

# Advanced Robotics

ENGG5402 Spring 2023



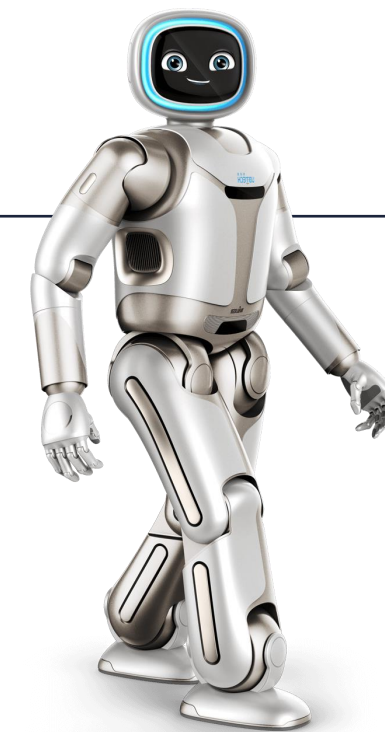
Fei Chen

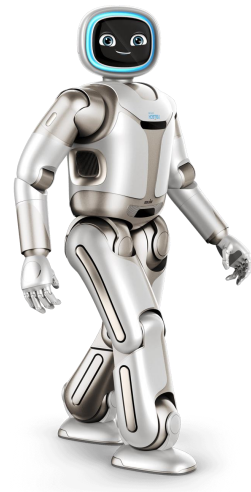
Topics:

- Position and Orientation of Rigid Bodies

Readings:

- Siciliano: Sec. 2.1-2.6, 2.10



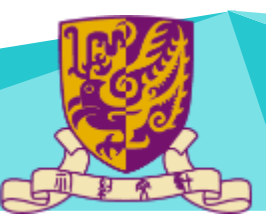


# Outline

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## Position and Orientation of Rigid bodies

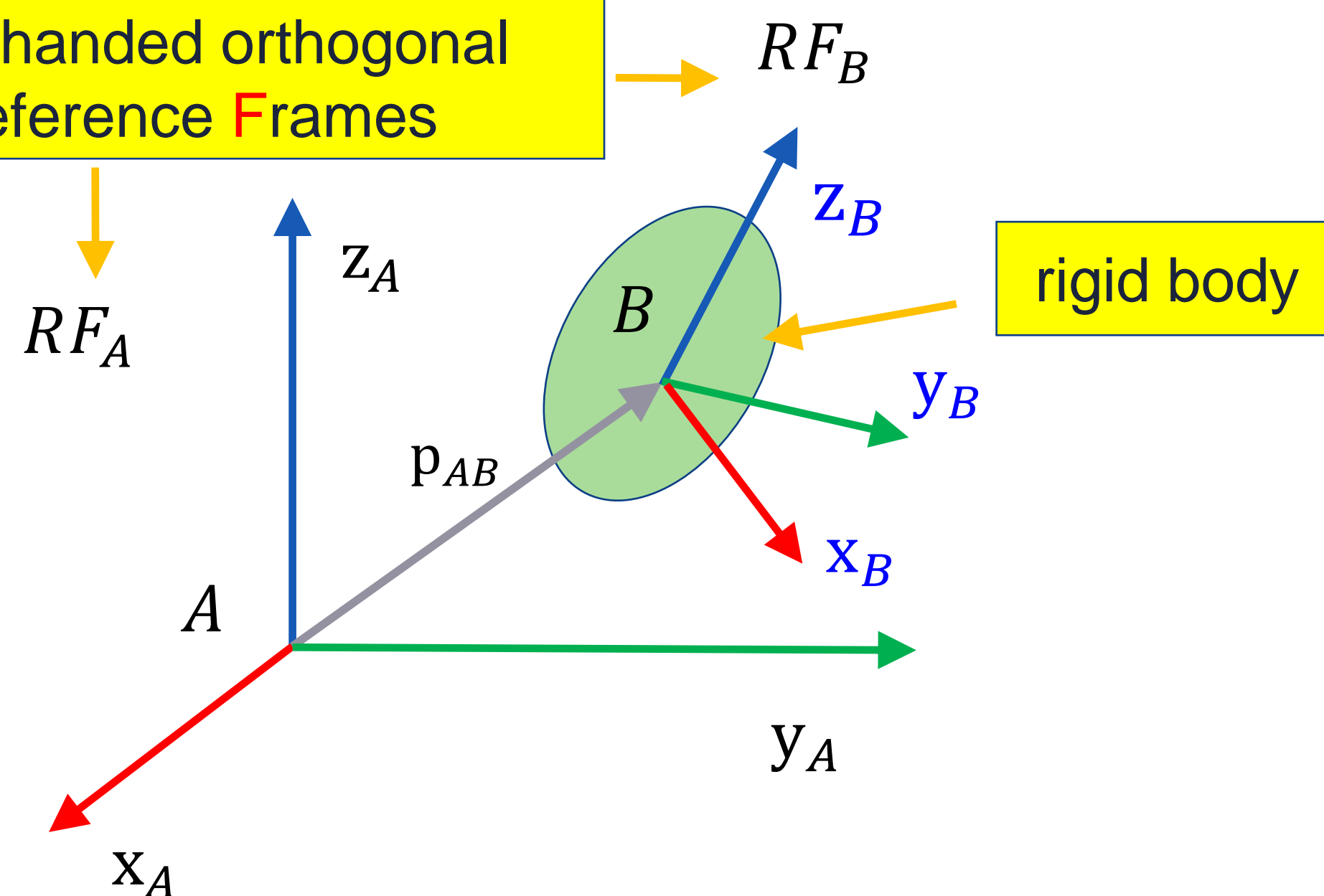
- Basic Definitions





# Position and Orientation

right-handed orthogonal  
Reference Frames



- Position:  ${}^A\mathbf{p}_{AB}$  (vector  $\in \mathbb{R}^3$ )

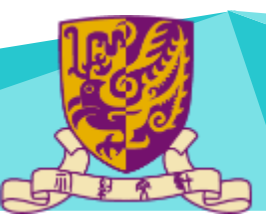
Cartesian coordinates of vector  
expressed in  $RF_A$

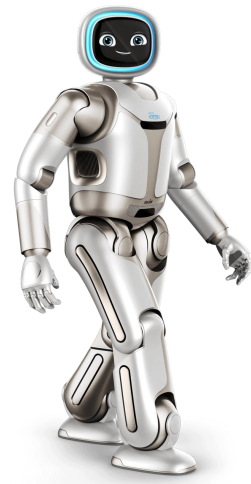
- Orientation:

Orthonormal (Orthogonal + Normal)  $3 \times 3$  matrix  
( $R^T = R^{-1} \Rightarrow R^T R = I$ ) with  
Determinant (a.k.a., det) = +1

$${}^A R_B = [ {}^A \mathbf{x}_B \quad {}^A \mathbf{y}_B \quad {}^A \mathbf{z}_B ]$$

- $\{\mathbf{x}_A, \mathbf{y}_A, \mathbf{z}_A\}, \{\mathbf{x}_B, \mathbf{y}_B, \mathbf{z}_B\}$  are axis vectors (of unitary norm) of frame  $RF_A$  and  $RF_B$
- Components in  ${}^A R_B$  are the **direction cosines** of the axes of  $RF_B$  with respect to  $RF_A$





# Rotation Matrix

orthonormal,  
with  $\det = +1$

$${}^A R_B = \begin{bmatrix} x_A^T x_B & x_A^T y_B & x_A^T z_B \\ y_A^T x_B & y_A^T y_B & y_A^T z_B \\ z_A^T x_B & z_A^T y_B & z_A^T z_B \end{bmatrix}$$

direction cosine of  $z_B$  w.r.t.  $x_A$

$$x_A^T z_B = \|x_A\| \|z_B\| \cos \beta$$

chain rule property

$${}^k R_i {}^i R_j = {}^k R_j$$

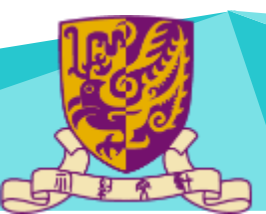
orientation of  $RF_i$ , w.r.t.  $RF_k$

orientation of  $RF_j$ , w.r.t.  $RF_i$

orientation of  $RF_j$ , w.r.t.  $RF_k$

algebraic structure of a group  $SO(3)$ :  
neutral element =  $I$ ,  
inverse element =  $R^T$

**NOTE:** in general, the product of rotation matrices does **not** commute!





# Rotation Matrix

orthonormal,  
with  $\det = +1$

$${}^A R_B = \begin{bmatrix} x_A^T x_B & x_A^T y_B & x_A^T z_B \\ y_A^T x_B & y_A^T y_B & y_A^T z_B \\ z_A^T x_B & z_A^T y_B & z_A^T z_B \end{bmatrix}$$

