



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ  
**ΠΑΤΡΩΝ**  
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

# Robotic Systems I

Lecture 2: Integrators, Mobile Robots and Motion Planning

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University of Patras

Template made by Panagiotis Papagiannopoulos





## ■ Lectures:

- 10 + 1 Recitation Lecture
- ≥8 Lab Exercises

## ■ Examination:

- Lab code (**20% of total grade**)
- Intermediate exams (**30% of total grade**)
- For **50% of total grade** you select **one of the two**:
  - Team Project (max 2 per team) — only for the June exams
  - Final exam
- **IMPORTANT:** All exams are hybrid: multiple choice + code

## ■ Office Hours:

- **Tue-Wed (10:00-12:00)**
- 24/7 by email ([costashatz@upatras.gr](mailto:costashatz@upatras.gr), subject: *ECE\_RSI\_AM*)

## ■ Material and Announcements



## What is this course about?

- 3D Rigid Body Motions
- Dynamics and Control of Manipulators
- Mobile Robots, Simulators
- Orientation Representations
- Lie Algebra
- Splines
- Optimization
- Localization, SLAM
- Optimization-based Control of Complex Robots/Whole Body Controllers
- **We focus on implementation/robotics applications. You are required to write code!** Not a theory course!

- **3-hour lectures:**

- A lot of theory! Hints for personal reading!
- Live code examples + analyses!
- Ask questions please!

- **2-hour lab exercises:**

- **20% of total grade**
- Small code examples that you need to fill
- You need to deliver code
- Ask questions, experiment!

## Continuous Dynamics:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$$

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  : “State space”

$\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  : “Control/Input space”

$f$  : “Dynamics Function”

## In robotics we usually have:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q} \\ \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{q}$  : “Configuration”

$\mathbf{v}$  : “Velocity”

## ■ Why do we care about discretization?

- We can't "solve"  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$  in the general case,
- Computers cannot handle continuous  $t$  in representing  $\mathbf{x}(t)$ ,
- Sometimes discrete time dynamics can describe better the situation (e.g. contact-based dynamics).

## ■ How?

## ■ Why do we care about discretization?

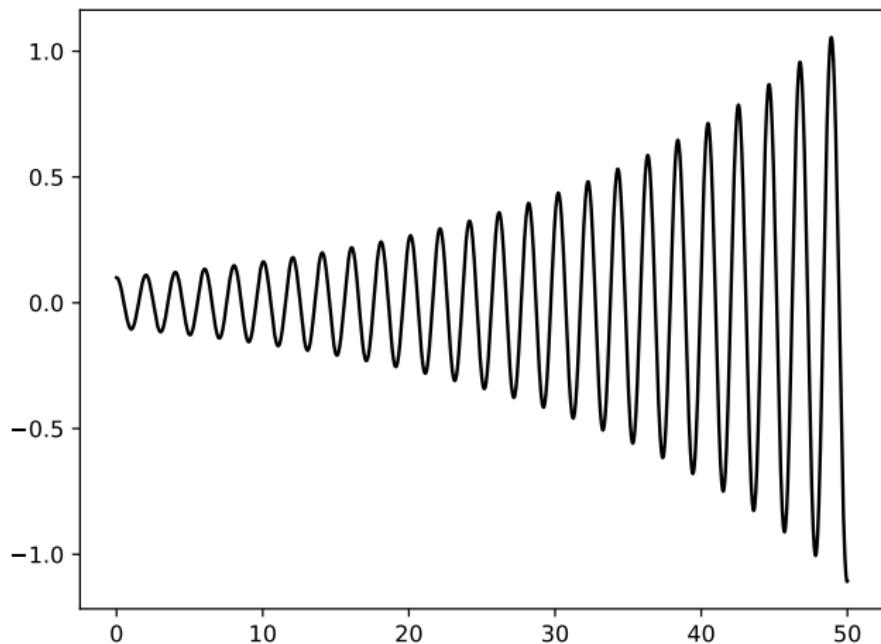
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- Computers cannot handle continuous  $t$  in representing  $\mathbf{x}(t)$ ,
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## ■ How?

- $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$

- **Euler Integration:**  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \underbrace{\underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)}_{\text{"Continuous Dynamics"}}}_{f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)} \underbrace{dt}_{\text{"Timestep"}}$

## Discretization - Pendulum Code/Simulation



## Runge Kutta 4th Order (RK4)

- Do not use Euler Integration!
- What else?
  - Runge Kutta 4th Order (RK4):

$$\mathbf{f}_1 = f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_2 = f\left(\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{f}_1 \frac{dt}{2}, \mathbf{u}_k\right)$$

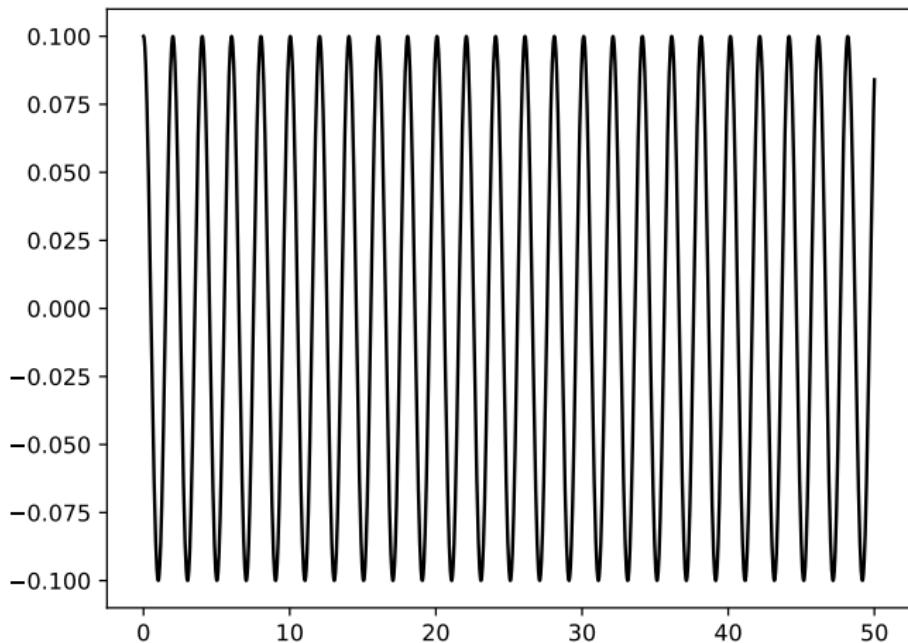
$$\mathbf{f}_3 = f\left(\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{f}_2 \frac{dt}{2}, \mathbf{u}_k\right)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_4 = f(\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{f}_3 dt, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x} + \frac{dt}{6} \left( \mathbf{f}_1 + 2\mathbf{f}_2 + 2\mathbf{f}_3 + \mathbf{f}_4 \right)$$

