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GEOMETRIC METHODS OF SYNTHESIS WITH THREE ACCURACY POINTS

8-1 INTRODUCTION

The geometric methods for the synthesis of planar linkages for various duties antedate the more precise algebraic attacks. They still occupy a most important place among the available procedures, for they are relatively fast in producing answers and, since they maintain touch with physical reality to a much greater degree than do the algebraic methods, are often more readily understood. Also, their degree of accuracy is adequate for many situations and they are valuable adjuncts to the algebraic methods, for their approximate solutions serve as useful guides in directing the course of equations or in reaching certain decisions.

The relatively long development period of the geometric methods has led to many techniques hand-tailored to particular types of problems. It is the intent of this chapter and the next to dwell on the general and avoid the particular, i.e., to present general concepts that may be applied to a wide variety of problems and abstain from peculiarly specialized techniques.

