

Trajectory Optimization

- Problem Statement
- Multivariate calculus refresher
- Functional Gradient Descent
- CHOMP

Problem Statement

Background: configuration space

$R(q) : C \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(W) \quad (W \subset \mathbb{R}^2 / \mathbb{R}^3)$
 $q \mapsto \{x \mid x \in W, x \text{ occupied by the robot}\}$
 $q = (x, y) \quad R(q) = \odot$
 $q = (x, y, \theta) \quad R(q) = \triangle$
 $q = (\theta_1, \theta_2) \quad R(q) = \text{human arm?}$

$R(q_1) \in \mathcal{C}_{free}$
 $R(q_2) \in \mathcal{C}_{obs}$
 $R(q_3) \in \mathcal{C}_{obs}$

Forward kinematics: $\phi : C \rightarrow W$ (OR $SE(2)$ notation)

$\phi_{EE} : q \mapsto x$ - location of EE
 $(\theta_1, \theta_2) \mapsto \text{robot}$

Inverse kinematics: $IK : W \rightarrow C$ (PCC)

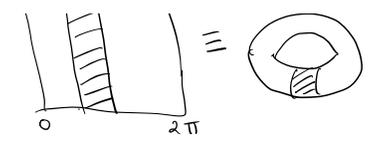
$IK(x) = \{q \mid \phi(q) = x\}$

Obstacles $O \subset W \quad C_{obs} = \{q \in C \mid R(q) \cap O \neq \emptyset\} \quad C_{free} = C \setminus C_{obs}$

More Obs:

$\theta = 0$
 $\theta = \pi$
 $\theta = 2\pi$

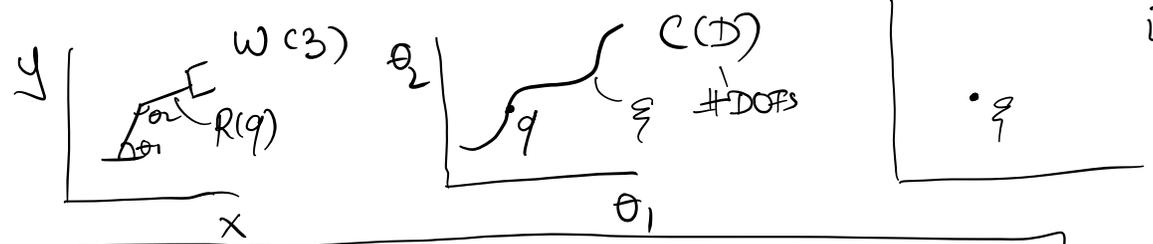
Note: link-link collisions would also be part of obs



$\gamma: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ - trajectory
 time config. space
 $\in \Pi$

$\mathcal{U}: \Pi \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ - cost functional
 functions scalars

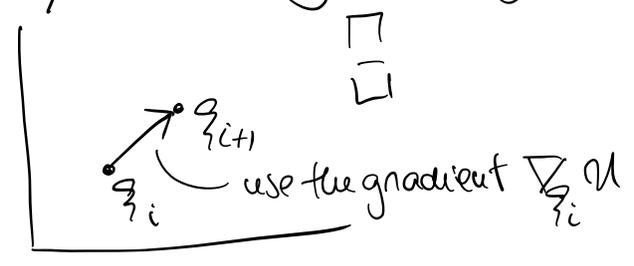
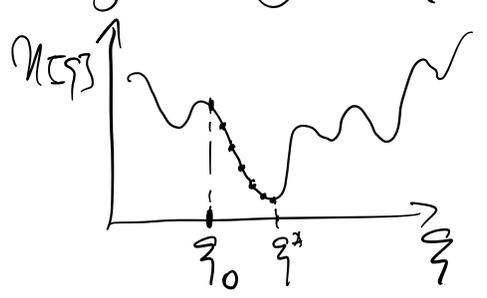
\mathcal{U} : efficiency, smoothness, naturalness, legibility, obs avoidance!



