

# Sorry for not being with you!







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ISTITUTO ITALIANO  
DI TECNOLOGIA

# What can a simple hand do?

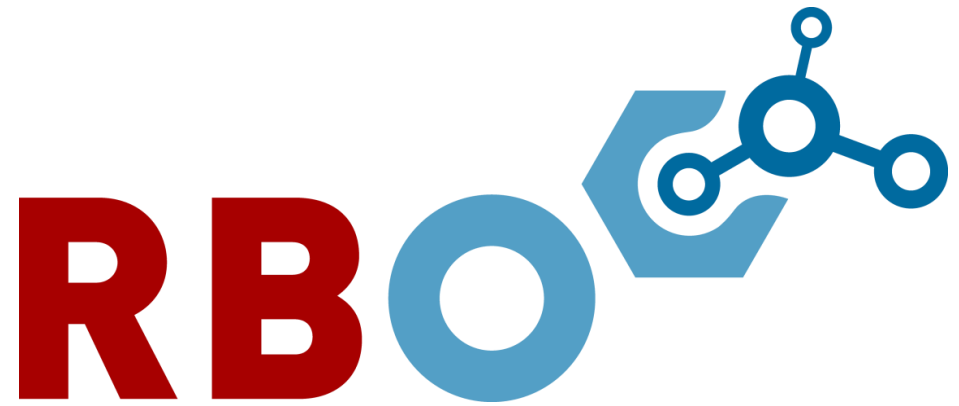
Antonio Bicchi  
with

M. G. Catalano A. Ajoudani S.B. Godfrey M. Bianchi G.Grioli  
A. Serio E. Farnioli C. Piazza M. Bonilla M. Garabini M. Gabbicini  
thanks to

M. Santello (ASU), D. Prattichizzo (UNISI), N. Tsagarakis (IIT)



THE Hand Embodied



# Soft Manipulation with Environmental Constraints

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José Alvarez Ruiz, Marianne Maertens  
Robotics and Biology Laboratory



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

**Technische Universität Berlin**





# Julia Child (1912 – 2004)

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**A Scene From**  
**The French Chef - Julia Child**

**The Potato Show**  
**Season 1, Episode 22, 1963**

# Human Grasping Strategies

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# Two Experimental Conditions

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Control



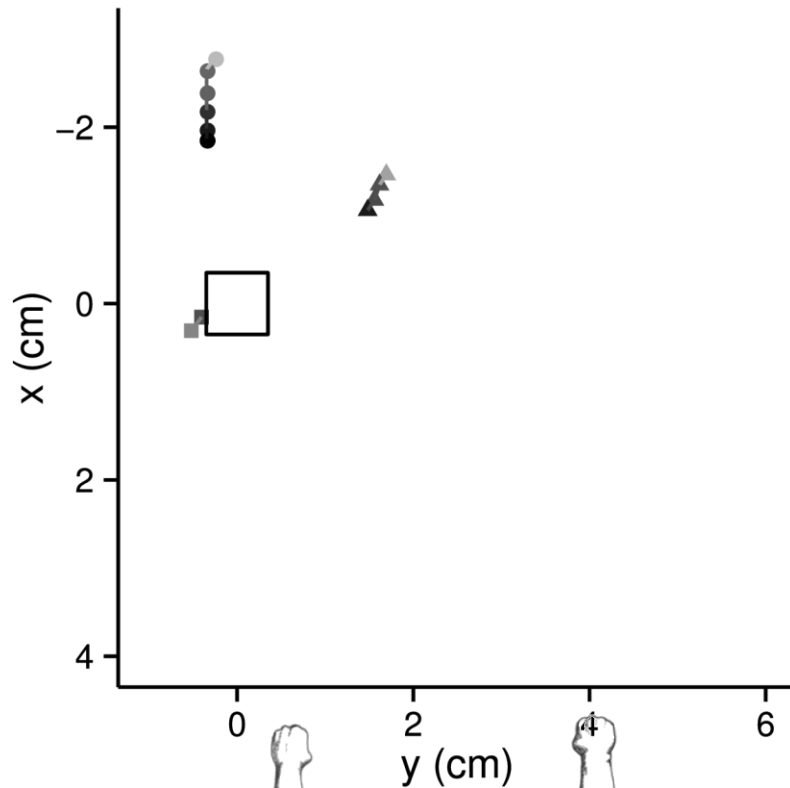
Impaired





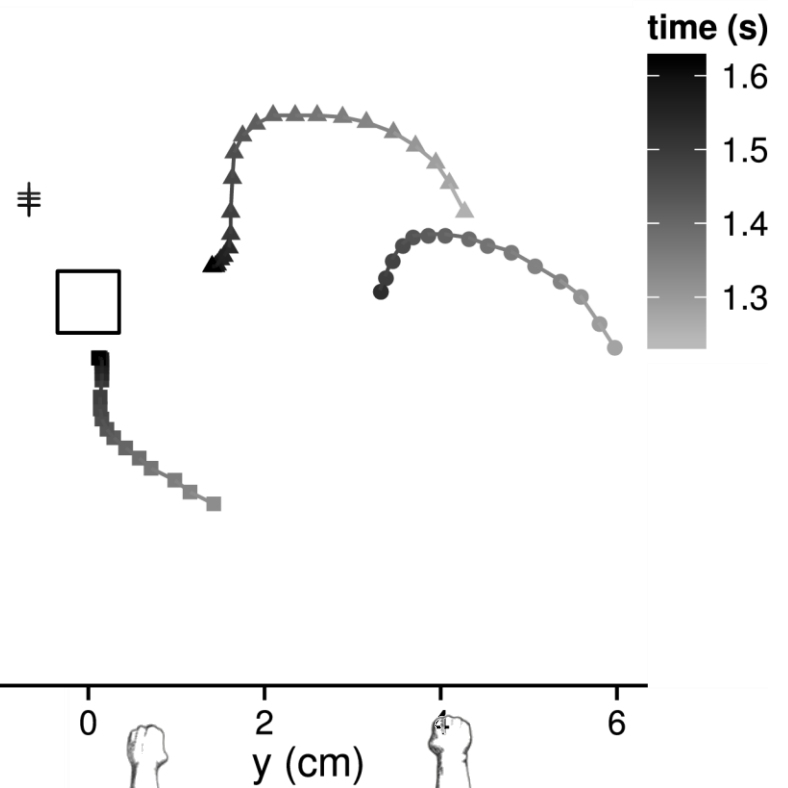
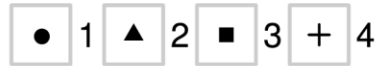
# Traces of Support Contacts

Control



Impaired

Support contact



# The Shape of Synergies

*Glossary: "Postural Synergies"*  
= Principal Components  
of Grasp Covariance Matrix



First two synergies explain ~84%,  
first three ~90% of the covariance.

First synergy alone more than 50%

(1-st synergy)

(2-nd synergy)

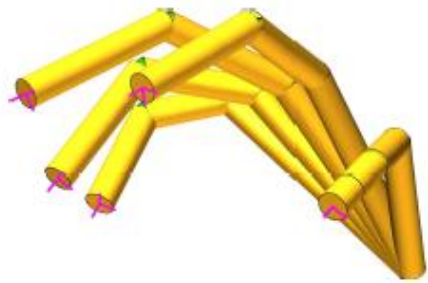
(3-rd synergy)

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ S_1 & S_2 & S_3 & \cdots & S_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

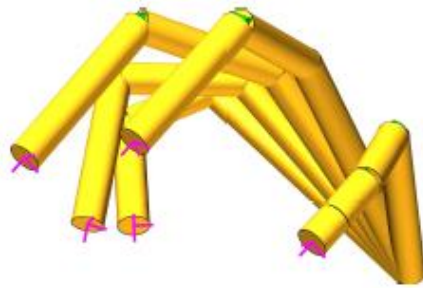


# Geometric Synergies

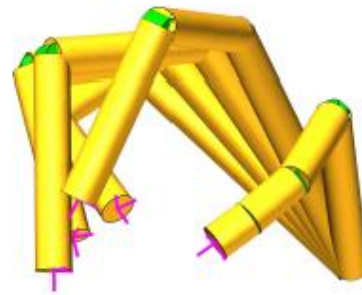
Grasping a ball with one synergy would be impossible



