

## HIGHER-ORDER CENTRODES AND BRESSE'S CIRCLES OF SLIDER-CRANK MECHANISMS

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper deals with the formulation via the instantaneous geometric invariants of a specific algorithm to determine the higher-order centrodes and Bresse's circles for the coupler link of slider-crank mechanisms. In particular, the first, second and third order centrodes can be obtained in any configuration of the mechanism by showing the successive positions of the instant center of rotation and the acceleration and jerk poles. Several graphical and numerical results for a given slider-crank mechanism in different configuration, are also shown.*

Keywords: Higher-order centrodes, higher-order Bresse's circles, instantaneous geometric invariants, slider-crank mechanisms

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The kinematic analysis of planar mechanisms can be usually developed through graphical and analytical methods. Among the various analytical methods there is the one that refers to the instantaneous geometric invariants, which allow to obtain simplified and compact relationships for practical applications.

The instantaneous geometric invariants were introduced by Krause in 1920 [1] and developed by Bottema [2] and Veldkamp [3]. They can be very useful in the field of kinematics from different points of view, such as the kinematic synthesis of mechanisms [4-5], the curvature analysis [6] or the design of equivalent mechanisms [7-8]. One application of the instantaneous geometric invariants is the one that refers to the centrodes, which can be utilized in various fields of machine design, as in cam mechanisms [9], cylindrical gears [10], together with kinematic synthesis of linkage [11-13]. The centrodes have been utilized also in the synthesis of spatial and spherical linkages [14-17]. The kinematic synthesis of linkage is often carried out by using some important geometric loci, as the

inflection circle, the stationary circle and the cubic of stationary curvature, and the instantaneous geometric invariants can be very useful to express these geometric loci in some advantageous algebraic forms, as reported in [18]. However, geometric loci, as the ones mentioned above, along with the instant center of rotation, the acceleration and jerk centers [19-23], the Ball and Javot points, can be also of great interest for the kinematic analysis and synthesis of planar mechanisms [24-27].

The main research motivations of this paper are related to the development of the advanced planar kinematic theory for analyzing the rigid body motion with more details. In fact, increasing the order of the time-derivatives of a point position vector of a rigid body and thus, going from the velocity, to the acceleration, jerk and others, we get more instantaneously information on what the rigid body is going to do, when the previous time derivatives are equal to zero.

For example, this is the case of the incipient motions, where the velocity vectors of all points are zero, while the accelerations are different by zero. In this context, the determination of the corresponding vector fields and their poles, as the acceleration center and the jerk pole, along with the higher-order centrodes and Bresse's circles, become very useful for understanding the mechanism kinematic behavior.

In particular, this paper is devoted to the determination of the third order fixed and moving centrodes, along with the zero-normal and zero-tangential jerk circles, even to validate the right position of the jerk pole, as center of the jerk vector field of the coupler link. The proposed formulation has been obtained by using the instantaneous geometric invariants and referring to slider-crank mechanisms with constant angular velocity of the driving crank. Graphical and numerical results have allowed the validation of the proposed formulation, which has been implemented in Matlab program to obtain the first, second and third order centrodes, along with the Bresse and jerk circles, in any configuration of a given slider-crank mechanism.

## 2. INSTANTANEOUS GEOMETRIC INVARIANTS

Referring to the slider-crank mechanism of Fig. 1, the pairs of fixed  $\Phi (O, X, Y)$  and moving  $f (\Omega, x, y)$  reference frames, were chosen along with the corresponding fixed and moving canonical reference frames  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}} (P_1, \tilde{X}, \tilde{Y})$  and  $\tilde{f} (P_1, \tilde{x}, \tilde{y})$  which origin coincides with the instantaneous center of rotation  $P_1$  of the coupler link  $AB$ . In particular, the  $\tilde{Y}$  axis is orthogonal to  $P_1$  point to the fixed centrode  $\pi$  and oriented toward the moving centrode that is not shown in Fig.1. Consequently, the  $\tilde{X}$  axis is tangent to both centrodes at  $P_1$  point and oriented clockwise with respect to the  $\tilde{Y}$  axis, while the moving canonical reference frame  $\tilde{f}$  is assumed as coincident with  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  at the referring configuration, as shown in Figure 1. The position and the orientation of the moving frame  $f (\Omega, x, y)$  is obtained through the position vector  $\mathbf{r}_\Omega$  which can be expressed as

