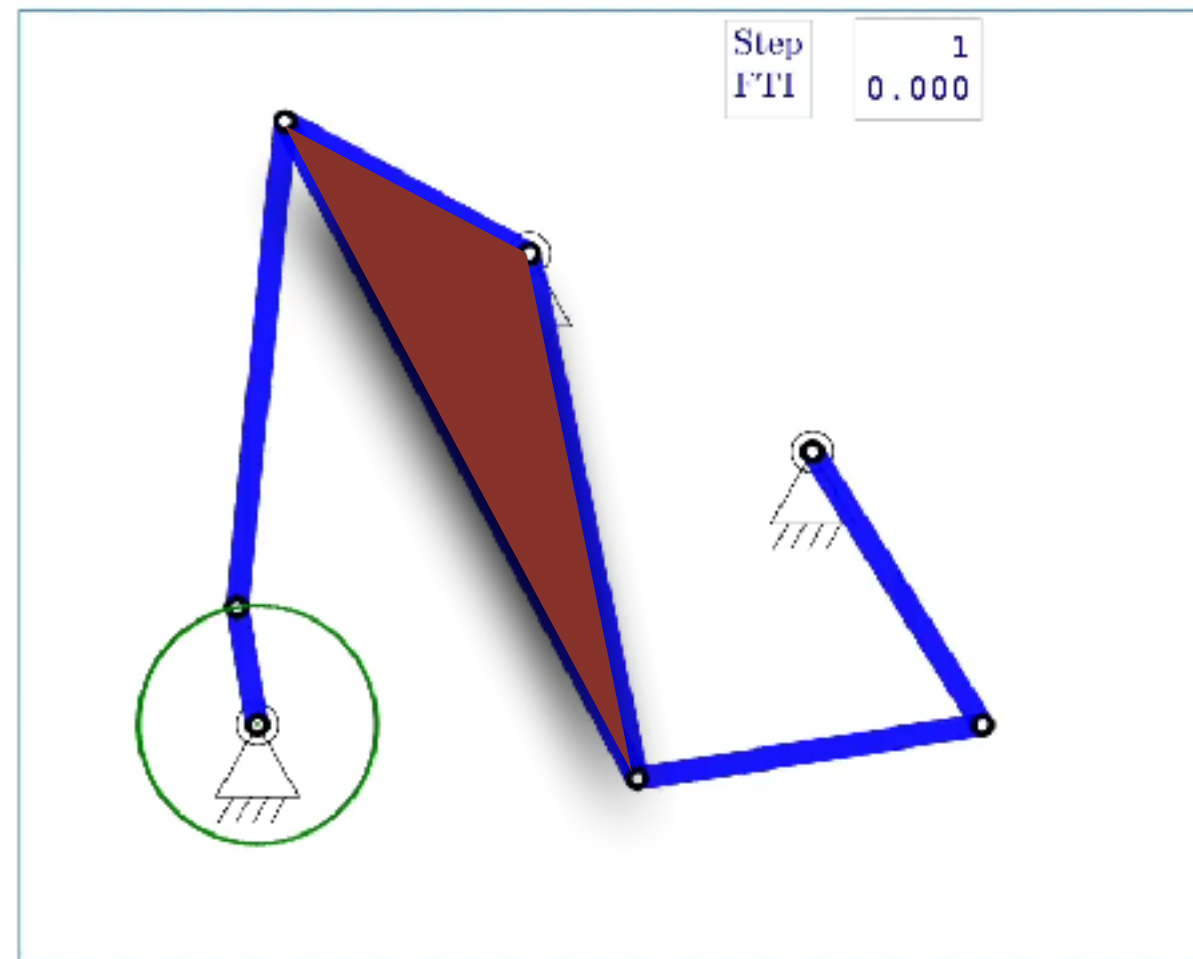


# Compliant Mechanisms (ME 851)

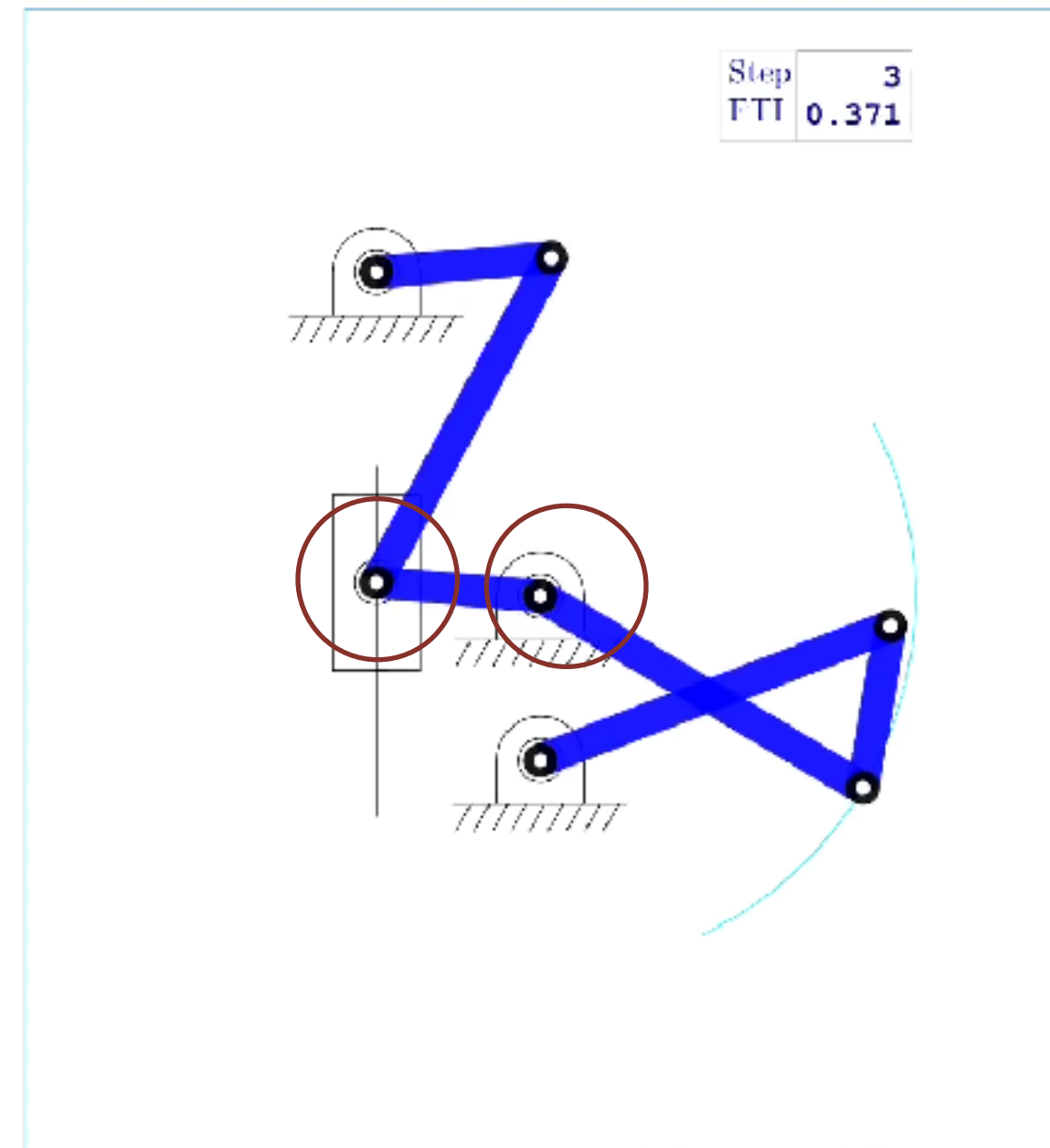
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## Some Examples



No. links:  $n = 6$

No. joints:  $j_1 = 7$



No. links:  $n = 8$  No. joints:  $j_1 = 10$

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## Grübler's (Mobility) Criterion Planar Motion

$n$  rigid bodies

$j_1$  lower pairs

$j_2$  higher pairs

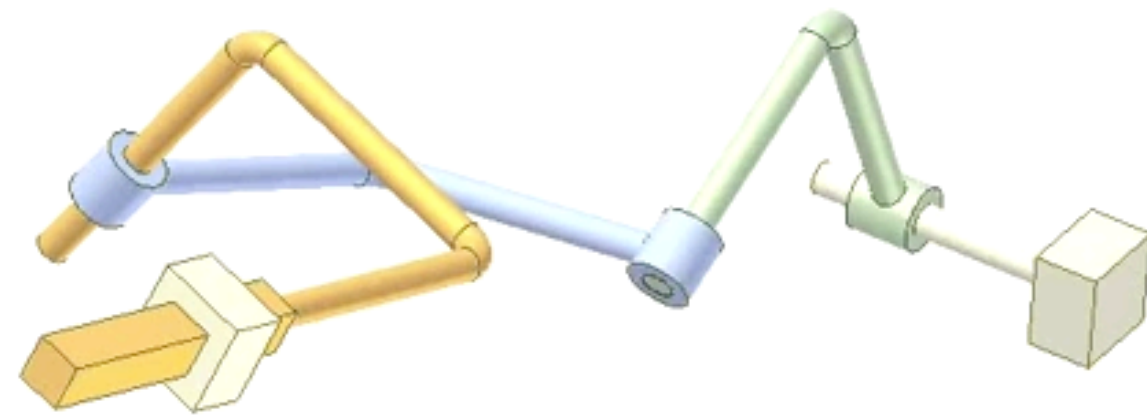
net freedom in motion:

$$DOF : 3(n - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$$

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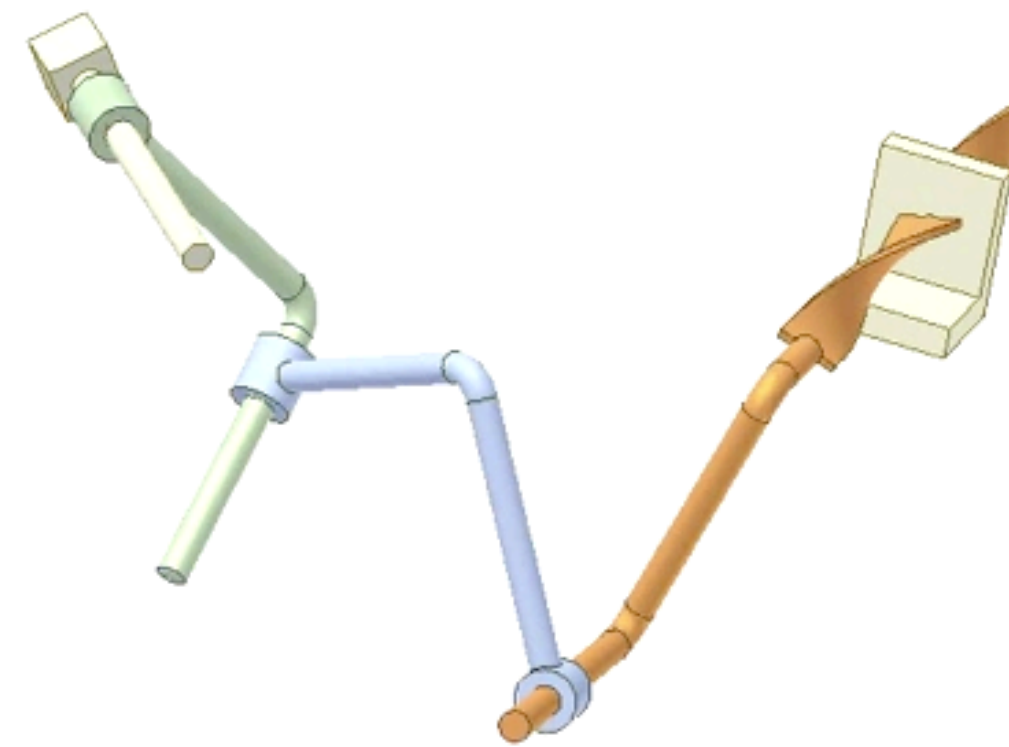


