

# Distributed Rigidity Maintenance with Range-only Sensing

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### Coordination in Multi-agent Systems



General Robotics, Automation, Sensing & Perception

#### System Requirements

- `low-level' control
- sensing and communication
- mission objectives
  - local
  - team
- distributed algorithms

# What are the *architectural* requirements for a multi-agent system?



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#### Coordination in Harsh Environments





are very accurate and independent of any





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#### "Connectedness" of the sensing and communication network





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certain "team" objectives and specific sensing/communication capabilities might dictate additional architectural requirements

- formation keeping
- localization













formation specified by a set of inter-agent distances

agents can measure distance to neighbors

sensor limitations only allow a subset of available measurements



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#### Can the desired formation be maintained using only the available distance measurements?

#### No!



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A *minimum* number of distance measurements are required to *uniquely* determine the desired formation!

#### Graph Rigidity



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#### ♦ Motivation

- Graph Rigidity and the Rigidity Eigenvalue
- ♦ Distributed Rigidity Maintenance

♦ Outlook



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bar-and-joint frameworks

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}) \\ p : \mathcal{V} \to \mathbb{R}^2 \end{cases}$$

maps every vertex to a point in the plane



Two frameworks are equivalent if

 $(\mathcal{G}, p_0) \ (\mathcal{G}, p_1)$ 

Two frameworks are congruent if

 $(\mathcal{G}, p_0) \ (\mathcal{G}, p_1)$ 

$$\|p_0(v_i) - p_0(v_j)\| = \|p_1(v_i) - p_1(v_j)\|$$
$$\forall \{v_i, v_j\} \in \mathcal{E}$$
$$\|p_0(v_i) - p_0(v_j)\| = \|p_1(v_i) - p_1(v_j)\|$$

 $\forall v_i, v_j \in \mathcal{V}$ 



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A framework  $(\mathcal{G}, p_0)$  is globally rigid if every framework that is equivalent to  $(\mathcal{G}, p_0)$ is congruent to  $(\mathcal{G}, p_0)$ .





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parameterizing frameworks by a variable representing "time" allows to consider "motions" of a framework  $(\mathcal{G}, p, t)$ 

A trajectory is edge consistent if  $\|p(v,t) - p(u,t)\|$  is constant for all  $\{v,u\} \in \mathcal{E}$  and all t.

edge consistent trajectories generate a family of equivalent frameworks

$$\{p(u) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|p(u) - p(v)\|_2^2 = \ell_{uv}^2, \forall \{u, v\} \in \mathcal{E}\}$$
$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \|x_u(t) - x_v(t)\| = 0, \forall \{u, v\} \in \mathcal{E}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\dot{x}_u(t) - \dot{x}_v(t))^T (x_u(t) - x_v(t)) = 0$$

#### infinitesimal motions



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How can we check if a graph is generically or infinitesimally rigid?



### The Rigidity Matrix



**Lemma 1 (Tay1984)** A framework  $(\mathcal{G}, p)$  is infinitesimally rigid if and only if  $\mathbf{rk}[R] = 2|\mathcal{V}| - 3$ 



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### The Symmetric Rigidity Matrix

The Symmetric Rigidity Matrix

 $\mathcal{R} = R(p)^T R(p)$ 



the Rigidity Eigenvalue

 $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \ldots \leq \lambda_{2|\mathcal{V}|}$ 

**Theorem 1** A framework is infinitesimally rigid if and only if the rigidity eigenvalue is strictly positive; i.e.  $\lambda_4 > 0$ .

proof: 
$$P\mathcal{R}P^T = (I_2 \otimes E(\mathcal{G})) \begin{bmatrix} W_x^2 & W_{xy} \\ W_{xy} & W_y^2 \end{bmatrix} (I_2 \otimes E(\mathcal{G})^T)$$
  
weights depend on *relative positions*  $[W_x^2]_{kk} = (p_i^x - p_j^x)^2$ 



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#### Frameworks for Dynamic Environments





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### Weighted Frameworks

When is there a sensing link between agents?



