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# Configuration Space II

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**Course URL:**  
**<http://sglab.kaist.ac.kr/~sungeui/MPA>**

**KAIST**



# Coming Schedule and Homework

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- **Browse recent papers (2011 ~ 2013)**
  - You need to present two papers at the class and give your mid-term & final presentations
- **Declare your chosen 3 papers at the board by Oct-13 (Sun.)**
  - First come, first served
- **Decide our talk schedule on Oct.-14 (Mon)**
- **Student presentations will start right after the mid-term exam**
  - 2 talks per each class

# Class Objectives

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

# Configuration Space

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

# Obstacles in the Configuration Space

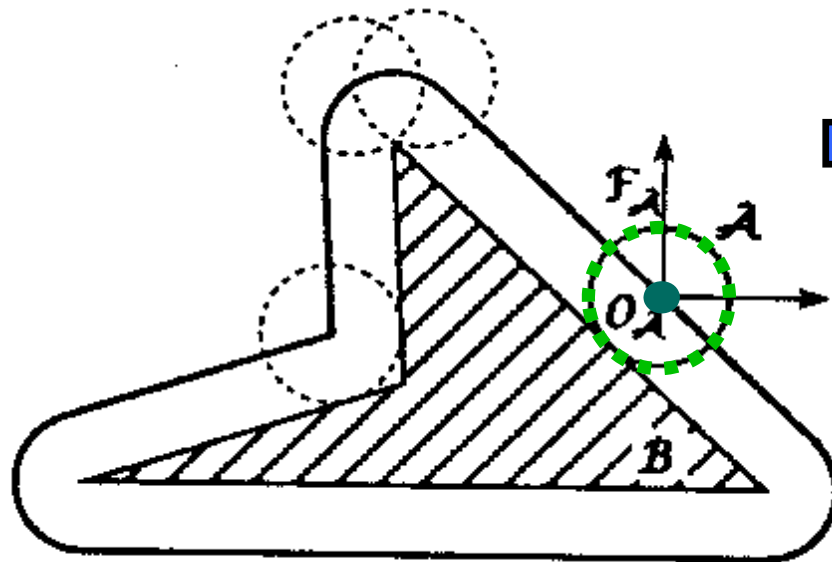
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- A configuration  $q$  is collision-free, or **free**, if a moving object placed at  $q$  does not intersect any obstacles in the workspace
- The **free space**  $F$  is the set of free configurations
- A configuration space obstacle (**C-obstacle**)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

