

Sufficient conditions for the global rigidity of periodic graphs

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Abstract Tanigawa (2016) showed that vertex-redundant rigidity of a graph implies its global rigidity in arbitrary dimension. We extend this result to periodic frameworks under fixed lattice representations. That is, we show that if a generic periodic framework is vertex-redundantly rigid, in the sense that the deletion of a single vertex orbit under the periodicity results in a periodically rigid framework, then it is also periodically globally rigid. Our proof is similar to the one of Tanigawa, but there are some added difficulties. First, it is not known whether periodic global rigidity is a generic property in dimension $d > 2$. We work around this issue by using slight modifications of recent results of Kaszanitzky, Schulze and Tanigawa (2021). Secondly, while the rigidity of finite frameworks in \mathbb{R}^d on at most d vertices obviously implies their global rigidity, it is non-trivial to prove a similar result for periodic frameworks. This is accomplished by extending a result of Bezdek and Connelly (2002) on the existence of a continuous motion between two equivalent d -dimensional realisations of a single graph in \mathbb{R}^{2d} to periodic frameworks.

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As an application of our result, we give a necessary and sufficient condition for the global rigidity of generic periodic body-bar frameworks in arbitrary dimension. This provides a periodic counterpart to a result of Connelly, Jordán and Whiteley (2013) regarding the global rigidity of generic finite body-bar frameworks.

Keywords Rigidity · Global rigidity · Body-bar framework · Periodic framework

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1 Introduction

A d -dimensional bar-joint framework is a pair (G, p) , where G is a simple graph and p is a map which assigns a point in \mathbb{R}^d to each vertex of G . We think of (G, p) as a straight line realisation of G in \mathbb{R}^d , where the edge lengths are measured by the standard Euclidean metric. Loosely speaking, (G, p) is (*locally*) *rigid* if any edge-length preserving continuous motion of the vertices of (G, p) is necessarily a congruent motion (i.e., a motion corresponding to an isometry of \mathbb{R}^d). Moreover, (G, p) is *globally rigid* if it is the only framework in d -space with the same graph and edge lengths, up to congruent motions. It is well known that both rigidity and global rigidity are generic properties, in the sense that a generic realisation of a graph G in \mathbb{R}^d is rigid (globally rigid) if and only if *every* generic realisation of G in \mathbb{R}^d is rigid (globally rigid) [1, 7, 8]. Therefore, a graph G is called rigid (globally rigid) if some (equivalently any) generic realisation of G is rigid (globally rigid).

The celebrated Laman's theorem from 1970 (which had previously been discovered by Pollaczek-Geiringer in 1927 [18]), gives a combinatorial characterisation of the rigid graphs in \mathbb{R}^2 [16]. Extending this result to higher dimensions is a fundamental open problem in distance geometry [28]. Similarly, a combinatorial characterisation of the globally rigid graphs in \mathbb{R}^2 has been obtained by Jackson and Jordán in 2005 [9], but the problem of extending this result to higher dimensions also remains open. For the special class of *body-bar* frameworks [28], however, complete combinatorial characterisations for rigidity and global rigidity have been established in all dimensions in [27] and [6], respectively.

Tanigawa recently proved the following result, which is an important new tool to investigate the global rigidity of frameworks in \mathbb{R}^d .

Theorem 1 ([25]) *Let G be a rigid graph in \mathbb{R}^d and suppose $G - v$ remains rigid for every vertex v of G . Then G is globally rigid in \mathbb{R}^d .*

In particular, the following combinatorial characterisation of globally rigid body-bar frameworks in \mathbb{R}^d by Connelly, Jordán and Whiteley [6] easily follows from this result.

Theorem 2 ([6,25]) *A generic body-bar framework is globally rigid in \mathbb{R}^d if and only if it is rigid in \mathbb{R}^d and it remains rigid after the removal of any edge.*

In Sections 4 and 5, we obtain analogues of these results for infinite periodic frameworks under fixed lattice representations. Due to their applications in fields such as crystallography, materials science, and engineering, the rigidity and flexibility of periodic structures has seen an increased interest in recent years (see e.g. [2,3,14,17,20,22]). In particular, combinatorial characterisations of generic rigid and globally rigid periodic bar-joint frameworks under fixed lattice representations in \mathbb{R}^2 were obtained in [22] and [14], respectively. Analogous to the situation for finite frameworks, extensions of these results to higher dimensions remain key open problems in the field. In fact, while it is well known that periodic local rigidity is a generic property in each dimension, it is currently not even known whether periodic global rigidity is a generic property for any $d > 2$.

For the special class of periodic body-bar frameworks, Ross gave a combinatorial characterisation for generic *local rigidity* in \mathbb{R}^3 [21], and this result was recently extended to all dimensions by Tanigawa in [26] (see also Theorem 7). As an application of the main result of Section 4 (Theorem 5), we give the first combinatorial characterisation of generic *globally rigid* periodic body-bar frameworks in all dimensions in Section 5 (Theorem 6). We note that the proof of Theorem 6 does not rely on periodic global rigidity being a generic property in \mathbb{R}^d , and it also does not require the notion of stress matrices [5, 6]. It is a consequence of Theorem 6 that global rigidity of periodic body-bar frameworks is a generic property in each dimension.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Γ -labelled graphs and periodic graphs

Let Γ be a group isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^k for some integer $k > 0$. A Γ -labelled graph is a pair (G, ψ) of a finite directed (multi-) graph G and a map $\psi : E(G) \rightarrow \Gamma$.

For a given Γ -labelled graph (G, ψ) , one may construct a k -periodic graph \tilde{G} by setting $V(\tilde{G}) = \{\gamma v_i : v_i \in V(G), \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ and $E(\tilde{G}) = \{\{\gamma v_i, \psi(v_i v_j) \gamma v_j\} : (v_i, v_j) \in E(G), \gamma \in \Gamma\}$. This \tilde{G} is called the *covering* of (G, ψ) , and Γ is the *periodicity* of \tilde{G} , which acts naturally on $V(\tilde{G})$ and $E(\tilde{G})$. The graph (G, ψ) is also called the *quotient Γ -labelled graph* of \tilde{G} .

