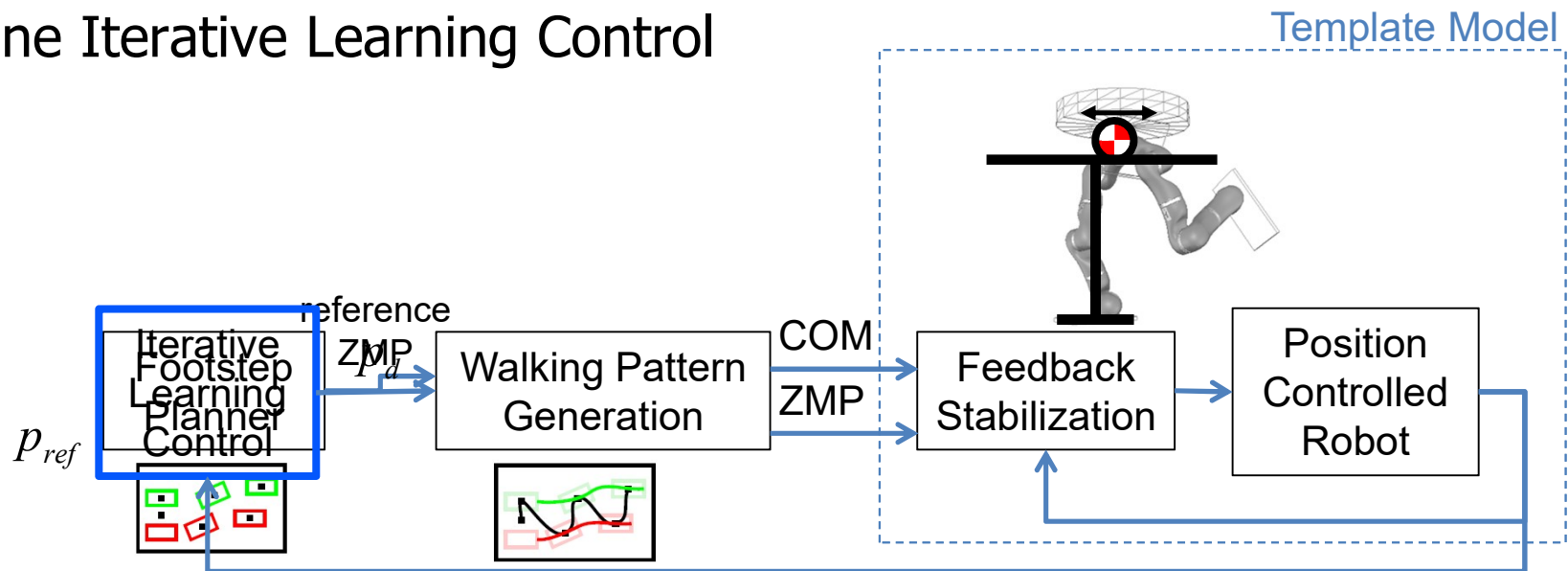
Bipedal Walking

■ Conventional ZMP Based Walking

- ❑ Feedback stabilization → tracking template model behavior
- ❑ Dynamically consistent walking pattern generation
- ❑ Existing ZMP tracking error

