

# ROB-GY 6003

## Foundations of robotics

Ludovic Righetti

Lecture III  
Homogeneous transforms II - velocities



## Course website(s)

All necessary material will be posted on Brightspace  
Code will be posted on the Github site of the class

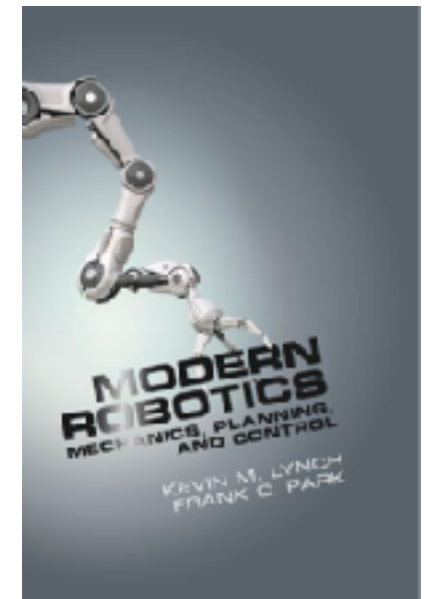
## Organization

## Discussions/Forum with Campuswire

## Book

Modern Robotics by K. Lynch and F. Park

[http://hades.mech.northwestern.edu/index.php/Modern\\_Robotics](http://hades.mech.northwestern.edu/index.php/Modern_Robotics)



## Contact

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Zoom office hours

Tuesdays 4 to 5pm

## Course Assistant

Huaijiang Zhu

[hzhu@nyu.edu](mailto:hzhu@nyu.edu)



Zoom office hours

Wednesday 1:30 to 2:30pm

any other time by appointment

# Planned class schedule (subject to changes)

|                    |  |     |           |
|--------------------|--|-----|-----------|
| Lecture 1 - 09/13  | Introduction, sensors/actuators, configuration space |     |           |
| Lecture 2 - 09/20  | Rotations and homogeneous transforms                 | HW1 |           |
| Lecture 3 - 09/27  | Homegenous transforms II / Velocities                | HW2 |           |
| Lecture 4 - 10/04  | Velocities II  | HW3 |           |
| Lecture 5 - 10/11  | Forward kinematics                                   | HW4 |           |
| Lecture 6 - 10/12  | Geometric Jacobian - Inverse Kinematics              |     |           |
| Lecture 7 - 10/18  | Inverse Kinematics II                                | HW5 |           |
| Midterm - 10/25    | Midterm  |     |           |
| Lecture 8 - 11/01  | Control I (trajectory generation and resolved rate   |     | Project 1 |
| Lecture 9 - 11/08  | Forces, duality kineto-statics                       | HW6 |           |
| Lecture 10 - 11/15 | Dynamics   |     | Project 2 |
| Lecture 11 - 11/22 | Control II (gravity compensation, impedance control) |     |           |
| Lecture 12 - 11/29 | Introduction to object manipulation                  |     |           |
| Lecture 13 - 12/06 | Introduction to legged robots                        |     | Project 3 |
| Lecture 14 - 12/13 | Going beyond the class, advanced topics              |     |           |
| Finals week        | -  |     |           |

# Homework II

Go to <https://prairielearn.engr.illinois.edu/pl/>

Open now

Due in 1 week to get 100% (10/04)

10% bonus if you do it by Thursday (09/30)

One week late (10/11) you get 80%

Two weeks late (10/18) you get 50%

More than two weeks late you get 0%

**Questions?**



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Homogeneous transform to describe rigid bodies + describe the angular velocity of a rigid body





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- How to compute the Euler angles that describe the orientation of an object
- How to compute the angular velocity of a rigid body in terms of its rotation matrix and its time derivative

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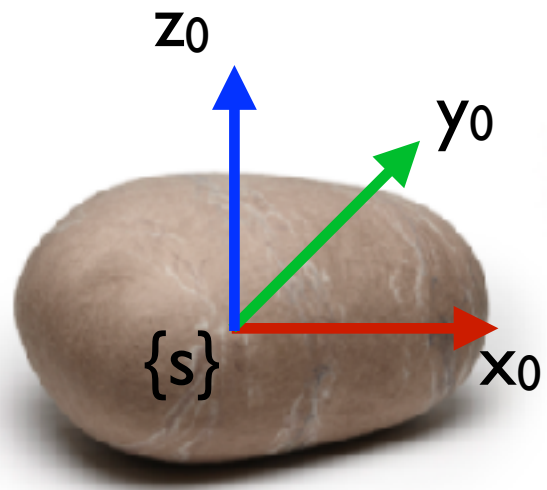
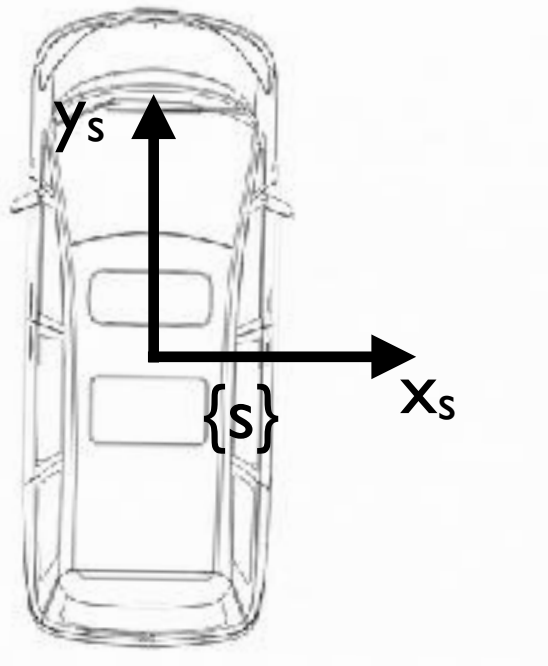
- How to represent the pose of an object, move it and change coordinates using homogeneous transforms
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Recommended reading: Chapter 3 of Modern Robotics