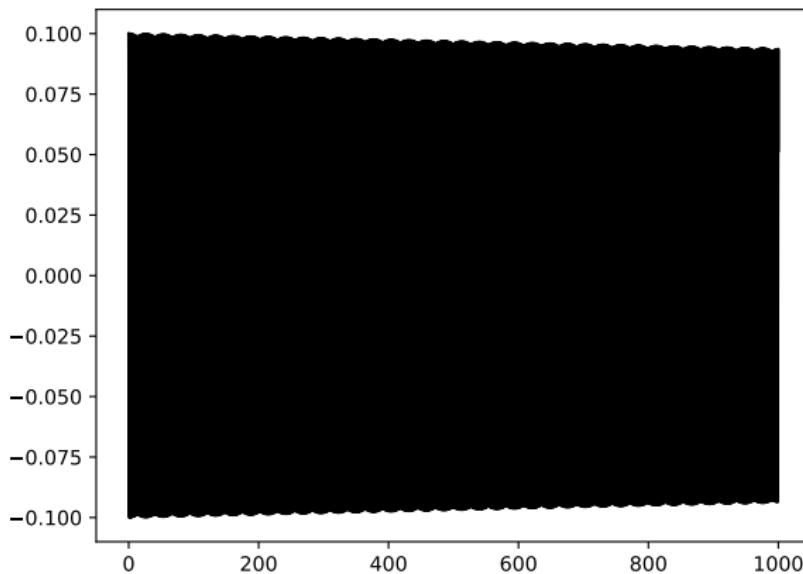
- RK4 basically fits a cubic polynomial.

## RK4 - Pendulum Code/Simulation



## RK4 - Pendulum Code/Simulation (2)

**The simulation is damped!**



## Semi-Implicit Euler Integration



- RK4 is nice, but not perfect!
- What else?
  - Semi-Implicit Euler Integration:

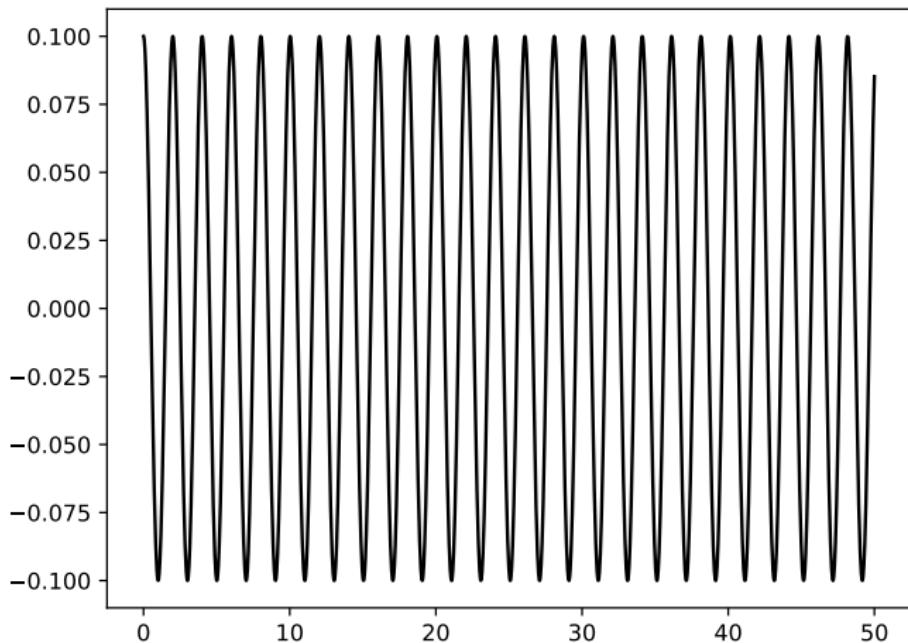
$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k \\ \dot{\mathbf{v}}_k \end{bmatrix} = f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{k+1} = \mathbf{v}_k + \dot{\mathbf{v}}_k dt$$

$$\mathbf{q}_{k+1} = \mathbf{q}_k + \mathbf{v}_{k+1} dt$$

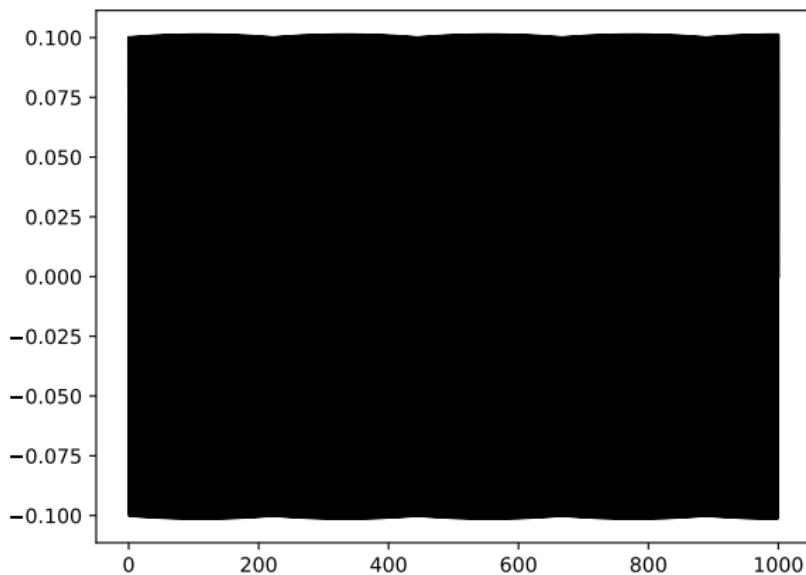
- We basically update first the velocity of the system, and then use the  $k + 1$  velocity to update the position part.

## Semi-Implicit Euler - Pendulum Code/Simulation



## Semi-Implicit Euler - Pendulum Code/Simulation (2)

**Undamped simulation! Semi-Implicit Euler preserves energy!**



**So far we have been discussing explicit integrators. Implicit integrators are defined as:**

$$f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}, \mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) = \mathbf{0}$$

We solve this as a root-finding problem. We know  $\mathbf{x}_k$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_k$  and we need to solve for  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1}$ .

