

Collaborative robotics

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Outline

- Introduction to robotics
- Introduction to collaborative robotics
- Regulations and standards for safety
- Robots in the market
- Research in collaborative robotics at University of Udine





• What is Robotics?

The study of machines that replaces man in the execution of a task, both in terms of physical activity and decision-making

Automaton:

mechanical creature with the task of replacing the human being in tasks of subordinate work

The term *robot* comes from the Czech word *robota = executive work, coined in 1921 by Čapek* in his science fiction play *Rossum's Universal Robots*



The birth of industrial robotics (Unimate)

The term **robot** comes from the Czech word "**robota**," which means "**heavy labor**" or "**forced labor**".



- Unimate was the first industrial robot ever;
- It was invented by George Devol and Joseph Engelberger (founders of the Unimotion company) with a patent registered in 1954;
- Created for General Motors, the robot served a production line for handling automotive die-cast parts;
- The idea was to substitute humans in hazardous operations (toxic fumes and possible physical injury);



- What is a robotic system?
- A robotic system is a mechanical / electronic / IT device capable of performing a specific task independently

• Elements of a robotic system

- Workspace
- Mechanical structure
- Sensors
- Elaboration unit
- Actuators

Example of a robotic system: vacuum cleaner robot

• Is it a robotic system?





Example of a robotic system: vacuum cleaner robot

- It has a very specific **goal**: remove dust from the floor of the room
- It does it alone (autonomy)
- It works in a **work environment** (the room)
- It has a mechanical structure
- It has **sensors** (position, obstacles, dirt, etc.)
- It has a **processing unit** that controls the operations related to the management of the trajectories and the activation of the aspirator
- It has **actuators** (motors for locomotion and aspiration)







- Robotics can be defined as a science that studies the intelligent connection between perception and action
- mechanical system (locomotion and manipulation)
- sensory system (proprioceptive and exteroceptive sensors)
 - **Proprioceptive** = acquire information on the internal state of the mechanical system
 - Exteroceptive = to acquire information on the external state of the environment
- control system
 - ability to intelligently connect action and perception



- proprioceptive sensors measure the internal state of the robot (position and velocity of joints, but also torque at joints or acceleration of links)
- kinematic calibration, identification of dynamic parameters, control

- exteroceptive sensors measure/characterize robot interaction with the environment, enhancing its autonomy (forces/torques, proximity, vision, but also sensors for sound, smoke, humidity, ...)
- control of interaction with the environment, obstacle avoidance, localization of mobile robots, navigation in unknown environments



Position

- linear displacements: potentiometers, linear variable differential transformers (LVDT)
- angular displacements: potentiometers, resolvers, <u>encoders</u> (digital)
- Velocity and acceleration
 - Tachometer
 - Accelerometers

Exteroceptive sensors

- Force Sensors
 - strain gauges and joint torque sensor
- Proximity/distance sensors
 - infrared (IF),
 - ultrasound (US),
 - laser with structured light
- Vision



What are the components of an industrial robot?



 Mechanical structure (manipulator) with actuators and sensors Control system (control logic, drives)







What are the components of the mechanical system?

- Support structure and wrist, which gives *dexterity*
 - Main function: orient the end-effector in the space
 - I can reach the same point with more than one orientation
- Actuators impart the movement of the manipulator through the actuation of the joints
 - Electric, hydraulic and pneumatic actuators
- Sensors measure the state of the manipulator (*proprioceptive*) and possibly the state of the surrounding environment (*exteroceptive*)









The control system

- The control system of a robot is a very complex and sophisticated product, which requires high software development times
- Its main tasks are as follows:
 - Interface with the operator
 - Trajectory planning
 - Real-time control of joint motion
 - Data storage
 - Interface management with other machines
 - Diagnose and manage malfunctions





Structure and classification of manipulators

Open kinematic chain

There is only one sequence of arms that connects the two ends of the chain

Closed kinematic chain

The arm sequence of the manipulator constitutes a closed chain (a ring)



