

[2024-1 Robotics]

Chapter 3. Rigid-Body Motions

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Purpose of this chapter

3.0. Introduction to Chapter

In the robotics, one may need to have various representations of

- ▶ position (위치) of a rigid body (p)
- ▶ orientation (자세) of a rigid body ($(\hat{x}_b, \hat{y}_b, \hat{z}_b)$)

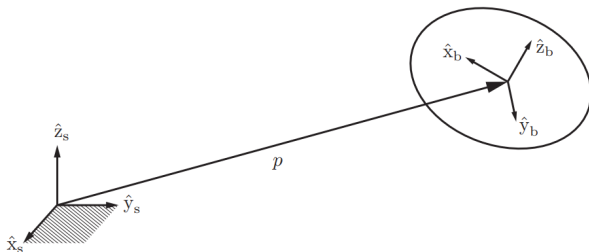


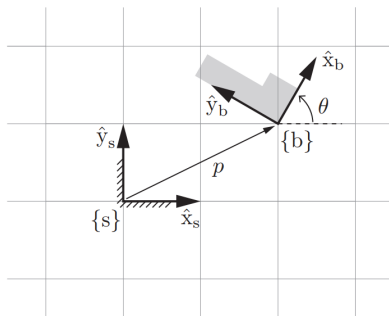
Figure 3.6: Mathematical description of position and orientation.

- ▶ Rigid-body motion in 2D plane (= Planar case) \leftarrow 3 dof
- ▶ Rigid-body motion in 3D plane (= Spatial case) \leftarrow 6 dof

Notations that we will use

3.0. Introduction to Chapter

- ▶ $\{s\}$: **Fixed frame** or space frame
- ▶ $\{b\}$: **Body frame** (attached to a part of robot, or not)
- ▶ v (in *Italic* font): Coordinate-dependent vector
- ▶ \mathbf{v} (in Roman font): Coordinate-free vector
- ▶ $\hat{(\cdot)}$: Unit vector



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3.0. Introduction to Chapter

When representing a frame or rotation, we follow the **right-handed rules**.

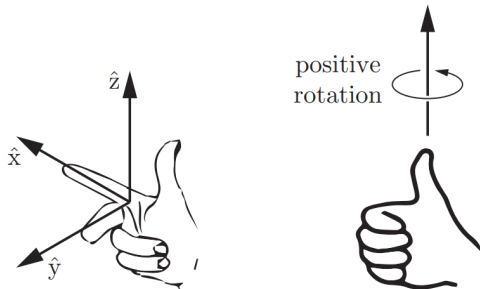
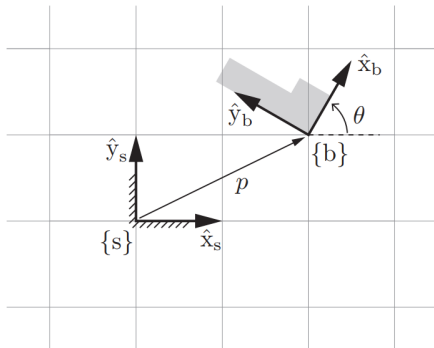


Figure 3.2: (Left) The \hat{x} , \hat{y} , and \hat{z} axes of a right-handed reference frame are aligned with the index finger, middle finger, and thumb of the right hand, respectively. (Right) A positive rotation about an axis is in the direction in which the fingers of the right hand curl when the thumb is pointed along the axis.

Position of $\{b\}$ in terms of $\{s\}$: Planar case

3.1. Rigid-body Motions in the Plane

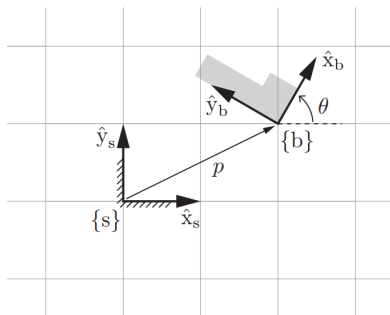


The **body-frame origin** (= position of the body frame)
expressed in terms of **coordinate axes** of $\{s\}$:

$$p = p_x \hat{x}_s + p_y \hat{y}_s$$

Orientation of $\{b\}$ in terms of $\{s\}$: Planar case

3.1. Rigid-body Motions in the Plane



The orientation of $\{b\}$ can be specified by the angle $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

\Rightarrow One can represent the coordinate axes $\{b\}$ in terms of those of $\{s\}$ as

$$\hat{x}_b = \cos \theta \hat{x}_s + \sin \theta \hat{y}_s,$$

$$\hat{y}_b = -\sin \theta \hat{x}_s + \cos \theta \hat{y}_s,$$

∴ A matrix-vector pair gives a configuration of a frame.

3.1. Rigid-body Motions in the Plane

Thus, in the planar case, we express in terms of $\{s\}$

► **Position of $\{b\}$** $\rightarrow p = \begin{bmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2$

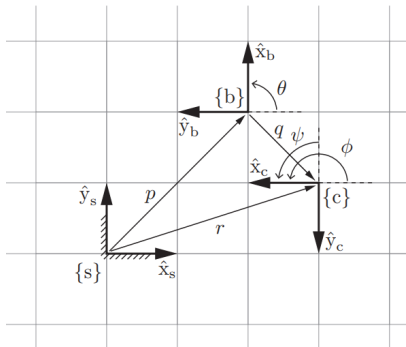
► **Orientation of $\{b\}$** $\rightarrow P = [\hat{x}_b \quad \hat{y}_b] = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$

(where such a P is often called **rotation matrix** (회전 행렬).)

The matrix-vector pair (P, p) represents a configuration of $\{b\}$ in $\{s\}$.

How can we represent pos./ori. with another frame

3.1. Rigid-body Motions in the Plane



For another frame $\{c\}$, you may express, in terms of $\{s\}$,

► Position of $\{c\} \rightarrow r = \begin{bmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \end{bmatrix}$

► Orientation of $\{c\} \rightarrow R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$

(Cont'd)

3.1. Rigid-body Motions in the Plane

Let

- ▶ (P, p) represents the configuration of $\{b\}$ expressed in $\{s\}$;
- ▶ (Q, q) represents the configuration of $\{c\}$ expressed in $\{b\}$;
- ▶ (R, r) represents the configuration of $\{c\}$ expressed in $\{s\}$.

