

# Information based robot movement

Nico Hübel



Fujita Lab

Dept. of Mechanical and Control Engineering  
Tokyo Institute of Technology

FL07-08-1

Seminar 04/06/2007

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# Common assumptions:

Voronoi-based approaches

Information/Flocking-based approaches

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## Voronoi-based approaches

- static after deployment
- huge amount of robots needed

## Information/Flocking-based approaches

# Common assumptions:

## Voronoi-based approaches

- static after deployment
- huge amount of robots needed

## Information/Flocking-based approaches

- converge to a fixed formation/flock
- then start tracking a target or to maximizing a none-decaying information measure

# My Assumptions:

1.) Only a few robots

2.) Information decay

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It is not possible to see every point of interest continuously.

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It is not possible to see every point of interest continuously.

## 2.) Information decay

Every point must be revisited to gather new information.,

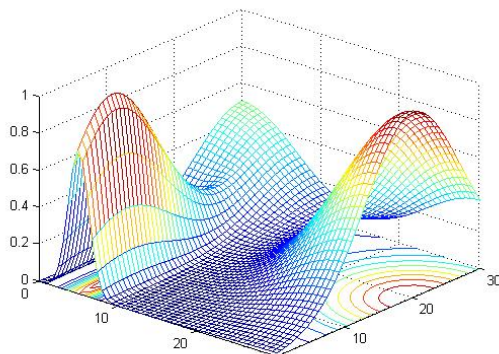


# Problem formulation

- 1 Basic setup
- 2 Agent model
- 3 Measurement model
- 4 Information model
- 5 Objective function

## Basic setup:

- $\mathcal{D}$ : compact subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  which should be covered
- $Q = \mathbb{R}^2$  configuration space of the Agents
- $\phi(q, t) : \mathcal{D} \times \mathbb{R}_0^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  positive definite density function



# Agent model:

kinematic model:

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}}_i = \mathbf{u}_i(\mathbf{q}_i), \quad i \in S, \quad \mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{u}_i(\mathbf{q}_i) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \quad (1)$$

- $\mathbf{q}_i \in Q$  position of Agent  $\mathcal{A}_i$
- $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathcal{A}_i | i \in S = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, N\}\}$  set of Agents
- $N \in \mathbb{R}^+$  number of Agents

# Measurement model:

## Measurement model:

measurement function:  $\mathcal{M}_i \left( \|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2 \right) : \mathcal{D} \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  (2)

measurement map:  $\mathcal{M} = \sum_i \mathcal{M}_i, \quad i \in S$  (3)

- $\mathcal{M}_i \in \mathcal{C}^1$
- $\mathcal{M}_i(0) = M_i > \mathcal{M}_i(s), \forall s \neq 0$
- $\mathcal{W}_i = \{\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{D} | s \leq r_i\}$
- $\mathcal{W} = \bigcup_{i \in S} \mathcal{W}_i$
- $\mathcal{M}_i(s) = 0 \forall s > r_i, \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{W}_i$

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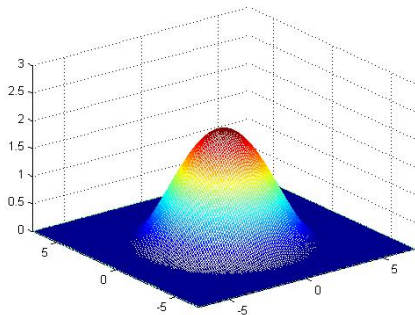
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### Example:

$$\mathcal{M}_i = \begin{cases} \frac{M_i}{r_i^4} (s - r_i^2)^2 & \text{if } s \leq r_i \\ 0 & \text{if } s > r_i \end{cases}$$

# Measurement model:



Example:

$$\mathcal{M}_i = \begin{cases} \frac{M_i}{r_i^4} (s - r_i^2)^2 & \text{if } s \leq r_i \\ 0 & \text{if } s > r_i \end{cases}$$

Figure: Example with  $M_i = 2$  and  $r_i = 5$ .

