

L4: Screw and Twist

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Agenda

- Screw (6D representation of rigid motion)
- Twist (6D representation of rigid motion velocity)

Rigid Transformation and SE(3)

The Set of Rigid Transformations

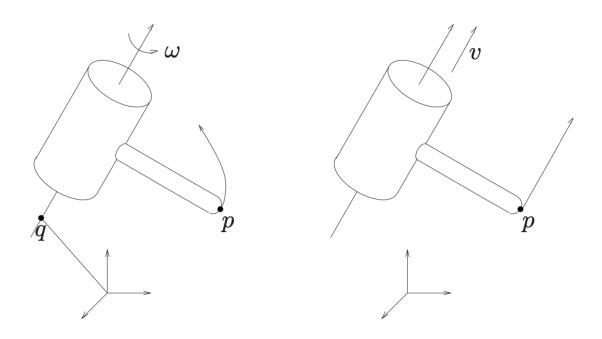
•
$$\mathbb{SE}(3) := \left\{ T = \begin{bmatrix} R & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, R \in \mathbb{SO}(3), t \in \mathbb{R}^3 \right\}$$

- SE(3): "Special Euclidean Group"
- "Group": closed under matrix multiplication and other conditions of group
- "Euclidean": R and t
- "Special": det(R) = 1
- 6 DoF

- Recall Euler's Theorem about SO(3):
 - Any rotation in $\mathbb{SO}(3)$ is equivalent to rotation about a fixed axis $\hat{\omega} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ through a positive angle θ
- Similar results for $\mathbb{SE}(3)$: Screw Parameterization
- (In your mind, think T as a linear transformation)

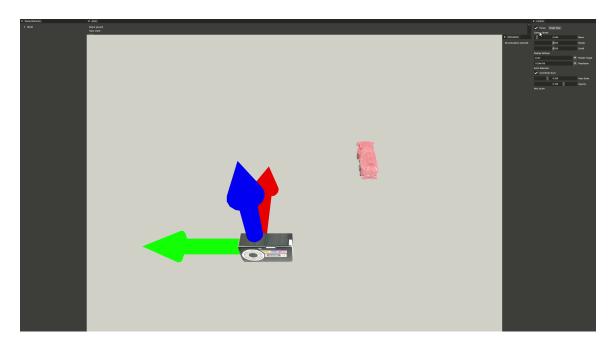
Screw Motion Theorem

- Any rigid body motion is equivalent to rotating about one axis while also translating along the axis
- The axis may not pass the origin



Screw Motion Theorem

- Any rigid body motion is equivalent to rotating about one axis while also translating along the axis
- Recall our question of "canonical" rigid transformation decomposition—by sharing rotation axis and translation direction, we identify the decomposition



Review: Lie algebra of SO(3)

- Motion interpretation
 - $\hat{\omega}$: motion direction
- Exponential coordinate

$$\overrightarrow{\theta} = \hat{\omega}\theta \in \mathbb{R}^3$$
 (rot vector)

Exponential map

$$R = \exp([\hat{\omega}]\theta) \in \mathbb{SO}(3)$$

• Tangent space at R = I

$$[\hat{\omega}]\theta \in \mathfrak{so}(3)$$

Goal: The Lie Algebra of $\mathbb{SE}(3)$

- Motion interpretation
 â: motion direction
- Exponential coordinate $\overrightarrow{\theta} = \hat{\omega}\theta \in \mathbb{R}^3$ (rot vector)
- Exponential map $R = \exp([\hat{\omega}]\theta) \in \mathbb{SO}(3)$
- Tangent space at R=I $[\hat{\omega}]\theta \in \mathfrak{so}(3)$

- Motion interpretation $\hat{\xi}$: 6D motion direction
- Exponential coordinate

$$\chi = \hat{\xi}\theta \in \mathbb{R}^6$$
 (screw)

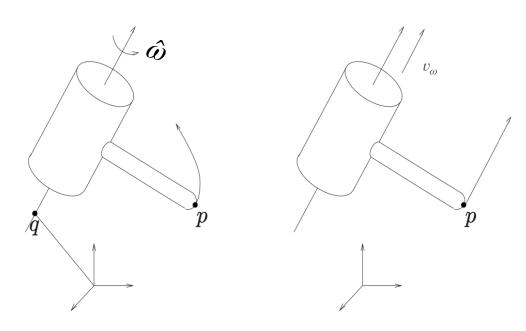
Exponential map

$$T = \exp([\hat{\xi}]\theta) \in \mathbb{SE}(3)$$

• Tangent space at T = I $[\hat{\xi}]\theta \in \mathfrak{Se}(3)$

An Imaged Motion for $T \in \mathbb{SE}(3)$

- Transforming by $T \Longleftrightarrow \mathbf{rotating}$ about one axis while also **translating** along the axis
- Assume an arbitrary point q on the axis, a **unit** vector $\hat{\omega}$ denoting axis, and the angle θ
- Assume the translation along $\hat{\omega}$ is d_{ω}