 0
 Serial open kinematic chain with 3 DOF at end-point
 0
 Closed chain with 1 DOF

 0
 0
 0
 0



Example of parallel robot (Delta Robot)

Example of serial robot



Structure and classification of manipulators

Articulation between two consecutive arms:

- REVOLUTE JOINTS (relative rotation between two joints)
- Allows the link i to move relative to the i-1 link by rotating around an axis passing through the joint i
- PRISMATIC JOINTS (relative motion of translation between two joints)
- It allows the link i to move with respect to the i-1 link translating along an axis passing through the joint i





Structure and classification of manipulators^{unt futu}

SCARA manipulator (Selective Compliant Assembly Robot Arm)

- 3 or 4 degrees of freedom
- Two revolute joints, one prismatic and eventually one more revolute joint
- The motion axes are all parallel to each other
- High stiffness to vertical loads and compliance to horizontal loads
- Assembly for vertical insertions
- Handling of small objects
- The positioning accuracy of the end-effector is reduced as the distance of the wrist from the axis of the first joint increases





Examples of SCARA manipulators for pickand-place operations



SCARA manipulators for pick and place







Structure and classification of manipulators^{sunt futura}

Articulated manipulator

- Three revolute joints
- The axis of rotation of the **base joint** is orthogonal to the other two parallel ones
- The second joint is called **shoulder** while the third **elbow**
- The positioning of the wrist changes throughout the workspace
- Workspace is a portion of a sphere
- Large volume of workspace compared to the volume of the manipulator





Examples of articulated manipulators





Structure and classification of manipulators^{ant futura}

Spherical wrist

- To guarantee arbitrary orientations in a 3D space, the wrist must have at least three degrees of freedom achieved by rotary joints
- The realization that gives the wrist greater **dexterity** is that in which the <u>three axes of rotation intersect</u> <u>at one point</u> (**spherical wrist**)
- Uncoupling between position and orientation of the end-effector
- The supporting structure positions in the space the intersection point of the three axes of the wrist
- The wrist itself determines the orientation of the end-effector





Structure and classification of manipulators^{ant futura}

• Spherical wrist

• Non-spherical wrist





Structure and classification of manipulators

- Parallel robots
- The end-effector is connected directly to its base usually by a number of arms independent of each other and that work in parallel, or work together and coordinated, but not necessarily aligned in parallel

Stewart platform, used for example for flight simulators



Parallel robot, Mitsubishi Electric



Structure and classification of manipulators^{unt futura}

- Stewart's platform as a flight simulator
- 6 spatial degrees of freedom
- 6 prismatic joints (hydraulic jacks or linear electric actuators) fixed in pairs from three positions on the platform base plate, to three mounting points on a top plate
- All 12 connections are composed of universal joints
- Three linear movements x, y, z (lateral, longitudinal and vertical) and three rotations in space (pitch, roll and yaw)







Structure and classification of manipulators^{ant futura}

- Parallel robot for haptic interfaces
- Haptic interface: device that allows to operate a robot, real or virtual, and to receive tactile sensations in response (feedback)
- The haptic word derives from the Greek apto, "touch"
- Applications in areas of advanced robotics, such as surgical and space robotics, and those related to virtual reality and telemanipulation
- Haptic interface (robot master) and remote or virtual device (slave)







Structure and classification of manipulators

Parallel robots

- Fast pick-and-place applications
- Light structure (arms often made of carbon)
- Reduced inertia
- Greater dynamic performance
- High speeds and high accelerations
- Greater stiffness
- Generally low load capacity (a few kilos)
- Parallel robots are generally more limited in the work area; for example, generally they cannot get around obstacles







Delta robot - packaging



Cable-driven parallel robots

- Flexible link mechanisms (cables)
- Parallel robots
- Light, easily reconfigurable, transportable
- Used for transporting loads in large workspaces
- The end-effector may be completely constrained or suspended







