

Modeling and Optimal Control of a Tentacle-like Soft-Robot

Simone Cacace

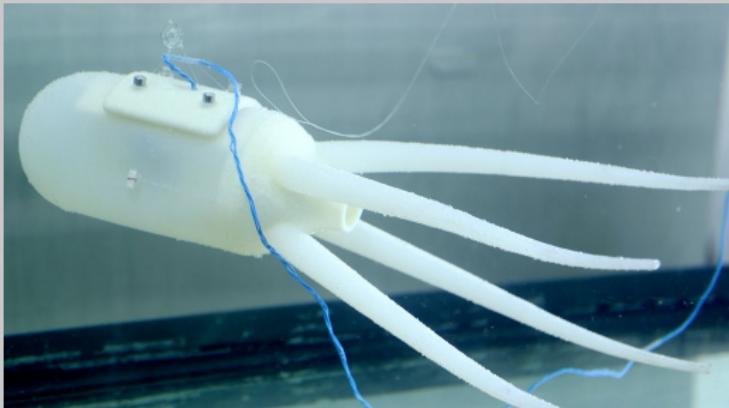
joint work with Anna Chiara Lai and Paola Loreti



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Motivations



Soft Robotics

- Soft materials, great adaptability
- Safe robot/human interactions
- Microsurgery
- Rehabilitation
- Exploration
- Rescue

...

Modeling

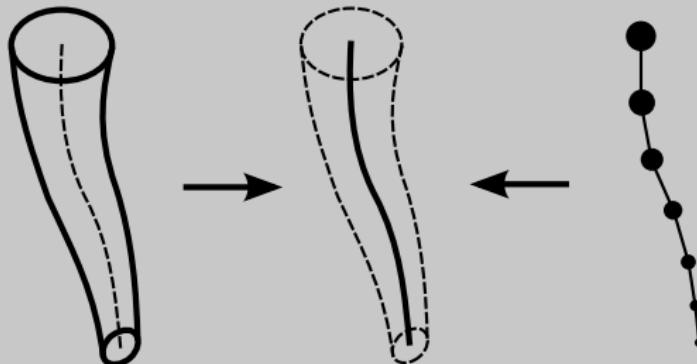
- Neglect torsion \Rightarrow planar 2D model
- Translating physical properties:

Variable thickness \Rightarrow non-uniform $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{mass distribution} \\ \text{resistance to bending} \\ \text{curvature constraints} \end{array} \right.$

Bending \gg Elongation \Rightarrow Inextensibility

Muscles activation \Rightarrow Control of local curvature

- Approximation via constrained non-uniform chain (multi-pendulum)



Constraints

Lagrangian description via a system of N linked particles

q_k : position of the k -th particle (joint)

m_k : mass of the k -th particle

ℓ_k : distance between joints $k - 1$ and k

α_k : maximum angle between joints $k - 1$, k and $k + 1$

$$\sum_{k=1}^N m_k = 1, \quad \sum_{k=1}^N \ell_k = 1$$

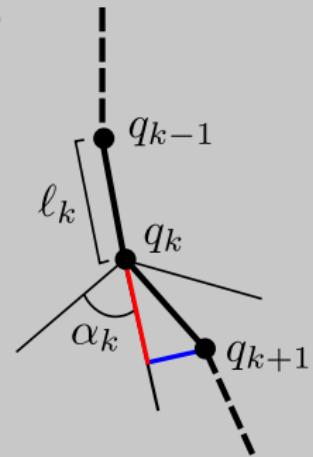
Inextensibility: $|q_k - q_{k-1}| = \ell_k$

Curvature constraint: $(q_{k+1} - q_k) \cdot (q_k - q_{k-1}) \geq \ell_k^2 \cos(\alpha_k)$

Curvature control: $(q_{k+1} - q_k) \times (q_k - q_{k-1}) = \ell_k^2 \sin(\alpha_k u_k)$, $u_k \in [-1, 1]$

Bending constraint: $(q_{k+1} - q_k) \times (q_k - q_{k-1}) = 0$

Notation: $a \times b = a \cdot b^\perp$, $b^\perp = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} b$



Discrete to Continuous limit

Assume

$$\ell_k \equiv \ell = \frac{1}{N}, \quad m_k = \ell \rho_k, \quad \alpha_k = \ell \omega_k$$

and form the (suitably rescaled) Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_N(t, q, \dot{q}) = \sum_{k=1}^N \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2} \ell \rho_k |\dot{q}_k|^2 \\ -\frac{1}{2\ell} \sigma_k (|q_k - q_{k-1}|^2 - \ell^2) \\ -\frac{1}{\ell^3} \nu_k \left(\cos(\ell \omega_k) - \frac{1}{\ell^2} (q_{k+1} - q_k) \cdot (q_k - q_{k-1}) \right)_+^2 \\ -\frac{1}{2\ell} \mu_k \left(\sin(\ell \omega_k u_k) - \frac{1}{\ell^2} (q_{k+1} - q_k) \times (q_k - q_{k-1}) \right)^2 \\ -\frac{1}{2\ell^5} \varepsilon_k ((q_{k+1} - q_k) \times (q_k - q_{k-1}))^2 \end{array} \right.$$

where, for $k = 1, \dots, N$,

σ_k is a Lagrange multiplier (tension),

$\nu_k, \mu_k, \varepsilon_k$ are penalty parameters (elastic constants, bending stiffness)

Discrete to Continuous limit

Consider regular (scalar or vector) functions $\chi(s, t)$ such that

$$\chi(k\ell, t) = \chi_k(t), \quad \text{for } \chi = \rho, \omega, q, \sigma, \nu, \mu, \varepsilon.$$

Using Taylor expansions and taking the limit as $\ell \rightarrow 0$ ($N \rightarrow \infty$) we get the continuous Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(t, q, q_t) = & \int_0^1 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \rho |q_t|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sigma (|q_s|^2 - 1) - \frac{1}{4} \nu (|q_{ss}|^2 - \omega^2)_+^2 \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{1}{2} \mu (\omega u - q_s \times q_{ss})^2 - \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon |q_{ss}|^2 \right\} ds dt \end{aligned}$$

Model parameters:

thin joints weigh less than thick joints $\implies \rho \searrow$
thin joints bend easier than thick joints $\implies \nu, \mu, \varepsilon \searrow$ and $\omega \nearrow$

Controlled Dynamics

Assuming boundary (free end) conditions and initial conditions

$$(BC + IC) = \begin{cases} q(0, t) = 0 & t \in (0, T) \text{ anchor point} \\ q_s(0, t) = -e_2 & t \in (0, T) \text{ fixed tangent} \\ q(s, 0) = q^0(s) & s \in (0, 1) \text{ initial profile} \\ q_t(s, 0) = q^1(s) & s \in (0, 1) \text{ initial velocity} \end{cases}$$

then a stationary point (q, σ) of the action $\mathcal{S} = \int_0^T \mathcal{L}(t, q, q_t) dt$ satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \rho q_{tt} = [\sigma q_s - H q_{ss}^\perp]_s - [G q_{ss} + H q_s^\perp]_{ss} & \text{in } (0, 1) \times (0, T) \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 & \text{in } (0, 1) \times (0, T) \quad \text{inextensibility} \\ q_{ss}(1, t) = 0 & t \in (0, T) \quad \text{zero bending moment at } s = 1 \\ q_{sss}(1, t) = 0 & t \in (0, T) \quad \text{zero shear stress at } s = 1 \\ \sigma(1, t) = 0 & t \in (0, T) \quad \text{zero tension at } s = 1 \end{cases}$$

where

$$G(q, \nu, \varepsilon, \omega) = \varepsilon + \nu (|q_{ss}|^2 - \omega^2)_+ \quad H(q, \mu, u, \omega) = \mu (\omega u - q_s \times q_{ss})$$

Equilibria

Bending Moment VS Curvature Control

Let $u \in C^2([0, 1])$ and define $\bar{\omega}(\mu, \omega, \varepsilon) := \frac{\mu\omega}{\mu + \varepsilon} \leq \omega$.

Then the stationary problem

$$\begin{cases} [\sigma q_s - Hq_{ss}^\perp]_s - [Gq_{ss} + Hq_s^\perp]_{ss} = 0 & \text{in } (0, 1) \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 & \text{in } [0, 1] \\ q(0) = 0, \quad \sigma(1) = 0 \\ q_s(0) = -e_2, \quad q_{ss}(1) = 0, \quad q_{sss}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

admits a unique solution $(q, \sigma) \in C^4([0, 1]) \times C^2([0, 1])$ which is given by

$$\begin{cases} q_s \times q_{ss} = \bar{\omega}u & \text{in } (0, 1) \\ \sigma = \varepsilon(\bar{\omega}u)^2 & \text{in } [0, 1] \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 & \text{in } [0, 1] \\ q(0) = 0, \quad q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0, \quad q_{sss}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Reachability

Touch a point with the tentacle tip and minimum effort

Given $q^* \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\tau_0 > 0$

$$\text{Minimize } \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 u^2 ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} |q(1) - q^*|^2$$

subject to
$$\begin{cases} q_s \times q_{ss} = \bar{\omega} u \\ |u| \leq 1 \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 \\ q(0) = 0 \\ q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0 \\ q_{sss}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

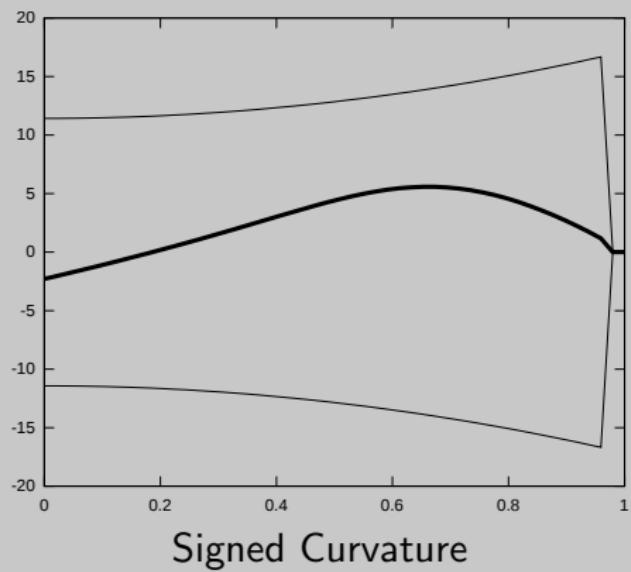
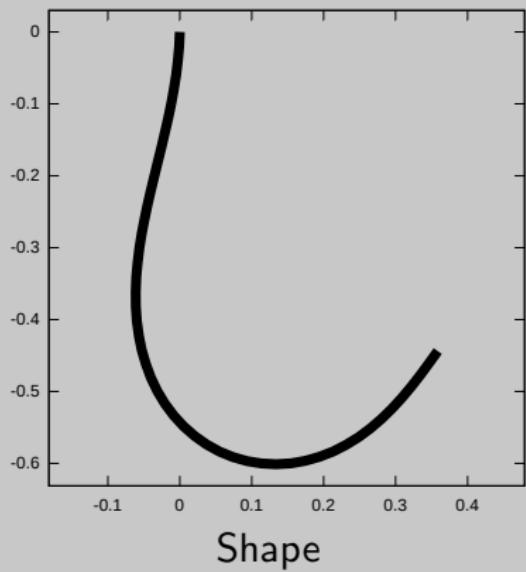
Using $|q_{ss}| = \bar{\omega}|u|$ to eliminate u yields

$$\text{Minimize } \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} |q_{ss}|^2 ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} |q(1) - q^*|^2$$

subject to
$$\begin{cases} |q_{ss}| \leq \bar{\omega} \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 \\ q(0) = 0 \\ q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0 \\ q_{sss}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Reachability