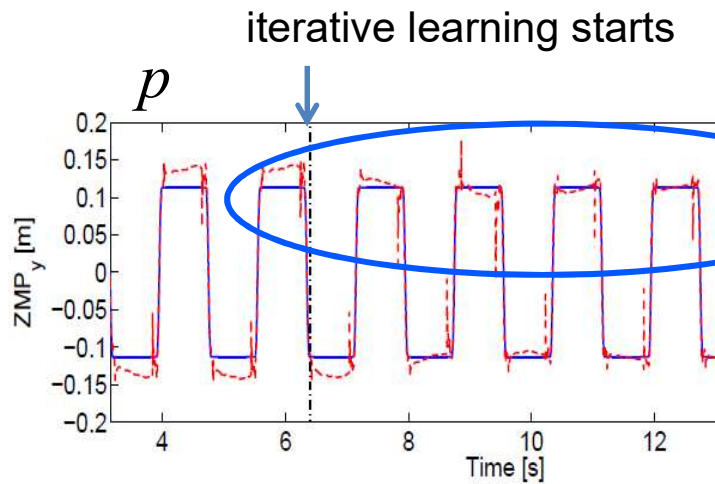


■ Online Iterative Learning Control



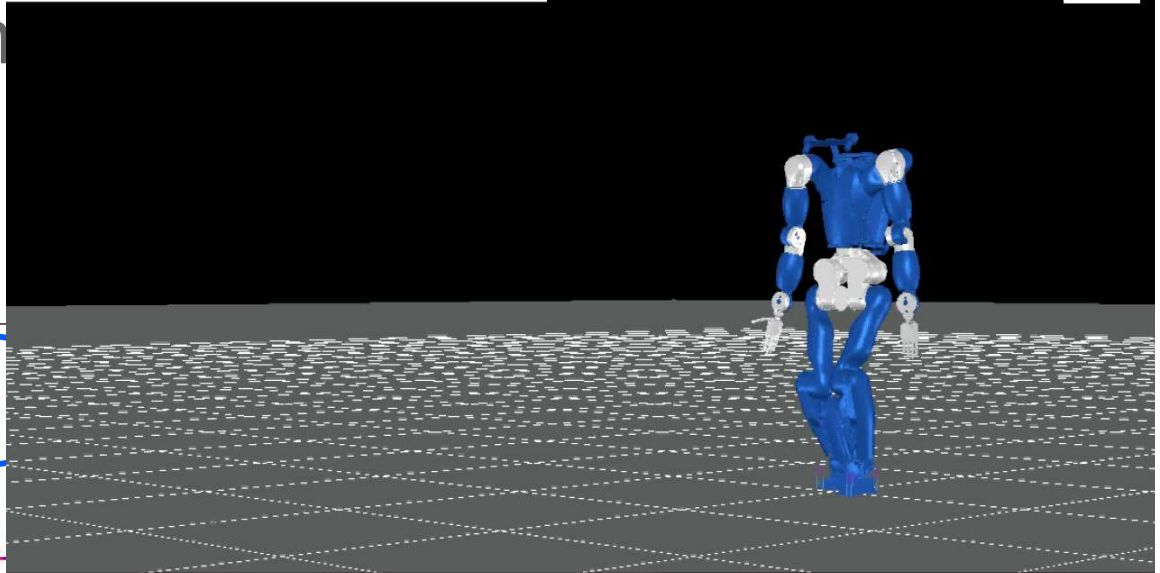
Simulation & Experiment

Simulations



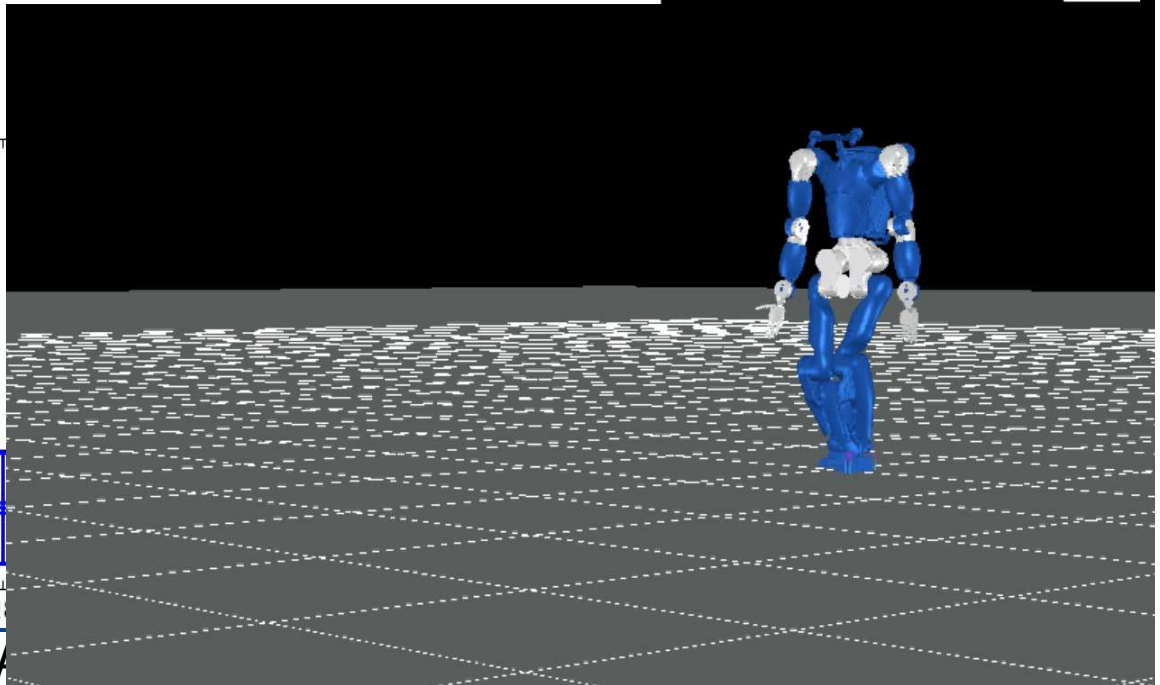
With Online Learning

1x

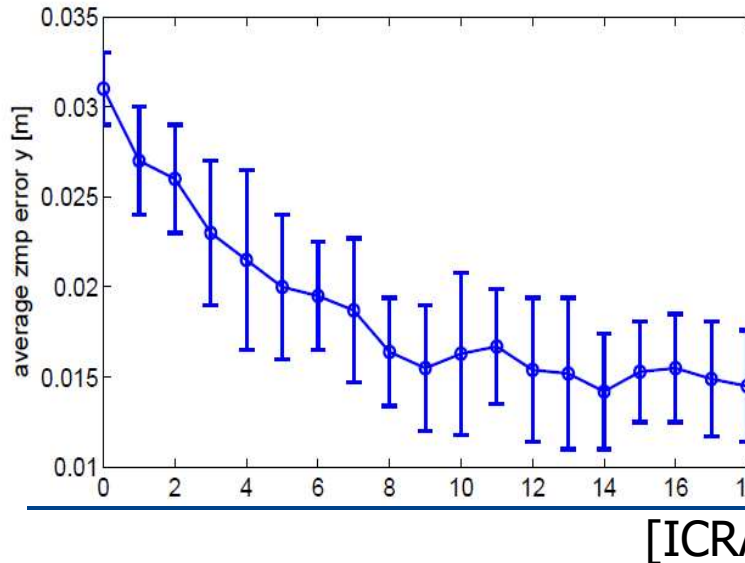


Without Online Learning

1x



Experiments



[ICRA]

Learning Dataset of Compensative ZMP Term

Sagittal Straight Walking (SSW)

Lateral Straight Walking (LSW)

Circle Walking

$d_{sa} = \{-15, -10, -5, 0, 5, 10, 15\}$ cm

$d_{sa} = 0$ cm

$r = \{0.5, 0.75, 1\}$ m

$d_{la} = 0$ cm

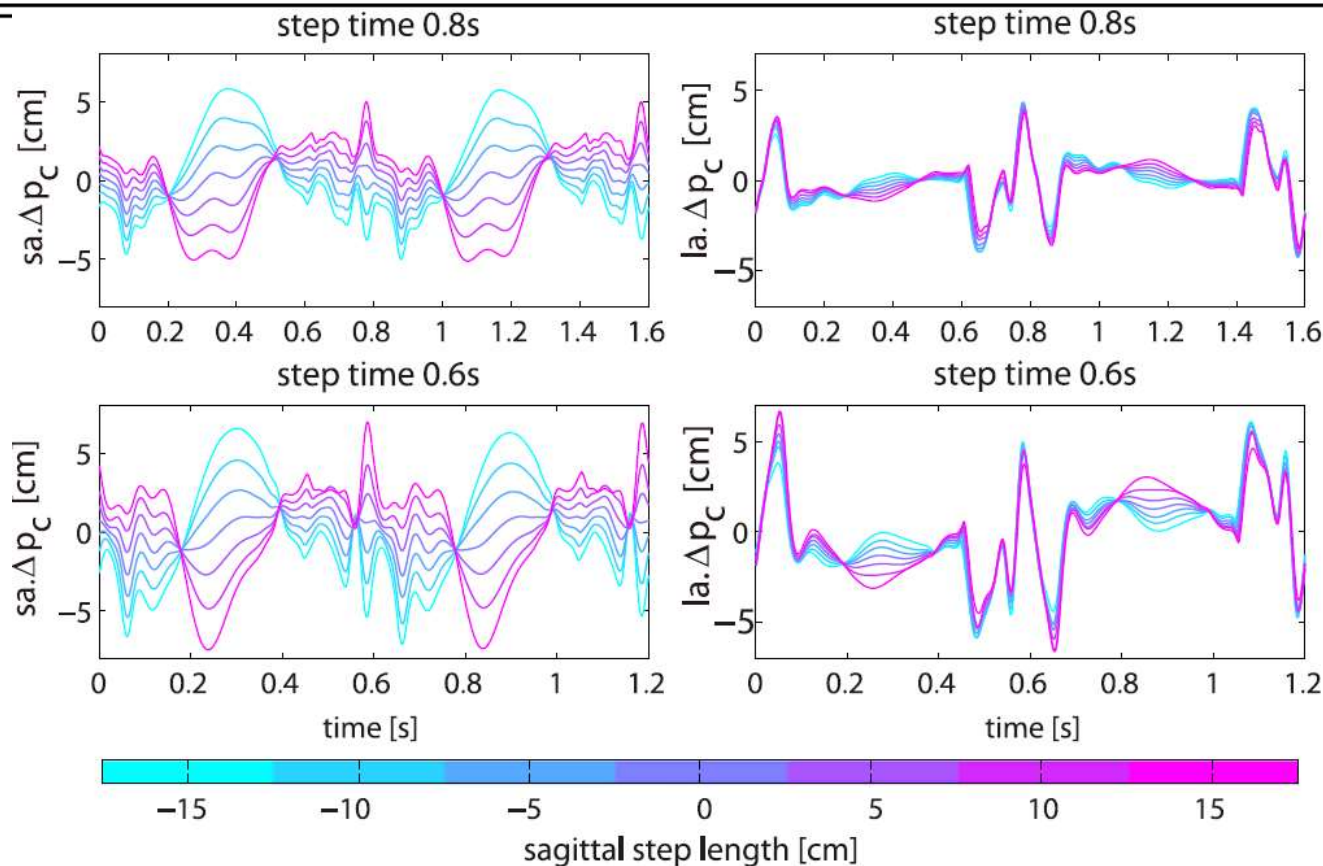
$d_{la} = \{-7.5, -5, -2.5, 0, 2.5, 5, 7.5\}$ cm

