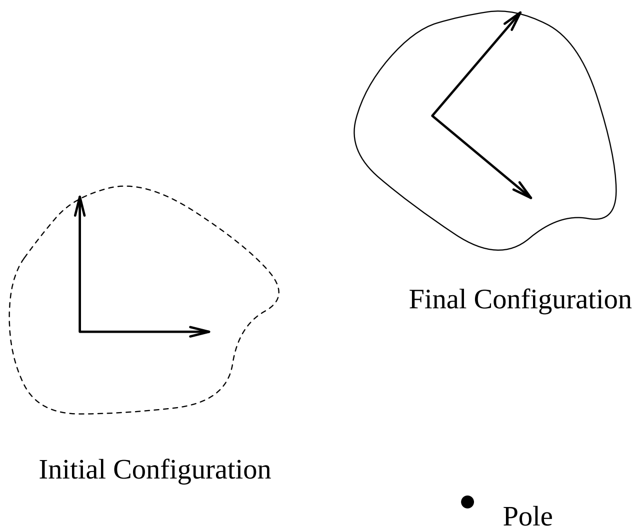
ME 115(a): Homework #1

(Due Wednesday, January 18, 2012)

Problem 1: Every planar rigid body displacement is *equivalent* to a rotation about a unique point in the plane, known as the pole (see Figure).



Let A be a fixed reference frame. A rigid body, L, which has local frame B attached to it, is located relative to reference frame A by $D_1 = (R_{01}, d_{01})$. Body L moves to position C, where the displacement to location C, as measured by an observer in frame B, is given by $D_2 = (R_{12}, d_{12})$.

Suppose $D_1 = (x, y, \theta) = (1.0, 3.0, 45.0^o)$ and $D_2 = (x, y, \theta) = (1.0, 2.0, 30^o)$. Where is the pole of the displacement from B to C in this case?

Problem 2: Using the set up of Problem 1, pick a coordinate system whose origin is located at the pole of the displacement, and show that in this coordinate system, the displacement of the body from B to C is a pure rotation.

Problem 3: A *planar reflection* is an operation wherein one "reflects" all of the particles in a body across a line. Show (intuitively) that reflections "preserve length." That is, reflections do not alter the distance relationship between particles in a rigid body. Can any planar displacement be equivalently performed by a reflection?

Problem 4: In class we used the particle nature of rigid bodies to "prove" that a planar rigid body has three degrees of freedom. Use the same idea to "prove" that a body undergoing spherical motion has three degrees of freedom.