

# CS 188 Robotics Week 2

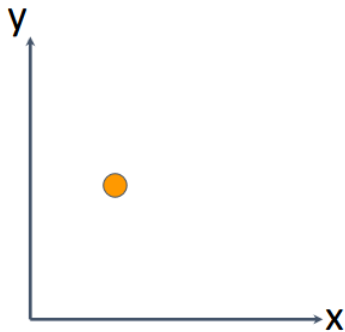
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April 8, 2025

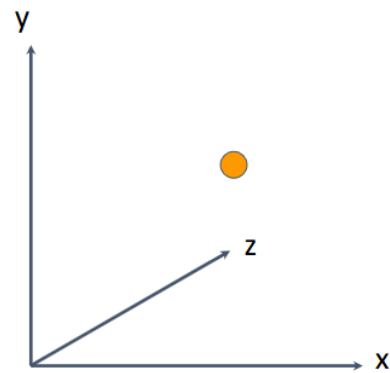
## Rigid Body Motions

### Representing Position

A point in 2D:  $p = (x,y)$



A point in 3D:  $p = (x,y,z)$

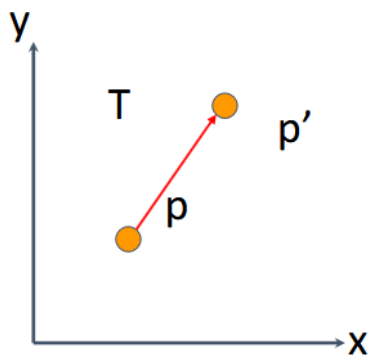


### 2D Transformation: Translation

Translate the point  $p$  to  $p'$  with  $T = (dx, dy)$ :

$$p' = T + p$$

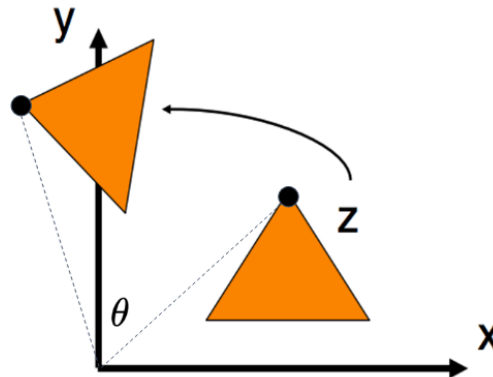
$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_x \\ d_y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$



## 2D Transformation: Rotation

$$p' = R \cdot p$$

Here we are doing a counter-clockwise rotation



The triangle here helps us visualize the rotation. However, we are still considering one 2D point  $p$ .

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

## Combining Rotation and Transformation

$$p' = R \cdot p + T$$

In general, a matrix multiplication lets us linearly combine components of a vector.

- It is sufficient for representing rotation, but we can't add a constant :(

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ax + by \\ cx + dy \end{bmatrix}$$

## Homogeneous Coordinates

- The solution? Stick a "1" at the end of every vector.
- Now, we can do rotation AND translation
- This is called "homogeneous coordinates"

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ax + by + c \\ dx + ey + f \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Our old way of representing point is called "Cartesian coordinate system"

## Cartesian and Homogeneous Coordinate

- A point in cartesian coordinate  $\langle x, y \rangle$  can be represented by  $\langle sx, sy, s \rangle$  in homogeneous coordinate, where  $s$  is any scalar number.
  - For example,  $\langle 2, 3 \rangle$  in cartesian coordinate can be represented as  $\langle 2, 3, 1 \rangle$  or  $\langle 4, 6, 2 \rangle$ , or  $\langle 1, 1.5, 0.5 \rangle$ , etc. in homogeneous coordinates
  - A point in homogeneous coordinate  $\langle x, y, z \rangle$  can be converted to cartesian coordinates by dividing the last element  $\langle x/z, y/z \rangle$
  - Similarly for higher dimensions

## Transformation Matrices

Representing rotation and translation homogeneous coordinates

- 2D Translation

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

- 2D Rotation

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now we can represent both the rotation and translation operation with one transformation matrix.