**Simplest form is “Backward Euler” (uncontrolled system):**



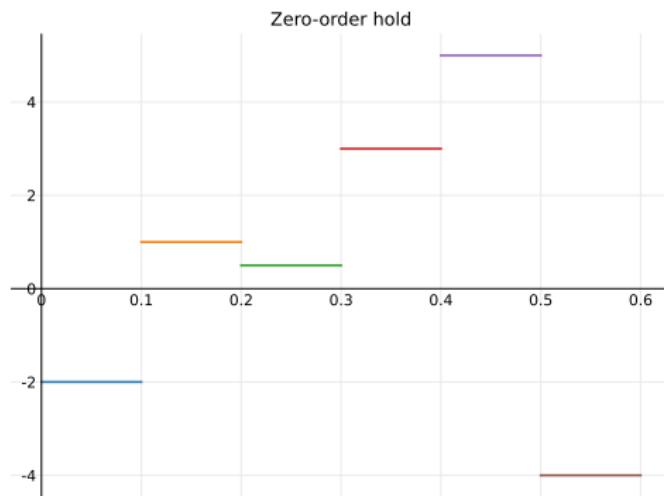
$$f_{\text{discrete}}(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}, \mathbf{x}_k) = \mathbf{x}_{k+1} - \mathbf{x}_k - f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})dt = \mathbf{0}$$

- **Do not use Forward Euler!**
- RK4 is the “industry standard”, but comes with damped behavior (unrealistic)
- Implicit methods are more accurate, but require optimization!
- Semi-Implicit Euler is a middle ground (not always good enough!)
- Be careful! Test! Test! Test!

# Discretization of Controls

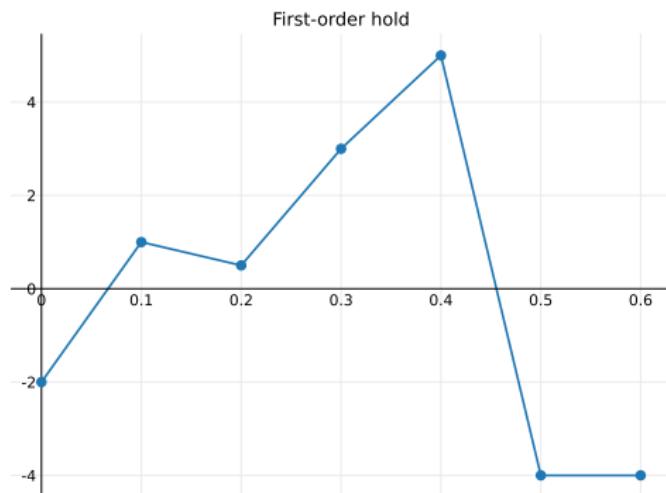
How can we discretize the control inputs?

- “Zero-order hold”



How can we discretize the control inputs?

- “First-order hold”



- Higher order polynomials/Splines!

## How can we describe the structure of our robots?

- Transformation Matrices
  - Too many parameters
  - *Body frames* for every link
- Denavit-Hartenberg (DH) parameters
  - Optimal number of parameters
  - *Body frames* for every link
  - “Equivalent” with transformation matrices
  - We need to define the joint frames in a particular way
- Product of Exponentials (PoE)
  - Less parameters than transformation matrices, but not optimal
  - We do not need *body frames* for every link
  - Straightforward to compute

**A URDF file is basically an XML file that describes our robot(s):**

- It began as part of ROS, but now it is independent
- It allows modeling for the kinematic, dynamic and geometric parts of our robot
- It supports only open-chain structures (kinematic trees)
- Most robot softwares can read URDF files

Every URDF file define joints and links:

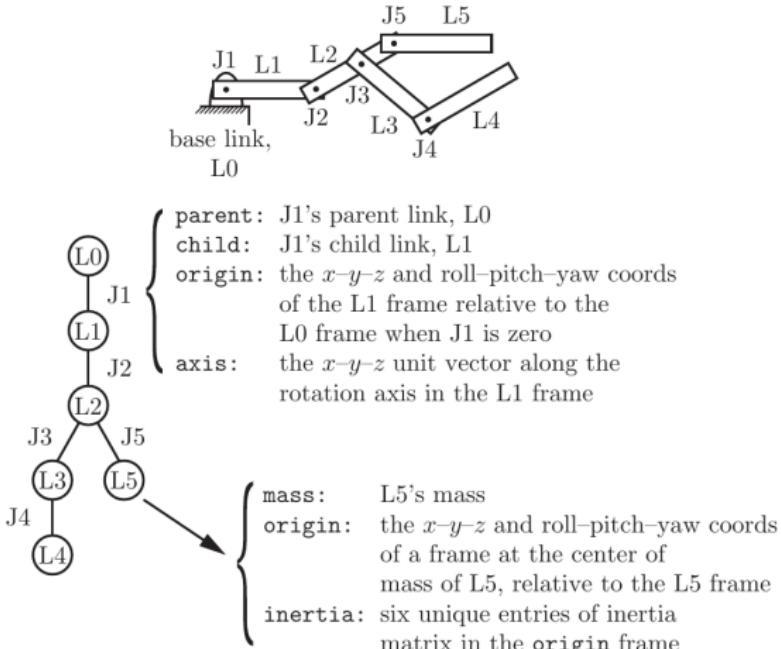
- **Joints:**

- Connect exactly 2 links: the *parent link* with the *child link*
- Types: *revolute*, *prismatic* and *fixed*
- *origin frame*: describes the pose of the child link with respect to the parent link in the zero (rest) configuration of the joint
- *axis* (3D vector): describes the axis of motion of the joint
- ...

- **Links:**

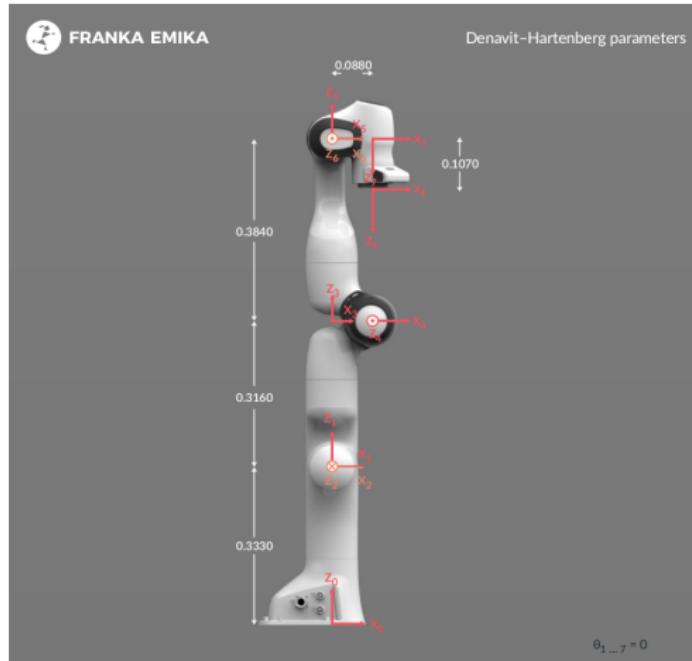
- *Intertial parameters*: mass, center of mass, ... (very important for accurate simulation)
- Geometry for visualization
- Geometry for collision detection (very important for simulation)
- ...