direction cosine of  $z_B$  w.r.t.  $x_A$

$$x_A^T z_B = \|x_A\| \|z_B\| \cos \beta$$

chain rule property

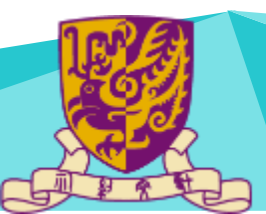
$${}^k R_i \cdot {}^i R_j = {}^k R_j$$

orientation of  $RF_i$ , w.r.t.  $RF_k$

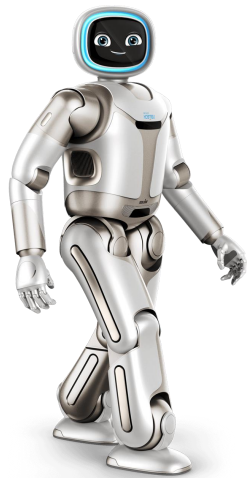
orientation of  $RF_j$ , w.r.t.  $RF_i$

orientation of  $RF_j$ , w.r.t.  $RF_k$

**NOTE:** in general, the product of rotation matrices does **not** commute!

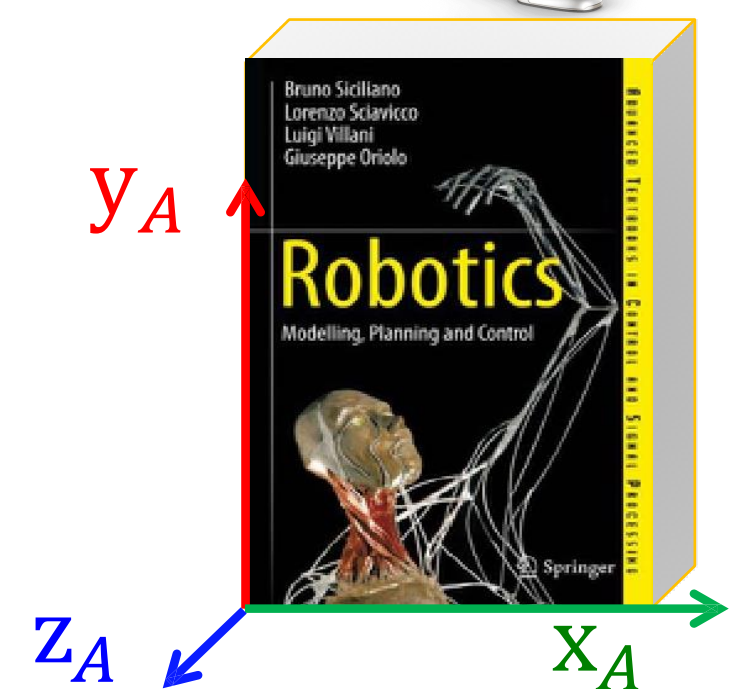




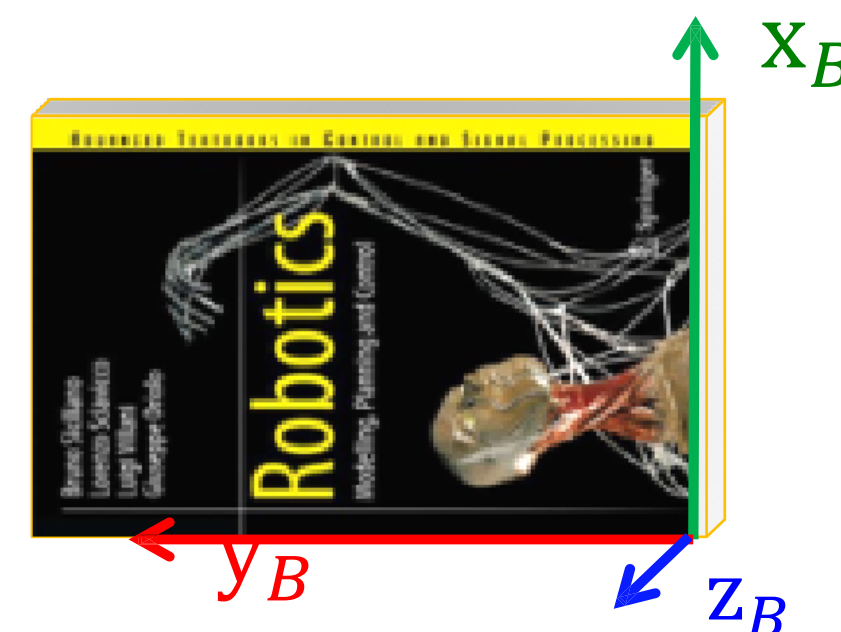


# Orientation of a rigid body

A simple example



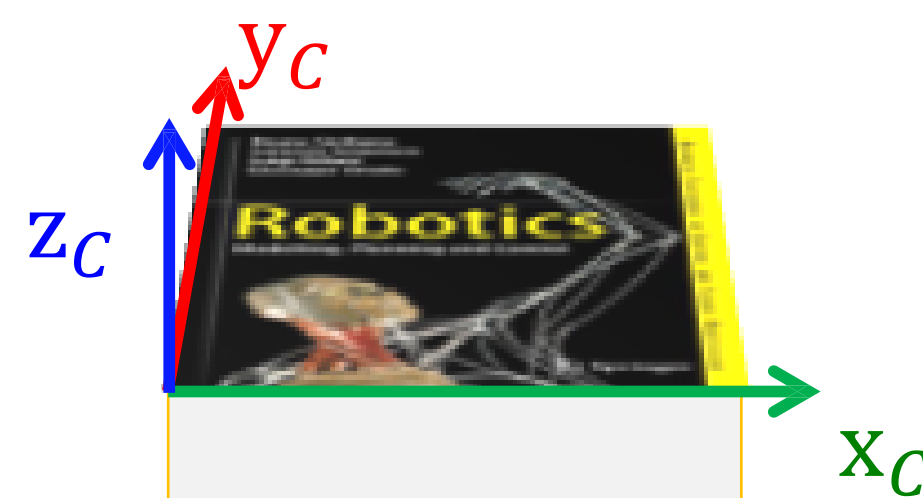
90° around  
z-axis



$${}^B R_A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = {}^A R_B^T$$

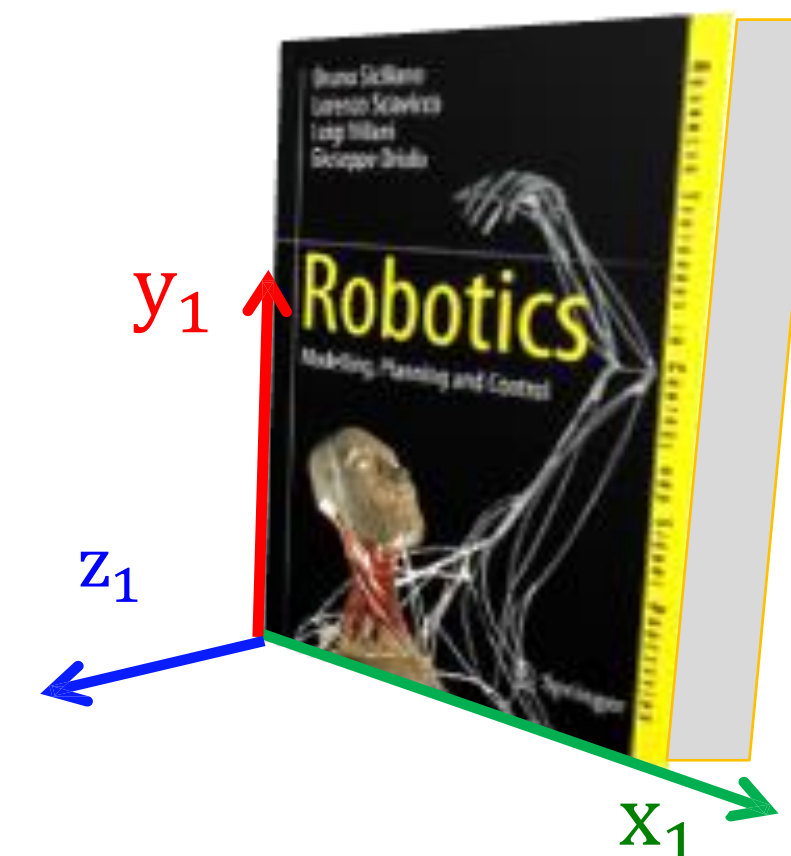
$${}^A R_B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

-90° around  
x-axis



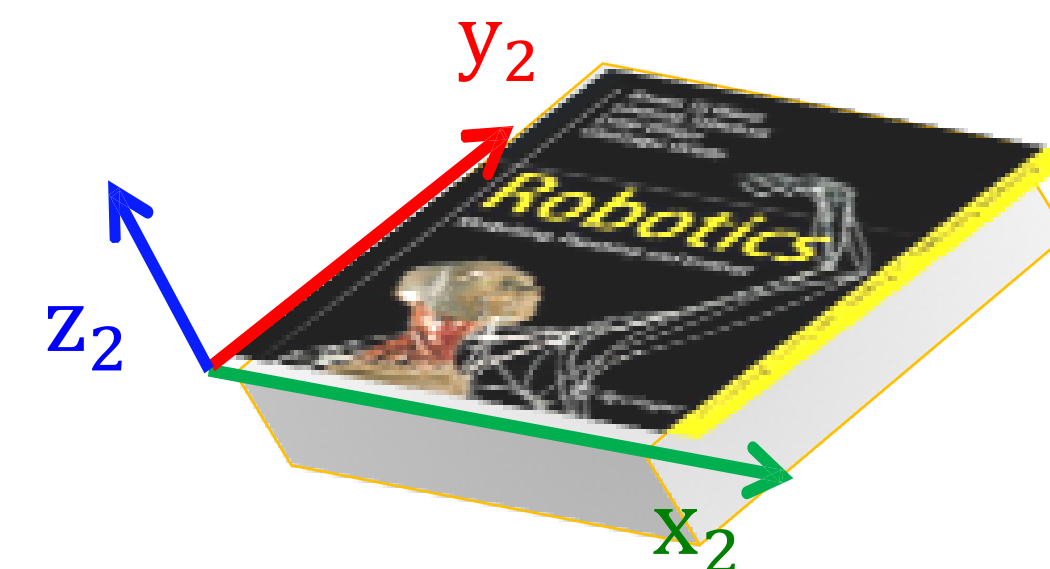
$${}^B R_C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = {}^B R_A {}^A R_C = {}^A R_B^T {}^A R_C$$

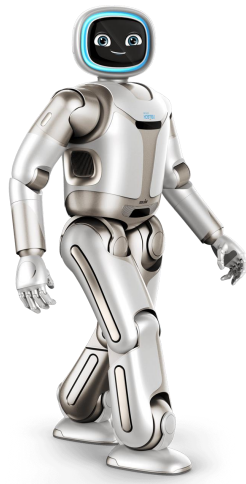
$${}^A R_C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



