Selbstbewegliche Stewart-Gough-Manipulatoren mit projektiv gekoppelter ebener Plattform und Basis

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- [B] On elliptic self-motions of planar projective Stewart Gough platforms, Transactions of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering, under review
- [C] All planar projective Stewart Gough platforms with self-motions, Technical Report No. 223, Geometry Preprint Series, TU Vienna (2012)

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1. What is a self-motion of a SGP?

The geometry of a SGP is given by the six base anchor points $M_i \in \Sigma_0$ and by the six platform points $m_i \in \Sigma$ for i = 1, ..., 6.

A SGP is called planar, if M_1, \ldots, M_6 are coplanar and m_1, \ldots, m_6 are coplanar. The carrier planes are denoted by π_M resp. π_m .

 M_i and m_i are connected with a SPS leg.

If all <u>P</u>-joints are locked, a SGP is in general rigid. But, under particular conditions, the manipulator can perform an n-parametric motion (n > 0), which is called self-motion.





1. Planar projective SGPs

Definition 1

A planar SGP is called projective if M_i and m_i are related by a non-singular projectivity κ ; i.e. $m_i \kappa = M_i$ for i = 1, ..., 6.

Theorem 1 A SGP is singular (infinitesimal flexible, shaky), if and only if, the carrier lines of the six S<u>P</u>S legs belong to a linear line complex.

A planar projective SGP is singular in every possible configuration (= architecturally singular), if and only if, one set of anchor points is located on a conic section (e.g. Chasles [1]).





1. Related result

As architecturally singular SGPs are redundant, they possess self-motions in each pose (over \mathbb{C}).

Therefore, we are only interested in non-architecturally singular planar projective SGPs with self-motions.



Theorem 2 (Proof was given by Karger [2])

A singular configuration of a non-architecturally singular planar projective SGP does not depend on the distribution of the anchor points in the platform and the base, but only on the mutual position of the planes π_M and π_m and on κ . The configuration is singular, if and only if, either one of the legs can be replaced by a leg of zero length or two legs can be replaced by aligned legs.



2. Basic results

Lemma 1 (Proof was given in [A]) A two-parametric set of additional legs $\overline{\text{mM}}$ with $m\kappa = M$ can be attached to planar projective SGPs without changing the direct kinematics and singularity surface.

Remark: Due to Lemma 1, it is clear why a singular configuration does not depend on the distribution of the anchor points in π_M and π_m (cf. Theorem 2).

Theorem 3

A self-motion of non-architecturally singular planar projective SGPs can only be:

- 1. a spherical self-motion with rotation center $m\kappa = m$,
- 2. a Schönflies self-motion, where the direction of the rotation axis is parallel to the planes $\pi_{\rm M}$ and $\pi_{\rm m}$,
- 3. an elliptic self-motion.

2. Basic results

Proof of Theorem 3

As in any pose of a self-motion of a planar projective SGP, the manipulator has to be in a singular configuration, we can apply Theorem 2. Therefore, the manipulator is singular, if and only if, one of the following cases hold:

- a) π_{M} and π_{m} coincide: $\Rightarrow \exists$ real fixed point \Rightarrow case 1 or 2.
- b) $S = S\kappa$: This real fixed point (\Rightarrow case 1 or 2) is the intersection point of the line $s := (\pi_M, \pi_m)$ and $s\kappa$.





2. Basic results



c) $s = s\kappa$. If the restriction of κ to s is the identity, hyperbolic or parabolic, we also get at least one real fixed point (\Rightarrow case 1 or 2). The elliptic case yields:

Definition 2

A self-motion of a non-architecturally singular planar projective SGP is called elliptic, if in each pose of this motion s exists with $s = s\kappa$ and where the projectivity from s onto itself is elliptic.



3. Spherical self-motions

If a planar projective SGP has a spherical self-motion about $m\kappa = m$, the spherical image of this manipulator, with respect to the unit sphere S^2 centered in $m\kappa = m$, has to have a self-motion as well.

Therefore, the problem reduces to the determination of non-degenerated spherical 3-dof R<u>P</u>R manipulators with self-motions, where the base points M_1° , M_2° , M_3° and the platform points m_1° , m_2° , m_3° are located on great circles.

Due to Nawratil [3], there exists only one solution (after relabeling of anchor points and interchange of platform and base).