To guarantee that the covering of (G, ψ) is a simple graph, we assume that (G, ψ) has no parallel edges with the same label when oriented in the same direction. Moreover, we assume that (G, ψ) has no loops. This is because a loop in (G, ψ) (with a non-trivial label) does not give rise to any constraint when we study the rigidity and flexibility of the covering \tilde{G} under fixed lattice representations, as will become clear below.

Note that the orientation of (G, ψ) is only used as a reference orientation and may be changed, provided that we also modify ψ so that if an edge has a

label γ in one direction, then it has the label γ^{-1} in the other direction. The resulting Γ -labelled graph still has the same covering \tilde{G} .

It is also often useful to modify (G, ψ) by using the switching operation. A *switching* at $v \in V(G)$ by $\gamma \in \Gamma$ changes ψ to ψ' defined by $\psi'(e) = \gamma\psi(e)$ if e is directed from v , $\psi'(e) = \gamma^{-1}\psi(e)$ if e is directed to v , and $\psi'(e) = \psi(e)$ otherwise. It is easy to see that a switching operation performed on a vertex in (G, ψ) does not alter the covering \tilde{G} , up to isomorphism.

Given a Γ -labelled graph (G, ψ) , we define a *walk* in (G, ψ) as an alternating sequence $v_1, e_1, v_2, \dots, e_k, v_{k+1}$ of vertices and edges such that v_i and v_{i+1} are the endvertices of e_i . For a closed walk $C = v_1, e_1, v_2, \dots, e_k, v_1$ in (G, ψ) , let $\psi(C) = \prod_{i=1}^k \psi(e_i)^{\text{sign}(e_i)}$, where $\text{sign}(e_i) = 1$ if e_i has forward direction in C , and $\text{sign}(e_i) = -1$ otherwise. For a subgraph H of G define Γ_H as the subgroup of Γ generated by the elements $\psi(C)$, where C ranges over all closed walks in H . The *rank* of H is defined to be the rank of Γ_H . Note that the rank of G may be less than the rank of Γ , in which case the covering graph \tilde{G} contains an infinite number of connected components.

2.2 Periodic bar-joint frameworks

Recall that a pair (G, p) of a simple graph $G = (V, E)$ and a map $p : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is called a (*bar-joint*) *framework* in \mathbb{R}^d . A periodic framework is a special type of infinite framework defined as follows.

Let $\tilde{G} = (\tilde{V}, \tilde{E})$ be a k -periodic graph with periodicity Γ , and let $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a non-singular homomorphism with $k \leq d$, where L is said to be non-singular if $L(\Gamma)$ has rank k . A pair (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) of \tilde{G} and $\tilde{p} : \tilde{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is said to be an *L-periodic framework* in \mathbb{R}^d if

$$\tilde{p}(v) + L(\gamma) = \tilde{p}(\gamma v) \quad \text{for all } \gamma \in \Gamma \text{ and all } v \in \tilde{V}. \quad (1)$$

We also say that a pair (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is *k-periodic* in \mathbb{R}^d if it is *L-periodic* for some non-singular homomorphism $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$. Note that the rank k of the periodicity may be smaller than d .

An *L-periodic framework* (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is *generic* if the set of coordinates is algebraically independent over the rationals modulo the ideal generated by the equations (1).

A *Γ -labelled framework* is defined to be a triple (G, ψ, p) of a finite Γ -labelled graph (G, ψ) and a map $p : V(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$. Given a non-singular homomorphism $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$, the *covering* of (G, ψ, p) is the *L-periodic framework* (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) , where \tilde{G} is the covering of G and \tilde{p} is uniquely determined from p by (1). (G, ψ, p) is also called the *quotient Γ -labelled framework* of (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) .

We say that a Γ -labelled framework (G, ψ, p) is *generic* if the set of coordinates in p is algebraically independent over the rationals. Note that an *L-periodic framework* (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is generic if and only if the quotient (G, ψ, p) of (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is generic.

2.3 Periodic body-bar frameworks

A d -dimensional *body-bar framework* consists of disjoint full-dimensional rigid bodies in \mathbb{R}^d connected by disjoint bars, and may be considered as a special type of bar-joint framework, as we will describe below. The rigidity and flexibility of body-bar frameworks has been studied extensively (see e.g. [6, 21, 27, 28]), as they have important applications in fields such as engineering, robotics, materials science, and biology. The underlying graph of a body-bar framework is a multi-graph $H = (V(H), E(H))$ with no loops, where each vertex in $V(H)$ corresponds to a rigid body, and each edge in $E(H)$ corresponds to a rigid bar. To represent a body-bar framework as a bar-joint framework, we extract the *body-bar graph* G_H from the multi-graph H as follows (see also [25], for example). G_H is the simple graph with vertex set V_H and edge set E_H , where

- V_H is the disjoint union of vertex sets B_H^v for each $v \in V(H)$, with B_H^v defined as $B_H^v = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{d+1}\} \cup \{v_e \mid e \in E(H) \text{ is incident to } v\}$;
- $E_H = (\bigcup_{v \in V(H)} K(B_H^v)) \cup \{e' = u_e v_e \mid e = uv \in E(H)\}$, where $K(B_H^v)$ is the complete graph on B_H^v .

For each $v \in V(H)$, the vertices of B_H^v induce a complete subgraph of G_H , which is referred to as the *body associated with v* . A bar-joint framework (G_H, p) with $p : V_H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is called a *body-bar realisation* of H in \mathbb{R}^d . See Figure 1 for an example.

