

Calcolo Scientifico e Modelli Matematici

Alla ricerca della cose nascoste attraverso le cose manifeste

---

# Smooth path planning for autonomous vehicles: perspectives from the theory of Pythagorean-hodograph curves

---

Carlotta Giannelli

(University of Florence)

Calcolo Scientifico e Modelli Matematici

Alla ricerca della cose nascoste attraverso le cose manifeste

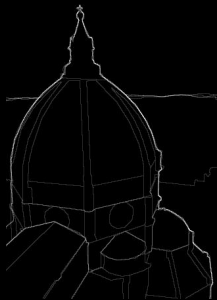
---

## Smooth path planning for autonomous vehicles: perspectives from the theory of Pythagorean-hodograph curves

---

Carlotta Giannelli

(University of Florence)



joint work with

Alessandra Sestini,

Lorenzo Sacco

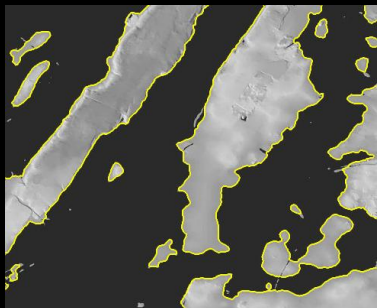
(University of Florence)

Vincenzo Calabrò (MDM Team)



# Planning curvilinear paths for autonomous vehicles

---

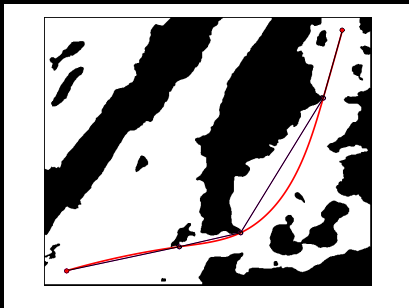
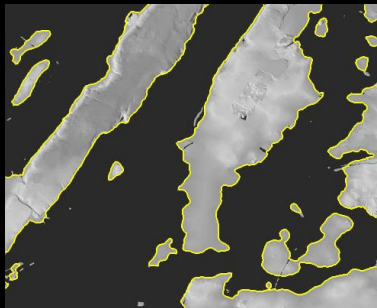


Path planning for autonomous or remotely operated vehicles

- ▶ Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)
- ▶ Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs)
- ▶ ...

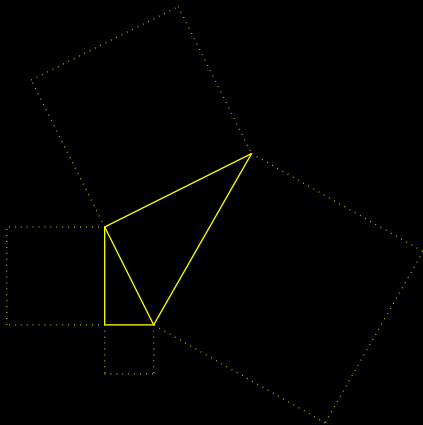
# Planning curvilinear paths for autonomous vehicles

---



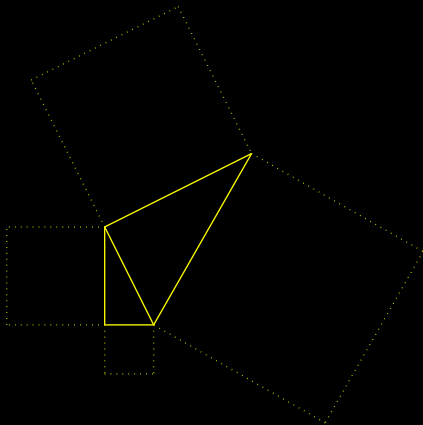
Feasible paths must satisfy various constraints

- ▶ bounds on the path curvature or climb angle
- ▶ avoidance of environmental obstacles
- ▶ maintenance of safe separations in vehicle swarms



Pythagorean-hodograph curves

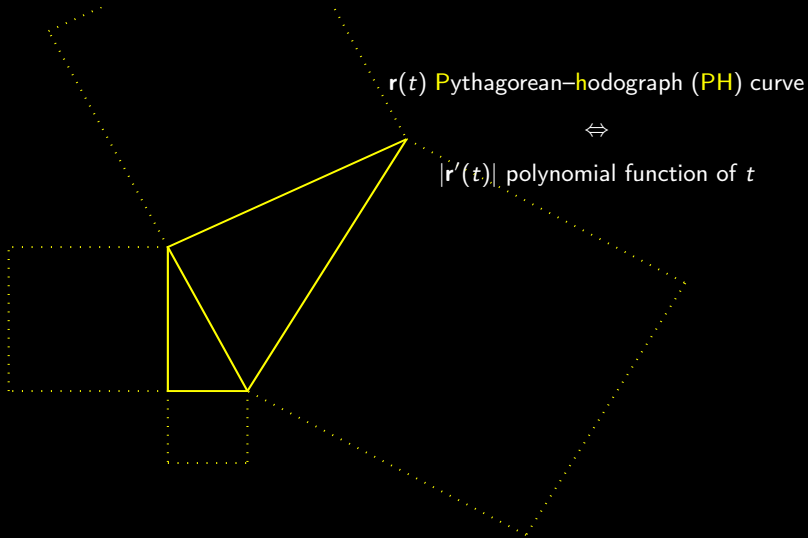
- ▶ smooth PH spline paths
- ▶ data stream interpolation
- ▶ real test case: Zeno AUV



Pythagorean-hodograph curves

# Pythagorean-hodograph

---



# PH space curves

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$$

$$|\mathbf{r}'(t)|^2 = x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t)$$

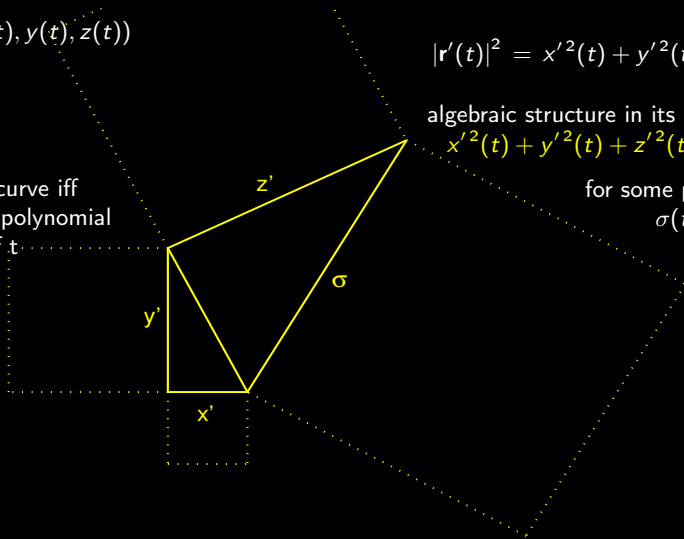
algebraic structure in its hodograph

$$x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t) \equiv \sigma^2(t)$$

for some polynomial

$$\sigma(t) = |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$$

PH space curve iff  
 $|\mathbf{r}'(t)|$  is a polynomial  
function of  $t$

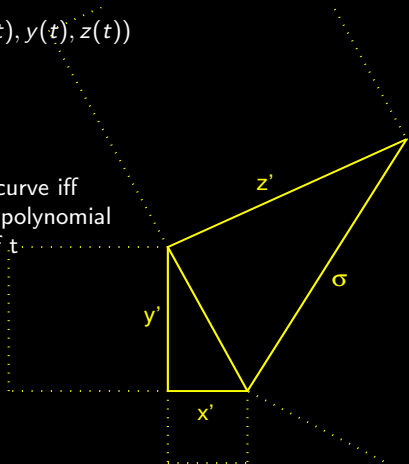




# PH space curves

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$$

PH space curve iff  
 $|\mathbf{r}'(t)|$  is a polynomial  
function of  $t$



$$|\mathbf{r}'(t)|^2 = x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t)$$

algebraic structure in its hodograph  
 $x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t) \equiv \sigma^2(t)$

for some polynomial  
 $\sigma(t) = |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$

:: polynomial arc-length function  
 $s(t) = \int_0^t |\mathbf{r}'(\tau)| d\tau$

:: rational adapted frames

:: rational swept surfaces  
parametrization

# PH space curves

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$$

PH space curve iff  
 $|\mathbf{r}'(t)|$  is a polynomial  
function of  $t$

$$|\mathbf{r}'(t)|^2 = x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t)$$

algebraic structure in its hodograph  
 $x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t) \equiv \sigma^2(t)$

for some polynomial  
 $\sigma(t) = |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$

pythagorean quadruples of polynomials

$$\begin{aligned}x'(t) &= u^2(t) + v^2(t) - p^2(t) - q^2(t) \\y'(t) &= 2[u(t)q(t) + v(t)p(t)] \\z'(t) &= 2[v(t)q(t) - u(t)p(t)] \\\sigma(t) &= u^2(t) + v^2(t) + p^2(t) + q^2(t)\end{aligned}$$

for some polynomials  $u(t), v(t), p(t), q(t)$

[Dietz, Hoschek and Jüttler — CAGD, 1993]

# PH space curves

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$$

PH space curve iff  
 $|\mathbf{r}'(t)|$  is a polynomial  
 function of  $t$

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \mathcal{A}(t)\mathbf{i} + \mathcal{A}^*(t)$$

quaternion polynomial

$$\mathcal{A}(t) := u(t) + v(t)\mathbf{i} + p(t)\mathbf{j} + q(t)\mathbf{k}$$

$$|\mathbf{r}'(t)|^2 = x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t)$$

algebraic structure in its hodograph  
 $x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t) \equiv \sigma^2(t)$

for some polynomial  
 $\sigma(t) = |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$

pythagorean quadruples of polynomials

$$x'(t) = u^2(t) + v^2(t) - p^2(t) - q^2(t)$$

$$y'(t) = 2[u(t)q(t) + v(t)p(t)]$$

$$z'(t) = 2[v(t)q(t) - u(t)p(t)]$$

$$\sigma(t) = u^2(t) + v^2(t) + p^2(t) + q^2(t)$$

for some polynomials  $u(t), v(t), p(t), q(t)$

# Quaternion algebra $\mathbb{H}$

---

$$\mathcal{A} = a_0 + a_1 \mathbf{i} + a_2 \mathbf{j} + a_3 \mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{i}^2 = \mathbf{j}^2 = \mathbf{k}^2 = \mathbf{ijk} = -1$$

