

Inverse Kinematics

Jehee Lee
Seoul National University

Forward and Inverse Kinematics



$$(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = F(\theta_i)$$

Forward Kinematics

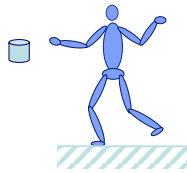


$$\theta_i = F^{-1}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$$

Inverse Kinematics

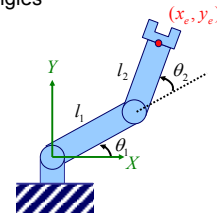
Why Inverse Kinematics ?

- Environmental interactions
 - Pick up an object or place feet on the ground
 - Hard to do with forward kinematics
- The pose of the character is described in the *joint angle space*
- The environmental interaction is described in the *work (Cartesian) space*

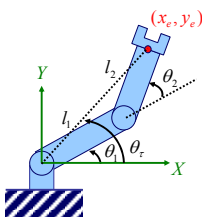


Inverse Kinematics: A Simple Example

- A simple robot arm in 2-dimensional space
 - Two revolute joints
 - The position of the end-effector is known
 - Compute joint angles



Analytic Solution for A Simple Example



$$\cos(\theta_1) = \frac{x_e}{\sqrt{x_e^2 + y_e^2}}$$

$$\theta_1 = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{x_e}{\sqrt{x_e^2 + y_e^2}}\right)$$

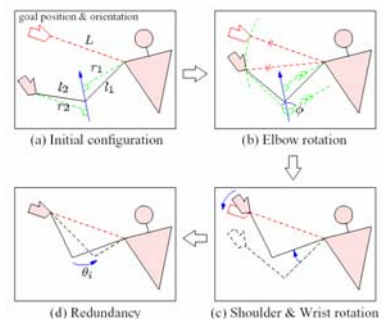
$$\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) = \frac{l_1^2 + x_e^2 + y_e^2 - l_2^2}{2l_1\sqrt{x_e^2 + y_e^2}}$$

$$\theta_1 = \theta_1 - \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{l_1^2 + x_e^2 + y_e^2 - l_2^2}{2l_1\sqrt{x_e^2 + y_e^2}}\right)$$

$$\cos(\pi - \theta_2) = \frac{l_1^2 + l_2^2 - x_e^2 - y_e^2}{2l_1l_2}$$

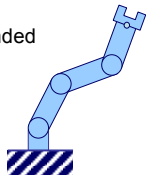
$$\theta_2 = \pi - \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{l_1^2 + l_2^2 - x_e^2 - y_e^2}{2l_1l_2}\right)$$

Redundancy in Human Arms



Why so difficult to get a closed-form solution ?

- Redundancies
 - Multiple solutions (# of unknowns > # of equations)
- Joint limit
 - The range of each unknown is bounded
- Reachable workspace
 - No solution, or
 - A unique solution, or
 - Multiple solutions
- Multiple goals
 - Four limbs may have constraints simultaneously
 - Intermediate links can also be constrained



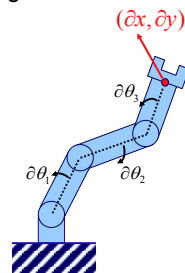
Iterative Methods

- Iteratively step all joints to the goal
 - Consider infinitesimal changes

compute $(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3)$ from (x, y)



compute $(\partial\theta_1, \partial\theta_2, \partial\theta_3)$ from $(\partial x, \partial y)$



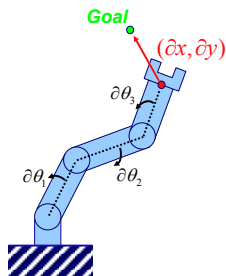
Jacobians of Forward Kinematics Map

- Forward Kinematics Map

$$(x, y) = (F_x, F_y) = F(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3)$$

- Jacobian

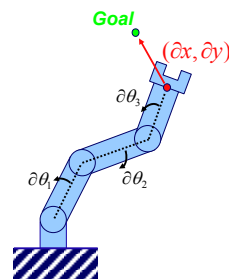
$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{J} \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \\ \dot{\theta}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial \theta_2} & \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial \theta_3} \\ \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial \theta_2} & \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial \theta_3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \\ \dot{\theta}_3 \end{pmatrix}$$



Jacobian of Forward Kinematics Map

- If the inverse of the Jacobian can be computed

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{pmatrix}_{i+1} = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{pmatrix}_i + \Delta t \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \\ \dot{\theta}_3 \end{pmatrix}_i = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{pmatrix}_i + \Delta t \mathbf{J}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{pmatrix}_i$$



A System of Linear Equations

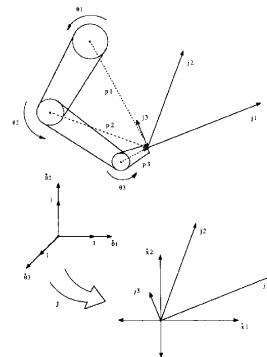
$$\mathbf{J}\theta = \mathbf{x}$$

- # of unknowns = the dimension of $\theta = n$
- # of equations = the dimension of $\mathbf{x} = m$
- \mathbf{J} is a $(m \times n)$ matrix
- The solution is unique if $m=n$
- The linear system is under-specified if $m < n$
- The linear system is over-specified if $m > n$

the pseudoinverse of Jacobian is required

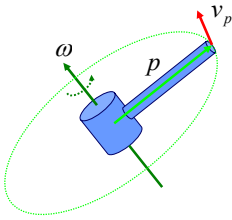
A Geometric Interpretation of Jacobian

- You don't have to differentiate the forward kinematics map to compute Jacobian
- The column vectors (j_1, j_2, j_3) of \mathbf{J} are perpendicular to the corresponding vectors (p_1, p_2, p_3) from the joint to the end-effector