\Rightarrow the pair (Q, q) can be represented with (P, p) and (R, r) as follows:

$$R = PQ \quad (\text{convert } Q \text{ to the } \{s\} \text{ frame})$$

$$r = Pq + p \quad (\text{convert } q \text{ to the } \{s\} \text{ frame and vector-sum with } p)$$

Lesson: The matrix-vector pair also changes the reference frame.

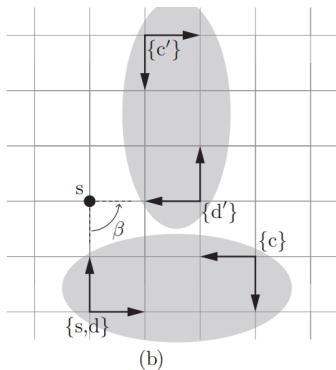
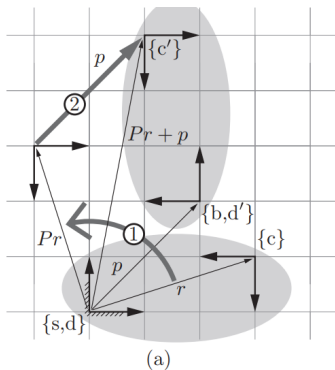
Understanding a rigid-body motion: Approach 1

3.1. Rigid-body Motions in the Plane

A rigid-body motion can be represented by “rotation \rightarrow translation” (Fig. (a)).

The transformation of the rigid body (from $\{c\}$ to $\{c'\}$)

1. rotates $\{c\}$ according to the rotation matrix P , and
2. translates Pr by p in $\{s\}$.



Approach 2 = Screw motion (in a planar case)

3.1. Rigid-body Motions in the Plane

Rigid-body motion = **Rotation** \rightarrow **translation** (Fig. (a))
= Rotation of the body about s by an angle β (Fig. (b))
= **Screw motion**
(that can be represented by a **screw coordinate** (β, s_x, s_y))

► **Exponential coordinates** $\mathcal{S}\theta$ with $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and representation of **screw axis**

$$\mathcal{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \omega \\ v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{unit angular velocity} \\ \text{linear velocity of the origin of the } \{s\} \text{ frame} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

► **Twist** = the velocity of $\mathcal{S}\theta$

$$\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{S}\dot{\theta}.$$

Position and orientation of a frame in spatial case

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

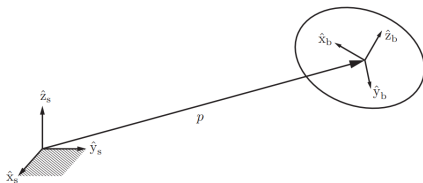


Figure 3.6: Mathematical description of position and orientation.

The origin of the $\{b\}$ frame can be represented as

- ▶ (position) $p = p_1\hat{x}_s + p_2\hat{y}_s + p_3\hat{z}_s$,
- ▶ (orientation)

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x}_b &= r_{11}\hat{x}_s + r_{21}\hat{y}_s + r_{31}\hat{z}_s \\ \hat{y}_b &= r_{12}\hat{x}_s + r_{22}\hat{y}_s + r_{32}\hat{z}_s \\ \hat{z}_b &= r_{13}\hat{x}_s + r_{23}\hat{y}_s + r_{33}\hat{z}_s\end{aligned} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_b & \hat{y}_b & \hat{z}_b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} \end{bmatrix} =: R$$

Rotation matrix (회전 행렬)

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

The matrix R in the previous slide is often called a **rotation matrix**.

Note that the body-frame unit axes satisfy

- ▶ (Unit norm) $\|\hat{x}_b\| = \|\hat{y}_b\| = \|\hat{z}_b\| = 1$
- ▶ (Orthogonality) $\hat{x}_b \cdot \hat{y}_b = 0, \dots$
- ▶ (Right-handed rules) $\hat{x}_b \times \hat{y}_b = \hat{z}_b$

Definitions 3.1–3.2: For an integer n , the **special orthogonal group** $SO(n)$ is the set of $n \times n$ matrices R such that

- ▶ $R^T R = I$ (\because (Unit norm) + (Orthogonality))
- ▶ $\det(R) = 1$ (\because (Right-handed rules)).

Note: An element of $SO(n)$ is a rotation matrix.

- ▶ $SO(2) \subset \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$?
- ▶ $SO(3) \subset \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$?

Examples and properties of rotation matrix

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

Example:

- In the planar (2D) case

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\pi/4) & -\sin(\pi/4) \\ \sin(\pi/4) & \cos(\pi/4) \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow Rx?$$

- In the spatial (3D) case

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\pi/4) & -\sin(\pi/4) \\ 0 & \sin(\pi/4) & \cos(\pi/4) \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow Rx?$$

Properties: For rotation matrices R_1, R_2, R_3 ,

1. $R_1^{-1} = R_1^\top$ is a rotation matrix.
2. $R_1 R_2$ is a rotation matrix.
3. $(R_1 R_2) R_3 = R_1 (R_2 R_3)$, but $R_1 R_2 \neq R_2 R_1$ (in $SO(3)$).
4. $\|Rx\| = \|x\|$ for any x .

Use of R (1/3): Representing an orientation

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

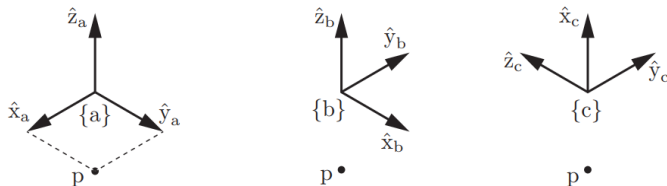


Figure 3.7: The same space and the same point p represented in three different frames with different orientations.

The orientation of the $\{a\}$, $\{b\}$, $\{c\}$ frames with respect to $\{s\} = \{a\}$ can be represented by the following **rotation matrices**:

$$R_a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_c = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

Use of R (2/3): Changing the reference frame

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

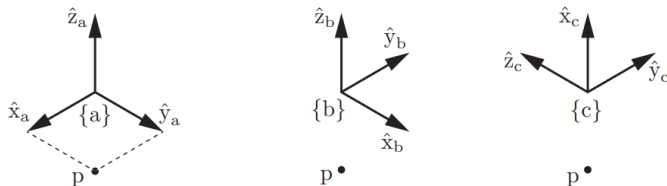


Figure 3.7: The same space and the same point p represented in three different frames with different orientations.

