### Motion Control (wheeled robots)

- Requirements for Motion Control
  - *Kinematic / dynamic model of the robot*
  - Model of the interaction between the wheel and the ground
  - Definition of required motion -> speed control, position control
  - > Control law that satisfies the requirements



### Introduction: Mobile Robot Kinematics

#### • Aim

- Description of mechanical behavior of the robot for design and control
- > Similar to robot manipulator kinematics
- However, mobile robots can move unbound with respect to its environment
  - o there is no direct way to measure the robot's position
  - *Position must be integrated over time*
  - *Leads to inaccuracies of the position (motion) estimate*-> the number 1 challenge in mobile robotics

Understanding mobile robot motion starts with understanding wheel constraints placed on the robots mobility

# **Representing Robot Position**

• Representing robot within an arbitrary initial frame

- Initial frame:  $\{X_I, Y_I\}$ Robot frame:  $\{X_R, Y_R\}$
- > Robot position:  $\xi_I = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & \theta \end{bmatrix}^T$
- > Mapping between the two frames

$$\dot{\xi}_R = R(\theta)\dot{\xi}_I = R(\theta)\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} & \dot{y} & \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$R(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta & 0 \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$









### **Mapping Between Frames: Details**

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### Example





### Introduction: Kinematics Model

#### • Goal:

> establish the robot speed  $\xi = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & \theta \end{bmatrix}^T$  as a function of the wheel speeds steering angles  $\beta_i$ , steering speeds  $\beta_i$  and the geometric parameters of the robot (configuration coordinates).



 $\dot{\varphi}$  measured in radians/sec, so  $\dot{\varphi}/2\pi$  is revolutions/sec In one revolution wheel translates  $2\pi r$  linear units Translational velocity is  $2\pi r(\dot{\varphi}/2\pi) = r\dot{\varphi}$  Γ. ٦



### Introduction: Kinematics Model

#### • Goal:

- > establish the robot speed  $\xi = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & \theta \end{bmatrix}^{T}$  as a function of the wheel speeds steering angles  $\beta_i$ , steering speeds  $\beta_i$  and the geometric parameters of th robot (configuration coordinates).
- > Forward kinematics "If I do this, what will happen?"

$$\xi = \begin{vmatrix} x \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{vmatrix} = f(\phi_1, \cdots \phi_n, \beta_1, \cdots \beta_m, \dot{\beta}_1, \cdots \dot{\beta}_m)$$

> Inverse kinematics - "If I want this to happen, what should I do?"

$$\begin{bmatrix} \varphi_1 & \cdots & \varphi_n & \beta_1 & \cdots & \beta_m & \beta_1 & \cdots & \beta_m \end{bmatrix} = f(x, y, \theta)$$



## **Forward Kinematic Models - Differential Drive**

#### • The robot

- Two wheels radius r
- Point P centered between wheels
- > Each wheel is distance l from P
- $\succ$  Wheels have rotational velocity  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$
- Forward kinematic model

$$\dot{\xi}_{l} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = f(l, r, \theta, \dot{\varphi}_{1}, \dot{\varphi}_{2})$$





• Use  $\dot{\xi}_R = R(\theta) \dot{\xi}_I$  so  $\dot{\xi}_I = R^{-1}(\theta) \dot{\xi}_R$ 

# **Differential Drive (cont.)**

- Use  $\dot{\xi}_R = R(\theta) \dot{\xi}_I$  so  $\dot{\xi}_I = R^{-1}(\theta) \dot{\xi}_R$
- Compute how wheel speeds influence  $\xi_R$
- Translate to  $\xi_l$  via  $R^{-1}(\theta)$





- Contribution to translation along  $X_R$
- If one wheel spins and the other remains still P will move at half the translational velocity of the wheel:  $1/2r\dot{\phi}_1$  or  $1/2r\dot{\phi}_2$
- Sum these components to account for both wheels spinning  $\dot{X}_R = 1/2r\dot{\varphi}_1 + 1/2r\dot{\varphi}_2$
- Suppose they spin in opposite directions, same direction

