
CS686: Configuration Space II

Sung-Eui Yoon
(윤성익)

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

KAIST



Coming Schedule and Homework

- **Browse recent papers (2014 ~ 2017)**
 - You need to present two papers at the class
- **Declare your chosen 2 papers at the KLMS by Apr-10 (Mon.)**
 - First come, first served
 - Paper title, conf. name, publication year
- **Decide our talk schedule on Apr.-11 (Tue.)**
- **Student presentations will start right after the mid-term exam**
 - 3 talks per each class; 15 min for each talk

Class Objectives

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

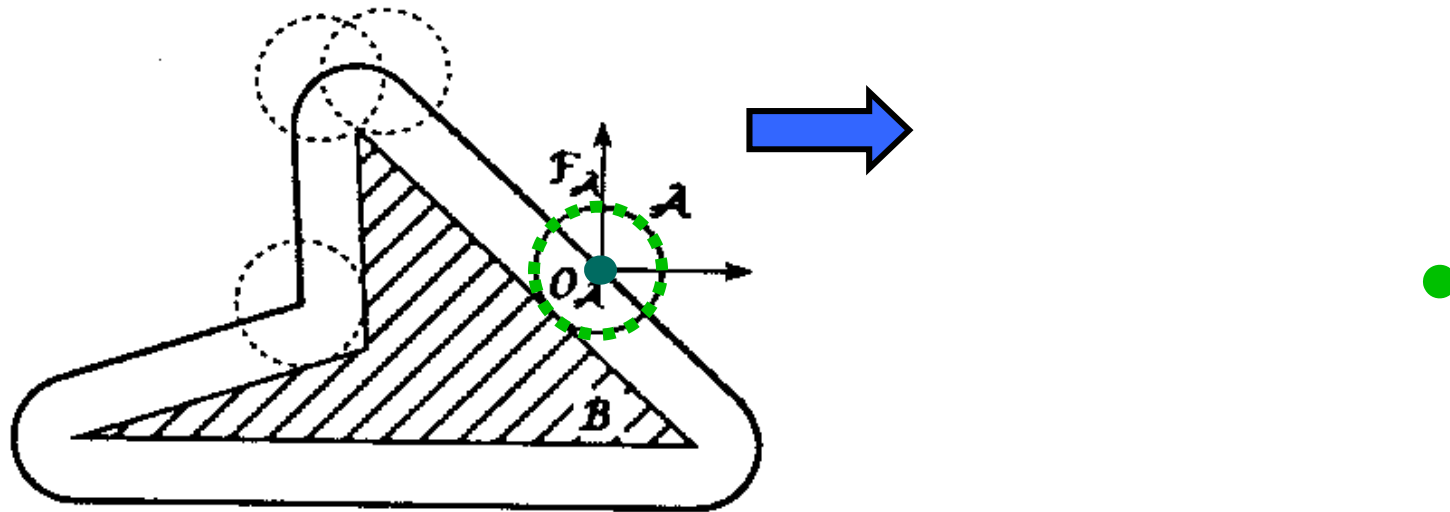
Obstacles in the Configuration Space

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

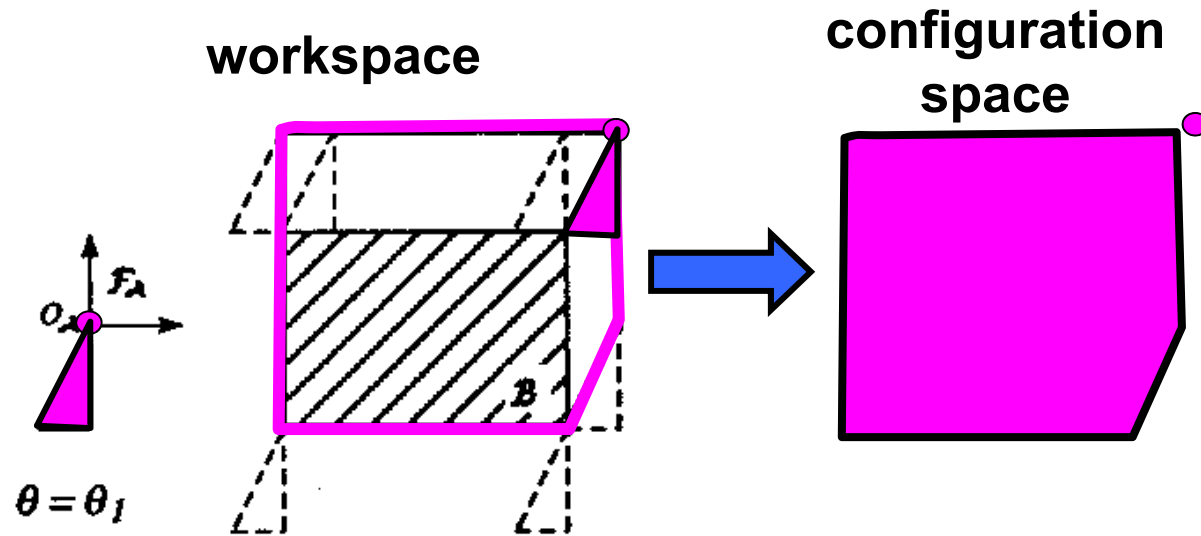
Disc in 2-D Workspace

workspace

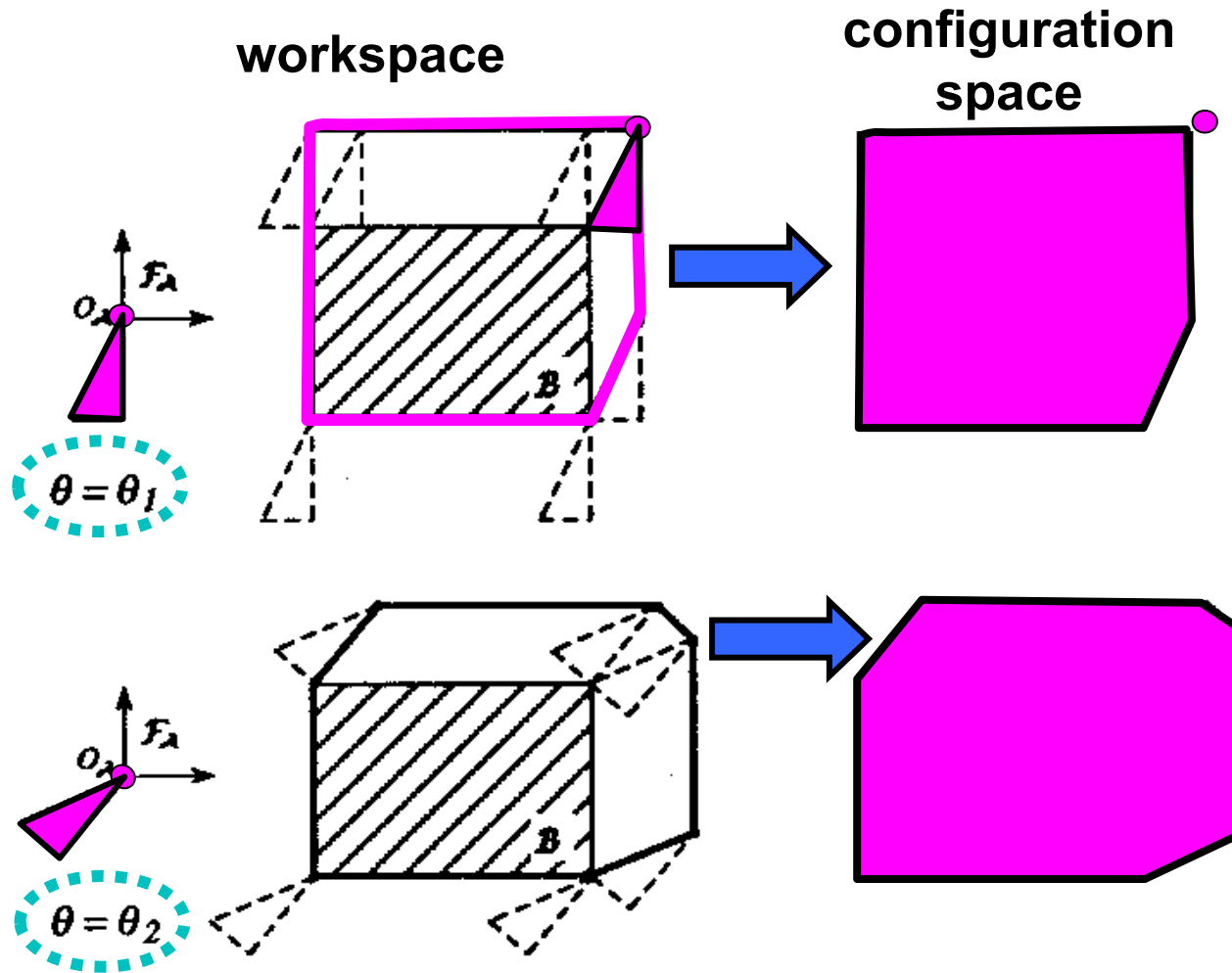
configuration space



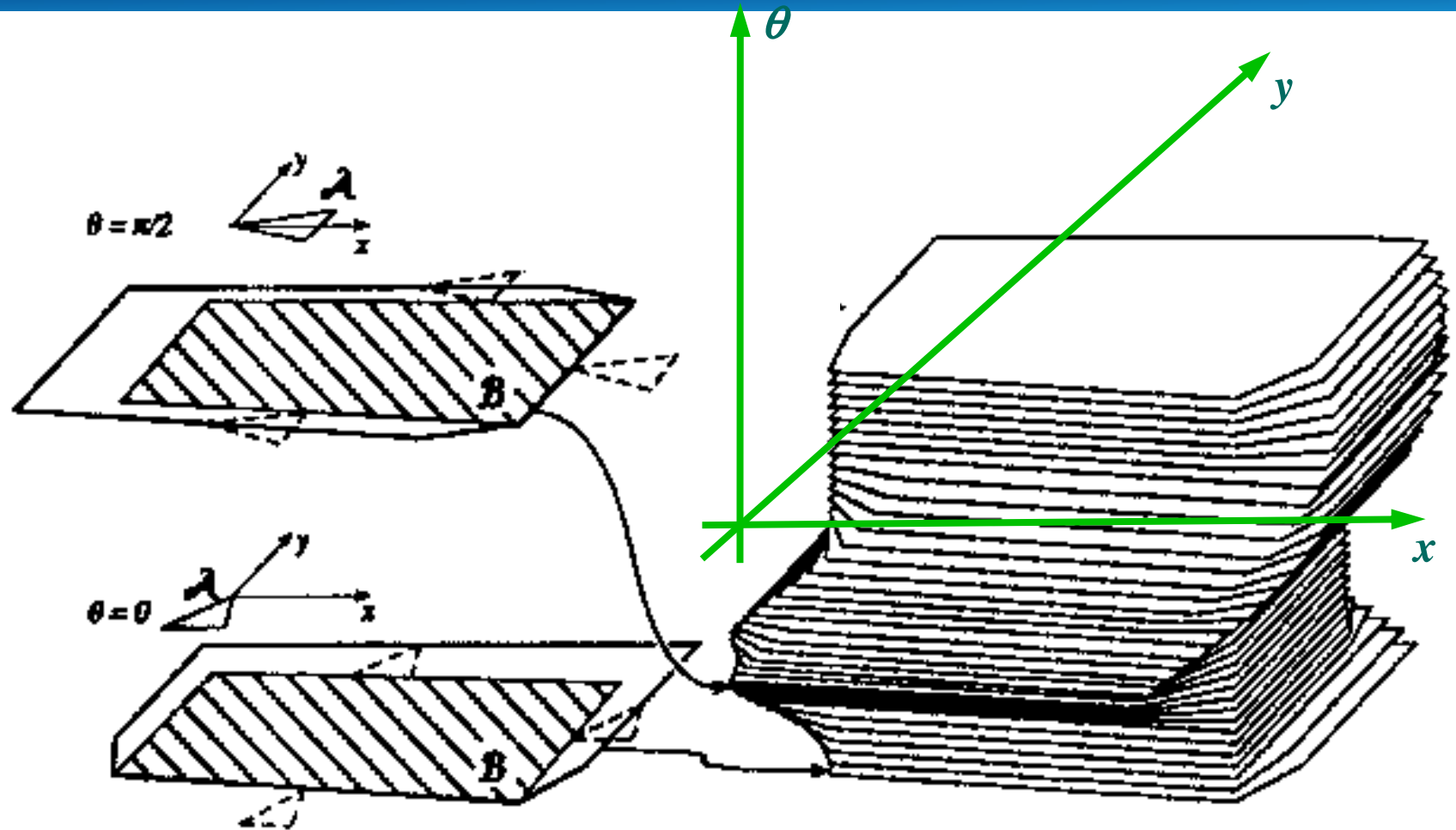
Polygonal Robot Translating in 2-D Workspace



Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace



Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace



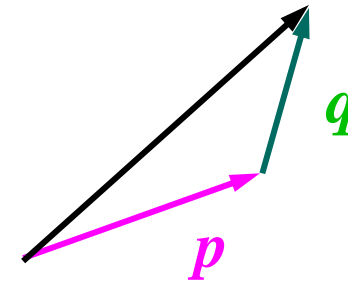
C-Obstacle Construction

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

Minkowski Sum

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

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



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

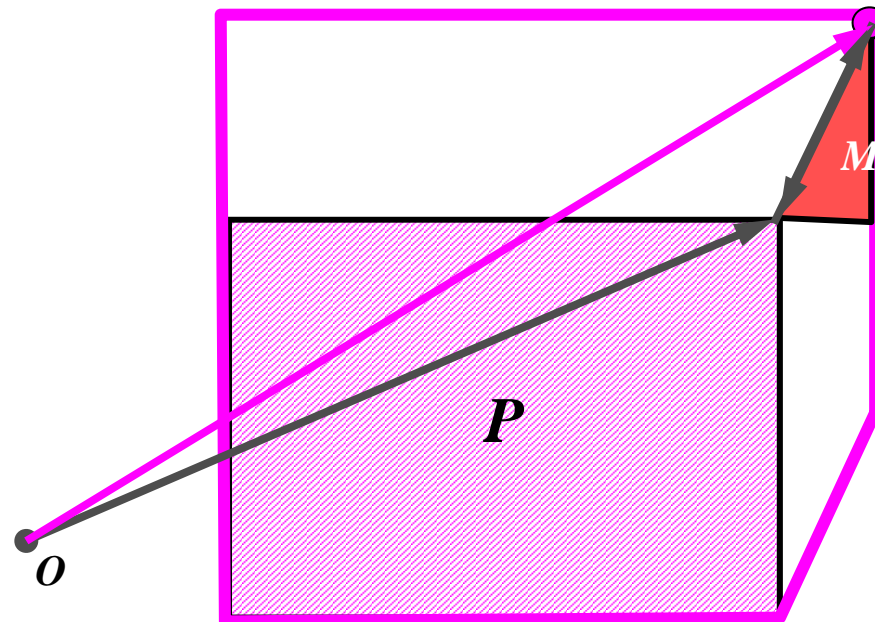
$$\begin{aligned} P \ominus Q &= \{ p - q \mid p \in P, q \in Q \} \\ &= P \oplus -Q \end{aligned}$$

Minkowski Sum of Convex Polygons

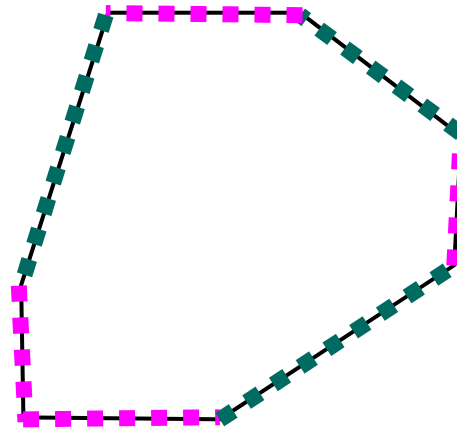
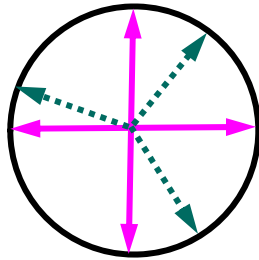
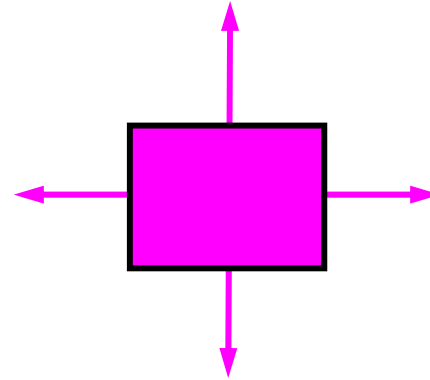
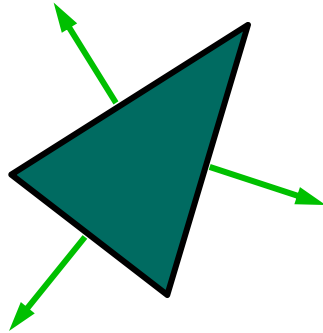
- The Minkowski sum of two convex polygons P and Q of m and n vertices respectively is a convex polygon $P \oplus Q$ of $m + n$ vertices.
 - The vertices of $P \oplus Q$ are the “sums” of vertices of P and Q .