• In $\mathbb{SO}(3)$, we have

$$Rot(\hat{\omega}, \theta)x = (I + \theta[\hat{\omega}] + \frac{\theta^2}{2!}[\hat{\omega}]^2 + \frac{\theta^3}{3!}[\hat{\omega}]^3 + \cdots)x$$

• In $\mathbb{SE}(3)$, we have a similar result ($x \in \mathbb{R}^4$ by homogeneous coordinate):

$$\operatorname{Trans}(\hat{\omega}, \theta, q, d_{\omega})x = (I + A + \frac{A^2}{2!} + \frac{A^3}{3!} + \cdots)x$$

$$\operatorname{where} A = \begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}\theta] & -[\hat{\omega}\theta]q + d_{\omega} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{4\times 4}$$

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- Similar to $Rot(\hat{\omega}, \theta) \equiv e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta}$, we have $Trans(\hat{\omega}, \theta, q, d_{\omega}) = e^A$
- We try to align the form of $Rot(\hat{\omega}, \theta)$ and $T = Trans(\hat{\omega}, \theta, q, d_{\omega})$:
 - Notice that the power of e is the product of a matrix that corresponds to motion direction and a scalar, we factor A similarly

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- Let
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}] & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \theta$$
, where $d = \frac{-[\hat{\omega}\theta]q + d_{\omega}}{\theta}$, then $T = \exp\left(\begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}] & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \theta\right)$

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- A special case:
 - When the motion is translation-only, define $\hat{\omega}=0,$ $\theta=\|d_{\omega}\|,$ and

$$d = \frac{d_{\omega}}{\|d_{\omega}\|}$$

$$\operatorname{Trans}(\hat{\omega},\theta,q,d_{\omega})x = (I+A+\frac{A^2}{2!}+\frac{A^3}{3!}+\cdots)x, \text{ where } A = \begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}\theta] & -[\hat{\omega}\theta]q+d_{\omega} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{4\times4}$$

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$$A = \begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}] & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \theta$$
, where $d = \frac{-[\hat{\omega}\theta]q + d_{\omega}}{\theta}$, then $T = \exp\left(\begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}] & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \theta\right)$

• The following rule introduces $\hat{\xi}$ so that $T = \exp\left(\begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}] & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\theta\right) \equiv e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta}$:

$$- \hat{\xi} = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \hat{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6 \text{ and } [\hat{\xi}]\theta = \begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}] & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \theta$$

• To sum up,
$$\mathrm{Trans}(\hat{\omega},\theta,q,d_{\omega})=e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta}$$
, where
$$\hat{\xi}=\begin{bmatrix}d\\\hat{\omega}\end{bmatrix}\in\mathbb{R}^6\ (\hat{\omega}=0\ \mathrm{and}\ d=\frac{d_{\omega}}{\|d_{\omega}\|}\ \mathrm{if\ translation\text{-}only})$$

$$- d = \frac{-[\hat{\omega}\theta]q + d_{\omega}}{\theta}$$

$$- [\hat{\xi}]\theta = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\omega} & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \theta$$

$$-d = \frac{[\omega] - [\hat{\omega}\theta]q + d_{\omega}}{\theta},$$

$$-[\hat{\xi}]\theta = \begin{bmatrix} [\hat{\omega}] & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \theta$$

$$\cdot \chi = \hat{\xi}\theta = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \hat{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \theta = \begin{bmatrix} -[\hat{\omega}]q\theta + d_{\omega} \\ \hat{\omega}\theta \end{bmatrix} \text{ is called } \mathbf{screw, } \text{ or } \mathbf{screw, } \mathbf{sc$$

exponential coordinate

- Introducing the inverse function of $T = e^{[\chi]}$, $\chi = \log(T)$
- $\hat{\mathcal{E}}$ is called **unit twist**, which describes **motion direction**

Generate $T \in \mathbb{SE}(3)$ from $\hat{s}\theta$

• Recall Rodrigues Formula for rotations:

$$e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta} = I + [\hat{\omega}]\sin\theta + [\hat{\omega}]^2(1 - \cos\theta)$$

Similarly, using Taylor's expansion definition of exp,

$$e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta} = I + [\hat{\xi}] + \frac{1 - \cos\theta}{\theta^2} [\hat{\xi}]^2 + \frac{\theta - \sin\theta}{\theta^3} [\hat{\xi}]^3$$

Further computation gives

$$e^{[\hat{\xi}\theta]} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{[\hat{\omega}\theta]} & (I - e^{[\hat{\omega}\theta]})(\hat{\omega} \times d) + \hat{\omega}\hat{\omega}^T d\theta \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Local Structure of SE(3)

