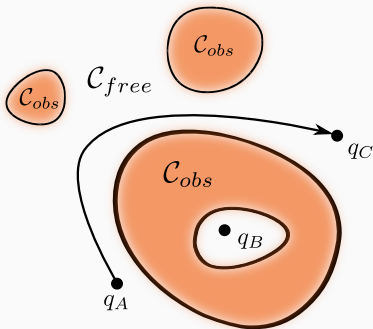


Algorithms for connectivity queries on unbounded real algebraic sets

14th October 2025

JGA '25



Rémi PRÉBET

Joint works with M. SAFEY EL DIN, É. SCHOST
J. CAPCO, P. WENGER

SLIDES:

rprebet.github.io/#talks

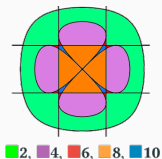
Algorithms for polynomial systems with real variables

Semi-algebraic sets

Real solutions of systems of polynomial equations and inequalities

$$\begin{cases} 4y + x^3 - 4x^2 - 2x - 8 = 0 \\ -2 \leq x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{x^2}{4} + y^2 - 1 = 0 \quad (x-1)^2 + \frac{(y-1)^2}{9} - 1 = 0$$



Physics

```
1  @real: i, s, n;  
2  @pre: n ≥ 1;  
3  i = 0; s = 0;  
4  @invariant:  $\lfloor \frac{i}{2} \rfloor \geq 0 \wedge \lfloor \frac{s}{2} \rfloor \geq 0$   
5  while(  $\lfloor \frac{i}{2} \rfloor < 1$  )  
6  {  
7      i = i + 1;  
8      s =  $\lfloor \frac{s}{2} \rfloor$ ;  
9  }  
10 @post:  $(n-1) \cdot n/2 \leq s \leq n \cdot (n+1)/2$ ;
```

Program
verification

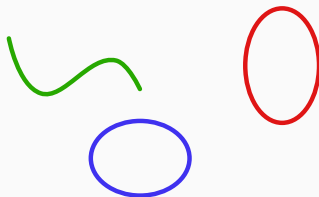


Robotics

Algorithms for polynomial systems with real variables

Semi-algebraic sets

Real solutions of systems of polynomial equations and inequalities



Fundamental algorithmic problems

Project: what is the possible set of values?

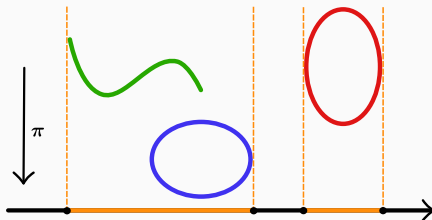
Sample: are there any solutions?

Connect: are two points connected?

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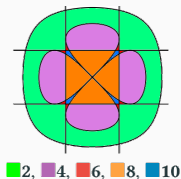


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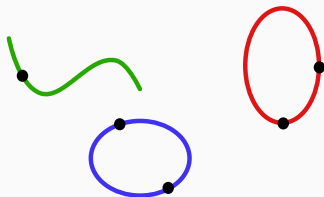


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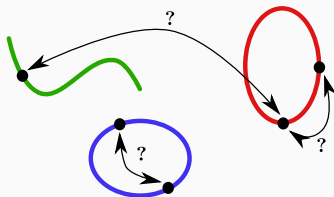
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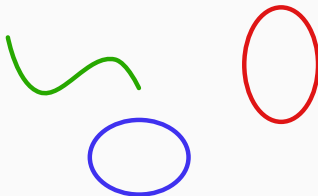


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Robotics

A challenging application in robotics

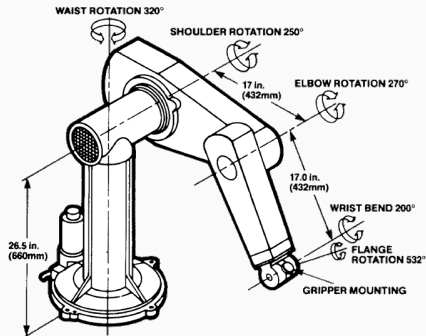
$Jac_{v_2, \dots, v_5}(\mathcal{K})$ for a PUMA-type robot with a non-zero offset in the wrist

$$\begin{bmatrix} (v_3 + v_2)(1 - v_2 v_3) & 0 & A(v) & d_3 A(v) & a_2(v_3^2 + 1)(v_2^2 - 1) - a_3 A(v) & 2d_3(v_3 + v_2)(v_2 v_3 - 1) \\ 0 & v_3^2 + 1 & 0 & 2a_2 v_3 & 0 & (a_3 - a_2)v_3^2 + a_2 + 2a_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2a_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ v_4 & 1 - v_4^2 & 0 & d_4(1 - v_4^2) & -2d_4 v_4 & 0 \\ (v_4^2 - 1)v_5 & 4v_4 v_5 & (1 - v_5^2)(v_4^2 + 1) & (1 - v_5^2)(v_4^2 - 1)d_5 + 4d_4 v_4 v_5 & 2d_5 v_4(1 - v_5^2) + 2d_4 v_5(1 - v_4^2) & -2d_5 v_5(v_4^2 + 1) \end{bmatrix}$$

where $A(v) = (v_3^2 - 1)(v_2^2 - 1) - 4v_2 v_3$

Robotic problem

Count the number of aspects of this robot.



A PUMA 560 [Unimation, 1984]

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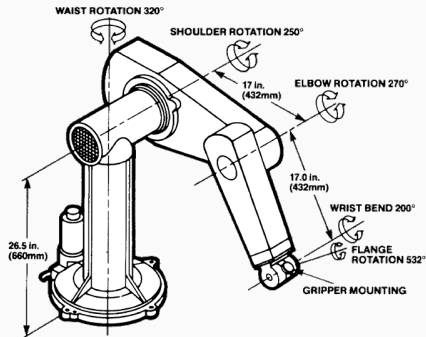
Robotic problem

Count the number of aspects of this robot.



