

# Lecture 13

## Planning - V - Collision Detection



Fishman, Adam, Adithyavairavan Murali, Clemens Eppner, Bryan Peele, Byron Boots, and Dieter Fox. "Motion policy networks." In *Conference on Robot Learning 2023*.

# Course Logistics

- Quiz 6 was posted yesterday and was due at noon today.
- Project 4 is due tomorrow (extended) instead of today.
- Project 5 will be posted today 03/05 and will be due on 03/24.

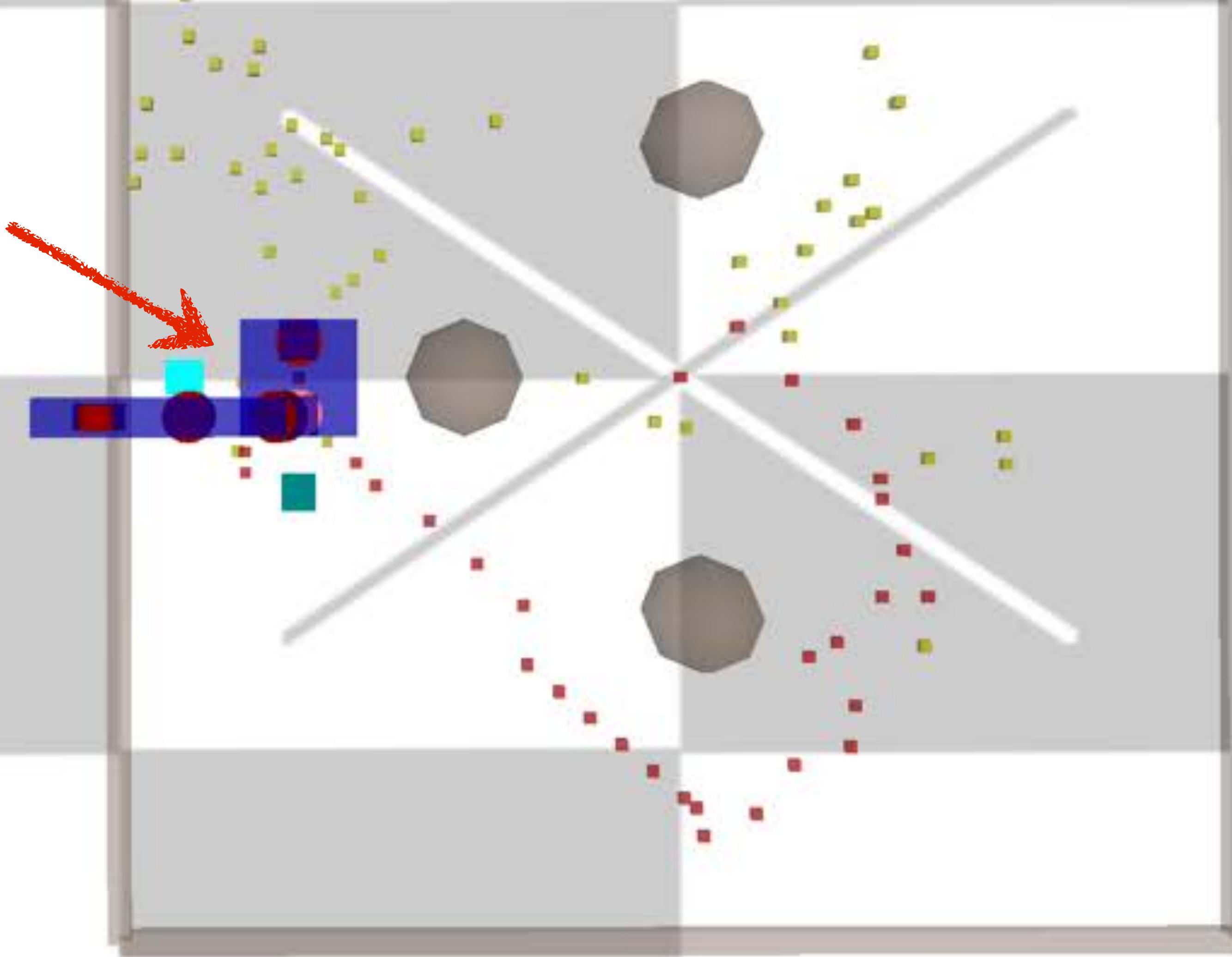
# Project 5: Motion Planning

- Generate a collision free motion plan to the world origin and zero joint angle configuration



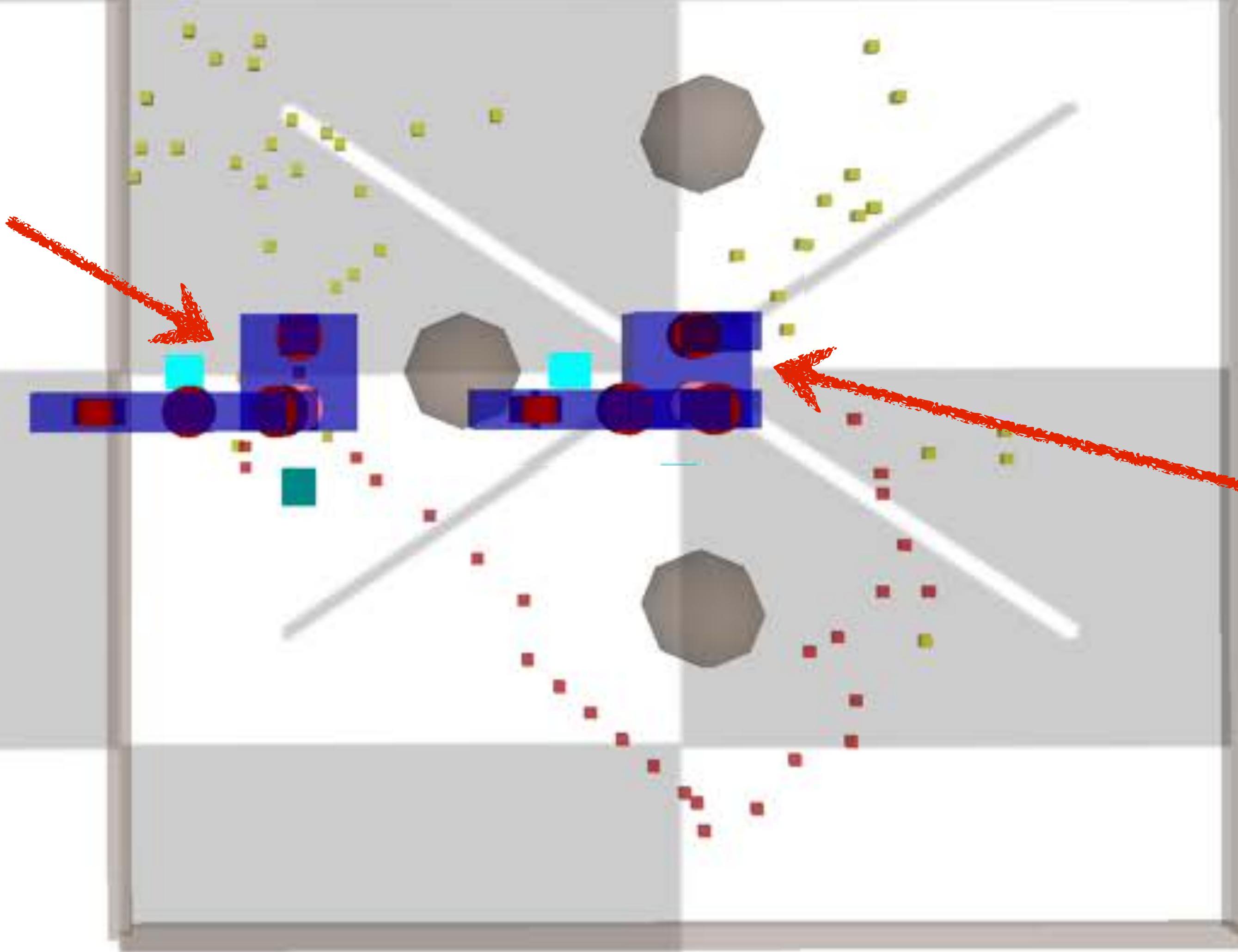
# Project 5: Motion Planning

Start: random  
non-colliding  
configuration



# Project 5: Motion Planning

Start: random  
non-colliding  
configuration



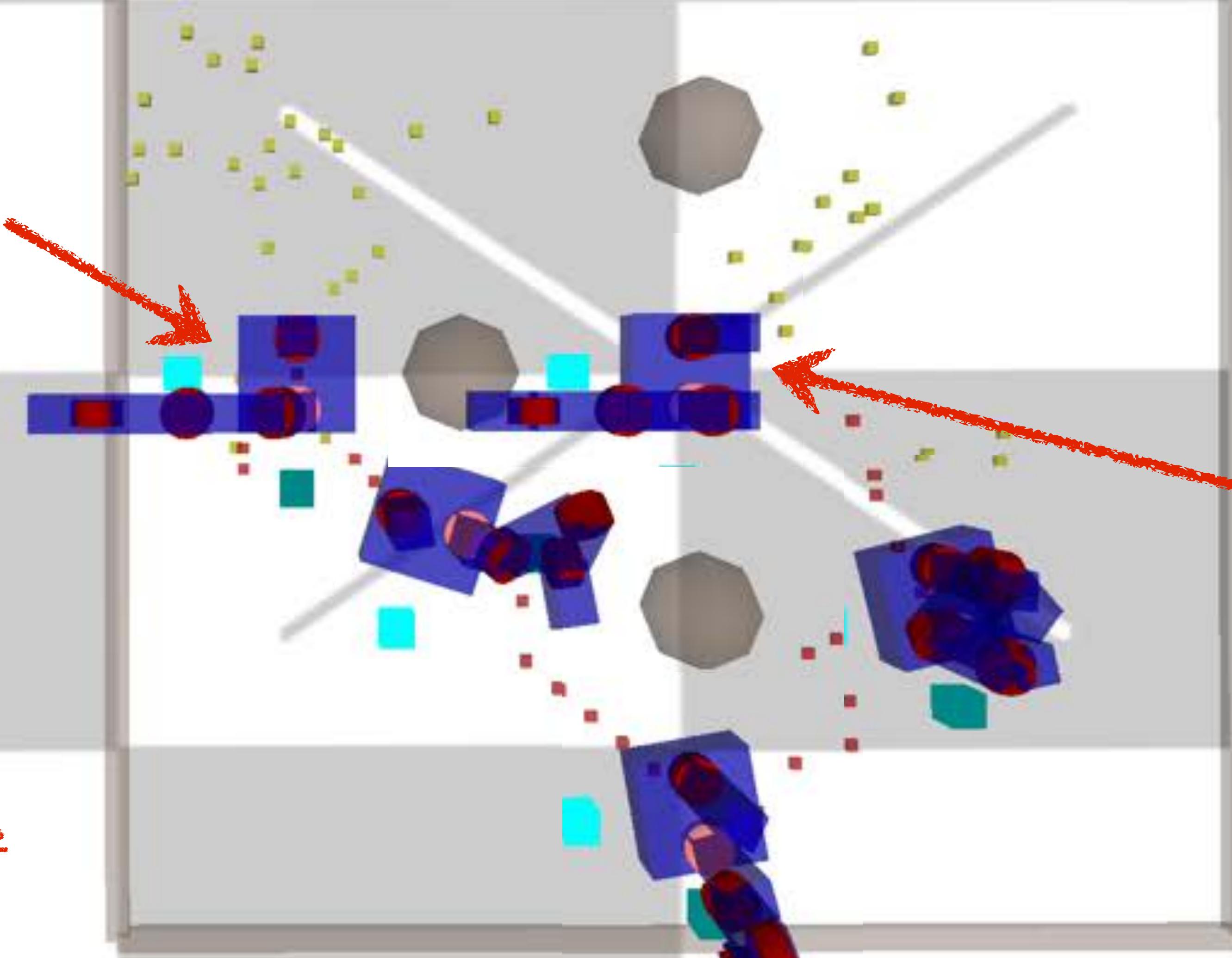
Goal: zero  
configuration at  
world origin

# Project 5: Motion Planning

Start: random  
non-colliding  
configuration

Generate  
collision-free  
motion plan

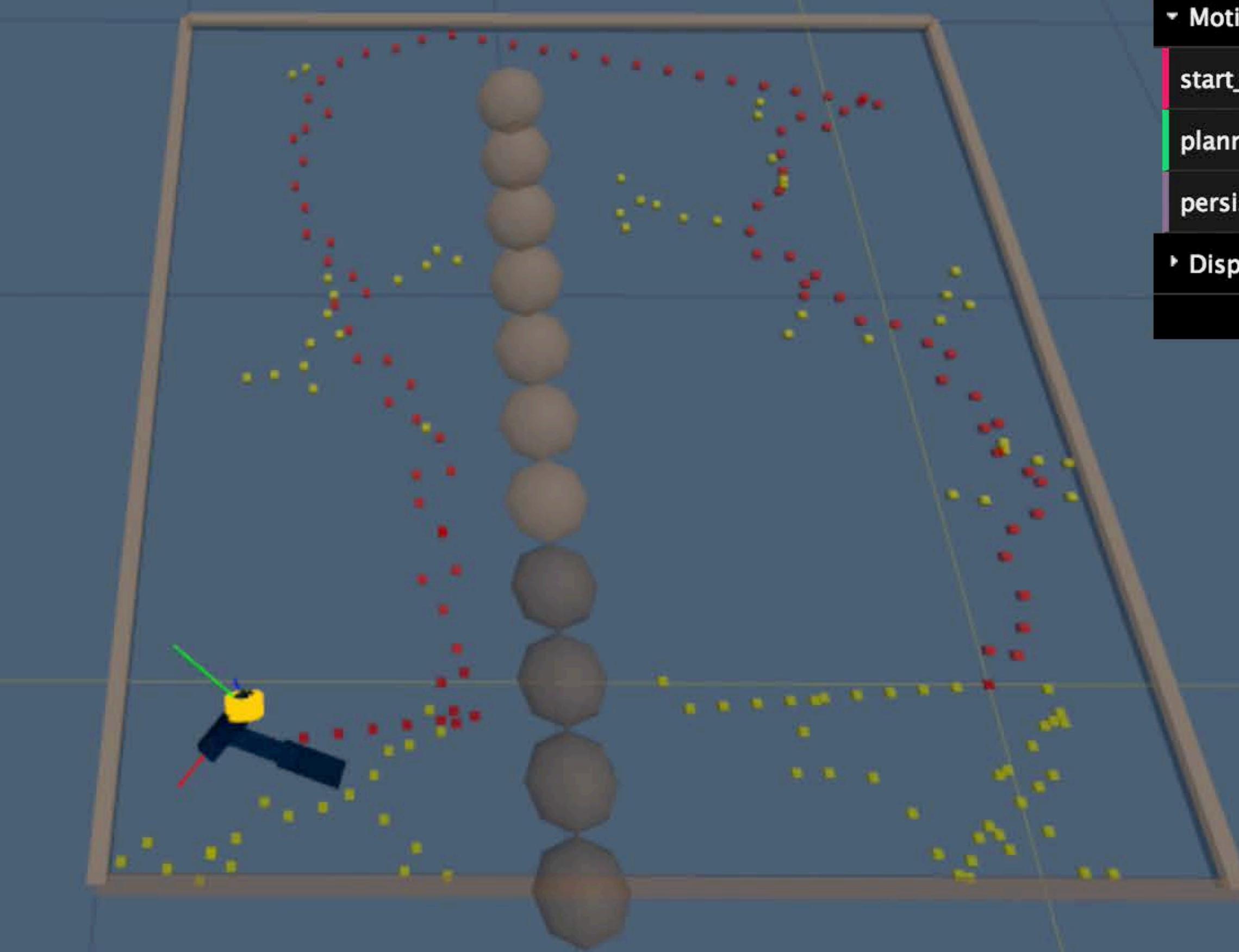
Goal: zero  
configuration at  
world origin





traversing planned motion trajectory

home.html?world=worlds/world\_barrier.js?robot=robots/robot\_urdf\_example.js



kineval	
just_starting	<input type="checkbox"/>
>User Parameters	
>Robot	
>Forward Kinematics	
>Inverse Kinematics	
>Motion Planning	
start_planner	
planner_state	complete
persist_motion...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
>Display	
	Close Controls

## Stencil code for KinEval (Kinematic Evaluation)

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for "Stencil code for KinEval (Kinematic Evaluation)". The repository has 2 commits and is currently on the master branch. A red box highlights the content of the `home.html` file, which contains JavaScript code for a web application. Below the file content, a red arrow points from the bottom of the highlighted code area down to the `home.html` file entry in the commit history table.

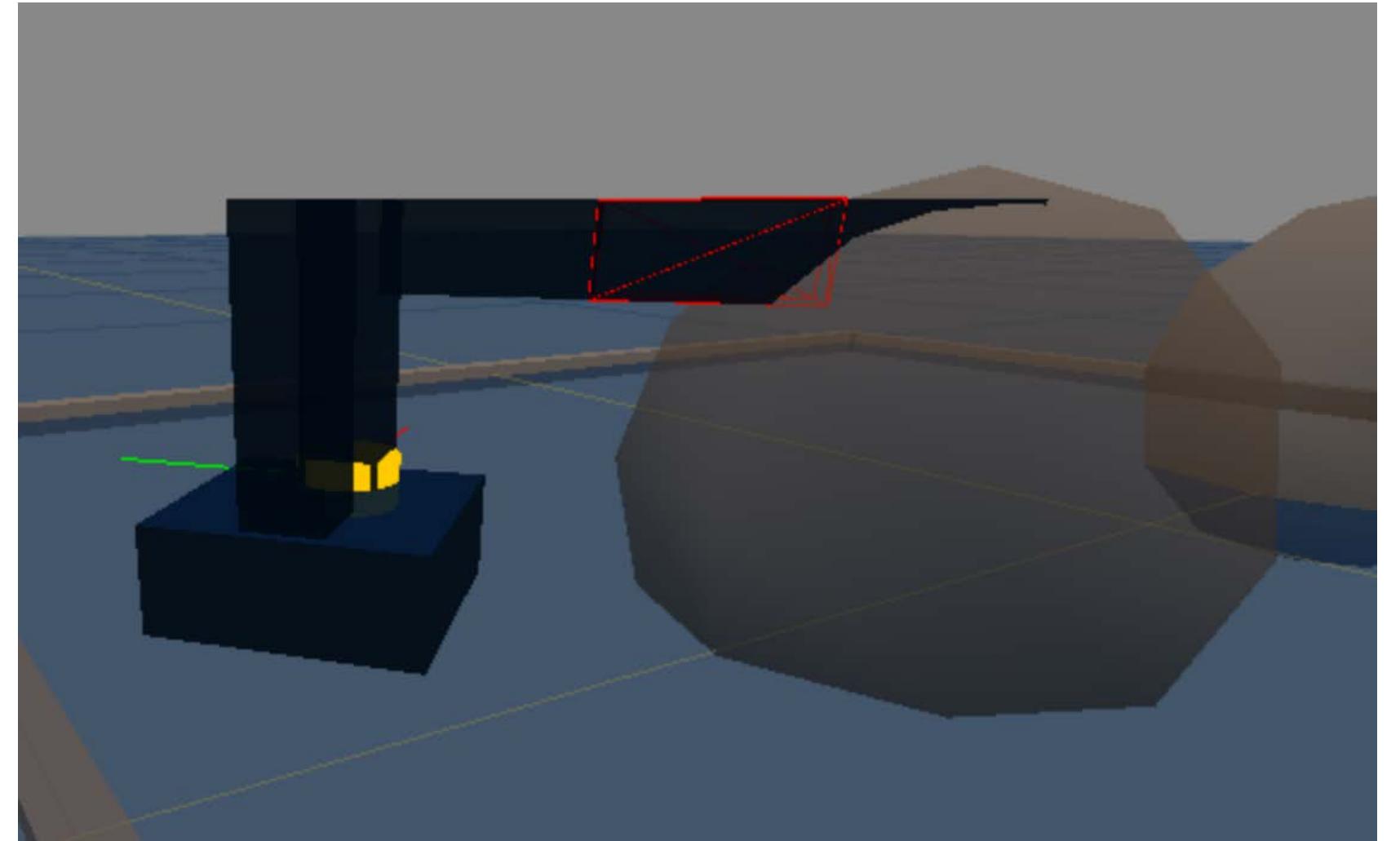
**home.html**

```
<script src="worlds/world_basic.js"></script>
...
function my_animate() {
    ...
    // detect robot collisions
    kineval.robotIsCollision();
    ...
    // if requested, perform configuration space
    motion planning to home pose
    kineval.planMotionRRTConnect();
}
```

	initial commit	26 days ago
initial commit		26 days ago
initial commit		26 days ago
initial commit		26 days ago

## home.html

```
<script src="worlds/world_basic.js"></script>
...
function my_animate() {
    ...
    // detect robot collisions
    kineval.robotIsCollision();
    ...
    // if requested, perform configuration space
motion planning to home pose
    kineval.planMotionRRTConnect();
}
}
```



world file can be alternatively loaded by a script tag (avoid doing this)

### home.html

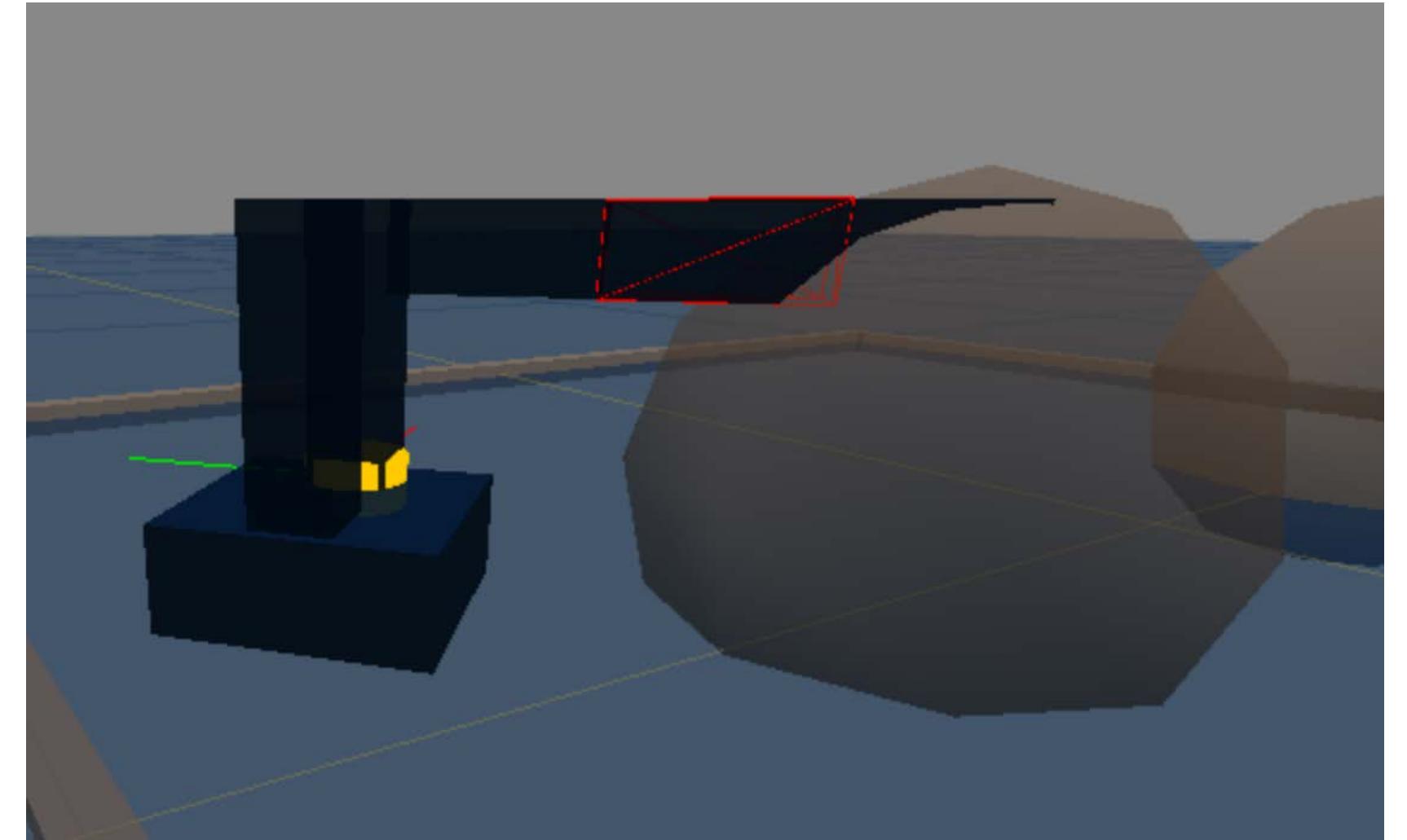
```
<script src="worlds/world_basic.js"></script>
```

```
...
```

```
function my_animate() {  
    ...  
    // detect robot collisions  
    kineval.robotIsCollision();  
    ...  
    // if requested, perform configuration space  
    motion planning to home pose  
    kineval.planMotionRRTConnect();
```

```
}
```

iterate motion planner



detect if current configuration is in collision (colliding link turns red)

📄 kineval.js
📄 kineval_collision.js
📄 kineval_controls.js
📄 kineval_forward_kinematics.js
📄 kineval_inverse_kinematics.js
📄 kineval_matrix.js
📄 kineval_quaternion.js
📄 kineval_robot_init.js
📄 kineval_rosbridge.js
📄 kineval_rrt_connect.js
📄 kineval_servo_control.js
📄 kineval_startingpoint.js
📄 kineval_threejs.js
📄 kineval_userinput.js