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



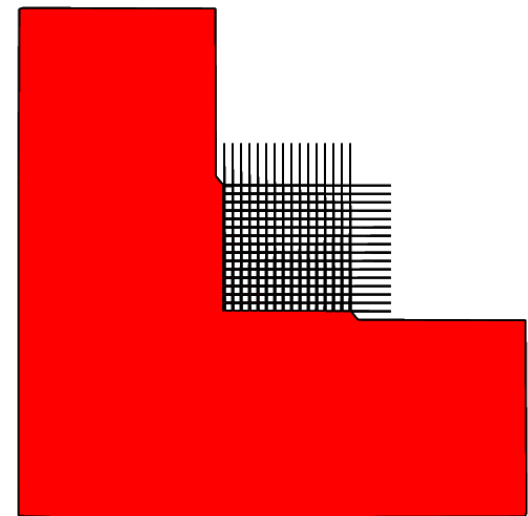
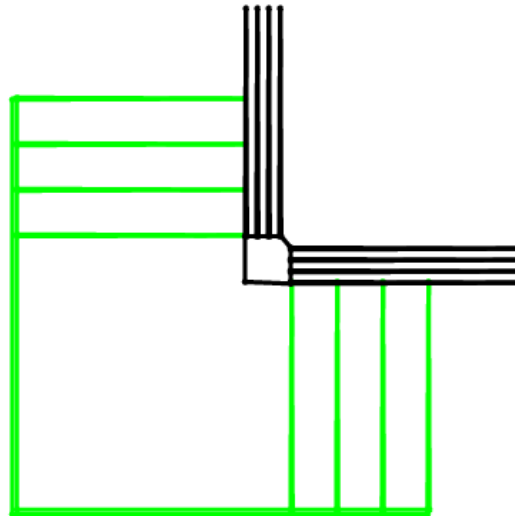
Computational efficiency

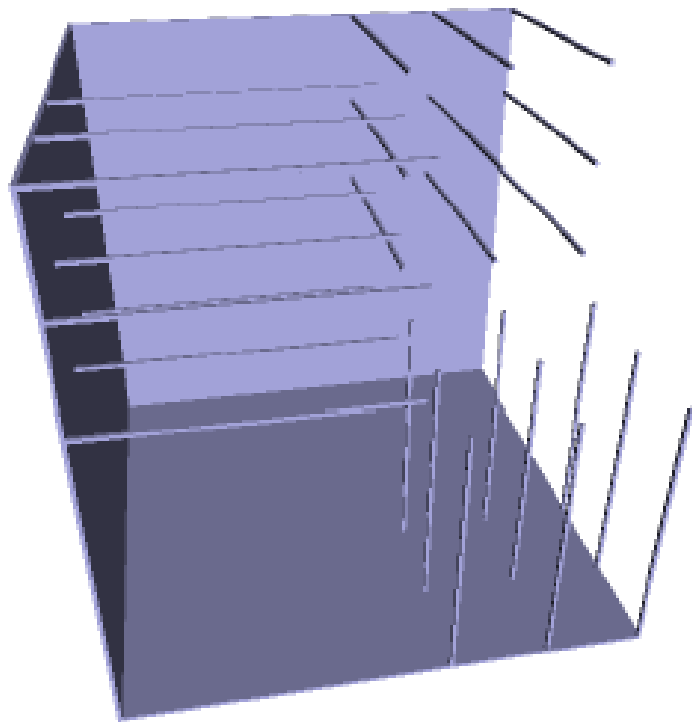
- Running time $O(n+m)$
- Space $O(n+m)$
- Non-convex obstacles
 - Decompose into convex polygons (*e.g.*, triangles or trapezoids), compute the Minkowski sums, and take the union
 - Complexity of Minkowski sum $O(n^2m^2)$
- 3-D workspace
 - Convex case: $O(nm)$
 - Non-convex case: $O(n^3m^3)$

Worst case example

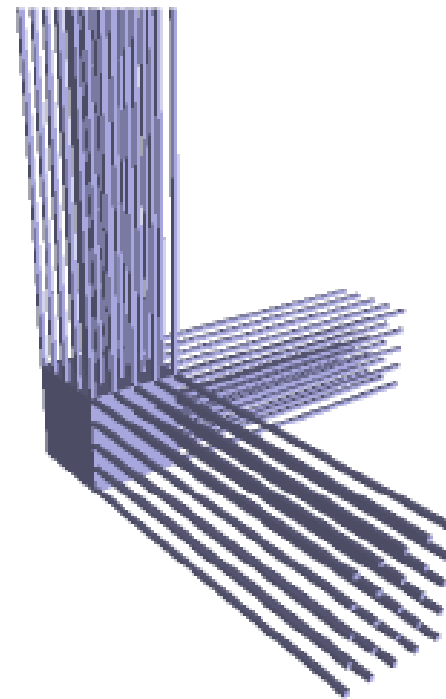
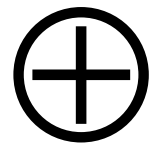
- $O(n^2m^2)$ complexity