- R_{ab} : The rotation matrix associated with the orientation of $\{b\}$ w.r.t. $\{a\}$
- p_a : The vector p represented in the frame $\{a\}$, \dots

We then have

$$R_{ab}R_{bc} = R_{ac}, \quad R_{ab}p_b = p_a.$$

Use of R (3/3): Rotating a vector or a frame

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

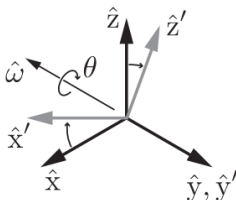


Figure 3.8: A coordinate frame with axes $\{\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}\}$ is rotated by θ about a unit axis $\hat{\omega}$ (which is aligned with $-\hat{y}$ in this figure). The orientation of the final frame, with axes $\{\hat{x}', \hat{y}', \hat{z}'\}$, is written as R relative to the original frame.

IF we rotate a frame about a unit axis $\hat{\omega}$ by an amount θ ,
THEN the **associated rotation matrix R** can be represented as

$$R = \text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta)$$

(Cont'd)

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

Some basic forms of the rotation matrices are:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Rot}(\hat{x}, \theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}, & \text{Rot}(\hat{y}, \theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}, \\ \text{Rot}(\hat{z}, \theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

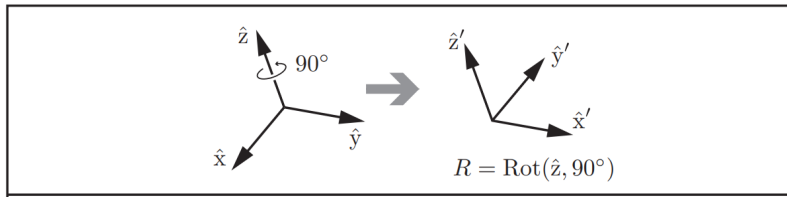
A **general form** of $\text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta)$ with the axis $\hat{\omega} = (\hat{\omega}_1, \hat{\omega}_2, \hat{\omega}_3)$ is

$$\begin{aligned}&\text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta) \\&= \begin{bmatrix} c_\theta + \hat{\omega}_1^2(1 - c_\theta) & \hat{\omega}_1\hat{\omega}_2(1 - c_\theta) - \hat{\omega}_3s_\theta & \hat{\omega}_1\hat{\omega}_3(1 - c_\theta) + \hat{\omega}_2s_\theta \\ \hat{\omega}_1\hat{\omega}_2(1 - c_\theta) + \hat{\omega}_3s_\theta & c_\theta + \hat{\omega}_2^2(1 - c_\theta) & \hat{\omega}_2\hat{\omega}_3(1 - c_\theta) + \hat{\omega}_1s_\theta \\ \hat{\omega}_1\hat{\omega}_3(1 - c_\theta) - \hat{\omega}_2s_\theta & \hat{\omega}_2\hat{\omega}_3(1 - c_\theta) + \hat{\omega}_1s_\theta & c_\theta + \hat{\omega}_3^2(1 - c_\theta) \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

where $c_\theta := \cos \theta$ and $s_\theta := \sin \theta$.

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3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities



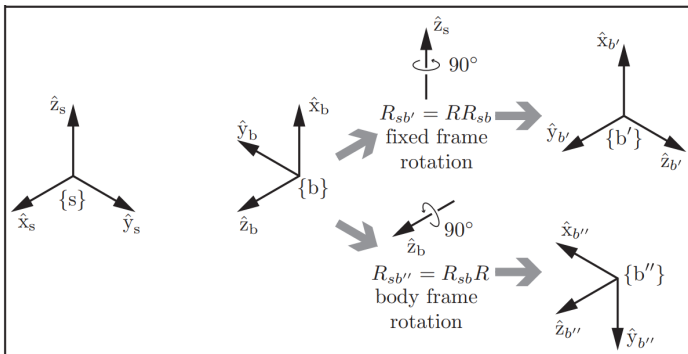
For a given frame,
the rotation matrix associated with the $(\pi/2)$ -rotation along with z -axis:

$$R = \text{Rot}(\hat{z}, \pi/2).$$

The meaning of R may differ when we specify the frame related to the z -axis:)

(Cont'd)

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities



For a fixed frame $\{s\}$ and a body frame $\{b\}$, IF we rotate

- ▶ the fixed frame $\{s\}$, THEN $R_{sb'} = R R_{sb}$ (pre-multiplication).
- ▶ the body frame $\{b\}$, THEN $R_{sb''} = R_{sb} R$ (post-multiplication).

Note: The order of multiplication is important!

Angular velocity (각속도)

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

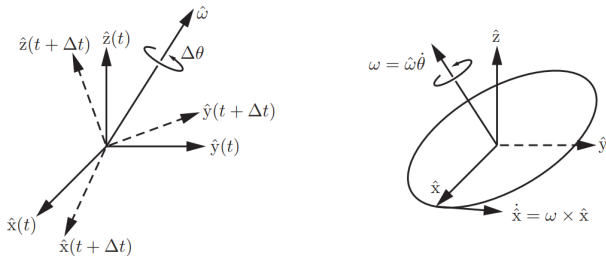


Figure 3.10: (Left) The instantaneous angular velocity vector. (Right) Calculating $\dot{\hat{x}}$.

- ▶ $\hat{\omega} \in \mathbb{R}^3$: Instantaneous axis of rotation
- ▶ $\dot{\theta} = \lim(\Delta\theta/\Delta t) \in \mathbb{R}$: Rate of rotation

Definition: Angular velocity w of the rotating frame is defined as

$$w := \hat{\omega}\dot{\theta}.$$

Time derivative \dot{R} of the rotation matrix

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

The time derivative of each coordinate axis can be represented as the result of the cross-product terms

$$\begin{array}{lll} \dot{\hat{x}} = \mathbf{w} \times \hat{x}, & & \dot{\hat{x}}_s = \omega_s \times \hat{x}_s, \\ \dot{\hat{y}} = \mathbf{w} \times \hat{y}, & \Rightarrow & \dot{\hat{y}}_s = \omega_s \times \hat{y}_s, \\ \dot{\hat{z}} = \mathbf{w} \times \hat{z} & & \dot{\hat{z}}_s = \omega_s \times \hat{z}_s \end{array}$$

- ▶ ω_s : the angular velocity \mathbf{w} expressed in $\{s\}$.
- ▶ \hat{x}_s : the unit vector \hat{x} expressed in $\{s\}$.