# **Differential Drive (cont.)**

- Wheel rotation never contributes to  $\dot{Y}_R$ . Why?
- What about  $\dot{\theta}$ ?
  - > Wheel 1 spin makes robot rotate counterclockwise
  - > Pivot around wheel 2 (left wheel)
  - $\succ$  Translational velocity is  $r\dot{\phi}$
  - Traces circle with radius 21
  - > Rotational velocity  $2\pi * r\dot{\phi} / (2\pi * 2l) = r\dot{\phi} / 2l$
  - > Wheel 2 spin makes robot rotate clockwise
  - > Sum to get net effect:  $\hat{\theta} = (r\dot{\varphi}_1 r\dot{\varphi}_2) / 2l$



 $X_R$ 



### **Differential Drive: The Punch Line**

$$\dot{\xi}_{I} = R^{-1}(\theta) \ \dot{\xi}_{R} = R^{-1}(\theta) \begin{bmatrix} r(\dot{\varphi}_{1} + \dot{\varphi}_{2})/2 \\ 0 \\ r(\dot{\varphi}_{1} - \dot{\varphi}_{2})/2I \end{bmatrix}$$



## **Wheel Kinematic Constraints: Assumptions**

v



- Point contact of the wheels
- Wheels not deformable
- Pure rolling
- No slipping, skidding or sliding
- No friction for rotation around contact point
- Steering axes orthogonal to the surface
- Wheels connected by rigid frame (chassis)



 $Y_I$ 

Or

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 $Y_R$ 

Wheel Kinematic Constraints: Fixed Standard Wheel



**Rolling constraint:** *all motion along wheel plane (in the direction of v) must be accompanied by the same amount of wheel spin so that there is pure rolling at contact point* 





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 $Y_R$ 

Wheel Kinematic Constraints: Fixed Standard Wheel



**Sliding constraint:** *there can be no motion orthogonal to wheel plane (perpendicular to v), otherwise wheel skids* 

φ, *r* 





#### Wheel Kinematic Constraints: Fixed Standard Wheel: Rolling Constraint





#### Wheel Kinematic Constraints: Fixed Standard Wheel: Sliding Constraint



## Example

$$\left[\sin(\alpha+\beta)-\cos(\alpha+\beta)(-l)\cos\beta\right]R(\theta)\dot{\xi}_{I}-r\dot{\phi}=0$$

$$\left[\cos(\alpha+\beta) \sin(\alpha+\beta) l\sin\beta\right] R(\theta)\dot{\xi}_{I} = 0$$

- Suppose that the wheel A is in position such that
- $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta = 0$
- This would place the contact point of the wheel on  $X_I$  with the plane of the wheel oriented parallel to  $Y_I$ . If  $\theta = 0$ , then the sliding constraint reduces to:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$



# Not Omnidirectional: Why?

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sin(\alpha + \beta) & -\cos(\alpha + \beta) & (-l)\cos\beta \end{bmatrix} R(\theta) \dot{\xi}_I - r\dot{\phi} = 0$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\alpha + \beta) & \sin(\alpha + \beta) & l\sin\beta \end{bmatrix} R(\theta) \dot{\xi}_I = 0$$

### Can constraints be satisfied for ANY $\dot{\xi}_{l}$ ?

Wheel Kinematic Constraints: Steered Standard Wheel





Wheel Kinematic Constraints:

### **Castor Wheel**





Wheel Kinematic Constraints:





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Wheel Kinematic Constraints: Swedish Wheel



φ, *r* 

3

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Wheel Kinematic Constraints: Spherical Wheel





### **Robot Kinematic Constraints**

- Given a robot with *M* wheels
  - > each wheel imposes zero or more constraints on the robot motion
  - > only fixed and steerable standard wheels impose constraints
- What is the maneuverability of a robot considering a combination of different wheels?
- Suppose we have a total of  $N=N_f+N_s$  standard wheels
  - > We can develop the equations for the constraints in matrix forms:
  - > Rolling

$$J_{1}(\beta_{s})R(\theta)\overset{\&}{\varsigma_{1}} + J_{2}\overset{\&}{\vartheta} = 0 \qquad \varphi(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_{f}(t) \\ \varphi_{s}(t) \\ N_{f}+N_{s} \end{pmatrix} \qquad J_{1}(\beta_{s}) = \begin{bmatrix} J_{1f} \\ J_{1s}(\beta_{s}) \\ N_{f}+N_{s} \end{pmatrix} \qquad J_{2} = diag(r_{1} \sqcup r_{N} \sqcup r_{N}$$

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# **Example: Differential Drive Robot**