Cable-driven parallel robots

The Skycam





The Cable Robot Simulator



Cable-driven parallel robots

• The Arecibo Radio Telescope (Puerto Rico)





• Cable-robot for rehabilitation





Mobile robots

- Automatic machine able to move in the surrounding environment
- Presence of a moving and autonomous base
- Service applications, where extensive and autonomous mobility is required:
 - Indoor applications
 - Outdoor applications





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Mobile robots Indoor applications:

- Cleaning of large rooms
- Service robotics for shops, museum, industries, etc.
- Internal surveillance of buildings
- Goods storage in automated warehouses
- AGV (Automatic Guided Vehicle) for palletizing and transporting finished products







Mobile robots

Outdoor applications:

- Military applications (mine clearance)
- Space and underwater exploration
- Civil protection
- Automated agriculture







Mobile robots

One or more rigid bodies equipped with a locomotion system:

Wheeled Mobile Robots (WMR):

Consisting of a rigid body (base or chassis) and a system of wheels that move it with respect to the ground

Mobile robots on legs:

Consisting of several rigid bodies, connected to each other by prismatic or revolute joints

Biomimetic robotics: their project is inspired by living organisms







What are the typical applications of an industrial robot?

- TRANSPORT
- Handling
- Pick-and-place
- Loading / Unloading machines
- Palletizing packing
- Selection of parts

- MANUFACTURE
- Spot welding
- Arc welding
- Sealing, gluing
- Assembly (assembly)
- Milling, drilling
- Pressing
- Deburring, grinding
- Screwing, wiring
- Painting



- MEASURE
- Dimensional test
- Profile detection
- Identification of manufacturing defects
Production line BMW 3 series - welding robots











CMA Robotics - Robotic painting line





From industrial to collaborative robots



What does collaborative robotics mean?

Being collaborative means:

«To work with someone to create or produce something»

Collaborative robots (cobots):

- bring together the potential of human and robot capabilities to complete tasks in a semi-automated manner that were impossible to achieve fully automatically
- are a new generation of industrial robots designed to work together and in safety with human operators, without the need for barriers or protective cages to divide them
- collaborate with humans in the Smart Factory











The four stages of the industrial revolution

Connected industry is to a large extent self-organizing. The lubricant of a smart factory is information, which tells the machinery how it should organize itself in order to complete a certain job.

Stage 1	5tage 2	0101 1001 Stage 3	Stage 4
Late 18th century	Early 20th century	Early 1970s	
First mechanized manufacturing equipment powered by water and steam	Introduction of mass production with the help of electrical power	Use of electronics and computers to automate manufacturing worldwide	"Cyber-physical systems": real objects and virtual processes are interlinked
1784	1870	1969	
First mechanical loom	First assembly line (Slaughterhouse Cincinnati)	Use of electronics and computers to automate manufacturing world- wide	Connected industry – smart factories
	113		Source: DFKI 2011, Bosch

(=))

BOSCH

Invented for life

The concept of collaborative robotics is strictly related to the framework of Industry 4.0



Collaborative robotics in the framework of Industry 4.0



Collaborative robots

- Slower and less powerful than traditional robots
- Work at the same level of strength and speed as humans
- Safe, light, transportable and flexible
- Easy to program thanks to intuitive interfaces and the provision of tablets (teach pendant)
- Simplify the production layout (no barriers, small footprint)
- Simplify the installation
- Improve working conditions of human operators
- Reduce prolonged repetition of the same gestures
- Staff qualification and gratification









Security features of collaborative robots

- Collaborative robots are provided with safety systems for speed limitation, force and power control
- They have rounded joint covers, made of plastic or covered with special materials, to ensure the protection of operators in the event of contacts
- They are as ergonomic as possible, on a human scale
- There are no motors, cables, mechanical or electronic components exposed
- Joints of collaborative robots are usually variablestiffness joints, to decrease contact forces in cases of contacts or shocks







