



Robotics: Closed kinematics chains

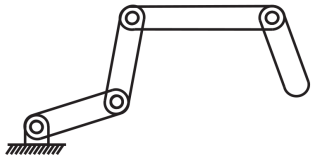
Vladimír Petřík

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08.12.2025

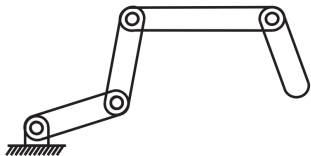
Open/Closed kinematic chain

- ▶ Open kinematics chains: no loops
- ▶ Closed kinematic chains contains loops

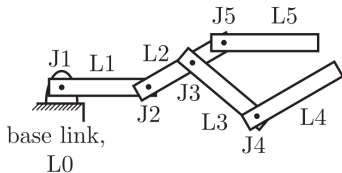


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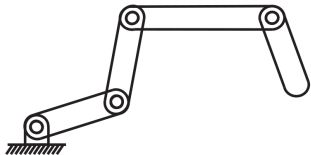


Open - sequential

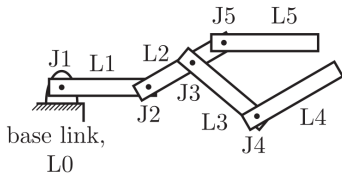


Open/Closed kinematic chain

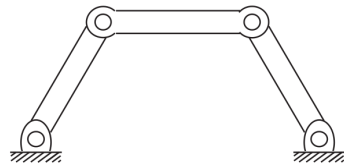
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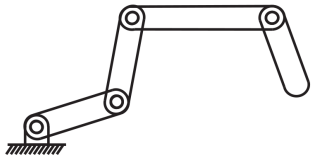


Open - tree

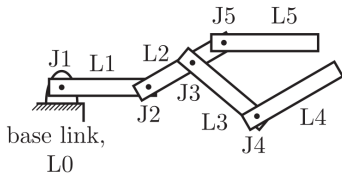


Open/Closed kinematic chain

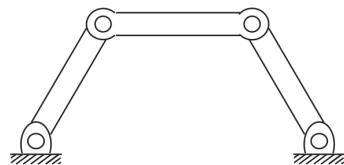
- ▶ Open kinematics chains: no loops
- ▶ Closed kinematic chains contains loops
- ▶ Many closed kinematics chains can be expressed with open kinematics chains



