

# The Geometry of Virtual Worlds

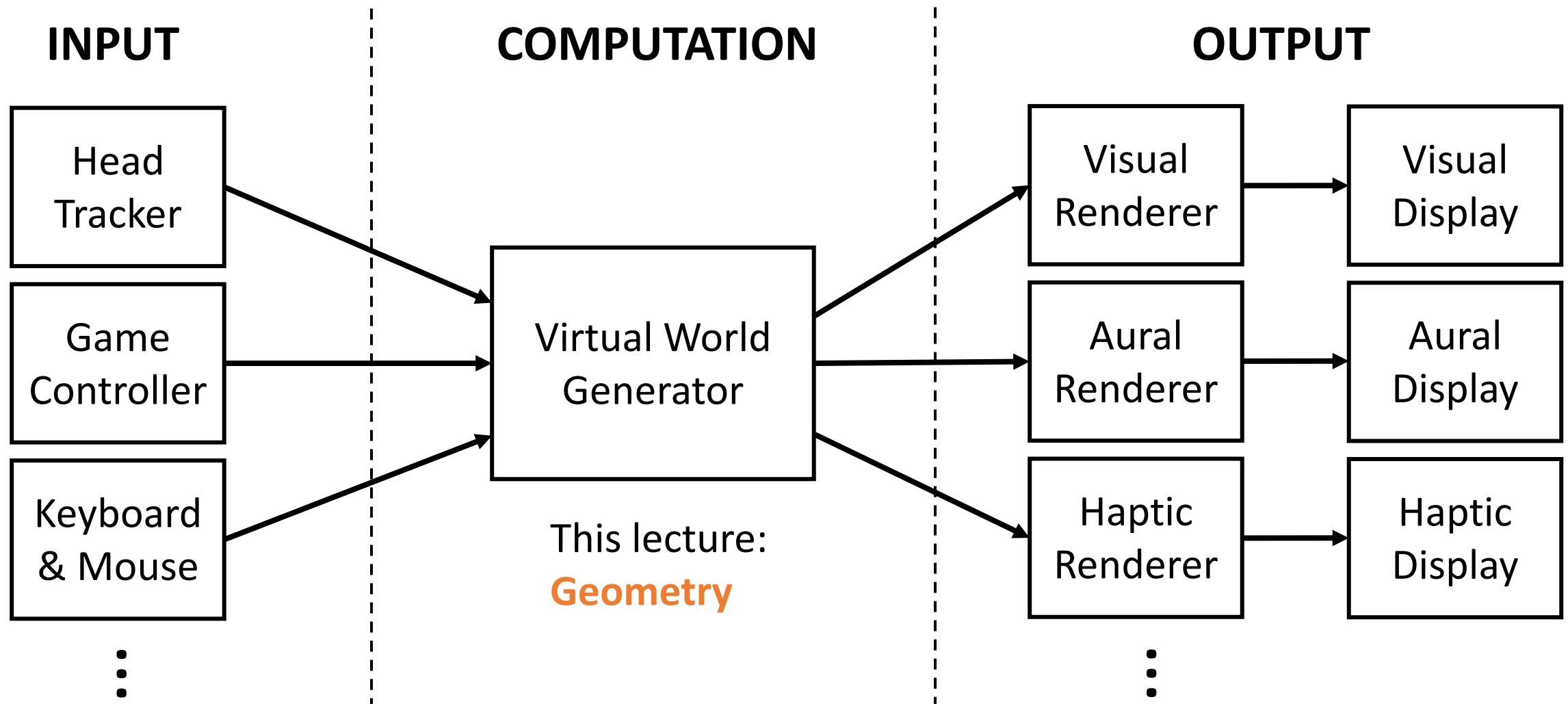
CS 6334 Virtual Reality

Professor Yapeng Tian

The University of Texas at Dallas

A lot of slides of course lectures borrowed from Professor Yu Xiang's VR class

# Review of VR Systems



# How to Build the Virtual World?

- Computer games



2D Virtual World



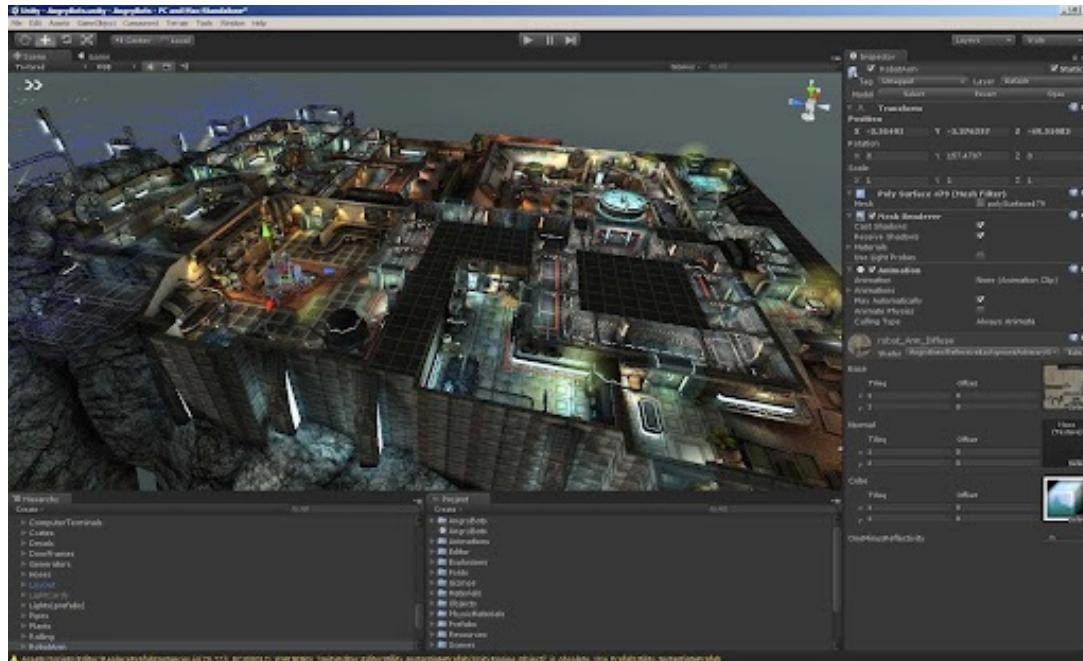
3D Virtual World



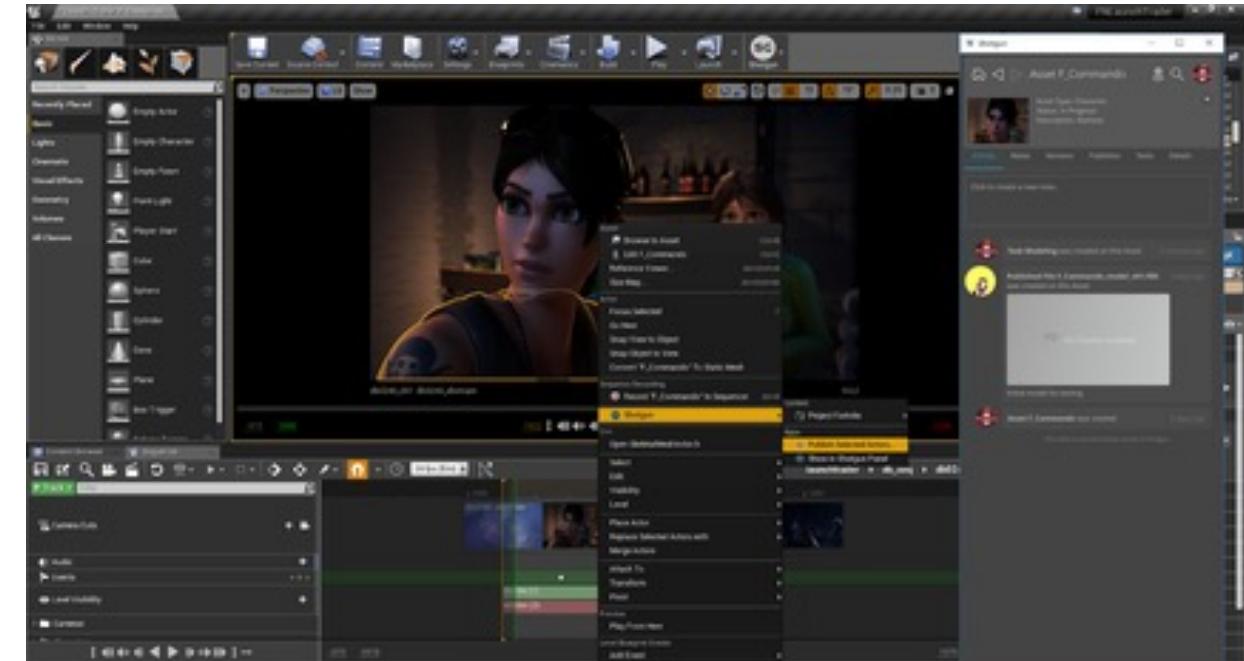
3D Virtual World, first person

# How to Build the Virtual World?

- Examples of game engines



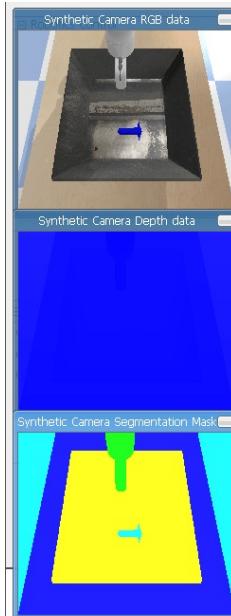
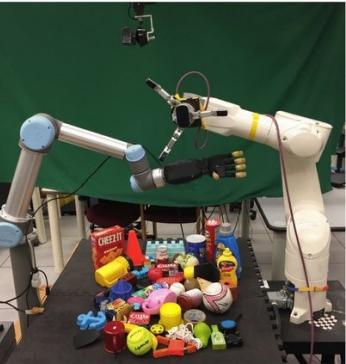
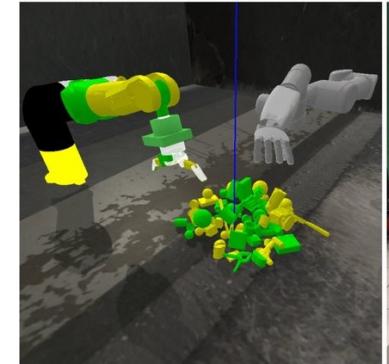
Unity



