

Model your robot for control, and not for simulation! Insights from a control theoretic perspective

Cosimo Della Santina



Feedback Model Based Control Is Robust to Rough Approximations

If You Want to Dig More Do That in a Control Oriented Way

If You Want to Stick to the Simple Model, Consired Control-Driven Ways to Improve It



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A Grand Challenge Within Soft Robotics





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Torques >> Pure Forces



Torques >> Pure Forces





Quasi-static kinematic control



Webster, R. J., III, Romano, J. M. and Cowan, N. J. (2009). Mechanics of precurved-tube continuum robots. IEEE Transactions on Robotics



Gravagne, I. A., Rahn, C. and Walker, I. D. (2003). Largedeflection dynamics and control for planar continuum robots. IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics, 8(2): 299–307.



Fang, Ge, et al. "Vision-based online learning kinematic control for soft robots using local gaussian process regression." *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters* 4.2 (2019): 1194-1201.

What About Dynamic Control? (i.e. High speed or high inertias or non negligible interactions or ...)

Torques >> Pure Forces



Hypothesis 1 (kinematics): SR's can be approximated as a series of n segments with constant curvature (CC)



Hypothesis 2 (inertia): The inertia of each segment is described by an equivalent point mass.



Hypothesis 1 (kinematics): SR's can be approximated as a series of n segments with constant curvature (CC)



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Hypothesis 3 (impedance): continuous distribution of infinitesimal springs and dampers







Della Santina C., et al. "Model-based dynamic feedback control of a planar soft robot: trajectory tracking and interaction with the environment." IJRR Trajectory tracking in curvature space



Trajectory tracking in curvature space



interaction with the environment." IJRR





Della Santina C., et al. "Model-based dynamic feedback control of a planar soft robot: trajectory tracking and interaction with the environment." IJRR



 $\bar{q}_i = 13^{\circ} (1 + \cos\left(\frac{4\pi}{5} \frac{\mathrm{rad}}{\mathrm{s}}t\right))$ $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, 6\}, \quad t \in [0, 20) \mathrm{s}$

Reference



Della Santina C., et al. "Model-based dynamic feedback control of a planar soft robot: trajectory tracking and interaction with the environment." IJRR

Della Santina C., et al. "Dynamic control of soft robots interacting with the environment." *!* "#"\$ "%18 **Della Santina C**., et al. "Model-based dynamic feedback control of a planar soft robot: trajectory tracking and interaction with the environment." IJRR

Some Cartesian impedance control too...



Some Cartesian impedance control too...

 $\tau = J^{\mathrm{T}}(q)J_{B}^{+\mathrm{T}}(q)(K q + D\dot{q}) + G(q)$ $+ J^{\mathrm{T}}(q)\eta(q,\dot{q})(I - J_{B}^{+}(q)J(q))\dot{q}$ $+ J^{\mathrm{T}}(q)(K_{\mathrm{c}}(x_{\mathrm{d}} - x) - D_{\mathrm{c}}J(q)\dot{q}),$







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Reduced performance

Persistent oscillations





To Infinity and Beyond

What to do?



Della Santina et al. "Exact task execution in highly under-actuated soft limbs: an operational space based approach" RAL 2019

7

What to do?

Just take a less coarse discretization!



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Della Santina et al. "Exact task execution in highly under-actuated soft limbs: an operational space based approach" *RAL 2019*

Della Santina et al. "Exact task execution in highly under-actuated soft limbs: an operational space based approach" *RAL 2019*







Della Santina et al. "Exact task execution in highly under-actuated soft limbs: an operational space based approach" RAL 2019







Della Santina et al. "Exact task execution in highly under-actuated soft limbs: an operational space based approach" *RAL 2019* Coevoet et al. "Software toolkit for modeling, simulation and control of soft robots" Advanced Robotics 2017 Renda et al. "Discrete Cosserat Approach for Multi-Section Soft Robots Dynamics" TRO 2016

Kinematics

Configuration space



Della Santina, Cosimo, and Daniela Rus. "Control oriented modeling of soft robots: the polynomial curvature case." RAL (2019)

Kinematics

Configuration space

Hypothesis: is analytical in *s*



Della Santina, Cosimo, and Daniela Rus. "Control oriented modeling of soft robots: the polynomial curvature case." RAL (2019)

Kinematics

Configuration space

Curvature (s, t) S_1

Hypothesis: is analytical in *s*

$$(S, t) = i = 0$$

Della Santina, Cosimo, and Daniela Rus. "Control oriented modeling of soft robots: the polynomial curvature case." RAL (2019)
Kinematics Configuration space

Hypothesis: is analytical in *s*



Polynomial Curvature!!!

