

# CSC477

## Introduction to Mobile Robotics

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Week #2: Kinematics and Dynamics

Today's slides borrow parts of Paul Furgale's "Representing robot pose" presentation:

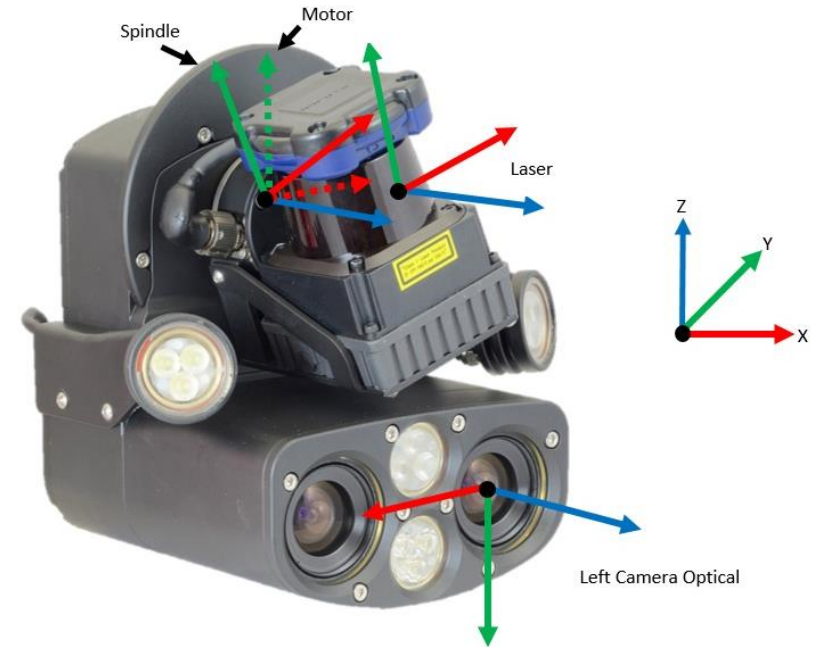
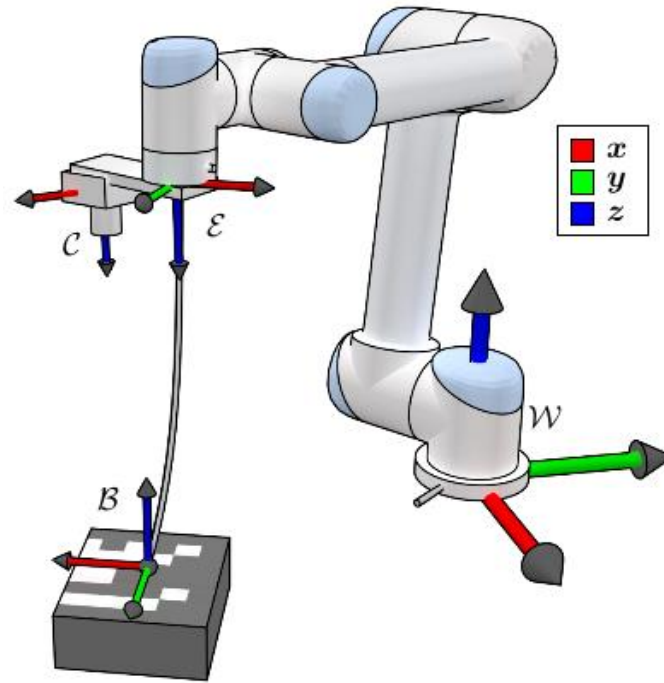
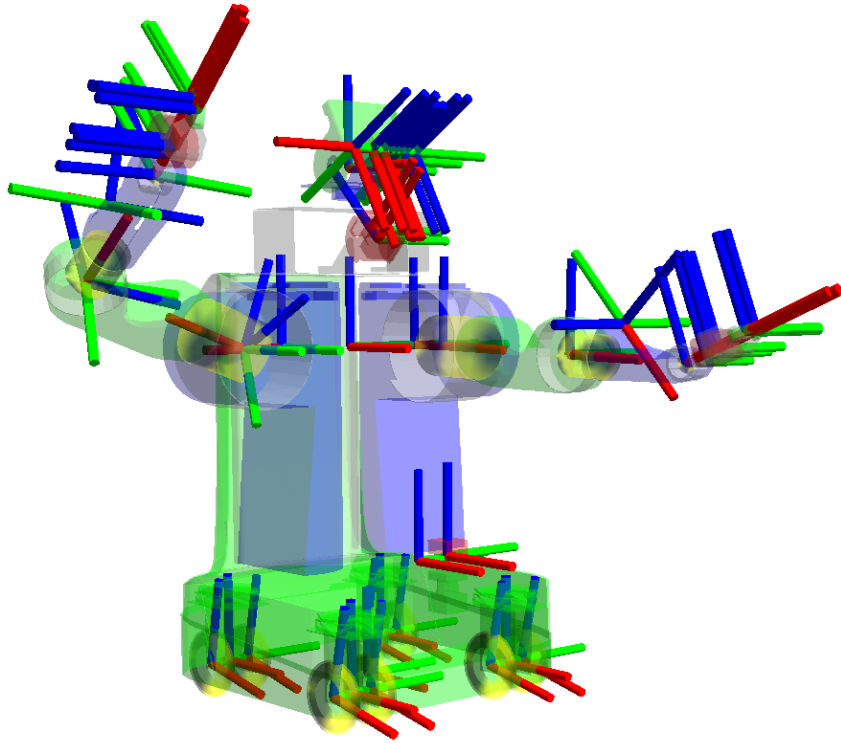
<http://paulfurgale.info/news/2014/6/9/representing-robot-pose-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly>

You should absolutely read it.

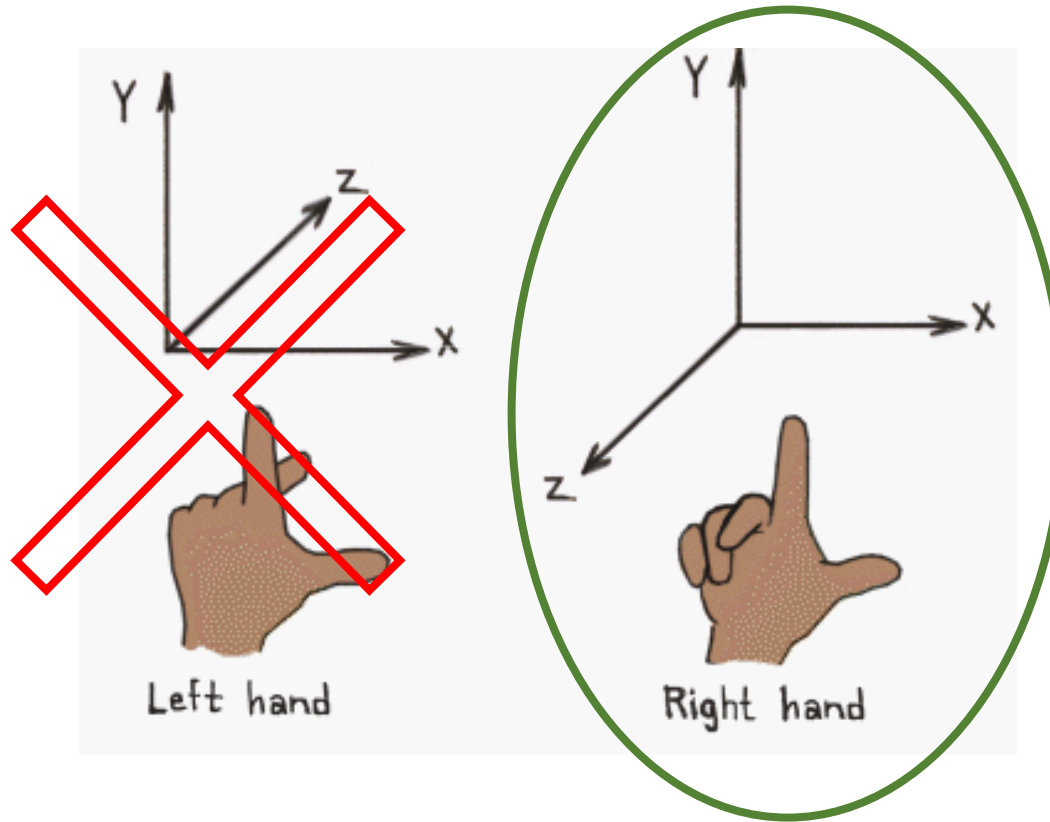
# Today's Agenda

- Frames of reference
- Ways to represent rotations
- Simplified models of vehicles
- Forward and inverse kinematics

# 3D frames of reference are everywhere in robotics



# Right-handed vs left-handed frames



**Unless otherwise specified,  
we use right-handed  
frames in robotics**

# Why do we need to use so many frames?

- Because we want to reason and express quantities relative to their local configuration.
- For example: “grab the bottle behind the cereal bowl”
- This lecture is about defining and representing frames of reference and reasoning about how to express quantities in one frame to quantities in the other.



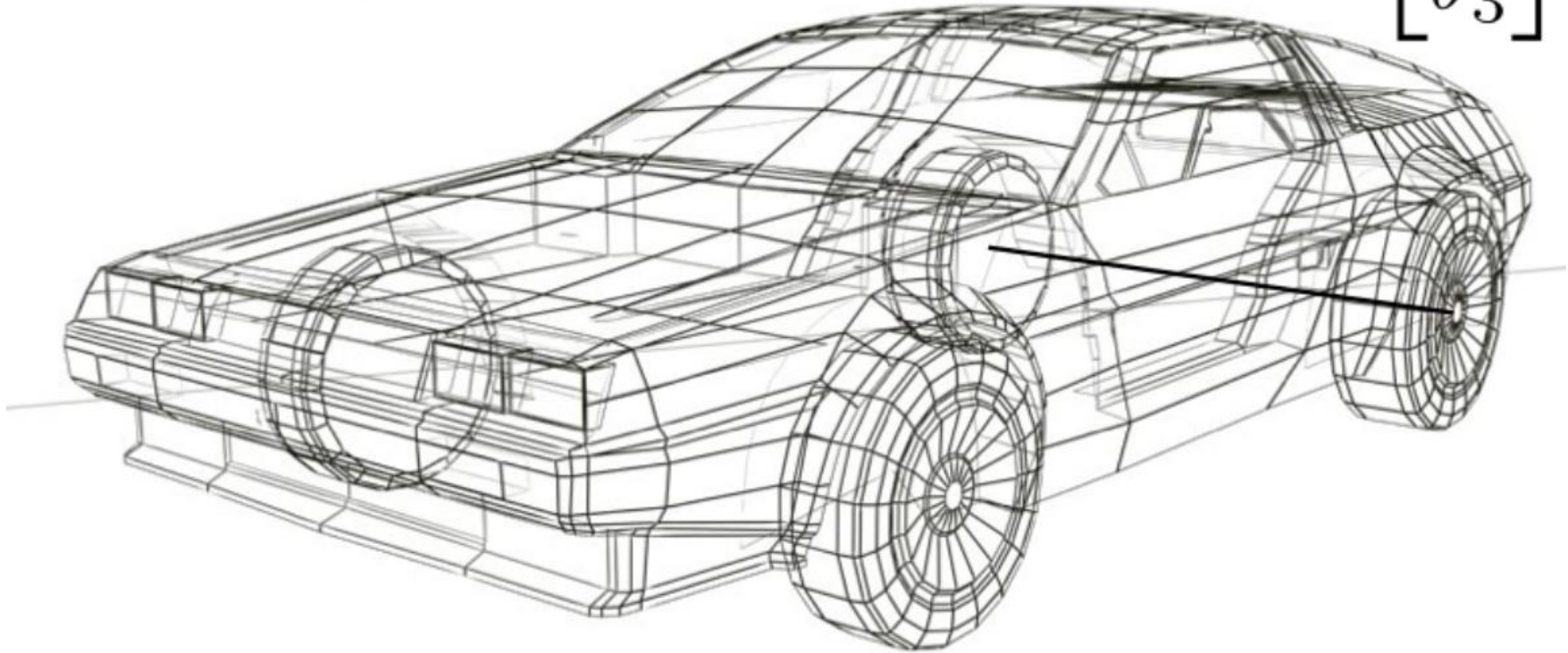
# Rigid-body motion

- Motion that can be described by a rotation and translation.
- All the parts making up the body move in unison, and there are no deformations.
- Representing rotations, translations, and vectors in a given frame of reference is often a source of frustration and bugs in robot software because there are so many options.



- The “three number” problem
- You are given three numbers representing *the orientation of the robot*
- How many possibilities are there?

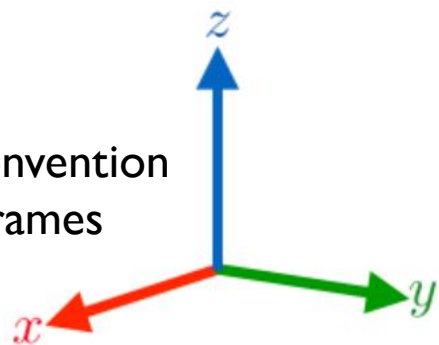
$$\mathbf{C} \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{bmatrix}$$





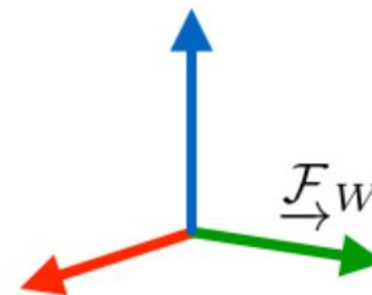
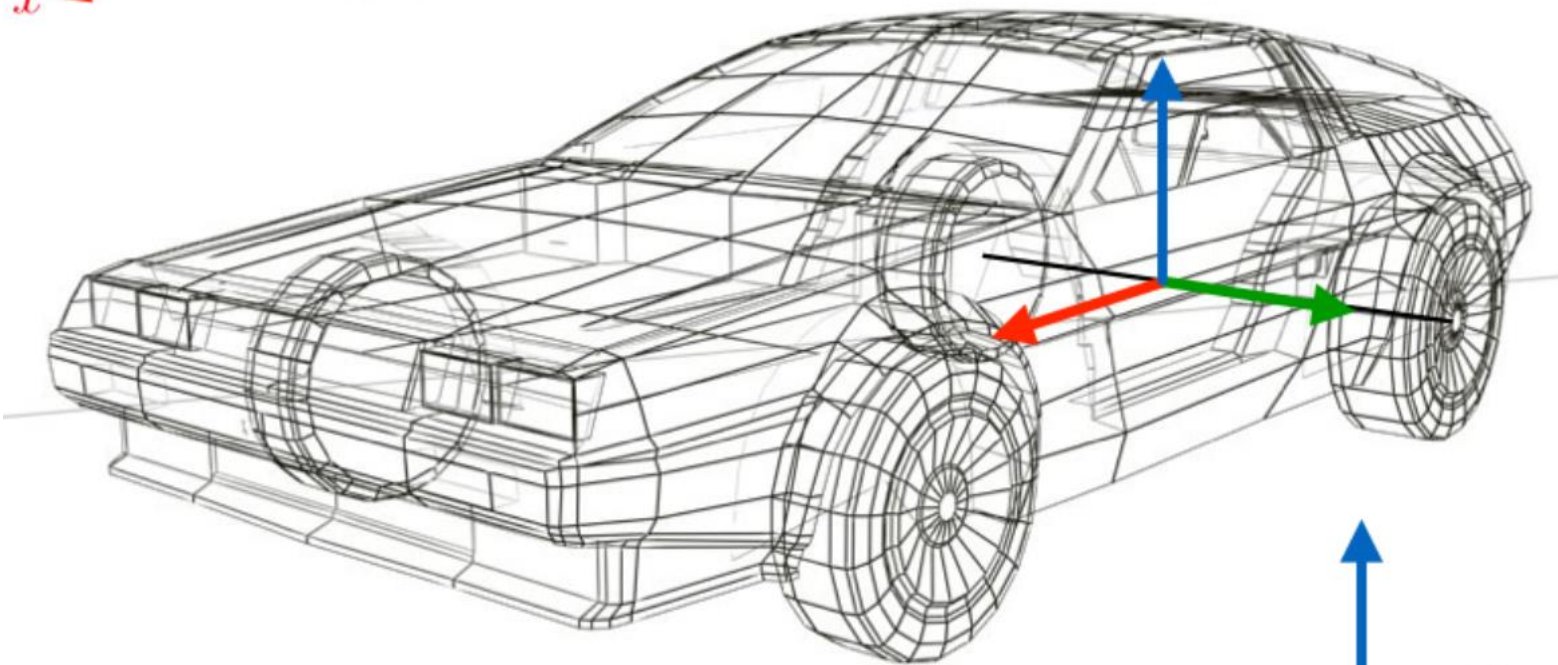
**The answer is meaningless  
unless I provide a definition of  
the coordinate frames**