### Weighted Frameworks



$$R(p, \mathcal{W}) = W(\mathcal{G}, p)R(p)$$

 $\mathcal{R} = R(p, \mathcal{W})^T R(p, \mathcal{W})$ 

**Corollary 1** A weighted framework  $(\mathcal{G}, p, \mathcal{W})$ is infinitesimally rigid if and only if the weighted rigidity eigenvalue is strictly positive.



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- ♦ Motivation
- ♦ Graph Rigidity and the Rigidity Eigenvalue
- Distributed Rigidity Maintenance
- ♦ Outlook



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#### Rigidity Maintenance



When *relative sensing* is used, rigidity becomes an important *architectural requirement* for a multi-agent system

⇒ to achieve higher level objectives (i.e. formation control, localization), the rigidity property must be maintained dynamically



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### The Rigidity Potential

How can rigidity be maintained with only local information?



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### The Rigidity Potential

How can rigidity be maintained with only local information?

**Key observation**: Gradient of rigidity eigenvalue has a distributed structure!





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### Distributed Rigidity Maintenance

#### a distributed implementation requires

- estimation of a common inertial frame
- estimation of the rigidity eigenvalue and eigenvector





#### Estimation of a Common Frame

Agents do not have access to relative positions, only distance



rigidity of formation can be used for each agent to estimate relative position to a *common point* 



- one agent endowed with *special ability*
- able to measure *relative position* w.r.t to two agents
- all other agents only measure distances



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#### Estimation of a Common Frame

 $\hat{p}_{i,c}$  is estimate of  $p_i - p_c$ 



Properties of error function

- non-negative and convex function
- = 0 if and only if estimated distances equal measured distances

\*based on approach of Calafiore et al., 2010.



 $p_c$ 

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• "special" agent becomes the

(moving) point each agent is trying

to estimate the relative position of

#### Estimation of a Common Frame

**First-Order Gradient Descent** 

$$\dot{\hat{p}} = -\frac{\partial e}{\partial \hat{p}} = -\mathcal{R}(\hat{p})\hat{p} + R(\hat{p})\ell + \Delta^c$$

**Proposition** If the framework is (infinitesimally) rigid then the vector of true values  $p - (\mathbb{1} \otimes p_c) =$  $[(p_1 - p_c)^T \cdots (p_{|\mathcal{V}|} - p_c)^T]^T$  is an isolated local minimizer of  $e(\hat{p})$ . Therefore, there exists an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that, for all initial conditions satisfying  $\|\hat{p}(0) - p - (\mathbb{1} \otimes p_c)\| < \epsilon$ , the estimation  $\hat{p}$  converges to  $p - (\mathbb{1} \otimes p_c)$ .

\*proof based on Krick et al., 2009



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#### Estimation of Rigidity Eigenvalue





### Estimation of Rigidity Eigenvalue

recall...

A framework is infinitesimally rigid if and only if the rigidity eigenvalue is positive

$$\xi_i = -\frac{\partial V_\lambda}{\partial \lambda_4} \left(\frac{\partial \lambda_4}{\partial p_i}\right)$$

requires all agents to have knowledge of rigidity eigenvalue and eigenvector

strategy

**1** Power Iteration Method

algorithm for estimating the dominant eigenvalue of a matrix  $Ax_k$ 

$$x_{k+1} = \frac{|Ax_k|}{||Ax_k||}$$

2 **Distributed Implementation** use of dynamic consensus filters



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#### Power Iteration Method

Rigidity eigenvalue is *not* the dominant eigenvalue of symmetric rigidity matrix

power iteration on "deflated" matrix  $\tilde{\mathcal{R}} = I - TT^T - \alpha \mathcal{R}$  $IM[T] = span[\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{R})]$ 

recall...

$$P\mathcal{R}P^{T} = (I_{2} \otimes E(\mathcal{G})) \begin{bmatrix} W_{x} & W_{xy} \\ W_{xy} & W_{y} \end{bmatrix} (I_{2} \otimes E(\mathcal{G})^{T})$$
  
relative position  
to a common point  
$$\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{R}) = \operatorname{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbb{1} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} p^{y} - p^{y}_{c} \mathbb{1} \\ p^{x}_{c} \mathbb{1} - p^{x} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$