Semi-algebraic problem

Compute the number of connected components
of $S = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid \det(M(v)) \neq 0\}$



A PUMA 560 [Unimation, 1984]

Complexities of the algorithmics of semi-algebraic sets

Semi-algebraic set S

Defined by s polynomial (equations+inequalities) with n variables of $\deg \leq D$

General-purpose algorithm [Collins; '75]

Complexity: $(sD)^{2^{O(n)}}$

$$\begin{cases} 4y + x^3 - 4x^2 - 2x - 8 = 0 \\ -2 \leq x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$
$$(x-1)^2 + \frac{(y-1)^2}{9} - 1 = 0$$
$$\frac{x^2}{4} + y^2 - 1 = 0$$

Fundamental algorithmic problem

Project S onto t coordinates $\rightsquigarrow s^{n+1} D^{O(nt)}$ [Basu-Pollack-Roy, '96] **Optimal**

Sample points of S $\rightsquigarrow s^n D^{O(n)}$ [Basu-Pollack-Roy, '98] **Optimal**

Connect two points in S $\rightsquigarrow s^{n+1} D^{O(n^2)}$ [Basu-Pollack-Roy, '00] **Not optimal**

Computing connectivity properties: Roadmaps

💡 [Canny, 1988] Compute $\mathcal{R} \subset S$ one-dimensional, sharing its connectivity

Roadmap of $(S, \mathcal{P})$

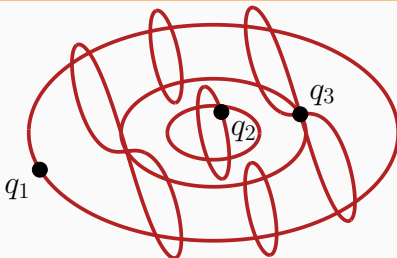
A semi-algebraic curve $\mathcal{R} \subset S$, containing query points $(q_1, \dots, q_N)$ s.t. for all connected components C of S : $C \cap \mathcal{R}$ is *non-empty* and *connected*

Proposition

q_i and q_j are path-connected in $S \iff$ they are in $\mathcal{R}$

Problem reduction

Arbitrary dimension $\xRightarrow{\text{ROADMAP}}$ Dimension 1



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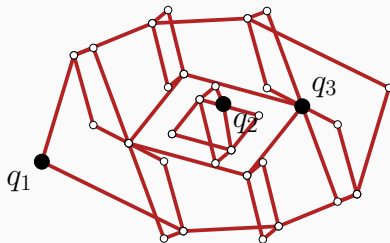
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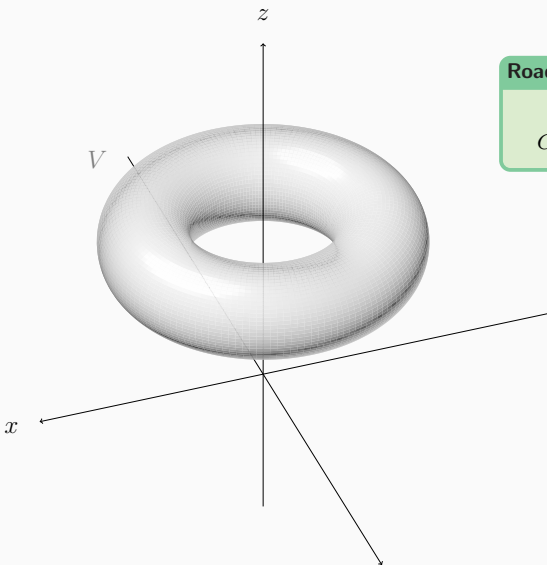
Problem reduction

Arbitrary dimension $\xRightarrow{\text{ROADMAP}}$ Dimension 1 $\xRightarrow{\text{Topology}}$ Finite graph $\mathcal{G}$



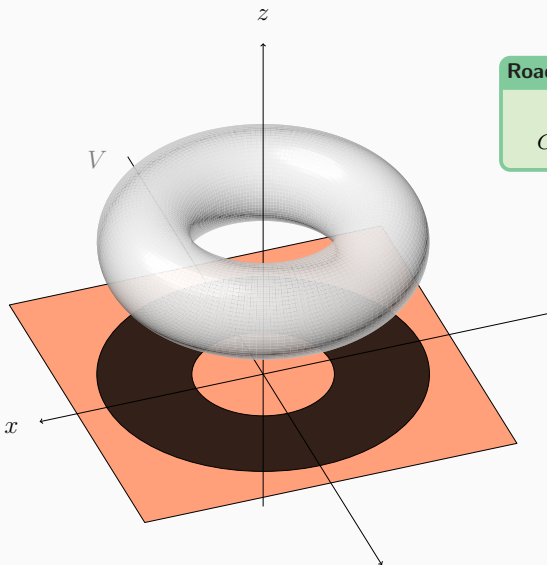
Roadmap algorithms for unbounded algebraic sets

joint work with M. Safey El Din and É. Schost



Roadmap property

$\forall C$ connected component,
 $C \cap \mathcal{R}$ is non-empty and connected

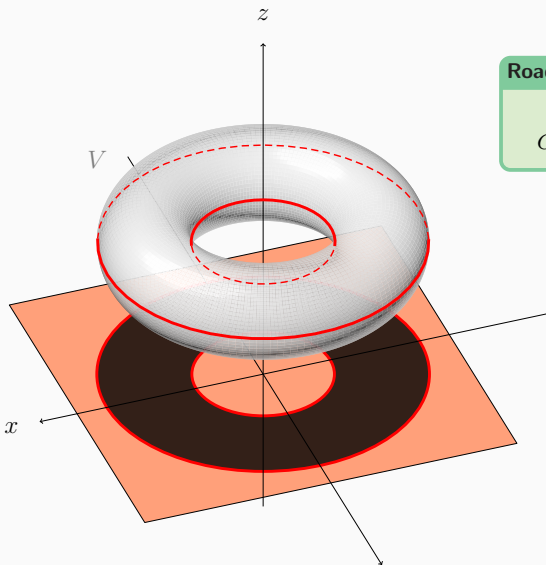


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Projection through:

$$\pi_2: (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1, x_2)$$



Roadmap property

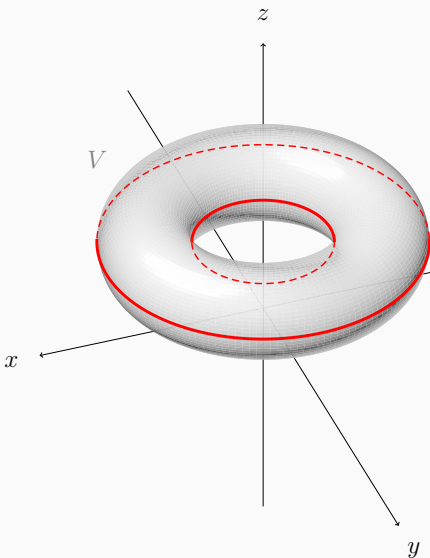
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$W(\pi_2, V)$ critical locus of π_2 .

