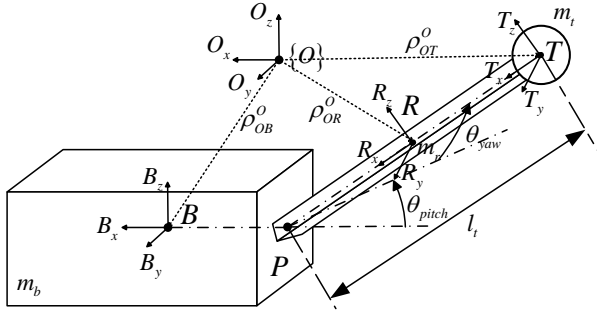


# Enhanced Aerial Reorientation Performance Using a 3-DoF Morphable Inertial Tail Inspired by Kangaroo Rats

Jiajun An<sup>1,2</sup>, Xiangyu Chu<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Janneke Schwaner<sup>3</sup>, K. W. Samuel Au<sup>1,2\*</sup>

## I. MODELING



**Fig. 1.** Analytical models of the kangaroo rat and our tailed robot with a 3-DoF tail.

We start with an angular momentum equation expressed in the inertial frame  $\{O\}$ :

$$H^O = I_b^O \omega_b^O + I_r^O \omega_r^O + m_b \rho_{OB}^O \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^O + m_r \rho_{OR}^O \times \dot{\rho}_{OR}^O + m_t \rho_{OT}^O \times \dot{\rho}_{OT}^O, \quad (1)$$

where  $I_b^O$  and  $I_r^O$  are the inertias of the robot body and tail link in the inertial frame  $\{O\}$ .  $m_t, m_r, m_b$  denote the mass of the body, the tail link, and the tail end mass.  $\rho_{OT}^O, \rho_{OR}^O, \rho_{OB}^O$  are the vectors from the origin of the frame  $\{O\}$  to the origins of the tail end frame  $\{T\}$ , the tail link frame  $\{R\}$ , and the body frame  $\{B\}$ . It can be also expressed in the body frame as:

$$H^B = I_b^B \omega_b^B + I_r^B \omega_r^B + m_b (R_B^O)^T \rho_{OB}^O \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^O + m_r (R_B^O)^T \rho_{OR}^O \times \dot{\rho}_{OR}^O + m_t (R_B^O)^T \rho_{OT}^O \times \dot{\rho}_{OT}^O, \quad (2)$$

where  $R_B^O$  is the rotation matrix from frame  $\{B\}$  to frame  $\{O\}$ . Based on  $\rho_{OB}^O = R_B^O \rho_{OB}^B$ , we have  $\dot{\rho}_{OB}^O = \dot{R}_B^O \rho_{OB}^B + R_B^O \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B$ . Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} & (R_B^O)^T \rho_{OB}^O \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^O \\ &= (R_B^O)^T (R_B^O \rho_{OB}^B) \times (\dot{R}_B^O \rho_{OB}^B + R_B^O \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B) \\ &= (R_B^O)^T (R_B^O \rho_{OB}^B) \times (\dot{R}_B^O \rho_{OB}^B) + (R_B^O)^T (R_B^O \rho_{OB}^B) \times (R_B^O \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B) \\ &= ((R_B^O)^T \dot{R}_B^O \rho_{OB}^B) \times (R_B^O \rho_{OB}^B) + (R_B^O)^T R_B^O \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China, and also with the Multi-scale Medical Robotics Centre, Hong Kong SAR, China; <sup>2</sup>Department of Movement Sciences, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. \*:Corresponding author: samuelau@cuhk.edu.hk.

$$\begin{aligned} & ((R_B^O)^T R_B^O \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B) \\ &= \rho_{OB}^B \times ((R_B^O)^T (\dot{\omega}_b^O \times R_B^O) \rho_{OB}^B) + \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B \\ &= \rho_{OB}^B \times ((R_B^O)^T (\dot{\omega}_b^O \times \rho_{OB}^O)) + \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B \\ &= \rho_{OB}^B \times (\omega_b^B \times \rho_{OB}^B) + \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B \\ &= (\rho_{OB}^B)^2 \omega_b^B - (\rho_{OB}^B \cdot \omega_b^B) \rho_{OB}^B + \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B \\ &= -[\rho_{OB}^B \times] [\rho_{OB}^B \times] \omega_b^B + \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B, \end{aligned}$$

