

Robotics 2 - Midterm Test

April 13, 2016

Exercise 1

For the PRR planar robot in Fig. 1, determine the symbolic expression of the inertia matrix $B(q)$ and of the Coriolis and centrifugal vector $c(q, \dot{q})$. Use the generalized coordinates and the scalar parameters shown in the figure.

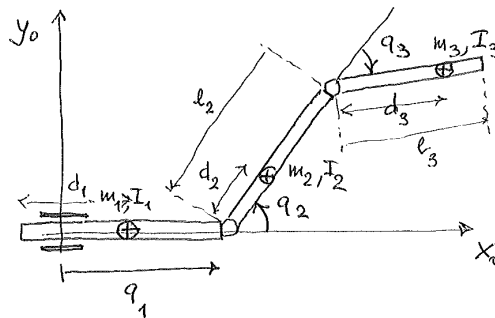


Figure 1: A planar PRR robot

Exercise 2

The 4R planar robot in Fig. 2 moves under gravity. For each link, the center of mass lies on its longitudinal axis of symmetry, at a generic distance from the driving joint. Determine: *i*) the expression of the gravity vector $g(q)$ in the robot dynamic model; *ii*) all equilibrium configurations of the robot (i.e., all q_e such that $g(q_e) = 0$); *iii*) a linear parametrization of the gravity vector in the form $g(q) = Y_G(q)a_G$; the particular location of the center of masses of the links such that the gravity vector vanishes (i.e., $g(q) = 0$, for all q).

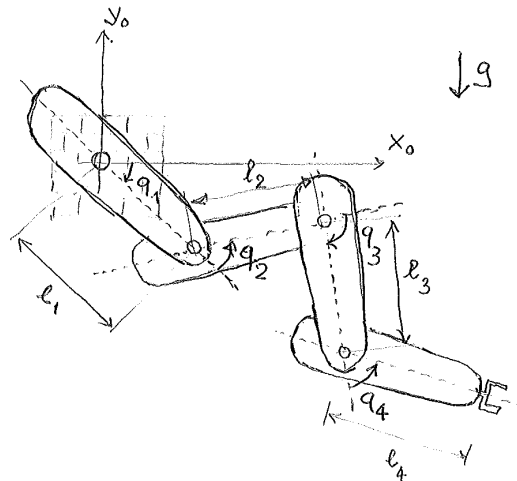


Figure 2: A 4R planar robot under gravity

Exercise 3

The 4R planar robot with all links of equal length ℓ in Fig. 3 needs to realize a motion task defined by a desired linear velocity \mathbf{v}_d for its end-effector position \mathbf{p}_e and by a desired angular velocity $\dot{\phi}_d$ for the orientation ϕ of its end-effector frame. Characterize first all the singular configurations of the robot for this specific task.

Assume then $\ell = 0.5$ [m], $\mathbf{q} = (0 \ 0 \ \pi/2 \ 0)$, $\mathbf{v}_d = (1 \ 0)$ [m/s], and $\dot{\phi}_d = 0.5$ [rad/s]. Moreover, the joints have limited motion range, i.e., $q_i \in [-2, 2]$ [rad], for $i = 1, \dots, 4$. Determine the joint velocity $\dot{\mathbf{q}}$ that realizes the desired task while decreasing instantaneously the objective function that measures the distance from the midpoint of the joint ranges, i.e., in the form

$$H_{range}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{q_i - \bar{q}_i}{q_{M,i} - q_{m,i}} \right)^2.$$

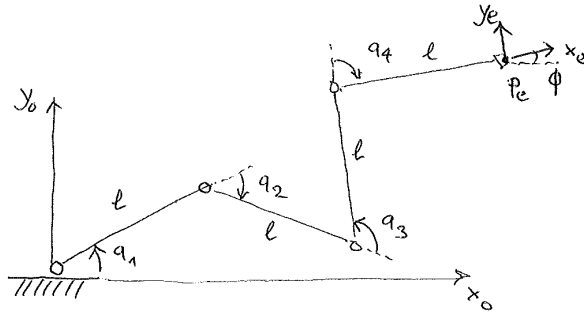


Figure 3: The kinematic skeleton of a planar 4R robot

[150 minutes; open books]

Solution

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Exercise 1

Since the motion is planar, we will use two-dimensional position and velocity vectors (in the $(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{y}_0)$ plane) and just the z -component of angular velocities. Also, the usual shorthand notation is adopted for trigonometric quantities, e.g., $s_2 = \sin q_2$, $c_{23} = \cos(q_2 + q_3)$.