# Some notations

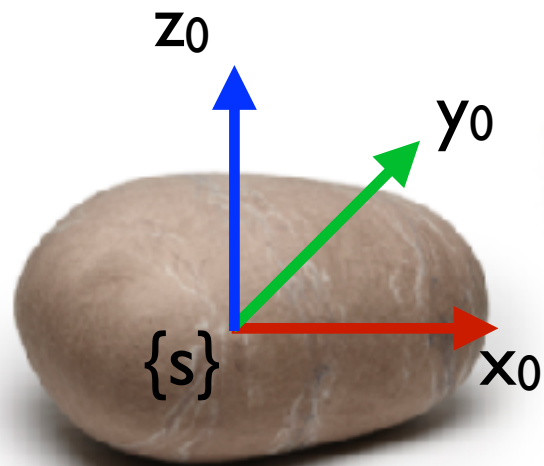
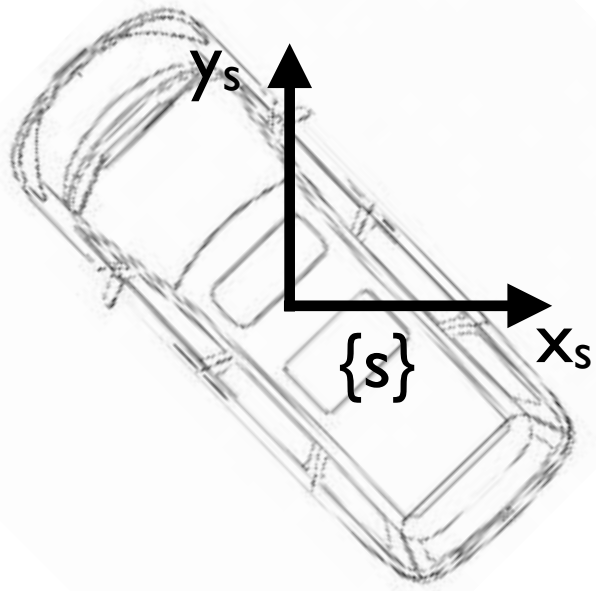
**Recap from last week**

# Possible rigid body motions

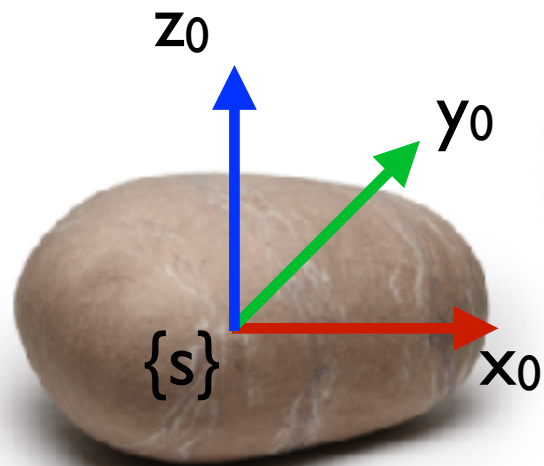
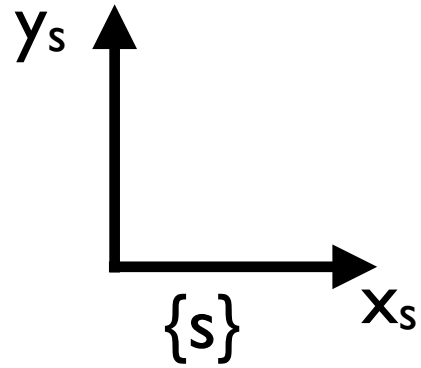




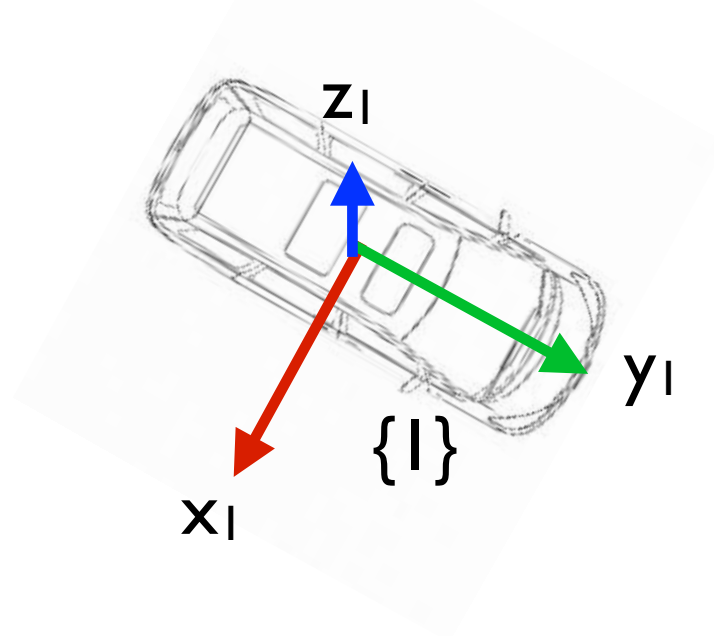
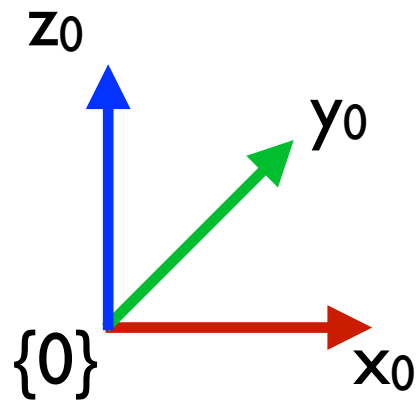
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# Rotations



The rotation matrix  $R_{01}$  which describes the orientation of frame 1 with respect to frame 0 has the form

$$R_{01} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & z_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The columns correspond to the coordinates of the basis vectors of frame 1 in the coordinate frame 0 (i.e.  $x_1$  is a column vector containing the coordinates of the x axis of frame 1 expressed in the coordinates of frame 0)

# Properties of rotation matrices

Properties of rotation matrices:

- A rotation matrix is orthogonal, it means that its columns (and rows) are orthogonal with each other
- $RR^T = R^T R = I$  ( $R^T = R^{-1}$  is also a rotation matrix)
- $\det(R) = 1$
- the composition of two rotation matrices  $R_1 R_2$  is also a rotation matrix
- the identity matrix  $I$  is also a rotation matrix
- rotations preserve distances

