



NSF CMMI #1734461, #1734360

# NRI-2.0: INT: Manufacturing America: In-Situ Collaborative Robotics in Confined Spaces



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Garrison Johnston<sup>1</sup>



David Neiman<sup>2</sup>



Y. Gu<sup>2</sup>



Ramkumar  
Natarajan<sup>2</sup>

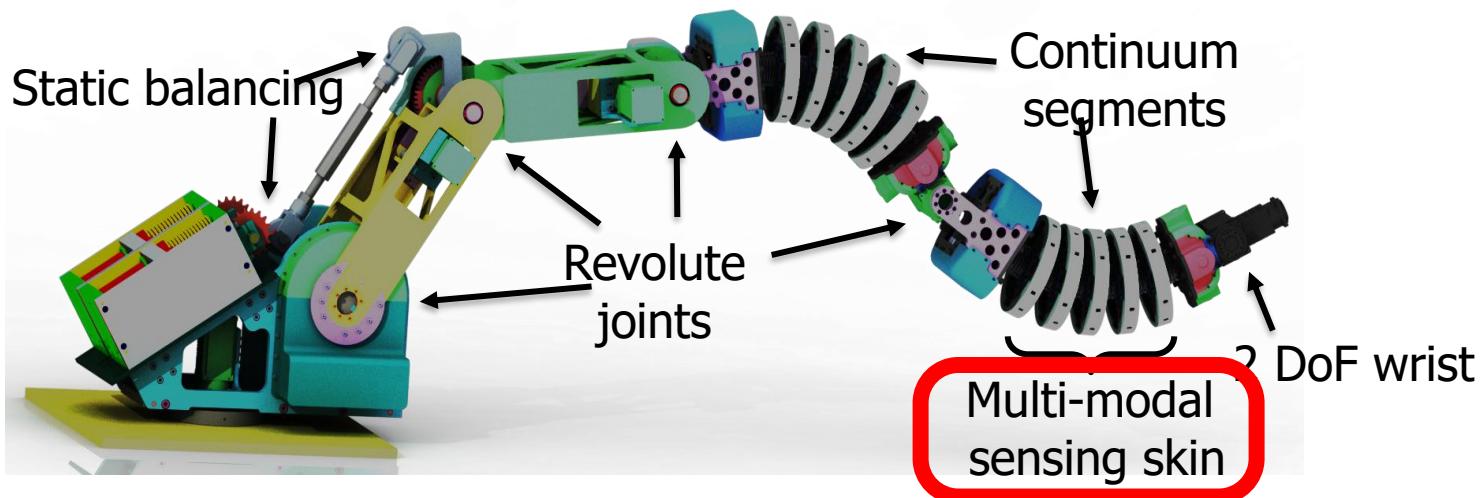


