

# CS 188 Robotics Week 2

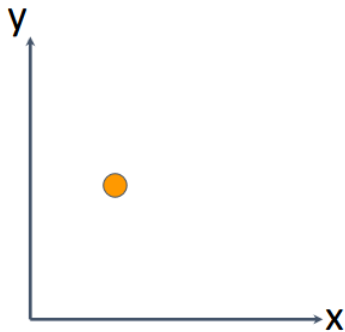
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April 15, 2025

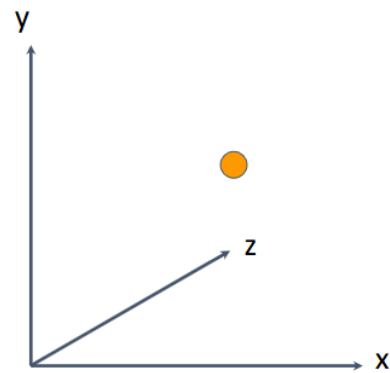
## Rigid Body Motions

### Representing Position

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



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

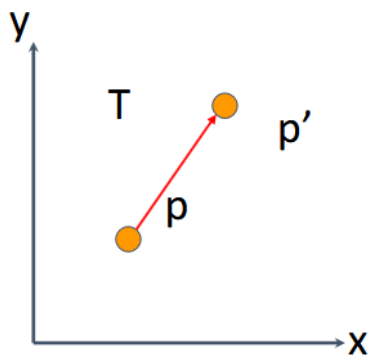


### 2D Transformation: Translation

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

$$p' = T + p$$

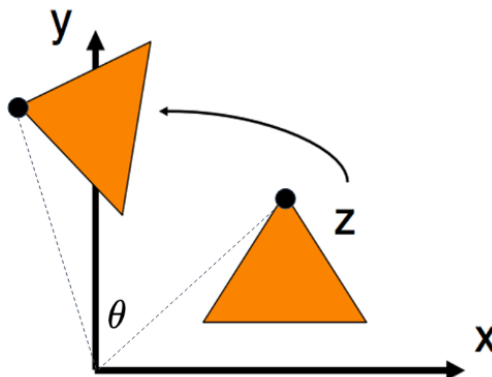
$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_x \\ d_y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$



## 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.

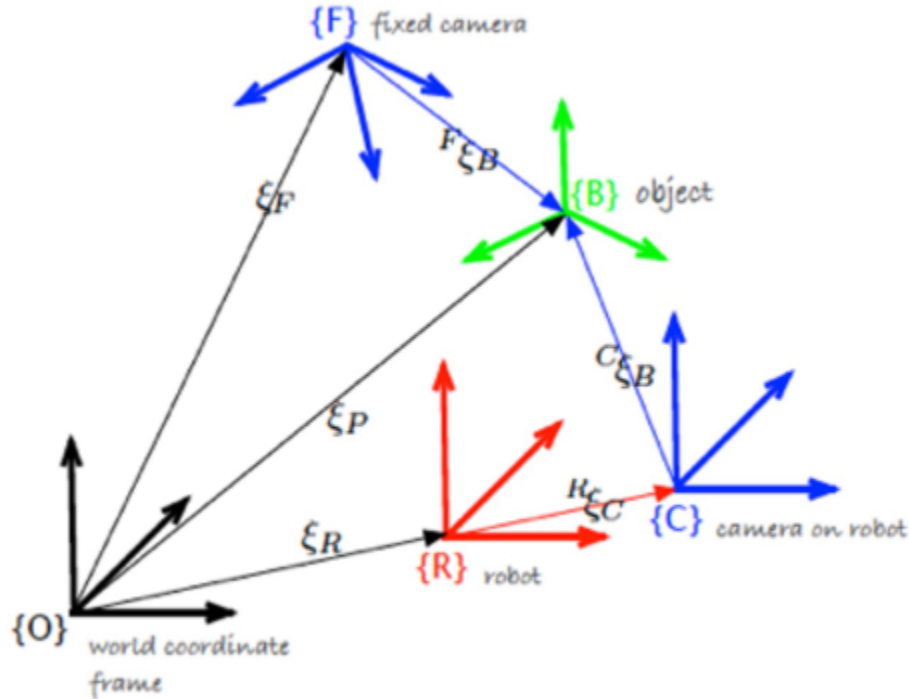
$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & t_x \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

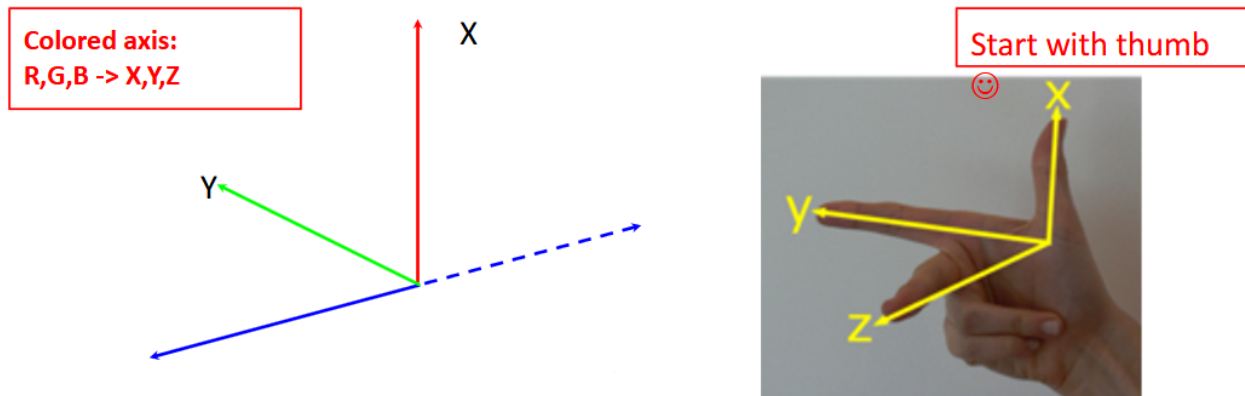
- Matrix multiplication is *not* commutative.

## 3D Transformation

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



## Right Hand Rule



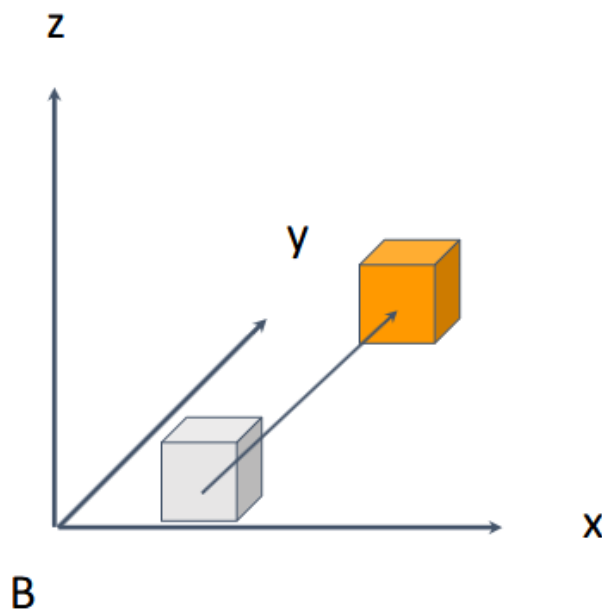
Most of robotics system's coordinate system follows the right hand rule

- 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  $t_x, t_y, t_z$ :

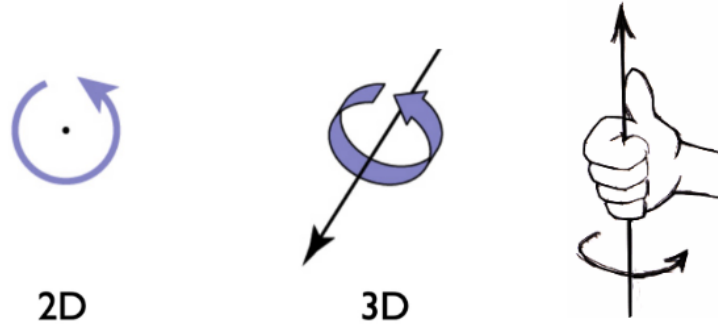
$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \\ t_z \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$



