

Kinematics on MATLAB for multi-link robots

Notebook: Sirena Documentation
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Abstract : This document describes how to make your own robot on MATLAB for kinematics analysis, for example figuring out forward and inverse kinematics. This can be helpful creating walk trajectories and visualizing the same on MATLAB. One can also attach mass and inertial properties to these models to do dynamic analysis.

Step 1: Understanding Homogeneous Transformation Matrix

Homogeneous transformation matrices are used to represent transformation frames which encapsulate position and orientation data of an object in space. For a robot, it might be position and orientation of a joint in space.

The $[dx, dy, dz]$ values are the x, y, z coordinates in space and $[n_x, n_y, n_z], [s_x, s_y, s_z], [a_x, a_y, a_z]$ are normalized vectors emerging out of $[dx, dy, dz]$. A 4x4 identity matrix will be a frame located at origin with the x vector pointing on positive x direction with a magnitude of 1, similarly for y and z .

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} R & d \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This does the rotation →

$$= \begin{bmatrix} n_x & s_x & a_x & d_x \\ n_y & s_y & a_y & d_y \\ n_z & s_z & a_z & d_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

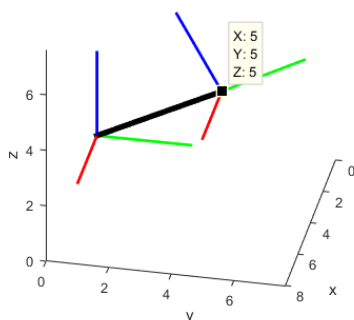
→ This does the displacement

Step 1: Understanding Homogeneous Transformation Matrix

Homogeneous transformation matrices are used to represent transformation frames which encapsulate position and orientation data of an object in space. For a robot, it might be position and orientation of a joint in space.

The $[dx, dy, dz]$ values are the x, y, z coordinates in space and $[n_x, n_y, n_z], [s_x, s_y, s_z], [a_x, a_y, a_z]$ are normalized vectors emerging out of $[dx, dy, dz]$. A 4x4 identity matrix will be a frame located at origin with the x vector pointing on positive x direction with a magnitude of 1, similarly for y and z .

```
F0 = T(0,0,0); %frame at origin
F1 = F0*T(5,5,5)*RX(0.1); %translation and rotation.
hold on;
plot_line(F0,F1); %this function plots a line between two frames
plot_transformation_frame(F0); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F1); %plots the transformation frame
axis equal;
xlabel('x');
ylabel('y');
zlabel('z');
```



```
F0 =
    1    0    0    0
    0    1    0    0
    0    0    1    0
    0    0    0    1

F1 =
    1.0000    0    0    5.0000
    0    0.8776   -0.4794    5.0000
    0    0.4794    0.8776    5.0000
    0    0    0    1.0000
```

Step 2: Creating Forward kinematic chains using HTMs

Now that you know how to initialize frames and plot them. Lets try making a 3 DOF robotic arm

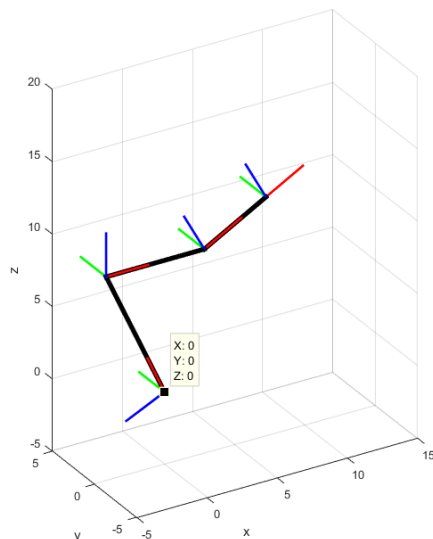
```
%joint angles in radians
joint1_val = -2;
joint2_val = 2;
joint3_val = -0.5;

%Forward kinematics
F0 = T(0,0,0)*RY(joint1_val);
F1 = F0*T(10,0,0)*RY(joint2_val);
F2 = F1*T(7,0,0)*RY(joint3_val);
F3 = F2*T(5,0,0);

%plotting
hold on;
plot_line(F0,F1);
plot_line(F1,F2);
plot_line(F2,F3);

plot_transformation_frame(F0); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F1); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F2); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F3); %plots the transformation frame

axis equal;
xlabel('x');
ylabel('y');
zlabel('z');
axis([-5 15 -5 5 -5 20])
grid on;
hold off
```



```
F0 =
    -0.6557    0    -0.7550    0
         0    1.0000    0         0
    0.7550    0    -0.6557    0
         0    0         0    1.0000

>> F1
F1 =
    0.9367    0    -0.3500   -6.5572
         0    1.0000    0         0
    0.3500    0    0.9367    7.5500
         0    0         0    1.0000
```

```
>> F2
F2 =
    1.0000    0    0.0000   -0.0000
         0    1.0000    0         0
    0.0000    0    1.0000   10.0000
         0    0         0    1.0000

>> F3
F3 =
    1.0000    0    0.0000    5.0000
         0    1.0000    0         0
    0.0000    0    1.0000   10.0000
         0    0         0    1.0000
```

Step 3: Applying Inverse Kinematics

To understand more about inverse kinematics, you can refer to this [blog post](#). In this step we will implement inverse kinematics of the 3DOF arm we just created.