<sup>1</sup> Vanderbilt University

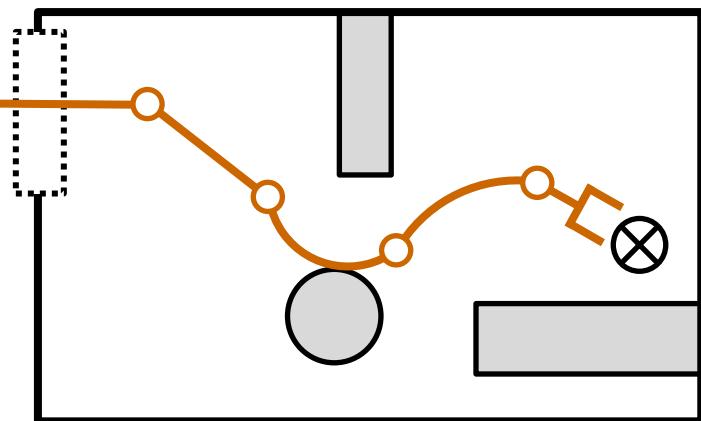
<sup>2</sup> Carnegie Mellon University



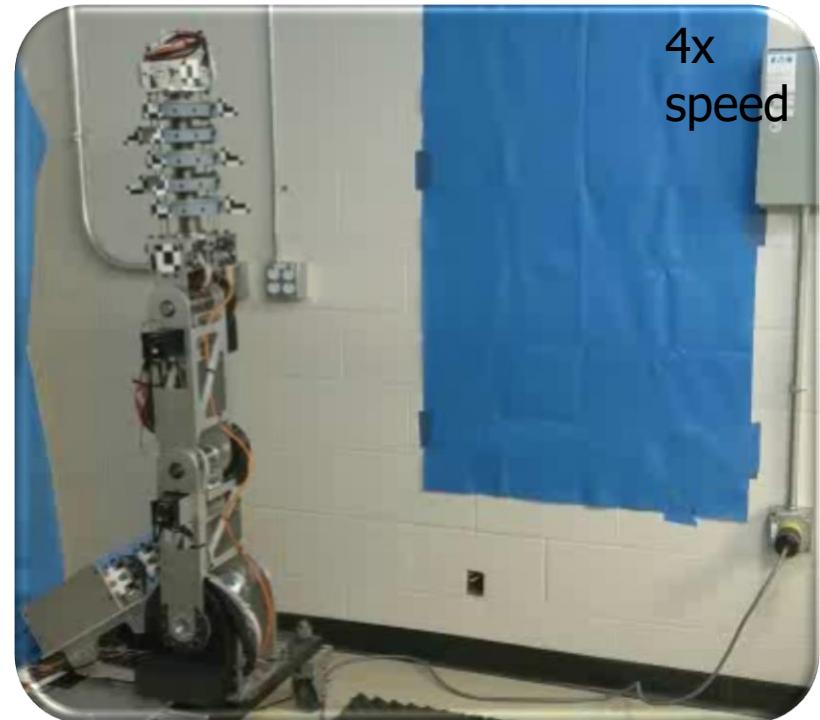
# In-situ Collaborative Robots (ISCRs)



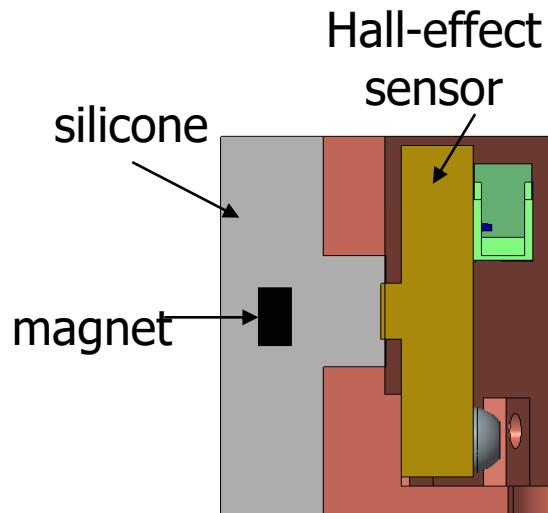
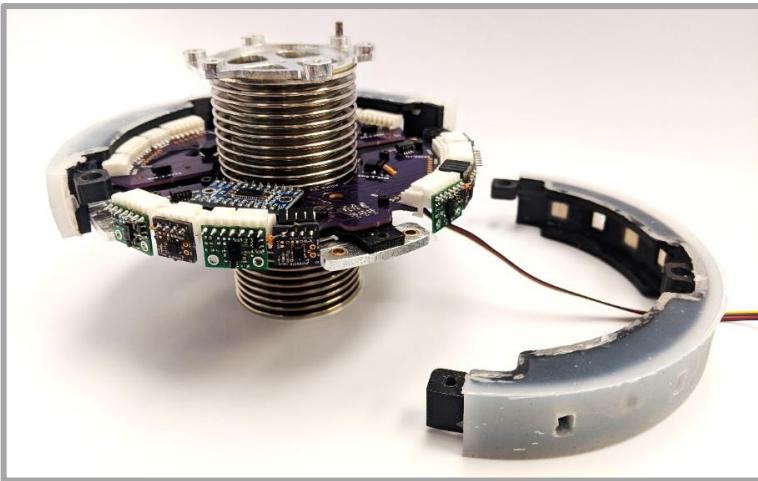
## CMU Team: Planning for bracing