## 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

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

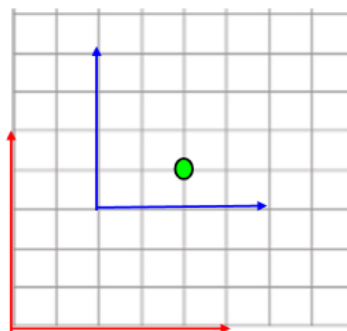
$$R_y(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

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

### 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.

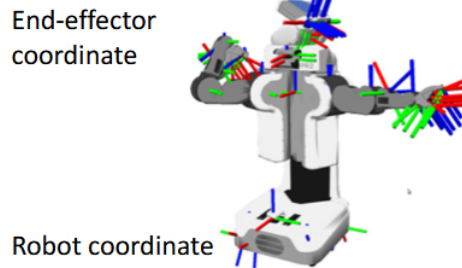
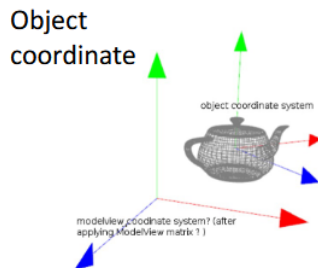


Changing coordinate frame is like translating between two different languages that describes the same thing.

Examples:



First half of course  
Lecture 3-9  
(perception)



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

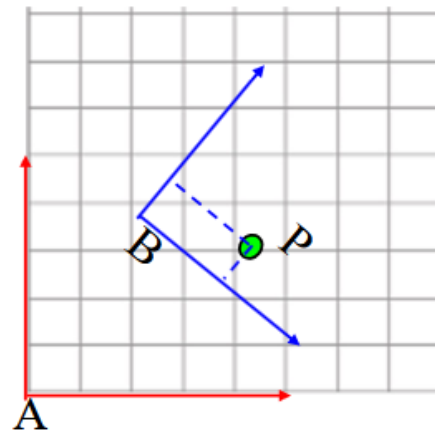
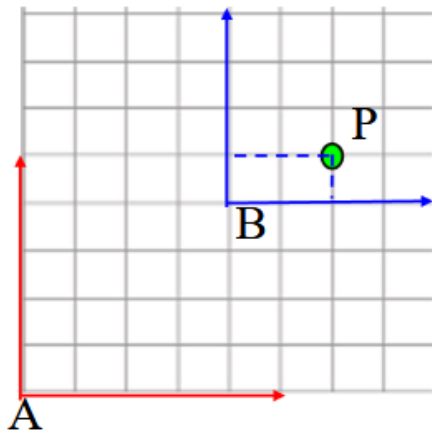
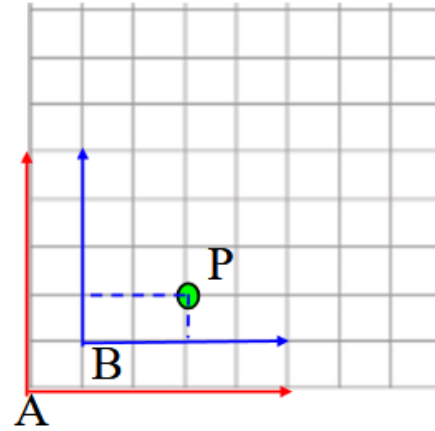
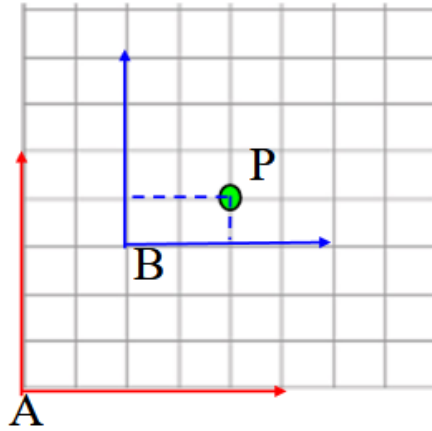
## Changing Reference Frames

- 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  ${}^B P = (2, 1)$ .

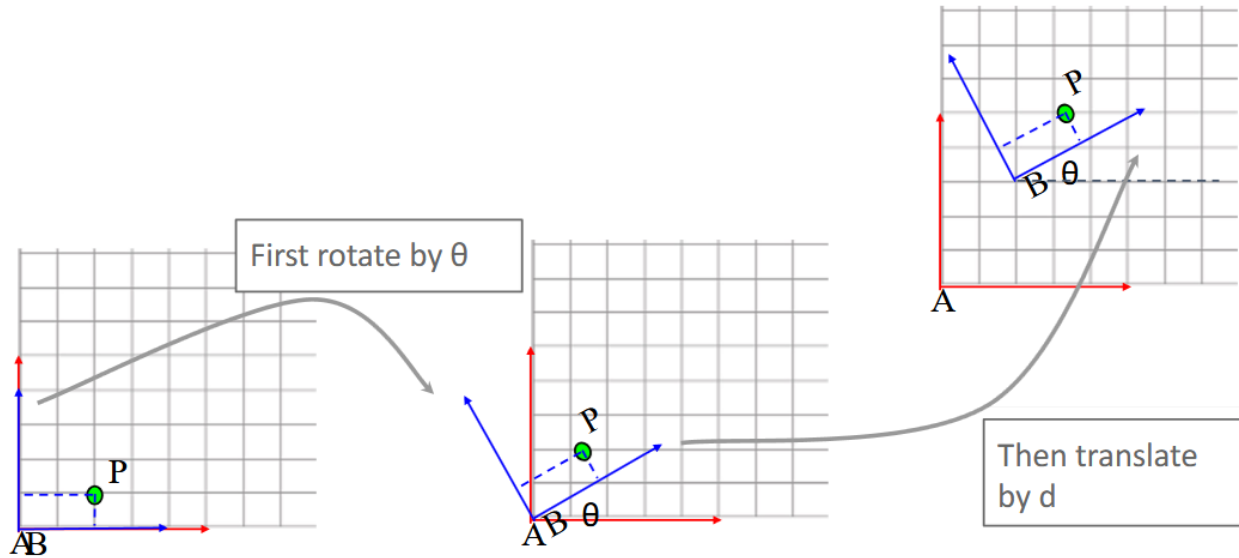


First, let's make Frame B identical to Frame A. Now,  ${}^A P = {}^B P = (2, 1)$ . Now, simply translate Frame B together with  $d = (2, 3)$ , we will get the  ${}^A P = {}^B P + d$ . Therefore in this case,

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

(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.

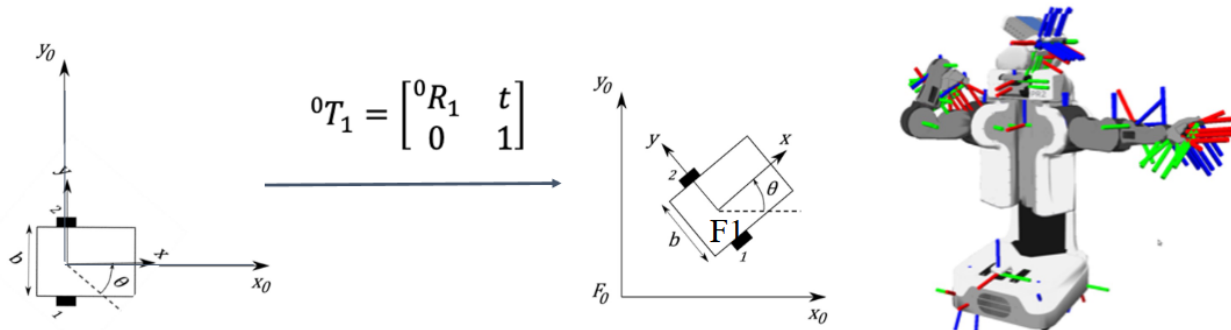


If we combine this rotation and translation into one transformation matrix, we get:

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

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.