Enabling technologies for collaboration

- Sensitive Lightweight Robots
 - reduced mass = reduced kinetic energy
 - advanced sensors for torque sensing
- Safety-rated functions & reliability
 - Safety sensors & actuators
 - Functionally-safe control schemes
 - Redundant system architecture



- Safe Gripping
 - Never cause injuries
 - Detect human contact
 - Never loose the manipulated object
- Safe Mobile Manipulation
 - Operate in shared environments
 - Full body interaction
 - Perceive the environment



Enabling technologies for collaboration

- A safe sensitive manipulator and a safe gripper are not enough!
- We also have to consider workpiece, task, environment, context
- Essential aspects of applications in collaborative robotics are:
 - Safe (sensitive) robot
 - Safe (sensitive) gripper
 - Safe grasp
 - The manipulated objects
 - The object's fixture
 - The path of the robot









Common applications for collaborative robots

- Structured tasks, if high precision is not required
- Unstructured tasks where it is difficult or too expensive to use traditional industrial robots
- Examples are:
 - Pick-and-place operations
 - Packaging
 - Manufacturing industry
 - Assembly tasks
 - Test, quality control







Traditional industrial robots and collaborative robots

Traditional industrial robots	Collaborative robots	
"Blind" and unaware of the surrounding environment	They see, perceive the environment and people	
Dangerous	Safe	
Characterized by high precision and repeatability	Limited precision and repeatability	
Programmed for a specific task	Flexible, in a way similar to a human operator	
They require components and integration	Perfectly integrated	
They require expert programmers	Easy to used and to be programmed	
Generally expensive	Generally low-cost	

Types of interaction with industrial robots Human-Robot Co-X

From the perspective of the human:

- Separation between robot and human
- Co-existence between robot and human
- Co-operation between robot and human ۲
- Collaboration between robot and human







Coexistence between robot and human

- Different spaces, same time
- Situation in which human operators and machines operate simultaneously in adjacent work areas
- Typical example: loading station with a rotating table in a robotic area
- Operating simultaneously and safely in adjacent work areas is possible, for example, thanks to the use of safety barriers





Cooperation between robot and human

- Same space, different times
- Humans and robots operate in the same working area, but at different times
- Typical example: robotic assembly station
- The robot and the operator alternate in the assembly area
- The distance between operators and robots becomes the key parameter for safety
- A safety laser scanner is usually adopted to detect the operator's position and to ensure that the robot's speed is reduced or eventually stopped in case of a potential collision







Collaboration between robot and human

- Same space, same time
- The type of full interaction between robot and human
- Sharing the same workspace at the same time
- Example: mobile platform where a robot collects pieces from a conveyor belt and supplies them to a workstation chaired by an operator
- The security parameters used for the cases of coexistence and cooperation are no longer sufficient
- The position and speed of the robot must be monitored, limited and, if necessary, interrupted according to the degree of danger
- The robot thus acts as a flexible production assistant which lightens the operator's work during ergonomically unfavorable manual work sequences













The 3 fundamental laws of Robotics (Isaac Asimov, 1940s, science fiction writer):

- A robot cannot hurt a human being or allow, by remaining inactive, a human being in danger
- A robot must obey orders given by human beings, unless those orders conflict with the first law
- A robot must protect its existence unless such protection conflicts with the first or second law





Industrial robot systems operate according to:

- ISO 10218: Robots and robotic devices: Safety requirements for industrial robots
- ISO/TS 15066: Robots and robotic devices: Collaborative Robots
- ISO 13849 or IEC 62061: Safety of machinery: Safety-rated parts of control systems
- IEC 61508: Functional Safety
- ISO 12100: Risk Analysis
- 2006/42/EC: Machinery Directive



