

# **Transformations**

**Computer Graphics**  
**Instructor: Sungkil Lee**

# Today

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- **Coordinate systems and frames for affine spaces**
  - Homogeneous Coordinates
- **Affine transformations**
  - Rotation, translation, scaling, shear
- **How to build arbitrary transformation matrices**
  - from simple standard transformation matrices

# **Prerequisites**

# Linear Independence, Dimension

- **Linear independence**

- A set of vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  is **linearly independent** if

$$\alpha_1 v_1 + \alpha_2 v_2 + \dots + \alpha_n v_n = 0, \quad \text{iff } \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \dots = 0$$

- If a set of vectors are **linearly independent**, we cannot represent one in terms of the others. Otherwise, if a set of vectors is **linearly dependent**, at least one can be written in terms of the others

- **Dimension**

- In a vector space, the maximum number of linearly independent vectors is fixed and is called the **dimension** of the space

# Basis and Representation

- **Basis**

- In an  $n$ -dimensional space, any set of  $n$  linearly independent vectors form a **basis** for the space; such sets are not unique.
- Given a basis  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ , any vector  $\mathbf{v}$  can be written as

$$\mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + \alpha_n \mathbf{v}_n, \text{ where the } \{\alpha_i\} \text{ are unique.}$$

- **Representation**

- The list of scalars  $\{\alpha_i\}$  is the **representation** of  $\mathbf{v}$  with respect to  $\{\mathbf{v}_i\}$ .
- We can write the representation as a column vector of scalars.

$$\mathbf{a} = [\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_n]^T = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \dots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# **Coordinate-Free Geometry**

# Coordinate-Free Geometry

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- **Coordinate-free geometry**

- Points exist in space regardless of any reference or coordinate system.
- Thus, we do not need a coordinate system to specify a point or a vector.
- Most of geometric results are independent of the coordinate system

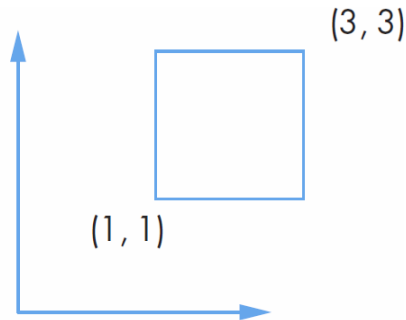
- **Example: Euclidean geometry**

- two triangles are identical if two corresponding sides and the angle between them are identical

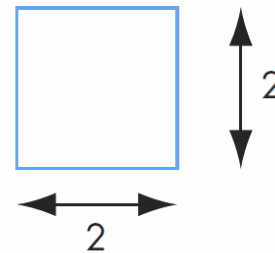
# Coordinate-Free Geometry

- **This fact may seem counter to your experience:**

- When we learned simple geometry in high school, most of us started with a Cartesian approach; e.g., point  $p$  is at locations in space  $(x, y, z)$
- This approach is nonphysical, because points exist regardless of a coordinate system; as covered in middle-school math.
- See Figures 3.6 and 3.7 to understand the difference.



**FIGURE 3.6** Object and coordinate system.

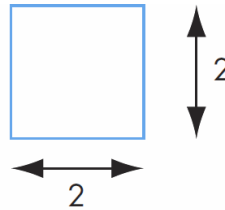


**FIGURE 3.7** Object without coordinate system.



# Coordinate-Free Geometry

- **We may find it inconvenient to use coordinate-free geometry.**
  - We may need to refer a specific point as "**that blue point over there.**"
  - But, it is important to understand that the fundamental geometric relationships are preserved without coordinate systems.
    - The square is still there, or orthogonal lines are still orthogonal, and distances between points remain the same.



**FIGURE 3.7** Object without coordinate system.

- This reference problem is later solved by coordinate systems and frames.

# **Coordinate Systems and Frames**

# Frame of Reference

- So far, we have been able to work with geometric entities without using any *frame of reference*.
- **We need a frame of reference to relate points and objects to our physical world.**
  - For example, where is a point?
    - Hard to answer without a reference system
  - Coordinate system examples
    - World coordinates, camera coordinates, screen-space coordinates, ...