# Disc in 2-D Workspace

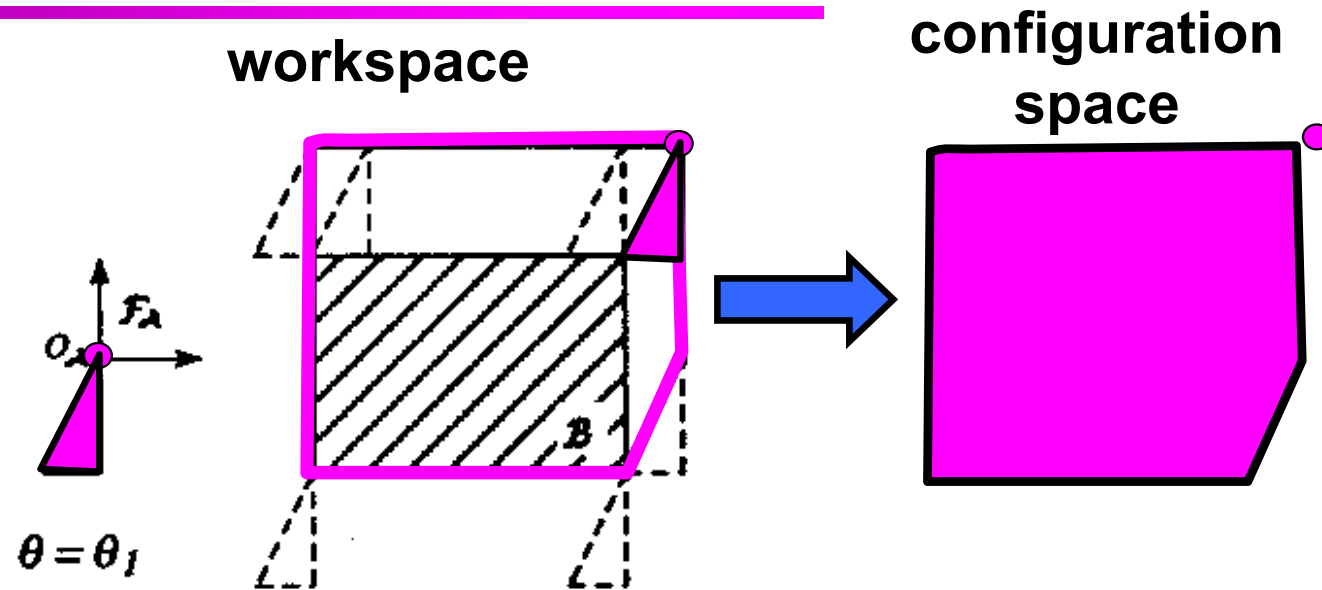
workspace



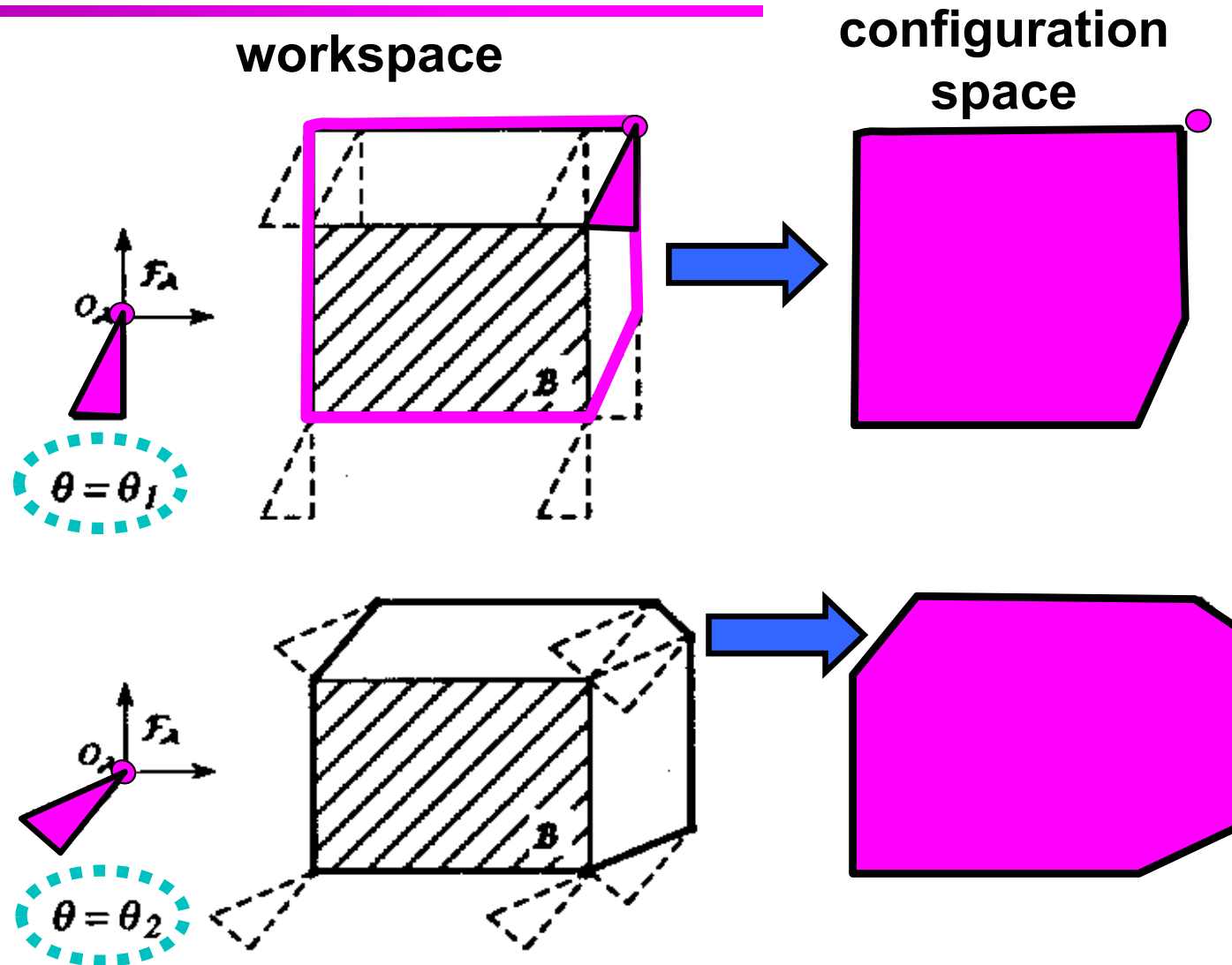
configuration  
space



# Polygonal Robot Translating in 2-D Workspace

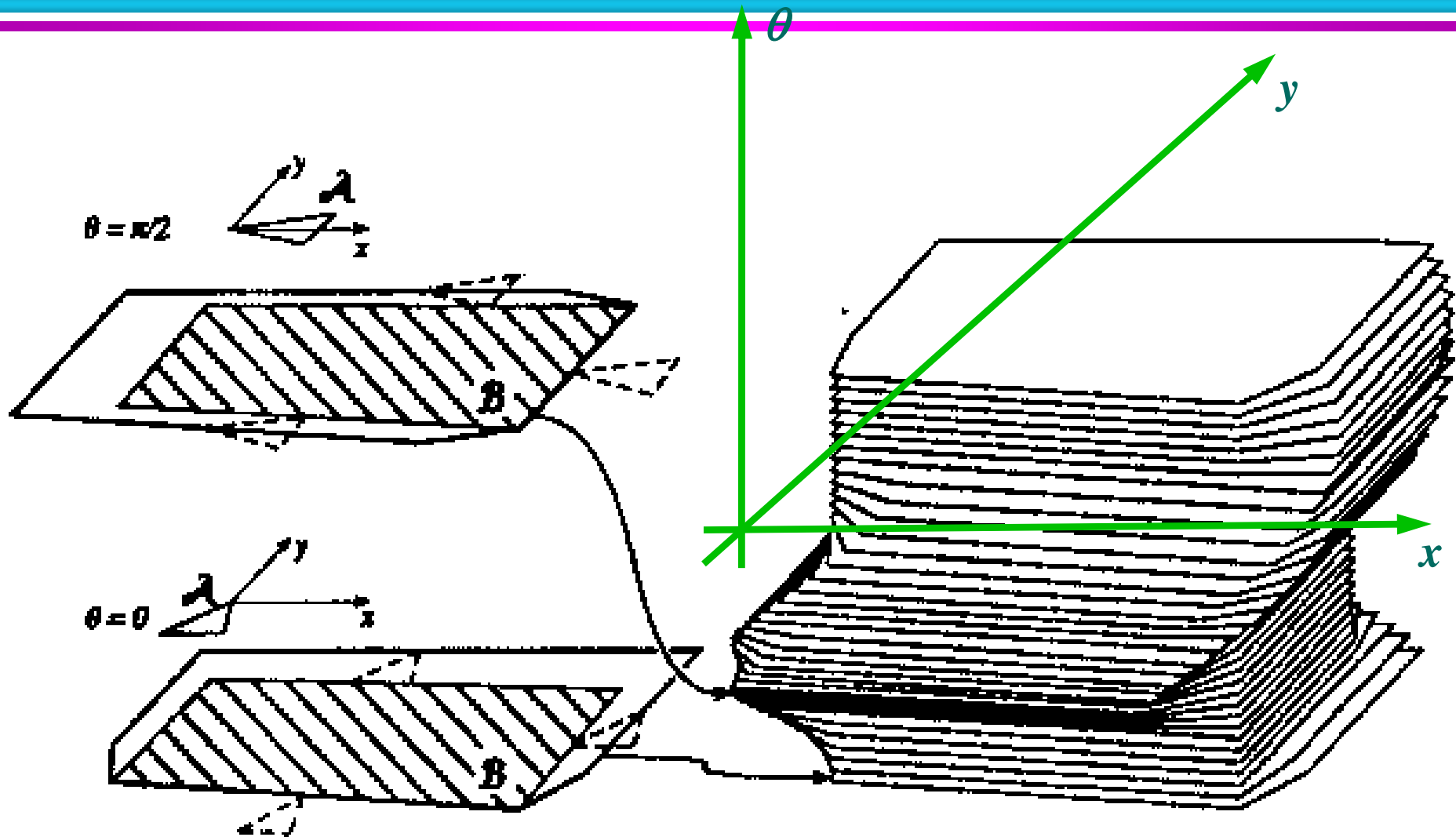


# Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace

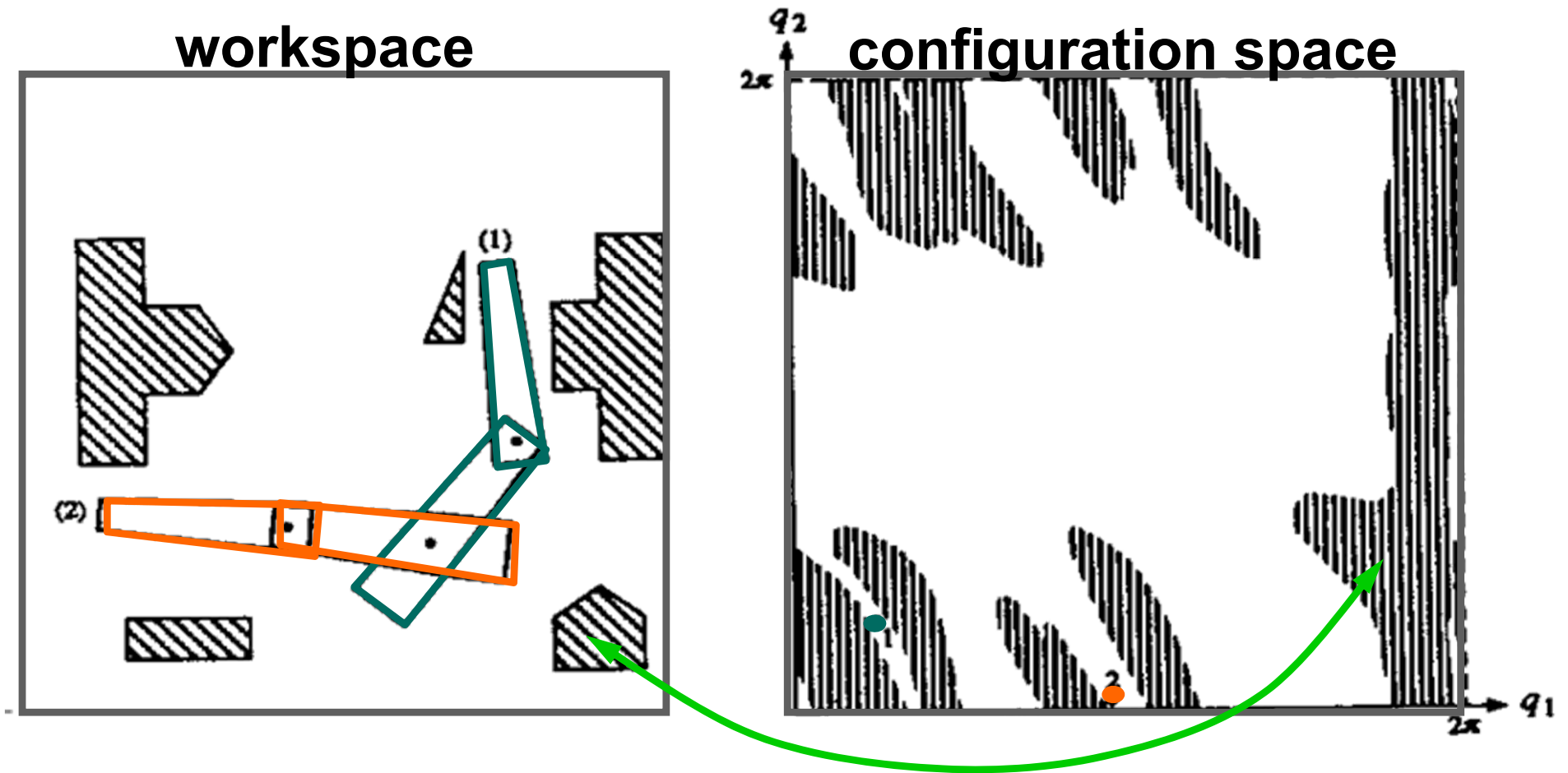




# Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace



# Articulated Robot in 2-D Workspace



# C-Obstacle Construction

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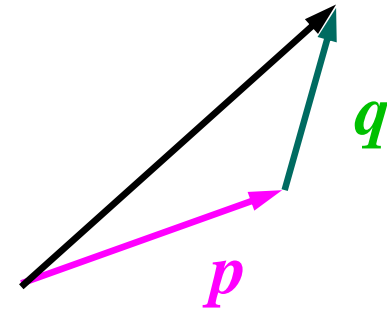
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- **Input:**
  - Polygonal moving object translating in 2-D workspace
  - Polygonal obstacles
- **Output: configuration space obstacles represented as polygons**

# Minkowski Sum

- The **Minkowski sum** of two sets  $P$  and  $Q$ , denoted by  $P \oplus Q$ , is defined as

