

# Optimization over Manifolds with applications to Robotic Needle Steering and Channel Layout Design

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Guest Lecture: CS287 Advanced Robotics

# Trajectory Optimization

$$\min_{\theta_{1:T}} \sum_t \|\theta_{t+1} - \theta_t\|^2 + \text{other costs}$$

subject to

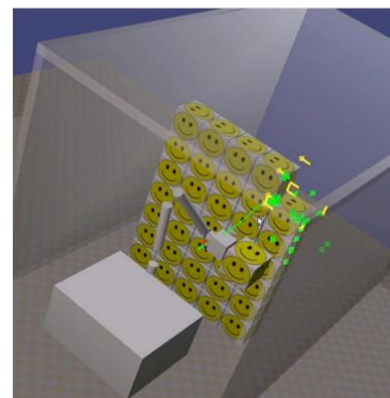
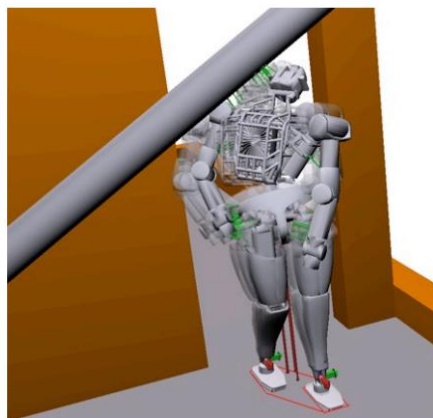
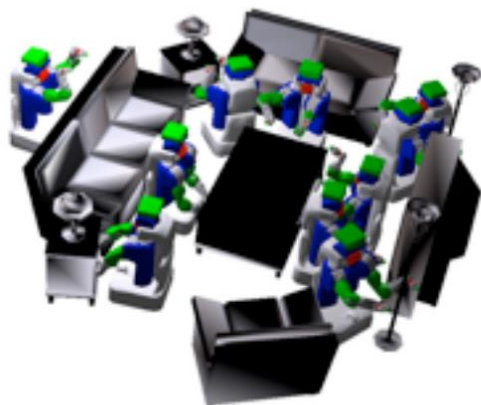
no collisions

joint limits

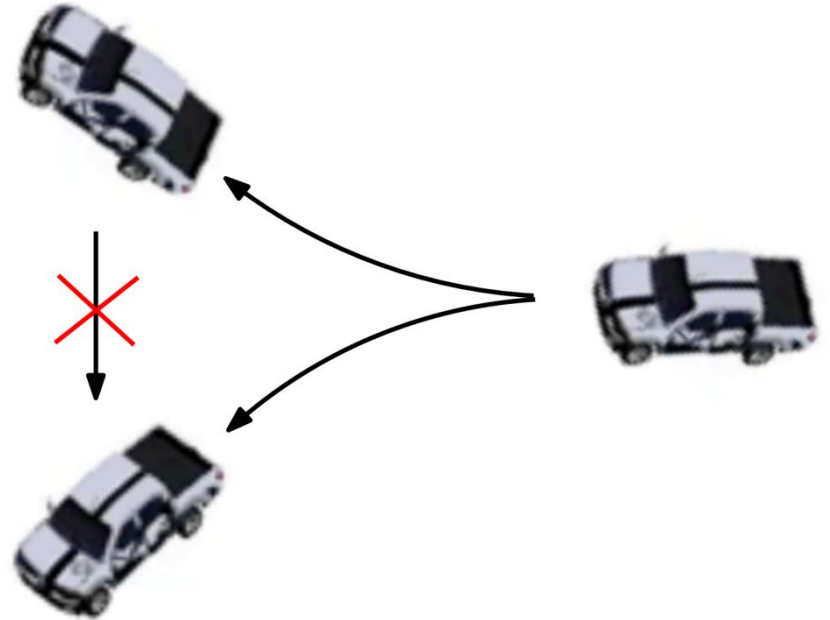
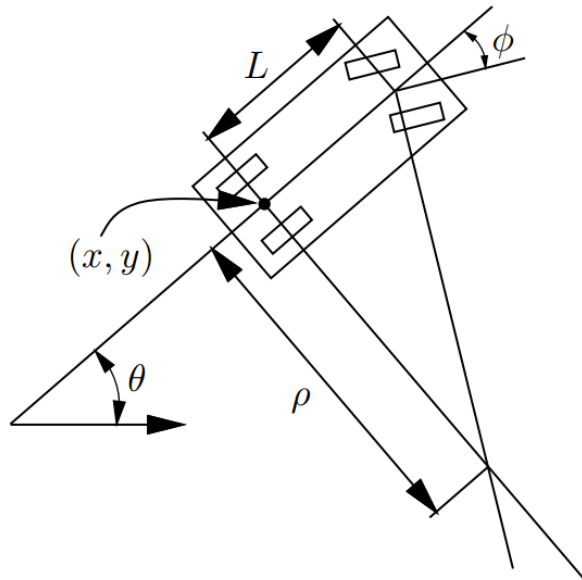
other constraints



Optimization over  
vector spaces  $\mathbb{R}^n$

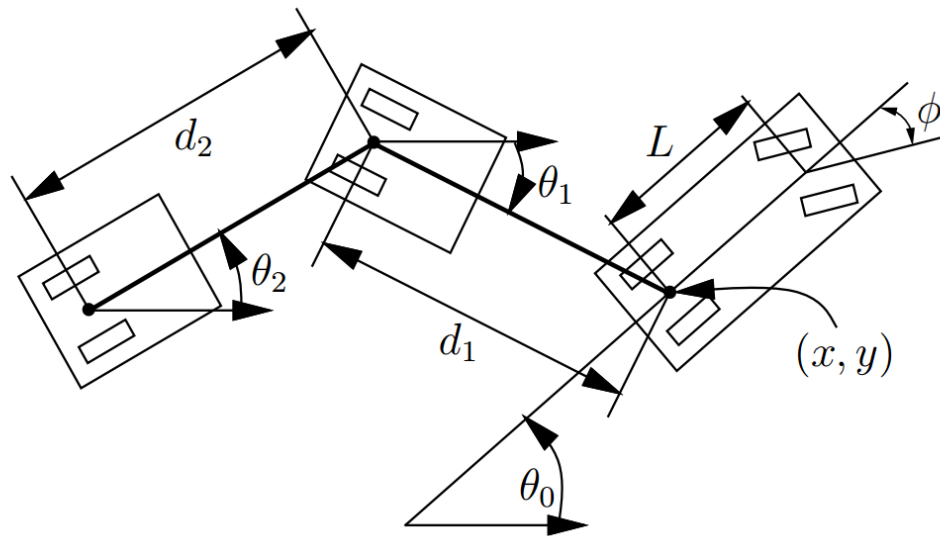


# Not All State-Spaces are 'Nice'

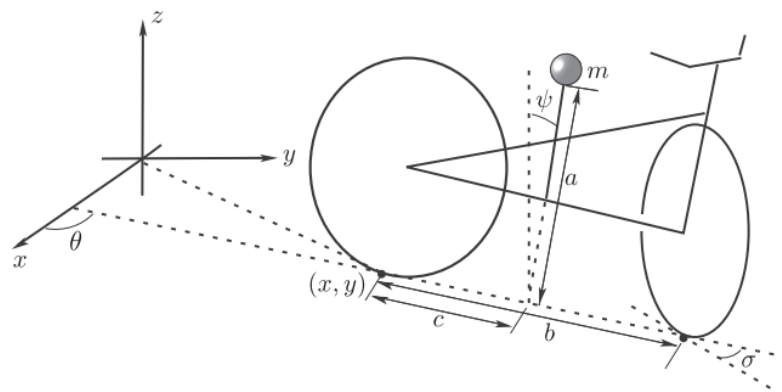


- **Nonholonomic** system cannot move in arbitrary directions in its state space
- For a simple car: Configuration space is in  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^1 : [x, y, \theta]$  (the SE(2) group)