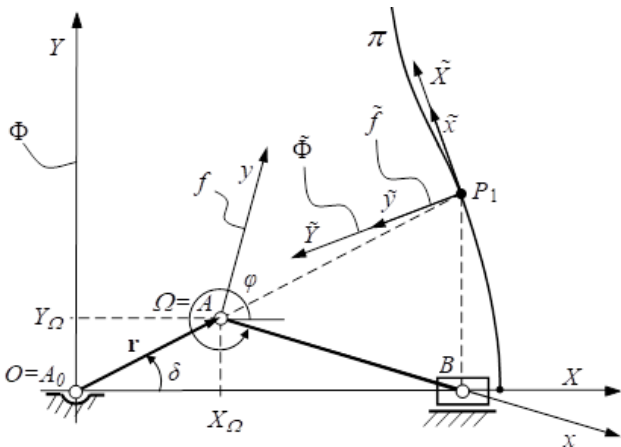
$$\mathbf{r}_\Omega = r [\cos \delta \quad \sin \delta]^T \quad (1)$$

where  $r$  and  $\delta$  are the  $A_0A$  crank length and the oriented counter-clockwise angle of  $A_0A$  with respect to the  $X$ -axis, respectively. Thus, during the mechanism motion,  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  remain fixed to the frame, while  $f$  and  $\tilde{f}$  move as attached to the coupler link  $AB$  of the slider-crank mechanism.

The instantaneous geometric invariants  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  are the  $n$ -order derivatives of the Cartesian-coordinates  $\tilde{X}_l$  and  $\tilde{Y}_l$  of  $P_1$  with respect to the oriented angle  $\vartheta$  that  $\tilde{f}$  makes with respect to  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  during the coupler motion, by taking the form

$$a_n = \frac{d^n \tilde{X}_l}{d\vartheta^n} \quad \text{and} \quad b_n = \frac{d^n \tilde{Y}_l}{d\vartheta^n} \quad (2)$$

where  $n$  is a natural number.



**FIGURE 1:** ORIGINAL ( $\Phi$  AND  $f$ ) AND CANONICAL ( $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  AND  $\tilde{f}$ ) REFERENCE FRAMES.

For a starting configuration in which both canonical frames coincide each other, as shown in Fig. 1, the instantaneous geometric invariants up to the third order are given by the following expressions:

$$a_0 = b_0 = a_1 = b_1 = a_2 = 0 \quad (3)$$

while  $b_2$ ,  $a_3$ , and  $b_3$  are different from zero and take the forms:

$$b_2 = \sqrt{\left(\frac{d^2 X_\Omega}{d\varphi^2} + \frac{dY_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{d^2 Y_\Omega}{d\varphi^2} - \frac{dX_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right)^2} \quad (4)$$

$$a_3 = \frac{1}{b_2} \left[ \left(\frac{d^3 X_\Omega}{d\varphi^3} + \frac{dX_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right) \left(\frac{d^2 Y_\Omega}{d\varphi^2} - \frac{dX_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right) + \left(\frac{d^3 Y_\Omega}{d\varphi^3} + \frac{dY_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right) \left(\frac{d^2 X_\Omega}{d\varphi^2} + \frac{dY_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right) \right] \quad (5)$$

$$b_3 = \frac{1}{b_2} \left[ \left(\frac{d^3 X_\Omega}{d\varphi^3} + \frac{dX_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right) \left(\frac{d^2 X_\Omega}{d\varphi^2} + \frac{dY_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right) + \left(\frac{d^3 Y_\Omega}{d\varphi^3} + \frac{dY_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right) \left(\frac{d^2 Y_\Omega}{d\varphi^2} - \frac{dX_\Omega}{d\varphi}\right) \right] \quad (6)$$

Referring to Eq. (1), the first, second and third derivatives with respect to the angle  $\varphi$  of the Cartesian coordinates  $X_\Omega$  and  $Y_\Omega$  that represent the components of the position vector  $\mathbf{r}_\Omega$ , are given by

$$\frac{dX_\Omega}{d\varphi} = -r \sin \delta \frac{d\delta}{d\varphi} \quad \frac{dY_\Omega}{d\varphi} = r \cos \delta \frac{d\delta}{d\varphi} \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{d^2 X_\Omega}{d\varphi^2} = -r \left[ \cos \delta \left(\frac{d\delta}{d\varphi}\right)^2 + \sin \delta \frac{d^2 \delta}{d\varphi^2} \right] \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{d^2 Y_\Omega}{d\varphi^2} = -r \left[ \sin \delta \left(\frac{d\delta}{d\varphi}\right)^2 - \cos \delta \frac{d^2 \delta}{d\varphi^2} \right]$$