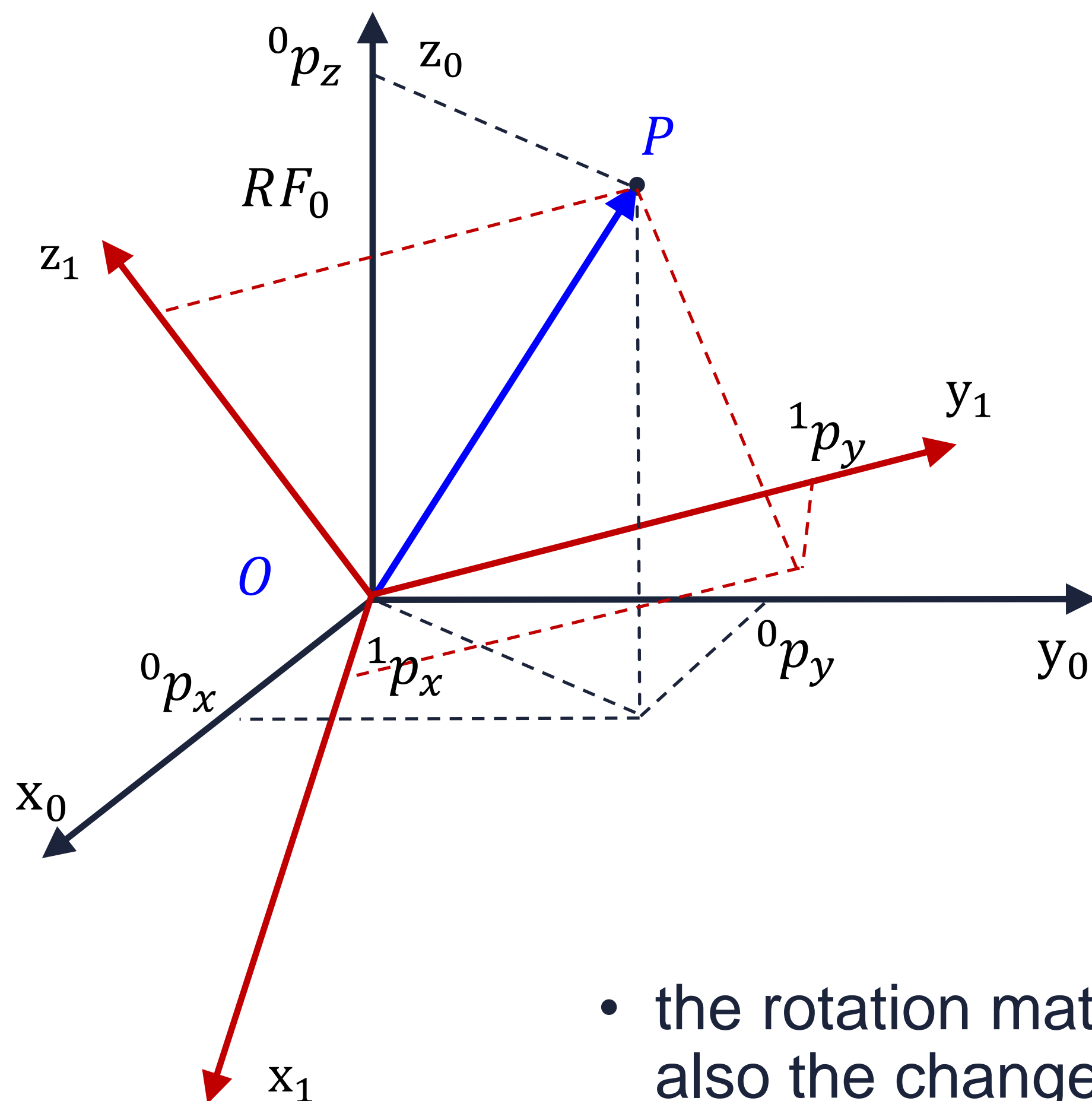
${}^A R_1 = ?$

${}^A R_2 = ?$





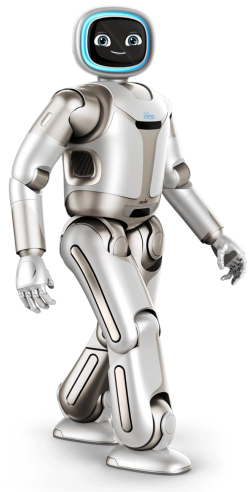
# Change of Coordinates



$$\begin{aligned}
 {}^0\mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} {}^0p_x \\ {}^0p_y \\ {}^0p_z \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{matrix} (1\ 0\ 0)^T \\ \downarrow \\ {}^0p_x \end{matrix} {}^0\mathbf{x}_0 + \begin{matrix} (0\ 1\ 0)^T \\ \downarrow \\ {}^0p_y \end{matrix} {}^0\mathbf{y}_0 + \begin{matrix} (0\ 0\ 1)^T \\ \downarrow \\ {}^0p_z \end{matrix} {}^0\mathbf{z}_0 \\
 &= {}^1p_x {}^0\mathbf{x}_1 + {}^1p_y {}^0\mathbf{y}_1 + {}^1p_z {}^0\mathbf{z}_1 \\
 &= [{}^0\mathbf{x}_1 \quad {}^0\mathbf{y}_1 \quad {}^0\mathbf{z}_1] \begin{bmatrix} {}^1p_x \\ {}^1p_y \\ {}^1p_z \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{{}^0\mathbf{p} = {}^0R_1 {}^1\mathbf{p}}$$

- the rotation matrix  ${}^0R_1$  (i.e, the orientation of  $RF_1$  w.r.t.  $RF_0$ ) represents also the change of coordinates of a vector from  $RF_1$  to  $RF_0$



# Change of Coordinates

A simple example

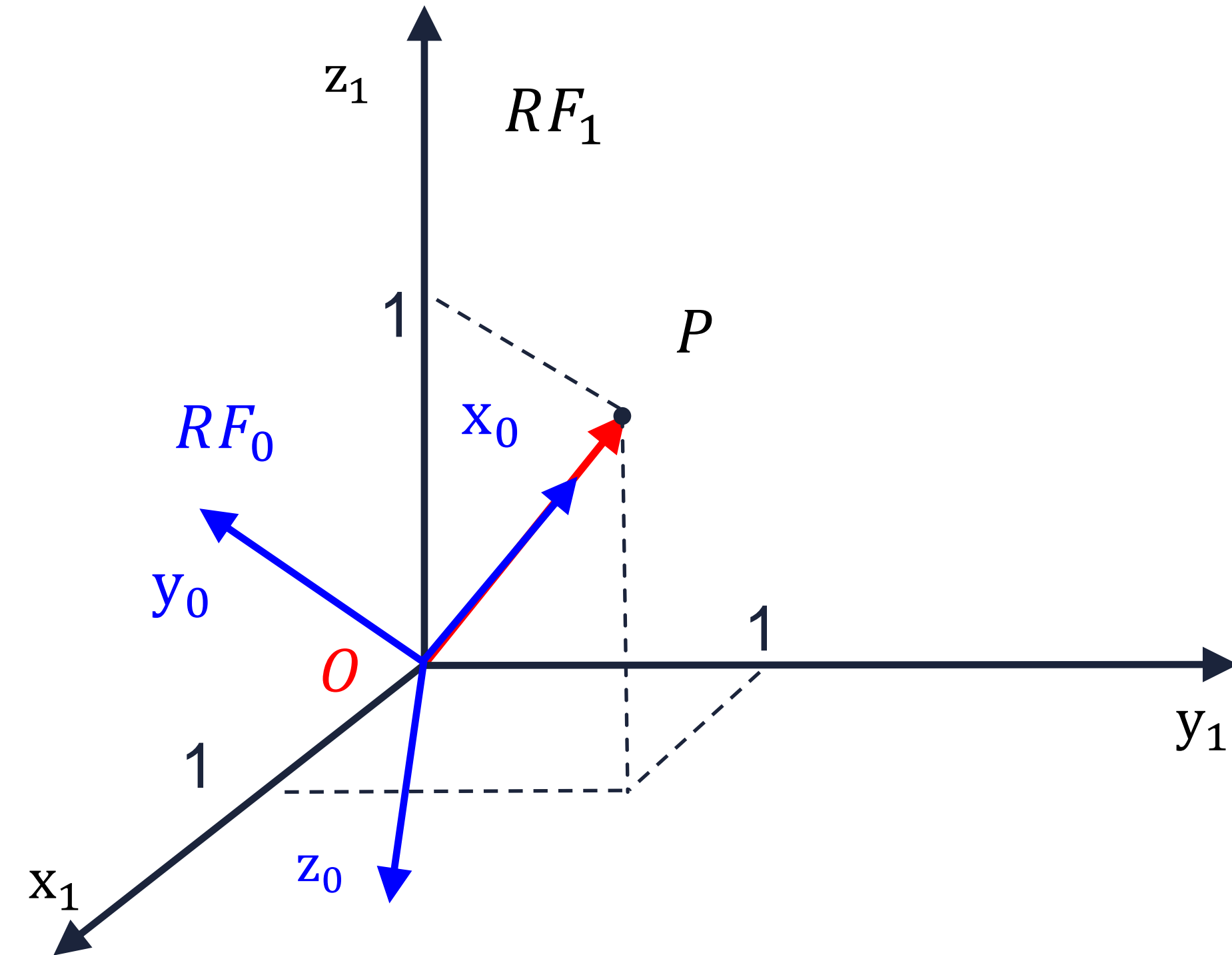
$${}^1\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$${}^0R_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{3} & 1/\sqrt{3} & 1/\sqrt{3} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & -2/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

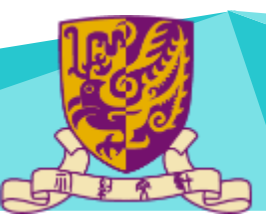
$${}^0\mathbf{p} = {}^0R_1 {}^1\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{3} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\|\mathbf{p}\| = \|{}^0\mathbf{p}\| = \|{}^1\mathbf{p}\| = \sqrt{3}$$

... and where is  $RF_0$  ?