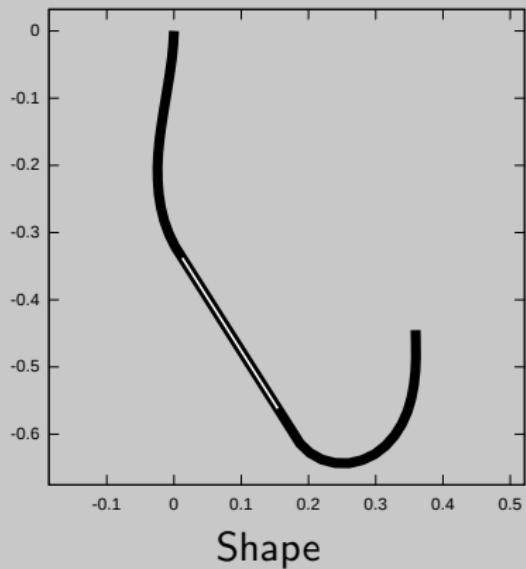
Target point $q^* = (0.35, -0.45)$



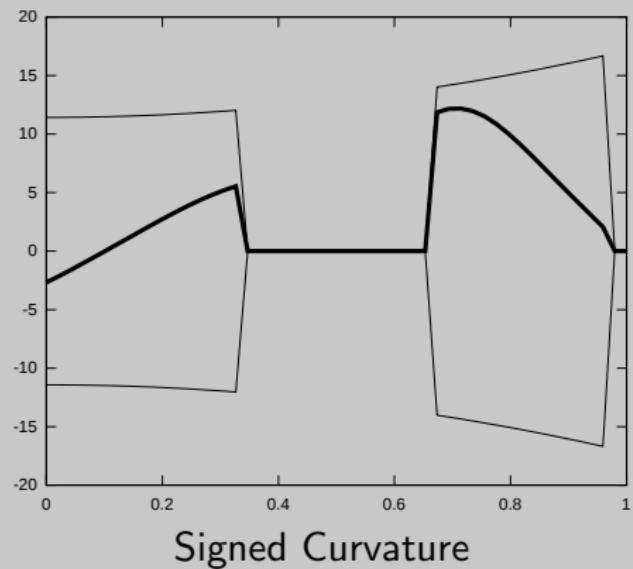
$$\bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$$

Reachability

Target point $q^* = (0.35, -0.45)$



Shape



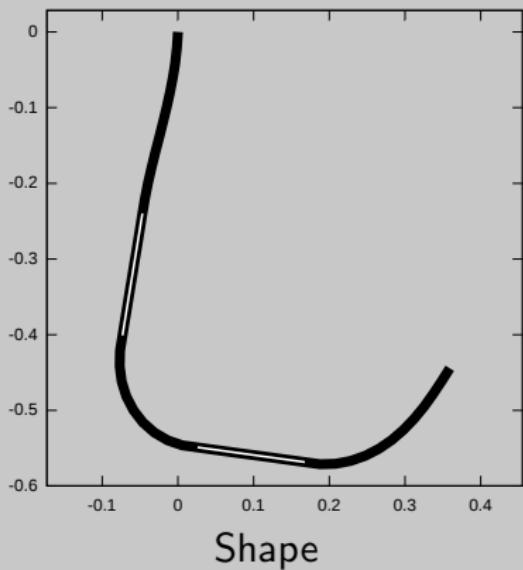
Signed Curvature

Mechanical breakdown

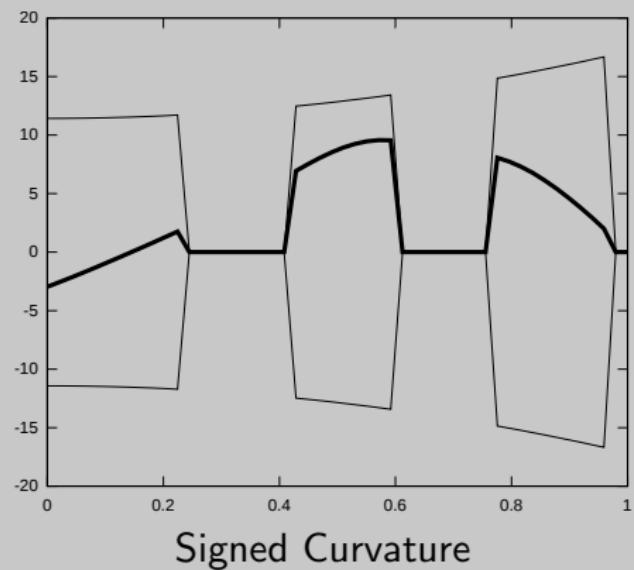
$$\bar{\omega}(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & s \in (0.35, 0.65) \\ 4\pi(1 + s^2) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Reachability

Target point $q^* = (0.35, -0.45)$



Shape



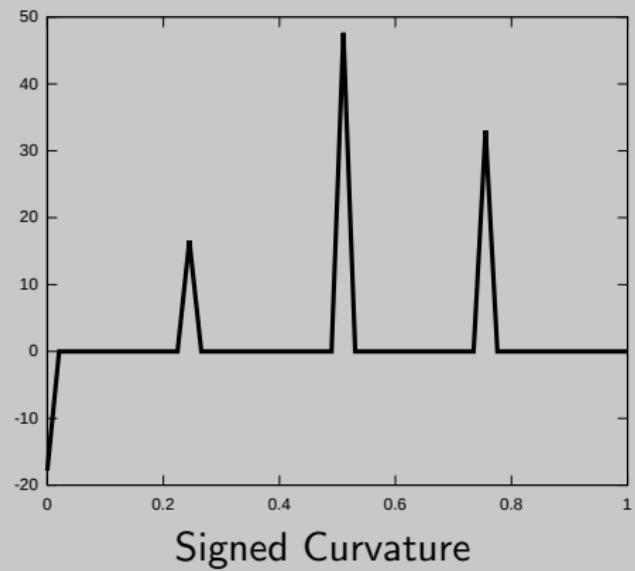
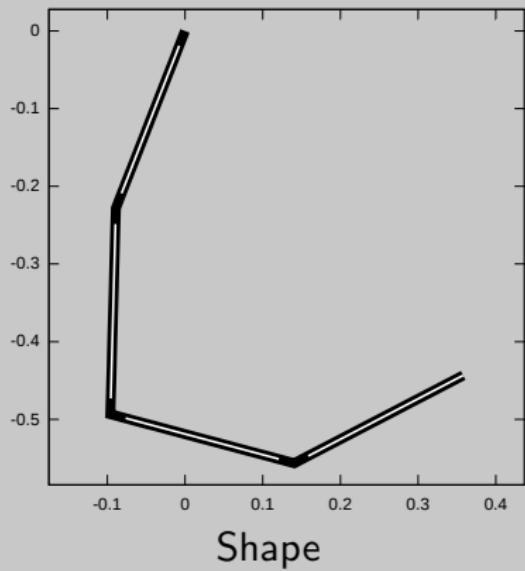
Signed Curvature

Mechanical breakdown

$$\bar{\omega}(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & s \in (0.25, 0.4) \cup (0.6, 0.75) \\ 4\pi(1 + s^2) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Reachability

Target point $q^* = (0.35, -0.45)$



Hyper-redundant manipulator

$$\bar{\omega}(s) = \delta_0(s) + \delta_{0.25}(s) + \delta_{0.5}(s) + \delta_{0.75}(s)$$

Reachability + Obstacle Avoidance

Touch a point with the tentacle tip and minimum effort,
while avoiding obstacles

Given $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, $q^* \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \Omega$, $\tau_0 > 0$, $\tau_1 > 0$ and a potential

$W_\Omega : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ s.t. $W_\Omega(q) = 0$ for $q \in \Omega^c$ (e.g. $W_\Omega(\cdot) = \text{dist}^2(\cdot, \Omega^c)$)

Minimize

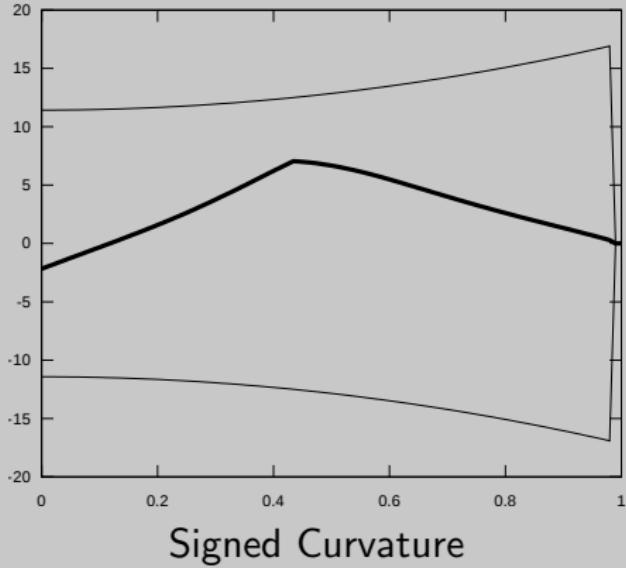
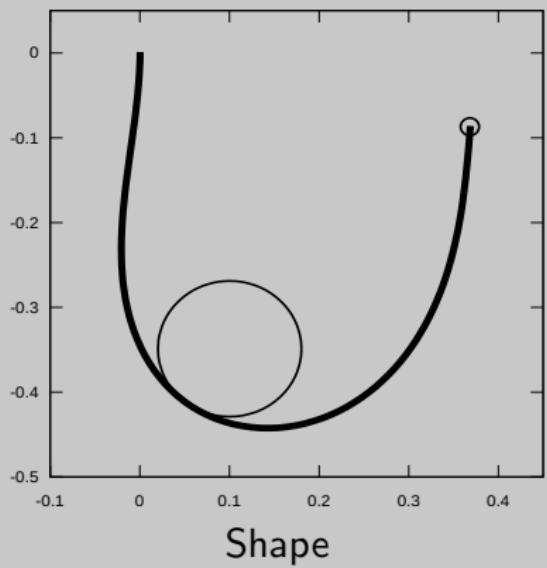
$$\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} |q_{ss}|^2 ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} |q(1) - q^*|^2 + \frac{1}{2\tau_1} \int_0^1 W_\Omega(q(s)) ds$$

subject to

$$\begin{cases} |q_{ss}| \leq \bar{\omega}, & |q_s|^2 = 1 \\ q(0) = 0, & q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0, & q_{sss}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Reachability + Obstacle Avoidance

