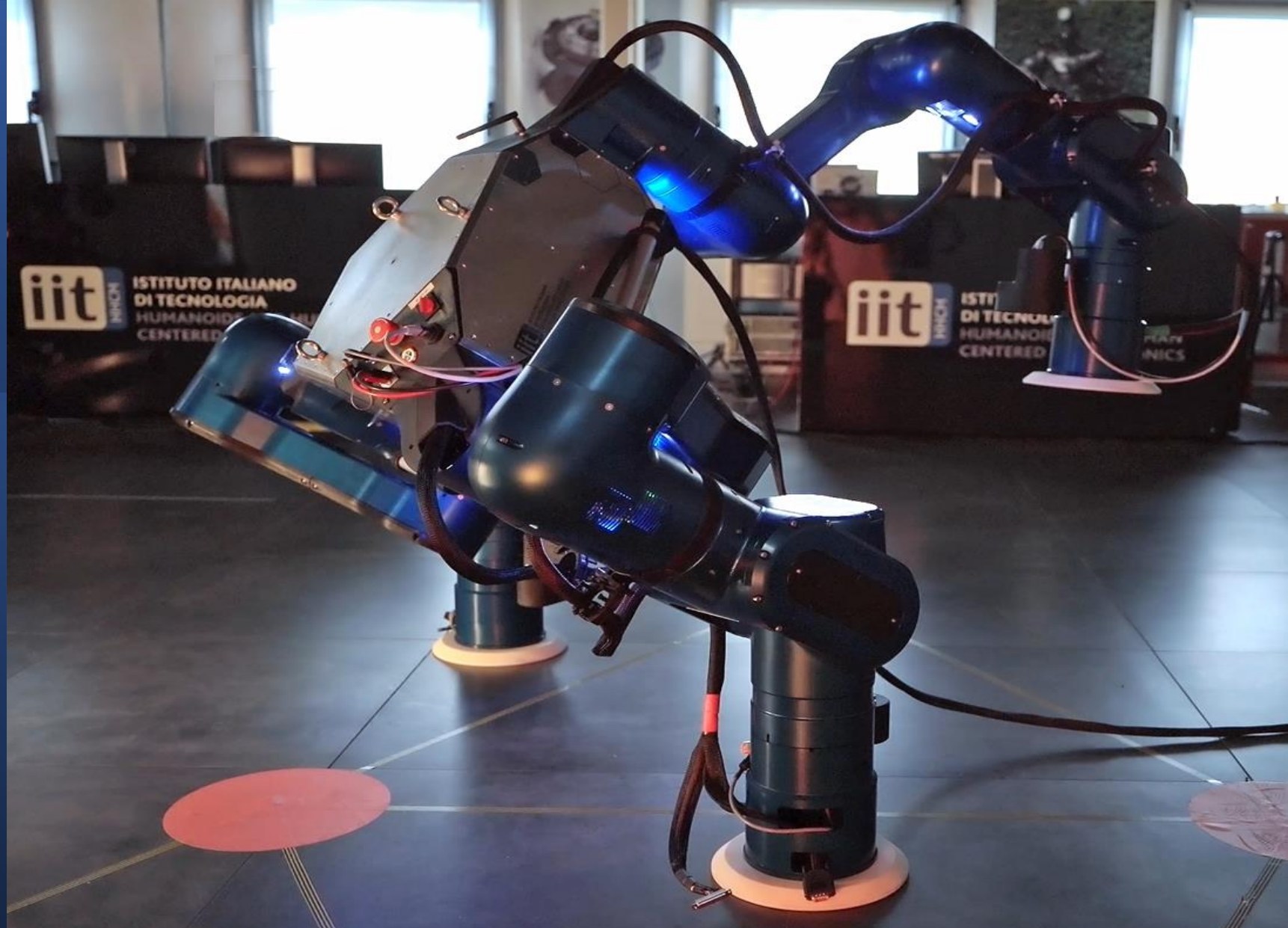


D. Antonucci , A. Margan, A. Laurenzi, A. Rodriguez, P. Romeo, J. Barrientos, J. Estremera, A. Rusconi, G. Sangiovanni, N.G. Tsagarakis , and S. Cordasco

A REAL-TIME  
COMPUTER  
ARCHITECTURE  
BASED ON A CLIENT-  
SERVER  
APPROACH FOR A  
MULTI-ARM ROBOT  
MANIPULATION  
(MARM) PLATFORM



# Overview



Mirror project



Software overview and control architecture



Architecture design



Safety

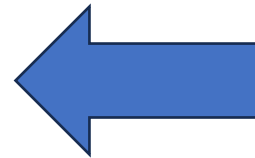
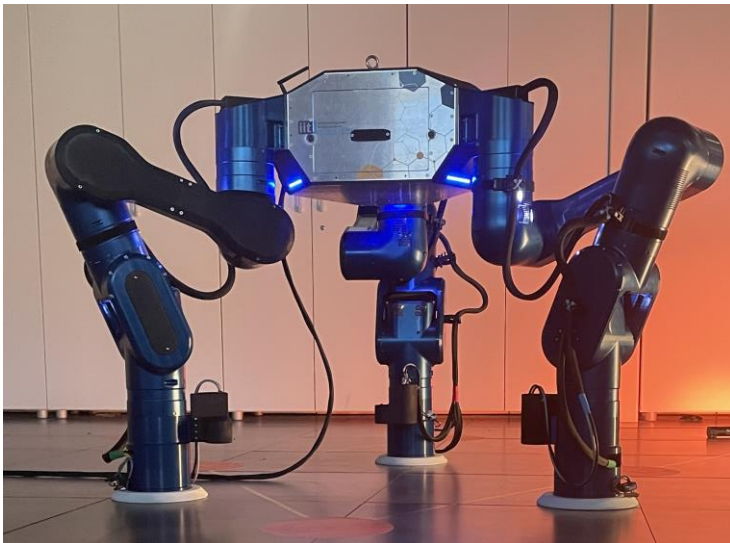


