980-55-104 Michael Farber (mfarber@tau.ac.il) and Sergey Yuzvinsky* (yuz@math.uoregon.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Topological robotics and arrangement complements.

The main notion of topological robotics is the topological complexity (TC) of a topological space. This notion is similar to the Lusternik-Schnirelman category and is a particular case of the Schwarz genus. From rabotics point of view TC(X)measures discontinuity of motion planners on X. In the talk we compute TC(M) for the complement M of some complex hyperplane arrangements including the braid arrangements and generic ones. Notice that for a braid arrangement a motion on M is just a collision free motion of several ordered points on a plane. We also compute TC(M) for the configuration space M of several distinct ordered points in the 3-dimensional space. (Received August 08, 2002)