
CS686: Configuration Space II

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Course URL:

<http://sgvr.kaist.ac.kr/~sungeui/MPA>

KAIST



Class Objectives (Ch. 3)

- **Configuration space**
 - **Definitions and examples**
 - **Obstacles**
 - **Paths**
 - **Metrics**
- **Last time:**
 - **Degrees-of-freedom (DoFs) of C-space w/ holonomic, non-holonomic and dynamic constraints**

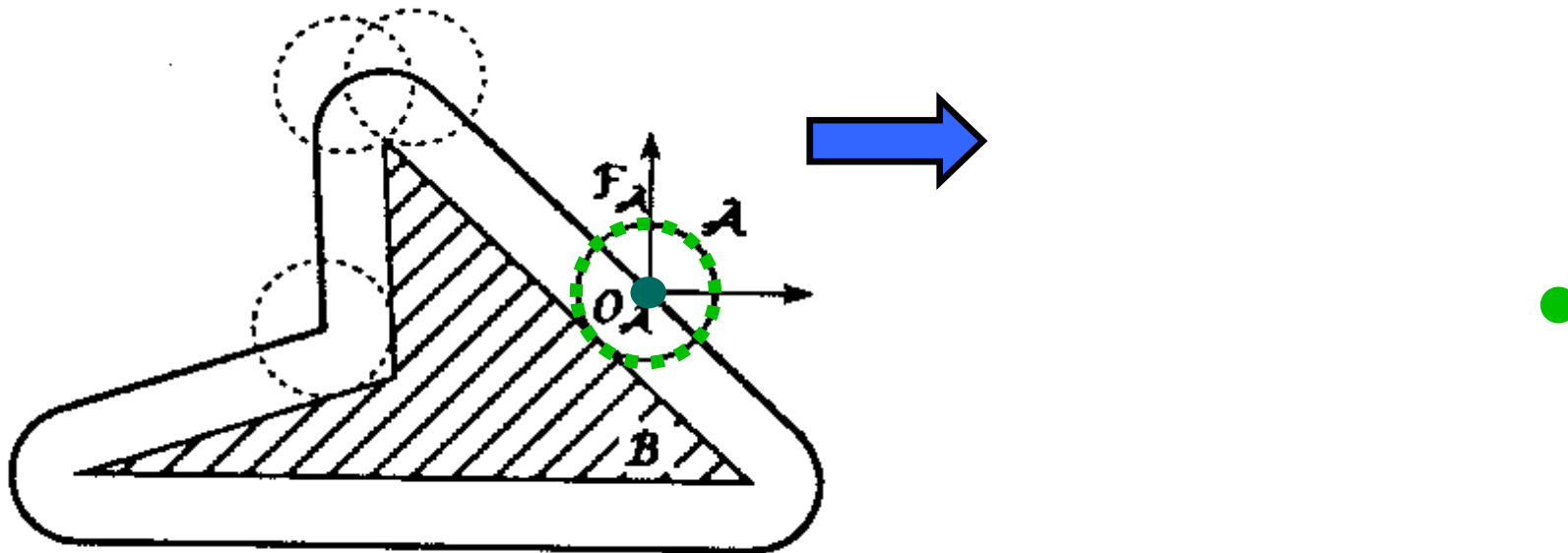
Obstacles in the Configuration Space

- A configuration q is collision-free, or **free**, if a moving object placed at q does not intersect any obstacles in the workspace
- The **free space** F is the set of free configurations
- A configuration space obstacle (**C-obstacle**) is the set of configurations where the moving object collides with workspace obstacles

