

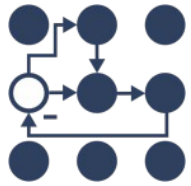
ROS control, an overview

ROSCon 2014

September 12, 2014

Adolfo Rodríguez Tsouroukdissian



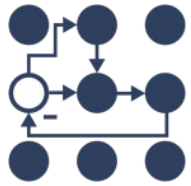


A show of hands

have you ever...

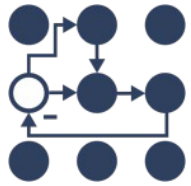
- **used** a controller / robot driver **not** written by you?
- **implemented** a controller / robot driver **yourself**?
 - subject to **realtime** constraints?





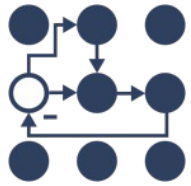
ROS control – an overview

- Big picture and goals
- ROS control & friends
 - Setting up a robot
 - Controllers
 - The control loop
- Demo
- Robots using ROS control

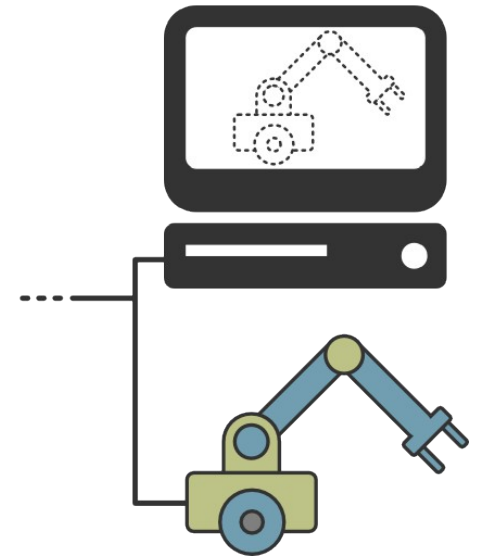
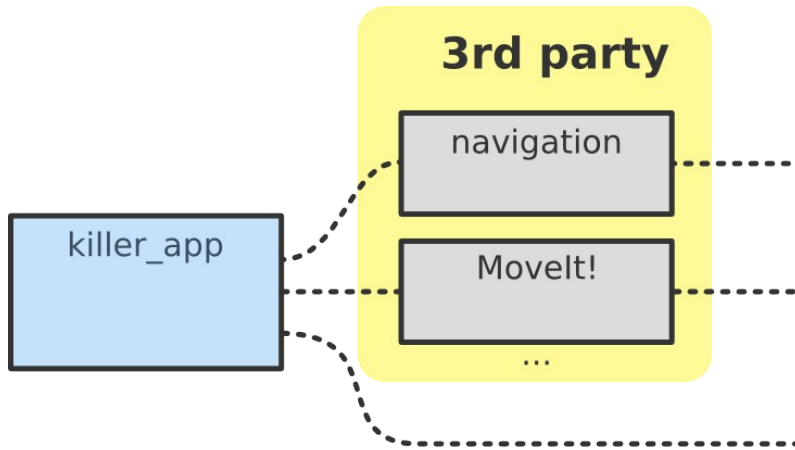


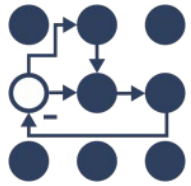
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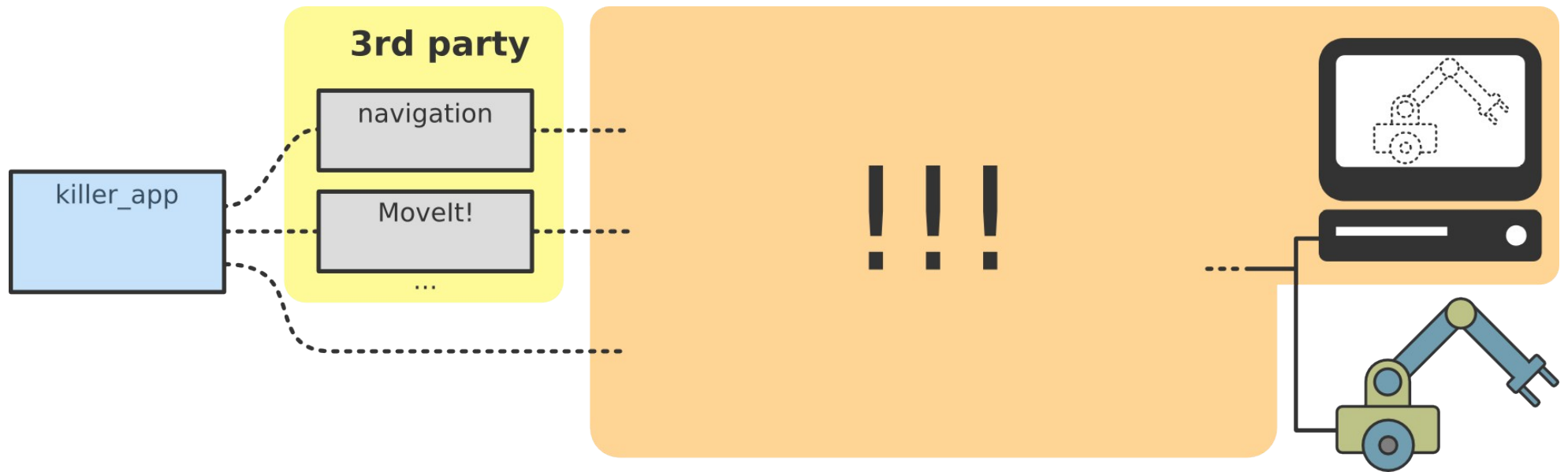


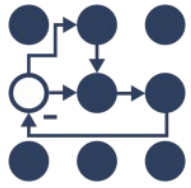
ROS control – the big picture



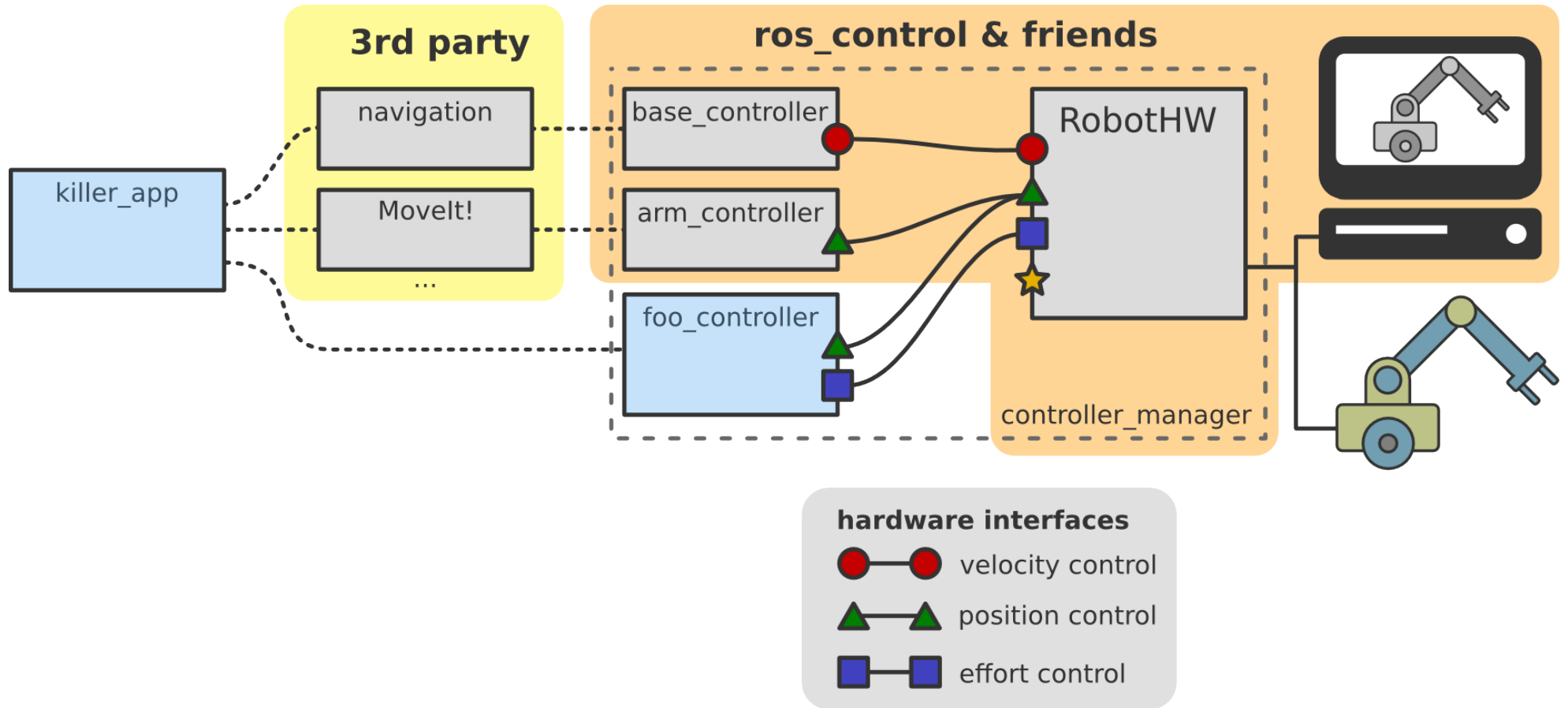


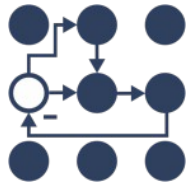
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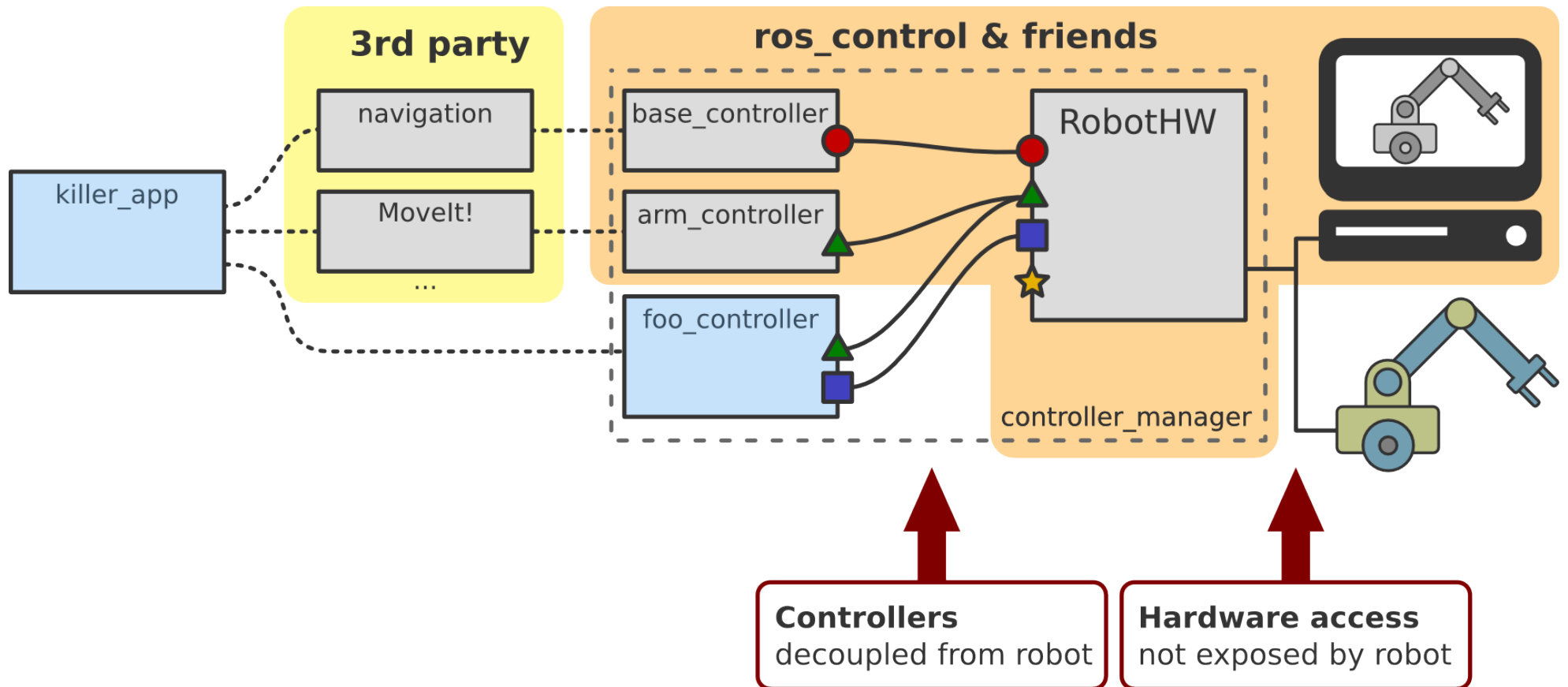


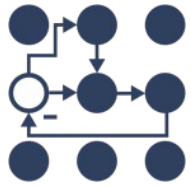
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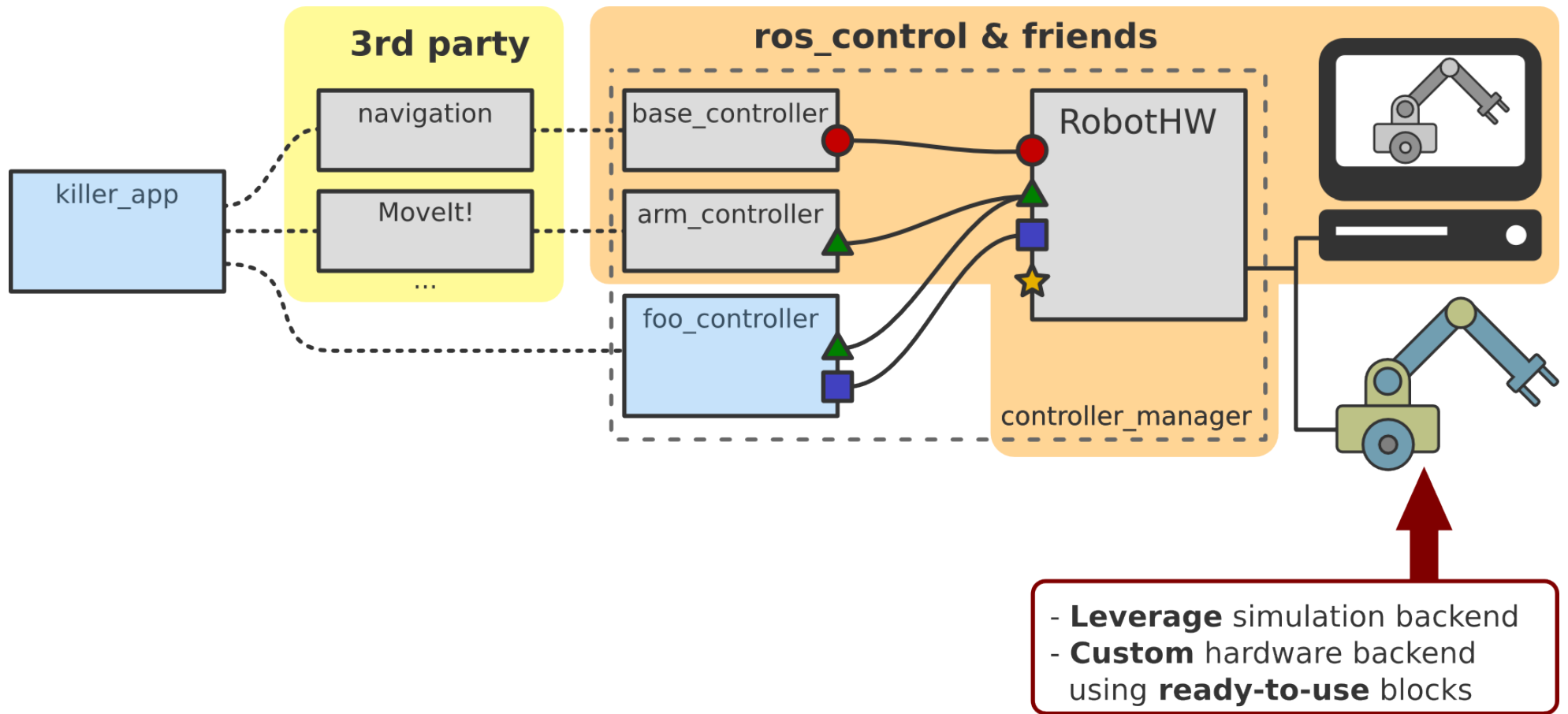


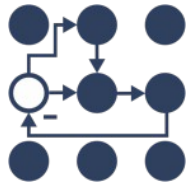
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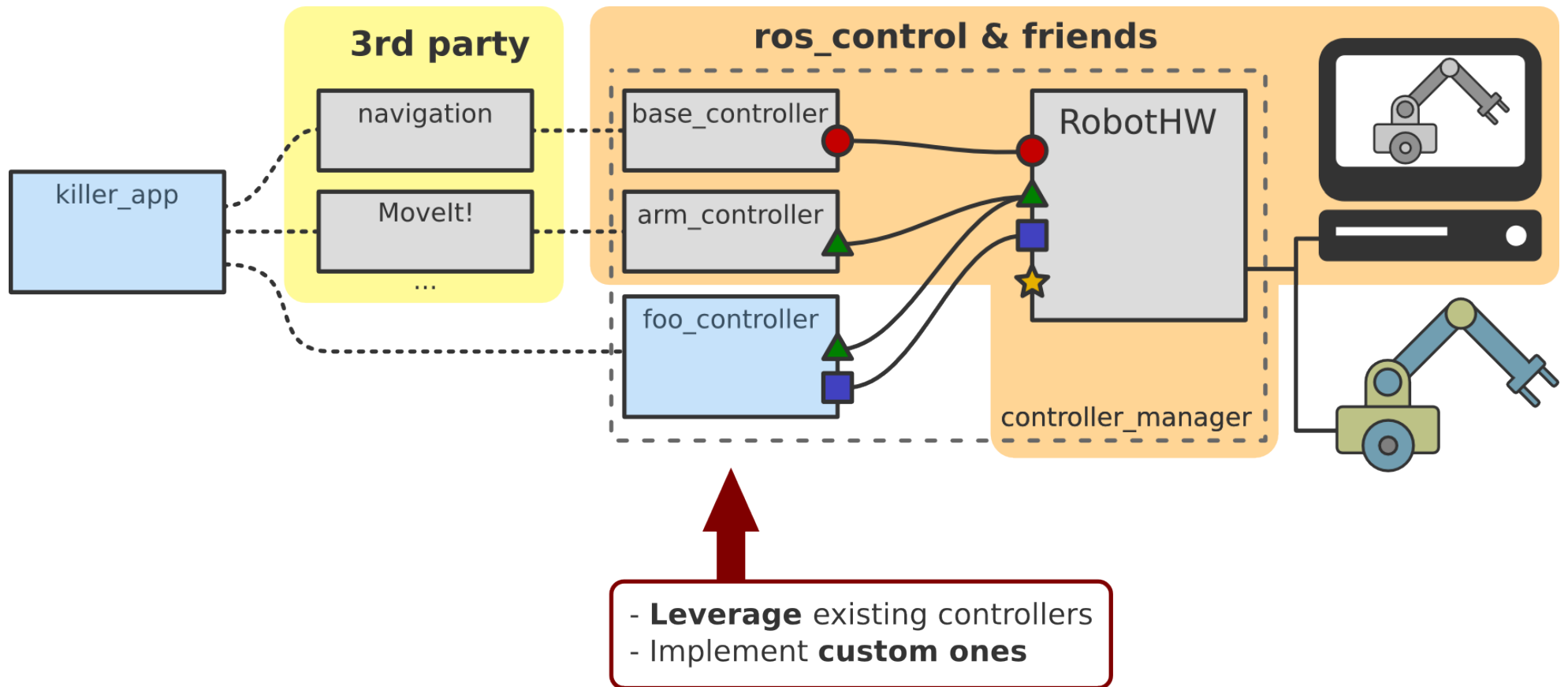


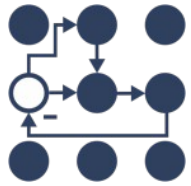
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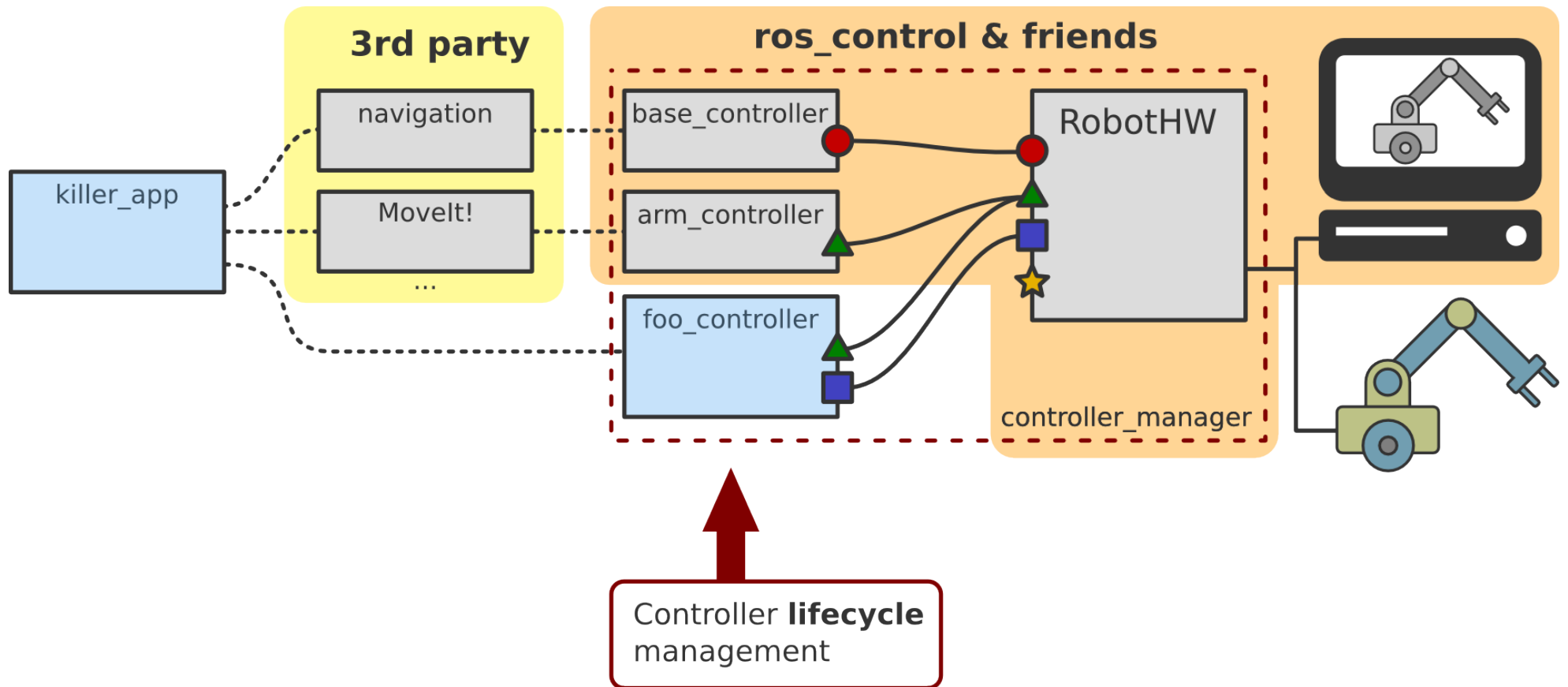


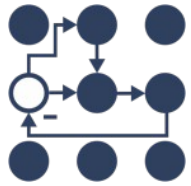
ROS control – the big picture



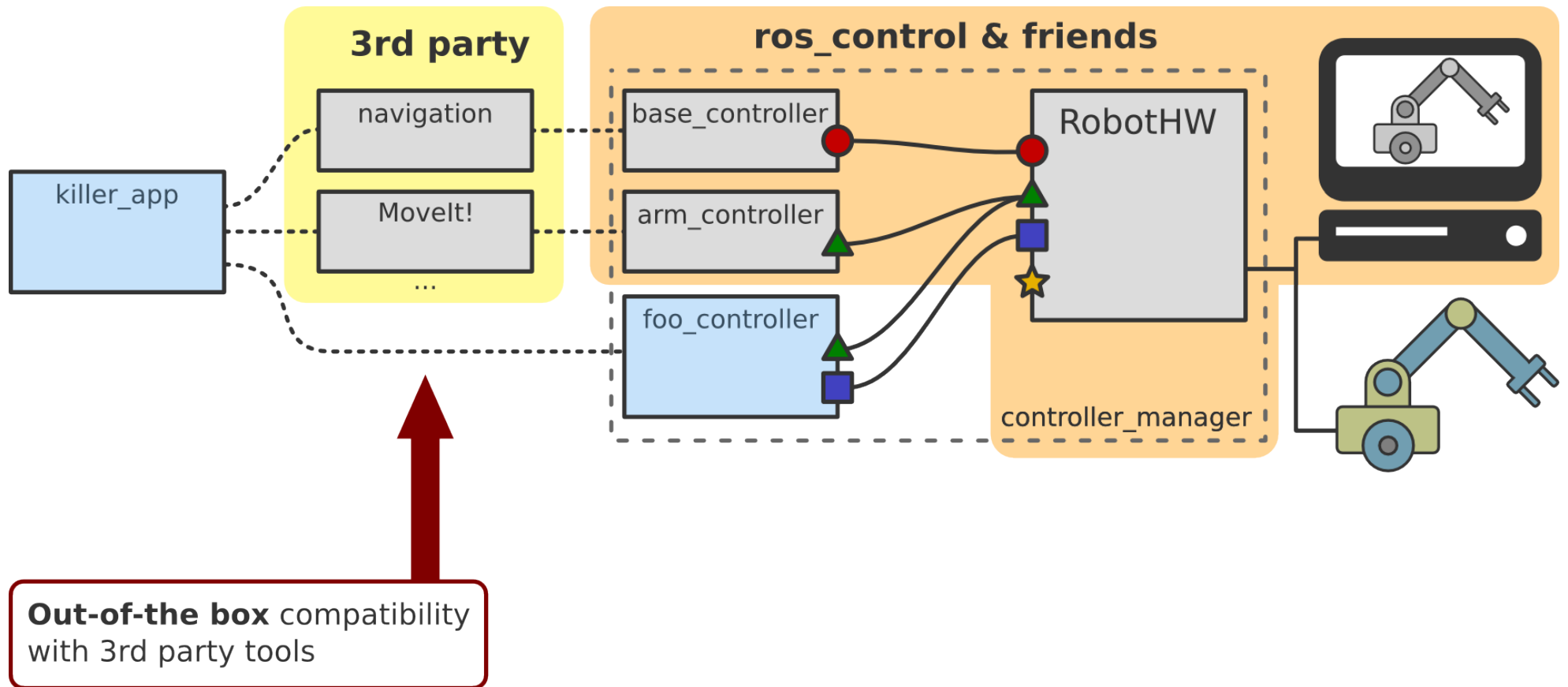


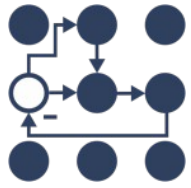
ROS control – the big picture



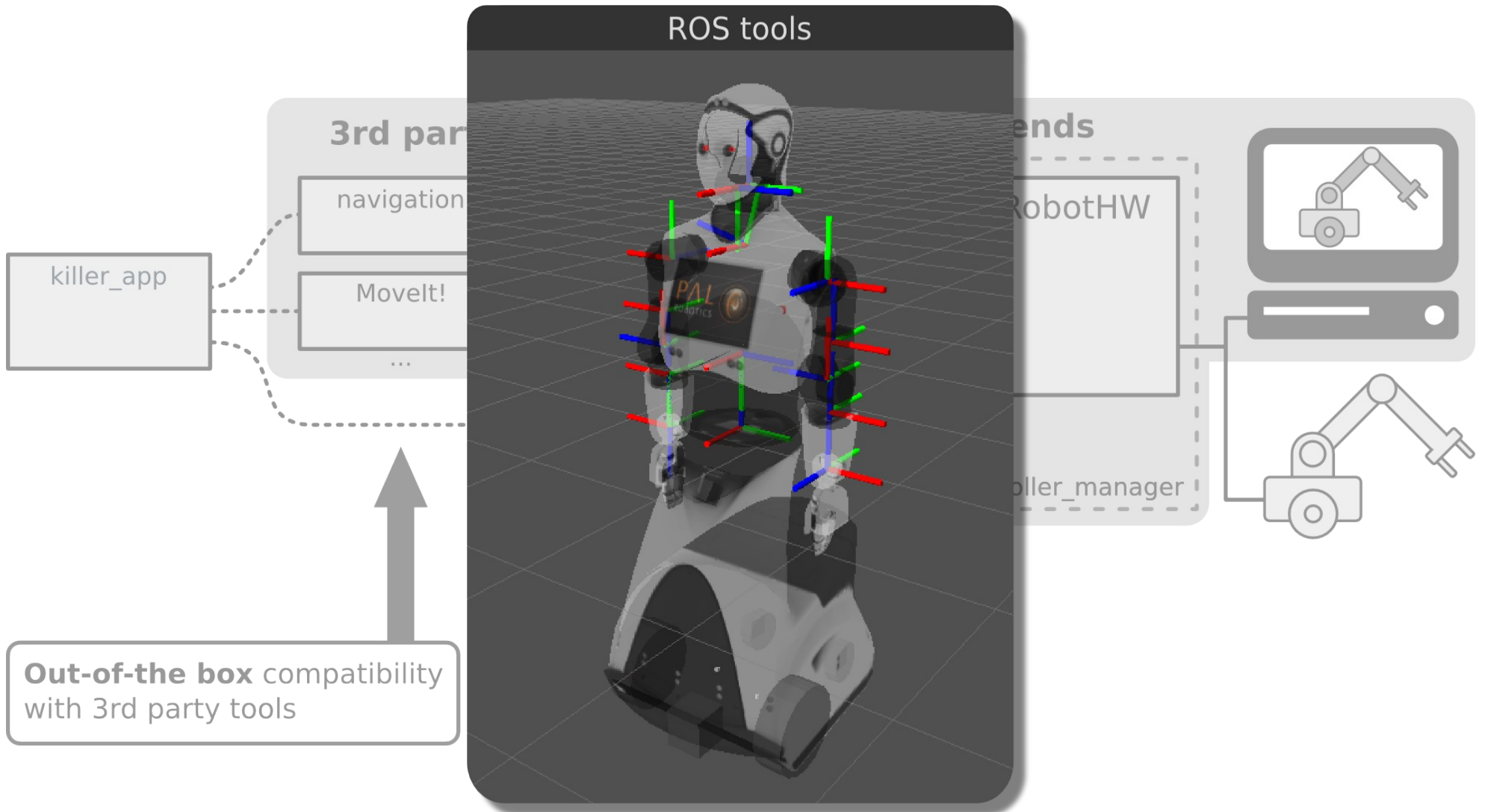


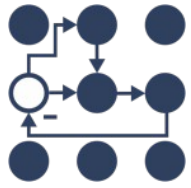
ROS control – the big picture





ROS control – the big picture





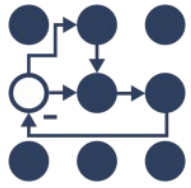
ROS control – the big picture

Navigation

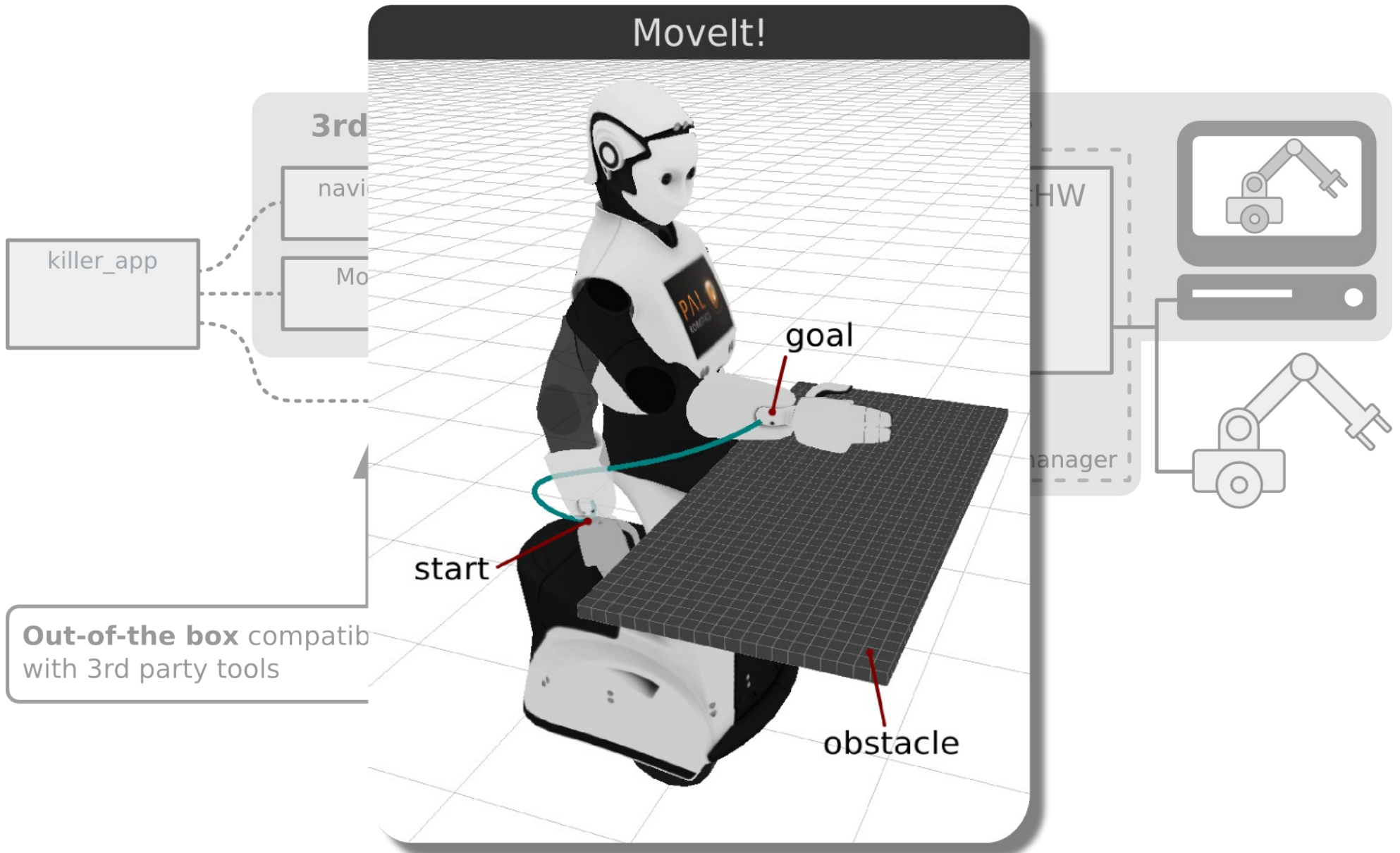
killer_app

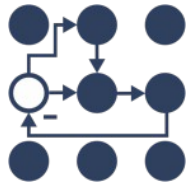
Out-of-the box with 3rd party t

The image is a composite illustrating ROS control. The top half shows a 3D navigation environment with a robot and a path. The bottom half shows a multi-robot system. Annotations include 'killer_app', 'Out-of-the box with 3rd party t', and a control panel with a robot icon.

