

University of Pisa

Master of Science in Computer Science

Course of Robotics (ROB)

A.Y. 2019/20

THE BIROBOTICS
INSTITUTE



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Robot Control

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Robot definition



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A robot is an autonomous system
which exists in the physical world,
can sense its environment,
and can act on it to achieve some goals

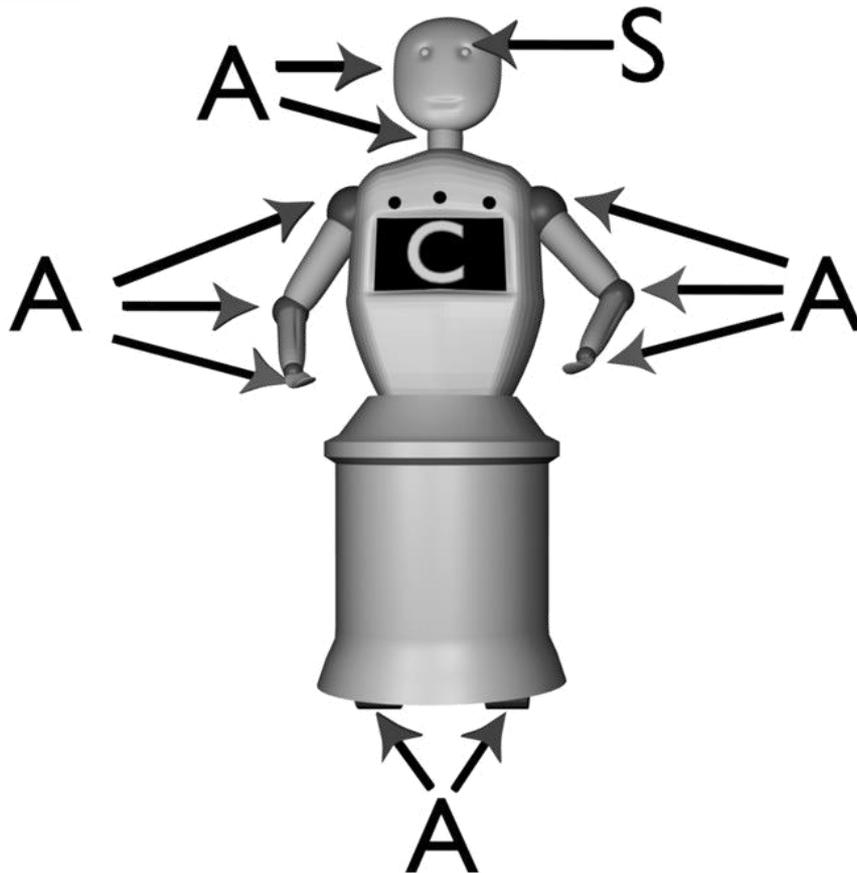




What's in a robot?

Robot components

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Legend

Actuator

Controller

Sensor

Robot Control

- Control of one joint motion:
 - PID controller
- Control of the manipulator motion:
 - Trajectory planning
 - Motion control in joint space
 - Motion control in operational space



Robot kinematics and differential kinematics

Kinematics

$$x = k(q)$$
$$q = k^{-1}(x)$$

$k(\cdot)$ = equations of direct kinematics

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ \varphi \\ \vartheta \\ \psi \end{bmatrix} \quad q = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 \\ q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \\ q_4 \\ q_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Differential kinematics

$$\dot{x} = J(q)\dot{q}$$
$$\dot{q} = J^{-1}(q)\dot{x}$$

Velocity space

$J(q)$ = Jacobian matrix





Robot Control



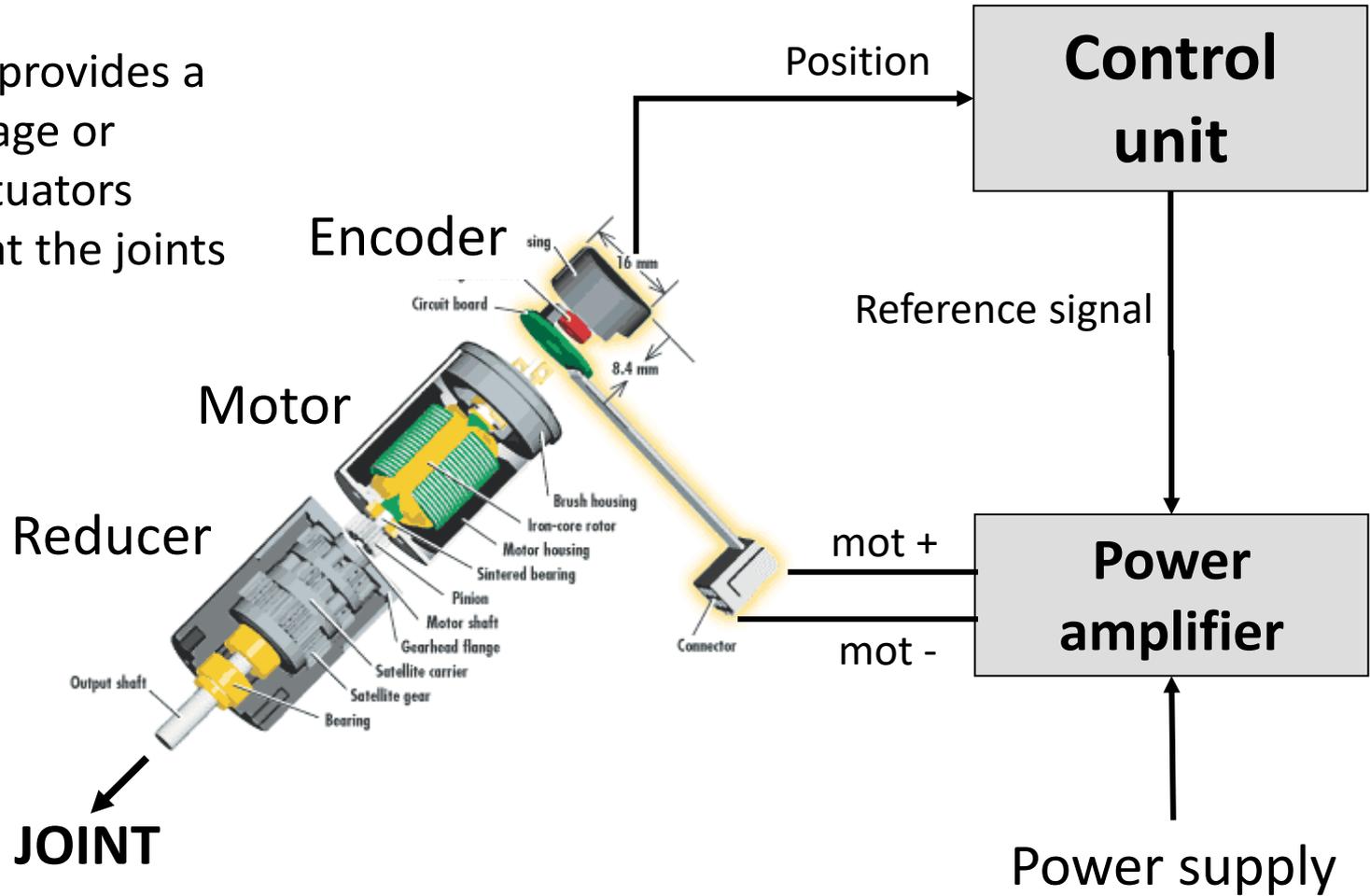
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- **Control of one joint motion:**
 - PID controller
- **Control of the manipulator motion:**
 - Trajectory planning
 - Motion control in joint space
 - Motion control in operational space



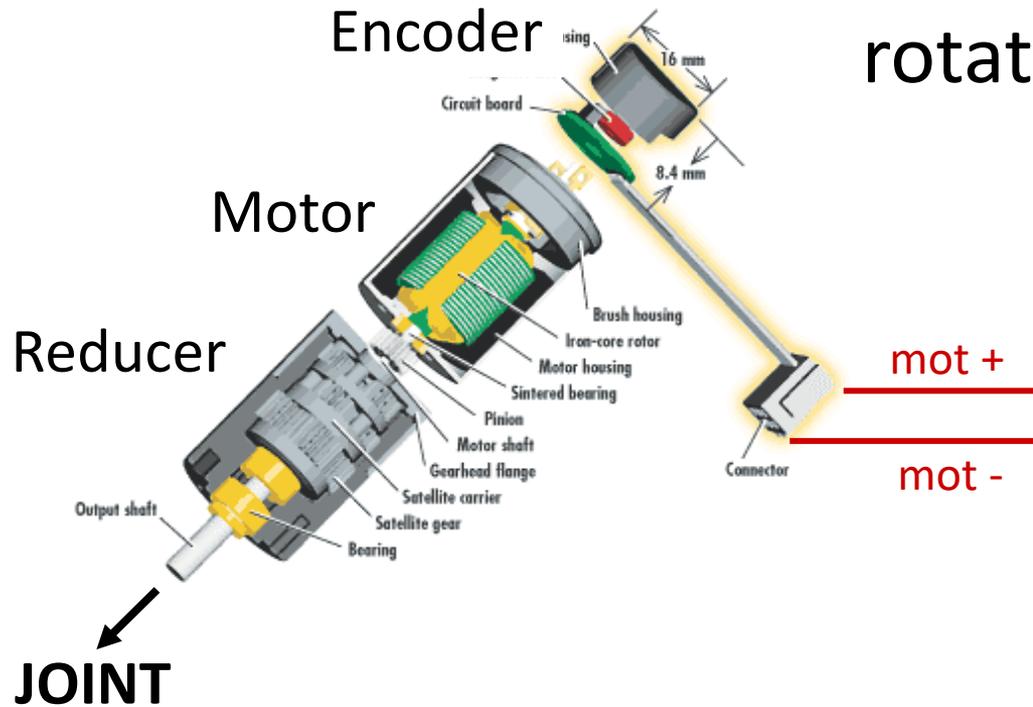
Scheme of an actuator and control system

A control system provides a command in voltage or current to the actuators (motors) such that the joints reach a desired configuration



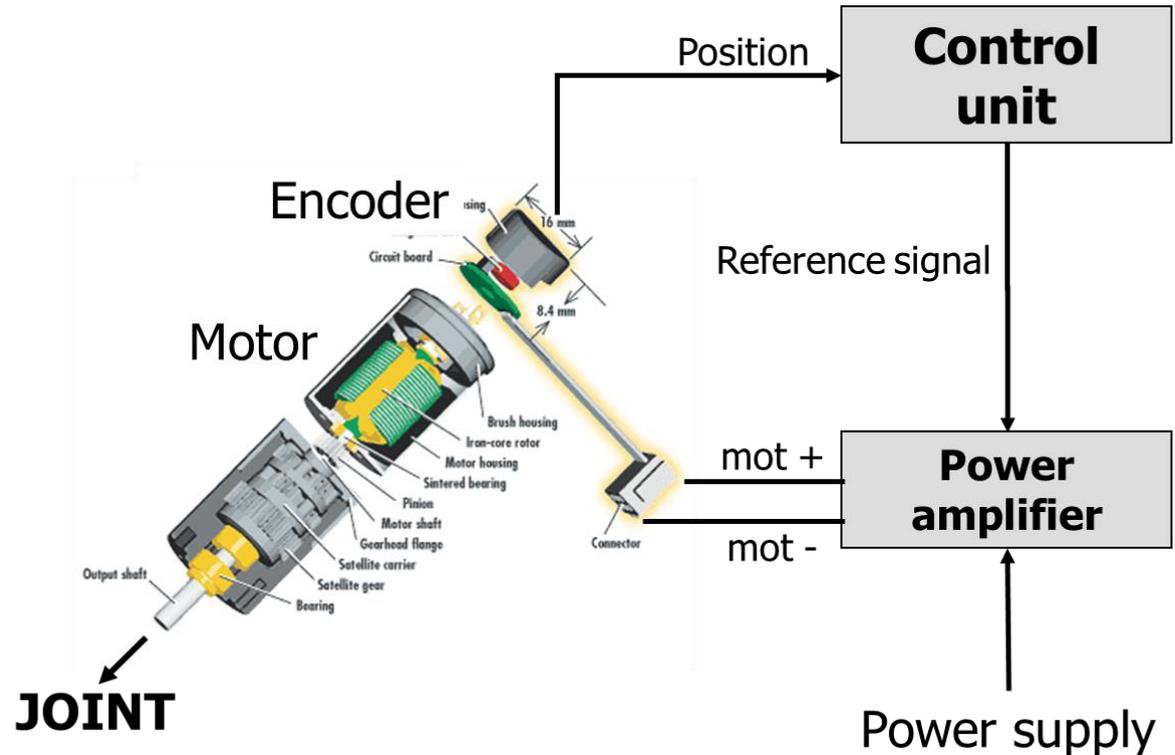
Scheme of an actuator and control system

