

Computer Graphics

Forward/Inverse kinematics

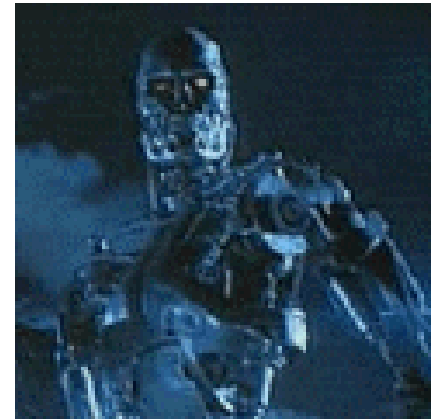
Outline

Animation basics:

- Forward kinematics
- Inverse kinematics

Kinematics

The study of movement without the consideration of the masses or forces that bring about the motion



Animation

- Robot arm animation (click [here](#))
- Pixar lamp animation (click [here](#))

Degrees of Freedom (Dofs)

The set of independent displacements that specify an object's pose

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The set of independent displacements that specify an object's pose

- How many degrees of freedom when flying?



Degrees of Freedom (Dofs)

The set of independent displacements that specify an object's pose

- How many degrees of freedom when flying?
- So the kinematics of this airplane permit movement anywhere in three dimensions
- Six
 - x, y, and z positions
 - roll, pitch, and yaw



Configuration Space vs. Work Space

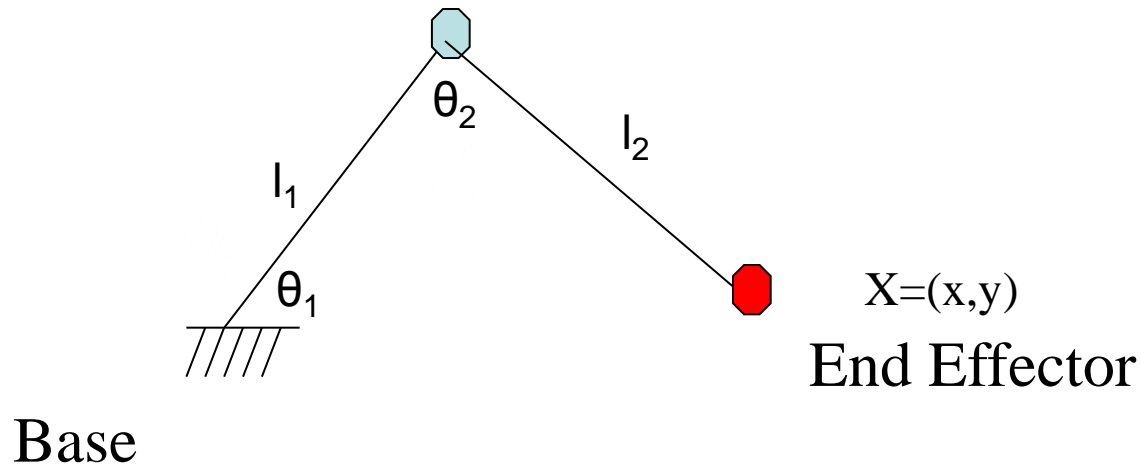
- Configuration space
 - The space that defines the possible object configurations
 - Degrees of Freedom
 - The number of parameters that are necessary and sufficient to define position in configuration
- Work space
 - The space in which the object exists
 - Dimensionality
 - R^3 for most things, R^2 for planar arms

Forward vs. Inverse Kinematics

- Forward Kinematics
 - Compute configuration (pose) given individual DOF values
- Inverse Kinematics
 - Compute individual DOF values that result in specified end effector's position

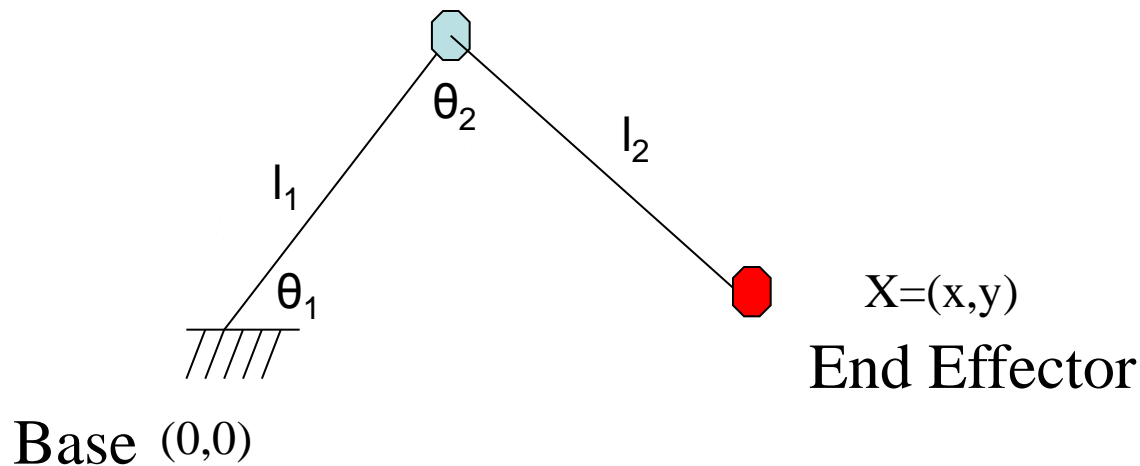
Example: Two-link Structure

- Two links connected by rotational joints



Example: Two-link Structure

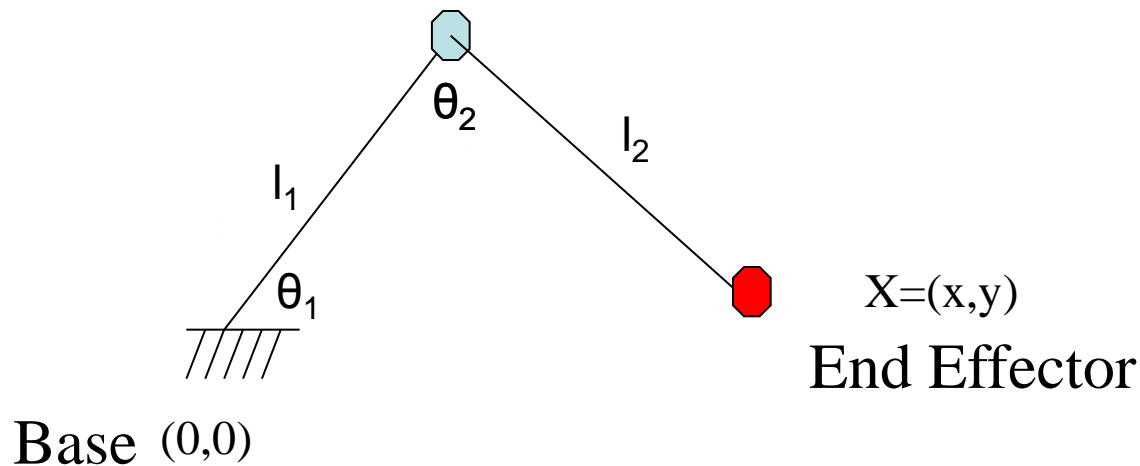
- Animator specifies the joint angles: $\theta_1 \theta_2$
- Computer finds the position of end-effector: x



$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\theta_1, \theta_2)$$

Example: Two-link Structure

- Animator specifies the joint angles: θ_1, θ_2
- Computer finds the position of end-effector: x