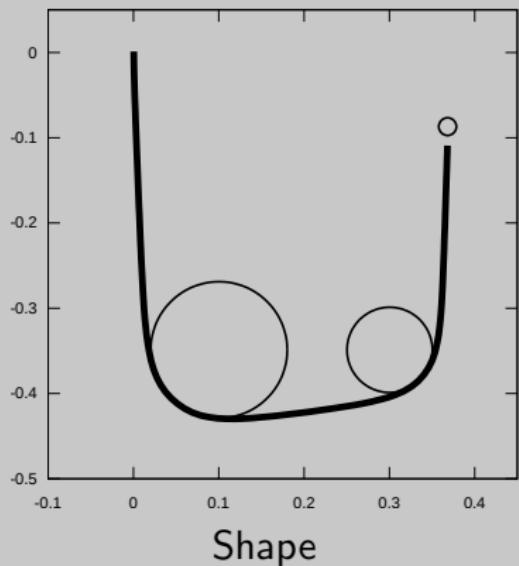
Target point $q^* = (0.37, -0.085)$, curvature bound $\bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$



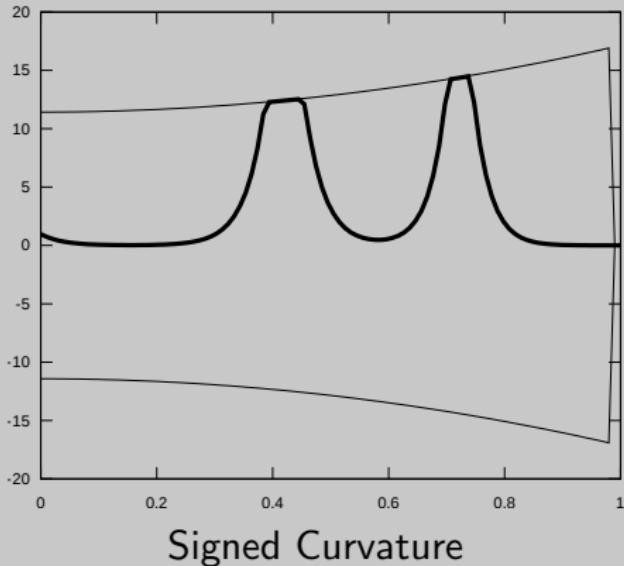
Obstacle
 $\Omega = B_{0.08}(0.1, -0.35)$

Reachability + Obstacle Avoidance

Target point $q^* = (0.37, -0.085)$, curvature bound $\bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$



Shape



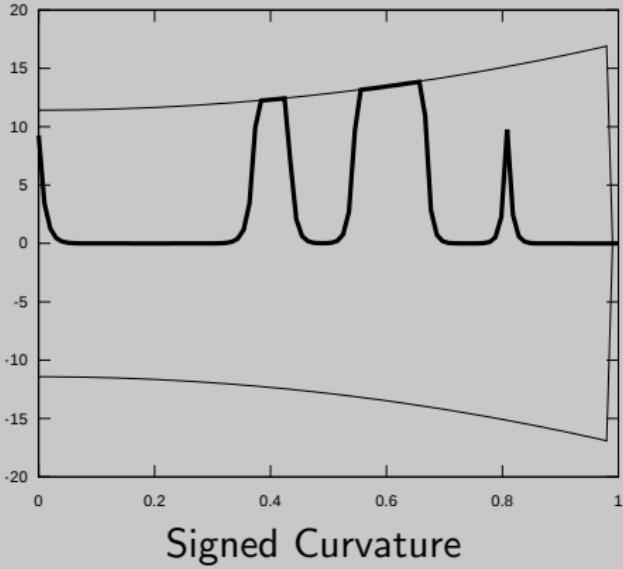
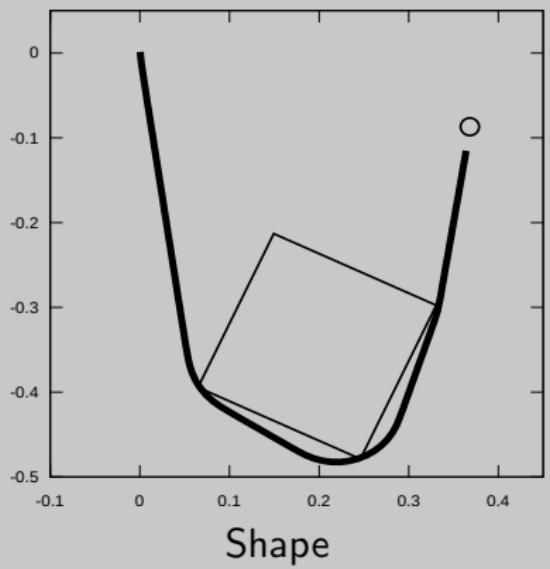
Signed Curvature

Obstacle

$$\Omega = B_{0.08}(0.1, -0.35) \cup B_{0.05}(0.3, -0.35)$$

Reachability + Obstacle Avoidance

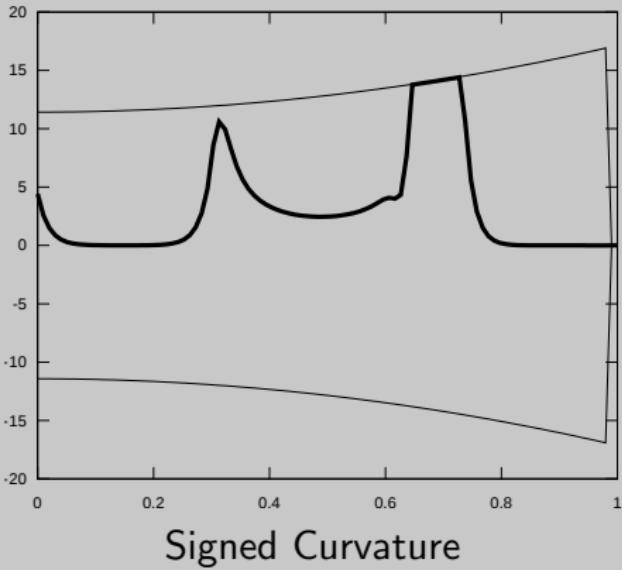
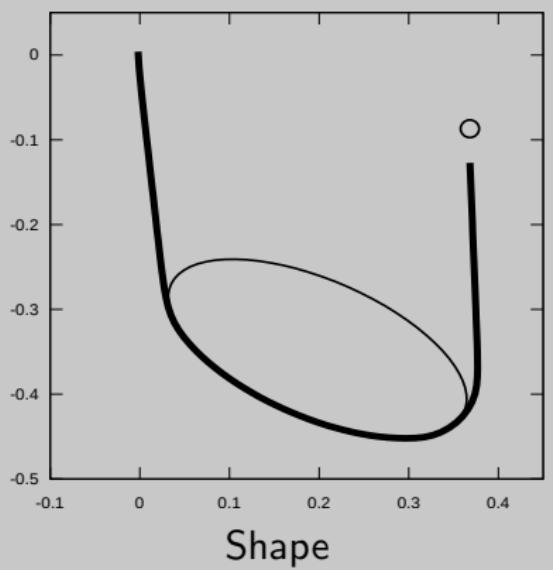
Target point $q^* = (0.37, -0.085)$, curvature bound $\bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$



Obstacle
 $\Omega = Q_{0.2}^{25^\circ}(0.2, -0.35)$

Reachability + Obstacle Avoidance

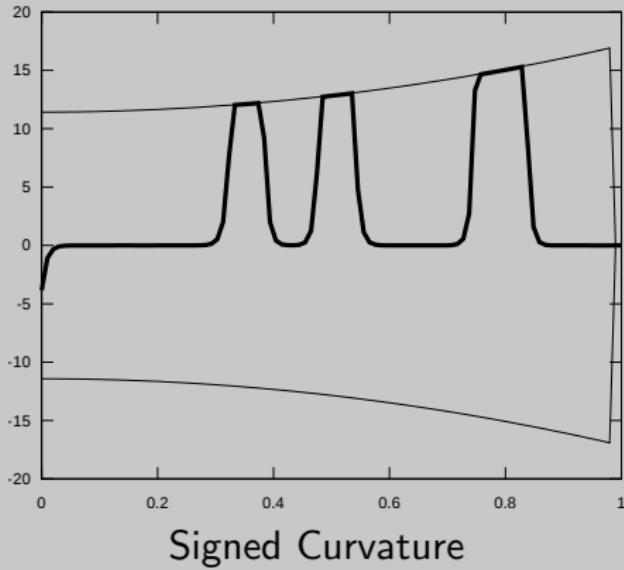
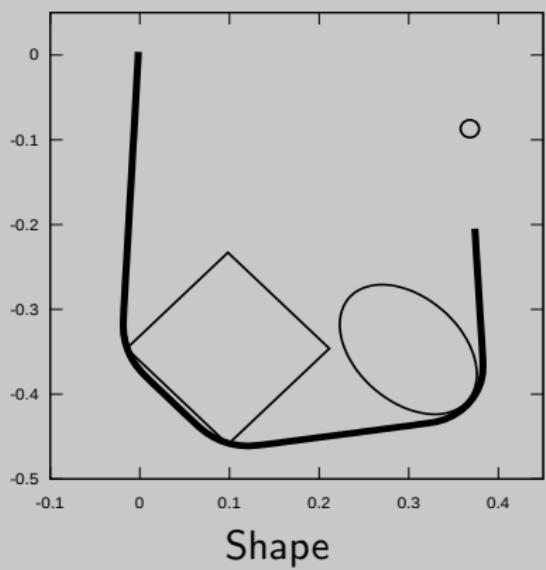
Target point $q^* = (0.37, -0.085)$, curvature bound $\bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$



Obstacle
 $\Omega = E_{0.18, 0.08}^{25^\circ}(0.2, -0.35)$

Reachability + Obstacle Avoidance

Target point $q^* = (0.37, -0.085)$, curvature bound $\bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$



Obstacle

$$\Omega = Q_{0.16}^{45^\circ}(0.1, -0.35) \cup E_{0.09, 0.06}^{45^\circ}(0.3, -0.35)$$

Grasping

Grasp an object with a prescribed portion of the tentacle
and minimum effort

Given $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, $\tau_0 > 0$, $\tau_1 > 0$, potentials

$W_\Omega : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ s.t. $W_\Omega(q) = 0$ for $q \in \Omega^c$,

$W_{\partial\Omega} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ s.t. $W_{\partial\Omega}(q) = 0$ for $q \in \partial\Omega$,

and a function $\mu_0 : (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ prescribing the contact (where $\mu_0(s) > 0$)