Opposite-sign voltages
produce opposite
rotations of the motor



Scheme of an actuator and control system

- **Encoder:** sensor measuring joint rotations, either as an absolute or a relative value. The measurement is given in “encoder steps”
- **Reducer:** mechanism reducing the motor rotations with respect to the rotations of the axis mounted on the motor (ex. 1:k reduction)
- **Power amplifier:** it amplifies a reference signal into a power signal for moving the joint
- **Control unit:** unit producing the reference signal for the motor



Relations between joint position and encoder position

- q : joint angular position (in degrees)
- θ : joint position in encoder steps
- k : motor reduction ratio
- R : encoder resolution (number of steps per turn)

$$q = \frac{\theta \times 360^\circ}{R \times k}$$



Control of one joint motion

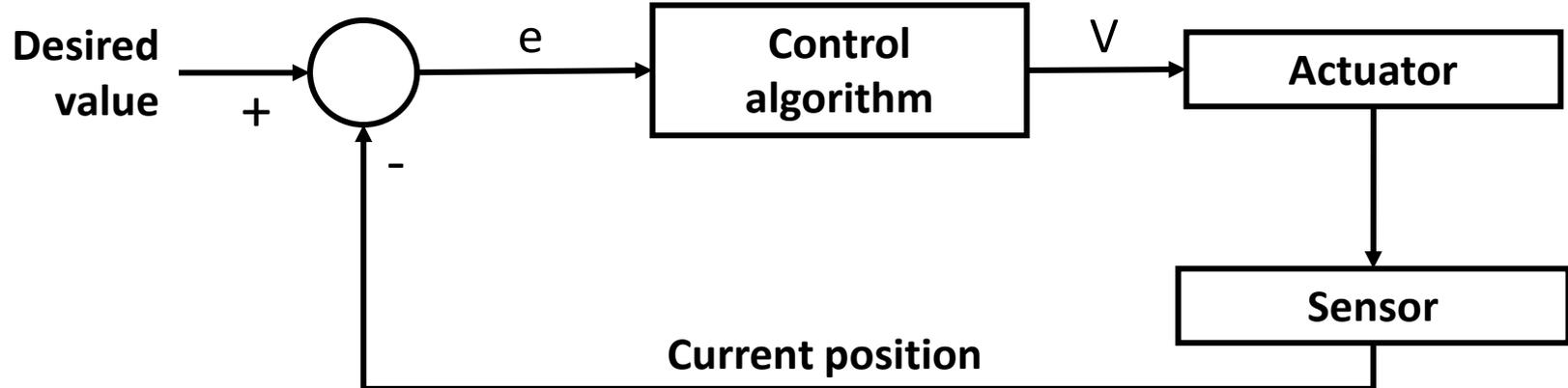
- Objective: move the joint from the current position q_i (in degrees) to the desired position q_f , in a time interval t :

$$q_i \Rightarrow q_f$$



Closed-loop (feedback) control

- The variable to control is measured and compared with the desired value
- The difference, or error, is processed by an algorithm
- The result of processing is the input value for the actuator



PID control

(Proportional, Integral, Derivative)

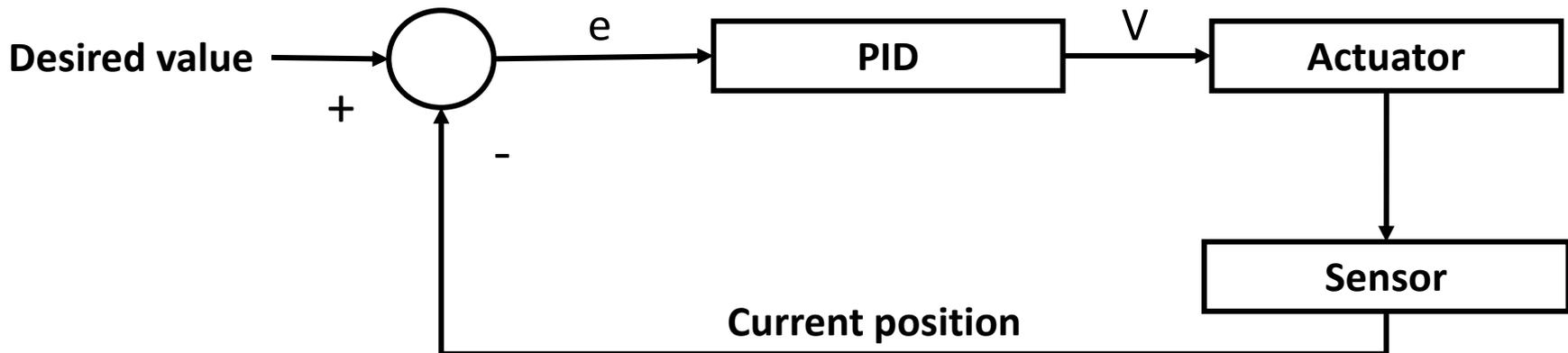
- It is a closed-loop control in which the error is processed with an algorithm including **Proportional, Integral and Derivative** components.
- The algorithm processes the error and provides an input to the actuator, with 3 components:
 - **Proportional**, producing a correction proportional to the error;
 - **Integral**, producing a correction given by the error integral in time;
 - **Derivative**, producing a correction which is a function of the error first derivative.
- Not all closed-loop control systems use a PID algorithm



PID control

(Proportional, Integral, Derivative)

- In a PID control system, the error is given to the control algorithm, which calculates the derivative and integral terms and the output signal V



PID control

(Proportional, Integral, Derivative)

$$V = K_p e_q + K_d \dot{e}_q + K_i \int e_q(t) dt$$

$$e_q = q_d - q_a$$

$$\dot{e}_q = \frac{de_q}{dt}$$

K_p is the *proportional* gain or constant

K_i is the *integral* gain or constant

K_d is the *derivative* gain or constant

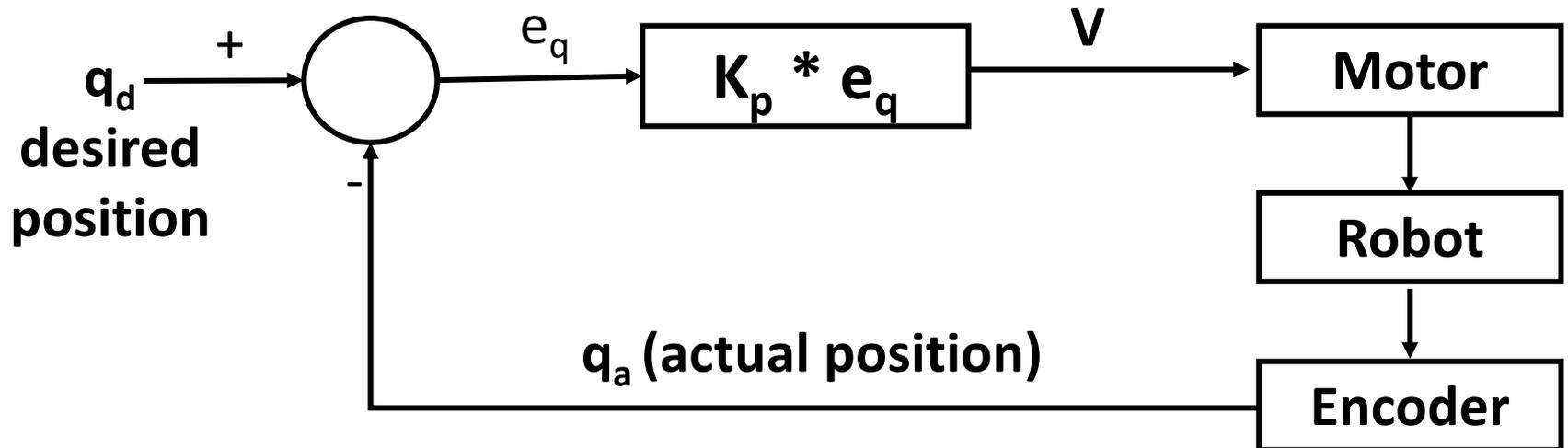
e_q is the error, i.e. the difference between the desired position and the current (or actual) position



PID control

Proportional term

- The voltage V given to the motor is proportional to the difference between the actual position measured by the sensor and the desired position



PID control

Proportional term:

- The voltage V given to the motor is proportional to the difference between the actual position measured by the sensor and the desired position

$$V = K_p e_q$$

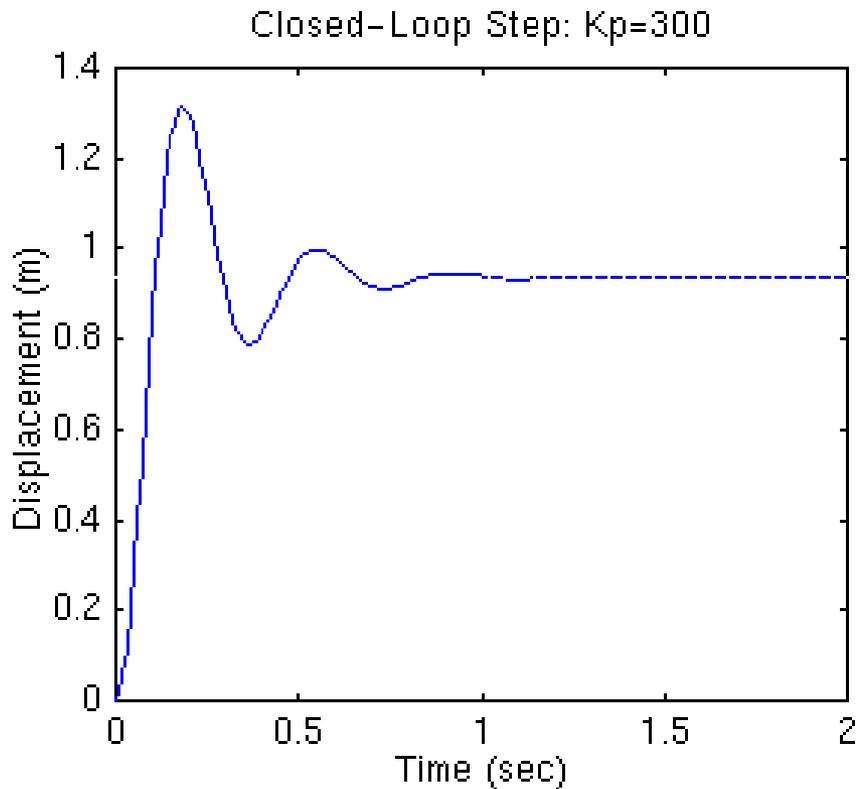
$$e_q = q_d - q_a$$

K_p : proportional constant



PID control

Proportional term: system behaviour



Desired
position: 1

- The motor oscillates before converging towards the desired position
- The system may settle without cancelling the error