$\Pi(\infty)$

Find $\gamma^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\gamma \in \Pi} \mathcal{U}[\gamma]$
 st. $\gamma(0) = q_s \quad \gamma(T) = q_g$

Often: find γ^* st. $\mathcal{U}[\gamma^*] < \mu$ "good enough"



Calculus Background

$t \in \mathbb{R}$ $t \in [0, T]$; $q \in C \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ $D = \# \text{DOFs}$
 $q : [0, T] \rightarrow C$; $t \mapsto q$; $t \mapsto \{q(t) = \begin{pmatrix} q^1(t) \\ q^2(t) \\ \vdots \\ q^D(t) \end{pmatrix}$ vector-valued function
→ vector calculus

if we discretize time

$q = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 \\ q_2 \\ \vdots \\ q_N \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}_{N \times D}$ $U : \square \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$
 multivariate function
 → multivariate calculus

if we don't : $N = \infty$ → functional
 → calculus of variations

Derivative : $f(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
 $f'(x) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+\epsilon) - f(x)}{\epsilon}$ (slope) (scalar)

example: $f(x) = 2x$ $f'(x) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x + 2\epsilon - 2x}{\epsilon} = 2$

Partial derivative : assume other variables are constant

$f(x, y) : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (e.g. U)
 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+\epsilon, y) - f(x, y)}{\epsilon}$ (scalar)

example: $f(x, y) = 2x + y + xy$
 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{2(x+\epsilon) + y + (x+\epsilon)y - 2x - y - xy}{\epsilon}$
 $= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{2\epsilon + \epsilon y}{\epsilon} = 2 + y$

Gradient :



$$\nabla_{(x,y)} f(x,y) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x,y) \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x,y) \end{pmatrix}$$

(vector) (direction of greatest rate of increase)
(magnitude = slope in that dir.)
(* see end)

example: $f(x,y) = 2x + y + xy$ $\nabla_{(x,y)} f(x,y) = \begin{pmatrix} 2+y \\ 1+x \end{pmatrix}$

Ordinary derivative of vector-valued function :

$$f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(x) \\ f_2(x) \end{pmatrix} \text{ (e.g. } \begin{pmatrix} x \\ x^2 \end{pmatrix} \text{)}$$

$$f'(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} \end{pmatrix} \text{ (vector)}$$

example: $f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x+1 \\ 2x \end{pmatrix}$ $f'(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

Vector by vector :

$$f(x,y) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(x,y) \\ f_2(x,y) \end{pmatrix} \text{ (e.g. forward kinematics)} \quad \phi(q) = \begin{pmatrix} x(q) \\ y(q) \\ z(q) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial (x,y)} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} - \text{Jacobian matrix}$$

example: $f\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2x+y \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ $J = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$f\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \quad f(v) = Av \Rightarrow J = A$$

$$f(v) = v^T A v \Rightarrow \nabla = v^T (A + A^T) \quad \nabla = S^T$$

(scalar valued multivariate)

$$\nabla = (A + A^T)v$$

if $A = I$, $\nabla = 2v$

if A symmetric, $\nabla = 2Av$

$$(x, y) \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = (ax + cy \quad bx + dy) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= ax^2 + cxy + bxy + dy^2$$

$$\nabla = \begin{pmatrix} 2ax + (b+c)y \\ (b+c)x + 2dy \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2a & b+c \\ b+c & 2d \end{pmatrix}}_{A + A^T} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$A \qquad A^T$

2nd order derivatives:

$$f(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; \quad f'(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; \quad f''(x) = \frac{d^2 f(x)}{dx^2}$$

$$f(x, y) : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; \quad \nabla_{(x, y)} f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2; \quad \nabla_{(x, y)}^2 f = \text{Jacobian of } \nabla_{(x, y)} f$$

Hessian matrix

Functional gradient:

$$f(g) \quad g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad f : (\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (\text{e.g. } \mathcal{U})$$

Note: different from $f(g(x)) = h(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

↳ next lecture

Chain rule

$$F(x) = f(g(x)) \quad F'(x) = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$$

$$y = g(x) \quad z = f(g(x)) \quad \frac{dz}{dx} = \frac{dz}{dy} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\text{multivariate: } F(x(\varepsilon), y(\varepsilon)) \quad \frac{dF}{d\varepsilon} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{d\varepsilon} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{d\varepsilon}$$

Integration by parts

$$\int_a^b f g' dx = f g \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b g f' dx$$