Disc in 2-D Workspace

workspace

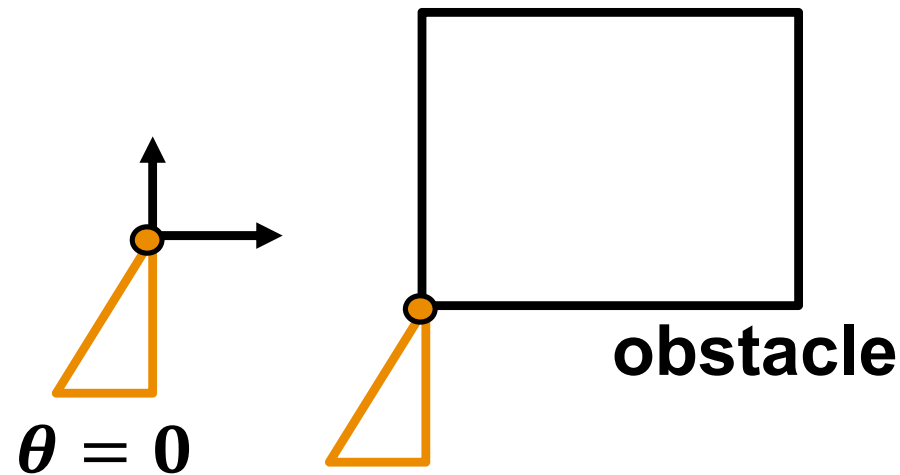
configuration
space



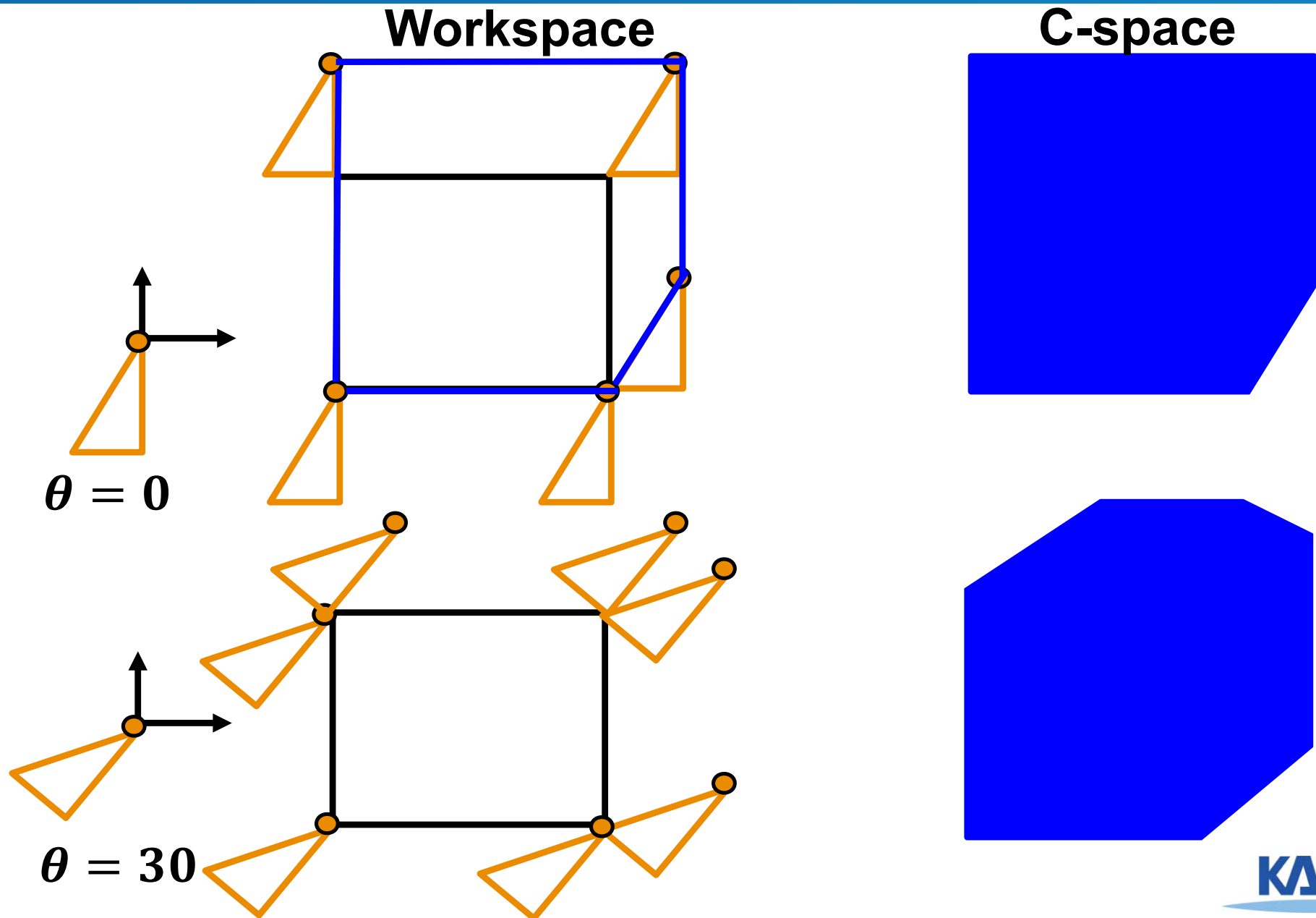
Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace

Workspace

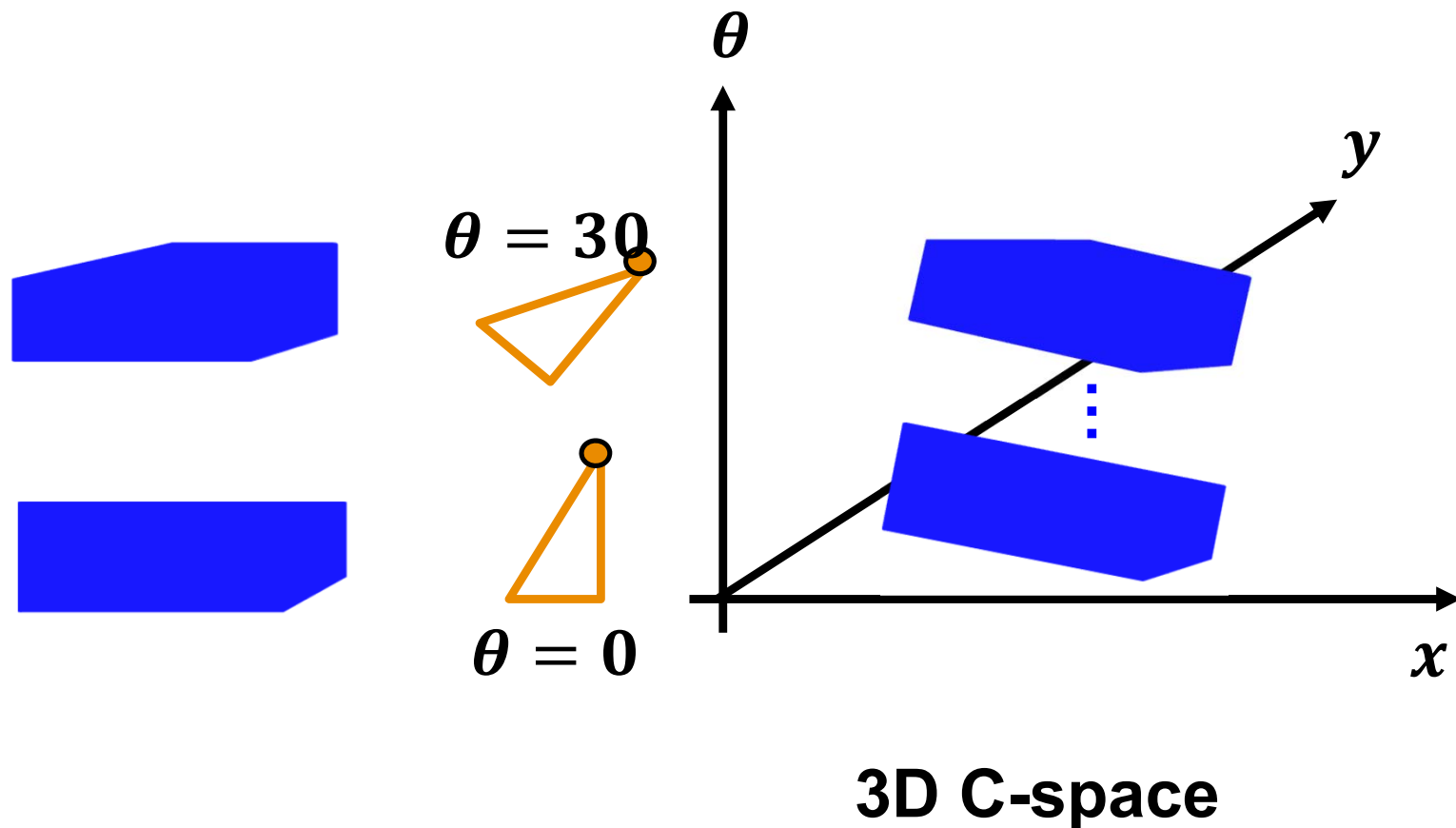
C-space



Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace



Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace

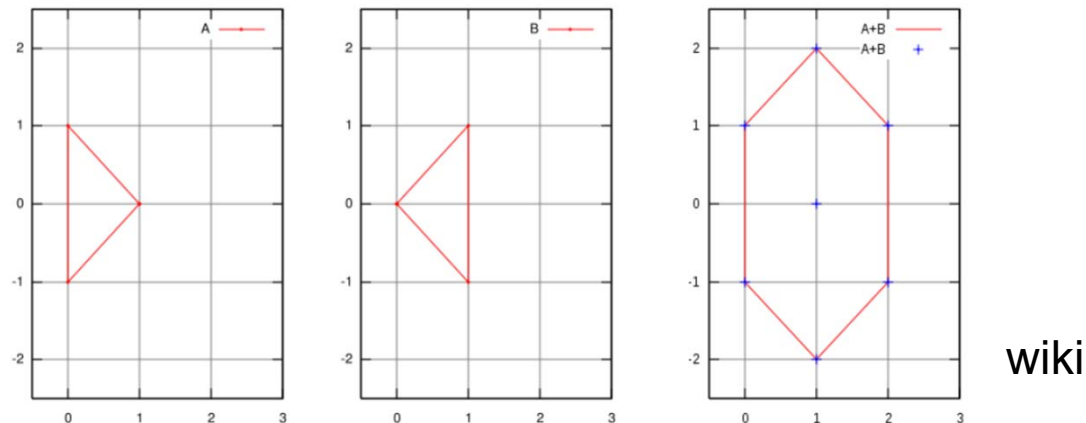


C-Obstacle Construction

- **Input:**
 - **Polygonal moving object translating in 2-D workspace**
 - **Polygonal obstacles**
- **Output:**
 - **Configuration space obstacles represented as polygons**