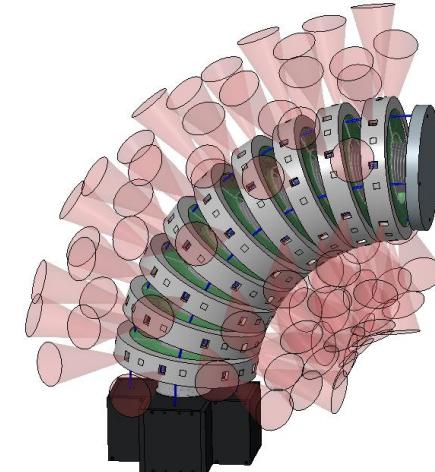
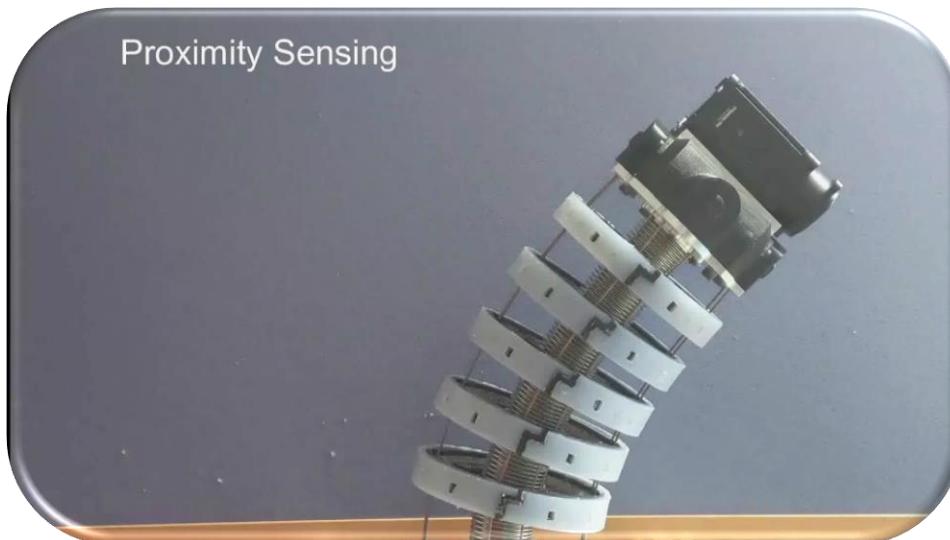
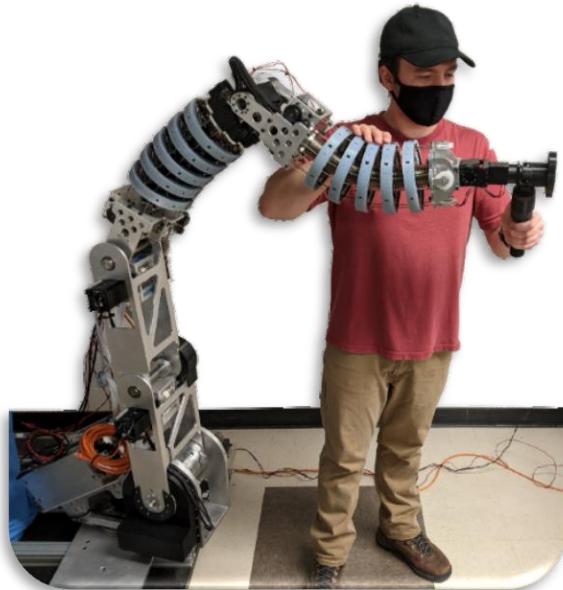
- Dexterity, Reach, and Load Capacity
- Whole-body situational awareness (highlighted with a red box)
- Active\Passive Safety