(S, t)

m

 $_{i}(t)S'$

$$(S, t) = i = 0$$

Della Santina, Cosimo, and Daniela Rus. "Control oriented modeling of soft robots: the polynomial curvature case." RAL (2019)

Kinematics

Configuration space

Curvature (s, t) S_1

Hypothesis: is analytical in *s*

$$(S, t) = i(t)S^{i}$$





Della Santina, Cosimo. "The Soft Inverted Pendulum with Affine Curvature." CDC 2020

$\tilde{B}(q)\ddot{q} + \tilde{C}(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + \tilde{G}(q) + \tilde{K}q + \tilde{D}\dot{q} = 0$



Della Santina, Cosimo. "The Soft Inverted Pendulum with Affine Curvature." CDC 2020

 $\tilde{B}(q)\dot{q} + \tilde{C}(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + \tilde{G}(q) + \tilde{K}q + \tilde{D}\dot{q} =$ \cap







 ${\mathcal X}$

 $\tilde{B}(q)\ddot{q} + \tilde{C}(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + \tilde{G}(q) + \tilde{K}q + \tilde{D}\dot{q} = 0$



Della Santina, Cosimo. "The Soft Inverted Pendulum with Affine Curvature." *CDC* 2020

 $\tilde{B}(q)\ddot{q} + \tilde{C}(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + \tilde{G}(q) + \tilde{K}q + \tilde{D}\dot{q} = 0$



$$= h_1 - (\tilde{B}_{2,1}/\tilde{B}_{2,2})h_2$$
$$- \tilde{B}_{1,1} - \tilde{B}_{2,1}^2/\tilde{B}_{2,2} (P_0 + D\dot{q}_0)$$

Della Santina, Cosimo. "The Soft Inverted Pendulum with Affine Curvature." *CDC* 2020





Example 2



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Standard Extension of PCC to 3D (kinematics)





Della Santina, Cosimo, Antonio Bicchi, and Daniela Rus. "On an improved state parametrization for soft robots with piecewise constant curvature and its use in model based control." *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters* 5.2 (2020): 1001-1008.

Standard Extension of PCC to 3D (kinematics)



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q parametrization

у,*і* х,*і*

x,*i*

y*,i*

y*,i*

х,і



q parametrization

y*,i* х,і

y*,i*

х*,i*

y*,i*

Sⁿ Topology

All kinds of pathological behaviors around the straight configuration

Father of all sins: singular Jacobian ${}^{x}J_{\alpha,i} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{s_{\phi_{i}}\left(1-c_{\theta_{i}}\right)L_{i}}{\theta_{i}} & \frac{c_{\phi_{i}}L_{i}\left(1-c_{\theta_{i}}-\theta_{i}s_{\theta_{i}}\right)}{\theta_{i}^{2}} & \frac{c_{\phi_{i}}\left(c_{\theta_{i}}-1\right)}{\theta_{i}} \\ \frac{c_{\phi_{i}}\left(c_{\theta_{i}}-1\right)L_{i}}{\theta_{i}} & \frac{s_{\phi_{i}}L_{i}\left(1-c_{\theta_{i}}-\theta_{i}s_{\theta_{i}}\right)}{\theta_{i}^{2}} & \frac{s_{\phi_{i}}\left(c_{\theta_{i}}-1\right)}{\theta_{i}} \\ 0 & -\frac{L_{i}\left(s_{\theta_{i}}-\theta_{i}c_{\theta_{i}}\right)}{\theta_{i}^{2}} & \frac{s_{\theta_{i}}}{\theta_{i}} \end{bmatrix}$ $\det({}^{x}J_{\alpha,i}) = -\frac{\left(\cos\left(\theta_{i}\right)-1\right)^{2}\left(\delta L_{i}+L_{0,i}\right)^{2}}{\theta_{i}^{3}}$











Model Based Feedback Controller

$$\tau_{\rm A} = A^{-1}(q) (G_{\rm G}(q) + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{\bar{q}} + B(q)\ddot{\bar{q}} + K\bar{q} + K_{\rm P}(\bar{q} - q) + D(q)\dot{\bar{q}} + K_{\rm D}(\dot{\bar{q}} - \dot{q}))$$

Della Santina, Cosimo, Antonio Bicchi, and Daniela Rus. "On an improved state parametrization for soft robots with piecewise constant curvature and its use in model based control." *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters* 5.2 (2020): 1001-1008.

