

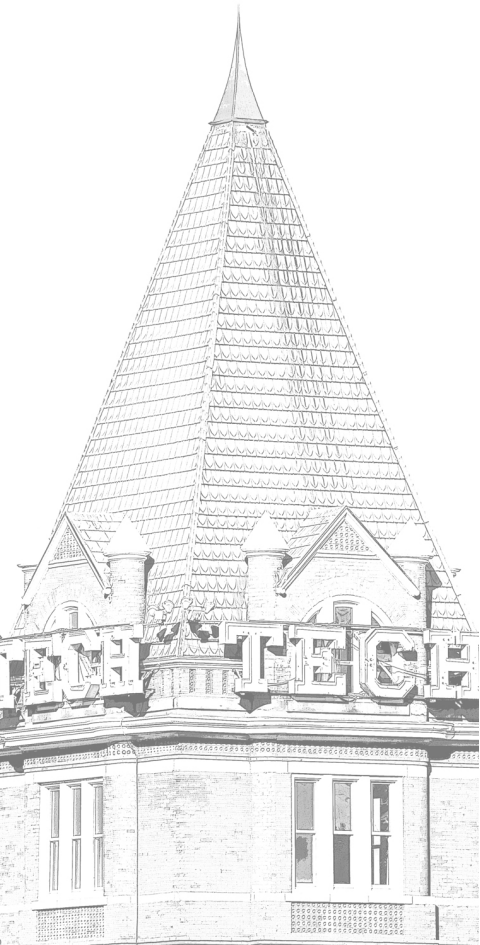
Human-Robot Physical Interaction for Neuromuscular Adaptive Robot Co-workers

Jun Ueda

Associate Professor and Woodruff Faculty Fellow

**G.W.W. School of Mechanical Engineering
Adjunct Faculty, School of Biological Sciences
Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Machines**

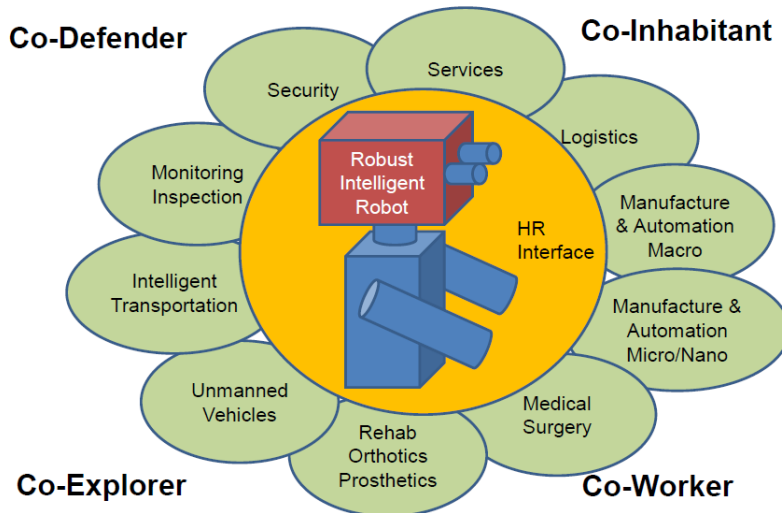
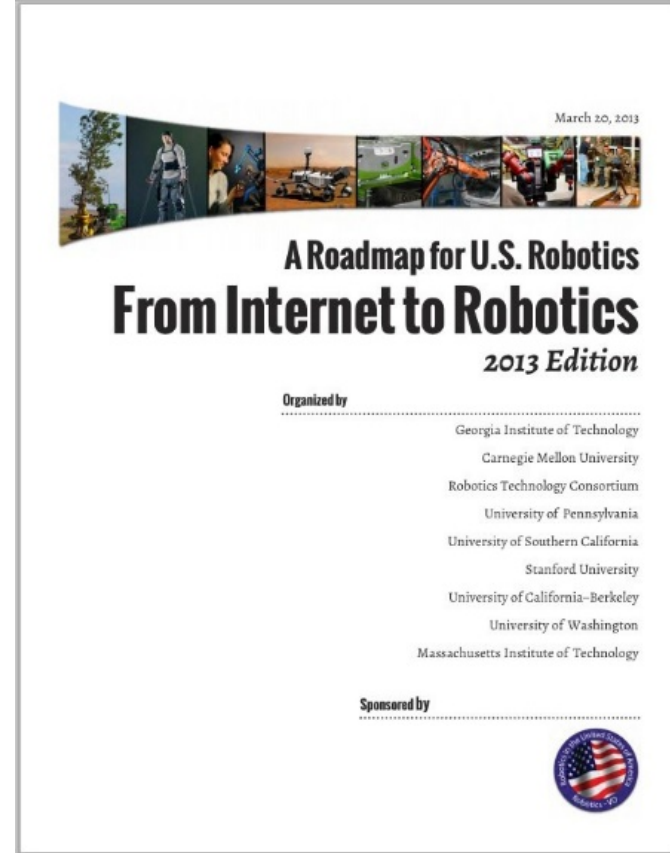
jun.ueda@me.gatech.edu



NATIONAL ROBOTICS INITIATIVE (NRI)

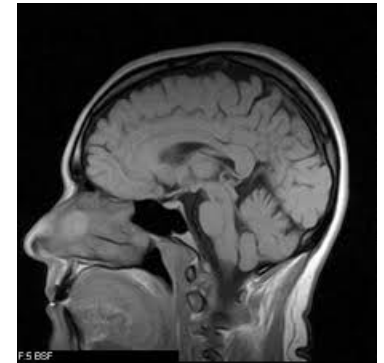


CMU, June 24th, 2011

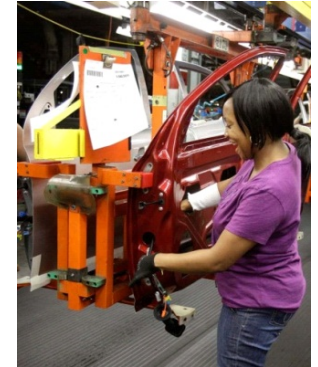


CLINICAL NEED: HEMIPARESIS

- ◆ A paralysis of one side of the body widely observed in stroke survivors
- ◆ 600,000 individuals suffer strokes each year in the U.S.
- ◆ Restricts activities of daily living (ADLs)
- ◆ Neural plasticity
- ◆ Physical therapy is an intensive process
- ◆ Unsatisfactory outcomes performed by unskilled therapists
- ◆ Scientific evaluation needed (e.g., fMRI)



- ◆ Industry still largely relies on manual assembly by human workers (e.g., automobile, aerospace, construction...)
- ◆ Force assistance
- ◆ Work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSDs)
e.g., Back injuries
- ◆ Situational awareness
- ◆ Skill training & assessment



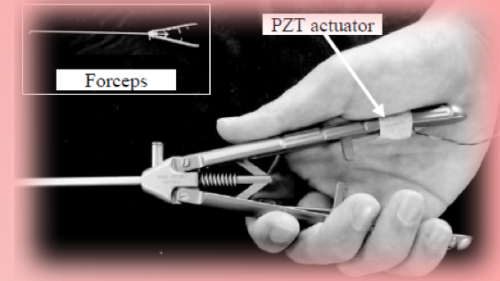
Motor control (Applied Physiology)



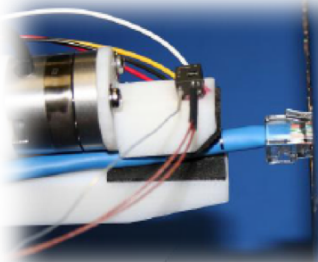
Wheelchair evaluation



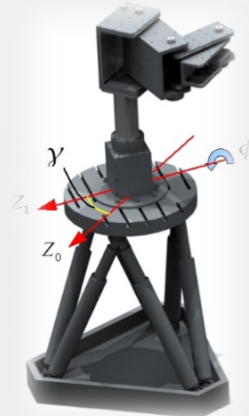
Exoskeleton



Sensorimotor function enhancement



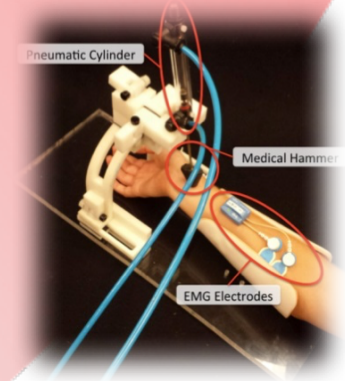
Robotic assembly and error detection



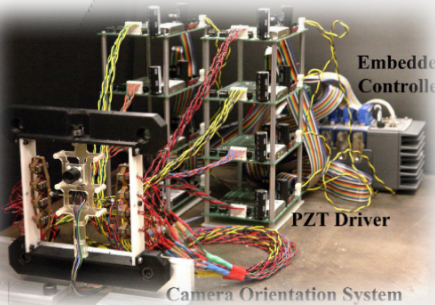
Deployable arm



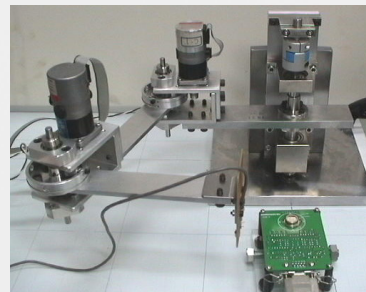
Force-assisting system



Paired associative stimulation for stroke rehabilitation



Robotic eye



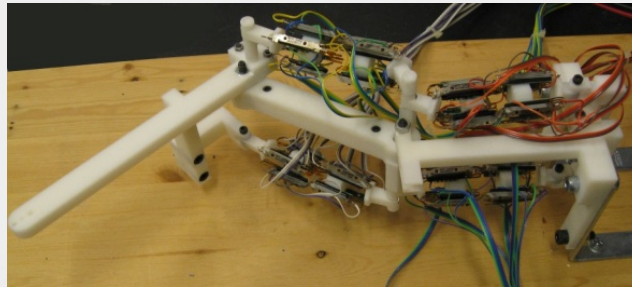
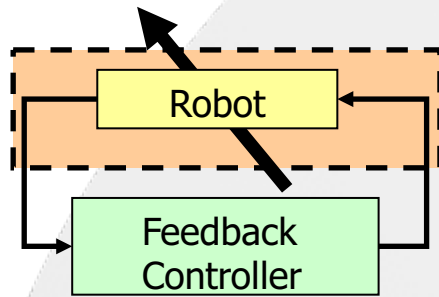
High-speed servoing



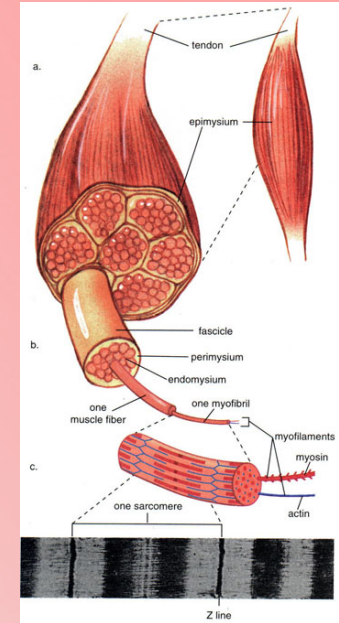
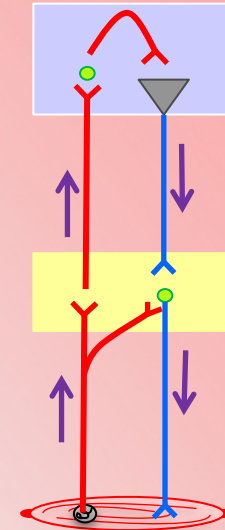
Teleoperation

Motion control

Biologically-inspired Robotics



Motion control



Rehabilitation Robotics Assistive Robotics

Conclusions. For subacute stroke participants with moderate to severe gait impairments, the diversity of **conventional gait training interventions appears to be more effective than robotic-assisted gait training** for facilitating returns in walking ability.



Neurorehabil Neural Repair January 2009 vol. 23 no. 1 5-13

Multicenter Randomized Clinical Trial Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Lokomat in Subacute Stroke

Joseph Hidler, PhD, Diane Nichols, PT, Marlena Pelliccio, PT, Kathy Brady, MSPT, Danielle D. Campbell, PT, Jennifer H. Kahn, PT, and T. George Homby, PhD, PT

Objective. To compare the efficacy of robotic-assisted gait training with the Lokomat to conventional gait training in individuals with subacute stroke. **Methods.** A total of 63 participants <6 months poststroke with an initial walking speed between 0.1 to 0.6 m/s completed the multicenter, randomized clinical trial. All participants received twenty-four 1-hour sessions of either Lokomat or conventional gait training. Outcome measures were evaluated prior to training, after 12 and 24 sessions, and at a 3-month follow-up exam. Self-selected overground walking speed and distance walked in 6 minutes were the primary outcome measures, whereas secondary outcome measures included balance, mobility and function, cadence and symmetry, level of disability, and quality of life measures. **Results.** Participants who received conventional gait training experienced significantly greater gains in walking speed ($P = .002$) and distance ($P = .03$) than those trained on the Lokomat. These differences were maintained at the 3-month follow-up evaluation. Secondary measures were not different between the 2 groups, although a 2-fold greater improvement in cadence was observed in the conventional versus Lokomat group. **Conclusions.** For subacute stroke participants with moderate to severe gait impairments, the diversity of conventional gait training interventions appears to be more effective than robotic-assisted gait training for facilitating returns in walking ability.

Keywords: Hemiplegia; Rehabilitation; Gait; Recovery of function; Robotics; Walking

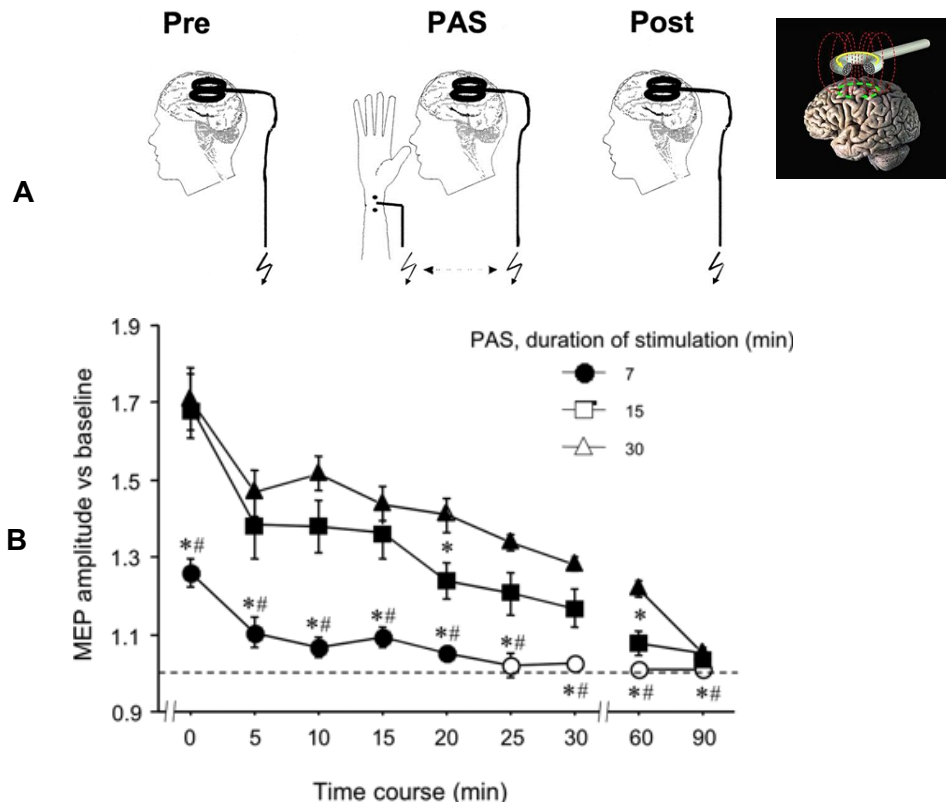
Body-weight supported locomotor training on a treadmill (BWSTT) has been the focus of intense investigations for nearly 20 years, beginning with the seminal work of Barbeau and colleagues.^{1,2} Hesse et al³ first evaluated this training modality in stroke populations, where it was demonstrated in a small group of subacute stroke participants that improvements in walking ability were greater following BWSTT than conventional physiotherapy. One uncertainty of this early work was whether the catalyst for improvements in walking ability resulted from the volume of steps practiced on the treadmill or the incorporation of body-weight support during training sessions. Visintin et al⁴ investigated this by training 100 stroke participants on a treadmill, but only half received body-weight support. They found that the participants who received BWSTT demonstrated significantly greater gains in walking ability over those who received

example, Sullivan et al⁶ and Pohl et al⁷ each evaluated the influence of training speeds on gait outcomes. Both of these studies found that participants trained at high speeds tend to show greater improvements in walking ability than those trained at slower rates. These and other studies using BWSTT in individuals poststroke demonstrate the effectiveness of the therapeutic paradigm, and have identified training factors that regulate intensity, which can directly impact the intervention outcomes.⁸

One of the recognized limitations with BWSTT is the significant demand it places on the therapists during training sessions. Specifically, manually assisting individuals with spastic hemiparesis at the impaired limb and/or trunk to facilitate continuous stepping may present significant physical challenges to skilled therapists. As a result, the consistency and duration of the training may be compromised. For

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Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) & Electrical peripheral stimulation



A: Cartoons for explaining the experimental procedure.

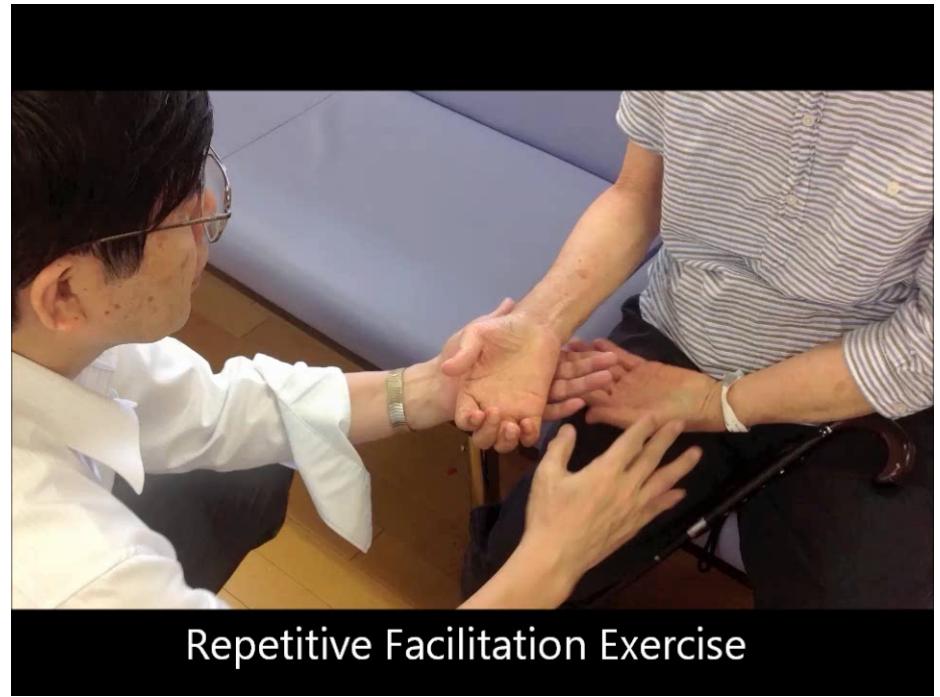
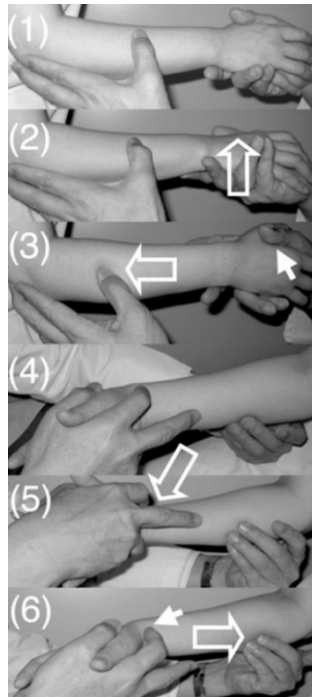
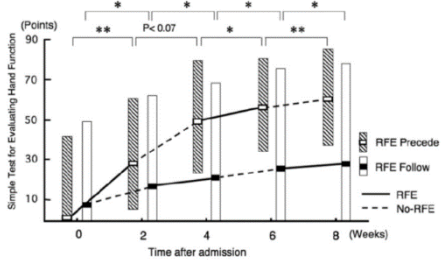
B: Potentiated motor evoked potential (MEP) after PAS (Post) of different durations, compared with Pre

- ◆ Long-term potentiation (LTP) can be induced by PAS with electrical stimuli
- ◆ Observed increased motor excitability in the paretic lower limb of chronic stroke patients when walking*
- ◆ PAS may be used as an adjuvant therapy for stroke patients*

- Induces stretch reflexes by tendon tapping
- Promising clinical results

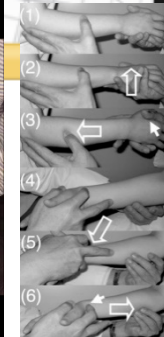
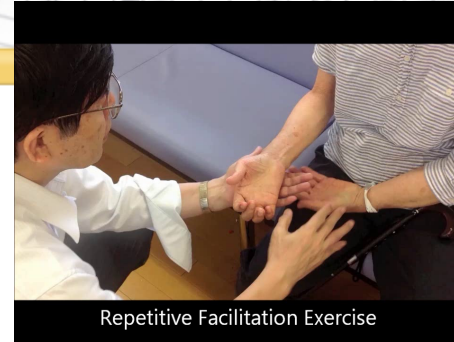
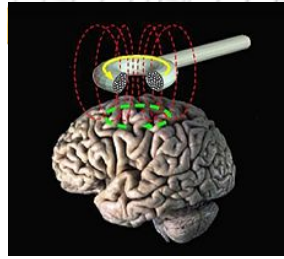