# Coordinate Systems

- **An example:**

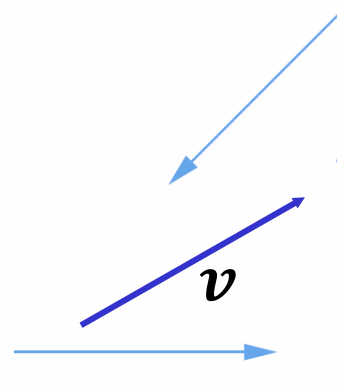
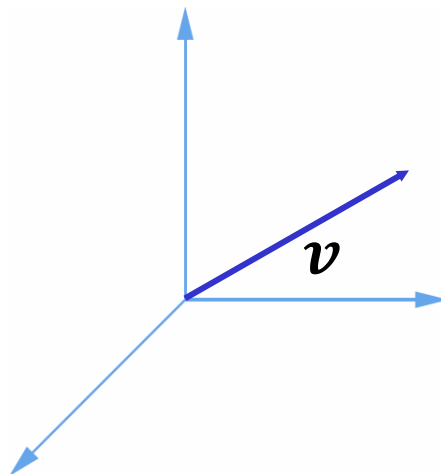
- $\mathbf{a}$  is a particular representation of a vector  $\mathbf{v}$ , with respect to the basis vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$  that define a *coordinate system*.

$$\mathbf{v} = 2\mathbf{v}_1 + 3\mathbf{v}_2 - 4\mathbf{v}_3$$
$$\mathbf{a} = [2 \ 3 \ -4]^T$$

# Coordinate Systems

- **Problem**

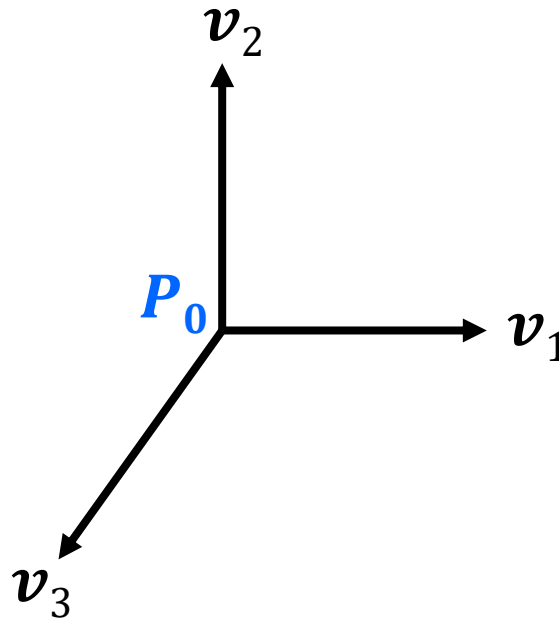
- Which is correct?



- Both are correct, because vectors have no fixed locations.

# Frames

- A coordinate system is insufficient to represent points,
  - because points are not defined in a coordinate system.
- If we work in an *affine space*, we can add a single point, the *origin*, to the basis vectors to form a *frame*.



# Frames: Representation

- **Suppose a frame determined by  $(P_0, \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3)$ .**
  - Within this frame, every vector and point can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v} &= \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{v}_3, \\ P &= \textcolor{red}{P}_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \beta_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \beta_3 \mathbf{v}_3\end{aligned}$$

- They appear to have the similar representations, yet a vector has no position.

# Frames: Representation

- If we define  $0 \bullet P = \mathbf{0}$  and  $1 \bullet P = P$  then we can write them,

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{v} &= \alpha_1 \boldsymbol{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \boldsymbol{v}_2 + \alpha_3 \boldsymbol{v}_3 + \mathbf{0} = [\alpha_1 \ \alpha_2 \ \alpha_3 \ 0] [\boldsymbol{v}_1 \ \boldsymbol{v}_2 \ \boldsymbol{v}_3 \ P_0]^T \\ P &= \beta_1 \boldsymbol{v}_1 + \beta_2 \boldsymbol{v}_2 + \beta_3 \boldsymbol{v}_3 + \boldsymbol{P}_0 = [\beta_1 \ \beta_2 \ \beta_3 \ 1] [\boldsymbol{v}_1 \ \boldsymbol{v}_2 \ \boldsymbol{v}_3 \ P_0]^T \end{aligned}$$

- By this way, we can represent the vectors and points in a single representation.