# Quaternion algebra $\mathbb{H}$

---

$$\mathcal{A} = a_0 + a_1 \mathbf{i} + a_2 \mathbf{j} + a_3 \mathbf{k} \quad \mathbf{i}^2 = \mathbf{j}^2 = \mathbf{k}^2 = \mathbf{ijk} = -1$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{A} = (a_0, \mathbf{a})$  where  $a_0$  is the **scalar part** and  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$  is the **vector part**;
- ▶  $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B} = (a_0 b_0 - \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}, a_0 \mathbf{b} + b_0 \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b})$  is the **quaternion product**;
- ▶  $\mathcal{A}^* = (a_0, -\mathbf{a})$  is the **conjugate** of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $(\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B})^* = \mathcal{B}^* \mathcal{A}^*$ ;
- ▶  $|\mathcal{A}|^2 = \mathcal{A}\mathcal{A}^* = \mathcal{A}^* \mathcal{A} = a_0^2 + |\mathbf{a}|^2$  is the **square module** of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $|\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B}| = |\mathcal{A}| |\mathcal{B}|$ ;

# Quaternion algebra III

---

$$\mathcal{A} = a_0 + a_1 \mathbf{i} + a_2 \mathbf{j} + a_3 \mathbf{k} \quad \mathbf{i}^2 = \mathbf{j}^2 = \mathbf{k}^2 = \mathbf{ijk} = -1$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{A} = (a_0, \mathbf{a})$  where  $a_0$  is the **scalar part** and  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$  is the **vector part**;
- ▶  $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B} = (a_0 b_0 - \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}, a_0 \mathbf{b} + b_0 \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b})$  is the **quaternion product**;
- ▶  $\mathcal{A}^* = (a_0, -\mathbf{a})$  is the **conjugate** of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $(\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B})^* = \mathcal{B}^* \mathcal{A}^*$ ;
- ▶  $|\mathcal{A}|^2 = \mathcal{A}\mathcal{A}^* = \mathcal{A}^* \mathcal{A} = a_0^2 + |\mathbf{a}|^2$  is the **square module** of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $|\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B}| = |\mathcal{A}| |\mathcal{B}|$ ;

---

If  $v_0 = 0 \Rightarrow \mathcal{V} = (v_0, \mathbf{v})$  and also  $\mathcal{A}\mathbf{v}\mathcal{A}^*$  are **pure vectors**

$\Rightarrow$  the general solution of the **non-unilateral quadratic quaternion equation**

$$\mathcal{A}\mathbf{u}\mathcal{A}^* = \mathbf{v} \quad \text{is given by} \quad \mathcal{A} = \sqrt{|\mathbf{v}|} \frac{\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}/\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}/\mathbf{v}|} (\cos \phi + \sin \phi \mathbf{u})$$

where  $\phi$  is a free angular variable and  $\mathbf{u}$  is a unit vector.

# Bézier form of spatial PH quintics

---

Substituting

$$\mathcal{A}(t) = \mathcal{A}_0 B_0^2(t) + \mathcal{A}_1 B_1^2(t) + \mathcal{A}_2 B_2^2(t)$$

into

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}(t)$$

and integrating yields the Bézier form

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^5 \mathbf{p}_i B_i^5(t)$$

Bernstein polynomials

$$B_i^n(t) := \binom{n}{i} t^i (1-t)^{n-i}$$



# Bézier form of spatial PH quintics

---

Substituting

$$\mathcal{A}(t) = \mathcal{A}_0 B_0^2(t) + \mathcal{A}_1 B_1^2(t) + \mathcal{A}_2 B_2^2(t)$$

into

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}(t)$$

and integrating yields the Bézier form

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^5 \mathbf{p}_i B_i^5(t)$$

with control points

$$\mathbf{p}_1 = \mathbf{p}_0 + \frac{1}{5} \mathcal{A}_0 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_0^*$$

$$\mathbf{p}_2 = \mathbf{p}_1 + \frac{1}{10} (\mathcal{A}_0 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_1^* + \mathcal{A}_1 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_0^*)$$

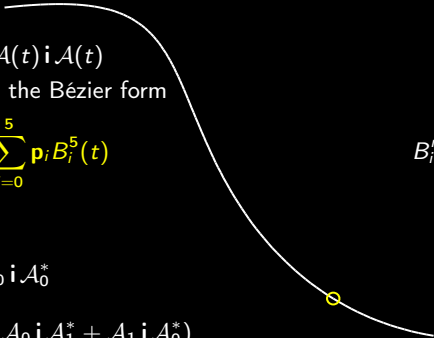
$$\mathbf{p}_3 = \mathbf{p}_2 + \frac{1}{30} (\mathcal{A}_0 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_2^* + 4 \mathcal{A}_1 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_1^* + \mathcal{A}_2 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_0^*)$$

$$\mathbf{p}_4 = \mathbf{p}_3 + \frac{1}{10} (\mathcal{A}_1 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_2^* + \mathcal{A}_2 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_1^*)$$

$$\mathbf{p}_5 = \mathbf{p}_4 + \frac{1}{5} \mathcal{A}_2 \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}_2^*$$

Bernstein polynomials

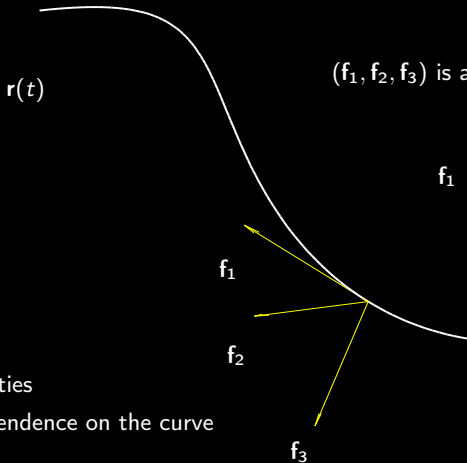
$$B_i^n(t) := \binom{n}{i} t^i (1-t)^{n-i}$$





# Adapted frames

---



$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an *adapted* frame on  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$\Leftrightarrow$

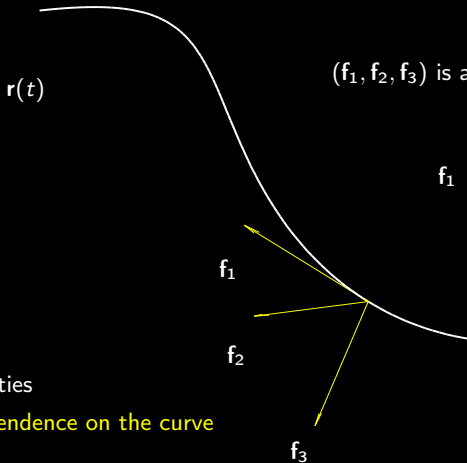
$$\mathbf{f}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t} = \frac{\mathbf{r}'(t)}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|}$$

2 desirable properties

- rational dependence on the curve parameter  $t$
- rotation-minimizing property

# Adapted frames

---



$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an *adapted* frame on  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\mathbf{f}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t} = \frac{\mathbf{r}'(t)}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|}$$

2 desirable properties

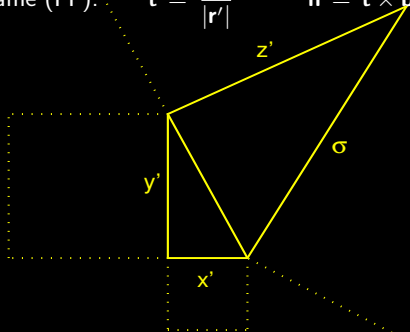
- rational dependence on the curve parameter  $t$
- rotation-minimizing property

# Curves with rational FF

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$$

Frenet frame (FF):

$$\mathbf{t} = \frac{\mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r}'|} \quad \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{b} \quad \mathbf{b} = \frac{\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''}{|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''|}$$



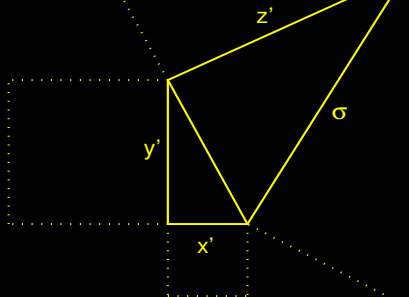
▷ PH curve  $\Leftrightarrow |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$   
is a polynomial in  $t$

# Curves with rational FF

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$$

Frenet frame (FF):

$$\mathbf{t} = \frac{\mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r}'|} \quad \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{b} \quad \mathbf{b} = \frac{\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''}{|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''|}$$



▷ PH curve  $\Leftrightarrow |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$   
is a polynomial in  $t$

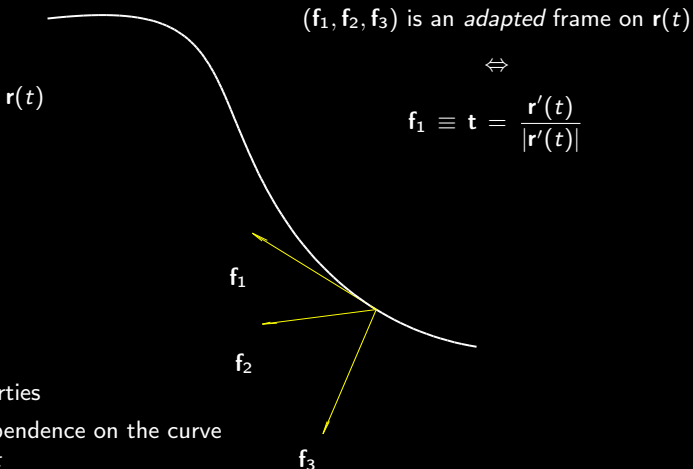
▷ double PH curve  $\Leftrightarrow |\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)|$   
is also a polynomial in  $t$