`kineval.robotIsCollision();`

**Update collision detection with your forward kinematics**

initial commit

2 months ago

`kineval.planMotionRRTConnect();`

**Implement RRT-Connect planner**

initial commit

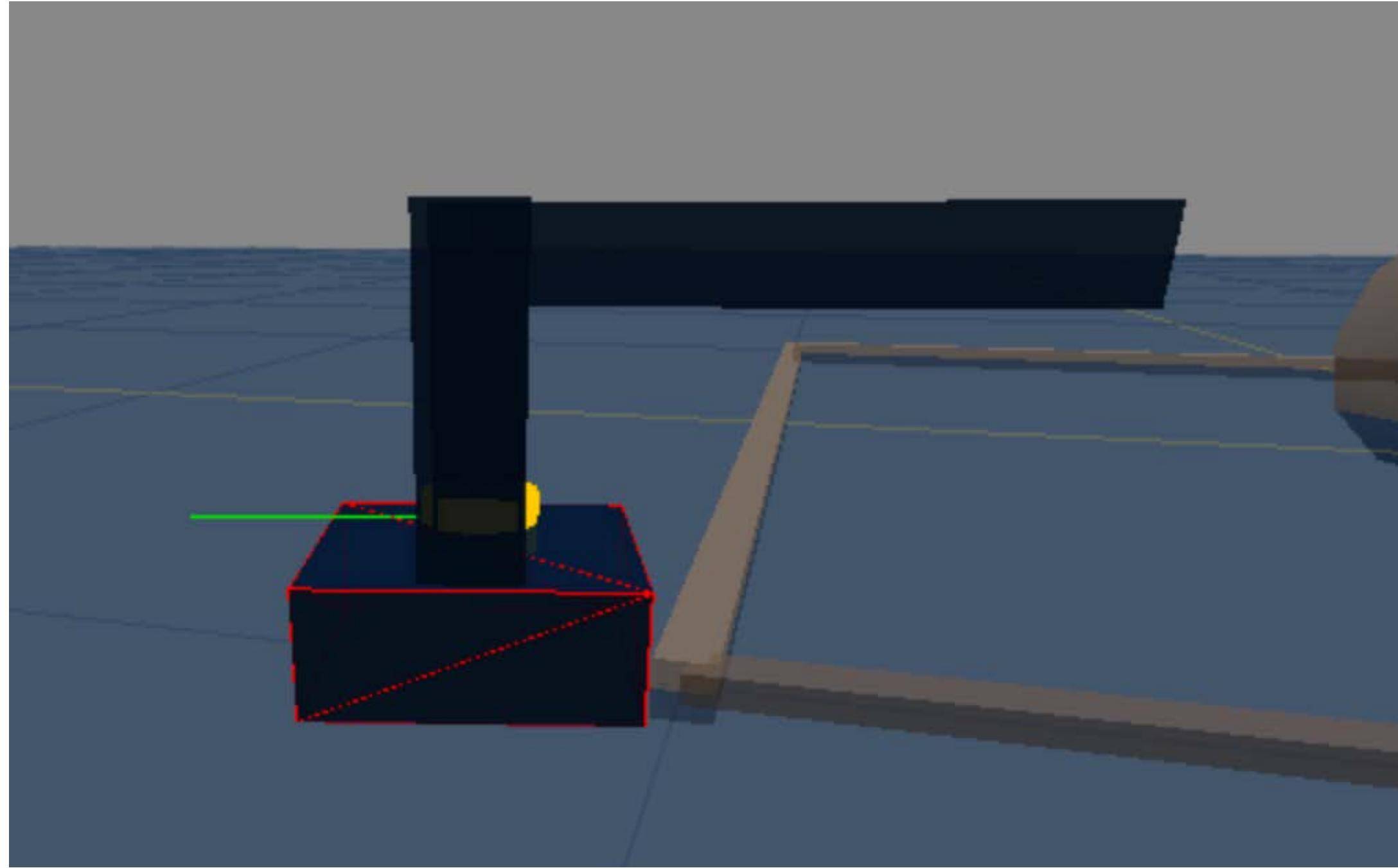
2 months ago



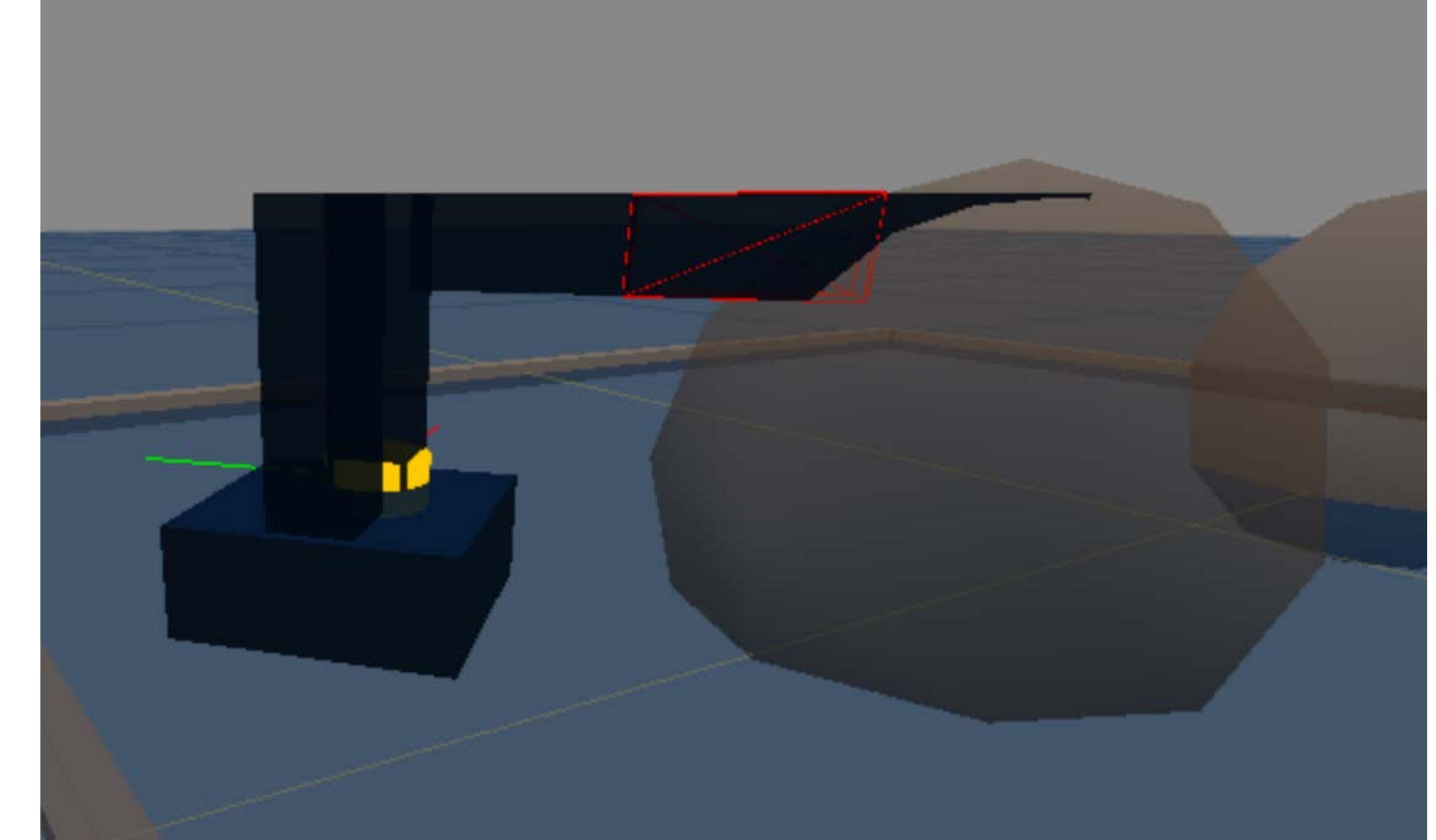
```
kineval.robotIsCollision();
```

# Project 5 collision detection

Boundary Collision  
(provided by default)



Link Collision  
(requires your FK)



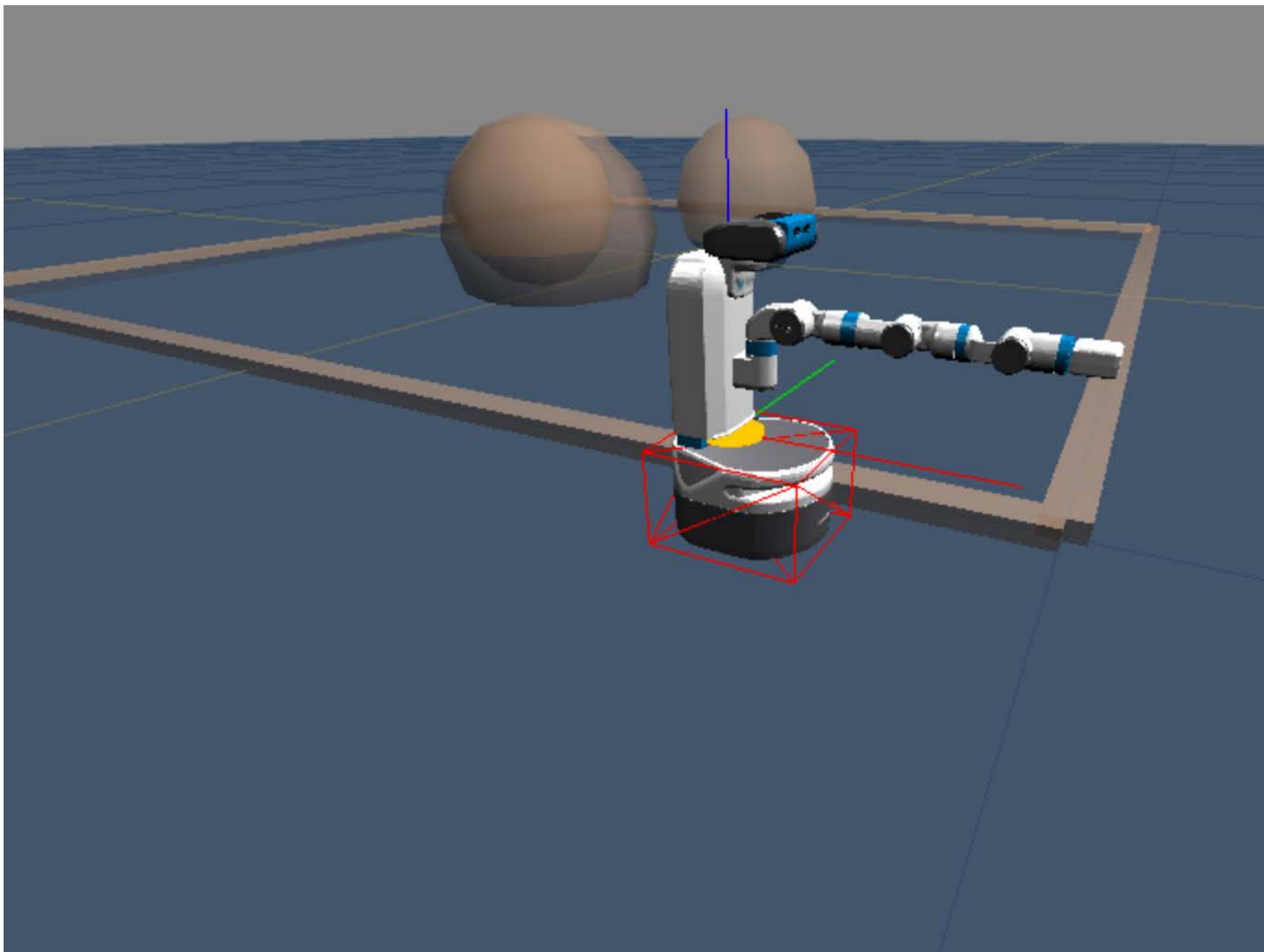
input: q (robot configuration)  
output: false (for no collision) or name of link in collision

### kineval\_collision.js

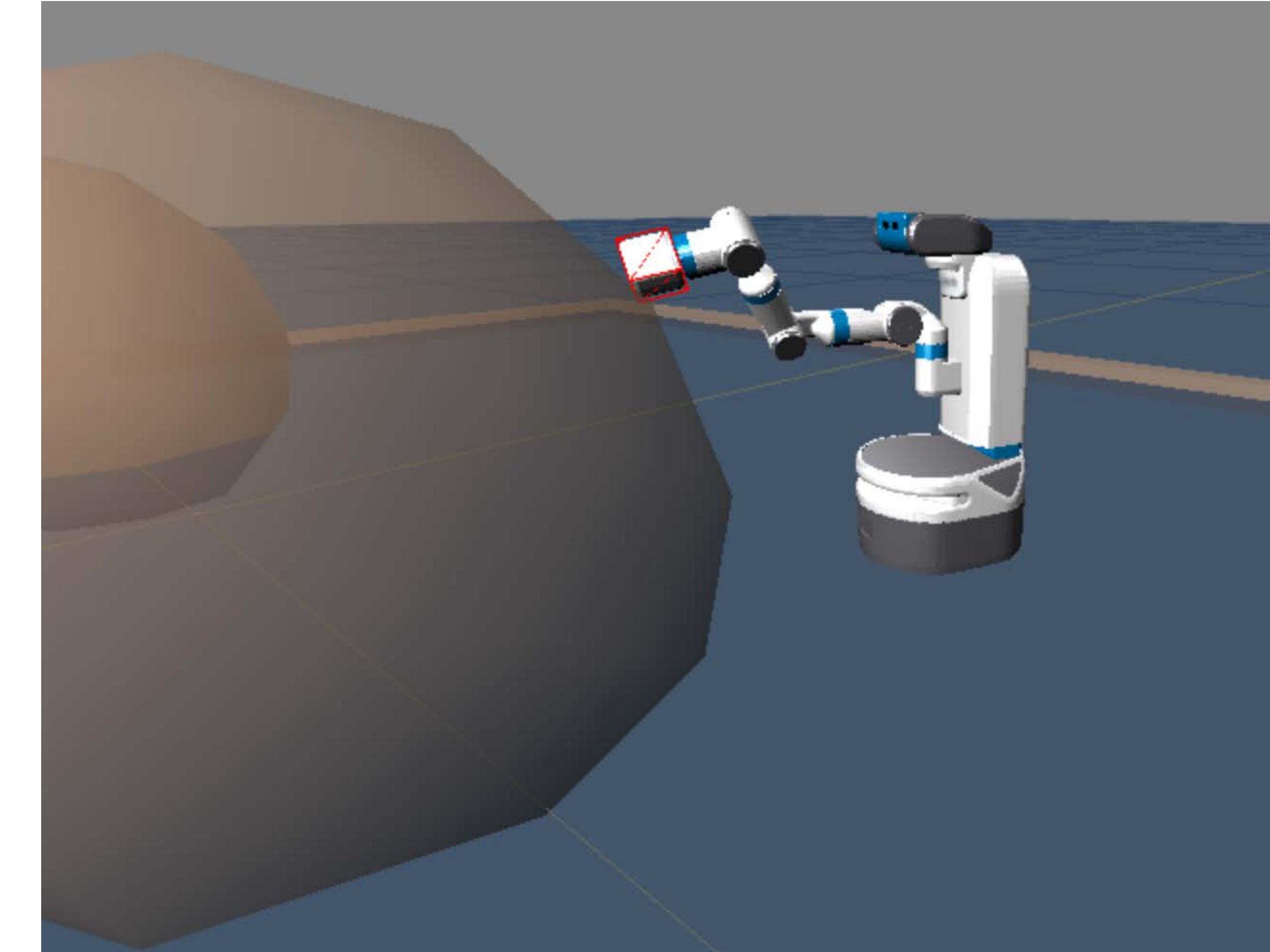
```
kineval.poseIsCollision = function robot_collision_test(q) {  
    // perform collision test of robot geometry against planning world  
  
    // test base origin (not extents) against world boundary extents  
    if ((q[0]<robot_boundary[0][0])||(q[0]>robot_boundary[1][0])||  
        (q[2]<robot_boundary[0][2])||(q[2]>robot_boundary[1][2]))  
        return robot.base;  
  
    // traverse robot kinematics to test each body for collision  
    // STENCIL: implement forward kinematics for collision detection  
    return robot_collision_forward_kinematics(q);  
}
```

Uncomment this call;

Implement this function with FK transforms to test for collisions;  
Use provided Link collision function to test bounding box of each Link



```
// test base origin (not extents) against world boundary extents
if ((q[0]<robot_boundary[0][0])||(q[0]>robot_boundary[1][0])||
    (q[2]<robot_boundary[0][2])||(q[2]>robot_boundary[1][2]))
    return robot.base;
```



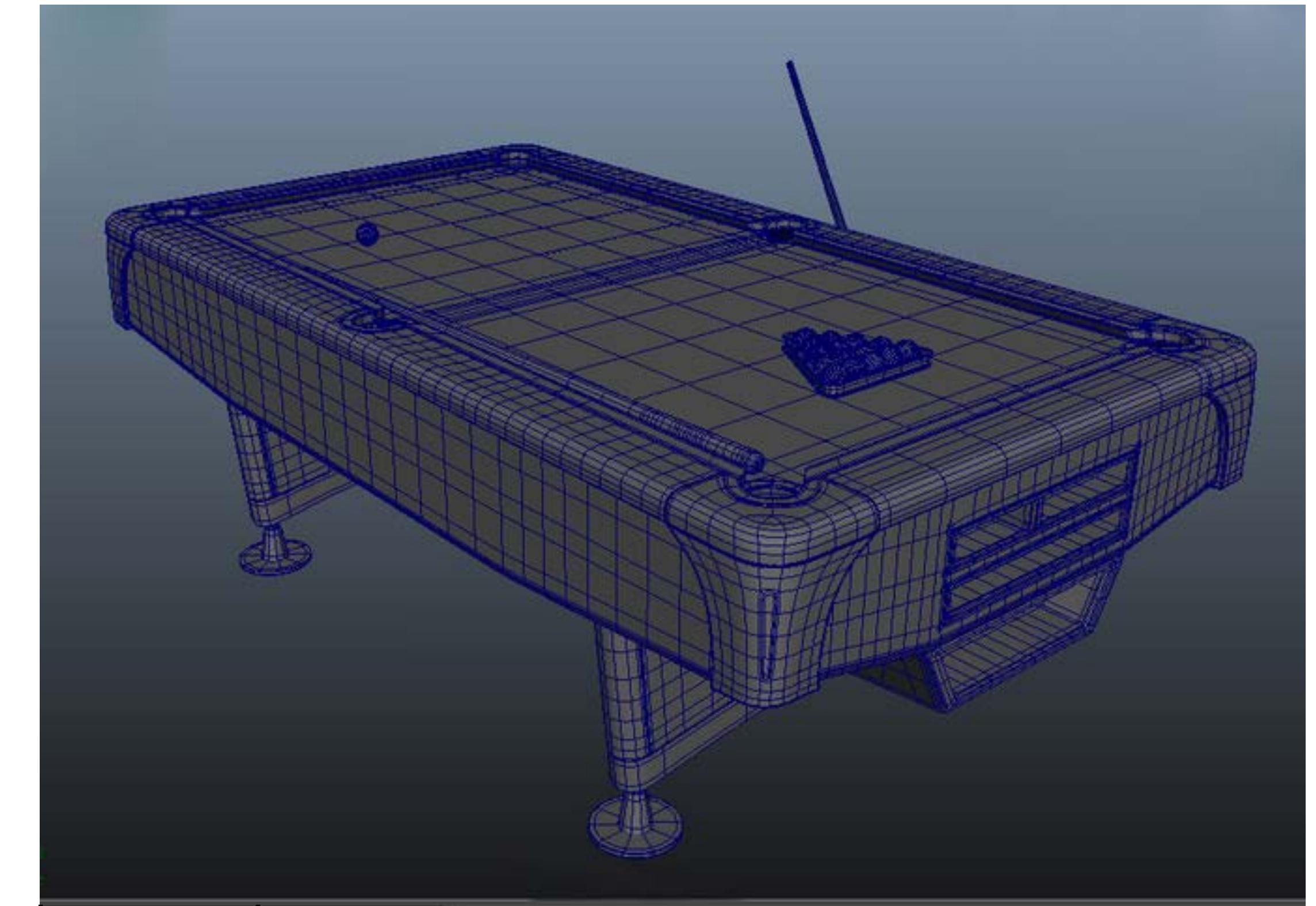
```
// traverse robot kinematics to test each body for collision
// STENCIL: implement forward kinematics for collision detection
return robot_collision_forward_kinematics(q);
```

What item is not real  
in this picture?

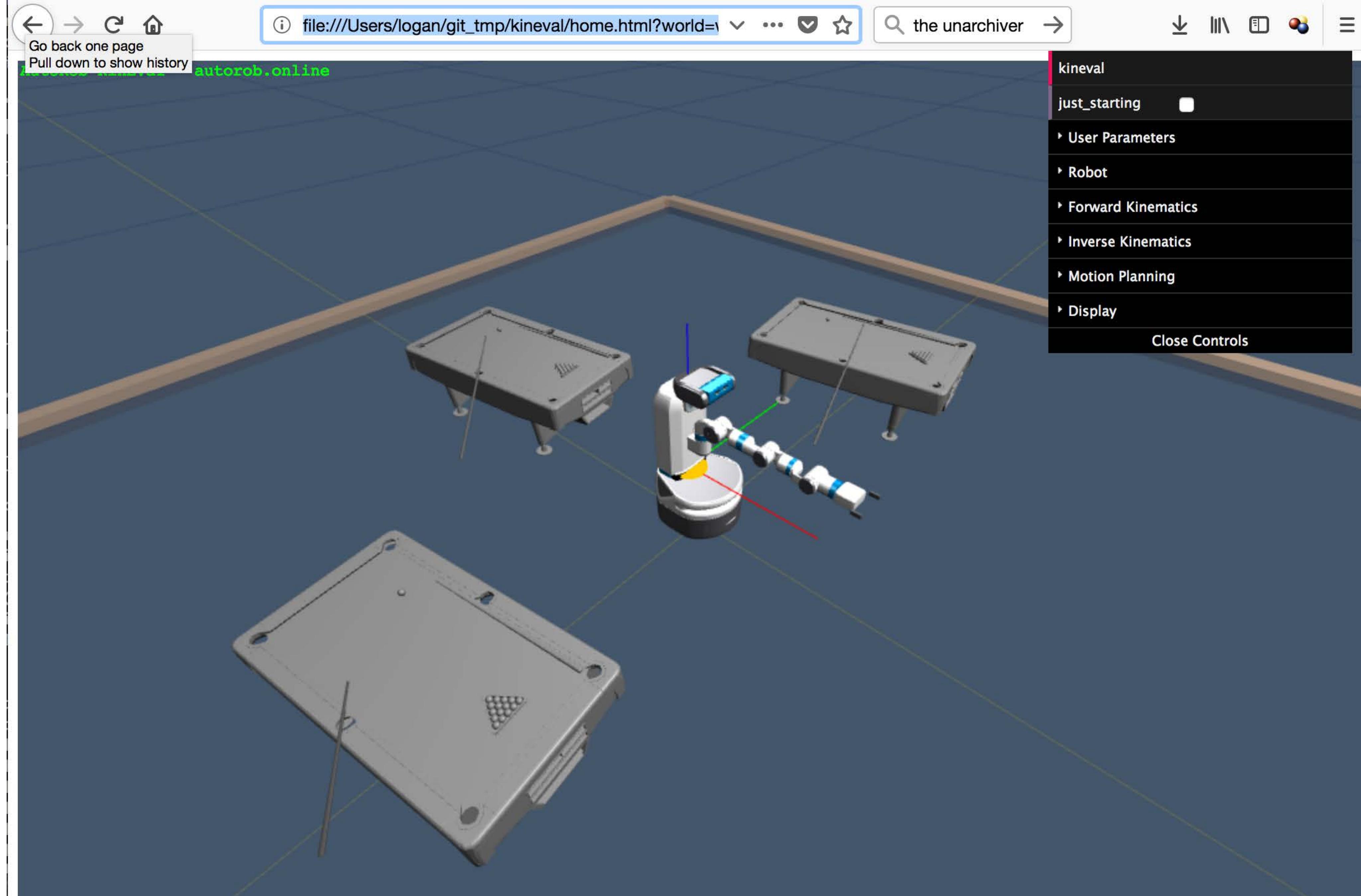


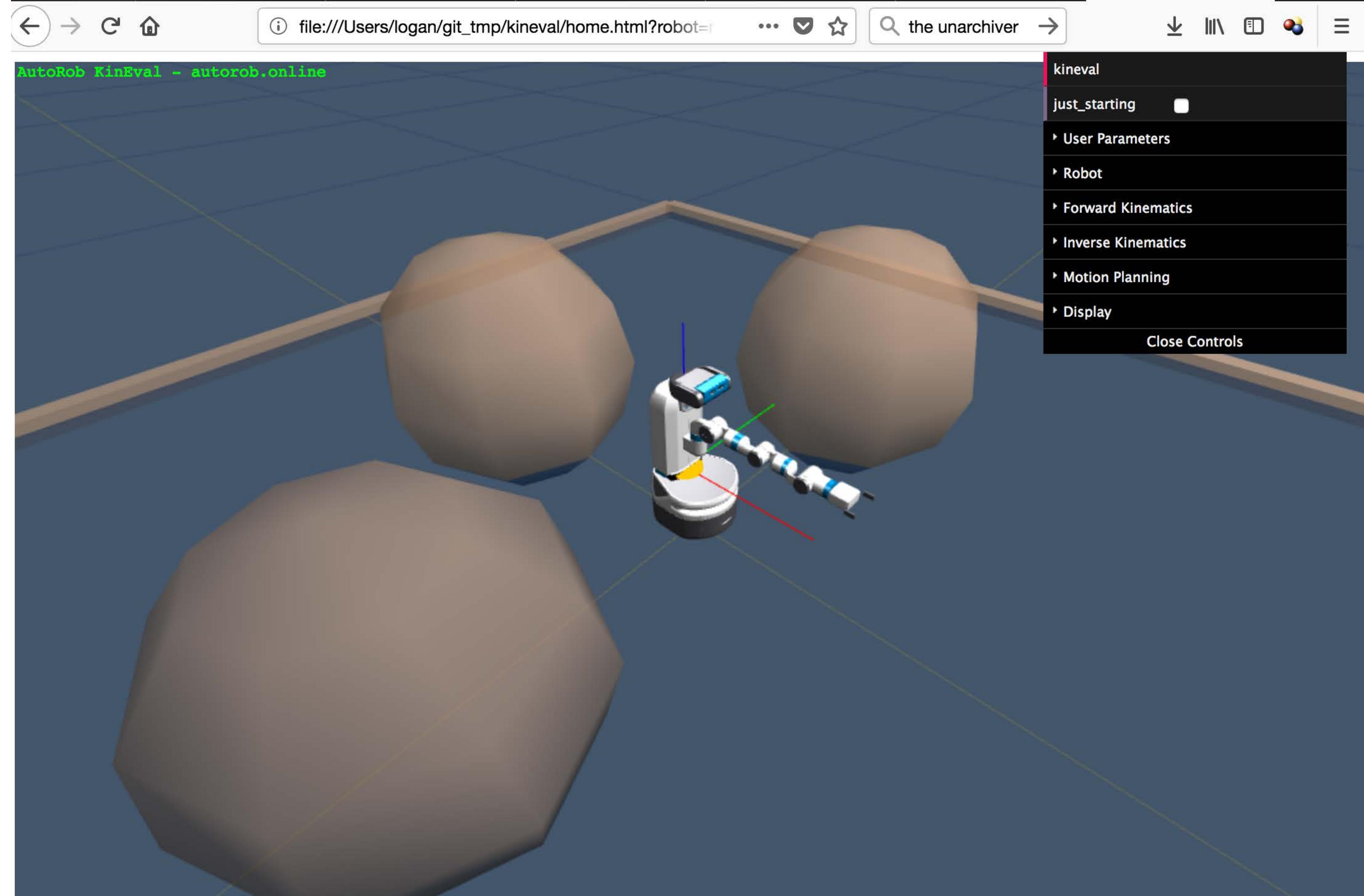


# Link geometries are represented as triangular geometric meshes



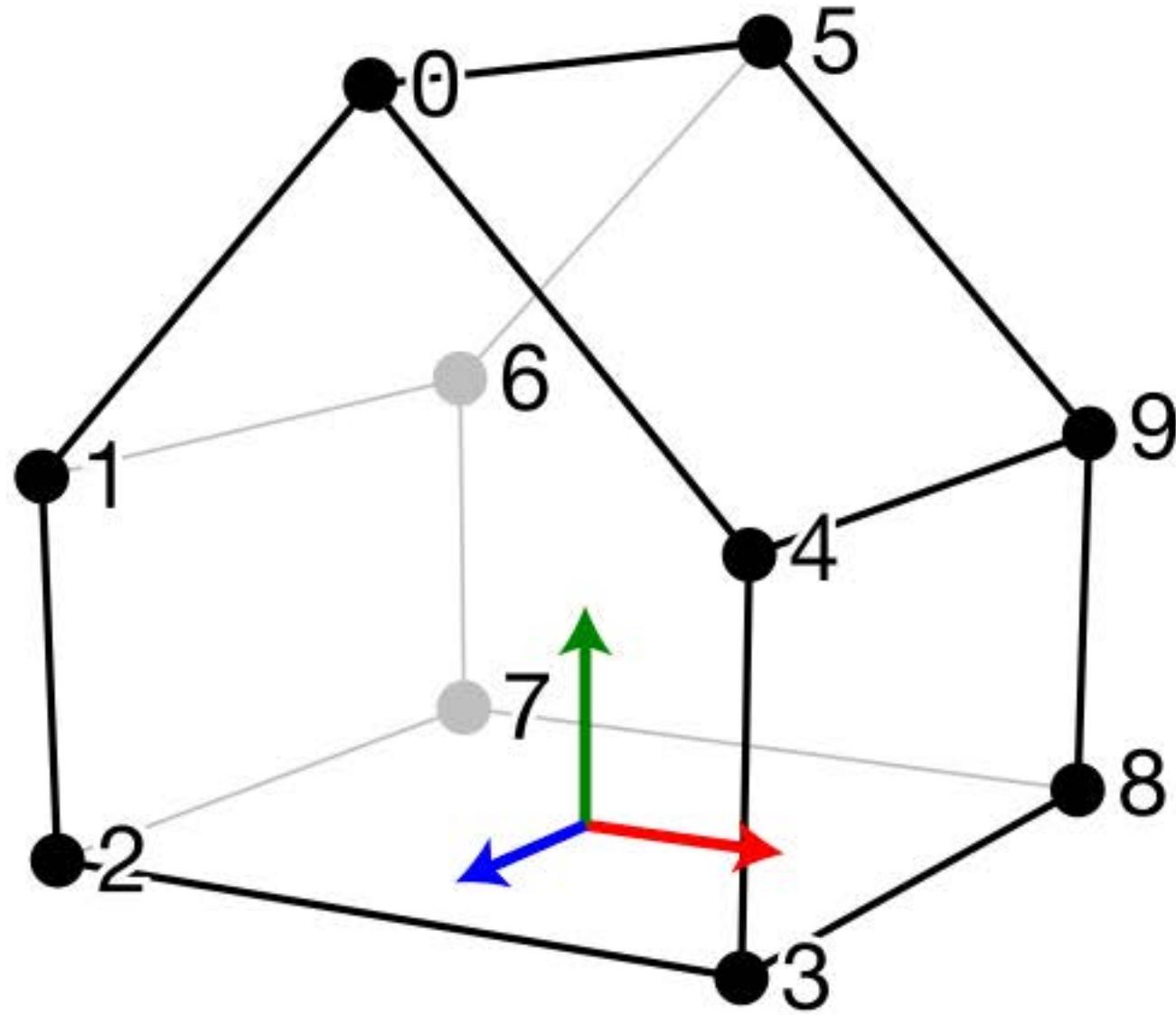
<https://www.cgtrader.com/3d-models/sports/game/pool-table--3>