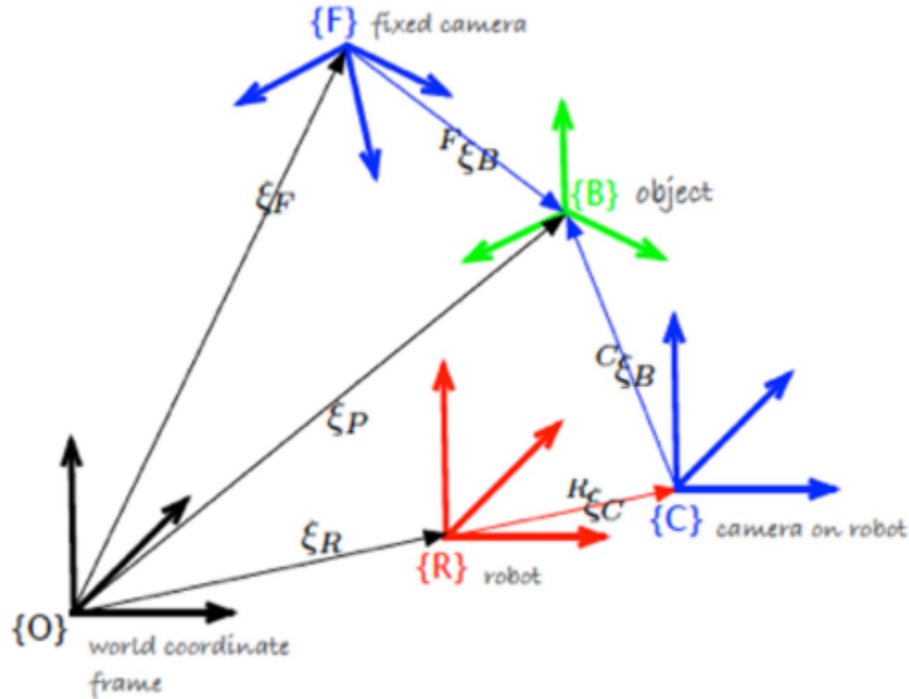
$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & t_x \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: Following the matrix multiplication rule, a transformation matrix always apply rotation first, then translation.

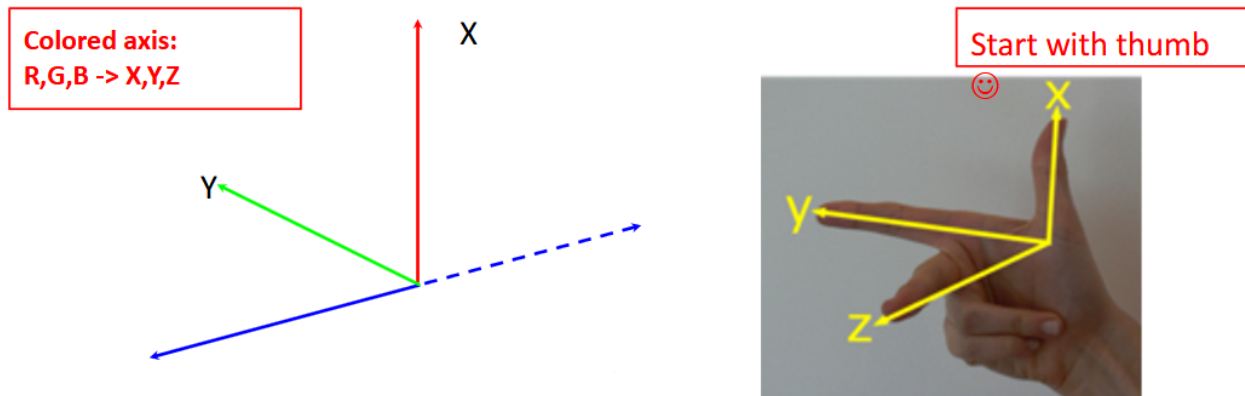
- Matrix multiplication is *not* commutative.

## 3D Transformation

Our examples so far were all in 2D, but we often want a 3D representation



## Right Hand Rule



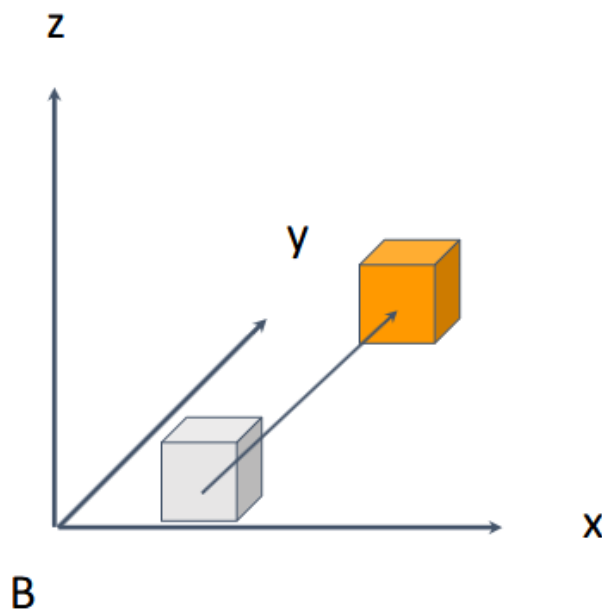
Most of robotics system's coordinate system follows the right hand rule

- Not always true (e.g., in some graphics and physics engine directX Unity)
- Therefore, be careful!

