

# *Vision and Force Guided Robot Assisted Assembly*

*Smarter Robots in Manufacturing through  
Modeling, Sensing, Control, and Learning*

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# Outline

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- Attributes and Challenges in Industrial Robot Control
- Case Studies
  - Composites Panel Assembly
  - Robotic Satellite Servicing
  - Assistive Robot
- Robotics Software
- Robotics education

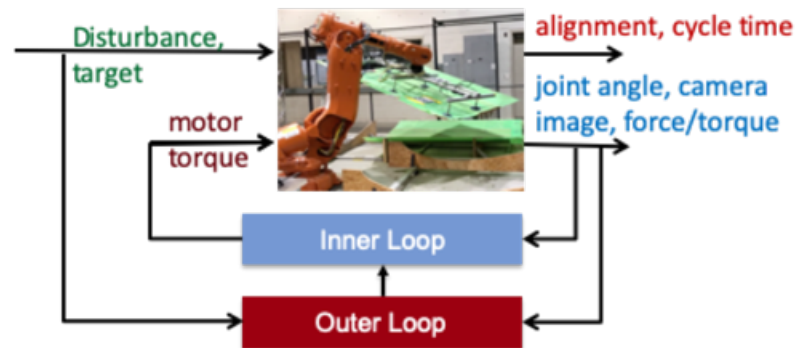
# Industrial Robot Control

## Attributes

- Outer Loop Control
- Semi-structured
- Crowded workspace: Human workers, other robots and machineries
- Process interruptions

## Challenges/Requirements

- Speed
- Precision
- Model imprecision
- Variable operation conditions
- Extensible architecture
- Load flexibility
- Joint flexibility
- Outer Loop Dynamics (delay, nonlinearities)
- Redundancy resolution
- Interruption recovery



# Industrial Robot Control

## Challenges/Requirements

- Speed
- Precision
- Model imprecision
- Variable conditions
- Extensible architecture
- Load flexibility
- Joint flexibility
- Outer loop dynamics
- Redundancy resolution
- Interruption recovery

## Potential Solutions

- ← Local optimization
- ← Sensor based control
- ← Robust control
- ← Robust control
- ← State machine, hybrid control
- ← Control design, notch filter
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- ← Predictive compensation
- ← Secondary control objectives
- ← Error detection and mitigation

# Control Needs

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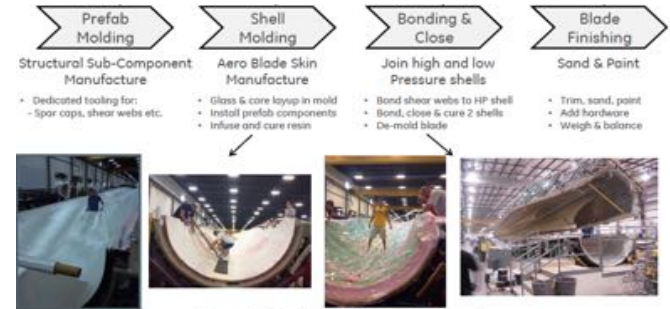
- Faster motion planner
- More *intuitive* robot paths
- Robustness to lighting, calibration..
- Co-simulation
- Human predictive modeling
- ....

# Case Study: Composites Panel Assembly

## Motivation

- Manufacturing of large composite structures a time consuming, labor intensive process
- Challenges: Large, heavy, curved loads, structural flexibility, high precision alignment requirement

Joint project with GE GRC, funded by ARM



Labor / Capital / Space Intensive

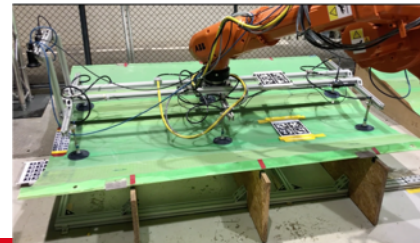
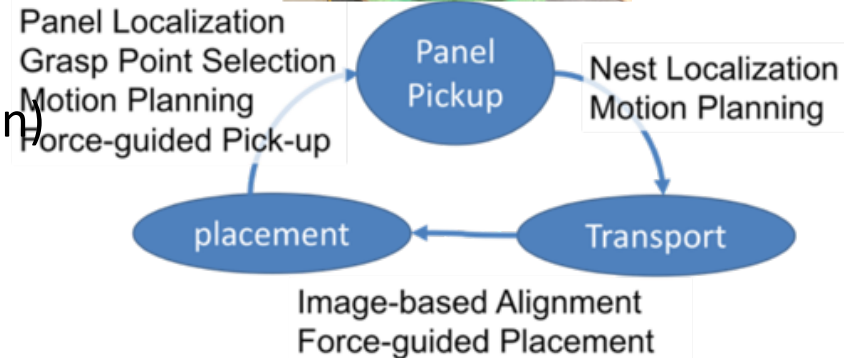
Courtesy: Shridhar Nath  
(GE GRC)