Remember:

# Link Geometry



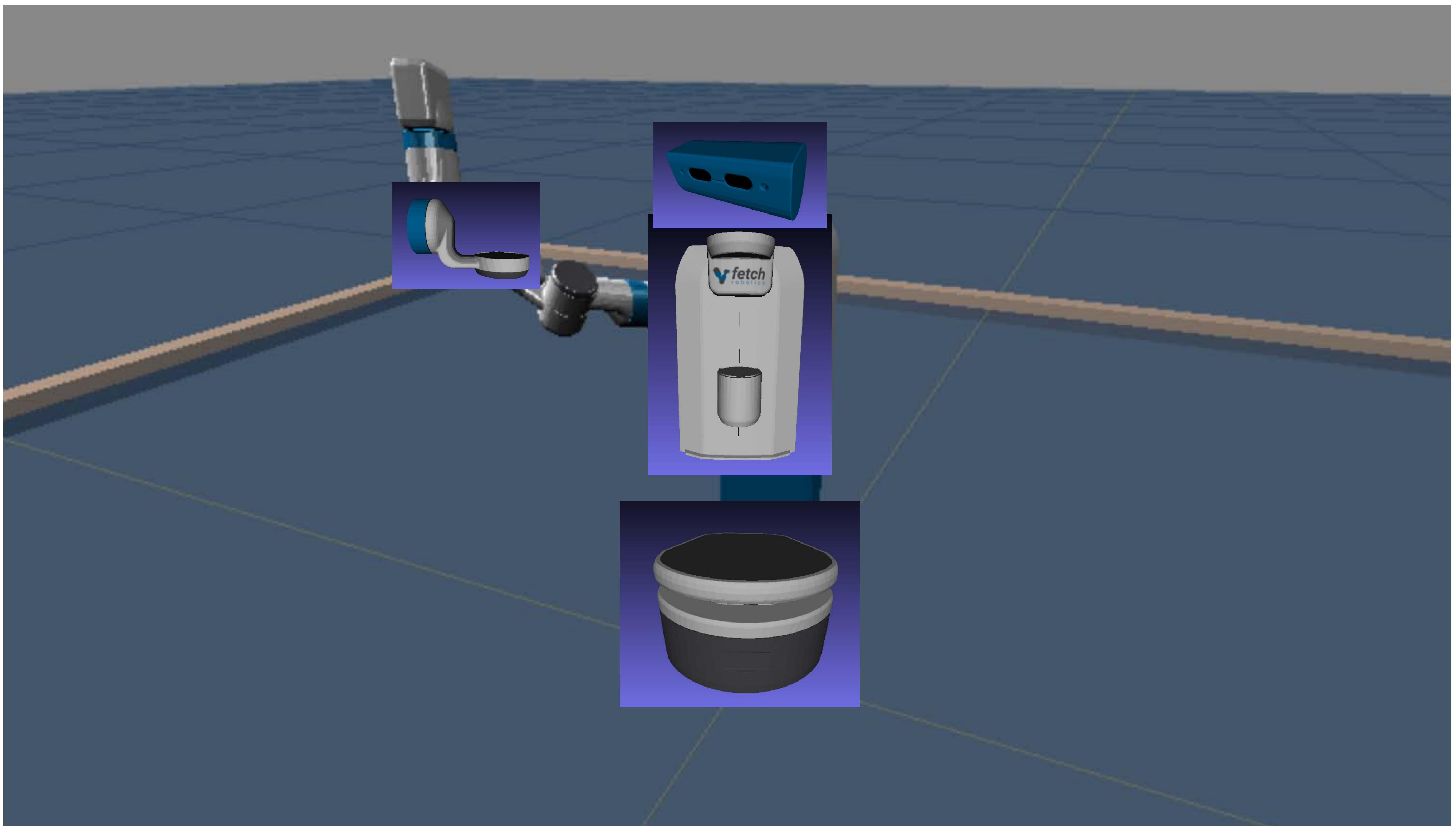
Each link has a geometry specified as  
3D vertices in the frame of the link  
connected into faces of its surface

$i$	$x$	$y$	$z$
0	0.0	1.0	0.5
1	-0.5	0.5	0.5
2	-0.5	0.0	0.5
3	0.5	0.0	0.5
4	0.5	0.5	0.5
5	0.0	1.0	-0.5
6	-0.5	0.5	-0.5
7	-0.5	0.0	-0.5
8	0.5	0.0	-0.5
9	0.5	0.5	-0.5

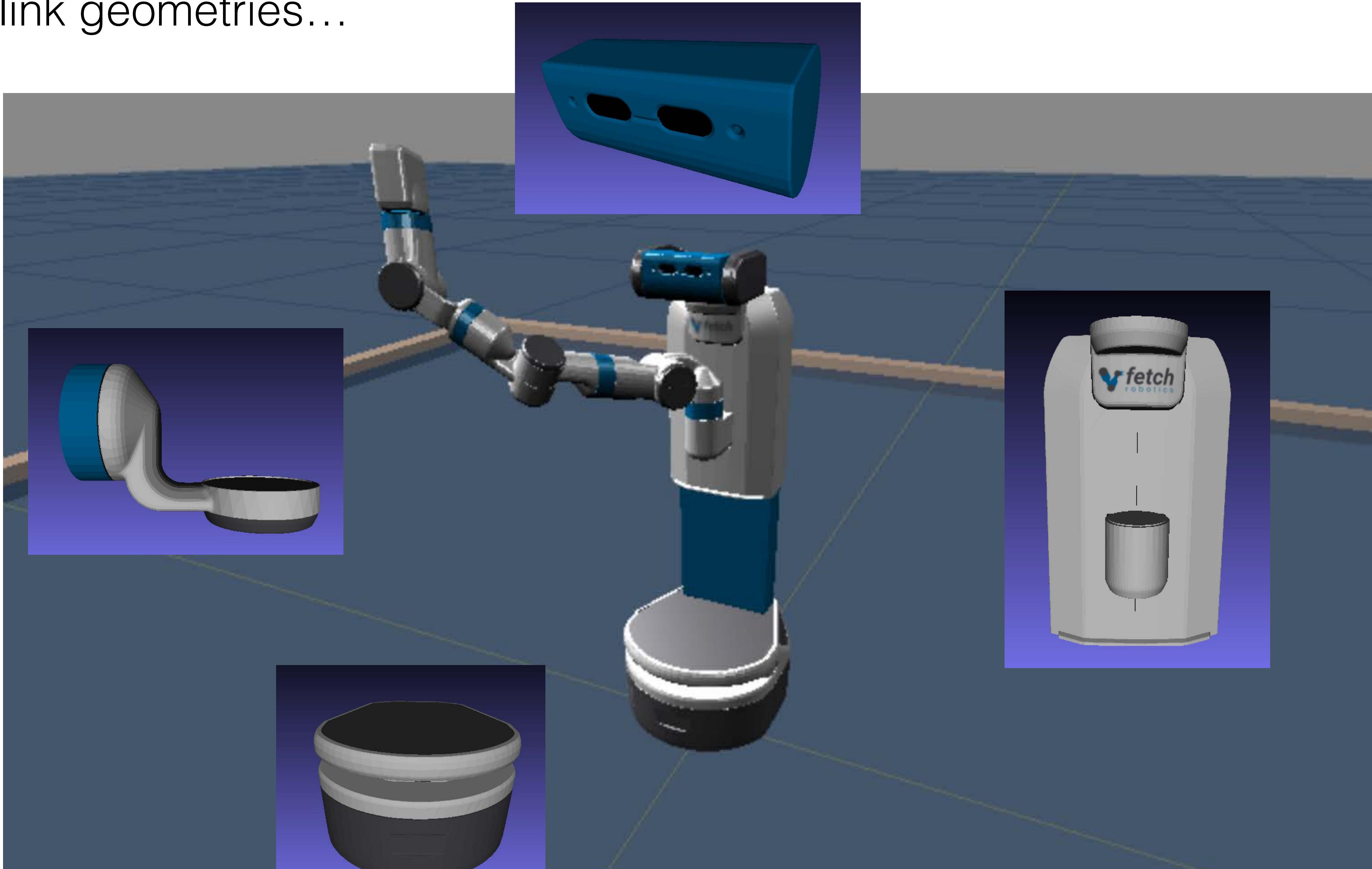
Individual link geometries...



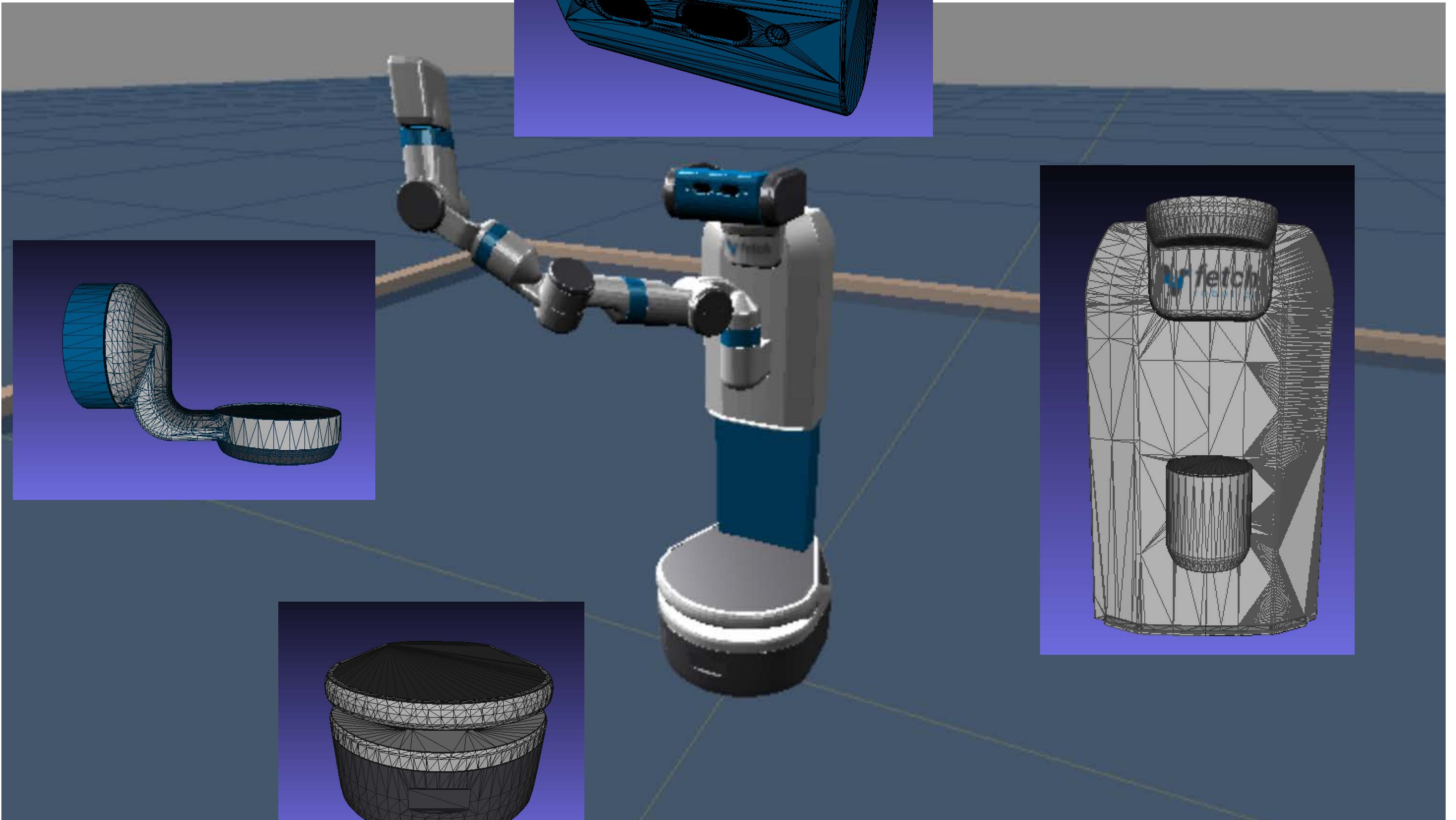
# Individual link geometries...



# Individual link geometries...



Individual link geometries  
are meshes of triangles



GitHub, Inc. (US) | https://github.com/fetchrobotics/fetch\_ros/tree/indigo-devel/fetch\_description/meshes | marketing vs accomplishment

This repository Search Pull requests Issues Marketplace Explore Watch 18 Star 35 Fork 57

## fetchrobotics / fetch\_ros

Code Issues 3 Pull requests 1 Projects 0 Wiki Insight

Branch: indigo-devel → fetch\_ros / fetch\_description / meshes /

mikeferguson update gripper model

base\_link.dae add fetch description package 3 years ago

base\_link\_collision.STL remove laser opening from collision mesh 3 years ago

base\_link\_uv.png add fetch description package 3 years ago

bellows\_link.STL add fetch description package 3 years ago

bellows\_link\_collision.STL add fetch description package 3 years ago

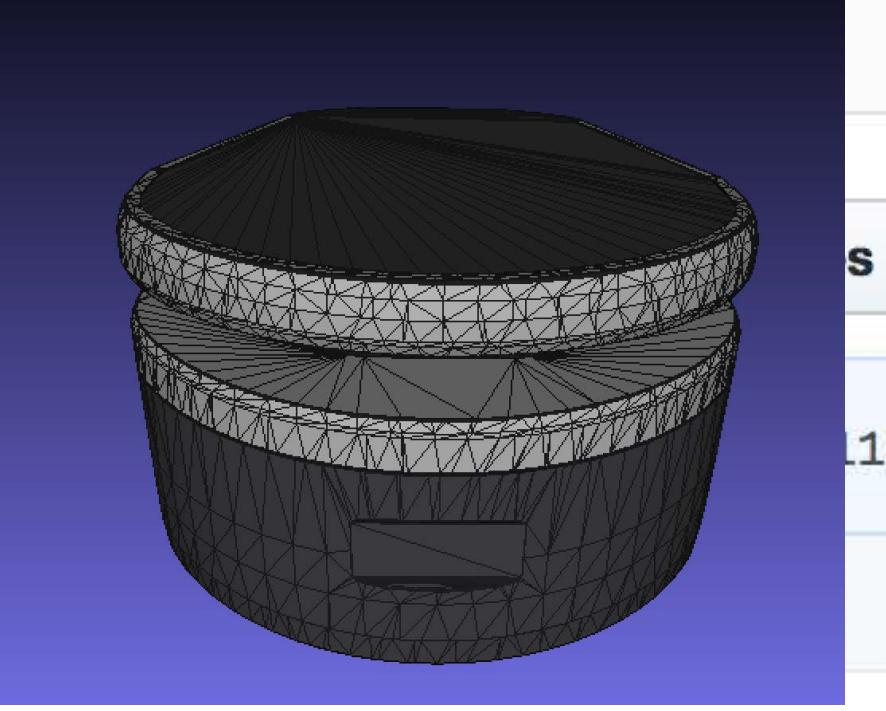
elbow\_flex\_link.dae add fetch description package 3 years ago

elbow\_flex\_link\_collision.STL add fetch description package 3 years ago

elbow\_flex\_uv.png add fetch description package 3 years ago

estop\_link.STL add fetch description package 3 years ago

forearm\_roll\_link.dae add fetch description package 3 years ago



A blue arrow points from the word "base" in the file name "base\_link.dae" to the 3D model of the gripper.

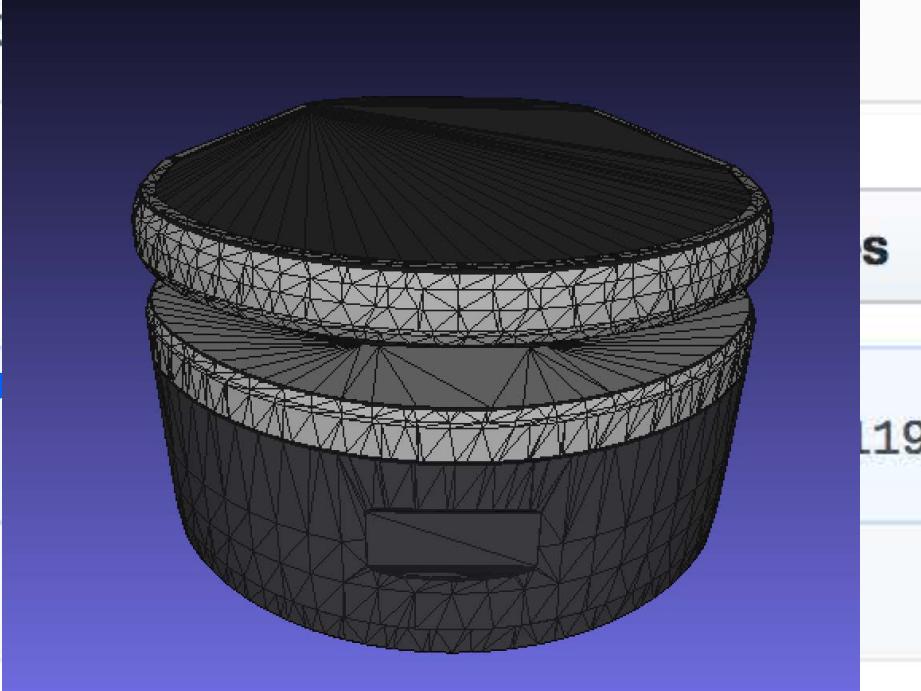
GitHub, Inc. (US) | https://github.com/fetchrobotics/fetch\_ros/tree/indigo-devel/fetch\_description/meshes | marketing vs accomplishment

This repository Search Pull requests Issues Marketplace Explore Watch 18 Star 35 Fork 57

fetchrobotics / fetch\_ros Issues 3 Pull requests 1 Projects 0 Wiki Insight

Branch: indigo-devel → fetch\_ros / fetch\_description / meshes /

mikeferguson update gripper model  
base\_link.dae add fetch description package 3 years ago  
base\_link\_collision.STL remove laser opening from collision mesh 3 years ago  
base\_lii  
bellows  
bellows  
elbow\_l  
elbow\_l  
elbow\_l  
elbow\_l  
estop\_l  
forearm

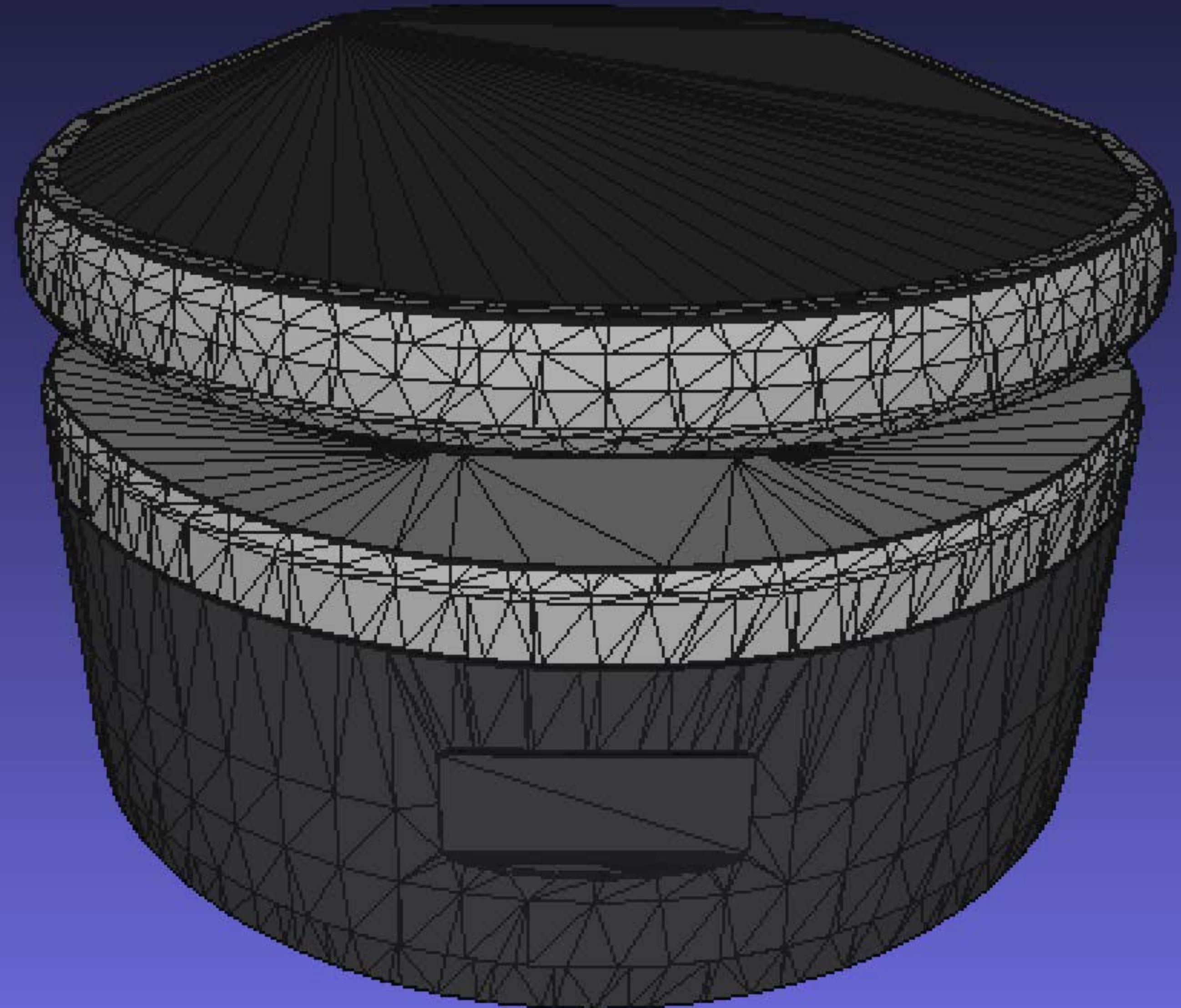


**COLLADA**

**COLLADA (COLLAborative Design Activity)** is an interchange file format for interactive 3D applications. It is managed by the nonprofit technology consortium, the [Khronos Group](#), and has been adopted by ISO as a publicly available specification, ISO/PAS 17506.<sup>[1]</sup>

COLLADA defines an open standard XML schema for exchanging digital assets among various graphics software applications that might otherwise store their assets in incompatible file formats. COLLADA documents that describe digital assets are XML files, usually identified with a .dae (digital asset exchange) filename extension.

Vertices: robot.links[robot.base].geom.children[1].children[0].geometry.vertices  
Faces: robot.links[robot.base].geom.children[1].children[0].geometry.faces



Vertices: robot.links[robot.base].geom.children[1].children[0].geometry.vertices

KinEval robot base link

.geom: threejs objects for a robot link  
(or joint) loaded from Collada  
(base\_link.dae) scene file

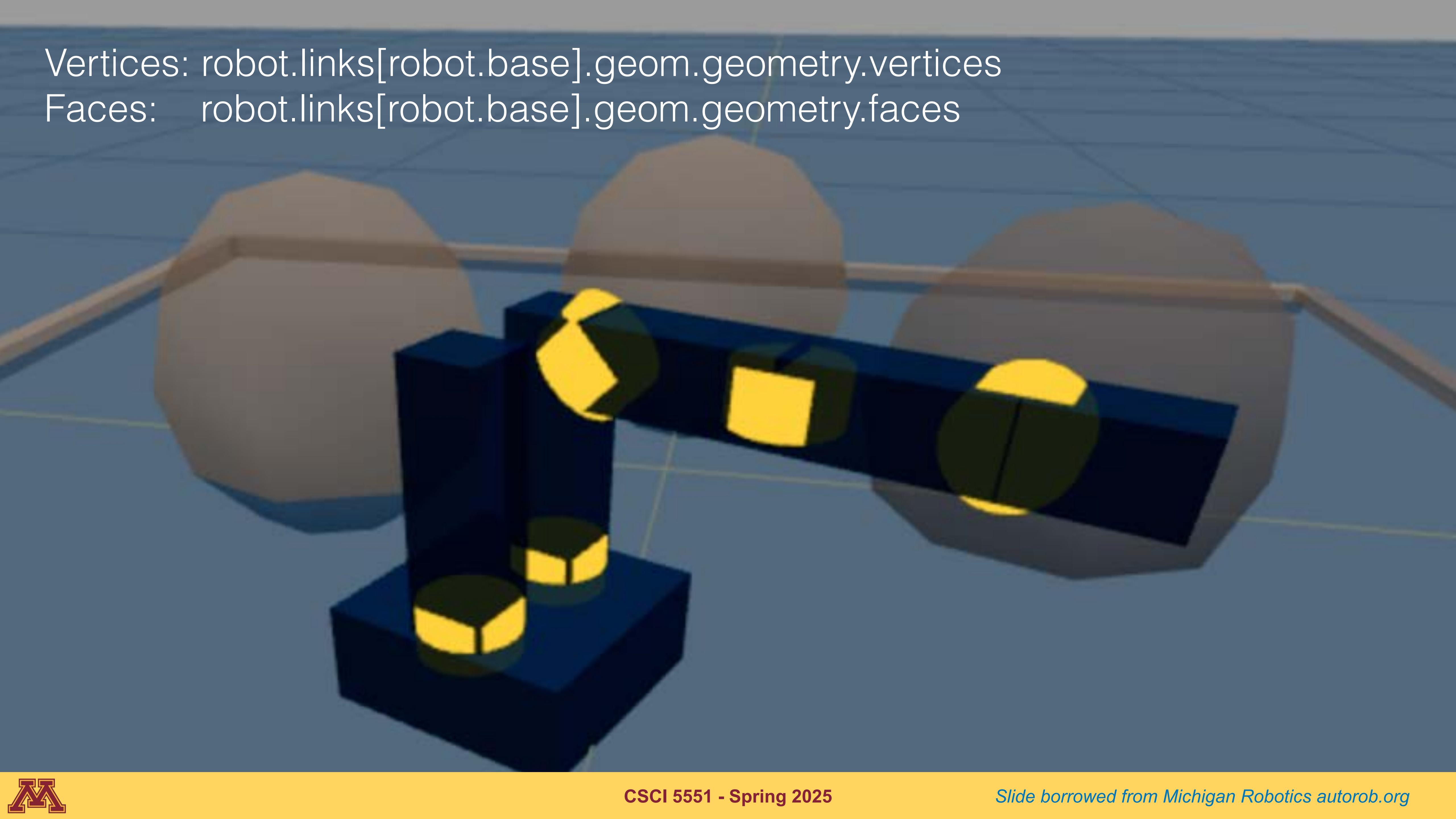
threejs Object3D is the base prototype/  
class for all scene objects and second  
element of base\_link.dae  
(first element is a light, in this case)

threejs Mesh object is consists of:  
.material (appearance properties)  
.geometry (vertices, faces, normals)



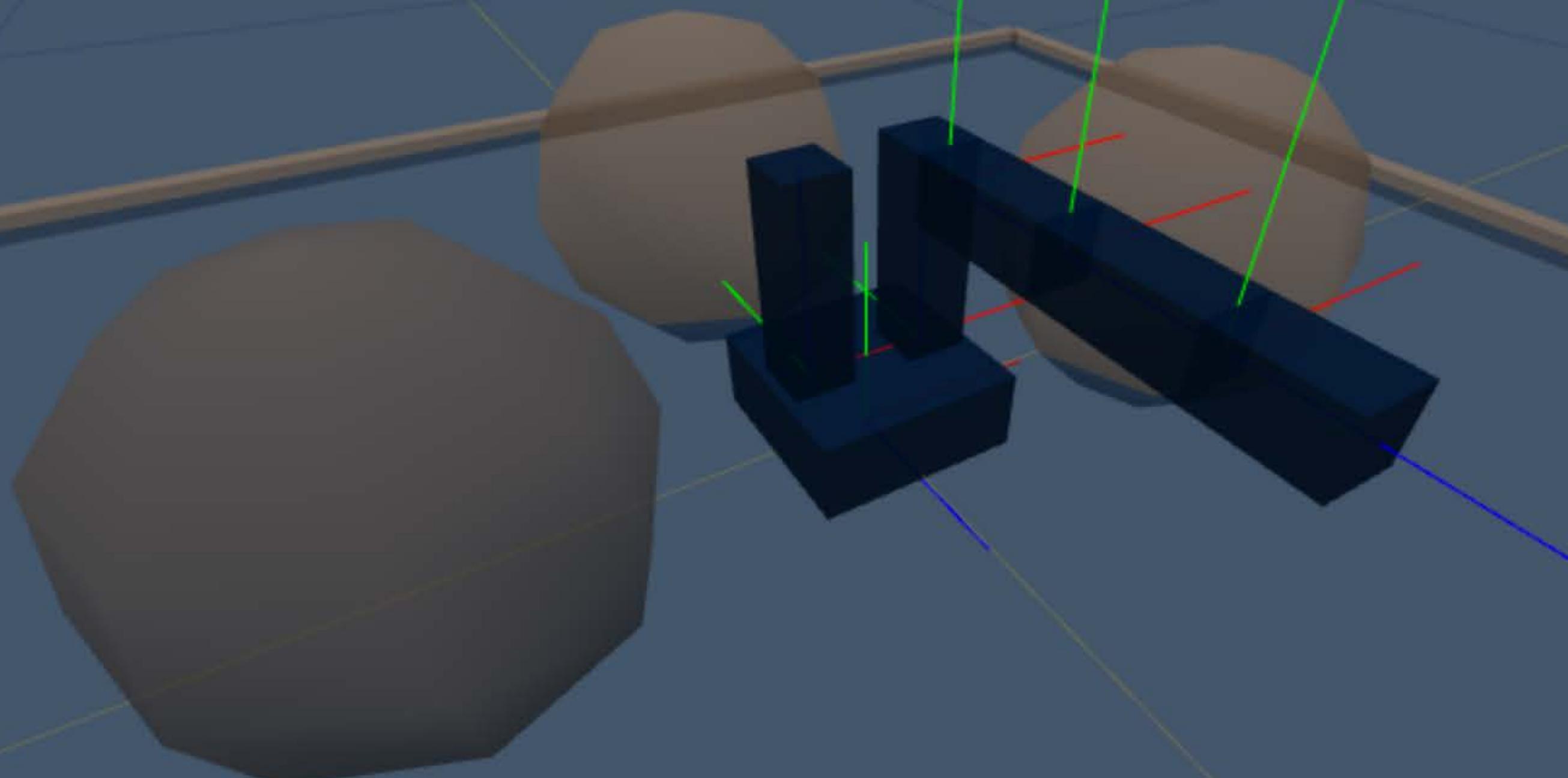
Vertices: `robot.links[robot.base].geom.geometry.vertices`

Faces: `robot.links[robot.base].geom.geometry.faces`



Open Controls

Welcome to KinEval. I want to see some text. Can you place a message here?



