

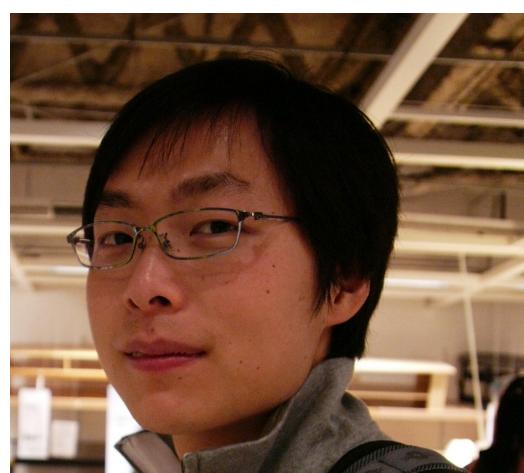
# Kinematics of Cable-Driven Systems



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# I. Cooperative Skimming



April 20, 2010

**Deepwater Horizon drilling  
rig explosion, Gulf of Mexico**

$10^4 \text{ m}^3$  of crude oil released  
into the ocean

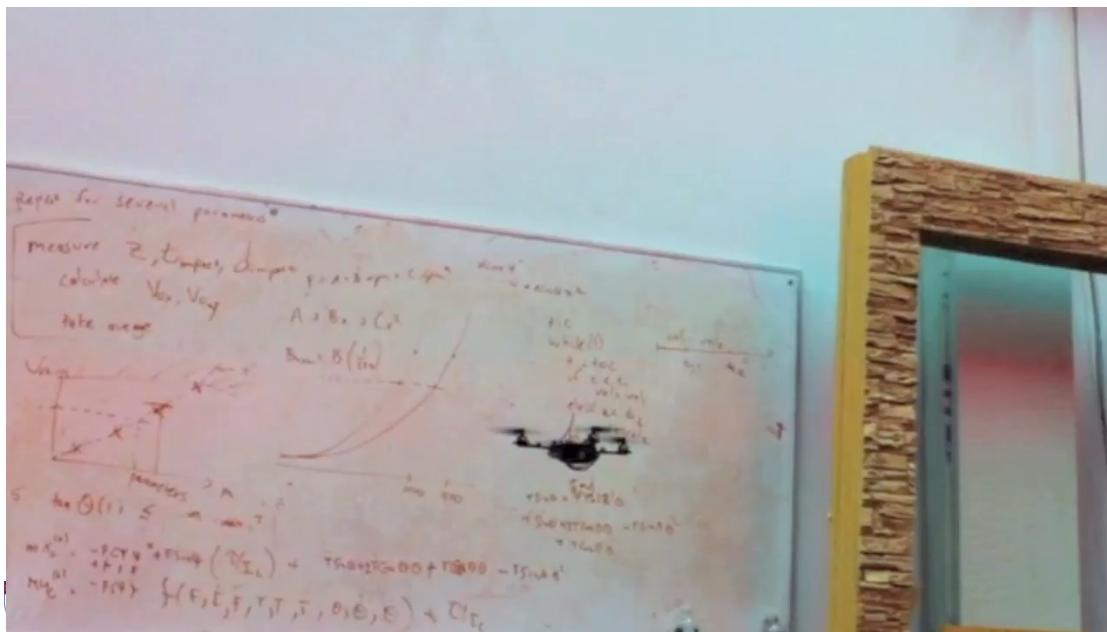
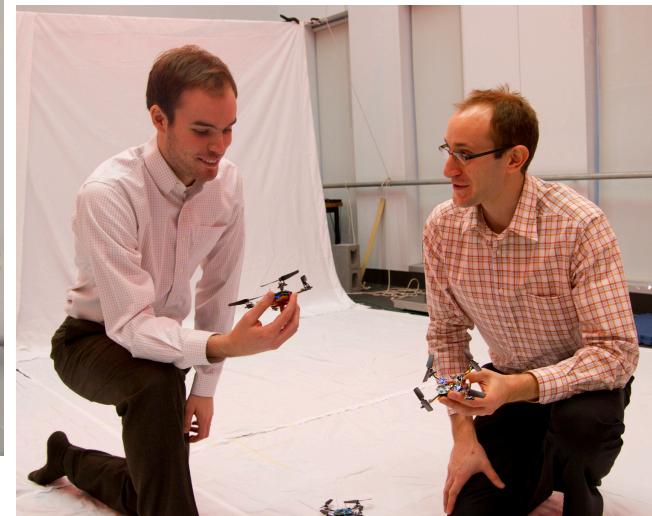
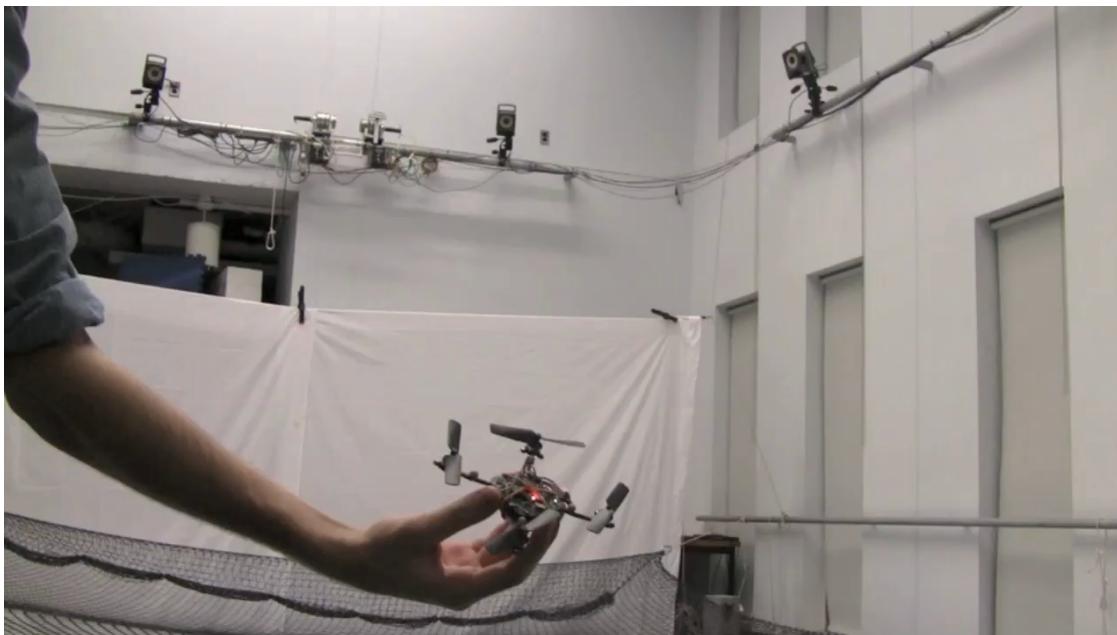
**Manual skimming operations** at  
the surface removed ~3% of the oil  
– **highly inefficient!**

## Goal

Develop an efficient **robotic  
skimming operation** using  
Autonomous Surface Vehicles



# Aerial Robots



[Kushleyev, Mellinger and Kumar 2012]

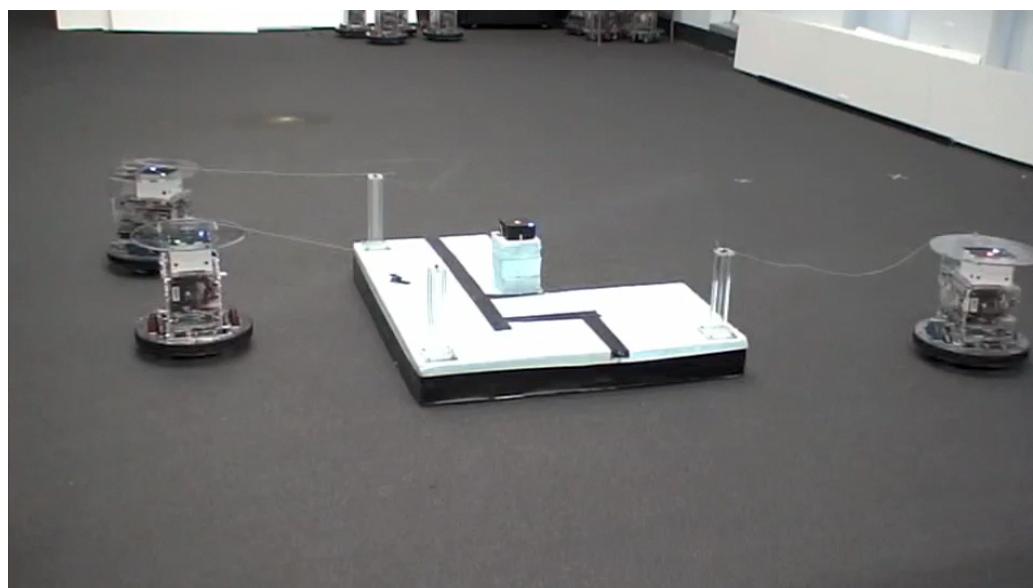
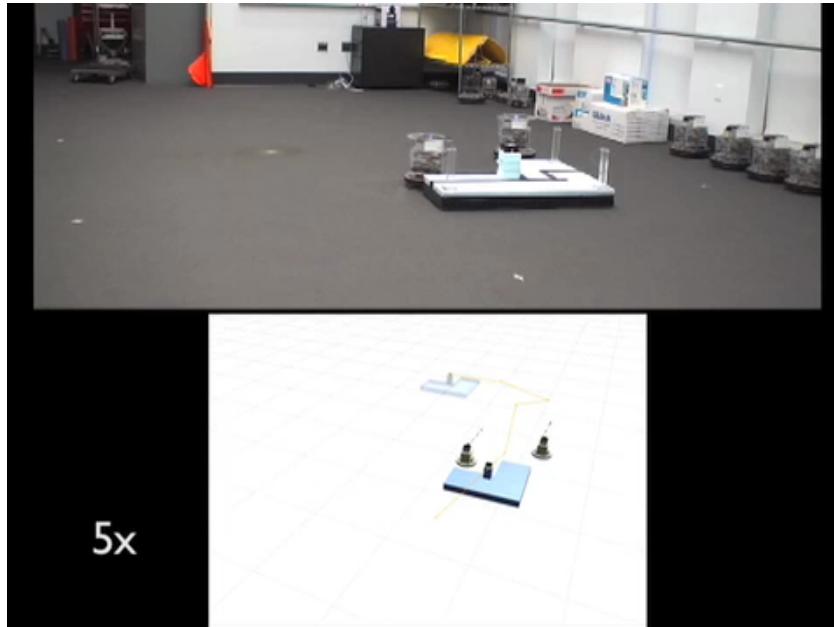
## 2. Cooperative Manipulation

Cooperative Manipulation  
with Aerial Robots:  
Circular Trajectory

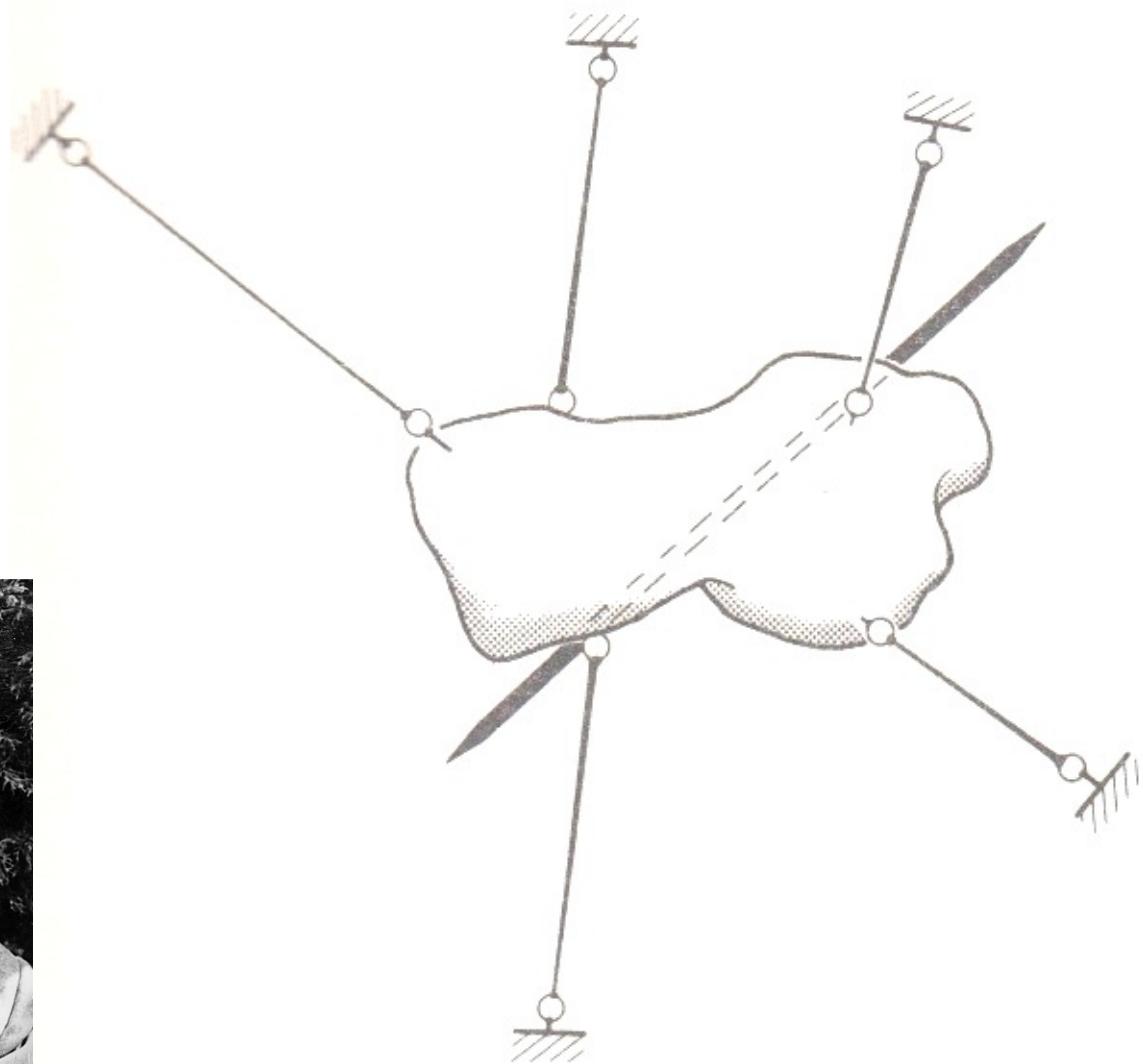
Jonathan Fink, Nathan Michael,  
and Vijay Kumar