Dr. Kawahira, MD, Kagoshima University, Japan



Kawahira K, et al. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine* 36: 159-64, 2004
Kawahira K, et al. *International Journal of Rehabilitation Research* , 2009
Kawahira K, et al. *Brain Injury* 24: 1202-13, 2010

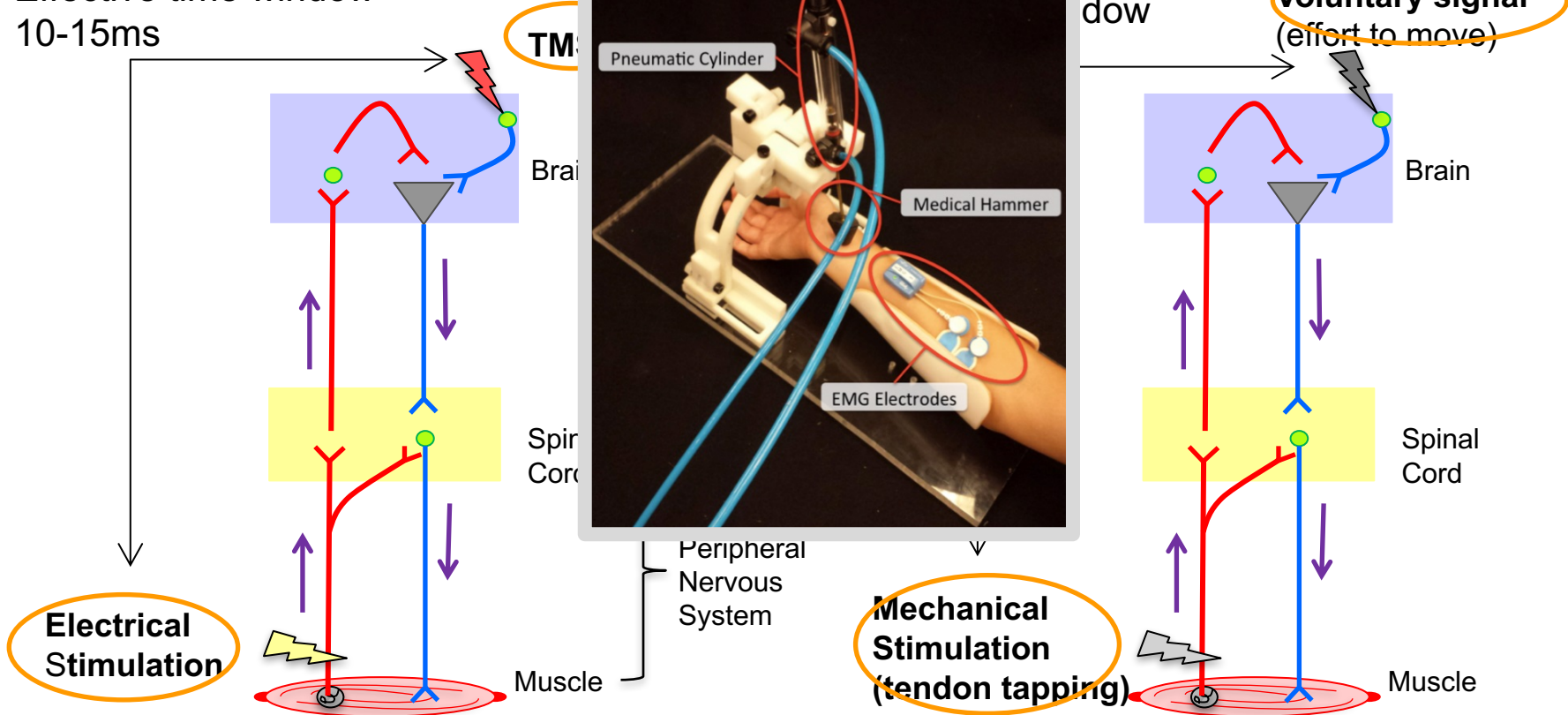
NEUROMODULATION— PAS-INDUCED LTP



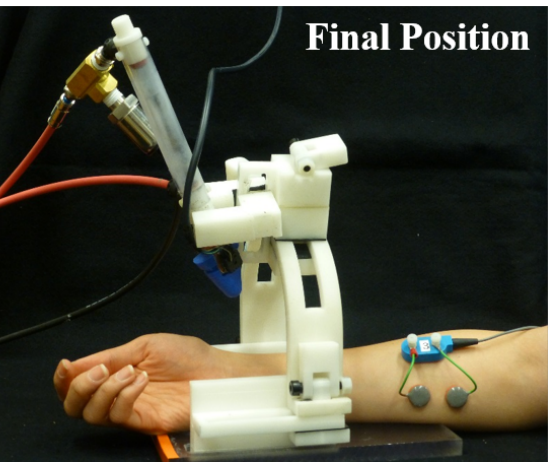
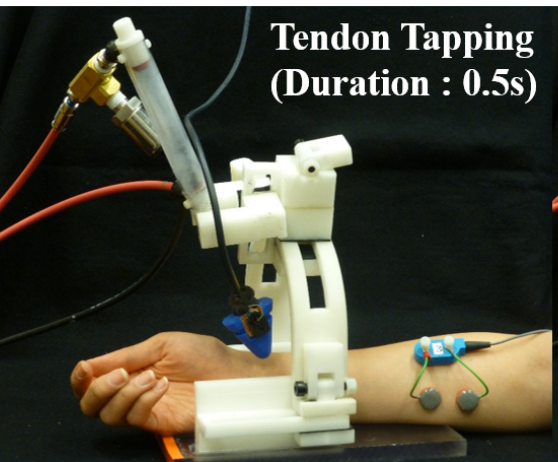
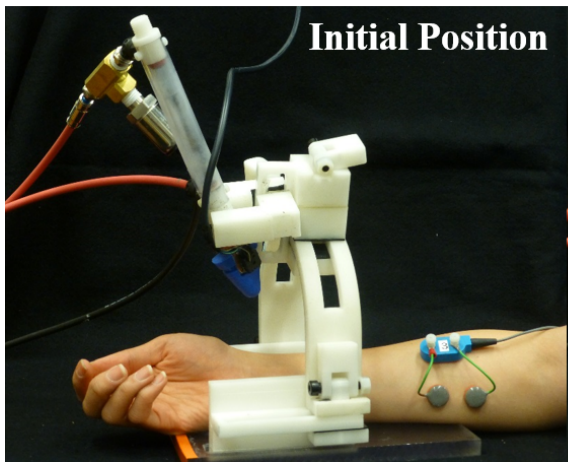
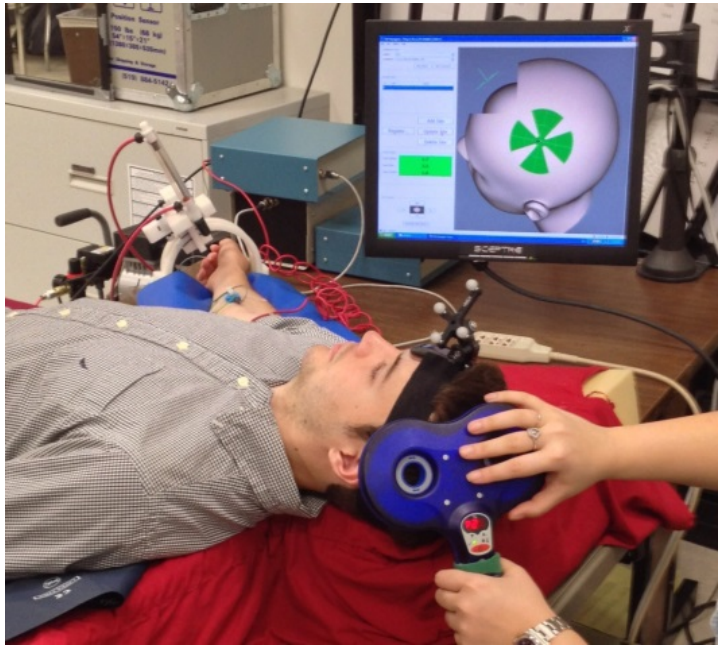
Physiology research

Clinical practice (Manual therapy)

Effective time window
10-15ms

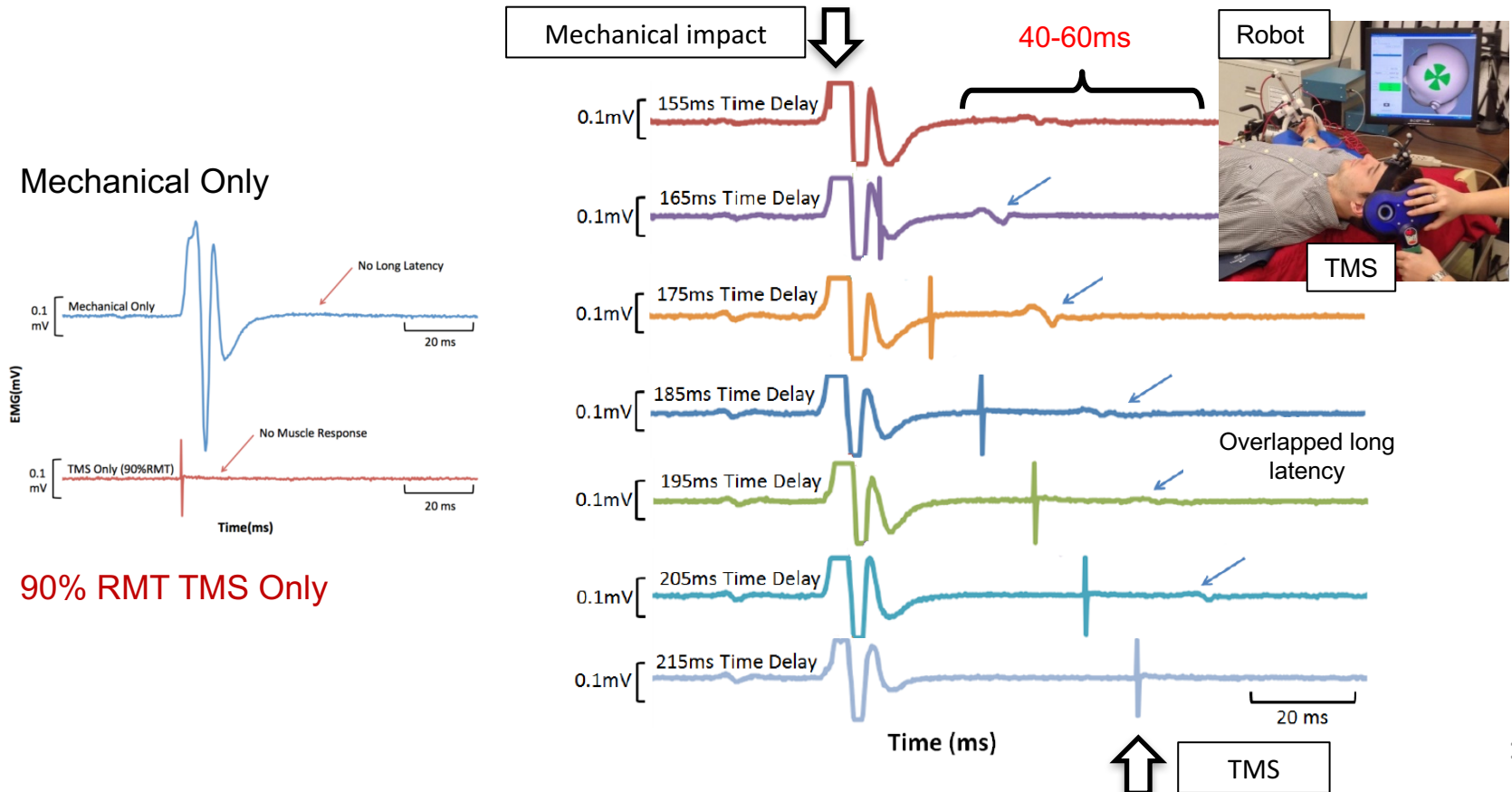


ROBOTIC PAS FOR CORTICAL FACILITATION WITH AFFERENT STIMULATION

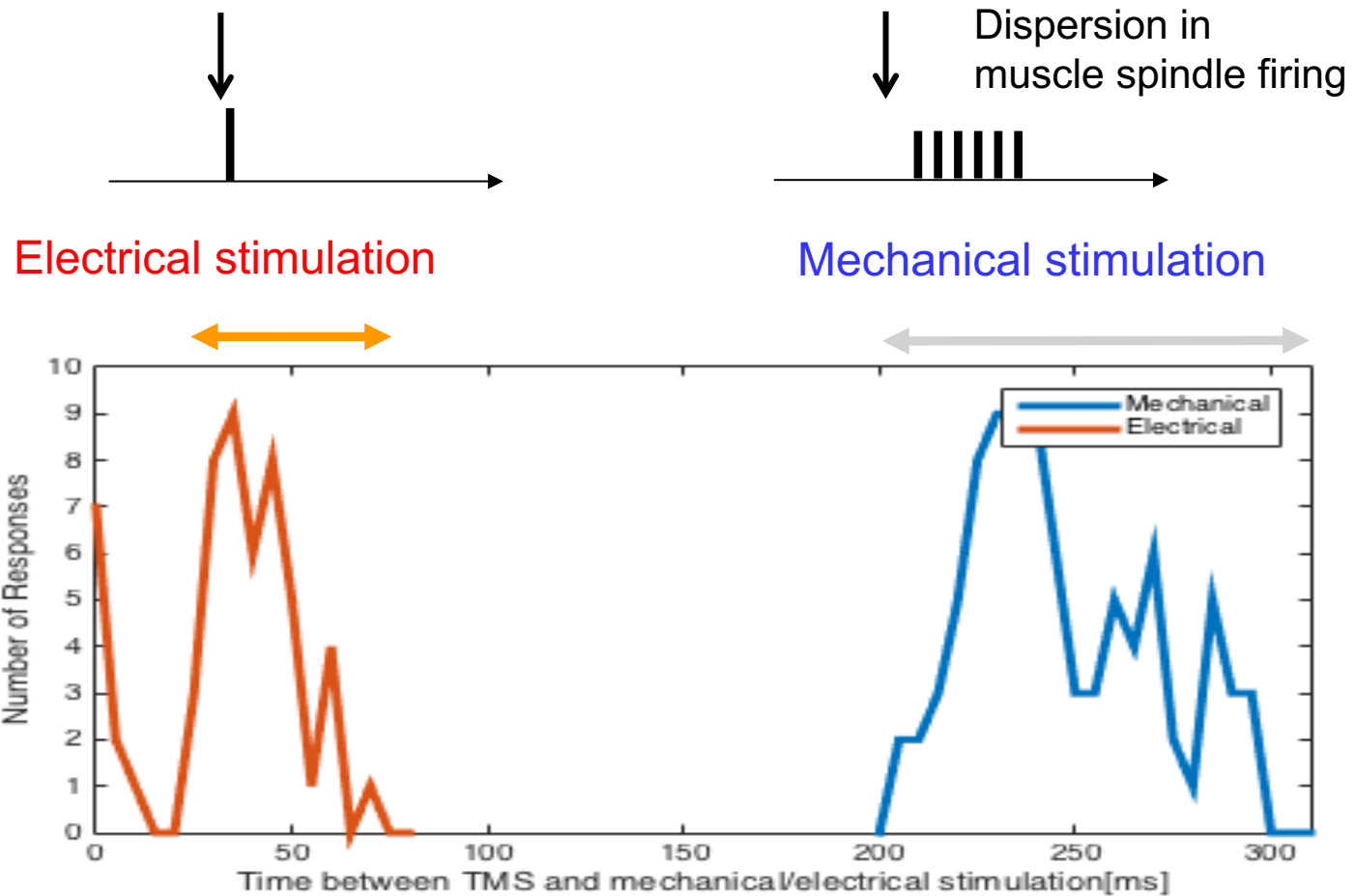


ROBOTICALLY PERFORMED PAS

- ◆ Successful synchronization between TMS and hammer hit across 40-60ms time frame
- ◆ Response more *dispersed* in time due to the desynchronized activation of muscle spindles

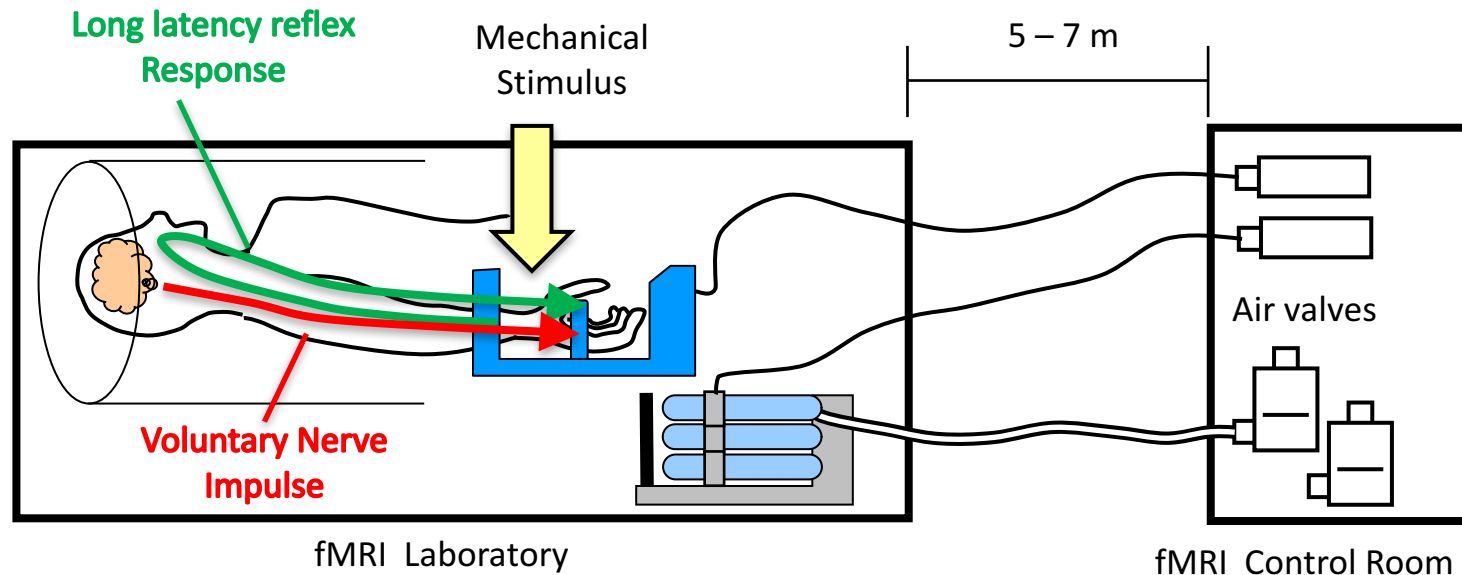


MECHANICAL VS ELECTRICAL STIMULATION



IS PNEUMATIC ACTUATION INACCURATE?