PCCC mechanism

<http://youtu.be/nK66lwNJG78>

$$4L, 1j_1, 3j_2: DOF = 6(3) - 5(1) - 4(3) = 1$$

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HCCC mechanism

<http://youtu.be/aUllcT74mXM>

$$4L, 1j_1, 3j_2: DOF = 6(3) - 5(1) - 4(3) = 1$$

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## Kutzbach (Mobility) Criterion Spatial Motion

straightforward extension

$$DOF : 3(n - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$$

$n$  rigid bodies

$j_1$  joints restricting 5 relative motions

$j_2$  joints restricting 4 relative motions

$j_3$  joints restricting 3 relative motions

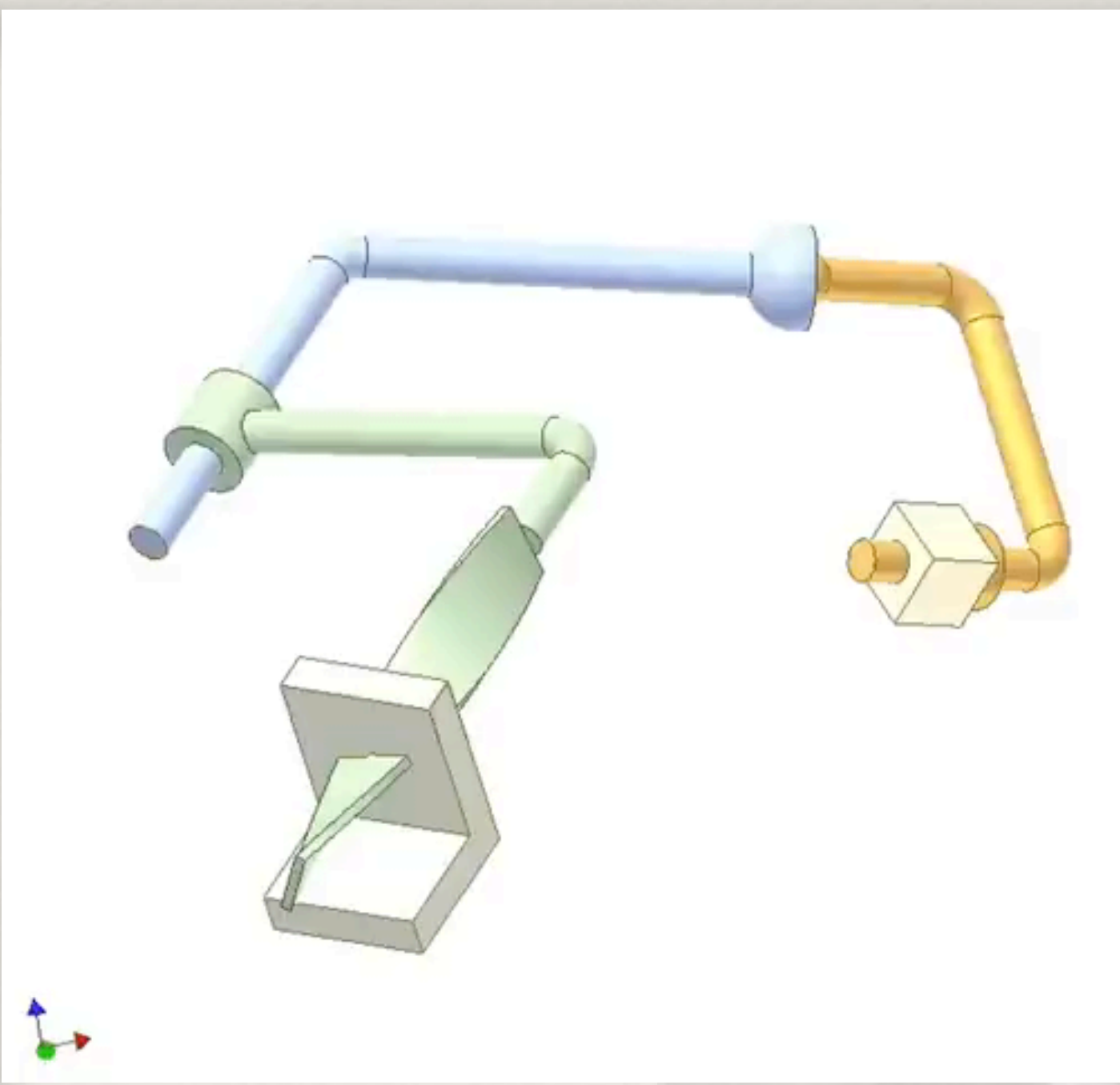
$j_5$  joints restricting 1 relative motions

$$DOF : 6(n - 1) - 5j_1 - 4j_2 - 3j_3 - 2j_4 - j_5$$

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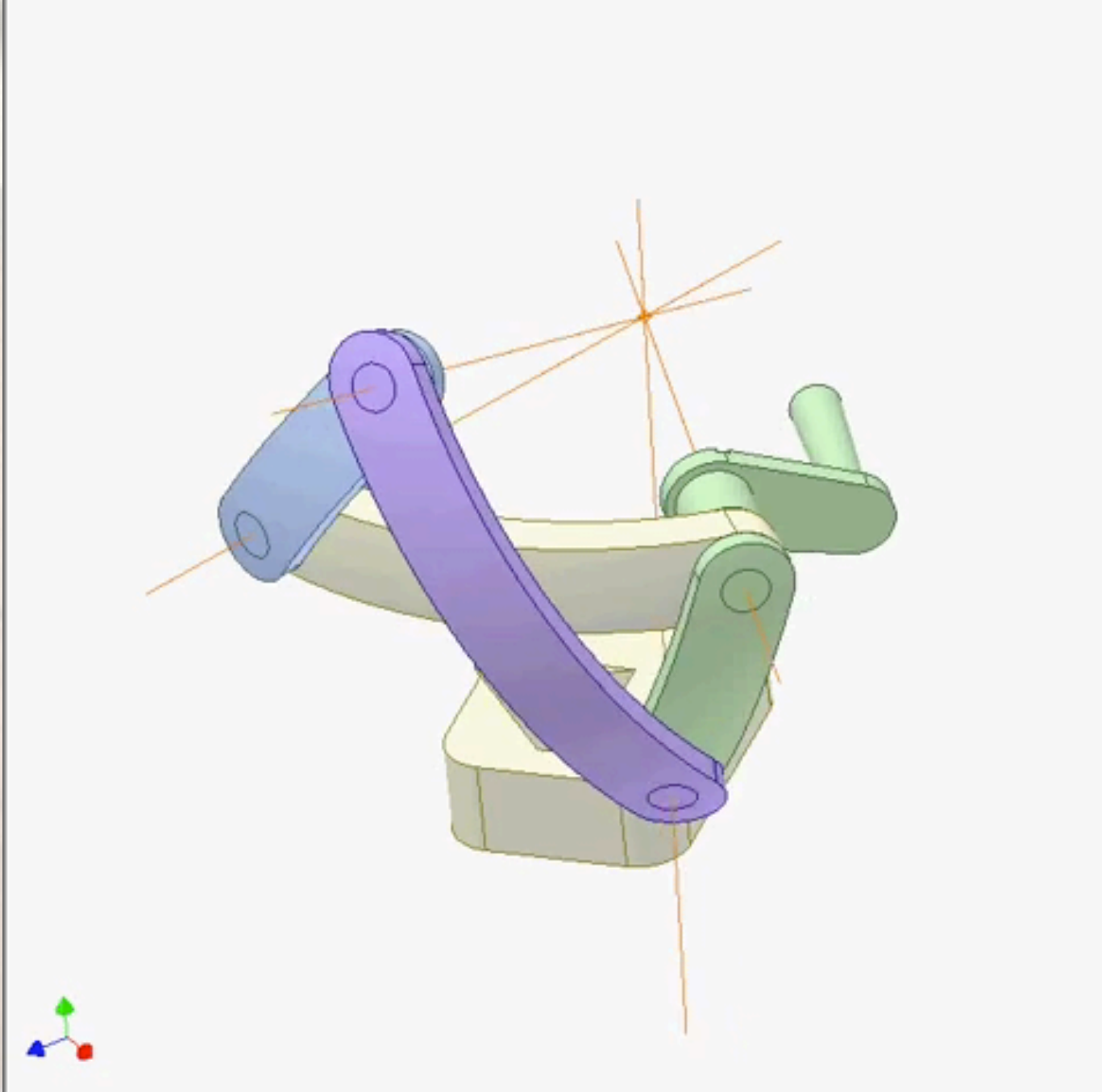
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RSCH mechanism  
<http://youtu.be/Gg8Q6nUZc1c>

$$4L, 2j_1, 1j_2, 1j_3: DOF = 6(3) - 5(2) - 4(1) - 3(1) = 1$$

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Spherical 4R mechanism  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0erDDuPO7w>

