

# Advanced Robotics

ENGG5402 Spring 2023



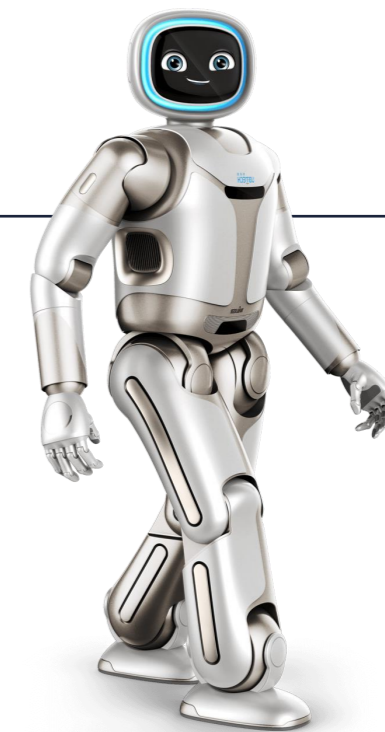
Fei Chen

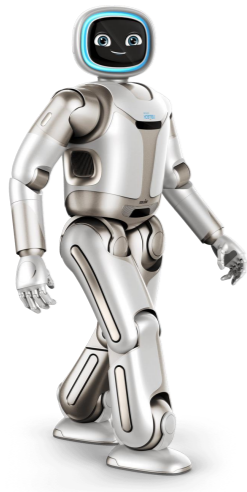
Topics:

- Position Regulation (with an introduction to stability)

Readings:

- Siciliano: Sec. 8, 8.5





# Equilibrium

Equilibrium states of a robot

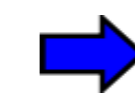
$$M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q, \dot{q}) + g(q) = u \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} q \\ \dot{q} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \dot{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ -M^{-1}(x_1)[c(x_1, x_2) + g(x_1)] \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ M^{-1}(x_1) \end{pmatrix} u \\ &= f(x) + G(x_1)u \end{aligned}$$

$x_e$  unforced equilibrium  
( $u = 0$ )



$$f(x_e) = 0$$



$$\begin{cases} x_{e2} = 0 \\ g(x_{e1}) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$x_e$  forced equilibrium  
( $u = u(x)$ )



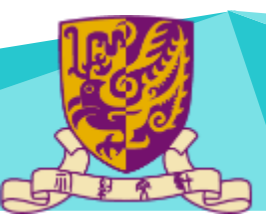
$$f(x_e) + G(x_{e1})u(x_e) = 0$$

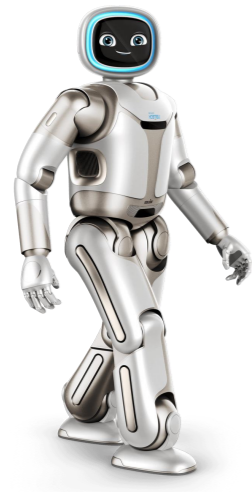


$$\begin{cases} x_{e2} = 0 \\ u(x_e) = g(x_{e1}) \end{cases}$$

all equilibrium states of  
mechanical systems have  
zero velocity!

joint torques must balance gravity  
at the equilibrium!





# Stability of Dynamical Systems

$$\dot{x} = f(x)$$

e.g., a closed-loop system  
(under feedback control)

$x_e$  equilibrium:  $f(x_e) = 0$

(sometimes we consider as equilibrium state  
 $x_e = 0$ , e.g., when using errors as variables)

stability of  $x_e$

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta_\varepsilon > 0: \|x(t_0) - x_e\| < \delta_\varepsilon \Rightarrow \|x(t) - x_e\| < \varepsilon, \forall t \geq t_0$$

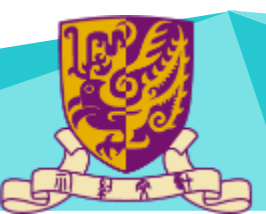
asymptotic stability of  $x_e$

stability +

$$\exists \delta > 0: \|x(t_0) - x_e\| < \delta \Rightarrow \|x(t) - x_e\| \rightarrow 0, \text{ for } t \rightarrow \infty$$

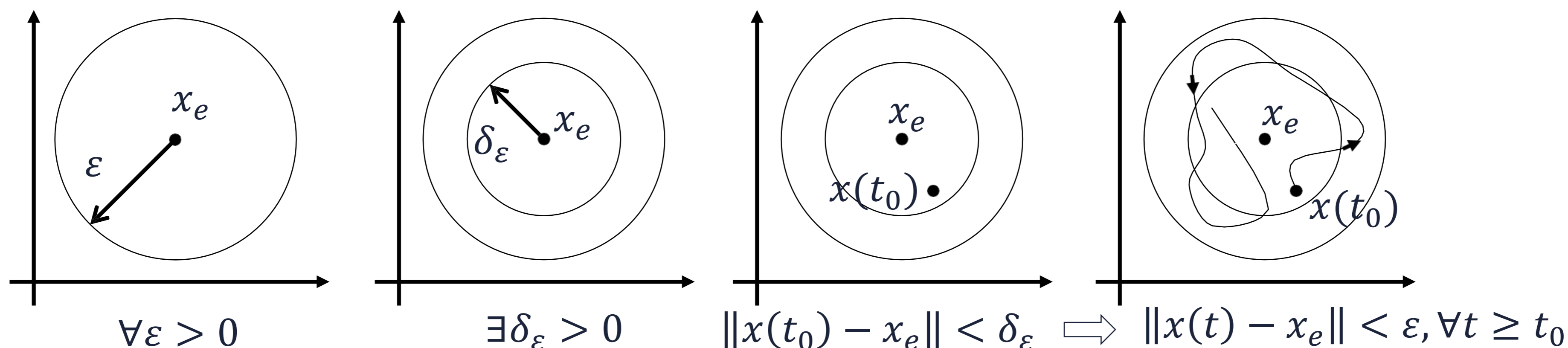
asymptotic stability may become **global** ( $\forall \delta > 0$ , finite)

**note:** these are definitions of stability “in the sense of **Lyapunov**”



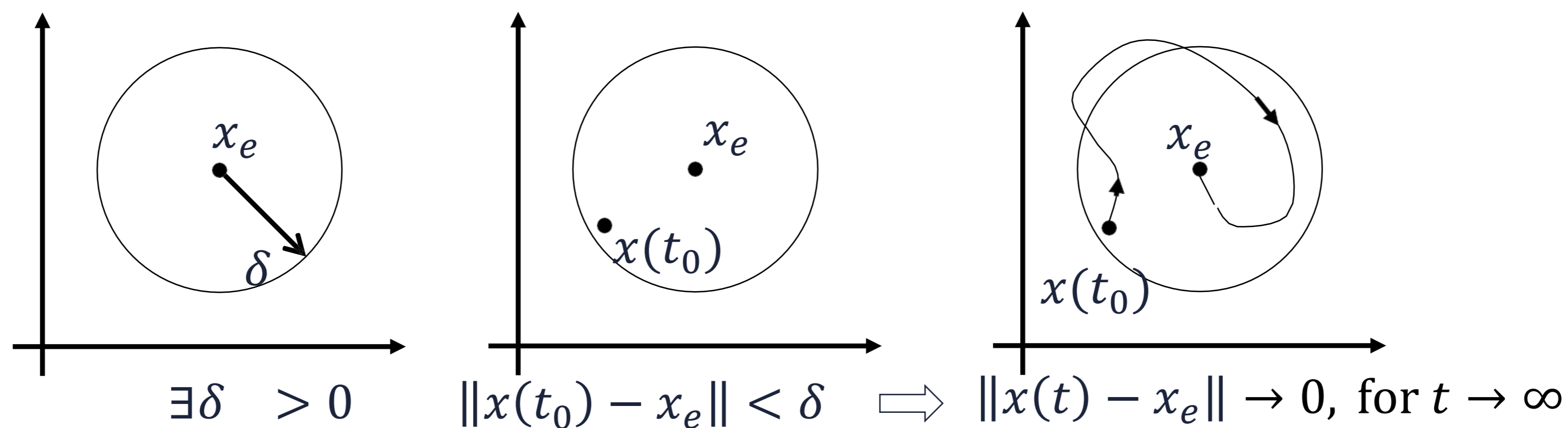


# Stability vs. Asymptotic Stability

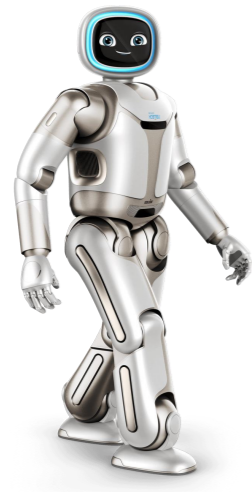


equilibrium state  $x_e$  is **stable**

+



equilibrium state  $x_e$  is **asymptotically stable**



# Stability of Dynamical Systems

exponential stability of  $x_e$

exponential rate  $\lambda$

$$\exists \delta, c, \lambda > 0: \|x(t_0) - x_e\| < \delta \Rightarrow \|x(t) - x_e\| \leq c e^{-\lambda(t-t_0)} \|x(t_0) - x_e\|$$

- allows to estimate the time needed to "approximately" converge: for  $c = 1$ , in  $t - t_0 = 3 \times$  the **time constant**  $\tau = 1/\lambda$ , the initial error is reduced to 5%
- typically, this is a **local** property only (within some maximum **finite** radius  $\delta$ )  
 $\Rightarrow$  such "domain of attraction" is hard to be estimated accurately

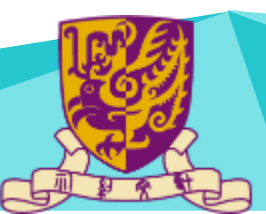
"practical" stability of a set  $S$

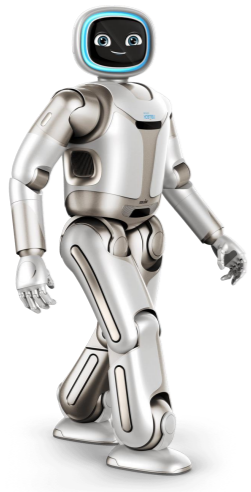
$$\exists T(x(t_0), S) \in \mathbb{R}: x(t) \in S, \forall t \geq t_0 + T(x(t_0), S)$$

a finite time

also known as **u.u.b. stability**

$\Rightarrow$  trajectories  $x(t)$  are "ultimately uniformly bounded" (use in **robust control**)





