

6x 3x

Driving a Screw

Open-Loop Controller

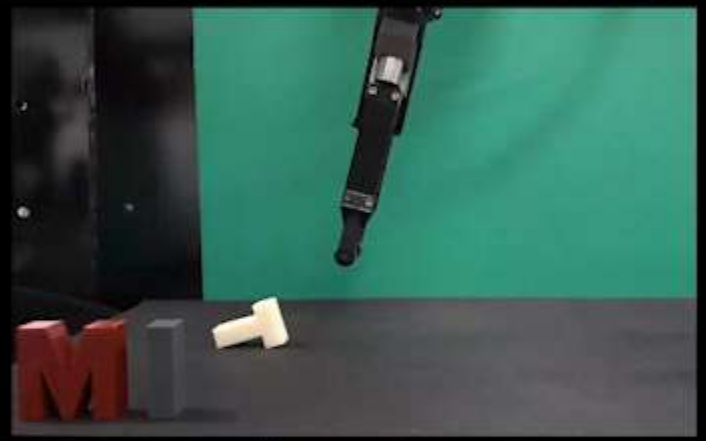
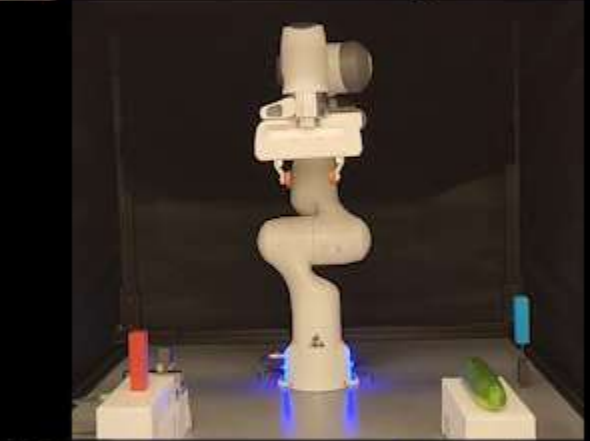
3x

Cutting with a Knife



3x

Hammer Pulling



20x



Tightening a Bolt



Leveraging Mechanics for Multi-Step Robotic Manipulation Planning

Rachel Holladay

Doctoral Defense
16 August 2024



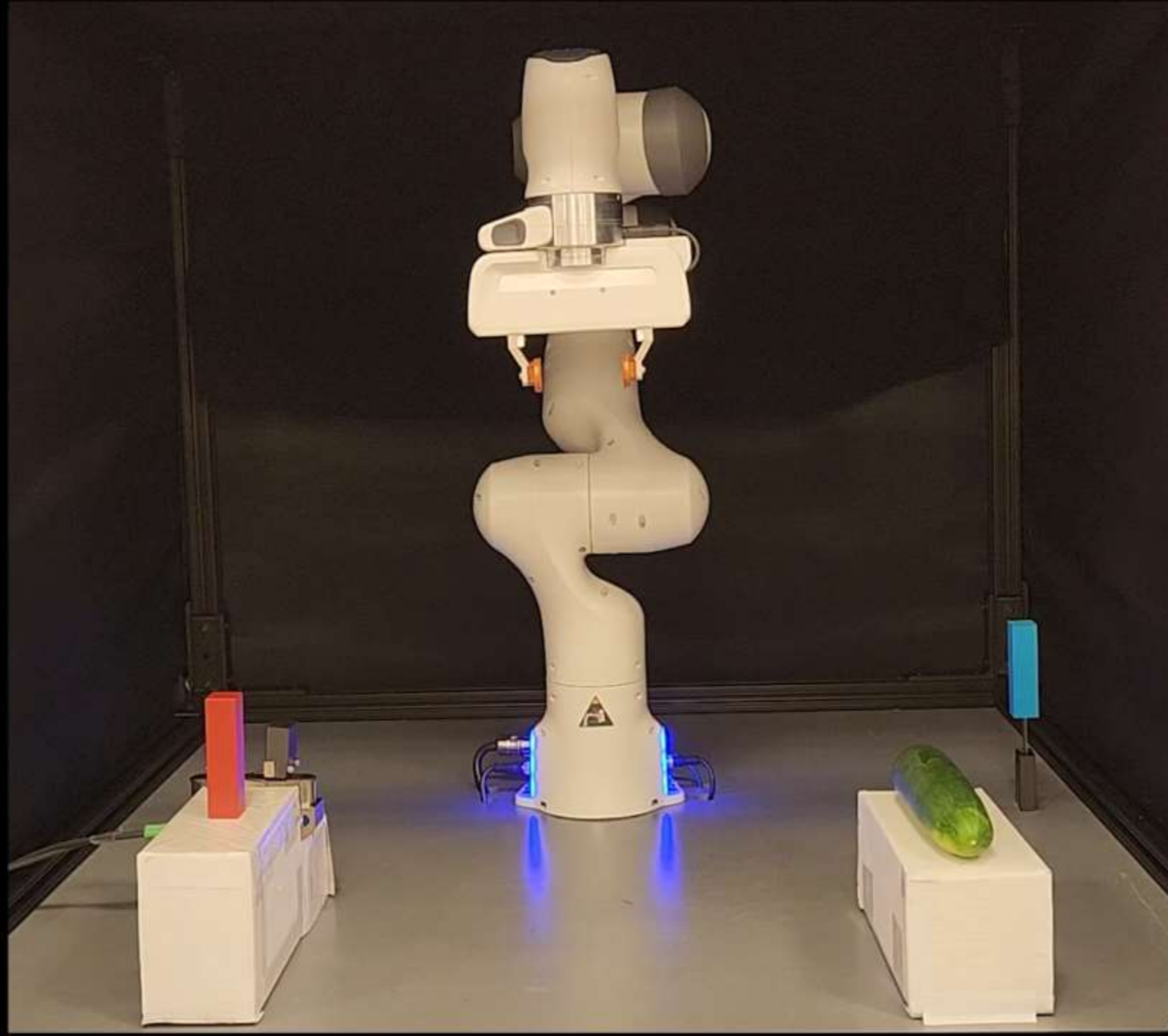


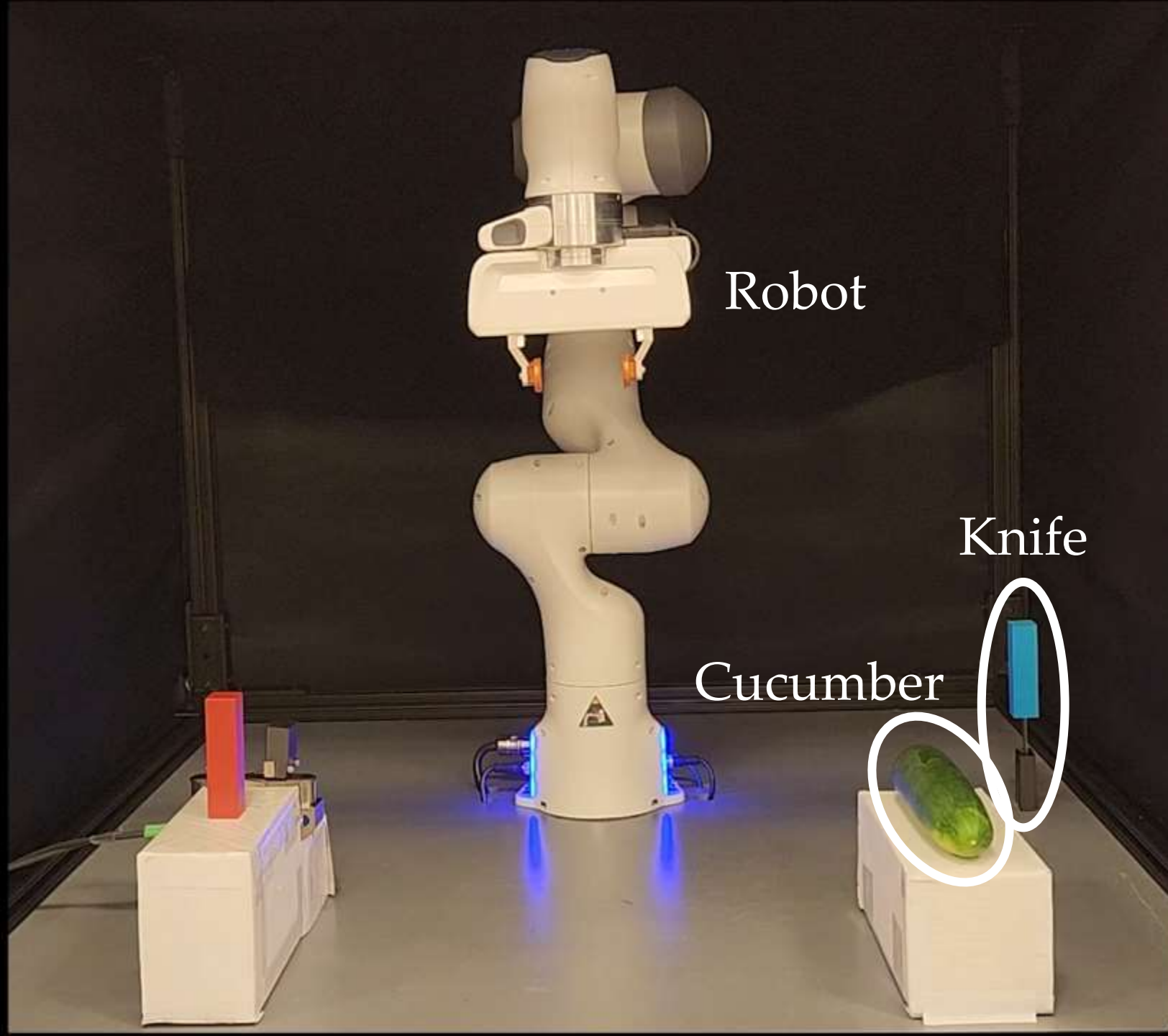




- **chop vegetables**
- saute vegetables
- make sauce sauce
- mix vegetables and sauce





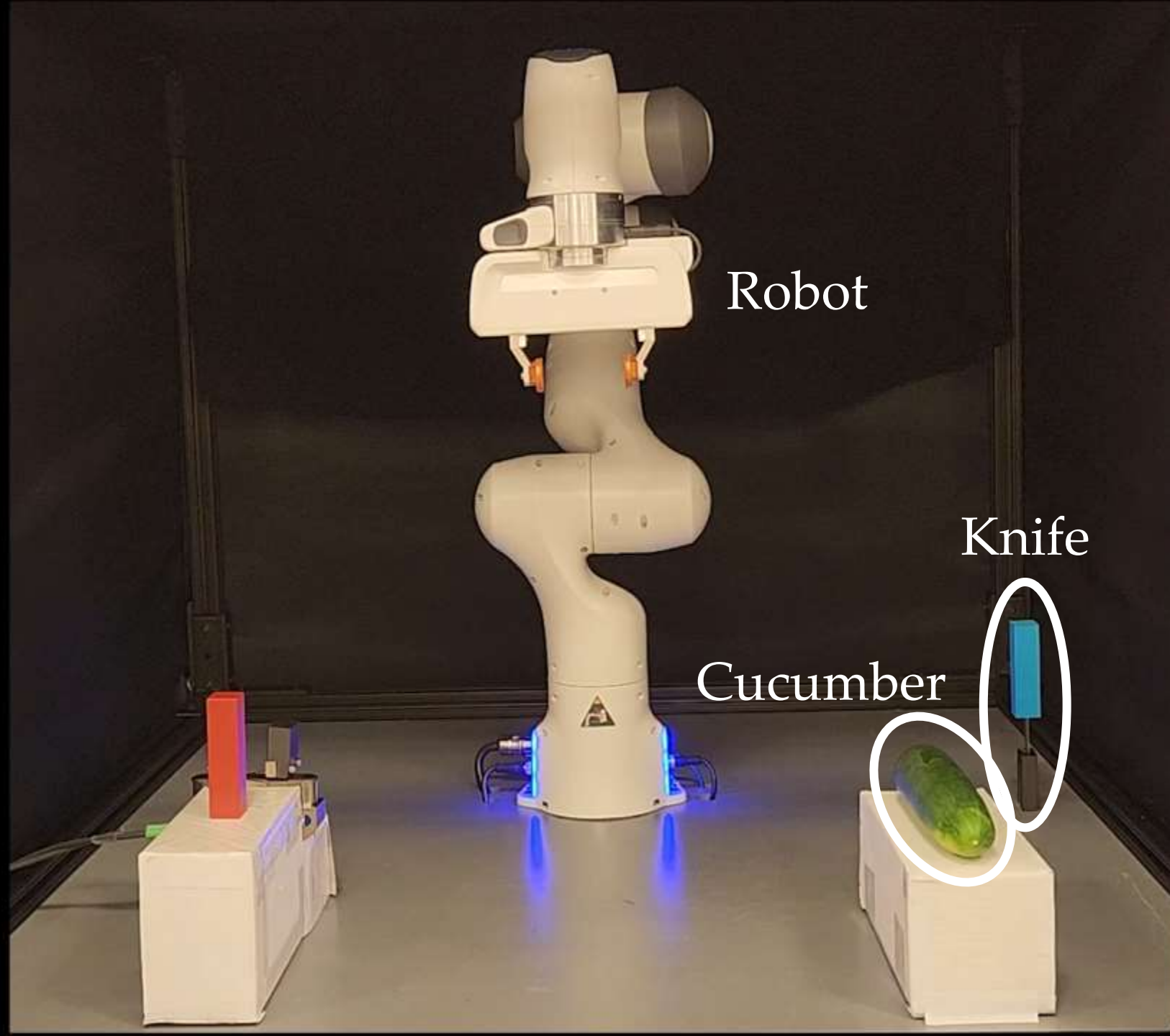


Robot

Knife

Cucumber

How to cut the cucumber?



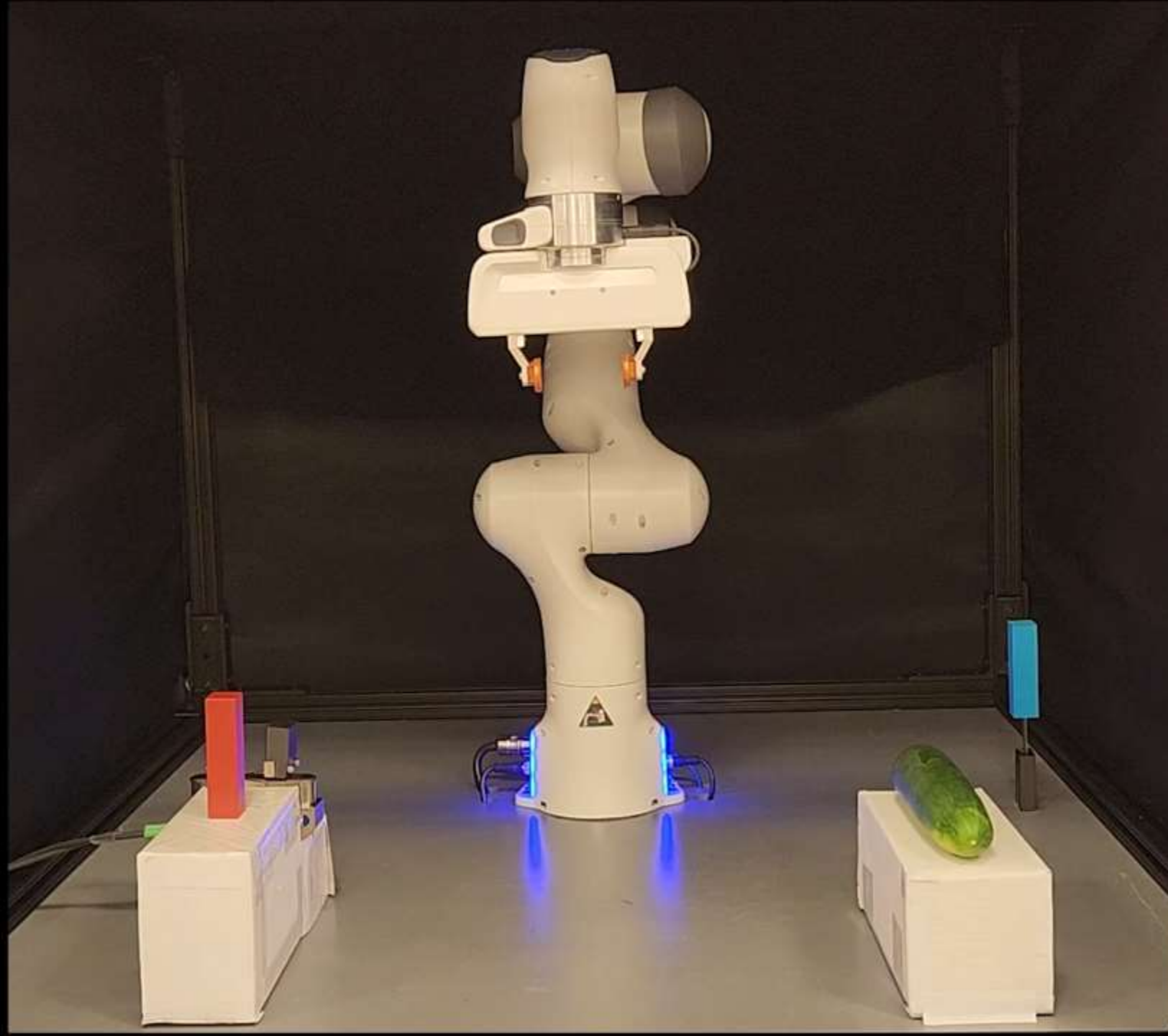
Robot

Knife

Cucumber

How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence



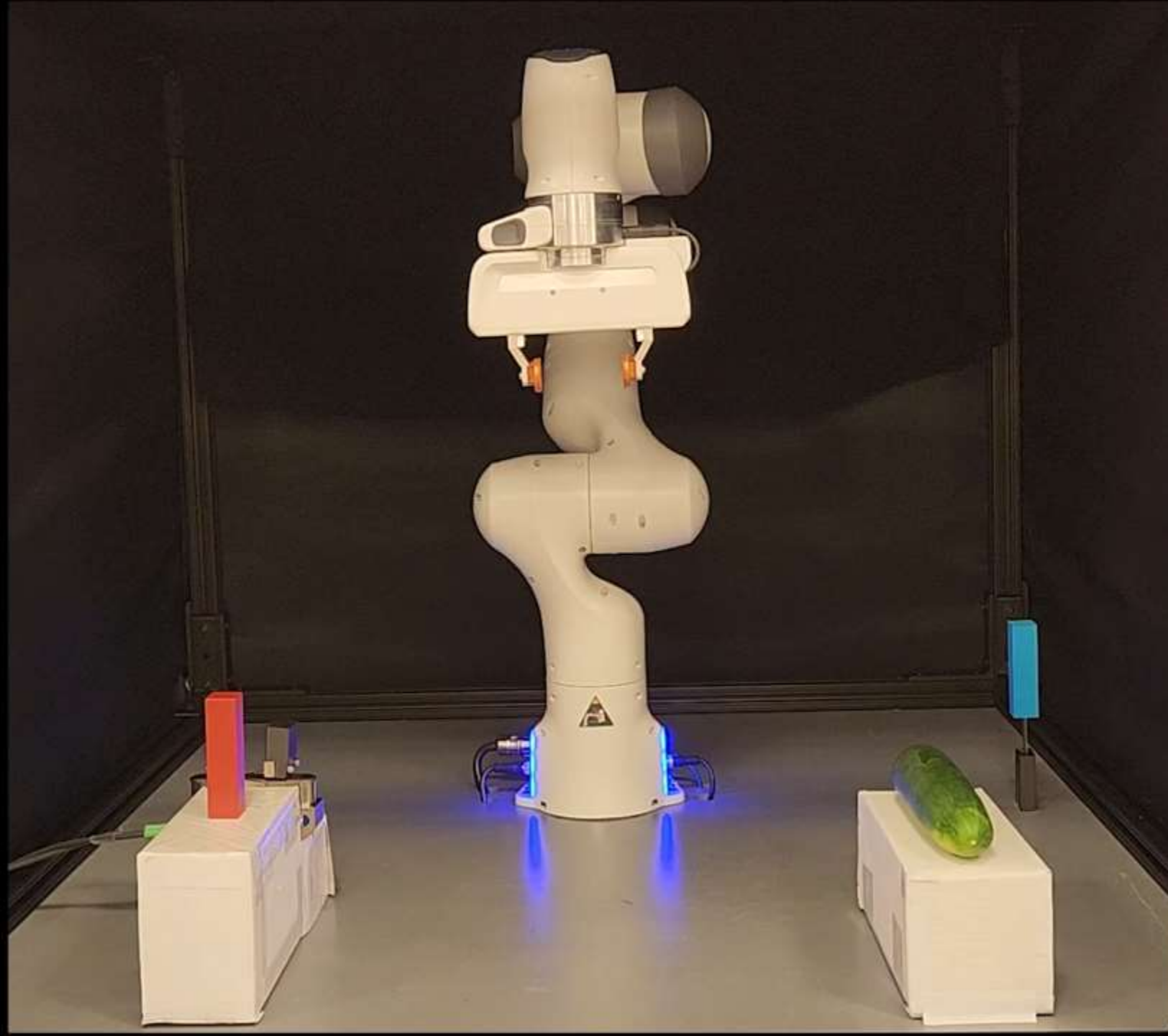
How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp knife]

[move knife to cucumber]

[slice cucumber]

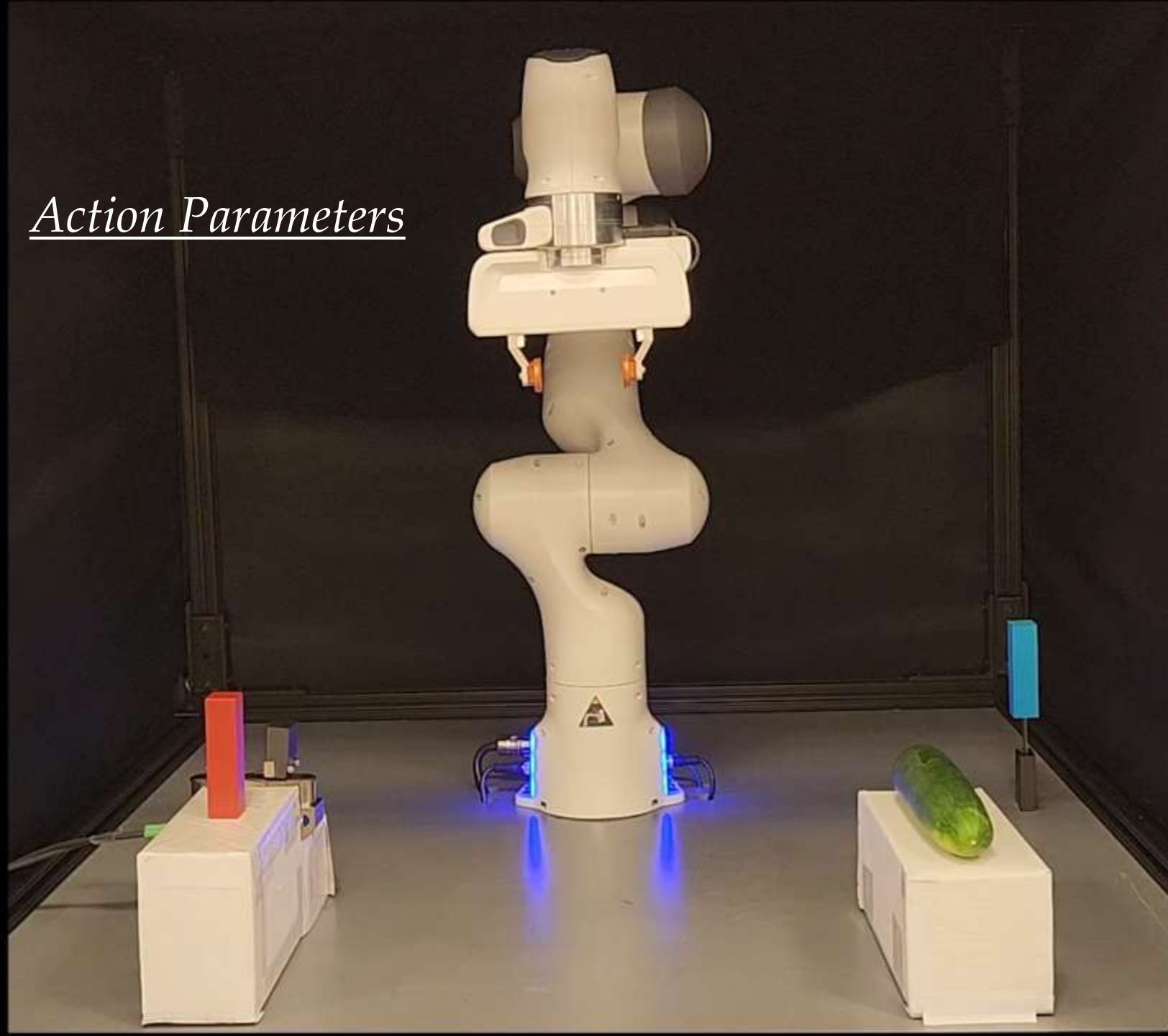


How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters



How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp knife]

[move knife to cucumber]

[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

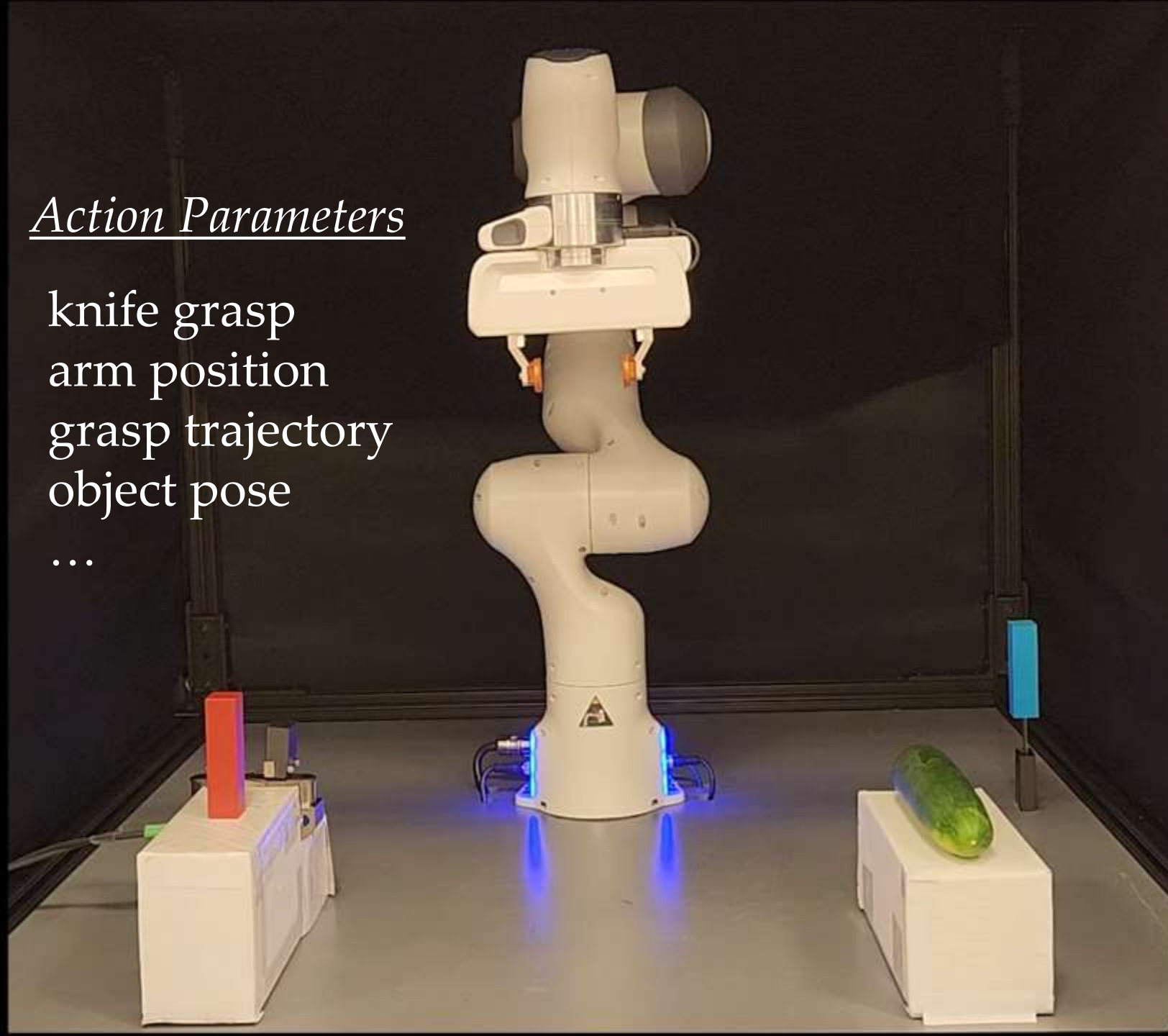
knife grasp

arm position

grasp trajectory

object pose

...



How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp knife]

[move knife to cucumber]

[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

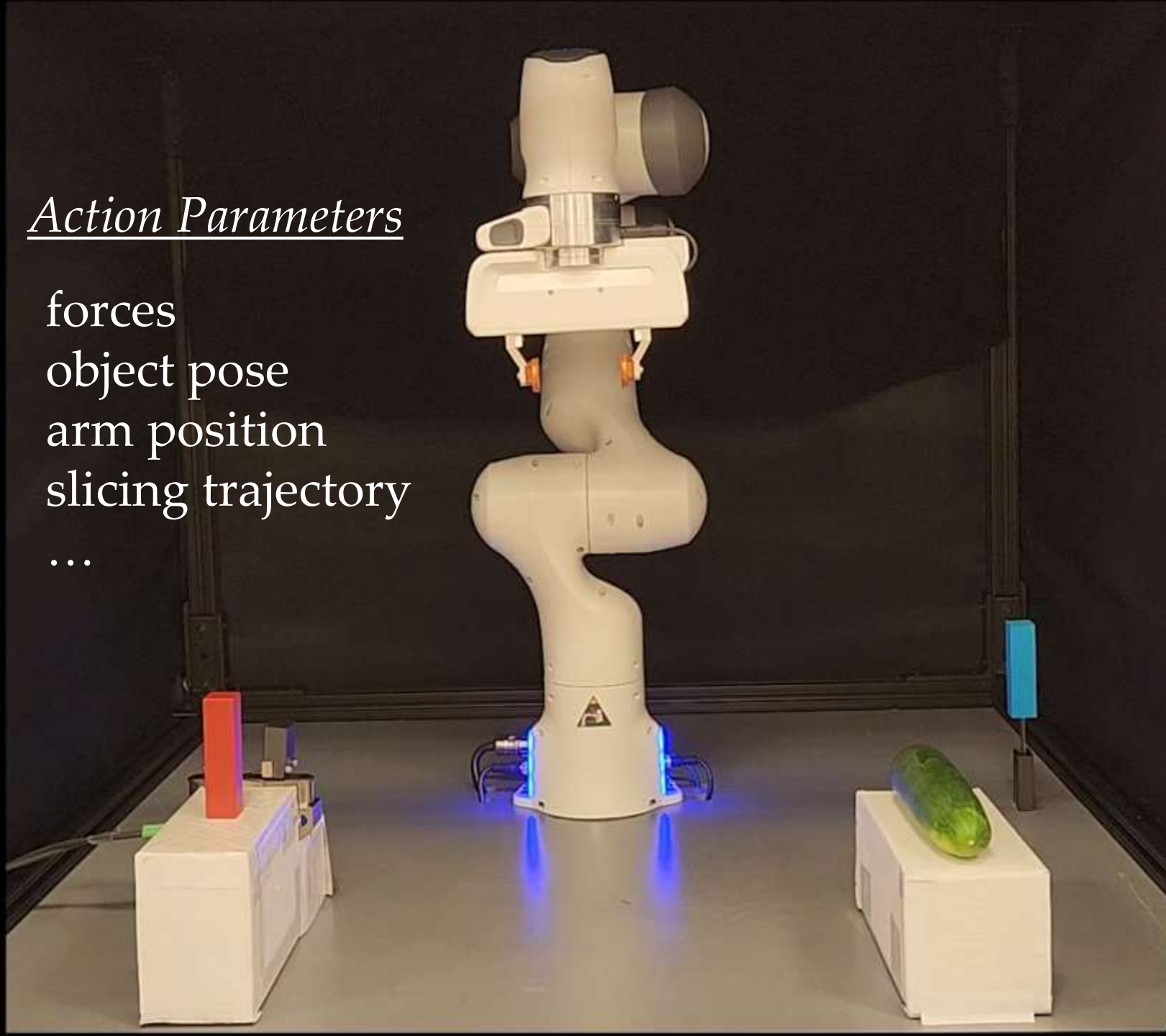
forces

object pose

arm position

slicing trajectory

...



How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp knife]

[move knife to cucumber]

[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

knife grasp

arm position

grasp trajectory

forces

object pose

arm position

slicing trajectory

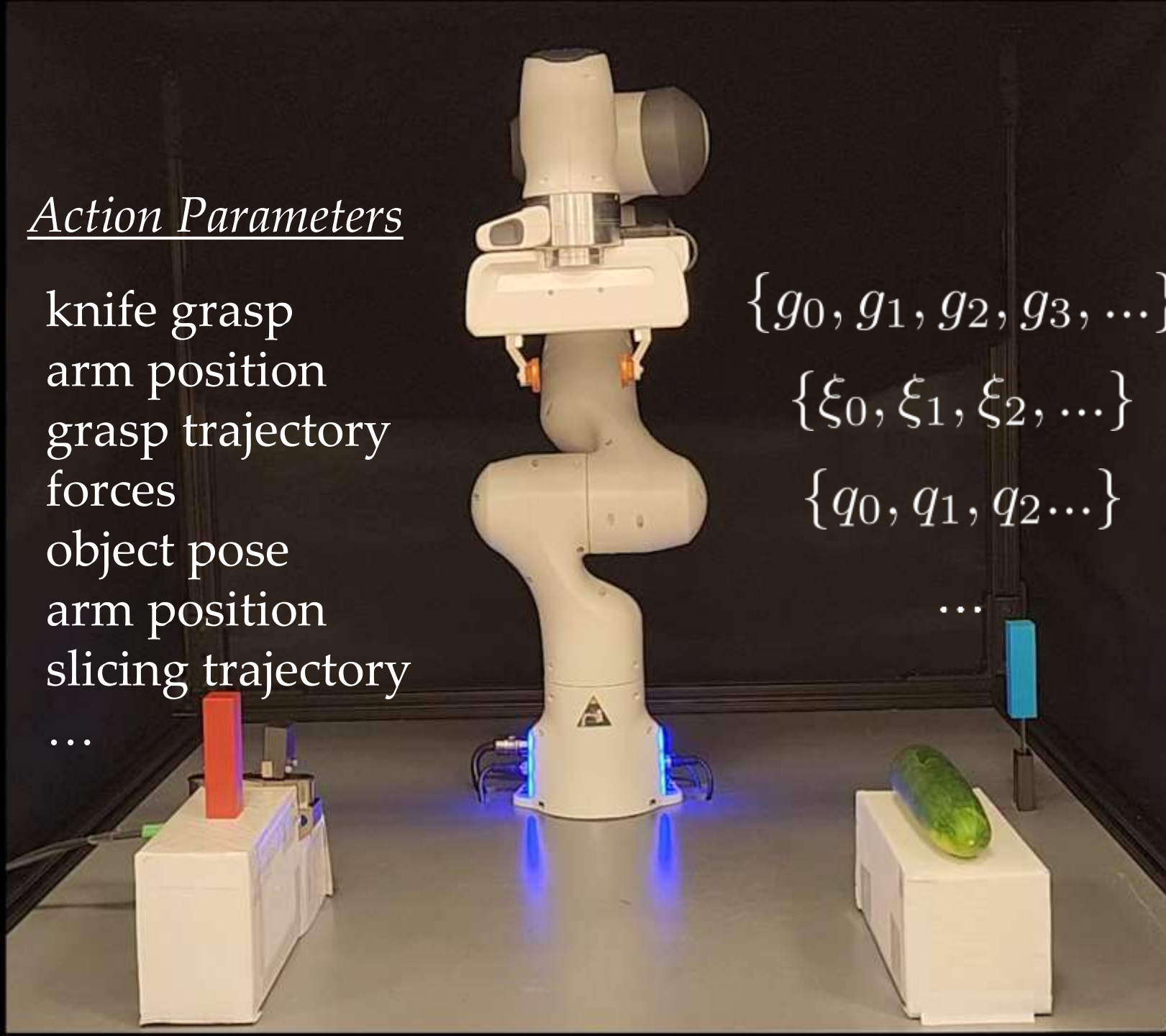
...

$\{g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3, \dots\}$

$\{\xi_0, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots\}$

$\{q_0, q_1, q_2, \dots\}$

...



How to cut the cucumber?

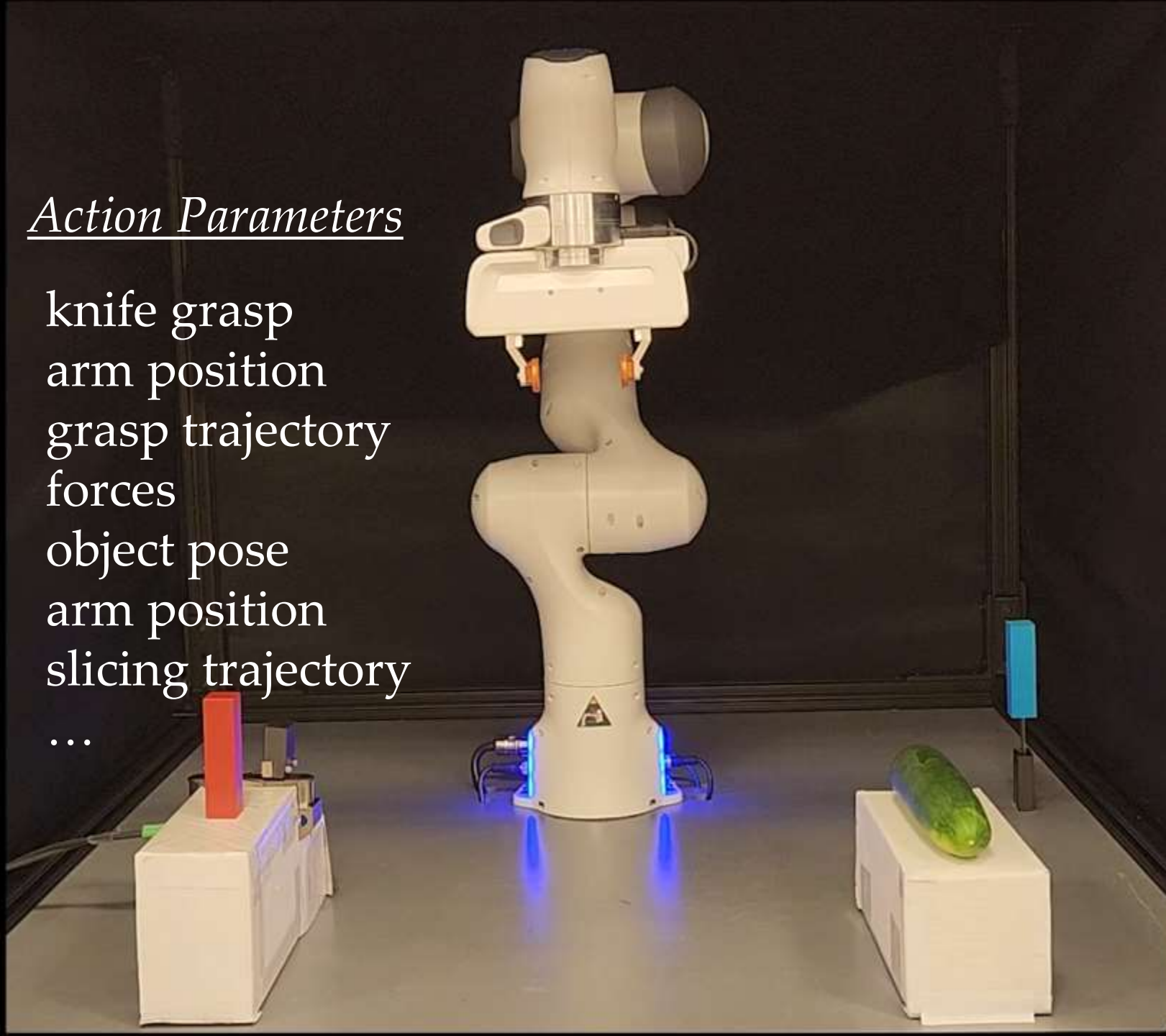
Action Sequence

[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

knife grasp
arm position
grasp trajectory
forces
object pose
arm position
slicing trajectory
...

Success?



How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp knife]

[move knife to cucumber]

[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

knife grasp

arm position

grasp trajectory

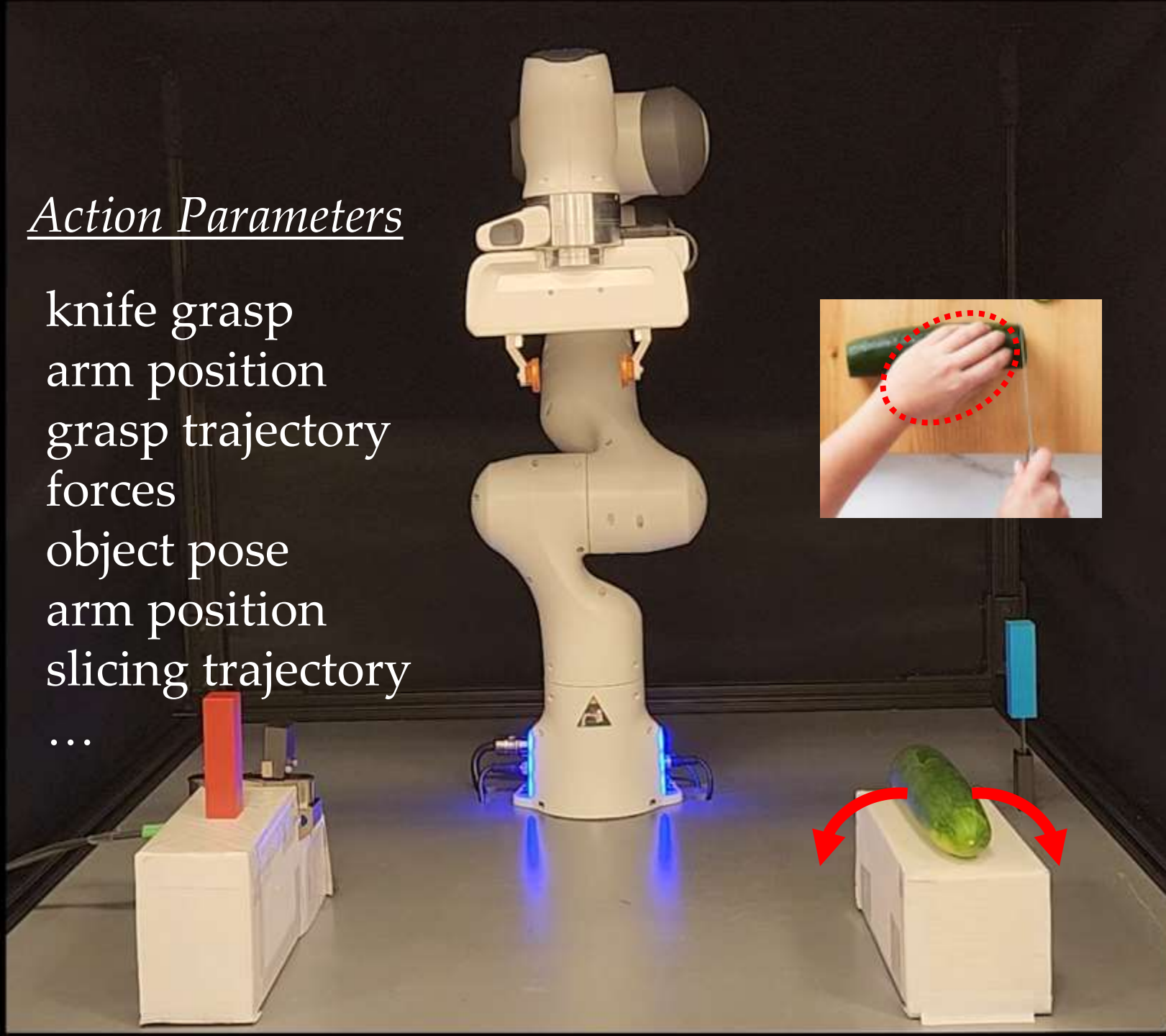
forces

object pose

arm position

slicing trajectory

...



How to cut the cucumber?

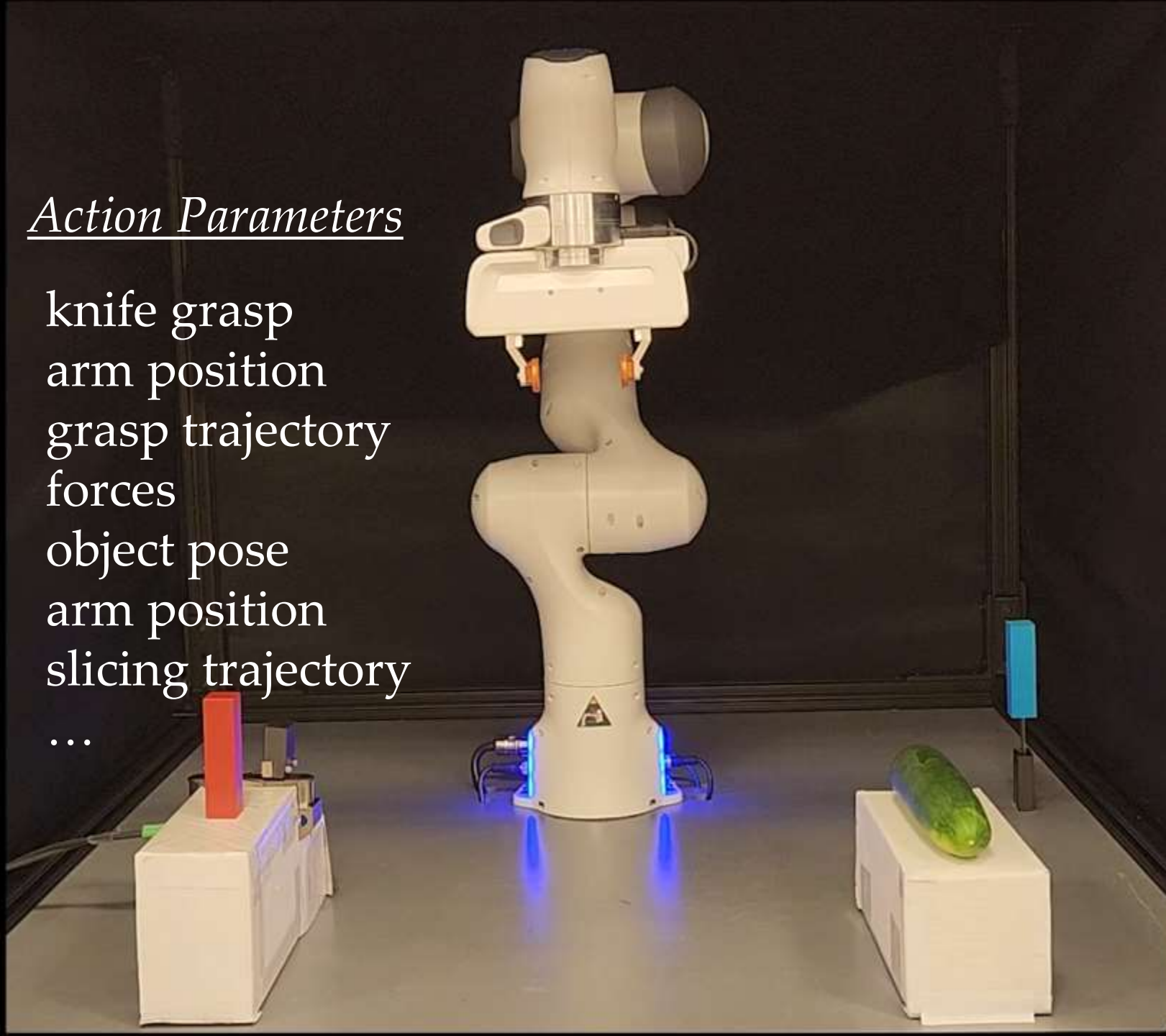
Action Sequence

[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

✗ Success

Action Parameters

knife grasp
arm position
grasp trajectory
forces
object pose
arm position
slicing trajectory
...



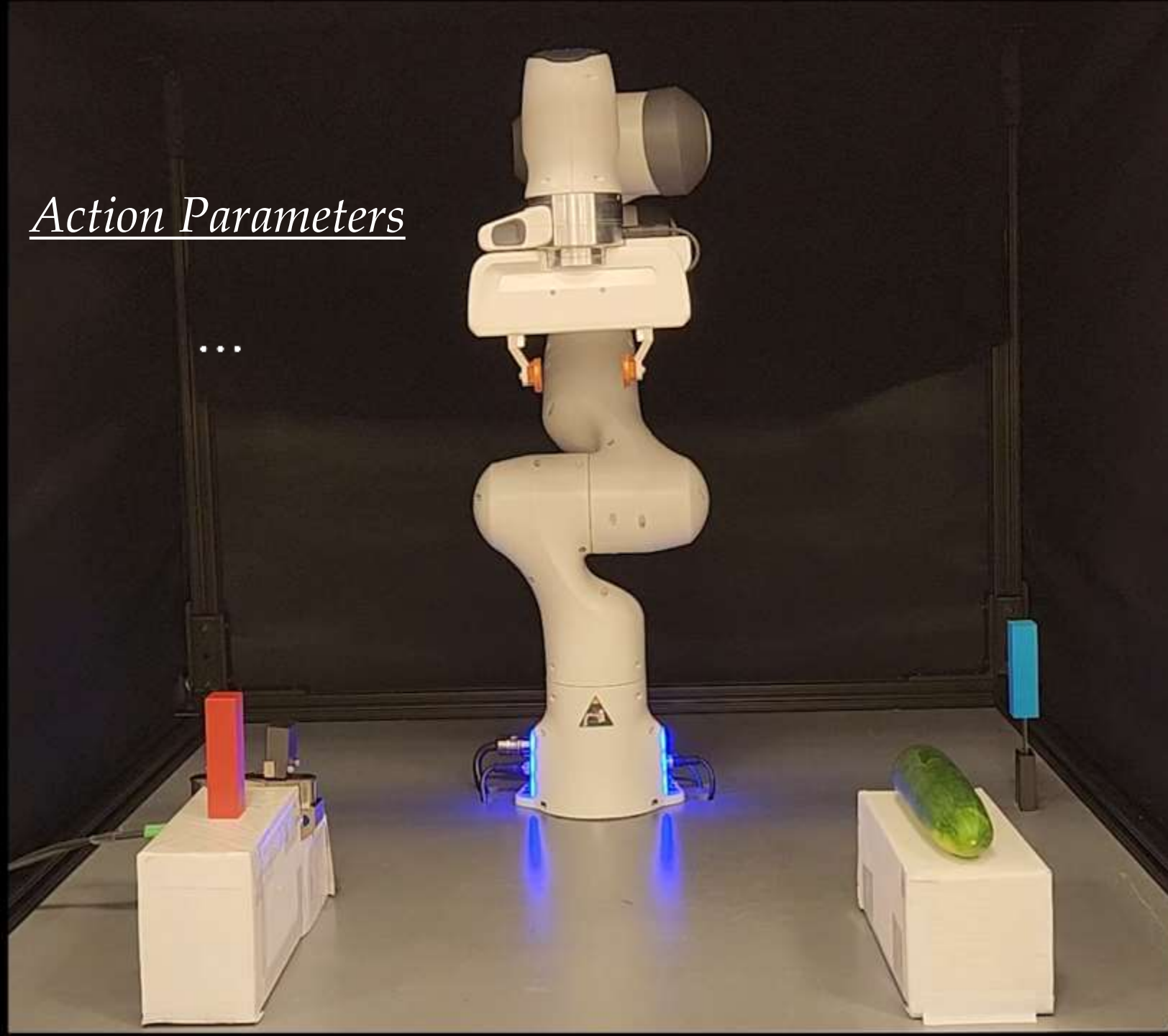
How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

...



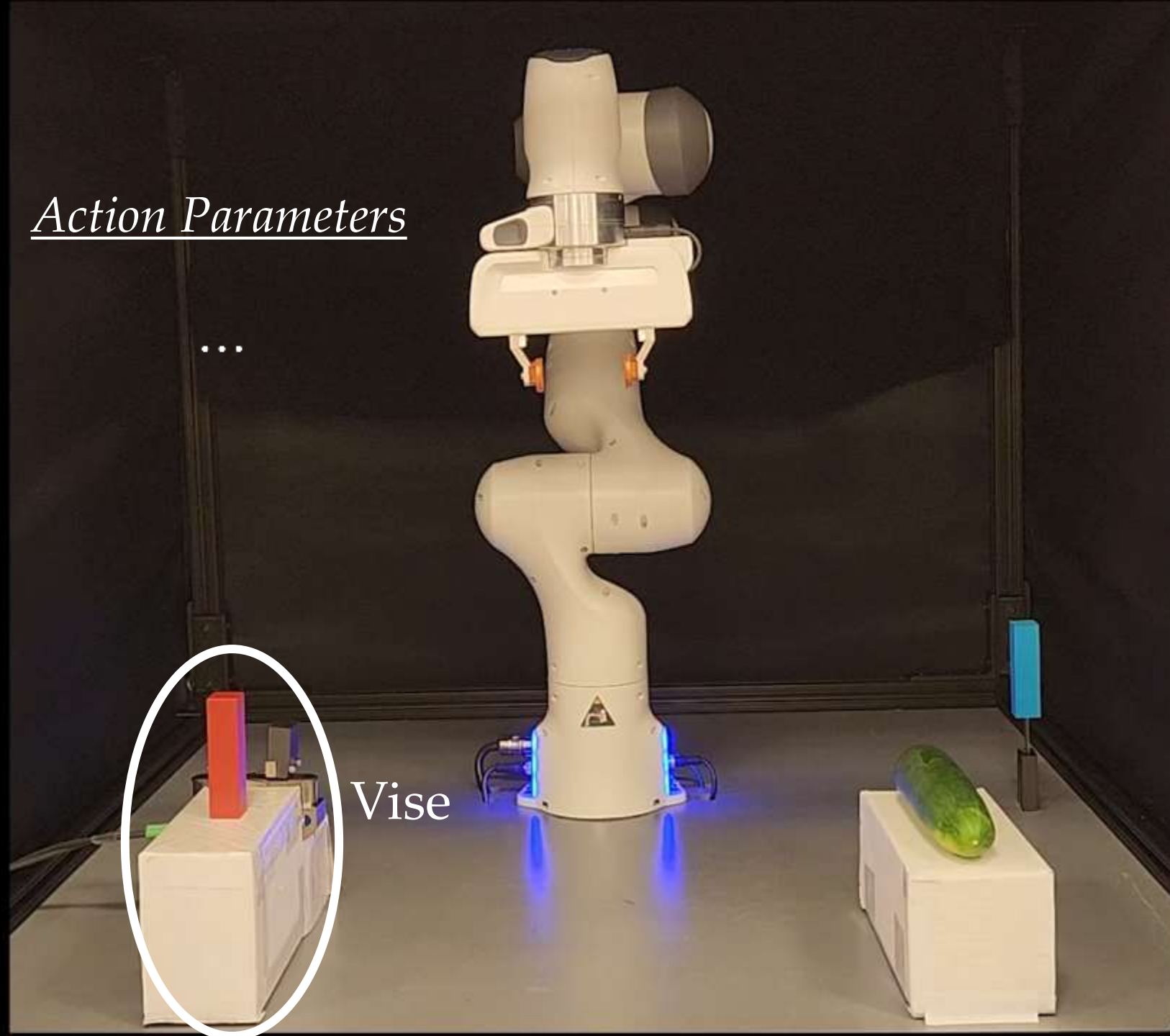
How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

- [grasp knife]
- [move knife to cucumber]
- [slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

...



Vise

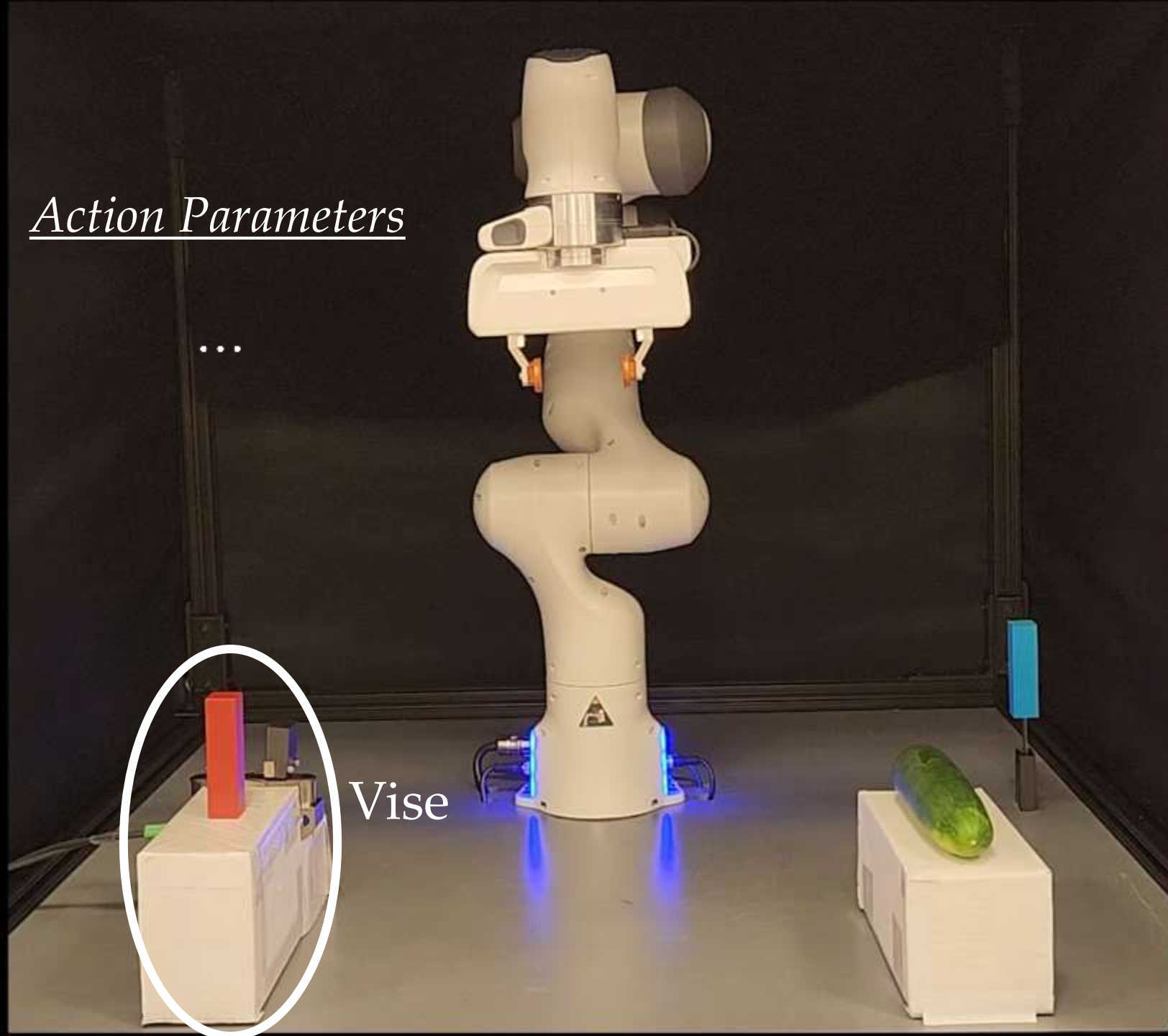
How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

- [grasp cucumber]
- [place cucumber in vise]
- [close vise]
- [grasp knife]
- [move knife to cucumber]
- [slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

...



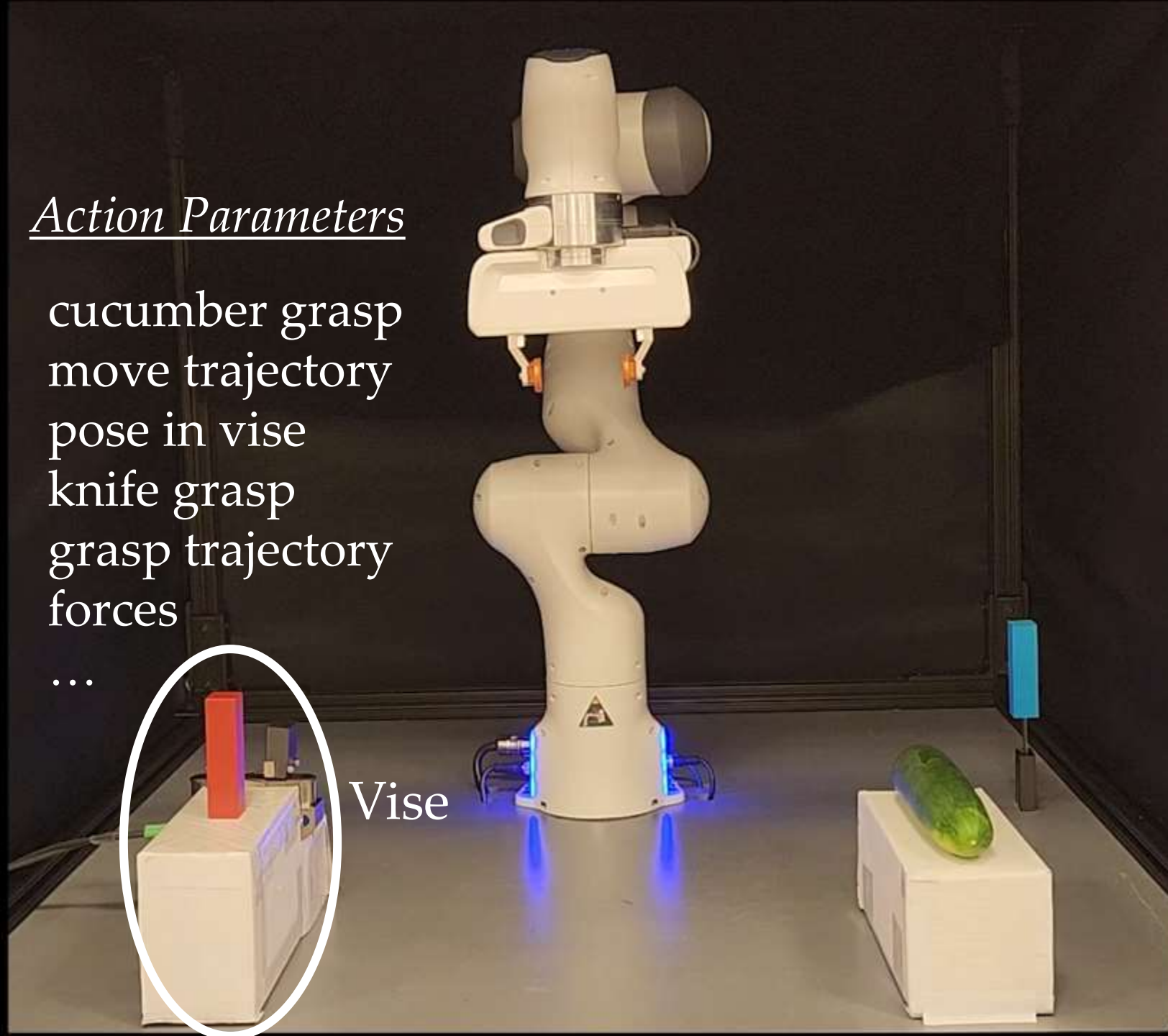
How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp cucumber]
[place cucumber in vise]
[close vise]
[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

cucumber grasp
move trajectory
pose in vise
knife grasp
grasp trajectory
forces
...



Vise

How to cut the cucumber?

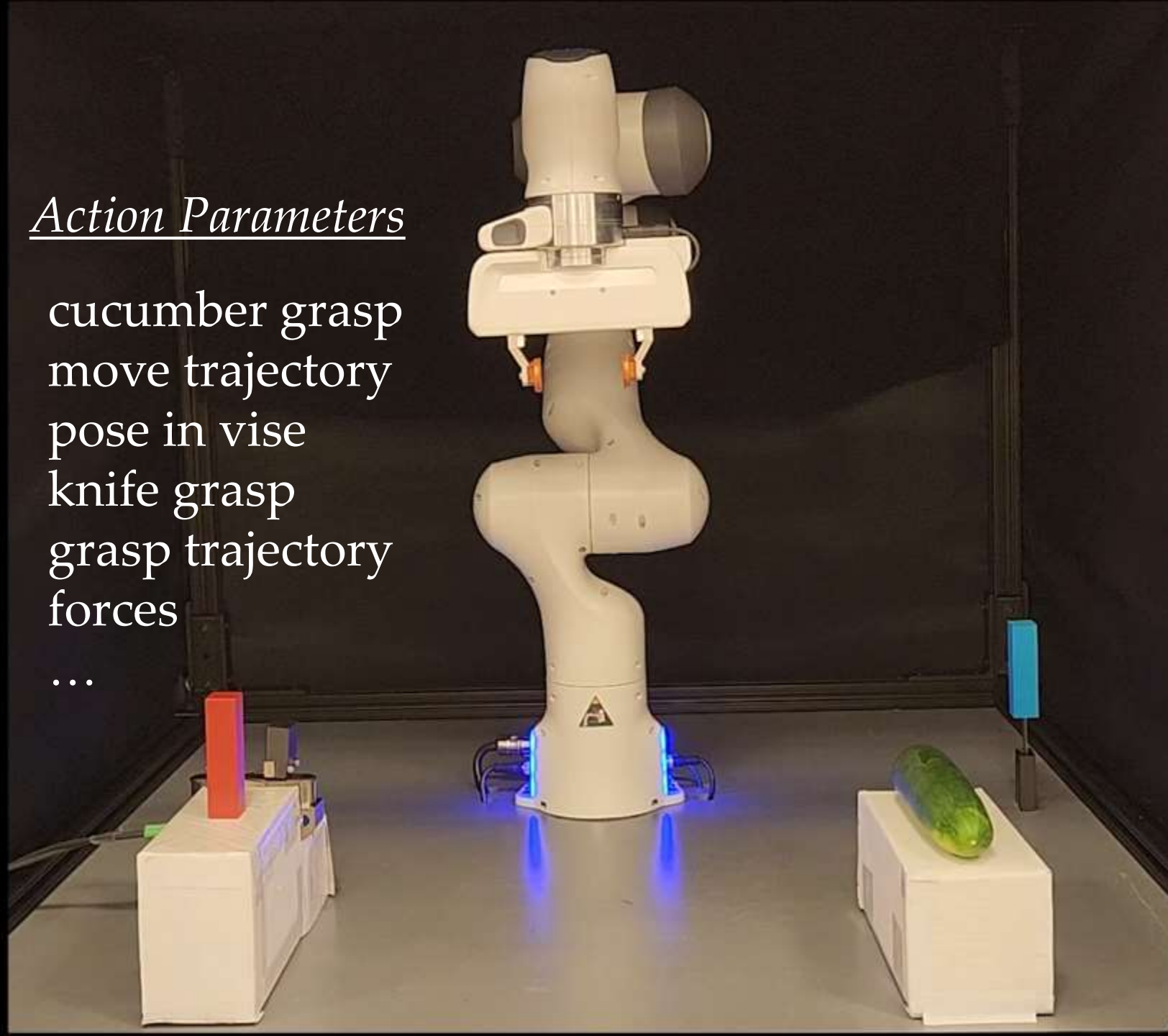
Action Sequence

[grasp cucumber]
[place cucumber in vise]
[close vise]
[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

Success?

Action Parameters

cucumber grasp
move trajectory
pose in vise
knife grasp
grasp trajectory
forces
...



