GEOMETRY OF CONSTRAINTS IN A PROBLEM OF ROLLING SURFACES

WALDYR MUNIZ OLIVA

The non-holonomic mechanical problem of the rolling of a rigid ball on a surface is presented. The constraints corresponding to rolling without slipping (resp. without slipping or twisting) define a constant rank 3 (resp. 2) distribution on the 5-dimensional configuration space. Geometric properties and conditions for the controlability of these two distributions are derived.

(Waldyr M. Oliva) Departamento de Matemática, Instituto Superior Técnico, Av. Rovisco Pais 1049-001, Lisboa, Portugal

E-mail address: wamoliva@math.ist.utl.pt