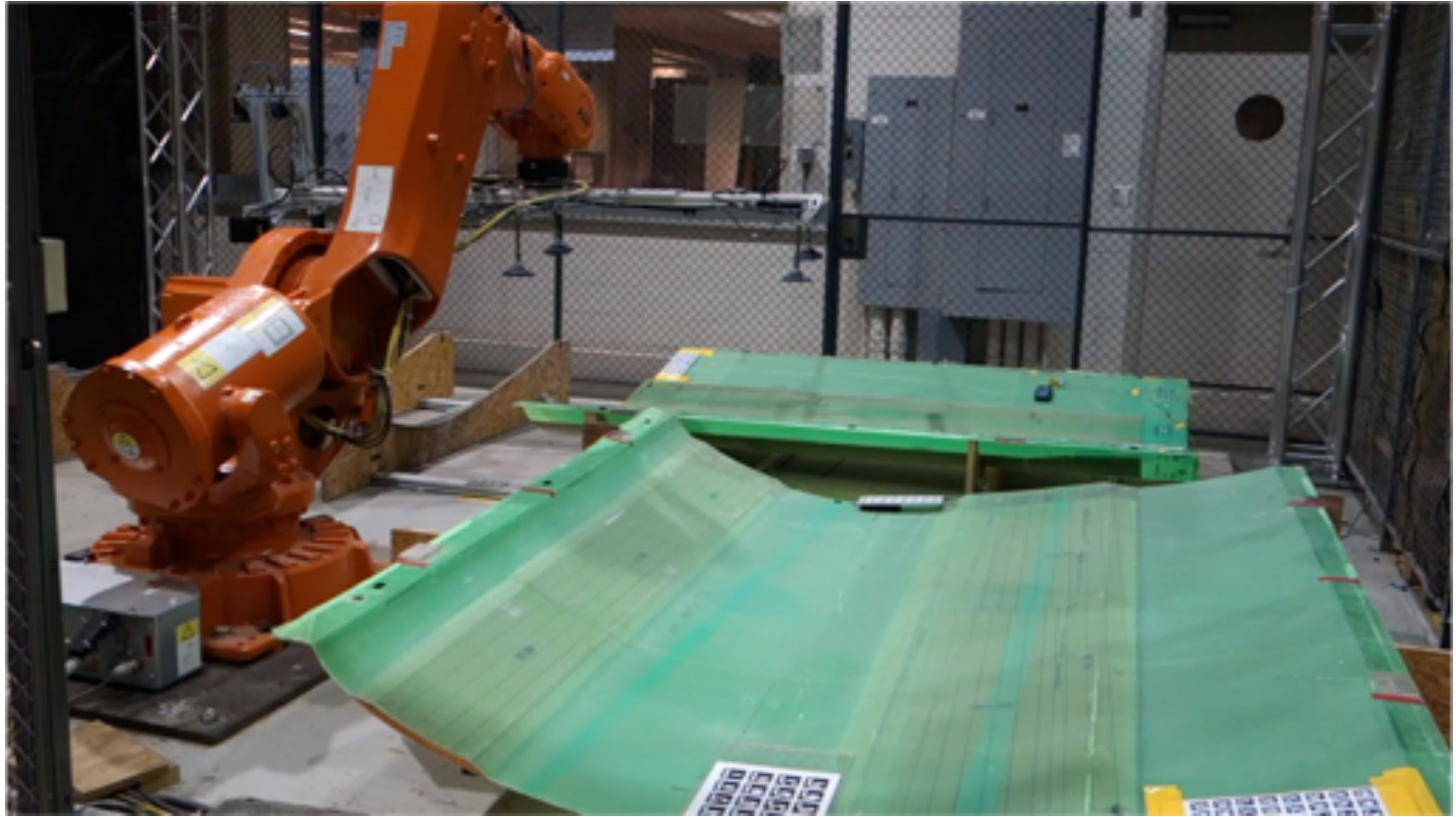
# Demonstration Testbed

Performance Metrics: Cycle Time, Alignment Tolerance, Damage avoidance (vibration, placement force)

- Speed (motion, planning)
- Precision (alignment, force)
- Model imprecision (CAD, camera calibration)
- Variable conditions (lighting)
- Extensible architecture (robot-agnostic)
- Load flexibility (panel vibration)
- Joint flexibility
- Outer loop dynamics (nonlinearity)
- Redundancy resolution
- Interruption recovery (error, user)