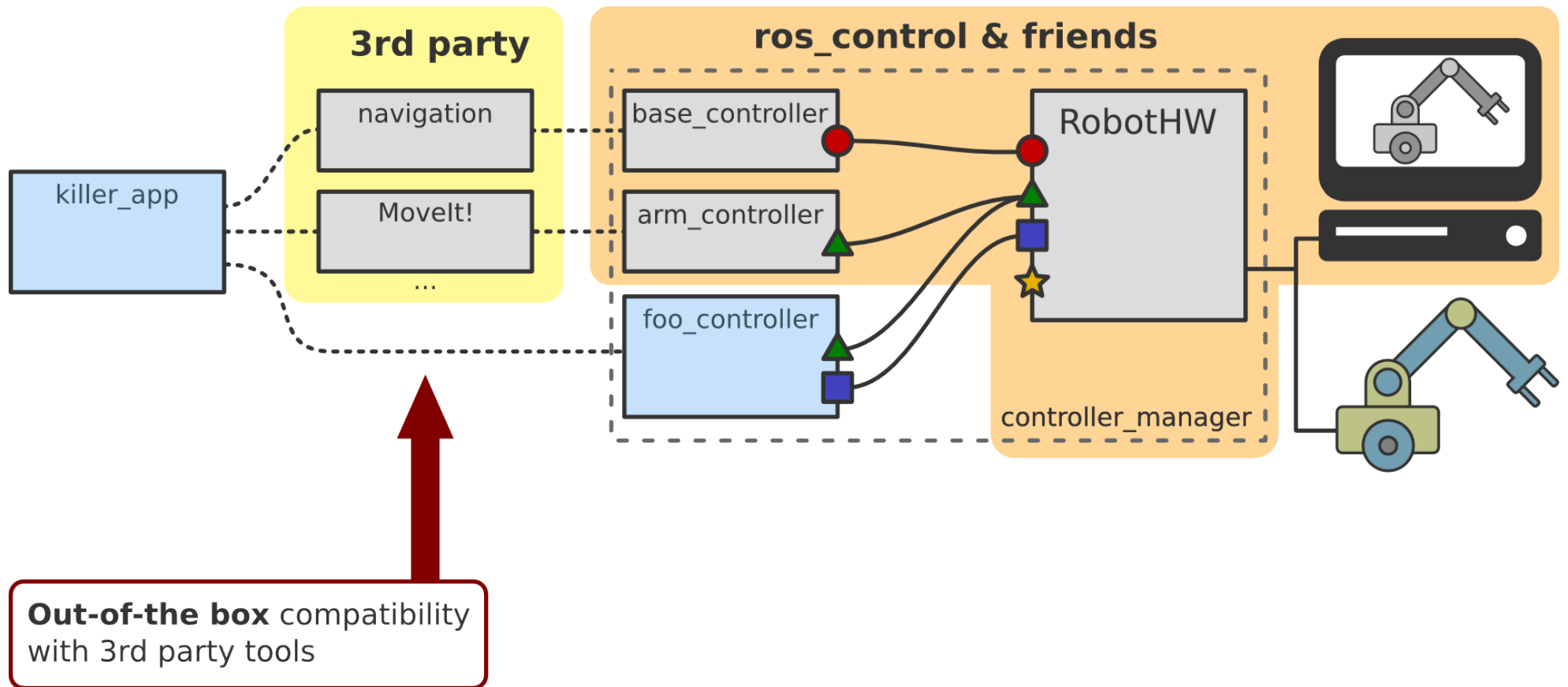


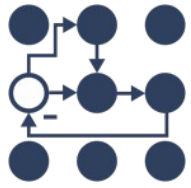
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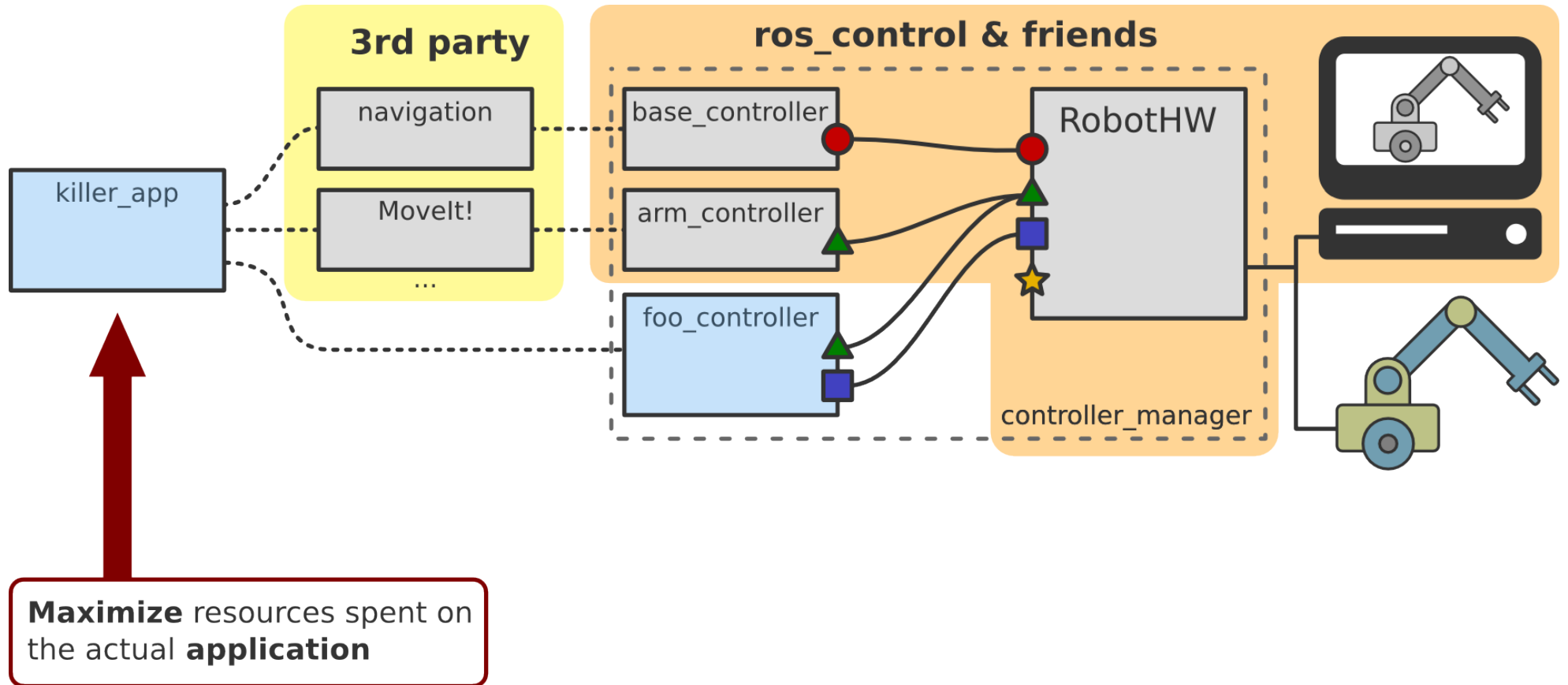


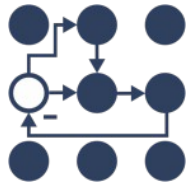
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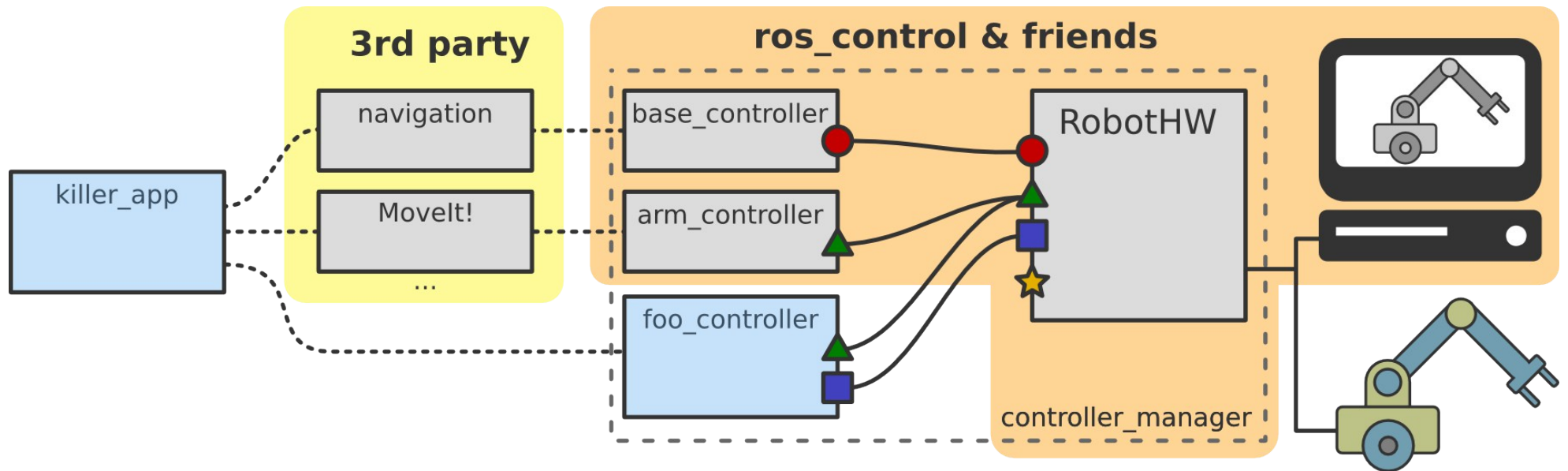


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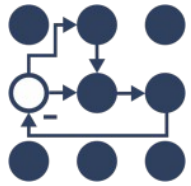




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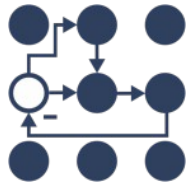


real-time ready



ROS control – goals

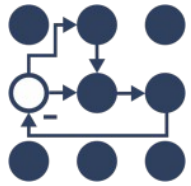
- Lower **entry barrier** for exposing HW to ROS
- Promote **reuse** of control code
- Provide **ready-to-use** tools
- **Real-time ready** implementation



History

- **pr2_controller_manager** (2009)
 - developed mainly by **Willow Garage** (WG)
 - **PR2-specific**

- **ros_control** (late 2012)
 - started by **hiDOF**, in collaboration with **WG**
 - continued by **PAL Robotics** and **community**
 - **robot-agnostic** version of the `pr2_controller_manager`



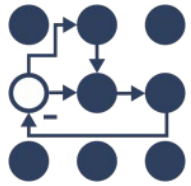
Related work

→ Component-based frameworks

- Orocos RTT
 - ROCK
 - Conman (exposes controller_manager ROS API)
- OpenRTM
- YARP (real-time WIP)

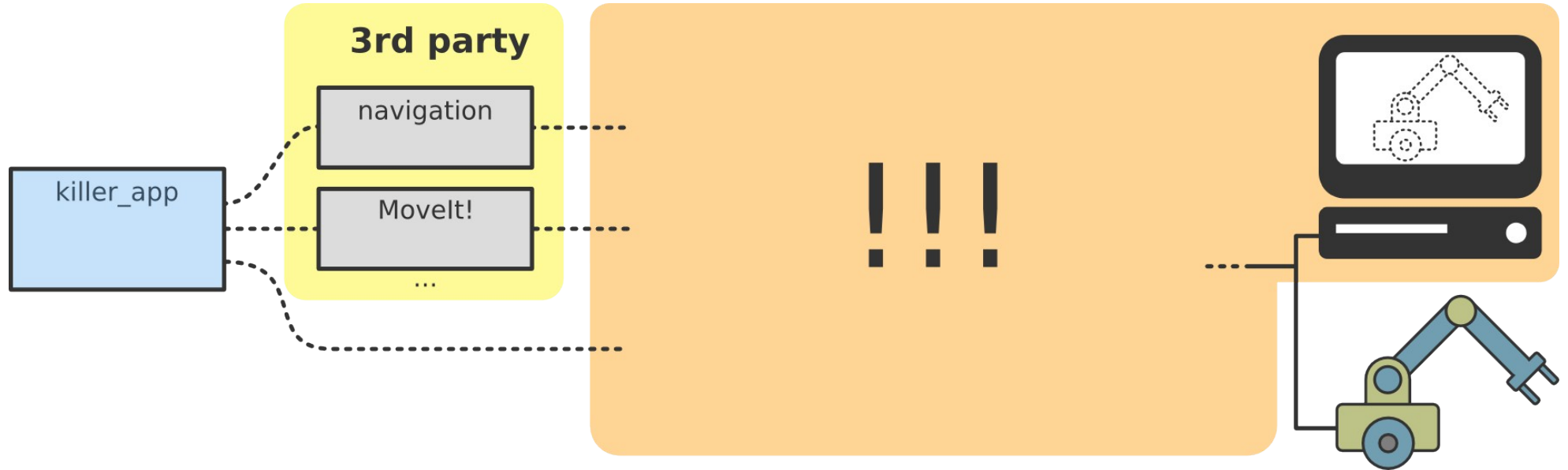
→ Computational graph models

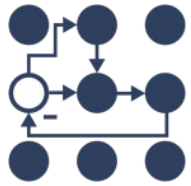
- Ecto
- Microblx
- many, many, non-robotics implementations



Related work

- No **end-to-end** solution for ROS users (AFAIK)
 - bring standard ROS interfaces **closer to hardware**
 - move integration effort to the **driver level**





code repositories



ros-controls

github.com/ros-controls



control_msgs

messages and actions useful for controlling robots



realtime_tools

tools that can be used from a hard realtime thread



control_toolbox

tools useful for writing controllers and robot abstractions



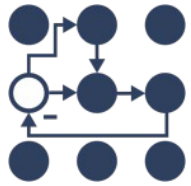
ros_control

generic and basic controller framework for ROS



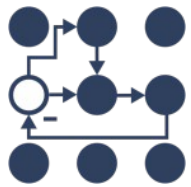
ros_controllers

generic robot controllers for ros_control

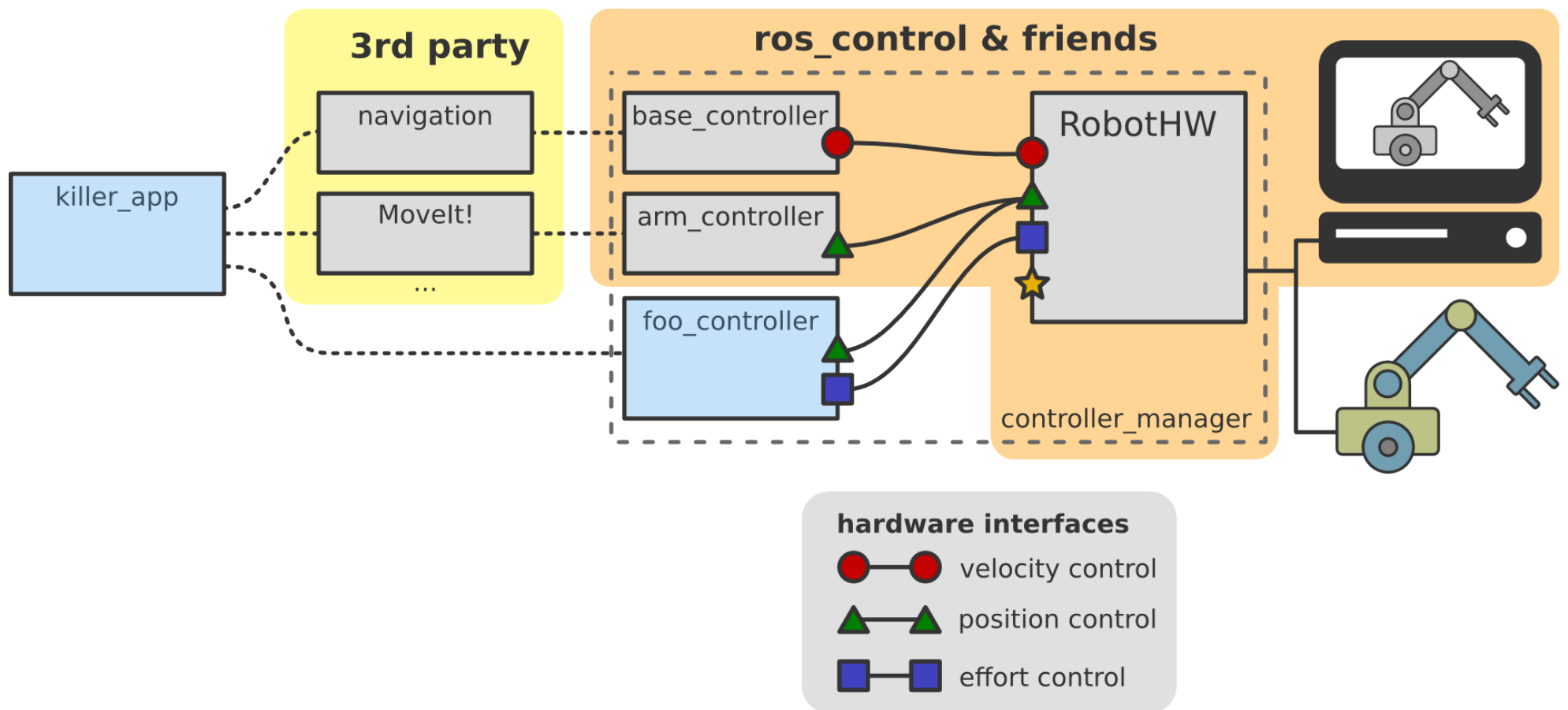


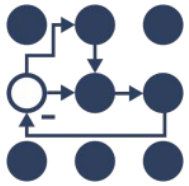
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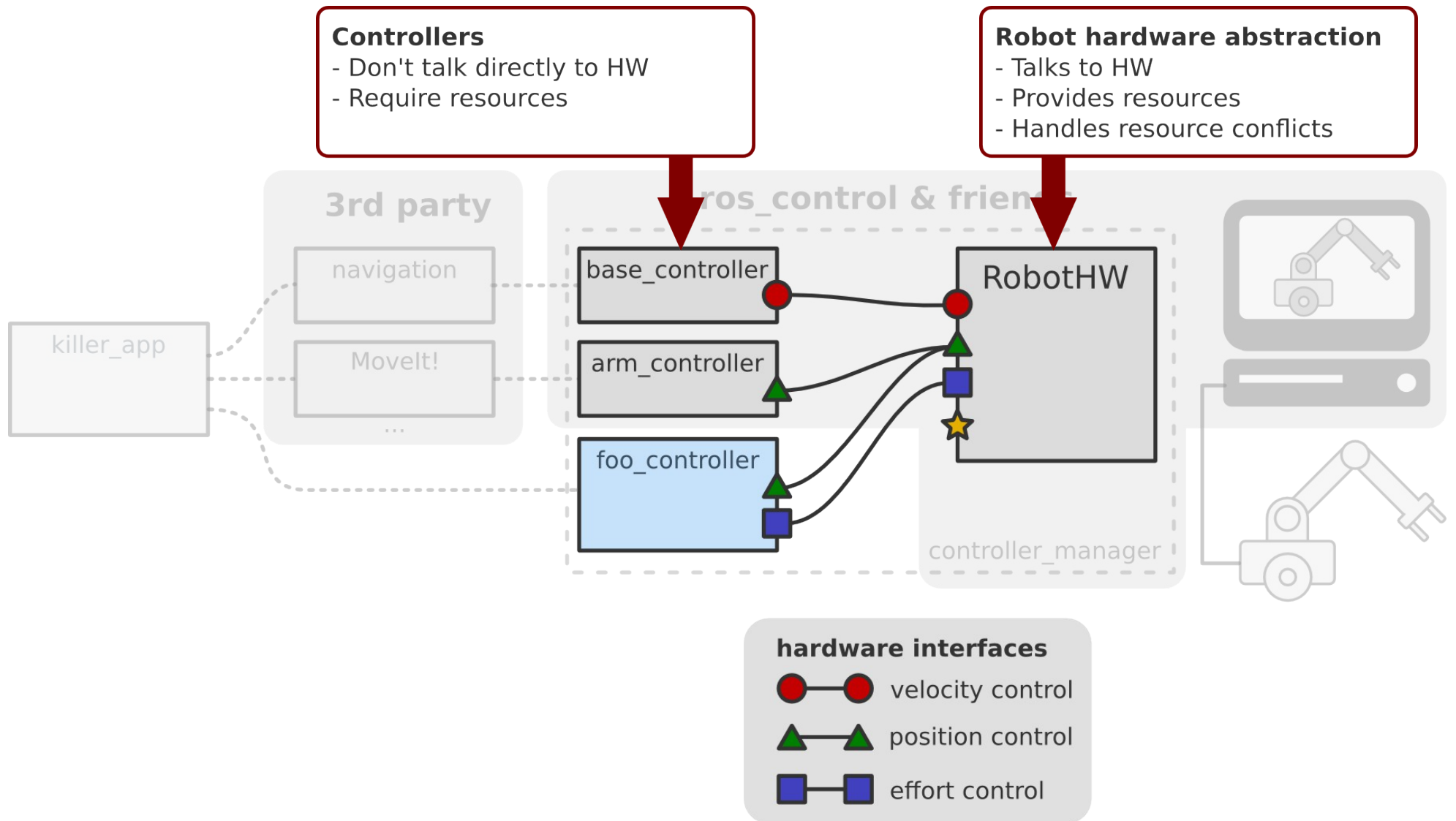


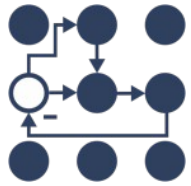
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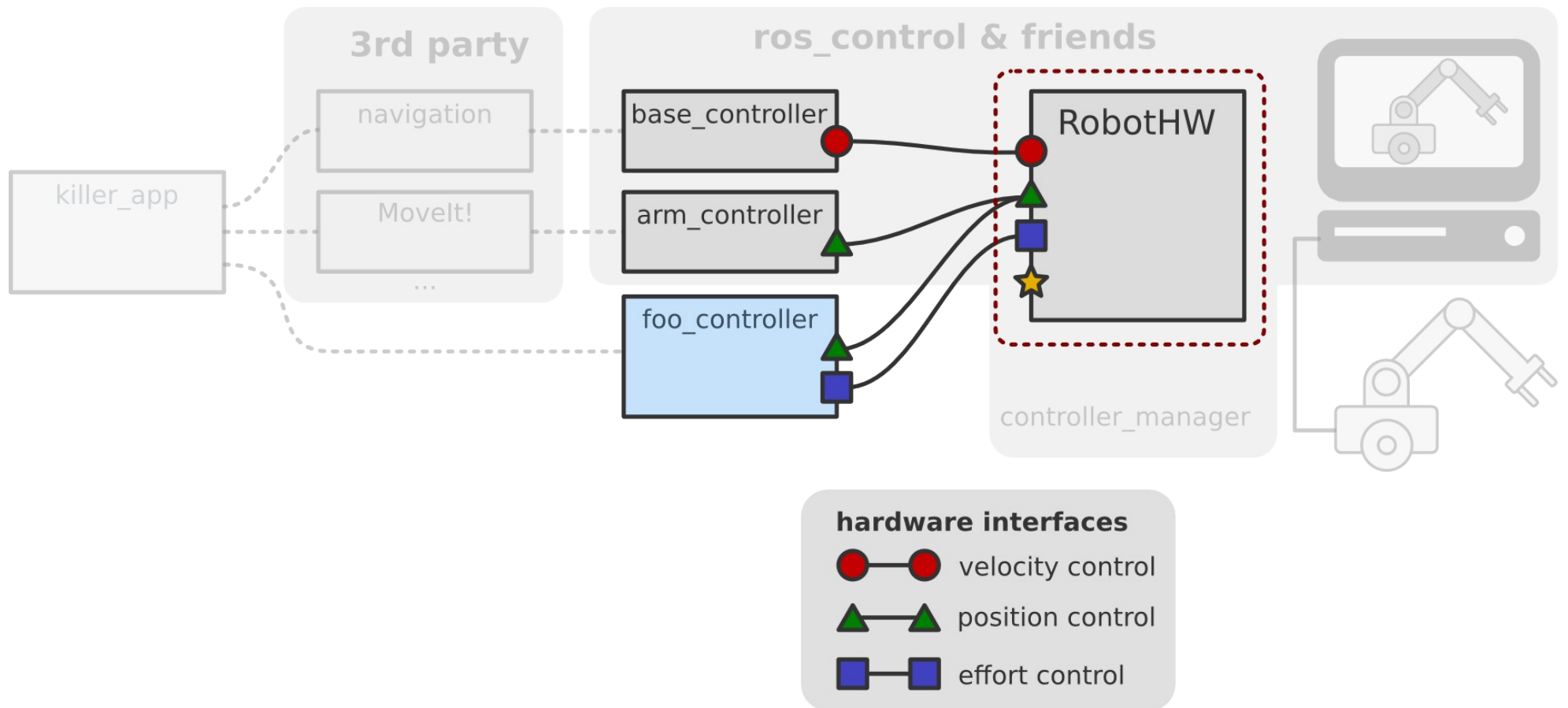


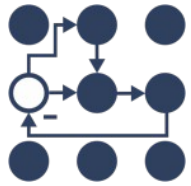
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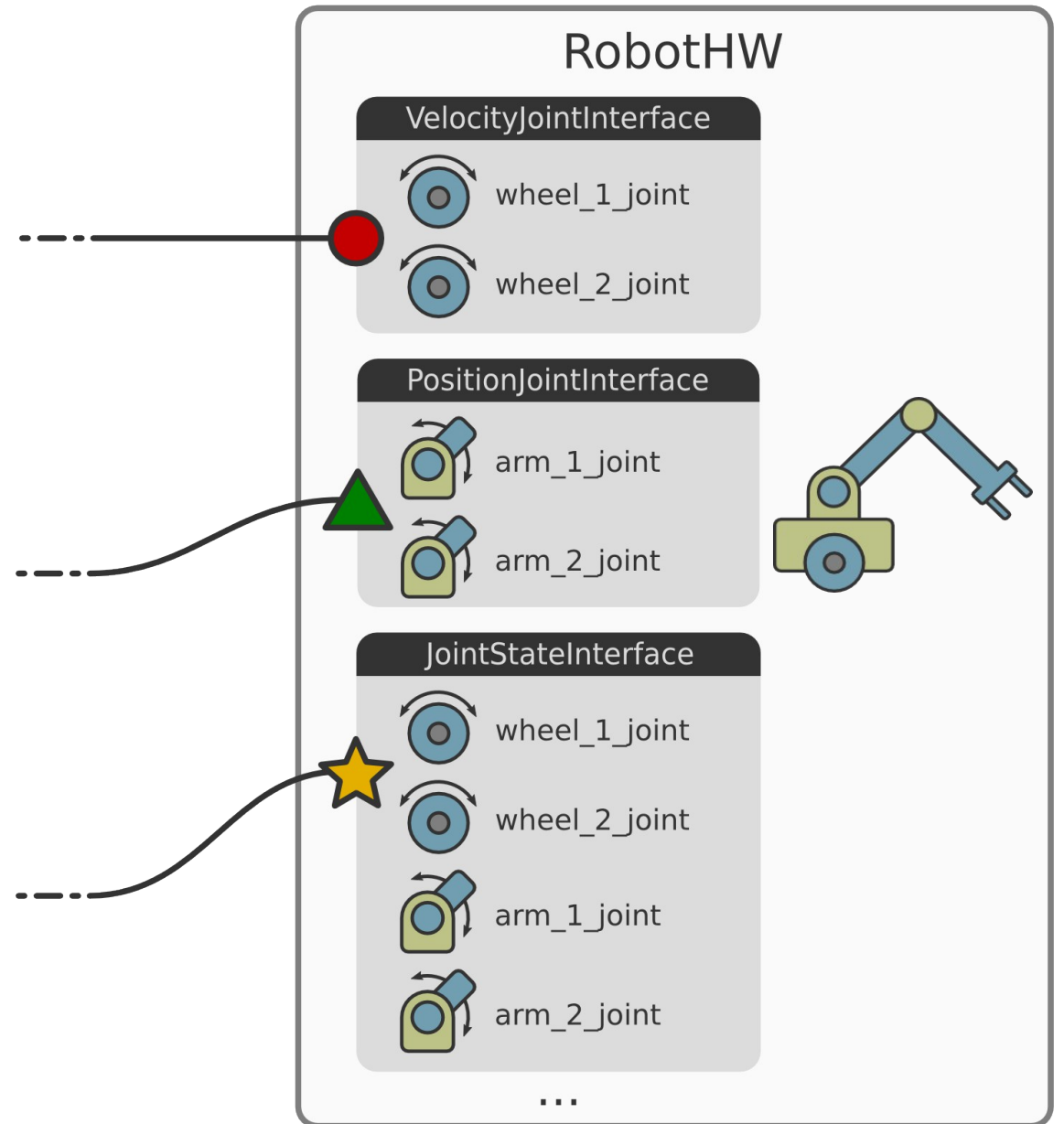


