

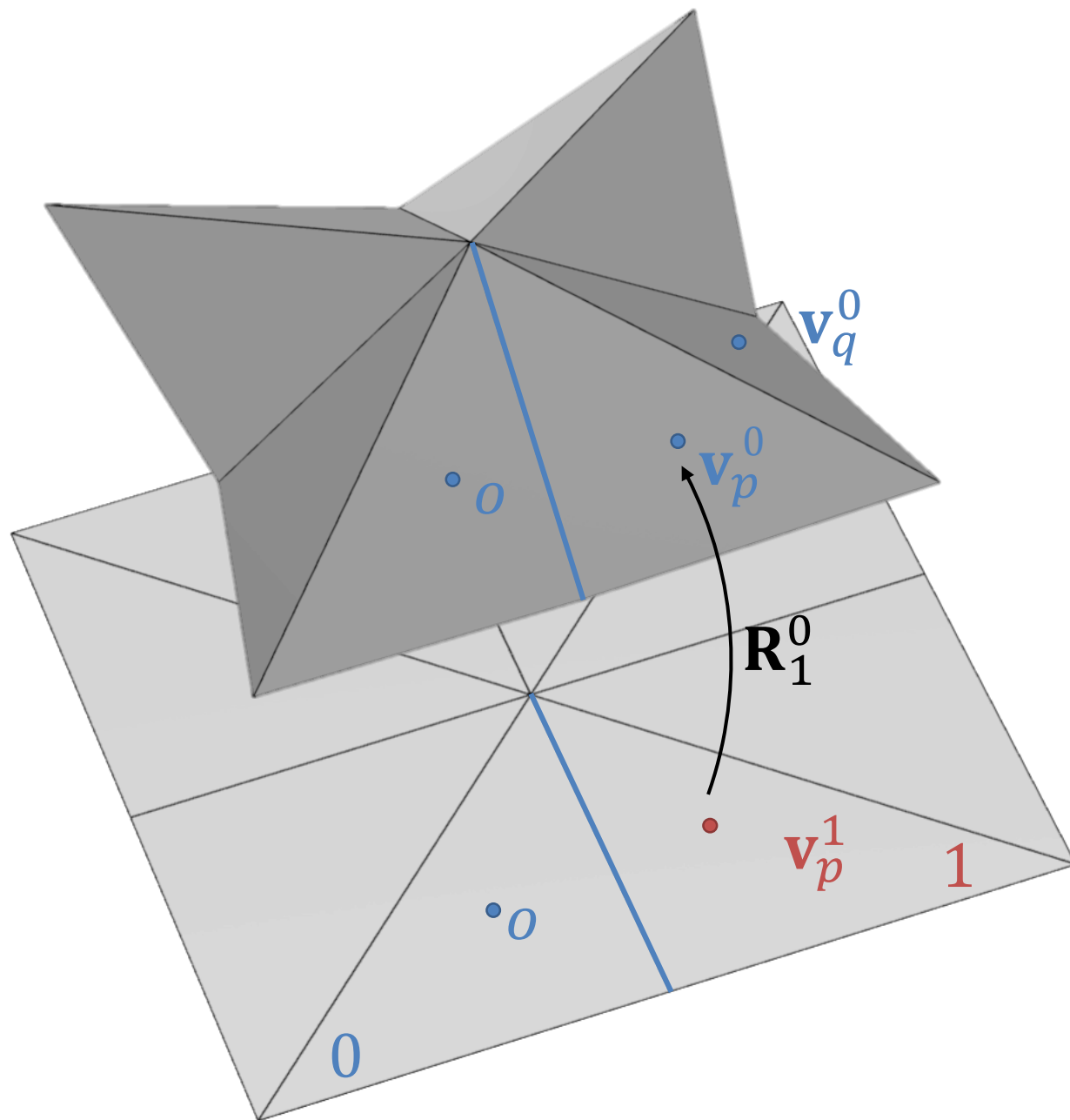
# **MEAM 520**

# **Lecture 5: Forward Kinematics**

Cynthia Sung, Ph.D.

Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics

University of Pennsylvania



$$\mathbf{v}_p^0 = \mathbf{R}_1^0 \mathbf{v}_p^1$$

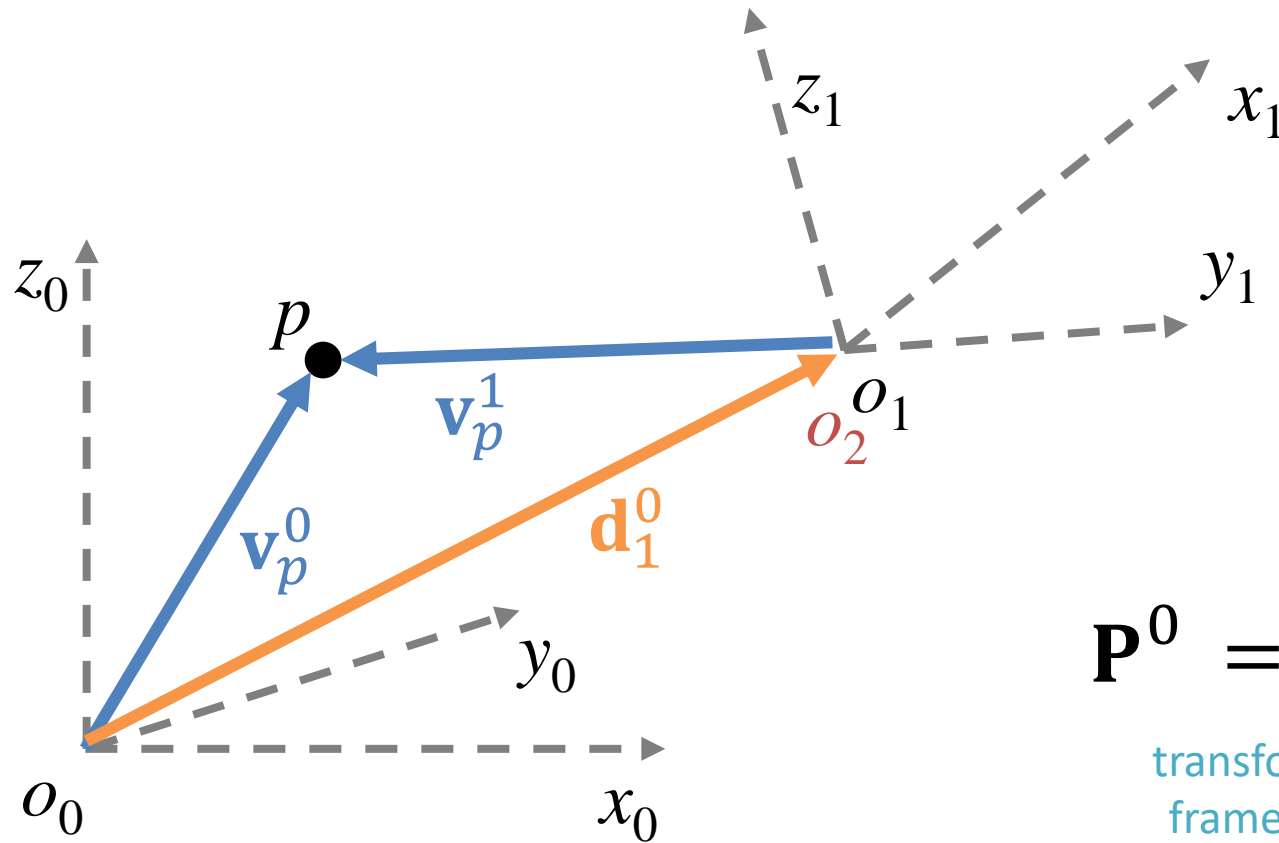
$$\mathbf{R}_1^0 = [\hat{x}_1^0 \quad \hat{y}_1^0 \quad \hat{z}_1^0] = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_0^1 \\ \hat{y}_0^1 \\ \hat{z}_0^1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Representations:  
Euler Angles  
Yaw/Pitch/Roll  
Axis-Angle

# Last Time: Rigid Motions

combine pure **rotation** and pure **translation**

$$\mathbf{v}_p^0 = \mathbf{R}_1^0 \mathbf{v}_p^1 + \mathbf{d}_1^0$$

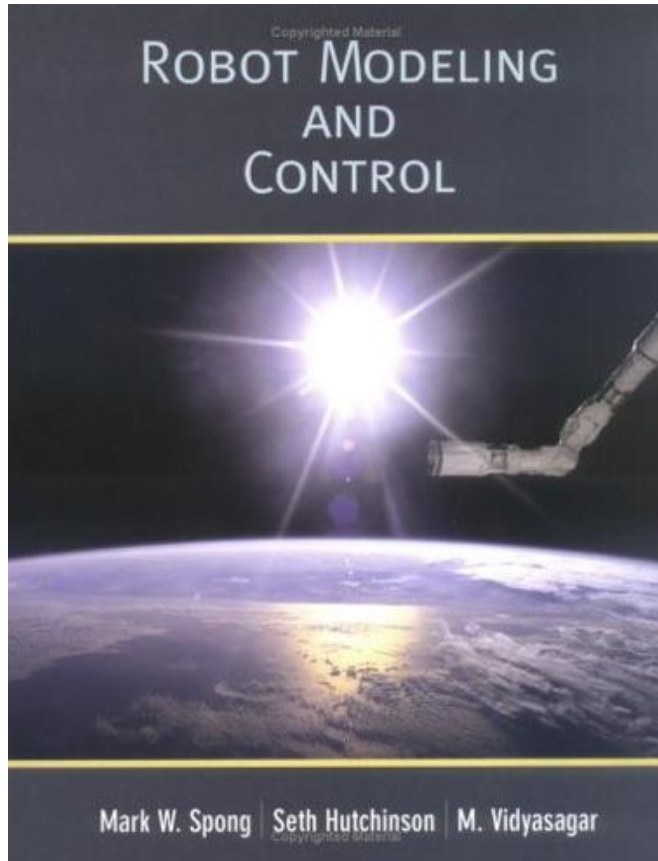


$$\mathbf{P}^0 = \mathbf{H}_1^0 \mathbf{P}^1 =$$

transformation from  
frame 1 to frame 0

$$\begin{bmatrix} n_x & s_x & a_x & d_x \\ n_y & s_y & a_y & d_y \\ n_z & s_z & a_z & d_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ p_z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Today: Forward Kinematics