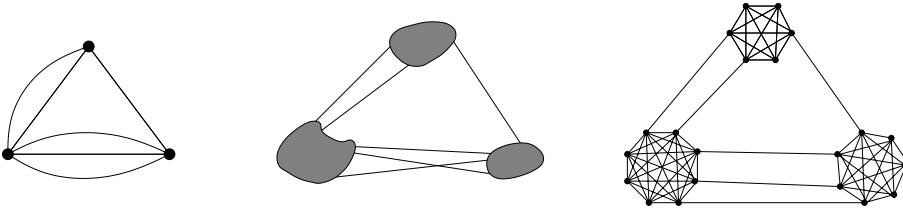


Fig. 1 Example of a 2-dimensional multi-graph H (on the left) which is the underlying graph of the body-bar framework in the middle. On the right the graph G_H is shown.

To define a periodic body-bar framework, we start with a Γ -labelled graph (H, ψ) , as defined in Section 2.1. However, we now allow (H, ψ) to have loops with non-trivial labels, as well as parallel edges with equal labels when oriented in the same direction. Thus, (H, ψ) defines a k -periodic multi-graph \tilde{H} which has no loops but may have parallel edges. We now use the procedure described above to construct the k -periodic body-bar graph $G_{\tilde{H}}$ from the multi-graph \tilde{H} , with the slight modification that for any edge $e \in E(\tilde{H})$ joining a vertex v with γv for some $\gamma \neq \text{id}$, we add two vertices v_{e^-} and v_{e^+} (instead of just one vertex v_e) to $B_{\tilde{H}}^v$, and define e' to be the edge $v_{e^-} \gamma v_{e^+}$ (instead of $v_e \gamma v_e$). This guarantees that the quotient Γ -labelled graph of the body-bar graph $G_{\tilde{H}}$ has no loops.

An L -periodic bar-joint framework $(G_{\tilde{H}}, \tilde{p})$ with $\tilde{p} : V_{\tilde{H}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is called an *L -periodic body-bar realisation* of \tilde{H} in \mathbb{R}^d .

2.4 Rigidity and global rigidity

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph. Two bar-joint frameworks (G, p) and (G, q) in \mathbb{R}^d are said to be *equivalent* if

$$\|p(u) - p(v)\| = \|q(u) - q(v)\| \quad \text{for all } uv \in E.$$

They are *congruent* if

$$\|p(u) - p(v)\| = \|q(u) - q(v)\| \quad \text{for all } u, v \in V.$$

A bar-joint framework (G, p) is called *globally rigid* if every framework (G, q) in \mathbb{R}^d which is equivalent to (G, p) is also congruent to (G, p) .

Analogously, following [14], we define an L -periodic bar-joint framework (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) in \mathbb{R}^d to be *L -periodically globally rigid* if every L -periodic framework in \mathbb{R}^d which is equivalent to (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is also congruent to (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) . Note that if the rank of the periodicity is equal to zero, then L -periodic global rigidity coincides with the global rigidity of finite frameworks.

A key notion to analyse L -periodic global rigidity is *L -periodic rigidity*. A framework (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is called *L -periodically rigid* if there is an open neighborhood N of \tilde{p} in which every L -periodic framework (\tilde{G}, \tilde{q}) which is equivalent to (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is also congruent to (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) . If (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is not L -periodically rigid, then it is called *L -periodically flexible*.

A bar-joint framework (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is called *L -periodically vertex-redundantly rigid*, or *L -periodically 2-rigid* in short, if for every vertex orbit \tilde{v} of \tilde{G} , the framework $(\tilde{G} - \tilde{v}, \tilde{p}|_{V(\tilde{G}) - \tilde{v}})$ is L -periodically rigid.

2.5 Characterisation of L -periodic rigidity

A key tool to analyse the rigidity or global rigidity of finite frameworks is the length-squared function and its Jacobian, called the rigidity matrix. We may use the same approach to analyse periodic rigidity or periodic global rigidity (see also [14]).

For a Γ -labelled graph (G, ψ) and $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$, we define $f_{G,L} : \mathbb{R}^{d|V(G)|} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{|E(G)|}$ to be the function that assigns to every $p \in \mathbb{R}^{d|V(G)|}$ the tuple of squared edge lengths of the Γ -labelled framework (G, ψ, p) (for a given order of the edges). That is, for $p \in \mathbb{R}^{d|V(G)|}$, we have

$$f_{G,L}(p) = (\dots, \|p(v_i) - (p(v_j) + L(\psi(v_i v_j)))\|^2, \dots).$$

For a finite set V , the *complete Γ -labelled graph* $K(V, \Gamma)$ on V is defined to be the Γ -labelled graph with vertex set V and edge set $\{(u, v); \gamma) : u, v \in V, \gamma \in \Gamma\}$.

$\Gamma\}$, where $((u, v); \gamma)$ denotes the directed edge (u, v) with label γ . We simply denote $f_{K(V, \Gamma), L}$ by $f_{V, L}$.

By (1) we have the following fundamental fact.

Proposition 1 *Let (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) be an L -periodic framework and let (G, ψ, p) be a quotient Γ -labelled framework of (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) . Then (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is L -periodically globally rigid (resp. rigid) if and only if for every $q \in \mathbb{R}^{d|V(G)|}$ (resp. for every q in an open neighborhood of p in $\mathbb{R}^{d|V(G)|}$), $f_{G, L}(p) = f_{G, L}(q)$ implies $f_{V(G), L}(p) = f_{V(G), L}(q)$.*

We may therefore say that a Γ -labelled framework (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically globally rigid (or rigid) if for every $q \in \mathbb{R}^{d|V(G)|}$ (resp. for every q in an open neighborhood of p in $\mathbb{R}^{d|V(G)|}$), $f_{G, L}(p) = f_{G, L}(q)$ implies $f_{V(G), L}(p) = f_{V(G), L}(q)$, and we may focus on characterising the L -periodic global rigidity (or rigidity) of Γ -labelled frameworks. If (G, ψ, p) is not L -periodically rigid, then it is called L -periodically flexible. A Γ -labelled framework (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically 2-rigid if for every vertex v of G , the Γ -labelled framework $(G - v, \psi|_{G-v}, p|_{V(G)-v})$ is L -periodically rigid.

