Velocity Kinematics

ZA-2203 Robotic Systems

Topics

- Velocity kinematics
- Jacobian
- Singularities
- Manipulability ellipsoid
- Spatial Jacobian
- Body Jacobian

Velocity Kinematics

- In previous lecture, we studied the motion of the robot manipulator in terms of **displacement** (position and orientation). Specifically, we learned to determine the displacement (transformation) of the end-effector given the motion at the joints (joint variables either rotation or linear). This is **forward kinematics**.
- In this lecture, we will study the motion of the robot manipulator in terms of velocity (linear and rotational).
 Specifically, we will learn to determine the twist of the endeffector given the velocities and positions at the joints. This is velocity kinematics.

Jacobian

• If the pose of the end-effector is given by $q \in \mathbb{R}^m$, e.g. $q = (q_1, \dots, q_6) = (x, y, z, \phi_{yaw}, \phi_{pitch}, \phi_{roll})$, the **forward kinematics** can be written as:

$$q = f(\theta)$$

- where $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the joint parameters.
- If the manipulator is moving, we can express the pose and joint parameters as functions of time:

 $q(t) = f\big(\theta(t)\big)$

The time derivation of the above equation will give the velocities of the end-effector pose q as a function of the joint velocities θ, i.e. velocity kinematics.

$$\dot{q} = \frac{dq(t)}{dt} = \frac{df(\theta(t))}{dt} = \frac{\partial f(\theta)}{\partial \theta} \frac{d\theta(t)}{dt} = \frac{\partial f(\theta)}{\partial \theta} \dot{\theta} = J(\theta)\dot{\theta}$$

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<mark>Jacobian</mark>

• $J(\theta) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is called the **Jacobian**. The Jacobian matrix represents the linear sensitivity of the end-effector velocity to the joint velocities $\dot{\theta}$.



$$q = (x_1, x_2), \theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2)$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

 $\dot{q} = J(\theta)\dot{\theta}$

(Jacobian maps joint velocity $\dot{\theta}$ to end-effector velocity \dot{q})

Forward kinematics (by geometry):

 $x_1 = L_1 \cos \theta_1 + L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$ $x_2 = L_1 \sin \theta_1 + L_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$

Velocity kinematics (time derivative):

$$\dot{x_1} = -L_1 \dot{\theta_1} \sin \theta_1 - L_2 (\dot{\theta_1} + \dot{\theta_2}) \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \dot{x_2} = L_1 \dot{\theta_1} \cos \theta_1 + L_2 (\dot{\theta_1} + \dot{\theta_2}) \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -L_1 \sin \theta_1 - L_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ L_1 \cos \theta_1 + L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ J_1(\theta) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ J_2(\theta) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

tip velocity $v_{tip} = J_1(\theta)\dot{\theta}_1 + J_2(\theta)\dot{\theta}_2$

Jacobian

• Let $L_1 = L_2 = 1$, consider two nonsingular postures: $\theta = (0, \pi/4)$ and $\theta = (0, 3\pi/4)$. The Jacobians $J(\theta)$ at these two configurations are



Singularities

- As long as J₁(θ) and J₂(θ) are not collinear (on the same straight line), it is possible to generate a tip velocity v_{tip} in any arbitrary direction in the x₁- x₂ -plane by choosing appropriate joint velocities.
- If a configuration of a manipulator results in $J_1(\theta)$ and $J_2(\theta)$ being **collinear**, then such configuration is called **singularity**.
- A **singularity** is characterized by a situation where the robot tip is unable to generate velocities in certain directions.

Map bounds on joint velocity to tip velocity



The extreme points A, B, C, and D in the joint velocity space map to the extreme points A, B, C, and D in the end-effector velocity space.

Manipulability ellipsoid



Manipulability ellipsoid

Map a unit circle of joint velocities in the θ_1 - θ_2 -plane to the space of tip velocities.

Shape of ellipse quantity how close a given posture is to a singularity: the narrower (thinner) the ellipse, the more difficult for the end-effector (tip) to move, i.e. closer to singularity.

Ideally, $\frac{\ell_{min}}{\ell_{max}} = 1$. The closer to 1, the easier can the tip move in arbitrary directions.

Space Jacobian: by screw

- Let the forward kinematics of an *n*-link open chain be expressed in the following product of exponentials form: $T(\theta) = e^{[S_1]\theta_1} \cdots e^{[S_n]\theta_n} M$
- The space Jacobian $J_s(\theta) \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times n}$ relates the joint rate vector $\dot{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ to the spatial twist \mathcal{V}_s via

$$\mathcal{V}_s = J_s(\theta)\dot{\theta}$$

• The *i*th column of $J_s(\theta)$ can be found by $J_{si}(\theta) = Ad_{e^{[S_1]\theta_1...e^{[S_{i-1}]\theta_{i-1}}}(S_i)$ for i = 2, ..., n, with the first column $J_{s1} = S_1$.