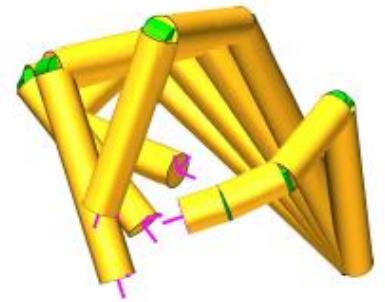
(a)  $\sigma_1 = 0$



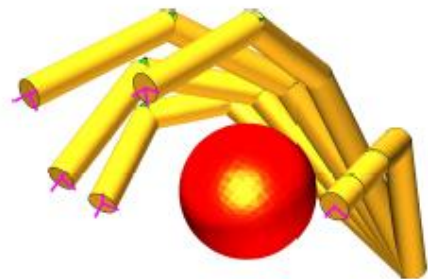
(b)  $\sigma_1 = 0.35$



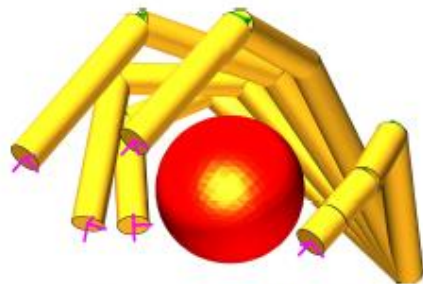
(c)  $\sigma_1 = 0.70$



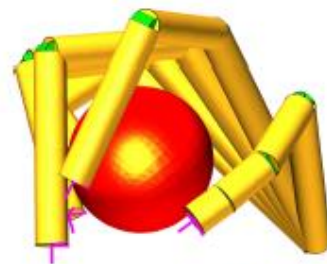
(d)  $\sigma_1 = 1.0$



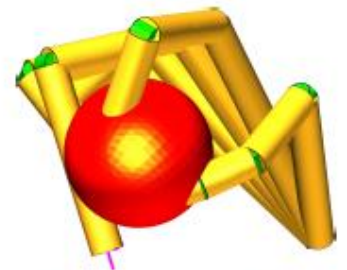
(e)  $\sigma_1 = 0$



(f)  $\sigma_1 = 0.35$



(g)  $\sigma_1 = 0.70$

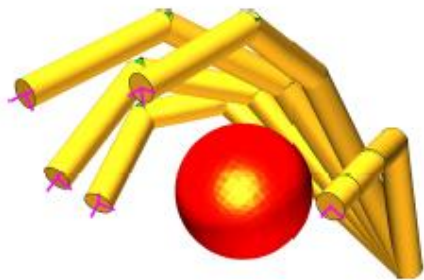


(h)  $\sigma_1 = 1.0$

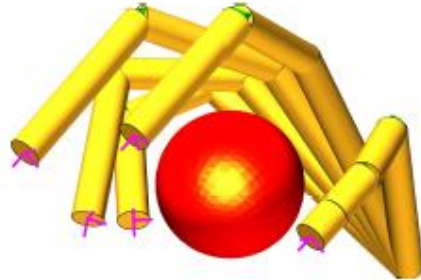


# Soft Synergies (!)

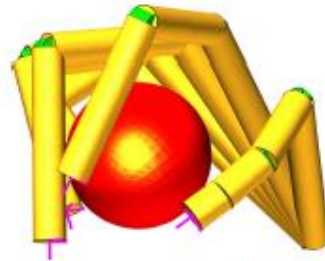
Geometric Synergies drive an “inner hand”



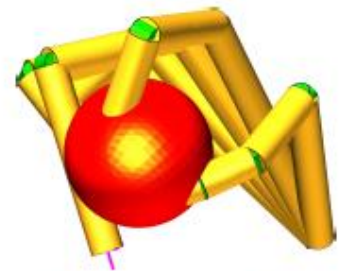
(e)  $\sigma_1 = 0$



(f)  $\sigma_1 = 0.35$

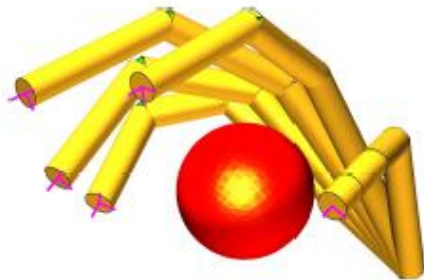


(g)  $\sigma_1 = 0.70$

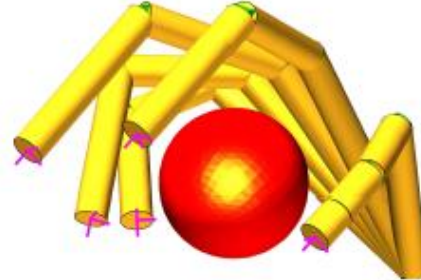


(h)  $\sigma_1 = 1.0$

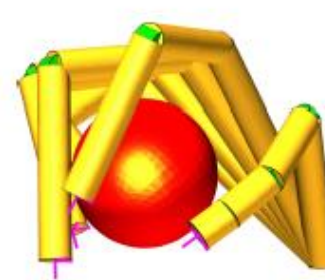
The real, compliant hand is attracted by the internal model and repelled by contact forces, reaching an equilibrium



