

# Transforms & Forward Kinematics

# Linear Transformations

$$\mathbf{A}_{3 \times 3} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix}$$

Transformation matrix

**Properties:**

For any 2 vectors  $v_1, v_2$  and constants  $c_1, c_2$ :

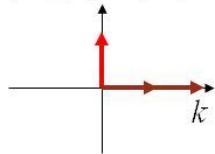
1.  $L(cv_1) = cL(v_1)$
2.  $L(v_1) + L(v_2) = L(v_1 + v_2)$

**Purpose:** To transform a vector (coordinates) from one space to another

# Example:

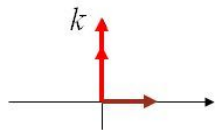
Find the standard matrix of each of the following transformations.

Horizontal  
Contraction &  
Expansion



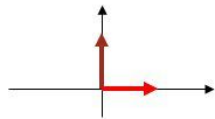
$$\begin{bmatrix} k & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Vertical  
Contraction &  
Expansion



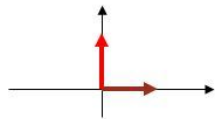
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & k \end{bmatrix}$$

Projection onto  
the x-axis



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Projection onto  
the y-axis



$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

*\*\* Notice that the columns of the transformation matrix are the coordinate axes of the new space \*\**

## Question:

Find the matrix that rotates a vector by 30 degrees

# Combining Linear Transformations

Transformation: Scaling a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  by a constant  $k$  in y-axis and then rotating by  $\theta$  anticlockwise:

Transform for scaling in y by  $k$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & k \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}$$

Transform for rotating by  $\theta$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}$$

Scaling a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  by a constant  $k$  in y-axis and then rotating by  $\theta$  anticlockwise:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & k \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}$$

# Inversion

Let  $\mathbf{v}$  be the original vector and  $\mathbf{v}'$  be the vector after transforming  $\mathbf{v}$  by a transform  $\mathbf{A}$ .

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}$$

Therefore,

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$$

Thus,  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  allows us to get back the original vector.

**Assumption:**  $\mathbf{A}$  is invertible.

**Question:** What would be the inverse of a transformation that projects a vector on the y-axis?

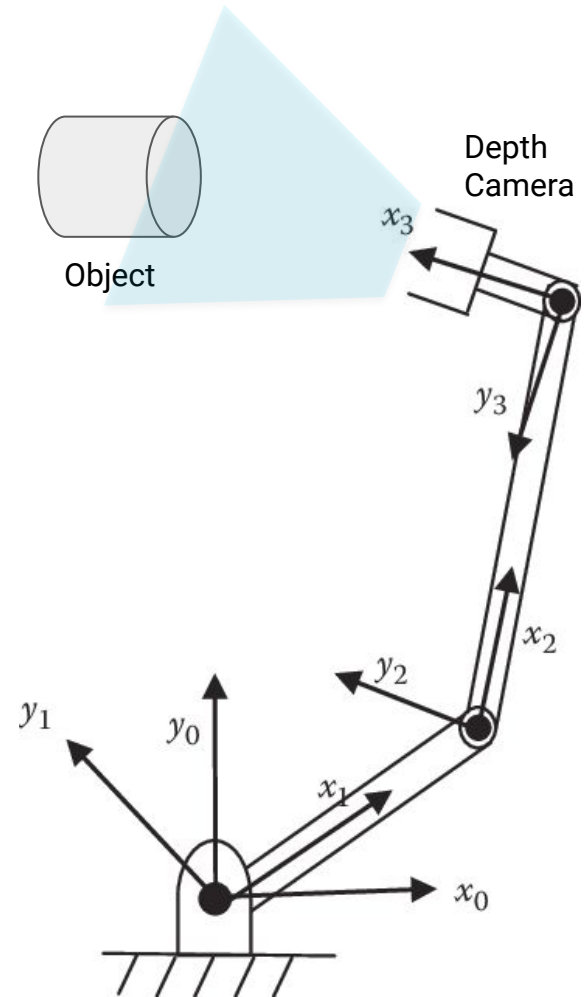
# Coordinate frames

Suppose a robotic arm has a depth camera attached at the end effector. The camera detects an object at  $(x,y)$  with respect to itself.