$$\frac{d^3 X_\Omega}{d\varphi^3} = r \left[ \sin \delta \left(\frac{d\delta}{d\varphi}\right)^3 - 3 \cos \delta \frac{d\delta}{d\varphi} \frac{d^2 \delta}{d\varphi^2} - \sin \delta \frac{d^3 \delta}{d\varphi^3} \right] \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{d^3 Y_\Omega}{d\varphi^3} = -r \left[ \cos \delta \left(\frac{d\delta}{d\varphi}\right)^3 + 3 \sin \delta \frac{d\delta}{d\varphi} \frac{d^2 \delta}{d\varphi^2} - \cos \delta \frac{d^3 \delta}{d\varphi^3} \right]$$

Similarly, the first, second and third derivatives of the crank angle  $\delta$  with respect to  $\varphi$ , can be expressed as follows:

$$\sin \delta = -\frac{l \sin \varphi}{r} \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{d\delta}{d\varphi} = -\frac{l \cos \varphi}{r \cos \delta} \quad (11)$$

$$\frac{d^2\delta}{d\varphi^2} = \frac{l \left( \sin\varphi \cos\delta - \cos\varphi \sin\delta \frac{d\delta}{d\varphi} \right)}{r \cos^2\delta} \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{d^3\delta}{d\varphi^3} = \frac{l}{r \cos^3\delta} \left\{ \left[ -\cos\varphi \left( \frac{d\delta}{d\varphi} \right)^2 (\cos^2\delta - 2\sin^2\delta) \right] + \right. \\ \left. + \cos\delta \sin\delta \left( 2\sin\varphi \frac{d\delta}{d\varphi} - \cos\varphi \frac{d^2\delta}{d\varphi^2} \right) + \cos^2\delta \cos\varphi \right\} \quad (13)$$

The proposed formulation allows the computations of the instantaneous geometric invariants  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  for  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ , which are very useful to express in a canonical algebraic form, the most significant geometric loci with respect to  $\tilde{f}(P_1, \tilde{x}, \tilde{y})$ .

This computation can be very complex when referring to the canonical frames directly, from which the convenience to make use of a different pair of frames, as  $f$  and  $\mathcal{F}$ , which are closer to the mechanism motion than the canonical frames.

Similarly, the first, second and third derivatives of the crank angle  $\varphi$  with respect to  $\delta$ , can be expressed as follows:

$$\varphi = \sin^{-1} \left( -\frac{r}{l} \sin\delta \right) \quad (14)$$

$$\dot{\varphi} = \frac{d\varphi}{d\delta} = -\frac{r \cos\delta}{l \cos\varphi} \dot{\delta} \quad (15)$$

$$\ddot{\varphi} = \frac{d^2\varphi}{d\delta^2} = \frac{\dot{\delta}^2 r \sin\delta \cos\varphi - \ddot{\delta} r \cos\delta \cos\varphi}{l \cos^2\varphi} + \\ + \frac{\dot{\delta}^2 r^2 \cos^2\delta \sin\varphi}{l \cos^3\varphi} \quad (16)$$

$$\ddot{\varphi} = \frac{d^3\varphi}{d\delta^3} = -\frac{1}{l \cos^3\varphi} \left[ r \cos^2\varphi \left( \beta \cos\delta - 3\dot{\delta}\ddot{\delta} \sin\delta + \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - \dot{\delta}^3 \cos\delta \right) - \frac{r^3 \dot{\delta}^3 \cos^3\delta}{l^2} + \frac{\dot{\delta} r^2 \cos\delta \sin\varphi}{l \cos\varphi} \right. \\ \left. + \left( \dot{\delta}^2 \sin\delta - \ddot{\delta} \cos\delta + \frac{r \dot{\delta}^2 \cos^2\delta \sin\varphi}{l \cos^2\varphi} \right) + \right. \\ \left. + \frac{2\dot{\delta} r^2 \cos\delta}{l} \left( \dot{\delta}^2 \sin\varphi \sin\delta - \ddot{\delta} \sin\varphi \cos\delta + \frac{\dot{\delta}^2 r \cos^2\delta}{l \cos^2\varphi} \right) \right] \quad (17)$$