Required performance characteristics is NOT fast speed of response, BUT small variability in impact application



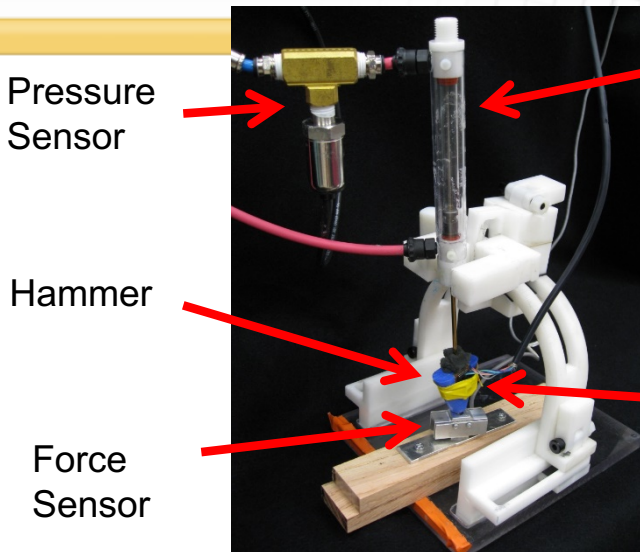
Observations:

Pure time delay is not significant (even for a 7.5m line)

Pressure attenuation is significant, but predictable

Hammer motion is highly repeatable ($SD < 5ms$)

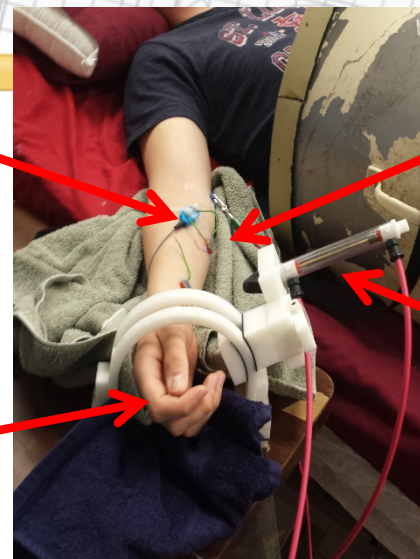
TIMING ANALYSIS



Device only

Pneumatic Cylinder

EMG Amplifier



EMG Electrodes

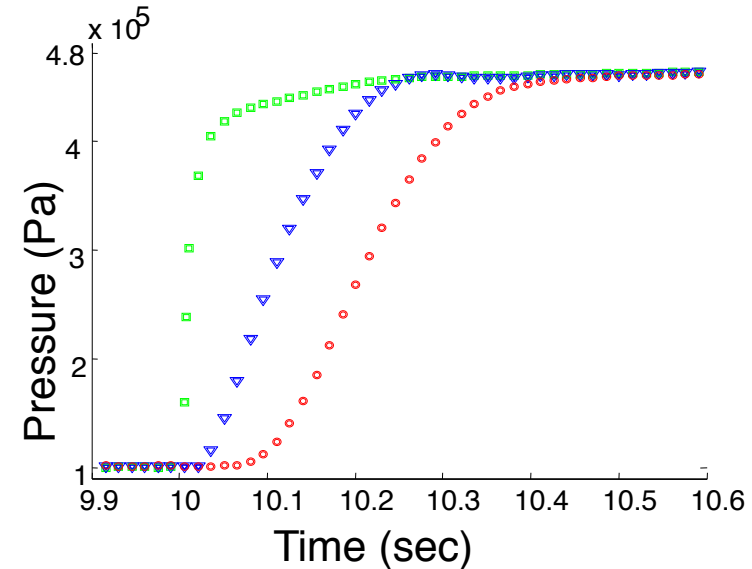
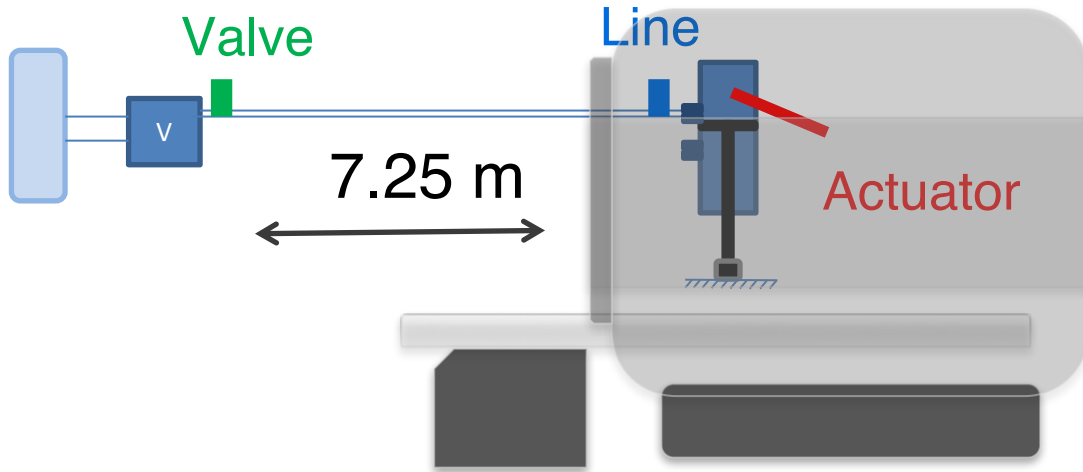
Robotic Rehab Device

Human wrist

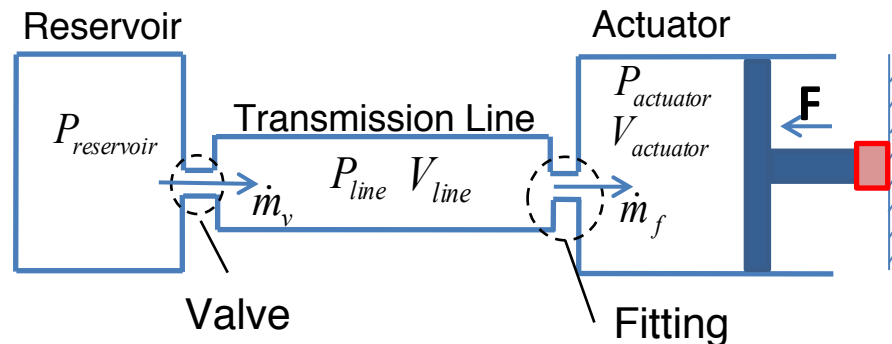
With subject

unit: ms		Top Chamber Fills Up	Hammer Starts to Extend	Hammer Hits Hand	Hammer Bounces Back to Hand	EMG Picks Up Mech. Stimulus
Force Sensor (50 Observations)	Average	523	621	688	690	N/A
	Standard Dev	0	2	1	1	N/A
	Range	[523, 523]	[617, 626]	[686, 690]	[689, 692]	N/A
Subject 1 (538 Observations)	Average	523	631	683	698	701
	Standard Dev	0	5	4	4	4
	Range	[523, 523]	[613, 640]	[669, 688]	[688, 704]	[689, 712]
Subject 2 (324 Observations)	Average	523	626	672	681	695
	Standard Dev	0	4	2	2	2
	Range	[523, 523]	[614, 650]	[666, 678]	[673, 688]	[689, 703]
Subject 3 (252 Observations)	Average	523	615	676	693	695
	Standard Dev	0	2	1	1	1
	Range	[523, 523]	[609, 625]	[674, 679]	[691, 696]	[692, 699]

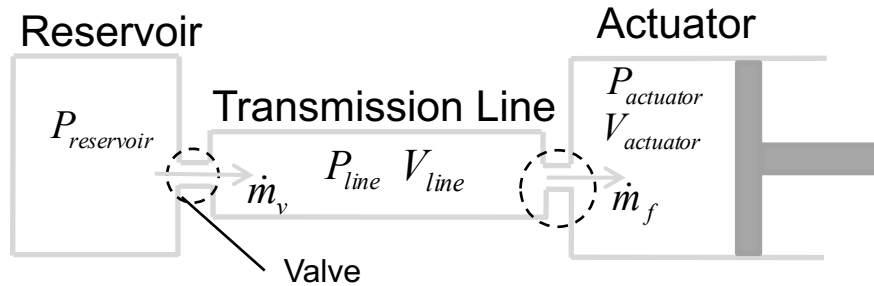
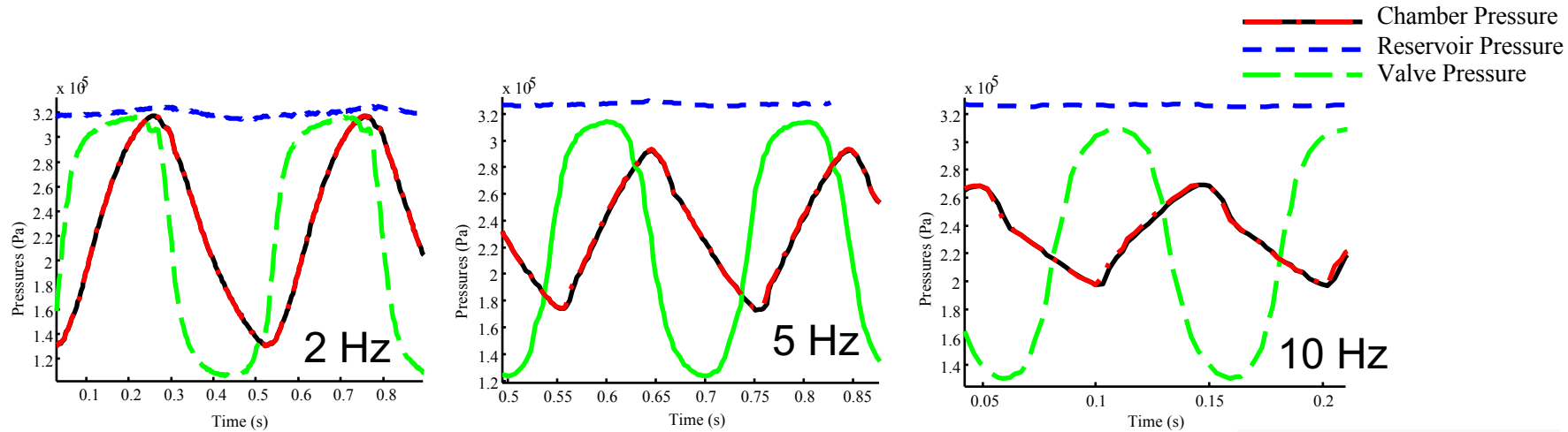
PRESSURE CONTROL CHALLENGES



Solution: Closed-form 3-chamber model and back-stepping control

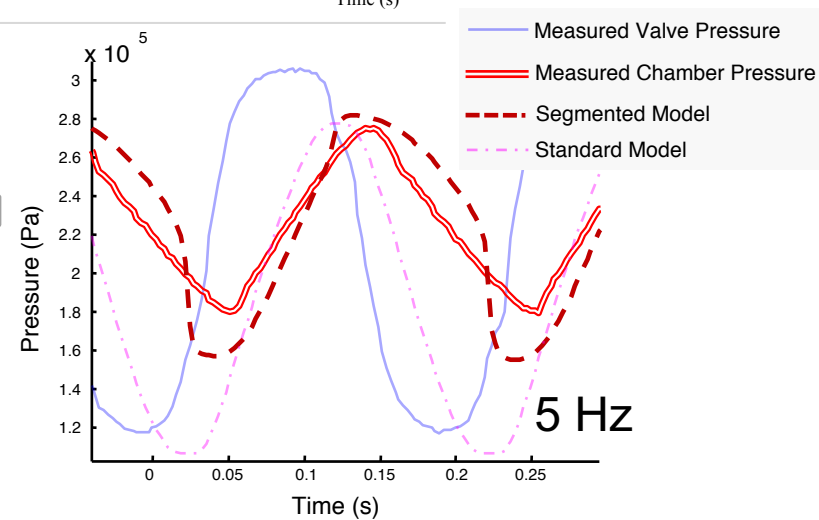


LINE DYNAMICS

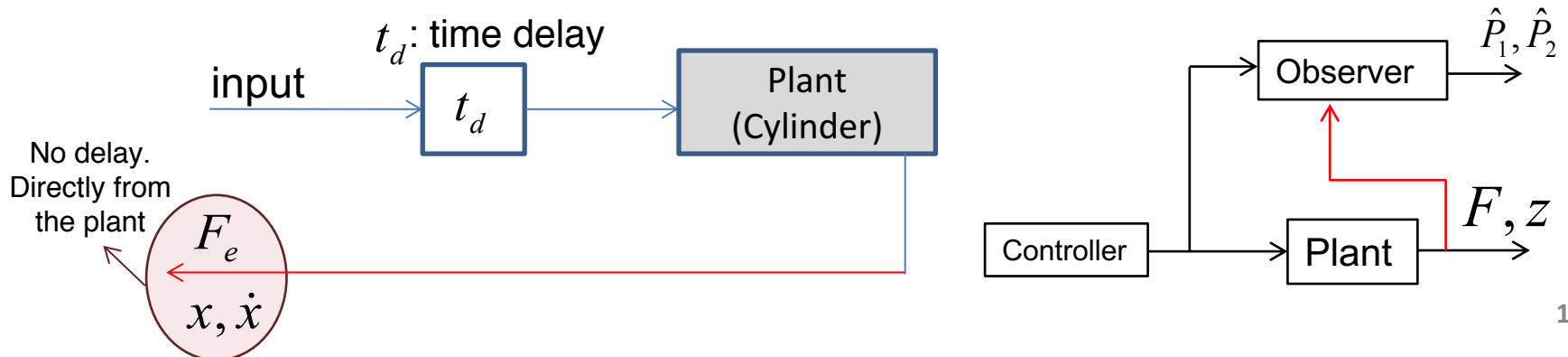
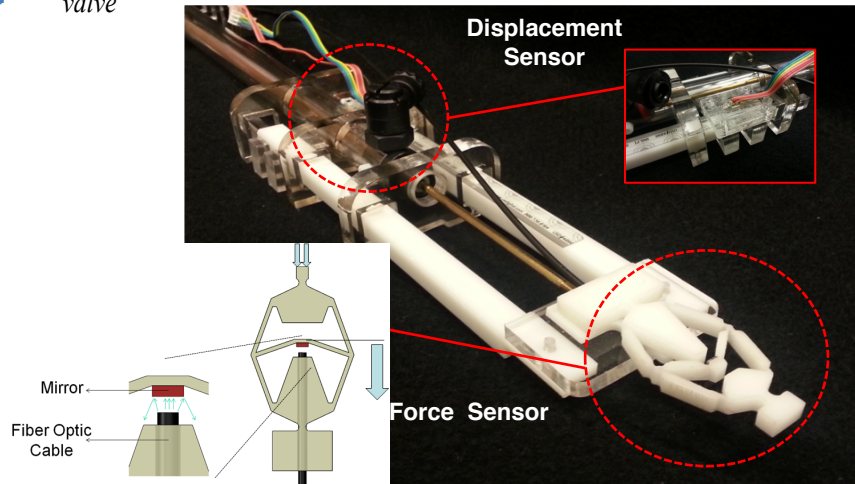
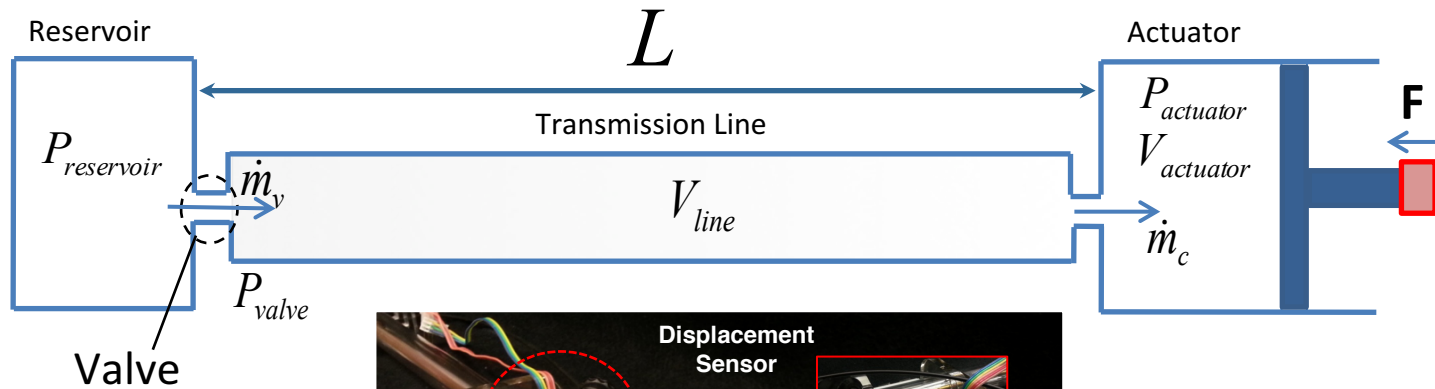


$$\frac{dP_{line}}{dt} = \frac{(\dot{m}_v - \dot{m}_f)RT}{V_{line}}$$

$$\frac{d\dot{m}_f}{dt} = (\Delta P)A - f(\dot{m}_i, P_i)$$



PRESSURE ESTIMATION(CONCEPT)



- Developed observer minimizes the error in the estimated actuator force
- Both force and displacement measurements are utilized

Isothermal chamber model, has been shown to be stable with regard to pressure estimation errors*:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\dot{m}}_i(\tilde{P}_i) < 0 & \text{ if } A_{v_i} < 0 \text{ (de-pressurization)} \\ \tilde{\dot{m}}_i(\tilde{P}_i) \leq 0 & \text{ if } A_{v_i} > 0 \text{ (pressurization)} \end{aligned}$$

*Gulati and Barth "A Globally Stable, Nonlinear Pressure Observer for Pneumatic Actuators with Servo Valves", 2009

$$\dot{m}_i RT = P_i \dot{V}_i + \dot{P}_i V_i$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} P_1 V_1 \\ P_2 V_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\dot{x}}_1 \\ \hat{\dot{x}}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\dot{m}}_1 RT \\ \hat{\dot{m}}_2 RT \end{pmatrix} + k \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

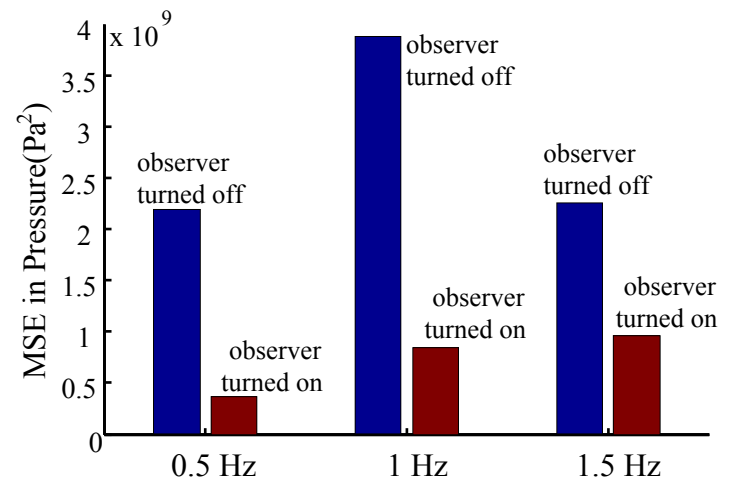
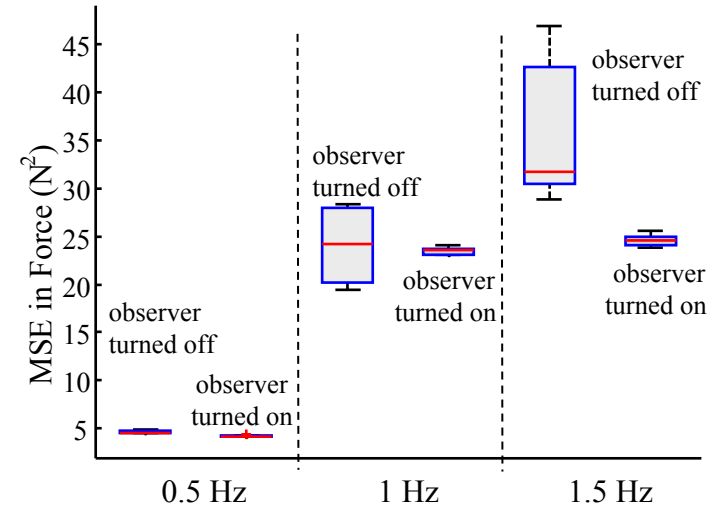
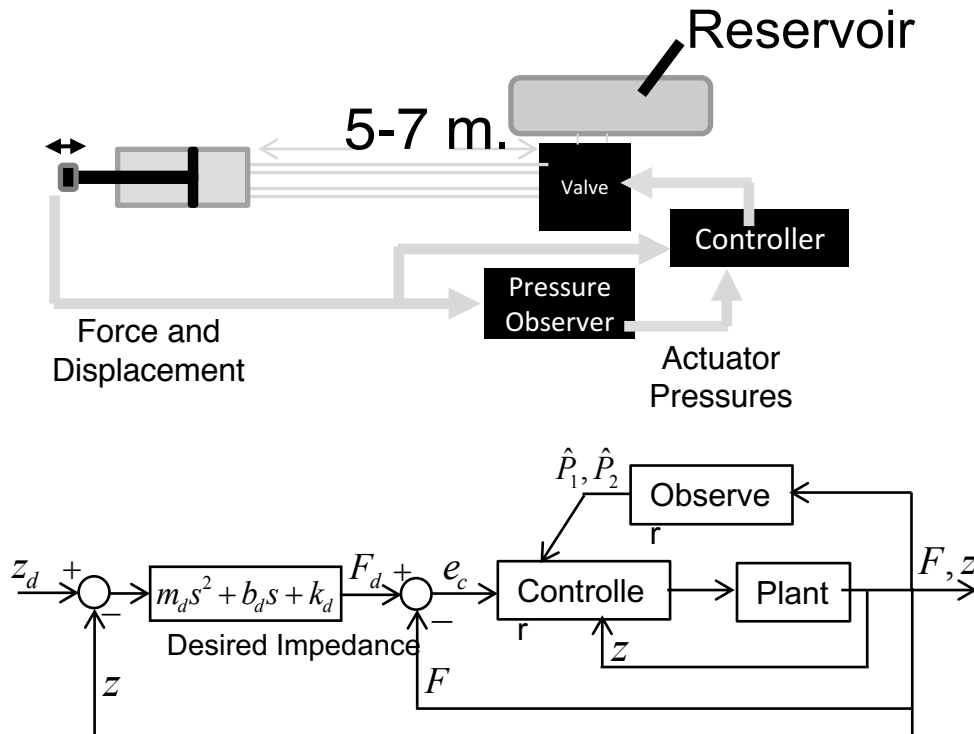
$$F_p = F_e + M\ddot{x} + B\dot{x}$$

$$f_1 = -\frac{1}{V_1 A_2} (\hat{P}_1 A_1 - \hat{P}_2 A_2 - F_p)$$

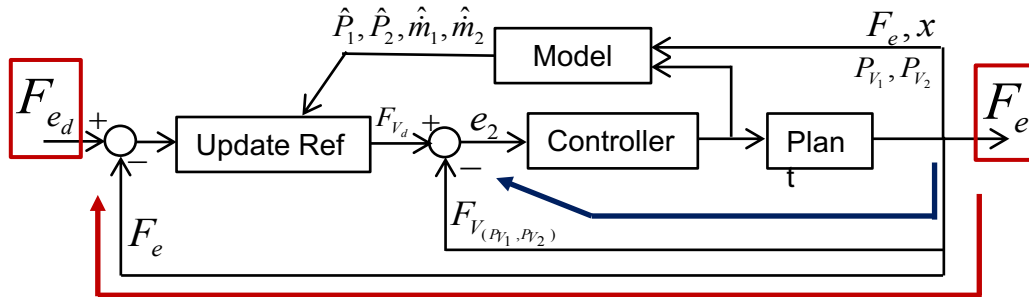
$$f_2 = \frac{1}{V_2 A_1} (\hat{P}_1 A_1 - \hat{P}_2 A_2 - F_p)$$

