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# CS686: Configuration Space II

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Course URL:  
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# Class Objectives (Ch. 3)

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- **Configuration space**
  - **Definitions and examples**
  - **Obstacles**
  - **Paths**
  - **Metrics**
  
- **Last time:**
  - **Degrees-of-freedom (DoFs) of C-space w/ holonomic, non-holonomic and dynamic constraints**

# Obstacles in the Configuration Space

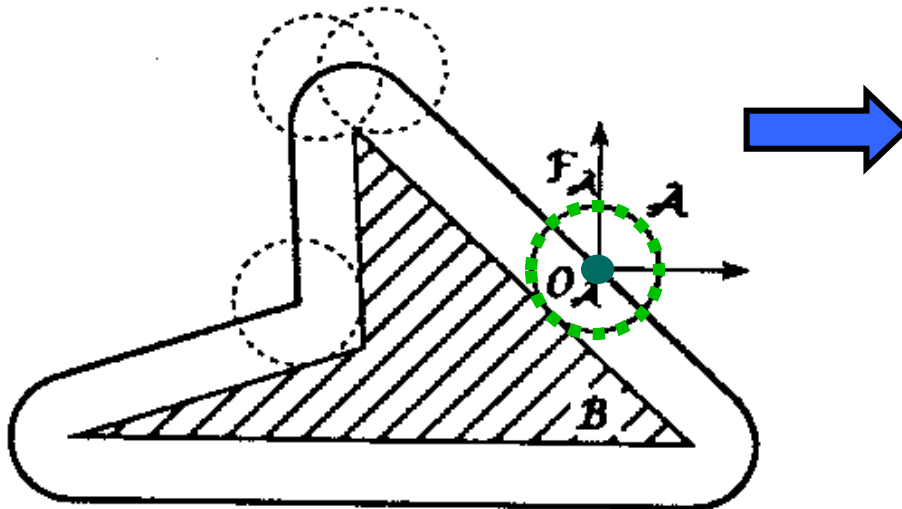
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- A configuration  $q$  is collision-free, or **free**, if a moving object placed at  $q$  does not intersect any obstacles in the workspace
- The **free space**  $F$  is the set of free configurations
- A configuration space obstacle (**C-obstacle**) is the set of configurations where the moving object collides with workspace obstacles

# Disc in 2-D Workspace

workspace

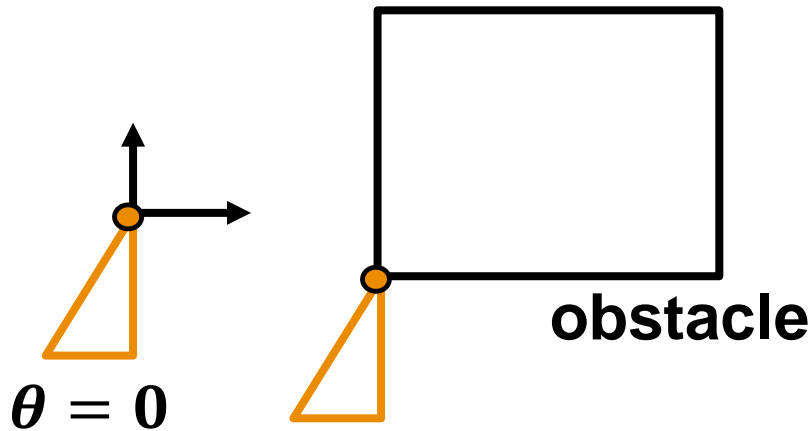
configuration space



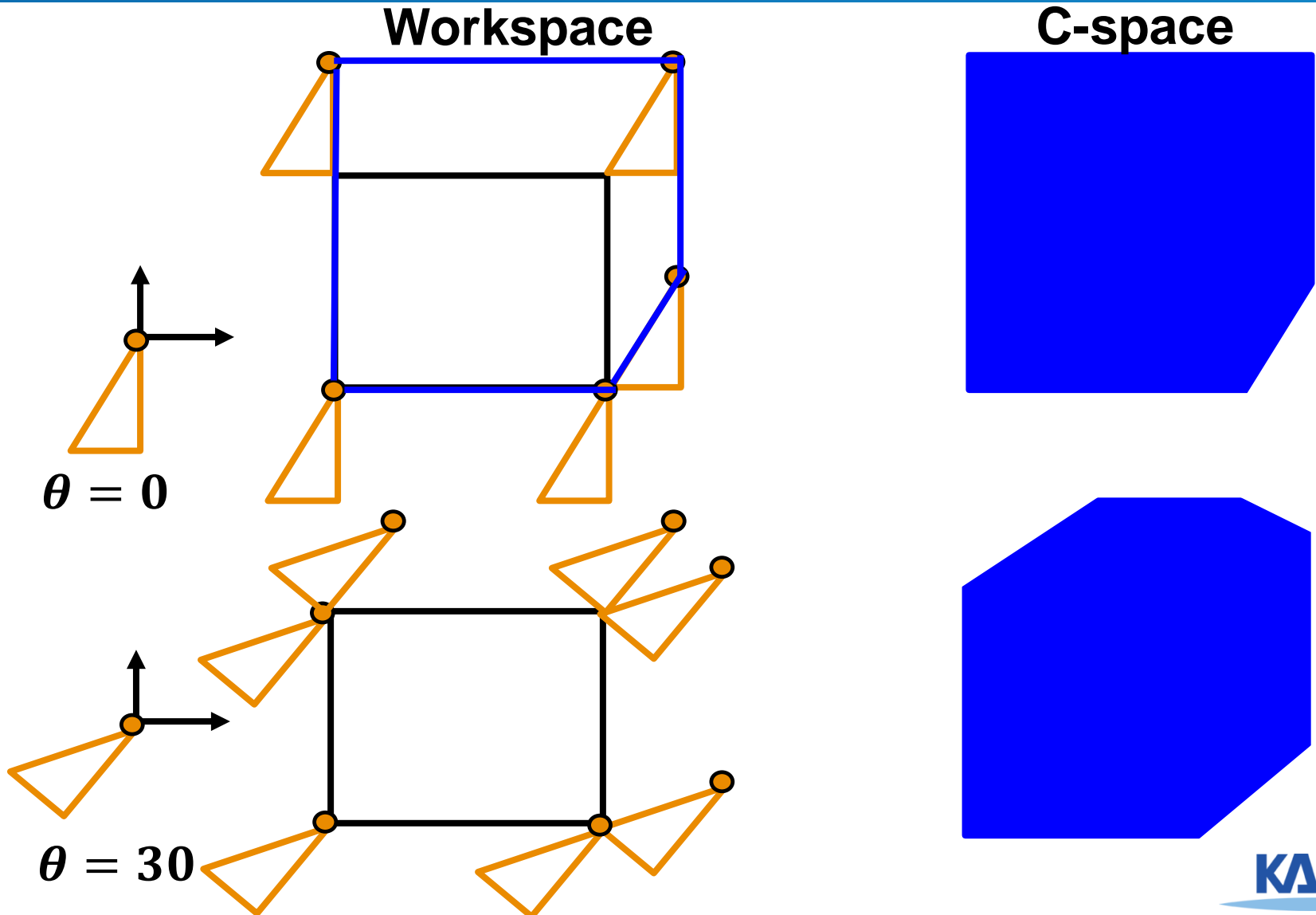
# Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace

Workspace

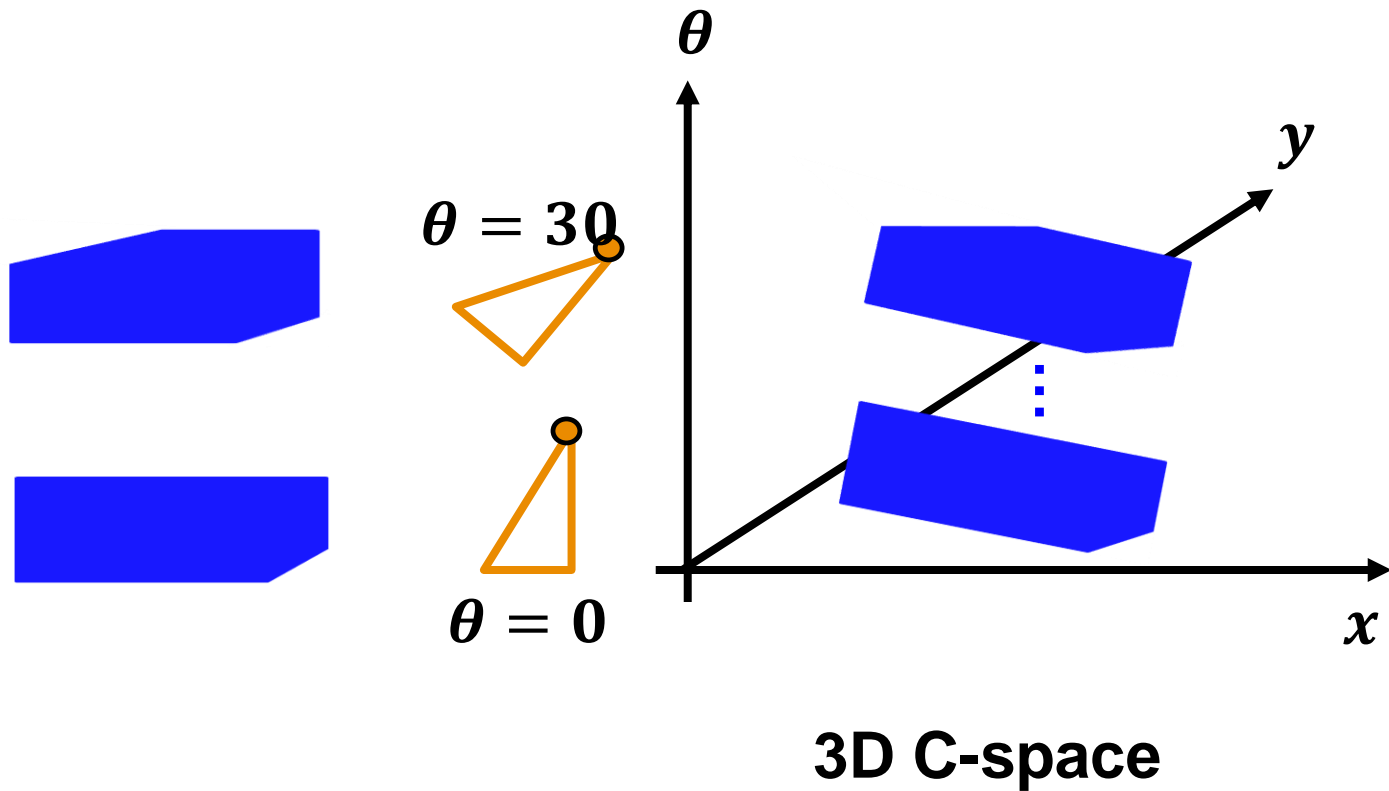
C-space



# Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace



# Polygonal Robot Translating & Rotating in 2-D Workspace



# C-Obstacle Construction

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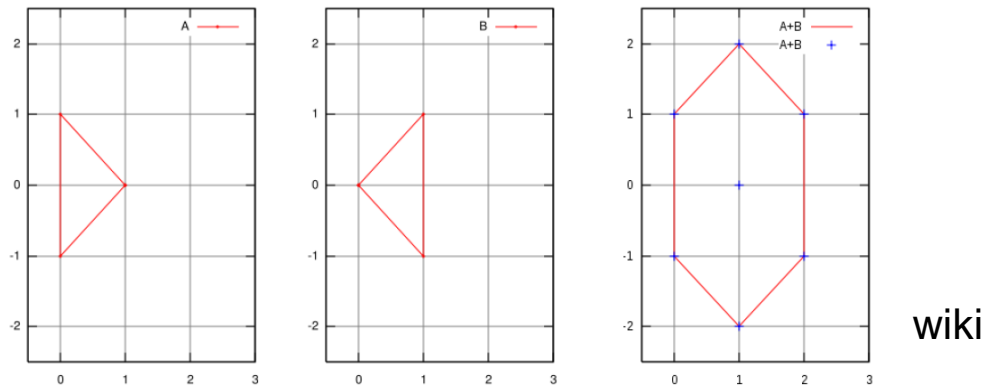
- **Input:**
  - **Polygonal moving object translating in 2-D workspace**
  - **Polygonal obstacles**
- **Output:**
  - **Configuration space obstacles represented as polygons**



# Minkowski Sum

- The **Minkowski sum** of two sets  $P$  and  $Q$ , denoted by  $P \oplus Q$ , is defined as

$$P \oplus Q = \{ p+q \mid p \in P, q \in Q \}$$



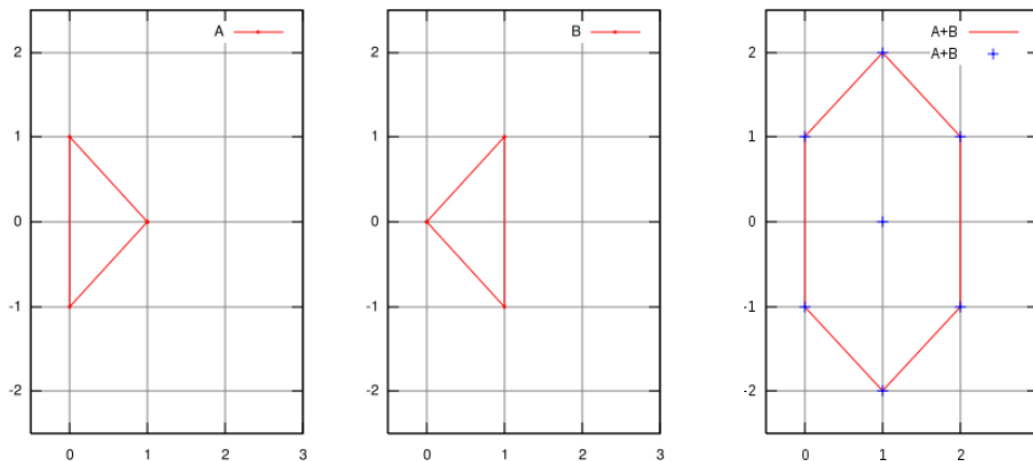