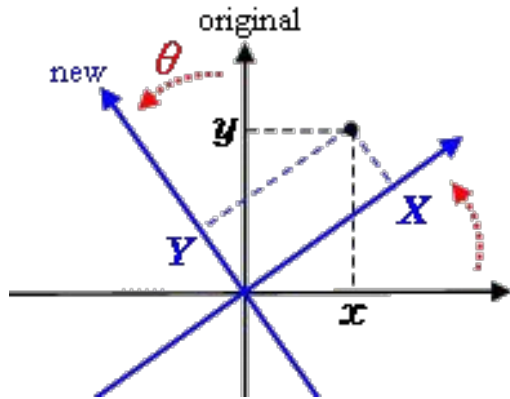
What are the coordinates of the object in the global frame?

## Different Coordinate Frames:

- Base frame
- Joint Frames
- End effector frame
- Global frame



# Rotation of a coordinate frame



Let  $(x', y')$  be the coordinates of a fixed point in the new frame.

$$x' = x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta$$

$$y' = x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

**2D Rotation matrix**

# Inverse of Rotation Matrix

Can be done using 2 methods:

1. Rotating by the same angle in the opposite direction

$$R(-\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Inverse of the original transform

$$R^{-1}(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$



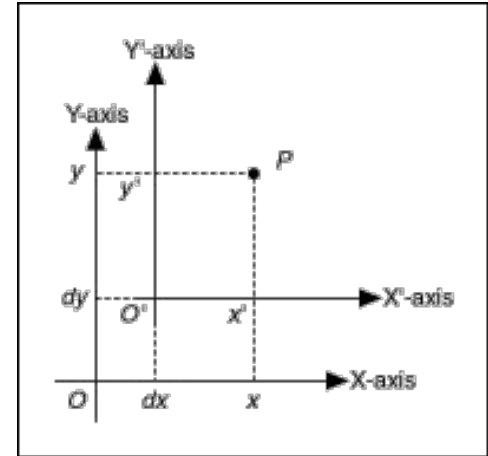
# Translation of a Coordinate Frame

Translation of vector  $\mathbf{v}$  to a new frame at  $(x', y')$ :

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{v} + \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix}$$

*This is not a linear transformation  $\rightarrow$  Why?*

*Thus, we cannot combine this with different transformations.*



**Requirement:** A transformation matrix for translation

**Solution:** 'Homogeneous coordinate'

# Homogeneous coordinate

A 2D vector is represented using a third row which is always 1.

i.e.,  $(x, y)$  is represented as:  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & t_x \\ 0 & 1 & t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Translation & Rotation with Homogeneous Coordinate

Rotation matrix in homogeneous rotation

$$R_z(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Combining the translation by  $(h,k)$  and rotation by  $a$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos a & -\sin a & h \\ \sin a & \cos a & k \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# The Transformation Matrix

The general 2D transformation matrix can be considered to be a combination of 4 matrices

Rotation matrix	New origin
Zero vector	1

Example:

New direction of x-axis	New direction of x-axis	New origin
↓	↓	↓
$\begin{bmatrix} \cos a & -\sin a & h \\ \sin a & \cos a & k \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$		

# Transformations in 3 Dimensions

All 3 rotation matrices + the translation matrix

$$R_x(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_y(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_z(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Similar to 2D, the general 3D transformation matrix can be considered to be a combination of 4 matrices

Rotation Matrix (3x3)	New origin (3x1)
Zero vector	1

# Chaining Rotations

$$R = R_z(\alpha) R_y(\beta) R_x(\gamma) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & \overset{\text{yaw}}{-\sin \alpha} & 0 \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta & \overset{\text{pitch}}{0} & \sin \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \beta & 0 & \cos \beta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \overset{\text{roll}}{0} & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \gamma & -\sin \gamma \\ 0 & \sin \gamma & \cos \gamma \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta & \cos \alpha \sin \beta \sin \gamma - \sin \alpha \cos \gamma & \cos \alpha \sin \beta \cos \gamma + \sin \alpha \sin \gamma \\ \sin \alpha \cos \beta & \sin \alpha \sin \beta \sin \gamma + \cos \alpha \cos \gamma & \sin \alpha \sin \beta \cos \gamma - \cos \alpha \sin \gamma \\ -\sin \beta & \cos \beta \sin \gamma & \cos \beta \cos \gamma \end{bmatrix}$$

# Inverse of a Transform

The inverse transform, as before, is simply the inverse of the 4 x 4 transformation matrix

## **Question:**

What would happen if the matrix is non-invertible?