OBSERVER BASED (SIMPLE FEEDBACK) CONTROL

Compensates for the perturbations related to unmodeled dynamics



“BACK-STEPPING” CONTROL STRUCTURE



$$\dot{F}_e = F_V \bar{h} - F_P \bar{h} - G_1 + \delta_1(x)$$

$$\dot{F}_V = \frac{(\psi_1 + \psi_2)u - (\dot{m}_{c1} A_1 + \dot{m}_{c2} A_2)}{V_L/2} + \delta_2(x)$$

$$e_1 = F_{e_d} - F_e$$

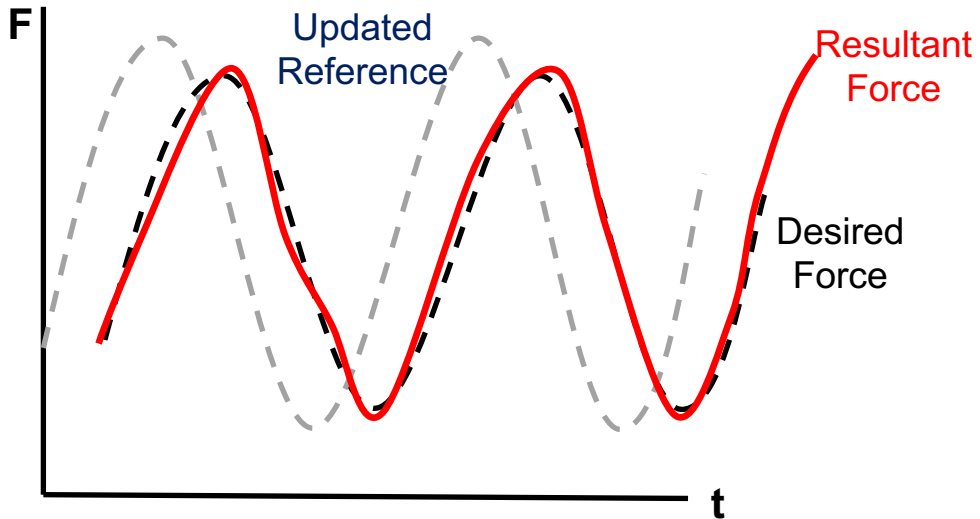
$$s_1 = e_1 + \lambda_1 \int e_1 dt$$

$$F_{V_d} = F_P + \frac{\lambda_1 e_1 + \dot{F}_{e_d} + G_1}{\bar{h}} + k_1 s_1$$

$$e_2 = F_{V_d} - F_V$$

$$s_2 = e_2 + \lambda_2 \int e_2 dt$$

$$u = \frac{(\dot{F}_{V_d} + k_2 s_2) V_L/2 + (\dot{m}_{c1} A_1 + \dot{m}_{c2} A_2)}{(\psi_1 + \psi_2)}$$



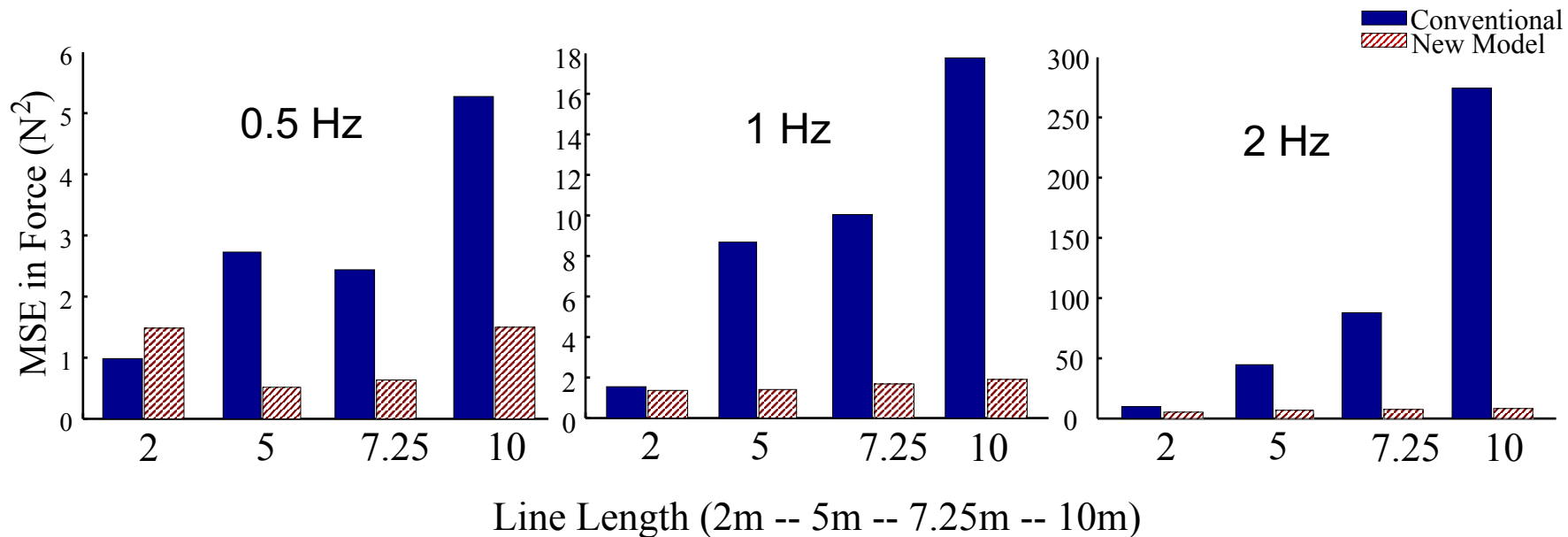
$$L = \frac{1}{2} (s_1^2 + e_2^2 + (\lambda_2 k_2 w_2)^2)$$

$$\dot{L} = -\bar{h} k_1 s_1^2 + \bar{h} e_2 s_1 + \delta_1 s_1 - k_2 e_2^2 + \delta_2 e_2$$

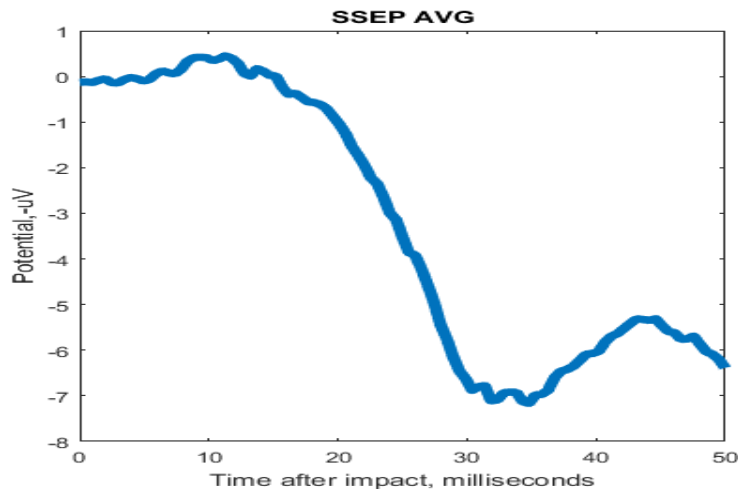
$$\dot{L} \leq 0 \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} k_1 \leq \bar{h}/2 \varepsilon_1 + 1/2 \bar{h} \varepsilon_2 \\ k_2 \leq \varepsilon_1/2 + \varepsilon_3/2 \end{cases} \quad \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3 > 0$$

- Significant improvement at high frequency (1-2 Hz)
- Limited degradation in the performance as the frequency rise
- Improvement is marginal when the line length and the actuation frequency is low

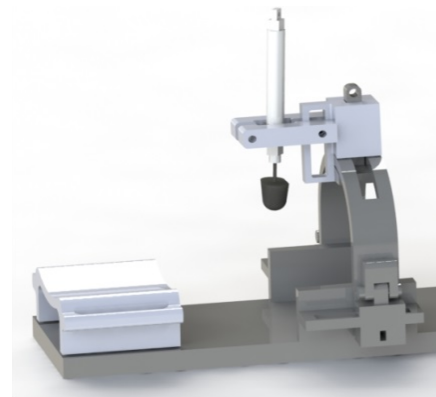
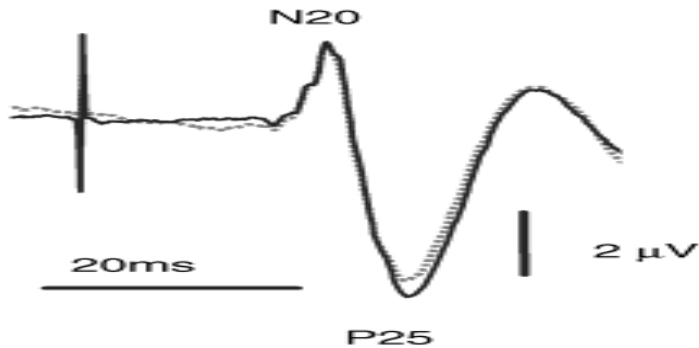
$$F_{V_d} = F_P + \frac{\lambda_1 e_1 + \dot{F}_{e_d} + G_1}{\bar{h}} + k_1 s_1$$



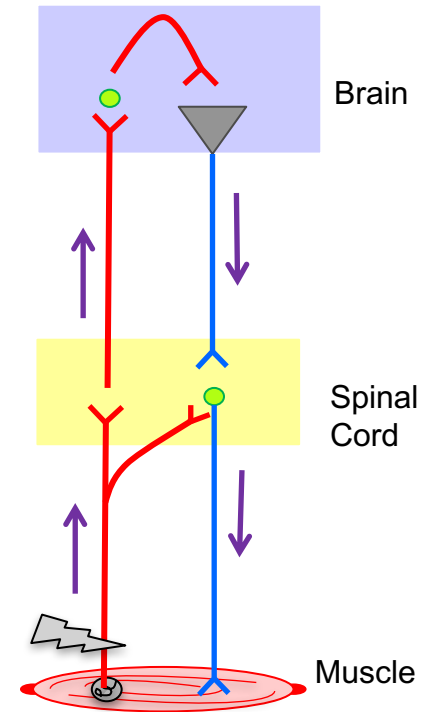
DISPERSION IN SENSORY SYSTEM OR MOTOR SYSTEM?



Preliminary results (single subject, 125 trials)
Delayed and widened P25 peak
Mechanical stimulation to FCR muscle



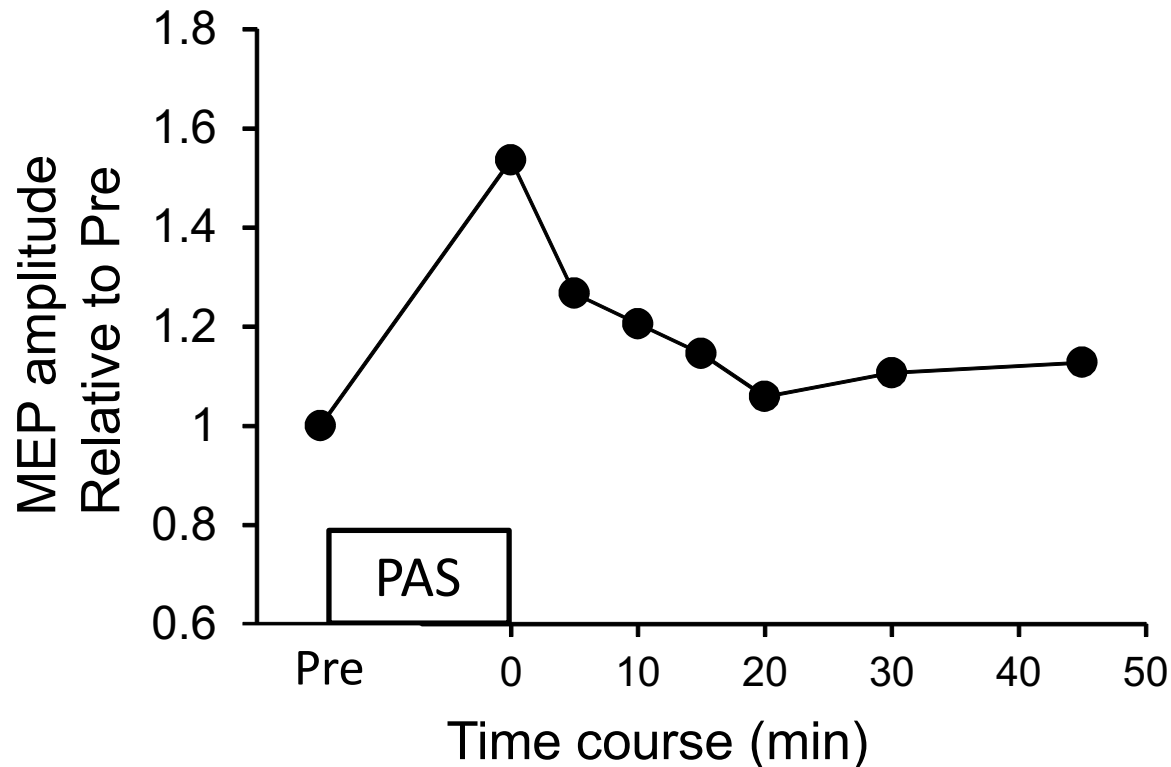
Mechanical Stimulation
(tendon tapping)



Wolters et al. (J. Physiology, 2005)
Single subject, 1000 trials

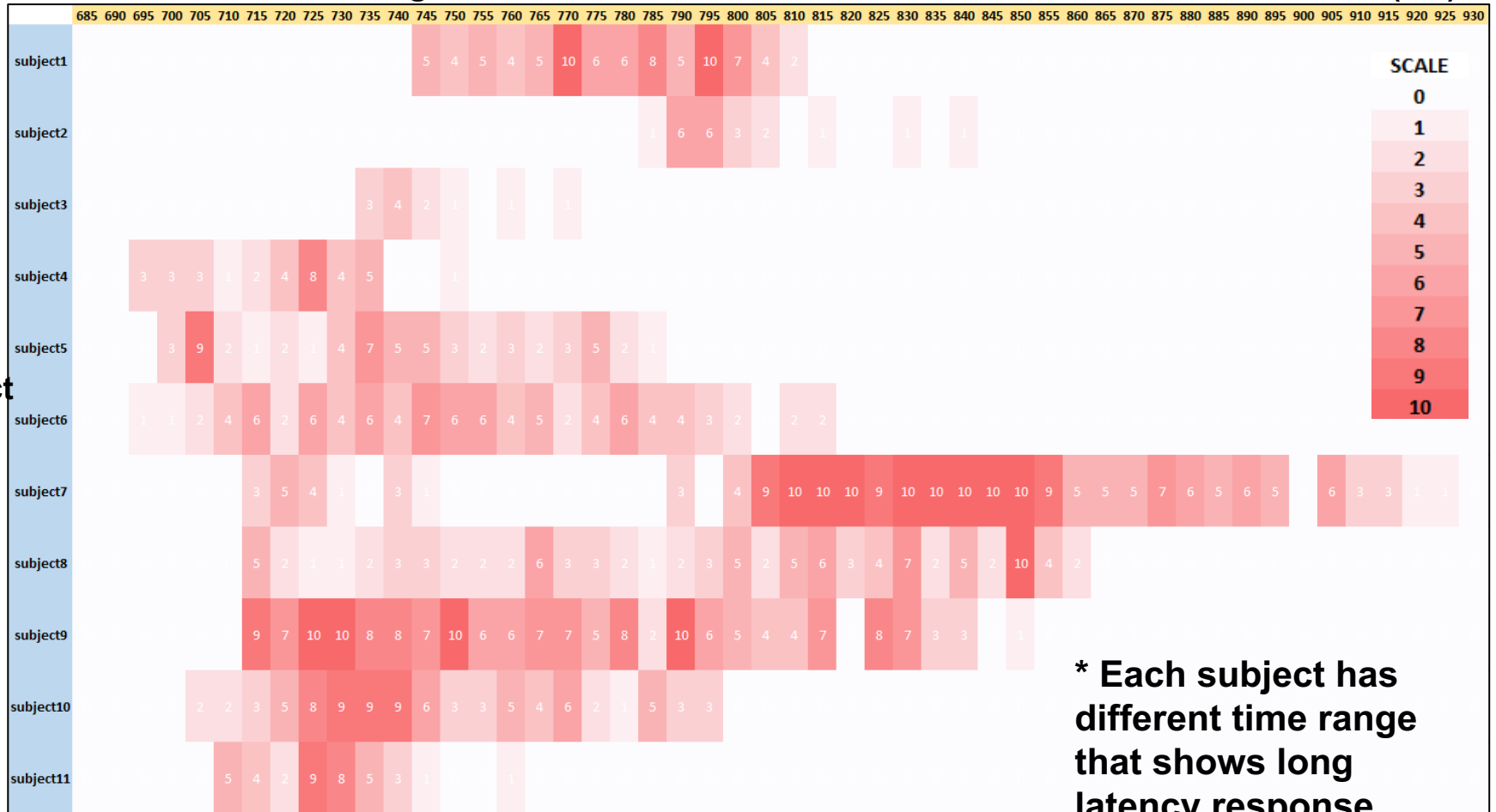
Electrical stimulation of the median nerve

- LTP induced by mechanical (robotic) stimulation
- An example for potentiated MEP in a wrist flexor after PAS with mechanical stimuli compared with Pre in one subject.



RESPONSE TIME IS DIFFERENT FROM PERSON TO PERSON

Timing difference between mechanical stimulation command and TMS(ms)

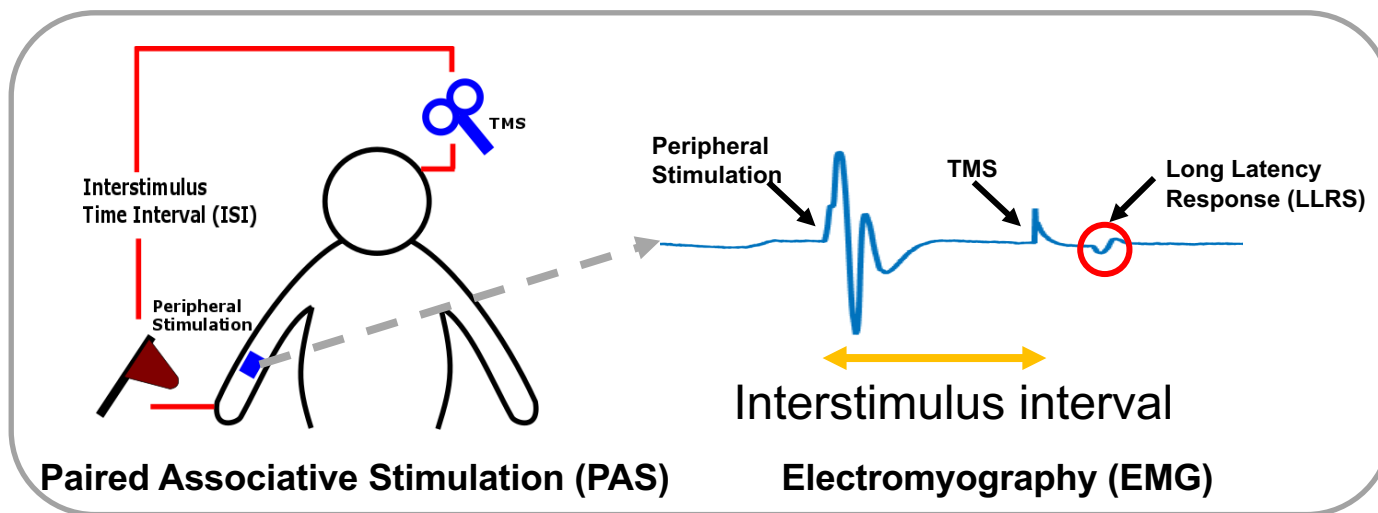


* Each subject has different time range that shows long latency response.

* Numbers(0~10) represent the number of long latency response out of 10 trials.