## Chapter 2: Rigid Motions

- Read Sec. 3.intro - 3.2

### Lab 1: Kinematic Characterization of the Lynx

MEAM 520, University of Pennsylvania

September 5, 2018

This lab consists of two portions, with a pre-lab due on Wednesday, September 12, by midnight (11:59 p.m.) and a lab report due on Wednesday, September 19, by midnight (11:59 p.m.). Late submissions will be accepted until midnight on Saturday following the deadline, but they will be penalized by 25% for each partial or full day late. After the late deadline, no further assignments may be submitted; post a private message on Piazza to request an extension if you need one due to a special situation.

You may talk with other students about this assignment, ask the teaching team questions, use a calculator and other tools, and consult outside sources such as the Internet. To help you actually learn the material, what you submit must be your own work, not copied from any other individual or team. Any submissions suspected of violating Penn's Code of Academic Integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. When you get stuck, post a question on Piazza or go to office hours!

#### Individual vs. Pair Programming

The pre-lab component of this lab must be completed and submitted individually on Canvas. For the remainder of the lab, you may work either individually or with a partner. If you do this lab with a partner, you may work with anyone you choose, but you must work with them for all parts of this assignment.

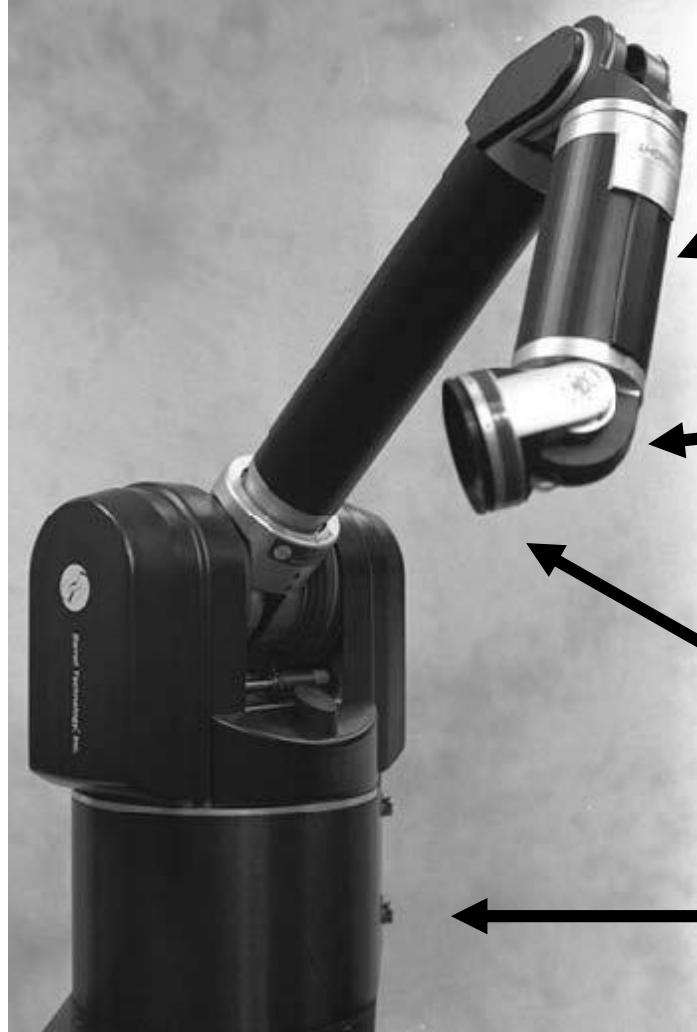
If you are in a pair, you will both turn in the same report and code (see Submission Instructions below), for which you are jointly responsible and you will both receive the same grade. Work closely with your partner throughout the lab, following these guidelines, which were adapted from "All I really needed to know about pair programming I learned in kindergarten," by Williams and Kessler, *Communications of the ACM*, May 2000. This article is available on Canvas under Files / Supplemental Material.

- Start with a good attitude, setting aside any skepticism, and expect to jell with your partner.
- Don't start alone. Arrange a meeting with your partner as soon as you can.
- Use just one setup, and sit side by side. For a programming component, a desktop computer with a large monitor is better than a laptop. Make sure both partners can see the screen.
- At each instant, one partner should be driving (writing, using the mouse/keyboard, moving the robot) while the other is continuously reviewing the work (thinking and making suggestions).
- Change driving/reviewing roles at least every 30 minutes, even if one partner is much more experienced than the other. You may want to set a timer to help you remember to switch.
- If you notice an error in the equation or code that your partner is writing, wait until they finish the line to correct them.
- Stay focused and on-task the whole time you are working together.
- Take a break periodically to refresh your perspective.
- Share responsibility for your project; avoid blaming either partner for challenges you run into.
- Recognize that working in pairs usually takes more time than working alone, but it produces better work, deeper learning, and a more positive experience for the participants.