$\mathbf{r}(t)$  is a double PH (DPH) curve  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{r}(t)$  has a rational FF

# Rotation-minimizing property

---

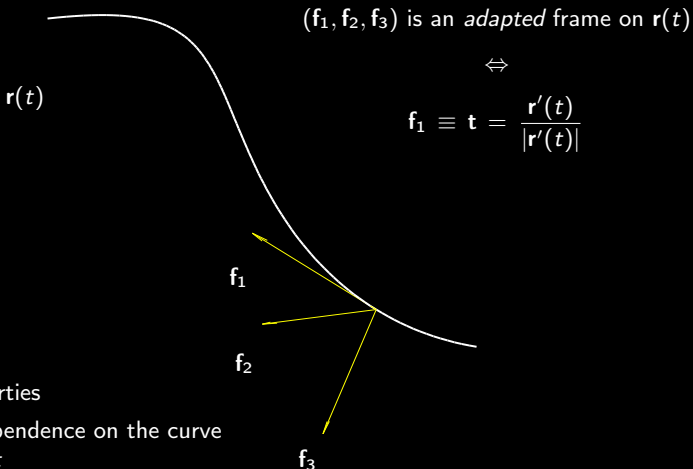


2 desirable properties

- rational dependence on the curve parameter  $t$
- rotation-minimizing property

# Rotation-minimizing property

---



2 desirable properties

- rational dependence on the curve parameter  $t$
- rotation-minimizing property

# Rotation-minimizing property

---

- $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t}$

Eulero–Rodriguez Frame (ERF)

$$\mathbf{e}_2 = \frac{\mathcal{A} \mathbf{j} \mathcal{A}^*}{|\mathbf{r}'|} \quad \mathbf{e}_3 = \frac{\mathcal{A} \mathbf{k} \mathcal{A}^*}{|\mathbf{r}'|}$$

- $(\mathbf{t}_1, \mathbf{t}_2, \mathbf{t}_3)$ ,  $\mathbf{t}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t}$

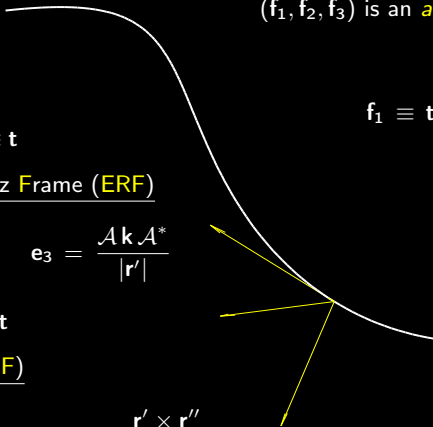
Frenet Frame (FF)

$$\mathbf{t}_2 = \frac{\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''}{|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''|} \times \mathbf{t} \quad \mathbf{t}_3 = \frac{\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''}{|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''|}$$

$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an *adapted* frame on  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\mathbf{f}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t} = \frac{\mathbf{r}'(t)}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|}$$



# Rotation-minimizing property

- $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t}$

Eulero-Rodriguez Frame (ERF)

$$\mathbf{e}_2 = \frac{\mathcal{A} \mathbf{j} \mathcal{A}^*}{|\mathbf{r}'|} \quad \mathbf{e}_3 = \frac{\mathcal{A} \mathbf{k} \mathcal{A}^*}{|\mathbf{r}'|}$$

- $(\mathbf{t}_1, \mathbf{t}_2, \mathbf{t}_3)$ ,  $\mathbf{t}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t}$

Frenet Frame (FF)

$$\mathbf{t}_2 = \frac{\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''}{|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''|} \times \mathbf{t} \quad \mathbf{t}_3 = \frac{\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''}{|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''|}$$

$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an *adapted* frame on  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\mathbf{f}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t} = \frac{\mathbf{r}'(t)}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|}$$

$(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3)$ ,  $\mathbf{r}_1 \equiv \mathbf{t}$

★ Rotation-Minimizing Frame (RMF)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_2 \\ \mathbf{r}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{t}_2 \\ \mathbf{t}_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

with  $\theta = -\int \tau ds$

[Bishop — AMM, 1975]

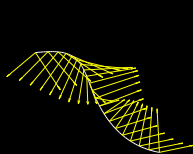
[Guggenheimer — CAGD, 1989]

[Klok — CAGD, 1986]

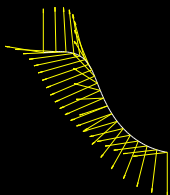


# RMFs on space curves

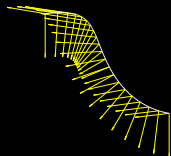
---



FF



ERF



RMF

- ▶ the angular velocity  $\boldsymbol{\omega}(t)$  specifies the variation of  $(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  along  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \omega_1 \mathbf{f}_1 + \omega_2 \mathbf{f}_2 + \omega_3 \mathbf{f}_3$$

where  $\mathbf{f}'_j = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{f}_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3$ ,

$$\omega_1 = \mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_2 = -\mathbf{f}_2 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_3 \quad \omega_2 = \mathbf{f}_1 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_3 = -\mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_1 \quad \omega_3 = \mathbf{f}_2 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_1 = -\mathbf{f}_1 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_2$$

frame instantaneous  
angular speed:  $\omega = |\boldsymbol{\omega}|$

frame instantaneous  
rotation axis:  $\mathbf{a} = \boldsymbol{\omega}/|\boldsymbol{\omega}|$

# RMFs on space curves

---

$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an RMF  $\Leftrightarrow \omega_1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_2 = 0$   
at every point of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ , there is no instantaneous  
rotation of  $\mathbf{f}_2$  and  $\mathbf{f}_3$  about  $\mathbf{f}_1$



polynomial curves with rational RMFs (RRMFs)

$\mathbf{r}(t)$  is an RRMF curve  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{r}(t)$  has a rational RMF

- ▶ the angular velocity  $\boldsymbol{\omega}(t)$  specifies the variation of  $(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  along  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \omega_1 \mathbf{f}_1 + \omega_2 \mathbf{f}_2 + \omega_3 \mathbf{f}_3$$

where  $\mathbf{f}'_j = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{f}_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3$ ,

$$\omega_1 = \mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_2 = -\mathbf{f}_2 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_3 \quad \omega_2 = \mathbf{f}_1 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_3 = -\mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_1 \quad \omega_3 = \mathbf{f}_2 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_1 = -\mathbf{f}_1 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_2$$

frame instantaneous  
angular speed:  $\omega = |\boldsymbol{\omega}|$

frame instantaneous  
rotation axis:  $\mathbf{a} = \boldsymbol{\omega}/|\boldsymbol{\omega}|$

## RMFs on space curves

---

$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an RMF  $\Leftrightarrow \omega_1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}'_2 = 0$   
at every point of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ , there is no instantaneous  
rotation of  $\mathbf{f}_2$  and  $\mathbf{f}_3$  about  $\mathbf{f}_1$



polynomial curves with rational RMFs (RRMFs)

$\mathbf{r}(t)$  is an RRMF curve  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{r}(t)$  has a rational RMF

## RMFs on space curves

---

$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an RMF  $\Leftrightarrow \omega_1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}_2' = 0$   
at every point of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ , there is no instantaneous  
rotation of  $\mathbf{f}_2$  and  $\mathbf{f}_3$  about  $\mathbf{f}_1$



polynomial curves with rational RMFs (RRMFs)

$\mathbf{r}(t)$  is an RRMF curve  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{r}(t)$  has a rational RMF

$(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$  ERF on PH curves defined by  $\mathcal{A}(t)$

$$\mathbf{e}_1(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)} \quad \mathbf{e}_2(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{j} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)} \quad \mathbf{e}_3(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{k} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

# RMFs on space curves

---

$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an RMF  $\Leftrightarrow \omega_1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}_2' = 0$   
at every point of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ , there is no instantaneous  
rotation of  $\mathbf{f}_2$  and  $\mathbf{f}_3$  about  $\mathbf{f}_1$



polynomial curves with rational RMFs (RRMFs)

$\mathbf{r}(t)$  is an RRMF curve  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{r}(t)$  has a rational RMF

$(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$  ERF on PH curves defined by  $\mathcal{A}(t)$

$$\mathbf{e}_1(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)} \quad \mathbf{e}_2(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{j} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)} \quad \mathbf{e}_3(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{k} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

► ERF angular velocity component:

$$\omega_1(\text{ERF}) = 2 \frac{\text{scal}(\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}'^*(t))}{|\mathcal{A}(t)|^2}$$

# RMFs on space curves

---

$(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  is an RMF  $\Leftrightarrow \omega_1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{f}_3 \cdot \mathbf{f}_2' = 0$   
at every point of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ , there is no instantaneous  
rotation of  $\mathbf{f}_2$  and  $\mathbf{f}_3$  about  $\mathbf{f}_1$



polynomial curves with rational RMFs (RRMFs)

$\mathbf{r}(t)$  is an RRMF curve  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{r}(t)$  has a rational RMF

$(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$  ERF on PH curves defined by  $\mathcal{A}(t) := u(t)\mathbf{i} + v(t)\mathbf{j} + q(t)\mathbf{k}$

$$\mathbf{e}_1(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t)\mathbf{i}\mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t)\mathcal{A}^*(t)} \quad \mathbf{e}_2(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t)\mathbf{j}\mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t)\mathcal{A}^*(t)} \quad \mathbf{e}_3(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t)\mathbf{k}\mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t)\mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

► ERF angular velocity component:

$$\omega_1(\text{ERF}) = 2 \frac{\text{scal}(\mathcal{A}(t)\mathbf{i}\mathcal{A}'^*(t))}{|\mathcal{A}(t)|^2} = \frac{2(uv' - u'v - pq' + p'q)}{u^2 + v^2 + p^2 + q^2}$$

⇒ the ERF is rational but not always RM ...