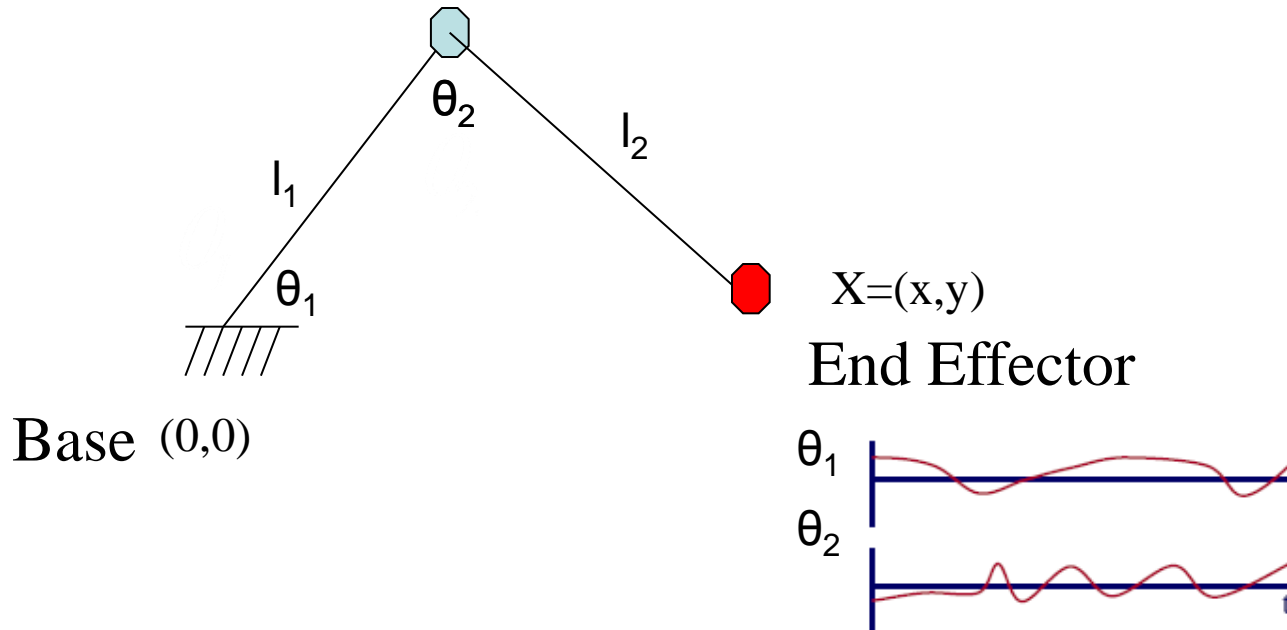


$$x = (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2))$$

$$y = l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

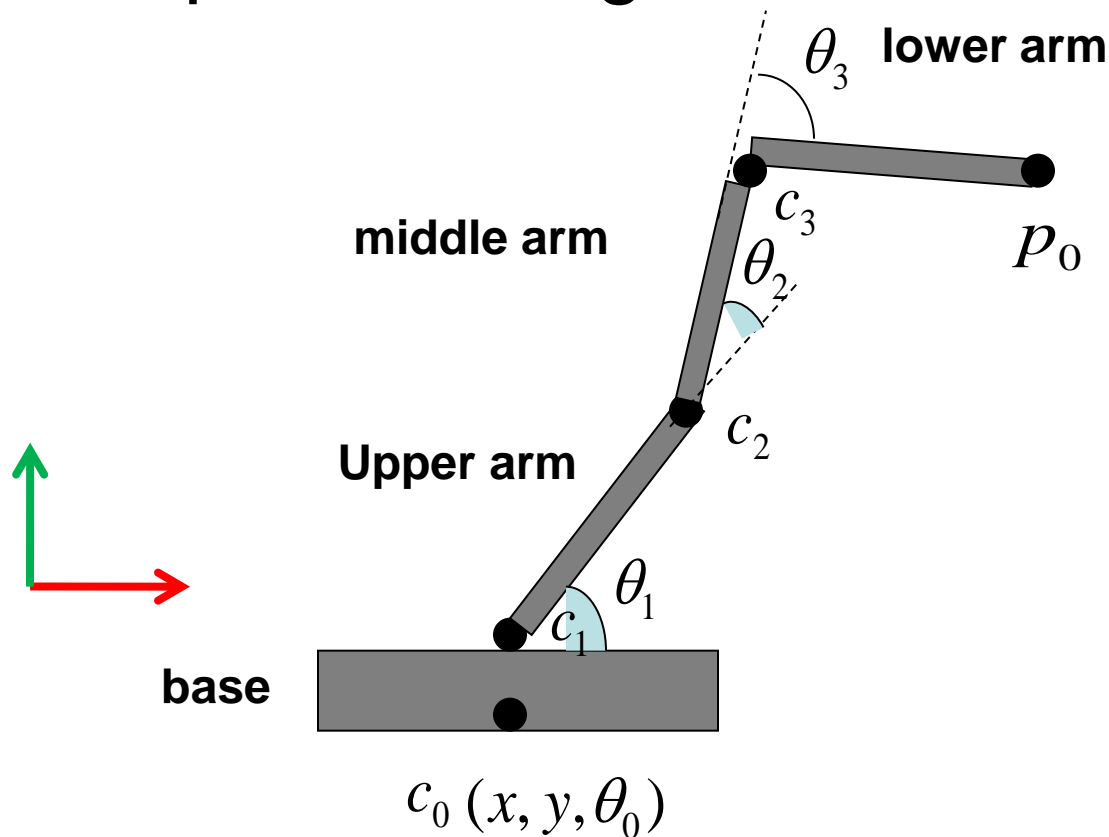
Forward Kinematics

- Create an animation by specifying the joint angle trajectories



Forward Kinematics

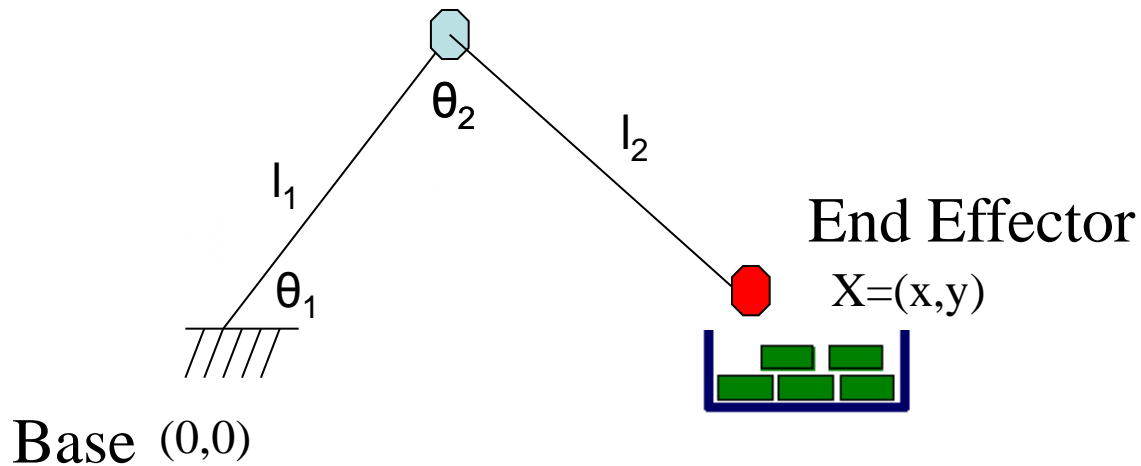
- A 2D lamp with 6 degrees of freedom



$$f(x, y, \theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3) = T(x, y)R(\theta_0)T(0, l_0)R(\theta_1)T(l_1, 0)R(\theta_2)T(l_2, 0)R(\theta_3)p_0$$

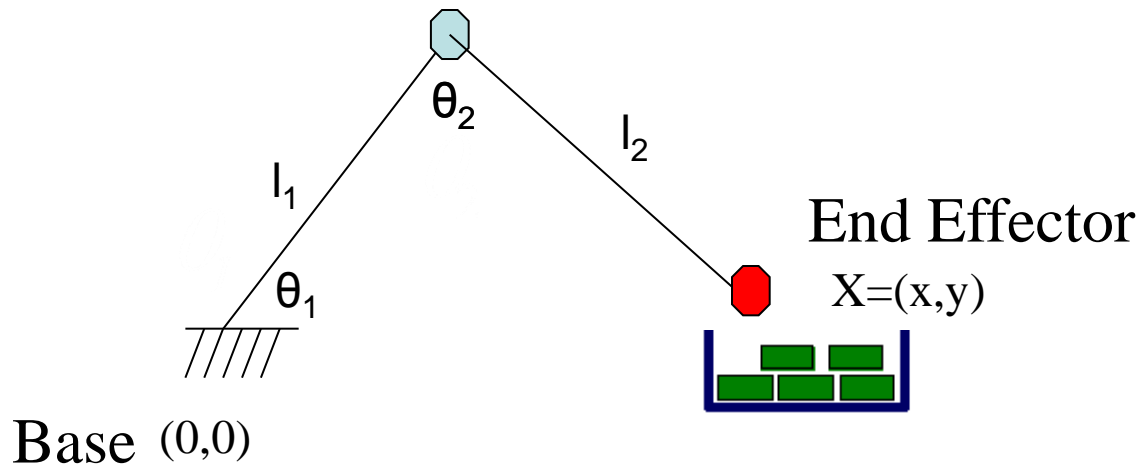
Inverse Kinematics

- What if an animator specifies position of end-effector?



Inverse Kinematics

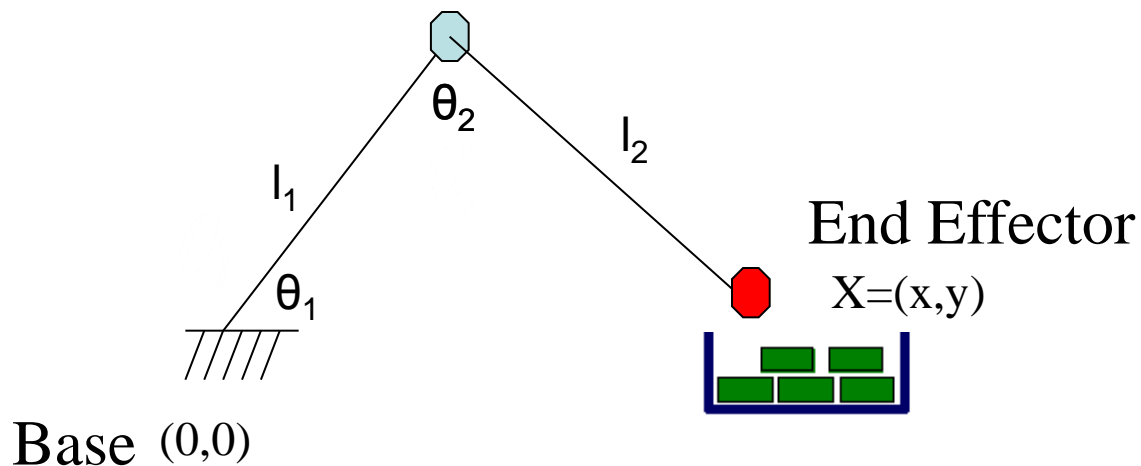
- Animator specifies the position of end-effector: x
- Computer finds joint angles: $\theta_1 \theta_2$



$$(\theta_1, \theta_2) = f^{-1}(x)$$

Inverse Kinematics

- Animator specifies the position of end-effector: x
- Computer finds joint angles: $\theta_1 \theta_2$



$$\Theta_2 = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{x^2 + y^2 - l_1^2 - l_2^2}{2l_1l_2} \right)$$

$$\theta_1 = \frac{-(l_2 \sin(\Theta_2)x + (l_1 + l_2 \cos(\Theta_2))y)}{(l_2 \sin(\Theta_2))y + (l_1 + l_2 \cos(\Theta_2))x}$$

Why Inverse Kinematics?

- Motion capture
- Basic tools in character animation
 - key frame generation
 - animation control
 - interactive manipulation
- Computer vision (video-based mocap)
- Robotics
- Bioinformatics (Protein Inverse Kinematics)
- Etc.