### 3. HIGHER ORDER CENTRODES

By considering the fixed frame  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $f$  as attached to the coupler link  $AB$  of the slider-crank mechanism the position of generic point  $M$  can be expressed as.

$$\begin{aligned} X_M &= r_{\Omega x} + x_M \cos\varphi - y_M \sin\varphi \\ Y_M &= r_{\Omega y} + x_M \sin\varphi + y_M \cos\varphi \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

When  $M \equiv P_1$  in Eqs. (18), the parametric equations of the first order of fixed centrode  $\lambda_1$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} X_{P_1} &= r_{\Omega x} + x_{P_1} \cos\varphi - y_{P_1} \sin\varphi \\ Y_{P_1} &= r_{\Omega y} + x_{P_1} \sin\varphi + y_{P_1} \cos\varphi \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Because of  $P_1$  is the instantaneous center of rotation  $\frac{dX_{P_1}}{dt} = \frac{dY_{P_1}}{dt} = 0$  and substituting Eqs. (7), one can obtain the parametric equations of the first order of moving centrode  $l_1$  as

$$\begin{aligned} x_{P_1} &= l \cos\varphi (\tan\delta \sin\varphi + \cos\varphi) \\ y_{P_1} &= l \cos\varphi (\tan\delta \cos\varphi - \sin\varphi) \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

When  $M \equiv P_2$  in Eqs. (18), the parametric equations of the second order of fixed centrode  $\lambda_2$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} X_{P_2} &= r_{\Omega x} + x_{P_2} \cos\varphi - y_{P_2} \sin\varphi \\ Y_{P_2} &= r_{\Omega y} + x_{P_2} \sin\varphi + y_{P_2} \cos\varphi \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Parametric equations of the second order of moving centrode  $l_2$  can be obtained when  $\frac{dX_{P_2}}{dt} = \frac{dY_{P_2}}{dt} = 0$ , in Eqs. (21) as

$$\begin{aligned} x_{P_2} &= \frac{1}{\dot{\varphi}^4 + \ddot{\varphi}^2} \left[ \left( \frac{d^2 X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos\varphi + \frac{d^2 Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos\varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^4 + \right. \\ &+ \left( \frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos\varphi + \frac{d^2 X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \sin\varphi + \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin\varphi \right. \\ &- \left. \frac{d^2 Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos\varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^2 \ddot{\varphi} + \left( \frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin\varphi + \right. \\ &- \left. \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos\varphi \right) \ddot{\varphi}^2 \left. \right] \quad (22) \\ y_{P_2} &= \frac{1}{\dot{\varphi}^4 + \ddot{\varphi}^2} \left[ \left( -\frac{d^2 X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos\varphi + \frac{d^2 Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos\varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^4 + \right. \\ &\left( -\frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin\varphi + \frac{d^2 X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos\varphi + \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos\varphi + \right. \\ &\left. \frac{d^2 Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \sin\varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^2 \ddot{\varphi} + \left( \frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos\varphi + \right. \\ &\left. \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin\varphi \right) \ddot{\varphi}^2 \left. \right] \end{aligned}$$

When  $M \equiv P_3$ , Eqs. (18) the parametric equations of the third order of fixed centrode  $\lambda_3$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} X_{P_3} &= r_{\Omega x} + x_{P_3} \cos \varphi - y_{P_3} \sin \varphi \\ Y_{P_2} &= r_{\Omega y} + x_{P_2} \sin \varphi + y_{P_2} \cos \varphi \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Parametric equations of the third order of moving centrode  $l_3$  can be obtained when  $\frac{dX_{P_3}}{dt} = \frac{dY_{P_3}}{dt} = 0$ , in Eqs. (23) as