- $\mathbf{x}_0$  is aligned with  $\mathbf{p} = \overrightarrow{OP}$
- $\mathbf{y}_0$  completes a right-handed frame
- $\mathbf{z}_0$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{y}_1$  ( $\mathbf{z}_0^T \mathbf{y}_1 = 0$ ) and is positive on  $\mathbf{x}_1$  ( $\mathbf{z}_0^T \mathbf{x}_1 = 1/\sqrt{2}$ )

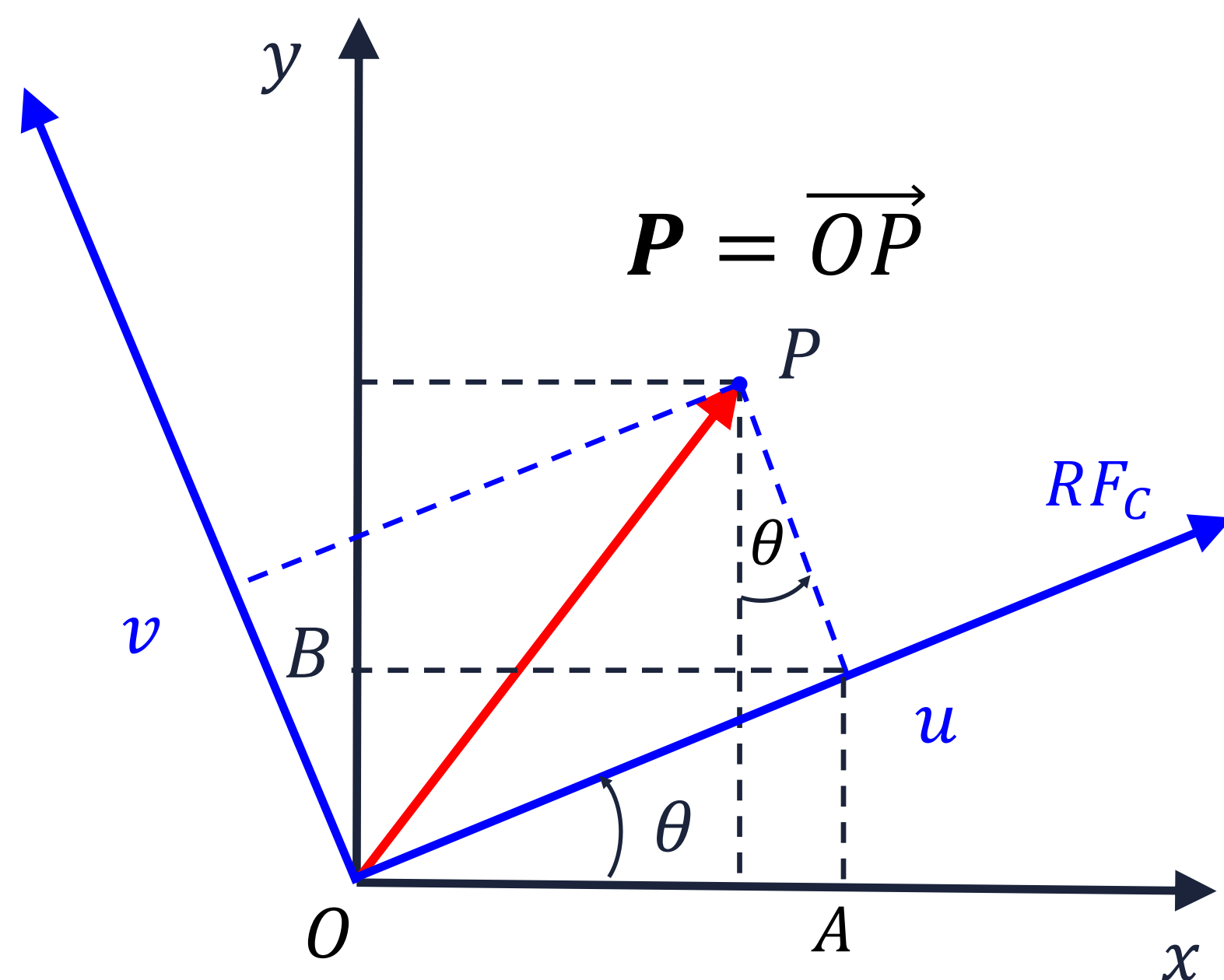






# Orientation of Frames

Orientation of frames in a plane  
(elementary rotation around z-axis as example)



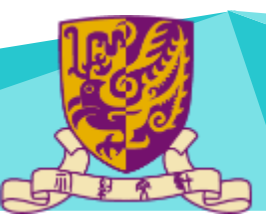
$${}^0\mathbf{p} \rightarrow \begin{aligned} x &= OA - xA = u \cos \theta - v \sin \theta \\ y &= OB + By = u \sin \theta + v \cos \theta \\ z &= w \end{aligned}$$

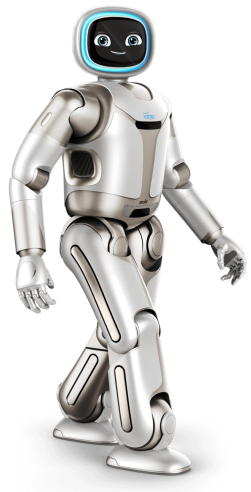
or...

$${}^0\mathbf{p} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{{}^0x_C}{\downarrow} \cos \theta & \overset{{}^0y_C}{\downarrow} -\sin \theta & \overset{{}^0z_C}{\downarrow} 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{bmatrix} = R_z(\theta) \overset{{}^C\mathbf{p}}{\downarrow} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{bmatrix}$$

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

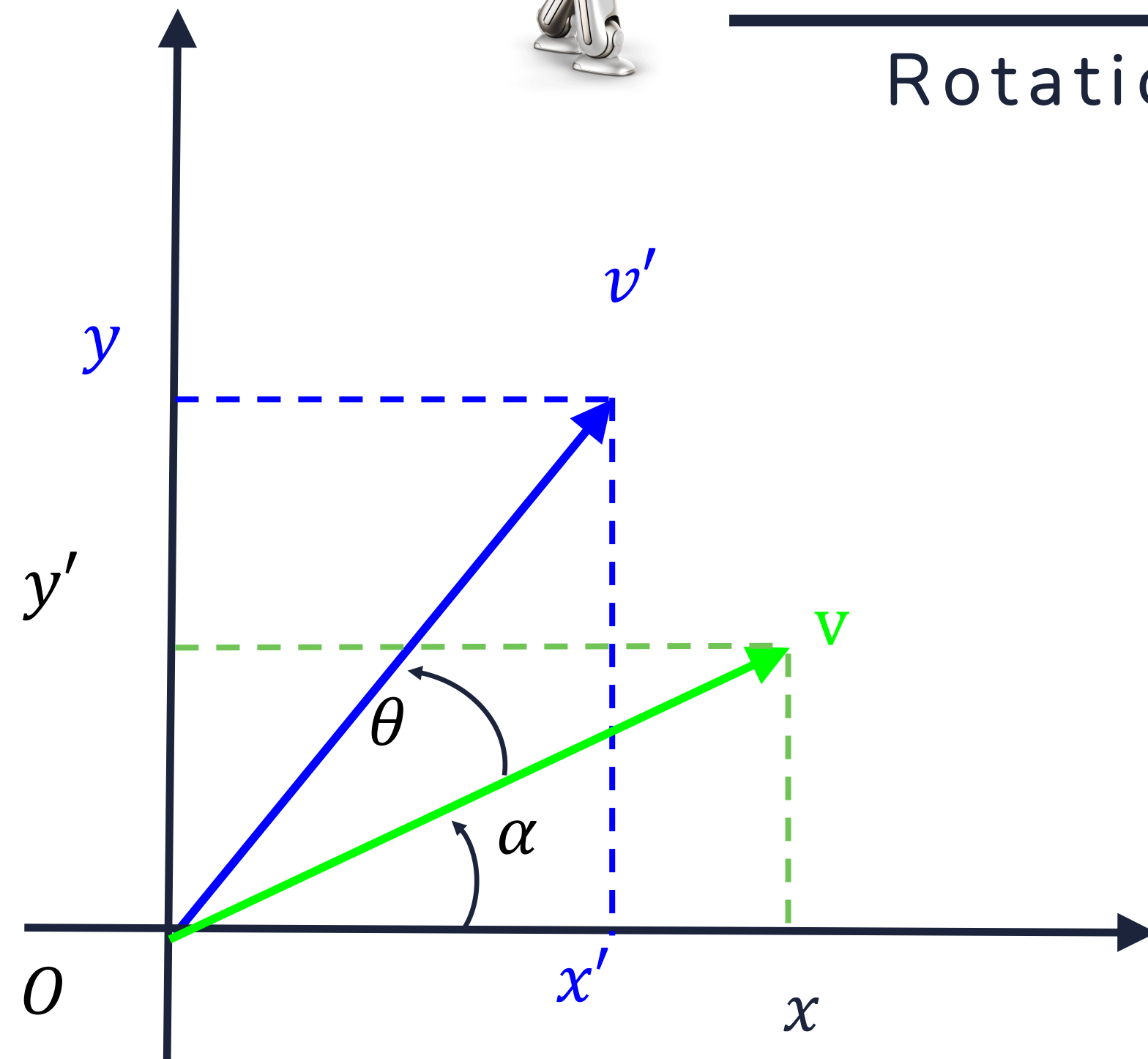
$$R_z(-\theta) = R_z^T(\theta)$$





# Rotation of a Vector

Rotation of a vector around  $z$  as an example



$$x = \|v\| \cos \alpha$$

$$y = \|v\| \sin \alpha$$

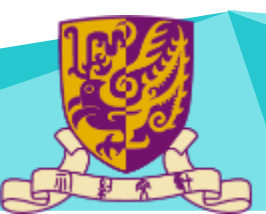
$$\begin{aligned} x' &= \|v\| \cos(\alpha + \theta) = \|v\|(\cos \alpha \cos \theta - \sin \alpha \sin \theta) \\ &= x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

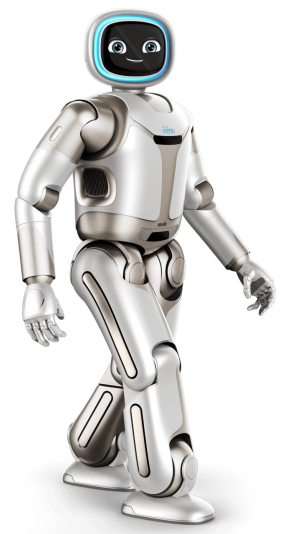
$$\begin{aligned} y' &= \|v\| \sin(\alpha + \theta) = \|v\|(\sin \alpha \cos \theta + \cos \alpha \sin \theta) \\ &= x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$z' = z$$

or...