# Analysis and Criteria

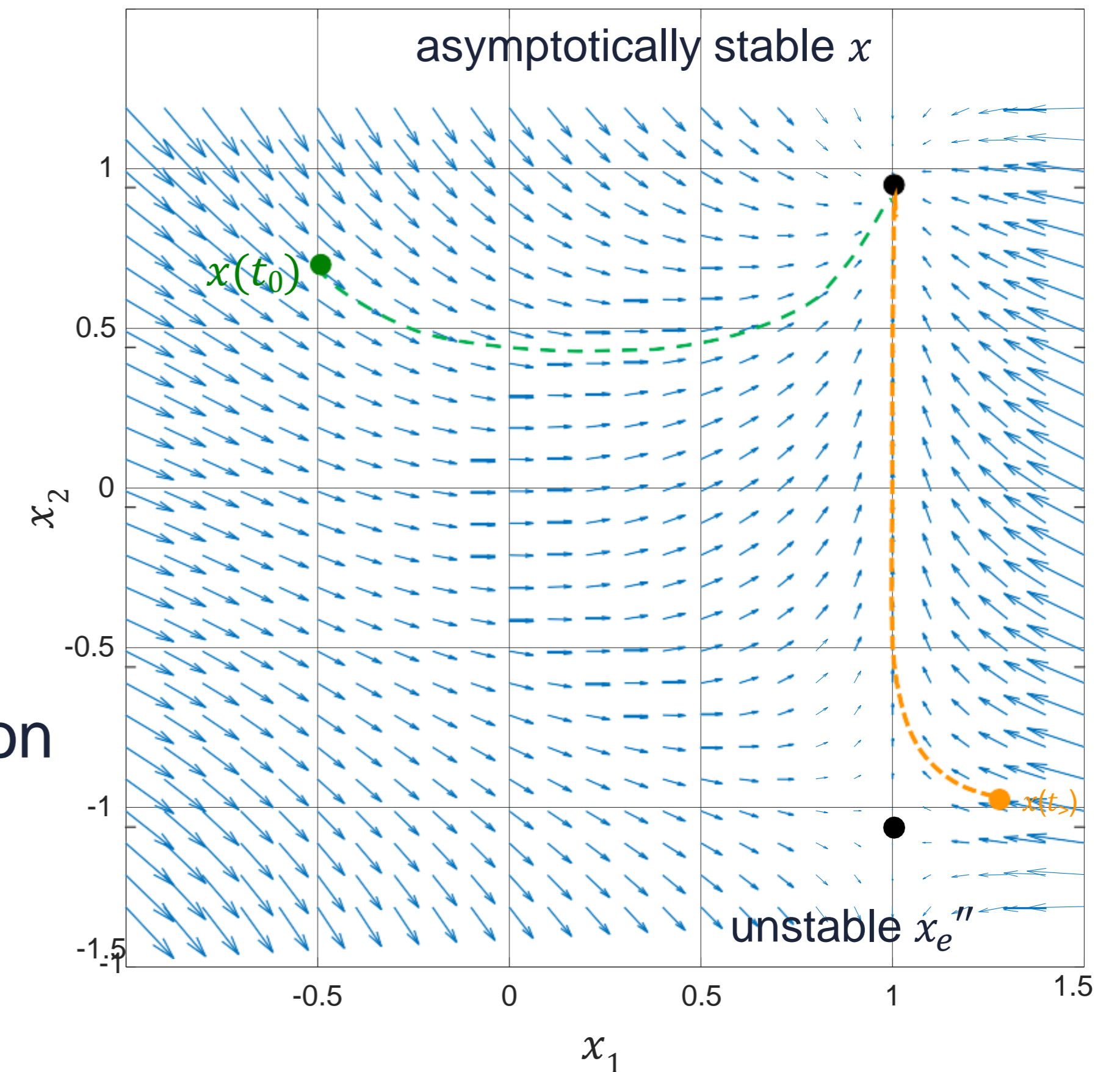
a nonlinear system  $\dot{x} = f(x)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  two equilibria  $f(x_e) = 0$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = 1 - x_1^3 \\ \dot{x}_2 = x_1 - x_2^2 \end{cases} \quad \longrightarrow \quad x'_e = (1, 1), \quad x''_e = (1, -1)$$

to assess (asymptotic) stability [or not] of equilibria,  
do we need to compute all system trajectories,  
starting from all possible initial states  $x(t_0)$ ?



rather, we may be able to just look at the time evolution  
of **a scalar function  $V$** , evaluated **analytically** along the  
state trajectories of the system (even in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  !)





# Lyapunov Theory

Lyapunov candidate

$V(x): \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  
 $V(x_e) = 0, V(x) > 0, \forall x \neq x_e$

positive definite function

typically quadratic (e.g.,  $\frac{1}{2}(x - x_e)^T P(x - x_e)$  with level surfaces = ellipsoids) may also be a local candidate only  $\forall x \neq x_e: \|x - x_e\| < \delta$

sufficient condition of stability

$\exists V$  candidate:  $\dot{V}(x) \leq 0$ , along the trajectories of  $\dot{x} = f(x)$

negative semi-definite function

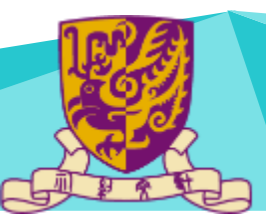
sufficient condition of asymptotic stability

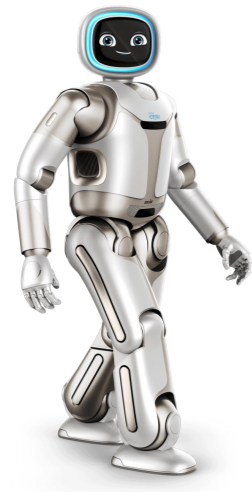
$\exists V$  candidate:  $\dot{V}(x) < 0$ , along the trajectories of  $\dot{x} = f(x)$

negative definite function

sufficient condition of instability

$\exists V$  candidate:  $\dot{V}(x) > 0$ , along the trajectories of  $\dot{x} = f(x)$





# Lyapunov Theory

sufficient condition of u.u.b. stability of a set  $S$

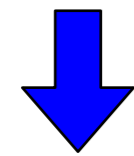
$\exists V$  candidate: i)  $S$  is a level set of  $V$  for a given  $c_0$

$$S = S(c_0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : V(x) \leq c_0\}$$

ii)  $\dot{V}(x) < 0$  along trajectories of  $\dot{x} = f(x)$ ,  $x \notin S$

LaSalle Theorem

if  $\exists V$  candidate:  $\dot{V}(x) \leq 0$  along the trajectories of  $\dot{x} = f(x)$

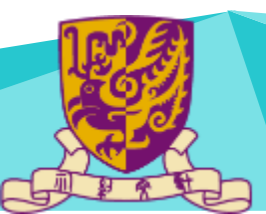


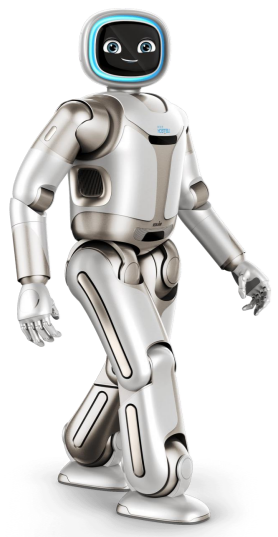
then system trajectories asymptotically converge to the **largest invariant set**  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \dot{V}(x) = 0\}$

$\mathcal{M}$  is invariant if  $x(t_0) \in \mathcal{M} \Rightarrow x(t) \in \mathcal{M}, \forall t \geq t_0$

Corollary

$\mathcal{M} \equiv \{x_e\} \Rightarrow$  asymptotic stability





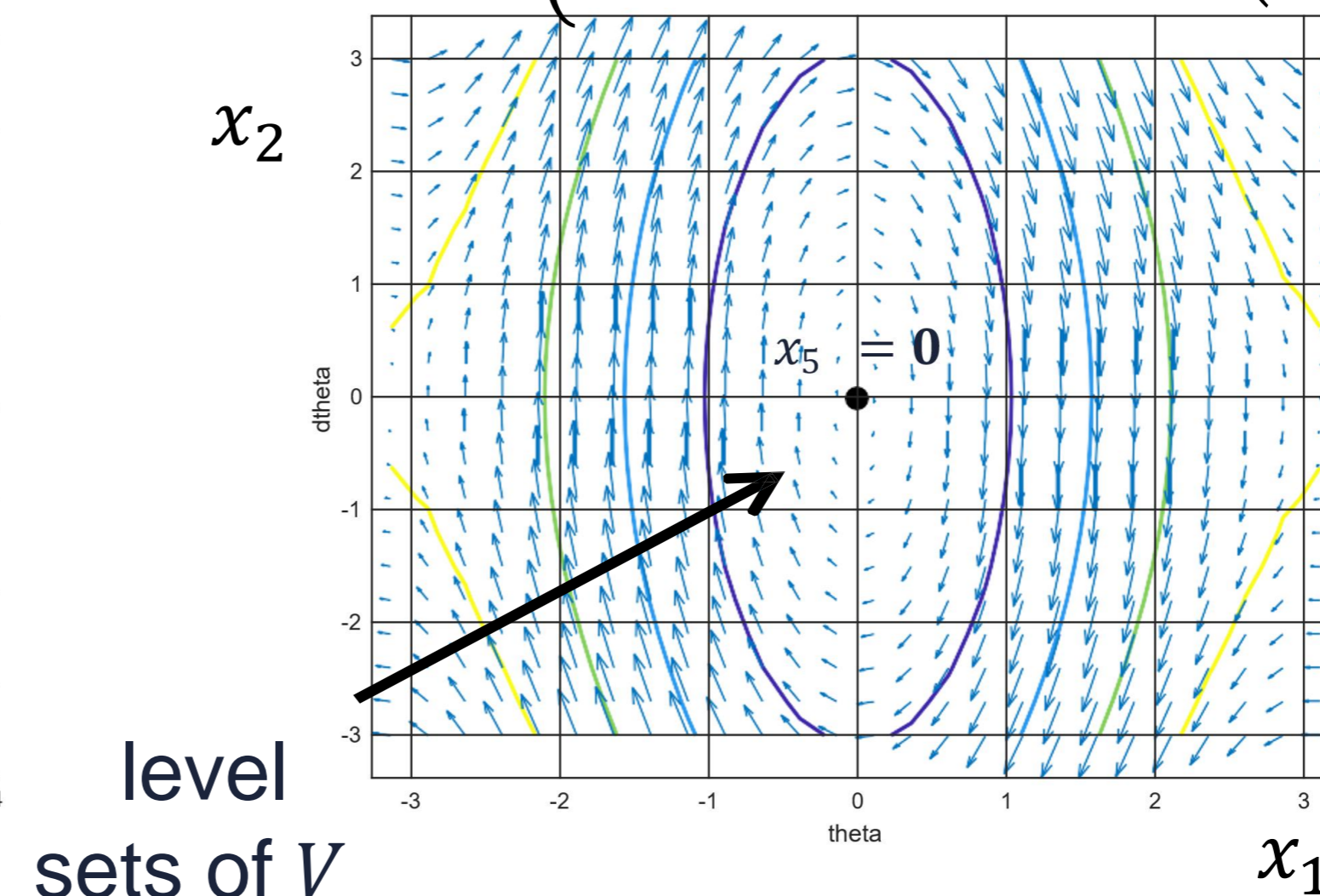
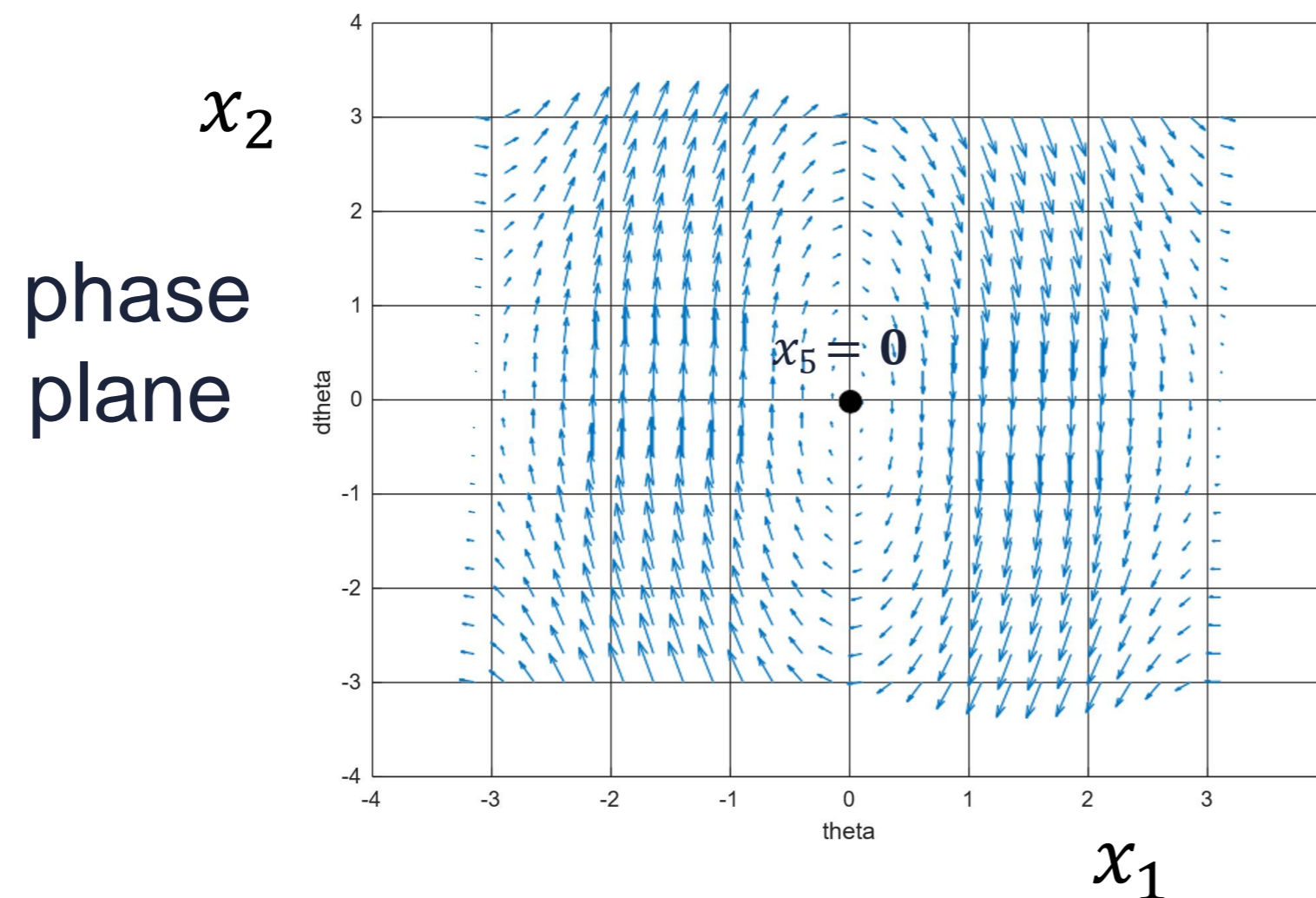
# Lyapunov Analysis