**Collision detection:** ensure triangles of robot links  
do not intersect triangles of scene objects

Inspector    Console    Debugger    Style Editor    Performance    Memory    Network    Storage

Net    CSS    JS    Security    Logging    Server

Filter output

```
keydown Meta-Shift { target: <body>, key: "Meta", charCode: 0, keyCode: 224 }  
keydown Control-Meta-Shift { target: <body>, key: "Control", charCode: 0, keyCode: 17 }  
kineval_userinput.js:6:55  
kineval_userinput.js:6:55
```



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Filter output

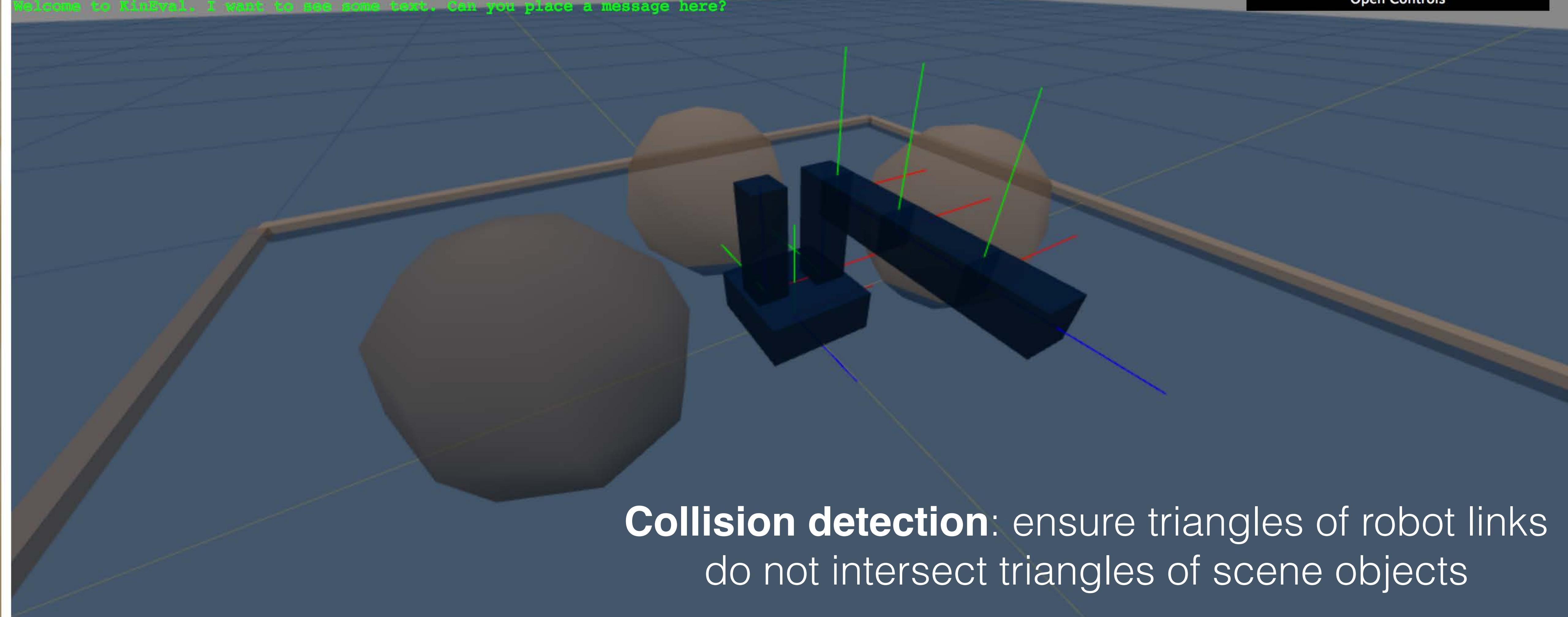
```
keydown Meta-Shift { target: <body>, key: "Shift", charCode: 0, keyCode: 16 }
keydown Control-Meta-Shift { target: <body>, key: "Control", charCode: 0, keyCode: 17 }
```

kineval\_userinput.js:6:55
kineval\_userinput.js:6:55



Welcome to KinEval. I want to see some text. Can you place a message here?

Open Controls



**Collision detection:** ensure triangles of robot links  
do not intersect triangles of scene objects

The screenshot shows the Chrome DevTools interface with the 'Console' tab selected. The console output displays two keydown events:

```
keydown Meta-Shift { target: <body> , key: "Meta", charCode: 0, keyCode: 224 }  
keydown Control-Meta-Shift { target: <body> , key: "Control", charCode: 0, keyCode: 17 }
```

The 'Console' tab is highlighted with a blue background. Below it, a toolbar allows filtering by category: Net (selected), CSS, JS (highlighted in orange), Security, Logging, and Server. A 'Filter output' button is also present.



Open Controls

Welcome to KinEval. I want to see some text. Can you place a message here?

**Collision detection:** ensure triangles of robot links  
do not intersect triangles of scene objects

Inspector    Console    Debugger    Style Editor    Performance    Memory    Network    Storage

Net    CSS    JS    Security    Logging    Server

Filter output

```
keydown Meta-Shift { target: <body>, key: "Shift", charCode: 0, keyCode: 16 }
keydown Control-Meta-Shift { target: <body>, key: "Control", charCode: 0, keyCode: 17 }
```

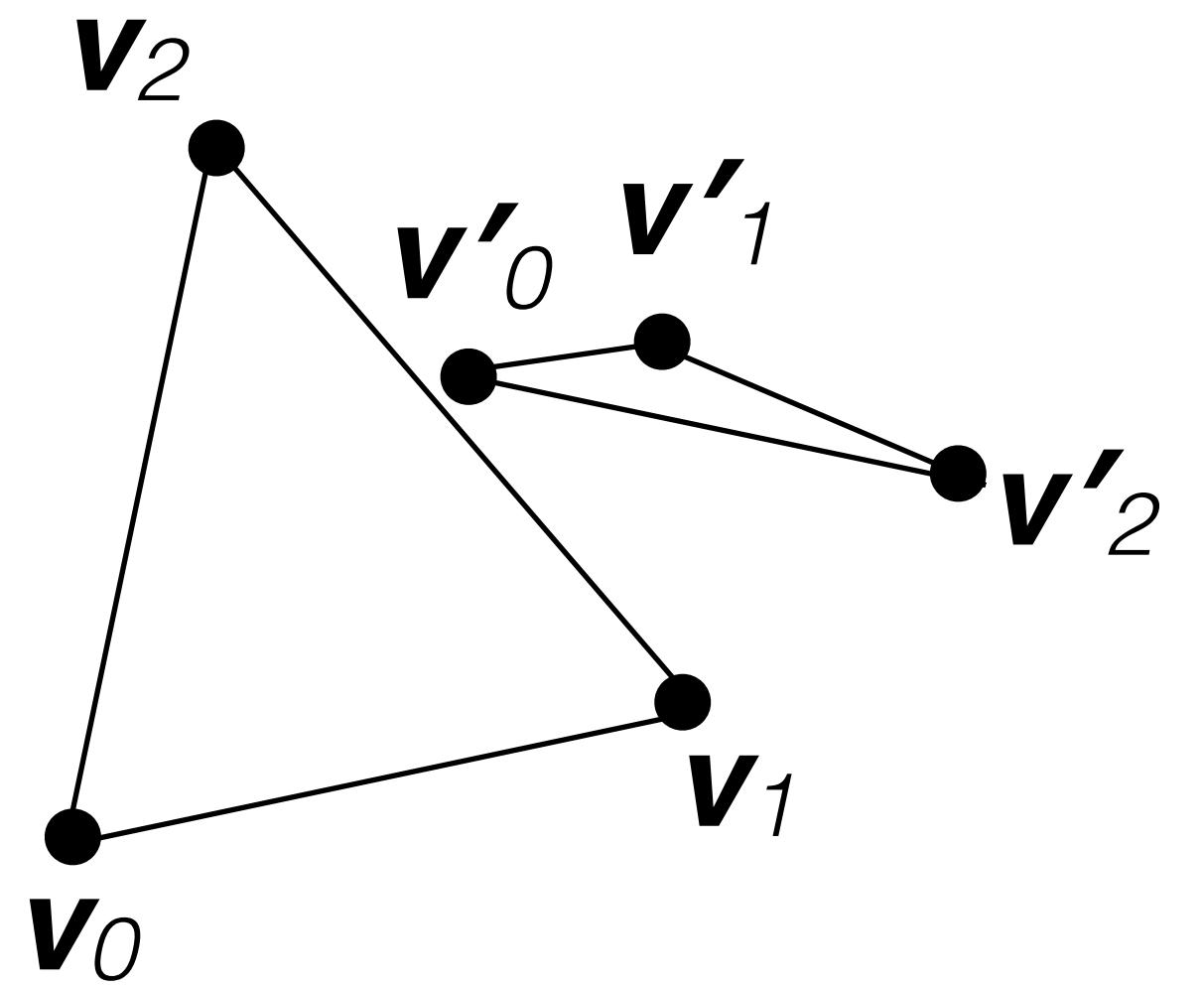
kineval\_userinput.js:6:55
kineval\_userinput.js:6:55



# How do we test whether two triangles intersect?

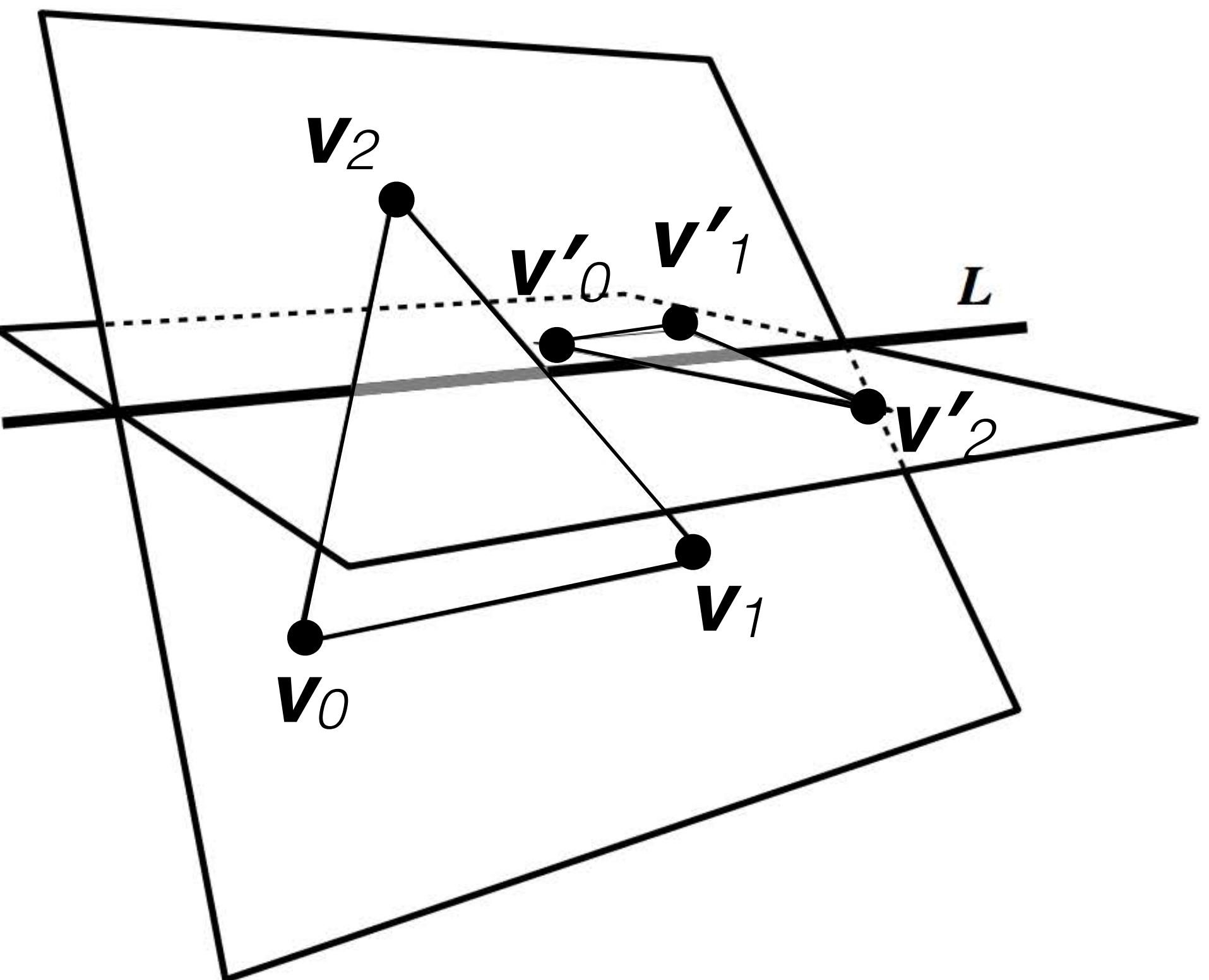
# 3D Triangle-Triangle Test

- Given two triangles each with three vertices
  - $T = \{\mathbf{v}_0, \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$
  - $T' = \{\mathbf{v}'_0, \mathbf{v}'_1, \mathbf{v}'_2\}$
- Return true if  $T$  and  $T'$  intersect



# 3D Triangle-Triangle Test

1. Compute plane equation of triangle 2.
2. Reject as trivial if all points of triangle 1 are on same side.
3. Compute plane equation of triangle 1.
4. Reject as trivial if all points of triangle 2 are on same side.
5. Compute intersection line and project onto largest axis.
6. Compute the intervals for each triangle.
7. Intersect the intervals.

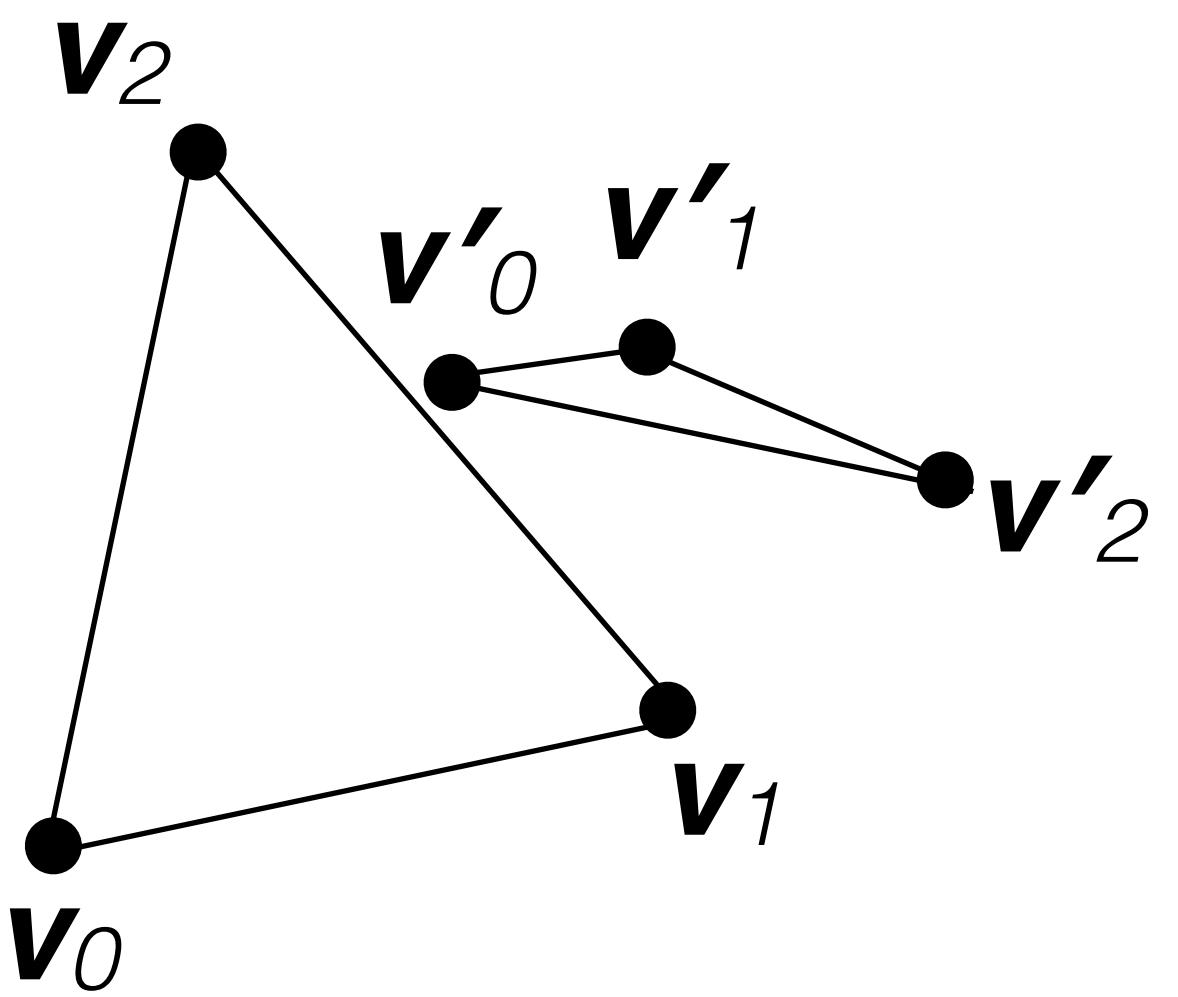


Möller 1997



# 3D Triangle-Triangle Test

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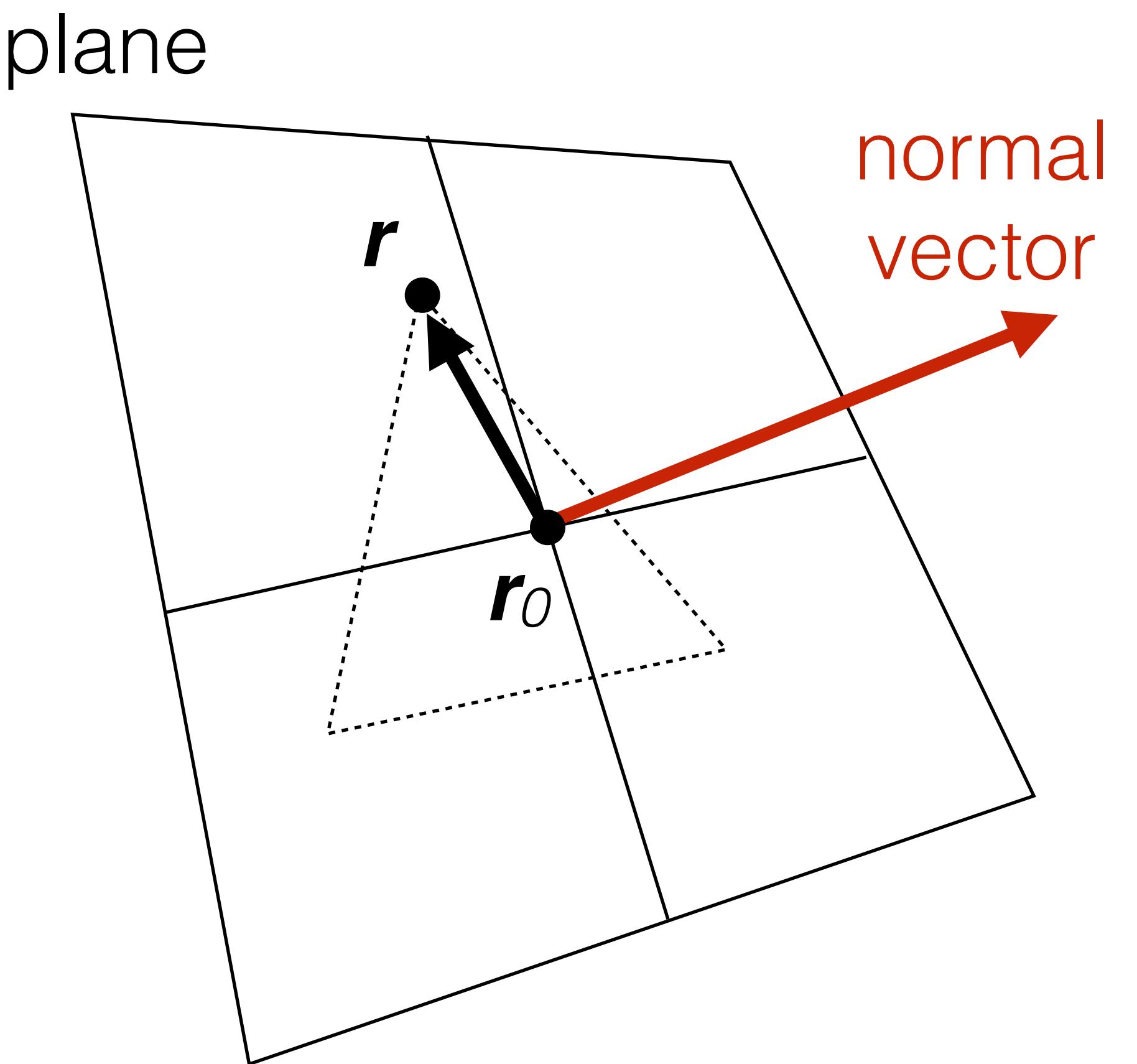


Möller 1997



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Möller 1997

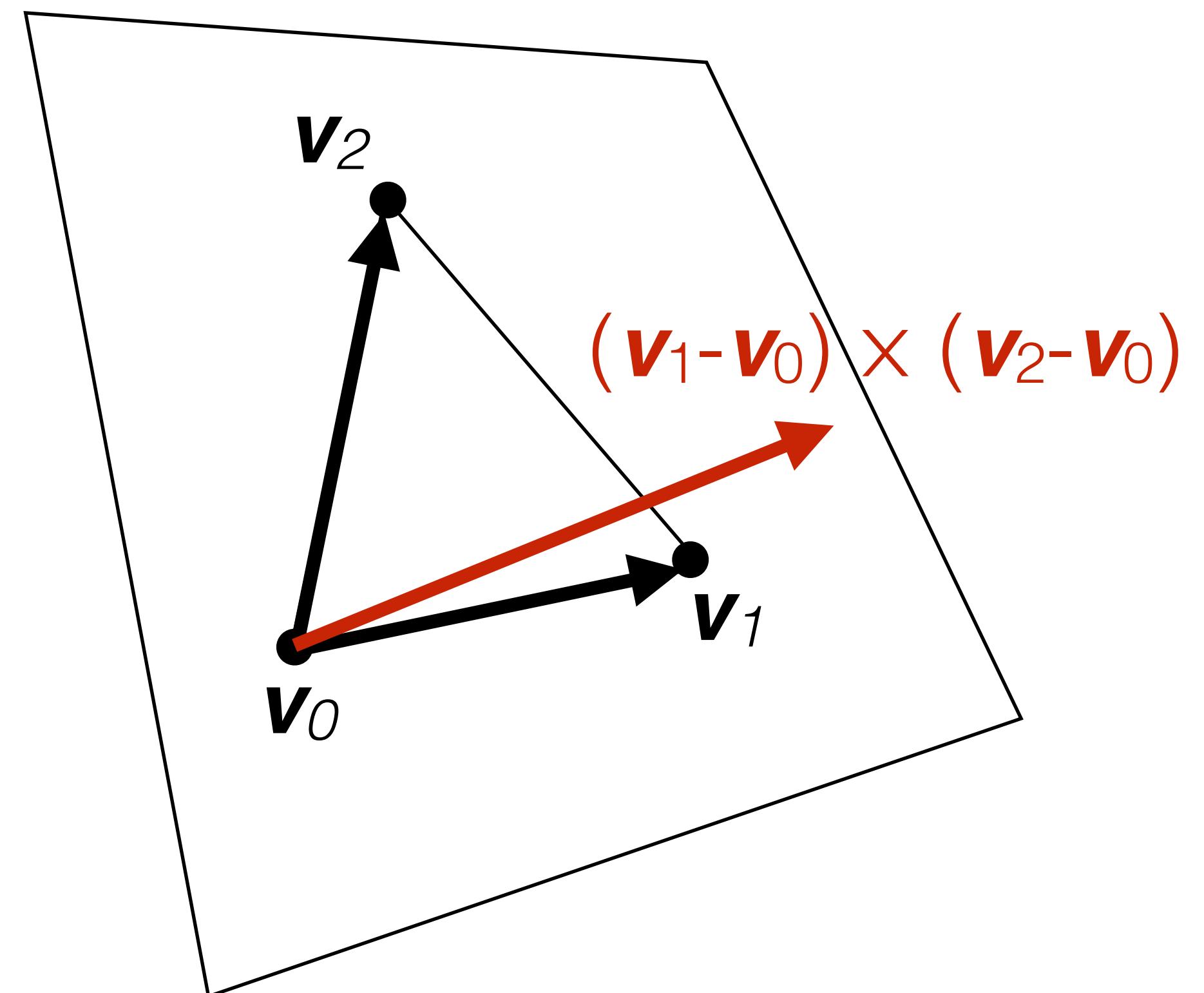


# 3D Plane Definition

$$ax + by + cz + d = 0$$

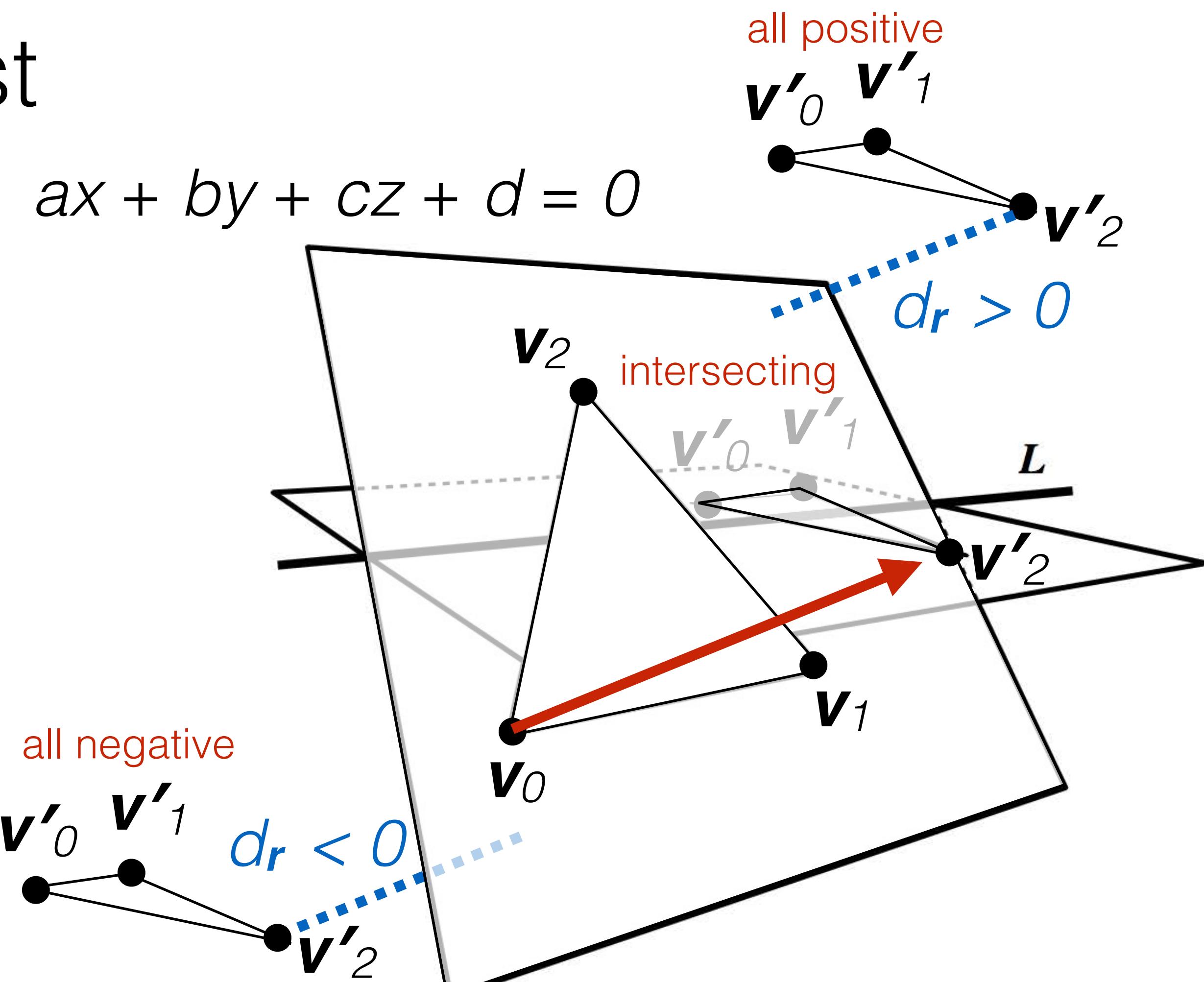
- Plane coefficients can be computed from points of triangle

- $\mathbf{n} = [a,b,c] = (\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_0) \times (\mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{v}_0)$
- $d = -\mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{n}$



# 3D Triangle-Triangle Test

1. Compute plane equation of triangle 2.
2. Reject as trivial if all points of triangle 1 are on same side.
3. Compute plane equation of triangle 1.
4. Reject as trivial if all points of triangle 2 are on same side.
5. Compute intersection line and project onto largest axis.
6. Compute the intervals for each triangle.
7. Intersect the intervals.