## Universal Robot Description Format (3)



Source: Modern Robotics: Mechanics, Planning, and Control, Kevin M. Lynch and Frank C. Park, 2017, Cambridge University Press.

# Manipulators

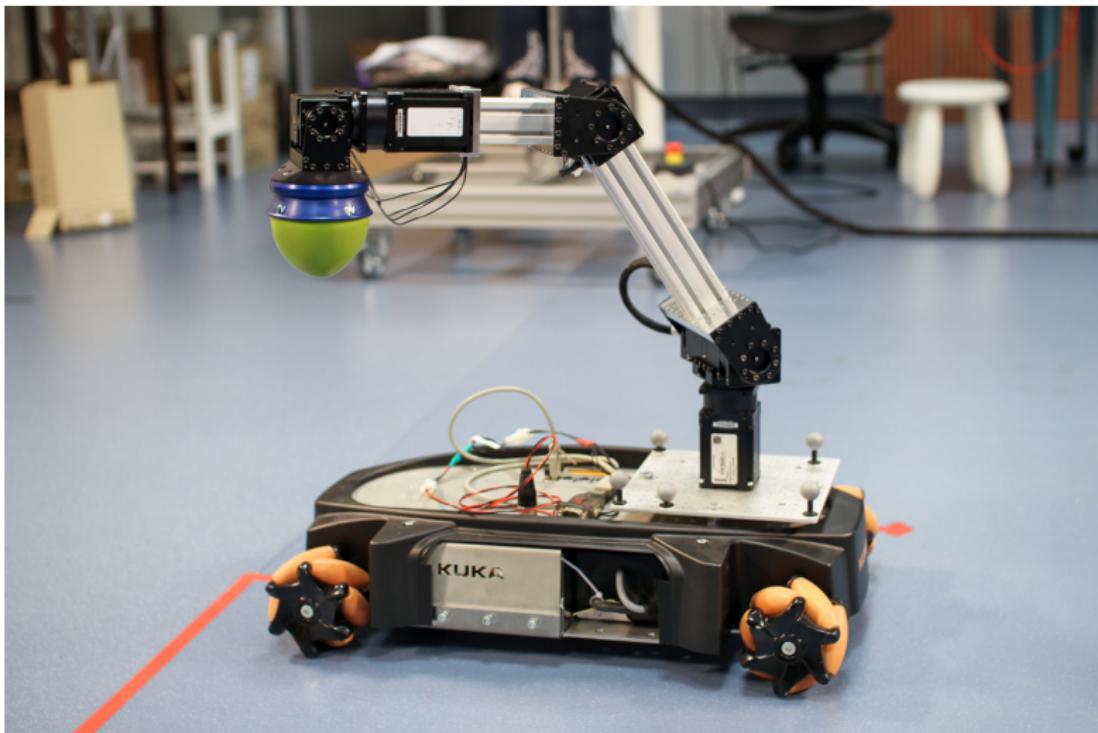


Source: <https://petercorke.com/robotics/franka-emika-panda-kinematics-and-singularities/>

## Manipulators - Representation

- Usually base/root is fixed to world
- The configuration space is the joint position space
- $x = (q, \dot{q})$  where  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\dot{q} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n$  degrees of freedom
- What happens if we move the base of a manipulator?
- Or if we mount a manipulator on a wheeled robot?

# Manipulators on Mobile Robots

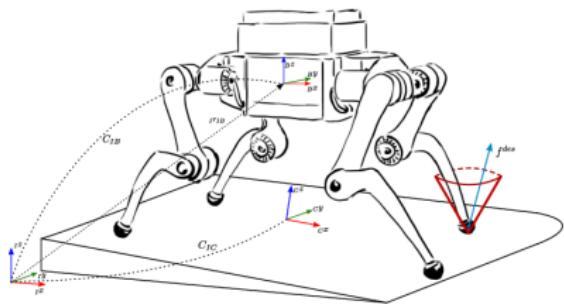
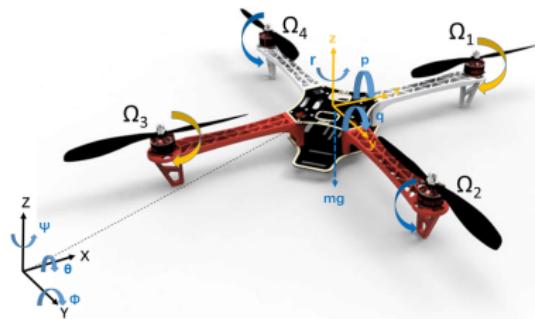


Source: <https://www.resibots.eu/photos.html#kuka-youbot-versaball>

# Mobile Robots (1)



## Mobile Robots (2)



## Mobile Robots - Representation

- Joint positions and velocities
- AND 3D pose and velocity of the root/base body (base link)

- Joint positions and velocities
- AND 3D pose and velocity of the root/base body (base link)
- So we have:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega}_w \\ \mathbf{T}_{wb} \\ \mathbf{q} \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\dot{\mathbf{q}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{T}_{wb}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\omega}_w$  are the transformation matrix of the base link and its angular velocity.

- We totally have (at most)  $n + 6$  degrees of freedom

# Types of Mobile Robots

## 1 Free-floating robots

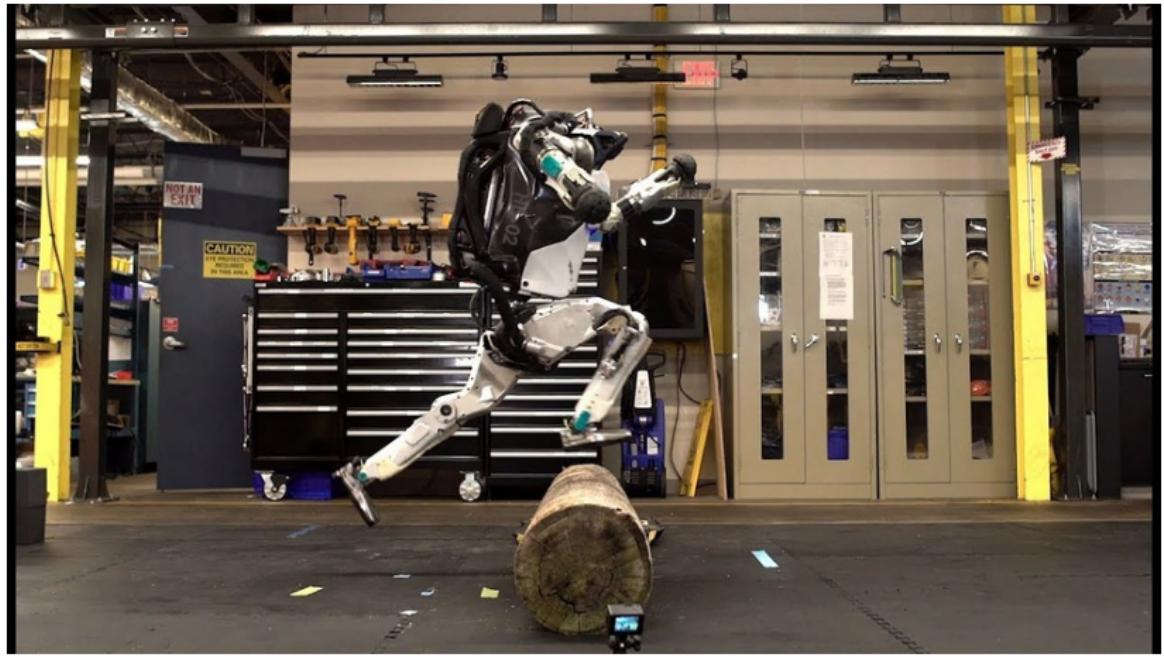
- 6 extra degrees of freedom
- Humanoids, drones, ...

