# Ch2: An Introductory Example

Amin Fakhari, Fall 2025

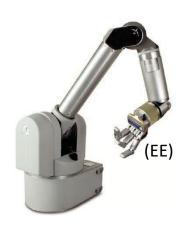


# **2R Planar Manipulator**

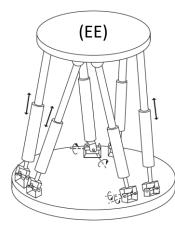
2R Manipulator

#### **Robot Mechanical Structure**

- A robot is mechanically constructed by connecting a set of bodies, called **Links**, to each other using various types of **Joints**.
  - \* All the robots considered in this course have links that can be modeled as **rigid bodies**.
- Actuators, such as electric motors, deliver forces and torques to the joints, thereby causing motion of the robot.
- An **End-Effector** (EE), such as a gripper or hand for grasping and manipulating objects, is attached to a specific link.









# 2R (or RR) Planar Manipulator

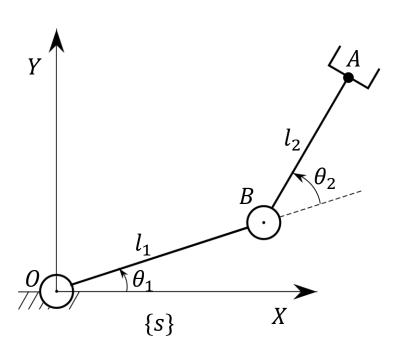
 $(\theta_1, \theta_2)$ : Joint angles (or joint positions)

(x, y): Position of end-effector (point A)

 $\{s\}$ : Base frame of manipulator

 $l_1$ : Length of link 1

 $l_2$ : Length of link 2

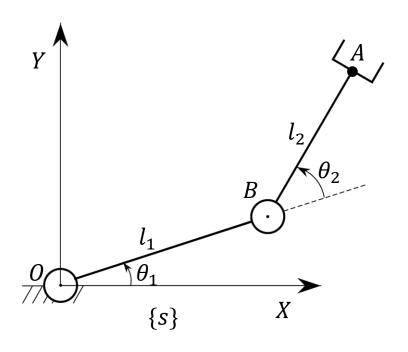




# **Position Kinematics**

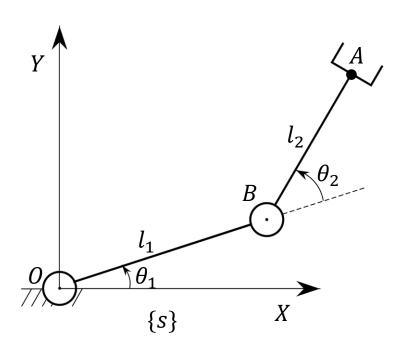
#### Relation between Joint Angles and End-Effector Position

What is the relationship between the joint angles,  $(\theta_1, \theta_2)$ , and the position of the end effector point A, (x, y), in the base frame  $\{s\}$ ?



## **Forward (Direct) Position Kinematics**

Given the joint angles,  $(\theta_1, \theta_2)$ , of the 2R robot, find the position, (x, y) of the end-effector point A, in the base frame  $\{s\}$ .





### Forward (Direct) Position Kinematics

$$oldsymbol{ heta} = egin{bmatrix} heta_1 \\ heta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$
: Vector of joint angles

 $q = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$ : Position vector of end-effector point

$$x = l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \equiv f_1(\theta_1, \theta_2)$$
  
$$y = l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \equiv f_2(\theta_1, \theta_2)$$

$$\boldsymbol{q} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(\theta_1, \theta_2) \\ f_2(\theta_1, \theta_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

More abstractly, the forward kinematics map is

$$q = f(\theta)$$

where f is a vector function.

$$f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(\theta_1, \theta_2) \\ f_2(\theta_1, \theta_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

#### **Inverse Position Kinematics**

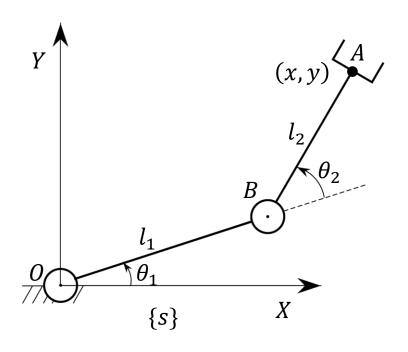
Given the position, (x, y), of the end effector point A, find the joint angles,  $(\theta_1, \theta_2)$  so that the position (x, y) is reached.

In other words, from the equations

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

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

Find  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  as a function of x and y.



