

Enhancing In-hand Manipulation via Mechanical Intelligence

Dr Nicolas Rojas REDS Lab

Dyson School of Design Engineering Imperial College London *www.imperial.ac.uk/reds-lab*

Manipulation



"Grinding Sparks - Kolkata" by Biswarup Ganguly / CC BY-SA 3.0 (Cropped from original), "Potter's Wheel" by JamesDeMers / CC0 1.0 (Cropped from original), "Steam Bending Oak with Mitch Ryerson" by Nadya Peek / CC BY 2.0 (Cropped from original)

Intentional physical changes to the environment

Gross manipulation



"Forge-Blacksmith-Hammer-Iron-Fire" by TiBine / CC0 1.0 (Cropped from original), "A Navy family unloads..." by Michael W. Pendergrass / Public Domain Mark 1.0 (Cropped from original) "Kayaking" by skeeze / CC0 1.0 (Cropped from original)

Coordination of large body parts and/or movements

Fine manipulation



"<u>Piano</u>" by <u>music4life</u> / <u>CC0 1.0</u> (Cropped from original), "<u>Art</u>" by <u>Pexels</u> / <u>CC0 1.0</u> (Cropped from original), "<u>Scissor</u>" by <u>saeedkebriya</u> / <u>CC0 1.0</u> (Cropped from original), "<u>Craftsman</u>" by <u>Pexels</u> / <u>CC0 1.0</u> (Cropped from original)

Coordination of small body parts and/or movements



REDS Lab Robotic Manipulation: Engineering, Design, and Science Laboratory



Research focused on the analysis, design, and implementation of robotic systems that can purposefully perform physical changes to the world around us www.imperial.ac.uk/reds-lab/ **EDSLAB** Dr Nicolas Rojas Enhancing in-hand manipulation via mechanical intelligence

REDS Lab Key points

- Broad research interests:
 Robotic gross manipulation
 Robotic fine manipulation
- Research principles:

Theoretical and practical

Long-term goal:

Create robots from scratch that surpass the manipulation capabilities observed in humans and other animals under diversity and uncertainty

New manipulator and end effector concepts and technologies



REDS Lab Current research areas

- Biomechanics of the human hand
- Contact modelling and characterisation
- Compliant robot mechanisms
- **Dexterous manipulation**
- Distance-based computational kinematics
- Flexible manipulators
- In-hand manipulation analysis and planning
- Mechanically-intelligent robot manipulators and hands
- Parallel robots architectures
- Reconfigurable robotic systems Underactuated robot hands













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Underactuated hands



The MARS Hand (*C. Gosselin and T. Laliberte, US Patent 1996*)

The SDM Hand (A.M. Dollar and R.D. Howe, IJRR 2010) *The Velo Gripper* (*M. Ciocarlie et al., IJRR 2014*)

Underactuated fingers can produce passively adaptive grasps with minimal control and hardware complexity

Underactuated hands



Dexterous manipulation certainly remains a difficult task even for complex, redundantlyactuated hands

Yale OpenHand Model T (R.R. Ma et al., ICRA 2013)

In-hand manipulation



Dexterous in-hand manipulation extends the utility of hands to beyond just acquiring and maintaining grasps

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Solutions for Enhancing In-Hand Manipulation Capabilities

- Extrinsic dexterity
- Intrinsic dexterity





Solutions for Enhancing In-Hand Manipulation Capabilities Extrinsic dexterity

Manipulation of an object in the hand using resources extrinsic to the hand (e.g. an edge, gravity)

In-hand regrasping or Caging manipulation





(L. U. Odhner, R. R. Ma, and A. M. Dollar, T-ASE 2013)



(N. Chavan-Dafle et al., CASE 2015)

(N. Chavan-Dafle et al., ICRA 2014)





(R. Yokoi, T. Kobayashi, and Y. Maeda, ISAM 2009) (Y. Maeda, N. Kodera, and T. Egawa, ICRA 2012)