Minimize

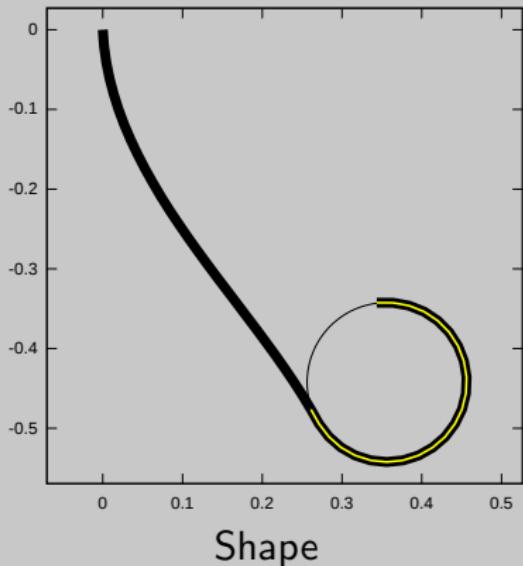
$$\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} |q_{ss}|^2 ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} \int_0^1 W_\Omega(q(s)) ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_1} \int_0^1 W_{\partial\Omega}(q(s)) \mu_0(s) ds$$

subject to

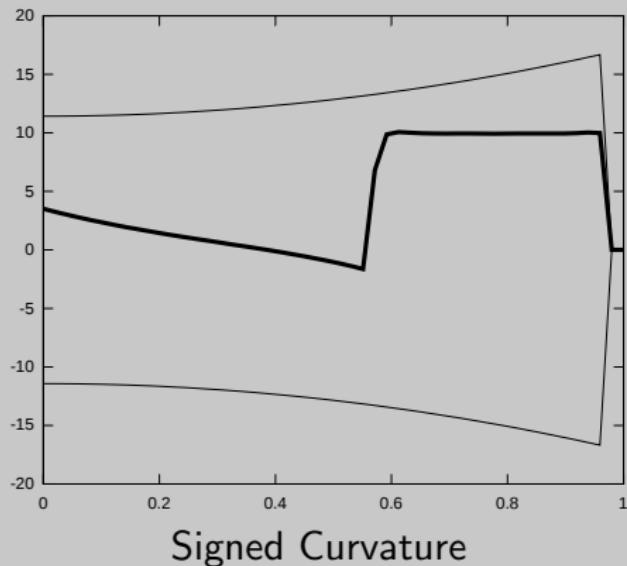
$$\begin{cases} |q_{ss}| \leq \bar{\omega}, & |q_s|^2 = 1 \\ q(0) = 0, & q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0, & q_{sss}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Grasping

$$\text{Curvature bound } \bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$$



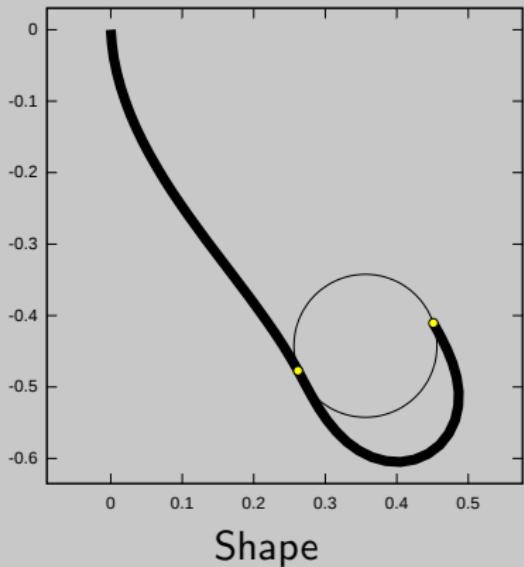
Target Object
 $\Omega = B_{0.1}(0.35, -0.44)$



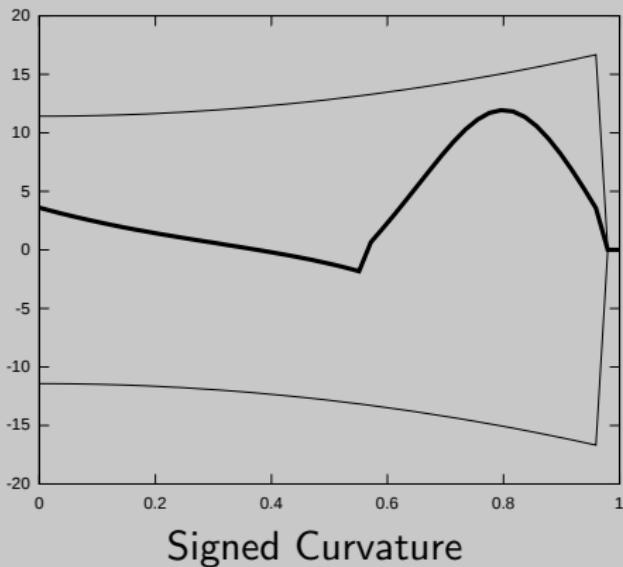
Contact function
 $\mu(s) = \chi_{[0.55, 1]}(s)$

Grasping

$$\text{Curvature bound } \bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$$



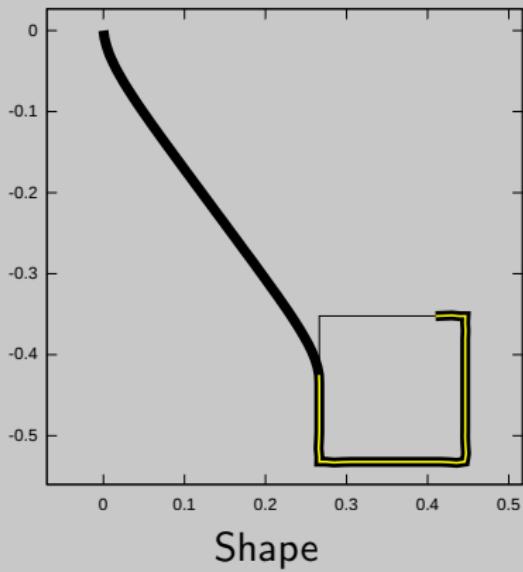
Target Object
 $\Omega = B_{0.1}(0.35, -0.44)$



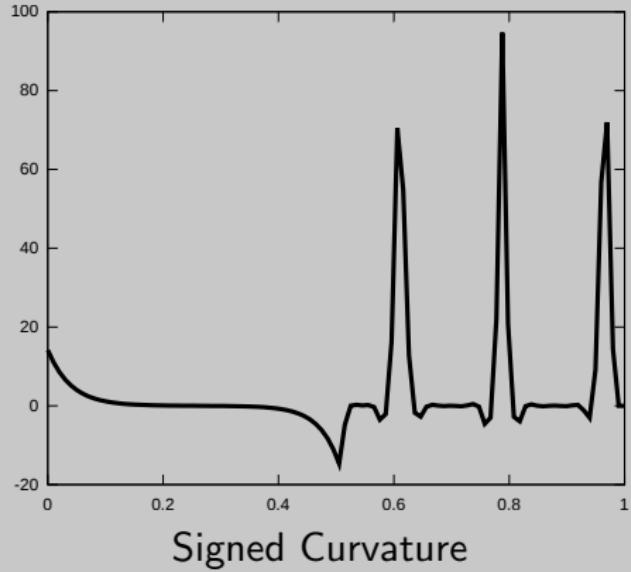
Contact function
 $\mu(s) = \delta_{0.55}(s) + \delta_1(s)$

Grasping

No curvature bound



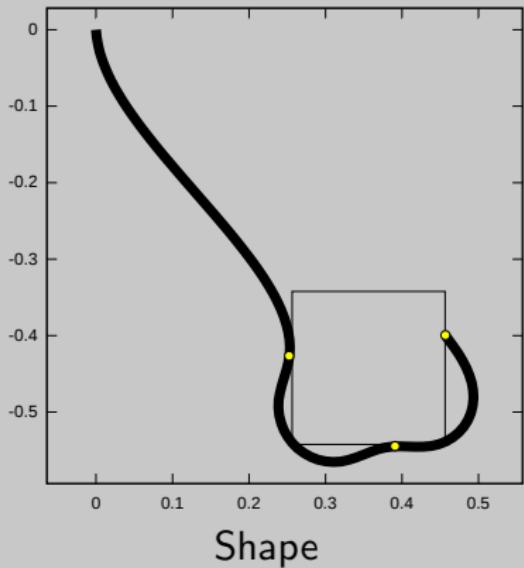
Target Object
 $\Omega = Q_{0.2}(0.35, -0.44)$



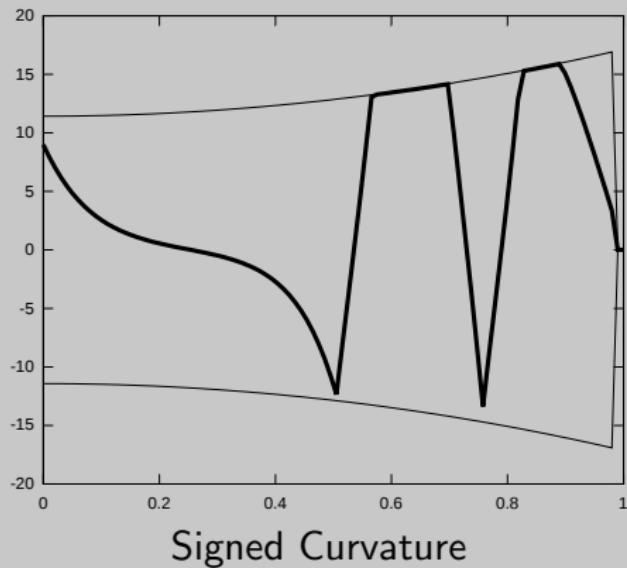
Contact function
 $\mu(s) = \chi_{[0.55,1]}(s)$

Grasping

$$\text{Curvature bound } \bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$$



Target Object
 $\Omega = Q_{0.2}(0.35, -0.44)$



Contact function
 $\mu(s) = \delta_{0.55}(s) + \delta_{0.775}(s) + \delta_1(s)$

Grasping + Optimal Contact

Grasp an object at given points with minimum effort and optimal contact

Given $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, $\tau_0 > 0$, $\tau_1 > 0$, $I_\gamma := [\gamma, 1 - \gamma] \subseteq (0, 1)$,

a potential $W_\Omega : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ s.t. $W_\Omega(q) = 0$ for $q \in \Omega^c$,

and $N > 0$ fixed points $p_i \in \mathbb{R}^2$ for $i = 1, \dots, N$ (possibly on $\partial\Omega$)

Minimize (also w.r.t. the new unknowns $s_i \in I_\gamma$, for $i = 1, \dots, N$)