GRASP Laboratory  
University of Pennsylvania  
April 2, 2009

### 3. Cooperative Towing

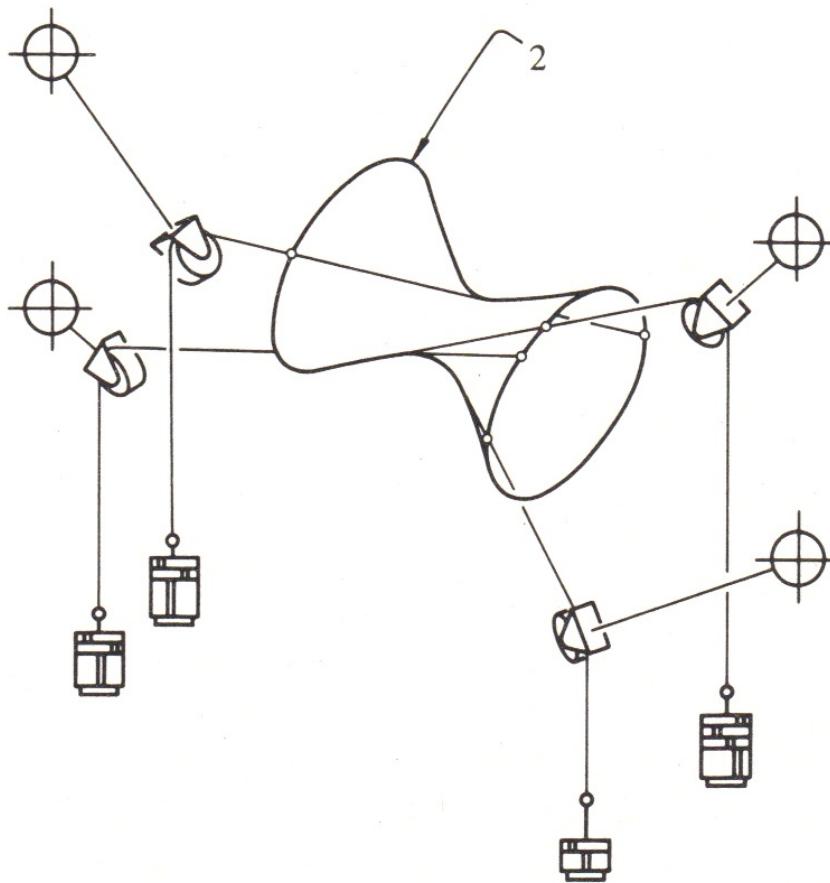


# Kinematics and Statics of Suspended Payloads



[Möbius, 1837; Ball, 1900]

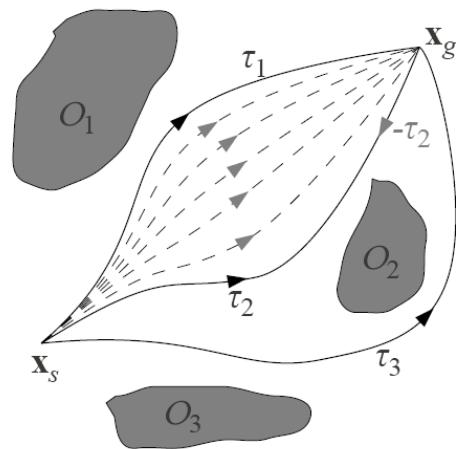
# Kinematics and Statics of Suspended Payloads

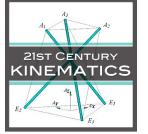


Phillips, J. (1990). Freedom in Machinery, Vol. I. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

# Today

1. Direct and inverse kinematics
2. Reasoning about homotopy classes associated with cables and trajectories





# The Kinematics of 3-D Cable Towing Systems

ASME IDETC2012 Workshop on 21st Century Kinematics

Chicago, USA

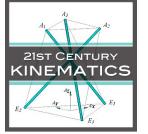
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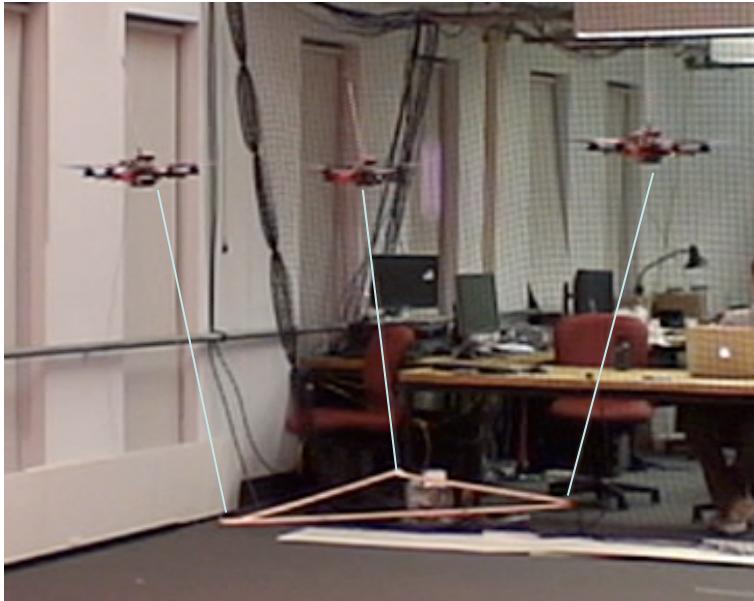
Acknowledgements: NSF grants IIS-0413138, IIS-0427313 and IIP-0742304, ARO Grant W911NF-05-1-0219, ONR Grant N00014-08-1-0696, ARL Grant W911NF-08-2-0004, NSERC



# Key Ideas

- Static Equilibrium
- Direct Kinematics
- Inverse Kinematics
- Stability Analysis

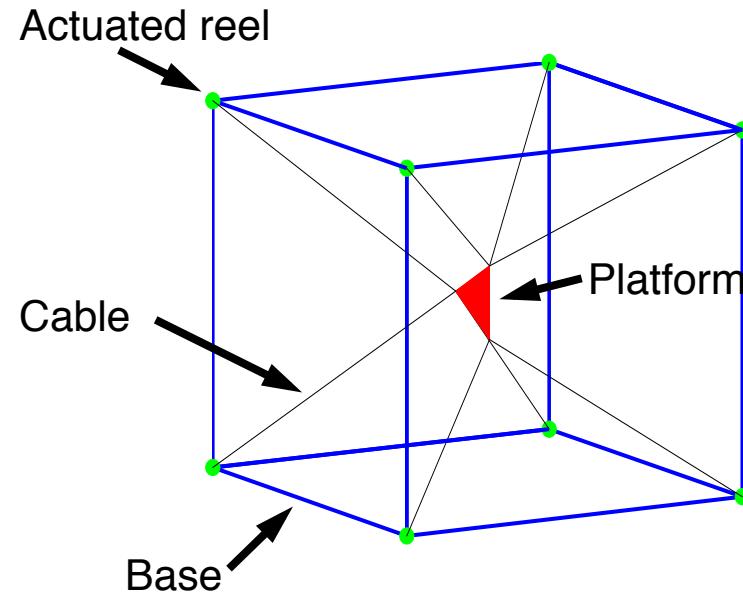
# Similarity and Difference



**3-D Cable Towing System**

**Similarity:** Multiple cables are used to control the pose of the payload or platform.

**Differences:**



**Cable actuated parallel manipulator**

**Positions of robots or reels**

**fixed**

**changing**

**Role of weight**

**changing**

**fixed**

**workspace**

**important**

**less important**

**Purpose**

**transport distance**

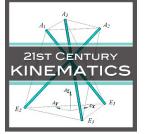
**inside the frame**

**fundamental**

**payload transport**

**manipulator**

**parallel manipulator**



# Static Equilibrium Condition

Unit wrench of cable  $i$  with respect to the origin O of the reference frame:

$$\mathbf{w}_i = \frac{1}{l_i} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_i - \mathbf{p}_i \\ \mathbf{p}_i \times \mathbf{q}_i \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

Wrench caused by the weight of the payload:

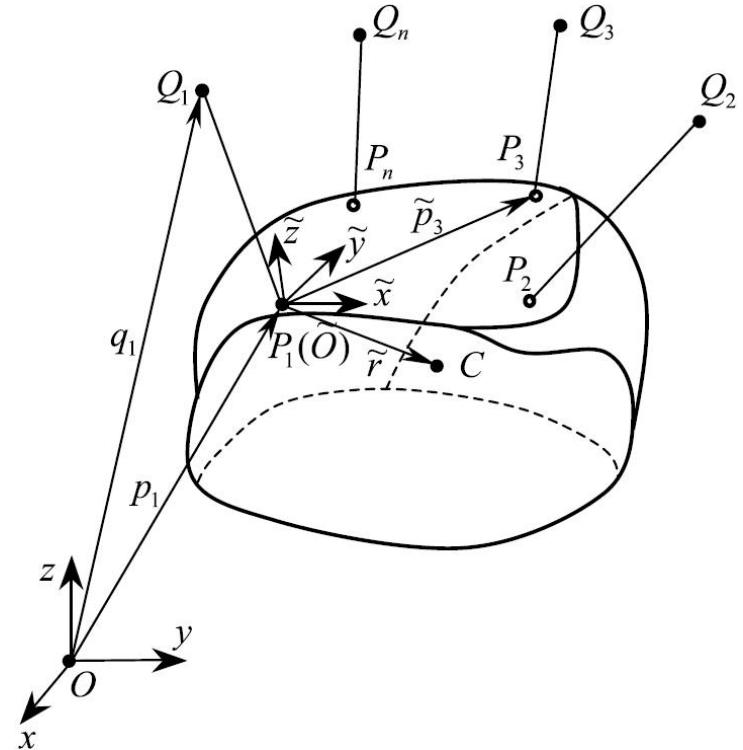
$$\mathbf{G} = -mg \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_3 \\ \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{e}_3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

Equilibrium equations:

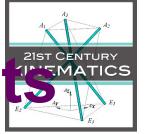
$$[\mathbf{w}_1 \ \mathbf{w}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{w}_n] \begin{bmatrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ \vdots \\ T_n \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{G} = 0. \quad (3)$$

Geometric constraints:

$$\|\mathbf{q}_i - \mathbf{p}_i\| = l_i. \quad (4)$$



3-D Towing with multiple robots



# Direct Kinematics (DK): General case with three robots

Given the positions of the robots, find the possible positions and orientations of the payload that satisfy Eqs.(3) and (4).

$P_i$  can be given as

$$p_i = q_i + \overline{q_i p_i} \quad (i = 1, 2, 3) \quad (5)$$

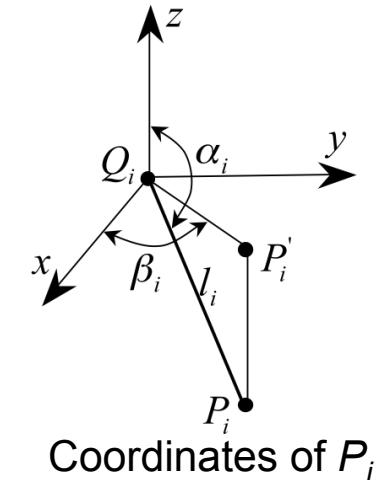
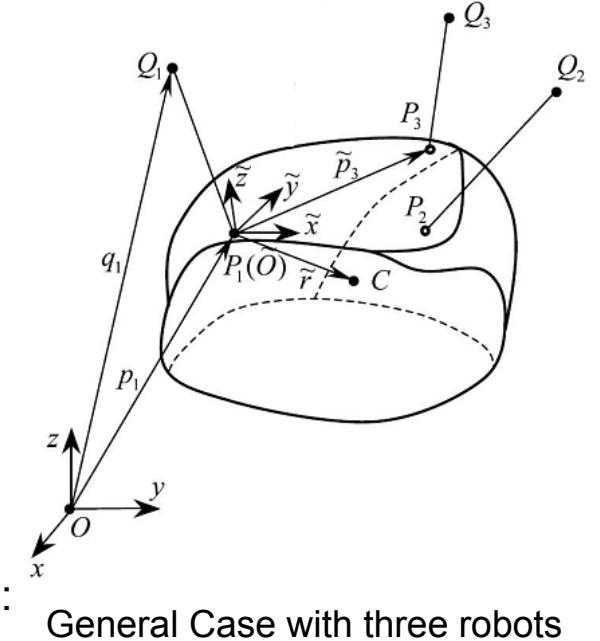
$$\overline{q_i p_i} = [l_i x_i, l_i y_i, l_i z_i]^T$$

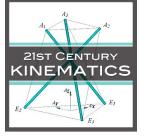
$$x_i = \sin \alpha_i \cos \beta_i, \quad y_i = \sin \alpha_i \sin \beta_i, \quad z_i = \cos \alpha_i$$

$$x_i^2 + y_i^2 + z_i^2 = 1 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3) \quad (6)$$

Substituting eqs. (5) and (6) into the equilibrium condition eq.(3):

$$\begin{cases} x_1 T_1 + x_2 T_2 + x_3 T_3 = 0, \\ y_1 T_1 + y_2 T_2 + y_3 T_3 = 0, \\ z_1 T_1 + z_2 T_2 + z_3 T_3 = -mg, \\ (z_{q1} y_1 - y_{q1} z_1) T_1 + (z_{q2} y_2 - y_{q2} z_2) T_2 + (z_{q3} y_3 - y_{q3} z_3) T_3 - mg y_c = 0, \\ (x_{q1} z_1 - z_{q1} x_1) T_1 + (x_{q2} z_2 - z_{q2} x_2) T_2 + (x_{q3} z_3 - z_{q3} x_3) T_3 - mg x_c = 0, \\ (y_{q1} x_1 - x_{q1} y_1) T_1 + (y_{q2} x_2 - x_{q2} y_2) T_2 + (y_{q3} x_3 - x_{q3} y_3) T_3 = 0. \end{cases} \quad (7)$$





