

C. Knoll, X. Jia, R. Heedt

Trajectory Planning for Closed Kinematic Chains Applied to Cooperative Motions in Health Care

Kassel (virtual), 2021-03-17

Introduction

- Important situation in health care: standing up from sitting position



Source: <https://www.robotik-produktion.de/allgemein/roboter-in-der-pflege/>

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- Usual strategy: physical support from care giver



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- Challenge: variety of possible motion patterns
- Different stress levels for care giver and receiver
- Optimal motion? → mathematical model necessary



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 - Support point: revolute joint at shoulders
- Motion planning for **closed kinematic chains** necessary



Outline

✓ Motivation

→ **Modelling of Closed Kinematic Chains**

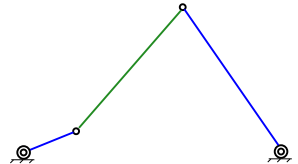
□ Motion Planning for Kinematic Chains

□ Simplification via Quasi-Stationary Trajectory Planing

□ Conclusion and Outlook

Simple Case: Four Bar Linkage

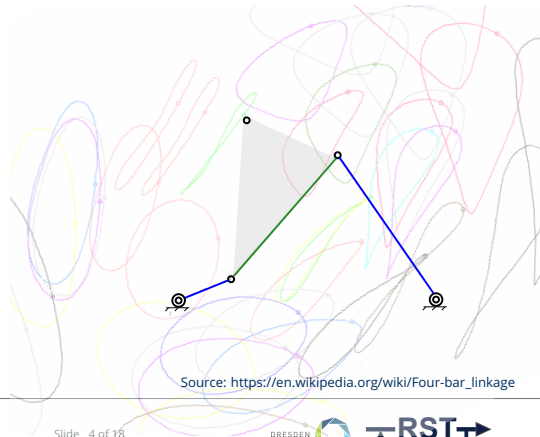
- 4 revolute joints
- 4 links (including basis)
- Closed kinematic chain
- One degree of freedom



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four-bar_linkage

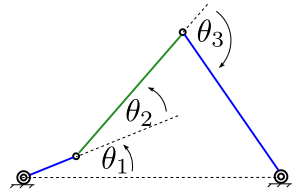
Simple Case: Four Bar Linkage

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- Quite “complex” motion of the 2nd link



Simple Case: Four Bar Linkage

- 4 revolute joints
- 4 links (including basis)
- Closed kinematic chain
- One degree of freedom (e. g. θ_1)
- Quite “complex” motion of the 2nd link
- \exists functional dependencies “ $\theta_2(\theta_1)$ ” and “ $\theta_3(\theta_1)$ ” in closed form



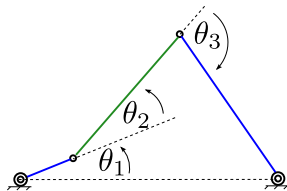
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Four Bar Linkage – Modeling Options

Option 1: Use functional dependencies $\theta_2(\theta_1), \theta_3(\theta_1)$

- One independent variable: θ_1

⇒ Lagrange Eq. of 2nd kind applicable → ODE System ($n = 2$)



Four Bar Linkage – Modeling Options

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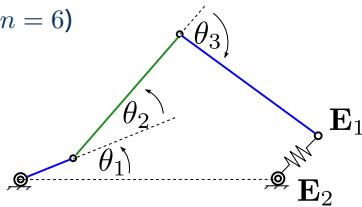
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Option 2: Chain closing via virtual spring

- Three independent variable: $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_3$

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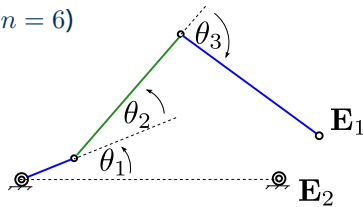
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Option 3: Keep algebraic condition $\mathbf{E}_1 - \mathbf{E}_2 \stackrel{!}{=} \mathbf{0}$

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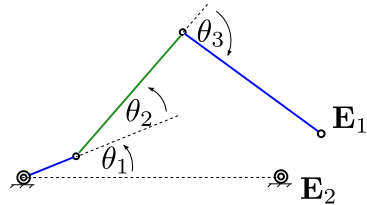
⇒ Lagrange Eq. of 1st kind necessary