a mass  $m$  at the end of an unforced (passive) pendulum of length  $l$

$$ml^2\ddot{\theta} + b\dot{\theta} + mlg_0 \sin \theta = 0$$

lower equilibrium at  $\theta = 0$

$$\Rightarrow x = (x_1, x_2) = (\theta, \dot{\theta}) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = -\left(\frac{g_0}{l}\right) \sin x_1 - \left(\frac{b}{ml^2}\right) x_2 \end{cases}$$



$$V = E = \frac{1}{2}ml^2\dot{\theta}^2 + mlg_0(1 - \cos \theta) \geq 0$$

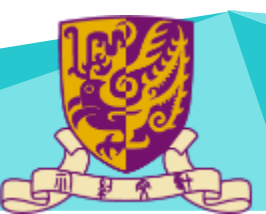
$$\dot{V} = \dot{\theta}(ml^2\ddot{\theta} + mlg_0 \sin \theta) = -b\dot{\theta}^2 \leq 0$$

$$V = 0 \Leftrightarrow x_e = (\theta_e, \dot{\theta}_e) = (0, 0)$$

$\Rightarrow$  stability of equilibrium  $x_e = 0$  (... at least!)

$\Rightarrow$  use LaSalle  $\dot{V} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \dot{\theta} = 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{\theta} = -\left(\frac{g_0}{l}\right) \sin \theta \neq 0$  unless  $\theta = \theta_e = 0$  (or  $\pi$ !)

$\Rightarrow$  local asymptotic stability





# Stability of Dynamical Systems

- previous results are also valid for **periodic** time-varying systems
$$\dot{x} = f(x, t) = f(x, t + T_p) \Rightarrow V(x, t) = V(x, t + T_p)$$
- for general **time-varying** systems (e.g., in robot **trajectory tracking** control)

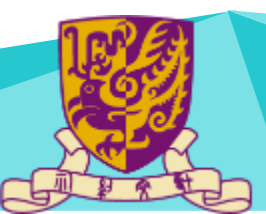
$$\dot{x} = f(x, t)$$

## Barbalat Lemma

- i) a function  $V(x, t)$  is lower bounded
  - ii)  $\dot{V}(x, t) \leq 0$
- then  $\Rightarrow \exists \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} V(x, t)$  (but this does **not** imply that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \dot{V}(x, t) = 0$ )
- if in addition iii)  $\ddot{V}(x, t)$  is bounded
- then  $\Rightarrow \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \dot{V}(x, t) = 0$

## Corollary

if a Lyapunov candidate  $V(x, t)$  satisfies Barbalat Lemma along the trajectories of  $\dot{x} = f(x, t)$ , then the conclusions of LaSalle Theorem hold





# Regulation PD Control

PD control (proportional + derivative action on the error)

robot

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q, \dot{q}) + g(q) = u$$

goal: asymptotic stabilization (= **regulation**) of the closed-loop equilibrium state

$$q = q_d, \dot{q} = 0$$

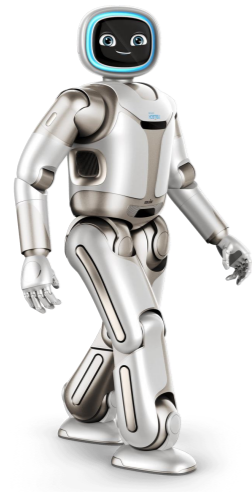


possibly obtained from kinematic inversion:  $q_d = f^{-1}(r_d)$

control law

$$u = K_P(q_d - q) - K_D\dot{q}$$

$K_P > 0, K_D > 0$  (positive definite), symmetric



# Regulation PD Control

Asymptotic stability with PD control

## Theorem 1

In the absence of gravity ( $g(q) = 0$ ), the robot state  $(q_d, 0)$  under the given *PD* joint control law is **globally asymptotically stable**

## Proof

let

$$e = q_d - q$$

( $q_d$  constant)

Lyapunov candidate

$$V = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q} + \frac{1}{2} e^T K_P e \geq 0$$

$$V = 0 \Leftrightarrow e = \dot{e} = 0$$

= 0, due to energy conservation (check appendix slides, also check equation 8.49 in Bruno's book)

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} &= \dot{q}^T M \ddot{q} + \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T \dot{M} \dot{q} - e^T K_P \dot{q} = \dot{q}^T \left( u - \overbrace{S \dot{q} + \frac{1}{2} \dot{M} \dot{q}} \right) - e^T K_P \dot{q} \\ &= \cancel{\dot{q}^T K_P e} - \dot{q}^T K_D \dot{q} - \cancel{e^T K_P \dot{q}} = -\dot{q}^T K_D \dot{q} \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

( $K_D > 0$ , symmetric)

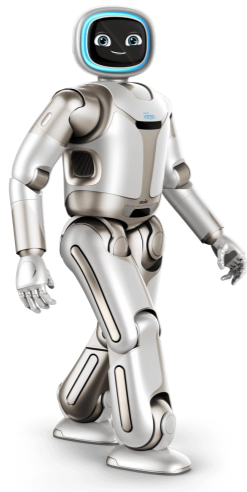
up to here, we proved  
stability only

but

$$\dot{V} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \dot{q} = 0$$

continues ...





# Regulation PD Control

Asymptotic stability with PD control

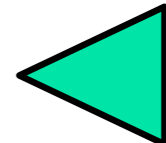
$\dot{V} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \dot{q} = 0$  LaSalle → system trajectories converge to the largest invariant set of states  $\mathcal{M}$  where  $\dot{q} \equiv 0$  that is  $\dot{q} = \ddot{q} = 0$ )

$$\dot{q} = 0 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{red}} \quad \underbrace{M(q)\ddot{q} = K_p e}_{\text{closed-loop dynamics}} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{red}} \quad \ddot{q} = \underbrace{M^{-1}(q)KPe}_{\text{invertible}}$$

$$\dot{q} = 0, \ddot{q} = 0 \Leftrightarrow e = 0$$

→ the only invariant state in  $\dot{V} = 0$  is given by  $q = q_d, \dot{q} = 0$

note: typically,  $K_P = \text{diag}\{k_{Di}\}, K_D = \text{diag}\{k_{Di}\},$   
→ decentralized linear control (local to each joint)