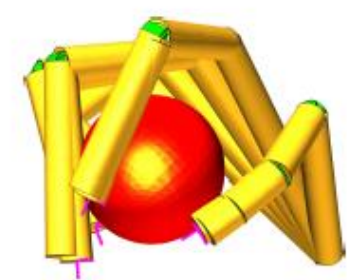
(i)  $\sigma_1 = 0$



(j)  $\sigma_1 = 0.35$

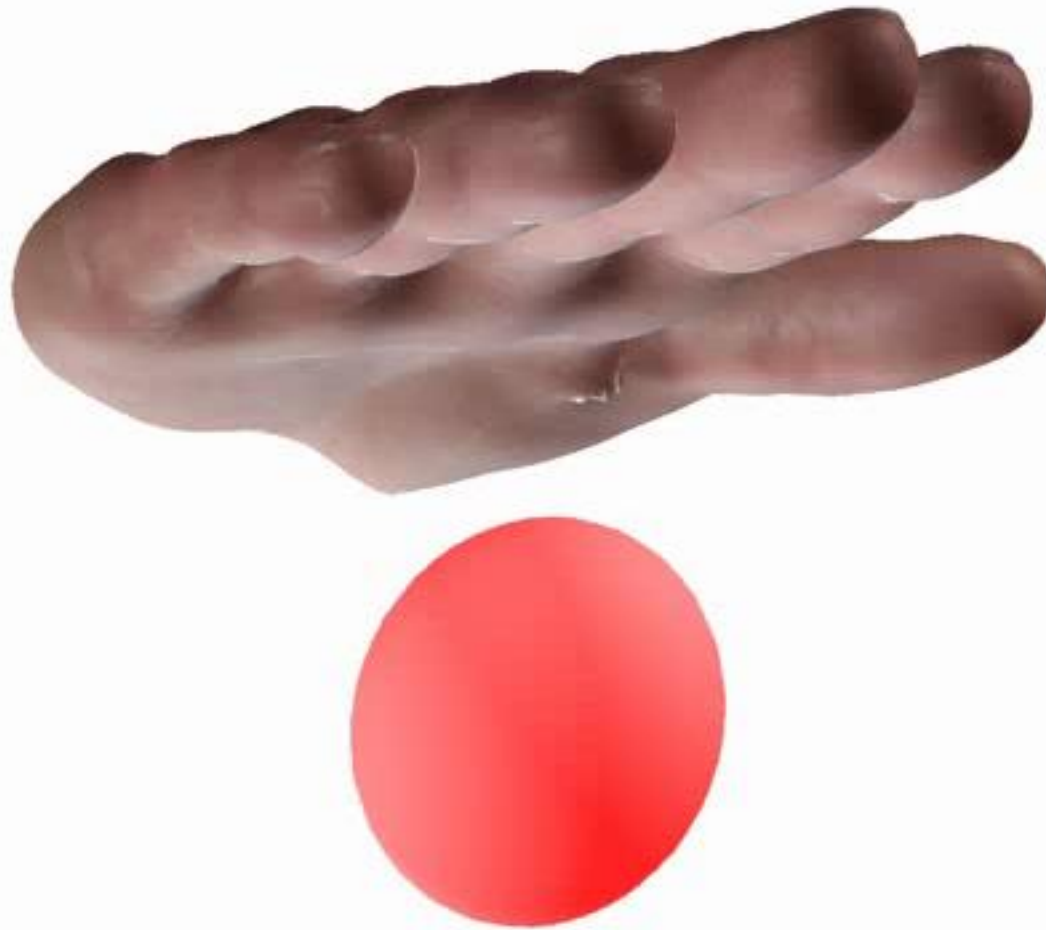


(k)  $\sigma_1 = 0.70$



(l)  $\sigma_1 = 1.0$

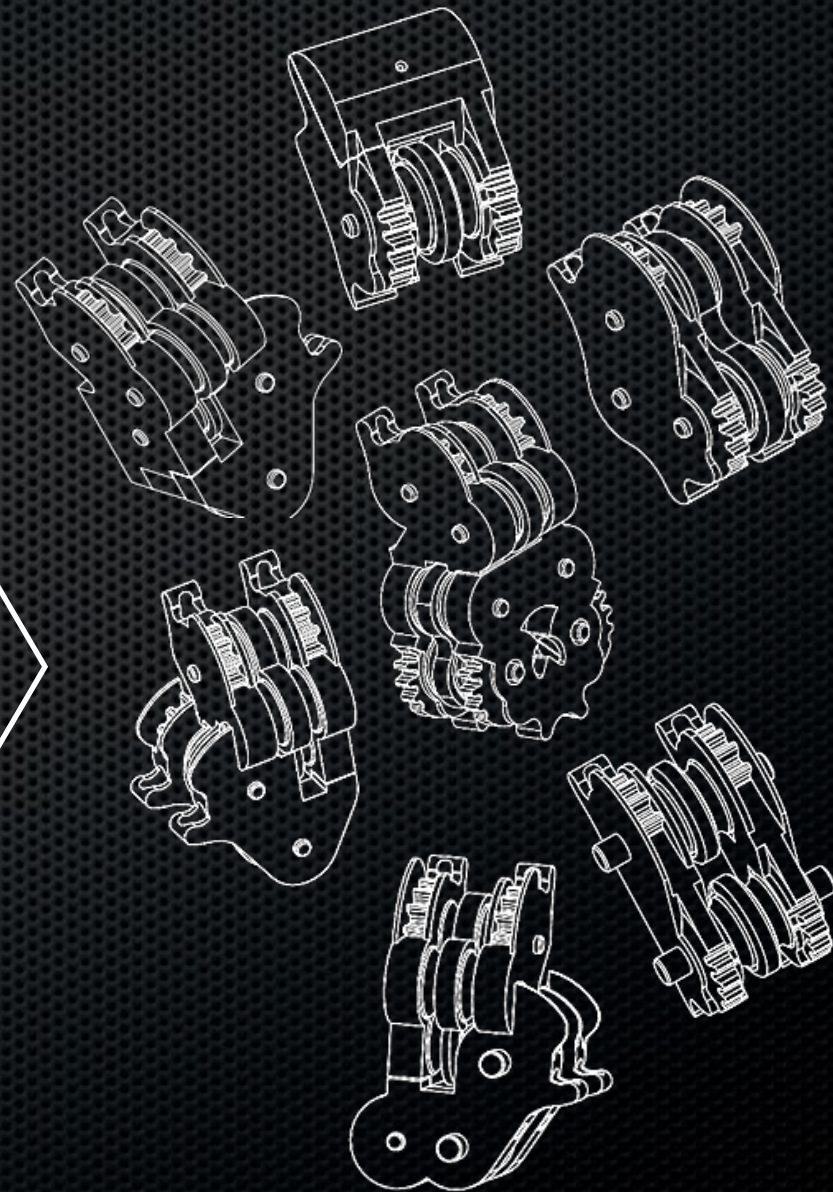
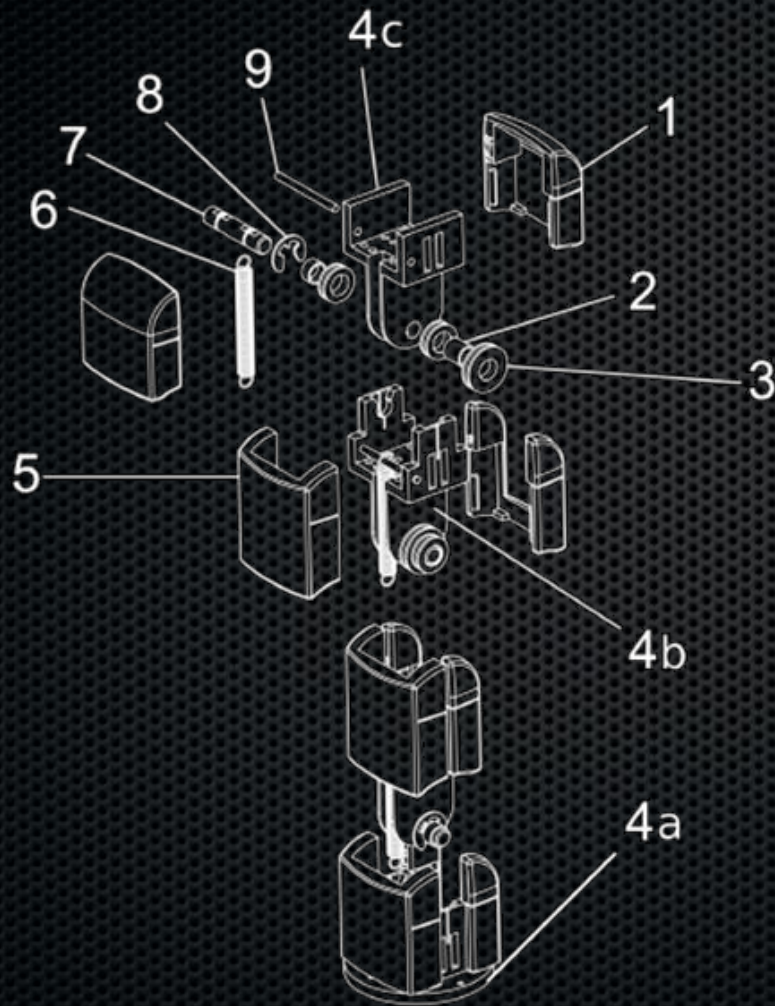
# Small Red Object