(Eppner et al., IJRR 2015)



Solutions for Enhancing In-Hand Manipulation Capabilities Intrinsic dexterity

Manipulation of an object in the hand applying forces to the object through the fingertips

Dexterous manipulation

Solutions for Enhancing In-Hand Manipulation Capabilities Intrinsic dexterity

Manipulation of an object in the hand applying forces to the object through the fingertips

- High-fidelity contact sensors
- Active/sliding fingertips (surfaces)
- A priori workspace exploration



Solutions for Enhancing In-Hand Manipulation Capabilities Intrinsic dexterity

Manipulation of an object in the hand applying forces to the object through the fingertips

- High-fidelity contact sensors
- Active/sliding fingertips (surfaces)
- A priori workspace exploration

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(A. Bicchi and A. Marigo, IJRR 2002)



(F. Chen et al., ICRA 2014)



(P. Datseris and W. Palm, ASME JMTAD 1985)



(V. Tincani et al., ICRA 2013)



(K. Tahara, K. Maruta, and M. Yamamoto, ICRA 2010)



Our approach

A novel *intrinsic dexterity* approach based on flexible and adaptive mechanical components generating predictable behaviours of the hand-object system

Contact	Manipulation	Design of robot
modelling	analysis	hands

Our approach

A novel *intrinsic dexterity* approach based on flexible and adaptive mechanical components generating predictable behaviours of the hand-object system

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The types of contact interactions which can occur between a grasped object and a fingertip are usually classified in nine categories



No contact (6 Degrees of Freedom)









Point contact without friction (5)

Line contact without friction (4)

Point contact with friction (3)

Planar contact without friction (3)



Line-line contact without friction (2) Soft finger (2)

Line(-line) contact with friction (1)

Planar contact with friction (0)









Point contact without friction (5)

Line contact without friction (4)

Point contact with friction (3)

Planar contact without friction (3)



Line-line contact without friction (2)

Soft finger (2)

Line(-line) contact with friction (1)



Planar contact with friction (0)

Contact modelling Kinematic equivalents

A kinematic equivalent simply corresponds to a single kinematic constraint (a subset of the continuous group of displacements) that represents the constrained motion between two contacting bodies

Contact modelling Kinematic equivalents







Point contact without friction (5) $\{\mathbf{S}(C)\} \cdot \{\mathbf{P}(v)\}$ Line contact without friction (4) $\{C(C, u)\} \cdot \{R(C, v)\} \cdot \{T(w)\}$ Point contact with friction (3) $\{S(C)\}$

V

Planar contact without friction (3) $\{G(v)\}$



with friction (1 $\{\mathbf{R}(C, \boldsymbol{u})\}$

{**I**}

All standard contact models used in robotic manipulation are based on modeling the effects of a finger contacting a body as a kinematic pair

Kinematic pairs

Natural generalization of the standard axiom **REDSLAB** Dr Nicolas Rojas Enhancing in-hand manipulation via mechanical intelligence Imperial College London





Kinematic-chain-based contact model based on an extension of the Bruyninckx-Hunt approach of surface-surface contact that uses the concept of resistant passive joints located in the object being manipulated

 $\{\mathbf{R}(A_R, \boldsymbol{u}_{\mathbf{a}})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(A_r, \boldsymbol{w}_{\mathbf{a}})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(C, \boldsymbol{v})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(B_r, \boldsymbol{w}_{\mathbf{b}})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(B_R, \boldsymbol{u}_{\mathbf{b}})\}$

N. Rojas and A.M. Dollar, "Classification and Kinematic Equivalents of Contact Types for Fingertip-Based Robot Hand Manipulation," ASME Journal of Mechanisms and Robotics (JMR), Vol. 8, No. 4, 041014 (9 pages), 2016 28