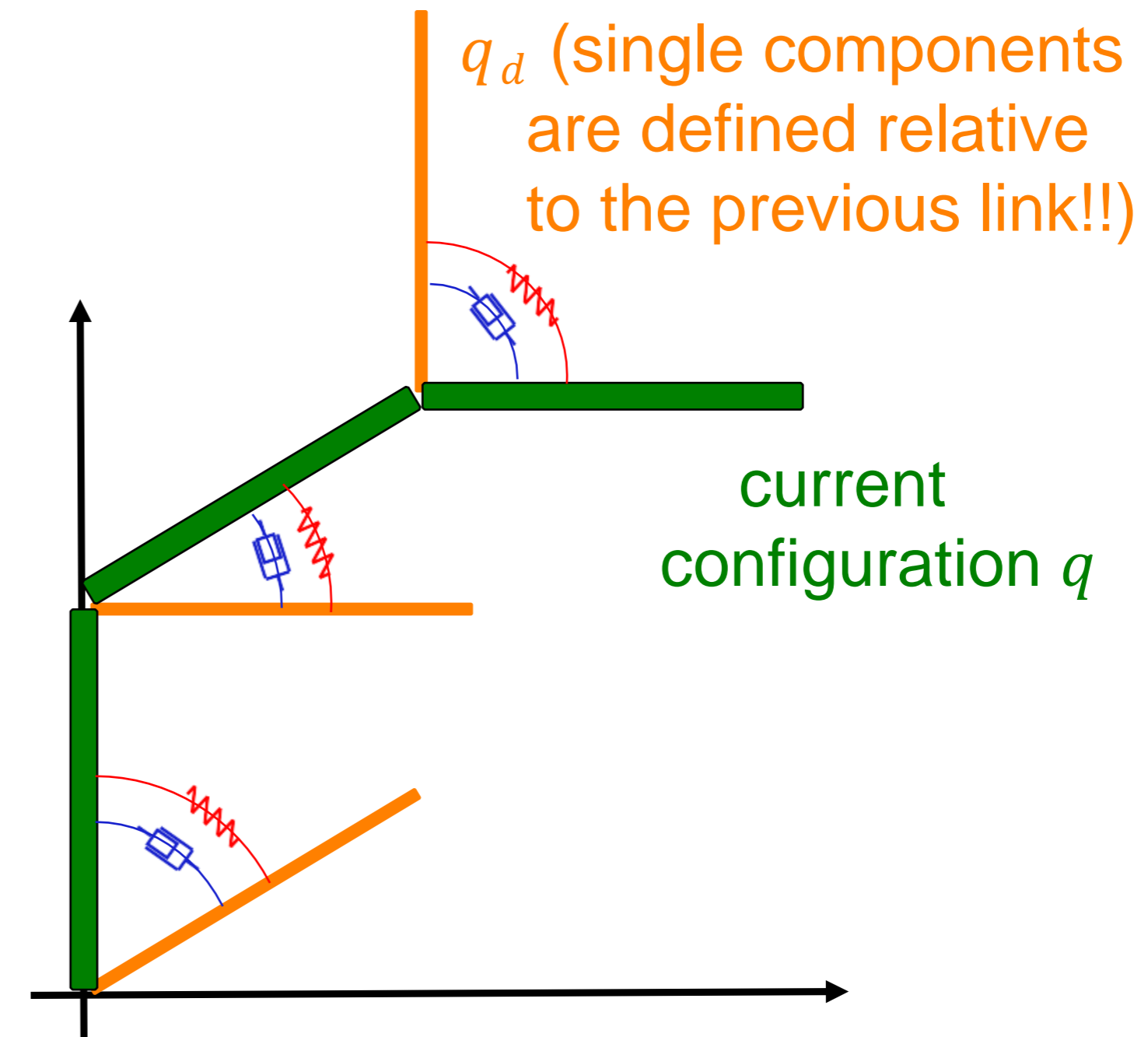
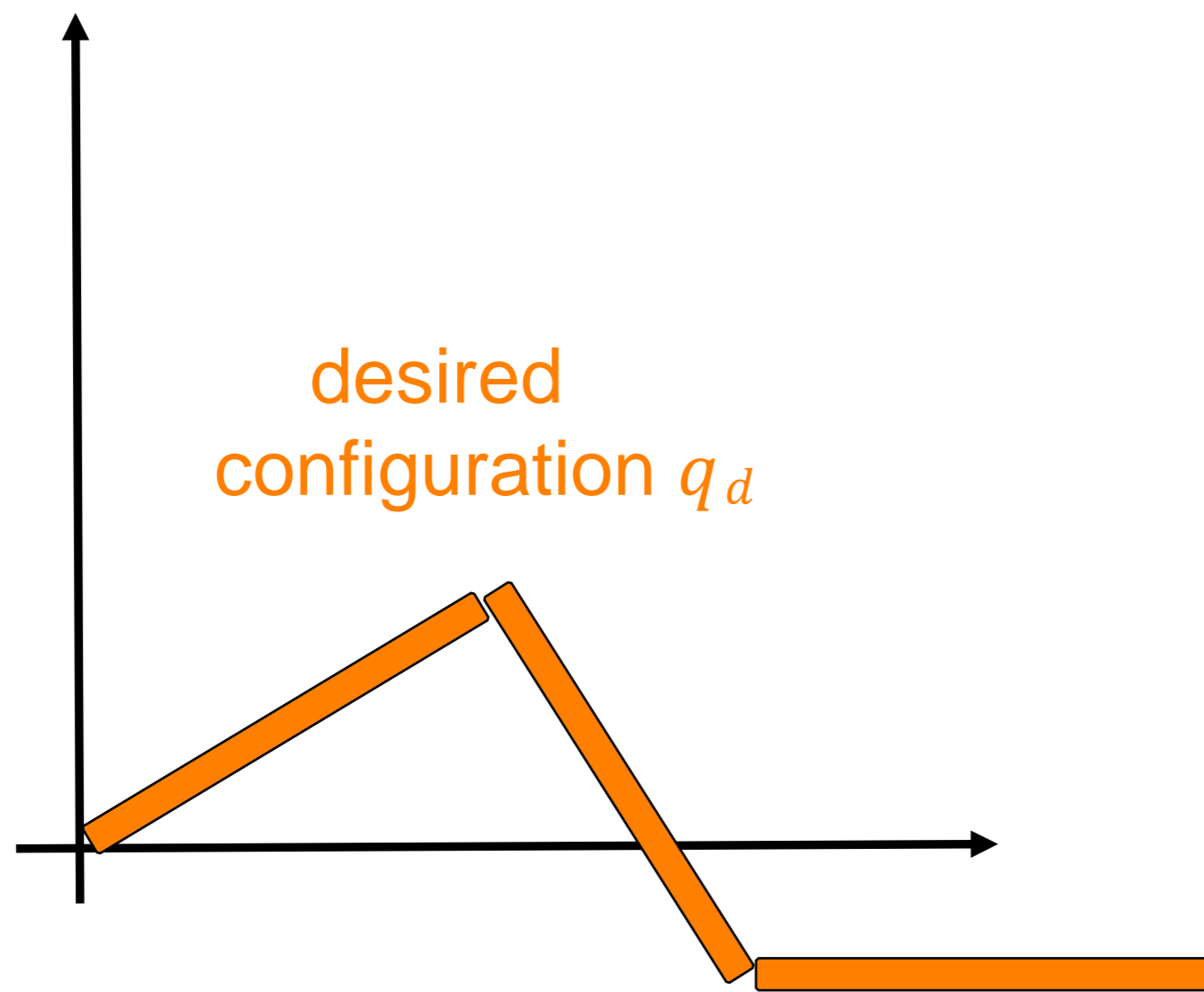




# Mechanical Interpretation

- for **diagonal** positive definite gain matrices  $K_P$  and  $K_D$  (thus, with **positive** diagonal elements), such values correspond to stiffness of “virtual **springs**” and viscosity of “virtual **dampers**” placed at the joints

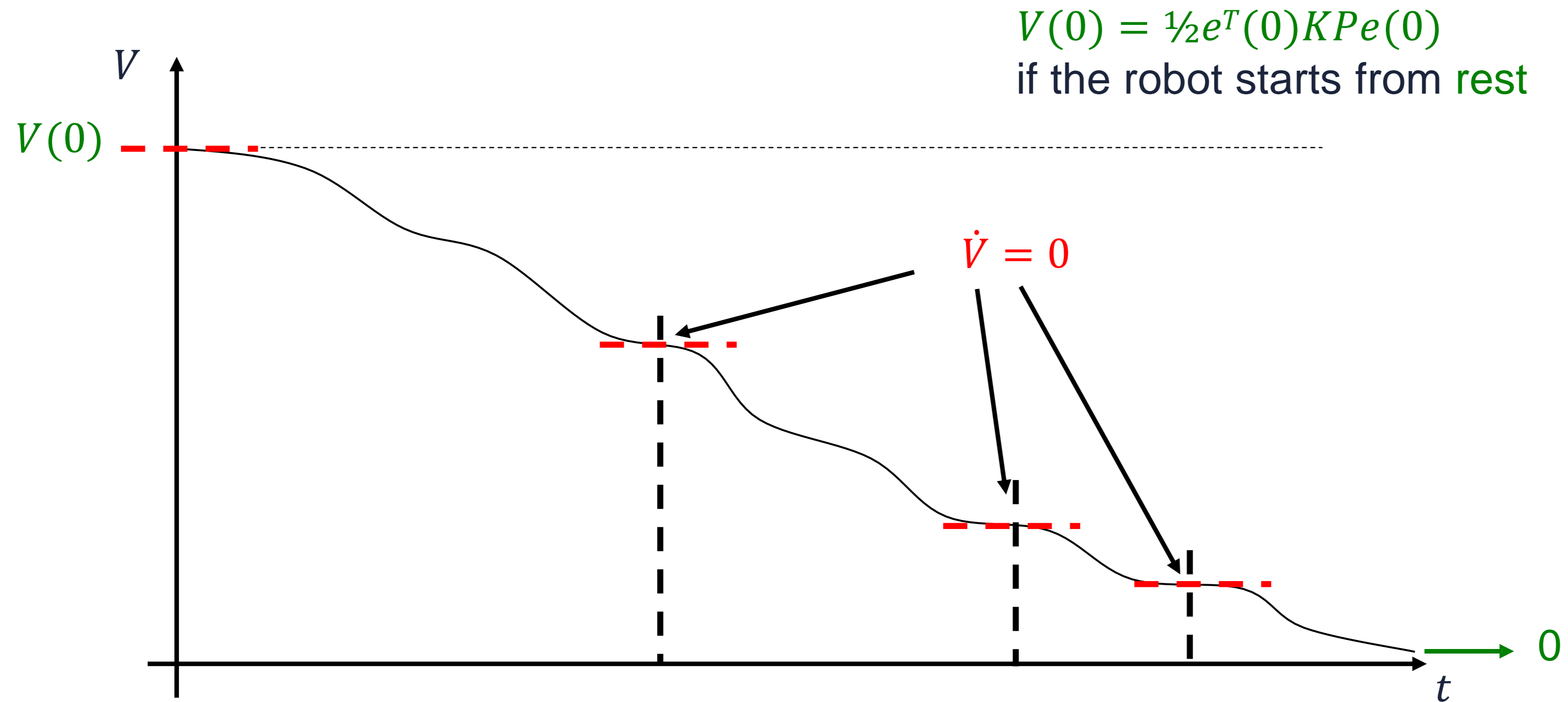
 stiffness  $k_{pi} > 0$   
 viscosity  $k_{Di} > 0$



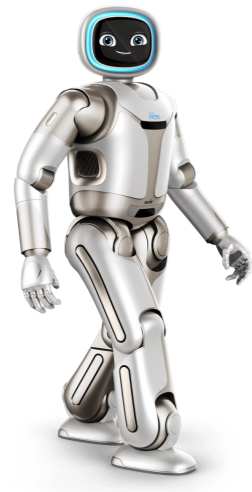


# Plot of the Lyapunov Function $V$

- time evolution of the Lyapunov candidate



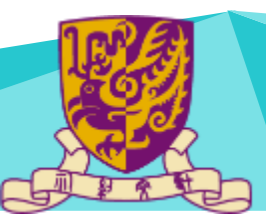
(isolated) instants of global “motion inversion” ( $\dot{q} = 0$ , but  $\ddot{q} \neq 0$ ! (

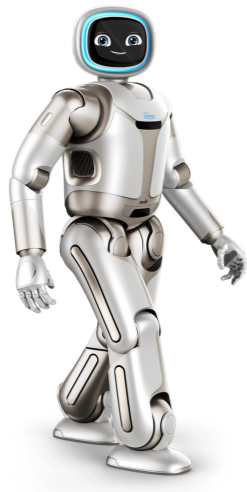


# Comments on PD Control

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- **choice of control gains** affects robot evolution during transients and practical settling times
  - hard to define values that are “optimal” in the whole workspace
  - “full”  $K_P$  and  $K_D$  gain matrices allow to assign desired eigenvalues to the linear approximation of the robot dynamics around the final desired state  $(q_d, 0)$
- when (joint) **viscous friction** is present, the derivative term in the control law is *not strictly necessary*
  - $-FV\dot{q}$  in the robot model acts similarly to  $-KD\dot{q}$  in the control law, but the latter can be modulated at will
- in the absence of tachometers, the actual realization of the derivative term in the feedback law requires some processing of **joint position data measured** by digital encoders (or analog resolvers/potentiometers)