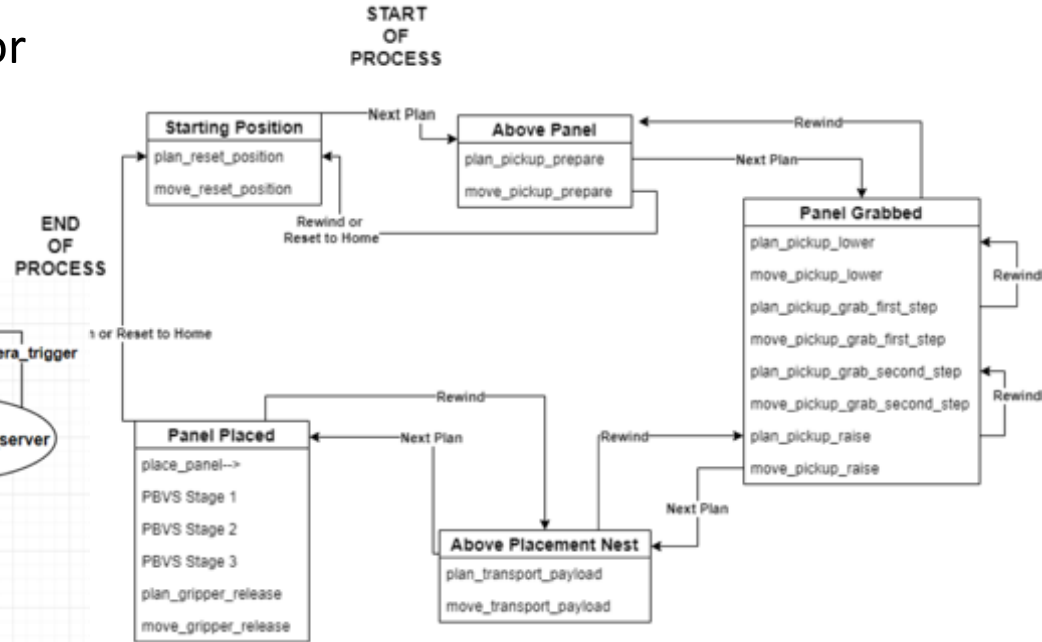
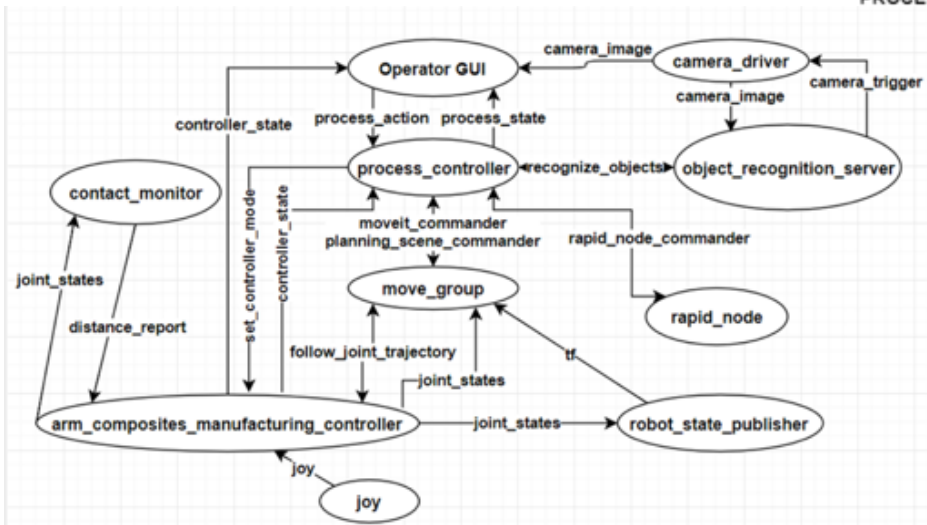
# Experiment





# Process and Software Architecture

- Bidirectional process flow for operator intervention and diagnostics
- ROS implementation



Opportunity: Hybrid control analysis

# Motion Planning

Global optimization with fixed environment

- MoveIt! (TRRT)
- TrajOpt + Tesseract (SwRI)

Local Solution: Quadratic Programming with human guidance

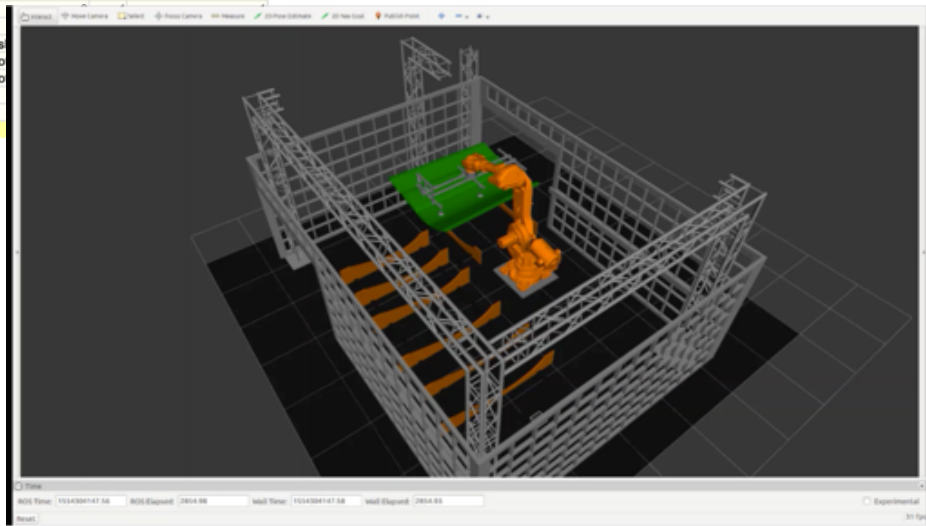
$$\min_{\dot{q}, \alpha_r, \alpha_p} \|J\dot{q} - \alpha v_d\|^2 + \epsilon_r(\alpha_r - 1)^2 + \epsilon_p(\alpha_p - 1)^2$$