Color convention  
for frames



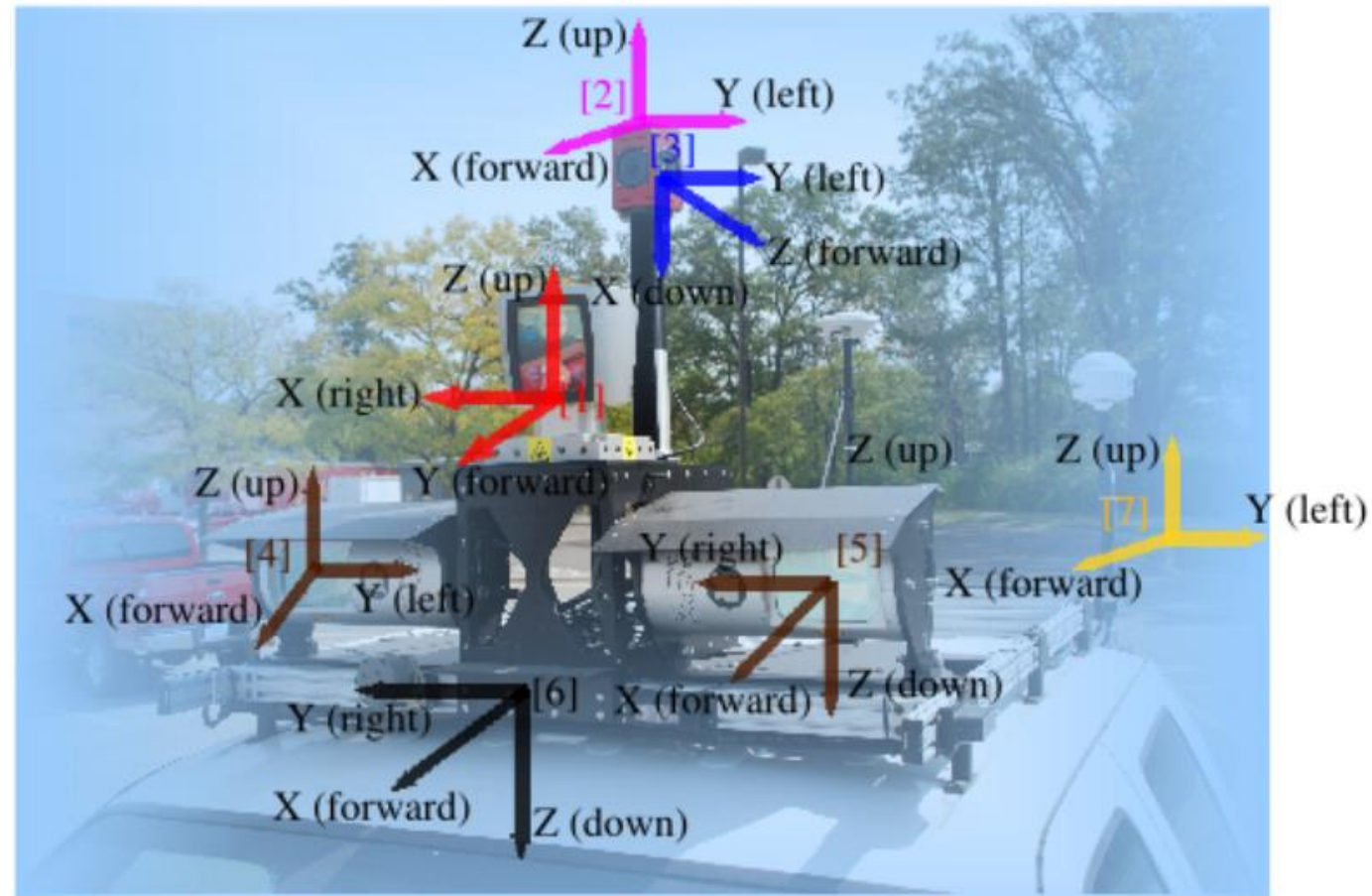
Moving body (robot) frame

$\mathcal{F}_B$



Fixed world frame

**Always provide a frame diagram**



- [1] Velodyne, [2] Ladybug3 (actual location: center of camera system),  
[3] Ladybug3 Camera 5, [4] Right Riegl, [5] Left Riegl,  
[6] Body Frame (actual location: center of rear axle)  
[7] Local Frame (Angle between the X-axis and East is known)

# Inertial frames of reference

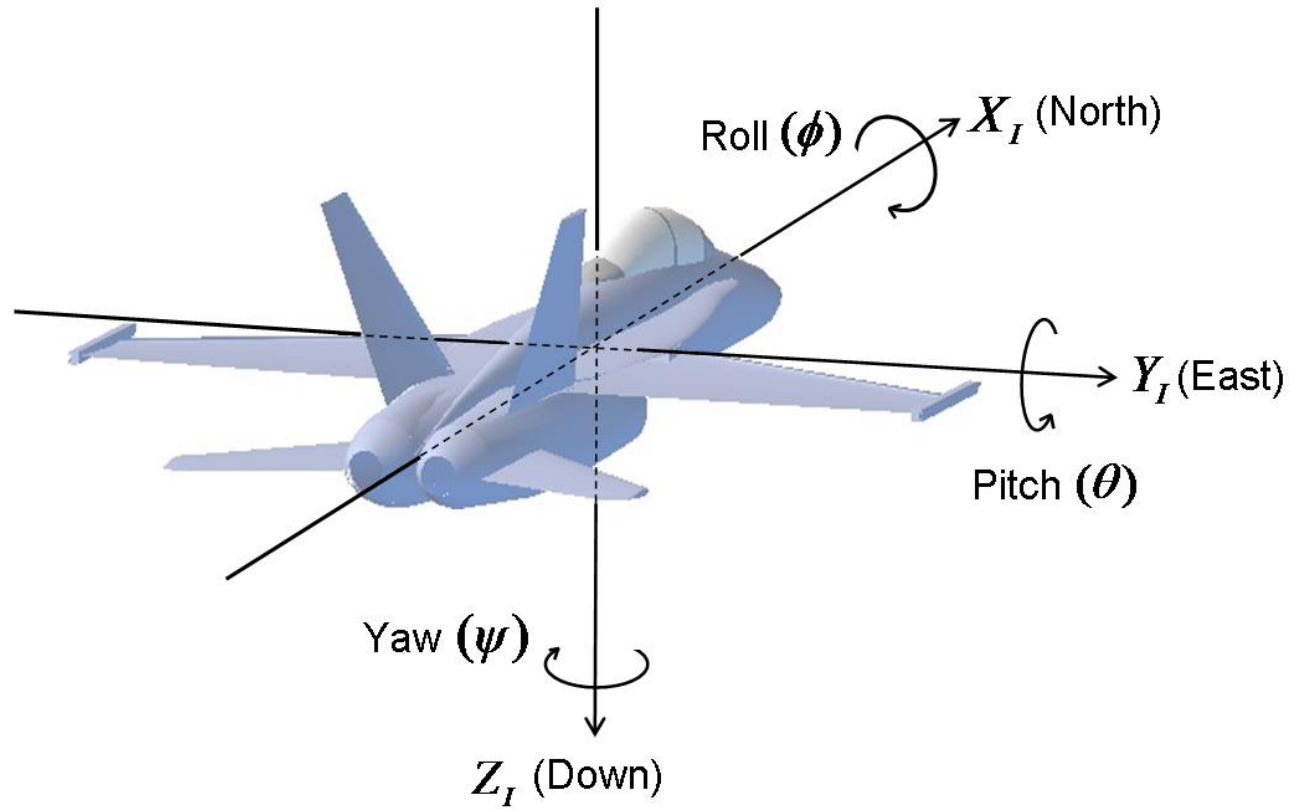
- G, the global frame of reference is fixed, i.e. with zero velocity in our previous example.
- But, in general it can move as long as it has zero acceleration. Such a frame is called an “inertial” frame of reference.
- Newton’s laws hold for inertial reference frames only. For reference frames with non-constant velocity we need the theory of General Relativity.
- So, make sure that your global frame of reference is inertial, preferably fixed.

# Today's Agenda

- Frames of reference
- Ways to represent rotations
- Simplified models of vehicles
- Forward and inverse kinematics



# Representing Rotations in 3D: Euler Angles



# Specification ambiguities in Euler Angles

- Need to specify the axes which each angle refers to.
- There are **12 different valid combinations** of fundamental rotations. Here are the possible axes:
  - $z-x-z$ ,  $x-y-x$ ,  $y-z-y$ ,  $z-y-z$ ,  $x-z-x$ ,  $y-x-y$
  - $x-y-z$ ,  $y-z-x$ ,  $z-y-x$ ,  $x-z-y$ ,  $z-y-x$ ,  $y-x-z$

# Specification ambiguities in Euler Angles

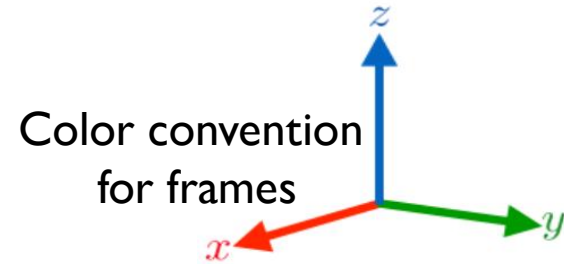
- Need to specify the axes which each angle refers to.
- There are **12 different valid combinations** of fundamental rotations.  
Here are the possible axes:
  - z-x-z, x-y-x, y-z-y, z-y-z, x-z-x, y-x-y
  - x-y-z, y-z-x, z-y-x, x-z-y, z-y-x, y-x-z
- E.g.: x-y-z rotation with Euler angles  $(\theta, \phi, \psi)$  means the rotation can be expressed as a sequence of simple rotations  $R_x(\theta)R_y(\phi)R_z(\psi)$

# Specification ambiguities in Euler Angles

Simple rotations can be counter-clockwise or clockwise.  
This gives **another 2 possibilities**.

$$\mathbf{R}_z(\alpha) := \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha & 0 \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{C}_z(\alpha) := \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha & 0 \\ -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

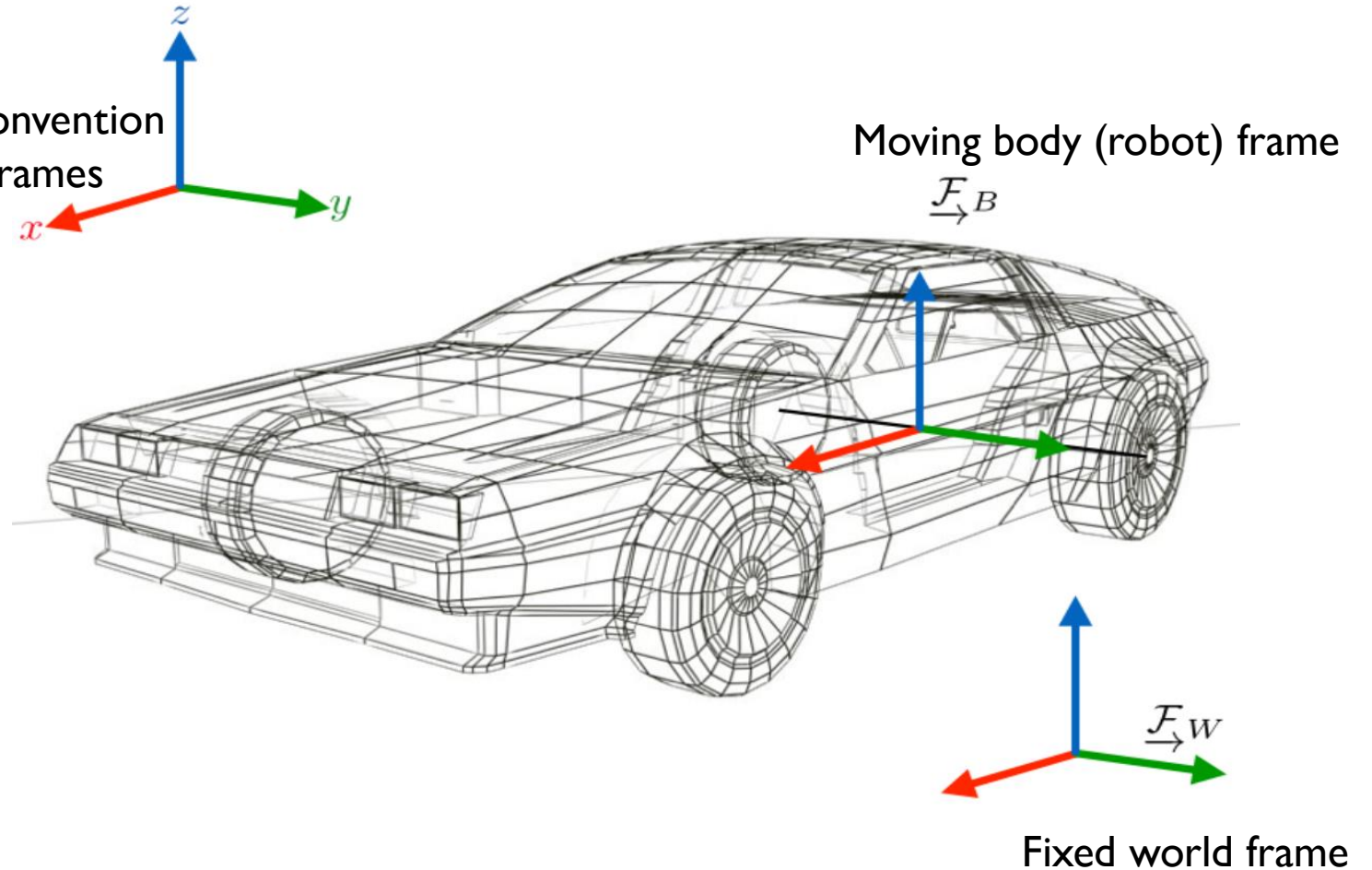
# Specification ambiguities in Euler Angles



You need to specify whether the rotation rotates from the world frame to the body frame, or the other way around.

**Another 2 possibilities. More possibilities if you have more frames.**

**Degrees or radians? Another 2 possibilities**



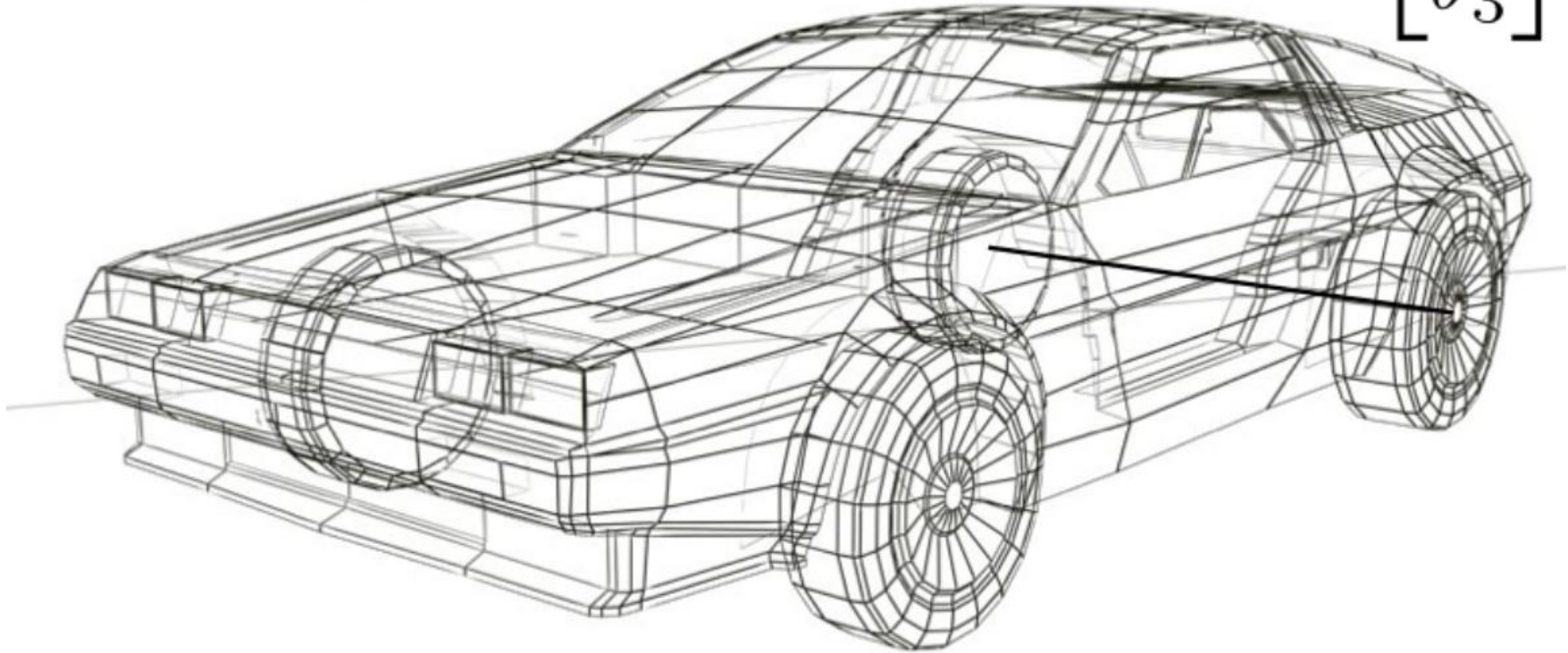
# Specification ambiguities in Euler Angles

- Need to specify the ordering of the three parameters.
- 1-2-3, 1-3-2, 2-1-3, 2-3-1, 3-1-2, 3-2-1
- **Another 6 different valid combinations**



- The “three number” problem
- You are given three numbers representing *the orientation of the robot*
- How many possibilities are there?