# Multi-Modal Sensing & Control

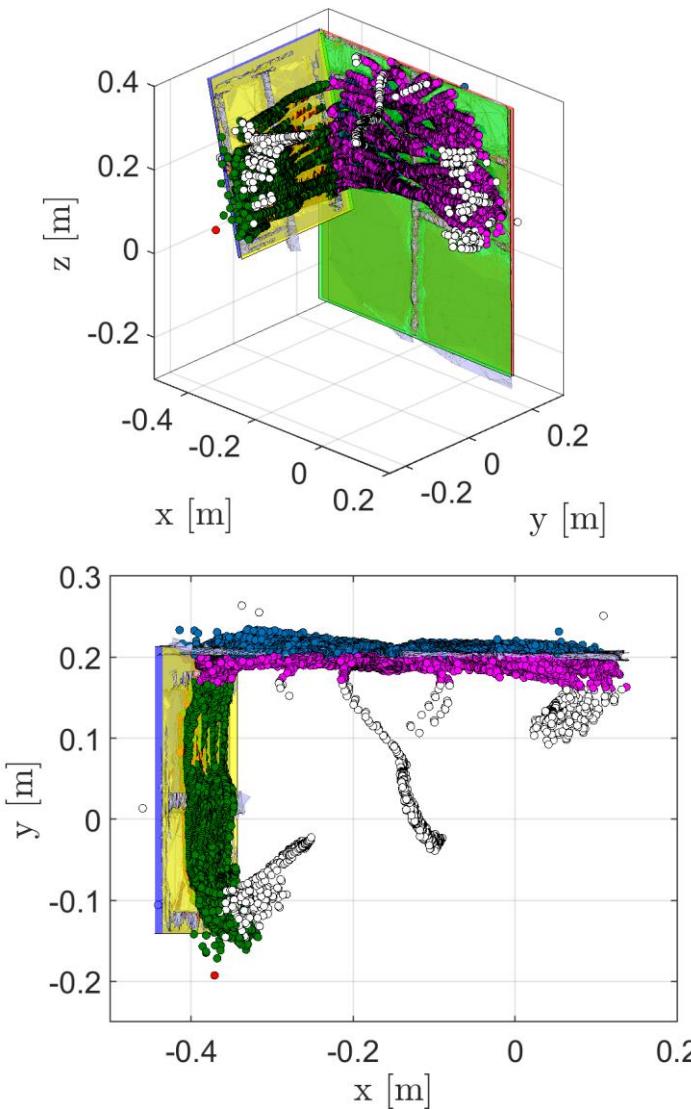
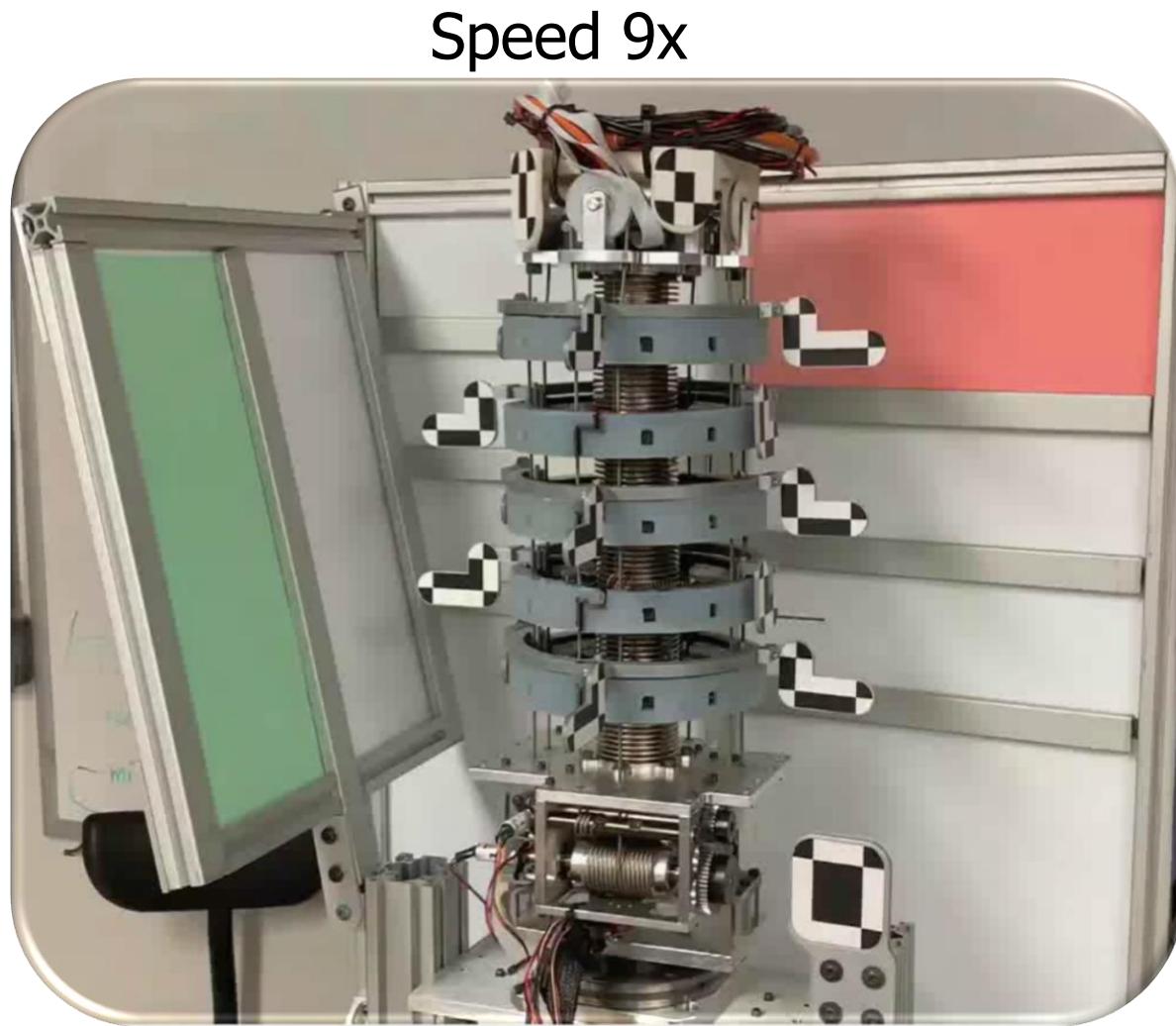