Kinetic energy

For link 1, we have (the position of the center of mass on link 1, i.e., d_1 , is irrelevant)

$$T_1 = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \dot{q}_1^2.$$

For link 2, we compute first the position of the center of mass and its velocity,

$$\mathbf{p}_{c2} = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 + d_2 c_2 \\ d_2 s_2 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \mathbf{v}_{c2} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{q}_1 - d_2 s_2 \dot{q}_2 \\ d_2 c_2 \dot{q}_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

and then

$$\|\mathbf{v}_{c2}\|^2 = \dot{q}_1^2 + d_2^2 \dot{q}_2^2 - 2d_2 s_2 \dot{q}_1 \dot{q}_2.$$

Since $\omega_{2z} = \dot{q}_2$, we obtain

$$T_2 = \frac{1}{2} m_2 (\dot{q}_1^2 + d_2^2 \dot{q}_2^2 - 2d_2 s_2 \dot{q}_1 \dot{q}_2) + \frac{1}{2} I_2 \dot{q}_2^2.$$

Similarly, for link 3

$$\mathbf{p}_{c3} = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 + \ell_2 c_2 + d_3 c_{23} \\ \ell_2 s_2 + d_3 s_{23} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \mathbf{v}_{c3} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{q}_1 - \ell_2 s_2 \dot{q}_2 - d_3 s_{23} (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3) \\ \ell_2 c_2 \dot{q}_2 + d_3 c_{23} (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3) \end{pmatrix},$$

and then

$$\|\mathbf{v}_{c3}\|^2 = \dot{q}_1^2 + \ell_2^2 \dot{q}_2^2 + d_3 (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3)^2 - 2\ell_2 s_2 \dot{q}_1 \dot{q}_2 - 2d_3 s_{23} \dot{q}_1 (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3) + 2\ell_2 d_3 (s_2 s_{23} + c_2 c_{23}) \dot{q}_2 (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3).$$

Being $\omega_{3z} = \dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3$, we obtain (after trigonometric simplification)

$$T_3 = \frac{1}{2} m_3 (\dot{q}_1^2 + \ell_2^2 \dot{q}_2^2 + d_3 (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3)^2 - 2\ell_2 s_2 \dot{q}_1 \dot{q}_2 - 2d_3 s_{23} \dot{q}_1 (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3) + 2\ell_2 d_3 c_3 \dot{q}_2 (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3)) + \frac{1}{2} I_3 (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3)^2.$$

Robot inertia matrix

From

$$T = \sum_{i=1}^3 T_i = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}},$$

we obtain the (symmetric) elements $b_{ij} = b_{ji}$ of the inertia matrix $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})$ as

$$\begin{aligned} b_{11} &= m_1 + m_2 + m_3 =: a_1 \\ b_{22} &= I_2 + m_2 d_2^2 + I_3 + m_3 d_3^2 + m_3 \ell_2^2 + 2m_3 \ell_2 d_3 c_3 =: a_2 + 2a_3 c_3 \\ b_{33} &= I_3 + m_3 d_3^2 =: a_4 \\ b_{12} &= -(m_2 d_2 + m_3 \ell_2) s_2 - m_3 d_3 s_{23} =: -a_5 s_2 - a_6 s_{23} \\ b_{13} &= -m_3 d_3 s_{23} = -a_6 s_{23} \\ b_{23} &= I_3 + m_3 d_3^2 + m_3 \ell_2 d_3 c_3 = a_4 + a_3 c_3. \end{aligned}$$

where we have introduced the dynamic coefficients a_i ($i = 1, \dots, 6$) for the constant factors, in order to have more compact expressions. Thus, the positive definite, symmetric robot inertia matrix can be rewritten as