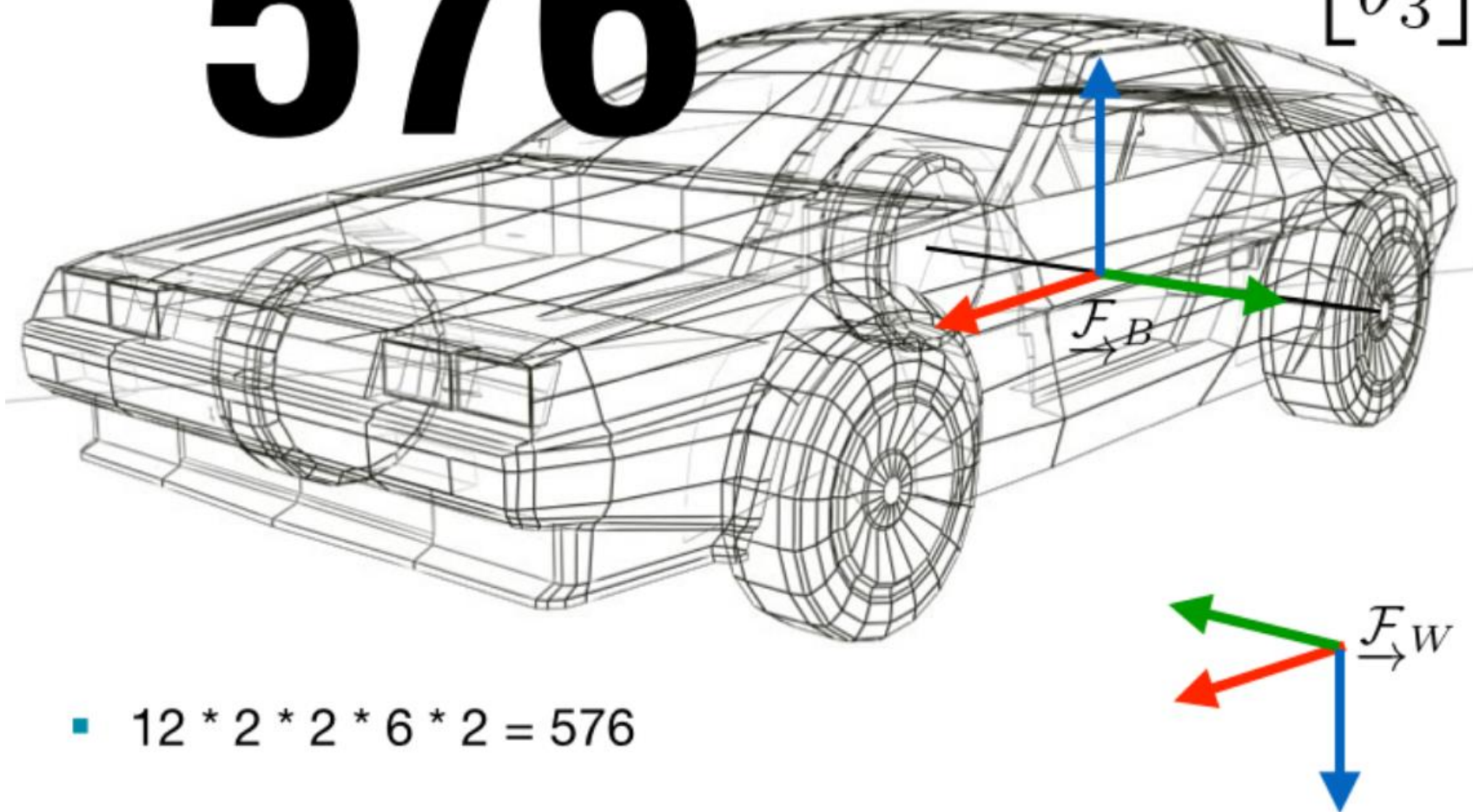
$$\mathbf{C} \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



- The “three number” problem
- How many possibilities are there?

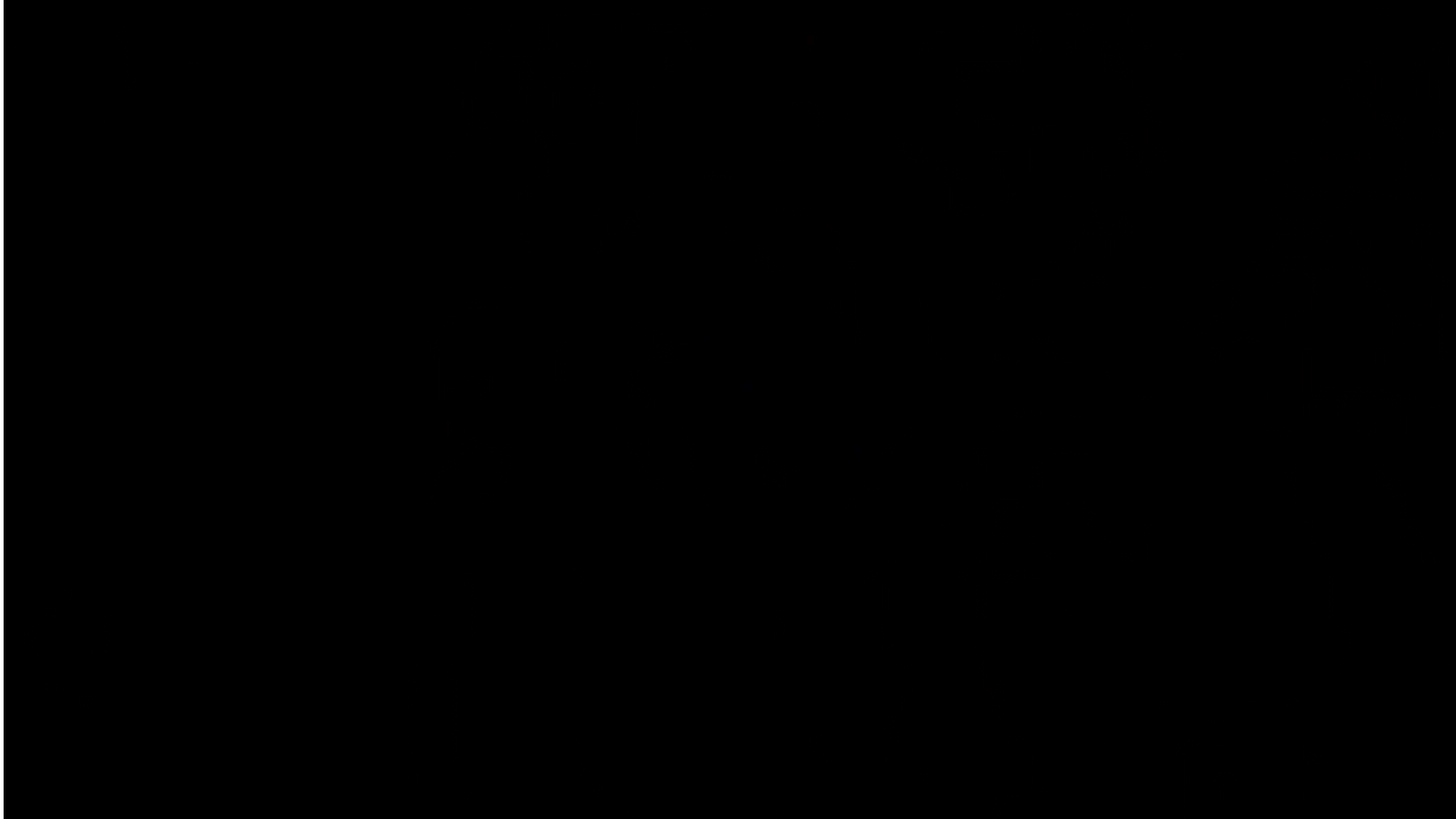
# 576

$$\mathbf{C} \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



- $12 * 2 * 2 * 6 * 2 = 576$

# Another problem with Euler angles: Gimbal Lock



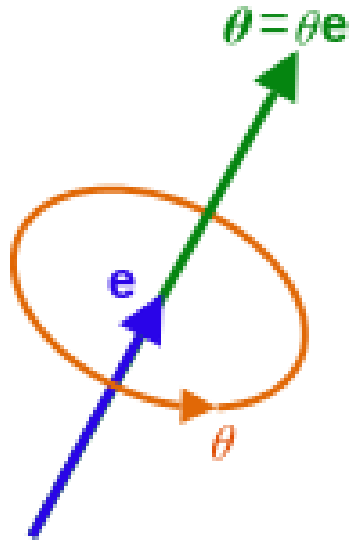
# Another problem with Euler angles: Gimbal Lock

- Why should roboticists care about this?
- Because when it happens Euler angle representations lose one degree of freedom.
- They cannot represent the entire range of rotations any more.
- They get “locked” into a subset of the space of possible rotations.

So, we need other representations aside from Euler angles.

Even though they are a minimal representation.

# Representing Rotations in 3D: Axis-Angle



- 4-number representation (angle, 3D axis)
- 2 ambiguities: (-angle, -axis) is the same as (angle, axis)



# Representing Rotations in 3D: Rotation Matrix

- The royalty of rotation representations
- 3x3-number representation, very redundant
- No ambiguities, as long as source frame and target frame are specified correctly. For example, define your notation this way:
- Rotation from Body frame to World frame:  $\mathbf{R}_{BW}$
- Or you can define it this way:  ${}^W_B \mathbf{R}$

# Inverse Rotation Matrix

$$\begin{matrix} W \\ B \end{matrix} \mathbf{R}^{-1} = \begin{matrix} W \\ B \end{matrix} \mathbf{R}^t = \begin{matrix} B \\ W \end{matrix} \mathbf{R}$$

Rotation matrices are orthogonal matrices: their transpose is their inverse and they do not change the length of a vector, they just rotate it in space.

$$\begin{matrix} W \\ B \end{matrix} \mathbf{R}^t \begin{matrix} W \\ B \end{matrix} \mathbf{R} = \mathbf{I}$$

# Converting axis-angle to rotation matrix

- Given angle  $\theta$  and axis  $\mathbf{v}$  the equivalent rotation matrix is

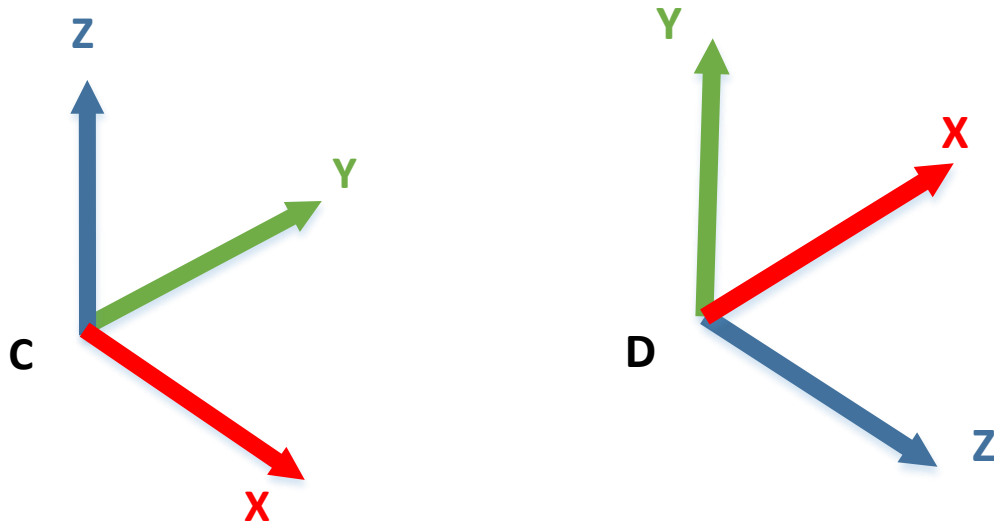
$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{I}\cos\theta + (1 - \cos\theta)\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^t + [\mathbf{v}]_{\times}$$

- Where  $\mathbf{I}$  is the 3x3 identity and

$$[\mathbf{a}]_{\times} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_3 & a_2 \\ a_3 & 0 & -a_1 \\ -a_2 & a_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- This is called the “Rodrigues formula”

# Example: finding a rotation matrix that rotates one vector to another



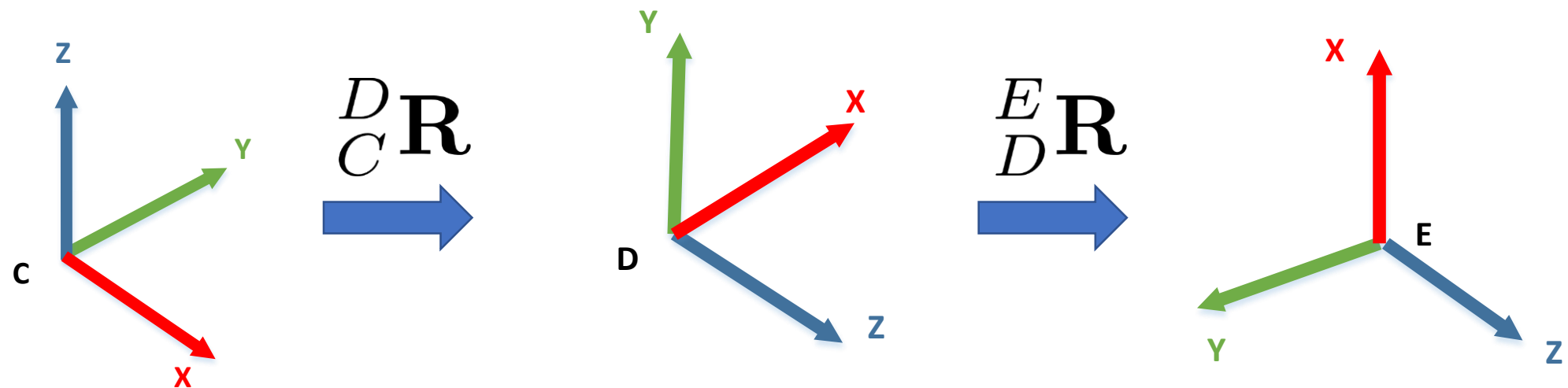
$${}^D_C \mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This matrix transforms the x-axis of frame C to the z-axis of frame D. Same for y and z axes.

# Rotation multiplication vs addition: 3D vs 2D

- In 2D adding angles with wraparound at 360 degrees is a valid operation.
- Rotation matrices can be added, but the result is not necessarily a valid rotation. Rotations are not closed under the operation of addition.
- Rotations are closed under the operation of multiplication. To compose a sequence of simple rotations we need to multiply them.

# Compound rotations



$$\frac{E}{C}\mathbf{R} = \frac{E}{D}\mathbf{R}\frac{D}{C}\mathbf{R}$$



# Representing Rotations in 3D: Quaternions

- Based on axis-angle representation, but more computationally efficient.
- The main workhorse of rotation representations.
- Used almost everywhere in robotics, aerospace, aviation.
- Very important to master in this course. You will need it for the first assignment and for working with ROS in general.

# Converting axis-angle to quaternion

- Given angle  $\theta$  and axis  $\mathbf{v}$  the equivalent quaternion representation is

$$\mathbf{q} = [\sin(\theta/2)v_1, \sin(\theta/2)v_2, \sin(\theta/2)v_3, \cos(\theta/2)]$$

$$\mathbf{q} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} + w$$

- Just like in the case of rotation matrices we denote the source and target frames of the rotation quaternion:  ${}^W_B \mathbf{q}$

# Converting axis-angle to quaternion

- Given angle  $\theta$  and a unit axis  $\mathbf{v}$ , the equivalent quaternion representation is:

$$\mathbf{q} = [\sin(\theta/2)v_1, \sin(\theta/2)v_2, \sin(\theta/2)v_3, \cos(\theta/2)]$$

$$\mathbf{q} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} + w$$

- Just like in the case of rotation matrices we denote the source and target frames of the rotation quaternion:  ${}^W_B \mathbf{q}$
- We always work with unit length (normalized) quaternions.

# Examples of quaternions

- 90 degree rotation about the z-axis

$$\mathbf{q} = [0, 0, \sin(\pi/4)v_3, \cos(\pi/4)]$$

# Quaternion multiplication

- Defined algebraically by

$$Q = q_0 + q_1i + q_2j + q_3k$$

$$i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$$

$$ij = k, \quad jk = i, \quad ki = j$$

and usually denoted by the circular cross symbol. For example:

$${}^W_F \mathbf{q} = {}^W_C \mathbf{q} \otimes {}^C_F \mathbf{q}$$

# Quaternion multiplication

$$\mathbf{W}_F \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{W}_C \mathbf{q} \otimes \mathbf{C}_F \mathbf{q}$$

Direct correspondence with matrix multiplication:

$$\mathbf{W}_F \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q}) = \mathbf{W}_C \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q}) \mathbf{C}_F \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q})$$

NOTE: the quaternion to matrix conversion will not be given here. It is usually present in all numerical algebra libraries. At the moment we'll take it for granted.

# Quaternion inversion

$$\mathbf{q}^{-1} = -x\mathbf{i} - y\mathbf{j} - z\mathbf{k} + w$$

$$[0, 0, 0, 1] = \mathbf{q}^{-1} \otimes \mathbf{q}$$

Direct correspondence with matrix inversion:

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q}^{-1})\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q})$$

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q})^{-1}\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q})$$



# Example: updating orientation based on angular velocity

- If the angular velocity of the Body frame is  ${}^B\omega$  and the body-to-world rotation at time  $t$  is  ${}^W_B \mathbf{q}(t)$
- Then, at time  $t+dt$  the new body-to-world rotation will be

$${}^W_{B(t+dt)} \mathbf{q} = {}^W_{B(t)} \mathbf{q} \otimes {}^{B(t)}_{B(t+dt)} \mathbf{q}$$

where  ${}^{B(t)}_{B(t+dt)} \mathbf{q}$  has unit axis  $\frac{{}^B\omega}{||{}^B\omega||}$  and angle  $||{}^B\omega||dt$

# Main ambiguities of quaternion representation

- The ones inherited from the axis-angle representation, but also:
  - Even with unit-length quaternions, there are choices
  - Parameter ordering
    - We won't consider arbitrary ordering
    - We do have to decide on scalar first or scalar last

$$Q = w + xi + yj + zk$$

$$\mathbf{q} := \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ w \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Scalar Last} \qquad \mathbf{q} := \begin{bmatrix} w \\ x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Scalar First}$$

**Be clear about your orientation  
representation.**

## Suggested minimum documentation

- Frame diagram.
- Full description of how to build a transformation matrix from the provided scalars and down to the scalar level.
- A clear statement of which transformation matrix it is.