# Homogeneous Coordinates Representations

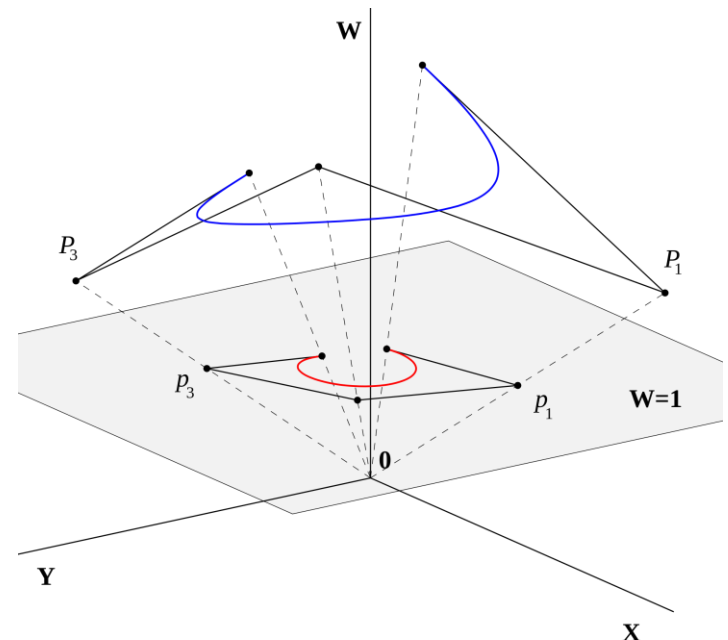
- 4-D **homogeneous coordinate (HC) representation** represents vectors and points in 3D Cartesian coordinates (CC).

$$p = [x' \ y' \ z' \ w]^T$$

- If  $w = 0$ , the representation refers to a vector.
- If  $w \neq 0$ , the representation refers to a point in 3D.
- If  $w \neq 0$  and  $w \neq 1$ , we can return to a 3D point by dividing  $(x', y', z')$  by  $w$ .
  - Perspective division