- Proximity sensing
- Contact detection
- Force sensing
- Mapping



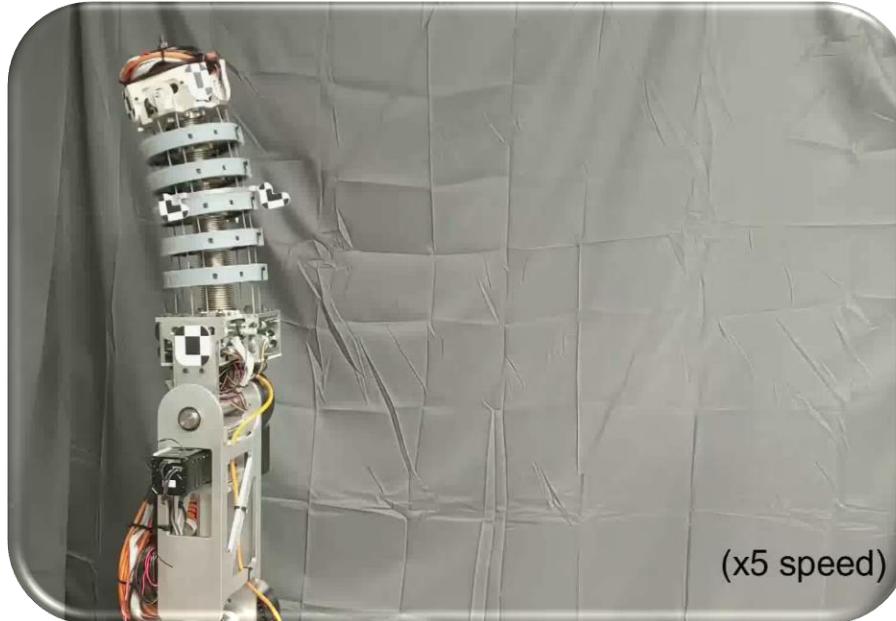
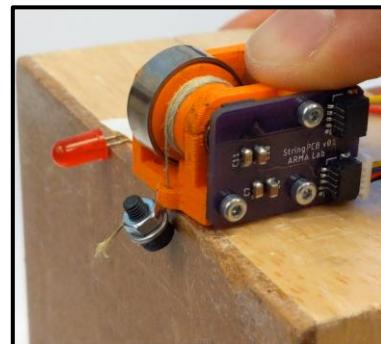
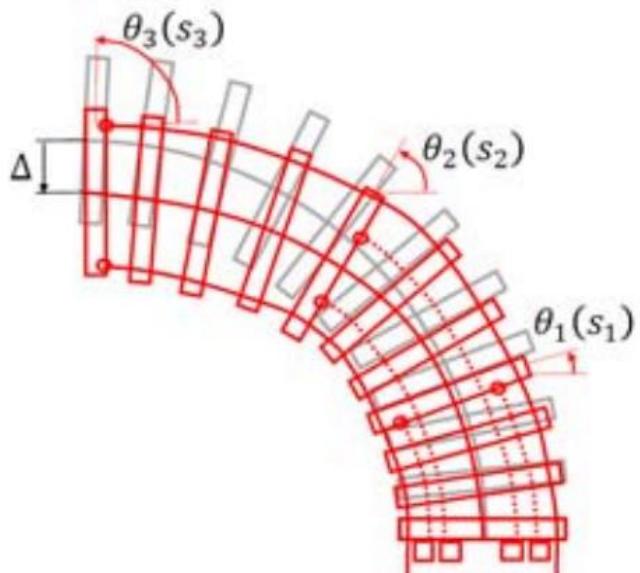
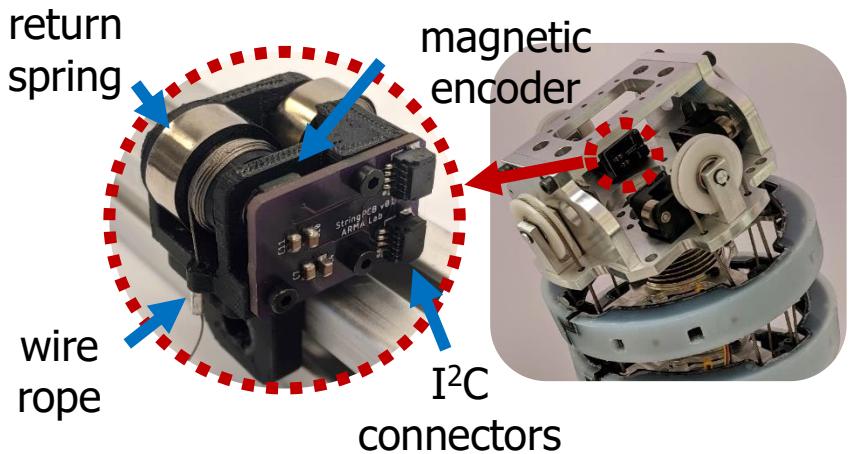
C. Abah, A. L. Orekhov, G. L. H. Johnston and N. Simaan, "A Multi-Modal Sensor Array for Human–Robot Interaction and Confined Spaces Exploration Using Continuum Robots," in *IEEE Sensors Journal*, vol. 22, no. 4, pp. 3585-3594, 15 Feb.15, 2022, doi: 10.1109/JSEN.2021.3140002.