$$4L, 4j_1: DOF = 6(3) - 5(4) = -2$$

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 Axes of R joints cocentric

## Kutzbach (Mobility) Criterion Spatial Motion

straightforward extension

$$DOF : 3(n - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$$

$n$  rigid bodies

$j_1$  joints restricting 5 relative motions

$j_2$  joints restricting 4 relative motions

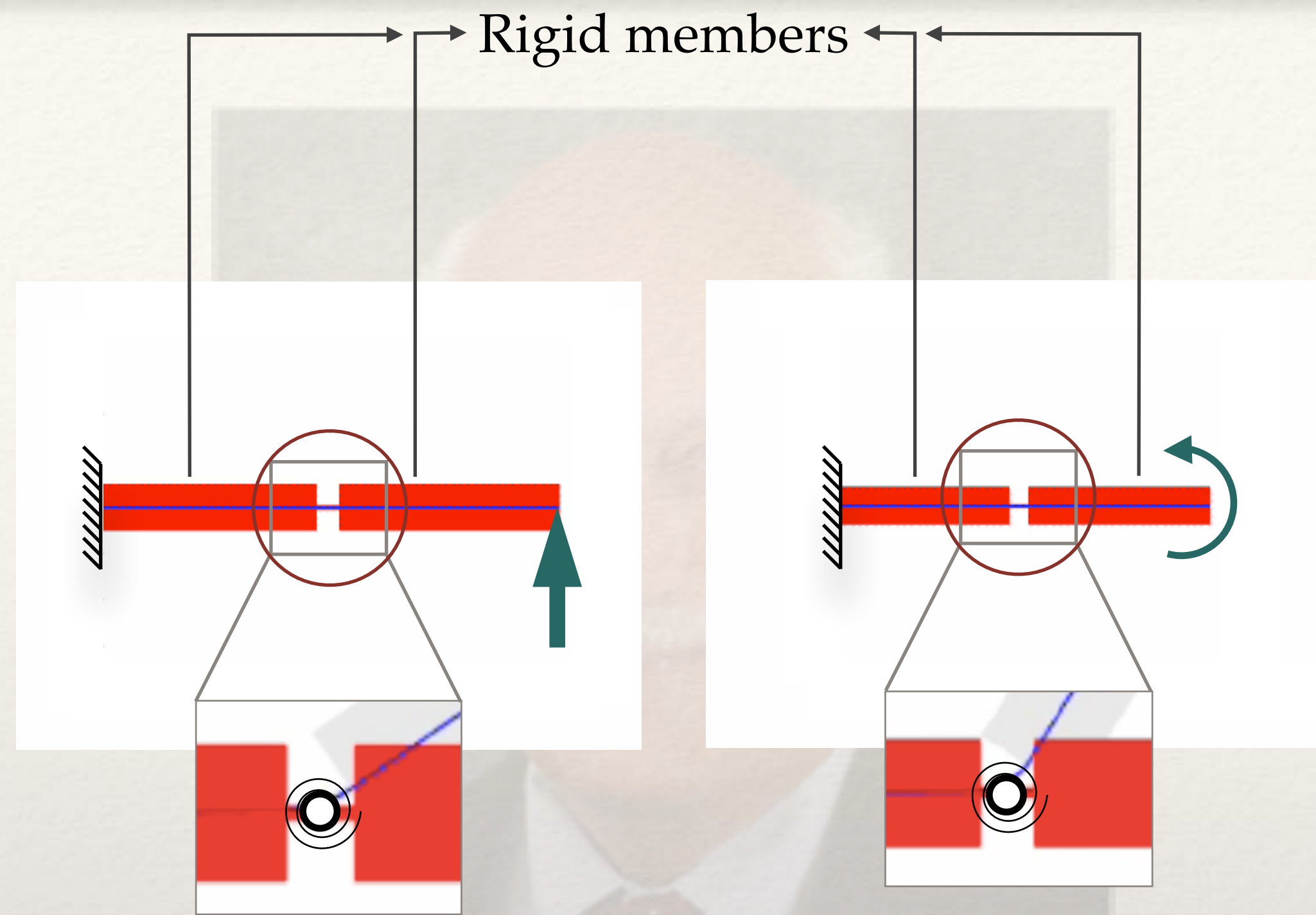
$j_3$  joints restricting 3 relative motions

$j_5$  joints restricting 1 relative motions

$$DOF : 6(n - 1) - 5j_1 - 4j_2 - 3j_3 - 2j_4 - j_5$$

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Rigid members

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**What happens when Compliance is introduced?**

**Understanding Compliance**

Flexural pivot

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**What happens when Compliance is introduced?**

### **Understanding Compliance**

Flexural pivot

Distributed beams



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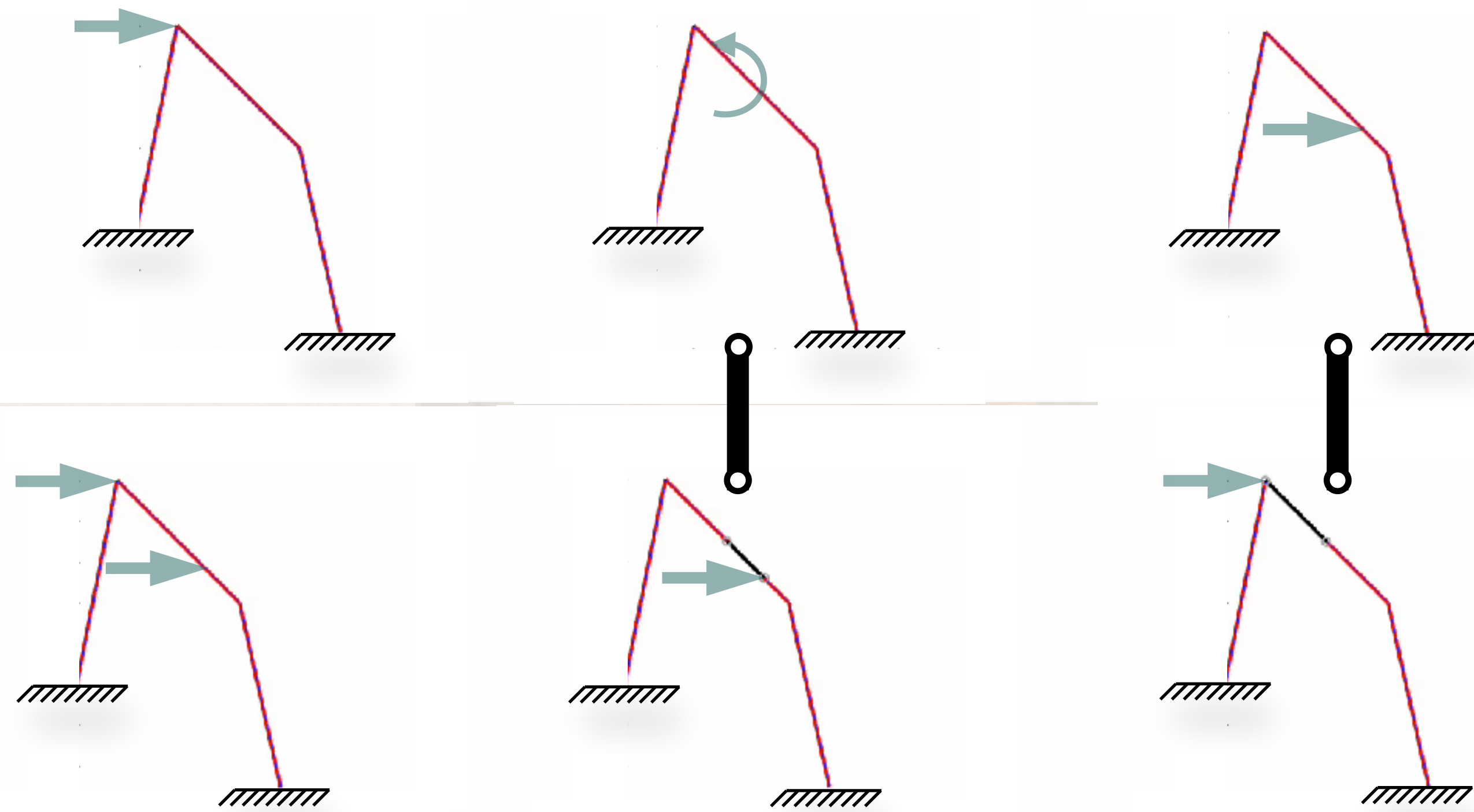
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# **Compliant Mechanisms (ME 851)**

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### Loads at different locations



### Changing member characteristics

**What happens when Compliance is introduced?**

### Understanding Compliance

Flexural pivot

Distributed beams

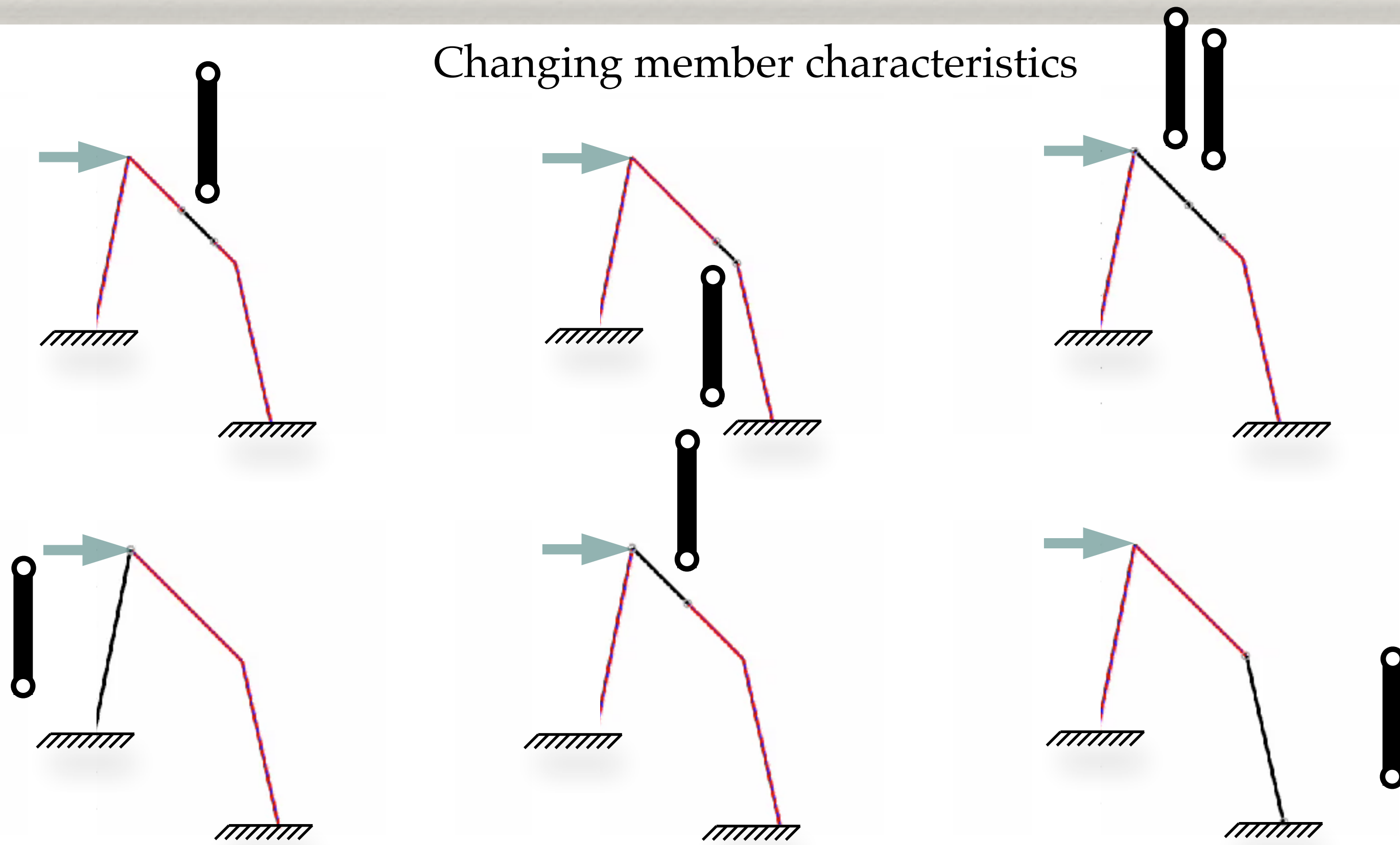
Four bar linkages

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## Changing member characteristics



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**What happens when Compliance is introduced?**

### Understanding Compliance

Flexural pivot

Distributed beams

Four bar linkages

Identical topologies ?