## 3D Transformation: Translation

A 3D point  $(x, y, z)$ , translation by  $t_x, t_y, t_z$ :

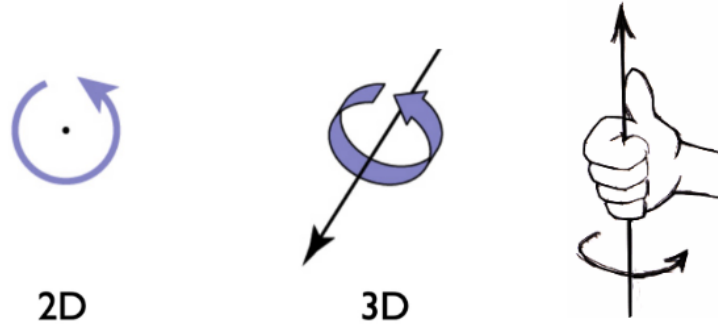
$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \\ t_z \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$



## 3D Transformation: Rotation

- A rotation in 2D is around a point
- A rotation in 3D is around an axis (a line with direction)

- rotation direction also follows right hand rule (thumb points to the axis direction, other fingers points towards the **positive** rotation direction)
- It is a 3D space, not just 1D
- most common choices for rotation axes are the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ -axes (Euler angle representation)



### 3D Rotation Matrices

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

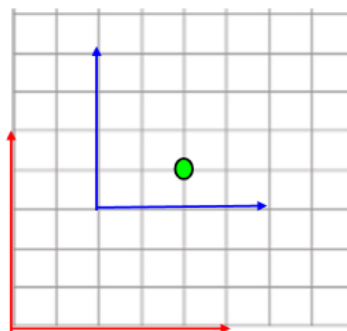
$$R_y(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

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

### Reference Frames (Coordinate System)

- Up to now we have look at transformation in a single reference frame. However, in a complex robotic system we often need to define many reference frames.
- The same 3D point might have different coordinate if we use different reference frames, next we will learn how to transform between different reference frames.

Example: green dot's coordinate is (2, 1) in blue reference frame, but its coordinate is (4, 4) in red reference frame.

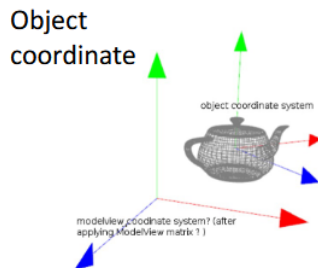


Changing coordinate frame is like translating between two different languages that describes the same thing.

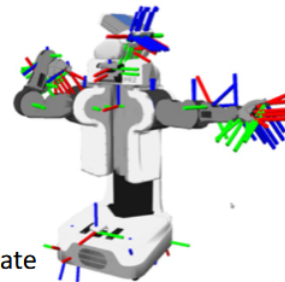
Examples:



First half of course  
Lecture 3-9  
(perception)



End-effector  
coordinate



Robot coordinate

Second half of course  
Lecture 7-14  
(motion planning)