ISO 10218

Ready-to-Use Templates, Blueprints, Presentations, and Essential Resources



- The concept of humans and robots working hand in hand is not new
- ISO 10218 defines human-robot collaboration as:
- "State in which a <u>purposely designed robot</u> works in direct cooperation with a human within a <u>defined workspace</u>"
- *purposely designed* means that highly reliable components and redundancy are exploited
- *defined workspace* means collaborative workspace, which is identified as:
- "Space inside the protected area where robot and man can perform tasks simultaneously during production operations" (ISO 10218 / ANSI RIA 15.06)



maximun workspace

- ISO 10218 allows collaboration in four basic principles of protection as part of the human robot collaboration:
 - Safety-rated monitored stop: The robot stops as soon as the operator enters the common workspace and goes back to work as soon as he/she leaves it
 - 2. Hand guiding: The movements of the robot are actively controlled by the operator thanks to suitable devices
 - **3. Speed and separation monitoring:** Contact between the operator and the moving robot is prevented
 - **4. Power and force limiting:** The forces released by the contact between the operator and the robot are rendered harmless with technical measures







- Safety-rated control system ensures that the robot remains in a clearly defined pose and re-starts in a defined and monitored way
- If a human enters the safety zone, the active collision avoidance is activated, declined in various ways:
 - audible warning (if the operator has just entered the safety zone)
 - controlled stop (the robot must stop it does not turn off, but the brakes are activated)
 - recession from the operator or path modification
- The active collision avoidance is mainly used when a robot works mostly alone, but occasionally a human operator can enter its workspace





Hand Guiding (ISO 10218-1/5.10.4 & ISO/TS 15066)

- The safety of the human–robot collaboration is assured by the robot being guided manually and controlled at an appropriately reduced speed
- The operator can teach the robot positions by moving the robot without the need of an extra interface, e.g., a robot teach pendant
- User can release the robot through holding the enabling device
- Ensured maximum speed (according to the risk analysis)
- Safety-rated monitored stop when released from hand guidance









Speed and Separation Monitoring (ISO 10218-1/5.10.4 & ISO/TS 15066)

- Both speed and motion path of the robot are supervised and adjusted based on the position and speed of the operator in the safeguarded space
- The risk is mitigated by ensuring a sufficiently large separation between robot and human
- Static regions and dynamic distances are identified
- Distances are defined according to the risk analysis that takes into account: robot, tool, workpiece and task
- A safety-rated monitored stop is implemented in case of violation (reaction-time & stopping-time need to be considered)
- This scenario requires safety-rated hard-and software for robot, distance-and speed monitoring





Speed and Separation Monitoring (ISO 10218-1/5.10.4 & ISO/TS 15066)

- The work environment is equipped with lasers or vision systems in order to track the position of the operators
- Safety zones are graduated so that the robot can react differently based on the position of the operator
- the robot can operate at full speed when the human is in the green zone, at reduced speed in the yellow zone, and stops when the human moves into the red zone, which defines the minimum separation distance
- It waits until it receives a command to be able to resume its task



Power and Force Limiting (ISO 10218-1/5.10.5 & ISO/TS 15066)

- The risk is mitigated by limiting the mechanical impact
- The risk analysis considers robot, tool, workpiece and task
- A protective stop is implemented in case the safety-rated force monitoring reports limit-violations
- This scenario is widely adopted in modern collaborative robot applications
- It is realized though speed reduction, reduced masses, limited torques, specific geometry and padding, inherently safe actuators, inherently safe control schemes, workplace ergonomics, and clearly defined task of the robot
- Both foreseeable transient and quasi-static contact situations are considered





Collision classification between human and robot

Collision Classification and Pain Thresholds (ISO/TS15066)

Transient (short-term) contact

- Quick contact, in which the robot control system does not have time to act
- Energy transfer linked to the relative speed between robot and human, from the moving masses and from the contact area
- Example: unconstrained collision of the moving robotic arm with the human operator's arm

Quasi-static (prolonged) contact

- Extended contact over time, <u>the control system has time to reduce speed and</u> <u>force</u>
- Danger due to the application of force and pressure
- Example: crushing of the operator's hand trapped between the robot arm and the work bench







Sensors for collaborative robots

To ensure safety without using physical barriers, the following are used:

• Safety curtains and laser systems





- Non-contact safety switches
- Safety laser scanner
- Force and torque sensors (integrated in the robot or external)

Sensors for collaborative robots

• Vision systems







• Recognition of voice commands





Contact sensors





Annual installation of industrial robots





Operational stock of industrial robots





Annual installation of industrial robots





Industrial robots by application





Collaborative and traditional industrial robots



06/09/2023



Annual installation of industrial robots





North America collaborative robot market size, by muture payload capacity

North America collaborative robots market size, by payload capacity, 2014 - 2025 (USD Million)



Source: www.grandviewresearch.com
Leading manufacturers of collaborative robots Leading Cobot Manufacturers (2018)





Universal Robots UR3, UR5, UR10



	UR10 robot arm	UR5 robot arm	UR3 robot arm
Working radius	1300 mm/51.2 ins	850 mm/33.5 ins	500 mm/19.7 ins
Payload	10 kg/22 lbs	5 kg/11 lbs	3 kg/6.6 lbs
Weight	28.9 kg/63.7 lbs	18.4 kg/40.6 lbs	11 kg/24.3 lbs
Footprint	190 mm/7.5 ins	149 mm/5.9 ins	118 mm/4.6 ins



- Danish company founded in 2005
- 60% of the market
- More than 10,000 robots installed worldwide
- Simple and cheap
- Force / torque sensor on the wrist
- Light
- Wide range of accessories
- New model: UR16e: load 16 kg, reach 0.90 m, weight 33 kg







Robot collaborativo CR-4iA

Collaborative robot

- Payload: 4 kg
- **Reach:** 550 mm



Robot collaborativo CR-15iA

Robot collaborativo

- Portata massima: 15 kg
- Sbraccio: 1441 mm

CR-35*i*A

Robot collaborativo a 6 assi

- Carico utile: 35 kg
- Estensione: 1813 mm

Robot collaborativi CR-7iA e CR-7iA/L

Robot collaborativo

- Payload: 7 kg
- Portata: 717 mm (CR-7iA)
- Portata: 911 mm (CR-7iA/L)







Robot a 6 assi, versione a braccio lungo

- Assi: 6
- Portata massima: 14 kg
- Sbraccio: 911 mm"



Leading manufacturers of collaborative robots TechMan – OMRON

2018: strategic alliance between Techman Robot and OMRON, leader in industrial automation, to promote the distribution of collaborative robots of the TM series to the global market



TM 12

TM 14

ROBOT

OMRON



TM12 & TM14 Series

Model		TM12	TM14	TM12M	TM14M	
Weight		33.3Kg	32.6Kg	33.3Kg	32.6Kg	
Payload		12kg	14kg	12kg	14kg	
Reach		1300mm	1100mm	1300mm	1100mm	
Max Speed		1.3m/s	1.1m/s	1.3m/s	1.1m/s	
Joint ranges	J1	+/- 270°				
	J2,J4,J5	+/- 180°				
	J3	+/- 166°	+/- 163°	+/- 166°	+/- 163°	
	J6	+/- 270°				
Speed	J1~J2	120°/s				
	J3	180°/s				
	J4~J5	180°/s	150°/s	180°/s	150°/s	
	J6	180°/s				
Repeatability		+/- 0.1 mm				
Degrees of fi	reedom		6 rotatir	ng joints		
I/O ports		Control box		Tool conn.		
	Digital in	16		4		
	Digital out	16		4		
	Analog in	2		1		
	Analog out	1		0		
I/O power supply		24V 1.5A for control box and 24V 1.5A for tool				
IP classification		IP54				
Power Consumption		Typical 300 watts		Typical 300 watts		
Maximum Power Capadity		Max. 2200 watts		Max. 1500 Watts@		
Temperature		The robot can work in a temperature range of 0-50°C				
Power supply		100-240 VAC, 50-60 Hz DC 20V~60V			/~60V	
I/O Interface		3×COM, 1×HDMI, 3×LAN, 4×USB2.0, 2×USB3.0				
Certification		CE, SEMI S2(Option)				
Variation Models		X: without hand eye camera, SEMI: SEMI S2 certified				
Robot Vision						
Eye in Hand (Built in)		1.2M/5M pixels, color camera				
Eye to Hand (Optional)		Support Maximum 2 GigE cameras				