Linear and Angular Velocities in 3D

- Velocity of a point due to rotating joints

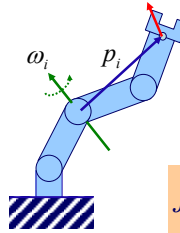


$$v_p = \omega \times p$$

$$\omega_p = \omega$$

Jacobian in 3D

- A serial chain with n revolute joints



$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{end-effector} \\ \omega_{end-effector} \end{pmatrix} = J \begin{pmatrix} \partial\theta_1 \\ \partial\theta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \partial\theta_n \end{pmatrix}$$

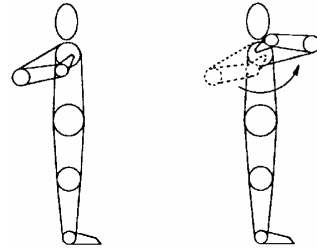
$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \times p_1 & \omega_2 \times p_2 & \cdots & \omega_n \times p_n \\ \omega_1 & \omega_2 & \cdots & \omega_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Redundancy

- A single solution must be chosen from multiple solutions
 - **“Closest” to the current configuration**
 - Pseudo inverse minimizes joint angle rates (locally)
 - **Move outermost links the most**
 - The outermost link sweeps a smallest region (visual change)
 - **Minimum time**
 - Dynamics involves
 - **Secondary goal**
 - Additional constraints
 - **Natural looking**
 - Biomechanical experiments

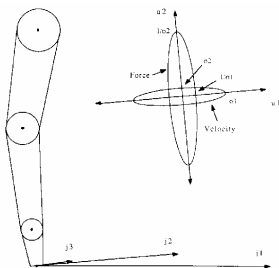
IK can be ill-conditioned

- An small change in the position of the end-effector could require substantial changes of joint angles



Singularity

- Singularities cause the rank of the Jacobian to change
- Often ill-conditioned near singularities



Iterative Method Using Jacobian

- Jacobian should be computed at every time step
- Simple Euler integration can be used
- Singularity could incur numerical instability

Non-Linear Optimization

- Non-linear programming
 - Numerical method for finding the (local) minimum of a non-linear function
- An efficient way of solving IK
- The path may not look natural
- Multiple goals can easily be handled

- We need to define
 - **Objective function** : Place hands at specific positions
 - **Constraints** : Joint limits

Objective Function

- Position $G(\theta) = \|\mathbf{p}(\theta) - \mathbf{p}_{goal}\|^2$
- Orientation $G(\theta) = \|\log(\mathbf{q}_{goal}^{-1} \mathbf{q}(\theta))\|^2$
- Direction $G(\theta) = \|\mathbf{v}(\theta) - \mathbf{v}_{goal}\|^2$

Constrained Optimization

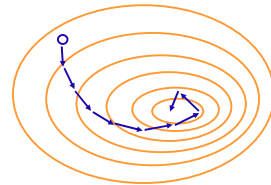
- Formulation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Minimize} & G(\theta) \\ \text{subject to} & l_i \leq \theta_i \leq u_i \end{array}$$

- Use a standard numerical technique
 - Gradient decent
 - Conjugate gradient
 - Sequential quadratic programming

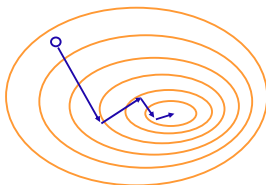
Basic Idea of Numerical Techniques

- Pseudoinverse + Euler integration
 - Constant time step



Basic Idea of Numerical Techniques

- Direction selection + Line minimization
 - Least squares
 - Gradient
 - Conjugate gradient

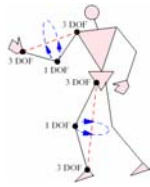


Quick and Dirty

- Cyclic coordinate decent
 - Try to solve the problem with subset of joints
 - If it fails, add a joint
- Jacobian transpose method
 - Use the transpose of Jacobian, instead of pseudoinverse
 - Do not guarantee least-squares

Hybrid Approach

- Arms and legs allow analytic solutions
 - Redundancy can be parameterized by elbow circles
- Reduced-coordinate formulation
 - We can replace 7 dof for each limb by a single elbow circle parameter
 - Hybrid formulation (numerical + analytic)
 - The numerical optimization can be done with fewer number of parameters



Data-Driven Approach

- IK is underdetermined
 - Many possible poses satisfy constraints
 - Some poses more likely than others
 - The likelihood of poses depends on the body shape and style of the individual person
- Data-driven IK
 - Drive the likelihood function from human motion data
 - [data-driven-ik.avi](#)

Summary

- Very simple structure allows an analytic solution
- Most of complex articulated figures requires a numerical solution
- May not always get the “right” answer
 - Need to tweak the solution later