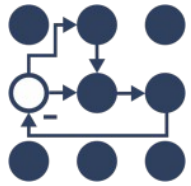
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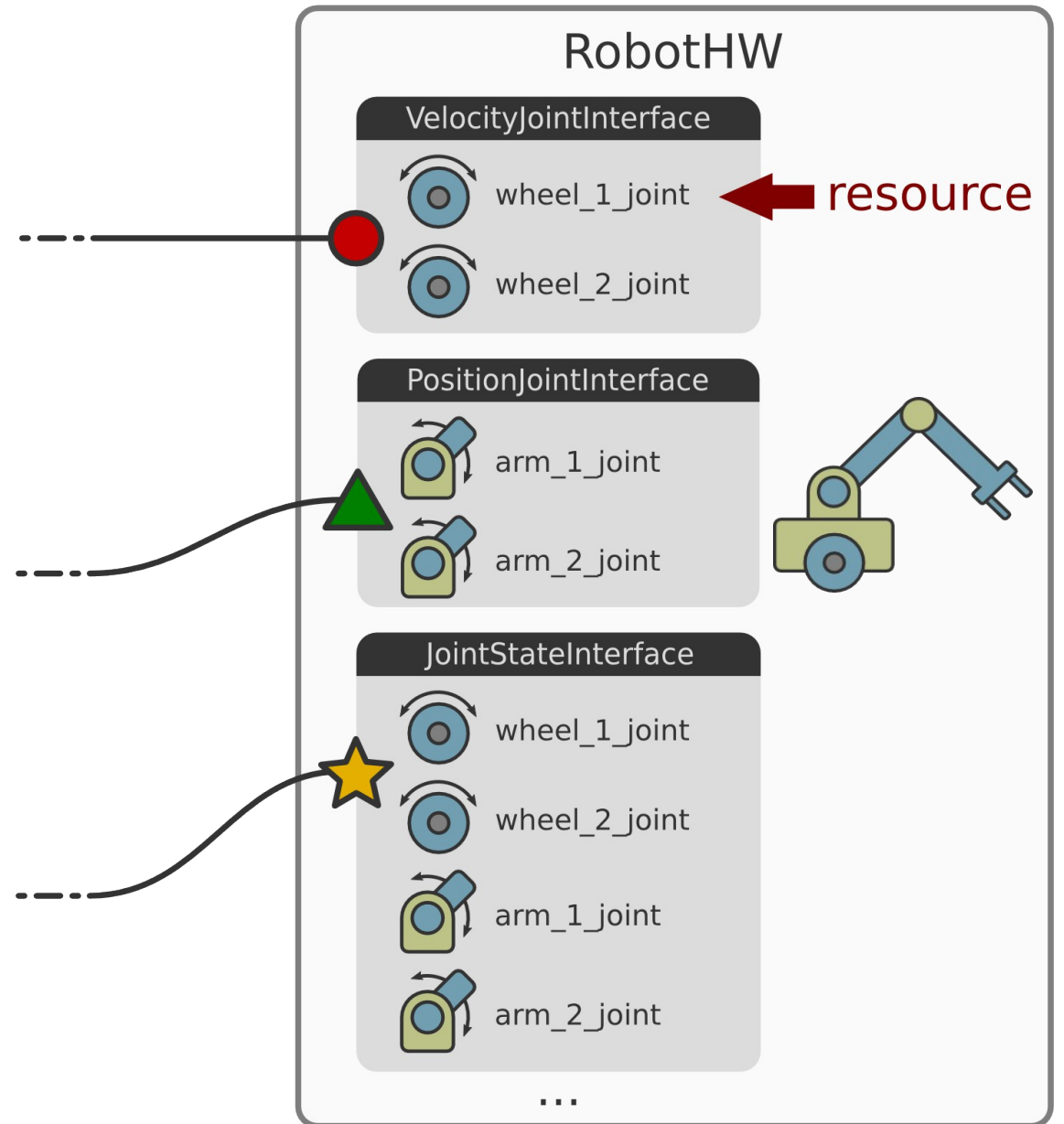


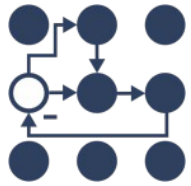
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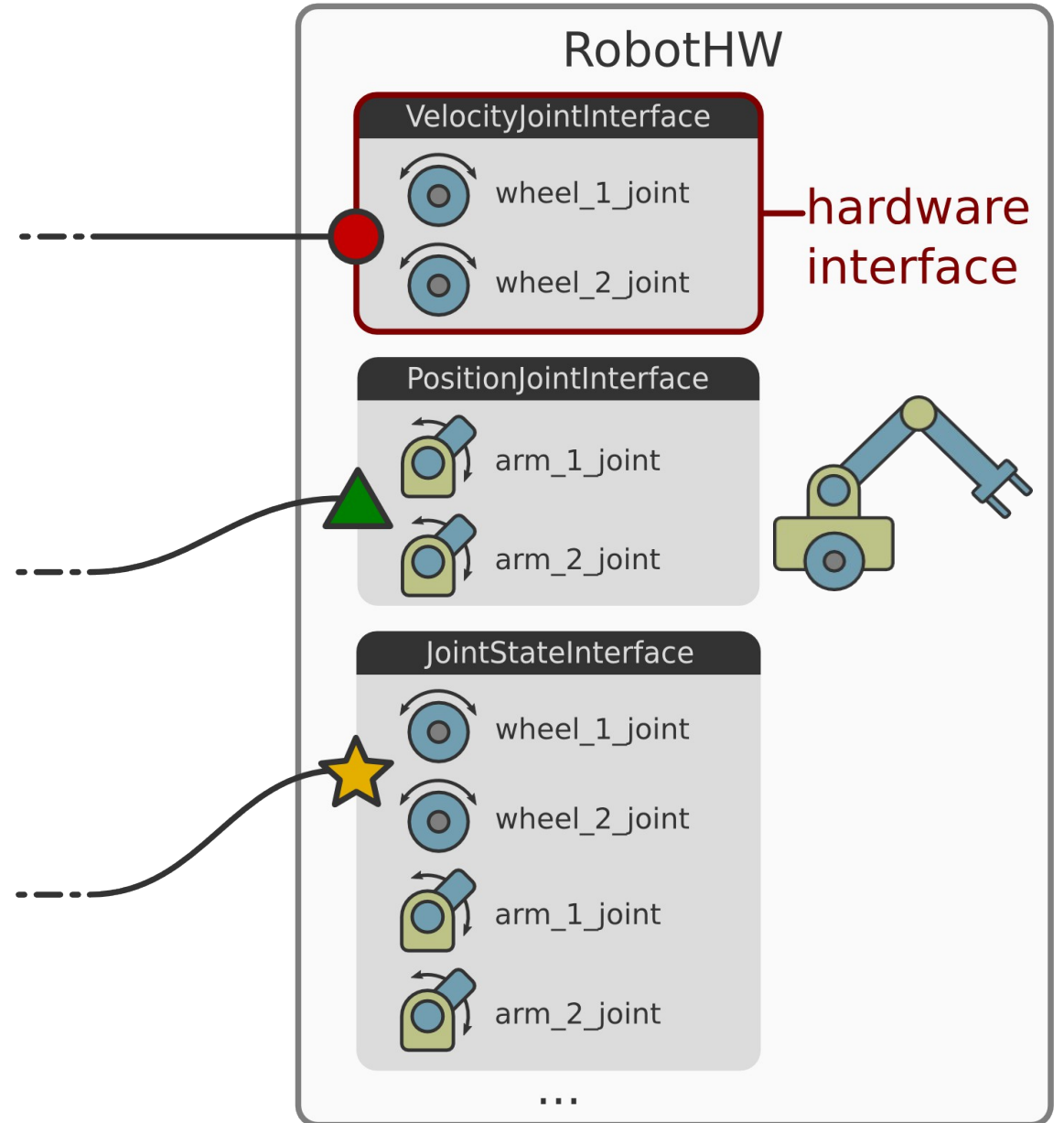


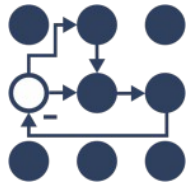
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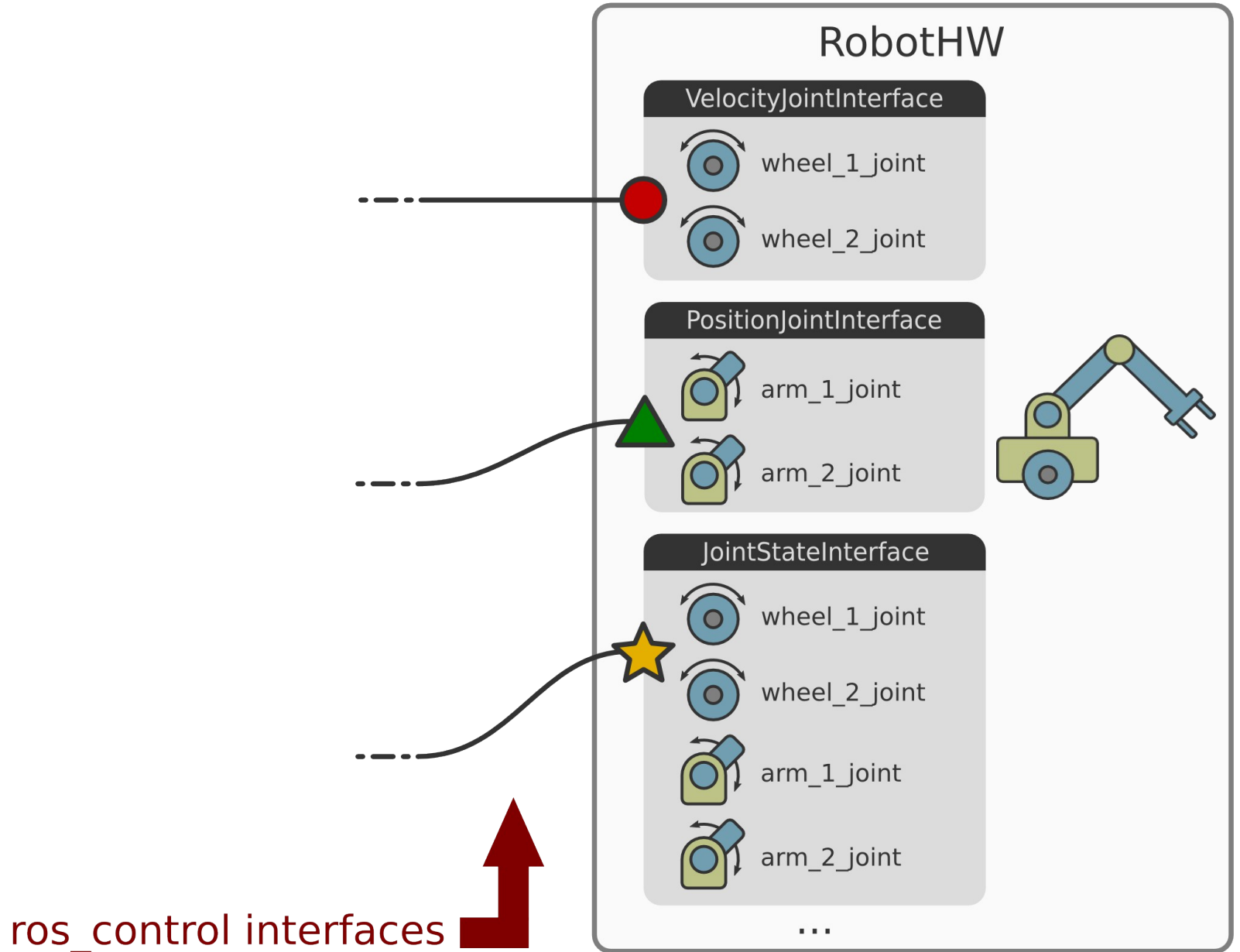


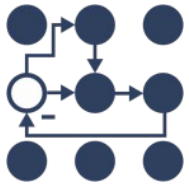
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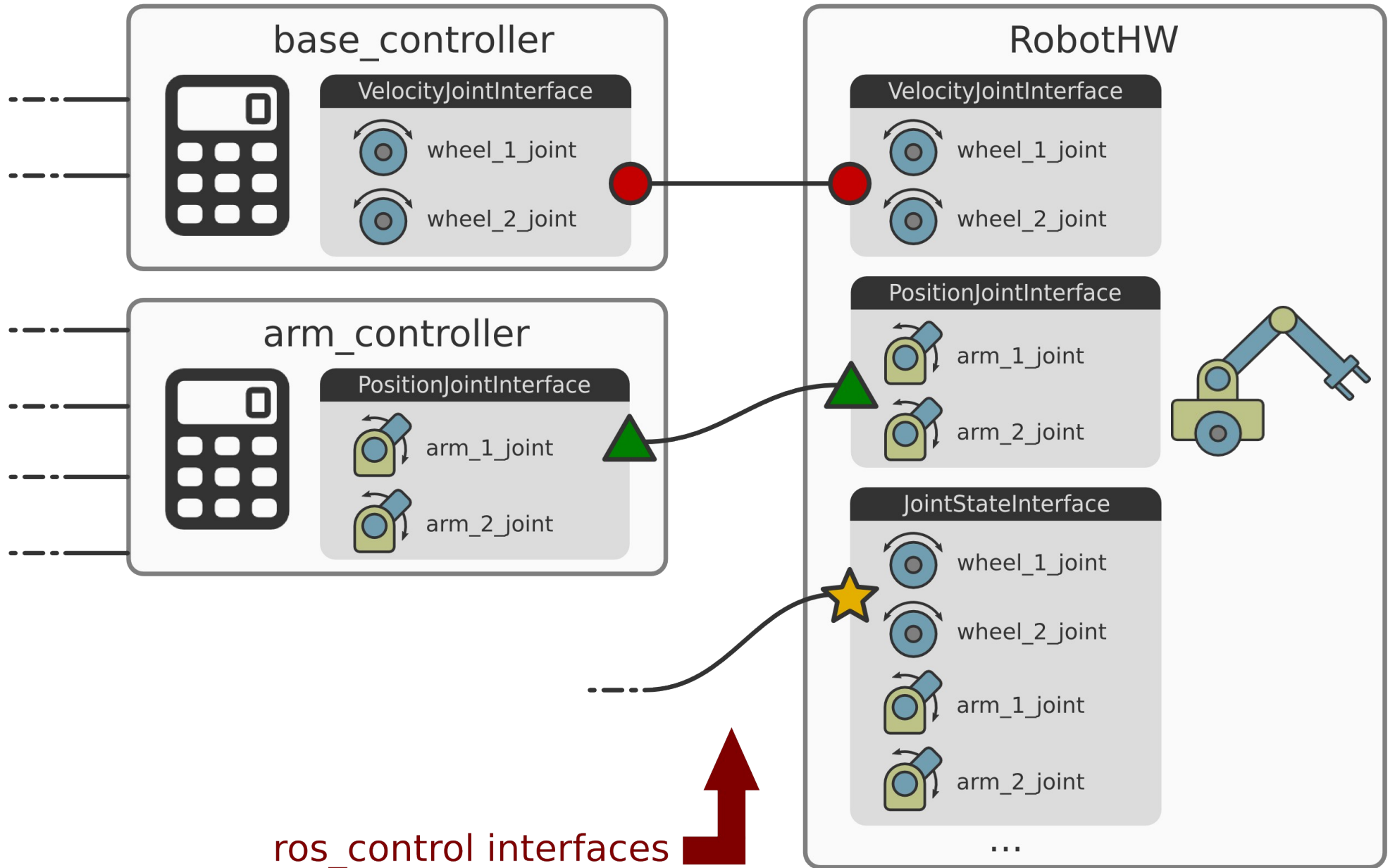


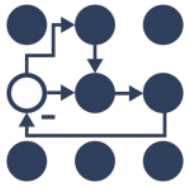
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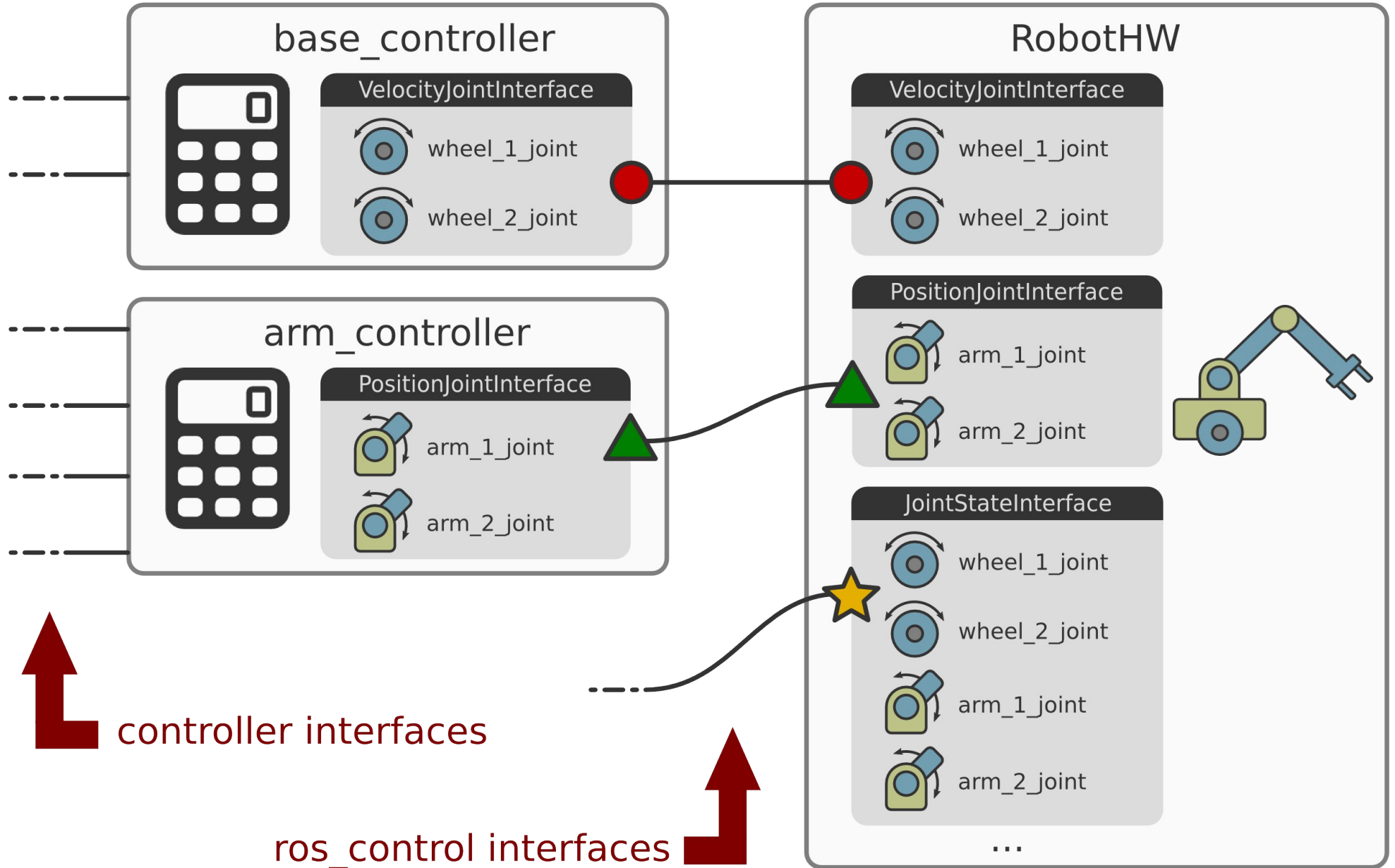


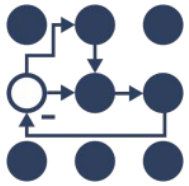
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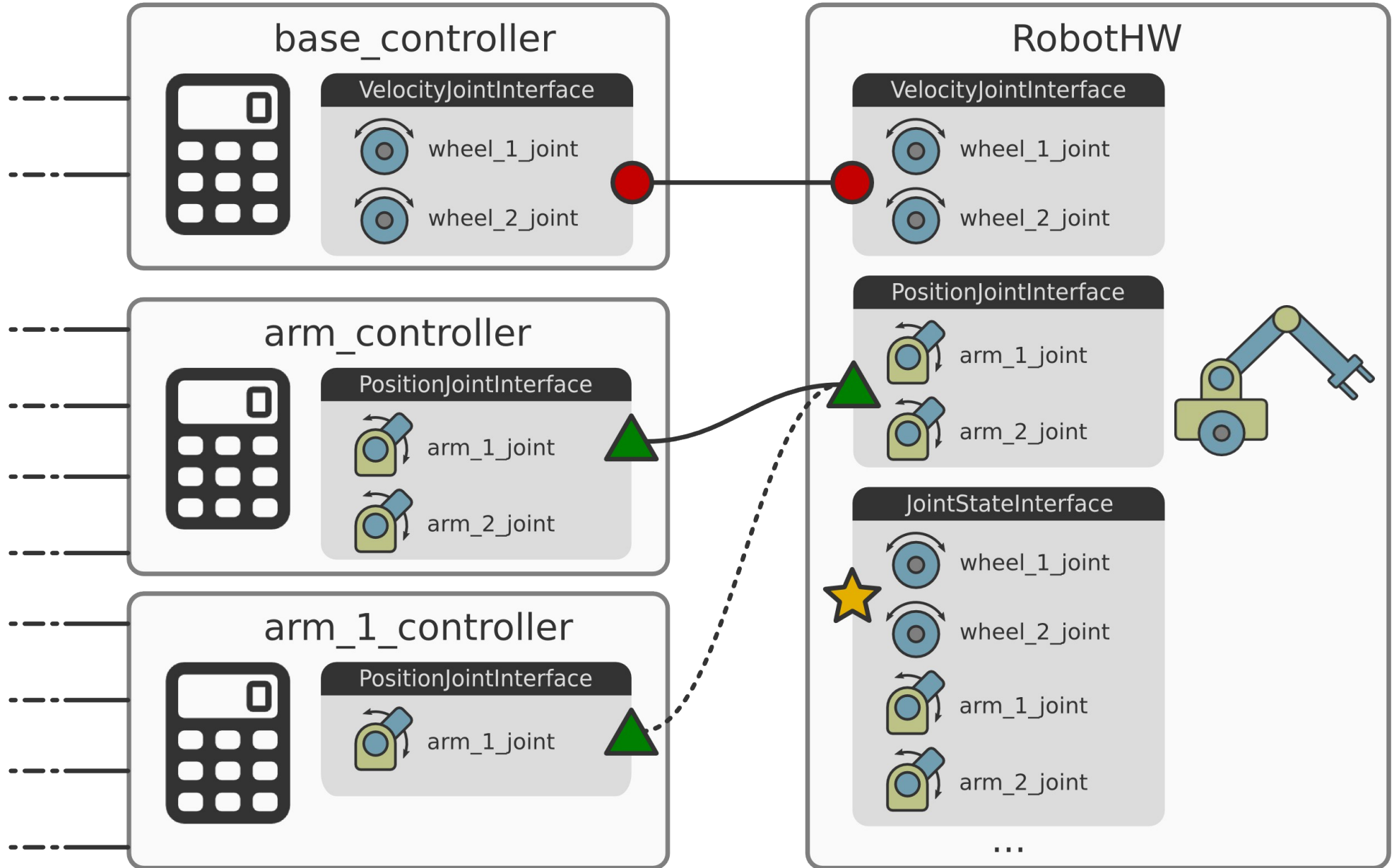


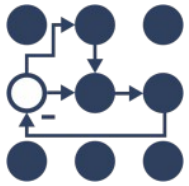
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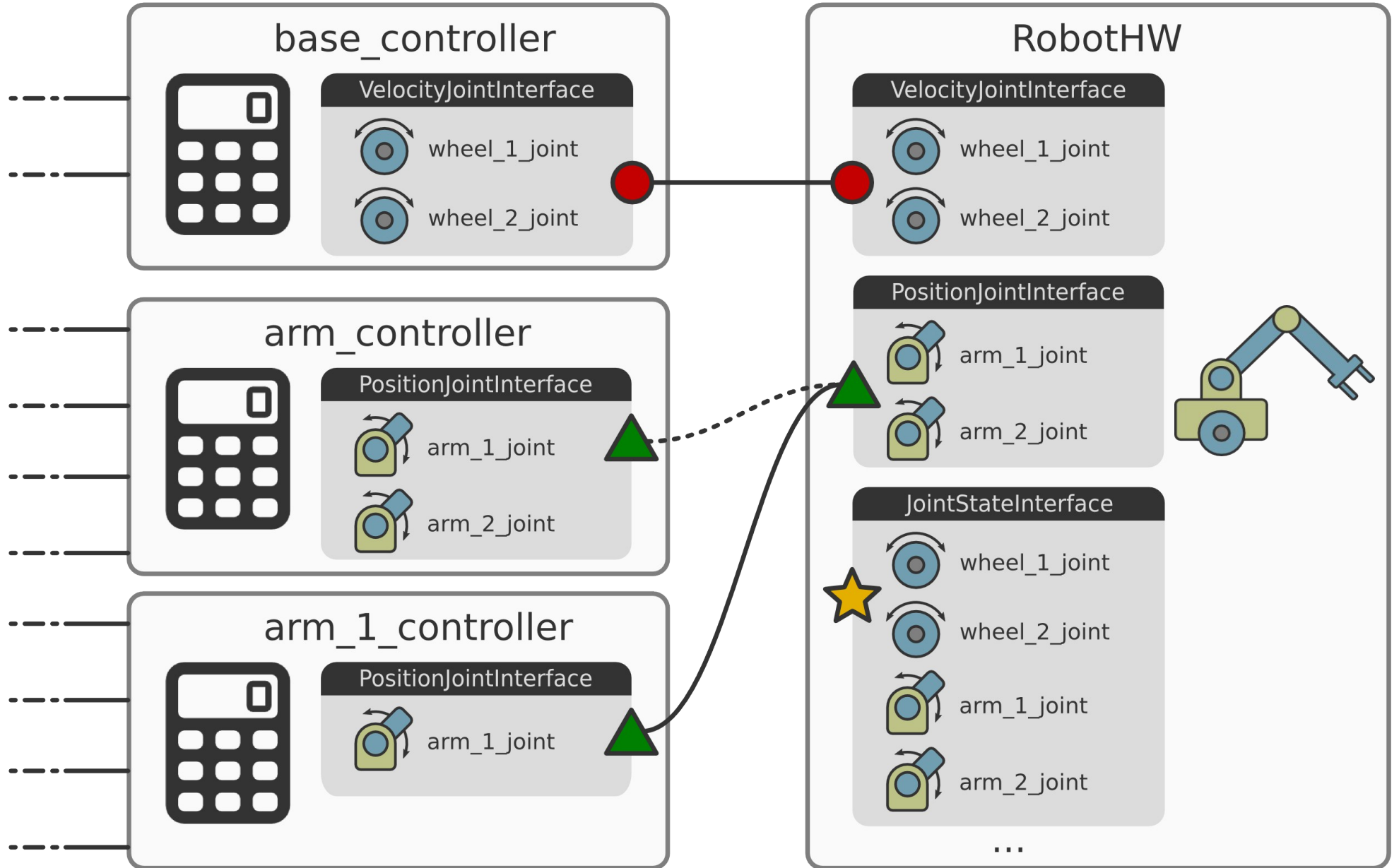


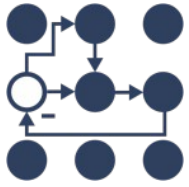
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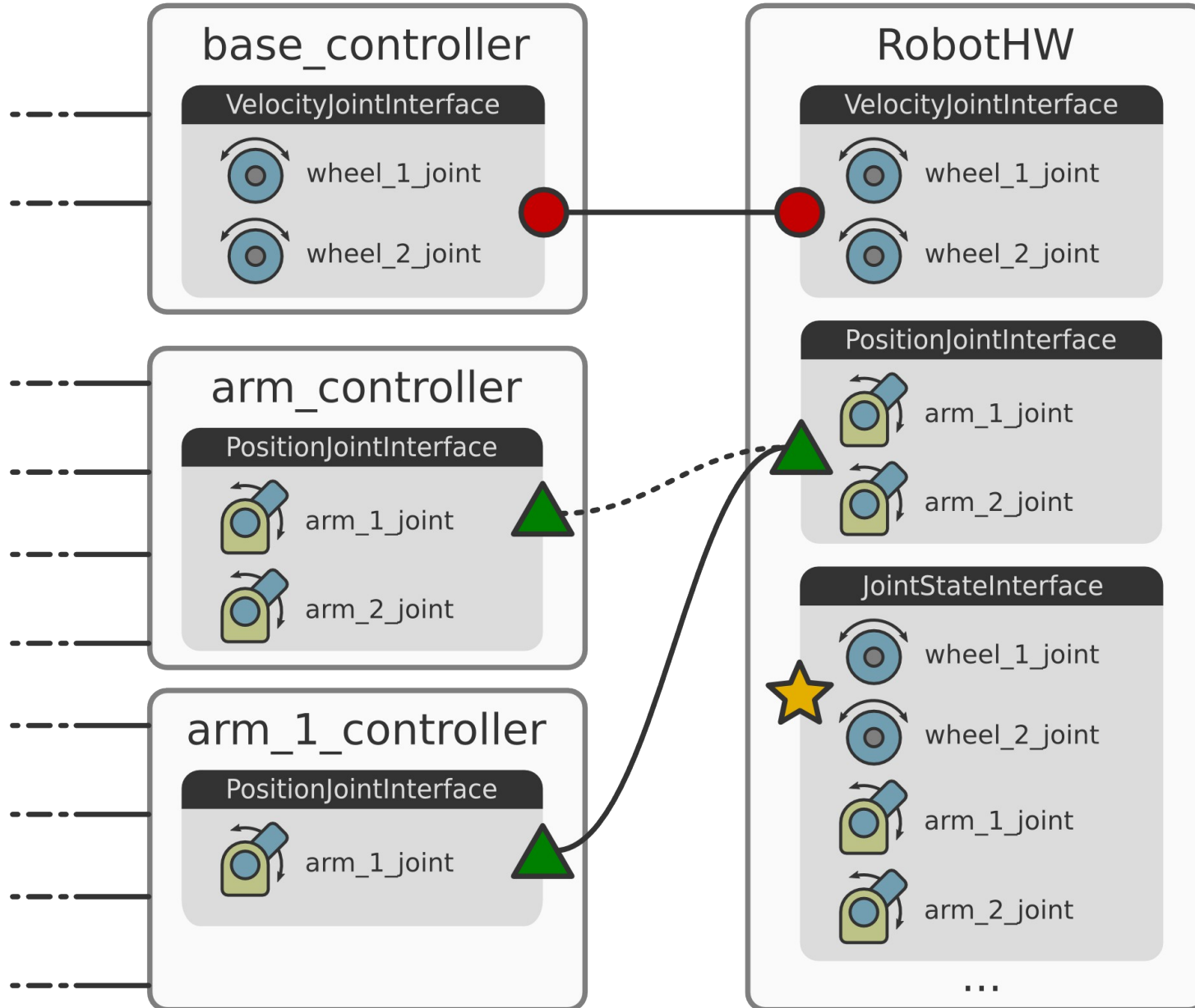