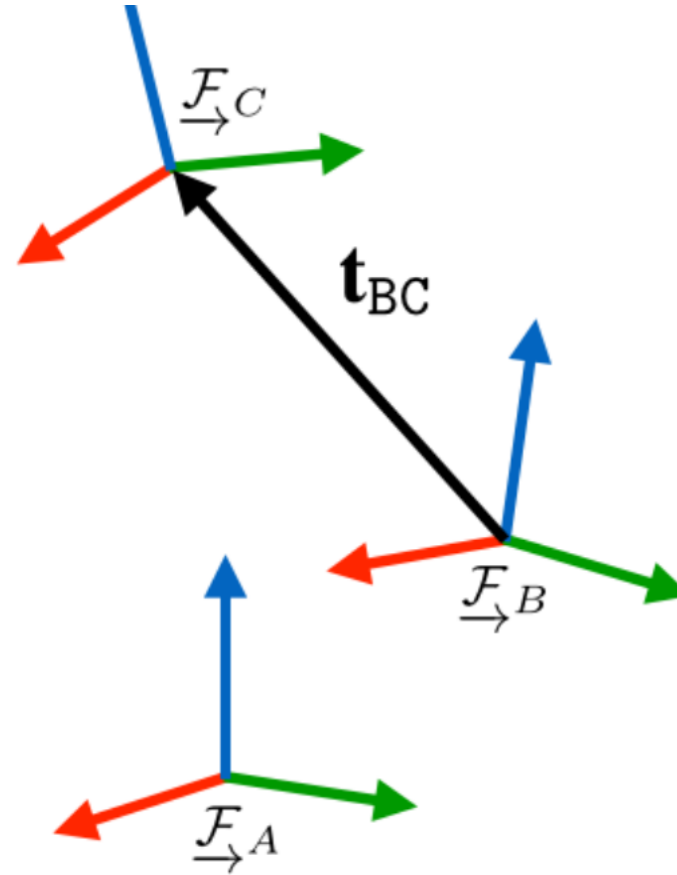
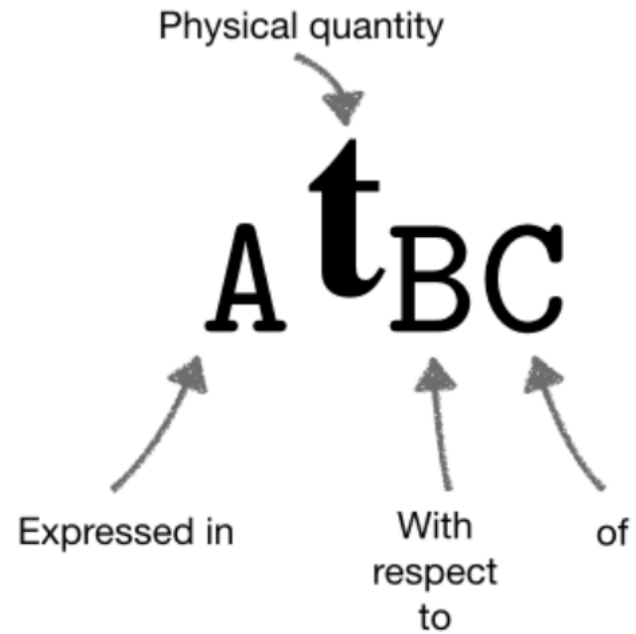
The resulting matrix,  $T_{WB}$ , represents the pose of the robot body frame,  $\underline{\mathcal{F}}_B$ , with respect to the world frame,  $\underline{\mathcal{F}}_W$ , such that a point in the body frame,  ${}_B\mathbf{p}$ , can be transformed into the world frame by

$${}_W\mathbf{p} = T_{WB}{}_B\mathbf{p}. \quad (1)$$

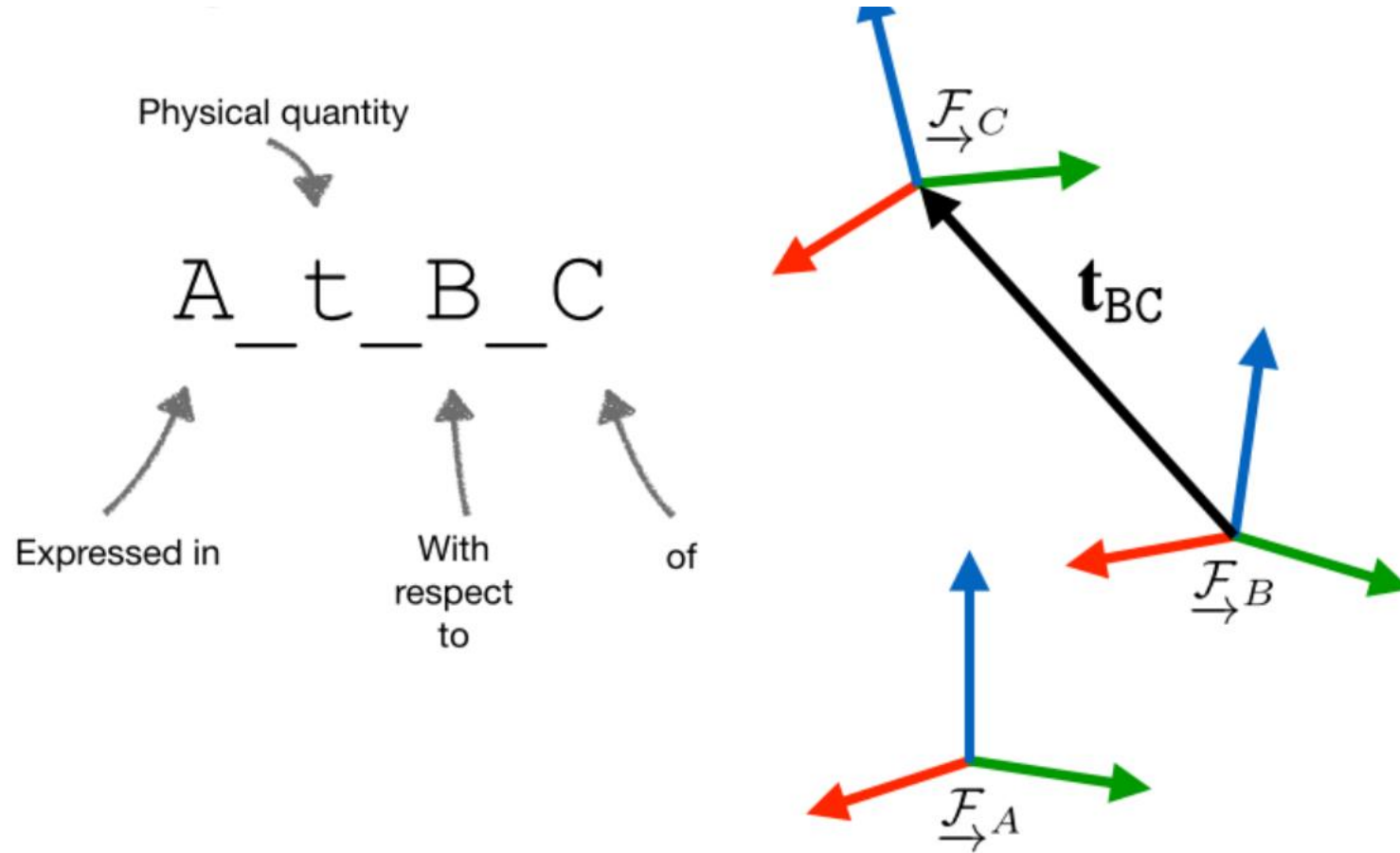
# Let's talk about code.

- Code has the same requirements as notation
- Rotation matrices have two frame decorations:
  - to
  - from
- Coordinates of vectors have three decorations:
  - to
  - from
  - expressed in

# Let's talk about code.



# Let's talk about code.

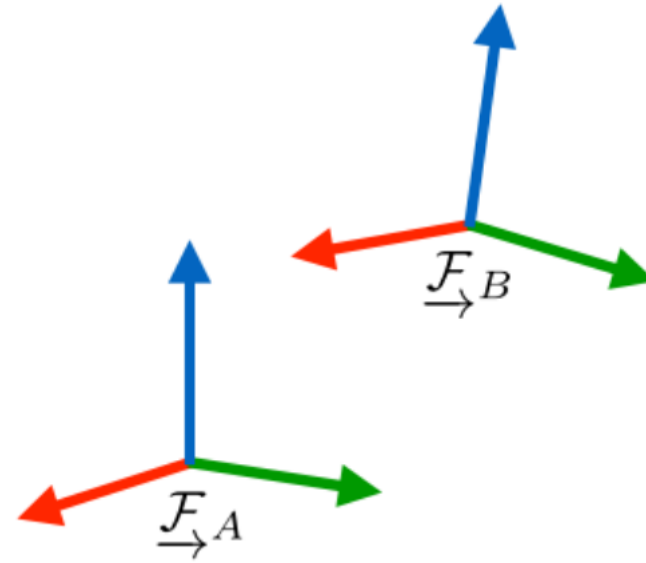


# Let's talk about code.

$\mathbf{C}_{AB}$

into  
rotates  
vectors  
from

$${}^A\mathbf{v}_{BC} = \mathbf{C}_{ABB} \mathbf{v}_{BC}$$

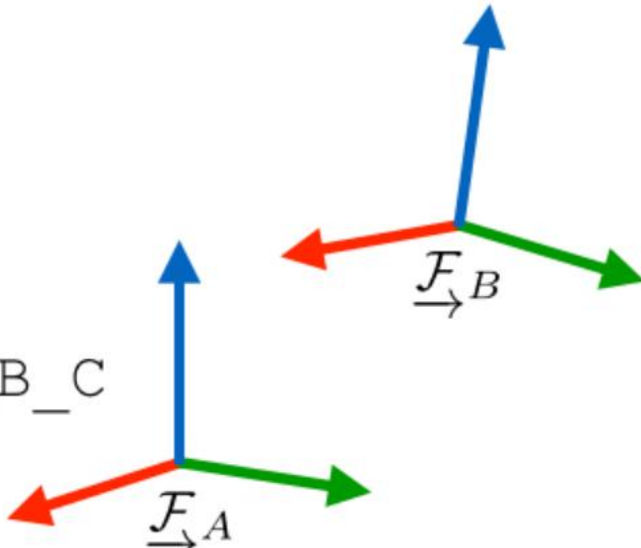




# Let's talk about code.

$C\_A\_B$

into rotates vectors from

$$A\_v\_B\_C = C\_A\_B * B\_v\_B\_C$$


The diagram illustrates a rotation between two 3D coordinate systems. The bottom system has axes labeled  $\underline{F}_A$  (red),  $\underline{F}_B$  (blue), and  $\underline{F}_C$  (green). The top system has axes labeled  $\underline{F}_B$  (red),  $\underline{F}_C$  (blue), and  $\underline{F}_A$  (green). Arrows indicate a rotation from the bottom system to the top system.

# Let's talk about code.

## ■ Comments

```
/// Coordinate frames in this function:  
///   - C : The camera frame, indexed by time, k.  
///   - W : The world frame.  
Point pointToCamera( const Transformation& T_W_Ckml,  
                     const Transformation& T_Ckml_Ck,  
                     const Transformation& T_Ck_Ckp1,  
                     const Point& W_p ) {  
  
    Transformation T_Ckp1_W = (T_W_Ckml * T_Ckml_Ck * T_Ck_Ckp1).inverse();  
    return T_Ckp1_W * W_p  
  
}
```

$T_{WC_{k-1}}$   
 $T_{C_{k-1}C_k}$   
 $T_{C_kC_{k+1}}$   
 $W_p$

# **Let's talk about code.**

**Choose an expressive coding style.**

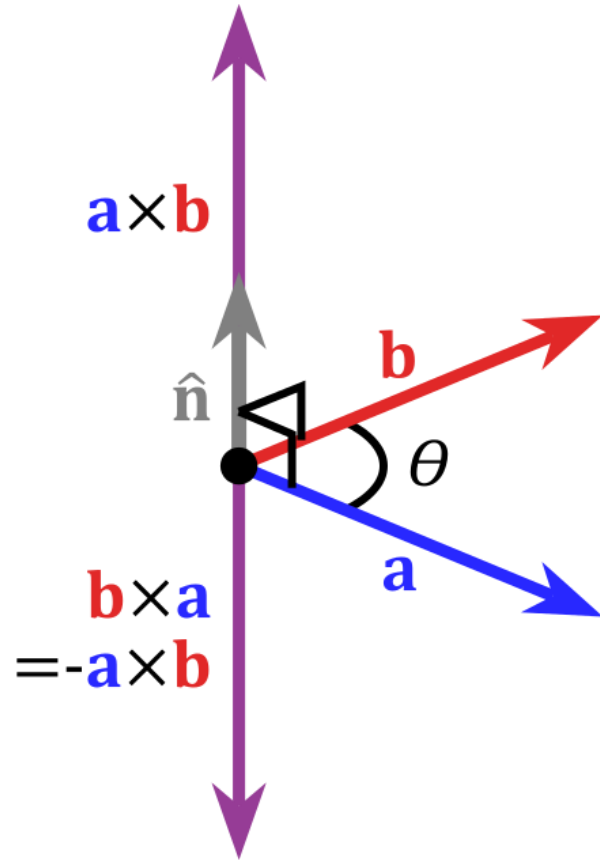
**Explain it clearly.**

**Stick with it.**

# Example: finding quaternion that rotates one vector into another

- Suppose you have a vector in frame A, and a vector in frame B
- You want to find a quaternion that transforms  $A_{\mathbf{V}}$  to  $B_{\mathbf{V}}$
- Idea: use axis-angle and convert it to quaternion
- Can rotate from  $A_{\mathbf{V}}$  to  $B_{\mathbf{V}}$  along an axis that is perpendicular to both of them. How do we find that?

# Cross Product



$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\| \sin(\theta) \mathbf{n}$$

# Example: finding quaternion that rotates one vector into another

$$\mathbf{v}_{\text{rot axis}} = {}^A\mathbf{v} \times {}^B\mathbf{v} \quad \text{is perpendicular to both of them}$$

$$\theta_{\text{rot angle}} = \text{acos}({}^A\mathbf{v} \cdot {}^B\mathbf{v})$$

Assuming the two vectors are unit length

# Rotating a vector via a quaternion

- Let  ${}^A\mathbf{v}$  be given and a quaternion  ${}^B_A\mathbf{q}$
- To obtain  ${}^B\mathbf{v}$  you have two choices:
- Either use the rotation matrix  ${}^B\mathbf{v} = {}^B_A\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{q}){}^A\mathbf{v}$
- Or use quaternion multiplication directly

$$[{}^B\mathbf{v}, 0] = {}^B_A\mathbf{q} \otimes [{}^A\mathbf{v}, 0] \otimes {}^A_B\mathbf{q}$$

# Transforming points from one frame to another

- **VERY IMPORTANT AND USEFUL**

- Suppose you have a point in the Body frame,  ${}^B\mathbf{p}$  which you want to transform/express in the World frame. Then you can do any of the two following options:

$${}^W\mathbf{p} = {}^W_B\mathbf{R} {}^B\mathbf{p} + {}^W\mathbf{t}_{WB}$$

$${}^W\mathbf{p} = {}^W_B\mathbf{R} ({}^B\mathbf{p} - {}^B\mathbf{t}_{BW})$$

- Think of it as first rotating the point to be in the World frame and then adding to it the translation from Body to World.



# Transforming vectors from one frame to another

- **VERY IMPORTANT AND USEFUL**

- Suppose you have a vector in the Body frame,  ${}^B\mathbf{v}$  which you want to transform/express in the World frame. Then

$${}^W\mathbf{v} = {}^W_B \mathbf{R} {}^B\mathbf{v}$$

# Combining rotations and translation into one transformation

- **VERY IMPORTANT AND USEFUL**

- Many times we combine the rotation and translation of a rigid motion into a 4x4 homogeneous matrix

$${}^W_B \mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} {}^W_B \mathbf{R} & {}^W \mathbf{t}_{WB} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Main advantage of homogeneous transformations: easy composition

$${}^W_B \mathbf{T} = {}^W_A \mathbf{T} {}^A_B \mathbf{T}$$

Composing rigid motions now becomes a series of matrix multiplications

# Inverting a homogeneous transformation

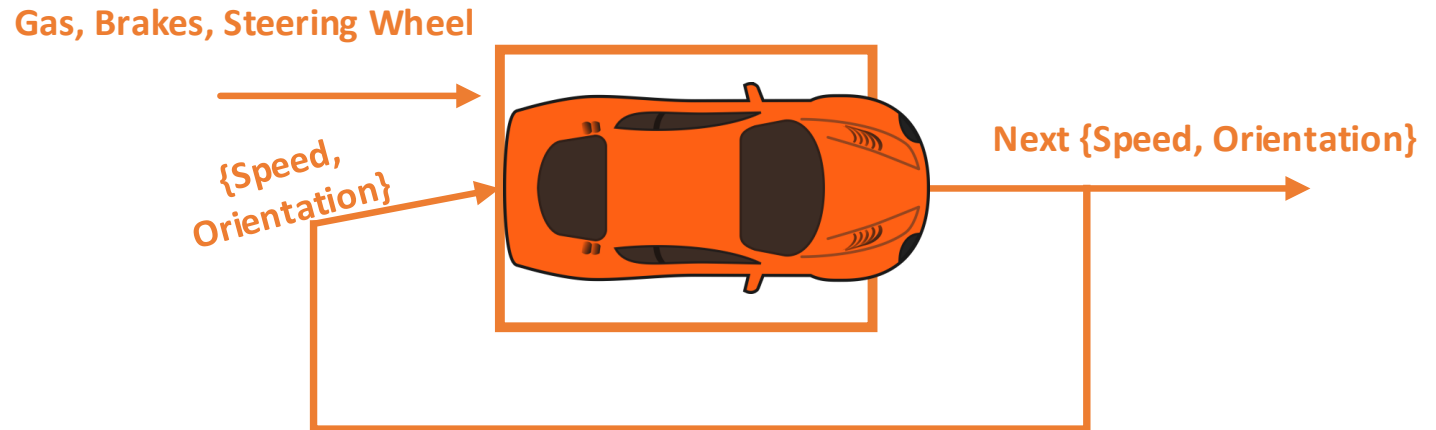
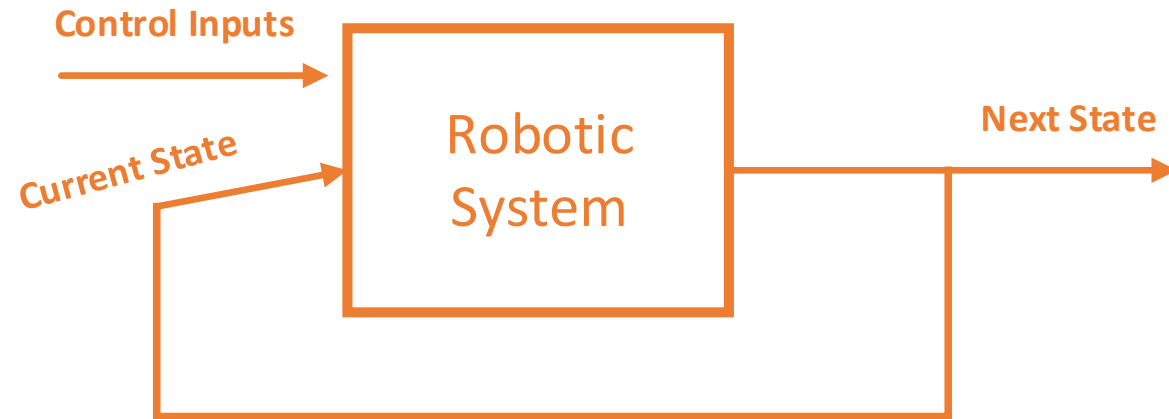
- Be careful:

$${}^W_B \mathbf{T}^{-1} \neq {}^W_A \mathbf{T}^t$$

as was the case with rotation matrices.