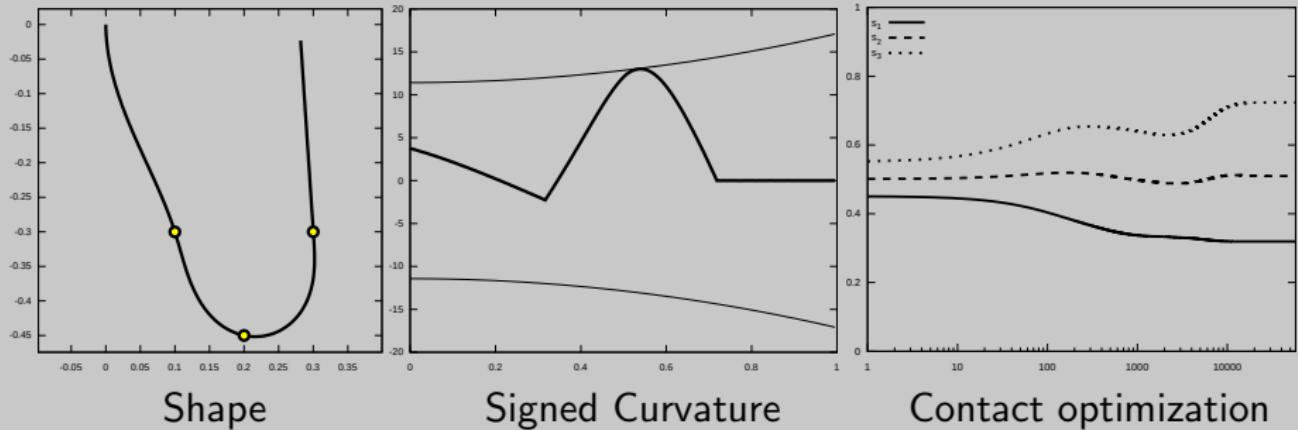
$$\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} |q_{ss}|^2 ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} \int_0^1 W_\Omega(q(s)) ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_1} \sum_{i=1}^N |q(s_i) - p_i|^2$$

subject to

$$\begin{cases} |q_{ss}| \leq \bar{\omega}, & |q_s|^2 = 1 \\ q(0) = 0, & q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0, & q_{sss}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Grasping + Optimal Contact

$$\text{Curvature bound } \bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$$

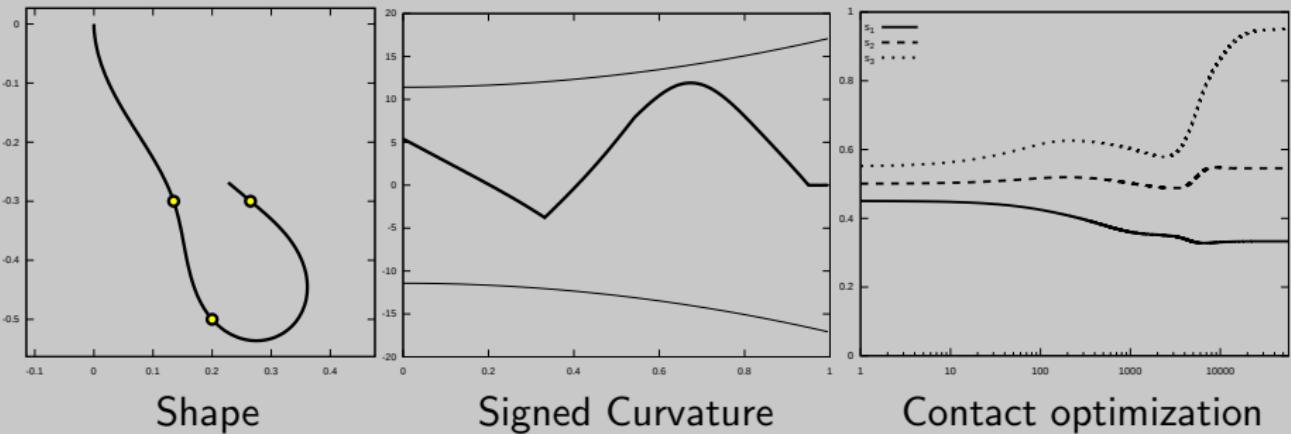


No Obstacle $\Omega = \emptyset$

Target points:
$$\begin{cases} p_1 = (0.1, -0.3) \\ p_2 = (0.2, -0.45) \\ p_3 = (0.3, -0.3) \end{cases}$$

Grasping + Optimal Contact

$$\text{Curvature bound } \bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$$

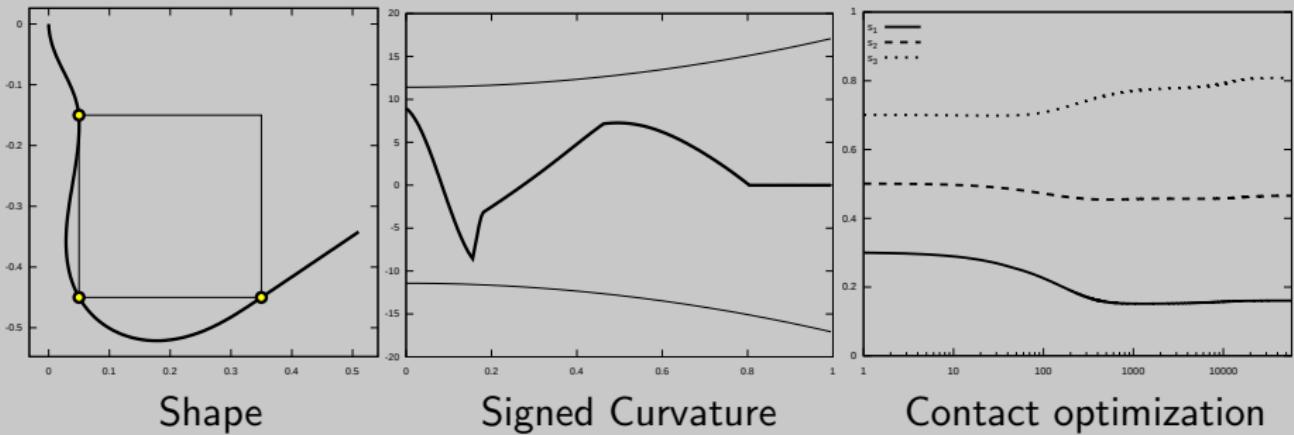


No Obstacle $\Omega = \emptyset$

Target points:
$$\begin{cases} p_1 = (0.135, -0.3) \\ p_2 = (0.2, -0.5) \\ p_3 = (0.265, -0.3) \end{cases}$$

Grasping + Optimal Contact

$$\text{Curvature bound } \bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$$

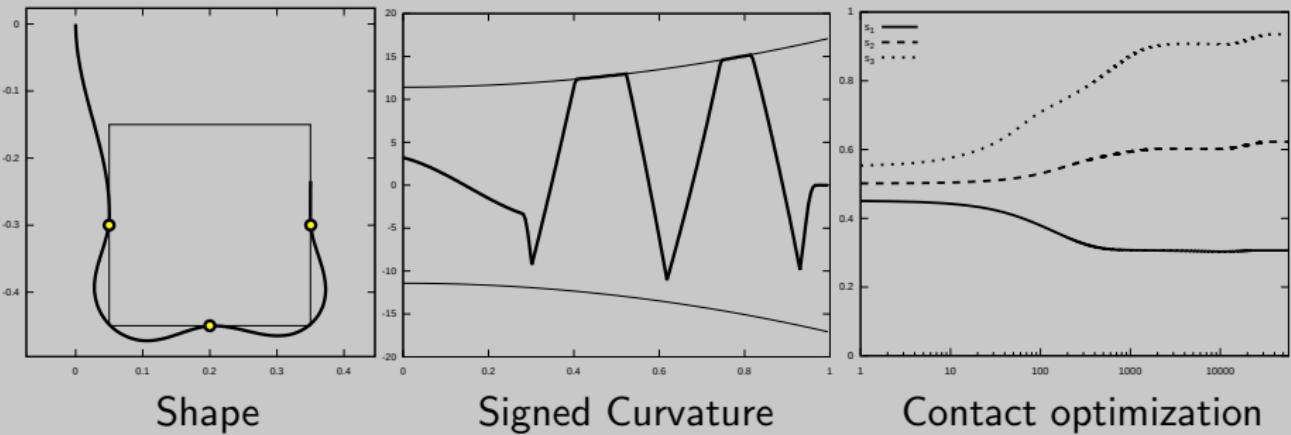


Obstacle: $\Omega = Q_{0.3}(0.2, -0.3)$

Target points:
$$\begin{cases} p_1 = (0.05, -0.15) \\ p_2 = (0.05, -0.45) \\ p_3 = (0.35, -0.45) \end{cases}$$

Grasping + Optimal Contact

$$\text{Curvature bound } \bar{\omega}(s) = 4\pi(1 + s^2)$$



Obstacle: $\Omega = Q_{0.3}(0.2, -0.3)$

Target points:
$$\begin{cases} p_1 = (0.05, -0.3) \\ p_2 = (0.2, -0.45) \\ p_3 = (0.35, -0.3) \end{cases}$$

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure

First-order force-closure grasp
for frictionless contact points on elliptic objects

- Geometric conditions on the contact points ensuring the immobility of the object despite external disturbances (wrenches=forces+torques).
- Contact forces should be able to generate arbitrary wrenches to counteract a disturbance wrench.
- Elliptic objects as cross sections of cylinders and ellipsoids.

Consider, in local coordinates, a generic contact point on an ellipse Ω with semi-axes $0 < b \leq a$

$$p = p(\theta) = (a \cos(\theta), b \sin(\theta)) , \quad \theta \in [0, 2\pi)$$

and normal contact forces

$$f(p) = \gamma n(p) = -2\gamma \left(\frac{\cos(\theta)}{a}, \frac{\sin(\theta)}{b} \right) , \quad \gamma \geq 0$$

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure

The *wrench* associated to p is the 3D vector

$$w(p) = \begin{pmatrix} f(p) \\ p \times f(p) \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{2\gamma}{ab} \begin{pmatrix} b \cos(\theta) \\ a \sin(\theta) \\ (a^2 - b^2) \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Given N contact points $\{p_1, \dots, p_N\} \in \partial\Omega$, we say that Ω is in (first-order) *force-closure* if the set of wrenches $\{w(p_1), \dots, w(p_N)\}$ positively spans \mathbb{R}^3 , i.e., for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$, $x = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i w(p_i)$ for some $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N \geq 0$.

Equivalently, for $\mathcal{W}^{FC} = (w(p_1) \dots w(p_N)) \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times N}$

$$\text{rank } \mathcal{W}^{FC} = 3, \tag{1}$$

$$\mathcal{W}^{FC} y = 0 \text{ for some } y \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad y_i > 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N. \tag{2}$$

- The full-rank condition cannot be satisfied if $a = b$ ($\Omega = \text{circle}$).
- The number N of contact points must be equal to or greater than 4, the minimal number of generators of a three dimensional conic hull.

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure

Take $N = 4$, $\theta_i \in [0, 2\pi)$ for $i = 1, \dots, 4$ and set $p_i = p(\theta_i)$, $w_i = w(p_i)$.