- **More intuitive example**

- 2D line in HC = 1D point in CC
- 1D point in CC is found at  $w=1$  in HC



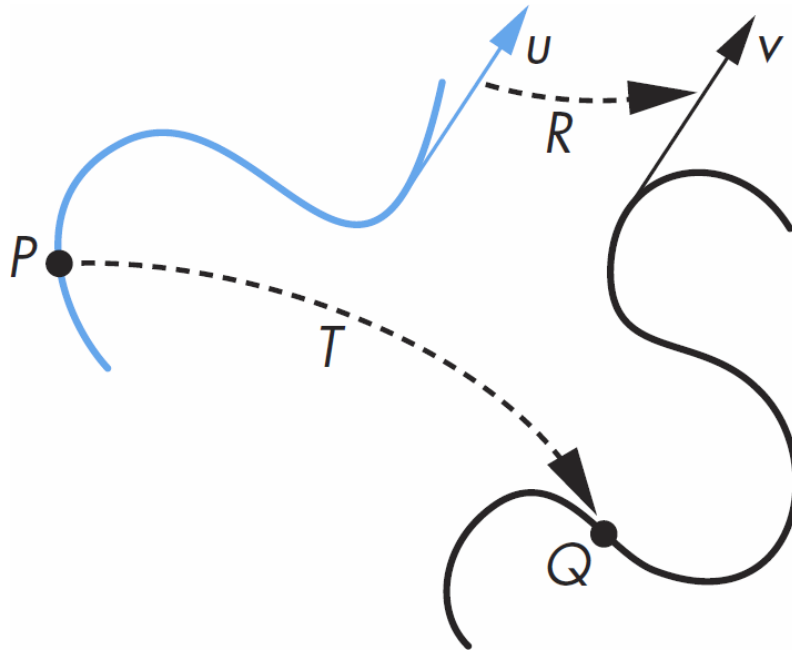
# HCs in Computer Graphics

- **Homogeneous coordinates are keys to all computer graphics systems.**
  - All standard transformations (rotation, translation, and scaling) can be implemented with *matrix multiplications using 4x4 matrices*.
  - Hence, graphics hardware pipeline is designed to work with *4-D representations*.

# **General vs. Affine Transformations**

# General Transformations

- A transformation maps points to other points and/or vectors to other vectors.



$$v = R(u)$$

$$Q = T(P)$$

# Affine Transformations

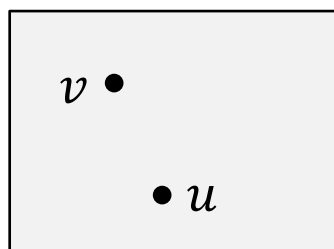
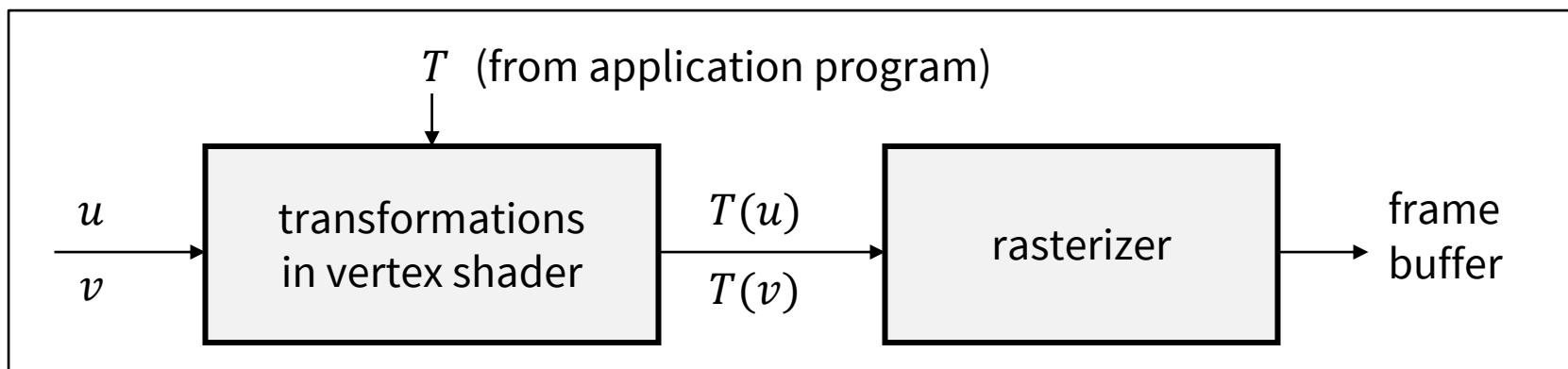
- A matrix for the change of frames is  $4 \times 4$  and specifies an **affine transformation** in homogeneous coordinates.
  - Affine transformation is a function between affine spaces which preserves points, lines, and planes.
  - Every linear transformation is equivalent to a change of frames.
- Affine transformations have **12 degrees of freedom (dof)**.
  - Upper  $4 \times 3$  elements of the matrix is defined by 3 dofs from translation, 3 dofs from rotation, 3 dofs from scaling, and 3 dofs from shear transformations.
  - 4 of the elements (the bottom row) in the matrix are fixed.