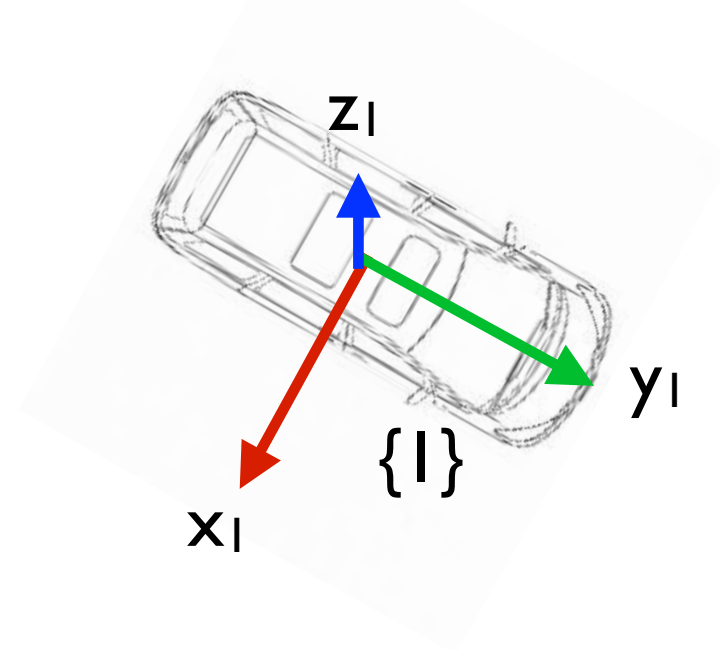
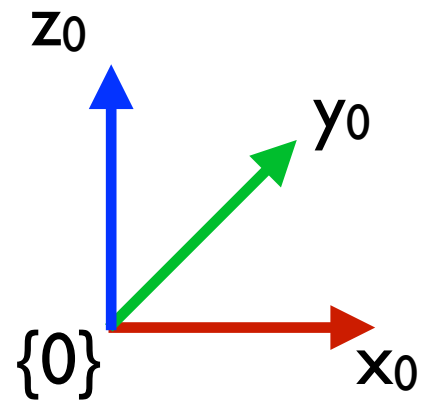
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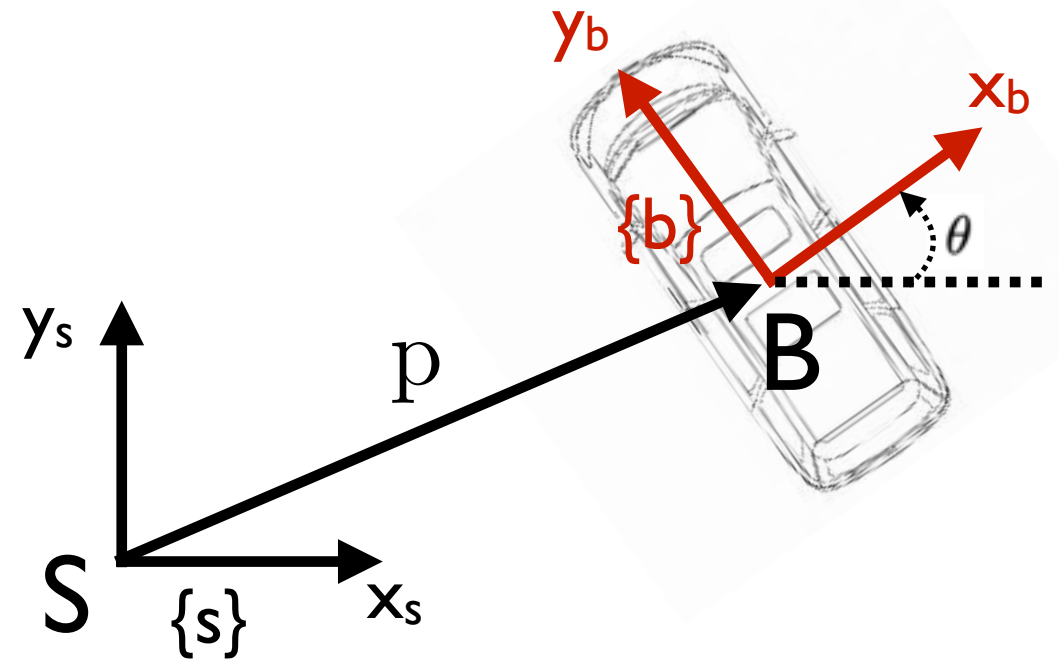
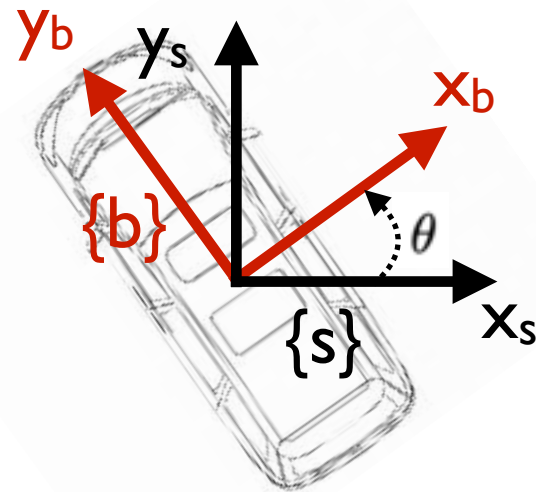
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$$R \text{ is a rotation matrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{array}{l} 1) \ RR^T = R^T R = I \\ 2) \ \det(R) = 1 \end{array}$$

# Rotations



# Rigid body transforms



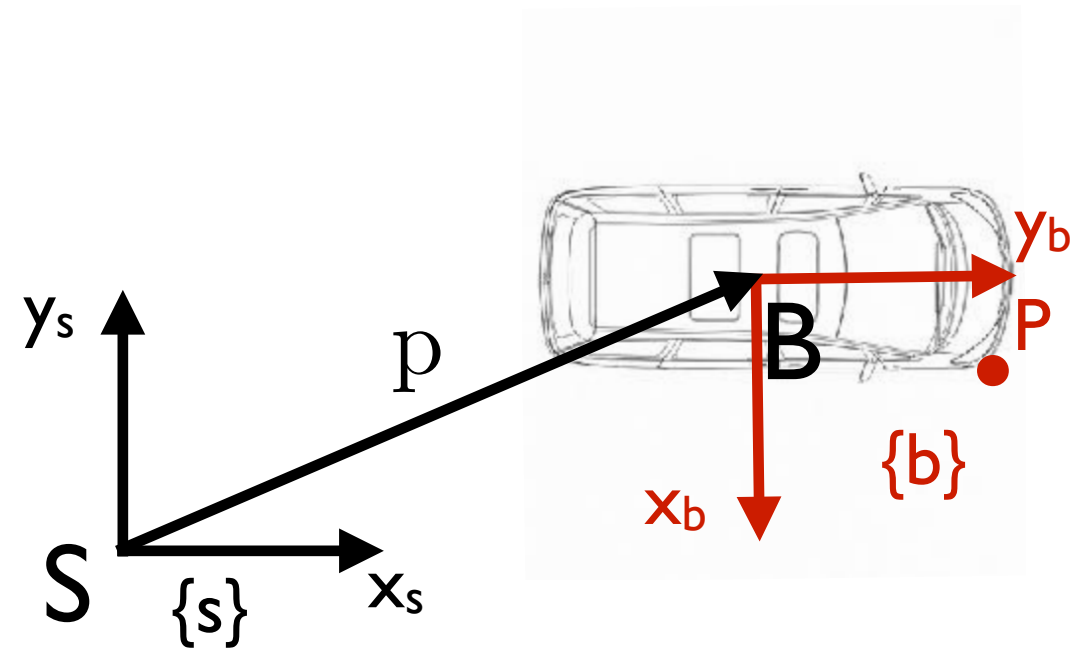
Any rigid body transformation can be described by a translation  $p$  and a rotation  $R$ . The position and orientation of frame B (the car) with respect to frame S (the spatial frame) is described by:

- $p_{01}$  the position of the origin of B in the coordinates of S
- $R_{01}$  the orientation of B with respect to S

As for pure rotations, we can

- 1) describe the position of an object
- 2) do a coordinate transform
- 3) move an object in space

# Example





# Homogeneous transforms

Rigid body transformations can be conveniently described by homogeneous matrices, which summarizes the position  $p_{01}$  and orientation  $R_{01}$

$$T_{01} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{01} & p_{01} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

A point  $p$  with 3D (or 2D) coordinates  $p$  is then described with 4D (or 3D) coordinates as

$$\bar{p} = \begin{pmatrix} p \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

A vector  $v$  with 3D (or 2D) coordinates  $v$  is then described as a 4D (or 3D) coordinates as

$$\bar{p} = \begin{pmatrix} p \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Transformations of points and vectors

# Inverse of an homogenous transform

# Composition of homogeneous transform

# Pose of an object

# Coordinate transform

# Move an object





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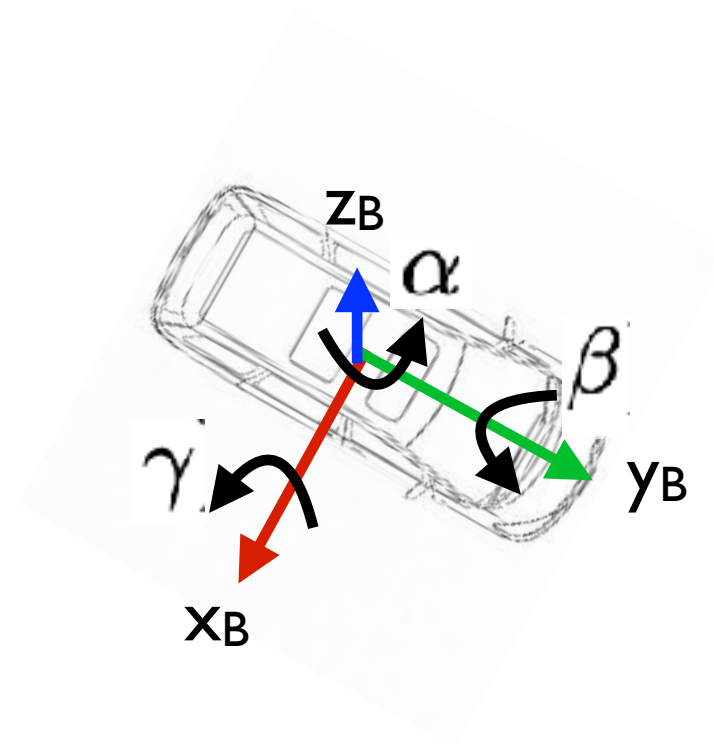
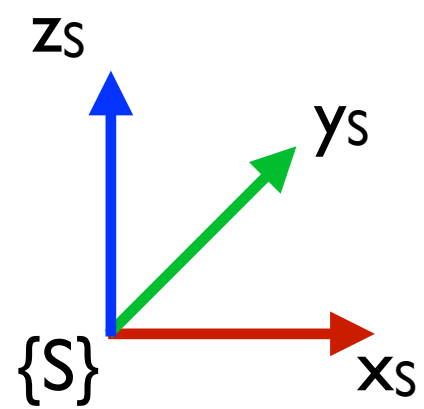
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Why not use a 3 parameter representation in 3D?

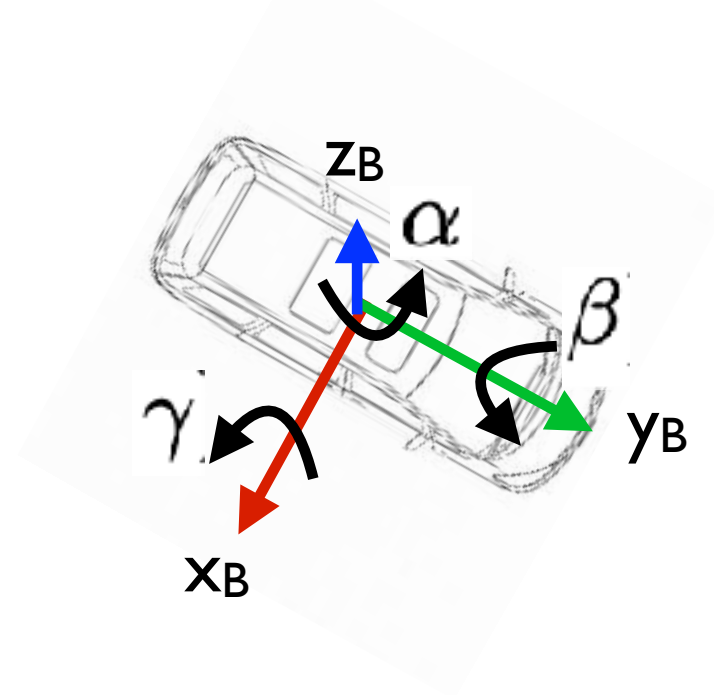
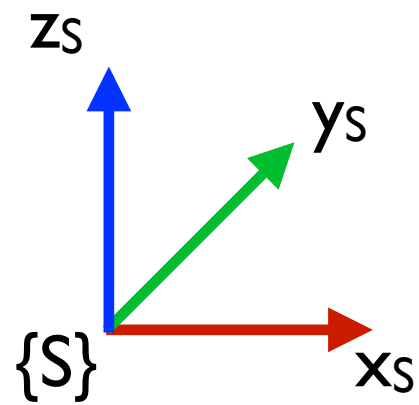
# ZYX Euler Angles



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Every rotation matrix  $R$  can be written as a composition of rotations along  $Z_B$ ,  $Y_B$  and  $X_B$