We have the following basic result for analysing L -periodic rigidity.

Theorem 3 ([20], [14]) *Let (G, ψ, p) be a generic Γ -labelled framework in \mathbb{R}^d with $|V(G)| \geq d + 1$ and rank k periodicity Γ , and let $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be non-singular. Then (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically rigid if and only if*

$$\text{rank } df_{G, L}|_p = d|V(G)| - d - \binom{d-k}{2},$$

where $df_{G, L}|_p$ denotes the Jacobian of $f_{G, L}$ at p .

For combinatorial characterisations of generic L -periodically rigid or globally rigid Γ -labelled frameworks in \mathbb{R}^2 , we refer the reader to [22, 14] and [14], respectively. A combinatorial characterisation of generic L -periodically rigid body-bar frameworks in \mathbb{R}^d has been established in [26] (see also Theorem 7).

3 Rigidity implies global rigidity for small graphs

We first prove the following periodic counterpart of [4, Lemma 1].

Lemma 1 *Let (G, ψ) be the \mathbb{Z}^k -labelled graph with vertices v_1, \dots, v_n and no edges, and let $L : \mathbb{Z}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a non-singular homomorphism. Further, let (G, ψ, p) and (G, ψ, q) be two \mathbb{Z}^k -labelled frameworks whose coverings are the L -periodic frameworks (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) and (\tilde{G}, \tilde{q}) in \mathbb{R}^d .*

We denote $p_{\gamma, i} = \tilde{p}(\gamma v_i) = p(v_i) + L(\gamma)$ and $q_{\gamma, i} = \tilde{q}(\gamma v_i) = q(v_i) + L(\gamma)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^k$. Let $\bar{p}_{\gamma, i} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2d}$ be the following continuous maps for $i = 1, \dots, n$:

$$\bar{p}_{\gamma, i}(t) = \left(\frac{p_{\gamma, i} + q_{\gamma, i}}{2} + (\cos(\pi t)) \frac{p_{\gamma, i} - q_{\gamma, i}}{2}, (\sin(\pi t)) \frac{p_{\gamma, i} - q_{\gamma, i}}{2} \right). \quad (2)$$

Then $\bar{p}_{\gamma,i}(0) = (p_{\gamma,i}, 0^d)$ and $\bar{p}_{\gamma,i}(1) = (q_{\gamma,i}, 0^d)$, where 0^d denotes the d -dimensional zero vector. Further, $|\bar{p}_{\gamma,i}(t) - \bar{p}_{\gamma',j}(t)|$ is monotone and $\bar{p}_{\gamma,i}(t) = \bar{p}_{0^k,i}(t) + (L(\gamma), 0^d)$ for every $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\gamma, \gamma' \in \mathbb{Z}^k$.

Proof We only prove the last equation as the other statements follow directly from [4, Lemma 1]. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{p}_{\gamma,i}(t) &= \left(\frac{p_{\gamma,i} + q_{\gamma,i}}{2} + (\cos(\pi t)) \frac{p_{\gamma,i} - q_{\gamma,i}}{2}, (\sin(\pi t)) \frac{p_{\gamma,i} - q_{\gamma,i}}{2} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{p_{0^k,i} + L(\gamma) + q_{0^k,i} + L(\gamma)}{2} + (\cos(\pi t)) \frac{p_{0^k,i} + L(\gamma) - (q_{0^k,i} + L(\gamma))}{2}, \right. \\ &\quad \left. (\sin(\pi t)) \frac{p_{0^k,i} + L(\gamma) - (q_{0^k,i} + L(\gamma))}{2} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{p_{0^k,i} + q_{0^k,i}}{2} + L(\gamma) + (\cos(\pi t)) \frac{p_{0^k,i} - q_{0^k,i}}{2}, (\sin(\pi t)) \frac{p_{0^k,i} - q_{0^k,i}}{2} \right) \\ &= \bar{p}_{0^k,i}(t) + (L(\gamma), 0^d) \end{aligned}$$

holds for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^k$. \square

Lemma 1 implies the following theorem.

Theorem 4 *Let $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a non-singular homomorphism and let (G, ψ, p) be a Γ -labelled framework in \mathbb{R}^d which is not L -periodically globally rigid. Then the framework $(G, \psi, (p, 0^d))$ with $(p, 0^d) : V(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2d}$ is $(L, 0^d)$ -periodically flexible in \mathbb{R}^{2d} , where $(L, 0^d) : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2d}$ maps $\gamma \in \Gamma$ to $(L(\gamma), 0^d)$.*

Proof Since (G, ψ, p) is not L -periodically globally rigid, it follows from Proposition 1 that there exists a Γ -labelled framework (G, ψ, q) whose covering (\tilde{G}, \tilde{q}) is equivalent but not congruent to the covering (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) of (G, ψ, p) . By Lemma 1, there exists a continuous deformation between $(\tilde{G}, (\tilde{p}, 0^d))$ and $(\tilde{G}, (\tilde{q}, 0^d))$ in \mathbb{R}^{2d} that maintains the lattice $(L, 0^d)$ and, by the monotonicity of the distances, also maintains the edge lengths. Therefore, this map proves that $(G, \psi, (p, 0^d))$ is $(L, 0^d)$ -periodically flexible. \square

Let (G, ψ, p) be a Γ -labelled framework in \mathbb{R}^d , \tilde{G} be the covering of (G, ψ) , and $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a non-singular homomorphism. Suppose $|V(G)| \leq d - k + 1$. Observe that for $D \geq d$, the points $(\tilde{q}(v), 0^{D-d})$, $v \in V(\tilde{G})$, of the $(L, 0^{D-d})$ -periodic framework $(\tilde{G}, (\tilde{q}, 0^{D-d}))$ in \mathbb{R}^D affinely span a space of dimension at most $|V(G)| + k - 1 \leq d$. Now suppose that (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically rigid in \mathbb{R}^d . Then it also has to be L -periodically globally rigid in \mathbb{R}^d . If not, then during its non-trivial continuous motion in \mathbb{R}^{2d} , which is guaranteed to exist by Theorem 4, the points of the corresponding covering frameworks span an at most d -dimensional subspace, a contradiction. Hence we have the following corollary of Theorem 4.