**Pre-lab due tomorrow, 11:59 p.m.**

**Lab 1 due 9/19, 11:59 p.m.**

# Manipulator Terminology Review (SHV 1.1-1.3, 3.1)



Link : rigid body, 6 degrees of freedom

Joint : connection between two links,  
allows 1 degree of freedom

End-effector : interacts with the environment

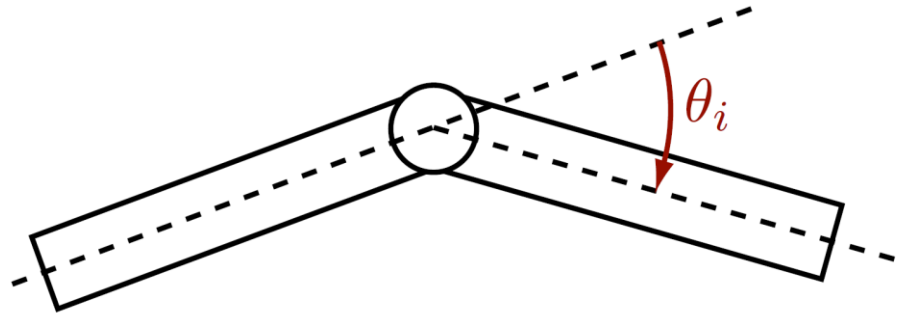
Base : connected to ground

# Joint Descriptions



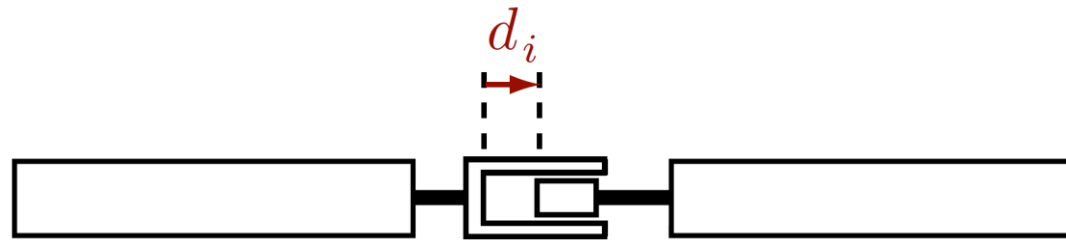
**Revolute:**

angular displacement between adjacent links



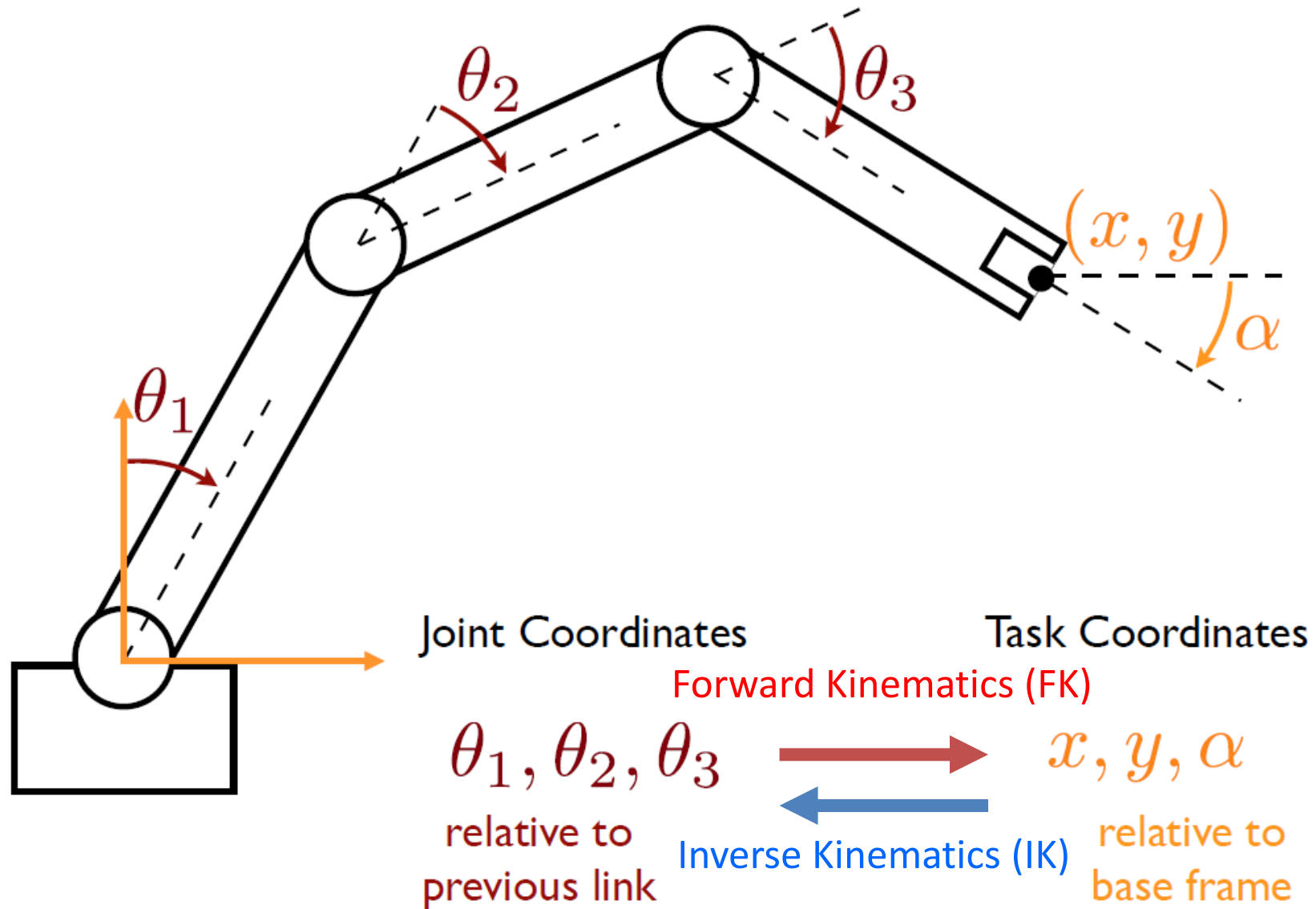
**Prismatic:**

linear displacement between adjacent links



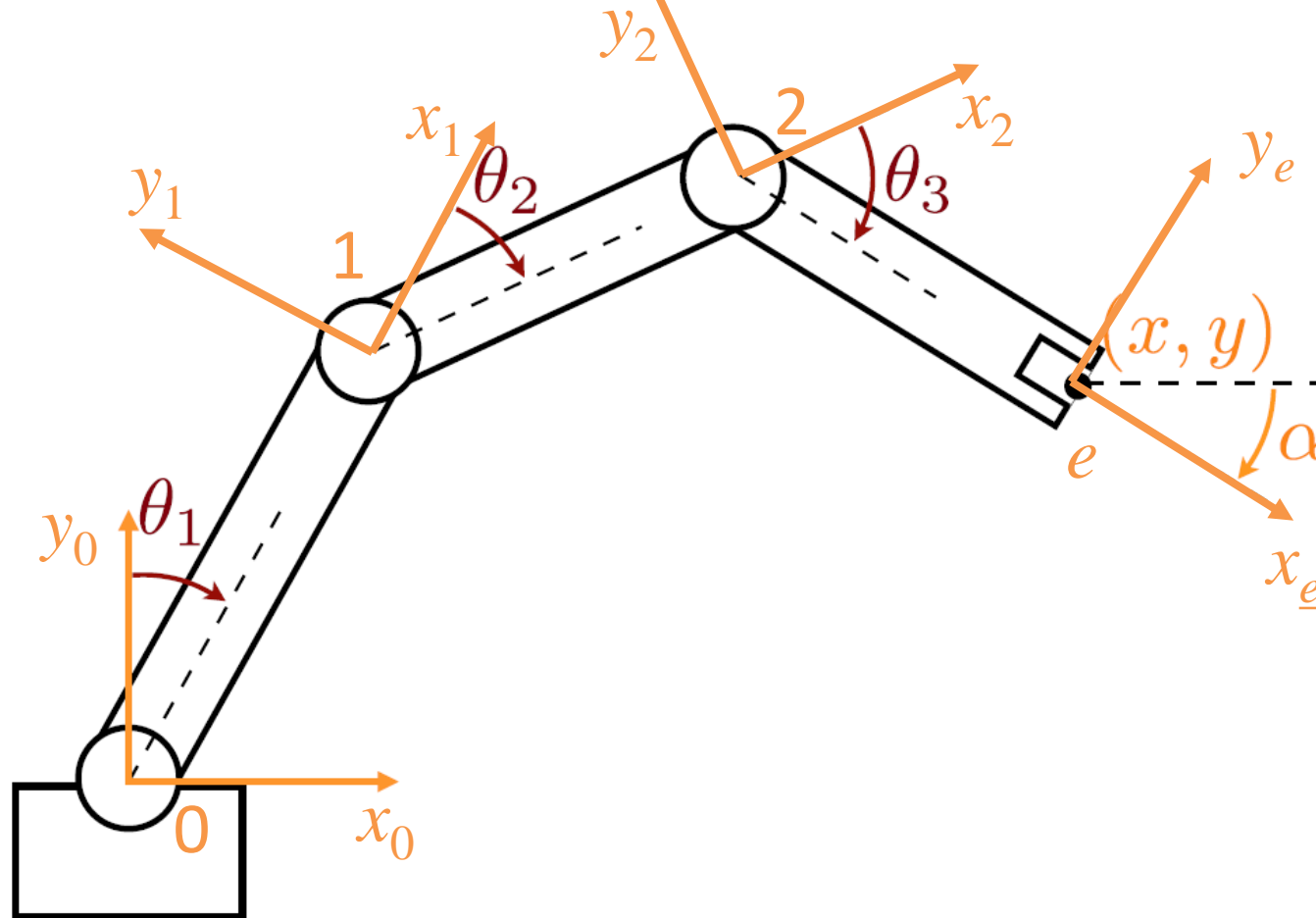
We use z-axes to denote joint axes.

# Kinematics



# Forward Kinematics

Given the joint coordinates, what are the task coordinates?