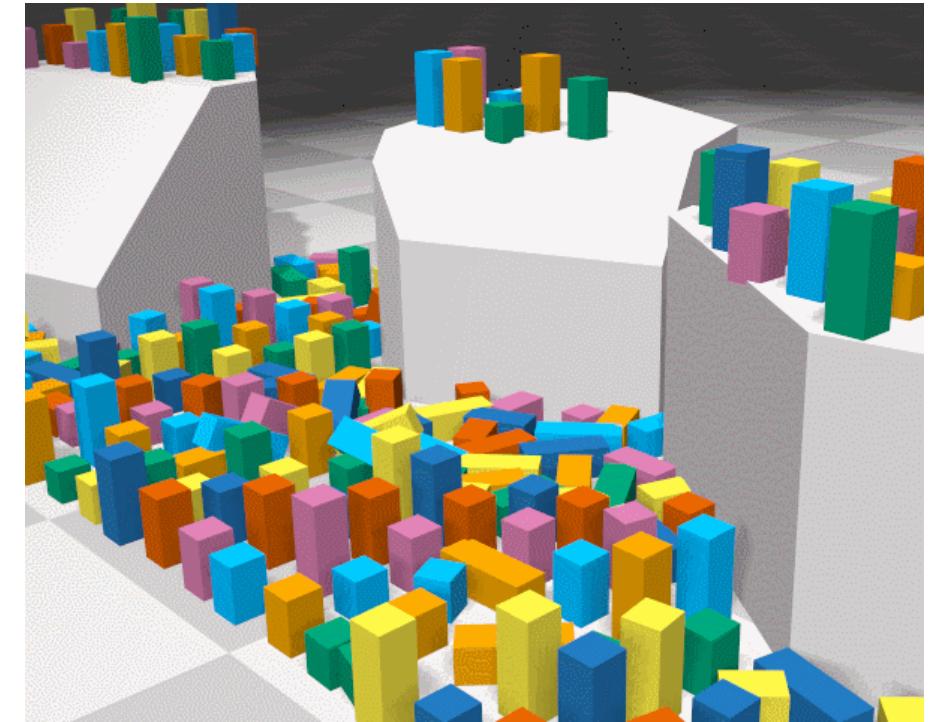
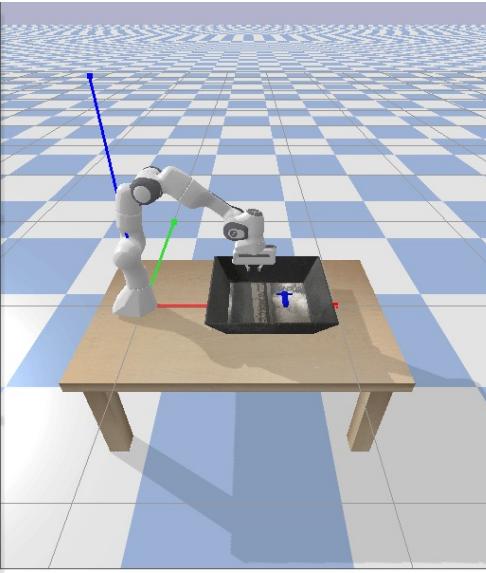
Unreal

# How to Build the 3D World?

- Physics simulation



PyBullet Simulation

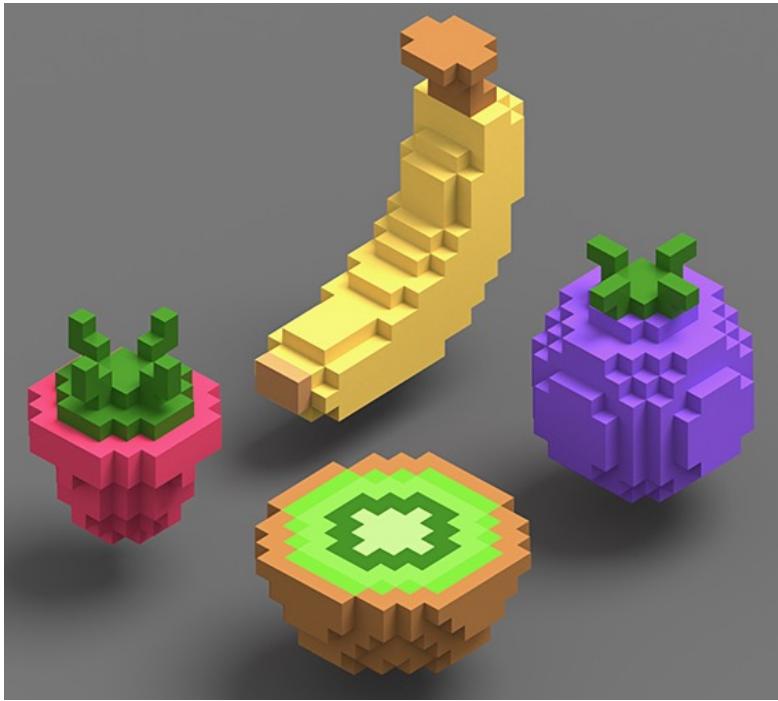


NVIDIA FleX Simulation

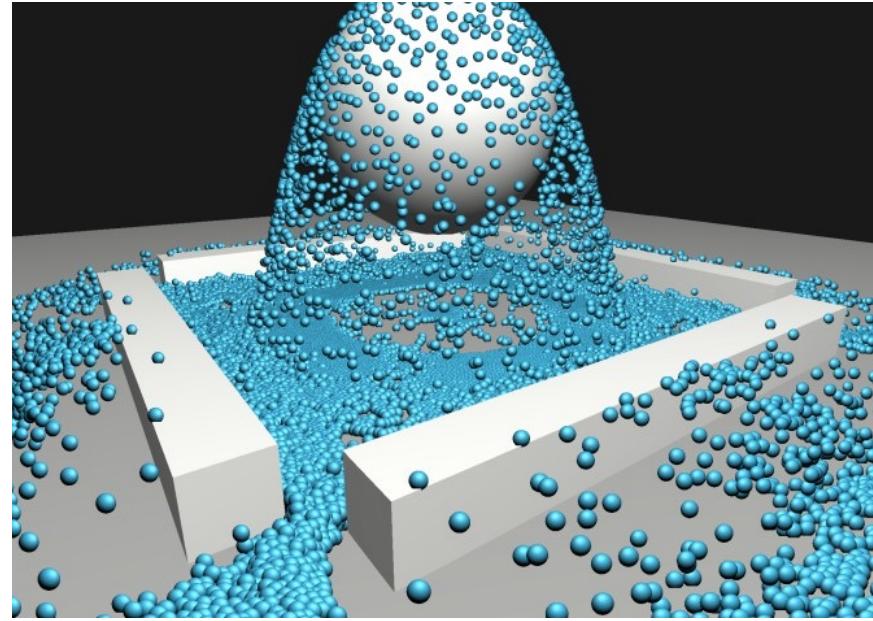
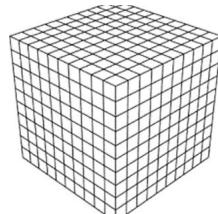
# How to Build the 3D World?

- Game engines
  - Photo-realistic rendering
  - Built in physics simulation, e.g., Unity uses the NVIDIA PhysX engine
  - Need more experience
- Physics simulators
  - Usually non-photo-realistic rendering
  - Usually easy to program, e.g., PyBullet
  - Good for learning the concepts in VR