Definition of Matrix Exponential:

$$e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta} = I + \theta[\hat{\xi}] + \frac{\theta^2}{2!} [\hat{\xi}]^2 + \frac{\theta^3}{3!} [\hat{\xi}]^3 + \cdots$$

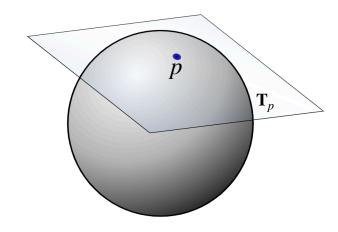
- When $\theta \approx 0$, $e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta} = I + \theta[\hat{\xi}] + o(\theta[\hat{\xi}])$
- $\forall T \in \mathbb{SE}(3), e^{\theta[\hat{\xi}]}T \approx T + \theta[\hat{\xi}]T \text{ when } \theta \approx 0$
 - Implies that SE(3) has a linear local structure (differentiable manifold)

Local Structure of SE(3)

• By $e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta} = I + \theta[\hat{\xi}] + o(\theta[\hat{\xi}])$ when $\theta \approx 0$,

$$e^{[\chi]} - I = [\chi] + o([\chi])$$

- Interpretation:
 - $[\chi]$ is a linear subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{4\times4}$
 - $e^{[\chi]} \rightarrow I \text{ as } [\chi] \rightarrow 0$



- Any local movement in $\mathbb{SE}(3)$ around I, which is $e^{[\chi]} I$, can be approximated by some small $[\chi]$
- The set of $[\chi]$ forms the tangent space of $\mathbb{SE}(3)$ at I

Lie algebra $\mathfrak{ge}(3)$ of $\mathbb{SE}(3)$

- The set of $[\chi]$ forms the tangent space of $\mathbb{SE}(3)$ at I
 - Ex: What is the tangent space at any $T \in \mathbb{SE}(3)$?
- We give this set a name, the "Lie algebra of $\mathbb{SE}(3)$ "

$$- \mathfrak{ge}(3) := \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} S & t \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 4} : S^T = -S \right\}$$

The Lie algebra of SE(3)

- Motion interpretation

 û: motion direction
- Exponential coordinate

$$\overrightarrow{\theta} = \hat{\omega}\theta \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

Exponential map

$$R = \exp([\hat{\omega}]\theta) \in \mathbb{SO}(3)$$

Tangent space at I

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Motion interpretation

 $\hat{\xi}$: 6D motion direction

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$$\chi = \hat{\xi}\theta \in \mathbb{R}^6$$

Exponential map

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Tangent space at I

$$[\hat{\xi}]\theta \in \mathfrak{se}(3)$$

Compute $T \in \mathbb{SE}(3)$ from $\hat{\xi}\theta$

• Recall Rodrigues Formula for rotations:

$$e^{[\hat{\omega}]\theta} = I + [\hat{\omega}]\sin\theta + [\hat{\omega}]^2(1 - \cos\theta)$$

Similarly, using Taylor's expansion definition of exp,

$$e^{[\hat{\xi}\theta]} = I + [\hat{\xi}] + \frac{1 - \cos\theta}{\theta^2} [\hat{\xi}]^2 + \frac{\theta - \sin\theta}{\theta^3} [\hat{\xi}]^3$$

Further computation gives

$$e^{[\hat{\xi}\theta]} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{[\hat{\omega}\theta]} & (I - e^{[\hat{\omega}\theta]})(\hat{\omega} \times d) + \hat{\omega}\hat{\omega}^T d\theta \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Compute $\hat{\xi}\theta$ from $T \in \mathbb{SE}(3)$

- First, determine $\hat{\omega}\theta \in so(3)$ from the SO(3) rotation
- The translation component of T is t, then d in

$$\hat{\xi}\theta = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \hat{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \theta \text{ can be calculated as follow } (\theta \neq 0):$$

$$d = (\frac{1}{\theta}I - \frac{1}{2}[\hat{\omega}] + (\frac{1}{\theta} - \frac{1}{2}\cot\frac{\theta}{2})[\hat{\omega}]^2)t$$

•
$$t\perp\hat{\omega}\iff \frac{1}{\theta}(I+[\hat{\omega}]^2)t=0$$
, and there is no $\frac{1}{\theta}$ term in d

Read Motion Parameters from $\hat{\xi}\theta$

- Let us extract $\hat{\omega}, q, \theta, d_{\omega}$ from $\hat{\xi}\theta$
 - $\hat{\omega}$: we can directly read from $\hat{\xi}$
 - $q=[\hat{\omega}]^{\dagger}(\hat{\omega}\hat{\omega}^T-I)d$, where d can be read from $\hat{\xi}$
 - θ : we can directly read
 - $d_{\omega} = \hat{\omega}\hat{\omega}^T d\theta$

Summary

• Exponential map: $T = \text{Trans}(\hat{\omega}, \theta, q, d_{\omega}) = e^{[s]}$