How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp cucumber]
[place cucumber in vise]
[close vise]
[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

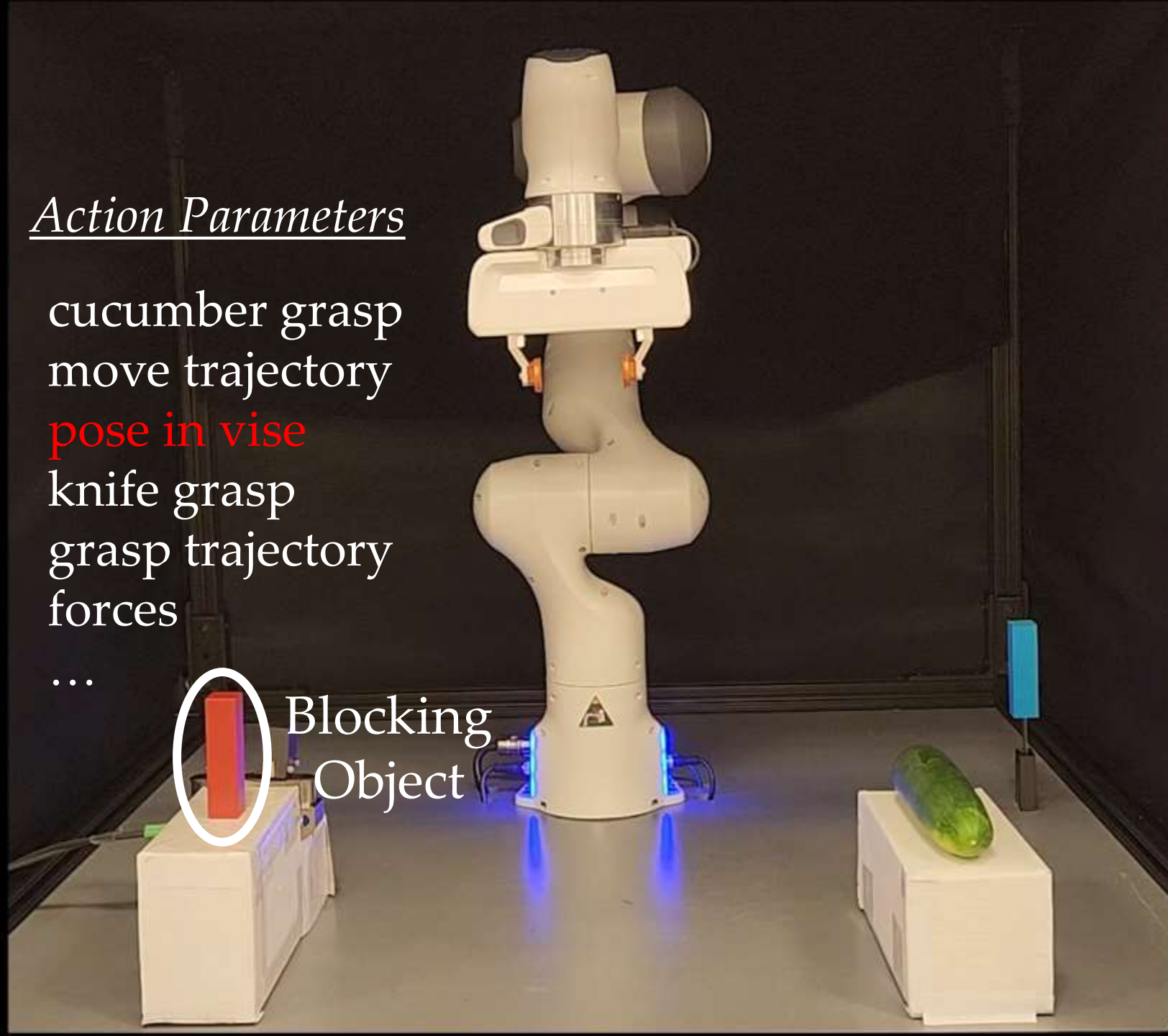
✗ Success

Action Parameters

cucumber grasp
move trajectory
pose in vise
knife grasp
grasp trajectory
forces

...

Blocking
Object



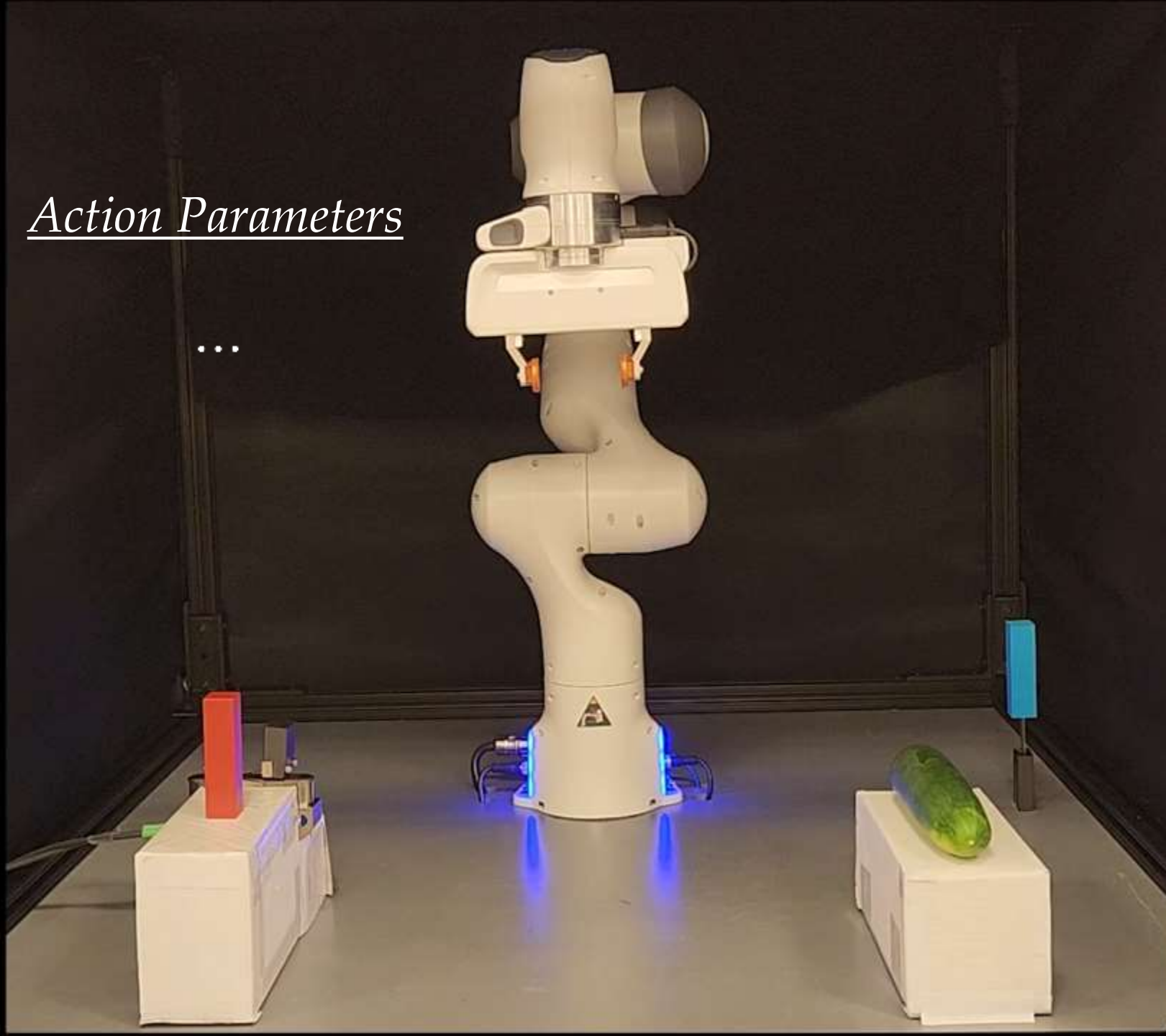
How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp cucumber]
[place cucumber in vise]
[close vise]
[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

✗ Success

Action Parameters



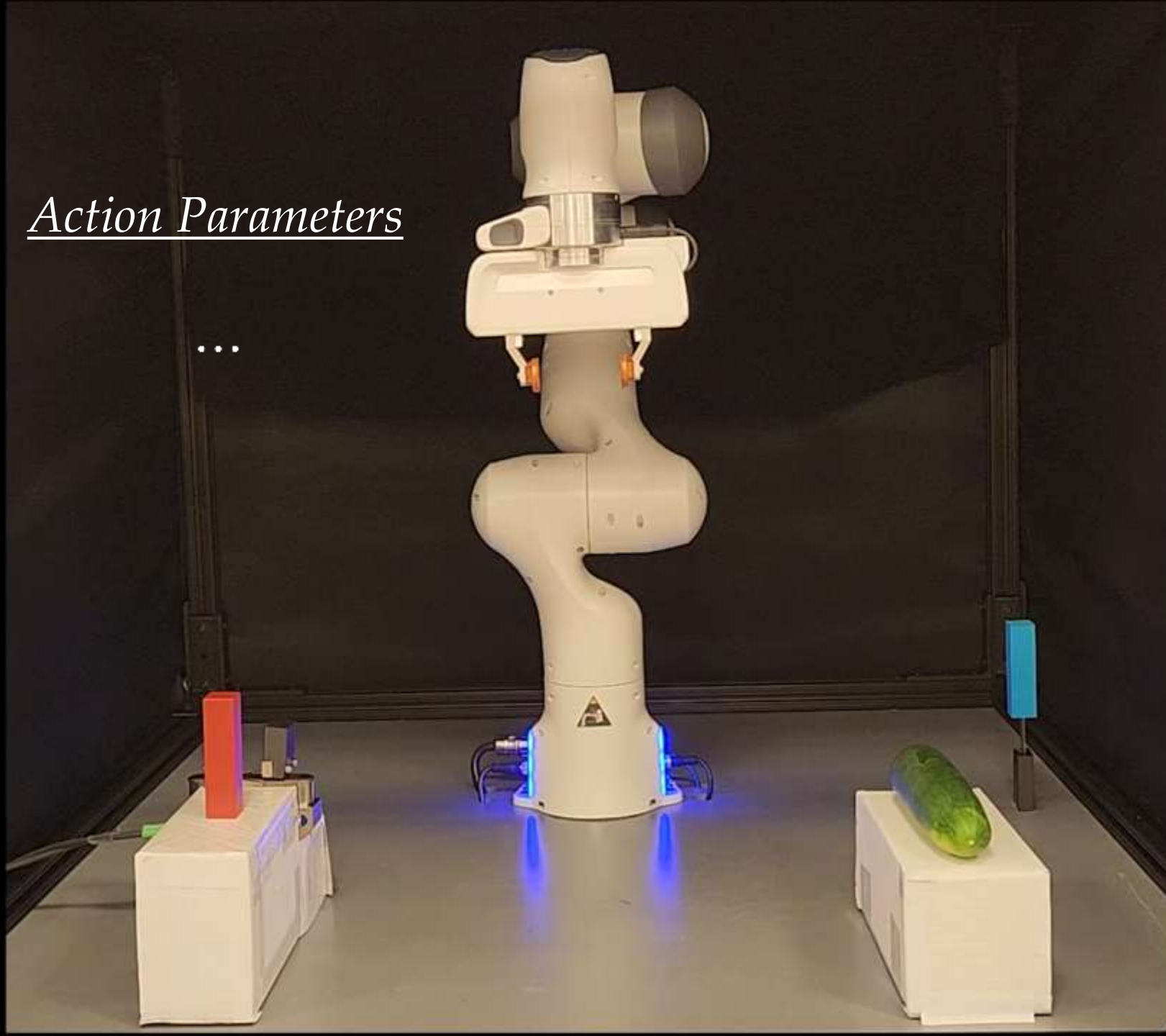
How to cut the cucumber?

Action Sequence

[grasp red block]
[place red block somewhere]
[grasp cucumber]
[place cucumber in vise]
[close vise]
[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

Action Parameters

...



How to cut the cucumber?

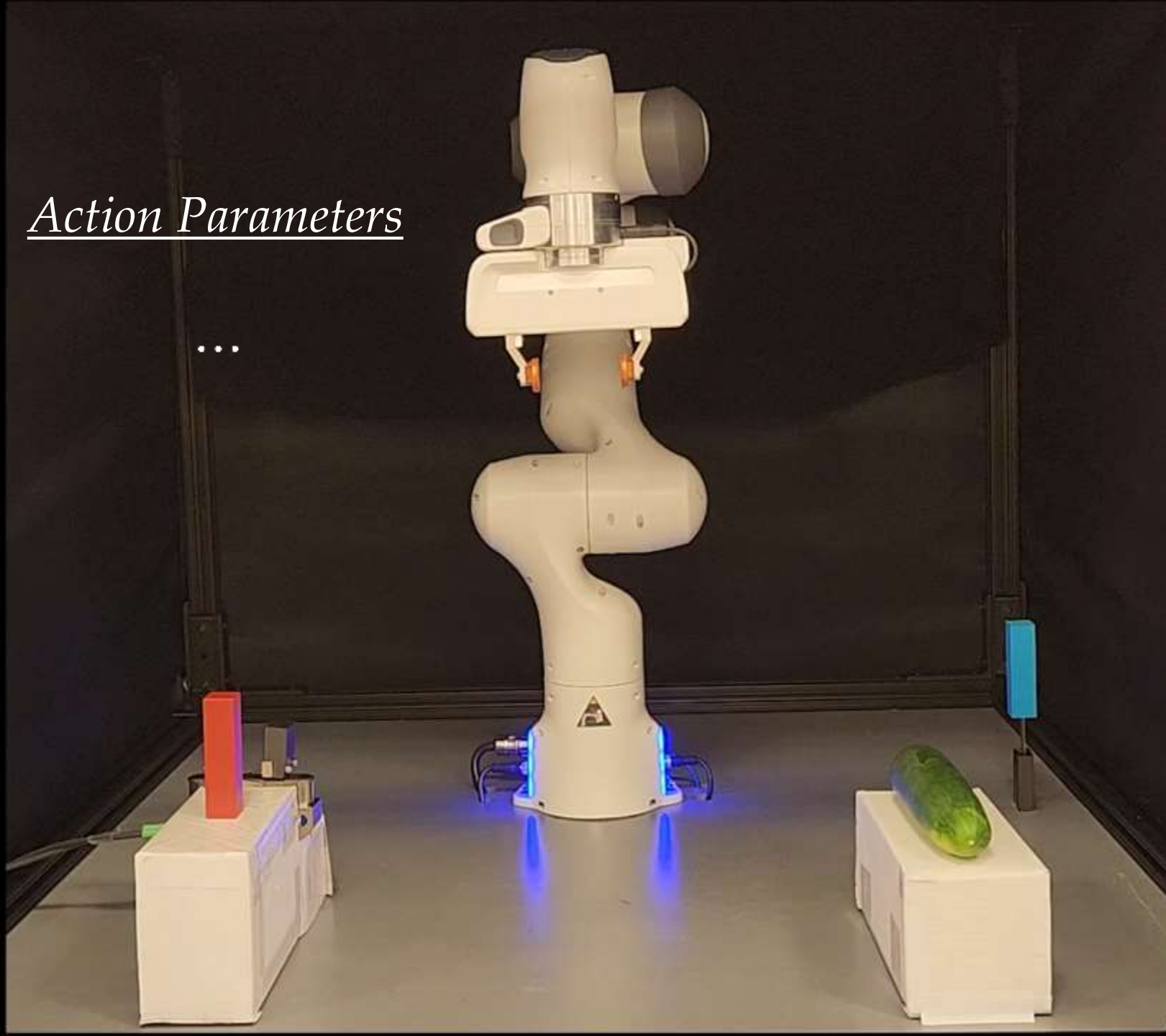
Action Sequence

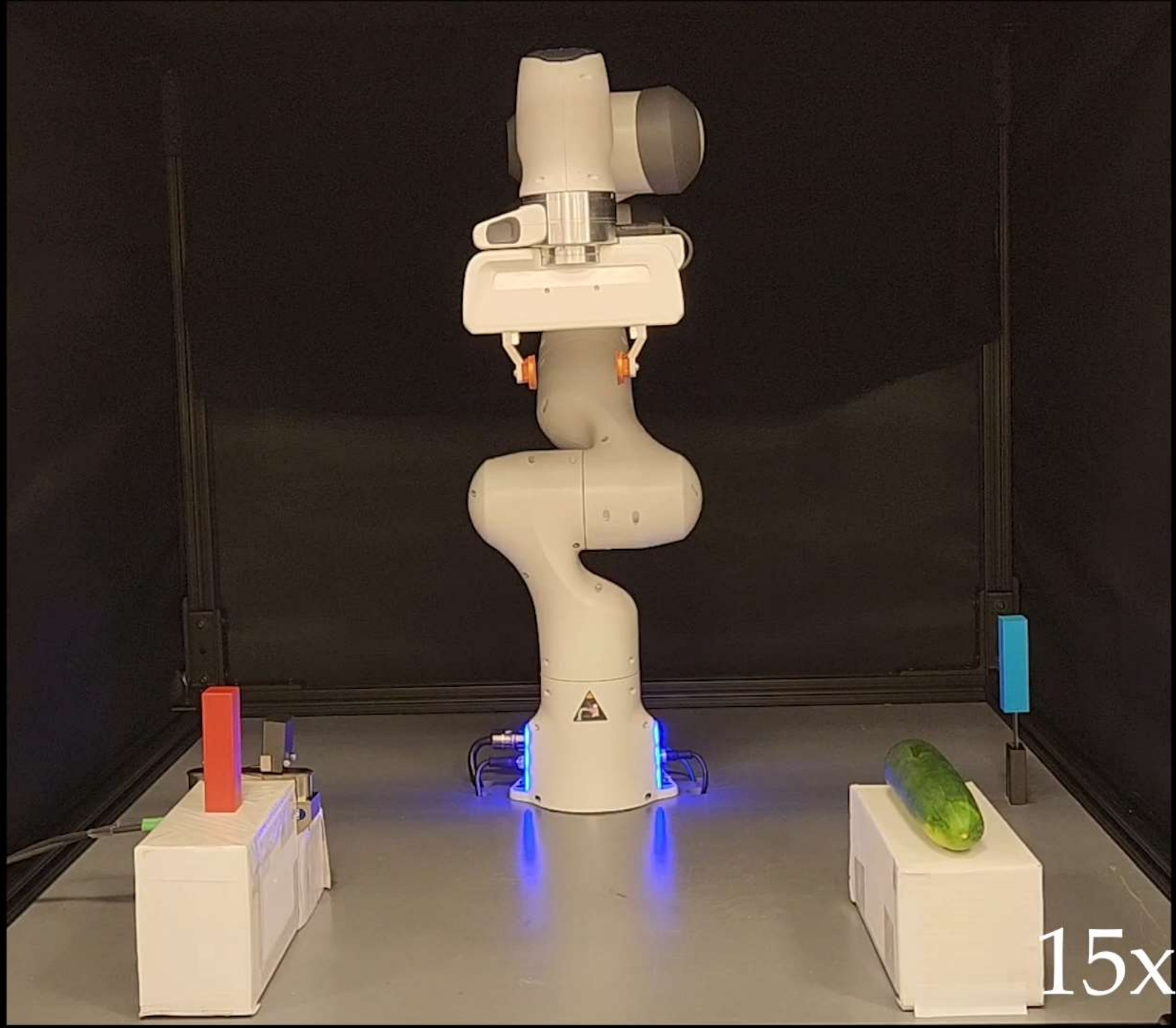
[grasp red block]
[place red block somewhere]
[grasp cucumber]
[place cucumber in vise]
[close vise]
[grasp knife]
[move knife to cucumber]
[slice cucumber]

Success?

Action Parameters

...

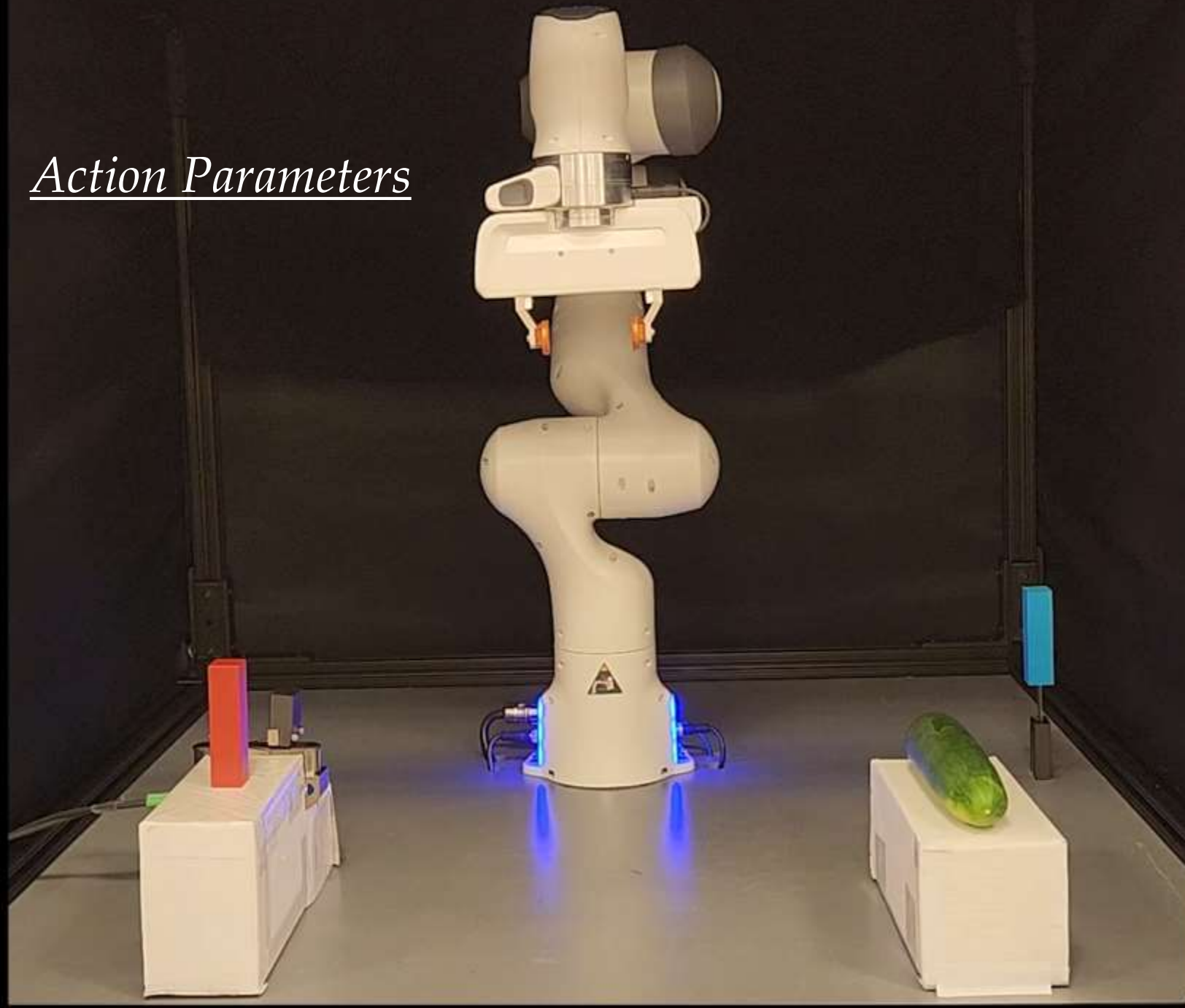




15x

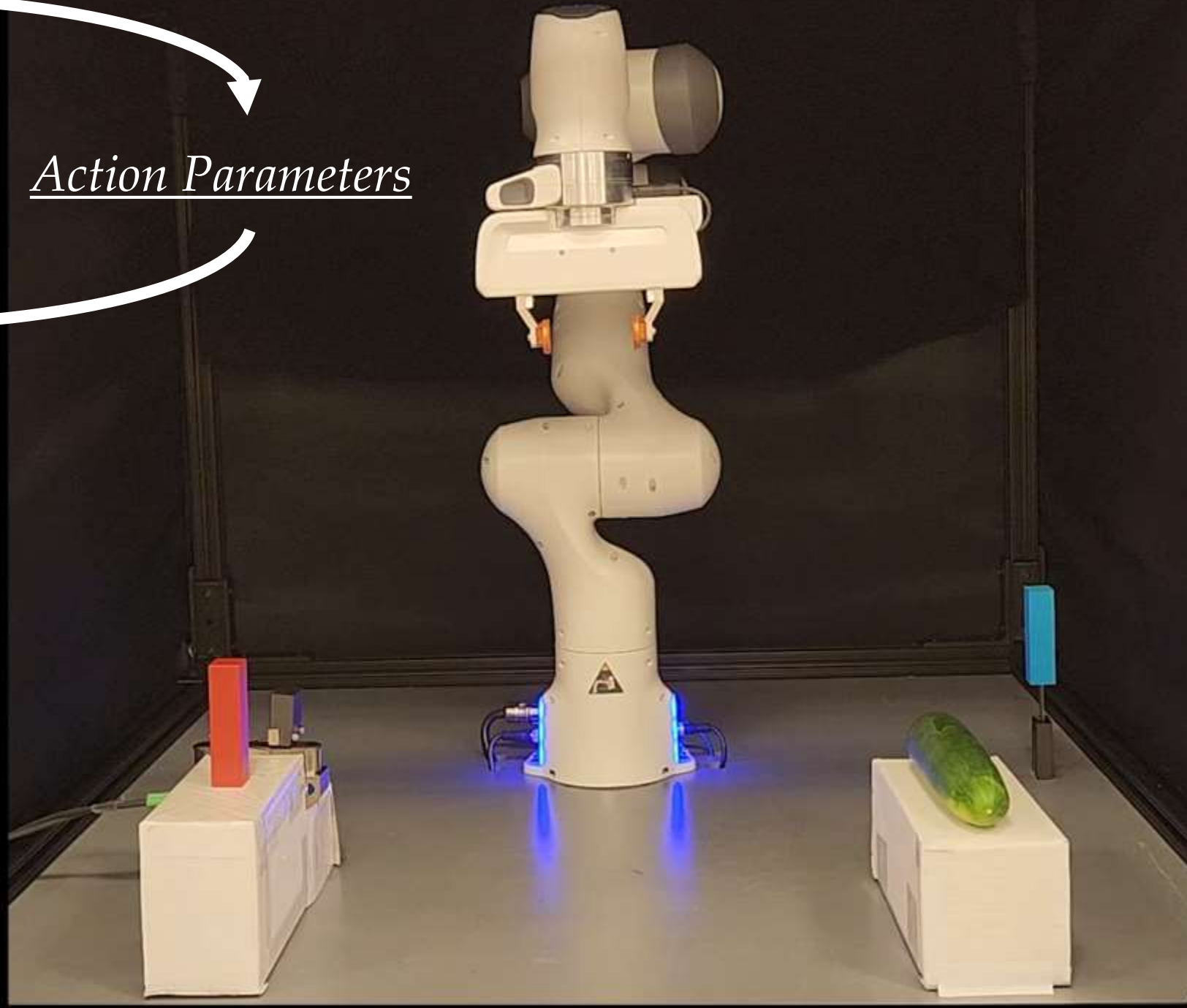
Action Sequence

Action Parameters



Action Sequence

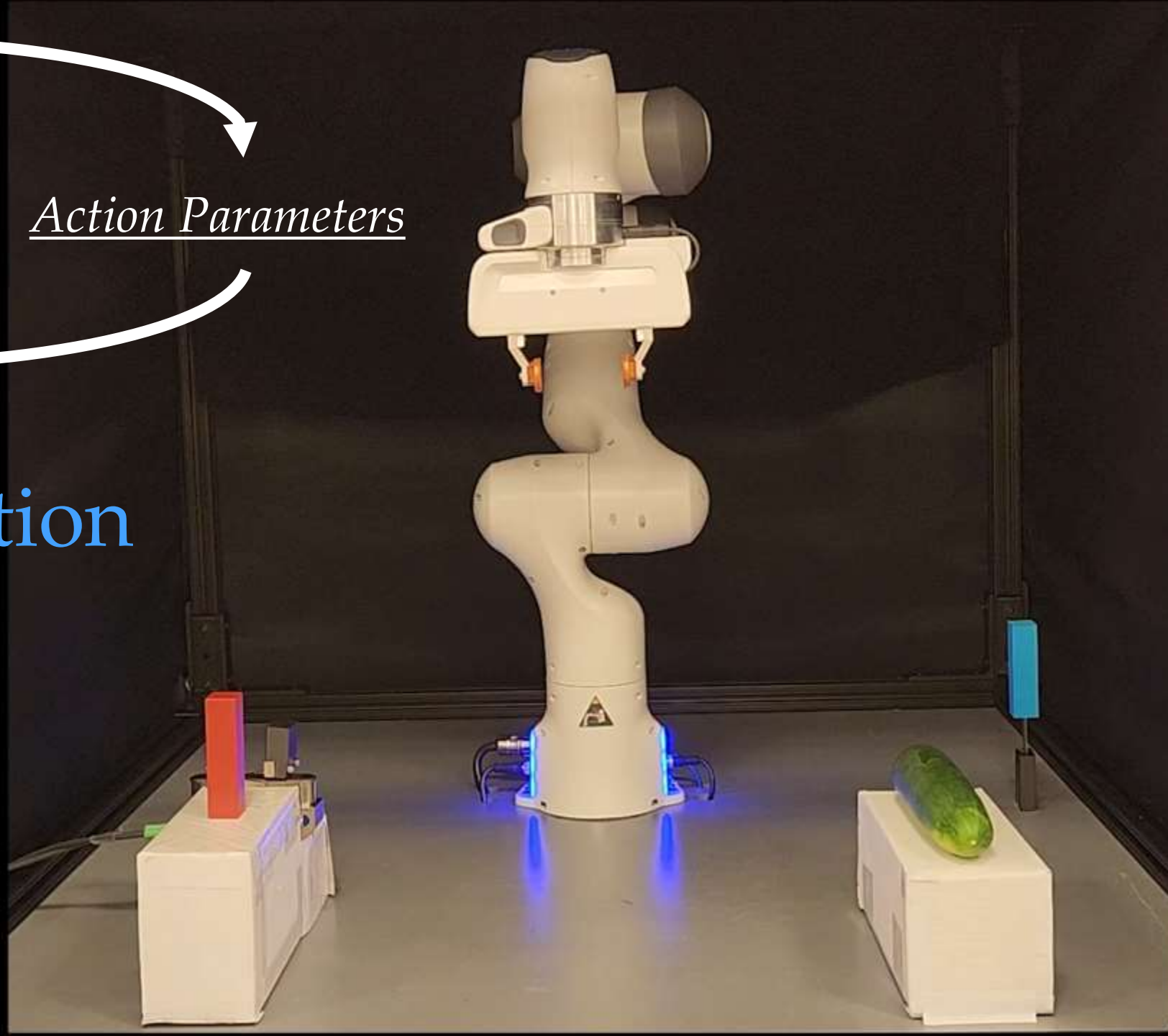
Action Parameters



Action Sequence

Action Parameters

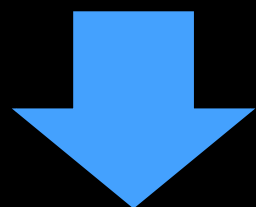
Generalization



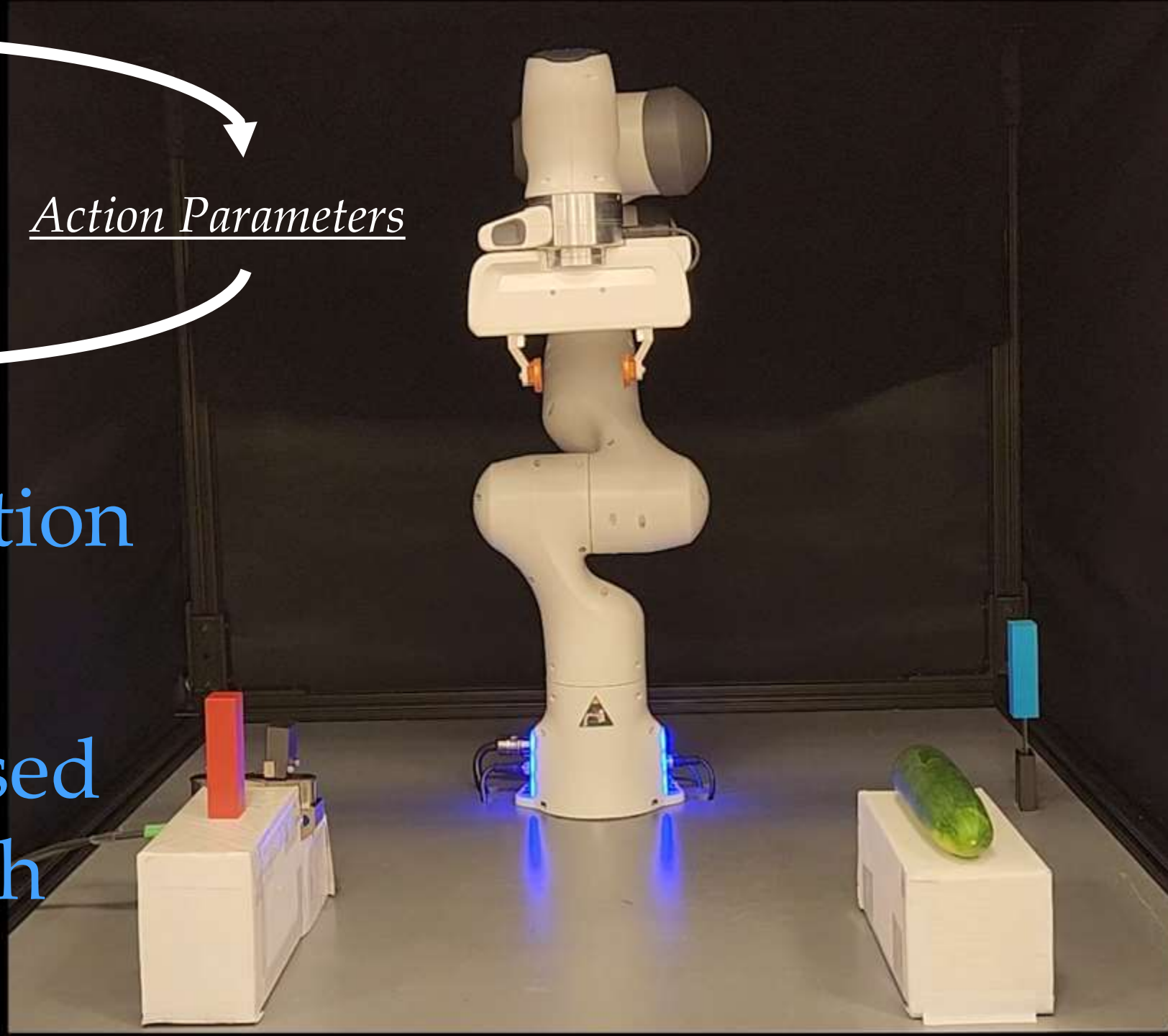
Action Sequence

Action Parameters

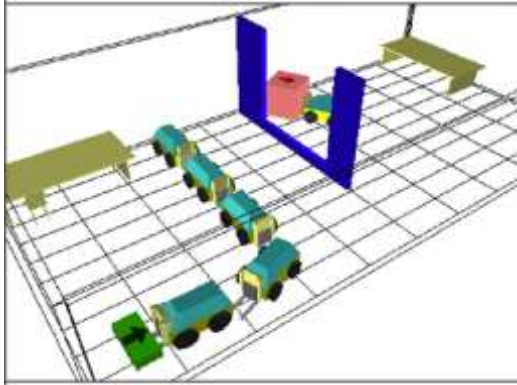
Generalization



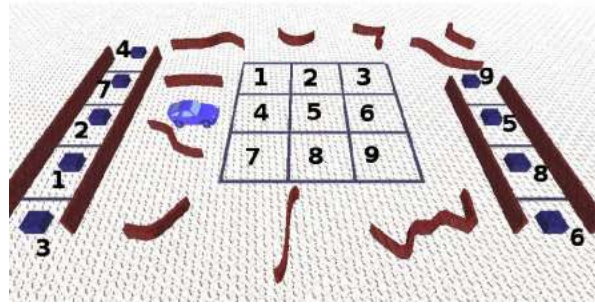
Model-based
Approach



Task and Motion Planning (TAMP)



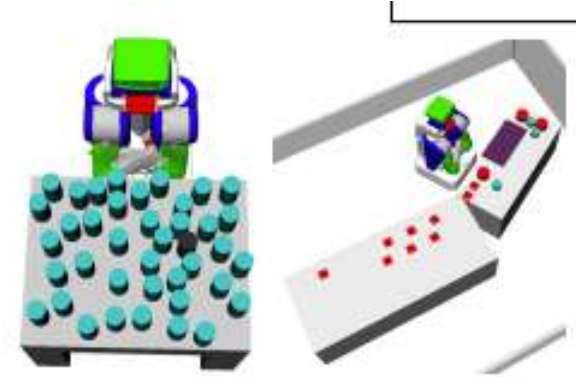
Gravot, et al. (2005)



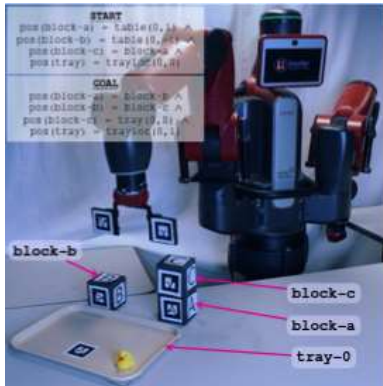
Plaku, Hager (2010)



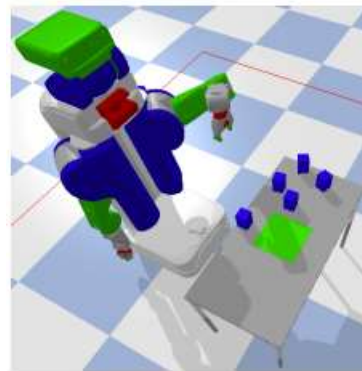
Kaelbling, Lozano-Perez (2013)



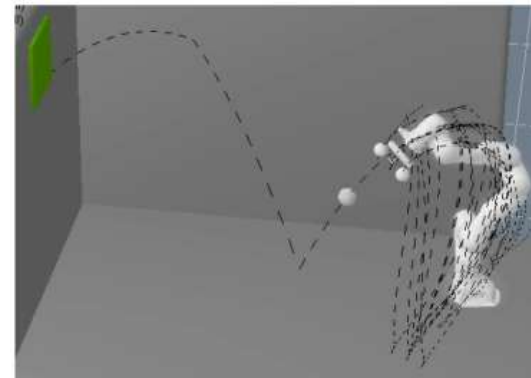
Srivastava et al. (2014)



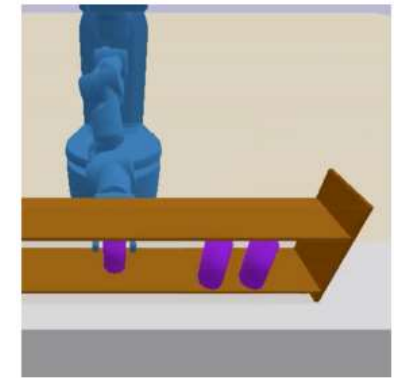
Dantam et al. (2016)



Garrett, et al. (2020)



Toussaint, et al. (2020)*



Silver, et al. (2021)

Reasoning over Geometry

Is a motion collision-free?

Is that placement free?

Reasoning over Geometry

Is the grasp available?

Is an object reachable?

(only)

Reasoning over Geometry

Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics*



Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics*

Models and Algorithms that
Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to
Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

Forceful
Manipulation



Models and Algorithms that
Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to
Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

In-Hand
Manipulation



Forceful
Manipulation



Models and Algorithms that
Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to
Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

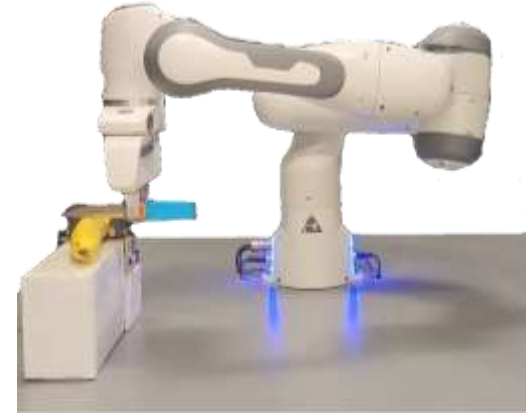
In-Hand
Manipulation



Forceful
Manipulation



Robust
Decision
Making



Models and Algorithms that Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

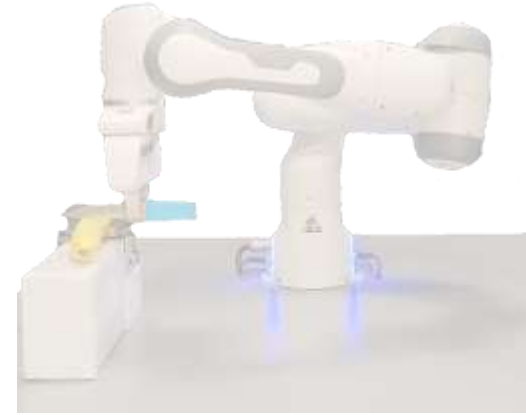
In-Hand
Manipulation



Guarded
Planning



Forceful
Manipulation



Robust
Decision
Making

Models and Algorithms that Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

In-Hand
Manipulation

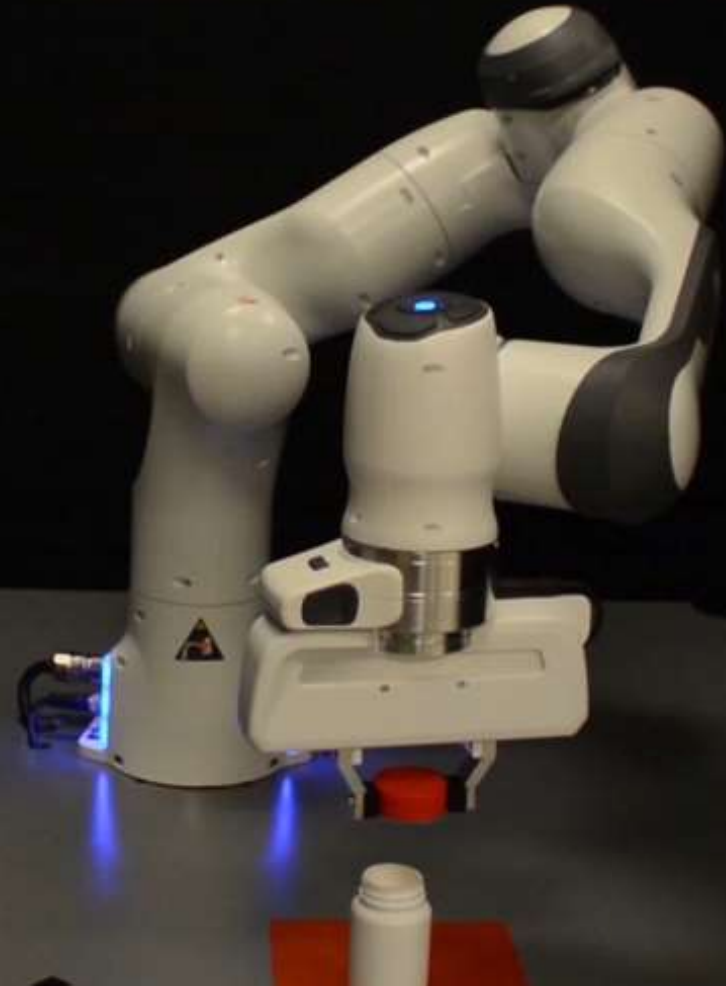


Guarded
Planning

Forces impact on Planning?

Modeling Force?

Planning sequences of actions?



“Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *ICRA*, 2021.

“Robust Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *IJRR*, 2023.

Opening a Childproof Bottle



Opening a Childproof Bottle

- Push down on the cap



Opening a Childproof Bottle

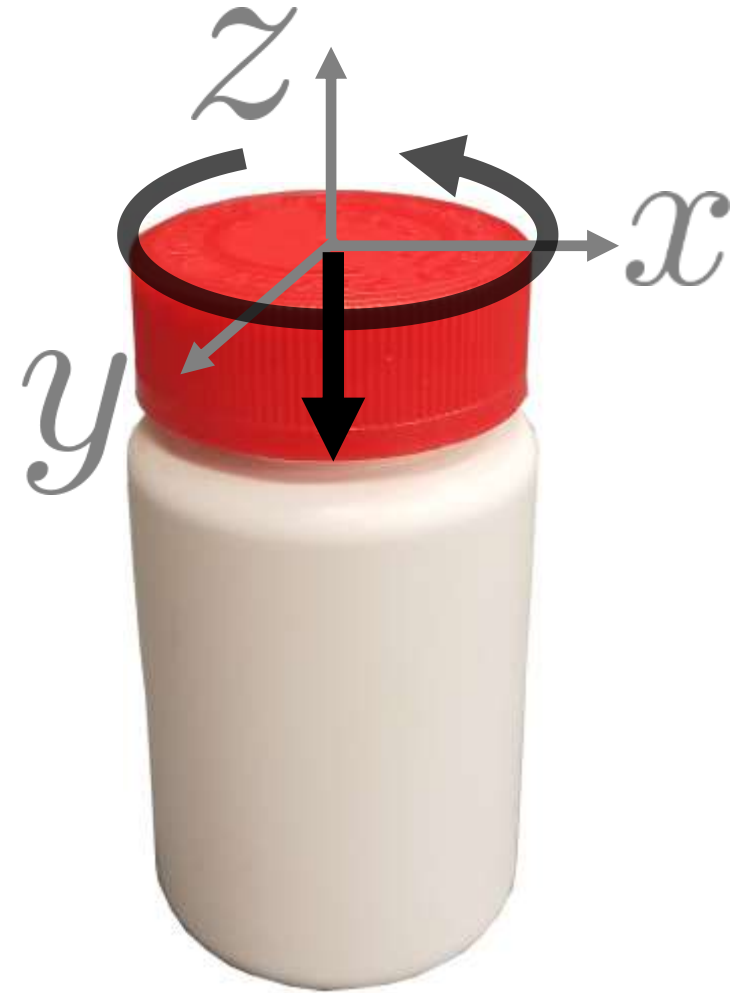
- Push down on the cap
- Twist the cap



Opening a Childproof Bottle

- Push down on the cap
- Twist the cap

$$(0, 0, -f_z, 0, 0, t_z)$$



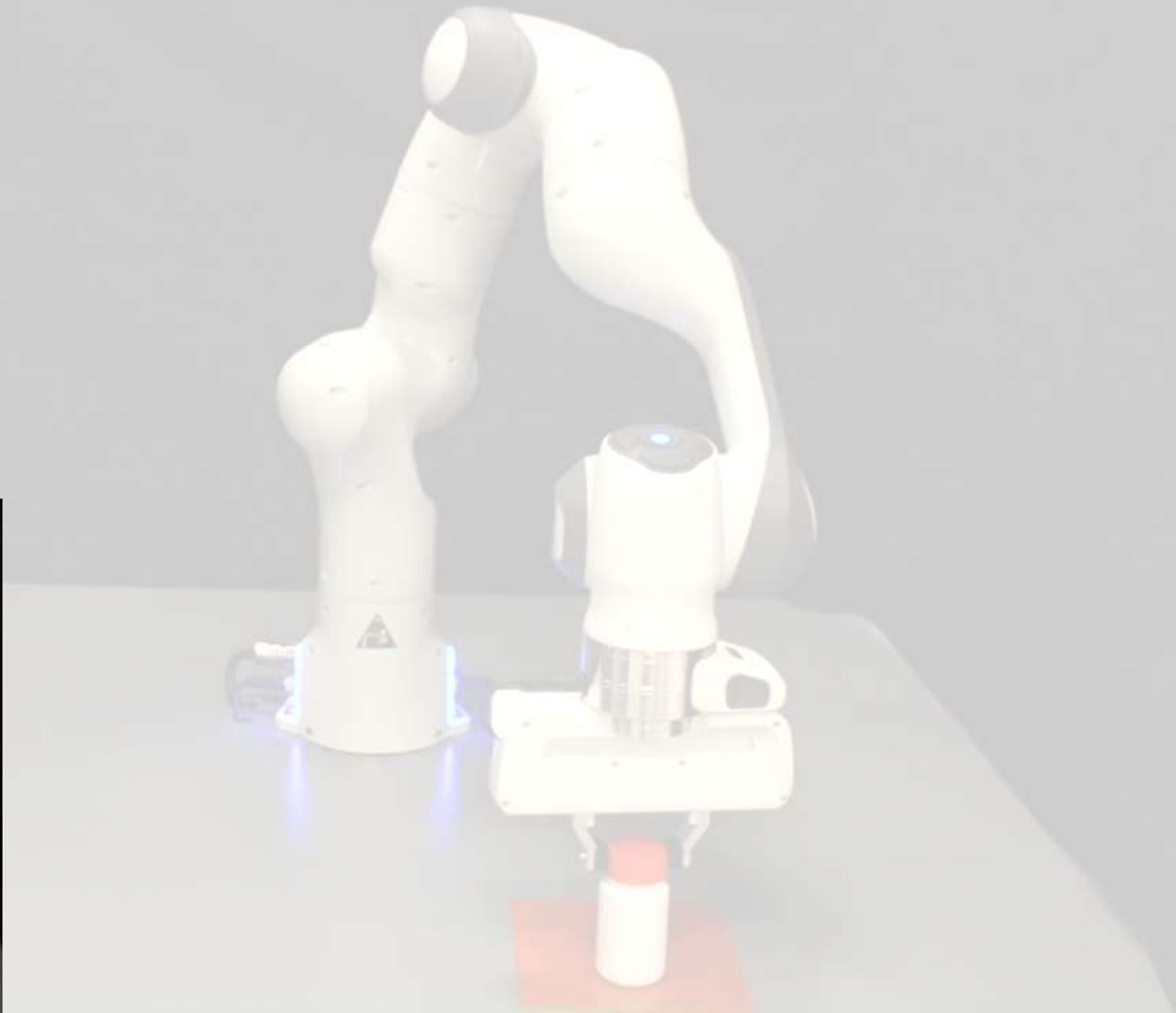
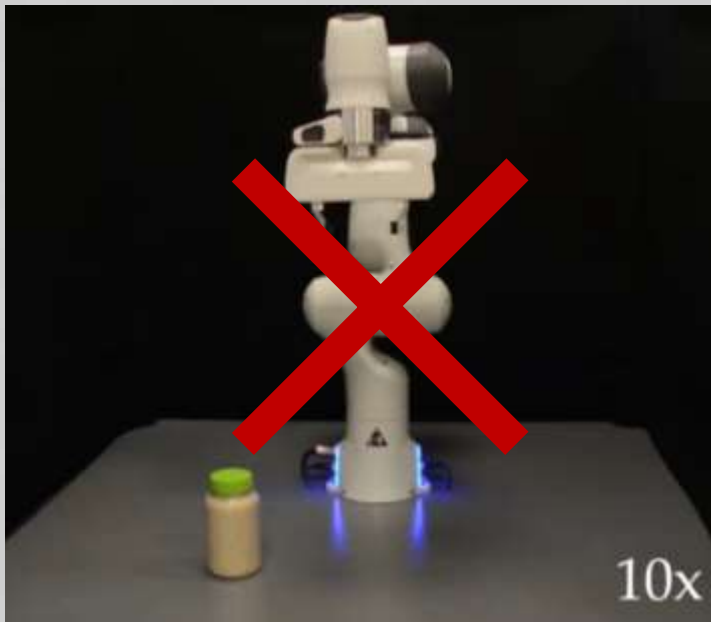


10x

Forces impact on Planning?



Forces impact on Planning?



Forces impact on Planning?



Forces impact on Planning?

Fixturing

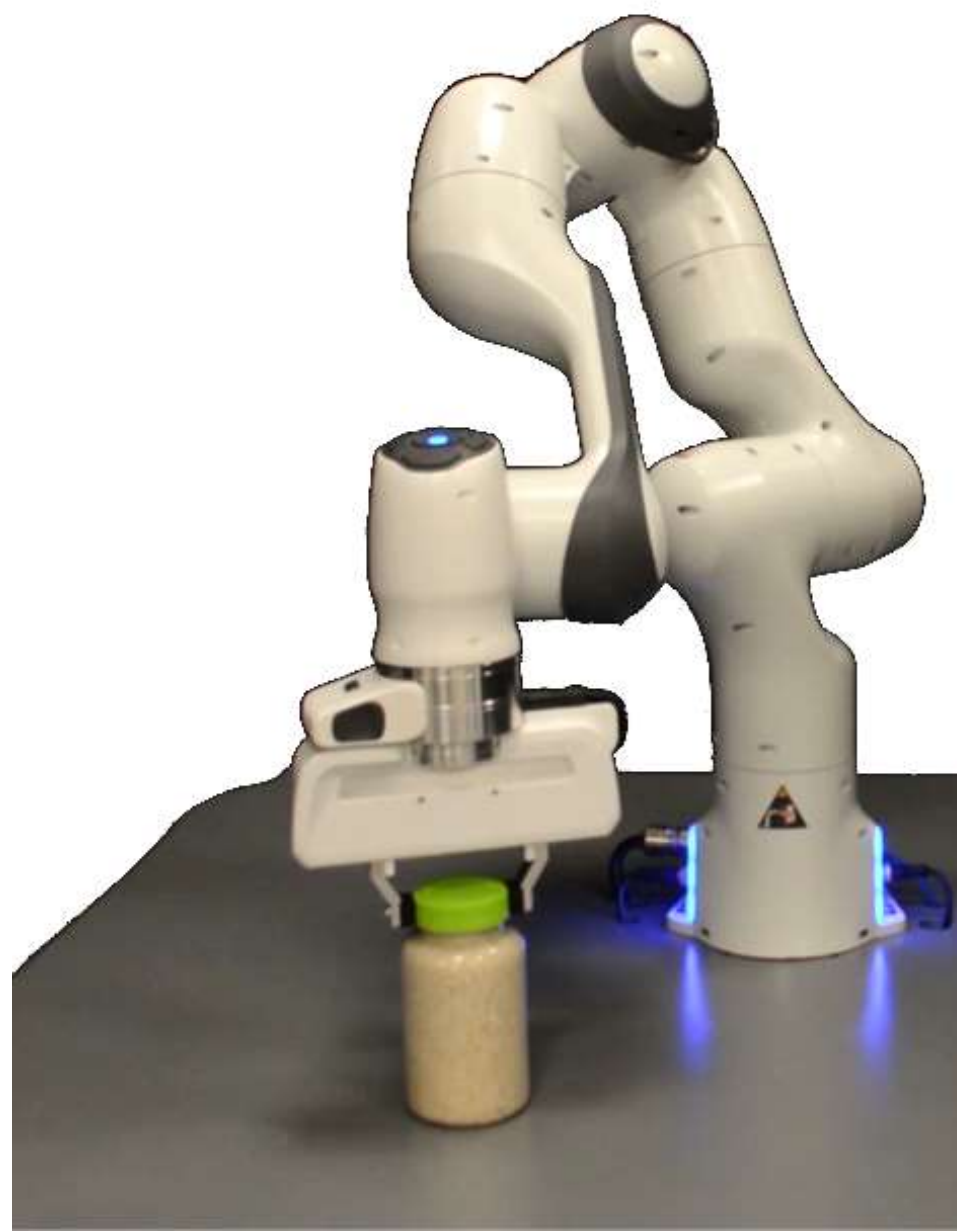


Forces impact on Planning?

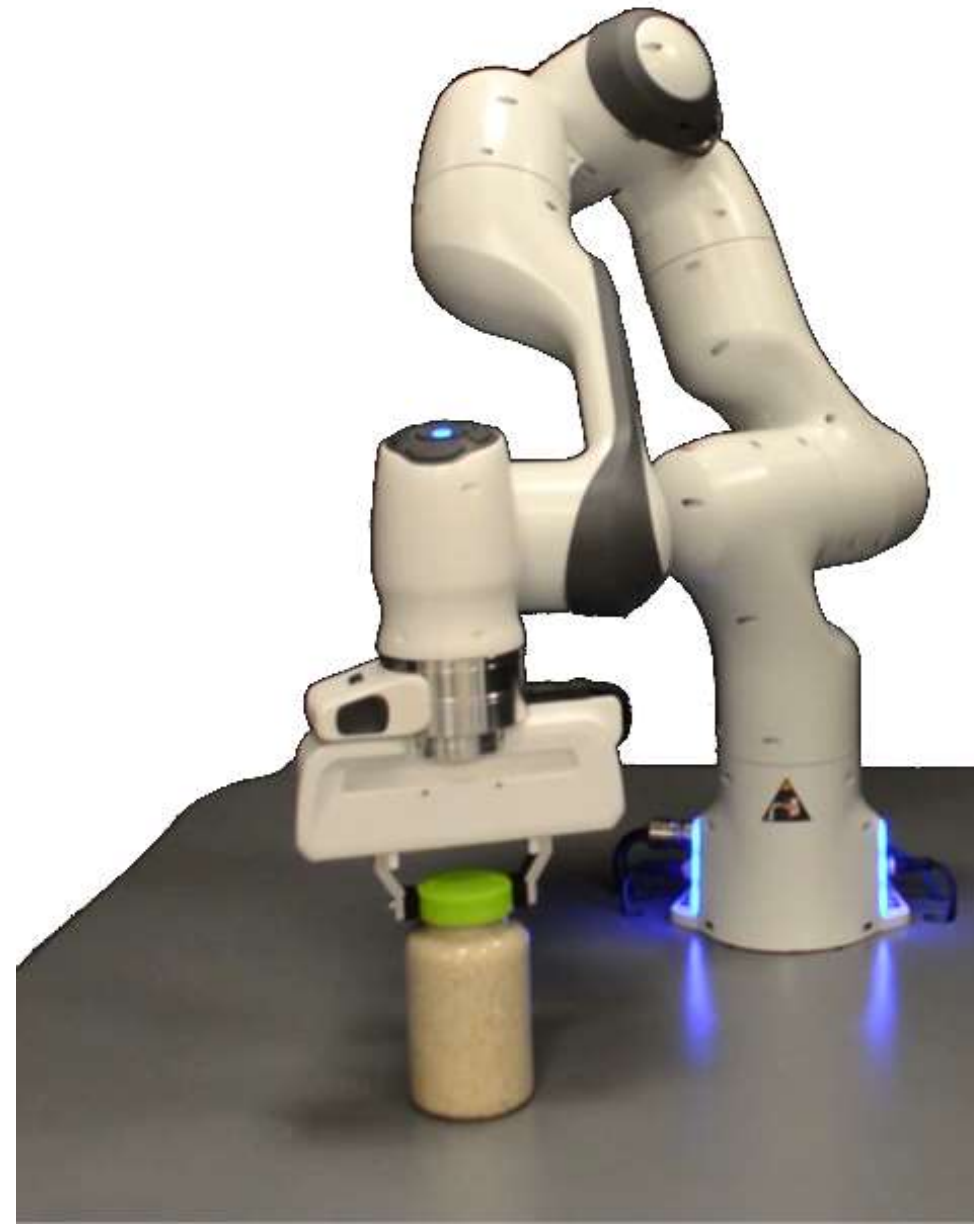
Fixturing

Strong Enough





Kinematic Chain

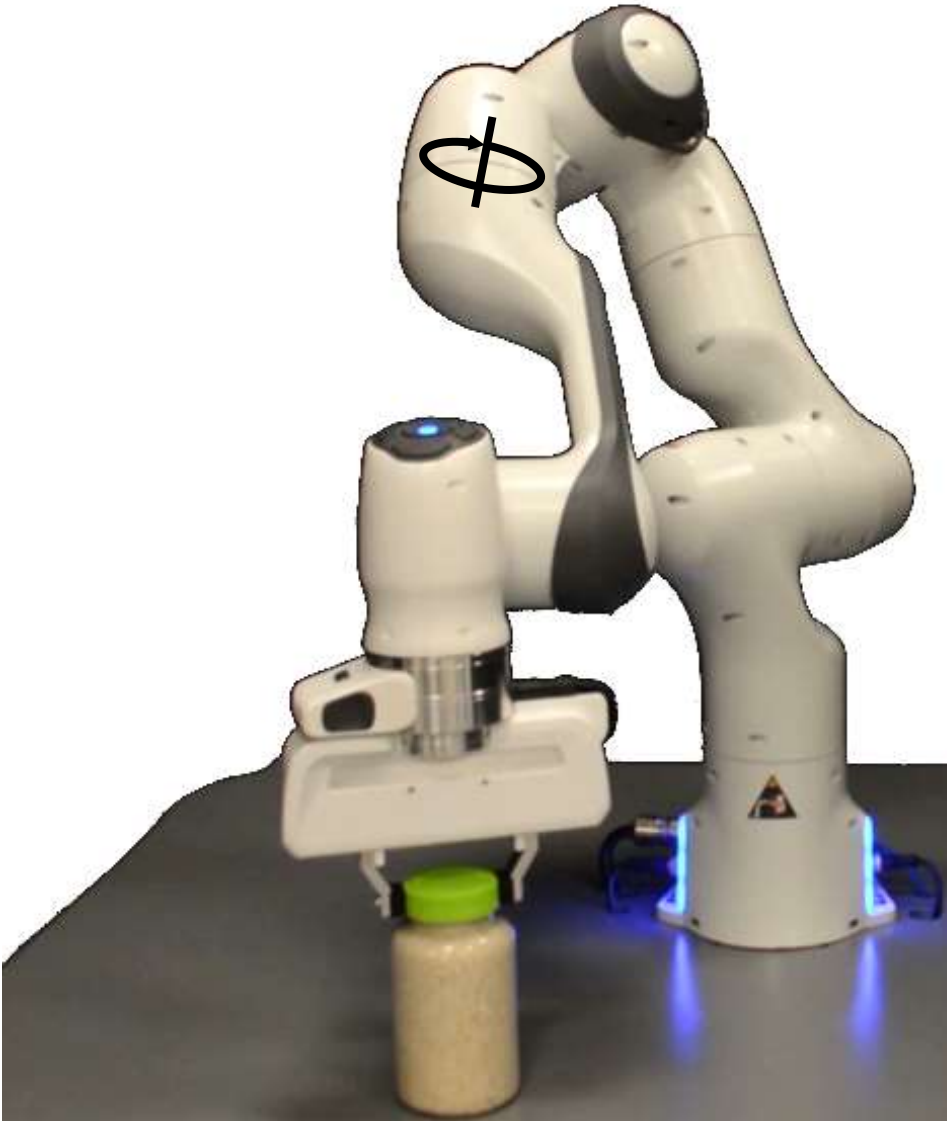


Kinematic Chain

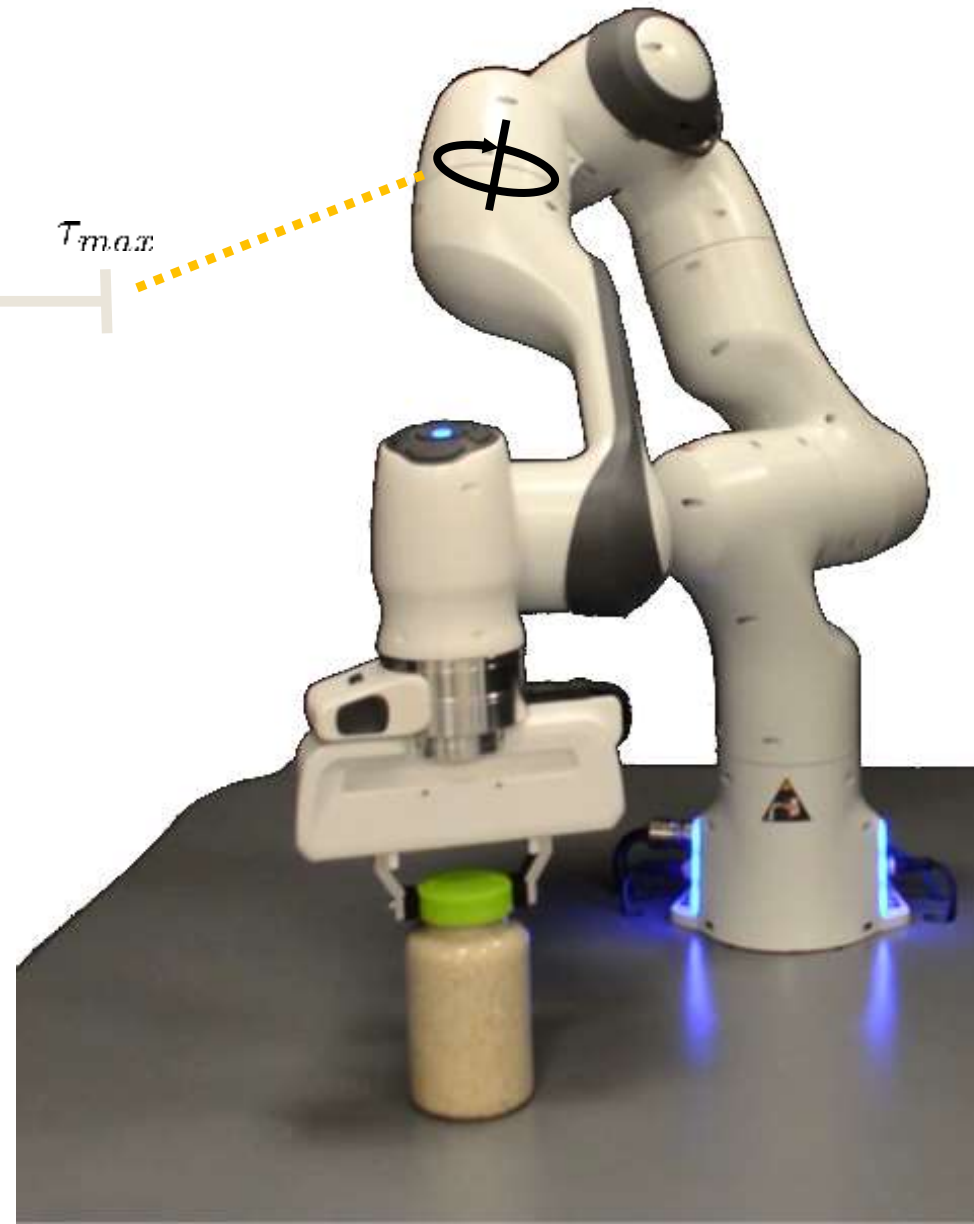


Forceful Kinematic Chain

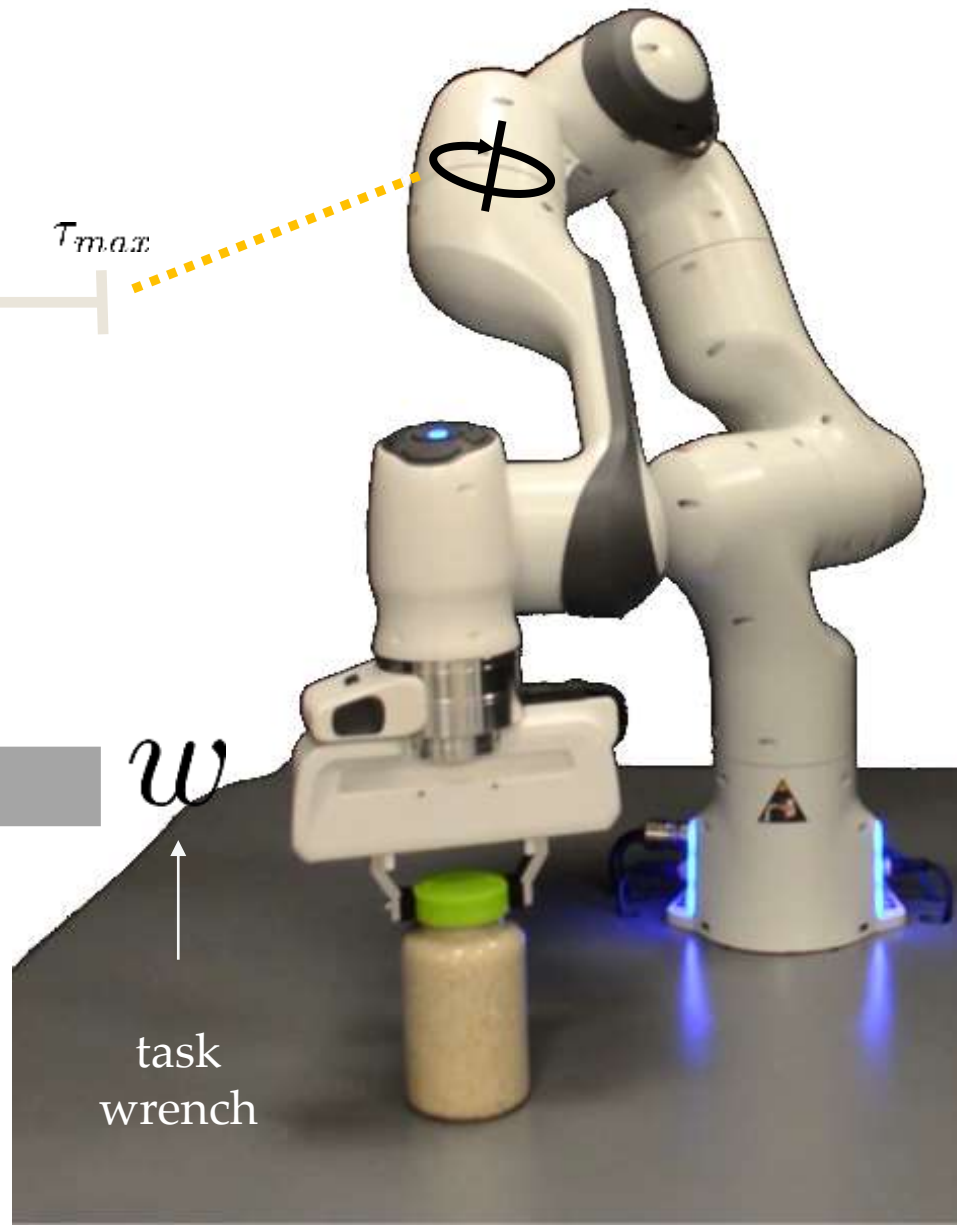
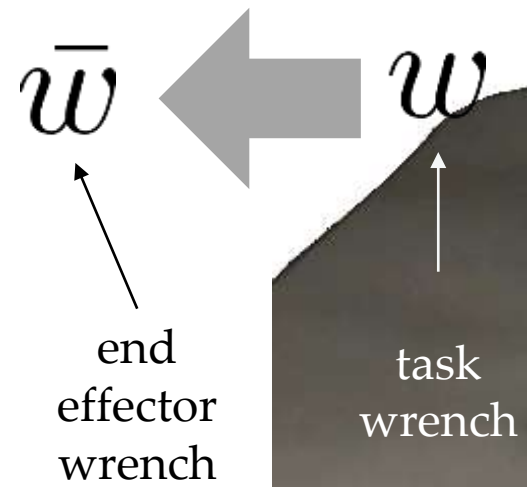