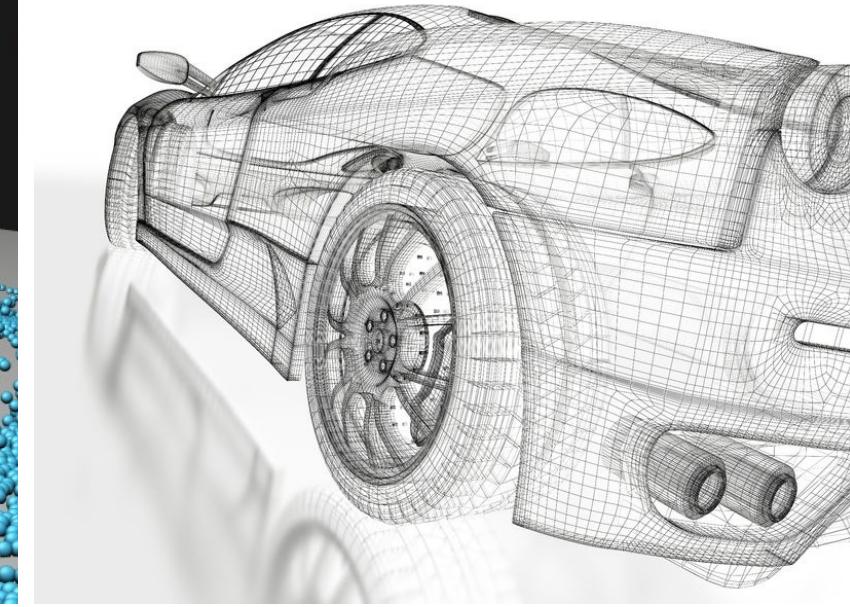
# Representations of the 3D World



3D Voxels

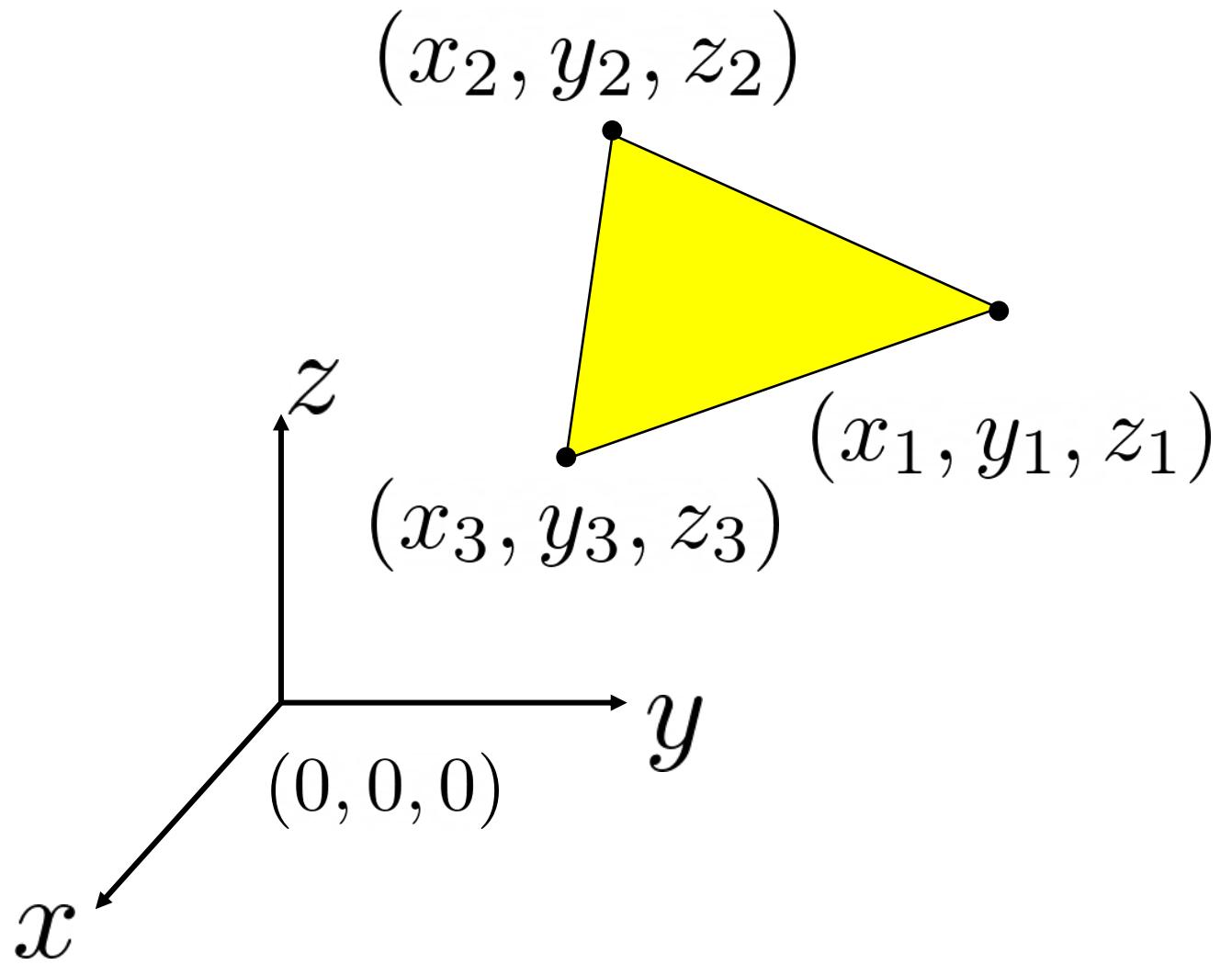
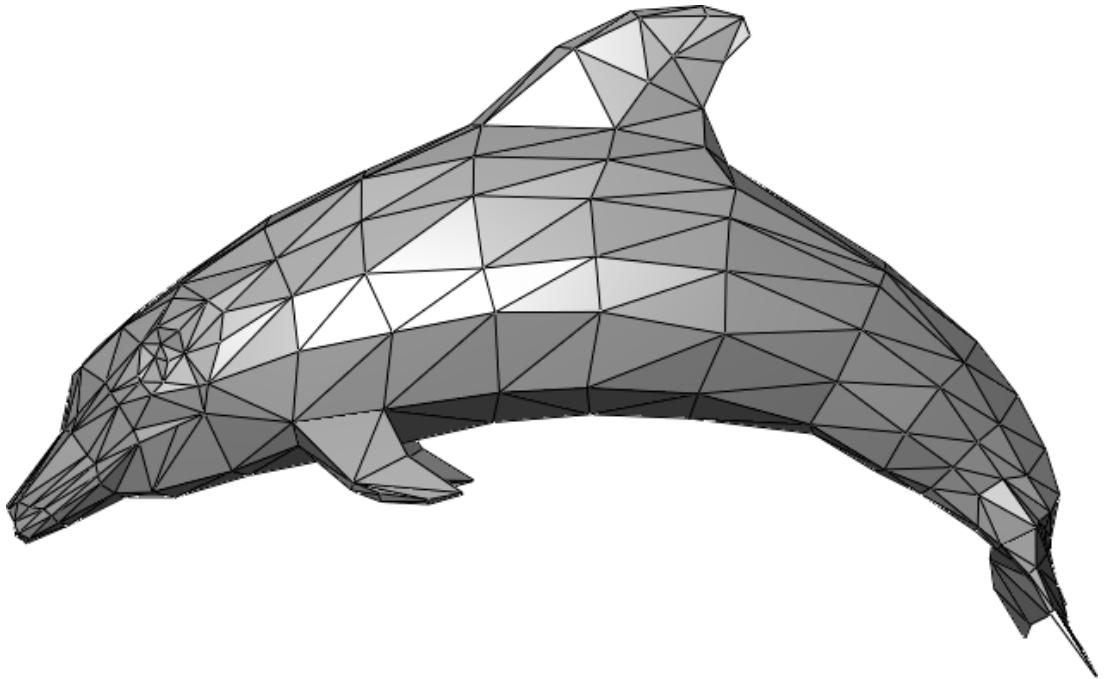


3D Particles



3D Meshes

# 3D Triangle Mesh



# The Virtual World as 3D Triangle Meshes



## Face-Vertex Meshes

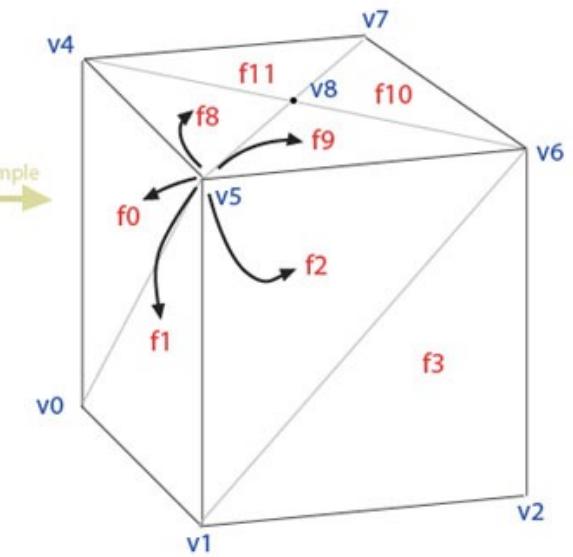
Face List

f0	v0 v4 v5
f1	v0 v5 v1
f2	v1 v5 v6
f3	v1 v6 v2
f4	v2 v6 v7
f5	v2 v7 v3
f6	v3 v7 v4
f7	v3 v4 v0
f8	v8 v5 v4
f9	v8 v6 v5
f10	v8 v7 v6
f11	v8 v4 v7
f12	v9 v5 v4
f13	v9 v6 v5
f14	v9 v7 v6
f15	v9 v4 v7

Vertex List

v0	0,0,0	f0 f1 f12 f15 f7
v1	1,0,0	f2 f3 f13 f12 f1
v2	1,1,0	f4 f5 f14 f13 f3
v3	0,1,0	f6 f7 f15 f14 f5
v4	0,0,1	f6 f7 f0 f8 f11
v5	1,0,1	f0 f1 f2 f9 f8
v6	1,1,1	f2 f3 f4 f10 f9
v7	0,1,1	f4 f5 f6 f11 f10
v8	.5,.5,0	f8 f9 f10 f11
v9	.5,.5,1	f12 f13 f14 f15