PID control

Derivative term:

$$V = K_p e_q + K_d \dot{e}_q$$

$$\dot{e}_q = \frac{de_q}{dt} \quad \text{Error derivative in time}$$

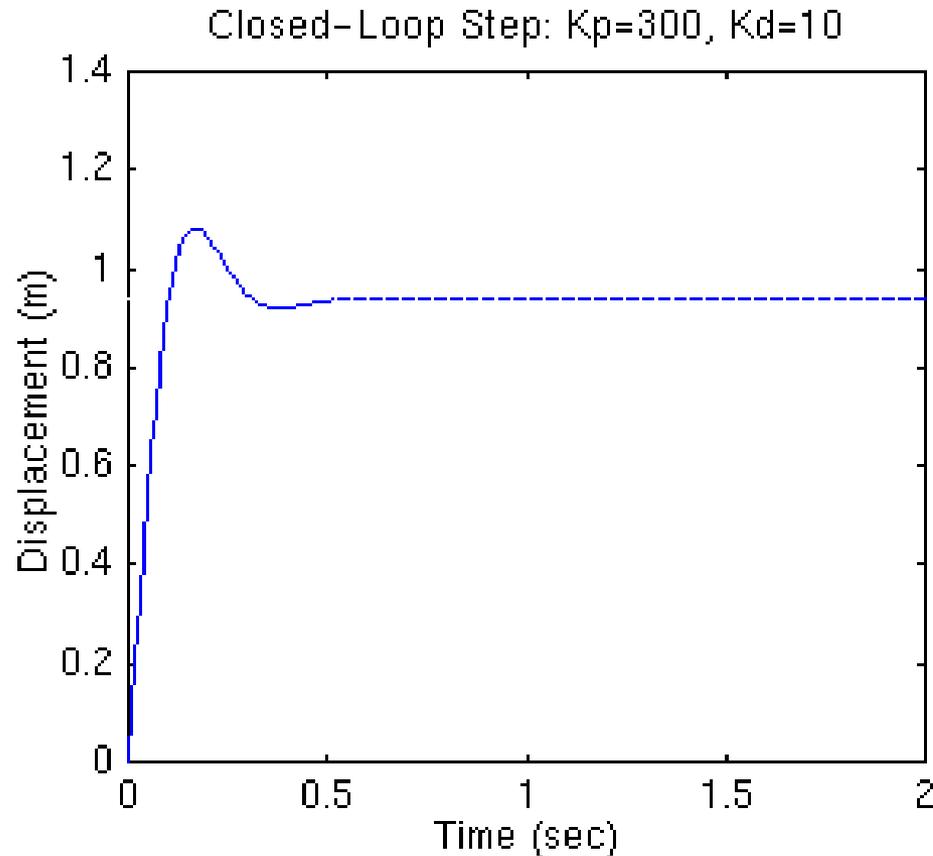
$$e_q = q_d - q_a$$

K_d : derivative constant



PID control

Proportional and derivative terms:



- Oscillation reductions
- Reduction of settlement time
- The system may settle without cancelling the error

Desired
position: 1



PID control

Integral terms:

$$K_i \int e_q(t) dt \quad \text{Error integral in time}$$

$$V = K_p e_q + K_i \int e_q(t) dt$$

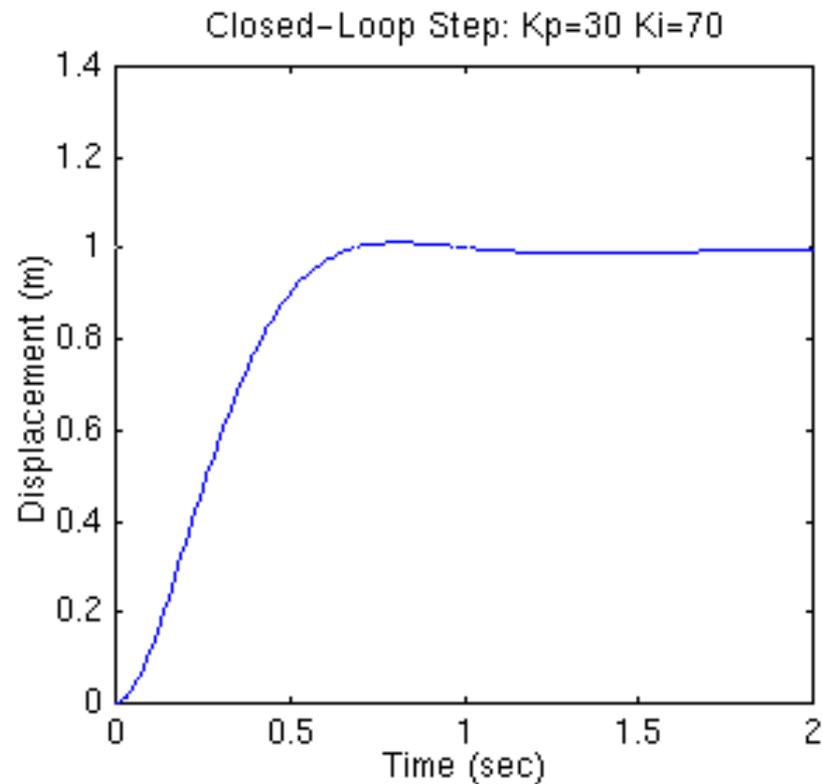
$$e_q = q_d - q_a$$

K_i : integral constant



PID control

Proportional and integral terms:



Desired
position: 1

The system settles
and cancels the error



PID control

Proportional, Integral and Derivative terms:

$$V = K_p e_q + K_d \dot{e}_q + K_i \int e_q(t) dt$$

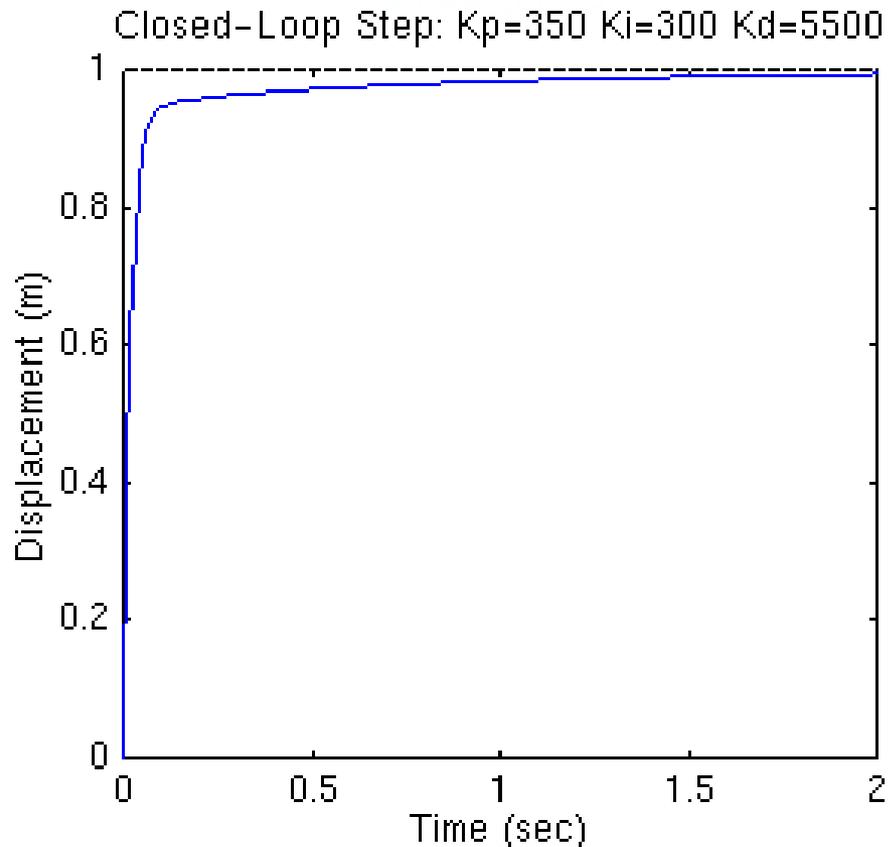
$$e_q = q_d - q_a$$

$$\dot{e}_q = \frac{de_q}{dt}$$



PID control

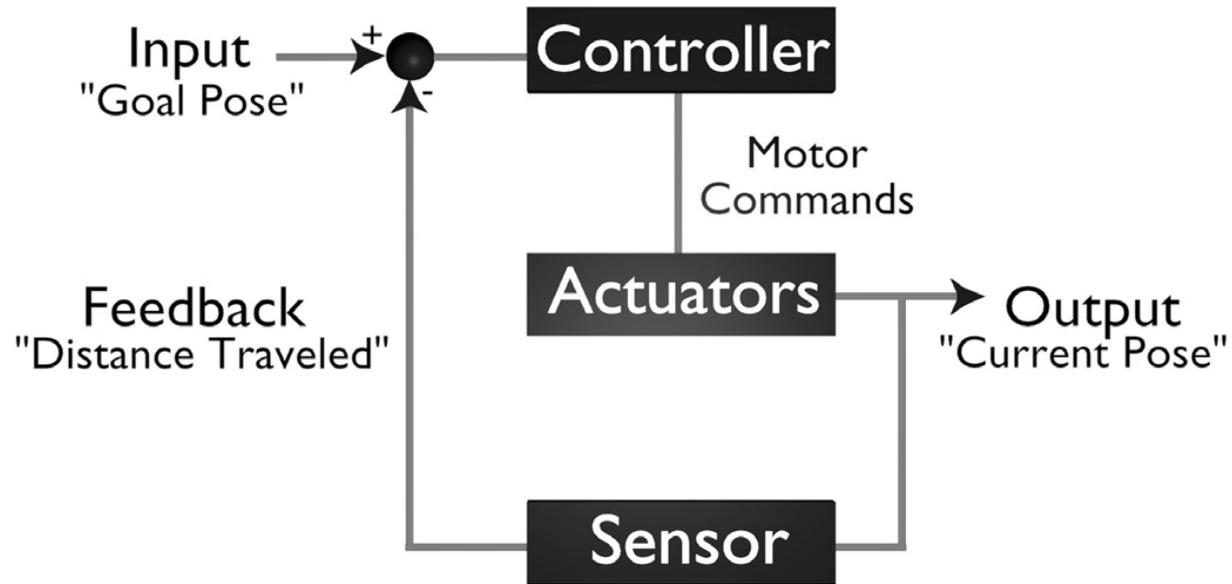
Proportional, Integral and Derivative terms:



K_p , K_d , K_i constants are set empirically or with specific methods



PID controller for a wall-following robot



$$V = K_p e_q + K_d \dot{e}_q + K_i \int e_q(t) dt$$

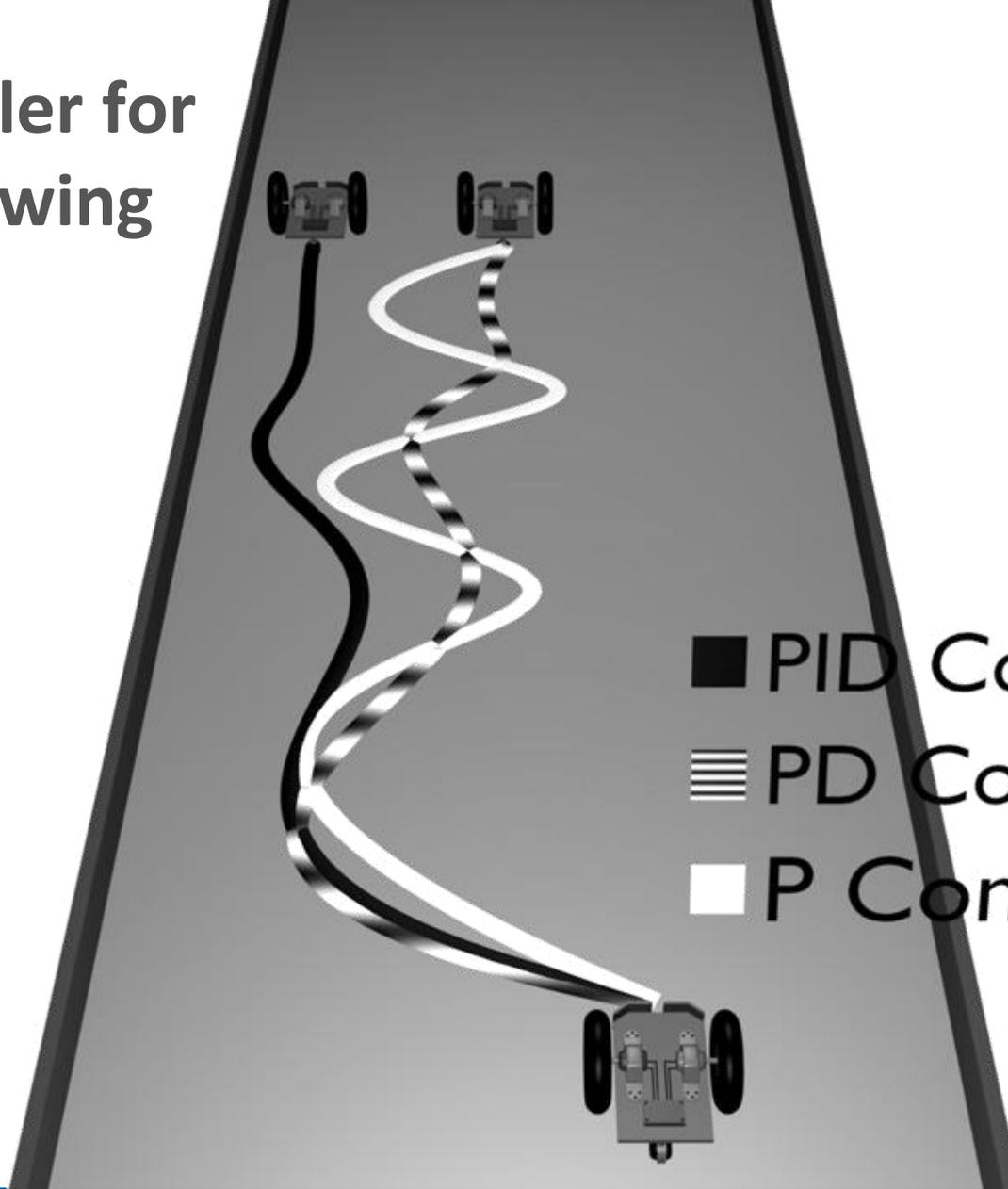
$$e_q = q_d - q_a$$

$$\dot{e}_q = \frac{de_q}{dt}$$

- e_q is the error, i.e. the difference between the desired position and the current position
- K_p is the *proportional* gain or constant
- K_i is the *integral* gain or constant
- K_d is the *derivative* gain or constant