Corollary 1 *Let (G, ψ, p) be a Γ -labelled framework in \mathbb{R}^d with rank k periodicity and $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$. Suppose that (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically rigid and $|V(G)| \leq d - k + 1$. Then (G, ψ, p) is also L -periodically globally rigid.*

4 2-Rigidity implies global rigidity

In this section we extend Theorem 1 to periodic frameworks by showing that L -periodic 2-rigidity, together with a rank condition on the Γ -labelled graph in the case when the framework is d -periodic in \mathbb{R}^d , implies L -periodic global rigidity. We need several lemmas. The first one is Proposition 13 in [11].

Lemma 2 ([11]) *Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a polynomial map with rational coefficients and p be a generic point in \mathbb{R}^d . Suppose that $df|_p$ is non-singular. Then for every $q \in f^{-1}(f(p))$ we have $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(p)} = \overline{\mathbb{Q}(q)}$, where $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(p)}$ and $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(q)}$ denote the algebraic closures of $\mathbb{Q}(p)$ and $\mathbb{Q}(q)$, respectively.*

Let Γ be a group isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^k , $t = \max\{d-k, 1\}$, (G, ψ) be a Γ -labelled graph with $|V(G)| \geq t$, and $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be non-singular. For simplicity we suppose that the linear span of $L(\Gamma)$ is $\{0\}^{d-k} \times \mathbb{R}^k$, the linear subspace spanned by the last k coordinates. We pick any t vertices v_1, \dots, v_t , and define the augmented function of $f_{G,L}$ by $\hat{f}_{G,L} := (f_{G,L}, g)$, where $g : \mathbb{R}^{d|V|} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d+\binom{t}{2}}$ is a rational polynomial map given by

$$g(p) = (p_1(v_1), \dots, p_d(v_1), p_1(v_2), \dots, p_{t-1}(v_2), p_1(v_3), \dots, p_{t-2}(v_3), \dots, p_1(v_t)),$$

where $p \in \mathbb{R}^{d|V|}$ and $p_i(v_j)$ denotes the i -th coordinate of $p(v_j)$. Augmenting $f_{G,L}$ by g corresponds to “pinning down” some coordinates to eliminate trivial continuous motions.

The following lemma is Proposition 3.6 in [14].

Lemma 3 ([14]) *Let (G, ψ, p) be a Γ -labelled framework in \mathbb{R}^d with rank k periodicity and $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a non-singular homomorphism such that $L(\Gamma) \subset \{0\}^{d-k} \times \mathbb{R}^k$. Suppose that p is generic and $|V(G)| \geq \max\{d-k, 1\}$. Then*

$$\text{rank } d\hat{f}_{G,L}|_p = \text{rank } df_{G,L}|_p + d + \binom{d-k}{2}.$$

We also need an adapted version of [14, Lemma 4.5], which is a periodic generalisation of an observation made in [10, 25]. To state this lemma, we require the following definition.

Let (G, ψ) be a Γ -labelled graph and let v be a vertex of G . Suppose that every edge incident to v is directed from v . For each pair of nonparallel edges $e_1 = vu$ and $e_2 = vw$ in (G, ψ) , let $e_1 \cdot e_2$ be the edge from u to w with label $\psi(vu)^{-1}\psi(vw)$. We define (G_v, ψ_v) to be the Γ -labelled graph obtained from (G, ψ) by removing v and inserting $e_1 \cdot e_2$ (unless it is already present) for every pair of nonparallel edges e_1, e_2 incident to v .

Lemma 4 *Let (G, ψ, p) be a generic Γ -labelled framework in \mathbb{R}^d with rank k periodicity Γ and with $|V(G)| \geq d-k+2$ and let $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be non-singular. Suppose that the covering (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) has a vertex v with at least $d+1$ neighbours $\gamma_0v_0, \gamma_1v_1, \dots, \gamma_dv_d$, where $v, v_i \in V(G), \gamma_i \in \Gamma$, so that the points $\tilde{p}(\gamma_0v_0), \tilde{p}(\gamma_1v_1), \dots, \tilde{p}(\gamma_dv_d)$ affinely span \mathbb{R}^d . Suppose further that*

- $(G-v, \psi|_{G-v}, p')$ is L -periodically rigid in \mathbb{R}^d , with notation $p' = p|_{V(G)-v}$,
and
- (G_v, ψ_v, p') is L -periodically globally rigid in \mathbb{R}^d .

Then (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically globally rigid in \mathbb{R}^d .

Proof We assume (by rotating the whole space if necessary) that $L(\Gamma) = \{0\}^{d-k} \times \mathbb{R}^k$. We pin the framework (G, ψ, p) and take any $q \in \hat{f}_{G,L}^{-1}(\hat{f}_{G,L}(p))$. Since $|V(G)| \geq d - k + 2 > \max\{d - k, 1\}$, we may assume that v is not “pinned” (i.e., v is different from the vertices selected when augmenting $f_{G,L}$ to $\hat{f}_{G,L}$). Our goal is to show that $p = q$.