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = R_z(\theta) \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \quad \dots \text{ same as before!}$$

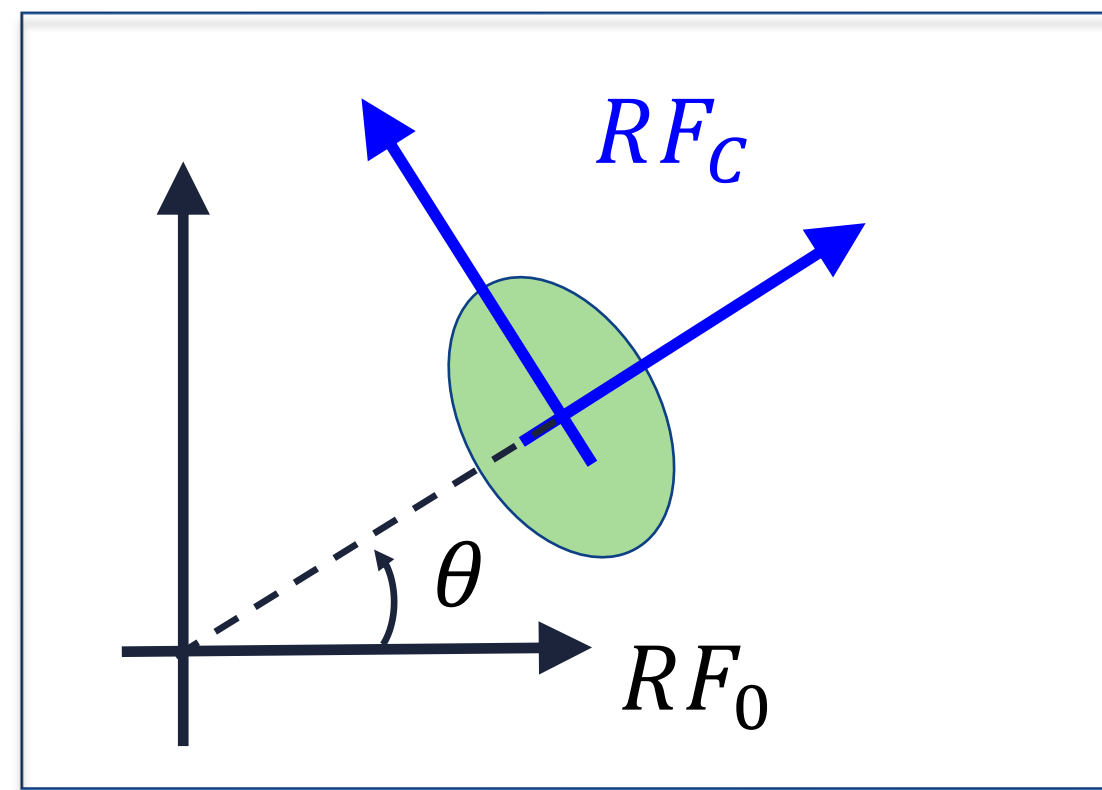




# Equivalent Interpretations !!

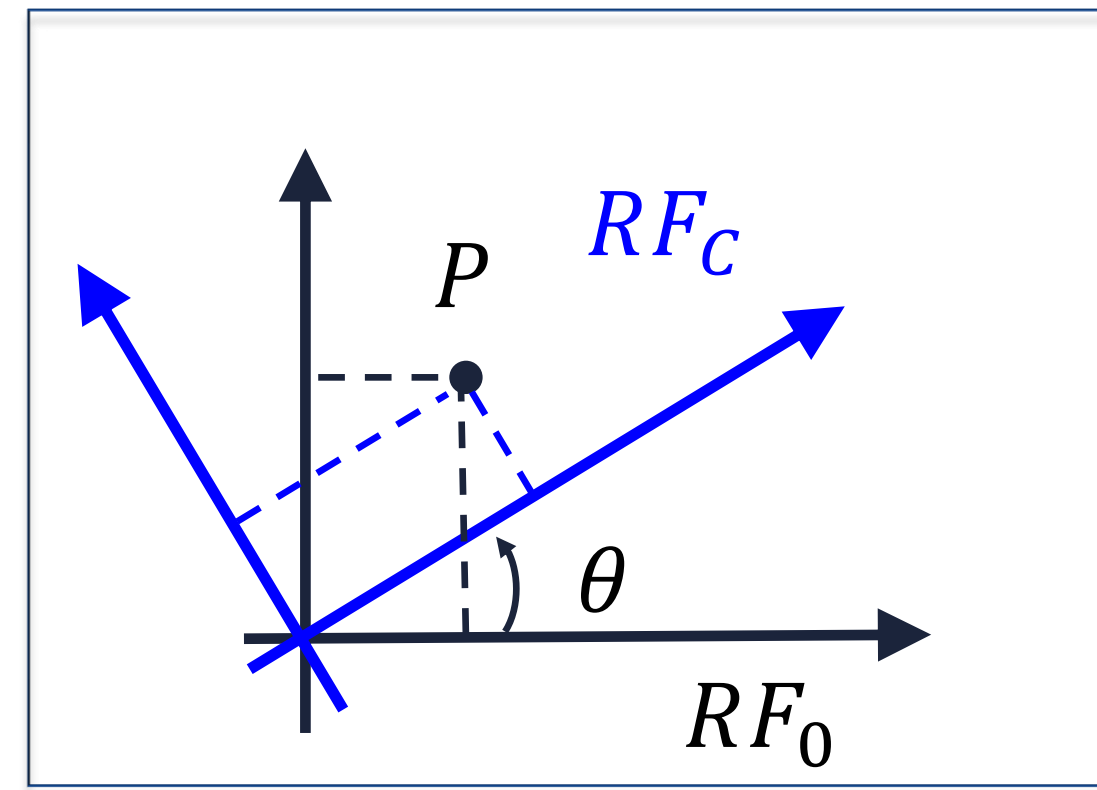
Equivalent interpretations of a rotation matrix

- the **same** rotation matrix (e.g.,  $R_Z(\theta)$ ) may represent



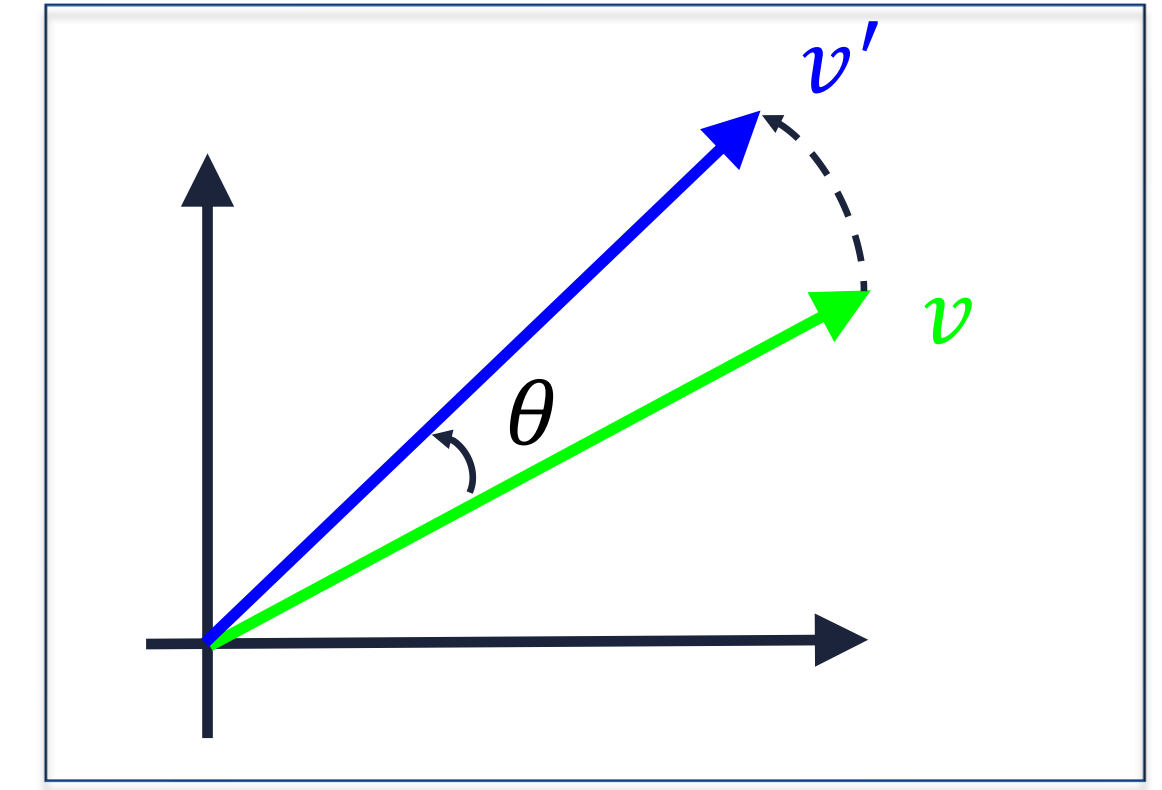
the orientation of a rigid body with respect to a reference frame  $RF_0$

$$\text{e.g., } [{}^0x_c \ {}^0y_c \ {}^0z_c] = R_Z(\theta)$$



the change of coordinates from  $RF_C$  to  $RF_0$

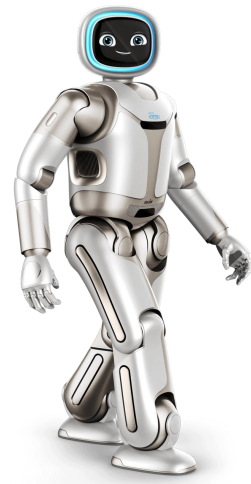
$$\text{e.g., } {}^0p = R_Z(\theta) {}^Cp$$