Remind that, by definition,

$$\begin{aligned} R(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} r_1(t) & r_2(t) & r_3(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_s(t) & \hat{y}_s(t) & \hat{z}_s(t) \end{bmatrix} \\ \Rightarrow \quad \dot{R}(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \omega_s \times r_1 & \omega_s \times r_2 & \omega_s \times r_3 \end{bmatrix} = \omega_s(t) \times R(t). \end{aligned}$$

Matrix representation of $x \times y$

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

We now want to represent $\dot{R} = \omega_s \times R = (\star)R$ with some matrix (\star) .

Definition 3.7: For a vector $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$, $[x]$ is a 3×3 matrix defined by

$$[x] := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -x_3 & x_2 \\ x_3 & 0 & -x_1 \\ -x_2 & x_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note:

- ▶ $[x]$ is **skew-symmetric**: that is, $[x] = -[x]^\top$.
- ▶ This notation introduces an expression $x \times y = [x]y$.
- ▶ $[\omega]^3 = -[\omega]$, and $R[\omega]R^\top = [R\omega]$ (**Proposition 3.8**)
- ▶ The set of all 3×3 real skew-symmetric matrices is called **$so(3)$** .

\therefore We have the relation between ω_s and R as

$$\dot{R} = \omega_s \times R = [\omega_s]R \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\omega_s] = \dot{R}R^{-1}. \quad (\text{The order is important.})$$

Properties of $[\omega]$

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

Notice that

- ▶ $R = R_{sb}$,
- ▶ ω_s represents w expressed in $\{s\}$, and
- ▶ ω_b represents w expressed in $\{b\}$.

\therefore We have the relation between ω_b and ω_s as

$$\omega_s = R_{sb}\omega_b \quad \Rightarrow \quad \omega_b = R_{sb}^{-1}\omega_s = R^\top\omega_s.$$

Proposition 3.9: Consider the rotation matrix $R(t)$ that represents the orientation of the rotating $\{b\}$ seen from the fixed frame $\{s\}$. THEN

$$[\omega_s] = \dot{R}R^{-1}, \quad [\omega_b] = R^{-1}\dot{R}$$

where

- ▶ ω_s : Representation of w in the fixed frame $\{s\}$
- ▶ ω_b : Representation of w in the body frame $\{b\}$

Exponential coordinates of rotations

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

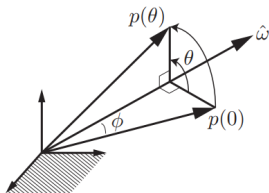


Figure 3.11: The vector $p(0)$ is rotated by an angle θ about the axis $\hat{\omega}$, to $p(\theta)$.

The derivative $\dot{p}(t)$ along with t is computed by

$$\dot{p} = \hat{\omega} \times p = [\hat{\omega}]p.$$

Note: The solution $p(t)$ with a constant matrix $[\hat{\omega}]$ has the form

$$p(t) = e^{[\hat{\omega}]t}p(0), \quad p(0): \text{Initial condition of } p(t)$$

(Cont'd)

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

By replacing t (time) with θ (angle), one has

$$p(\theta) = e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta} p(0).$$

This $e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta}$ must be the **rotation matrix**. (Why?)

Proposition 3.11 (= Derivation of the equation on $\text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta)$):

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta) &= e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta} \\ &= I + [\hat{\omega}]\theta + [\hat{\omega}]^2 \frac{\theta^2}{2!} + [\hat{\omega}]^3 \frac{\theta^3}{3!} + \cdots \\ &= I + \left(\theta - \frac{\theta^3}{3!} + \frac{\theta^5}{5!} - \cdots \right) [\hat{\omega}] + \left(\frac{\theta^2}{2!} - \frac{\theta^4}{4!} + \frac{\theta^6}{6!} - \cdots \right) [\hat{\omega}]^2 \\ &= I + \sin \theta [\hat{\omega}] + (1 - \cos \theta) [\hat{\omega}]^2 \in SO(3)\end{aligned}$$

Note: The explicit form of $\text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta)$ is given in 18 pages.

Matrix logarithm of rotation

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

Relation between $so(3)$ and $SO(3)$?

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\hat{\omega}]\theta \in so(3) & \xrightarrow{\text{exp.}} & e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta} \in SO(3), \\ R \in SO(3) & \xrightarrow{\text{log.}} & [\hat{\omega}]\theta \in so(3). \end{array}$$

- **Problem 1** (that we already know how to solve):
Find $R = e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta}$ for given $\hat{\omega}$ and θ
- **Problem 2** (that we have to solve in the following slides):
Find $\hat{\omega}$ and θ for given $R \in SO(3)$

Note: By the closed form of $R = e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta}$,

$$\text{tr}(R) = r_{11} + r_{22} + r_{33} = 1 + 2 \cos \theta.$$

Compute $\hat{\omega}$ and θ for given $R = e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta}$: Singular cases

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

- (Case 1-a) $\theta = 0, \pm 2\pi, \pm 4\pi, \dots$:

$$R = e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta} = I + \sin \theta [\hat{\omega}] + (1 - \cos \theta) [\hat{\omega}]^2 = I.$$

(where $\hat{\omega}$ is undefined.)

- (Case 1-b) $\theta = \pm\pi, \pm 3\pi, \dots$ (when $\text{tr}(R) = -1$):

$$R = e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta} = I + 2[\hat{\omega}]^2$$

\Rightarrow We have 4 constraints for 3 variables $\hat{\omega}_i$:

$$\hat{\omega}_i = \pm \sqrt{\frac{r_{ii} + 1}{2}}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3.$$

$$2\hat{\omega}_1\hat{\omega}_2 = r_{12}, \quad 2\hat{\omega}_2\hat{\omega}_3 = r_{23}, \quad 2\hat{\omega}_1\hat{\omega}_3 = r_{13}$$

(Cont'd)

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

► (Cont'd) In summary, $\hat{\omega}$ could be one of the following:

$$\hat{\omega} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(1+r_{33})}} \begin{bmatrix} r_{13} \\ r_{23} \\ 1+r_{33} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{or}$$

$$\hat{\omega} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(1+r_{22})}} \begin{bmatrix} r_{12} \\ 1+r_{22} \\ r_{33} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or}$$

$$\hat{\omega} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(1+r_{11})}} \begin{bmatrix} 1+r_{11} \\ r_{21} \\ r_{31} \end{bmatrix}$$