Use cases and validation



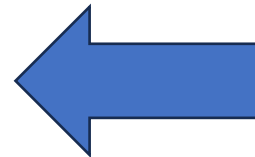
Discussion and conclusion

# MIRROR project



## **MIRROR:** Multi-Arm Installation Robot for Reading ORUs and Reflectors:

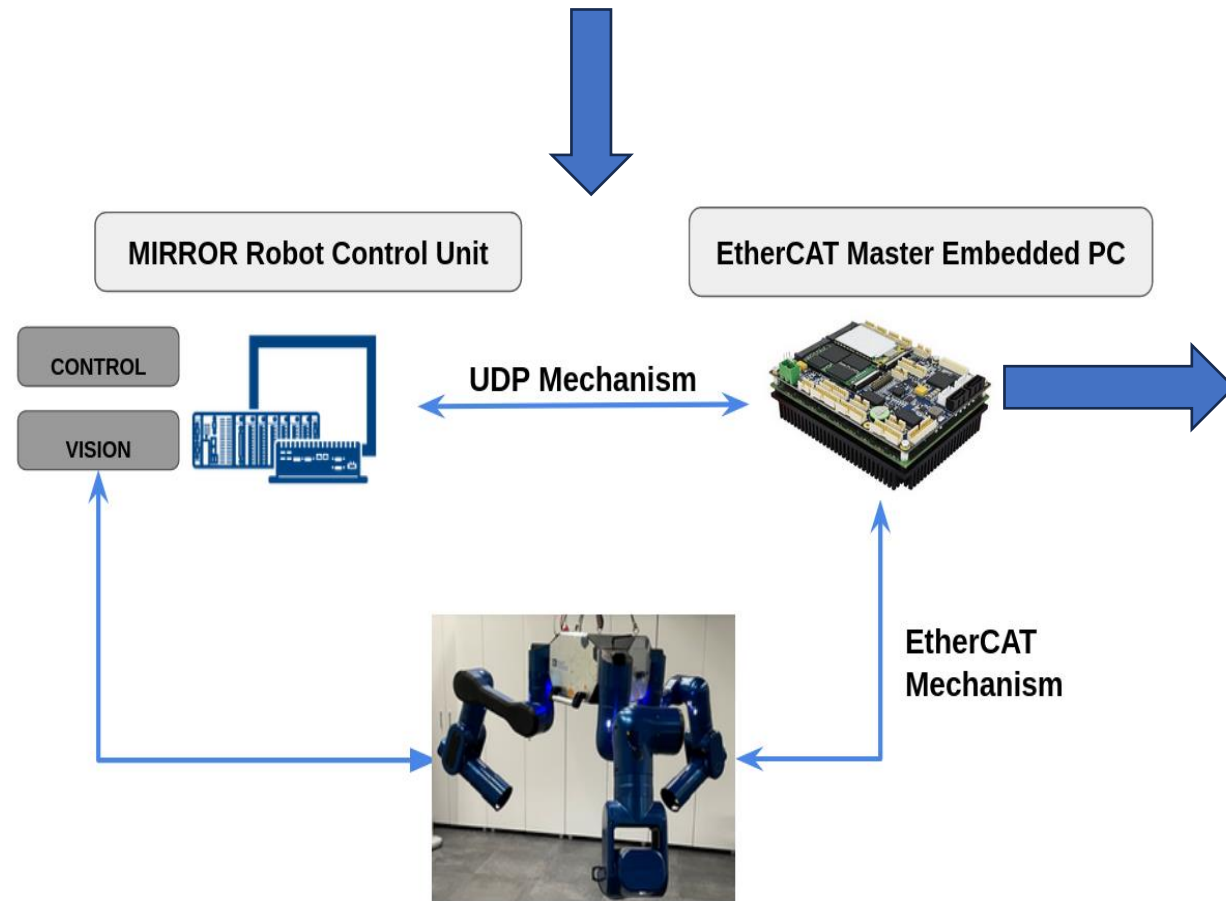
- 3 x robotic arm/leg loco manipulation platform
  - 6DOF , 1.2m long
  - 14kg payload capacity on each arm
  - High performance torque sensing and control actuation
  - Semi-modular design
- Capable of performing loco-manipulation to relocate itself while carrying a payload and transporting it from one position to another
- The robot can use the arms to grapple standard interconnects (SIs), installed on re-configurable tiles over the station's surfaces for locomotion purposes, tile assembly, and handling of Orbital Replacement Units (ORUs).





# Software overview and Control architecture

**MIRROR** project: Multi-Arm Installation Robot for Reading ORUS and Reflectors.



Physical separation in term of embedded systems.

Client-Server approach.

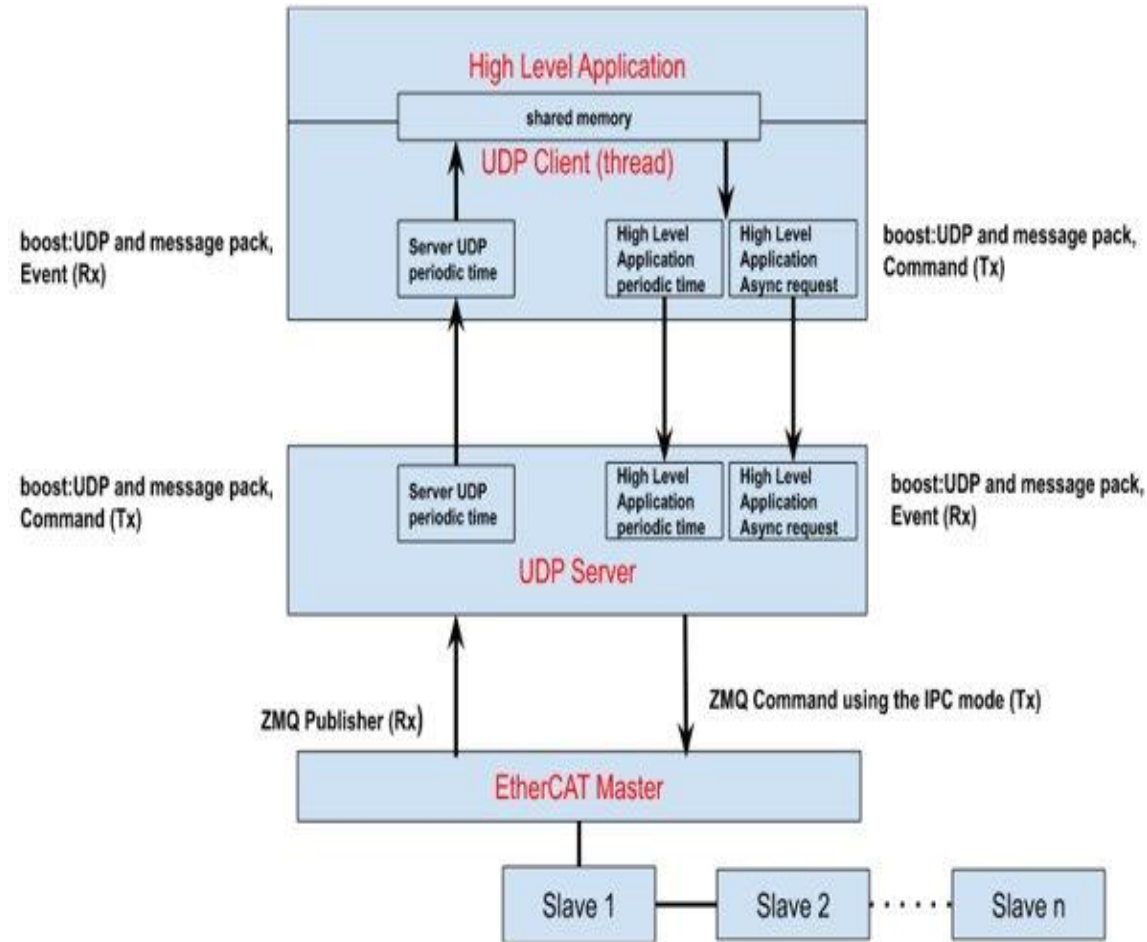
APIs provided:

- client/server protocol initialization (connect, disconnect, quit server, etc..);
- setting of control modes;
- start/stop actuation;
- release/engage brakes;
- read actuation states, force-torque sensor, IMU, power board date and the states of other devices providing full telemetry of the robot state
- write actuation set point references;
- read/write service data object (calibration);

Motor controllers available:

- Position mode: Position controller + Current controller;
- Impedance mode: Impedance controller + Torque controller + Current controller;

# Architecture design



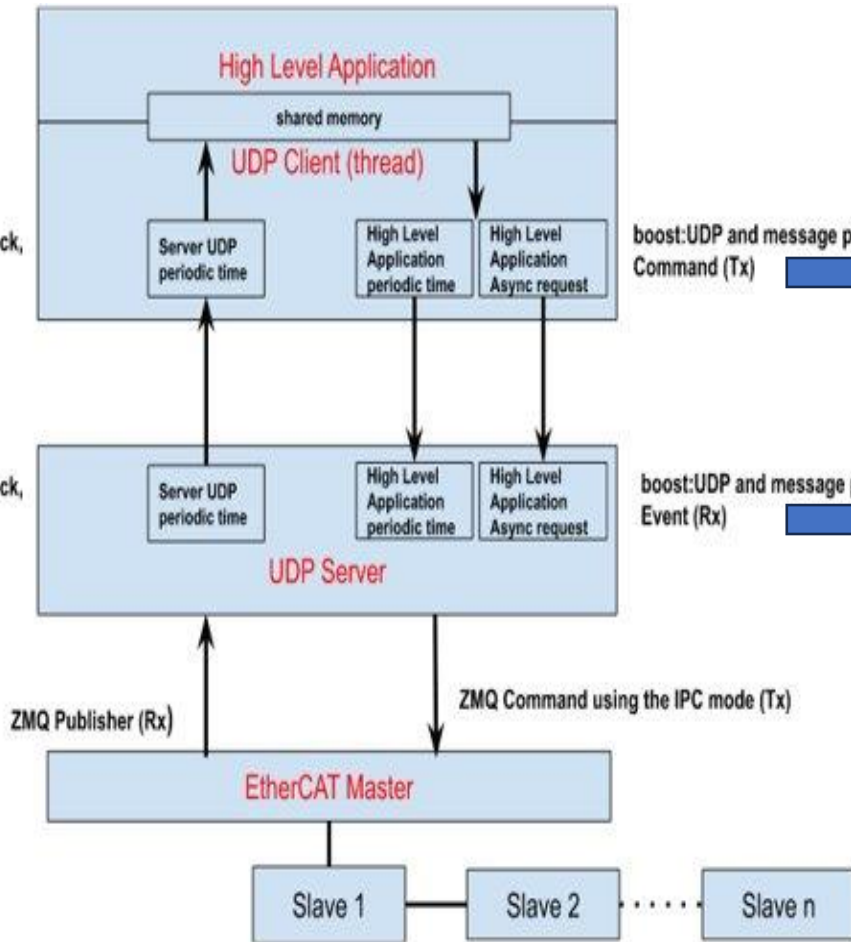
Msgpack library for packing and unpacking data.



UDP protocol to exchange data, in particular boost::asio library

Command handler.  
Event handler.