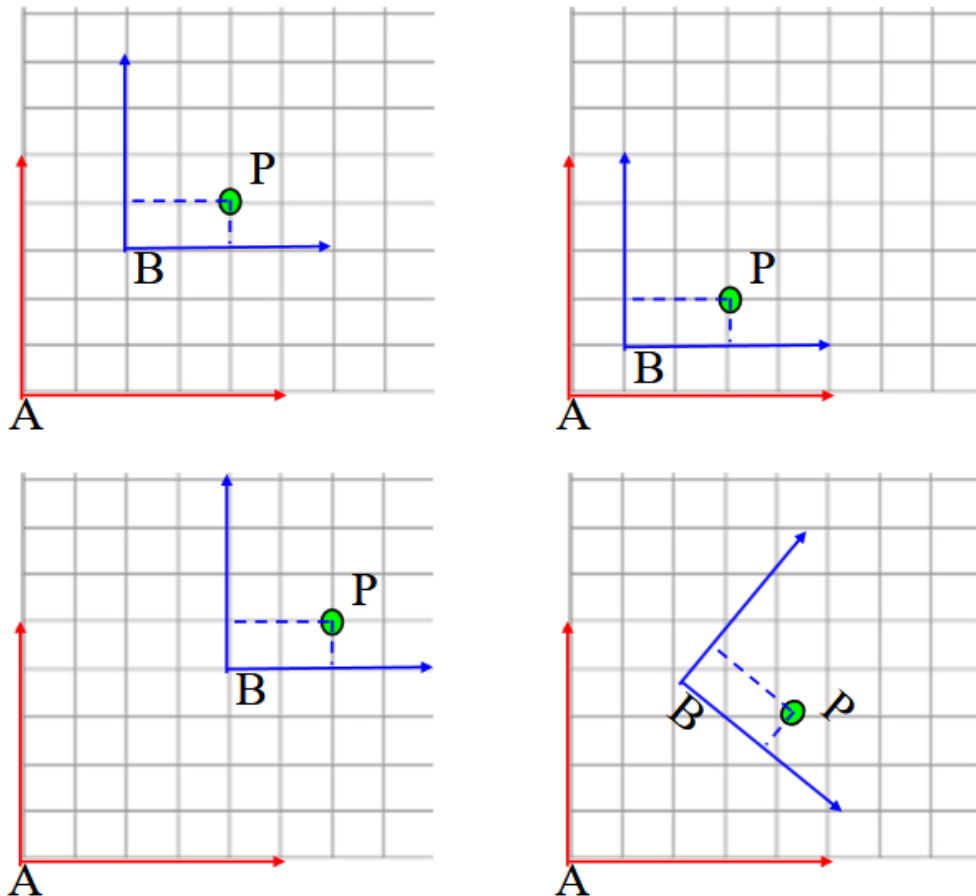
## Changing Reference Frames

- We define two coordinate frames A and B
- A Point  $P$ :
  - $P$ 's coordinate in Frame A is  ${}^A P = (4, 4)$
  - $P$ 's coordinate in Frame B is  ${}^B P = (2, 1)$
- Transformations between reference frames we will use the notation  ${}^A T_B$  (FROM frame is in the bottom right and the TO frame is in the top left.)
- To transform  ${}^B P$ 's reference frame from B to A, we just need to apply  ${}^A T_B$  to  ${}^B P$ .

$${}^A P = {}^A T_B \cdot {}^B P$$

How do we compute  ${}^A T_B$ ?

- Suppose the point  $P$  is rigidly attached to reference Frame B.
- No matter where the reference B, point  $P$  is its coordinates with respect to Frame B is always given by  ${}^B P = (2, 1)$ .

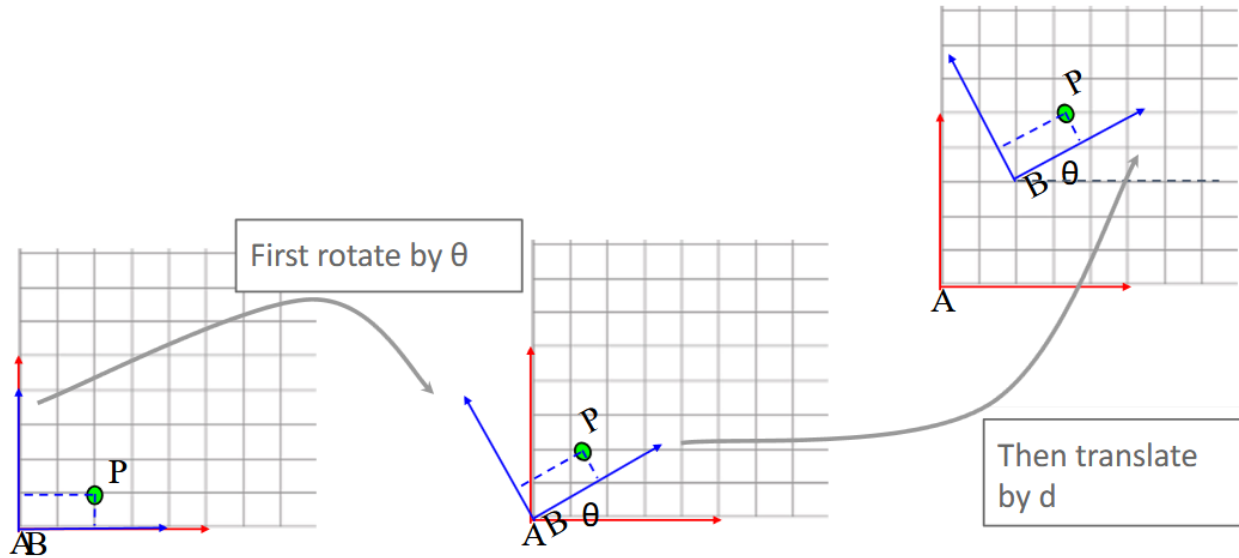


First, let's make Frame B identical to Frame A. Now,  ${}^A P = {}^B P = (2, 1)$ . Now, simply translate Frame B together with  $d = (2, 3)$ , we will get the  ${}^A P = {}^B P + d$ . Therefore in this case,

$${}^A T_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(There is no rotation in this case, only translation)

- If there is a rotation, first rotate the frame so it is aligned with the target, then do a translation.

