Self-contained Multisensorial Calibration

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A. Roncone, M. Hoffmann, U. Pattacini and G. Metta, "Automatic kinematic chain calibration using artificial skin: Self-touch in the iCub humanoid robot," 2014 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2014, pp. 2305-2312.



L. Rustler, B. Potocna, M. Polic, K. Stepanova and M. Hoffmann, "Spatial calibration of whole-body artificial skin on a humanoid robot: comparing self-contact, 3D reconstruction, and CAD-based calibration," 2020 IEEE-RAS 20th International Conference on Humanoid Robots (Humanoids), 2021, pp. 445-452.

Calibration in our group



J. Rozlivek, L. Rustler, K. Stepanova and M. Hoffmann, "Multisensorial robot calibration framework and toolbox," 2020 IEEE-RAS 20th International Conference on Humanoid Robots (Humanoids), 2021, pp. 459-466.

Data collection illustration



K. Stepanova, T. Pajdla and M. Hoffmann, "Robot Self-Calibration Using Multiple Kinematic Chains—A Simulation Study on the iCub Humanoid Robot," in IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 1900-1907, April 2019.



K. Stepanova, J. Rozlivek, F. Puciow, P. Krsek, T. Pajdla, M. Hoffmann, Automatic self-contained calibration of an industrial dual-arm robot with cameras using self-contact, planar constraints, and self-observation, Robotics and Computer-Integrated Manufacturing, Volume 73, 2022.

Why is calibration important?

• Parameters can change over time

- wear and tear
- encoder errors
- accidents
- New parts can be added after manufacturing
 - replacements
 - new sensors
- New cheaper and lightweight robots are less accurate
 - however, provide rich set of sensors useful for self-contained calibration



Planar constraints

Calibration approaches



Self-observation



External devices



Self-touch

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Parameters of the links

- Estimation of parameter vector $\phi = {\phi_k}_{k \in K}$
 - where k are individual links expressed as:
 - Denavit-Hartenberg (DH) notation $\phi_k = \{[a_k, d_k, \alpha_k, o_k]\}$
 - a_k, d_k, α_k are the first three DH parameters and o_k is the offset of the encoders
 - or, translation and rotation vector $oldsymbol{\phi}_k = \{[oldsymbol{t}_{oldsymbol{k}}, oldsymbol{r}_{oldsymbol{k}}]\}$
 - t_k is three-dimensional vector of translation and r_k three-dimensional vector composed from unit axis of rotation $u_k = \frac{r_k}{||r_k||}$ and rotation angle $\Theta_k = ||r_k||$

Datasets

- Each dataset point D_i from dataset D is defined as $D_i = [pn_i, \theta_i, cp_i, rp_i, c_i]$
 - where pn_i is a pose number, θ_i are current joint angles, cp_i are the contact points, rp_i are the reference points and c_i are indexes of used cameras
- Each calibration approach has a unique dataset and the datasets are united to one *D*^{whole} = {*D*st, *D*^{pl}, *D*^{so}, *D*^{ed}}
 - where st stands for self-touch, pl for plane contact, so for self-observation and ed for external devices
- Usually two points x^A, x^B from sets of points x^A, x^B

Parameters optimization

- Optimization of objective function as $\phi^* = \underset{\phi}{\operatorname{argmin}} f(\phi, D, \zeta)$
 - where $f(\phi, D, \zeta) = \|g(\phi, D, \zeta)\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{M} g(\phi, D_i, \zeta)^2$
 - g is defined for each approach, M is number of configurations (poses) and ζ are other parameters (fixed transformation, camera calibration, etc.)
- Individual functions g can be united into the overall function $g(\phi, D, \zeta) = [k^{st} \odot g^{st}(\phi, D^{st}, \zeta), k^p \odot g^p(\phi, D^p, \zeta), k^{so} \odot g^{so}(\phi, D^{so}, \zeta), k^{ed} \odot g^{ed}(\phi, D^{ed}, \zeta)],$
 - where \odot marks the Hadamard product $(e.g., (\mathbf{k}^{st} \odot \mathbf{g}^{st})_i = k_i^{st} \cdot g_i^{st}), \mathbf{k}^j (j \in \{st, p, so, ed\})$ are the scale factors allowing combination of approaches