Minkowski Sum

- The **Minkowski sum** of two sets P and Q , denoted by $P \oplus Q$, is defined as
$$P \oplus Q = \{ p+q \mid p \in P, q \in Q \}$$

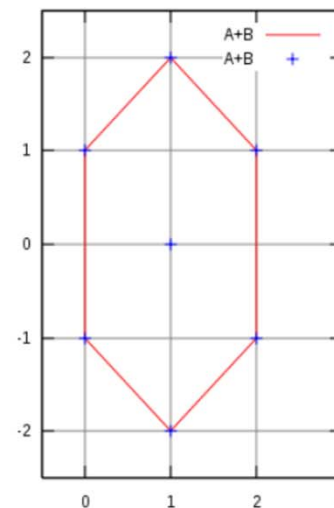
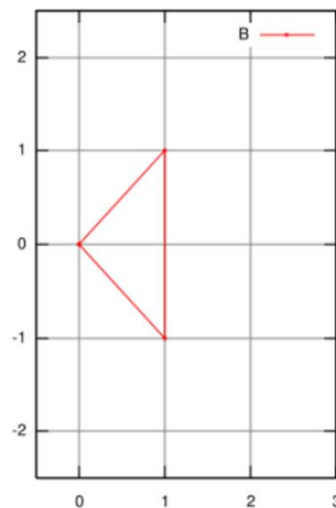
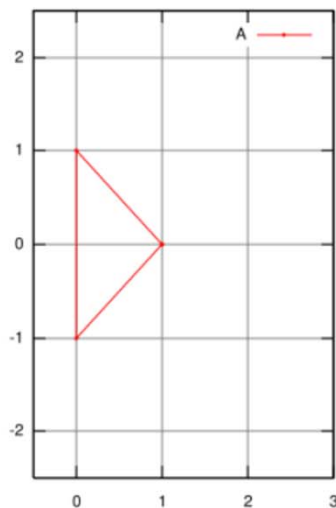


- Similarly, the **Minkowski difference** is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} P \ominus Q &= \{ p-q \mid p \in P, q \in Q \} \\ &= P \oplus -Q \end{aligned}$$

Minkowski Sum of Convex Polygons

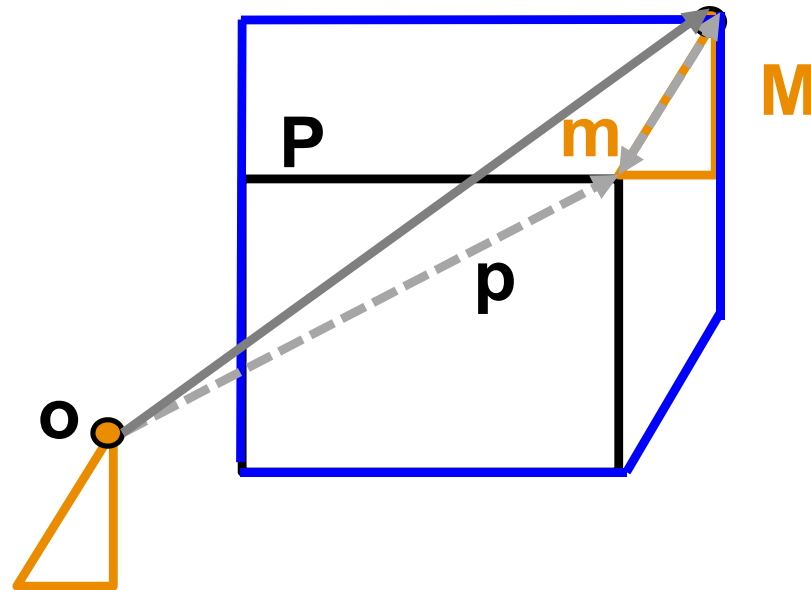
- The Minkowski sum of two convex polygons P and Q of m and n vertices respectively is a convex polygon $P \oplus Q$ of $m + n$ vertices.
 - The vertices of $P \oplus Q$ are the “sums” of vertices of P and Q .



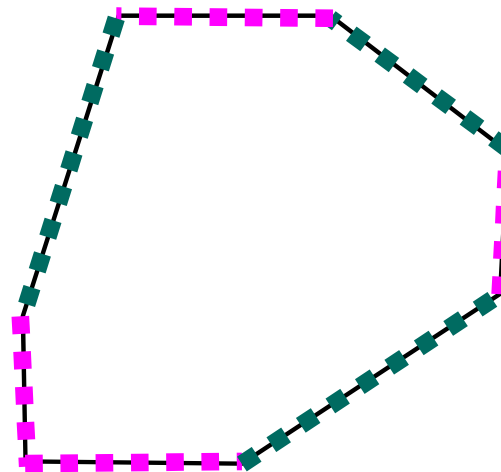
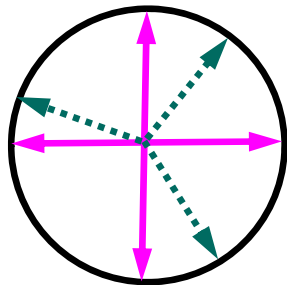
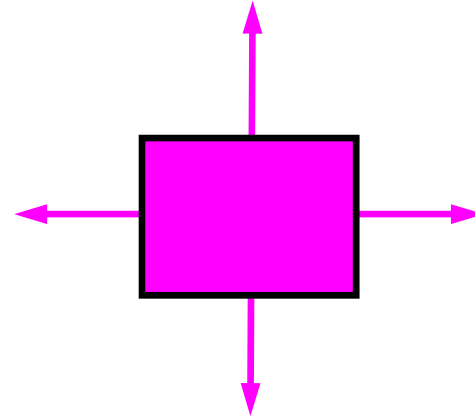
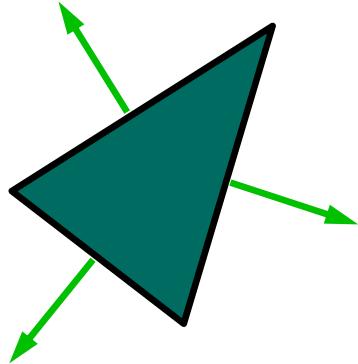
wiki