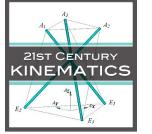
## DK: General case with three robots

From eq.(7), one gets

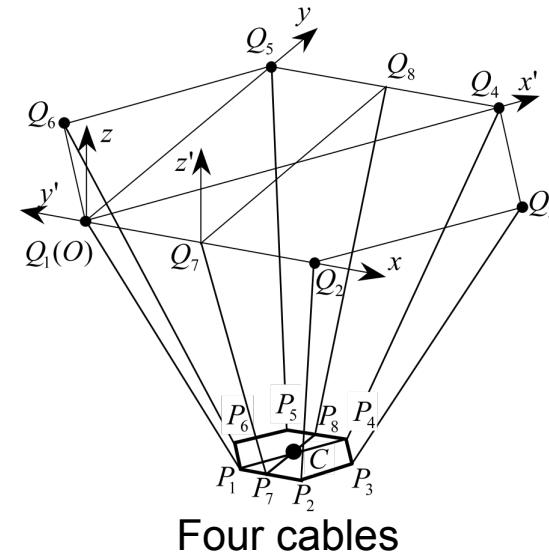
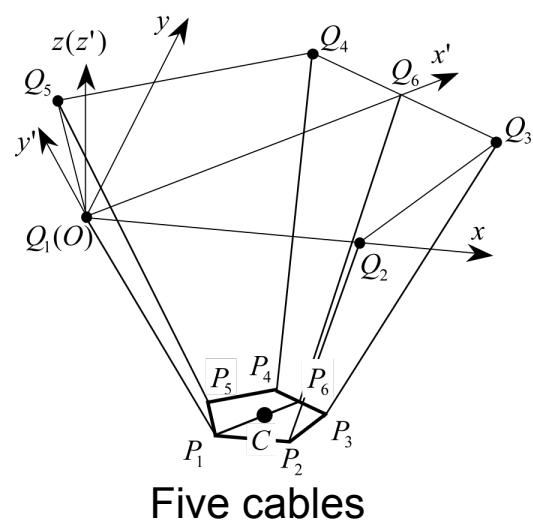
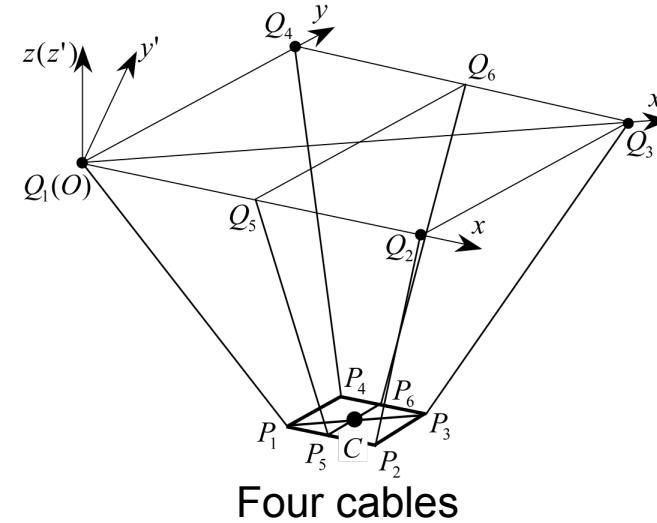
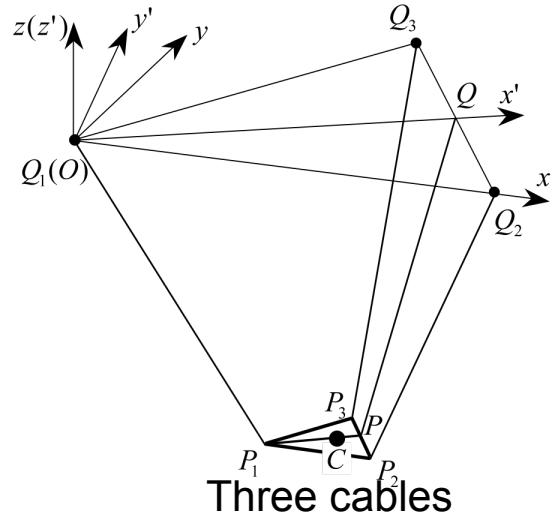
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} al_{p2}[(z_{q1}y_1 - y_{q1}z_1)(x_2y_3 - y_2x_3) - (z_{q2}y_2 - y_{q2}z_2)(x_1y_3 - y_1x_3) + (z_{q3}y_3 - y_{q3}z_3)(x_1y_2 - y_1x_2)] \\ \quad + \{al_{p2}(y_{q1} + l_1y_1) + b[l_{p2}(y_{q2} - y_{q1}) + l_2y_2 - l_1y_1] + c(y_{q3} - y_{q2} + l_3y_3 - l_2y_2)\} \\ \quad [x_1(y_2z_3 - y_3z_2) + y_1(x_3z_2 - x_2z_3) + z_1(x_2y_3 - x_3y_2)] = 0, \\ al_{p2}[(x_{q1}z_1 - z_{q1}x_1)(x_2y_3 - y_2x_3) - (x_{q2}z_2 - z_{q2}x_2)(x_1y_3 - y_1x_3) + (x_{q3}z_3 - z_{q3}x_3)(x_1y_2 - y_1x_2)] \quad (8) \\ \quad + \{al_{p2}(x_{q1} + l_1x_1) + b[l_{p2}(x_{q2} - x_{q1}) + l_2x_2 - l_1x_1] + c(x_{q3} - x_{q2} + l_3x_3 - l_2x_2)\} \\ \quad [x_1(y_2z_3 - y_3z_2) + y_1(x_3z_2 - x_2z_3) + z_1(x_2y_3 - x_3y_2)] = 0, \\ (y_{q1}x_1 - x_{q1}y_1)(x_2y_3 - y_2x_3) - (y_{q2}x_2 - x_{q2}y_2)(x_1y_3 - y_1x_3) + (y_{q3}x_3 - x_{q3}y_3)(x_1y_2 - y_1x_2) = 0. \end{array} \right.$$

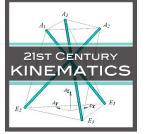
Geometric constraints ( $\overline{P_1P_2} = l_{p1}$ ,  $\overline{P_2P_3} = l_{p2}$ ,  $\overline{P_3P_1} = l_{p3}$ ):

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} l_1[(x_{q1} - x_{q2})x_1 + (y_{q1} - y_{q2})y_1 + (z_{q1} - z_{q2})z_1] - l_1l_2(x_1x_2 + y_1y_2 + z_1z_2) + u_1 \\ \quad + l_2[(x_{q2} - x_{q1})x_2 + (y_{q2} - y_{q1})y_2 + (z_{q2} - z_{q1})z_2] = 0, \\ l_2[(x_{q2} - x_{q3})x_2 + (y_{q2} - y_{q3})y_2 + (z_{q2} - z_{q3})z_2] - l_2l_3(x_2x_3 + y_2y_3 + z_2z_3) + u_2 \\ \quad + l_3[(x_{q3} - x_{q2})x_3 + (y_{q3} - y_{q2})y_3 + (z_{q3} - z_{q2})z_3] = 0, \\ l_1[(x_{q1} - x_{q3})x_1 + (y_{q1} - y_{q3})y_1 + (z_{q1} - z_{q3})z_1] - l_1l_3(x_1x_3 + y_1y_3 + z_1z_3) + u_3 \\ \quad + l_3[(x_{q3} - x_{q1})x_3 + (y_{q3} - y_{q1})y_3 + (z_{q3} - z_{q1})z_3] = 0. \end{array} \right. \quad (9)$$



# DK: Cable Systems with Symmetric Geometry





## DK: Equilibrium problem of planar four-bar linkage

$P_i$  can be given as

$$p_i = q_i + l_i[\cos \alpha_i, \sin \alpha_i] = q_i + l_i[x_i, z_i] \quad (i = 1, 2) \quad (10)$$

$$x_i^2 + z_i^2 = 1 \quad (i = 1, 2) \quad (11)$$

Equilibrium condition:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 \tau_1 + x_2 \tau_2 = 0, \\ z_1 \tau_1 + z_2 \tau_2 + mg = 0, \\ l_0 l_d z_2 \tau_2 + mg[l_1(l_d - l_c)x_1 + l_2 l_c x_2 + l_0 l_c] = 0. \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

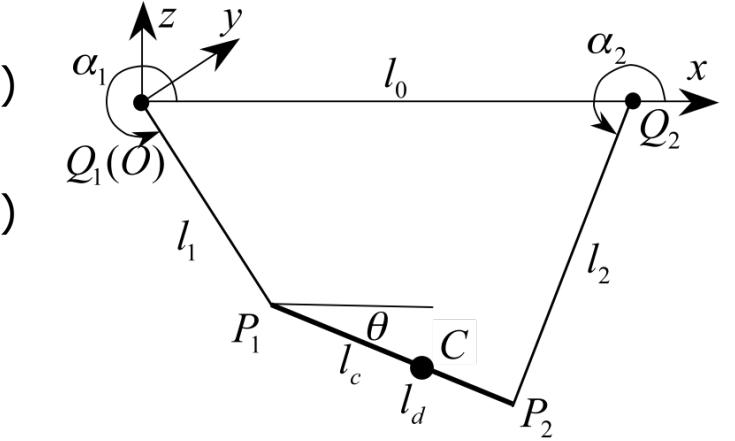
$$[l_1(l_c - l_d)x_1 x_2 - l_2 l_c x_2^2 - l_0 l_c x_2]z_1 - [l_1(l_c - l_d)x_1^2 - l_2 l_c x_1 x_2 + l_0(l_d - l_c)x_1]z_2 = 0 \quad (13)$$

Geometric constraints  $\overline{P_1 P_2} = l_d$ :

$$l_1 l_2 z_1 z_2 + l_1 l_2 x_1 x_2 + l_0(l_1 x_1 - l_2 x_2) + t_1 = 0 \quad (14)$$

8<sup>th</sup> degree polynomial in  $x_1$

$$a_8 x_1^8 + a_7 x_1^7 + a_6 x_1^6 + a_5 x_1^5 + a_4 x_1^4 + a_3 x_1^3 + a_2 x_1^2 + a_1 x_1 + a_0 = 0 \quad (15)$$



Planar four-bar linkage

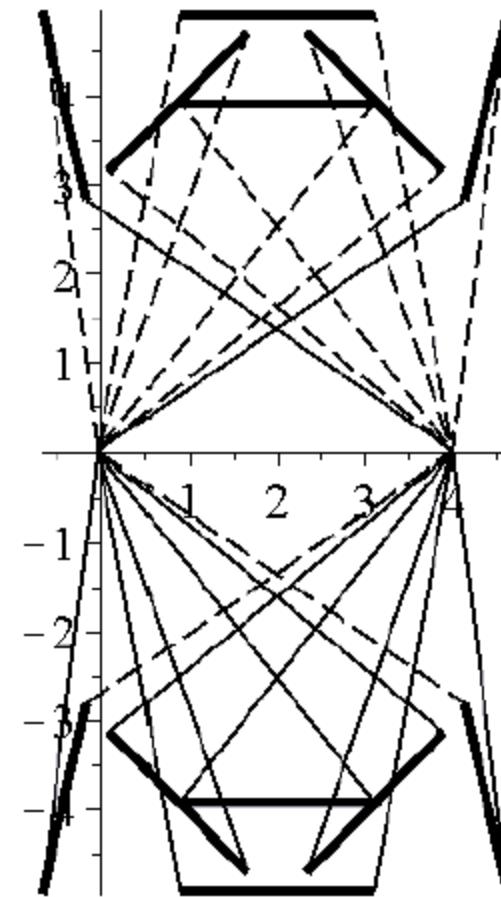
# DK: An example of four-bar linkage

Table 1 The used parameters of the planar 4-bar linkage.

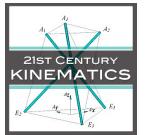
$l_0(m)$	$l_1(m)$	$l_2(m)$	$l_d(m)$	$l_c(m)$	$mg(N)$
4	5	5	2.2	1.1	10

Table 2 The solutions of the equilibrium problem of the planar 4-bar linkage.

No.	$x_1$	$x_2$	$z_1$	$z_2$
1	0.826	0.127	0.564	0.992
2	0.826	0.127	-0.564	-0.992
3	0.777	-0.332	0.630	0.943
<b>4</b>	<b>0.777</b>	<b>-0.332</b>	<b>-0.630</b>	<b>-0.943</b>
5	0.620	-0.620	0.785	0.785
<b>6</b>	<b>0.620</b>	<b>-0.620</b>	<b>-0.785</b>	<b>-0.785</b>
7	-0.127	-0.826	0.992	0.564
8	-0.127	-0.826	-0.992	-0.564
9	0.332	-0.777	0.943	0.630
<b>10</b>	<b>0.332</b>	<b>-0.777</b>	<b>-0.943</b>	<b>-0.630</b>
11	0.180	-0.180	0.984	0.984
<b>12</b>	<b>0.180</b>	<b>-0.180</b>	<b>-0.984</b>	<b>-0.984</b>
13	-1	NA	NA	NA
14	-1	NA	NA	NA
15	1	2.116	0	NA
16	1	2.116	0	NA



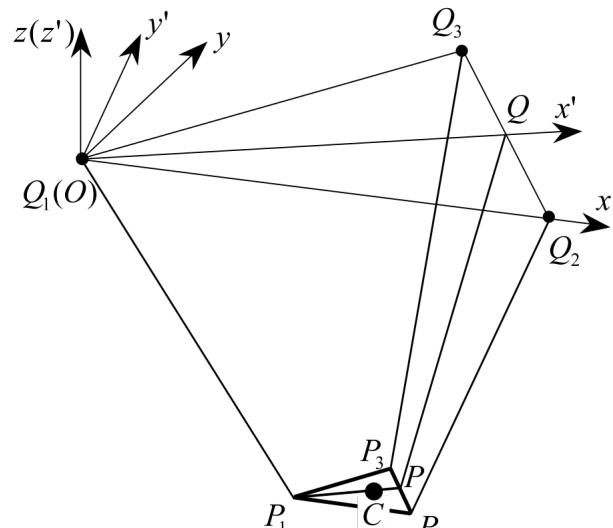
The 12 equilibrium configurations of the planar 4-bar linkage.



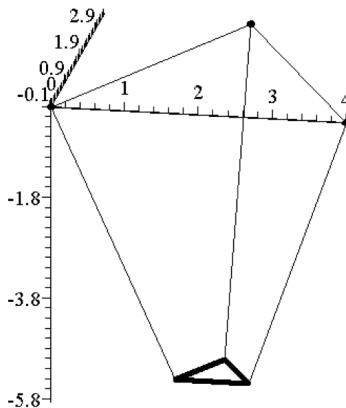
# DK: Solutions based on planar four-bar linkage

## The case with three robots

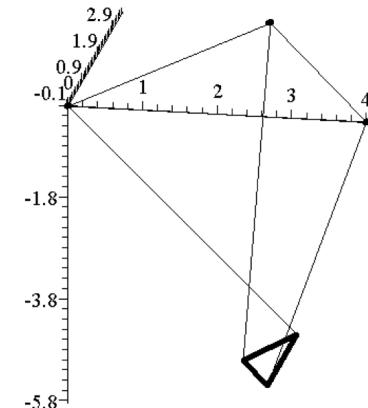
$$l = 6m, \ l_q = 4m, \ l_p = 1m$$



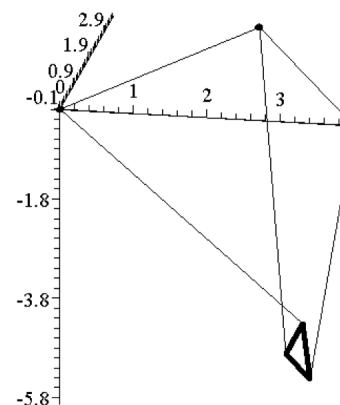
Initial configuration



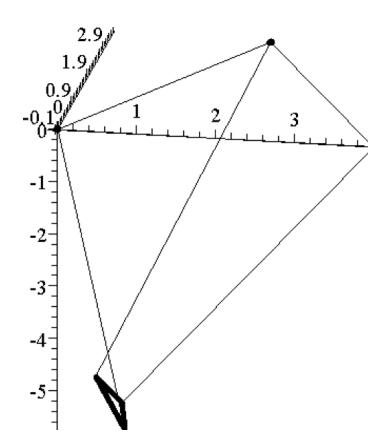
Configuration 1 (Stable)



Configuration 2 (Stable)



Configuration 3 (Unstable)

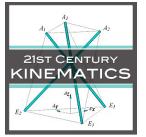


Configuration 4 (Unstable)

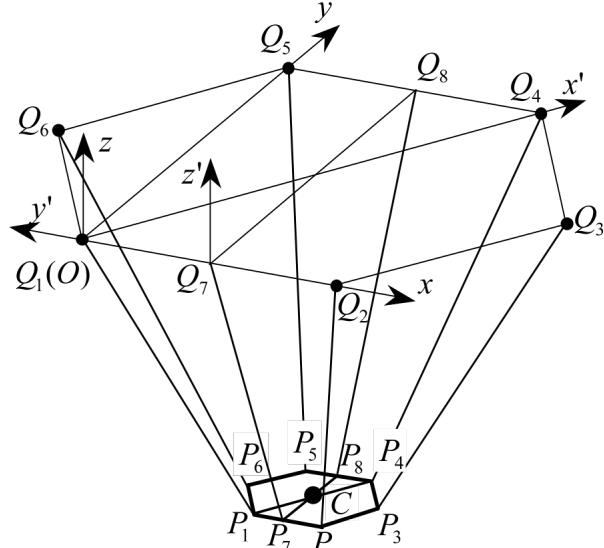
Four equilibrium configurations in plane  $Q_1P_1PQ$

