

Robotics 2

Robot Interaction with the Environment

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Robot-environment interaction



a robot (end-effector) may interact with the environment

- modifying the state of the environment (e.g., pick-and-place operations)
- exchanging forces (e.g., assembly or surface finishing tasks)



Robot compliance



PASSIVE

robot end-effector equipped with mechatronic devices that "comply" with the generalized forces applied at the TCP = Tool Center Point

RCC = Remote Center of Compliance device

ACTIVE

robot is moved by a **control** law so as to react in a desired way to generalized forces applied at the TCP (typically measured by a F/T sensor)

- admittance control contact forces ⇒ velocity commands
- stiffness/compliance control
 contact displacements ⇒ force commands
- impedance control contact displacements ⇔ contact forces

RCC device





RCC behavior in case of misalignment errors in assembly tasks







Effects of RCC positioning



With the C of C far above the point of contact a lateral contact force causes the part to enter at an angle, causing a two point contact.



With the C of C far below the point of contact the part enters at an angle causing two point contact

too high...

too low...





Typical evolution of assembly forces



chamfer angle β = to ease the insertion, related also to the tolerances of the hole

Active compliance for contour following





Following with constant pushing force



Washstand



Metal Cabinet

Active compliance "matching" of mechanical parts





Phase matching by force sensing





Gear Parts



Tasks with environment interaction

- mechanical machining
 - deburring, surface finishing, polishing, assembly,...
- tele-manipulation
 - force feedback improves performance of human operators in master-slave (leader-follower) systems
- contact exploration for shape identification
 - force and velocity/vision sensor fusion allow 2D/3D geometric identification of unknown objects and their contour following
- dexterous robot hands
 - power grasp and fine in-hand manipulation require force/motion cooperation and coordinated control of the multiple fingers
- cooperation of multi-manipulator systems
 - the environment includes one of more other robots with their own dynamic behaviors
- physical human-robot interaction
 - humans as active, dynamic environments that need to be handled under full safety premises ...



Examples of mechanical machining





Abrasive finishing of surfaces





Abrasive finishing of surfaces

video



technological processes: cold forging of surfaces and hammer peening by pneumatic machine

Non-contact surface finishing



video Fluid Jet technology SYMPLEXITY H2020 EU project for the Factory of the Future (FoF) Pulsed Laser technology

video





 for physical interaction tasks, the desired motion specification and execution should be integrated with complementary data for the desired force

hybrid force/motion planning and control objectives

 the exchanged forces/torques at the contact(s) with the environment can be explicitly set under control or simply kept limited in an indirect way

Evolution of control approaches a bit of history from the late 70's-mid `80s ...



- explicit control of forces/torques only [Whitney]
 - used in quasi-static operations (assembly) in order to avoid deadlocks during part insertion
- active admittance and compliance control [Paul, Shimano, Salisbury]
 - contact forces handled through position (stiffness) or velocity (damping) control of the robot end-effector
 - robot reacts as a compressed spring (with damper) in selected/all directions
- impedance control [Hogan]
 - a desired dynamic behavior is imposed to the robot-environment interaction, e.g., a "model" with forces acting on a mass-spring-damper
 - mimics the human arm behavior moving in an unknown environment
- hybrid force-motion control [Mason]
 - decomposes the task space in complementary sets of directions where either force or motion is controlled, based on
 - a purely kinematic robot model [Raibert, Craig]
 - the actual dynamic model of the robot [Khatib]



interaction tasks with the environment that require

- accurate following/reproduction by the robot end-effector of desired trajectories (even at high speed) defined on the surface of objects
- control of forces/torques applied at the contact with environments having low (soft) or high (rigid) stiffness





e.g., opening a door

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Robotized deburring of windshields



c/o ABB Excellence Center in Cecchina (Roma), 2002



impedance control

- environment = mechanical system undergoing small but finite deformations
- contact forces arise as the result of a balance of two coupled dynamic systems (robot+environment)
- desired dynamic characteristics are assigned to the force/motion interaction

hybrid force/motion control

- a rigid environment reduces the degrees of freedom of the robot when in (bi-/uni-lateral) contact
- contact forces result from attempts to violate geometric constraints imposed by the environment
- task space is decomposed in sets of directions where only motion or only reaction forces are feasible
- the required level of knowledge about the environment geometry is only *apparently* different between the two control approaches
- however, measuring contact forces may not be needed in impedance control, while it always necessary in hybrid force/motion control