# ERF vs. RMF

---



$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^*(t)$$

$$\frac{\text{scal}(\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}'^*(t))}{|\mathcal{A}(t)|^2} = \frac{\text{scal}(\mathcal{W}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{W}'^*(t))}{|\mathcal{W}(t)|^2}$$

$$\mathcal{W}(t) = a(t) + \mathbf{i} b(t) \quad \text{gcd}(a(t), b(t)) = \text{const.}$$

$(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$  ERF

$$\mathbf{e}_1(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_2(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{j} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_3(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{k} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

# ERF vs. RMF



$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^*(t)$$

$$\frac{\text{scal}(\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}'^*(t))}{|\mathcal{A}(t)|^2} = \frac{\text{scal}(\mathcal{W}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{W}'^*(t))}{|\mathcal{W}(t)|^2}$$

$$\mathcal{W}(t) = a(t) + \mathbf{i} b(t) \quad \text{gcd}(a(t), b(t)) = \text{const.}$$

$(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$  ERF

$$\mathbf{e}_1(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_2(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{j} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_3(t) = \frac{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathbf{k} \mathcal{A}^*(t)}{\mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{A}^*(t)}$$

$(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3)$  RMF

$$\mathbf{r}_1(t) = \frac{\mathcal{B}(t) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{B}^*(t)}{\mathcal{B}(t) \mathcal{B}^*(t)}$$

$$\mathbf{r}_2(t) = \frac{\mathcal{B}(t) \mathbf{j} \mathcal{B}^*(t)}{\mathcal{B}(t) \mathcal{B}^*(t)}$$

$$\mathbf{r}_3(t) = \frac{\mathcal{B}(t) \mathbf{k} \mathcal{B}^*(t)}{\mathcal{B}(t) \mathcal{B}^*(t)}$$

where

$$\mathcal{B}(t) = \mathcal{A}(t) \mathcal{W}^*(t)$$



# A recent survey [Farouki, Giannelli, Sestini — in Springer INdAM Series, 2019]

---

Fundamentals, specializations & generalizations of polynomial PH curves

Rational orthonormal frames along PH curves

Algorithms for PH Curves

Surface constructions based on PH curves

Applications of PH curves

# A recent survey [Farouki, Giannelli, Sestini — in Springer INdAM Series, 2019]

---

## Fundamentals, specializations & generalizations of polynomial PH curves

- ▶ DPH curves, rational PH Curves
- ▶ ATPH curves, MPH curves
- ▶ Pythagorean-Normal and Linear Normal surfaces, . . .

## Rational orthonormal frames along PH curves

- ▶ rotation-minimizing adapted, directed & osculating frames
- ▶ RRMFs, RMTFs

## Algorithms for PH Curves

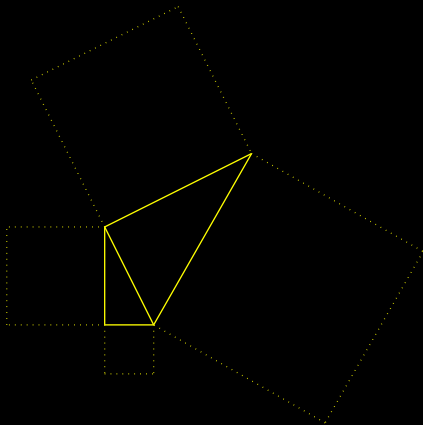
- ▶ construction algorithms (local and global interpolation schemes)
- ▶ PH Curves with prescribed arc lengths, reverse engineering of PH Curves

## Surface constructions based on PH curves

- ▶ rational patches bounded by lines of curvature, rational swept surface constructions
- ▶ surface patches with PH isoparametric curves

## Applications of PH curves

- ▶ real-time motion control, path planning applications



Pythagorean-hodograph curves

- ▶ smooth PH spline paths
- ▶ data stream interpolation
- ▶ real test case: Zeno AUV

▶ smooth PH spline paths

# Path planning based on PH splines

---

Roadmap reconstruction

↓ *admissible piecewise linear paths*

Path planning

↓ *collision-free piecewise linear path*

Path smoothing

↓ *collision-free smooth path*

Trajectory planning

↓ *suitable path traversal time*

▶ visibility graph + dual graph

▶ graph search algorithms

▶  $G^1/G^2$  PH quintic splines

▶ feedrate scheduling algorithm

# Path planning based on PH splines

---

Roadmap reconstruction

↓ *admissible piecewise linear paths*

Path planning

↓ *collision-free piecewise linear path*

Path smoothing

↓ *collision-free smooth path*

Trajectory planning

↓ *suitable path traversal time*

▶ visibility graph + dual graph

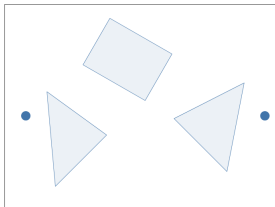
▶ graph search algorithms

▶  $G^1/G^2$  PH quintic splines

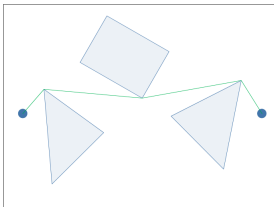
▶ feedrate scheduling algorithm

# Path planning based on PH spline in tension

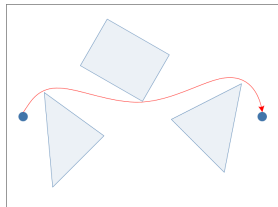
---



Static Environment

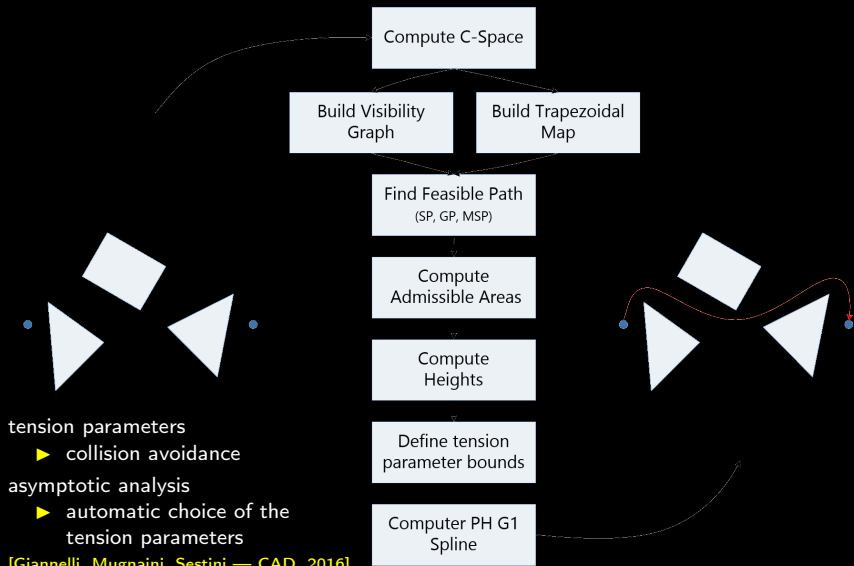


Piecewise Linear Path



PH G1 Curve with Tension Parameters

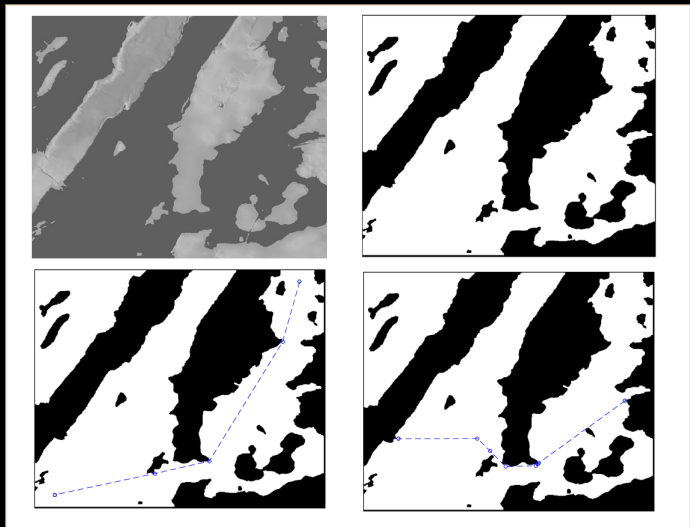
# Path planning based on PH spline in tension



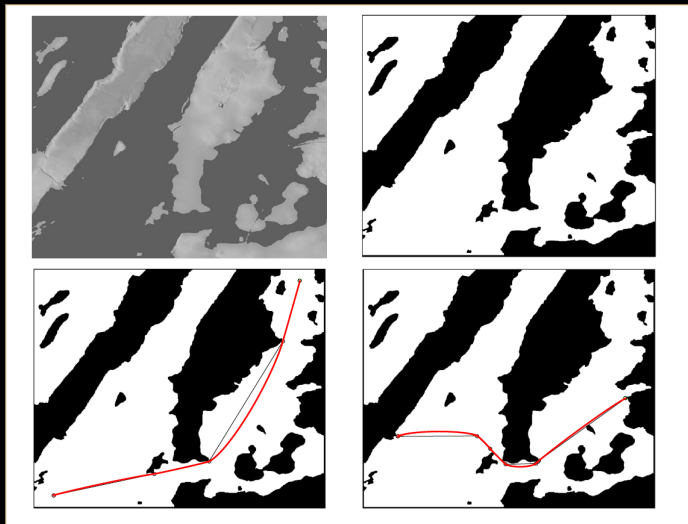


# Path planning with scene reconstruction: $C^0$ path

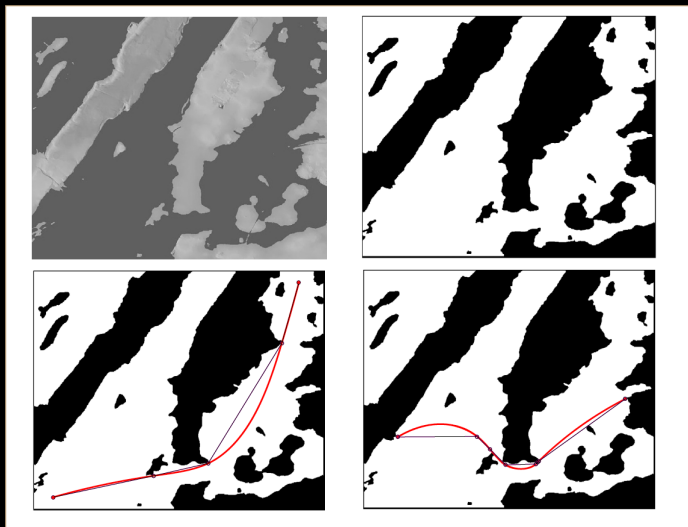
---



# Path planning with scene reconstruction: $G^1$ path



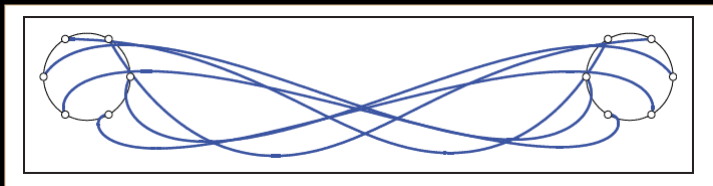
# Path planning with scene reconstruction: $G^2$ path