# Architecture design



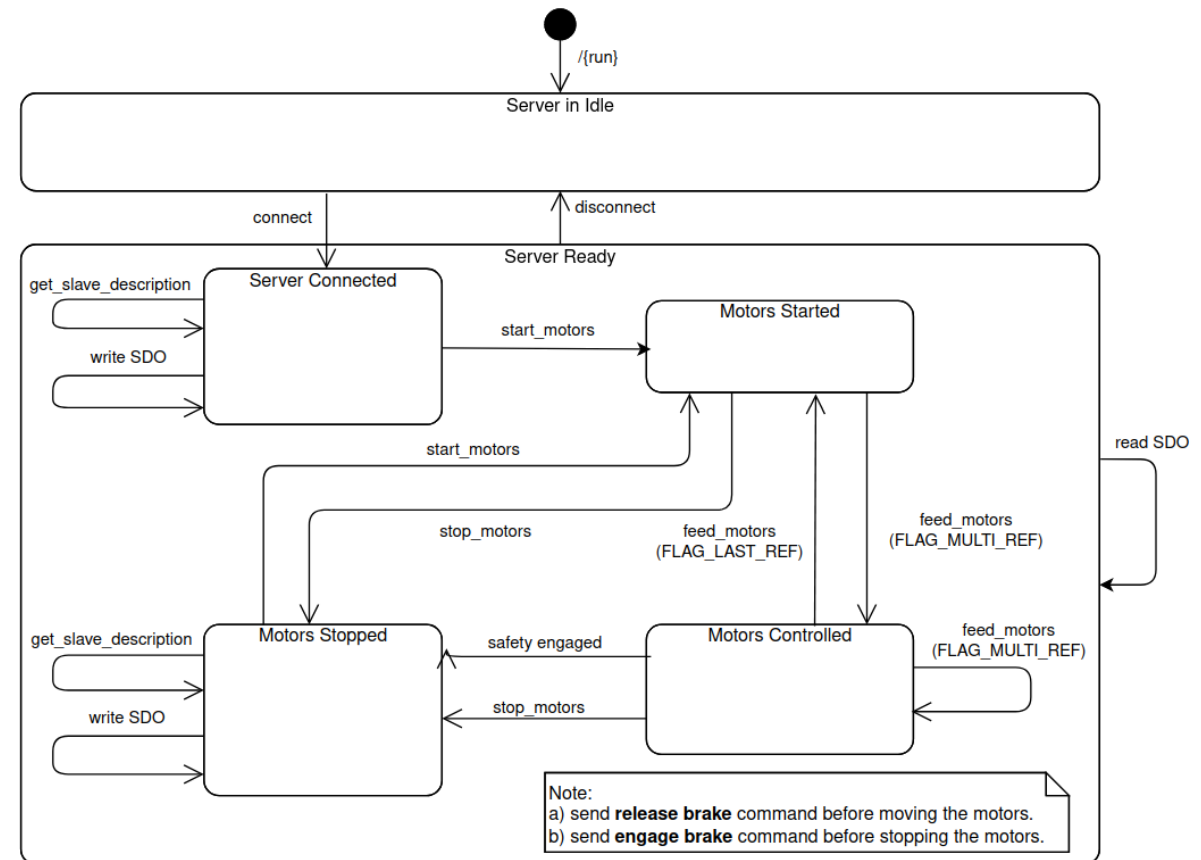
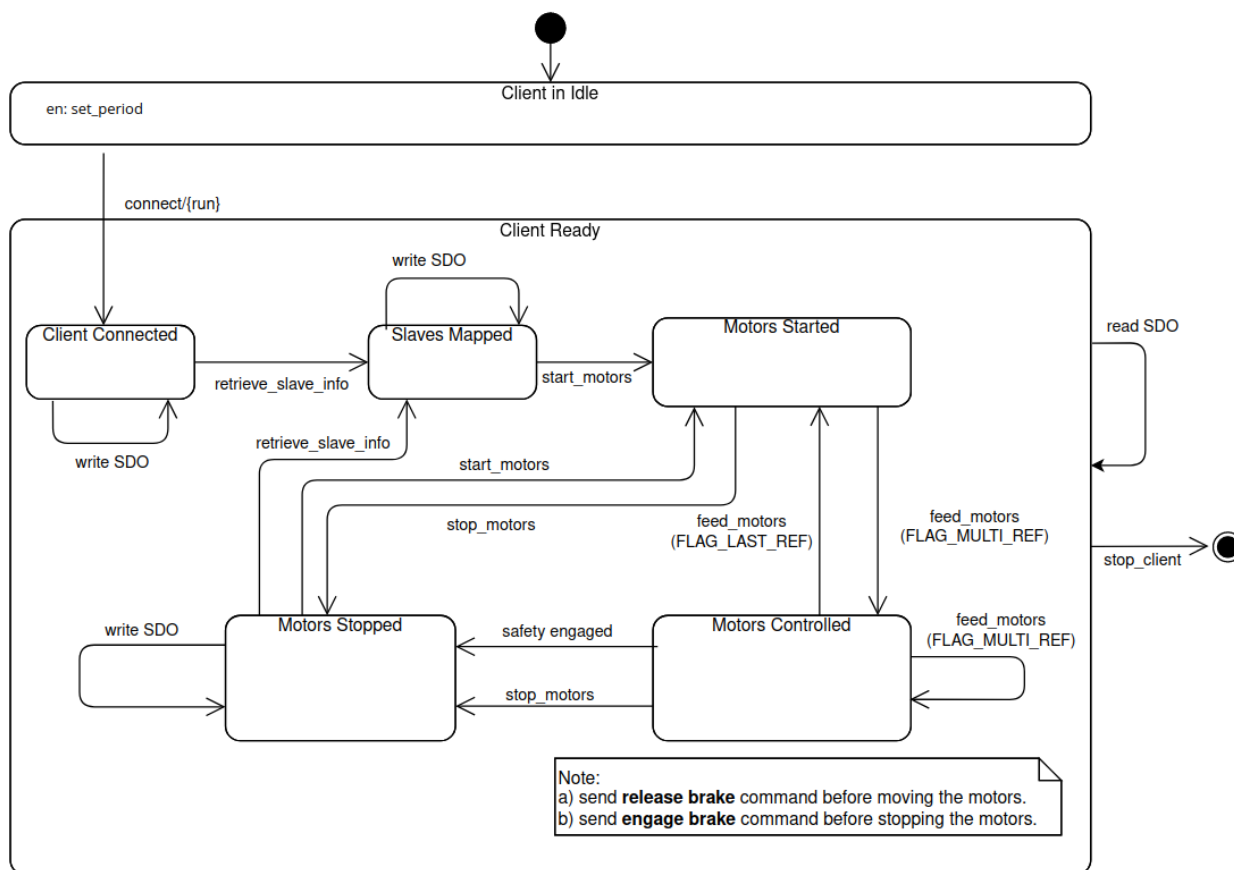
```
bool Client::start_motors(const MST &motors_start)
{
    CBufT<4096u> sendBuffer{};
    bool ret_cmd_status=false;
    // packing
    auto sizet= proto.packReplRequestMotorsStart(sendBuffer, motors_start);
    // send
    do_send(sendBuffer.data(), sendBuffer.size());
    // ACK/NACK information
    ret_cmd_status= get_reply_from_server( ReplReqRep::START_MOTOR,repl_msg);
    return ret_cmd_status;
}
```

```
// Register Message Handler
registerHandler(ServerMsg::MSG_MOTOR_STATUS,&Client::motor_status_handler);
```

```
void Client::motor_status_handler(char *buf,size_t size)
{
    _mutex_motor_status->lock();
    static MSS motors_status;
    // unpacking
    auto ret
= proto.getEscStatus(buf, size, ServerMsg::MSG_MOTOR_STATUS,motors_status);
    // manipulation
    .....
    _mutex_motor_status->unlock();
}
```