$$P \oplus Q = \{ p + q \mid p \in P, q \in Q \}$$



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

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

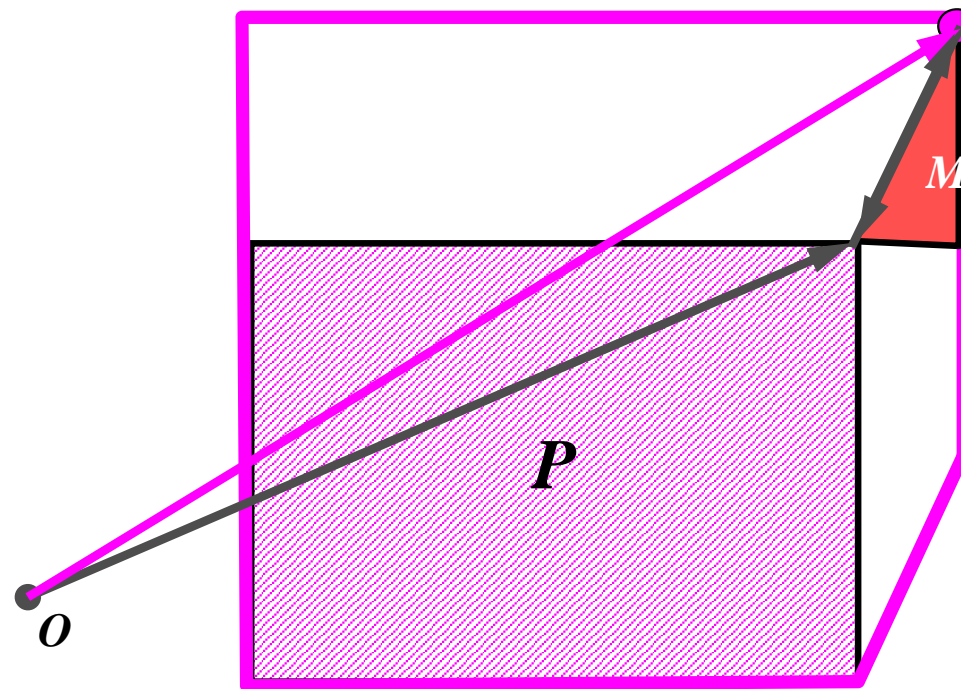
# Minkowski Sum of Convex Polygons

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

# Observation

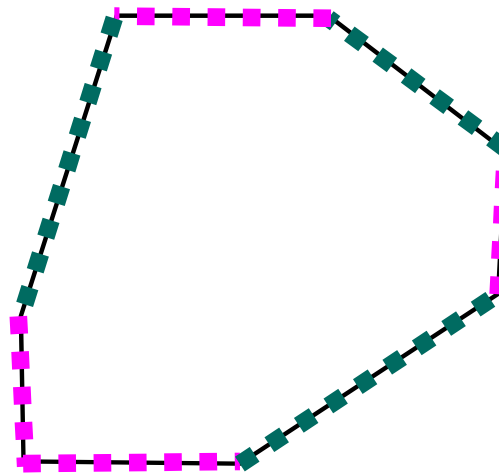
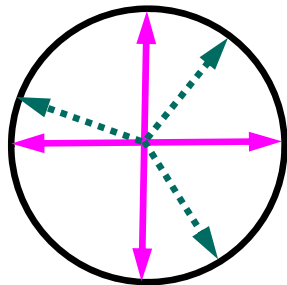
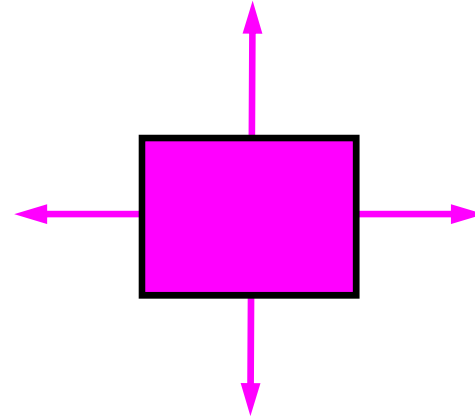
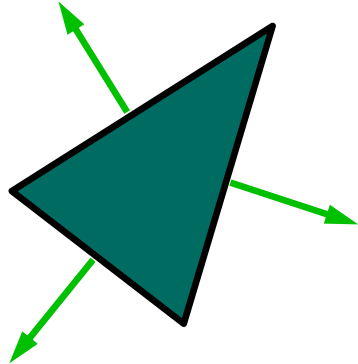
- If  $P$  is an obstacle in the workspace and  $M$  is a moving object. Then the C-space obstacle corresponding to  $P$  is  $P \ominus M$ .



# Computing C-obstacles

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# Computational efficiency

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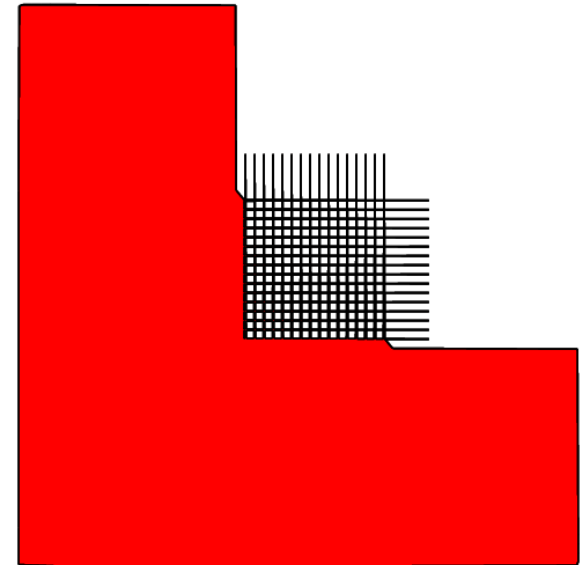
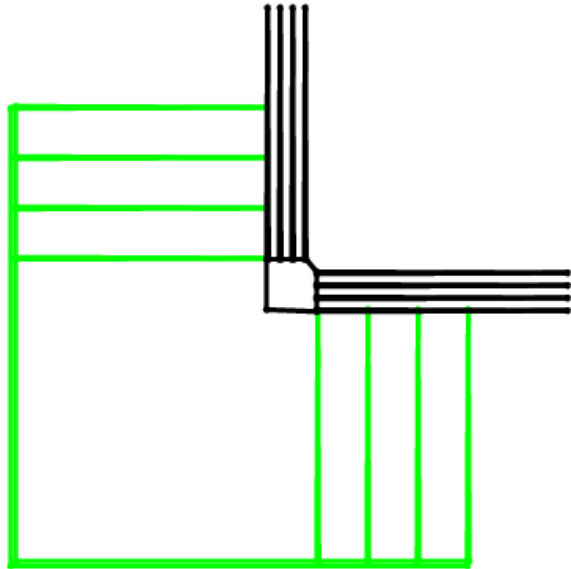
- Running time  $O(n+m)$
- Space  $O(n+m)$
- Non-convex obstacles
  - Decompose into convex polygons (*e.g.*, triangles or trapezoids), compute the Minkowski sums, and take the union
  - Complexity of Minkowski sum  $O(n^2m^2)$
- 3-D workspace
  - Convex case:  $O(nm)$
  - Non-convex case:  $O(n^3m^3)$