Impedance vs. Hybrid control

- opening a door with a mobile manipulator under impedance control
- piston insertion in a motor based on hybrid control of force-position (visual)





video video



A typical constrained situation ...



the robot end-effector follows in a stable and accurate way the geometric profile of a very stiff workpiece, while applying a desired contact force



An unusual compliant situation ...



Trevelyan (AUS): Oracle robotic system in a test dated 1981 ...is the sheep happy?



A mixed interaction situation



processing/reasoning on force measurements leads to a sequence of fine motions ⇒ correct completion of insertion task with help of (sufficiently large) passive compliance

Ideally constrained contact situation

a first possible modeling choice for very stiff environments



"ideal" = robot (here, a Cartesian mass) + environment are both infinitely STIFF (and no friction at the contact)

if a possible impact ($x = c, \dot{x}^- > 0$) is purely "elastic" (i.e., with conservation of total momentum and total kinetic energy) $\Rightarrow \dot{x}^+ = -\dot{x}^-$ (f_e is an impulse!)

In more complex situations



- how can we describe more complex contact situations, where the end-effector of an articulated robot (not yet reduced to a Cartesian mass via feedback linearization control) is constrained to move on an environment surface with nonlinear geometry?
- example: a planar 2R robot with end-effector moving on a circle



Constrained robot dynamics - 1



 $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$

 consider a robot in free space described by its Lagrange dynamic model and a task output function (e.g., the end-effector pose)

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q,\dot{q}) + g(q) = u \qquad r = f(q)$$

- suppose that the task variables are subject to m < n (bilateral) geometric constraints in the general form k(r) = 0 and define h(q) = k(f(q)) = 0
- the constrained robot dynamics can be derived using again the Lagrange formalism, by defining an augmented Lagrangian as

$$L_a(q, \dot{q}, \lambda) = L(q, \dot{q}) + \lambda^T h(q) = T(q, \dot{q}) - U(q) + \lambda^T h(q)$$

where the Lagrange multipliers λ (a *m*-dimensional vector) can be interpreted as the generalized forces that arise at the contact when attempting to violate the constraints



• applying the Euler-Lagrange equations in the extended space of generalized coordinates q and multipliers λ yields

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L_a}{\partial \dot{q}}\right)^T - \left(\frac{\partial L_a}{\partial q}\right)^T = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}}\right)^T - \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial q}\right)^T - \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q}\left(\lambda^T h(q)\right)\right)^T = u$$
$$\left(\frac{\partial L_a}{\partial \lambda}\right)^T = h(q) = 0 \quad \longleftarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{contact forces do}\\ \text{NOT produce work} \end{array}$$

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + c(q,\dot{q}) + g(q) = u + A^{T}(q)\lambda \quad (\bigstar)$$

subject to $h(q) = 0$

where we defined the Jacobian of the constraints as the matrix

$$A(q) = \frac{\partial h(q)}{\partial q}$$

that will be assumed of full row rank (= m)



- we can eliminate the appearance of the multipliers as follows
 - differentiate the constraints twice w.r.t. time

$$h(q) = 0 \Rightarrow \dot{h} = \frac{\partial h(q)}{\partial q} \dot{q} = A(q)\dot{q} = 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{h} = A(q)\ddot{q} + \dot{A}(q)\dot{q} = 0$$

 substitute the joint accelerations from the dynamic model (*) (dropping dependencies)

$$AM^{-1}(u + A^T\lambda - c - g) + \dot{A}\dot{q} = 0$$

• solve for the multipliers invertible $m \times m$ matrix, when A is full rank $\lambda = (AM^{-1}A^{T})^{-1}(AM^{-1}(c+g-u) - \dot{A}\dot{q})$ $= (A_{M}^{\#})^{T}(c+g-u) - (AM^{-1}A^{T})^{-1}\dot{A}\dot{q}$ $= (A_{M}^{\#})^{T}(c+g-u) - (AM^{-1}A^{T})^{-1}\dot{A}\dot{q}$ $= \lambda$

to be replaced in the dynamic model...