Intersects all the
connected components of V



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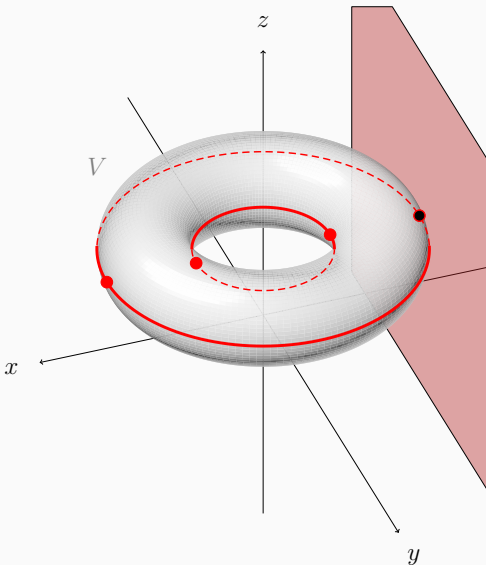
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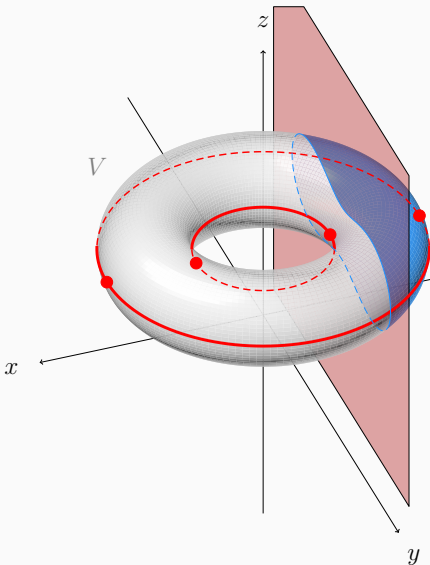
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Morse theory

“Scan” $W(\pi_2, V)$ at the critical values
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- We repair the connectivity failures with critical fibers
- We repeat the process at every critical value



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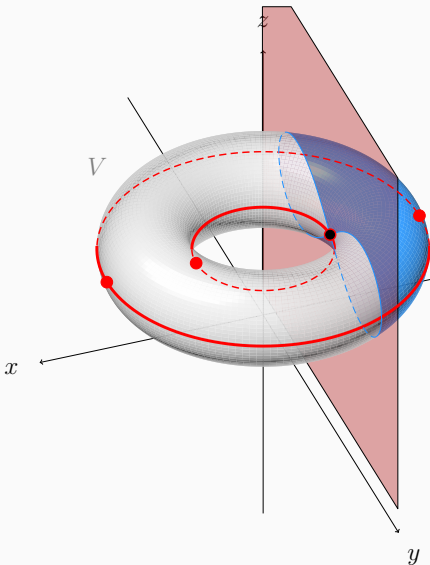
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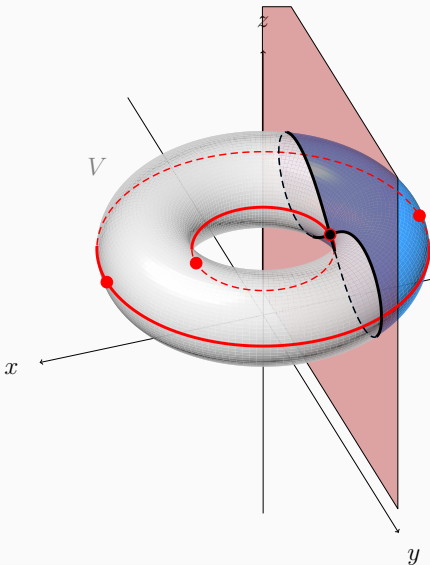
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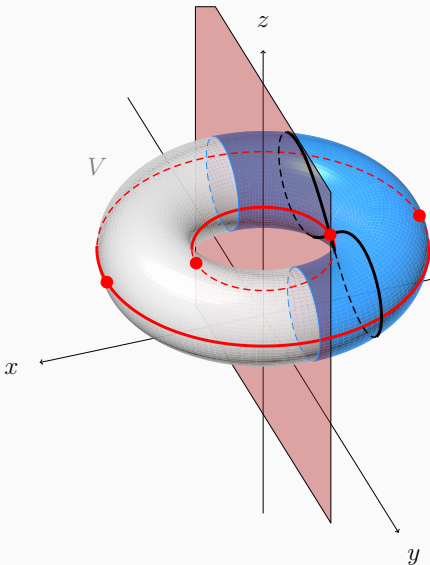
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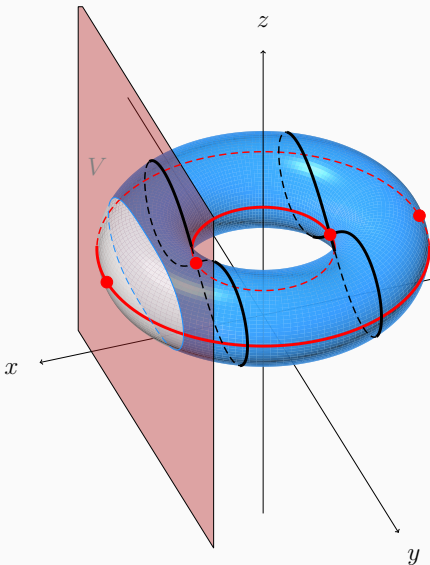
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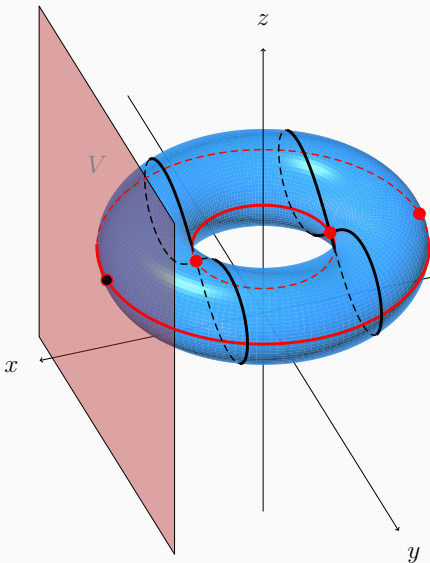
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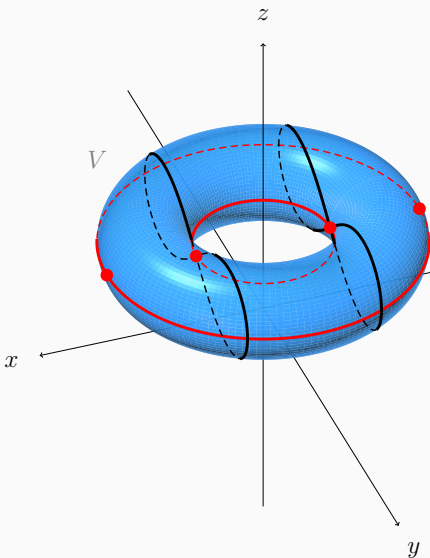
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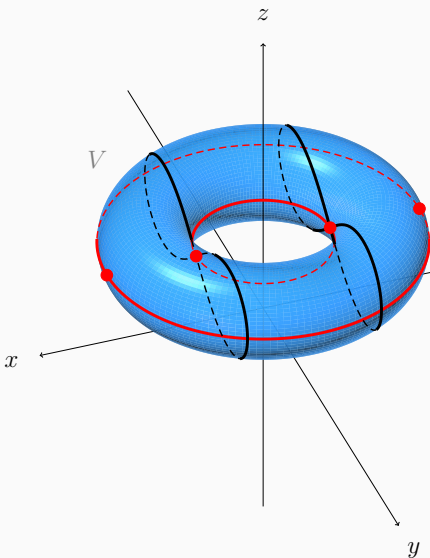