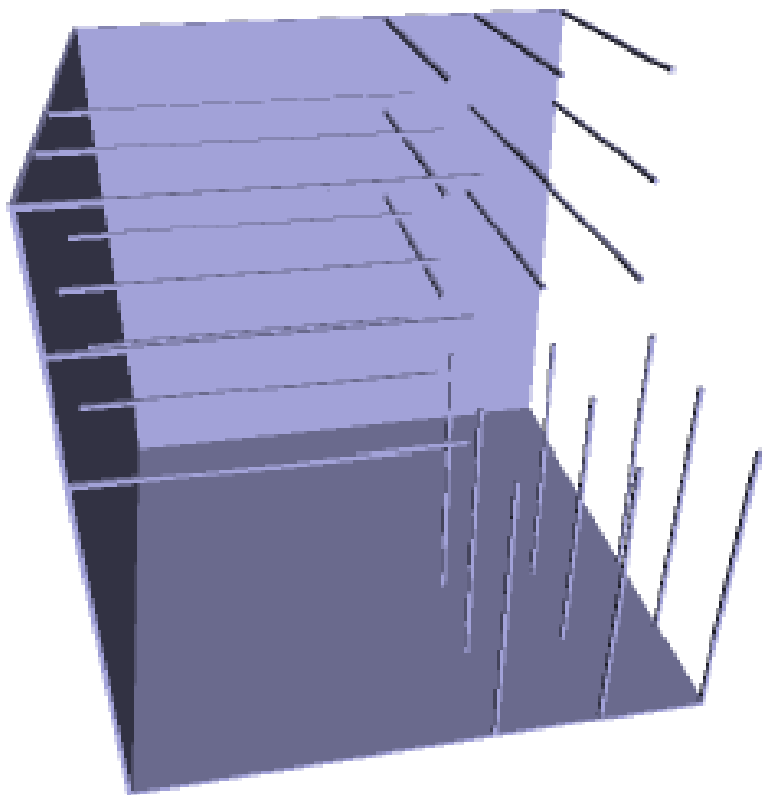


# Worst case example

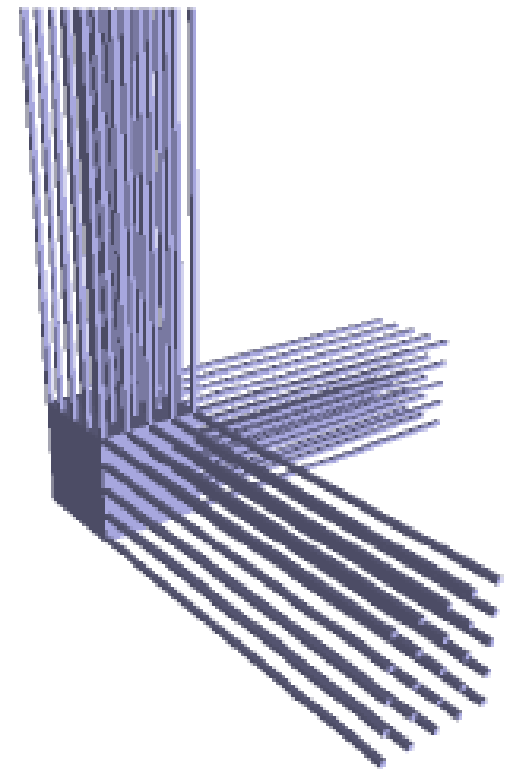
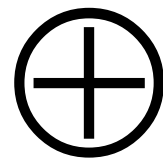
- $O(n^2m^2)$  complexity

2D example  
Agarwal et al. 02

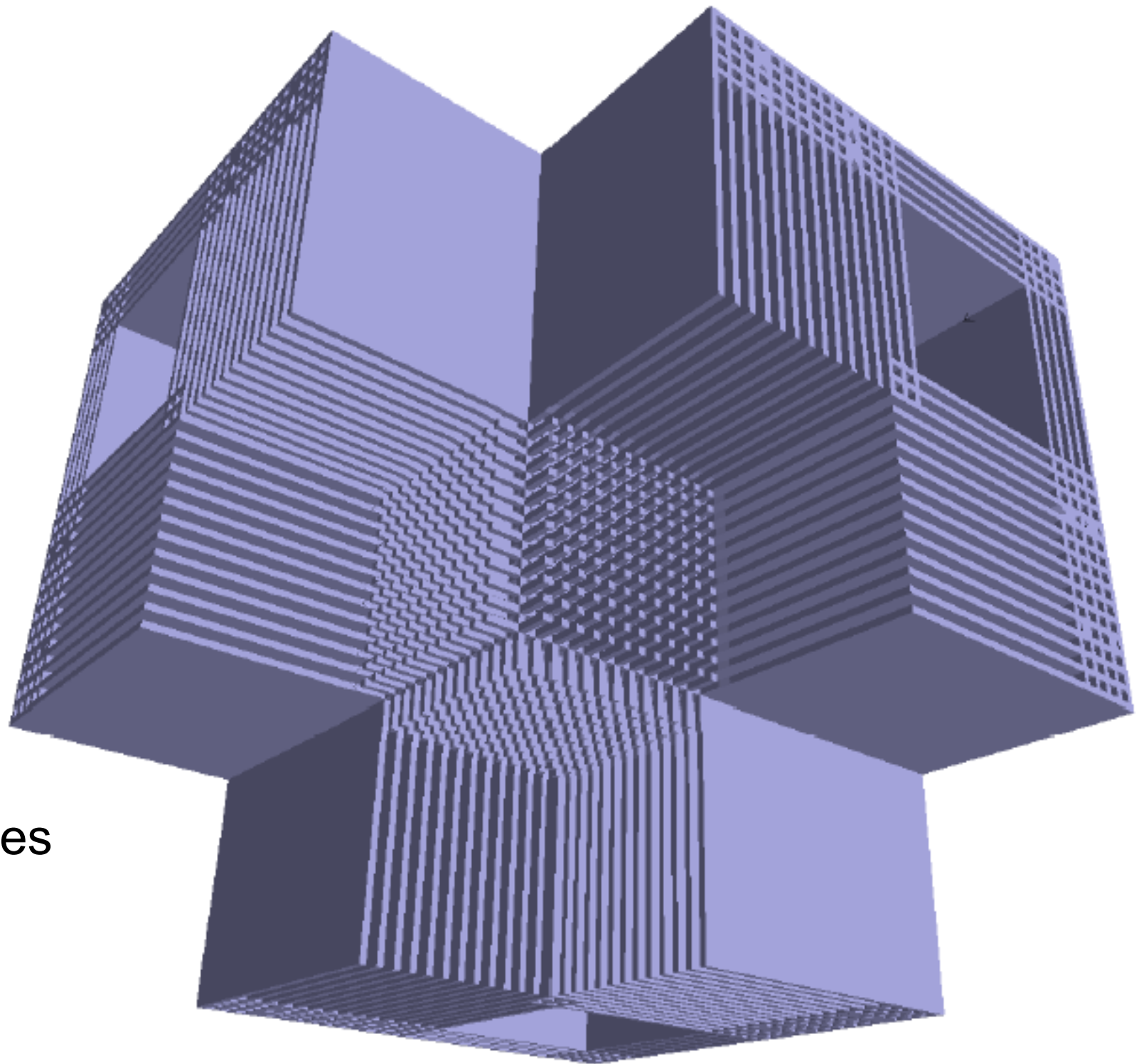




444 tris



1,134 tris



Union of  
66,667 primitives

# Sensors!

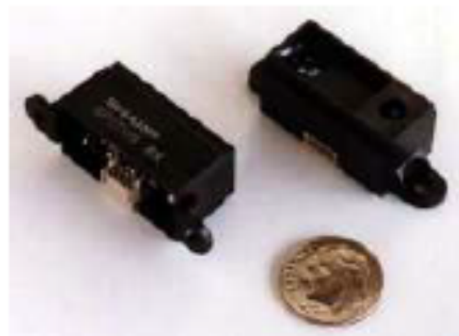
Robots' link to the external world...



gyro

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

sonar rangefinder



IR rangefinder



sonar rangefinder



compass



CMU cam with on-board processing

odometry...