$$h_I(q) \geq \eta > 0 \Rightarrow \nabla h_I(q)\dot{q} \geq \sigma(h_I(q))$$

$$\dot{q}_{\min} \leq \dot{q} \leq \dot{q}_{\max}$$

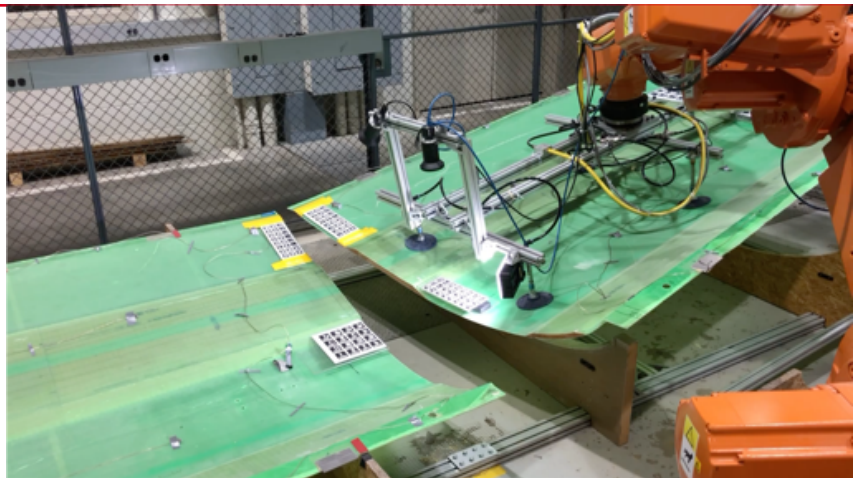
Opportunity: User directed optimal control, model predictive control

#	Planners	Trial 1		Trial 2	
		Good Path	Bad Path	Good Path	Bad Path
1	BFMTkConfigDefault	2		3	
2	BKPIECEkConfigDefault	5		0	4
3	BIESTkConfigDefault	4		1	
4	BTRRTkConfigDefault	4	1 no motion plan found		
5	ESTkConfigDefault	4	1 no motion plan found		
6	FMTkConfigDefault	5		0	4
7	KPIECEkConfigDefault	5		0	4
8	LBKPIECEkConfigDefault	0		5	
9	LBTRRTkConfigDefault	4		1	
10	LazyPRMkConfigDefault	4		1	
11	LazyPRMstarkConfigDefault	4		1	
12	PDSTkConfigDefault	4	1 no motion plan found		
13	PRMkConfigDefault	4		1	
14	PRMstarkConfigDefault	4		1	
15	ProjESTkConfigDefault	5		0	5
16	RRTConnectkConfigDefault	5			
17	RRTkConfigDefault	3			
18	RRTstarkConfigDefault		very s		
19	SBLkConfigDefault	4	1 no mo		
20	SPARSkConfigDefault	4	1 no mo		
21	SPARStwokConfigDefault	5			
22	STRIDEkConfigDefault	5			
23	TRRTkConfigDefault	5			

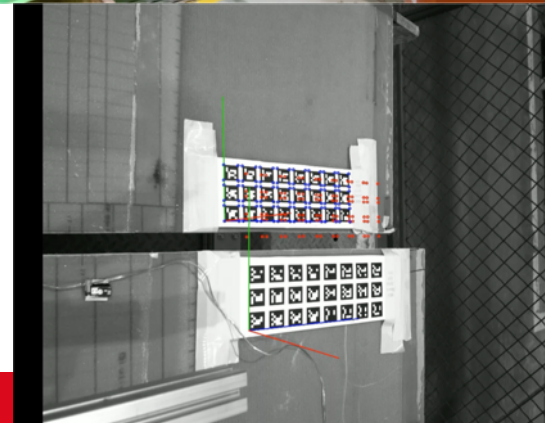
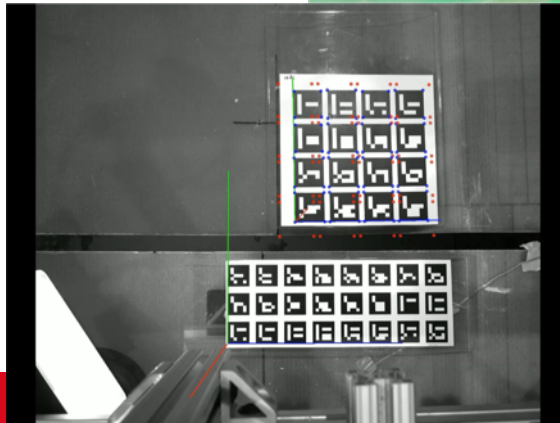


# Vision Guided Motion

- Placement (gripper cameras): PBVS vs. IBVS
    - PBVS pose-based vs IBVS image-based error
    - Servoing: Jacobian vs. Inverse kinematics
    - Reduce dependence on calibration accuracy
    - Single tag/camera vs. Two-tag/two-camera
- Trade-off between orientation accuracy and camera accuracy.  
Best experimental combination:  
.75 overhead + .25 side cameras



