Supplement to Shaping a Swarm With a Shared Control Input Using Boundary Walls and Wall Friction

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***Abstract*—Includes algorithms and equations too lengthy for main paper, but potentially useful for the community.**

I. Calculations for Modeling Swarm as Fluid in a Simple Planar Workspace

Two workspaces are used, a square and a circular workspace.

A. Square Workspace

This section provides formulas for the mean, variance, covariance and correlation of a very large swarm of robots as they move inside a square workplace under the influence of gravity pointing in the direction β. The swarm is large, but the robots are small in comparison, and together cover an area of constant volume A. Under a global input such as gravity, they flow like water, moving to a side of the workplace and forming a polygonal shape. The workspace is

The range of possible angles for the global input angle β is [0,2π). In this range of angles, the swarm assumes eight different polygonal shapes. The shapes alternate between triangles and trapezoids when the area A<1/2, and alternate between squares with one corner removed and trapezoids when A>1/2.

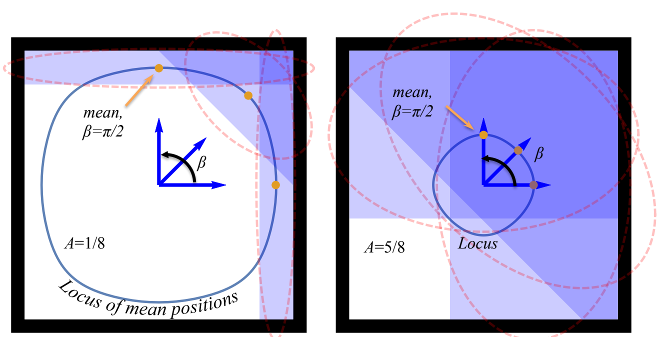

Fig. 1. A swarm in a

B. Circle Workspace

II. Algorithm for Generating Desired y Spacing Between Two Robots Using Wall Friction

Algorithm 1 GenerateDesired$y$-spacing(s_1, s_2, e_1, e_2, L)

Require: Knowledge of starting (s_1, s_2) and ending (e_1, e_2) positions of two robots. $(0, 0)$ is bottom corner, s_1 is rightmost robot, L is length of the walls. Current position of the robots are (r_1, r_2).

Ensure: $r_{1x} - r_{2x} \equiv s_{1x} - s_{2x}$

$\Delta s_y \leftarrow s_{1y} - s_{2y}$
$\Delta e_y \leftarrow e_{1y} - e_{2y}$
$r_1 \leftarrow s_1$, $r_2 \leftarrow s_2$
if $\Delta e_y < 0$ **then**
    $m \leftarrow (L - \max(r_{1y}, r_{2y}), 0)$ ▷ Move to top wall
else
    $m \leftarrow (-\min(r_{1y}, r_{2y}), 0)$ ▷ Move to bottom wall
end if
$m \leftarrow m + (0, -\min(r_{1x}, r_{2x}))$ ▷ Move to left
$r_1 \leftarrow r_1 + m$, $r_2 \leftarrow r_2 + m$ ▷ Apply move
if $\Delta e_y - (r_{1y} - r_{2y}) > 0$ **then**
    $m \leftarrow (\min(|\Delta e_y - \Delta s_y|, L - r_{1y}), 0)$ ▷ Move top
else
    $m \leftarrow (-\min(|\Delta e_y - \Delta s_y|, r_{1y}), 0)$ ▷ Move bottom
end if
$m \leftarrow m + (0, \epsilon)$ ▷ Move right
$r_1 \leftarrow r_1 + m$, $r_2 \leftarrow r_2 + m$ ▷ Apply move
$\Delta r_y = r_{1y} - r_{2y}$
if $\Delta r_y \equiv \Delta e_y$ **then**
    $m \leftarrow (e_{1x} - r_{1x}, e_{1y} - r_{1y})$
    $r_1 \leftarrow r_1 + m$, $r_2 \leftarrow r_2 + m$ ▷ Apply move
    return (r_1, r_2)
else
    return GenerateDesired$y$-spacing(r_1, r_2, e_1, e_2, L)
end if

$$\bar{x}(\beta, A) = \tag{1}$$

$$A \leq \frac{1}{2}: \tag{2}$$

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{\tan^2(\beta)}{24A} - \frac{A}{2} + 1 & 0 \leq \beta \leq \tan^{-1}(2A) \vee 2\pi - \tan^{-1}(2A) < \beta \leq 2\pi \\ 1 - \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{2}\sqrt{A\tan(\beta)} & \tan^{-1}(2A) < \beta \leq \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}(2A) \\ \frac{\cot(\beta)}{12A} + \frac{1}{2} & \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}(2A) < \beta \leq \tan^{-1}(2A) + \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{2}\sqrt{-A\tan(\beta)} & \tan^{-1}(2A) + \frac{\pi}{2} < \beta \leq \pi - \tan^{-1}(2A) \\ \frac{\tan^2(\beta)}{24A} + \frac{A}{2} & \pi - \tan^{-1}(2A) < \beta \leq \tan^{-1}(2A) + \pi \\ \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{2}\sqrt{A\tan(\beta)} & \tan^{-1}(2A) + \pi < \beta \leq \frac{3\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}(2A) \\ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\cot(\beta)}{12A} & \frac{3\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}(2A) < \beta \leq \tan^{-1}(2A) + \frac{3\pi}{2} \\ 1 - \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{2}\sqrt{-A\tan(\beta)} & \tan^{-1}(2A) + \frac{3\pi}{2} < \beta \leq 2\pi - \tan^{-1}(2A) \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} < A < 1: \tag{4}$$

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{\tan^2(\beta)}{24A} - \frac{A}{2} + 1 & 0 \leq \beta \leq \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) \vee 2\pi - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) < \beta \leq 2\pi \\ \frac{2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{(1-A)\tan(\beta)}(A-1)+3}{6A} & \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) < \beta \leq \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) \\ \frac{6A+\cot(\beta)}{12A} & \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) < \beta \leq \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) + \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \frac{-2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{(A-1)\tan(\beta)}(A-1)+6A-3}{6A} & \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) + \frac{\pi}{2} < \beta \leq \pi - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) \\ \frac{\tan^2(\beta)}{24A} + \frac{A}{2} & \pi - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) < \beta \leq \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) + \pi \\ \frac{2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{(1-A)\tan(\beta)}(1-A)+6A-3}{6A} & \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) + \pi < \beta \leq \frac{3\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) \\ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\cot(\beta)}{12A} & \frac{3\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) < \beta \leq \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) + \frac{3\pi}{2} \\ \frac{2\sqrt{2}\sqrt{(A-1)\tan(\beta)}(A-1)+3}{6A} & \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) + \frac{3\pi}{2} < \beta \leq 2\pi - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1-A\right) \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

$$A = 1, \frac{1}{2} \tag{6}$$

TABLE I

LONG EQUATION