$$R = R_1(z_B, \alpha)R_2(y_B, \beta)R_3(x_B, \gamma)$$

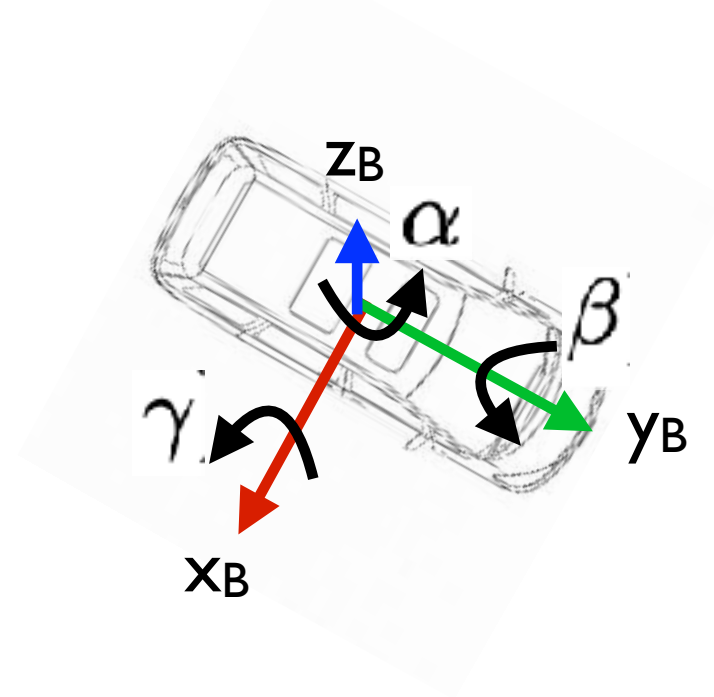
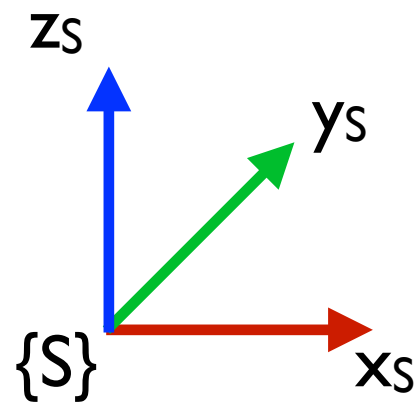




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$$\text{Rot}(\hat{z}, \alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha & 0 \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{Rot}(\hat{y}, \beta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta & 0 & \sin \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \beta & 0 & \cos \beta \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{Rot}(\hat{x}, \gamma) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \gamma & -\sin \gamma \\ 0 & \sin \gamma & \cos \gamma \end{bmatrix}.$$

# ZYX Euler Angles

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

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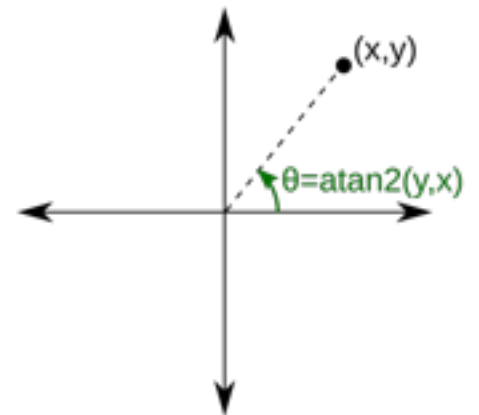
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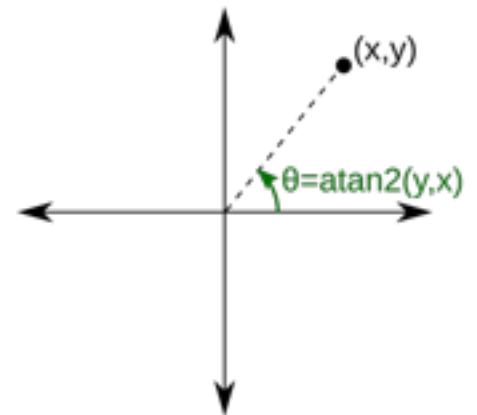
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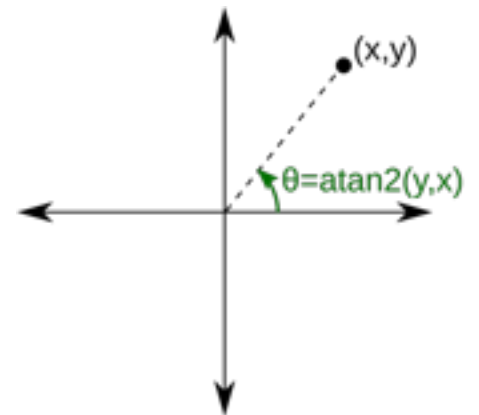
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This is called a "singularity" of the Euler angle representation, this is an issue when trying to compute the velocity of a rigid body as a function of the Euler angles

# Other Euler angle representations

ZYZ Euler angles are define as  $R(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = Rot(\hat{z}, \alpha)Rot(\hat{y}, \beta)Rot(\hat{z}, \gamma)$

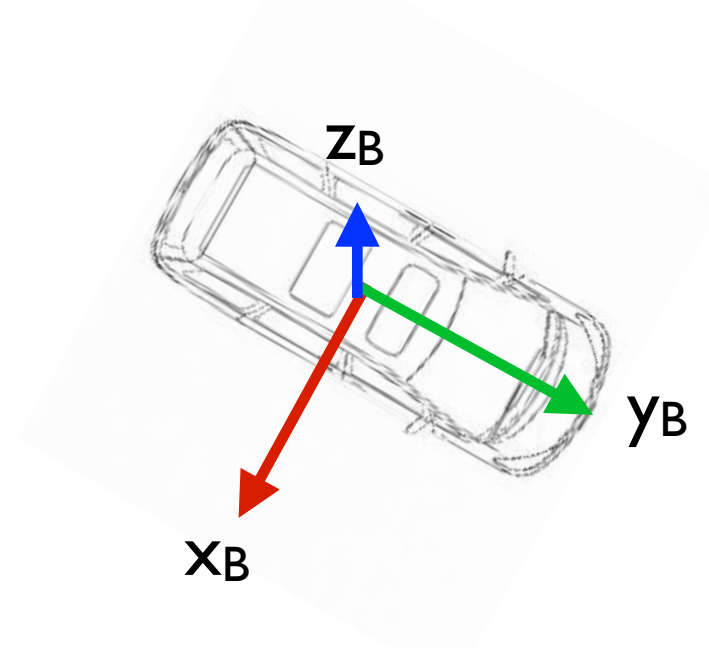
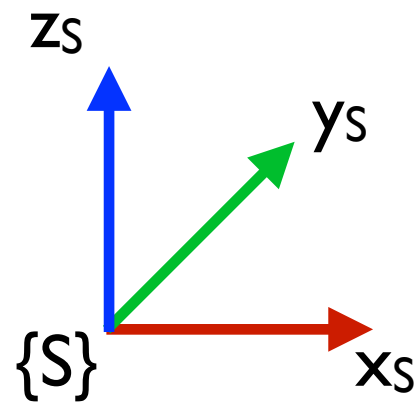
Any parametrization of this form will have similar singularity issues:

- Convenient to “visualize” a rotation
- Always a singularity  $\Rightarrow$  it is impossible to represent uniquely orientations with only 3 parameters!
- Problematic for computations (velocities or trajectories computations will be sensitive to singularity)