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#### Power Iteration Method

continuous-time centralized power iteration method

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{v}}}(t) = -\left(k_1 T T^T + k_2 \mathcal{R} + k_3 \left(\frac{\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)^T \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)}{3|\mathcal{V}|} - 1\right) I\right) \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)$$

**Theorem** Assume that the symmetric rigidity matrix  $\mathcal{R}$  has distinct non-zero eigenvalues, and let  $\mathbf{v}$  denote the rigidity eigenvector. Then for any initial condition  $\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{3|\mathcal{V}|}$  such that  $\mathbf{v}^T \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t_0) \neq 0$ , the trajectories of (17) converge to the subspace spanned by the rigidity eigenvector, i.e.,  $\lim_{t\to\infty} \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t) = \gamma \mathbf{v}$  for  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ , if and only if the gains  $k_1, k_2$  and  $k_3$  satisfy the following conditions:

1) 
$$k_1, k_2, k_3 > 0$$
,  
2)  $k_1 > k_2 \lambda_7$ .

3)  $k_3 > k_2 \lambda_7$ .

\*adapted from Yang et al., 2010



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#### Distributed Power Iterat



$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{v}}}(t) = -\left(k_1 T T^T + k_2 \mathcal{R} + k_3 \left(\frac{\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)^T \hat{\mathbf{v}}}{3|\mathcal{V}|}\right)\right)$$

(1) symmetric rigidity matrix is a 
$$P\mathcal{R}P^T = (I_2 \otimes E(\mathcal{G} \cap I_2))$$
  
"naturally" distributed operator

$$(2) \left( \frac{\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)^T \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)}{3|\mathcal{V}|} - 1 \right) \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t) = (Avg(\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t) \circ \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)) - 1) \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)$$
 average of a vector can be distributedly computed using consensus algorithm\*

PI-Consensus Filter [Freeman et al. 2006]

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{z}(t) \\ \dot{w}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\gamma I - K_P L(\mathcal{G}(t)) & K_I L(\mathcal{G}(t)) \\ -K_I L(\mathcal{G}(t)) & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} z(t) \\ w(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \gamma I \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u(t)$$
$$y(t) = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} z(t) \\ w(t) \end{bmatrix}.$$

- dynamic consensus filter
- tunable gains
- tracks average of timevarying signal



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#### **Distributed Power Iteration**

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{v}}}(t) = -\left(\!\left(\!k_1 T T^T\!\right) \!+\! \left(\!k_2 \mathcal{R}\!\right) \!+\! \left(\!k_3 \left(\frac{\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)^T \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)}{3|\mathcal{V}|} \!-\! 1\right)\!\right) I\right) \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t)$$





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**Corollary V.4.** Let  $\overline{\mathbf{v}}_i^2(t)$  denote the output of the PI consensus filter for estimating the quantity  $Avg(\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t) \circ \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t))$  for agent *i*. Then agent *i*'s estimate of the rigidity eigenvalue,  $\hat{\lambda}_7^i$ , can be obtained as

$$\hat{\lambda}_7^i = \frac{k_3}{k_2} \left( 1 - \overline{\mathbf{v}}_i^2(t) \right).$$



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### Putting it all together...