Let p' and q' be the restrictions of p and q to $V(G) - v$, respectively. Since $(G - v, \psi|_{G-v}, p')$ is L -periodically rigid, we have $\text{rank } df_{G-v,L}|_{p'} = d|V(G-v)| - d - \binom{d-k}{2}$ by Theorem 3. Then, by Lemma 3, we further have $\text{rank } d\hat{f}_{G-v,L}|_{p'} = d|V(G-v)|$. Thus we can take a spanning subgraph H of $G - v$ such that $d\hat{f}_{H,L}|_{p'}$ has linearly independent rows and is hence non-singular. Since $q' \in \hat{f}_{H,L}^{-1}(\hat{f}_{H,L}(p'))$, it follows from Lemma 2 that $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(p')} = \overline{\mathbb{Q}(q')}$. This in turn implies that q' is generic.

Consider the edges $e_0 = vv_0, e_1 = vv_1, \dots, e_d = vv_d$ in (G, ψ) (all assumed to be directed from v) with respective labels $\psi(e_0) = \gamma_0, \psi(e_1) = \gamma_1, \dots, \psi(e_d) = \gamma_d$. Note that we may have $v_i = v_j$ for some i, j . By switching, we may further assume that $\gamma_0 = \text{id}$. For each $1 \leq i \leq d$, let

$$\begin{aligned} x_i &= p(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - p(v_0), \\ y_i &= q(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - q(v_0), \end{aligned}$$

and let P and Q be the $d \times d$ -matrices whose i -th column is x_i and y_i , respectively. Note that since $p(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - p(v_0) = \tilde{p}(\gamma_i v_i) - \tilde{p}(v_0)$, and $q(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - q(v_0) = \tilde{q}(\gamma_i v_i) - \tilde{q}(v_0)$, and p', q' are generic, x_1, \dots, x_d and y_1, \dots, y_d are, respectively, linearly independent, and hence P and Q are both non-singular.

Let $x_v = p(v) - p(v_0)$ and $y_v = q(v) - q(v_0)$. We then have $\|x_v\| = \|y_v\|$ since G has the edge vv_0 with $\psi(vv_0) = \text{id}$. Due to the existence of the edge e_i we also have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle p(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - p(v), p(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - p(v) \rangle - \langle q(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - q(v), q(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - q(v) \rangle \\ &= \langle x_i - x_v, x_i - x_v \rangle - \langle y_i - y_v, y_i - y_v \rangle \\ &= (\|x_i\|^2 - \|y_i\|^2) - 2\langle x_i, x_v \rangle + 2\langle y_i, y_v \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where we used $\|x_v\| = \|y_v\|$. Denoting by δ the d -dimensional vector whose i -th coordinate is equal to $\|x_i\|^2 - \|y_i\|^2$, the above d equations can be summarized as

$$0 = \delta - 2P^T x_v + 2Q^T y_v$$

which is equivalent to

$$y_v = (Q^T)^{-1} P^T x_v - \frac{1}{2} (Q^T)^{-1} \delta.$$

By putting this into $\|x_v\|^2 = \|y_v\|^2$, we obtain

$$x_v^T(I_d - PQ^{-1}(PQ^{-1})^T)x_v - (\delta^T Q^{-1}(Q^{-1})^T P^T)x_v + \frac{1}{4}\delta^T Q^{-1}(Q^{-1})^T \delta = 0, \quad (3)$$

where I_d denotes the $d \times d$ identity matrix.

Note that each entry of P is contained in $\mathbb{Q}(p')$, and each entry of Q is contained in $\mathbb{Q}(q')$. Since $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(p')} = \overline{\mathbb{Q}(q')}$, this implies that each entry of PQ^{-1} is contained in $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(p')}$. On the other hand, since p is generic, the set of coordinates of $p(v)$ (and hence those of x_v) is algebraically independent over $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(p')}$. Therefore, by regarding the left-hand side of (3) as a polynomial in x_v , the polynomial must be identically zero. In particular, we get

$$I_d - PQ^{-1}(PQ^{-1})^T = 0.$$

Thus, PQ^{-1} is orthogonal. In other words, there is some orthogonal matrix S such that $P = SQ$, and we get $\|p(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - p(v_0)\| = \|x_i\| = \|Sy_i\| = \|y_i\| = \|q(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) - q(v_0)\|$ for every $1 \leq i \leq d$. Therefore, $q' \in f_{G_v, L}^{-1}(f_{G_v, L}(p'))$. Since (G_v, ψ_v, p) is L -periodically globally rigid, this in turn implies that $f_{V-v, L}(p') = f_{V-v, L}(q')$. Thus we have $p' = q'$.

Since $\{p(v_i) + L(\gamma_i) : 0 \leq i \leq d\}$ affinely spans \mathbb{R}^d , there is a unique extension of $p' : V(G) - v \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ to $r : V(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ such that $f_{G, L}(r) = f_{G, L}(p)$. Thus we obtain $p = q$. \square

Finally, we need the following special case of [14, Lemma 3.1].

Lemma 5 *Let (G, ψ, p) be a generic Γ -labelled framework in \mathbb{R}^d with $|V(G)| \geq 2$, rank k periodicity Γ , and let $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a non-singular homomorphism. If (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically globally rigid, then the rank of (G, ψ) is equal to k .*

Lemma 5 is easily seen to be true, because if the rank of (G, ψ) is less than k , then the covering (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) of (G, ψ, p) has infinitely many connected components, each of which may be ‘flipped’ individually in a periodic fashion to obtain an L -periodic framework (\tilde{G}, \tilde{q}) which is equivalent, but not congruent to (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) . Thus, (G, ψ, p) is not L -periodically globally rigid.