Contact type		Kinematic equivalent (Non-frictional/Frictional)	Special cases	
			Particular geometry*	Limit instances**
		$\{\mathbf{R}(A_{R}, \boldsymbol{u}_{a})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(A_{r}, \boldsymbol{w}_{a})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(C, \boldsymbol{v})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(C, v$	Elliptic-ball contact, Elliptic- cylinder contact, Elliptic-plane	Point-ball contact, Point-cylinder contact, Point-plane contact (or <i>(ii)</i>
Elliptic $\mathcal{K}_{\Phi_A} > 0$ contact	$\mathcal{K}_{+} > 0$	$\{\mathbf{R}(B_r, \boldsymbol{w_b})\} \in \{\mathbf{R}(B_R, \boldsymbol{u_b})\}$ $(\eta_{B_r} = \eta_{B_R} = \eta_C = 0)$	contact, Non-frictional ball	Point contact without friction), Ball-plane contact
	$\psi_{\Phi_A} \neq 0$	$\{\mathbf{R}(A_R, \boldsymbol{u_a})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(A_r, \boldsymbol{w_a})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(C, \boldsymbol{v})\}$	Ball contact	(<i>iv</i>) Point contact with friction, (vii)
		$\left(\eta_{B_r}>0,\eta_{B_R}>0,\eta_C=0\right)$	Dan contact	Soft finger $(\eta_c > 0)$
Cylindrical	$\mathcal{K}_{\Phi_A} = 0,$	$\{\mathbf{C}(A_r, \boldsymbol{w}_{\mathbf{a}})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(C, \boldsymbol{v})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(B_r, \boldsymbol{w}_{\mathbf{b}})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(B_R, \boldsymbol{u}_{\mathbf{b}})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(B_R, \boldsymbol{u}_{\mathbf{b}})\} \cdot \{\eta_{B_r} = \eta_{B_R} = \eta_C = 0\}$	Cylindrical-ball contact, Cylindrical-cylinder contact, Cylindrical-plane contact	Line-ball contact, Line-cylinder contact, Line-plane contact (or <i>(iii)</i> <i>Line contact without friction</i>), Frictional line-plane ($\eta_{B_r} > 0, \eta_C >$ 0) (or <i>(vi) Line-line contact without</i> <i>friction</i>), Fully-frictional line-plane

- All standard contact categories used in robotic manipulation, namely Salisbury's taxonomy along with line-line contact without friction, are obtained as special cases of this generalization
- New contact models, such as ball, tubular, planar translation, and frictional adaptive finger contacts, are defined and characterized from the proposed classification

Our approach

A novel *intrinsic dexterity* approach based on flexible and adaptive mechanical components generating predictable behaviours of the hand-object system

Contact	Manipulation	Design of robot
modelling	analysis	hands





During precision manipulation, a grasped object is repositioned within the hand workspace without breaking or changing the assumed contact model between each fingertip and the object



3-fingered hand with UR fingers and opposable RR thumb (3F-2UR1RR)

We want to determine the feasible movements to reposition any graspec object within the hand workspace without breaking or changing contact and to define which of these possible displacements can be ally be controlled by the hand actuators without depending on Schunk Hercternal factors do the handHY Hand



3-fingered hand with UR fingers and opposable RR thumb (3F-2UR1RR)

Precision (fingertip-based) manipulation analysis

N. Rojas and A.M. Dollar, "Gross Motion Analysis of Fingertip-Based Within-Hand Manipulation," IEEE Transactions on Robotics (T-RO), Vol. 32, No. 4, pp. 1009-1016, 2016

N. Rojas and A.M. Dollar, "Characterization of the Precision Manipulation Capabilities of Robot Hands via the Continuous Group of Displacements," Proceedings of the 2014 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), Chicago, Illinois, USA, September 14-18, 2014



$$\begin{pmatrix} J & -G^{\top} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \nu \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

= $H\tilde{G}^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell \times 6}$
= $H\tilde{J} \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell \times n_q}$ $H_i = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{H_{iF} & \mathbf{0}}{\mathbf{0} & H_{iM}} \end{bmatrix}$