Is this possible in physical transforms?

# Rotation around arbitrary axes

A rotation matrix contains **9 numbers**. Are they independent?

How many numbers are needed to represent an arbitrary?

Any rotation can be represented as a rotation by angle  $\theta$  around an arbitrary unit vector  $(l, m, n)$

Resultant rotation matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} ll(1 - \cos \theta) + \cos \theta & ml(1 - \cos \theta) - n \sin \theta & nl(1 - \cos \theta) + m \sin \theta \\ lm(1 - \cos \theta) + n \sin \theta & mm(1 - \cos \theta) + \cos \theta & nm(1 - \cos \theta) - l \sin \theta \\ ln(1 - \cos \theta) - m \sin \theta & mn(1 - \cos \theta) + l \sin \theta & nn(1 - \cos \theta) + \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}.$$



# Quaternions

**Complex numbers:**

$$a + ib$$

where,

$$i^2 = -1$$

**Quaternion:**

$$p = p_0 + p_1i + p_2j + p_3k.$$

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

$$ij = k = -ji,$$

$$jk = i = -kj,$$

$$ki = j = -ik.$$

# Representing rotations using quaternions

Let  $q = q_0 + \mathbf{q} = q_0 + q_1\mathbf{i} + q_2\mathbf{j} + q_3\mathbf{k}$

**Norm:**  $qq^*$  where,

$$q^* = q_0 - \mathbf{q} = q_0 - q_1\mathbf{i} - q_2\mathbf{j} - q_3\mathbf{k}$$

**Unit Quaternion:** Quaternion with norm = 1.

Any rotation can be represented as a unit quaternion

# Chaining Quaternions

1. Multiplication of two unit quaternions is always a unit quaternion
2. An inverse of a unit quaternion always exists

Therefore,

Two or more **rotations** can be **combined** by simply **multiplying** their corresponding quaternions

## Unit Quaternion Conversions

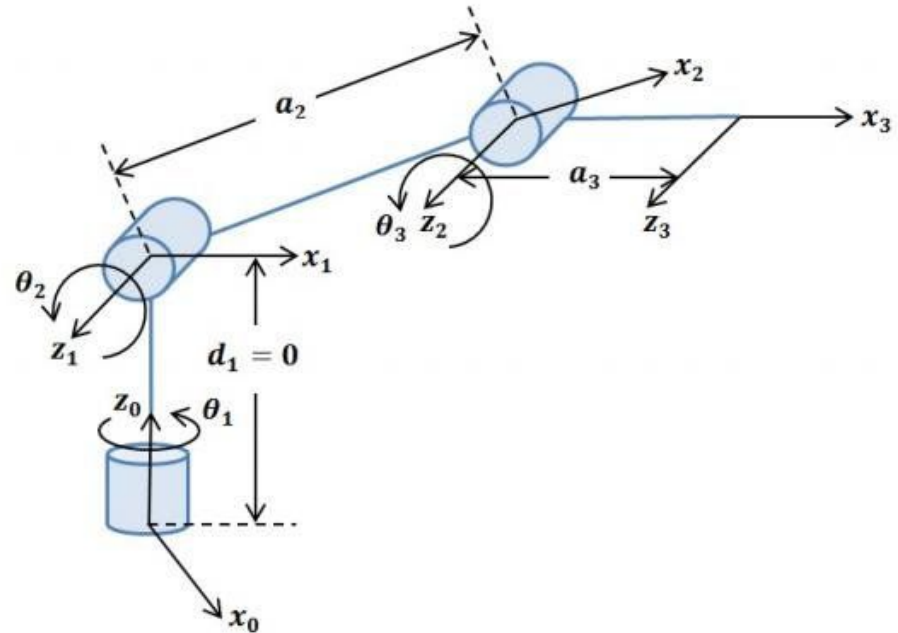
(for  $q = s + ix + jy + kz$ )