**Strategy:** Break up the robot into its links

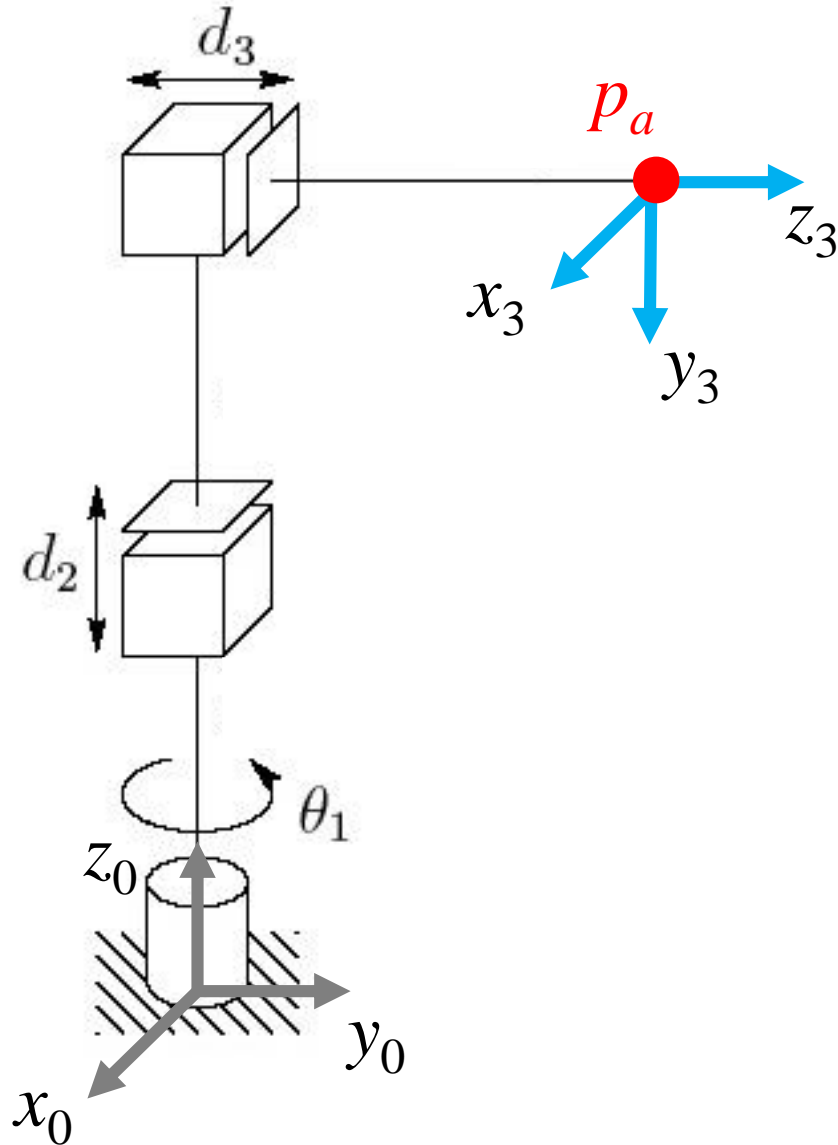


# Forward Kinematics of the RPP Cylindrical Robot



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hj7PxjeH5y0>

# Forward Kinematics of the RPP Cylindrical Robot



3 links plus ground

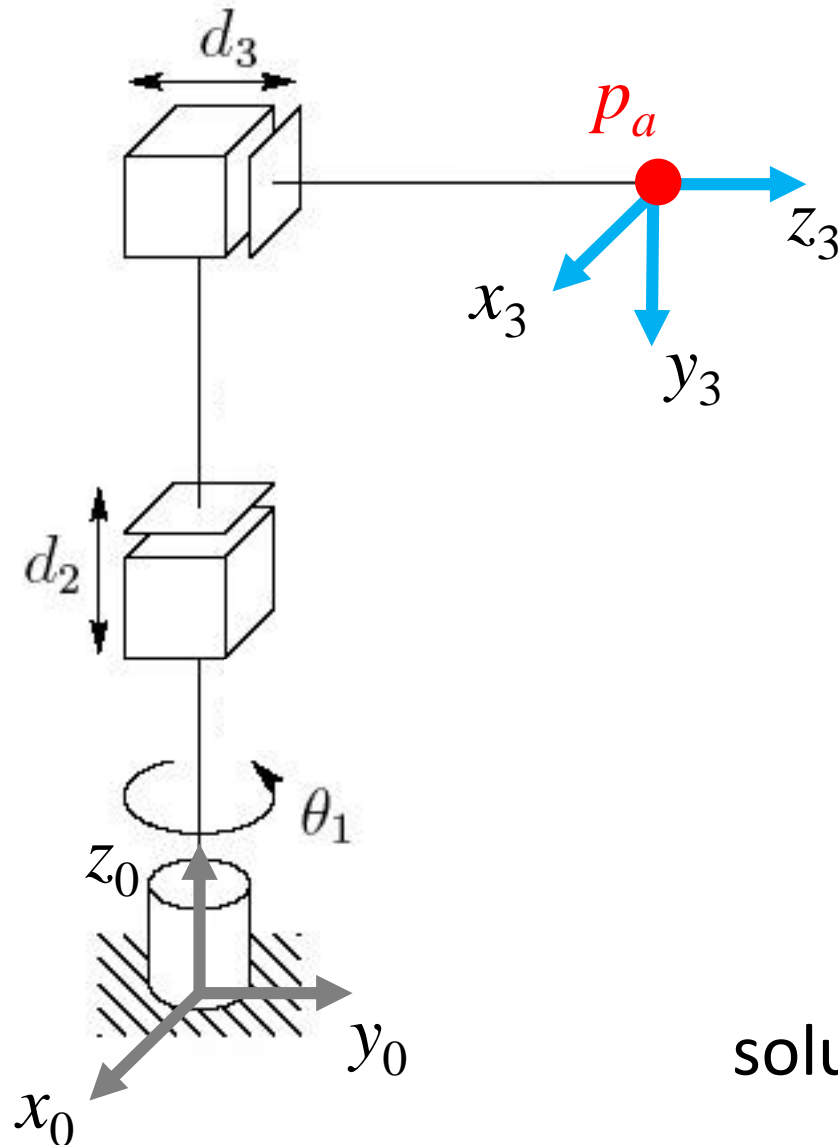
3 joints

3 joint variables ( $q_1, q_2, q_3$ )

shown with  $\theta_1 = 0, d_2 > 0, d_3 > 0$

**Q: Given ( $q_1, q_2, q_3$ ), where is the tip of the robot?**

# Forward Kinematics of the RPP Cylindrical Robot



**Q: Given  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$ , where is the tip of the robot?**

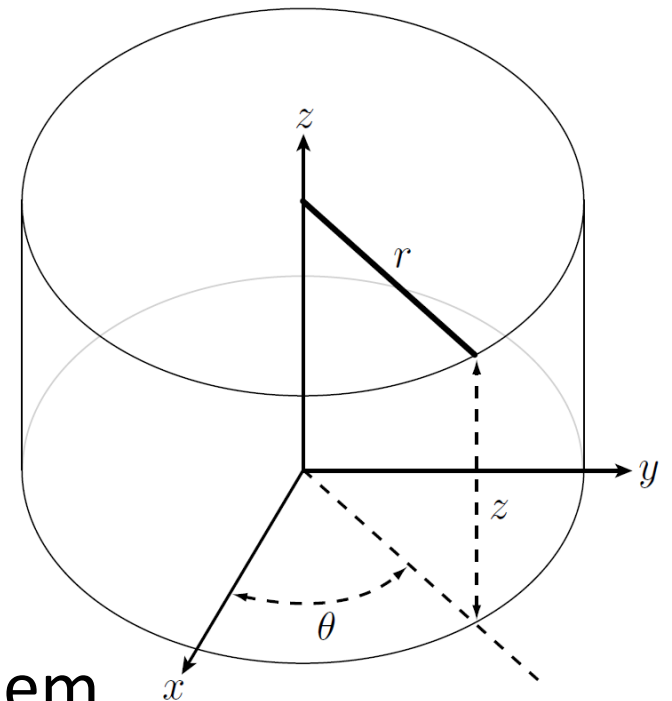
joint coordinates map to  
cylindrical coordinates