. Screw:
$$\chi=\begin{bmatrix} -[\hat{\omega}]q\theta+d_{\omega}\\ \hat{\omega}\theta \end{bmatrix}$$
 is the displacement of the 6D motion

• Unit twist: $\hat{\xi}=\begin{bmatrix} d \\ \hat{\omega} \end{bmatrix}\in\mathbb{R}^6$ so that $\chi=\hat{\xi}\theta$, the direction of the 6D motion

Example of Screw Computation

Q: What is the screw
$$\chi = \hat{\xi}\theta$$
 given $T(\theta) = e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta}$?
$$T(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\alpha t) & -\sin(\alpha t) & \sin(\alpha t) \\ 0 & \sin(\alpha t) & \cos(\alpha t) & 1 - \cos(\alpha t) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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• Recall that given $R \in \mathbb{SO}(3)$, we can compute θ and $[\hat{\omega}]$ (L3 P29)

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$$\theta = \alpha t, [\hat{\omega}] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ thus } \hat{\omega} = [1,0,0]^T$$

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. Recall that
$$d=(\frac{1}{\theta}I-\frac{1}{2}[\hat{\omega}]+(\frac{1}{\theta}-\frac{1}{2}\cot\frac{\theta}{2})[\hat{\omega}]^2)t$$

• With some calculation, we get $d = [0,1,0]^T$)

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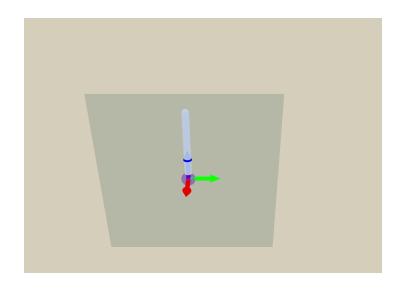
$$\hat{\xi}\theta = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \hat{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \theta = [0,1,0,1,0,0]^T \alpha t, \text{ so } \chi = \hat{\xi}\theta = [0,\alpha t,0,\alpha t,0,0]^T$$

Assume $T(\theta)$ describes the relative transformation of a body frame relative to spatial frame: $T^s_{s\to b}(\theta)\equiv T(\theta)$

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

•
$$\chi_{s \to b}^{s} = \hat{\xi}_{s \to b}^{s} \theta_{s \to b}^{s} = [0, \alpha t, 0, \alpha t, 0, 0]^{T}$$

 $\chi_{s \to b}^{s}$ represents the linear transformation of rotating about a fixed axis



R: x-axis G: y-axis

B: z-axis

•
$$\chi_{s \to b}^{s} = \hat{\xi}_{s \to b}^{s} \theta_{s \to b}^{s} = [0, \alpha t, 0, \alpha t, 0, 0]^{T}$$

 $\chi_{s\to b}^s$ should represents the linear transformation of rotating about a fixed axis. Can we decode this information from $[0,\alpha t,0,\alpha t,0,0]^T$?

Q: What are $\hat{\omega}$, q, θ , d_{ω} for $T(\theta) = e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta}$, where $\hat{\xi}\theta = [0, \alpha t, 0, \alpha t, 0, 0]^T$?

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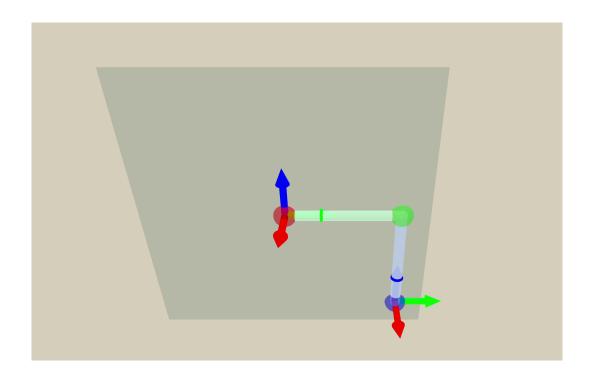
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Q: What are $\hat{\omega}$, q, θ , d_{ω} for $T(\theta) = e^{[\hat{\xi}]\theta}$, where $\hat{\xi}\theta = [0, \alpha t, 0, \alpha t, 0, 0]^T$?

- Recall: $q = [\hat{\omega}]^{\dagger} (\hat{\omega} \hat{\omega}^T I) d$
- With $\hat{\omega} = [1,0,0]^T$, $d = [0,1,0]^T$, we have $q = [0,0,1]^T$
- Recall: $d_{\omega} = \hat{\omega} \hat{\omega}^T d\theta$
- With $\theta = \alpha t$, we have $d_{\omega} = [0,0,0]^T$

Now, let's consider another case:

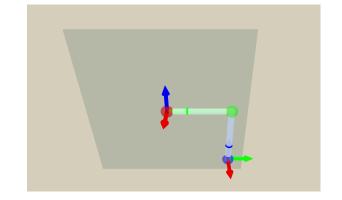
- A robot has two links (green stick and blue stick) connected by a revolute joint (green sphere). The end-effector (blue sphere) is connected to the end of the second link. The spatial frame is at the red sphere (static).
- What is the screw $\chi_{s \to e}^{s}(t)$ of the end-effector in the spatial frame?