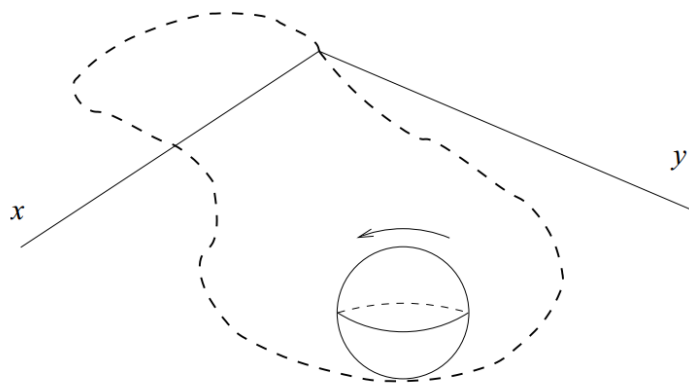
# Nonholonomy Examples



Car pulling trailers:  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \times \dots \mathbb{S}^1$



Bicycle:  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1$

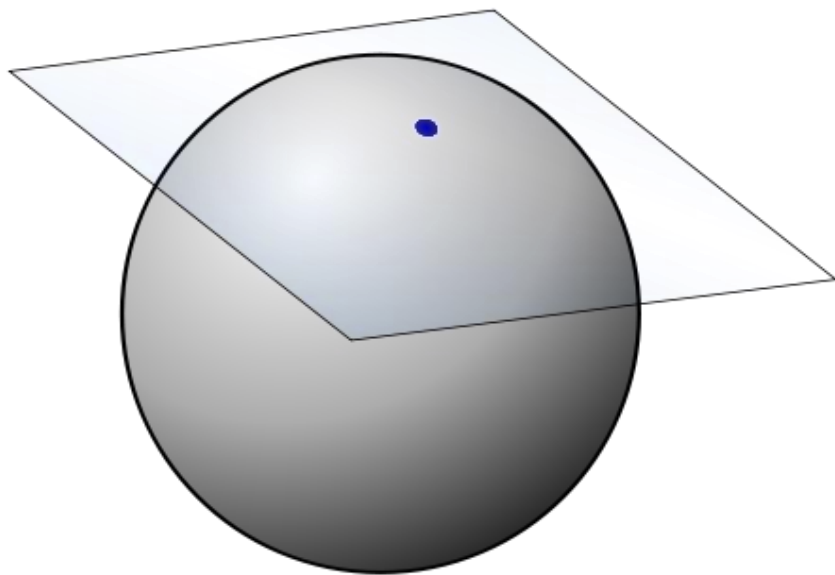


Rolling Ball: ?

$\mathbb{R}^2 \times SO(3)$

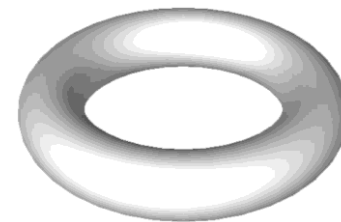
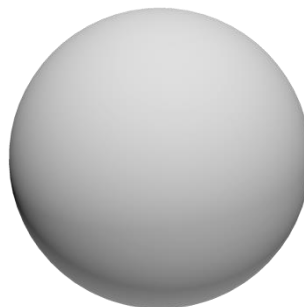
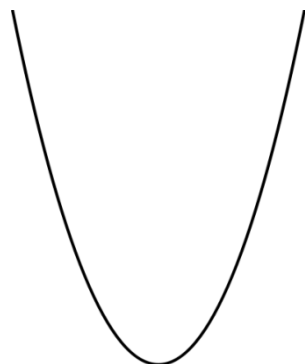
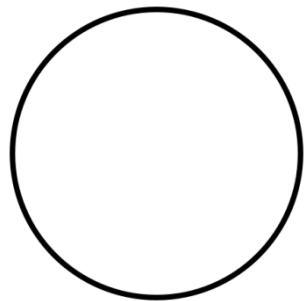
# C-Spaces as Manifolds

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**Manifold:** Topological space that near each point resembles Euclidean space

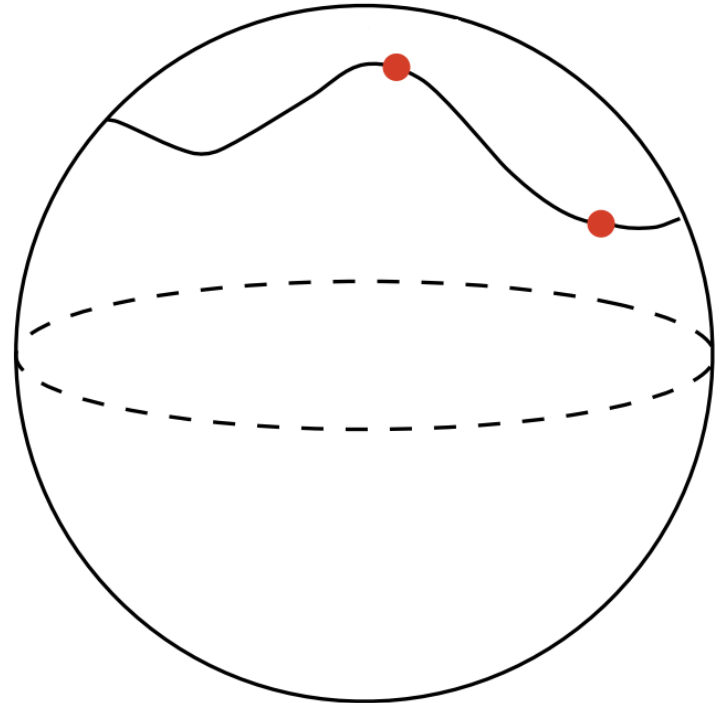
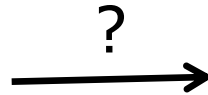
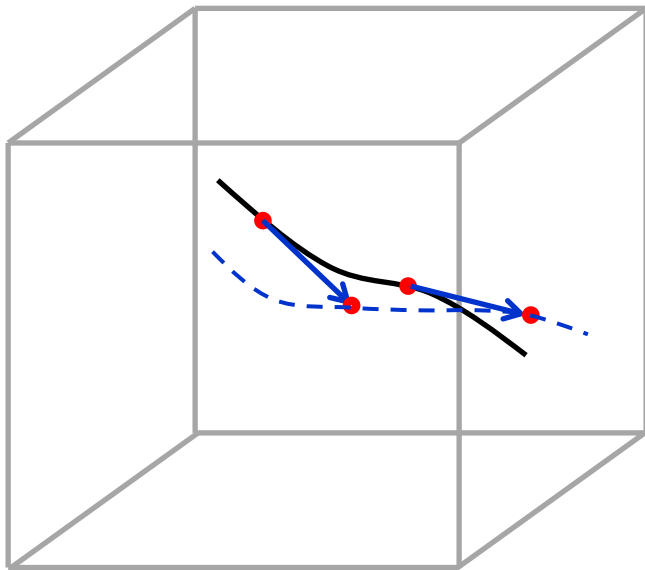
Other examples:



# Optimization over Manifolds

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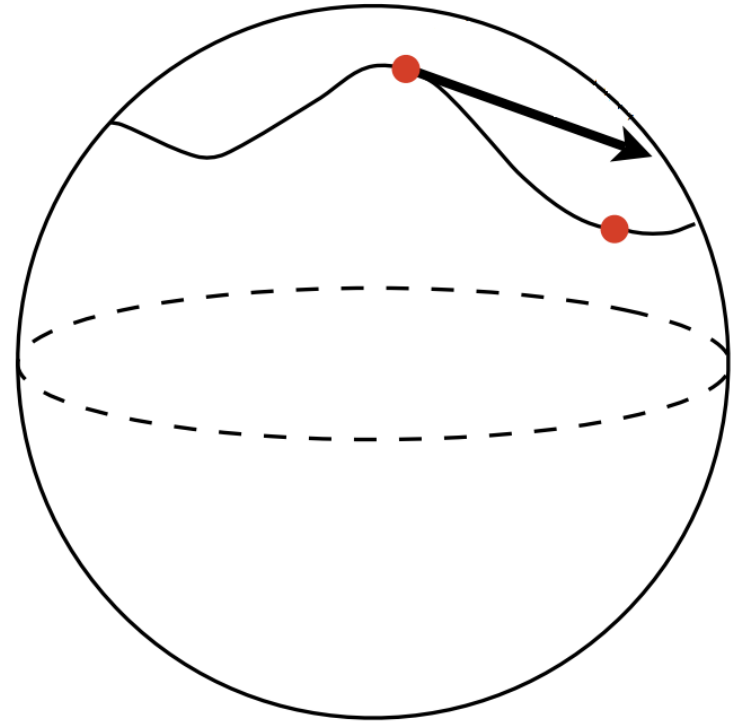
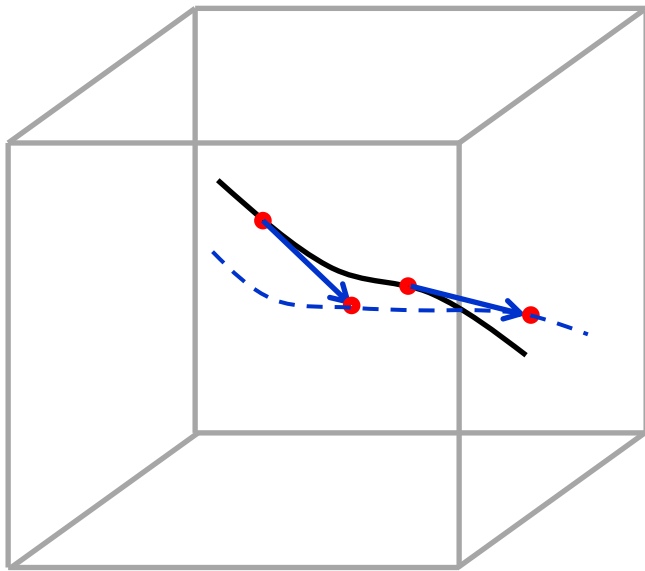
$\mathbb{R}^n$



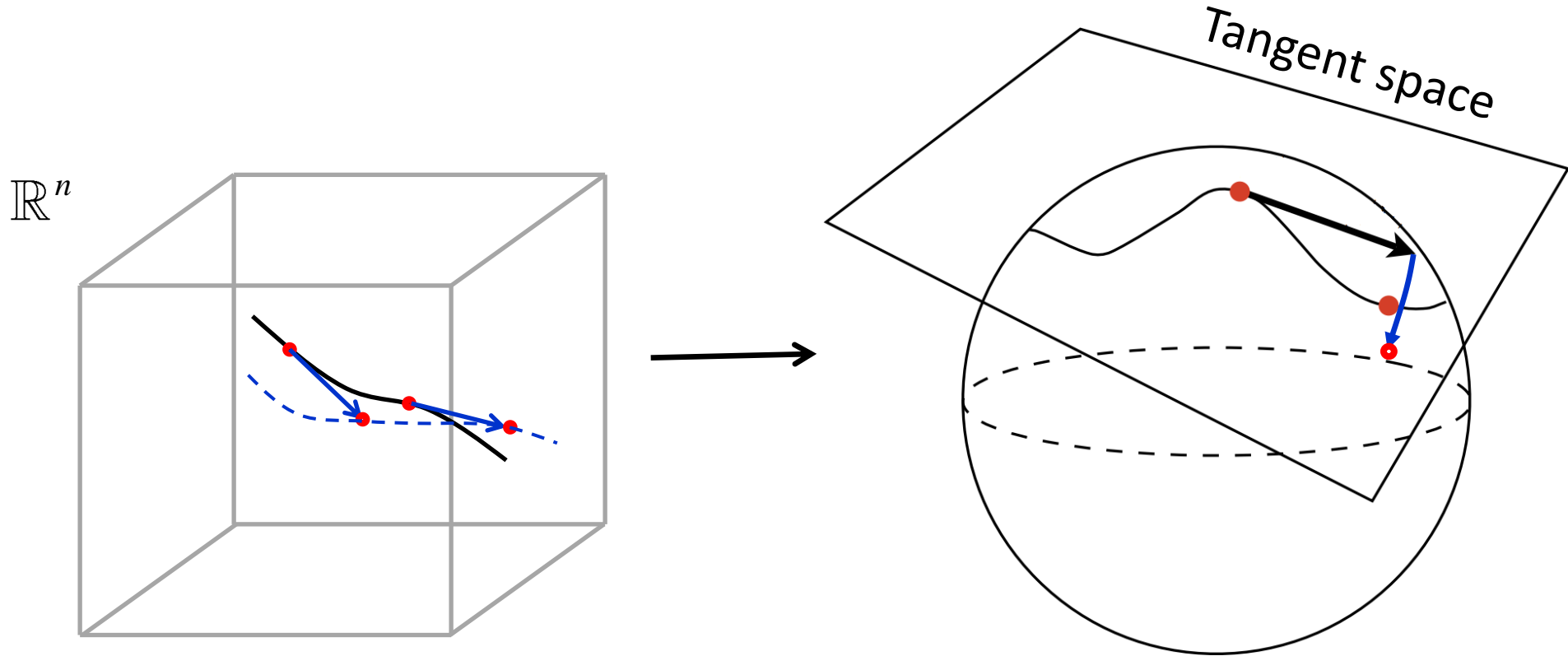
# Optimization over Manifolds

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$\mathbb{R}^n$



# Optimization over Manifolds

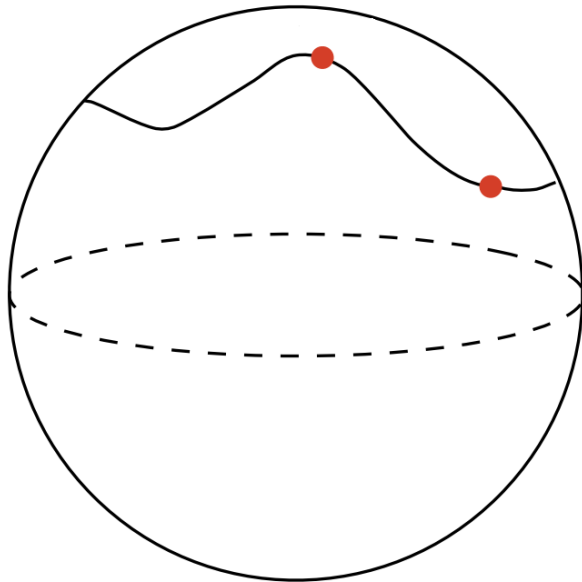


Define projection operator from  
tangent space to manifold



# Case Study: Rotation Group (SO(3))

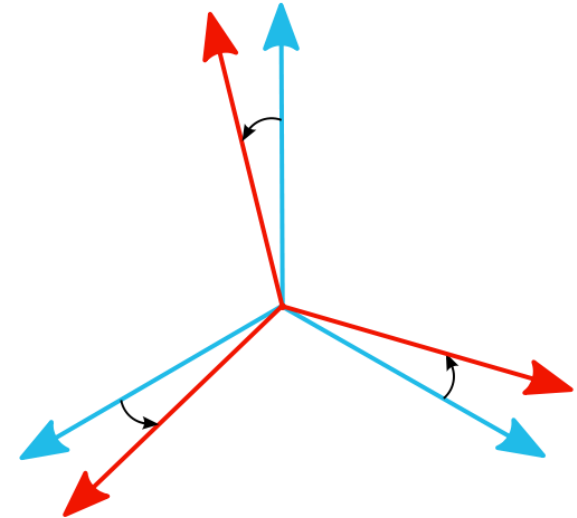
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$\mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$

Rotation matrices:

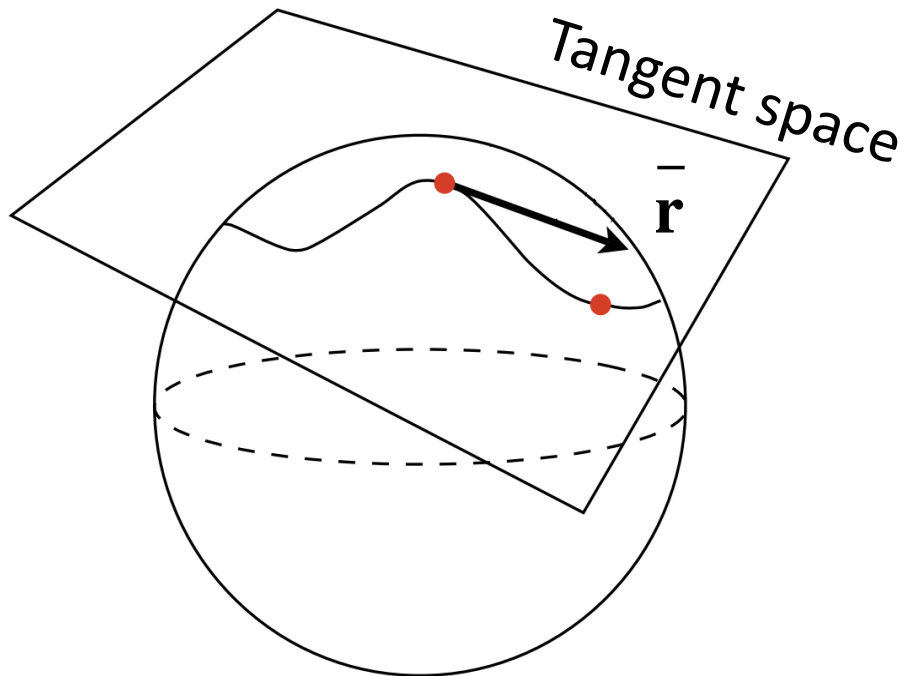
- Unique representation
- 'Smooth'



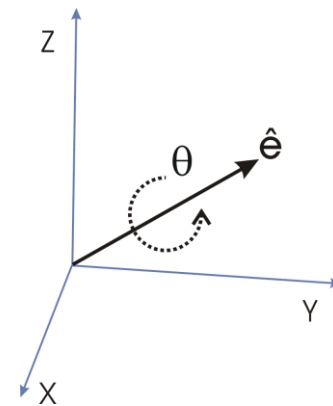
Optimization over  $SO(3)$  arises in robotics, graphics, vision etc.

# Parameterization: Incremental Rotations

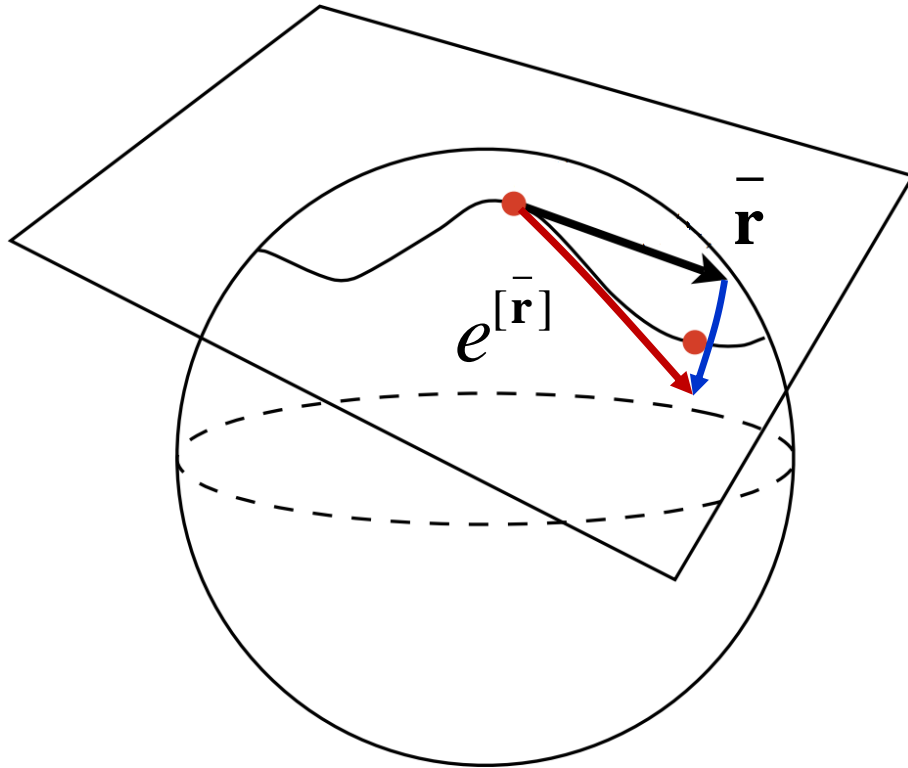
- Why not directly optimize over rotation matrix entries?
  - Over-constrained (orthonormality)
  - Larger number of optimization variables
- Define local parameterization in terms of incremental rotation



$\bar{\mathbf{r}}$ : Incremental rotation to reference rotation defined in terms of axis-angle



# Projection Operator



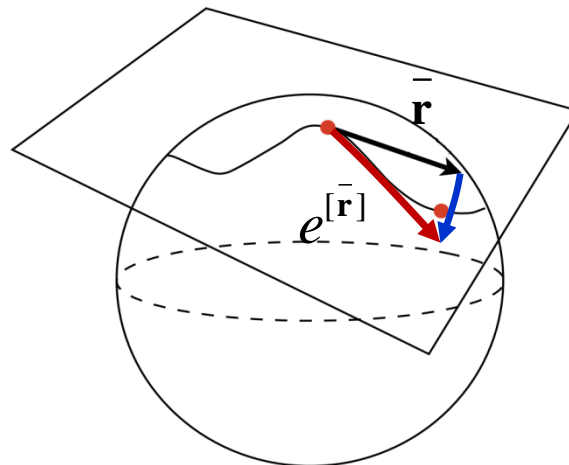
$e^{[\bar{\mathbf{r}}]}$ : Point on  $SO(3)$  that can be reached by traveling along the geodesic in direction  $\mathbf{r}$

$$\text{where } [\bar{\mathbf{r}}] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\bar{r}_z & \bar{r}_y \\ \bar{r}_z & 0 & -\bar{r}_x \\ -\bar{r}_y & \bar{r}_x & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

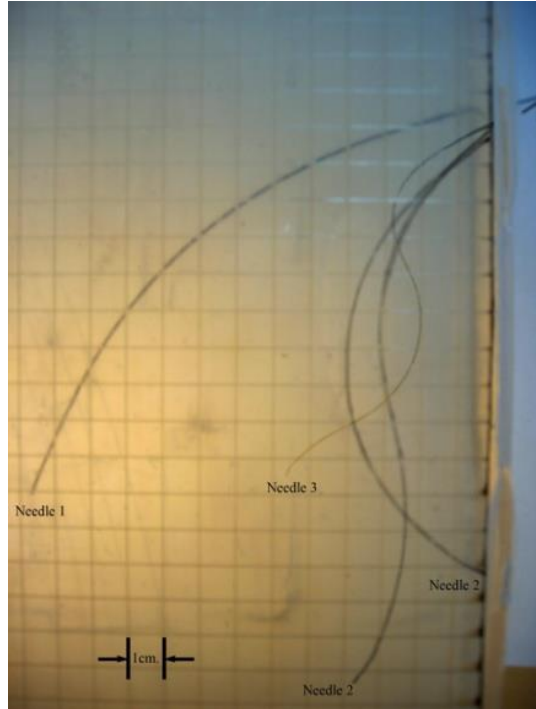
and  $e^X = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} X^k$  is the matrix exponential operator

# Optimization Procedure

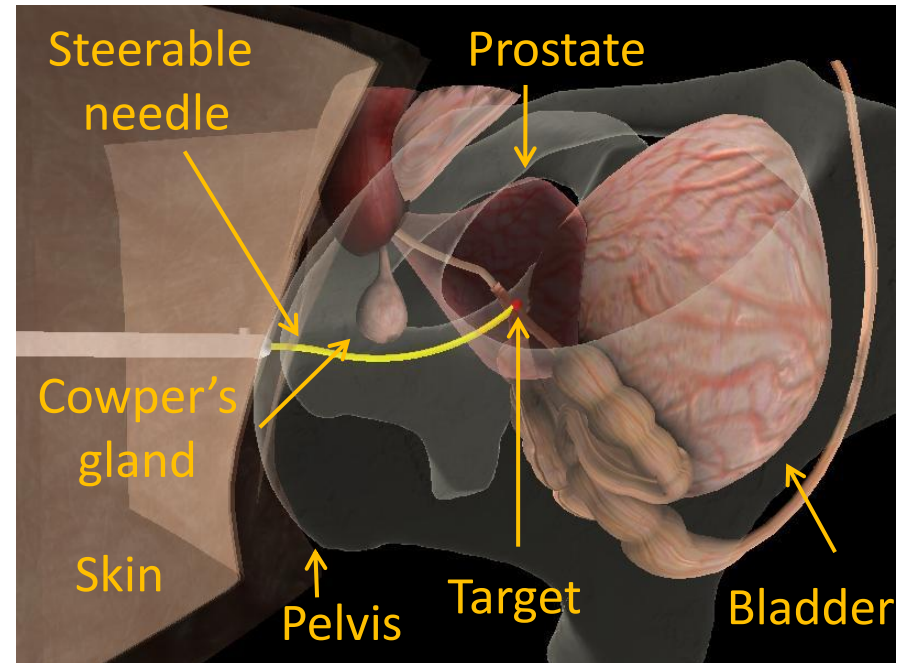
- 1) Seed trajectory:  $\mathcal{R}^i = [\hat{R}_1^i, \dots, \hat{R}_n^i]$
- 2)  $\min$  Objective subject to: Constraints  
 $\bar{\mathcal{R}}^i = [\bar{\mathbf{r}}_1, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{r}}_n]$
- 3) Compute new trajectory:  $\mathcal{R}^{i+1} = [\hat{R}_1^i \cdot e^{[\bar{\mathbf{r}}_1]}, \dots, \hat{R}_n^i \cdot e^{[\bar{\mathbf{r}}_n]}]$
- 4) Reset increments:  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}^{i+1} = [\mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{0}]$