# Inclusion of Gravity

- in the presence of gravity, the same previous arguments (and proof) show that the control law

$$u = K_P(q_d - q) - K_D\dot{q} + g(q) \quad K_P > 0, K_D > 0$$

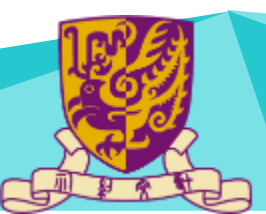
will make the equilibrium state  $(q_d, 0)$  globally asymptotically stable (nonlinear cancellation of gravity)

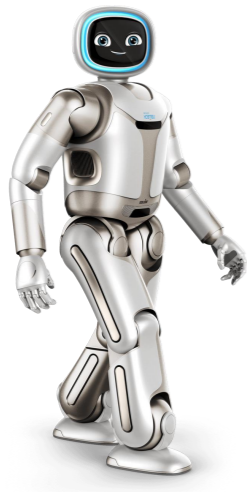
- if gravity is not cancelled or only approximately cancelled

$$u = K_P(q_d - q) - K_D\dot{q} + \hat{g}(q) \quad \hat{g}(q) \neq g(q)$$

it is  $q \rightarrow q^* \neq q_d, \dot{q} \rightarrow 0$ , with steady-state position error

- $q^*$  is not unique in general, except when  $K_P$  is chosen large enough
- explanation in terms of linear systems: there is no integral action before the point of access of the constant “disturbance” acting on the system





# Inclusion of Gravity

PD control + constant gravity compensation

since  $g(q)$  contains only **trigonometric** and/or **linear** terms in  $q$ ,  
the following **structural property** holds

finite

$$\exists \alpha > 0: \left\| \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial q^2} \right\| = \left\| \frac{\partial g}{\partial q} \right\| \leq \alpha, \forall q$$

consequence



$$\|g(q) - g(q_d)\| \leq \alpha \|q - q_d\|$$

note: Induced norm of  
a matrix

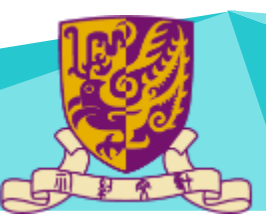
$$\|A\| = \sqrt{\lambda(A^T A)_{\max}} \triangleq A_M \geq A_m \triangleq \sqrt{\lambda_{\min}(A^T A)}$$

**LINEAR CONTROL** law

$$u = K_P(q_d - q) - K_D \dot{q} + g(q_d)$$

$K_P, K_D > 0$   
symmetric

linear feedback + constant feedforward





# Inclusion of Gravity

PD control + constant gravity compensation (stability analysis)

## Theorem 2

If  $K_{P,m} > \alpha$ , the state  $(q_d, 0)$  of the robot under joint-space PD control + constant gravity compensation at  $q_d$  is **globally asymptotically stable**

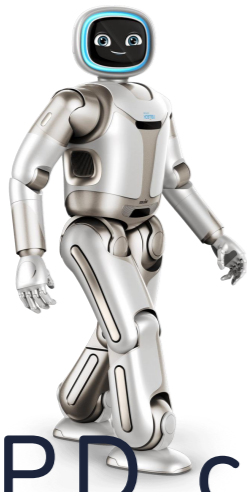
## Proof

1.

$(q_d, 0)$  is the unique closed-loop equilibrium state

in fact, for  $\dot{q} = 0$  and  $\ddot{q} = 0$ , it is  $K_P e = g(q) - g(q_d)$   
which can hold only for  $q = q_d$ , because when  $q \neq q_d$

$$\|K_P e\| \geq K_{P,m} \|e\| > \alpha \|e\| \geq \|g(q) - g(q_d)\|$$



# Inclusion of Gravity

PD control + constant gravity compensation (stability analysis)

with  $e = q_d - q$ ,  $g(q) = \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial q}\right)^T$  consider as **Lyapunov candidate**

$$V = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q} + \frac{1}{2} e^T K_P e + U(q) - U(q_d) + e^T g(q_d)$$

2.

$V$  is convex in  $\dot{q}$  and  $e$ , and zero only for  $e = \dot{q} = 0$

$$\left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial \dot{q}}\right)^T = M(q) \dot{q} = 0 \quad \text{only for } \dot{q} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \dot{q}^2} = M(q) > 0$$

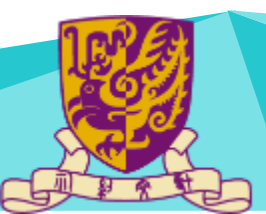
$$\left(\frac{\partial V|_{\dot{q}=0}}{\partial e}\right)^T = K_P e - \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial q}\right)^T + g(q_d) = K_P e + g(q_d) - g(q) = 0$$

$$\partial e / \partial q = -I$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 V|_{\dot{q}=0}}{\partial e^2} = K_P + \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial q^2} > 0, \text{ since } \|K_P\| = K_{P,M} \geq K_{P,m} > \alpha$$

$(q_d, 0)$  is a  
global minimum  
of  $V \geq 0$

only for  $q = q_d$





# Inclusion of Gravity

PD control + constant gravity compensation (stability analysis)

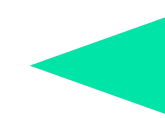
differentiating  $V = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q} + \frac{1}{2} e^T K_P e + U(q) - U(q_d) + e^T g(q_d)$

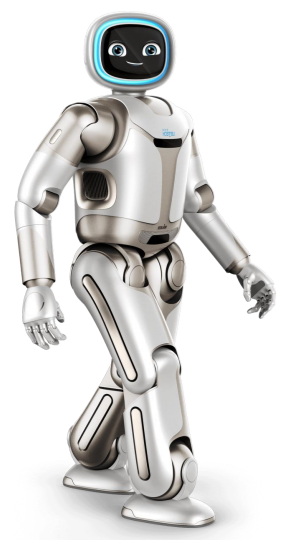
$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V} &= \dot{q}^T \left( M(q) \ddot{q} + \frac{1}{2} \dot{M}(q) \dot{q} \right) - e^T K_P \dot{q} + \frac{\partial U(q)}{\partial q} \dot{q} - \dot{q}^T g(q_d) \\ &= \dot{q}^T \left( \underbrace{u - S(q, \dot{q}) \dot{q} + \frac{1}{2} \dot{M}(q) \dot{q}}_{=0} - g(q) \right) - e^T K_P \dot{q} + \dot{q}^T (g(q) - g(q_d)) \\ &= \cancel{\dot{q}^T K_P e} - \dot{q}^T K_D \dot{q} + \dot{q}^T (g(q_d) - g(q)) - \cancel{e^T K_P \dot{q}} + \cancel{\dot{q}^T (g(q) - g(q_d))} \\ &= -\dot{q}^T K_D \dot{q} \leq 0\end{aligned}$$

for  $\dot{V} = 0 (\Leftrightarrow \dot{q} = 0)$ , we have in the closed-loop system

$$M(q) \ddot{q} + g(q) = K_P e + g(q_d) \Rightarrow \ddot{q} = M^{-1}(q) (K_P e + g(q_d) - g(q)) = 0 \Leftrightarrow e = 0$$

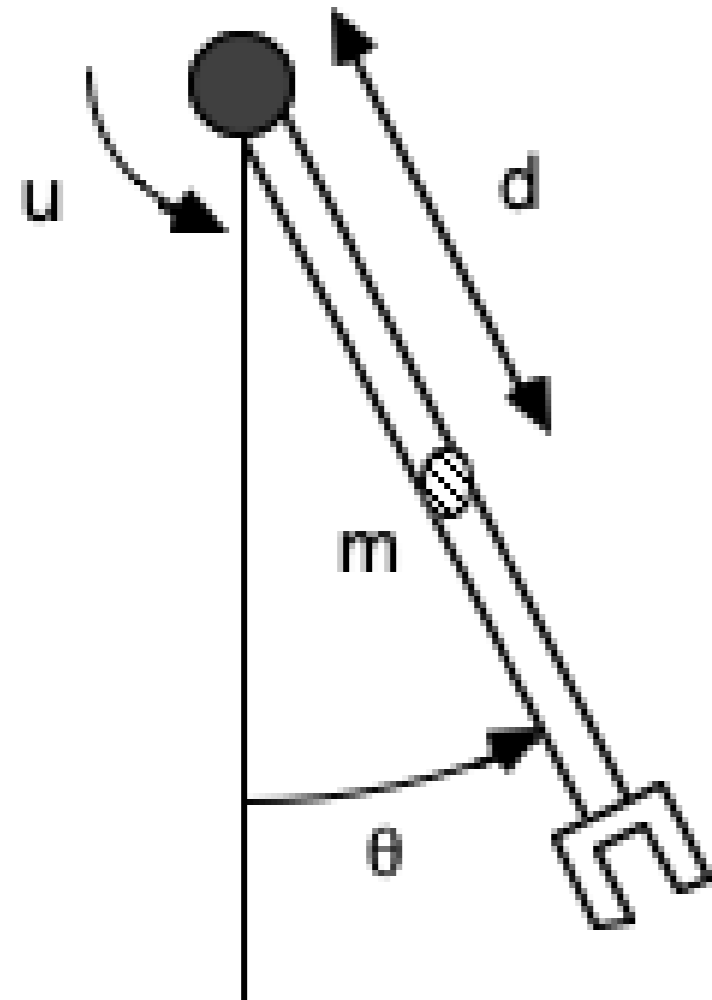
by LaSalle Theorem, the thesis follows





# Example

Example of a single-link robot (stability analysis)