What is the screw $\chi_{s\to\rho}^{s}(t)$ of the end-effector in the spatial frame?

• Write down $T_{s\rightarrow e}^{s}$ by observation

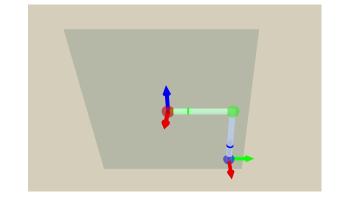
• Write down
$$T_{s \to e}^s$$
 by observation
$$T(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\alpha t) & -\sin(\alpha t) & 1 + \sin(\alpha t) \\ 0 & \sin(\alpha t) & \cos(\alpha t) & -\cos(\alpha t) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



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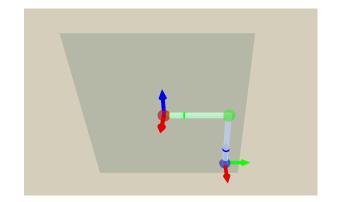
• Similar as before, $\theta = \alpha t$, $\hat{\omega} = [1,0,0]^T$

•
$$d = (\frac{1}{\theta}I - \frac{1}{2}[\hat{\omega}] + (\frac{1}{\theta} - \frac{1}{2}\cot\frac{\theta}{2})[\hat{\omega}]^2)t$$

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$$d = (\frac{1}{\theta}I - \frac{1}{2}[\hat{\omega}] + (\frac{1}{\theta} - \frac{1}{2}\cot\frac{\theta}{2})[\hat{\omega}]^2)t$$

$$d = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{(\sin(\theta) + 1)\cot(\frac{\theta}{2}) - \cos(\theta)}{2} \\ \frac{\sin(\theta) + \cos(\theta)\cot(\frac{\theta}{2}) + 1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ so complex!}$$

What is the screw $\chi_{s \to \rho}^{s}(t)$ of the end-effector in the spatial frame?

• Screw $\chi_{s \to e}^{s}(t)$ is a function of time, since $\theta = \alpha t$

$$d = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{(\sin(\theta) + 1)\cot(\frac{\theta}{2}) - \cos(\theta)}{2} \\ -\frac{\sin(\theta) + \cos(\theta)\cot(\frac{\theta}{2}) + 1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

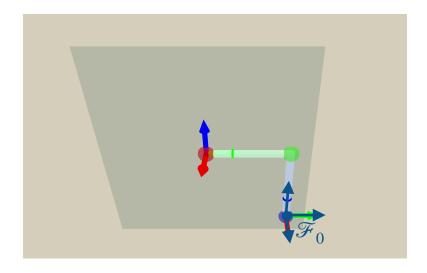
- Even for a simple motion, the screw representation can be very complex
- Is there a better way of representing $T^s_{s \to e}(t)$ by screw?

Is there a better way of representing $T_{s\to e}^{s}(t)$ by screw?

• Here we define a fixed auxiliary frame \mathcal{F}_0 and decompose $T^s_{s \to e}(t)$ into a composition of transformations

$$T_{s\to e}^s(t)=e^{[\chi_{s\to 0}^s]}e^{[\chi_{0\to e}^0]}$$
 (coord. trans. composition rule)

- $\mathcal{F}_0=\{p_0^s,(x_0^s,y_0^s,z_0^s)\}$: $p_0^s=[0,1,-1]^T$ and (x_p^s,y_p^s,z_p^s) has the same direction as \mathcal{F}_s
- Note that at $t=0,\,\mathcal{F}_0$ aligns with \mathcal{F}_e

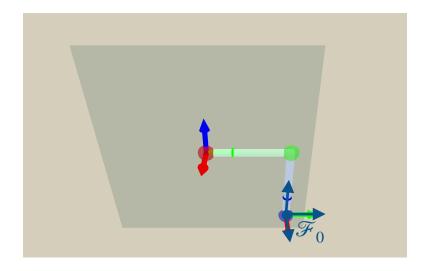


Is there a better way of representing $T_{s\rightarrow e}^{s}(t)$ by screw?