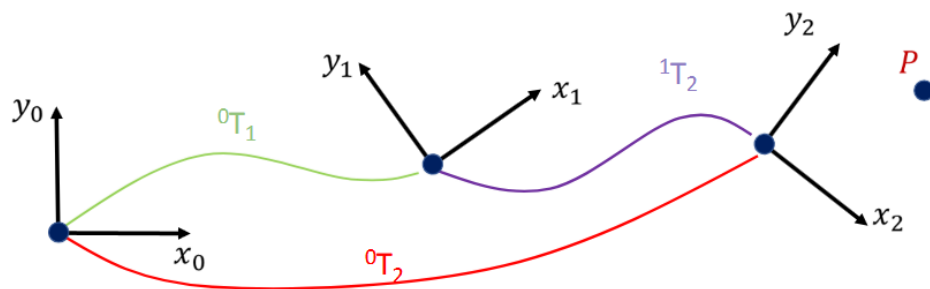
## Change of Basis Summary

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.

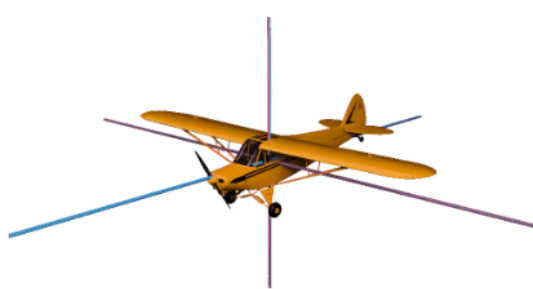
## Extrinsic vs. Intrinsic Rotation



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

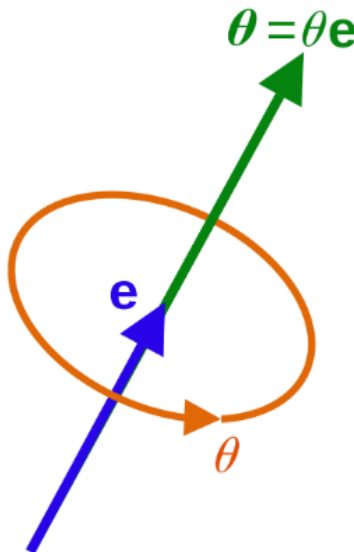
There are many ways to specify rotation

- 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  $\theta = \pi$ ).

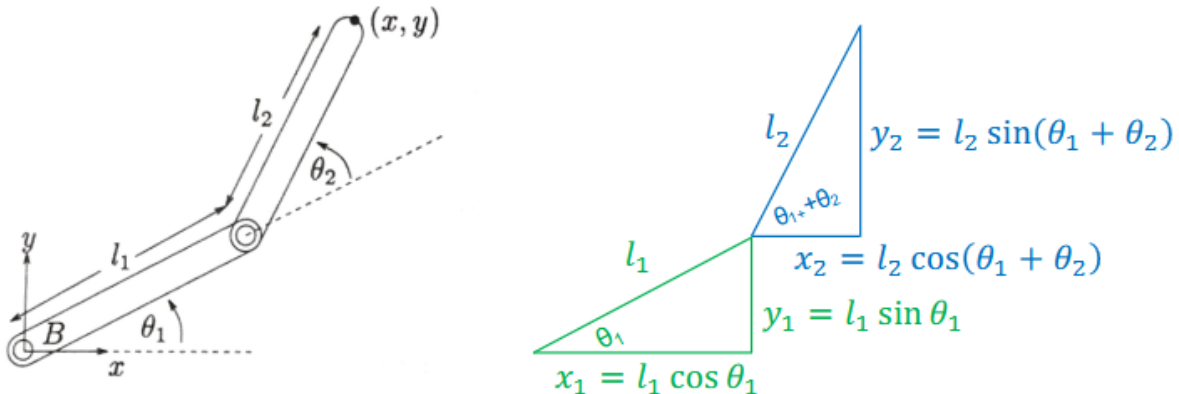
To inverse a quaternion:

- 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

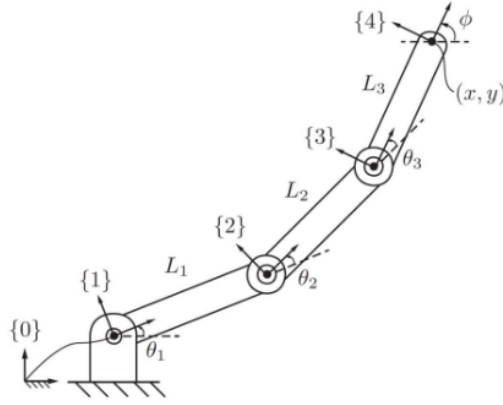
Given joint angles, calculate position of end-effector



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

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

## Forward Kinematics of RRR open-chain



Forward kinematics of a 3R planar open chain.

### • General cases

- Attaching frames to links
- Using homogeneous transformations

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

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

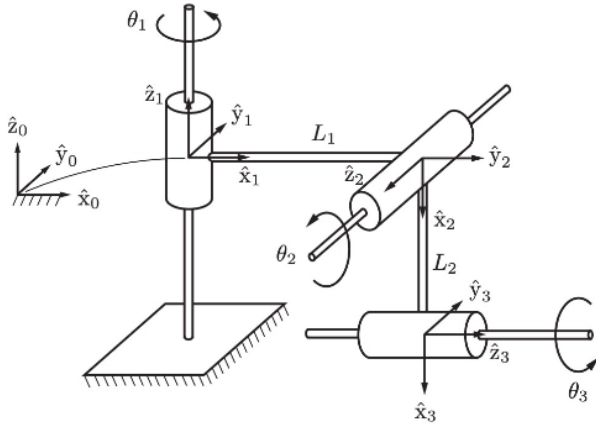
$$T_{23} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_3 & -\sin \theta_3 & 0 & L_2 \\ \sin \theta_3 & \cos \theta_3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad T_{34} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & L_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

## 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.

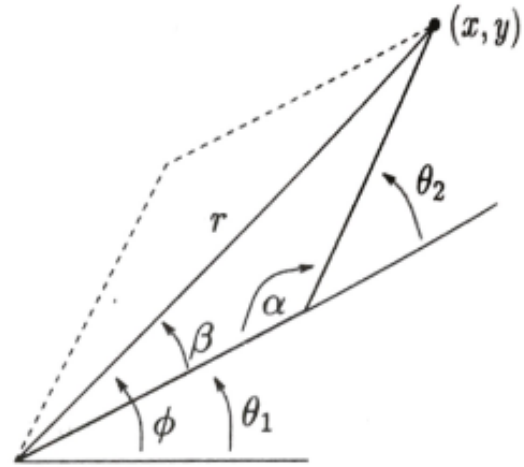
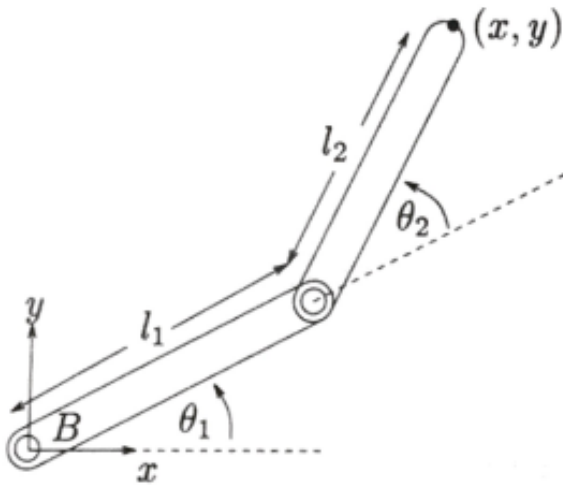


Parameter	Symbol	Meaning
Link length	$a_i$	Distance from $Z_{i-1}$ to $Z_i$ along $X_i$
Link twist	$\alpha_i$	Angle from $Z_{i-1}$ to $Z_i$ around $X_i$
Link offset	$d_i$	Distance from $X_{i-1}$ to $X_i$ along $Z_{i-1}$
Joint angle	$\phi_i$	Angle from $X_{i-1}$ to $X_i$ around $Z_i$

$i$	$\alpha_{i-1}$	$a_{i-1}$	$d_i$	$\phi_i$
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)

## "Solving" Inverse Kinematics

Inverse kinematics for joints  $> 2$  is generally not solvable. In this case, what do we do?