Space Jacobian: by screw

• To determine each column of the Jacobian $J_s(\theta)$ $J_{si}(\theta) = Ad_{e^{[S_1]\theta_1...e^{[S_{i-1}]\theta_{i-1}}}(S_i)$

for $i = 2, \dots, n$, with the first column $J_{s1} = S_1$.

- Note $e^{[S_1]\theta_1} \cdots e^{[S_{i-1}]\theta_{i-1}} = T_{i-1}$, and $Ad_{T_{i-1}}(S_i)$ is therefore the screw axis describing the *i*th joint axis after it undergoes the rigid body displacement T_{i-1} .
- Physically this is the same as moving the first *i* 1 joints from their zero position to the current values θ₁, …, θ_{i-1}. Therefore, the *i* th column J_{si}(θ) of J_s(θ) is simply the screw vector describing joint axis *i*, expressed in fixed-frame coordinates, as a function of the joint variables θ₁, …, θ_{i-1}.

Space Jacobian: by screw

• We can determine each column $J_{si}(\theta)$ similar to the procedure for deriving the joint screws in the product of exponentials $e^{[S_1]\theta_1} \cdots e^{[S_n]\theta_n} M$: each column $J_{si}(\theta)$ is the screw vector describing joint axis *i*, expressed in fixed-frame coordinates, **but for arbitrary** θ rather than $\theta = 0$.



Source: Modern Robotics

Consider an RRRP robotic arm in 3D (spatial).

We see there are 4 joint variables, θ_1 , θ_2 , θ_3 , θ_4 . Therefore n = 4.

The Jacobian matrix therefore has 4 columns.

$$J_{s}(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} J_{s1}(\theta) & J_{s2}(\theta) & J_{s3}(\theta) & J_{s4}(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

Each column is the screw axis at each joint. E.g. $J_{s1}(\theta)$ is the screw axis at joint 1.

$$\boldsymbol{J_{s1}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega_1} \\ \boldsymbol{v_1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega_{x1}} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega_{y1}} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega_{z1}} \\ \boldsymbol{v_{x1}} \\ \boldsymbol{v_{y1}} \\ \boldsymbol{v_{y1}} \\ \boldsymbol{v_{y1}} \end{bmatrix}$$



Source: Modern Robotics

To determine $J_{s1}(\theta)$, we look at joint 1.

We see ω_1 points in z_s -direction.

 v_1 is the linear velocity of a point at origin {s} when link 1 rotates around ω_1 . There is no linear movement when rotating around ω_1 .

$$I_{s1}(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_1 \\ v_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



To determine $J_{s2}(\theta)$, we look at joint 2.

We see ω_2 points in z_s -direction. When considering ω_2 we need to take into account of the effect of θ_1 , i.e. we want to define ω_2 for any arbitrary value of θ_1 . However, we note the direction of ω_2 is not affected by joint 1 movement (θ_1) .

$$\omega_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Source: Modern Robotics





To determine $J_{s_2}(\theta)$, we look at joint 2.



 v_2

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To determine $J_{s3}(\theta)$, we look at joint 3. We need to consider the effect of θ_1 and θ_2 on ω_3 and v_3 .

 ω_3 is not affected by the movement of θ_1 and θ_2 .

$$\omega_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\1\end{bmatrix}$$

Source: Modern Robotics





Base on RHR, $v_3 = -\omega_3 \times q_3$ where $\omega_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $q_3 = \begin{bmatrix} L_1c_1 + L_2c_{12} \\ L_1s_1 + L_2s_{12} \end{bmatrix}$ Giving $v_3 = \begin{vmatrix} L_1 S_1 + L_2 S_{12} \\ -(L_1 c_1 + L_2 c_{12}) \end{vmatrix}$ $J_{s3}(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_3 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ L_1 s_1 + L_2 s_{12} \\ -(L_1 c_1 + L_2 c_{12}) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

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Source: Modern Robotics

To determine $J_{s4}(\theta)$, we look at joint 4. We need to consider the effect of θ_1 , θ_2 and θ_3 on ω_4 and v_4 .

We take note that joint 4 is a prismatic joint, it has no angular velocity.