•
$$\mathscr{F}_0 = \{p_0^s, (x_0^s, y_0^s, z_0^s)\}: p_0^s = [0, 1, -1]^T$$

• Note that at $t=0,\,\mathcal{F}_0$ aligns with \mathcal{F}_e

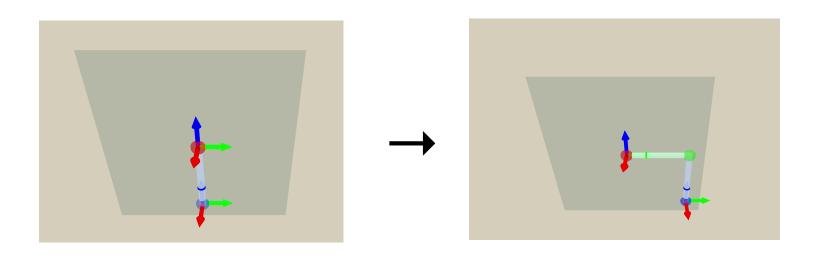
$$T_{s \to e}^{s}(t) = e^{\left[\chi_{s \to 0}^{s}\right]} e^{\left[\chi_{0 \to e}^{0}\right]} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\alpha t) & -\sin(\alpha t) & \sin(\alpha t) \\ 0 & \sin(\alpha t) & \cos(\alpha t) & 1 - \cos(\alpha t) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Is there a better way of representing $T^s_{s \to e}(\underline{t})$ by screw?

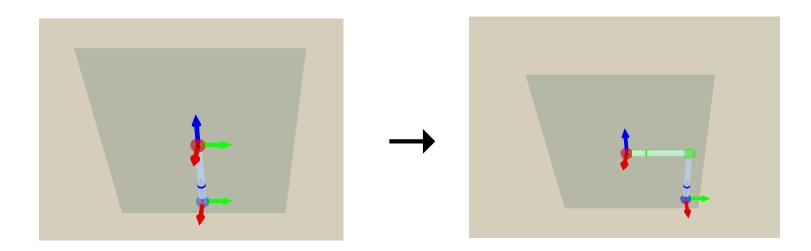
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- By simple inspection, $[\chi_{s\to 0}^s] = [0,1,-1,0,0,0]^T$
- As calculated in the previous example, $[\chi^0_{0 \to e}] = [0, \alpha t, 0, \alpha t, 0, 0]^T$



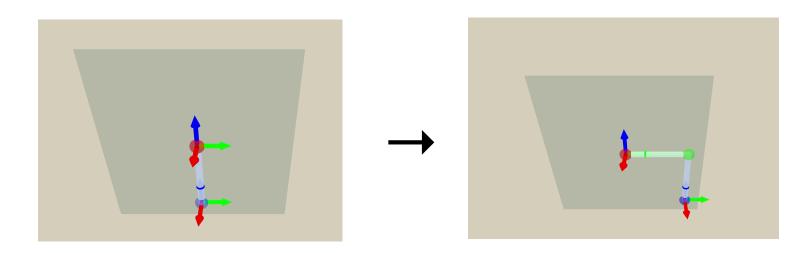
Is there a better way of representing $T_{s \to e}^{s}(t)$ by screw?

- Decomposing $T^s_{s \to e}(t)$ into two screw $e^{[\chi^s_{s \to 0}]}e^{[\chi^0_{0 \to e}]}$ makes things easier!
- Why we select $\mathcal{F}_0 = \{p_0^s, (x_0^s, y_0^s, z_0^s)\}$: $p_0^s = [0, 1, -1]^T$ and (x_p^s, y_p^s, z_p^s) r?



Is there a better way of representing $T_{s \to e}^{s}(t)$ by screw?

- Decomposing $T^s_{s o e}(t)$ into two screw $e^{[\chi^s_{s o 0}]}e^{[\chi^0_{0 o e}]}$ makes things easier
- Why we select $\mathscr{F}_0=\{p_0^s,(x_0^s,y_0^s,z_0^s)\}$, where $p_0^s=[0,1,-1]^T$ and (x_p^s,y_p^s,z_p^s) represent the same direction as \mathscr{F}_s ?
- Observation: \mathcal{F}_0 aligns with \mathcal{F}_e at t=0



Is there a better way of representing $T_{s \to e}^{s}(t)$ by screw?

- Observation: \mathcal{F}_0 aligns with \mathcal{F}_e at t=0

$$T_{s \to e}^{s}(t) = e^{\left[\chi_{s \to 0}^{s}\right]} e^{\left[\chi_{0 \to e}^{0}\right]} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\alpha t) & -\sin(\alpha t) & \sin(\alpha t) \\ 0 & \sin(\alpha t) & \cos(\alpha t) & 1 - \cos(\alpha t) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

 $e^{\left[\chi_{0\rightarrow e(t)}^{0}\right]}$ is an identity matrix at t=0

For motion of rotating about a fixed axis (common for revolute joint in real robot), screw will be very simple when it starts with an identity matrix

Libraries based on Screw Theory

- https://github.com/NxRLab/ModernRobotics/blob/ master/packages/Python/modern_robotics/core.py
- https://petercorke.github.io/robotics-toolbox-python/ intro.html#

Twist (6D Velocity Parameterization)

Setup

- Let us first parameterize the motion of a body frame by time:
 - An observer associated to \mathcal{F}_o records the motion as $T^o_{s'\to b(t)}$, where the body frame is at $\mathcal{F}_{b(t)}$.