⇒ DAE System, $n_x = 6, n_\lambda = 2$, Index: 3



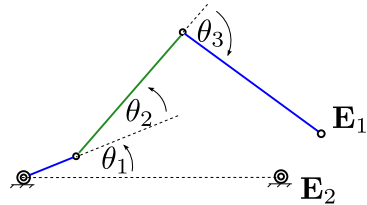
Lagrange Equations of 1st Kind

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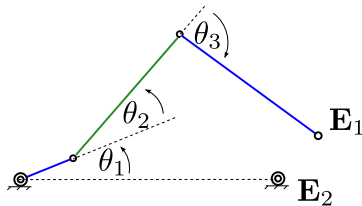


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- Equations of motion:

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{M}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) + \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta})}_{=: \mathbf{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}, \ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}})} = \boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{A}^T(\boldsymbol{\theta})\boldsymbol{\lambda} = \mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\tau} \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} \end{pmatrix}}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}},$$

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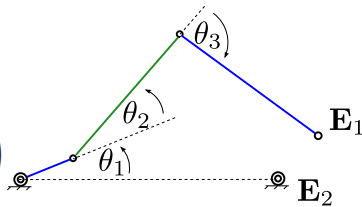
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- State space form of ODE-part: $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\mu})$, with $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\theta} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{pmatrix}$
- Index 3 \Rightarrow Finding initial values and simulation nontrivial



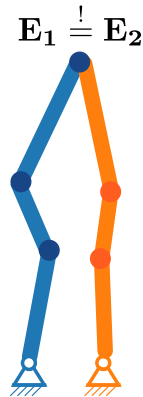
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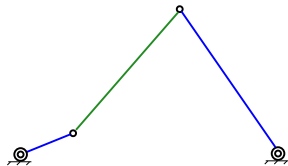
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Side note: Degree of Freedom

General formula:

$$F = (N_{\text{links}} - 1) \cdot N_{\text{m.p.}} - \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{joints}}} (N_{\text{m.p.}} - f_i) \quad \text{with } N_{\text{m.p.}}: \text{motion possibilities}$$



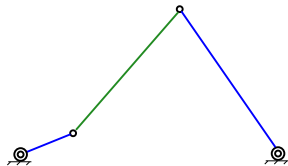
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Planar linkage with only revolute joints:

$$F = (N_{\text{links}} - 1) \cdot 3 - \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{joints}}} (3 - 1) = (N_{\text{links}} - 1) \cdot 3 - N_{\text{joints}} \cdot 2$$



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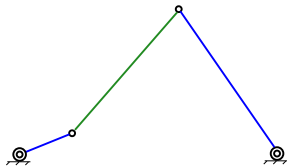
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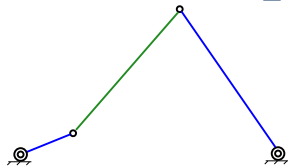
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$$F = 4 - 3 \\ = 1$$



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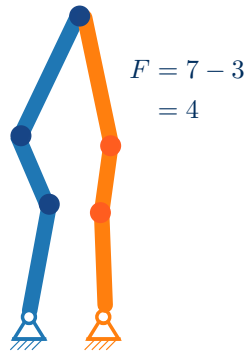
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- **Motion Planning for Kinematic Chains**
 - Simplification via Quasi-Stationary Trajectory Planing
 - Conclusion and Outlook

Motion Planning via Optimization (1)

- Original DAE model: $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\mu})$ with $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\theta} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{pmatrix}$ and $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\tau} \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} \end{pmatrix}$
 $\bar{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{x}) = 0$

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- Euler discretization for N steps $k = 0, \dots, N - 1$:
 $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \Delta t \cdot \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_k, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)$ with $\mathbf{x}_k := \mathbf{x}(k\Delta t)$, $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k := \boldsymbol{\mu}(k\Delta t)$

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- Constraints:
 - Discretized equations of $\mathbf{c}_{1,k}(\mathbf{Z}) := \Delta t \cdot \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_k, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) - \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \stackrel{!}{=} 0$
 - Chain closing condition: $\mathbf{c}_{2,k}(\mathbf{Z}) := \bar{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{x}_k) \stackrel{!}{=} 0$

Motion Planning via Optimization (2)

How big ist the problem (e. g. for $N = 100$)?