Functional Gradient descent



$$\xi_{i+1} = \xi_i - \frac{1}{\alpha} \nabla_{\xi_i} \mathcal{U}$$

Note: \mathbb{L}^2 - Hilbert space

↳ complete vector space + inner product

for now, assume $\langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle = \int \xi_1(t)^T \xi_2(t) dt$
"Euclidean"

• Symmetry ✓

• linearity in 1st argument

$$\langle a \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle = a \langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle \quad \checkmark$$

$$\langle \xi_1 + \xi_2, \xi_3 \rangle = \langle \xi_1, \xi_3 \rangle + \langle \xi_2, \xi_3 \rangle \quad \checkmark$$

• pos. definiteness

$$\langle \eta, \eta \rangle \geq 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\langle \eta, \eta \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \eta = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\xi = \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle = \xi_1^T \xi_2 \quad \text{"Euclidean"}$$

Euler-Lagrange

$$\mathcal{J}(\eta) = \int_0^T F(t, \eta(t), \eta'(t)) dt$$

$$\text{and } \langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle = \int \xi_1(t)^T \xi_2(t) dt$$

$$\text{then } \boxed{\nabla_{\eta} \mathcal{U}(t) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial \eta(t)}(t) - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \eta'(t)}(t)}$$

Example:

$$\mathcal{U}(\eta) = \frac{1}{2} \int \|\eta'(t)\|^2 dt \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Shape? straight line} \\ \text{Timing? constant velocity} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\nabla_{\eta} \mathcal{U}(t) = 0 - \frac{d}{dt} \eta'(t) = -\eta''(t)$$

$$\text{global min } \nabla_{\eta} \mathcal{U} = 0 \Rightarrow -\eta''(t) = 0 \Rightarrow \eta'(t) = a$$

$$\Rightarrow \eta(t) = at + b$$

[determine a, b from $\eta(0), \eta(T)$]

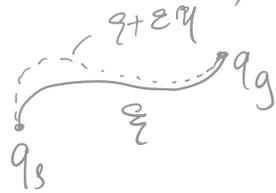
Proof:

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad f(x+\varepsilon) \approx f(x) + \varepsilon f'(x) \quad \text{1st order Taylor}$$

$$U: \frac{\tau}{\tau} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \quad U(\xi + \varepsilon \eta) \approx U(\xi) + \varepsilon \langle \nabla_{\xi} U, \eta \rangle$$

η : smooth disturbance

$$\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}$$



$$U(0) = U(\tau) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \nabla_{\xi} U, \eta \rangle = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{U(\xi + \varepsilon \eta) - U(\xi)}{\varepsilon} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{def: } \langle \nabla_{\xi} U, \eta \rangle = \int \nabla_{\xi} U(t)^T \eta(t) dt \quad (2)$$

$$\text{let } \phi(\varepsilon) = U(\xi + \varepsilon \eta)$$

$$(1) \Rightarrow \langle \nabla_{\xi} U, \eta \rangle = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\phi(\varepsilon) - \phi(0)}{\varepsilon - 0} = \frac{d\phi}{d\varepsilon}(0)$$

$$= \frac{d \left(\int_0^{\tau} F(t, \xi(t) + \varepsilon \eta(t), \xi'(t) + \varepsilon \eta'(t)) dt \right)}{d\varepsilon} \Big|_{\varepsilon=0}$$

exchange integration-differentiation (Leibniz's Rule)

$$\int_0^{\tau} \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} F(t, \underbrace{\xi(t) + \varepsilon \eta(t)}_{x(\varepsilon)}, \underbrace{\xi'(t) + \varepsilon \eta'(t)}_{y(\varepsilon)}) dt \quad (0)$$

chain rule (multivariate)

$$F(x(\varepsilon), y(\varepsilon)) \quad \frac{dF}{d\varepsilon} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{d\varepsilon} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{d\varepsilon}$$

$$\int_0^{\tau} \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \eta(t) + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \eta'(t) dt \quad (0)$$

$$\int_0^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta(t)} (t, \zeta(t), \zeta'(t))^T \eta(t) + \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta'(t)} (t, \zeta(t), \zeta'(t))^T \eta'(t) dt$$

compactly

$$\int_0^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}^T}{\partial \zeta} \eta + \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}^T}{\partial \zeta'} \eta' dt$$