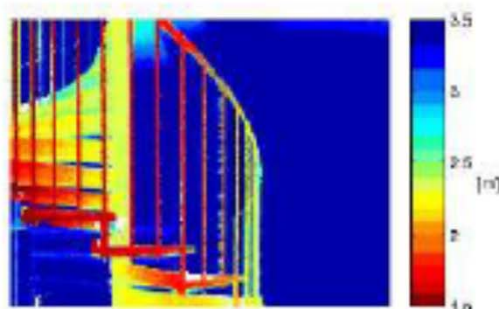
# Laser Ranging



LIDAR

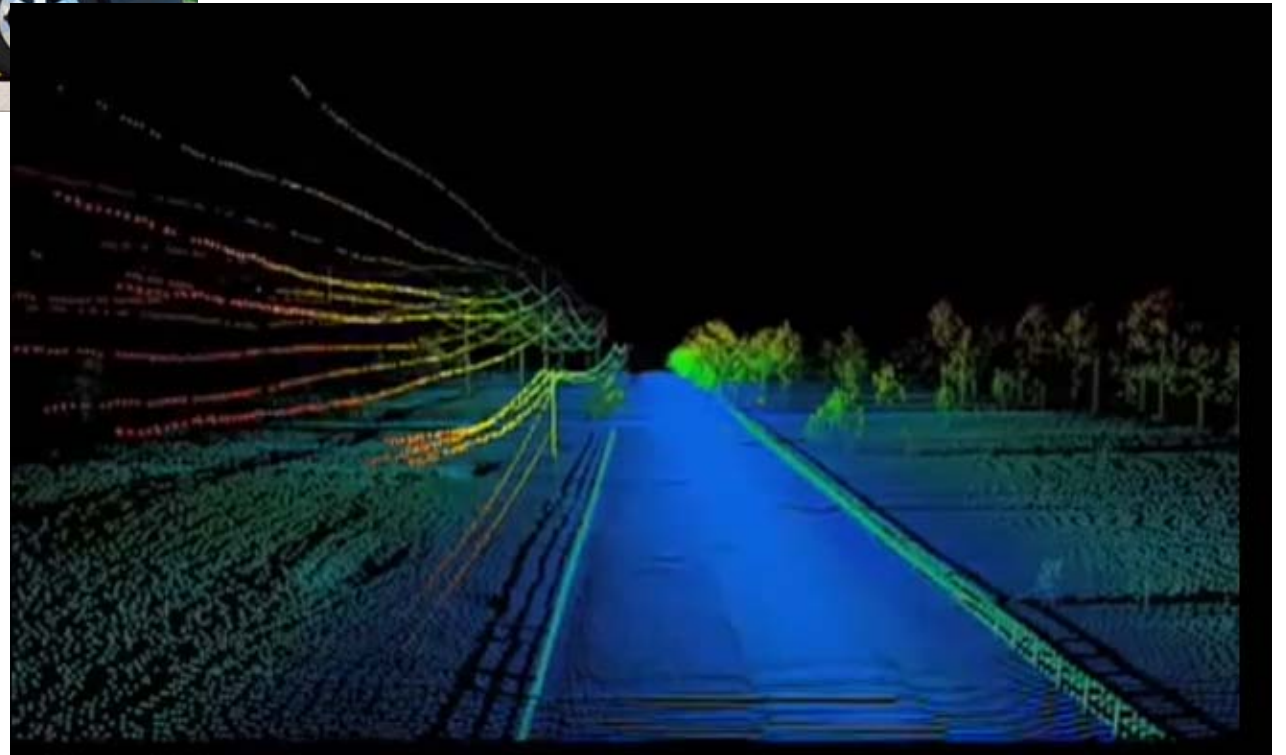


Sick Laser



LIDAR map

# Velodyne



# Kinect

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- **Resolution**

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

# Configuration space

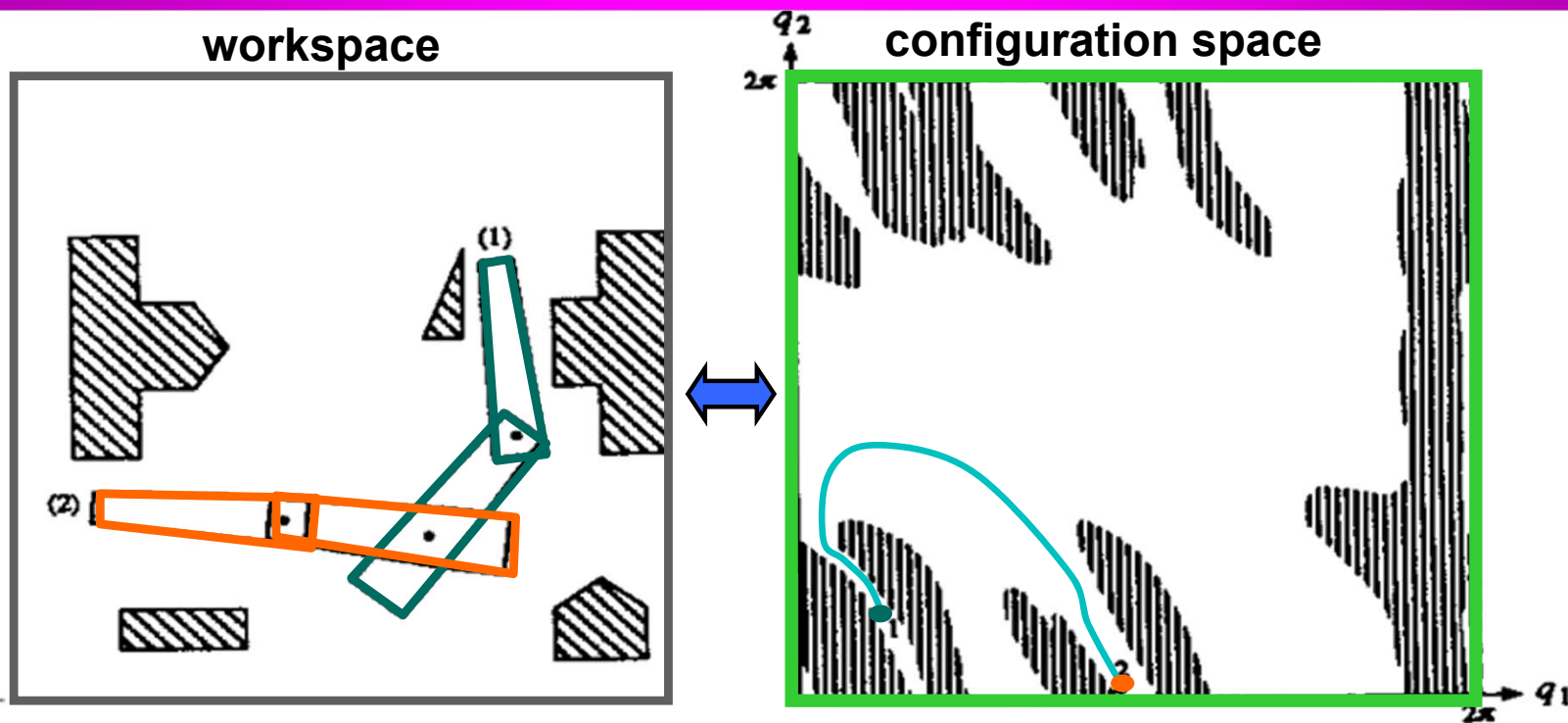
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- Definitions and examples
- Obstacles
- **Paths**
- Metrics