Constrained robot dynamics - 4

• the final constrained dynamic model can be rewritten as

$$M(q)\ddot{q} = \left[I - A^{T}(q)(A_{M}^{\#}(q))^{T}\right](u - c(q, \dot{q}) - g(q)) - M(q)A_{M}^{\#}(q)\dot{A}(q)\dot{q}$$

dynamically consistent projection matrix

where
$$A_M^{\#}(q) = M^{-1}(q)A^T(q)(A(q)M^{-1}(q)A^T(q))^{-1}$$
 and with

$$\lambda = (A_M^{\#}(q))^T(c(q,\dot{q}) + g(q) - u) - (A(q)M^{-1}(q)A^T(q))^{-1}\dot{A}(q)\dot{q}$$

• if the robot state $(q(0), \dot{q}(0))$ at time t = 0 satisfies the constraints, i.e., $h(q(0)) = 0, \qquad A(q(0))\dot{q}(0) = 0$

then the robot evolution described by the above dynamics will be consistent with the constraints for all $t \ge 0$ and for any u(t)

this is a useful simulation model (constrained direct dynamics)

Example – ideal mass

constrained robot dynamics



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Example – planar 2R robot constrained robot dynamics



$$h(q) = k(f(q)) = (l_1 \cos q_1 + l_2 \cos(q_1 + q_2) - x_0)^2 + (l_1 \sin q_1 + l_2 \sin(q_1 + q_2) - y_0)^2 - R^2 = 0$$

$$\dot{h} = \frac{\partial k}{\partial r} \frac{\partial r}{\partial q} \dot{q} = [2(x - x_0) \quad 2(y - y_0)] J_r(q) \dot{q}$$

= $[2(l_1c_1 + l_2c_{12} - x_0) \quad 2(l_1s_1 + l_2s_{12} - y_0)] J_r(q) \dot{q} = A(q) \dot{q}$

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Reduced robot dynamics - 1



- by imposing m constraints h(q) = 0 on the n generalized coordinates q, it is also possible to reduce the description of the constrained robot dynamics to a n m dimensional configuration space
- start from constraint matrix A(q) and select a matrix D(q) such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} A(q) \\ D(q) \end{pmatrix} \text{ is a nonsingular}_{n \times n \text{ matrix}} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} A(q) \\ D(q) \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = (E(q) \quad F(q))$$

define the (n - m)-dimensional vector of pseudo-velocities v as the linear combination (at a given q) of the robot generalized velocities

$$v = D(q)\dot{q}$$
 \Rightarrow $\dot{v} = D(q)\ddot{q} + \dot{D}(q)\dot{q}$

 inverse relationships (from "pseudo" to "generalized" velocities and accelerations) are given by

 $\dot{q} = F(q)v \qquad \ddot{q} = F(q)\dot{v} - \left(E(q)\dot{A}(q) + F(q)\dot{D}(q)\right)F(q)v$

properties of block products in inverse matrices have been used for eliminating the appearance of \dot{F} (often F is only known numerically)

Reduced robot dynamics – 2 whiteboard ...



