

1. A singular configuration refers to a specific configuration of robot's joints where it loses its ability to move in a particular direction or perform a certain motion. In a singular configuration, the robot's degree of freedom become limited & it may experience issues such as Redundant/Uncontrollable motion, loss of dexterity, & Increased Joint variables.

To find singular configurations in a robot's workspace, 2 common methods are:

a) Jacobian Matrix Analysis:

At a singular configuration, the determinant of the Jacobian matrix becomes zero.

b) Singular Numerical method:

Singular configurations can also be found using numerical optimization techniques. By iteratively, exploring the robot's joint space & checking for conditions such as joint limits and the rank of the Jacobian matrix it's possible to find singular points.

Also, we can detect if a particular configuration is close to a singular configuration using the manipulator Jacobian:

→ Condition Number: The condition number of Jacobian matrix is a measure of how close the robot is to a singularity. A high condition number indicates that robot is close to a singularity.

→ Rank deficiency: If the rank of the Jacobian is less than the number of degrees of freedom it indicates that the robot is at or near a singularity.

→ Eigen values & Eigen vectors:

If some eigen values are close to zero, it suggests that the robot is approaching a singular configuration.

→ The three common configurations for the 2R manipulator are:

a) Direct Drive configuration (2R):

→ here, both joints are actuated directly, i.e each joint has its own motor or actuator.

Advantages:

- ↳ Precise control:
- ↳ Versatility:

Disadvantages

- complexity
- Size & weight

b) Remotely-Driven configuration (2R):

Here, one joint is actuated and the motion is transmitted to the second joint through a mechanical linkage or pulley system.

Advantages

- Simplicity
- Reduced weight & size

Disadvantages

- Limited control
- Less precise control

c) 5-Bar Parallelogram Arrangement

Here, two links of the manipulator are connected in a ~~parallel~~ parallelogram arrangement with a fixed base. Both joints are actuated.

Advantages

- Rigidity
- Reduced weight

Disadvantages

- Limited workspace
- Reduced versatility

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Using $D(q)$ and $V(q)$, we have to derive equations of motion for a robotic system, by using following steps:

- a) Define Variables & Parameters
- b) Write Kinematic equations
- c) Compute the Jacobian
- d) Formulate the Lagrangian
- e) Compute Euler-Lagrange equations
- f) Express Inertia matrix $D(q)$.
- g) Express velocity dependent forces ($V(q)$).
- h) Simplify equations & solve.
- i) obtain Generalized forces (\dot{Q})
- j) Implement & simulate

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For

a 3-D printer with a PPP, the D-H parameters are:

P_1, P_2, P_3 are 3 Prismatic joints

a)

P_1 :

- link length (a_1): 0
- link twist (α_1): 0
- link offset (d_1): d_1
- Joint angle (θ_1): 0

b)

P_2 :

- link length (a_2): 0
- link twist (α_2): 0
- link offset (d_2): d_1
- Joint angle (θ_2): 0

c)

P_3 :

- link length (a_3): 0
- link twist (α_3): 0
- link offset (d_3): d_3
- Joint angle (θ_3): 0