$$Rot_{[s \ x \ y \ z]} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - 2y^2 - 2z^2 & 2xy - 2sz & 2xz - 2sy \\ 2xy - 2sz & 1 - 2x^2 - 2z^2 & 2yz - 2sx \\ 2xz - 2sy & 2yz - 2sx & 1 - 2x^2 - 2y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

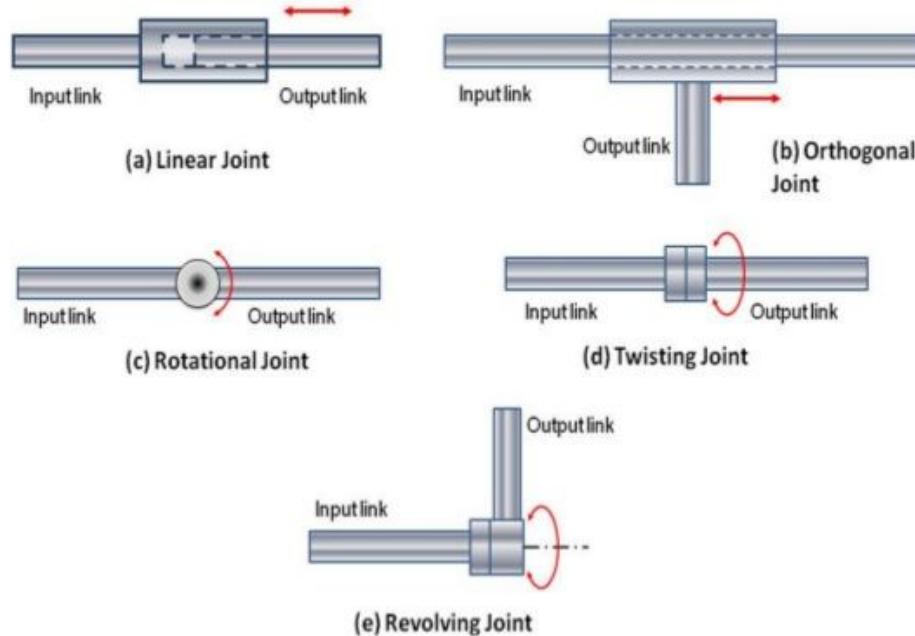
$$\text{Axis-Angle} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \theta = 2 \cos^{-1}(s) \\ (x, y, z) = v / \|v\| \end{array} \right.$$

# Kinematic Chain (Robot Arms)

- A robot arm can be modeled as a sequence of **links** and **joints**.
- Each **joint** corresponds to a **rotation** transformation
- Each **link** corresponds to a **translation**
- As each **transformation** has a **matrix** associated with it. Hence, there exists a matrix for each pair of coordinate frames