# Evaluation of Environment Mapping



Mapping RMSE:  
9.73 mm

# Shape Sensing with General String Encoder Routing



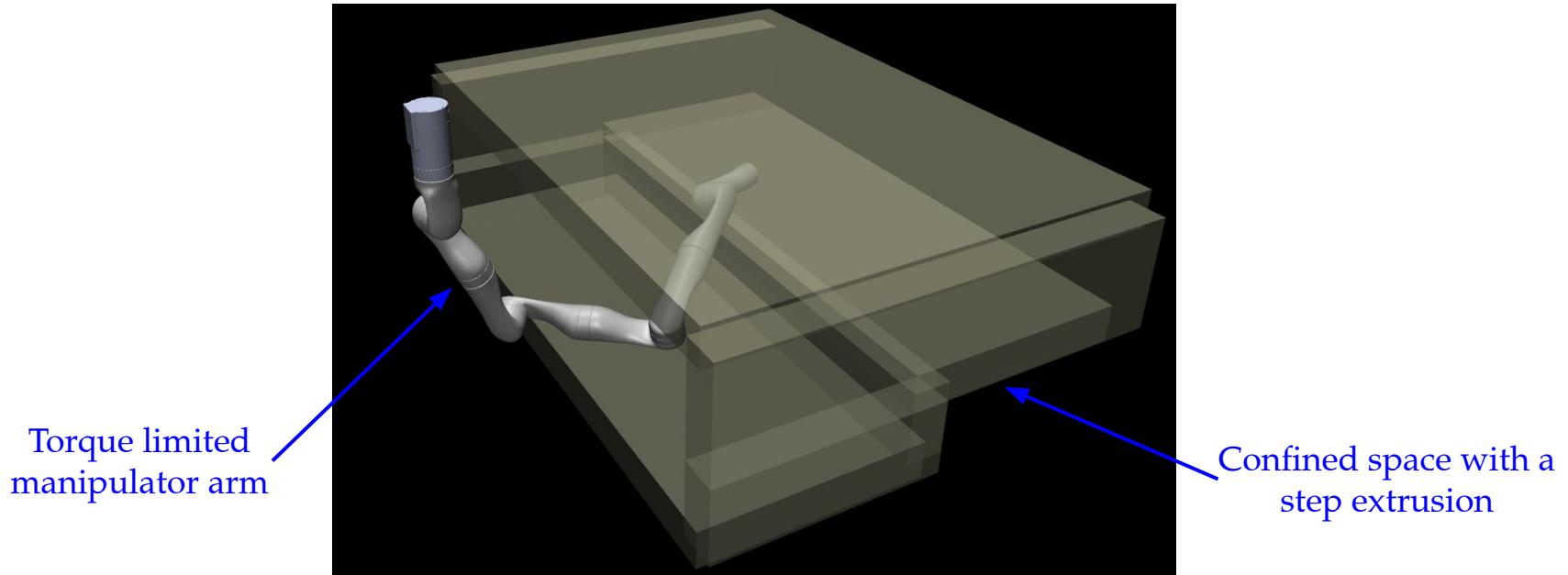
(with 3 lb load)

- Max position error <5% of total length
- 80% reduction in position error vs without shape sensing
- 40% reduction in angle error vs without shape sensing

Orekhov, L, Ahronovich, E. Z., Simaan, N., "Lie Group Formulation and Sensitivity Analysis for Shape Sensing of Variable Curvature Continuum Robots with General String Encoder Routing", In revision, IEEE TRO, 2022

# *Manipulation Planning through Bracing*

INterleaved Search And Trajectory Optimization (INSAT)\*



\* Natarajan, R., Choset, H., & Likhachev, M. (2021). Interleaving graph search and trajectory optimization for aggressive quadrotor flight. *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, 6(3), 5357-5364.

# *Manipulation Planning through Bracing*

## INterleaved Search And Trajectory Optimization (INSAT)\*

Low dimensional graph search

i.e. non-convex subset of the state space

Kinostatically feasible trajectory in manipulator  
configuration space

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Kinostatically feasible trajectory in manipulator configuration space

### High dimensional trajectory optimization

i.e. dynamics (derivative) variables

Dynamically feasible trajectory in state space (joint angles, joint velocity & contact model parameters)

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Kinostatically feasible trajectory in manipulator configuration space