# Physical models of how systems move

Kinematics & Dynamics:  
physical models of  
robotic systems and sensors



Main question: what is the next state given the current state and controls?

# Today's Agenda

- Frames of reference
- Ways to represent rotations
- Simplified models of vehicles
- Forward and inverse kinematics

# Why simplified?

- “All models are wrong, but some are useful” – George Box (statistician)
- Model: a function that describes a physical phenomenon or a system, i.e. how a set of input variables cause a set of output variables.
- Models are useful if they can predict reality up to some degree.
- Mismatch between model prediction and reality = **error / noise**

# Noise

- Anything that we do not bother modelling with our model
- Example 1: “assume frictionless surface”
- Example 2: Taylor series expansion (only first few terms are dominant)
- With models, can be thought of as approximation error.



# Simplified physical models of robotic vehicles

- Omnidirectional motion
- Dubins car
- Differential drive steering
- Ackerman steering
- Unicycle
- Cartpole
- Quadcopter

# Omnidirectional Robots



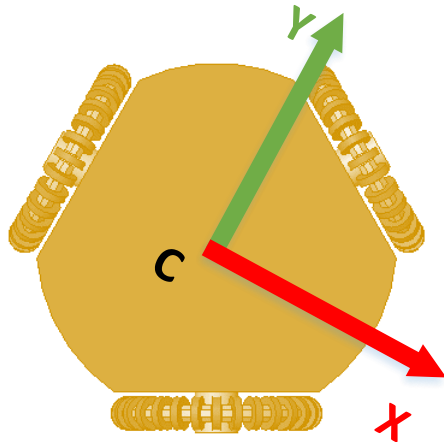
# Omnidirectional Robots



# The state of an omnidirectional robot

State := Configuration :=  $\mathbf{X}$  := vector of physical quantities of interest about the system

$$\mathbf{X} = [{}^G p_x, {}^G p_y, {}^G \theta]$$



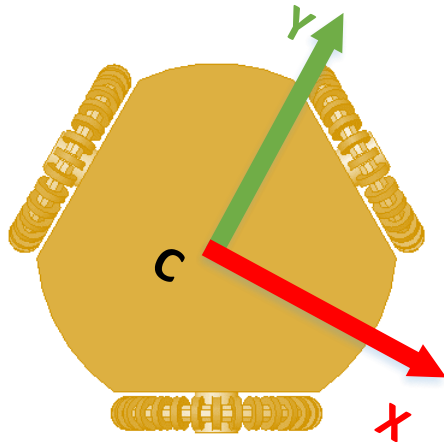
State = [Position, Orientation]

Position of the robot's frame of reference C with respect to a fixed frame of reference G, expressed in coordinates of frame G. Angle is the orientation of frame C with respect to frame G.

# Control of an omnidirectional robot

Control :=  $\mathbf{u}$  := a vector of input commands that can modify the state of the system

$$\mathbf{u} = [{}^C v_x, {}^C v_y, {}^C \omega_z]$$

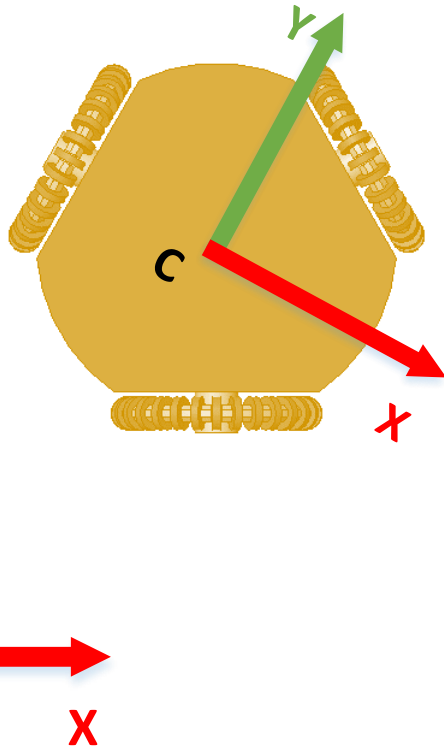


Control = [Linear velocity, Angular velocity]

Linear and angular velocity of the robot's frame of reference C with respect to a fixed frame of reference G, expressed in coordinates of frame C.

# Dynamics of an omnidirectional robot

Dynamical System := Dynamics := a function that describes the time evolution of the state in response to a control signal



Continuous case:  $\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} = \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$

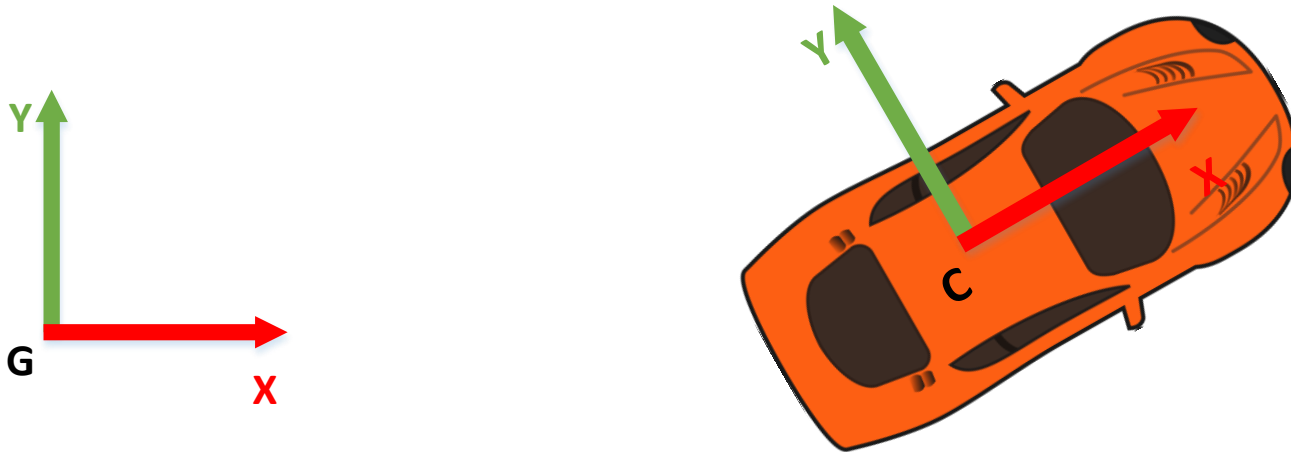
$$\dot{p}_x = v_x$$

$$\dot{p}_y = v_y$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \omega_z$$

Note: reference frames have been removed for readability.

# The state of a simple car



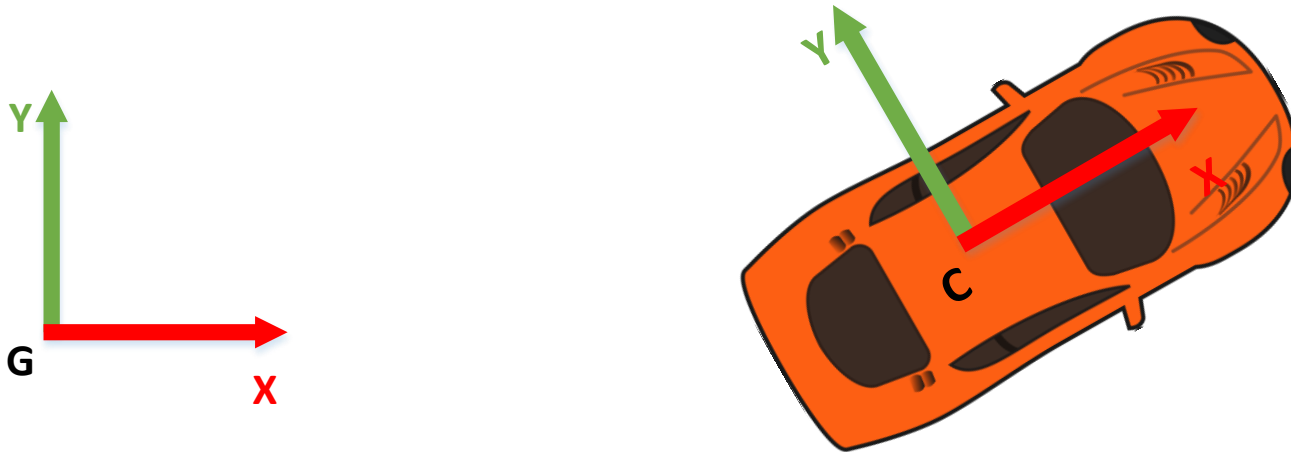
State = [Position and orientation]

Position of the car's frame of reference C with respect to a fixed frame of reference G, expressed in frame G.

The angle is the orientation of frame C with respect to G.

$$\mathbf{x} = [{}^G p_x, {}^G p_y, {}^G \theta]$$

# The controls of a simple car

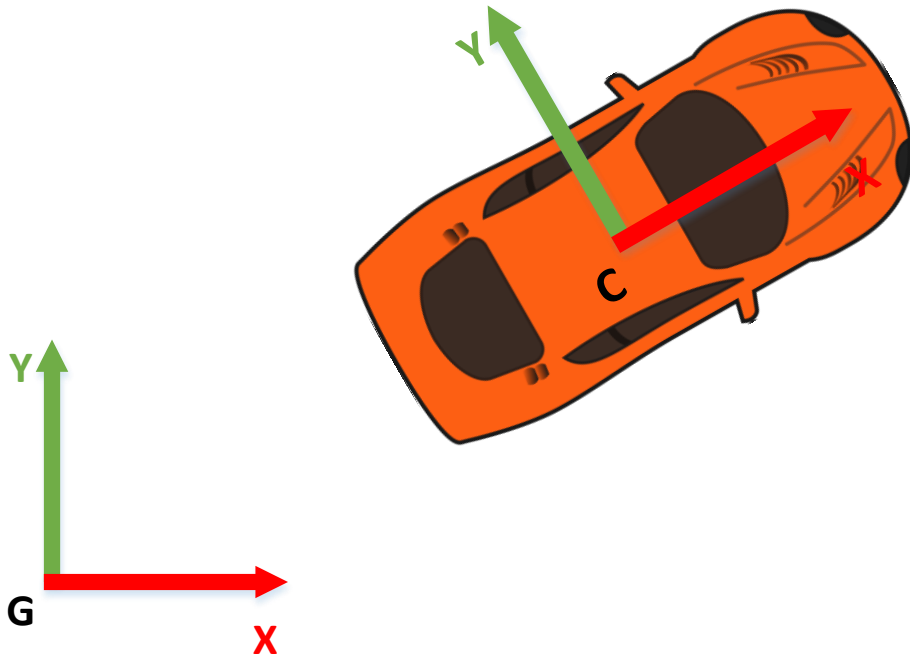


Controls = [Forward speed and angular velocity]  
Linear velocity and angular velocity of the car's frame of reference C with respect to a fixed frame of reference G, expressed in coordinates of C.

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} {}^C v_x, {}^C \omega_z \end{bmatrix}$$



# The dynamical system of a simple car



$$\dot{p}_x = v_x \cos(\theta)$$

$$\dot{p}_y = v_x \sin(\theta)$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \omega_z$$

Note: reference frames have been removed for readability.

# Kinematics vs Dynamics

- Kinematics considers models of locomotion independently of external forces and control.
- For example, it describes how the speed of a car affects the state without considering what the required control commands required to generate those speeds are.
- Dynamics considers models of locomotion as functions of their control inputs and state.

# Special case of simple car: Dubins car

- Can only go forward
- Constant speed

$$^C v_x = \text{const} > 0$$

- You only control the angular velocity



# Special case of simple car: Dubins car

- Can only go forward
- Constant speed

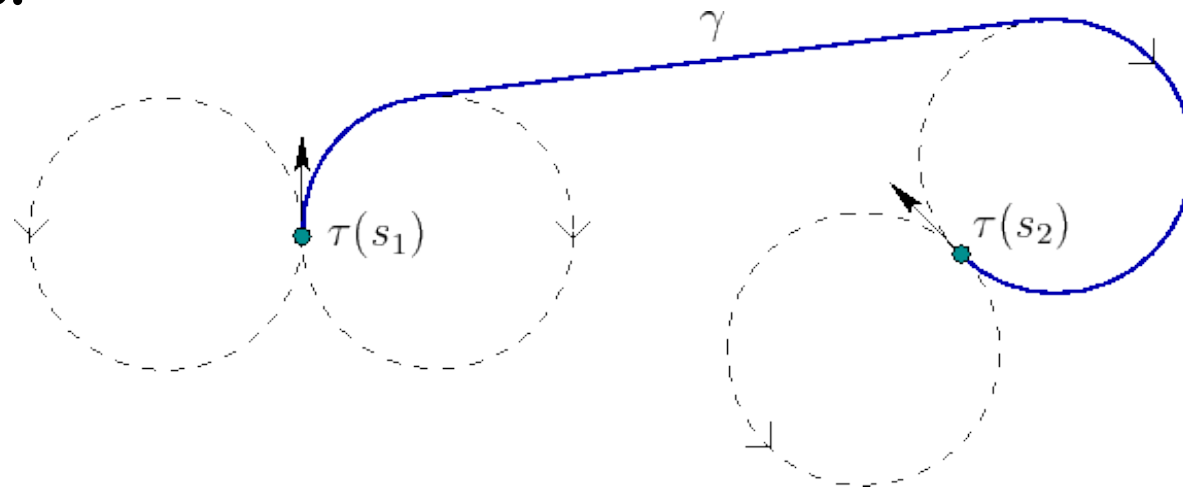
$$^C v_x = \text{const} > 0$$

- You only control the angular velocity

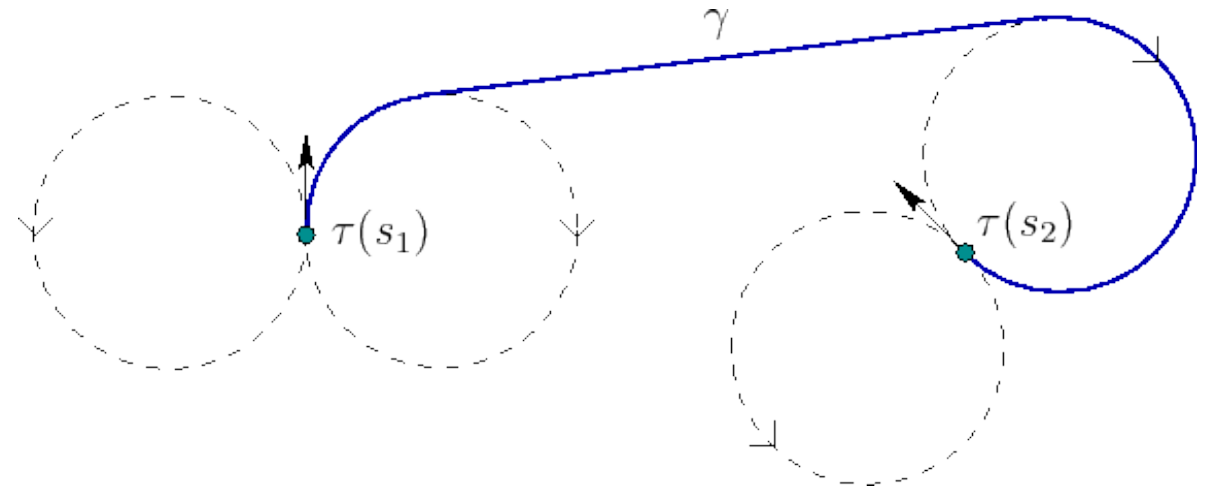
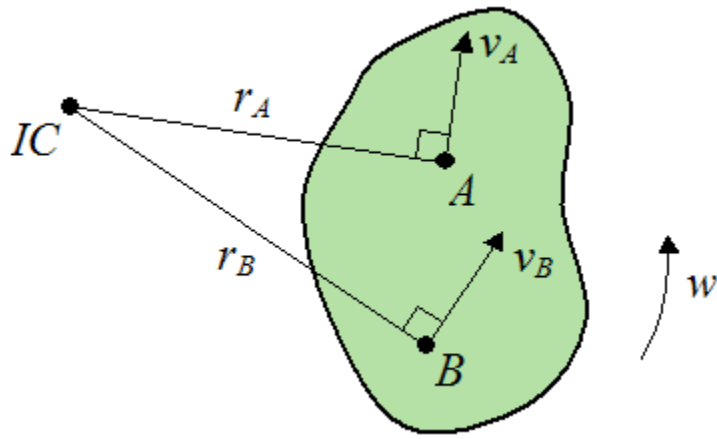


# Dubins car: motion primitives

- The path of the car can be decomposed to L(eftrightarrow), R(ight), S(traight) segments.