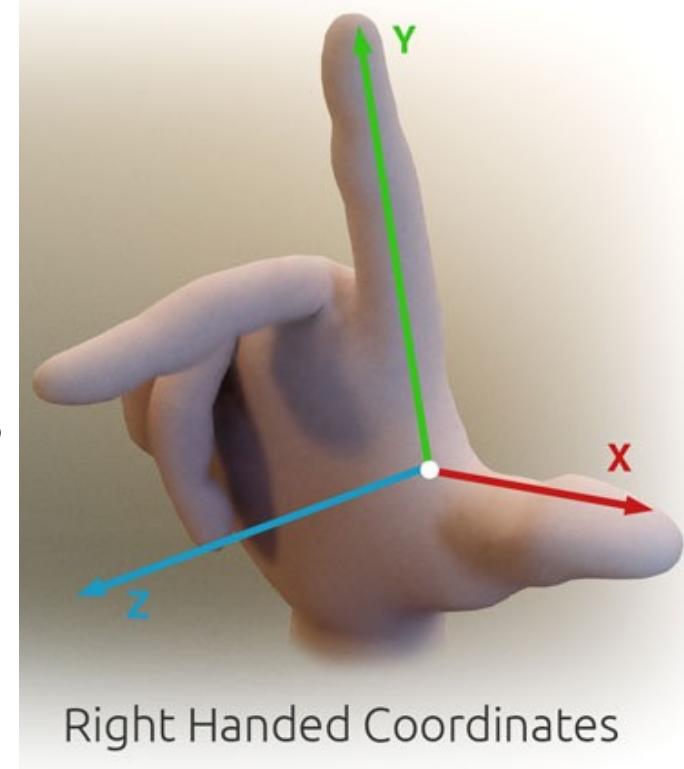
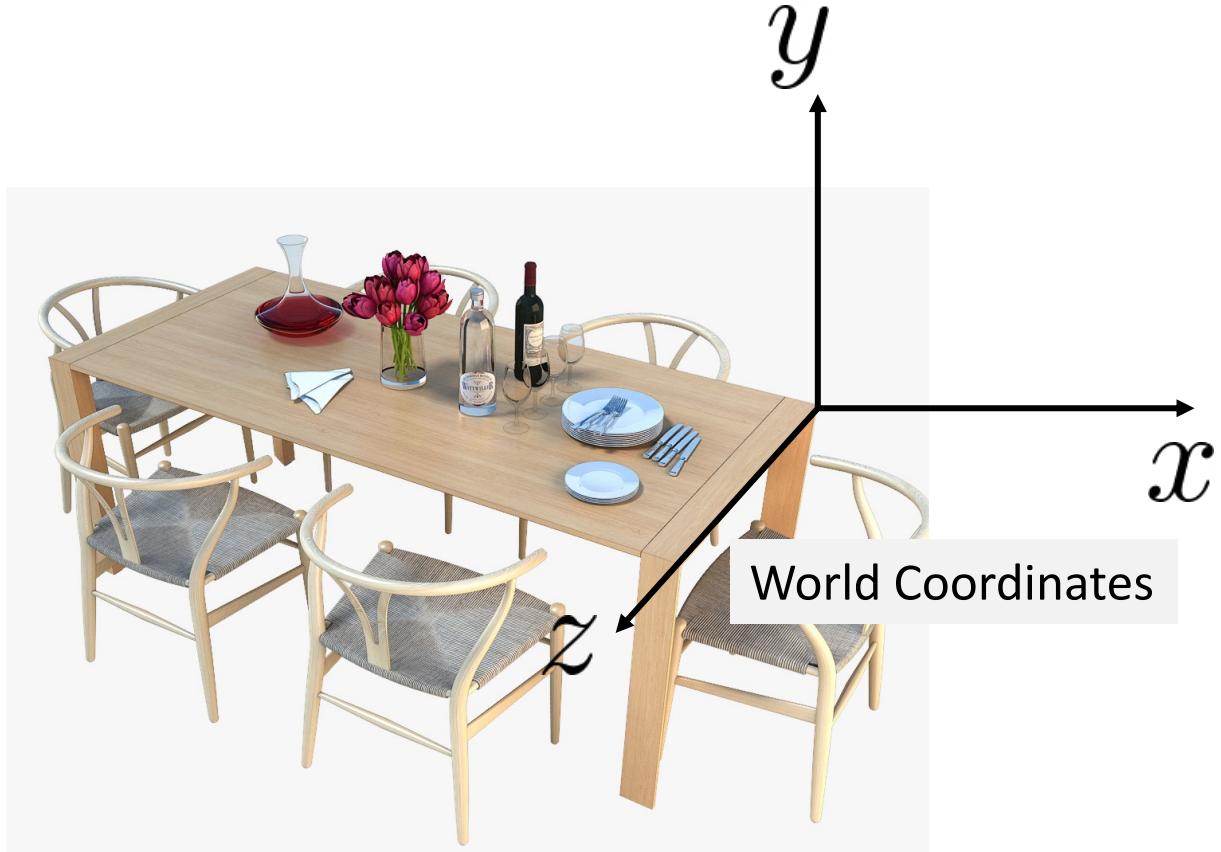
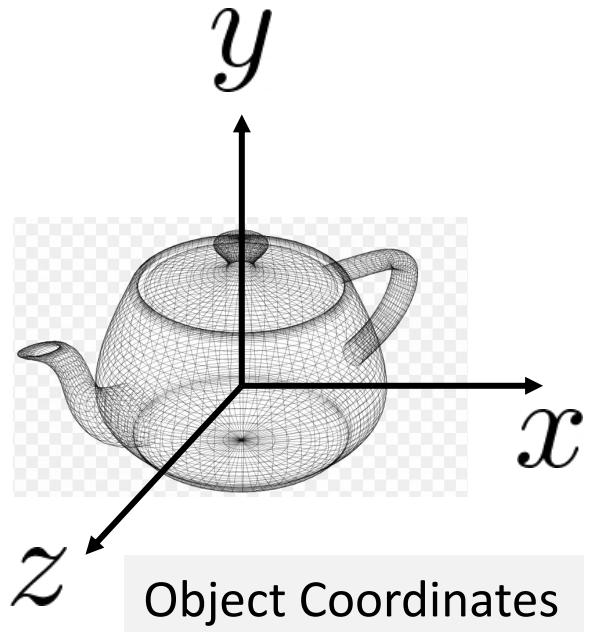
example



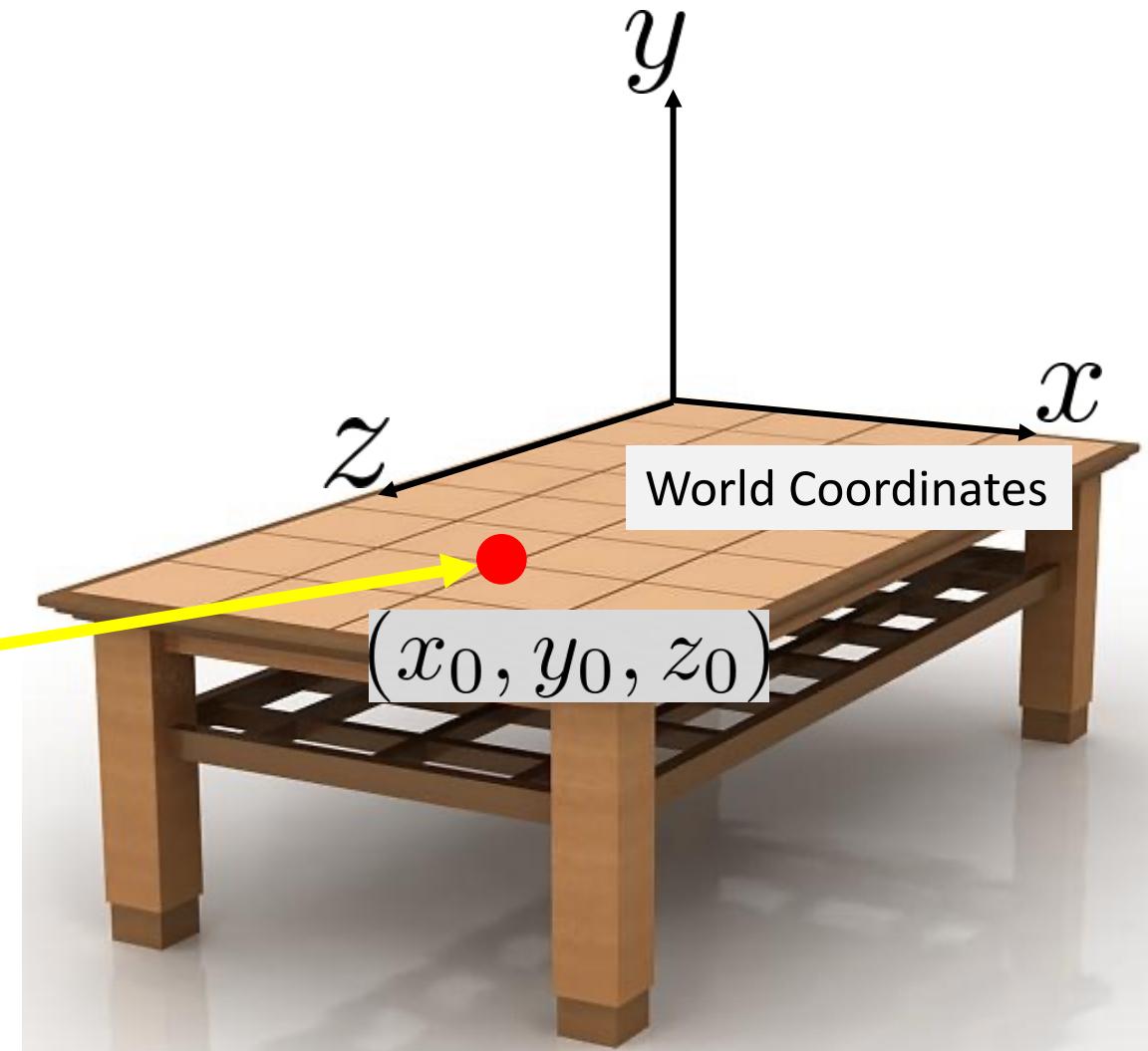
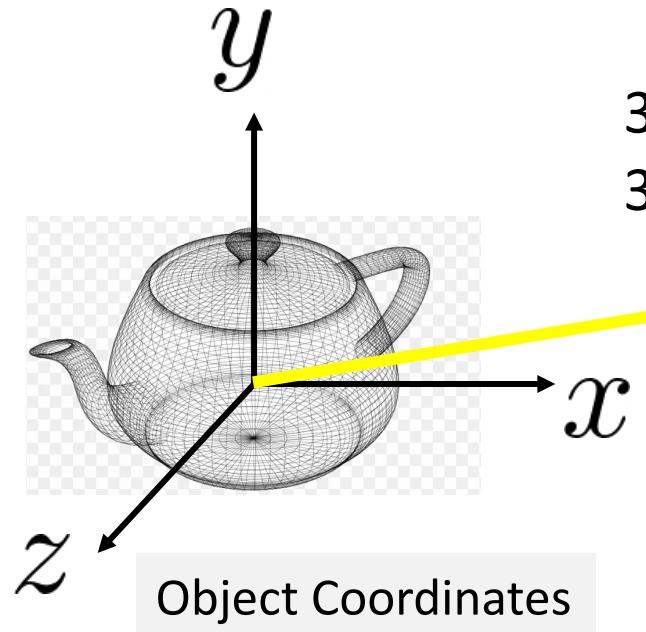
From Wikipedia