Large individual differences → Machine learning

How to find the “optimal” interstimulus interval in dividable subjects



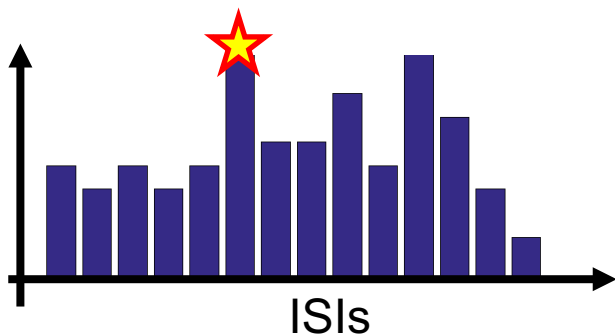
Bayesian optimization

$$f(x) \sim GP(m(x), k(x, x'))$$

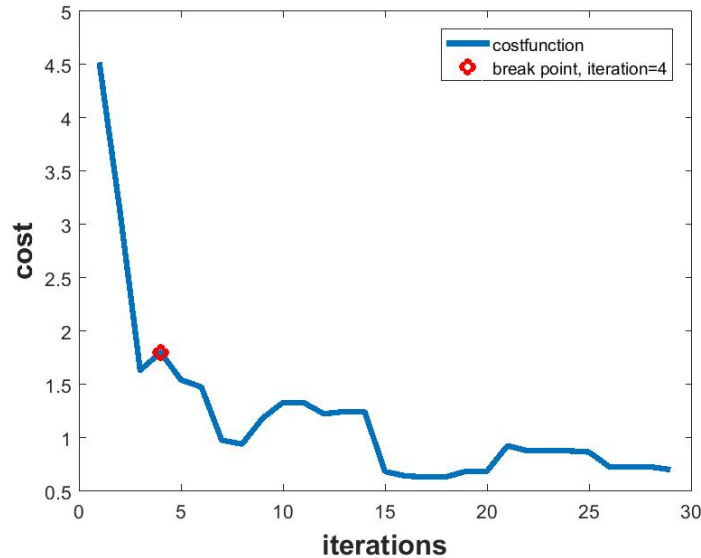
Algorithm

- 1: for $t = 1, 2, \dots$
- 2: $x_t = \operatorname{argmax}_x U(x | D_{1:t-1})$
- 3: $y_t = f(x_t)$
- 4: $D_{1:t} = \{D_{1:t-1}, (x_t, y_t)\}$
- 5: Update GP
- 6: end for

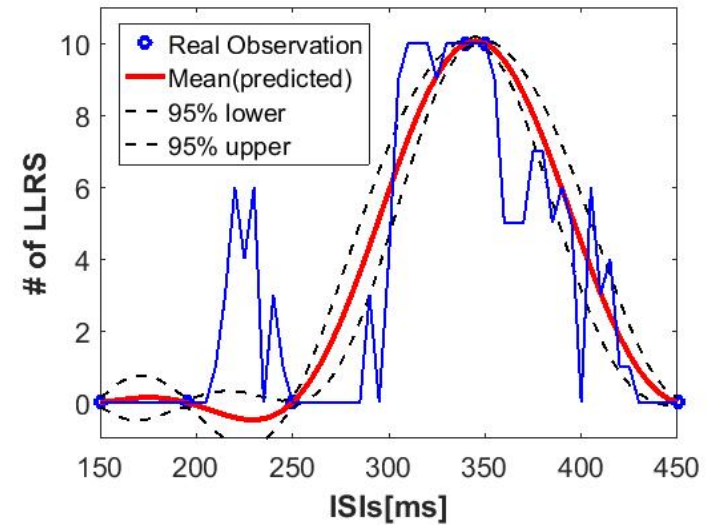
Number of LLRS with PAS



BAYESIAN ESTIMATION RESULTS



4th Iteration



- Acquisition function : Upper Confidence bound selection criterion

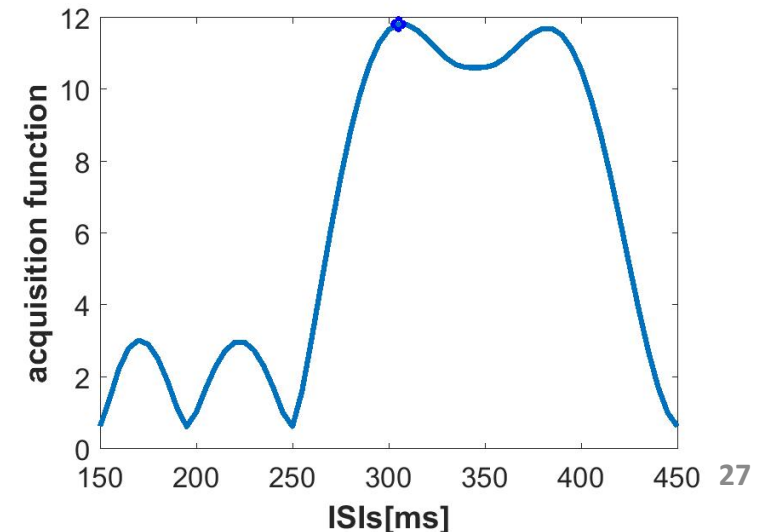
$$GP - UCB(x) = m(x) + \kappa * \sigma(x)$$

- Kernel Function : Squared exponential kernel

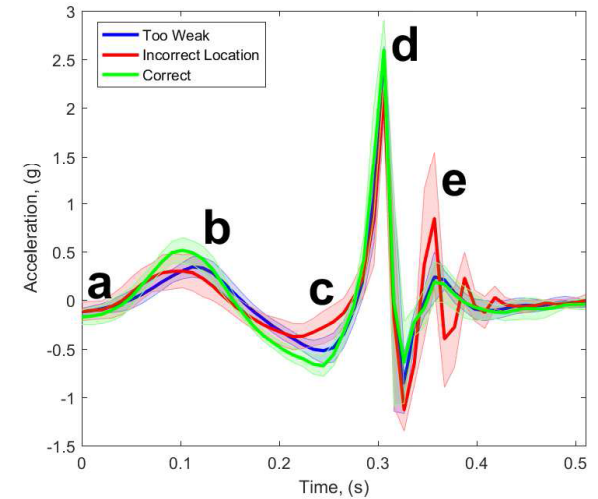
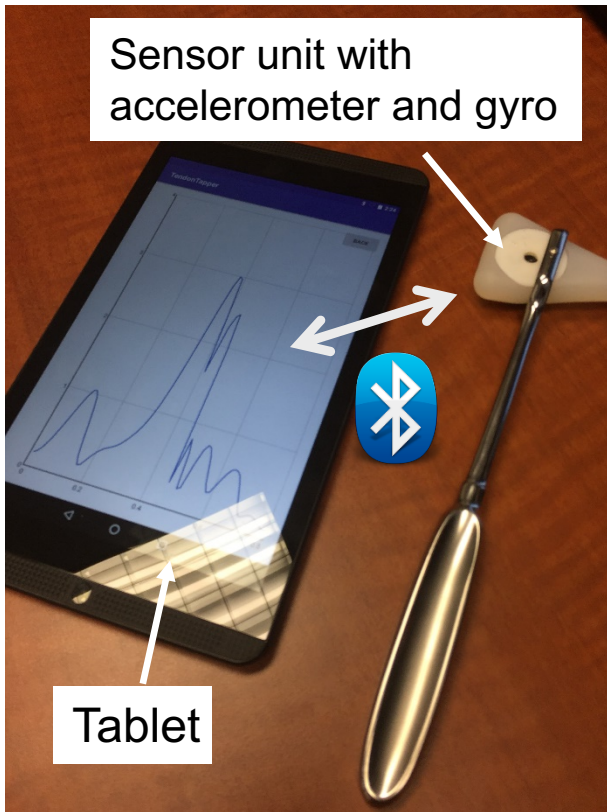
$$k(x, x') = e^{-\frac{1}{2}(x-x')^2}$$

- Cost Function

$$cost = \sum \frac{(estimated\ time\ window - true\ time\ window)^2}{200}$$



IOT MEDICAL HAMMER

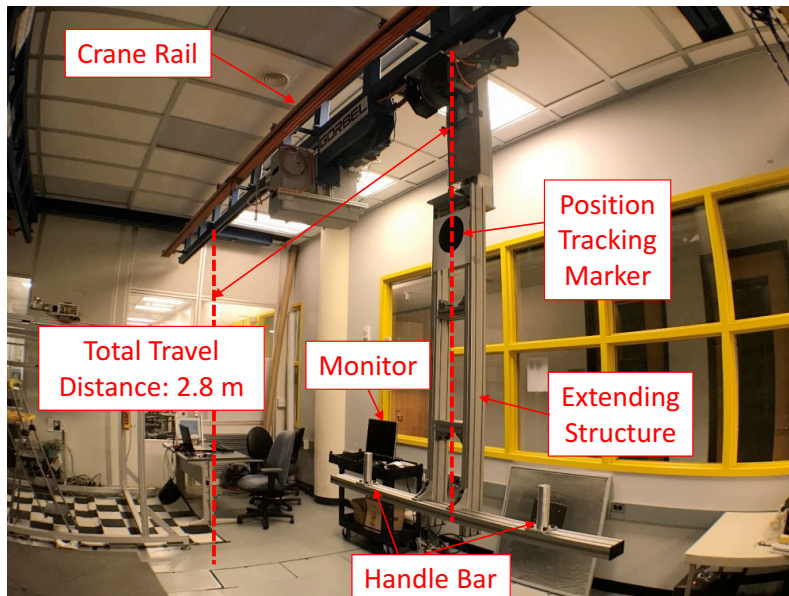


Data Scope	Correct	Correct Location	Correct, NS	Correct Location, NS
A Only	95.1%	85.4%	96.5%	90.97%
B Only	91.7%	72.9%	91.6%	73.61%
Both	86.4%	75.7%	86.11%	73.96%

- Human modes in robot-assisted assembly

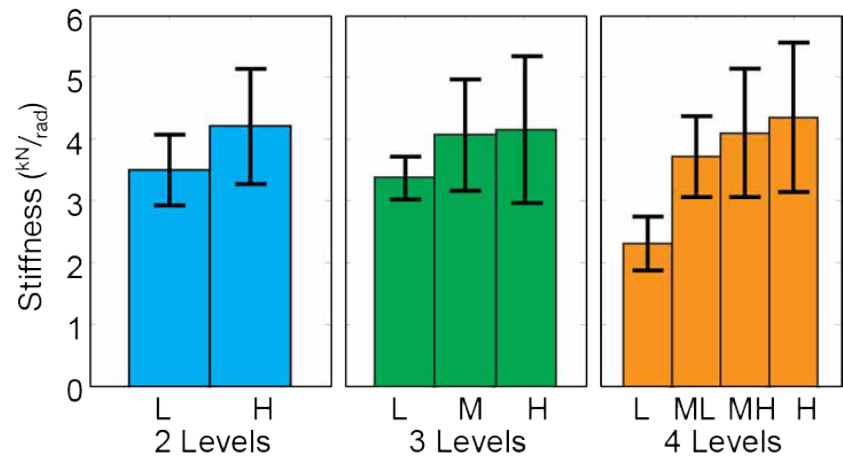
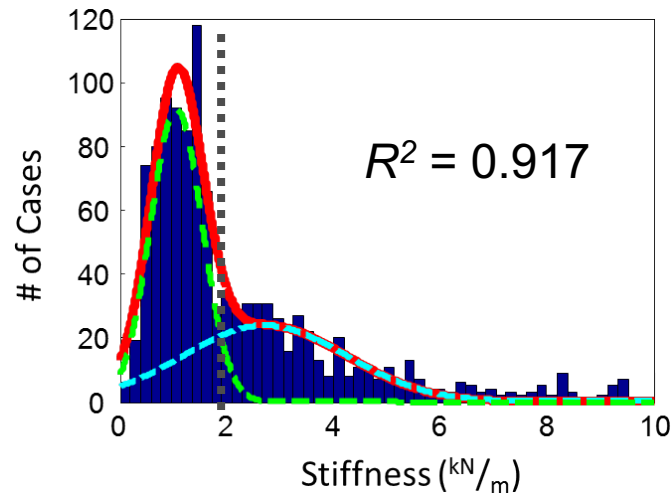
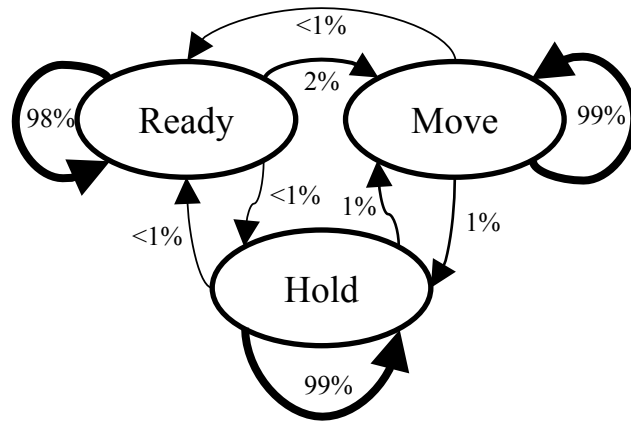


Factory GM Flint Assembly



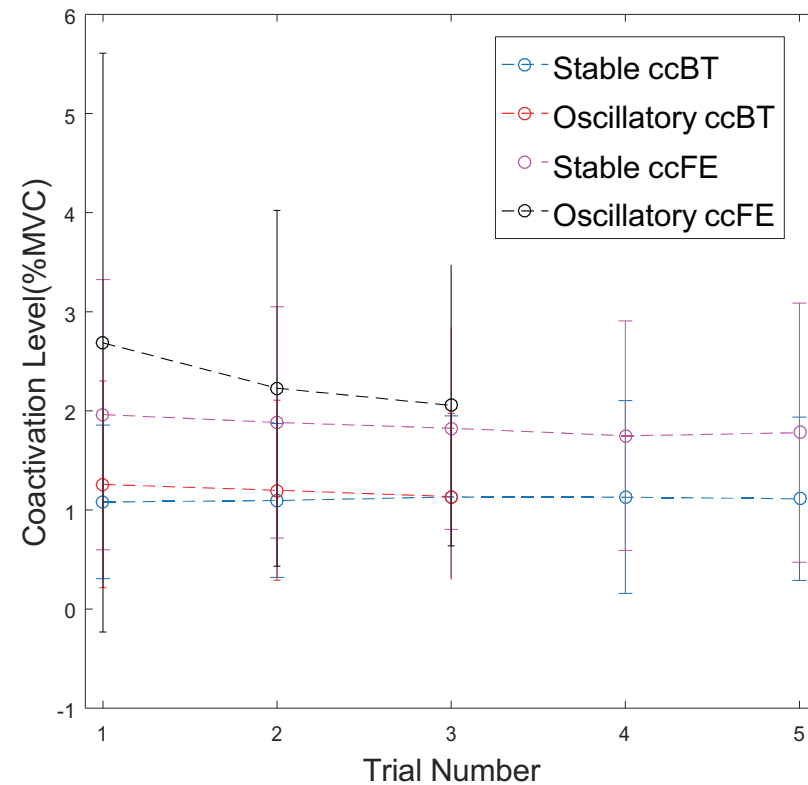
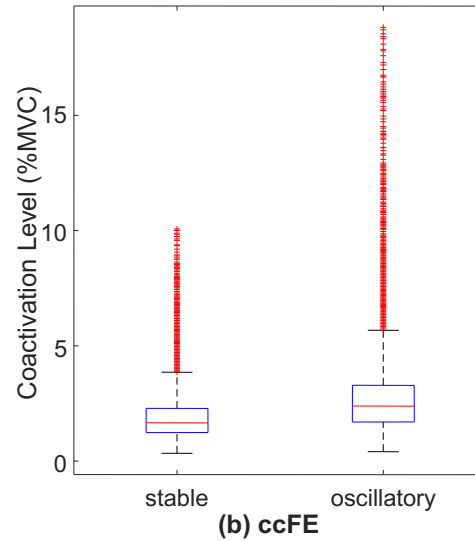
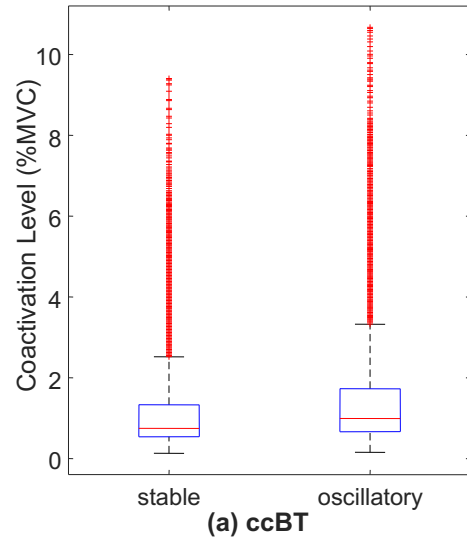
VARIABILITY IN HUMAN STIFFNESS

Muscle stiffness: stochastic parameter in the system



Muscle stiffness

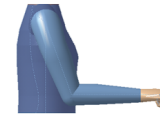
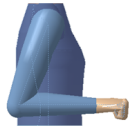
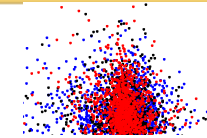
- Greater co-contraction in oscillatory environment
- Adaptation



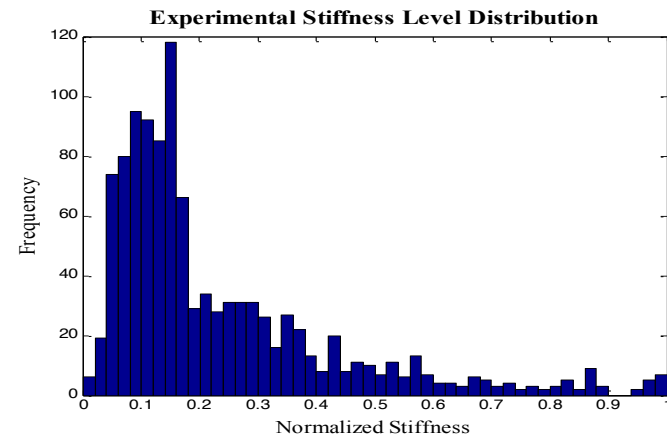
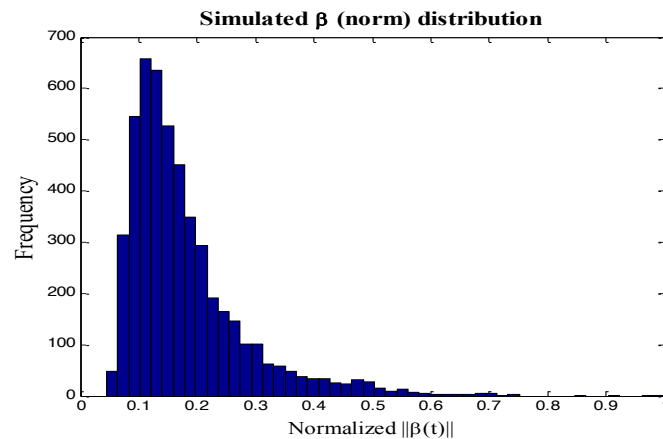
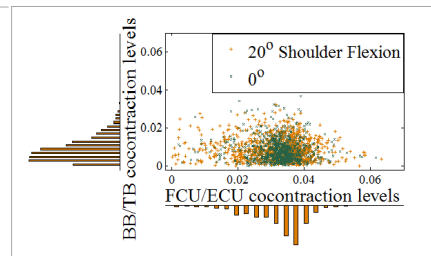
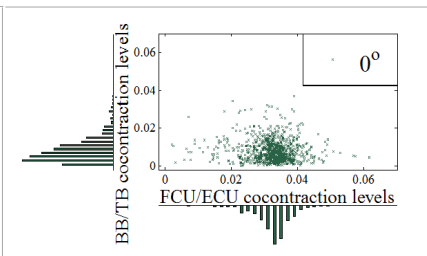
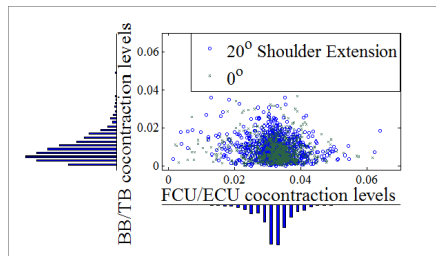
MODELING OF MUSCLE COCONTRACTION

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f}_0 + (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}^+ \mathbf{A}) \underline{\beta}$$

Cocontraction
(random variable)



Antonio Moualeu
ME, PhD

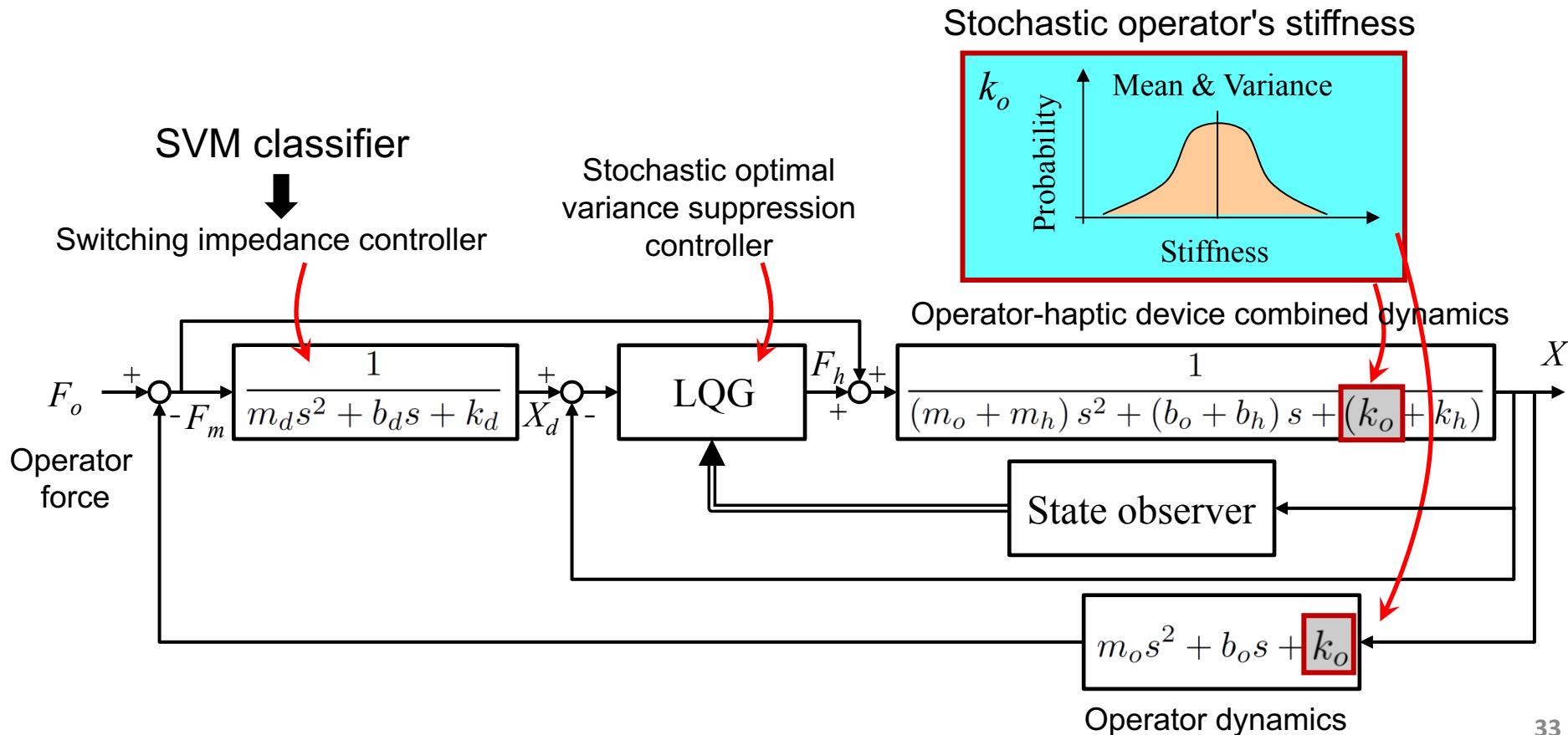


Simulation: Analysis of 5000 data points obtained from all simulations suggests that the distribution is not normal ($p < 0.001$).