$$\theta_1 \longleftrightarrow \theta$$

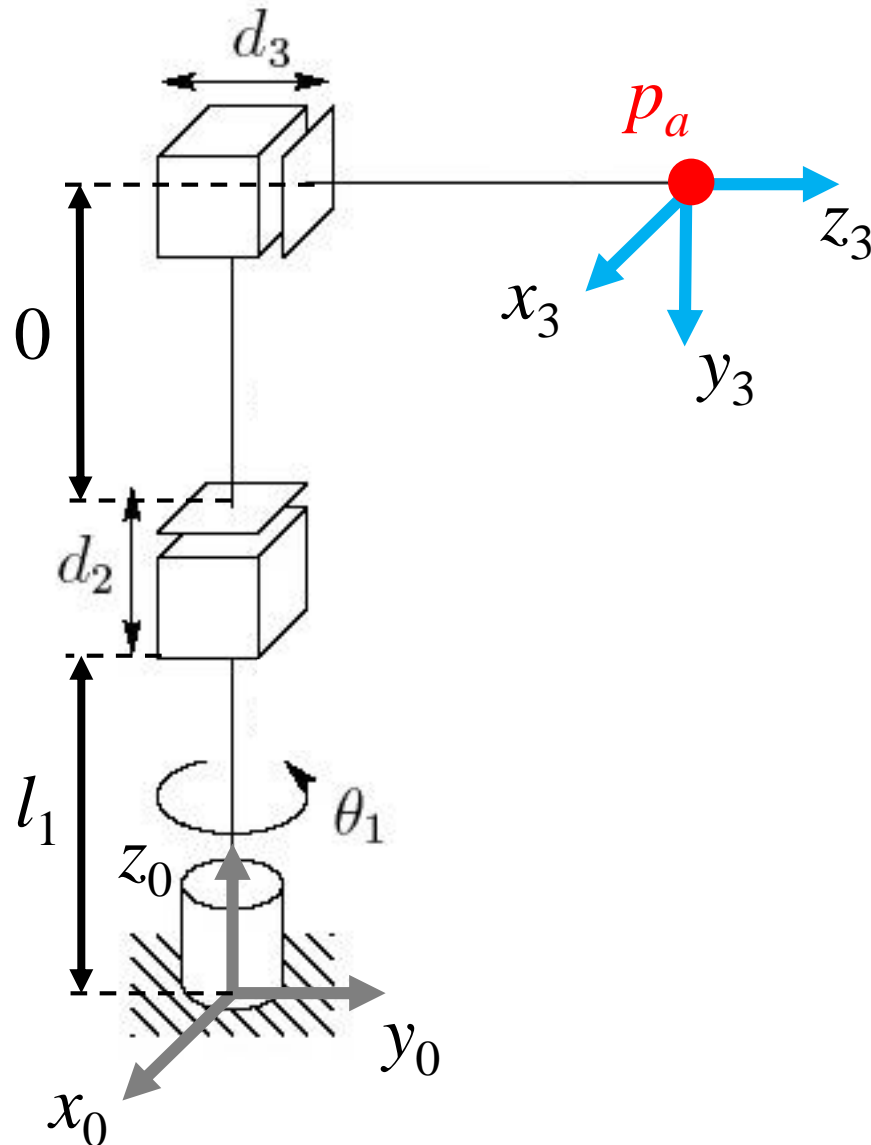
$$d_2 \longleftrightarrow z$$

$$d_3 \longleftrightarrow r$$

but this is not a general  
solution to this type of problem



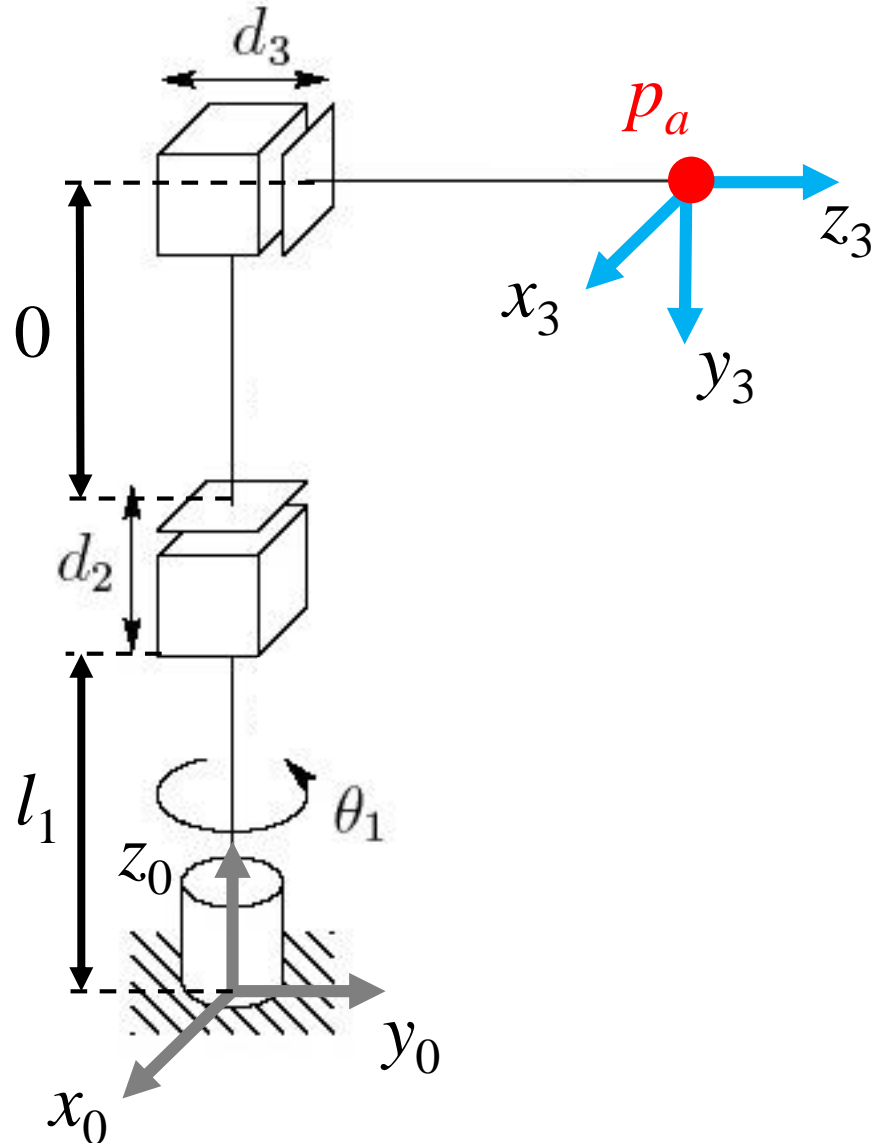
# Forward Kinematics of the RPP Cylindrical Robot



Q: Given  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$ , where is the tip of the robot?

$$\mathbf{T}_3^0 = \begin{bmatrix} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

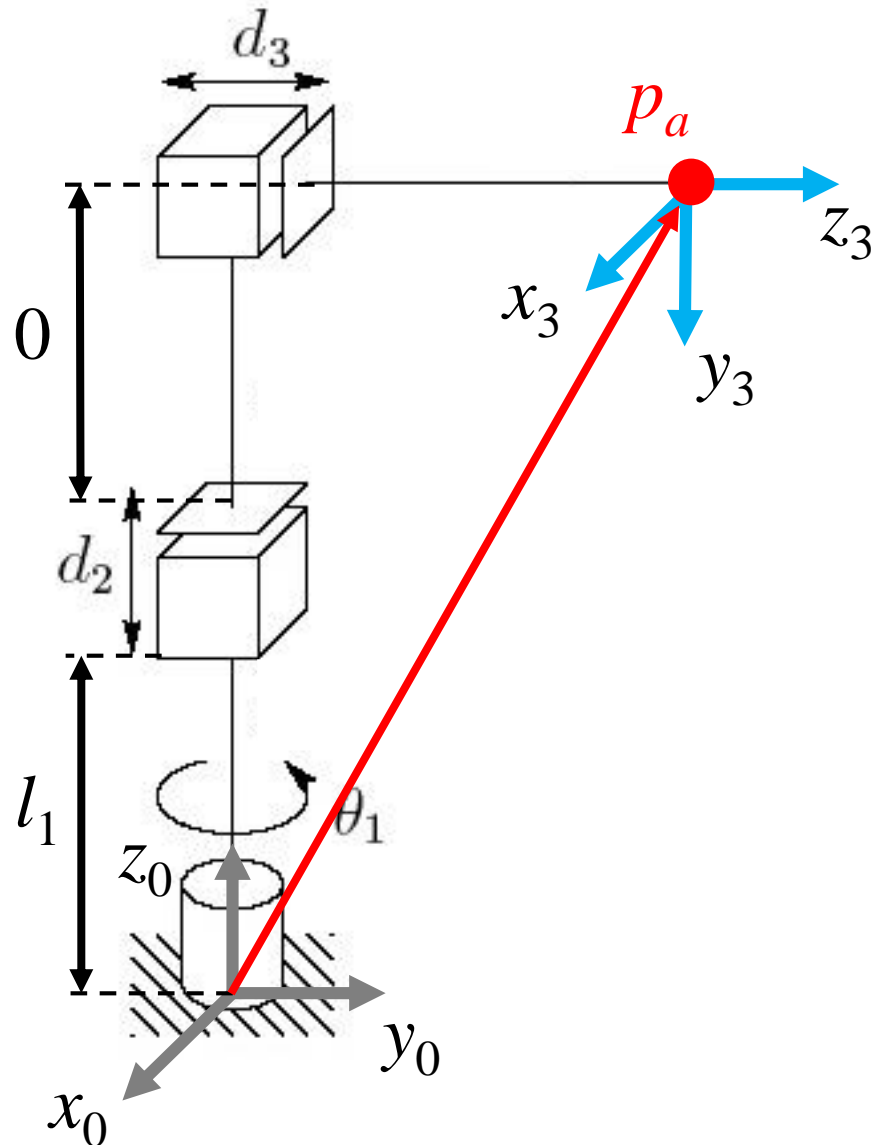
# Forward Kinematics of the RPP Cylindrical Robot



Q: Given  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$ , where is the tip of the robot?

$$\mathbf{T}_3^0 = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_3^0 & \hat{y}_3^0 & \hat{z}_3^0 & o_3^0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Forward Kinematics of the RPP Cylindrical Robot

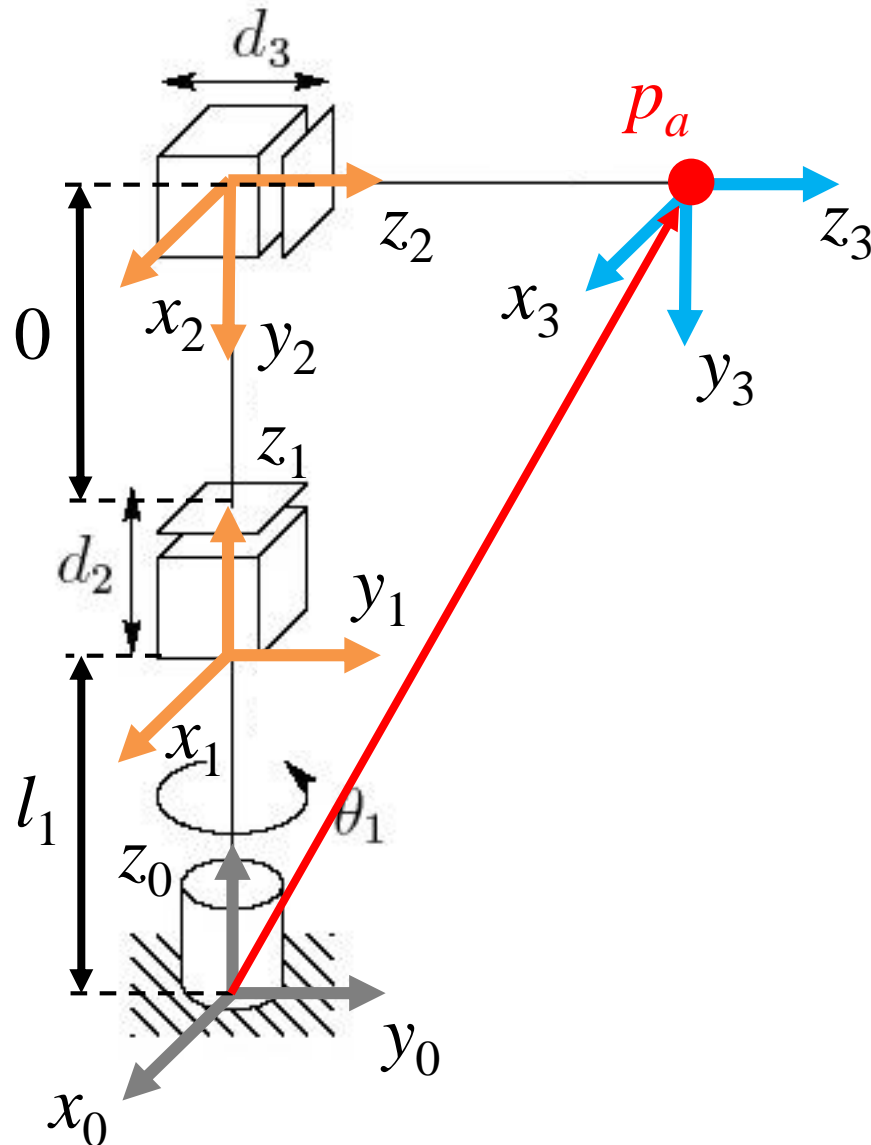


Q: Given  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$ , where is the tip of the robot?

$$\mathbf{T}_3^0 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_3^0 & \mathbf{d}_3^0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1^* & 0 & -s_1^* & -d_3^* s_1^* \\ s_1^* & 0 & c_1^* & d_3^* c_1^* \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & d_2^* + l_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Superscript \* marks joint variables, which vary over time