#### power iteration

$$\begin{split} \dot{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} &= -k_{1}|\mathcal{V}|\left(\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} + z_{i}^{xy}(t)\hat{p}_{i,c}^{y} + z_{i}^{xz}\hat{p}_{i,c}^{z}(t)\right) - k_{2}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}W_{ij}\left(\dot{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x}(t) - \dot{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{x}\right) - k_{3}\left(\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} - 1\right)\dot{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} \\ & \text{frame estimation} \\ \dot{p}_{i,c} &= \sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(\|\hat{p}_{j,c} - \hat{p}_{i,c}\|^{2} - \ell_{ij}^{2}\right)(\hat{p}_{j,c} - \hat{p}_{i,c}) - \delta_{iic}\hat{p}_{i,c} - \delta_{ii}\left(\hat{p}_{i,c} - (p_{i} - p_{i_{c}})\right) - \delta_{i\kappa}\left(\hat{p}_{\kappa,c} - (p_{\kappa} - p_{i_{c}})\right) \\ & \left\{\dot{\overline{\mathbf{v}}}_{i}^{x} &= \gamma\left(\dot{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} - \overline{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x}\right) - K_{P}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}}\left(\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} - \overline{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{2x}\right) + K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(\overline{\mathbf{w}}_{i}^{x} - \overline{\mathbf{w}}_{j}^{2x}\right) \\ & \mathbf{v}_{i}^{x} &= -K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} - \overline{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{2x}\right) - K_{P}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{2x} - \overline{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{2x}\right) + K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(\overline{\mathbf{w}}_{i}^{2x} - \overline{\mathbf{w}}_{j}^{2x}\right) \\ & \mathbf{v}_{i}^{xy} &= -K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{2x} - \overline{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{2x}\right) - K_{P}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xy} - z_{j}^{xy}\right) + K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(w_{i}^{xy}(t) - w_{j}^{xy}\right) \\ & \left\{\dot{\overline{w}}_{i}^{xy} &= -K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{xy} - z_{j}^{xy}\right) - K_{P}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xy} - z_{j}^{xy}\right) + K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(w_{i}^{xy}(t) - w_{j}^{xy}\right) \\ & \left\{\dot{\overline{w}}_{i}^{xy} &= -K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xy} - z_{j}^{xy}\right) - K_{P}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xy} - z_{j}^{xy}\right) + K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(w_{i}^{xy} - w_{j}^{xy}\right) \\ & \left\{\dot{\overline{w}}_{i}^{xz} &= -K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xx} - z_{j}^{xz}\right) - K_{P}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xy} - z_{j}^{xy}\right) + K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(w_{i}^{xy} - w_{j}^{xy}\right) \\ & \left\{\dot{\overline{w}}_{i}^{xz} &= -K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xz} - z_{j}^{xz}\right) - K_{P}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xy} - z_{j}^{xy}\right) + K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(w_{i}^{xy} - w_{j}^{xy}\right) \\ & \left\{\dot{\overline{w}}_{i}^{xz} &= -K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xz} - z_{j}^{xz}\right) - K_{P}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xy} - z_{j}^{xy}\right) + K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(w_{i}^{xy} - w_{j}^{xy}\right) \\ & \left\{\dot{\overline{w}}_{i}^{xz} &= -K_{I}\sum_{j\in\mathcal{N}_{i}(t)}\left(z_{i}^{xz} - z_{j}^$$



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#### Rigidity Maintenance Controller



use output of rigidity estimator in control

$$\begin{split} \xi_{i}^{x} &= -\frac{\partial V(\hat{\lambda}_{7}^{i})}{\partial \lambda_{7}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_{i}} W_{ij} \left( 2(\hat{p}_{i,c}^{x} - \hat{p}_{j,c}^{x})(\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} - \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{x})^{2} + \\ 2(\hat{p}_{i,c}^{y} - \hat{p}_{j,c}^{y})(\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} - \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{x})(\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{y} - \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{y}) + 2(\hat{p}_{i,c}^{z} - \hat{p}_{j,c}^{z})(\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{x} - \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{x})(\hat{\mathbf{v}}_{i}^{z} - \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{z}) \right) + \\ \frac{\partial W_{ij}}{\partial p_{i}^{x}} \hat{S}_{ij}, \end{split}$$



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#### Decentralized Rigidity Maintenance Control with Range-only Measurements for Multi-Robot Systems

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### Some unresolved points....

- Power Iteration method assumes *distinct eigenvalues* 
  - proposed scheme can not guarantee that rigidity eigenvalue is unique
  - can lead to undesirable behaviors
- Formal stability proof for interconnection of all filters is missing
  - ad hoc implementation
  - engineering art to ensure each filter converges fast enough
  - alternative to power iteration method
- Need to relax requirement for "special agent"



#### Outlook

Rigidity is an important architectural requirement for multi-agent systems!

- "bearing" rigidity
- full distributed implementations
- formation specification and trajectory tracking
- optimality
- rigidity matroids
- sub-modular optimization
- sensor fusion and localization

$$f(X\cup\{x\})-f(X)\geq f(Y\cup\{x\})-f(Y)$$

i

j

k







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#### どもありがとうございます!

Questions?





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