Take $\mathcal{W} = (w_1 \ w_2 \ w_3) \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ (first three columns of \mathcal{W}^{FC}) and

$$\mathcal{W}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det \mathcal{W}} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{w}_1^T \\ \bar{w}_2^T \\ \bar{w}_3^T \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \det \mathcal{W} = w_1 \cdot w_2 \times w_3,$$

whose rows, for $i = 1, 2, 3$, are given by the components of the vectors
(cycling indices notation!)

$$\bar{w}_i := \begin{pmatrix} -a(a^2 - b^2) \sin(\theta_{i+1}) \sin(\theta_{i+2})(\cos(\theta_{i+1}) - \cos(\theta_{i+2})) \\ b(a^2 - b^2) \cos(\theta_{i+1}) \cos(\theta_{i+2})(\sin(\theta_{i+1}) - \sin(\theta_{i+2})) \\ -ab \sin(\theta_{i+1} - \theta_{i+2}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Then Ω is in *force-closure* if and only if

$$\det \mathcal{W} \neq 0, \quad \text{sign}(\det \mathcal{W}) \bar{w}_i \cdot w_4 \leq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, 3.$$

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure

Set

$$\varepsilon_0 = \varepsilon_0(a, b) := \varepsilon \max_{\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3} |\det \mathcal{W}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3)| \quad \text{for } \varepsilon \in (0, 1)$$

$$\Theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \theta_4\} \subset [0, 2\pi)$$

and define

$$F(\Theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^3 F_i(\Theta),$$

with

$$F_0(\Theta) = \max^2 \{0, \varepsilon_0 - |\det \mathcal{W}| \},$$

$$F_i(\Theta) = \begin{cases} \max^2 \{0, \bar{w}_i \cdot w_4\} & \text{if } \det \mathcal{W} > 0, \\ \min^2 \{0, \bar{w}_i \cdot w_4\} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

- F is a non negative by construction
- Θ is an absolute minimizer of F , achieving $F(\Theta) = 0$, if and only if Ω is in force-closure and $|\det \mathcal{W}| \geq \varepsilon_0$.

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure

Grasp an ellipse in force-closure with minimum effort and optimal contact

Given an ellipse $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, $\tau_0 > 0$, $\tau_1 > 0$, $\tau_2 > 0$, $I_\gamma := [\gamma, 1 - \gamma] \subseteq (0, 1)$,
a potential $W_\Omega : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ s.t. $W_\Omega(q) = 0$ for $q \in \Omega^c$,

Minimize (w.r.t. $s_i \in I_\gamma$ and also $\theta_i \in [0, 2\pi)$, for $i = 1, \dots, 4$)

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} |q_{ss}|^2 ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} \int_0^1 W_\Omega(q(s)) ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_1} \sum_{i=1}^4 |q(s_i) - p(\theta_i)|^2 + \frac{1}{2\tau_2} F(\Theta)$$

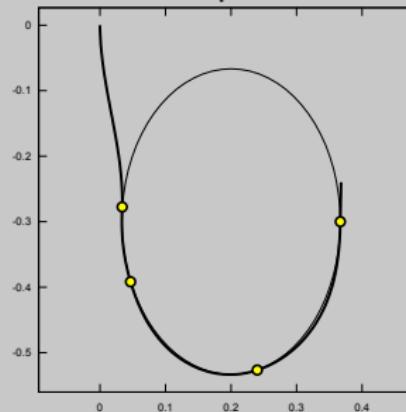
subject to

$$\begin{cases} |q_{ss}| \leq \bar{\omega}, & |q_s|^2 = 1 \\ q(0) = 0, & q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0, & q_{sss}(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

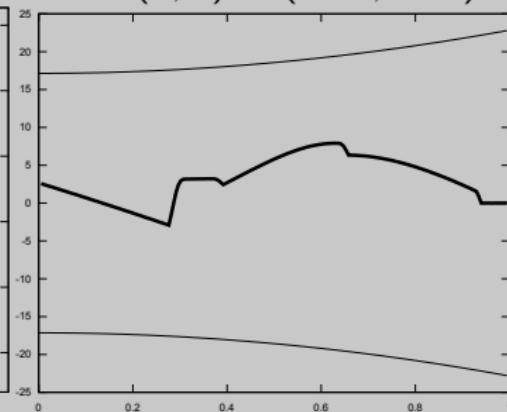
- Optimization in Θ is unconstrained due to periodicity!

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure

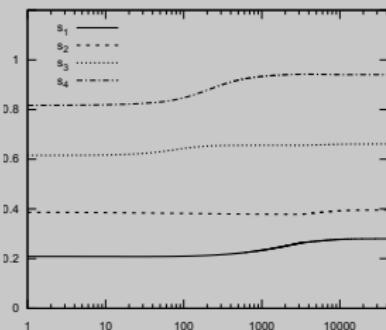
$\Omega = \text{ellipse with semi-axes } (a, b) = (0.16, 0.23)$



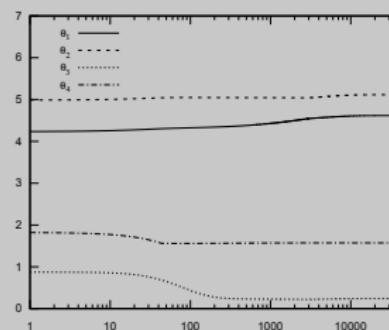
Shape



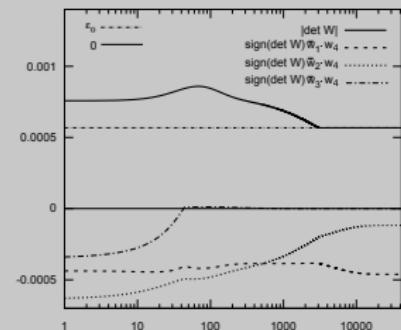
Signed Curvature



Contact Points



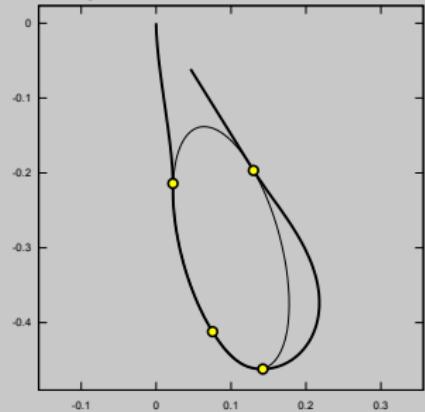
Target Points



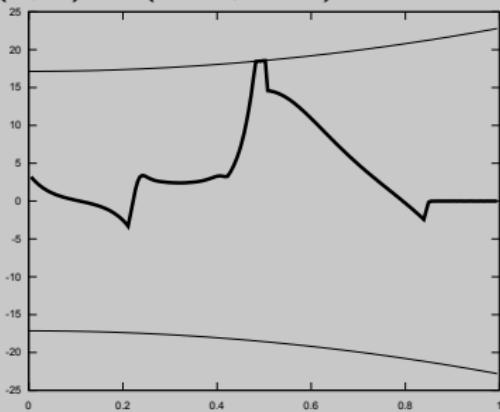
Force-Closure

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure

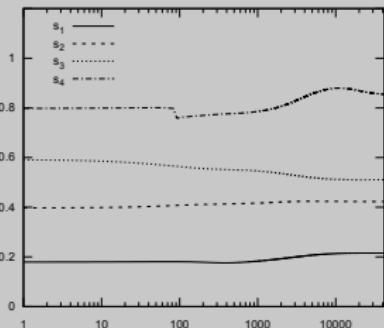
$\Omega = \text{ellipse with semi-axes } (a, b) = (0.06, 0.16) \text{ rotated by } 15^\circ$



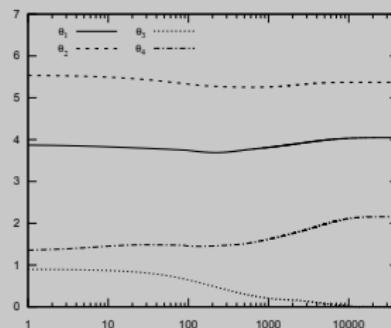
Shape



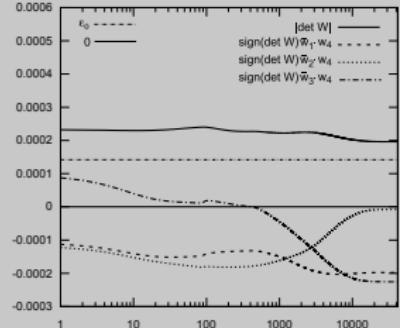
Signed Curvature



Contact Points



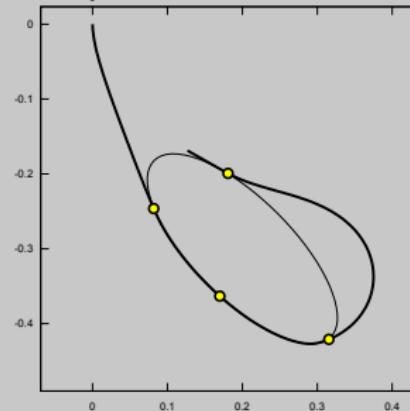
Target Points



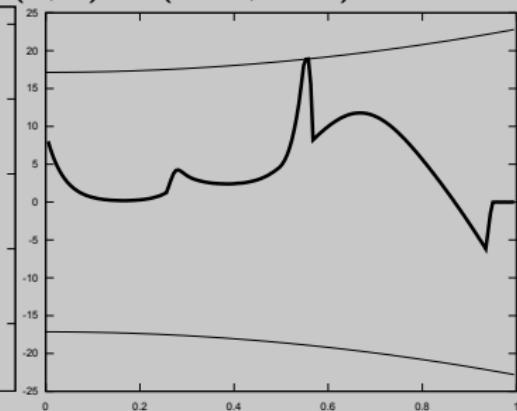
Force-Closure

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure

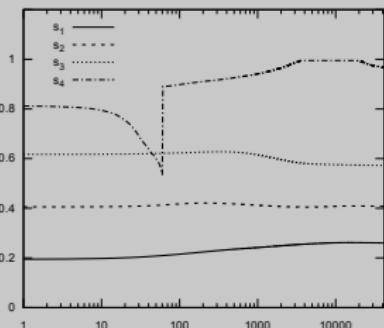
$\Omega = \text{ellipse with semi-axes } (a, b) = (0.06, 0.16) \text{ rotated by } 45^\circ$



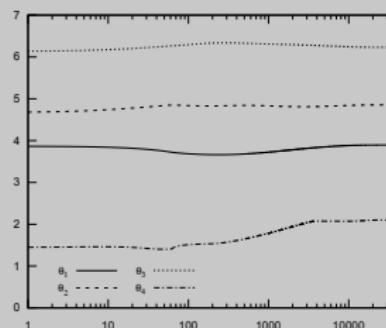
Shape



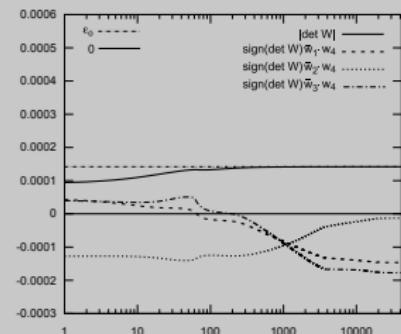
Signed Curvature



Contact Points



Target Points



Force-Closure

Dynamic Reachability

Touch a point with the tentacle tip and stop with minimum effort

Given $T > 0$, $q^* \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\tau_0 > 0$

Minimize $\frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^1 u^2 ds dt + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} \int_0^T |q(1, t) - q^*|^2 dt + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 |q_t(s, T)|^2 ds$
subject to

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \rho q_{tt} = [\sigma q_s - H q_{ss}^\perp]_s - [G q_{ss} + H q_s^\perp]_{ss} & \text{in } (0, 1) \times (0, T) \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 & \text{in } (0, 1) \times (0, T) \\ |u| \leq 1 & \text{in } (0, 1) \times (0, T) \\ q(0, t) = 0 & t \in (0, T) \\ q_s(0, t) = -e_2 & t \in (0, T) \\ q_{ss}(1, t) = 0 & t \in (0, T) \\ q_{sss}(1, t) = 0 & t \in (0, T) \\ \sigma(1, t) = 0 & t \in (0, T) \\ q(s, 0) = q^0(s) & s \in (0, 1) \\ q_t(s, 0) = q^1(s) & s \in (0, 1) \end{array} \right.$$

Dynamic Reachability

Introduce the adjoint state $(\bar{q}, \bar{\sigma})$ and form the Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} = & \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^1 u^2 ds dt + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} \int_0^T |q(1, t) - q^*|^2 dt + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \rho(s) |q_t(s, T)|^2 ds \\ & + \int_0^T \int_0^1 \bar{q} \cdot \left(\rho q_{tt} - \left[\sigma q_s - H q_{ss}^\perp \right]_s + \left[G q_{ss} + H q_s^\perp \right]_{ss} \right) ds dt \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^1 \bar{\sigma} (|q_s|^2 - 1) ds dt\end{aligned}$$

Take admissible variations and impose optimality.