Opportunity: Sensor-fusion,  
integrated lighting control,  
visual design

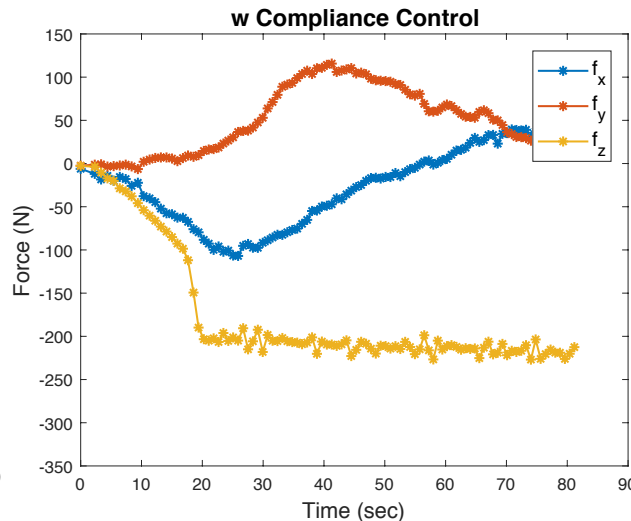
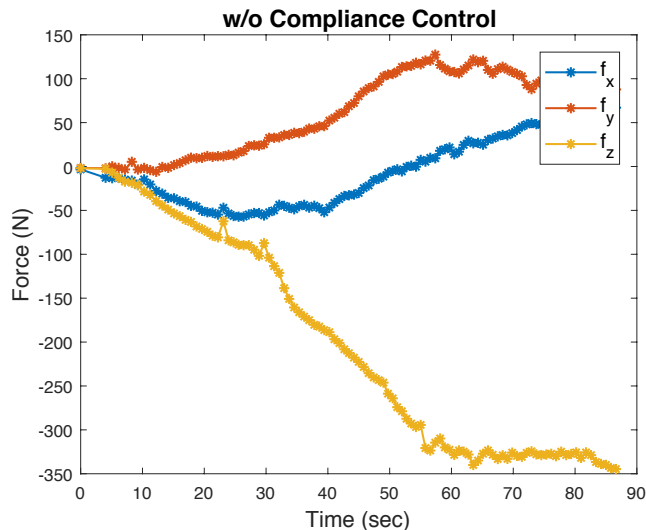


# Force Guided Motion

- Placement: compliance force control (generalized damper) as part of QP control

$$\begin{bmatrix} \omega_T \\ v_T \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_m \\ v_m \end{bmatrix} - K \begin{bmatrix} \tau - \tau_d \\ f - f_d \end{bmatrix}$$

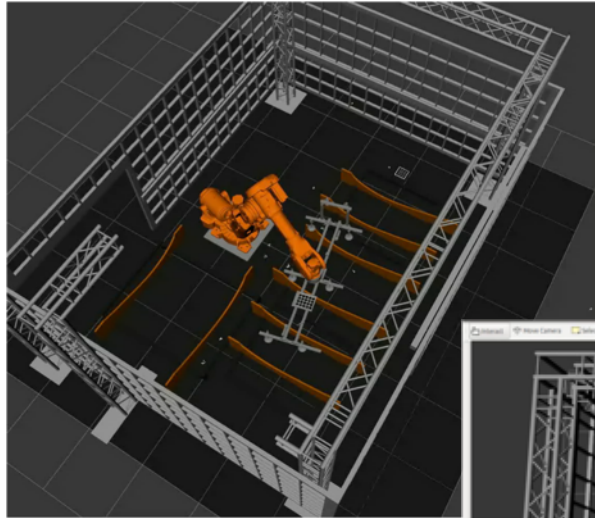
$$\min_{\dot{q}, \alpha_R, \alpha_P} \left\| J(q)\dot{q} - \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_R \omega_T \\ \alpha_P v_T \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2 + \epsilon_R (\alpha_R - 1)^2 + \epsilon_P (\alpha_P - 1)^2$$



Opportunity: Multi-contact flexible load assembly/compliance control

# Human Tracking, Safe Teleoperation

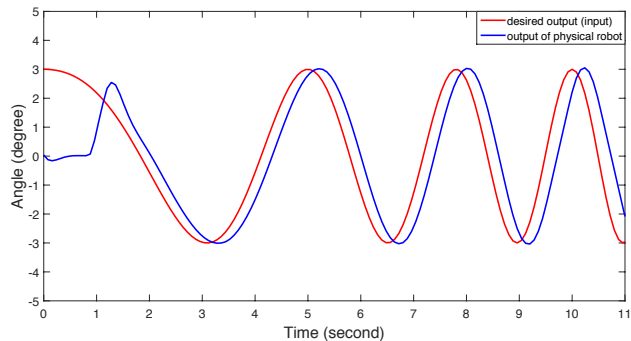
- Multiple point cloud sensor for human tracking, object identification
- User teleoperation without collision
- Distance calc: 10Hz



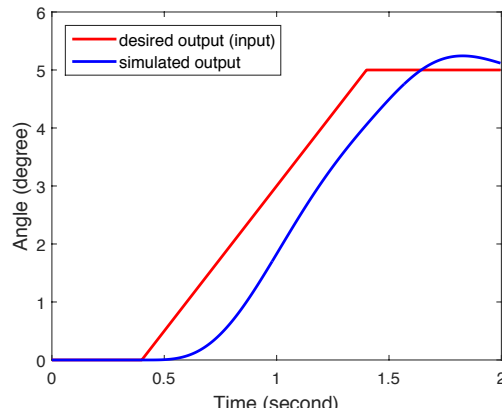
Opportunity:  
Guaranteed safe robot  
motion with predictive  
control

# Iterative and Neural Learning Control

- Robot/load dynamics
- Iterative improvement over tracking error
- Simulation-based learning
- Encoding in neural network