wiki

- Similarly, the **Minkowski difference** is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} P \ominus Q &= \{ p-q \mid p \in P, q \in Q \} \\ &= P \oplus -Q \end{aligned}$$

# Minkowski Sum of Convex Polygons

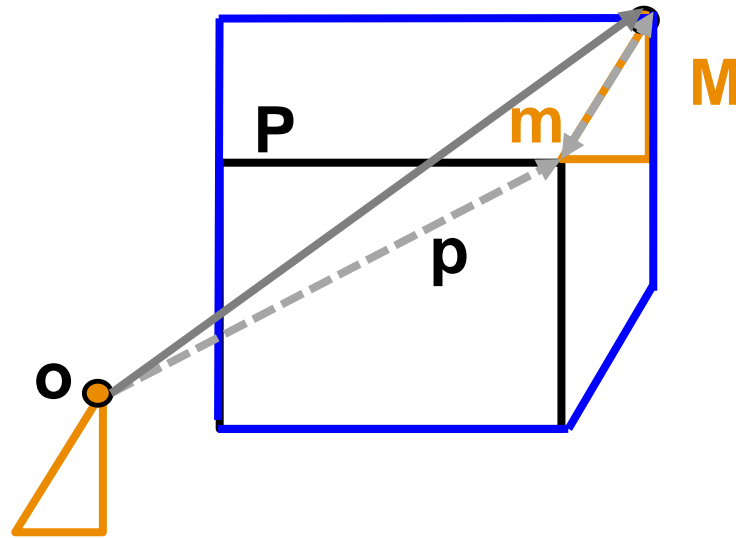
- The Minkowski sum of two convex polygons  $P$  and  $Q$  of  $m$  and  $n$  vertices respectively is a convex polygon  $P \oplus Q$  of  $m + n$  vertices.
  - The vertices of  $P \oplus Q$  are the "sums" of vertices of  $P$  and  $Q$ .



wiki

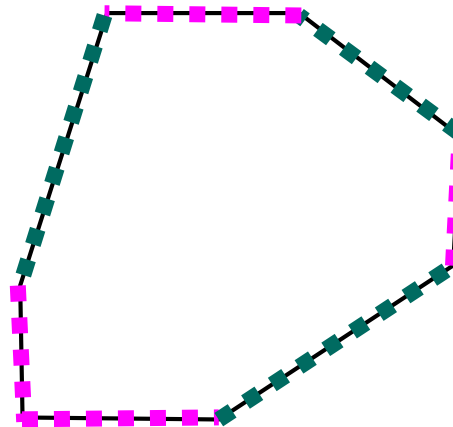
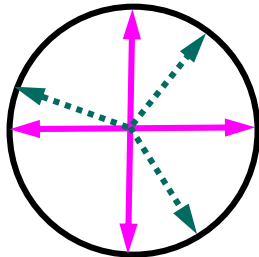
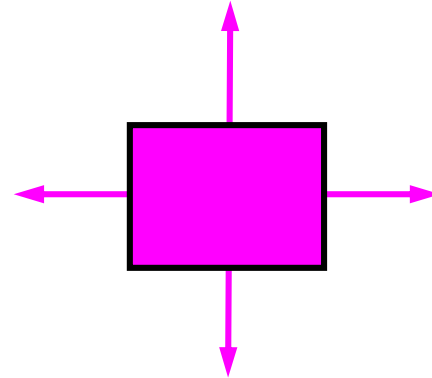
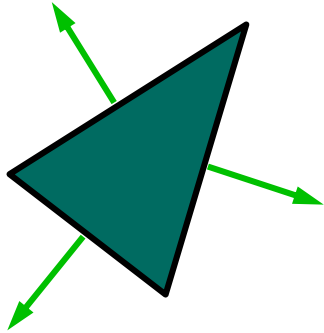
# Observation