# Information model:

## Information model:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} I(\mathbf{q}, t) = \delta I(\mathbf{q}, t) + \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}_1, \dots, \mathbf{q}_N) \quad (4)$$

- $\delta \leq 0, \delta \in \mathbb{R}$  decay rate
- $\mathcal{M}$  measurement map
- $I : \mathcal{D} \times \mathbb{R}_0^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  information map
- $I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t)$  information reference map

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## Note:

Information model is a PDE!



# Objective function:

## Objective function:

$$J(t) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} h(I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t))\phi(\mathbf{q}, t)d\mathbf{q} \quad (5)$$

- $h(x) \in \mathcal{C}^2$
- $h(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$
- $h(x), \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}(x), \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2}(x) \geq 0, \quad \forall x \neq 0$

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## Example:

$$h(x) = (\max(0, x))^2$$

# Theorem:

- 1 Fully connected network
- 2 Partially connected network

# Fully connected network:

Control law:

$$\mathbf{u}_i(\mathbf{q}_i) = -k_i \int_{\mathcal{D}} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{I}_{max}(\mathbf{q},t)-\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{q},t)} \frac{\partial \mathcal{M}_i}{\partial s} \Big|_{s=\|\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{q}_i\|^2} (\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{q}_i) \phi(\mathbf{q},t) d\mathbf{q} \quad (6)$$

$$k_i \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

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$$k_i \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

Note:

- Integral evaluation over  $\mathcal{W}_i$  instead over  $\mathcal{D}$  sufficient!  
( $\frac{\partial \mathcal{M}_i}{\partial s} \neq 0$  only in  $\mathcal{W}_i$ )
- Input is zero if  $I \geq I_{max} \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{W}_i!$

# Proof 1:

Assumption:

- fully connected network
- $\phi, I_{max}$  are time invariant

Take  $J(t)$  as Lyapunov-function  $V$ :

$$V = J(t) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \underbrace{h(I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t))}_{\geq 0} \underbrace{\phi(\mathbf{q}, t)}_{> 0} d\mathbf{q} \geq 0$$

$$\Downarrow \frac{d}{dt} \text{and (4)}$$

$$\dot{V} = \frac{d}{dt} J(t) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \underbrace{\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)}}_{\geq 0} \left( \underbrace{-\delta I(\mathbf{q}, t)}_{\geq 0} \underbrace{-\mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2)}_{\leq 0} \right) \underbrace{\phi(\mathbf{q}, t)}_{> 0} d\mathbf{q} \stackrel{!}{\leq} 0 \quad (7)$$

## Proof 1: (continue)

Rewrite (7):

$$\left( \text{use abbreviations: } h' = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t)-I(\mathbf{q},t)}, \quad h'' = \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t)-I(\mathbf{q},t)} \right)$$

$$0 \geq -\delta \int_{\mathcal{D}} h' I(\mathbf{q}, t) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} - \int_{\mathcal{D}} h' \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (0 \geq) \delta \geq - \frac{\int_{\mathcal{D}} h' \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q}}{\int_{\mathcal{D}} h' I(\mathbf{q}, t) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q}} \quad (8)$$

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Rewrite (7):

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$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq -\delta \int_{\mathcal{D}} h' I(\mathbf{q}, t) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} - \int_{\mathcal{D}} h' \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} \\ \Leftrightarrow (0 \geq) \delta &\geq -\frac{\int_{\mathcal{D}} h' \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q}}{\int_{\mathcal{D}} h' I(\mathbf{q}, t) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q}} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

### Interpretation:

- Bounds on  $\delta$ !
- Nice physical interpretation



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### Interpretation:

- Bounds on  $\delta$ !
- Nice physical interpretation

### Problem:

Lower bound on  $\delta$  will be violated after a certain time!