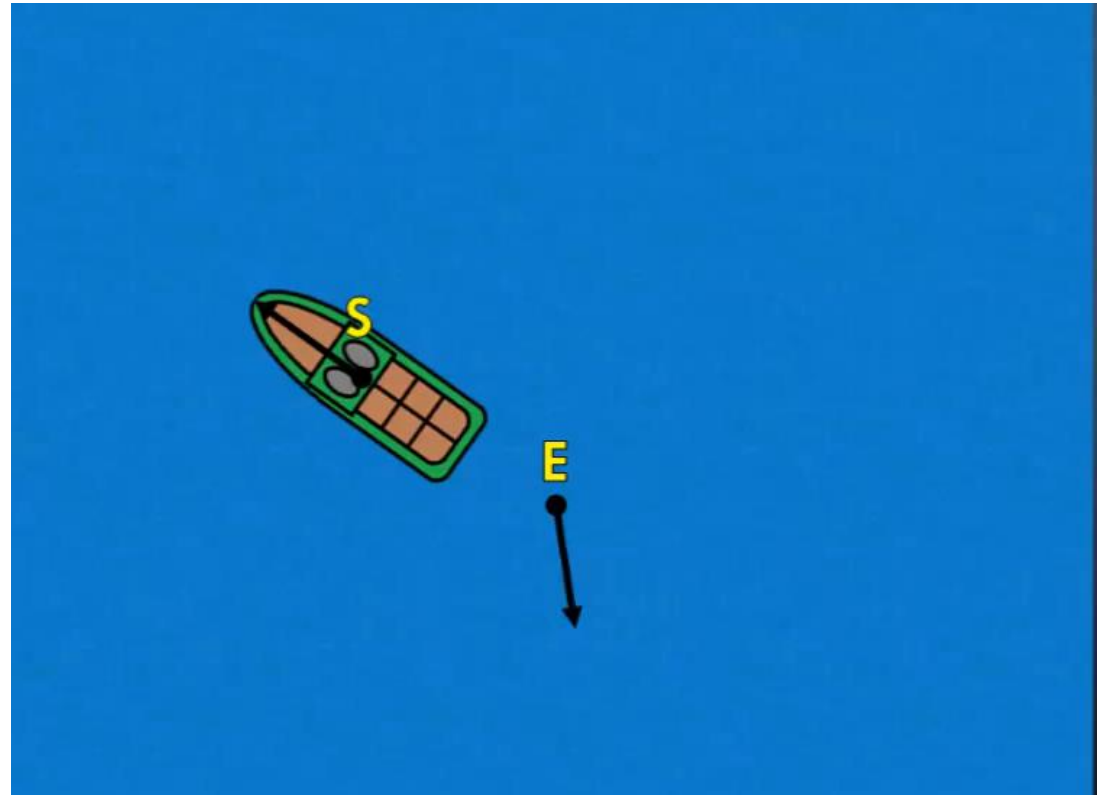
# Instantaneous Center of Rotation



IC = Instantaneous Center of Rotation  
The center of the circle circumscribed by the turning path.  
Undefined for straight path segments.

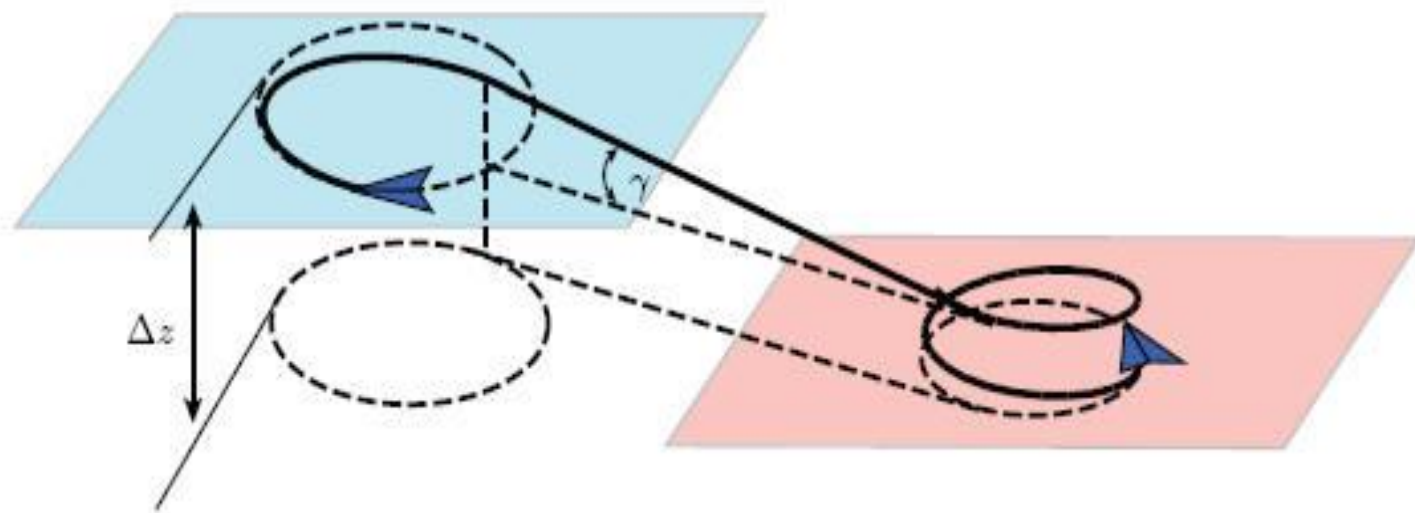
# Dubins car $\longrightarrow$ Dubins boat

- Why do we care about a car that can only go forward?
- Because we can also model idealized airplanes and boats
- Dubins boat = Dubins car



# Dubins car $\longrightarrow$ Dubins airplane in 3D

- Pitch angle  $\phi$  and forward velocity determine descent rate
- Yaw angle  $\theta$  and forward velocity determine turning rate



(a) The 3D view of the path.

$$\dot{p}_x = v_x \cos(\theta) \sin(\phi)$$

$$\dot{p}_y = v_x \sin(\theta) \sin(\phi)$$

$$\dot{p}_z = v_x \cos(\phi)$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \omega_z$$

$$\dot{\phi} = \omega_y$$

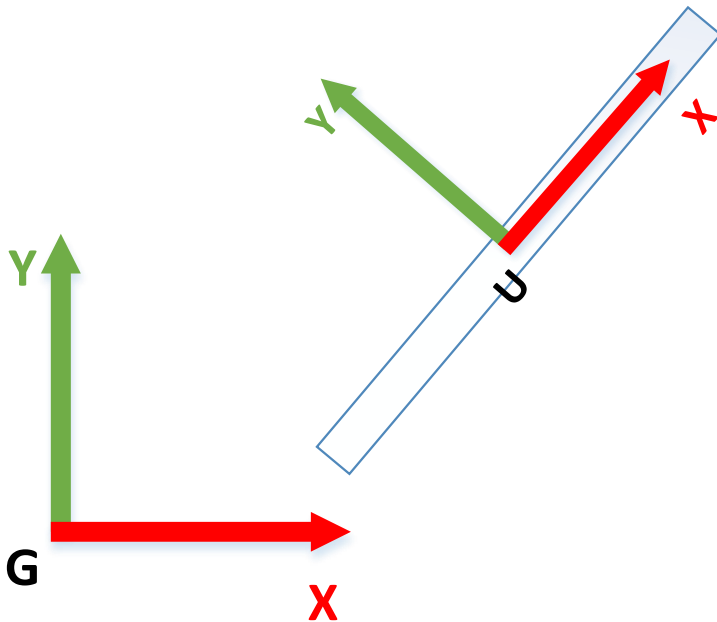
$\theta$  is yaw

$\phi$  is pitch



# The state of a unicycle

$$\mathbf{x} = [{}^G p_x, {}^G p_y, {}^G \theta]$$



Top view of a unicycle

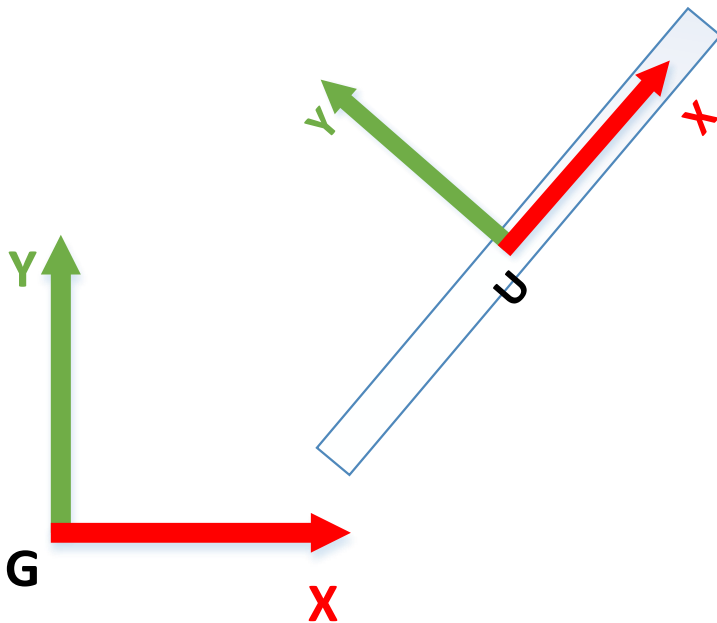
State = [Position, Orientation]

Position of the unicycle's frame of reference U with respect to a fixed frame of reference G, expressed in coordinates of frame G. Angle is the orientation of frame U with respect to frame G.

Q: Would you put the radius of the unicycle to be part of the state?

# The state of a unicycle

$$\mathbf{x} = [{}^G p_x, {}^G p_y, {}^G \theta]$$



Top view of a unicycle

State = [Position, Orientation]

Position of the unicycle's frame of reference U with respect to a fixed frame of reference G, expressed in coordinates of frame G. Angle is the orientation of frame U with respect to frame G.

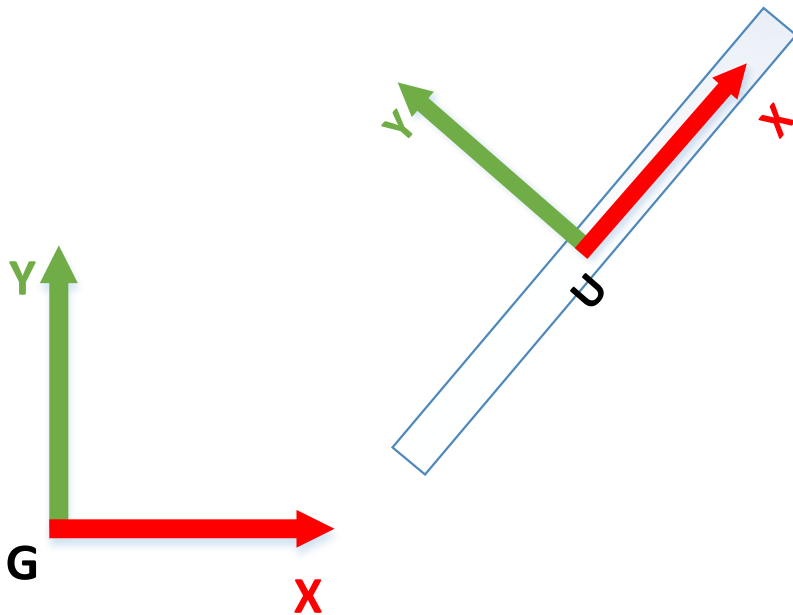
Q: Would you put the radius of the unicycle to be part of the state?

A: Most likely not, because it is a constant quantity that we can measure beforehand. But, if we couldn't measure it, we need to make it part of the state in order to estimate it.

# Controls of a unicycle

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} {}^U\omega_z, {}^U\omega_y \end{bmatrix}$$

Controls = [Yaw rate, and pedaling rate]  
Yaw and pedaling rates describe the angular velocities of the respective axes of the unicycle's frame of reference U with respect to a fixed frame of reference G, expressed in coordinates of U.

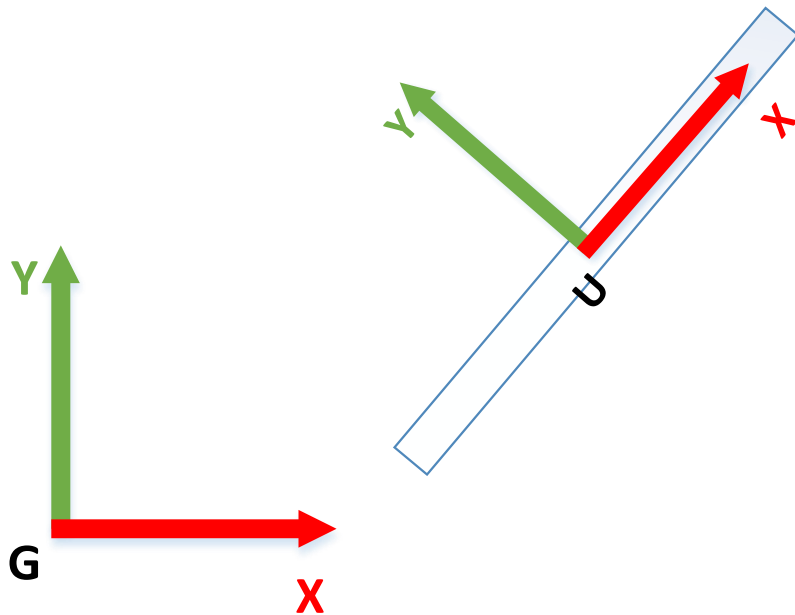


# Dynamics of a unicycle

$$\dot{p}_x = r\omega_y \cos(\theta)$$

$$\dot{p}_y = r\omega_y \sin(\theta)$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \omega_z$$

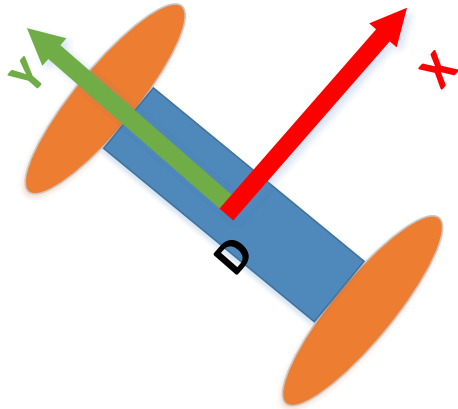


$r$  = the radius of the wheel

$r\omega_y$  is the forward velocity of the unicycle

# The state of a differential drive vehicle

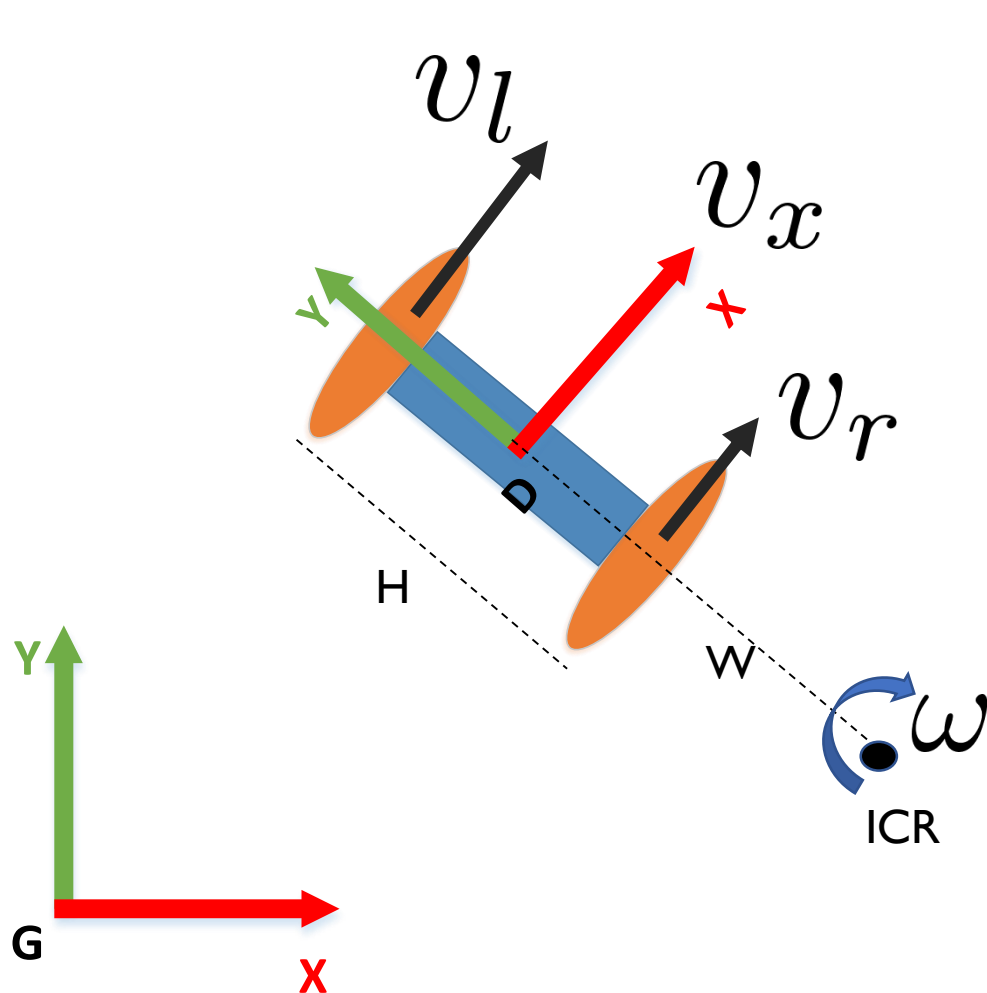
$$\mathbf{x} = [{}^G p_x, {}^G p_y, {}^G \theta]$$



State = [Position, Orientation]

Position of the vehicle's frame of reference D with respect to a fixed frame of reference G, expressed in coordinates of frame G. Angle is the orientation of frame D with respect to frame G.