After (very long) integration by parts get the optimality system:
find (q, σ) , $(\bar{q}, \bar{\sigma})$ and $u \in [-1, 1]$ such that for $(s, t) \in (0, 1) \times (0, T)$...

Dynamic Reachability

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rho q_{tt} = [\sigma q_s - H q_{ss}^\perp]_s \\ \quad - [G q_{ss} + H q_s^\perp]_{ss} \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 \\ q(0, t) = 0, \quad q_s(0, t) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1, t) = 0, \quad q_{sss}(1, t) = 0 \\ \sigma(1, t) = 0 \\ q(s, 0) = q^0(s) \\ q_t(s, 0) = q^1(s) \end{array} \right. \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rho \bar{q}_{tt} = [\sigma \bar{q}_s - H \bar{q}_{ss}^\perp + \bar{\sigma} q_s + h q_{ss}^\perp]_s \\ \quad - [G \bar{q}_{ss} + H \bar{q}_s^\perp + g q_{ss} - h q_s^\perp]_{ss} \\ \bar{q}_s \cdot q_s = 0 \\ \bar{q}(0, t) = 0, \quad \bar{q}_s(0, t) = 0 \\ \bar{q}_{ss}(1, t) = 0 \\ \bar{q}_{sss}(1, t) = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left(\bar{\sigma} q_s + \frac{1}{\tau_0} (q - q^*) \right) (1, t) \\ \bar{\sigma}(1, t) = -\frac{1}{\tau_0} (q - q^*) \cdot q_s(1, t) \\ \bar{q}(s, T) = -q_t(s, T) \\ \bar{q}_t(s, T) = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$$\int_0^T \int_0^1 \left(u - \omega h(q, \bar{q}, \mu) \right) (v - u) ds dt \geq 0 \quad \forall v \in [-1, 1]$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} G(q, \nu, \varepsilon, \omega) &= \varepsilon + \nu (|q_{ss}|^2 - \omega^2)_+ & H(q, \mu, u, \omega) &= \mu (\omega u - q_s \times q_{ss}) \\ g(q, \nu, \omega) &= 2\nu \chi_{[0, +\infty)} (|q_{ss}|^2 - \omega^2) & h(q, \bar{q}, \mu) &= \mu (\bar{q}_s \times q_{ss} + q_s \times \bar{q}_{ss}) \end{aligned}$$

Ongoing Work & Future Developments

- Unscrew the cap of a jar: dynamic interaction (friction)
- Dynamic pathfinding and grasping
- Two-way interactions with fluids (Lattice-Boltzmann)
- Multiple tentacles in cooperation
- Extension to a 3D model (torsion, self-collisions, ...)



Ongoing Work & Future Developments

- Unscrew the cap of a jar: dynamic interaction (friction)
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Controlled Dynamics - Numerical Approximation

Finite Difference (D_+, D_-, D_c^2) + Verlet Velocity (Leapfrog)

Discretization:

space $[0, 1]$, $\Delta s = 1/N$, $s_k = k\Delta s$, $k = 0, \dots, N$
time $[0, T]$, $\Delta t = T/M$, $t_n = n\Delta t$, $n = 0, \dots, M$ $\implies \chi(s_k, t_n) \approx \chi_k^n$

Initial conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{position} \quad q_k^0 &= q^0(s_k) \\ \text{velocity} \quad v_k^0 &= q^1(s_k) \end{aligned}$$

Boundary conditions (2 ghost nodes):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{anchor point} \quad q_0^n &= 0 \\ \text{fixed tangent} \quad q_{-1}^n &= q_0^n + e_2 \Delta s \\ \text{zero bending moment} \quad q_{N+1}^n - 2q_N^n + q_{N-1}^n &= 0 \\ \text{zero shear stress} \quad q_{N+1}^n - 3q_N^n + 3q_{N-1}^n - q_{N-2}^n &= 0 \\ \text{zero tension} \quad \sigma_N^n &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Controlled Dynamics - Numerical Approximation

Finite Difference (D_+ , D_- , D_c^2) + Verlet Velocity (Leapfrog)

Constraints:

$$\text{curvature} \quad G_k^n = \varepsilon_k + \nu_k (|D_c^2 q_k^n|^2 - \omega_k^2)_+$$

$$\text{control} \quad H_k^n = \mu_k (\omega_k u_k^n - D_- q_k^n \times D_c^2 q_k^n)$$

Accelerations:

$$a(q_k^n, \sigma_k^n) = \frac{1}{\rho_k} \left(D_+ \left(\sigma_k^n D_- q_k^n - H_k^n D_c^2 q_k^{n\perp} \right) - D_c^2 \left(G_k^n D_c^2 q_k^n + H_k^n D_- q_k^{n\perp} \right) \right)$$

Nonlinear system:

$$\begin{cases} q_k^{n+1} = q_k^n + v_k^n + \frac{1}{2} a(q_k^n, \sigma_k^n) \Delta t^2 & \text{Newton method for } (q_k^{n+1}, \sigma_k^n) \\ |D_- q_k^{n+1}|^2 = 1 & k = 1, \dots, N-1 \end{cases}$$

Velocities:

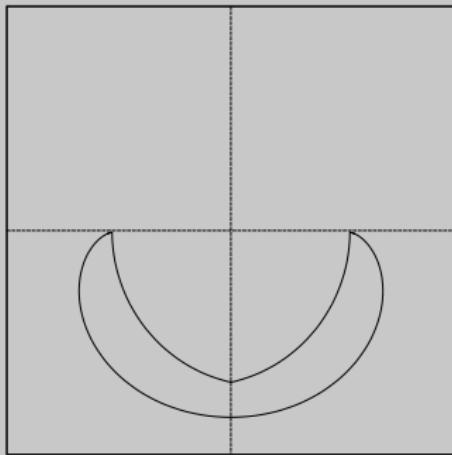
$$v_k^{n+1} = v_k^n + \frac{1}{2} (a(q_k^n, \sigma_k^n) + a(q_k^{n+1}, \sigma_k^n)) \Delta t$$

BACK

Reachable Set

$$\mathcal{R} = \{q^* \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid q^* = q(1) \text{ where } q \text{ is an equilibrium}\}$$

$$\bar{\omega} \equiv \text{const} \implies \text{for } \ell, r \in [-1, 1], \alpha \in [0, 1], u_{\alpha}^{\ell, r}(s) := \begin{cases} \ell & 0 \leq s < \alpha \\ r & \alpha \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}$$
$$\partial \mathcal{R} = \left\{ q(1) \mid q_s \times q_{ss} = \bar{\omega} u_{\alpha}, \alpha \in [0, 1], u_{\alpha} \in \{u_{\alpha}^{1,0}, u_{\alpha}^{-1,0}, u_{\alpha}^{-1,1}, u_{\alpha}^{1,-1}\} \right\}$$

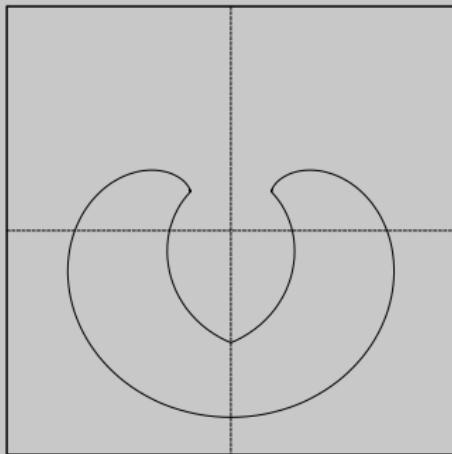


$$\bar{\omega} = \pi$$

Reachable Set

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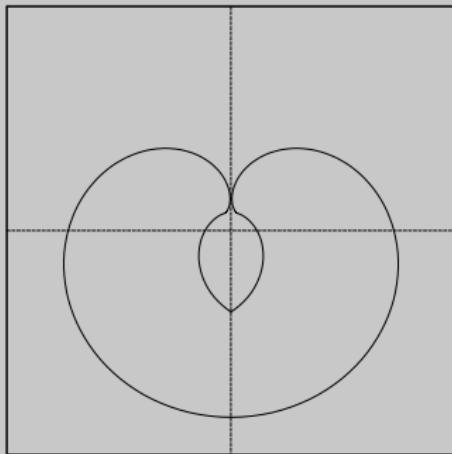


$$\bar{\omega} = \frac{3}{2}\pi$$

Reachable Set

$$\mathcal{R} = \{q^* \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid q^* = q(1) \text{ where } q \text{ is an equilibrium}\}$$

$$\bar{\omega} \equiv \text{const} \implies \text{for } \ell, r \in [-1, 1], \alpha \in [0, 1], u_\alpha^{\ell, r}(s) := \begin{cases} \ell & 0 \leq s < \alpha \\ r & \alpha \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}$$
$$\partial \mathcal{R} = \left\{ q(1) \mid q_s \times q_{ss} = \bar{\omega} u_\alpha, \alpha \in [0, 1], u_\alpha \in \{u_\alpha^{1,0}, u_\alpha^{-1,0}, u_\alpha^{-1,1}, u_\alpha^{1,-1}\} \right\}$$