$$\begin{aligned} x_{P_3} &= \frac{1}{\dot{\varphi}^6 - 2\dot{\varphi}^3\ddot{\varphi} + 9\dot{\varphi}^2\ddot{\varphi}^2 + \ddot{\varphi}^2} \left[ \left( -\frac{d^3X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \sin \varphi + \frac{d^3Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \cos \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^6 + \right. \\ &+ 3 \left( -\frac{d^2X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \sin \varphi + \frac{d^2Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos \varphi + \frac{d^3X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \cos \varphi + \frac{d^3Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \sin \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}_1^4 \ddot{\varphi} + \\ &+ \left( -\frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin \varphi + \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos \varphi + \frac{d^3X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \sin \varphi - \frac{d^3Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \cos \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^3 \ddot{\varphi} + \\ &+ 9 \left( \frac{d^2X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos \varphi + \frac{d^2Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \sin \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^2 \ddot{\varphi}^2 + \\ &+ 3 \left( \frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos \varphi + \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin \varphi + \frac{d^2X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \sin \varphi - \frac{d^2Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi} \ddot{\varphi} \ddot{\varphi} + \\ &\left. + \left( \frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin \varphi + \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos \varphi \right) \ddot{\varphi}^2 \right] \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_{P_3} &= \frac{1}{\dot{\varphi}^6 - 2\dot{\varphi}^3\ddot{\varphi} + 9\dot{\varphi}^2\ddot{\varphi}^2 + \ddot{\varphi}^2} \left[ \left( -\frac{d^3X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \cos \varphi - \frac{d^3Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \sin \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^6 + \right. \\ &+ 3 \left( \frac{d^2X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos \varphi - \frac{d^2Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \sin \varphi - \frac{d^3X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \sin \varphi + \frac{d^3Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \cos \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}_1^4 \ddot{\varphi} + \\ &+ \left( -\frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos \varphi - \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin \varphi + \frac{d^3X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \cos \varphi + \frac{d^3Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^3} \sin \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^3 \ddot{\varphi} + \\ &+ 9 \left( -\frac{d^2X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \sin \varphi + \frac{d^2Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi}^2 \ddot{\varphi}^2 + \\ &+ 3 \left( \frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin \varphi + \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos \varphi + \frac{d^2X_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \cos \varphi + \frac{d^2Y_{\Omega}}{d\varphi^2} \sin \varphi \right) \dot{\varphi} \ddot{\varphi} \ddot{\varphi} + \\ &\left. + \left( \frac{dX_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \cos \varphi + \frac{dY_{\Omega}}{d\varphi} \sin \varphi \right) \ddot{\varphi}^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

#### 4. BRESSE AND JERK CIRCLES

The geometric loci of kinematic interest are the Bresse's and jerk circles. They can be expressed in an algebraic form by referring to the moving via the instantaneous geometric invariants. In particular, referring to the moving canonical reference frame  $\tilde{f}(P_1, \tilde{x}, \tilde{y})$ , one has the following algebraic equation for the inflection circle  $\mathcal{I}$ :

$$\tilde{x}^2 + \tilde{y}^2 - b_2 \tilde{y} = 0 \quad (25)$$

where  $b_2$  is obtained by the Eq. (4).

The stationary circle  $\mathcal{S}$  or second Bresse's circle takes the form:

$$\ddot{\varphi}(\tilde{x}^2 + \tilde{y}^2) + b_2 \dot{\varphi}^2 \tilde{x} = 0 \quad (26)$$

where  $\dot{\varphi}$  and  $\ddot{\varphi}$  represent the angular velocity and acceleration, respectively. Thus, the acceleration center  $P_2$  can be obtained as intersection of the two Bresse's circles.

The zero-normal jerk circle  $\mathcal{J}_N$  has the following algebraic equation:

$$3 \ddot{\varphi}(\tilde{x}^2 + \tilde{y}^2) - a_3 \dot{\varphi}^2 \tilde{x} - (b_3 \dot{\varphi}^2 + 3b_2 \ddot{\varphi}) \tilde{y} = 0 \quad (27)$$

where  $a_3$  and  $b_3$  are obtained by Eqs. (5) and (6), while  $\dot{\varphi}$  and  $\ddot{\varphi}$  are the angular velocity and acceleration in Eqs. (15) and (16).

The zero-tangential jerk circle  $\mathcal{J}_T$  has the following algebraic equation:

$$(\ddot{\varphi} - \dot{\varphi}^3)(\tilde{x}^2 + \tilde{y}^2) + (b_3 \dot{\varphi}^3 + 3b_2 \ddot{\varphi} \dot{\varphi}) \tilde{x} - a_3 \dot{\varphi}^3 \tilde{y} = 0 \quad (28)$$

where  $b_2$ ,  $a_3$  and  $b_3$  are obtained as reported above, while  $\ddot{\varphi}$  is the angular jerk in Eq. (17).