$\Delta\alpha = \{10, 20\}^\circ$

$T_s = \{0.6, 0.8, 1.0\}$ s

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Learning Dataset of Compensative ZMP Term

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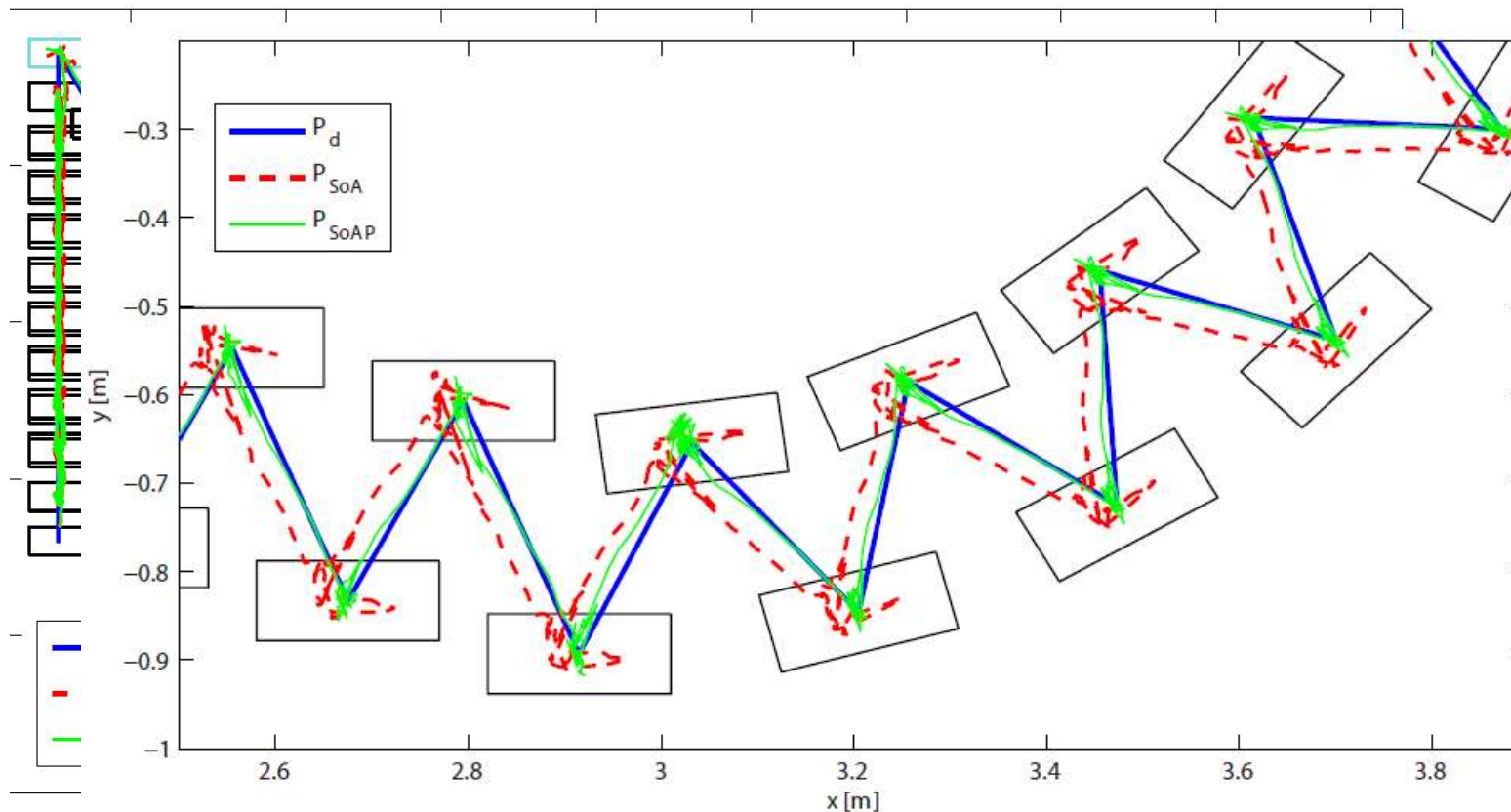
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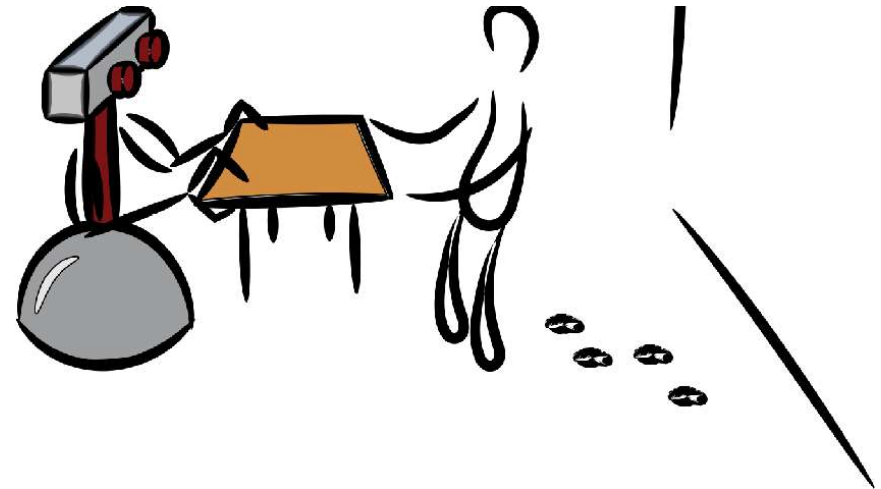
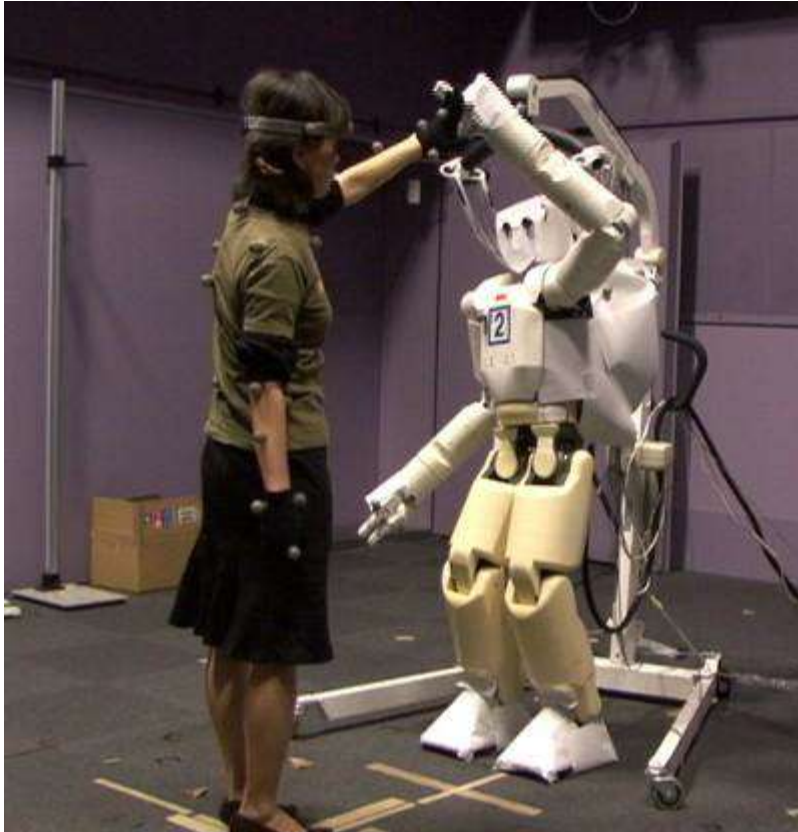
$T_s = \{0.6, 0.8, 1.0\}$ s