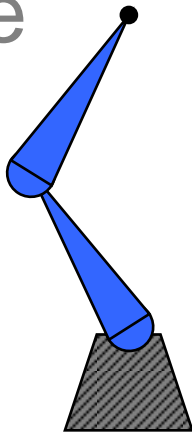


Inverse Kinematics

- Given end effector's positions, compute required joint angles
- In simple case, analytic solution exists
 - Use trig, geometry, and algebra to solve

Inverse Kinematics

- Analytical solution only works for a fairly simple structure



- Numerical/iterative solution needed for a complex structure



Numerical Approaches

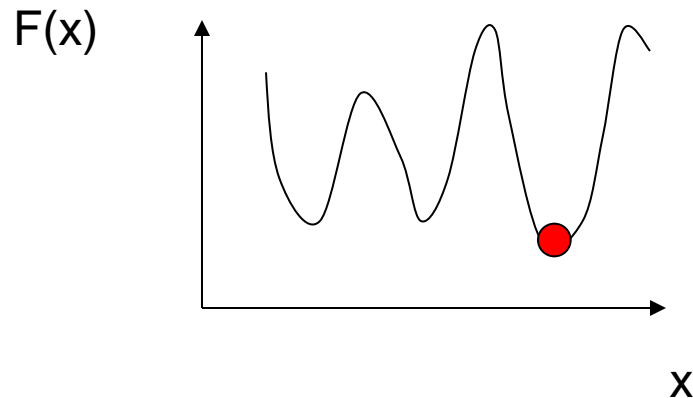
- Inverse kinematics can be formulated as an optimization problem

Function Optimization

- Finding the minimum for nonlinear functions

Given $F : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}$. Find

$$\mathbf{x}^+ = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \{F(\mathbf{x})\}$$



Optimization As a Tool

- How to use optimization to solve the following linear system?

$$3x + 2y = 5;$$

$$4x - 5y = 6$$

Optimization As a Tool

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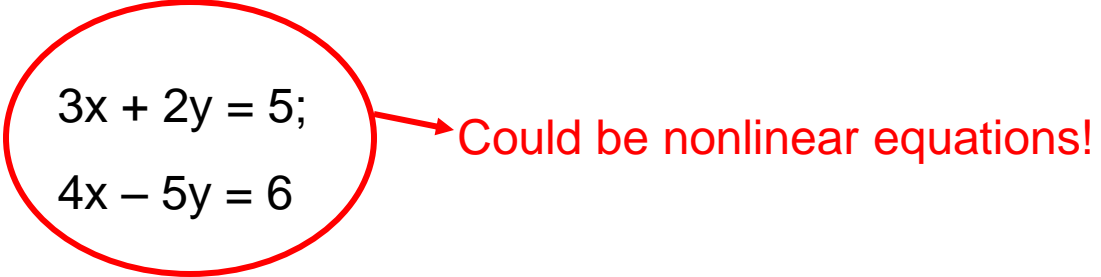
$$4x - 5y = 6$$

Define a function:

$$F(x,y) = (3x+2y-5)^2+(4x-5y-6)^2$$

Optimization As a Tool

- How to use optimization to solve the following linear system?


$$3x + 2y = 5;$$

$$4x - 5y = 6$$

Could be nonlinear equations!

Define a function:

$$F(x,y) = (3x+2y-5)^2 + (4x-5y-6)^2$$

Finding the minimum for $F(x,y)$:

$$x^+, y^+ = \operatorname{argmin}_{x,y} (3x+2y-5)^2 + (4x-5y-6)^2$$

Optimization As a Tool

- How to use optimization to solve the following linear system?

$$f(x, y) = 0;$$

$$g(x, y) = 0$$

Could be nonlinear equations!

Define a function:

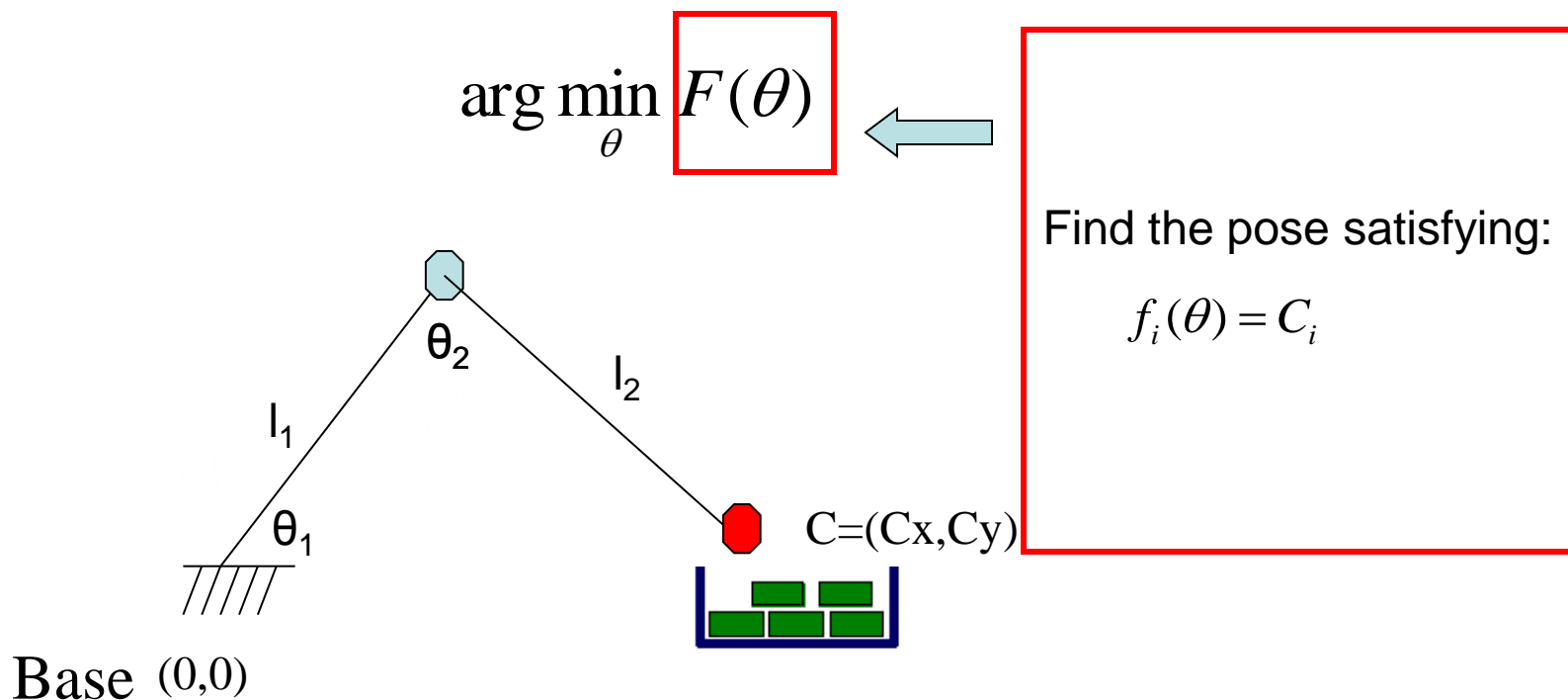
$$F(x, y) = f(x, y)^2 + g(x, y)^2$$

Finding the minimum for $F(x, y)$:

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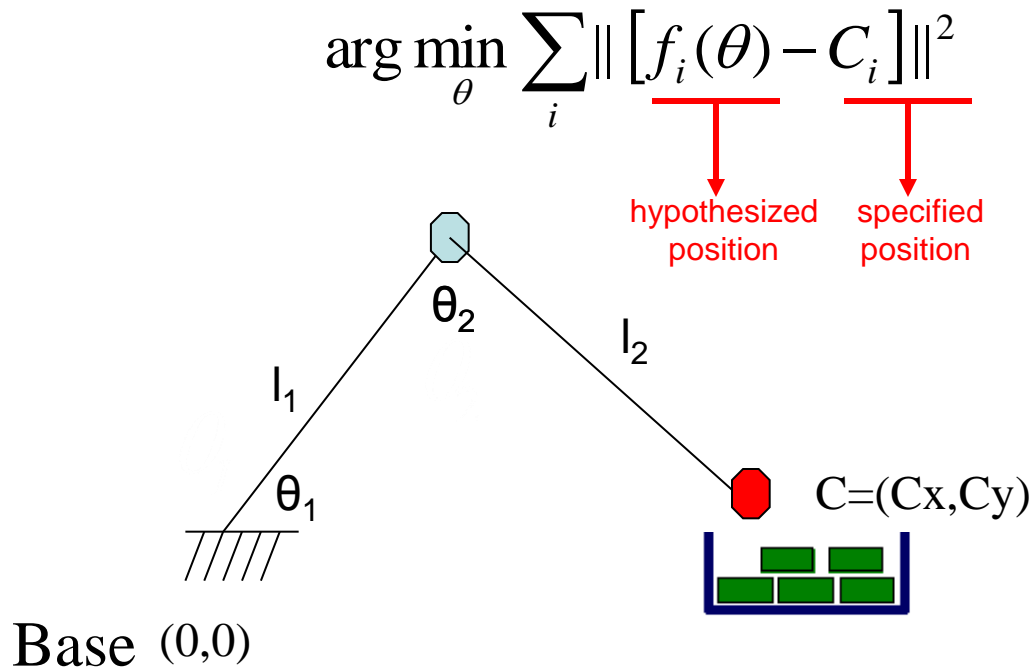
Formulation

- So how to convert the IK process into an optimization function?



Iterative Approaches

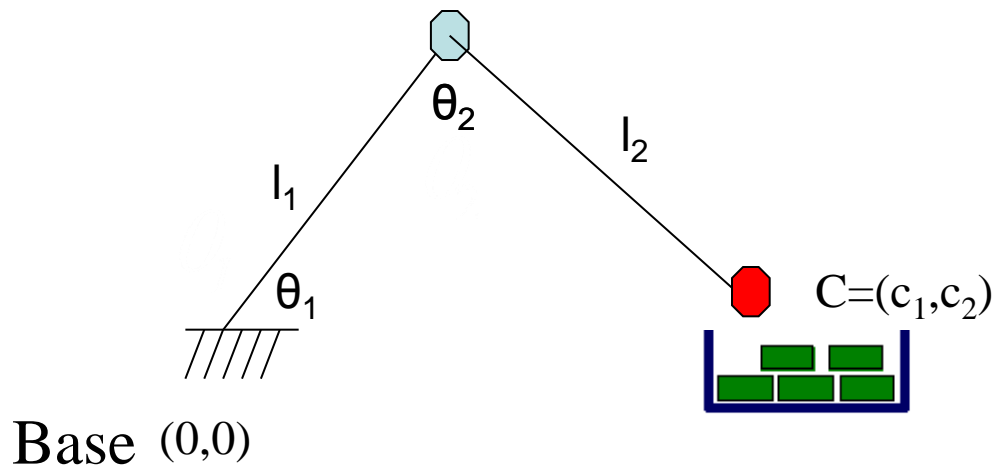
Find the joint angles θ that minimizes the distance between the hypothesized character position and user specified position