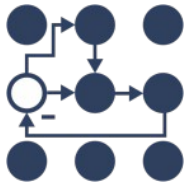
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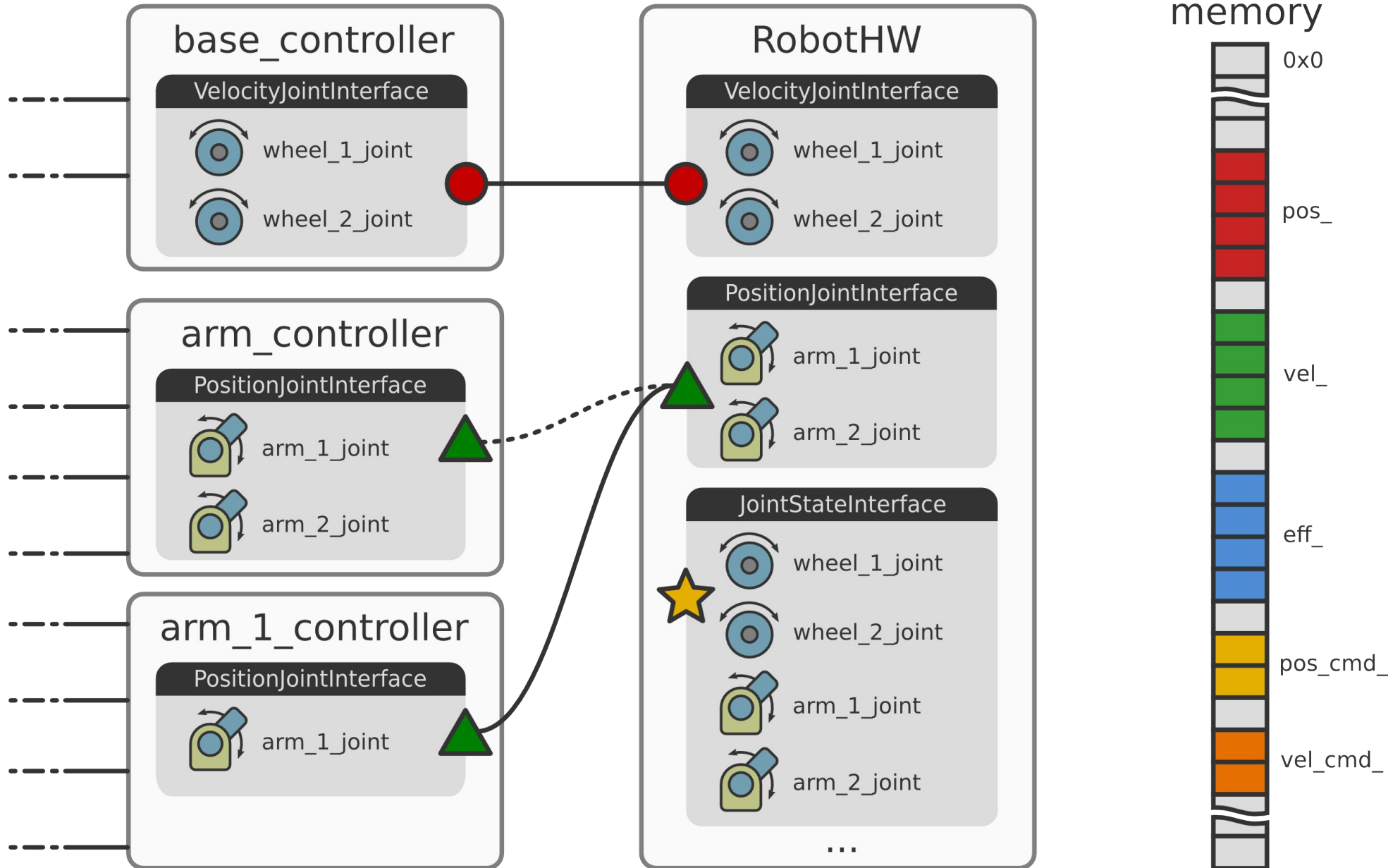


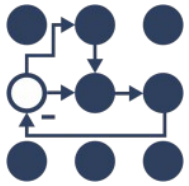
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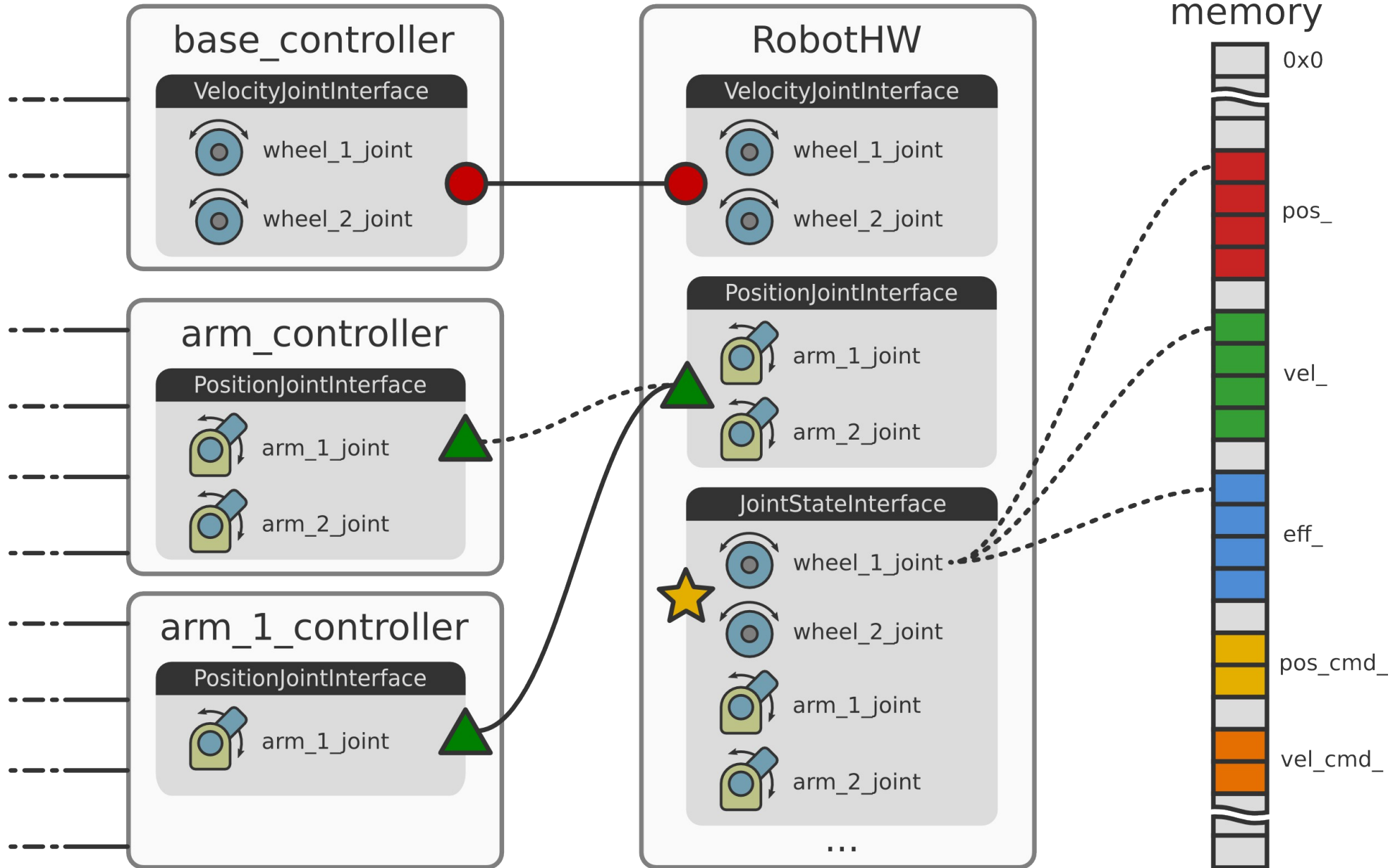


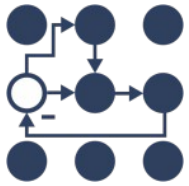
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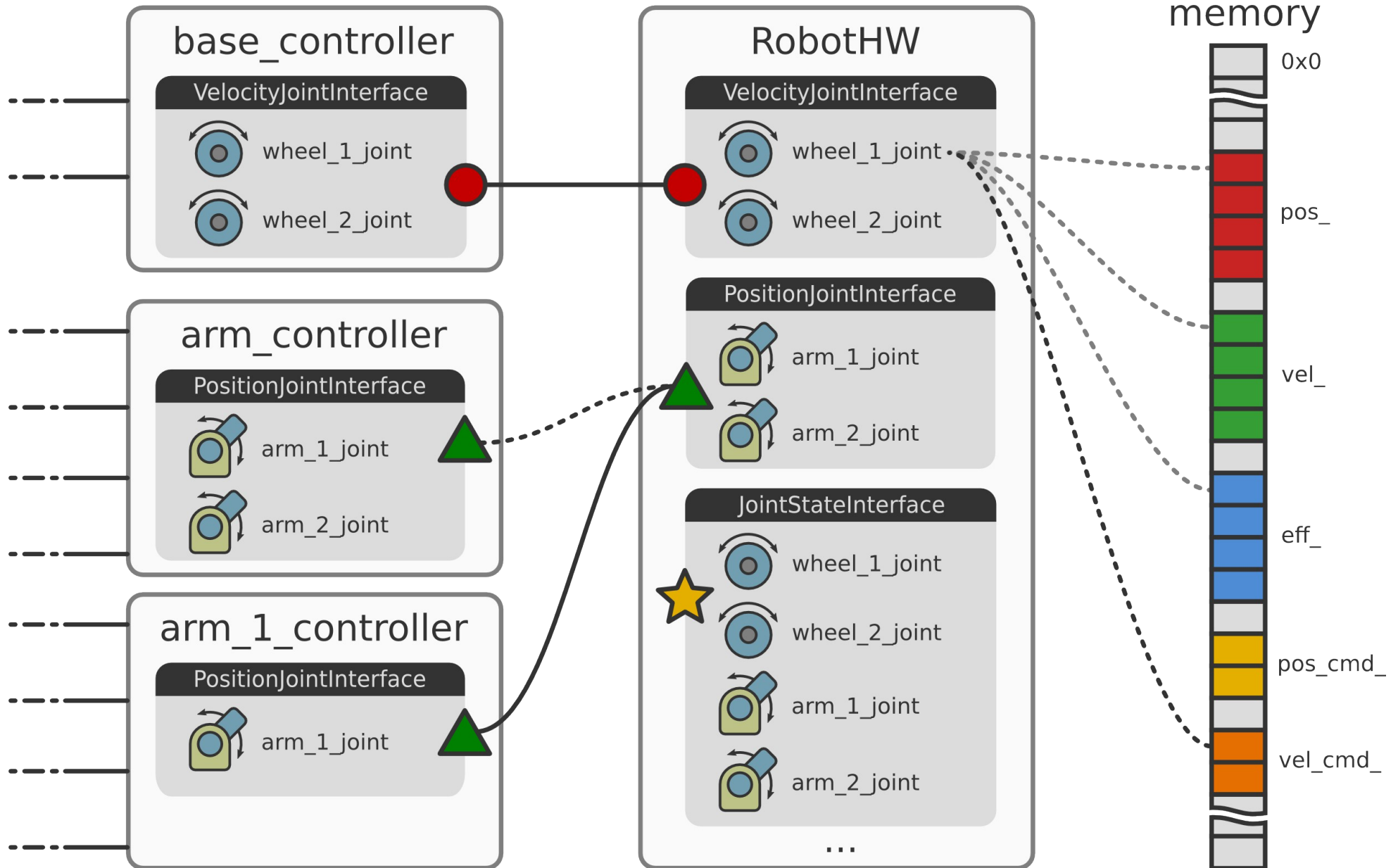


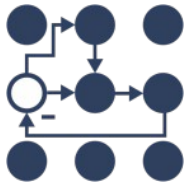
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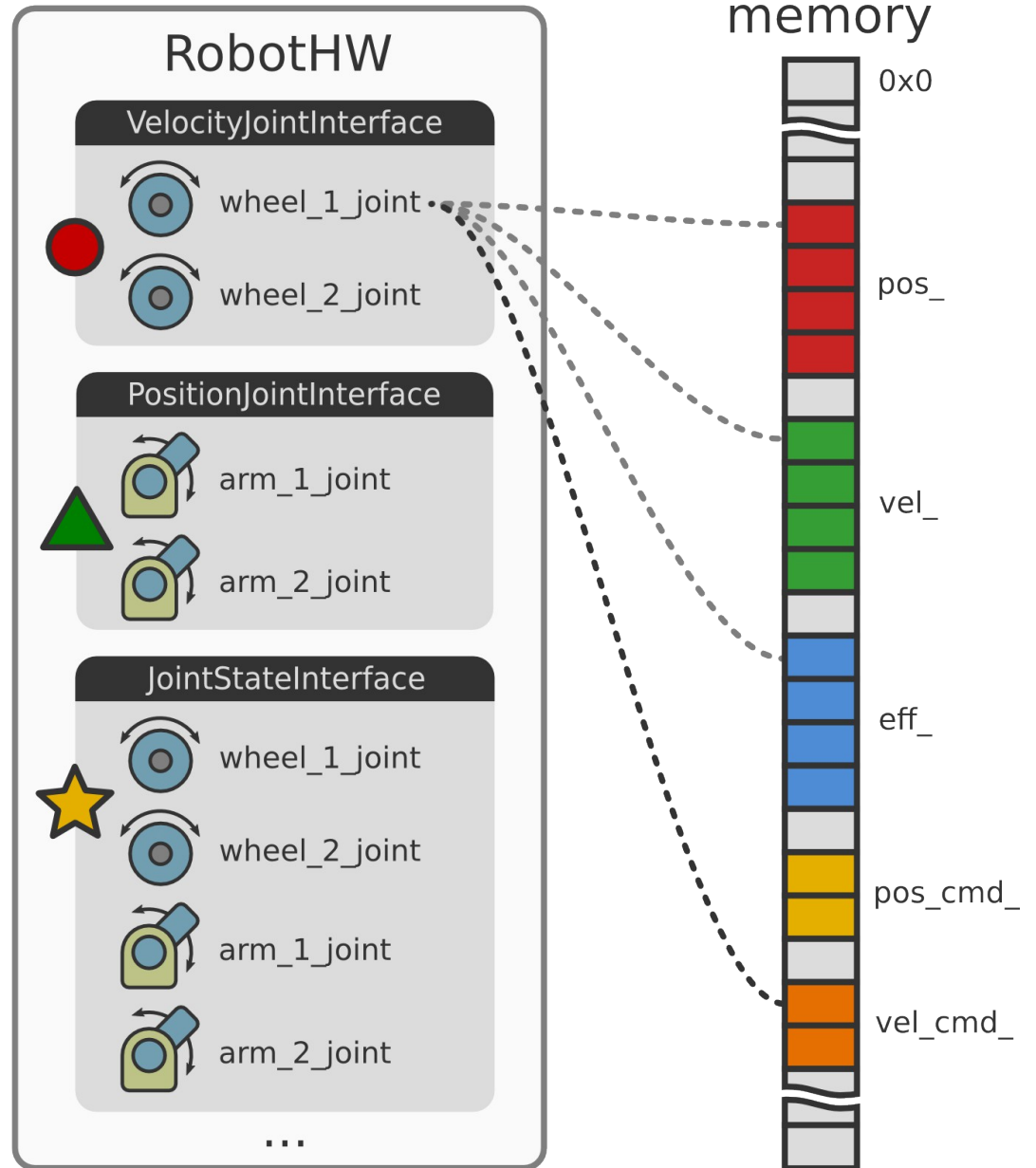
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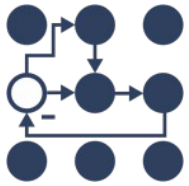




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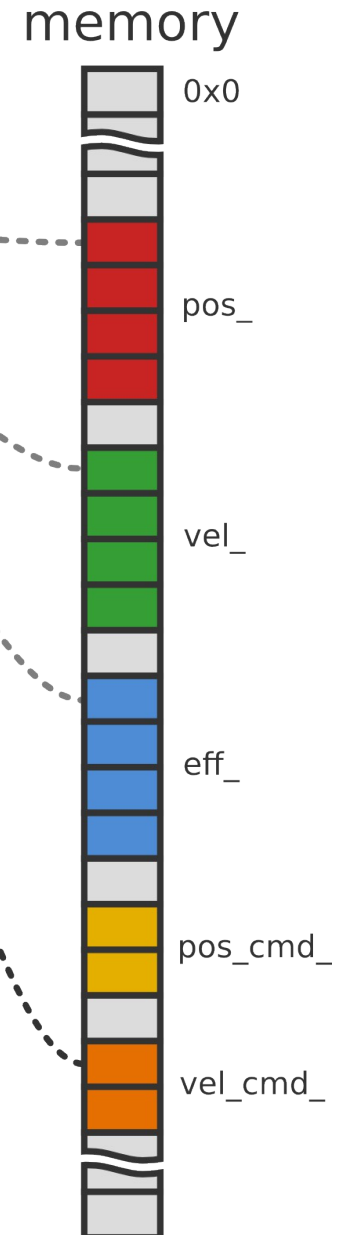
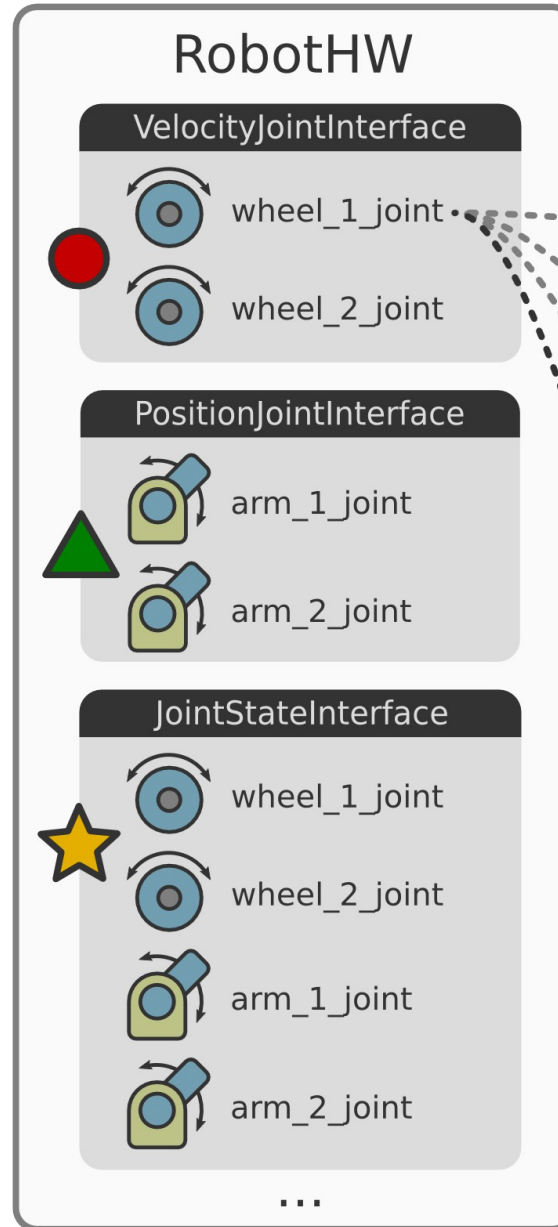
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class MyRobot :  
    public hardware_interface::RobotHW  
{  
public:  
    MyRobot(); // Setup robot  
  
    // Talk to HW  
    void read();  
    void write();  
  
    // Reimplement only if needed  
    virtual bool checkForConflict(...) const;  
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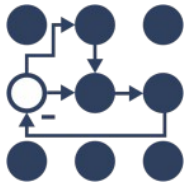




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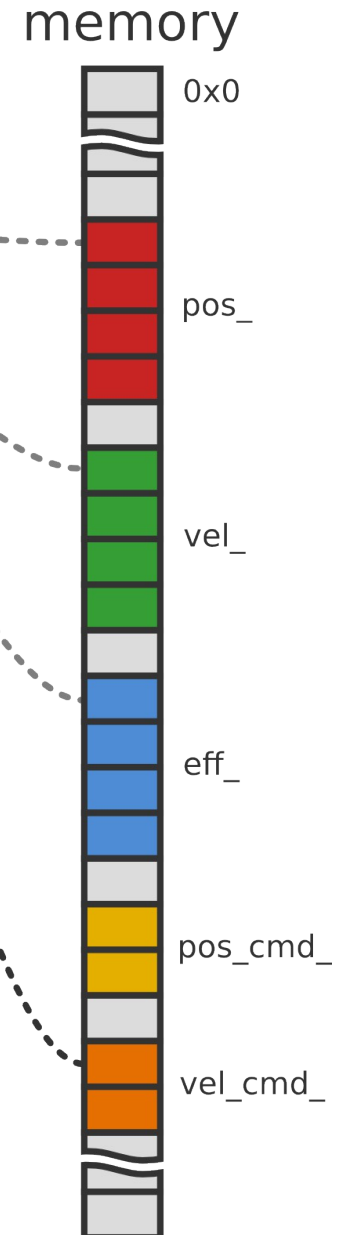
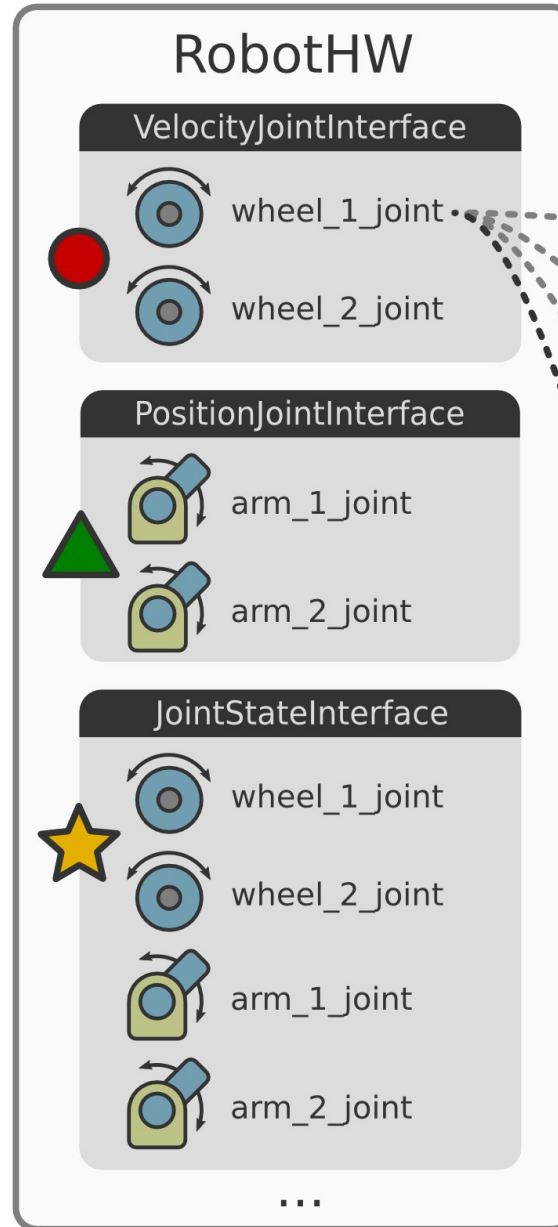
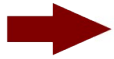
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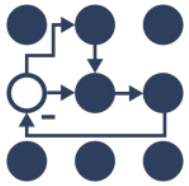
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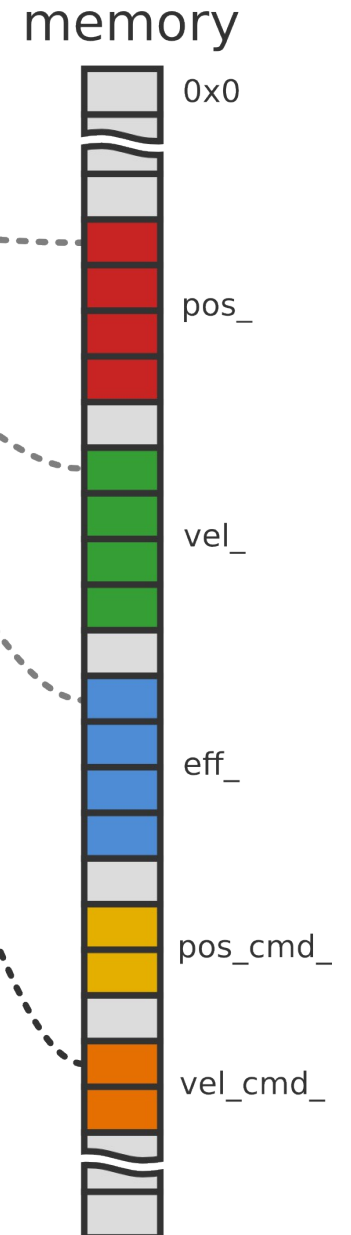
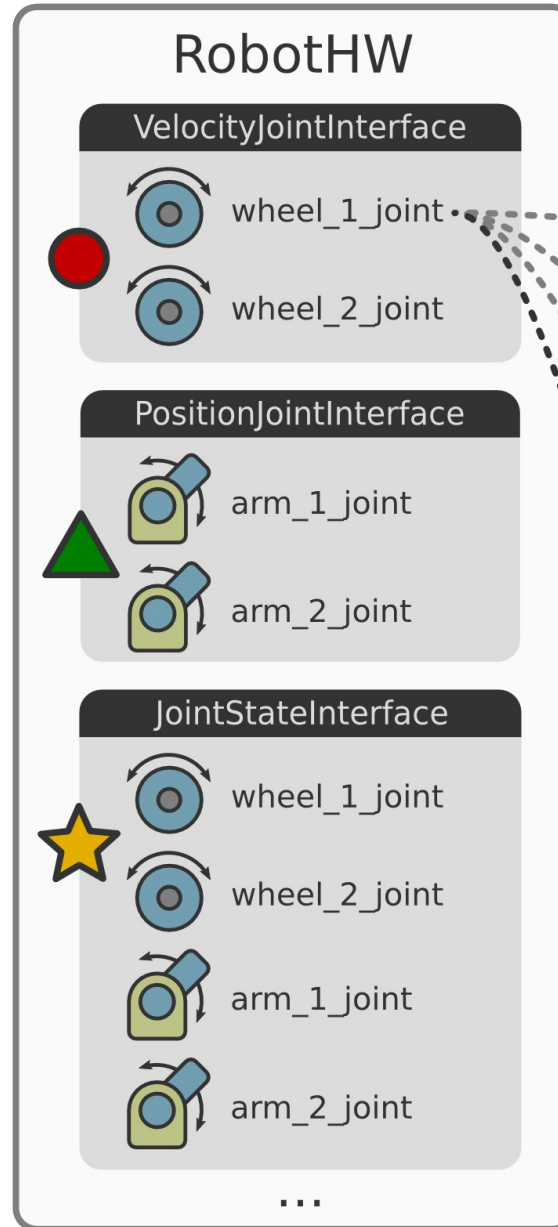


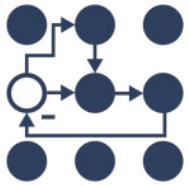


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```

- ROS industrial
- roserial
- SR RONEX
- custom
- ...





Setting up a robot

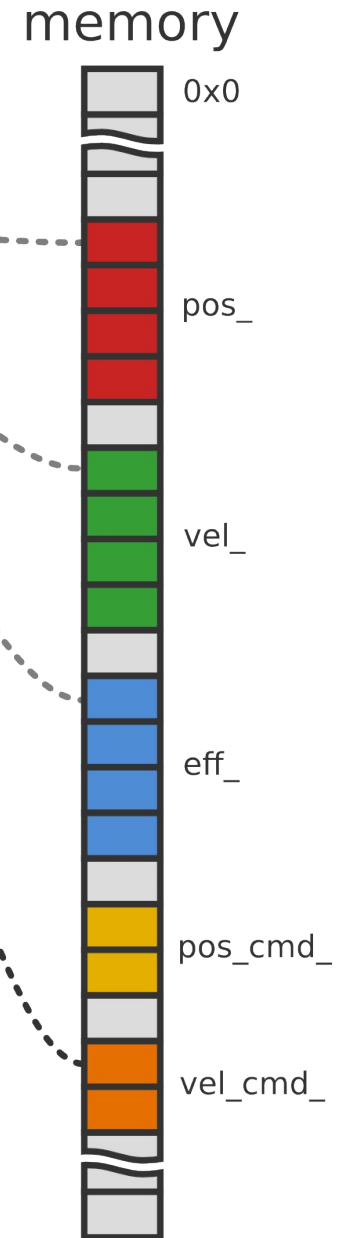
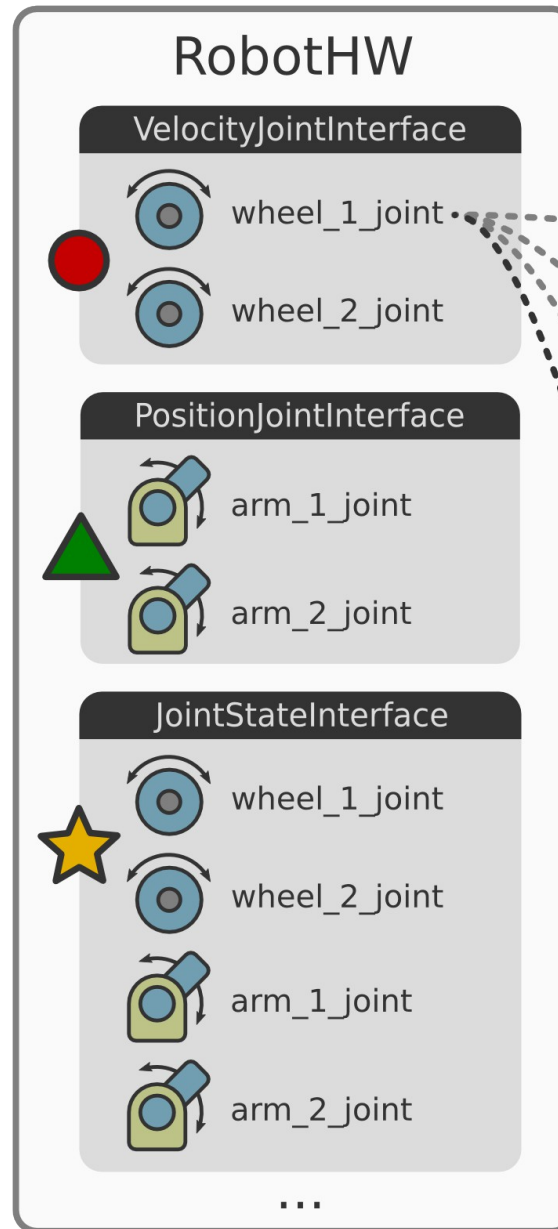
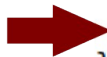
```

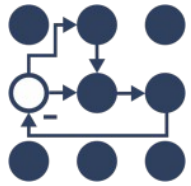
class MyRobot :
  public hardware_interface::RobotHW
{
public:
  MyRobot(); // Setup robot

  // Talk to HW
  void read();
  void write();

  // Reimplement only if needed
  virtual bool checkForConflict(...) const;
};

```

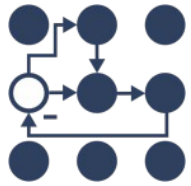




hardware_interface

Robot hardware abstraction

- **Software** representation of robot
- Abstracts **hardware** away
 - **Resource**: actuators, joints, sensors
 - **Interface**: Set of similar resources
 - **Robot**: Set of interfaces
- Handles **resource conflicts**
 - **Exclusive** ownership by default



hardware_interface

Resources and interfaces

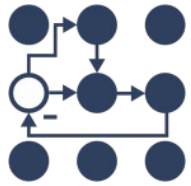
→ Read-only

- Joint state*
- IMU
- Force-torque sensor

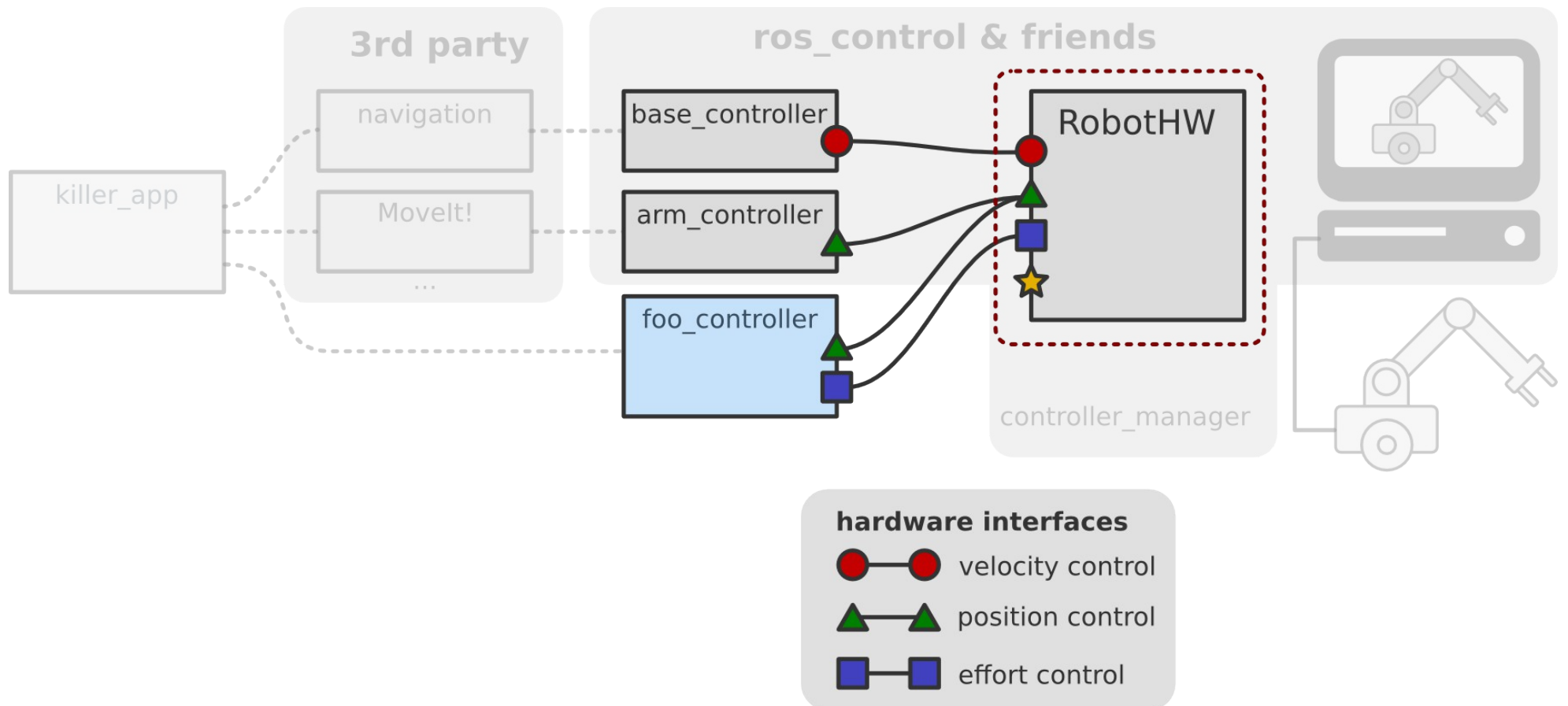
→ Read-write

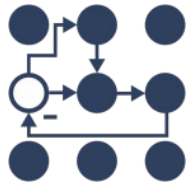
- Position joint*
- Velocity joint*
- Effort joint*