Input points into plane equation.

If all have the same sign, planes of triangles do not intersect

Möller 1997

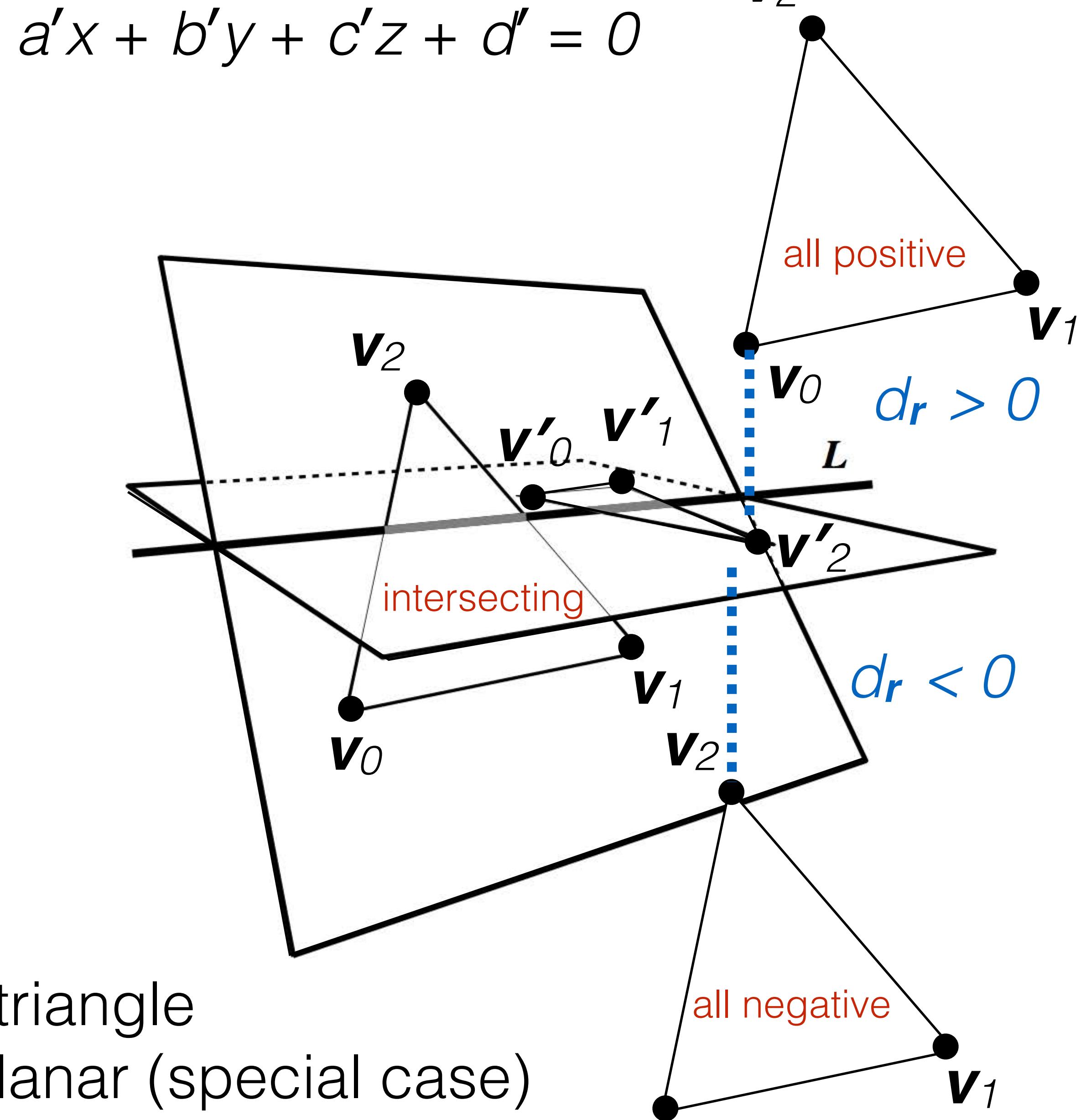


# 3D Triangle-Triangle Test

1. Compute plane equation of triangle 2.
2. Reject as trivial if all points of triangle 1 are on same side.
3. Compute plane equation of triangle 1.
4. Reject as trivial if all points of triangle 2 are on same side.
5. Compute intersection line and project onto largest axis.
6. Compute the intervals for each triangle.
7. Intersect the intervals.

Repeat for other plane of other triangle

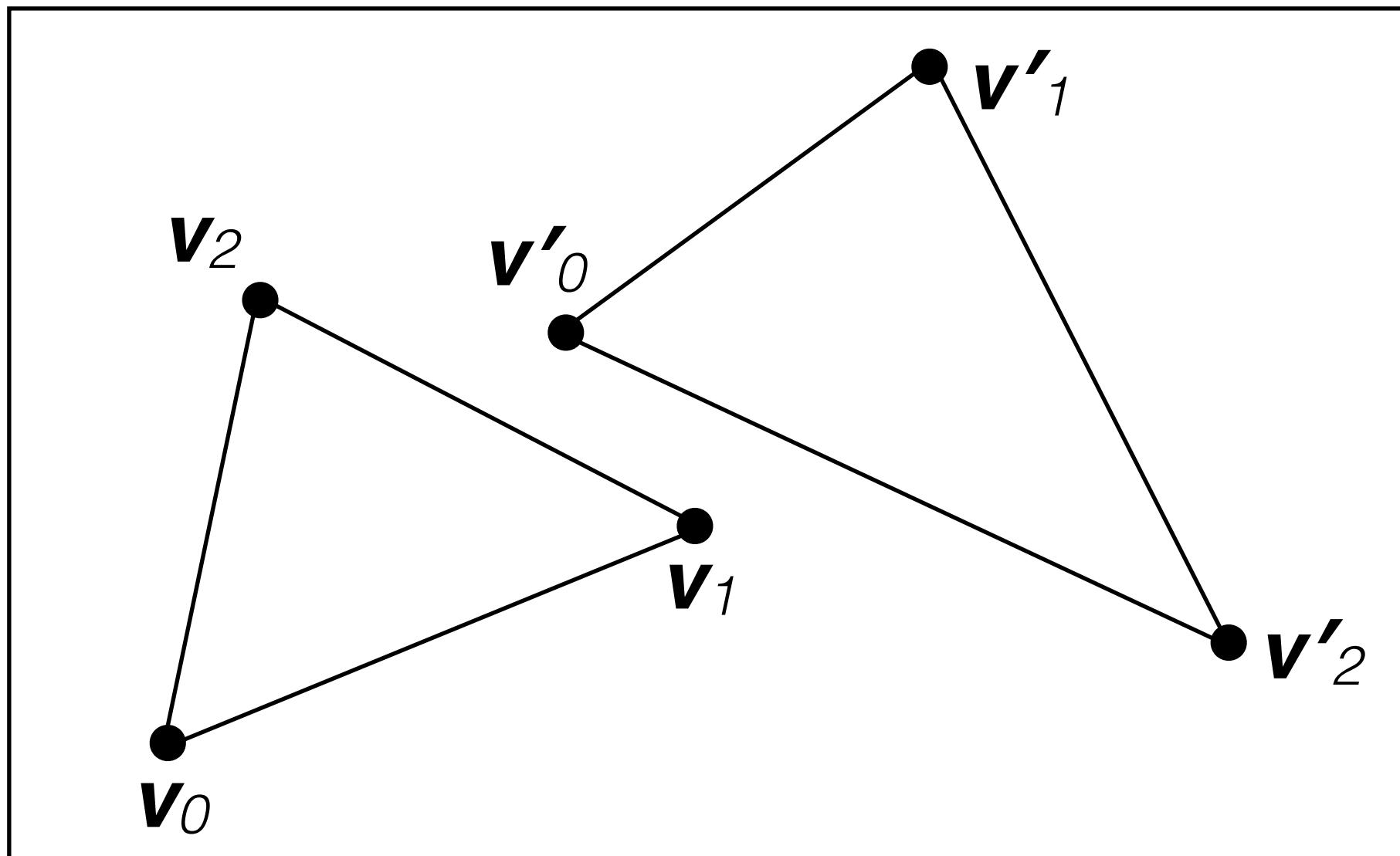
If all evaluations are zero, triangles are co-planar (special case)



Three possible cases can occur based on evaluation of vertices of one triangle against the plane of the other triangle

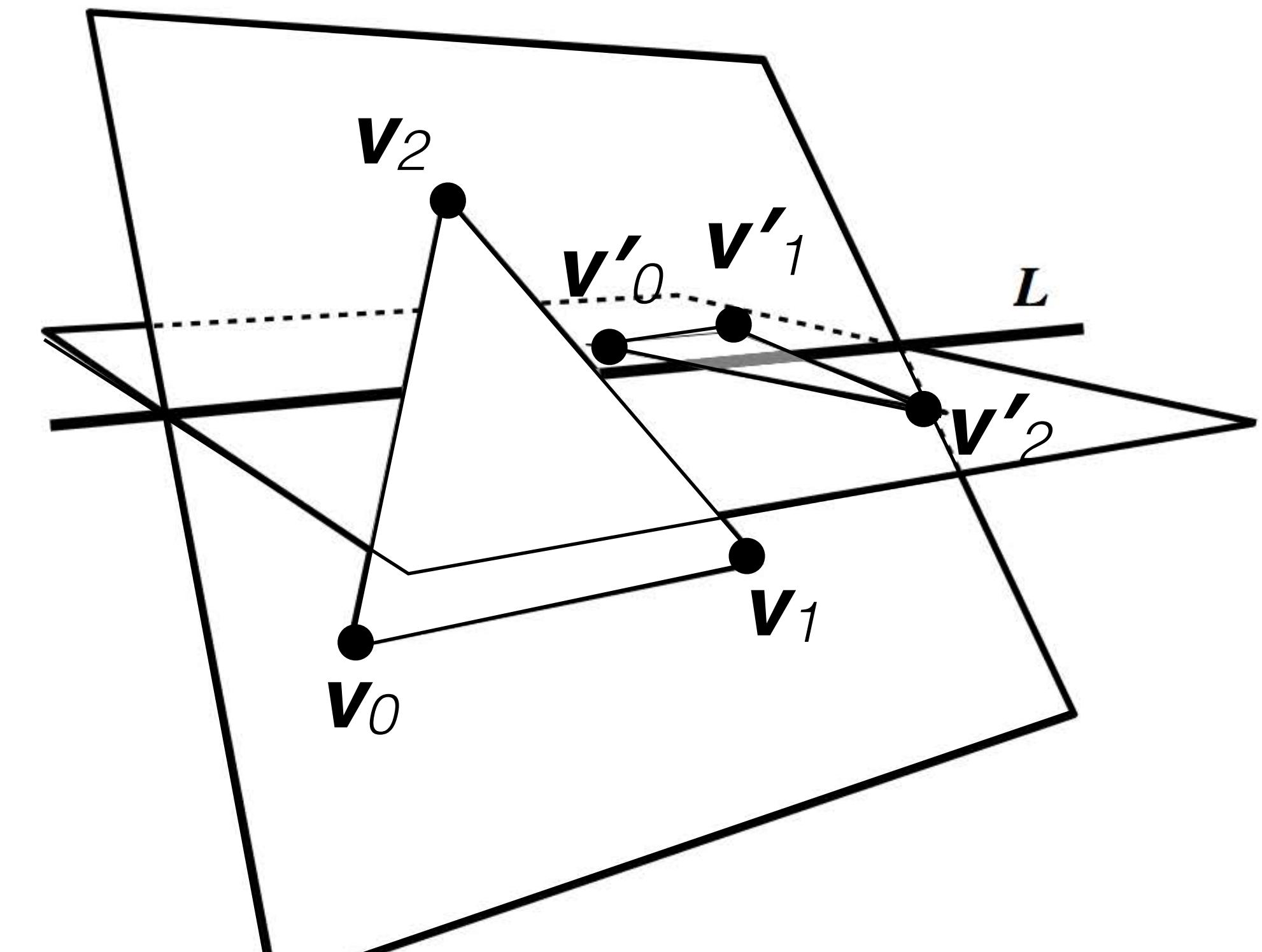
1. Triangle does not intersect plane  
(all positive or all negative evaluations)

return non-collision

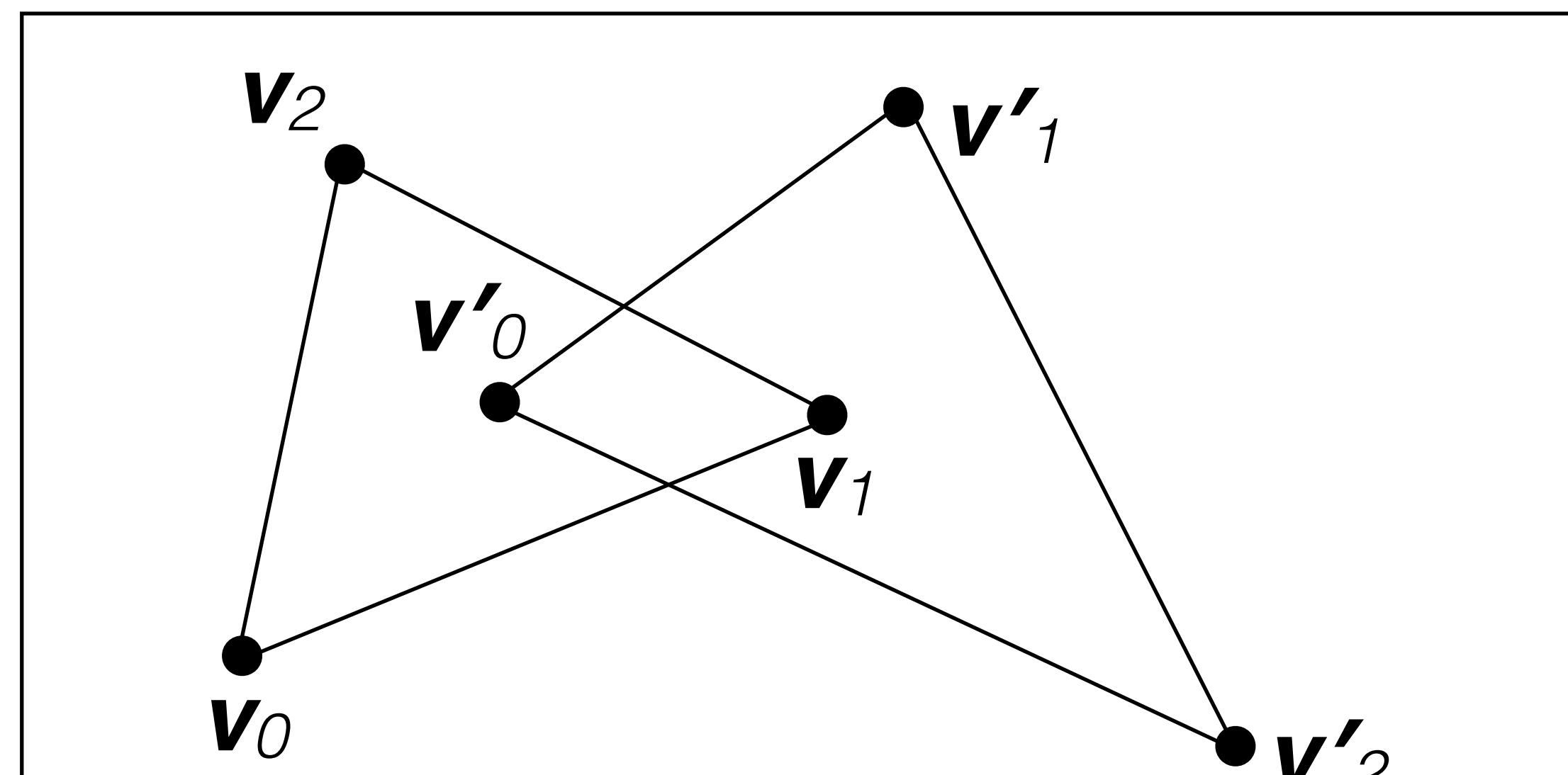
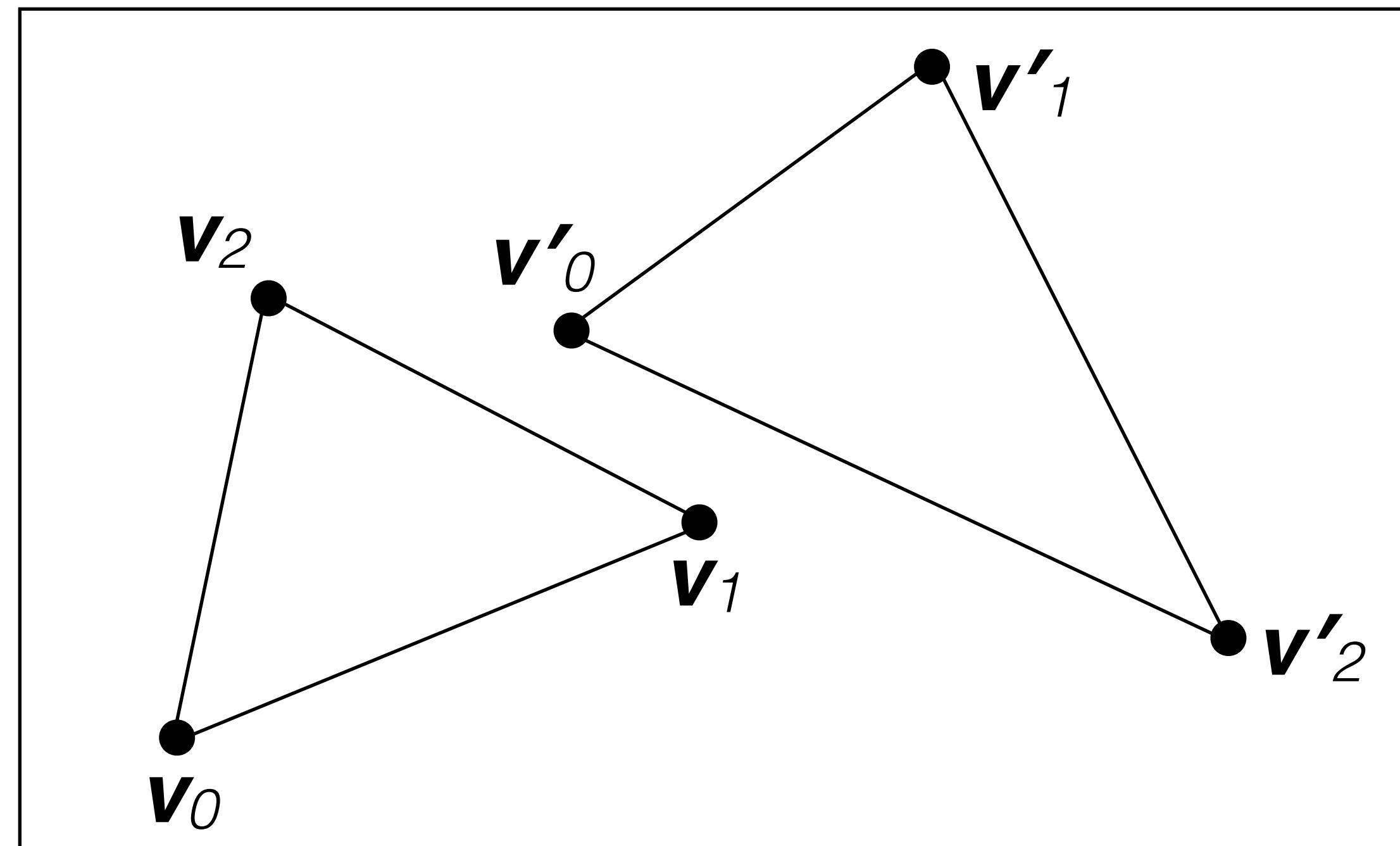


2. Triangles are coplanar  
(all evaluations are zero)

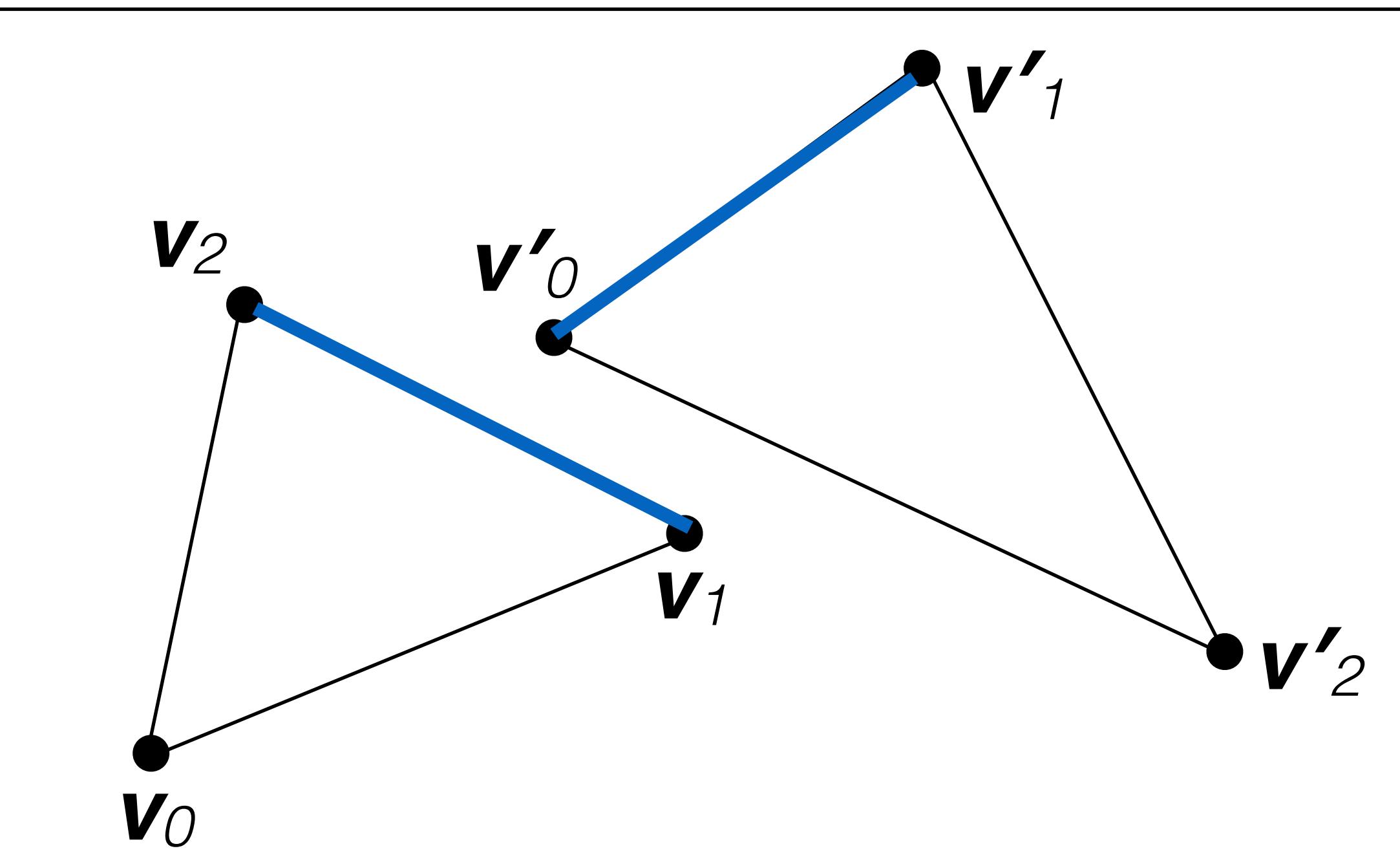
3. Triangles are not coplanar  
(positive and negative evaluations)