• Presented on blackboard



# **Example: Omnidirectional Robot**

• Presented on blackboard

## **Mobile Robot Maneuverability**

The maneuverability of a mobile robot is the combination *of the mobility available based on the sliding constraints plus additional freedom contributed by the steering*

- Three wheels is sufficient for static stability
  - > additional wheels need to be synchronized
  - *b this is also the case for some arrangements with three wheels*
- It can be derived using the equation seen before
  - $\begin{array}{ll} & \searrow \ Degree \ of \ mobility & \delta_m \\ & \searrow \ Degree \ of \ steerability & \delta_s \\ & \searrow \ Robots \ maneuverability & \delta_M = \delta_m + \delta_s \end{array}$



# Mobile Robot Maneuverability: Degree of Mobility

• To avoid any lateral slip the motion vector  $R(\theta) \underset{I}{\overset{\otimes}{\overset{\otimes}{\overset{\otimes}{\overset{\otimes}{\overset{\otimes}{\overset{\otimes}}{\overset{\otimes}{\overset{\otimes}}{\overset{\otimes}{\overset{\otimes}}{\overset{\otimes}{\overset{\otimes}}}}}} has to satisfy the following constraints:$ 

$$C_{1f}R(\theta)\xi_{I} = 0$$

$$C_{1s}(\beta_{s})R(\theta)\xi_{I} = 0$$

$$C_{1}(\beta_{s}) = \begin{bmatrix} C_{1f} \\ C_{1s}(\beta_{s}) \end{bmatrix}$$

• Mathematically:

 $> R(\theta) \underset{I}{\overset{\&}{\mathfrak{S}}_{I}} must belong to the null space of the projection matrix C_{1}(f > Null space of C_{1}(\beta_{s}) is the space N such that for any vector n in N$ 

 $C_1(\beta_s) \cdot n = 0$ 

Geometrically this can be shown by the Instantaneous Center of Rotation (ICR)



#### **Mobile Robot Maneuverability: Instantaneous Center of Rotation**





### **Mobile Robot Maneuverability: More on Degree of Mobility**

• Robot chassis kinematics is a function of the set of *independent* constraints  $rank[C_1(\beta_s)]$ 

 $\succ$  the greater the rank of ,  $C_1(\beta_s)$  the more constrained is the mobility

• Mathematically  $\delta_{m} = \dim N[C_{1}(\beta_{s})] = 3 - rank[C_{1}(\beta_{s})] \qquad 0 \le rank[C_{1}(\beta_{s})] \le 3$ o no standard wheels o all direction constrained rank[C\_{1}(\beta\_{s})] = 0 rank[C\_{1}(\beta\_{s})] = 3

• Examples:

- > Unicycle: One single fixed standard wheel
- > Differential drive: Two fixed standard wheels
  - wheels on same axle
  - wheels on different axle



## **Mobile Robot Maneuverability: Degree of Steerability**

• Indirect degree of motion

 $\delta_s = rank \left[ C_{1s}(\beta_s) \right]$ 

> The particular orientation at any instant imposes a kinematic constraint

- However, the ability to change that orientation can lead additional degree of maneuverability
- Range of  $\delta_s$ :  $0 \le \delta_s \le 2$
- Examples:
  - > one steered wheel: Tricycle
  - *two steered wheels: No fixed standard wheel*
  - > car (Ackermann steering):  $N_f = 2$ ,  $N_s = 2$  -> common axle



## **Mobile Robot Maneuverability: Robot Maneuverability**

• Degree of Maneuverability

$$\delta_M = \delta_m + \delta_s$$

- > Two robots with same  $\delta_M$  are not necessary equal > Example: Differential drive and Tricycle (next slide)
- For any robot with  $\delta_M = 2$  the ICR is always constrained to lie on a line
- For any robot with  $\delta_M = 3$  the ICR is not constrained an can be set to any point on the plane
- The Synchro Drive example:  $\delta_M = \delta_m + \delta_s = 1 + 1 = 2$