* Equivalent interfaces exist for actuators

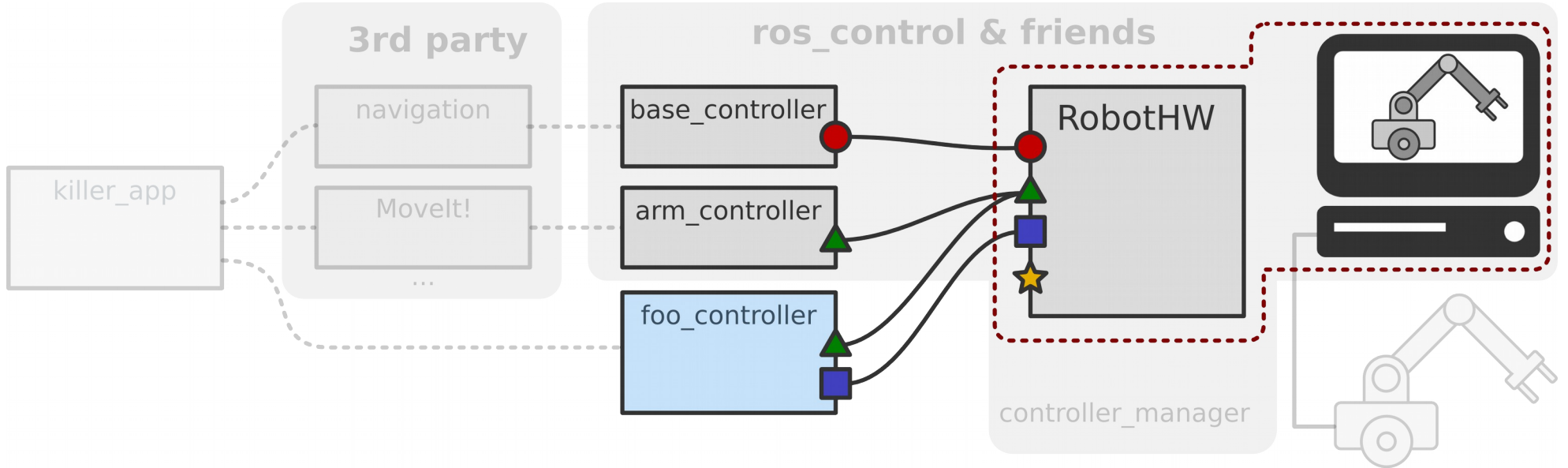


Setting up a robot



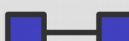


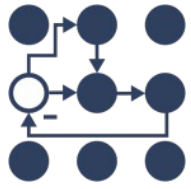


Setting up a robot



hardware interfaces

-  velocity control
-  position control
-  effort control



gazebo_ros_control

→ Lives **outside** ros-controls repos



ros-simulation/gazebo_ros_pkgs

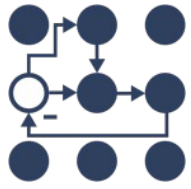
→ **Gazebo plugin for ros_control**

- **Default plugin:**

- Populates **joint interfaces** from **URDF**
- Reads **transmission** and **joint limits** specs

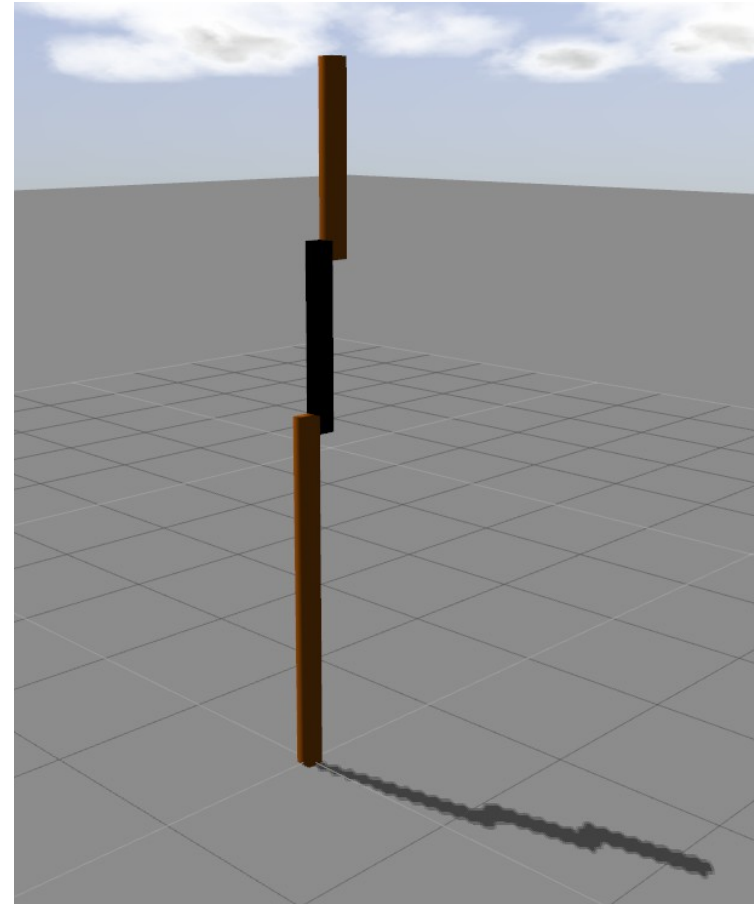
- **Custom plugin:** Up to you

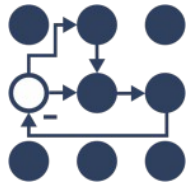
```
<gazebo>
  <plugin name="gazebo_ros_control" filename="libgazebo_ros_control.so">
    <robotNamespace>/my_robot</robotNamespace>
  </plugin>
</gazebo>
```



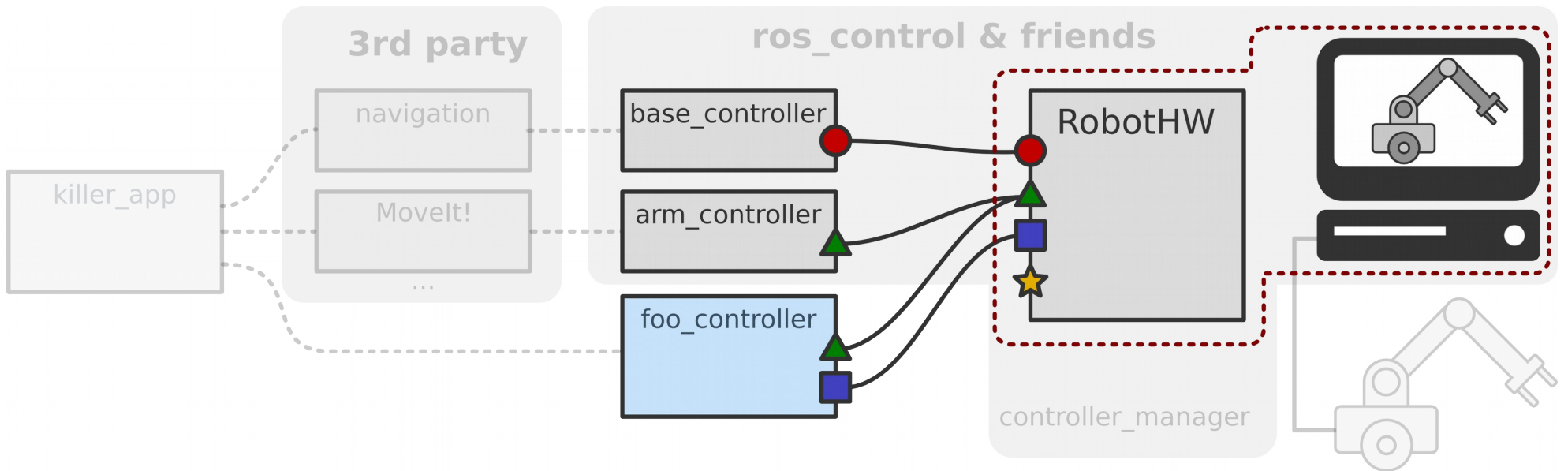
gazebo_ros_control

- Test ros_control without coding a RobotHW!
 - Only setup configuration files

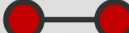
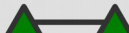
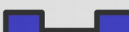


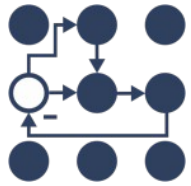


Setting up a robot



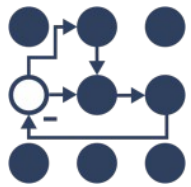
hardware interfaces

-  velocity control
-  position control
-  effort control

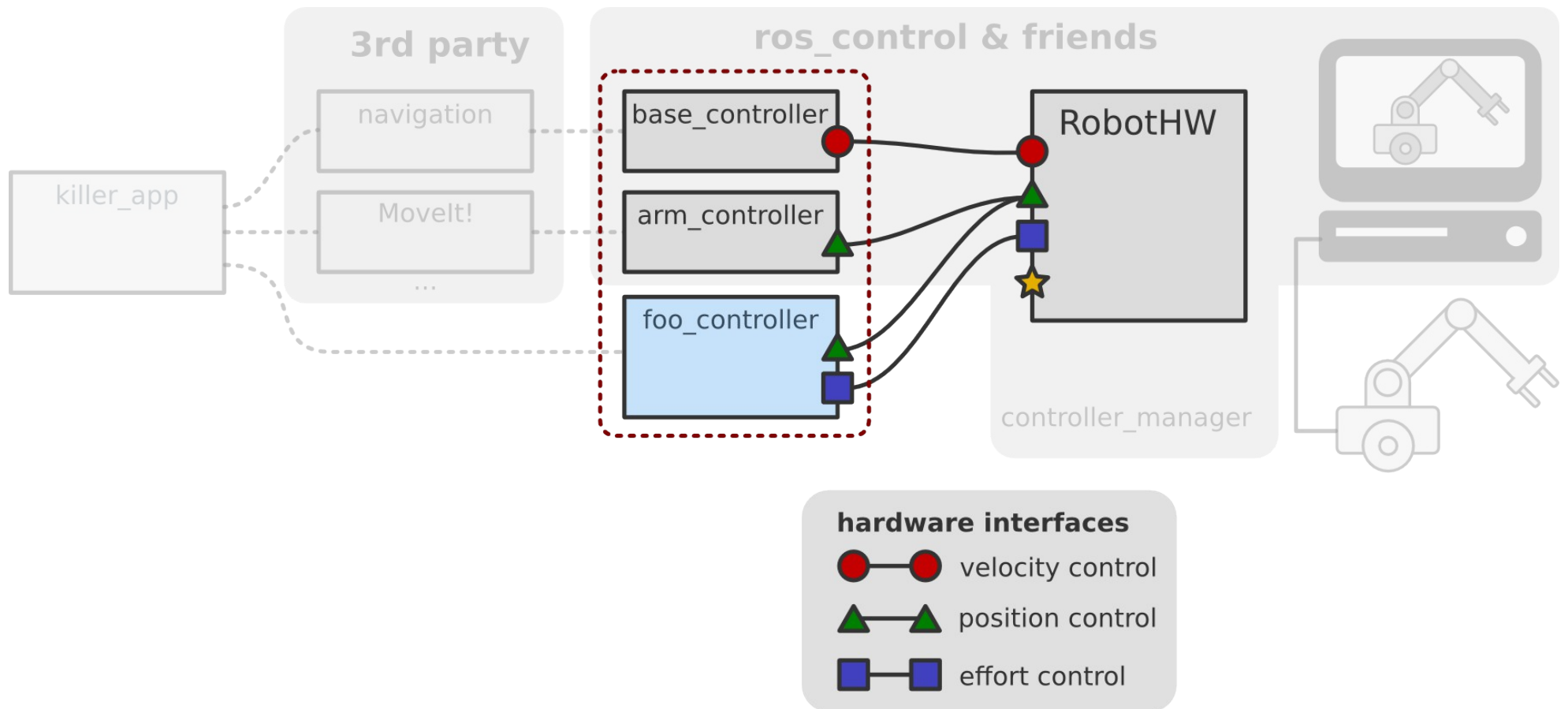


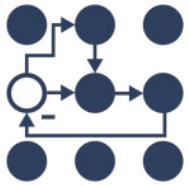
ROS control – an overview

- Big picture and goals
- ROS control & friends
 - Setting up a robot
 - **Controllers**
 - The control loop
- Demo
- Robots using ROS control

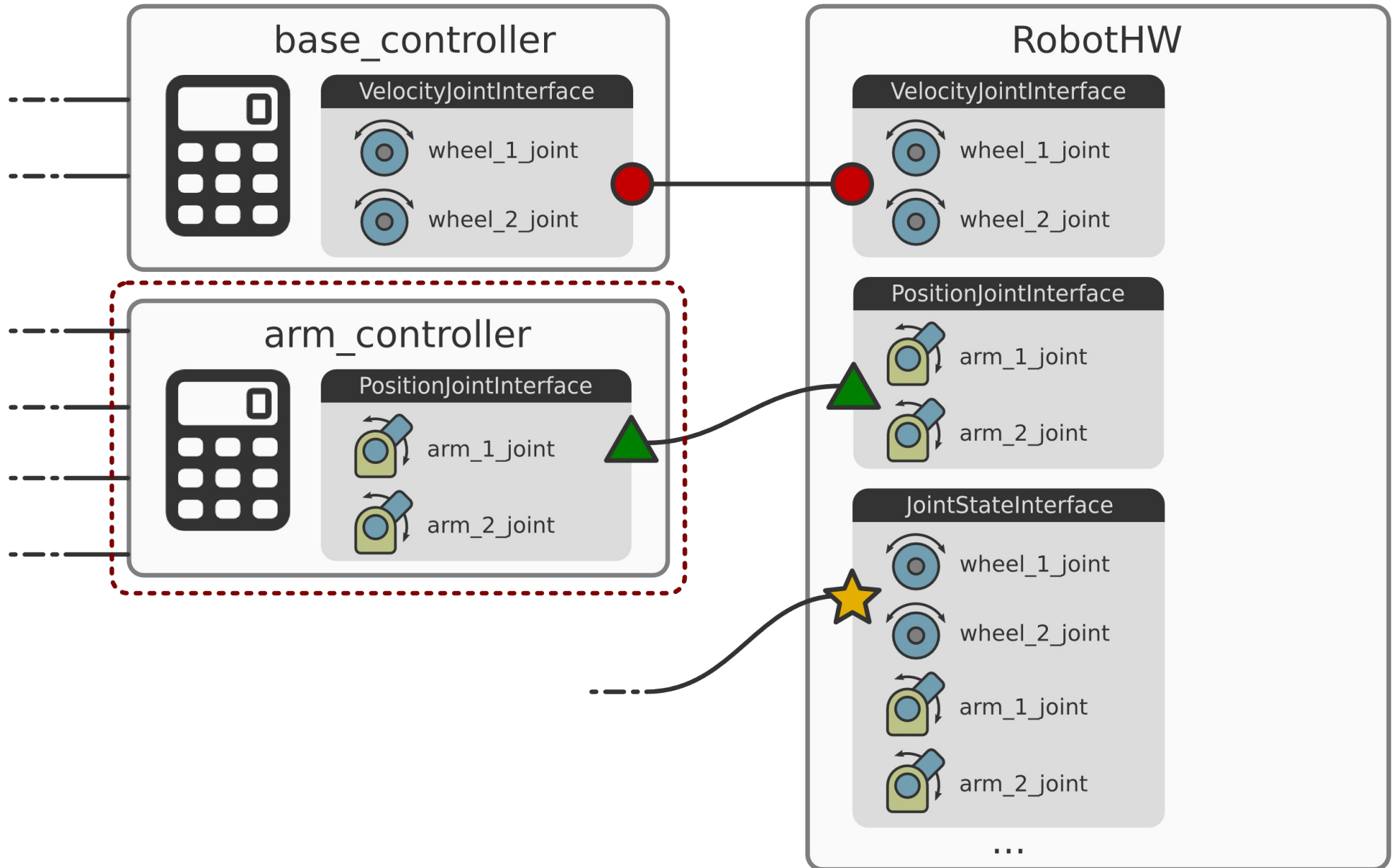


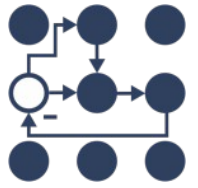
Controllers



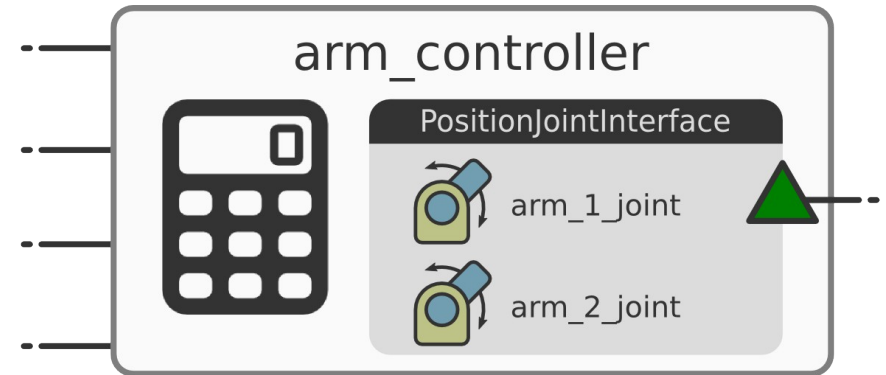


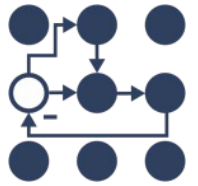
Controllers



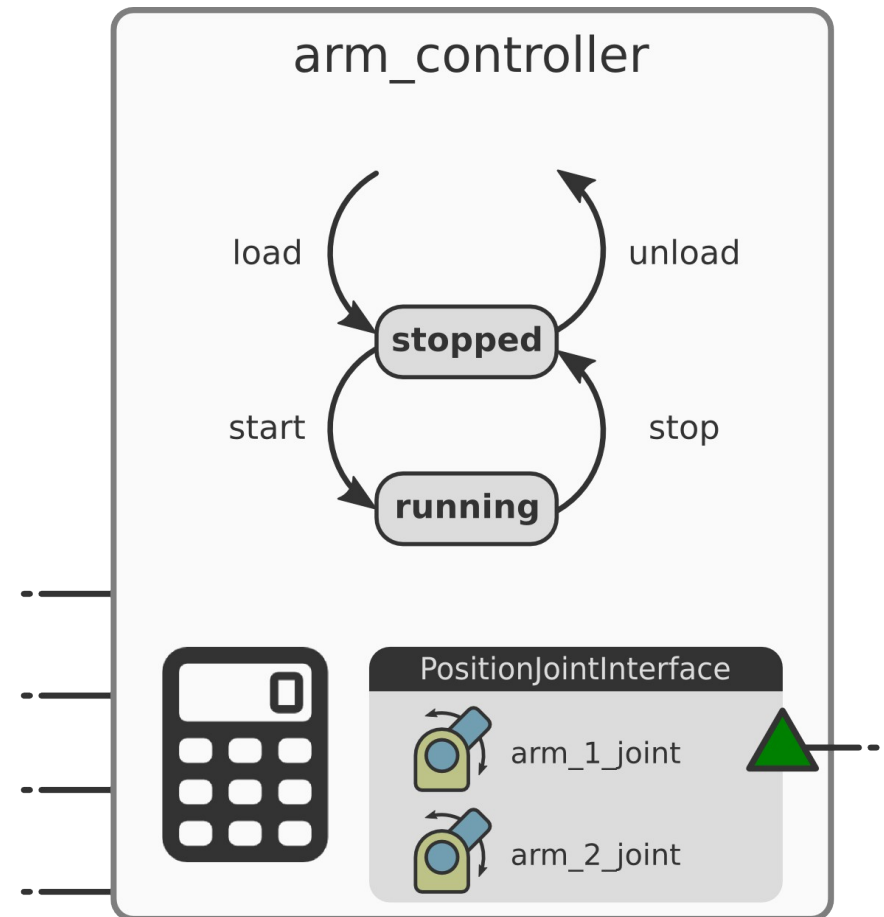


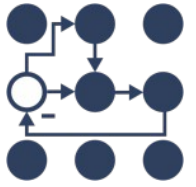
Controllers



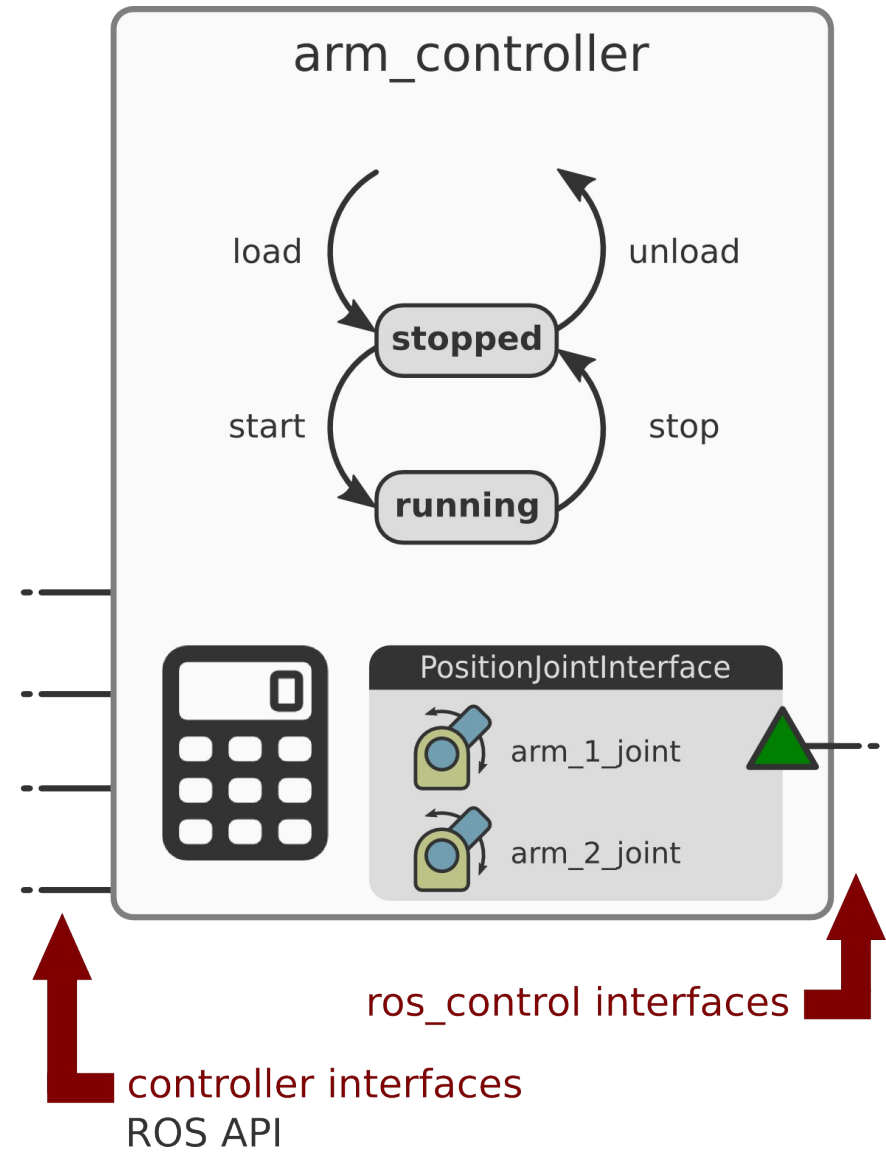


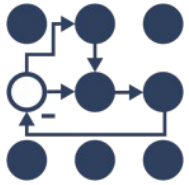
Controllers



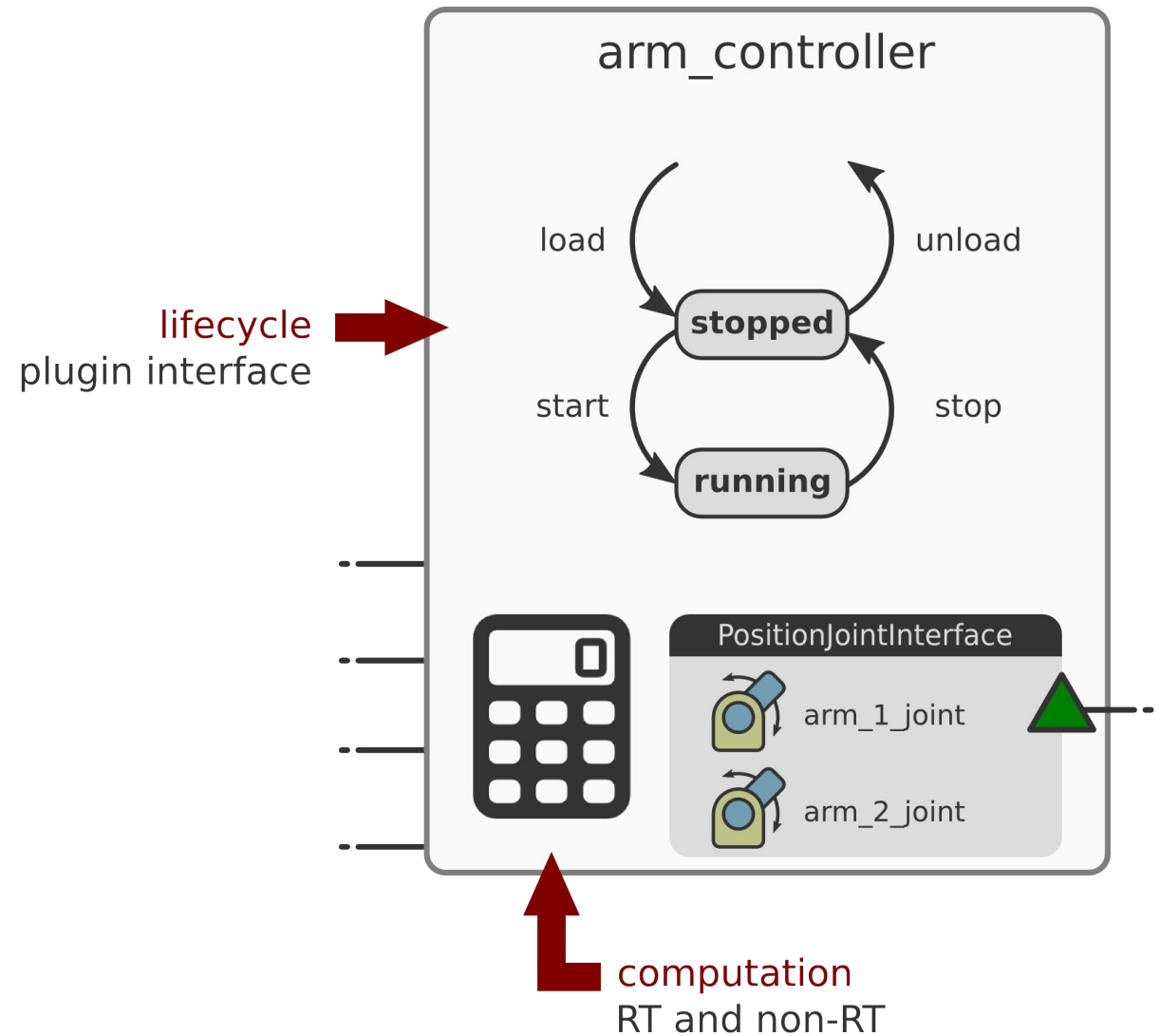


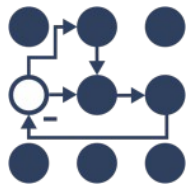
Controllers





Controllers





Controllers

Non real-time operations

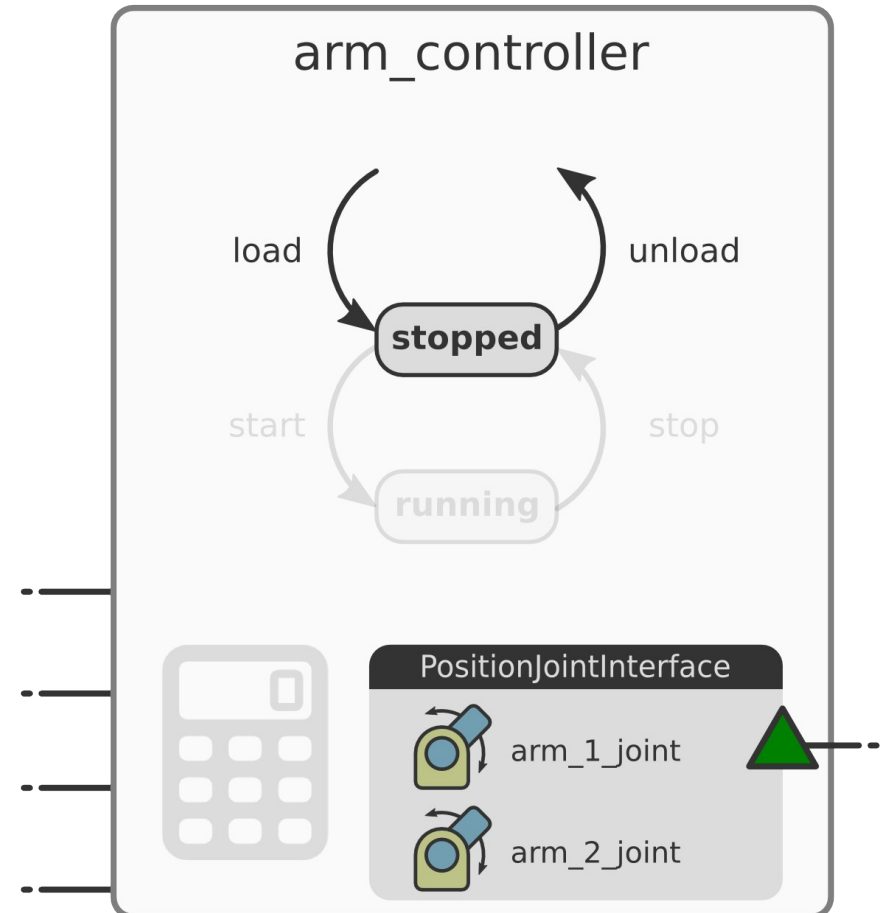
→ load

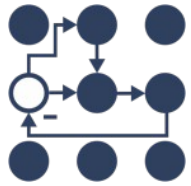
- load + initialize plugin
- check requisites (can fail)
 - hardware resource **existence***
 - configuration
- setup ROS interfaces