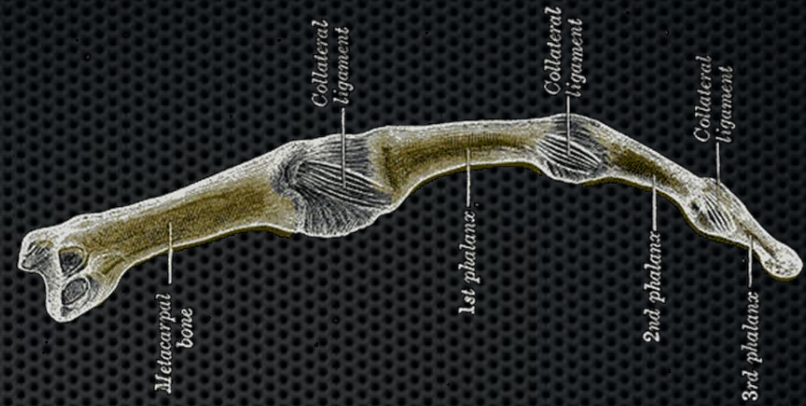
# From theory to practice

## Module design optimization





# Innovative Design

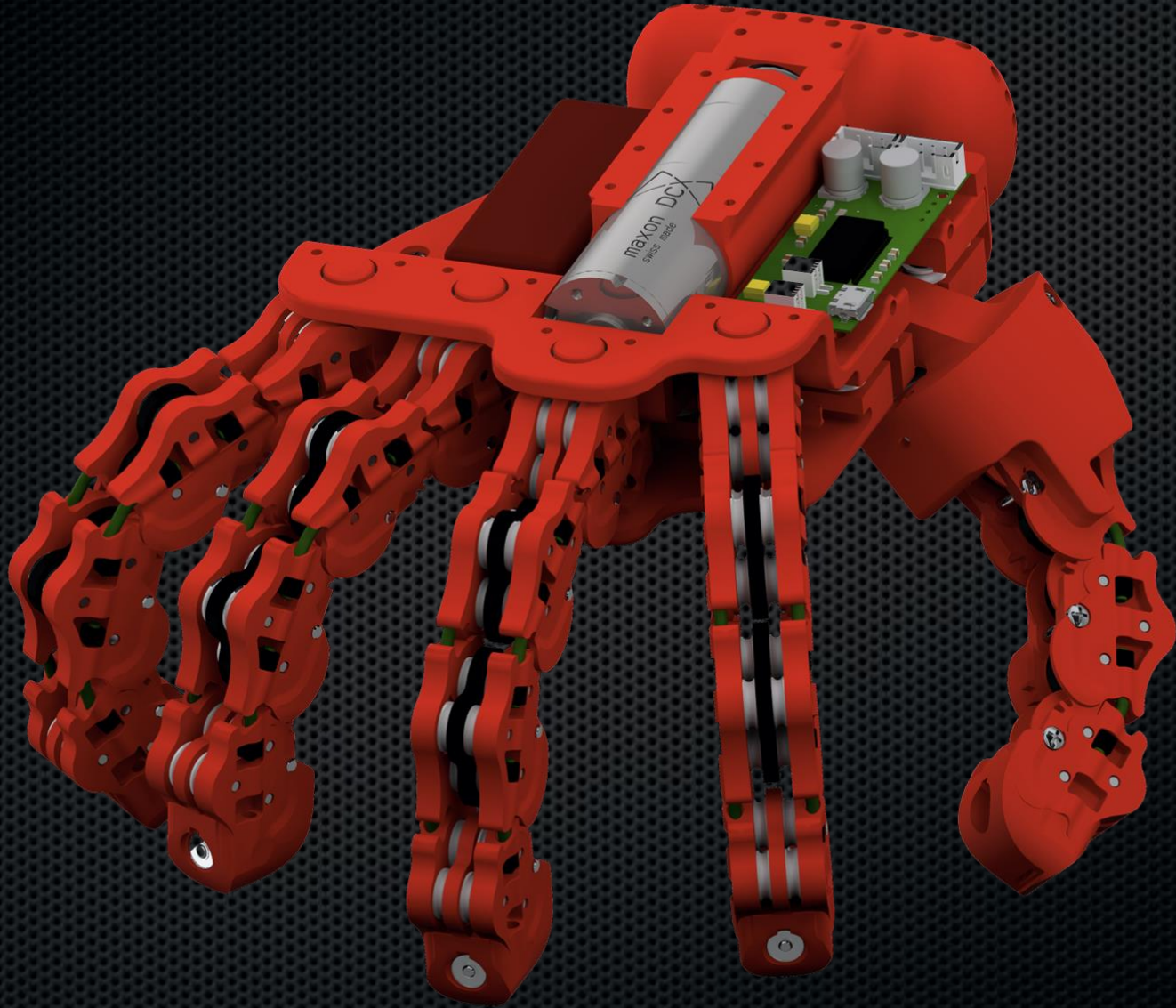


Articular Joints  
and Soft Ligaments  
for Robustness & Safety



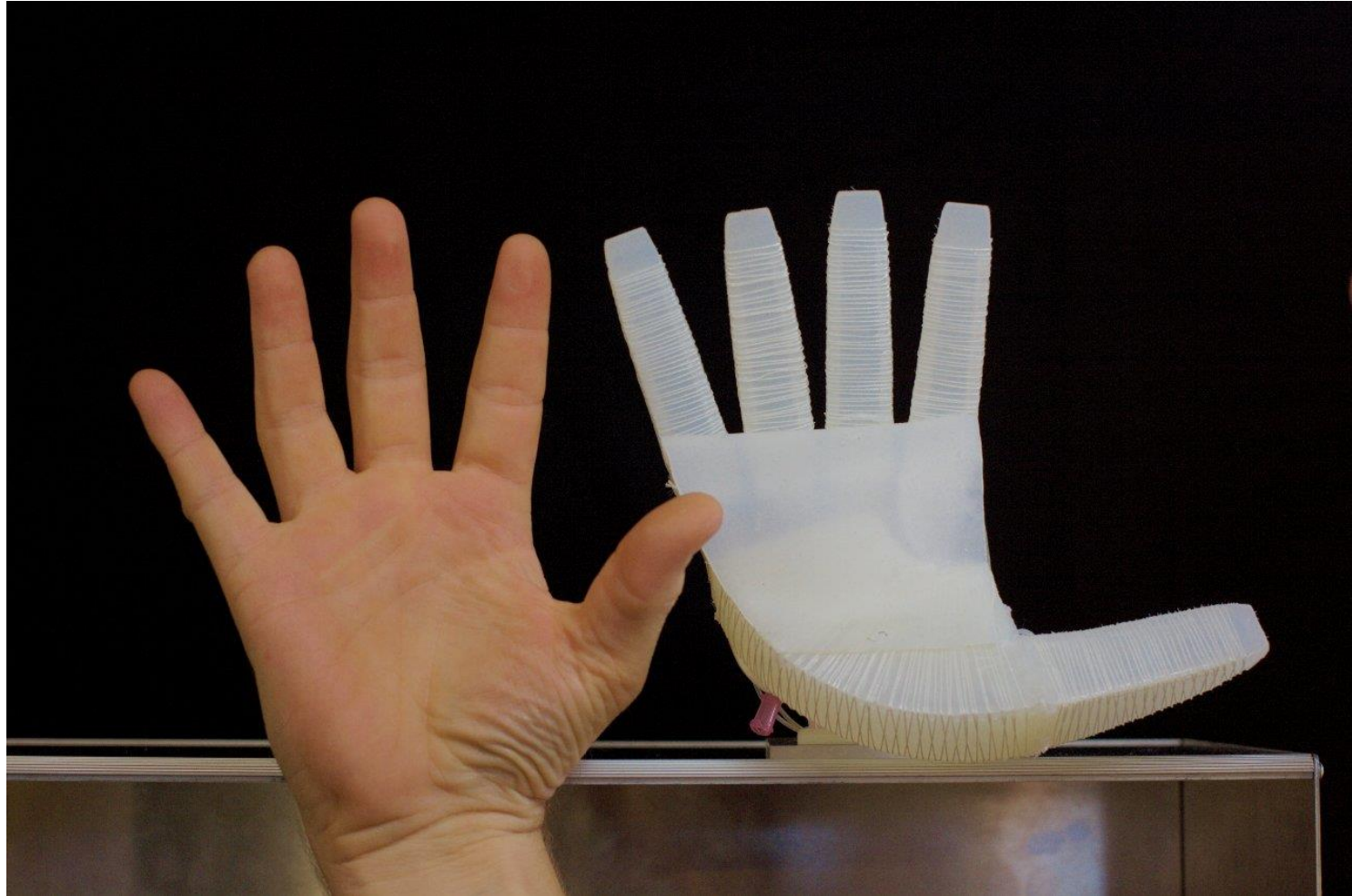


# The PISA/IIT Soft Hand



# RBO Anthropomorphic Hand (Prototype I)

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# Finger = PneuFlex Actuator