Observation

- Suppose P is an obstacle in the workspace and M is a moving object
- Then the C-obstacle is $P \ominus M$



Computing C-obstacles



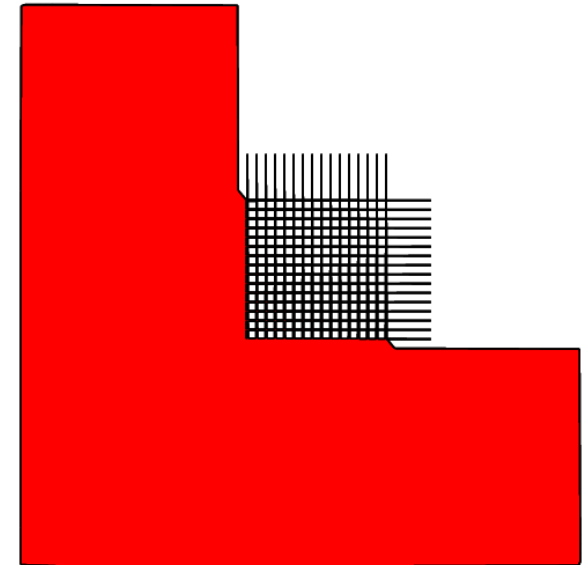
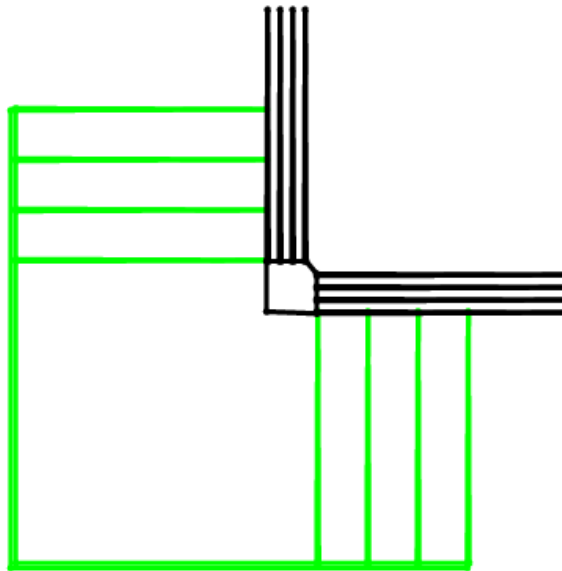
Computational efficiency

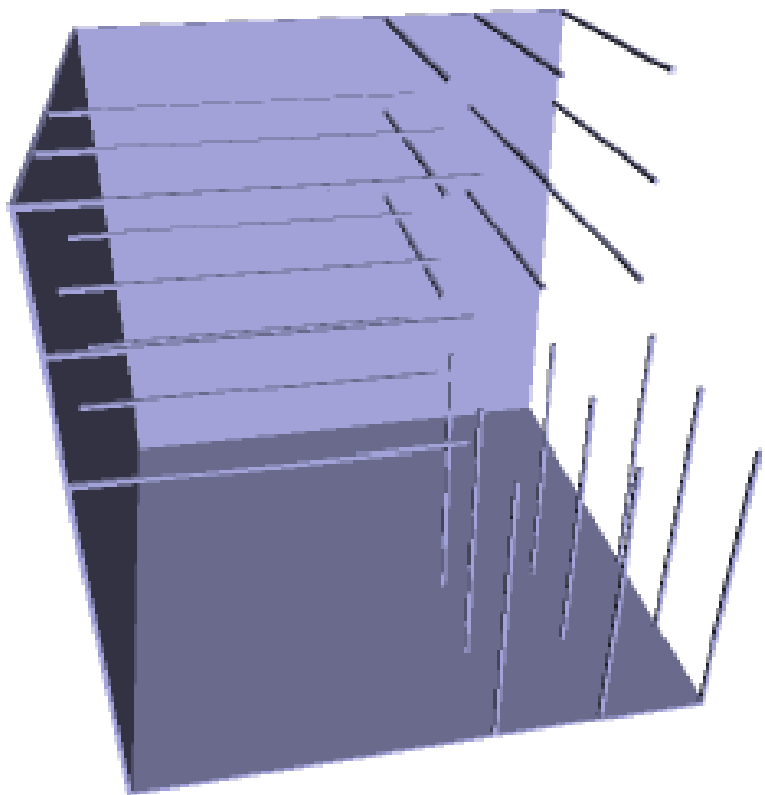
- **Running time $O(n+m)$**
- **Space $O(n+m)$**
- **Non-convex obstacles**
 - **Decompose into convex polygons (*e.g.*, triangles or trapezoids), compute the Minkowski sums, and take the union**
 - **Complexity of Minkowski sum $O(n^2m^2)$**
- **3-D workspace**
 - **Convex case: $O(nm)$**
 - **Non-convex case: $O(n^3m^3)$**

Worst case example

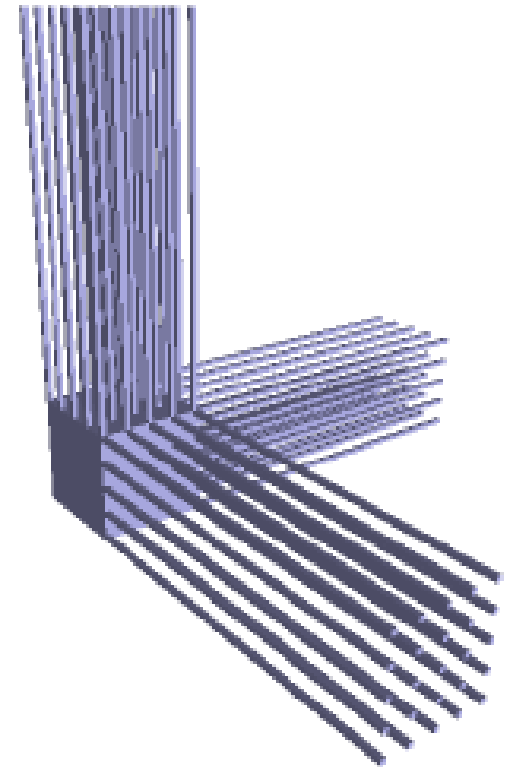
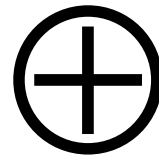
- $O(n^2m^2)$ complexity