→ unload

- destroy + unload plugin

*not the same as resource **conflict** handling





Controllers

Non real-time operations

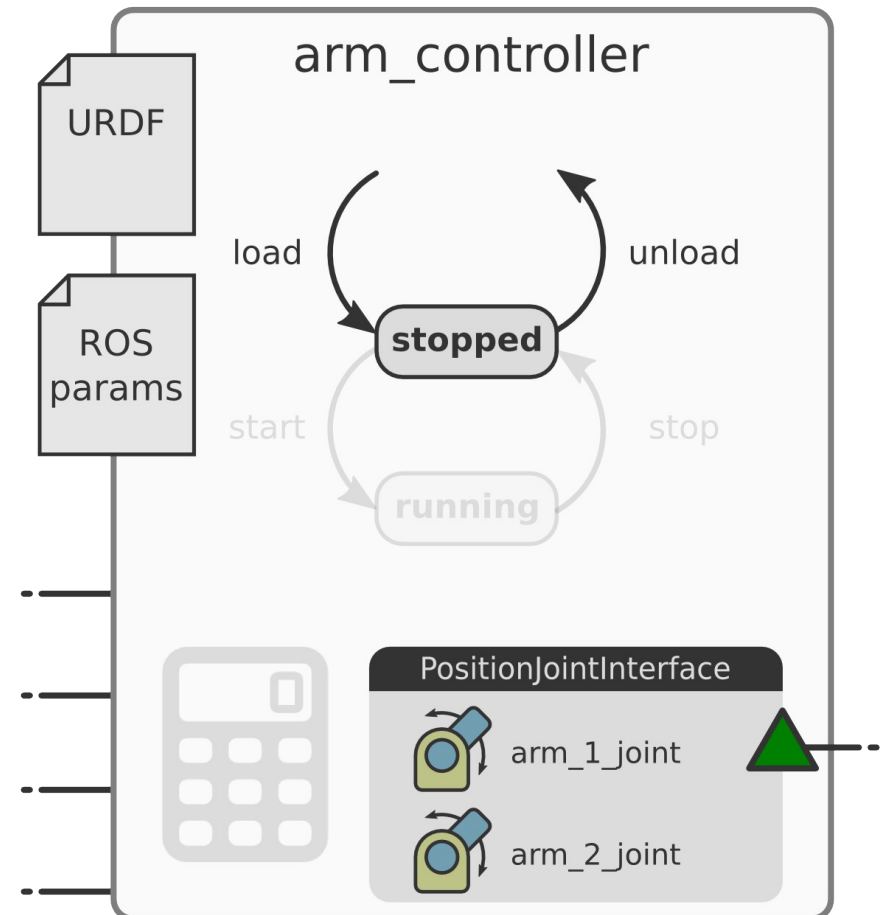
→ load

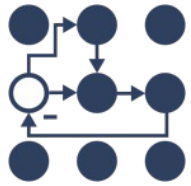
- load + initialize plugin
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 - configuration
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→ unload

- destroy + unload plugin

*not the same as resource **conflict** handling

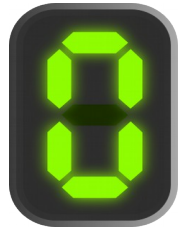




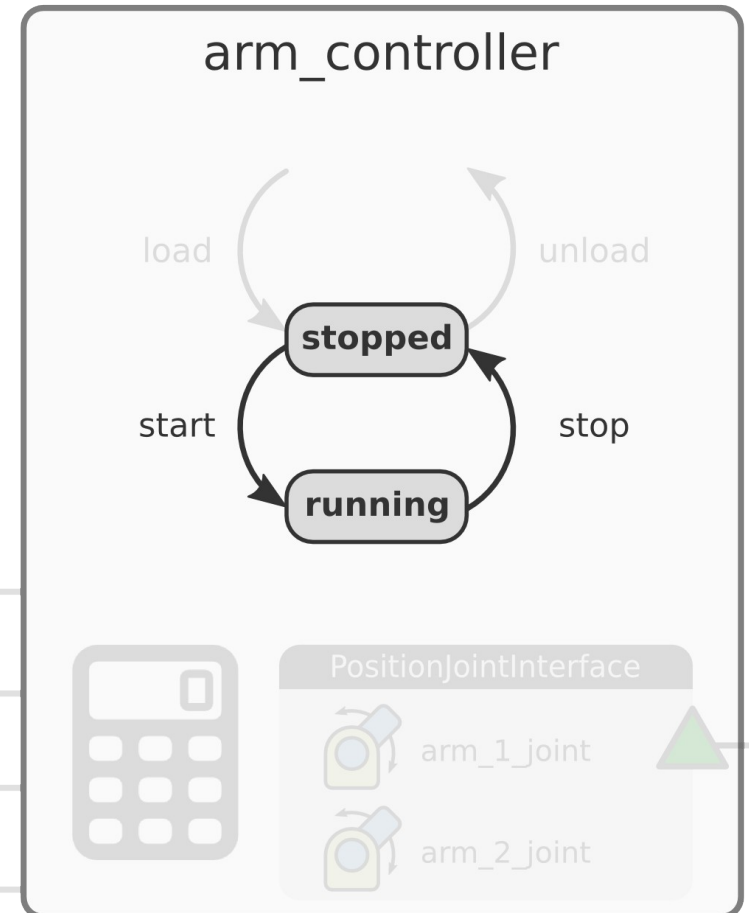
Controllers

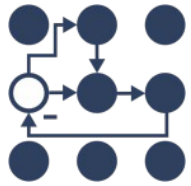
Real-time safe operations

- **start** executed before first update
 - resource **conflict** handling
 - typical policy: semantic zero



- **stop** executed after last update
 - typical policy: cancel goals



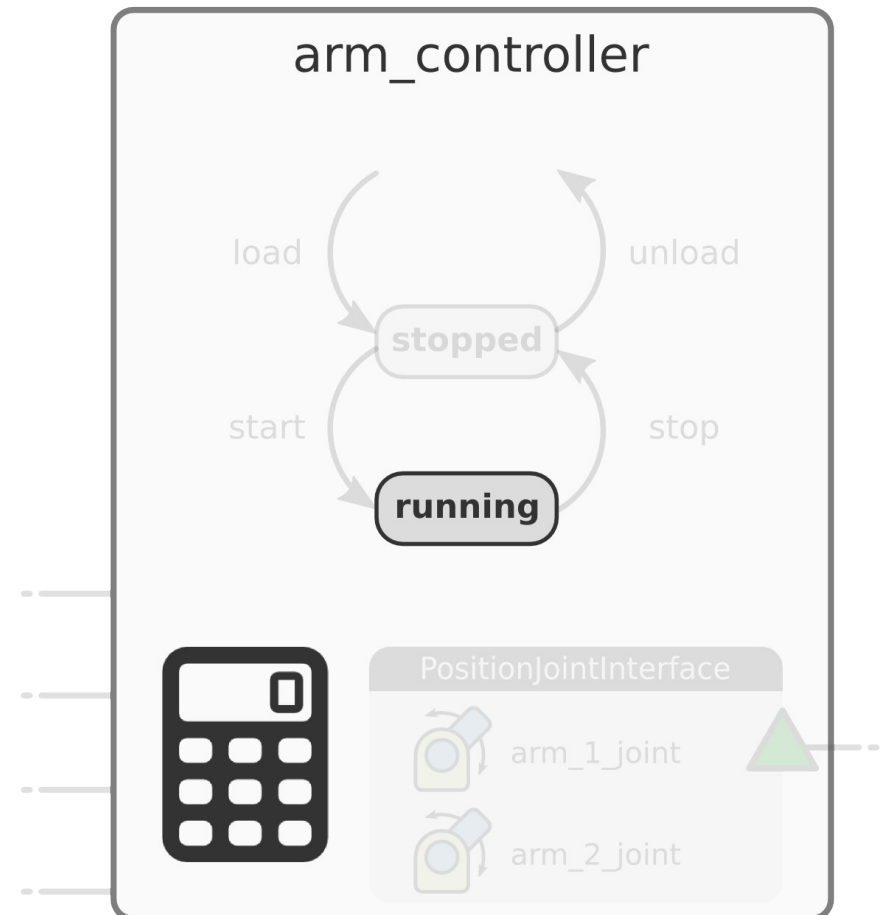


Controllers

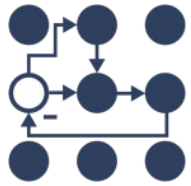
Real-time safe* operations

→ update

- real-time safe computation
- executed periodically



*requirement on implementation

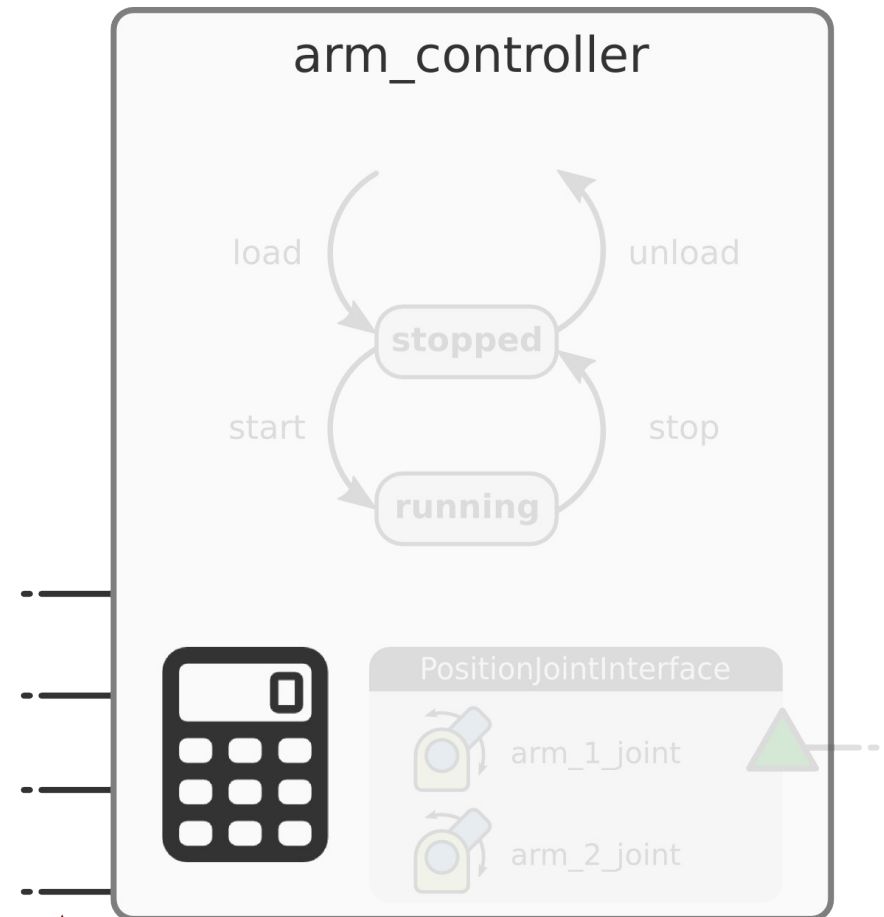


Controllers

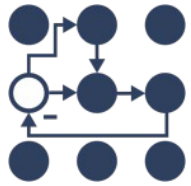
Non real-time operations

→ callbacks

- non real-time computation
- executed asynchronously



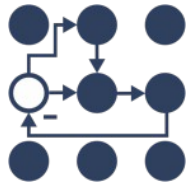
↑ controller interfaces
ROS API



Controllers

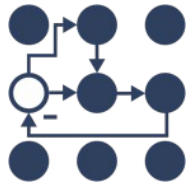
Summary

- Dynamically loadable **plugins**
- Interface defines a simple **state machine**
- Interface clearly **separates**
 - operations that are **non real-time**
 - operations required to be **real-time safe**
- **Computation**
 - **controller update**: periodic, real-time safe
 - **ROS API callbacks**: asynchronous, non real-time



control_toolbox

- Tools useful for writing **controllers** or **robot abstractions**
 - **Pid** PID loop
 - **SineSweep** for joint frequency analysis
 - **Dither** white noise generator
 - **LimitedProxy** for convergence without overshoot
 - ...



ros_controllers repo

Sensor state reporting

→ **joint_state_controller**

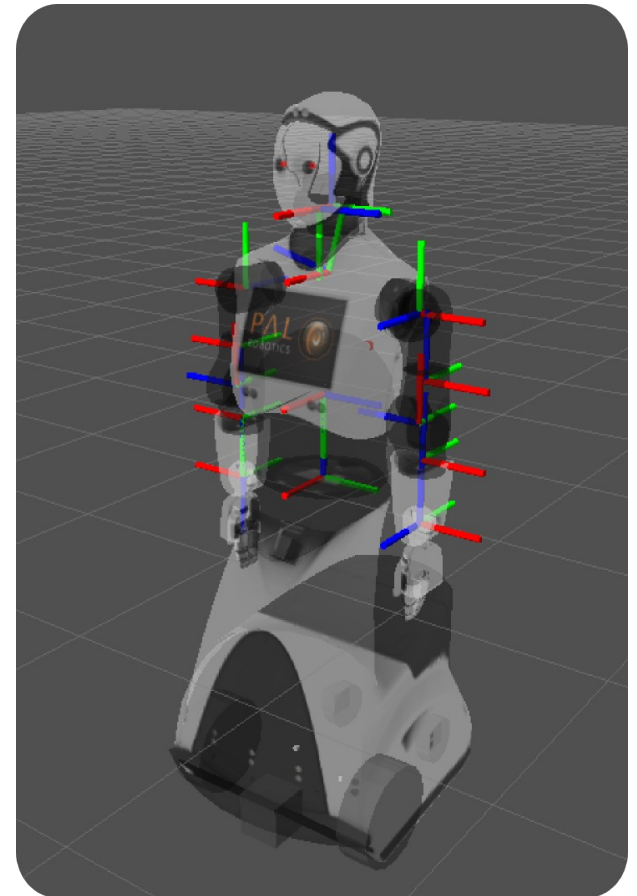
- publishes: `sensor_msgs/JointState` topic

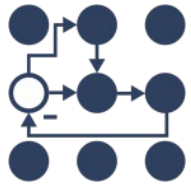
→ **imu_sensor_controller**

- publishes: `sensor_msgs/Imu` topics

→ **force_torque_sensor_controller**

- publishes: `geometry_msgs/Wrench` topics



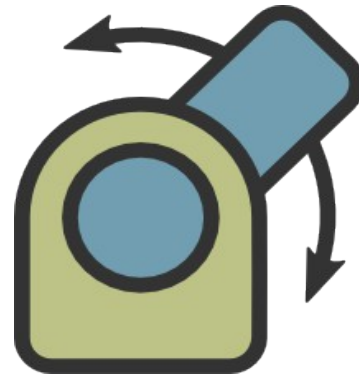
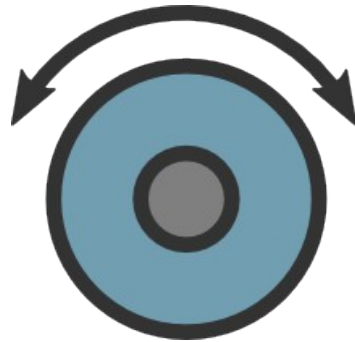


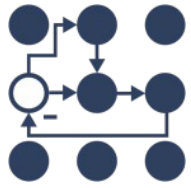
ros_controllers repo

General purpose

→ **[position,velocity,effort]_controllers**

- single-joint controllers in different control spaces

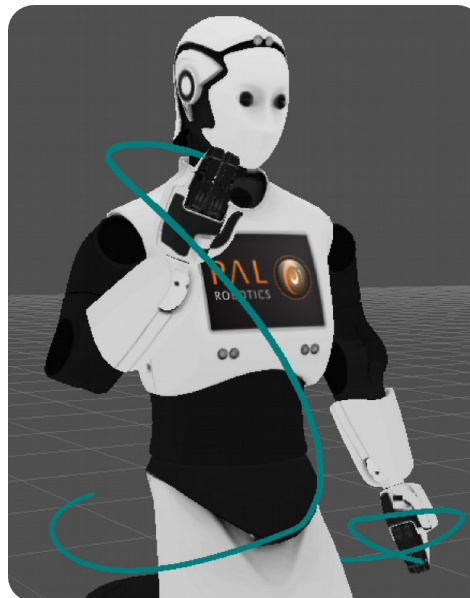


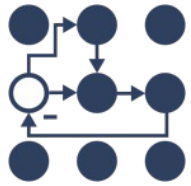


ros_controllers repo

joint_trajectory_controller

- multi-joint trajectory interpolator
- commands:
 - **control_msgs/FollowJointTrajectory** action
 - **trajectory_msgs/JointTrajectory** topic
- compatible with: **Movel!**



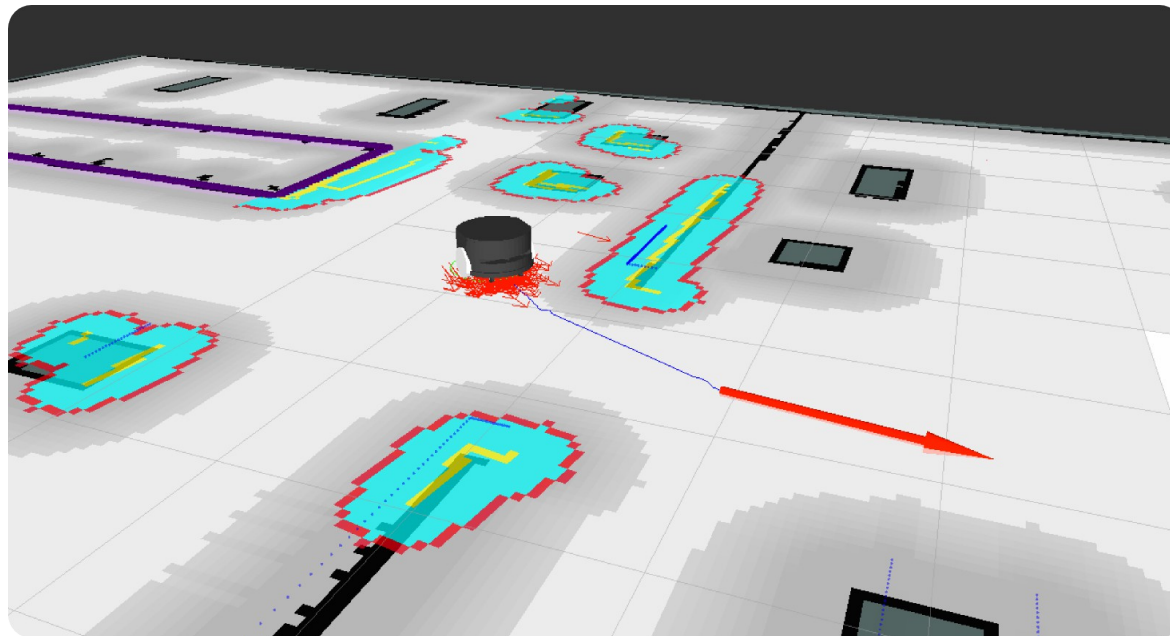


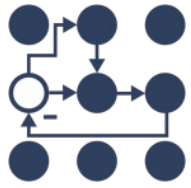
ros_controllers repo

Navigation

→ **diff_drive_controller**

- commands: **geometry_msgs/Twist** topic
- publishes: odometry to **tf** and **nav_msgs/Odometry** topic
- compatible with: the **ROS navigation stack**





ros_controllers repo

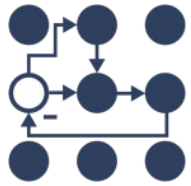
Manipulation

→ **gripper_action_controller**

- single-dof gripper controller
- commands:
 - **control_msgs::GripperCommandAction** action
- compatible with: **MovelIt!**

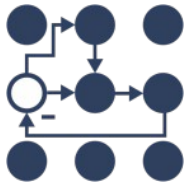


source: Willow Garage Flickr photostream

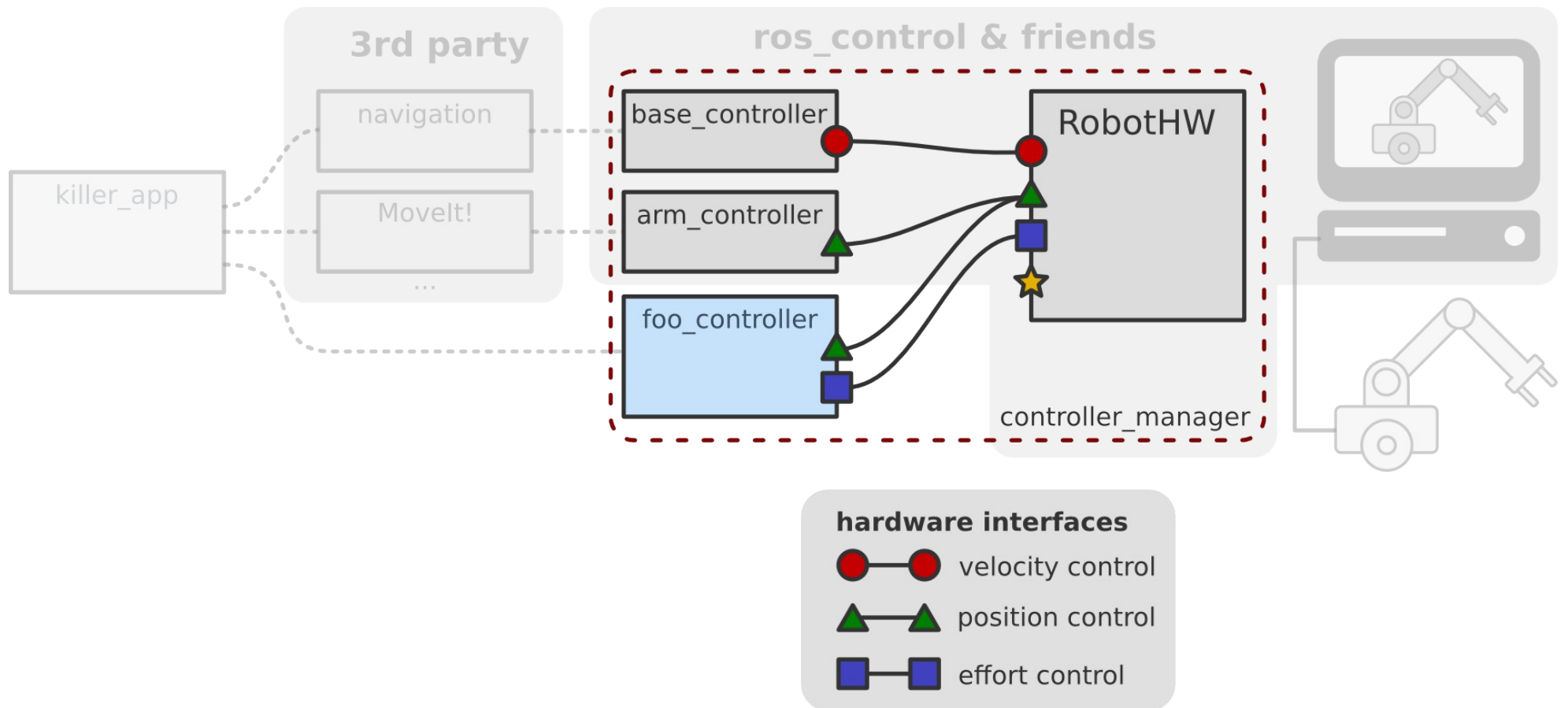


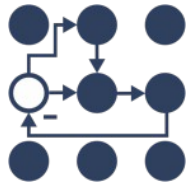
ROS control – an overview

- Big picture and goals
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 - Setting up a robot
 - Controllers
 - **The control loop**
- Demo
- Robots using ROS control



The control loop





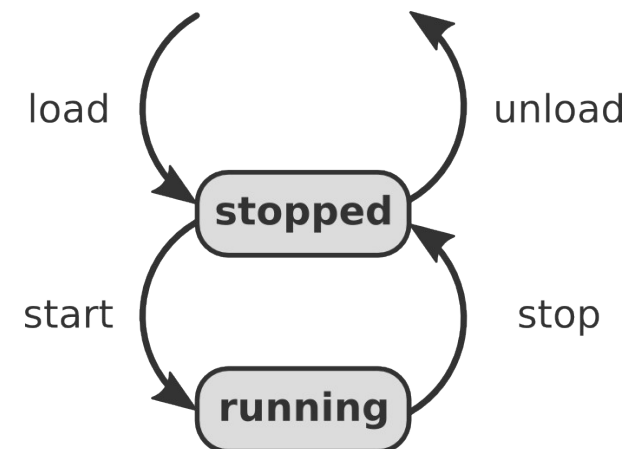
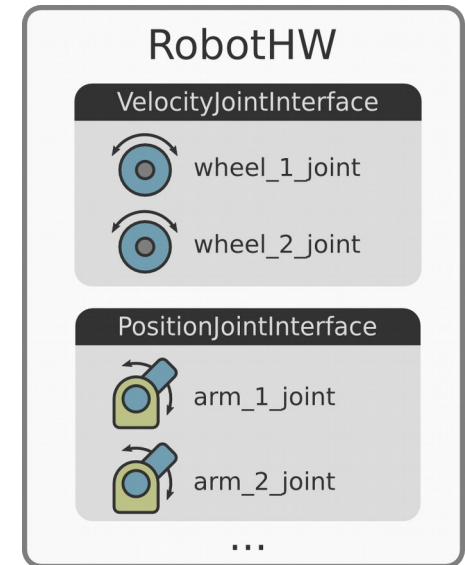
controller_manager

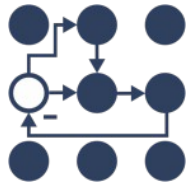
→ Robot resource management

- knows available resources
- enforces resource conflict policy

→ Controller lifecycle management

- **transitions** controller state machine
- **updates** running controllers
- **periodic, serialized** updates





controller_manager

ROS service API

→ Controller lifecycle management

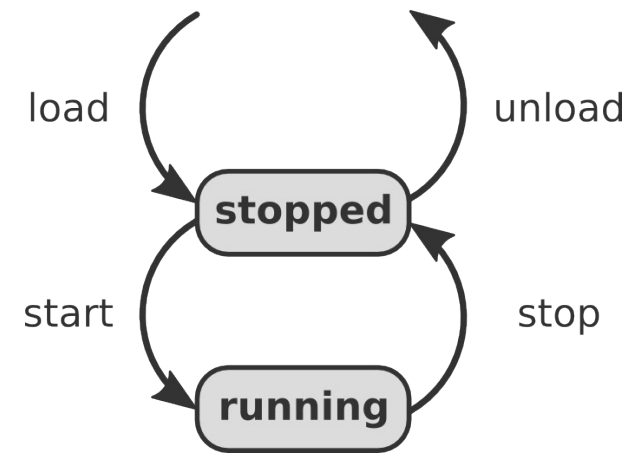
- load_controller
- unload_controller
- switch_controller

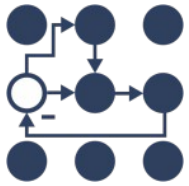
→ Queries

- list_controllers
- list_controller_types

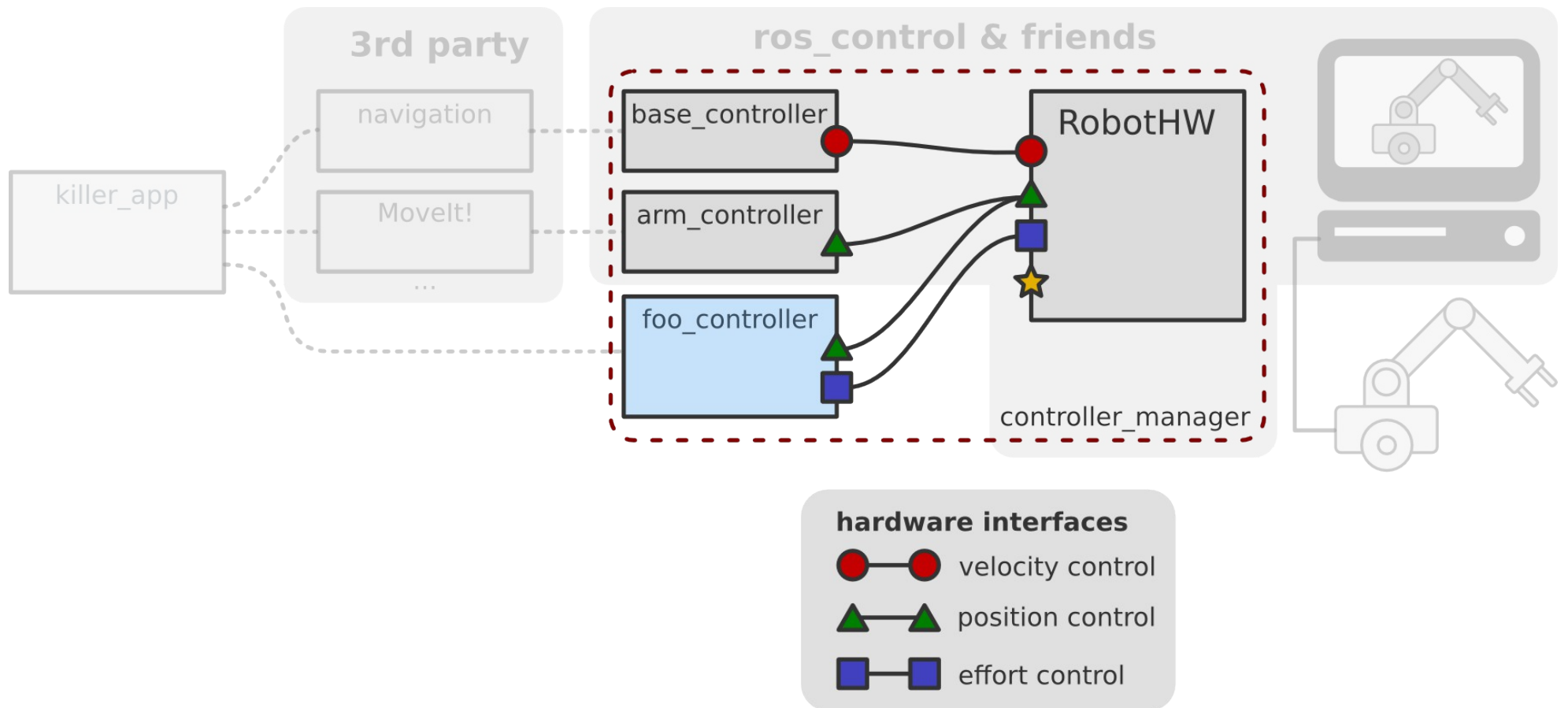
→ Other

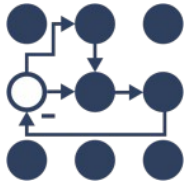
- reload_controller_libraries



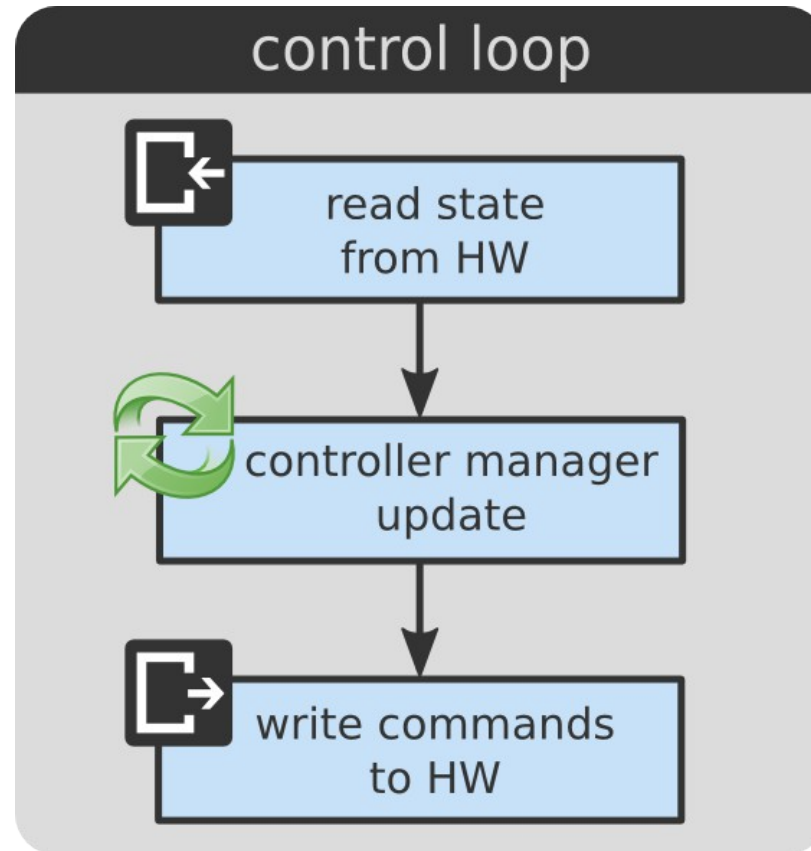


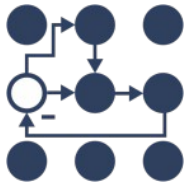
The control loop





The control loop





The control loop

```
#include <ros/ros.h>
#include <my_robot/my_robot.h>
#include <controller_manager/controller_manager.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    // Setup
    ros::init(argc, argv, "my_robot");

    MyRobot::MyRobot robot;
    controller_manager::ControllerManager cm(&robot);

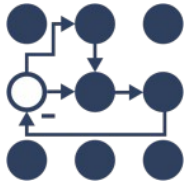
    ros::AsyncSpinner spinner(1);
    spinner.start();

    // Control loop
    ros::Time prev_time = ros::Time::now();
    ros::Rate rate(10.0);

    while (ros::ok())
    {
        const ros::Time time = ros::Time::now();
        const ros::Duration period = time - prev_time;

        robot.read();
        cm.update(time, period);
        robot.write();

        rate.sleep();
    }
    return 0;
}
```