Not quite — connectivity at central bar changes

Example of TYPE SYNTHESIS

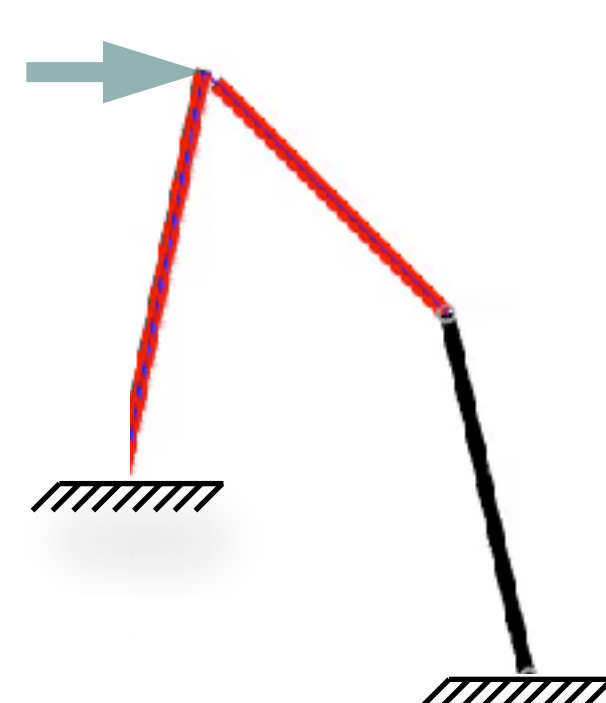
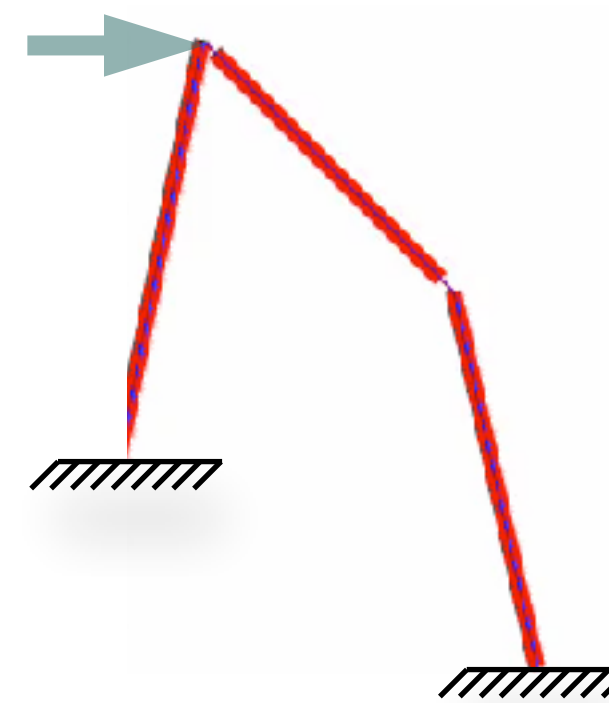
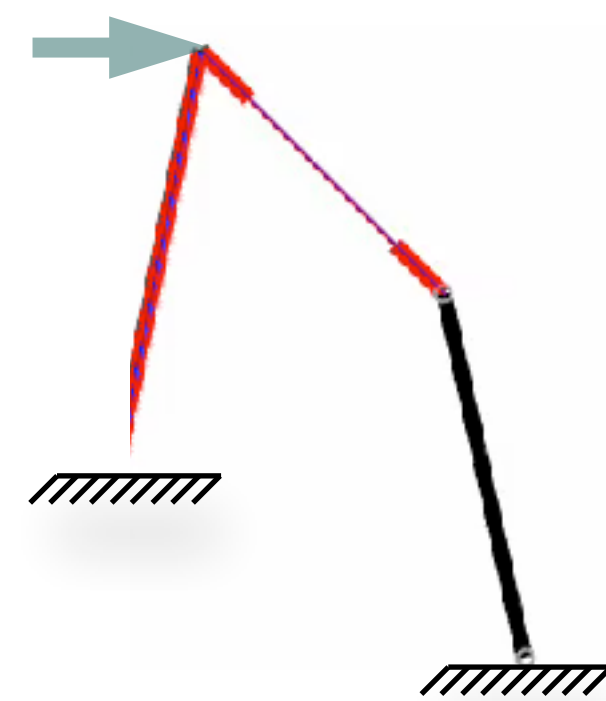
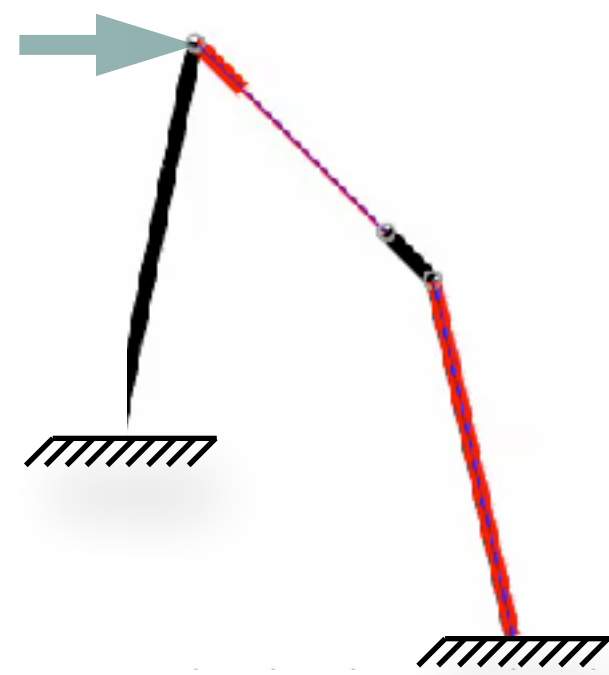
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## Changing member characteristics



## Representation

Hinges ○

Flexural  
Pivot ⊗

Clamped ■

Rigid  
Segment □

Axially  
Compliant  
Segment ■

Compliant  
Segment ⤵

Much Easy to do "Graph Representative" Type synthesis

**What happens when Compliance is introduced?**

## Understanding Compliance

Flexural pivot

Distributed beams

Four bar linkages

Identical topologies ?

Not quite — connectivity at central bar changes

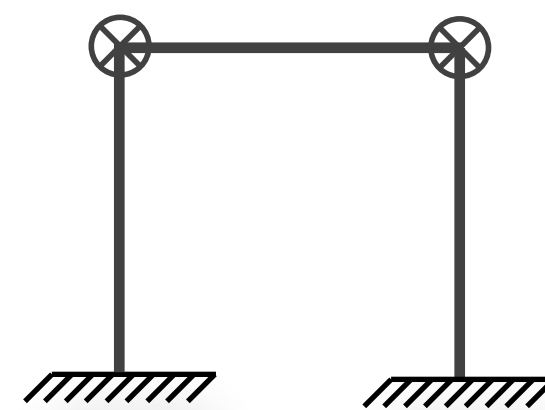
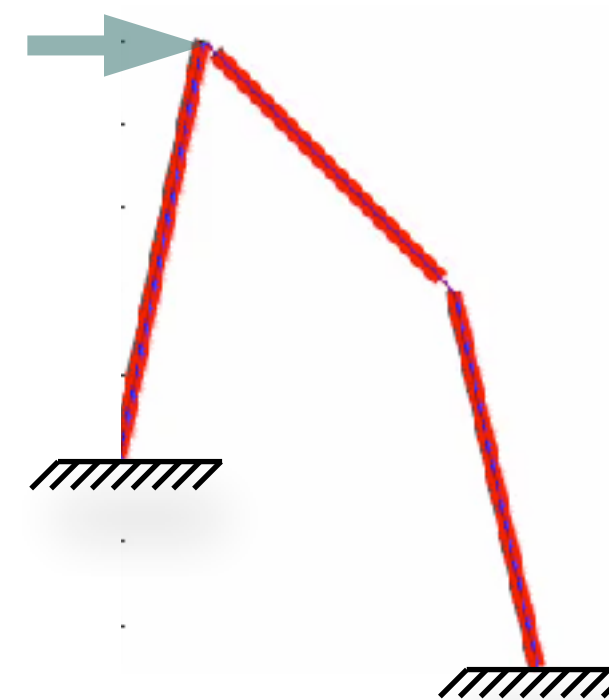
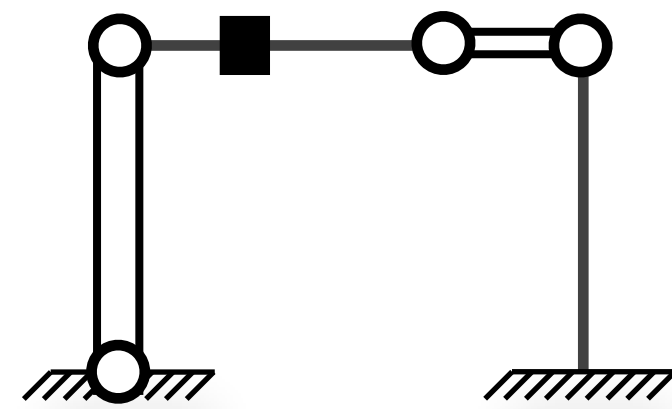
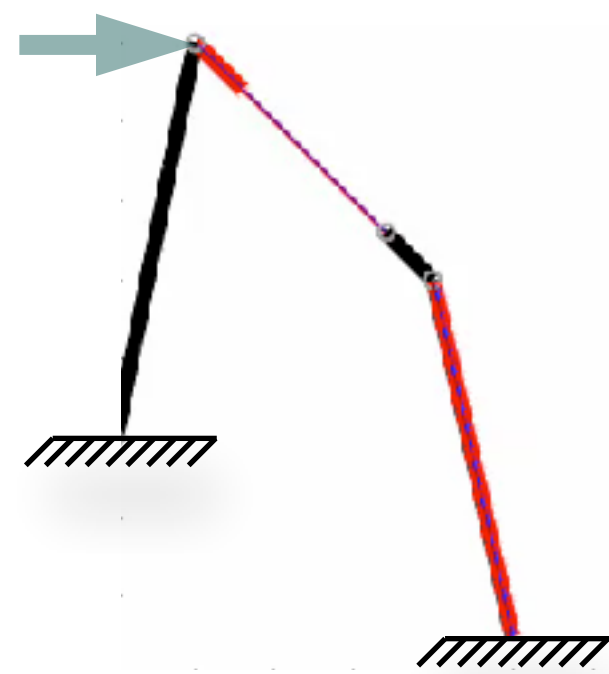
Example of TYPE SYNTHESIS

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## Changing member characteristics



## Representation

Hinges ○

Flexural Pivot ⊗

Pivot ⊗

Clamped ■

Rigid Segment □

Axially Compliant Segment ■

Compliant Segment ⌒

**What happens when Compliance is introduced?**

## Understanding Compliance

Flexural pivot

Distributed beams

Four bar linkages

Identical topologies ?