# Forward Kinematics of the RPP Cylindrical Robot

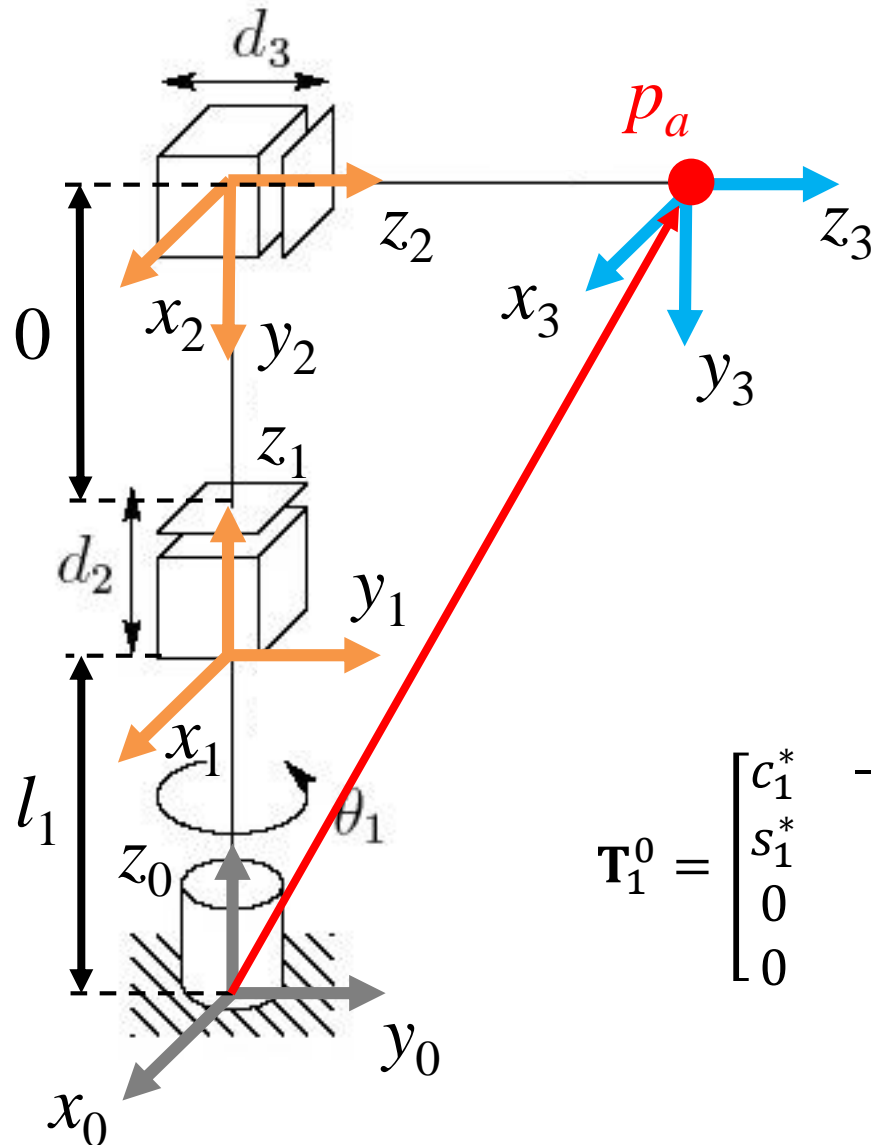


**Q: Given  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$ , where is the tip of the robot?**

It's hard to write transformation matrices by inspection when robots are more complicated.

$$\mathbf{T}_3^0 = \mathbf{T}_1^0(q_1)\mathbf{T}_2^1(q_2)\mathbf{T}_3^2(q_3)$$

# Forward Kinematics of the RPP Cylindrical Robot



**Q: Given  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$ , where is the tip of the robot?**

It's hard to write transformation matrices by inspection when robots are more complicated.

$$\mathbf{T}_3^0 = \mathbf{T}_1^0(q_1)\mathbf{T}_2^1(q_2)\mathbf{T}_3^2(q_3)$$

$$\mathbf{T}_1^0 = \begin{bmatrix} c_1^* & -s_1^* & 0 & 0 \\ s_1^* & c_1^* & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & l_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{T}_2^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & d_2^* \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{T}_3^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & d_3^* \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



This is the general idea of **forward kinematics** for manipulators.

There are many **choices** one must make regarding placement of intermediate frames and definition of joint variables, which means there are many equally good ways to reach the same final solution.

The robotics community has agreed on a set of conventions to ensure uniformity:

The **Denavit-Hartenberg (DH)** Convention

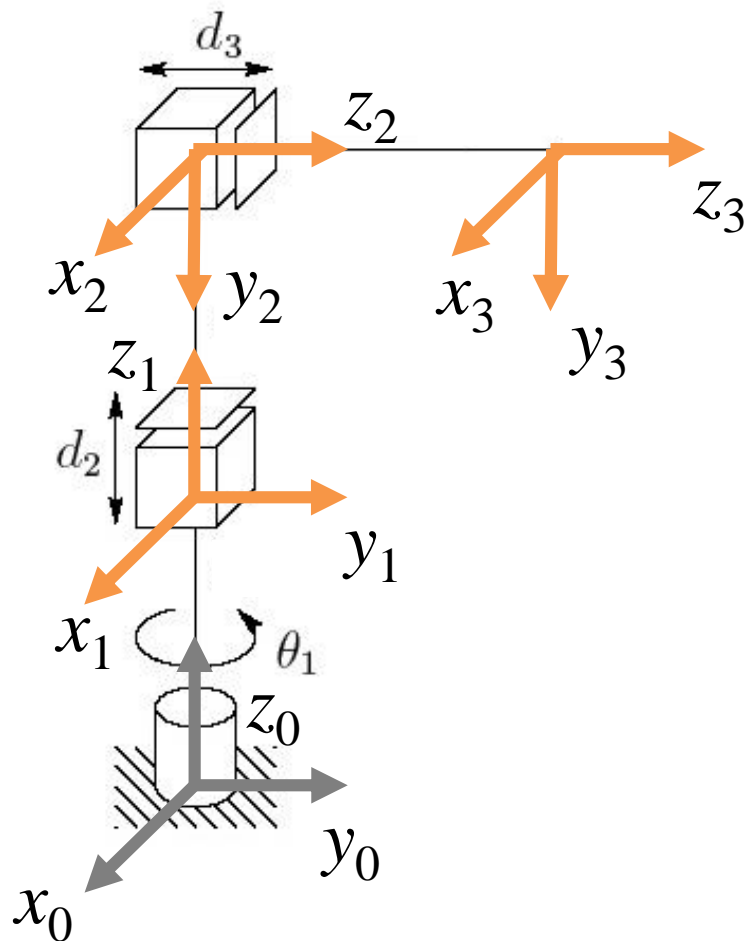


# Denavit-Hartenberg (DH) Parameters

J. Denavit and R. S. Hartenberg, "A kinematic notation for lower pair mechanisms based on matrices," *ASME Journal of Applied Mechanics*, 22 (1955): 215–221.

# Denavit-Hartenberg Convention

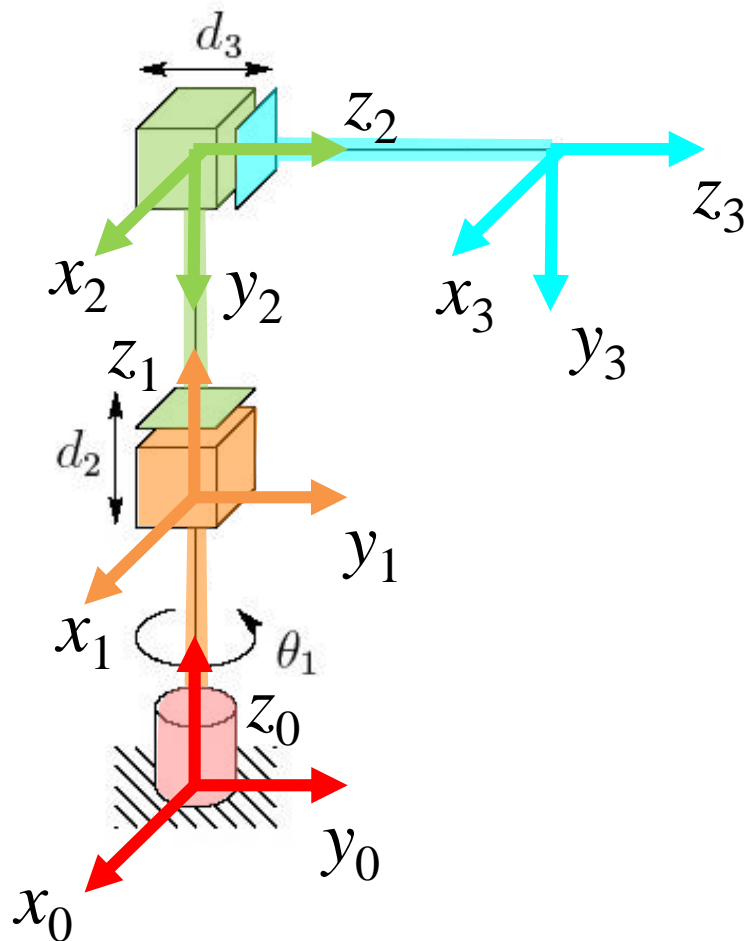
Defines **four** parameters and some rules to help characterize arbitrary kinematic chains