The control loop

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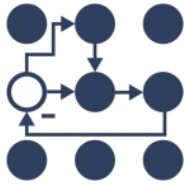
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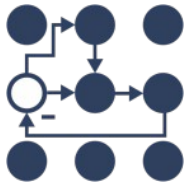
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        robot.read();
        cm.update(time, period);
        robot.write();

        rate.sleep();
    }
    return 0;
}
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The control loop

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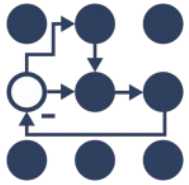
    ros::AsyncSpinner spinner(1);
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    // Control loop
    ros::Time prev_time = ros::Time::now();
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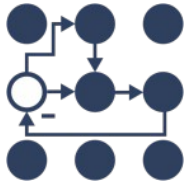
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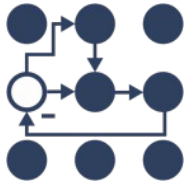
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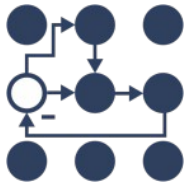
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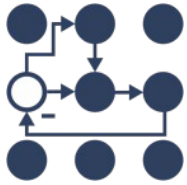
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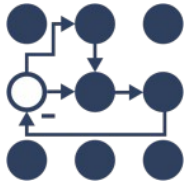
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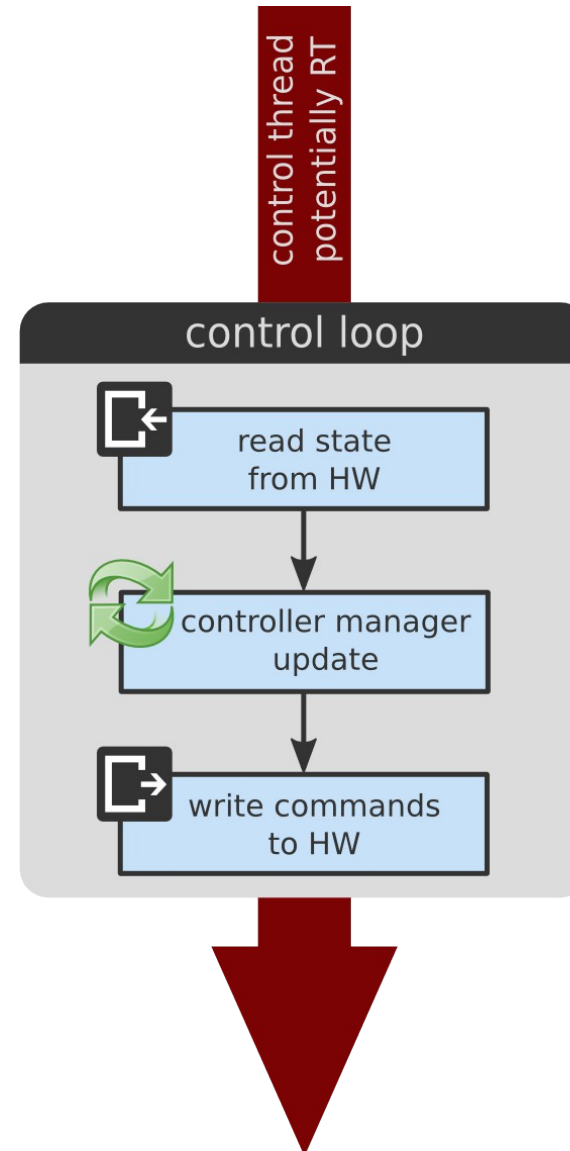
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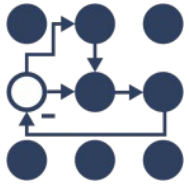
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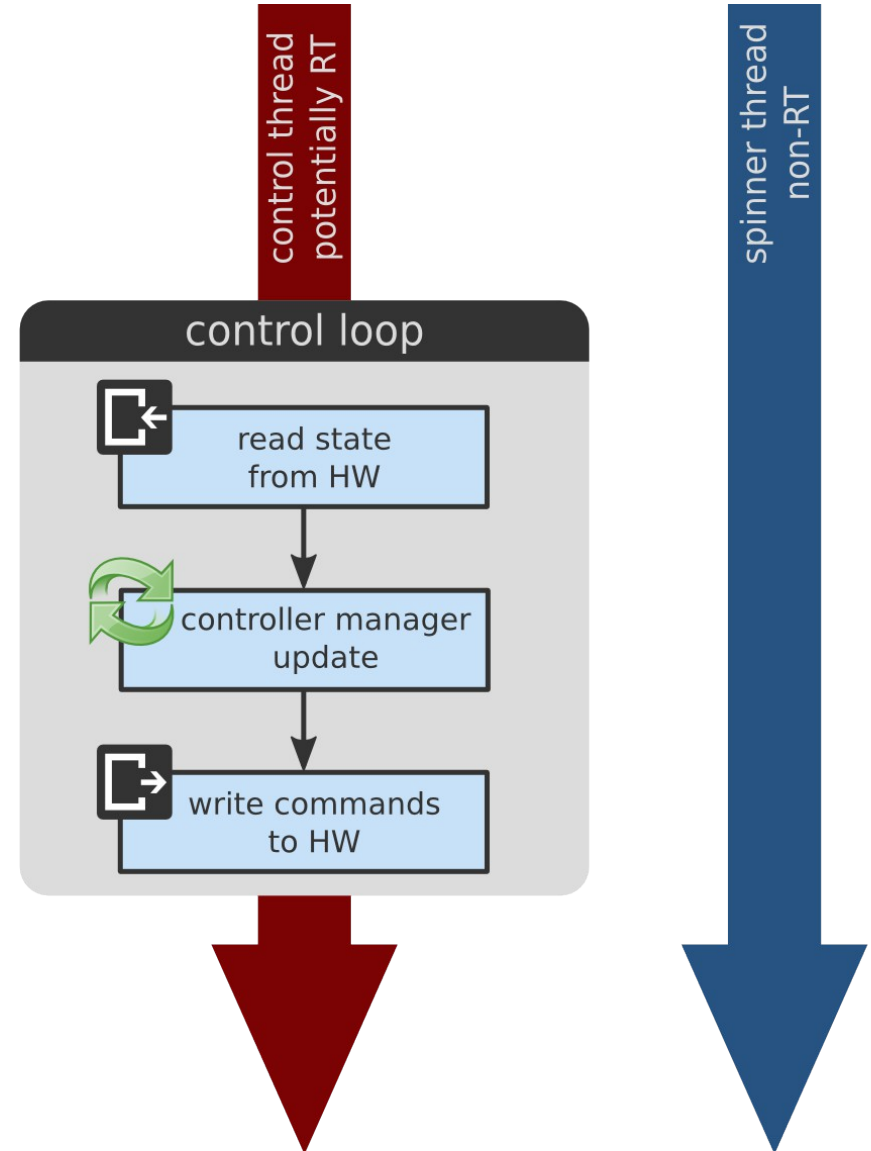
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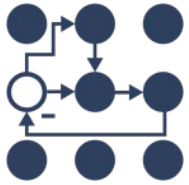
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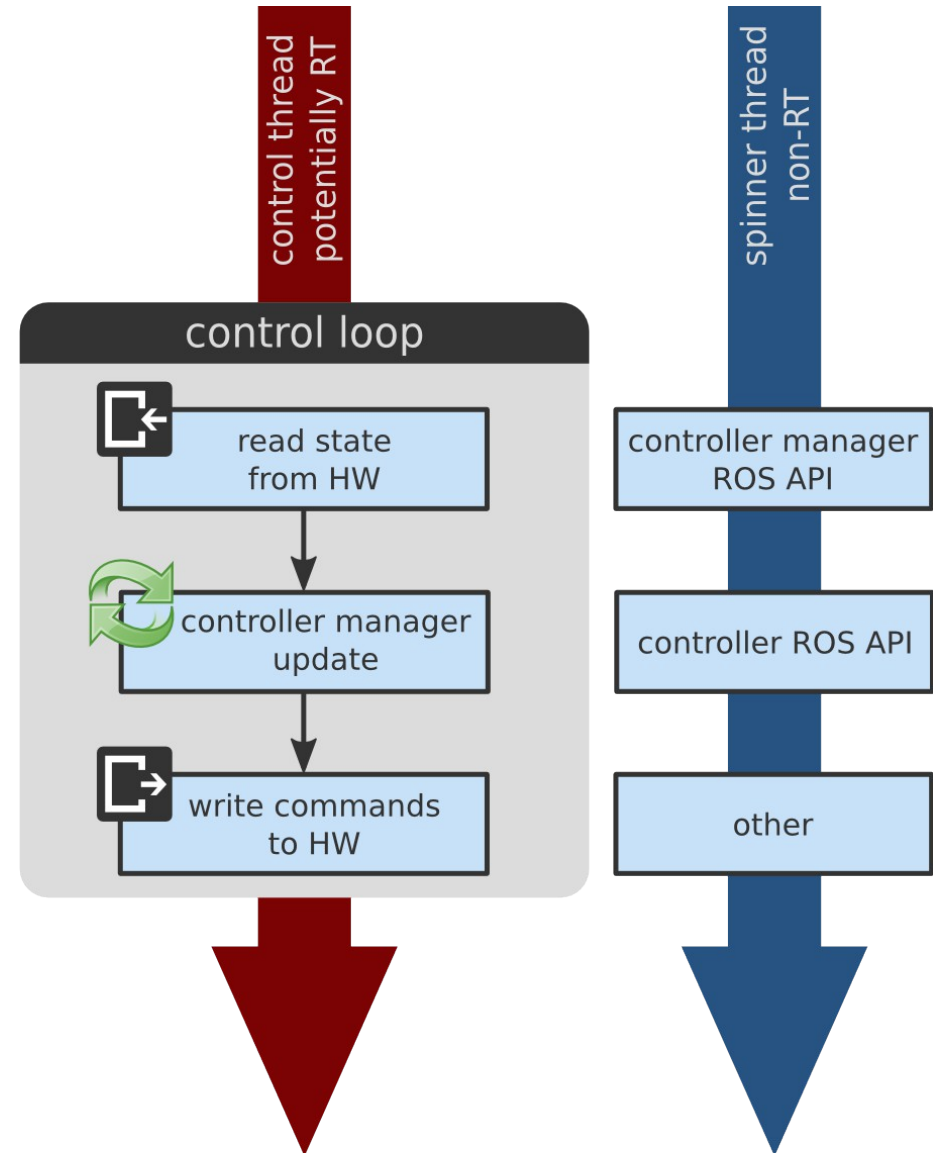
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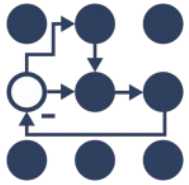
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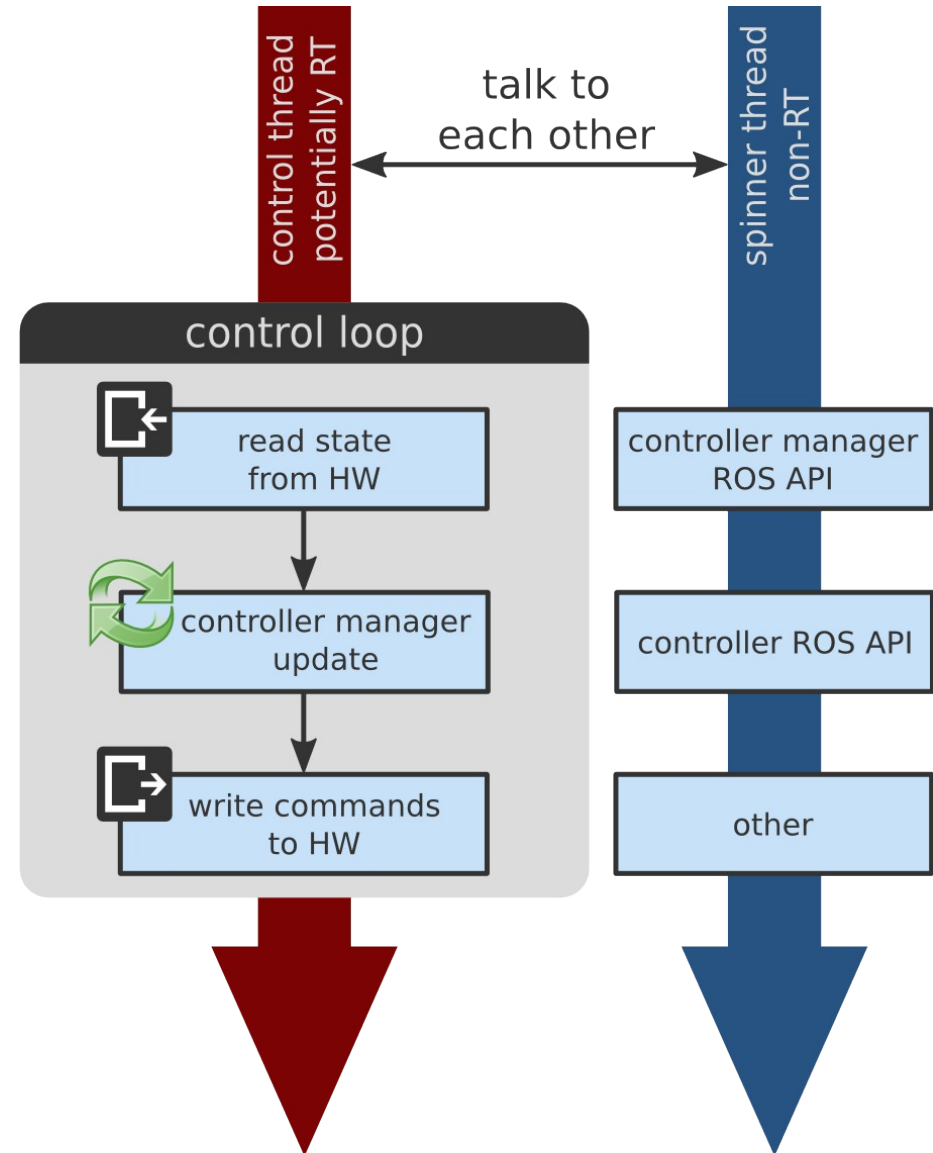
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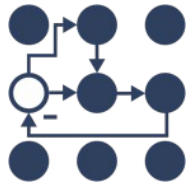
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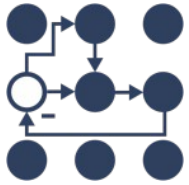
```



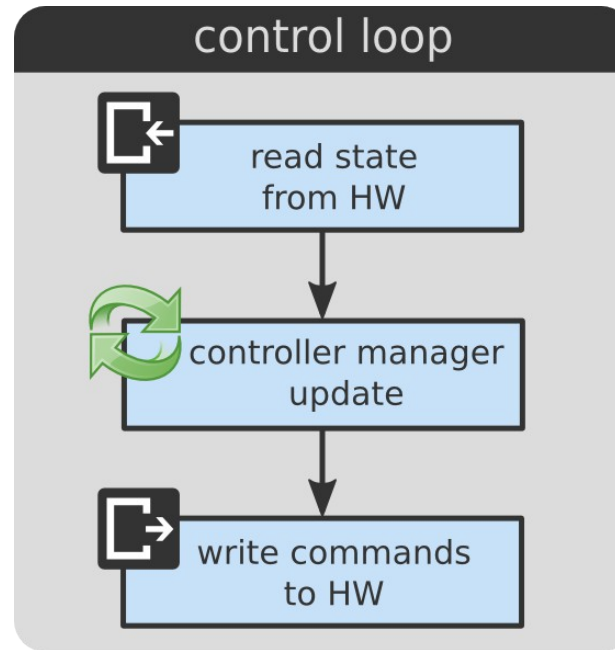


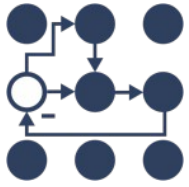
realtime_tools

- Tools usable from a **real-time** thread
 - **RealtimePublisher** Publish to a ROS topic
 - **RealtimeBuffer** Share resource with non-RT thread
 - **RealtimeClock** Query system clock
 - ...

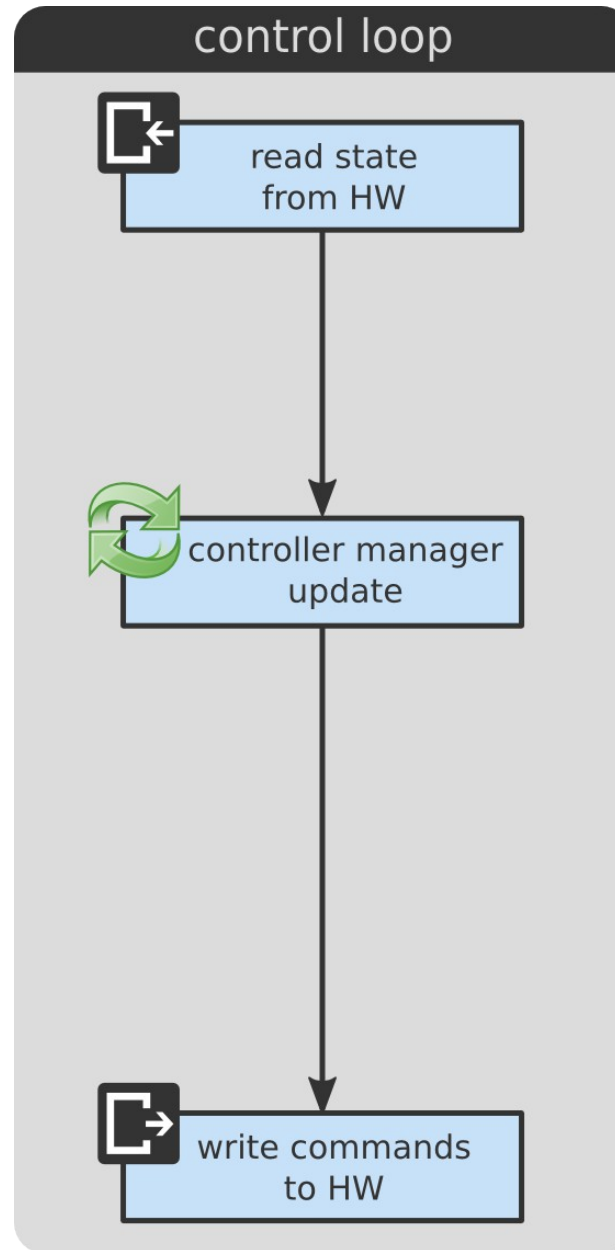


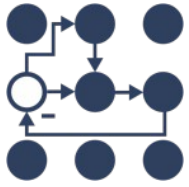
The control loop – Part II



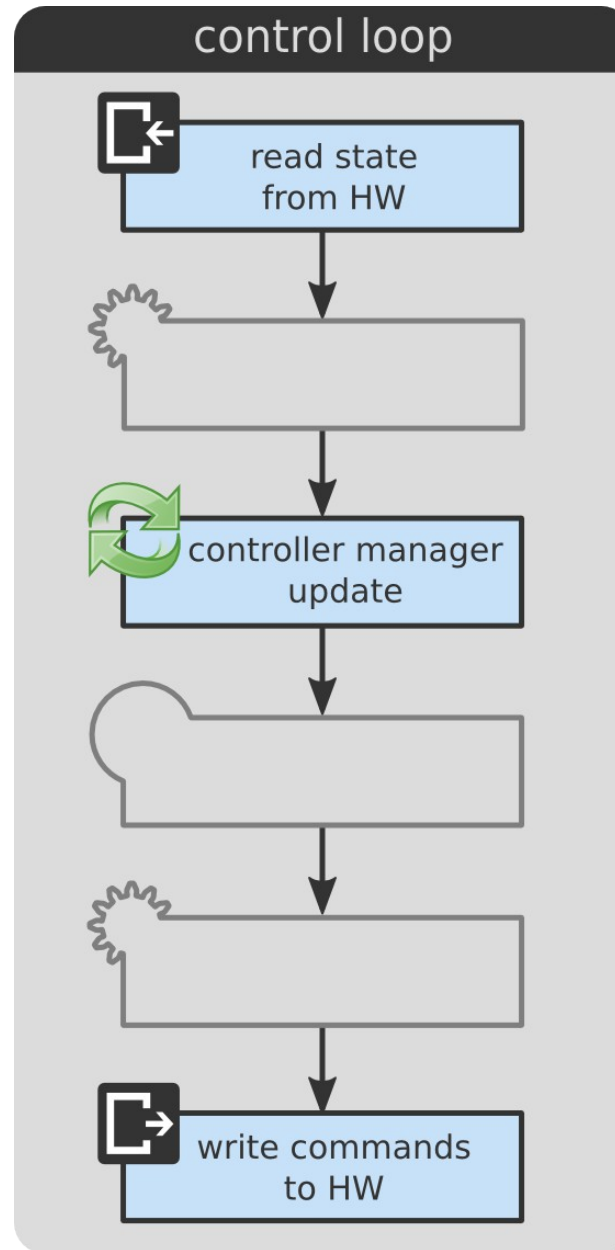


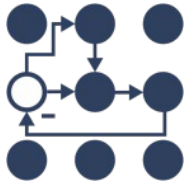
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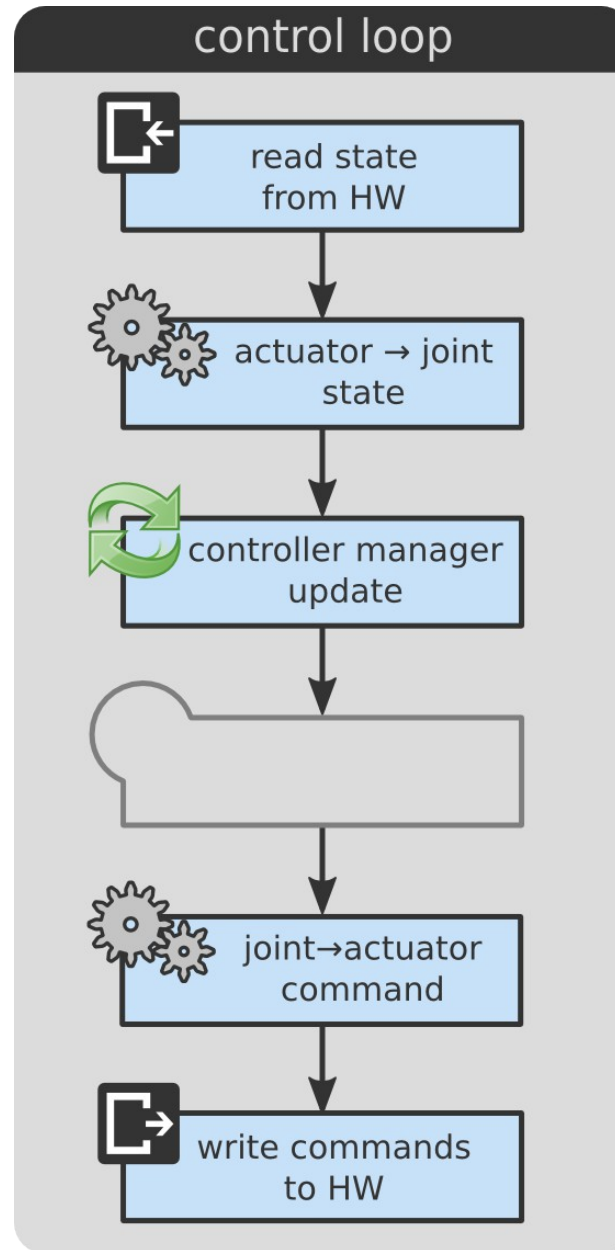


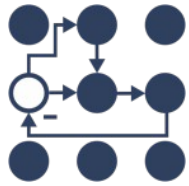
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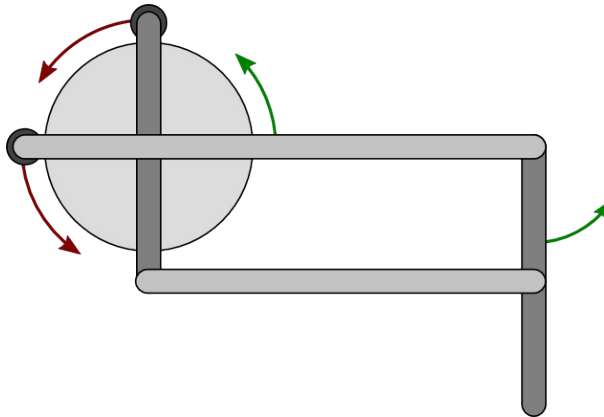
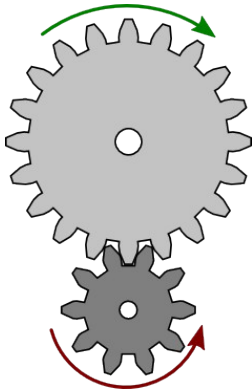
The control loop – Part II



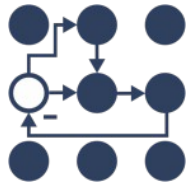


transmission_interface

- Mechanical transmission representation
 - propagate between **actuator** ↔ **joint** spaces...
 - **position**, **velocity** and **effort** variables
- Available transmissions
 - Simple reducer
 - Four-bar linkage
 - Differential

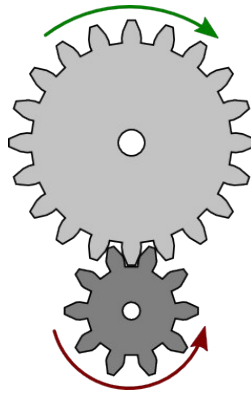


source: cgimotion.com

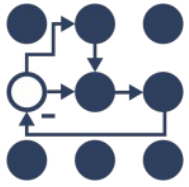


transmission_interface

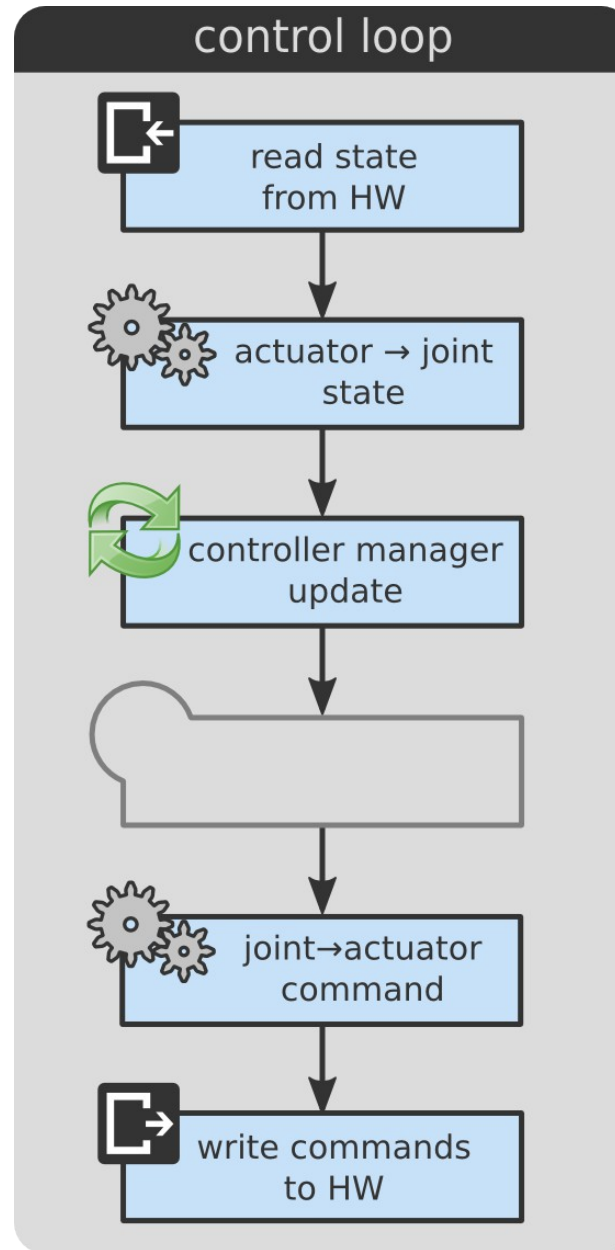
- **Plugins** for loading from URDF
 - **Simplifies** populating **RobotHW** interfaces

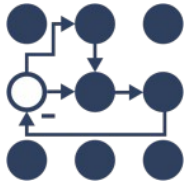