Decides what trajectory optimizations to run with what seeds

### High dimensional trajectory optimization

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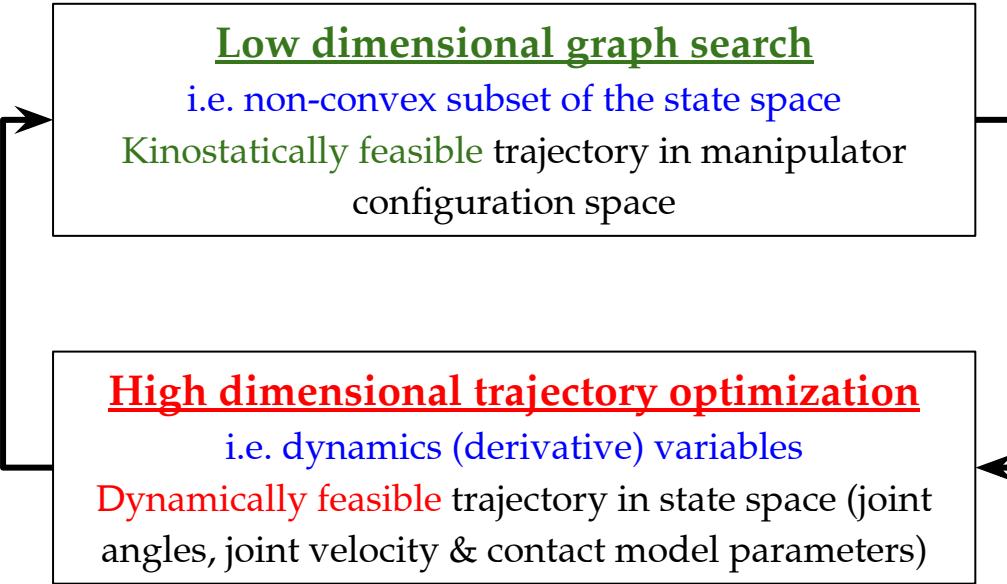
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Cost of trajectory optimization solution drives the graph search



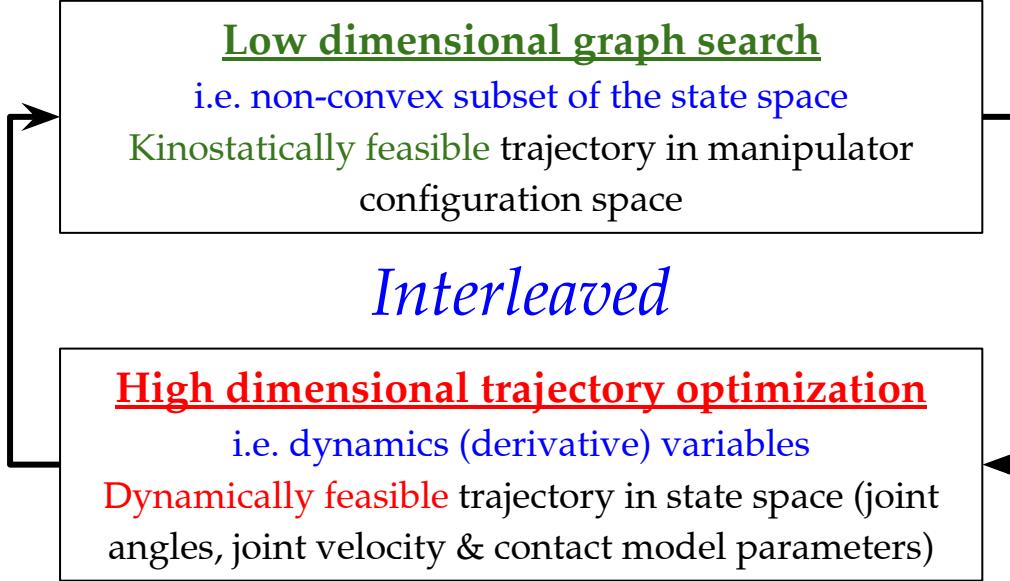
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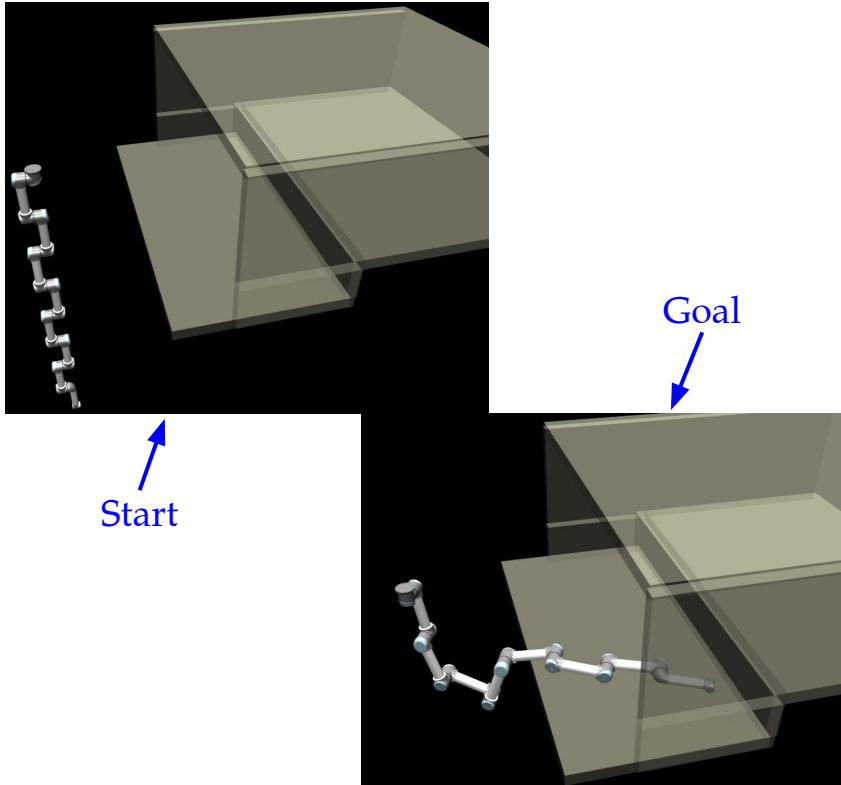