- Suppose  $P$  is an obstacle in the workspace and  $M$  is a moving object
- Then the C-obstacle is  $P \ominus M$



# Computing C-obstacles

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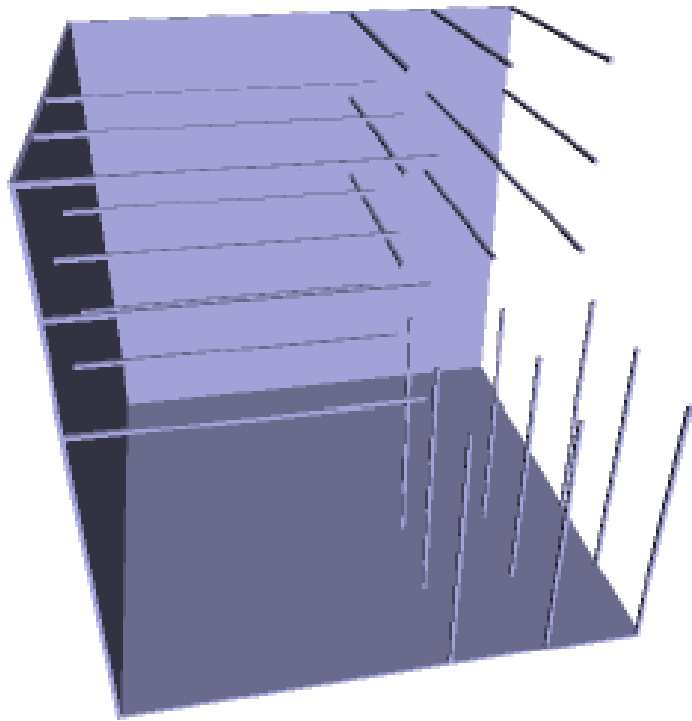


# Computational efficiency

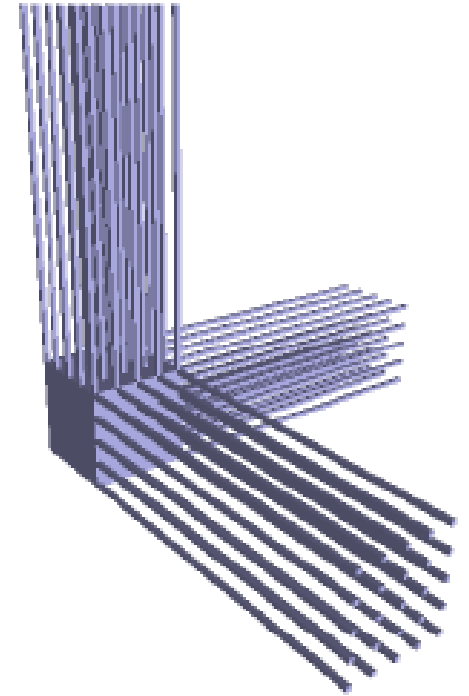
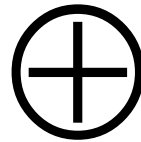
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- **Running time**  $O(n+m)$
- **Space**  $O(n+m)$
- **Non-convex obstacles**
  - **Decompose into convex polygons (e.g., triangles or trapezoids), compute the Minkowski sums, and take the union**
  - **Complexity of Minkowski sum**  $O(n^2m^2)$
- **3-D workspace**
  - **Convex case:**  $O(nm)$
  - **Non-convex case:**  $O(n^3m^3)$