Integration by parts

$$\int_a^b g g' dx = g|_a^b - \int_a^b g' g dx$$

$$\int_0^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}^T}{\partial \zeta'} \eta' dt = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta'} \eta \Big|_0^T}_{\text{because } \eta(0) = \eta(T) = 0} - \int_0^T \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta'} \eta dt$$

because
 $\eta(0) = \eta(T) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{d\zeta} \phi(0) = \int_0^T \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}^T}{\partial \zeta} \eta - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta'} \eta dt$$

$$= \int_0^T \left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta'} \right] \eta dt$$

$$(2) : = \int_0^T \nabla_{\zeta} \mathcal{U}^T \eta dt \quad \text{by}$$

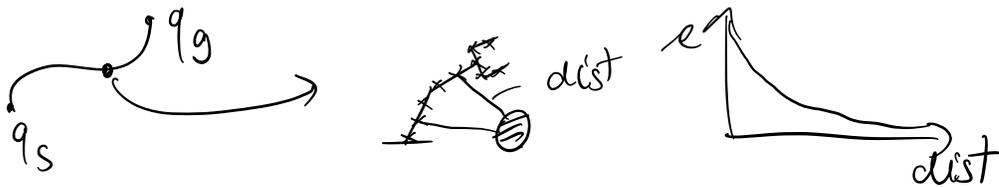
$$\Rightarrow \nabla_{\zeta} \mathcal{U} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \zeta'}$$

Example 11: Covariant Hamiltonian Optimization for Motion Planning

$$U[\gamma] = U_{\text{obs}}[\gamma] + \lambda U_{\text{smooth}}[\gamma]$$

$c: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ based on signed distance field
 distance from closest obstacle in w clear, because in w

$$U_{\text{obs}}[\gamma] = \int_t \int_b c(\phi_b(\gamma(t))) \cdot \left\| \frac{d}{dt} \phi_b(\gamma(t)) \right\| db dt$$



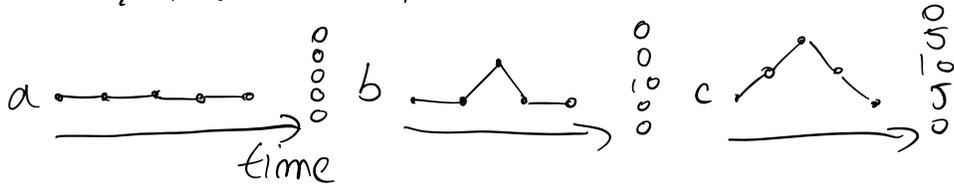
Note: can take gradient of U_{obs} without explicit representation of c_{obs} - uses Jacobian to pass info from workspace/world into c_{space}

$$U_{\text{smooth}}[\gamma] = \frac{1}{2} \int u \|\dot{\gamma}(t)\|^2 dt$$

Make it prob. complete via Hamiltonian Monte Carlo: sample some traj. momentum

Different Inner Products

$$\langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle = \xi_1^T \xi_2$$



$$\left. \begin{aligned} \|a-b\|^2 &= (a-b)^T (a-b) = 100 \\ \|a-c\|^2 &= (a-c)^T (a-c) = 150 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \|a-b\|^2 < \|a-c\|^2 \quad \times$$

Idea: $\langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle = \xi_1^T A \xi_2$ make c closer to a than b is

detour: $U(\xi) = \sum_t \|q_{t+1} - q_t\|^2$

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} \diagdown & & 0 \\ & \diagdown & \\ 0 & & \diagdown \end{bmatrix} \quad K \cdot \begin{bmatrix} q_2 \\ \vdots \\ q_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} q_2 \\ q_3 - q_2 \\ \vdots \\ q_{N-1} - q_{N-2} \\ -q_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad e = \begin{bmatrix} -q_1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ q_N \end{bmatrix}$$