### 1. Numerical IK

- Iterative solvers (like Newton-Raphson, Jacobian pseudo-inverse).
- Solves for joint angles by minimizing position / orientation error.
- Used in most general-purpose robot controllers.

### 2. Optimization-Based IK

- Define an objective function (like minimizing joint torque or staying within limits).
- Add constraints (collision, joint bounds, etc.)
- Solvers: gradient descent, SQP, or even MPC

### 3. Learning-Based IK

- Neural networks or reinforcement learning.
- Especially helpful in high-DoF or redundant robots (like humanoids or octopuses).

## 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

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

## Aside: 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:

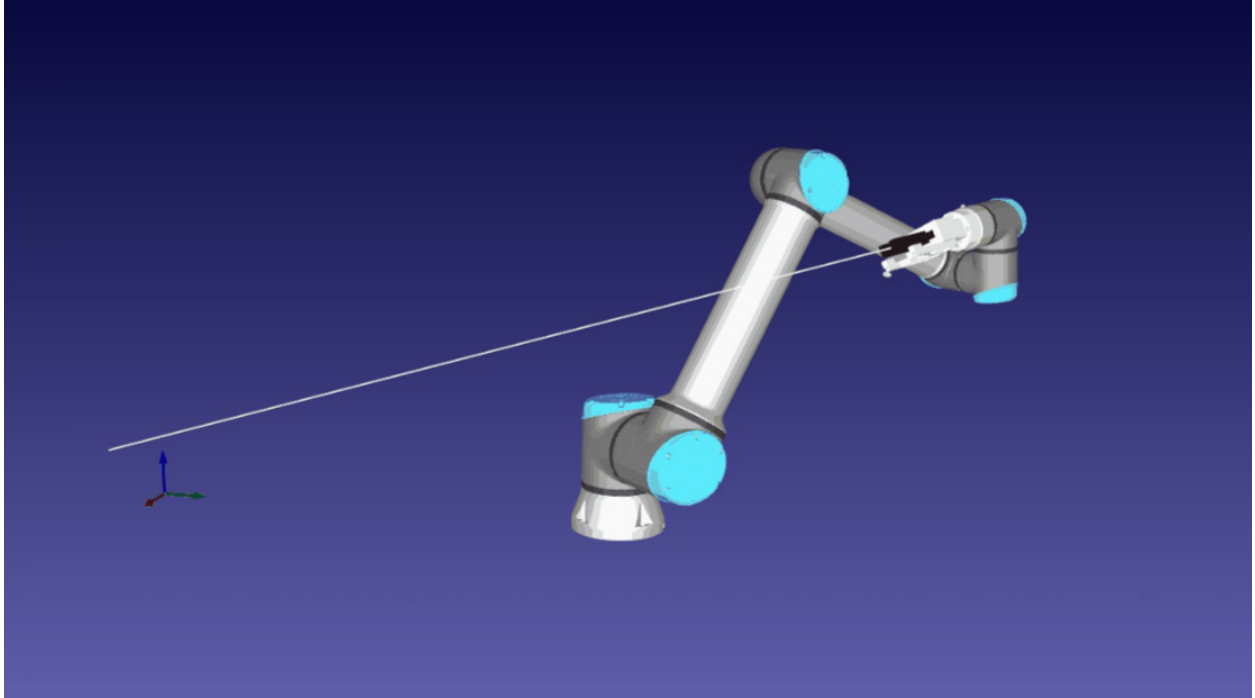
$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta_2} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## 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

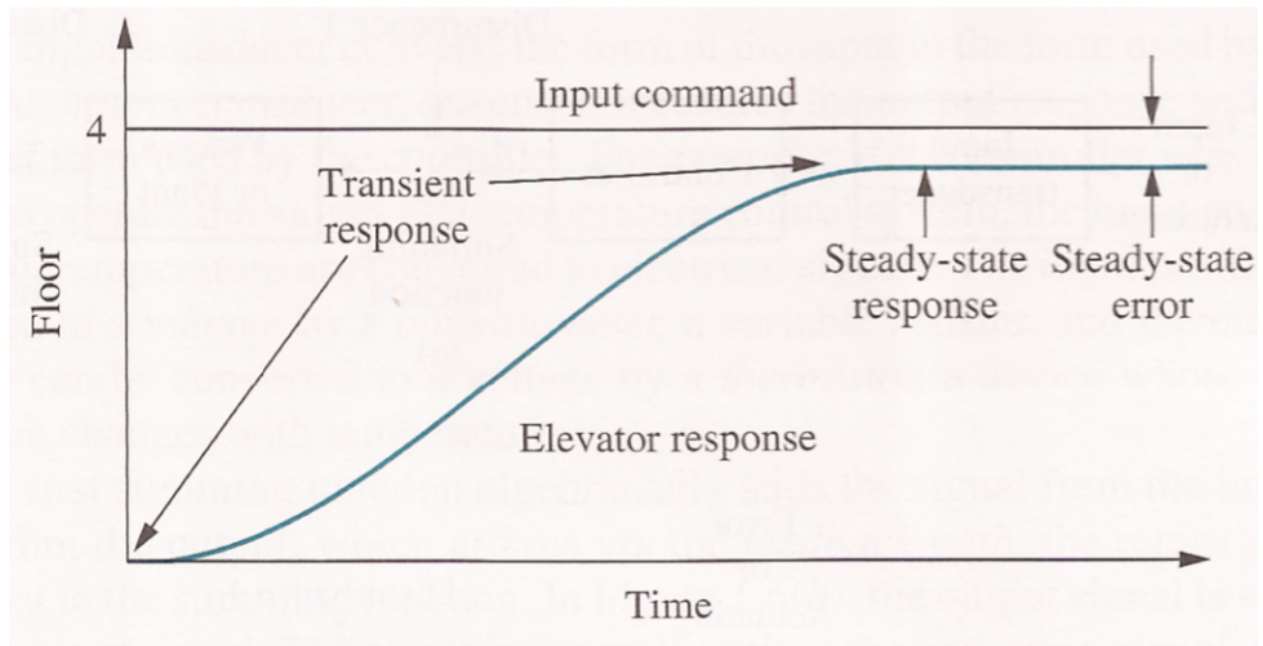


## Control

- Many tasks in robotics are defined by *achievement goals*
  - Go to the end of the maze
  - Push that box over here
  - Typically AI (search, ML) algorithms
- Other tasks in robotics are defined by *maintenance goals*
  - Drive at 0.5 m/s
  - Balance on one leg
- Control theory is generally used for low-level maintenance goals
- General notions:
  - output = Controller(input)
  - output is control signal to actuator (e.g., motor voltage/current)
  - input is either goal state or goal state error (e.g., desired motor velocity)

## Control Systems

- Provides an output or response for a given input or stimulus
  - Input: desired response
  - Output: actual response
  - E.g., pressing 4th floor button on an elevator



Output  $\neq$  Input

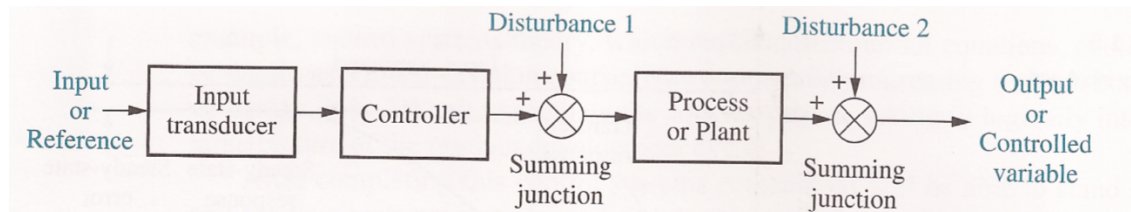
- Transient Response:
  - Instantaneous change of input but gradual change of output
- State-state Error:
  - Accuracy of leveling
  - Steady state error is inherent!