Twist

$$T_{s'\to b(t+\Delta t)}^{o} - T_{s'\to b(t)}^{o} = T_{b(t)\to b(t+\Delta t)}^{o} T_{s'\to b(t)}^{o} - T_{s'\to b(t)}^{o}$$

$$= e^{\left[\chi_{b(t)\to b(t+\Delta t)}^{o}\right]} T_{s'\to b(t)}^{o} - T_{s'\to b(t)}^{o}$$

$$\approx \left[\chi_{b(t)\to b(t+\Delta t)}^{o}\right] T_{s'\to b(t)}^{o}$$

• Divided by Δt and take the limit, we have

$$\dot{T}_{s'\to b(t)}^o = \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \left[\frac{\chi_{b(t)\to b(t+\Delta t)}^o}{\Delta t} \right] T_{s'\to b(t)}^o \\
= [\xi_{b(t)}^o] T_{s'\to b(t)}^o$$

• $\xi_{b(t)}^o:=\lim_{\Delta t\to 0}rac{\chi_{b(t) o b(t+\Delta t)}^o}{\Delta t}$ is called "**twist**", the 6D instant velocity

Twist

• Twist:
$$\xi_{b(t)}^o := \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{\chi_{b(t) \to b(t + \Delta t)}^o}{\Delta t}$$

•
$$[\xi_{b(t)}^o] = \dot{T}_{s' \to b(t)}^o (T_{s' \to b(t)}^o)^{-1}$$

• Note: $\xi_{b(t)}^o \neq \dot{\chi}_{s' \to b(t)}^o$ for general $\chi_{s \to b(t)}^o(t)$ (verify by yourself)

Linear Velocity from Twist

• The linear velocity of
$$p^o$$
 caused by $T^o_{s' o b(t)}$ at time t is
$$\mathbf{v}^o_p(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{T^o_{b(t) o b(t + \Delta t)} p^o - p^o}{\Delta t} = \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{\exp([\chi^o_{b(t) o b(t + \Delta t)}]) - I}{\Delta t} p^o$$
$$= \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{[\chi^o_{b(t) o b(t + \Delta t)}]}{\Delta t} p^o = [\xi^o_{b(t)}] p^o$$

• Therefore, $\mathbf{v}_p^o(t) = [\xi_{b(t)}^o]p^o$

(Recall that, if a motion is a pure rotation, then $\mathbf{v}_p^o(t) = \omega_{h(t)}^o \times p^o$)

Interpretation and Computation of Twist

• Let
$$\xi_{b(t)}^o = \begin{bmatrix} \nu_{b(t)}^o \\ \omega_{b(t)}^o \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6$$
, then $[\xi_{b(t)}^o] = \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_{b(t)}^o] & \nu_{b(t)}^o \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Body Twist

- . When $\mathcal{F}_o = \mathcal{F}_{b(t)}$, it is particularly easy to compute $\xi_{b(t)}^{b(t)}$
- Remarks
 - For body twist, when recording at time t, you should think it as first cloning the body frame and then record the movement with this cloned frame keeping static
 - Body twist is "ego-centric" and sometimes simpler to specify for robotics. For example, if we take the gripper frame as the body frame. Using the body twist, we can express "move gripper forward" by a pure translation

Body Twist Computation

• By $\mathbf{v}_p^o(t) = [\xi_{b(t)}^o]p^o$ and $[\xi_{b(t)}^o] = \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_{b(t)}^o] & \nu_{b(t)}^o \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, let $p_{origin}^{b(t)} = [0,0,0,1]^T$, which is the origin of body frame

$$\mathbf{v}_{origin}^{b(t)}(t) = [\xi_{b(t)}^{b(t)}] p_{origin}^{b(t)} = \nu^{b(t)}$$

- . Note that $\mathbf{v}_{origin}^{b(t)}(t)$ is the linear velocity of the origin of the body frame
- . Therefore, $\xi_{b(t)}^{b(t)}$ is composed by the linear velocity of the origin and the angular velocity
- In practice, we often write down the body twist first and then obtain the twist in other frames by change of coordinate (next lecture)

Compute $\xi_{b(t)}^o$ from Angle-Axis

$$\bullet \ \, \operatorname{Let} \, \xi_{b(t)}^o = \begin{bmatrix} \nu_{b(t)}^o \\ \omega_{b(t)}^o \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^6, \, \operatorname{then} \, [\xi_{b(t)}^o] = \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_{b(t)}^o] & \nu_{b(t)}^o \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The instant linear velocity can be decomposed into the rotation about the axis and translation along the axis
- Take a point $q^o \in \mathbb{R}^3$ on the axis,

- By
$$\mathbf{v}^o_p(t) = [\xi^o_{b(t)}]p^o$$
, $\mathbf{v}^o_q = [\omega^o]q^o + \nu^o$