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$W(\pi_2, V)$ polar variety
 F critical fibers

Canny's strategy



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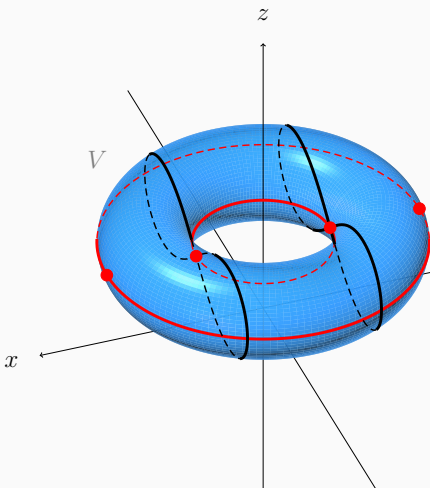
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Genericity assumptions

1. $W(\pi_2, V)$ has dimension 1
2. F has dimension $\dim(V) - 1$

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Theorem [Canny, 1988]

If V is bounded, $W(\pi_2, V) \cup F$ has dimension $\dim(V) - 1$
and satisfies the Roadmap property

On the complexity of computing roadmaps

$S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ semi alg. set of dimension d and defined by s polynomials of degree $\leq D$

Connectivity result [Canny, 1988]

If V is bounded, $W(\pi_2, V) \cup F$ has dimension $d - 1$
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Author-s	Complexity	Assumptions
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[P. & Safey El Din & Schost, 2024]	$(n^2 D)^{6n \log_2(d) + O(n)}$	Smooth, bounded algebraic sets

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→ If V is bounded, $W(\pi_i, V) \cup F_i$ has dimension $\max(i-1, d-i+1)$ and satisfies the Roadmap property

Results based on a theorem in the **bounded** case

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[Safey El Din & Schost, 2017]	$(n^2 D)^{6n \log_2(d) + O(n)}$	Smooth, bounded algebraic sets
[P. & Safey El Din & Schost, 2024]	$(n^2 D)^{6n \log_2(d) + O(n)}$	Smooth, bounded algebraic sets

On the complexity of computing roadmaps

$S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ semi alg. set of dimension d and defined by s polynomials of degree $\leq D$

Connectivity result [Safey El Din & Schost, 2011]

→ If V is bounded, $W(\pi_i, V) \cup F_i$ has dimension $\max(i-1, d-i+1)$ and satisfies the Roadmap property

Results based on a theorem in the **bounded** case

Assumptions

[Schwartz & Sharir, 1983]

$(sD)^d$

Removing the boundedness
requires infinitesimals

[Canny, 1993]

$(sD)^d$

[Basu & Pollack & Roy, 2000]

$s^{d+1} D^{O(n^2)}$

[Safey El Din & Schost, 2011]

$(nD)^{O(n\sqrt{n})}$

Smooth, **bounded** algebraic sets

[Basu & Roy & Safey El Din
& Schost, 2014]

$(nD)^{O(n\sqrt{n})}$

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Not polynomial in the output size

Algebraic sets

Necessity of a new theorem
in the **unbounded** case!

Smooth, **bounded** algebraic sets

On the extension of Canny's result

Projection on 2 coordinates

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_2: & \mathbb{C}^n & \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 \\ & (x_1, \dots, x_n) & \mapsto (x_1, x_2) \end{array}$$

- $W(\pi_2, V)$ polar variety
- $F_2 = \pi_1^{-1}(\pi_1(K)) \cap V$ critical fibers
- $K =$ critical points of π_1 on $W(\pi_2, V)$

Connectivity result [Canny, 1988]

If V is bounded, $W(\pi_2, V) \cup F_2$ has dimension $d - 1$
and satisfies the Roadmap property

On the extension of Canny's result

Projection on i coordinates

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_i: & \mathbb{C}^n & \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^i \\ & (\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) & \mapsto (\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_i) \end{array}$$

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Connectivity result [Safey El Din & Schost, 2011]

If V is bounded, $W(\pi_i, V) \cup F_i$ has dimension $\max(i-1, d-i+1)$
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On the extension of Canny's result

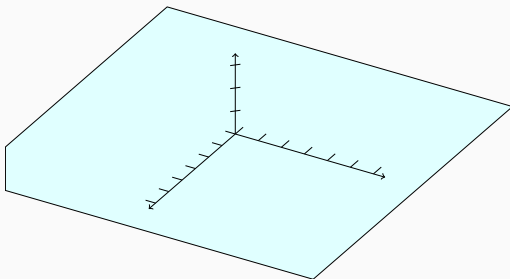
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Connectivity result [Safey El Din & Schost, 2011]

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No critical points...