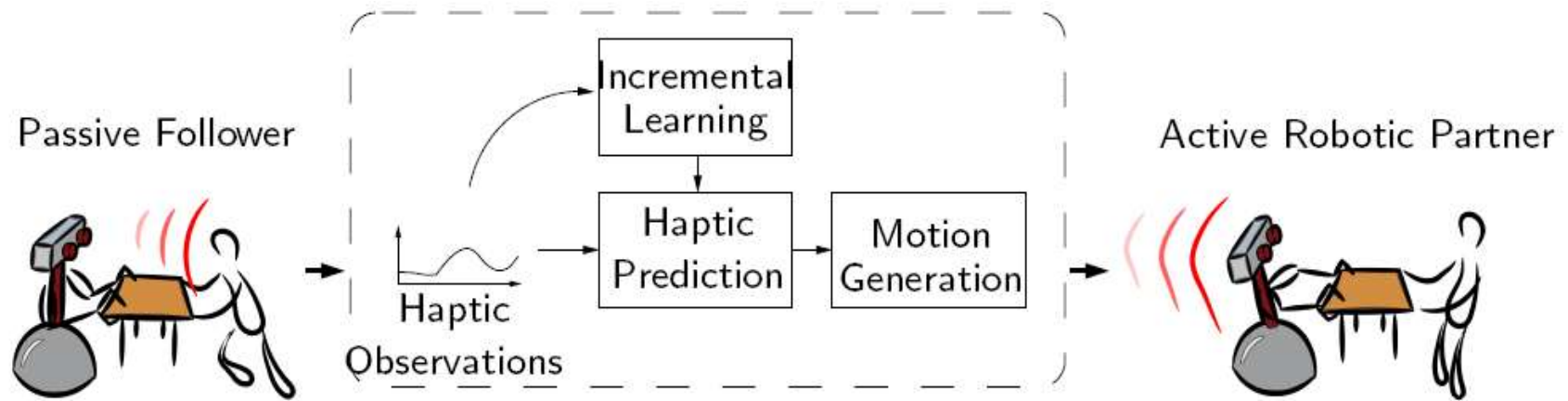
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Human is not a passive entity, but active, and full of uncertainty.

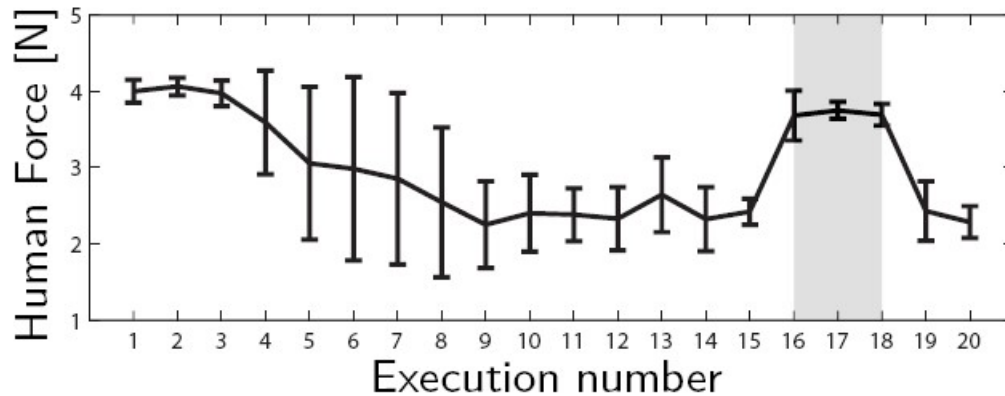
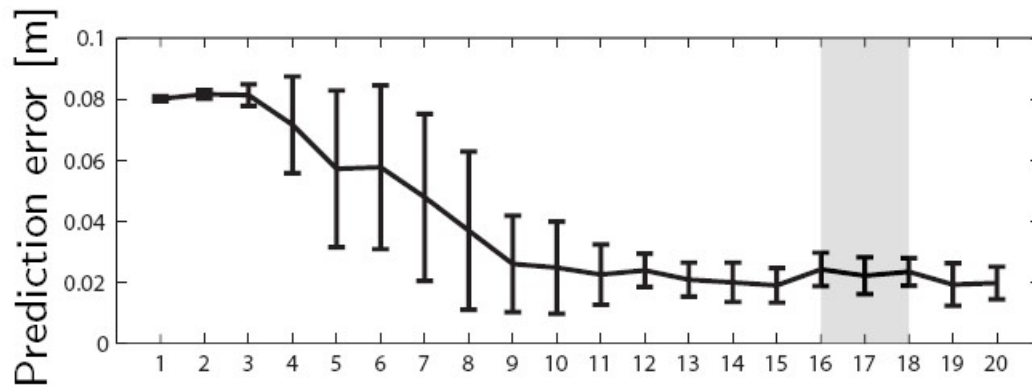