This is illustrated by the two equivalent but non-congruent 2-periodic frameworks in \mathbb{R}^2 shown in Figure 2 whose Γ -labelled graph (G, ψ) has rank 1. Note, however, that (G, ψ) is L -periodically 2-rigid, since it is L -periodically rigid and the removal of any vertex results in a trivial framework with one vertex orbit and no edges (recall also Theorem 3).

It follows that in the case when $k = d$, L -periodic 2-rigidity is not sufficient for L -periodic global rigidity. In this case we need the added assumption that $\text{rank}(G, \psi) = d$. In the case when $k < d$ and $\text{rank}(G, \psi) < k$, (G, ψ, p) can also not be L -periodically globally rigid, by Lemma 5. However, in this case, (G, ψ, p) is also not L -periodically 2-rigid.

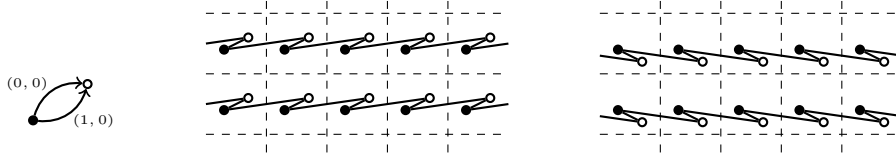


Fig. 2 Example of a \mathbb{Z}^2 -labelled graph (G, ψ) with $\text{rank}(G, \psi) = 1$ (on the left) and two equivalent but not congruent L -periodic frameworks (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) and (\tilde{G}, \tilde{q}) with rank 2 periodicity in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Theorem 5 *Let (G, ψ, p) be a generic Γ -labelled framework in \mathbb{R}^d with rank k periodicity Γ , and let $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be non-singular. If (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically 2-rigid, and if (G, ψ) is also of rank d in the case when $k = d$, then (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically globally rigid in \mathbb{R}^d .*

Proof We use induction on $|V(G)|$. If $|V(G)| \leq d - k + 1$, then (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically globally rigid by the L -periodic rigidity of (G, ψ, p) and Corollary 1.

Now suppose that $|V(G)| \geq d - k + 2$, and let (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) be the covering of (G, ψ, p) . By our assumption, $(G - v, \psi|_{G-v}, p|_{V(G)-v})$ is L -periodically rigid for any vertex $v \in V(G)$.

Suppose first that $|V(G)| = d - k + 2$. Then $(G - v, \psi|_{G-v}, p|_{V(G)-v})$ is also L -periodically globally rigid by Corollary 1. We claim that for any occurrence of any $v \in V(G)$ in the covering \tilde{G} , the affine span of the set $\{\tilde{p}(w) \mid vw \in E(\tilde{G})\}$ is all of \mathbb{R}^d .

If $d = k$ (and hence $|V(G)| = d - k + 2 = 2$) the claim follows from the fact that $\text{rank}(G, \psi) = d$, by our assumption.

If $d > k$ (and hence $|V(G)| = d - k + 2 > 2$), then we suppose for a contradiction that the claim is not true. Then the removal of a neighbour of v (and of all vertices belonging to that same vertex orbit) results in an L -periodic framework with at least two distinct orbits of points (since $|V(G)| > 2$) and, by our genericity assumption, this framework has the property that all the points connected to $\tilde{p}(v)$ affinely span a space of dimension at most $d - 2$, so that $\tilde{p}(v)$ can be rotated about this $(d - 2)$ -dimensional axis. Since all copies of points in the same orbit can then also be rotated in a periodic fashion and the affine span of the non-moving points is $(d - 1)$ -dimensional (as a k -periodic configuration with $d - k$ vertex orbits), we obtain a contradiction to the L -periodic 2-rigidity of (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) .

Thus, the affine span of the points $\{\tilde{p}(w) \mid vw \in E(\tilde{G})\}$ is indeed all of \mathbb{R}^d as claimed, and it follows from Lemma 4 that (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically globally rigid.

We may therefore assume that $|V(G)| > d - k + 2$. We show that (G_v, ψ_v, p') is L -periodically 2-rigid for any $v \in V(G)$. Suppose for a contradiction that this is not true. Then there is a vertex u whose removal results in an L -periodically flexible framework. As the neighbours of one occurrence of v in \tilde{G} induce a complete graph in \tilde{G}_v (where any pair of vertices from the same vertex orbit

may always be considered adjacent due to the fixed lattice representation), adding v together with its incident edges to $(G_v - u, \psi_v|_{G_v - u}, p|_{V(G) - \{u, v\}})$ still yields an L -periodically flexible framework. This is a contradiction, as $(G - u, \psi|_{G - u}, p|_{V(G) - u})$ is an L -periodically rigid Γ -labelled spanning sub-framework of the framework obtained from $(G_v - u, \psi_v|_{G_v - u}, p|_{V(G) - \{u, v\}})$ by adding v and its incident edges.

Thus (G_v, ψ_v, p') is L -periodically 2-rigid as claimed. Moreover, since (G, ψ) is 2-connected by the L -periodic 2-rigidity of (G, ψ, p) , it follows from the definition of (G_v, ψ_v) that $\Gamma_G = \Gamma_{G_v}$. Thus, if (G, ψ) is of rank d then so is (G_v, ψ_v) . It now follows from the induction hypothesis that (G_v, ψ_v, p') is L -periodically globally rigid. Moreover, by the same argument as above for the case when $|V(G)| = d - k + 2 > 2$, the affine span of the points $\{\tilde{p}(w) \mid w \in E(\tilde{G})\}$ is all of \mathbb{R}^d . Thus, by Lemma 4, (G, ψ, p) is L -periodically globally rigid. \square

5 Global rigidity of body-bar frameworks

Using Theorem 5 in combination with Lemma 5 and the following Lemma 6 (which is Lemma 3.7 in [14]) we can now easily prove an extension of Theorem 2 to periodic body-bar frameworks. We need the following definitions.