On the extension of Canny's result

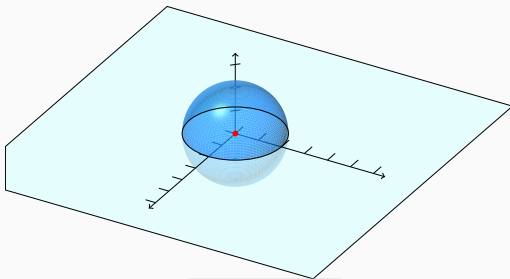
Non-negative proper polynomial map

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_i: \mathbb{C}^n &\longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^i \\ \mathbf{x} &\mapsto (\psi_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, \psi_i(\mathbf{x}))\end{aligned}$$

- $W(\varphi_i, V)$ generalized polar variety
- $F_i = \varphi_{i-1}^{-1}(\varphi_{i-1}(K)) \cap V$ critical fibers.
- $K =$ critical points of φ_1 on $W(\varphi_i, V)$

Connectivity result [P. & Safey El Din & Schost, 2024] **NEW!**

If V is bounded, $W(\varphi_i, V) \cup F_i$ has dimension $\max(i-1, d-i+1)$ and satisfies the Roadmap property



Critical point!



- ↪ Sard's lemma
- ↪ Thom's isotopy lemma
- ↪ Puiseux series

How to use it?

Assumptions to satisfy in the new result

(R) $\text{sing}(V)$ is finite

(P) φ_1 is a proper map bounded from below

For all $1 \leq i \leq \dim(V)/2$,

(N) φ_{i-1} has finite fibers on W_i

(W) $\dim W_i = i - 1$ and $\text{sing}(W_i) \subset \text{sing}(V)$

(F) $\dim F_i = n - d + 1$ and $\text{sing}(F_i)$ is finite



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**Assumption on
the input**

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By construction
of φ

A successful candidate

Choose *generic* $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}_2, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n^2}$ and:

$$\varphi = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - a_i)^2, \mathbf{b}_2^T \vec{x}, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n^T \vec{x} \right) \quad \text{where } a_i \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbf{b}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

It satisfies the assumptions! **NEW!**

How to use it?

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**Generalization of
Noether position from**
[Safey El Din & Schost, 2003]

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Jacobian criterion



**Thom's transversality
theorem**

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Jacobian criterion

$\oplus$

Noether position

A successful candidate

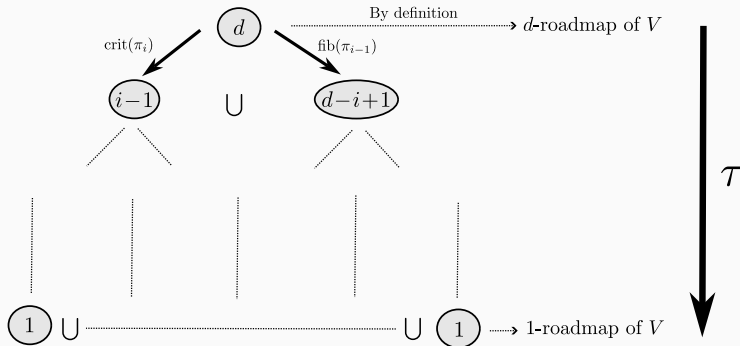
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It satisfies the assumptions! **NEW!**

An algorithm for unbounded algebraic set

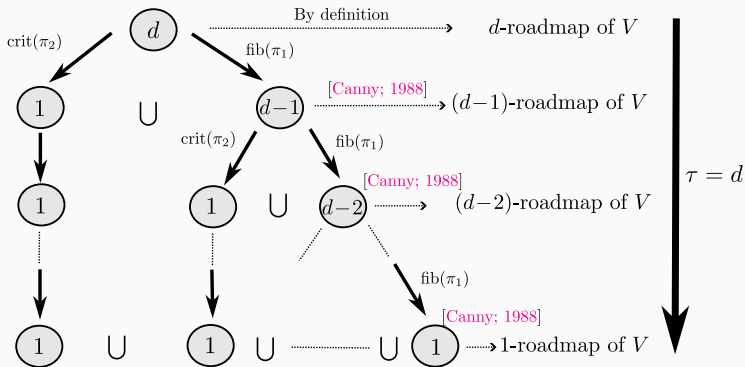
Consider an algebraic set $V \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ with dimension d



Depth of recursion tree : τ
 $\Rightarrow$ complexity: $(nD)^{O(n\tau)}$

An algorithm for unbounded algebraic set

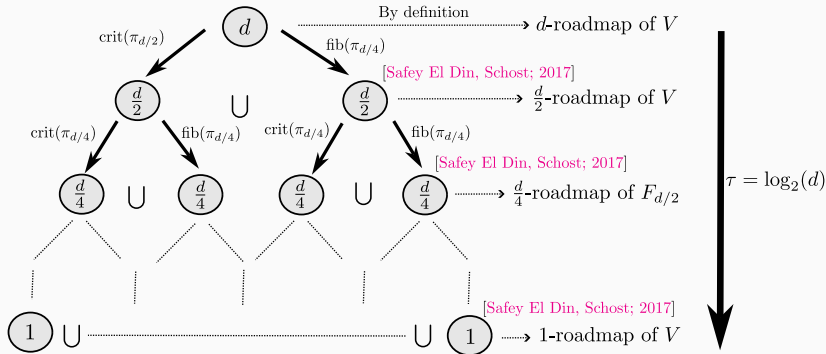
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Depth of recursion tree : d
 $\Rightarrow$ complexity: $(nD)^{O(nd)}$