Open - sequential



Open - tree



Closed

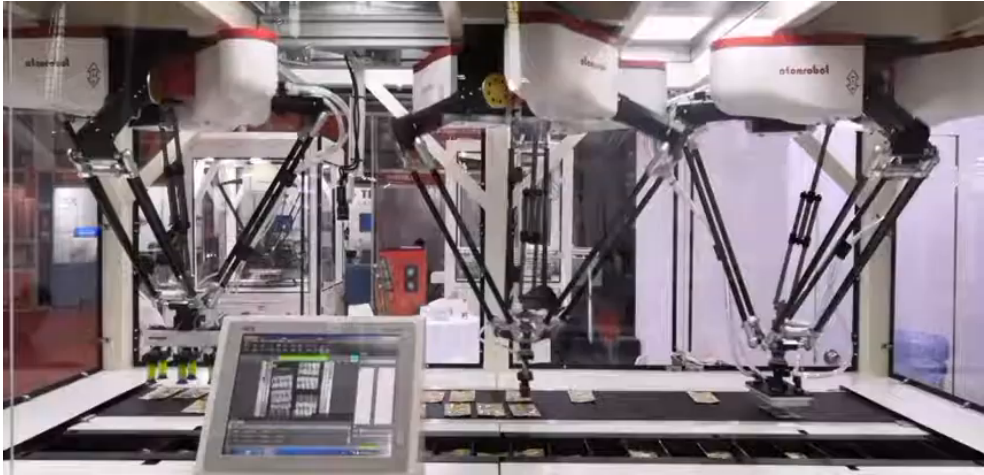
Examples of closed kinematics chain



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1x64Zg1-hE>



Examples of closed kinematics chain



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWmbI99IRq8>



Examples of closed kinematics chain

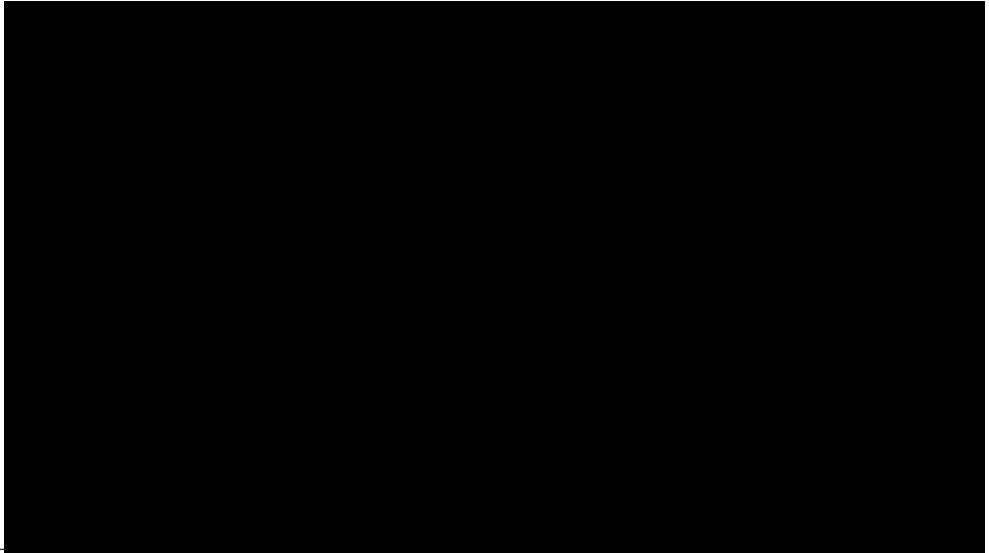


PI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B756Novxejo>



Examples of closed kinematics chain



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmKnnp1xTPg&list=PLXD3wdKvVE38twj0HvSbQP7UeR0MLLqVp>



Closed kinematics chains

- ▶ Closed kinematics chains
 - ▶ Contain loops
 - ▶ Are more difficult to control
 - ▶ Typically small workspace
 - ▶ Are more difficult to analyze
- ▶ Advantages
 - ▶ Can be redundantly actuated
 - ▶ Mechanical advantage: faster, stronger, or stiffer
- ▶ Grübler's formula can be used to determine number of DoF



Grübler's formula

- ▶ $n_{\text{DoF}} = m(L - 1) - \sum_{i=1}^N c_i$
- ▶ L is number of links including ground
- ▶ N is number joints
- ▶ m is DoF of rigid body (3 for planar, 6 for spatial)
- ▶ c_i number of constraints provided by joint i



Grübler's formula

- ▶ $n_{\text{DoF}} = m(L - 1) - \sum_{i=1}^N c_i = m(L - 1 - N) + \sum_{i=1}^N f_i$
- ▶ L is number of links including ground
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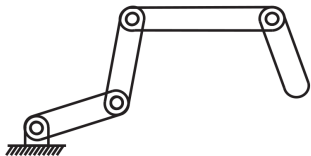
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- ▶ c_i number of constraints provided by joint i
- ▶ f_i number of freedoms provided by joint i
- ▶ $f_i + c_i = m$
- ▶ Works for *generic* cases, fails under certain configurations - when joints constraints are not independent



Applications of Grübler's formula

$$n_{\text{DoF}} = m(L - 1 - N) + \sum_{i=1}^N f_i$$

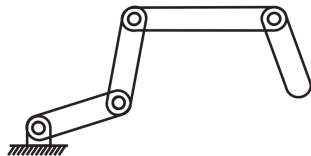
m - body DoF, L - number of links, N - number of joints, f_i - joint DoF



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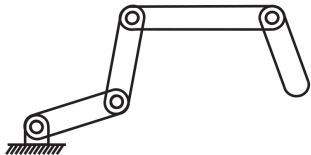


$$3(5 - 1 - 4) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 4 \text{ DoF}$$

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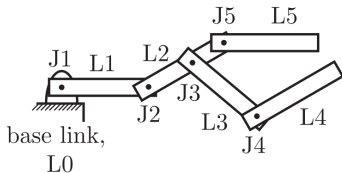
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$$3(5 - 1 - 4) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1) =$$

4 DoF

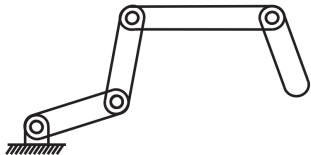
$$3(6 - 1 - 5) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 0) = 4 \text{ DoF (if fixed joint)}$$