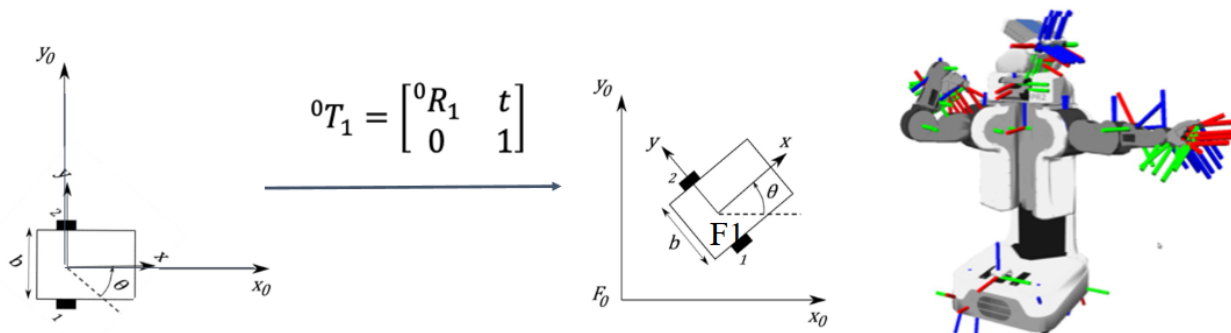


If we combine this rotation and translation into one transformation matrix, we get:

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} R_\theta & d \\ 0_n & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is the transformation  ${}^A T_B$  that change the coordinate frame from B to A.

- However, geometrically it describes the motion from Frame A to B.
- ${}^A T_B$  also describes Frame B's "pose" in Frame A, where the rotation component R describes the B's orientation in Frame A, and the translation represents B's position in Frame A.



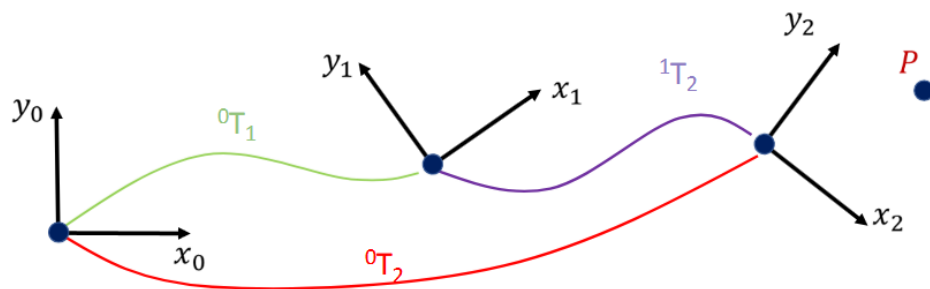
## Change of Basis Summary

What is  ${}^A T_B$ ?

- ${}^A T_B$  is a rigid transformation matrix (3x3 matrix in 2D, 4x4 in 3D)
- ${}^A T_B$  represents the transform that **change the coordinate frame from B to A**:  ${}^A P = {}^A T_B {}^B P$
- ${}^A T_B$  geometrically describes the motion from Frame A to B.
- ${}^A T_B$  is also the pose of coordinate frame (B) in the coordinate frame (A); that describes the position and orientation of Frame B in Frame A.



## Composing Transformation



From our previous results, we know:

$${}^0P = {}^0T_1 {}^1P$$

$${}^1P = {}^1T_2 {}^2P$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} {}^0P = {}^0T_1 {}^1P \\ {}^1P = {}^1T_2 {}^2P \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow {}^0P = {}^0T_1 {}^1T_2 {}^2P$$

$$\text{But we also know: } {}^0P = {}^0T_2 {}^2P$$

**This is the composition law for homogeneous transformations.**

$$\longrightarrow {}^0T_2 = {}^0T_1 {}^1T_2$$

## Chained 3D Rotation

We can chain a sequence of Euler angle rotations (multiple sequence of rotation matrix) to get a general 3D rotation.