An algorithm for unbounded algebraic set

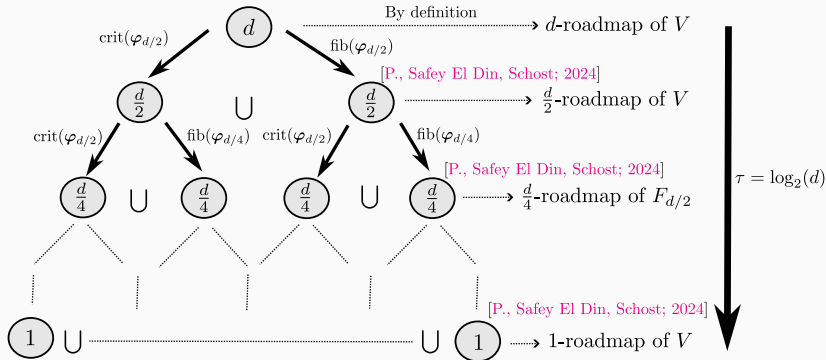
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Depth of recursion tree : $\log_2(d)$
 $\Rightarrow$ complexity: $(nD)^{O(n \log_2(d))}$

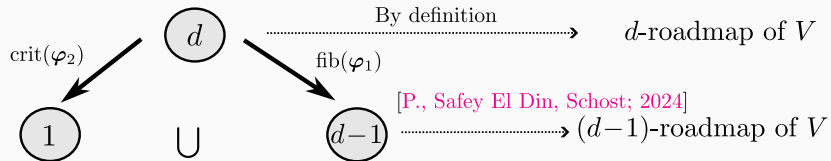
An algorithm for unbounded algebraic set

Consider an algebraic set $V \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ with dimension d



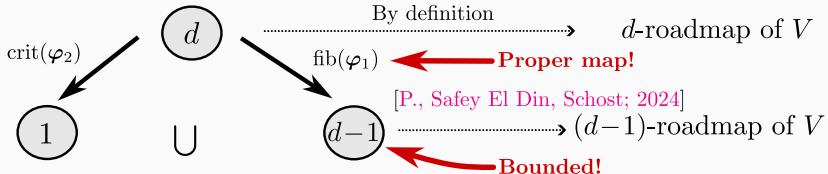
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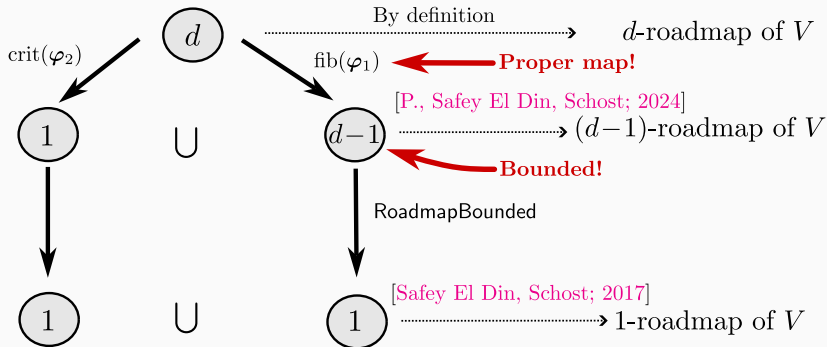
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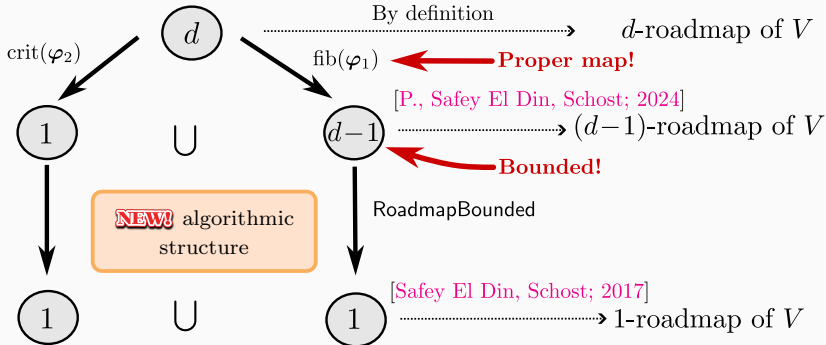
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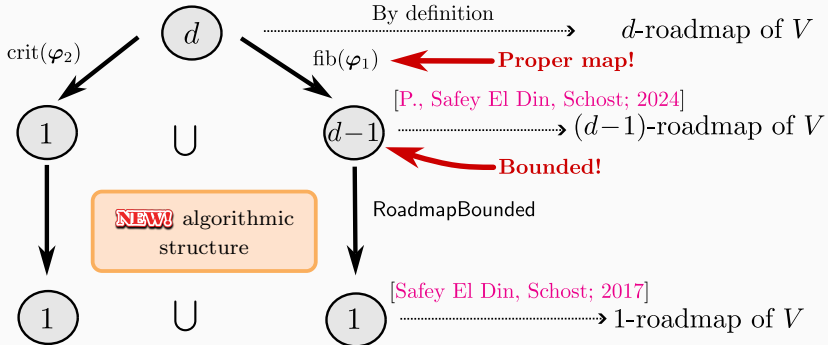


Quantitative estimate

	Output size	Complexity
RoadmapBounded($\text{fib}(\varphi_1)$) Compute $\text{crit}(\varphi_2)$ & $\text{fib}(\varphi_1)$		
Overall		

An algorithm for unbounded algebraic set

Consider an algebraic set $V \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ with dimension d

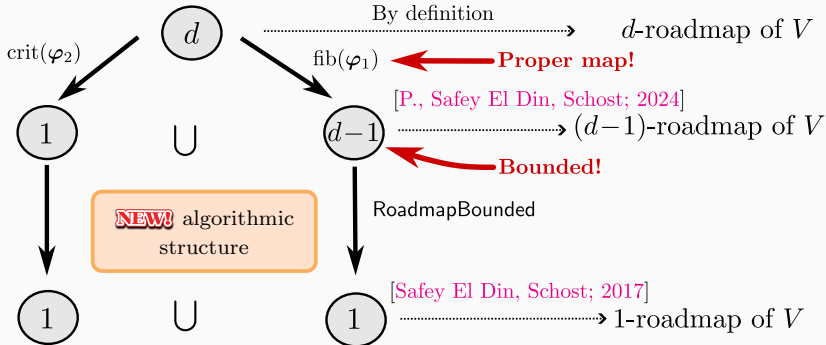


Quantitative estimate

	Output size	Complexity
RoadmapBounded($\text{fib}(\varphi_1)$) Compute $\text{crit}(\varphi_2)$ & $\text{fib}(\varphi_1)$	$(n^2 D)^{4n \log_2 d + O(n)}$	$(n^2 D)^{6n \log_2 d + O(n)}$
Overall		