Experience-Driven Robotic Assistant



Experiment in 2D Virtual Scenario

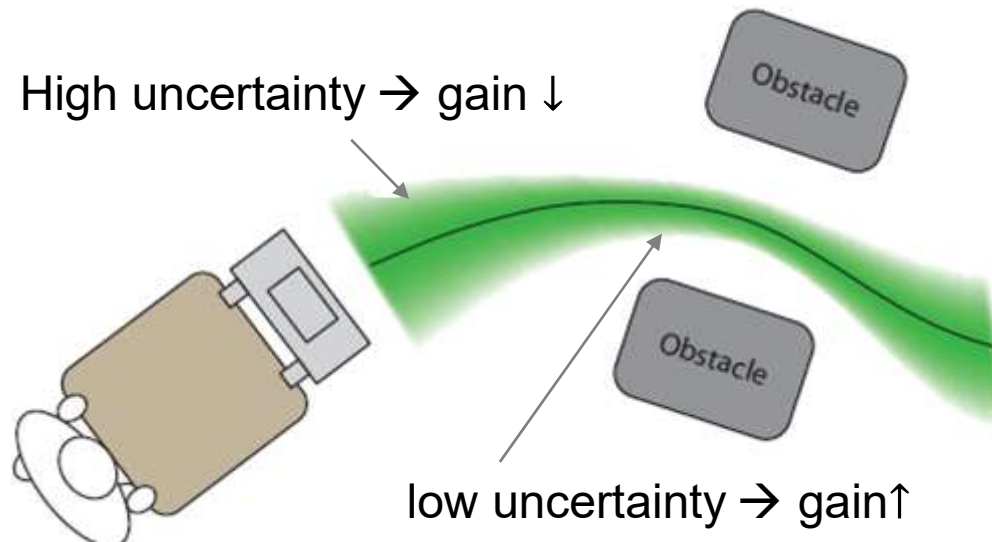
- Robot learning, predicting and assisting during execution
- Repetitions 16 to 18 without assistance



Overall results

- Robot assistance ↗
- Human force contribution ↘
- Execution time ↘
- Prediction error ↘

Risk-sensitive Optimal Feedback Control



- Risk-averse
gain $\uparrow \rightarrow$ dominant
- Risk-seeking
gain $\downarrow \rightarrow$ passive

- Assistive behavior considering both human model *uncertainties*
- Probabilistic human model for desired trajectory and exerted force

$$\hat{\xi} = \{\hat{\mu}_{\xi}, \hat{\Sigma}_{\xi}\}, \quad \hat{u} = \{\hat{\mu}_u, \hat{\Sigma}_u\}, \quad \text{with } \xi = (x \ \dot{x})^T$$

- Risk sensitive stochastic optimal control

$$J = \sum_{k=1}^T ((\xi_k - \hat{\mu}_{\xi})^T \hat{\Sigma}_{\xi,k}^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q \hat{\Sigma}_{\xi,k}^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\xi_k - \hat{\mu}_{\xi}) + u_{rk}^T R u_{rk})$$

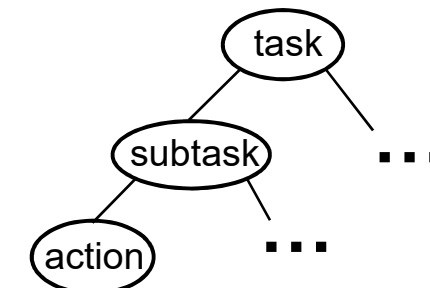
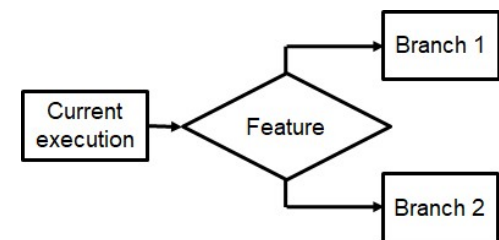
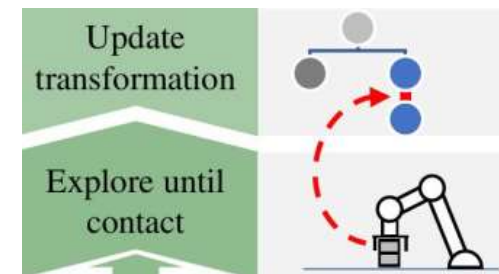
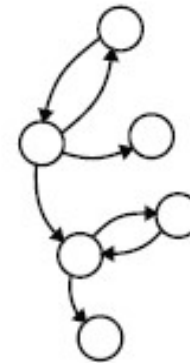
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Learning complex tasks

Knowledge Representation: To find embedded structure of a task from demonstrations

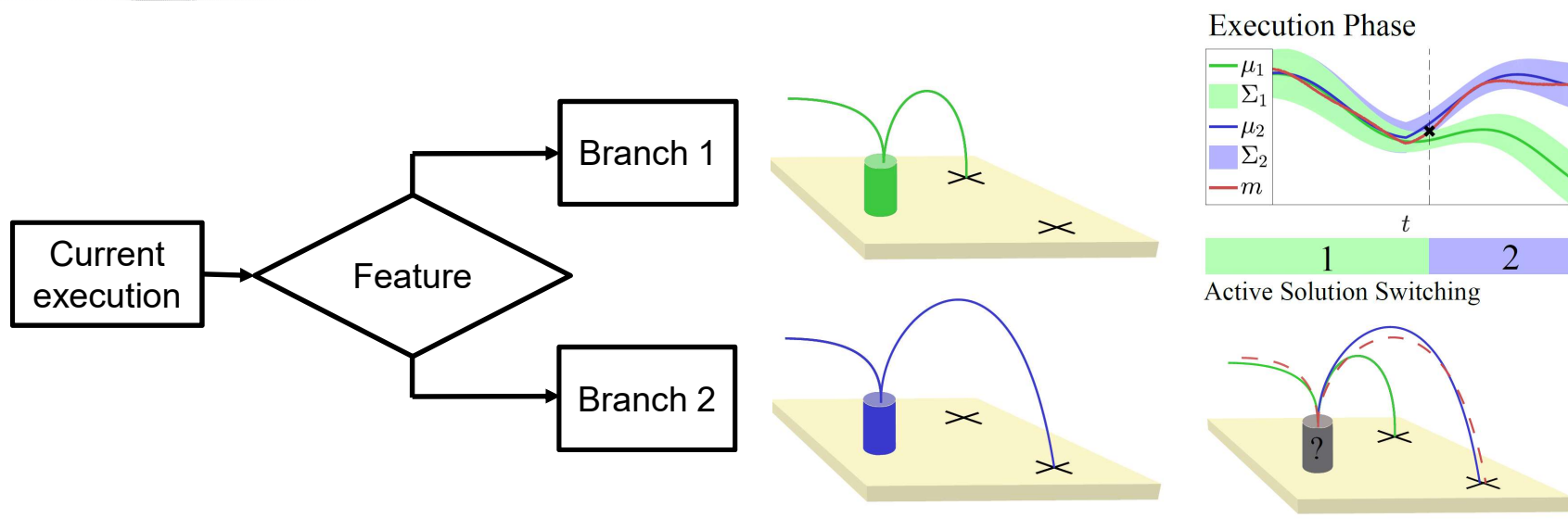
- Temporal structure
 - Clustering skills and learning sequencing order (transition probability)
- Spatial structure
 - task parameters (e.g. coordinate system) of a skill
 - Spatial relation between skills
- Conditional Tasks
 - Decision making based on conditional reasoning
- Hierarchy in symbolic abstraction level
 - Task (e.g. make a coffee) – subtasks (e.g. add water) – skills (e.g. move A to B)