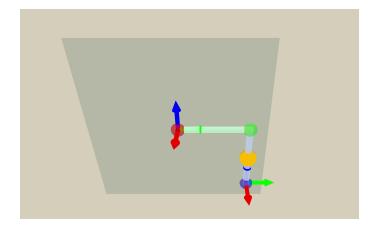
- Since the only velocity of q^o is along $\hat{\omega}$, $\mathbf{v}_q^o = \mathbf{v}_\omega^o$

$$:: \nu^o = - [\omega^o] q^o + \mathbf{v}_\omega^o$$

•
$$\xi^o = \begin{bmatrix} -[\omega^o]q^o + \mathbf{v}_\omega^o \\ \omega^o \end{bmatrix}$$
 (all the symbols have $b(t)$ as the subscript)

- Consider the previous example, but now a orange point is fixed to the endeffector frame (blue sphere)
- What is the **velocity of orange point at** t = 0? Given the pose of end effector frame as below:

$$T_{s \to b(t)}^{s} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\alpha t) & -\sin(\alpha t) & 1 + \sin(\alpha t) \\ 0 & \sin(\alpha t) & \cos(\alpha t) & -\cos(\alpha t) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



- The velocity of yellow point caused by the end-effector motion can be computed via twist
- Recall: $\mathbf{v}_p^s = [\xi_{b(t)}^s]p^s$

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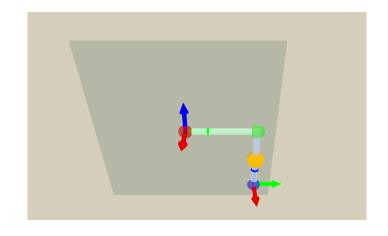
$$\textbf{By } T^s_{s \to b(t)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\alpha t) & -\sin(\alpha t) & 1 + \sin(\alpha t) \\ 0 & \sin(\alpha t) & \cos(\alpha t) & -\cos(\alpha t) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \dot{T}^s_{s \to b(t)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sin(\alpha t) & -\cos(\alpha t) & \cos(\alpha t) \\ 0 & \cos(\alpha t) & -\sin(\alpha t) & \sin(\alpha t) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

• we have
$$[\xi^s_{s \to b(t)}] = \dot{T}^s_{s \to b(t)} (T^s_{s \to b(t)})^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\alpha & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha & 0 & -\alpha \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The velocity of yellow point caused by the end-effector motion can be computed via twist
- Recall: $\mathbf{v}_p^s = [\xi_{b(t)}^s] p^s$

$$[\xi_{b(t)}^s] = \dot{T}_{s \to b(t)}^s (T_{s \to b(t)}^s)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\alpha & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha & 0 & -\alpha \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

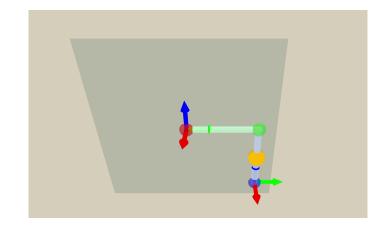
At
$$t = 0$$
, $p^s = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\1\\-\frac{1}{2}\\1 \end{bmatrix}$



- The velocity of yellow point caused by the end-effector motion can be computed via twist
- Recall: $\mathbf{v}_p^s = [\xi_{b(t)}^s] p^s$

$$[\xi_{b(t)}^{s}] = \dot{T}_{s \to b(t)}^{s} (T_{s \to b(t)}^{s})^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\alpha & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha & 0 & -\alpha \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, p^{s} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

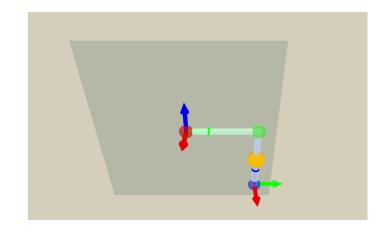
$$\mathbf{v}_p^s = [\xi_{b(t)}^s] p^s = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\ \frac{\alpha}{2}\\ 0\\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



• We can verify this result by taking the derivative of $\frac{d}{dt}p^s(t)$

$$p^{s}(t) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 + \frac{\alpha}{2}\sin(t) \\ -\frac{\alpha}{2}\cos(t) \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \frac{d}{dt}p^{s}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{\alpha}{2}\cos(t) \\ \frac{\alpha}{2}\sin(t) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_p^s = [\xi_{b(t)}^s] p^s = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\ \frac{\alpha}{2}\\ 0\\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{d}{dt} p^s(t) \big|_{t=0}$$



- What is the body twist of the end effector?
- In the body frame of the end effector (blue sphere), the blue sphere has a constant linear velocity, which is always $[0,\alpha,0]$. The angular velocity is always $[\alpha,0,0]$.

So,
$$\xi_{b(t)}^{b(t)} = [0, \alpha, 0, \alpha, 0, 0]^T$$