Self-touch

- Chains A, B
 - Parameters $\boldsymbol{\phi} = \{ \boldsymbol{\phi}^A, \boldsymbol{\phi}^B \}$
 - \circ minimization of the distance between two points $oldsymbol{x}^A, oldsymbol{x}^B$
 - tactile sensors, fingers, tool, etc.
- Function $g^{st}(\phi, D^{st}, \zeta) = [c(\phi, D_1, \zeta) q(\zeta), ..., c(\phi, D_M, \zeta) q(\zeta)]$
 - where $c(\phi, D_i, \zeta) = ||X_i^A(\phi^A, D_i, \zeta) X_i^B(\phi^B, D_i, \zeta)||$ is a distance between x^A, x^B and $q(\zeta)$ is the contact offset (e.g., thickness of the skin)





Plane constraints

- Chain A and plane p
 - parameters $\boldsymbol{\phi} = \{ \boldsymbol{\phi}^A, \mathbf{n}, d \}$

• $\mathbf{n} = (a, b, c)$ is a normal vector from plane equation ax + by + cz + d = 0

- minimization of the distance between end-effector \boldsymbol{x}^A and a plane
- Function $g^p(\phi, D^p, \zeta) = [c(\phi^{p_1}, D^{p_1}, \zeta) q(\zeta), ..., c(\phi^{p_n}, D^{p_n}, \zeta) q(\zeta)]$
 - where $c(\phi^{p_j,A}, D_i^{p_j}, \zeta) = ||n^{p_j}p_i^{p_j}(\phi^{p_j,A}) + d^{p_j}||$ is the distance for plane *j* and $q(\zeta)$ is the contact offset





Self-observation

- Chain A (observed) and chain B (camera)
 - parameters $\boldsymbol{\phi} = \{ \boldsymbol{\phi}^A, \boldsymbol{\phi}^B \}$
 - minimization of projection of point x^A into the camera plane and point x^B in the camera image
- Function $g^{so}(\phi, D^{so}, \zeta) = [p(\phi, D_1, \zeta) z(D_1), ..., p(\phi, D_{M'}, \zeta) z(D_{M'})]$
 - where $p(\phi, D_i, \zeta)$ is the projection and $z(D_i)$ is the actual observed point in the camera image
 - the observed point in the image is found using ArUco markers
 - the projection is done by using pinhole camera model





External devices

• Chain A

- parameters $\boldsymbol{\phi} = \{ \boldsymbol{\phi}^A, \boldsymbol{R}, \boldsymbol{t} \}$
 - R, t are the rotation matrix and translation vector of the external device w.r.t. The robot base frame
 - R, t can be found with SVD (Arun et al. 1987)
- Minimization of the distance between $\boldsymbol{x}^{A}, \boldsymbol{x}^{ed}$
 - retroreflector on the robot
- Function $g^{ed}(\phi, D^{ed}, \zeta) = [p(\phi, D_1, \zeta), ..., p(\phi, D_M, \zeta)]$
 - where $p(\phi, D_i, \zeta) = ||X_i^{ed} X_i^A||$ is the distance between x^A, x^{ed}
 - \circ x^{ed} is usually acquired with laser measuring device





Minimization

- Non-linear least squares
 - \circ sines and cosines
 - solved by numerical methods
 - Gauss-Newton, Levenberg-Marquardt, Trust Region Reflective
- Gauss-Newton

 $\circ \boldsymbol{g}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{0}, \ \boldsymbol{g}: \mathbb{R}^n o \mathbb{R}^m$

m equations and *n* variables, no solution

• criterion function
$$f(\mathbf{x}) = ||\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})||^2 = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum g_i(\mathbf{x})^2$$

$$\circ \quad \bm{x}_{k+1} = \bm{x}_{k} - \bm{g}^{'}(\bm{x}_{k})^{+}\bm{g}(\bm{x}_{k}) = \bm{x}_{k} - \left(\bm{g}^{'}(\bm{x}_{k})^{T}\bm{g}^{'}(\bm{x}_{k})\right)^{-1}\bm{g}^{'}(\bm{x}_{k})^{T}\bm{g}(\bm{x}_{k})$$