2D example
Agarwal et al. 02

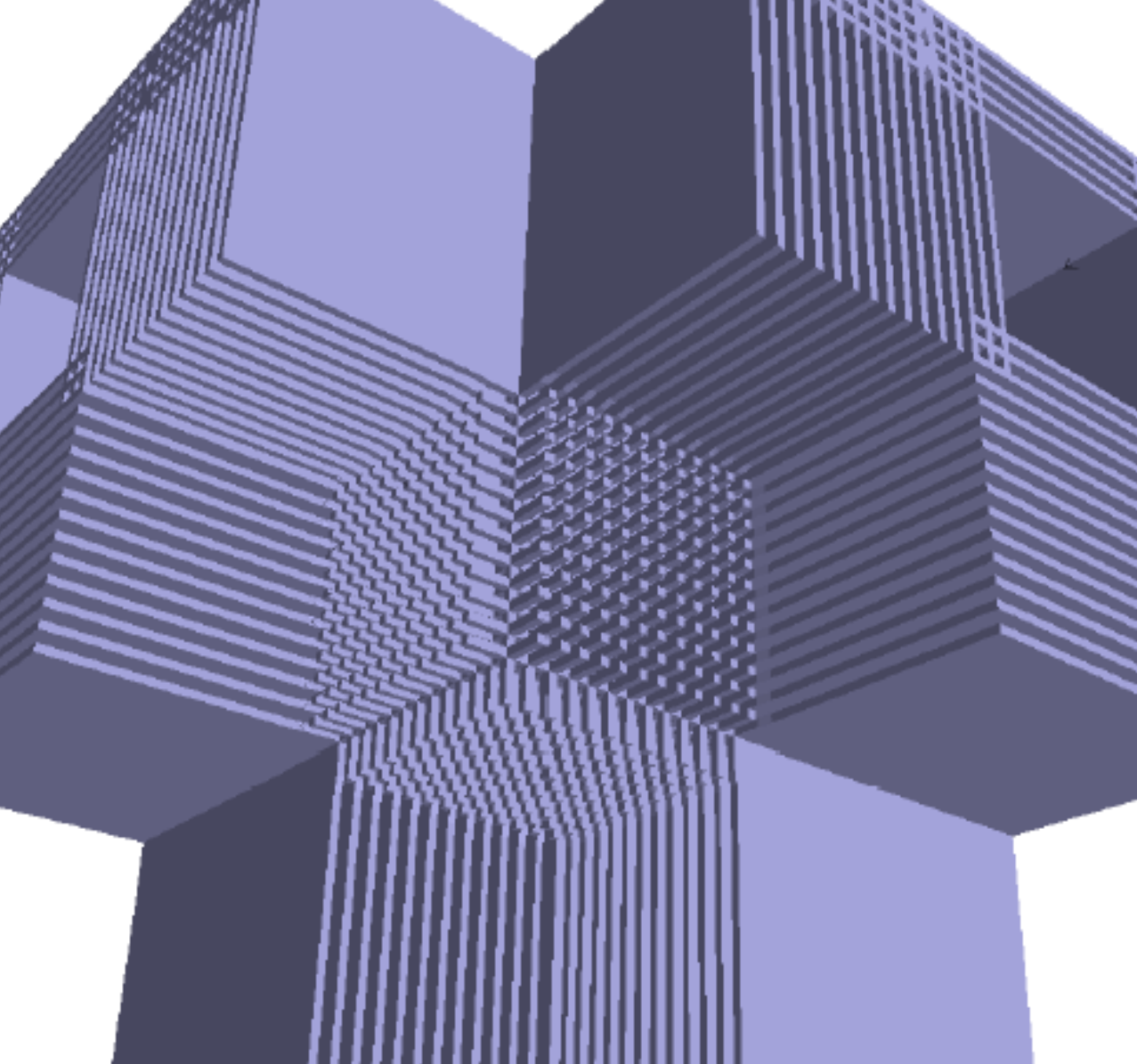




444 tris



1,134 tris

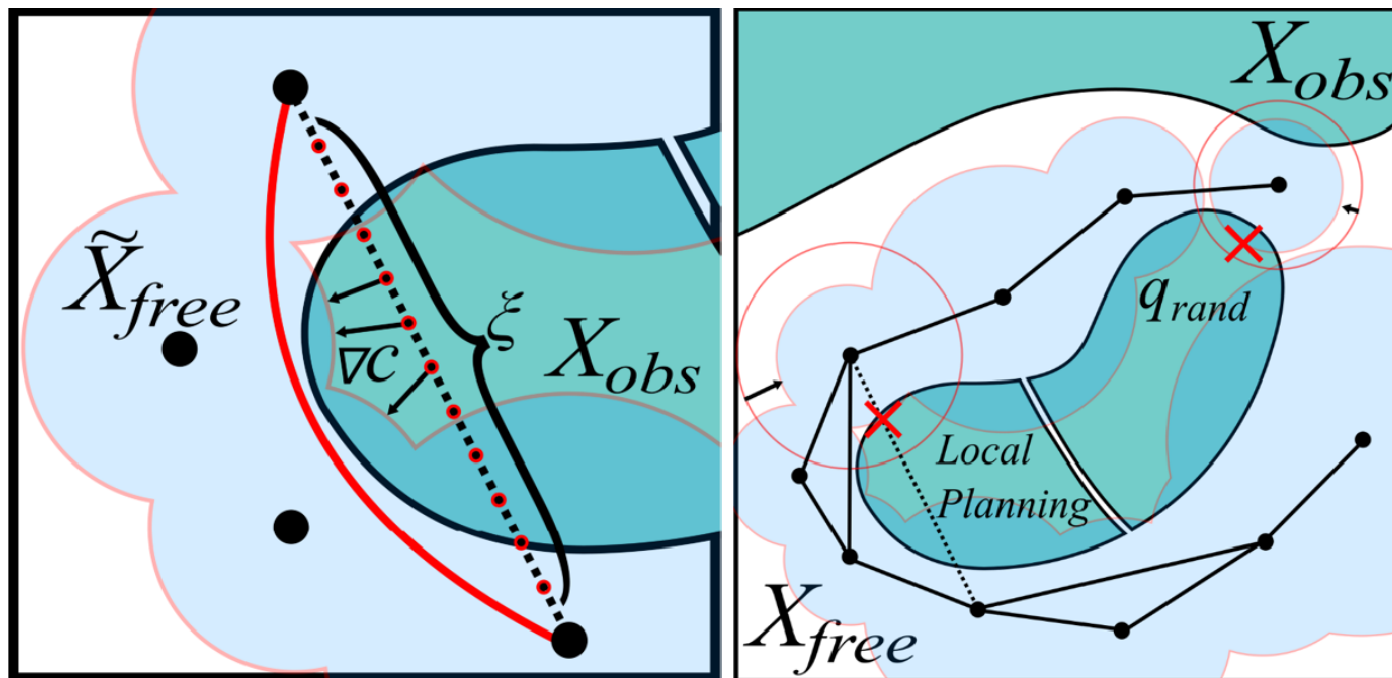


Main Message

- **Computing the free or obstacle space in an accurate way is an expensive and non-trivial problem**
- **Lead to many sampling based methods**
 - **Locally utilize many geometric concepts developed for designing complete planners**

Approximation of Configuration Free Space

- **Dancing PRM* : Simultaneous Planning of Sampling and Optimization with Configuration Free Space Approximation**
 - Approximate C-Space and perform planning
 - Improve the quality in an iterative manner



[Video](#)

Sensors!