Straight Configuration









The configuration manifold is a cup, not a sphere







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Della Santina, Cosimo, Antonio Bicchi, and Daniela Rus. "On an improved state parametrization for soft robots with piecewise constant curvature and its use in model based control." *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters* 5.2 (2020): 1001-1008.

$$Full rank
Jacobian!!!
$$\begin{pmatrix} \delta L_{i} + L_{0,i} \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}^{2} \\
det(^{x}J_{q}) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\sqrt{\Delta_{x,i}^{2} + \Delta_{y,i}^{2}}\right)^{1} \\
(\Delta_{x,i}^{2} + \Delta_{y,i}^{2}/d_{i}^{2})^{2} \\
(\Delta_{x,i}^{2} + \Delta_{y,i}^{2}/d_{i}^{2})^{2} \\
Full rank and linear impedance
$$^{\alpha}J_{q,i}^{T}(q)K_{\alpha,i}m_{i}(q_{i}) = \begin{bmatrix} \kappa_{\theta,i} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \kappa_{\theta,i} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \kappa_{\delta L,i} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta_{x,i} \\ \Delta_{y,i} \\ \delta L_{i} = K_{i}q \\
D_{i} = ^{\alpha}J_{q,i}^{T}(q)D_{\alpha,i}(m_{i}(q_{i})) ^{\alpha}J_{q,i}(q_{i}) = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{\theta,i} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_{\theta,i} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta_{\delta L,i} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Full rank inertia matrix \\
High = K_{i}q \\
A(q) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Delta_{x,i}\Delta_{x}, D_{i}}{\Delta_{x}^{2}, \sin(\Delta)} & \frac{\Delta_{x,i}D_{i}L_{i}}{\Delta_{x}^{2}, \sin(\Delta)} & \frac{\Delta_{x,i}D_{i}}{\Delta_{x}^{2}, \sin(\Delta)} & \frac{\Delta_{x,i}D_{i}L_{i}} \\ \frac{\Delta_{x,i}D_{i}}{\Delta_{x}^{2}, \sin(\Delta)} & \frac{\Delta_{x,i}D_{i}}}{\Delta_{x}^{2}, \sin(\Delta)} & \frac$$$$$$





Hughes, Josie, Cosimo Della Santina, and Daniela Rus. "Extensible High Force Manipulator For Complex Exploration." *RoboSoft 2020*



... and large scale soft locomotion!



Li S., [...], Della Santina C., et al. "Dynamic control of soft robots with internal constraints in the presence of obstacles." Submitted to SoRo







Kirigami enables a simple, rapid approach for sensorizing soft robots

Sensor design and fabrication

Arm fabrication via lost-wax casting



(Hypothesis: Sensor response dependent on cut pattern)



No materials handling or formulation required: sensors are laser cut and done

RL Truby*, C. Della Santina*, D. Rus. IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 2020. Accepted for IEEE ICRA 2020.




RL Truby*, C. Della Santina*, D. Rus. IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 2020. Accepted for IEEE ICRA 2020.



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Random Motions



Raw Potential Di erences



Random Motions



 $\{S_2\}$

 $\{S_0\}$

Random Motions















*Gray lines represent transient configurations



RL Truby*, C. Della Santina*, D. Rus. IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 2020. Accepted for IEEE ICRA 2020.

Random actuations



Predicted configuration approximates that at steady-state; new sensors will improve predictions and feedback in control

RL Truby*, C. Della Santina*, D. Rus. IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 2020. Accepted for IEEE ICRA 2020.

Sensing Forces



$$D\dot{\hat{q}} = -Kq - G(q) + A(q)u + \hat{\Psi}(q) + \hat{\tau}_{\text{ext}},$$
$$\hat{\tau}_{\text{ext}} = \gamma D(\hat{q} - q),$$

4x 4x 4x On Segment 1 On Segment 2 On Segment 3

Della Santina C., R. L. Truby, D. Rus et al. "A New Class of Data-Driven Disturbance Observers for Estimating External Forces on Soft Robots." RAL + IROS 2020



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