## Proof 1: (continue)

Now we look at the case when (8) is violated:

$$-\delta \int_{\mathcal{D}} h' I(\mathbf{q}, t) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} \geq \int_{\mathcal{D}} h' \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q}$$

(7)

$\Downarrow \frac{d}{dt}$  and (4), (3), (2), (1)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} J(t) &= \int_{\mathcal{D}} \underbrace{h'' \left( -\delta I(\mathbf{q}, t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right)^2}_{\geq 0} \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} \\ &+ \int_{\mathcal{D}} \underbrace{\underbrace{\delta}_{\leq 0} h' \left( -\delta I(\mathbf{q}, t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right)}_{\geq 0} \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} \\ &+ 2 \int_{\mathcal{D}} \underbrace{h'}_{\geq 0} \sum_i \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathcal{M}_i}{\partial s} \Big|_{s=\|\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{q}_i\|^2}}_{\leq 0} \underbrace{(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i) \mathbf{u}_i}_{\geq 0} \underbrace{\phi(\mathbf{q}, t)}_{\geq 0} d\mathbf{q} \stackrel{!}{\leq} 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Proof 1: (continue)

With (6):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} J(t) &= \int_{\mathcal{D}} h'' \left( -\delta I(\mathbf{q}, t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right)^2 \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathcal{D}} \delta h' \left( -\delta I(\mathbf{q}, t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} \\ &\quad - 2 \sum_i k_i \left( \int_{\mathcal{D}} h' \left. \frac{\partial \mathcal{M}_i}{\partial s} \right|_{s=\|\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{q}_i\|^2} (\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} \right)^2 \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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### Problems:

- How to choose  $k_i$ ?
- Integral evaluation over  $\mathcal{W}_i$  instead over  $\mathcal{D}$  sufficient!  
( $\frac{\partial \mathcal{M}_i}{\partial s} \neq 0$  only in  $\mathcal{W}_i$ )
- Input is zero if  $I \geq I_{max} \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{W}_i!$

# Symmetry breaking:

Problem:

$$I \geq I_{max} \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{W}_i \Rightarrow h' = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{W}_i \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}_i = 0$$

# Symmetry breaking:

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$$I \geq I_{max} \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{W}_i \Rightarrow h' = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{W}_i \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}_i = 0$$

## Solution:

Apply simple linear controller for symmetry breaking:

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_i(\mathbf{q}_i) = -\hat{k}_i (\mathbf{q}_i(t) - \hat{\mathbf{q}}_i(t_s)) \quad (9)$$

$\hat{k}_i \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $t_s$  : time at which symmetry conditions are fulfilled

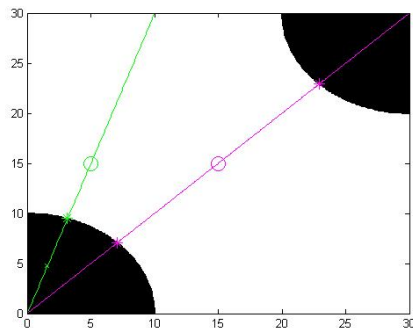
$\hat{\mathbf{q}}_i(t_s)$  : arbitrary point which leads to a non symmetric state

# Symmetry breaking:

Example:

$$\hat{\mathbf{q}}_i(t_s) \in \mathcal{D}_{ns}^i(t_s) = \{ \tilde{\mathbf{q}} \in \mathcal{D}_{ns}(t_s) : \tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{D}_{ns}(t_s)} \|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\| \}$$

with  $\mathcal{D}_{ns}(t_s) = \{ \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{D} : I(\mathbf{q}, t) < I_{max}(\mathbf{q}) \}$



# Theorem:

## Theorem 1:

Under the given assumptions the control law

$$\mathbf{u}_i^*(\mathbf{q}_i) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{u}_i(\mathbf{q}_i) & \text{if } h' \neq 0 \quad \text{for some } \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{W}_i \\ \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i(\mathbf{q}_i) & \text{if } h' = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{W}_i \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

with sufficiently large gains  $k_i, \hat{k}_i \in \mathbb{R}^+$  will minimize the objective function and thus maximize the information over the area  $\mathcal{D}$ .