2D example
Agarwal et al. 02

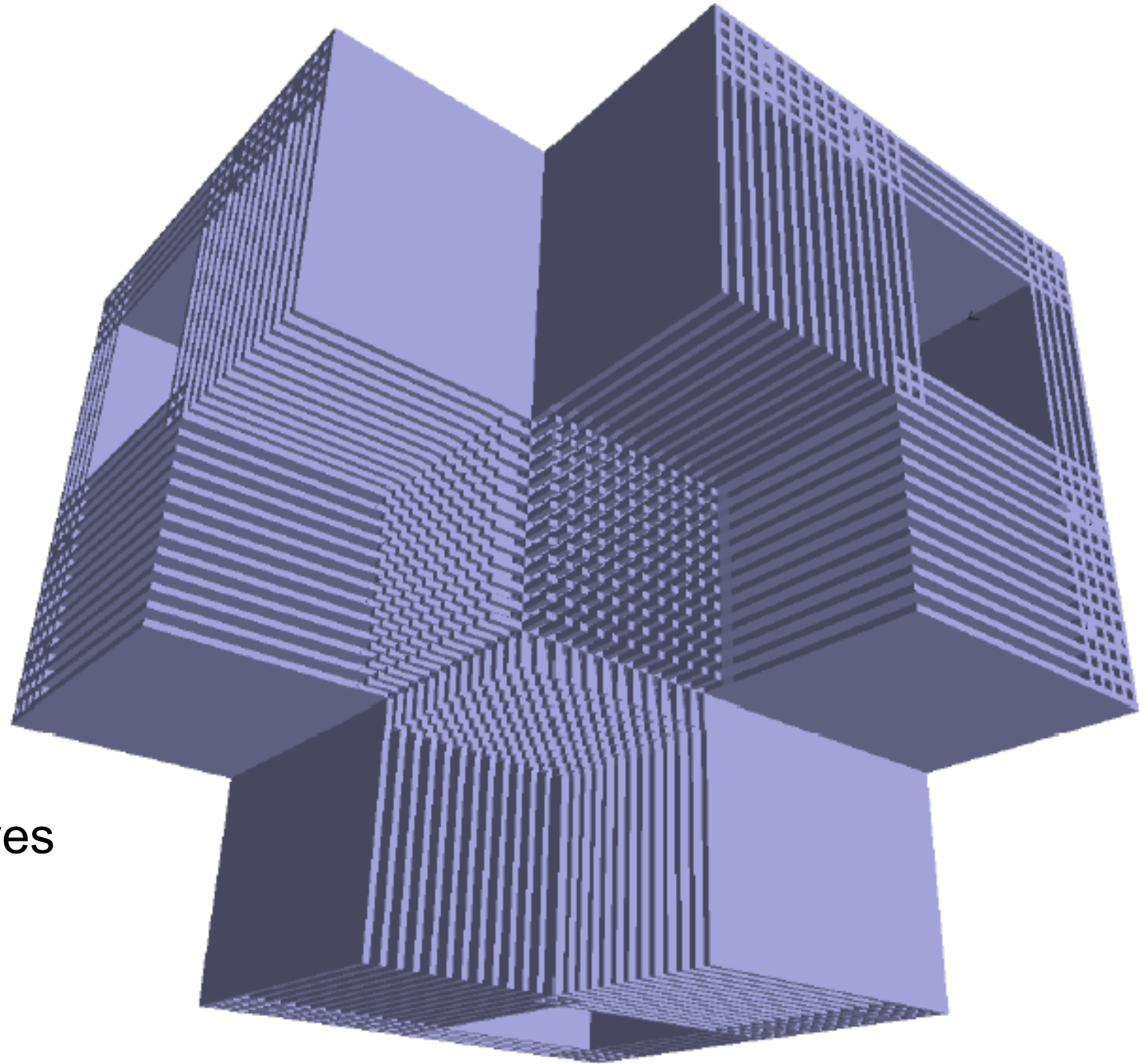




444 tris



1,134 tris



Union of
66,667 primitives

Main Message

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

Sensors!

Robots' link to the external world...



gyro

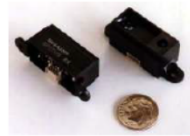
Sensors, sensors, sensors!
and tracking what is sensed: world models



sonar rangefinder



compass



IR rangefinder



sonar rangefinder



CMU cam with on-board processing

odometry ...