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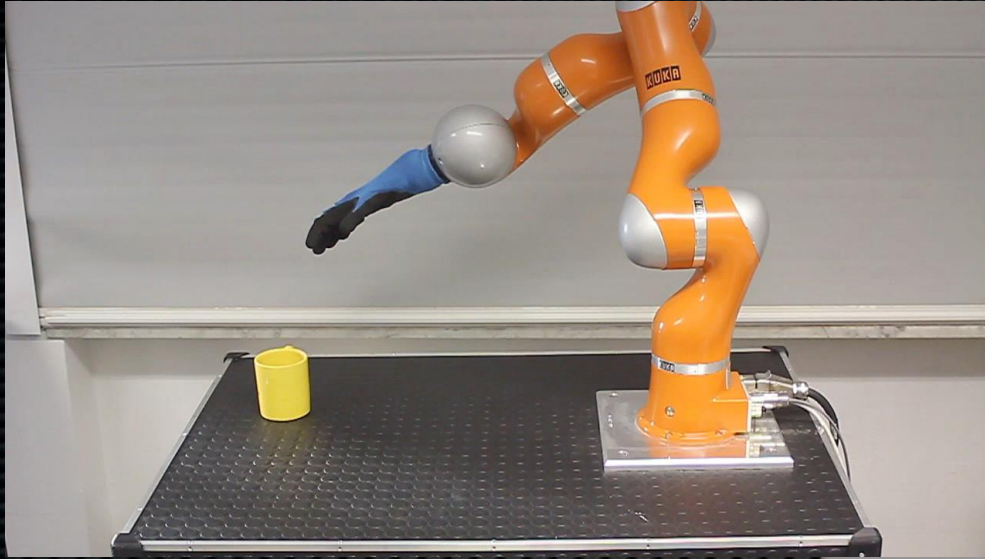
# The Pisa-IIT Soft Hand



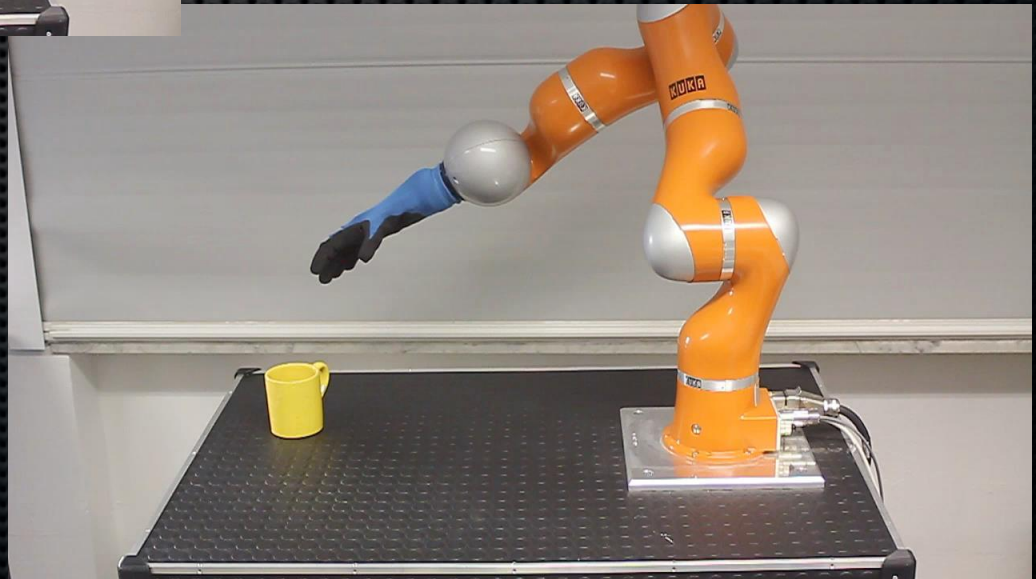
- 18 anthropomorphic joints
- One soft synergy
- One motor



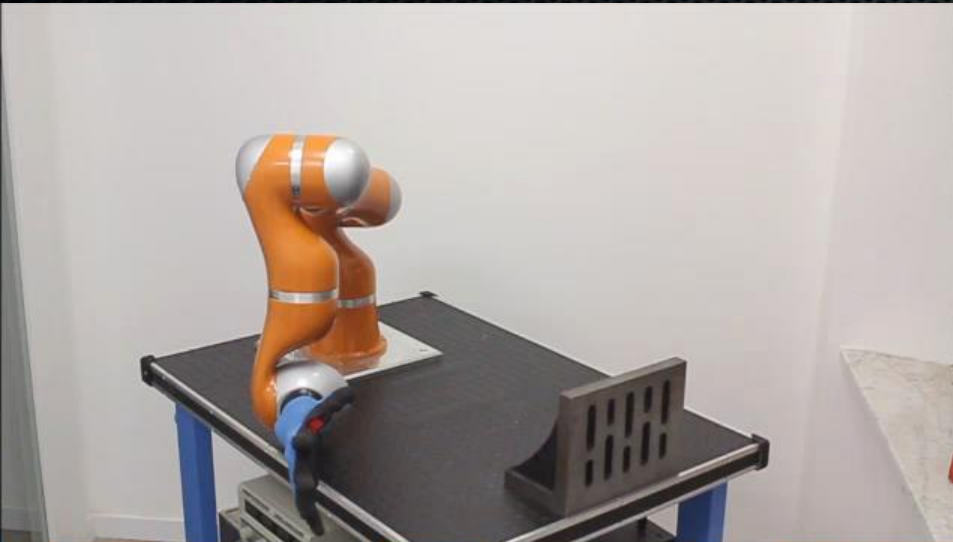
# Grasping mugs & embodied intelligence



- Same hand
- Same object
- Same on/off control
- Two different grasps depending on affordance



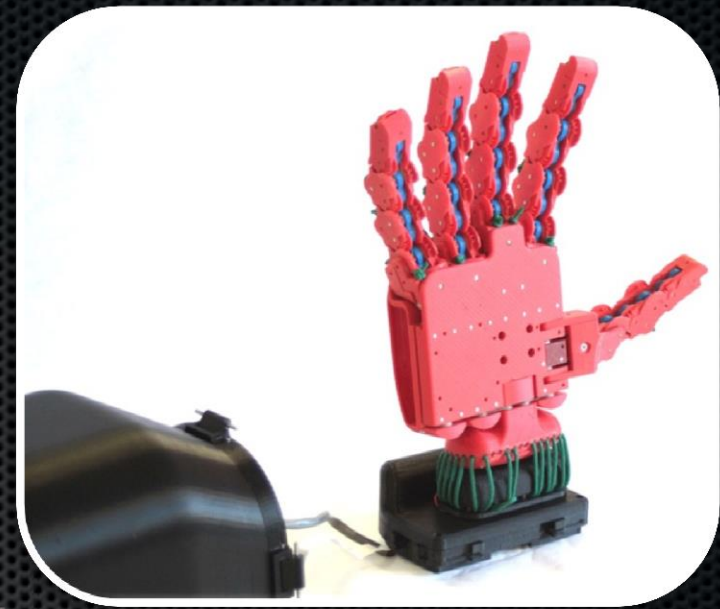
# Grebenstein's Robustness Test





What does human use of a  
robot hand teach us?

# The Pisa-IIT SoftHand Human Interface





# Humans can use the hand in a natural way



# Wonders kids can do



look at this! →









my preferred clip...





# Questions

- Can we program a robot to use a soft, simple robot hand as effectively as humans?
- Using simple, soft hands changes grasp planning deeply:
  - thinking where to place fingertips for maximizing grasp measures might be less important
  - thinking on how to approach the environment to shape the hand properly for a grasp is more relevant
- Reasoning about robot-environment interaction is key!