PID controller for a wall-following robot



- PID Controller
- ▨ PD Controller
- P Controller





- Control of one joint motion:
 - PID controller
- **Control of the manipulator motion:**
 - Trajectory planning
 - Motion control in joint space
 - Motion control in operational space



Control of robot manipulator motion

- Objective: to have the robot arm moving from a starting position to a final position, both expressed in operational space coordinates
- In general, the control problem consists in finding the torques that the actuators have to give to the joints, so that the resulting arm motion follows a planned trajectory





Robot Control

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- Control of one joint motion:
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 - Motion control in operational space



Trajectory planning

Objective: generate the reference inputs to the robot control system, which will ensure that the robot end effector will follow a desired trajectory when moving from x_{start} to x_f

- PATH: set of points, in joint space or operational space, that the robot has to reach in order to perform the desired movement
- TRAJECTORY: path with a specified time course (velocity and acceleration at each point)



Trajectory planning

Objective: generate the reference inputs to the robot control system, which will ensure that the robot end effector will follow a desired trajectory when moving from x_{start} to x_f

- INPUT DATA:
 - Path definition
 - Path constraints
 - Constraints given by the robot dynamics
- OUTPUT DATA:
 - **in joint space:** joint trajectories
 - **in operational space:** end-effector trajectory

$$\{\mathbf{q}(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t), \ddot{\mathbf{q}}(t)\}$$

$$\{\mathbf{p}(t), \Phi(t), \mathbf{v}(t), \Omega(t)\}$$



Trajectories in joint space

- Between two points: the robot manipulator must be displaced from the initial to the final joint configuration, in a given time interval t .
- In order to give the time course of motion for each joint variable, we can choose a trapezoidal velocity profile or polynomial functions:
 - Cubic polynomial: it allows to set
 - the initial and final values of joint variables q_i and q_d
 - the initial and final velocities (usually null).
 - Fifth-degree polynomial: it allows to set
 - the initial and final values of joint variables q_i and q_d
 - the initial and final velocities
 - the initial and final accelerations.



Trajectories in joint space

Trapezoidal velocity profile:

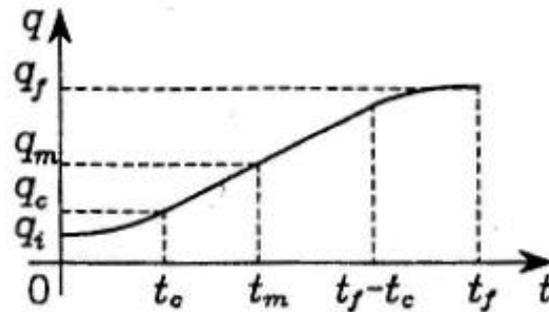
- Constant acceleration in the starting phase
- Constant cruise velocity
- Constant deceleration in the arrival phase.

The corresponding trajectory is mixed polynomial: a linear segment connected to parabolic parts in the neighbourhood of the initial and final positions.

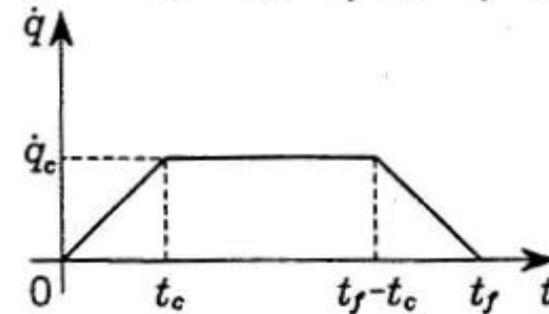


Trapezoidal velocity profile

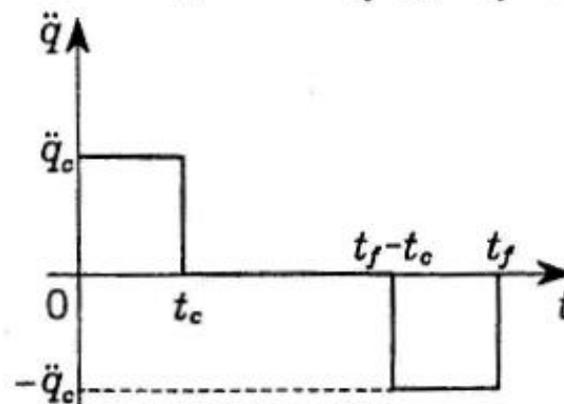
Position



Velocity



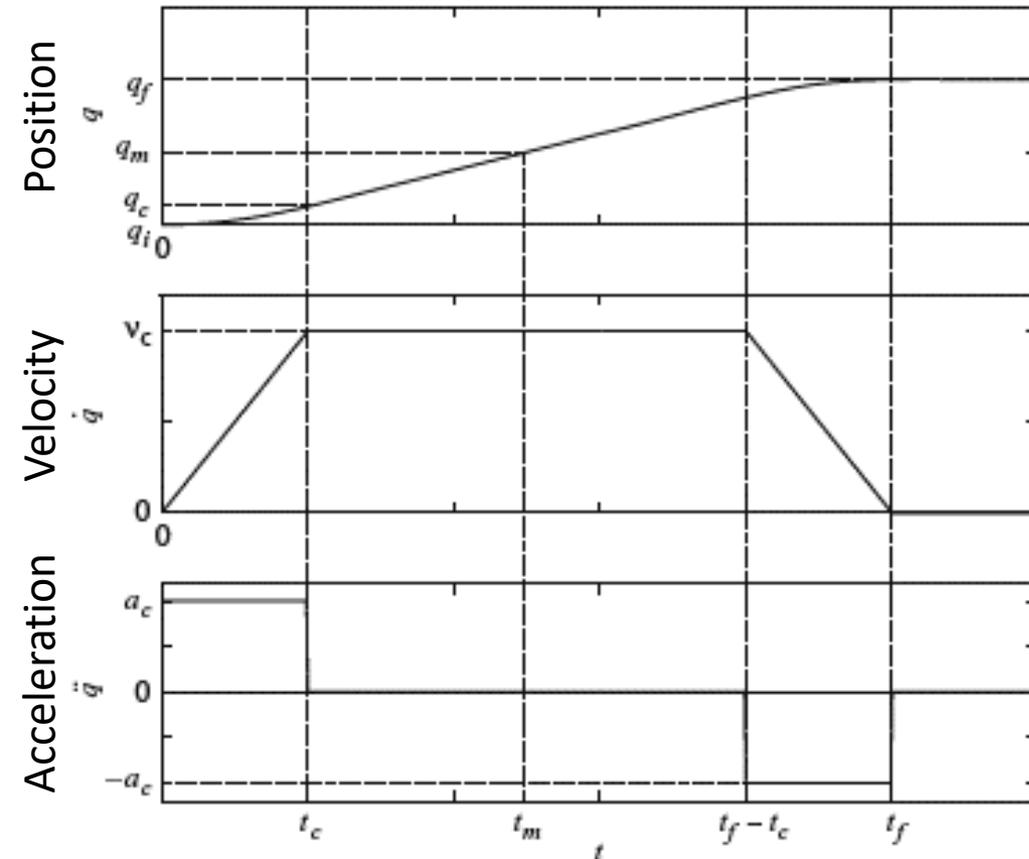
Acceleration



Note: velocities and accelerations at the initial and final times can be different from zero



Trapezoidal velocity profile



First phase:

$$q_1(t) = q_i + \frac{1}{2}a_c t^2 \quad 0 \leq t \leq t_c$$

Second phase:

$$q_2(t) = q_i + a_c t c \left(t - \frac{t_c}{2} \right) \quad t_c < t \leq (t_f - t_c)$$

Third phase:

$$q_3 = q_f - \frac{1}{2}a_c (t - t_f)^2 \quad (t_f - t_c) < t \leq t_f$$



Trajectory interpolation

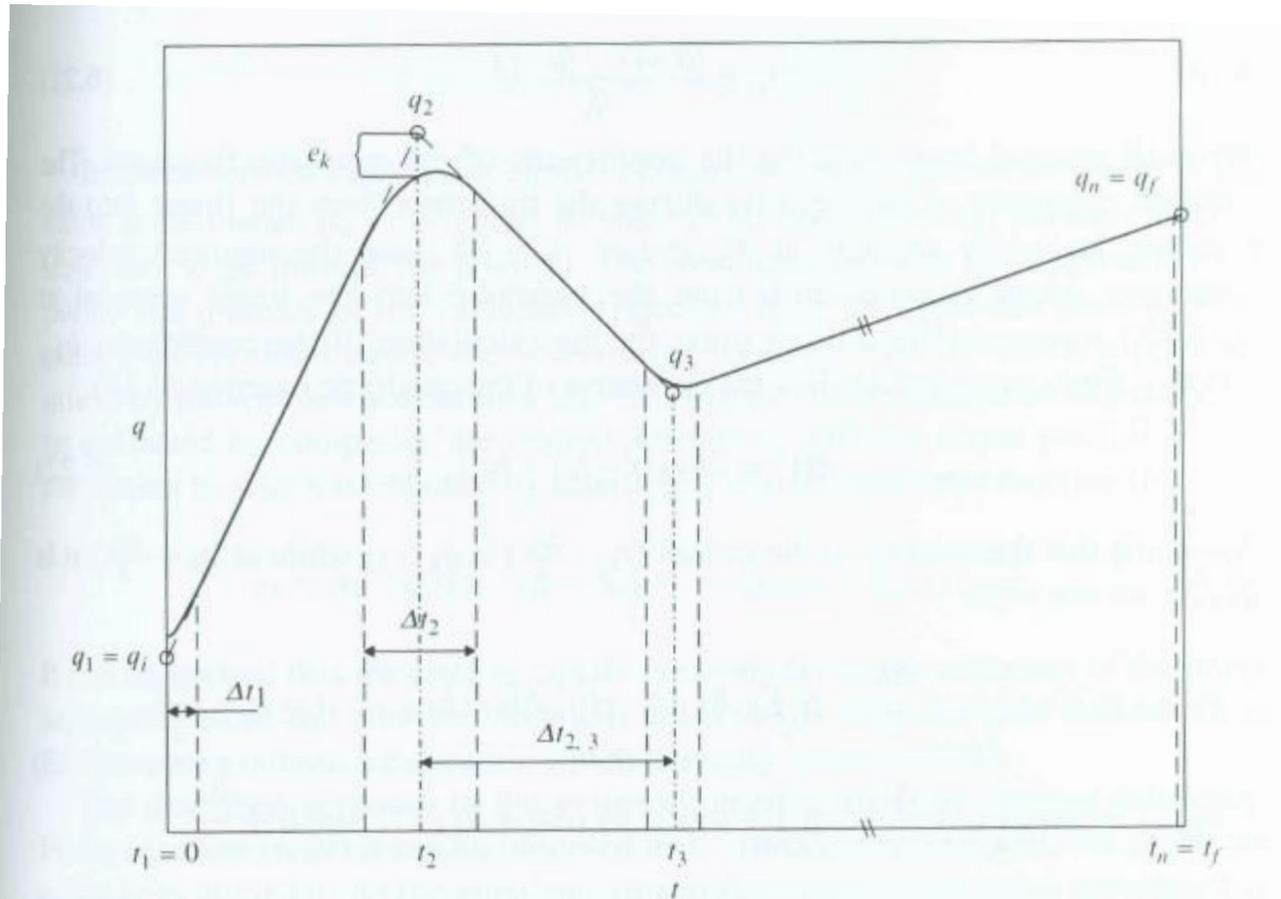


Fig. 6.2 Trajectory interpolation through n via points – linear segments with parabolic transitions are used