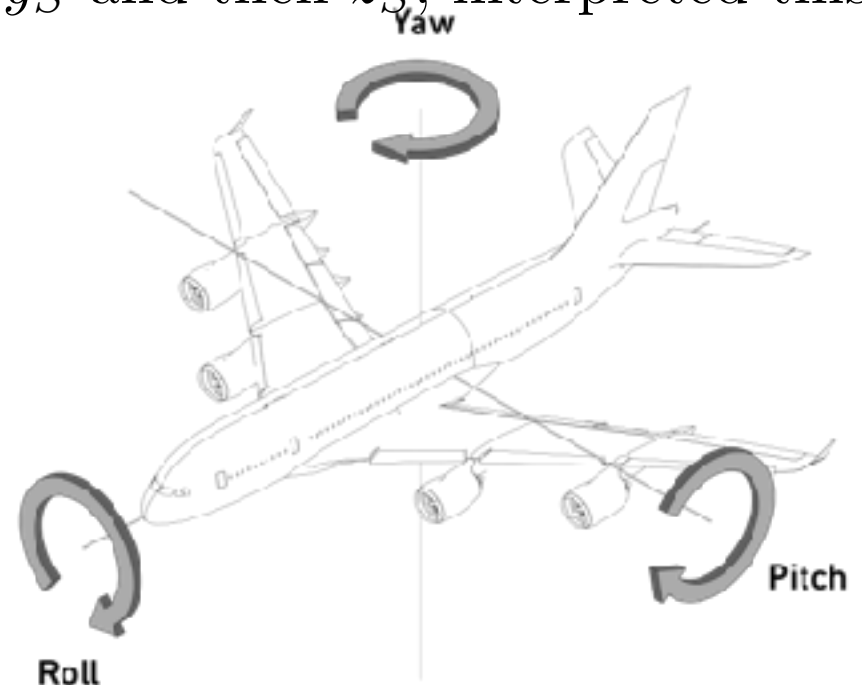
# Roll-Pitch-Yaw

In ZYX Euler is thought as a body rotation around  $z_B$ , then  $y_B$  then  $x_B$

$$R = Rot(\hat{z}, \alpha) \cdot Rot(\hat{y}, \beta) \cdot Rot(\hat{x}, \gamma)$$



This is the same as a spatial rotation around  $x_S$ , then  $y_S$  and then  $z_S$ , interpreted this way  $\gamma$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$  are called the roll-pitch-yaw angles.



# Quaternions

Another popular representation is using unit quaternions



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A quaternion is a 4D generalization of complex numbers

$$q = q_0 + iq_1 + jq_2 + kq_3$$

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

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

$$ji = -j, kj = -i, ik = -j$$

$$||q|| = 1$$

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$$q = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 \\ q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta/2) \\ \hat{\omega} \sin(\theta/2) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^4$$

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Quaternions do not have the issue of Euler angles  
 $\Rightarrow$  no singularity

# Quaternions

From quaternions to rotation matrices and back

$$q = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 \\ q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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## From quaternions to rotation matrices and back

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

# Quaternions

Multiplication of quaternions (non-trivial!)

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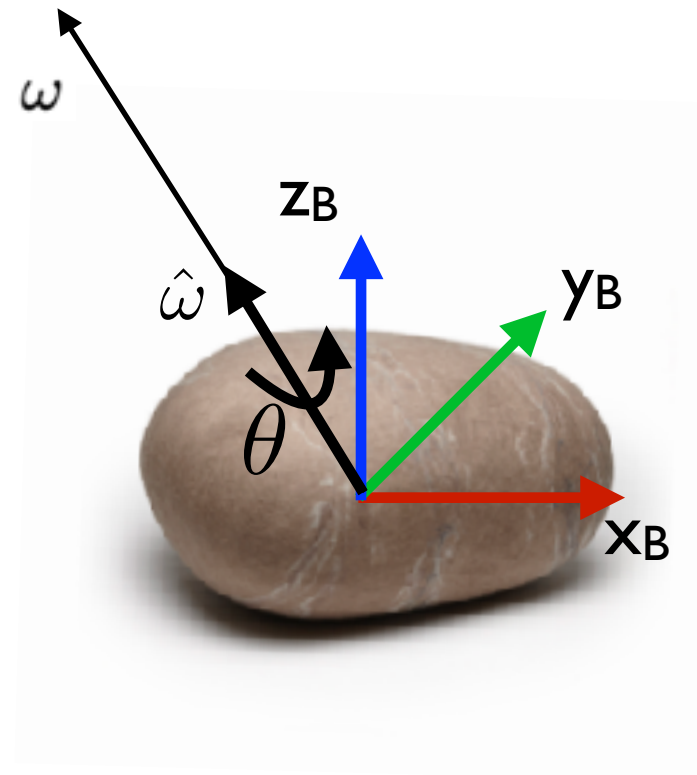
Multiplication of quaternions (non-trivial!)

$$q \cdot p = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 \\ q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} p_0 \\ p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 p_0 - q_1 p_1 - q_2 p_2 - q_3 p_3 \\ q_0 p_1 + p_0 q_1 + q_2 p_3 - q_3 p_2 \\ q_0 p_2 + p_0 q_2 - q_1 p_3 + q_3 p_1 \\ q_0 p_3 + p_0 q_3 + q_1 p_2 - q_2 p_1 \end{bmatrix}$$



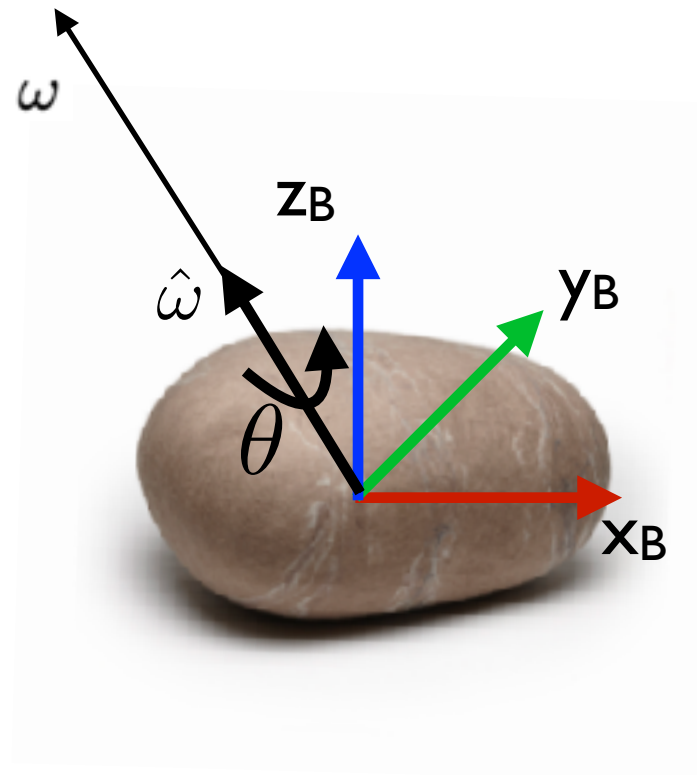
# Axis-angle

Every rotation can be defined by a (unitary) axis of rotation  $\omega$  and an angle of rotation  $\theta$  (instead of a composition of 3 rotations)