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

There are a few things to note when writing down the sequence of rotation:

1. Rotation matrix is non-commutative - order matters!
2. Be aware of which sequence convention you are using when describing the 2nd and 3rd rotations: **extrinsic** rotation (fixed global frame), or **intrinsic** rotation? (last rotated coordinate system) - they are different.

## Extrinsic vs. Intrinsic Rotation



Extrinsic: all rotation are described with respect to fixed global frame (red frame)

$$R = R_z(90^\circ) \cdot R_y(45^\circ) \cdot R_x(180^\circ)$$

First, rotate about the **global** x-axis, 180  
then, rotate about the **global** y-axis, 45  
finally rotate about the **global** z-axis, 90



Intrinsic: a rotation is described to the last rotated coordinate system (blue, airplane's body frame)

$$R = R_z(90^\circ) \cdot R_{y'}(45^\circ) \cdot R_{x''}(180^\circ)$$

- 1) rotate about the **global** z-axis, 90
- 2) rotate about the **new** y'-axis, 45
- 3) rotate about the **new** x''-axis, 180

The final rotation  $R$  is the same. However, the order of describing rotation sequence is opposite in each convention.

- (Use premultiply!)

## Rotation Matrix

Rotation matrix has a number of highly useful properties:

- $R$  is an orthonormal matrix: Its columns are orthogonal unit vectors. ( $R^{-1} = R^T$ )
  - This does not apply to general transformation matrices.
- determinant of the matrix  $|R| = 1$
- The length of the vector is unchanged after transformation

## Other 3D Rotation Representations

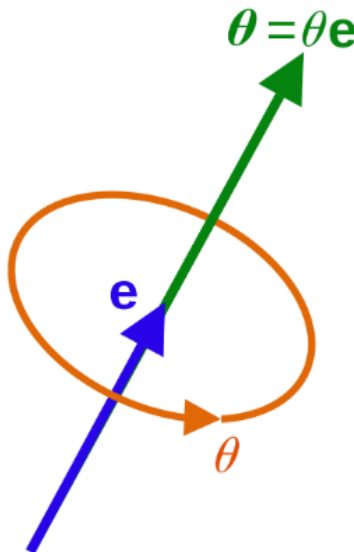
There are many ways to specify rotation

- Rotation matrix
- Euler angles: 3 angles about 3 axes
- Axis-angle representation
- Quaternions

## Axis Angle Representation

Parameterize a 3D rotation by two quantities: a unit vector  $e$  indicating the direction of an axis of rotation, and an angle  $\theta$  describing the magnitude of the rotation about the axis.

- Euler's rotation theorem: any rotation or sequence of rotations of a rigid body in a three-dimensional space is equivalent to a single rotation about a single fixed axis.



## Quaternions

Uses a unit four-dimensional vector  $(x, y, z, w)$  to represent rotation.

- If the rotation is  $(v_1, v_2, v_3, \theta)$  in angle-axis representation, it can be written in quaternion as:

$$\begin{aligned}x &= v_1 \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \\y &= v_2 \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \\z &= v_3 \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \\w &= \cos \frac{\theta}{2}\end{aligned}$$

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + w^2 = 1$$

- the above is a 4-dimensional vector on a 4D sphere.

Quaternions are a very popular parameterization due to the following properties:

- More compact than the matrix representation (4 numbers instead of 9 numbers)
- The quaternion elements vary continuously over the unit sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  as the orientation changes, avoiding discontinuous jumps (it is important for many optimization or learning algorithms).

For example:

- $(0, 0, 0, 1)$  is the identity quaternion.
- $(1, 0, 0, 0)$  rotates along  $x$ -axis by  $\pi$ . (Since  $w = 0$ , therefore  $\theta = \pi$ ).