An L -periodic framework (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) with rank k periodicity Γ is said to be L -periodically bar-redundantly rigid if $(\tilde{G} - \tilde{e}, \tilde{p})$ is L -periodically rigid for every edge orbit \tilde{e} of \tilde{G} .

Similarly, an L -periodic body-bar realisation $(G_{\tilde{H}}, \tilde{p})$ of a multi-graph \tilde{H} is L -periodically bar-redundantly rigid if for every edge orbit \tilde{e} of \tilde{H} , the framework $(G_{\tilde{H}} - \tilde{e}, \tilde{p})$ is L -periodically rigid. (Recall the definition of a body-bar realisation in Section 2.3.)

Lemma 6 ([14]) *Let (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) be a generic L -periodic framework in \mathbb{R}^d with rank k periodicity Γ , and let $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be non-singular. Suppose also that the quotient Γ -labelled graph (G, ψ) of \tilde{G} has $|V(G)| \geq d + 1$ if $k \geq 1$ and $|V(G)| \geq d + 2$ if $k = 0$. If (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is L -periodically globally rigid, then (\tilde{G}, \tilde{p}) is L -periodically bar-redundantly rigid.*

The following extension of Theorem 2 gives a combinatorial characterisation of generic L -periodically globally rigid body-bar frameworks in \mathbb{R}^d .

Theorem 6 *Let $(G_{\tilde{H}}, \tilde{p})$ be a generic L -periodic body-bar realisation of the multi-graph \tilde{H} in \mathbb{R}^d with rank k periodicity Γ , and let $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be non-singular. Then $(G_{\tilde{H}}, \tilde{p})$ is L -periodically globally rigid in \mathbb{R}^d if and only if $(G_{\tilde{H}}, \tilde{p})$ is L -periodically bar-redundantly rigid in \mathbb{R}^d , and the quotient Γ -labelled graph of $G_{\tilde{H}}$ is of rank d in the case when $k = d$.*

Proof It immediately follows from Lemma 6 that L -periodic bar-redundant rigidity is necessary for a generic L -periodic body-bar realisation to be L -periodically globally rigid. Moreover, it follows from Lemma 5 that in the case

when $k = d$, the rank of the quotient Γ -labelled graph of $G_{\tilde{H}}$ must be equal to d for a generic L -periodic body-bar realisation to be L -periodically globally rigid. It is also easy to see that if a generic L -periodic body-bar realisation is L -periodically bar-redundantly rigid, then it is L -periodically 2-rigid, since the edges connecting the bodies are all disjoint. The result now follows from Theorem 5. \square

Note that generic L -periodic bar-redundant rigidity can easily be checked in polynomial time based on the combinatorial characterisation of generic L -periodic rigidity of body-bar frameworks in \mathbb{R}^d conjectured by Ross in [21, Conjecture 5.1] and proved by Tanigawa in [26, Theorem 7.2]. Using our notation and a simplified expression for the dimension of the space of trivial motions for a k -periodic framework in \mathbb{R}^d , this result may be restated as follows.

Theorem 7 ([26]) *Let $(G_{\tilde{H}}, \tilde{p})$ be a generic L -periodic body-bar realisation of the multi-graph \tilde{H} in \mathbb{R}^d with rank k periodicity Γ , and $L : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be non-singular. Then $(G_{\tilde{H}}, \tilde{p})$ is L -periodically rigid in \mathbb{R}^d if and only if the quotient Γ -labelled graph H of \tilde{H} contains a spanning subgraph (V, E) satisfying the following counts*

$$\begin{aligned} & - |E| = \binom{d+1}{2}|V| - d - \binom{d-k}{2}; \\ & - |F| \leq \binom{d+1}{2}|V(F)| - d - \binom{d-k(F)}{2} \quad \text{for all non-empty } F \subseteq E, \end{aligned}$$

where $k(F)$ is the rank of F .

6 Conclusion and further comments

Real-world structures, whether they are natural such as crystals or proteins, or man-made such as buildings or linkages, are usually non-generic, and often exhibit non-trivial symmetries. This fact has motivated a significant amount of research in recent years on how symmetry impacts the rigidity and flexibility of frameworks (see [24], for example, for a summary of results). In Theorem 5, we have shown that the sufficient condition given by Tanigawa in [25] for generic global rigidity of finite frameworks can be transformed to a sufficient condition for generic global rigidity of infinite L -periodic frameworks (under a fixed lattice L). It remains open whether this result can be extended to other types of frameworks with symmetries such as infinite periodic frameworks with (partially) flexible lattices or finite frameworks with point group symmetries. Following the proof of Theorem 6, such an extension would imply the characterisation of the generic global rigidity of finite body-bar frameworks with these symmetries by using the existing (local) rigidity characterisations of these frameworks by Tanigawa [26]. Furthermore, such a result would be useful for the characterisation of the generic global rigidity of *body-hinge frameworks* with symmetries (where the bodies are connected in pairs by $d-2$ -dimensional hinges) such as in the (finite) generic version established by Jordán, Király and

Tanigawa [13]. However, the characterisation of generic (local) rigidity for periodic body-hinge frameworks is still open (even for fixed lattices). For finite symmetric body-hinge frameworks, such a characterisation is only known for groups of the form $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ [23]. A major goal in this research area is to obtain a combinatorial characterisation of the generic global rigidity of infinite L -periodic or finite symmetric *molecular frameworks* in 3-space (i.e., body-hinge frameworks in 3-space with the added property that the lines of the hinges attached to each body all meet in a single point on that body), since they may be used to model crystals and protein structures. We note that for finite molecular frameworks, their generic (local) rigidity was recently characterised by the celebrated result of Katoh and Tanigawa [15]. However, their generic global rigidity has not yet been characterised, and there are also no generic local or global rigidity characterisations for infinite L -periodic or finite symmetric molecular frameworks [19].

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