# Axis-angle

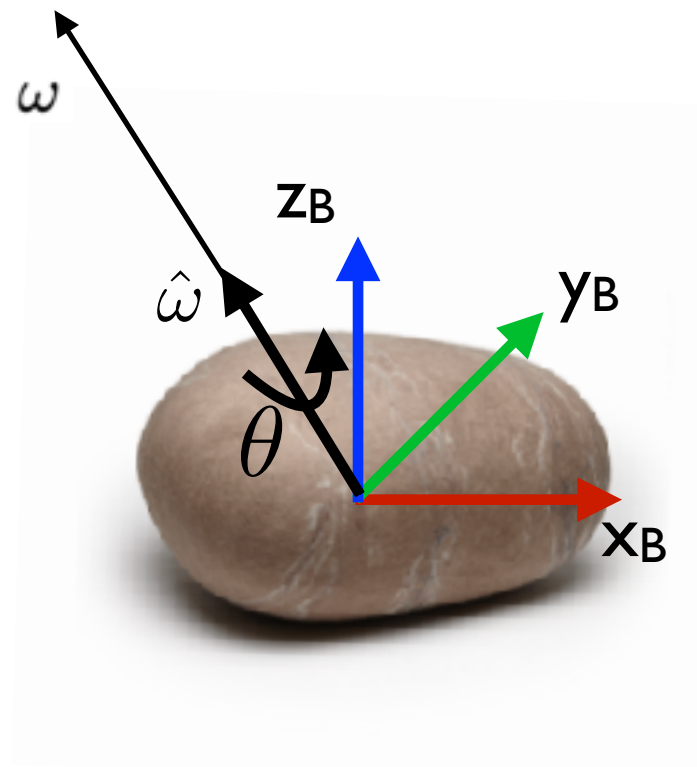
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How do we find the associated rotation matrix?

# Axis-angle

Every rotation can be defined by a (unitary) axis of rotation  $\omega$  and an angle of rotation  $\theta$  (instead of a composition of 3 rotations)



How do we find the associated rotation matrix?

**Singularity at 0 (for 0 angle, any axis of rotation can be chosen)**  
**But velocities are well-defined (no loss of degrees of freedom)**

# Cross products

$$a \times b = \begin{bmatrix} a_x \\ a_y \\ a_z \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_y b_z - a_z b_y \\ a_z b_x - a_x b_z \\ a_x b_y - a_y b_x \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$a \times b = ||a|| \cdot ||b|| \cdot \hat{n} \cdot \sin \theta$$

Notation:  $[a] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$a \times b = [a]b$$

# Cross products: properties

$$a \times a = 0$$

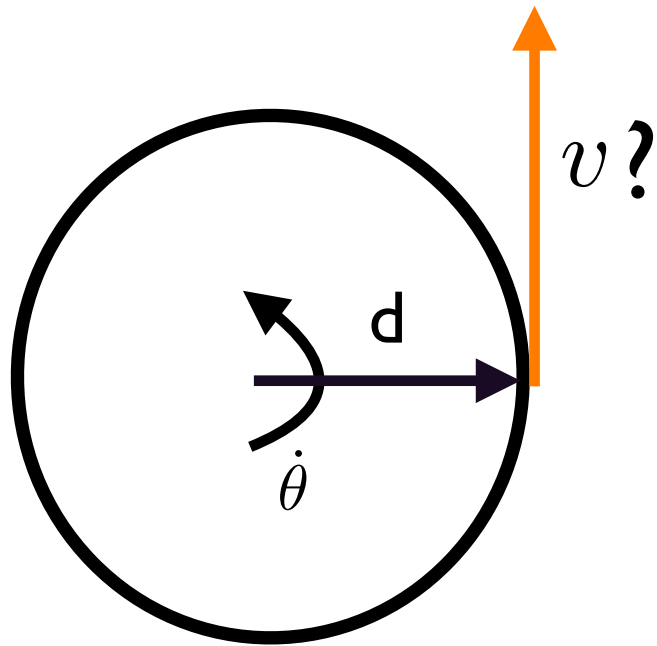
$$a \times b = -b \times a$$

$$a \times (b + c) = (a \times b) + (a \times c)$$

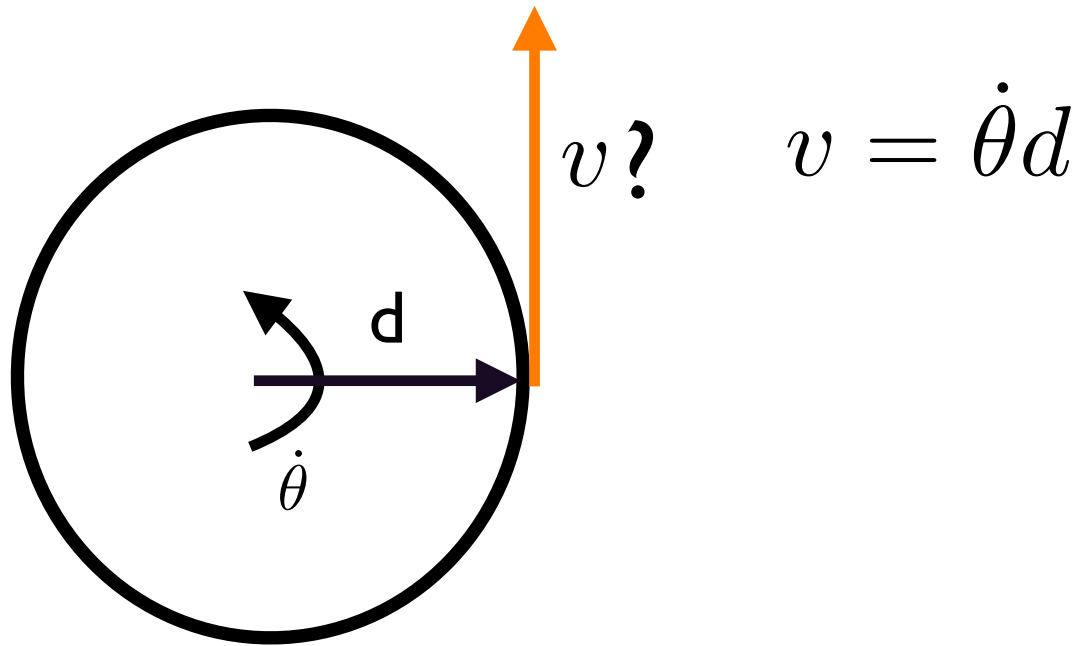
$$(ra) \times b = r(a \times b) \quad \text{where } r \text{ is a scalar}$$

$$a \times (b \times c) + b \times (c \times a) + c \times (a \times b) = 0 \quad \text{Jacobi identity}$$