- Face: a closed set of edges
- A *triangle face* has three edges

# Coordinate Systems

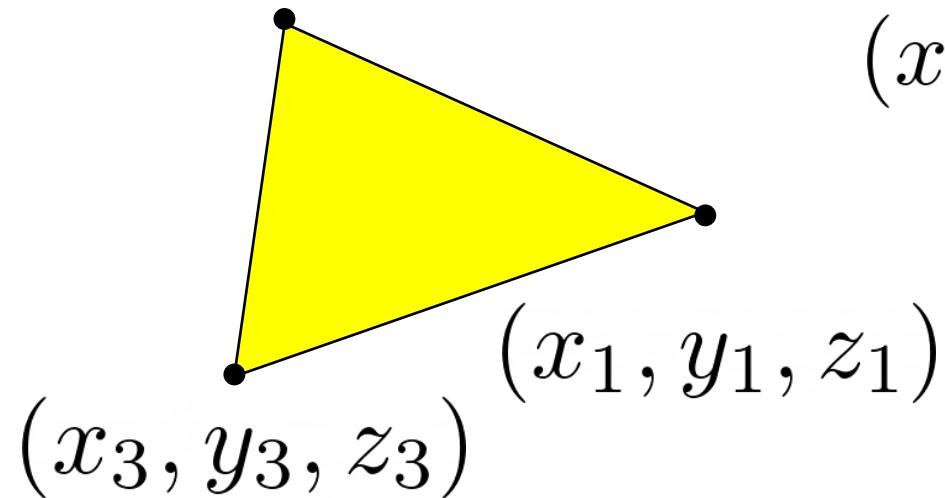


# Compose Scenes



# 3D Translation

$$(x_2, y_2, z_2)$$



$$(x_1, y_1, z_1) \mapsto (x_1 + x_t, y_1 + y_t, z_1 + z_t)$$

$$(x_2, y_2, z_2) \mapsto (x_2 + x_t, y_2 + y_t, z_2 + z_t)$$

$$(x_3, y_3, z_3) \mapsto (x_3 + x_t, y_3 + y_t, z_3 + z_t)$$

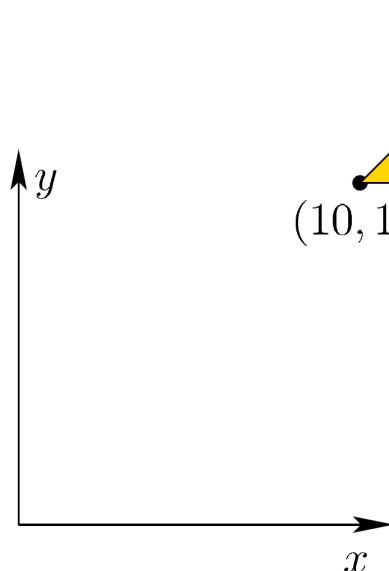
$$\mathbf{v}_1 \mapsto \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{t}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 \mapsto \mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{t}$$

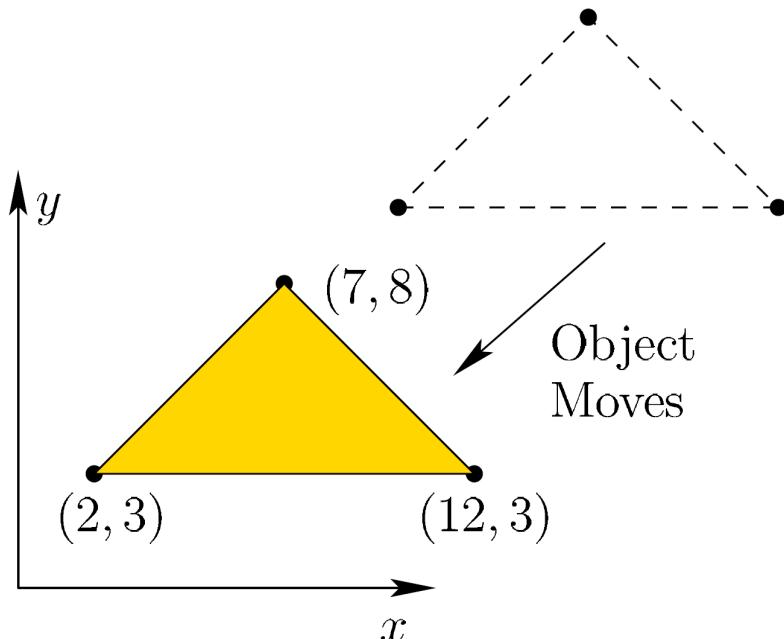
$$\mathbf{v}_3 \mapsto \mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{t}$$

$$3D\ Translation \ \mathbf{t} = (x_t, y_t, z_t)$$

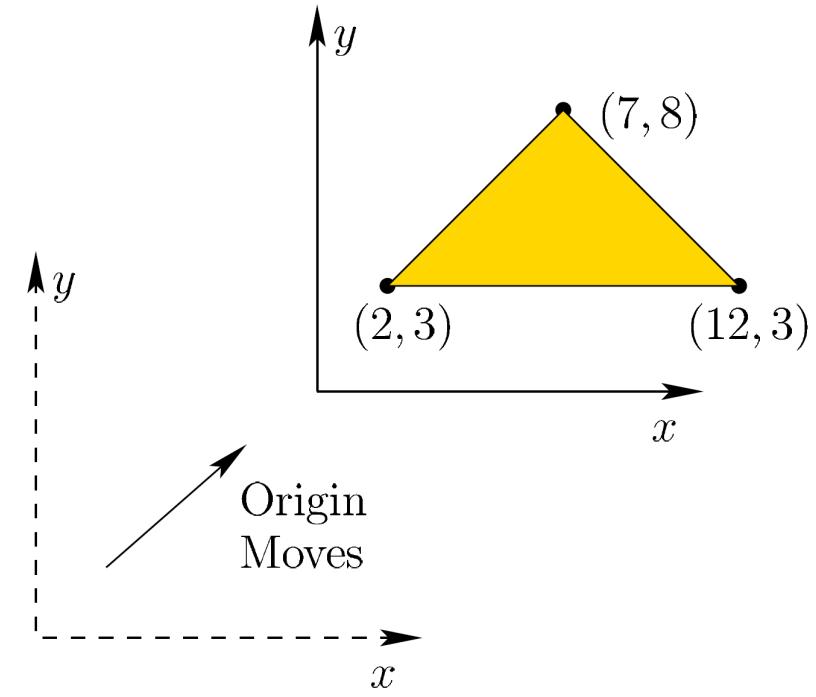
# Relativity



(a) Original object



(b) Object moves



(c) Origin moves

Both result in the same coordinates of the triangle

# Apply a 2D Matrix to a 2D point

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

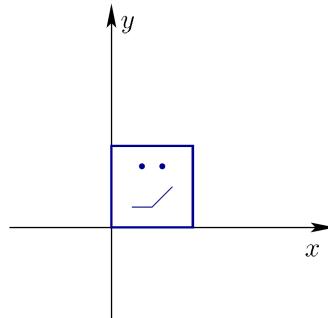
$$\begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x' = m_{11}x + m_{12}y$$

$$y' = m_{21}x + m_{22}y$$

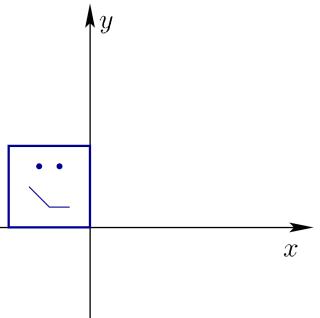
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

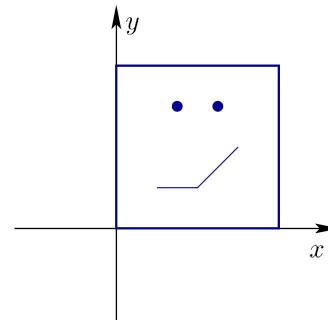


Identity

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

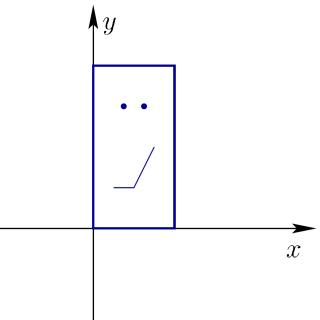


Mirror



Scale

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



Stretch

# Apply a 2D Matrix to a 2D point

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

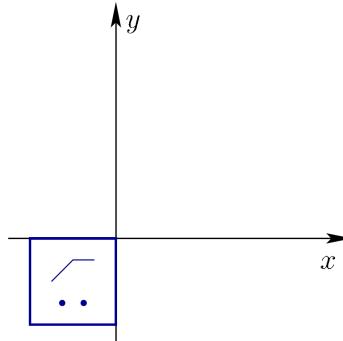
$$\begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x' = m_{11}x + m_{12}y$$