Iterative Approaches

Find the joint angles θ that minimizes the distance between the hypothesized character position and user specified position

$$\arg \min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_1)^2 + (l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_2)^2$$



Iterative Approaches

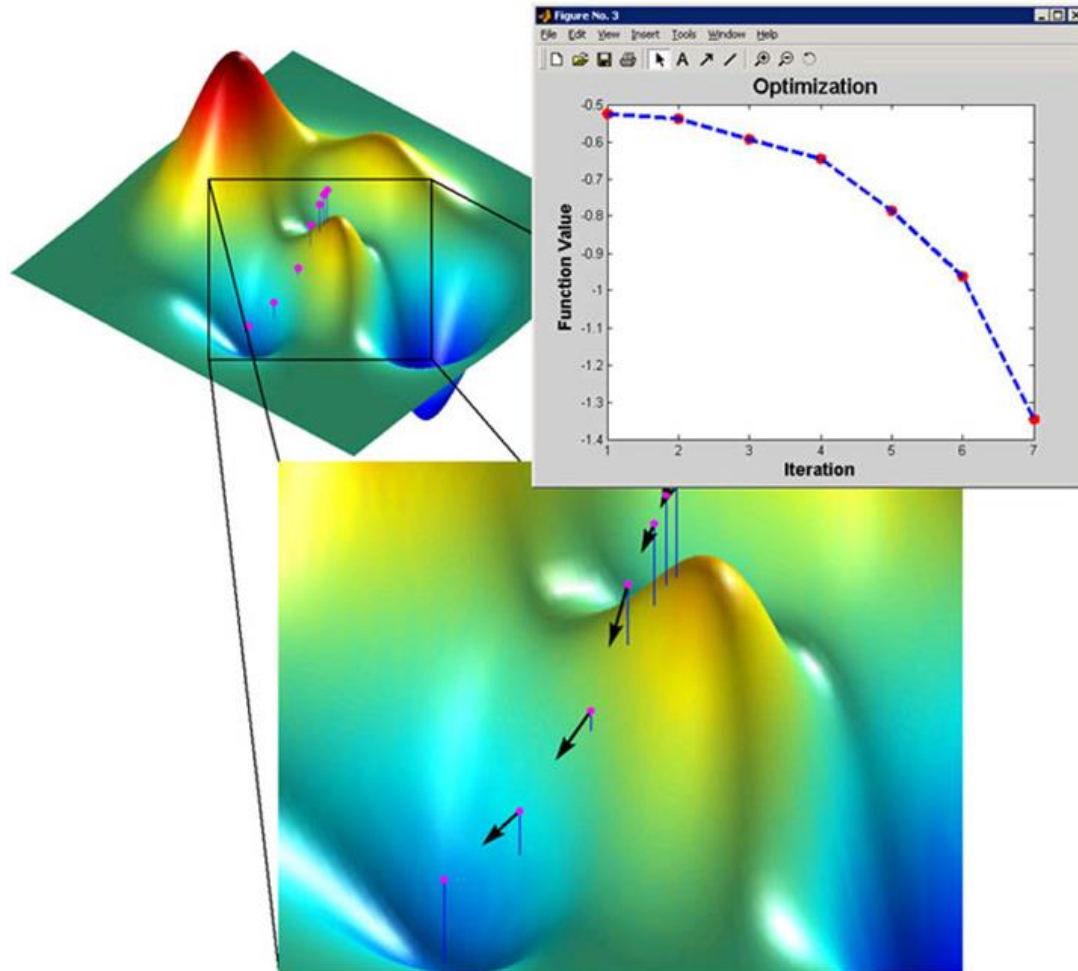
Mathematically, we can formulate this as an optimization problem:

$$\arg \min_{\theta} \sum_i [f_i(\theta) - c_i]^2$$

The above problem can be solved by many nonlinear optimization algorithms:

- Steepest descent
- Gauss-newton
- Levenberg-marquardt, etc

Gradient-based Optimization



Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

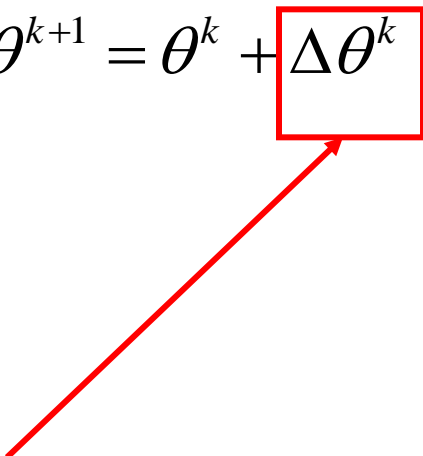
Step 2: update the joint angles until the solution converges:

$$\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \Delta\theta^k$$

Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

Step 2: update the joint angles until the solution converges:

$$\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \Delta\theta^k$$


How can we decide the amount
of update?

Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

Step 2: update the joint angles: $\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \Delta\theta^k$

$$\arg \min_{\Delta\theta} \sum_i [f_i(\theta^k + \Delta\theta^k) - c_i]^2$$

Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

Step 2: update the joint angles: $\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \Delta\theta^k$

$$\arg \min_{\Delta\theta} \sum_i [f_i(\theta^k + \Delta\theta^k) - c_i]^2$$

Known!



Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

Step 2: update the joint angles: $\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \Delta\theta^k$

$$\arg \min_{\Delta\theta^k} \sum_i [f_i(\theta^k + \Delta\theta^k) - c_i]^2 \quad \text{Taylor series expansion}$$

Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

Step 2: update the joint angles: $\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \Delta\theta^k$

$$\arg \min_{\Delta\theta^k} \sum_i \left[f_i(\theta^k + \Delta\theta^k) - c_i \right]^2 \quad \text{Taylor series expansion}$$

$$= \arg \min_{\Delta\theta^k} \sum_i \left[f_i(\theta^k) + \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta^k} \Delta\theta^k - c_i \right]^2 \quad \text{rearrange}$$

Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

Step 2: update the joint angles: $\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \Delta\theta^k$

$$\begin{aligned} & \arg \min_{\Delta\theta^k} \sum_i \left[f_i(\theta^k + \Delta\theta^k) - c_i \right]^2 && \text{Taylor series expansion:} \\ & && \text{linear approximation} \\ & = \arg \min_{\Delta\theta^k} \sum_i \left[f_i(\theta^k) + \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta^k} \Delta\theta^k - c_i \right]^2 && \text{rearrange} \end{aligned}$$

Can you solve this optimization problem?

Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

Step 2: update the joint angles: $\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \Delta\theta^k$

$$\begin{aligned} & \arg \min_{\Delta\theta^k} \sum_i \left[f_i(\theta^k + \Delta\theta^k) - c_i \right]^2 && \text{Taylor series expansion} \\ &= \arg \min_{\Delta\theta^k} \sum_i \left[f_i(\theta^k) + \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta^k} \Delta\theta^k - c_i \right]^2 && \text{rearrange} \\ &= \arg \min_{\Delta\theta^k} \sum_i \left[\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta^k} \Delta\theta^k - (c_i - f_i(\theta^k)) \right]^2 \end{aligned}$$

This is a quadratic function of $\Delta\theta$

Gauss-Newton Approach

- Optimizing an quadratic function is easy

$$\arg \min_{\Delta \theta^k} \sum_i \left[\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta^k} \Delta \theta^k - (c_i - f_i(\theta^k)) \right]^2$$

- It has an optimal value when the gradient is zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_N} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_N} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \theta_1 \\ \Delta \theta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta \theta_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 - f_1(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \\ c_2 - f_2(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \\ \vdots \\ c_N - f_N(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

Gauss-Newton Approach

- Optimizing an quadratic function is easy

$$\arg \min_{\Delta \theta} \sum_i \left[\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta^k} \Delta \theta^k - (c_i - f_i(\theta^k)) \right]^2$$

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J
 $\Delta \theta$
b

Linear equation!

Gauss-Newton Approach

- Optimizing an quadratic function is easy

$$\arg \min_{\Delta \theta} \sum_i \left[\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta^k} \Delta \theta^k - (c_i - f_i(\theta^k)) \right]^2$$

- It has an optimal value when the gradient is zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_N} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_N} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \theta_1 \\ \Delta \theta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta \theta_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 - f_1(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \\ c_2 - f_2(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \\ \vdots \\ c_N - f_N(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

J Δθ b

Gauss-Newton Approach

- Optimizing an quadratic function is easy

$$\arg \min_{\Delta \theta} \sum_i \left[\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta^k} \Delta \theta^k - (c_i - f_i(\theta^k)) \right]^2$$

- It has an optimal value when the gradient is zero

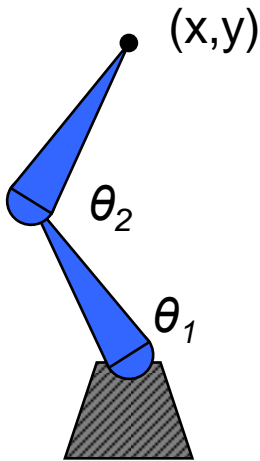
$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_N} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_N} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \theta_1 \\ \Delta \theta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta \theta_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 - f_1(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \\ c_2 - f_2(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \\ \vdots \\ c_N - f_N(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{J} \cdot \Delta \theta = \mathbf{b}$

$$\Delta \theta = (J^T J)^{-1} J^T b$$

Jacobian Matrix

- Jacobian maps the velocity in joint angle space to velocities in Cartesian space

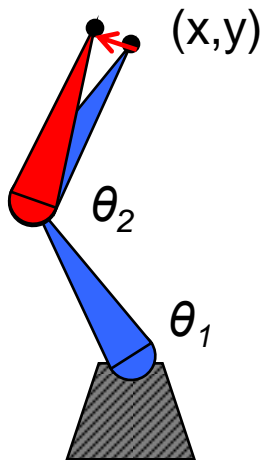


A small change of θ_1 and θ_2 results in how much change of end-effector position (x, y)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta x \\ \Delta y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_2} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \theta_1 \\ \Delta \theta_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Jacobian Matrix

- Jacobian maps the velocity in joint angle space to velocities in Cartesian space