16-735, Howie Choset with slides from G.D. Hager and Z. Dodds

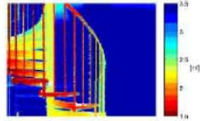
Laser Ranging



LIDAR



Sick Laser

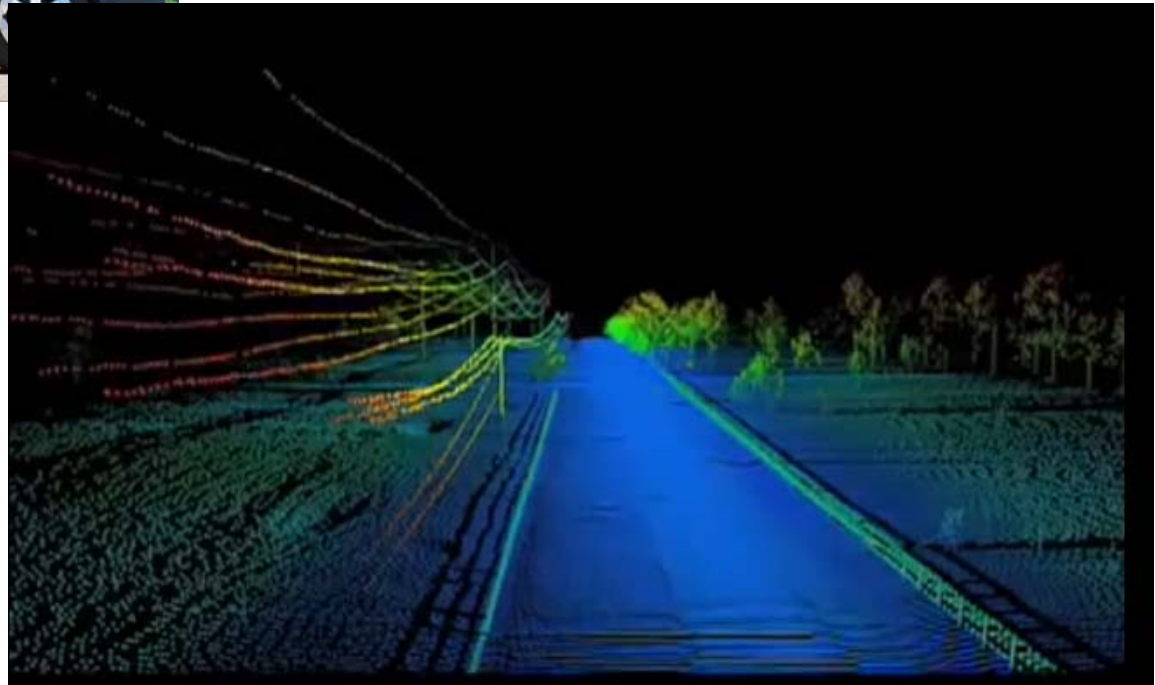


LIDAR map

16-735, Howie Choset with slides from G.D. Hager and Z. Dodds
range finder



Velodyne



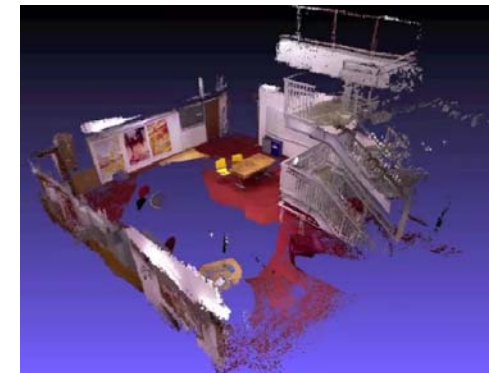
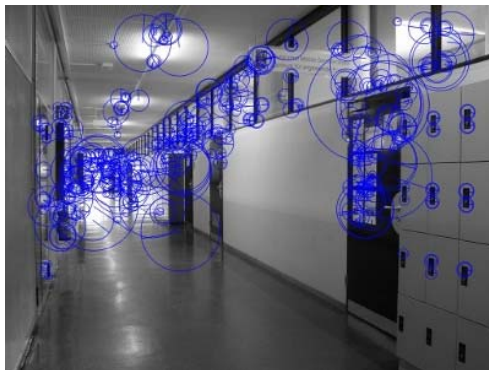
Kinect and Xtion



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

Whole Picture

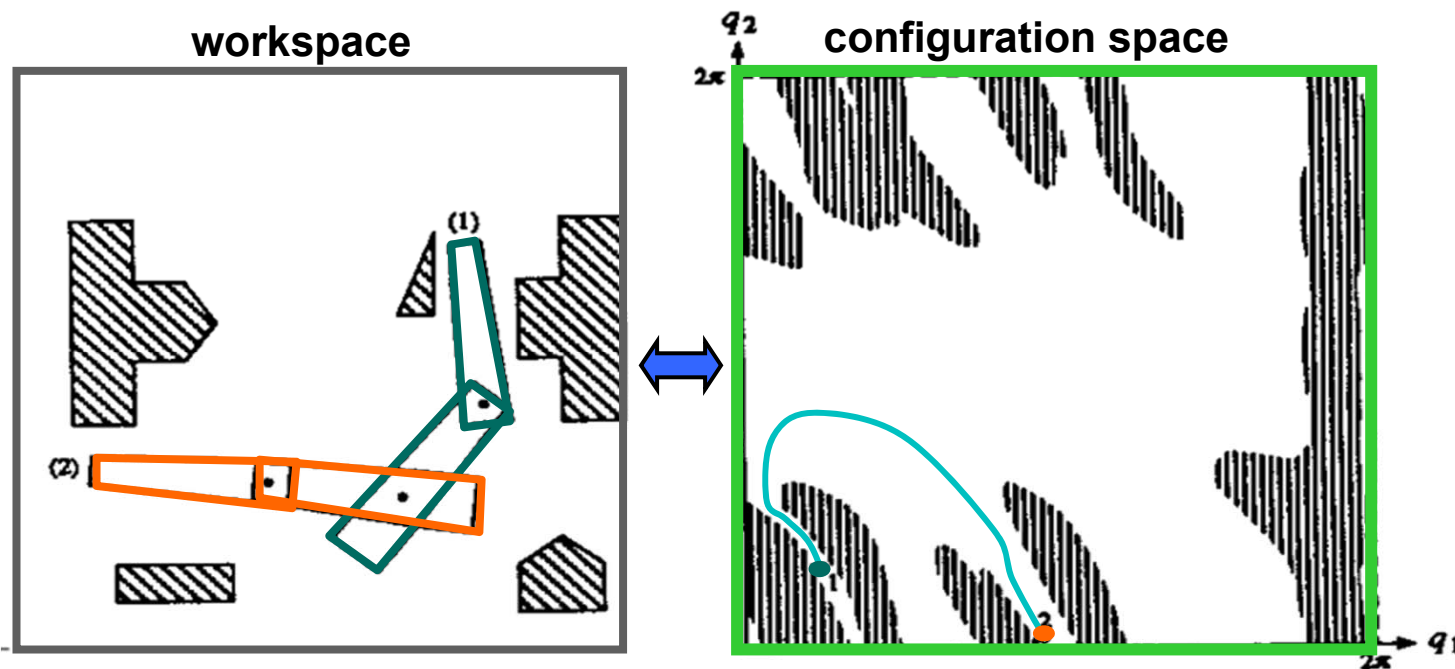
- **Sensor**
 - Point clouds as obstacle map
- **Control**
 - Compute force controls given a computed path
- **SLAM (Simultaneous Localization and Mapping)**
- **Path/motion planner**



Configuration space

- 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

- 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
 - ...