# Applications to unmanned or autonomous vehicles

---

- ▶ maintenance of minimum safe separations within vehicle swarms
- ▶ construction of paths of different shape but identical arc length, ensuring simultaneous arrival of vehicles travelling at a constant speed
- ▶ determination of the curvature extrema of PH paths, and their modification to satisfy a given curvature bound
- ▶ construction of curvature-continuous paths of bounded curvature



a family of simultaneous-arrival paths for a swarm of six unmanned constant speed vehicles, departing and arriving in different directions from a set of corresponding equidistant points on an initial and final target circle

# Curve vs. frame construction

---

The construction of an RMF on a **pre-defined curve** is an **initial value problem**...

... the orientation of the normal-plane vectors at any curve point determine their orientation at every other point

... it is not possible to construct RMFs along pre-defined curves with prescribed initial and final orientations

→ the curve is an outcome of the construction algorithm

# Curve vs. frame construction

---

The construction of an RMF on a **pre-defined curve** is an **initial value problem**...

... the orientation of the normal-plane vectors at any curve point determine their orientation at every other point

... it is not possible to construct RMFs along pre-defined curves with prescribed initial and final orientations

→ the curve is an outcome of the construction algorithm

To **independently** specify a curve and a rational frame along it, we consider a **Minimal Twist Frame (MTF)** associated with a pre-defined curve and initial/final orientations.

[Farouki and Moon — ACOM, 2018]

→ the construction of an MTF on a **pre-defined curve** is a **boundary value problem**.

# Minimal twist frames

---

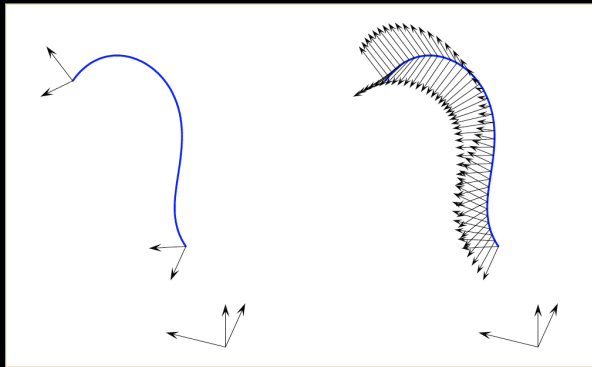
- ▶ the angular velocity  $\omega(t)$  specifies the variation of  $(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  along  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \omega_1 \mathbf{f}_1 + \omega_2 \mathbf{f}_2 + \omega_3 \mathbf{f}_3$$

# Minimal twist frames

- ▶ the angular velocity  $\omega(t)$  specifies the variation of  $(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  along  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \omega_1 \mathbf{f}_1 + \omega_2 \mathbf{f}_2 + \omega_3 \mathbf{f}_3$$



## Definition:

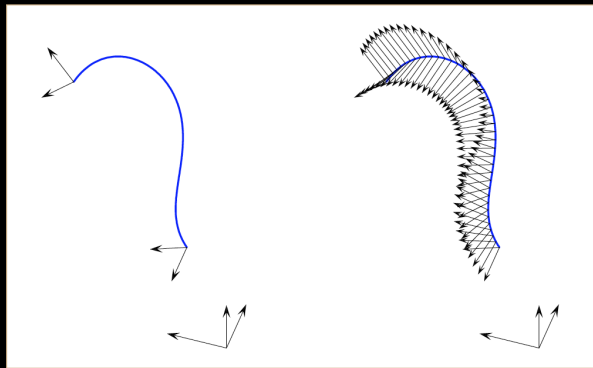
- ▶ the **twist** of the framed curve is the integral of the component  $\omega_1$  with respect to arc length
- ▶ an MTF has the least possible twist value, subject to prescribed initial and final orientations



# Minimal twist frames

- ▶ the angular velocity  $\omega(t)$  specifies the variation of  $(\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{f}_3)$  along  $\mathbf{r}(t)$

$$\omega = \omega_1 \mathbf{f}_1 + \omega_2 \mathbf{f}_2 + \omega_3 \mathbf{f}_3$$



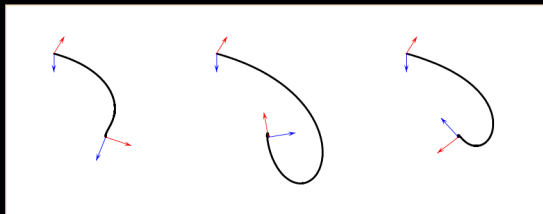
MTF:

- ▶ the angular velocity component  $\omega \cdot \mathbf{f}_1$  in the tangent direction does not change sign
- ▶ the total amount of rotation of the normal-plane vector about the tangent is minimized

(A constant  $\omega \cdot \mathbf{f}_1$  can only be **approximately achieved** for a rational MTF)

## RMFs vs. MTFs

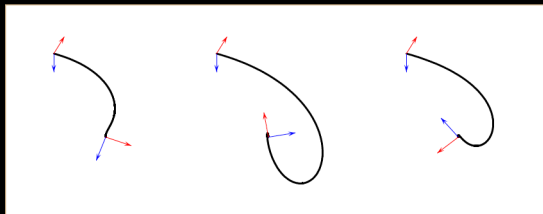
---



### RMF

no end-frame interpolation on a fixed curve  
the curve is an outcome of the algorithm

# RMFs vs. MTFs

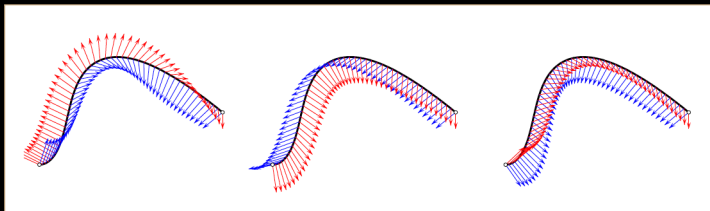


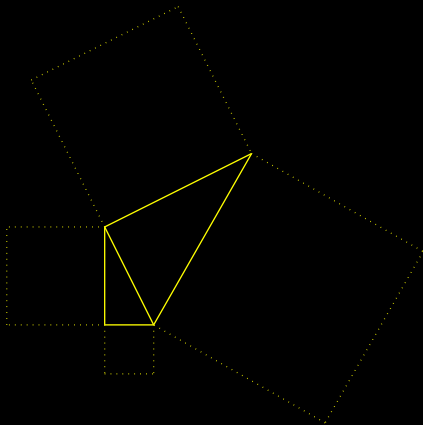
## RMF

no end-frame interpolation on a fixed curve  
the curve is an outcome of the algorithm

## MTF

end-frame interpolation on a fixed curve  
different MTFs on a fixed curve





Pythagorean-hodograph curves

- ▶ smooth PH spline paths
- ▶ data stream interpolation
- ▶ real test case: Zeno AUV

▶ data stream interpolation

# The local interpolation problem

---

Construction of

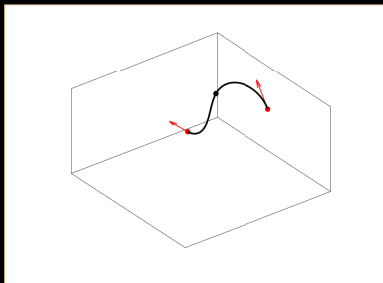
$$\mathbf{x}(u), u \in [u_i, u_f]$$

so that

$$\mathbf{x}(u_i) = \mathbf{p}_i, \quad \mathbf{x}(u_f) = \mathbf{p}_f$$

$$\mathbf{x}'(u_i) = \mathbf{v}_i, \quad \mathbf{x}'(u_f) = \mathbf{v}_f$$

$$\mathbf{x}''(u_i) = \mathbf{w}_i.$$



# The local interpolation problem

Construction of

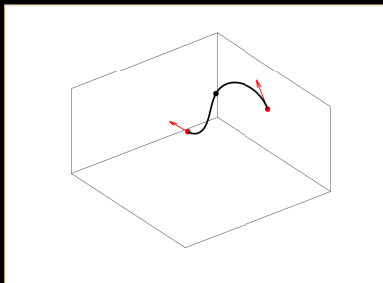
$$\mathbf{x}(u), u \in [u_i, u_f]$$

so that

$$\mathbf{x}(u_i) = \mathbf{p}_i, \quad \mathbf{x}(u_f) = \mathbf{p}_f$$

$$\mathbf{x}'(u_i) = \mathbf{v}_i, \quad \mathbf{x}'(u_f) = \mathbf{v}_f$$

$$\mathbf{x}''(u_i) = \mathbf{w}_i.$$



We consider the **PH quintic biarc** composed by 2 PH quintics joining at  $u_m$

$$\mathbf{x}(u) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_i(u) & \text{for } u \in [u_i, u_m], \\ \mathbf{x}_f(u) & \text{for } u \in [u_m, u_f]. \end{cases} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{x}_i}{d\tau}(\tau) = \mathcal{A}(\tau) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^*(\tau), \quad \frac{d\mathbf{x}_f}{d\eta}(\eta) = \mathcal{B}(\eta) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{B}^*(\eta),$$