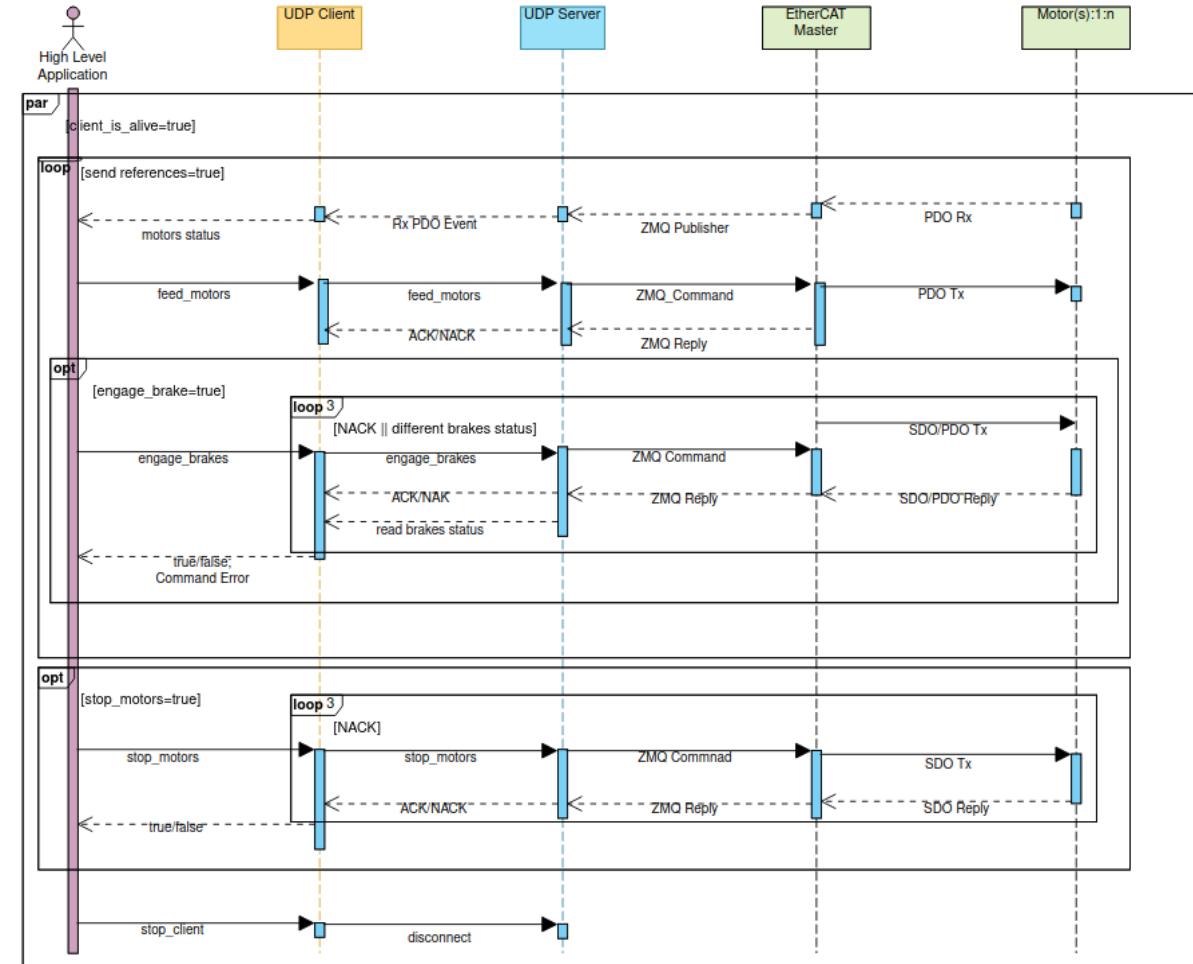
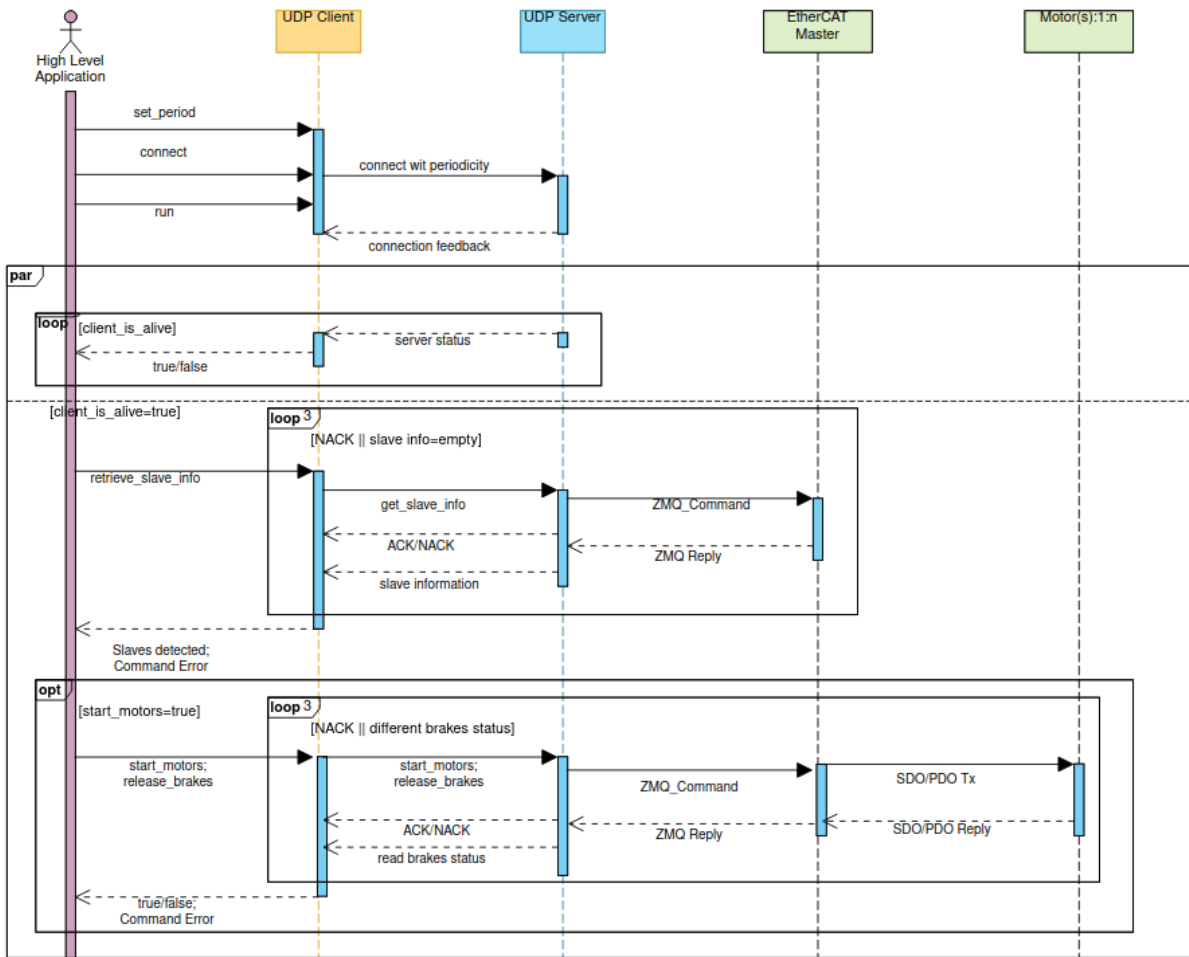
# Architecture design

Two state machines were implemented to make the mechanism more consistent due to the asynchronous protocol, helping high level robotic controller to send the commands in the right way, getting right feedback.



# Architecture design

This sequence communication diagram of the overall system shows a typical use case to operate the robot:







Two safety controls were also developed to verify:

Communication brakedown.

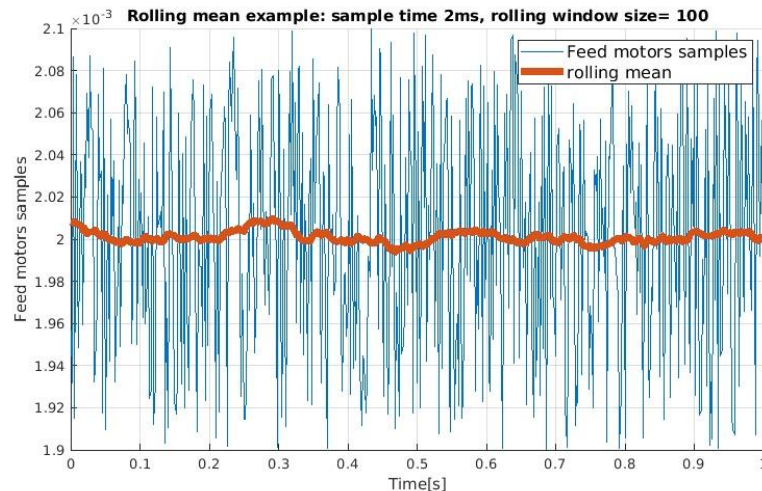
Communication degradation.



A recovery action is activated to safely terminate the operation of the system and bring the robot actuation in idle mode engaging their brakes.