**task:** regulate the link position to the **upward equilibrium**

$$\theta_d = \pi \rightarrow g(\theta_d) = 0$$

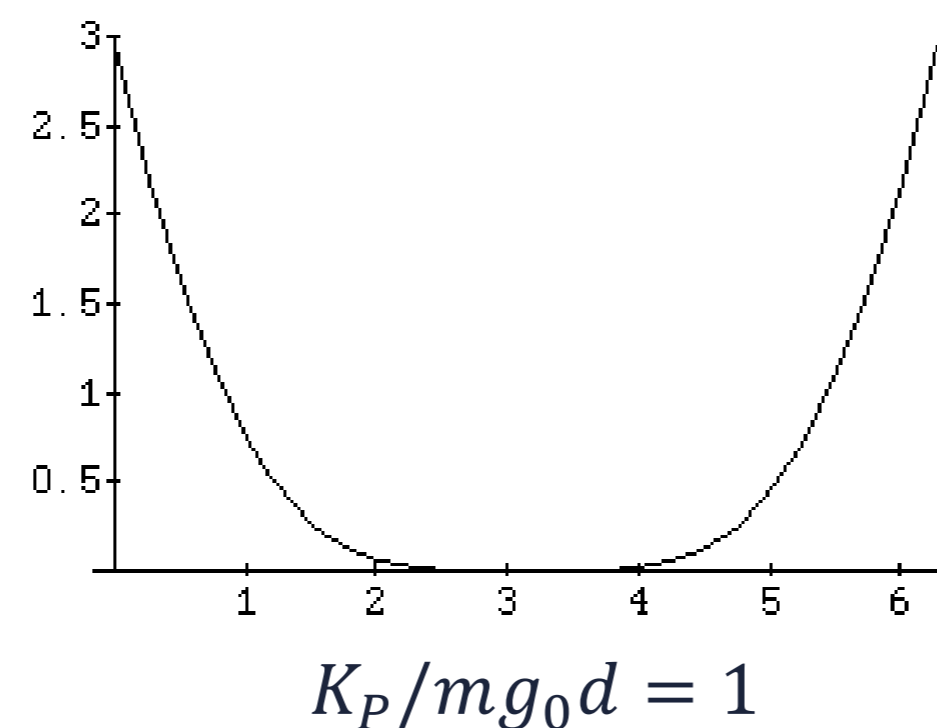
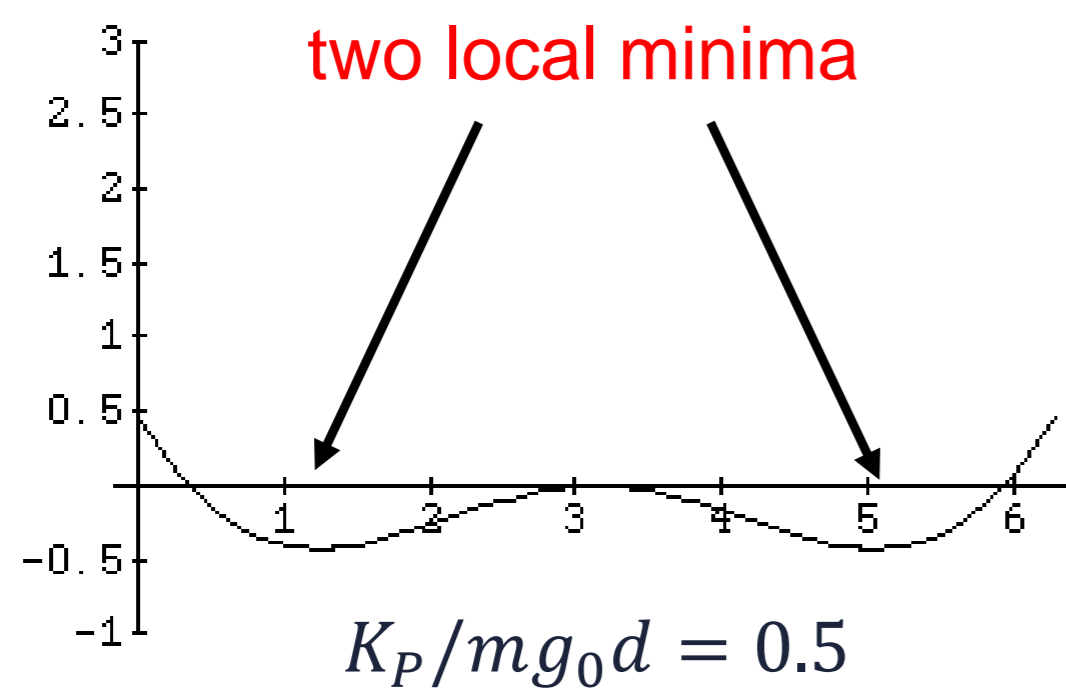
PD control + constant gravity compensation (here, **zero!**)

$$u = k_P (\pi - \theta) - k_D \dot{\theta}$$

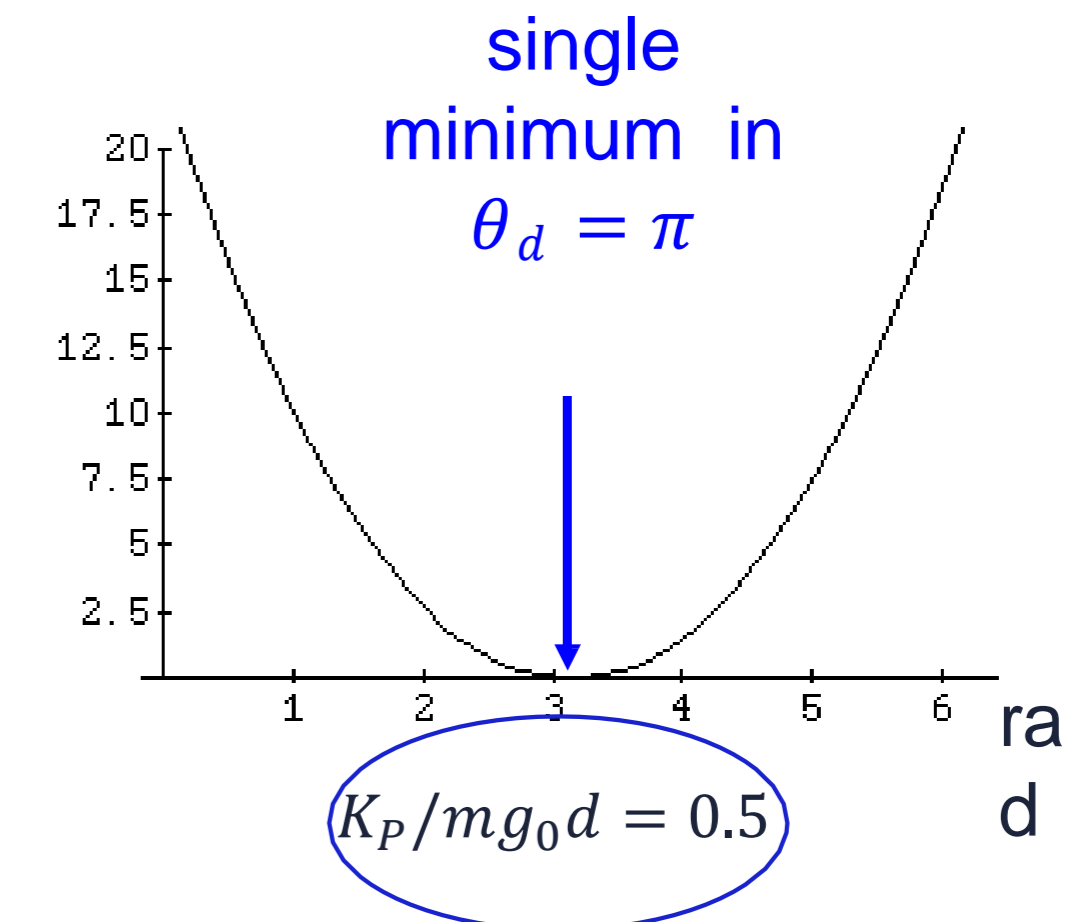
by Theorem 2, it is **sufficient** (here, also **necessary\***) to choose

$$k_P > \alpha = mg_0 d, k_D > 0$$

$$I\ddot{\theta} + mg_0 d \sin \theta = u$$



plots of  $V(\theta)$  (for  $\dot{\theta} = 0$ )



\* by a local analysis of the linear approximation at  $\pi$



# Example

PD control + constant gravity compensation  
(simulations with data:  $I = 0.9333$ ,  $mg_0d = 19.62 (= \alpha)$ )

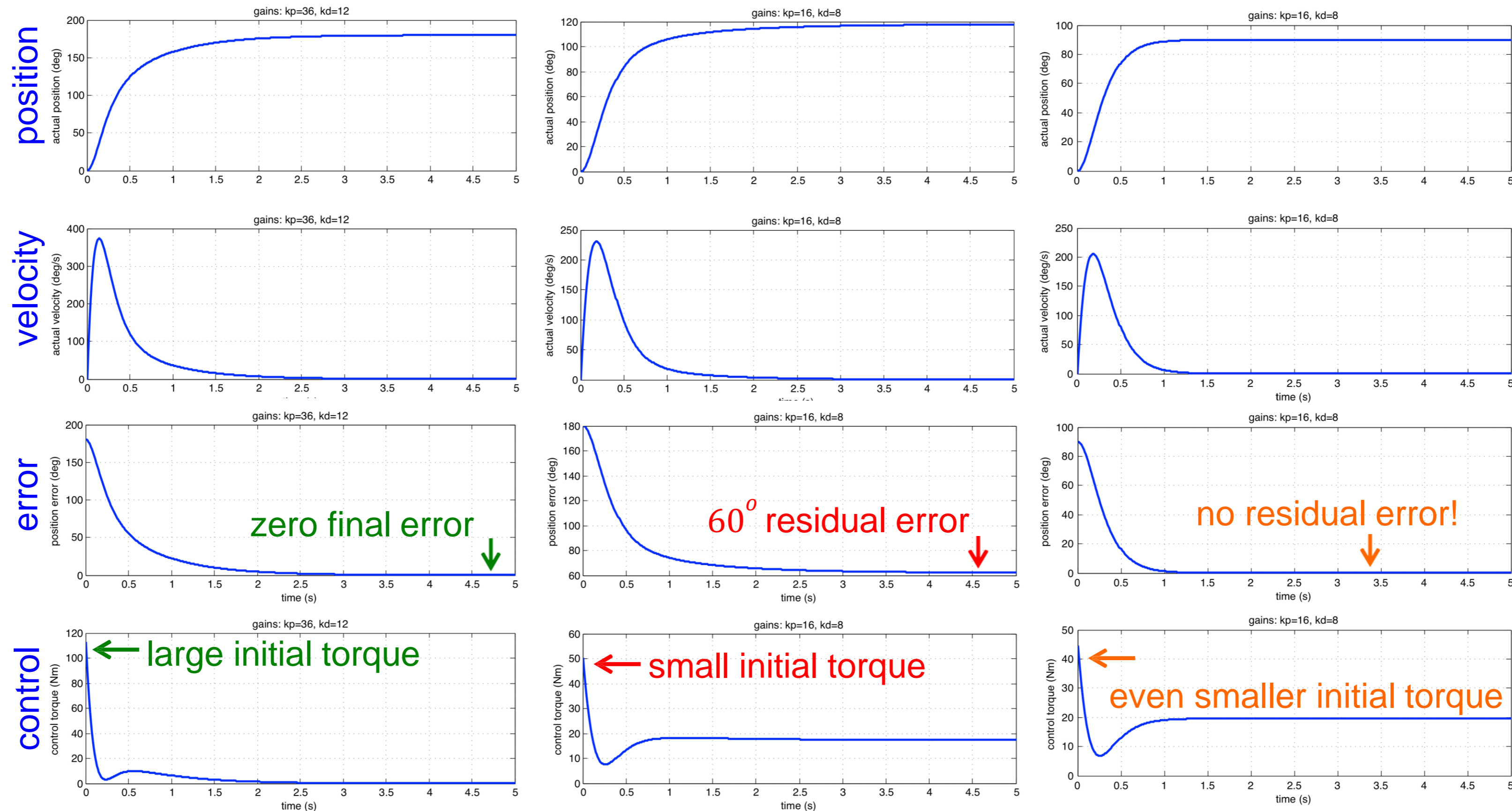
$$\theta_d = 180^\circ \rightarrow g(\theta_d) = 0$$