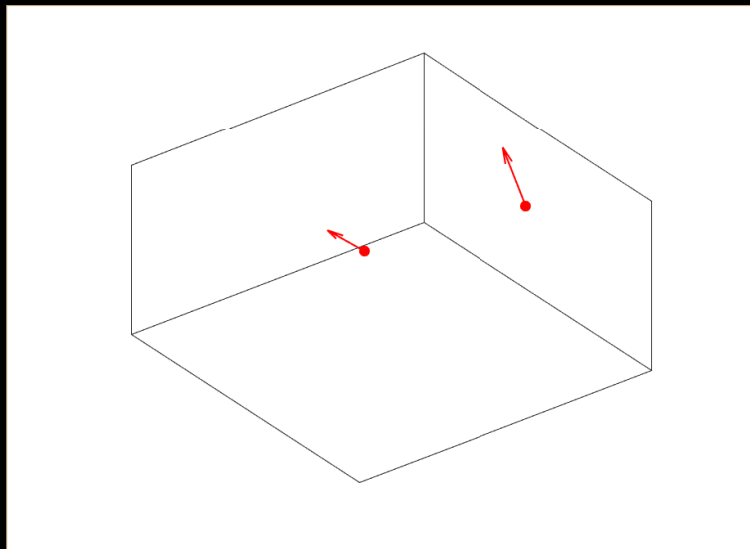
where the quadratic quaternion polynomials

$$\mathcal{A}(\tau) := \sum_{j=0}^2 \mathcal{A}_j B_j^2(\tau), \quad \mathcal{B}(\eta) := \sum_{j=0}^2 \mathcal{B}_j B_j^2(\eta),$$

define the **pre-image** of  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and  $\mathbf{x}_f$ , in the Bernstein basis,

## Data stream interpolation: spline extension

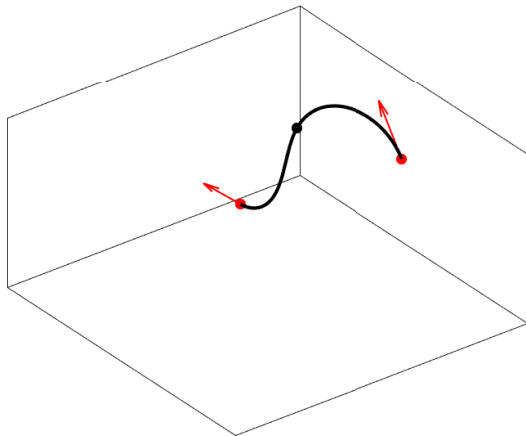
---





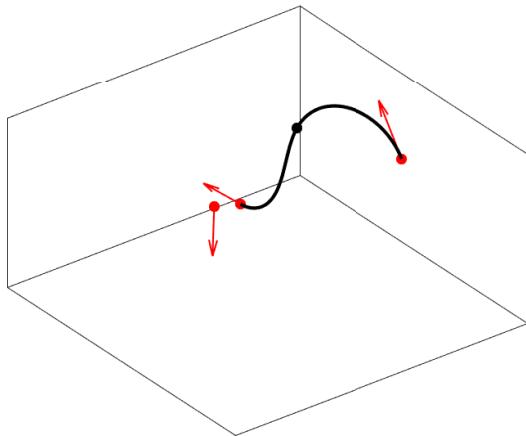
## Data stream interpolation: spline extension

---



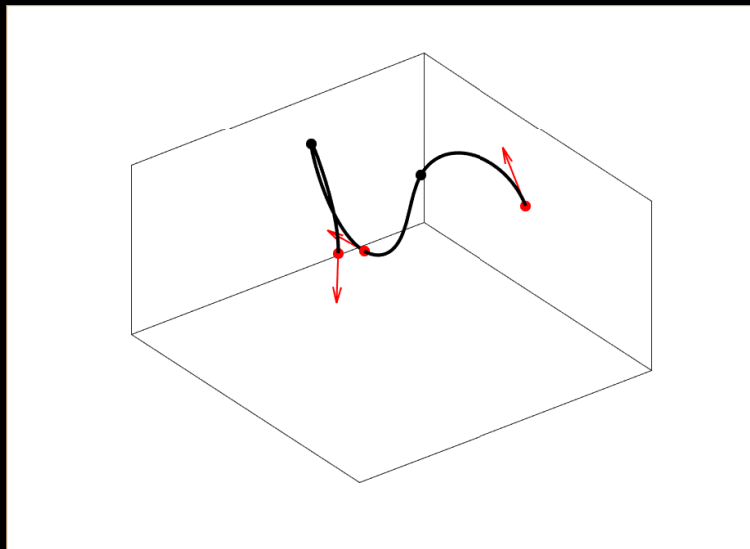
## Data stream interpolation: spline extension

---



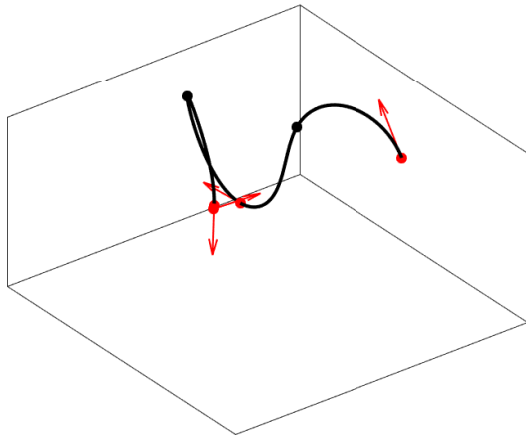
## Data stream interpolation: spline extension

---



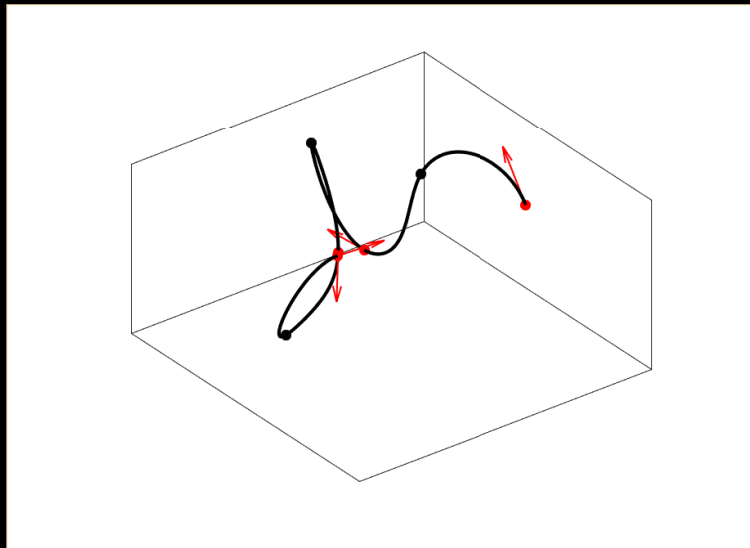
## Data stream interpolation: spline extension

---



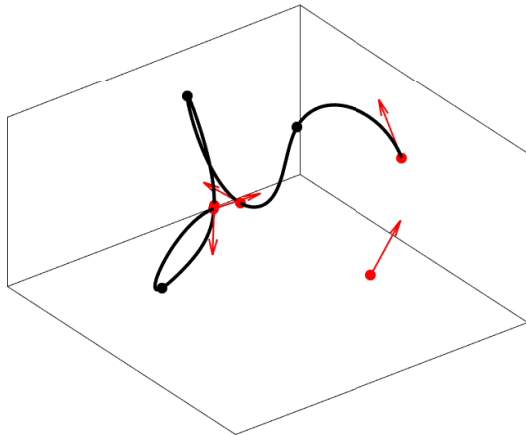
## Data stream interpolation: spline extension

---



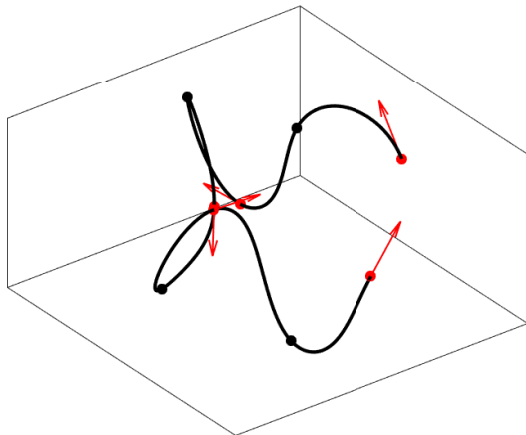
## Data stream interpolation: spline extension

---

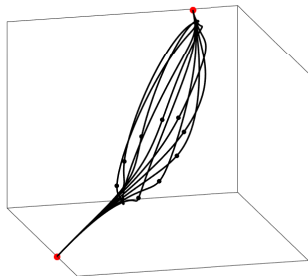
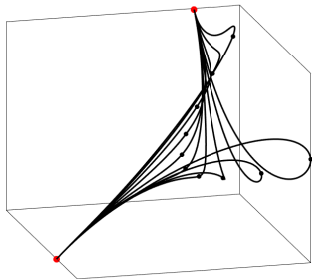


## Data stream interpolation: spline extension

---



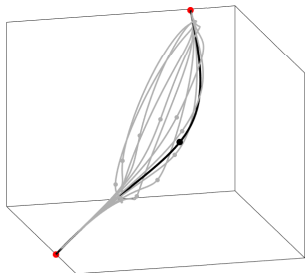
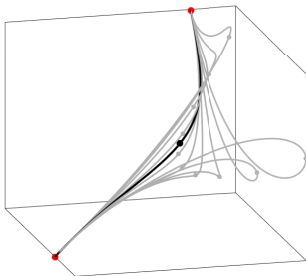
## Local shape parameters