Trajectories in operational space

- The trajectory planning algorithm generates the time course of motion of the end effector, according to a path of geometric characteristics defined in the operational space.
- The result of planning is a sequence of n-uples: $(p(t), \Phi(t), v(t), \omega(t))$





Robot Control



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- Control of one joint motion:
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 - **Motion control in joint space**
 - Motion control in operational space



Motion control in joint space

- It can be used for moving the end-effector from x_i to x_d expressed in the operational space, without taking into account the trajectory followed by the end effector
- The final position x_d is transformed in the corresponding final position in joint space q_d , by using the inverse kinematics transformation
$$q_d = K^{-1}(x_d)$$
- All joints are moved from the current position q_i to the desired position q_d

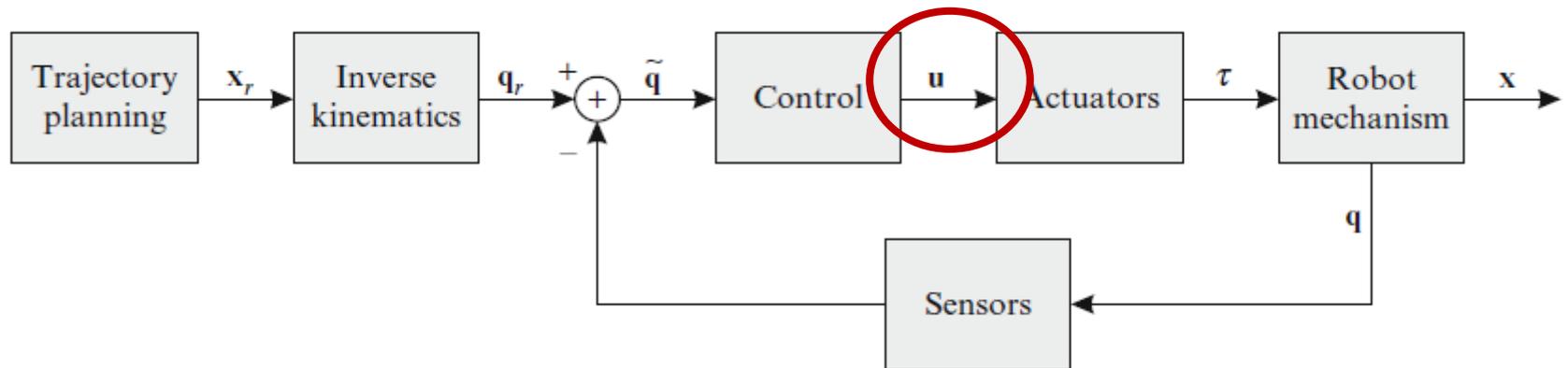


Motion control in joint space

- The trajectory of the end effector in the operational space is not controlled and it is not predictable, due to the non-linear effects of direct kinematics

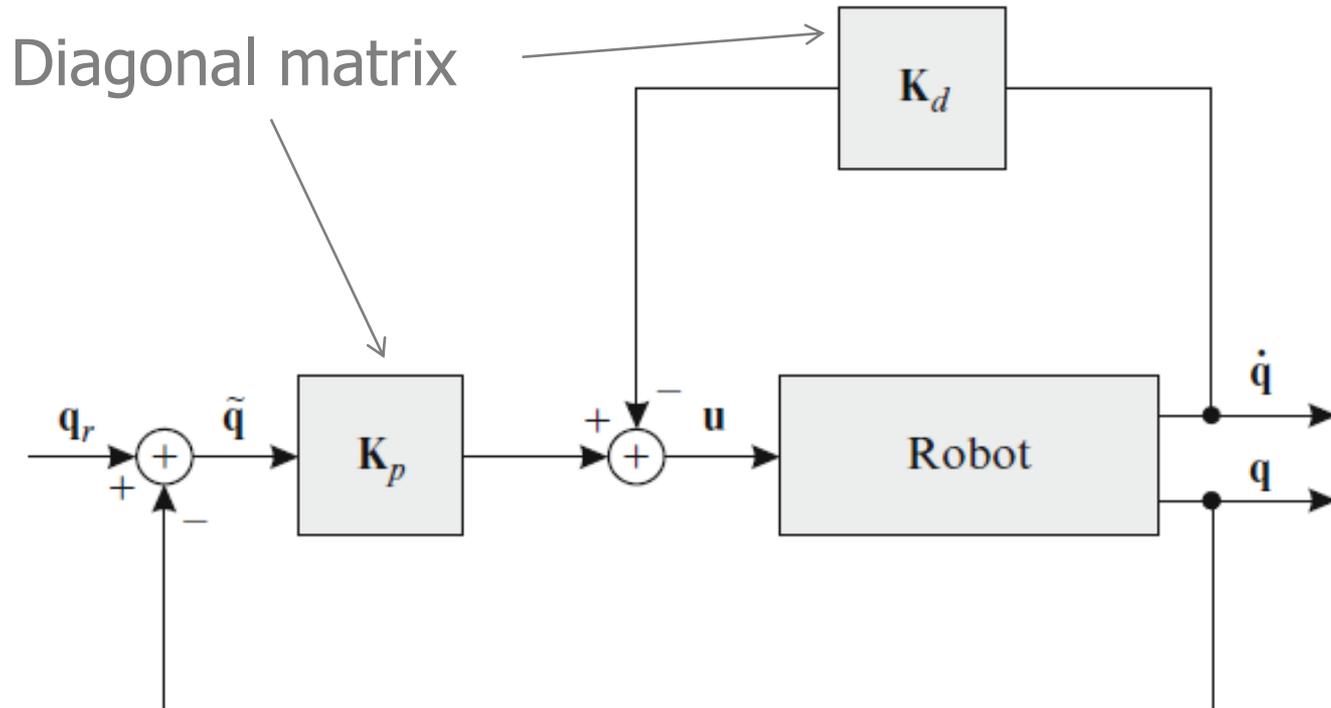


General scheme of robot control in joint space



Motion control in joint space

PD position control

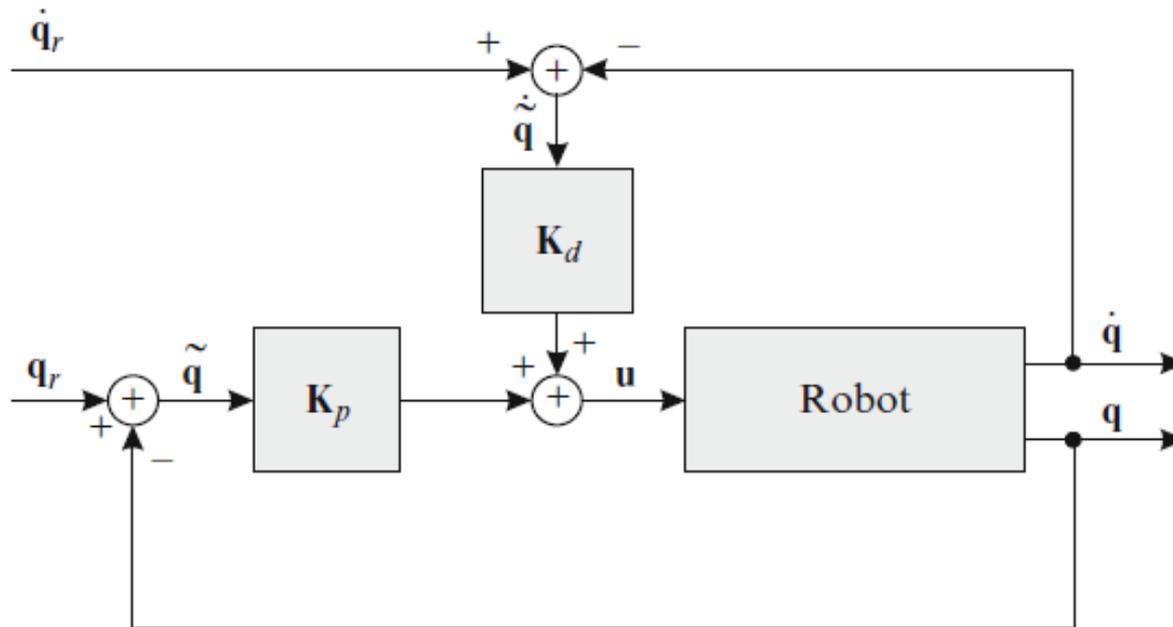


$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}_p(\mathbf{q}_r - \mathbf{q}) - \mathbf{K}_d\dot{\mathbf{q}},$$



Motion control in joint space

PD position control



$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}_p(\mathbf{q}_r - \mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{K}_d(\dot{\mathbf{q}}_r - \dot{\mathbf{q}})$$



Motion control in joint space

PD position control

Setting the K_p e K_d parameter matrices:

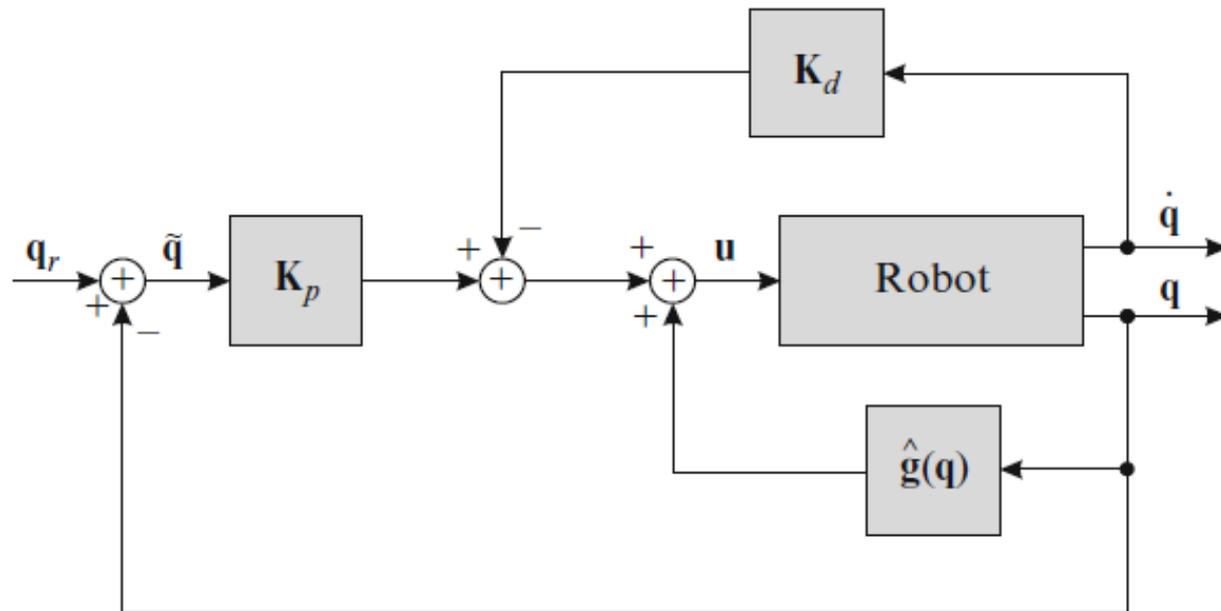
- Fast response: high K_p
- K_d sets the best damping and guarantees a fast response without oscillations
- The K parameters needs to be set independently for each joint