## 2 Planar/classical mobile robots

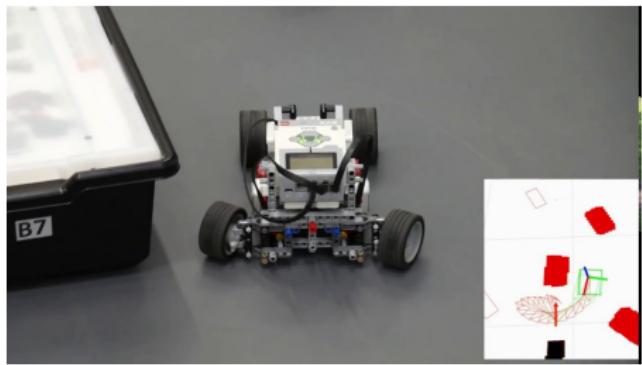
- Robots with wheels
- 3 extra degrees of freedom
- Cars, bicycles, omnidirectional, ...

## 3 ...

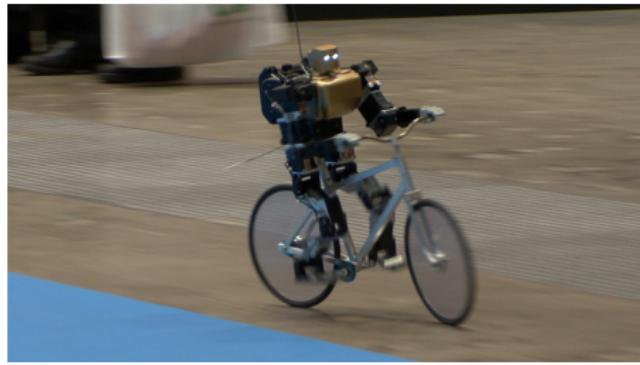
# Free-floating robots



## Planar/classical mobile robots (1)



## Planar/classical mobile robots (2)



**Assumptions:**

- We usually ignore the dynamics and focus on the kinematics
- Robots roll on hard, flat ground without skidding
- Single rigid-body chassis with a transformation  $T_{wb} \in SE(2)$
- We denote  $x = [\theta, x, y]^T$ .
- Planar Twist:

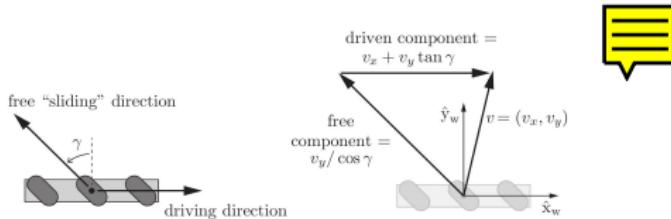
$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{V}_b &= \begin{bmatrix} \omega \\ v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix} \\ \dot{x} &= \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \omega \\ v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

# Types of Wheeled Mobile Robots

- Omnidirectional
  - No equality constraints on  $\dot{x}$
  - It can move freely! Even sideways!
- Nonholonomic
  - A single constraint of the form  $A(\mathbf{x})\dot{\mathbf{x}} = 0$
  - Car-like motion
  - Can still reach any point in space!



# Omnidirectional Mobile Robots



Source: Modern Robotics: Mechanics, Planning, and Control, *Kevin M. Lynch and Frank C. Park*, 2017, Cambridge University Press.

## Kinematics:

In the wheel frame ( $\hat{x}_w, \hat{y}_w$ ) we can describe the motion as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix} = v_{\text{drive}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + v_{\text{slide}} \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \gamma \\ \cos \gamma \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\gamma$  (typically 0 or  $\pm 45$  degrees) is the angle of "free-sliding",  $v_{\text{drive}}$  is the velocity of the wheel center in the  $\hat{x}_w$  direction and  $v_{\text{slide}}$  is the velocity in the "sliding" direction.

## Omnidirectional Mobile Robots (2)

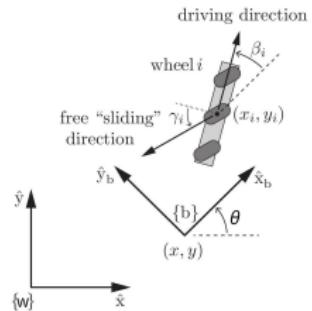
Let's re-write the previous equation solving for  $v_{\text{slide}}$  and  $v_{\text{drive}}$ :

$$v_{\text{drive}} = v_x + v_y \tan \gamma$$

$$v_{\text{slide}} = \frac{v_y}{\cos \gamma}$$

Assuming a radius  $r$  for the wheel and  $u$  is the angular velocity of the wheel (aka how fast it is turning):


$$u = \frac{v_{\text{drive}}}{r} = \frac{v_x + v_y \tan \gamma}{r}$$



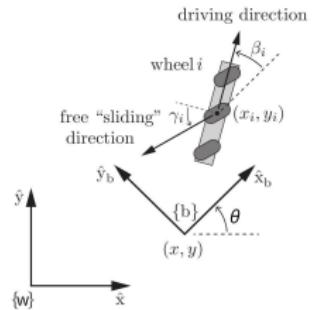
Source: Modern Robotics:  
Mechanics, Planning, and Control,  
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## Omnidirectional Mobile Robots (3)

Notation! The center of the wheel and its driving direction are given by  $(\beta_i, x_i, y_i)$  expressed in the body frame of the robot. Now we can find the relation between  $u_i$  (of wheel  $i$ ) and the full body twist  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}$ . We will derive an equation that looks like this:

$$u_i = h_i(\theta) \dot{\mathbf{x}}$$

What does this reminds us of?