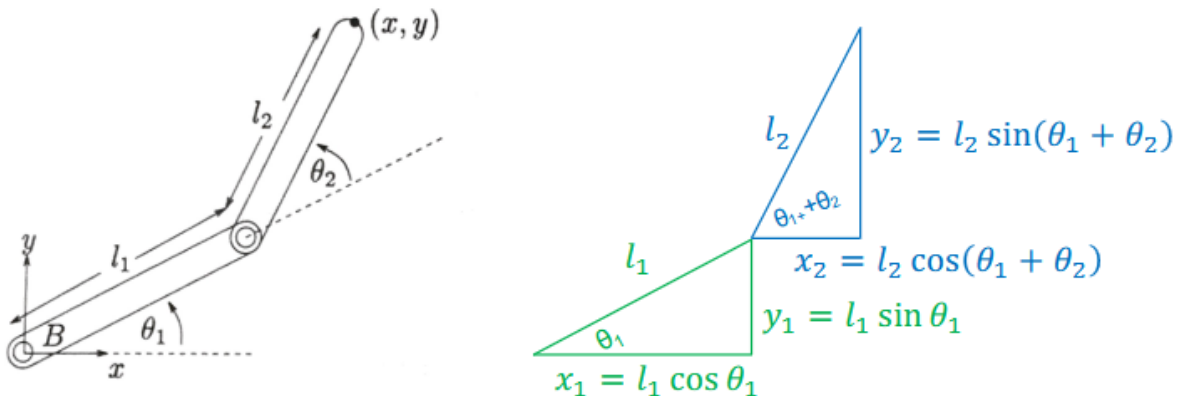
To inverse a quaternion:

- keep the rotation axis, rotate backward
- Inverse of  $(x, y, z, w)$  is  $(x, y, z, -w)$
- $(x, y, z, w)$  is equivalent to  $(-x, -y, -z, -w)$

## Forward Kinematics

### Forward Kinematics of 2-link Manipulator

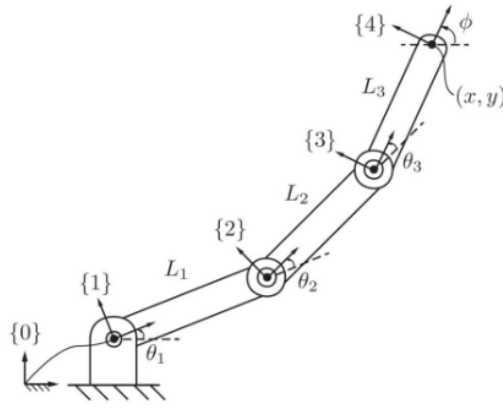
Given joint angles, calculate position of end-effector



$$x = l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

$$y = l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

## Forward Kinematics of RRR open-chain



Forward kinematics of a 3R planar open chain.

### • General cases

- Attaching frames to links
- Using homogeneous transformations

$$T_{04} = T_{01}T_{12}T_{23}T_{34}$$

$$T_{01} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_1 & -\sin \theta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \theta_1 & \cos \theta_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad T_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_2 & -\sin \theta_2 & 0 & L_1 \\ \sin \theta_2 & \cos \theta_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

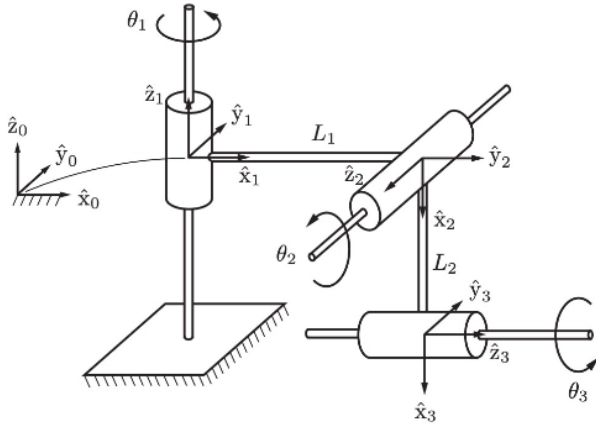
$$T_{23} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_3 & -\sin \theta_3 & 0 & L_2 \\ \sin \theta_3 & \cos \theta_3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad T_{34} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & L_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_{i-1,i} \quad \text{Depends only on the joint variable } \theta_i$$

## Denavit-Hartenberg (DH) parameters

$$T_{0n}(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n) = T_{01}(\theta_1)T_{12}(\theta_2) \cdots T_{n-1,n}(\theta_n)T_i = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_i & -\sin \theta_i \cos \alpha_i & \sin \theta_i \sin \alpha_i & a_i \cos \theta_i \\ \sin \theta_i & \cos \theta_i \cos \alpha_i & -\cos \theta_i \sin \alpha_i & a_i \sin \theta_i \\ 0 & \sin \alpha_i & \cos \alpha_i & d_i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The length of the mutually perpendicular line, denoted by the scalar  $a_{i-1}$ , is called the **link length** of link  $i-1$ . Despite its name, this link length does not necessarily correspond to the actual length of the physical link.
- The **link twist**  $\alpha_{i-1}$  is the angle from  $\hat{z}_{i-1}$  to  $\hat{z}_i$ , measured about  $\hat{x}_{i-1}$ .
- The **link offset**  $d_i$  is the distance from the intersection of  $\hat{x}_{i-1}$  and  $\hat{z}_i$  to the origin of the link-0 frame (the positive direction is defined to be along the  $\hat{z}_i$ -axis).
- The **joint angle**  $\phi_i$  is the angle from  $\hat{x}_{i-1}$  to  $\hat{x}_i$ , measured about the  $\hat{z}_i$ -axis.