## Communication degradation

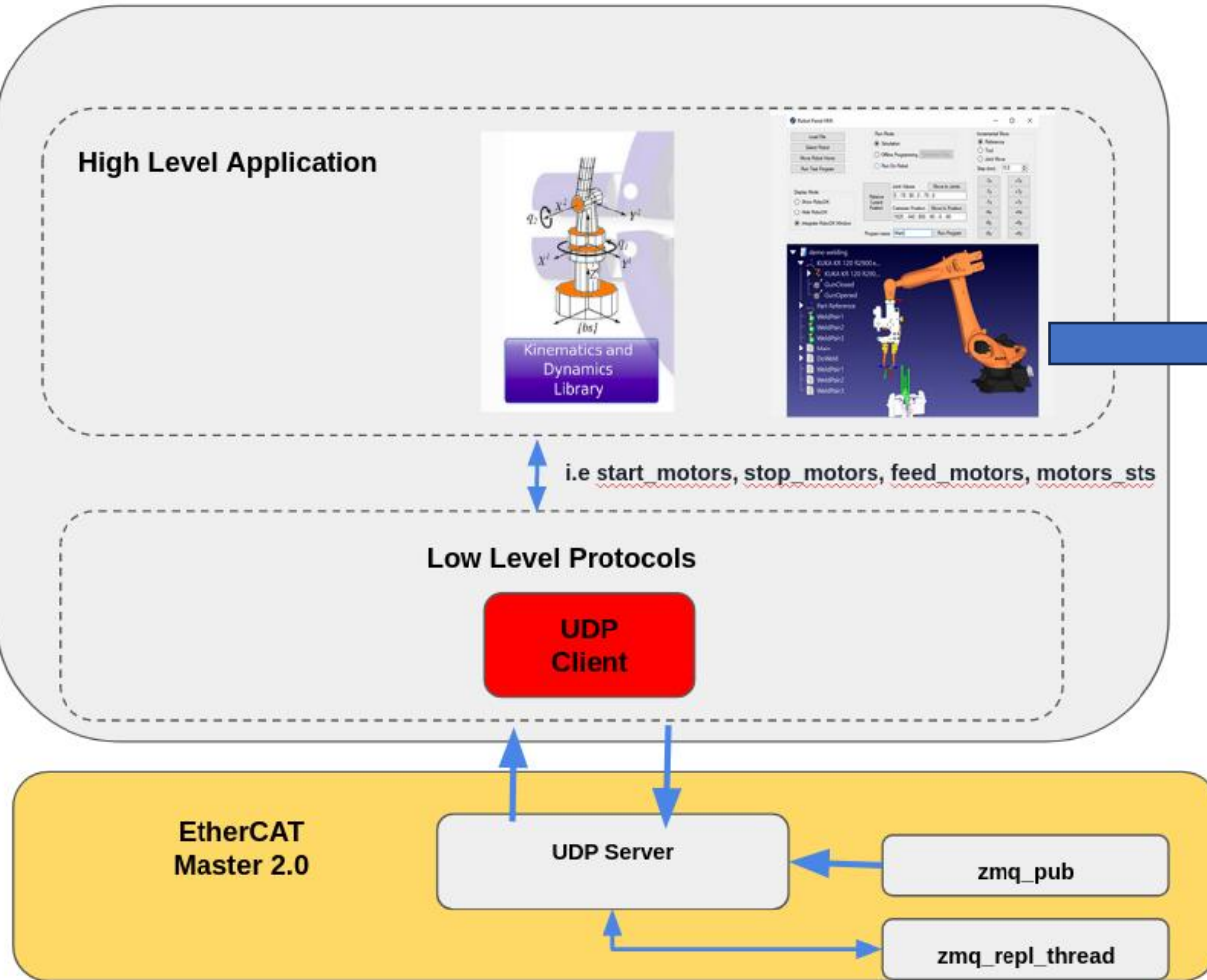
- The `rolling_mean` functions in the boost library are used to evaluate the communication quality in a specific window. The mean in that window is controlled verifying the desired communication frequency for the data exchange along the communication pipeline.
- Safety frequencies range allowed: greater a minimum frequency level of 225 Hz or less than or equal to 500 Hz.
- The rolling window size can be set before running the server process, the default size of which is equal to 100.



2ms --> rolling window 100

```
*****LOG****
-----
10:30:43.467 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.467 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.467 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.0020001714700000014
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.468 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.469 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.469 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.469 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.002001261530000001
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.470 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.471 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.471 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.471 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.002000142350000001
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.472 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.473 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.473 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.473 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.001999978140000001
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.474 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.475 [server] [info] periodicActivity tDiff 0.001836719
10:30:43.475 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.475 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.475 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.002000213480000001
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.476 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.477 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.477 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.477 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.002000003240000001
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.478 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.479 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.479 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.479 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.002000028500000001
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.480 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.481 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.481 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.481 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.002000024840000001
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.482 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.483 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.483 [server] [info] REPL REQ : SET_MOTOR_REFS
10:30:43.483 [server] [info] mean refs freq mean 0.002000026470000001
[OMQ Req] connect to ipc:///tmp/ecat_master:5555
10:30:43.484 [server] [info] send request reply SET_MOTOR_REFS
```

# Use cases and validation



The screenshot shows the 'EtherCAT Command' control interface. At the top, there are dropdown menus for 'Start motors' and 'Position', and an 'Apply' button. Below this, the 'UDP Communication Setting' is set to '400 Hz', and the 'Battery Level' is shown as '888888' in a green digital display. The main area is divided into 'Motor Reference' and 'Motor Measured Data' tabs. Under 'Motor Reference', there are five rows for joints 'joint\_id\_11' through 'joint\_id\_15'. Each row has a 'Position' sub-tab selected, showing a table of parameters and a slider control.

Joint ID	Mode	Value	Range	Slider	Unit
joint_id_11	P	220	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	I	0	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	D	10	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
joint_id_12	P	220	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	I	0	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	D	10	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
joint_id_13	P	220	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	I	0	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	D	10	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
joint_id_14	P	220	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	I	0	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	D	10	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
joint_id_15	P	220	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	I	0	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]
	D	10	-1 [rad] to 1 [rad]	[Slider]	[rad]

At the bottom, there are 'Yes to All' and 'No to All' buttons, and a 'Send' button on the far right.