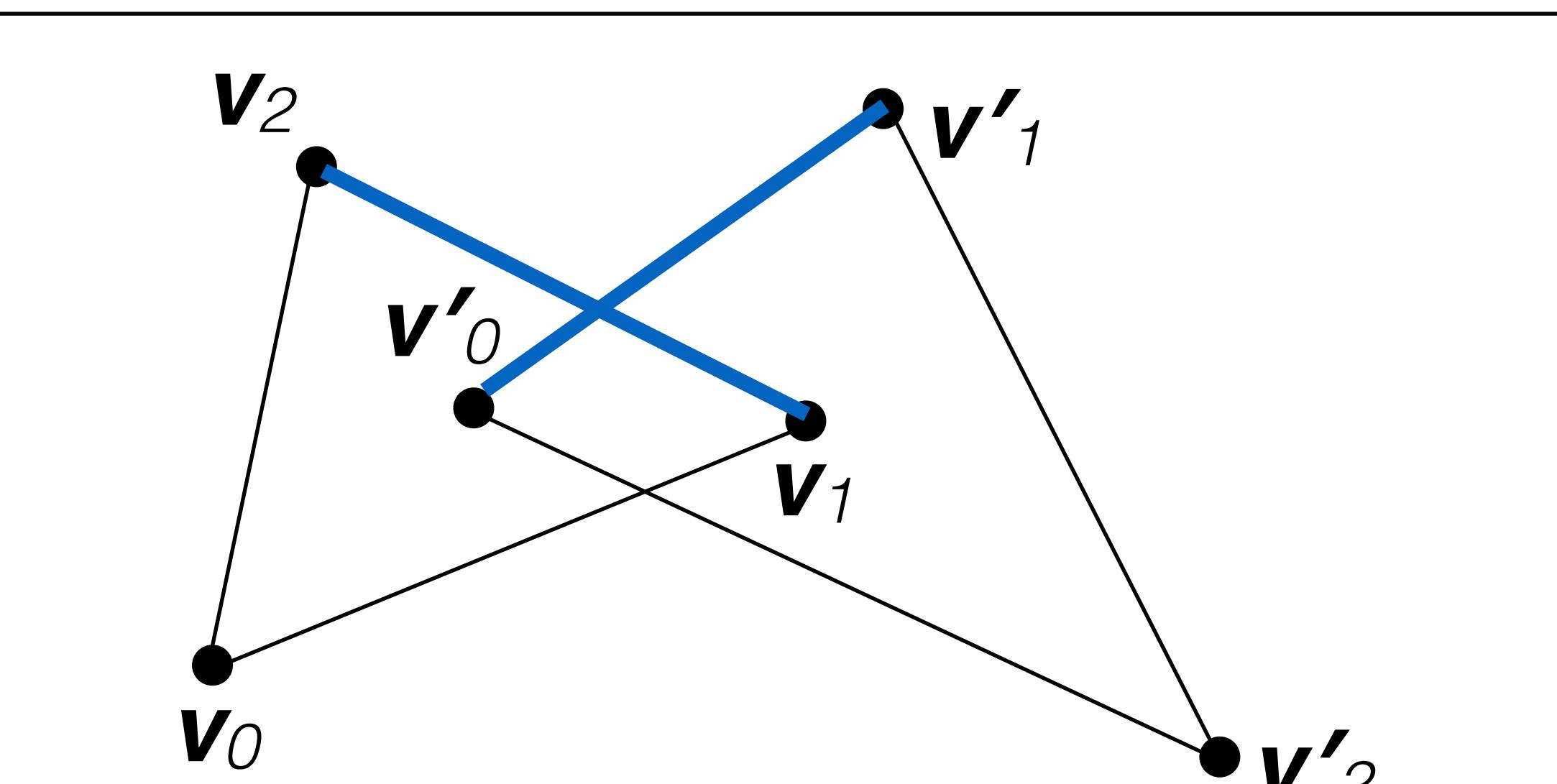
Suppose triangles are coplanar



Suppose triangles are coplanar



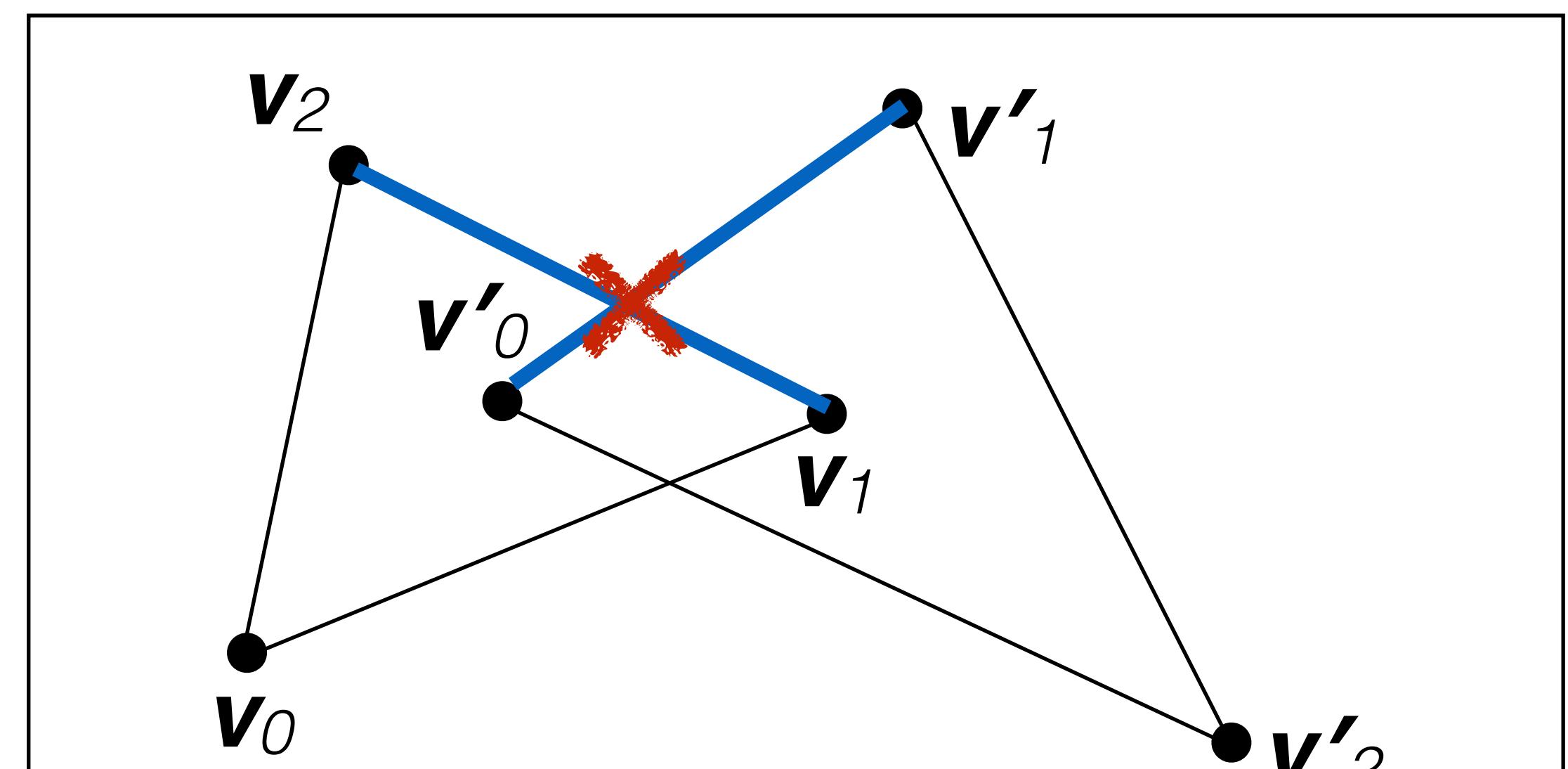
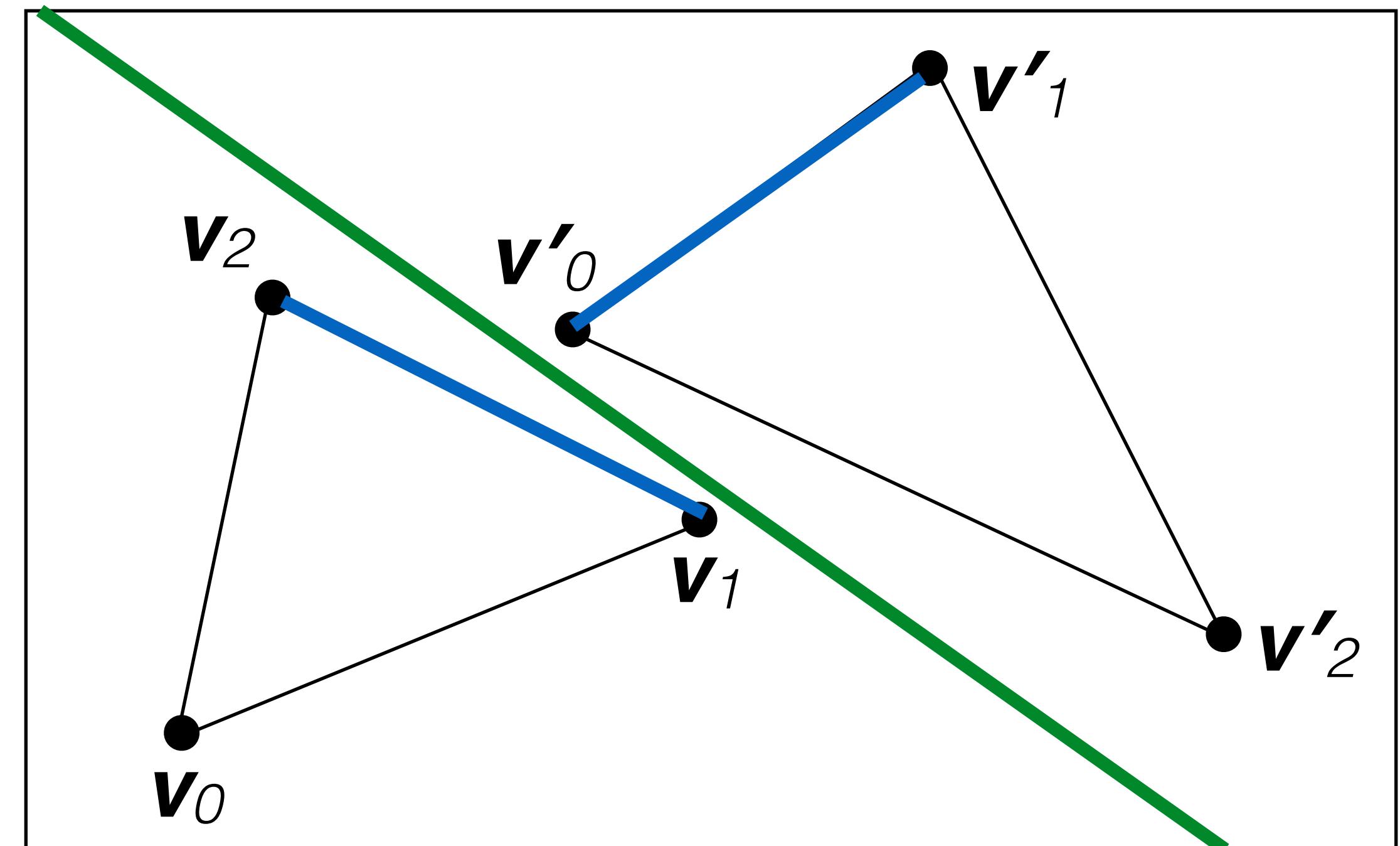
Compare each pair of line segments



Suppose triangles are coplanar

Compare each pair of line segments

Find intersection point as solution to linear system

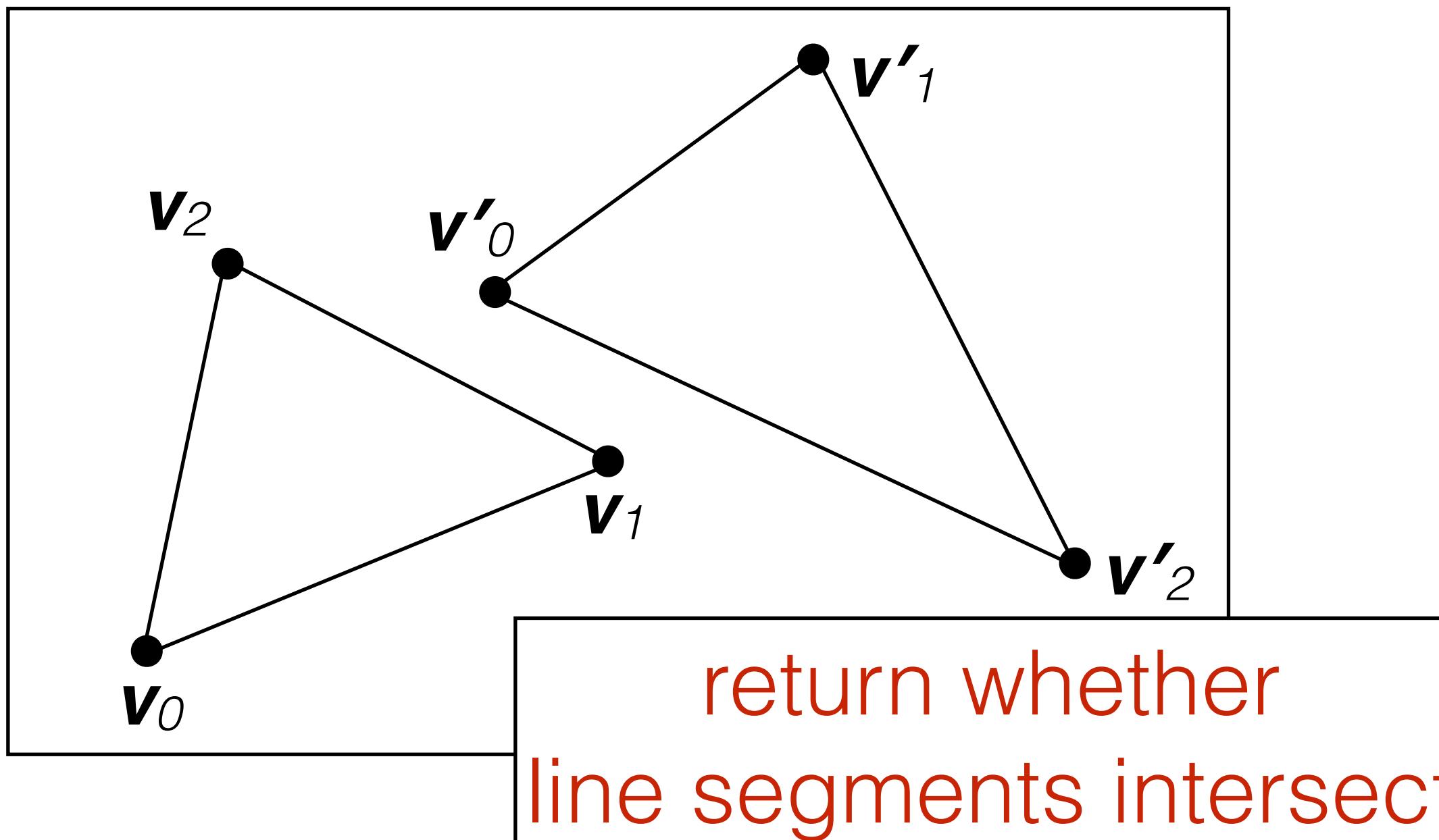


Three possible cases can occur based on evaluation of vertices of one triangle against the plane of the other triangle

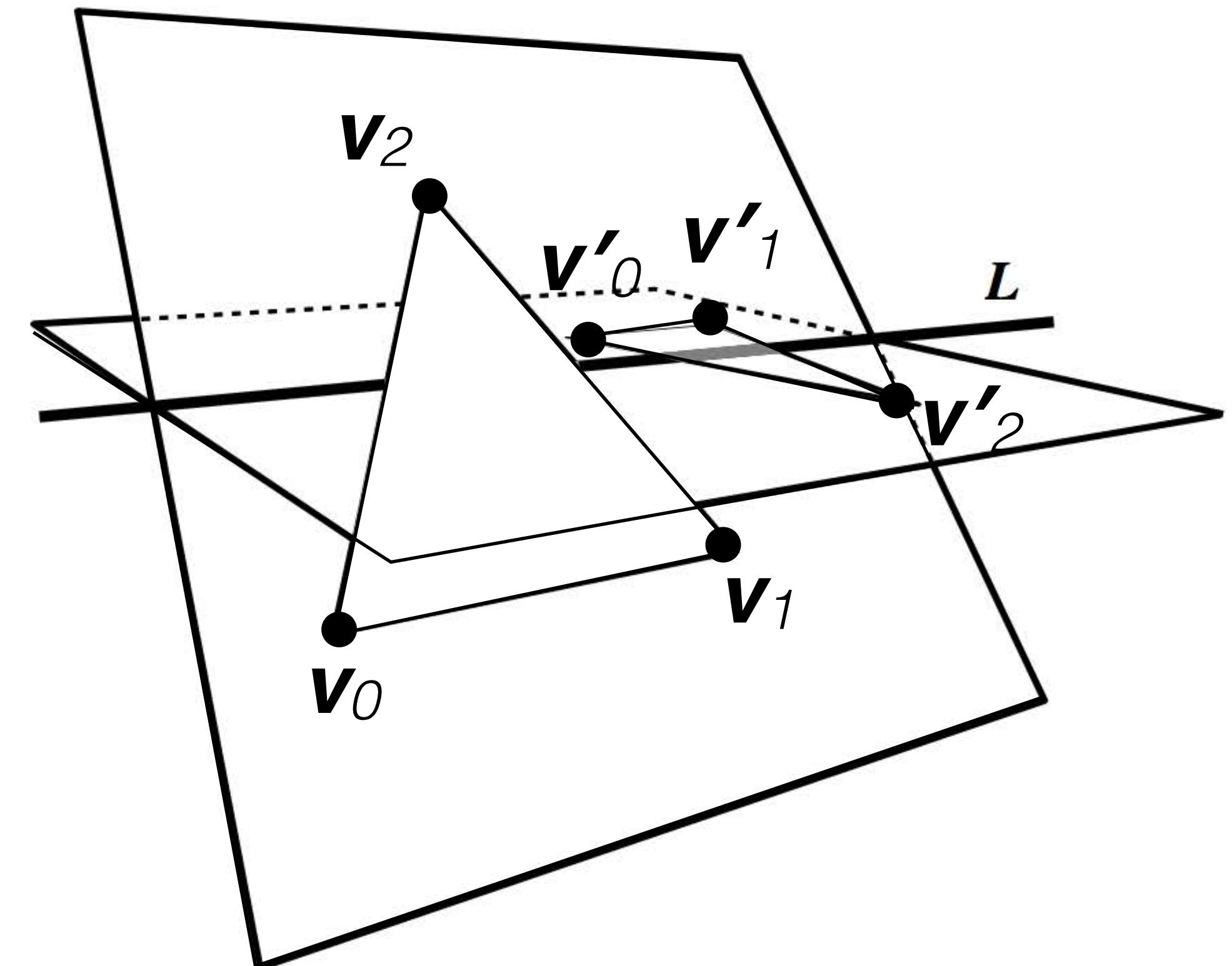
1. Triangle does not intersect plane  
(all positive or all negative evaluations)

return non-collision

2. Triangles are coplanar  
(all evaluations are zero)



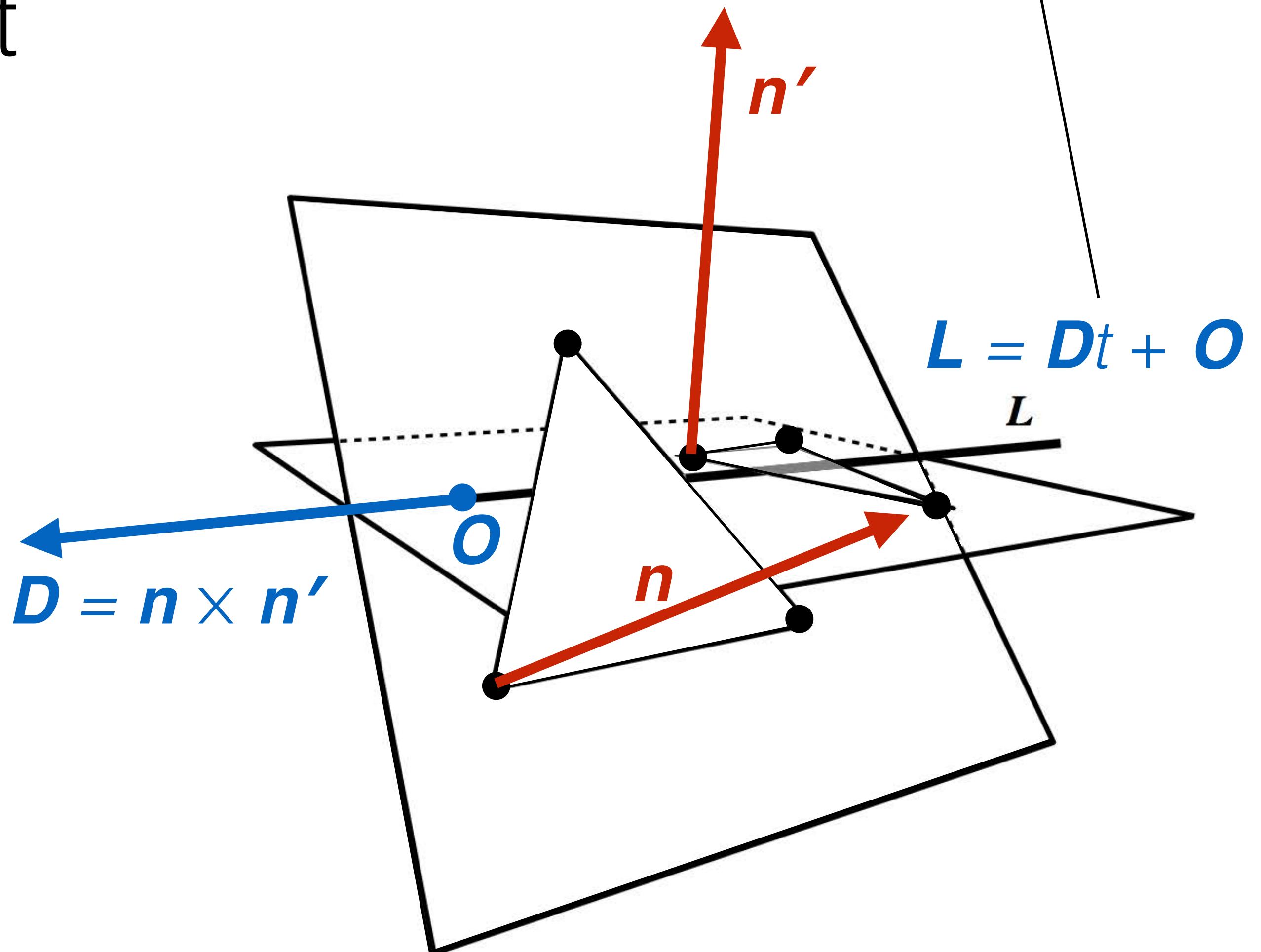
3. Triangles are not coplanar  
(positive and negative evaluations)



# 3D Triangle-Triangle Test

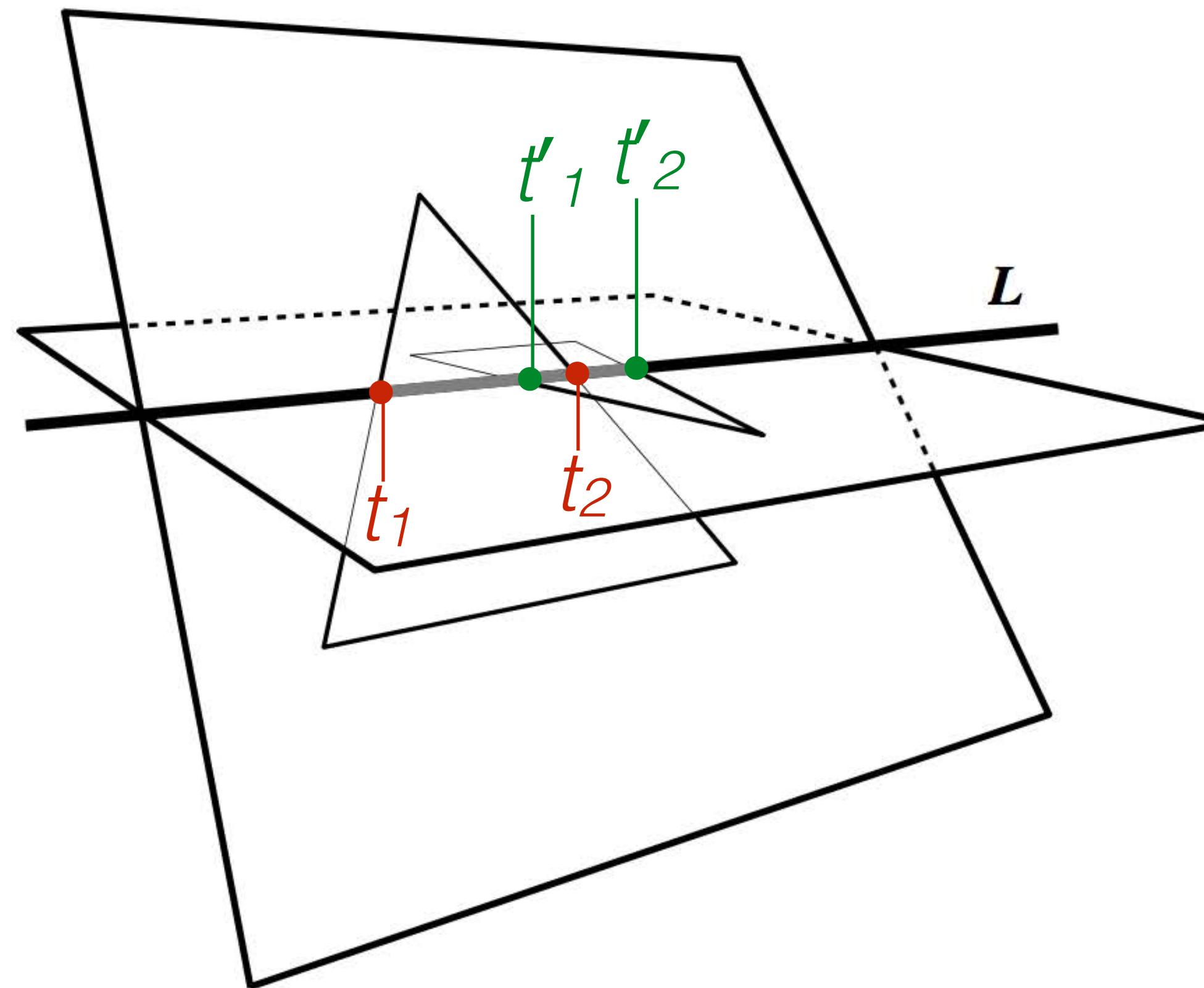
1. Compute plane equation of triangle 2.
2. Reject as trivial if all points of triangle 1 are on same side.
3. Compute plane equation of triangle 1.
4. Reject as trivial if all points of triangle 2 are on same side.
5. Compute intersection line and project onto largest axis.
6. Compute the intervals for each triangle.
7. Intersect the intervals.