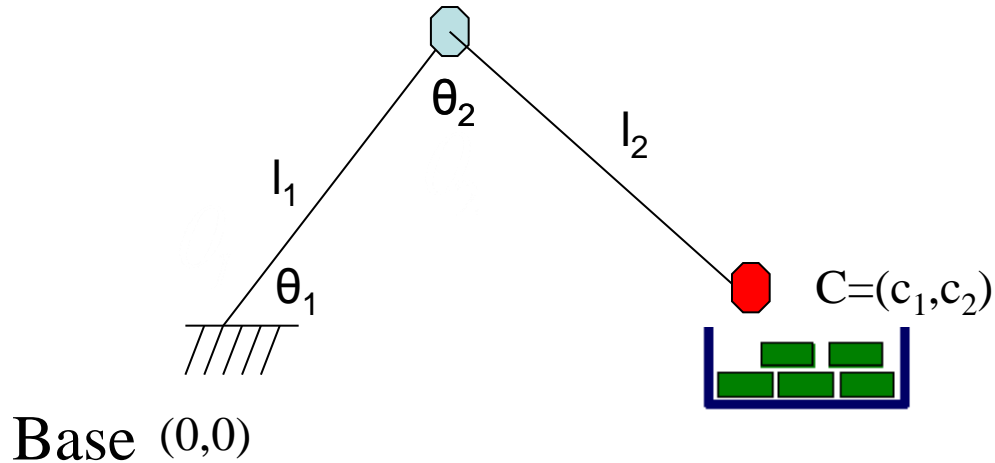
A small change of θ_2 results in how much change of end-effector position $f=(x,y)$

$$\theta_2 \longrightarrow \theta_2 + \Delta\theta_2$$

$$x \longrightarrow x + \Delta x$$

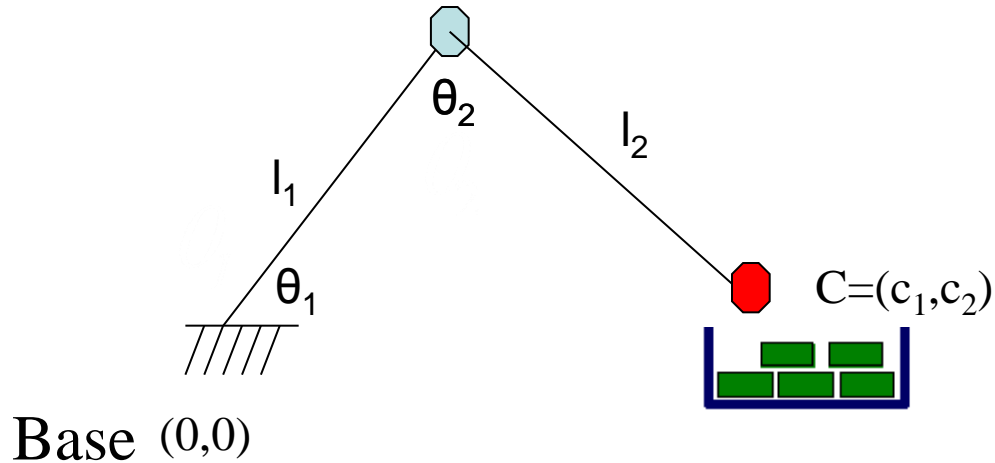
$$y \longrightarrow y + \Delta y$$

Jacobian Matrix: 2D-link Structure



$$\arg \min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_1)^2 + (l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_2)^2$$

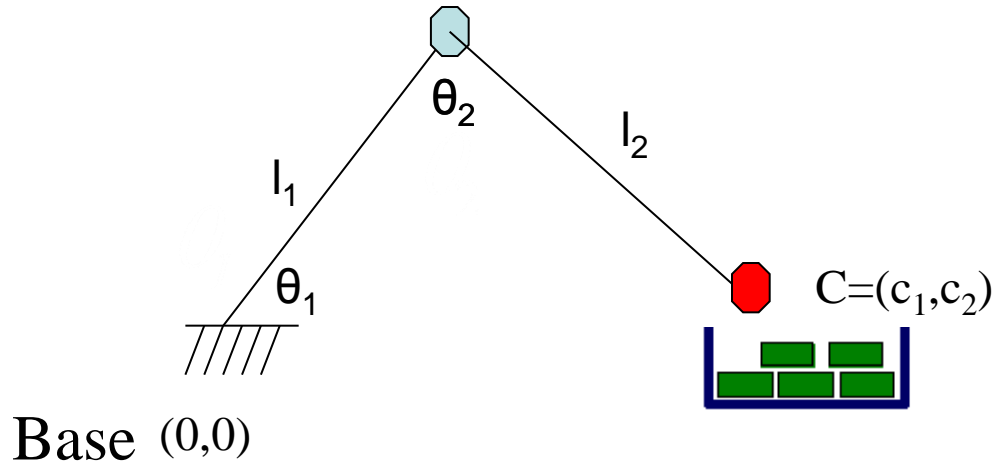
Jacobian Matrix: 2D-link Structure



$$\arg \min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} \left(l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_1 \right)^2 + \left(l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_2 \right)^2$$

f_1 f_2

Jacobian Matrix: 2D-link Structure



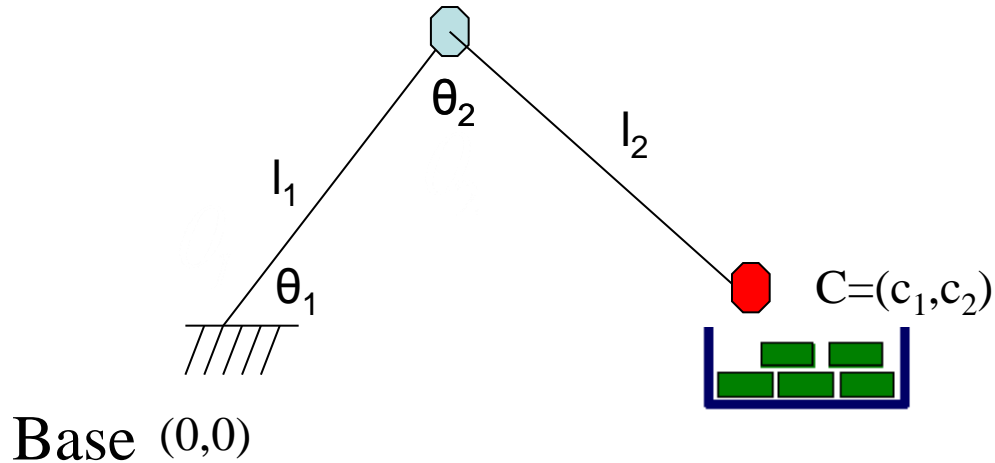
$$\arg \min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_1)^2 + (l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_2)^2$$

$$f_1 = l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

$$f_2 = l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_N} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial \theta_N} \end{vmatrix}$$

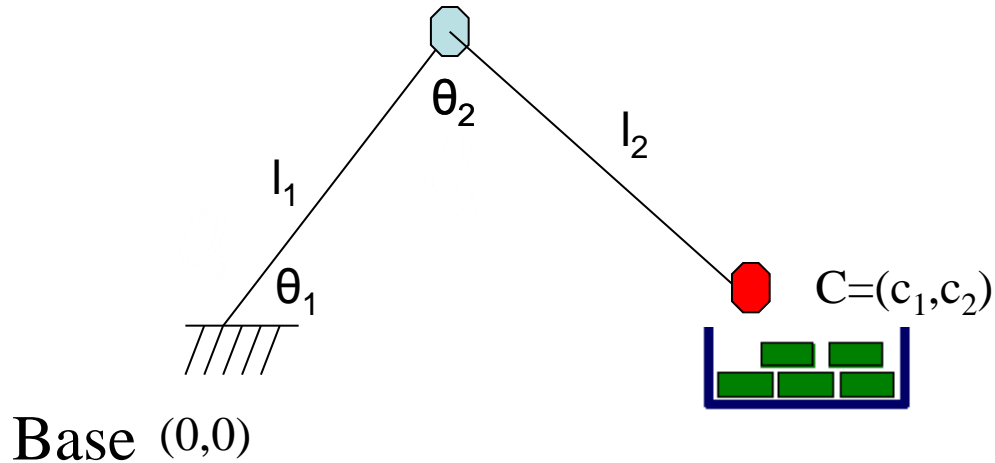
Jacobian Matrix: 2D-link Structure



$$\arg \min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_1)^2 + (l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_2)^2$$

$$J = \begin{vmatrix} -l_1 \sin \theta_1 - l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & -l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \end{vmatrix}$$

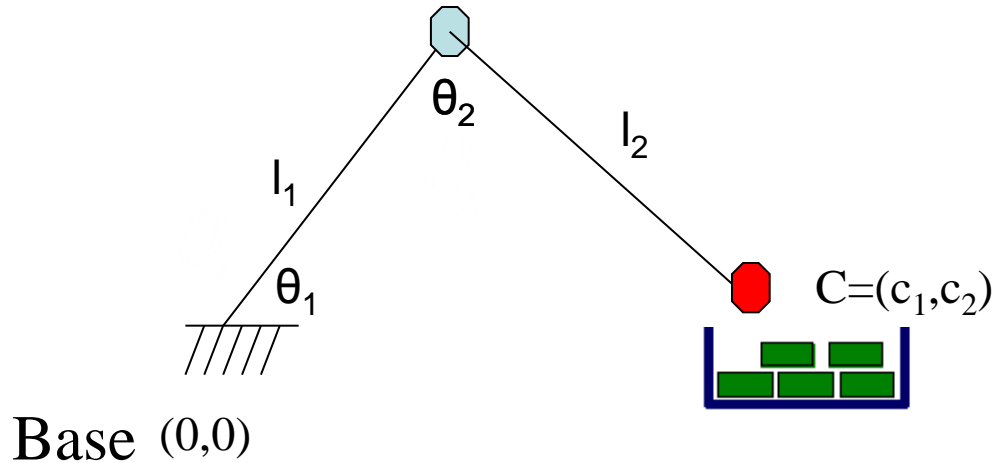
Jacobian Matrix: 2D-link Structure



$$\arg \min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_1)^2 + (l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_2)^2$$

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Jacobian Matrix: 2D-link Structure