Fixed Sequencing → Conditional Sequencing

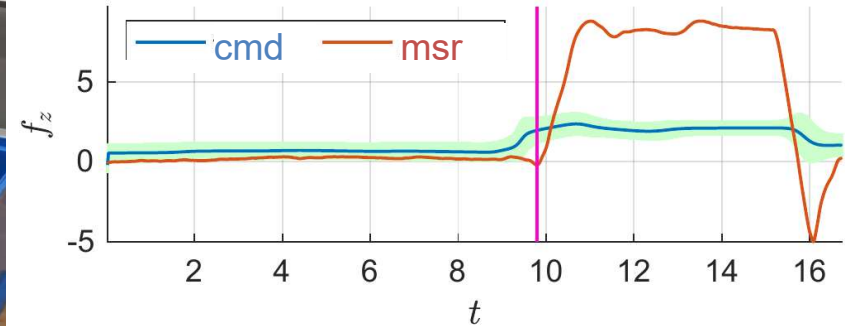


NO.	SKILL	ROBOT	DESCRIPTION	PARAMETERS
1	Pick plate	Gordon	Picks up a plate	[Icon]
2	Place plate	Gordon	Places a plate	[Icon]
3	Drilling	Rick	Drill a hole with a defined diameter in a defined pattern	[Icon] [PVC] [6]
4	Pick plate	Gordon	Picks up a plate	[Icon]
5	Place plate	Gordon	Places a plate	[Icon]
6	+ ADD SKILL			