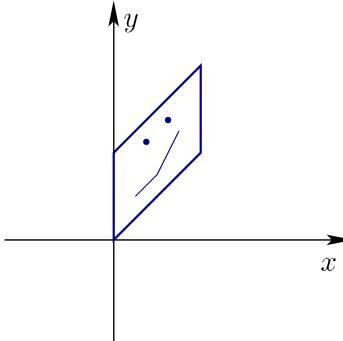
$$y' = m_{21}x + m_{22}y$$

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

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



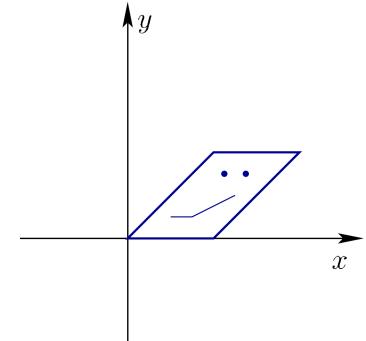
Rotate 180



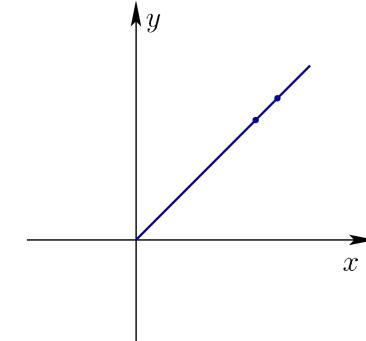
y-shear

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

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



x-shear



Singular

# 2D Rotations

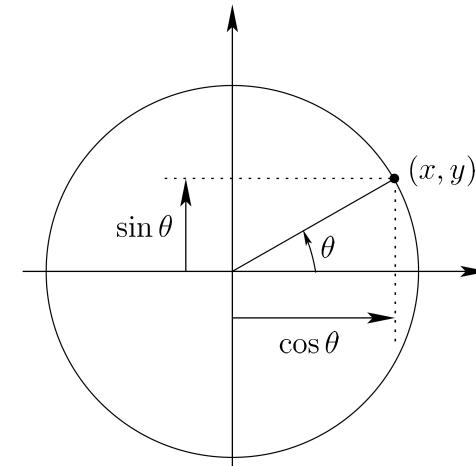
$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

- No stretching of axes  $m_{11}^2 + m_{21}^2 = 1$  and  $m_{12}^2 + m_{22}^2 = 1$

- No shearing Dot product  $m_{11}m_{12} + m_{21}m_{22} = 0$

- No mirror images  $\det \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix} = m_{11}m_{22} - m_{12}m_{21} = 1$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

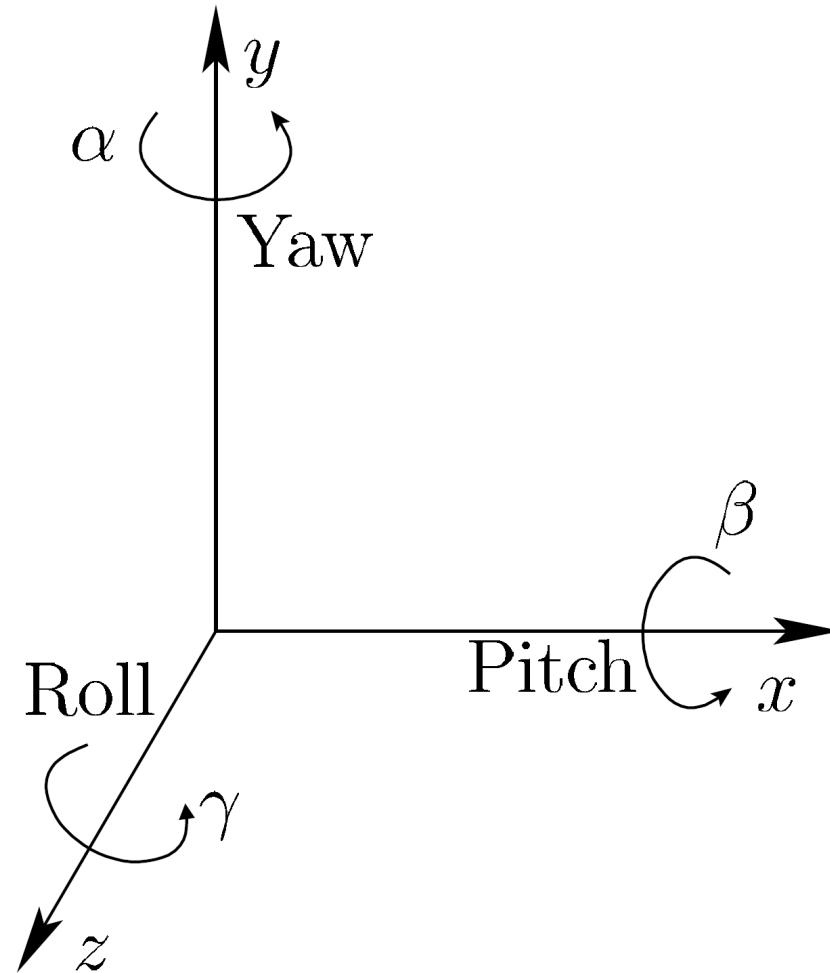


1 Degree of Freedom  
Rotate by  $\theta$

# 3D Rotations

- Unit-length columns
- Perpendicular columns
- $\det M = 1$
- 3 DOFs

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



# Euler Angles: Yaw, Pitch, Roll

- Counterclockwise rotation

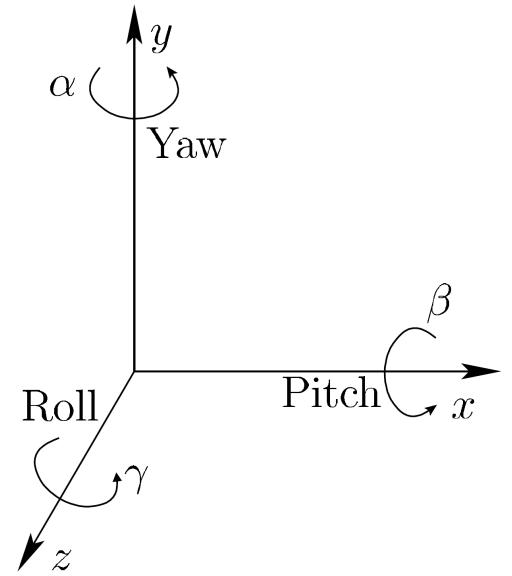
Roll

$$R_z(\gamma) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \gamma & -\sin \gamma & 0 \\ \sin \gamma & \cos \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad R_x(\beta) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \beta & -\sin \beta \\ 0 & \sin \beta & \cos \beta \end{bmatrix}$$

Pitch

Yaw

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

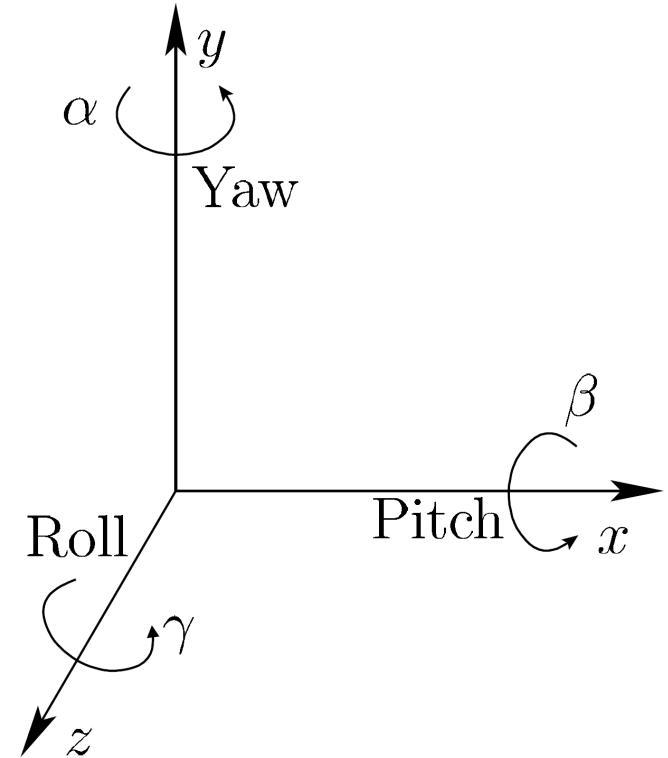


# Combining Rotations

- Matrix multiplications are “backwards”

$$R(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = R_y(\alpha)R_x(\beta)R_z(\gamma)$$

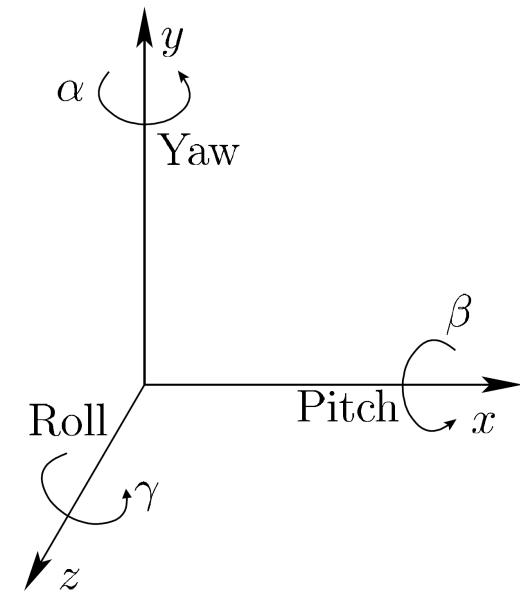
$$\alpha, \gamma \in [0, 2\pi] \quad \beta \in [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$$



# Singularities

- When pitch  $\beta = \frac{\pi}{2}$

$$R(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = R_y(\alpha)R_x(\beta)R_z(\gamma)$$



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

Only one DOF

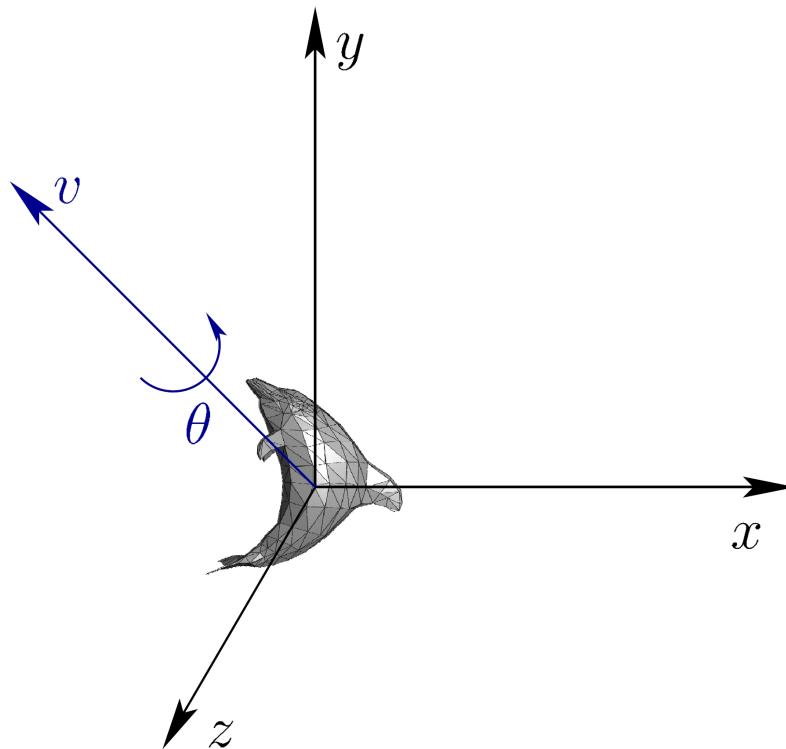
# Singularities

Sometimes interpolating 3d orientations is tricky...