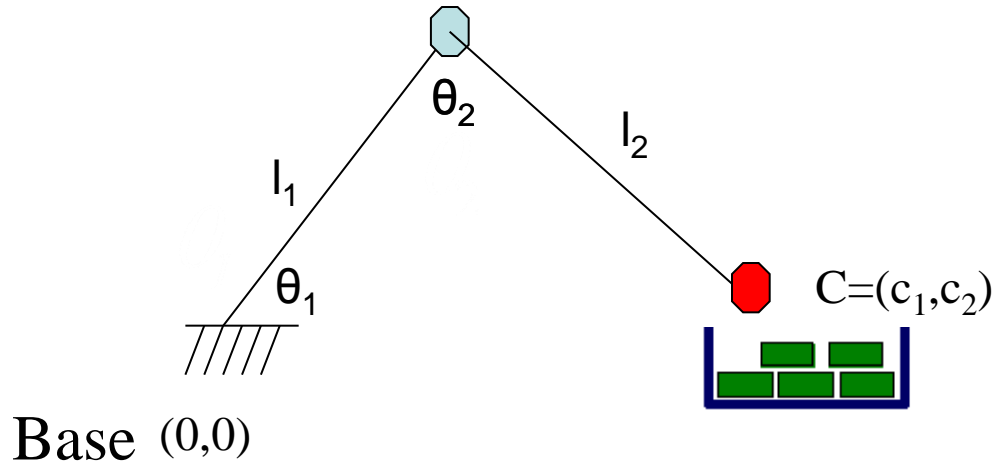


$$\arg \min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_1)^2 + (l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_2)^2$$

$$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \theta_1} = \frac{\partial (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2))}{\partial \theta_1}$$

$$J = \begin{vmatrix} -l_1 \sin \theta_1 - l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & -l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \end{vmatrix}$$

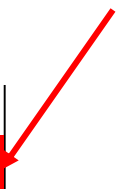
Jacobian Matrix: 2D-link Structure



$$\arg \min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} (l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_1)^2 + (l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) - c_2)^2$$

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} -l_1 \sin \theta_1 - l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & -l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

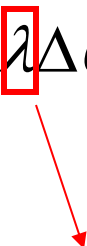
$$\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \theta_2} = \frac{\partial (l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2))}{\partial \theta_2}$$



Gauss-Newton Approach

Step 1: initialize the joint angles with θ^0

Step 2: update the joint angles:

$$\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k + \lambda \Delta \theta^k$$


Step size: specified by the user

When to stop

Option #1: When the change of solution from previous iteration to the current one is below a user-specified threshold.

Option #2: When the number of iteration reaches a user-specified threshold.

Option #3: either #1 or #2 is satisfied.

Iterative Approaches for IK

Mathematically, we can formulate this as an optimization problem:

$$\arg \min_{\theta} \sum_i [f_i(\theta) - c_i]^2$$

The above problem can be solved by many nonlinear optimization algorithms:

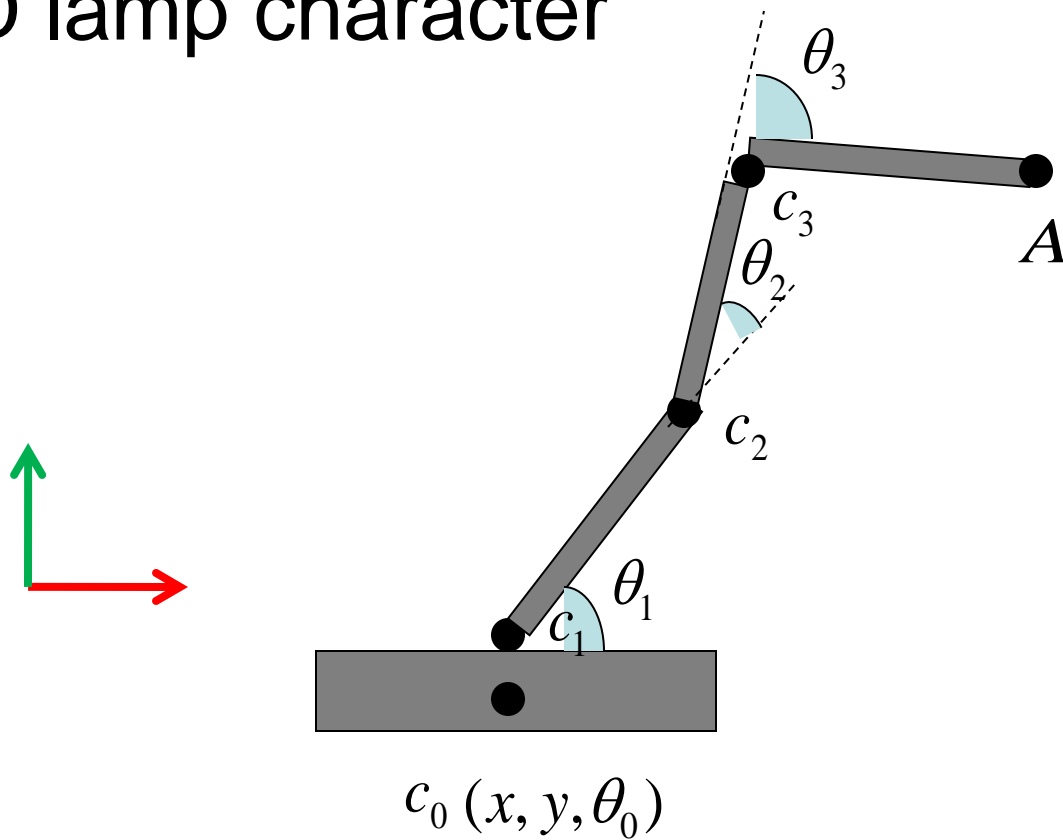
- Steepest descent
- Gauss-newton
- **Levenberg-marquardt**, etc

C/C++ Optimization Library

- levmar : Levenberg-Marquardt nonlinear least squares algorithms in C/C++
 - Works with/without analytical Jacobian matrix
 - Speeds up the optimization process with analytical Jacobian matrix.
- <http://www.ics.forth.gr/~lourakis/levmar/>

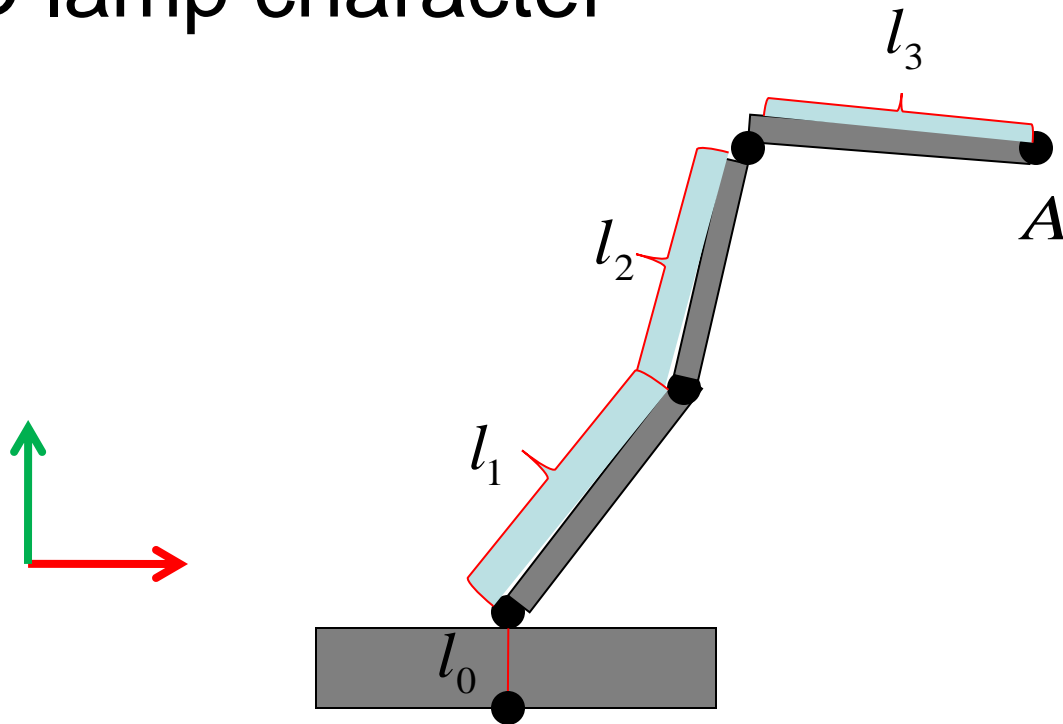
Another Example

- A 2D lamp character



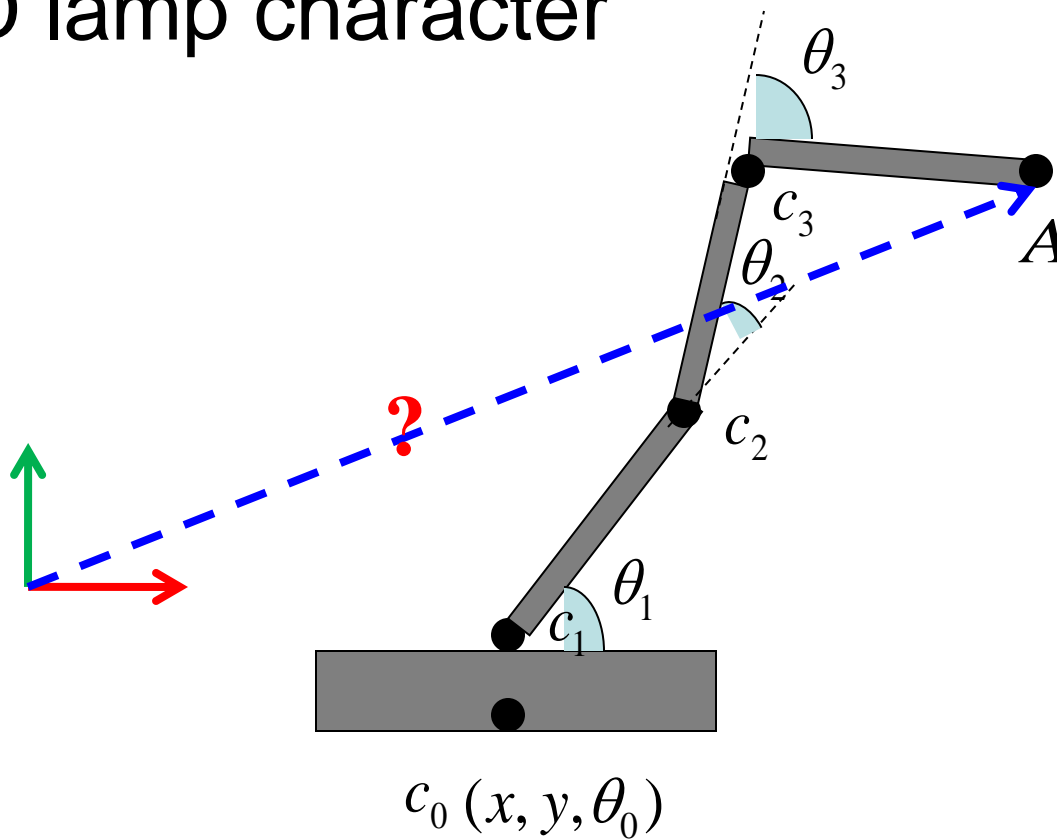
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Forward Kinematics