# Use cases and validation

```
network:
hostname: localhost
port: 54321
timeout: 1000

#####position#####
#control_mode: position
#position gains
#gains: [200.0,0.0,10.0,0.0,0.0]
#####position#####

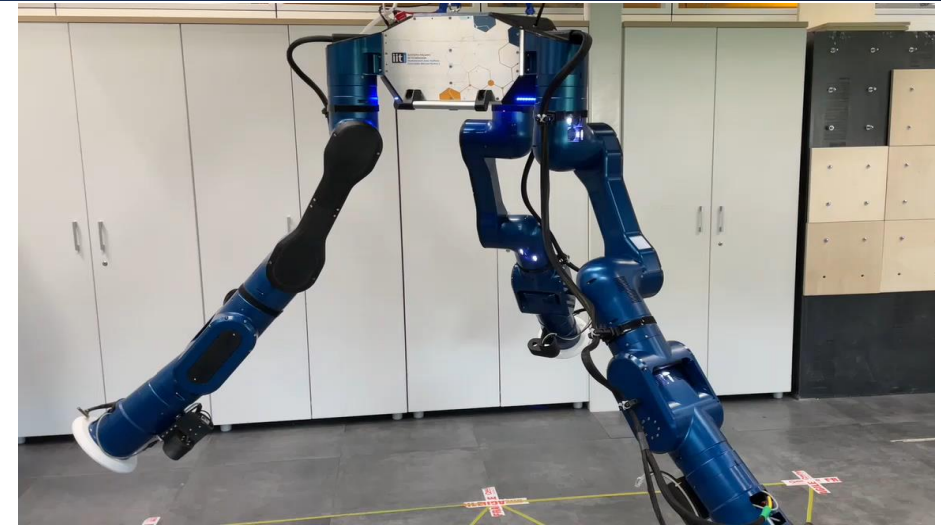
#####impedance#####
control_mode: impedance
#impedance gains
# stiffness, damping, tau_p, tau_f, tau_d
#gains: [1000.0,10.0,1.0,0.7,0.007]
#####impedance#####

UDP_period_ms: 4
homing_position: {11: -0.75, 12: -1.0, 13: -1.0, 14: -0.75, 15: 1.0, 16: -0.75,
                 21: -0.75, 22: -1.0, 23: -1.0, 24: -0.75, 25: 1.0, 26: -0.75,
                 31: -0.75, 32: -1.0, 33: -1.0, 34: -0.75, 35: 1.0, 36: -0.75}
homing_time_sec: 3
trajectory: {11: 0.0, 12: -1.9, 13: -2.3, 14: 0.0, 15: -0.4, 16: 0.0,
            21: 0.0, 22: -1.9, 23: -2.3, 24: 0.0, 25: -0.4, 26: 0.0,
            31: 0.0, 32: -1.9, 33: -2.3, 34: 0.0, 35: -0.4, 36: 0.0}
trajectory_time_sec: 3
repeat_trj: 3

slave_id_led: [16,26,35]

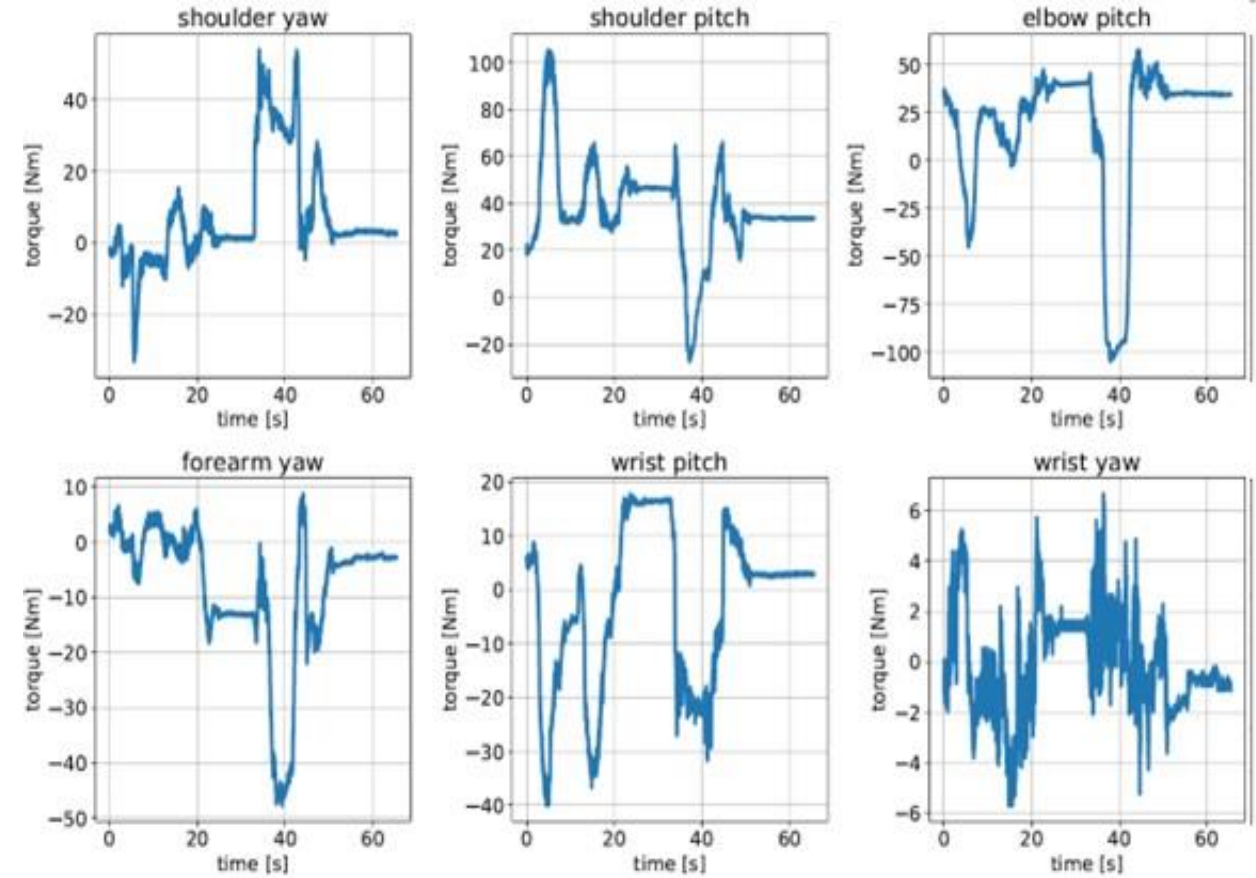
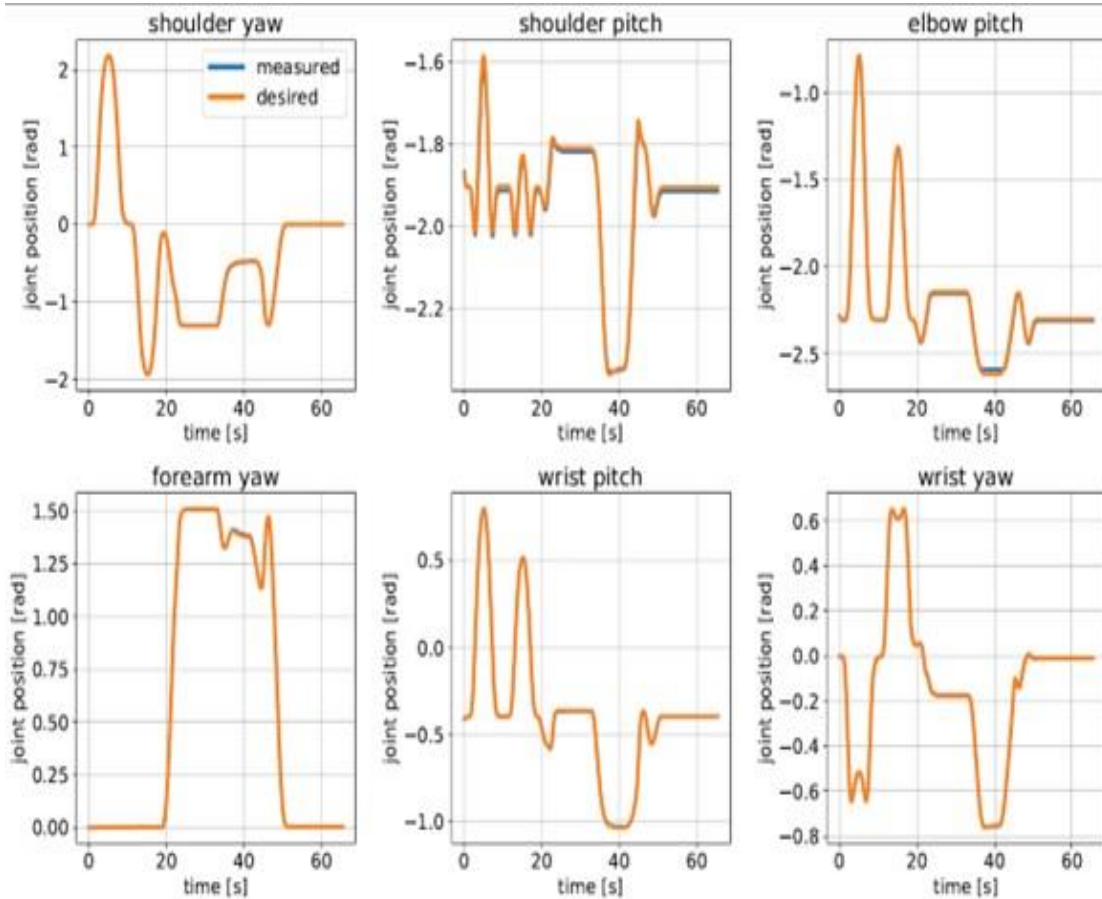
XBotInterface:  https://advrhumanoids.github.io/XBotInterface/
urdf_path: ${PWD}/urdf/mirror.urdf
srdf_path: ${PWD}/srdf/mirror.srdf
joint_map_path: ${PWD}/joint_map/mirror_joint_map.yaml

ModelInterface:
model_type: "RBDL"
is_model_floating_base: "true"
```