## Open Loop (feedforward) Control

- Open loop controller:
  - output = FF(goal)
- E.g.: motor speed controller (linear):
  - Is applied voltage on motor:  $V$
  - Is goal speed:  $s$
  - Is gain term (from calibration):  $k$
  - $V = ks$
- How do we know we've reached the goal?
  - Weakness:

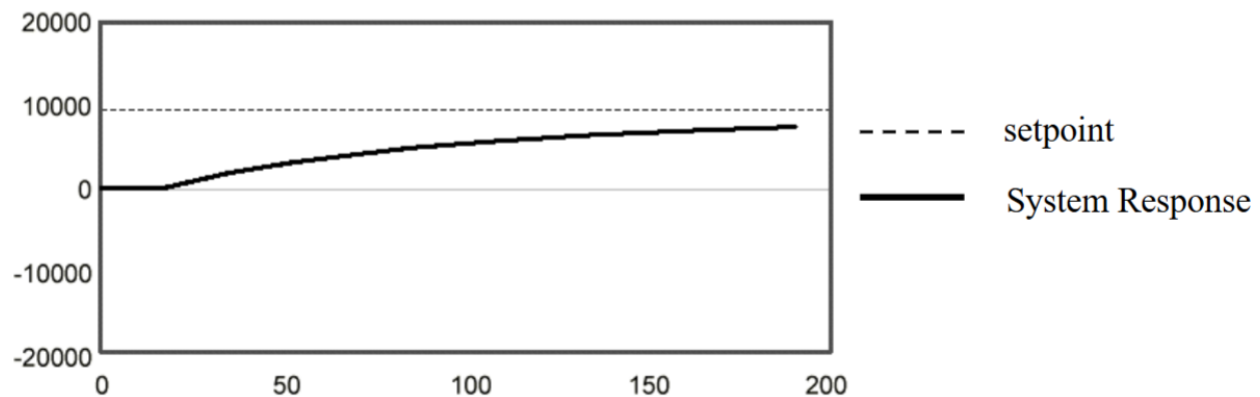


- \* Varying load on motor: *motor may not maintain goal speed*
- More likely scenario in robotics:



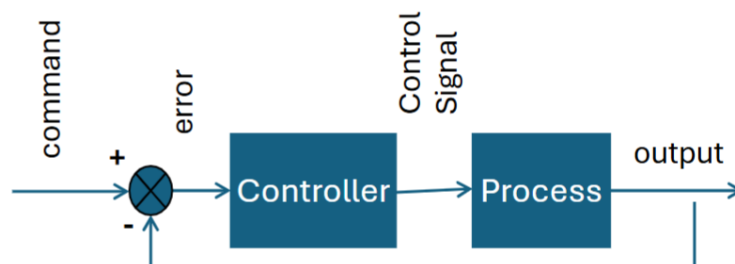
## Uses of Open Loop Control

- Industrial machines may use open loop control
  - Biological systems use it, in various movements
  - These are called ballistic movements
  - Ballistic movements cannot be corrected while they are executed
  - E.g., pouncing, reflex reaching and withdrawal, etc.



## Definition of Feedback Control

- Feedback control is a means of getting a system to achieve and maintain a desired state by continuously feeding back the current state and comparing it to the desired state, then adjusting the current state to minimize the difference.
- Feedback control systems are drawn in a traditional diagrammatic way



## Comparing Methods

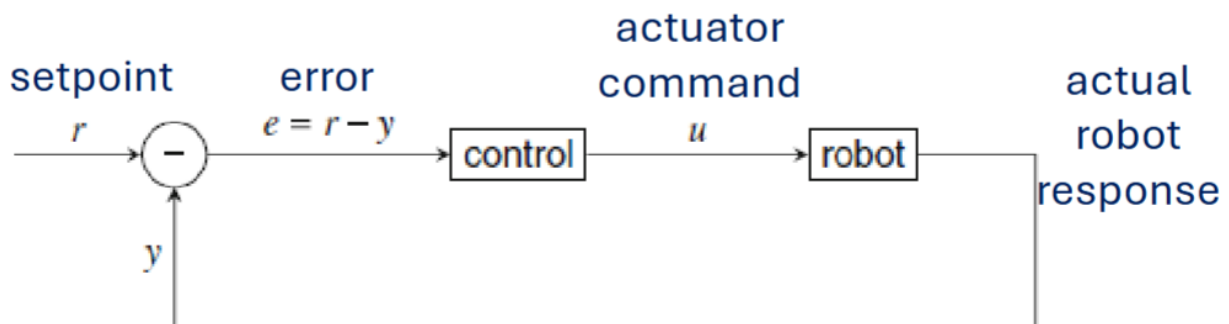
- Feedforward
  - Anticipative
  - Previous plan
  - Doesn't wait
- Feedback
  - Reactive / Responsive
  - Seeks to correct errors
  - Always too late!

## Goal / Desired State

- The desired state is also called the **set point** or the **goal state** of the system.
- Goal state can be:
  - External (e.g., a thermostat monitors and controls the temperature of the house)
  - Internal (e.g., a robot can monitor its battery and control its energy usage)
- If the desired and current states are the same, then what?
  - Then there is nothing to do!
- What if they are not?

## Measuring Error

- The controller first computes the difference between the current and desired states
- The difference is called **error**
- What is the controller's job?
  - To minimize the error at all times
- Depending on the type of sensors, the error may be measured with different amounts of information.



## Zero / non-zero Error

- The least information we can have about the error is whether it exists.
  - i.e., whether the current state is the desired state
- This is called **zero / non-zero error**
- Zero / non-zero error provides very little information, yet useful control systems can be constructed with it. (E.g., some forms of reinforcement learning work this way)
- What other information would be helpful?

## Error Magnitude and Direction

- Additional information about the error is its magnitude, i.e., the absolute difference (distance) between the current state and the desired state.
- The last part of the error information is its direction, i.e., whether the difference is positive or negative.
- Control is easiest if frequent **feedback** provides both magnitude and direction.

## Closed loop (feedback) control

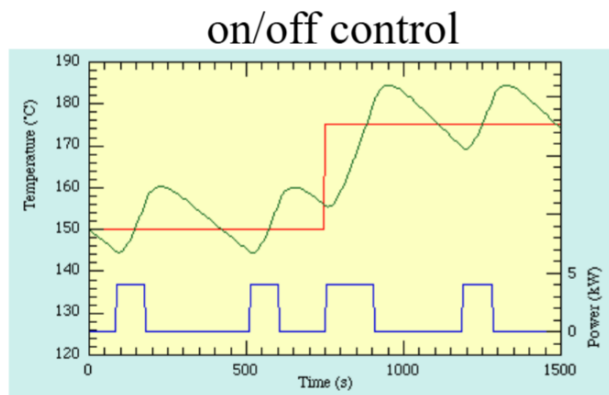
- Feedback controller:
  - $\text{output} = \text{FB}(\text{error})$
  - $\text{error} = \text{goal state} - \text{measured state}$
  - controller attempts to minimize error
- Feedback control requires sensors:
  - Binary (at goal / not at goal)
  - Direction (less than / greater than)
  - Magnitude (very bad, bad, good)
- Control is easiest when direction and magnitude are available.

## Example

- Using feedback control to implement a wall-following behavior
  - What type of goal is this? Achievement or maintenance?
  - What would the error be?
- What sensors could you use?
  - Would the sensor provide magnitude and direction of the error?
- How can we word the controller?
- What will this robot's behavior look like?

## Simplest Control: ON/off or bang/bang

- If error  $> 0$ , turn on actuators
- If error  $\leq 0$ , turn off actuators



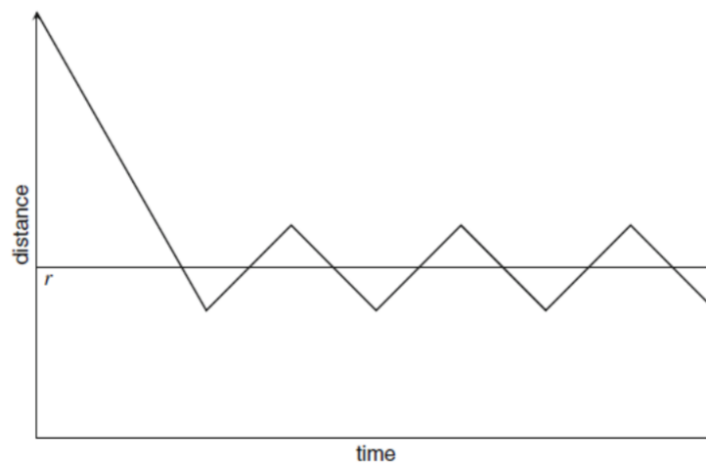
AKA Bang-Bang or Hysteresis control

- setpoint
- System Response
- Control Output

Imagine the elevator...