# Affine Transformations

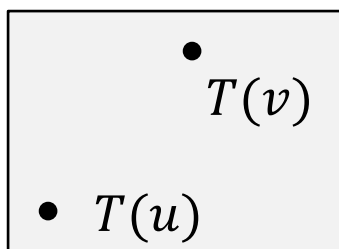
- **Affine transformation *preserves lines*.**
  - Lines will remain lines (not become curves or be broken into segments).
  - Characteristic of many physically important transformations
    - Rigid body transformations: translation, rotation
    - Scaling, shear
- **Importance in graphics:**
  - **We can only transform endpoints of line segments** and let implementation draw the line segment by interpolating transformed endpoints.
  - This allows us to realize pipeline approach.
    - Recall that we only transform vertices instead of lines.

# Affine Transformations

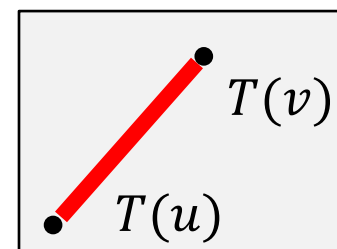
- Affine transformation *preserves lines*.
  - This allows us to realize pipeline approach.



vertices



vertices



pixels

# **Standard (Affine) Transformations**



# Notation

- We will work with both coordinate-free representations and representations within a HC frame.

$P, Q, R$ : points in an affine space

$u, v, w$ : vectors in an affine space

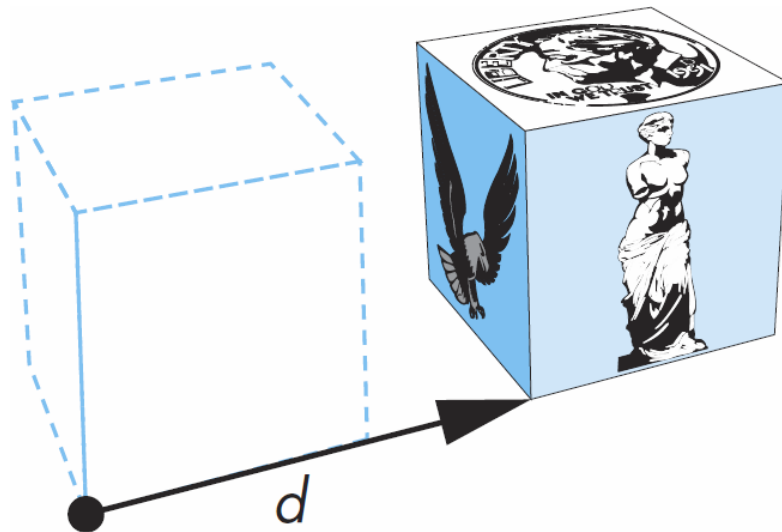
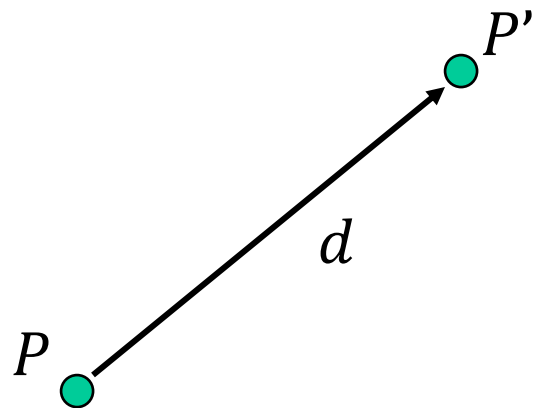
$\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ : scalars

$p, q, r$ : 4-D representations of points in HC

$u, v, w$ : 4-D representations of vectors in HC

# Translation

- Move (translate, displace) a point to a new location



- **Displacement determined by a vector  $d$** 
  - 3 degrees of freedom
  - $P' = P + d$

# Translation Using Representations

- Using the homogeneous coordinate representation in some frame

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{p} &= [x \ y \ z \ 1]^T \\ \mathbf{p}' &= [x' \ y' \ z' \ 1]^T \\ \mathbf{d} &= [d_x \ d_y \ d_z \ 0]^T\end{aligned}$$

- Hence  $\mathbf{p}' = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{d}$  or

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= x + d_x \\ y' &= y + d_y \\ z' &= z + d_z\end{aligned}$$

- Note that this expression is in 4-Ds and expresses point-vector addition.