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q}) = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & -(a_5 s_2 + a_6 s_{23}) & -a_6 s_{23} \\ -(a_5 s_2 + a_6 s_{23}) & a_2 + 2a_3 c_3 & a_4 + a_3 c_3 \\ -a_6 s_{23} & a_4 + a_3 c_3 & a_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1(\mathbf{q}) & \mathbf{b}_2(\mathbf{q}) & \mathbf{b}_3(\mathbf{q}) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

Coriolis and centrifugal vector

From (1) and

$$\mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \begin{pmatrix} c_1(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \\ c_2(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \\ c_3(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \end{pmatrix}, \quad c_i(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{C}_i(\mathbf{q}) \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \quad \mathbf{C}_i(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{\partial \mathbf{b}_i(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} + \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{b}_i(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right)^T - \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})}{\partial q_i} \right\} \quad (i = 1, 2, 3),$$

we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C}_1(\mathbf{q}) &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(a_5 c_2 + a_6 c_{23}) & -a_6 c_{23} \\ 0 & -a_6 c_{23} & -a_6 c_{23} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(a_5 c_2 + a_6 c_{23}) & -a_6 c_{23} \\ 0 & -a_6 c_{23} & -a_6 c_{23} \end{pmatrix}^T - \mathbf{0} \right\} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(a_5 c_2 + a_6 c_{23}) & -a_6 c_{23} \\ 0 & -a_6 c_{23} & -a_6 c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \\ \mathbf{C}_2(\mathbf{q}) &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -(a_5 c_2 + a_6 c_{23}) & -a_6 c_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & -2a_3 s_3 \\ 0 & 0 & -a_3 s_3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -(a_5 c_2 + a_6 c_{23}) & 0 & 0 \\ -a_6 c_{23} & -2a_3 s_3 & -a_3 s_3 \end{pmatrix} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -(a_5 c_2 + a_6 c_{23}) & -a_6 c_{23} \\ -(a_5 c_2 + a_6 c_{23}) & 0 & 0 \\ -a_6 c_{23} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -a_3 s_3 \\ 0 & -a_3 s_3 & -a_3 s_3 \end{pmatrix} \\ \mathbf{C}_3(\mathbf{q}) &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -a_6 c_{23} & -a_6 c_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & -a_3 s_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -a_6 c_{23} & 0 & 0 \\ -a_6 c_{23} & -a_3 s_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -a_6 c_{23} & -a_6 c_{23} \\ -a_6 c_{23} & -2a_3 s_3 & -a_3 s_3 \\ -a_6 c_{23} & -a_3 s_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_3 s_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \begin{pmatrix} -a_5 c_2 \dot{q}_2^2 - a_6 c_{23} (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3)^2 \\ -a_3 s_3 (2\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3) \dot{q}_3 \\ a_3 s_3 \dot{q}_2^2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -(m_2 d_2 + m_3 \ell_2) c_2 \dot{q}_2^2 - m_3 d_3 c_{23} (\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3)^2 \\ -m_3 \ell_2 d_3 s_3 (2\dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_3) \dot{q}_3 \\ m_3 \ell_2 d_3 s_3 \dot{q}_2^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

Exercise 2

Again, the robot motion occurs in a (vertical) plane and we will use for simplicity two-dimensional position vectors in the plane $(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{y}_0)$. The total potential energy is

$$U = \sum_{i=1}^4 U_i, \quad U_i = -m_i \mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{r}_{0,c_i}, \quad i = 1, \dots, 4.$$

Since

$$\mathbf{g}^T = (0 \quad -g_0 \quad 0), \quad g_0 = 9.81 \text{ [m/s}^2\text{]},$$

we need to compute only the y -component of the position vector \mathbf{r}_{0,c_i} of the center of mass of the link i , for $i = 1, \dots, 4$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} r_{0,c_1,y} &= d_1 s_1 \\ r_{0,c_2,y} &= \ell_1 s_1 + d_2 s_{12} \\ r_{0,c_3,y} &= \ell_1 s_1 + \ell_2 s_{12} + d_3 s_{123} \\ r_{0,c_4,y} &= \ell_1 s_1 + \ell_2 s_{12} + \ell_3 s_{123} + d_4 s_{1234}, \end{aligned}$$