# Types of Joints

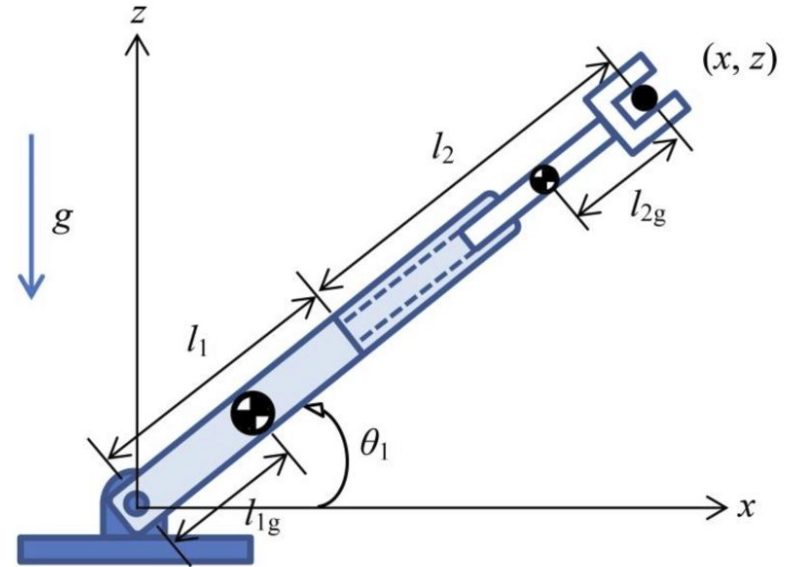


- In kinematic chains, two types of joints are used:
  - **Revolute** (*Twisting/ Revolving/ Rotational*)
  - **Prismatic** (*Linear*)
- Multi-DOF joints are modeled as a sequence of multiple joints with a zero-length link joining them

# Joint State

The state of any joint can be represented using four values:

- **Revolute:**  
Axis (3 values)  
Angle (1 value)
- **Prismatic:**  
Axis (3 values)  
Displacement (1 value)



# DH Parameters

Standard form of representing the spatial relation between two joint frames in a kinematic chain, that are attached by a link:

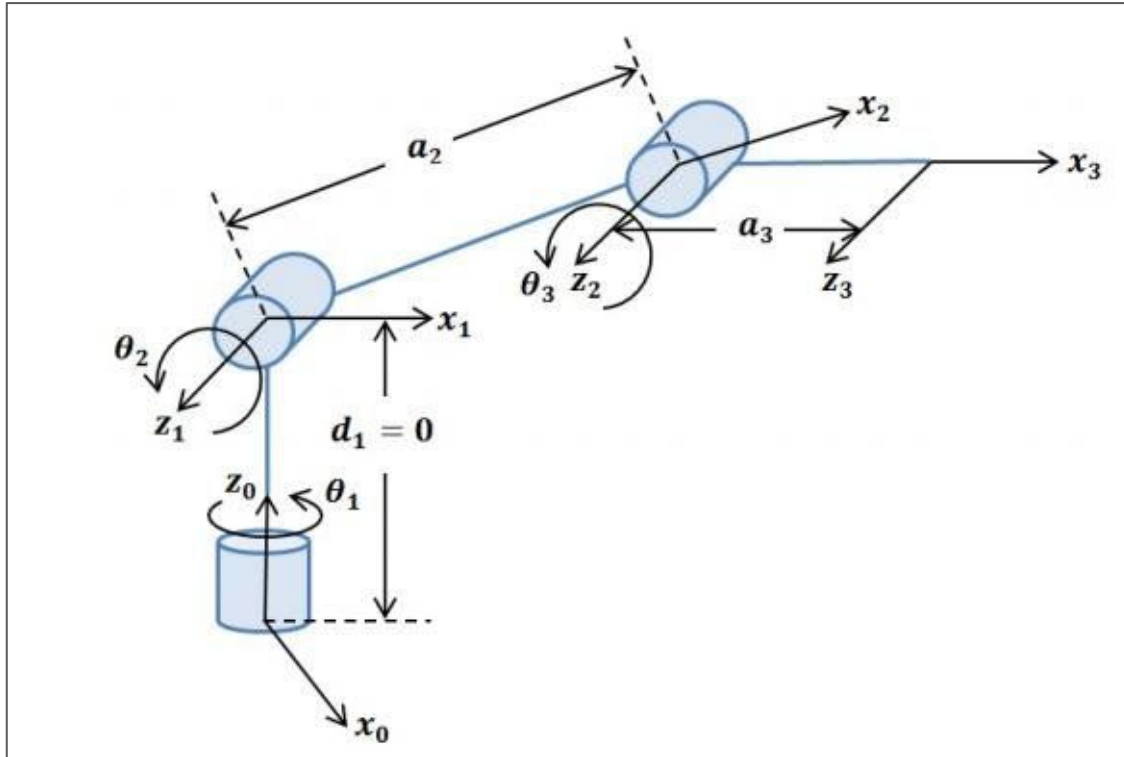
Convention: **z** is always the axis of rotation and **x** points away from the previous joint

The relation is described using **four** parameters, as follows:

1. **d** = *offset along previous z*
2.  **$\theta$**  = *angle between x-axes*
3. **r** = *length of the common normal*
4.  **$\alpha$**  = *angle between z-axes*



# DH Parameters - Example



# Forward Kinematics

Forward Kinematics: Given a kinematic chain,

1. For specific values of joints, where does the end effector go?
2. For a specific values of joints, where are all the joint frames
3. What is the transform from the base frame to all the other frames

# URDF/ Xacro

## **Universal Robot Description Format:**

XML file used by ROS to describe kinematic chains

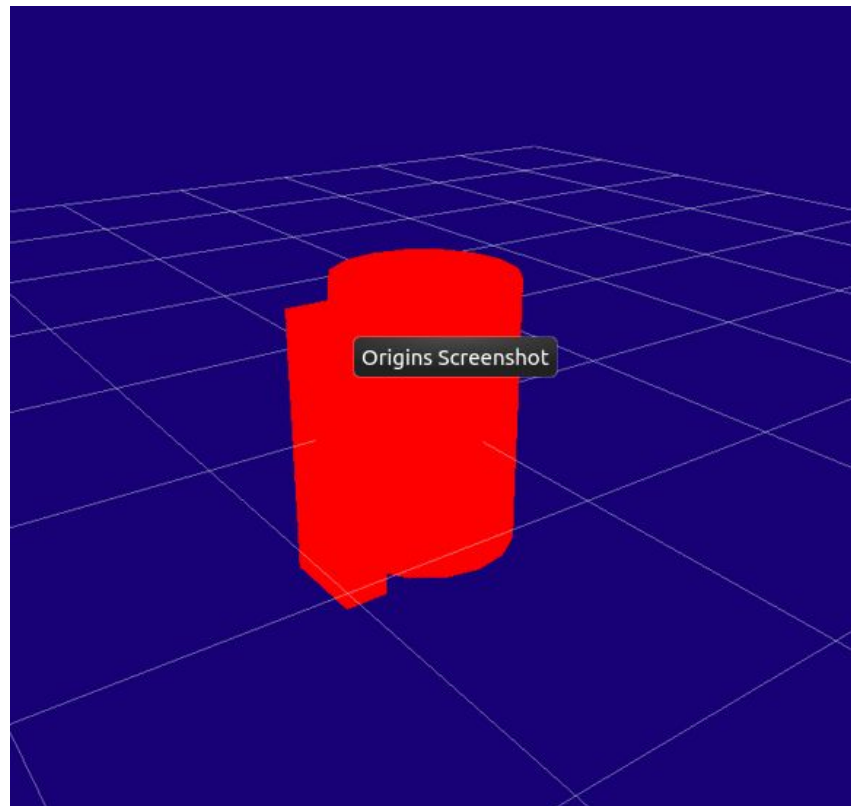
## **Xacro:**

Modified XML to include macros of URDFs for an easier robot description

*(Can also be used to describe mobile robots)*

# URDF example

```
1 <?xml version="1.0"?>
2 <robot name="origins">
3   <link name="base_link">
4     <visual>
5       <geometry>
6         <cylinder length="0.6" radius="0.2"/>
7       </geometry>
8     </visual>
9   </link>
10
11  <link name="right_leg">
12    <visual>
13      <geometry>
14        <box size="0.6 0.1 0.2"/>
15      </geometry>
16      <origin rpy="0 1.57075 0" xyz="0 0 -0.3"/>
17    </visual>
18  </link>
19
20  <joint name="base_to_right_leg" type="fixed">
21    <parent link="base_link"/>
22    <child link="right_leg"/>
23    <origin xyz="0 -0.22 0.25"/>
24  </joint>
25
26 </robot>
```



# ROS - tf

## TF (TransForms):

- tf is a ROS package that keeps a track of multiple coordinate frames over time
- It maintains the relationship between the frames in the form of a tree structure
- It allows the user to transform points, vectors, etc. at any given point of time

# Resources for further learning:

ColumbiaX Robotics (EdX): Week 3

Morgan Quigley: Chapter 11 & Chapter 18