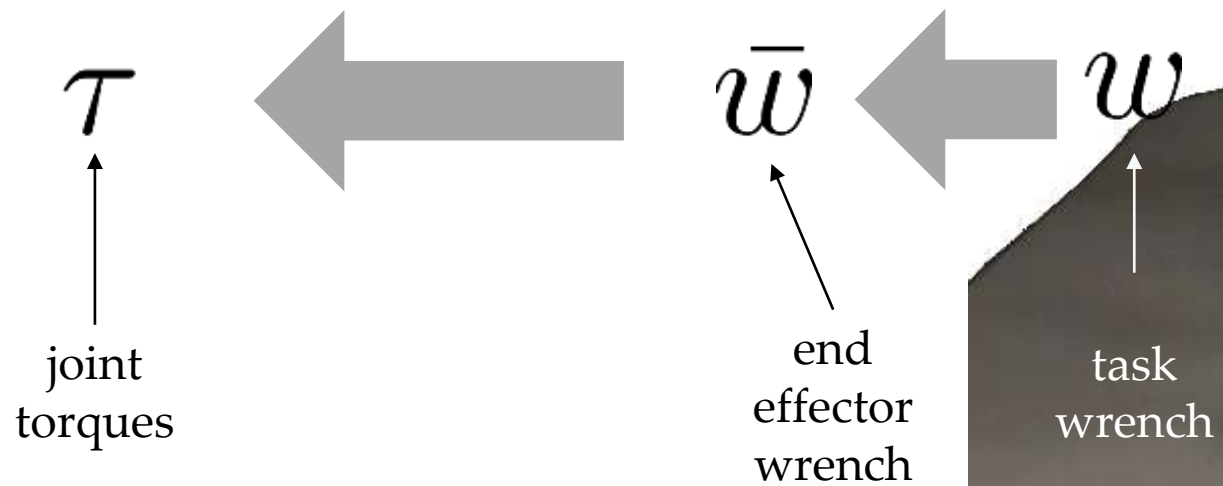
Torque Limits



Torque Limits

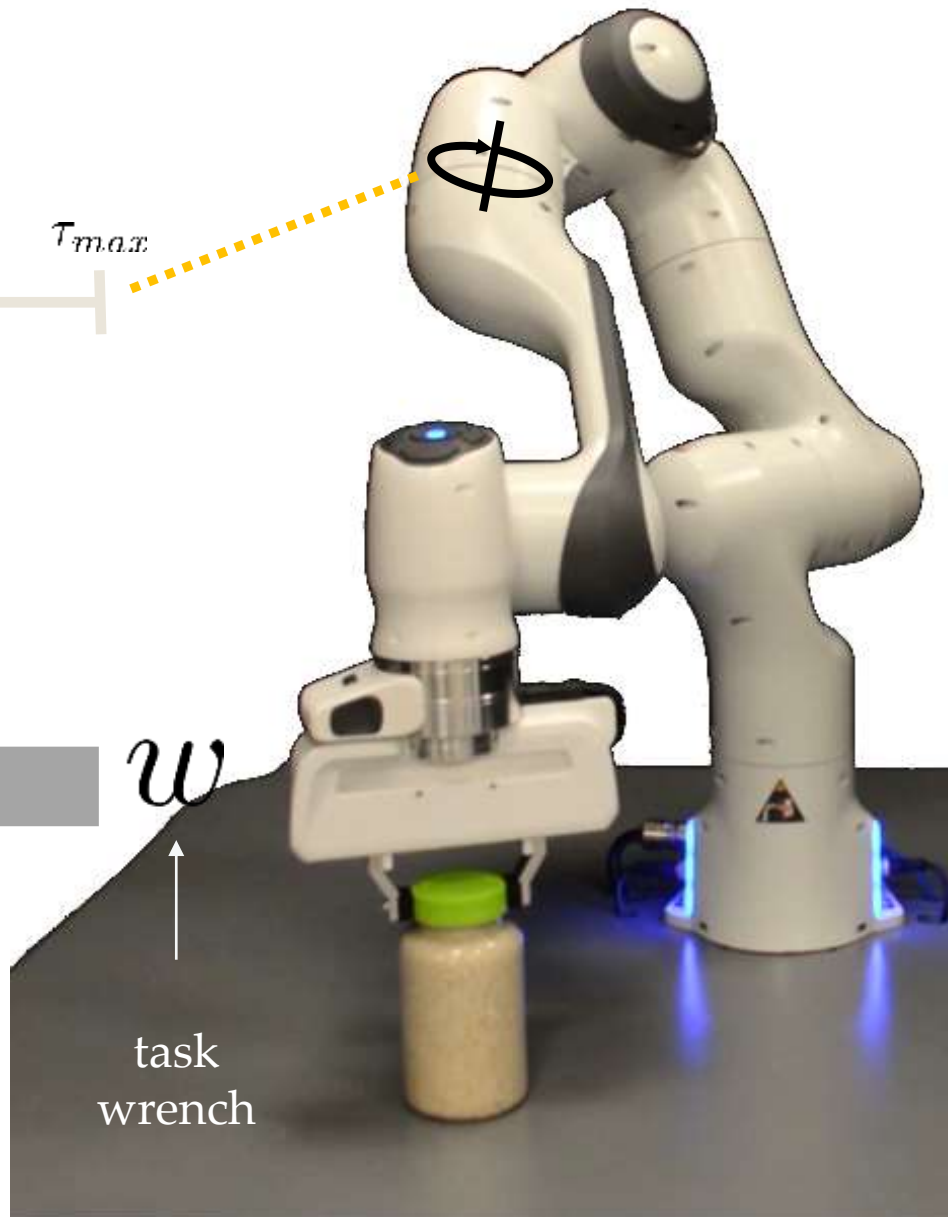


Torque Limits



τ_{min}

τ_{max}



Torque Limits

$$\tau = J_m^T(q) \bar{w}$$

↑ joint torques

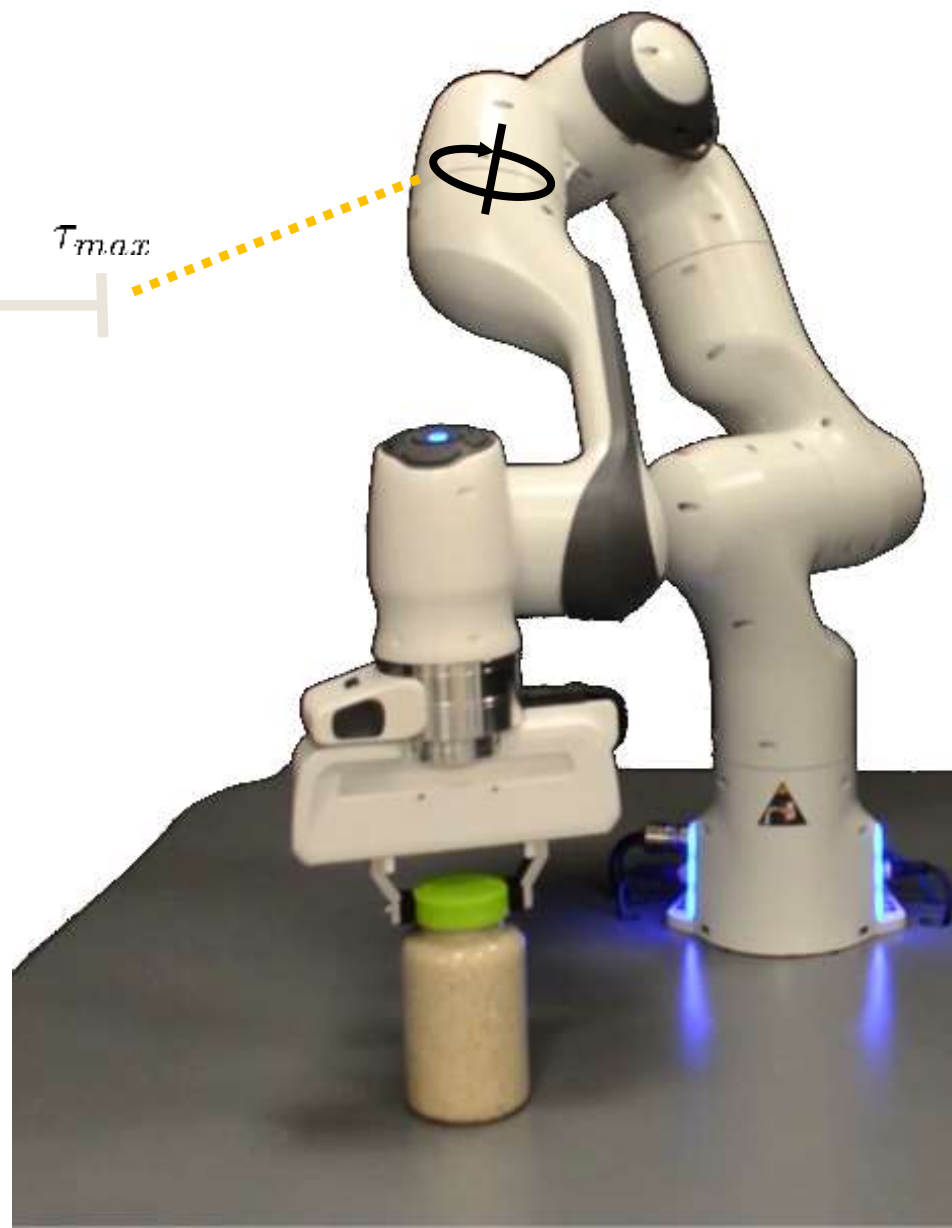
↑ manipulator jacobian

↑ joint angles

↑ end effector wrench

τ_{min}

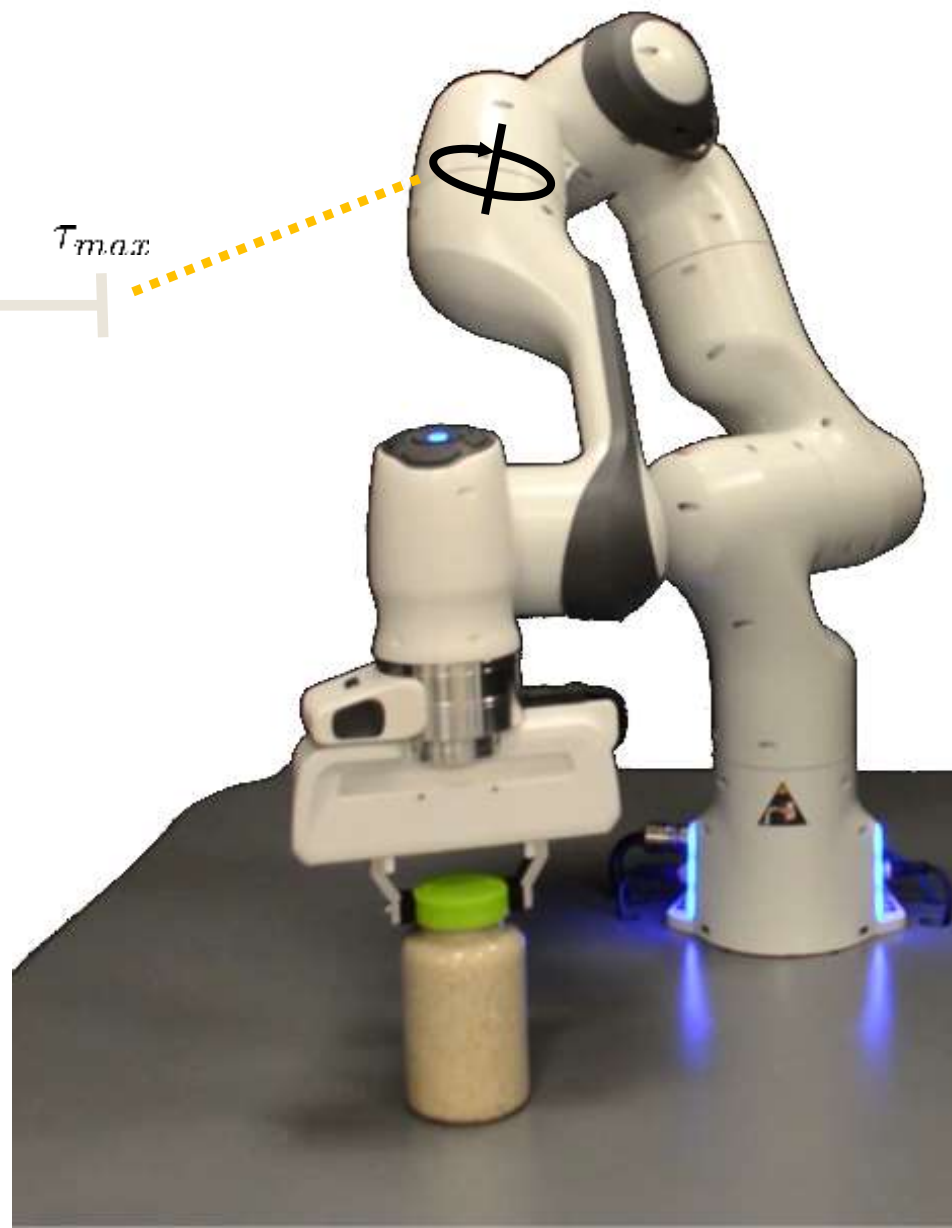
τ_{max}

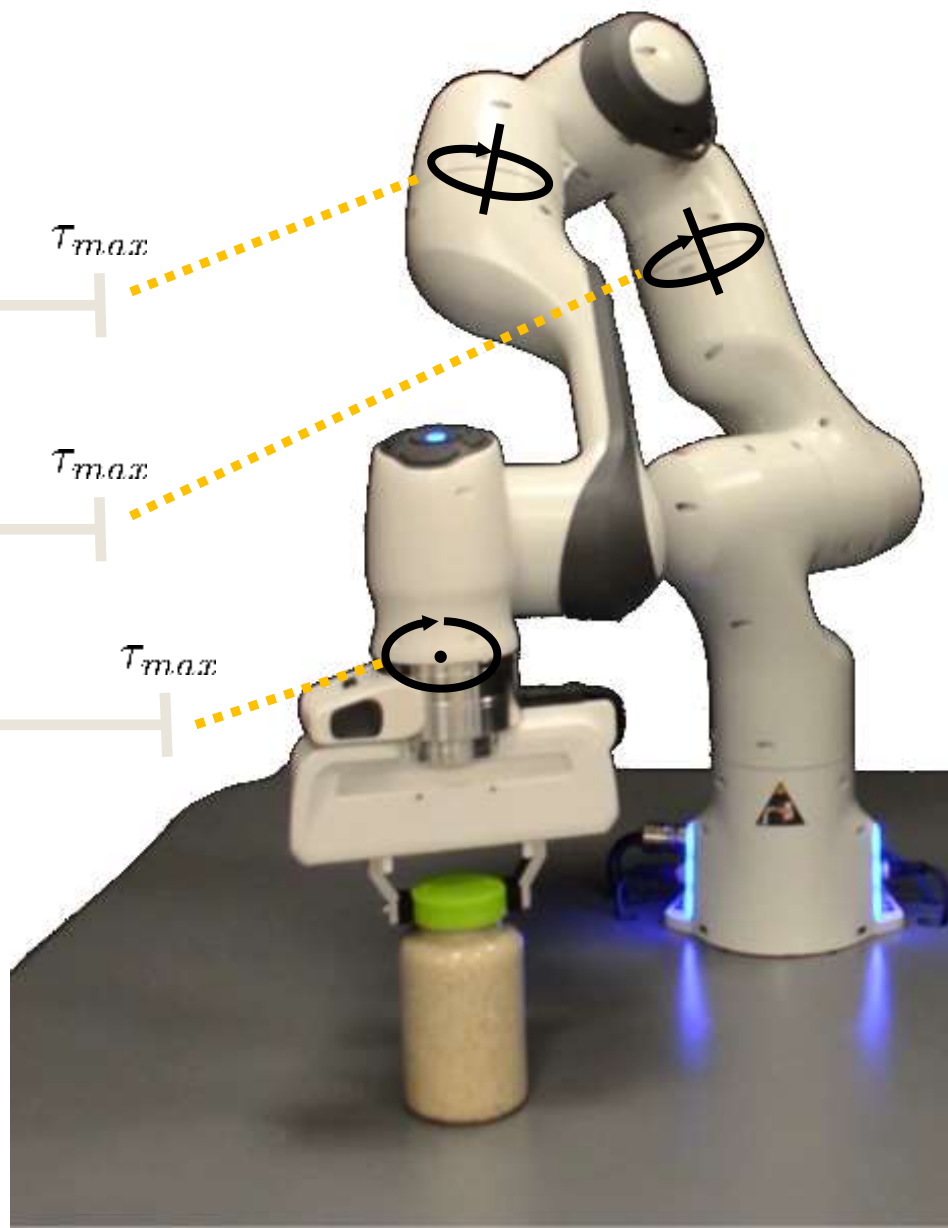
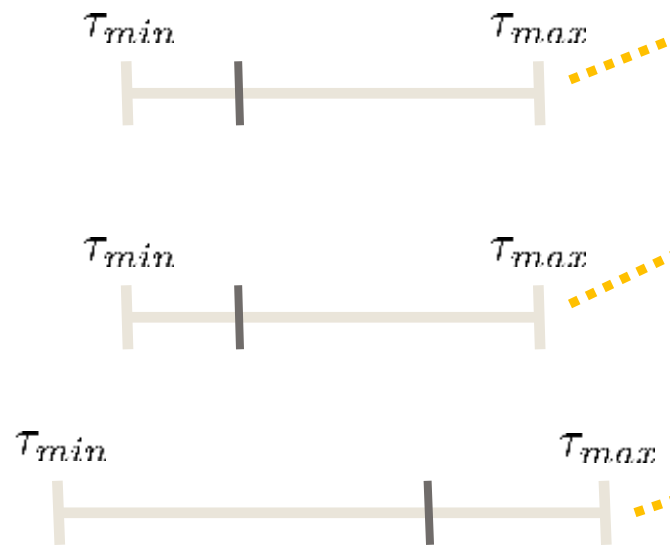


Torque Limits

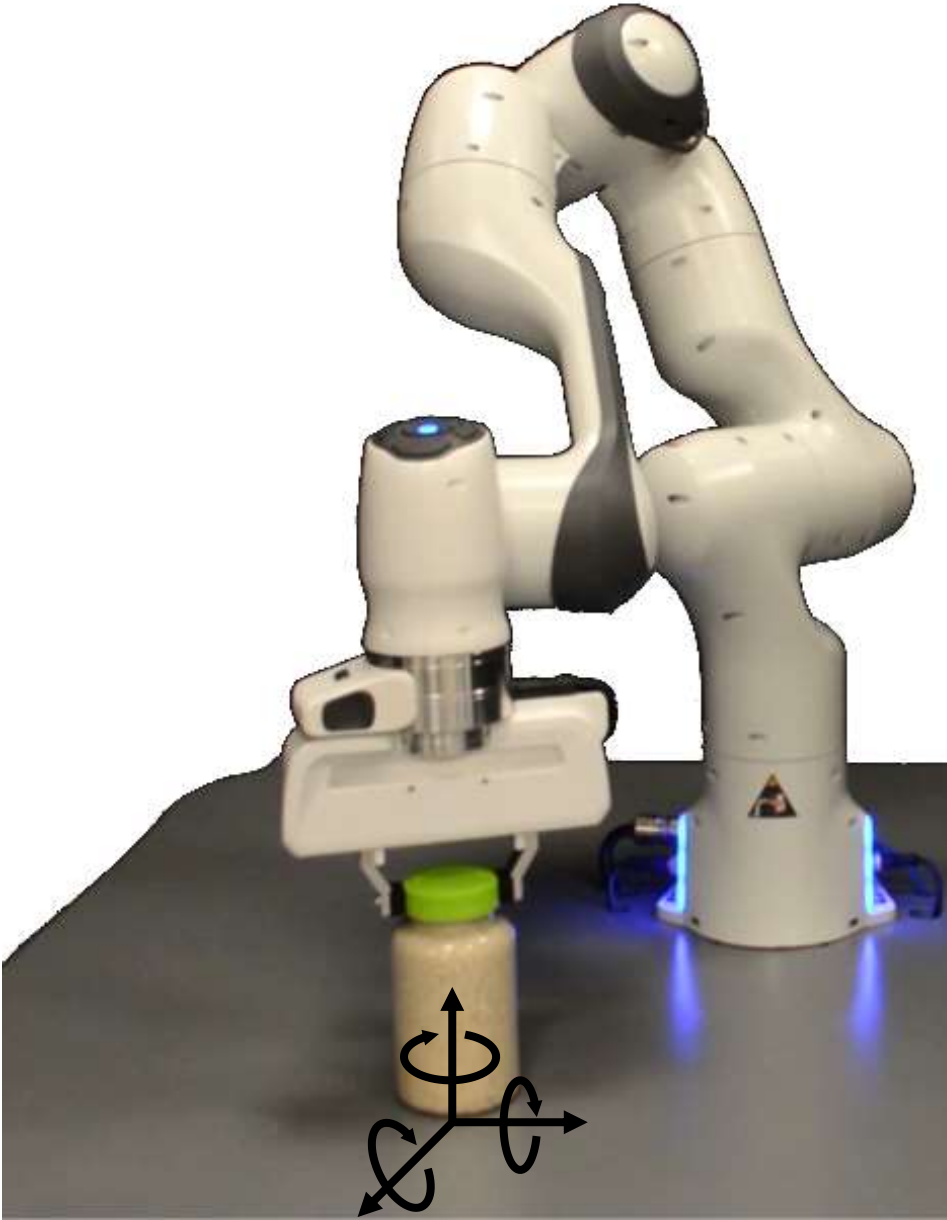
$$\tau_{lim} > \tau = J_m^T(q) \bar{w}$$

torque limits joint torques manipulator jacobian joint angles end effector wrench

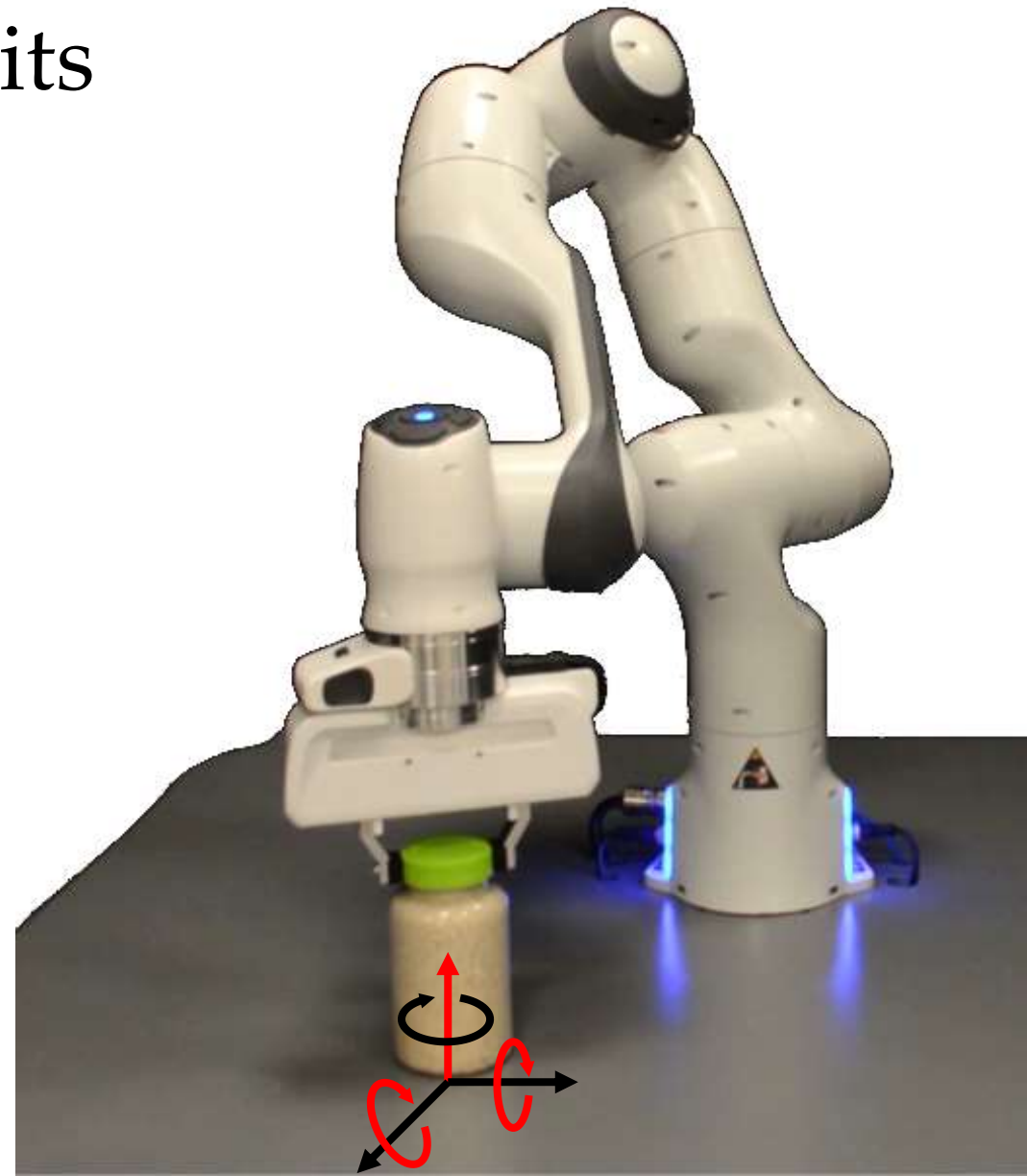




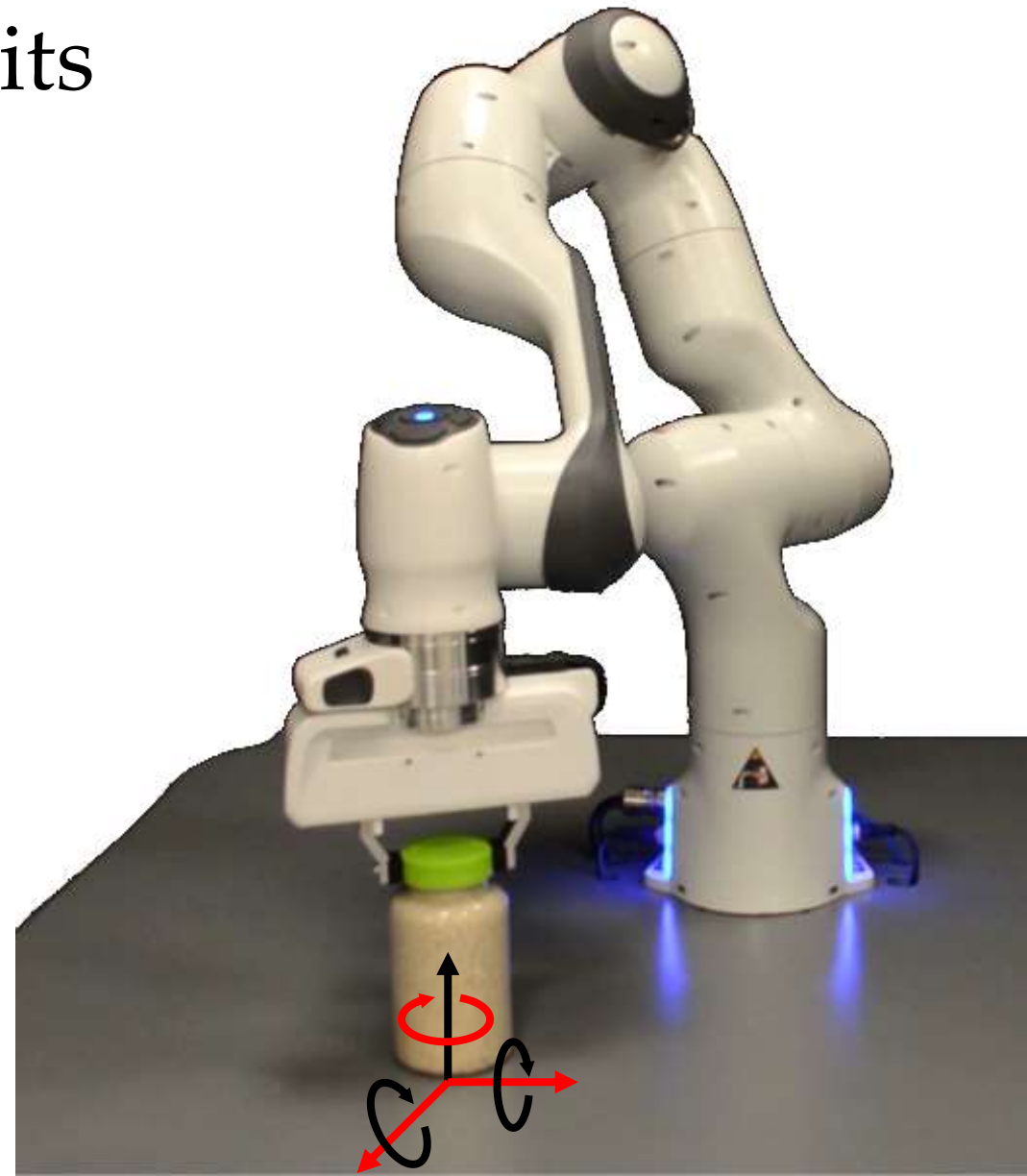




Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits



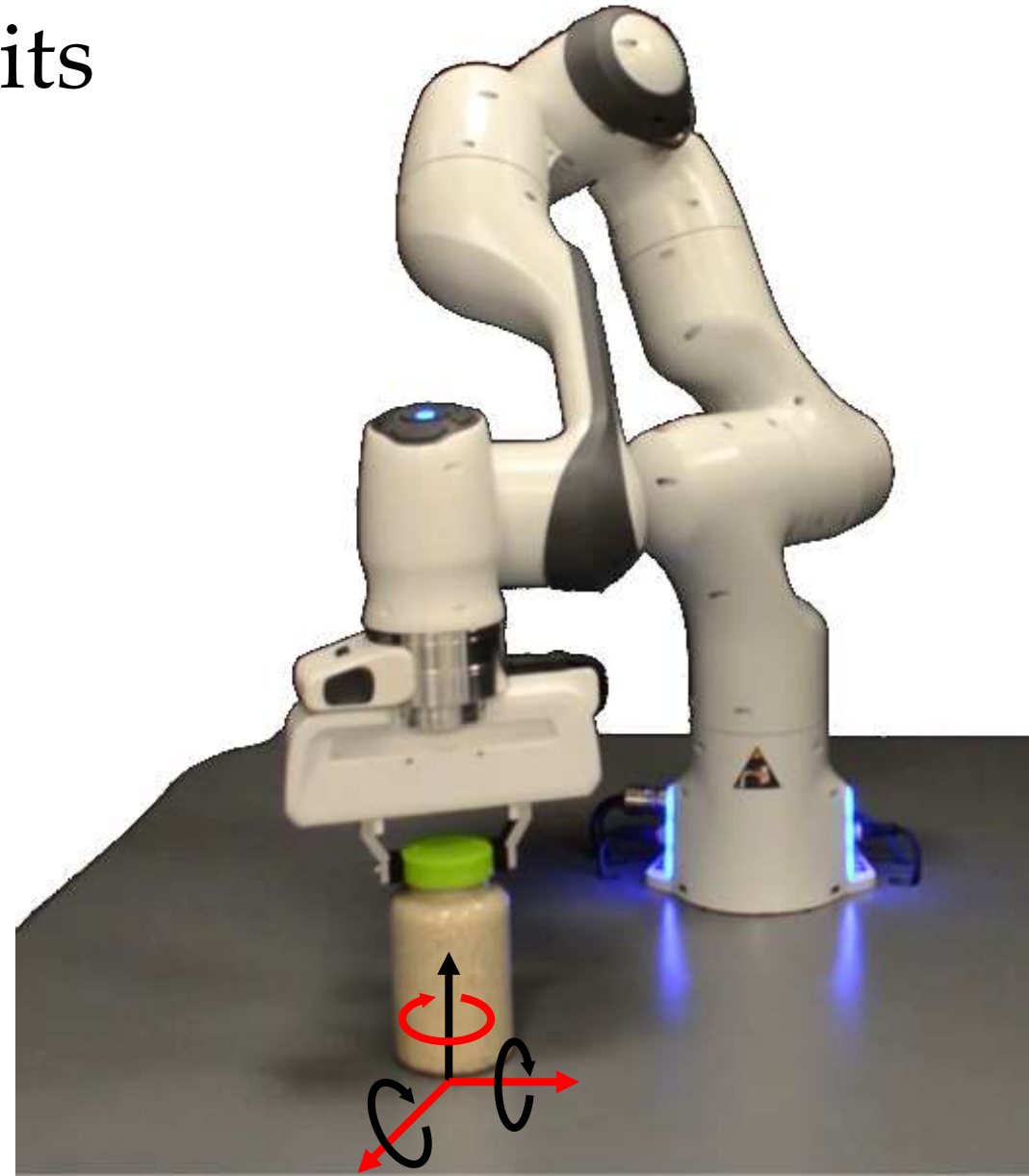
Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits



Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits

+

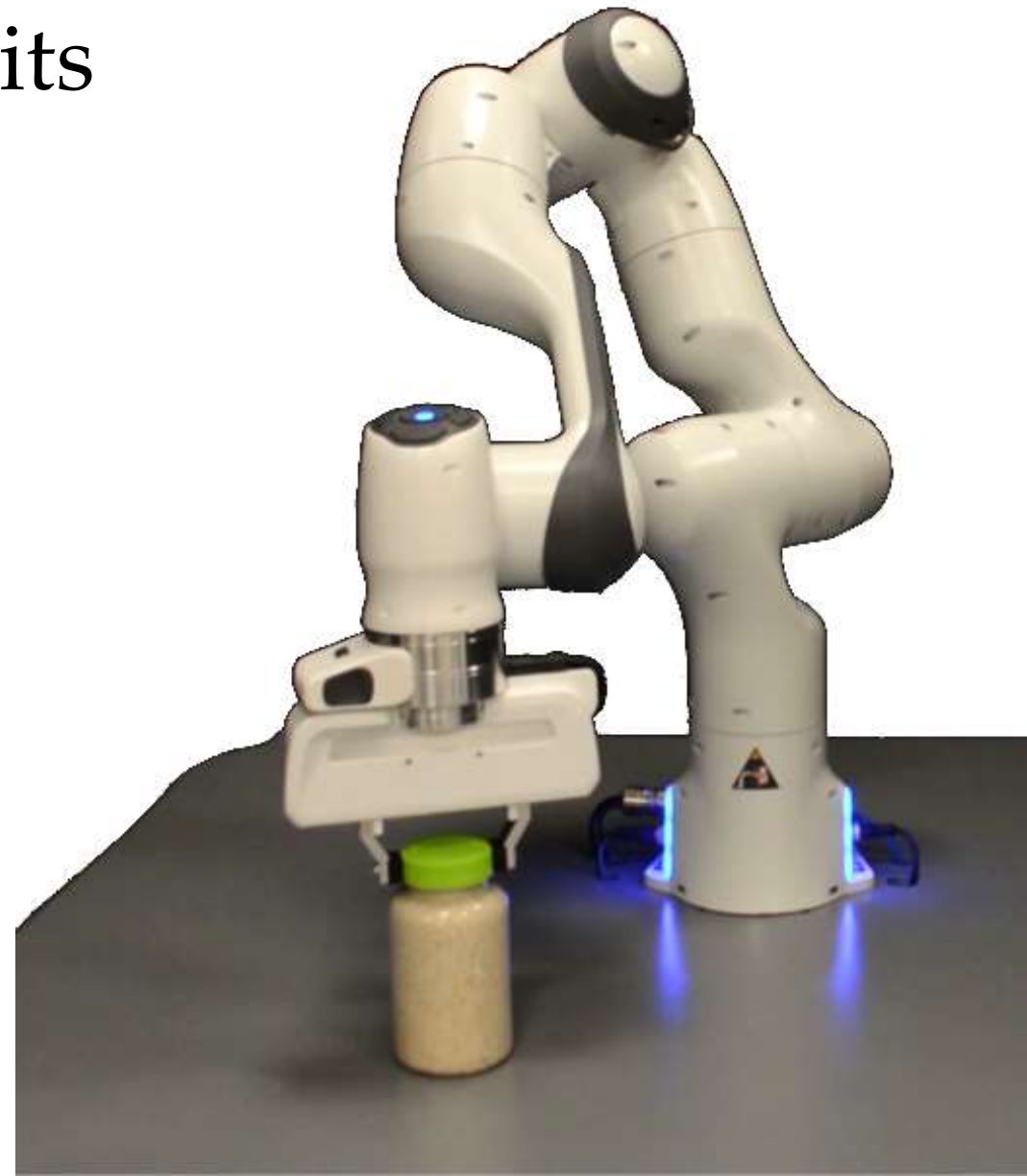
Friction:



Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits

+

Friction: Limit Surface



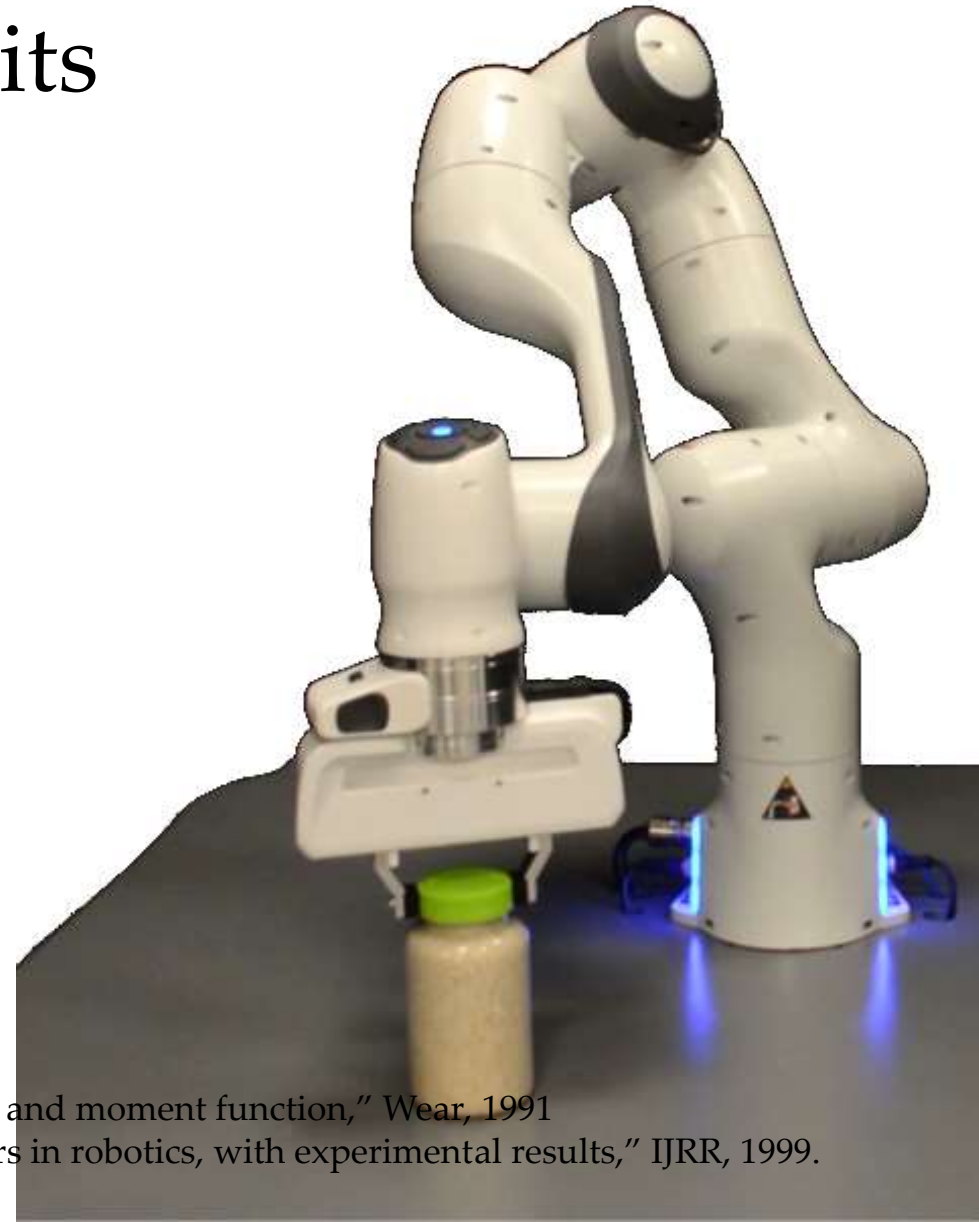
Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits

+

Friction: Limit Surface

Ellipsoidal
Approximation

Generalized
Friction Cone



S. Goyal, A. Ruina, and J. Papadopoulos, "Planar sliding with dry friction part 1. limit surface and moment function," *Wear*, 1991
N. Xydas and I. Kao, "Modeling of contact mechanics and friction limit surfaces for soft fingers in robotics, with experimental results," *IJRR*, 1999.
Erdmann, Michael. "On a representation of friction in configuration space." *IJRR*, 1994.

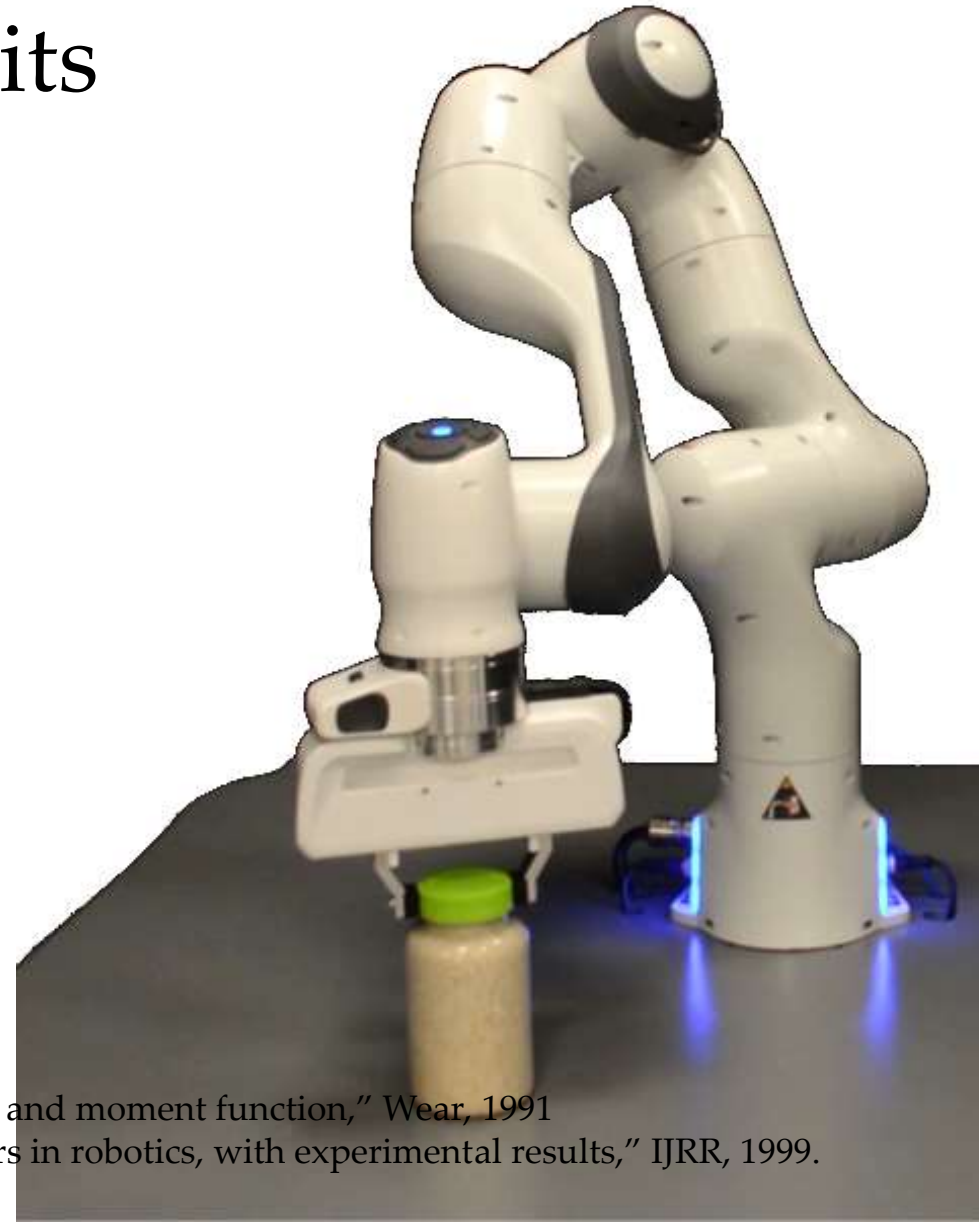
Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits

+

Friction: Limit Surface

Ellipsoidal
Approximation

Generalized
Friction Cone

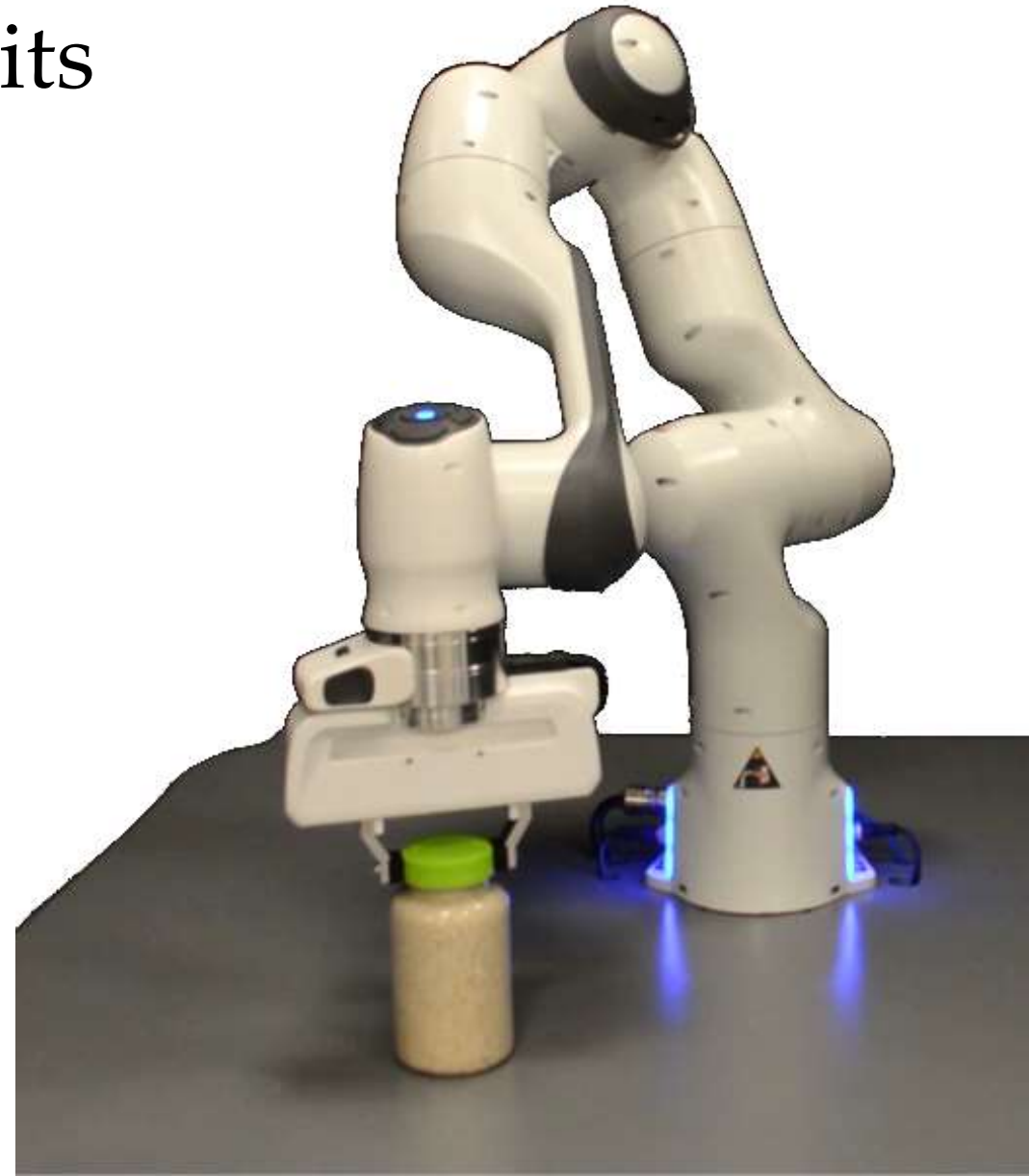


S. Goyal, A. Ruina, and J. Papadopoulos, "Planar sliding with dry friction part 1. limit surface and moment function," *Wear*, 1991
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Erdmann, Michael. "On a representation of friction in configuration space." *IJRR*, 1994.

Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits

+

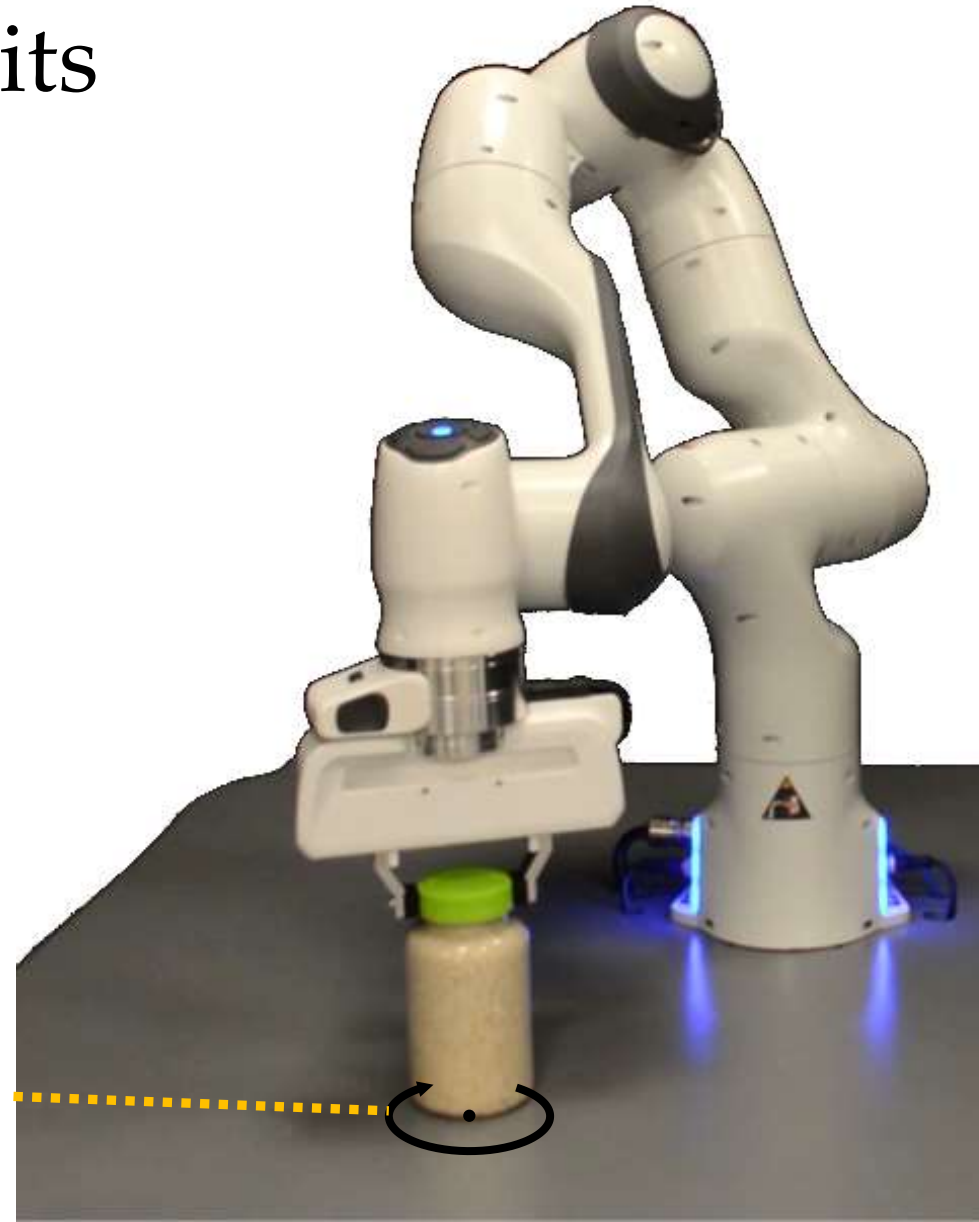
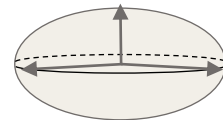
Friction: Limit Surface



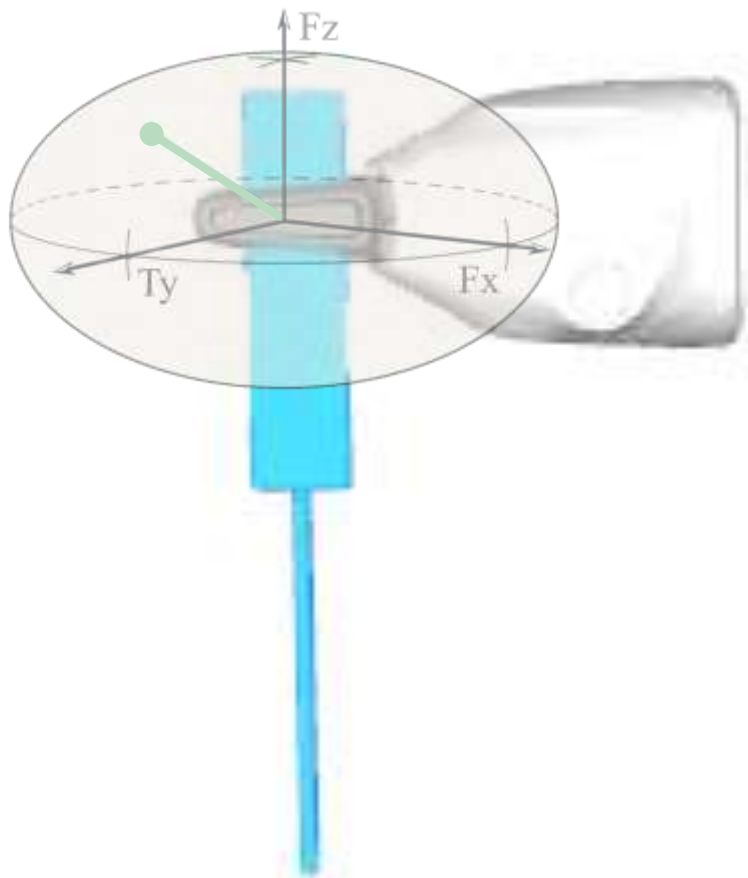
Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits

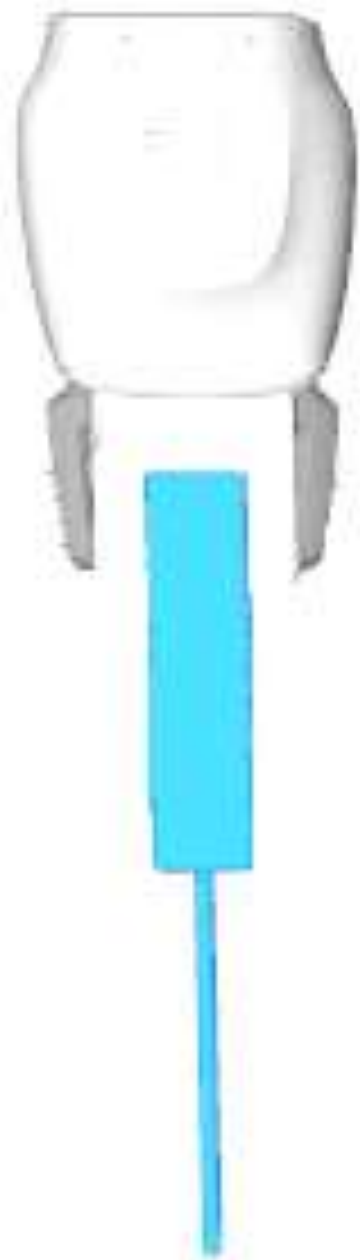
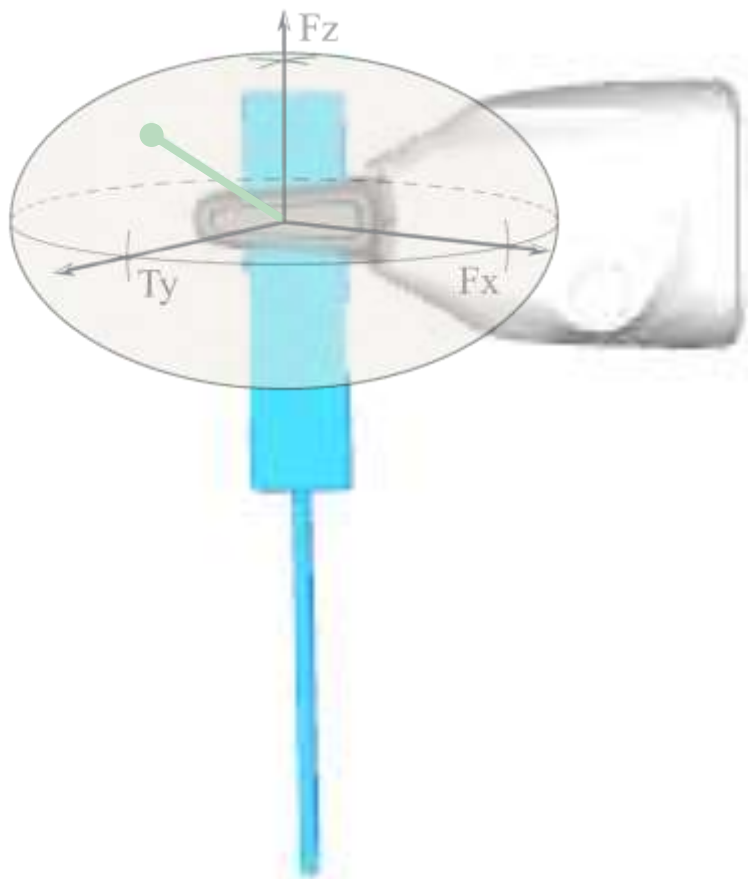
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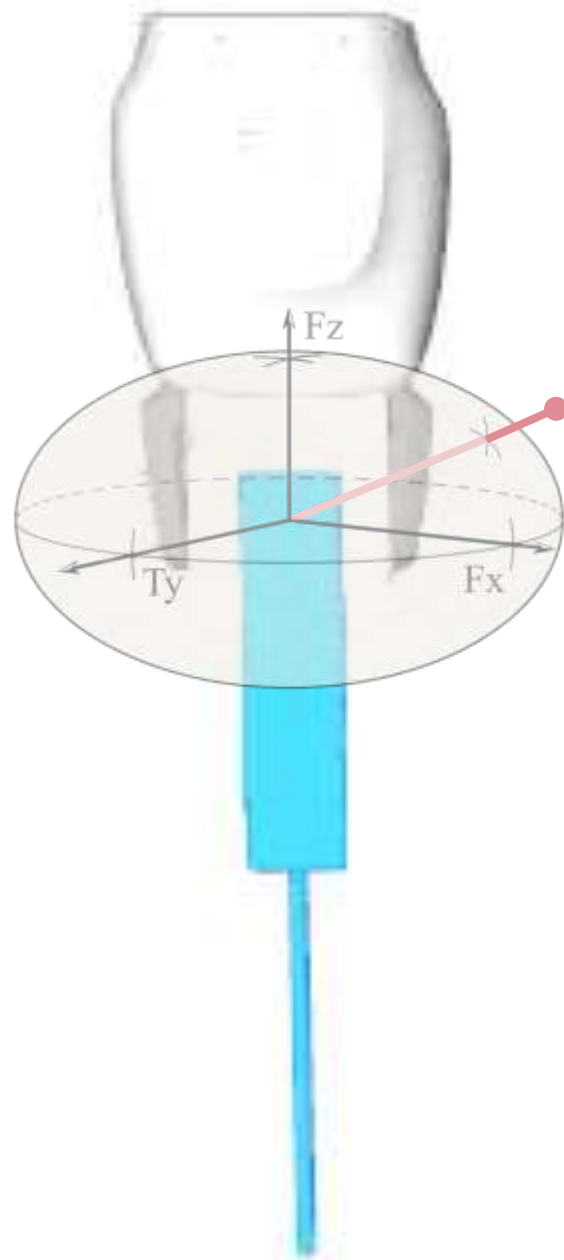
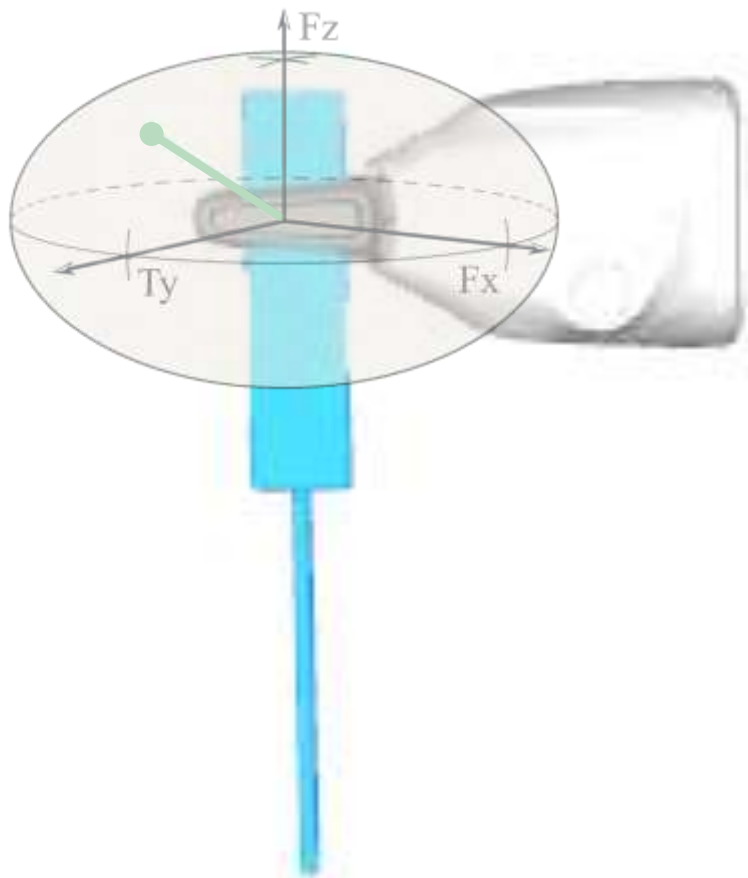
Friction: Limit Surface





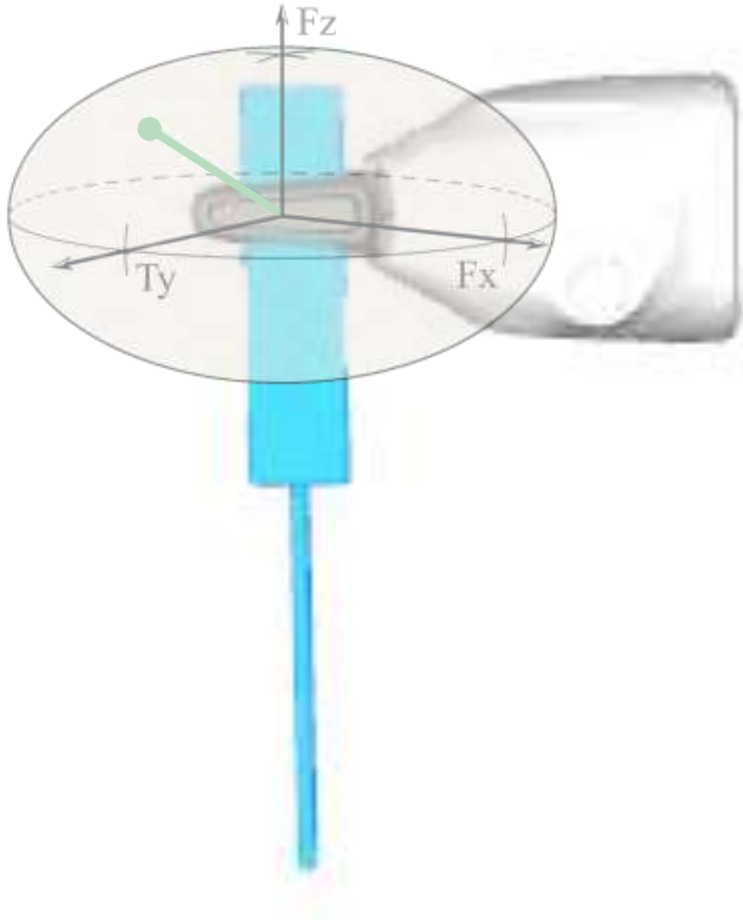






Limit Surface

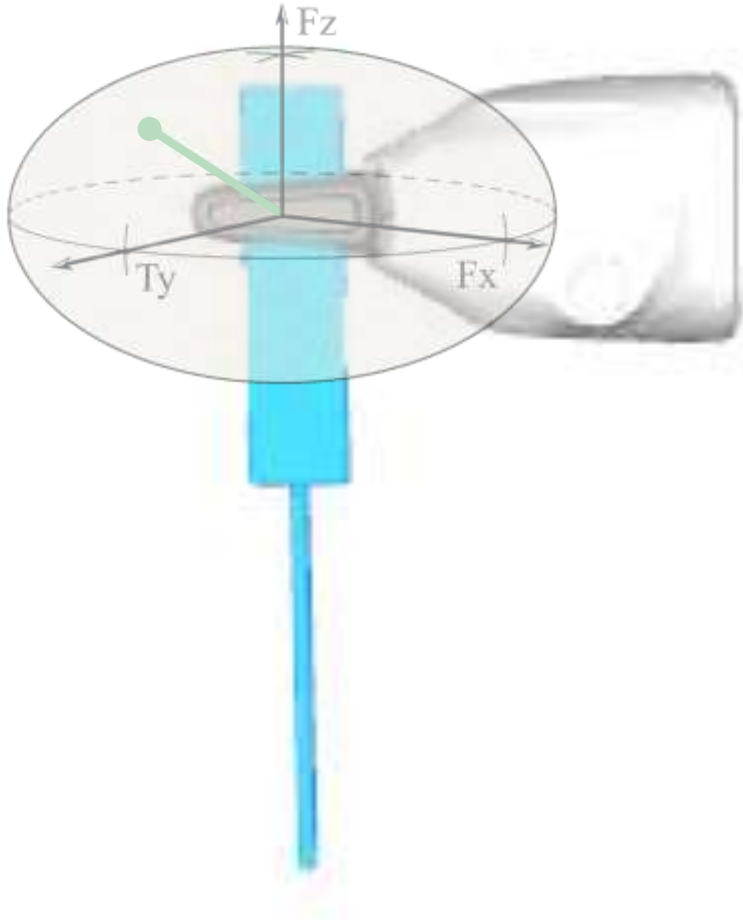
$$w = (f_x, f_z, t_y)$$



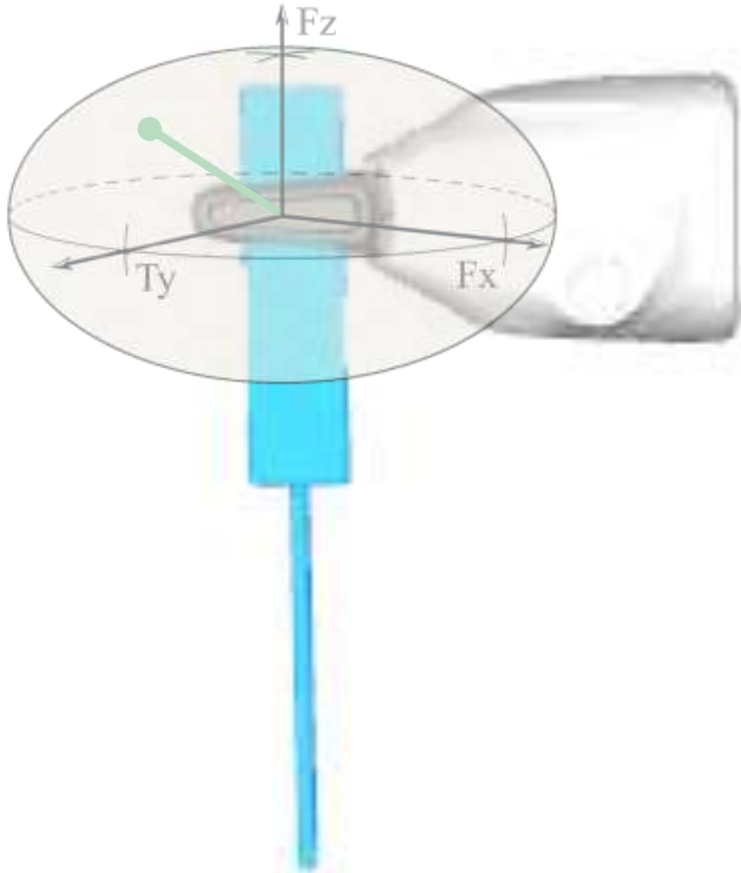
Limit Surface

$$w = (f_x, f_z, t_y)$$

$$w^T A w = 1$$



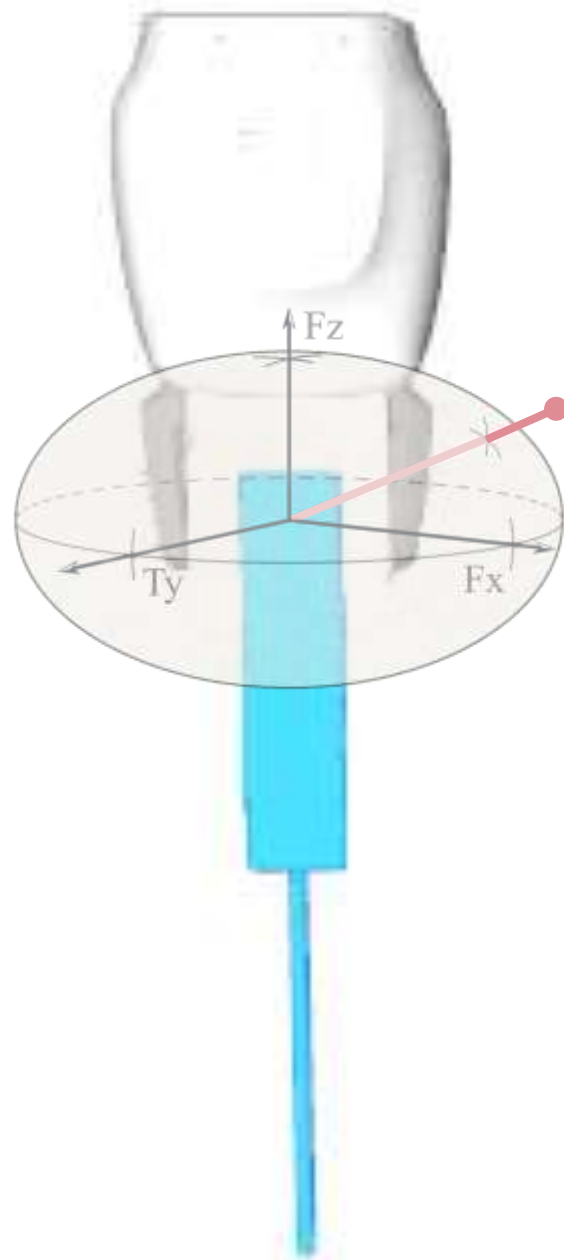
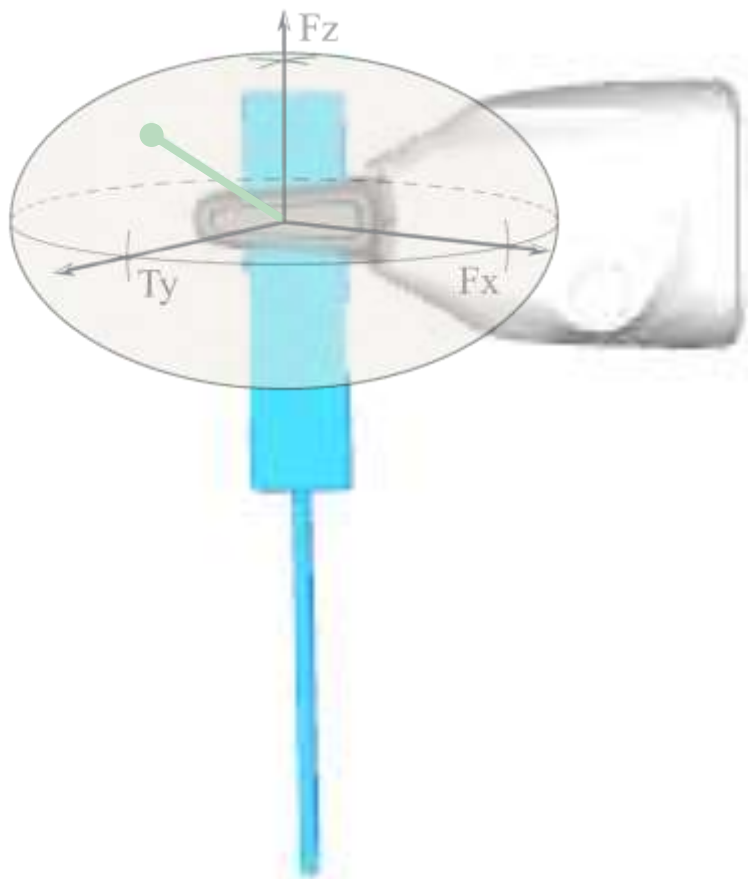
Limit Surface