## **Mobile Robot Maneuverability: Wheel Configurations**

• Differential Drive

### Tricycle





# **Five Basic Types of Three-Wheel Configurations**



### **Synchro Drive**

$$\delta_M = \delta_m + \delta_s = 1 + 1 = 2$$







## **Mobile Robot Workspace: Degrees of Freedom**

- Maneuverability is equivalent to the vehicle's degree of freedom (DOF)
- But what is the degree of vehicle's freedom in its environment?
  - > Car example
- Workspace
  - *how the vehicle is able to move between different configuration in its workspace?*
- The robot's independently achievable velocities
  - $\geq$  = differentiable degrees of freedom (DDOF) =  $\delta_m$
  - > Bicycle:  $\delta_M = \delta_m + \delta_s = 1 + 1$  DDOF = 1; DOF=3
  - > Omni Drive:  $\delta_M = \delta_m + \delta_s = 1 + 1$  DDOF=3; DOF=3



### **Mobile Robot Workspace: Degrees of Freedom, Holonomy**

- DOF degrees of freedom:
  - > Robots ability to achieve various poses
- DDOF differentiable degrees of freedom:
  - > Robots ability to achieve various path

$$DDOF \leq \delta_m \leq DOF$$

### • Holonomic Robots

- > A holonomic kinematic constraint can be expressed a an explicit function of position variables only
- A non-holonomic constraint requires a different relationship, such as the derivative of a position variable
- > Fixed and steered standard wheels impose non-holonomic constraints

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Mobile Robot Workspace: Examples of Holonomic Robots





### **Path / Trajectory Considerations: Omnidirectional Drive**





# **Path / Trajectory Considerations: Two-Steer**



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### **Beyond Basic Kinematics**

### **Motion Control (kinematic control)**

- The objective of a kinematic controller is to follow a trajectory described by its position and/or velocity profiles as function of time.
- Motion control is not straight forward because mobile robots are nonholonomic systems.
- However, it has been studied by various research groups and some adequate solutions for (kinematic) motion control of a mobile robot system are available.
- Most controllers are not considering the dynamics of the system

# **Motion Control: Open Loop Control**

- trajectory (path) divided in motion segments of clearly defined shape:
  - *>* straight lines and segments of a circle.
- control problem:
  - pre-compute a smooth trajectory based on line and circle segments
- Disadvantages:
  - It is not at all an easy task to pre-compute a feasible trajectory
  - *limitations and constraints of the robots velocities and accelerations*
  - does not adapt or correct the trajectory if dynamical changes of the environment occur.
  - > The resulting trajectories are usually not smooth





## Motion Control: Feedback Control, Problem Statement



• Find a control matrix *K*, if exists

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} k_{11} & k_{12} & k_{13} \\ k_{21} & k_{22} & k_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$

with 
$$k_{ij} = k(t, e)$$

such that the control of v(t) and ω(t)

$$\begin{bmatrix} v(t) \\ \omega(t) \end{bmatrix} = K \cdot e = K \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta \end{bmatrix}$$
  
• drives the error e to zero.

 $\lim_{t\to\infty} e(t) = 0$ 

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#### Motion Control: Kinematic Position Control



The kinematic of a differential drive mobile robot described in the initial frame  $\{x_{I}, y_{I}, \theta\}$  is given by,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ w \end{bmatrix}$$

where and are the linear velocities in the direction of the  $x_I$  and  $y_I$  of the initial frame Let  $\alpha$  denote the angle between the  $x_R$  axis of the robots reference frame and the vector connecting the center of the axle of the wheels with the final position.

# **Kinematic Position Control: Coordinates Transformation**

**Coordinates transformation into polar coordinates** with its origin at goal position:

$$\rho = \sqrt{\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2}$$

$$\alpha = -\theta + \operatorname{atan} 2(\Delta y, \Delta x)$$



$$\beta = -\theta - \alpha$$

System description, in the new polar coordinates

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\rho} \\ \dot{\alpha} \\ \dot{\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\cos \alpha & 0 \\ \frac{\sin \alpha}{\rho} & -1 \\ -\frac{\sin \alpha}{\rho} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ \omega \end{bmatrix} \qquad \qquad \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\rho} \\ \dot{\alpha} \\ \dot{\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & 0 \\ -\frac{\sin \alpha}{\rho} & 1 \\ \frac{\sin \alpha}{\rho} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$$

$$for \quad I_1 = \left( -\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2} \right] \qquad \qquad for \quad I_2 = \left( -\pi, -\pi/2 \right] \cup \left( \pi/2, \pi \right]$$

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## **Kinematic Position Control: Remarks**

- The coordinates transformation is not defined at x = y = 0; as in such a point the determinant of the Jacobian matrix of the transformation is not defined, i.e. it is unbounded
- For  $\alpha \in I_1$  the forward direction of the robot points toward the goal, for  $\alpha \in I_2$  it is the backward direction.
- By properly defining the forward direction of the robot at its initial configuration, it is always possible to have  $\alpha \in I_1$  at t=0. However this does not mean that  $\alpha$  remains in  $I_1$  for all time t.