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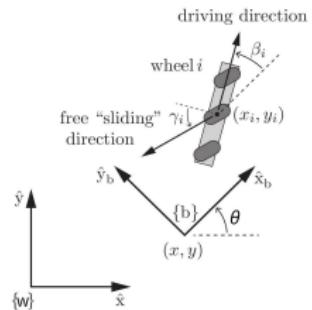
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**Jacobians!**



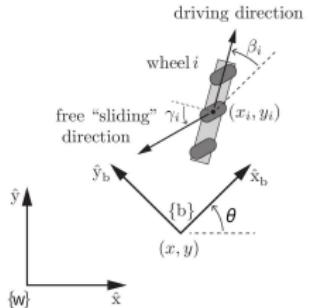
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## Omnidirectional Mobile Robots (3)

So let's start by:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$$

What do we need to do first?



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## Omnidirectional Mobile Robots (3)

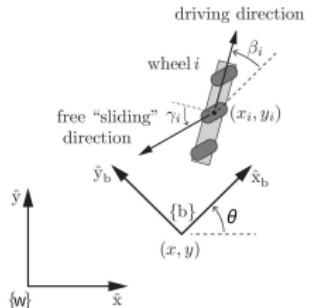
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What do we need to do first? Transform the world velocity into body frame:

$$\mathbf{v}_b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$$

Then?



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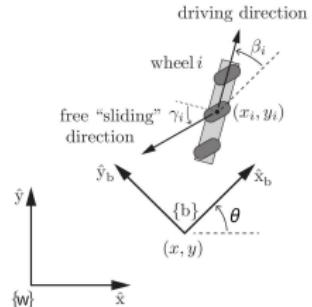
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Then? Compute the linear velocity of the wheel in the body frame:

$$\mathbf{v}_b = \begin{bmatrix} -y_i & 1 & 0 \\ x_i & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$$

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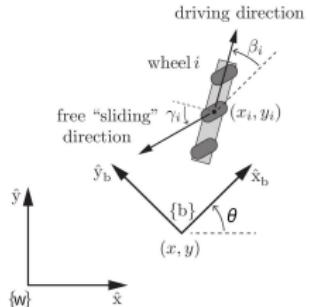
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And? Transform (aka rotate) this velocity into the wheel frame:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta_i & \sin \beta_i \\ -\sin \beta_i & \cos \beta_i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -y_i & 1 & 0 \\ x_i & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$$

Finally?



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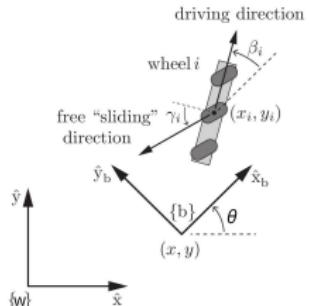
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Finally? Transform this into wheel angular velocity:

$$u_i = \left[ \frac{1}{r} \quad \frac{\tan \gamma_i}{r} \right] \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta_i & \sin \beta_i \\ -\sin \beta_i & \cos \beta_i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -y_i & 1 & 0 \\ x_i & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$$



Source: Modern Robotics:  
Mechanics, Planning, and Control,  
*Kevin M. Lynch and Frank C. Park*, 2017, Cambridge University Press.

## Omnidirectional Mobile Robots (4)

Putting all together, we get:

$$h_i(\theta) = \frac{1}{r_i \cos \gamma_i} \begin{bmatrix} x_i \sin(\beta_i + \gamma_i) - y_i \cos(\beta_i + \gamma_i) \\ \cos(\beta_i + \gamma_i + \theta) \\ \sin(\beta_i + \gamma_i + \theta) \end{bmatrix}^T$$

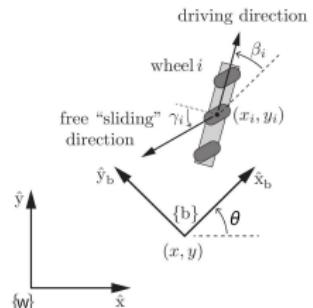
If we have  $m$  wheels, we can something as follows:

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_m \end{bmatrix} = H(\theta) \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} h_1(\theta) \\ \vdots \\ h_m(\theta) \end{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}}$$

Also:

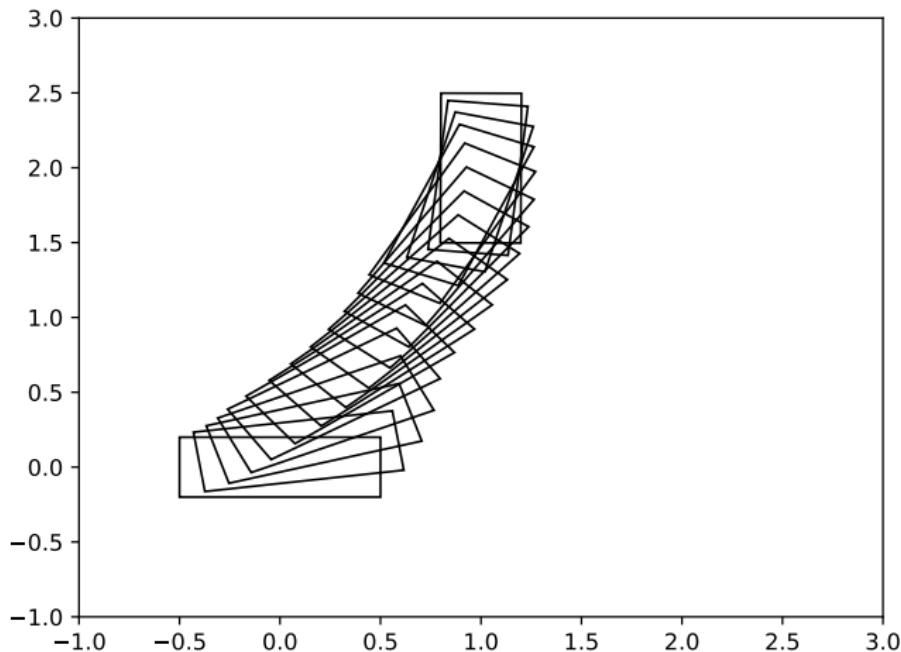
$$\mathbf{u} = H(0) \mathcal{V}_b = \begin{bmatrix} h_1(0) \\ \vdots \\ h_m(0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \omega \\ v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix}$$

Independent of  $\theta$ !

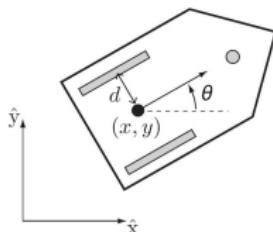


Source: Modern Robotics:  
Mechanics, Planning, and Control,  
*Kevin M. Lynch and Frank C. Park*, 2017, Cambridge University Press.