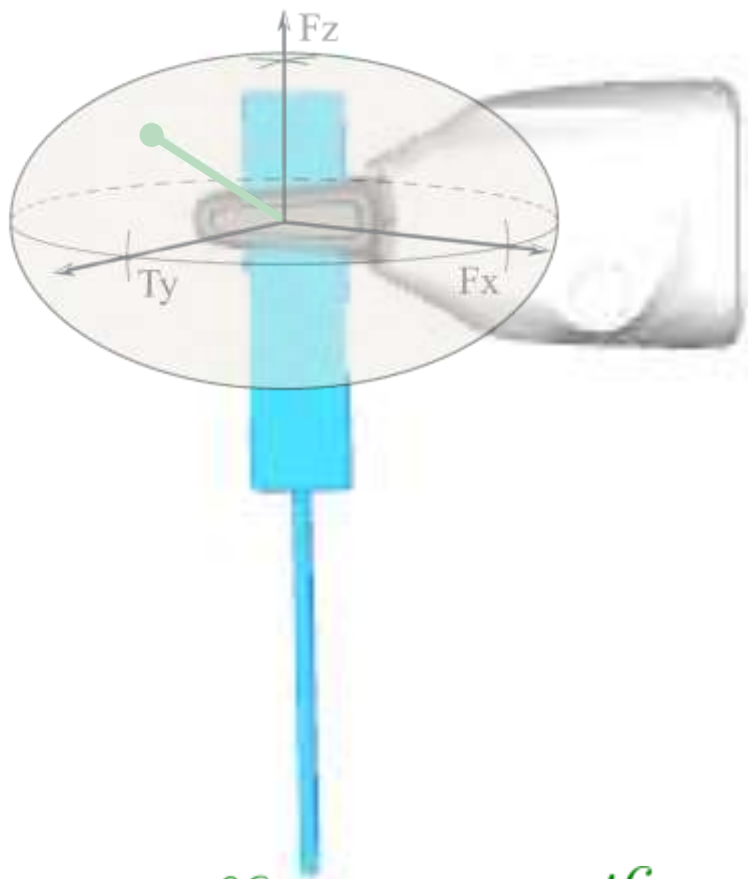


$$w = (f_x, f_z, t_y)$$

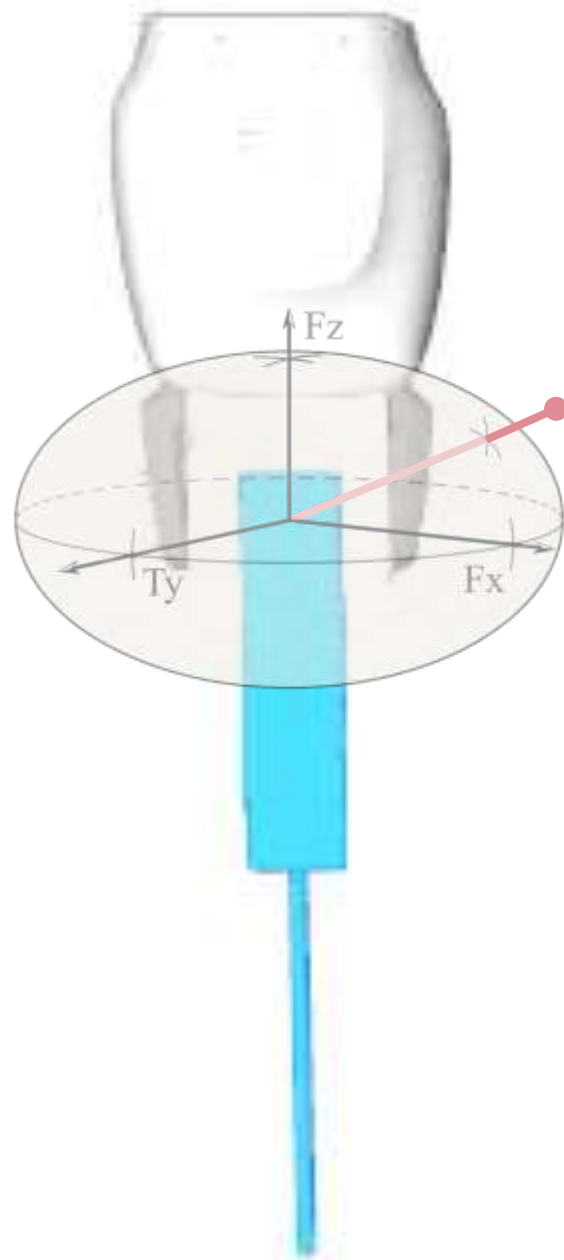
$$w^T A w = 1$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{(N\mu)^2} & & 0 \\ & \frac{1}{(N\mu)^2} & \\ 0 & & \frac{1}{(N\mu)^2 (rc)^2} \end{bmatrix}$$





$$\frac{f_x^c}{(N\mu)^2} + \frac{f_z^c}{(N\mu)^2} + \frac{t_y^c}{(N\mu)^2(rc)^2} < 1$$

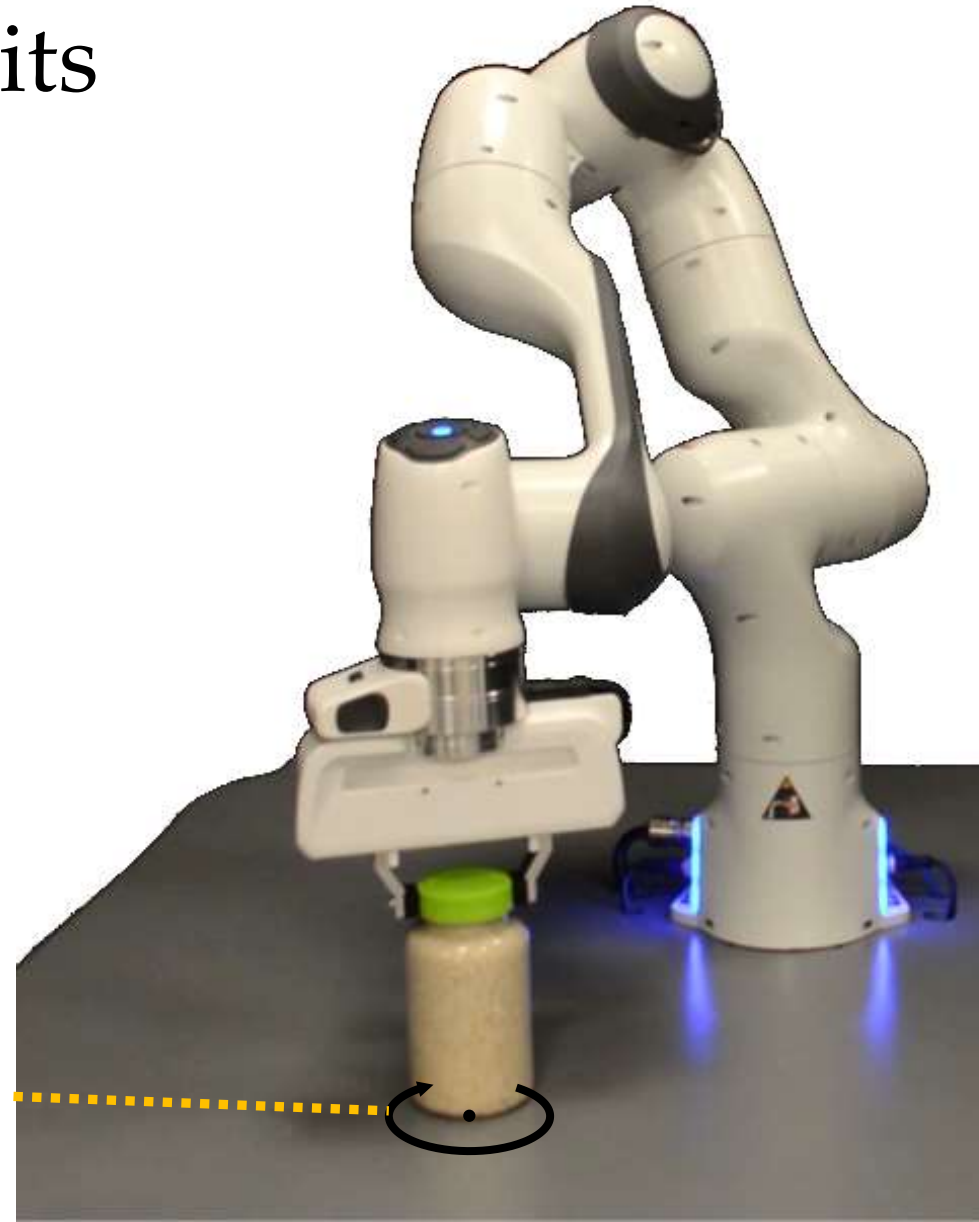
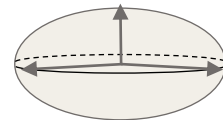


$$\frac{f_x^c}{(N\mu)^2} + \frac{f_z^c}{(N\mu)^2} + \frac{t_y^c}{(N\mu)^2(rc)^2} > 1$$

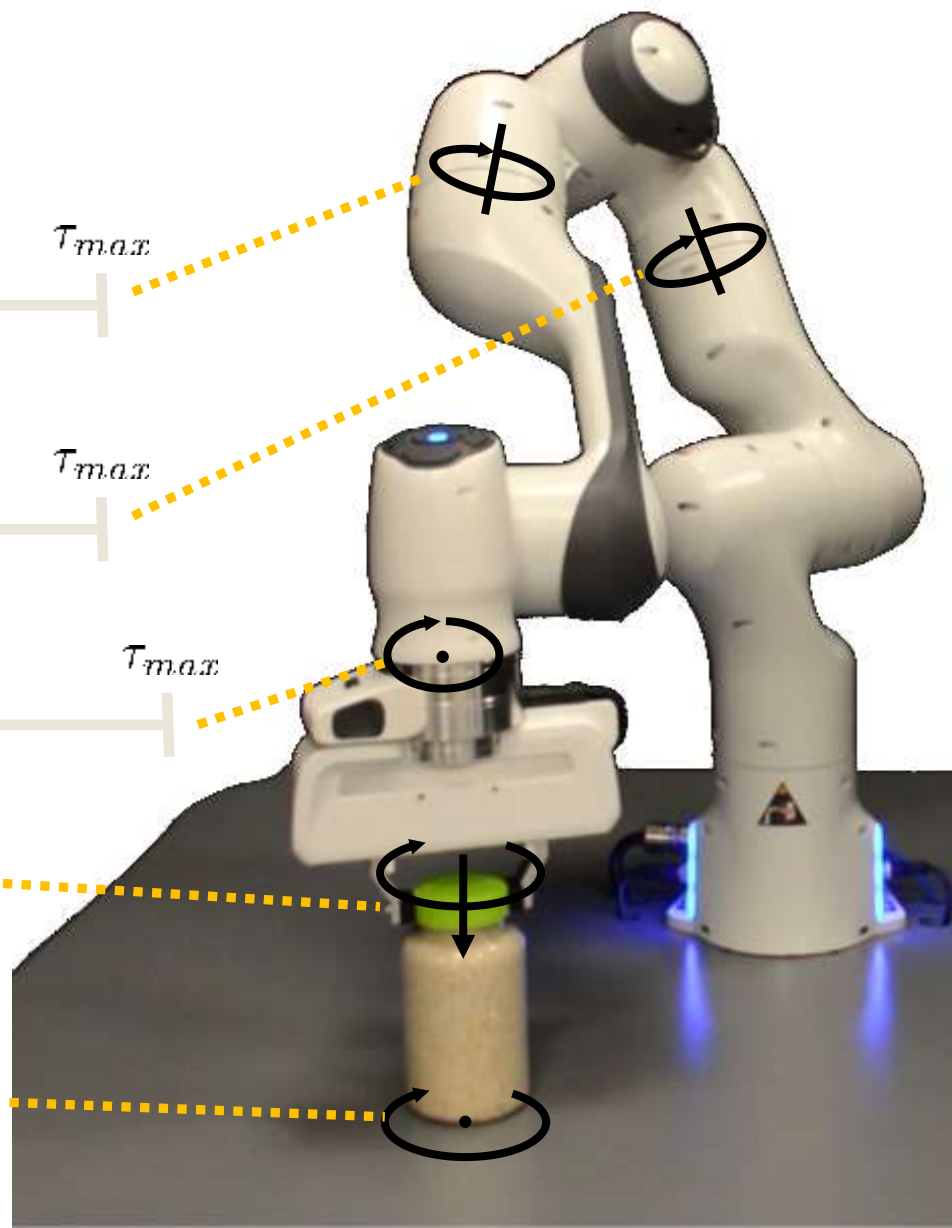
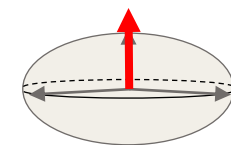
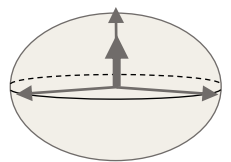
Kinematics: Non-Penetration Limits

+

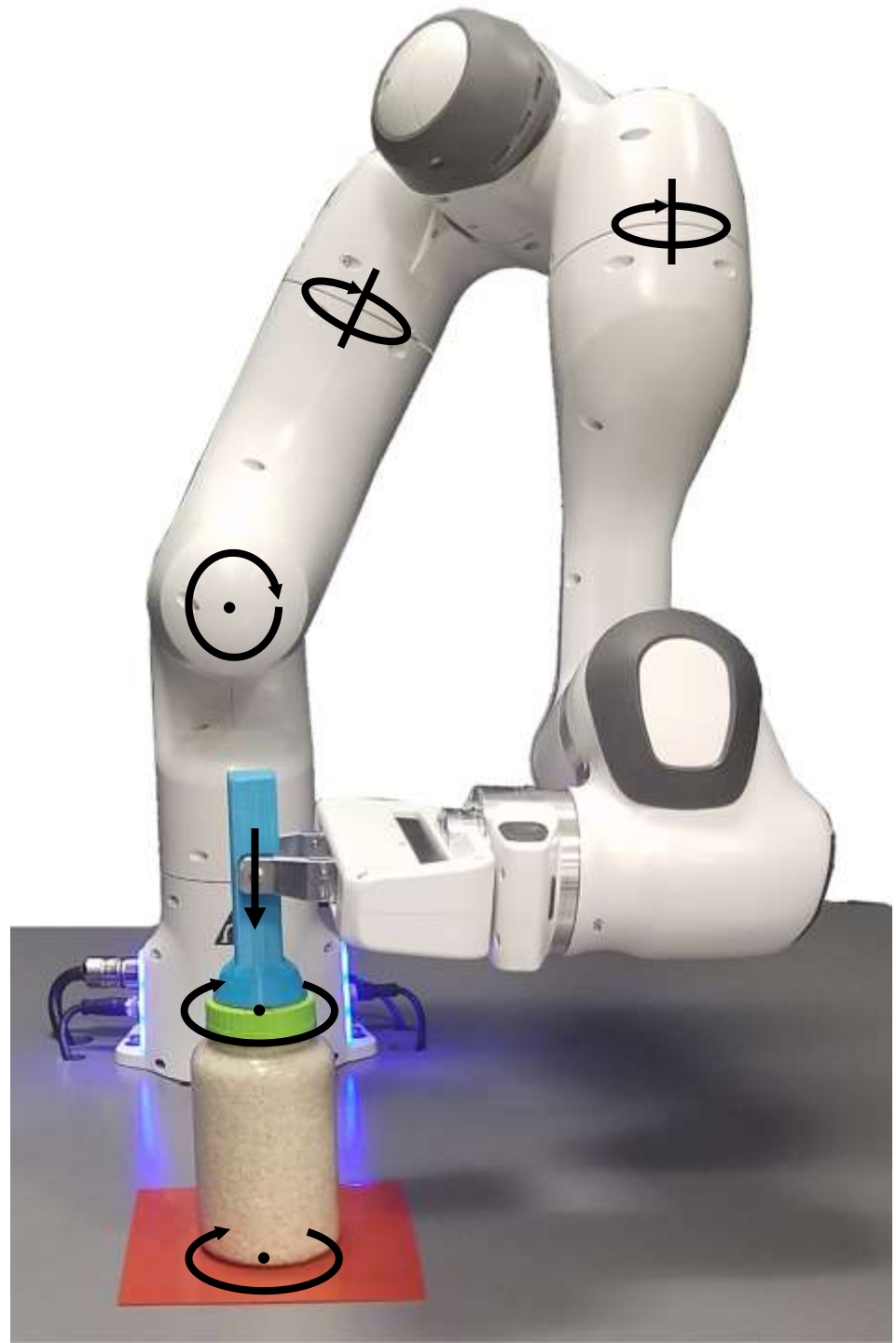
Friction: Limit Surface

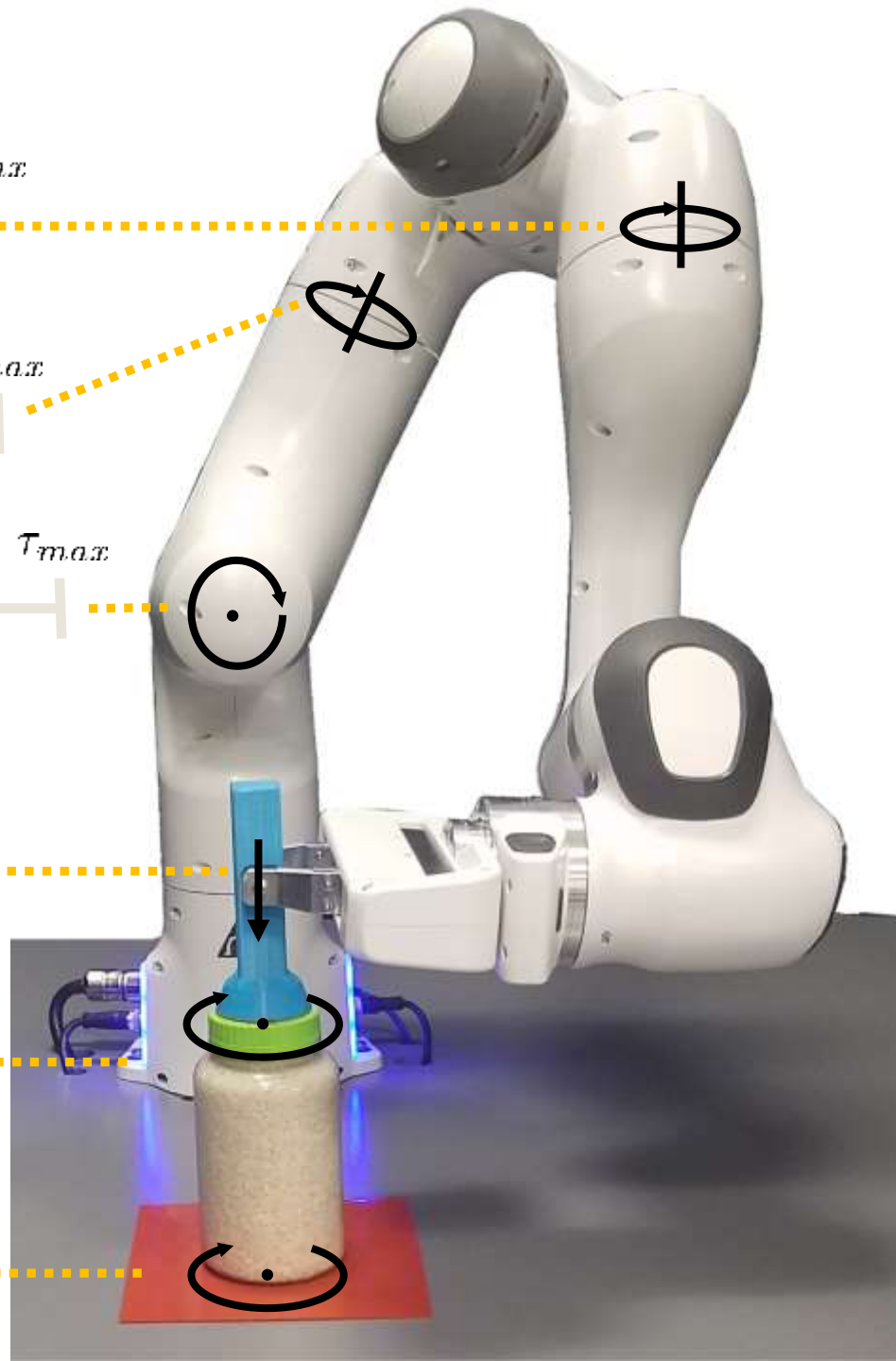
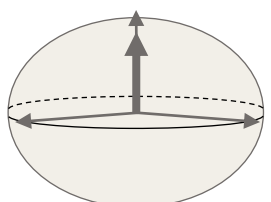
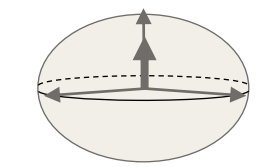
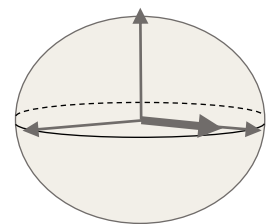


Forceful Kinematic Chain







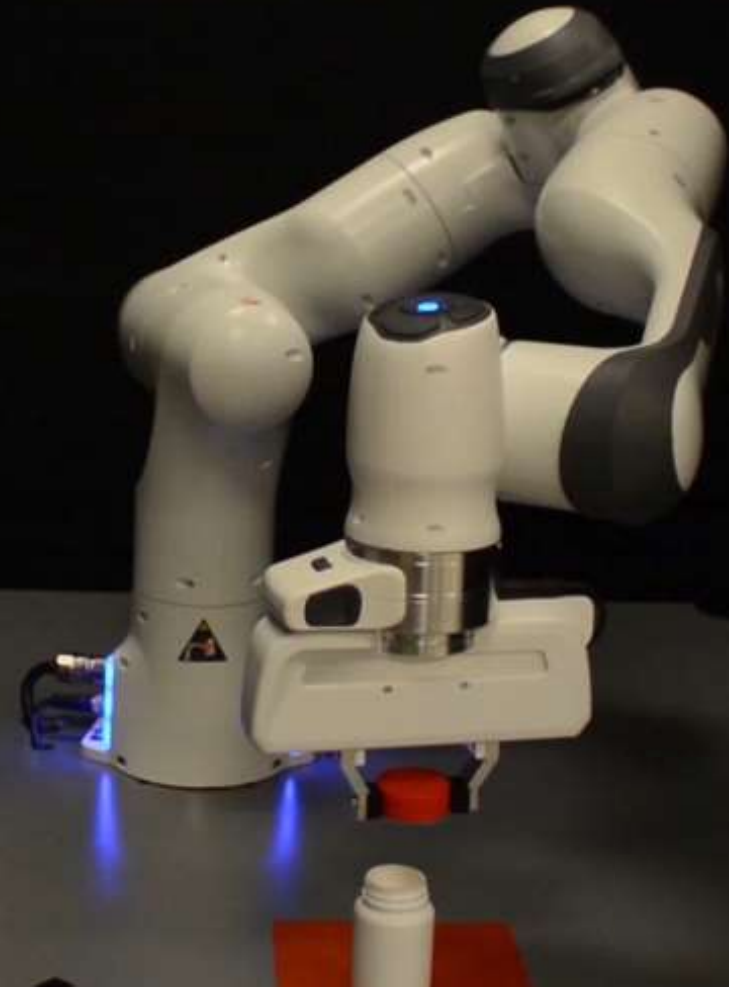


Forces impact on Planning?

Constraint on Decision-Making

Modeling Force?

Forceful Kinematic Chain



“Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *ICRA*, 2021.

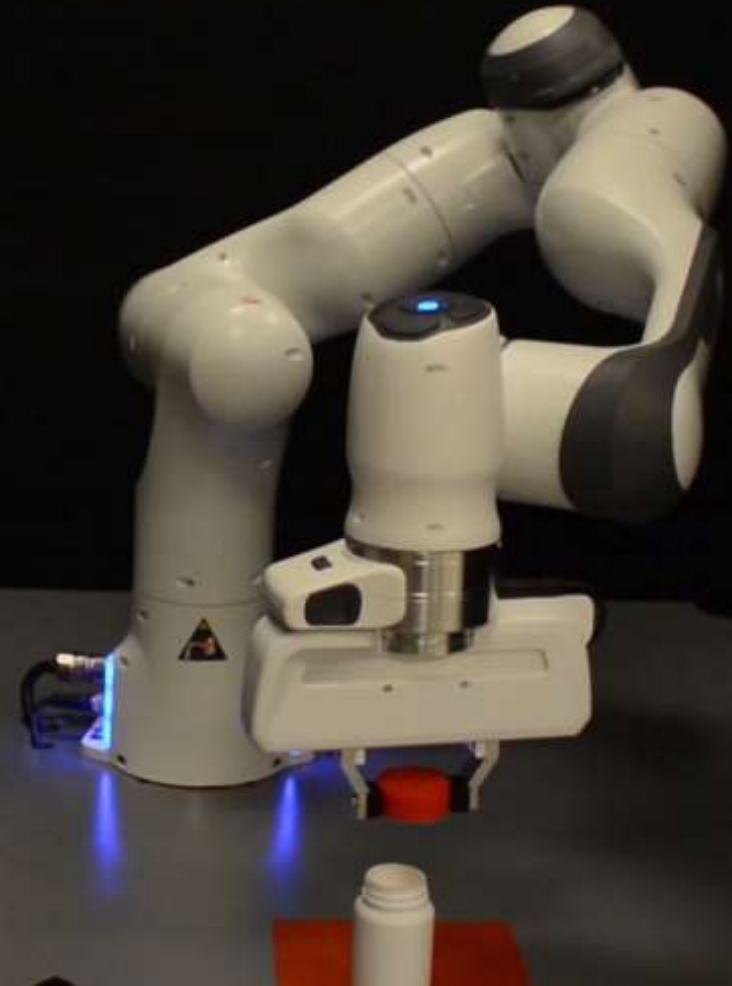
“Robust Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *IJRR*, 2023.

Forces impact on Planning?
Constraint on Decision-Making

Modeling Force?
Forceful Kinematic Chain

Planning sequences
of actions?

TAMP Framework



“Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *ICRA*, 2021.

“Robust Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *IJRR*, 2023.

Action Definition

Action Definition

Controller



Action Definition

Controller
Preconditions
Effects



Action Definition

Controller
Preconditions
Effects

Controller
Preconditions
Effects

Controller
Preconditions
Effects



Action Definition

Controller
Preconditions
Effects

Controller
Preconditions
Effects

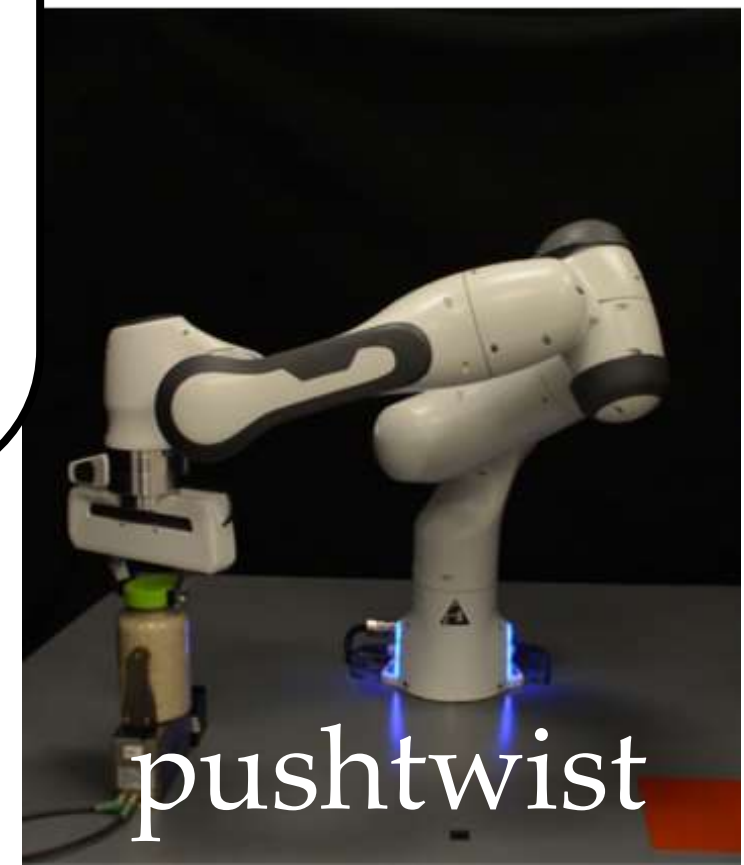
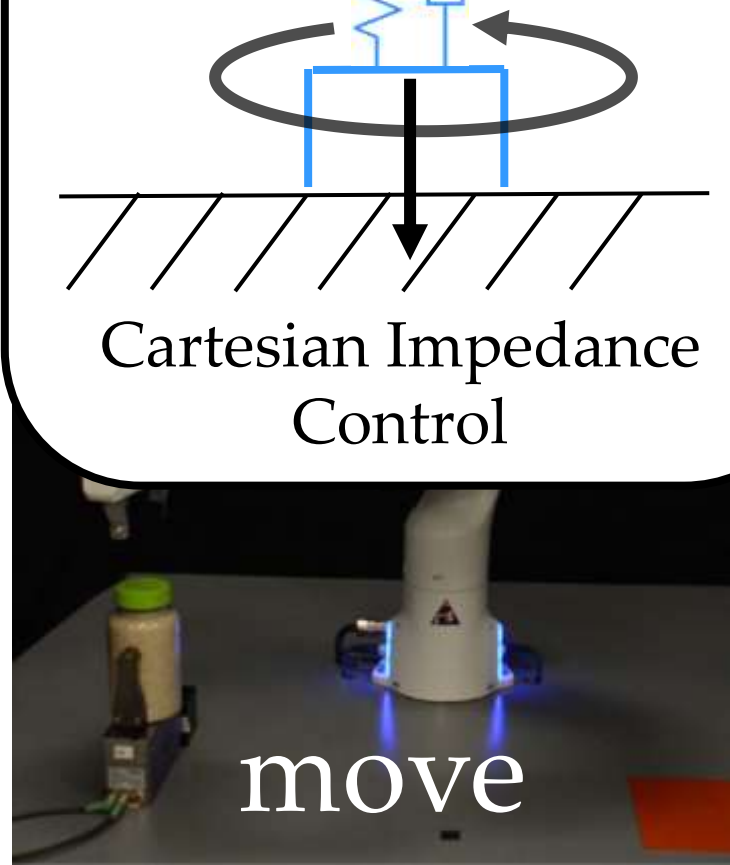
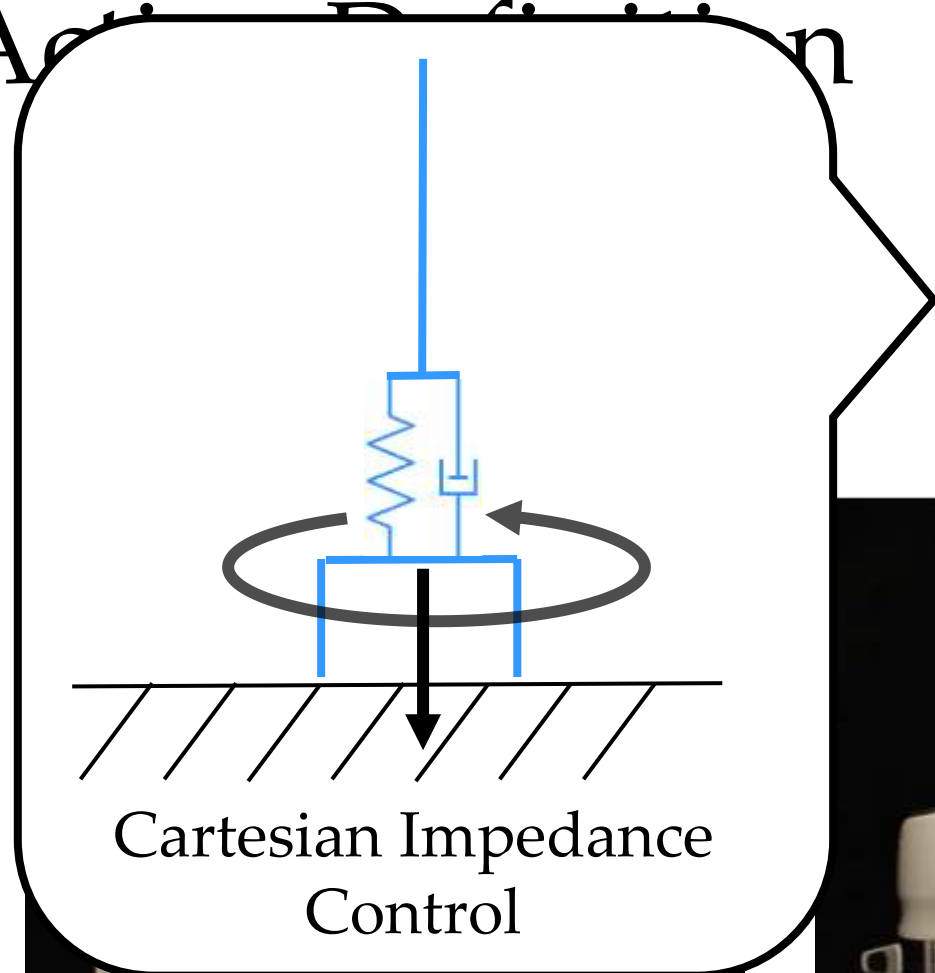
Controller
Preconditions
Effects



Application

Controller
Preconditions
Effects

Controller
Preconditions
Effects



Action Definition

Controller
Preconditions
Effects

Controller
Preconditions
Effects

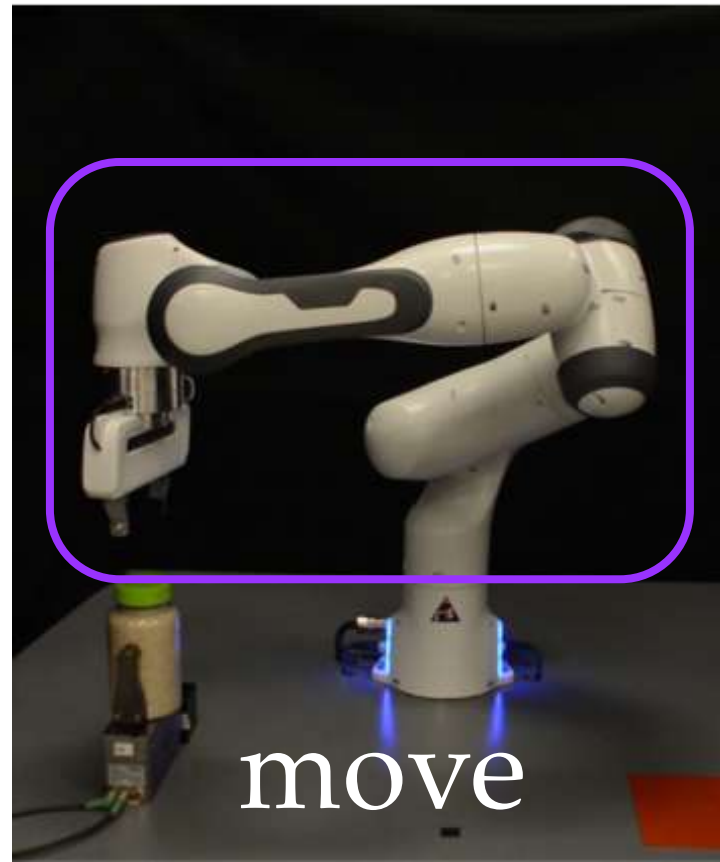
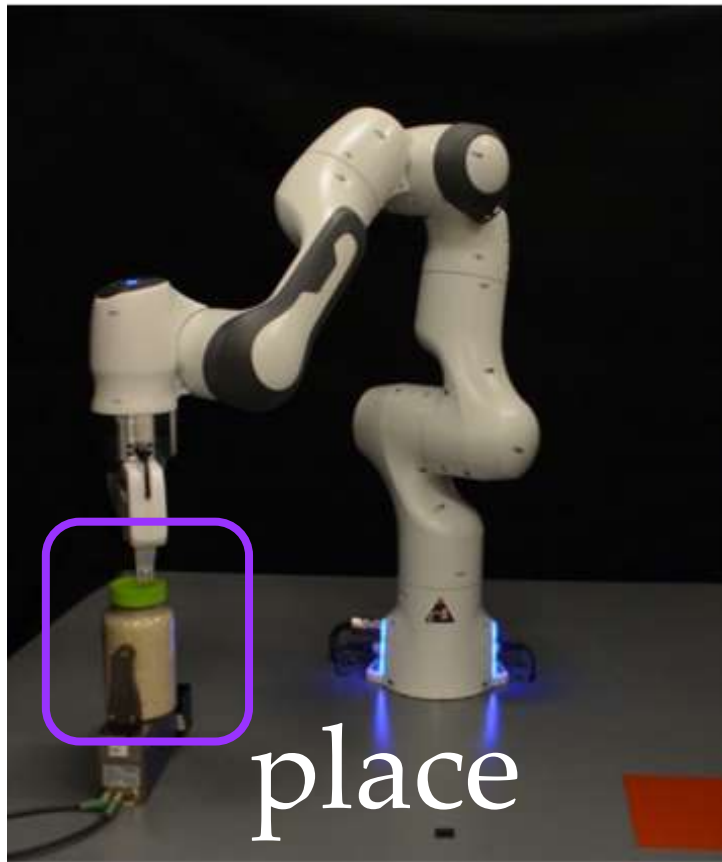
Controller
Preconditions
Effects



Find a **sequence of actions** and the parameters of those actions, subject to constraints



Find a sequence of actions and the **parameters of those actions**, subject to constraints



Find a sequence of actions and the parameters of those actions, subject to **constraints**



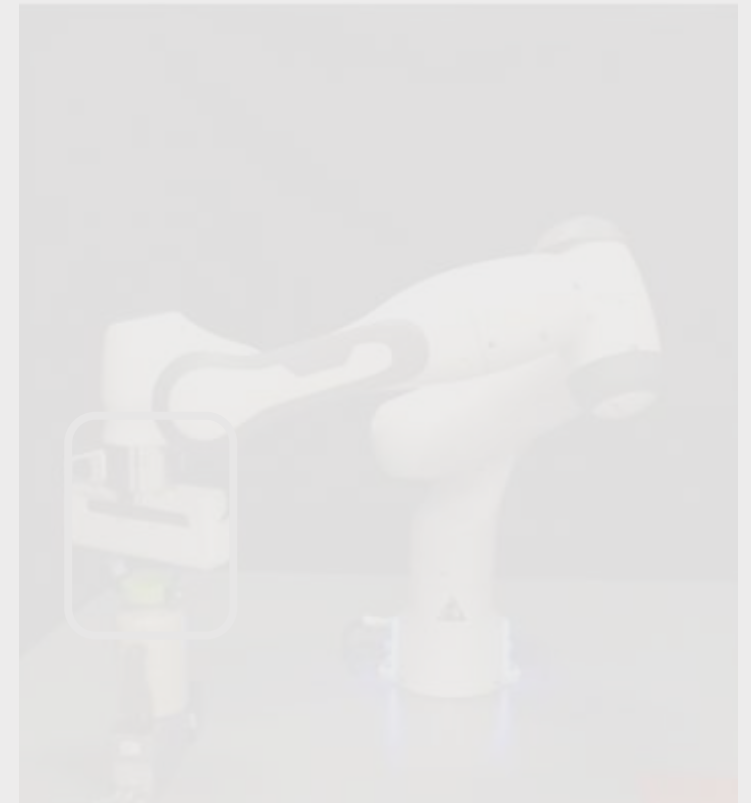
TAMP Framework: PDDLStream

Find a sequence of actions, subject to constraints

place

move

pushtwist



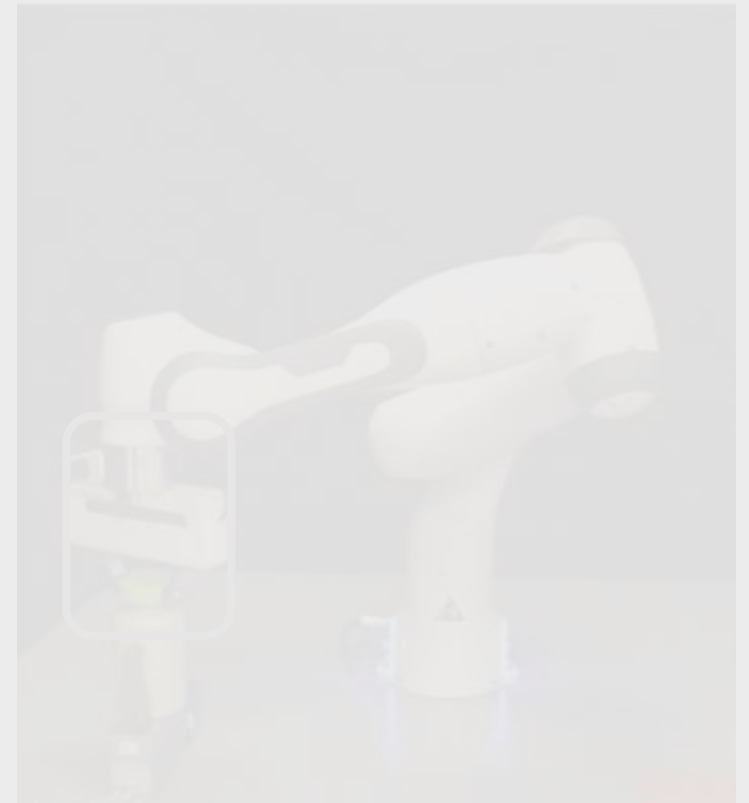
TAMP Framework: PDDLStream

Find a sequence of actions, subject to constraints

place

Streams

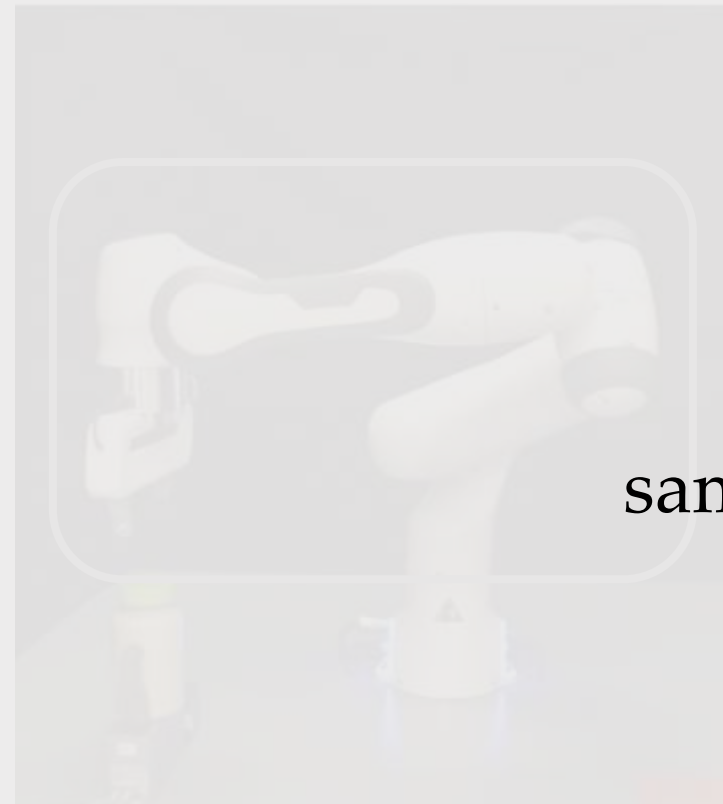
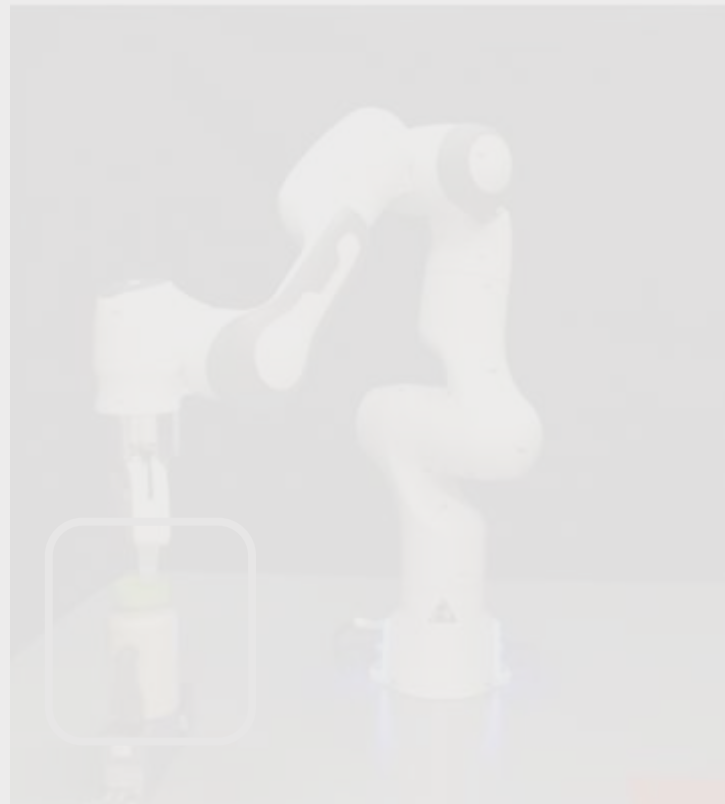
pushtwist



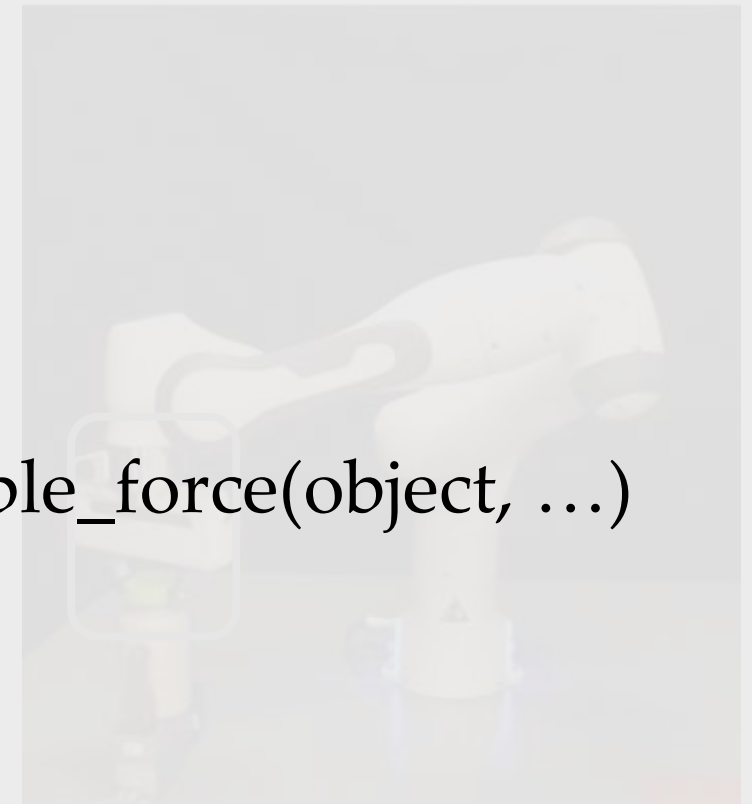
TAMP Framework: PDDLStream

`sample_grasp(object)`

Streams



`sample_force(object, ...)`



TAMP Framework: PDDLStream

sample_grasp(object)

place

Streams

pushtwist

plan_impedance(arm, ...)

sample_force(object, ...)

plan_motion(arm, q_{start} , q_{goal})

TAMP Framework: PDDLStream

sample_grasp(object)

check_collision_
free(path)

Streams

check_forceful_kinematic_
chain(chain, wrench, ...)

plan_impedance(arm, ...)

plan_motion(arm, q_{start} , q_{goal})

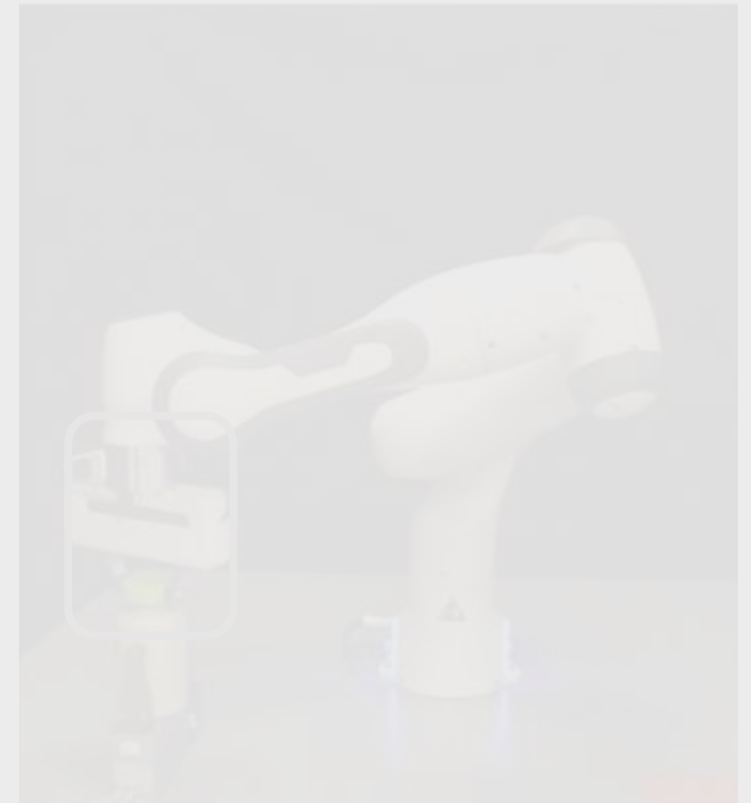
sample_force(object, ...)

TAMP Framework: PDDLStream

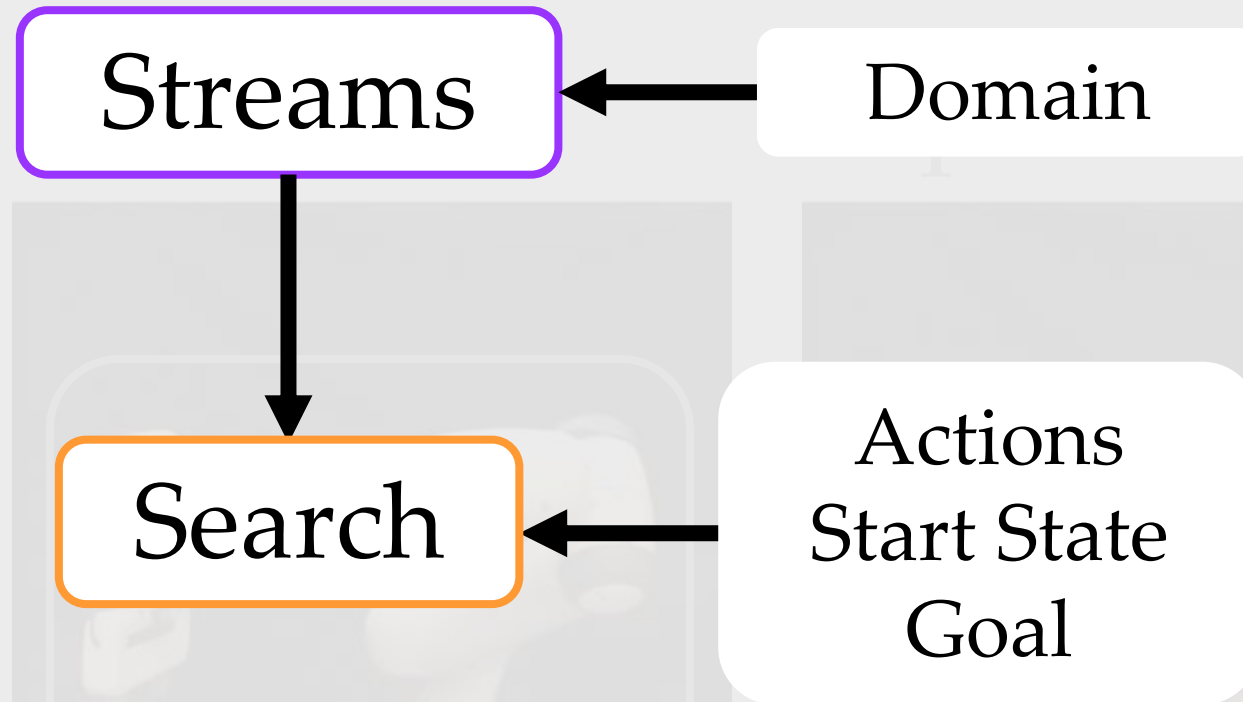
Find a sequence of actions, subject to constraints

Streams

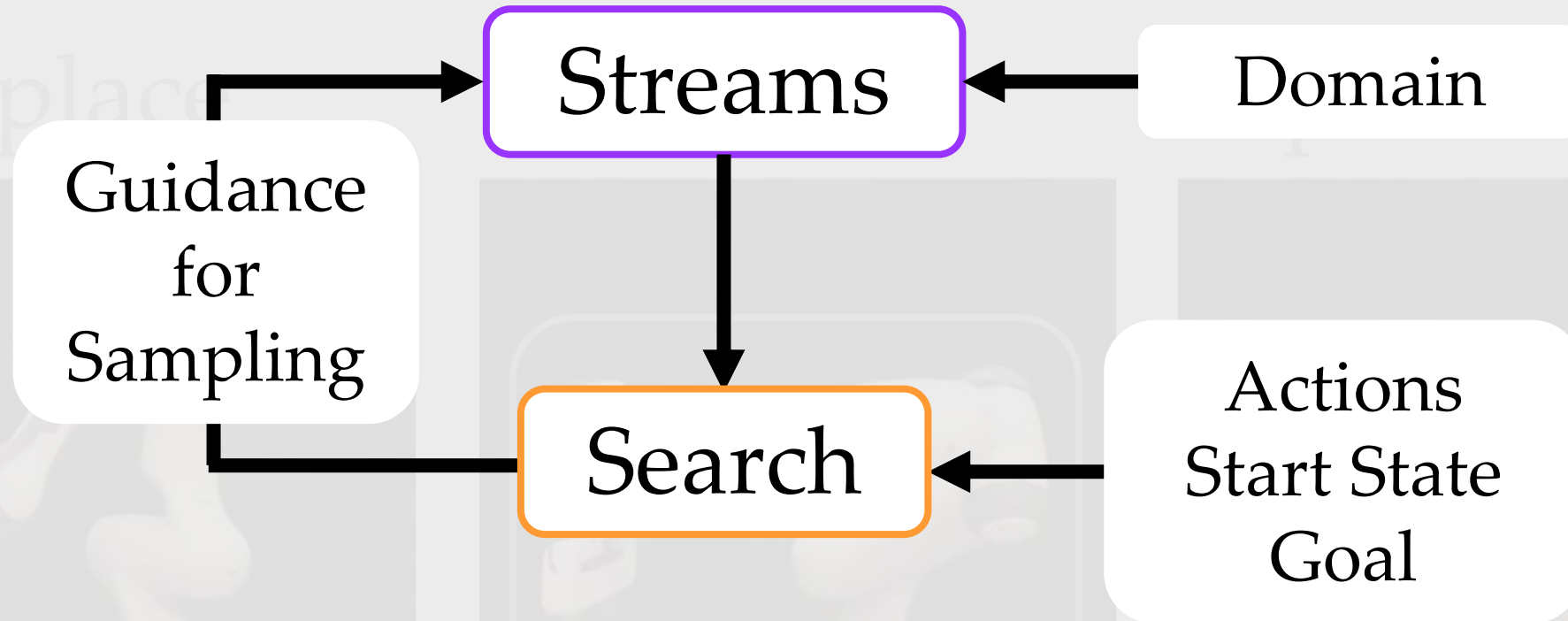
Domain



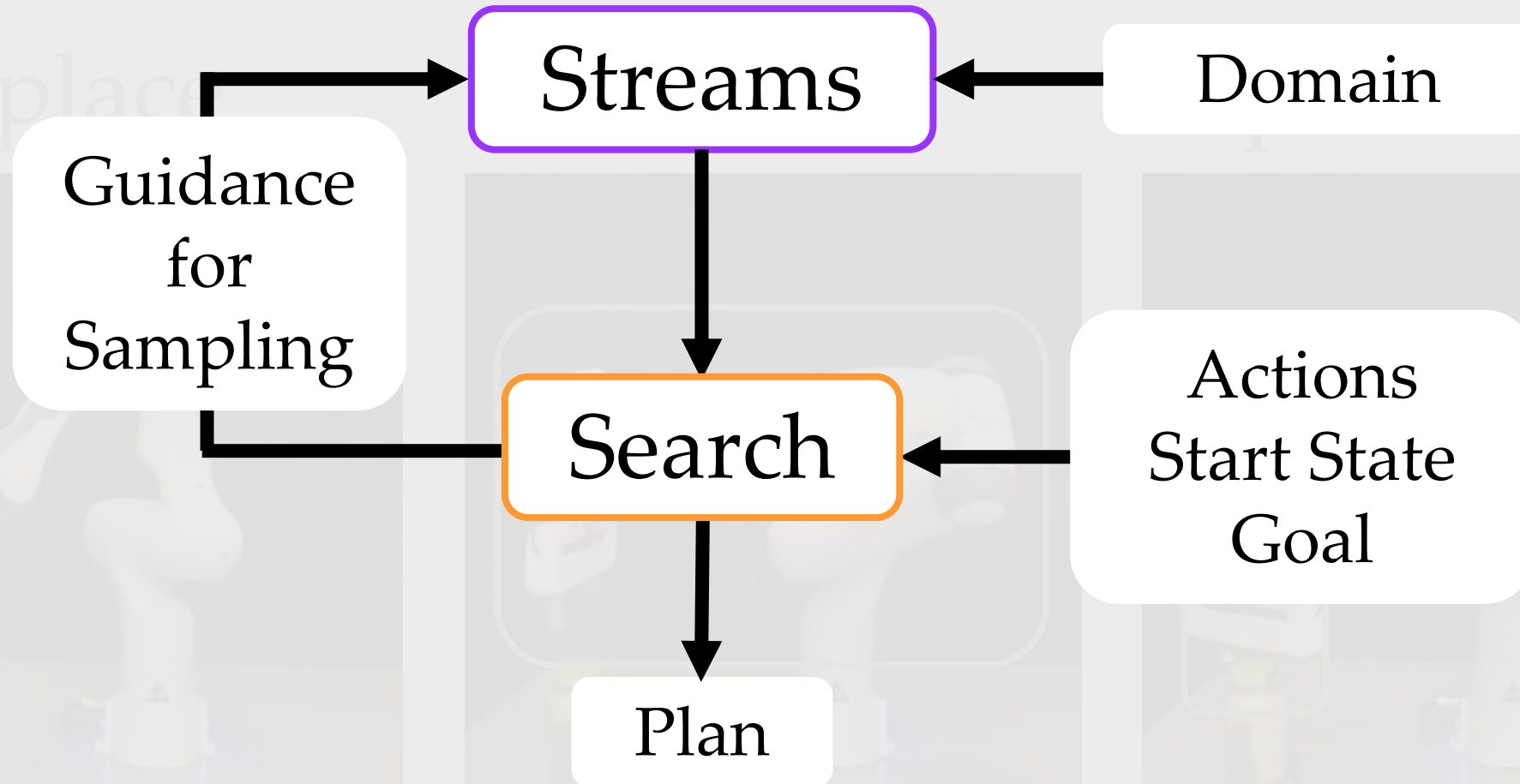
TAMP Framework: PDDLStream



TAMP Framework: PDDLStream



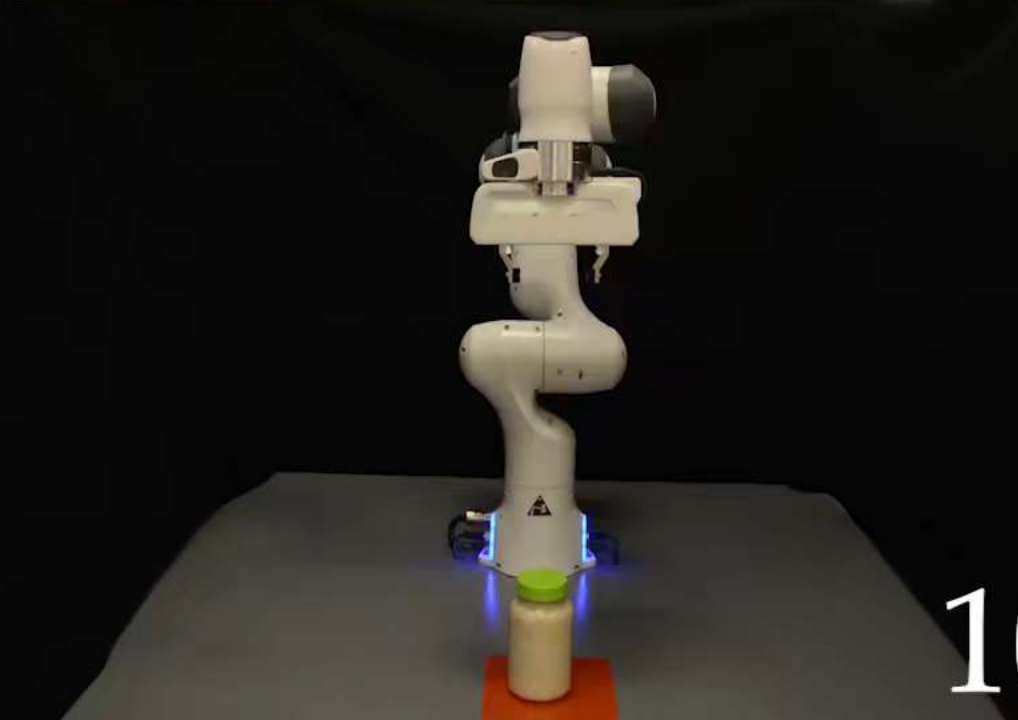
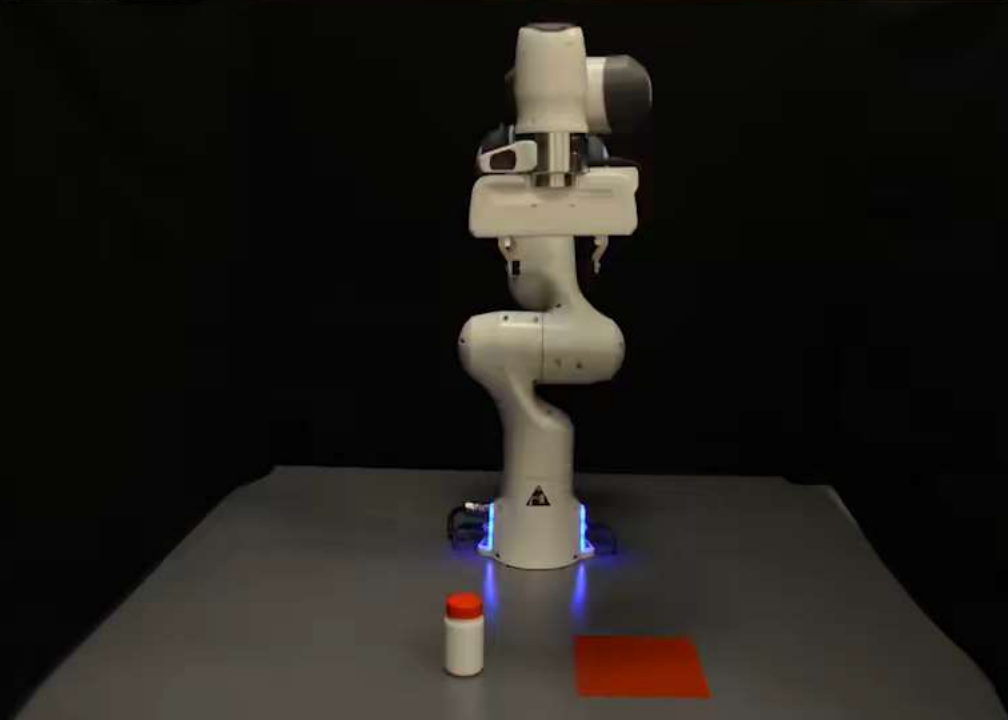
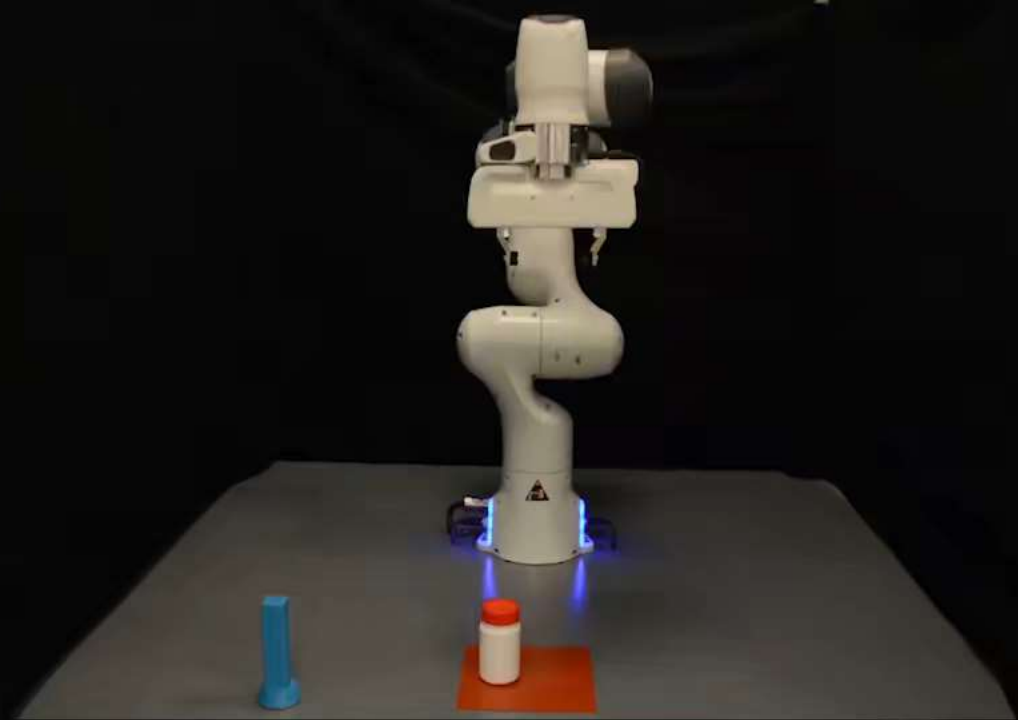
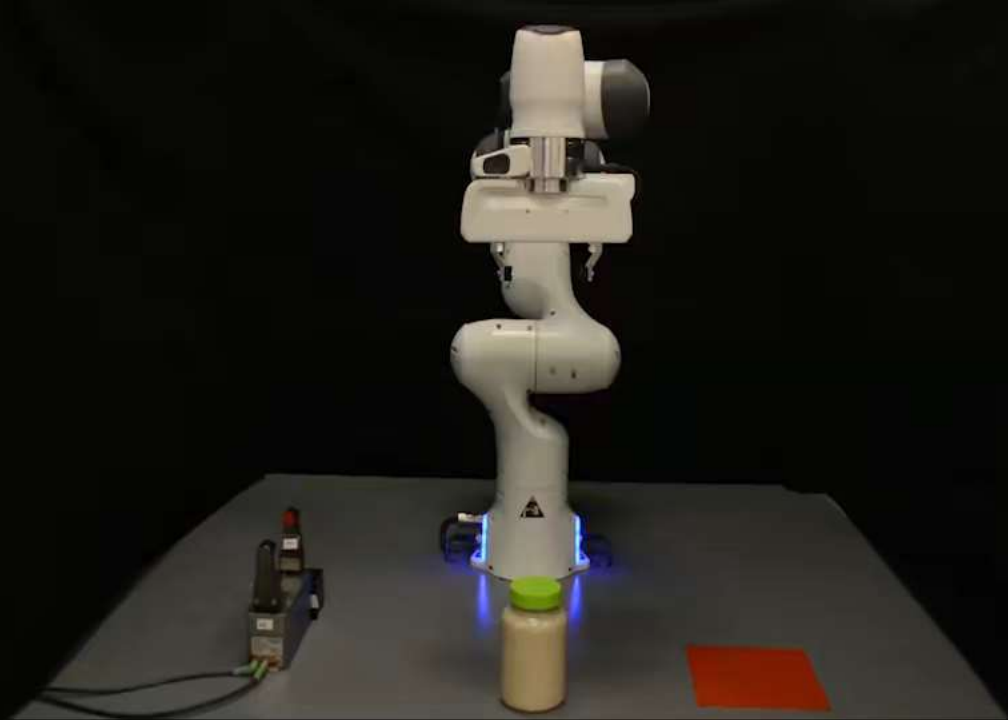
TAMP Framework: PDDLStream



```
move(a0, q0, q1, ξ0, ...)  
pick(a, tool, ...)  
move(a0, q1, q2, ξ2)  
pushtwist-tool(a, bottle,  
cap, tool, ...)  
move(a0, q3, q4, ξ4)  
place(a0, q4, q5, ξ5)  
move(a0, q5, q6, ξ6)  
pick(a0, lid, q6, q7, ξ7)
```

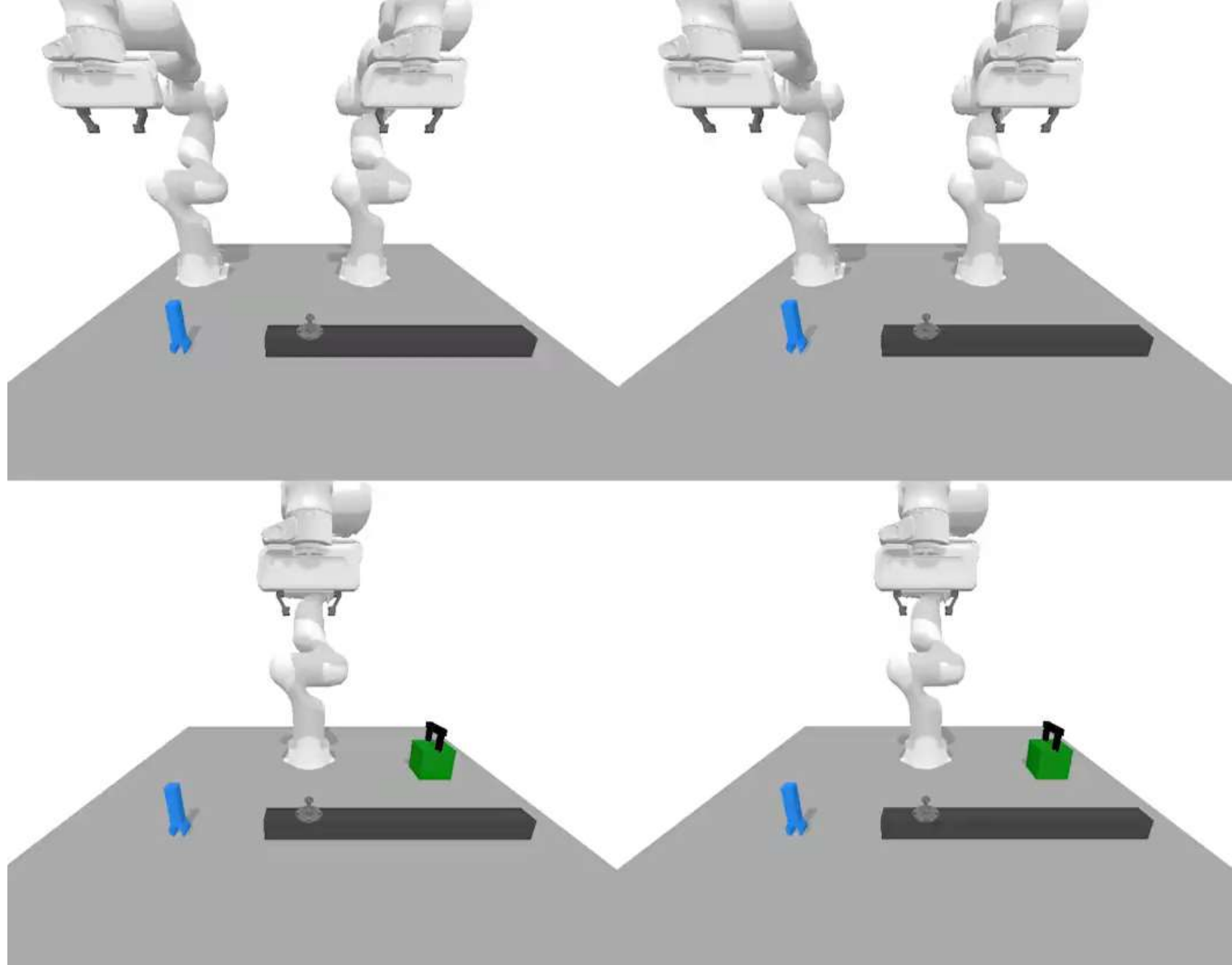
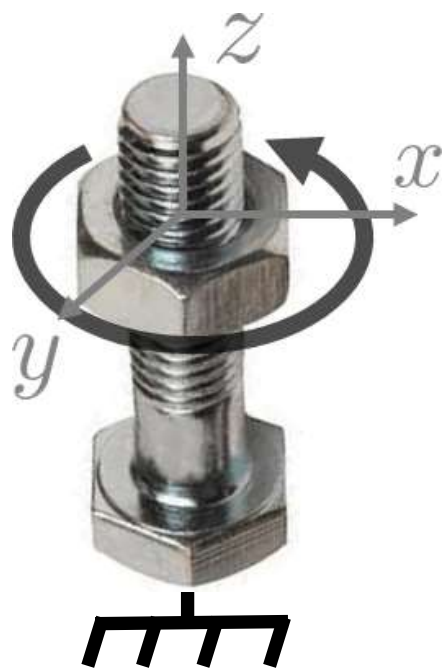


10x



10x

Nut Twisting



Forces impact on Planning?