3. Spherical self-motions

This 3-dof R<u>P</u>R manipulator has a pure rotational self-motion around the axis $a := [m\kappa = m, m_1^{\circ} = m_3^{\circ} = M_2^{\circ}].$

Therefore, we can only add an additional leg $\overline{m_4^\circ M_4^\circ}$ without restricting the self-motion if $m_4^\circ = m_1^\circ$ or $M_4^\circ = M_2^\circ$ holds.

Therefore, κ has to map all platform anchor points \notin a on points of a $\Rightarrow \kappa$ is singular \Rightarrow



Theorem 4

Non-architecturally singular planar projective SGPs do not have spherical selfmotions with rotation center $m\kappa = m$.



4. Schönflies self-motions

The Schönflies motion group consists of all translations combined with all rotations about a fixed direction d, which in our case is parallel to π_M and π_m .

It is well known (e.g. Husty and Karger [4]), that platform points, being on lines parallel to d, have congruent trajectories in a Schönflies motion. Therefore, every leg can be translated in direction d without changing this motion.





4. Case $h\kappa \neq h\tau$

Now, every point $m \in h$ (with exception of m_e) can only rotate about the line $[m\tau, m\kappa] \parallel d$. Therefore, the platform cannot move in direction d during the self-motion and the problem reduces to the following planar one:

Determine all non-degenerated 3-dof RPR manipulators with self-motions, where the platform points m_1^- , m_2^- , m_3^- and base points M_1^- , M_2^- , M_3^- are collinear.

It is well known, that only two solutions exist:

• Planar analogue of the spherical self-motion:

The same arguments as in the spherical case yield again a contradiction.



4. Case $h\kappa \neq h\tau$

• <u>Circular translation:</u>

If we choose the y-axis of the moving and the fixed frame in direction of d, the matrix \mathbf{P} of the projectivity κ can be written as:



$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ p_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ p_{31} & p_{32} & p_{33} \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } p_{33} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0, 1\} \text{ and } p_{21}, p_{31}, p_{32} \in \mathbb{R}.$$
 (1)

As ideal points are mapped onto ideal points, κ is an affinity.

Remark: For the proof of the matrix \mathbf{P} see [A].



 \diamond

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4. Case $h\kappa = h\tau$

For this case, it can also be proven (cf. [A]) that κ has to be an affinity with the following matrix **P**:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & 0 \\ p_{31} & p_{32} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad p_{22} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad p_{21}, p_{31}, p_{32} \in \mathbb{R}.$$
 (2)

Theorem 5

A non-architecturally singular planar projective SGP can only have a Schönflies self-motion with the direction d of the rotation axis parallel to π_{M} and π_{m} , if it belongs to the subset of planar affine SGPs.

Moreover, if we choose the y-axis of the moving and the fixed frame in direction of d, the affinity κ has to be of the form given in (1) or (2).



4. Planar affine SGPs with self-motions

Theorem 6

Assume a non-architecturally singular planar affine SGP is determined by $\mathbf{M}_i = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{m}_i$. Then, this manipulator has a self-motion, if and only if, the singular values s_1 and s_2 of \mathbf{A} with $0 < s_1 \leq s_2$ fulfill $s_1 \leq 1 \leq s_2$.

Proof of Theorem 6

First of all, we prove that planar affine SGPs cannot have elliptic self-motions: If $s = s\kappa$ is not the ideal line, then at least the ideal point of $s = s\kappa$ is a fixed point. Therefore, $s = s\kappa$ has to be the ideal line during the whole elliptic self-motion. Hence, the self-motion is a Schönflies motion with d orthogonal to $\pi_M \parallel \pi_m$.

As all points of π_m have to run on spherical paths, this Schönflies motion can only be the Borel Bricard motion due to Husty and Karger [4]. Therefore, the corresponding points of π_m and π_M have to be related by an inversion (\neq projectivity).

4. Planar affine SGPs with self-motions

Therefore, planar affine SGPs with self-motions have to be of type (1) or (2). We consider the image of the unit vectors $\mathbf{c} = (\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi) \in \pi_{\mathsf{m}}$ for $\varphi \in [0, 2\pi]$. Clearly, the tie points of the vectors \mathbf{Ac} are located on an ellipse k.

Now, it can easily be seen (cf. [A]), that the necessary and sufficient condition for an affinity of type:

(1) is that k and c have a common tangent,

(2) is that k and c have a common point.