# DK: Solutions based on planar four-bar linkage

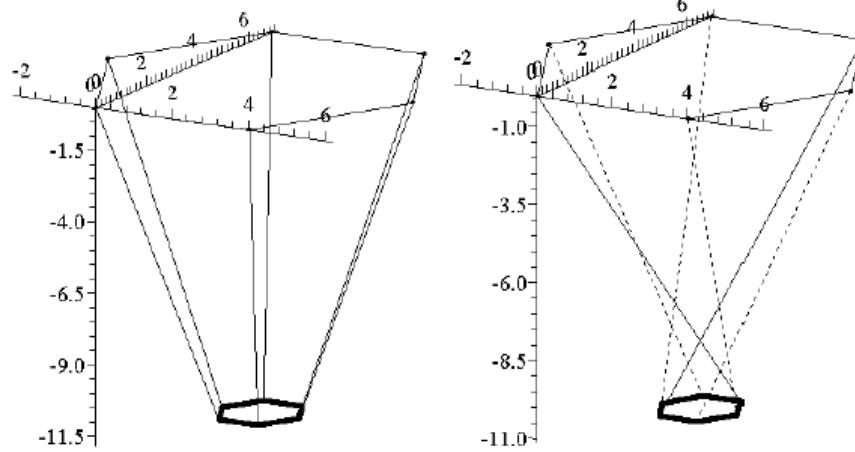
## The case with six robots



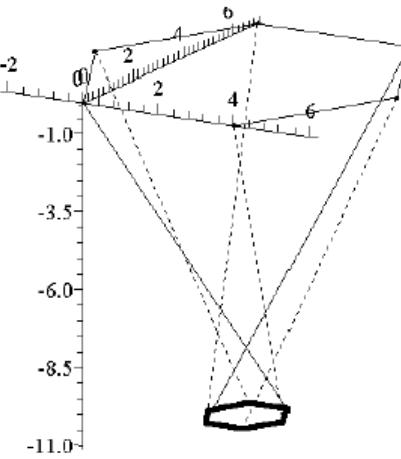
$$l = 12m, l_q = 4m, l_p = 1m.$$



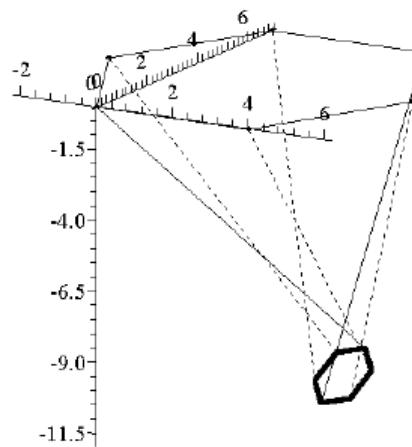
Initial configuration



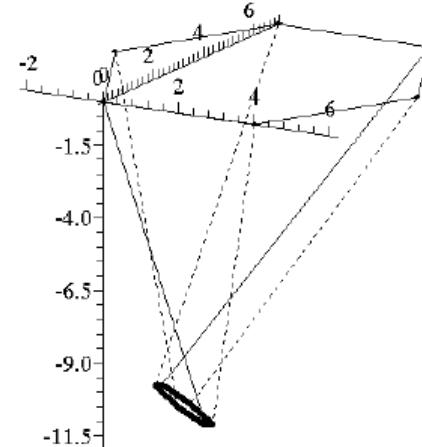
(a) Configuration 1 (Stable)



(b) Configuration 2 (Unstable)



(c) Configuration 3 (Unstable)

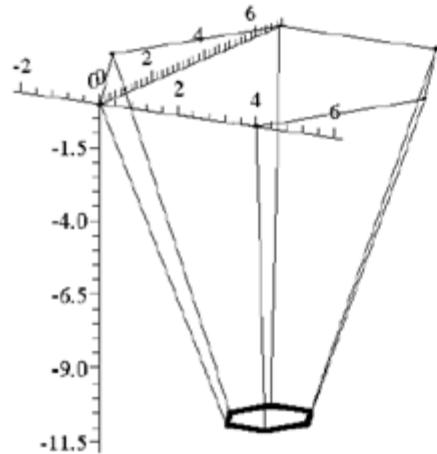
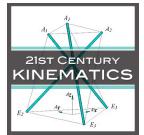


(d) Configuration 4 (Unstable)

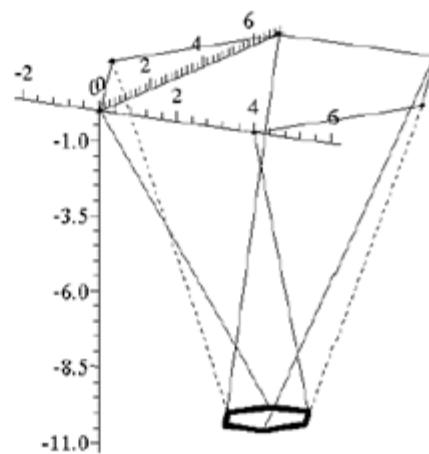
Four equilibrium configurations in the plane  $Q_1P_1P_4Q_4$ .

# DK: Solutions based on planar four-bar linkage

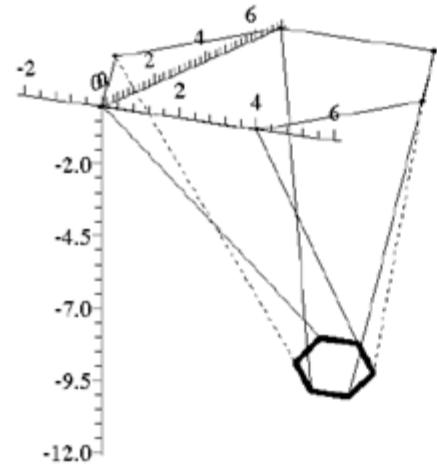
## The case with six robots



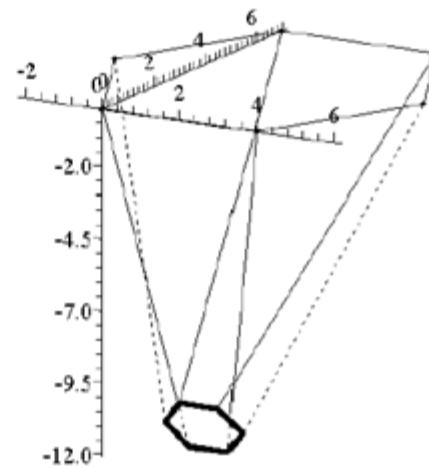
(a) Configuration 5 (Stable)



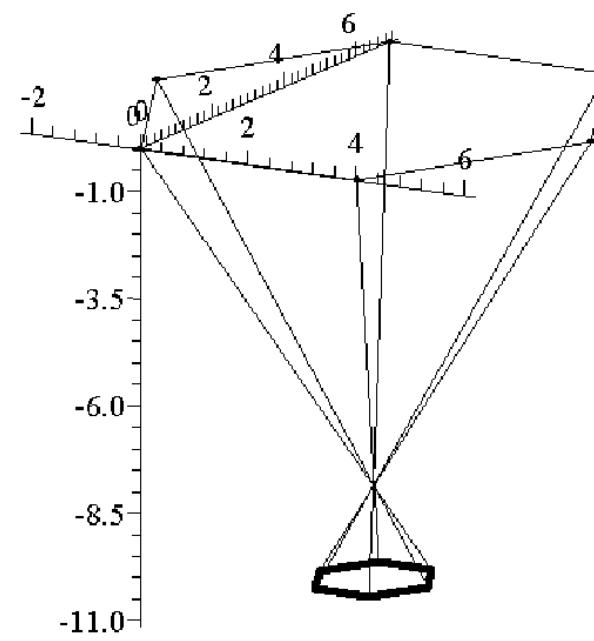
(b) Configuration 6 (Stable)



(c) Configuration 7 (Unstable)

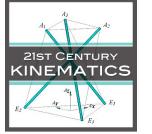


(d) Configuration 8 (Unstable)



Configuration 7 (Unstable)

Four equilibrium configurations in the plane  $Q_7P_7P_8Q_8$



# Inverse Kinematics (IK)

Given the desired position and orientation of the payload, find the positions of the robots that satisfy the equilibrium equations and the geometric constraints.

Assume cable tensions ( $T_i$ ) are given. From equilibrium equations:

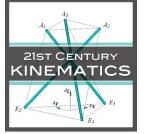
$$\begin{cases} s_1x_1 + s_2x_2 + s_3x_3 = 0, \\ s_1y_1 + s_2y_2 + s_3y_3 = 0, \\ s_1z_1 + s_2z_2 + s_3z_3 = 0, \\ -s_6y_1 + s_5z_1 - s_9y_2 + s_8z_2 - s_{12}y_3 + s_{11}z_3 = t_1, \\ s_6x_1 - s_4z_1 + s_9x_2 - s_7z_2 + s_{12}x_3 - s_{10}z_3 = t_2, \\ -s_5x_1 + s_4y_1 - s_8x_2 + s_7y_2 - s_{11}x_3 + s_{10}y_3 = 0, \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

Constants

where  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{12}, t_1, t_2$  are constants or functions of  $T_i$  ( $i=1,2,3$ ).

From geometric constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} x_i^2 + y_i^2 + z_i^2 &= l_i^2 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3) \\ x_i &= x_{qi} - x_{pi}, \quad y_i = y_{qi} - y_{pi}, \quad z_i = z_{qi} - z_{pi} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$



## IK(...contd.)

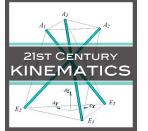
Note equilibrium equations are linearly independent in  $(z_1, y_2, z_2, x_3, y_3, z_3)$ ,

$$\begin{cases} z_1 = t_{17}x_1 + t_{18}y_1 + t_{19}x_2 + t_{20}, \\ y_2 = -(t_4x_1 + t_8y_1 + t_6x_2)/t_9, \\ x_3 = -(s_1x_1 + s_2x_2)/s_3, \\ y_3 = t_{11}x_1 + t_{12}y_1 + t_{13}x_2, \\ z_2 = t_{21}x_1 + t_{22}y_1 + t_{23}x_2 + t_{24}. \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

where coefficients  $(t_{17}, t_{18}, \dots, t_{24})$  are functions of  $T_i$  ( $i=1,2,3$ ).

Substituting Eq.(18) into Eq.(17), we get **three quadratic** equations:

$$\begin{cases} a_1x_1^2 + b_1y_1^2 + c_1x_2^2 + d_1x_1y_1 + e_1y_1x_2 + f_1x_2x_1 + g_1x_1 + h_1y_1 + i_1x_2 + j_1 = 0, \\ a_2x_1^2 + b_2y_1^2 + c_2x_2^2 + d_2x_1y_1 + e_2y_1x_2 + f_2x_2x_1 + g_2x_1 + h_2y_1 + i_2x_2 + j_2 = 0, \\ a_3x_1^2 + b_3y_1^2 + c_3x_2^2 + d_3x_1y_1 + e_3y_1x_2 + f_3x_2x_1 + g_3x_1 + h_3y_1 + i_3x_2 + j_3 = 0. \end{cases} \quad (19)$$



## IK: Analytic algorithm based on Dialytic elimination

Suppressing  $x_2$ , we get

$$a_i x_1^2 + b_i y_1^2 + d_i x_1 y_1 + k_i x_1 + u_i y_1 + v_i = 0 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3) \quad (20)$$

$x_1 = X/T, y_1 = Y/T \quad k_i = f_i x_2 + g_i, u_i = e_i x_2 + h_i, v_i = c_i x_2^2 + i_i x_2 + j_i$

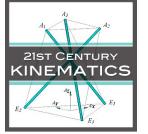
$$a_i X^2 + b_i Y^2 + d_i XY + k_i XT + u_i T^2 = F_i = 0 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3) \quad (21)$$

$$F_{iX} X + F_{iY} Y + F_{iT} T = 0 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3) \quad (22)$$

$F_{iX} = \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial X}, F_{iY} = \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial Y}, F_{iT} = \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial T}$

$$JX_1 = 0 \quad (23)$$

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} F_{1X} & F_{1Y} & F_{1T} \\ F_{2X} & F_{2Y} & F_{2T} \\ F_{3X} & F_{3Y} & F_{3T} \end{bmatrix}, \quad X_1 = [X, Y, T]^T$$



## IK: Analytic algorithm based on Dialytic elimination (Salmon 1885, Roth 1993)

$$JX_1 = 0 \quad (24)$$

$$|J| = 0 \quad (25)$$

Functions of  $x_2$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial J}{\partial X} = 3AX^2 + 2BXY + 2CXT + DY^2 + ET^2 + FYT = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial Y} = BX^2 + 2DXY + FXT + 3GY^2 + 2HYT + IT^2 = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial T} = CX^2 + 2EXT + FXY + HY^2 + 2IYT + 3JT^2 = 0. \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

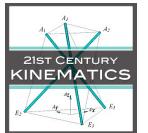
From eqs.(21) and (26), we get

$$MX_2 = 0 \quad (27)$$

$M: 6 \times 6 \text{ matrix.}$

$$X_2 = [X^2, Y^2, XY, XT, YT, T^2]^T.$$

$|M| = f(x_2) = 0$  *8<sup>th</sup> degree polynomial in  $x_2$*  (28)