Motion control in joint space

PD position control with gravity compensation

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}_p(\mathbf{q}_r - \mathbf{q}) - \mathbf{K}_d\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \hat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{q}).$$



Robot dynamic model

$$\tau = B(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + F_v\dot{q} + g(q) \quad \text{In quasi static conditions: } \tau = g(q)$$



Robot dynamic model

$$\tau = B(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + F_v\dot{q} + g(q)$$

τ = torque

B = inertia term

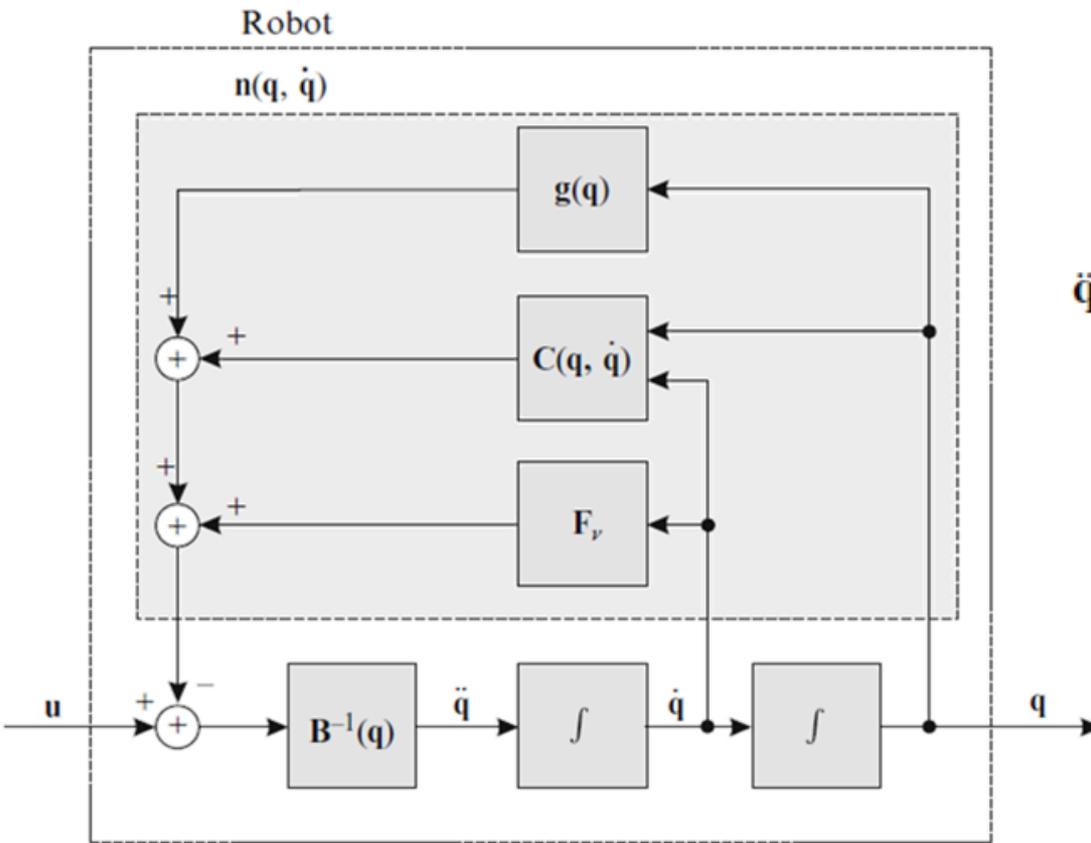
C = Coriolis term

F_v = friction coefficients

g = gravity terms



Motion control in joint space based on inverse dynamics



The direct dynamic model of a robot mechanism

$$B(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + F_v\dot{q} + g(q) = u.$$

$$\ddot{q} = B^{-1}(q) (u - (C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + F_v\dot{q} + g(q))).$$

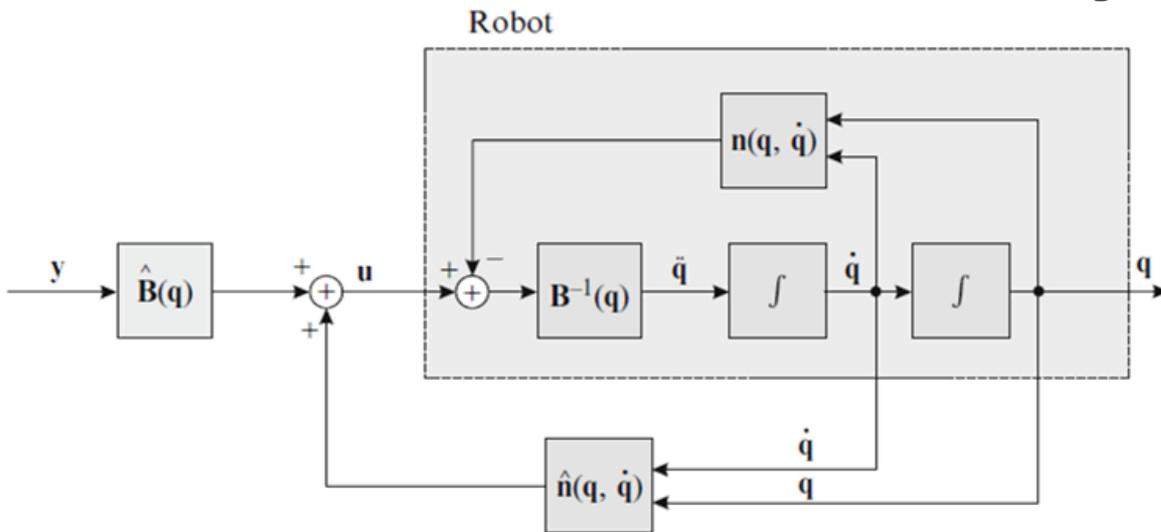
$$n(q, \dot{q}) = C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + F_v\dot{q} + g(q).$$

$$B(q)\ddot{q} + n(q, \dot{q}) = \tau.$$

$$\ddot{q} = B^{-1}(q) (u - n(q, \dot{q})).$$



Motion control in joint space based on inverse dynamics



$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{F}_v\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \mathbf{u}.$$

$$\ddot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}) (\mathbf{u} - (\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{F}_v\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}))).$$

Fig. 7.7 Linearization of the control system by implementing the inverse dynamic model

Let us assume that the robot dynamic model is known. The inertial matrix $\hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{q})$ is an approximation of the real values $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})$, while $\hat{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})$ represents an approximation of $\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})$ as follows

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \hat{\mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \hat{\mathbf{F}}_v\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \hat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{q}).$$

The controller output \mathbf{u} is determined by the following equation

$$\mathbf{u} = \hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{y} + \hat{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}),$$

where the approximate inverse dynamic model of the robot was used.

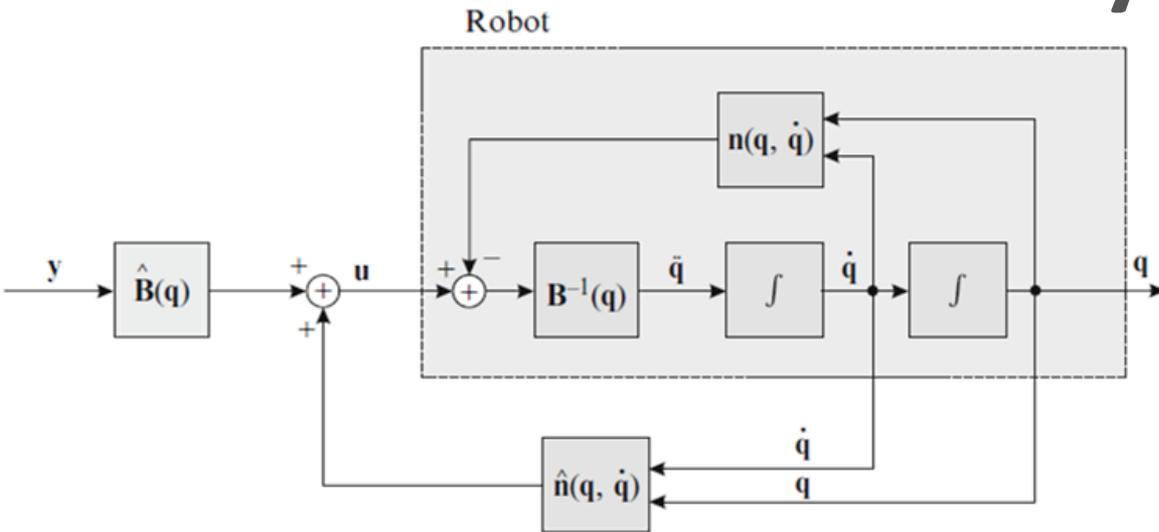
$$\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{F}_v\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}).$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}.$$

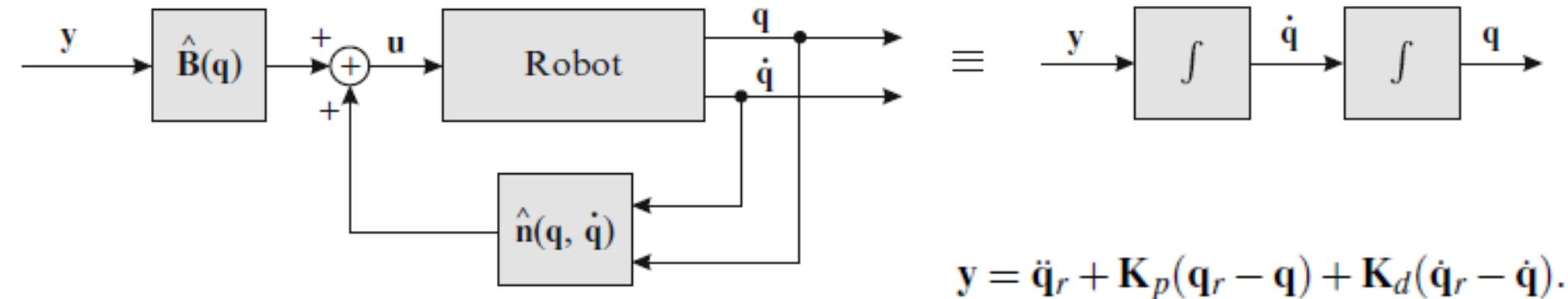
$$\ddot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}) (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})).$$