Experiment: Stiffness distribution obtained from four (4) subjects.

PROPOSED STOCHASTIC CONTROLLER

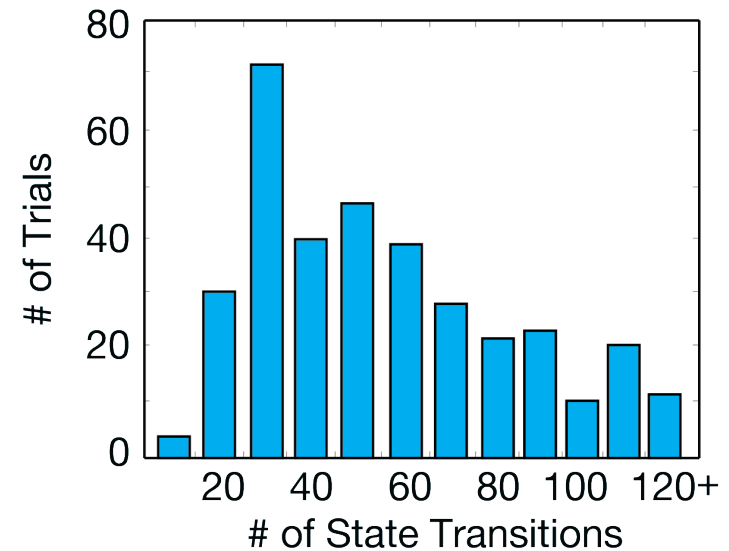
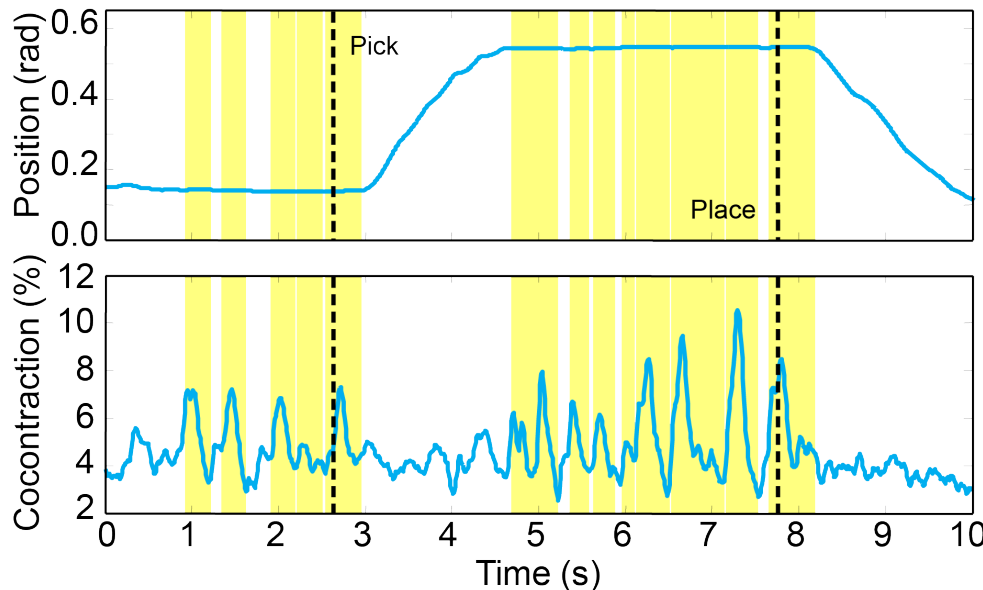
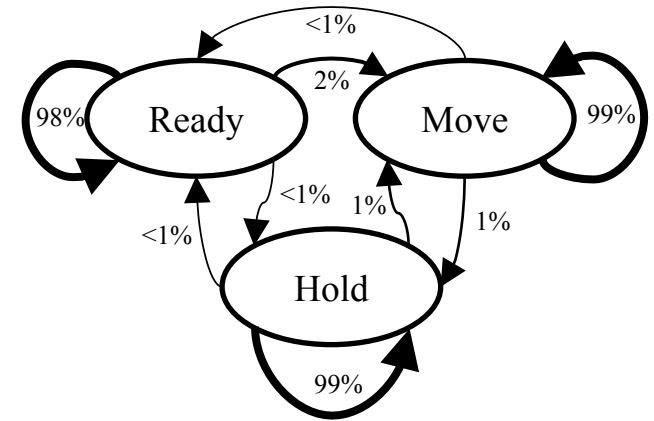
- ◆ SVM based stiffness classifier
- ◆ Switching impedance control for force assisting
- ◆ Stochastic LQR



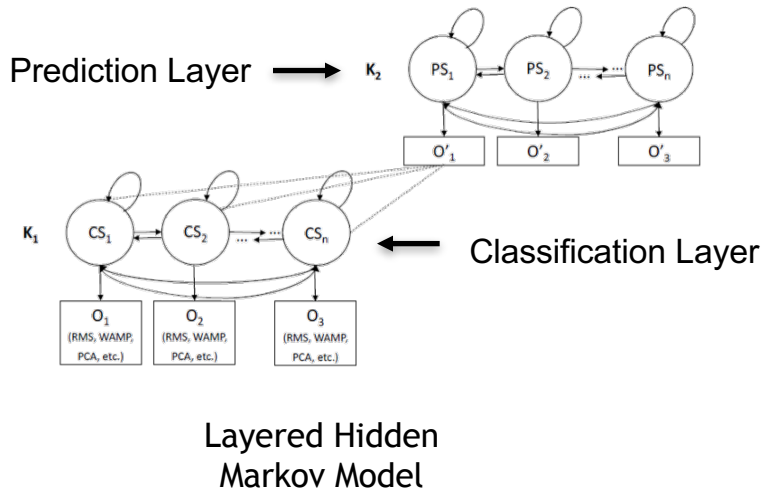
**Georgia
Tech** 

Excessive chatter between states

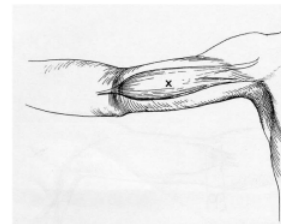
Fundamental problem of assistive robotics based on "human effort" measurement



INTENTION ESTIMATION FROM GAZE AND CO-CONTRACTION



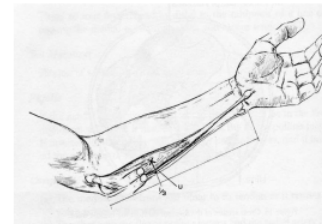
- sEMG: measurements of electrical signals from muscles
- Useful for endpoint stiffness estimation



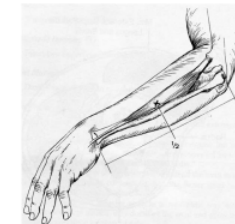
Bicep Brachii (BB) muscle



Triceps Brachii (TB) muscle



Flexor Carpi Ulnaris (FCU) muscle



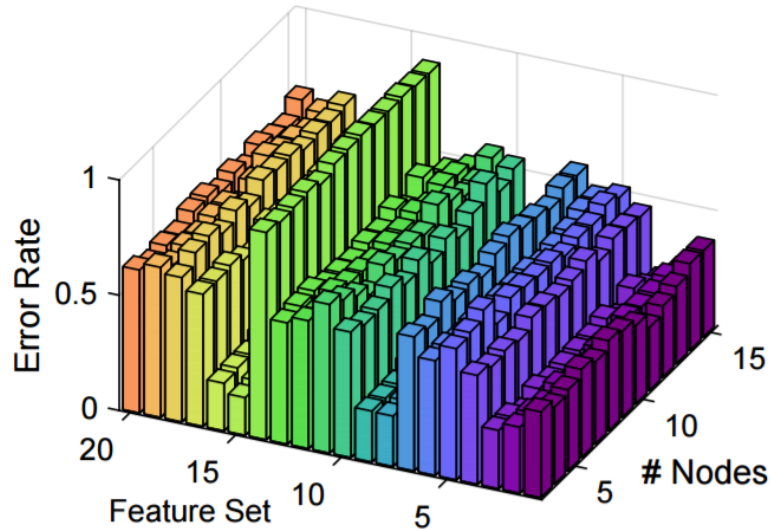
Extensor Carpi Ulnaris (ECU) muscle

Cocontraction Muscle Groups [2]

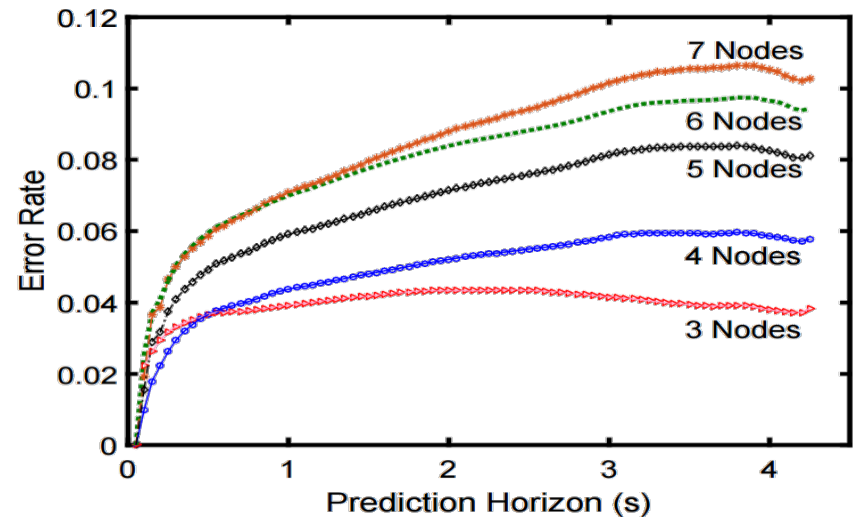
- Properties:
 - Modular
 - Quick to Train
 - Use of Markov Assumptions

- Best feature sets included 3-d.o.f. force readings and EMG data
- Worst feature sets were missing 3-d.o.f. force readings or included extra EMG features
- Minimal performance difference across number of nodes

- Prediction Layer Performance over time vs. number of nodes
- Performance Ranking switch for 3 and 4 nodes at 50 ms



Feature Set vs. Number of Nodes vs. Error Rate



Number of Nodes vs. Error Rate

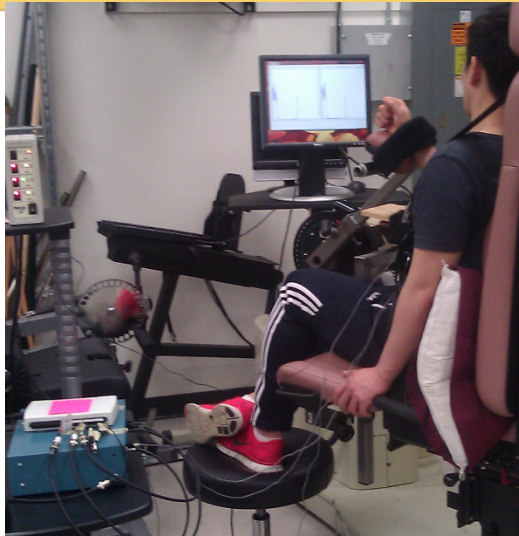
- Novel haptic device operator intent prediction algorithm
 - Better classification performance than many other algorithms

Classification Ranking for Performance of LHMM vs. Other Learning Algorithms

Rank	Method	Features	Error	Precision	Recall	F1
1	LHMM	FS #10	0.159	0.762	0.780	0.735
10	DT	E (10-PC)	0.229	0.686	0.687	0.685
11	NB	FS #13	0.242	0.681	0.654	0.659
15	QDA	FS #9	0.275	0.660	0.623	0.621
29	SVM	FS #9	0.332	0.611	0.518	0.453
39	LDA	FS #9	0.347	0.522	0.512	0.484
50	KNN	FS #23	0.363	0.532	0.536	0.532

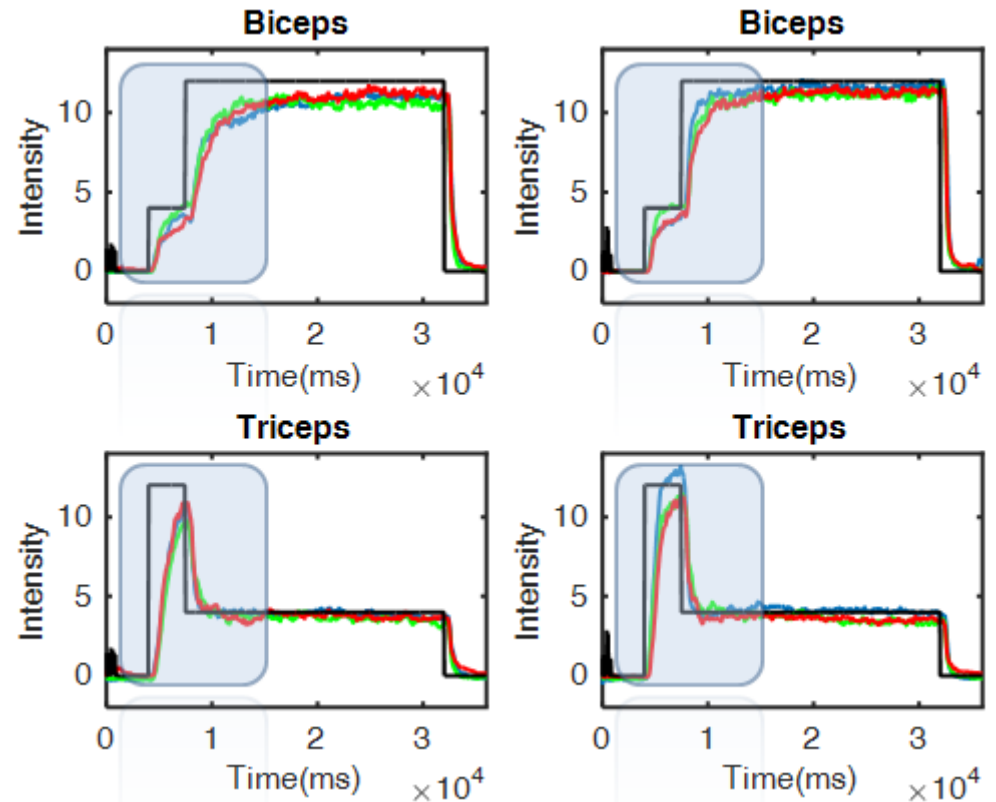
- Full system accuracy up to 82% with 50 ms window

CO-CONTRACTION TRAINING



Before

After



Co-contraction: Two muscles practice
Contraction : single muscle practice
Control: No practice



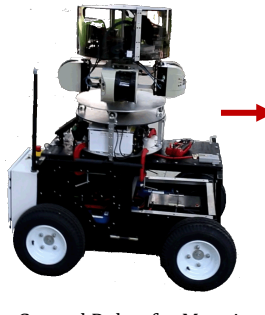
DEXTEROUS TELEOPERATION FOR DISASTER RELIEF (DOD-MOTIE)

Hybrid Site Sensing and Human-multi-robot Team Collaboration for Disaster Relief at Nuclear Power Plants



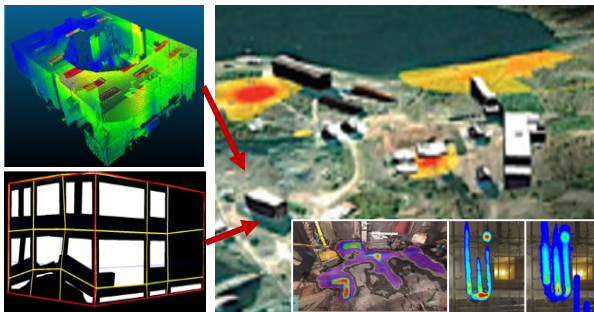
Semantically enriched as-built damaged site visualization

GT Cho



Ground Robot for Mapping Infrastructure (GroMI)

Thermal/radiation point cloud 3D Radiation intensity map

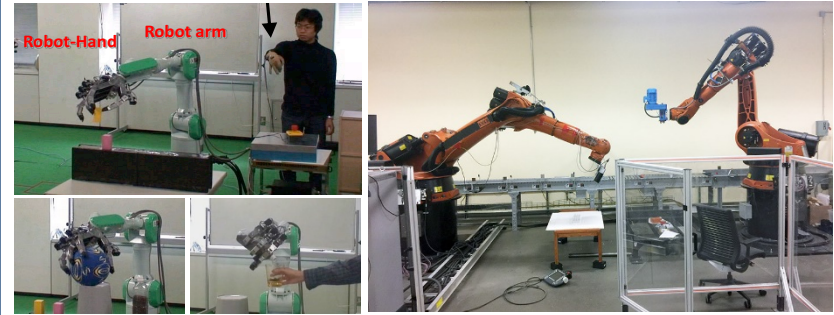


Damaged structure modeling

Radiation images

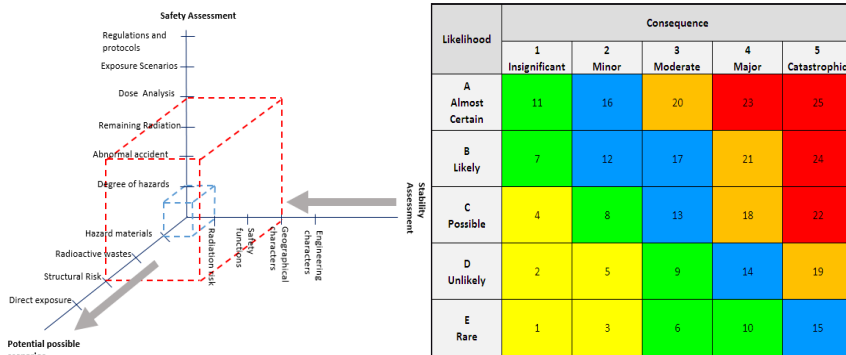
Shared-control of a multi-DOF dexterous hand-arm system with adaptive gain scheduling

GT Ueda



Dexterous hand manipulation and integrated hand-arm system

Risk assessment and response strategies



Update priority areas to focus

HYU Ahn

Assessment of the impact of the operational system with respect to task performance and cognitive burden



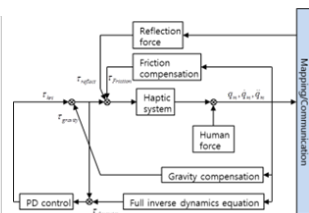
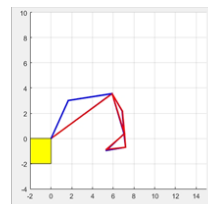
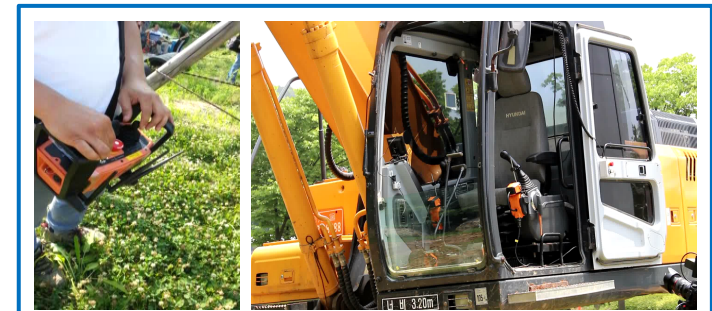
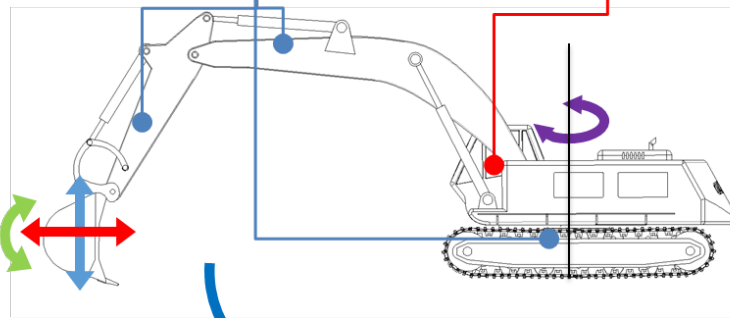
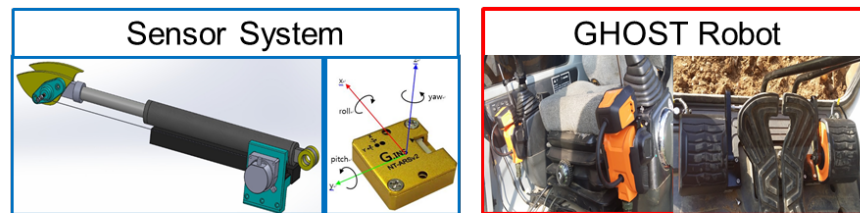
Remotely controlling multiple unmanned excavator robots