where  $R(x \times y) = (Rx) \times (Ry)$  and  $\Omega_b^O = [\omega_b^O \times] = \dot{R}_B^O (R_B^O)^T$  are used. Here  $(\rho_{OB}^B)^2 = (\rho_{OB}^B) \cdot (\rho_{OB}^B)$ . Then Eq. 2 becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} H^B &= I_b^B \omega_b^B + I_r^B \omega_r^B + m_b \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B + m_r \rho_{OR}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OR}^B + \\ & m_t \rho_{OT}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OT}^B + m_b (\rho_{OB}^B)^2 \omega_b^B + m_r (\rho_{OR}^B)^2 \omega_r^B + m_t (\rho_{OT}^B)^2 \omega_t^B - \\ & m_b (\rho_{OB}^B \cdot \omega_b^B) \rho_{OB}^B - m_r (\rho_{OR}^B \cdot \omega_r^B) \rho_{OR}^B - \\ & m_t (\rho_{OT}^B \cdot \omega_t^B) \rho_{OT}^B. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

At the robot center of mass (CoM), we have:

$$m_b \rho_{OB}^O + m_r \rho_{OR}^O + m_t \rho_{OT}^O = 0, \quad (5)$$

here

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{OR}^O &= \rho_{OT}^O - \rho_{RT}^O = \rho_{OT}^O - R_B^O \rho_{RT}^B = \\ \rho_{OT}^O &- \frac{1}{2} l_t R_B^O \begin{bmatrix} -c_{pitch} c_{yaw} & -s_{yaw} & s_{pitch} c_{yaw} \end{bmatrix}^T, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where  $c_{pitch} = \cos \theta_{pitch}$ ,  $s_{pitch} = \sin \theta_{pitch}$ ,  $c_{yaw} = \cos \theta_{yaw}$ ,  $s_{yaw} = \sin \theta_{yaw}$ .  $\theta_{pitch}$  is the tail swing angle in the body pitch direction and  $\theta_{yaw}$  is the tail swing angle in the body yaw direction.  $p^B = \begin{bmatrix} -c_{pitch} c_{yaw} & -s_{yaw} & s_{pitch} c_{yaw} \end{bmatrix}^T$  is unit tail reorientation vector in frame  $\{B\}$ .  $l_t$  denotes the tail length. Substitute Eq. 6 into Eq. 5, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{OT}^B &= -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \\ & \begin{bmatrix} -c_{pitch} c_{yaw} & -s_{yaw} & s_{pitch} c_{yaw} \end{bmatrix}^T, \\ \rho_{OR}^B &= -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \\ & \begin{bmatrix} -c_{pitch} c_{yaw} & -s_{yaw} & s_{pitch} c_{yaw} \end{bmatrix}^T. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

We also have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{\rho}_{OT}^B &= -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} \dot{l}_t \\
&\left[ -c_{pitch} c_{yaw} \quad -s_{yaw} \quad s_{pitch} c_{yaw} \right]^T + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t [s_{pitch} c_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{pitch} \\
&+ c_{pitch} s_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{yaw} \quad -c_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{yaw} \quad c_{pitch} c_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{pitch} - s_{pitch} s_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{yaw}]^T, \\
\dot{\rho}_{OR}^B &= -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} \dot{l}_t \\
&\left[ -c_{pitch} c_{yaw} \quad -s_{yaw} \quad s_{pitch} c_{yaw} \right]^T - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t [s_{pitch} c_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{pitch} \\
&+ c_{pitch} s_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{yaw} \quad -c_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{yaw} \quad c_{pitch} c_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{pitch} - s_{pitch} s_{yaw} \dot{\theta}_{yaw}]^T.
\end{aligned}$$