If you give a point outside the workspace of the arm, it will the inverse kinematic function will throw an error.

```
%joint values in radians
joint1_val = -2;
```

```

joint2_val = 2;
joint3_val = -0.5;

%Link lengths
L=[10,7,5];

%Inverse Kinematics *comment this section to perform only forward
%kinematics
x = 5;    %x position
z = 10;    %z position
phi = 0;  %end effector orientation
[JA] = R2_IK(x,z,L,phi,-1); %inverse kinematic function
offset=[0 0 0];           %offset to match up FK and IK
dmt = [-1 -1 -1];        %direction matrix to match up FK and IK
JA = JA+offset;
JA = JA.*dmt;
joint1_val = JA(1);
joint2_val = JA(2);
joint3_val = JA(3);

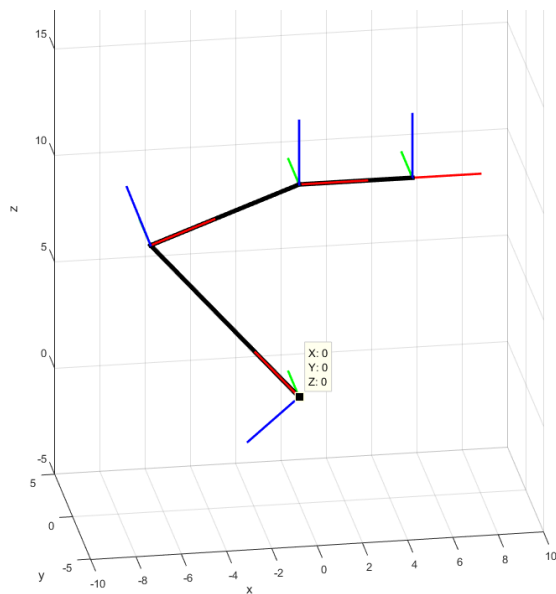
%Forward Kinematics
F0 = T(0,0,0)*RY(joint1_val);
F1 = F0*T(L(1),0,0)*RY(joint2_val);
F2 = F1*T(L(2),0,0)*RY(joint3_val);
F3 = F2*T(L(3),0,0);

%plotting
hold on;
plot_line(F0,F1);
plot_line(F1,F2);
plot_line(F2,F3);

plot_transformation_frame(F0); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F1); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F2); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F3); %plots the transformation frame

axis equal;
xlabel('x');
ylabel('y');
zlabel('z');
axis([-10 10 -5 5 -5 20])
grid on;
hold off

```



F0 =

```
-0.6557    0    -0.7550    0
         0    1.0000    0    0
         0    0    -0.6557    0
         0    0    0    1.0000
```

>> F1

F1 =

```
0.9367    0    -0.3500   -6.5572
         0    1.0000    0    0
         0    0    0.9367    7.5500
         0    0    0    1.0000
```

>> F2

F2 =

```
1.0000    0    0.0000   -0.0000
         0    1.0000    0    0
         0    0    1.0000   10.0000
         0    0    0    1.0000
```

>> F3

F3 =

```
1.0000    0    0.0000    5.0000
         0    1.0000    0    0
         0    0    1.0000   10.0000
         0    0    0    1.0000
```

Step 4: Generating trajectories and animating the robot

In this section, we will create a trajectory (circle) and make the arm follow it.

```
%trajectory generation - circle with radius 5
```

```
radius=5;
theta=0:0.1:2*pi;
X=radius*cos(theta)+7;
Z=radius*sin(theta)+10;
pause(7)
```

```
%joint values in radians
```

```
joint1_val = -2;
joint2_val = 2;
joint3_val = -0.5;
```

```
%Link lengths
```

```
L=[10,7,5];
```

```
%executing trajectory
```

```
for i=1:length(X)
```

```
    %Inverse Kinematics *comment this section to perform only forward
```

```
    %kinematics
```

```
    x = X(i);    %x position
```

```
    z = Z(i);    %z position
```

```
    phi = 0;    %end effector orientation
```

```
    [JA] = R2_IK(x,z,L,phi,-1); %inverse kinematic function
```

```
    offset=[0 0 0];    %offset to match up FK and IK
```

```
    dmt = [-1 -1 -1];    %direction matrix to match up FK and IK
```

```
    JA = JA+offset;
```

```
    JA = JA.*dmt;
```

```
    joint1_val = JA(1);
```

```
    joint2_val = JA(2);
```

```
    joint3_val = JA(3);
```

```
%Forward Kinematics
```

```
F0 = T(0,0,0)*RY(joint1_val);
```

```

F1 = F0*T(L(1),0,0)*RY(joint2_val);
F2 = F1*T(L(2),0,0)*RY(joint3_val);
F3 = F2*T(L(3),0,0)

%plotting
plot_line(F0,F1);
hold on;

plot_line(F1,F2);
plot_line(F2,F3);

plot_transformation_frame(F0); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F1); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F2); %plots the transformation frame
plot_transformation_frame(F3); %plots the transformation frame

plot3(X,zeros(1,length(X)),Z)
axis equal;
xlabel('x');
ylabel('y');
zlabel('z');
axis([-10 15 -5 5 -5 20])
grid on;

pause(0.1)
hold off;
end

```

The X-Z coordinates are extracted from the trajectory and are fed to the inverse kinematics functions, followed by forward kinematics and plotting.
The result of which...