$$\dim \mathbf{c}_{1,k} = \dim \mathbf{x} = 2 \cdot \dim \boldsymbol{\theta} = 12,$$

$$\dim \mathbf{c}_{2,k} = \dim \mathbf{a} = 2$$



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Number of constraints: $N_c = N \cdot \dim \mathbf{c}_{1,k} + N \cdot \dim \mathbf{c}_{2,k} = 1400$



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Number of variables: $\dim \mathbf{Z} = (N + 1) \cdot \dim \mathbf{x} + N \cdot \underbrace{\dim \boldsymbol{\mu}}_{6+2} = 2012$



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→ “Medium sized” nonlinear optimal control problem

Calculation time: $t_{\text{calc}} \approx 1 \text{ min} \dots 1 \text{ h}$
(Setup: CasADi, IPOPT, PC@3.2GHz)



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- ☑ Motion Planning for Kinematic Chains
- **Simplification via Quasi-Stationary Trajectory Planing**
- ☐ Conclusion and Outlook

Reconsidering the Problem

Equations of motion :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) + \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{A}^T(\boldsymbol{\theta})\boldsymbol{\lambda} = \mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\tau} \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} \end{pmatrix}}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \\ \mathbf{a}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \mathbf{0} \end{aligned} \quad (*)$$

Reconsidering the Problem

Equations of motion (assuming slow motion):

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{M}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}})}_{\approx 0} + \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \boldsymbol{\tau} - \mathbf{A}^T(\boldsymbol{\theta})\boldsymbol{\lambda} = \mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\tau} \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} \end{pmatrix}}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \quad (*)$$
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Equations of motion (assuming slow motion):

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\boldsymbol{\mu}, \\ \mathbf{a}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \mathbf{0}\end{aligned}\tag{*}$$

New (smaller) problem:

Find equilibrium configuration $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ and load $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\tau} \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix}$ such that (*) is satisfied.

Reconsidering the Problem

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Idea: patch neighboring equilibria together \rightarrow definition of geometric path
 \rightarrow choose time scaling $t \mapsto \boldsymbol{\theta}(t)$ (additional design freedom)

Equilibrium Finding

Original cost function

$$J(\mathbf{Z}) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \mathbf{x}_k^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x}_k + \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^T \mathbf{R} \boldsymbol{\mu}_k$$

constraints

$$\mathbf{c}_{1,k}, \mathbf{c}_{2,k} \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, N$$

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New cost function

$$\bar{J}_k(\bar{\mathbf{Z}}_k, \bar{\mathbf{P}}_k) = \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^T \mathbf{R} \boldsymbol{\mu}_k + \sigma(\bar{\mathbf{P}}_k)$$

constraints

$$\mathbf{c}_{1,k}, \mathbf{c}_{2,k} \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, N$$

constraints

$$(\bar{\mathbf{c}}_{1,k}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}_{2,k}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}_{3,k}(\bar{\mathbf{P}}_k))$$

for k fixed

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with $\bar{\mathbf{Z}}_k := (\mathbf{x}_k, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)$, $\dim \bar{\mathbf{Z}}_k = 14$

and parameters $\bar{\mathbf{P}}_k := (y_{E,k}, \bar{\mathbf{Z}}_{k-1}, \bar{\mathbf{Z}}_{k-2})$

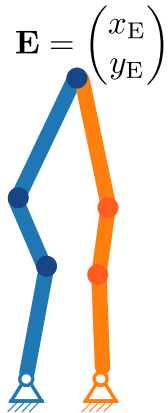
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with $\bar{\mathbf{Z}}_k := (\mathbf{x}_k, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)$, $\dim \bar{\mathbf{Z}}_k = 14$

and parameters $\bar{\mathbf{P}}_k := (y_{E,k}, \bar{\mathbf{Z}}_{k-1}, \bar{\mathbf{Z}}_{k-2})$

→ For each k increase y_E ("standing up") via $\bar{c}_{3,k}$ and penalize changes in $\bar{\mathbf{Z}}$

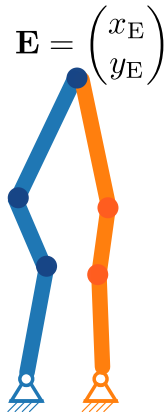
constraints

$$\mathbf{c}_{1,k}, \mathbf{c}_{2,k} \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, N$$

constraints

$$(\bar{\mathbf{c}}_{1,k}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}_{2,k}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}_{3,k}(\bar{\mathbf{P}}_k))$$