# Translation Matrix

- We can also express translation using a  $4 \times 4$  matrix  $T$  in homogeneous coordinates  $p' = Tp$  where

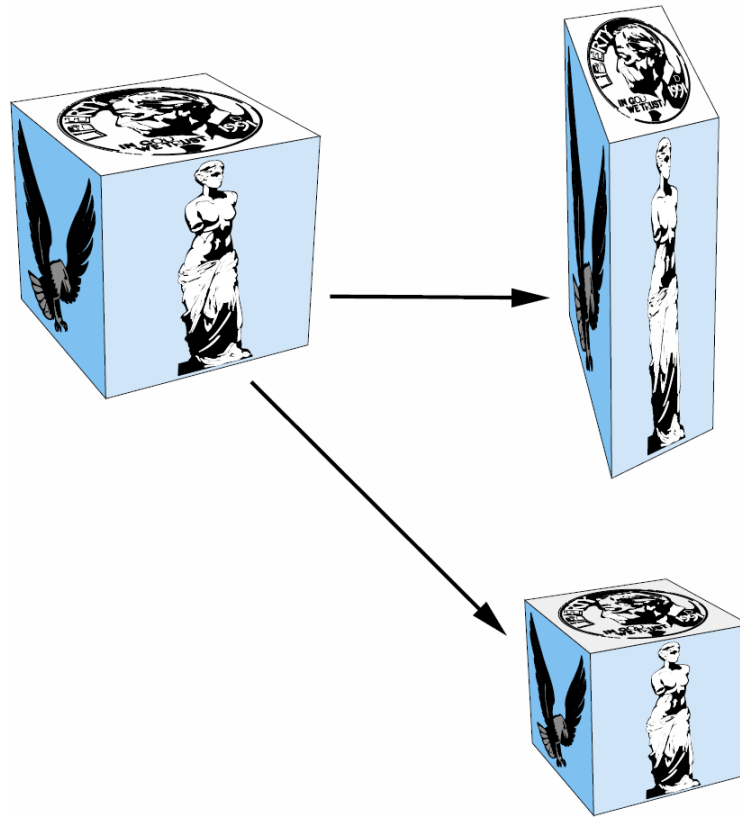
$$T = T(d_x, d_y, d_z) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & d_x \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & d_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & d_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- This form is better for implementation because
  - all affine transformations can be expressed in this way ( $4 \times 4$  matrix)
  - and multiple transformations can be concatenated together by multiplying them together.

# Scaling

- Expand or contract along each axis (fixed point of origin)

$$x' = s_x x \quad y' = s_y y \quad z' = s_z z$$



# Scaling Matrix

- In homogeneous coordinates,

$$p' = Sp$$

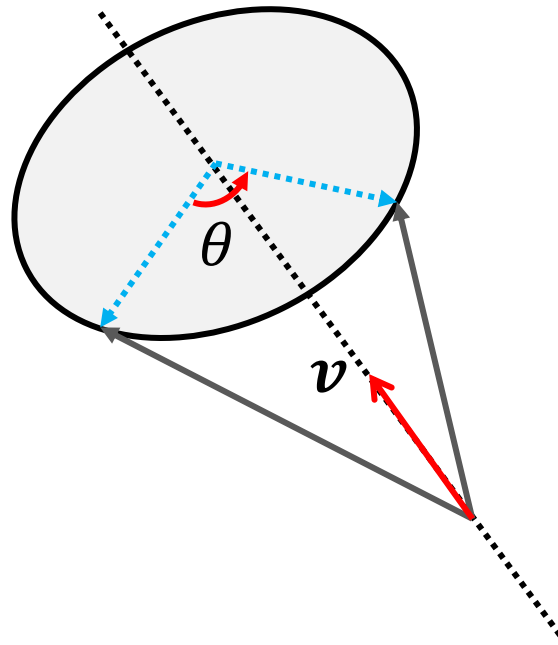
where

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{S}(s_x, s_y, s_z) = \begin{bmatrix} s_x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_y & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Rotation