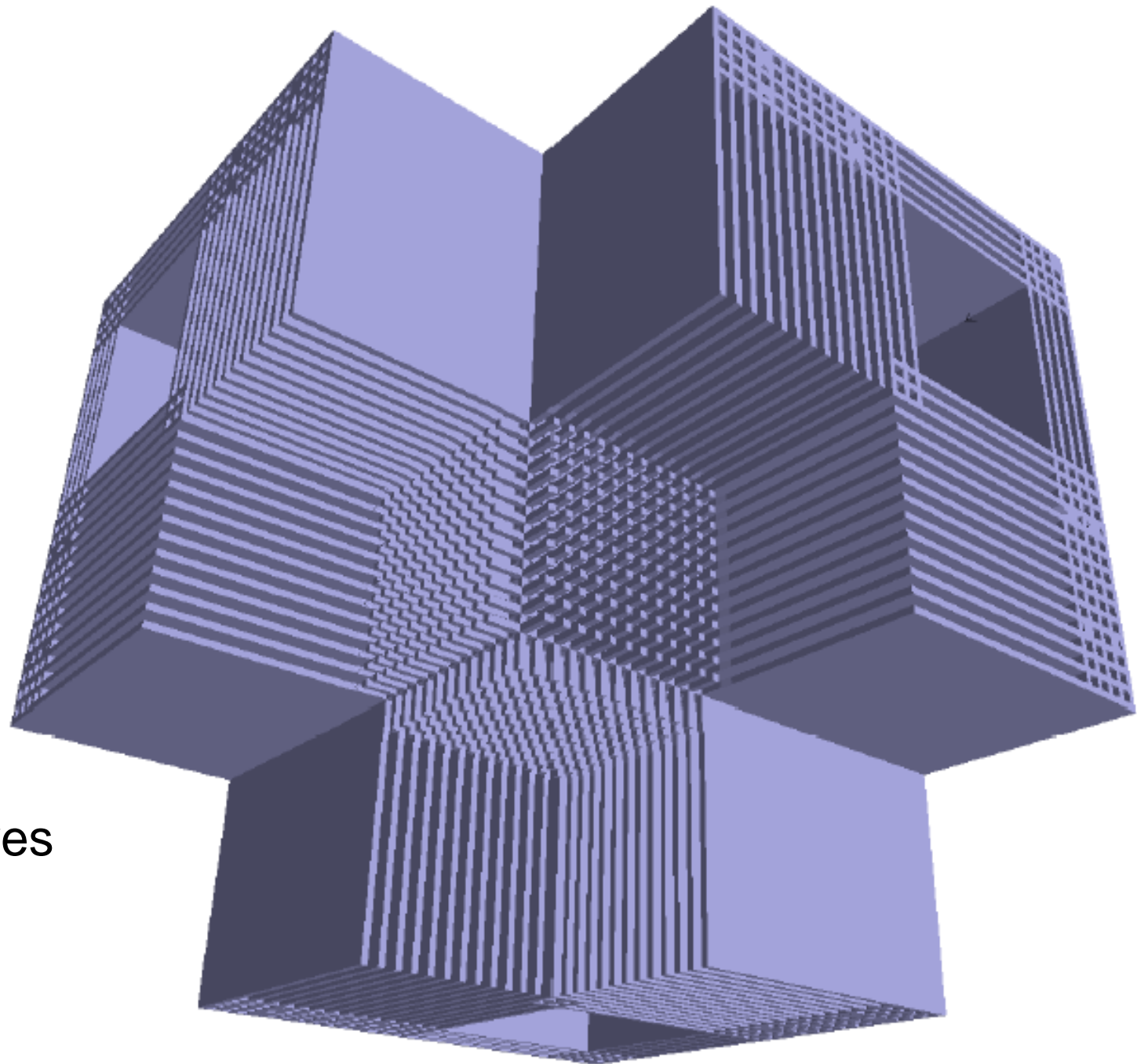


444 tris



1,134 tris

Union of  
66,667 primitives





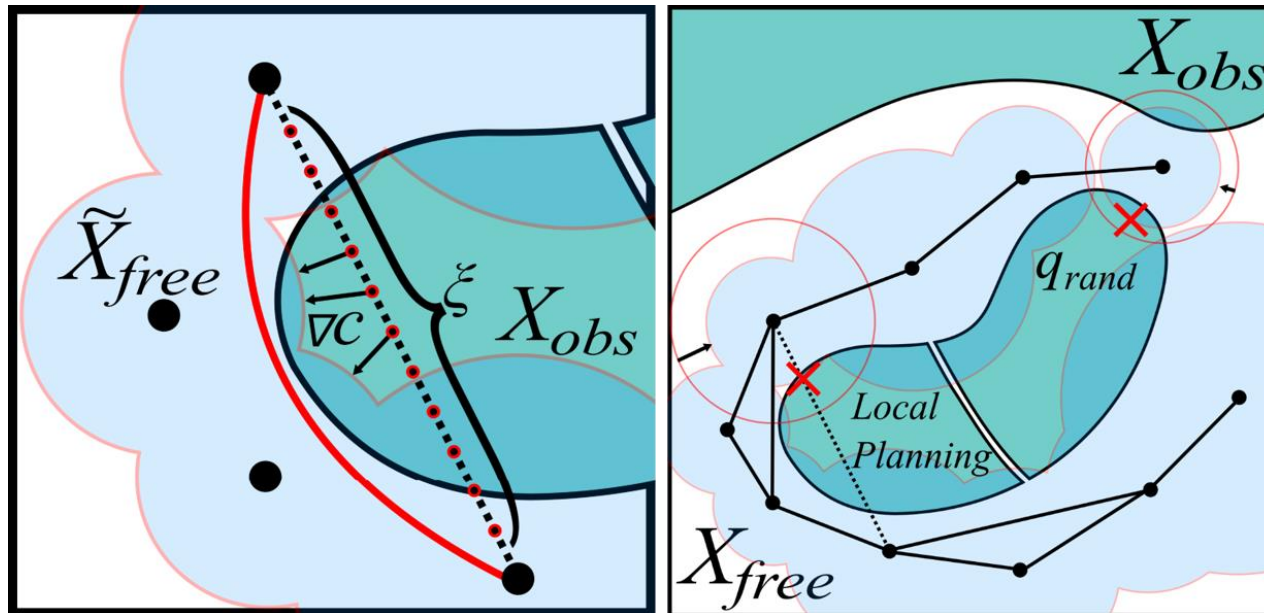
# Main Message

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- **Computing the free or obstacle space in an accurate way is an expensive and non-trivial problem**
- **Lead to many sampling based methods**
  - **Locally utilize many geometric concepts developed for designing complete planners**

# Approximation of Configuration Free Space

- **Dancing PRM\*** : Simultaneous Planning of Sampling and Optimization with Configuration Free Space Approximation
  - Approximate C-Space and perform planning
  - Improve the quality in an iterative manner



[Video](#)

# Sensors!

Robots' link to the external world...



gyro

**Sensors, sensors, sensors!**  
**and tracking what is sensed: world models**



sonar rangefinder



IR rangefinder



sonar rangefinder



compass



CMU cam with on-board processing

odometry...