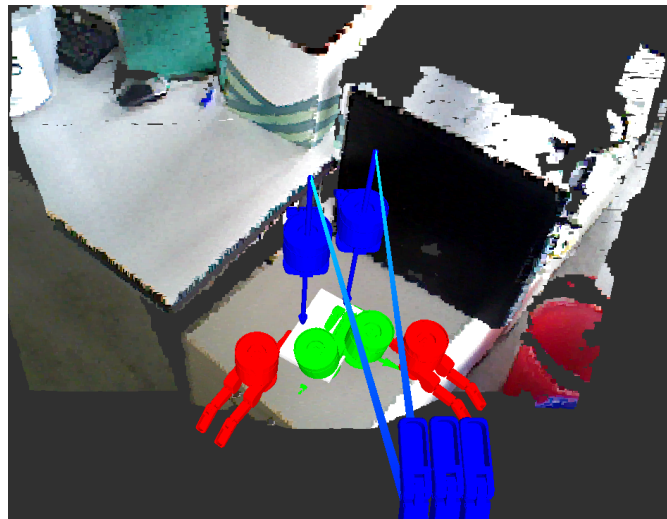
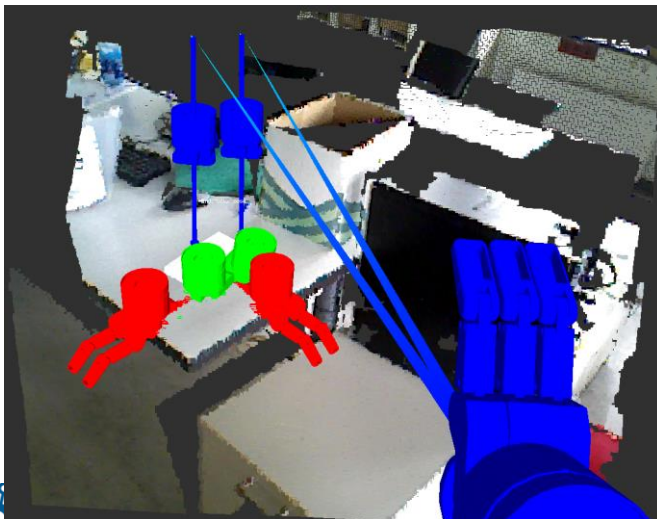
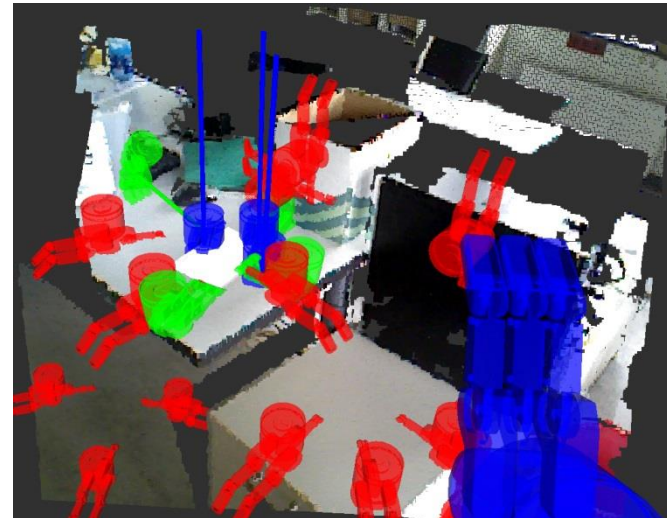
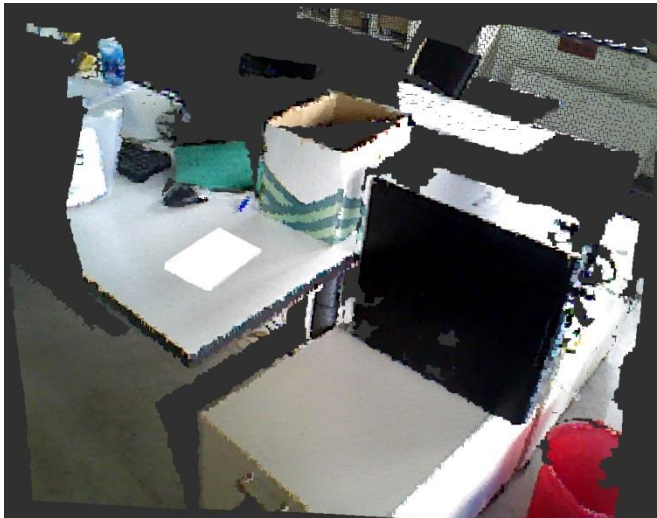
# Grasping with Environmental Constraints

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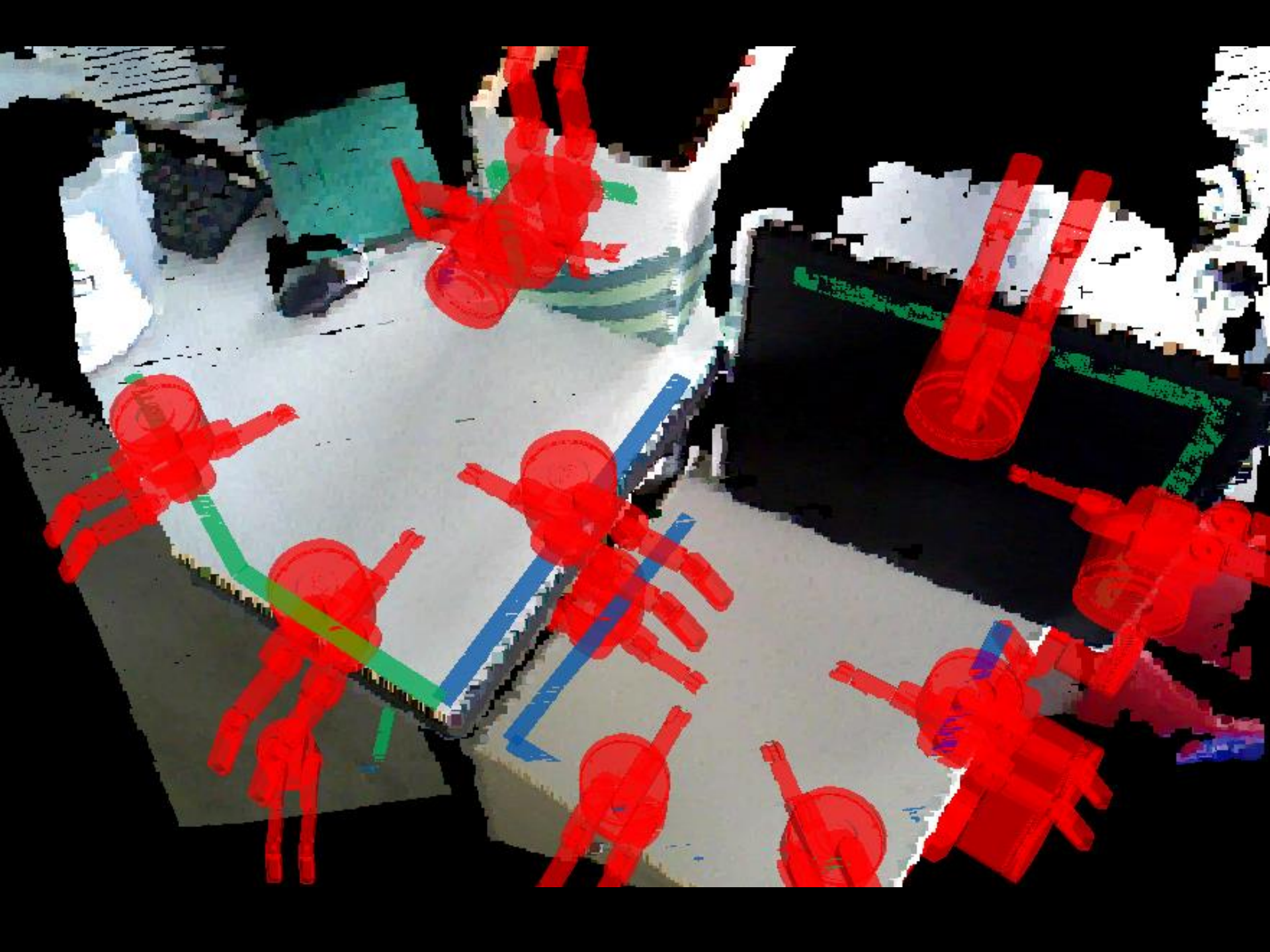