Clearly, we only get real common points and tangents of k and the unit circle c, if the singular values $0 < s_1 \leq s_2$ of **A** fulfill $s_1 \leq 1 \leq s_2$. \Box





4. Example

 $\mathbf{M}_1 = (0,0)$ $\mathbf{M}_2 = (1,0)$ $M_3 = (0, 1)$ $\mathbf{m}_1 = (0,0)$ $\mathbf{m}_2 = (1, 1)$ $\mathbf{m}_3 = (0, 1)$ $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ $s_1 = (\sqrt{5} - 1)/2$ $s_2 = (\sqrt{5} + 1)/2$









4. Remarks on self-motions of planar affine SGPs

- As all self-motions of planar affine SGPs are pure translations (cf. Karger [2]), the trajectories of all platform anchor points are congruent.
- For one-dimensional self-motions the trajectories are circles.
 ⇒ All one-parametric self-motions are circular translations.
- The self-motion is two-dimensional, if and only if, the platform and the base are congruent and all legs have equal length.
- Theorem 6 also implies the result of Karger [5], that non-architecturally singular planar equiform SGPs cannot have self-motions, as $s_1 = s_2 \neq 1$ holds.



5. Elliptic self-motions

It remains open, whether elliptic self-motions even exist, as no example is known. In the case of existence the following theorem has to hold:

Theorem 7

A non-architecturally singular planar projective SGP possesses in each pose of an elliptic self-motion exactly two instantaneous degrees of freedom.

Proof of Theorem 7

Due to Lemma 1 and the results of Borras et al. [6], we can replace the original six legs $\overline{m_i M_i}$ by a new set of six legs $\overline{n_i N_i}$ without changing the direct kinematics and singularity surface, if:

- $n_i \kappa = N_i$ holds for $i = 1, \ldots, 6$ and
- n_1, \ldots, n_6 are not located on a conic section.



5. Elliptic self-motions



Therefore, n_1, \ldots, n_6 can be selected as shown in the figure.

As the carrier lines of the legs $\overline{n_1N_1}$, $\overline{n_2N_2}$ and $\overline{n_3N_3}$ coincide, the lines $[n_i, N_i]$ with $i = 1, \dots, 6$ can only span a linear congruence of lines.



5. Basic quadrangles (a, b, c, d) and (A, B, C, D) of κ



w ... ideal line of $\pi_{\rm m}$ W ... ideal line of $\pi_{\rm M}$

(o, x, y) and (O, X, Y) are Cartesian coordinate systems in π_m resp. π_M .

a = (1:0:0) b = (0:1:0) $c = (1:0:\beta)$ d = (0:1:1)f = (0:0:1) A = (0:0:1) B = (1:0:0) C = (0:1:1) $D = (1:\alpha:0)$ F = (0:1:0)

We can eliminate the factor of similarity by setting $\alpha = 1$. Therefore, the matrix **P** of κ only depends on $\beta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.



5. The special legs aA, bB, cC, dD, fF

- The attachment of the special leg aA (resp. cC) corresponds with the so-called Darboux constraint (cf. [7]), that the platform anchor point a (resp. c) moves in a fixed plane orthogonal to A (resp. C).
- The attachment of the special leg bB (resp. dD) corresponds with the so-called Mannheim constraint (cf. [7]), that a plane of the moving system orthogonal to b (resp. d) slides through the point B (resp. D).
- The attachment of the special leg $\overline{\text{FF}}$ corresponds with the so-called angle constraint (cf. [B]), that the ideal points f and F enclose a constant angle.





5. Study parameters $e_0 : ... : e_3 : f_0 : ... : f_3$

They represent an Euclidean displacements, if $\Phi : \sum_{i=0}^{3} e_i f_i = 0$ and K = 1 hold with $K := e_0^2 + e_1^2 + e_2^2 + e_3^2$. The rotational matrix is given by:

$$\mathbf{R} := (r_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} e_0^2 + e_1^2 - e_2^2 - e_3^2 & 2(e_1e_2 - e_0e_3) & 2(e_1e_3 + e_0e_2) \\ 2(e_1e_2 + e_0e_3) & e_0^2 - e_1^2 + e_2^2 - e_3^2 & 2(e_2e_3 - e_0e_1) \\ 2(e_1e_3 - e_0e_2) & 2(e_2e_3 + e_0e_1) & e_0^2 - e_1^2 - e_2^2 + e_3^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The translation vector $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, t_3)$ equals:

$$t_1 := 2(e_0f_1 - e_1f_0 + e_2f_3 - e_3f_2),$$

$$t_2 := 2(e_0f_2 - e_1f_3 - e_2f_0 + e_3f_1),$$

$$t_3 := 2(e_0f_3 + e_1f_2 - e_2f_1 - e_3f_0).$$

Moreover, we define the following 3 variables:

$$\overline{t}_1 := 2(e_0f_1 - e_1f_0 - e_2f_3 + e_3f_2),$$

$$\overline{t}_2 := 2(e_0f_2 + e_1f_3 - e_2f_0 - e_3f_1),$$

$$\overline{t}_3 := 2(e_0f_3 - e_1f_2 + e_2f_1 - e_3f_0).$$



5. Algebraic formulation of the constraints

With respect to the special coordinate systems (o, x, y) and (O, X, Y), introduced in π_m and π_M , respectively, the constraints can be written as follows (cf. [B]):



5. Orthogonal elliptic self-motions

Based on the six constraints Ω_A^a , Ω_C^d , Π_B^b , Π_D^d , \triangleleft_F^f , Φ we can prove the following:

Theorem 8 (Proof was given in [B]) An elliptic self-motion of a non-architecturally singular planar projective SGP has to be a one-parametric motion.

We introduce a geometric classification of elliptic self-motions as follows:

Definition 3 An elliptic self-motion is called orthogonal, if the angle enclosed by the unique pair of ideal points (f, F) with $f\kappa = F$ equals $\pi/2$ ($\Leftrightarrow \gamma = 0$).

Theorem 9

There does not exist a non-architecturally singular planar projective SGP with an orthogonal elliptic self-motion.



5. Proof of Theorem 9: classical approach

An elliptic self-motion corresponds with a common curve of the seven hyperquadrics Ω^{a}_{A} , Ω^{c}_{C} , Π^{b}_{B} , Π^{d}_{D} , \triangleleft^{f}_{F} , Φ , Θ^{m}_{M} of the 7-dimensional projective Study parameter space.

 Θ_{M}^{m} is the so-called sphere constraint (cf. Husty [8]), that $m \in \pi_{m}$ is located on a sphere with radius R and center $M := m\kappa$ in π_{M} . In order to get a very compact expression, we choose $\mathbf{m} = (1 : -\beta : 0)$ and $\mathbf{M} = (1 : 0 : -1)$, which yields:

$$\Theta_{\mathsf{M}}^{\mathsf{m}}: \ (R^2 - \beta^2 - 1)K - 4(f_0^2 + f_1^2 + f_2^2 + f_3^2) - 2t_2 + 2\beta(\overline{t}_1 + r_{21}) = 0.$$

An elimination process yields the polynomial $\Upsilon[24685]$ of degree 16 in e_1 and e_2 . For an elliptic self-motion the coefficients of $\Upsilon[24685]$ have to vanish identically. We were not able to solve the resulting system of 17 equations in $L_a, L_c, g_b, g_d, \beta, R$.



5. Proof of Theorem 9: alternative approach

u ... ideal point of $\pi_m \setminus \{f\}$... $\mathbf{u} = (0:1:u)$ V ... ideal point of $\pi_M \setminus \{F\}$... $\mathbf{V} = (0:v:1)$ u and V are the ideal points of s and s κ iff:

$$u = V \quad \iff \quad u = -\frac{r_{31}}{r_{32}}, \quad v = -\frac{r_{23}}{r_{13}},$$
$$V\kappa^{-1} \in \pi_{\mathsf{M}} \quad \iff \quad \Xi_{1} : \ r_{12}t_{3} - \beta r_{23}r_{32} = 0,$$
$$u\kappa \in \pi_{\mathsf{m}} \quad \iff \quad \Xi_{2} : \ r_{32}\overline{t}_{3} + r_{13}r_{31} = 0.$$

 $\pi_{\rm M}$

 Ξ_1, Ξ_2 are quartic equations in the Study parameters, but only linear in f_0, \ldots, f_3 . $\Omega^a_A, \Omega^c_C, \Pi^b_B, \Pi^d_D, \triangleleft^f_F, \Phi, \Xi_i \implies \Upsilon_i[1960]$ of degree 12 in e_1 and e_2 for i = 1, 2Coefficients imply a much more simpler system of 26 equations in $L_a, L_c, g_b, g_d, \beta$. This system can be used to prove Theorem 9. For details see [B].