#### **Numerical Example (Exercise)**

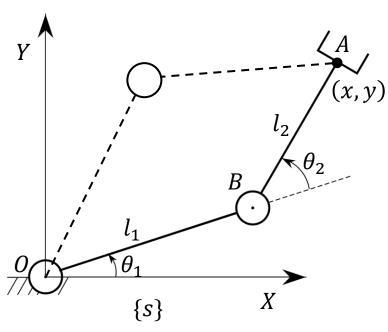
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Forward and Inverse Position Kinematics:

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

$$\theta_2 = \operatorname{atan} 2\left(\pm\sqrt{1 - u^2}, u\right) \in (-\pi, \pi]$$
  
 $\theta_1 = \operatorname{atan} 2(y, x) - \operatorname{atan} 2(l_2 \sin \theta_2, l_1 + l_2 \cos \theta_2)$ 

$$u = \frac{x^2 + y^2 - l_1^2 - l_2^2}{2l_1 l_2}$$



# **Velocity Kinematics**

#### Relation between Joint Angle Rates and **End-Effector Velocity**

What is the relationship between the joint angle rates of motion (or joint velocities)  $(\dot{\theta}_1, \dot{\theta}_2)$ , and the velocity of the end effector point  $(v_x, v_y)$ ?

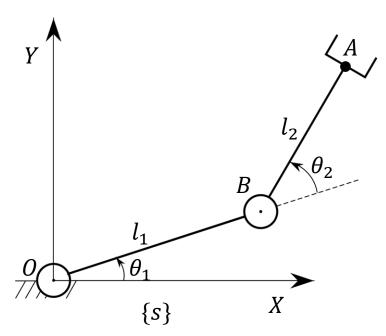
Statics

$$\dot{\theta}_1 = \frac{d\theta_1}{dt}$$
: Rate of change of angle of joint 1.

$$\dot{\theta}_2 = \frac{d\theta_2}{dt}$$
 : Rate of change of angle of joint 2.

$$v_x = \frac{dx}{dt} = \dot{x}$$
 : x-component of velocity of point A.

$$v_y = \frac{dy}{dt} = \dot{y}$$
 : y-component of velocity of point A.



# Relation between Joint Angle Rates and End-Effector Velocity

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -l_1 \sin \theta_1 - l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & -l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

The manipulator (analytic) Jacobian is:

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

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$
: Vector of joint angle rates.

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$$
: Velocity of end-effector point.

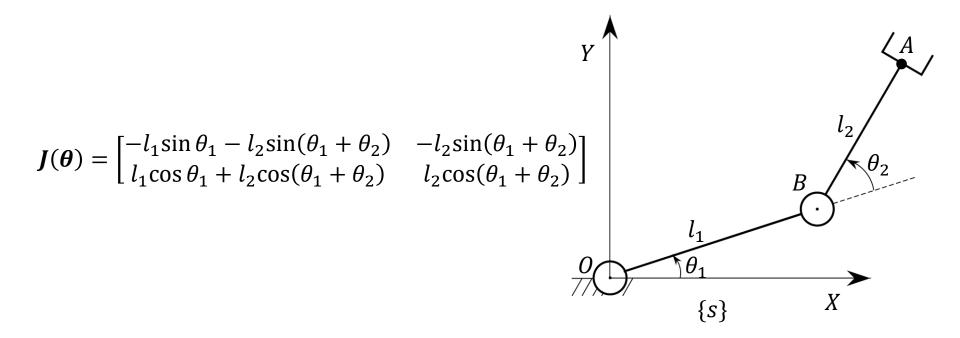
The velocity kinematics equations in vector-matrix form is:  $v = J(\theta)\dot{\theta}$ 



#### Forward (Direct) Velocity Kinematics

Given the configuration of the robot,  $\theta$ , and the joint angle rates,  $\dot{\theta}$ , compute the velocity,  $\boldsymbol{v}$  of the end effector.

$$v = J(\theta)\dot{\theta}$$

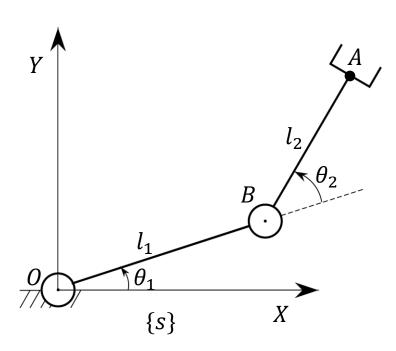


#### **Inverse Velocity Kinematics**

Given the configuration of the robot,  $\theta$ , and the velocity, v, of the end effector, compute the joint angle rates,  $\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ .

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \boldsymbol{J}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta})\boldsymbol{v}$$

assuming  $J^{-1}(\theta)$  exists or the Jacobian matrix is invertible at the configuration  $\theta$ .



## **Kinematic Singularities**

The configuration  $\theta$  at which the Jacobian,  $I(\theta)$  of a manipulator loses rank is called a kinematic singularity or singular configuration of the manipulator.

For a 2R manipulator, the Jacobian  $J(\theta)$  losing rank implies  $\det(J(\theta)) = 0$ .

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

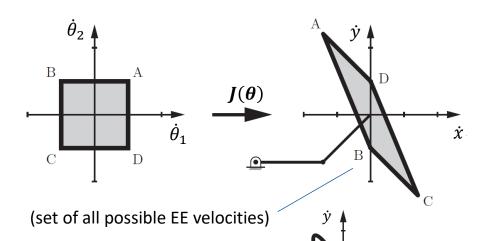
#### Physical Implications of Kinematic Singularities

Why should we care about singular (or almost singular) configurations?