Compute $\hat{\omega}$ and θ for given $R = e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta}$: Non-trivial cases

3.2. Rotations and Angular Velocities

► (Case 2) $\theta \neq \pm k\pi$: By the closed form of $R = e^{[\omega]\theta}$, one has

$$\begin{cases} r_{32} - r_{23} &= 2\hat{\omega}_1 \sin \theta, \\ r_{13} - r_{31} &= 2\hat{\omega}_2 \sin \theta, \\ r_{21} - r_{12} &= 2\hat{\omega}_3 \sin \theta \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \hat{\omega}_1 &= \frac{1}{2\sin \theta} (r_{32} - r_{23}), \\ \hat{\omega}_2 &= \frac{1}{2\sin \theta} (r_{13} - r_{31}), \\ \hat{\omega}_3 &= \frac{1}{2\sin \theta} (r_{21} - r_{12}). \end{cases}$$

Thus, the skew-symmetric matrix $[\hat{\omega}]$ is computed by

$$[\hat{\omega}] = \frac{1}{2\sin \theta} (R - R^\top),$$

and the angle θ is given by

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\text{tr}(R) - 1}{2} \right).$$

The orientation can also be expressed by

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

- ▶ Rotation matrix and exponential coordinates $R = e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta}$ (as above)
- ▶ Euler angles
- ▶ Roll-pitch-yaw angles
- ▶ Unit quaternions

ZYX Euler angle

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

The **ZYX** Euler angle $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ means

1. Rotate the body by α about \hat{z}_b -axis
2. Rotate the body by β about \hat{y}_b -axis
3. Rotate the body by γ about \hat{x}_b -axis

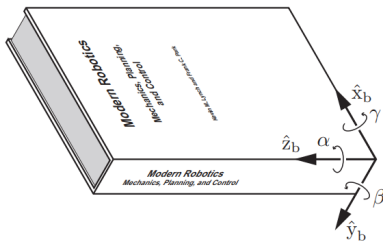


Figure B.1: To understand the ZYX Euler angles, use the corner of a box or a book as the body frame. The ZYX Euler angles correspond to successive rotations of the body about the \hat{z}_b -axis by α , the \hat{y}_b -axis by β , and the \hat{x}_b -axis by γ .

(Cont'd)

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

The final rotation matrix R is computed by

$$\begin{aligned} R(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) &= \text{Rot}(\hat{z}, \alpha) \text{Rot}(\hat{y}, \beta) \text{Rot}(\hat{x}, \gamma) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} c_\alpha c_\beta & c_\alpha s_\beta s_\gamma - s_\alpha c_\gamma & c_\alpha s_\beta c_\gamma + s_\alpha s_\gamma \\ s_\alpha c_\beta & s_\alpha s_\beta s_\gamma + c_\alpha c_\gamma & s_\alpha s_\beta c_\gamma - c_\alpha s_\gamma \\ -s_\beta & c_\beta s_\gamma & c_\beta c_\gamma \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

where $c_\theta = \cos(\theta)$ and $s_\theta = \sin(\theta)$. (Why post-multiplication?)

Inverse problem: For given rotation matrix R , we can find (α, β, γ) satisfying the above eq. (for most cases except $\beta \neq \pm\pi/2$)

Note: We sometimes use the two-argument arctangent function $\text{atan2}(y, x)$ to avoid confusion.

(Cont'd)

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

Consider the case when $\beta \neq \pm\pi/2$.

Since $r_{11}^2 + r_{22}^2 = \cos^2 \beta$, we have two candidates for β :

$$\beta = \text{atan2}(-r_{31}, \pm\sqrt{r_{11}^2 + r_{21}^2})$$

where $+$ for $\beta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$ and $-$ for $\beta \in [\pi/2, 3\pi/2]$.

This leads to a possible solution (α, β, γ) with

$$\alpha = \text{atan2}(r_{21}, r_{11}),$$

$$\gamma = \text{atan2}(r_{32}, r_{33})$$

Note: When $\beta = \pm\pi/2$, a family of solutions exists.

Algorithm for computing ZYX Euler angles

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

- ▶ (Case 1) $r_{31} \neq \pm 1$ (so that $\beta \neq \pm\pi/2$):
 (α, β, γ) is determined as above.
- ▶ (Case 2) $r_{31} = -1$ (so that $\beta = \pi/2$):
one candidate among infinitely many others is

$$\alpha = 0, \quad \gamma = \text{atan2}(r_{12}, r_{22})$$

- ▶ (Case 3) $r_{31} = 1$ (so that $\beta = -\pi/2$):
one candidate among infinitely many others is

$$\alpha = 0, \quad \gamma = -\text{atan2}(r_{12}, r_{22})$$

Illustrating ZYX Euler angles

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

The following wrist mechanism illustrates how ZYX Euler angle works.

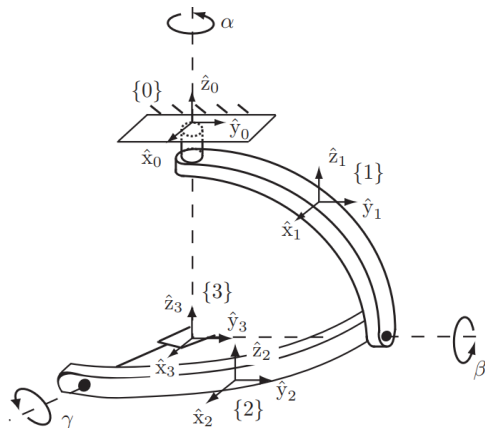


Figure B.2: Wrist mechanism illustrating the ZYX Euler angles.

Other Euler angle representations

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

- ▶ ZYX Euler angle
- ▶ ZYZ Euler angle
- ▶ Generalization? $\text{Rot}(\text{axis } 1, \alpha)\text{Rot}(\text{axis } 2, \beta)\text{Rot}(\text{axis } 3, \gamma)$

Note also that

- ▶ (ZYX) Euler angle $I\text{Rot}(\hat{z}, \alpha)\text{Rot}(\hat{y}, \beta)\text{Rot}(\hat{x}, \gamma)$
= The angle associated with the rotation of a body frame
- ▶ (XYZ) Roll-pitch-yaw angles $I\text{Rot}(\hat{z}, \alpha)\text{Rot}(\hat{y}, \beta)\text{Rot}(\hat{x}, \gamma)$
= The angle associated with the rotation of the space frame.