where d_i is the (signed) distance of the center of mass of link i from the axis of joint i ($i = 1, \dots, 4$). Thus

$$\begin{aligned} U &= g_0 m_1 d_1 s_1 + g_0 m_2 (\ell_1 s_1 + d_2 s_{12}) + g_0 m_3 (\ell_1 s_1 + \ell_2 s_{12} + d_3 s_{123}) + g_0 m_4 (\ell_1 s_1 + \ell_2 s_{12} + \ell_3 s_{123} + d_4 s_{1234}) \\ &= g_0 \left\{ [m_1 d_1 + (m_2 + m_3 + m_4) \ell_1] s_1 + [m_2 d_2 + (m_3 + m_4) \ell_2] s_{12} + [m_3 d_3 + m_4 \ell_3] s_{123} + m_4 d_4 s_{1234} \right\} \\ &=: a_{G1} s_1 + a_{G2} s_{12} + a_{G3} s_{123} + a_{G4} s_{1234}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have introduced the dynamic coefficients a_{G_i} ($i = 1, \dots, 4$) for the constant factors related to gravity.

The gravity vector of this robot is then

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \left(\frac{\partial U(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right)^T = \begin{pmatrix} a_{G1} c_1 + a_{G2} c_{12} + a_{G3} c_{123} + a_{G4} c_{1234} \\ a_{G2} c_{12} + a_{G3} c_{123} + a_{G4} c_{1234} \\ a_{G3} c_{123} + a_{G4} c_{1234} \\ a_{G4} c_{1234} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

and its linear parametrization is

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & c_{12} & c_{123} & c_{1234} \\ 0 & c_{12} & c_{123} & c_{1234} \\ 0 & 0 & c_{123} & c_{1234} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{1234} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_{G1} \\ a_{G2} \\ a_{G3} \\ a_{G4} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{Y}_G(\mathbf{q}) \mathbf{a}_G. \quad (4)$$

All equilibrium configurations \mathbf{q}_e are found by analyzing recursively the vector equation $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}_e) = \mathbf{0}$ from the last component backwards:

$$\begin{aligned} g_4(\mathbf{q}_e) = 0 &\rightarrow c_{1234} = 0 \\ g_3(\mathbf{q}_e) = 0 &\rightarrow \text{being already } c_{1234} = 0 \rightarrow c_{123} = 0 \\ g_2(\mathbf{q}_e) = 0 &\rightarrow \text{being already } c_{1234} = 0, c_{123} = 0 \rightarrow c_{12} = 0 \\ g_1(\mathbf{q}_e) = 0 &\rightarrow \text{being already } c_{1234} = 0, c_{123} = 0, c_{12} = 0 \rightarrow c_1 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the unforced equilibria of the robot (assuming a generic mass distribution) are characterized by

$$q_{e1} = \pm \frac{\pi}{2} \cap q_{e2} = \{0, \pi\} \cap q_{e3} = \{0, \pi\} \cap q_{e4} = \{0, \pi\},$$

namely with the robot being stretched or folded along the vertical direction only.

Finally, perfect balancing in all configurations (i.e., $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \mathbf{0}$) is obtained for when the mass distribution zeroes the vector of dynamic coefficients, namely $\mathbf{a}_G = \mathbf{0}$. Starting again from the last component and proceeding backwards, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} a_{G4} = 0 &\rightarrow d_4 = 0 \\ a_{G3} = 0 &\rightarrow m_3 d_3 + m_4 \ell_3 = 0 \rightarrow d_3 = -\frac{m_4}{m_3} \ell_3 \\ a_{G2} = 0 &\rightarrow m_2 d_2 + (m_3 + m_4) \ell_2 = 0 \rightarrow d_2 = -\frac{m_3 + m_4}{m_2} \ell_2 \\ a_{G1} = 0 &\rightarrow m_1 d_1 + (m_2 + m_3 + m_4) \ell_1 = 0 \rightarrow d_1 = -\frac{m_2 + m_3 + m_4}{m_1} \ell_1. \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3