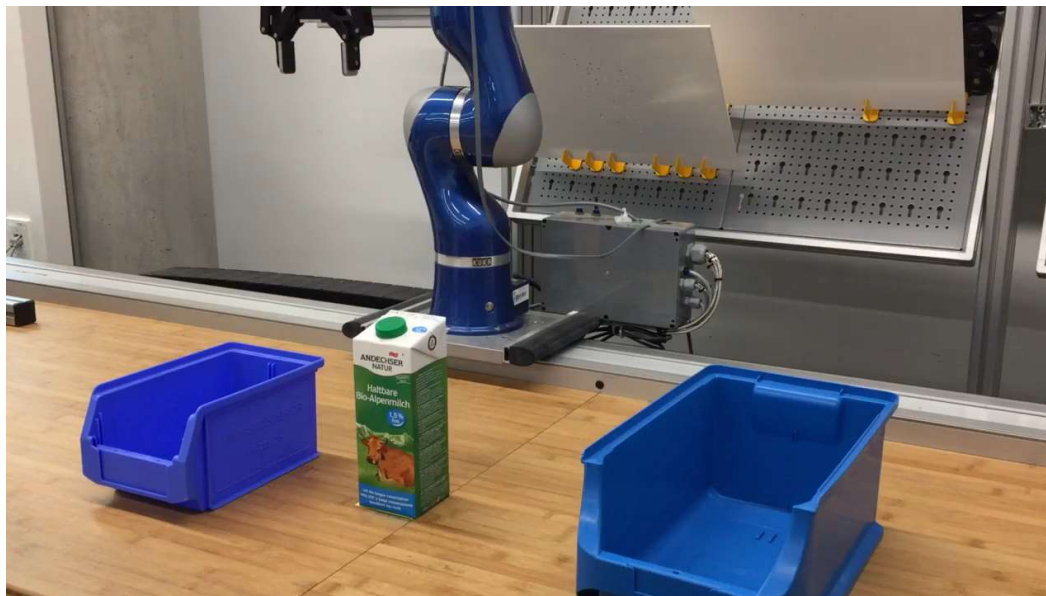
Experiment: Milk Carton Sorting

Demonstrations
w/o labeling

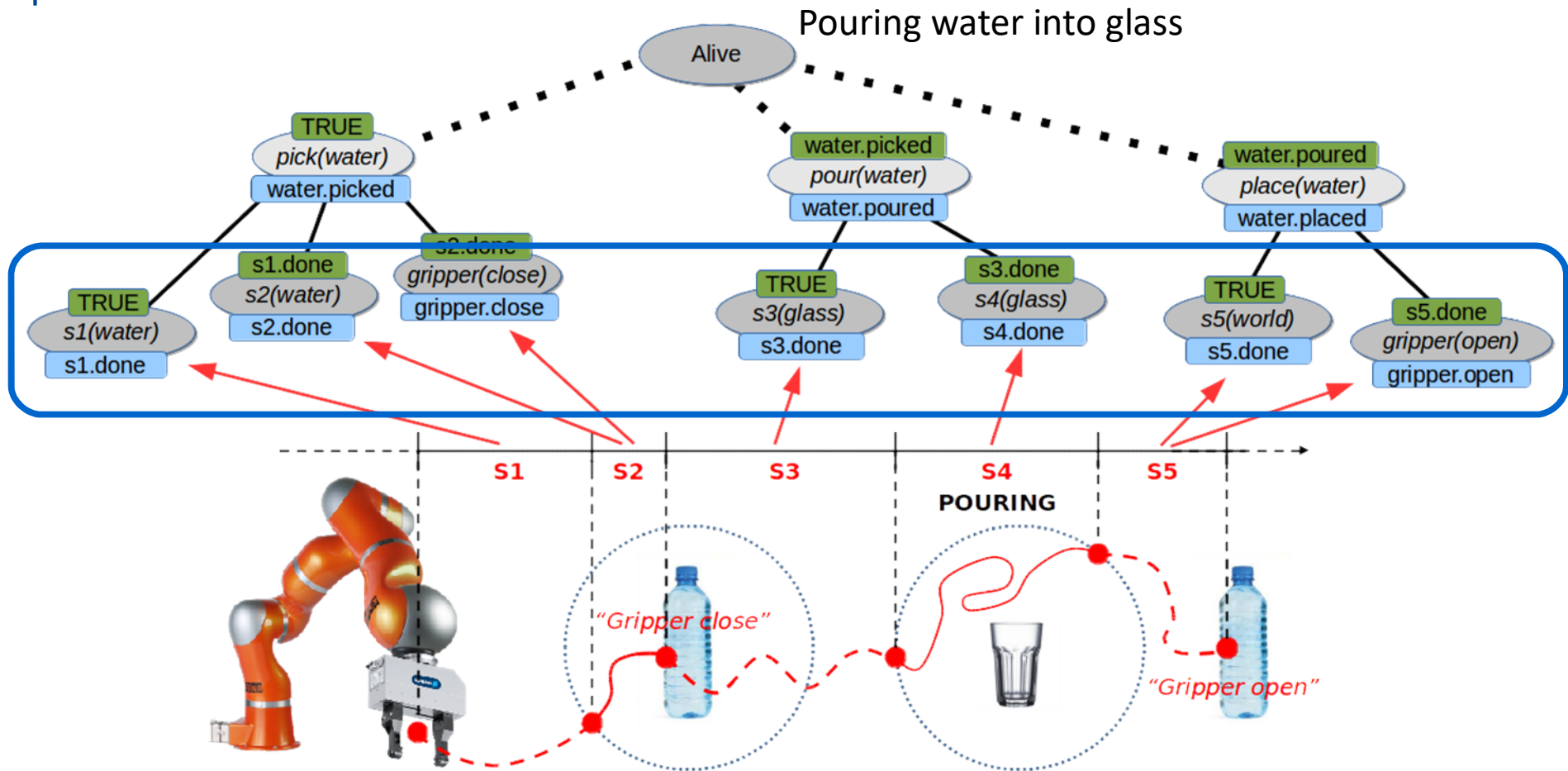


Anomaly detection

Execution



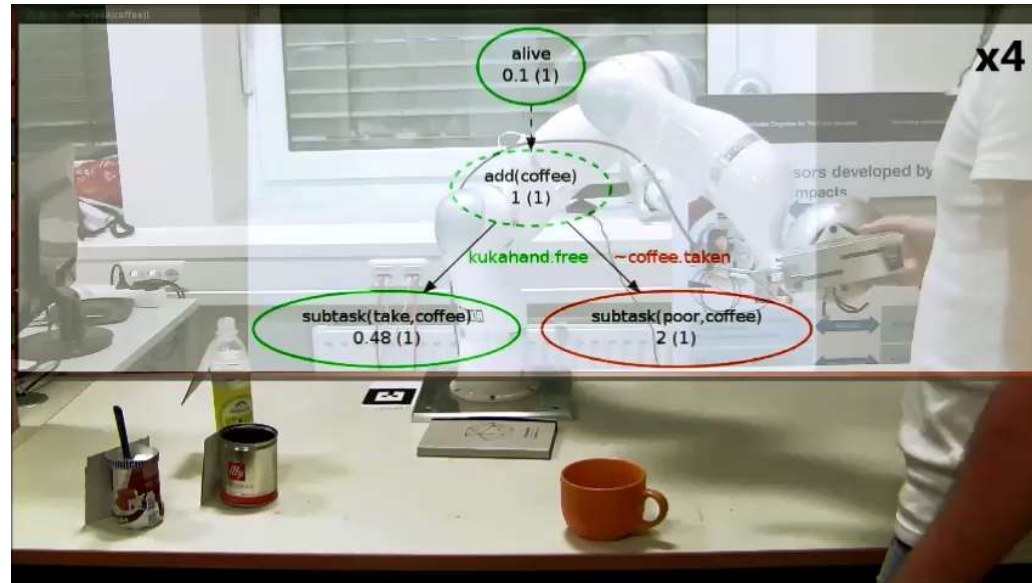
Learning Hierarchical Structured Tasks



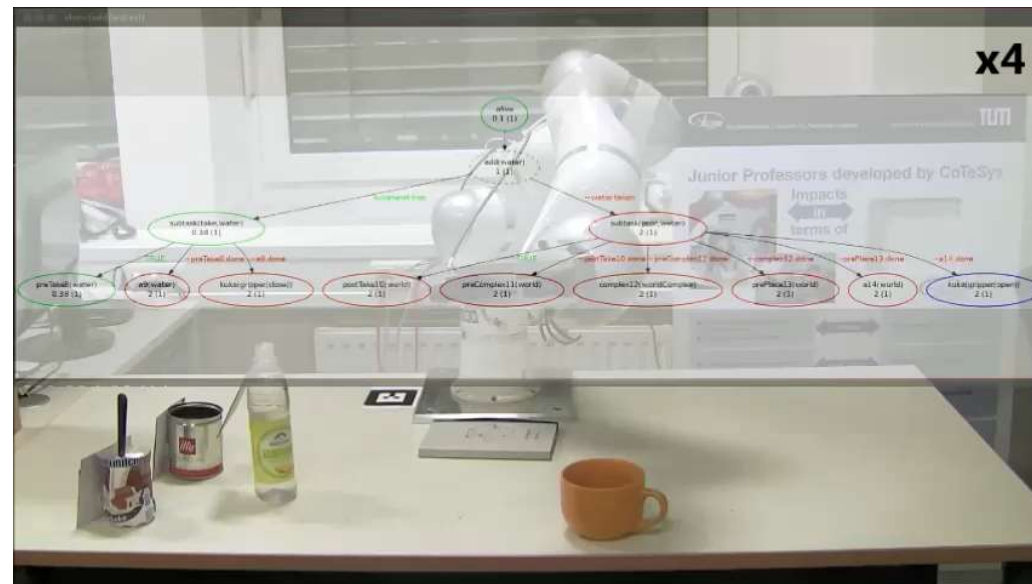
- Bridging low level MP learning and high level symbolic reasoning
- integrating imitation learning, attentional supervision, and cognitive control to learn and flexibly execute structured tasks