# Axis-Angle Representations of Rotation

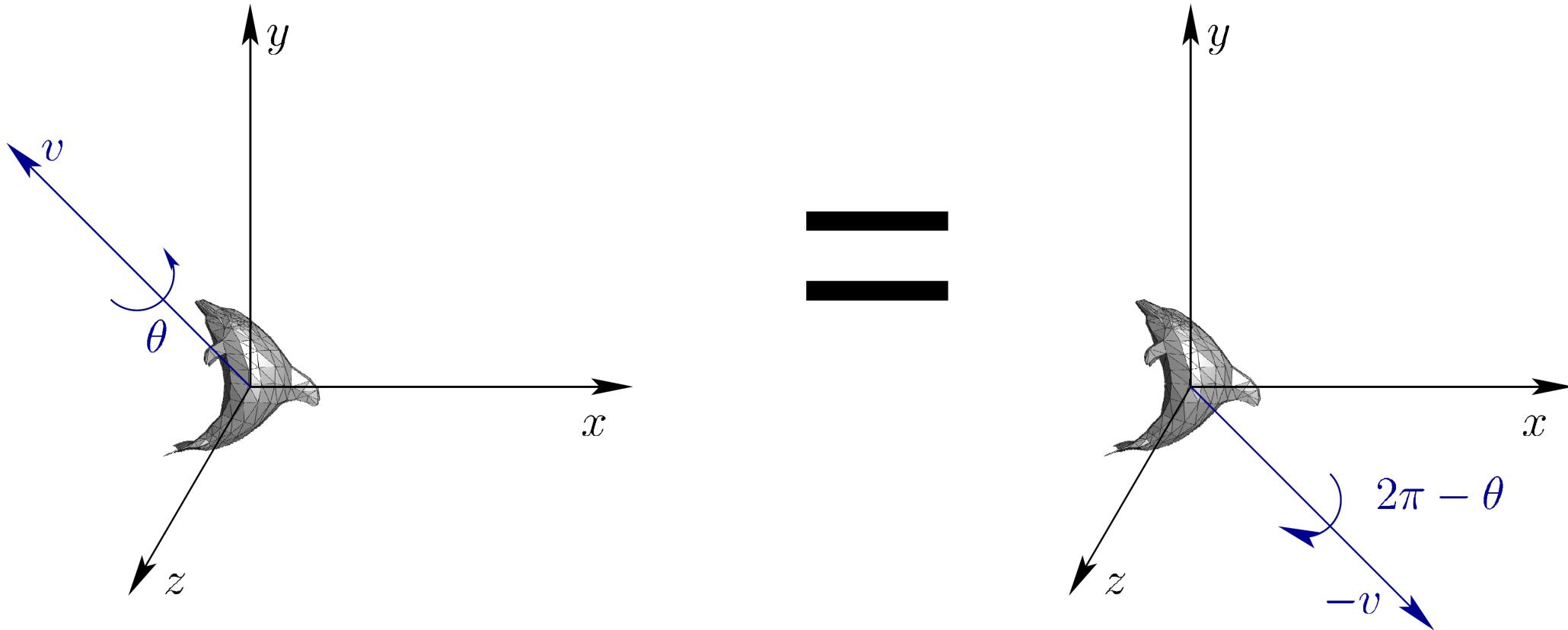
- Euler's rotation theorem: every 3D rotation can be considered as a rotation by an angle about an axis through the origin



$$\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3)$$

Unit vector  
2DOF + 1DOF

# Two-to-one Problem of Axis-Angle Representations



# Quaternions for 3D Rotations

- Quaternions generalize complex numbers and can be used to represent 3D rotations

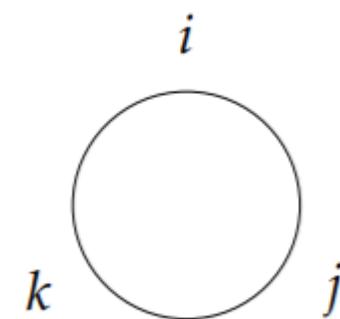
$$q = w + \underbrace{xi + yj + zk}_{\begin{array}{l} \text{Scalar (real part)} \\ \uparrow \\ \text{Vector (imaginary part)} \end{array}}$$

- Properties  $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1$

$$ij = k, ji = -k$$

$$jk = i, kj = -i$$

$$ki = j, ik = -j$$



# Quaternion Addition and Multiplication

- Addition

$$p + q = (p_0 + q_0) + (p_1 + q_1)\mathbf{i} + (p_2 + q_2)\mathbf{j} + (p_3 + q_3)\mathbf{k}$$

- Multiplication

$$\begin{aligned} pq &= (p_0 + p_1\mathbf{i} + p_2\mathbf{j} + p_3\mathbf{k})(q_0 + q_1\mathbf{i} + q_2\mathbf{j} + q_3\mathbf{k}) \\ &= p_0q_0 - (p_1q_1 + p_2q_2 + p_3q_3) + p_0(q_1\mathbf{i} + q_2\mathbf{j} + q_3\mathbf{k}) + q_0(p_1\mathbf{i} + p_2\mathbf{j} + p_3\mathbf{k}) \\ &\quad + (p_2q_3 - p_3q_2)\mathbf{i} + (p_3q_1 - p_1q_3)\mathbf{j} + (p_1q_2 - p_2q_1)\mathbf{k}. \end{aligned}$$

$$pq = p_0q_0 - \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q} + p_0\mathbf{q} + q_0\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{q}$$

$$\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3) \quad \mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, q_3)$$

# Complex Conjugate, Norm and Inverse

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

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

- Norm  $|q| = \sqrt{q^*q}$

$$\begin{aligned} q^*q &= (q_0 - \mathbf{q})(q_0 + \mathbf{q}) \\ &= q_0q_0 - (-\mathbf{q}) \cdot \mathbf{q} + q_0\mathbf{q} + (-\mathbf{q})q_0 + (-\mathbf{q}) \times \mathbf{q} \\ &= q_0^2 + \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{q} \\ &= q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 \\ &= qq^*. \end{aligned}$$

- Inverse  $q^{-1} = \frac{q^*}{|q|^2}$      $q^{-1}q = qq^{-1} = 1$

# Unit Quaternions as 3D Rotations

- For  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , rotation according to a unit quaternion  $q = q_0 + \mathbf{q}$

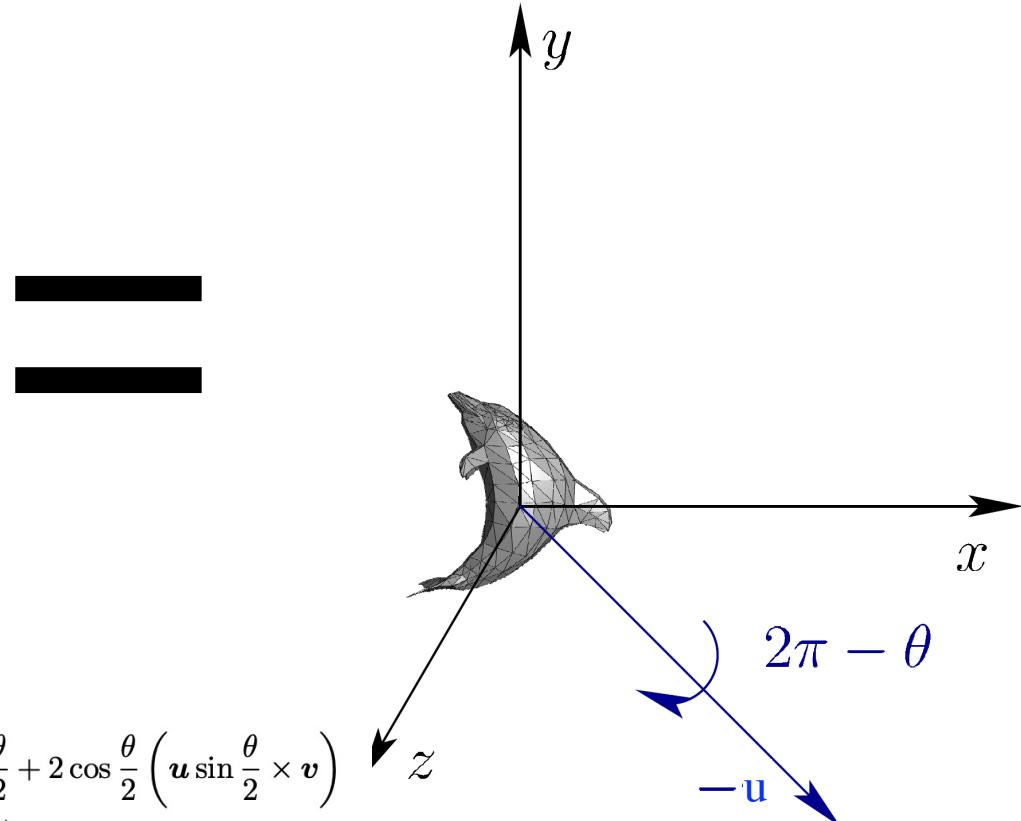
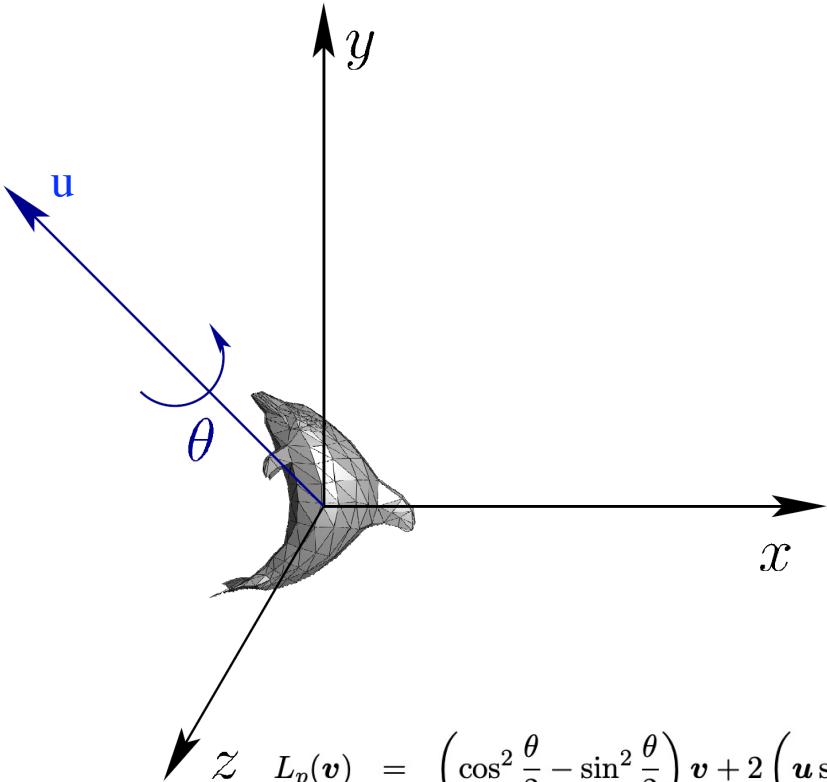
$$\begin{aligned} L_q(\mathbf{v}) &= q\mathbf{v}q^* \\ &= (q_0^2 - \|\mathbf{q}\|^2)\mathbf{v} + 2(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{q} + 2q_0(\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v}) \end{aligned}$$