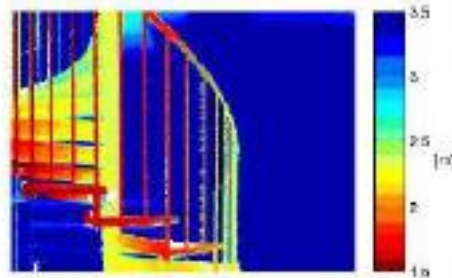
# Laser Ranging



LIDAR



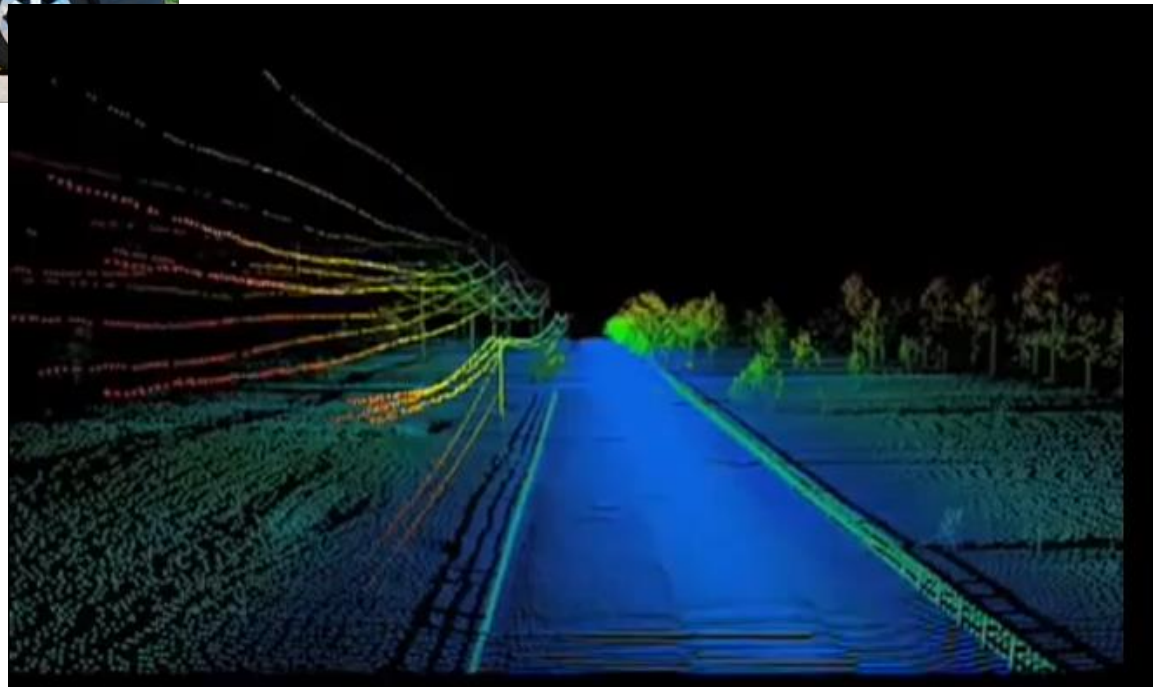
Sick Laser



LIDAR map

# Velodyne

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# Kinect and Xtion

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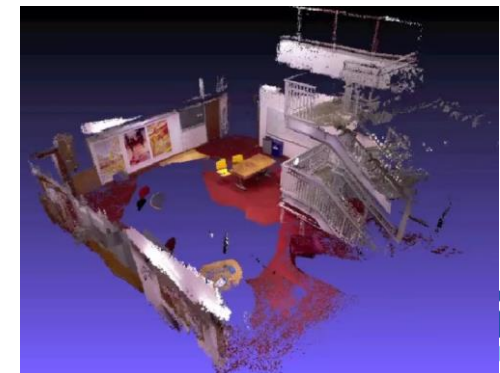
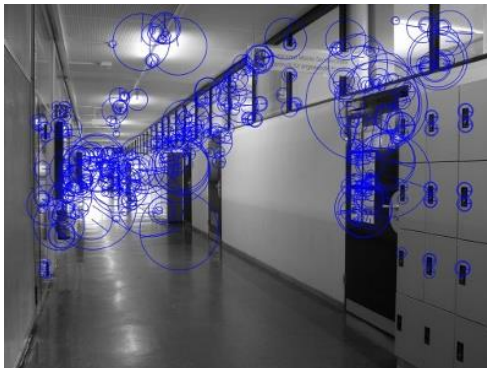
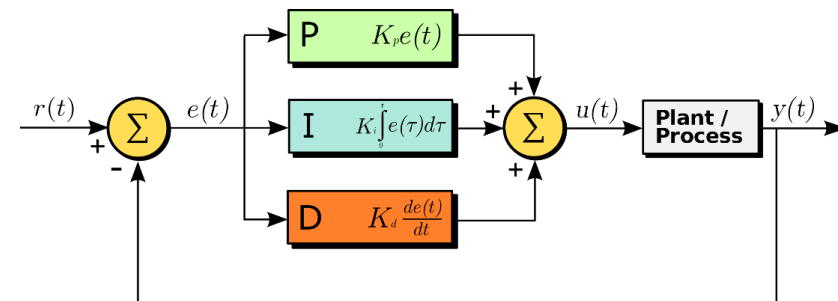


- **Kinect resolution**

- **640 × 480 pixels @ 30 Hz (RGB camera)**
- **640 × 480 pixels @ 30 Hz (IR depth-finding camera)**

# Whole Picture

- **Sensor**
  - Point clouds as obstacle map
- **SLAM (Simultaneous Localization and Mapping)**
- **Path/motion planner**
- **Control**
  - Compute force controls given a computed path