# Steerable Needle



Steerable needles inside phantom tissue

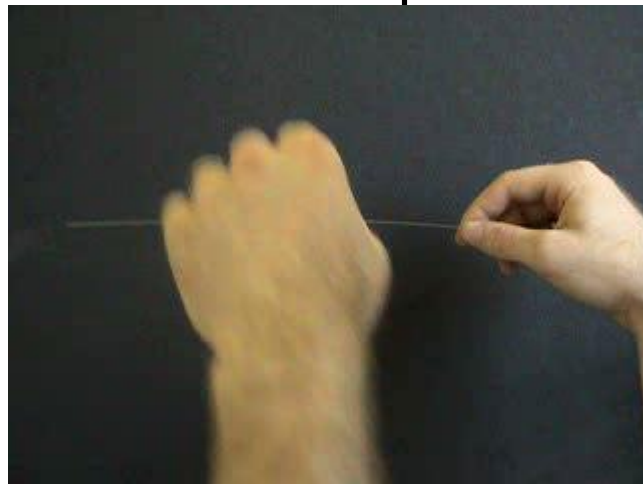


Steerable needles navigate around sensitive structures (simulated)

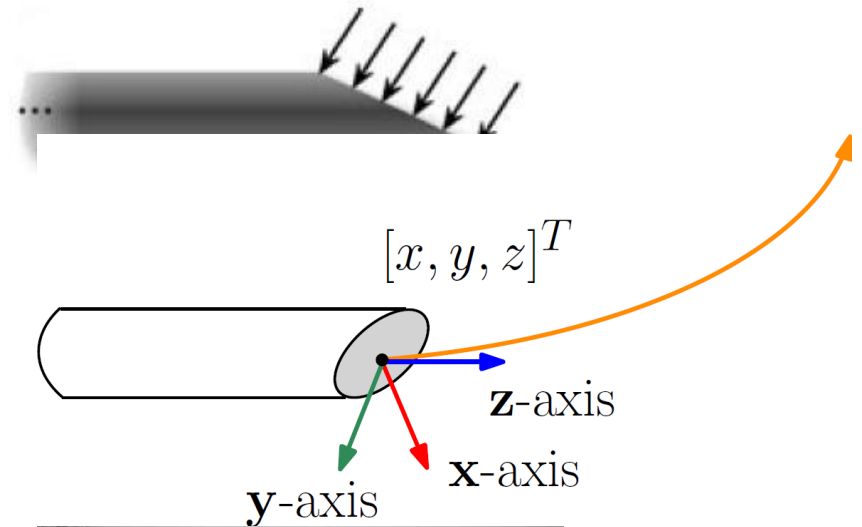
# Steerable Needle



Bevel-tip



Highly flexible



State (needle tip)  $SE(3) : \mathbb{R}^3 \times SO(3)$

- Position: 3D
- Orientation: 3D

Follows constant  
curvature paths

# Steerable Needle: Opt Formulation

$$\min_{\vec{x}, \mathcal{U}} \alpha_{\Delta} \text{Cost}_{\Delta} + \alpha_{\phi} \text{Cost}_{\phi} + \alpha_{\mathcal{O}} \text{Cost}_{\mathcal{O}},$$

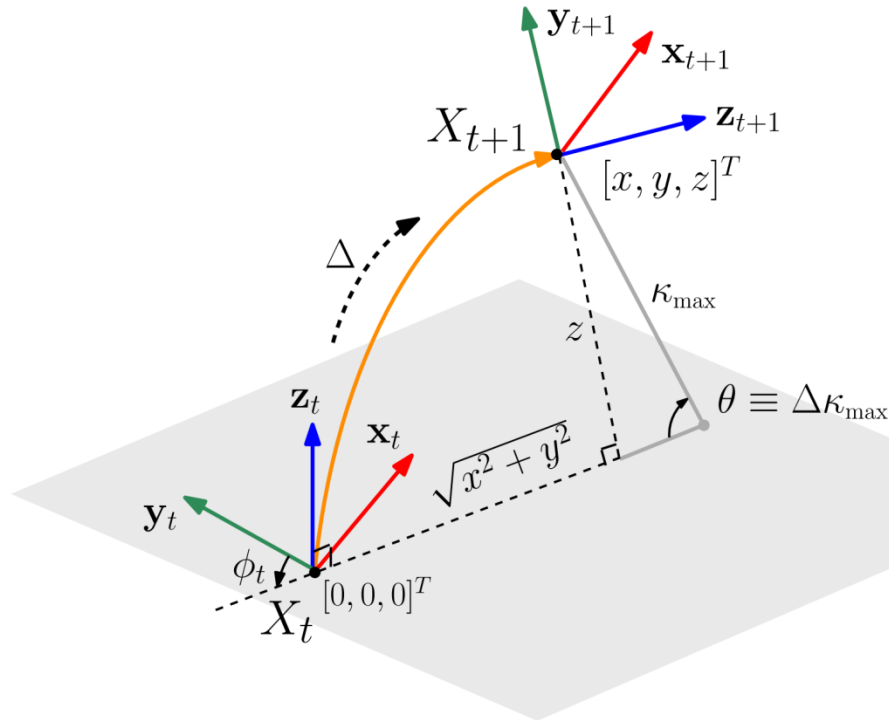
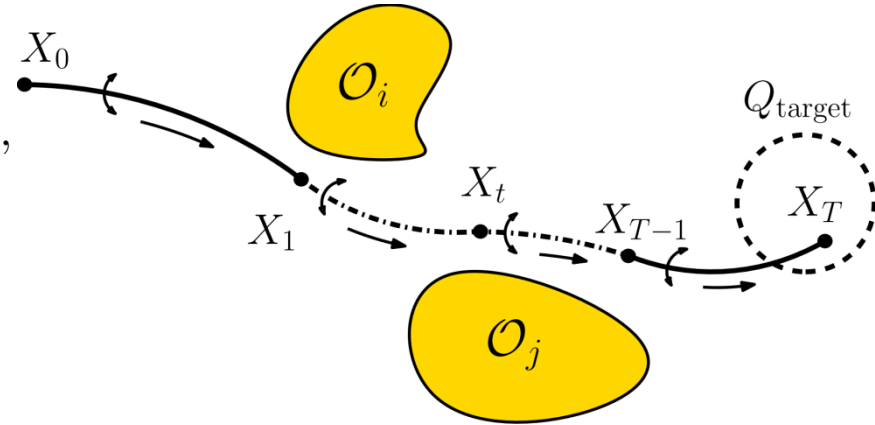
$$\text{s.t. } \log((X_t \cdot \exp(\mathbf{w}_t^{\wedge}) \cdot \exp(\mathbf{v}_t^{\wedge}))^{-1} \cdot X_{t+1})^{\vee} = \mathbf{0}_6,$$

$$\text{sd}(X_t, X_{t+1}, \mathcal{O}_i) \geq d_{\text{safe}} + d_{\text{arc}},$$