Applications of Grübler's formula

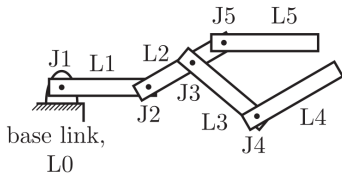
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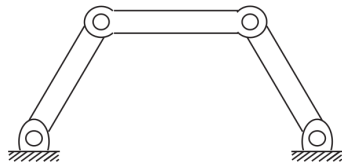


$$3(5 - 1 - 4) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 4 \text{ DoF}$$

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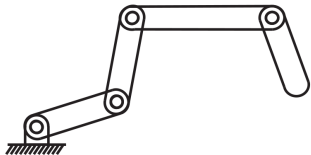
$$3(6 - 1 - 5) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 5 \text{ DoF}$$



Applications of Grübler's formula

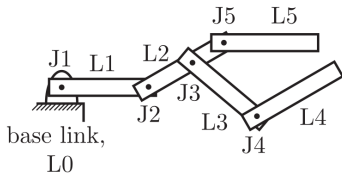
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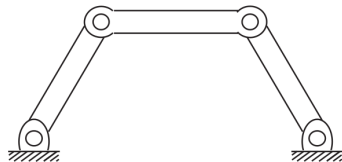


$$3(5 - 1 - 4) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 4 \text{ DoF}$$

$$3(6 - 1 - 5) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 0) = 4 \text{ DoF (if fixed joint)}$$



$$3(6 - 1 - 5) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 5 \text{ DoF}$$



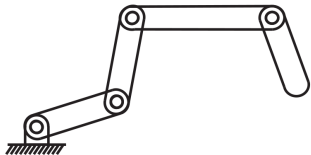
$$3(4 - 1 - 4) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 1 \text{ DoF}$$



Applications of Grübler's formula

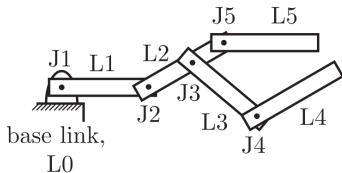
$$n_{\text{DoF}} = m(L - 1 - N) + \sum_{i=1}^N f_i$$

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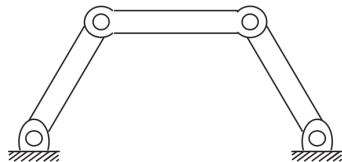


$$3(5 - 1 - 4) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 4 \text{ DoF}$$

$$3(6 - 1 - 5) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 0) = 4 \text{ DoF (if fixed joint)}$$



$$3(6 - 1 - 5) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 5 \text{ DoF}$$



$$3(4 - 1 - 4) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1) = 1 \text{ DoF}$$

$$3(5 - 1 - 5) + (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 0) = 1 \text{ DoF (if two grounds connected by fixed joint)}$$



Examples of kinematics chains

- ▶ Open kinematics chains
 - ▶ Structure RR, Task space \mathbb{R}^2



Examples of kinematics chains

- ▶ Open kinematics chains
 - ▶ Structure RR, Task space \mathbb{R}^2
 - ▶ Structure RRR, Task space $SE(2)$



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- ▶ Open kinematics chains
 - ▶ Structure RR, Task space \mathbb{R}^2
 - ▶ Structure RRR, Task space $SE(2)$
- ▶ Closed kinematics chains
 - ▶ Structure RRRR, Task space \mathbb{R}^1



Examples of kinematics chains

- ▶ Open kinematics chains
 - ▶ Structure RR, Task space \mathbb{R}^2
 - ▶ Structure RRR, Task space $SE(2)$
- ▶ Closed kinematics chains
 - ▶ Structure RRRR, Task space \mathbb{R}^1
 - ▶ Structure RRRRRR, Task space $SE(2)$



Examples of kinematics chains

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 - ▶ Structure RR, Task space \mathbb{R}^2
 - ▶ Structure RRR, Task space $SE(2)$
- ▶ Closed kinematics chains
 - ▶ Structure RRRR, Task space \mathbb{R}^1
 - ▶ Structure RRRRRR, Task space $SE(2)$
 - ▶ Structure RRRP, Task space \mathbb{R}^1



Spatial inverse kinematics for Mitsubishi RV6S