- Generally, rotation transformation can be described by the rotation angle  $\theta$  and its revolution axis  $v$ .

$$p' = R(\theta)p$$



# Rotation Matrix

- **Rotation matrix  $R(\theta)$  revolving axis  $v$  is given as:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_x v_x (1 - c) + c & v_x v_y (1 - c) - v_z s & v_x v_z (1 - c) + v_y s & 0 \\ v_x v_y (1 - c) + v_z s & v_y v_y (1 - c) + c & v_y v_z (1 - c) - v_x s & 0 \\ v_x v_z (1 - c) - v_y s & v_y v_z (1 - c) + v_x s & v_z v_z (1 - c) + c & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $c = \cos \theta$ ,  $s = \sin \theta$

- This formulation is derived using Quaternion (an extension of complex numbers with three imaginary numbers).
- Though, we do not prove this, because a rigorous proof for this goes far beyond the undergraduate level.



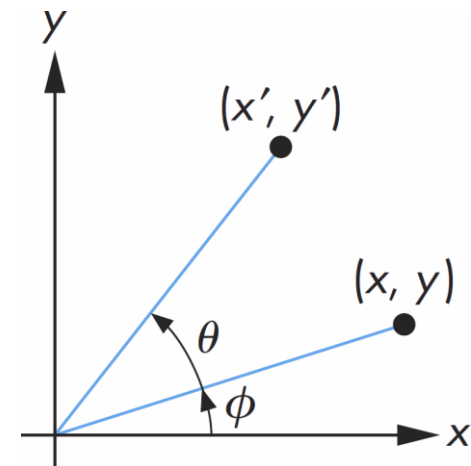
# Rotation Matrix

- **Rotation about z axis in 3D**

- With z-axis ( $v_x = 0, v_y = 0, v_z = 1$ ), the formulation is reduced to the well-known form.
- equivalent to 2-D rotation in planes of constant z, like slicing 3D into multiple plane slices at height z and rotating in each such plane.

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

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



# Rotation Matrix

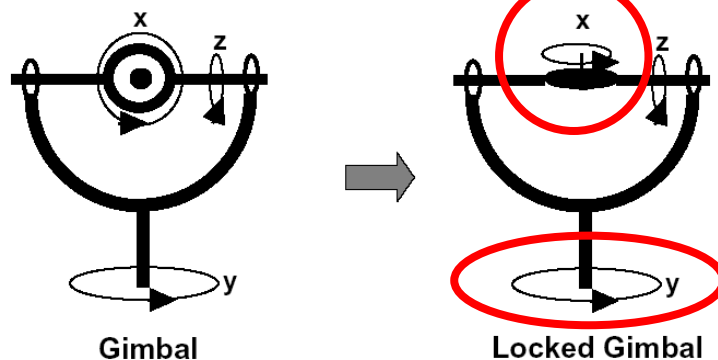
- Similarly, rotation matrix along  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes are:

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

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

# Rotation Matrix by Euler Angles

- A rotation by  $\theta$  about an arbitrary axis can be decomposed into the concatenation of rotations about the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  axes:
- $\mathbf{R}(\theta) = \mathbf{R}_x(\theta_x)\mathbf{R}_y(\theta_y)\mathbf{R}_z(\theta_z)$ , where  $\theta_x, \theta_y, \theta_z$  are called the Euler angles.
- However, do not apply the rotation matrices with the concatenated form of rotation matrices of Euler angles, because such a rotation may cause a gimbal lock problem in some cases.
- **Gimbal lock:** when two axes effectively line up, a degree of freedom is lost.