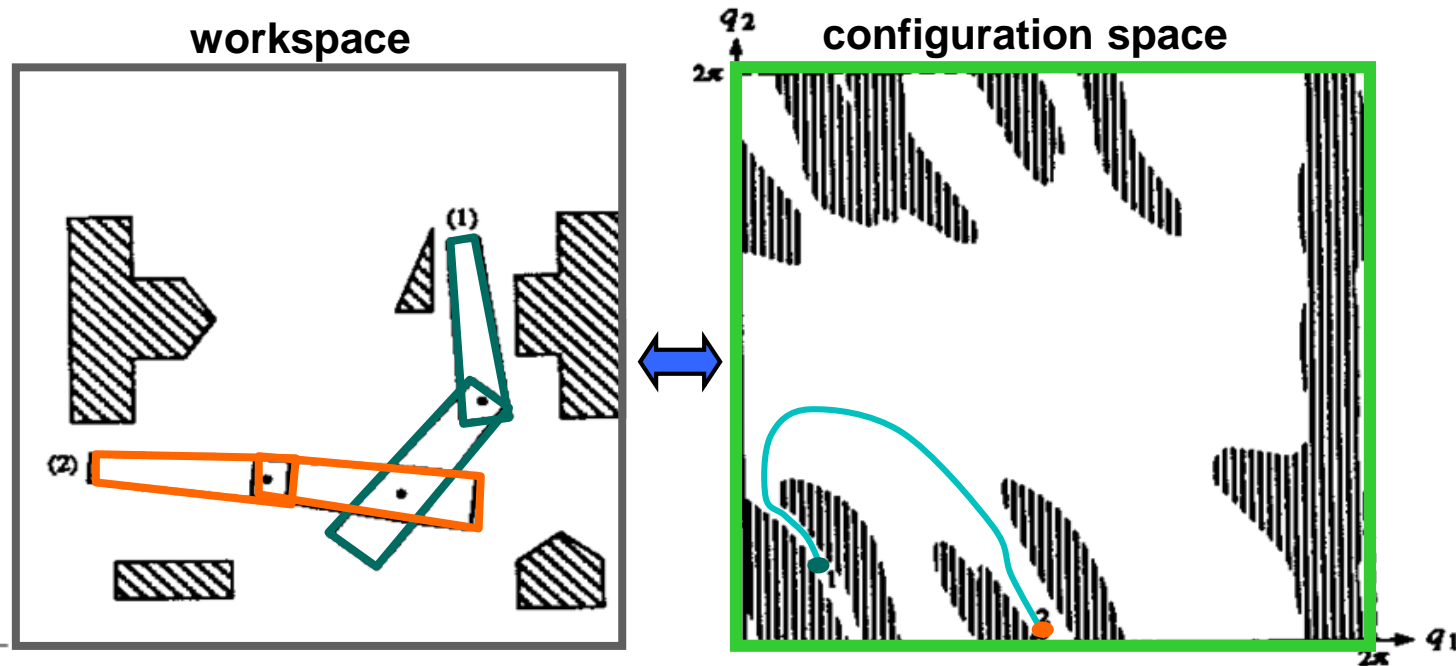
# Configuration space

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- **Definitions and examples**
- **Obstacles**
- **Paths**
- **Metrics**



# Paths in the configuration space



- A **path** in  $C$  is a continuous curve connecting two configurations  $q$  and  $q'$ :

$$\tau : s \in [0,1] \rightarrow \tau(s) \in C$$

such that  $\tau(0) = q$  and  $\tau(1) = q'$ .

# Constraints on paths

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- A **trajectory** is a path parameterized by time:

$$\tau : t \in [0, T] \rightarrow \tau(t) \in C$$

- **Constraints**
  - Finite length
  - Bounded curvature
  - Smoothness
  - Minimum length
  - Minimum time
  - Minimum energy
  - ...

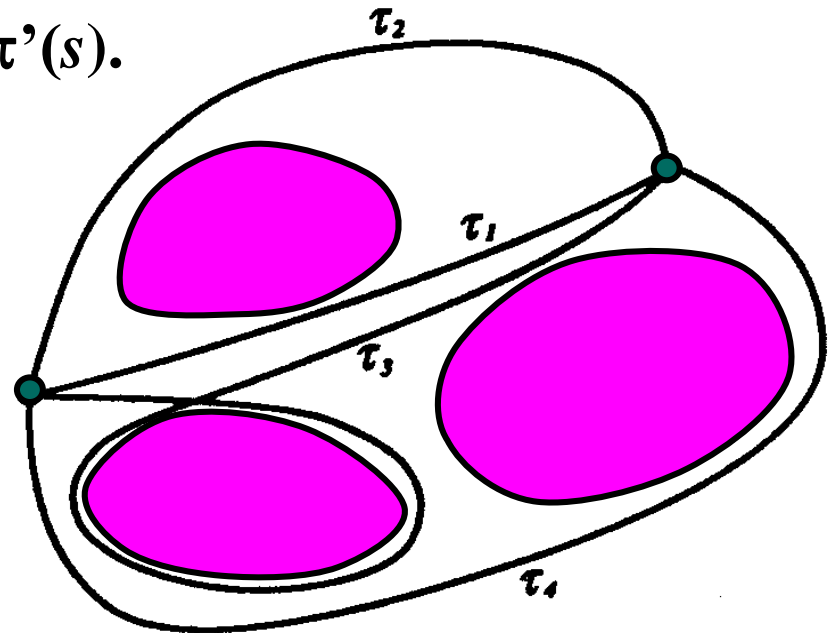
# Homotopic Paths

- Two paths  $\tau$  and  $\tau'$  (that map from  $U$  to  $V$ ) with the same endpoints are **homotopic** if one can be continuously deformed into the other:

$$h: U \times [0,1] \rightarrow V$$

with  $h(s,0) = \tau(s)$  and  $h(s,1) = \tau'(s)$ .