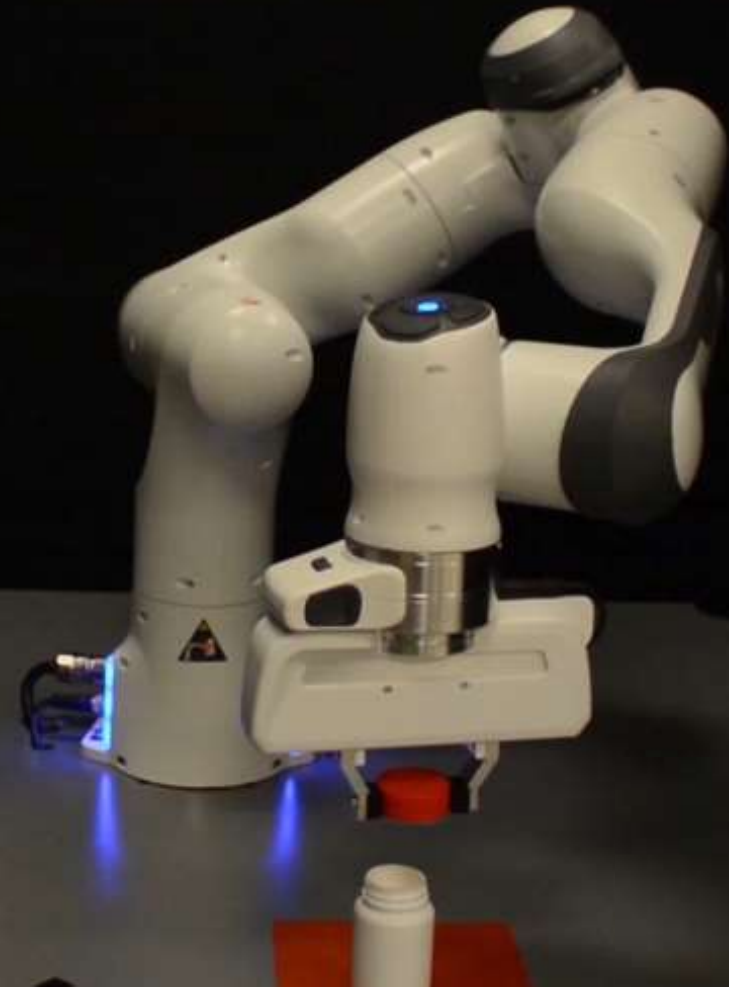
Constraint on Decision-Making

Modeling Force?

Forceful Kinematic Chain

Planning sequences of actions?

TAMP Framework



“Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *ICRA*, 2021.

“Robust Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *IJRR*, 2023.

TAMP Framework: PDDLStream

sample_grasp(object)

check_collision_
free(path)

Streams

check_forceful_kinematic_
chain(chain, wrench, ...)

plan_impedance(arm, ...)

plan_motion(arm, q_{start} , q_{goal})

sample_force(object, ...)

TAMP Framework: PDDLStream

sample_grasp(object)

check_collision_
free(path)

Streams

check_forceful_kinematic_
chain(chain, wrench, ...)

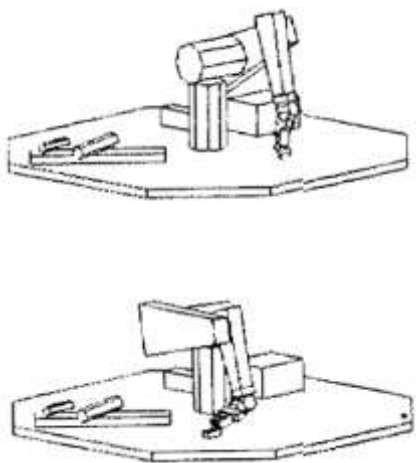
plan_impedance(arm, ...)

regrasp(object, grasp_{start}, grasp_{goal})

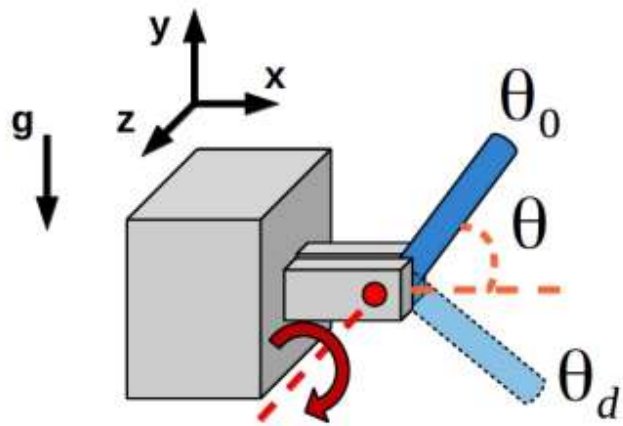
sample_force(object, ...)

plan_motion(arm, q_{start} , q_{goal})

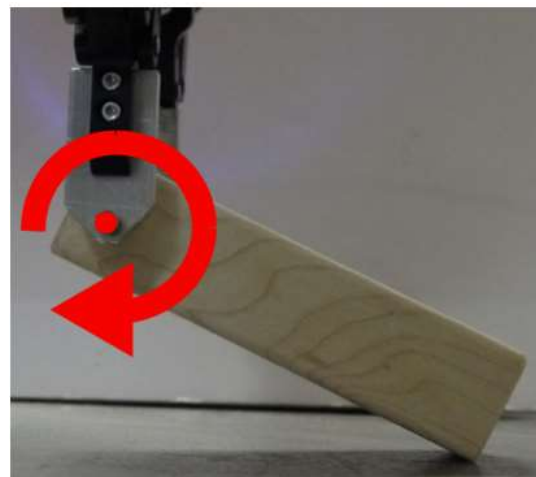




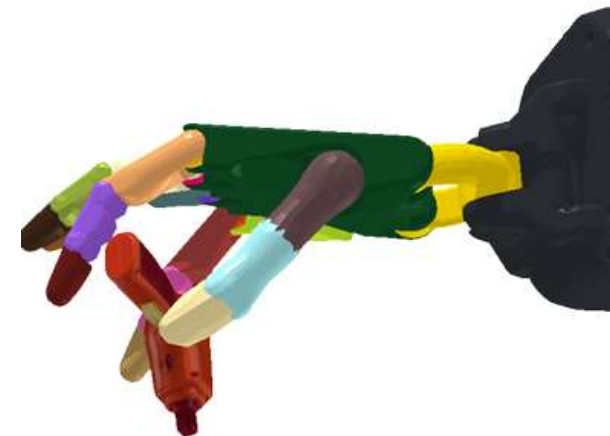
[Tournassoud, Lozano-Pérez, Mazer 1987]



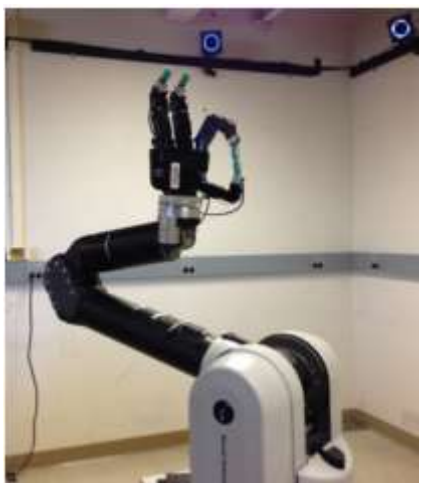
[Vina, Karayiannidis, Smith Kragic, 2016]



[A. Holladay, Paolini, Mason 2015]



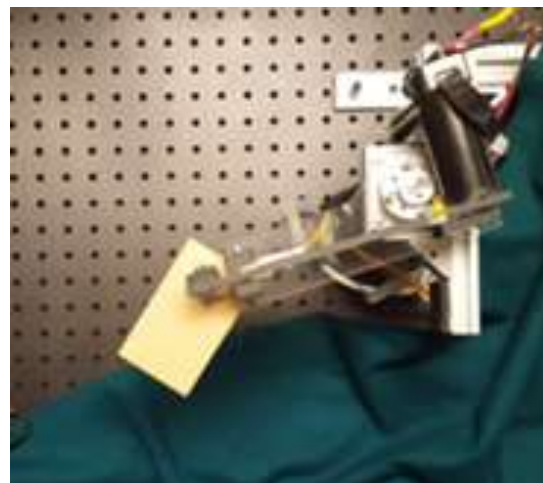
[Chen, Xu, Agrawal 2022]



[Shi, Woodruff, Lynch 2015]



[OpenAI 2020]



[Hou, Jia, Johnson, Mason 2020]



[Cruciani, Hang, Smith, Kragic 2019]





Initial Grasp



Final Grasp



Initial Grasp

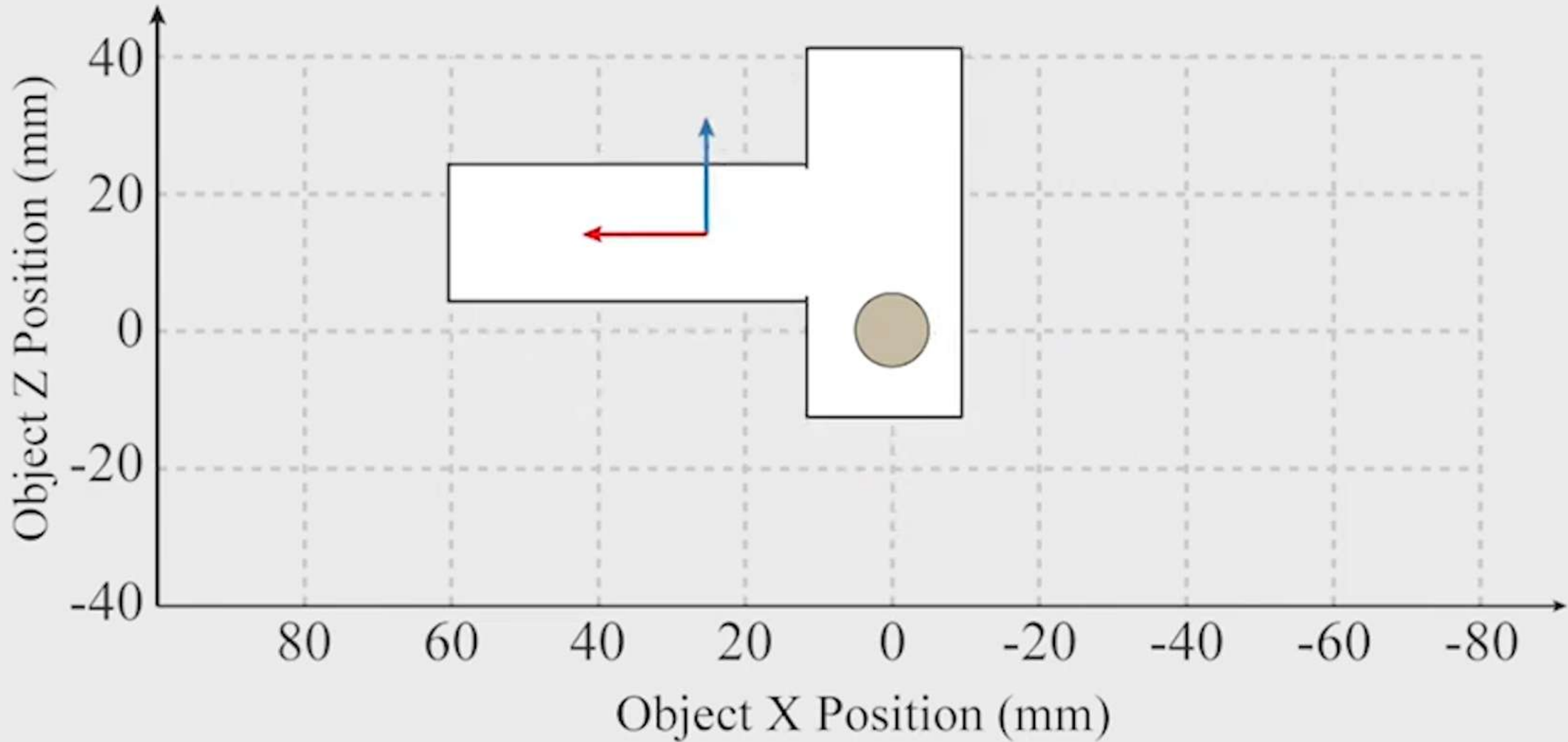


Final Grasp



Output: Sequence of Continuous Pushes

Feasible Motions?

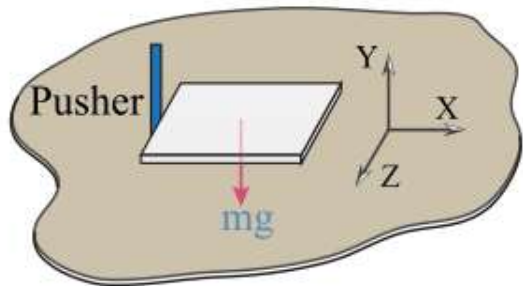


Motion Cone

the set of feasible motions that a rigid body can follow
under the action of a frictional push

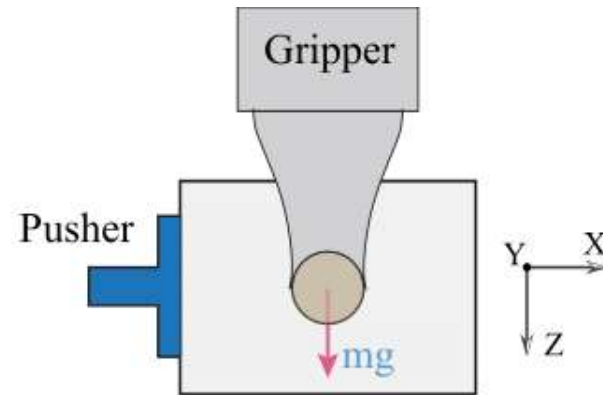
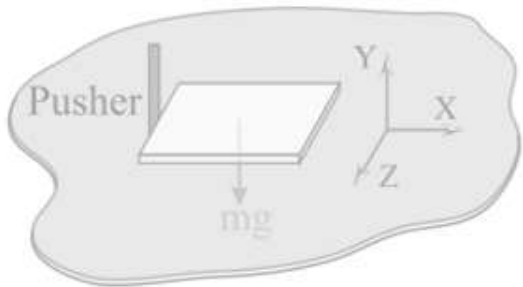
Motion Cone

the set of feasible motions that a rigid body can follow under the action of a frictional push



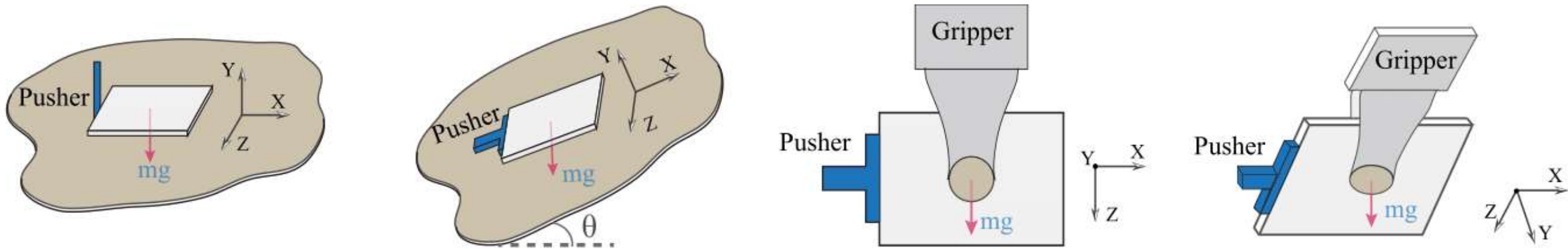
Motion Cone

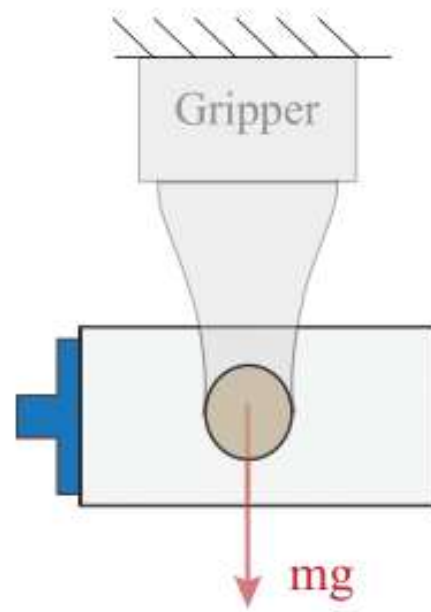
the set of feasible motions that a rigid body can follow under the action of a frictional push

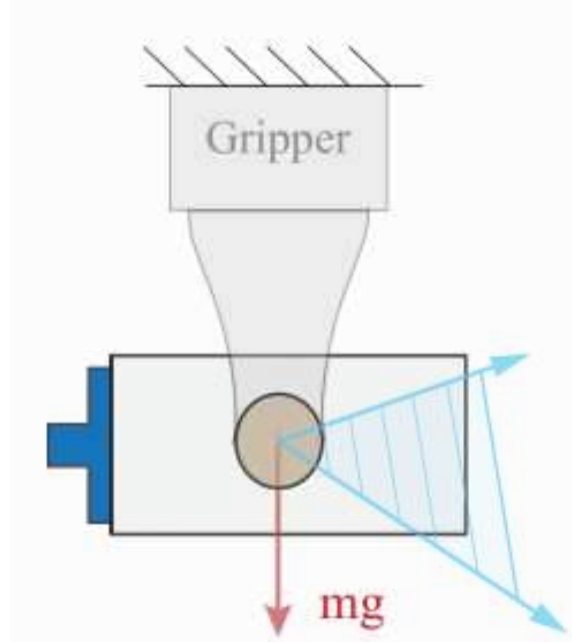


Extending the Motion Cone

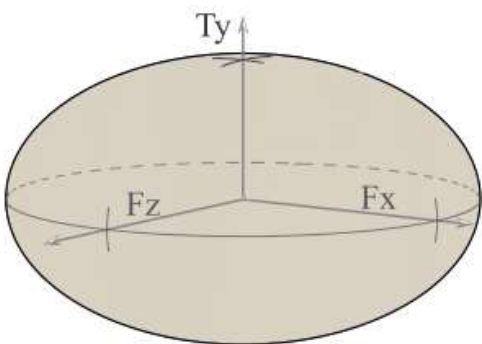
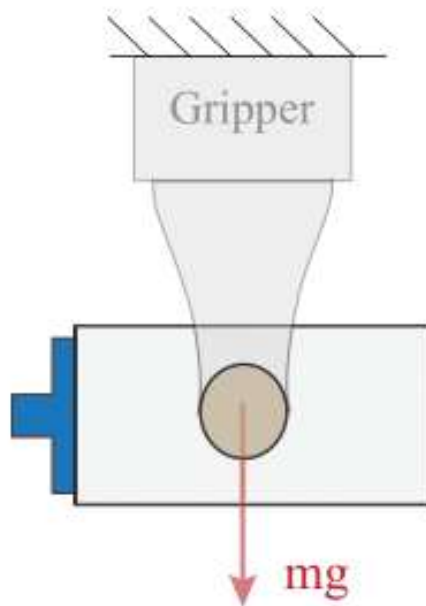
the set of feasible motions that a rigid body can follow under the action of a frictional push



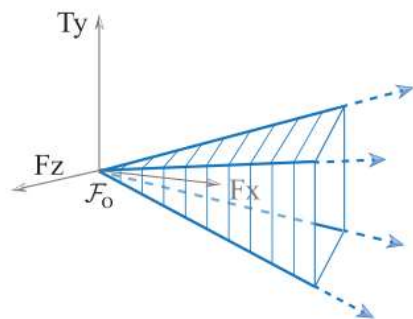




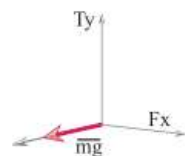
Motion Cone



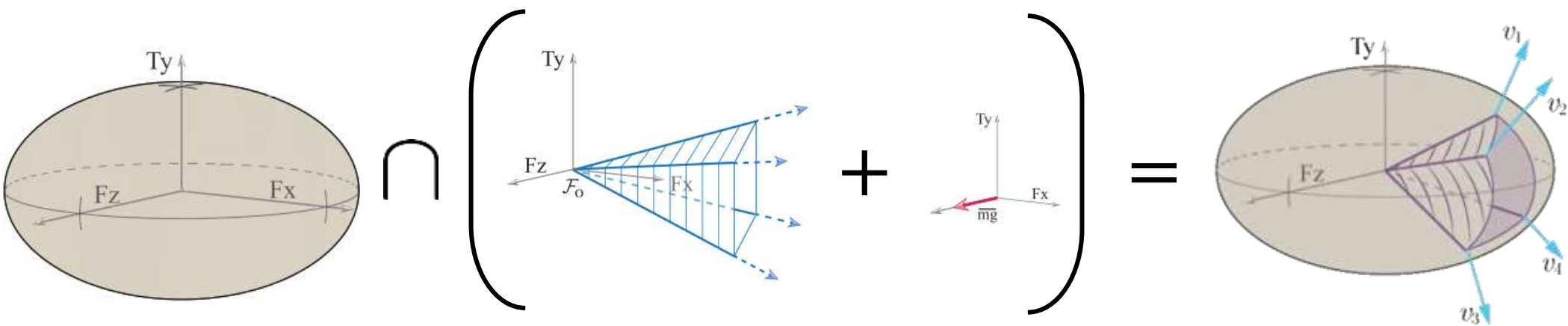
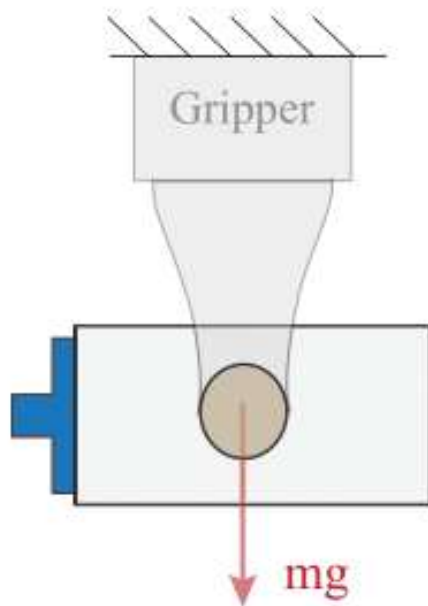
Frictional
Support



Pushing
Force



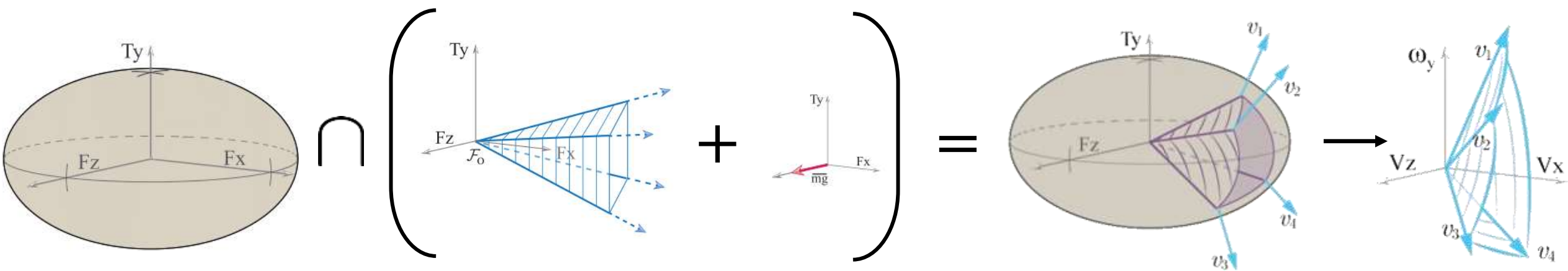
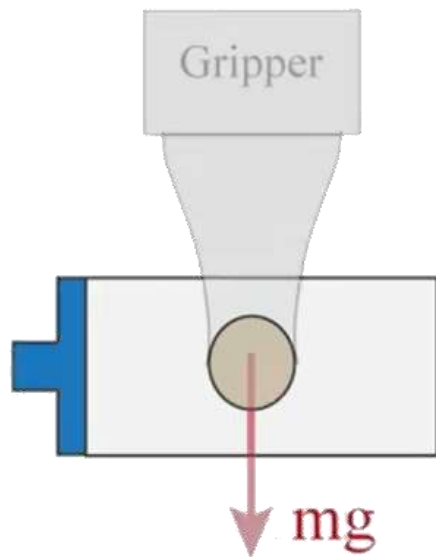
Gravity

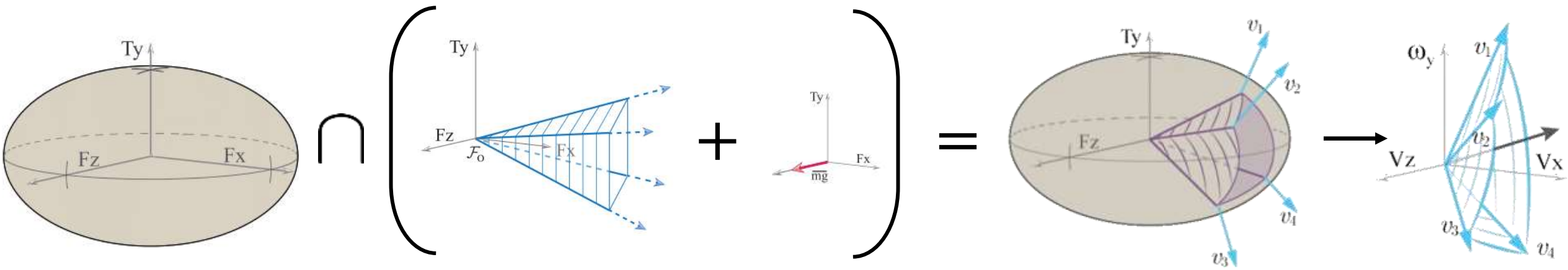
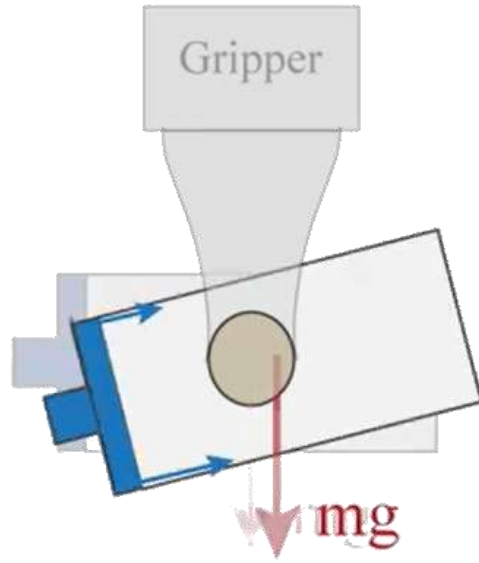


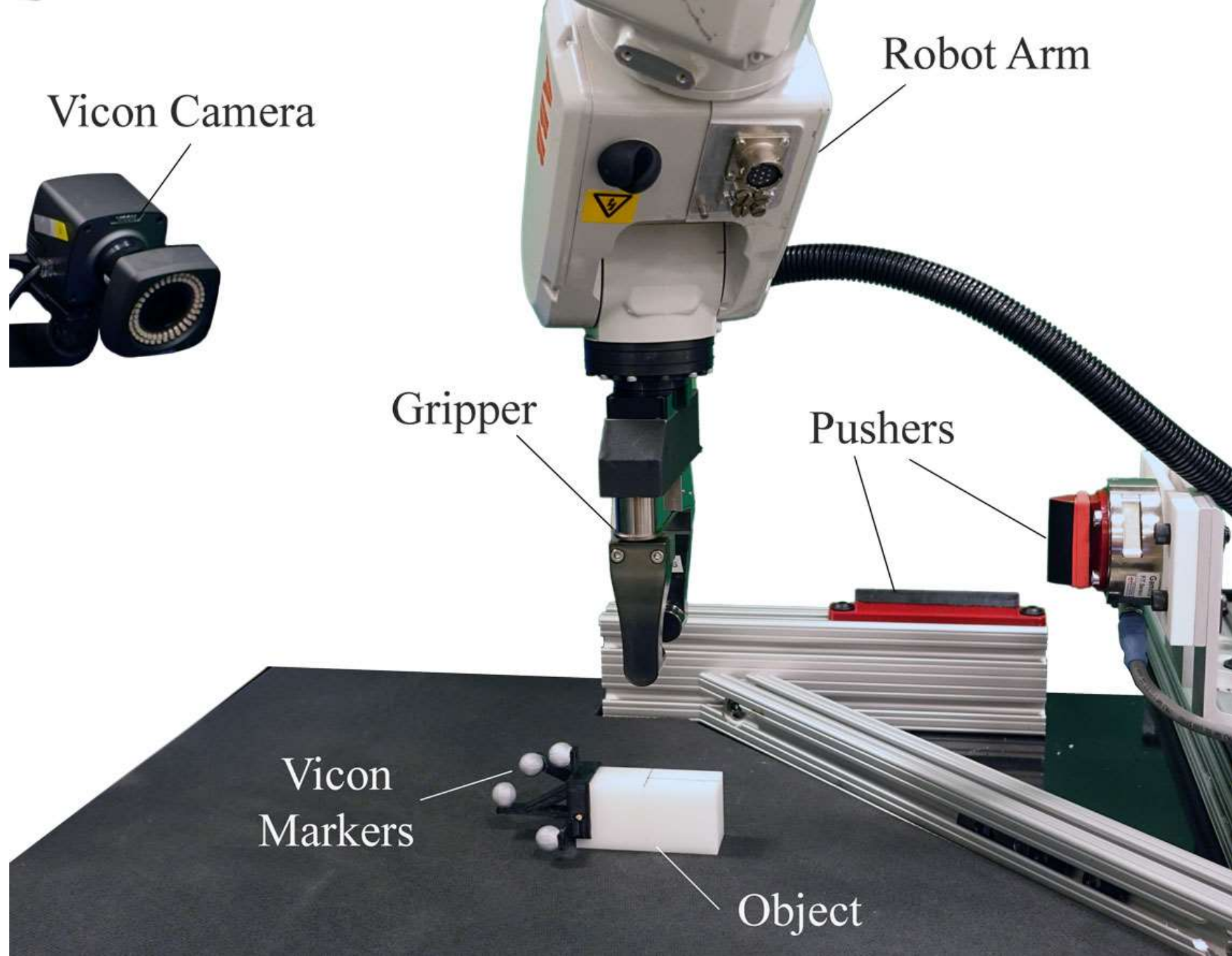
Frictional
Support

Pushing
Force

Gravity





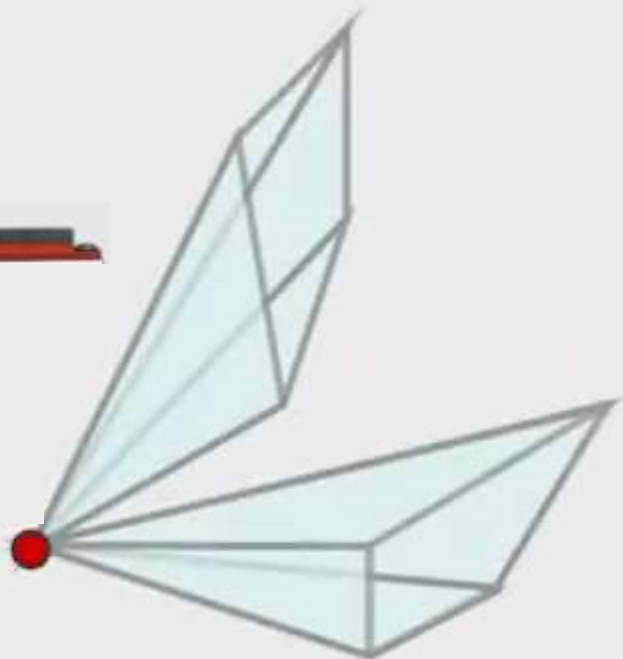
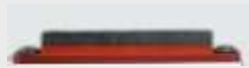




Initial Grasp

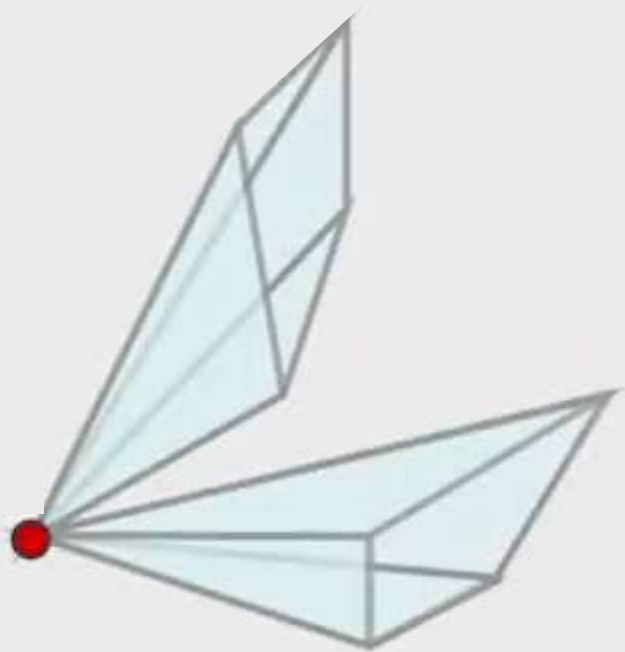


Initial Grasp





Initial Grasp



Final Grasp



Extended Motion Cone for broader set of Planar Tasks



“In-Hand Manipulation via Motion Cones” N Chavan Dafle, R Holladay, A Rodriguez. *RSS*, 2018.
Best Student Paper Award.

“Planar In-Hand Manipulation via Motion Cones” N Chavan-Dafle, R Holladay, A Rodriguez. *IJRR*, 2020

Extended Motion Cone
for broader set of
Planar Tasks

Applied Motion Cones
for Planning In-Hand
Manipulation



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Manipulation

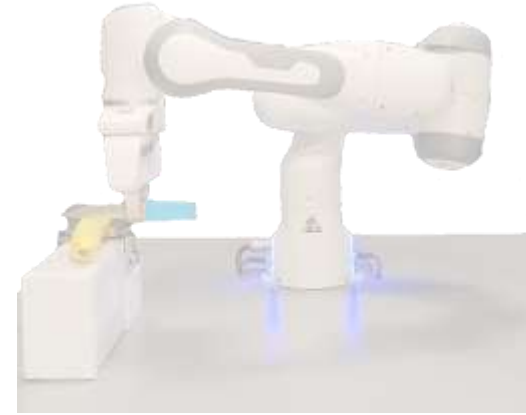


regrasp(object,
grasp_{start},
grasp_{end}...)

“In-Hand Manipulation via Motion Cones” N Chavan Dafle, R Holladay, A Rodriguez. *RSS*, 2018.
Best Student Paper Award.

“Planar In-Hand Manipulation via Motion Cones” N Chavan-Dafle, R Holladay, A Rodriguez. *IJRR*, 2020

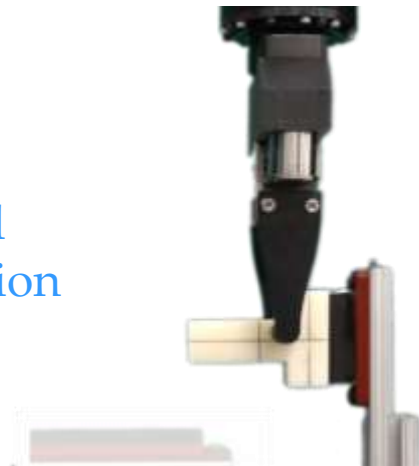
Forceful
Manipulation



Robust
Decision
Making

Models and Algorithms that
Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to
Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

In-Hand
Manipulation

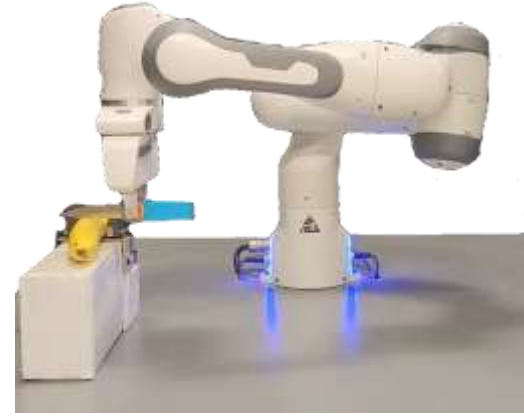


Guarded
Planning

Forceful
Manipulation



Robust
Decision
Making



Models and Algorithms that
Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to
Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

In-Hand
Manipulation



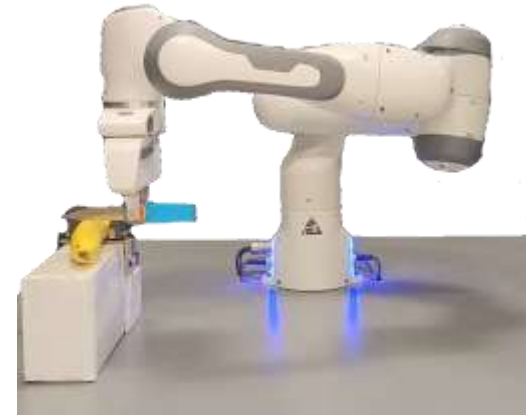
Guarded
Planning



Forceful
Manipulation



Robust
Decision
Making



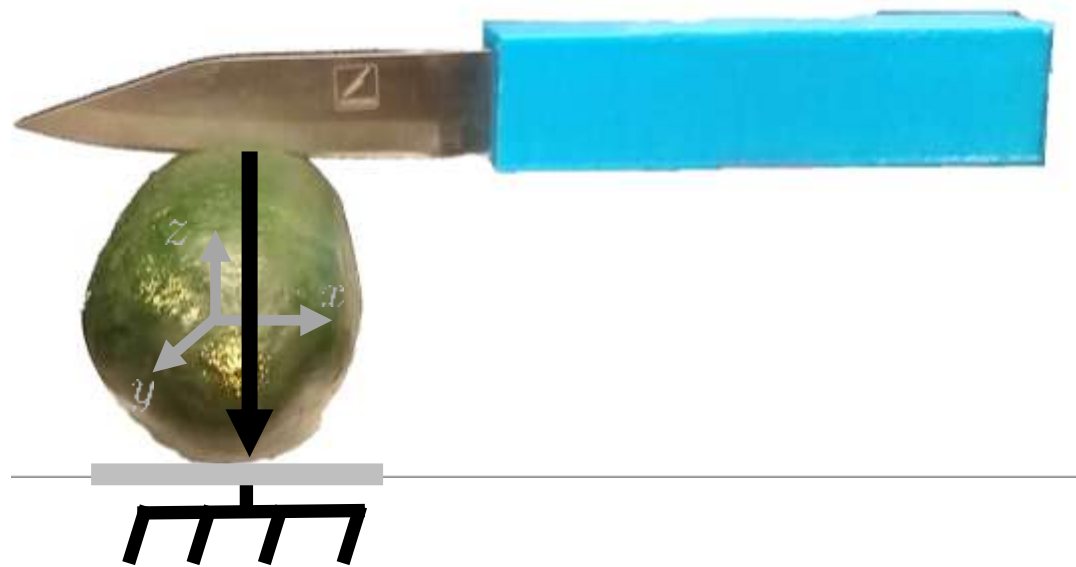
Models and Algorithms that Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

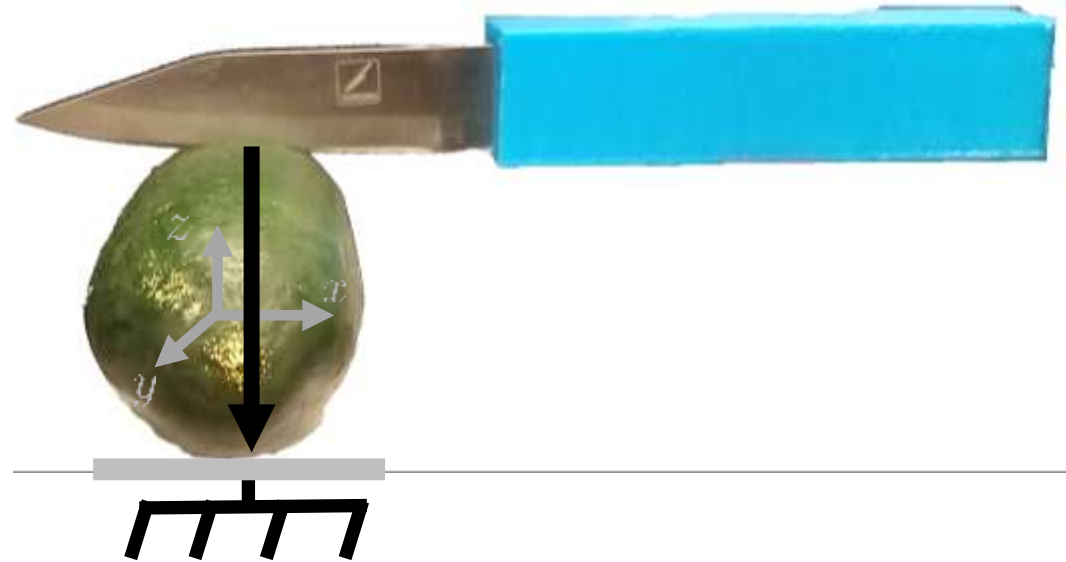
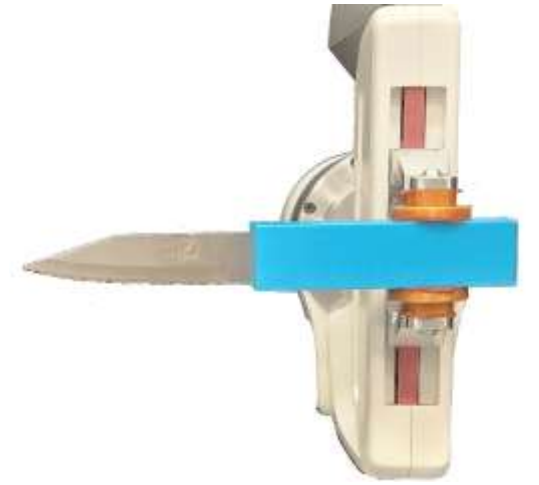
In-Hand
Manipulation



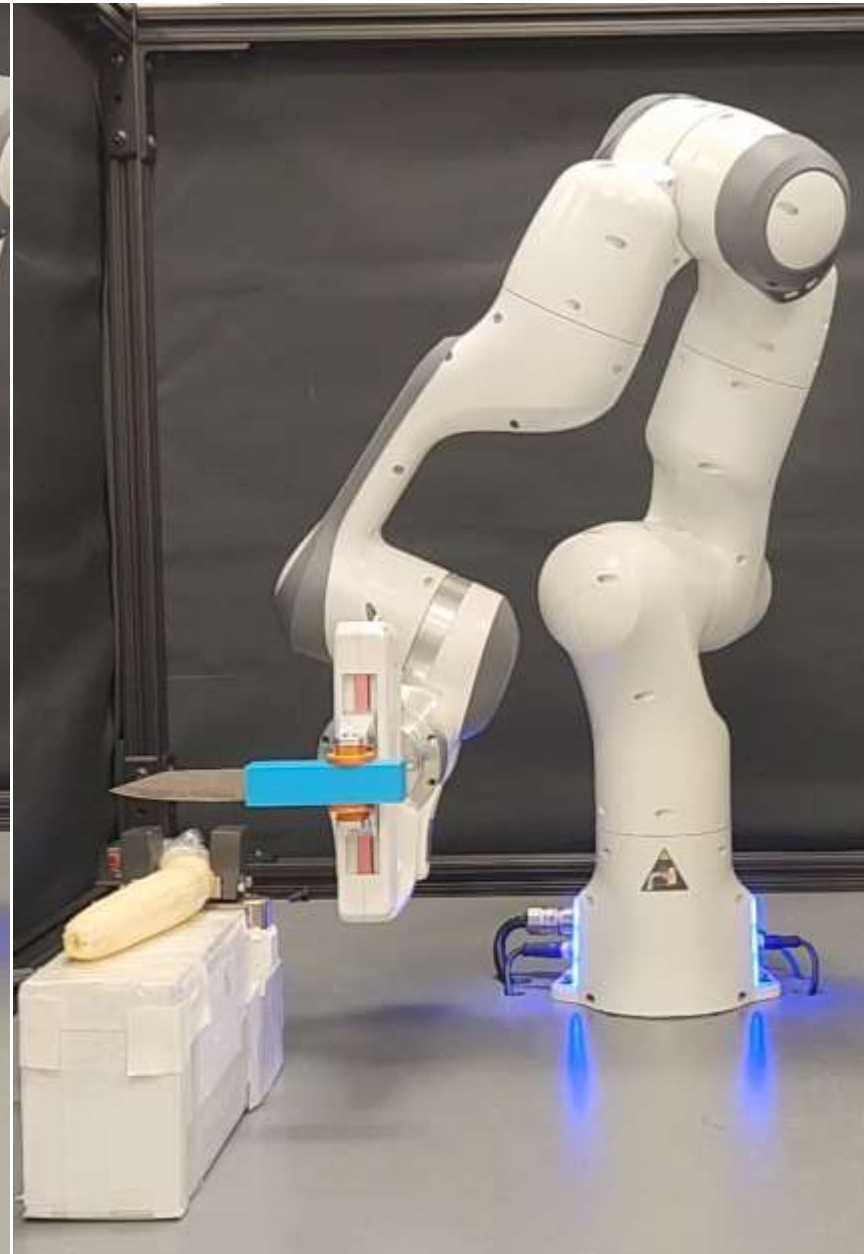
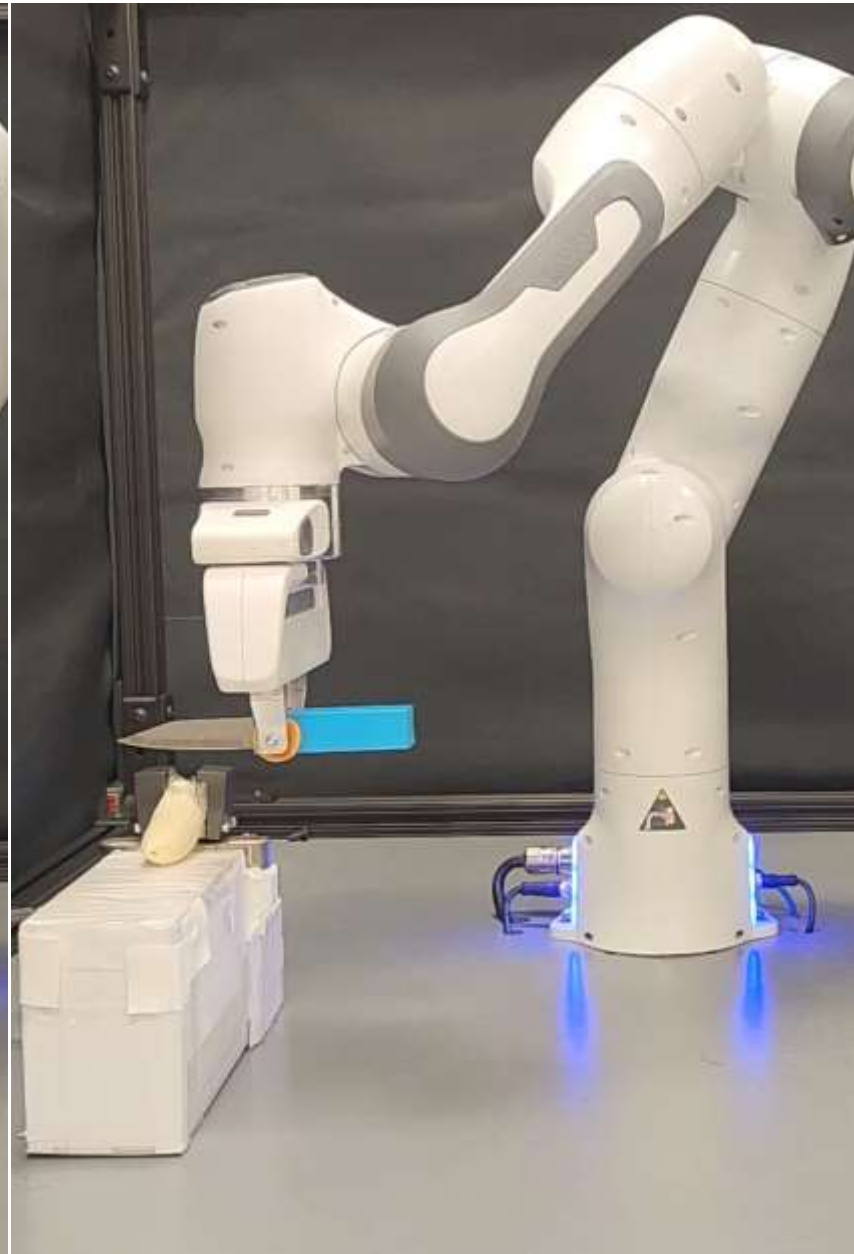
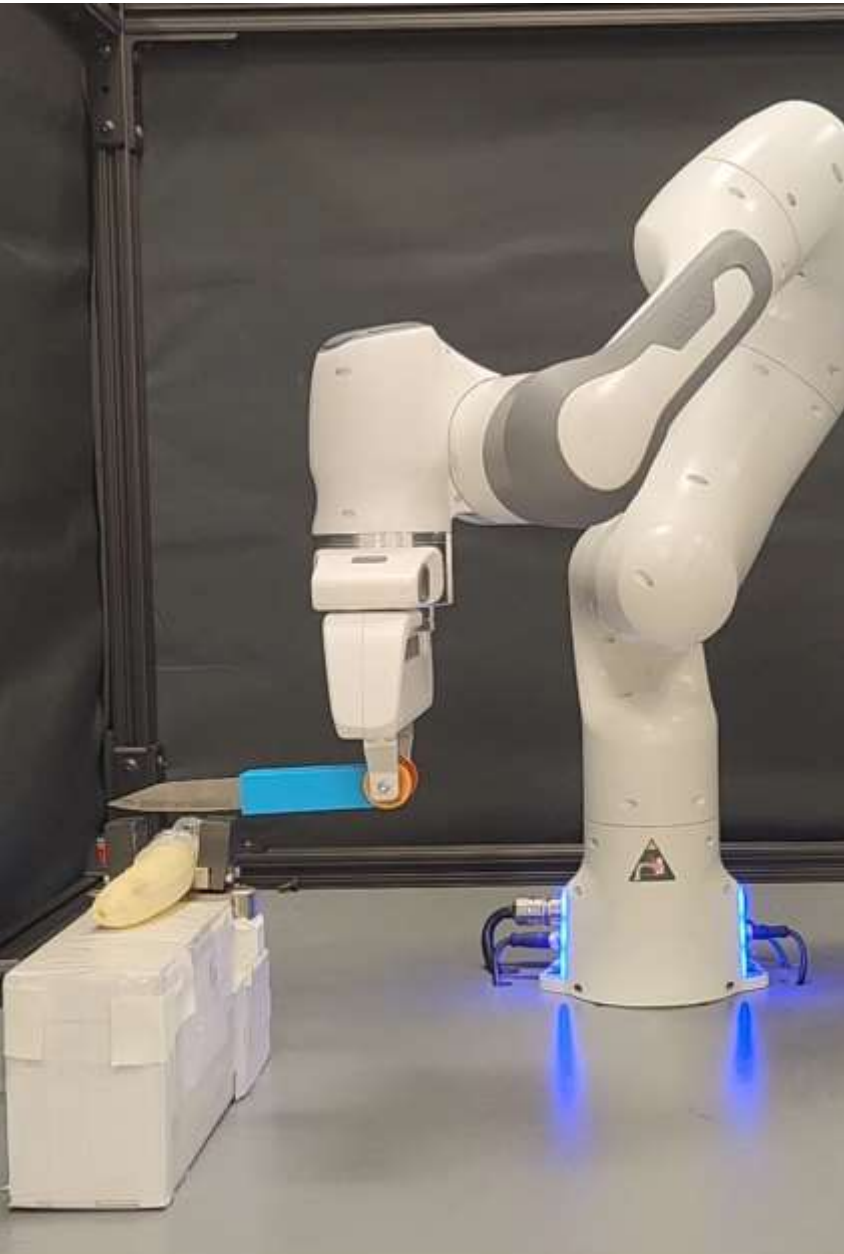
Guarded
Planning



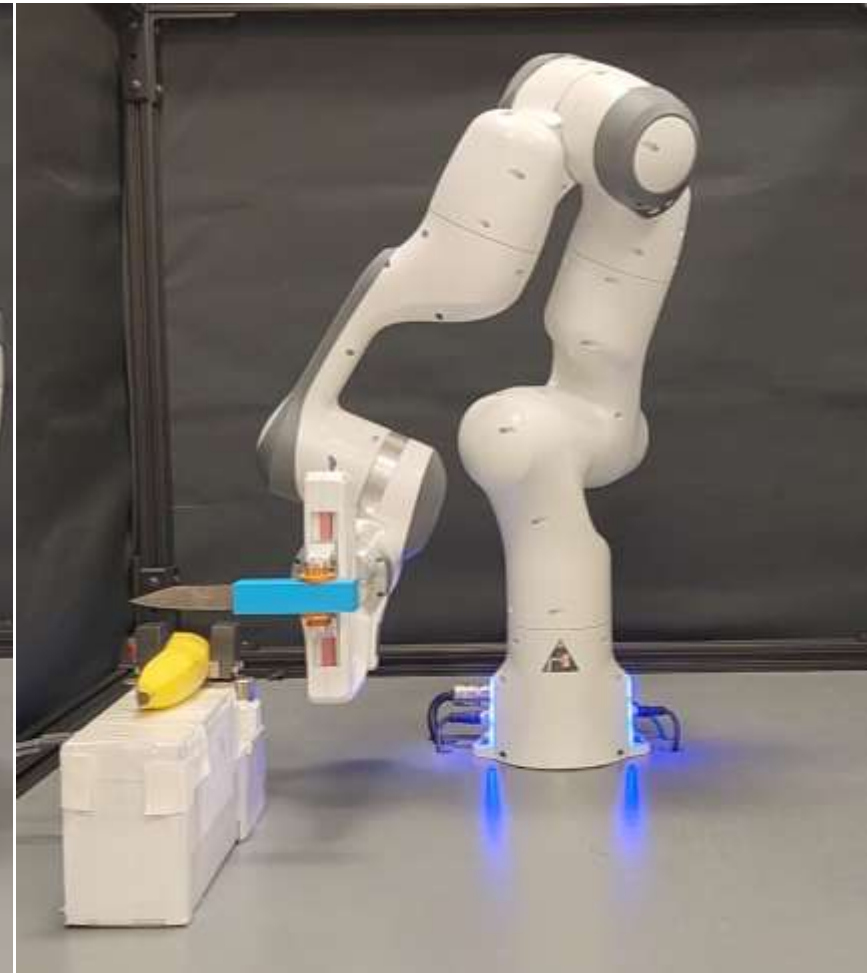
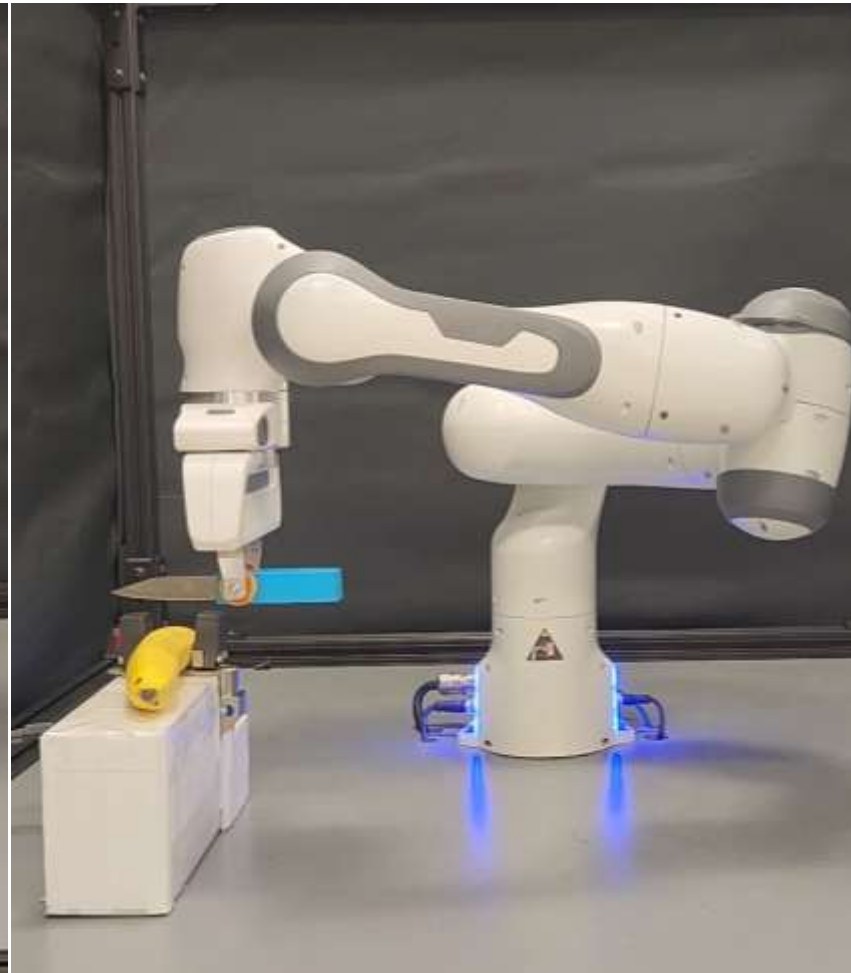
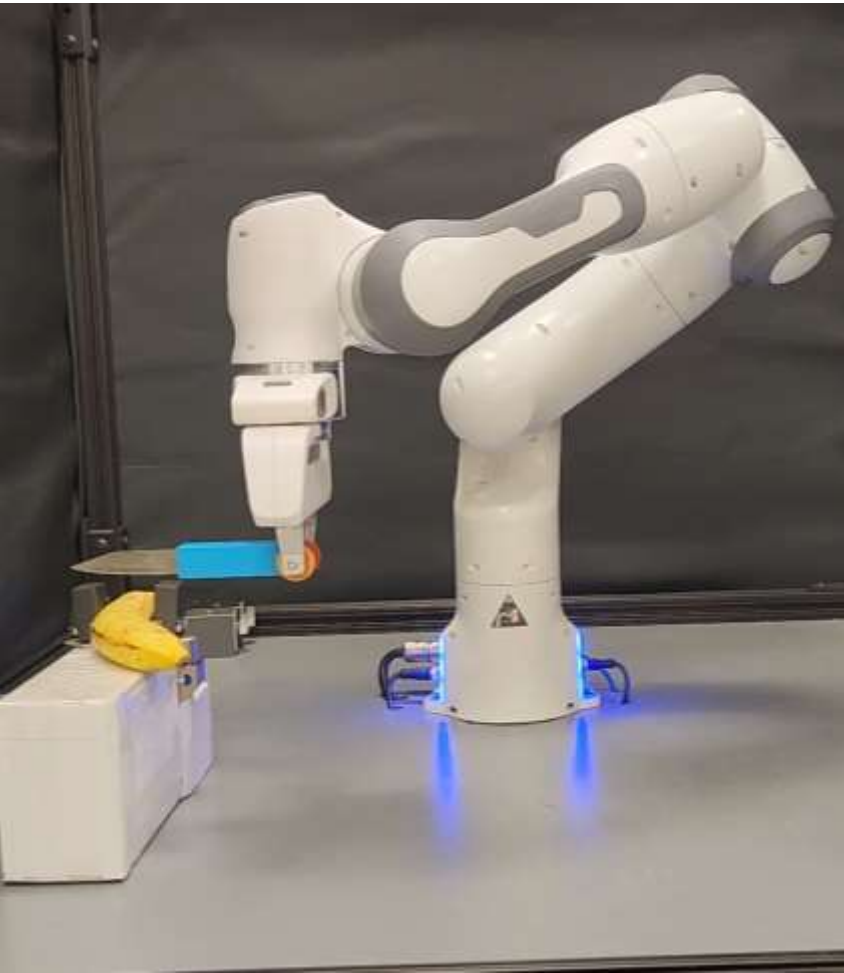