# IK: Case study – equilateral triangle payload

## Specify load distribution

### 1. Normalized load (tension)

$$c_{ri} = T_i / T_{i\max}$$

### 2. Tension constraints

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 T_i \geq mg$$

Used parameters

$$\tilde{p}_1 = [0, 0, 0]^T, \tilde{p}_2 = [1, 0, 0]^T, \tilde{p}_3 = [0.5, \sqrt{3}/2, 0]^T$$

$$\tilde{r} = [0.5, \sqrt{3}/6, 0]^T, \underline{r} = [1, 1, 1]^T$$

$$mg = 25N, \lambda_{i\max} = 20N, l_i = 1.5m (i = 1, 2, 3)$$

$$\phi = 25^\circ, \theta = 15^\circ, \psi = -5^\circ$$

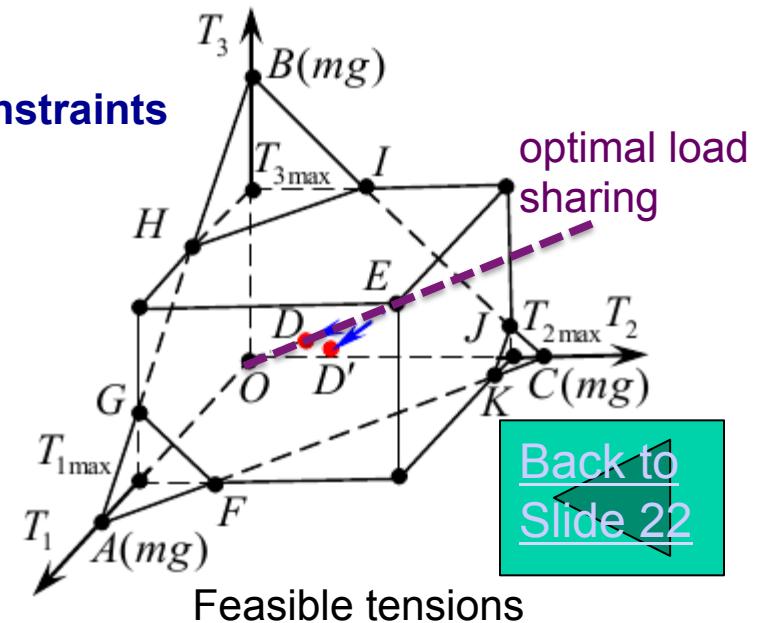
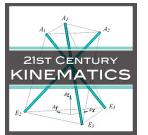
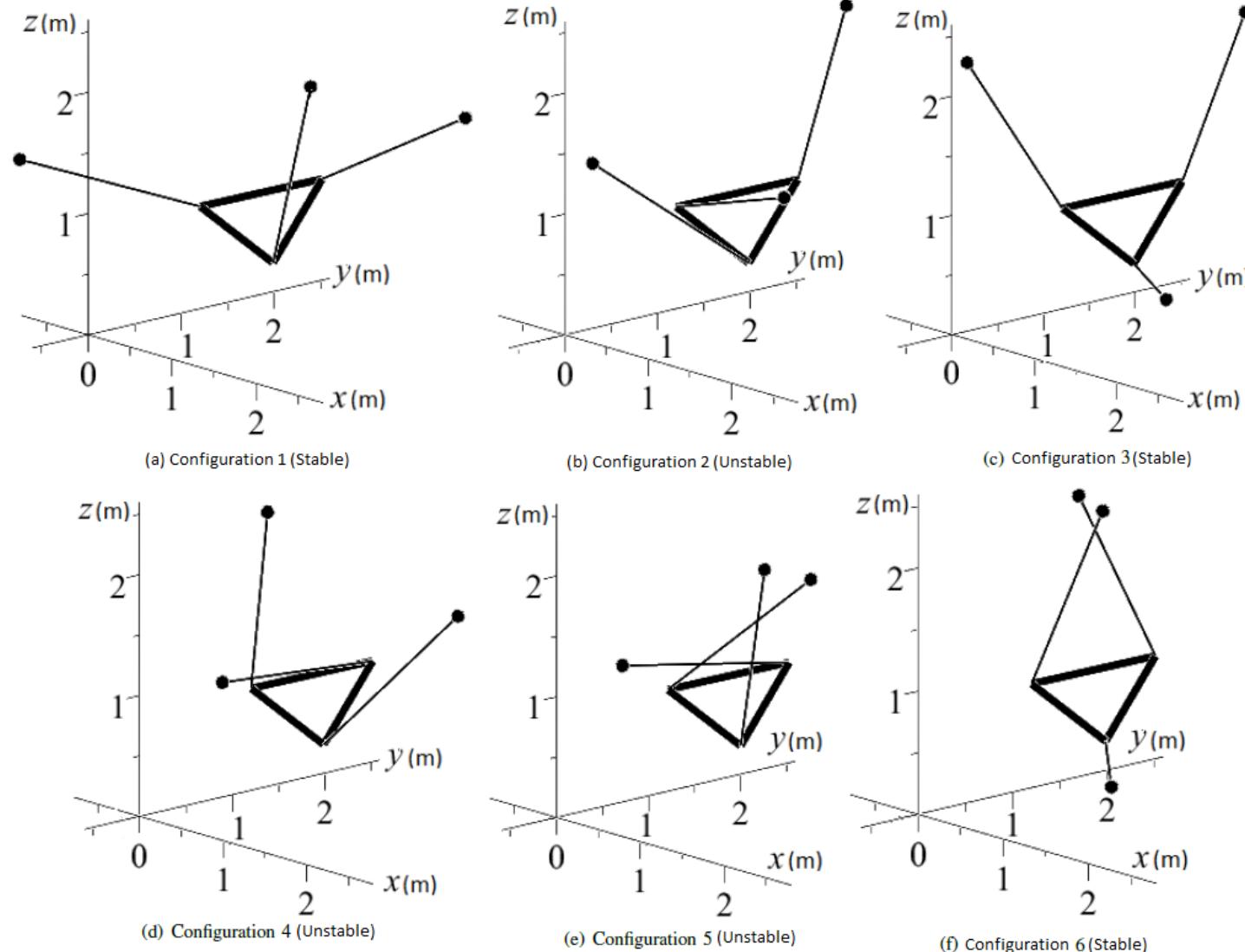


Table 3: Only 6 real solutions for an equilateral triangle payload with  $c_r=0.8$ .

No.	$x_{q1}$	$y_{q1}$	$z_{q1}$	$x_{q2}$	$y_{q2}$	$z_{q2}$	$x_{q3}$	$y_{q3}$	$z_{q3}$
1	-0.430	-0.347	1.424	1.045	1.447	1.996	2.385	1.900	1.924
2	1.907	0.646	1.399	0.277	0.052	1.466	0.816	2.302	2.479
3	-0.644	0.743	2.021	2.697	-0.091	0.849	0.946	2.348	2.473
4	-0.072	1.445	2.247	2.105	1.532	1.801	0.967	0.024	1.296
5	1.351	1.526	1.968	0.946	1.395	1.992	0.703	0.079	1.384
6	0.359	1.632	2.244	2.570	-0.271	0.787	0.071	1.638	2.312

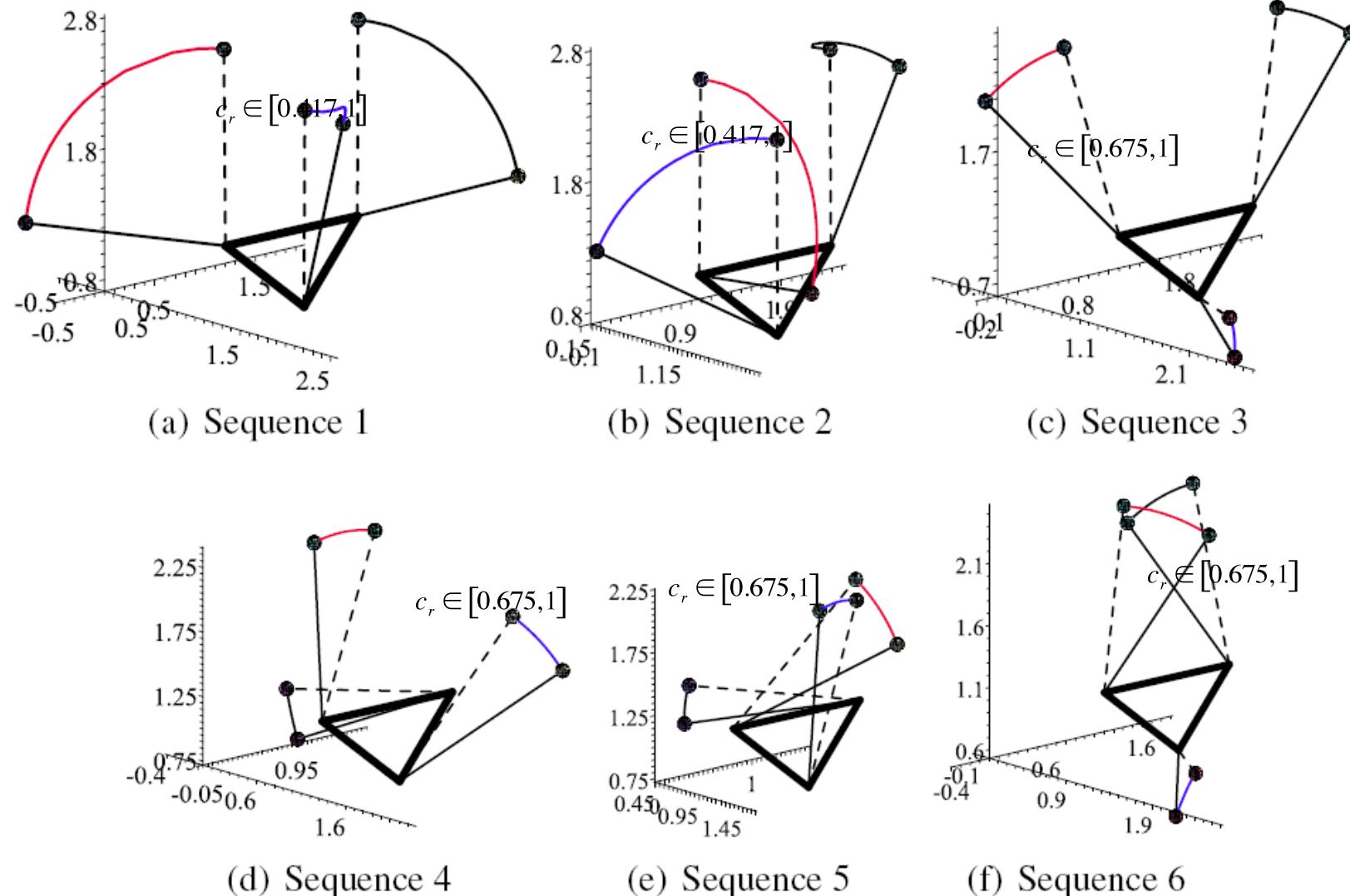


# IK: Fixed load distribution ratio

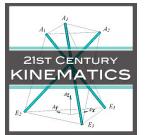


Six configurations for an equilateral triangle payload with  $c_r=0.8$ .

# IK: Effect of changing the load distribution ratio, $c_r$



The six sequences of configuration for an equilateral triangle payload as  $c_r$  is varied.  $c_{r,min} = 0.417$ .



# IK: General payload

Used parameters

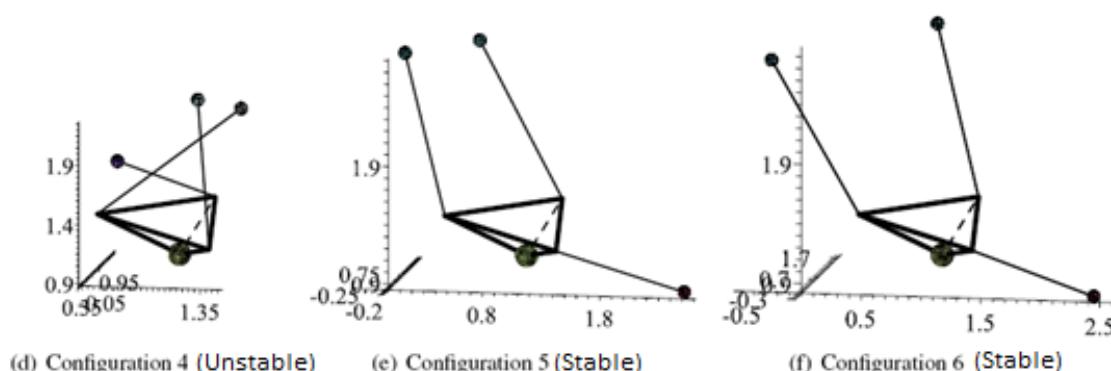
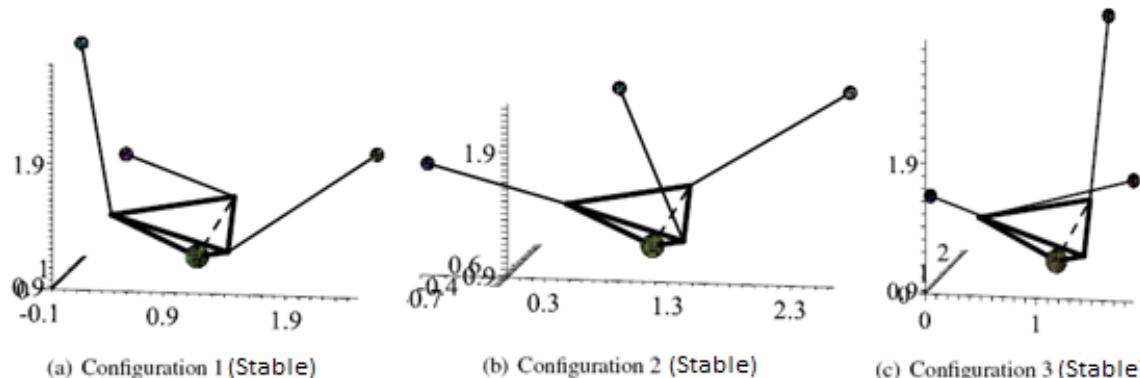
$$\tilde{p}_1 = [0, 0, 0]^T, \tilde{p}_2 = [1, 0, 0]^T, \tilde{p}_3 = [0.8, 0.7, 0]^T$$

$$\tilde{r} = [0.7, 0.2, -0.3]^T, r = [1, 1, 1]^T$$

$$mg = 100N, \lambda_{1\max} = 60N, \lambda_{2\max} = 70N, \lambda_{3\max} = 80N,$$

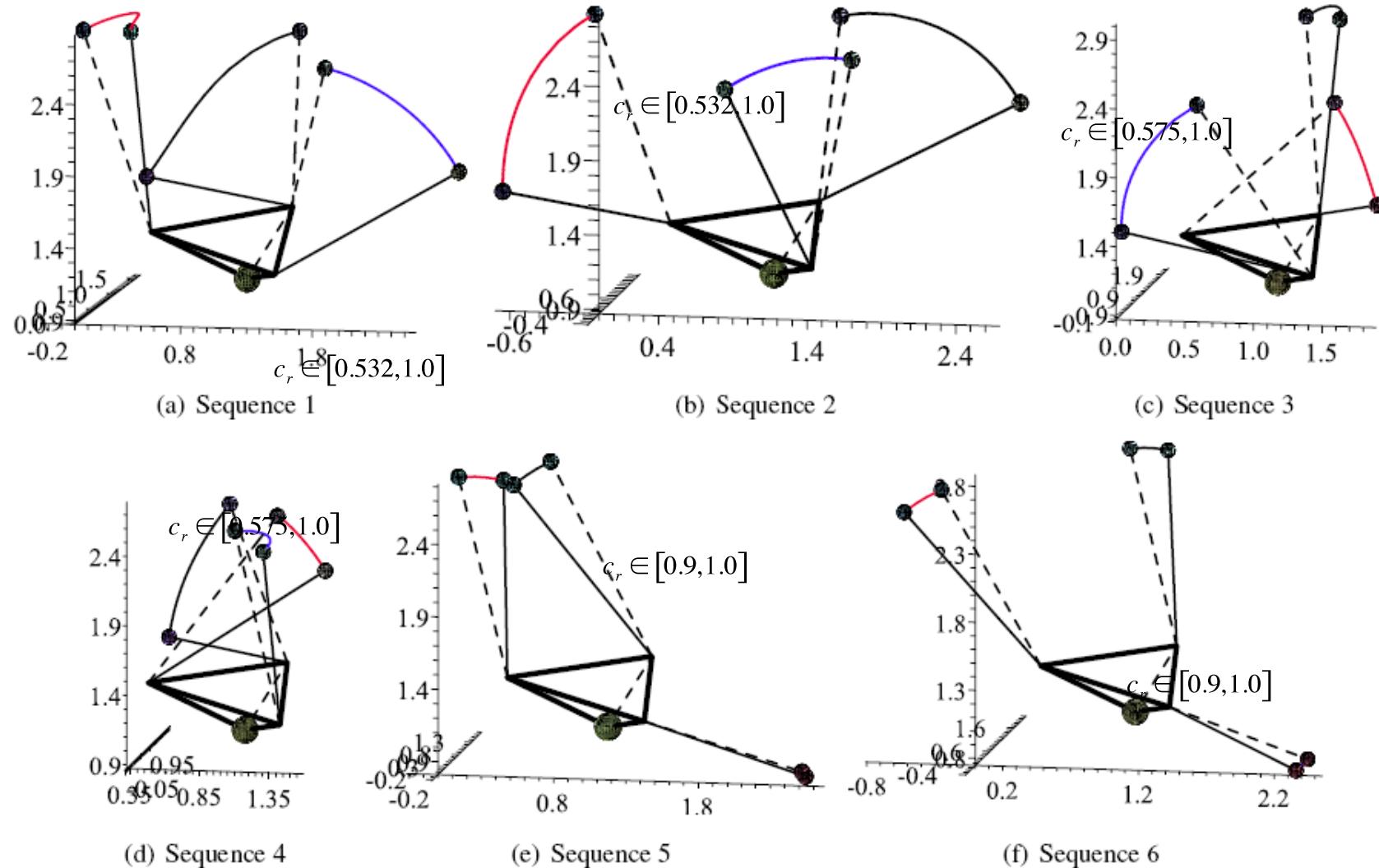
$$l_i = 1.5m (i = 1, 2, 3), \phi = 25^\circ, \theta = 15^\circ, \psi = -5^\circ$$