The task vector for this 4R planar robot is defined as

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_e \\ \phi \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ \phi \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \ell(c_1 + c_{12} + c_{123} + c_{1234}) \\ \ell(s_1 + s_{12} + s_{123} + s_{1234}) \\ q_1 + q_2 + q_3 + q_4 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}).$$

Differentiating \mathbf{r} w.r.t. to time yields

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v} \\ \dot{\phi} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \dot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}},$$

with the task Jacobian given by

$$\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q}) = \begin{pmatrix} -\ell(s_1 + s_{12} + s_{123} + s_{1234}) & -\ell(s_{12} + s_{123} + s_{1234}) & -\ell(s_{123} + s_{1234}) & -\ell s_{1234} \\ \ell(c_1 + c_{12} + c_{123} + c_{1234}) & \ell(c_{12} + c_{123} + c_{1234}) & \ell(c_{123} + c_{1234}) & \ell c_{1234} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

For the purpose of singularity analysis, the matrix $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})$ can be rewritten as

$$\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q}) = \begin{pmatrix} -\ell s_1 & -\ell s_{12} & -\ell s_{123} & -\ell s_{1234} \\ \ell c_1 & \ell c_{12} & \ell c_{123} & \ell c_{1234} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{J}_a(\mathbf{q})\mathbf{T},$$

where the square matrix \mathbf{T} is clearly nonsingular. Thus, \mathbf{J} and \mathbf{J}_a have always the same rank. In particular, the Jacobian \mathbf{J} will be full (row) rank if and only if the 2×3 upper left block of matrix \mathbf{J}_a will have rank equal to 2. This matrix block corresponds to the well-known Jacobian of a planar 3R robot (with equal links of length ℓ) performing a positional task with its end-effector. The singularities of the 4R arm for the given task occur then if and only if

$$q_2 = \{0, \pi\} \cap q_3 = \{0, \pi\},$$

namely when its *first three* links are stretched or folded along a single direction.

Plugging the link length $\ell = 0.5$ [m] and the given configuration $\mathbf{q} = (0 \ 0 \ \pi/2 \ 0)$ in (5) provides

$$\mathbf{J} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 & -0.5 \\ 1 & 0.5 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

whose pseudoinverse is computed (by hand or using Matlab) as

$$\mathbf{J}^\# = \mathbf{J}^T (\mathbf{J}\mathbf{J}^T)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0.5 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -0.5 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3.25 & -1.5 & -3.5 \\ -1.5 & 1.25 & 1.5 \\ -3.5 & 1.5 & 4 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 1 & 1/6 \\ -2/3 & 0 & -1/3 \\ -5/3 & -1 & -5/6 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The desired velocity task is specified by

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_d = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_d \\ \phi_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0.5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In view of the separability of the objective function $H_{range}(\mathbf{q}) = \sum_{i=1}^N H_{range,i}(q_i)$ that measures the distance from the midpoint of the joint ranges, its gradient takes the form

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{q}} H_{range}(\mathbf{q}) = \left(\frac{\partial H_{range}(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right)^T, \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{\partial H_{range}(\mathbf{q})}{\partial q_i} = \frac{\partial H_{range,i}(q_i)}{\partial q_i} = \frac{1}{N} \frac{q_i - \bar{q}_i}{(q_{M,i} - q_{m,i})^2}.$$

With the data $N = 4$, $q_{M,i} = -q_{m,i} = 2$, and thus $\bar{q}_i = 0$, for $i = 1, \dots, 4$, the gradient at the given configuration $\mathbf{q} = (0 \ 0 \ \pi/2 \ 0)$ is

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{q}} H_{range} = \frac{1}{64} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \pi/2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The joint velocity solution that realizes the desired task while *decreasing* instantaneously the objective function H_{range} is evaluated then as

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{J}^\# \dot{\mathbf{r}}_d - (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{J}^\# \mathbf{J}) \nabla_{\mathbf{q}} H_{range} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{q}} H_{range} + \mathbf{J}^\# (\dot{\mathbf{r}}_d + \mathbf{J} \nabla_{\mathbf{q}} H_{range}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0.4126 \\ -0.8252 \\ -2.0874 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} [\text{rad/s}].$$