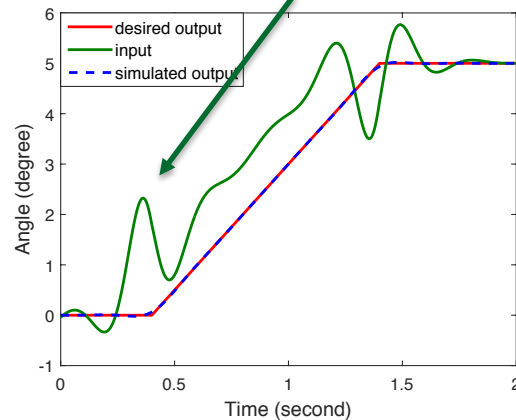
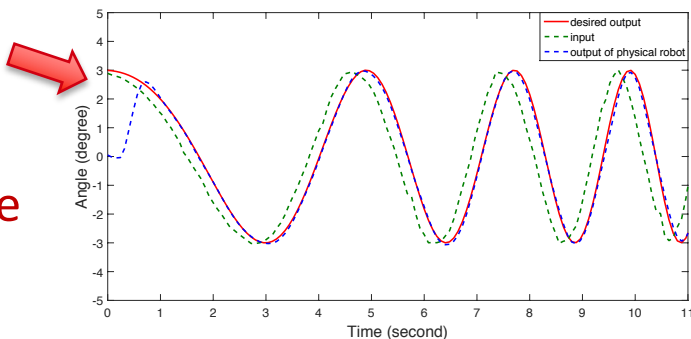


Opportunity: Neuro-adaptive control for nonlinear dynamical system



Strictly proper system → Non-causal input

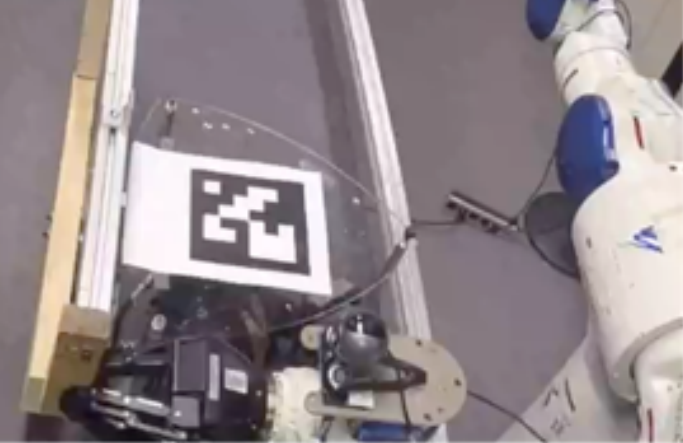
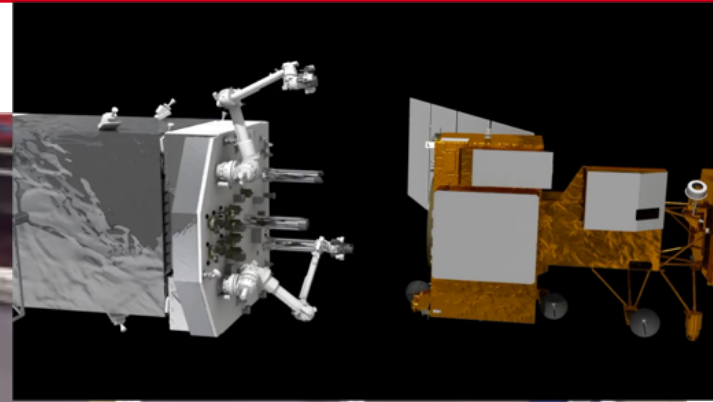
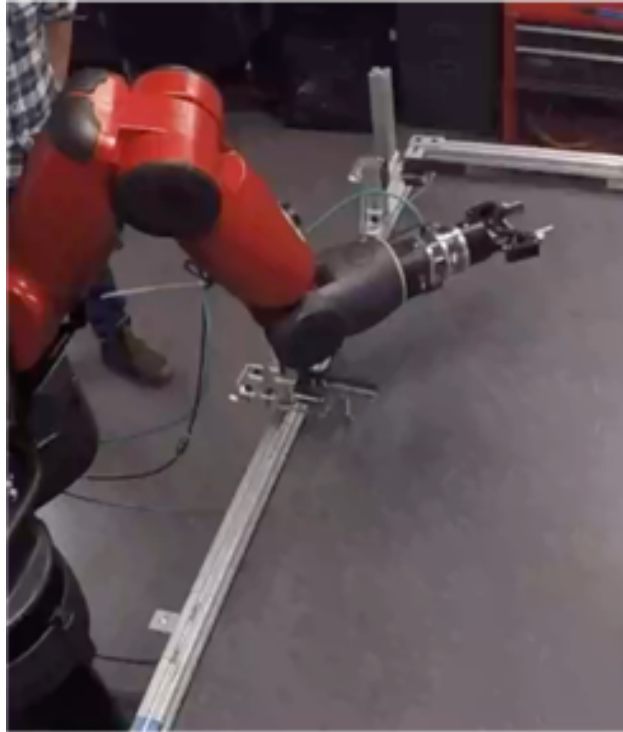
Noncausal NN FF compensation