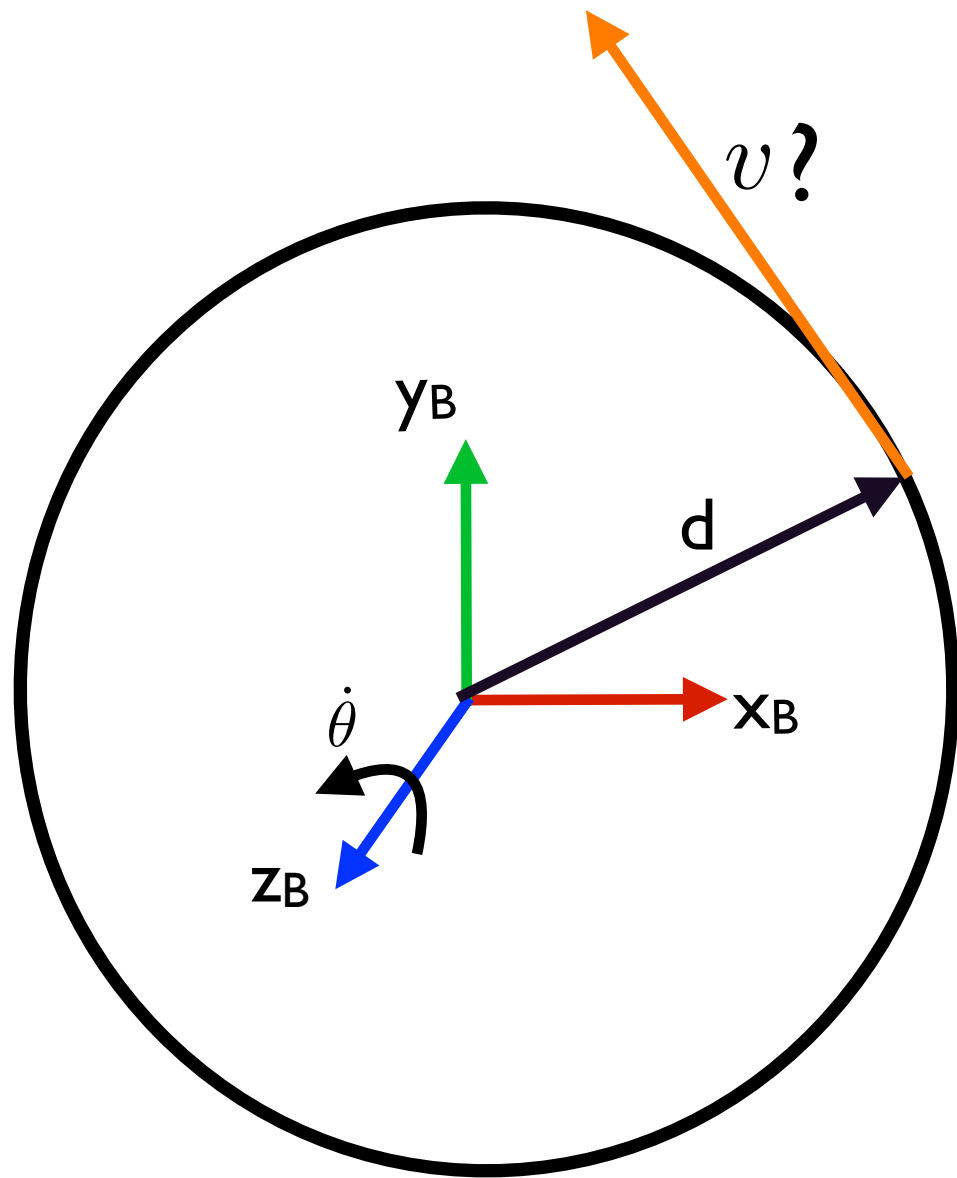
# Angular velocities



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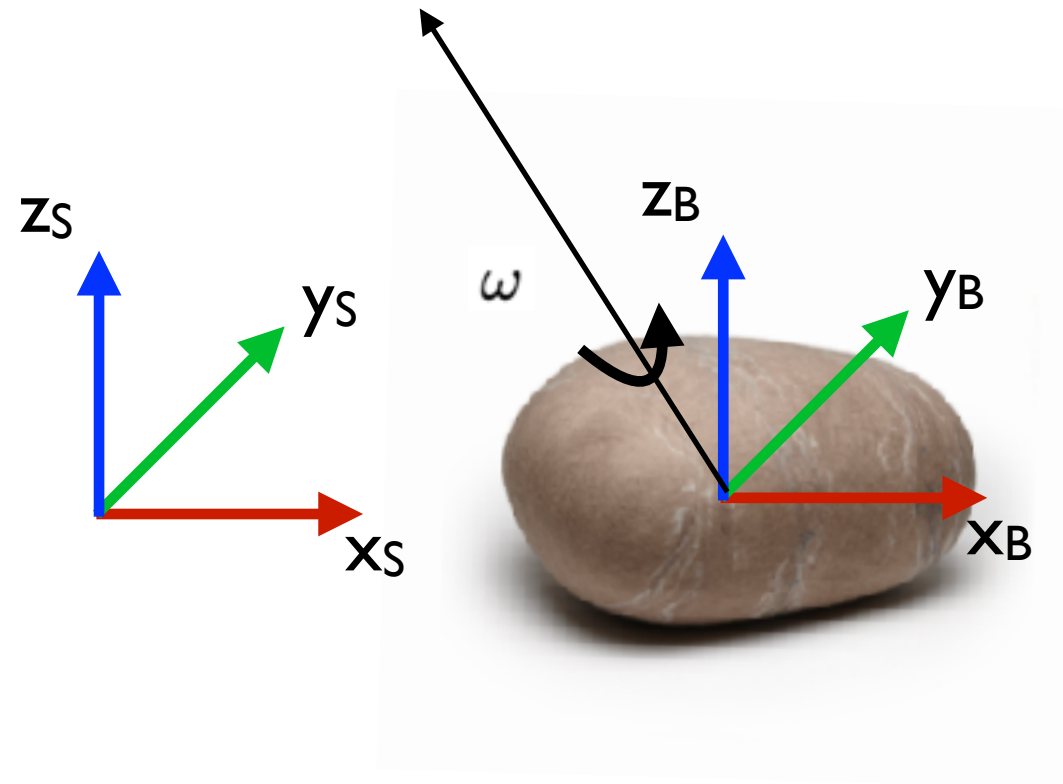


# Angular velocities





# Angular velocity of a rigid body



# Recap: linear differential equations

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$$\dot{x} = ax \quad \text{has for solution } x(t) = e^{at}x_0$$

We have the same for systems of linear equations with matrices:

$$\dot{x} = Ax \quad \text{with } x(t=0) = x_0$$

has for solution

$$x(t) = e^{At}x_0$$

# Exponential of a matrix

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$$e^{\text{diag}(a_i)} = \text{diag}(e^{a_i})$$