the rotation operator on vectors

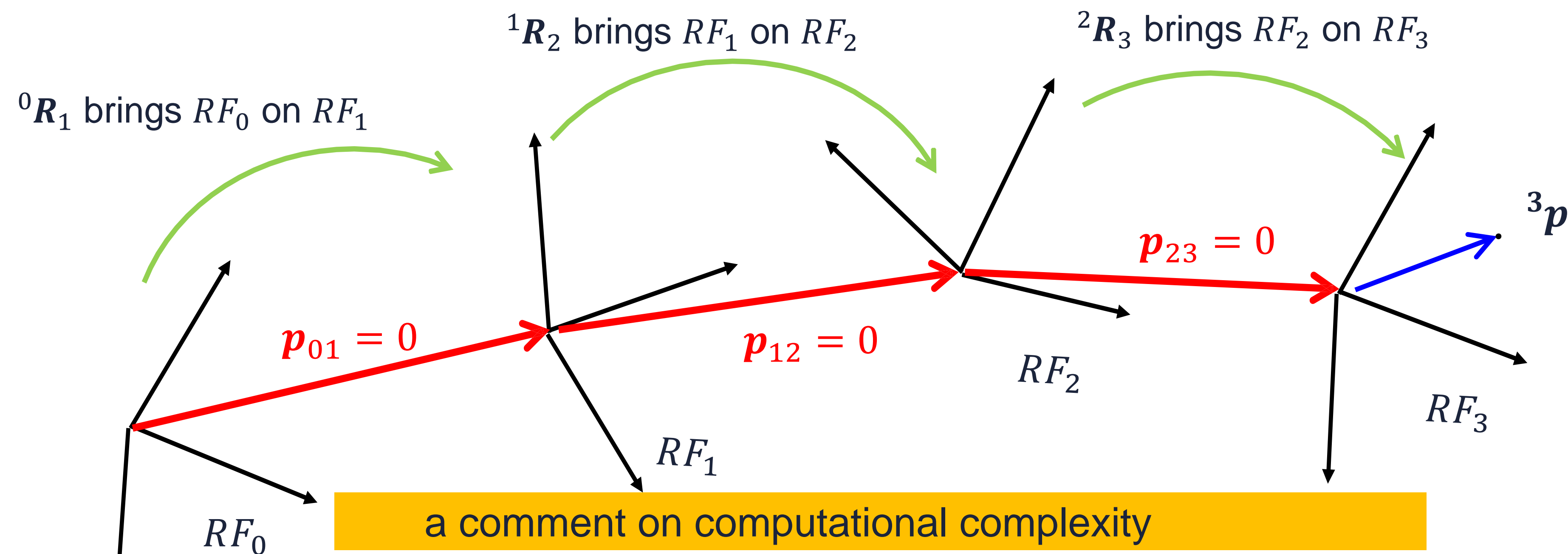
$$\text{e.g., } v' = R_Z(\theta)v$$

the rotation matrix  ${}^0R_C$  is an operator superposing frame  $RF_0$  to frame  $RF_C$



# Composition of Rotation

A small extension of knowledge



$${}^0p = ({}^0R_1 {}^1R_2 {}^2R_3) {}^3p = {}^0R_3 {}^3p$$

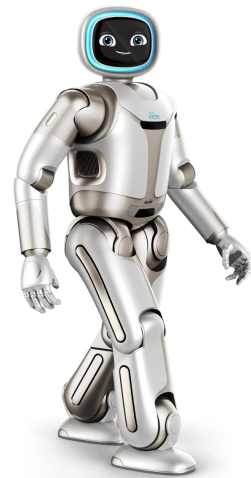
$${}^0p = {}^0R_1 ({}^1R_2 ({}^2R_3 {}^3p))$$

$$\underbrace{\underbrace{{}^2p}_{{}^1p}}_{{}^0p}$$

63 products 42 summations

27 products 18 summations





# Axis/angle Representation

## DATA

- axis  $\mathbf{r}$  (unit vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $\|\mathbf{r}\| = 1$ )
- angle  $\theta$ , positive **counterclockwise** (as seen from an “observer” oriented like  $\mathbf{r}$  with the **head placed on the arrow, looking down to her/his feet**)

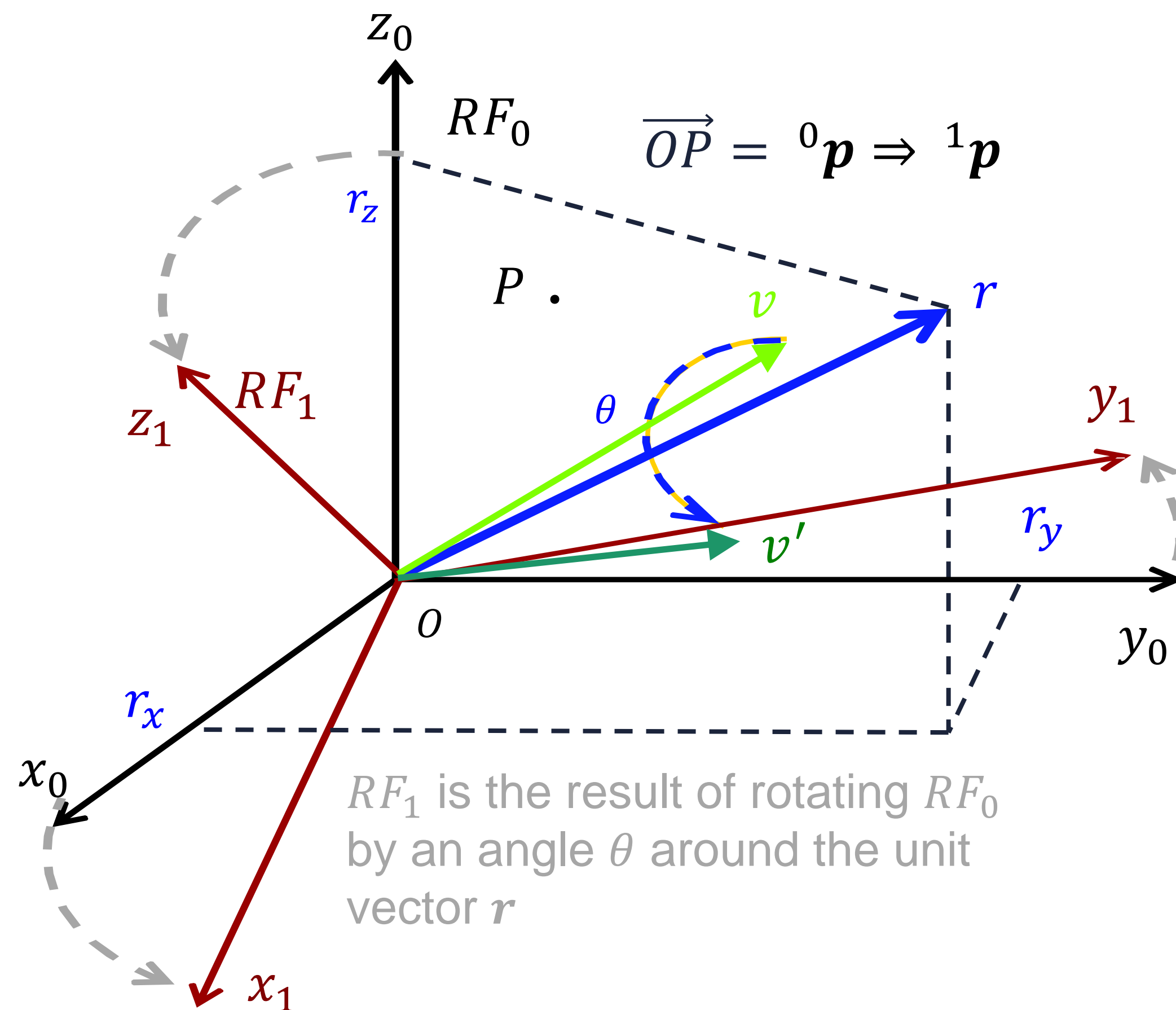
## DIRECT PROBLEM

find a rotation matrix  $R(\theta, \mathbf{r})$

$$R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) = [{}^0\mathbf{x}_1 \ {}^0\mathbf{y}_1 \ {}^0\mathbf{z}_1]$$

such that

$${}^0\mathbf{p} = R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) {}^1\mathbf{p} \quad {}^0\mathbf{v}' = R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) {}^0\mathbf{v}$$