Eq. 4 can be updated as:

$$\begin{aligned}
H^B &= I_b^B \omega_b^B + I_r^B \omega_r^B + m_b \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B + m_r \rho_{OR}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OR}^B + \\
&m_t \rho_{OT}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OT}^B + m_b (\rho_{OB}^B)^2 \omega_b^B + m_r (\rho_{OR}^B)^2 \omega_r^B + m_t \\
&(\rho_{OT}^B)^2 \omega_t^B - m_b (\rho_{OB}^B \cdot \omega_b^B) \rho_{OB}^B - m_r (\rho_{OR}^B \cdot \omega_r^B) \rho_{OR}^B - \\
&m_t (\rho_{OT}^B \cdot \omega_t^B) \rho_{OT}^B \\
&= I_b^B \omega_b^B + m_b \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B + m_r \left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B - \right. \\
&\left. \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) \times \\
&\left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} \dot{l}_t \dot{p}^B \right) \\
&- \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \\
&+ m_t \left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) \times \\
&\left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} \dot{l}_t \dot{p}^B \right) \\
&+ \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \Bigg) + m_b (\rho_{OB}^B)^2 \omega_b^B \\
&+ m_r \left( \left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) \cdot \right) \omega_b^B + \\
&\left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) \cdot \omega_r^B - \\
&m_t \left( \left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) \cdot \right) \omega_t^B -
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&m_b (\rho_{OB}^B \cdot \omega_b^B) \rho_{OB}^B - m_r \left( \left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B - \right. \right. \\
&\left. \left. \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) \cdot \omega_b^B \right) \\
&\left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) - \\
&m_t \left( \left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) \cdot \omega_b^B \right) \\
&\left( -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \right) \\
&= I_b^B \omega_b^B + I_r^B \omega_r^B + \frac{m_b (m_r + m_t + m_b)}{(m_r + m_t)} (\rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B + \\
&(\rho_{OB}^B)^2 \omega_b^B - (\rho_{OB}^B \cdot \omega_b^B) \rho_{OB}^B) + \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{m_t m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} \right) l_t^2 (\dot{p}^B \\
&\times \dot{p}^B + \omega_b^B - (\dot{p}^B \cdot \omega_b^B) \dot{p}^B) \\
&= I_b^B \omega_b^B + I_r^B \omega_r^B + \frac{m_b (m_r + m_t + m_b)}{(m_r + m_t)} (-[\rho_{OB}^B \times] \\
&[\rho_{OB}^B \times] \omega_b^B + \rho_{OB}^B \times \dot{\rho}_{OB}^B) + \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{m_t m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} \right) l_t^2 (- \\
&[\dot{p}^B \times] [\dot{p}^B \times] \omega_b^B + \dot{p}^B \times \dot{p}^B). \tag{8}
\end{aligned}$$

A closed path starting from the origin of frame  $\{O\}$  passing through body CoM  $B$ , tail base  $P$ , and tail end mass CoM  $P$  can be expressed as:

$$\rho_{OB}^O + \rho_{BP}^O + \rho_{PT}^O - \rho_{OT}^O = 0,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_{BP}^O &= R_B^O \rho_{BP}^B = R_B^O \rho_{BP}^B = R_B^O [-l_b / 2 \quad 0 \quad 0]^T, \\
\rho_{PT}^O &= R_B^O \rho_{PT}^B = R_B^O (l_t \dot{p}^B). \tag{9}
\end{aligned}$$

$l_b$  denotes the body length. Combining Eq. 7 and Eq. 9 gives:

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_{OT}^B &= -\frac{m_b}{(m_r + m_t)} \rho_{OB}^B + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \dot{p}^B \\
&= R_O^B (\rho_{OB}^O + \rho_{BP}^O + \rho_{PT}^O) \\
&= \rho_{OB}^B + [-l_b / 2 \quad 0 \quad 0]^T + l_t \dot{p}^B.
\end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\rho}_{OB}^B &= \frac{m_r + m_t}{m_b + m_r + m_t} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_r}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \mathbf{p}^B + [l_b/2 \quad 0 \quad 0]^T \\ -l_t \mathbf{p}^B \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{m_r + m_t}{m_b + m_r + m_t} \left( \frac{-\frac{1}{2} m_r - m_t}{(m_r + m_t)} l_t \mathbf{p}^B + [l_b/2 \quad 0 \quad 0]^T \right) \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\rho}}_{OB}^B &= -\frac{\frac{1}{2} m_r + m_t}{m_b + m_r + m_t} (\dot{l}_t \mathbf{p}^B + l_t \dot{\mathbf{p}}^B)\end{aligned}$$