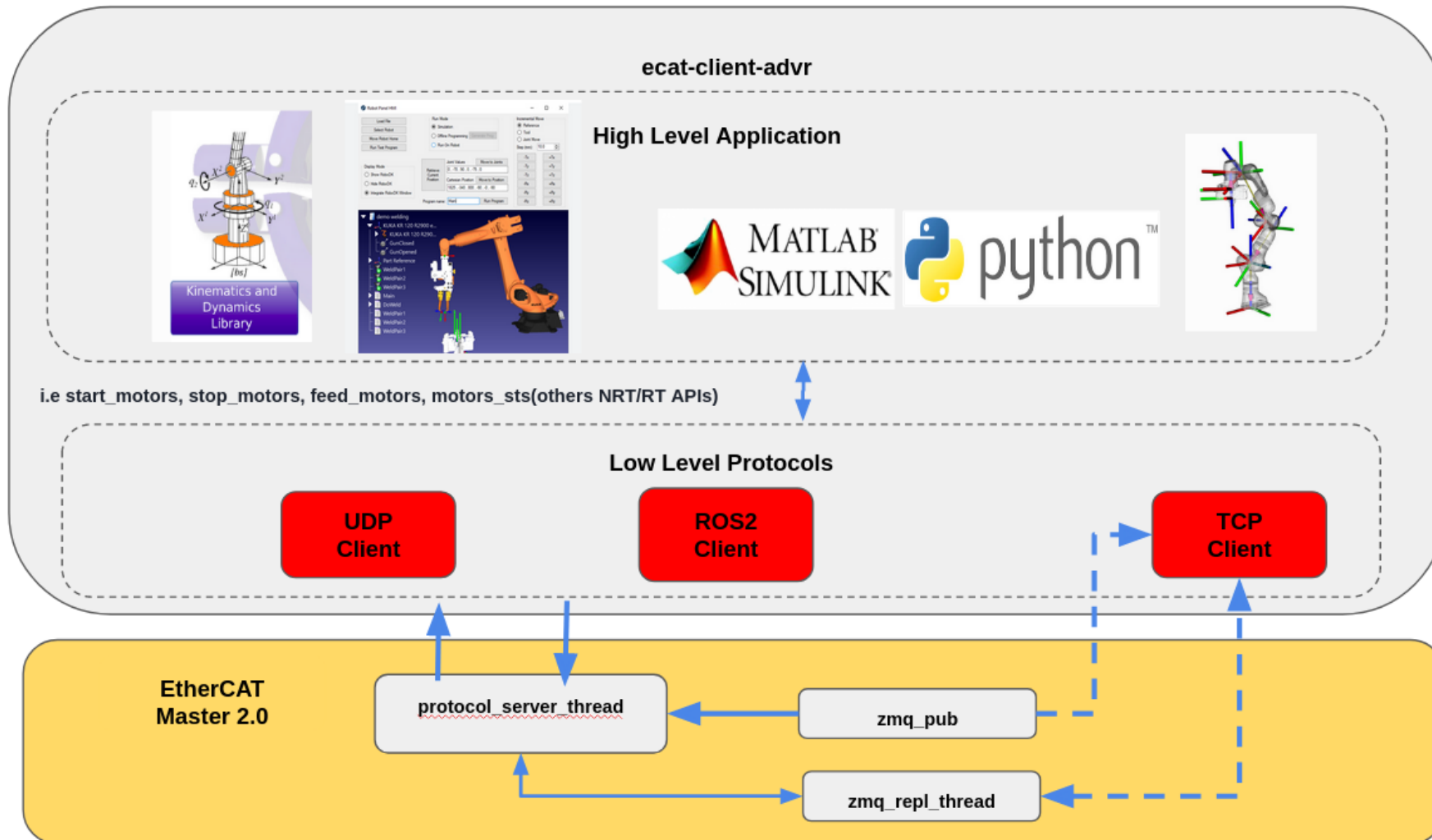




# Use cases and validation



# Discussion and conclusion



..some extra demonstrations





# Acknowledgement



**Davide Antonucci**



**Stefano Cordasco**



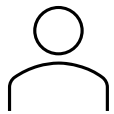
**Arturo Laurenzi**



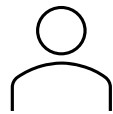
**Alessio Margan**



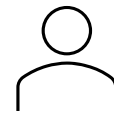
**Nikolaos Tsagarakis**



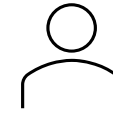
**Pablo Romeo**



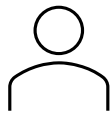
**Andres Rodriguez**



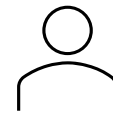
**Jorge Barrientos**



**Joaquin Estremera**



**Andrea Rusconi**



**Guido Sangiovanni**





Thank you

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