• Levenberg-Marquardt

$$\circ \boldsymbol{x}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{x}_k - \left(\boldsymbol{g}'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)^T \boldsymbol{g}'(\boldsymbol{x}_k) + \mu_k \boldsymbol{I}\right)^{-1} \boldsymbol{g}'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)^T \boldsymbol{g}(\boldsymbol{x}_k)$$

m

Things to avoid

• Wrong dataset

- bad distribution of training examples
 - check joint distribution plots
 - check identifiability of parameters
 - computed from identification matrix
 - the closer the values to zero, the worse identifiability -> the parameter cannot be calibrated
 - (Optional) observability may be checked as well
- Compensation
 - if the problem is badly scaled, individual links may compensate
 - two link are shifted for few centimeters, but the calibration will move only one for the sum of the errors
 - can be solved by using bounds

•
$$\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{x}_{k} - \left(\boldsymbol{g}^{'}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k})^{T} \boldsymbol{g}^{'}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k}) + \mu_{k} \boldsymbol{I} \right)^{-1} \boldsymbol{g}^{'}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k})^{T} \boldsymbol{g}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k})$$

- $\circ \mu_k I$ can be seen as regularization
- \circ μ_k should get smaller when criterion decreases and higher otherwise
 - with multiples of 10 usually
- Exercise: Compute one iteration of LM algorithm
 - System of equations $x^2 = 1$

$$\begin{array}{c} x = 2 \\ y = 5 \end{array}$$

- 1. Define the cost function
- 2. Write matrix **g** and its derivative
- 3. Compute \boldsymbol{x}_1 and μ_1 for $\boldsymbol{x}_0 = (0,0)$ and $\mu_0 = 10$



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- Exercise: Compute one iteration of LM algorithm
 - System of equations $x^2 = 1$ x = 2y = 5
 - 1. Define the cost function

$$f(x,y) = \boldsymbol{g}(x,y)^T \boldsymbol{g}(x,y)$$

- Exercise: Compute one iteration of LM algorithm
 - \circ System of equations $x^2 = 1$

$$\begin{array}{c} x = 2\\ y = 5 \end{array}$$

2. Write matrix **g** and its derivative

$$g = \begin{bmatrix} x^2 - 1 \\ x - 2 \\ y - 5 \end{bmatrix} \qquad g' = \begin{bmatrix} 2x & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Exercise: Compute one iteration of LM algorithm
 - System of equations $x^2 = 1$ x = 2y = 5
 - 3. Compute x_1 and μ_1 for $x_0 = (0,0)$ and $\mu_0 = 10$ $x_{k+1} = x_k - (g'(x_k)^T g'(x_k) + \mu_k I)^{-1} g'(x_k)^T g(x_k)$

$$f(x_0, y_0) = f(0, 0) = 30$$

$$f(x_0, y_0) = f(0, 0) = 30$$
 \longrightarrow e.g., $\mu_1 = 1$
 $f(x_1, y_1) = f(0.1818, 0.4545) = 24.9019$

 $x_1 = (0.1818 \ 0.4545)$

$$\boldsymbol{g} = \begin{bmatrix} x^2 - 1\\ x - 2\\ y - 5 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\boldsymbol{g}' = \begin{bmatrix} 2x & 0\\ 1 & 0\\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$tg(a) = \frac{p_x}{p_z} = \frac{u_x}{f} \to u_x = f\frac{p_x}{p_z}$$



$$u_{x} = f \frac{p_{x}}{p_{z}} \qquad \qquad \lambda u_{x} = f p_{x}$$
$$u_{y} = f \frac{p_{y}}{p_{z}} \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad \lambda u_{y} = f p_{y}$$
$$\lambda = p_{z}$$



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$$u_{y} = f \frac{p_{y}}{p_{z}} \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad \lambda u_{y} = f p_{y}$$
$$\lambda = p_{z}$$



$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ p_z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u_x = o_x + s_x f \frac{p_x}{p_z}$$
$$u_y = o_y + s_y f \frac{p_y}{p_z}$$
$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_x f & 0 & o_x \\ 0 & s_y f & o_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ p_z \end{bmatrix}$$