An algorithm for unbounded algebraic set

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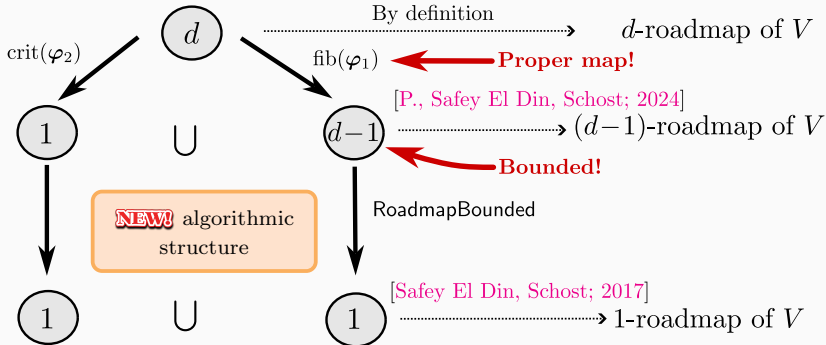


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Overall		

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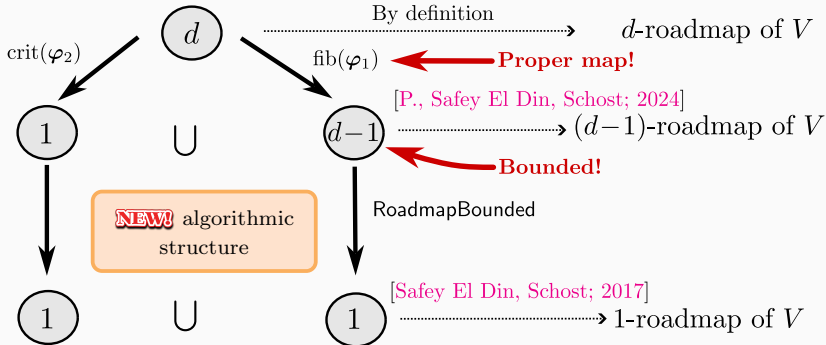


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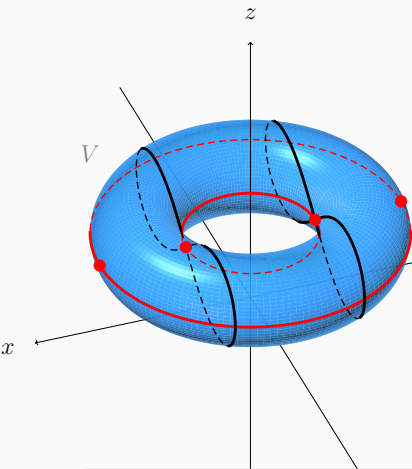
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Analysis of the kinematic singularities of a PUMA robot

with J.Capco, M.Safey El Din and P.Wenger

Canny's strategy



Roadmap property

$\forall C$ connected component,
 $C \cap \mathcal{R}$ is non-empty and connected

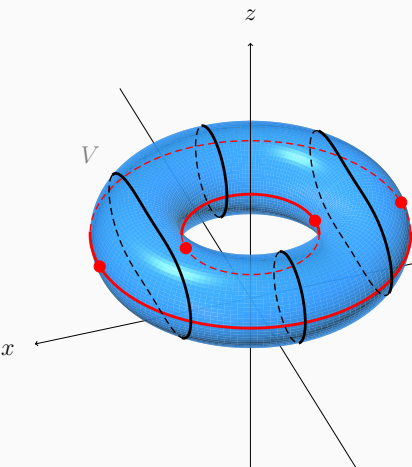
$W(\pi_2, V)$ polar variety
 F critical fibers

Genericity assumptions

1. $W(\pi_2, V)$ has dimension 1
2. F has dimension $\dim(V) - 1$

Theorem [Canny, 1988]

If V is bounded, $W(\pi_2, V) \cup F$ has dimension $\dim(V) - 1$
and satisfies the Roadmap property



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2. F has dimension $\dim(V) - 1$

Theorem [Mezzaroba & Safey El Din, 2006]

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and satisfies the Roadmap property

Roadmap computation for robotics

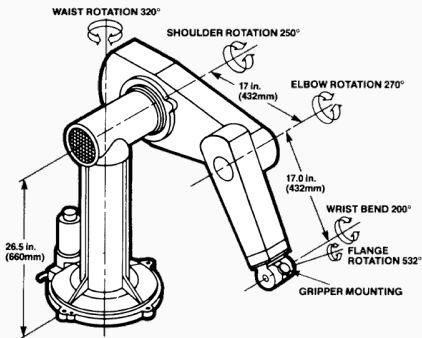
Matrix M associated to a PUMA-type robot with a non-zero offset in the wrist

$$\begin{bmatrix} (v_3 + v_2)(1 - v_2 v_3) & 0 & A(v) & d_3 A(v) & a_2(v_3^2 + 1)(v_2^2 - 1) - a_3 A(v) & 2d_3(v_3 + v_2)(v_2 v_3 - 1) \\ 0 & v_3^2 + 1 & 0 & 2a_2 v_3 & 0 & (a_3 - a_2)v_3^2 + a_2 + 2a_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2a_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ v_4 & 1 - v_4^2 & 0 & d_4(1 - v_4^2) & -2d_4 v_4 & 0 \\ (v_4^2 - 1)v_5 & 4v_4 v_5 & (1 - v_5^2)(v_4^2 + 1) & (1 - v_5^2)(v_4^2 - 1)d_5 + 4d_4 v_4 v_5 & 2d_5 v_4(1 - v_5^2) + 2d_4 v_5(1 - v_4^2) & -2d_5 v_5(v_4^2 + 1) \end{bmatrix}$$