No.	$x_{q1}$	$y_{q1}$	$z_{q1}$	$x_{q2}$	$y_{q2}$	$z_{q2}$	$x_{q3}$	$y_{q3}$	$z_{q3}$
1	-0.024	1.473	2.621	2.385	1.453	1.790	0.588	0.071	1.979
2	-0.590	-0.319	1.845	0.650	1.464	2.186	2.531	1.405	2.214
3	1.783	0.527	1.738	0.030	0.085	1.630	1.293	1.977	2.781
4	1.469	1.294	2.196	1.039	1.656	2.195	0.646	0.028	1.944
5	-0.111	1.428	2.618	2.548	-0.166	0.937	0.510	1.522	2.728
6	-0.456	1.159	2.560	2.489	-0.244	0.911	0.821	1.791	2.794



Six configurations for a general payload with  $c_r=0.9$ .

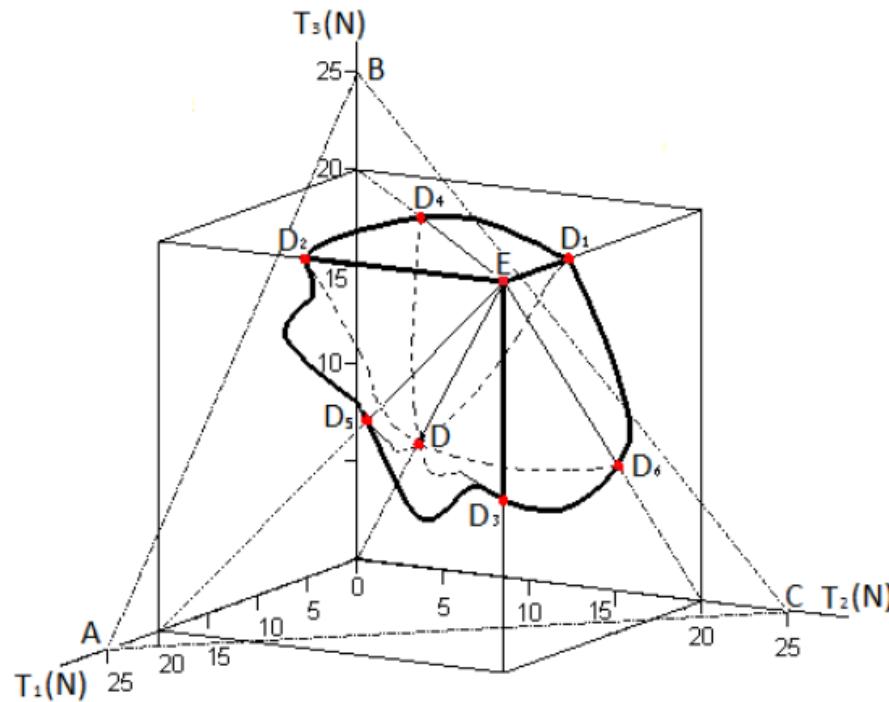
# IK: General payload: Changing the load distribution ratio, $c_r$



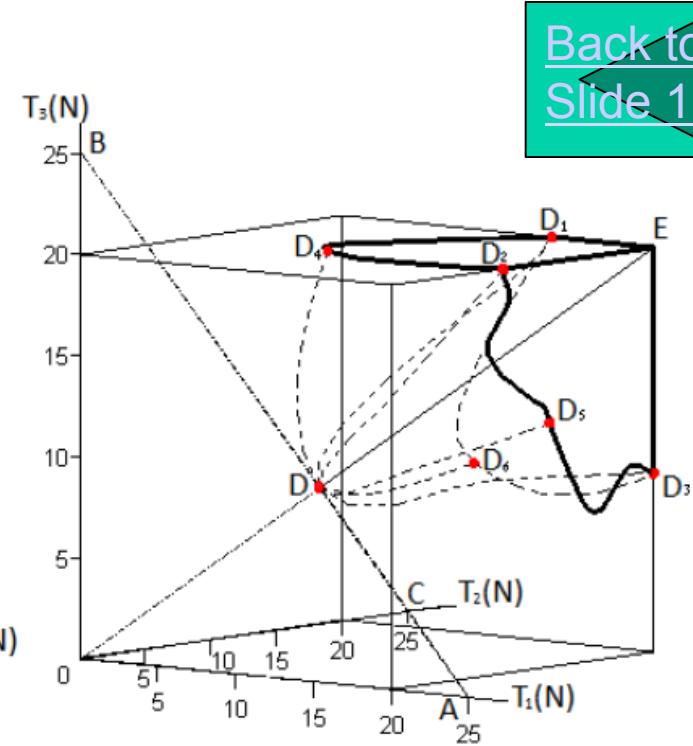
The six sequences of configuration of a general payload (3-D, center of mass not at centroid of triangle of anchor points)

# IK: Tension workspace

**Definition:** The tension workspace can be defined as the sets of tensions at which at least one configuration can be found for a given position and orientation of the payload.



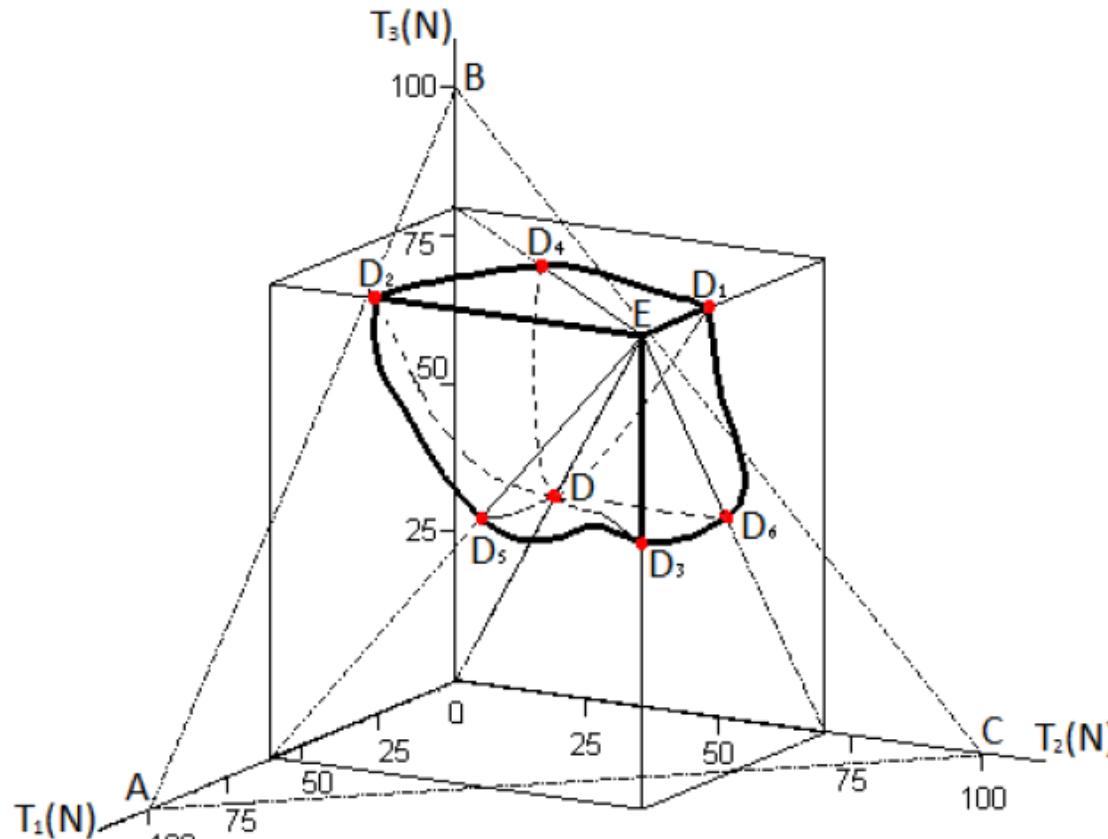
(a) View 1



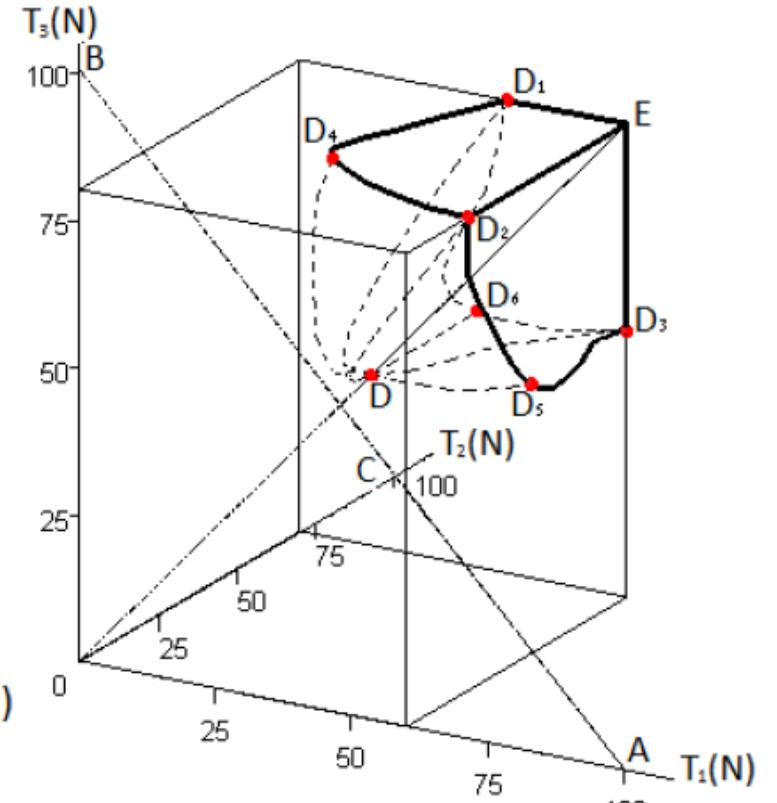
(b) View 2

The tension workspace with an equilateral triangle payload and  $\phi = 25^\circ$ ,  $\theta = 15^\circ$  and  $\psi = -5^\circ$ . The weight of the payload is  $mg = 25N$ . The payload capacities of three robots are  $T_{imax} = 20N$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ).

# IK: Tension workspace

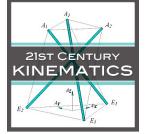


(a) View 1



(b) View 2

The tension workspace with a general payload and  $\phi = 25^\circ$ ,  $\theta = 15^\circ$  and  $\psi = -5^\circ$ . The weight of the payload is  $mg = 100N$ . The payload capacities of three robots are respectively  $T_{1max} = 60N$ ,  $T_{2max} = 70N$  and  $T_{3max} = 80N$ .



# Conclusions

## (1) Direct Kinematics

- Analytic algorithm based on resultant elimination for planar 4-bar linkage
- Case studies with 3 to 6 cables

## (2) Inverse Kinematics

- Analytic algorithm based on dialytic elimination (Up to 6 solutions for given tensions)
- Case studies for different payloads, tensions, orientations
- Tension workspace

## (3) Stability Analysis

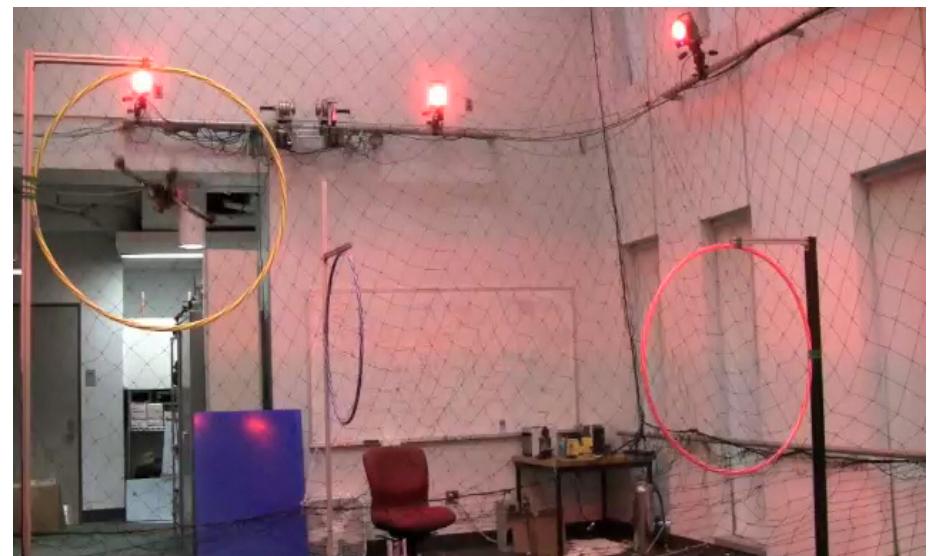
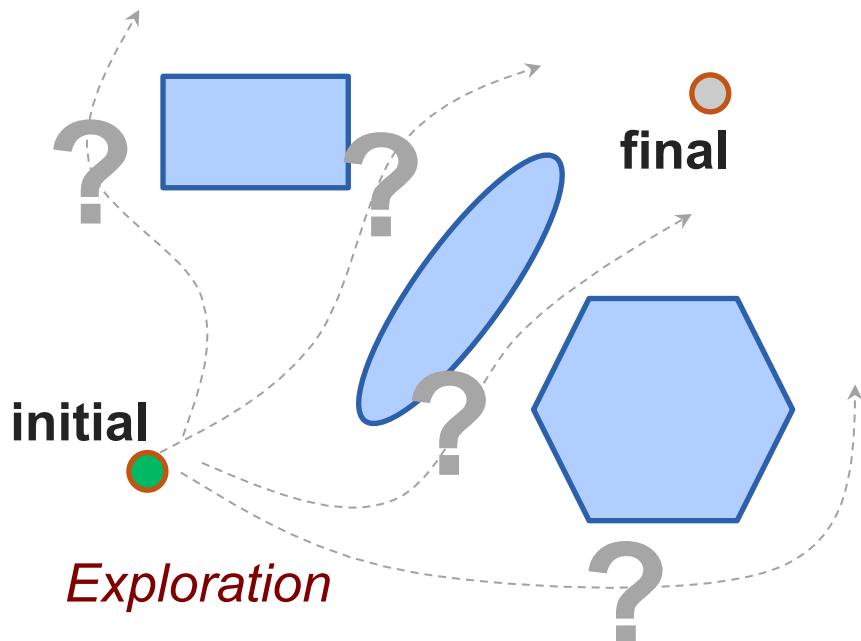
Jiang, Q., and Kumar, V., 2012, "Determination and Stability Analysis of Equilibrium Configurations of payloads Suspended from Multiple Aerial Robots", ASME Journal of Mechanisms and Robotics, Vol.4, No.2.