 $\binom{A(q)}{D(q)}^{-1} = (E(q) \quad F(q))$ a number of properties from this definition... three useful identities! two matrix inverse products $\begin{pmatrix} A(q) \\ D(q) \end{pmatrix} (E(q) \quad F(q)) = \begin{pmatrix} A(q)E(q) & A(q)F(q) \\ D(q)E(q) & D(q)F(q) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I_{m \times m} & 0 \\ 0 & I_{(n-m) \times (n-m)} \end{pmatrix}$ $(E(q) \quad F(q)) \begin{pmatrix} A(q) \\ D(q) \end{pmatrix} = E(q)A(q) + F(q)D(q) = I_{n \times n}$ $\dot{E}A + E\dot{A} + \dot{F}D + F\dot{D} = 0 \quad \triangleleft$ differentiating w.r.t. time from pseudo-velocity $v = D(q)\dot{q}$ (in fact, $\dot{q} = F(q)v \qquad D\dot{q} = \frac{DFv}{D}v$ since *F* is a right inverse of the full row rank matrix D (DF = I) = v) \blacktriangleright differentiating w.r.t. time $\dot{q} = F(q)v$ $\ddot{q} = F\dot{v} + \dot{F}v = F\dot{v} + (\dot{F}D)\dot{q} \stackrel{(\triangleleft)}{=} F\dot{v} - (\dot{E}A + E\dot{A} + F\dot{D})Fv$ $= F(q)\dot{v} - \left(E(q)\dot{A}(q) + F(q)\dot{D}(q)\right)F(q)v$

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Reduced robot dynamics - 3

• consider again the dynamic model (\star), dropping dependencies

$$Mq + c + g = u + A^T \lambda$$

• since AE = I, multiplying on the left by E^T isolates the multipliers

 $E^T(M\ddot{q} + c + g - u) = \lambda$

• since AF = 0, multiplying on the left by F^T eliminates the multipliers

$$F^T M \ddot{q} = F^T (u - c - g)$$

- substituting in the latter the generalized accelerations and velocities with the pseudo-accelerations and pseudo-velocities leads finally to invertible $(n-m)\times(n-m) \longrightarrow (F^TMF)\dot{v} = F^T(u-c-g+M(E\dot{A}+F\dot{D})Fv)$ positive definite matrix which is the reduced (n-m)-dimensional dynamic model
 - similarly, the expression of the multipliers becomes

$$\lambda = E^T (MF\dot{v} - M(E\dot{A} + F\dot{D})Fv + c + g - u) \quad (\$)$$

Example – ideal mass

reduced robot dynamics



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Example – planar 2R robot

reduced robot dynamics





Control based on reduced robot dynamics



- the reduced n m dynamic expressions are more compact but also more complex and less used for simulation purposes than the n-dimensional constrained dynamics
- however, they are useful for control design (reduced inverse dynamics)
- in fact, it is straightforward to verify that the feedback linearizing control law

$$u = (c + g - M(E\dot{A} + F\dot{D})Fv) + MFu_1 - A^Tu_2$$

applied to the reduced robot dynamics and to the expression (§) of the multipliers leads to the closed-loop system

$$\dot{v} = u_1 \qquad \lambda = u_2$$

Note: these are exactly in the form of the ideal mass example of <u>slide #24</u>, with $v = \dot{y}$, $u_1 = f_y/m$, $\lambda = f_e$, $u_2 = -f_x$ (being n = 2, m = 1, n - m = 1)



Compliant contact situation

a second possible modeling choice for softer environments



$$\begin{cases} m\ddot{x} = f_x + f_e \\ m\ddot{y} = f_y \end{cases} \qquad \begin{cases} x < c \implies f_e = 0 \\ x \ge c \implies f_e = K_e(x - x_e) \end{cases}$$

with $K_e > 0$ being the stiffness of the environment

Robot-environment contact types modeled by a single elastic constant





Force control

1-dof robot-environment linear dynamic models



- with a force sensor (having stiffness k_s and damping b_s) measuring the contact force F_c
- stability analysis of a proportional control loop for regulation of the contact force (to a desired constant value F_d) can be made using the root-locus method (for a varying k_f)
- by including/excluding work-piece compliance and/or robot (transmission) compliance



available as extra material on the course web)





two generalized **directions** of instantaneous free motion at the contact: *tangential velocity* & angular velocity around handle axis

four directions of generalized reaction forces at the contact

the robot should turn a crank having a free-spinning handle





one direction only of instantaneous free motion at the contact: tangential velocity

five directions of generalized reaction forces at the contact

the robot should turn a crank having a fixed handle





the robot should push a mass elastically coupled to a wall and constrained in a guide

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