<https://msolve.lip6.fr>

↪ Multivariate system solving

↪ Real roots isolation



A PUMA 560 [Unimation, 1984]

Roadmap computation for robotics

Matrix M associated to a PUMA-type robot with a non-zero offset in the wrist

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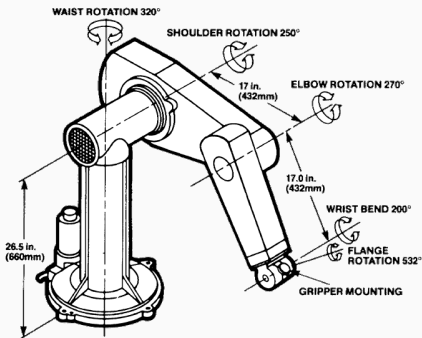
↪ Multivariate system solving

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First step

Max. deg without splitting: **1858**

Locus	Degrees	$\mathbb{R}$ -roots	Tot. time
Critical points	400 & 934	96 & 182	9.7 min
Critical curves	182 & 220	∞	3h46



A PUMA 560 [Unimation, 1984]

Roadmap computation for robotics

Matrix M associated to a PUMA-type robot with a non-zero offset in the wrist

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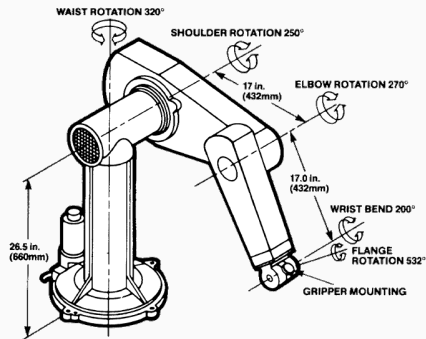
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Recursive step over 95 fibers

Data are for one fiber

Locus	Degrees	$\mathbb{R}$ -roots	Total time
Critical points	38	14	6.4 min
Critical curves	21	∞	9.6 min



A PUMA 560 [Unimation, 1984]

Roadmap computation for robotics

Matrix M associated to a PUMA-type robot with a non-zero offset in the wrist

$$\begin{bmatrix} (v_3 + v_2)(1 - v_2 v_3) & 0 & A(v) & d_3 A(v) & a_2(v_3^2 + 1)(v_2^2 - 1) - a_3 A(v) & 2d_3(v_3 + v_2)(v_2 v_3 - 1) \\ 0 & v_3^2 + 1 & 0 & 2a_2 v_3 & 0 & (a_3 - a_2)v_3^2 + a_2 + 2a_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2a_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ v_4 & 1 - v_4^2 & 0 & d_4(1 - v_4^2) & -2d_4 v_4 & 0 \\ (v_4^2 - 1)v_5 & 4v_4 v_5 & (1 - v_5^2)(v_4^2 + 1) & (1 - v_5^2)(v_4^2 - 1)d_5 + 4d_4 v_4 v_5 & 2d_5 v_4(1 - v_5^2) + 2d_4 v_5(1 - v_4^2) & -2d_5 v_5(v_4^2 + 1) \end{bmatrix}$$

<https://msolve.lip6.fr>

↪ Multivariate system solving

↪ Real roots isolation

First step

Max. deg without splitting: **1858**

Locus	Degrees	$\mathbb{R}$ -roots	Tot. time
Critical points	400 & 934	96 & 182	9.7 min
Critical curves	182 & 220	∞	3h46

Recursive step over 95 fibers

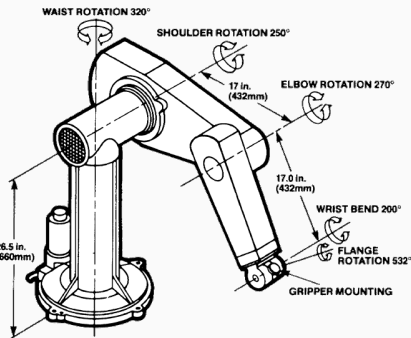
Data are for one fiber

Locus	Degrees	$\mathbb{R}$ -roots	Total time
Critical points	38	14	6.4 min
Critical curves	21	∞	9.6 min

Roadmap computation **NEW!**

Output degree: **4847**

Time: **4h10** (msolve)



A PUMA 560 [Unimation, 1984]

Perspectives

Algorithms

Roadmap algorithms:

- | Adapt the algorithms to structured systems: quadratic case
(J.A.K.Elliott, M.Safey El Din, É.Schost)
- | Generalize the connectivity result to semi-algebraic sets
- ↓ Design optimal roadmap algorithms with complexity exponential in $O(n)$

Connectivity of s.a. curves:

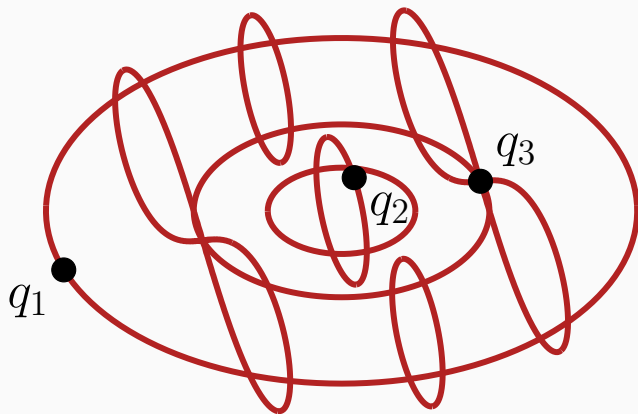
- | Adapt to algebraic curves given as union (A.Poteaux)
- ↓ Generalize to semi-algebraic curves

Applications

- | Analyze challenging class of robots (D.Salunkhe, P.Wenger)
- ↓ Obtain practical version of modern roadmap algorithms

Software

- | Curves: subresultant/GCD computations $\deg \sim 100$ (now) $\rightarrow \sim 200$ (target)
- | Computational real algebraic geometry library as part of AlgebraicSolving.jl
(C.Eder, R.Mohr, R.P., M.Safey El Din)
- ↓ Implement a ready-to-use toolbox for roboticists



Reduce data size