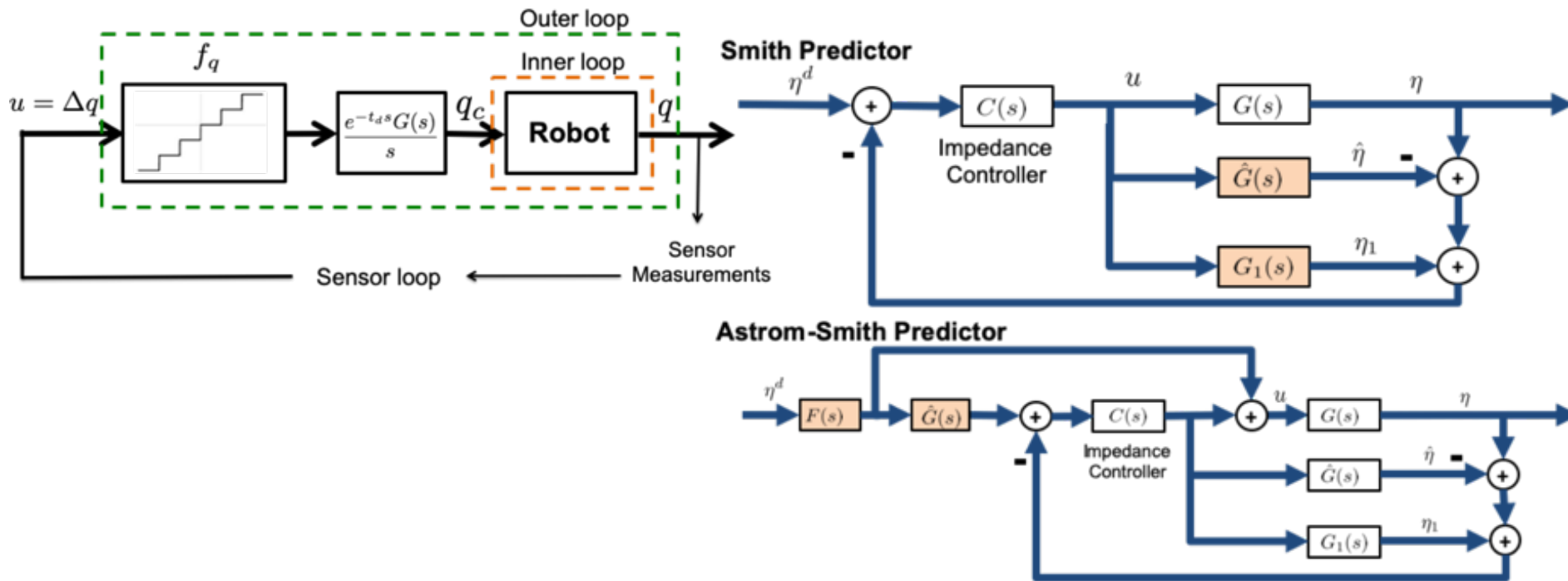
# Robot Satellite Servicing

## Restore-L Mission

- Joint flexibility → bounded snap traj
- High-inertia load transport
- Compliance force control in 0-g
- Ground simulation



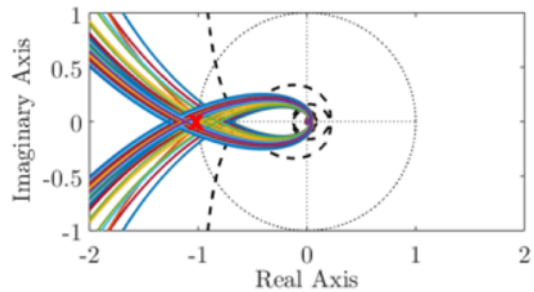
# Impedance Control with Delay Compensation



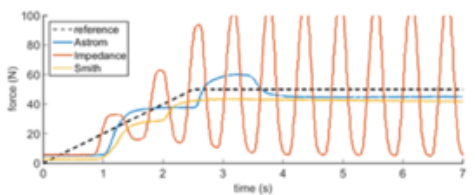
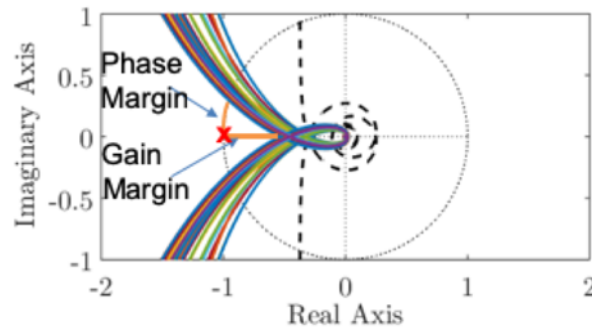


# Stability and Nonlinearity

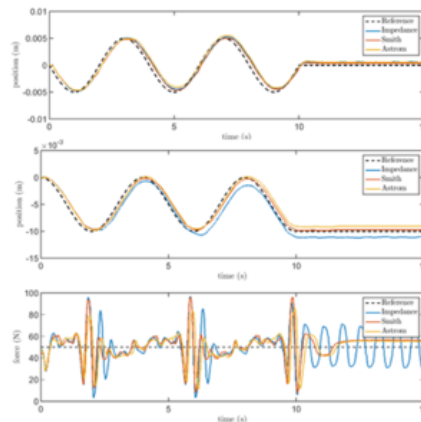
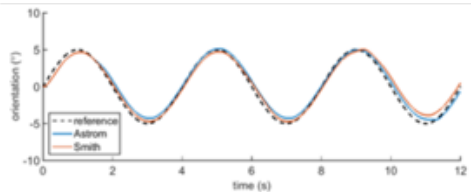
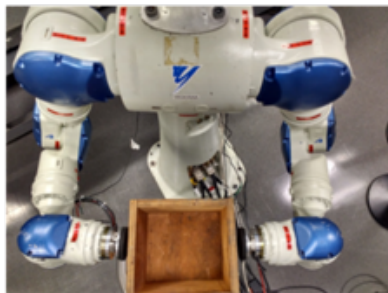
Impedance Controller