Not quite — connectivity at central bar changes

Example of TYPE SYNTHESIS

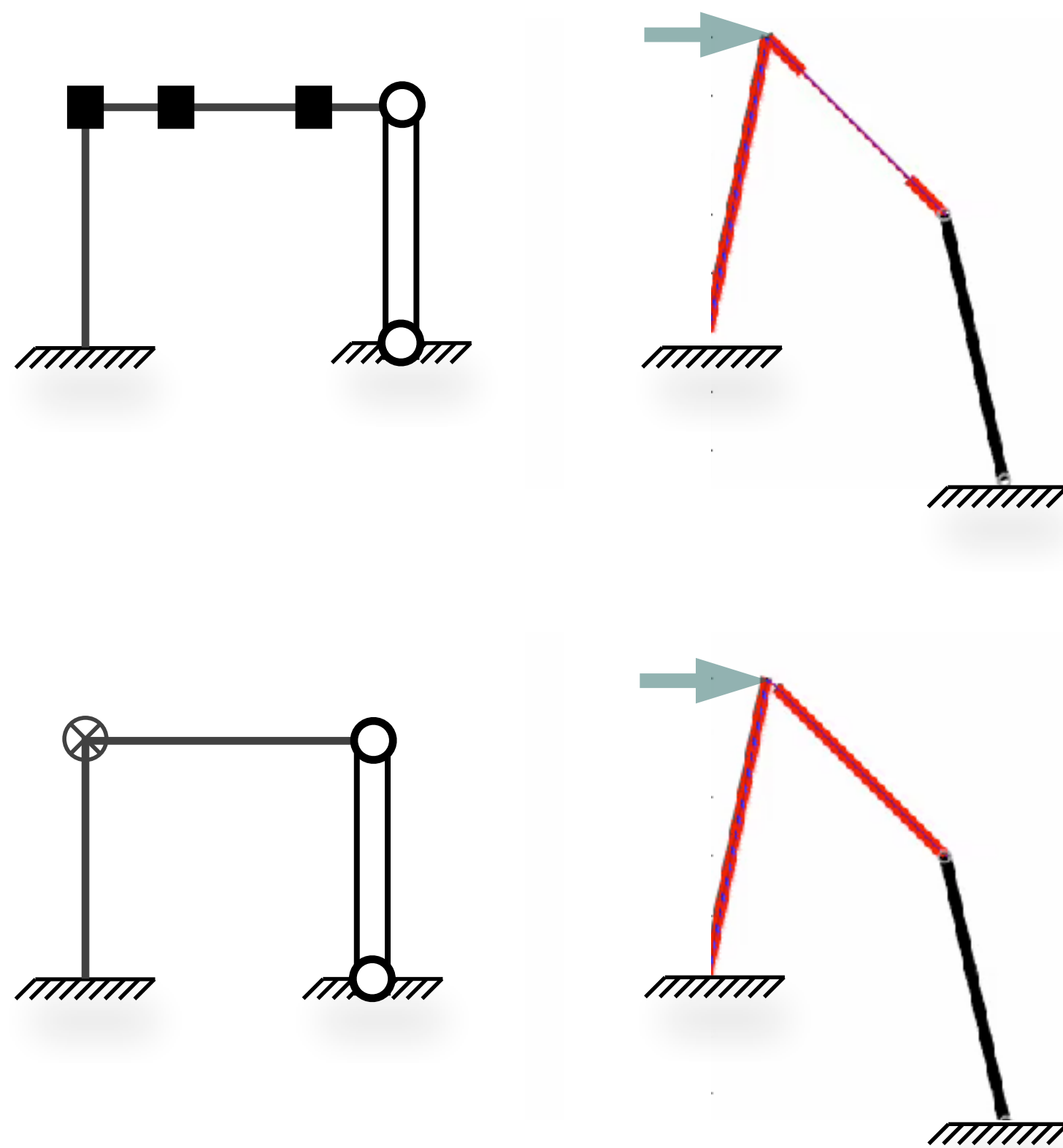
Much Easy to do "Graph Representative" Type synthesis

# Compliant Mechanisms (ME 851)


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## Changing member characteristics



## Representation

- Hinges ○
- Flexural Pivot ⊗
- Clamped ■
- Rigid Segment □
- Axially Compliant Segment ■
- Compliant Segment 

Much Easy to do "Graph Representative" Type synthesis

**What happens when Compliance is introduced?**

## Understanding Compliance

Flexural pivot

Distributed beams

Four bar linkages

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Not quite — connectivity at central bar changes

Example of TYPE SYNTHESIS

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**DE-Vol. 71, Machine Elements and Machine Dynamics  
ASME 1994**

**ON THE MOBILITY OF COMPLIANT MECHANISMS**

**Morgan D. Murphy**  
Delco Electronics Corporation  
Kokomo, Indiana

**Ashok Midha**  
School of Mechanical Engineering  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, Indiana

**Larry L. Howell**  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Brigham Young University  
Provo, Utah

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/ME/Seminars/2021/compliant-mechanisms-memory-lane-and-some-novel-and-exciting-applications/amidha.PNG>

Prof. Ashok Midha

# Compliant Mechanisms (ME 851)

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Topological synthesis for a compliant mechanism... 1994

For mechanisms containing flexible members, response to inputs, is comprised of rigid body and elastic members.

The paper presents a technique for determination of  
*Mobility Characteristics of*  
Compliant Mechanisms

Prof. Ashok Midha

#### ABSTRACT

The topological synthesis for a compliant mechanism leads to a very large number of design options from which to select a final design. Therefore, an evaluation of a mechanism's ability to meet selected criteria provides a means of reducing a large number of possible designs to a smaller set of acceptable designs. One criterion deals with a mechanism's potential mobility. For mechanisms containing flexible members, the response to inputs, in general, is comprised of both rigid-body and elastic deflections of their members. This paper deals primarily with the development of a technique for the determination of mobility characteristics of compliant mechanisms, employing a mathematical model previously developed for compliant mechanisms.

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## Type Synthesis

Olsen et al. define  
Type synthesis  
as

*process of determining possible mechanism structures to perform  
a given task or their combination without regard to  
component dimensions*

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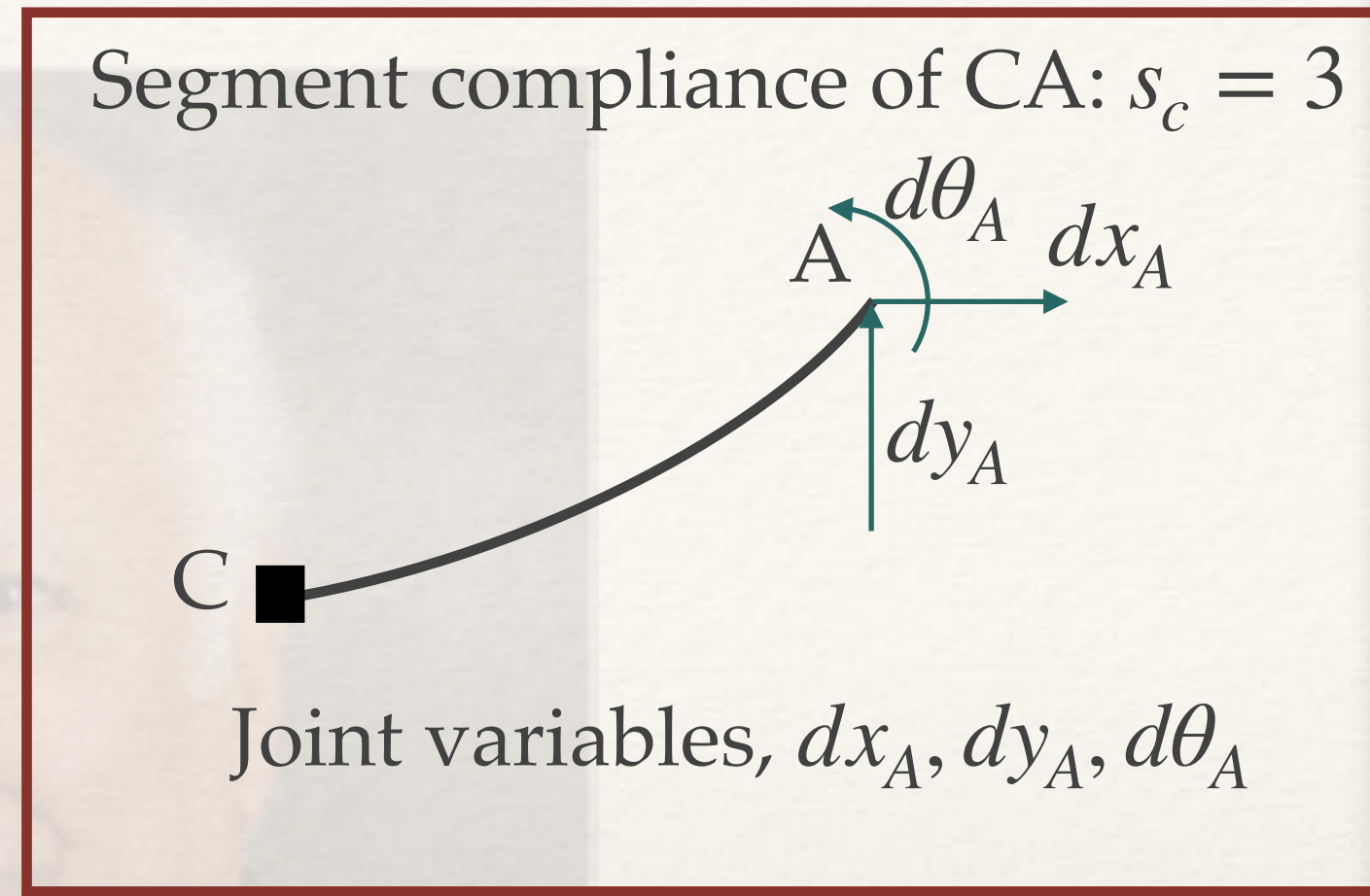
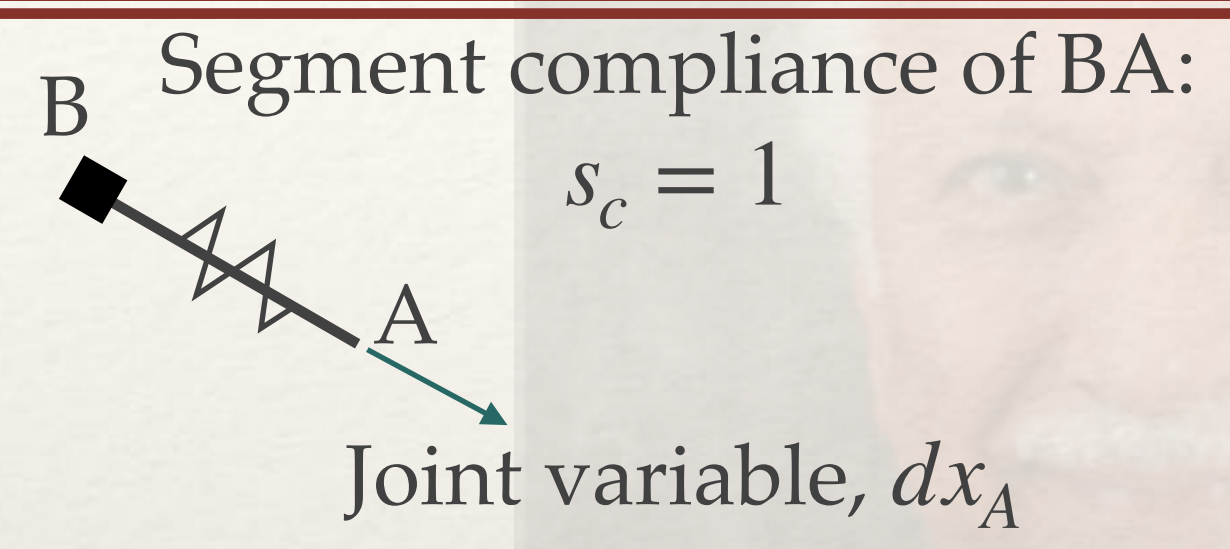
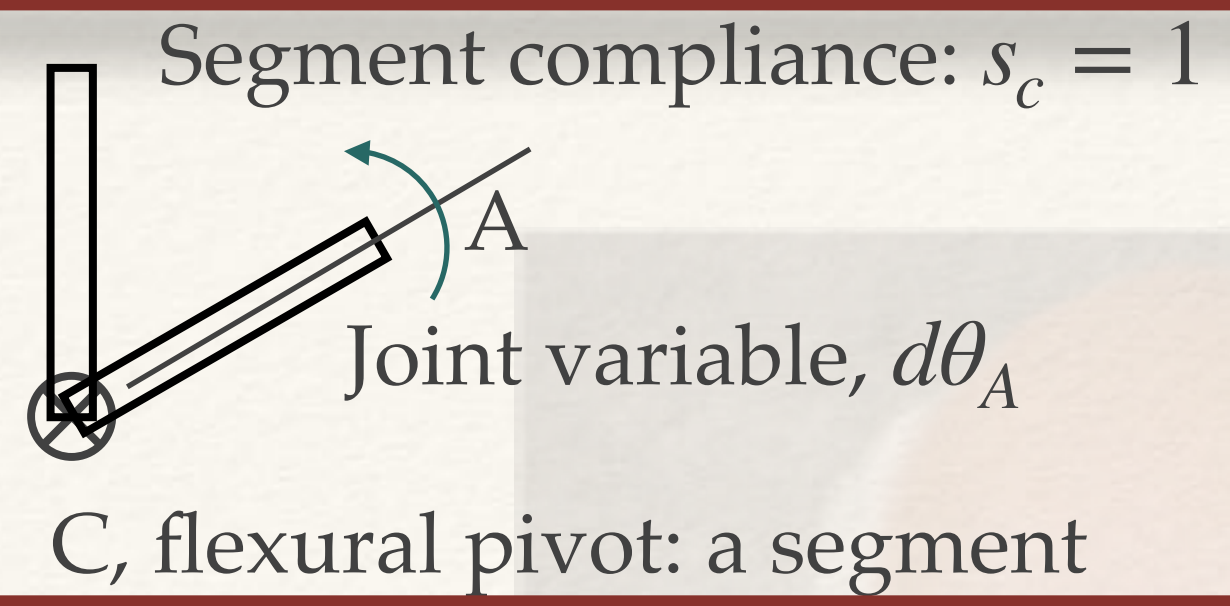
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Many researchers have made significant contributions to the systematic study of mechanism design. The focus of several efforts has been in the area of type synthesis. Olson et al. (1985) defined type synthesis as "the process of determining possible mechanism structures to perform a given task or combination of tasks without regard to the dimensions of a component." The formulation of design procedures for rigid-body mechanisms has benefited from the application of type-synthesis techniques. Therefore, type synthesis is seen as a useful tool in the development of design procedures for compliant mechanisms as well. Murphy (1993) and Murphy et al. (1993) provided a mathematically rigorous method for the topological synthesis of compliant mechanisms that included compliance content information. One drawback of this technique is that a large number of design options can result from the application of this process. In order to arrive at the evaluation criteria to select a final design, it is helpful to investigate the mobility characteristics of the chains enumerated in the topological synthesis process.