## Omnidirectional Mobile Robots - Code Example



# Differential Drive Robots



Source: Modern Robotics: Mechanics, Planning, and Control, *Kevin M. Lynch and Frank C. Park*, 2017, Cambridge University Press.

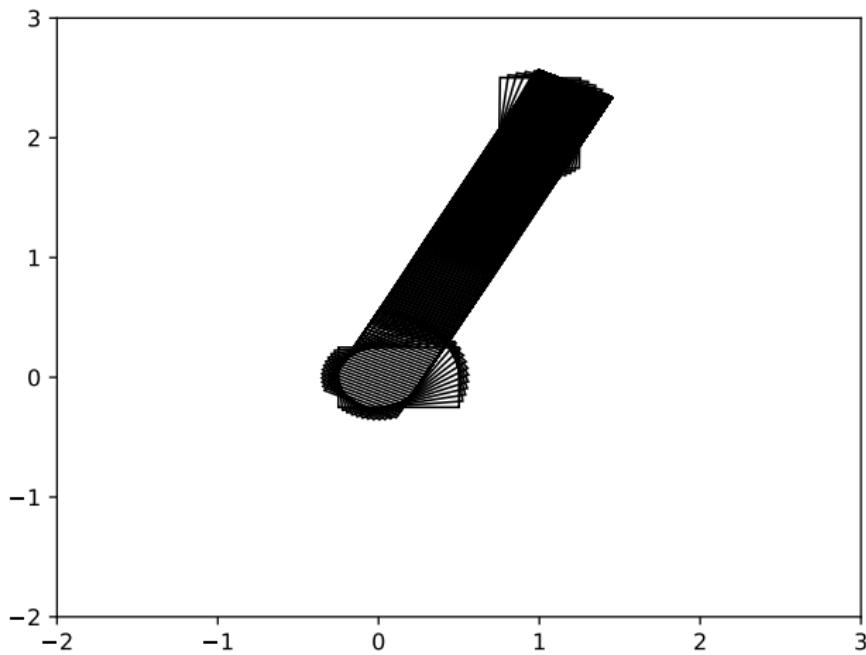
## Kinematics:

The state of a differential drive robot is  $\mathbf{x} = [\theta, x, y, \theta_L, \theta_R]^T$ . And the kinematic equations are given by:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{\theta}_L \\ \dot{\theta}_R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{r}{2d}\theta & \frac{r}{2d}\cos\theta & \frac{r}{2}\cos\theta \\ \frac{r}{2}\cos\theta & \frac{r}{2}\sin\theta & \frac{r}{2}\sin\theta \\ \frac{r}{2}\sin\theta & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_L \\ u_R \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $(\theta, x, y)$  is the pose of the robot in world space,  $r$  are the wheel radii,  $d$  is the distance of the wheels from the robot center,  $\theta_L, \theta_R$  are the wheel rotation angles (values from encoder of the motors) and  $u_L, u_R$  are the wheel angular velocities (commands).

## Differential Drive Robots - Code Example

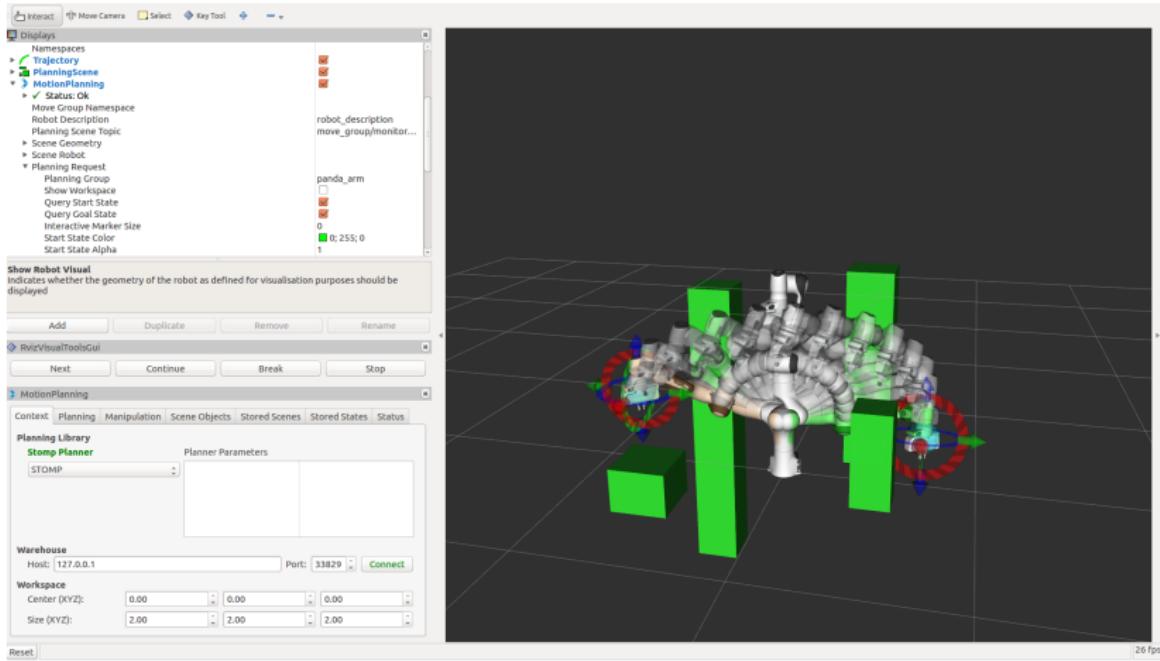


### Theorem (General Motion Planning Problem)

*Assuming that we have an initial state  $\mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{x}_{start}$  and a final state (goal)  $\mathbf{x}_{goal}$ , we would like to find the total time  $T_f$  and controls  $\mathbf{u} : [0, T_f] \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  such that when following the model of the robot/environment  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$ , we have  $\mathbf{x}(T_f) = \mathbf{x}_{goal}$  and  $\forall t \in [0, T_f]$  the state  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  is a valid state (no collisions or bad state values).*