- A homotopic class of paths contains all paths that are homotopic to one another



# Configuration space

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- **Definitions and examples**
- **Obstacles**
- **Paths**
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# Metric in Configuration Space

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- A **metric** or **distance** function  $d$  in a configuration space  $C$  is a function

$$d : (q, q') \in C^2 \rightarrow d(q, q') \geq 0$$

such that

- $d(q, q') = 0$  if and only if  $q = q'$ , Identity
- $d(q, q') = d(q', q)$ , Symmetry
- $d(q, q') \leq d(q, q'') + d(q'', q')$  . Triangle inequality

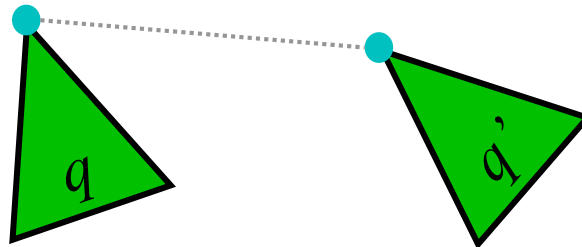
# Example

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- **Robot  $A$  and a point  $x$  on  $A$**
- **$x(q)$ : position of  $x$  in the workspace when  $A$  is at configuration  $q$**
- **A distance  $d$  in  $C$  is defined by**

$$d(q, q') = \max_{x \in A} \|x(q) - x(q')\|,$$

**where  $\|x - y\|$  denotes the Euclidean distance between points  $x$  and  $y$  in the workspace.**



# $L_p$ Metrics

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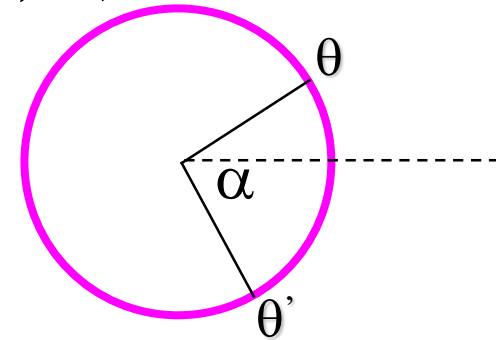
$$d(x, x') = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - x'_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

- $L_2$ : Euclidean metric
- $L_1$ : Manhattan metric
- $L_\infty$ : Max ( $|x_i - x'_i|$ )

# Examples in $\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$

- Consider  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$

- $q = (x, y, \theta)$ ,  $q' = (x', y', \theta')$  with  $\theta, \theta' \in [0, 2\pi)$
- $\alpha = \min \{ |\theta - \theta'|, 2\pi - |\theta - \theta'| \}$



- $d(q, q') = \text{sqrt}( (x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + \alpha^2 )$



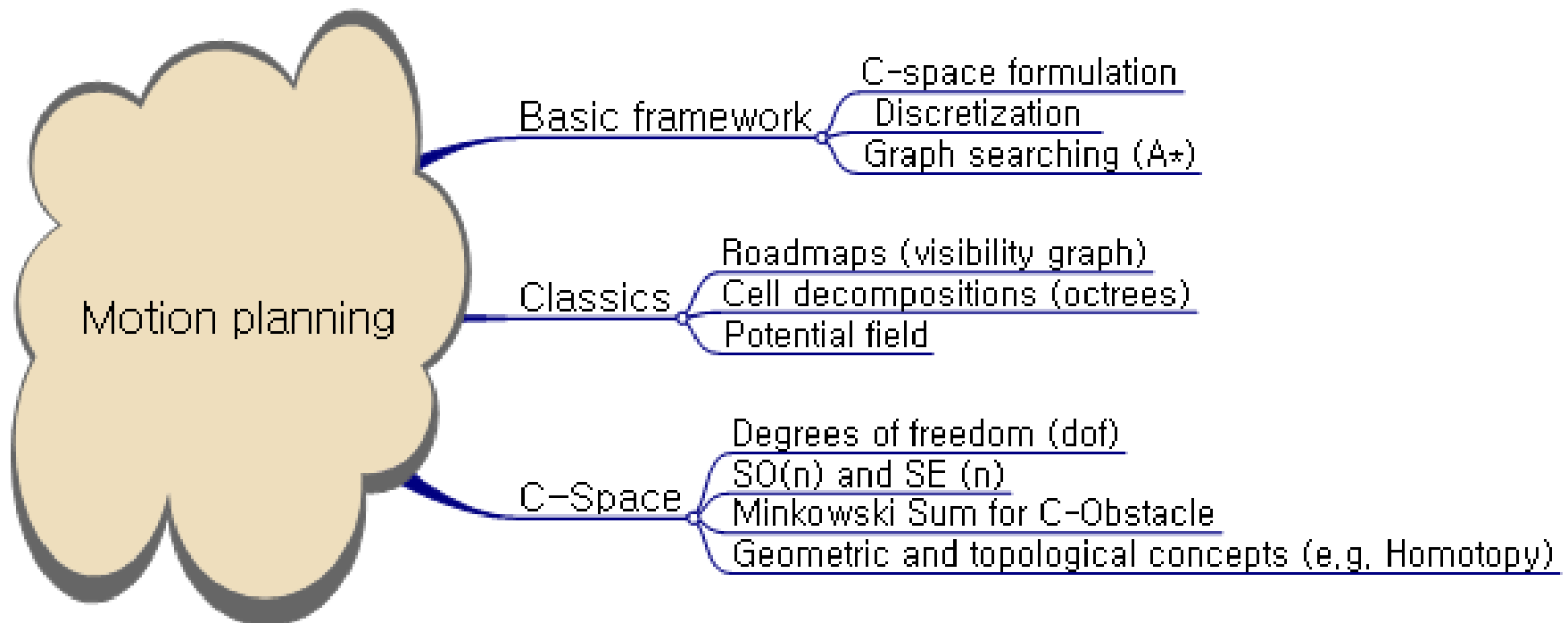
# Class Objectives were:

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- **Configuration space**
  - **Definitions and examples**
  - **Obstacles**
  - **Paths**
  - **Metrics**

# Summary

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# Next Time....

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- **Collision detection and distance computation**

# Homework

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- **Submit summaries of 2 ICRA/IROS/RSS/CoRL/TRO/IJRR papers**
- **Go over the next lecture slides**
- **Come up with two questions before the mid-term exam**