For prismatic joint, v_4 is the direction of the prismatic motion. In this case, it is in the direction of z_s -direction.

$$\omega_{4} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } v_{4} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$J_{s4}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega}_{4}\\\boldsymbol{v}_{4} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Source: Modern Robotics



Source: Modern Robotics

For $J_{s1}(\theta)$, we look at joint 1.

 ω_1 is in the direction of z_s -direction.

There is no linear motion when rotating around this axis.

$$\omega_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } v_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$J_{s1}(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_{1}\\v_{1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\1\\0\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix}$$



For $J_{s2}(\theta)$, we look at joint 2 with consideration of change in θ_1 .

 ω_2 is on x_z - y_s plane, however the direction depends on θ_1 . Take note of the zero configuration position of θ_1 to ensure we get the sign correct.

$$\omega_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -\cos\theta_1 \\ -\sin\theta_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Source: Modern Robotics



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Source: Modern Robotics

For $J_{s3}(\theta)$, we look at joint 3 with consideration of changes in θ_1 , θ_2 .

Joint 3 is prismatic, so there is no angular velocity.

$$\omega_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\0\end{bmatrix}$$



 v_3 defines the direction of the linear motion. It is affected by θ_1, θ_2 .

We can draw in 3D to determine the coordinates of v_3 by geometry and cross product.

Alternative we can perform rotations of θ_1 and θ_2 on the initial position (zero configuration) of v_3 . Note v_3 is along \hat{y}_s in zero configuration.

$$v_3^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix}$$

 \hat{x}_s θ_2 rotates v_3^0 around $-\hat{x}_s$ - axis (or around \hat{x}_s in negative direction according to RHR). θ_1 rotates v_3^0 around \hat{z}_s - axis. We visualize the order of rotation around the axes in {s} and use pre-multiplication.

 $v_3 = Rot(\hat{z}_s, \theta_1)Rot(\hat{x}_s, -\theta_2) \begin{bmatrix} 0\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -s_1c_2\\c_1c_2\\-s_2 \end{bmatrix}$



$$\omega_6 = R(\hat{z}_s, \theta_1) R(\hat{x}_s, -\theta_2) R(\hat{z}_s, \theta_4) R(\hat{x}_s, -\theta_5) \omega_6^0 \text{ where } \omega_6^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Body Jacobian: by screw

- Let the forward kinematics of an *n*-link open chain be expressed in the following product of exponentials form: $T(\theta) = Me^{[\mathcal{B}_1]\theta_1} \cdots e^{[\mathcal{B}_n]\theta_n}$
- The body Jacobian $J_b(\theta) \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times n}$ relates the joint rate vector $\dot{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ to the spatial twist \mathcal{V}_s via

$$\mathcal{V}_b = J_b(\theta)\dot{\theta}$$

- The *i*th column of $J_b(\theta)$ can be found by $J_{bi}(\theta) = Ad_{e^{-[\mathcal{B}_n]\theta_n...e^{-[\mathcal{B}_{i+1}]\theta_{i+1}}}(\mathcal{B}_i)$
- for $i = n 1, \dots, 1$, with the last column $J_{bn} = \mathcal{B}_n$.
- The *i* th column $J_{bi}(\theta)$ is the screw vector for joint axis *i*, expressed in the body (end-effector) coordinate frame, as a function of the joint variables $\theta_{i-1}, \dots, \theta_n$.

Summary (1/2)

- Velocity kinematics is about determining the twist of the endeffector given the velocities and positions at the joints.
- Jacobian is the linear sensitivity of the end-effector velocity to the joint velocity $\dot{\theta}$.

tip velocity $v_{tip} = J_1(\theta)\dot{\theta}_1 + \dots + J_n(\theta)\dot{\theta}_n$

- Jacobian matrix maps the joint velocity space to the endeffector velocity space.
- Jacobian can map a unit spherical joint velocity boundary to the end-effector manipulability ellipsoid.
- The manipulability ellipsoid can quantify closeness of a configuration to singularity.

Summary (2/2)

- Spatial Jacobian uses similar screw axis (expressed in space frame) technique in power of exponentials (forward kinematics) to determine the columns of a Jacobian matrix.
- Body Jacobian uses similar screw axis (express in body frame) technique in power of exponentials (forward kinematics) to determine the columns of a Jacobian matrix.
- Jacobian matrix will be used in solving inverse kinematics problems.

Reading List

• Read Chapter 5.1 of Modern Robotics

To Do List

 Watch Chapter 5 videos of Modern Robotics on Coursera, or on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLggLP4frq02vX0OQQ5vrCxbJrzamYDfx