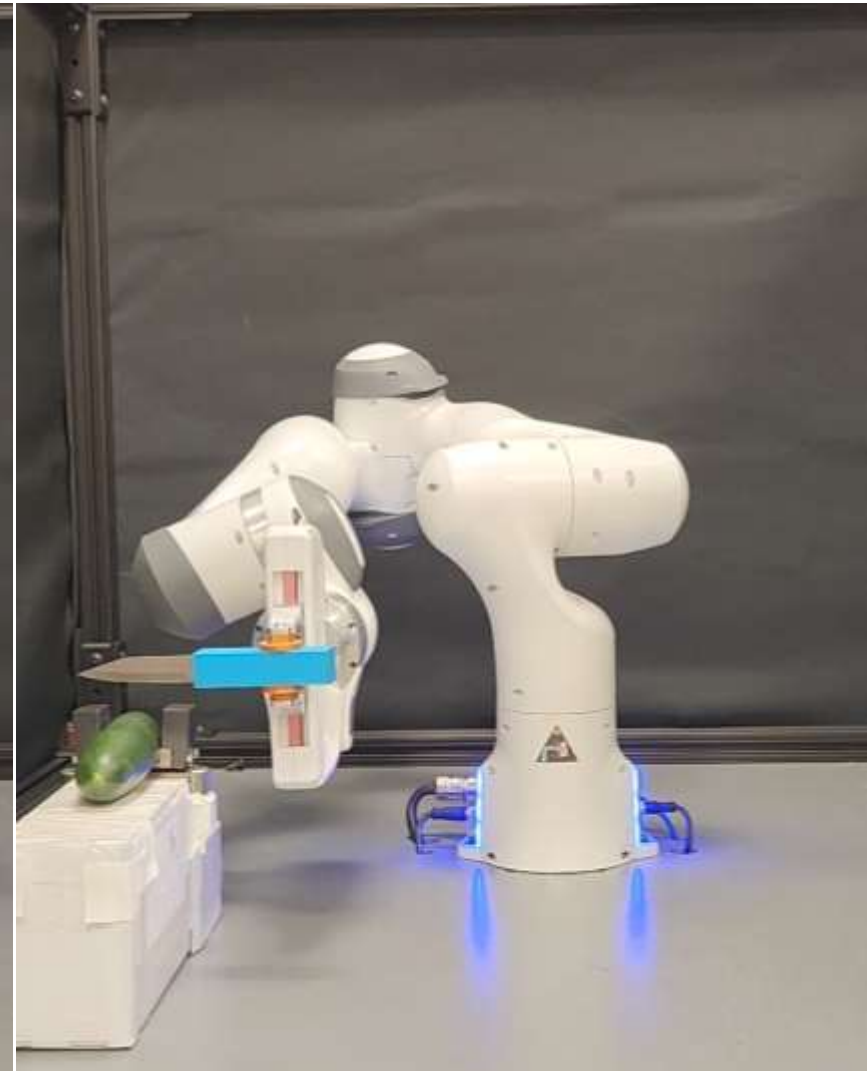
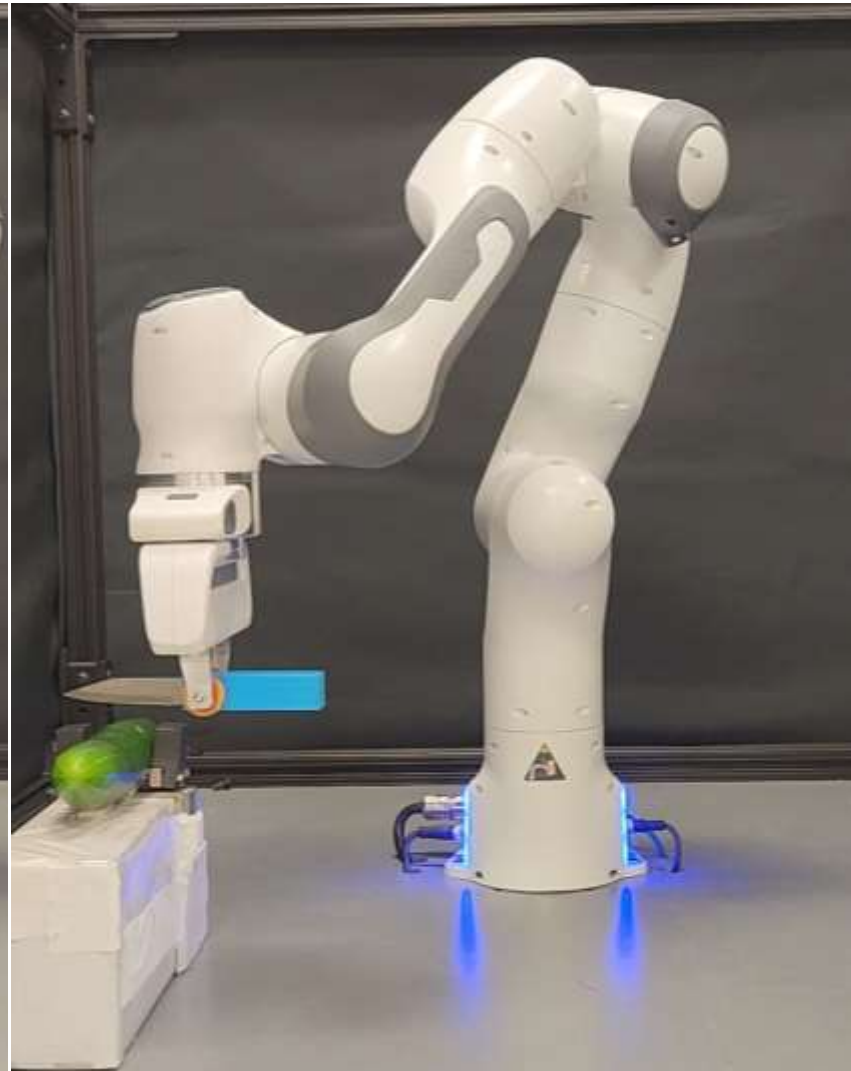
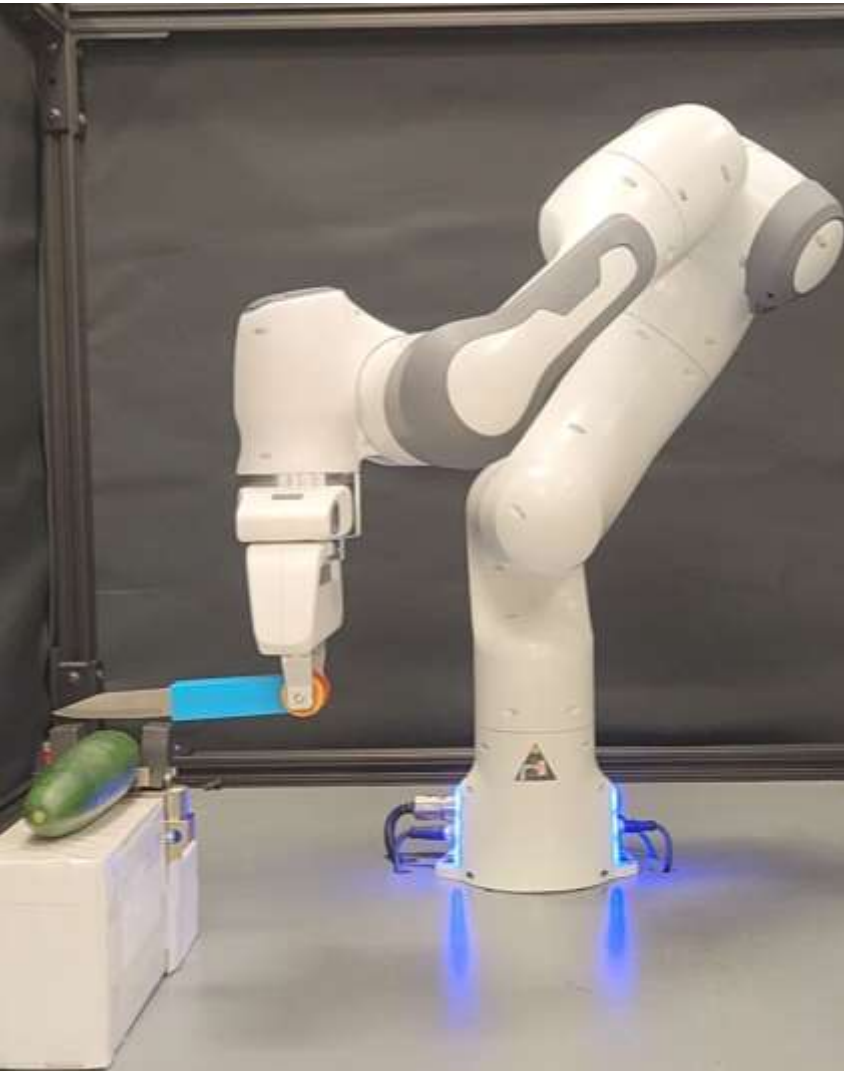
Peeled Banana

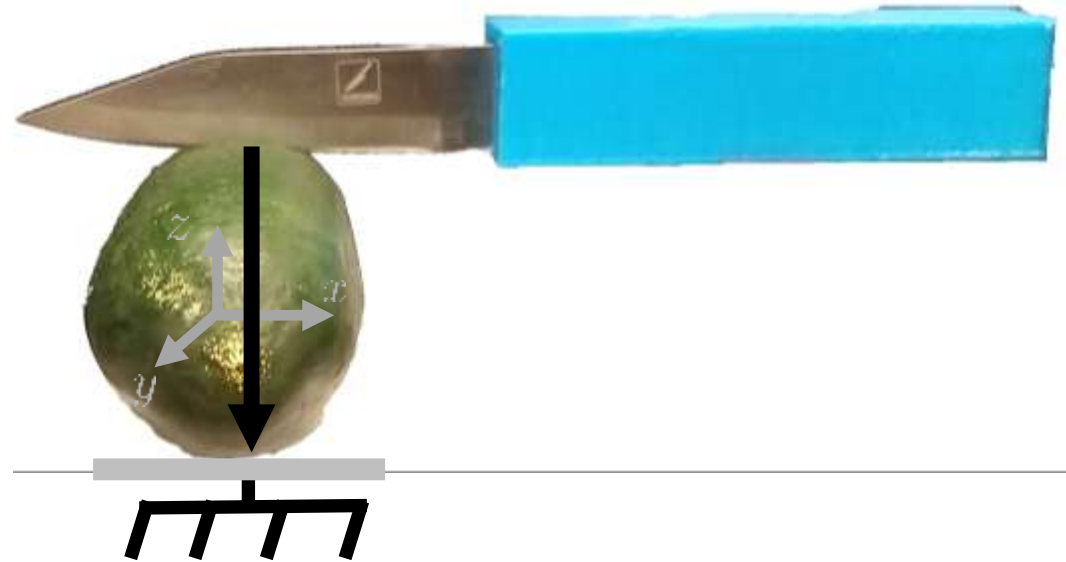
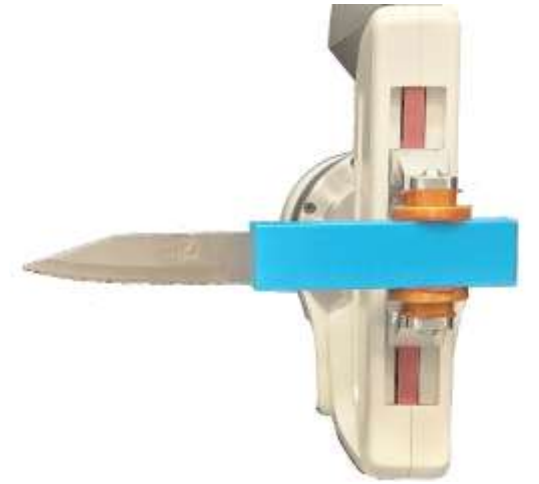


Unpeeled Banana 🍌

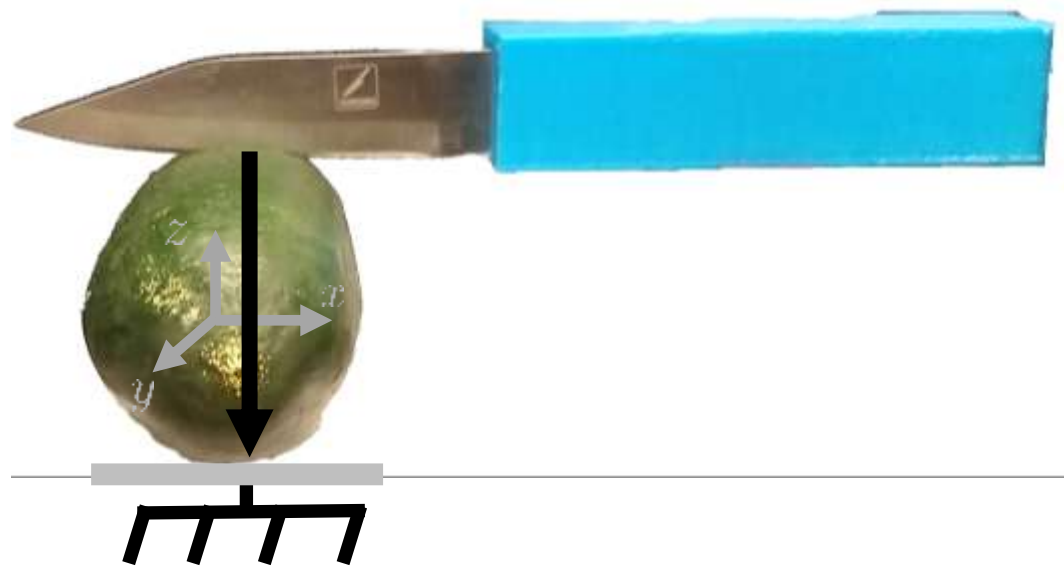
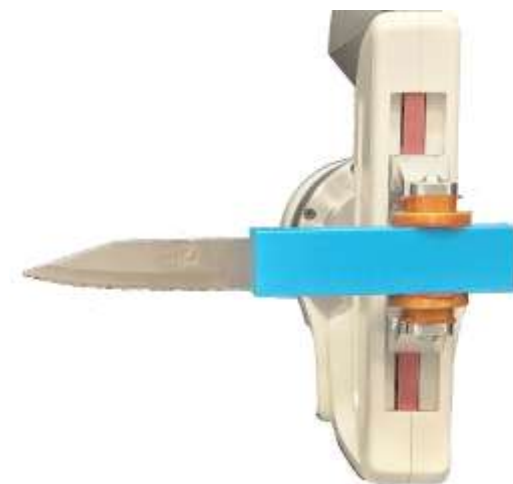


Cucumber

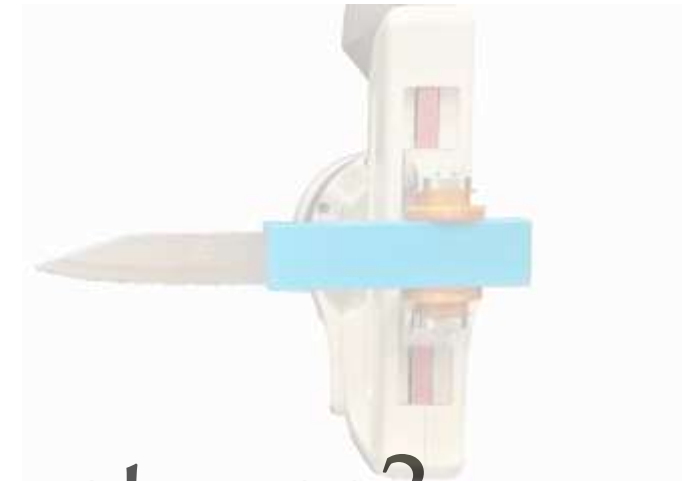




Best?

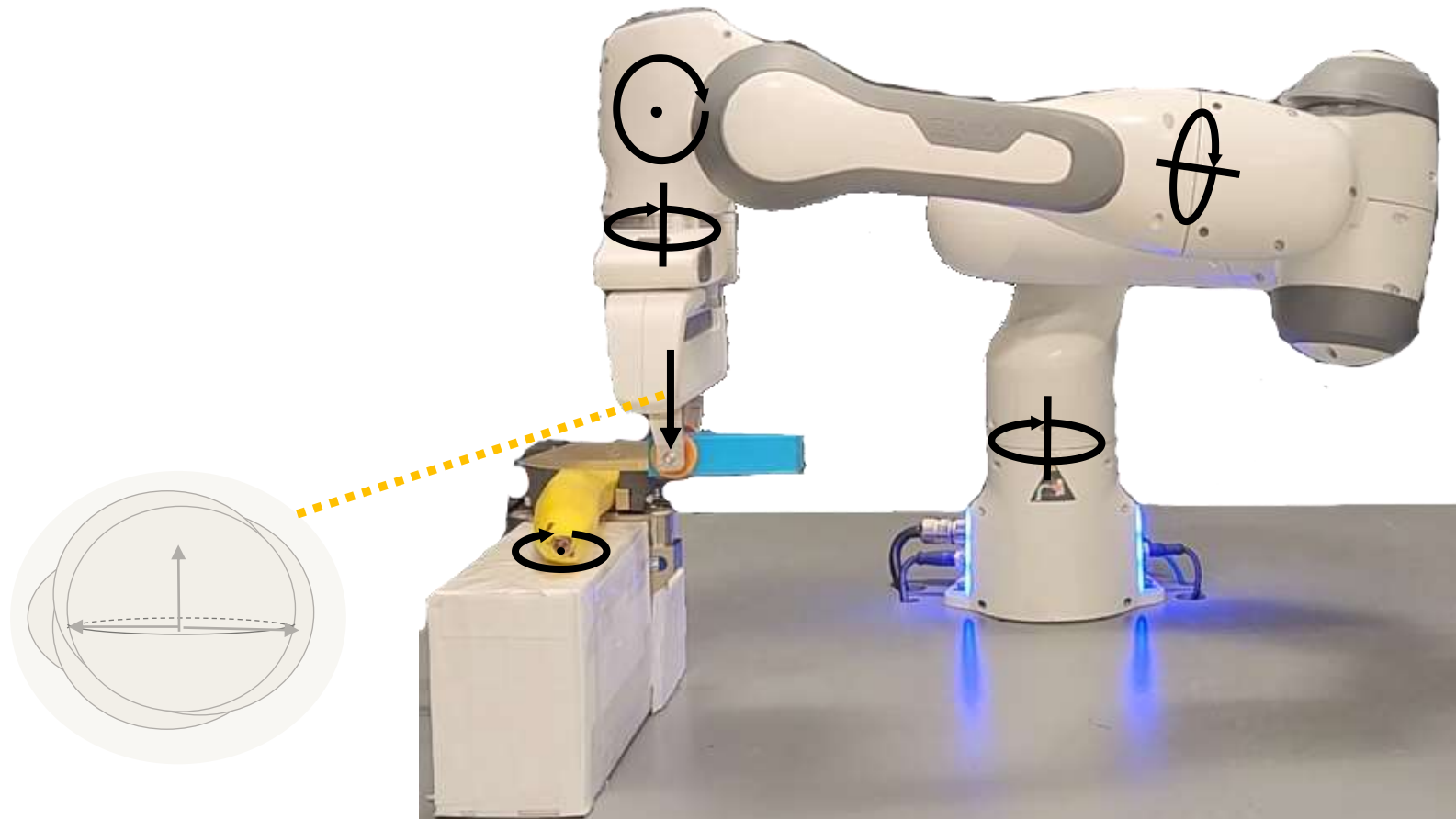


~~Best?~~



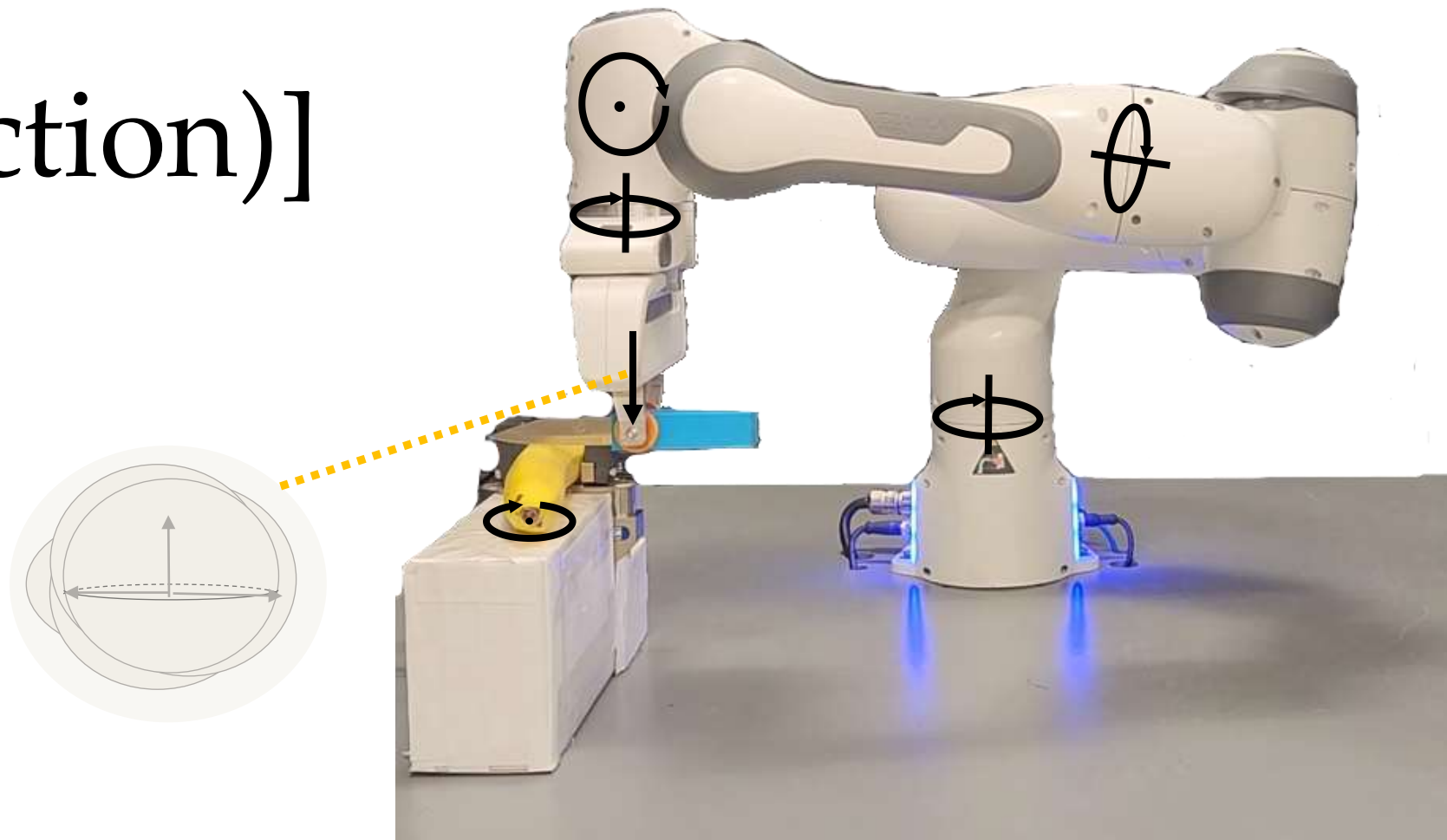
Balancing Constraints and Robustness?

Robust to Variations in the Physical Parameters



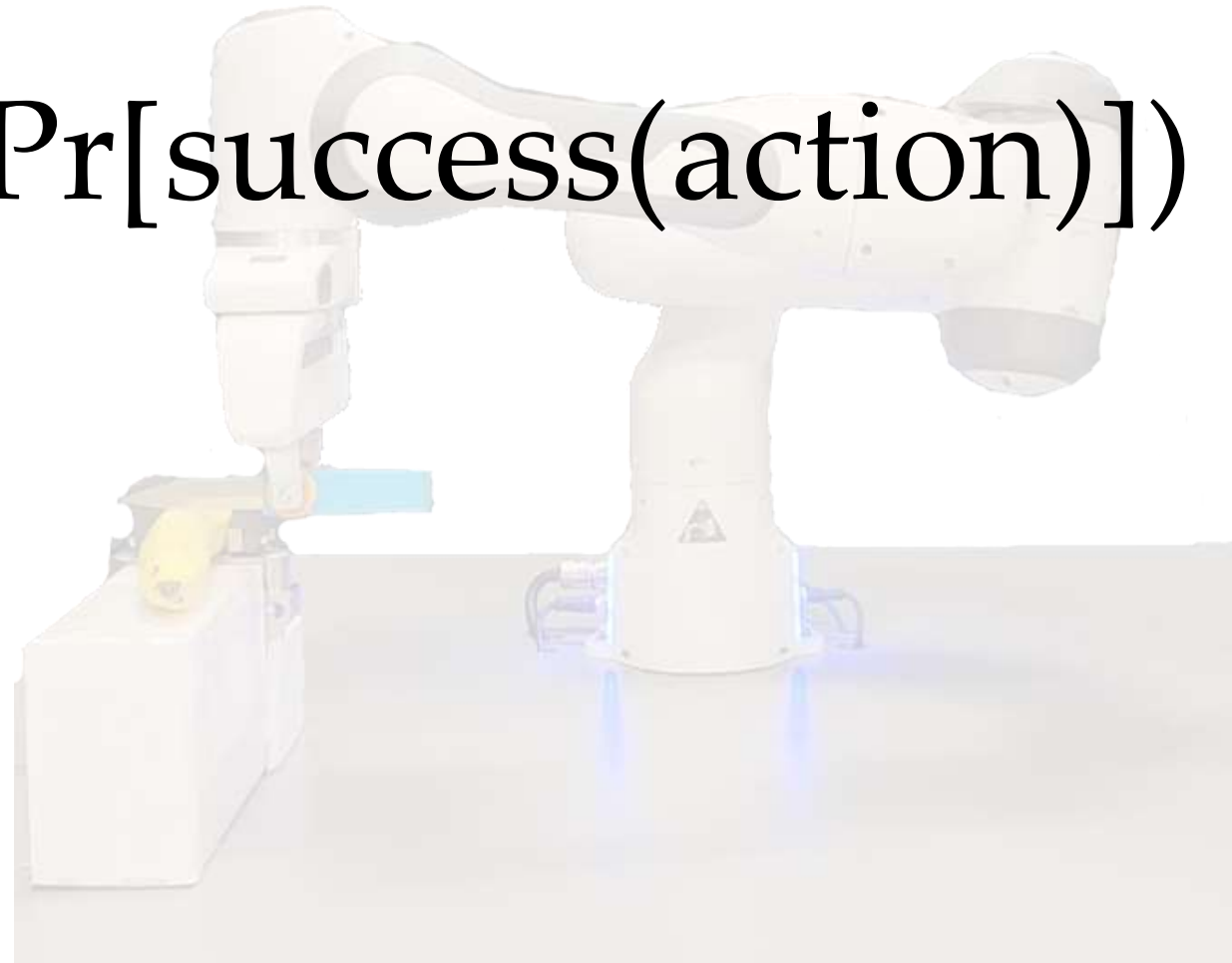
Robust to Variations in the Physical Parameters

$\Pr[\text{success}(\text{action})]$



Robust to Variations in the Physical Parameters via Cost-Sensitive Planning

$$\text{cost}(\text{action}) = -\log(\text{Pr}[\text{success}(\text{action})])$$



Robust to Variations in the Physical Parameters via Cost-Sensitive Planning

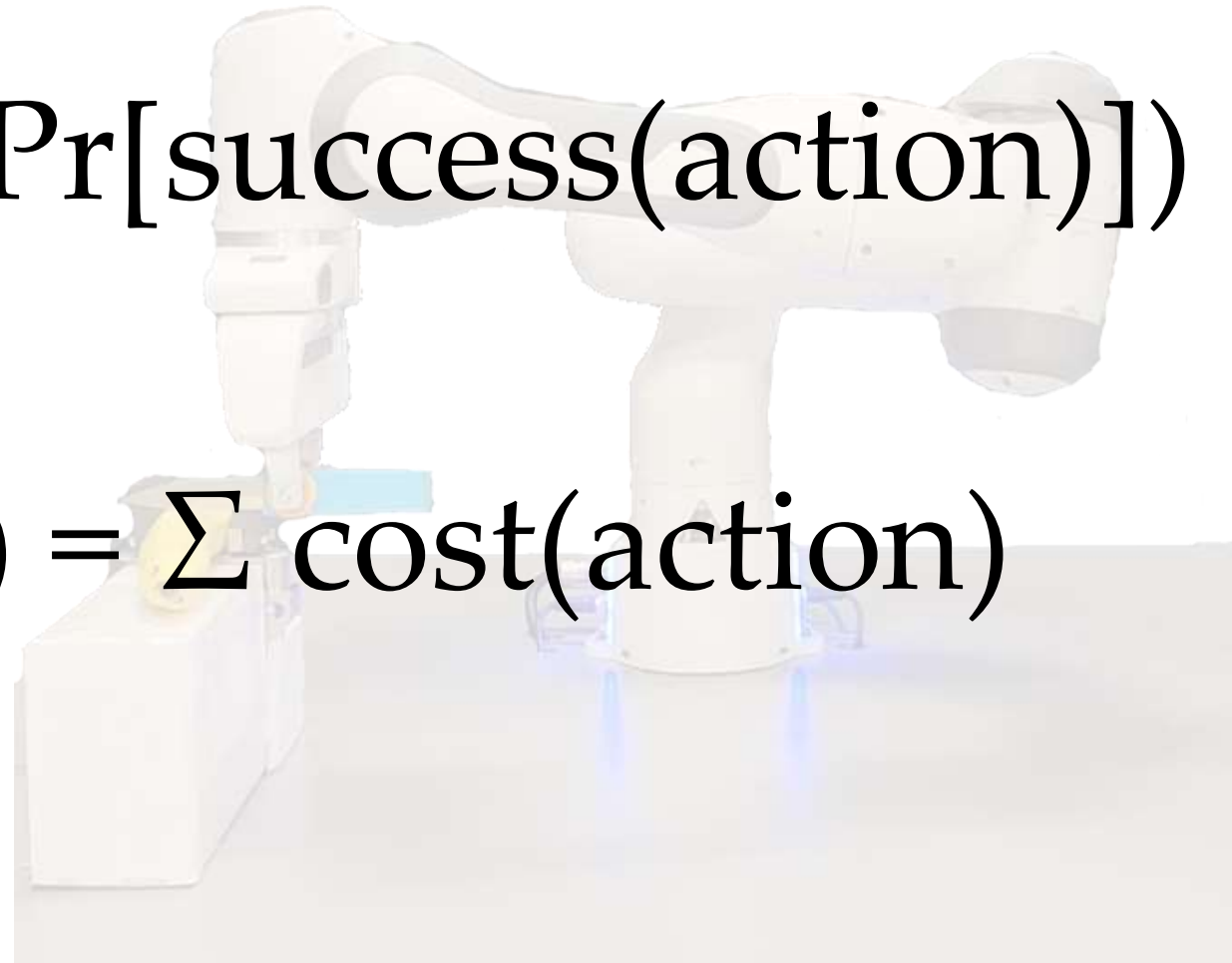
$$\text{cost}(\text{action}) = -\log(\text{Pr}[\text{success}(\text{action})])$$

$$\text{cost}(\text{plan}) = \sum \text{cost}(\text{action})$$

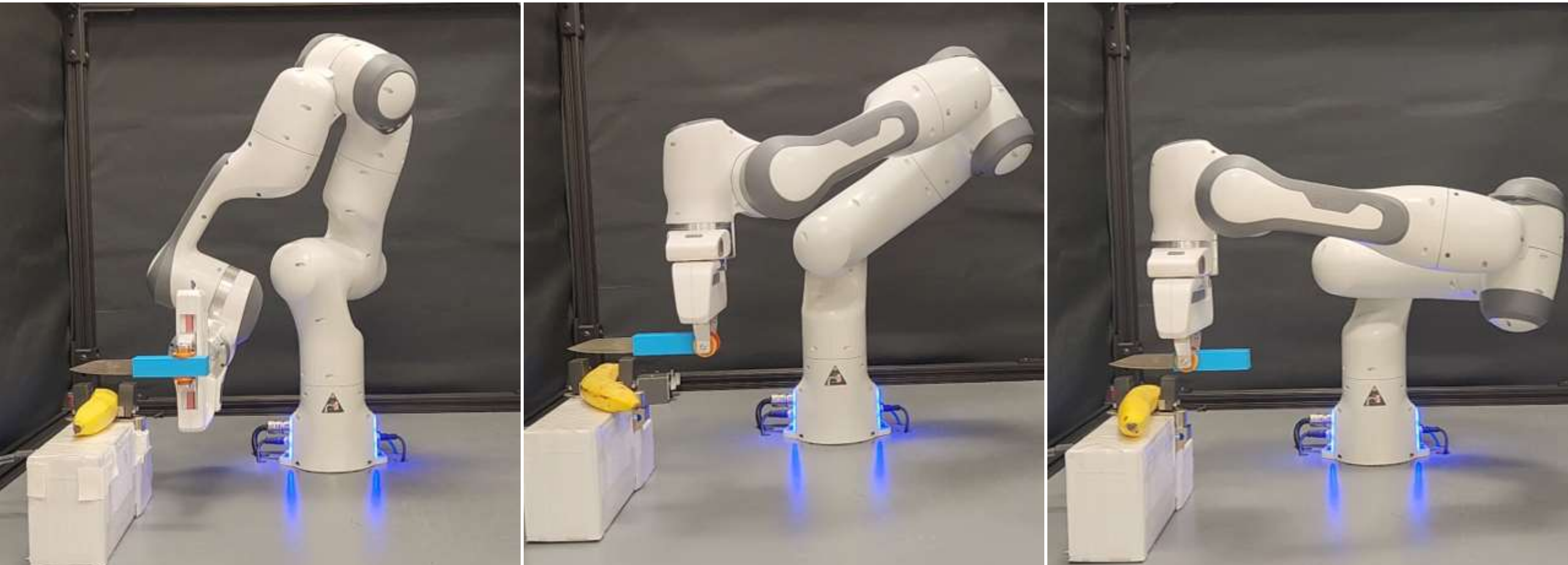

Robust to Variations in the Physical Parameters via Cost-Sensitive Planning

$$\text{cost}(\text{action}) = -\log(\text{Pr}[\text{success}(\text{action})])$$

$$c_{\max} \stackrel{?}{>} \text{cost}(\text{plan}) = \sum \text{cost}(\text{action})$$



Enable Reasoning Over Robust Choices in the Context of Competing Constraints

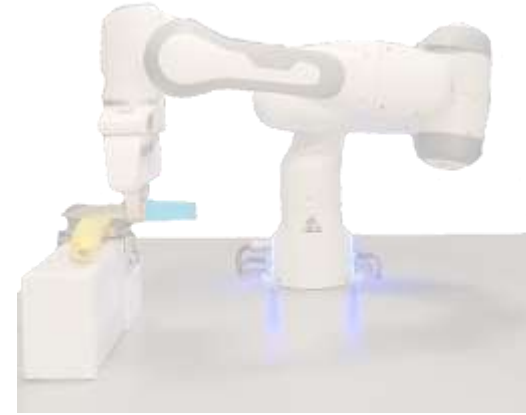


“Robust Planning for Multi-stage Forceful Manipulation” [R Holladay](#), T Lozano-Pérez, A Rodriguez. *IJRR*, 2023.

Forceful
Manipulation



Robust
Decision
Making



Models and Algorithms that Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to Accomplish Multi-Step Manipulation Tasks

In-Hand
Manipulation



Guarded
Planning



Action Space

move(q_s , q_g , ...)

place(obj, p_0 , ...)

pushtwist(obj, w , ...)

regrasp(obj, g_s , g_g , ...)

•

•

•



Special Thanks to Xiaolin Fang

Action Space

move(q_s , q_g , ...)

place(obj, p_0 , ...)

pushtwist(obj, w , ...)

regrasp(obj, g_s , g_g , ...)

•

•

•

Action Space

move(q_s , q_g , ...)

place(obj, p_0 , ...)

pushtwist(obj, w , ...)

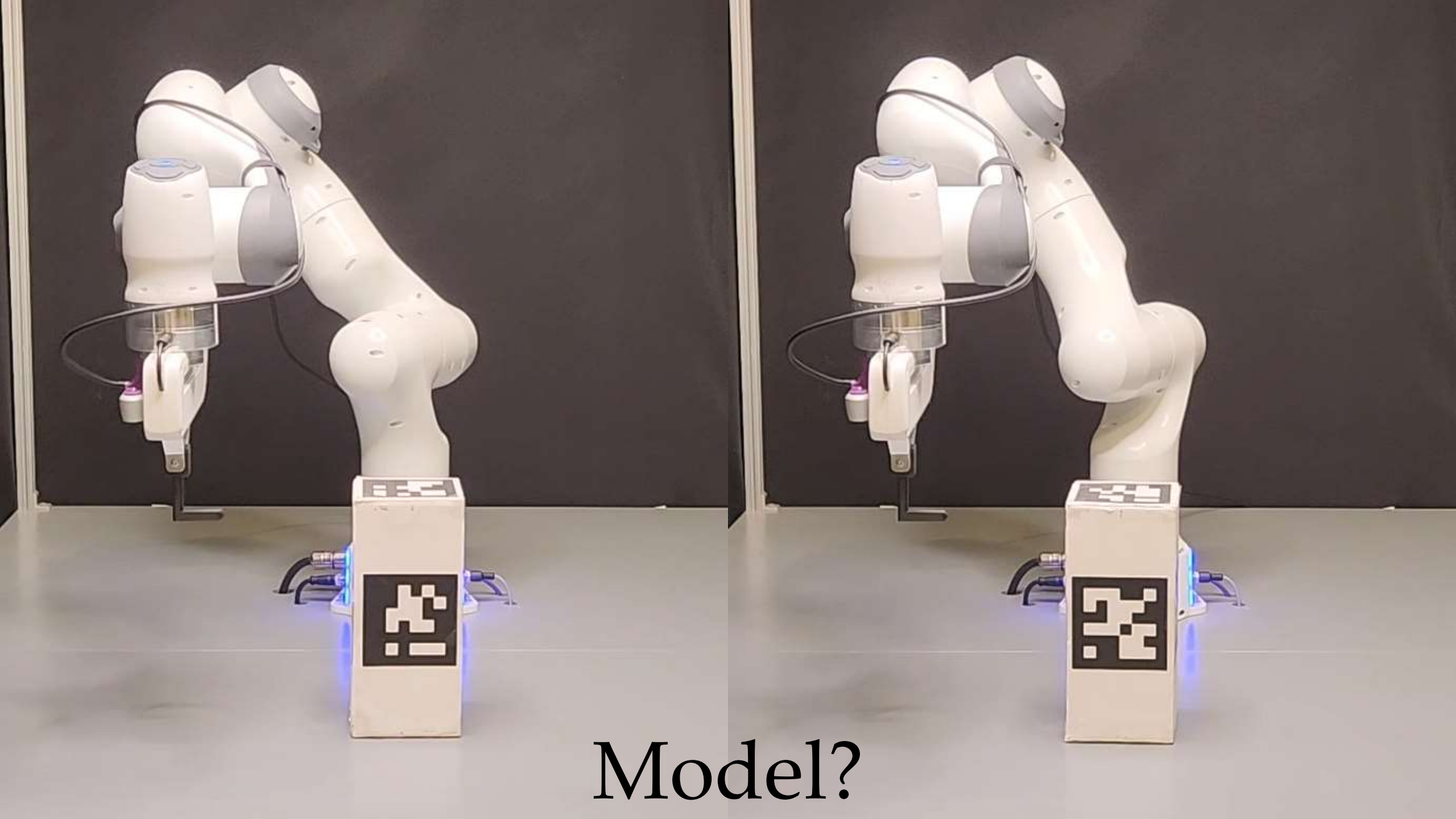
regrasp(obj, g_s , g_g , ...)

dnp_move(obj, p_s , P_g , ...)

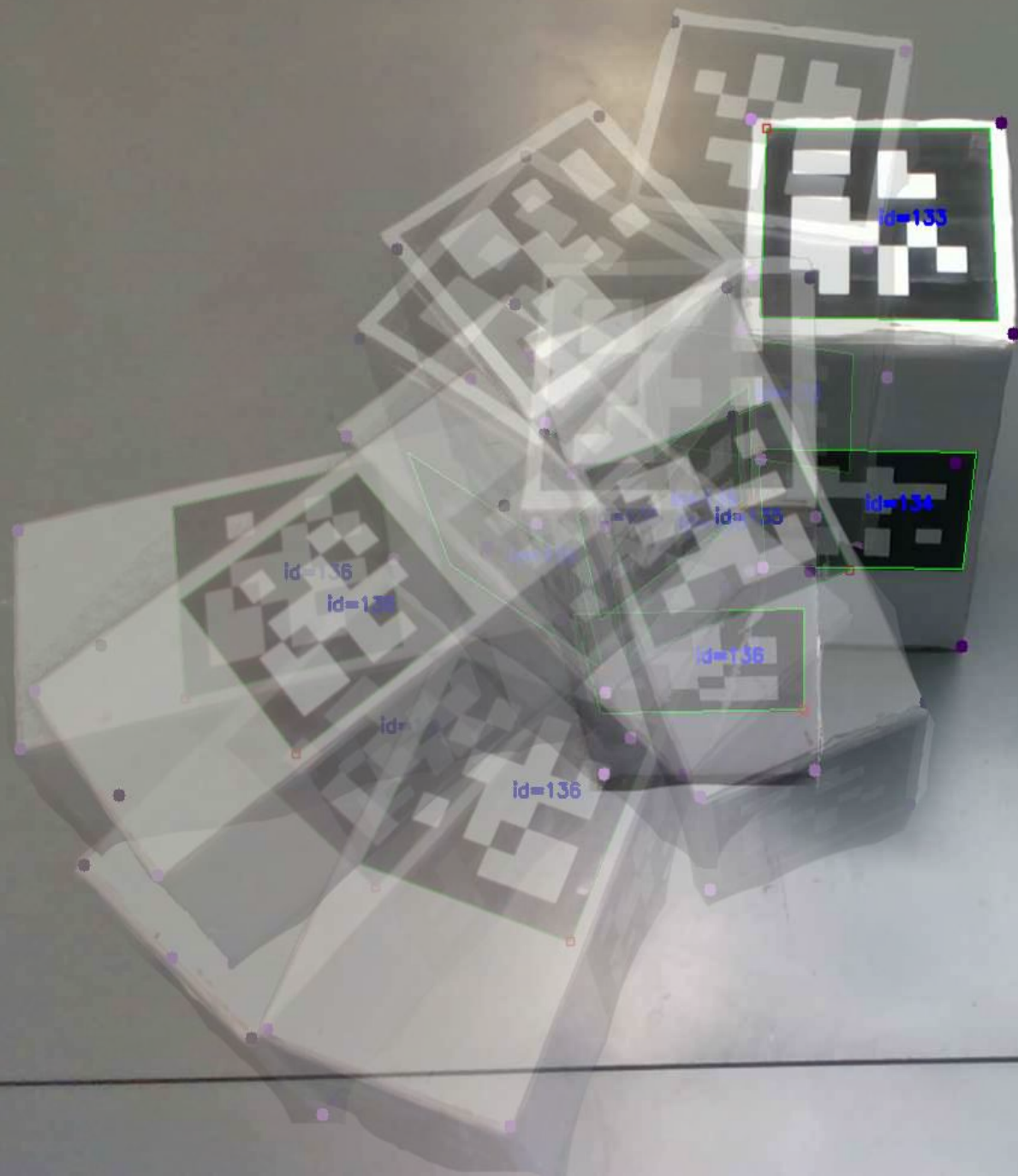
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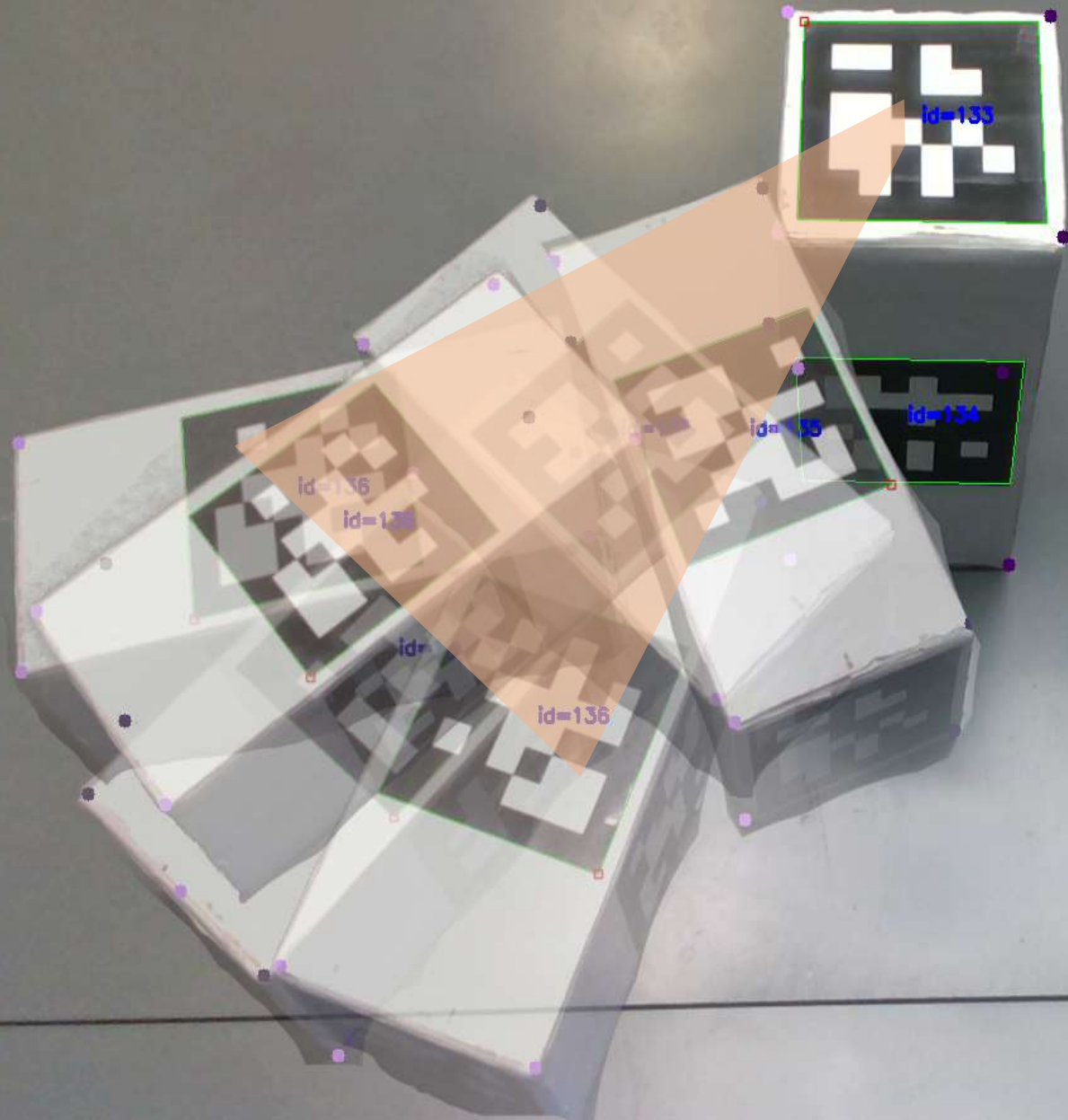
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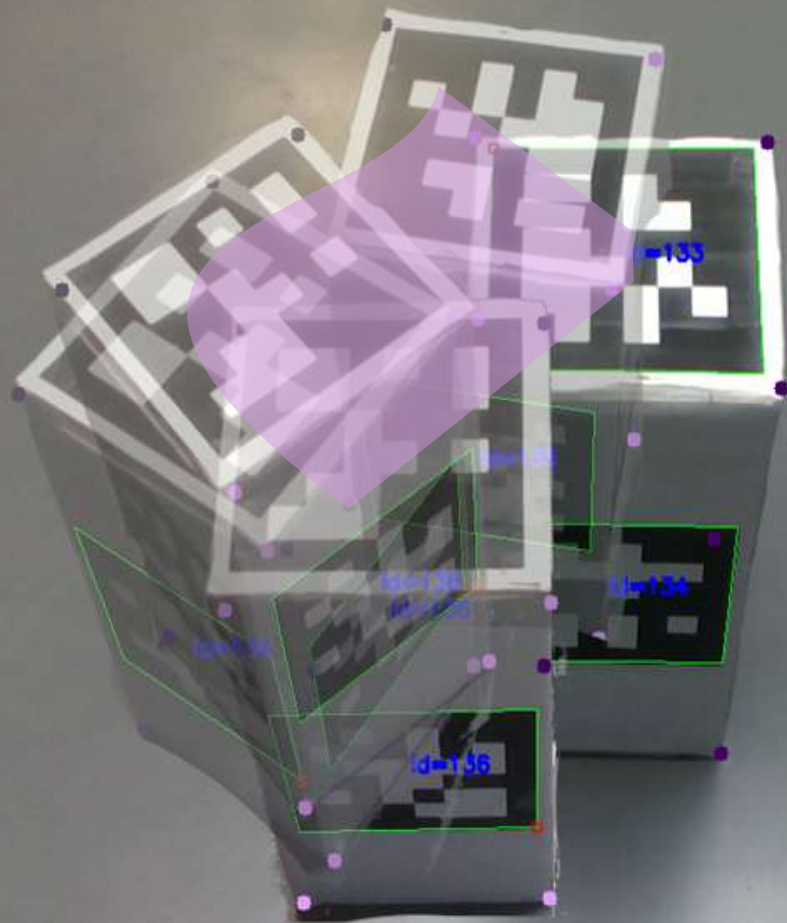
•



Model?

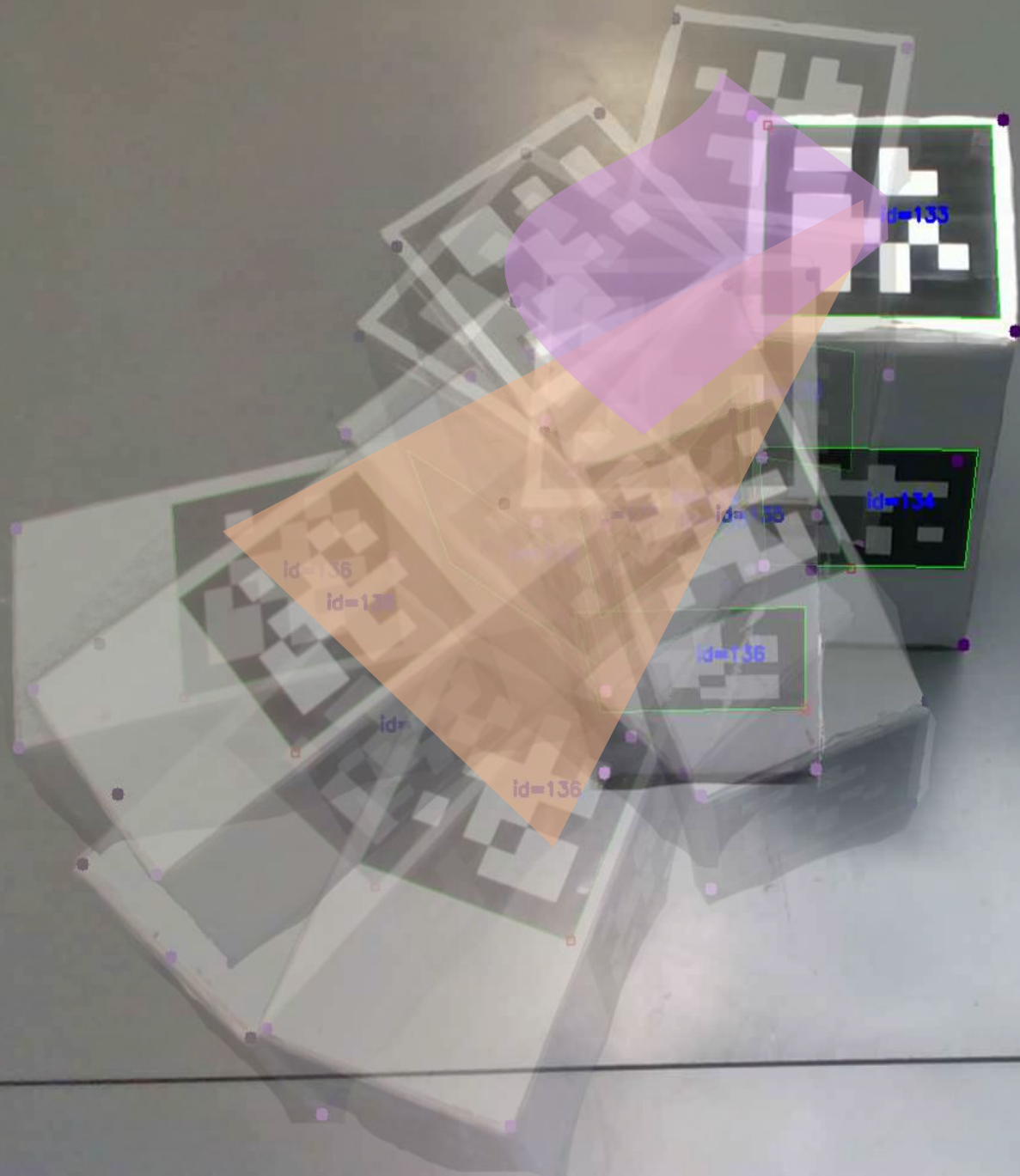






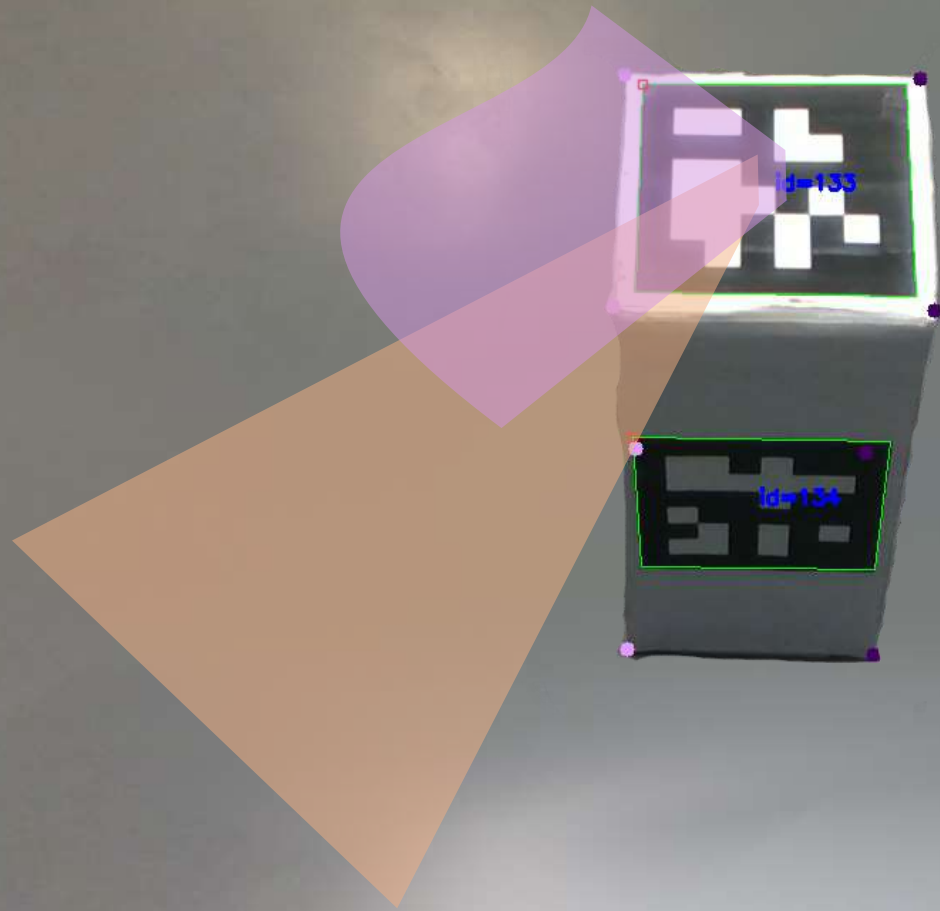
Outcome Volumes

$$V(a, \dots)$$



Outcome Volumes

$$V(a, \dots)$$



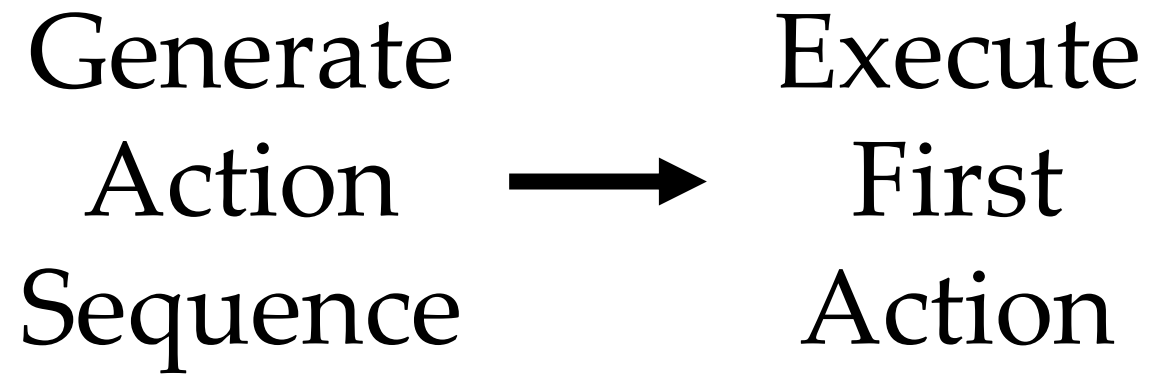
Assumption: Positionally Independent

`dnp_move(obj, ps, Pg, ...)` :

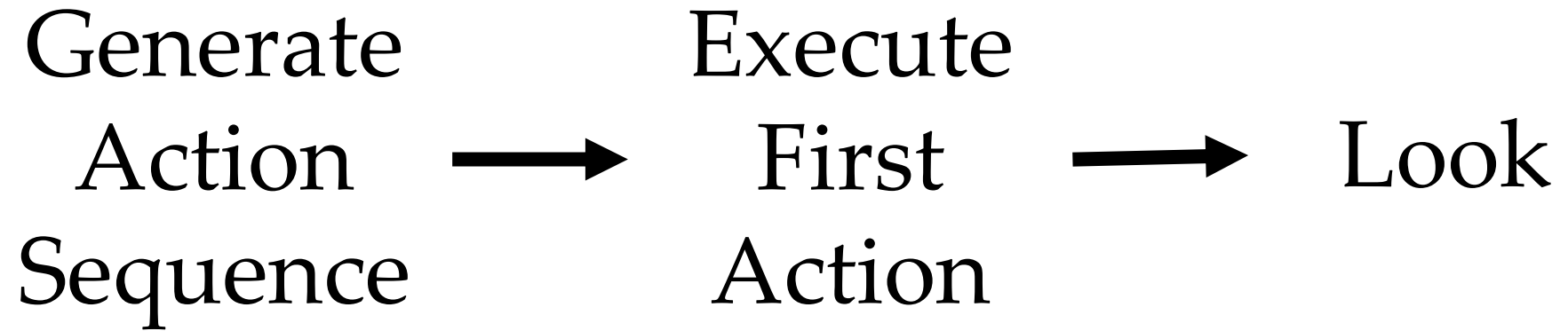
`dnp_move(obj, ps, Pg, ...)` :

Generate
Action
Sequence

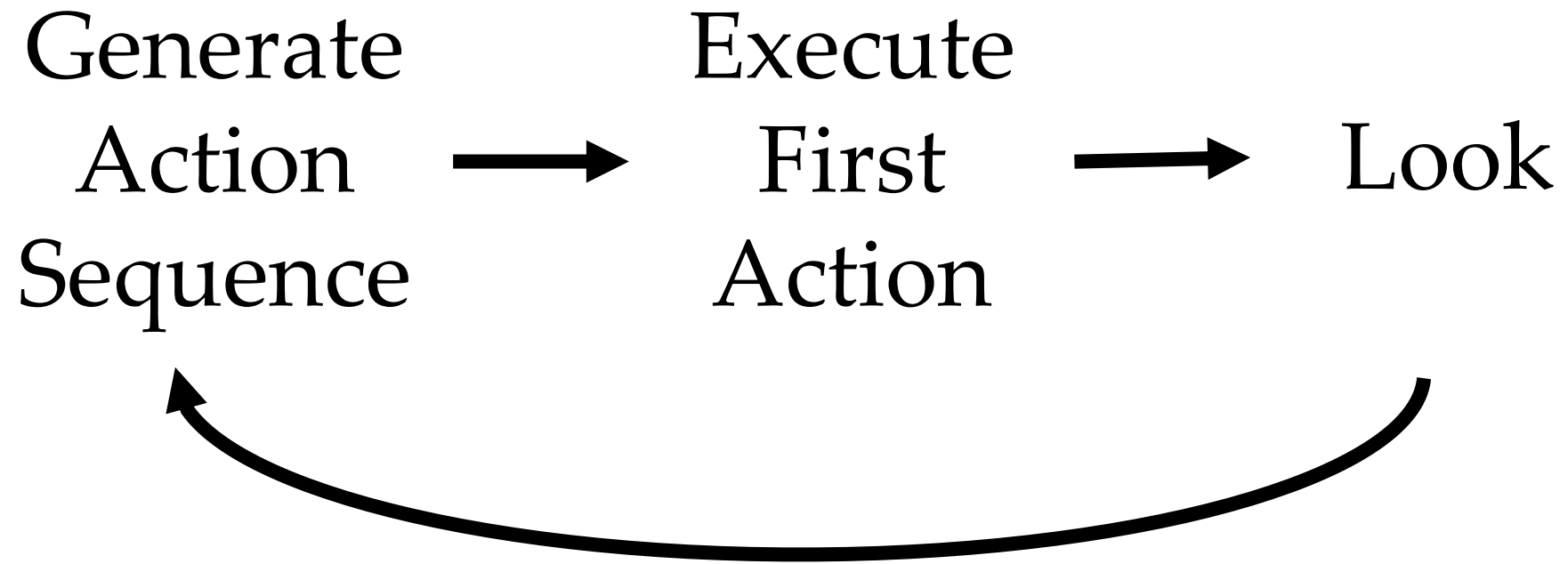
`dnp_move(obj, ps, Pg, ...)` :



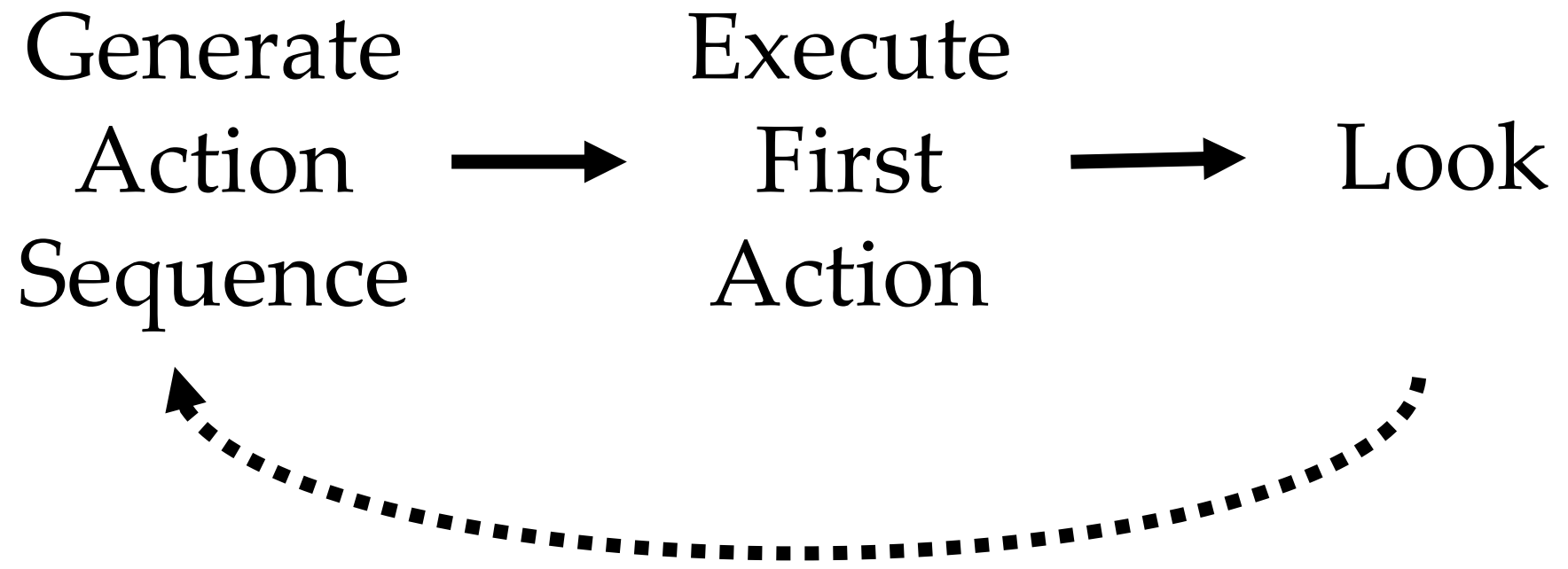
`dnp_move(obj, ps, Pg, ...)` :

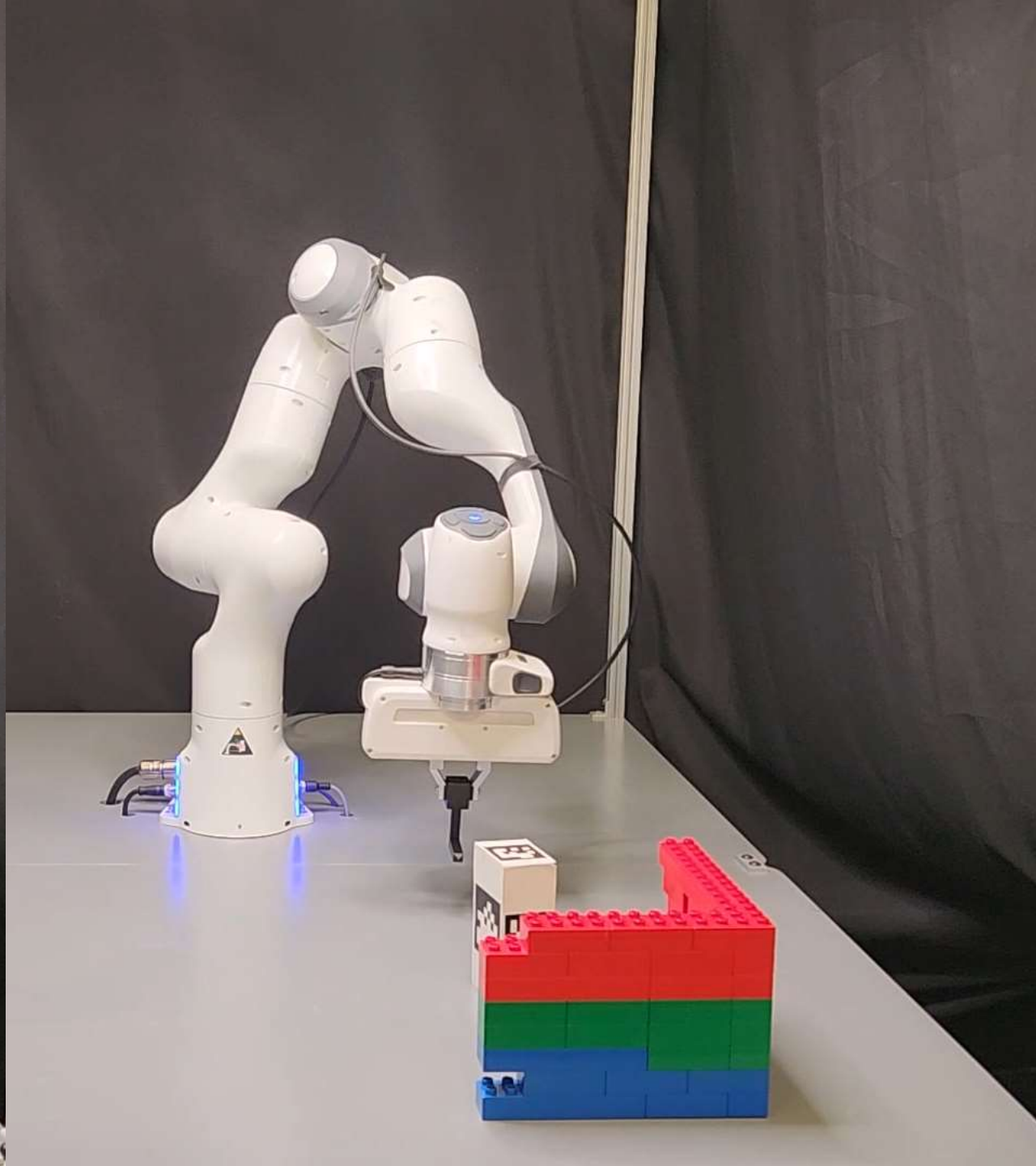
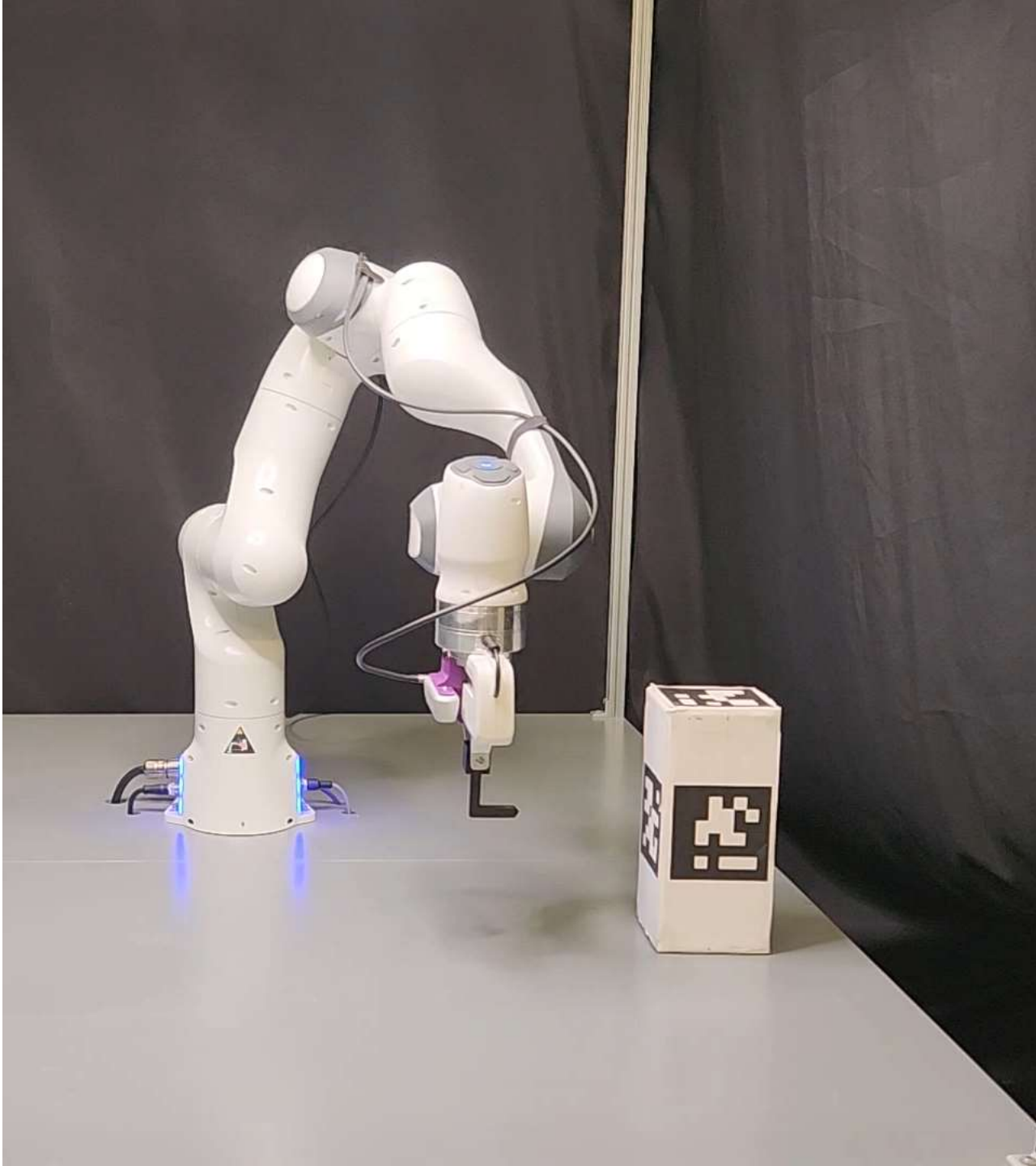


