ECE447: Robotics Engineering Lecture 2: Introduction to Robot Manipulator

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Non-Industrial Applications of Robot Manipulators:



Rehabilitation



Service (Cooking)



Service (Folding Clothes)



- Structure of Robot Manipulators.
- 2 Degree of Freedom (DoF).
- 3 Task Space and Workspace.
- 4 Common Kinematic Arrangements.

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Structure of Robot Manipulators.

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4 Common Kinematic Arrangements.

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• Kinematic open chain composed of Rigid Links and Joints.



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- The **BASE**: can be either **fixed** in the work environment or placed on a **mobile** platform.



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- Kinematic open chain composed of Rigid Links and Joints.
- The **BASE**: can be either **fixed** in the work environment or placed on a **mobile** platform.
- End-Effector: Tool is located at the end, used to execute the desired operations [gripper or specific tool].





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Types of Joints:

Linear (Prismatic) Joint



- Allows translation between two links.
- It is represented by symbol P.
- The joint variable is displacement d.

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Linear (Prismatic) Joint



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- The joint variable is displacement *d*.

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Rotary (Revolute) Joint



- Allows rotation between two links.
- It is represented by symbol R.
- The joint variable is angle θ .

Types of Joints:

Spherical Joint



- Allows rotation around three axes.
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Spherical Joint

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Allows rotation around two axes.

• The joint variables are θ_1 and θ_2 .

• It is represented by symbol U.



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Cylindrical Joint



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Cylindrical Joint



- Allows rotation and translation.
- It is represented by symbol C.



- Allows rotation and a constrained translation.
- It is represented by symbol SC.

Types of Joints:

The two common joints in serial robot manipulators are (Prismatic and Revolute) joints.











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Configuration Space:

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- Robot's configuration: a specification of the positions of all points of the robot.
- Since the robot is **rigid**, only a few numbers are needed to represent its configuration.
- The *n*-dimensional space containing all possible configurations of a robot is called the configuration space (C-space).



Examples of configuration spaces

Robot's Degrees of Freedom (n):

Is the smallest number \boldsymbol{n} of real-valued coordinates needed to represent the robot's configuration.



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Rigid Body DoF (m):

A rigid body in three-dimensional space, which we call a spatial rigid body, has six degrees of freedom, m = 6 (three for position and three for orientation).



Robot's Degrees of Freedom (n):

Is the smallest number n of real-valued coordinates needed to represent the robot's configuration.

Rigid Body DoF (m):

- A rigid body in three-dimensional space, which we call a **spatial rigid body**, has six degrees of freedom, m = 6 (three for position and three for orientation).
- A rigid body moving in a two-dimensional plane, which we call a **planar rigid body**, has three degrees of freedom, m = 3 (two for position and one for orientation).



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Defective manipulators:

If n < m, e.g. n = 4, 5 and m = 6 (spatial). It is not possible to execute all the possible tasks in the workspace, but only those defined in a proper subspace (e.g. SCARA).



SCARA Robot

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If n < m, e.g. n = 4, 5 and m = 6 (spatial). It is not possible to execute all the possible tasks in the workspace, but only those defined in a proper subspace (e.g. SCARA).



SCARA Robot

Redundant manipulators:

If n > m, for example n = 7, 8, and m = 6. A given task can be executed in infinite different manners.



Redundant Robots

Grübler's Formula:

The number of degrees of freedom of a mechanism with links and joints can be calculated using Grübler's formula:

DoF = (sum of freedoms of the bodies) - (number of independent constraints)

• If a mechanism has N links including ground, and J joints, its DoF is determined by:

$$\mathsf{DoF} = m(N-1-J) + \sum_{i=1}^{J} f_i$$

- m = 3 for planar and m = 6 for rigid mechanisms.
- f_i is the number of freedoms provided by joint i.



Redundant robot

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Grübler's Formula (Examples) DoF = $m(N-1-J) + \sum_{i=1}^{J} f_i$

- Three links are connected at a single point A.
- Since a joint connects exactly two links, the joint at A is correctly interpreted as two revolute joints overlapping each other.



Mechanism with two overlapping joints

Grübler's Formula (Examples) DoF $= m(N - 1 - J) + \sum_{i=1}^{J} f_i$

- Three links are connected at a single point A.
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$$m = 3$$

 $N = 8$ links
 $J = 9$ joints
DoF = $3(8 - 1 - 9) + 9$
DoF = 3



Mechanism with two overlapping joints

 The fixed link connected with the slider is considered as ground.

m = 3 N = 4 links J = 4 joints DoF = 3(4 - 1 - 4) + 4DoF = 1



Slider-crank mechanism







Degree of Freedom (DoF): Grübler's Formula (Examples) DoF $= m(N - 1 - J) + \sum_{i=1}^{J} f_i$



m = 3 N = 7 links J = 9 joints DoF = 3(7 - 1 - 9) + 9(1)DoF = 3

Parallel Robots:

 $\begin{array}{l} m=6\\ N=17 \text{ links}\\ J=21 \text{ joints}\\ \text{DoF }=6(17-1-21)+9(1)+12(3)\\ \text{DoF }=15 \end{array}$

However, only three DoF are visible at the end effector that moves parallel to the fixed platform. So, the Delta robot acts as an x - y - z Cartesian positioning device.