HYU Han 41

UNMANNED EXCAVATOR

Unmanned Relief/Restoration Robot using Promptly Renovated Excavator

- Retrofit unmanned tele-operation robot into commercial excavator
- Control strategy for the unmanned relief/restoration robot

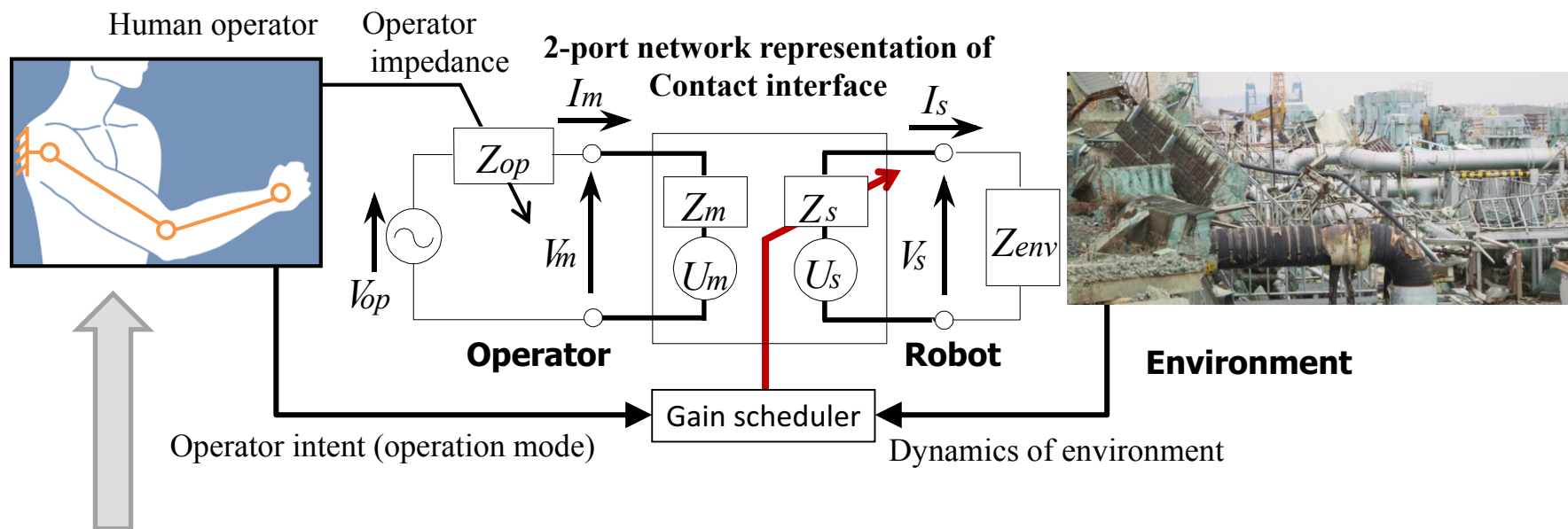


Configuration of unmanned relief/restoration robot

Installation type robotic manipulator for the unmanned excavator

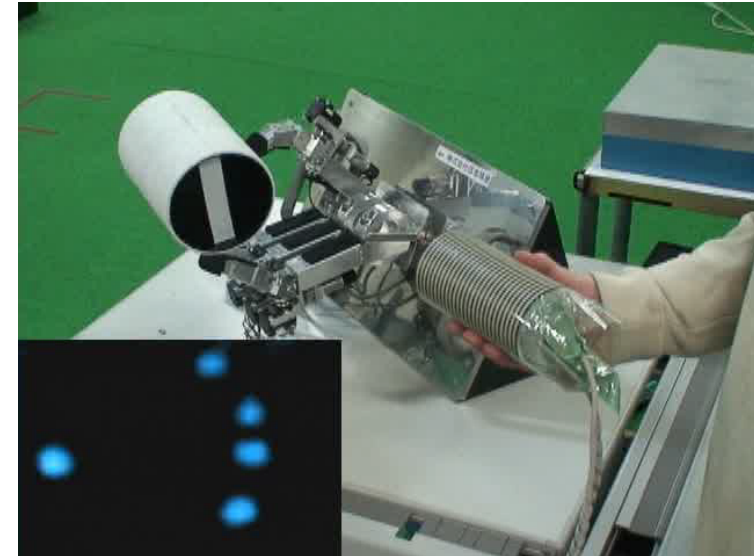
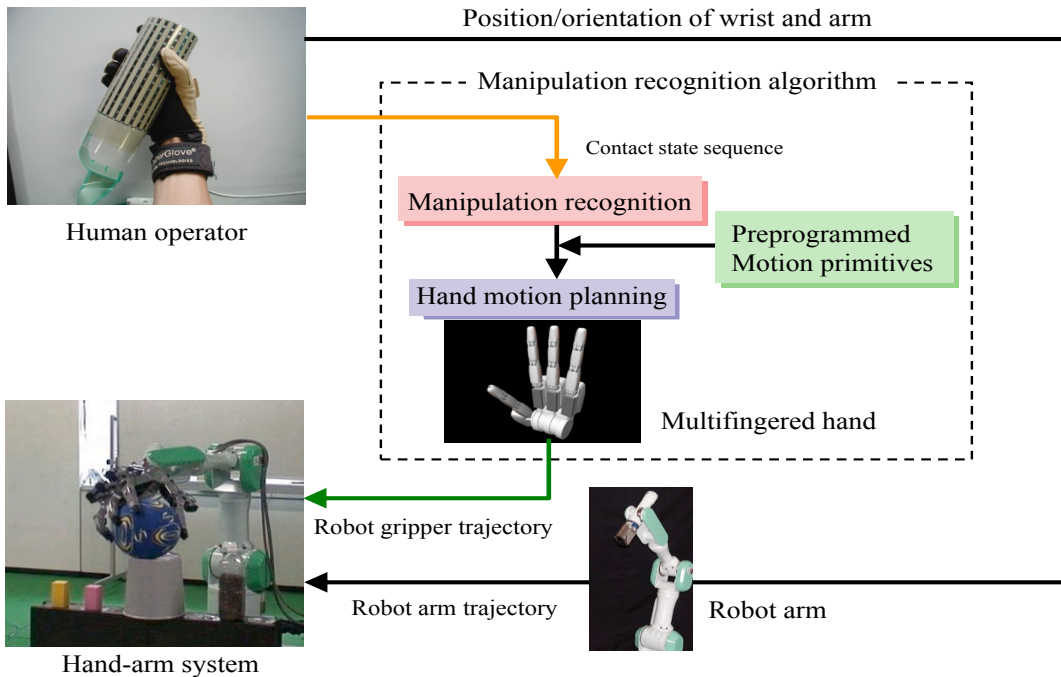
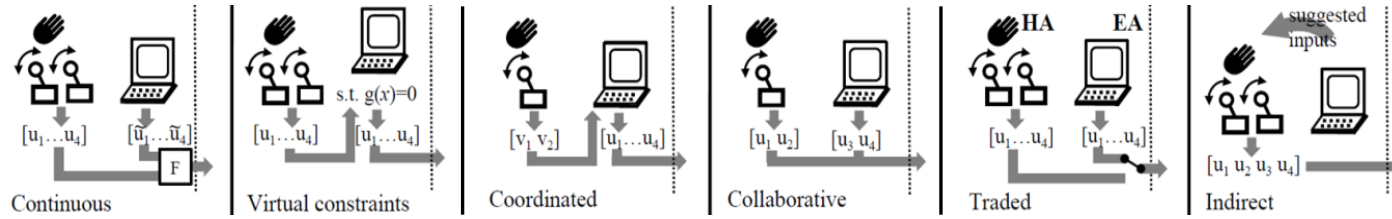
ADAPTIVE GAIN SCHEDULING FOR ROBUST TELE-OPERATION (UEDA-GT)

To utilize the dynamics of the environment and intent of the operator, to adjust the controller gains and maintain appropriate, stability margins, to balance the performance and stability.



Operator as a stochastic system (muscle contraction, cognitive mode...)

SHARED CONTROL FOR SCALED HAND-ARM TELE-OPERATION



JETPACK

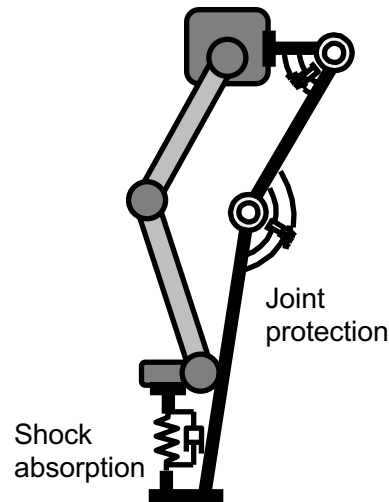


Georgia Research Tech Institute

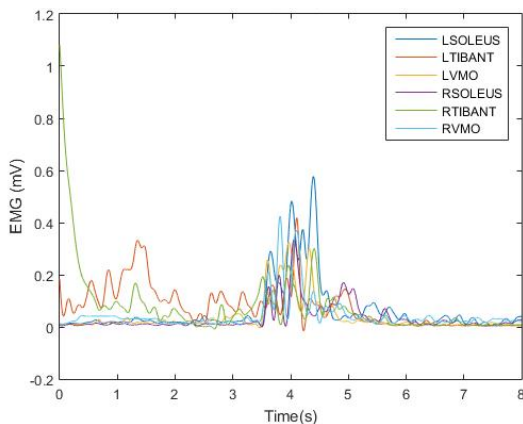
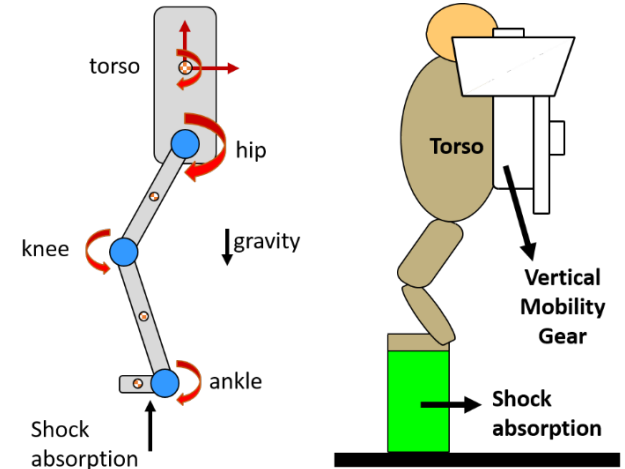
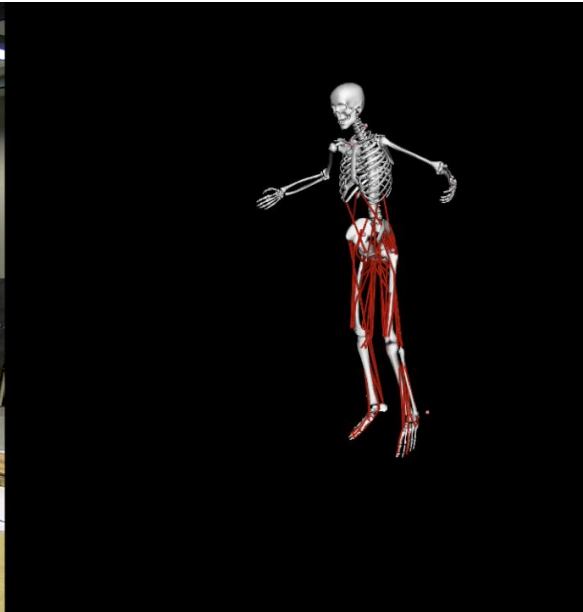
Problem. Solved.



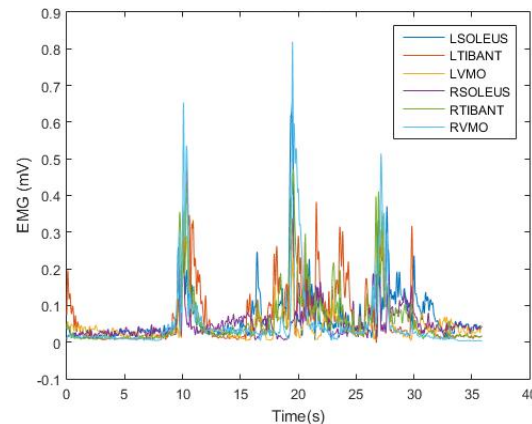
Michael Mayo, GTRI @ Jetpack Aviation



BODY PROTECTIVE EXOSKELETON

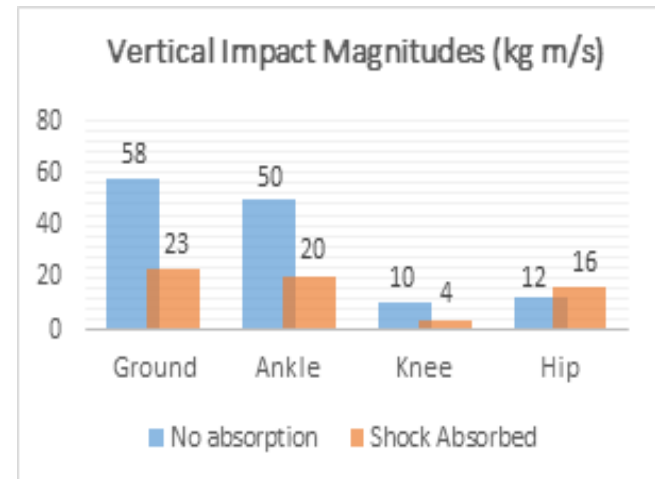


With exoskeleton



Without exoskeleton

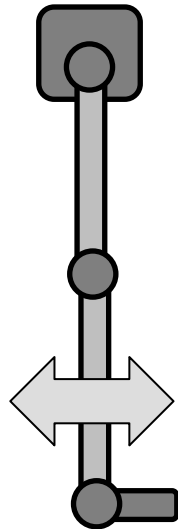
Muscle activity (EMG) measurement



Dynamic falling simulation

How to protect lower limb

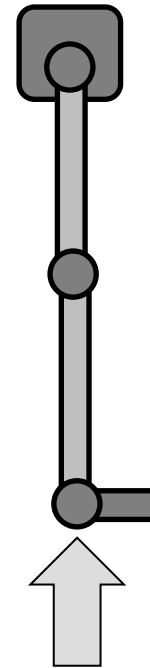
Muscle and tendon injuries



Excessive joint movements

Admissible motion space

Bone and cartilage injuries



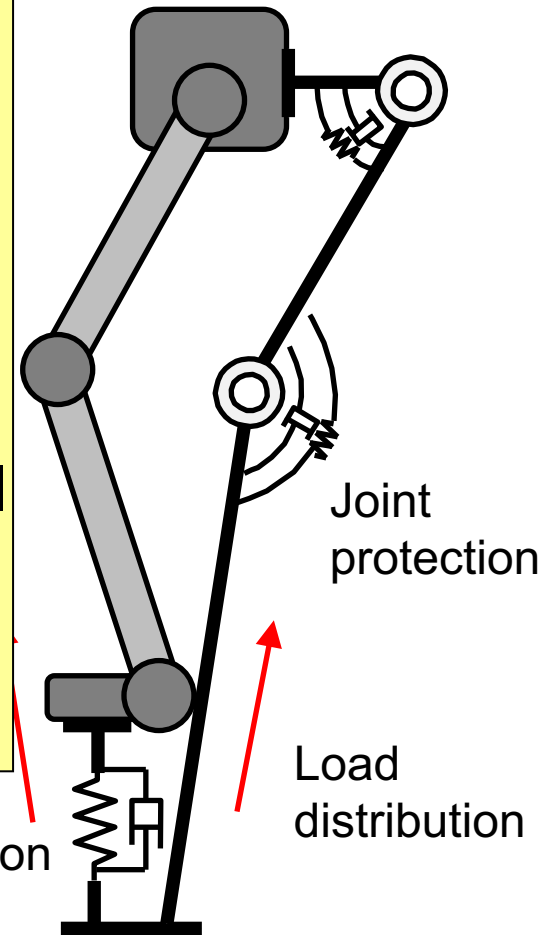
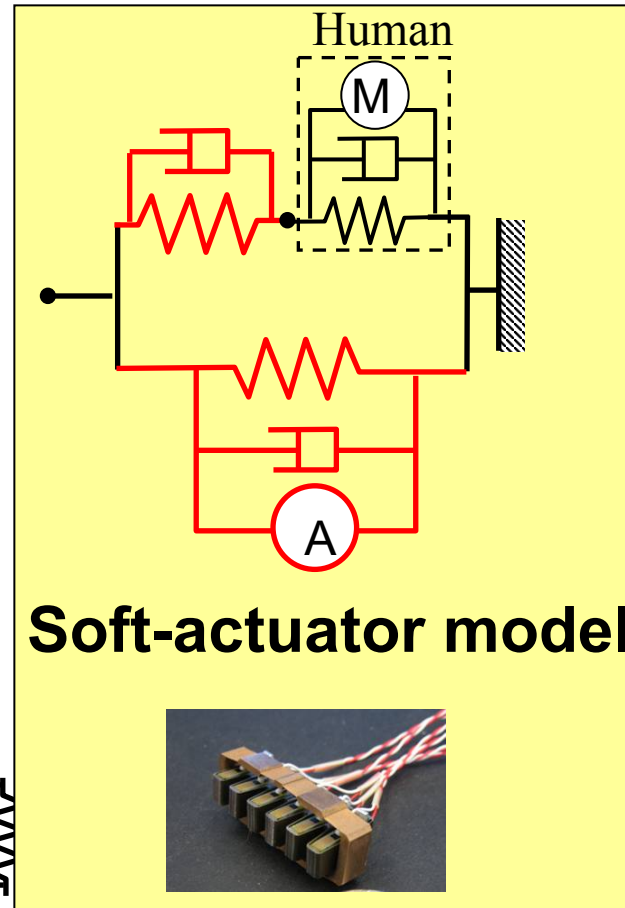
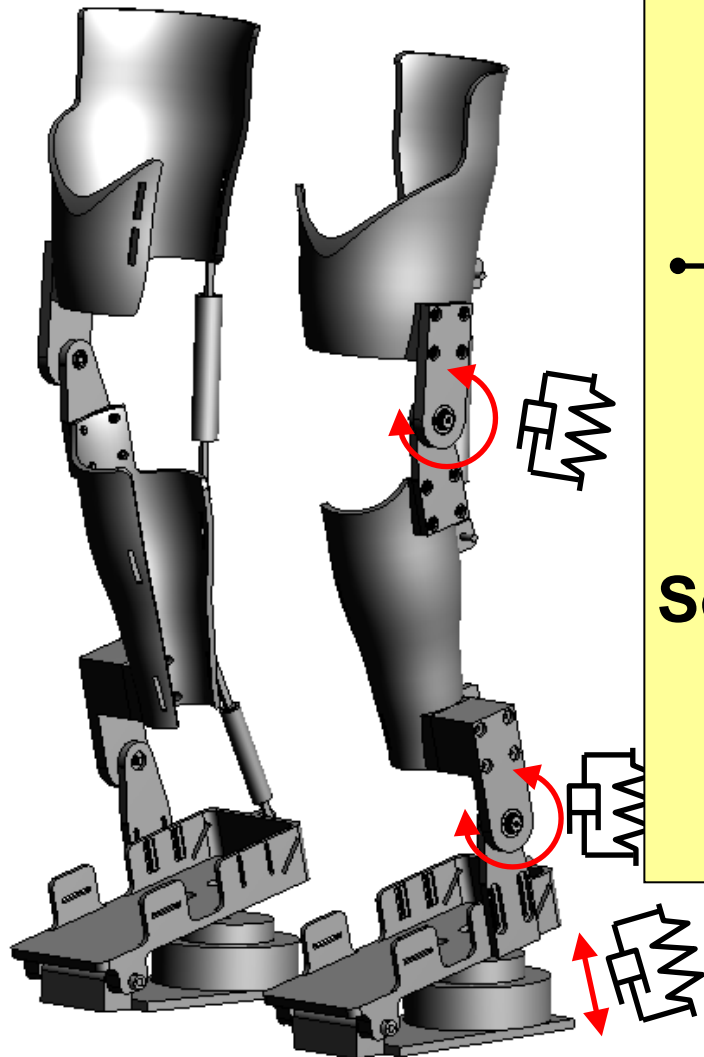
Excessive pressure to bone/cartilage

Constrained motion space

“orthogonal” to each other

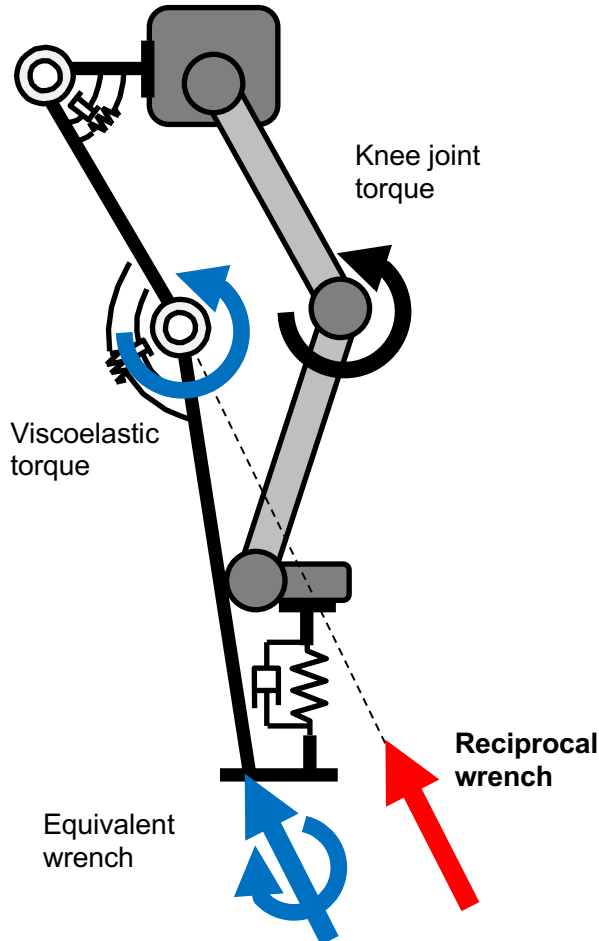


Series and parallel connection of mechanical shock absorbers



Shock absorption

Reciprocal screw theory



Condition 1: Protection of bones and joints: External shock forces must be in the constrained motion space of the exoskeleton structure (i.e., reciprocal wrenches) and must be in the admissible motion space of the human skeleton (i.e., non-reciprocal wrenches), ideally orthogonal to each other

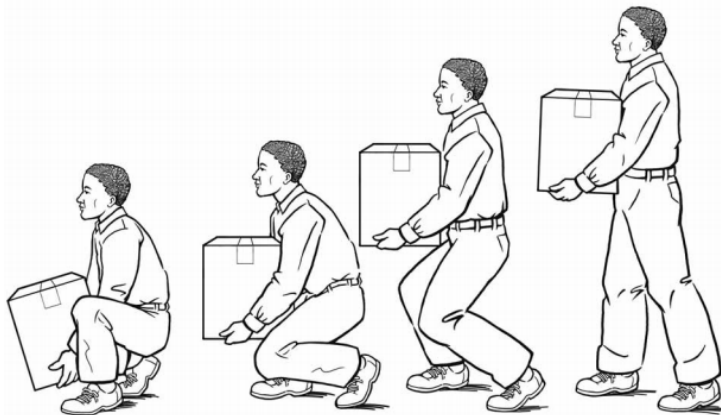
Condition 2: Protection of muscles: Equivalent joint efforts of external shock forces and viscoelastic forces from shock absorption elements must be non-orthogonal in the joint space, ideally parallel to each other

Condition 3: Impact and shock reduction to the entire system: External shock forces and equivalent viscoelastic forces from shock absorption elements must be non-orthogonal in the task space.