## Oscillation and the Set Point

- The behavior of a feedback system oscillates around the desired state
- E.g., the robot's movement will oscillate around the desired distance from the wall
- How can we decrease oscillation?



## Control Theory

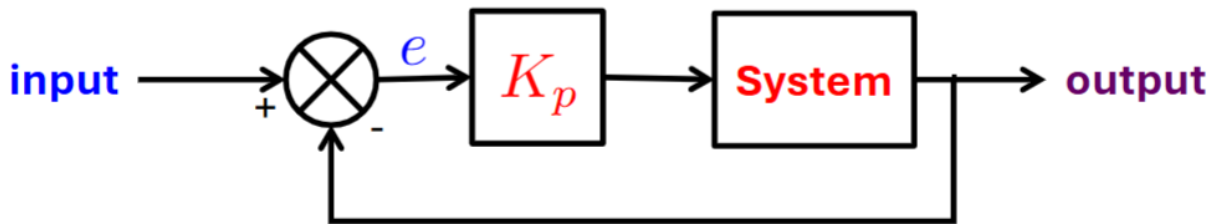
- *Control theory* is the science that studies the behavior of control systems
- Three main types of simple linear controllers:
  - P: proportional control
  - PD: proportional derivative control
  - PID: proportional integral derivative control
- All use direction and magnitude of error

## Proportional Control

- Act in proportion to the error
- A proportional controller has an output  $o$  proportional to its input  $i$ :

$$o = K_p e$$

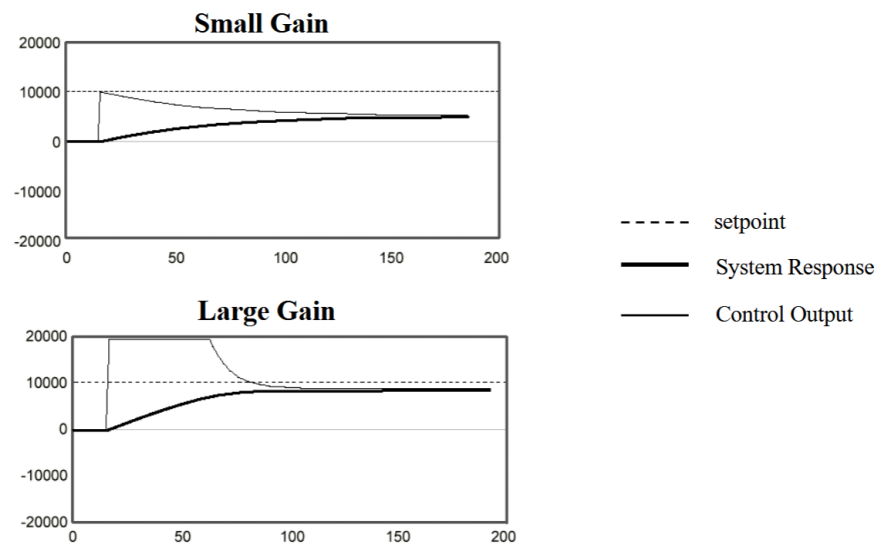
- $K_p$  is a proportionality constant (gain)



## What is a Gain?

- How do we decide how much to turn, or how fast to go? (i.e., the magnitude of the system's response)
- Those parameters ( $K_p$ ) are called **gains**, and are very important in control
- Determining the right gains is difficult
- It can be done
  - analytically (mathematics)
  - empirically (trial and error)

## Effect of Gains



## Physics and Gains

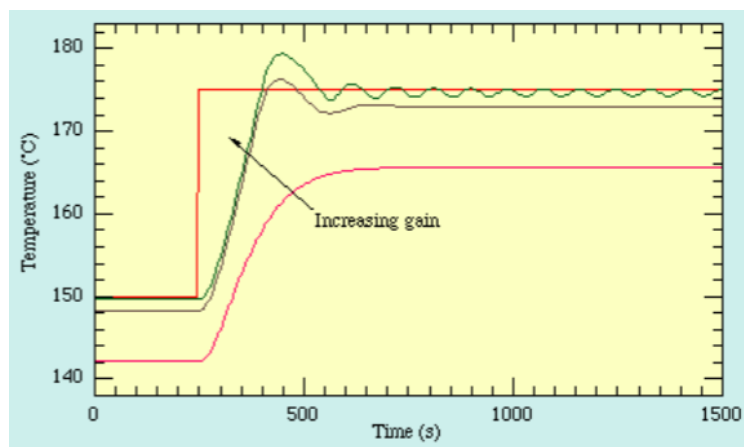
- The physical properties of the system directly affect the gain values.
  - E.g., the velocity profile of a motor (how fast it can accelerate and decelerate)
  - the backlash and friction in the gears,
  - the friction on the surface, in the air, etc.
- All of these influence what the system actually does in response to a command

## Setting Gains

- Analytical approaches
  - require that the system be well understood and characterized mathematically
- Trial and error (ad hoc, system-specific) approaches
  - require that the system be tested extensively
- Gains can also be tuned by the system itself, automatically, by trying different values at run-time

## Gains and Oscillations

- Real systems have *momentum*
  - System takes some time to respond to commands
- Large gains can lead to *oscillations*
  - System overshoots, recovers, overshoots again
- Very large gains can lead to *divergent* oscillations
  - Overshoot gets larger and larger over time.

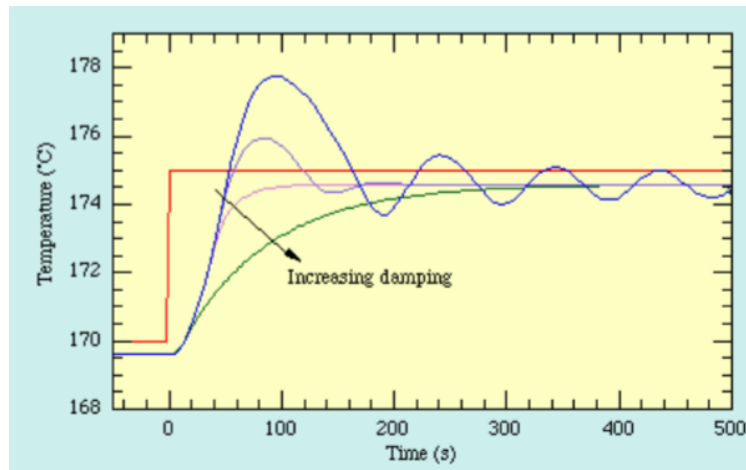


## Control Near the Set Point

- Setting gains is difficult, and simply increasing the proportional gain does not remove oscillations
- While at low values this may work, as the gain increases, the oscillations increase as well.
- The problem has to do with the distance from the set point...
- How can we solve this?