Experiment: coffee making

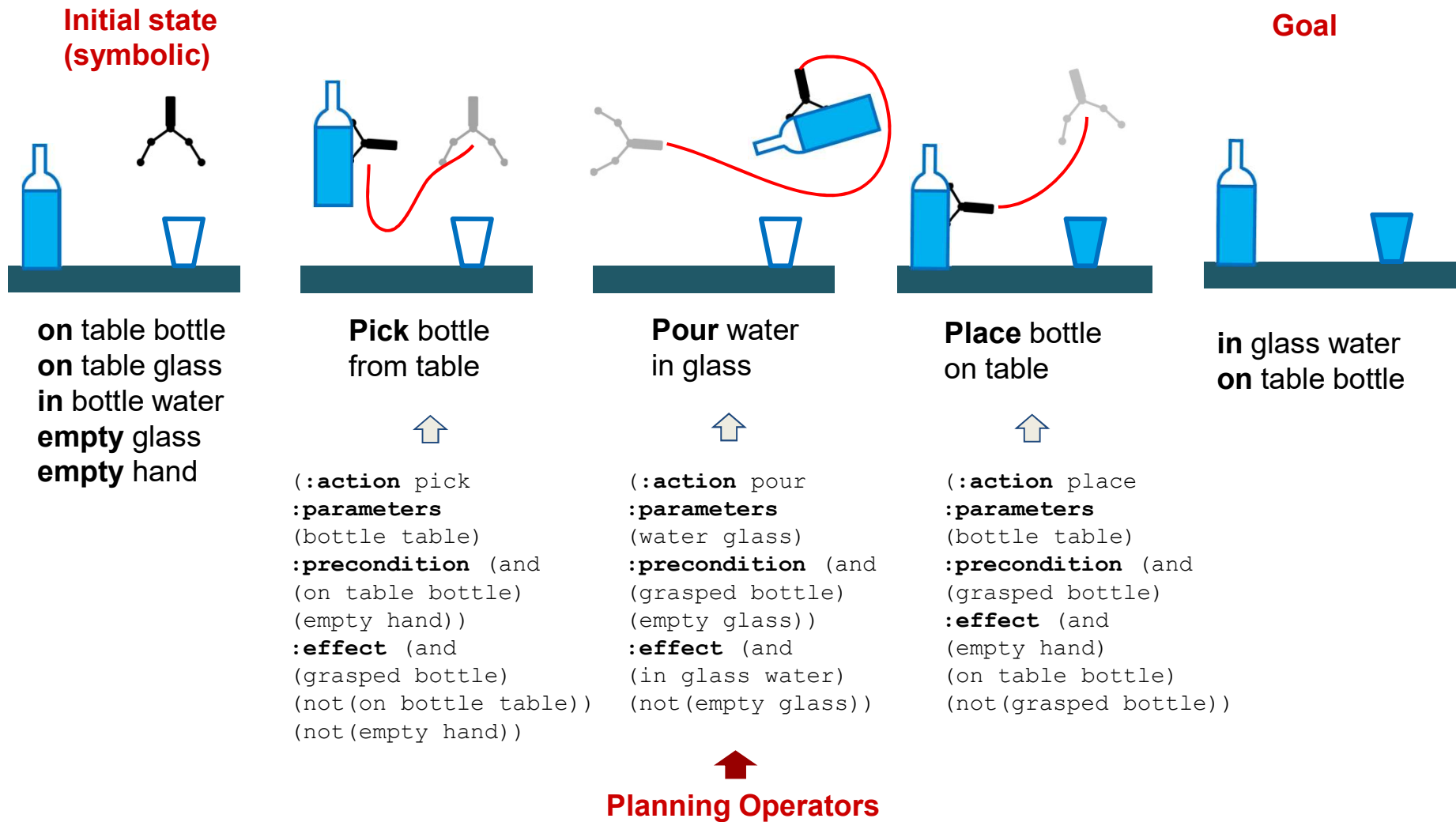
Teaching



Execution

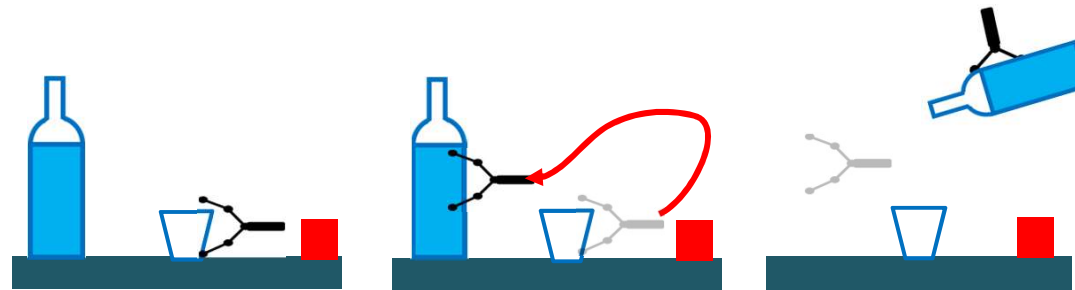


Task Planning and Motion Planning



[Agostini et al, Manipulation Planning using Object-centered Predicates and Hierarchical Decomposition of Contextual Actions, RA-L 2020]

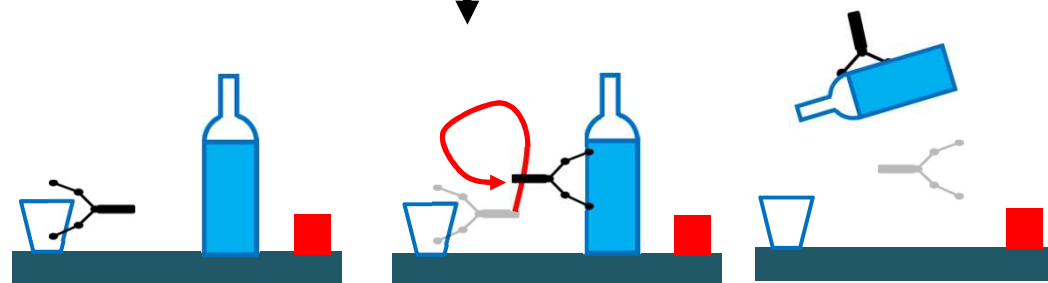
Action Context



Pick side bottle table



Same symbolic action but different motions!



Pick side bottle table

Experiments: Pouring Water



Action Context

-
- pick top redC bottle**
- place top redC table

Schema Segment

- s1(redC) - move_to
- s2(redC) - reach**
- s3(redC) - grasp
- s4(redC) - lift

10x

A 10x magnified view of the robot arm and the objects on the table. The robot's hand is positioned over the green bottle, and the white cup is visible on the table.

[Agostini et al, Manipulation Planning using Object-centered Predicates and Hierarchical Decomposition of Contextual Actions, RA-L 2020]

Summary: Challenges in Robot Learning

- *Skill transfer from Human to Robot* is a promising way towards intuitive programming and efficient motor skill learning.
- *Sample-efficient and Safe Reinforcement Learning in Physical World* can be achieved by leveraging imitation learning, approximate model knowledge, and learning in simulation.
- *Understanding human's behaviors and their uncertainties* leads to smooth and adaptive human robot interaction..
- In order to learn *complex robotic manipulation* tasks, it is essential to find the embedded structure of a task: sequencing, conditions, hierarchical abstraction.

What's next in robot learning?

- Robot learning requires an integrated architecture covering symbol grounding from sensing, symbolic reasoning, motion planning and adaptive control in physical world.
- Continual learning for Wide-Ranging Data
 - A robot can collect a large amount of information from a large variety of sensors, but rather low number of data. Simulator helps, but often do not reflect reality in a sufficient level of details.
- Social Interaction in Robot Learning Control
 - Account for the way in which data are collected.
 - Iterative interaction with the users can be exploited to influence the quality and nature of the collected data.
 - Linked with active learning with multimodal social interaction aspect.

Thank you for your attention

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