# **Standard 2D Transformation Matrices**

# 2D Transformation in 4x4 Matrix

- **Use 4x4 matrices instead of 2x2 or 3x3 matrices**
  - Graphics pipeline is optimized for 4x4 matrix, and thus, it is better to use 4x4 matrices even for 2D transformation.
  - It is consistent, when mixing with 3D transformations.
- **It is trivial to derive 2D transformations from 3D transformations.**
  - 2D translation:  $T = T(d_x, d_y, 0)$
  - 2D Scaling:  $S = S(s_x, s_y, 1)$
  - 2D rotation (with z-axis):  $R = R_z(\theta)$

# **General Affine Transformations**

# Inverse Transformations

- **Basically, we can compute inverse matrices by general formulas.**
  - Though, the inverse operation is very costly, and also, can degrade precision in the computer arithmetic.
- **Alternatively, we can use simple geometric observations:**

$$\mathbf{T}^{-1}(d_x, d_y, d_z) = \mathbf{T}(-d_x, -d_y, -d_z)$$

$$\mathbf{R}^{-1}(\theta) = \mathbf{R}(-\theta) = \mathbf{R}^T(\theta)$$

$$\mathbf{S}^{-1}(s_x, s_y, s_z) = \mathbf{S}(1/s_x, 1/s_y, 1/s_z)$$

# General Affine Transformations

- Multiple transformations can be represented as *concatenation of transformation matrices*.
- We can form arbitrary affine transformation matrices by multiplying rotation, translation, and scaling matrices together.
  - The cost of forming a matrix  $\mathbf{M}=\mathbf{ABCD}$  is insignificant, because the same transformation is applied to many vertices,
- Note that matrix on the right is the first applied:

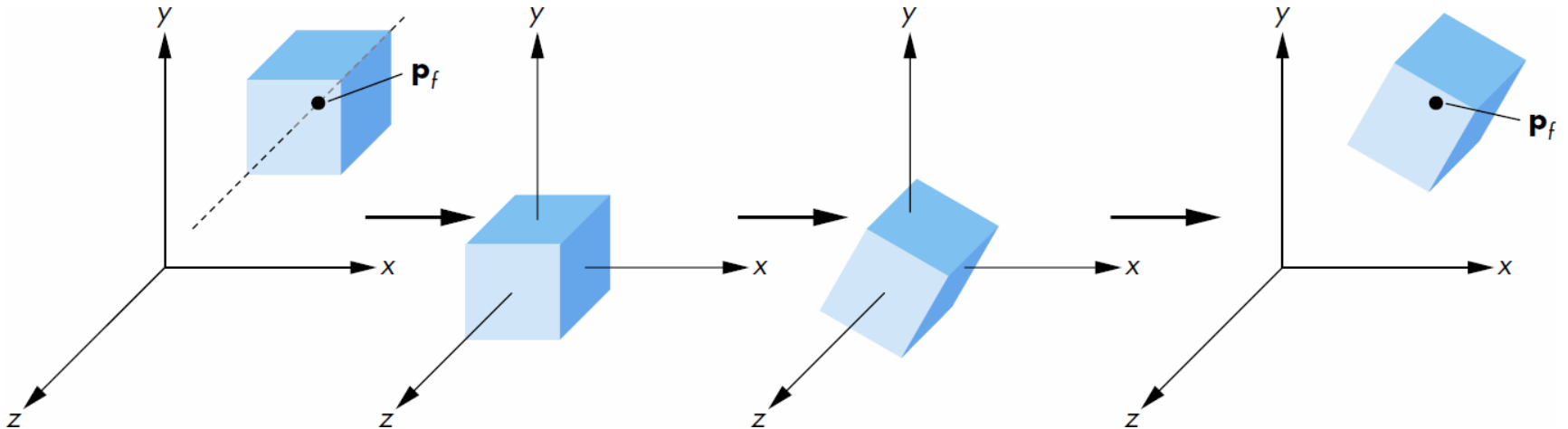
$$p' = A(B(Cp)) = ABCp$$



# Rotation about Non-Origin Point

- 1) Move the fixed point to the origin
- 2) Rotate
- 3) Move the fixed point back

$$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{p}_f)\mathbf{R}(\theta)\mathbf{T}(-\mathbf{p}_f)$$



# Instancing

- In modeling, we often start with an object centered at the origin, oriented with the axis, and at a standard size.
  - We apply an *instance transformation* to its vertices to scale, orient, and locate somewhere.
  - This allows us to work with minimal geometric objects, while rendering many different objects.