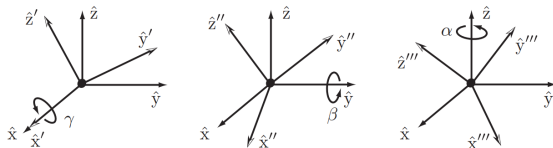


Figure B.4: Illustration of XYZ roll-pitch-yaw angles.

Unit quaternion

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

Note: Other methods may suffer from the **singularity** issue.

For example,

$$[\hat{\omega}] = \frac{1}{2 \sin \theta} (R - R^\top) \quad \text{whose size may be too large if } \theta \text{ is small}$$

The unit quaternion q

- ▶ is an alternative that alleviates this singularity;
- ▶ associated with $e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta}$ is given by

$$q = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 \\ q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta/2) \\ \hat{\omega} \sin(\theta/2) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{1+3}$$

where $\|q\| = \sqrt{q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2} = 1$ (for the **unit** property).

Rotation matrix $R \leftrightarrow$ Unit quaternion q

Appendix B. Other Representations of Rotations

► Rotation matrix \rightarrow Unit quaternion

$$q_0 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + r_{11} + r_{22} + r_{33}}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{4q_0} \begin{bmatrix} r_{32} - r_{23} \\ r_{13} - r_{31} \\ r_{21} - r_{12} \end{bmatrix}$$

where we use $1 + 2 \cos \theta = \text{tr}(R)$, and $\cos 2\phi = 2 \cos^2 \phi - 1$.

► Unit quaternion \rightarrow Rotation matrix

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} q_0^2 + q_1^2 - q_2^2 - q_3^2 & 2(q_1q_2 - q_0q_3) & 2(q_0q_2 + q_1q_3) \\ 2(q_0q_3 + q_1q_2) & q_0^2 - q_1^2 + q_2^2 - q_3^2 & 2(q_2q_3 - q_0q_1) \\ 2(q_1q_3 - q_0q_2) & 2(q_0q_1 + q_2q_3) & q_0^2 - q_1^2 - q_2^2 + q_3^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: The unit-quaternion representation of $R_q R_p$ can be obtained by

multiplying the 2×2 complex matrices $Q = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 + iq_1 & q_2 + iq_3 \\ -q_2 + iq_3 & q_0 - iq_1 \end{bmatrix}, \dots$

Homogeneous transformation

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

Definition 3.13: The special Euclidean group $SE(3)$

= The group of rigid-body motions

= The group of homogeneous transformation matrices of the form

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} R & p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 4}$$

where $R \in SO(3)$ and $p \in \mathbb{R}^3$.

Definition 3.14: The special Euclidean group $SE(2)$

= The group of homogeneous transformation matrices of the form

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} R & p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & p_1 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & p_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$$

where $R \in SO(2)$ and $p \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

Properties of the homogeneous transformation

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

- Property 1 (Proposition 3.15):

$$T \in SE(3) \Rightarrow T^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} R & p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} R^\top & -R^\top p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Property 2 (Proposition 3.16):

$$T_1 \in SE(3), \quad T_2 \in SE(3) \Rightarrow T_1 T_2 \in SE(3)$$

- Property 3 (Proposition 3.17):

$$(T_1 T_2) T_3 = T_1 (T_2 T_3), \quad \text{and} \quad T_1 T_2 \neq T_2 T_1 \quad \text{in general}$$

Properties of the homogeneous transformation

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

Note that

$$T \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R & p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Rx + p \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ The vector $(x, 1)$ is the rep. of x in homogeneous coordinates.
- ▶ We abuse the notation by writing Tx for $Rx + p$.

Proposition 3.18:

- ▶ $\|Tx - Ty\| = \|x - y\|$.
- ▶ $(Tx - Tz)^\top (Ty - Tz) = (x - z)^\top (y - z)$

Lesson: T can be regarded as a **transformation** on points on \mathbb{R}^3 .

Uses of HT 1: Representing the configuration

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

Consider 3 frames $\{a\} = \{s\}$, $\{b\}$, and $\{c\}$,

represented by $T_{sa} = (R_{sa}, p_{sa})$, $T_{sb} = (R_{sb}, p_{sb})$, and $T_{sc} = (R_{sc}, p_{sc})$.

The frame $\{b\}$ can be represented in terms of $\{s\}$ with

$$(\text{Orientation}) \quad R_{sb} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (\text{Position}) \quad p_{sb} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

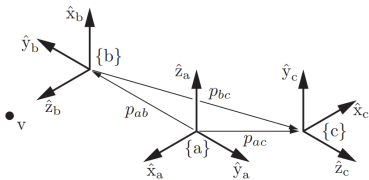


Figure 3.14: Three reference frames in space, and a point v that can be represented in $\{b\}$ as $v_b = (0, 0, 1.5)$.

Uses of HT 2: Changing the reference frame

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

In the example above,

$$T_{ab}T_{bc} = T_{ac}, \quad T_{ab}v_b = v_a$$

where

- ▶ v_b : The vector v expressed in $\{b\}$
- ▶ v_a : The vector v expressed in $\{a\}$

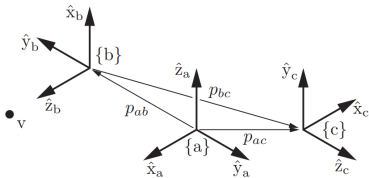


Figure 3.14: Three reference frames in space, and a point v that can be represented in $\{b\}$ as $v_b = (0, 0, 1.5)$.