Intersection Line  $L$  parameterized by  $t$

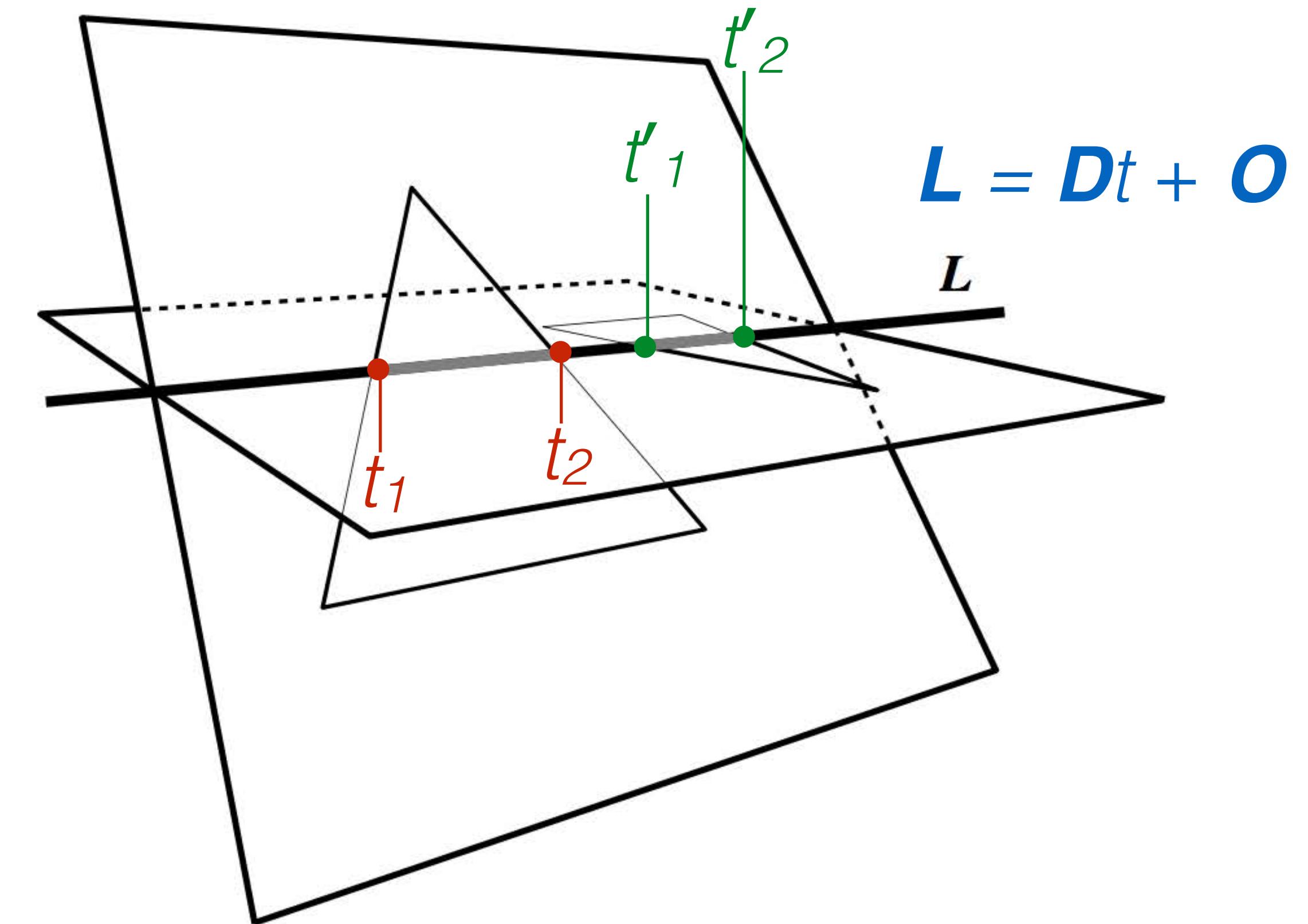


Two possible cases can occur based on interval spans  $([t_1, t_2], [t'_1, t'_2])$  of triangle intersections with  $L$

Collision, if intervals overlap



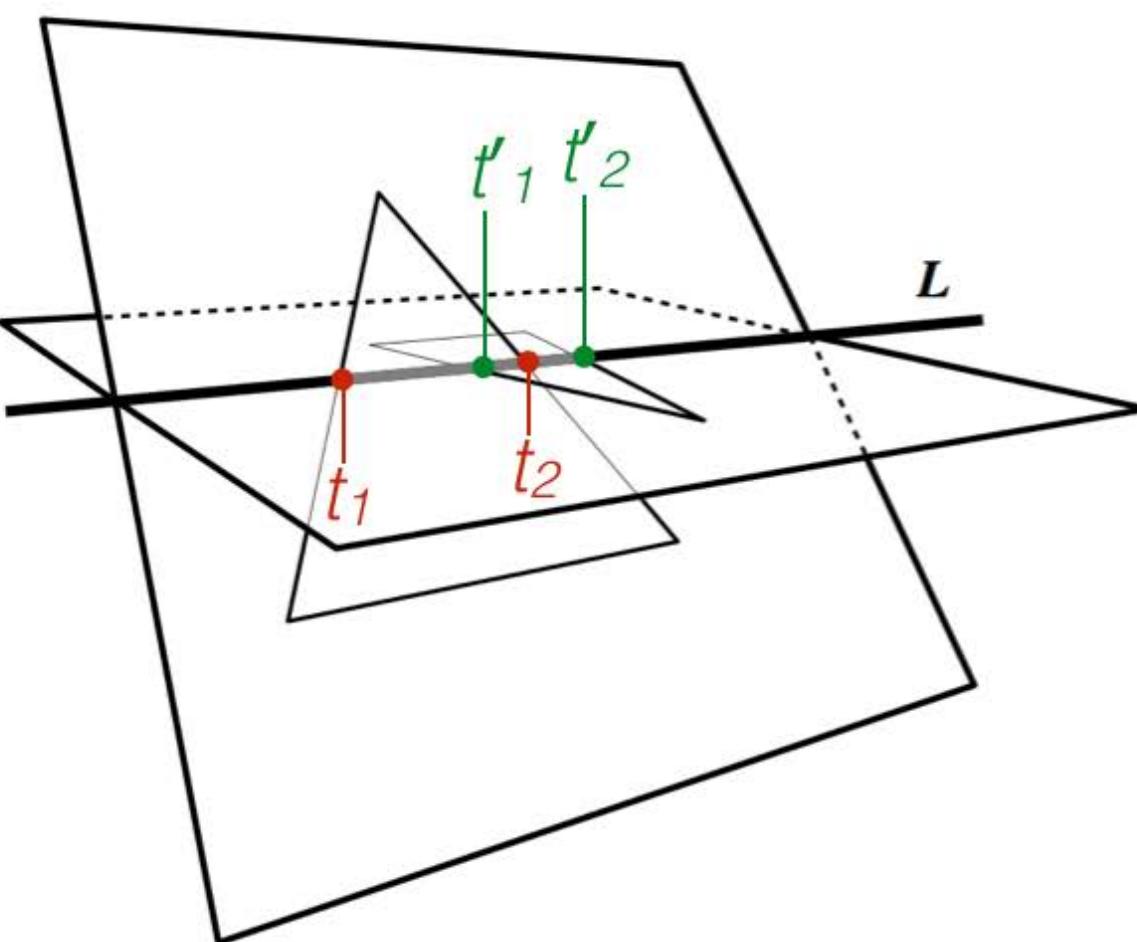
No Collision, if intervals do not overlap



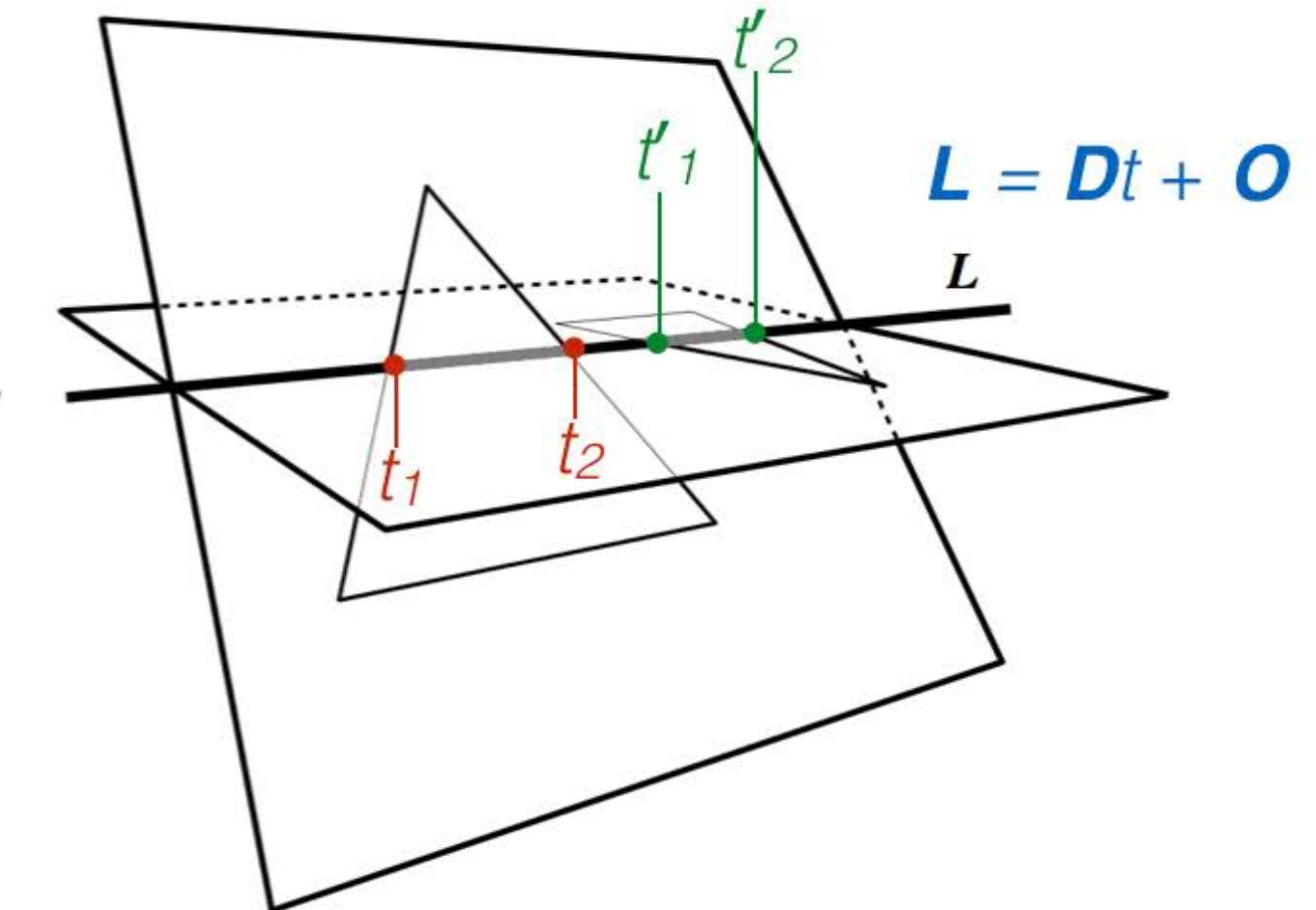
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Collision



Non-collision

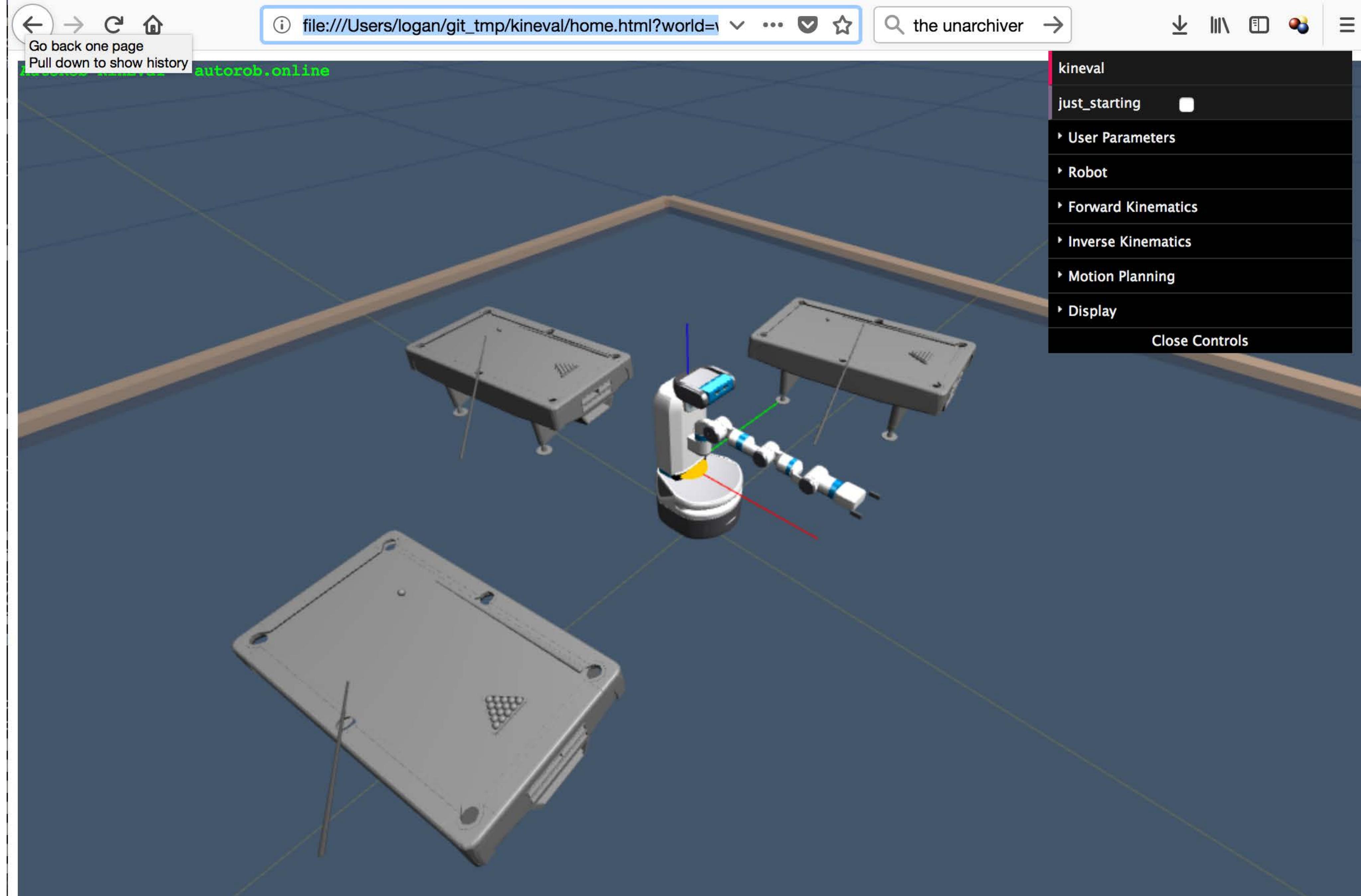


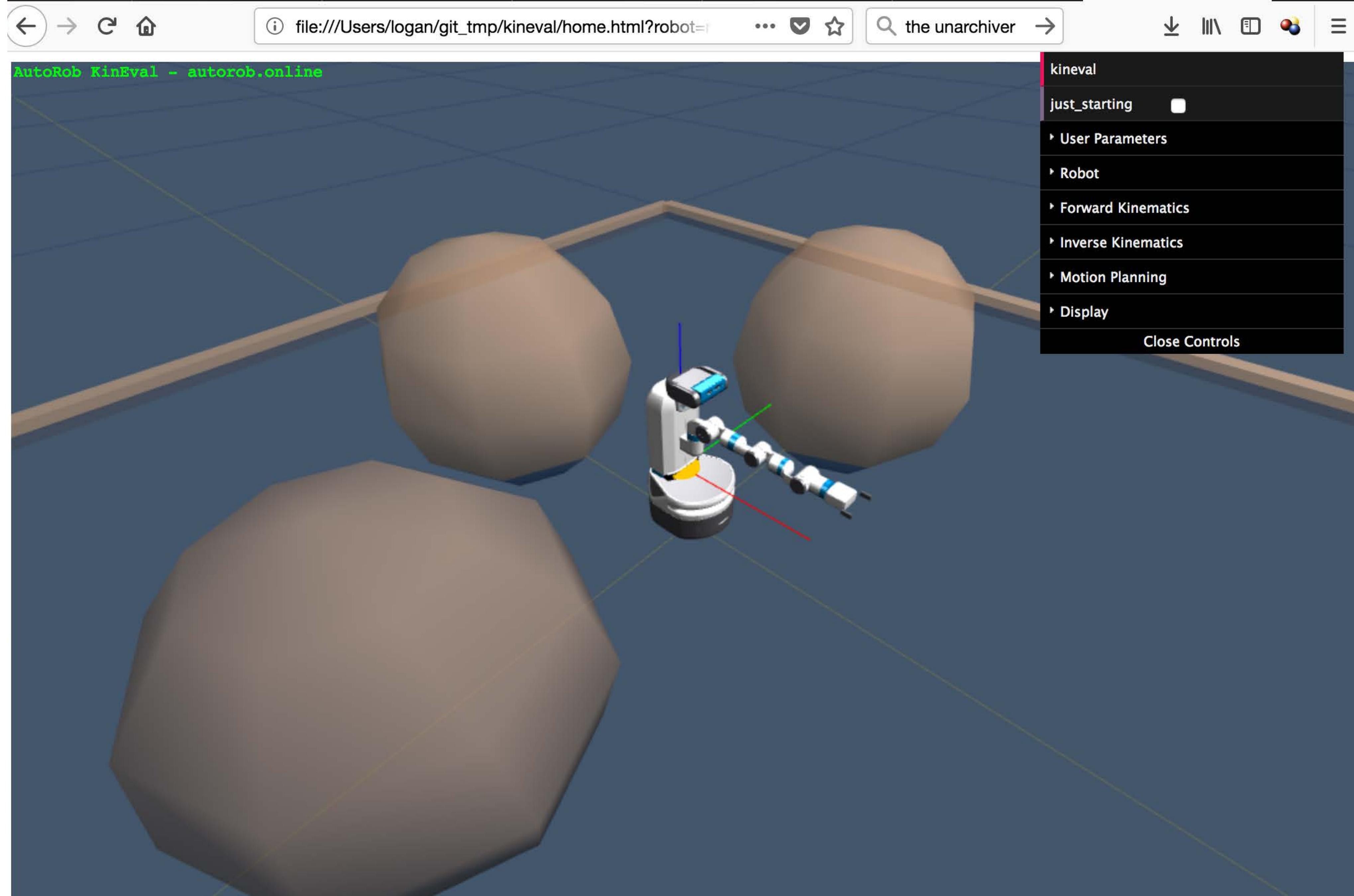
# How many triangle tests must be performed?

How many triangle tests must  
be performed?

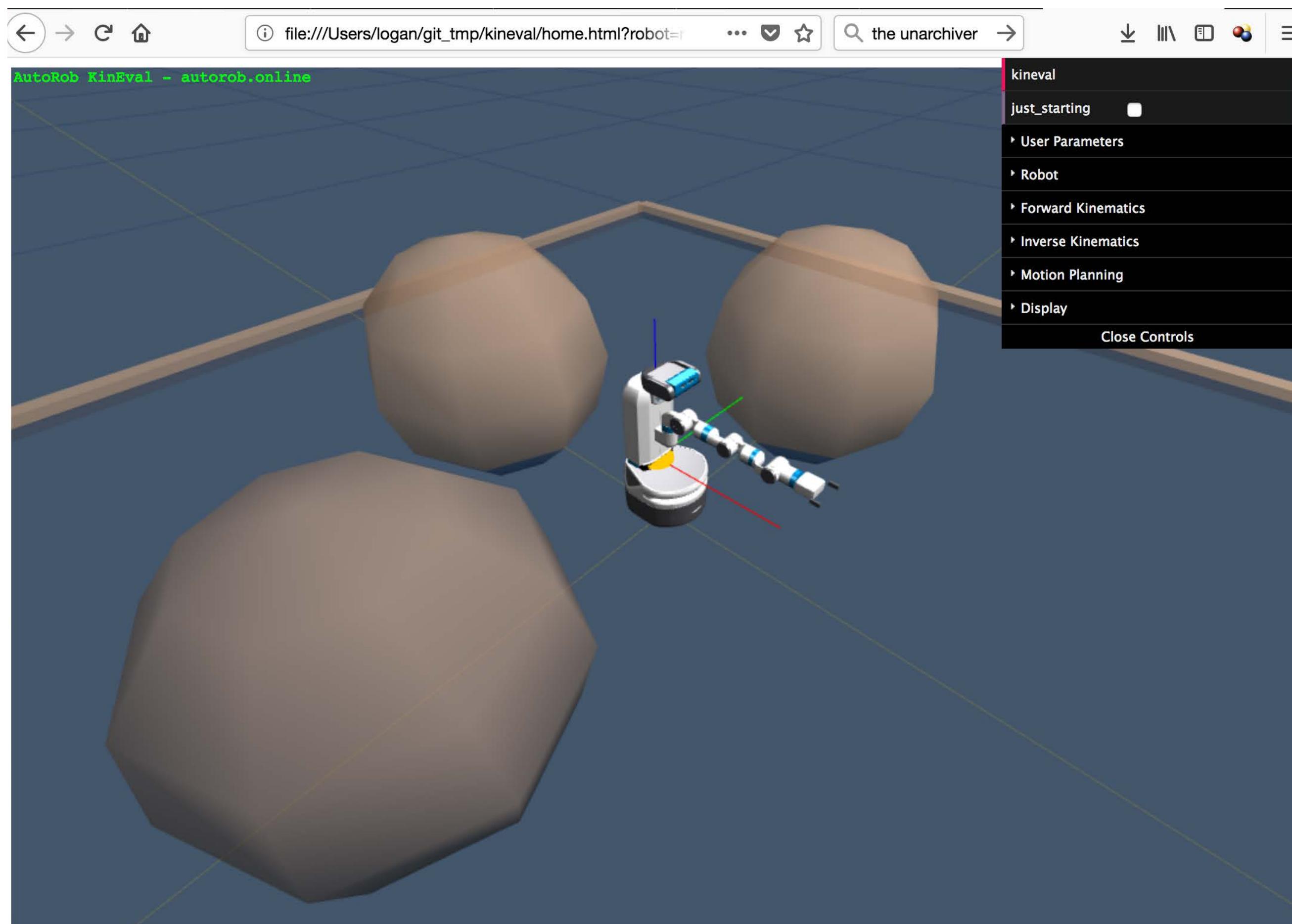
Can we reduce the number of  
tests to evaluate?





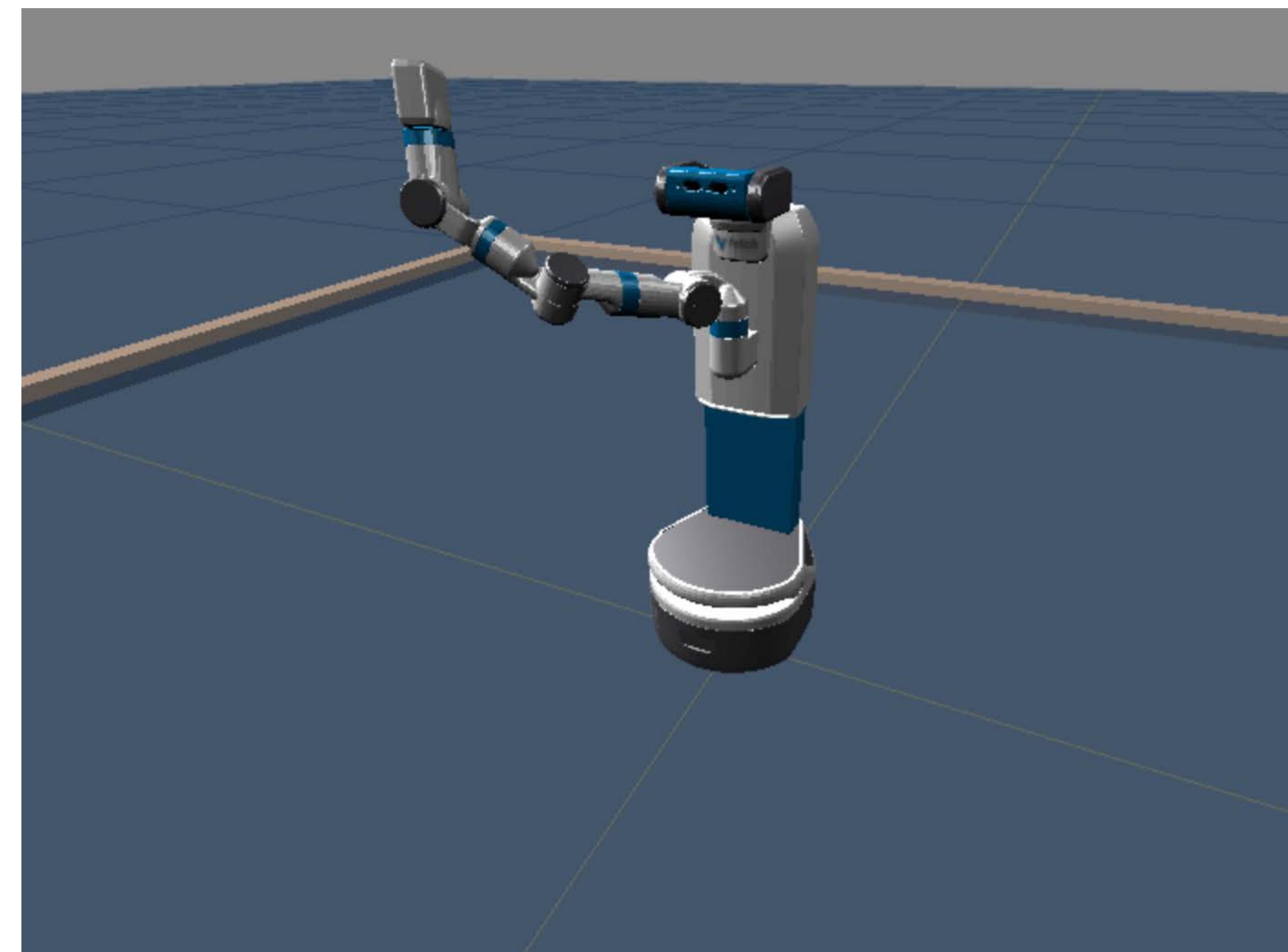
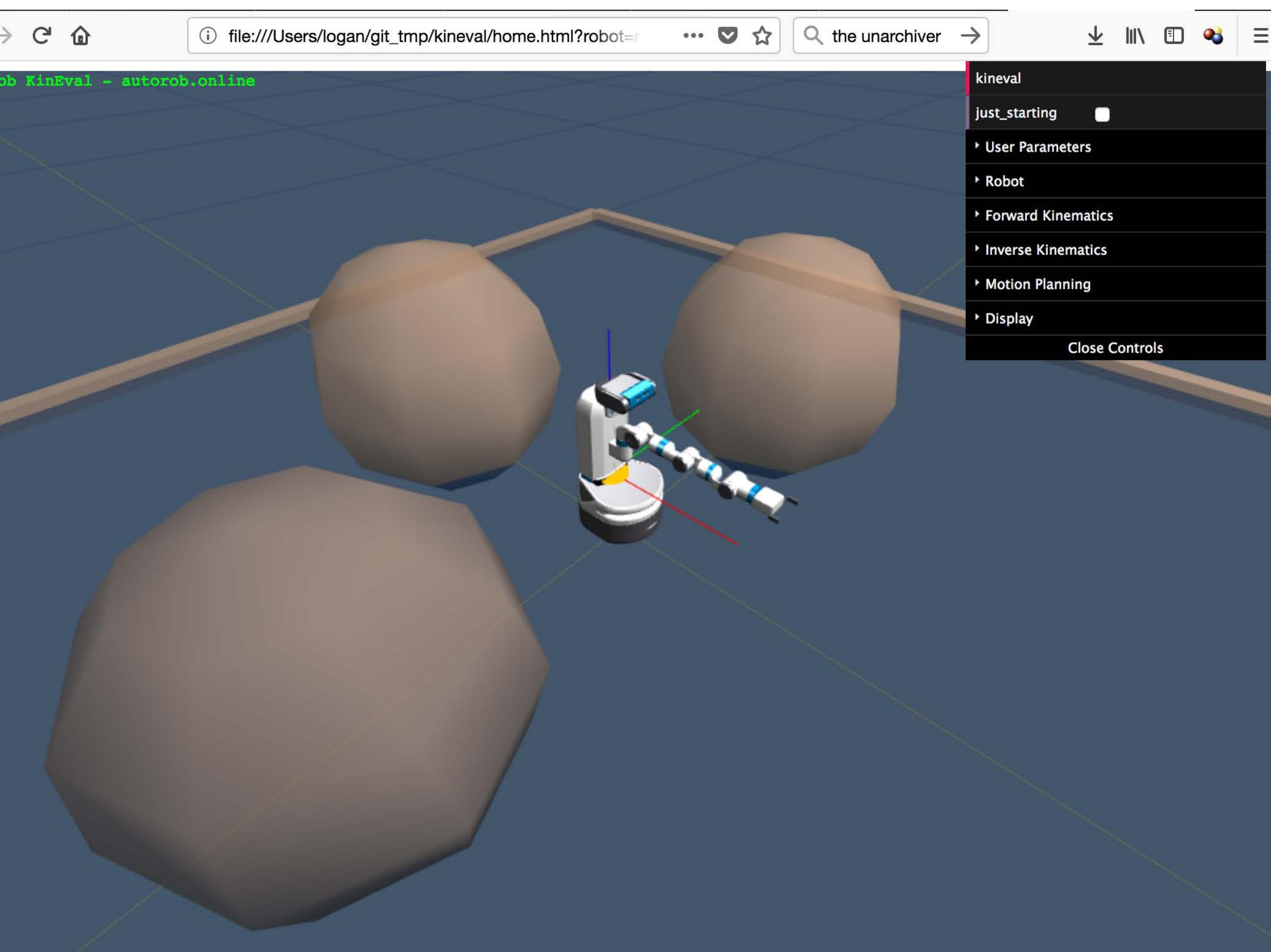