`dnp_move(obj, ps, Pg, ...)` :

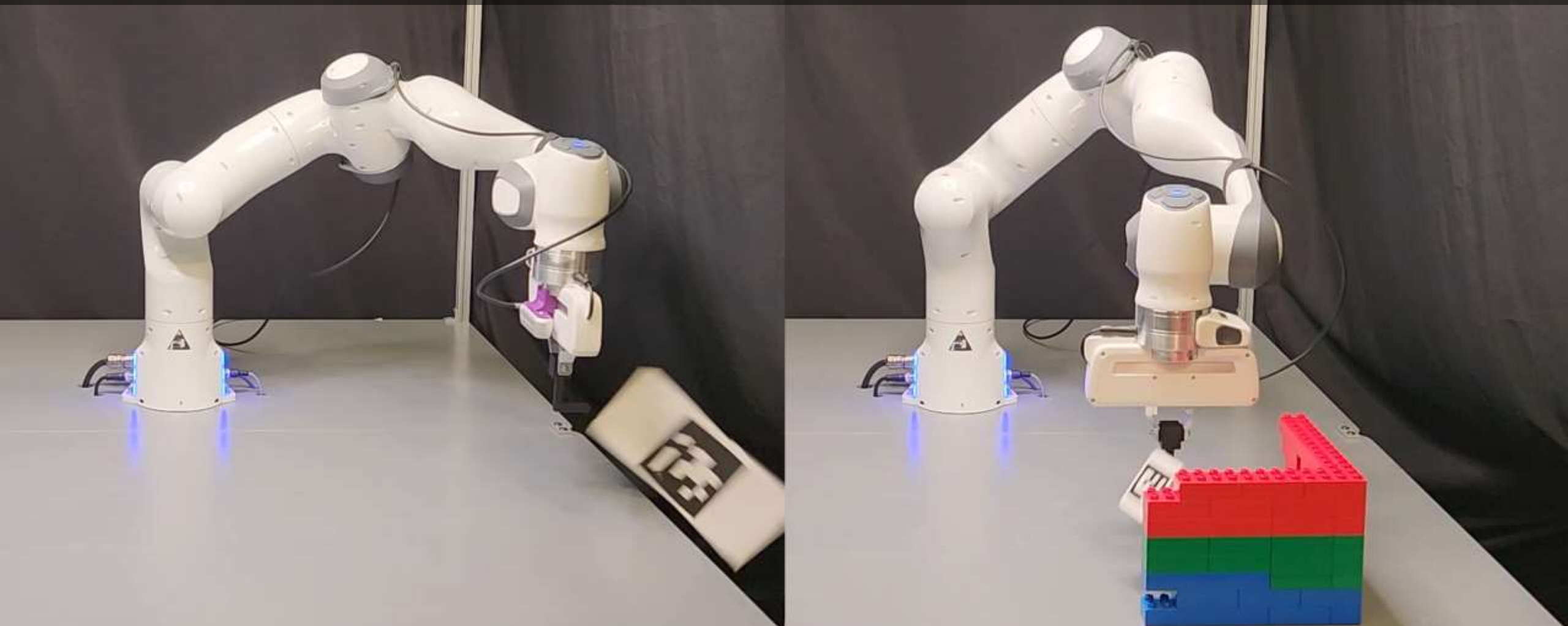


`dnp_move(obj, p_s, P_g, ...)` :

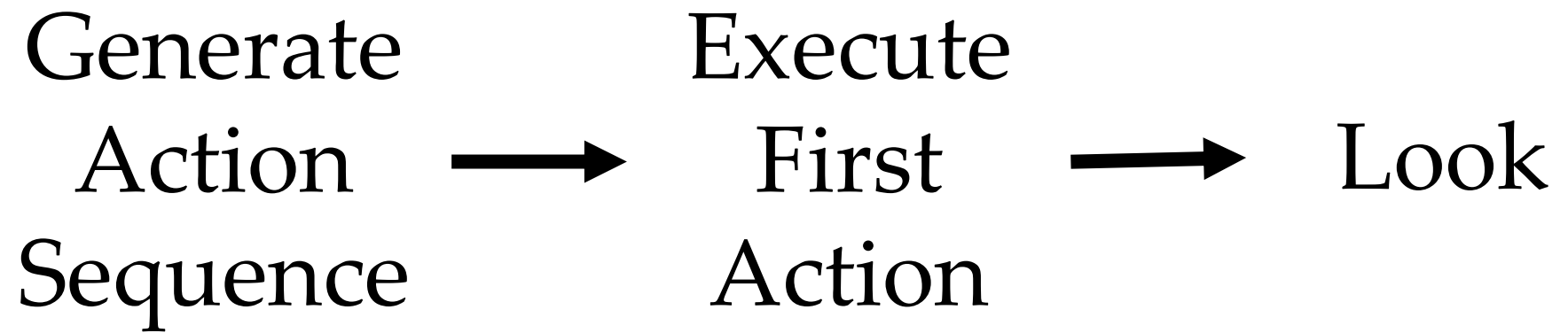




Dead End: a state from which reaching the goal is impossible

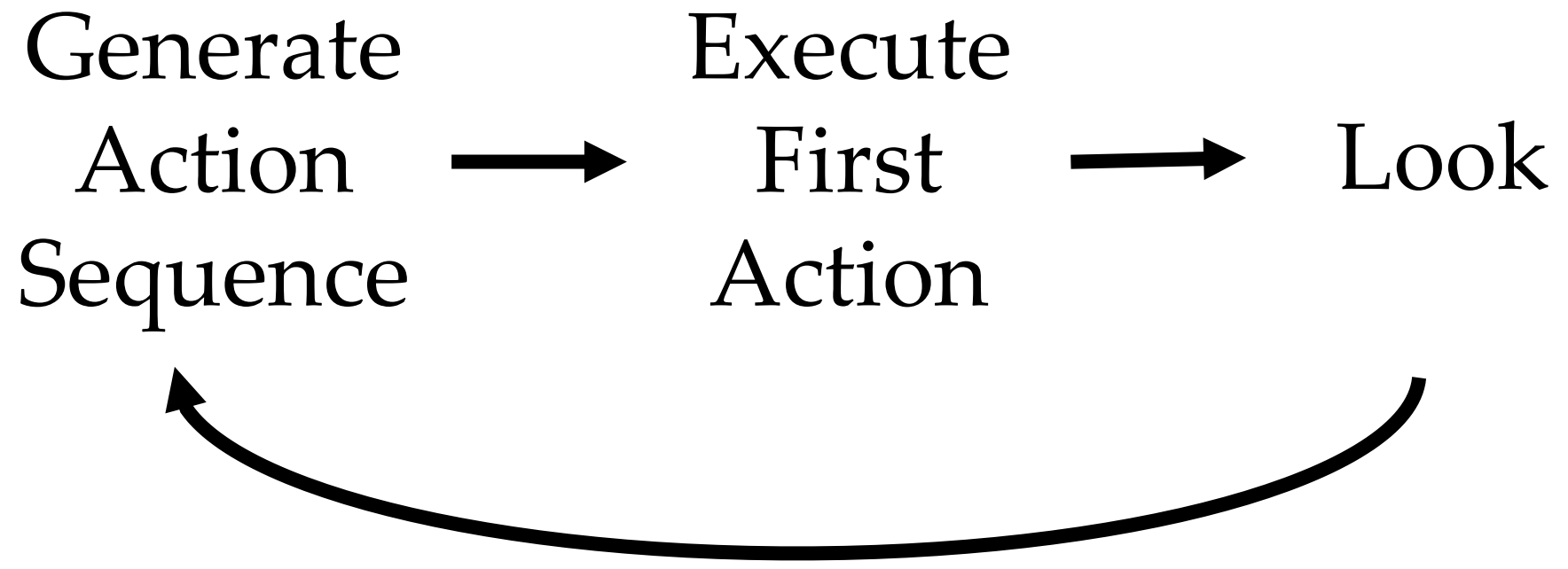


`dnp_move(obj, ps, Pg, ...)` :

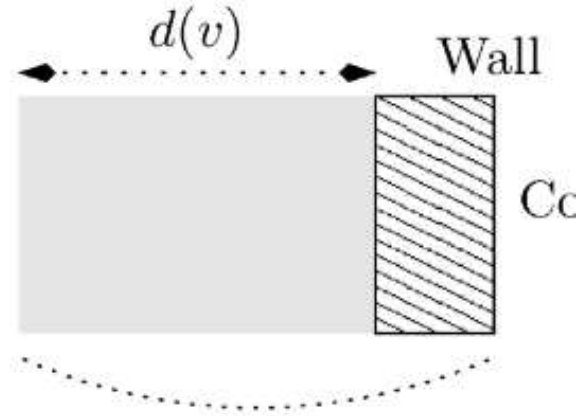


`dnp_move(obj, ps, Pg, ...)` :

s.t. no action leads to a dead end

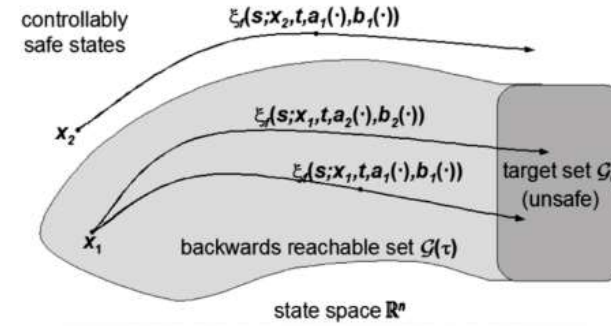


Inevitable Collision States



[Fraichard, Asama 2004, Bautin, Martinez-Gomez, Fraichard, 2010]

Hamilton Jacobi Reachability



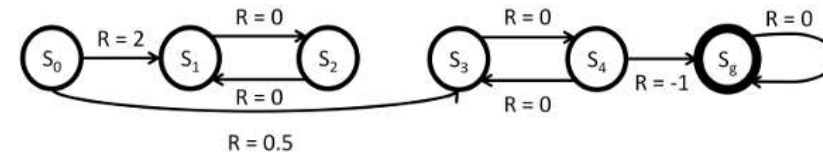
[Bansal et al 2017, Borquez et al 2024]

Dead-Ends in Classical Planning

Exploding Blocksworld

Objects: Table and blocks.
 Actions: Pick up and put down blocks.
 Goal: Make a predetermined stack.
 Noise: First put down may trigger explosion, irretrievably destroying object it was placed on.
 Costs: Goal, may become unreachable.
 Notes: Must plan ahead to avoid dead end.
 Problem: 11 blocks.
 Policy: Use "sacrificial" blocks to preserve stack.

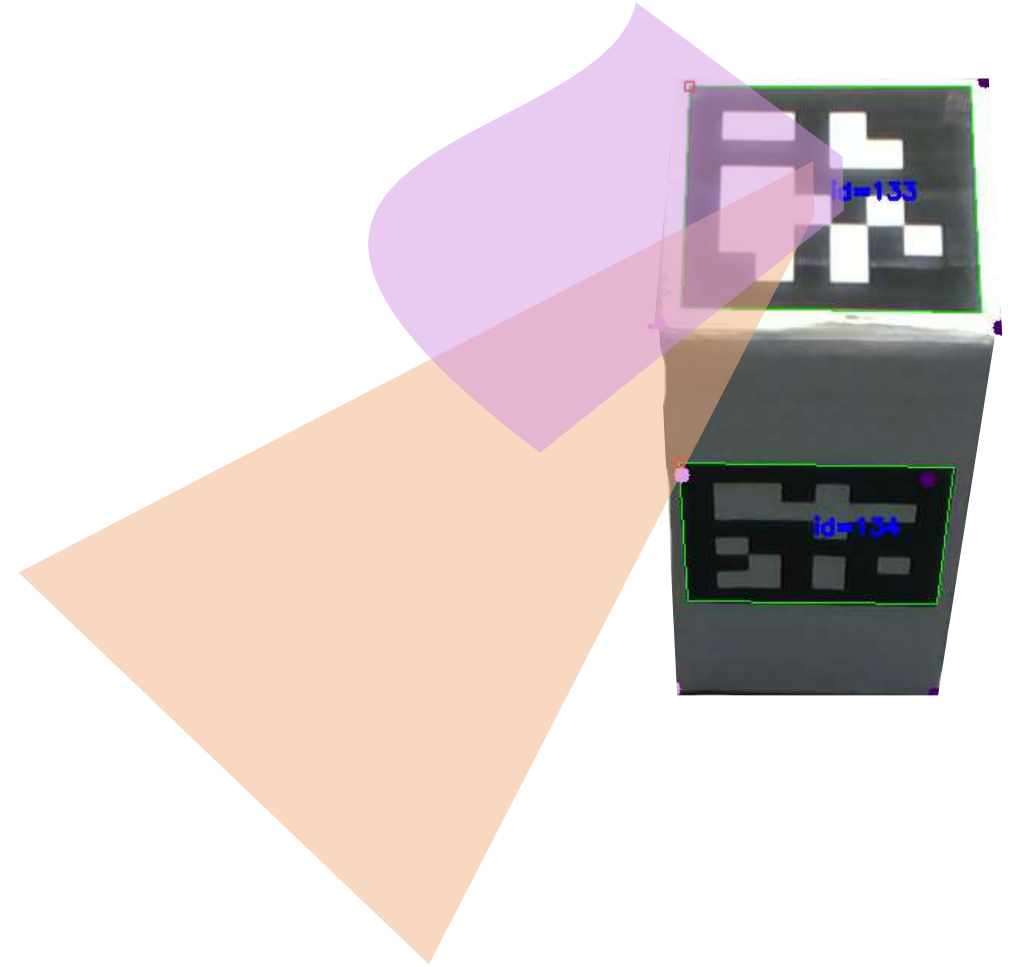
[Lipovetzky et al., 2016, Kolobov et al., 2010]

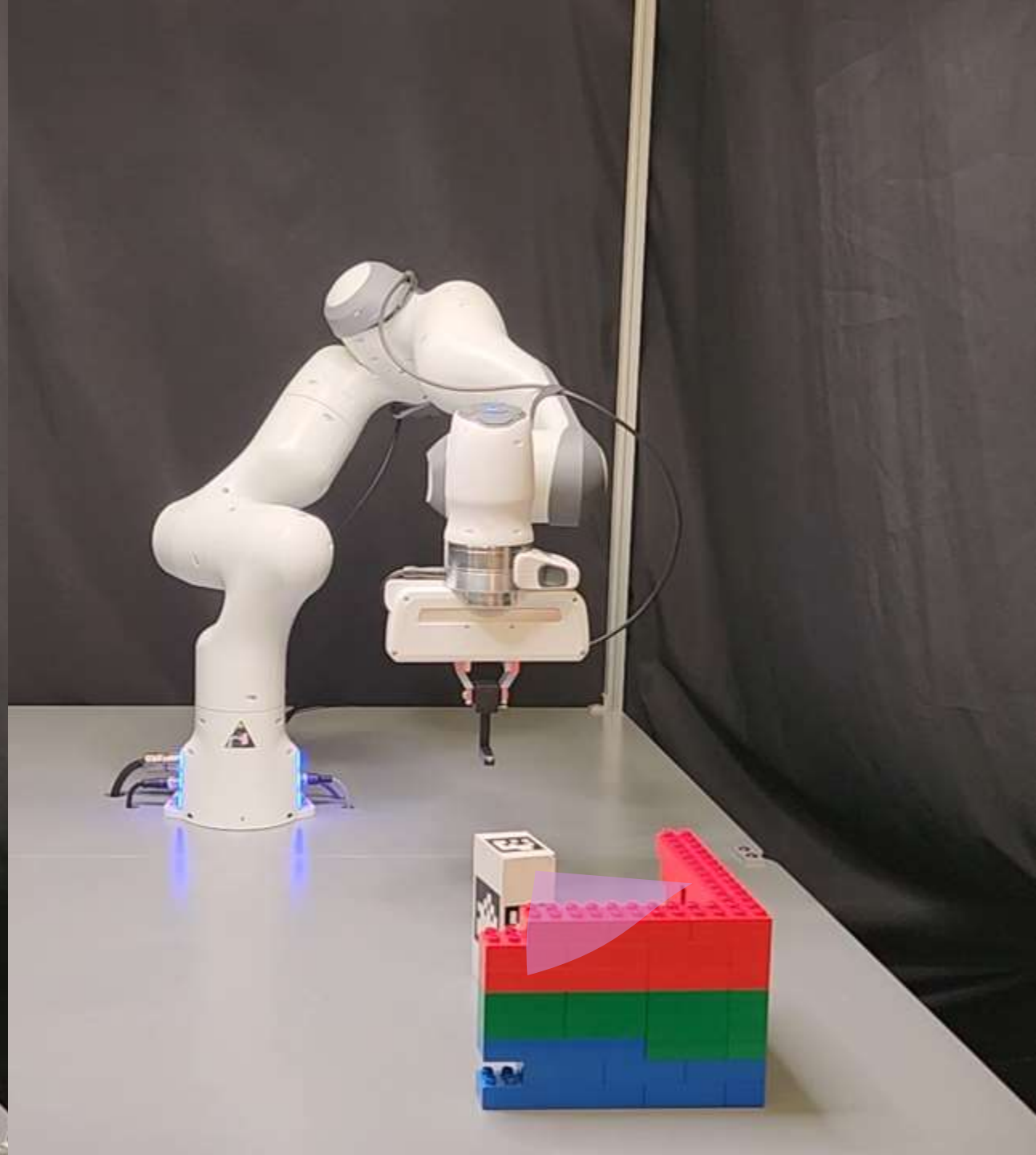
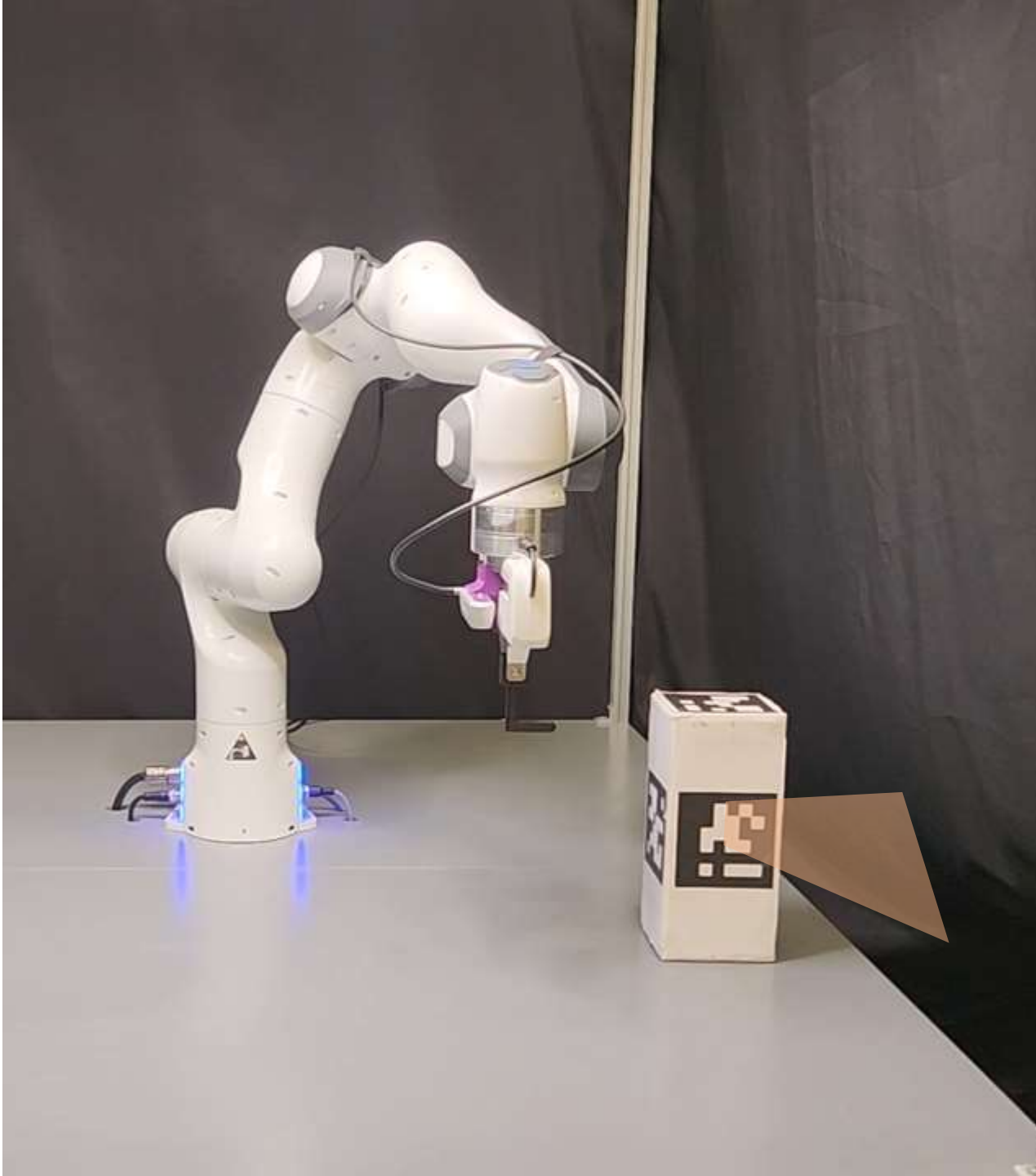


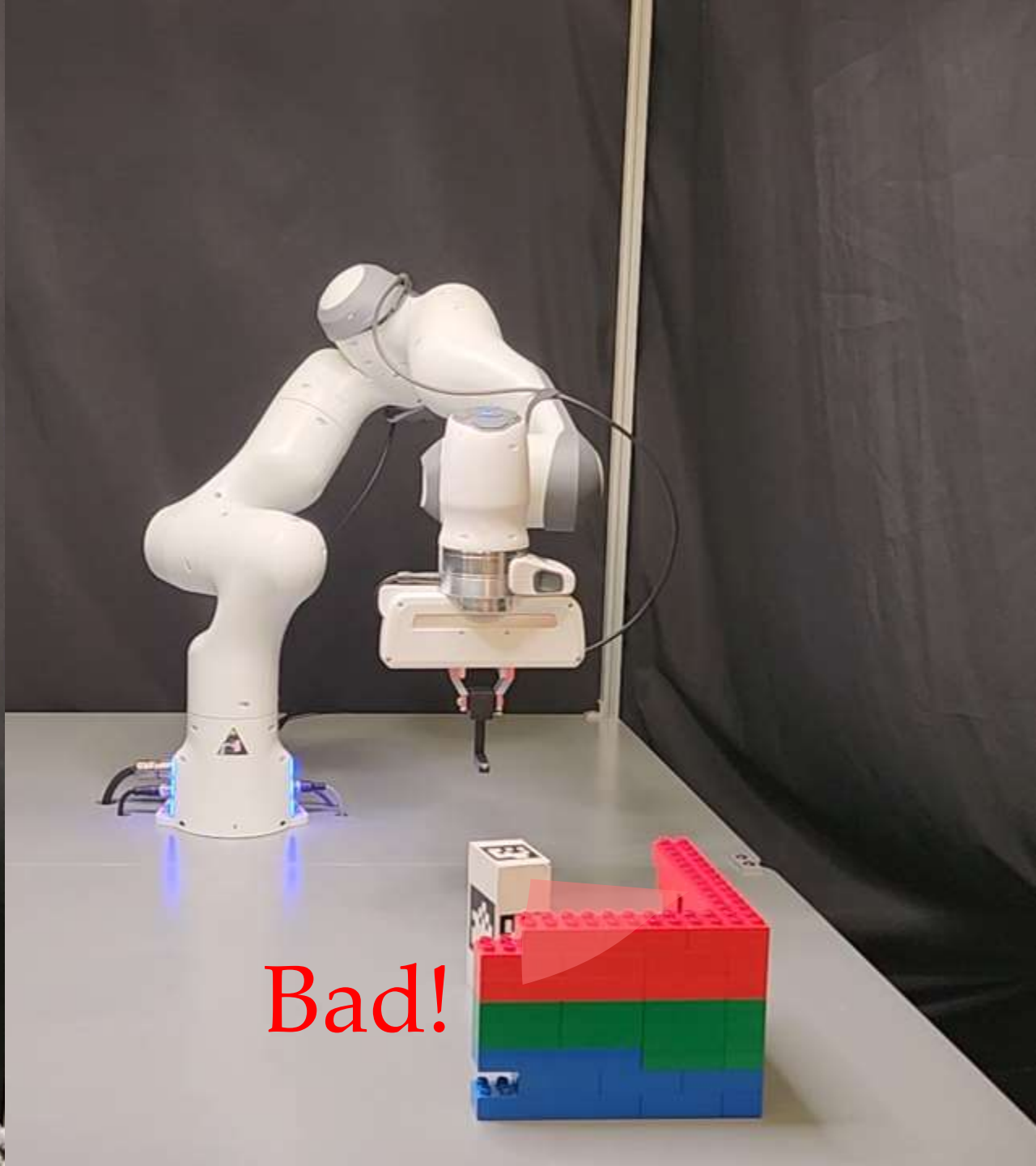
[Kolobov et al., 2011 Kolobov et al., 2012, Teichteil-Königsbuch 2012]

Dead-Ends in Markov Decision Processes (MDPs)

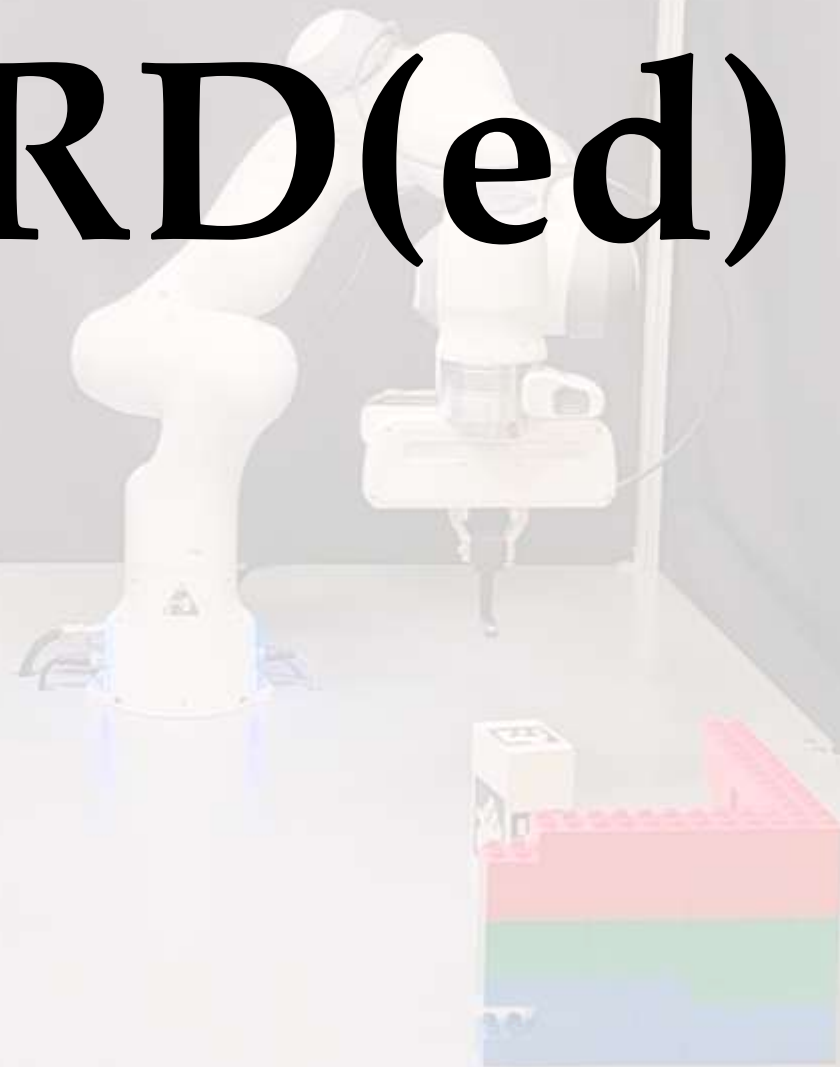
Leverage
outcome volumes
to (continuously)
characterize
dead-end areas







Be GUARD(ed)



The background of the slide shows two white robotic arms on a table. The arm on the right is positioned over a stack of colorful blocks (red, green, blue). The arm on the left is positioned over a white block with a black pattern. The text is overlaid on this scene.

Be GUARD(ed)

Guiding **U**ncertainty **A**ccounting
for **R**isk and **D**ynamics



Be GUARD(ed)

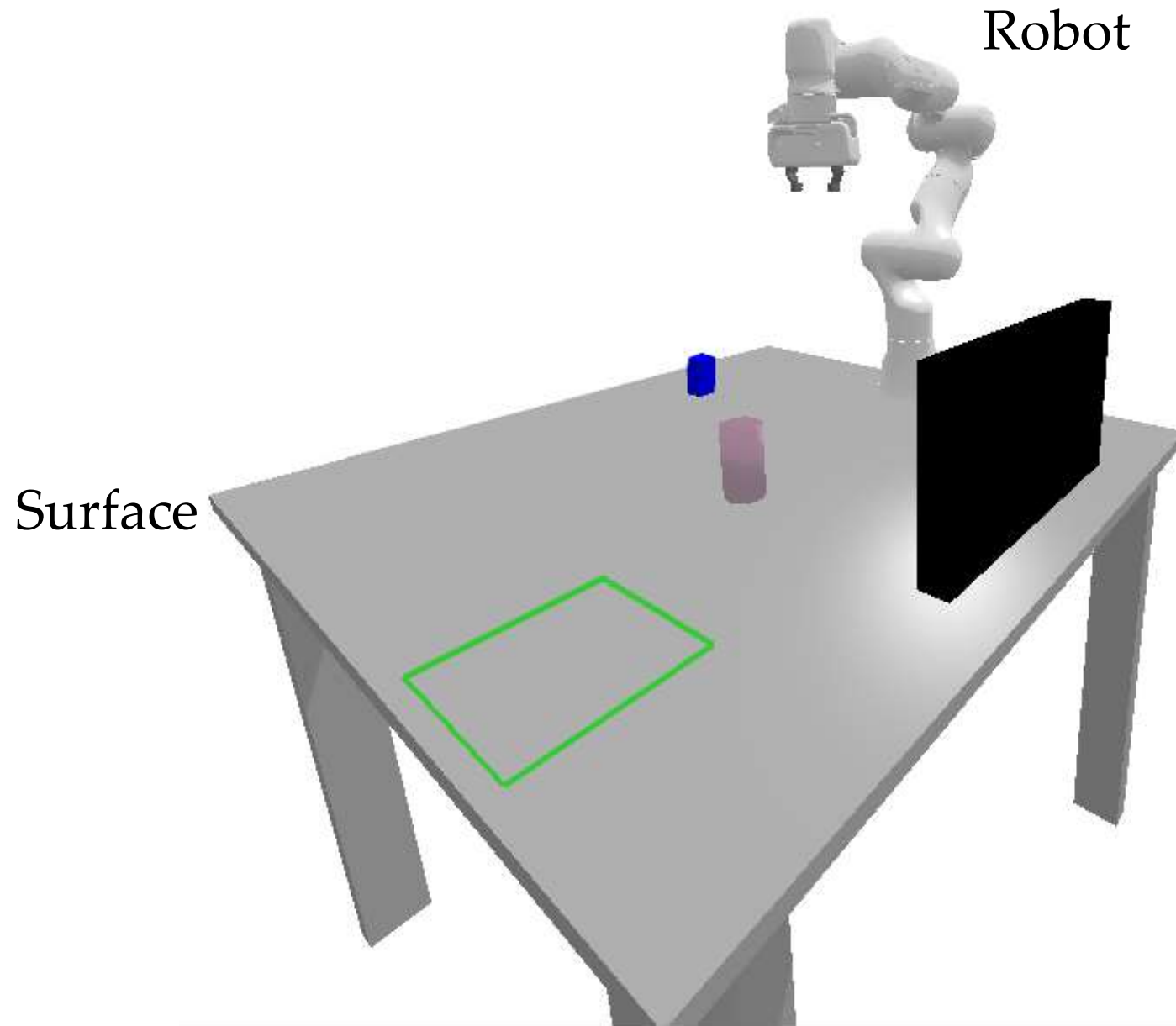
Guiding **U**ncertainty **A**ccounting
for **R**isk and **D**ynamics

Environment

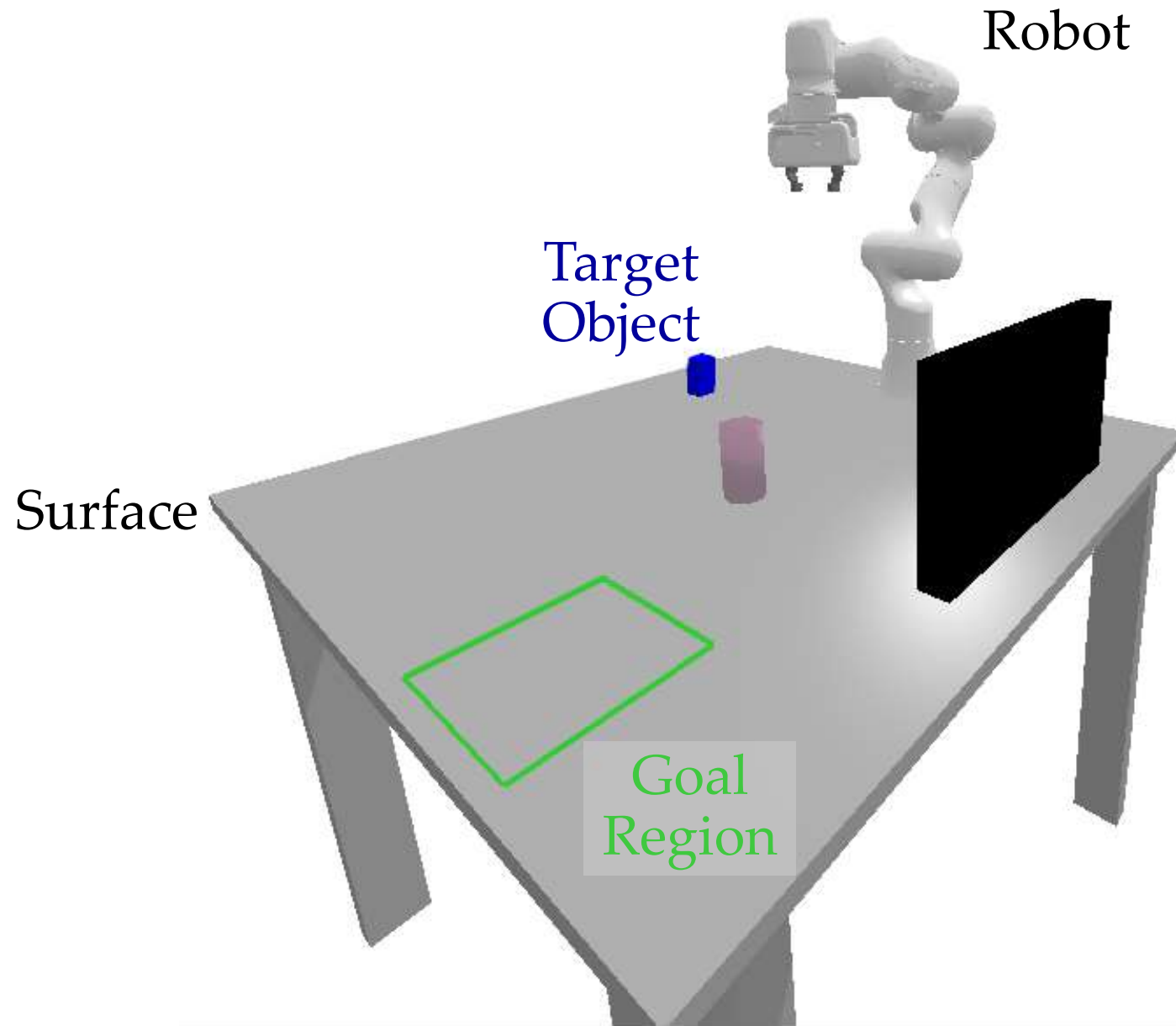
Algorithm

Results

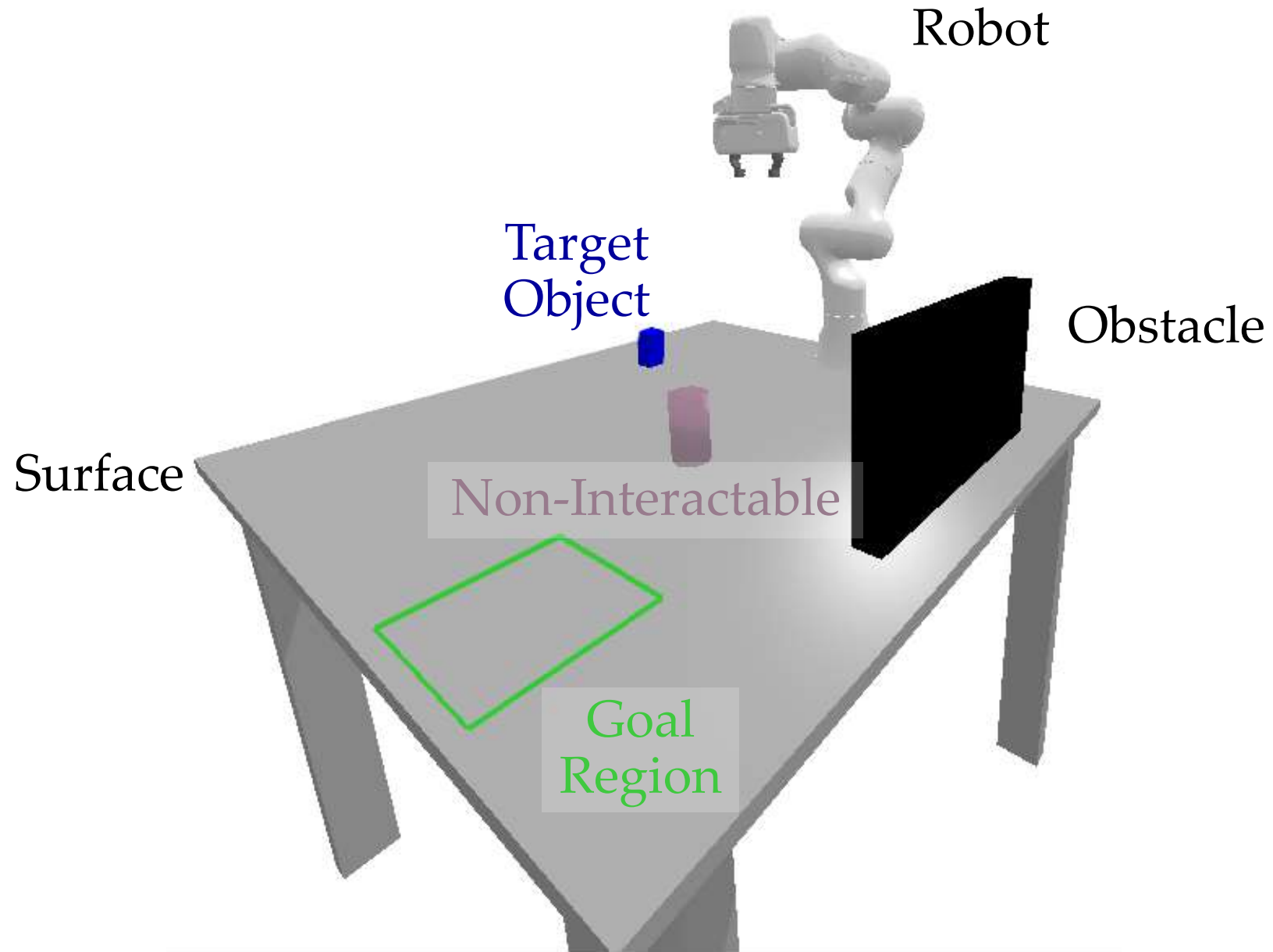
Environment



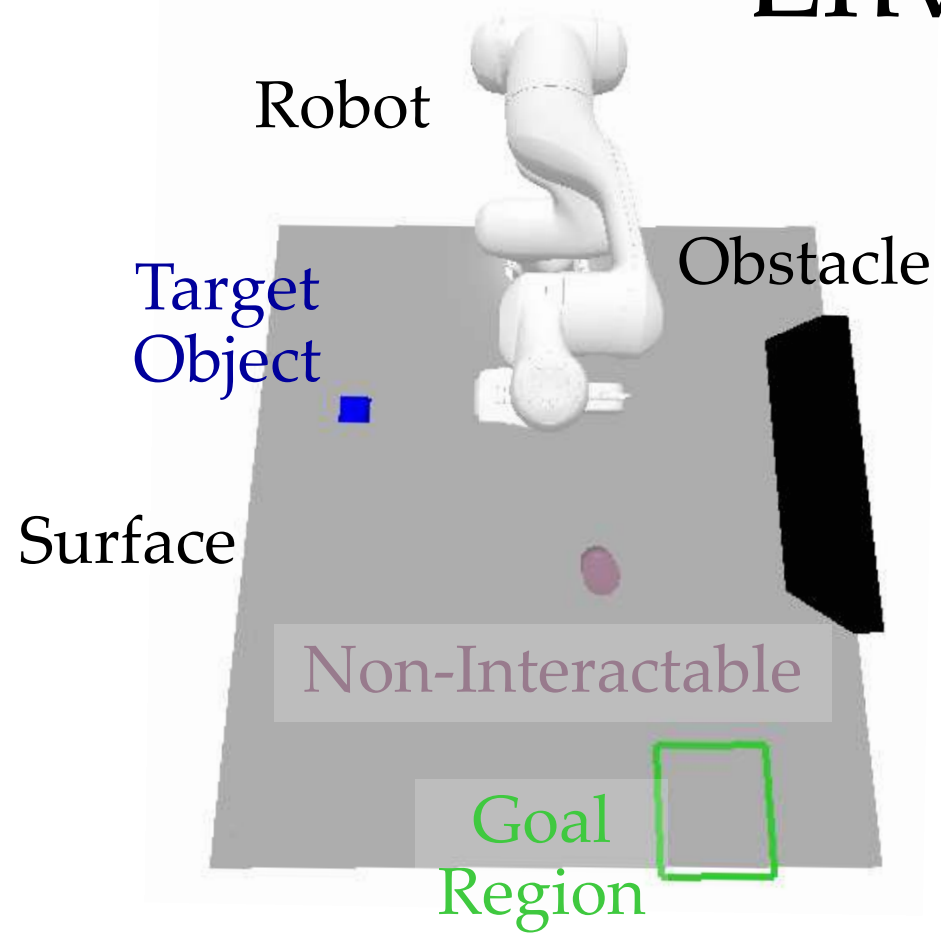
Environment



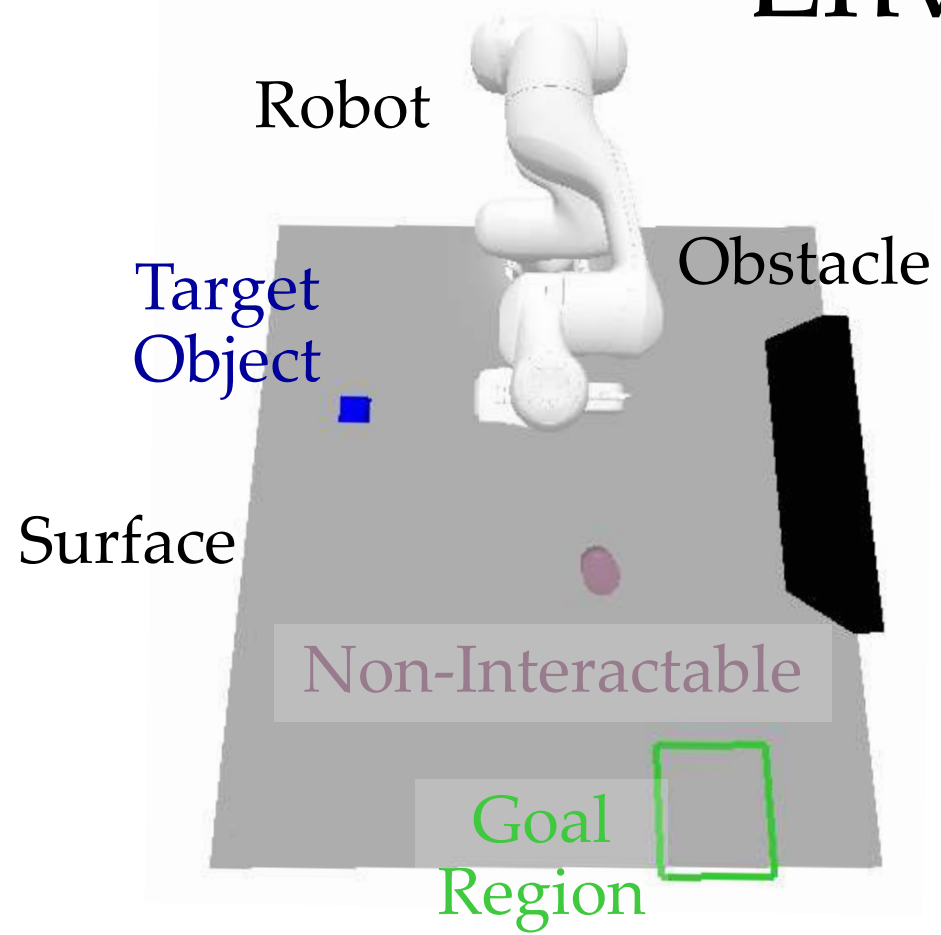
Environment



Environment

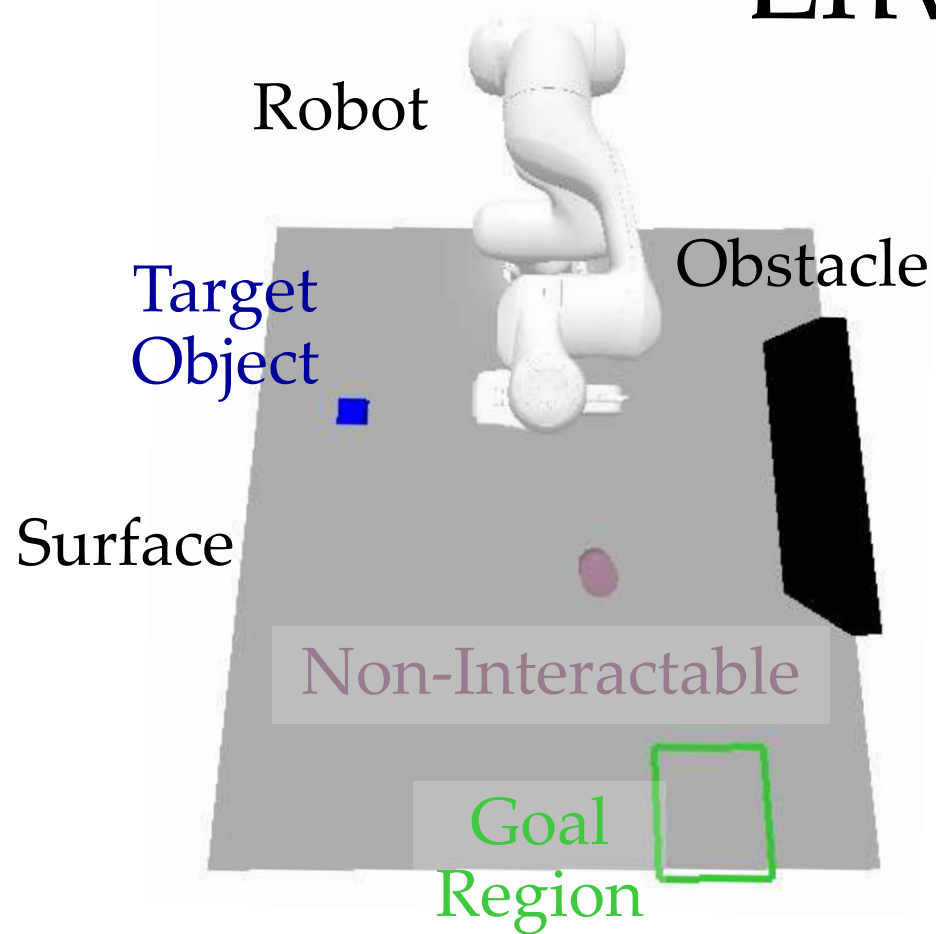


Environment



$$q_o \in \text{SE}(3)$$

Environment



$$q_o \in \text{SE}(3)$$



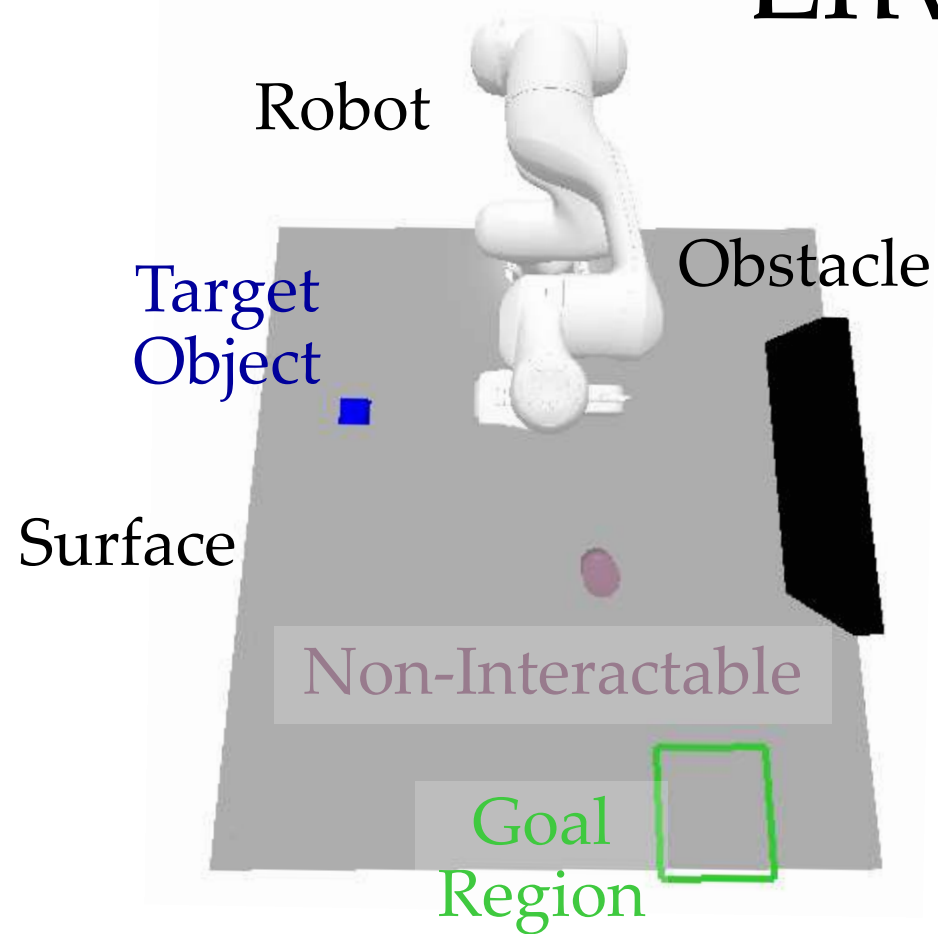
$$q_o = (f_j, \theta_k, (x, y))$$

face in
contact

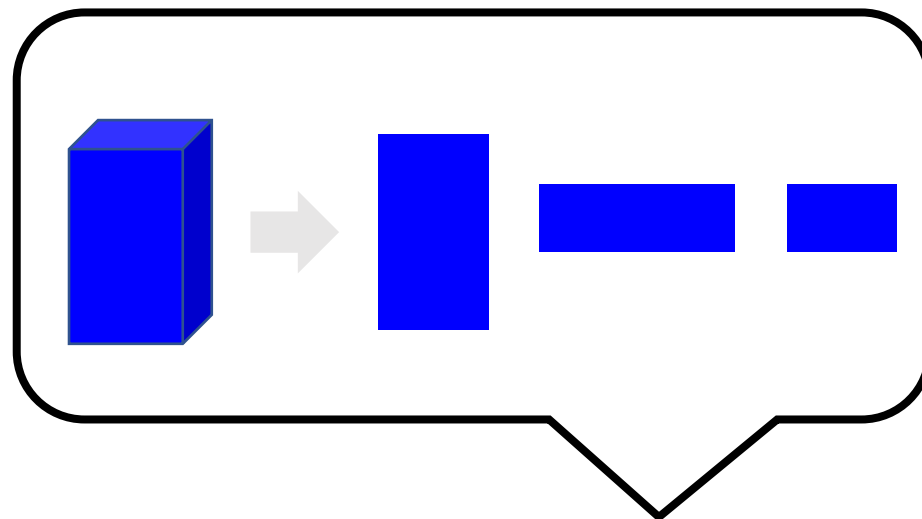
Discretized
planar
orientation

planar
position

Environment



$$q_o \in \text{SE}(3)$$



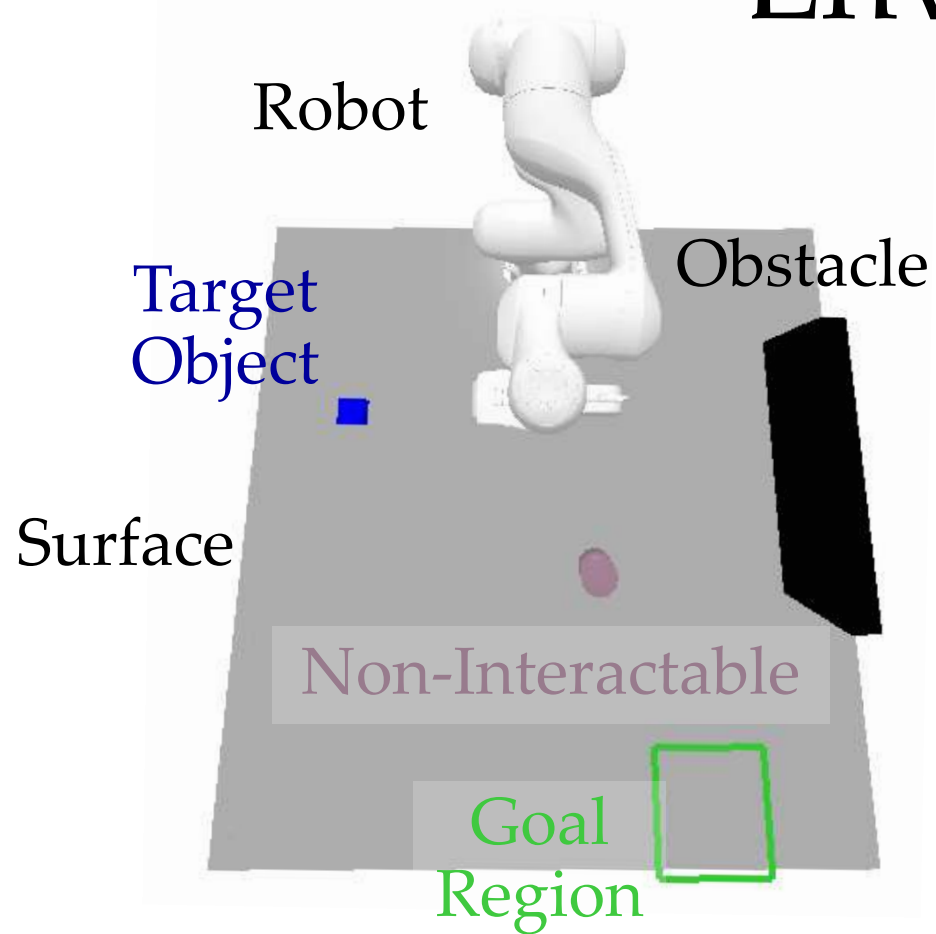
$$q_o = (f_j, \theta_k, (x, y))$$

face in
contact

Discretized
planar
orientation

planar
position

Environment



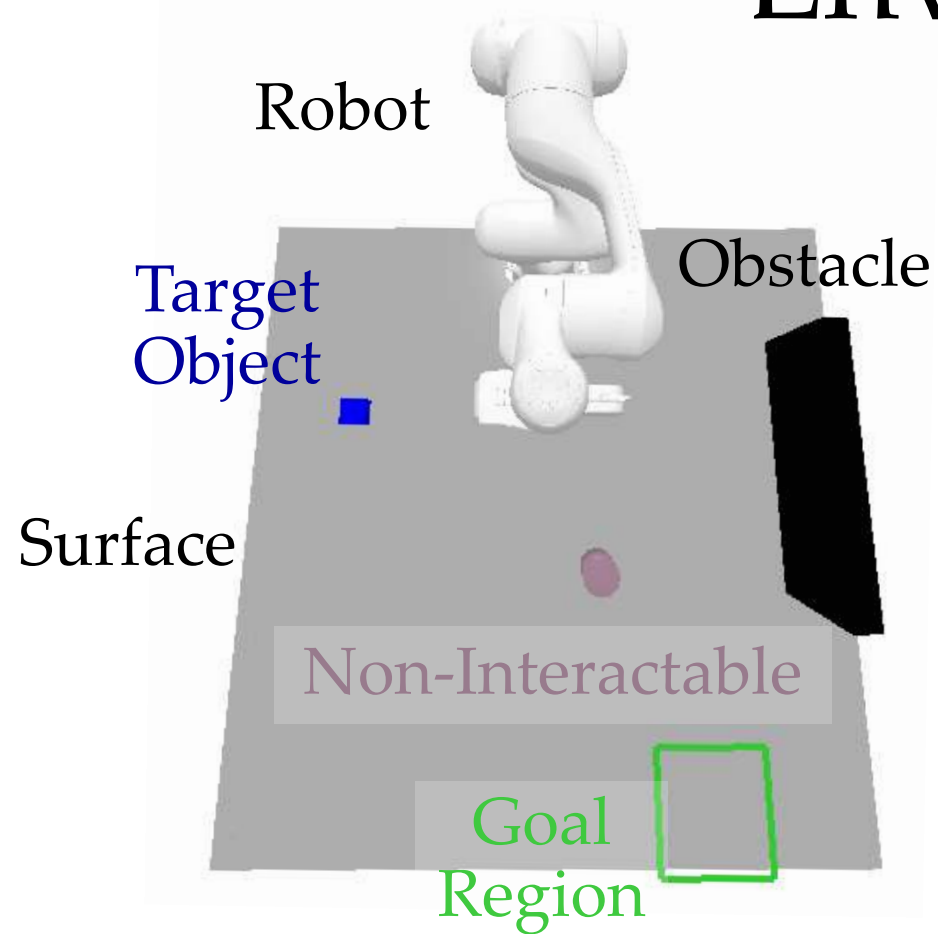
$$q_o \in \text{SE}(3)$$



$$q_o = (f_j, \theta_k, (x, y))$$

face in contact Discretized planar orientation planar position

Environment



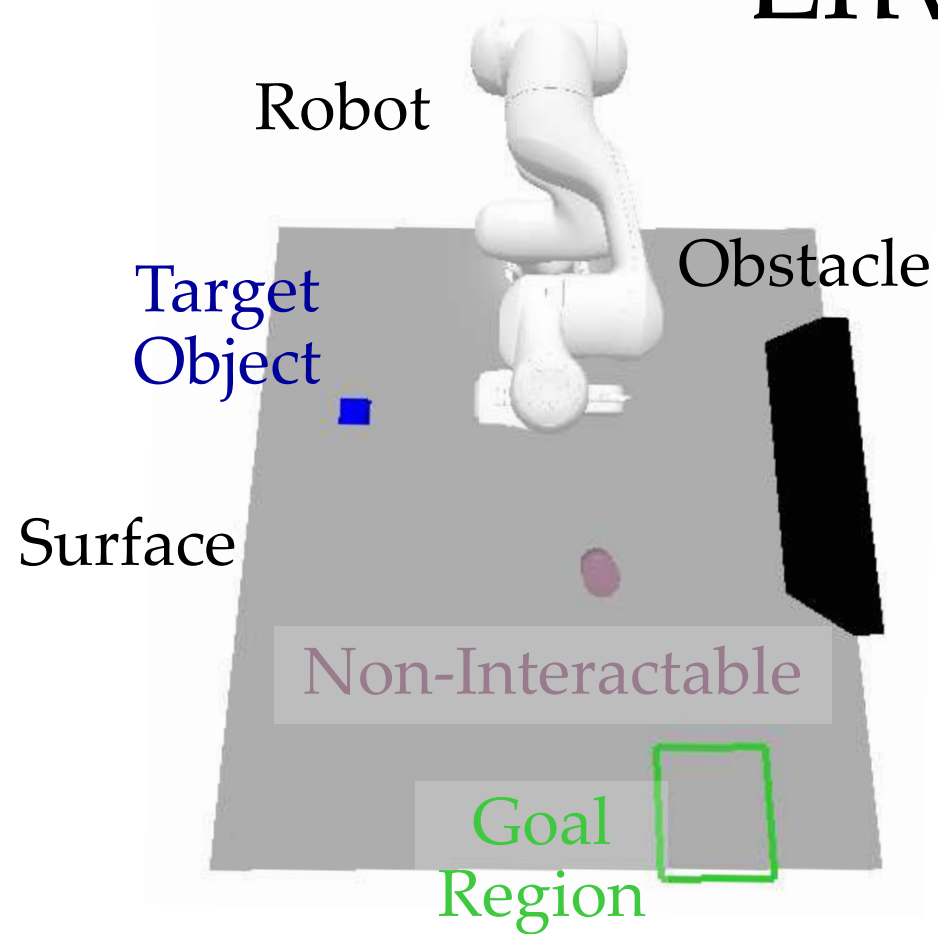
$$q_o \in \text{SE}(3)$$



$$q_o = \overbrace{(f_j, \theta_k, (x, y))}^{\text{mode}}$$

face in contact Discretized planar orientation planar position

Environment



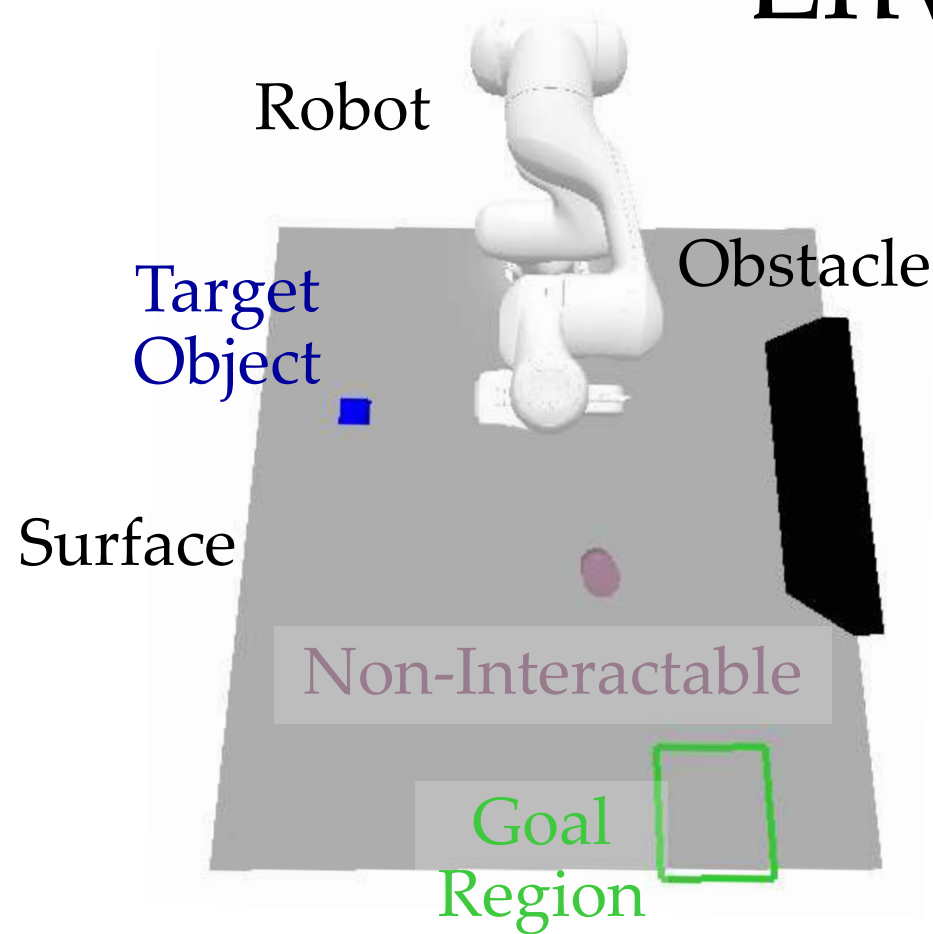
$$q_o \in \text{SE}(3)$$



$$q_o = \overbrace{(f_j, \theta_k, (x, y))}^{\text{mode}}$$

face in contact Discretized planar orientation planar position

Environment



Robot

Target
Object

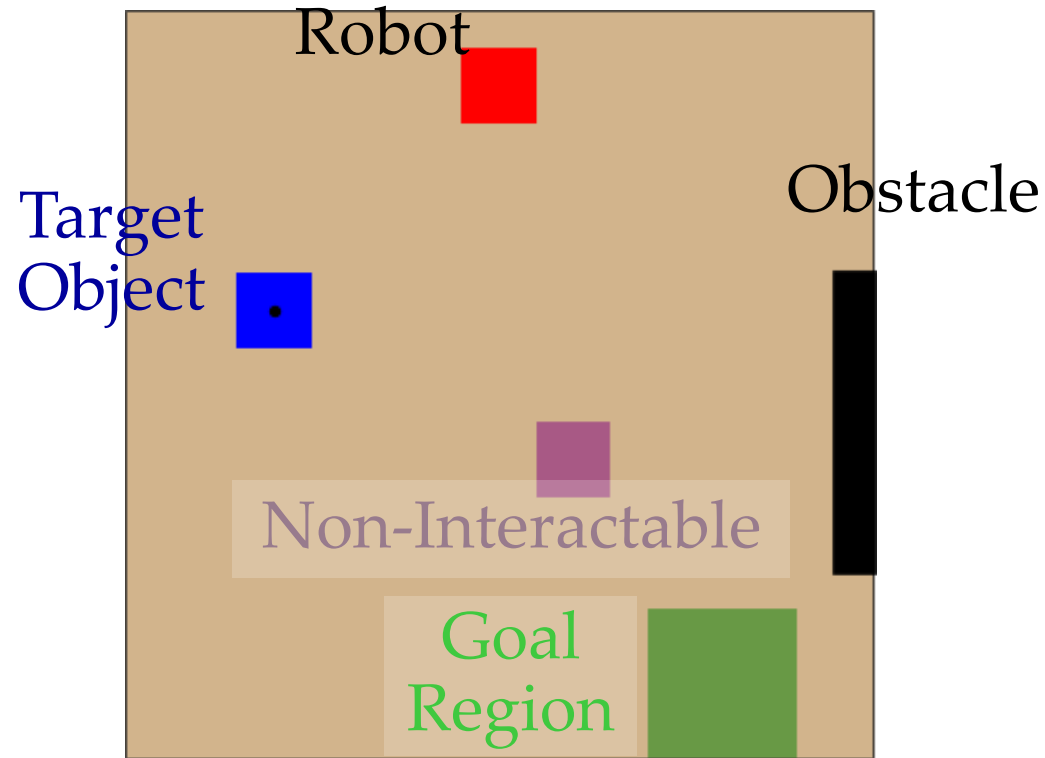
Obstacle

Surface

Non-Interactable

Goal
Region

$$q_o \in \text{SE}(3)$$



Robot

Target
Object

Obstacle

Non-Interactable

Goal
Region

$$q_o = (f_j, \theta_k, (x, y))$$

face in
contact

Discretized
planar
orientation

planar
position



Be GUARD(ed)

Guiding **U**ncertainty **A**ccounting
for **R**isk and **D**ynamics

Environment

Algorithm

Results

Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

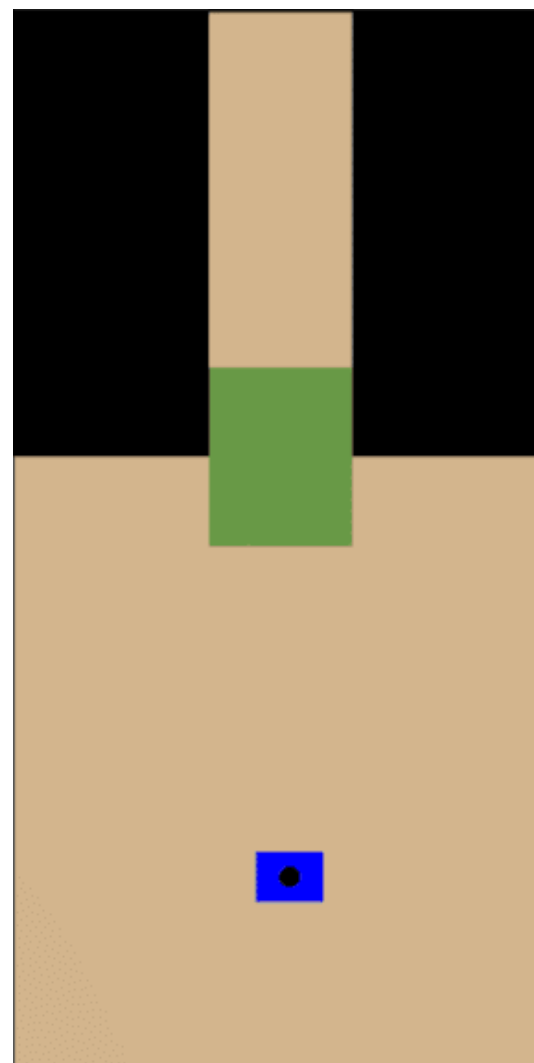
GUARD

Guiding **U**ncertainty **A**ccounting
for **R**isk and **D**ynamics

Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

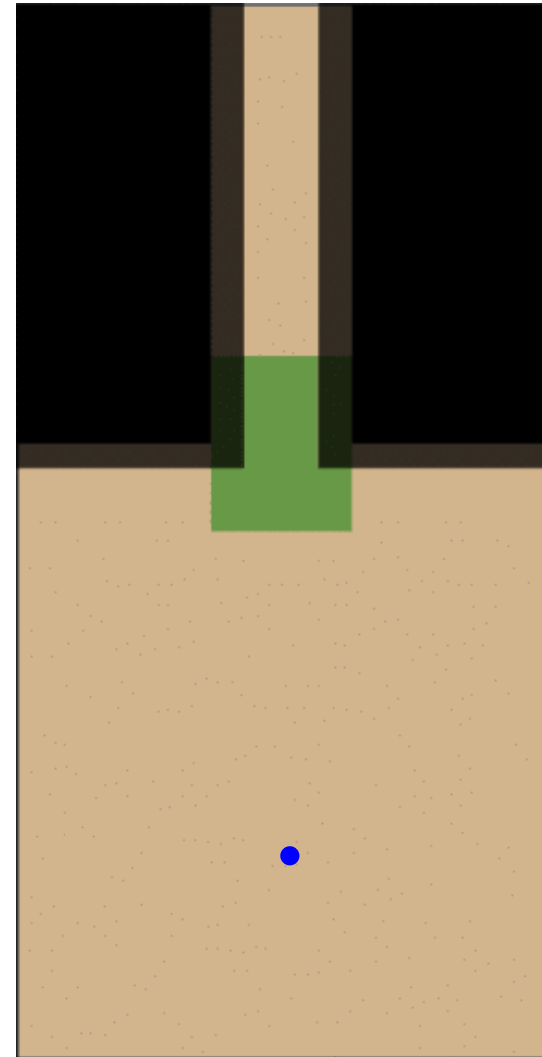


Action Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

- Object is Collision-Free and Stably Supported
- Action in Robot's Collision-Free Reachable Workspace

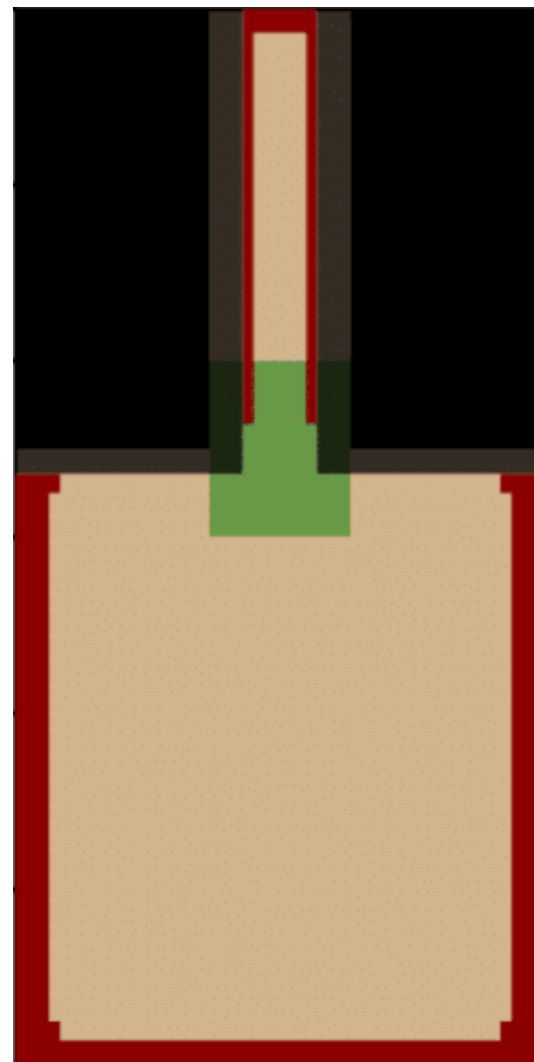


Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

z_0 : Dead Ends!