Consequently, the jerk pole  $P_3$  can be obtained by intersecting the zero-normal and zero-tangential jerk circles, where the first intersection is still located at  $P_1$ , as shown in Fig. 2. Excluding the inflection circle of Eq. (25), the geometric loci given by the algebraic Eqs. (26), (27) and (28) take into account the kinematic properties of the coupler motion of the planar mechanism, that is they depend on the angular velocity  $\dot{\varphi}$ , the angular acceleration  $\ddot{\varphi}$  and the angular jerk  $\ddot{\varphi}$ , respectively, and not only by the geometric properties given by the instantaneous invariants  $b_2$ ,  $a_3$  and  $b_3$ . Instead, the inflection circle, since representing the geometric locus of all coupler points showing an inflection point in their trajectory, only depends on  $b_2$ .

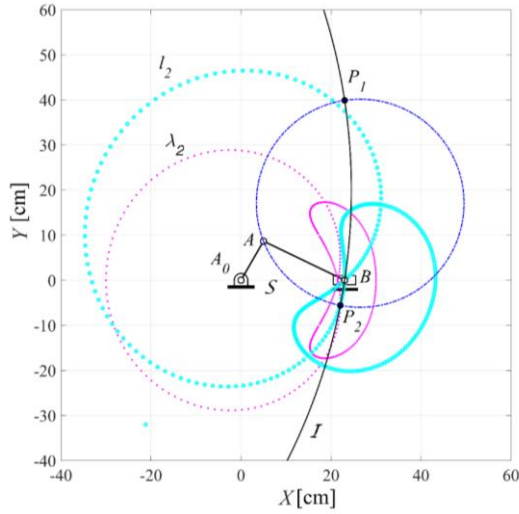
#### 5. GRAPHICAL AND NUMERICAL RESULTS

The proposed formulation has been implemented in Matlab for validation purposes and significant graphical and numerical results have been obtained for different sizes and configurations of the slider-crank mechanism.

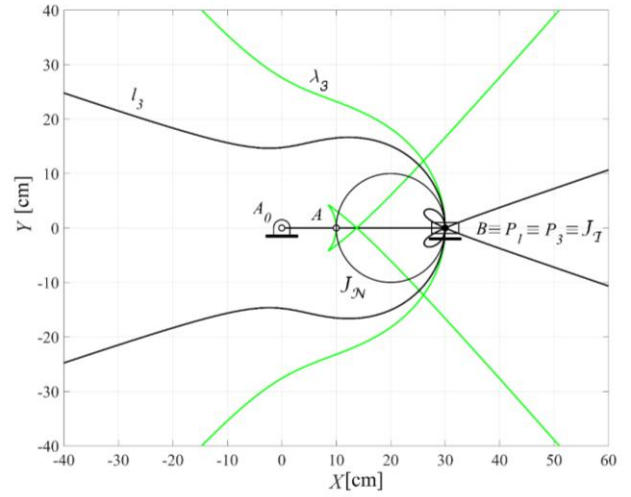
In particular, Figs. 2 and 3 show the 2<sup>nd</sup> order fixed  $l_2$  and moving  $l_2$  centrodes, along with the Bresse circles, which intersect each other at the acceleration pole  $P_2$  for the crank angles  $\varphi = 60^\circ$  and  $0^\circ$ , respectively.

Similarly, Figs. 4 and 5 show the 3<sup>rd</sup> order fixed  $l_3$  and moving  $l_3$  centrodes, along with the jerk circles, which intersect at the jerk pole  $P_3$  for the crank angles  $\varphi = 60^\circ$  and  $0^\circ$ , respectively.

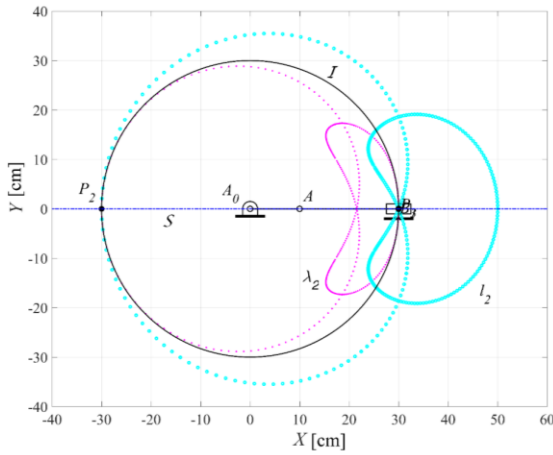
Finally, Figs. 6 and 7 show all together the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> order fixed and moving centrodes for the crank angles  $\varphi = 60^\circ$  and  $0^\circ$ , respectively, along with  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  and  $P_3$ .