Robots' link to the external world...



gyro

**Sensors, sensors, sensors!
and tracking what is sensed: world models**

sonar rangefinder



IR rangefinder



sonar rangefinder



compass



CMU cam with on-board processing

odometry...

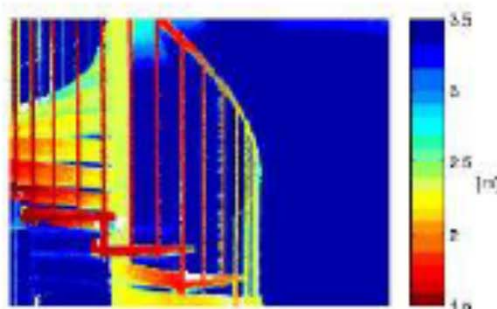
Laser Ranging



LIDAR

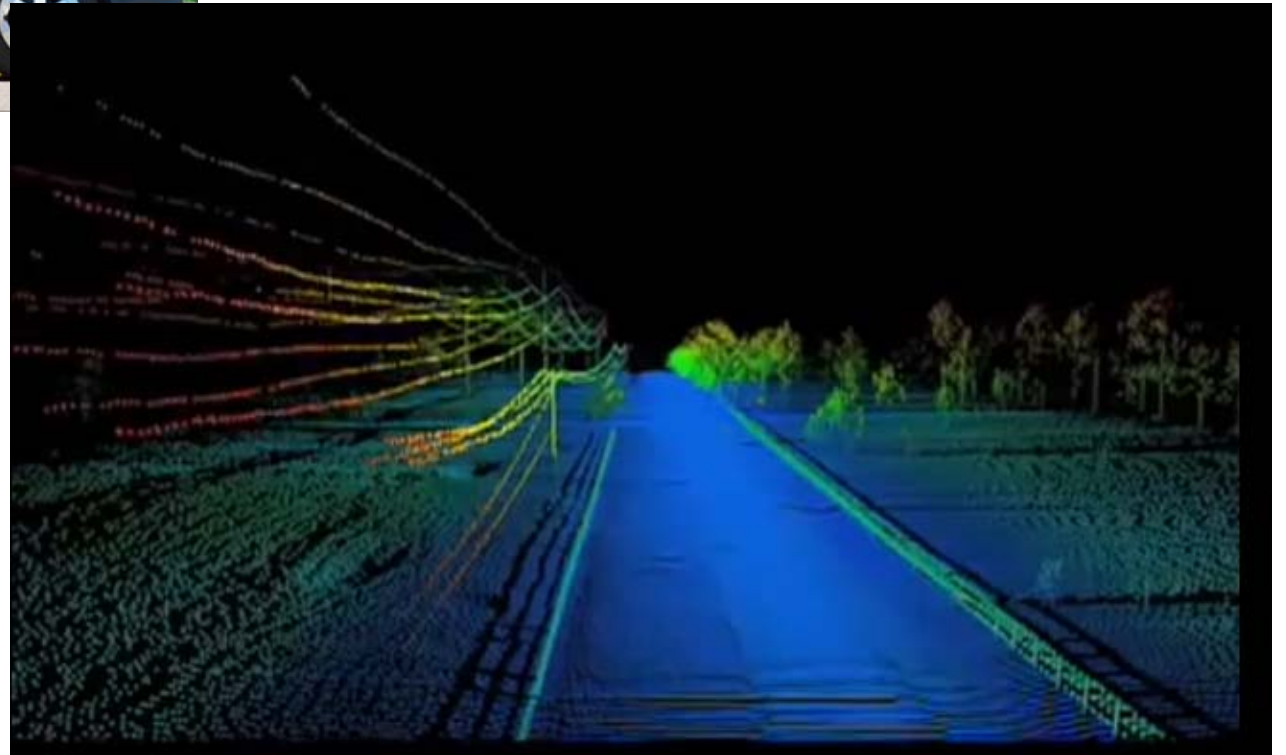


Sick Laser



LIDAR map

Velodyne



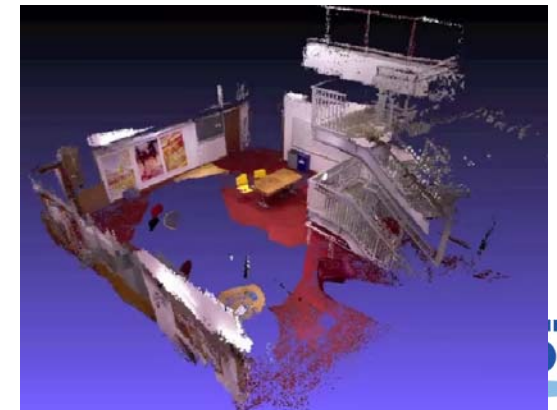
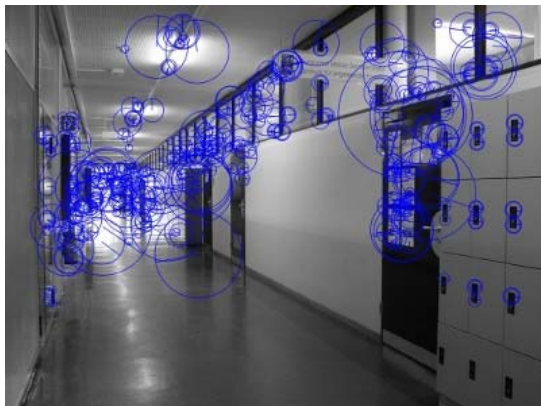
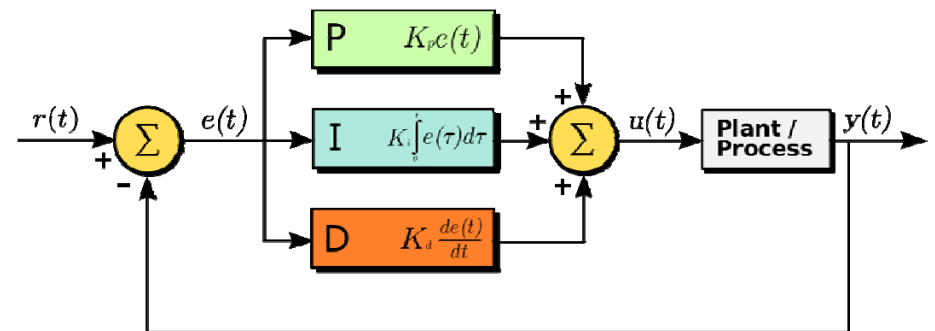
Kinect and Xtion