## Damping

- **Damping** is the process of systematically decreasing oscillations
- What do you think it means to be properly damped?
- A system is properly damped if it does not oscillate with increasing magnitude, i.e., if its oscillations are either avoided, or decrease to the desired set point within a reasonable time period

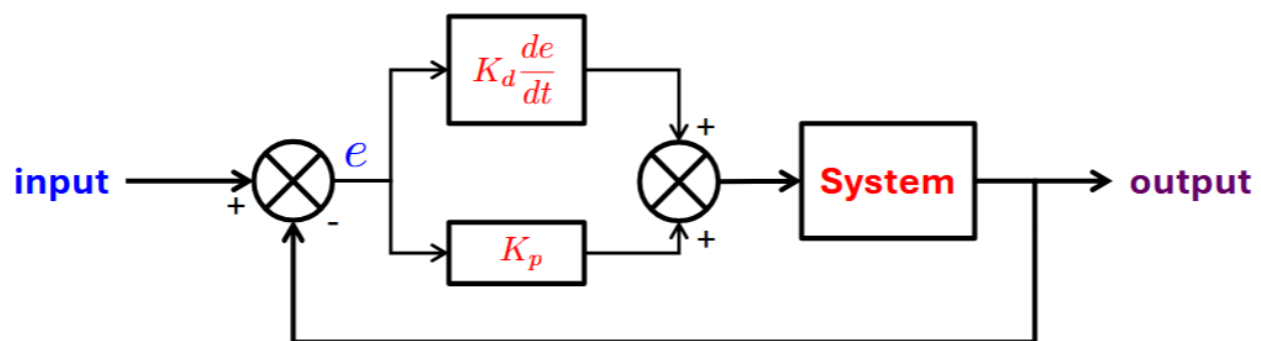


## Derivative Control

- Act in proportion to the *rate of change* of the error
- A derivative controller has an output  $o$  proportional to the derivative of its input:

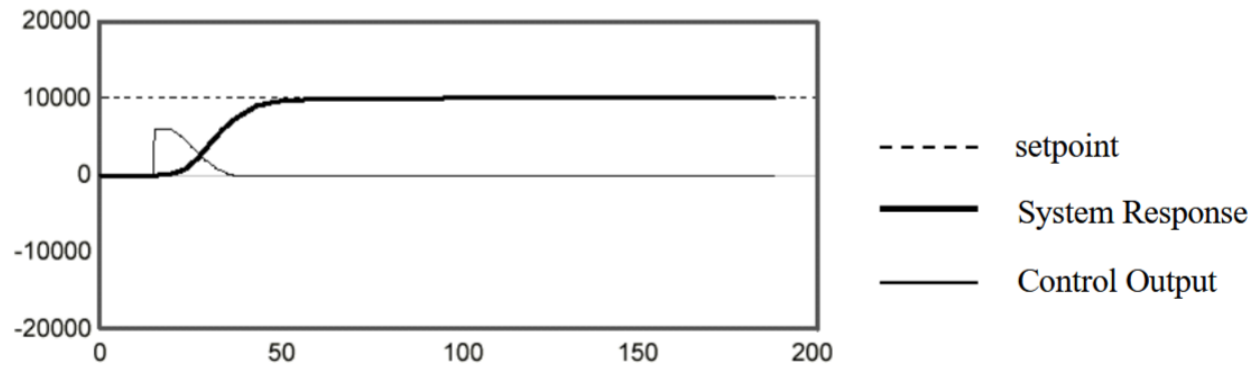
$$o = K_d \frac{de}{dt}$$

- $K_d$  is a proportionality constant



## PD Control

- PD control combined P and D control:  $o = K_p e + K_d \frac{de}{dt}$
- P component minimizes error
- D component provides damping
- Gains  $K_p$  and  $K_d$  must be tuned together

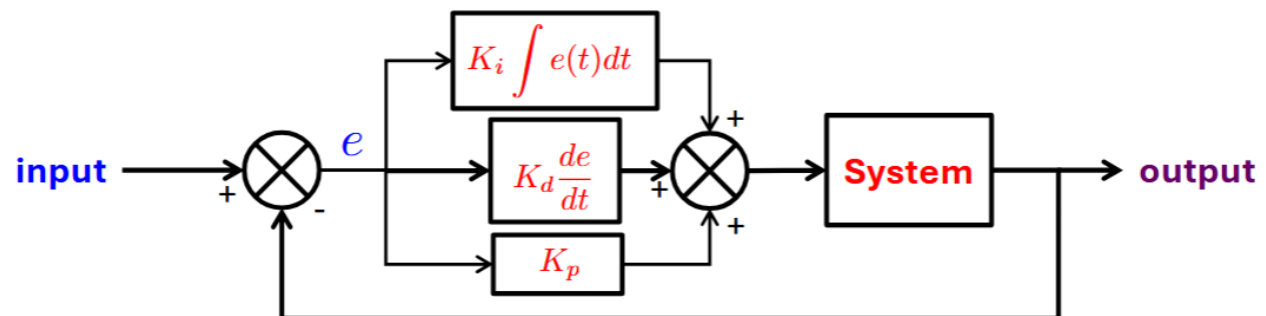


## Integral Control

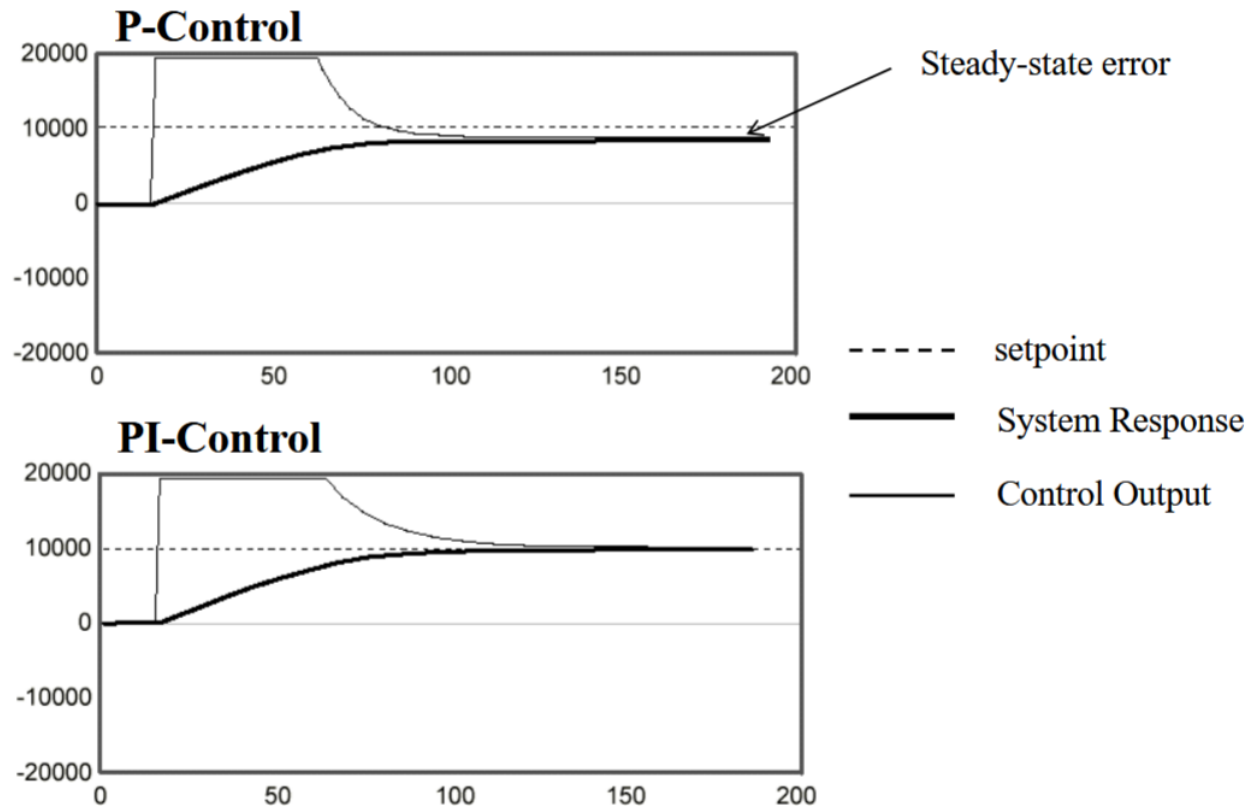
- Act in proportion to the *accumulated* error
- Output proportional to the integral of its input:

$$o = K_i \int e(t) dt$$

- $K_i$  is a proportionality constant
- Integral control is useful for eliminating steady-state errors