- ▶ 6 quaternion coefficients  $\rightarrow$  24 scalar degrees of freedom
- ▶  $6 \cdot 3 \rightarrow$  18 interpolation conditions
- ▶ 6 free parameters  $\rightarrow$  reduced to 4 **shape parameters** by imposing  $C^1$  joint between the quaternion pre-images of  $x_i$  and  $x_f$   
( $\rightarrow$  construction of just one PH quintic whenever possible)  
( $\rightarrow C^1$  continuity of the ERF at the joint point)



## Local shape parameters



- ▶ 6 quaternion coefficients  $\rightarrow$  24 scalar degrees of freedom
- ▶  $6 \cdot 3 \rightarrow 18$  interpolation conditions
- ▶ 6 free parameters  $\rightarrow$  reduced to **4 shape parameters** by imposing  $C^1$  joint between the quaternion pre-images of  $x_i$  and  $x_f$   
( $\rightarrow$  construction of just one PH quintic whenever possible)  
( $\rightarrow C^1$  continuity of the ERF at the joint point)

# Selection of free parameters

Biarc representation of CC  $C^1$  PH quintic interpolant

[Farouki, Giannelli, Manni, Sestini — CAGD 2008]

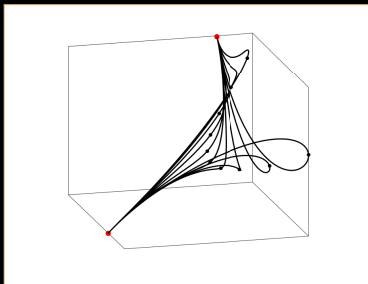
$$\mathbf{x}^H(t) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_i^H(t) & \text{for } t \in [0, \hat{t}] \\ \mathbf{x}_f^H(t) & \text{for } t \in [\hat{t}, 1] \end{cases} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{x}_i^H}{d\tau} = \mathcal{A}^H(\tau) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^{H*}(\tau) \quad \frac{d\mathbf{x}_f^H}{d\eta} = \mathcal{B}^H(\eta) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{B}^{H*}(\eta)$$

where

$$\mathcal{A}^H(\tau) = \sum_{j=0}^2 \mathcal{A}_j^H B_j^2(\tau), \quad \mathcal{B}^H(\eta) = \sum_{j=0}^2 \mathcal{B}_j^H B_j^2(\eta).$$

Parameter selection strategy for the biarc

- ▶  $\mathcal{A}_0 = \mathcal{A}_0^H \rightarrow$  angular parameter
- ▶  $\min |\mathcal{A}_1 - \mathcal{A}_1^H|^2 \rightarrow$  real parameter
- ▶  $\min |\mathcal{A}_2 - \mathcal{A}_2^H|^2 \rightarrow$  angular parameter
- ▶  $\mathcal{B}_2 = \mathcal{B}_2^H \rightarrow$  angular parameter



# Selection of free parameters

Biarc representation of CC  $C^1$  PH quintic interpolant

[Farouki, Giannelli, Manni, Sestini — CAGD 2008]

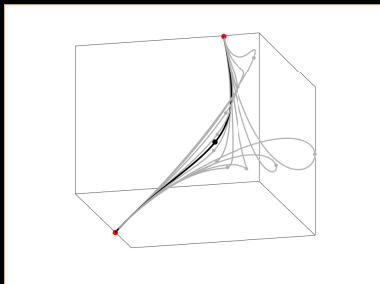
$$\mathbf{x}^H(t) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_i^H(t) & \text{for } t \in [0, \hat{t}] \\ \mathbf{x}_f^H(t) & \text{for } t \in [\hat{t}, 1] \end{cases} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{x}_i^H}{d\tau} = \mathcal{A}^H(\tau) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{A}^{H*}(\tau) \quad \frac{d\mathbf{x}_f^H}{d\eta} = \mathcal{B}^H(\eta) \mathbf{i} \mathcal{B}^{H*}(\eta)$$

where

$$\mathcal{A}^H(\tau) = \sum_{j=0}^2 \mathcal{A}_j^H B_j^2(\tau), \quad \mathcal{B}^H(\eta) = \sum_{j=0}^2 \mathcal{B}_j^H B_j^2(\eta).$$

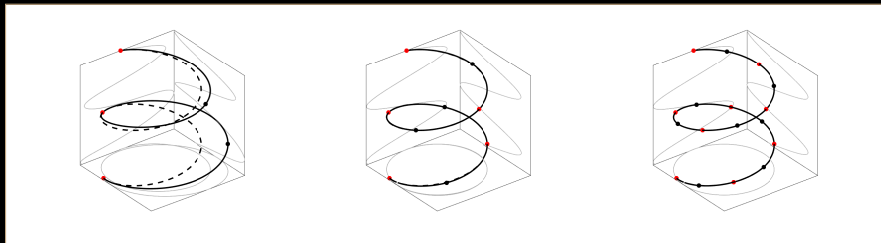
Parameter selection strategy for the biarc

- ▶  $\mathcal{A}_0 = \mathcal{A}_0^H \rightarrow$  angular parameter
- ▶  $\min |\mathcal{A}_1 - \mathcal{A}_1^H|^2 \rightarrow$  real parameter
- ▶  $\min |\mathcal{A}_2 - \mathcal{A}_2^H|^2 \rightarrow$  angular parameter
- ▶  $\mathcal{B}_2 = \mathcal{B}_2^H \rightarrow$  angular parameter



# Approximation order

$C^2$  PH quintic spline reconstruction (solid line) of a circular helix (dashed line) from first order Hermite data — 3 (left), 5 (center), and 9 (right) sampled locations

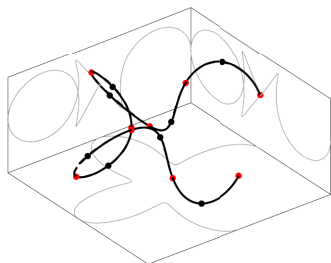
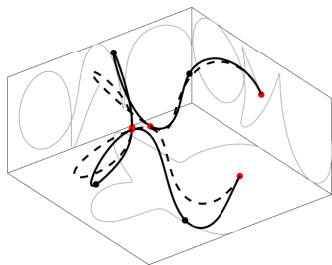


$\mathbf{r}(s)$ : sufficiently smooth arc length parameterized curve,  $s \in [0, \Delta s]$

$\mathbf{x}(t)$ : PH biarc interpolant

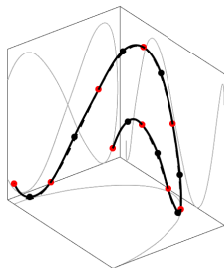
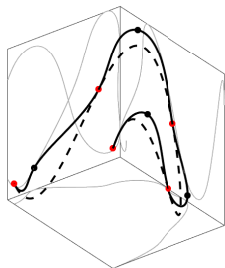
$$\|\mathbf{x}(t) - \mathbf{r}(t\Delta s)\| = O(s^4) \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

# Numerical approximation order



$k$	curve #1		curve #2		curve #3	
	$E_k$	$p_k$	$E_k$	$p_k$	$E_k$	$p_k$
2	1.6891e-01	5.00	1.1459e+01	3.76	2.7103e+00	2.78
3	1.2229e-02	3.79	2.1602e-01	2.77	3.9744e-01	5.73
4	1.0656e-03	3.52	2.3278e-02	3.32	3.9717e-02	3.21
5	8.0828e-05	3.72	2.6217e-03	4.42	1.8504e-03	3.15
6	5.5547e-06	3.86	2.1238e-04	3.01	2.3004e-04	3.63
7	3.6361e-07	3.93	1.4952e-05	3.78	1.6709e-05	3.83
8	2.3249e-08	3.97	9.8900e-07	3.94	1.0883e-06	3.92
9	1.4695e-09	3.98	6.3543e-08	3.98	6.8957e-08	3.96

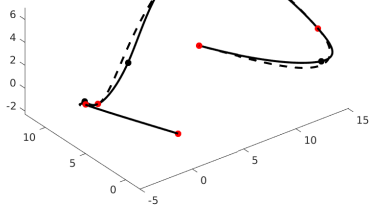
# Numerical approximation order



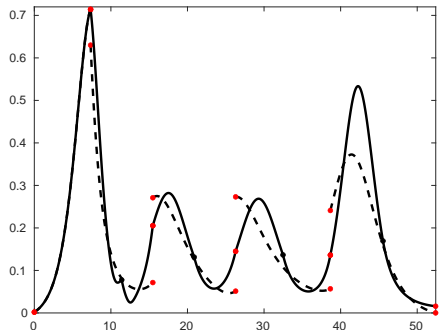
$k$	curve #1		curve #2		curve #3	
	$E_k$	$p_k$	$E_k$	$p_k$	$E_k$	$p_k$
2	1.6891e-01	5.00	1.1459e+01	3.76	2.7103e+00	2.78
3	1.2229e-02	3.79	2.1602e-01	2.77	3.9744e-01	5.73
4	1.0656e-03	3.52	2.3278e-02	3.32	3.9717e-02	3.21
5	8.0828e-05	3.72	2.6217e-03	4.42	1.8504e-03	3.15
6	5.5547e-06	3.86	2.1238e-04	3.01	2.3004e-04	3.63
7	3.6361e-07	3.93	1.4952e-05	3.78	1.6709e-05	3.83
8	2.3249e-08	3.97	9.8900e-07	3.94	1.0883e-06	3.92
9	1.4695e-09	3.98	6.3543e-08	3.98	6.8957e-08	3.96

# 3D point stream interpolation

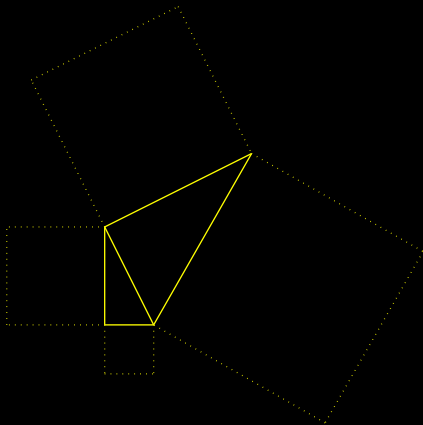
PH quintic splines



curvature plots



$C^2$  PH biarc (solid line) vs.  $C^1$  CC PH quintic (dashed line)