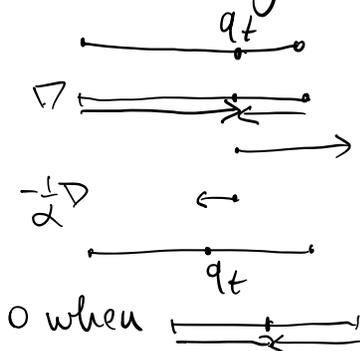
$$U(\xi) = \frac{1}{2} (K\xi + e)^T (K\xi + e) = \frac{1}{2} \xi^T \underbrace{K^T K}_A \xi + \dots$$

$$\nabla_{\xi} U(\xi) = -(q_{t+1} - q_t) + q_t - q_{t+1} = 2q_t - q_{t+1} - q_{t+1}$$

$$\nabla_{\xi} U = A \cdot \xi \quad (+ \text{end point fixes})$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \diagdown & & 0 \\ & \diagdown & \\ 0 & & \diagdown \end{bmatrix}$$

note: ∇ encourages constant velocity:



$$\langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle = \xi_1^T A \xi_2$$

$$\|a-b\|^2 = (a-b)^T A (a-b) = (0, 0, 10, 0, 0) \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(0, -10, 20, -10, 0) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \underline{200}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|a-c\|^2 &= (a-c)^T A (a-c) = (0, 5, 10, 5, 10) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (-5, 10-10, -5+20-5, -10+10, -5) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (-5, 0, 10, 0, -5) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0+0+100+0+0 = \underline{100} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \|a-c\|^2 < \|a-b\|^2$$

Impact on gradient:

$$\mathcal{U}(\xi) \approx \mathcal{U}(\xi_i) + \langle \nabla_{\xi}^{\mathbb{I}} \mathcal{U}, \xi - \xi_i \rangle_{\mathbb{I}}$$

$$\mathcal{U}(\xi) \approx \mathcal{U}(\xi_i) + \langle \nabla_{\xi}^A \mathcal{U}, \xi - \xi_i \rangle_A$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla_{\xi}^{\mathbb{I}} \mathcal{U}^T \mathbb{I} (\xi - \xi_i) = \nabla_{\xi}^A \mathcal{U}^T A (\xi - \xi_i) \quad \forall \xi$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla_{\xi}^{\mathbb{I}} \mathcal{U}^T = \nabla_{\xi}^A \mathcal{U}^T A \Rightarrow \nabla_{\xi}^A \mathcal{U} = A^{-1} \nabla_{\xi}^{\mathbb{I}} \mathcal{U}$$

propagate Euclidean gradient through A^{-1}

$$\nabla_{\xi}^{\mathbb{I}} \mathcal{U} = \text{---}$$

$$\nabla_{\xi}^A \mathcal{U} = \text{---}$$

turns trajectory into elastic band

Relation to Newton Method / Alternative derivation:

$$\xi_{i+1} = \underset{\xi}{\operatorname{argmin}} \underbrace{U(\xi_i) + \nabla_{\xi}^T U(\xi_i)^T (\xi - \xi_i)}_{\text{first order TSE}} + \underbrace{\frac{\alpha}{2} \|\xi - \xi_i\|_A^2}_{\text{stay close to } \xi_i}$$

$$\nabla = 0: 0 + \nabla_{\xi}^T U + \alpha \cdot A(\xi - \xi_i) = 0$$

$$\xi - \xi_i = -\frac{1}{\alpha} A^{-1} \nabla_{\xi}^T U$$

$$\boxed{\xi = \xi_i - \frac{1}{\alpha} A^{-1} \nabla_{\xi}^T U}$$

Newton's Method: replace A with Hessian
(A is Hessian of U_{smooth} only)

(*) Gradient direction = steepest direction

$$\max_{\Delta: \Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 \leq \varepsilon} f(x, y) + \Delta$$

$$f(x, y) + \Delta \approx f(x, y) + \underbrace{\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Delta y}_{\Delta^T \nabla}$$

does not depend on Δ $\Delta^T \nabla$

$$\max_{\Delta: \|\Delta\| \leq \sqrt{\varepsilon}} \Delta^T \nabla \rightarrow \text{align } \Delta \text{ with } \nabla$$
$$\Delta = \frac{\nabla}{\|\nabla\|} \cdot \sqrt{\varepsilon}$$