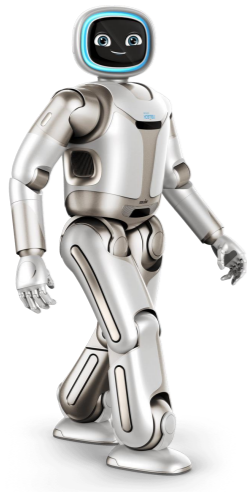
$$\theta_d = 90^\circ \rightarrow g(\theta_d) = mg_0d$$

sufficient P gain:  $k_P = 36, k_D = 12$

low P gain:  $k_P = 16, k_D = 8$

low P gain:  $k_P = 16, k_D = 8$





# Inclusion of Gravity

Approximate gravity compensation

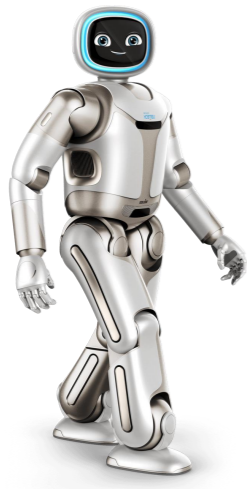
the **approximate** control law

$$u = K_P(q_d - q) - K_D\dot{q} + \hat{g}(q_d)$$

- leads, under similar hypotheses, to a closed-loop equilibrium  $q^*$ 
  - its uniqueness is not guaranteed (unless  $K_{\dot{E}}$  is large enough)
  - for  $K_P \rightarrow \infty$ , one has  $q^* \rightarrow q_d$

**Conclusion:** In the presence of gravity, the previous regulation control laws require an **accurate knowledge** of the **gravity term** in the dynamic model in order to guarantee the zeroing of the position error (since we can only use “finite” control gains  $\Rightarrow$  in practice, not too large)





# PID Control

- in linear systems, the addition of an integral control action is used to eliminate a constant error in the step response at steady state
- in robots, a PID may be used to recover such a position error due to an incomplete (or absent) gravity compensation/cancellation

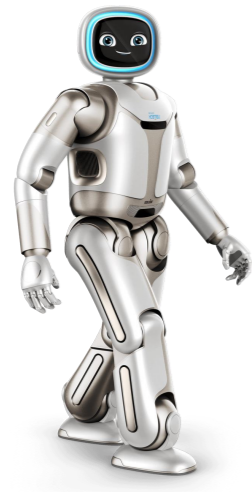
➔ the control law

$$u(t) = K_P(q_d - q(t)) + K_I \int_0^t (q_d - q(\tau)) d\tau - K_D \dot{q}(t)$$

- is independent from any robot dynamic model term
- if the desired closed-loop equilibrium is asymptotically stable under PID control, the integral term is “loaded” at steady state to the value

$$K_I \int_0^\infty (q_d - q(\tau)) d\tau = g(q_d)$$

- however, one can show only local asymptotic stability of this law, i.e., for  $q(0) \in \Delta(q_d)$ , under complex conditions on  $K_P, K_I, K_D$  and  $e(0)$



# PID Control

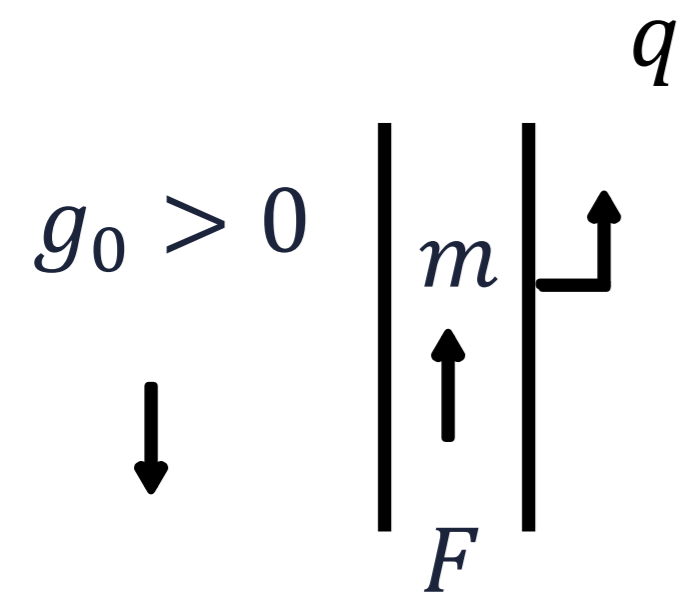
## Linear example with PID control

$$\boxed{m\ddot{q} + mg_0 = F} \quad (\text{no friction}) \quad \begin{aligned} e(t) &= q_d - q(t) \\ \dot{e}(t) &= -\dot{q}(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$F = k_P(q_d - q) - k_D\dot{q}$$

(**PD**  $\Rightarrow$  steady-state error  $e = q_d - \bar{q}$ , with  $\bar{q} = q_d - \frac{mg_0}{k_P}$ )

$$F = k_P(q_d - q) - k_D\dot{q} + mg_0$$

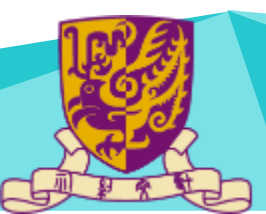


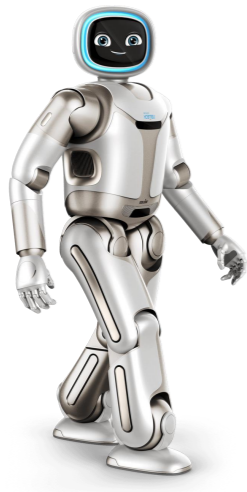
(**PD + gravity cancellation**  $\Rightarrow$  regulation  $\forall k_P > 0, k_D > 0$ )

$$F = k_P(q_d - q) - k_D\dot{q} + k_I \int_0^t (q_d - q(\tau)) d\tau$$

with global  
exponential  
stability!

(**PID**  $\Rightarrow$  regulation  $\forall k_I > 0, k_D > 0, k_P > \frac{mk_I}{k_D} > 0$ )





# PID Control

## Saturated PID control

- more in general, one can prove **global** asymptotic stability of  $(q_d, 0)$ , under **lower bound limitations** for  $K_P, K_I, K_D$  (depending on suitable “bounds” on the terms in the dynamic model), for a **nonlinear PID law**

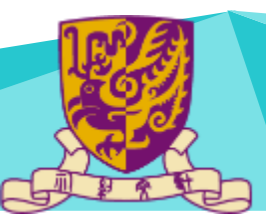
$$u(t) = K_P(q_d - q(t)) + K_I \int_0^t \Phi(q_d - q(\tau)) d\tau - K_D \dot{q}$$

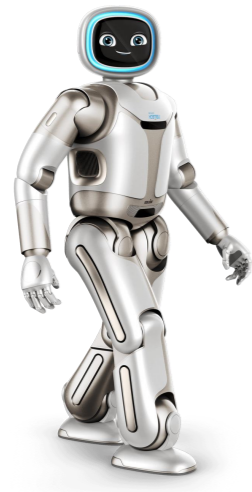
where  $\Phi(q_d - q)$  is a **saturation-type** function, such as

$$\Phi(x) = \begin{cases} \sin x, & |x| \leq \pi/2 \\ 1, & x > \pi/2 \\ -1, & x < -\pi/2 \end{cases} \quad \Phi(x) = \tanh x = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$$

*See paper by R. Kelly, IEEE TAC, 1998:*

*Global positioning of robot manipulators via PD control plus a class of nonlinear integral actions, IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, 43 (7) (1998), pp. 934-938*

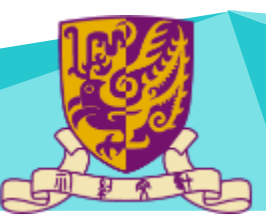


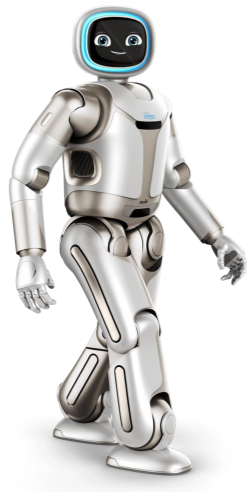


# Limits Discussion

## Limits of robot regulation controllers

- **response times** needed for reaching the desired steady state are **not** easily **predictable** in advance
  - depend heavily on robot dynamics, on PD/PID gains, on the required total displacement, and on the interested area of robot workspace
  - integral term (when present) needs some time to “unload” itself from the error history accumulated during transients
    - large initial errors are stored in the integral term
    - anti-windup schemes stop the integration when commands saturate
    - ... an intuitive explanation for the success of “saturated” PID law
- **control efforts in the few first instants** of motion typically exceed by far those required at steady state
  - especially for high positional gains
  - may lead to saturation (hard nonlinearity) of robot actuators





# Limits Discussion

## Regulation in industrial robots

- in industrial robots, the planner generates a **reference trajectory**  $q_r(t)$  even when the task requires **only** positioning/regulation of the robot
  - “smooth” enough, with a user-defined **transfer time**  $T$
  - reference trajectory interpolates initial and final desired position

$$q_r(0) = q(0) \quad q_r(t \geq T) = q_d$$

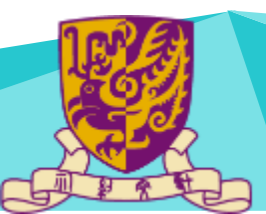
- $q_r(t)$  is used within a control law of the form

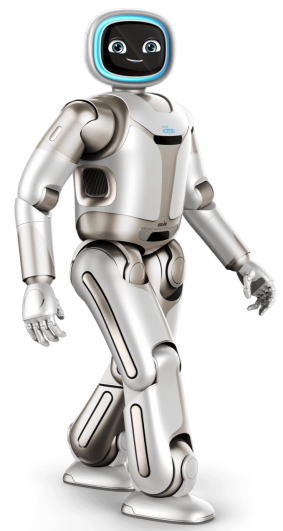
$$u = K_P(q_r(t) - q) + K_D(\dot{q}_r(t) - \dot{q}) + g(q)$$

e.g., PD with  
gravity cancellation

often neglected

- in this way, the position error is **initially zero**
- robot motion stays only “in the vicinity” of the reference trajectory until  $t = T$ , typically with small position errors (gains can be **larger!**)
- **final** regulation is only a “local” problem ( $e(T) = q_d - q(T)$  is small)