Smith Predictor



$\beta = 5000$       Rotation about Y



# Assistive Robot

Human-robot collaboration  
Redundancy resolution



# Robot Software

Middleware for distributed communication and control:

- Smart Grid (DOE): Volttron message bus
- Robotics: Robot Operating System (ROS, ROS 2.0)
- Industrial Internet (GE/RTI): Data Distribution Service (DDS)
- Robot Raconteur (Wason Tech, RPI)

Point-to-point  
(client-service)  
Data vs. Object

Distributed architecture: No master node

Object oriented: Client-service model

Ease of connection: no *a priori* info on data type and object

Plug-and-Play: Automatic node discovery

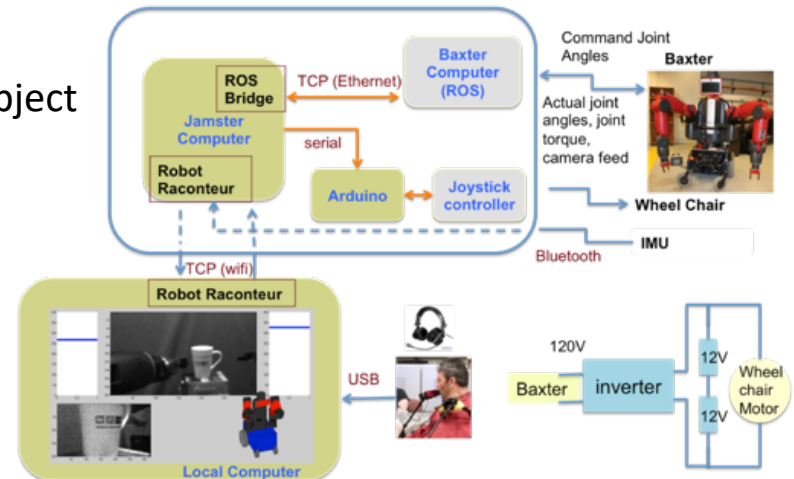
Security: user name and session authentication

Interoperability: ROS bridge, MATLAB, LabView

Compatible OS: Windows, Linux, MacOS

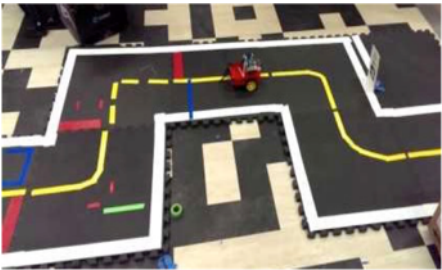
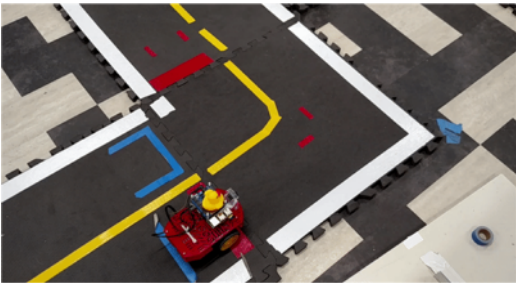
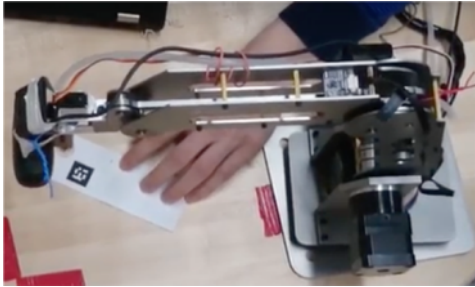
Embedded platform: Raspberry Pi, Arduino

Open source, free download at [robotraconteur.com](http://robotraconteur.com)



# Robot Education

- Duckietown, Dobot, ...



# Summary

- Opportunities for control community to advance robots in manufacturing
- Model-based optimization + sensor-based feedback control + data-driven learning → Improved manufacturing processes
- Numerous challenging manufacturing applications: surface modification, composites lay-up, robotic welding



# Acknowledgment

- Robot assisted composites panel assembly: Shridhar Nath, Mark Vermilyea (GE), John Wason (Wason Technology), Matt Robinson, Levi Armstrong (SwRI), Glenn Saunders, William Lawler, Yuan Chih Peng, Shuyang Chen, Dev Jivani, Rich Radke (RPI)



Supported by ARM Institute and NYSTAR: ARM-17-QS-F-01 Robot Assistant for Composite Manufacturing

- Satellite Servicing: David Cariabis, Kimberly Oakes (NASA Goddard)
- Assistive Robot: Dan Kruse (SRI Robotics), Lu Lu (NJIT) (Tufts University, Craig Nielsen Foundation)



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