1. Start with a schematic of the robot in its zero pose
2. Attach one frame to each link:
  - a) Joint variable for joint  $i+1$  acts along  $z_i$
  - b) Orientation of  $z_i$  defines positive direction
  - c) Axis  $x_i$  is perpendicular to and intersects  $z_{i-1}$
3. Also choose a location for base (0) frame:
  - a) Origin on  $z_0$ .  $x_0, y_0$  chosen for convenience

# Denavit-Hartenberg Convention

Defines **four** parameters and some rules to help characterize arbitrary kinematic chains



1. Start with a schematic of the robot in its zero pose
2. Attach one frame to each link: Frame  $i-1$  is at the start of link  $i$  and frame  $i$  is at the end
  - a) Joint variable for joint  $i+1$  acts along  $z_i$
  - b) Orientation of  $z_i$  defines positive direction
  - c) Axis  $x_i$  is perpendicular to and intersects  $z_{i-1}$
3. Also choose a location for base (0) frame:
  - a) Origin on  $z_0$ .  $x_0, y_0$  chosen for convenience

# Denavit-Hartenberg Convention

Defines **four** parameters and some rules to help characterize arbitrary kinematic chains

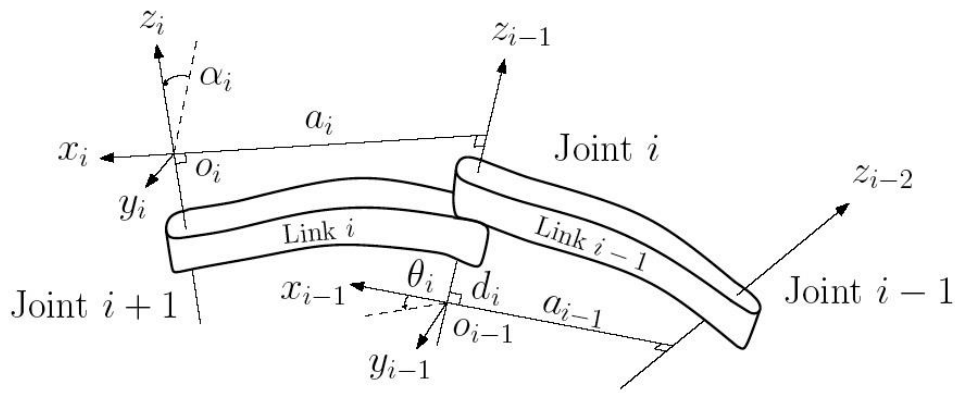


Figure 3.4: Denavit-Hartenberg frame assignment.

Coordinate frames do not need to be located at the actual joints of the robot; the z-axis defines the joint's effective action.

x step	$a_i$ Link Length	distance between $z_{i-1}$ and $z_i$ , measured along $x_i$
	$\alpha_i$ Link Twist	angle between $z_{i-1}$ and $z_i$ , measured in the plane normal to $x_i$ (right hand rule)
z step	$d_i$ Link Offset	distance between $x_{i-1}$ and $x_i$ , measured along $z_{i-1}$
	$\theta_i$ Joint Angle	angle between $x_{i-1}$ and $x_i$ , measured in the plane normal to $z_{i-1}$ (right hand rule)

# In what order are the transformations applied?

$$A_i =$$

$$A_i =$$

$$A_i = \begin{bmatrix} c_{\theta_i} & -s_{\theta_i}c_{\alpha_i} & s_{\theta_i}s_{\alpha_i} & a_i c_{\theta_i} \\ s_{\theta_i} & c_{\theta_i}c_{\alpha_i} & -c_{\theta_i}s_{\alpha_i} & a_i s_{\theta_i} \\ 0 & s_{\alpha_i} & c_{\alpha_i} & d_i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Intermediate frames  
Post-multiply

$a_i$ Link Length	distance between $z_{i-1}$ and $z_i$ , measured along $x_i$
$\alpha_i$ Link Twist	angle between $z_{i-1}$ and $z_i$ , measured in the plane normal to $x_i$ (RHR)
$d_i$ Link Offset	distance between $x_{i-1}$ and $x_i$ , measured along $z_{i-1}$
$\theta_i$ Joint Angle	angle between $x_{i-1}$ and $x_i$ , measured in the plane normal to $z_{i-1}$ (RHR)

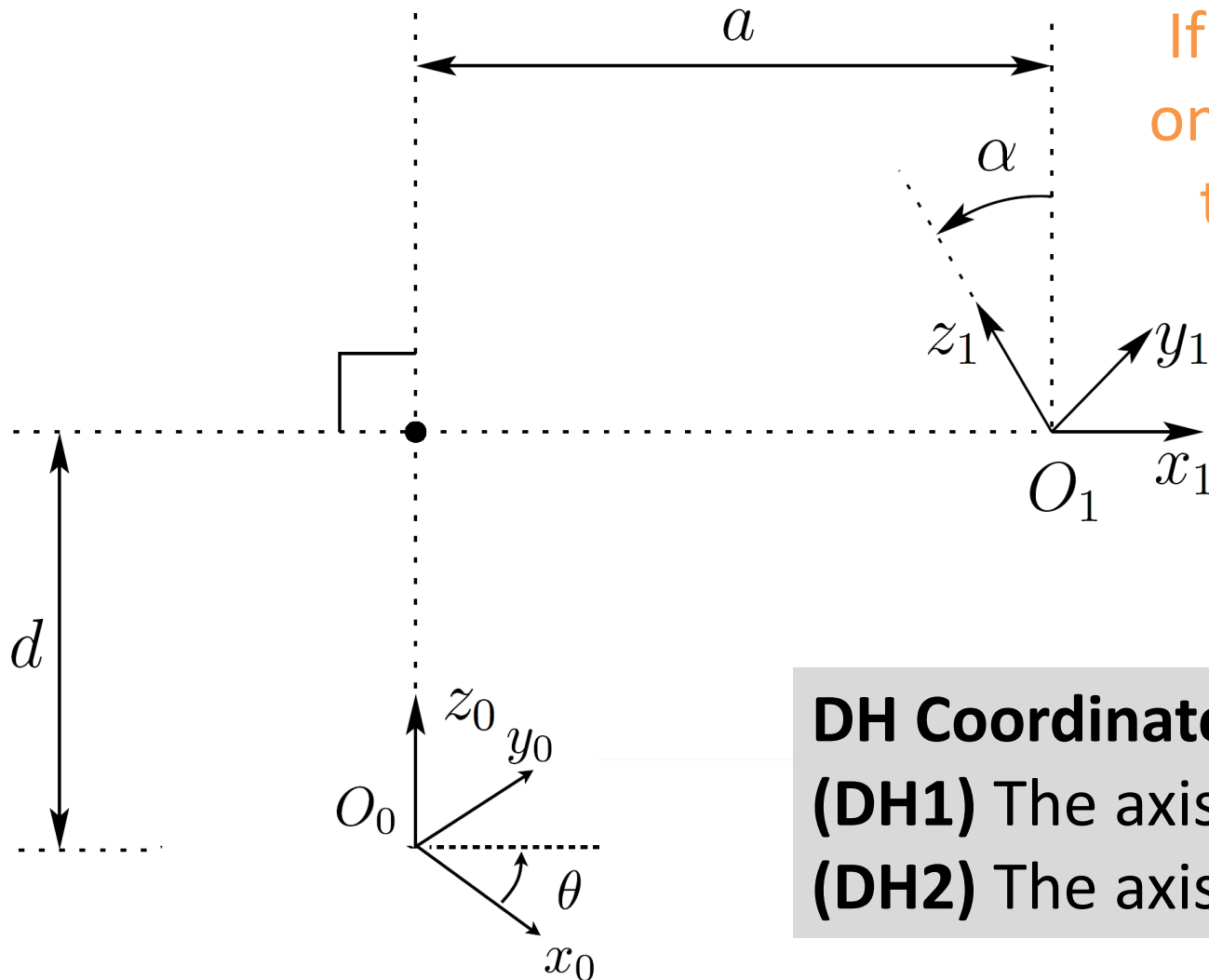
Rotate about z by theta

Translate along z by d

Translate along new x by a

Rotate around new x by alpha

*DH parameters can be used to represent transformations between any two rigid bodies, provided the frames are chosen following the convention.*



If  $x_1$  satisfies these requirements for one robot configuration, will it satisfy them for all robot configurations?

### DH Coordinate Frame Assumptions

- (DH1)** The axis  $x_1$  is perpendicular to the axis  $z_0$
- (DH2)** The axis  $x_1$  intersects the axis  $z_0$

# Great List of DH Steps on Pages 110-111 in SHV

## 3.4 CHAPTER SUMMARY

In this chapter we studied the relationships between joint variables,  $q_i$  and the position and orientation of the end effector. We began by introducing the Denavit-Hartenberg convention for assigning coordinate frames to the links of a serial manipulator. We may summarize the procedure based on the DH convention in the following algorithm for deriving the forward kinematics for any manipulator.

**Step 1:** Locate and label the joint axes  $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1}$ .

**Step 2:** Establish the base frame. Set the origin anywhere on the  $z_0$ -axis. The  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  axes are chosen conveniently to form a right-handed frame. For  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , perform Steps 3 to 5.

**Step 3:** Locate the origin  $o_i$  where the common normal to  $z_i$  and  $z_{i-1}$  intersects  $z_i$ . If  $z_i$  intersects  $z_{i-1}$  locate  $o_i$  at this intersection. If  $z_i$  and  $z_{i-1}$  are parallel, locate  $o_i$  in any convenient position along  $z_i$ .

**Step 4:** Establish  $x_i$  along the common normal between  $z_{i-1}$  and  $z_i$  through  $o_i$ , or in the direction normal to the  $z_{i-1} - z_i$  plane if  $z_{i-1}$  and  $z_i$  intersect.