# Perceiving/Planning Slide-to-Edge with Constraints

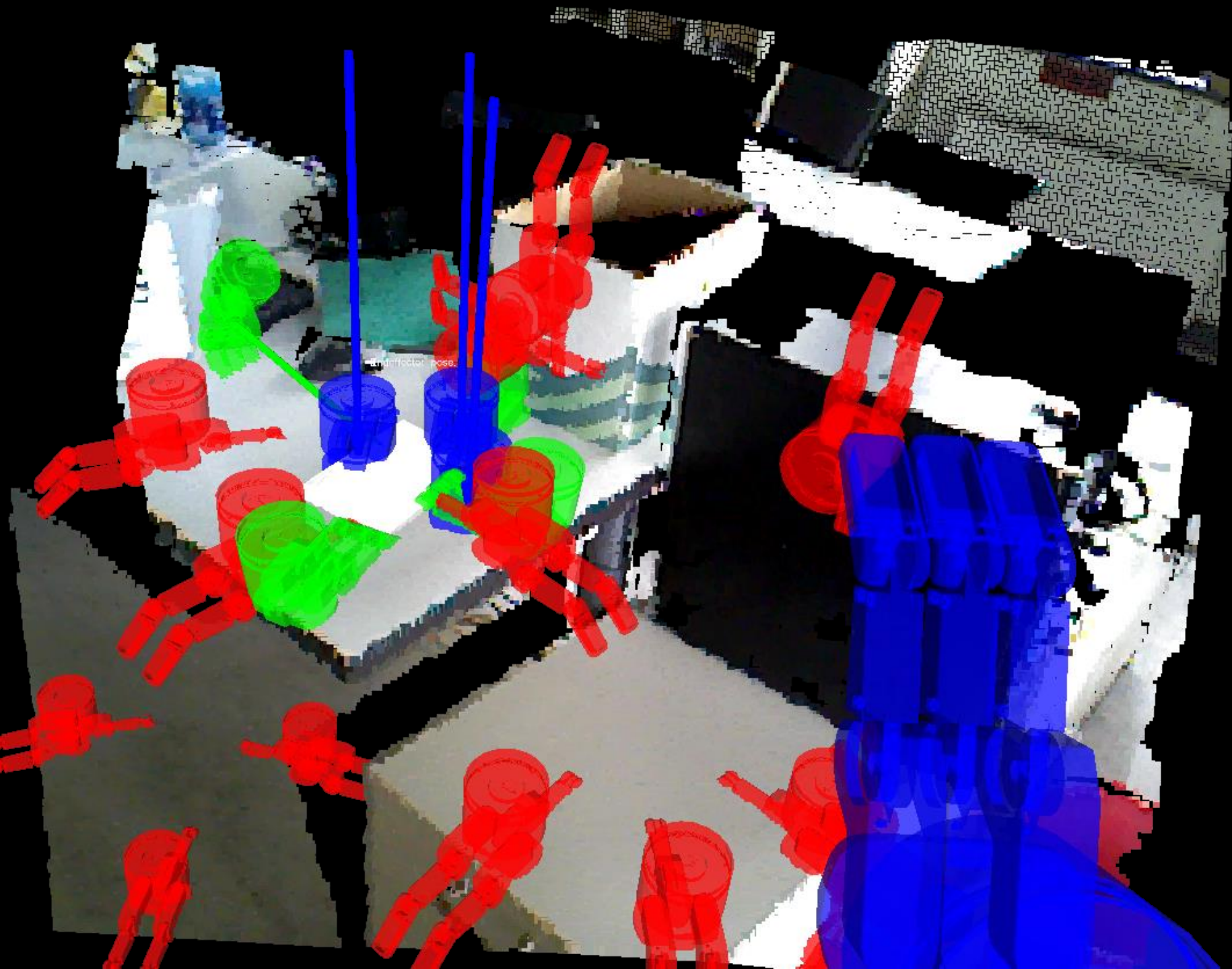


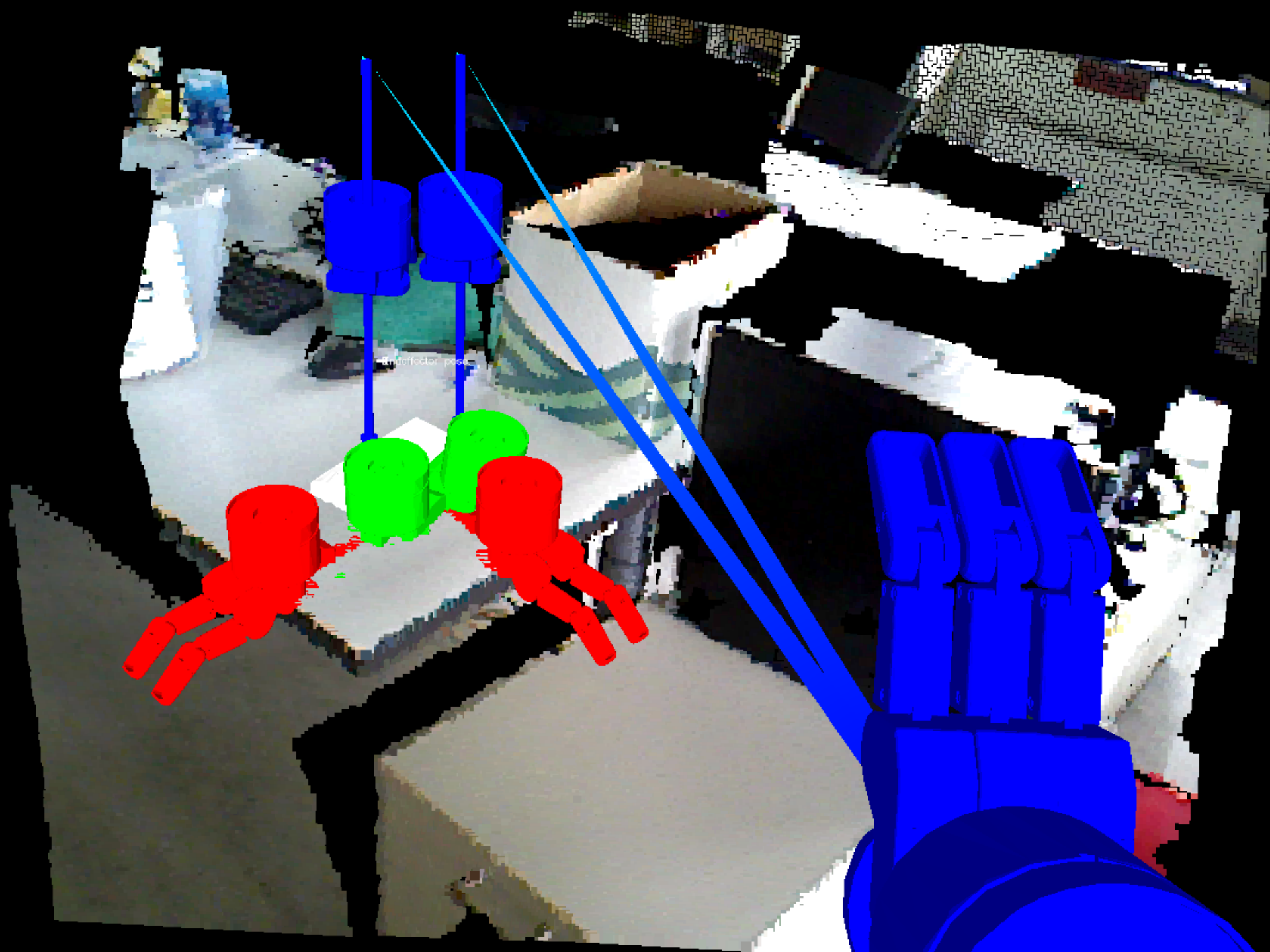


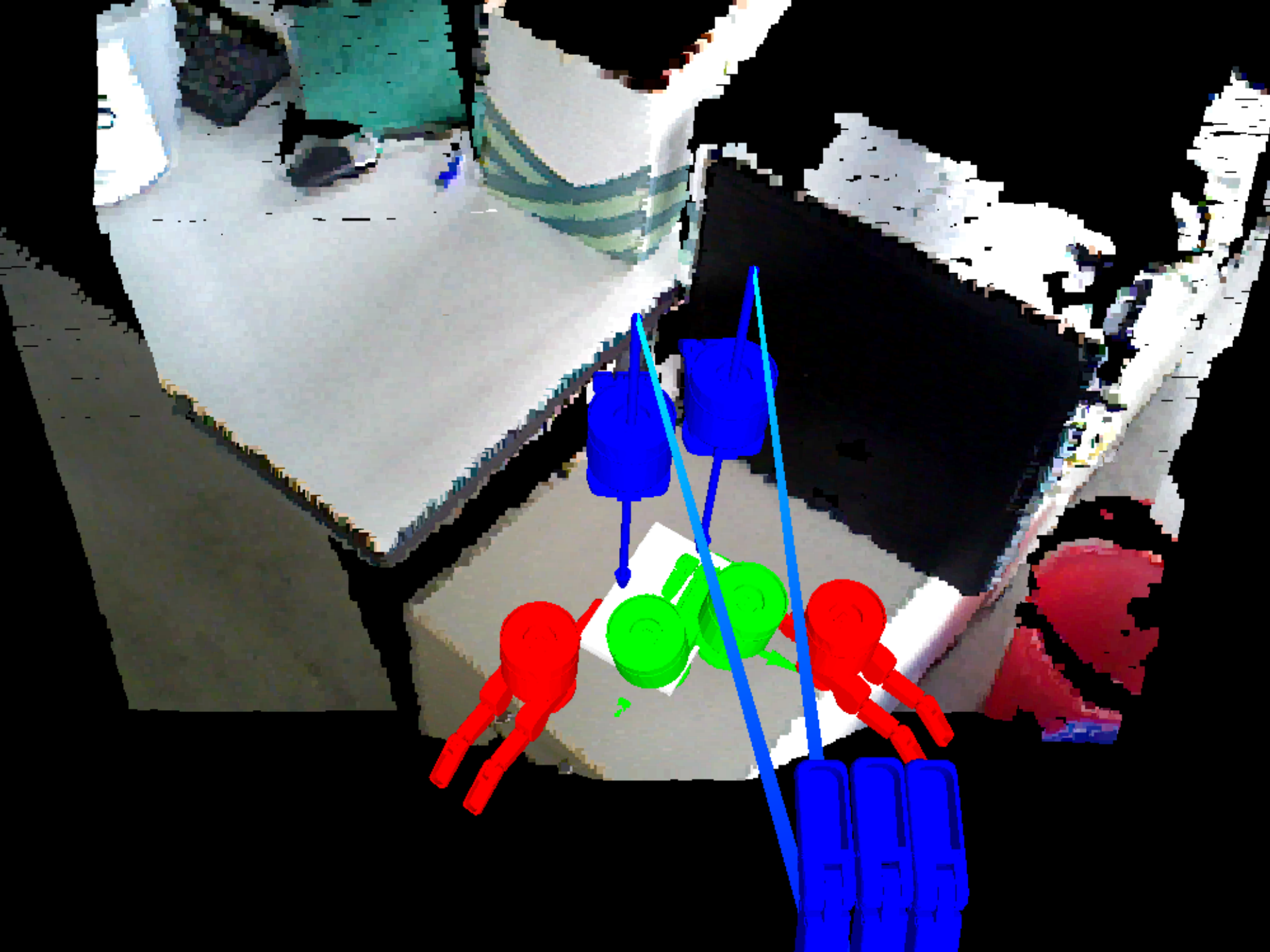














# Bowl Grasp

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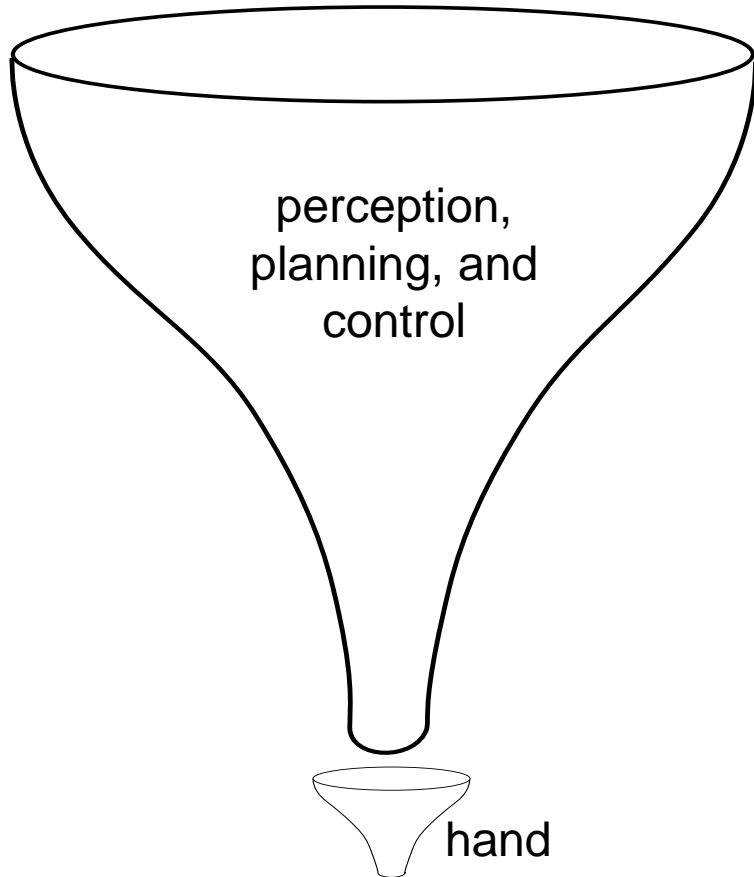




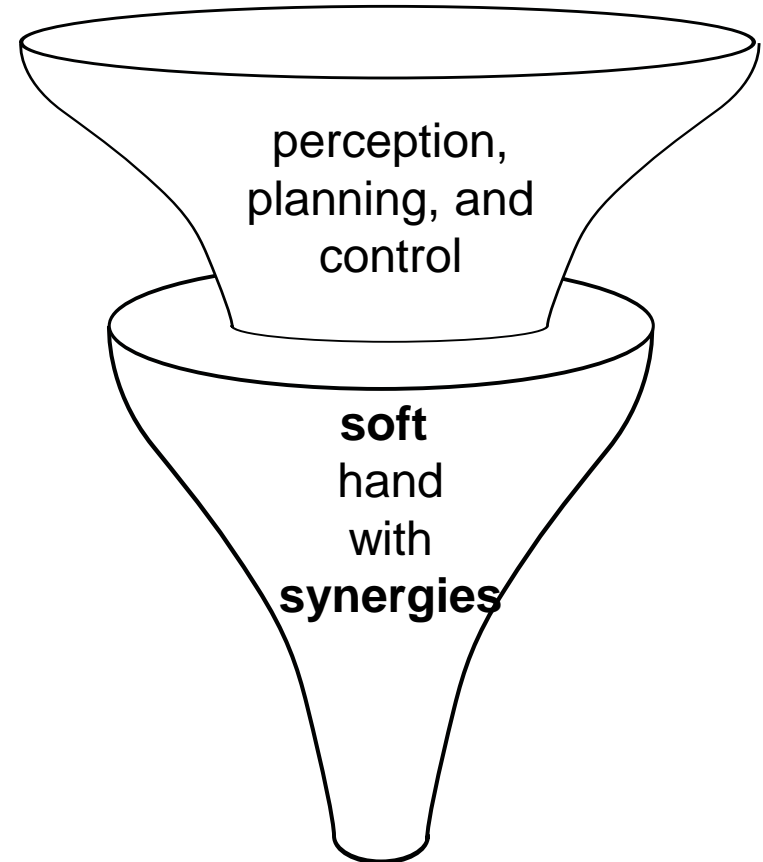
# Soft Grasping and Soft Manipulation

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Little use of constraints = hard?



Extensive use of constraints = robust?

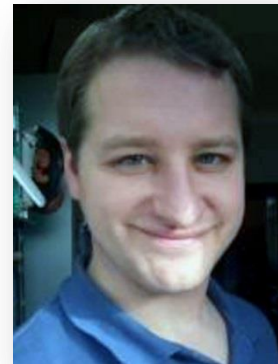


# Thanks!

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Marianne Maertens  
Modelling of Cognitive Processes



Raphael Deimel



Clemens Eppner



José Alvarez-Ruiz





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Thanks!