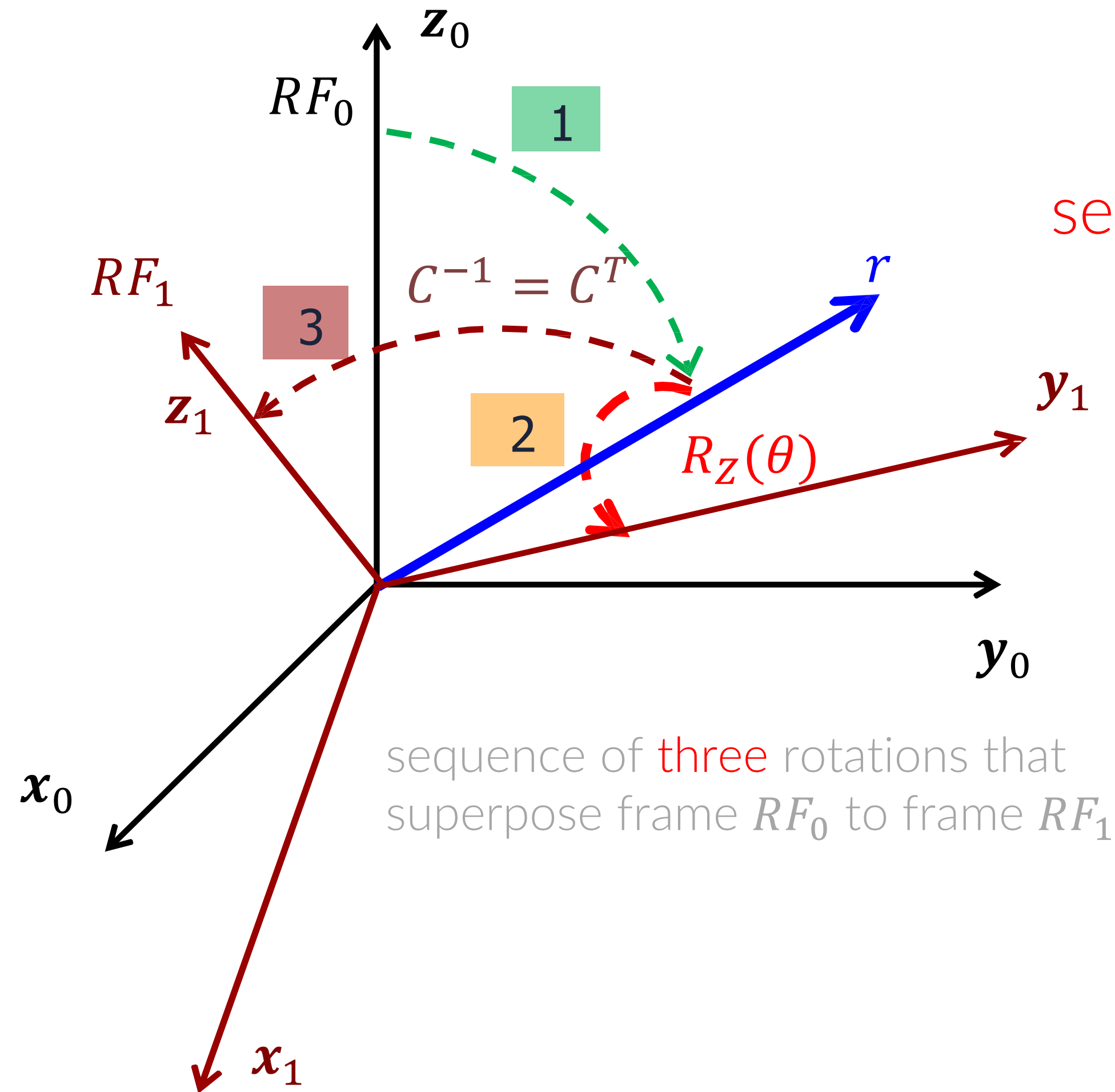


# Axis/angle Representation

Axis/angle: Direct problem

$$R(\theta, r) = CR_z(\theta)C^T$$

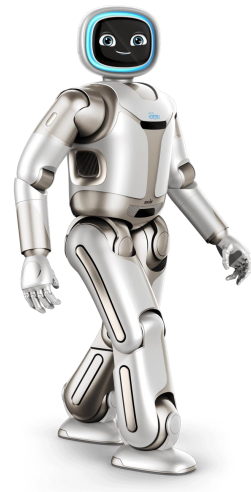
sequence of three rotations (one of which is elementary)



head placed after the first rotation  
the  $z$ -axis coincides with  $r$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} n & s & r \end{bmatrix}$$

$n$  and  $s$  are orthogonal unit  
vectors such that  $n \times s = r$



# Axis/angle Representation

Axis/angle: Direct problem (solution)

$$R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{C} R_z(\theta) \mathbf{C}^T$$

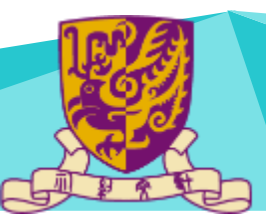
$$\begin{aligned} R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) &= [\mathbf{n} \quad \mathbf{s} \quad \mathbf{r}] \begin{bmatrix} c\theta & -s\theta & 0 \\ s\theta & c\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n}^T \\ \mathbf{s}^T \\ \mathbf{r}^T \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}^T + (\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^T + \mathbf{s}\mathbf{s}^T)^T c\theta + (\mathbf{s}\mathbf{n}^T - \mathbf{n}\mathbf{s}^T) s\theta \end{aligned}$$

taking into account (details in textbook):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^T &= \mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^T + \mathbf{s}\mathbf{s}^T + \mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}^T = \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{s}\mathbf{n}^T - \mathbf{n}\mathbf{s}^T &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -r_z & r_y \\ r_z & 0 & -r_x \\ -r_y & r_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{r}) \end{aligned}$$

depends only on  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\theta$  !

$$R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}^T + (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}^T) c\theta + \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{r}) s\theta$$





# Axis/angle Representation

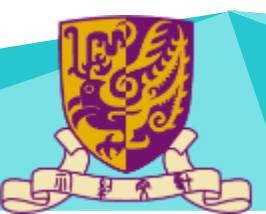
Final expression of  $R(\theta, \mathbf{r})$

developing computations...

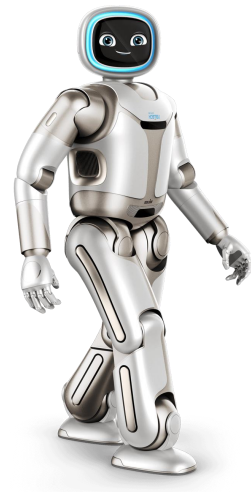
$$R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) = \begin{bmatrix} r_x^2(1 - \cos \theta) + \cos \theta & r_x r_y(1 - \cos \theta) - r_z \sin \theta & r_x r_z(1 - \cos \theta) + r_y \sin \theta \\ r_x r_y(1 - \cos \theta) + r_z \sin \theta & r_y^2(1 - \cos \theta) + \cos \theta & r_y r_z(1 - \cos \theta) - r_x \sin \theta \\ r_x r_z(1 - \cos \theta) - r_y \sin \theta & r_y r_z(1 - \cos \theta) + r_x \sin \theta & r_z^2(1 - \cos \theta) + \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

note that

$$R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) = R(-\theta, -\mathbf{r}) = R^T(-\theta, \mathbf{r})$$







# Axis/angle Representation

A simple example

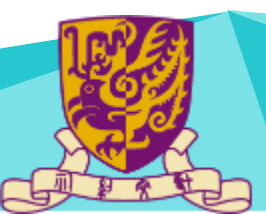
$$R(\theta, \mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}^T + (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{r}\mathbf{r}^T)c\theta + S(\mathbf{r})s\theta$$

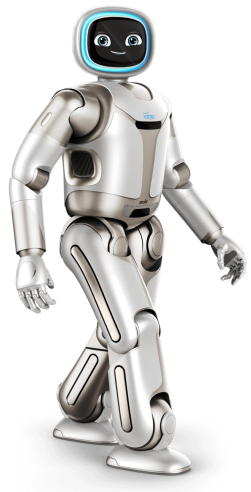
$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{z}_0$$

$$R(\theta, \mathbf{r})$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} c\theta + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} s\theta$$

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





# Axis/angle Representation

Axis/angle: Rodriguez formula

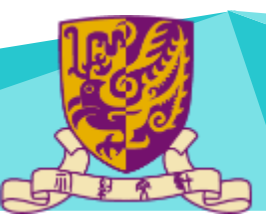
$$\boldsymbol{v}' = R(\theta, \boldsymbol{r})\boldsymbol{v}$$

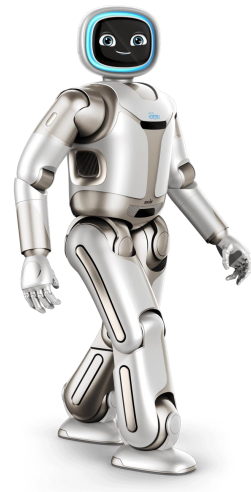
$$\boldsymbol{v}' = \boldsymbol{v} \cos \theta + (\boldsymbol{r} \times \boldsymbol{v}) \sin \theta + (1 - \cos \theta)(\boldsymbol{r}^T \boldsymbol{v})\boldsymbol{r}$$

proof

$$\begin{aligned} R(\theta, \boldsymbol{r})\boldsymbol{v} &= (\boldsymbol{r}\boldsymbol{r}^T + (\boldsymbol{I} - \boldsymbol{r}\boldsymbol{r}^T) \cos \theta + S(\boldsymbol{r}) \sin \theta)\boldsymbol{v} \\ &= \boldsymbol{r}\boldsymbol{r}^T \boldsymbol{v}(1 - \cos \theta) + \boldsymbol{v} \cos \theta + (\boldsymbol{r} \times \boldsymbol{v}) \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

q.e.d





# Axis/angle Representation

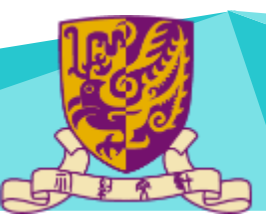
Properties of  $R(\theta, r)$

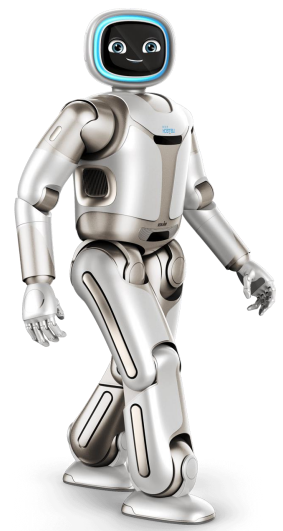
- $R(\theta, r)r = r$  ( $r$  is the **invariant** axis in this rotation)
- when  $r$  is one of the coordinate axes,  $R$  boils down to one of the known elementary rotation matrices
- $(\theta, r) \rightarrow R$  is **not** an **injective** map:  $R(\theta, r)r = R(-\theta, -r)r$
- $\det(R) = +1 = \prod_i \lambda_i$  (eigenvalues)
- $\text{tr}(R) = \text{tr}(rr^T) + (I - rr^T)c\theta = 1 + 2c\theta = \sum_i \lambda_i$

$$1. \Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 1$$

$$4. \ \& \ 5. \Rightarrow \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = 2c\theta \Rightarrow \lambda^2 - 2c\theta\lambda + 1 = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow \lambda_{2,3} = c\theta \pm \sqrt{c^2\theta^2 - 1} = c\theta \pm is\theta = e^{\pm i\theta}$$

all eigenvalues  $\lambda$  have unitary module ( $\Leftarrow R$  orthonormal)





# Axis/angle Representation

Axis/angle: Inverse problem

GIVEN a rotation matrix  $R$ ,  
FIND a unit vector  $r$  and an angle  $\theta$  such that