Uses of HT 3: Displacing a vector or a frame

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists4

Rotation and translation of a frame are expressed in the HT as

$$\text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta) = \begin{bmatrix} R & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{Trans}(p) = \begin{bmatrix} I & p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ The fixed-frame transformation $T_{sb'}$ = Pre-multiply T_{sb} by T
- ▶ The body-frame transformation $T_{sb''}$ = Post-multiply T_{sb} by T

$$T_{sb'} = TT_{sb} = \text{Trans}(p)\text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta)T_{sb} = \begin{bmatrix} RR_{sb} & Rp_{sb} + p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$T_{sb''} = T_{sb}T = T_{sb}\text{Trans}(p)\text{Rot}(\hat{\omega}, \theta) = \begin{bmatrix} R_{sb}R & R_{sb}p + p_{sb} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(Cont'd)

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

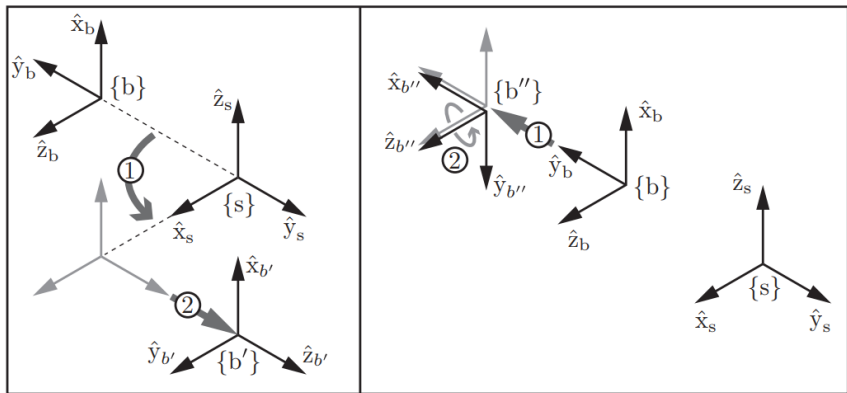


Figure 3.15: Fixed-frame and body-frame transformations corresponding to $\hat{\omega} = (0, 0, 1)$, $\theta = 90^\circ$, and $p = (0, 2, 0)$. (Left) The frame $\{b\}$ is rotated by 90° about \hat{z}_s and then translated by two units in \hat{y}_s , resulting in the new frame $\{b'\}$. (Right) The frame $\{b\}$ is translated by two units in \hat{y}_b and then rotated by 90° about its \hat{z} axis, resulting in the new frame $\{b''\}$.

Homogeneous transformation of a moving frame in itself

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

When we have the fixed space frame $\{s\}$ and a moving body frame $\{b\}$, the homogeneous transformation T is dependent of t : i.e.,

$$T_{sb}(t) = T(t) = \begin{bmatrix} R(t) & p(t) \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

which means that $\dot{T}(t) \neq 0$.

Remind: For $R \in SO(3)$, $[\omega_s] = \dot{R}R^{-1}$ and $[\omega_b] = R^{-1}\dot{R}$.

In a similar point of view, one computes $T^{-1}\dot{T}$ as

$$\begin{aligned} T^{-1}\dot{T} &= \begin{bmatrix} R^\top & -R^\top p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{R} & \dot{p} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R^\top \dot{R} & R^\top \dot{p} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_b] & v_b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Body twist

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

- ▶ \dot{p} : The linear velocity of the origin of $\{b\}$ expressed in $\{s\}$
- ▶ $R^\top \dot{p} = R^{-1} \dot{p}$: The linear velocity of the origin of $\{b\}$ expressed in $\{b\}$
- ▶ $R^\top \dot{R}$: The skew-symmetric matrix representation of the angular velocity in $\{b\}$ (that is, $[\omega_b]$)

This introduces **the spatial velocity in the body frame**, or the **body twist**:

$$\mathcal{V}_b = \begin{bmatrix} \text{angular velocity in } \{b\} \\ \text{linear velocity in } \{b\} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_b \\ v_b \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$

so that we stretch the notation $[\cdot]$ for \mathcal{V}_b as follows:

$$T^{-1} \dot{T} = [\mathcal{V}_b] = \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_b] & v_b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in se(3)$$

Spatial twist

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

On the other hand, $\dot{T}T^{-1}$ is computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{T}T^{-1} &= \begin{bmatrix} \dot{R} & \dot{p} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R^\top & -R^\top p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{R}R^\top & \dot{p} - \dot{R}R^\top p \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_s] & v_s \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ $\dot{R}R^\top = \dot{R}R^{-1}$: The skew-symmetric matrix representation of the angular velocity in $\{s\}$ (that is, $[\omega_s]$)
- ▶ $\dot{p} - \dot{R}R^\top p$ satisfying

$$\dot{p} - \dot{R}R^\top p = \dot{p} - [\omega_s]p = \dot{p} + \omega_s \times (-p)$$

The instantaneous velocity of the point on the (infinitely large) moving body currently at the origin of $\{s\}$, expressed in $\{s\}$.

(Cont'd)

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

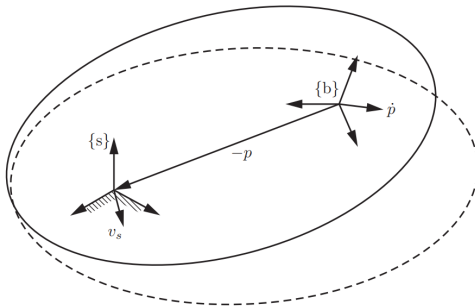


Figure 3.17: Physical interpretation of v_s . The initial (solid line) and displaced (dashed line) configurations of a rigid body.

The spatial twist = The spatial velocity in the space frame $\{s\}$:

$$\mathcal{V}_s = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_s \\ v_s \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6, \quad [\mathcal{V}_s] = \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_s] & v_s \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \dot{T}T^{-1} \in se(3).$$

Understanding the relation btw the body and spatial twists

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

- ▶ ω_b : The angular velocity in $\{b\}$
- ▶ ω_s : The angular velocity in $\{s\}$
- ▶ v_b : The linear velocity of a point at the origin of $\{b\}$ in $\{b\}$
- ▶ v_s : The linear velocity of a point at the origin of $\{s\}$ in $\{s\}$

We have (with $R[\omega]R^\top = [R\omega]$ and $[\omega]p = -[p]\omega$)

$$[\mathcal{V}_b] = T^{-1}\dot{T} = T^{-1}[\mathcal{V}_s]T = \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_b] & v_b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathcal{V}_s] &= T[\mathcal{V}_b]T^{-1} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} R & p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_b] & v_b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R^\top & -R^\top p \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} R[\omega_b]R^\top & -R[\omega_b]R^\top p + Rv_b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [R\omega_b] & [p]R\omega_b + Rv_b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Adjoint representation

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

Definition 3.20: For given $T = (R, p) \in SE(3)$, the adjoint representation of T is defined as

$$[\text{Ad}_T] = \begin{bmatrix} R & 0 \\ [p]R & R \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 6}$$

\Rightarrow In the previous slide, we derive the relations

$$\omega_s = R\omega_b, \quad v_s = [p]R\omega_b + Rv_b$$

which can be simply represented as follows:

$$\mathcal{V}_s = [\text{Ad}_T]\mathcal{V}_b$$

which is called **adjoint map** associated with T .