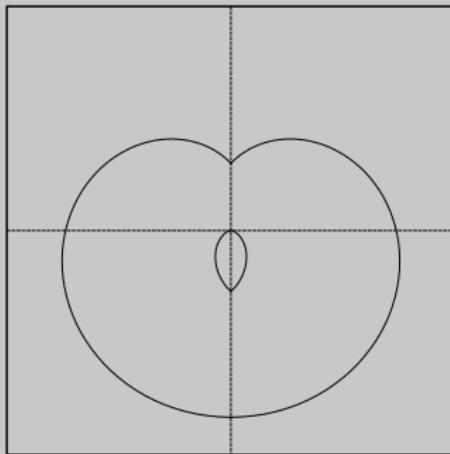


$$\bar{\omega} = \frac{3}{2}\pi + 1$$

Reachable Set

$$\mathcal{R} = \{q^* \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid q^* = q(1) \text{ where } q \text{ is an equilibrium}\}$$

$$\bar{\omega} \equiv \text{const} \implies \text{for } \ell, r \in [-1, 1], \alpha \in [0, 1], u_\alpha^{\ell, r}(s) := \begin{cases} \ell & 0 \leq s < \alpha \\ r & \alpha \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}$$
$$\partial \mathcal{R} = \left\{ q(1) \mid q_s \times q_{ss} = \bar{\omega} u_\alpha, \alpha \in [0, 1], u_\alpha \in \{u_\alpha^{1,0}, u_\alpha^{-1,0}, u_\alpha^{-1,1}, u_\alpha^{1,-1}\} \right\}$$

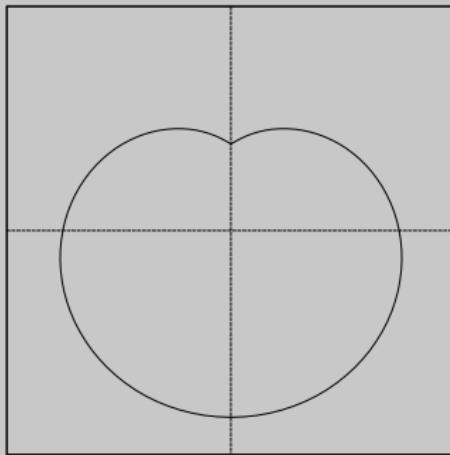


$$\bar{\omega} = 2\pi$$

Reachable Set

$$\mathcal{R} = \{q^* \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid q^* = q(1) \text{ where } q \text{ is an equilibrium}\}$$

$$\bar{\omega} \equiv \text{const} \implies \text{for } \ell, r \in [-1, 1], \alpha \in [0, 1], u_\alpha^{\ell, r}(s) := \begin{cases} \ell & 0 \leq s < \alpha \\ r & \alpha \leq s \leq 1 \end{cases}$$
$$\partial \mathcal{R} = \left\{ q(1) \mid q_s \times q_{ss} = \bar{\omega} u_\alpha, \alpha \in [0, 1], u_\alpha \in \{u_\alpha^{1,0}, u_\alpha^{-1,0}, u_\alpha^{-1,1}, u_\alpha^{1,-1}\} \right\}$$



$$\bar{\omega} = \frac{9}{4}\pi$$

BACK

Reachability: Optimization

Inextensibility constraint: Lagrange multiplier σ

Curvature constraint: Slack variable z

Augmented Lagrangian (multiplier λ and penalty parameter $\rho_\lambda > 0$):

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(q, \sigma, z, \lambda) = & \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} |q_{ss}|^2 ds + \frac{1}{2\tau_0} |q(1) - q^*|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \sigma(|q_s|^2 - 1) ds \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \lambda(|q_{ss}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2 + z) ds + \frac{1}{4\rho_\lambda} \int_0^1 (|q_{ss}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2 + z)^2 ds\end{aligned}$$

Method of Multipliers: given $\lambda^{(0)}$ iterate on $i \geq 0$ up to convergence

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (q^{(i+1)}, \sigma^{(i+1)}, z^{(i+1)}) = \underset{q, \sigma, z \geq 0}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathcal{L}(q, \sigma, z, \lambda^{(i)}) \\ \lambda^{(i+1)} = \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}^{(i+1)}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2 + z^{(i+1)}) \end{array} \right.$$

Reachability: Optimization

$$\text{Subproblem } \underset{q, \sigma, z \geq 0}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathcal{L}(q, \sigma, z, \lambda^{(i)})$$

Take admissible variations and impose optimality:

$$\begin{aligned} < \delta_\sigma \mathcal{L}, \chi > &= \int_0^1 (|q_s|^2 - 1) \chi ds = 0 \quad \forall \chi \\ \implies |q_s|^2 &= 1 \quad \text{a.e. in } (0, 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} < \delta_z \mathcal{L}, v > &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \left(\lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2 + z) \right) (v - z) ds \geq 0 \quad \forall v \geq 0 \\ \implies z &= \max \left\{ -\lambda^{(i)} \rho_\lambda - |q_{ss}|^2 + \bar{\omega}^2, 0 \right\} \quad \text{a.e. in } (0, 1) \end{aligned}$$

Reachability: Optimization

$$\text{Subproblem } \underset{q, \sigma, z \geq 0}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathcal{L}(q, \sigma, z, \lambda^{(i)})$$

Take admissible variations and impose optimality:

$$\langle \delta_q \mathcal{L}, w \rangle = \int_0^1 \left(\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) q_{ss} \cdot w_{ss} + \sigma q_s \cdot w_s \right) ds + \frac{1}{\tau_0} (q(1) - q^*) \cdot w(1) = 0$$

$$\text{with } \Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} + \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

Integrate by parts and impose boundary conditions:

$$\begin{cases} [\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) q_{ss}]_{ss} - [\sigma q_s]_s = 0 & \text{in } (0, 1) \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 & \text{in } (0, 1) \\ q(0) = 0, \quad q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0, \quad q_{sss}(1) = 0 \\ \sigma(1)q_s(1) + \frac{1}{\tau_0}(q(1) - q^*) = 0 \end{cases} \implies (q^{(i+1)}, \sigma^{(i+1)})$$

Reachability - Numerical Approximation

Method of Multipliers: given $\lambda^{(0)}$ iterate on $i \geq 0$ up to convergence

- Discretization:

$$\begin{cases} D_c^2 \left(\Lambda(D_c^2 q_k, \lambda_k^{(i)}) D_c^2 q_k \right) - D_+ (\sigma_k D_- q_k) = 0 & k = 1, \dots, N-1 \\ |D_- q_k|^2 = 1 & k = 1, \dots, N-1 \\ q_0 = 0, \quad q_{-1}^n = q_0^n + e_2 \Delta s \\ q_{N+1}^n - 2q_N^n + q_{N-1}^n = 0 \\ q_{N+1}^n - 3q_N^n + 3q_{N-1}^n - q_{N-2}^n = 0 \\ \sigma_N D_- q_N + \frac{1}{\tau_0} (q_N - q^*) = 0 \end{cases}$$

- Solution $(q^{(i+1)}, \sigma^{(i+1)})$ via Quasi-Newton method (freezing q in Λ)
- Update multipliers:

$$\lambda_k^{(i+1)} = \max \left\{ \lambda_k^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|D_c^2 q_k^{(i+1)}|^2 - \bar{\omega}_k^2), 0 \right\}$$

Reachability + Obstacle Avoidance: Optimization

Method of Multipliers: given $\lambda^{(0)}$ iterate on $i \geq 0$ up to convergence

$$\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} + \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

$$\lambda^{(i+1)} = \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}^{(i+1)}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

Grasping: Optimization

Method of Multipliers: given $\lambda^{(0)}$ iterate on $i \geq 0$ up to convergence

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left[\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) q_{ss} \right]_{ss} - [\sigma q_s]_s \\ + \frac{1}{\tau_0} \nabla W_\Omega(q(s)) + \frac{1}{\tau_1} \nabla W_{\partial\Omega}(q(s)) \mu_0(s) = 0 \quad \text{in } (0, 1) \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 \\ q(0) = 0, \quad q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0, \quad q_{sss}(1) = 0 \\ \sigma(1) = 0 \end{array} \right. \quad \Rightarrow \quad (q^{(i+1)}, \sigma^{(i+1)})$$

$$\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} + \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

$$\lambda^{(i+1)} = \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}^{(i+1)}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

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Grasping + Optimal Contact: Optimization

Method of Multipliers: given $\lambda^{(0)}$ iterate on $i \geq 0$ up to convergence

$$\begin{cases} \left[\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) q_{ss} \right]_{ss} - [\sigma q_s]_s \\ + \frac{1}{\tau_0} \nabla W_\Omega(q(s)) + \frac{1}{\tau_1} \sum_{i=1}^N (q(s) - p_i) \delta_{s_i}(s) = 0 & \text{in } (0, 1) \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 & \text{in } (0, 1) \\ \frac{1}{\tau_1} (q(s_i) - p_i) \cdot q_s(s_i) (w_i - s_i) \geq 0, & \forall w_i \in I_\gamma \\ & i = 1, \dots, N \\ q(0) = 0, \quad q_s(0) = -e_2 \\ q_{ss}(1) = 0, \quad q_{sss}(1) = 0 \\ \sigma(1) = 0 & \implies (q^{(i+1)}, \sigma^{(i+1)}) \end{cases}$$

$$\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} + \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

$$\lambda^{(i+1)} = \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}^{(i+1)}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

Optimal Grasping in Force-Closure: Optimization

Method of Multipliers: given $\lambda^{(0)}$ iterate on $i \geq 0$ up to convergence

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} [\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) q_{ss}]_{ss} - [\sigma q_s]_s \\ + \frac{1}{\tau_0} \nabla W_\Omega(q(s)) + \frac{1}{\tau_1} \sum_{i=1}^4 (q(s) - p(\theta_i)) \delta_{s_i}(s) = 0 \quad \text{in } (0, 1) \\ |q_s|^2 = 1 \quad \text{in } (0, 1) \\ \frac{1}{\tau_1} (q(s_i) - p(\theta_i)) \cdot q_s(s_i) (w_i - s_i) \geq 0, \quad \forall w_i \in I_\gamma, i = 1, \dots, 4 \\ \frac{1}{\tau_1} (q(s_i) - p(\theta_i)) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} p(\theta_i) + \frac{1}{\tau_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} F(\Theta) = 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, 4 \\ q(0) = 0, q_s(0) = -e_2, q_{ss}(1) = 0, q_{sss}(1) = 0 \\ \sigma(1) = 0 \end{array} \right. \implies (q^{(i+1)}, \sigma^{(i+1)})$$

$$\Lambda(q_{ss}, \lambda^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^2} + \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

$$\lambda^{(i+1)} = \max \left\{ \lambda^{(i)} + \frac{1}{\rho_\lambda} (|q_{ss}^{(i+1)}|^2 - \bar{\omega}^2), 0 \right\}$$

Dynamic Reachability - Numerical Approximation

Discretization: Finite Difference (D_+, D_-, D_c^2) + Verlet Velocity (Leapfrog)

Adjoint-based Projected Gradient Descent Method:

given $u^{(0)}$ (e.g. Static Control) iterate on $i \geq 0$ up to convergence

- Solve the forward system with fixed $u^{(i)} \implies (q^{(i)}, \sigma^{(i)})$
- Solve the backward system with fixed $u^{(i)}, q^{(i)}, \sigma^{(i)} \implies (\bar{q}^{(i)}, \bar{\sigma}^{(i)})$
- Update and project the control (for a suitable step α)

$$u^{(i+1)} = \mathbb{P}_{[-1,1]} \left\{ u^{(i)} - \alpha \left(u^{(i)} - \omega h(q^{(i)}, \bar{q}^{(i)}, \mu) \right) \right\}$$

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