Delta robot

Grübler's Formula (Examples) DoF = $m(N - 1 - J) + \sum_{i=1}^{J} f_i$

$$\begin{array}{l} m=6\\ N=14 \text{ links}\\ J=18 \text{ joints } (6\times P,\, 6\times U,\, 6\times S)\\ \text{DoF }=6(14-1-18)+6(1)+6(2)+6(3)\\ \text{DoF }=6 \end{array}$$

- The Stewart-Gough platform is a popular choice for car and airplane cockpit simulators since it moves with the full six degrees of freedom of motion of a rigid body.
- Its parallel structure means that each leg needs to support only a fraction of the weight of the payload.



Stewart-Gough platform





$$m = 3$$

$$N = 5 \text{ links}$$

$$J = 4 \text{ joints}$$

$$DoF = 3(5 - 1 - 4) + 4$$

$$DoF = 4$$

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$$\begin{array}{l} m=3\\ N=5 \text{ links}\\ J=4 \text{ joints}\\ \text{DoF }=3(5-1-4)+4\\ \text{DoF }=4 \end{array}$$





$$N = 5 \text{ links}$$
$$J = 4 \text{ joints}$$
$$\mathsf{DoF} = 3(5 - 1 - 4) + 4$$
$$\mathsf{DoF} = 4$$



Exception to Grübler's Formula $DoF = m(N - 1 - J) + \sum_{i=1}^{J} f_i$

■ Using Grüebler's equation, this linkage has zero degrees of freedom: DoF = 3(5 - 1 - 6) + 6(1) = 0



A parallelogram linkage N = 5, J = 6R

Exception to Grübler's Formula $DoF = m(N - 1 - J) + \sum_{i=1}^{J} f_i$

- Using Grüebler's equation, this linkage has zero degrees of freedom: DoF = 3(5 1 6) + 6(1) = 0
- This indicates that the mechanism is locked (No motion). This is true if all pivoted links are not identical.



A parallelogram linkage N = 5, J = 6R

Exception to Grübler's Formula $DoF = m(N - 1 - J) + \sum_{i=1}^{J} f_i$

- Using Grüebler's equation, this linkage has zero degrees of freedom: DoF = 3(5 1 6) + 6(1) = 0
- This indicates that the mechanism is locked (No motion). This is true if all pivoted links are not identical.
- If all pivoted links were the same size and the distance between the joints on the frame and coupler were identical, this mechanism is capable of motion, with a single degree of freedom.
- The center link is **redundant** and because it is identical in length to the other two links attached to the frame, it can be removed and, DoF = 3(4 1 4) + 4(1) = 1



A parallelogram linkage $N = 5, \quad J = 6R$

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Task space

- The task space is a space in which the robot's task can be naturally expressed.
- The decision of how to define the task space is driven by the task, independently of the robot.



Drawing task space: \mathbb{R}^2



Peg-in-hole task space: \mathbb{R}^5

Workspace

• **Reachable workspace:** is a specification of the configurations that the robot end-effector **can reach**.

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- Dexterous workspace: is a specification of the configurations that the robot end-effector can reach with arbitrary orientation.
- Robot's workspace depends on: the kinematic configuration, the links' dimension, the joints' range of motion.



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[1] Articulated Manipulator (RRR):





ABB IRB1400 Anthropomorphic Robot

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[2] Spherical Manipulator (RRP):





Stanford Arm

[3] SCARA Manipulator (RRP): Selective Compliant Articulated Robot for Assembly:





Adept Cobra i600

[4] Cylindrical Manipulator (RPP):





Seiko RT3300 Robot

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[5] Cartesian Manipulator (PPP):





Epson Cartesian Robot

[6] PUMA Manipulator (RRR): Programmable Universal Machine for Assembly:





PUMA Robot

[7] Spherical Wrist (RRR):

- It is common to attach a spherical wrist to the manipulator end to allow the orientation of the end-effector.
- In spherical wrist the axes of the three joints are intersecting at the wrist center point.





"Robots are becoming more human, and humans are becoming more robotic"

Bob Metcalfe (1946-), Ethernet inventor.

Questions?

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