Besides, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}I_R^B \boldsymbol{\omega}_r^B &= R_R^B I_r^R (R_R^B)^T \boldsymbol{\omega}_r^B, \\ R_R^B &= \begin{bmatrix} c_{pitch} c_{yaw} & -c_{pitch} s_{yaw} & s_{pitch} \\ s_{yaw} & c_{yaw} & 0 \\ -s_{pitch} c_{yaw} & s_{pitch} s_{yaw} & c_{pitch} \end{bmatrix} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega}_r^B &= [s_{pitch} \dot{\theta}_{yaw} \quad \dot{\theta}_{pitch} \quad c_{pitch} \dot{\theta}_{yaw}]^T \\ I_r^R &= \frac{m_r}{12} \begin{bmatrix} w_t^2 + h_t^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & l_t^2 + h_t^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & l_t^2 + w_t^2 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

Eq. 8 can be expressed as:

$$H^B = A \boldsymbol{\omega}_B^B + F \mathbf{u},$$

$$\begin{aligned}A &= I_b^B - \frac{m_b(m_r + m_t + m_b)}{(m_r + m_t)} S(\boldsymbol{\rho}_{OB}^B) S(\boldsymbol{\rho}_{OB}^B) \\ &\quad - \frac{m_t m_r l_t^2}{4(m_r + m_t)} S(\mathbf{p}^B) S(\mathbf{p}^B), \\ F \mathbf{u} &= \frac{m_b(m_r + m_t + m_b)}{(m_r + m_t)} \boldsymbol{\rho}_{OB}^B \times \dot{\boldsymbol{\rho}}_{OB}^B + \frac{m_t m_r l_t^2}{4(m_r + m_t)} \mathbf{p}^B \times \dot{\mathbf{p}}^B \\ &\quad + R_R^B I_r^R (R_R^B)^T \boldsymbol{\omega}_r^B,\end{aligned}$$

And

$$\begin{aligned}F &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{(c_{yaw} c_{pitch} s_{yaw} (l_t^2 m_r^2 - m_r^2 w_t^2 + 4l_t^2 m_b m_r + 12l_t^2 m_b m_t \\ + 4l_t^2 m_r m_t - m_b m_r w_t^2 - m_r m_t w_t^2))}{12(m_b + m_r + m_t)}, \\ \frac{m_r s_{yaw}^2 (h_t^2 + w_t^2) + m_r c_{yaw}^2 (h_t^2 + l_t^2)}{12} + \\ \frac{l_t m_b c_{yaw} (m_r + 2m_t) \left( l_b m_r c_{pitch} + l_b m_t c_{pitch} + l_t m_r c_{yaw} + \right)}{4(m_b + m_r + m_t)(m_r + m_t)} \\ + \frac{l_t^2 m_r m_t c_{yaw}^2}{4(m_r + m_t)}, \\ \frac{(c_{yaw} s_{yaw} s_{pitch} (l_t^2 m_r^2 - m_r^2 w_t^2 + 4l_t^2 m_b m_r + 12l_t^2 m_b m_t \\ + 4l_t^2 m_r m_t - m_b m_r w_t^2 - m_r m_t w_t^2))}{12(m_b + m_r + m_t)}, \\ \frac{(s_{pitch} (m_r^2 w_t^2 + l_t^2 m_r^2 + 4l_t^2 m_b m_r + 12l_t^2 m_b m_t \\ + 4l_t^2 m_r m_t + m_b m_r w_t^2 + m_r m_t w_t^2))}{12(m_b + m_r + m_t)}, \\ - \frac{(l_b l_t m_b s_{yaw} s_{pitch} (m_r + 2m_t))}{4(m_b + m_r + m_t)}, \\ \frac{(l_t^2 m_r^2 c_{pitch} + m_r^2 w_t^2 c_{pitch} + 4l_t^2 m_b m_r c_{pitch} + 12l_t^2 m_b m_t c_{pitch} \\ + 4l_t^2 m_r m_t c_{pitch} + m_b m_r w_t^2 c_{pitch} + m_r m_t w_t^2 c_{pitch} + \\ 3l_b l_t m_b m_r c_{yaw} + 6l_b l_t m_b m_t c_{yaw})}{12(m_b + m_r + m_t)}, \\ 0 \\ \frac{(l_b m_b c_{yaw} s_{pitch} (m_r + 2m_t))}{4(m_b + m_r + m_t)} \\ \frac{(l_b m_b s_{yaw} (m_r + 2m_t))}{4(m_b + m_r + m_t)} \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{u} &= [\dot{\theta}_{pitch} \quad \dot{\theta}_{yaw} \quad \dot{l}_t].\end{aligned}$$