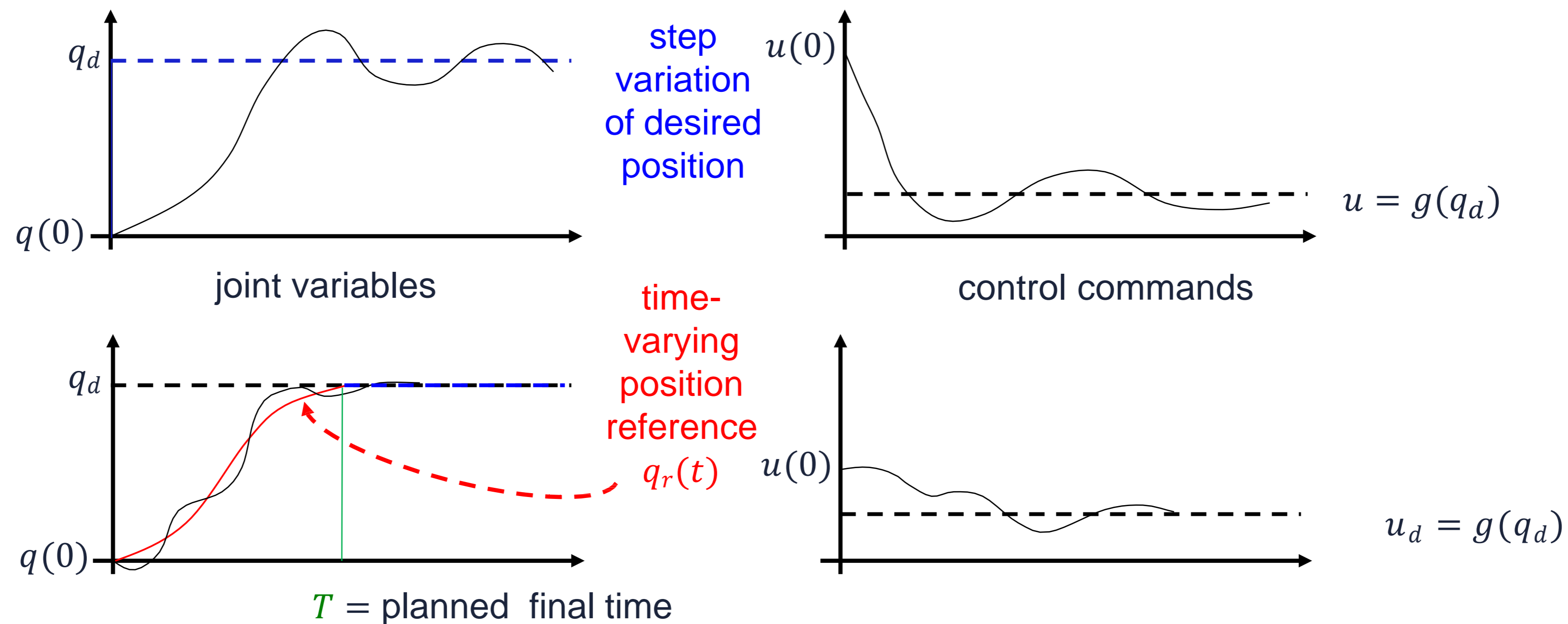


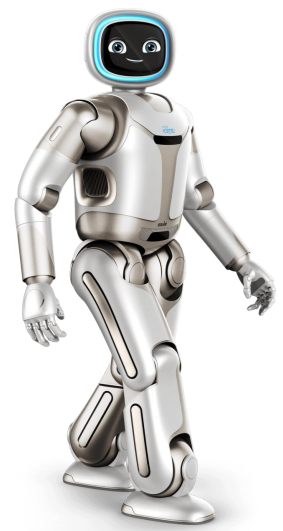


# Limits Discussion

## Qualitative comparison

- **no saturation** of commands: in principle, much larger gains can be used
- better **prediction of settling times**: local exponential convergence (designed on the linear approximation of the robot dynamics around  $(q_d, 0)$ )
- “fine tuning” of control gains is easier, but still a **tedious** and **delicate task**





# Robot Dynamic Model

Appendix: Robot dynamic model  
(in vector formats)

1.  $M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q, \dot{q}) + g(q) = u$

$$c_k(q, \dot{q}) = \dot{q}^T C_k(q) \dot{q}$$

$k$  -  $th$  column  
of matrix  $M(q)$

$$C_k(q) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial M_k}{\partial q} + \left( \frac{\partial M_k}{\partial q} \right)^T - \frac{\partial M}{\partial q_k} \right)$$

$k$  -  $th$  component  
of vector  $c$

symmetric  
matrix!

2.  $M(q)\ddot{q} + S(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = u$

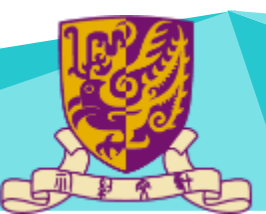
**NOTE:** the model  
is in the form

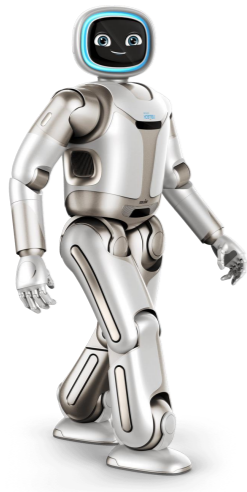
$\Phi(q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q}) = u$   
as expected

NOT a  
symmetric matrix  
in general

$$s_{kj}(q, \dot{q}) = \sum_i c_{kij}(q) \dot{q}_i$$

factorization of  $c$   
by  $S$  is **not unique!**





# Structural Property

Appendix: A structural property

Matrix  $\dot{M} - 2S$  is skew-symmetric  
(when using Christoffel symbols to define matrix  $S$ )

**Proof**

$$\dot{m}_{kj} = \sum_i \frac{\partial m_{kj}}{\partial q_i} \dot{q}_i \quad 2s_{kj} = \sum_i 2 c_{kij} \dot{q}_i = \sum_i \left( \frac{\partial m_{kj}}{\partial q_i} + \frac{\partial m_{ki}}{\partial q_j} - \frac{\partial m_{ij}}{\partial q_k} \right) \dot{q}_i$$

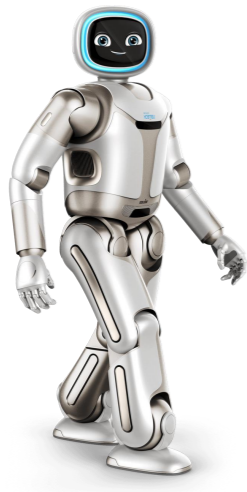
$$\dot{m}_{kj} - 2s_{kj} = \sum_i \left( \frac{\partial m_{ij}}{\partial q_k} - \frac{\partial m_{ki}}{\partial q_j} \right) \dot{q}_i = n_{kj}$$

$$n_{jk} = \dot{m}_{jk} - 2s_{jk} = \sum_i \left( \frac{\partial m_{ik}}{\partial q_j} - \frac{\partial m_{ji}}{\partial q_k} \right) \dot{q}_i = -n_{kj}$$

using the  
symmetry of  $M$



$$x^T (\dot{M} - 2S)x = 0, \forall x$$



# Structural Property

## Appendix: Energy conservation

- total robot energy

$$E = T + U = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q} + U(q)$$

- its evolution over time (using the dynamic model)

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{E} &= \dot{q}^T M(q) \ddot{q} + \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T \dot{M}(q) \dot{q} + \frac{\partial U}{\partial q} \dot{q} \\ &= \dot{q}^T (u - S(q, \dot{q}) \dot{q} - g(q)) + \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T \dot{M}(q) \dot{q} + \dot{q}^T g(q) \\ &= \dot{q}^T u + \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T (\dot{M}(q) - 2S(q, \dot{q})) \dot{q} \end{aligned}$$

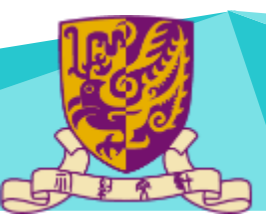
here, any  
factorization of  
vector  $c$  by a  
matrix  $S$  can be  
used

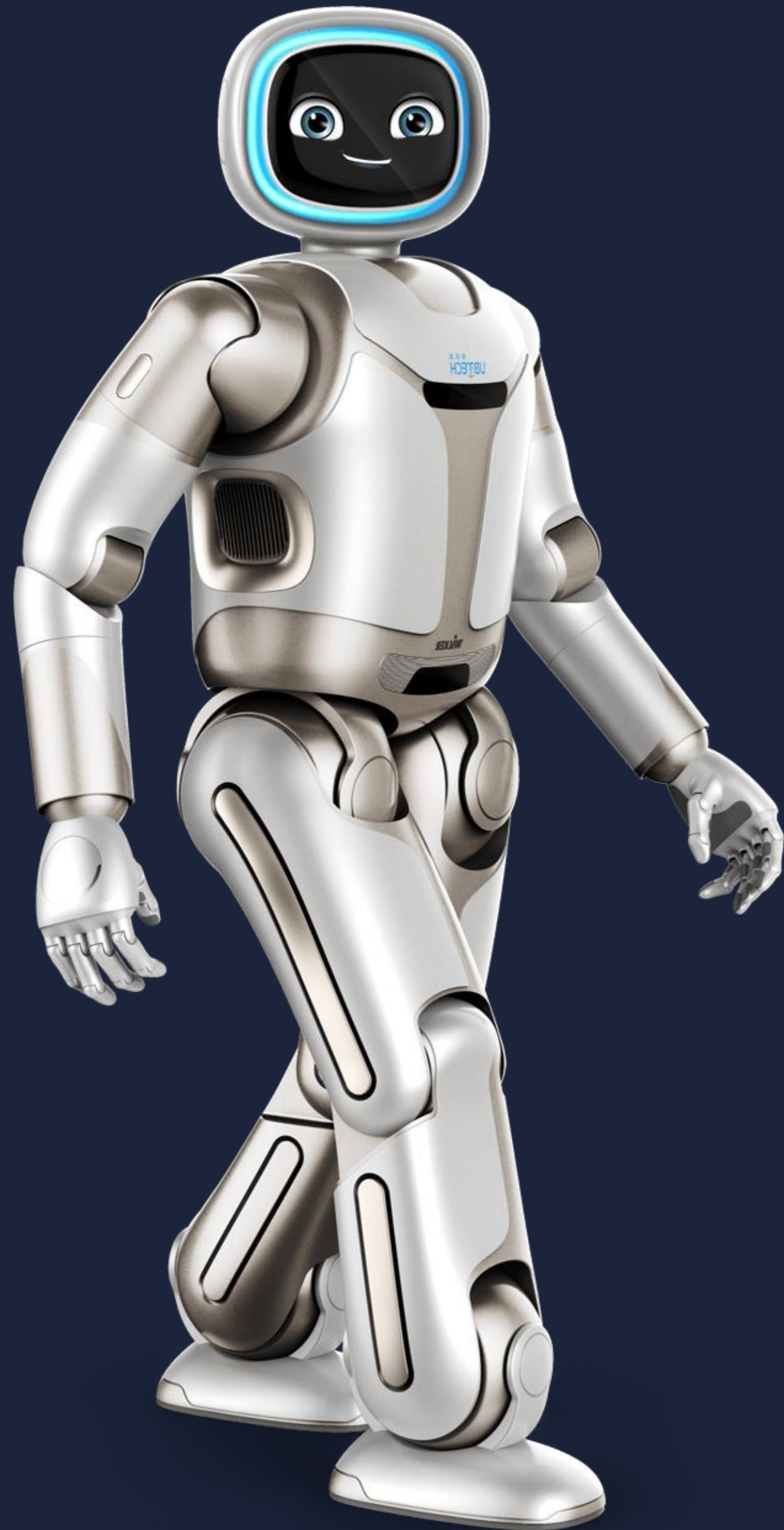
- if  $u \equiv 0$ , **total energy is constant** (no dissipation or increase)

$$\dot{E} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{\dot{q}^T (\dot{M}(q) - 2S(q, \dot{q})) \dot{q} = 0, \forall q, \dot{q}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{E} = \dot{q}^T u$$

weaker property than skew-symmetry, as the external vector in the quadratic form is the same velocity  $\dot{q}$  that appears also inside the two internal matrices  $\dot{M}$  also  $S$

in general, the variation of the total energy is equal to the work of non-conservative forces





Q&A