# Paths in the configuration space



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

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

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

# Constraints on paths

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

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

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

# Free Space Topology

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- A **free** path lies entirely in the free space  $F$ .
- The moving object and the obstacles are modeled as closed subsets, meaning that they contain their boundaries.
- One can show that the C-obstacles are closed subsets of the configuration space  $C$  as well.
- Consequently, the free space  $F$  is an open subset of  $C$ .

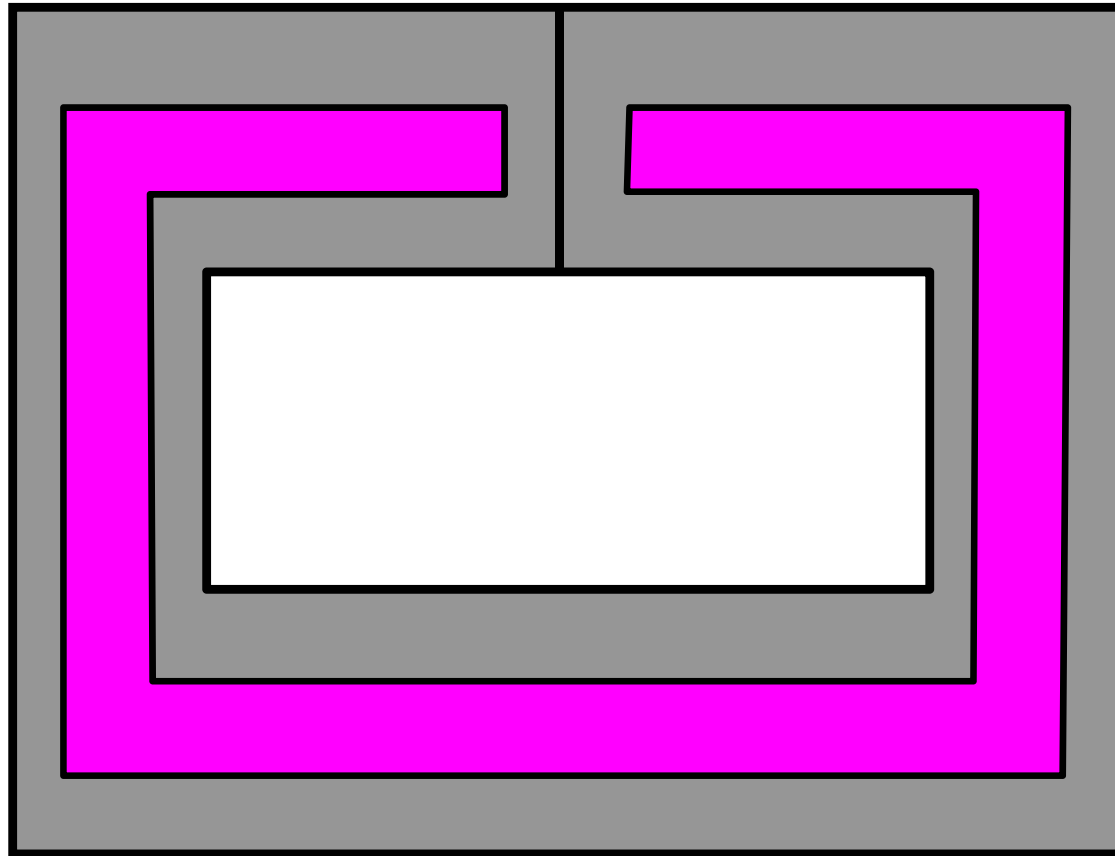
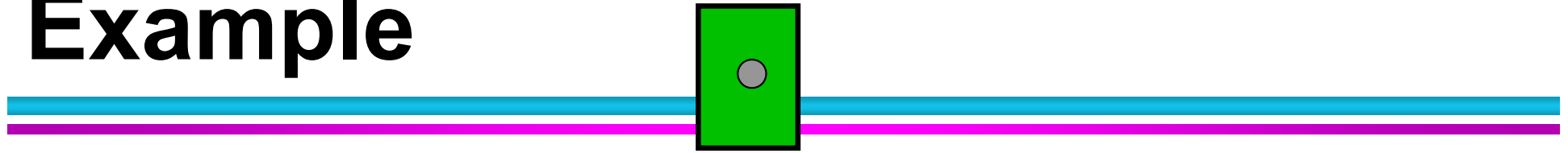
# Semi-Free Space