Rethink Robotics (2012-2018)





Baxter:

- 360 ° laser scanner for identification of people and obstacles
- Flexible movement guided by the vision and object recognition system
- 7 degrees of freedom per arm
- Interchangeable end-effector to face different tasks and operations
- Flexible joints with force sensors and force control to increase safety





Rethink Robotics Baxter

Leading manufacturers of collaborative robots AUBO Robotics







Quick Redeployment No Programming Skills Needed



Leading manufacturers of collaborative robots KUKA LBR iiwa

- *«intelligent industrial work assistant»*
- LBR: 7 axis e 7/14 kg payload; programmable in Java
- Torque sensors at joints
- Possible to be mounted on a mobile robot









ABB Yumi



It means "you and me"

- 2 coordinated arms
- Limited payload (500 g x2)
- Weight: 38 Kg
- Reach: 559 mm
- Accuracy: 0.02mm
- Cost: \$ 40,000 approx
- Used for assembling or moving instruments

Franka Emika

- Panda robot
- Articulated robot with 7 DOF
- 3 Kg payload, reach 855 mm





Comau Aura

- Advanced Use Robotic Arm
- Contact sensitive coating
- Integrated vision system
- Industrial derivation
- Force / torque sensor on the wrist
- Load: 170 kg
- Reach: 2.8 m



Mobile collaborative robots



KUKA



MIR Mobile Industrial Robots





Clearpath Robotics



OMRON

Humanoid collaborative robots

Robonaut 2 (NASA)









Humanoid collaborative robots

Justin by DLR (German Aerospace Center)



Toro by DLR







Research in collaborative robotics at University of Udine



An approach for collision avoidance in collaborative robotics



- The robot safety zones are considered dynamic: their size changes with respect to the actual speed of the robot
- A supervisory controller checks the distance between human and robot in real time
- If a potential collision is detected, the robot is steered to stop engaging a **stop trajectory**





Proposed approach

- The collision avoidance algorithm computes in real time the **minimum stop time** needed for the robot to stop
- The stop time of the robot has to satisfy the kinematic and dynamic limits of the manipulator
- If a **potential collision** is detected, the robot is stopped with a stop trajectory
- The robot restarts as soon as the safety condition is respected





Numerical simulations



- Three different approaches have been compared:
 - Approach (1): online optimization of the stop time
 - Approach (2): selection of the stop time among predefined values
 - Approach (3): implementation of the ISO/TS 15066, resulting in static safety zones





Experimental validation

- Franka Emika Panda robot with 7 degrees of freedom
- Stereo camera RGB-D Intel Realsense D435
- Workstation
- Software implemented in ROS Melodic using Ubuntu 18.04 and Python
- Marker and calibration tip printed in 3D





Online computation of the distance between human and robot



- Position of the robot derived from the forward kinematics
- Computation of the distance between each segment belonging to the human and to the robot







Experimental tests

- 27 subjects participated to the • experimental tests
- The human has to walk along a predefined path close to the robot
- The robot has to repeat a predefined task, stopping in case a potential collision with the human is detected



0.8 -0.8



Test n.2, percorso in blu, 3 metodi, statico e dinamico



Experimental test (Test 1)





Experimental test (Test 2)





Test completato Tempo totale di task: 81.72 s Test completato Tempo totale di task: 42.34 s Test completato Tempo totale di task: 35.81 s

... not only industrial applications!

- Development and test of image processing and path planning algorithms for artistic applications
- Watercolor, tempera, palette-knife techniques
- Recently, we adopt an eye-tracker device to control the painting robot with eye gaze only







Artistic robotic painting





Robotic painting with eyes







Thank you for your attention!



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