Screw interpretation of a twist

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

The twist $\mathcal{V} = (\omega, v)$ can be rewritten by $\{\dot{\theta}, \hat{s}, h\}$

$$\mathcal{V} = \begin{bmatrix} \omega \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{s}\dot{\theta} \\ -\hat{s}\dot{\theta} \times q + h\hat{s}\dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ $\dot{\theta}$: The rate of rotation about \hat{s} .
- ▶ \hat{s} : A unit vector in the direction of the rotation axis
- ▶ h : The screw pitch
= the ratio of the linear velocity $h\hat{s}\dot{\theta}$ and the angular velocity $\hat{s}\dot{\theta}$.

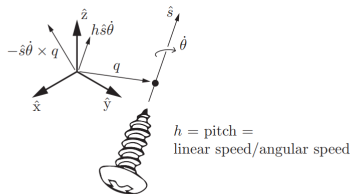


Figure 3.19: A screw axis \mathcal{S} represented by a point q , a unit direction \hat{s} , and a pitch h .

Screw axis \mathcal{S}

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

The screw axis \mathcal{S} is a normalized version of \mathcal{V} in the sense that

1. If $\omega \neq 0$, then $\mathcal{S} := \mathcal{V}/\|\omega\| = \mathcal{V}/\dot{\theta}$
2. If $\omega = 0$, then $\mathcal{S} := \mathcal{V}/\|v\|$

In both cases, we can say that $\mathcal{S}\dot{\theta} = \mathcal{V}$.

Definition 3.24: A screw axis \mathcal{S} is defined as

$$\mathcal{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\omega} \\ \bar{v} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$

where (a) $\|\bar{\omega}\| = 1$, or (b) $\bar{\omega} = 0$ and $\|\bar{v}\| = 1$.

As the screw axis is just a normalized twist, it follows the language of the twist.

Exponential coordinate representation of a rigid-body motion

3.3. Rigid-body Motions and Twists

We define the exponential coordinates of H.T. T as $\mathcal{S}\theta \in \mathbb{R}^6$

$$[\mathcal{S}]\theta \in se(3) \xrightarrow{\exp} T \in SE(3)$$

$$T \in SE(3) \xrightarrow{\log} [\mathcal{S}]\theta \in se(3)$$

This means that ([Proposition 3.25](#)),

$$\begin{aligned} T = e^{[\mathcal{S}]\theta} &= I + [\mathcal{S}]\theta + [\mathcal{S}]^2 \frac{\theta^2}{2!} + \cdots \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} e^{[\omega]\theta} & G(\theta)v \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} e^{[\omega]\theta} & (I\theta + (1 - \cos \theta)[\omega] + (\theta - \sin \theta)[\omega]^2)v \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Moment generated by a force

3.4. Wrenches

- ▶ f_a : A force acting on a rigid body at a point in $\{a\}$.
- ▶ r_a : The point represented in $\{a\}$

A torque or **moment** $m_a \in \mathbb{R}^3$ in $\{a\}$ generated by f_a :

$$m_a = r_a \times f_a$$

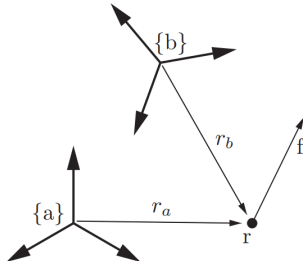


Figure 3.21: Relation between wrench representations \mathcal{F}_a and \mathcal{F}_b .

Spatial force (= wrench)

3.4. Wrenches

The spatial force or wrench \mathcal{F}_a expressed in $\{a\}$ frame:

$$\mathcal{F}_a = \begin{bmatrix} \text{moment in } \{a\} \\ \text{linear force in } \{a\} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} m_a \\ f_a \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$

Note: The **power** (=velocity \times force) $\mathcal{V}^\top \mathcal{F}$ is a coordinate-free quantity: i.e.,

$$\mathcal{V}_b^\top \mathcal{F}_b = \mathcal{V}_a^\top \mathcal{F}_a = \mathcal{V}_b^\top [\text{Ad}_{T_{ab}}]^\top \mathcal{F}_a$$

where we use $\mathcal{V}_a = [\text{Ad}_{T_{ab}}] \mathcal{V}_b$.

Proposition 3.27:

$$\mathcal{F}_b = \text{Body wrench} = [\text{Ad}_{T_{sb}}]^\top \mathcal{F}_s,$$

$$\mathcal{F}_s = \text{Spatial wrench} = [\text{Ad}_{T_{bs}}]^\top \mathcal{F}_b$$

Example on wrench

3.4. Wrenches

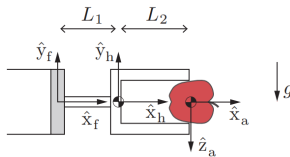


Figure 3.22: A robot hand holding an apple subject to gravity.

- ▶ $\{\hat{f}\}$: The frame at the force-torque sensor.
- ▶ $\{\hat{h}\}$: The frame at the center of mass of the hand.
- ▶ $\{\hat{a}\}$: The frame of the center of mass of the apple.

Gravitational wrench on the hand in $\{\hat{h}\}$:

$$\mathcal{F}_h = (0, 0, 0, 0, -5, 0)$$

Gravitational wrench on the apple in $\{\hat{a}\}$:

$$\mathcal{F}_a = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)$$

(Cont'd)

3.4. Wrenches

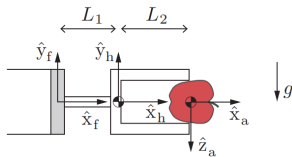


Figure 3.22: A robot hand holding an apple subject to gravity.

Given $L_1 = 0.1$ m, $L_2 = 0.15$ m, the transformation matrices

$$T_{hf} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -0.1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T_{af} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -0.25 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then, the wrench measured by the force-torque sensor:

$$\mathcal{F}_f = [\text{Ad}_{T_{hf}}]^\top \mathcal{F}_h + [\text{Ad}_{T_{af}}]^\top \mathcal{F}_a$$