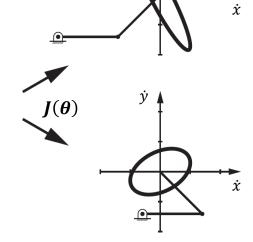
#### Velocity Manipulability Ellipsoid

The Jacobian can be used to map bounds on the rotational speed of the joints (which is a polygon) to bounds on  $\boldsymbol{v}$ .



The Jacobian can be also used to map a unit circle of joint velocities in the  $\dot{\theta}_1$  –  $\dot{\theta}_2$  -plane ("iso-effort" contour) to an ellipse in the space of EE velocities (this ellipse is called the **velocity manipulability** ellipsoid/ellipse).

The closer the ellipsoid is to a circle, the more easily can the tip move in arbitrary directions.



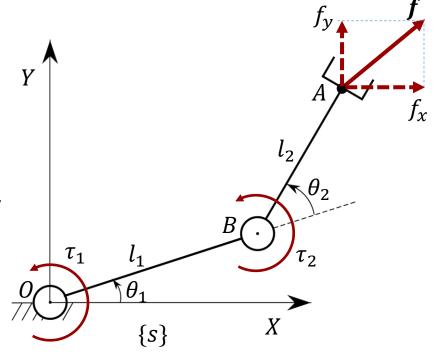
# **Statics**

#### **Statics**

What is the relationship between the applied force f and the joint torques au such that the manipulator is at equilibrium at a given configuration  $\theta$ ?

$$m{f} = egin{bmatrix} f_x \\ f_y \end{bmatrix}$$
 : Force acting at end-effector point  $A$ 

$$oldsymbol{ au} = egin{bmatrix} au_1 \ au_2 \end{bmatrix}$$
 : Vector of joint torques required to resist  $oldsymbol{f}$ 



(Assume that gravitational acceleration gis **0** or the robot is horizontal)

#### **Statics**

Statics

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \tau_1 \\ \tau_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -l_1 \sin \theta_1 - l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ -l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) & l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_x \\ f_y \end{bmatrix}$$

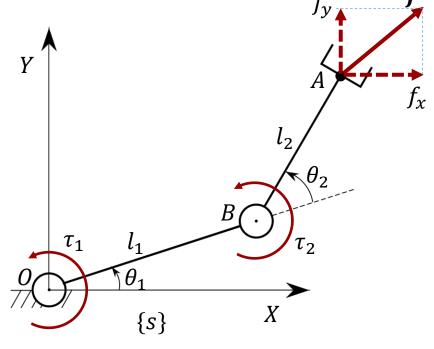
$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \boldsymbol{J}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^T \boldsymbol{f}$$

#### **Statics**

A more general method to derive a relation between f and au.

Principle of conservation of power:

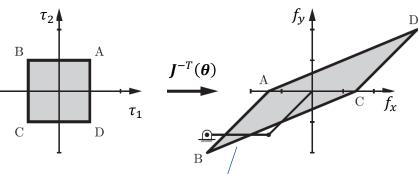
power generated at the joints = power measured at the end-effector



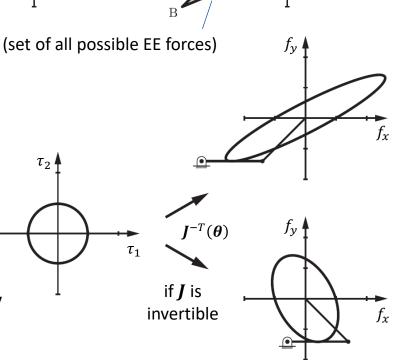
(Assume that q = 0)

### Force Manipulability Ellipsoid

Since  $f = (J(\theta)^T)^{-1}\tau = J(\theta)^{-T}\tau$ , Jacobian transpose inverse can be used to map bounds on the joint torques (which is a polygon) to bounds on end-effector force f.



The Jacobian transpose inverse can be also used to map a unit circle of joint torques in the  $\tau_1$ - $\tau_2$ -plane ("iso-effort" contour) to an ellipse in the space of EE forces (this ellipse is called the **force manipulability ellipsoid/ellipse**).

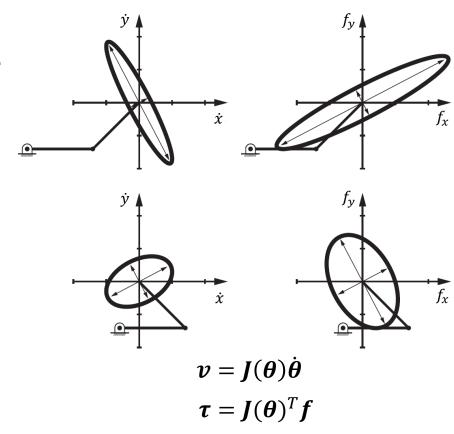


The closer the ellipsoid is to a circle, the more easily can the EE generate forces in arbitrary directions.



#### **Kineto-Statics Duality**

If it is easy to generate a tip velocity in a given direction then it is difficult to generate a force in that same direction, and vice versa.



At a singularity, EE motion capability becomes zero in one or more directions, and it can resist infinite force in one or more directions.