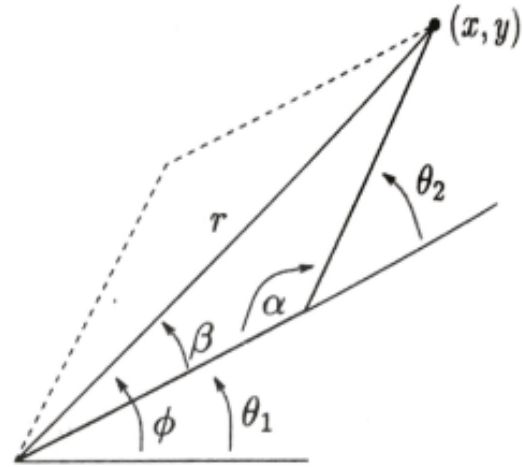
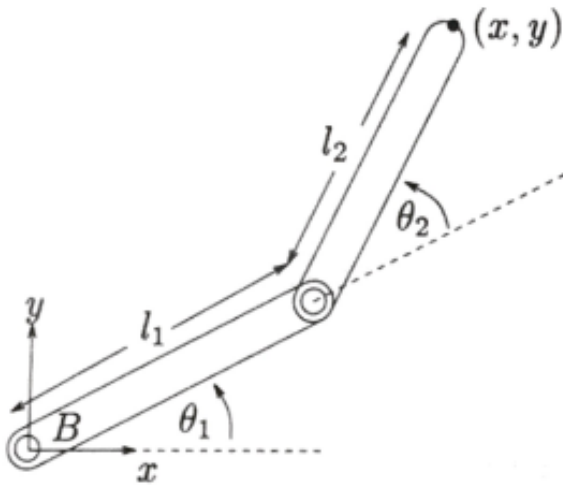


Parameter	Symbol	Meaning
Link length	$a_i$	Distance from $Z_{i-1}$ to $Z_i$ along $X_i$
Link twist	$\alpha_i$	Angle from $Z_{i-1}$ to $Z_i$ around $X_i$
Link offset	$d_i$	Distance from $X_{i-1}$ to $X_i$ along $Z_{i-1}$
Joint angle	$\phi_i$	Angle from $X_{i-1}$ to $X_i$ around $Z_i$

$i$	$\alpha_{i-1}$	$a_{i-1}$	$d_i$	$\phi_i$
1	0	0	0	$\theta_1$
2	$90^\circ$	$L_1$	0	$\theta_2 - 90^\circ$
3	$-90^\circ$	$L_2$	0	$\theta_3$

## Inverse Kinematics

Given the end-effector position, calculate joint angles



$$\theta_2 = \pi \pm \alpha \quad \alpha = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{l_1^2 + l_2^2 - r^2}{2l_1l_2} \right)$$

If  $\alpha \neq 0$ , there are two distinct values of  $\theta_2$  which give the appropriate radius - the *flip solution* is shown dashed above.

$$\theta_1 = \arctan 2(y, x) \pm \beta \quad \beta = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{r^2 + l_1^2 - l_2^2}{2l_1r} \right)$$

Solve for  $\phi$  and use this to get  $\theta_1$  for **both** possible  $\theta_2$  values

- Inverse kinematics for joints  $> 2$  is generally not solvable (no closed-form solution)
- More than one solution (redundancy)
- A hard (and well-studied problem)

## Dynamics

Given joint velocities, find the end-effector velocity

$$\begin{aligned}x &= L_1 \cos(\theta_1) + L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\y &= L_2 \sin(\theta_1) + L_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)\end{aligned}$$

First, differentiate with respect to joint angles

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_1} &= -L_1 \sin \theta_1 - L_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_2} &= -L_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_1} &= L_1 \cos \theta_1 + L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_2} &= L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)\end{aligned}$$

## Jacobian Matrix

For *Jacobian* matrix: the matrix of all first-order partial derivatives of a vector-valued function

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_2} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Velocity of end-effector:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_2} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Inverse of Jacobian

Jacobian is used for inverse dynamics

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_2} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_2} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Can be used for closed-loop control
- Manipulator has singularity when determinant of Jacobian is zero
- Difficult to control around singularity