```
<transmission name="arm_1_trans">
  <type>transmission_interface/SimpleTransmission</type>
  <actuator name="arm_1_motor" >
    <mechanicalReduction>42</mechanicalReduction>
  </actuator>
  <joint name="arm_1_joint">
    <hardwareInterface>hardware_interface/PositionJointInterface</hardwareInterface>
  </joint>
</transmission>
```

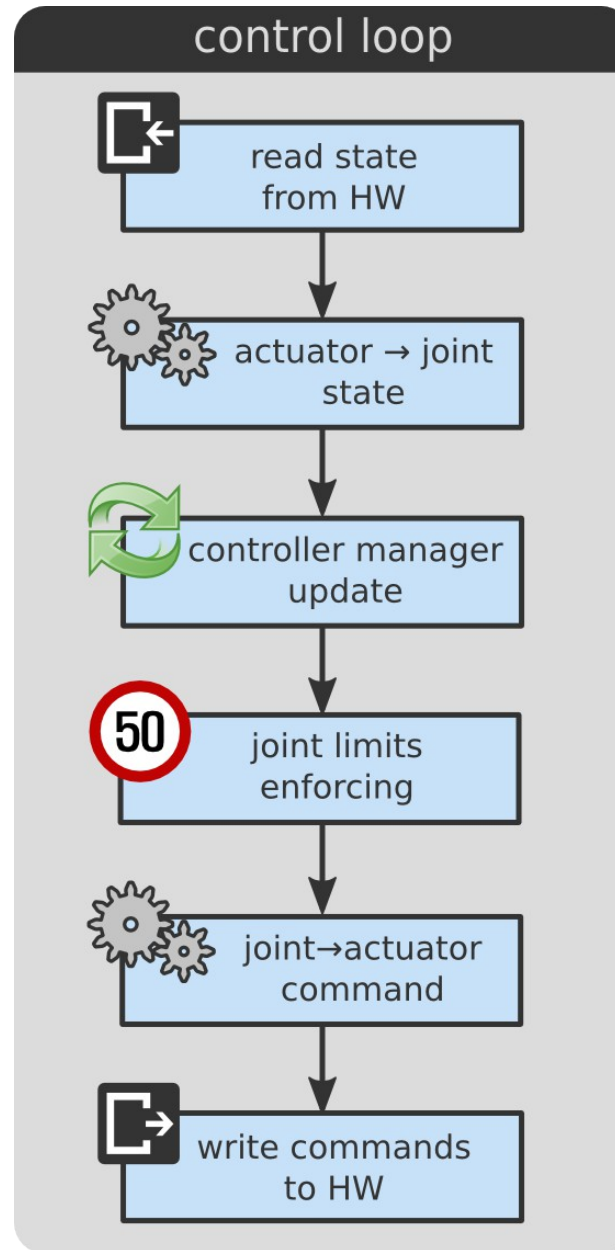


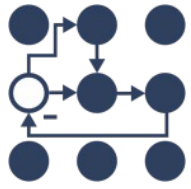
The control loop – Part II





The control loop – Part II

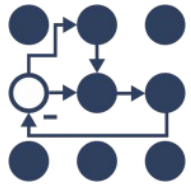




joint_limits_interface

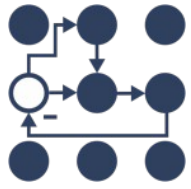
- **Last line of defense** before commanding HW
 - Don't trust controllers ;-)
- **Simple, fast, low-level** strategies





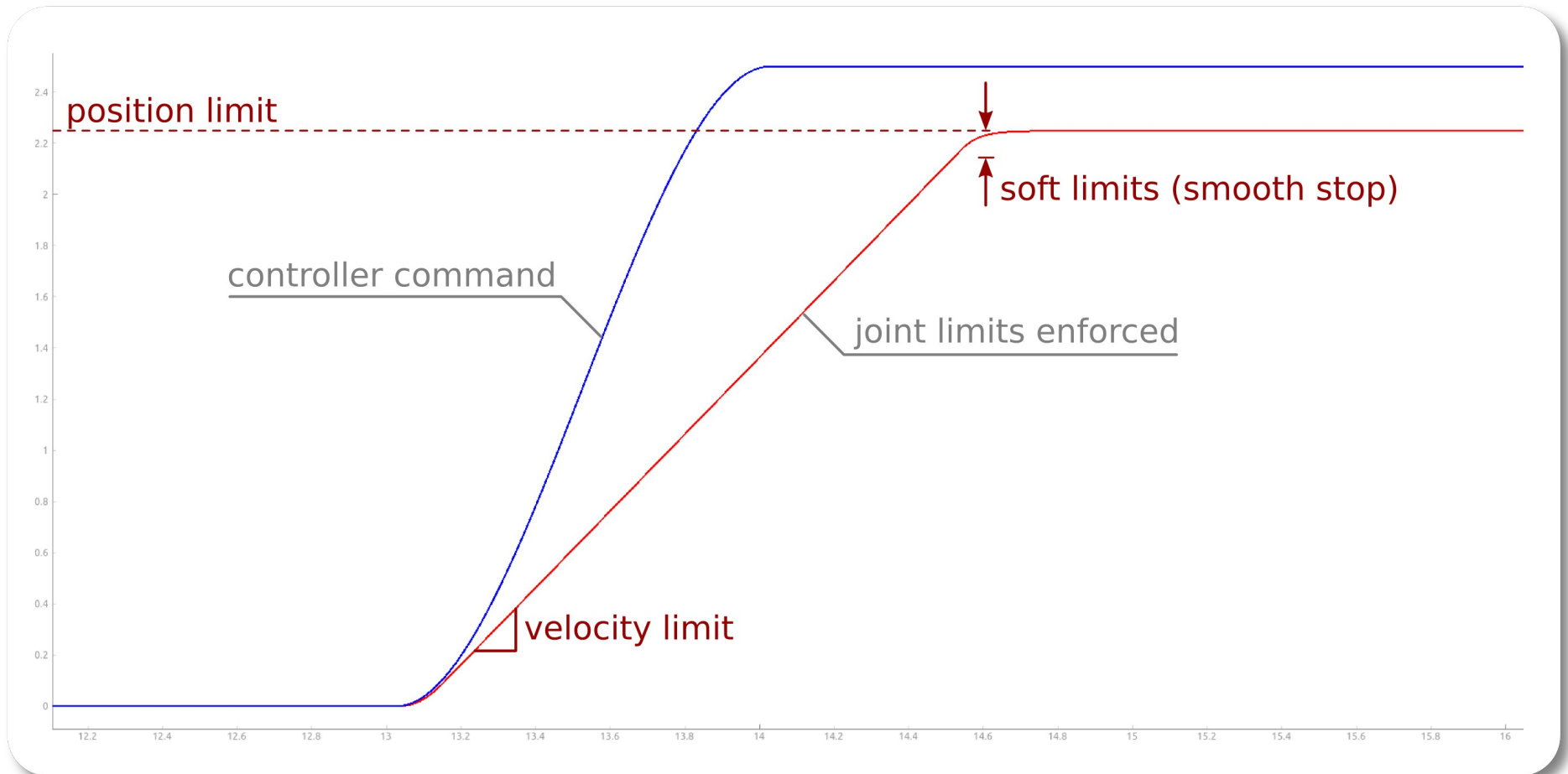
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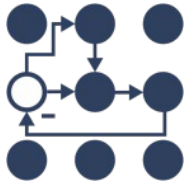
- Data structures for **representing** joint limits
- Methods for **populating** them
 - URDF
 - yaml (à la MoveIt! + jerk)
- Methods for **enforcing** joint limits
 - soft limits (PR2-like) and clamping
 - for different hardware interfaces



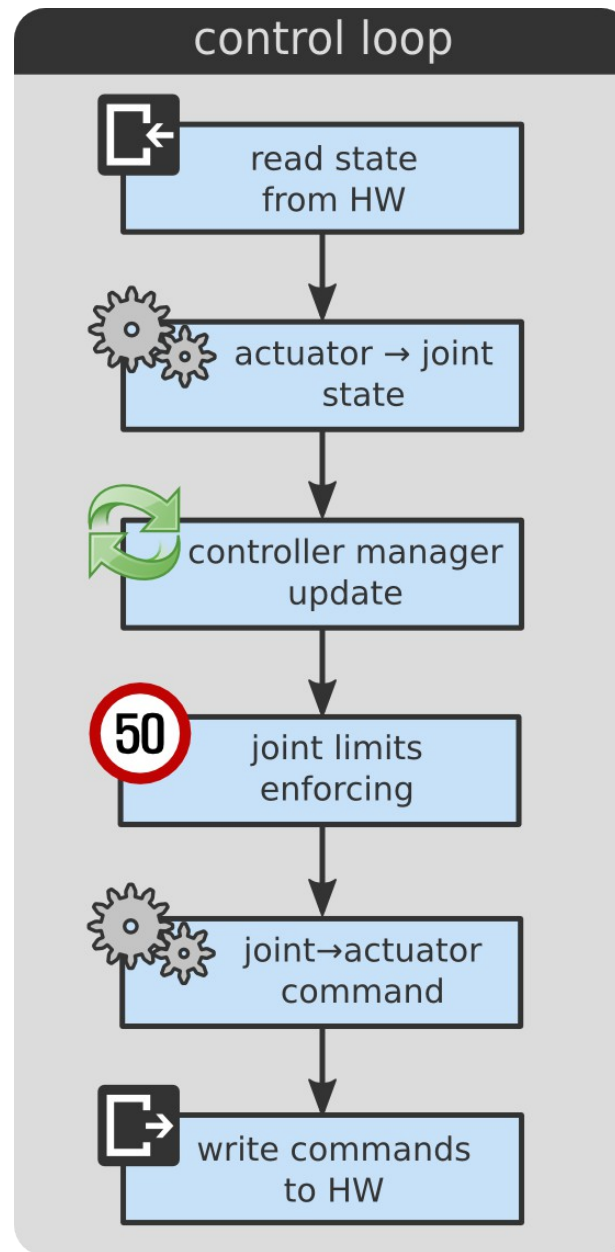
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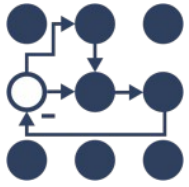
Example



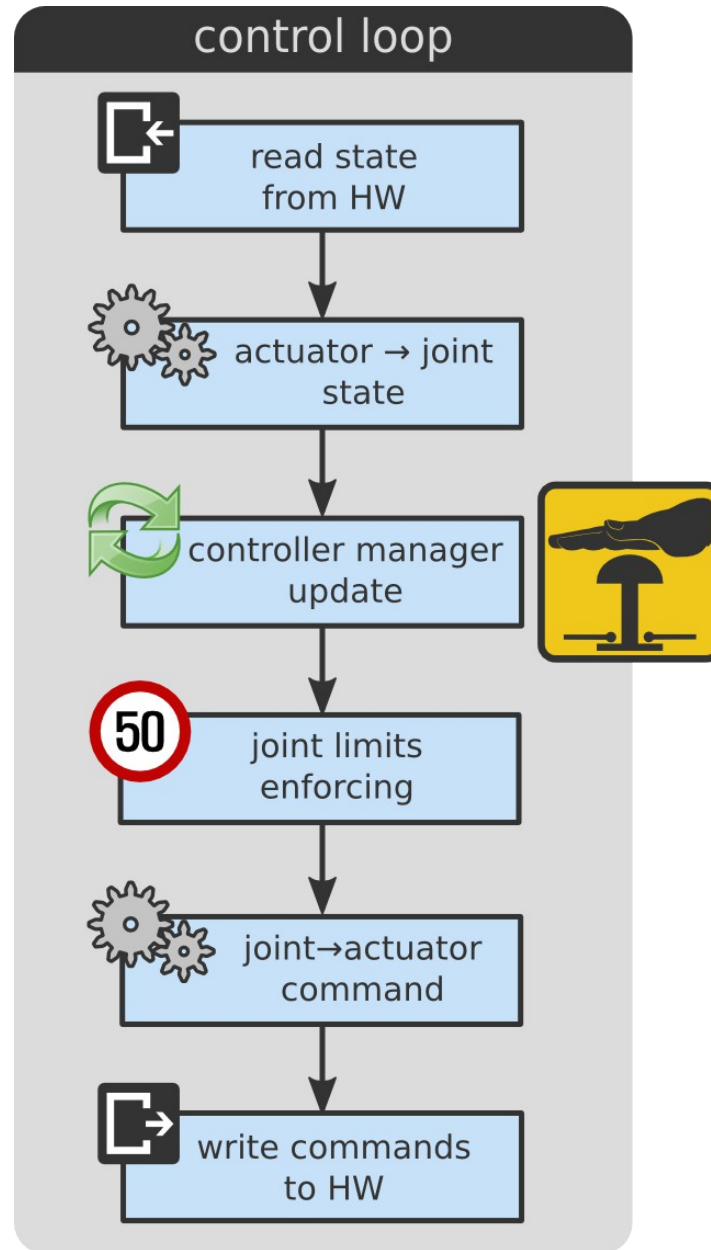


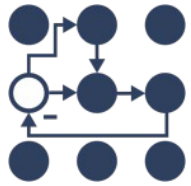
The control loop – Part II





The control loop – Part II





E-stop handling

→ Typically **robot-specific**

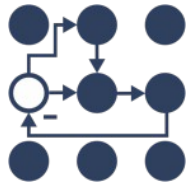
- **Emergency vs protective** (risk reducing) stop
- Remove **energy sources vs hazard control**
- ...



Relevant standards:

ISO 10218-1:2011 Robots and robotic devices – Safety requirements for industrial robots

ISO 13482:2014 Robots and robotic devices – Safety requirements for personal care robots



E-stop handling

- **Recovery** behavior (release stop)
 - What's the **sane thing** to do?
 - Let **running controllers** decide!
- **Reset** controllers
 - on **controller_manager** update
 - **stop + start + update**, in a **single** control cycle
 - Typical policy:



stop
cancel goals

+

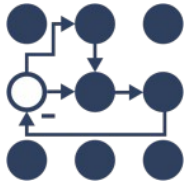


start
semantic zero

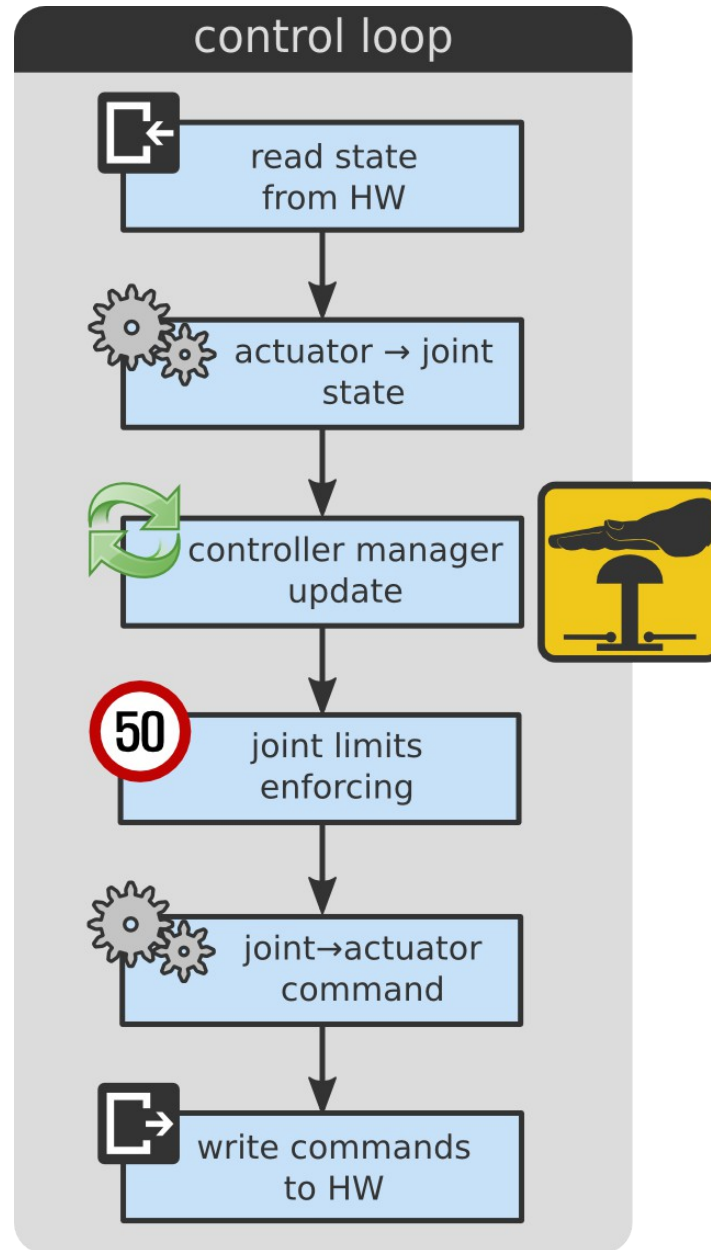
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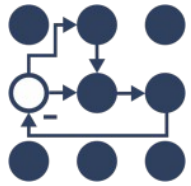


update
sane behavior!



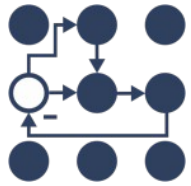
The control loop – Part II





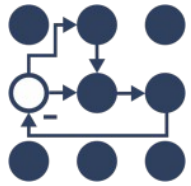
ROS control – an overview

- Big picture and goals
- ROS control & friends
 - Setting up a robot
 - Controllers
 - The control loop
- **Demo**
- Robots using ROS control



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Robots using ROS control

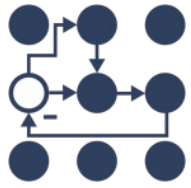
Bauman Moscow State University

Space robotics based on functional model testbed
Russia

- Kawasaki FS 020N
- Kawasaki FS 003N
- Schunk EZN64 gripper
- Schunk SDH hand
- ATI delta F/T sensor



ros_control + ROS-I



Robots using ROS control

Fraunhofer IPA

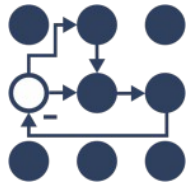
Robots and assistive systems – Germany

→ Schunk LWA4d
7 dof manipulator



→ Schunk LWA4p
6dof manipulator





Robots using ROS control

Georgia Tech (IRIM)

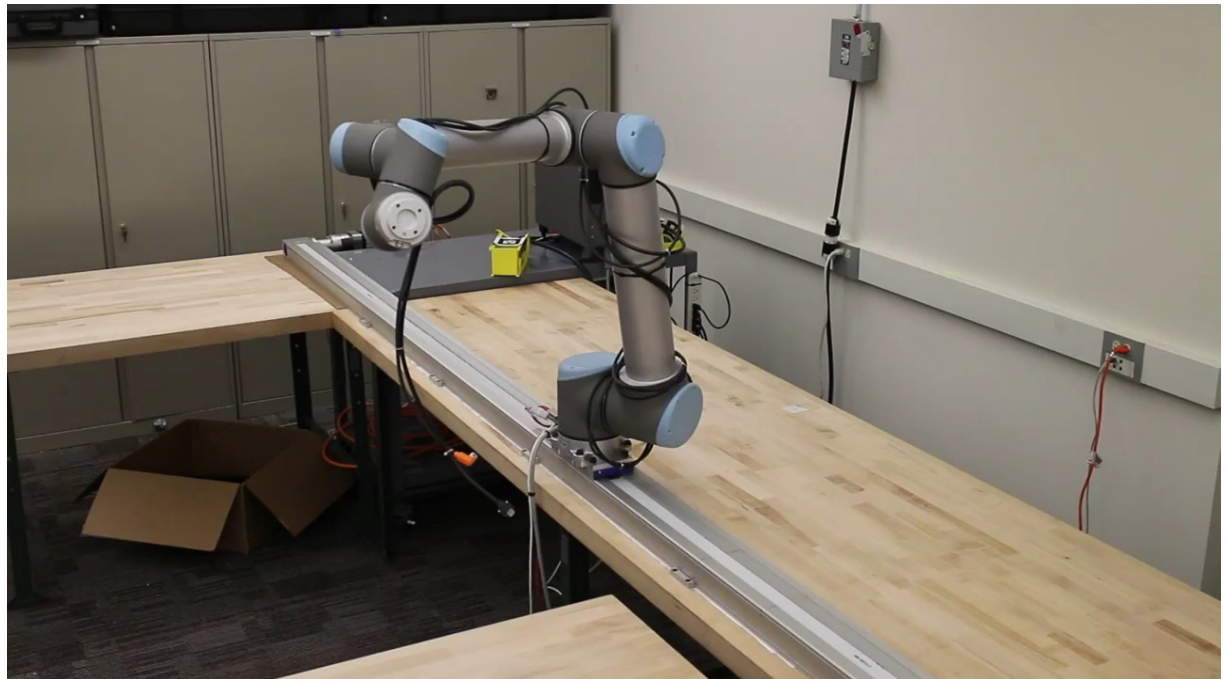
Collaborative assembly – USA

→ UR-10

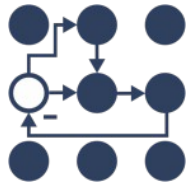
6dof manipulator

→ Indradyn motor

In Schunk linear rail



ros_control + ROS-I



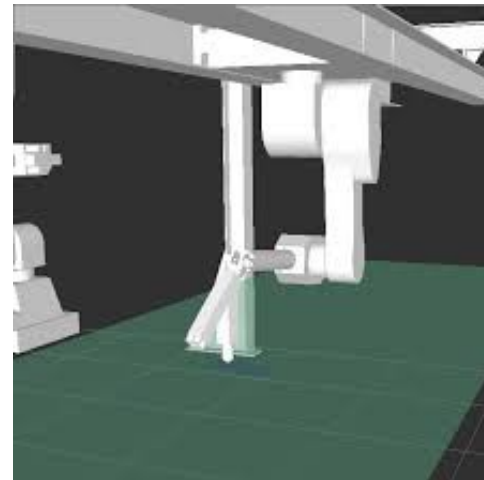
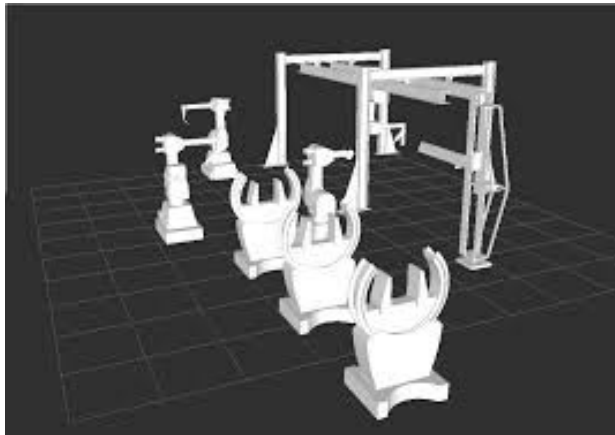
Robots using ROS control

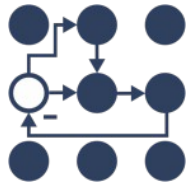
hiDOF

Contracting, technology transfer – USA

→ Industrial robots

- Next-gen steel beam fabrication
- Plasma cutting, pick and place





Robots using ROS control

LAAS – Gepetto team

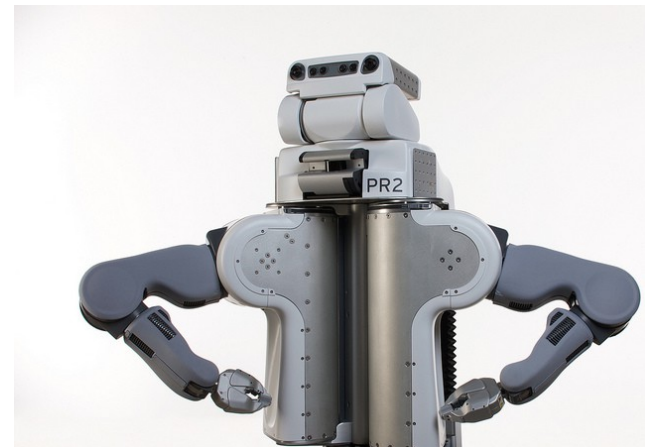
Motion of anthropomorphic systems – France

→ PR2

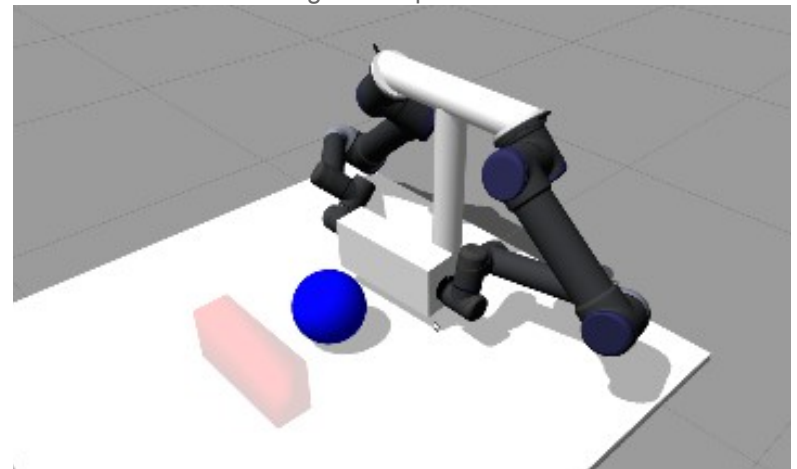
Implement stack of tasks

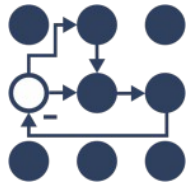
→ 2x UR-5 (simulation)

Manipulation testbed



source: Willow Garage Flickr photostream





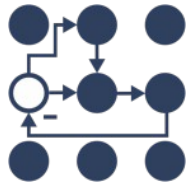
Robots using ROS control

PAL Robotics

Service robotics – Spain

- **PMB2**
50kg payload mobile base
- **Stockbot**
Robotic inventory solution
- **REEM**
Humanoid service robot
- **REEM-C**
Biped research robot



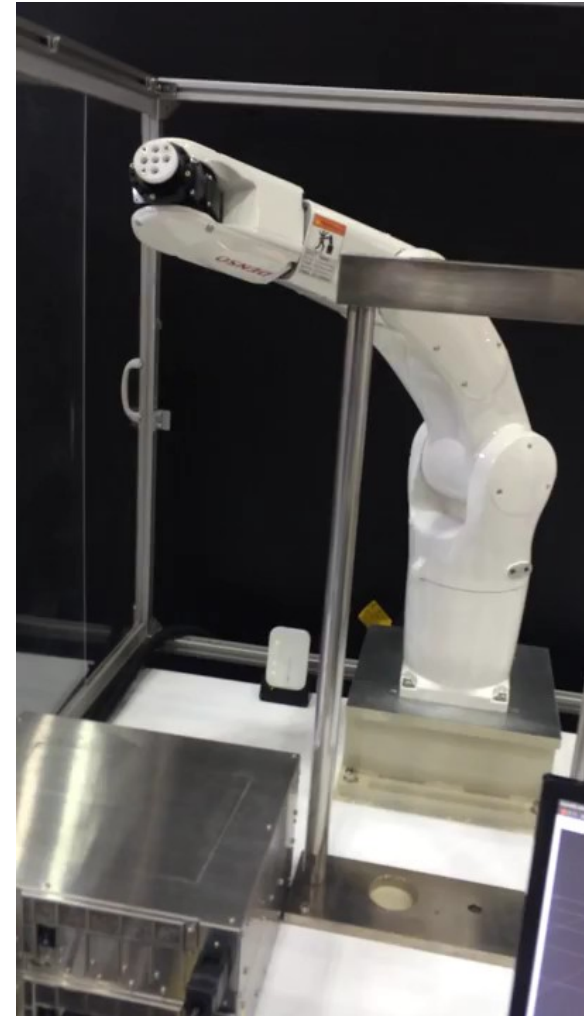


Robots using ROS control

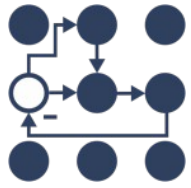
TORK

Open source robotics – Japan

- Denso VS060 (WIP)
Industrial manipulator



ros_control + ROS-I

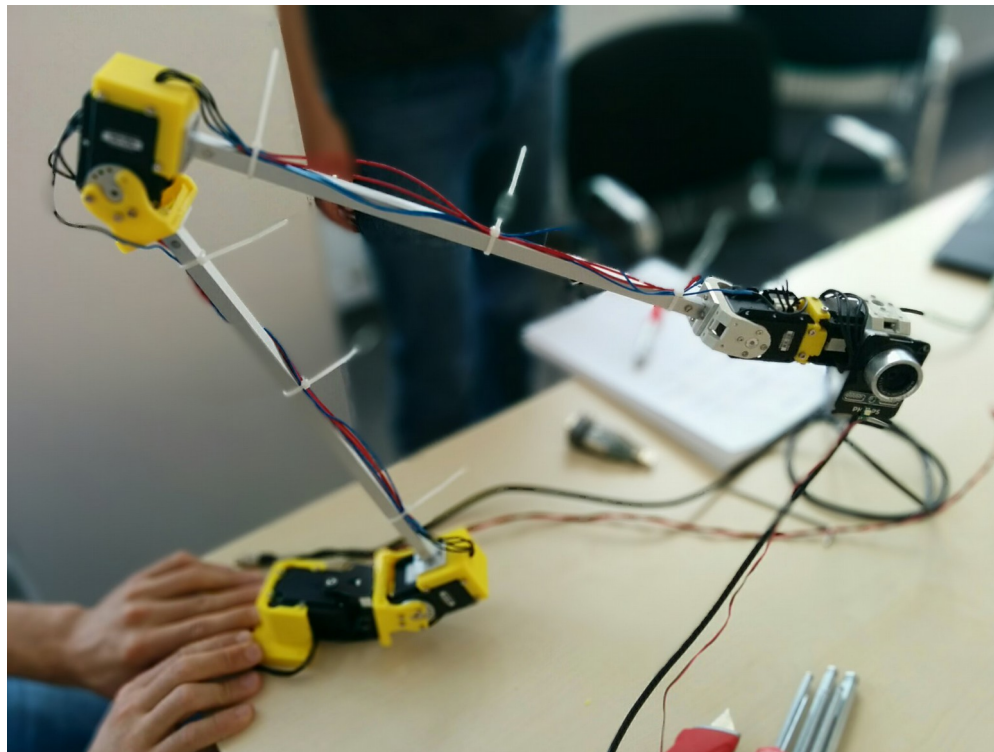


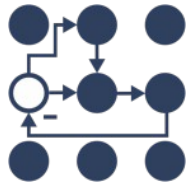
Robots using ROS control

TU Darmstadt

Search and rescue – Germany

- Dynamixel-based 3D printed arm
Camera arm control





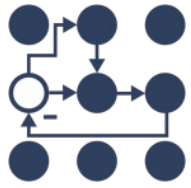
Robots using ROS control

**Joint workshop of team TEDUSAR,
TU Darmstadt,
TU Graz,**

Search and rescue / manipulation – International

→ **Schunk LWA4P**
6dof manipulator





Robots using ROS control

Team VIGIR

TORC Robotics

TU Darmstadt

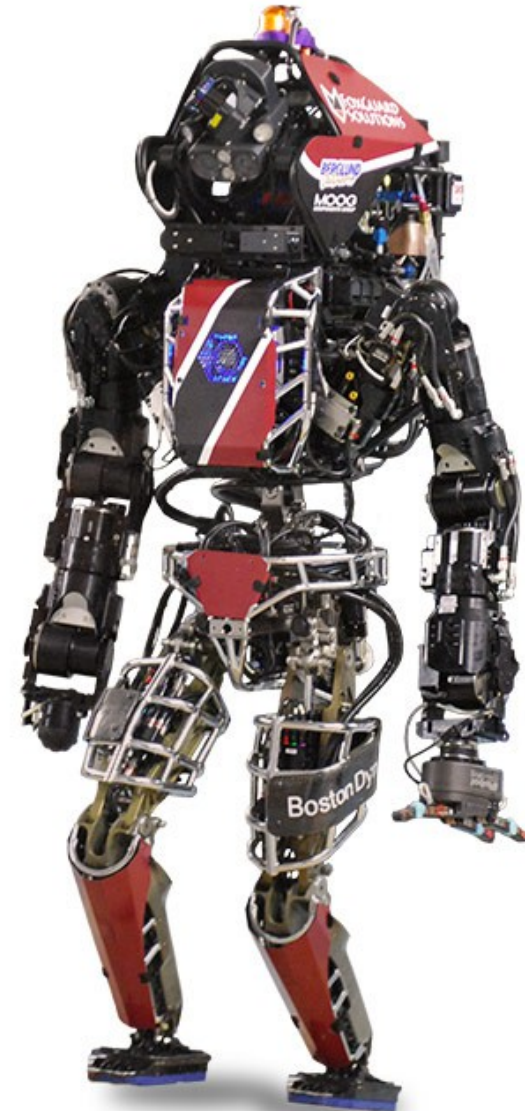
Virginia Tech

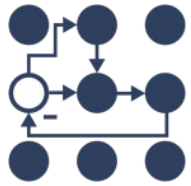
Oregon State University

Search and rescue – USA, Germany

→ **ATLAS (WIP)**

Hydraulic biped robot





What's next?

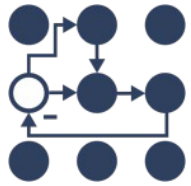
ros_control 1.0

→ features

- library of **robots** and **controllers**
- composable robots
- controllers with multiple hardware interfaces
- joint mode switching
- multiple controller update rates

→ general

- stabilize APIs
- user and dev documentation
- high test coverage, everywhere



What's next?

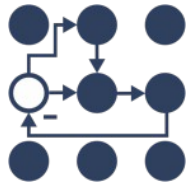
ros_control 2.0

→ more flexibility

- functional / data blocks (ie. controller chaining)
- lift periodic + serialized controllers requirement
- dynamic interfaces

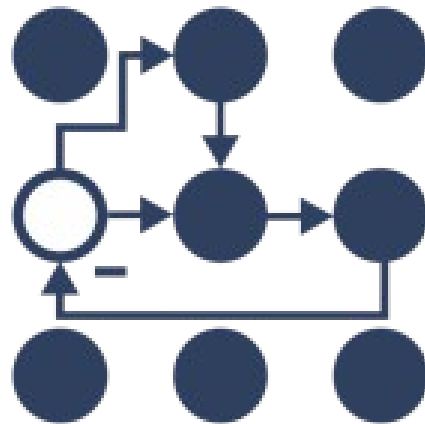
→ dependency compromise

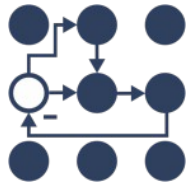
- build upon something that exists (no effort duplication)
- keep dependencies light
- learning curve: not steeper



Get involved

- **code** github.com/ros-controls
- **SIG** [ros-sig-robot-control](#)
- **answers.ros.org** please tag your questions





Acknowledgments

Jonathan Bohren

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Wim Meussen

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→ Bence Magyar

→ Luca Marchionni

→ Paul Mathieu

→ Victor Mayoral

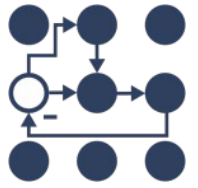
→ Felix Messmer

→ Vijay Pradeep

→ Mike Purvis

→ Jim Rothrock

→ Hilario Tomé



Questions?