Precision (fingertip-based) manipulation analysis

 $G^{ op}$

In general, an impossible task using standard techniques/models for grasping analysis

Our method is based on the kinematic analysis of the closed kinematic chain associated to the handobject system



2-fingered hand with opposed RR fingers (2F-2RR)

 Model the contacts between the fingertips and the object using kinematic equivalents



2-fingered hand with opposed RR fingers (2F-2RR)







2-fingered hand with opposed RR fingers (2F-2RR)

- Model the contacts between the fingertips and the object using kinematic equivalents
- 2. Translate the hand-object system into a closed kinematic chain and determine its mobility

2F-2RR hand with point contact with friction

Closed kinematic chain: equivalent to a six-bar linkage with two RRS serial limbs

Mobility: 4





2-fingered hand with opposed RR fingers (2F-2RR)

- Model the contacts between the fingertips and the object using kinematic equivalents
- 2. Translate the hand-object system into a closed kinematic chain and determine its mobility
- 3. Construct the corresponding graph of kinematic constraints





- Model the contacts between the fingertips and the object using kinematic equivalents
- 2. Translate the hand-object system into a closed kinematic chain and determine its mobility
- 3. Construct the corresponding graph of kinematic constraints
- Reduce the resulting graph of kinematic constraints using Hervé's group-theoretic approach

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Precision manipulation analysis

Definition of the general displacement characteristics (i.e. composition of the displacement *manifold*) of any grasped object relative to the palm

- Model the contacts between the fingertips and the object using kinematic equivalents
- 2. Translate the hand-object system into a closed kinematic chain and determine its mobility
- 3. Construct the corresponding graph of kinematic constraints
- Reduce the resulting graph of kinematic constraints using Hervé's group-theoretic approach

Determination of the displacements that can actually be controlled by the hand actuators without depending on external factors to the hand

> Lock actuators and repeat 1-4

- Model the contacts between the fingertips and the object using kinematic equivalents
- 2. Translate the hand-object system into a closed kinematic chain and determine its mobility
- 3. Construct the corresponding graph of kinematic constraints
- Reduce the resulting graph of kinematic constraints using Hervé's group-theoretic approach



$$\{\mathbf{G}(\boldsymbol{y})\} \cdot \{\mathbf{R}(\mathcal{C}_1, \widehat{\boldsymbol{c}_1 \boldsymbol{c}_2})\}$$

- Model the contacts between the fingertips and the object using kinematic equivalents
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Design of robot hands

- Spherical Hands
- GR2 gripper
- Coalesced topology



Novel, underactuated 3-fingered hand topologies with two curved fingers where the instantaneous screw axes, describing the displacement of the grasped object, always intersect at the same point relative to the palm







The passive, pivoting degree of freedom is implemented such that it is not actuated by the main drive tendon





Multiple fingertip designs were evaluated, constructed of a monolithic, cast urethane shell







Spherical Hand, Rotary Round Fingertips, Thumb Base w/ Pivot





R.R. Ma, N. Rojas, and A.M. Dollar, "Spherical Hands: Toward Underactuated, In-Hand Manipulation Invariant to Object Size and Grasp Location," *ASME Journal of Mechanisms and Robotics*, Vol. 8, No. 6, 061021 (12 pages), 2016

R.R. Ma, N. Rojas, and A.M. Dollar, "Towards Predictable Precision Manipulation of Unknown Objects with Underactuated Fingers," *Proceedings of the 3rd IEEE/IFToMM International Conference on Reconfigurable Mechanisms and Robots (ReMAR)*, Beijing, China, July 20-22, 2015. *Winner, Best Student Paper Award*



An underactuated hand for open-loop in-hand planar manipulation

The grasp-reposition-reorient (GR2) gripper is a twofingered gripper topology that enables an enhanced predefined in-hand manipulation primitive controlled without knowing the size, shape, or other particularities of the grasped object

Why?