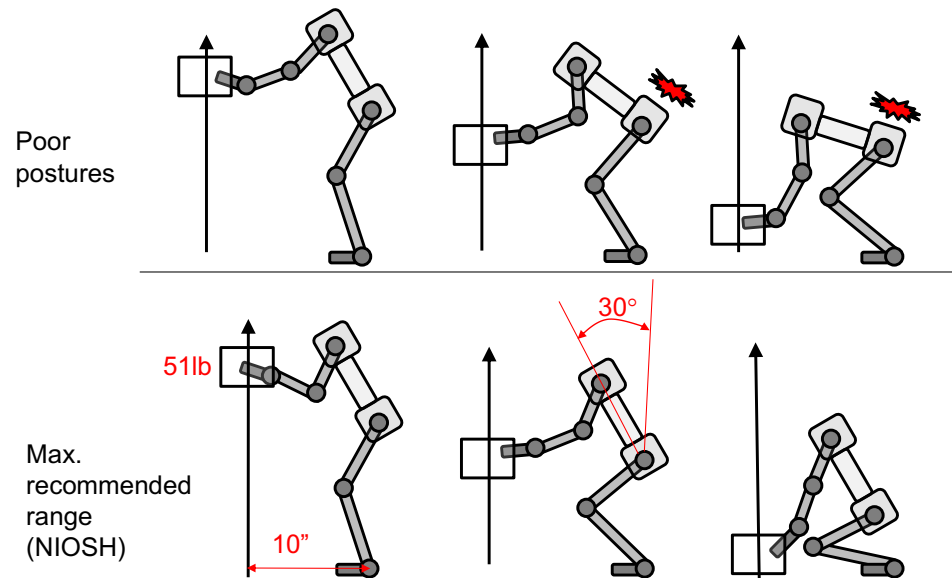
Condition 4: Force augmentation: Equivalent wrenches of muscle forces and robot actuation efforts must be non-orthogonal to each other in the task space, ideally parallel to each other, and must not be in the constrained motion space of either of the systems.

WEARABLE ROBOT FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKER SAFETY

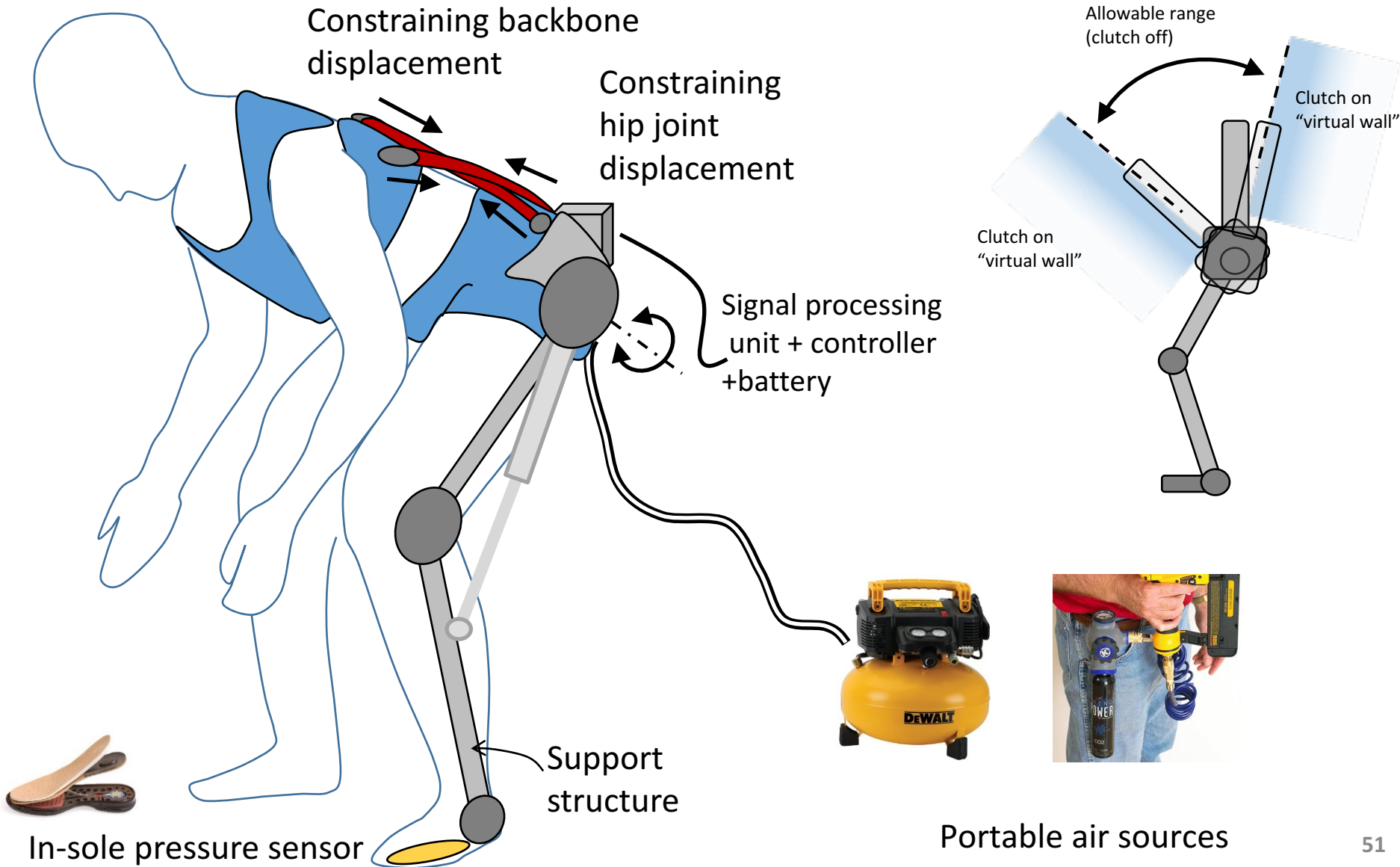
- **Goal:** Assisting masonry workers to enhance the safety through the integration of automated activity & posture analysis and exoskeleton technology.
- **Specific Objectives:** To develop a smart robotic exoskeleton which provides workers:
 - 1) **Physical constraints** to decrease the risk of back injuries
 - 2) **Strength assistance** as long as the posture is in the safe range.



Best Practice by NIOSH



PROPOSED PNEUMATIC EXOSKELETON SYSTEM





Portable air sources


https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2016/03/04/exoskeletons/

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Wearable Exoskeletons to Reduce Physical Load at Work

Posted on March 4, 2016 by [Brian D. Lowe, PhD, CPE](#); [Robert B. Dick, PhD, Captain USPHS \(Ret.\)](#); [Stephen Hudock, PhD, CSP](#); and [Thomas Bobick, PhD, CSP, CPE](#)



Photo courtesy of SuitX, US Bionics, Inc.

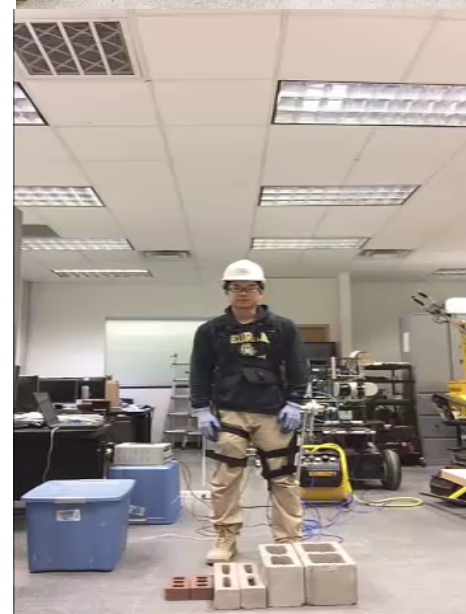
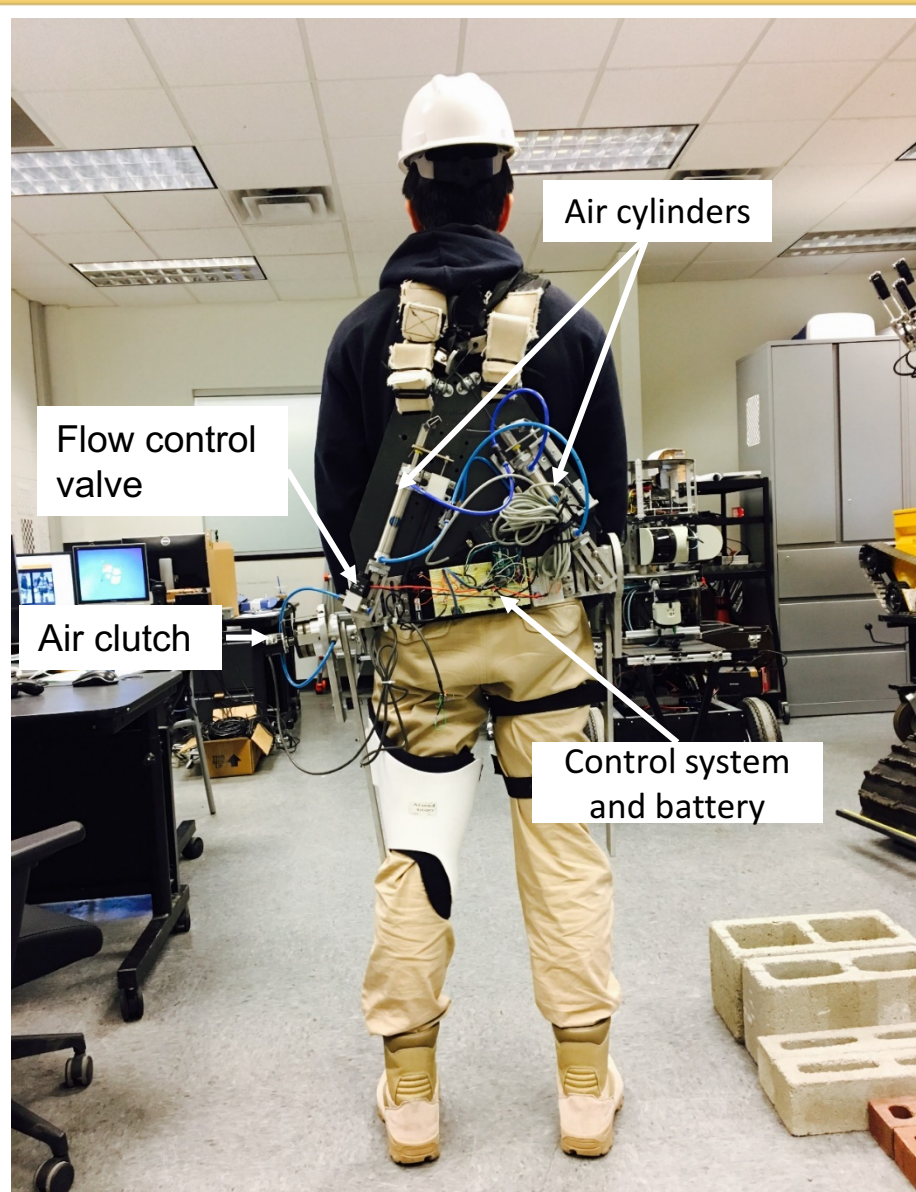
Robotic-like suits which provide powered assist and increase human strength may conjure thoughts of sci-fi and superhero film genres. But these wearable exoskeleton devices are now a reality and the market for their applications in the workplace is projected to increase significantly in the next five years. As with any technologic innovation some of the pros and cons and barriers to adoption are not completely understood. In this blog our objectives are to: (1) describe wearable exoskeletons in the context of workplace safety and health control strategies; (2) highlight current and projected trends related to industrial applications of these technologies; and (3) invite input from our stakeholders on workplace health and safety experiences, positive or negative, with these devices.

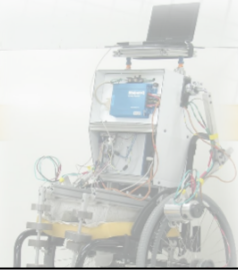
The **wearable exoskeleton** was defined by de Looze et al. (2015) as "...a wearable, external mechanical structure that enhances the power of a person. Exoskeletons can be classified as 'active' or 'passive'. An active exoskeleton comprises one or more actuators that augments the human's power and helps in actuating the human joints....A strictly passive system does not use any type of actuator, but rather uses materials, springs or dampers with the ability to store energy harvested by human motion and to use this as required to support a posture or a motion." Passive systems require no external power and use springs, elastic cords, or other resilient elements to provide either a restoring moment that

risks before widespread workplace adoption. Some questions to address include, but are not limited to:

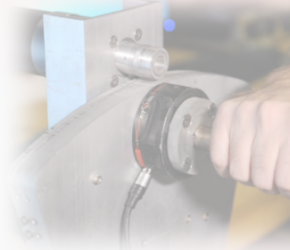
- Do some devices create a transference of load between musculoskeletal regions that still puts the worker at risk? For example, a vest or hip-supported device may transfer load off the arms and shoulders, but the increase in total load transferred to the spine and lower extremities may also have long term effects.
- Does the added weight of some devices increase energy expenditure/metabolic work load? Do some devices affect user comfort?
- Do some devices affect the balance of the wearer by changing their center of mass or increasing rate of fatigue in the lower extremity muscles? As reported by de Looze et al. (2015) increases in leg muscle activity have been reported for some devices (e.g. Barret and Fathallah, 2001; Ulrey and Fathallah, 2013); this may occur because the "external forces applied by the [exoskeleton] equipment needs to be counteracted to retain balance...". Can this increase in leg muscle activity contribute to lower extremity fatigue and increased risk for loss of balance? Correspondingly, are fall risks increased because of this possible leg fatigue and loss of balance?

EXOSKELETON FOR CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

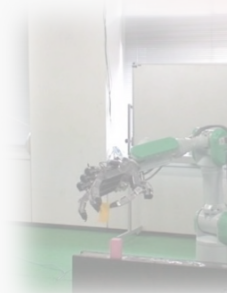




Exoskeleton



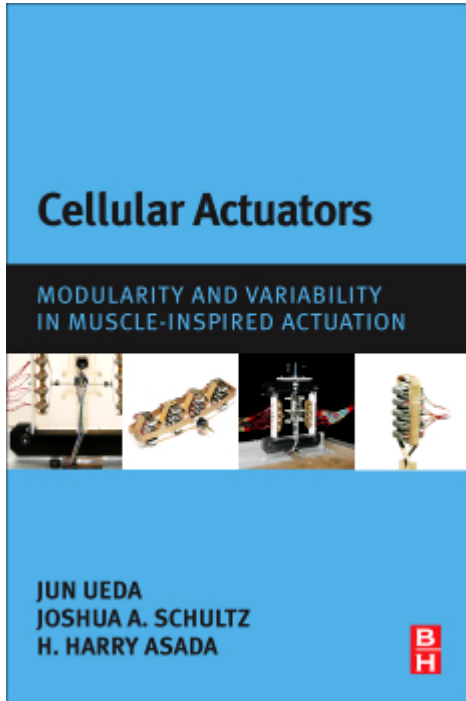
Force-assisting sy



Teleoperation



Ueda & Kurita
Sep 2016
Academic Press



Ueda, Schulz, Asada
January 2017
Butterworth-Heinemann

Robo
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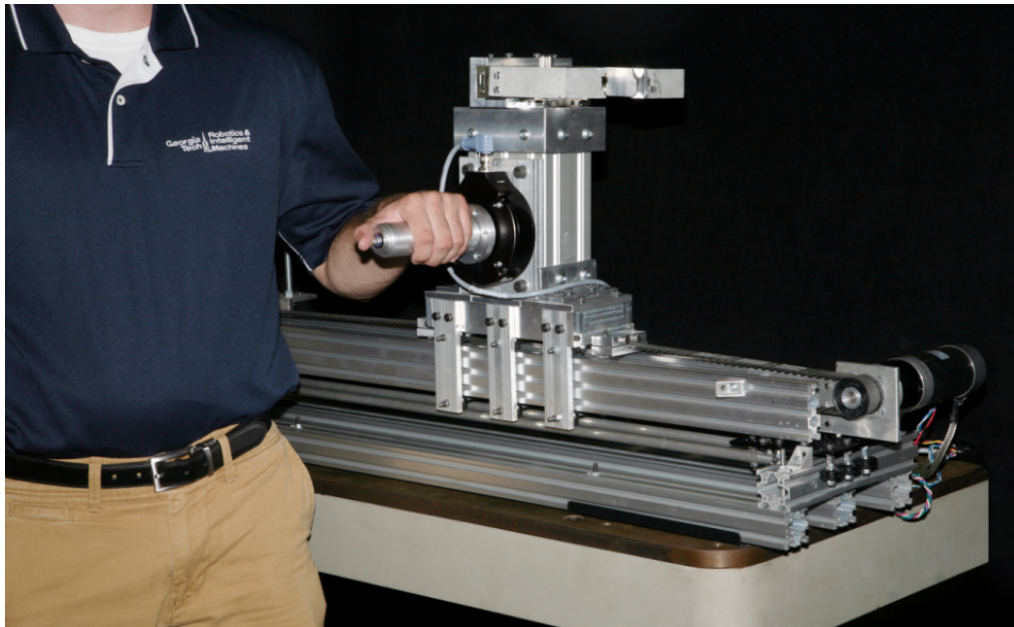
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QUESTIONS?



CENTER FOR COMPACT AND EFFICIENT FLUID POWER

A National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center



Collaborators

Dr. Robert Webster, Vanderbilt
Dr. Yuichi Kurita, Hiroshima U.
Dr. Kawahira, Kagoshima U
Dr. Dalong Gao, GM
Dr. Karen Feigh, GT AE
Dr. Minoru Shinohara, GT AP
Dr. Yong Cho, GT CE
Dr. Shinichi Izumi, Tohoku University

Graduate students and Alumni

Joshua Schultz, Assistant Professor, U. Tulsa
David MacNair, Academic Professional, GT
Billy Gallagher, NASA Goddard Center
Melih Turkseven, Postdoc, RPI
Michael Kim, Sandia National Labs.
Tim McPherson, Mathworks
Greg Henderson, US Army
Lauren Lacey, Sandia National Labs.
Efrain Teran, Assistant Professor, ESPL, Ecuador
Ellenor Brown, AP
Antonio Moualeu, ME
Rohan Katoch, Robotics
Ilya Kovalenko, ME
Euisun Kim, ME
Waiman Meinhold, Robotics