# Controls of a differential drive vehicle



ICR = Instantaneous Center of Rotation

$$\mathbf{u} = [u_l, u_r]$$

Controls = [Left wheel and right wheel turning rates]  
 Wheel turning rates determine the linear velocities of the respective wheels of the vehicle's frame of reference  $D$  with respect to a fixed frame of reference  $G$ , expressed in coordinates of  $D$ .

$$v_l = (W - H/2)\omega$$

$$v_r = (W + H/2)\omega$$

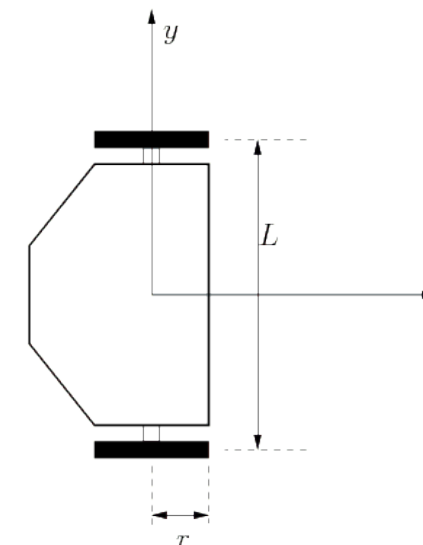
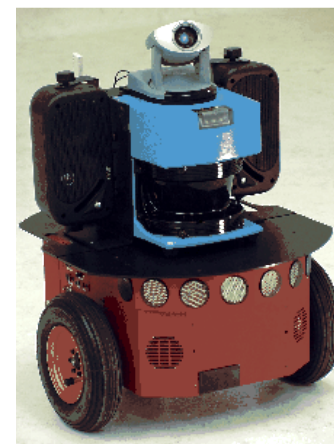
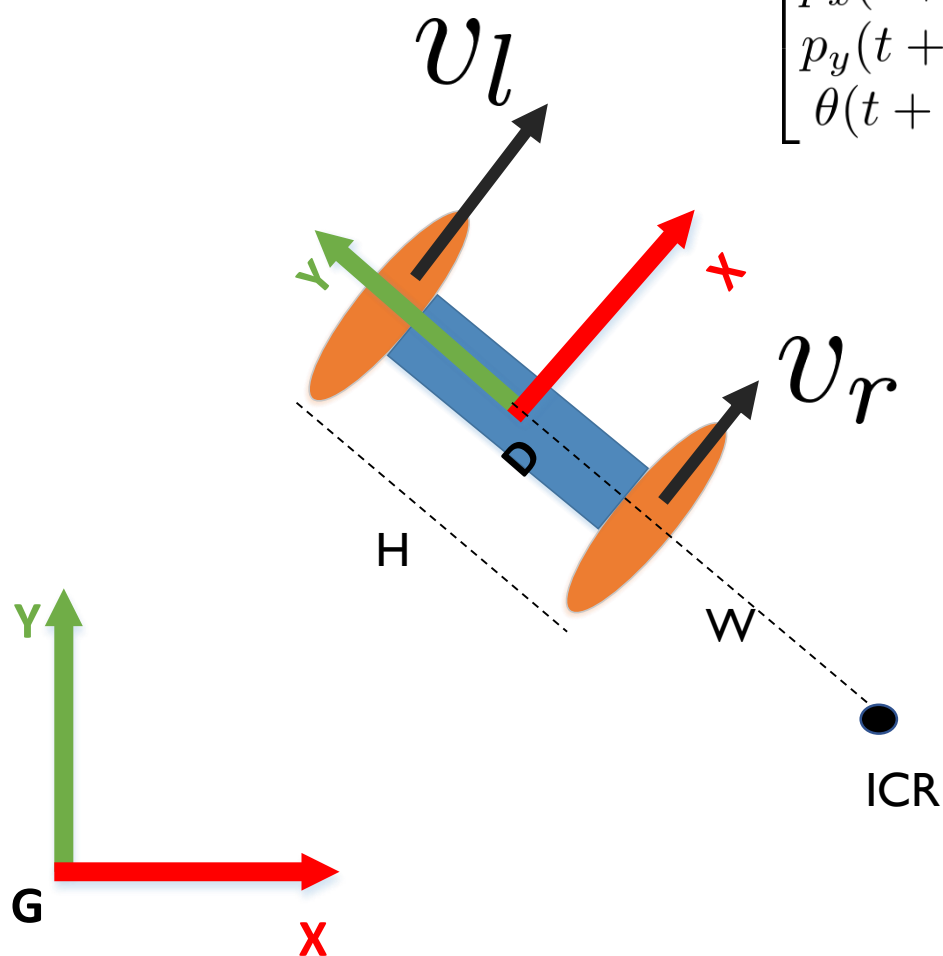
$$v_x = (v_l + v_r)/2$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_l &= Ru_l \\ v_r &= Ru_r \end{aligned} \quad \text{R is the wheel radius}$$

# Dynamics of a differential drive vehicle

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_x(t+1) \\ p_y(t+1) \\ \theta(t+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\omega\delta t) & -\sin(\omega\delta t) & 0 \\ \sin(\omega\delta t) & \cos(\omega\delta t) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_x(t) - \text{ICR}_x \\ p_y(t) - \text{ICR}_y \\ \theta(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \text{ICR}_x \\ \text{ICR}_y \\ \omega\delta t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{ICR} = [p_x - W \sin\theta, p_y + W \cos\theta]$$

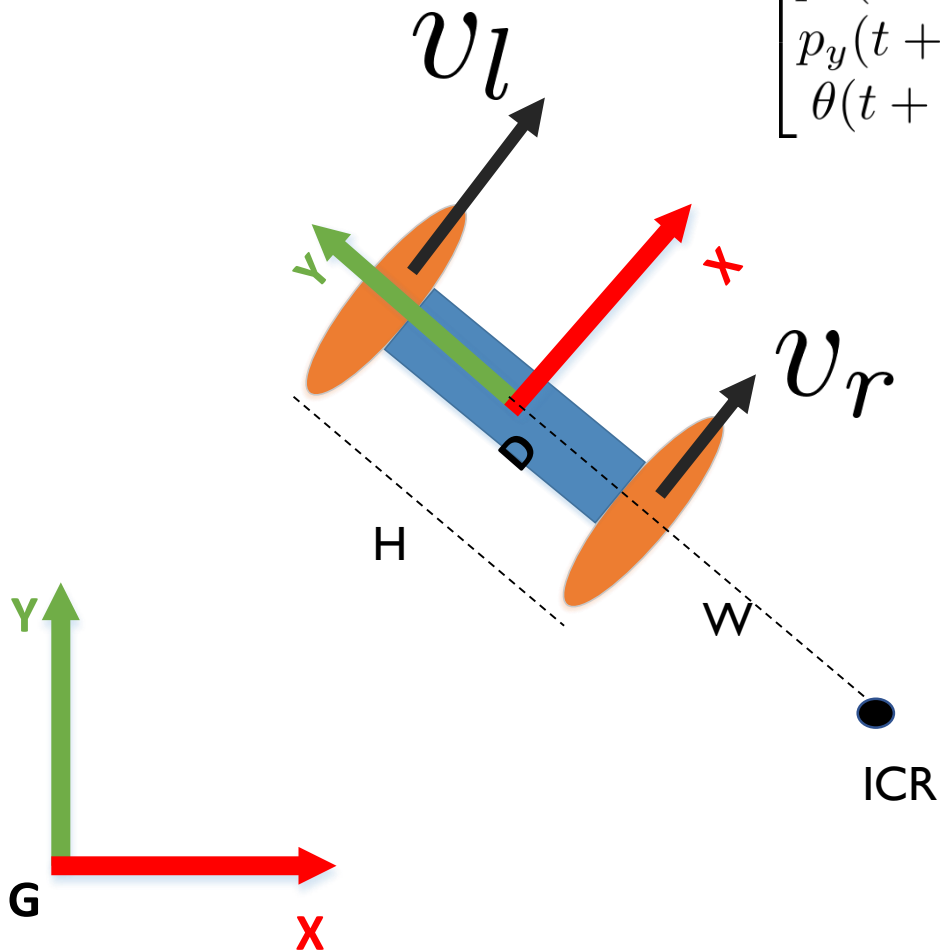


ICR = Instantaneous Center of Rotation

# Dynamics of a differential drive vehicle

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_x(t+1) \\ p_y(t+1) \\ \theta(t+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\omega\delta t) & -\sin(\omega\delta t) & 0 \\ \sin(\omega\delta t) & \cos(\omega\delta t) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_x(t) - \text{ICR}_x \\ p_y(t) - \text{ICR}_y \\ \theta(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \text{ICR}_x \\ \text{ICR}_y \\ \omega\delta t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{ICR} = [p_x - W \sin\theta, p_y + W \cos\theta]$$



Special cases:

- moving straight  $v_l = v_r$
- in-place rotation  $v_l = -v_r$
- rotation about the left wheel  $v_l = 0$



# Ackerman steering

How & Why TO  
USE THE

ACKERMAN  
STEERING MODEL

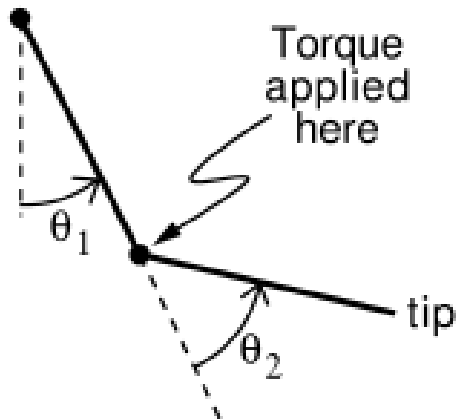
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6uBwudwA5o>

# The state of a double-link inverted pendulum (a.k.a. Acrobot)

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Goal: Raise tip above line

$$\mathbf{x} = [\theta_1, \theta_2, \dot{\theta}_1, \dot{\theta}_2]$$



State = [angle of joint 1, joint 2, joint velocities]  
Angle of joint 2 is expressed with respect to joint 1. Angle of joint 1 is expressed compared to down vector.

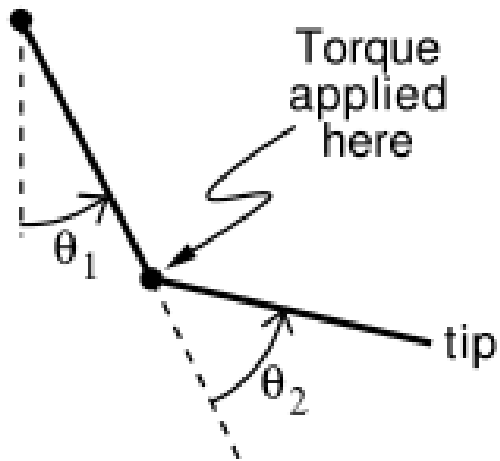
# Controls of a double-link inverted pendulum (a.k.a. Acrobot)

---

Goal: Raise tip above line

$$\mathbf{u} = [\tau_1]$$

Controls = [torque applied to joint 1]



# Dynamics of a double-link inverted pendulum (a.k.a Acrobot)

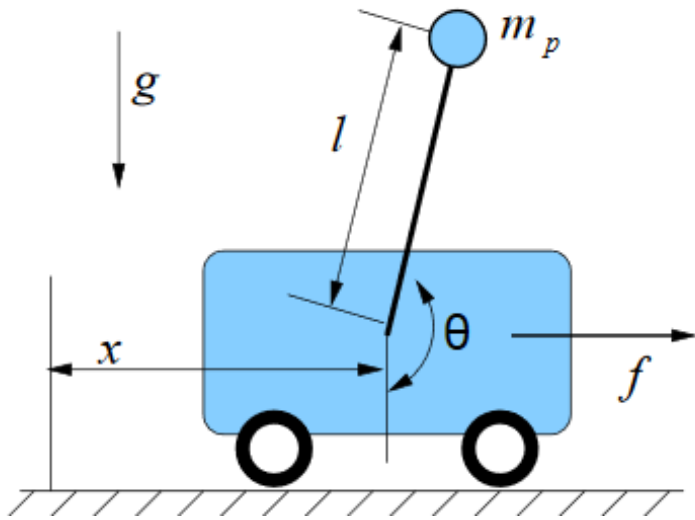
$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{\theta}_1 &= -d_1^{-1}(d_2\ddot{\theta}_2 + \phi_1) \\ \ddot{\theta}_2 &= \left(m_2l_{c2}^2 + I_2 - \frac{d_2^2}{d_1}\right)^{-1} \left(\tau + \frac{d_2}{d_1}\phi_1 - m_2l_1l_{c2}\dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin \theta_2 - \phi_2\right) \\ d_1 &= m_1l_{c1}^2 + m_2(l_1^2 + l_{c2}^2 + 2l_1l_{c2} \cos \theta_2) + I_1 + I_2 \\ d_2 &= m_2(l_{c2}^2 + l_1l_{c2} \cos \theta_2) + I_2 \\ \phi_1 &= -m_2l_1l_{c2}\dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin \theta_2 - 2m_2l_1l_{c2}\dot{\theta}_2\dot{\theta}_1 \sin \theta_2 \\ &\quad + (m_1l_{c1} + m_2l_1)g \cos(\theta_1 - \pi/2) + \phi_2 \\ \phi_2 &= m_2l_{c2}g \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2 - \pi/2)\end{aligned}$$

Provided here just for reference  
and completeness. You are not expected  
to know this.

# Dynamics of a double-link inverted pendulum (a.k.a Acrobot)



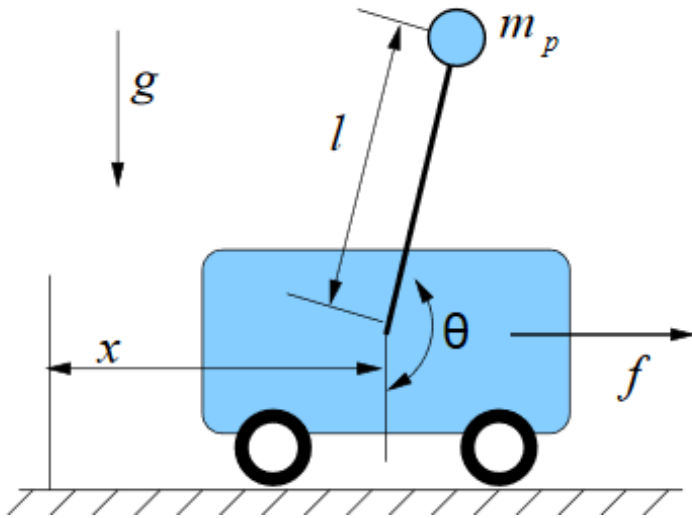
# The state of a single-link cartpole



$$\mathbf{X} = [{}^G p_x, {}^G \dot{p}_x, {}^G \theta, {}^G \dot{\theta}]$$

State = [Position and velocity of cart, orientation and angular velocity of pole]

# Controls of a single-link cartpole



$$\mathbf{u} = [f]$$

Controls = [Horizontal force applied to cart]

# Balancing a triple-link pendulum on a cart



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& REGELUNGSTECHNIK



## **Triple Pendulum on a Cart**

## **Swing-up and Swing-down**

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Two-degrees-of-freedom design:

Constrained feedforward & optimal feedback control



# Extreme Balancing

## The Cubli

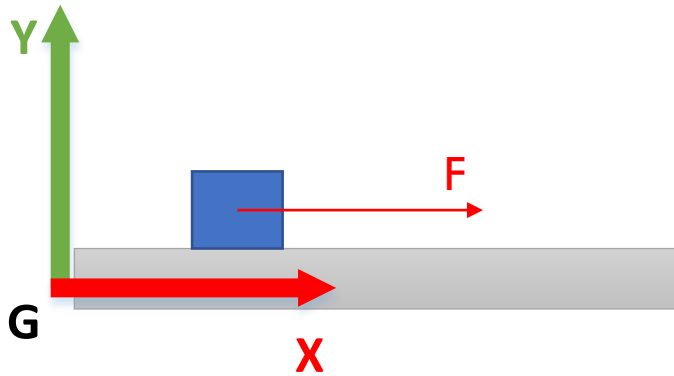
Building a cube that can jump up and balance



# The state of a double integrator

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} G \\ p_x \end{bmatrix}$$

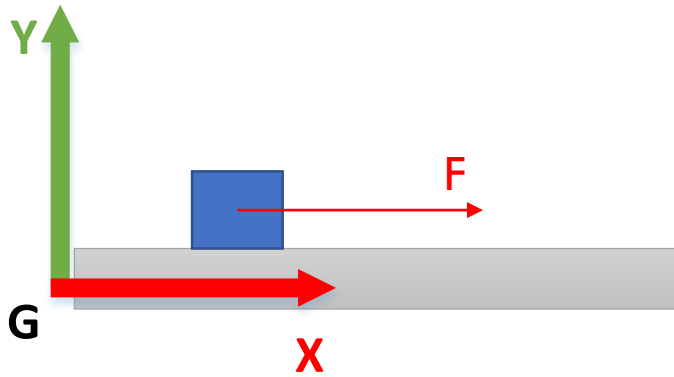
State = [Position along x-axis]



# Controls of a double integrator

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} G \\ u_x \end{bmatrix}$$

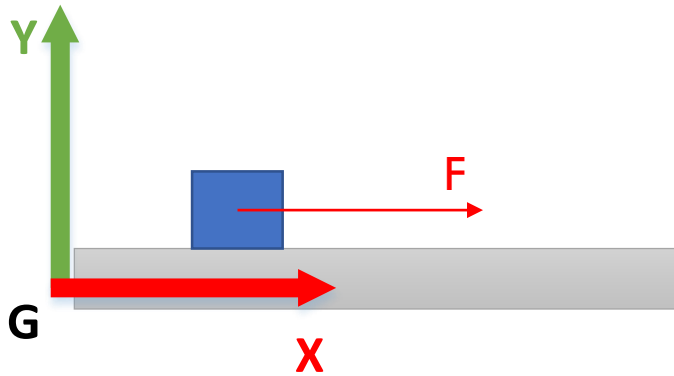
Controls = [Force along x-axis]



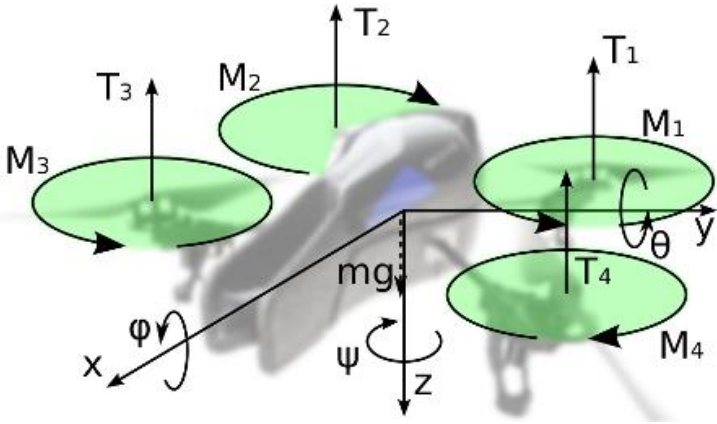
# Dynamics of a double integrator

$$\ddot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{F}$$

This corresponds to applying force to a brick of mass 1 to move on frictionless ice. Where is the brick going to end up? Similar to curling.