- **Kinect resolution**
 - **640×480 pixels @ 30 Hz (RGB camera)**
 - **640×480 pixels @ 30 Hz (IR depth-finding camera)**

Whole Picture

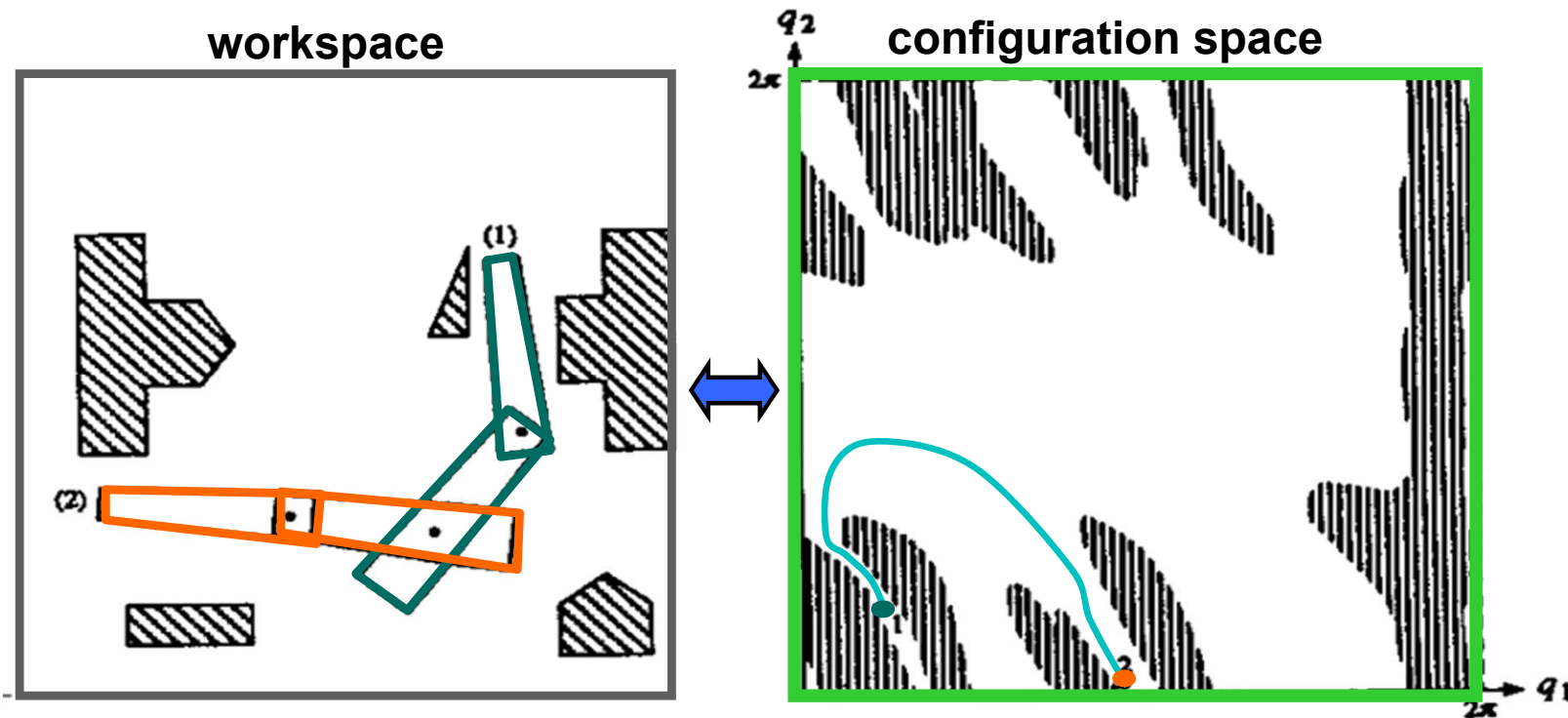
- **Sensor**
 - Point clouds as obstacle map
- **SLAM (Simultaneous Localization and Mapping)**
- **Path/motion planner**
- **Control**
 - Compute force controls given a computed path



Configuration space

- **Definitions and examples**
- **Obstacles**
- **Paths**
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Paths in the configuration space



- A **path** in C is a continuous curve connecting two configurations q and q' :

$$\tau : s \in [0,1] \rightarrow \tau(s) \in C$$

such that $\tau(0) = q$ and $\tau(1) = q'$.

Constraints on paths

- A **trajectory** is a path parameterized by time:

$$\tau : t \in [0, T] \rightarrow \tau(t) \in C$$

- **Constraints**
 - Finite length
 - Bounded curvature
 - Smoothness
 - Minimum length
 - Minimum time
 - Minimum energy
 - ...

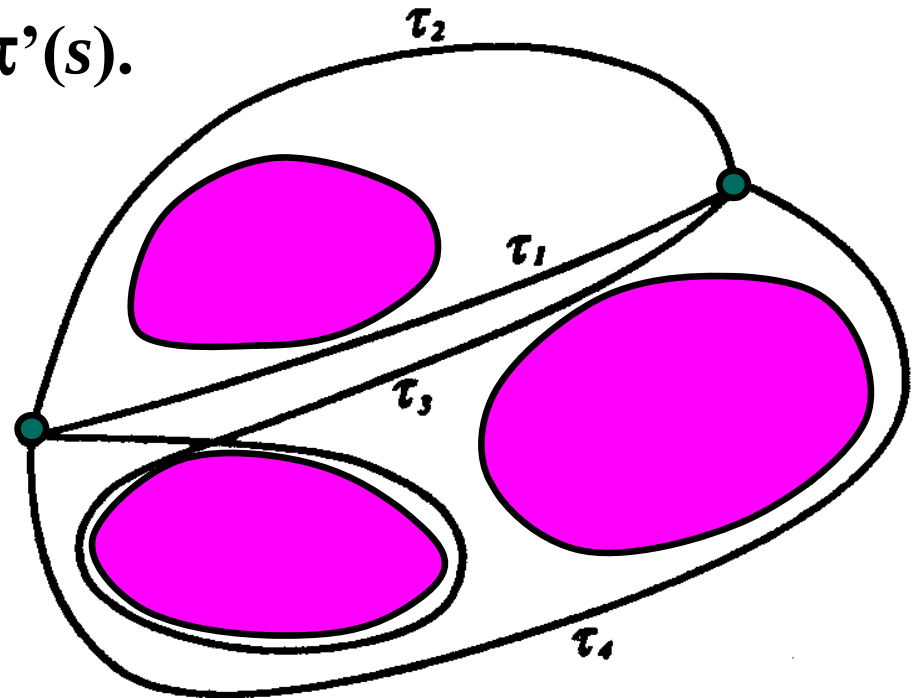
Homotopic Paths

- Two paths τ and τ' (that map from U to V) with the same endpoints are **homotopic** if one can be continuously deformed into the other:

$$h : U \times [0,1] \rightarrow V$$

with $h(s,0) = \tau(s)$ and $h(s,1) = \tau'(s)$.