Motion control in joint space based on inverse dynamics



7.7 Linearization of the control system by implementing the inverse dynamic model



7.8 The linearized system



Motion control in joint space based on inverse dynamics

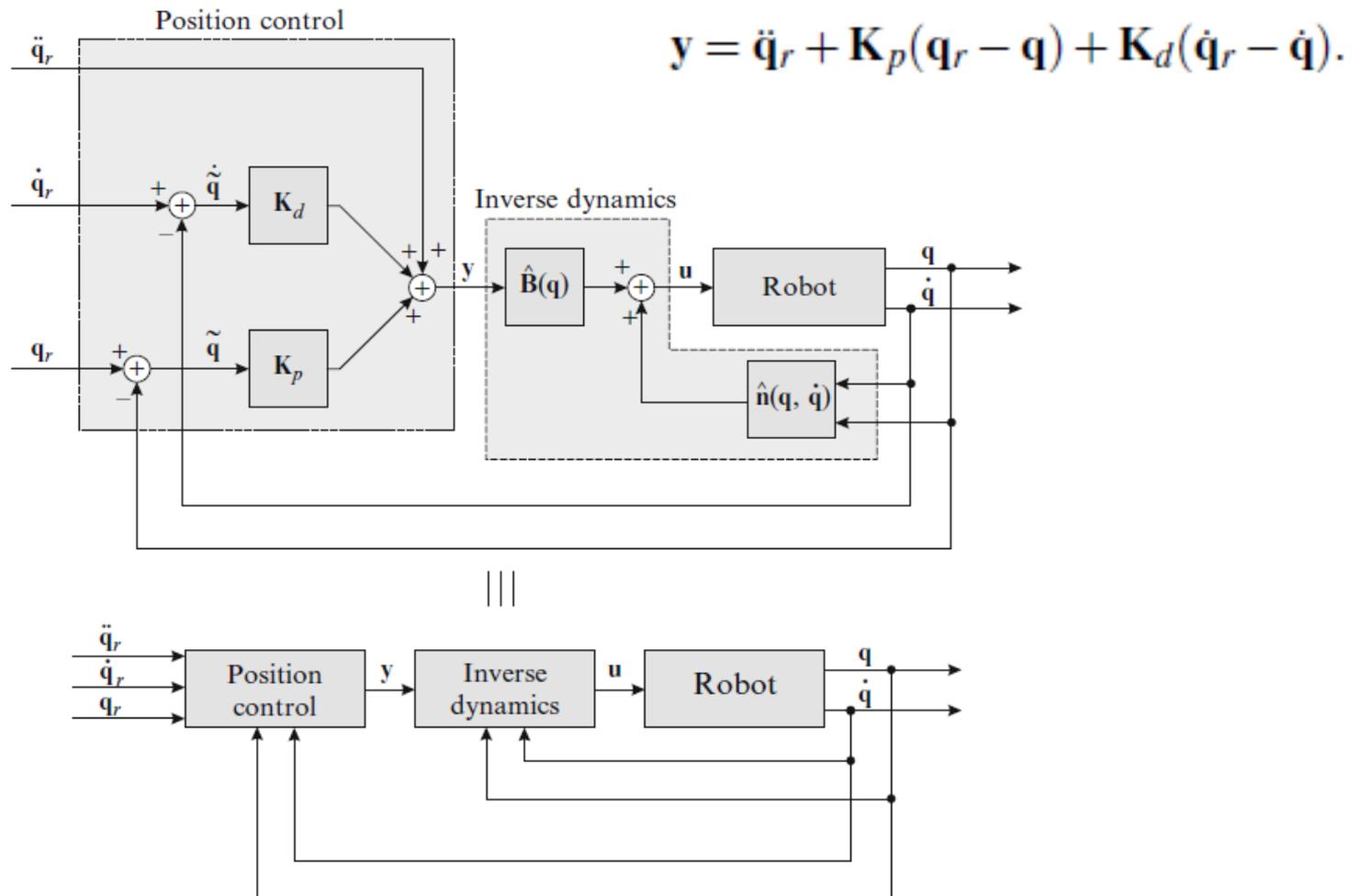


Fig. 7.9 Control of the robot based on inverse dynamics





Robot Control

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- Control of one joint motion:
 - PID controller
- Control of the manipulator motion:
 - Trajectory planning
 - Motion control in joint space
 - **Motion control in operational space**



Motion control in operational space

- In the movement from x_i to x_d the robot end effector follows a trajectory in the operational space, according to a planned time law.
- e.g. linear or curvilinear trajectory

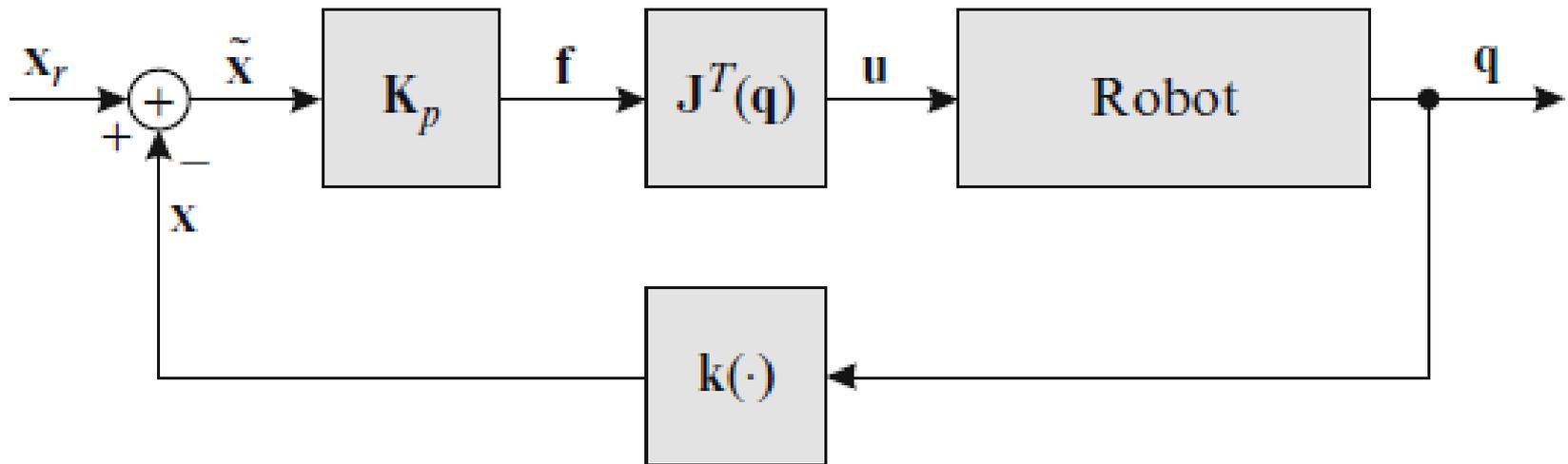


Motion control in operational space

- To make the robot follow a trajectory
($t, p(t), \Phi(t), \dot{p}(t), \omega(t)$)
- To set joint velocities and accelerations in time, in order to reach the final desired position, expressed in Cartesian coordinates (Jacobian)
- To set voltages and currents to give to the motors in order to apply to the joints the velocities and the accelerations calculated with the Jacobian



Motion control in operational space based on the transposed Jacobian matrix



Control based on the transposed Jacobian matrix

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{K}_p \tilde{\mathbf{x}}. \quad \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q}) \mathbf{f}.$$

\mathbf{f} = force at end effector



Motion control in operational space based on the inverse Jacobian matrix

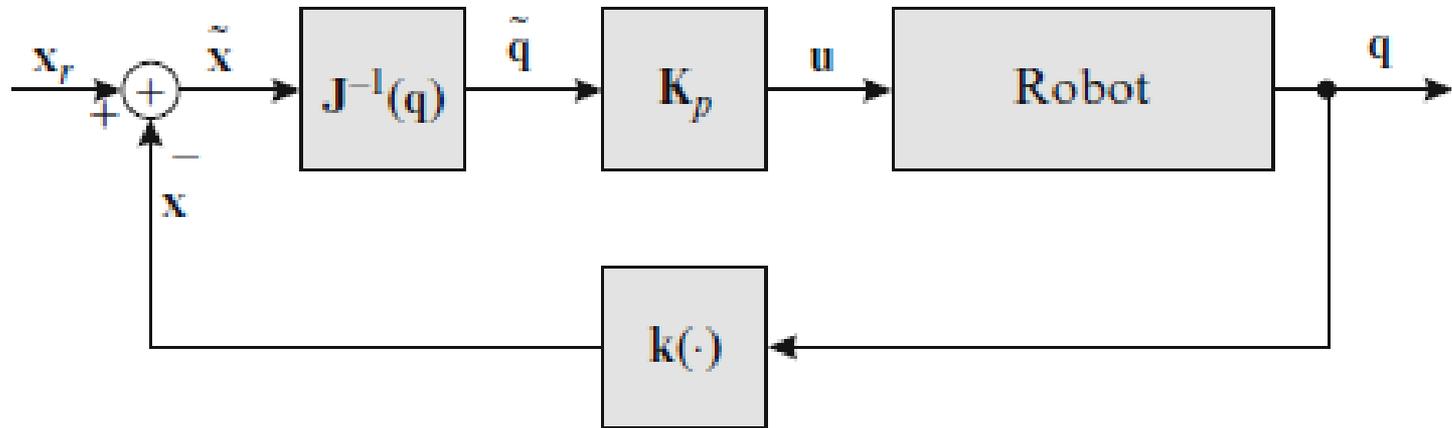


Fig. 7.11 Control based on the inverse Jacobian matrix

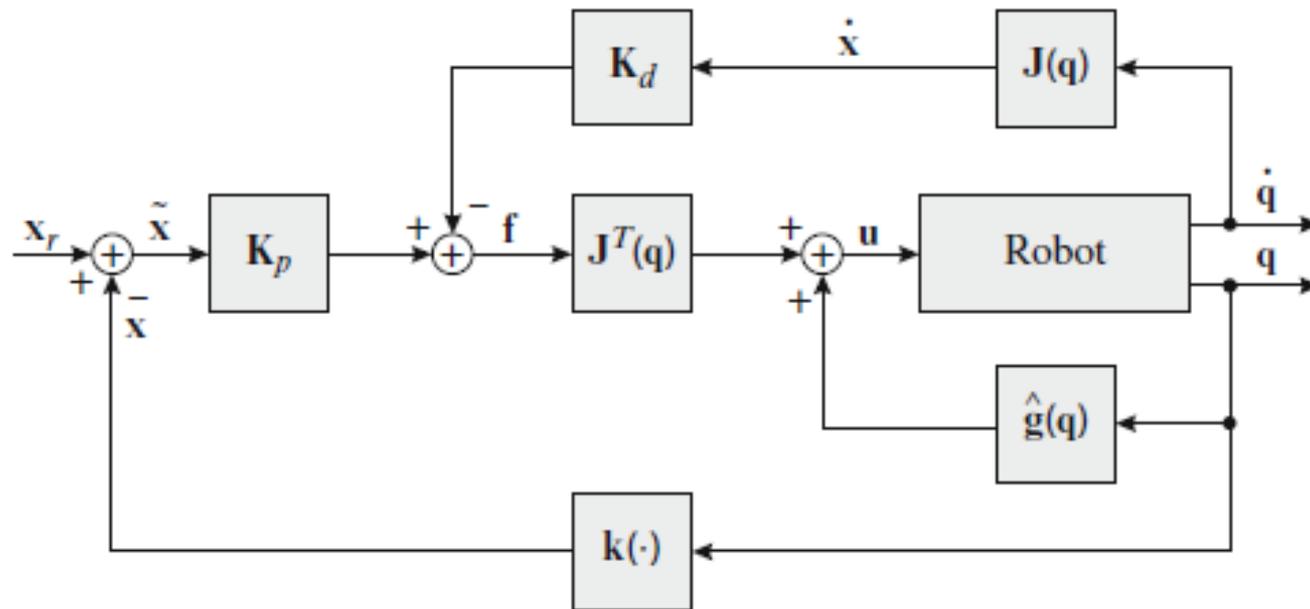
$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} = \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\frac{d\mathbf{q}}{dt} \quad \text{for small displacements} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{J}^{-1}(\mathbf{q})\tilde{\mathbf{x}}.$$

$$d\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})d\mathbf{q} \quad \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}_p\tilde{\mathbf{q}}.$$



Motion control in operational space

PD control with gravity compensation



$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}}.$$

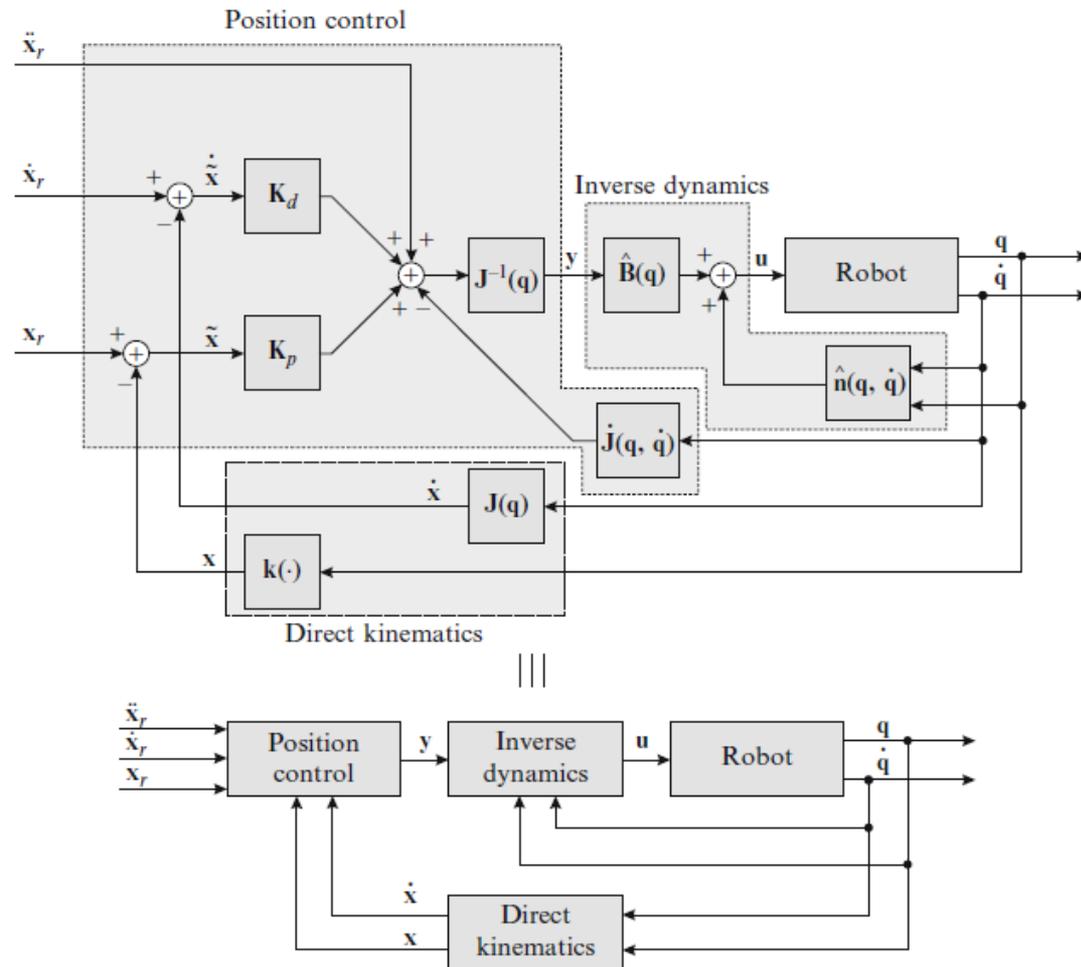
$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{K}_p\tilde{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{K}_d\dot{\mathbf{x}}.$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{f} + \hat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{q}).$$