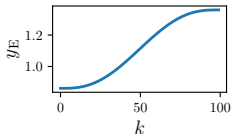
for k fixed



Trajectory Generation

For each $k = 0, \dots, N$:

- 1 Choose y_E from

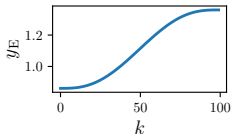


- 2 Solve small nonlinear optimization problem $\bar{J}_k(\bar{\mathbf{Z}}_k, \bar{\mathbf{P}}_k) \rightarrow \min$ s. t. $\bar{\mathbf{c}}_{i,k}$

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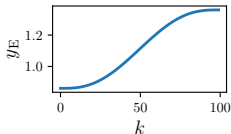


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- 4 $k := k + 1 \rightarrow$ 1

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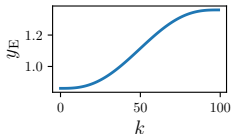
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Result: geometric path $k \mapsto \theta_k$,
static torques $k \mapsto \mu_k$

Trajectory Generation

For each $k = 0, \dots, N$:

- ① Choose y_E from



- ② Solve small nonlinear optimization problem $\bar{J}_k(\bar{\mathbf{Z}}_k, \bar{\mathbf{P}}_k) \rightarrow \min$ s. t. $\bar{\mathbf{c}}_{i,k}$
- ③ Calculate $\bar{\mathbf{P}}_{k+1}$ and $\bar{\mathbf{c}}_{i,k+1}$ according to results
- ④ $k := k + 1 \rightarrow$ ①

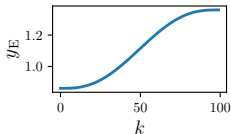
Result: geometric path $k \mapsto \theta_k$,
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- ⑤ Choose time scaling $t \mapsto k(t)$
- ⑥ Calculate $t \mapsto (\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t), \ddot{\theta}(t))$
(via interpolation)

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- ② Solve small nonlinear optimization problem $\bar{J}_k(\bar{\mathbf{Z}}_k, \bar{\mathbf{P}}_k) \rightarrow \min$ s.t. $\bar{\mathbf{c}}_{i,k}$
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Result: geometric path $k \mapsto \boldsymbol{\theta}_k$,
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- ⑤ Choose time scaling $t \mapsto k(t)$
- ⑥ Calculate $t \mapsto (\boldsymbol{\theta}(t), \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(t), \ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(t))$
(via interpolation)
- ⑦ Calculate actual *dynamic* torques

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^*(t) = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^T \mathbf{R} \boldsymbol{\mu}$$

s.t.

$$\mathbf{M}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) + \mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\boldsymbol{\mu}$$

for each desired time step t

Results

Calculation time:

“1 big problem ($N = 100$)”: $t_{\text{calc}} \approx 1 \text{ min} \dots 1 \text{ h}$ (reminder)

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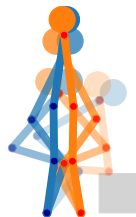
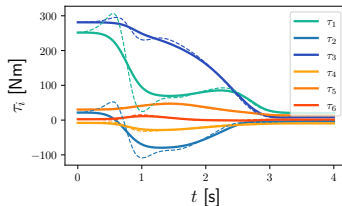
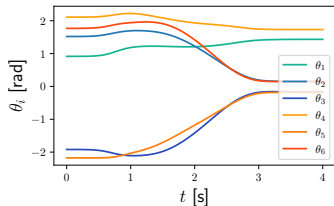
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Numerical Results:



See also: <https://github.com/TUD-RST/MPCKC>

Outline

- ☑ Motivation
 - ☑ Modelling of Closed Kinematic Chains
 - ☑ Motion Planning for Kinematic Chains
 - ☑ Simplification via Quasi-Stationary Trajectory Planing
- **Conclusion and Outlook**

Conclusion and Outlook

Summary:

- Modelling of closed kinematic chains via Lagrange Eq. of 1st kind
- Formulation as optimal control problem
- Simplification via sequential solution of quasi-stationary auxiliary problems
→ $\approx 1000\times$ speedup
- Python based software frame work: <https://github.com/TUD-RST/MPCKC>

Conclusion and Outlook

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- Formulation as optimal control problem
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Outlook:

- Parameter studies (lengths, masses, \mathbf{R}_{ii})
- More realistic humans (e. g. with arms)
- Consideration of tilting (ZMP)

Selected References



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