The real part of  $\mathbf{v}$  is 0

- For unit quaternions, axis-angle

$$(\mathbf{v}, \theta) \longleftrightarrow q = \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{2}, v_1 \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, v_2 \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, v_3 \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

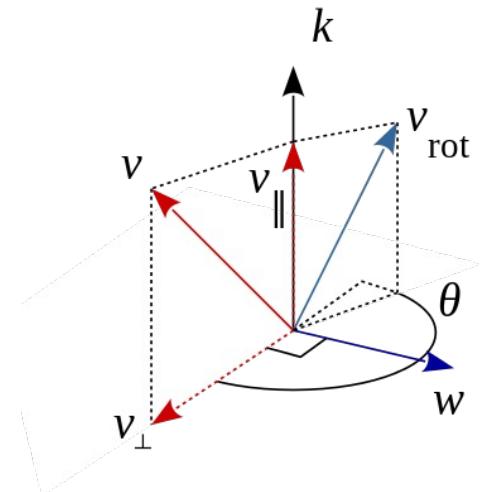
# Two-to-one Problem of Axis-Angle Representations



# Rodrigues' Rotation Formula

- Rotate  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  about unit vector  $\mathbf{k}$  by angle  $\theta$

$$\mathbf{v}_{\text{rot}} = \mathbf{v} \cos \theta + (\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{v}) \sin \theta + \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v})(1 - \cos \theta)$$



Derivation HW1

- Matrix notation  $\mathbf{v}_{\text{rot}} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{v}$

Cross product matrix

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{I} + (\sin \theta)\mathbf{K} + (1 - \cos \theta)\mathbf{K}^2$$

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -k_z & k_y \\ k_z & 0 & -k_x \\ -k_y & k_x & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{K}\mathbf{v}$$

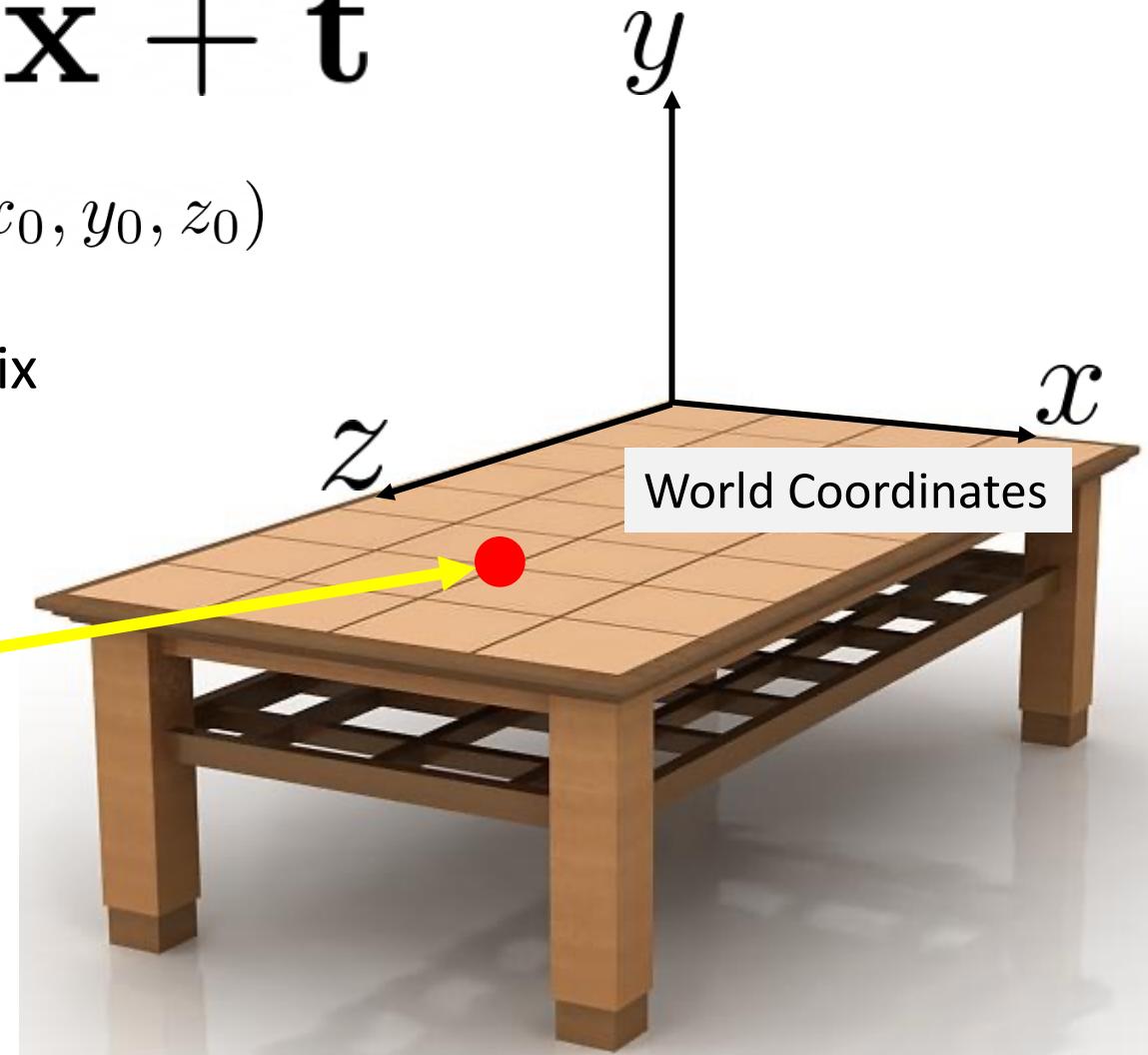
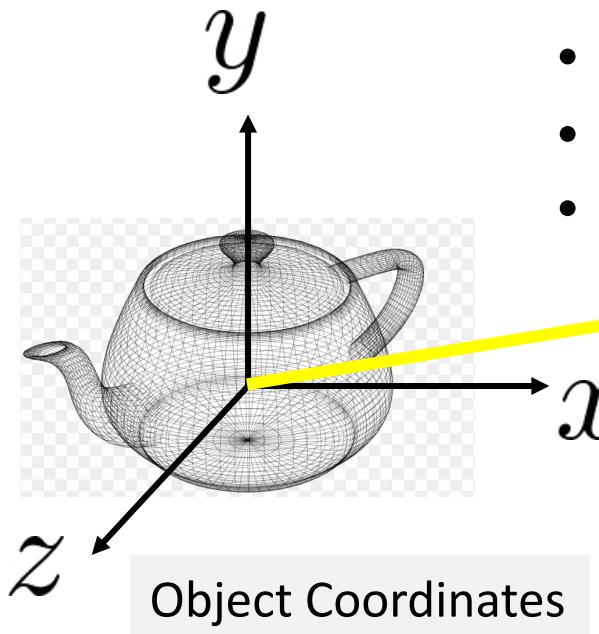
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross\\_product](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_product)

# Transform 3D Models $R\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{t}$

3D Translation  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$

3D Rotation

- Rotation matrix
- Euler angles
- Axis-angle
- Quaternion



# Further Reading

- Chapter 3, Virtual Reality, Steven LaValle
- Quaternion and Rotations, Yan-Bin Jia,  
<https://graphics.stanford.edu/courses/cs348a-17-winter/Papers/quaternion.pdf>
- Introduction to Robotics, Prof. Wei Zhang, OSU, Lecture 3, Rotational Motion, <http://www2.ece.ohio-state.edu/~zhang/RoboticsClass/index.html>