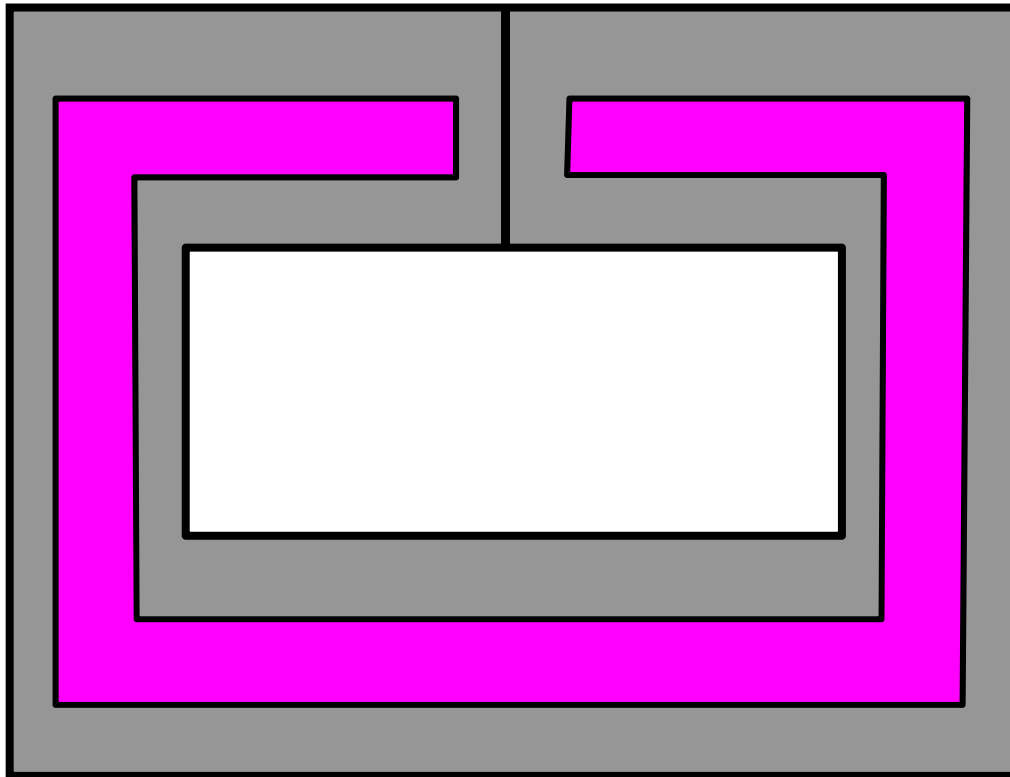
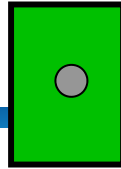
Free Space Topology

- 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**

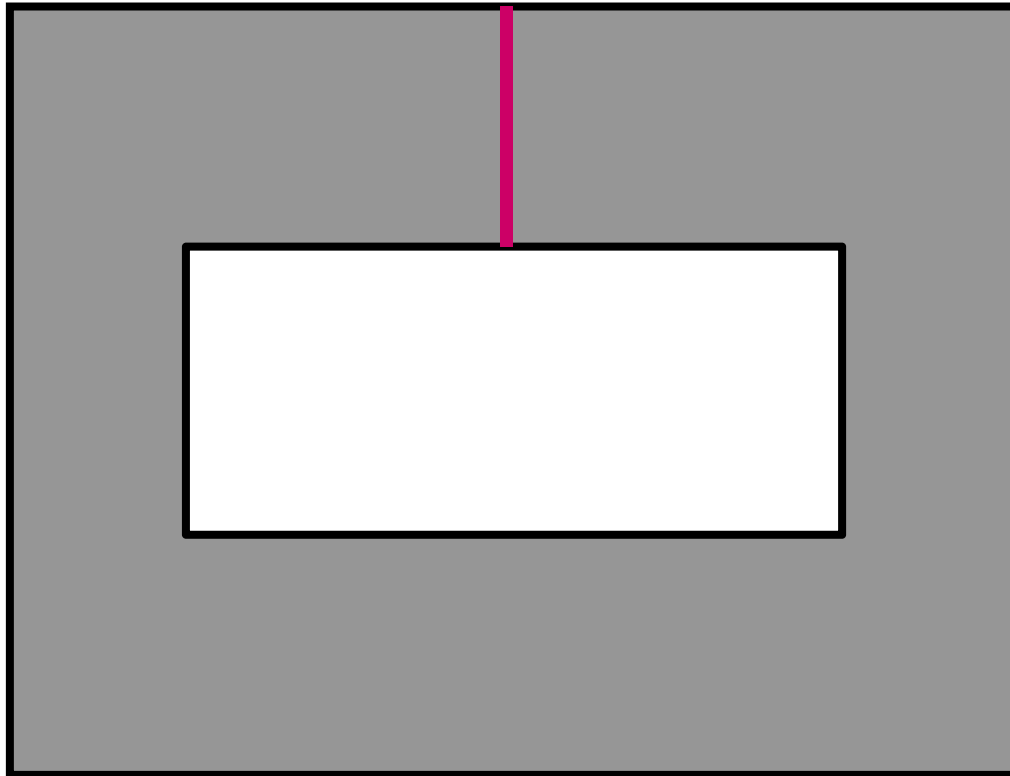
Semi-Free Space

- 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



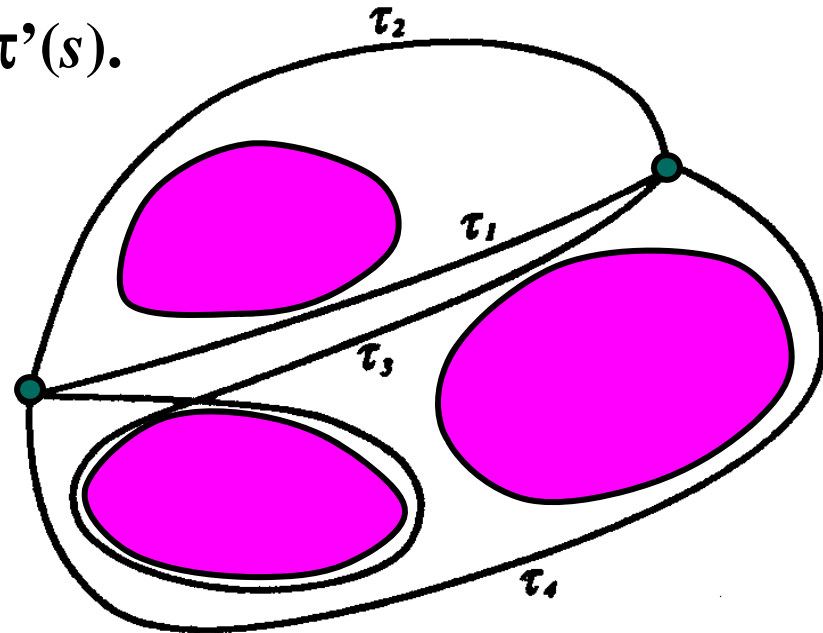
Homotopic Paths

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

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

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

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



Connectedness of C-Space

- 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.