### **Kinematic Position Control: The Control Law**

• It can be shown, that with

$$v = k_{\rho}\rho$$
  $\omega = k_{\alpha}\alpha + k_{\beta}\beta$ 

the feedback controlled system

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\rho} \\ \dot{\alpha} \\ \dot{\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -k_{\rho}\rho\cos\alpha \\ k_{\rho}\sin\alpha - k_{\alpha}\alpha - k_{\beta}\beta \\ -k_{\rho}\sin\alpha \end{bmatrix}$$

- will drive the robot to  $(\rho, \alpha, \beta) = (0, 0, 0)$
- The control signal *v* has always constant sign,
  - *b the direction of movement is kept positive or negative during movemen*
  - > parking maneuver is performed always in the most natural way and without ever inverting its motion.



### **Kinematic Position Control: Resulting Path**





# **Kinematic Position Control: Stability Issue**

• It can further be shown, that the closed loop control system is locally exponentially stable if

$$k_{\rho} > 0$$
 ;  $k_{\beta} < 0$  ;  $k_{\alpha} - k_{\rho} > 0$ 

• Proof:

for small  $x \rightarrow \cos x = 1$ ,  $\sin x = x$ 

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\rho} \\ \dot{\alpha} \\ \dot{\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -k_{\rho} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(k_{\alpha} - k_{\rho}) & -k_{\beta} \\ 0 & -k_{\rho} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \alpha \\ \beta \end{bmatrix} \qquad A = \begin{bmatrix} -k_{\rho} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(k_{\alpha} - k_{\rho}) & -k_{\beta} \\ 0 & -k_{\rho} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

and the characteristic polynomial of the matrix A of all roots

$$(\lambda + k_{\rho})(\lambda^2 + \lambda(k_{\alpha} - k_{\rho}) - k_{\rho}k_{\beta})$$

have negative real parts.



### **Mobile Robot Kinematics: Non-Holonomic Systems**

 $s_1 = s_2; s_{1R} = s_{2R}; s_{1L} = s_{2L}$ but:  $x_1 \neq x_2; y_1 \neq y_2$ 



#### Non-holonomic systems

- > differential equations are not integrable to the final position.
- the measure of the traveled distance of each wheel is not sufficient to calculate the final position of the robot. One has also to know how this movement was executed as a function of time.



## **Non-Holonomic Systems: Mathematical Interpretation**

A mobile robot is running along a trajectory s(t).
 At every instant of the movement its velocity v(t) is:

$$v(t) = \frac{\partial s}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \cos \theta + \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \sin \theta$$
$$ds = dx \cos \theta + dy \sin \theta$$



Function v(t) is said to be integrable (holonomic) if there exists a trajectory function s( that can be described by the values x, y, and θ only.

$$s = s(x, y, \theta)$$

• This is the case if

$$\frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial y \partial x} \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial x \partial \theta} = \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial \theta \partial x} \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial y \partial \theta} = \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial \theta \partial y}$$

Condition for integrable func

With 
$$s = s(x, y, \theta)$$
 we get for  $ds$   $ds = \frac{\partial s}{\partial x}dx + \frac{\partial s}{\partial y}dy + \frac{\partial s}{\partial \theta}d\theta$ 



## **Non-Holonomic Systems: The Mobile Robot Example**

• In the case of a mobile robot where

$$ds = dx\cos\theta + dy\sin\theta$$

• and by comparing the equation above with

$$ds = \frac{\partial s}{\partial x}dx + \frac{\partial s}{\partial y}dy + \frac{\partial s}{\partial \theta}d\theta$$

• we find

$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial x} = \cos\theta \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial s}{\partial y} = \sin\theta \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial s}{\partial \theta} = 0$$

• Condition for an integrable (holonomic) function:

$$\frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial y \partial x} \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial x \partial \theta} = \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial \theta \partial x} \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial y \partial \theta} = \frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial \theta \partial y}$$

 $\succ$  the second (-sin $\theta$ =0) and third (cos $\theta$ =0) term in equation do not hold!