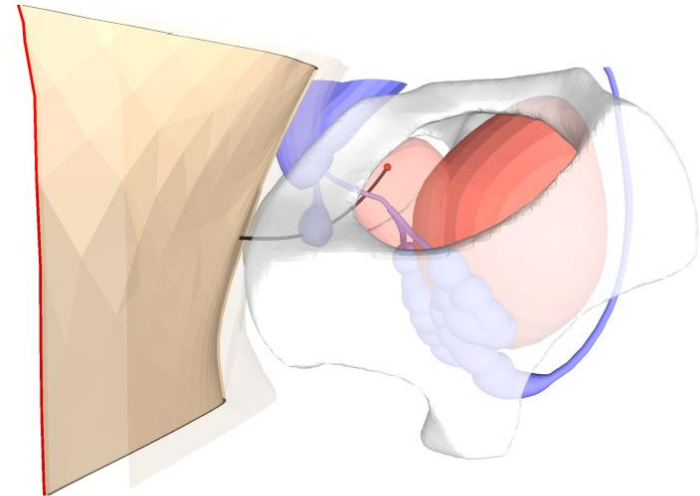
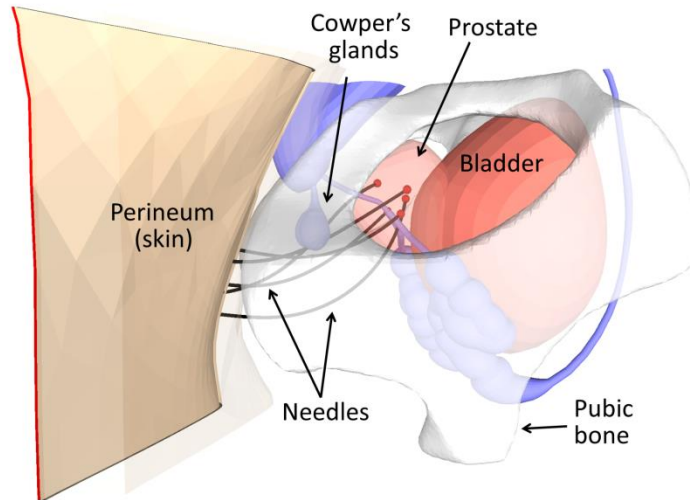
$$X_0 \in Q_{\text{entry}}, X_T \in Q_{\text{target}},$$

$$-\pi \leq \phi_t \leq \pi,$$

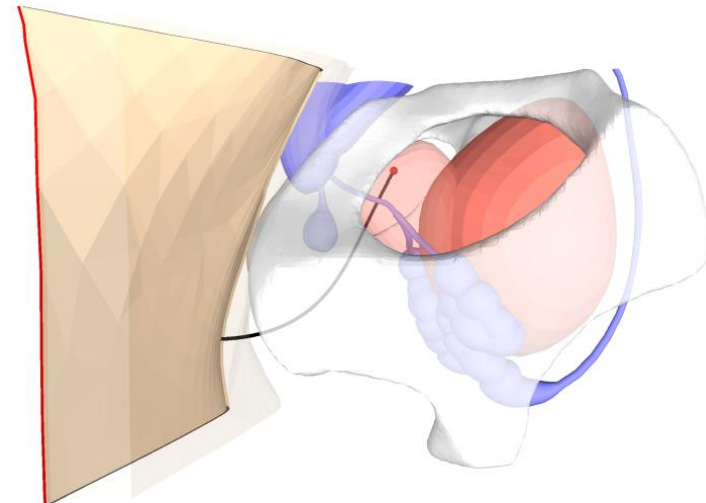
$$\kappa_t = \kappa_{\text{max}}$$



# Steerable Needle Plans



(a) Smaller clearance from obstacles (Cowper's glands) with  $\alpha_O = 1$ .



(b) Larger clearance from obstacles with  $\alpha_O = 10$ .

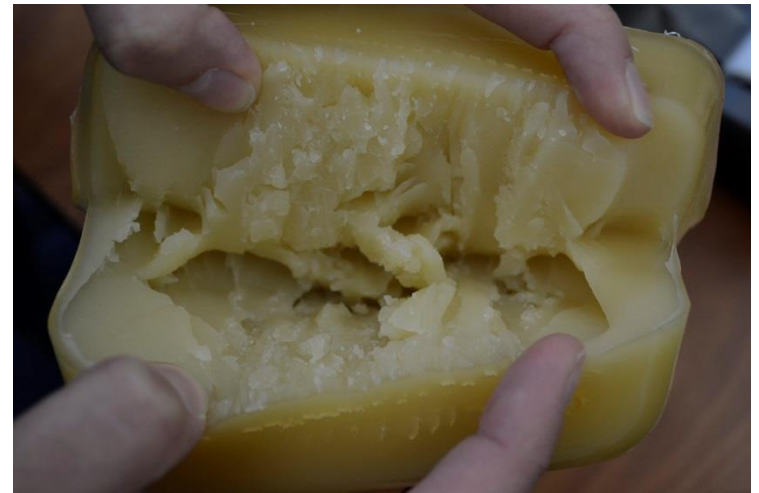


# Results

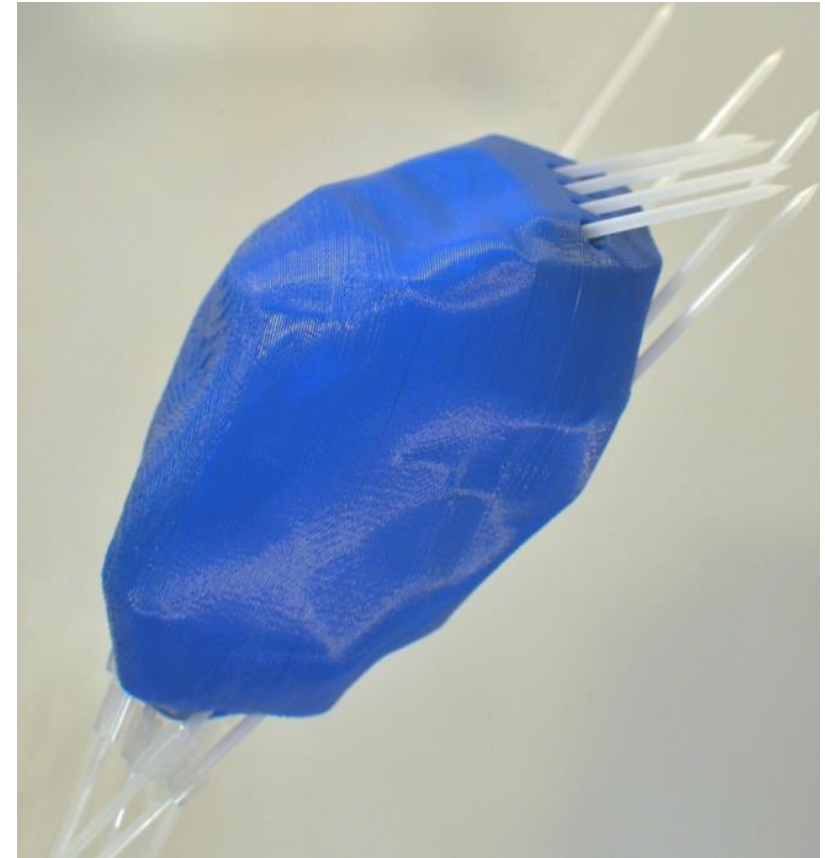
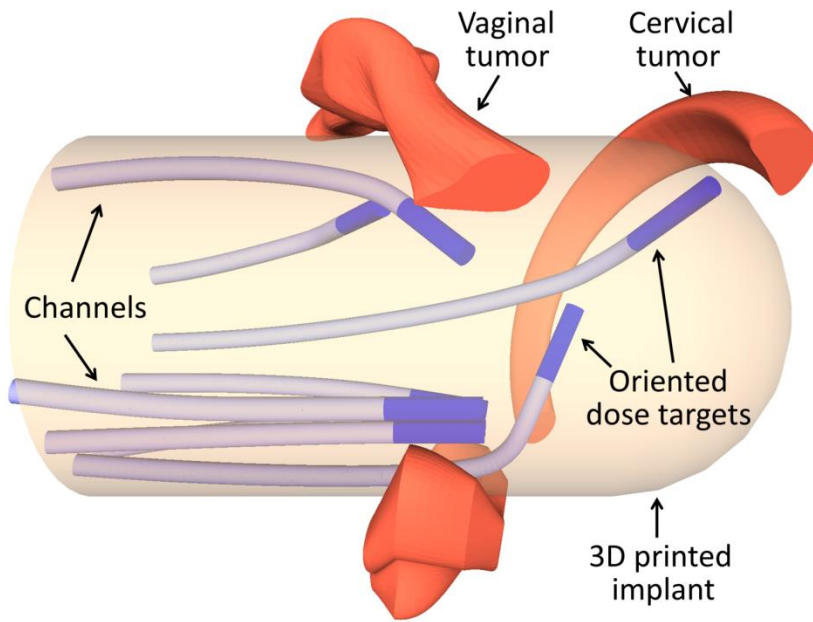
	RRT	collocation $\alpha_{\mathcal{O}} = 1$	shooting $\alpha_{\mathcal{O}} = 1$	collocation $\alpha_{\mathcal{O}} = 10$	shooting $\alpha_{\mathcal{O}} = 10$
solved%	67.3%	76.0%	80.3%	79.0%	89.5%
time (s)	$9.8 \pm 8.1$	$1.8 \pm 1.2$	$1.6 \pm 1.7$	$1.9 \pm 1.3$	$1.8 \pm 1.7$
path length	$11.1 \pm 1.5$	$11.3 \pm 1.4$	$11.6 \pm 1.7$	$11.9 \pm 1.7$	$13.1 \pm 2.3$
twist cost	$34.9 \pm 10.0$	$1.4 \pm 1.4$	$1.0 \pm 1.0$	$1.6 \pm 1.6$	$1.0 \pm 1.0$
clearance	$0.5 \pm 0.4$	$0.7 \pm 0.5$	$0.5 \pm 0.3$	$1.3 \pm 0.4$	$1.2 \pm 0.5$