# Partially connected network:

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### Worst case scenario:

In principle the centralized algorithm holds for  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1$ . Thus theorem 1 holds for a swarm of disconnected robots or several disconnected networks!

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### Estimated objective function:

$$\hat{J}_i(t) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} h(I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I_{\hat{S}_i}(\mathbf{q}, t))\phi(\mathbf{q}, t)d\mathbf{q} \quad (11)$$

with  $\hat{S}_i \subseteq S$  as the index set of those agents of which  $\mathcal{A}_i$  receives information.

## Proof 2:

Note:

$\hat{J}_i(t) \geq J(t)$  with equality holding iff  $\hat{S}_i = S$ .

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Assumption:

Bidirectional communication:

if  $j \in \hat{S}_i$  then  $i \in \hat{S}_j$

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if  $j \in \hat{S}_i$  then  $i \in \hat{S}_j$

Proof 2:

With  $\hat{V} = \hat{J}_i(t)$  we get similar expressions to those obtained in proof 1. Thus the rest of proof 2 follows exactly proof 1!

## Future work:

- incorporate other robot dynamics
- think about the assumption on  $\mathcal{M}_i$  and  $h(x)$
- extend problem to  $Q = \mathbb{R}^3$  or  $Q = SE(2)$
- use (Q,S,R)-Dissipativity for proof
- incorporate time-varying density function and/or information reference map

# Derivation of the equations for proof 1:

Starting from eqn. (5):

$$\begin{aligned}
 J(t) &= \int_{\mathcal{D}} h(I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q} \\
 &\Downarrow \frac{d}{dt} \\
 \frac{d}{dt} J(t) &= \int_{\mathcal{D}} \left( \left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} I(\mathbf{q}, t) \right) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + h(I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \right) d\mathbf{q} \\
 &\stackrel{(4)}{=} \int_{\mathcal{D}} \left( \left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - \delta I(\mathbf{q}, t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + h(I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \right) d\mathbf{q} \\
 &\Downarrow \frac{d}{dt}
 \end{aligned}$$



# Derivation of the equations for proof 1: (continue)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \vdots \\
 & \Downarrow \frac{d}{dt} \\
 \frac{d^2}{dt^2} J(t) &= \int_{\mathcal{D}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t)-I(\mathbf{q},t)} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t) - \delta I(\mathbf{q},t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right)^2 \phi(\mathbf{q},t) \right. \\
 & + \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t)-I(\mathbf{q},t)} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t) - \delta^2 I(\mathbf{q},t) - \delta \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right) \phi(\mathbf{q},t) \\
 & - \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t)-I(\mathbf{q},t)} \underbrace{\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2)}_{\substack{(3),(2),(1) \\ -2 \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{M}_i}{\partial s} \Big|_{s=\|\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{q}_i\|^2} (\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{q}_i) \mathbf{u}_i}} \phi(\mathbf{q},t) \\
 & + 2 \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t)-I(\mathbf{q},t)} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t) - \delta I(\mathbf{q},t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi(\mathbf{q},t) \\
 & + h(I_{max}(\mathbf{q},t) - I(\mathbf{q},t)) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \phi(\mathbf{q},t) \Big) d\mathbf{q}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Derivation of the equations for proof 1: (continue)

Assumption:  $\phi, I_{max}$  are time invariant

$$J(t) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} h(I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) d\mathbf{q}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} J(t) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)} \left( -\delta I(\mathbf{q}, t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \right) d\mathbf{q}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} J(t) &= \int_{\mathcal{D}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)} \left( -\delta I(\mathbf{q}, t) - \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right)^2 \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)} \left( -\delta^2 I(\mathbf{q}, t) - \delta \mathcal{M}(\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2) \right) \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2 \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=I_{max}(\mathbf{q}, t) - I(\mathbf{q}, t)} \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{M}_i}{\partial s} \Big|_{s=\|\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i\|^2} (\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_i) \mathbf{u}_i \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \right) d\mathbf{q} \end{aligned}$$