Configuration space

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

Metric in Configuration Space

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

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

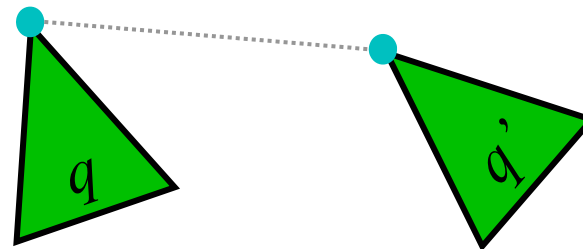
such that

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

Example

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

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



L_p Metrics

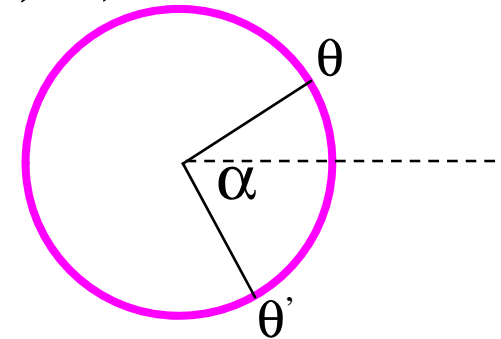
$$d(x, x') = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - x'_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

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

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

- Consider $\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$

- $q = (x, y, \theta), q' = (x', y', \theta')$ with $\theta, \theta' \in [0, 2\pi)$
- $\alpha = \min \{ |\theta - \theta'|, 2\pi - |\theta - \theta'| \}$

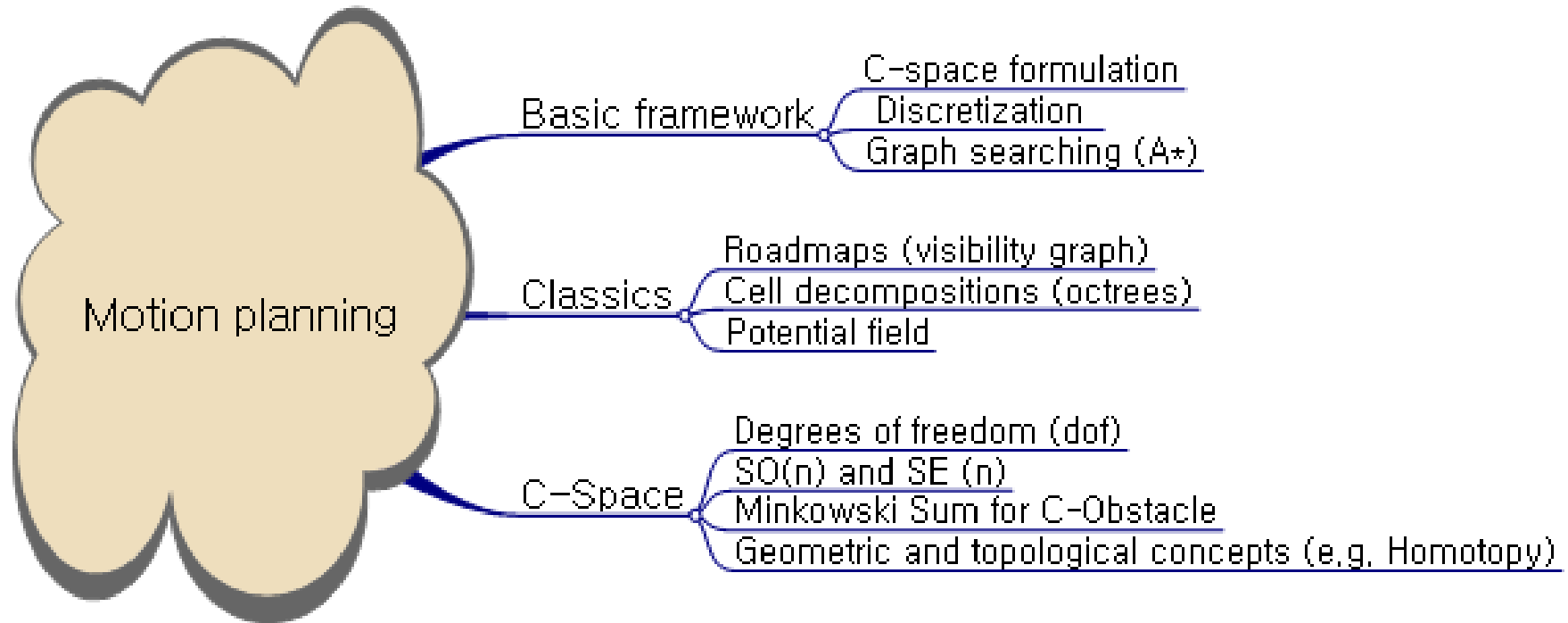


- $d(q, q') = \text{sqrt}((x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + \alpha^2)$

Class Objectives were:

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

Summary



Next Time....

- **Collision detection and distance computation**

Homework

- **Submit summaries of 2 ICRA/IROS/RSS/WAFR/TRO/IJRR papers**
- **Go over the next lecture slides**
- **Come up with one question on what we have discussed today and submit at the end of the class**