Jiang, Q., and Kumar, V., 2010, "The Inverse Kinematics of 3-D Towing", Proceedings of the 12th International Symposium: Advances in Robot Kinematics, June 27 – July 1, Piran-Portoroz, Slovenia.

Jiang, Q., and Kumar, V., "The Inverse Kinematics of Cooperative Transport with Multiple Aerial Robots", accepted by IEEE Transactions on Robotics.

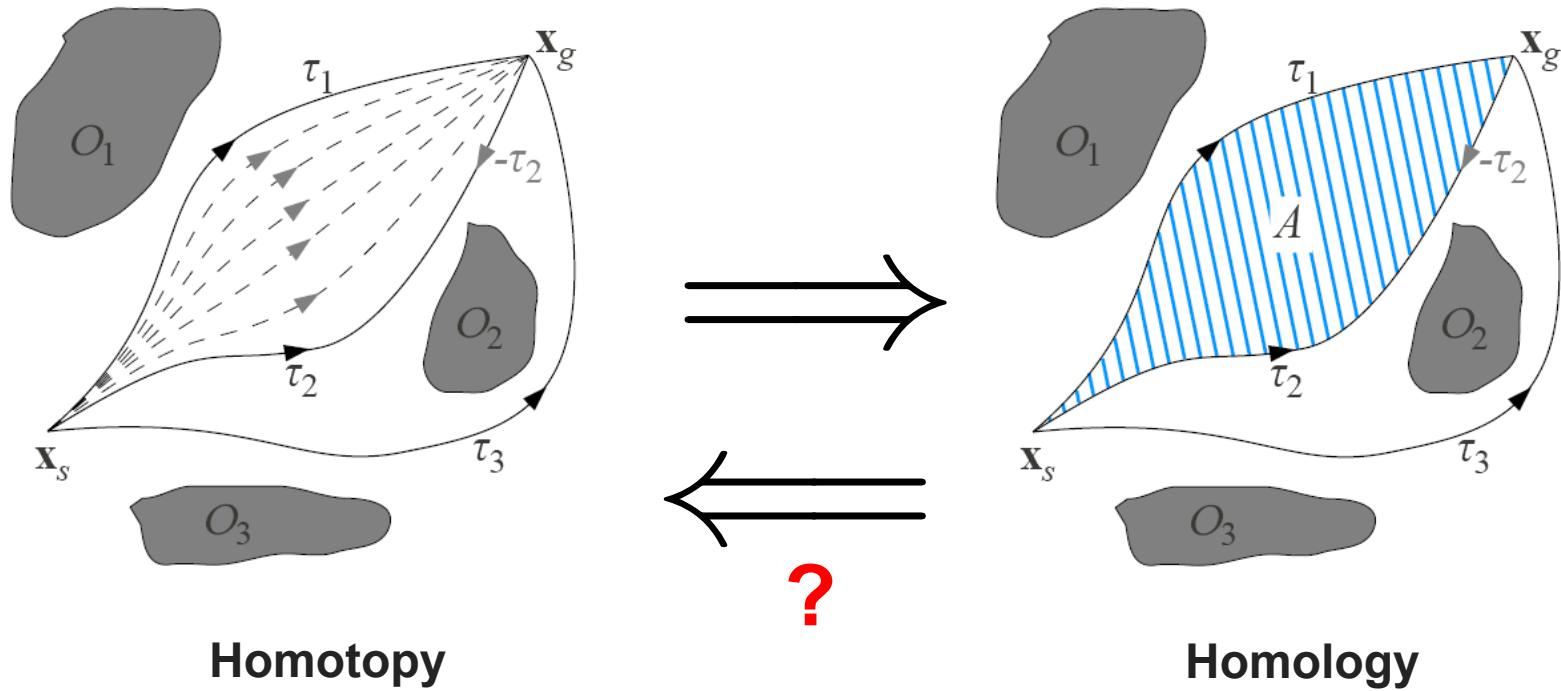
# Homotopy Classes of Trajectories

- Coordinated motion planning for towing/skimming
- Finding geodesics (plans, controls) in complex spaces
- Exploration



*Planning, optimal control*

# Homotopy and Homology



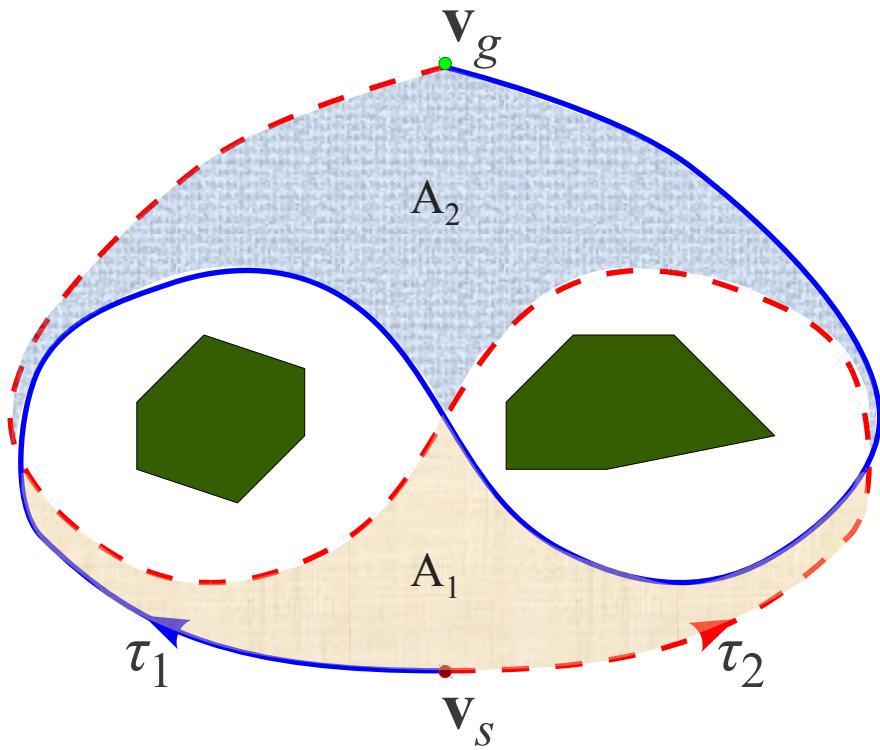
$\tau_1 \sim \tau_2$     $\tau_1$  can be continuously deformed into  $\tau_2$   
 $\tau_2 \not\sim \tau_3$

$\tau_1 \sim \tau_2$     $\tau_1 \cup -\tau_2 = \partial A$   
 $\tau_2 \not\sim \tau_3$

**Homotopy** is easy to understand, but difficult to compute.

**Homology** groups can be computed (Hatcher, 2002)!

# Homologous but not homotopic



$$\tau_1 \cup -\tau_2 = \partial A_1 \cup \partial A_2$$

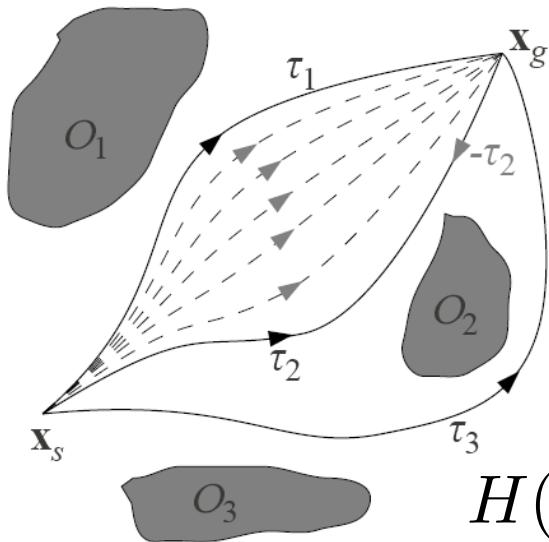
**Homotopic implies homologous**, but  
converse not necessarily true!

# H-Signature

Find a 1-form whose integral along a trajectory encodes information about the homology (homotopy) class

$$H(\tau) = \int_{\tau} \omega$$

*A homology (homotopy)  
class invariant for  $\tau$*

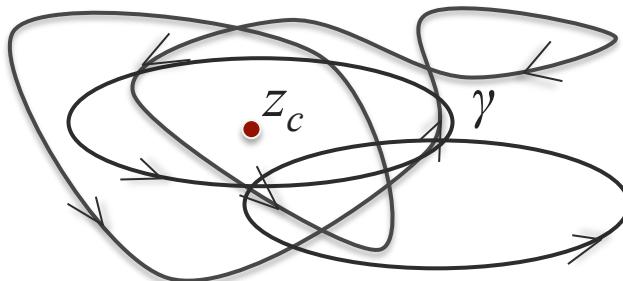


$$H(\tau_1) = H(\tau_2) \neq H(\tau_3)$$

$$H(\tau) = \int_{\tau} \omega$$

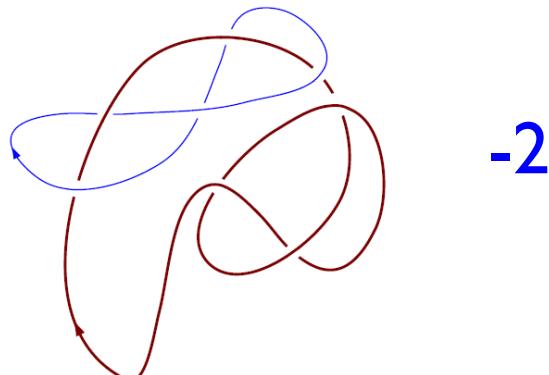
*For single path-connected obstacle in two dimensions, the H-signature (homology class invariant) can be computed from the Cauchy Residue Theorem*

Example: point obstacles in two-dimensional space



$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{1}{z - z_c} dz = \Omega$$

Example: One dimensional obstacles in three-dimensional space (linking number)

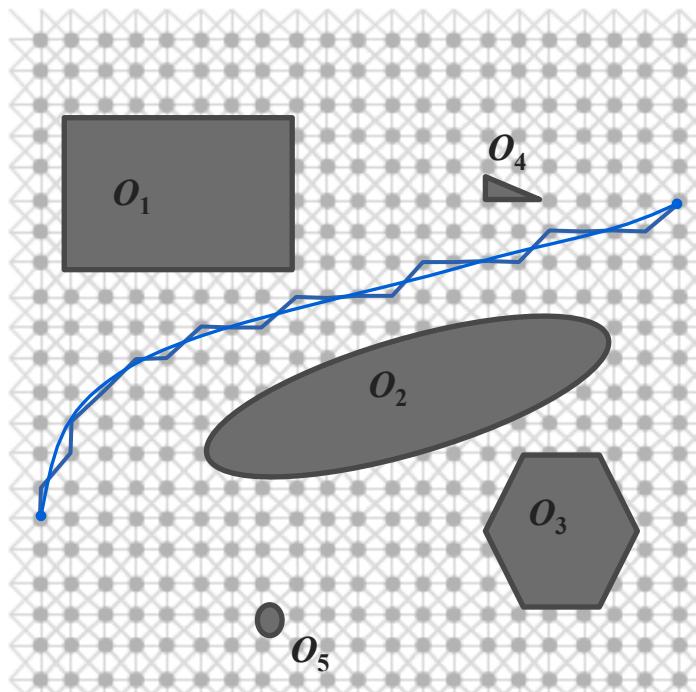


# Homology classes and planning

## Two Key ideas

1 H-signature to identify the homology class of  $\tau$ .

2 Graph search to find trajectories

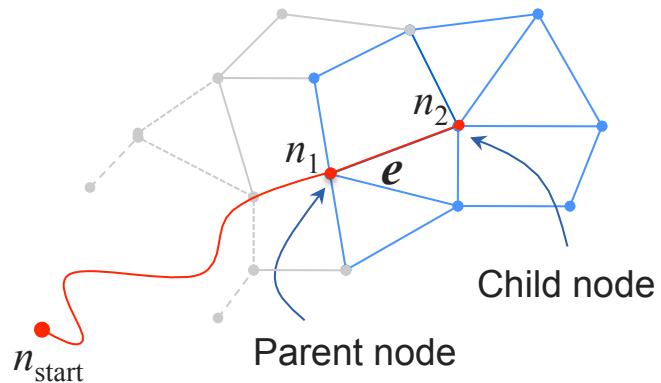


# Homology classes and planning

## Two Key ideas

1 H-signature to identify the **homology class of  $\tau$** .

2 Graph search to find trajectories



$n_1$  in “closed” list (expanded)  
– next node to expand is  $n_2$  ....