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The nature of possible deformations of a compliant segment can be specified by determining a segment's compliance content,  $s_c$  (Norton, 1991; Midha et al., 1994b)

**MATHEMATICAL MODEL FOR COMPLIANT MECHANISMS**

The development of a systematic approach for the topological synthesis of compliant mechanisms requires the formulation of a mathematical model to represent the structure of a compliant mechanism (Murphy, 1993). In addition to providing information concerning the connectivity of the segments, this model provides information on the nature of possible segment deformations and the connection types between segments. In rigid-body kinematics, graph theory provides a mathematically rigorous representation for link connectivity through the vertex-vertex adjacency matrix, and other matrices that represent the topology of a mechanism.

The nature of possible deformations of a compliant segment can be specified by determining a segment's compliance content,  $s_c$  (Norton, 1991; Midha et al., 1994b). Figure 1 provides examples of segment compliance content for various segment types. Therefore, by combining the concept of segment compliance content with the matrix representation for the segment connectivity, a model to represent the structure of a compliant mechanism can be formulated.

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# Compliant Mechanisms (ME 851)

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Vertex-vertex adjacency matrix for an RB mechanism  
*n*th order matrix —  $a(i,j) = 1$  if *i* and *j* vertices are adjacent;  
 $a(i,j) = 0$  otherwise.

Noting that  $a(i,i) = 0$ , always  
For compliant mechanism, this fact can be gainfully utilized

Set (new matrix)  $b(i,i) = s_c$  for the *i*th link

New matrix called the *Compliance element matrix, CE*

Non-diagonal elements:

Segments *i* and *j* not connected,  $b(i,j) = 0$

Segments *i* and *j* connected via kinematic pair,  $b(i,j) = 1$

Flexural pivot between segments *i* and *j*,  $b(i,j) = 2$

Segments *i* clamped to segment *j*,  $b(i,j) = 3$

If two segments connected at more than one location,  
one of these can be split into two and joined at fixed connection

The vertex-vertex adjacency matrix corresponding to a rigid-body mechanism is an *n*th order matrix where the element  $a(i,j)$  is equal to one if the *i*th vertex is adjacent to the *j*th vertex, and zero otherwise. As a result of this definition, the diagonal elements  $a(i,i)$  are always equal to zero. Therefore, for compliant mechanisms, the  $a(i,i)$  element is gainfully utilized to convey the segment compliance information. This is done by making the  $a(i,i)$  element equal to the value of  $s_c$  for the segment represented by the *i*th vertex. The non-diagonal elements of the segment-compliance vertex-vertex adjacency matrix are used to provide information regarding the types of connection between segments. The resulting matrix (Murphy, 1993) is called the compliant element matrix (CE). For this representation, if segment *i* is not connected to segment *j* then its element  $b(i,j)=0$ . If segment *i* is connected to segment *j* with a kinematic pair, then  $b(i,j)=1$ . If a flexural pivot connects segment *i* to segment *j* then  $b(i,j)=2$ . Finally, if segment *i* is clamped to segment *j*, then  $b(i,j)=3$ . For a rigid-body mechanism, the compliant element matrix (CE) elements will have the same values as those for the standard vertex-vertex adjacency matrix. One consequence of this notation is that two segments can only be joined at one location. If two segments are connected at more than one location, one of the original segments can be divided into two segments, joined at a fixed connection. This will allow the topology of the chain to be described, while maintaining the integrity of the mathematical formulation. Murphy et al. (1993) also modified

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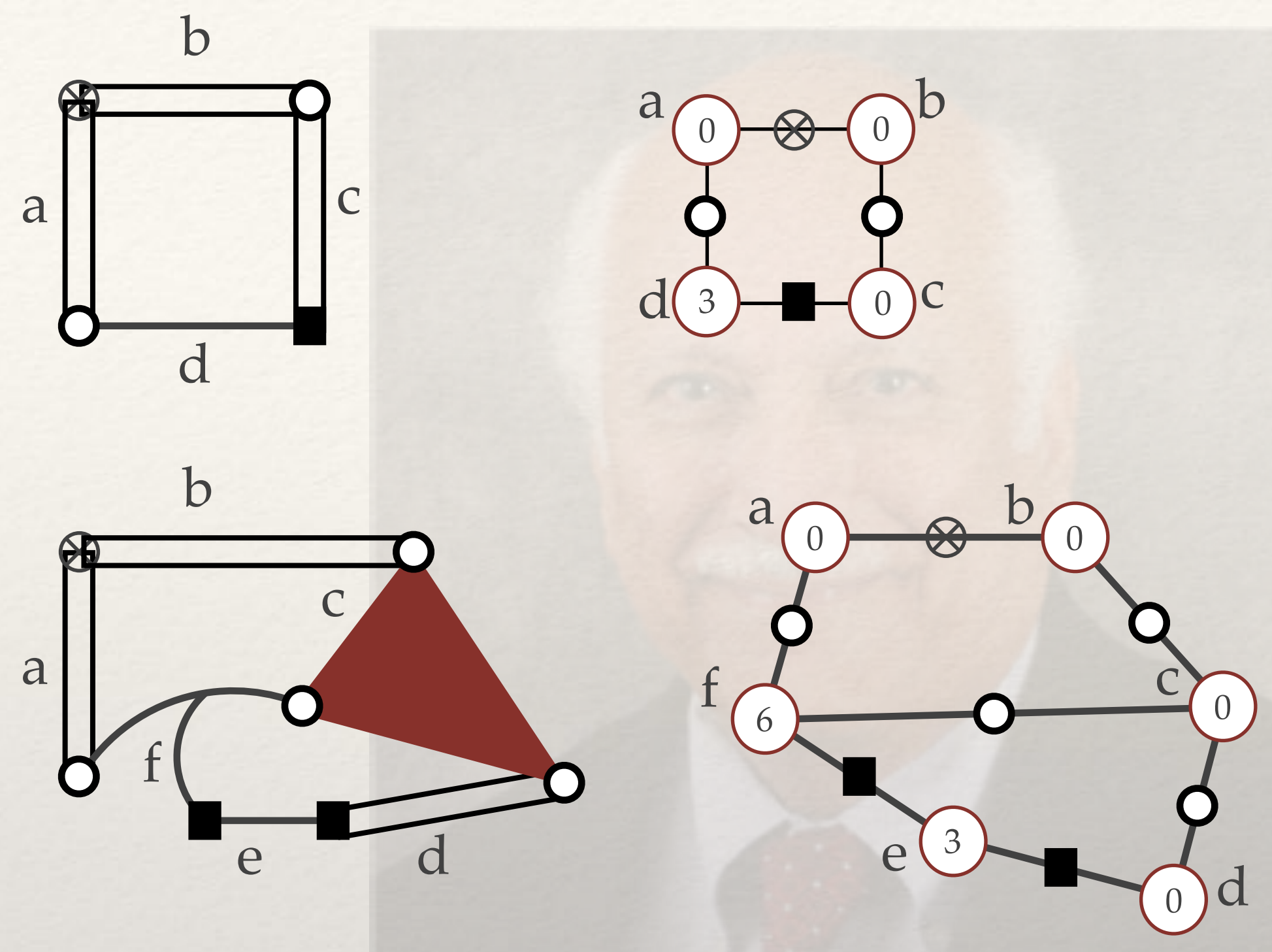
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Examples

$$CE = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}_{s_c}$$

$$CE = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}_{s_c}$$



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# Compliant Mechanisms (ME 851)