Performance of our approach on the single needle planning case.

Why is minimizing twist important?



# Channel Layout (Brachytherapy Implants)



# Channel Layout: Opt Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\bar{x}, \mathcal{U}} \alpha_{\Delta} \text{Cost}_{\Delta} + \alpha_{\phi} \text{Cost}_{\phi} + \alpha_{\mathcal{O}} \text{Cost}_{\mathcal{O}}, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \log((X_t \cdot \exp(\mathbf{w}_t^{\wedge}) \cdot \exp(\mathbf{v}_t^{\wedge}))^{-1} \cdot X_{t+1})^{\vee} = \mathbf{0}_6, \end{aligned}$$

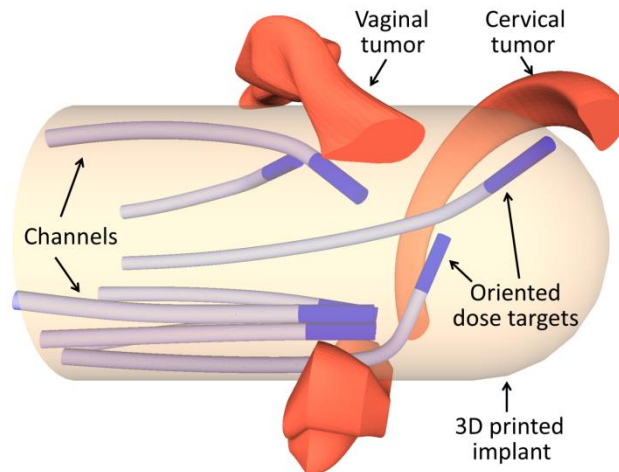
$$\text{sd}(X_t, X_{t+1}, \mathcal{O}_i) \geq d_{\text{safe}} + d_{\text{arc}},$$

$$X_0 \in Q_{\text{entry}}, \quad X_T \in Q_{\text{target}},$$

$$-\pi \leq \phi_t \leq \pi,$$

$$0 \leq \kappa_t \leq \kappa_{\text{max}},$$

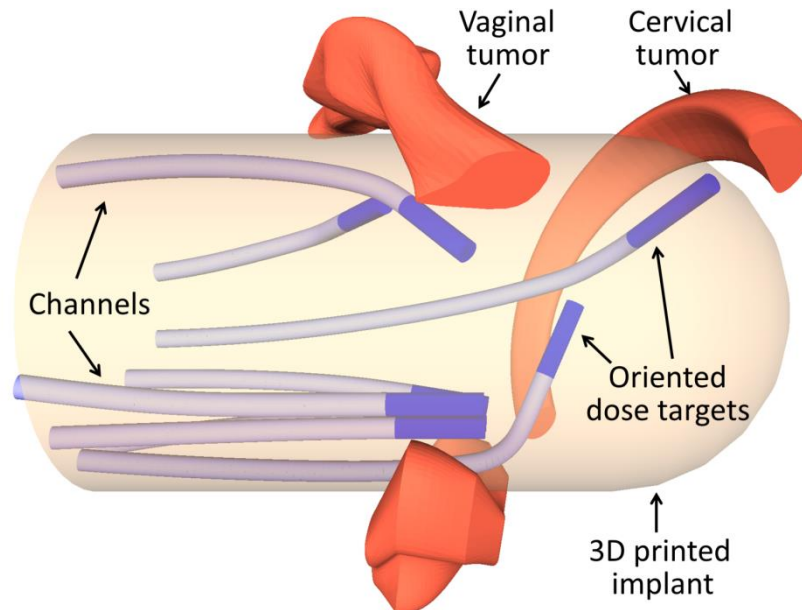
$$\Delta \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \kappa_t \leq c_{\text{max}} \quad \text{for channel planning,}$$



# Results

	RRT	backward shooting
solved%	74.0%	98.0%
time (s)	$30.8 \pm 17.9$	$27.7 \pm 9.8$
path length	$41.3 \pm 0.3$	$38.9 \pm 0.1$
twist cost	$65.5 \pm 8.4$	$4.1 \pm 1.1$

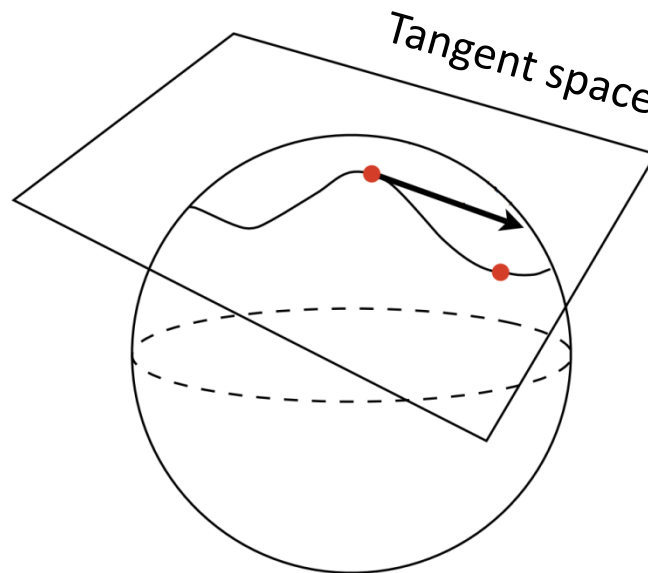
Performance of our approach on the channel layout planning