### Cost

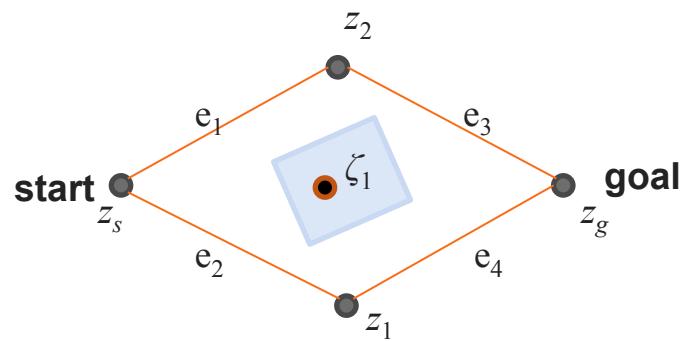
$$g(n_{\text{start}}n_2) = g(n_{\text{start}}n_1) + \text{cost}(e)$$

### H-signature

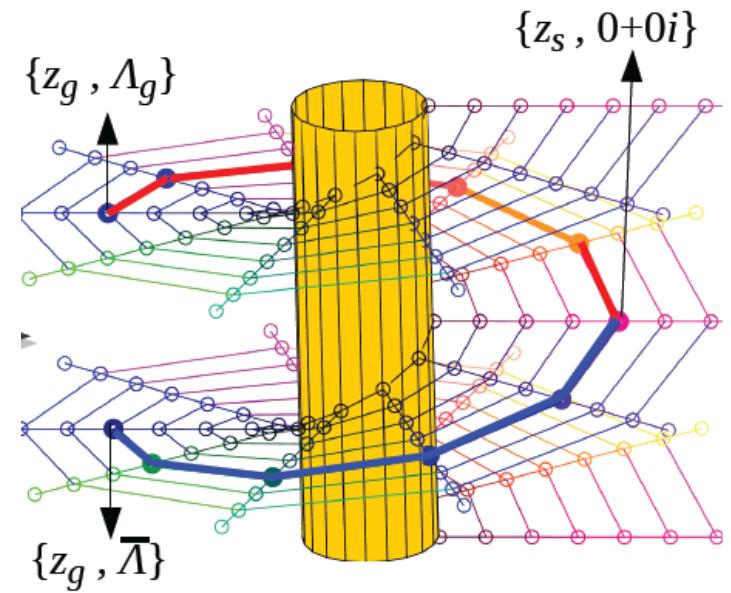
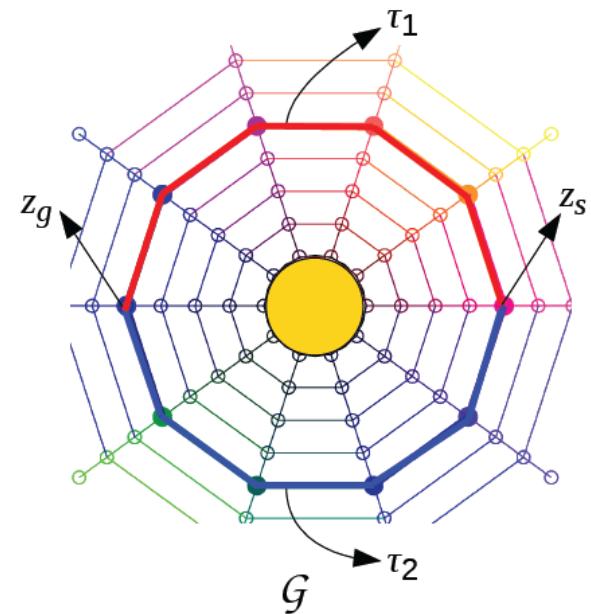
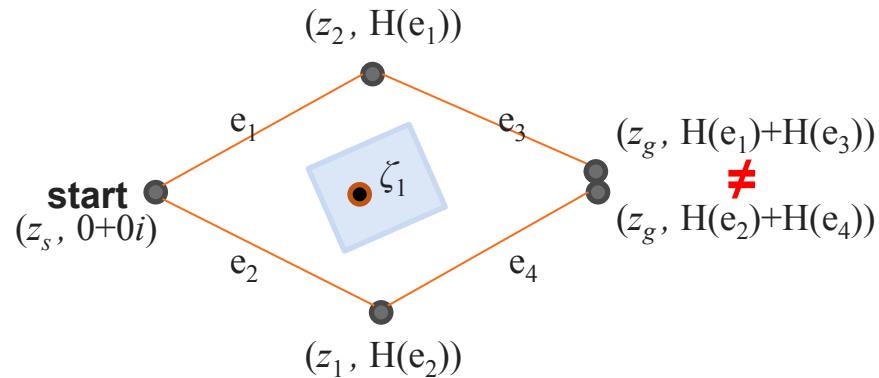
$$H(n_{\text{start}}n_2) = H(n_{\text{start}}n_1) + H(e)$$

***Find optimal paths with constraints on  $H$***

$$\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$$



$$\mathcal{G}_H = (\mathcal{V}_H, \mathcal{E}_H)$$



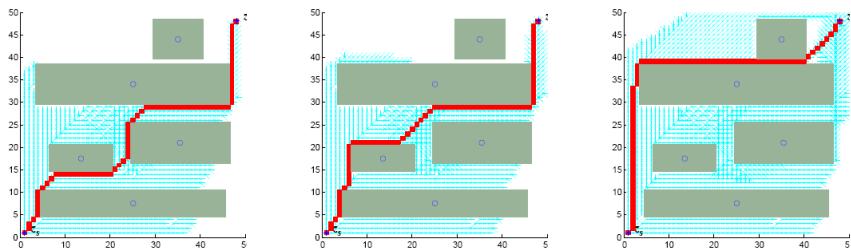
# Planning in two dimensions

Construct a (vector) analytic function with singularities at “representative points” in the complex plane.

Leverage Cauchy Integral and Residue Theorems to design an additive *homotopy class invariant*.

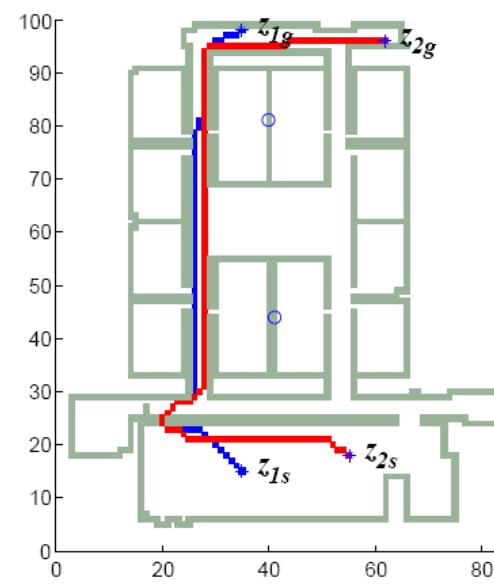
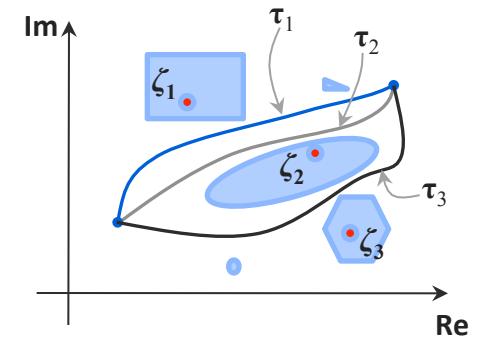
$$H(\tau) = \int_{\tau} \mathcal{F}(z) dz$$

$\omega$  (diff. 1-form)

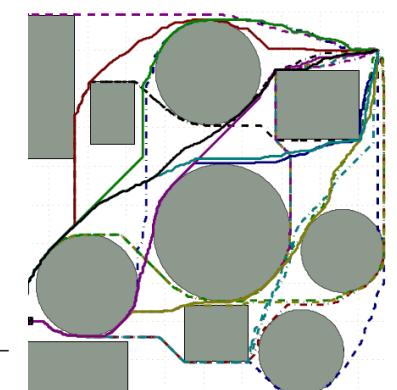


Graph-search based planning with homotopy class constraints.

$$\mathcal{F}(z) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{f_0(z)}{z - \zeta_1} \\ \frac{f_0(z)}{z - \zeta_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{f_0(z)}{z - \zeta_1} \end{bmatrix}$$

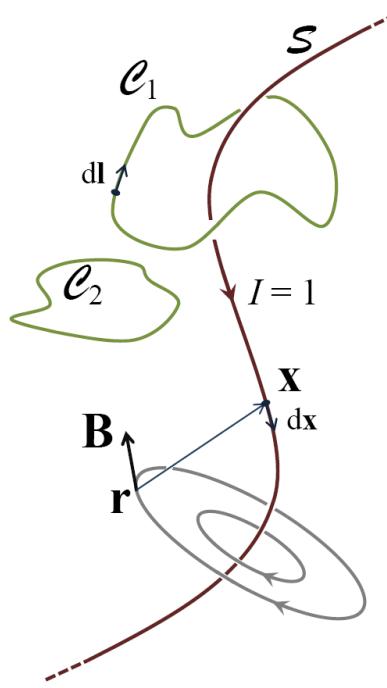


Optimal path construction  
Optimal planning with  
homotopy class constraints  
(visibility constraint)



Homotopy class exploration  
in a large environment  
(1000x1000 discretized)

# Planning in three dimensions



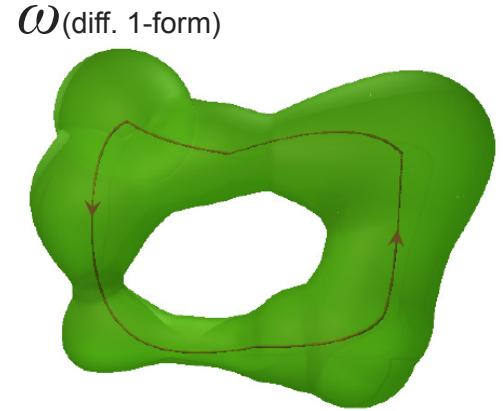
**Biot-Savart's Law:** 
$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int_S \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}) \times d\mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}\|^3}$$

**Ampere's Law:** 
$$\Xi(\mathcal{C}) := \int_{\mathcal{C}} \underbrace{\mathbf{B}(l) \cdot dl}_{\omega_{(\text{diff. 1-form})}} = \mu_0 I_{encl}$$

$\mathbf{B}$ : Magnetic field vector

$\mu_0$ : Magnetic constant (can be chosen as 1)

Skeletons of **Simple Homotopy**  
**Inducing Obstacles** are modeled as  
a **current carrying conductors**



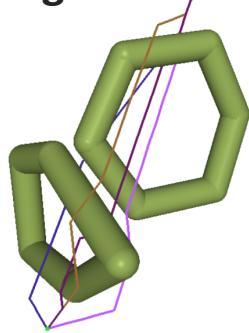
**$h$ -signature of trajectory  $\tau$ :**  $\mathcal{H}(\tau) = [h_1(\tau), h_2(\tau), \dots, h_M(\tau)]^T$

where, 
$$h_i(\tau) = \int_{\tau} \mathbf{B}_i(l) \cdot dl \quad , \quad \mathbf{B}_i(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S_i} \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}) \times d\mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}\|^3}$$

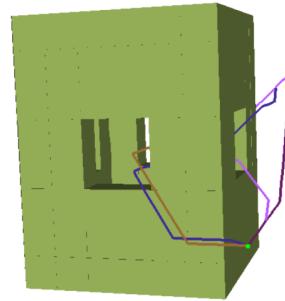
[Bhattacharya et al, RSS 2011]

# Results in 3-D

Planning in X-Y-Z configuration space:

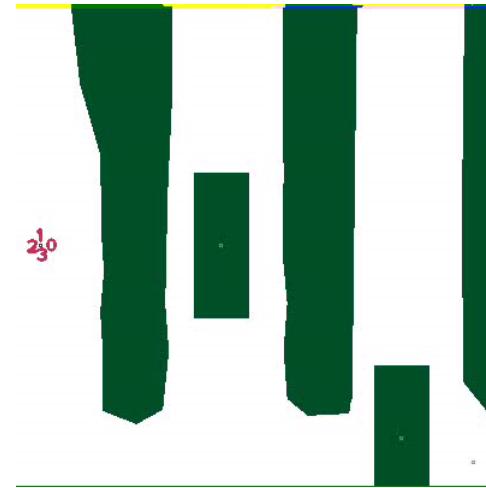


Exploration of 4 homotopy classes in presence of 2 SHIOs

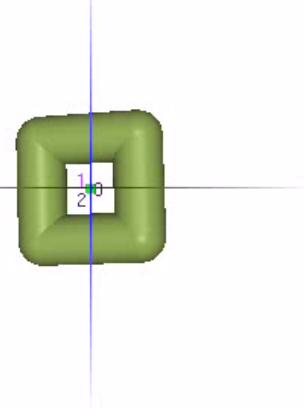


Exploration of 4 homotopy classes in presence of 4 SHIOs

Planning in Space Time



Optimal control with space time constraints (Mellinger and Kumar, 2011)



# Linking Number in D-Dimensional Euclidean Spaces

## Key idea

Construct  $S$ , a  $(D-2)$ -dimensional **homotopy equivalent** of an obstacle

Find a **differential 1-form** that, when integrated along a closed curve, gives its **linking number** with  $S$ .

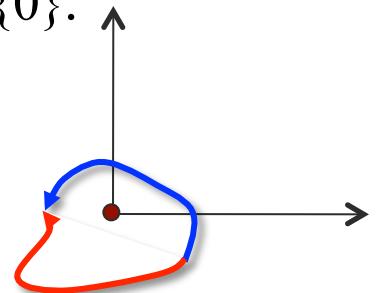
- Establish a surjective map between  $\mathbf{R}^D - S$  and  $\mathbf{R}^D - \{0\}$  and exploit the known formulae for closed but non-exact differential forms in  $\mathbf{R}^D - \{0\}$ .

Example (D=2)

$$d\theta = \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2}(-ydx + xdy)$$

$$\eta(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{k=1}^D \mathcal{G}_k(\mathbf{s}) (-1)^{k+1} ds_1 \wedge ds_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge ds_{k-1} \wedge ds_{k+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge ds_D$$

$$\mathcal{G}_k(\mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{A_{D-1}} \frac{s_k}{(s_1^2 + s_2^2 + \cdots + s_D^2)^{D/2}}$$



# Linking Number in Punctured Euclidean Spaces

## Multiple Obstacles

Find a **differential 1-form** that, when integrated along a closed curve, gives its **linking number** with  $S$ .

- Establish a surjective map between  $\mathbf{R}^D - S$  and  $\mathbf{R}^D - \{0\}$  and exploit the known formulae for closed but non-exact differential forms in  $\mathbf{R}^D - \{0\}$ .
- Decompose  $S$  (( $D-2$ )-dimensional skeleton) into  $M$  connected components:

$$S_1 \sqcup S_2 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup S_M = S$$

$$\omega_i = \sum_{k=1}^D \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq k}}^D U_j^k(\mathbf{x}; S_i) \, dx_j \quad \mathcal{H}(\tau) = \int_{\tau} \begin{bmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \\ \vdots \\ \omega_M \end{bmatrix}$$

$$U_j^k(\mathbf{x}; S) = (-1)^{k-j-1-\mathbf{i}\mathbf{s}(j < k)} \int_S \mathcal{G}_k(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \, dx'_1 \wedge dx'_2 \cdots \wedge \widehat{x'_j, x'_k} \wedge \cdots \wedge dx'_D$$

$$\mathcal{G}_k(\mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{A_{D-1}} \frac{s_k}{(s_1^2 + s_2^2 + \cdots + s_D^2)^{D/2}}$$

# Problem I

Generate ***optimal*** trajectory with ***homology class constraints***

## Optimization

Minimize cost functional

$$\min_{q(t)} \int_0^1 \mathcal{L} \left( q, \dot{q}, \dots, q^{(r)} \right) dt$$

## Constraints

**Non convex**

Easy to compute

Trajectory belonging to a specified homology class

$$H(q(1)) = H_{\text{des}}$$

# Problem 2

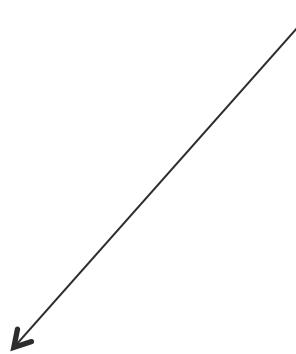
Generate **optimal** trajectory with **homotopy class constraints**

## Optimization

Minimize cost functional

$$\min_{q(t)} \int_0^1 \mathcal{L} \left( q, \dot{q}, \dots, q^{(r)} \right) dt$$

*Harder to compute*



## Constraints

Trajectory belonging to a specified homotopy class

## Assumptions

I. Polygonal Obstacles

[Kim, Bhattacharya, Sreenath, Kumar, ARK 2012]

2. Quadratic Cost

# Conclusion

Geometry, kinematics and statics of cable-driven systems introduce challenges and opportunities

- Homotopy classes (and homology classes)
- Instantaneous kinematics
- Direct and Inverse kinematics
- Dynamics and control
- Scaling up to large numbers