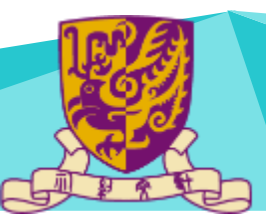
$$R = rr^T + (I - rr^T) \cos \theta + S(r) \sin \theta = R(\theta, r)$$

note first that  $\text{tr}(R) = R_{11} + R_{22} + R_{33} = 1 + 2 \cos \theta$ ; so, one **could** solve

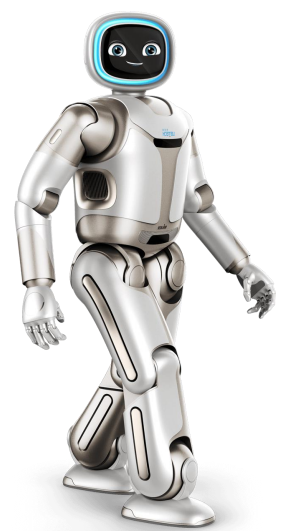
$$\theta = \arccos \frac{R_{11} + R_{22} + R_{33} - 1}{2}$$

**but**

- this formula provides only values in  $[0, \pi]$  (thus, never negative angles  $\theta$ )
- loss of numerical accuracy for  $\theta \rightarrow 0$  (sensitivity of  $\cos \theta$  is low around 0)







# Axis/angle Representation

Axis/angle: Inverse problem (solution)

from the **data**



from  $R(\theta, \mathbf{r})$

$$R - R^T = \begin{matrix} & \text{Skew-sym} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & R_{12} - R_{21} & R_{13} - R_{31} \\ R_{21} - R_{12} & 0 & R_{23} - R_{32} \\ R_{31} - R_{13} & R_{32} - R_{23} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} = 2 \sin \theta \begin{matrix} & \text{Skew-sym} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -r_z & r_y \\ r_z & 0 & -r_x \\ -r_y & r_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

it follows  $\|\mathbf{r}\| = 1 \Rightarrow \sin \theta = \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(R_{12} - R_{21})^2 + (R_{13} - R_{31})^2 + (R_{23} - R_{32})^2}$  (\*)

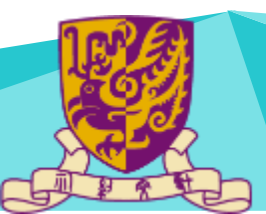
thus  $\theta = \text{atan2} \left\{ \pm \sqrt{(R_{12} - R_{21})^2 + (R_{13} - R_{31})^2 + (R_{23} - R_{32})^2}, R_{11} + R_{22} + R_{33} - 1 \right\}$  (\*\*)

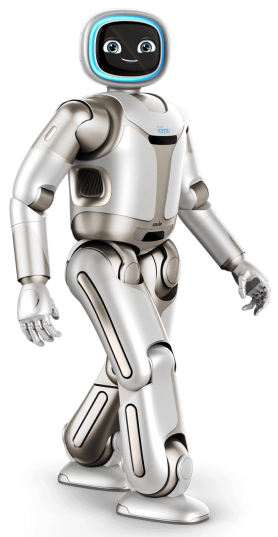
↑  
see next side

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{bmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \\ r_z \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2 \sin \theta} \begin{bmatrix} R_{32} - R_{23} \\ R_{13} - R_{31} \\ R_{21} - R_{12} \end{bmatrix}$$

can be used only if  $\sin \theta \neq 0$

this is made on (\*) using the data  $\{R_{ij}\}$



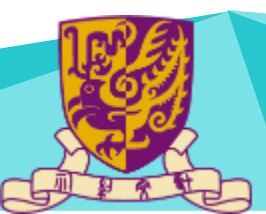


# Axis/angle Representation

atan2 function

- arctangent with output values “in the four quadrants”
  - two input arguments
  - takes values in  $[-\pi, \pi]$
  - undefined only for (0,0)
- uses the sign of both arguments to define the output quadrant
- based on **arctan** function with output values in  $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, +\frac{\pi}{2}]$
- available in main languages (C++, Matlab, ...)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{atan2}(y, x) \\ = & \begin{cases} \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) & x > 0 \\ \pi + \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) & y \geq 0, x < 0 \\ -\pi + \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) & y < 0, x < 0 \\ \frac{\pi}{2} & y > 0, x = 0 \\ -\frac{\pi}{2} & y < 0, x = 0 \\ \text{undefined} & y = 0, x = 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$





# Unit Quaternion

- to eliminate non-uniqueness and singular cases of the axis/angle  $(\theta, r)$  representation, the **unit quaternion** can be used

$$Q = \{\eta, \epsilon\} = \{\cos(\theta/2), \sin(\theta/2)r\}$$

a scalar

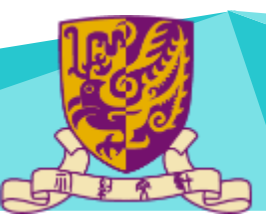
3-dim vector

- $\eta^2 + \|\epsilon\|^2 = 1$  (thus, “unit...”)
- $(\theta, r)$  and  $(-\theta, -r)$  are associated to the **same** quaternion  $Q$
- the **rotation** matrix  $R$  associated to a given quaternion  $Q$  is

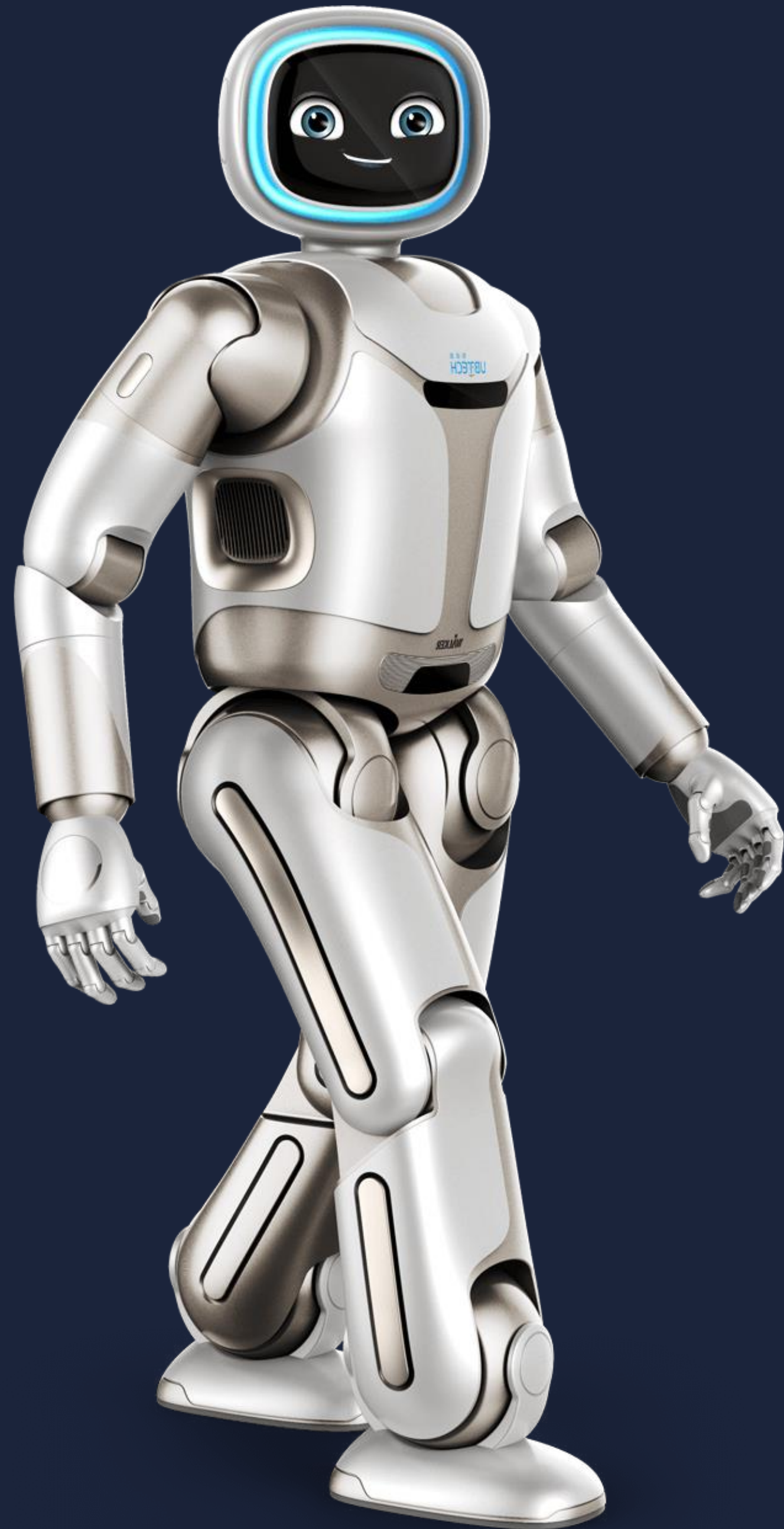
$$R(\eta, \epsilon) = \begin{bmatrix} 2(\eta^2 + \epsilon_x^2) - 1 & 2(\epsilon_x \epsilon_y - \eta \epsilon_z) & 2(\epsilon_x \epsilon_z + \eta \epsilon_y) \\ 2(\epsilon_x \epsilon_y + \eta \epsilon_z) & 2(\eta^2 + \epsilon_y^2) - 1 & 2(\epsilon_y \epsilon_z - \eta \epsilon_x) \\ 2(\epsilon_x \epsilon_z - \eta \epsilon_y) & 2(\epsilon_y \epsilon_z + \eta \epsilon_x) & 2(\eta^2 + \epsilon_z^2) - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- no** rotation is  $Q = \{1, 0\}$ , while the **inverse** rotation is  $Q = \{\eta, -\epsilon\}$
- unit quaternions are **composed** with special rules

$$Q_1 * Q_2 = \{\eta_1 \eta_2 - \epsilon_1^T \epsilon_2, \eta_1 \epsilon_2 + \eta_2 \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_1 \times \epsilon_2\}$$







Q&A