PD control with gravity compensation in external coordinates



Motion control in operational space based on inverse dynamics



$$\dot{x} = J(q)\dot{q}. \quad (7.33)$$

By calculating the time derivative of equation (7.33), we obtain

$$\ddot{x} = J(q)\ddot{q} + \dot{J}(q, \dot{q})\dot{q}. \quad (7.34)$$

The error of the pose of the robot end-effector is determined as the difference between its desired and its actual pose

$$\tilde{x} = x_r - x = x_r - k(q). \quad (7.35)$$

In a similar way the velocity error of the robot end-effector is determined

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = \dot{x}_r - \dot{x} = \dot{x}_r - J(q)\dot{q}. \quad (7.36)$$

The acceleration error is the difference between the desired and the actual acceleration

$$\ddot{\tilde{x}} = \ddot{x}_r - \ddot{x}. \quad (7.37)$$

When developing the inverse dynamics based controller in the internal coordinates, equation (7.19) was derived describing the dynamics of the control error in the form $\ddot{\tilde{q}} + K_d\dot{\tilde{q}} + K_p\tilde{q} = 0$. An analogous equation can be written for the error of the end-effector pose. From this equation the acceleration \ddot{x} of the robot end-effector can be expressed

$$\ddot{\tilde{x}} + K_d\dot{\tilde{x}} + K_p\tilde{x} = 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{x} = \ddot{x}_r + K_d\dot{\tilde{x}} + K_p\tilde{x}. \quad (7.38)$$

From equation (7.34) we express \ddot{q} taking into account the equality $y = \ddot{q}$

$$y = J^{-1}(q) (\ddot{x} - \dot{J}(q, \dot{q})\dot{q}). \quad (7.39)$$

By replacing \ddot{x} in equation (7.39) with expression (7.38), the control algorithm based on inverse dynamics in the external coordinates is obtained

$$y = J^{-1}(q) (\ddot{x}_r + K_d\dot{\tilde{x}} + K_p\tilde{x} - \dot{J}(q, \dot{q})\dot{q}). \quad (7.40)$$

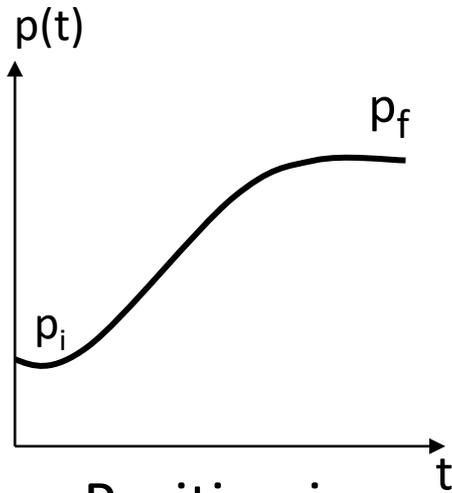
The control scheme encompassing the linearization of the system based on inverse dynamics (7.31) and the closed loop control (7.40) is shown in Figure 7.13.

Fig. 7.13 Robot control based on inverse dynamics in external coordinates

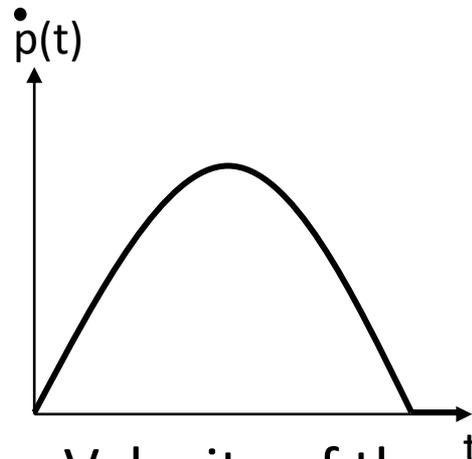


Motion control in operational space

Trajectory planning



Position in operational space, in time

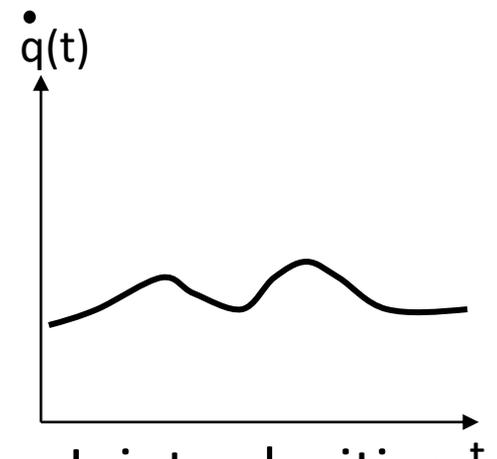


Velocity of the end effector, in time

$J^{-1}(p(t))$



Joint velocities



Joint velocities, in time

$(t, p(t), \Phi(t), \dot{p}(t), \omega(t))$

$J^{-1}(p(t))$



$(t, \dot{q}(t))$



Force control

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{F}_v\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{f}$$

Effect of external forces

$$\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{F}\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}),$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{f}$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{u}$$

$$\ddot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}) (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) - \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{f})$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{y} + \hat{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{J}^T(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{f}$$

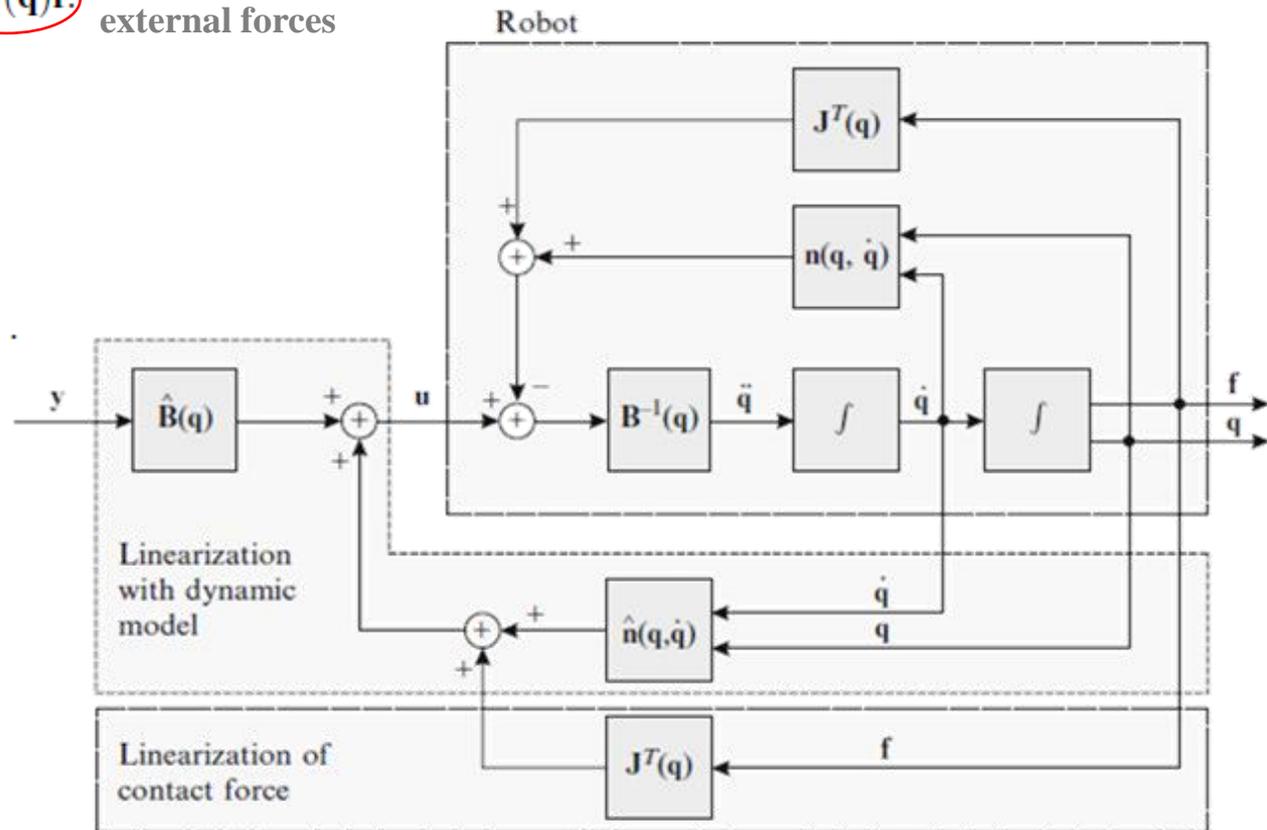


Fig. 7.14 Linearization of the control system by implementing the inverse dynamic model and the measured contact force

Force control

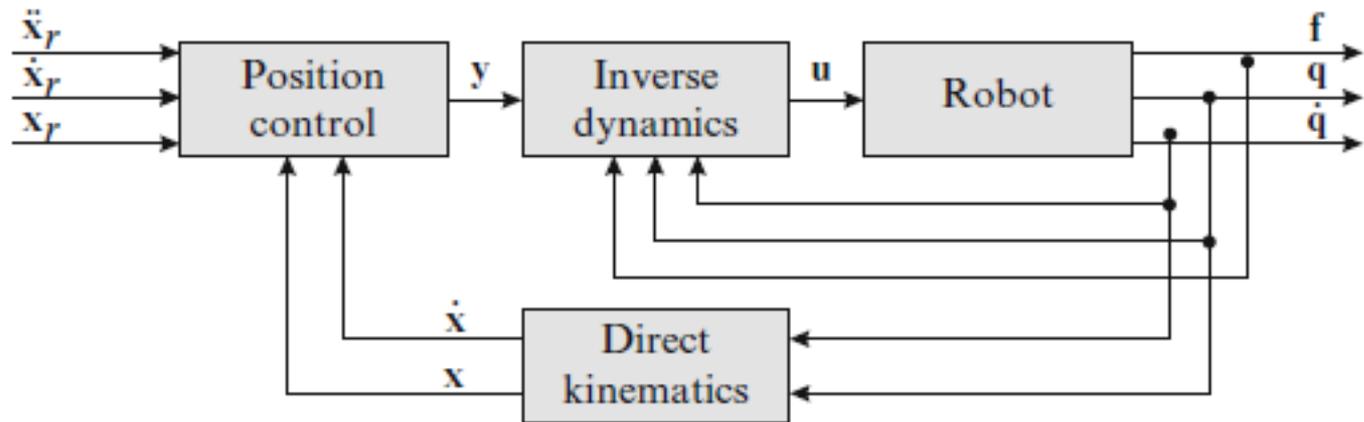


Fig. 7.15 Robot control based on inverse dynamics in external coordinates including the contact force