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## DOFs for a Compliant Mechanism

Compute degenerate (Rigid-Body) DoFs

Assume all flexible links to be rigid

$$F_r = 3(n_1 - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$$

$n_1$ : number of links,

$j_1$ : number of 1 DoF joints

$j_2$ : number of 2 DoF joints

If only kinematic pairs present

$n_1 = n_{seg}$ : number of segments

**For each kinematic pair replaced  
by a flexural joint or fixed connection**

$$n_1 = n_{seg} - n_{flp} - n_{fix}$$

**Number of links in the mechanism is reduced by 1**

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$n_{flp}$ : Number of flexural pivots  
connecting segments

$n_{fix}$ : Number of fixed connections  
between segments

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### DEGREES OF FREEDOM FOR A COMPLIANT MECHANISM

Her and Midha (1987) defined the degenerate degrees of freedom, or rigid-body degrees of freedom,  $F_r$ , as those calculated by assuming all flexible links to be rigid. Thus using Grübler's criterion for a planar mechanism,

$$F_r = 3(n_1 - 1) - 2n_{j1} - n_{j2} \quad (1)$$

where  $n_1$  is the number of links,  $n_{j1}$  the number of single-degree-of-freedom pairs (joints) and  $n_{j2}$  the number of two-degree-of-freedom pairs (joints). If a compliant mechanism contains only kinematic pairs as connections between segments, then the number of links  $n_1$  is equal to the number of segments,  $n_{seg}$ . For each kinematic pair that is replaced by a flexural pivot or a fixed connection, the number of links in the mechanism is reduced by one (Murphy, 1993). Therefore, the number of links in a compliant mechanism can be determined from:

$$n_1 = n_{seg} - n_{fp} - n_{fix} \quad (2)$$

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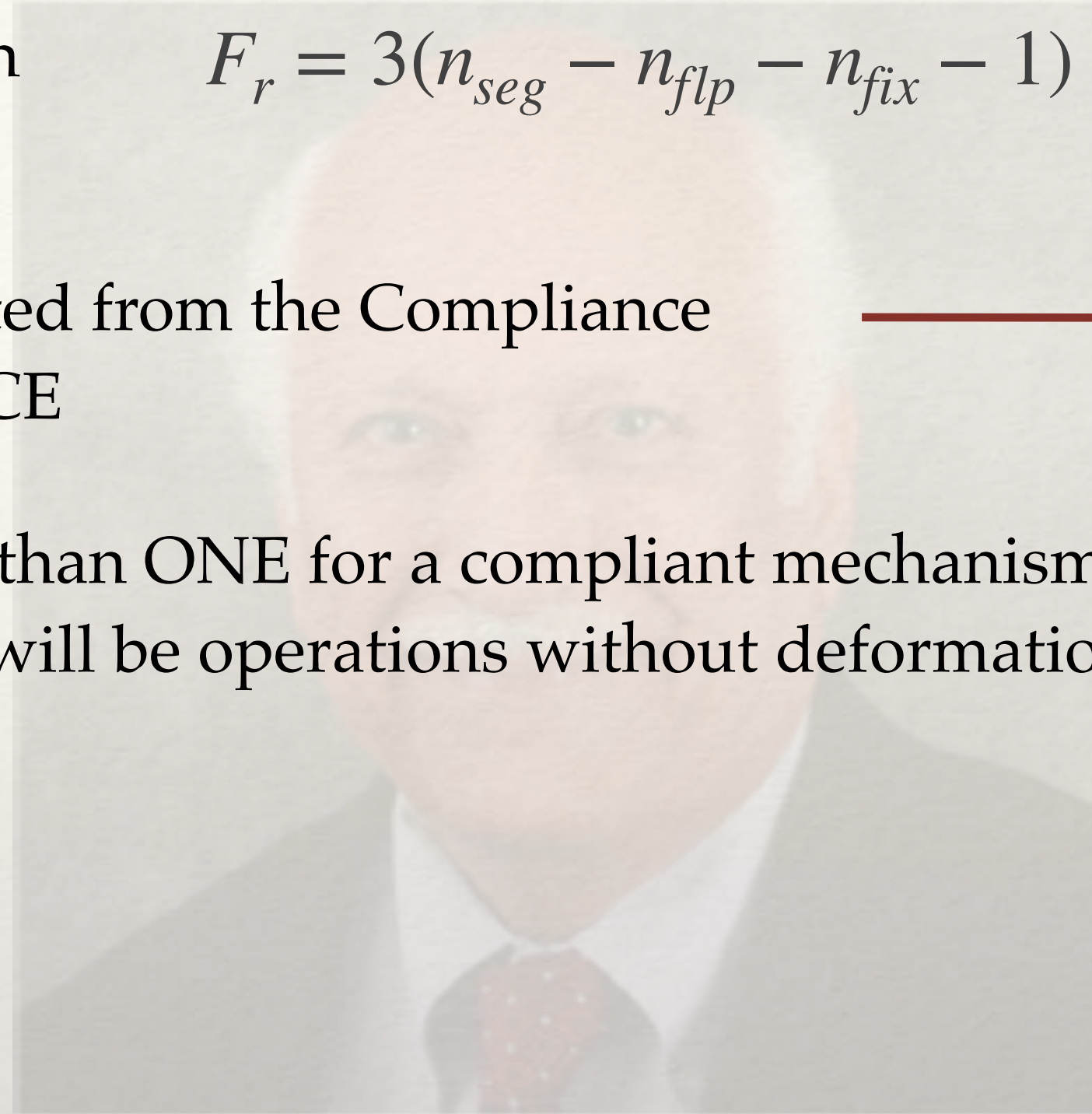
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## DOFs for a Compliant Mechanism

Upon substitution  $F_r = 3(n_{seg} - n_{flp} - n_{fix} - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$

$F_T$  can be computed from the Compliance Element Matrix, CE

$F_T$  is usually less than ONE for a compliant mechanism, else, mechanism will be operations without deformation of its members.



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One benefit of this formulation is that  $F_T$  can be calculated directly from information provided in the compliant element matrix (Murphy, 1993). Moreover, the rigid-body degrees of freedom ( $F_T$ ) are now related directly to a segment formulation for compliant mechanisms. Howell (1991) noted that the rigid-body degrees of freedom are typically less than unity for a compliant mechanism, otherwise the mechanism could have motion without using the deflections of its members.

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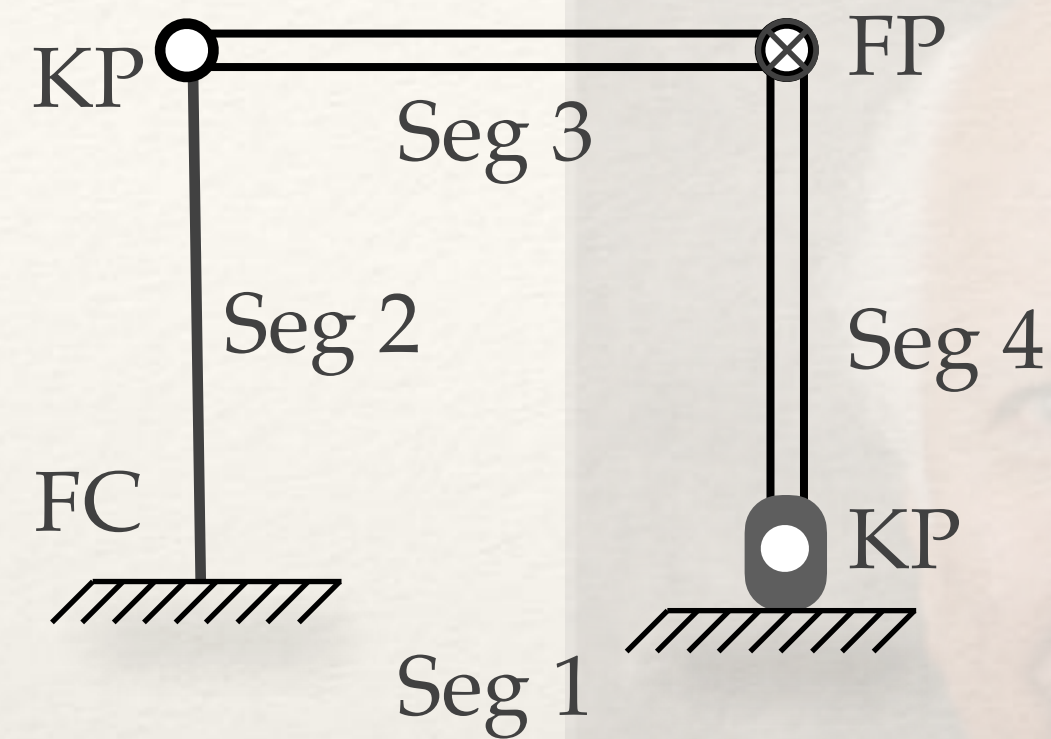
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## DOFs for a Compliant Mechanism

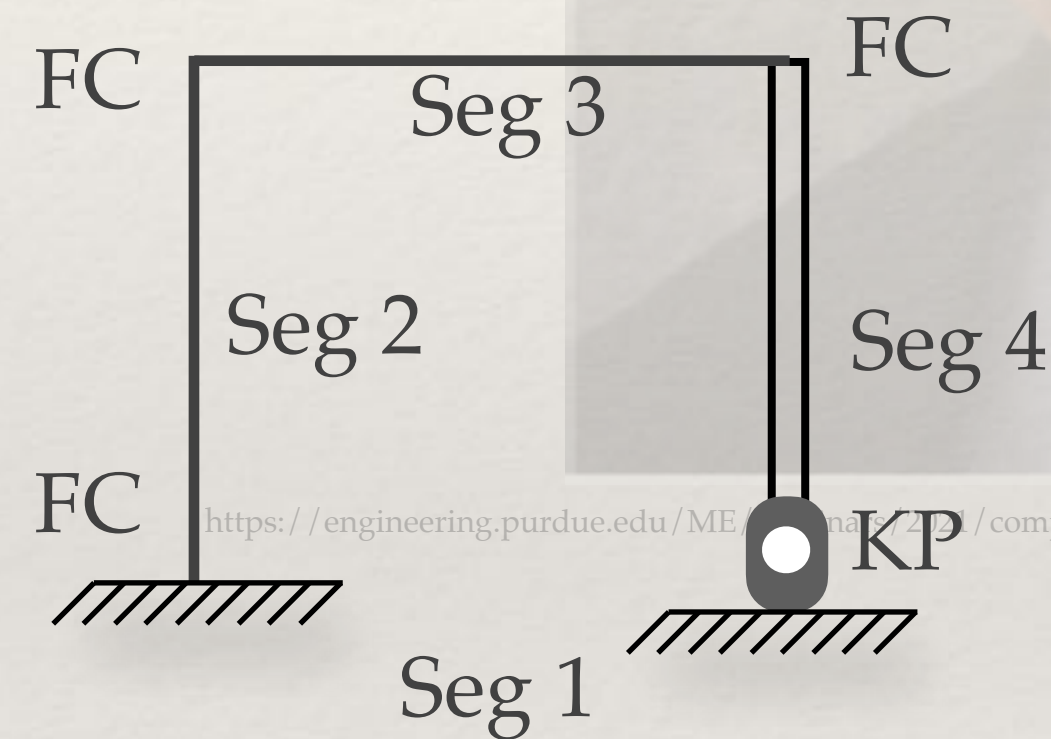
FC: Fixed Connection

KP: Kinematic Pair

FP: Flexural Pivot



$$CE = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$CE = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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### Examples