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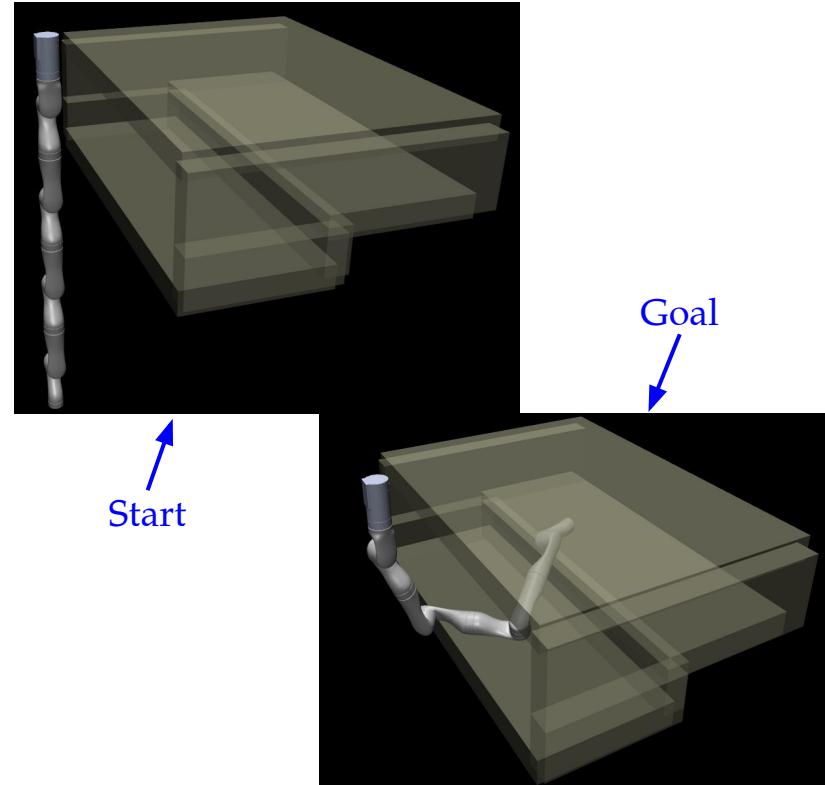
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# *Long redundant manipulator reaches confined space by bracing*

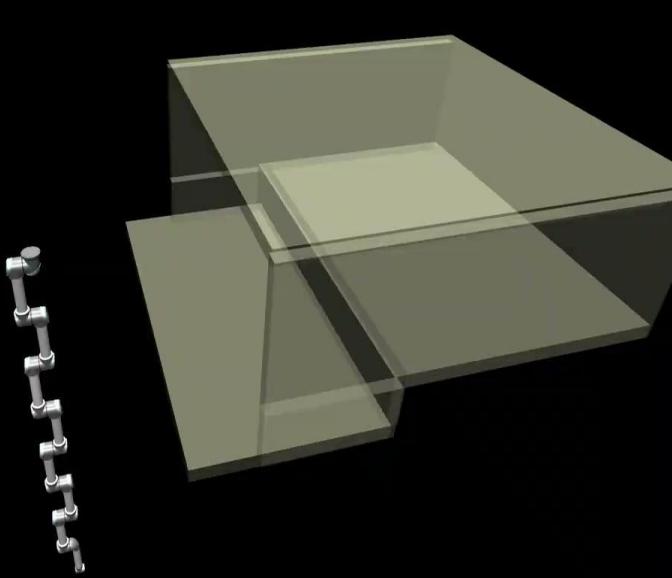
9 link UR arm



8 link Kinova arm



# *Long redundant manipulator reaches confined space by bracing*



Swings and tucks to  
minimize torque

Swings and slides to  
reach the goal