5. Conjecture

Conjecture

Non-architecturally singular planar projective SGPs with an elliptic self-motion do not exist.

Clearly, the first idea to prove this conjecture, is to do it similarly to Theorem 9. There is only one more unknown, namely the variable γ :

The two corresponding polynomials Υ_1 and Υ_2 can be computed with MAPLE on a high capacity computer (78GB RAM). Each of these two expressions has 8259 terms and is again of degree 12 in e_1 and e_2 . We tried hard to solve the resulting system of 26 equations, but we failed due to its high degree of non-linearity.

Remark: Note that with the classical approach, we were not even able to compute Υ with MAPLE, as the high capacity computer ran out of memory.



5. Historical results

In 1873, the following theorem was given by Henrici [9]:

Theorem 10

If the generators of a hyperboloid Φ of one sheet are constructed of rods, jointed at the points of crossing in a way that at each intersection point one rod is free movable about the other one, then the surface is not rigid, but permits a deformation into a one-parametric set \mathcal{H} of hyperboloids.

In 1899, Schur [10] presented a very elegant proof for Henrici's theorem, which also showed, that this theorem remains valid if the one-sheeted hyperboloid is replaced by a hyperbolic paraboloid.

Based on these results, Wiener [11] made some deformable models of one-sheeted hyperboloids and hyperbolic paraboloids.





Due to Lemma 1, we can add the one-parametric set of legs \overline{nN} with $n \in g_1$, $N \in G_1$ and $n\kappa = N$ without disturbing the elliptic self-motion.

The lines g_1 and G_1 are skew ($\Leftrightarrow n_1 \neq N_1$), as the projectivity of s onto itself is elliptic.





Therefore, the one-parametric set \mathcal{R}_1 of lines [n, N] is a regulus of a regular ruled quadric Φ_1 .

Due to the results of Henrici and Schur, we can add even arbitrary lines of the associated regulus \mathcal{R}_1^{\times} without restricting the elliptic self-motion.









Lemma 2

There exists a non-singular projectivity κ^* with $n_i\kappa^* = N_i^*$ for $i = 1, \ldots, 6$. Therefore, the manipulator with platform anchor points n_1, \ldots, n_6 and base anchor points N_1^*, \ldots, N_6^* is also a planar projective SGP with an elliptic self-motion.

Proof of Lemma 2

It can easily be seen that $N_1^*, N_2^*, N_4^*, N_5^*$ always form a quadrangle. Therefore, the mapping $n_i \mapsto N_i^*$ for i = 1, 2, 4, 5 uniquely defines a regular projectivity κ^* , which also yields $n_3\kappa^* = N_3^*$ and $n_6\kappa^* = N_6^*$.

The elliptic self-motion of the manipulator n_1, \ldots, N_6 is transmitted by the motion of the reguli $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \mathcal{R}_3$ onto the manipulator n_1, \ldots, N_6^{\star} .

This resulting self-motion is elliptic too, as a fixed point of the restriction of κ^* on $s = s\kappa^*$ also has to be a fixed point of the restriction of κ on $s = s\kappa$.



Construction for a special choice of ε :

- S ... finite point of $s = s\kappa$
- $\alpha \ \ldots$ plane spanned by $[{\sf S},{\sf f},{\sf F}]$
- $\beta \ \ldots$ plane orthogonal to f through S
- t $\ \ldots$ intersection line of α and β
- ε ... plane spanned by t and s = s κ



 $f\kappa^*$ equals the ideal point of t and therefore, the self-motion of the planar projective SGP n_1, \ldots, N_6^* is orthogonal. Theorem 9 yields the contradiction.



6. Conclusion

Theorem 11

A planar projective SGP, which is not architecturally singular, can only have a self-motion if the projectivity is an affinity $\mathbf{M}_i = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{m}_i$, where the singular values s_1 and s_2 of the 2×2 transformation matrix \mathbf{A} with $0 < s_1 \leq s_2$ fulfill the condition $s_1 \leq 1 \leq s_2$.

All one-parametric self-motions are circular translations. Moreover, the self-motion is a two-dimensional translation, if and only if, the platform and the base are congruent and all legs have equal length.







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