$$n_{seg} = 4; n_{fix} = 1; n_{j_1} = 2; n_{nfp} = 1; n_{j_2} = 0$$

$$F_r = 3(n_{seg} - n_{flp} - n_{fix} - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$$

$$F_r = 3(4 - 1 - 1 - 1) - 2(2) - 0 = -1$$

$$n_{seg} = 4; n_{fix} = 3; n_{j_1} = 1; n_{nfp} = 0; n_{j_2} = 0$$

$$F_r = 3(n_{seg} - n_{flp} - n_{fix} - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$$

$$F_r = 3(4 - 3 - 1) - 2(1) - 0 = -2$$

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## COMPLIANCE NUMBER — C

C represents the DoFs *gained* by adding compliance to the mechanism

If only kinematic pairs present as connections between segments,

$$C = \sum \text{Segment (link) Compliances}$$

Introduction of Flexural Pivots also *increases* Compliance of a mechanism

Fixed connections *offer no change* to the value of the Compliance number

$$C = n_{flp} + n_{sc1} + 2n_{sc2} + 3n_{sc3}$$

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$n_{flp}$ : Number of flexural pivots

$n_{sc_i}$ : Number of segments with segment compliance  $i, i = 1, 2, 3$

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The compliance number, C, represents the degrees of freedom gained by adding compliance to a mechanism (Her, 1986; Her and Midha, 1987). For a compliant mechanism that contains only kinematic pairs as connections between segments, the compliance number is equal to the summation of the segment (link) compliances (Howell, 1991). In addition to segment compliance, introduction of flexural pivots also increases the compliance of a mechanism. When a kinematic pair is replaced by a flexural pivot, the compliance number of the mechanism is increased by one. Fixed connections neither add to nor subtract from the value of the compliance number. Therefore, for mechanisms containing only binary compliant segments, the compliance number can be calculated as

$$C = n_{fp} + n_{sc1} + 2n_{sc2} + 3n_{sc3} \quad (6)$$

where  $n_{fp}$  is the number of flexural pivots, and  $n_{sc1}$ ,  $n_{sc2}$  and  $n_{sc3}$  are the number of segments with a segment compliance ( $s_c$ ) of one, two and three, respectively. For a mechanism containing k-nary segments ( $k > 2$ ), the segment compliance may be greater than three. In general, the compliance number can be determined by

$$C = n_{fp} + \sum_{i=1}^q i \{n_{sci}\} \quad (7)$$

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## COMPLIANCE NUMBER — C

For  $k$ -nary segments, segment compliance can be greater than 3.

In general,

$$C = n_{flp} + \sum_{i=1}^q n_{sc_i}$$

$q$ : highest value of segment compliance in the mechanism

In fact,

$$\sum_{i=1}^q n_{sc_i} = \text{trace}(CE)$$

Thus

$$C = n_{flp} + \text{trace}(CE)$$

Finally, degrees of freedom for a compliant mechanism

$$DoF = F_c = F_r + C$$

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/~ashokm>

PNG

Prof. Ashok Midha

## DE-Vol. 71, Machine Elements and Machine Dynamics ASME 1994

The compliance number,  $C$ , represents the degrees of freedom gained by adding compliance to a mechanism (Her, 1986; Her and Midha, 1987). For a compliant mechanism that contains only kinematic pairs as connections between segments, the compliance number is equal to the summation of the segment (link) compliances (Howell, 1991). In addition to segment compliance, introduction of flexural pivots also increases the compliance of a mechanism. When a kinematic pair is replaced by a flexural pivot, the compliance number of the mechanism is increased by one. Fixed connections neither add to nor subtract from the value of the compliance number. Therefore, for mechanisms containing only binary compliant segments, the compliance number can be calculated as

$$C = n_{fp} + n_{sc1} + 2n_{sc2} + 3n_{sc3} \quad (6)$$

where  $n_{fp}$  is the number of flexural pivots, and  $n_{sc1}$ ,  $n_{sc2}$  and  $n_{sc3}$  are the number of segments with a segment compliance ( $s_c$ ) of one, two and three, respectively. For a mechanism containing  $k$ -nary segments ( $k > 2$ ), the segment compliance may be greater than three. In general, the compliance number can be determined by

$$C = n_{fp} + \sum_{i=1}^q i \{n_{sc_i}\} \quad (7)$$

# Compliant Mechanisms (ME 851)

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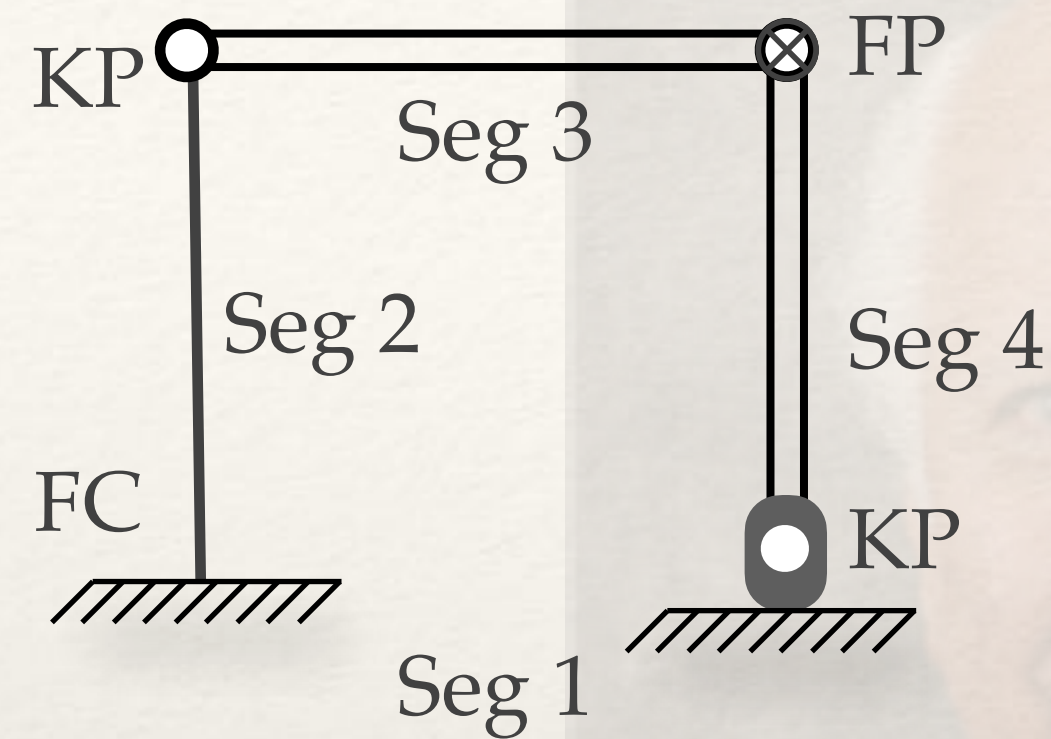
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

## DOFs for a Compliant Mechanism

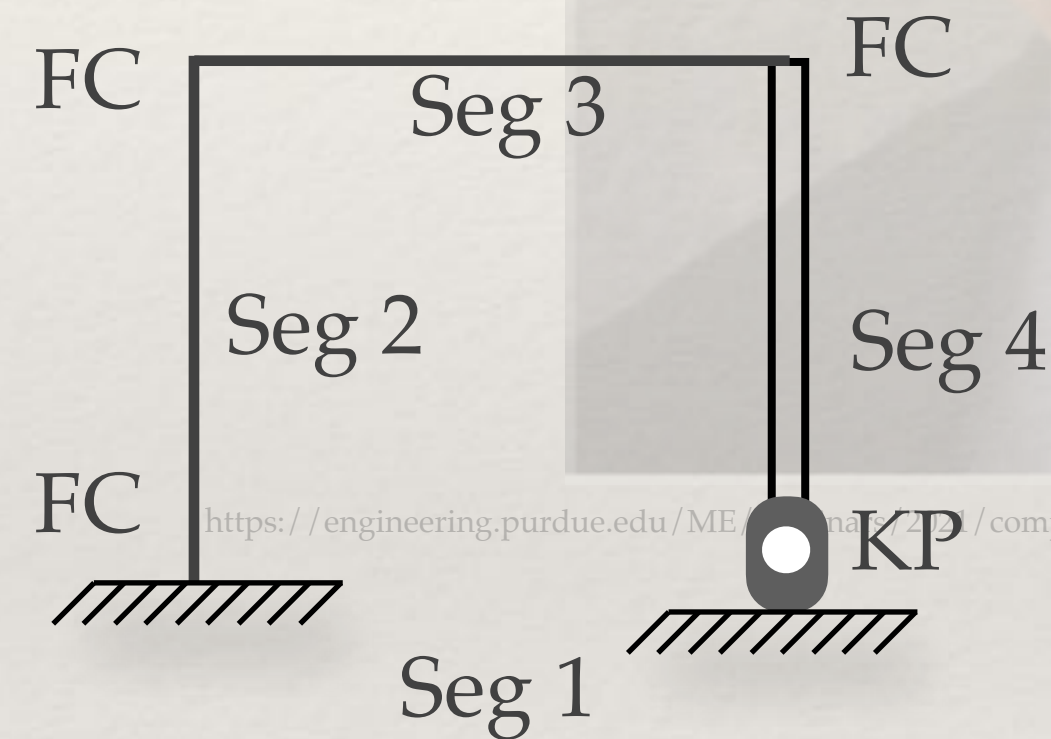
FC: Fixed Connection

KP: Kinematic Pair

FP: Flexural Pivot



$$CE = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$CE = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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### Examples

$$n_{seg} = 4; n_{fix} = 1; n_{j_1} = 2; n_{nfp} = 1; n_{j_2} = 0$$

$$F_r = 3(n_{seg} - n_{flp} - n_{fix} - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$$

$$F_r = 3(4 - 1 - 1 - 1) - 2(2) - 0 = -1$$

$$C = n_{flp} + \text{trace}(CE) = 1 + 3 = 4$$

$$F_c = F_r + C = -1 + 4 = 3$$

$$n_{seg} = 4; n_{fix} = 3; n_{j_1} = 1; n_{nfp} = 0; n_{j_2} = 0$$

$$F_r = 3(n_{seg} - n_{flp} - n_{fix} - 1) - 2j_1 - j_2$$

$$F_r = 3(4 - 3 - 1) - 2(1) - 0 = -2$$

$$C = n_{flp} + \text{trace}(CE) = 0 + 6 = 6 \quad F_c = 4$$

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