Pythagorean-hodograph curves

- ▶ smooth PH spline paths
- ▶ data stream interpolation
- ▶ real test case: Zeno AUV



► real test case: Zeno AUV

# Guidance, navigation & control

---

## Guidance

- ▶ responsible of providing kinematics reference to follow  
2 main approaches:
  - ▶ **trajectory tracking (TT) & path following (PF)**
  - ▶ **TT**: requires that the vehicle must track 42 both time and kinematics states: the vehicle should be at a certain time in a certain configuration (position/orientation)
  - ▶ **PF**: a software module is responsible of generating a suitable velocity profile to follow so that the vehicle moves along a desired geometric path without any particular time constraint

## Navigation

- ▶ estimates the kinematic state of the vehicle  
(geodetic location and high order differential states)

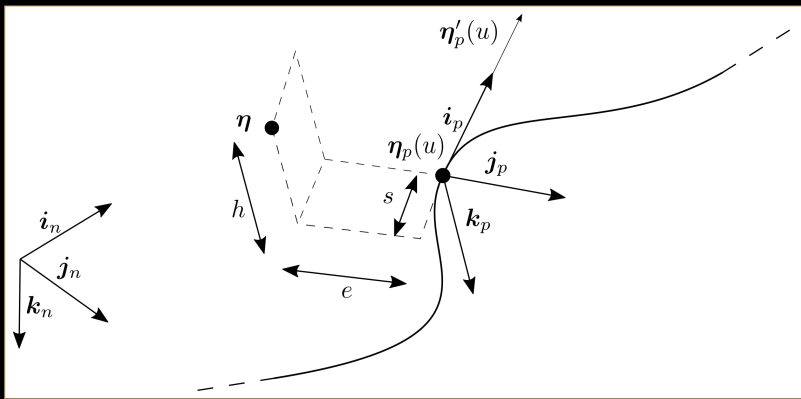
## Control

- ▶ combine the results of the previous ones and allocate forces

# Path following scheme

- ▶ Goal: prescribe the vehicle velocity commands to achieve motion control objectives

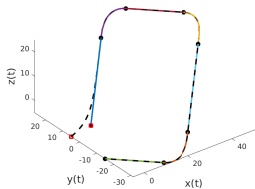
$\eta(t)$  : vehicle position,  $\eta_p(t)$  : PH spline path,  $\epsilon^p = (s, e, h)$  : track error



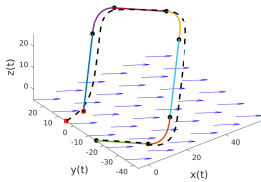
$(\mathbf{i}_n, \mathbf{j}_n, \mathbf{k}_n)$  : navigation frame,  $(\mathbf{i}_p, \mathbf{j}_p, \mathbf{k}_p)$  : path reference frame

# Kinematic simulations: $C^1$ PH spline path

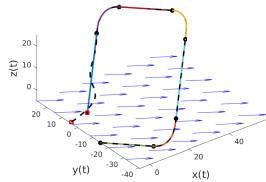
path to be followed (dashed line) & path of the vehicle solid line



GL without current



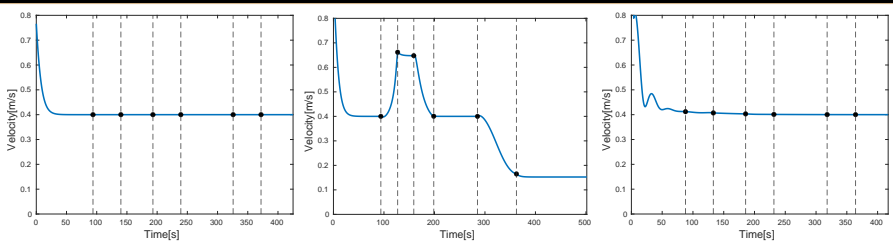
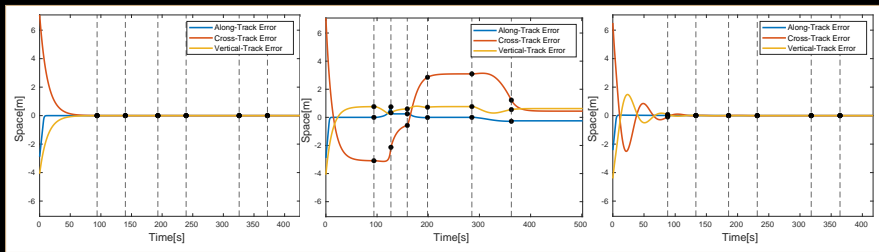
GL with current



EGL with current

# Kinematic simulations: $C^1$ PH spline path

track errors (top) & vehicle speed (bottom)

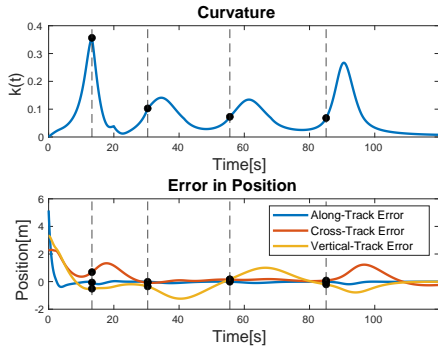
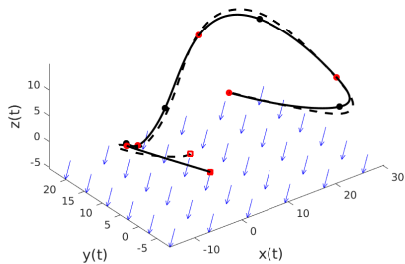


GL without current

GL with current

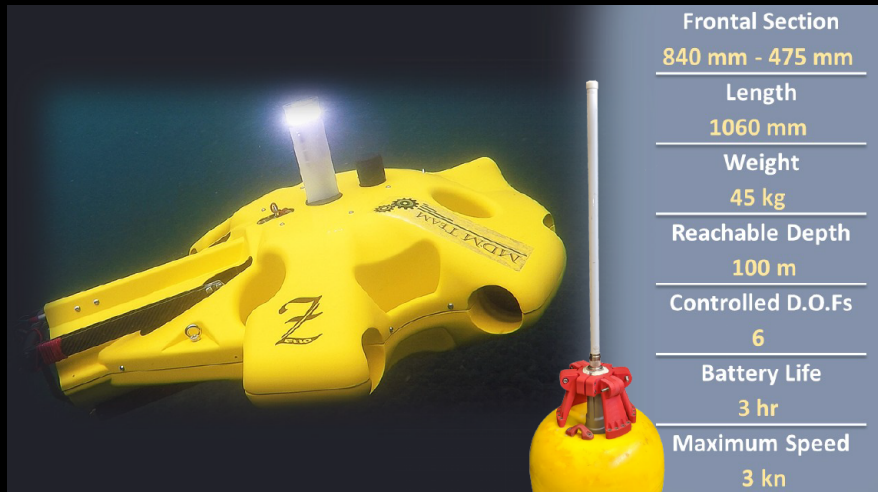
EGL with current

# Kinematic simulations: $C^2$ PH spline path



# Zeno UAV

---



Frontal Section

840 mm - 475 mm

Length

1060 mm

Weight

45 kg

Reachable Depth

100 m

Controlled D.O.Fs

6

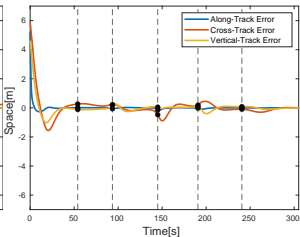
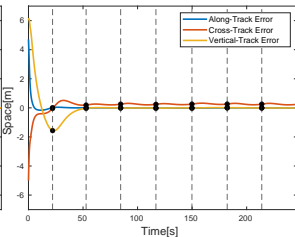
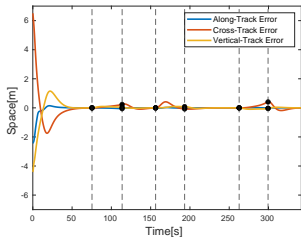
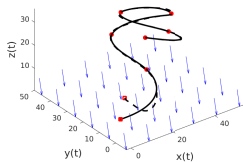
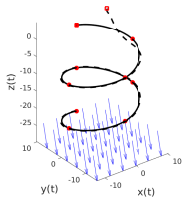
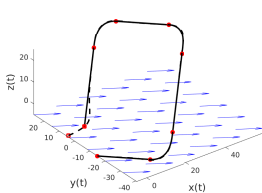
Battery Life

3 hr

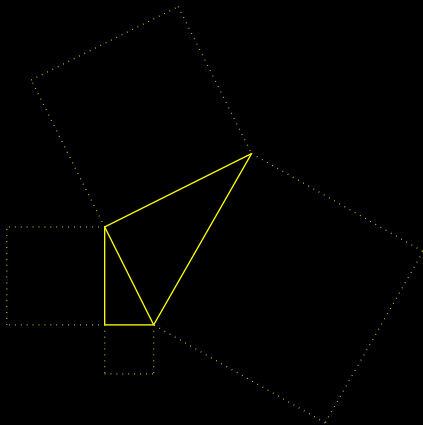
Maximum Speed

3 kn

# Dynamic simulations

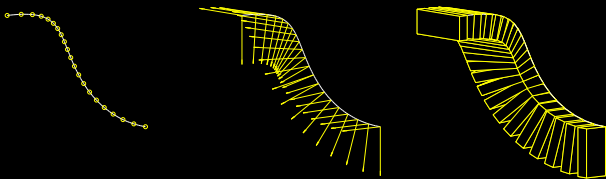






Pythagorean-hodograph curves

- ▶ smooth PH spline paths
- ▶ data stream interpolation
- ▶ real test case: Zeno AUV



- ▶ smooth PH spline paths
- ▶ data stream interpolation
- ▶ real test case: Zeno AUV