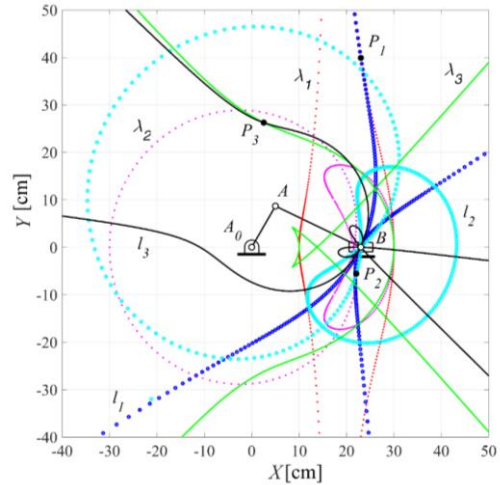
**FIGURE 2:** 2<sup>ND</sup> ORDER CENTRES AND BRESSE'S CIRCLES FOR  $\varphi = 60^\circ$ .



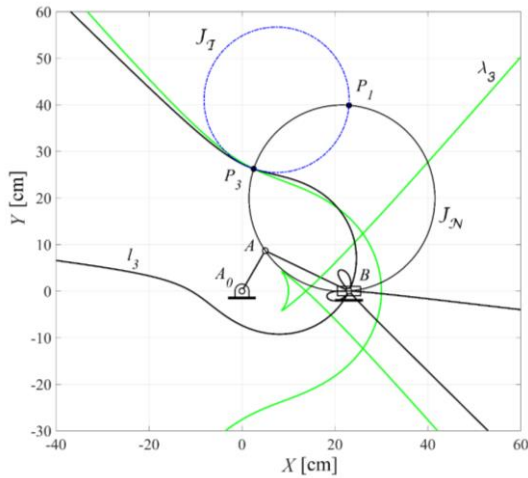
**FIGURE 5:** 3<sup>RD</sup> ORDER CENTRES AND JERK CIRCLES FOR  $\varphi = 0^\circ$ .



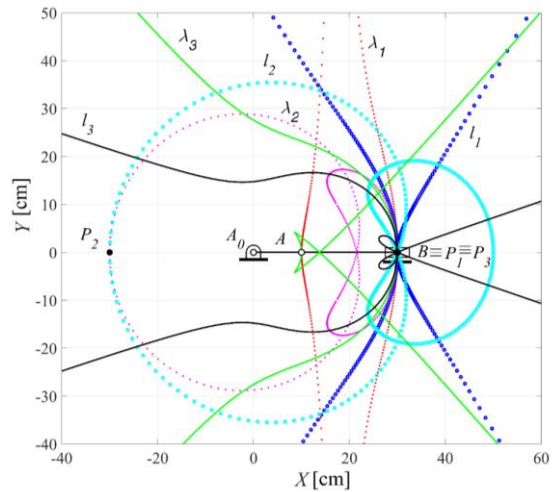
**FIGURE 3:** 2<sup>ND</sup> ORDER CENTRES AND BRESSE'S CIRCLES FOR  $\varphi = 0^\circ$ .



**FIGURE 6:** 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> ORDER FIXED AND MOVING CENTRES FOR  $\varphi = 60^\circ$ .



**FIGURE 4:** 3<sup>RD</sup> ORDER CENTRES AND JERK CIRCLES FOR  $\varphi = 60^\circ$ .



**FIGURE 7:** 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> ORDER FIXED AND MOVING CENTRES FOR  $\varphi = 0^\circ$ .

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

In order to give a contribution to the development of the advanced planar kinematic theory, a suitable formulation via the instantaneous geometric invariants of a specific algorithm to determine the higher-order centrodes and Bresse's circles for the coupler link of slider-crank mechanisms, has been proposed.

The first, second and third order centrodes can be obtained in any configuration of a given mechanism by showing the successive positions of the instant center of rotation and the acceleration and jerk poles.

Moreover, the proposed algorithm allows the animation of the mechanism, along with the first, second and third order moving centrodes, which are attached to the moving plane of the coupler link. Bresse's circles and zero-normal and zero-tangential jerk circles are also obtained with their intersection at the instant center of rotation and acceleration and jerk poles. The first order centrodes are characterized by a pure-rolling motion and geometric properties, while the second and third order centrodes are related to kinematic properties and the respective moving and fixed centrodes, intersect each other in more than one point, and one of them is the acceleration or jerk pole, respectively.

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