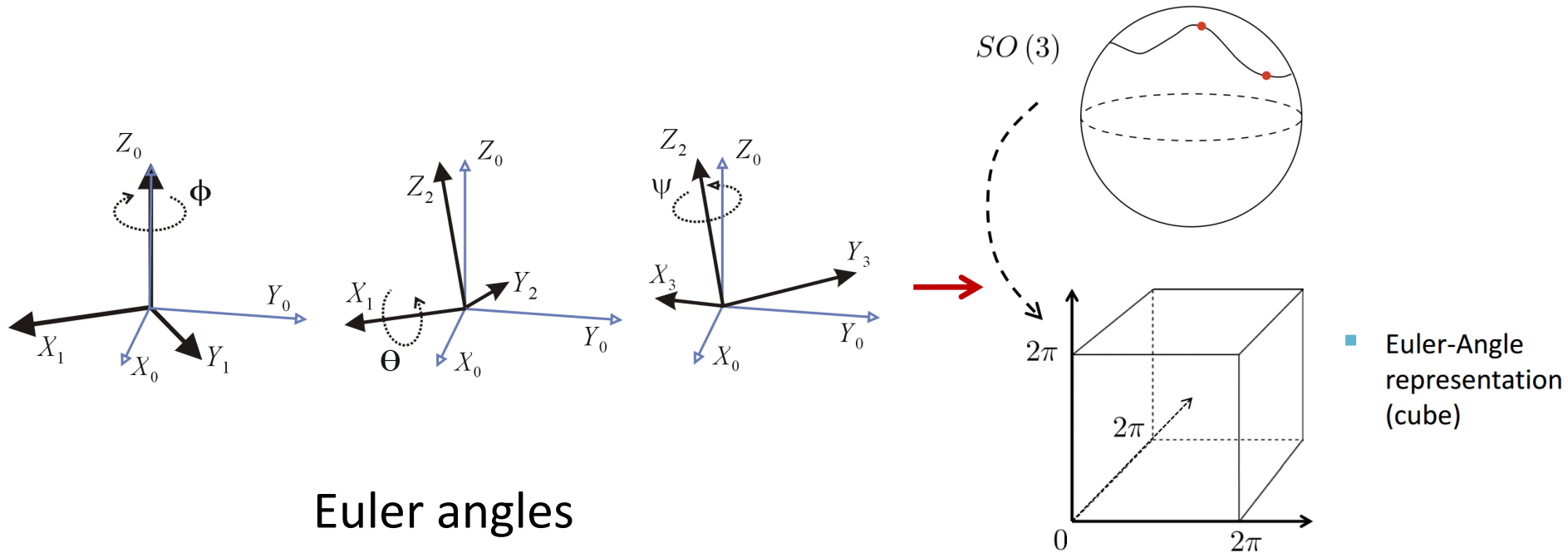
# Takeaways

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- Optimization over manifolds – Generalization of optimization over Euclidean spaces
- Define incremental parameterization and projection operators between tangent space and manifold
- Optimize over increments; reset after each SQP iteration!



# Parameterization: Euler Angles

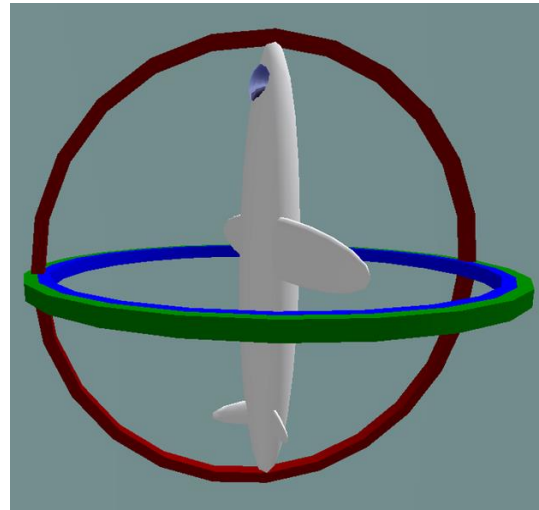
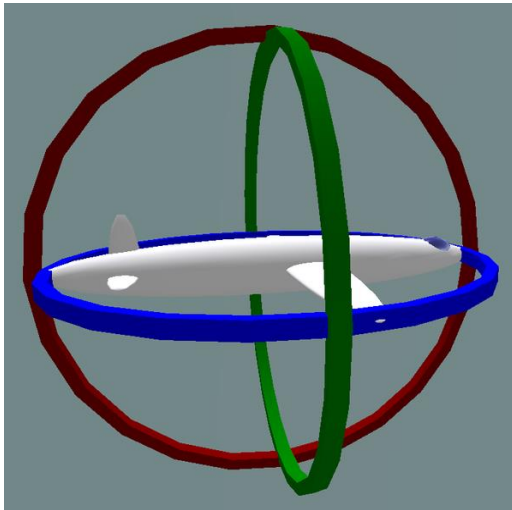


What problems do you foresee in directly using Euler angles in optimization?

# Parameterization: Euler Angles

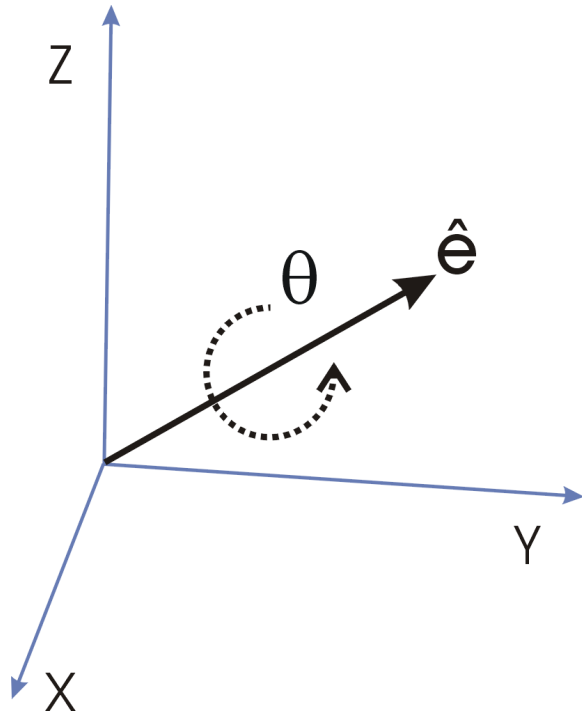
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- Topology not preserved:  $[0, 2\pi] \times [0, 2\pi] \times [0, 2\pi]$
- Not unique, discontinuous
- Gimbal lock



# Parameterization: Axis-Angles

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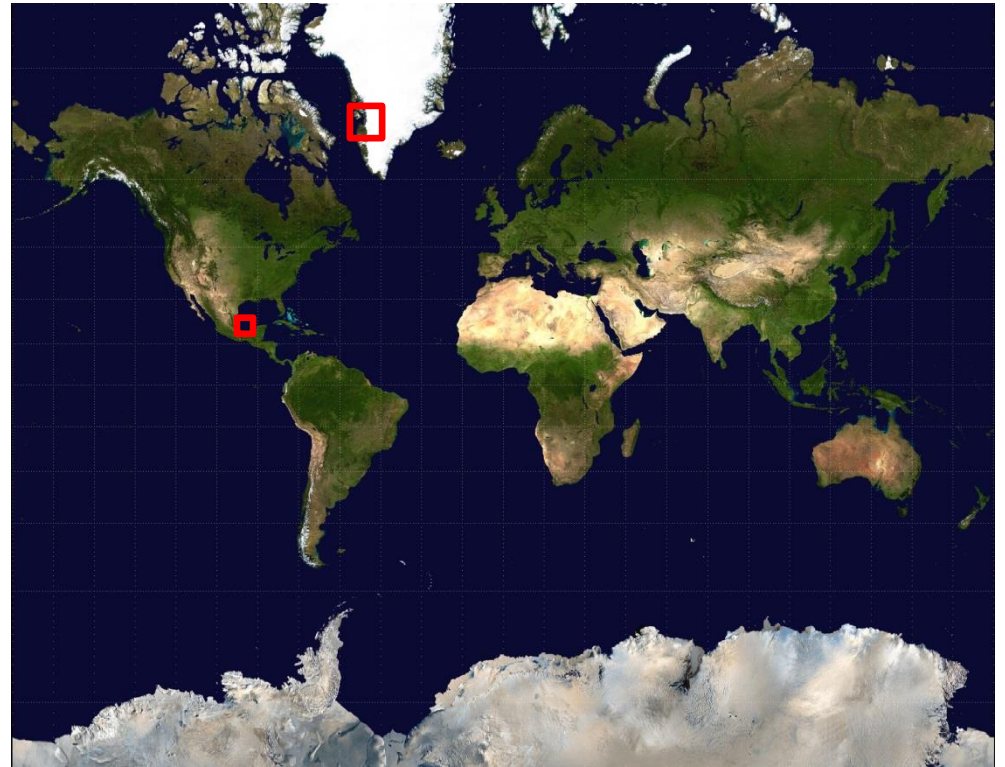
Orientation defined as rotation around axis

- 3-vector; norm of vector is the angle



# Parameterization: Axis-Angles

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Distances are not preserved!

Solution: Keep re-centering the axis-angle around a reference rotation (identity)