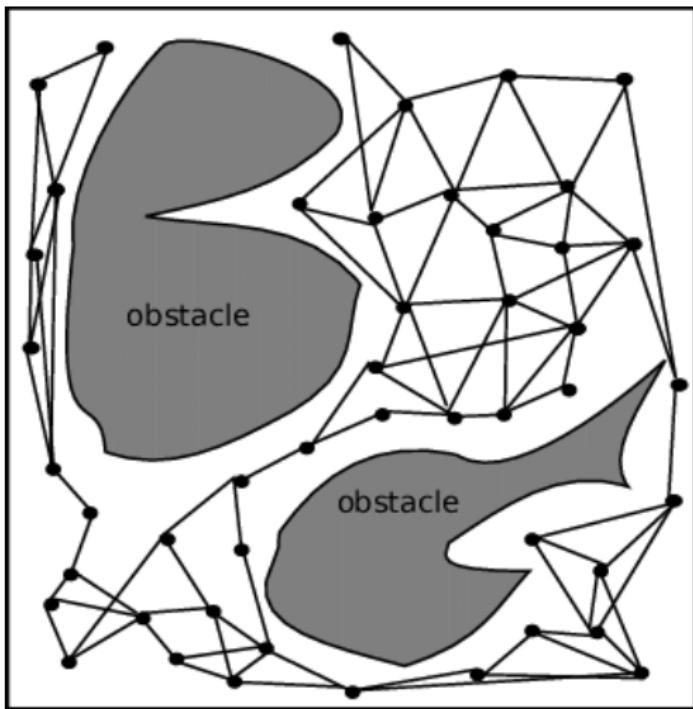
- We assume that we know the robot and the environment
- Model  $f$  gives us the dynamics of our system (usually in the kinematic level)
- We assume that we have a low-level controller so that we can follow  $\mathbf{x}(t)$

# Motion Planning (3)



- Search methods are very similar and important for motion planning
- Many problems of motion planning can be solved by search
- Most motion planning algorithms describe the state space by keeping a tree or a graph of states

## Motion Planning and Search (2)

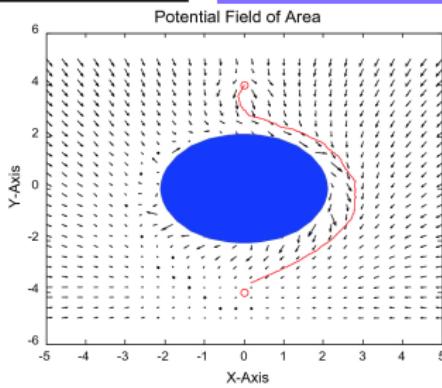
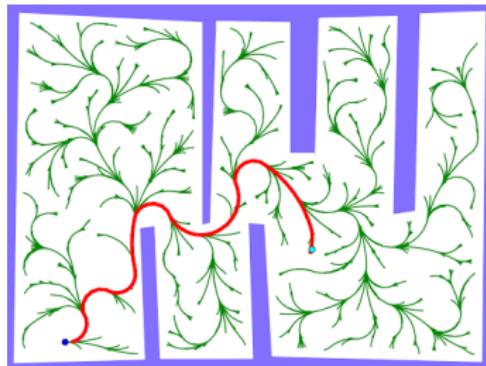
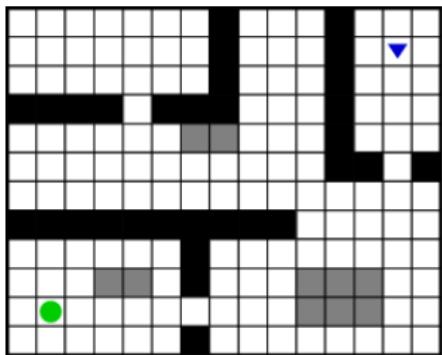


Source: Murray, S., Floyd-Jones, W., Qi, Y., Sorin, D.J. and Konidaris, G.D., 2016, June. Robot Motion Planning on a Chip. In Robotics: Science and Systems.

## Types of Motion Planning Algorithms (1)

- Complete
- Grid-based
- Sampling-based
- Virtual Potential Fields
- Non-linear Optimization: *More on this later in the course!*

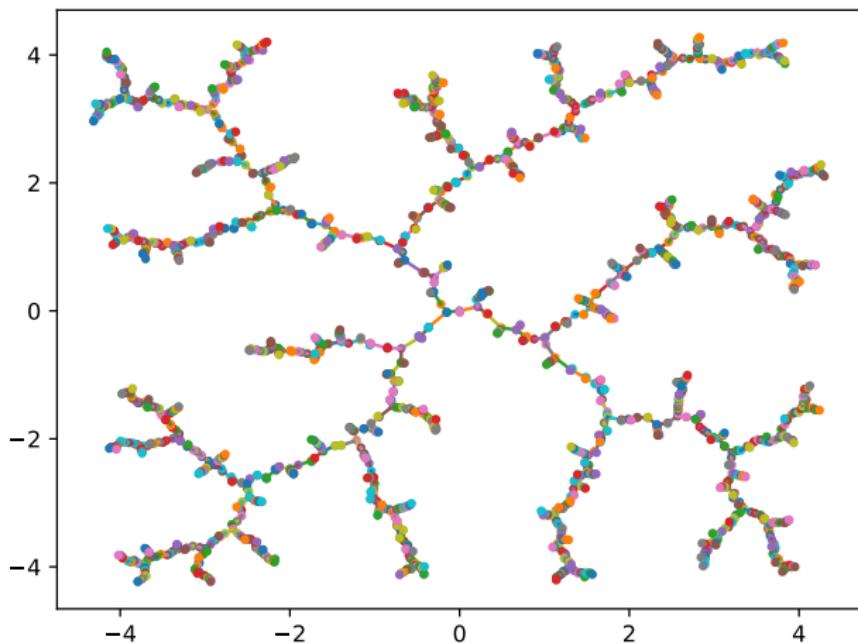
## Types of Motion Planning Algorithms (2)



### RRT Algorithm:

- 1 : Initialize search tree with  $x_{\text{start}}$
- 2 : while *some stopping criteria is not met*
- 3 : sample  $x_{\text{sample}} \sim \mathcal{X}$
- 4 : find  $x_{\text{nearest}}$  nearest node of  $x_{\text{sample}}$  in tree
- 5 : connect  $x_{\text{nearest}}$  to  $x_{\text{new}}$  in direction of  $x_{\text{sample}}$
- 6 : **if** success
- 7 : add  $x_{\text{new}}$  to the tree with an edge from  $x_{\text{nearest}}$
- 8 : **if**  $x_{\text{new}} \in \mathcal{X}_{\text{goal}}$  return SUCCESS
- 9 : return FAILURE

## RRT - Code Example



## Bibliography

Chapters 10 and 13 from **Modern Robotics: Mechanics, Planning, and Control**, *Kevin M. Lynch and Frank C. Park*, 2017, Cambridge University Press. [ebook](#)

Thank you

- Any Questions?
- Office Hours:
  - Tue-Wed (10:00-12:00)
  - 24/7 by email ([costashatz@upatras.gr](mailto:costashatz@upatras.gr), subject: *ECE\_RSI\_AM*)
- Material and Announcements



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