**Step 5:** Establish  $y_i$  to complete a right-handed frame.

**Step 6:** Establish the end-effector frame  $o_n x_n y_n z_n$ . Assuming the  $n$ -th joint is revolute, set  $z_n = a$  along the direction  $z_{n-1}$ . Establish the origin  $o_n$  conveniently along  $z_n$ , preferably at the center of the gripper or at the tip of any tool that the manipulator may be carrying. Set  $y_n = s$  in the direction of the gripper closure and set  $x_n = n$  as  $s \times a$ . If the tool is not a simple gripper set  $x_n$  and  $y_n$  conveniently to form a right-handed frame.

**Step 7:** Create a table of link parameters  $a_i, d_i, \alpha_i, \theta_i$ .

$a_i$  = distance along  $x_i$  from  $o_i$  to the intersection of the  $x_i$  and  $z_{i-1}$  axes.

$d_i$  = distance along  $z_{i-1}$  from  $o_{i-1}$  to the intersection of the  $x_i$  and  $z_{i-1}$  axes.  $d_i$  is variable if joint  $i$  is prismatic.

$\alpha_i$  = the angle between  $z_{i-1}$  and  $z_i$  measured about  $x_i$ .

$\theta_i$  = the angle between  $x_{i-1}$  and  $x_i$  measured about  $z_{i-1}$ .  $\theta_i$  is variable if joint  $i$  is revolute.

**Step 8:** Form the homogeneous transformation matrices  $A_i$  by substituting the above parameters into (3.10).

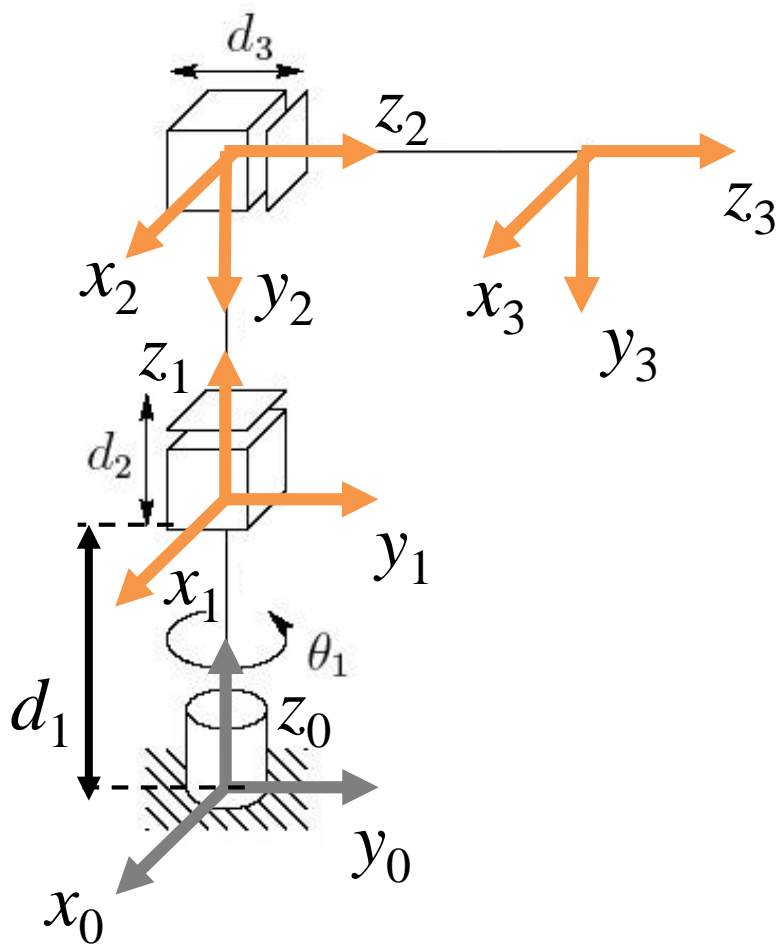
**Step 9:** Form  $T_n^0 = A_1 \cdots A_n$ . This then gives the position and orientation of the tool frame expressed in base coordinates.



# Denavit-Hartenberg Convention

Defines **four** parameters and some rules to help characterize arbitrary kinematic chains

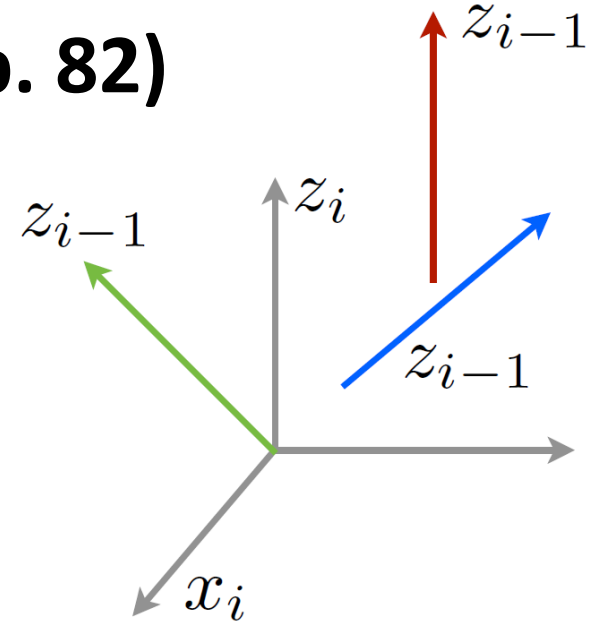
$a_i$ Link Length	distance between $z_{i-1}$ and $z_i$ , measured along $x_i$
$\alpha_i$ Link Twist	angle between $z_{i-1}$ and $z_i$ , measured in the plane normal to $x_i$ (RHR)
$d_i$ Link Offset	distance between $x_{i-1}$ and $x_i$ , measured along $z_{i-1}$
$\theta_i$ Joint Angle	angle between $x_{i-1}$ and $x_i$ , measured in the plane normal to $z_{i-1}$ (RHR)






Link	x step		z step	
	$a_i$	$\alpha_i$	$d_i$	$\theta_i$

$$A_i = \begin{bmatrix} c_{\theta_i} & -s_{\theta_i}c_{\alpha_i} & s_{\theta_i}s_{\alpha_i} & a_i c_{\theta_i} \\ s_{\theta_i} & c_{\theta_i}c_{\alpha_i} & -c_{\theta_i}s_{\alpha_i} & a_i s_{\theta_i} \\ 0 & s_{\alpha_i} & c_{\alpha_i} & d_i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Conventions that make x placement easier (SHV p. 82)



	If $z_{i-1}$ is parallel to $z_i$	orient $x_i$ toward $z_i$
	if $z_{i-1}$ intersects $z_i$	orient $x_i$ normal to the plane formed by $z_{i-1}$ and $z_i$
	if $z_{i-1}$ is not coplanar with $z_i$	orient $x_i$ along normal with $z_{i-1}$ , toward $z_i$

# Conventions that make x placement easier (SHV p. 82)

## Satisfied by Construction:

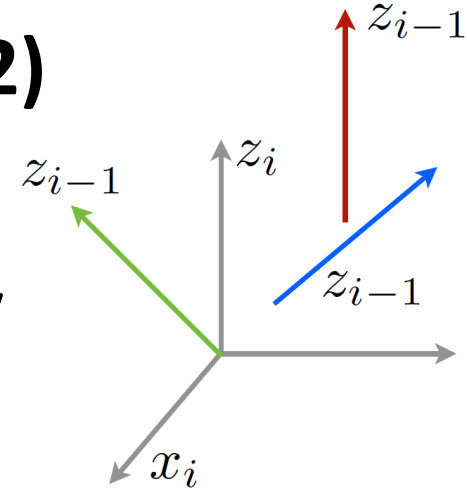
**(DH0)** The axis  $x_i$  is perpendicular to the axis  $z_i$


## DH Coordinate Frame Assumptions

**(DH1)** The axis  $x_i$  is perpendicular to the axis  $z_{i-1}$


**(DH2)** The axis  $x_i$  intersects the axis  $z_{i-1}$

**Your coordinate frames may  
not be on your robot!**



 if  $z_{i-1}$  is not coplanar with  $z_i$ ,  
orient  $x_i$  along normal with  $z_{i-1}$ ,  
toward  $z_i$

 If  $z_{i-1}$  is parallel to  $z_i$ , orient  $x_i$   
toward  $z_i$

 if  $z_{i-1}$  intersects  $z_i$ , orient  $x_i$   
normal to the plane formed by  
 $z_{i-1}$  and  $z_i$

The **Denavit-Hartenberg transform** results from successive rotations and translations via the four DH parameters

*a parameterization for homogeneous transformations*

The transform from  $i$  to  $i-1$  is

$$A_i = \begin{bmatrix} c_{\theta_i} & -s_{\theta_i}c_{\alpha_i} & s_{\theta_i}s_{\alpha_i} & a_i c_{\theta_i} \\ s_{\theta_i} & c_{\theta_i}c_{\alpha_i} & -c_{\theta_i}s_{\alpha_i} & a_i s_{\theta_i} \\ 0 & s_{\alpha_i} & c_{\alpha_i} & d_i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Three DH parameters will be **constant** for each joint's transformation, and one will **vary**.

Plug DH parameters into the above formula to find each joint's transformation matrix.

The final transformation matrix from tip to base is

$$\mathbf{T}_n^0 = A_1(q_1) \cdots A_n(q_n)$$



# Next time: More DH Parameters

## Chapter 3: Forward and Inverse Kinematics

- Read 3.2