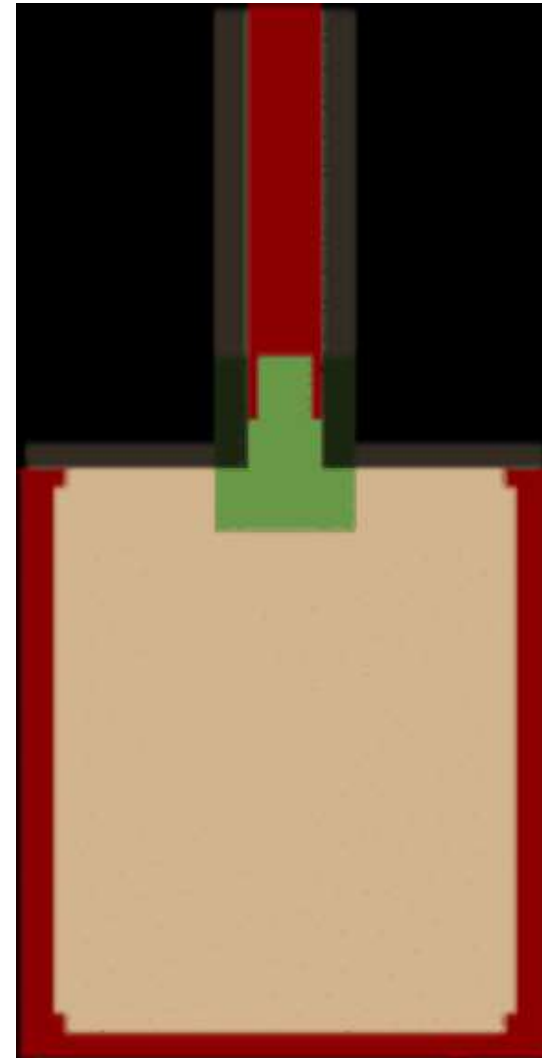


Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

z_0 : Dead Ends!



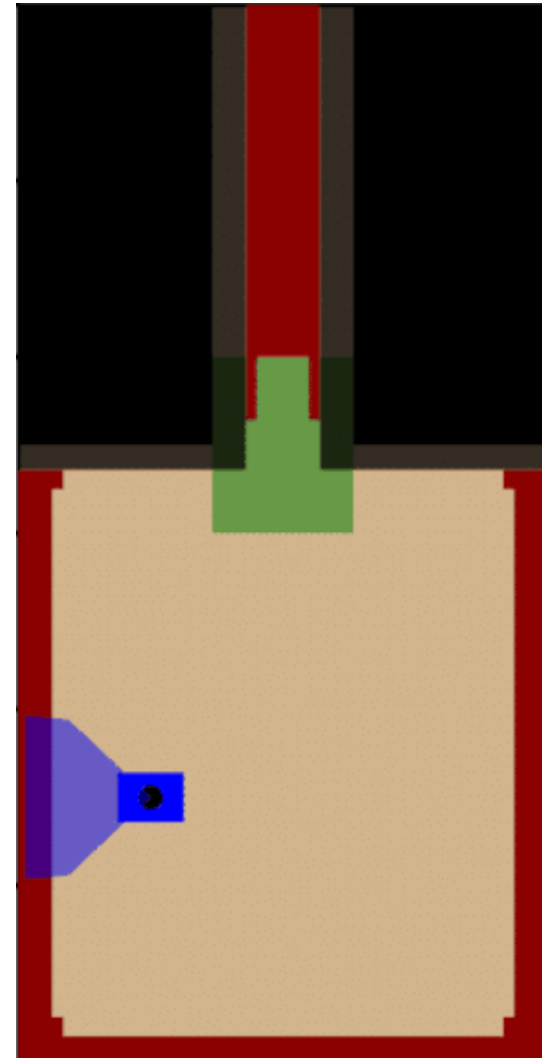
Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

z_0 : Dead Ends!

Compute:
Preimage of z_0
under action a



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

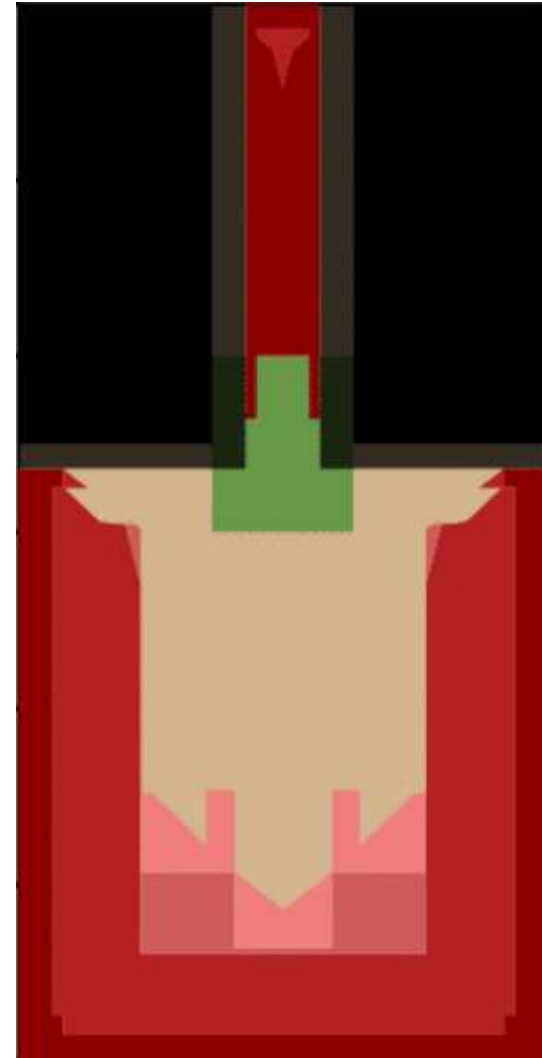
Search

z_0 : Dead Ends!

z_1 : Lead to z_0

z_2 : Lead to z_1

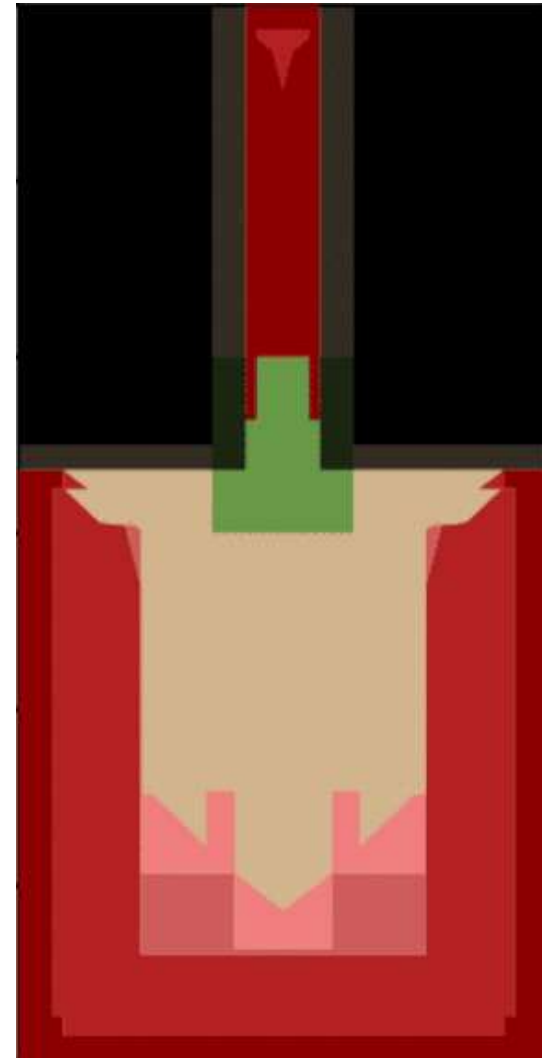
z_i : Lead to $z_{j < i}$



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

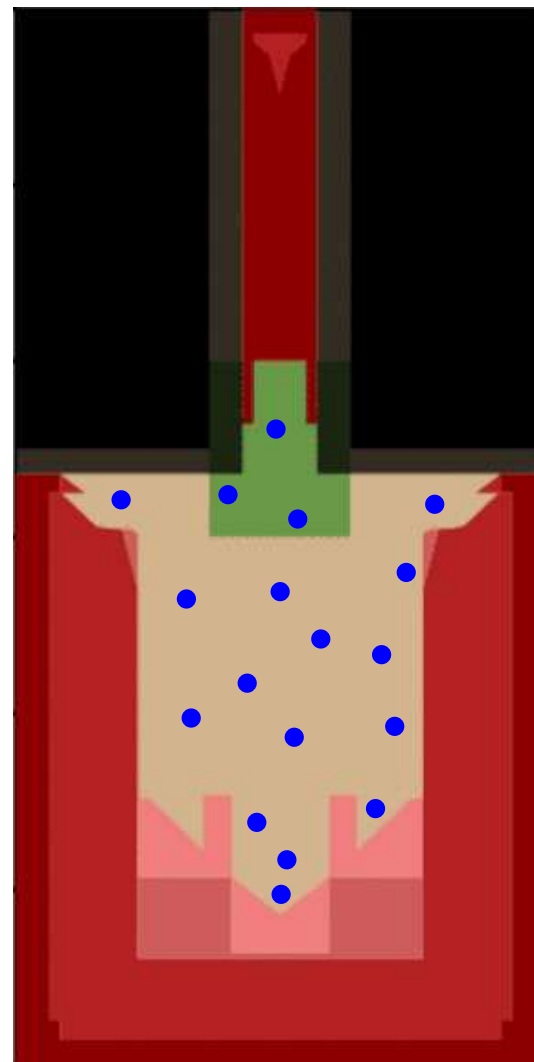
Search



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

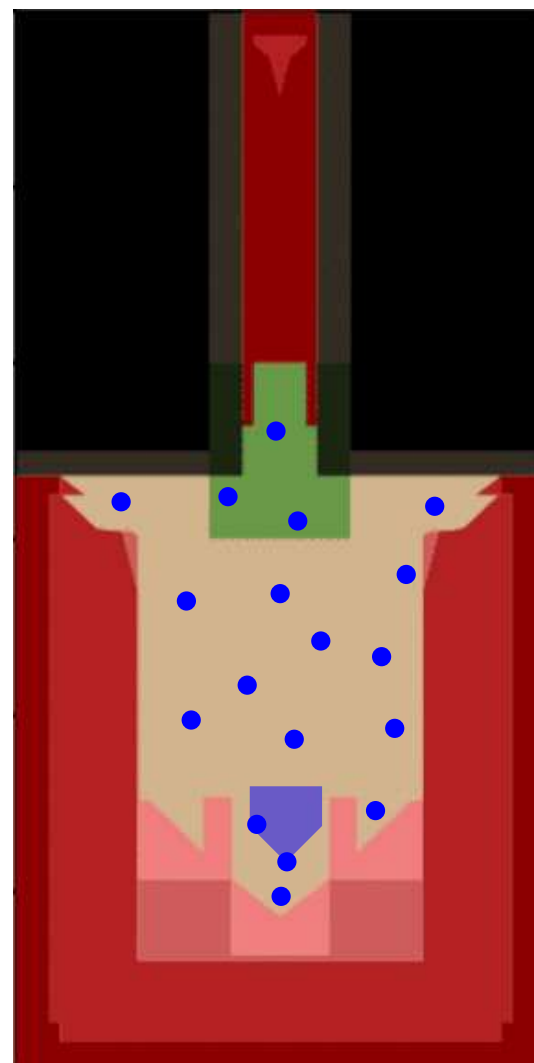
Search



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

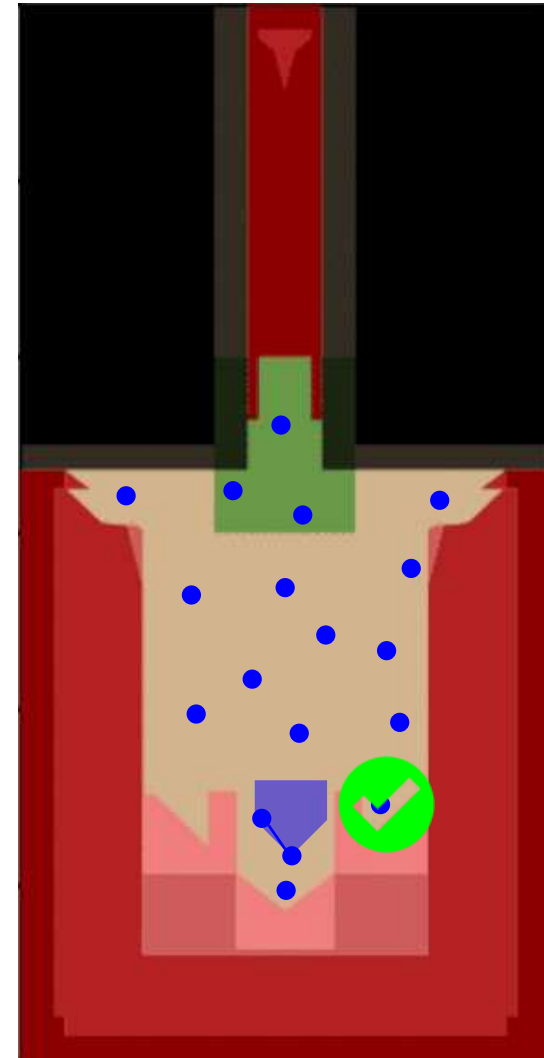
Search



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

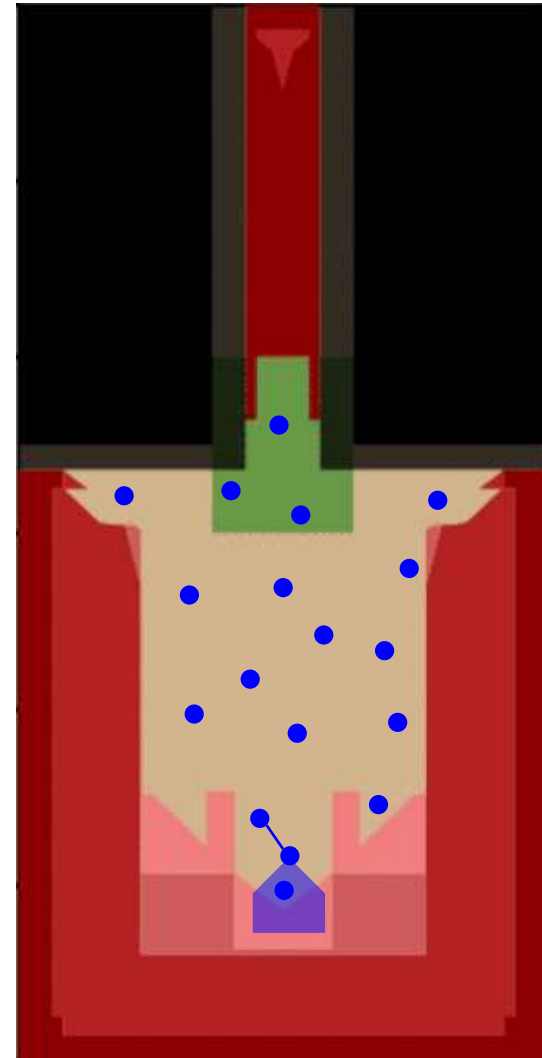
Search



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

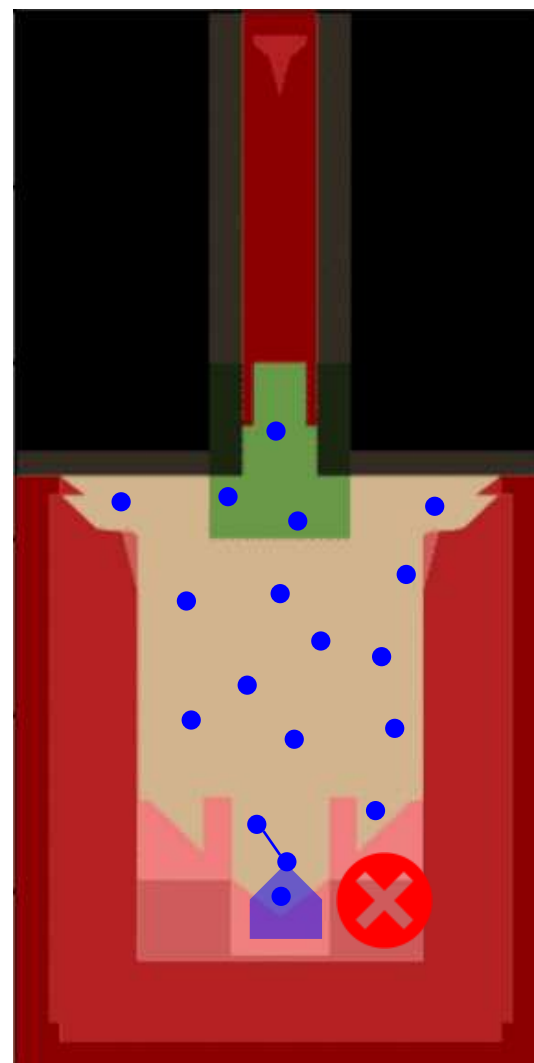
Search



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

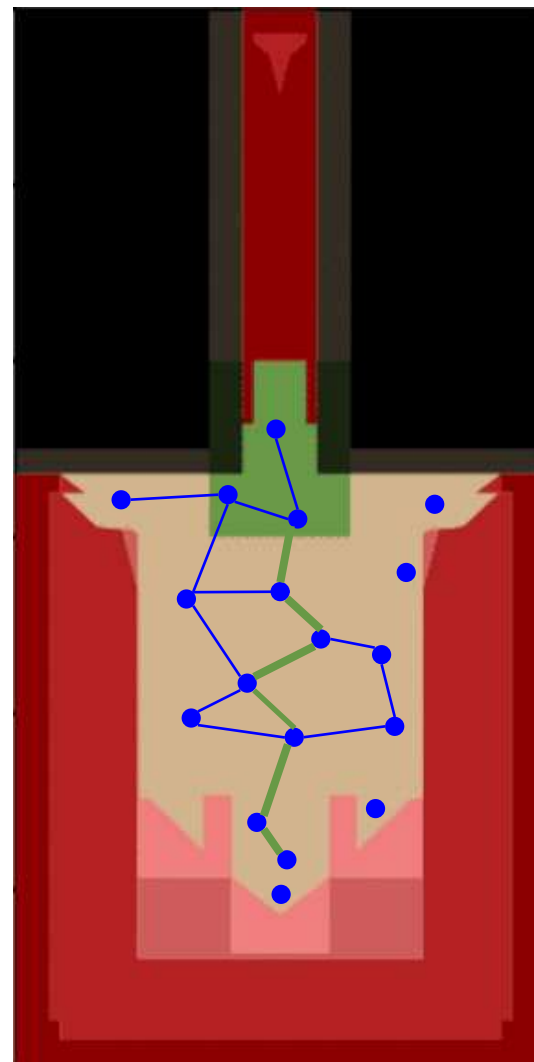


Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

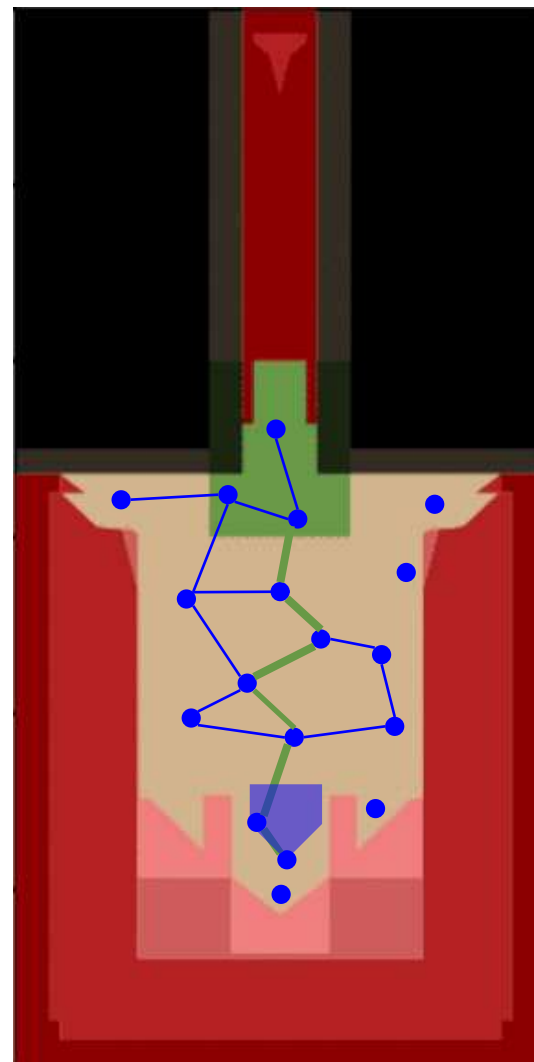
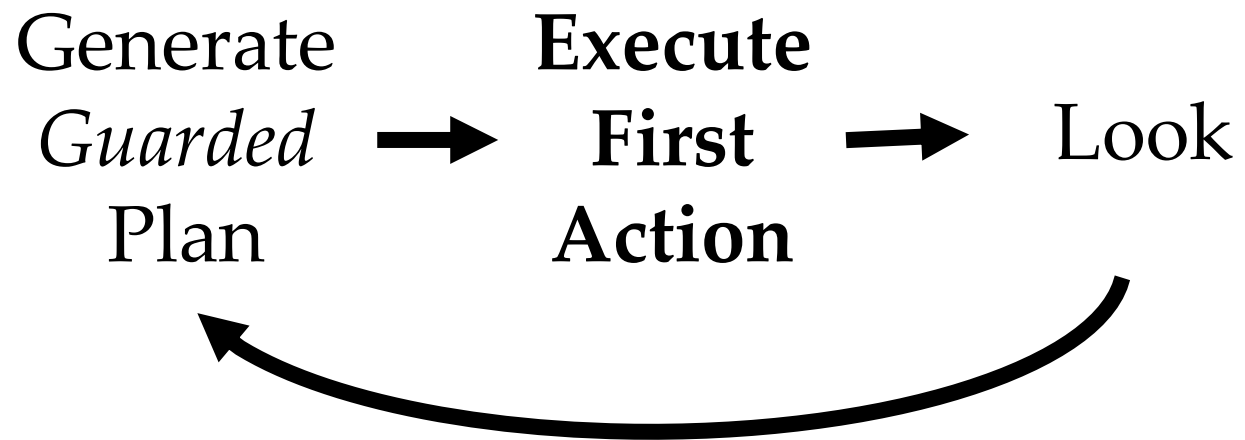
Generate
Guarded
Plan → **Execute**
First
Action → **Look**



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

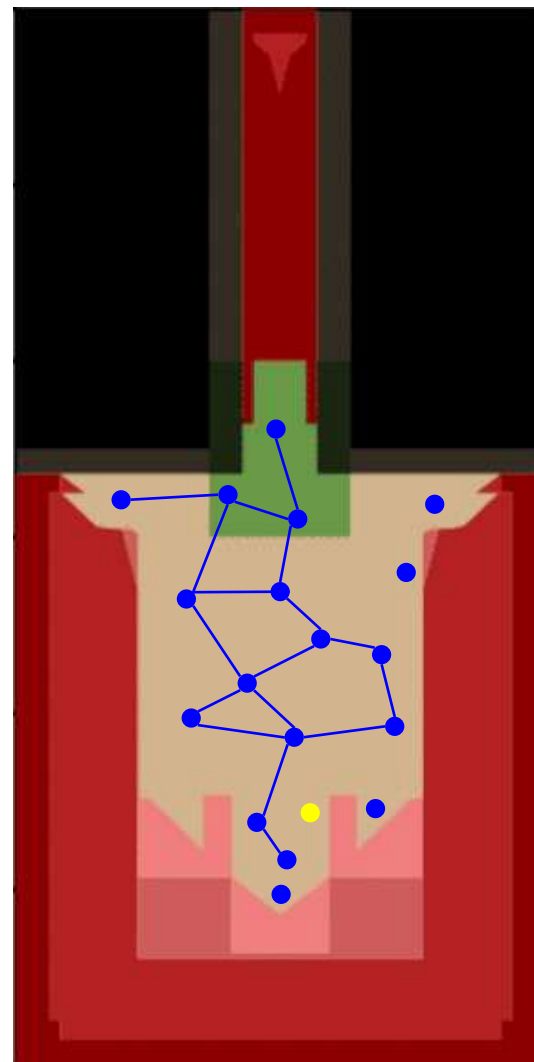
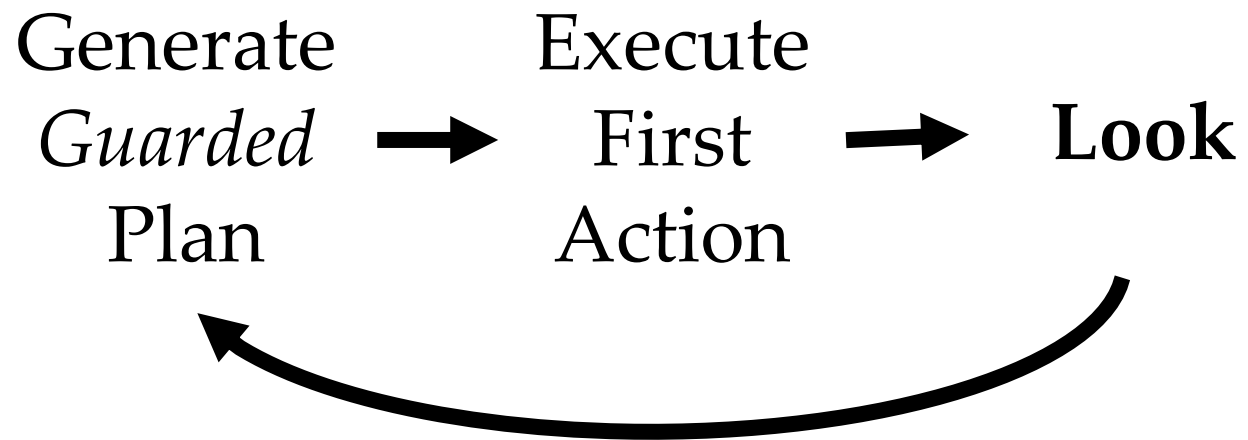
Search



Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

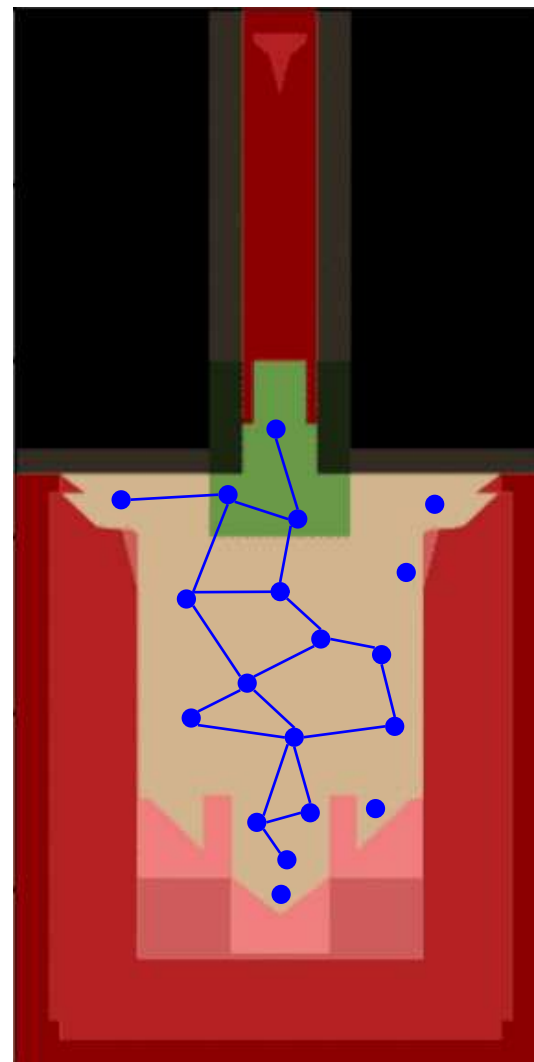


Action
Regions

Danger
Zones

Search

Generate
Guarded
Plan → Execute
First
Action → Look





Be GUARD(ed)

Guiding **U**ncertainty **A**ccounting
for **R**isk and **D**ynamics

Environment

Algorithm

Results

Environment

Corner

SlipperySlope

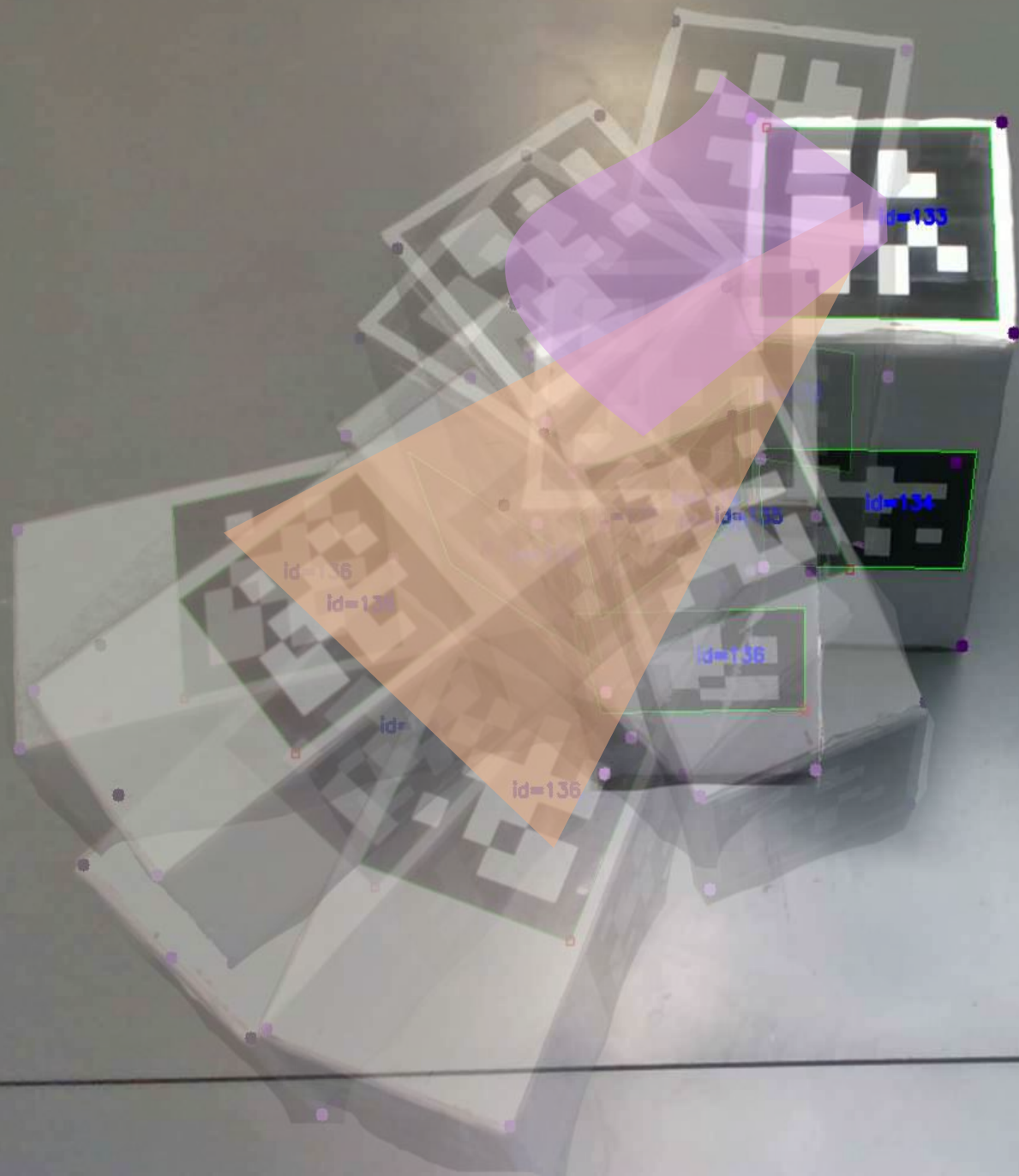
GlassWall

Environment	Algorithm
Corner	GUARD
	Baseline
SlipperySlope	GUARD
	Baseline
GlassWall	GUARD
	Baseline

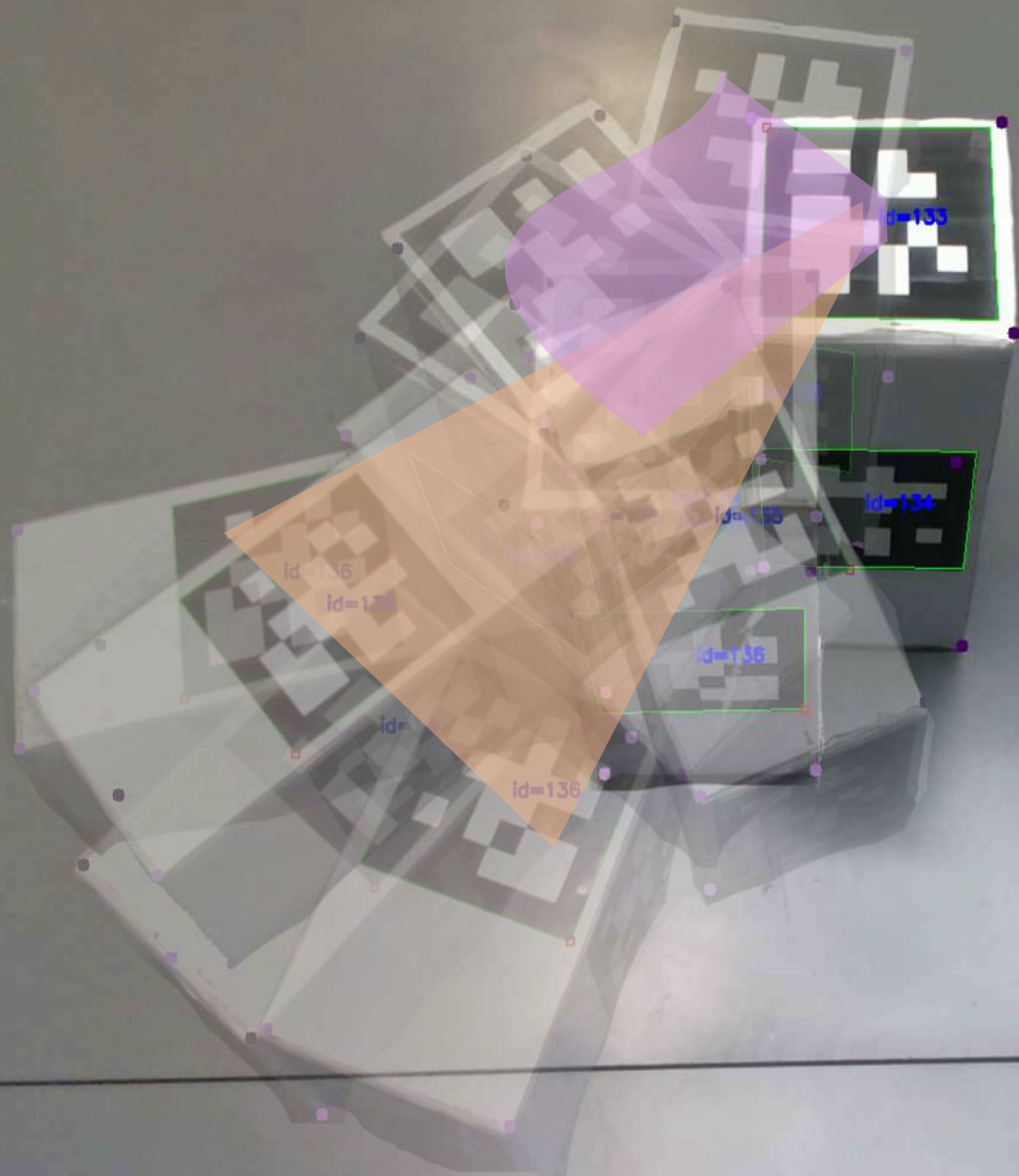
Environment	Algorithm	Results		
		S	TO	DE
Corner	GUARD			
	Baseline			
SlipperySlope	GUARD			
	Baseline			
GlassWall	GUARD			
	Baseline			

Environment	Algorithm	Results		
		S	TO	DE
Corner	GUARD	10	0	0
	Baseline	7	1	2
SlipperySlope	GUARD	7	3	0
	Baseline	8	2	0
GlassWall	GUARD	9	1	0
	Baseline	1	7	2

Environment	Algorithm	Results			Time	
		S	TO	DE	Offline (SE)	Online (SE)
Corner	GUARD	10	0	0	22.5 (0.32)	19.3 (4.9)
	Baseline	7	1	2	3.01 (0.03)	6.77 (3.1)
SlipperySlope	GUARD	7	3	0	48.3 (0.36)	21.3 (7.8)
	Baseline	8	2	0	6.9 (0.03)	11.9 (7.6)
GlassWall	GUARD	9	1	0	133 (1.70)	69.9 (16)
	Baseline	1	7	2	14.9 (0.12)	39.9 (4.8)



Characterize
briefly-dynamic
manipulation as
planning under
uncertainty with
dead-ends



Characterize
briefly-dynamic
manipulation as
planning under
uncertainty with
dead-ends

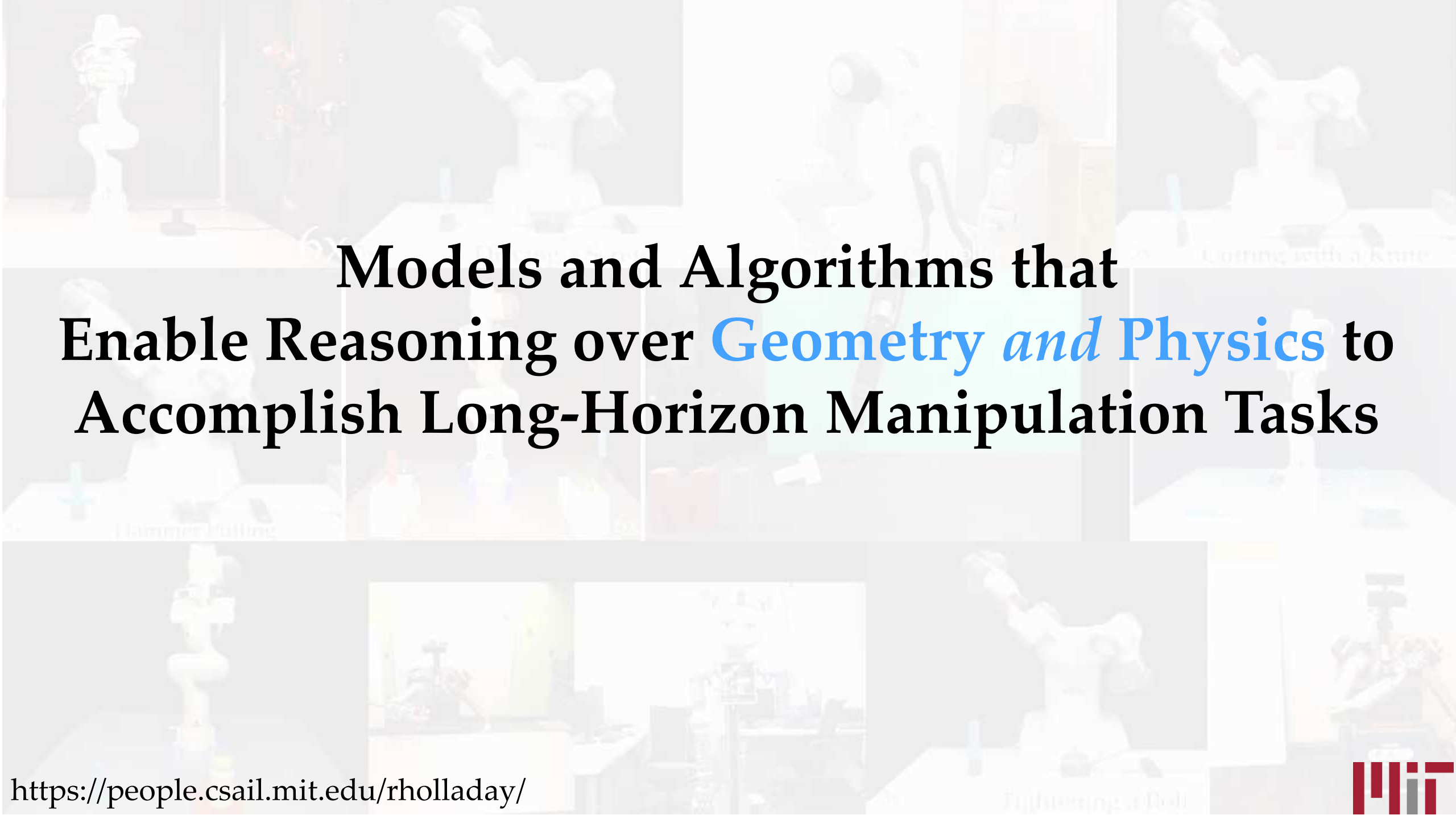
Propose GUARD



Accomplish Long-Horizon Manipulation Tasks



Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to Accomplish Long-Horizon Manipulation Tasks



**Models and Algorithms that
Enable Reasoning over *Geometry and Physics* to
Accomplish Long-Horizon Manipulation Tasks**

Acknowledgements

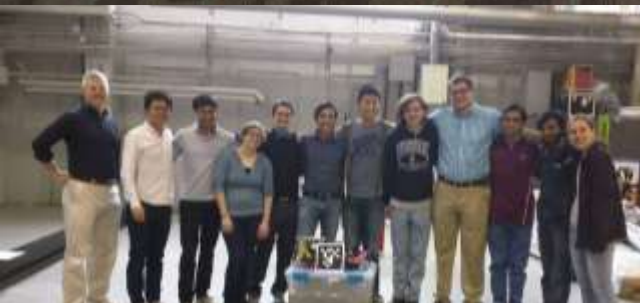














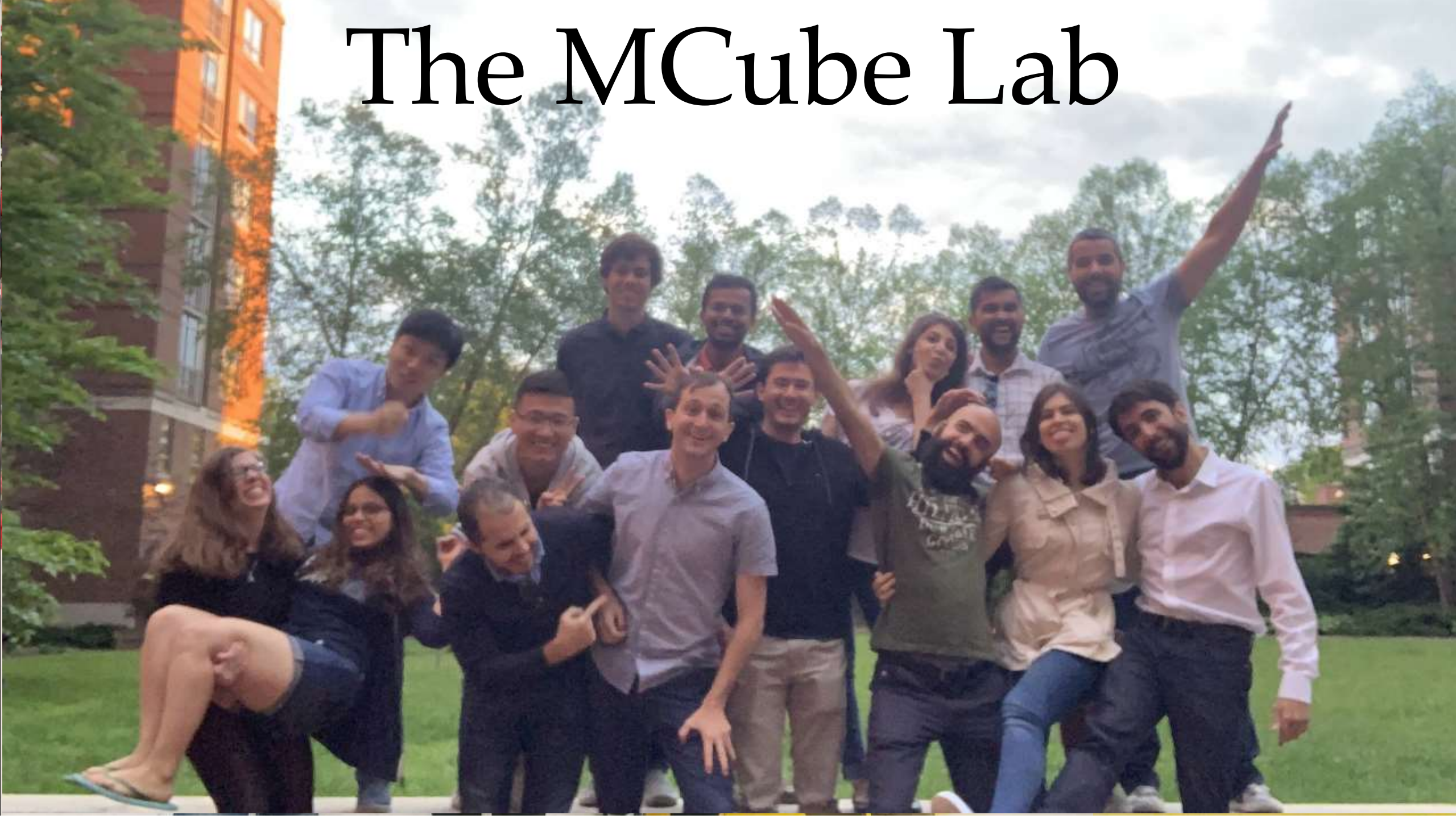




The LIS Group

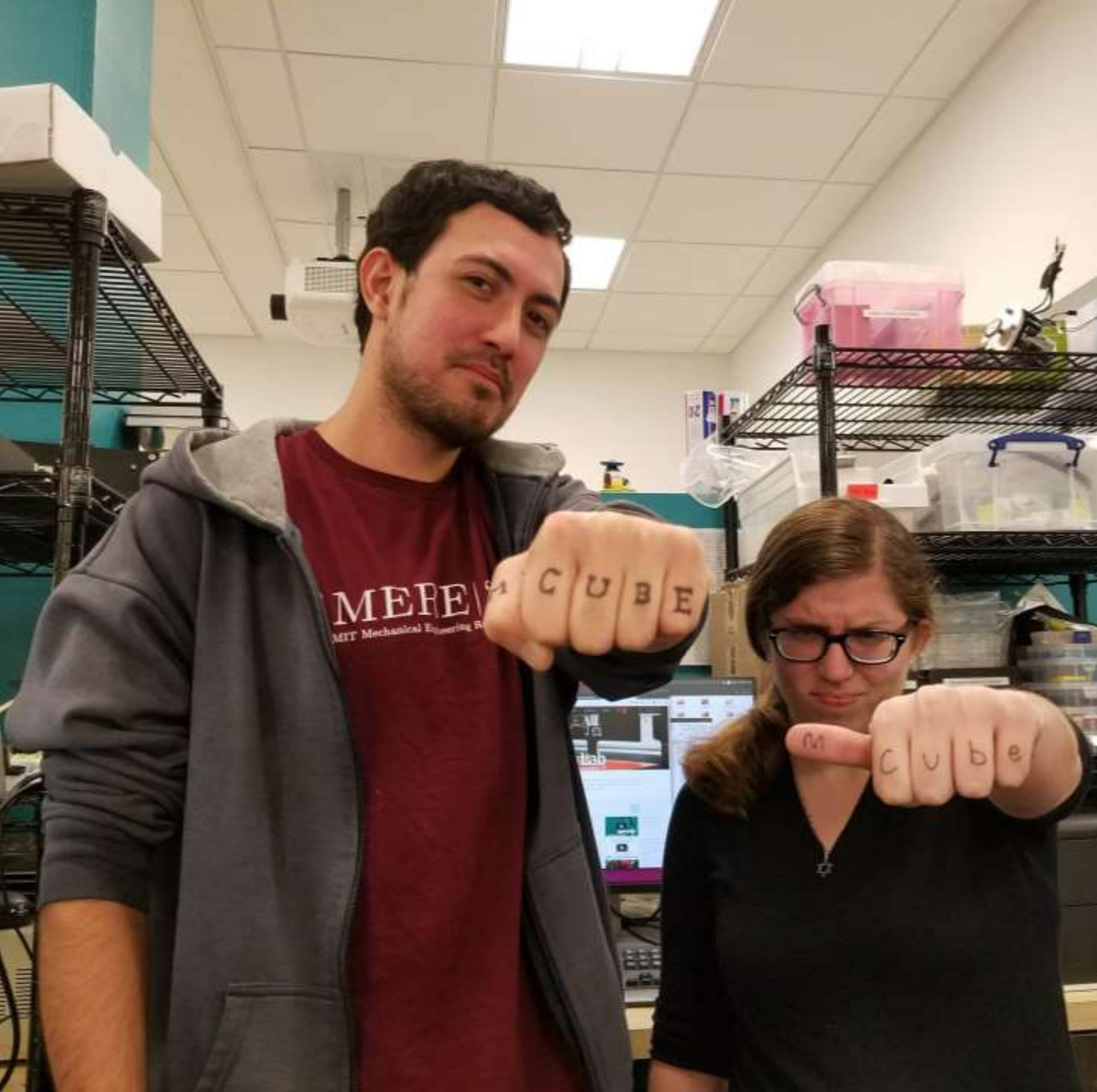


The MCube Lab







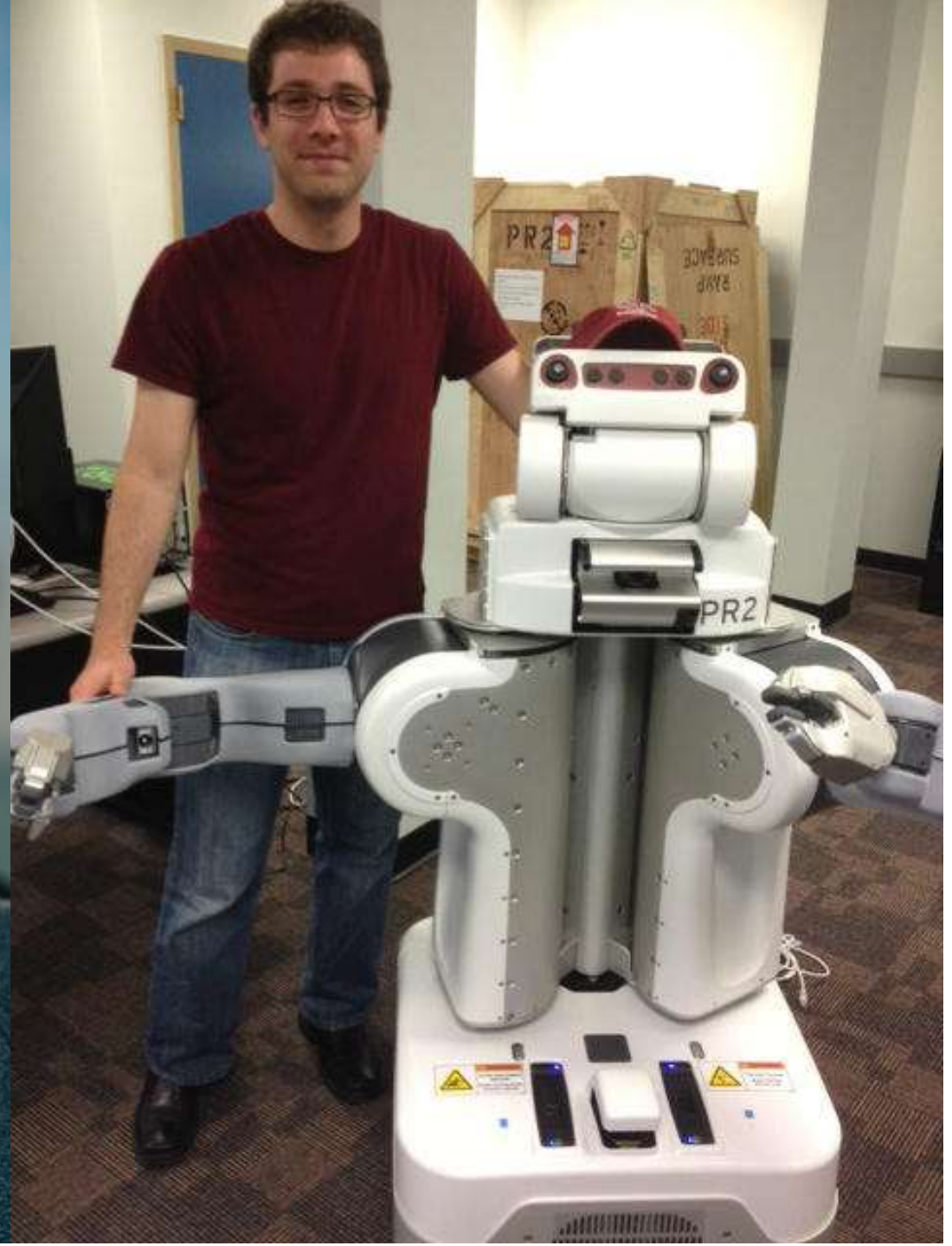


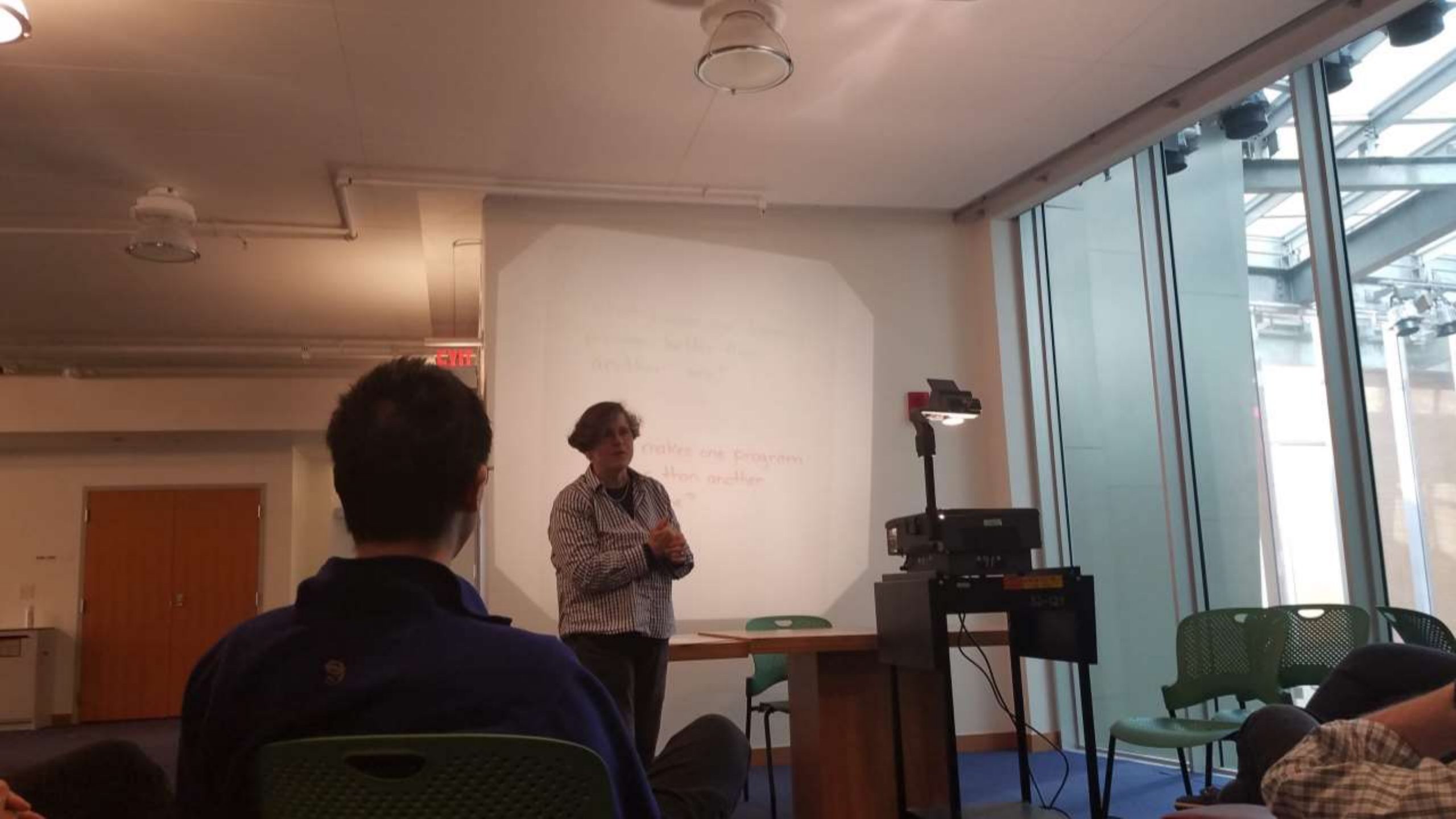




Teaching + Learning Lab



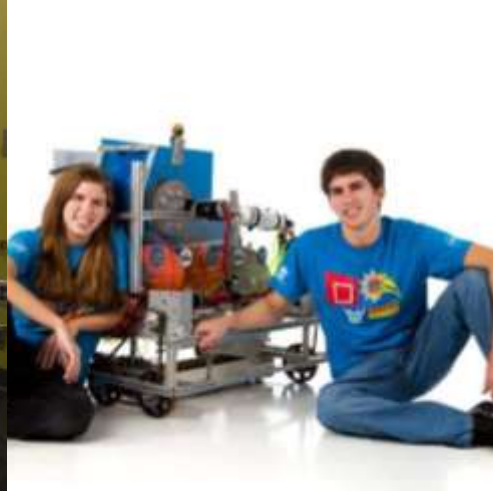




... makes me program
than another

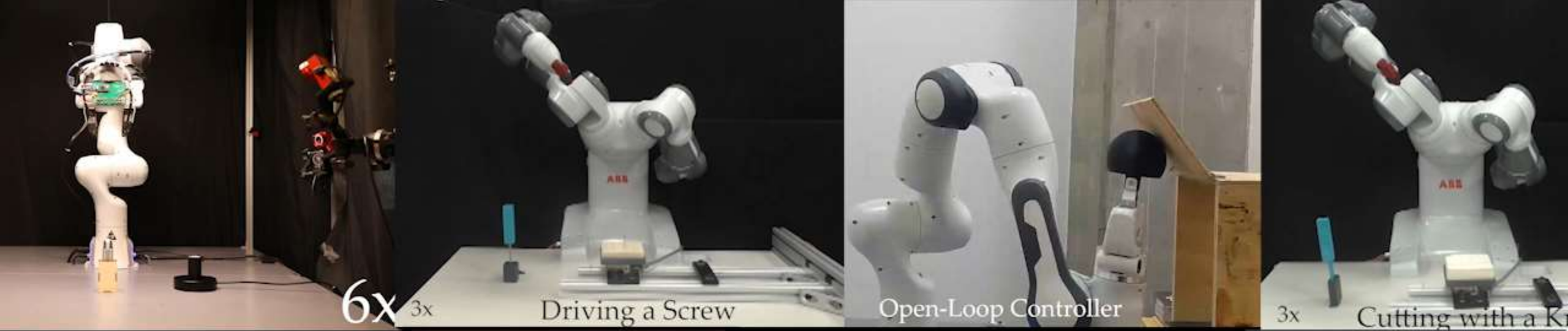






“Damn the torpedoes,
full speed ahead!”

- Admiral David Farragut,
Battle of Mobile Bay (1864)
[apocryphal]



6x 3x

Driving a Screw

Open-Loop Controller

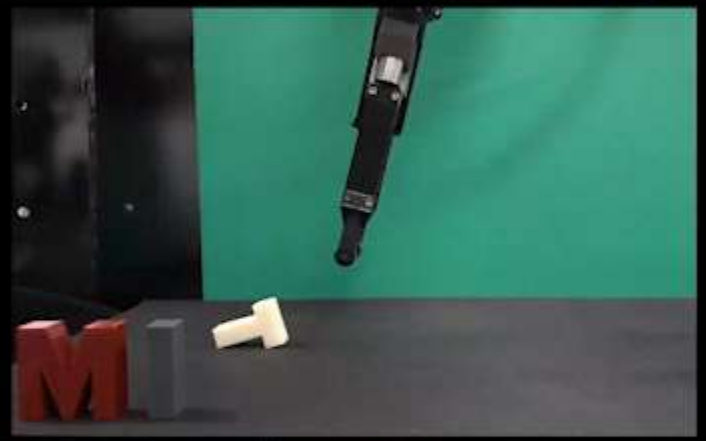
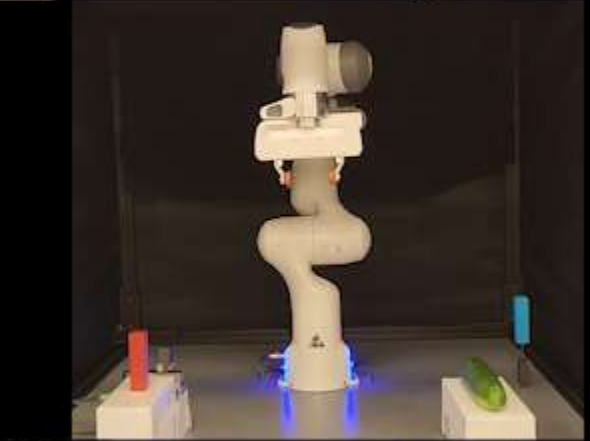
3x

Cutting with a Knife



3x

Hammer Pulling



20x



Tightening a Bolt