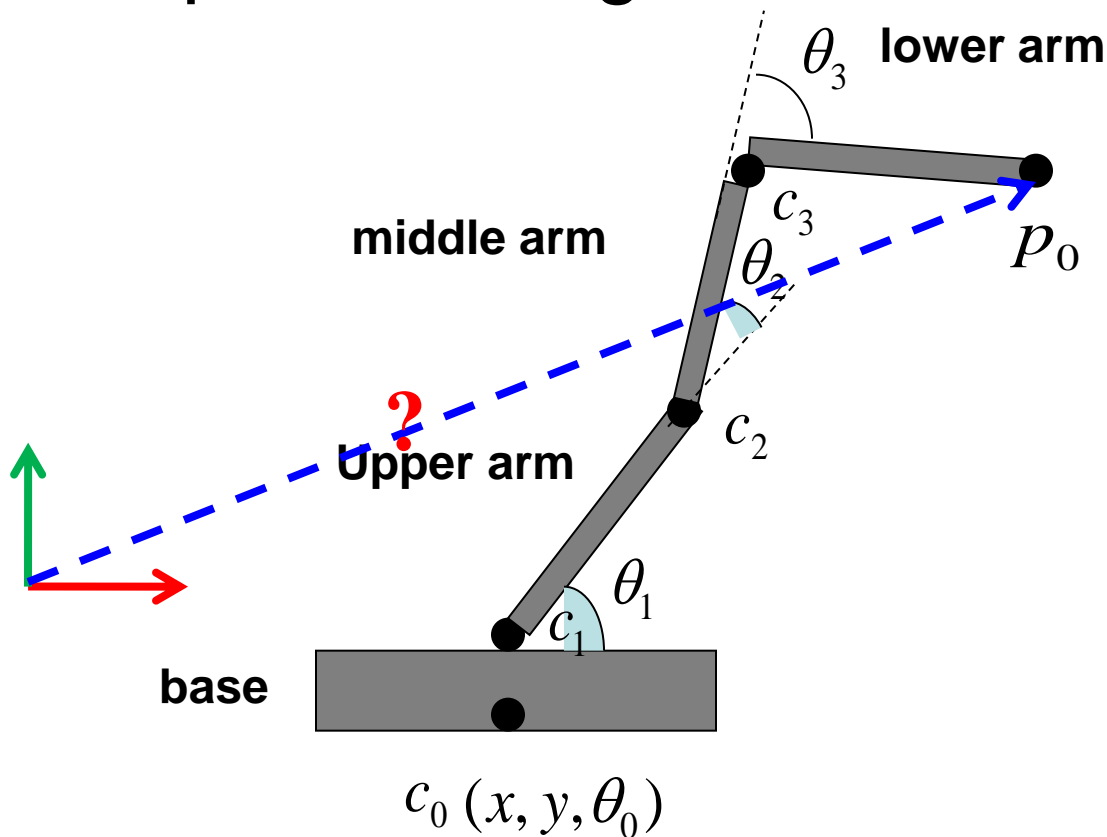
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Given $(x, y, \theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3)$, how to compute the global position of the point A?

Forward Kinematics

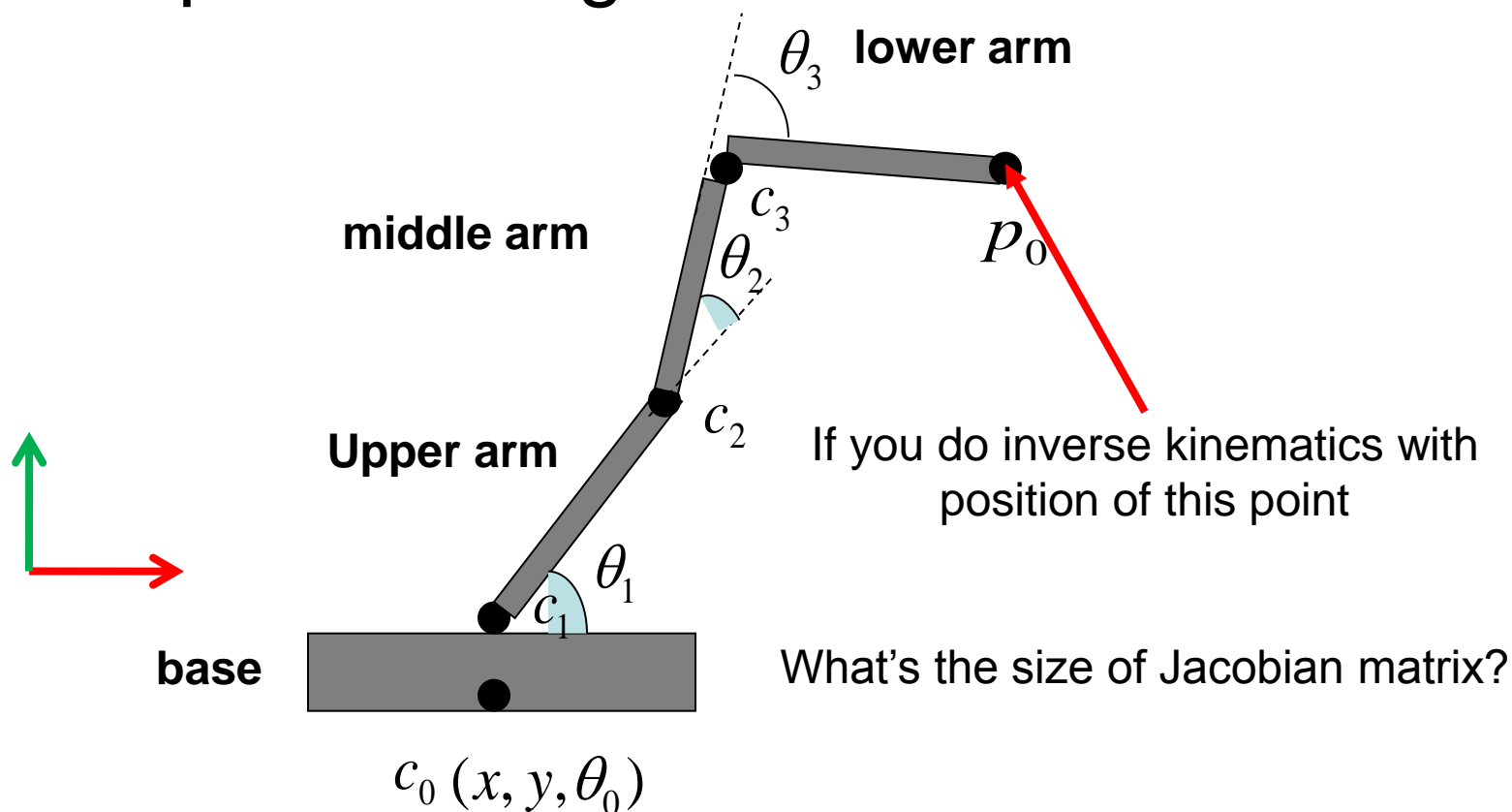
- A 2D lamp with 6 degrees of freedom



$$f(x, y, \theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3) = T(x, y)R(\theta_0)T(0, l_0)R(\theta_1)T(l_1, 0)R(\theta_2)T(l_2, 0)R(\theta_3)p_0$$