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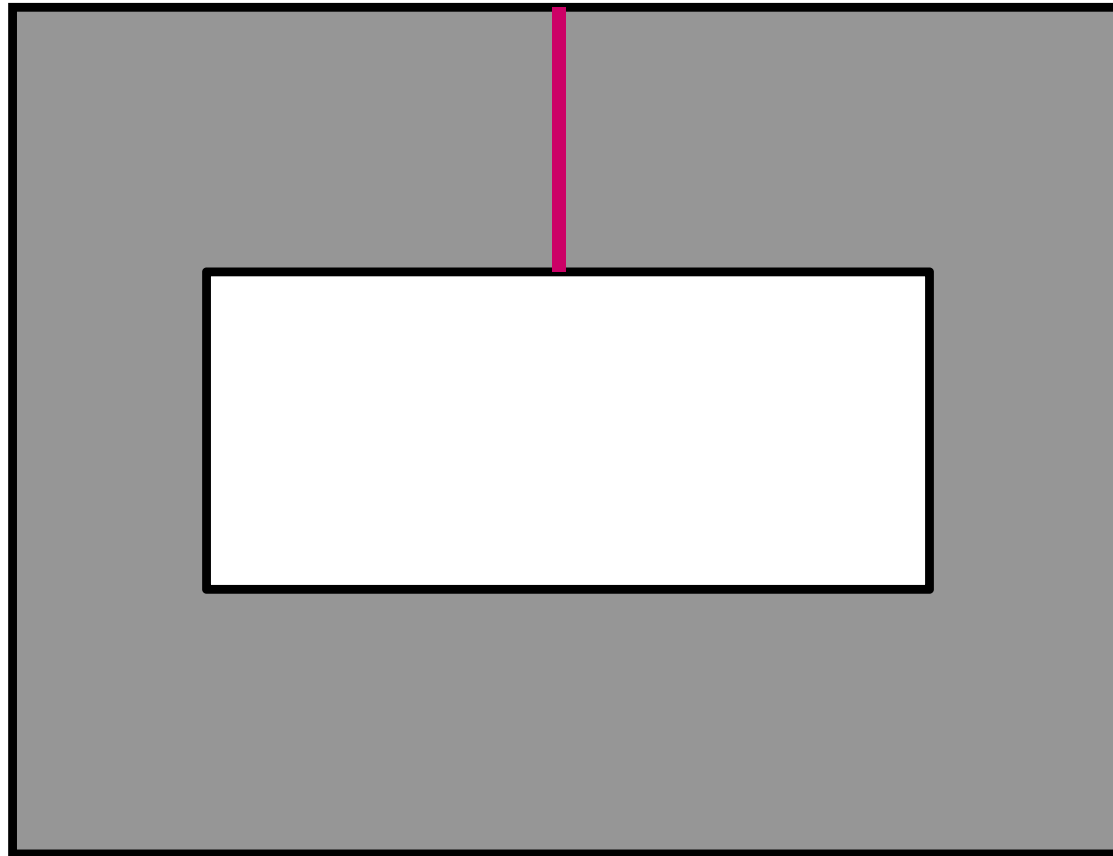
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- A configuration  $q$  is **semi-free** if the moving object placed  $q$  touches the boundary, but not the interior of obstacles.
  - Free, or
  - In contact
- The semi-free space is a closed subset of  $C$ .

# Example



# Example



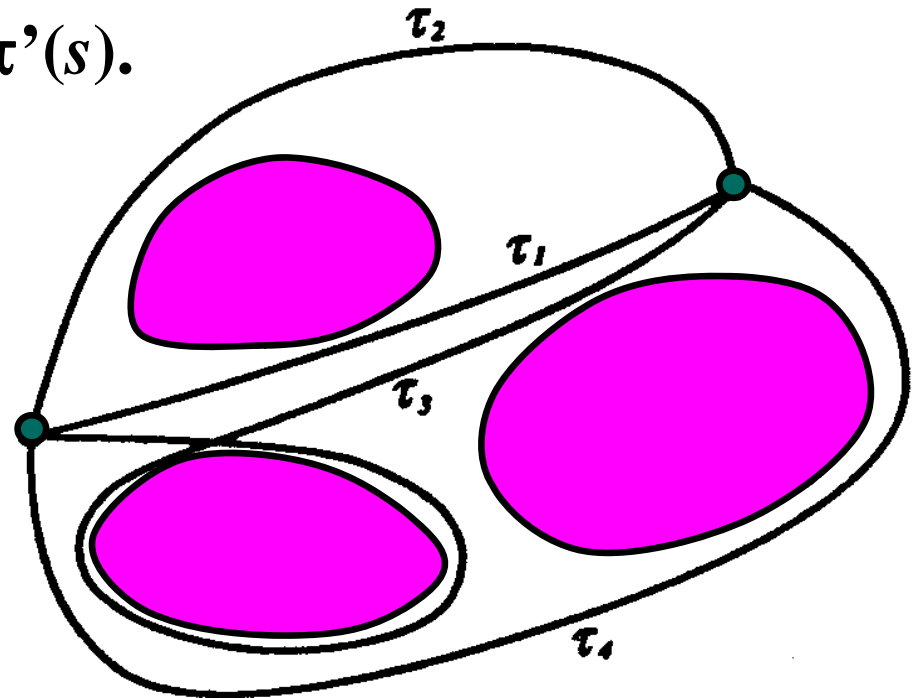
# Homotopic Paths

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

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

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

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



# Connectedness of C-Space

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- $C$  is **connected** if every two configurations can be connected by a path.
- $C$  is **simply-connected** if any two paths connecting the same endpoints are homotopic.  
Examples:  $\mathbb{R}^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- Otherwise  $C$  is multiply-connected.



# Connectedness of C-Space

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- $C$  is **simply-connected** if any two paths connecting the same endpoints are homotopic.  
Examples:  $\mathbb{R}^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- Otherwise  $C$  is multiply-connected.  
Examples:  $S^1$  and  $SO(3)$  are multiply-connected:
  - In  $S^1$ , infinite number of homotopy classes
  - In  $SO(3)$ , only two homotopy classes

# Configuration space

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

# Metric in Configuration Space

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

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

such that

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

# Example

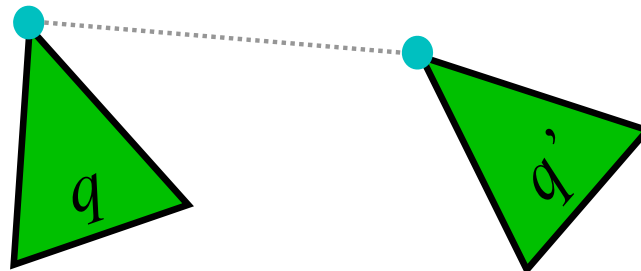
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- Robot  $A$  and a point  $x$  on  $A$
- $x(q)$ : position of  $x$  in the workspace when  $A$  is at configuration  $q$

- A distance  $d$  in  $C$  is defined by
$$d(q, q') = \max_{x \in A} \|x(q) - x(q')\|$$

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



# $L_p$ Metrics

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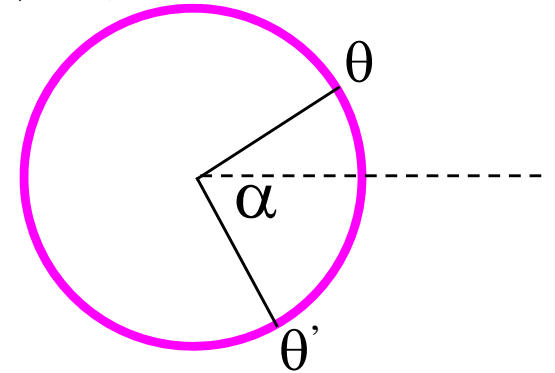
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$$d(x, x') = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - x'_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

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

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

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



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

# Class Objectives were:

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

# Next Time....

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- **Collision detection and distance computation**