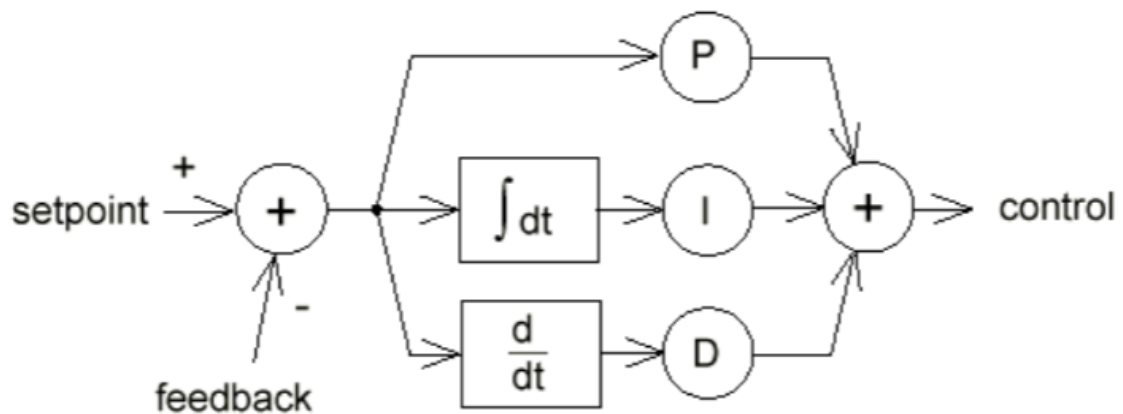
## PID Control

- PID control combined P, I, and D control:

$$o = K_p e + K_i \int e(t) dt + K_d \frac{de}{dt}$$

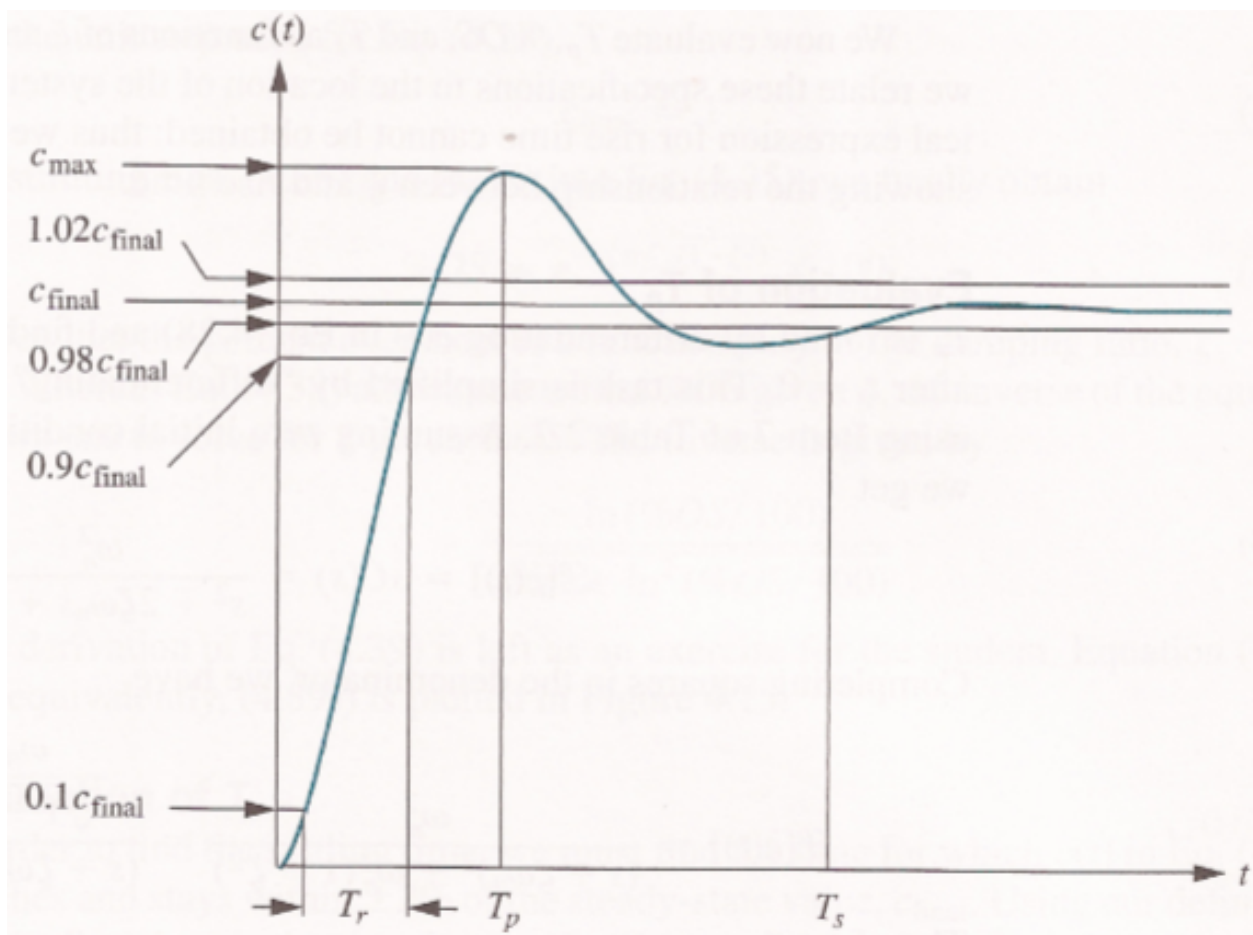
- P component minimizes instantaneous error
- I component minimizes cumulative error
- D component provides damping

- Gains must be tuned together



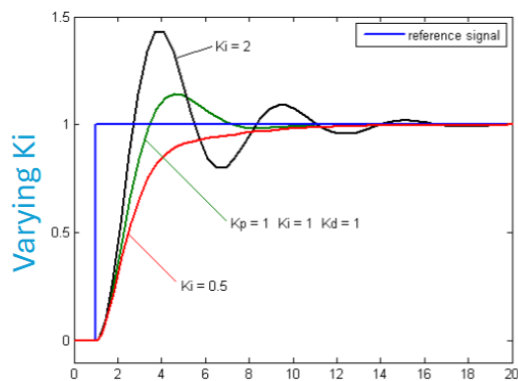
## System Response Terminology

- Rise Time
  - Time for the waveform to go from 0.1 to 0.9 of its final value
  - Measures how quickly the controller responds
- Percent Overshoot
  - Amount the waveform overshoots the final value, at the peak time
  - Measures how big the oscillations are
- Settling time
  - Time for the response to reach, and stay within, 2% of its final value
  - Measures how fast the controller reaches steady-state

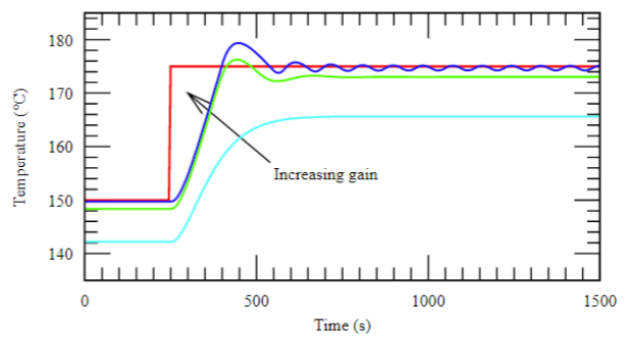


## PID Control Summary

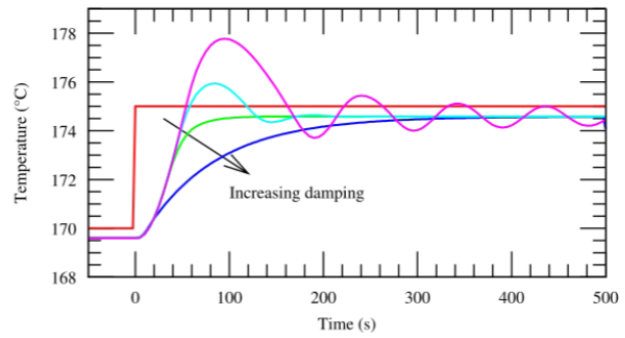
	Rise Time	Overshoot	Settling time
$K_p$	Decrease	Increase	
$K_i$	Decrease	Increase	Increase
$K_d$		Decrease	Decrease



Varying  $K_p$



Varying  $K_d$



## Control is one component...

- Getting robots to do what you want requires many components!
- Feedback Control plays a part at the lower level: turning wheels, moving actuators
- Higher-level goals (coordination, interaction, collaboration) require other approaches
  - These approaches can better represent and handle those challenges
- Control Architectures are the AI portion that determines how the robot makes decisions