While single-degree-of-freedom two-finger robot grippers are prevalent in industrial and research settings...

they can be limited outside of pick-and-place operations

The/latignmieat of pastis/pelicity assemble by lity processes (e.g. a peg-onebode pabilities alignment task) exemplifies the type of limitations



A generic instance of a traditional two-finger robot gripper with four-bar-linkage fingers

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All taken from Google Images. Search: Gripper



This mechanism has been historically employed solely for grasping operations, without considering any feasible capacity of dexterity



Generic instance of the GR2 gripper concept

N. Rojas, R.R. Ma, and A.M. Dollar, "The GR2 Gripper: An Underactuated Hand for Open-Loop In-Hand Planar Manipulation," *IEEE Transactions on Robotics*, Vol. 32, No. 3, pp. 763 - 770, 2016



(L. Birglen, T. Laliberte, and C. Gosselin, STAR 2008)

Previously proposed designs independently incorporate elastic elements in each finger for performing adaptive grasping operations

ROBOTIQ

In a GR2 gripper, the elastic elements of the fingers are coupled through a pivot joint in order to improve the in-hand manipulation behavior by passively changing the configuration of the palm after the initial grasp is achieved



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Design of robot hands GR2 gripper Grasping and in-hand manipulation



In the approaching phase to grasp an object, a GR2 gripper behaves as a traditional two-finger gripper **REDSLAB** Dr Nicolas Rojas Enhancing in-hand manipulation via mechanical intelligence Imperial College London

Design of robot hands GR2 gripper Grasping and in-hand manipulation

Once the object is grasped, the input angles are fixed and the hand-object system constitutes a closed mechanism with a truss



Design of robot hands GR2 gripper Grasping and in-hand manipulation

The rigidness of the grasp is geometrically guaranteed regardless of the condition of the tension springs



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Design of robot hands GR2 gripper Grasping and in-hand manipulation



During in-hand manipulation tasks, the closed kinematic chain of the hand-object system corresponds to a reconfigurable linkage with a quaternary link that passively modifies its geometry

Example 1

Object: Square (Corner Contact) Width: 35mm (49.5mm between corners)

Elastic elements of the fingers are coupled through a pivot joint to improve the in-hand manipulation behavior by passively changing the configuration of the palm

N. Rojas, R.R. Ma, and A.M. Dollar, "The GR2 Gripper: An Underactuated Hand for Open-Loop In-Hand Planar Manipulation," *IEEE Transactions on Robotics*, Vol. 32, No. 3, pp. 763 - 770, 2016

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Design of robot hands GR2 gripper

Model-free in-hand manipulation



B. Ward-Cherrier, N. Rojas, and N.F. Lepora, "Model-Free Precise In-Hand Manipulation with a 3D-Printed Tactile Gripper," IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L), Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 2056-2063, 2017

(2017 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), Vancouver, BC, Canada, September 24-28, 2017)

Design of robot hands Coalesced topology



Able to reorient objects in excess of $\pi/2$ rad while maintaining a stable grasp, without using high-fidelity contact sensors, active/sliding finger surfaces, or *a priori* workspace exploration.

W.G. Bircher, A.M. Dollar, and N. Rojas, "A Two-Fingered Robot Gripper with Large Object Reorientation Range," Proceedings of the 2017 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Singapore, May 29 - June 3, 2017. *Finalist of the Best Robotic Manipulation Paper Award*

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Design of robot hands Coalesced topology





The GR2 Gripper reorienting a square object

Two kinematic parameter search optimizations connected in cascade. Gripper is a new topology

W.G. Bircher, A.M. Dollar, and N. Rojas, "A Two-Fingered Robot Gripper with Large Object Reorientation Range," Proceedings of the 2017 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Singapore, May 29 - June 3, 2017. *Finalist of the Best Robotic Manipulation Paper Award*





Thanks!

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