- A homotopic class of paths contains all paths that are homotopic to one another



Configuration space

- **Definitions and examples**
- **Obstacles**
- **Paths**
- **Metrics**

Metric in Configuration Space

- A **metric** or **distance** function d in a configuration space C is a function

$$d : (q, q') \in C^2 \rightarrow d(q, q') \geq 0$$

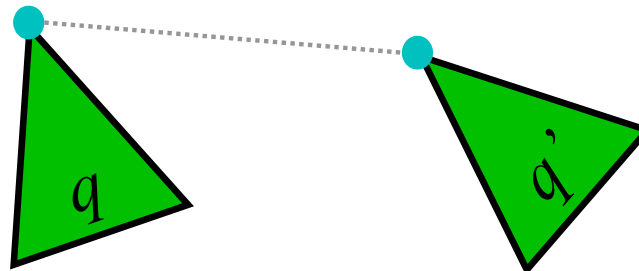
such that

- $d(q, q') = 0$ if and only if $q = q'$, Identity
- $d(q, q') = d(q', q)$, Symmetry
- $d(q, q') \leq d(q, q'') + d(q'', q')$. Triangle inequality

Example

- **Robot A and a point x on A**
- **$x(q)$: position of x in the workspace when A is at configuration q**
- **A distance d in C is defined by**
$$d(q, q') = \max_{x \in A} \|x(q) - x(q')\|,$$

where $\|x - y\|$ denotes the Euclidean distance between points x and y in the workspace.



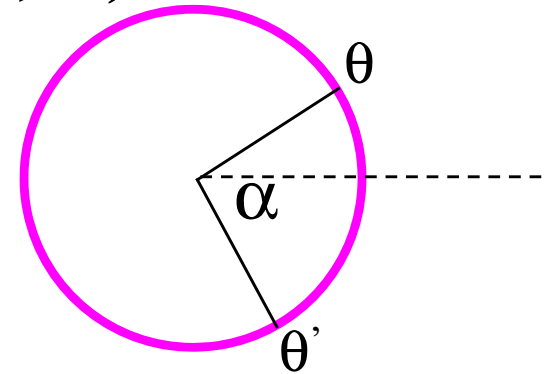
L_p Metrics

$$d(x, x') = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - x'_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

- L_2 : Euclidean metric
- L_1 : Manhattan metric
- L_∞ : Max ($|x_i - x'_i|$)

Examples in $\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$

- Consider $\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$
 - $q = (x, y, \theta)$, $q' = (x', y', \theta')$ with $\theta, \theta' \in [0, 2\pi)$
 - $\alpha = \min \{ |\theta - \theta'|, 2\pi - |\theta - \theta'| \}$

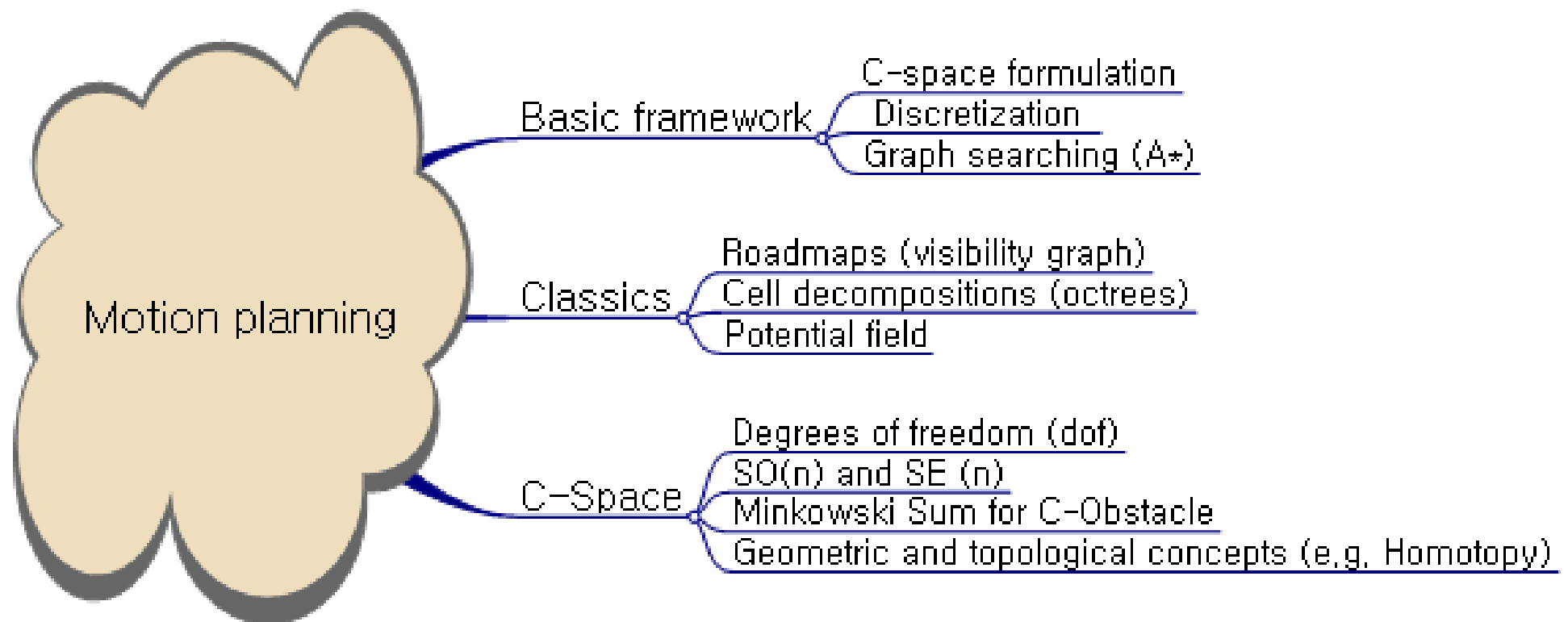


- $d(q, q') = \sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + \alpha^2}$

Class Objectives were:

- **Configuration space**
 - **Definitions and examples**
 - **Obstacles**
 - **Paths**
 - **Metrics**

Summary



Next Time....

- **Collision detection and distance computation**

Homework

- **Submit summaries of 2 ICRA/IROS/RSS/CoRL/TRO/IJRR papers**
- **Go over the next lecture slides**
- **Come up with two questions before the mid-term exam**