Inverse Kinematics

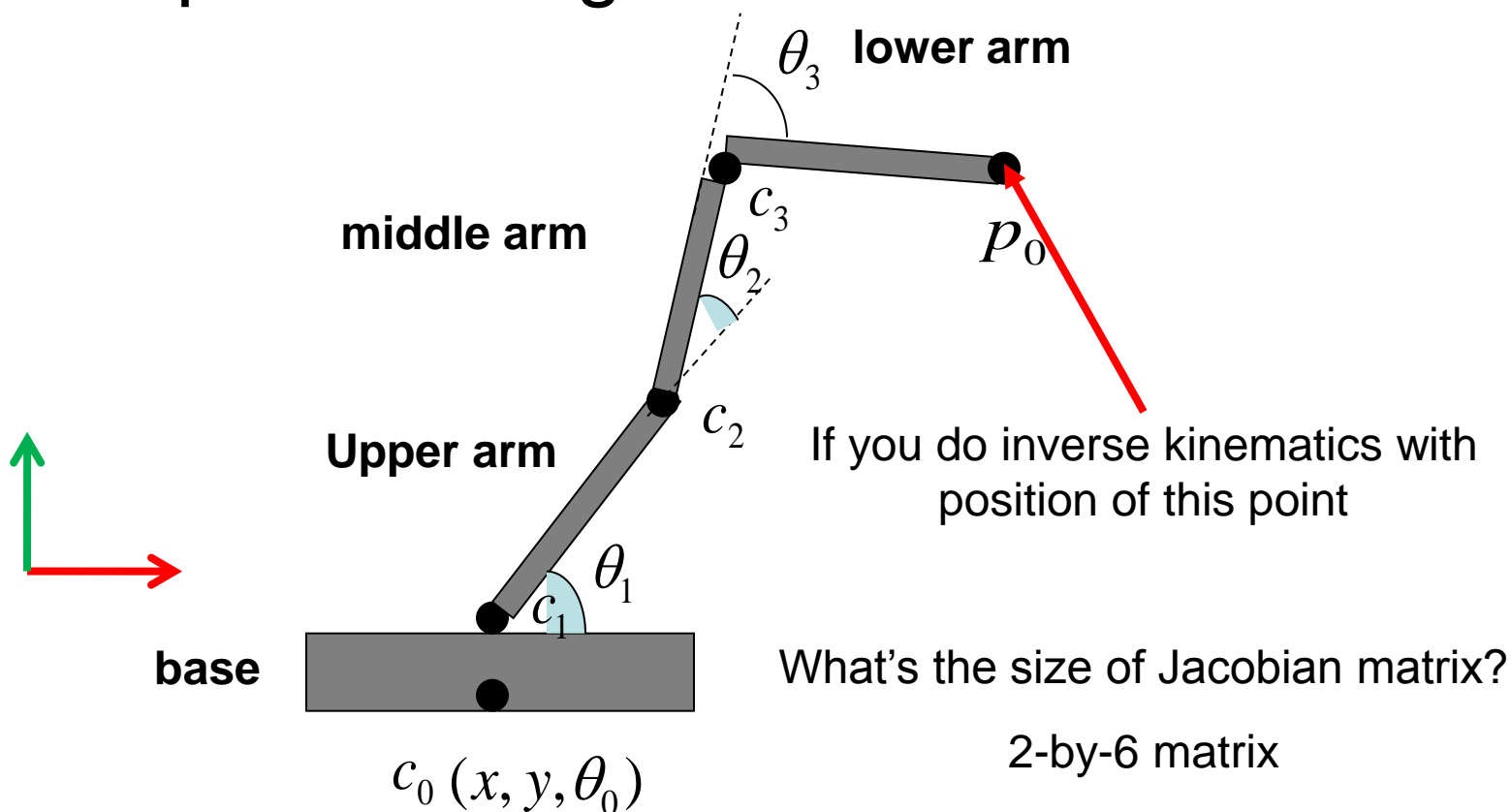
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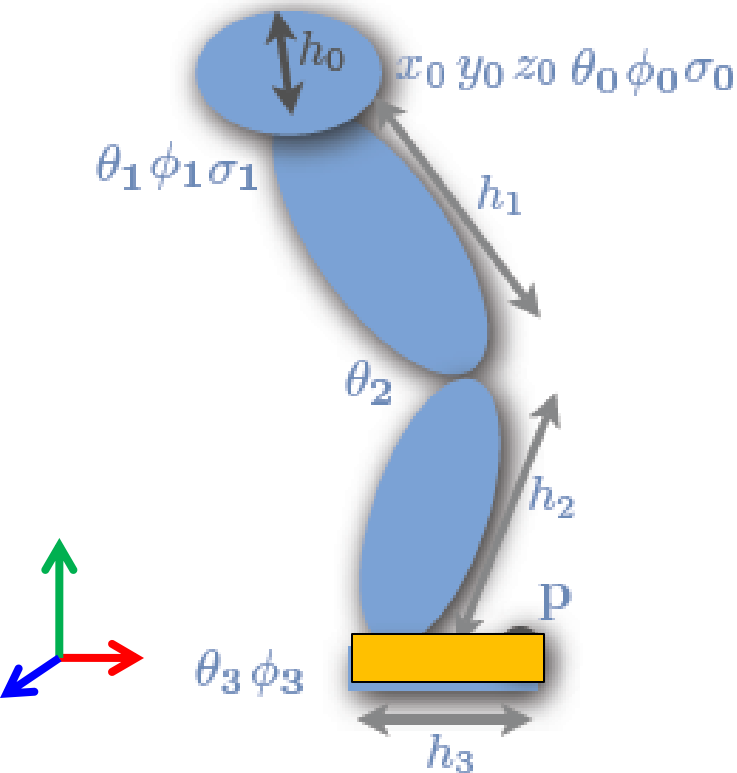
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Human Characters



A series of transformations on an object can be applied as a series of matrix multiplications

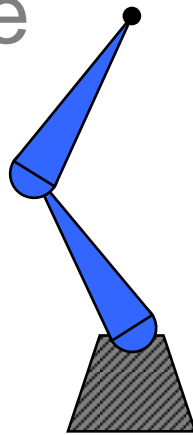
\mathbf{p} : position in the global coordinate

\mathbf{x} : position in the local coordinate
 $(h_3, 0, 0)$

$$f = T(x_0, y_0, z_0)R(\theta_0)R(\phi_0)R(\delta_0)T_1^0R(\theta_1)R(\phi_1)R(\delta_1)T_2^1R(\theta_2)T_3^2R(\theta_3)R(\phi_3)\mathbf{x}$$

Inverse Kinematics

- Analytical solution only works for a fairly simple structure

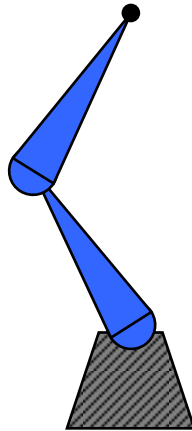


- Iterative approach needed for a complex structure



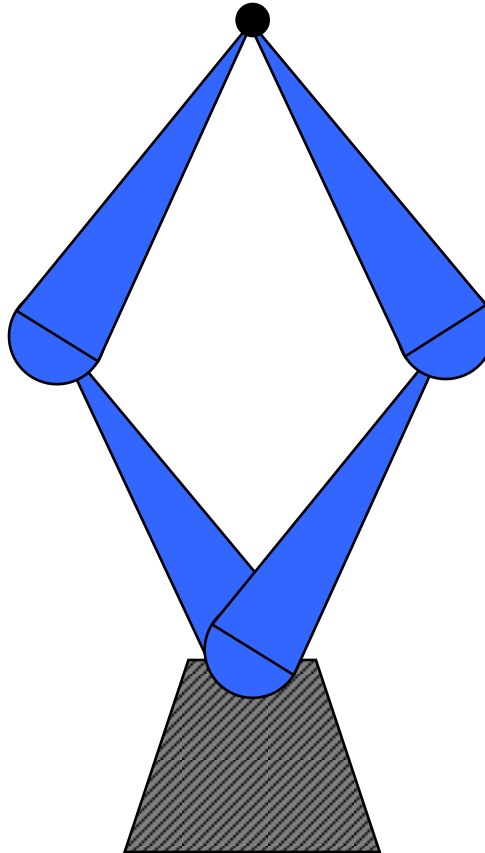
Inverse Kinematics

- Is the solution unique?
- Is there always a good solution?



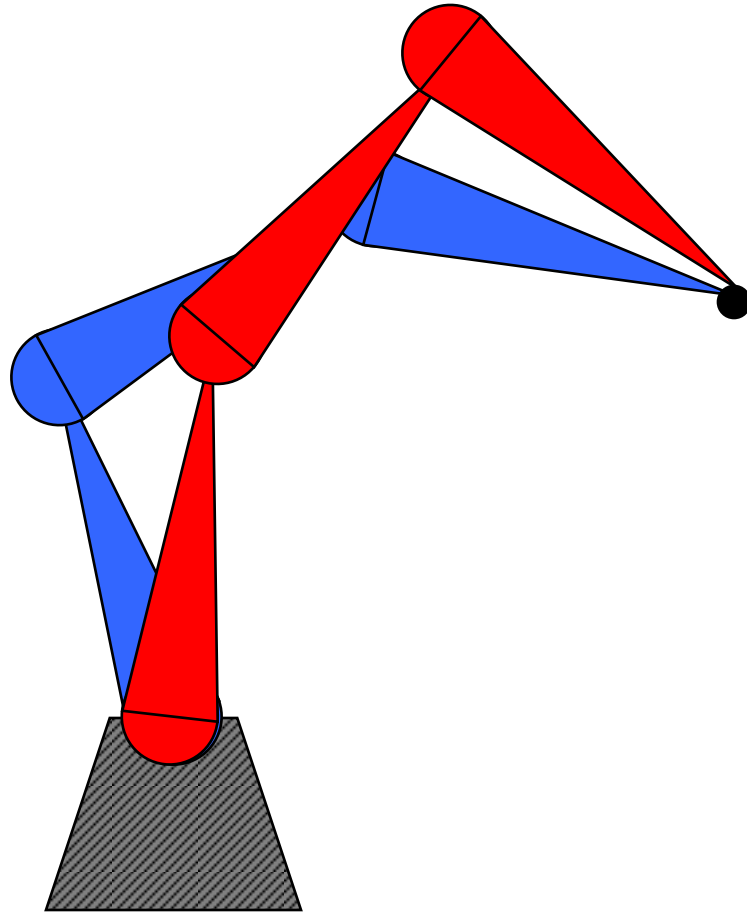
Ambiguity of IK

- Multiple solutions



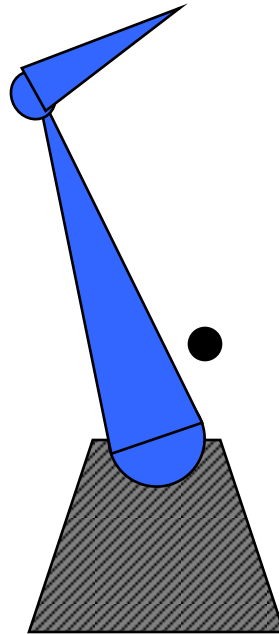
Ambiguity of IK

- Infinite solutions



Failures of IK

- Solution may not exist



Inverse Kinematics

- Generally ill-posed problem when the number of Dofs is higher than the number of constraints



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- Additional objective
 - Minimal Change from a reference pose θ_0

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$$\arg \min_{\theta} \left[\sum_i \|f_i(\theta) - c_i\|^2 + \lambda \|\theta - \theta_0\|^2 \right]$$

Satisfy the constraints

Minimize the difference between the solution and a reference pose

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Satisfy the constraints

How natural is the solution pose?

Interactive Human Character Posing

- Video (click [here](#))

Summary of IK

- Very simple structure allows an analytic solution
- Most of complex articulated figures requires a numerical solution
- May not always get the “right” solution
 - need additional objectives