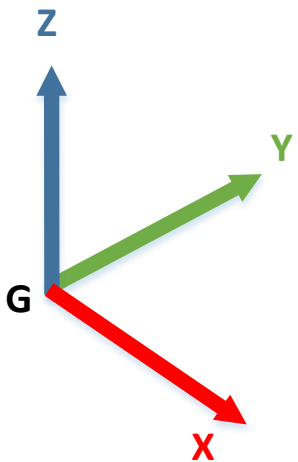
# The state of a quadrotor



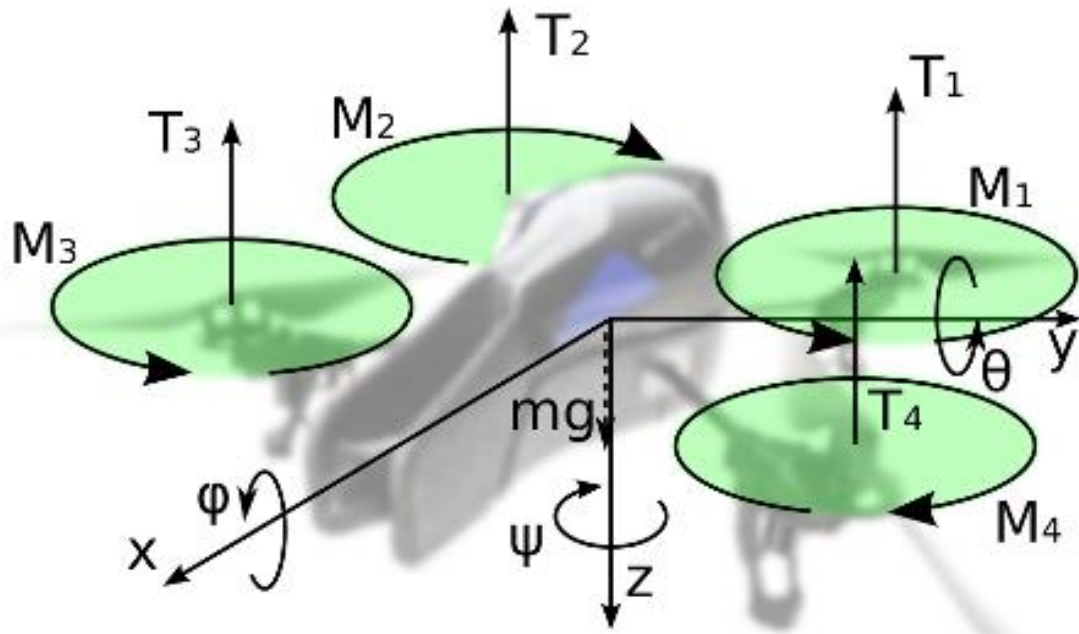
$$\mathbf{x} = [{}^G\phi, {}^G\theta, {}^G\psi, {}^G\dot{\phi}, {}^G\dot{\theta}, {}^G\dot{\psi}]$$

State = [Roll, pitch, yaw, and roll rate, pitch rate, roll rate]

Angles are with respect to the global frame.



# Controls of a quadrotor



$$\mathbf{u} = [T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4]$$

Controls = [Thrusts of four motors]

OR

$$\mathbf{u} = [M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4]$$

Controls = [Torques of four motors]

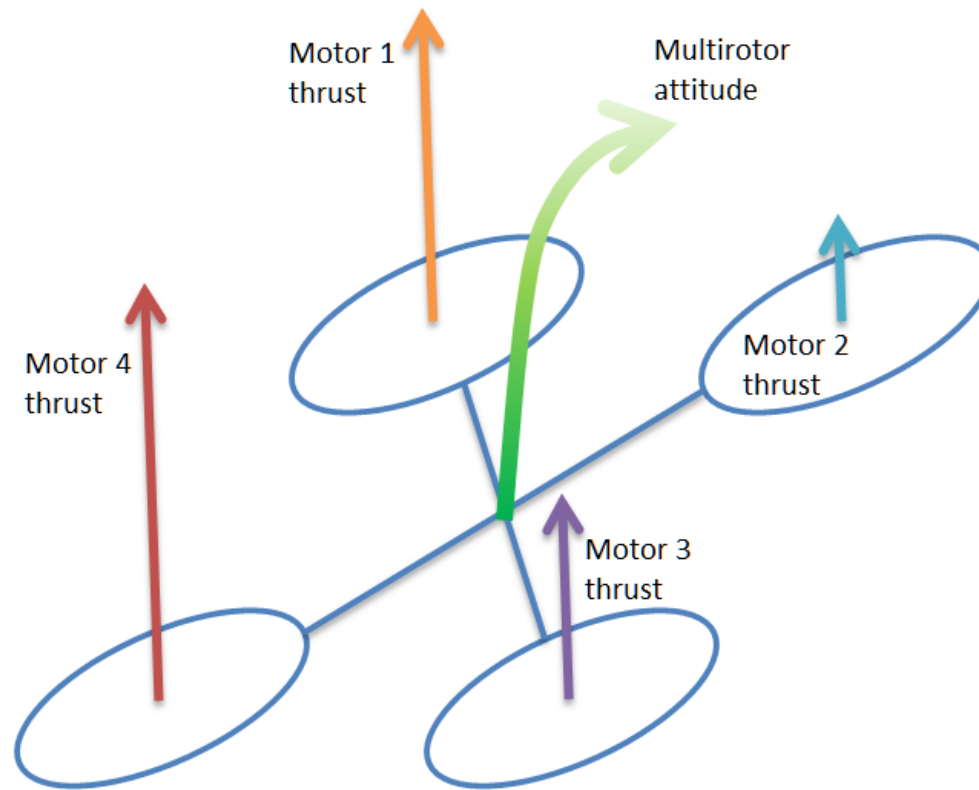
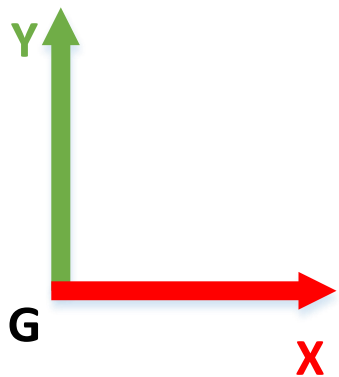
Notice how adjacent motors spin in opposite ways.  
Why?

What if all four motors spin the same direction?



# Dynamics of a quadrotor

Multirotor(quadcopter)-thrust scheme





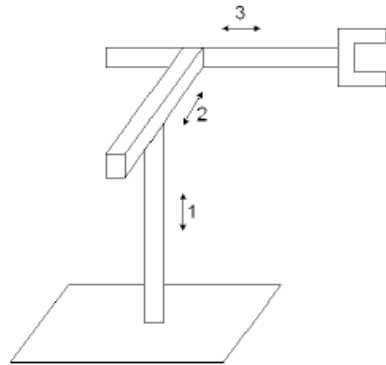
# Manipulators

- Robot arms, industrial robot
  - Rigid bodies (links) connected by joints
  - Joints: revolute or prismatic
  - Drive: electric or hydraulic
  - End-effector (tool) mounted on a flange or plate secured to the wrist joint of robot

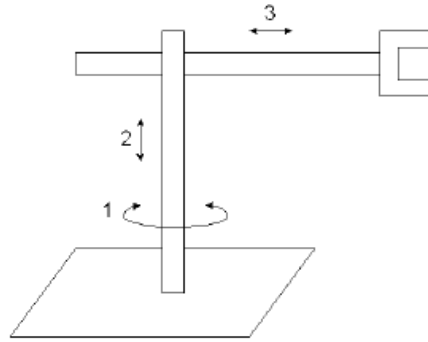


# Manipulators

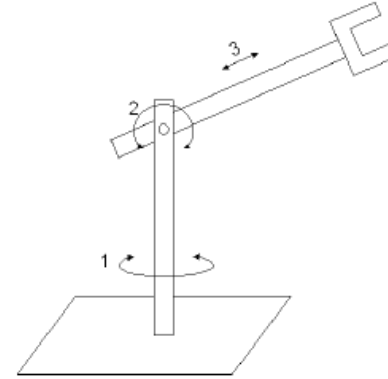
- Robot Configuration:



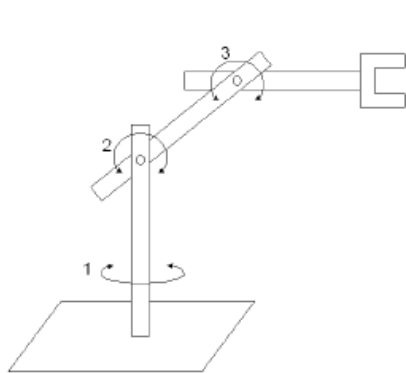
Cartesian: PPP



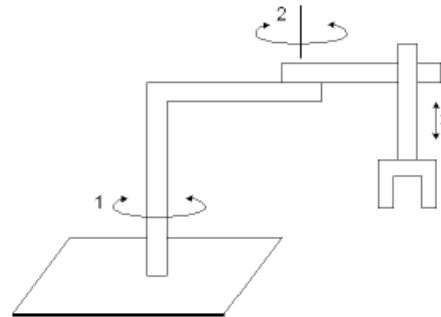
Cylindrical: RPP



Spherical: RRP

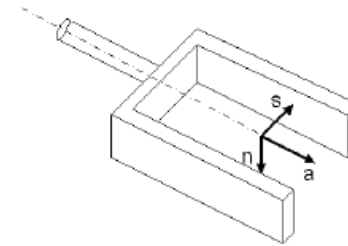


Articulated: RRR



SCARA: RRP

(Selective Compliance  
Assembly Robot Arm)



Hand coordinate:

$n$ : normal vector;  $s$ : sliding vector;  
 $a$ : approach vector, normal to the  
tool mounting plate

# Manipulators

- Motion Control Methods
  - Point to point control
    - a sequence of discrete points
    - spot welding, pick-and-place, loading & unloading
  - Continuous path control
    - follow a prescribed path, controlled-path motion
    - Spray painting, Arc welding, Gluing

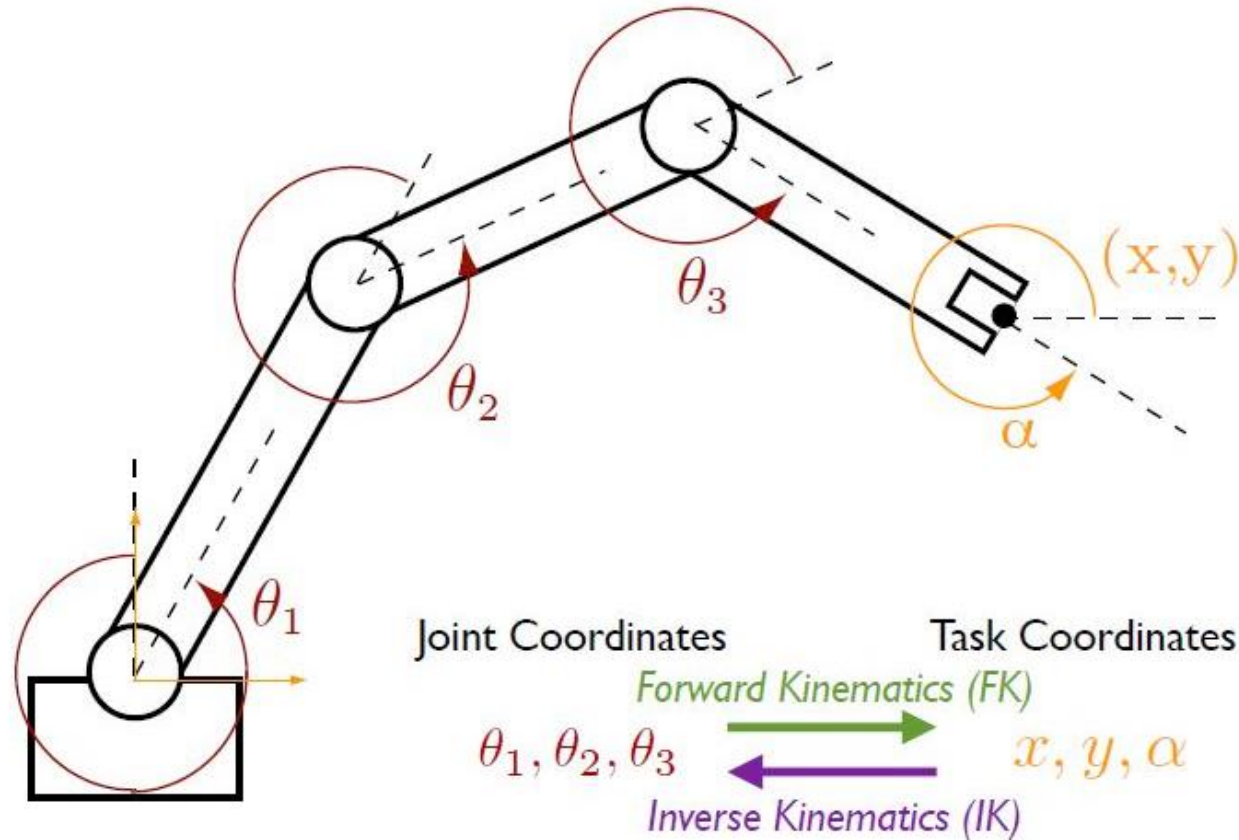
# Manipulators

- Robot Specifications
  - Number of Axes
    - Major axes, (1-3) => Position the wrist
    - Minor axes, (4-6) => Orient the tool
    - Redundant, (7-n) => reaching around obstacles, avoiding undesirable configuration
  - Degree of Freedom (DOF)
  - Workspace
  - Payload (load capacity)
  - Precision v.s. Repeatability



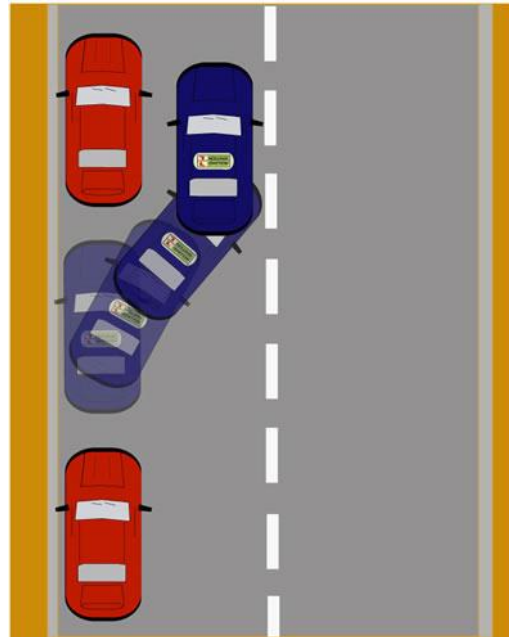
Which one is more important?

# Forward and Inverse Kinematics



# Controllability

- A system is controllable if there exist control sequences that can bring the system from any state to any other state, in finite time.
- For example, even though cars are subject to non-holonomic constraints (can't move sideways directly), they are controllable, They can reach sideways states by parallel parking.



# Passive Dynamics

- Dynamics of systems that operate without drawing (a lot of) energy from a power supply.
- Interesting because biological locomotion systems are more efficient than current robotic systems.



# Passive Dynamics

- Dynamics of systems that operate without drawing (a lot of) energy from a power supply.
- Usually propelled by their own weight.
- Interesting because biological locomotion systems are more efficient than current robotic systems.



Steve Collins & Andy Ruina, Cornell, 2001