# KinEval approximates obstacles with bounding spheres



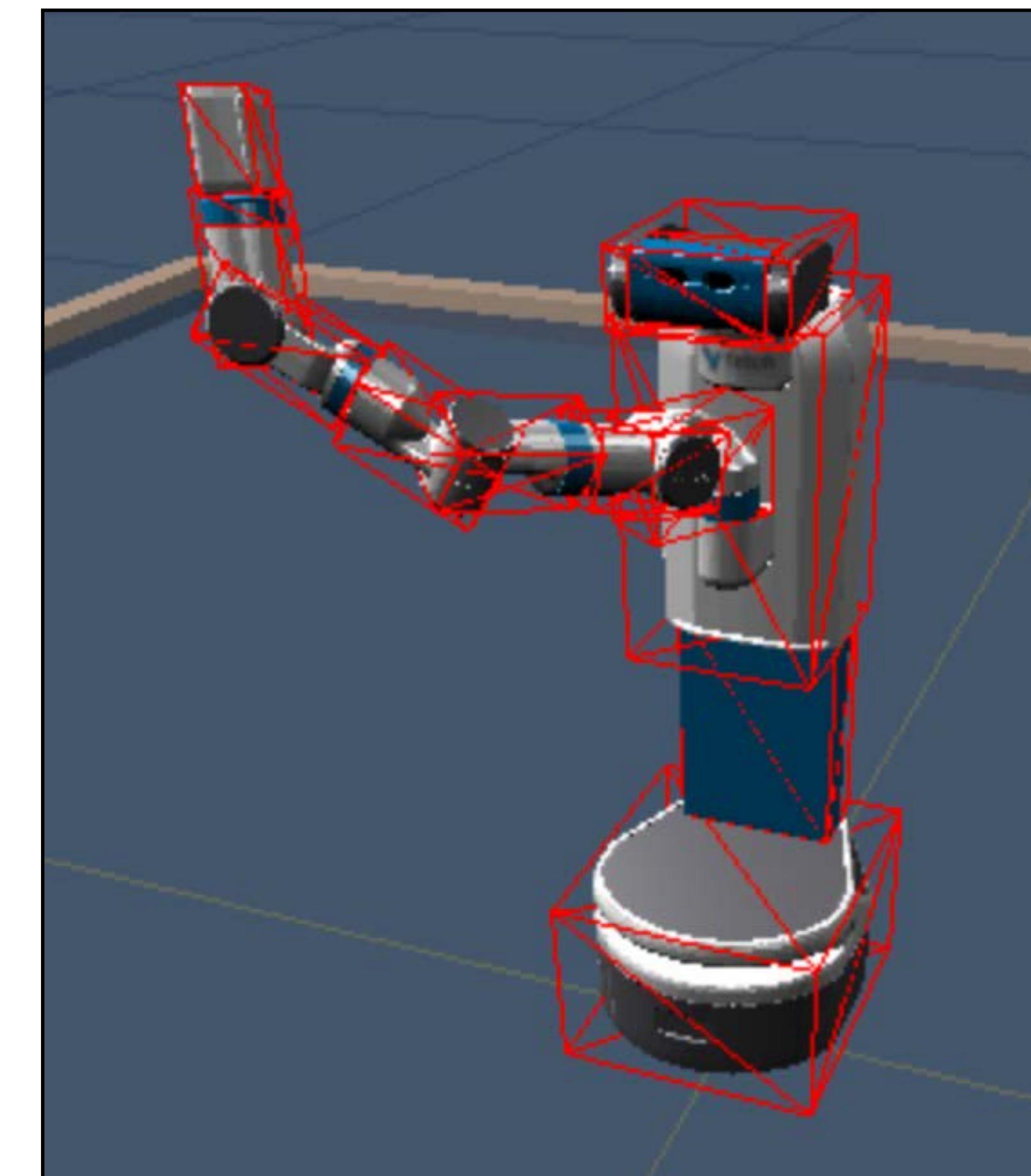
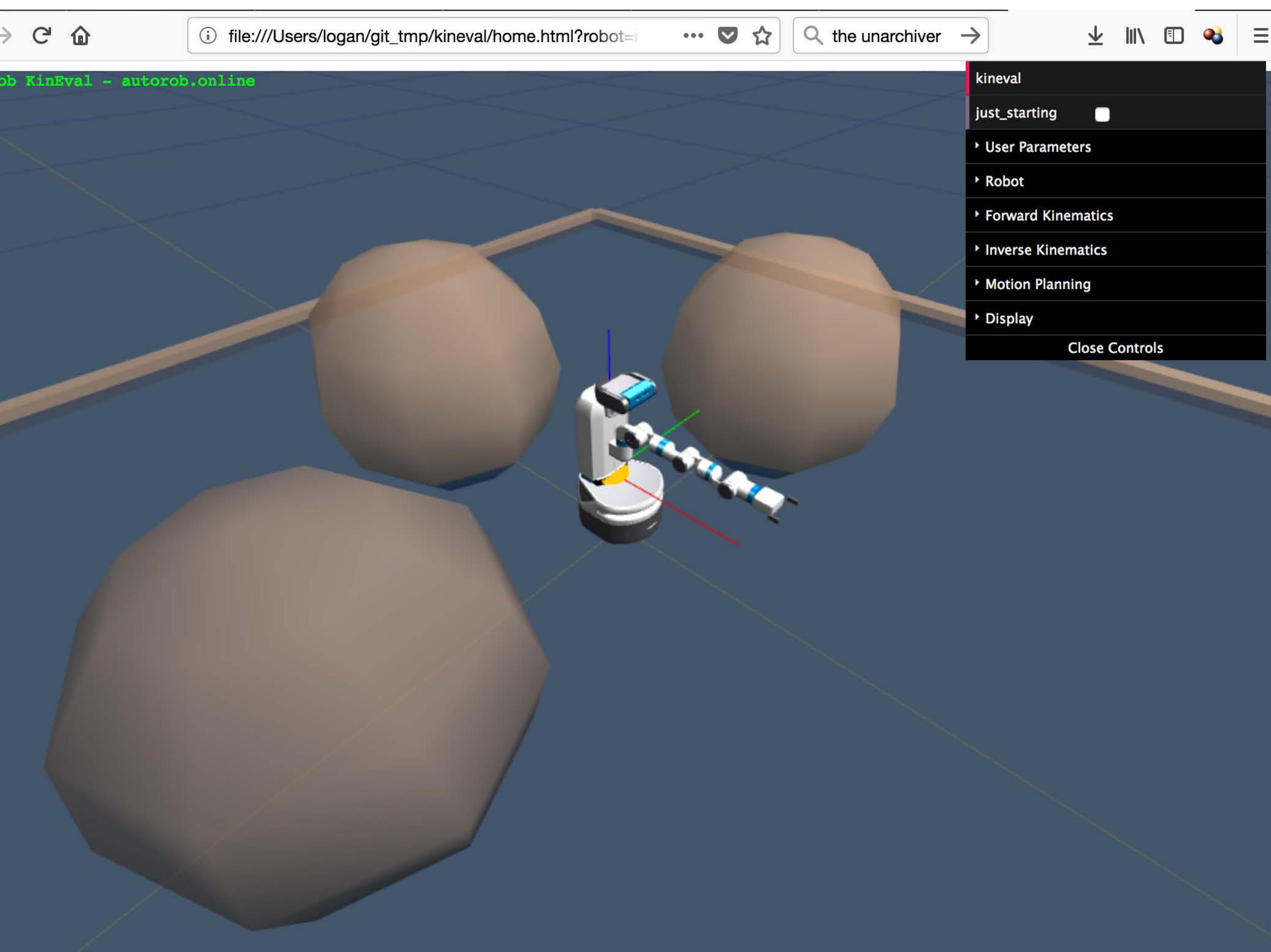
# KinEval approximates obstacles with bounding spheres

## and the robot?

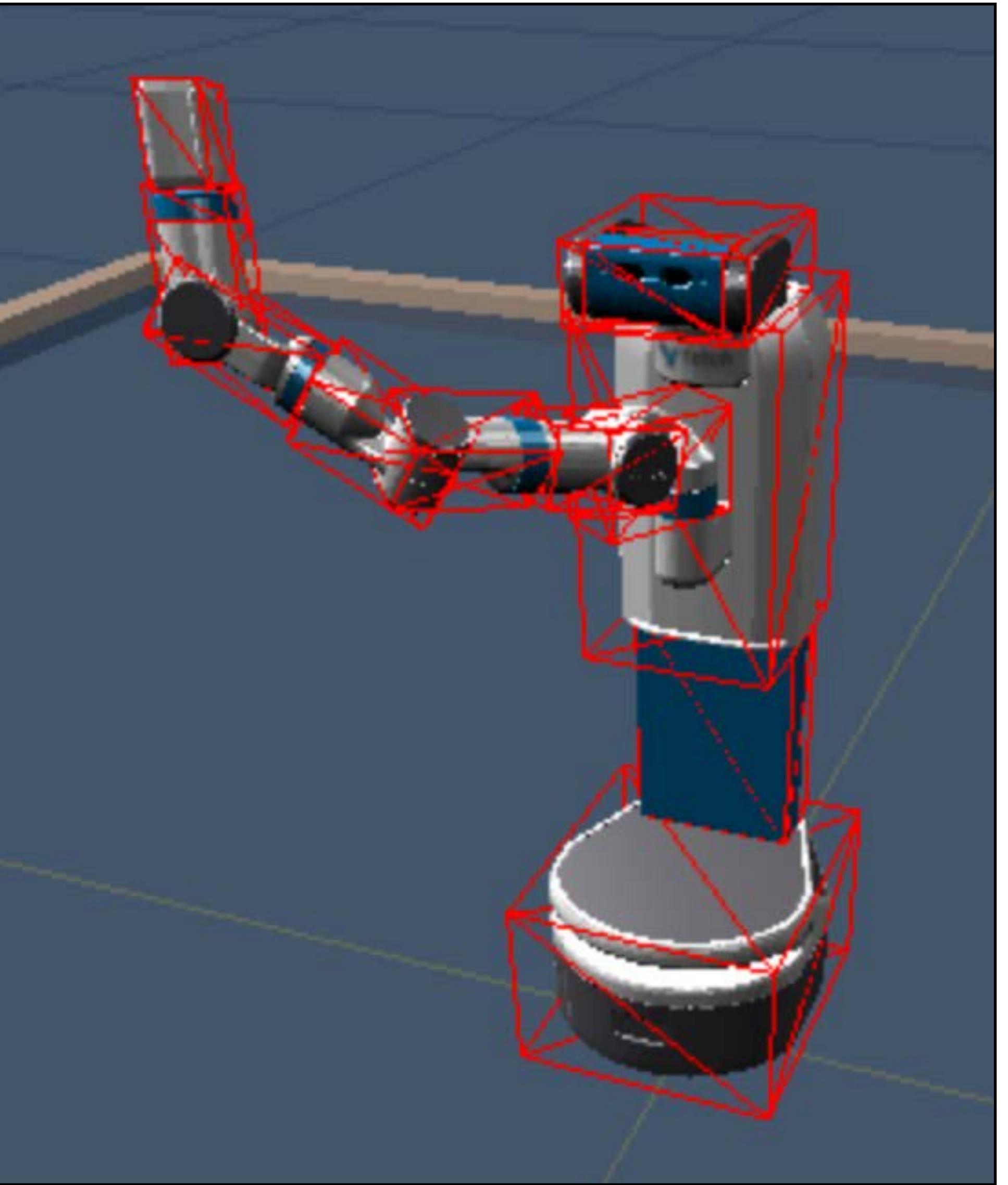


# KinEval approximates obstacles with bounding spheres

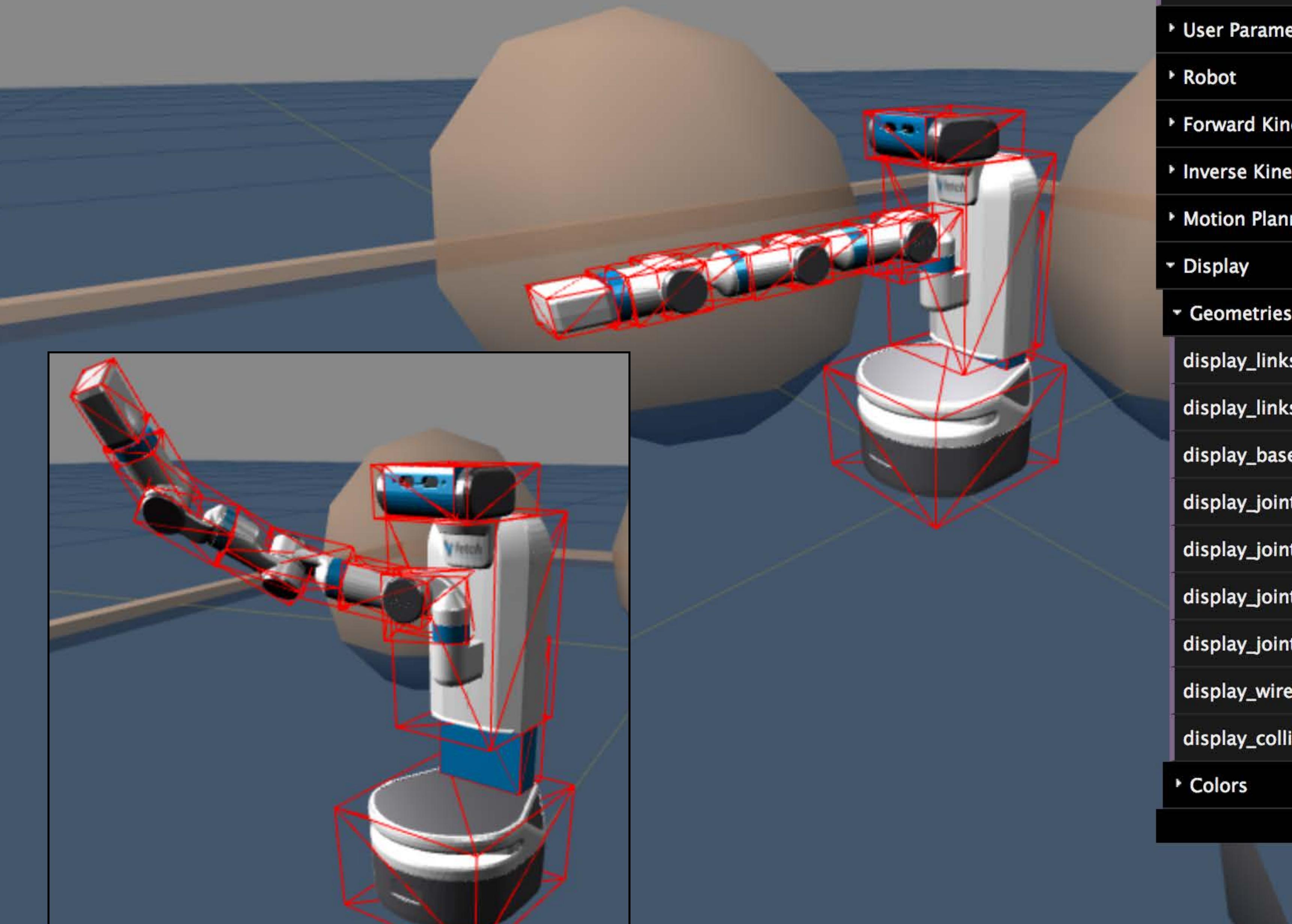
# robot as bounding boxes



KinEval approximates  
link geometries  
with bounding boxes



Welcome to KinEval. I want to see some text. Can you place a message here?



kineval

just\_starting

>User Parameters

Robot

Forward Kinematics

Inverse Kinematics

Motion Planning

Display

Geometries and Axes

display\_links

display\_links\_axes

display\_base\_axes

display\_joints

display\_joints\_axes

display\_joints\_active

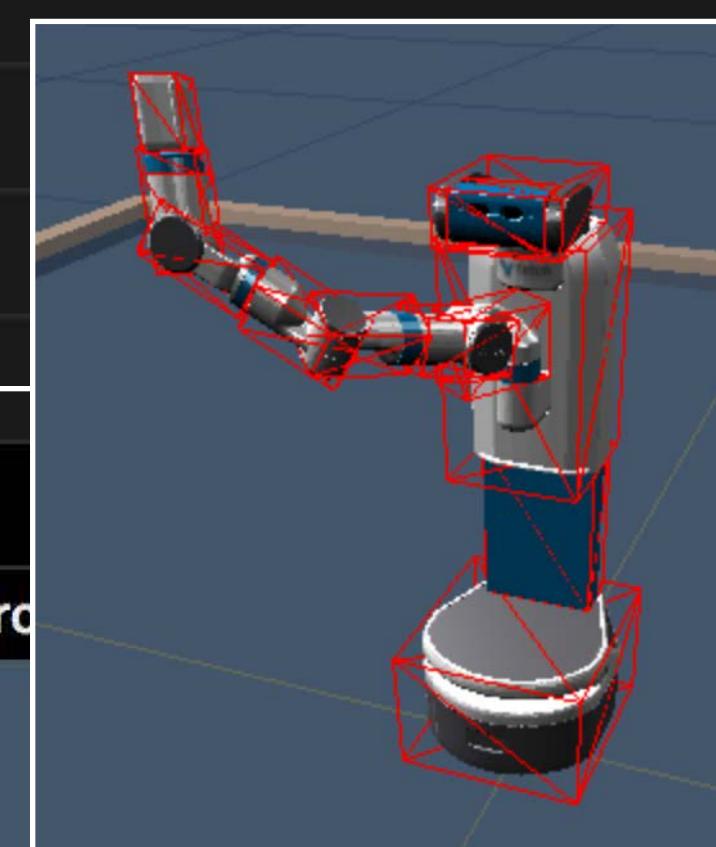
display\_joints\_active\_axes

display\_wireframe

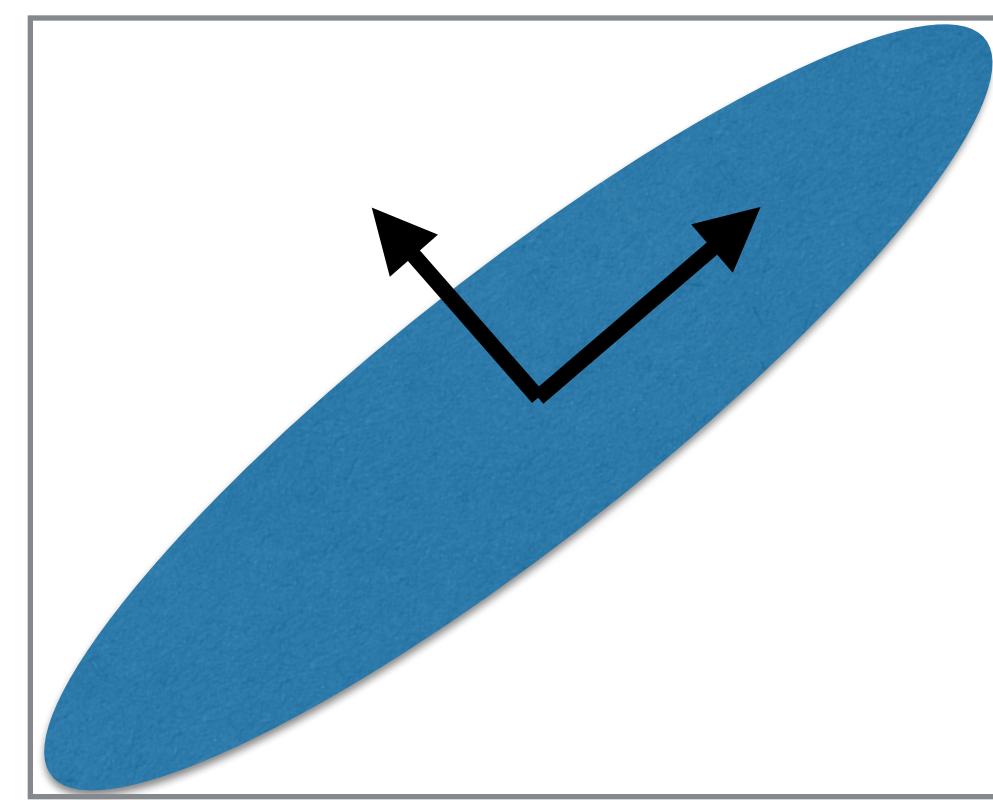
display\_collision\_bboxes

Colors

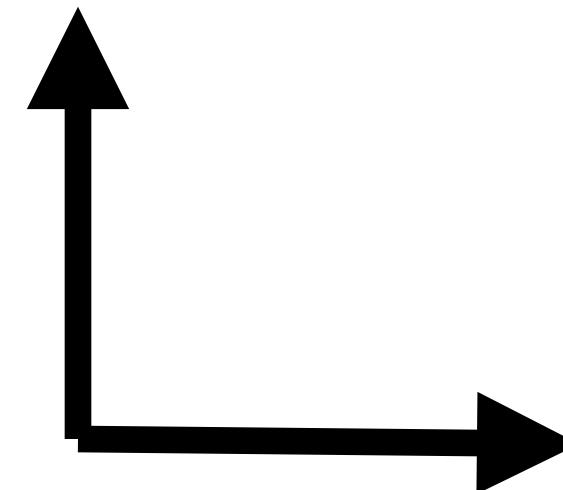
Close Control



# Bounding Boxes

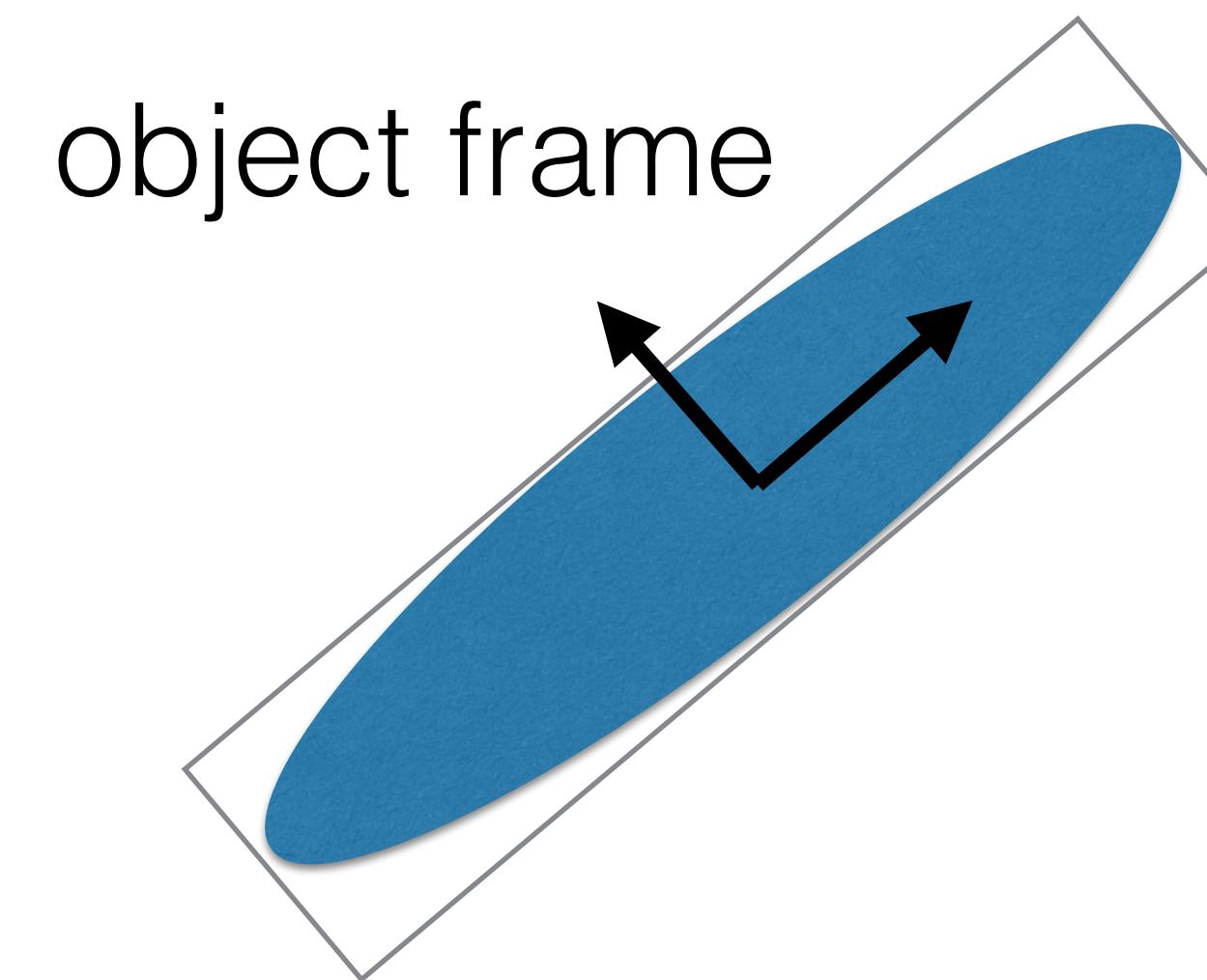


Axis-aligned Bounding Box  
(AABB)



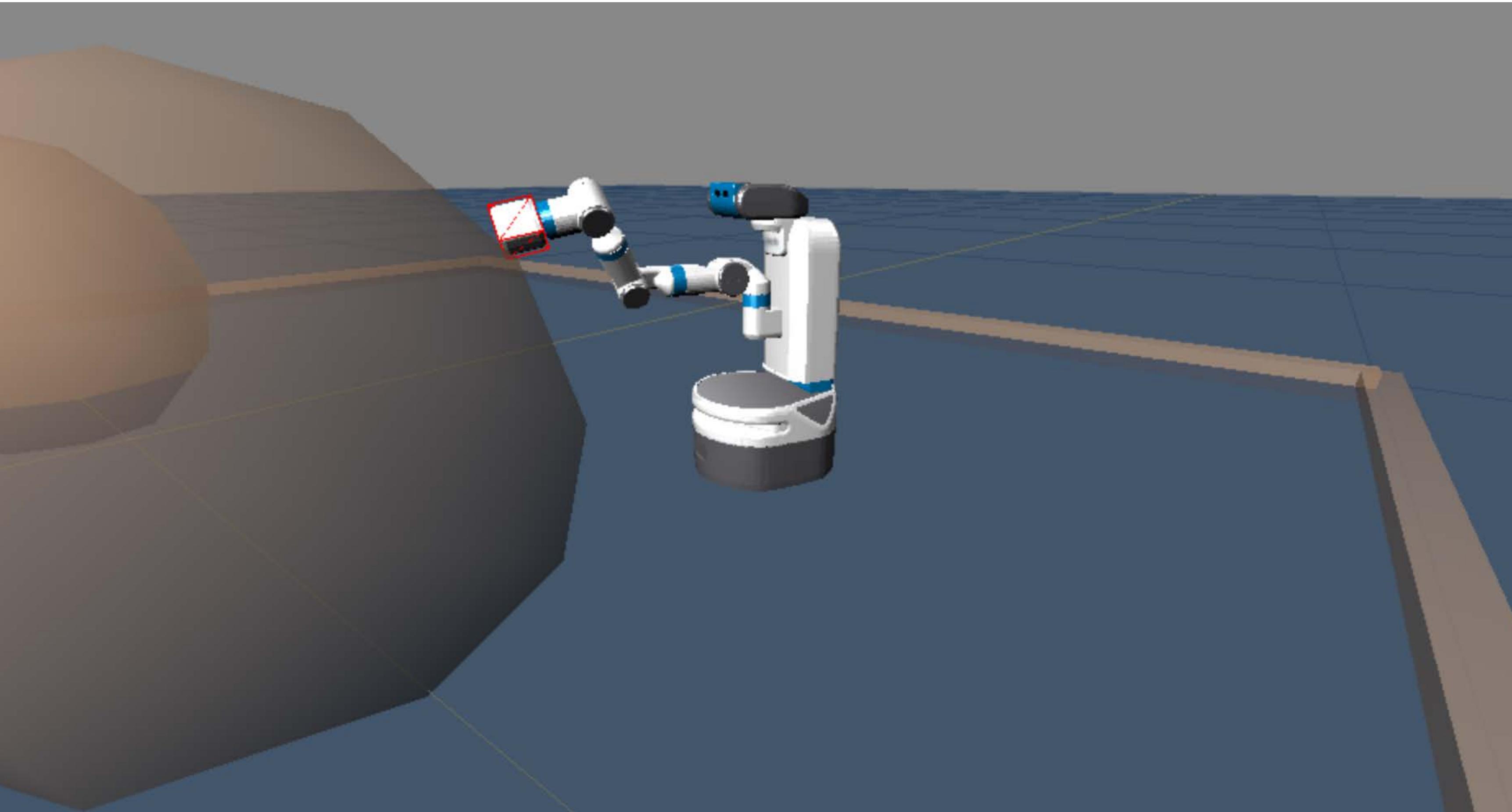
world frame

Gottschalk et al. 1996

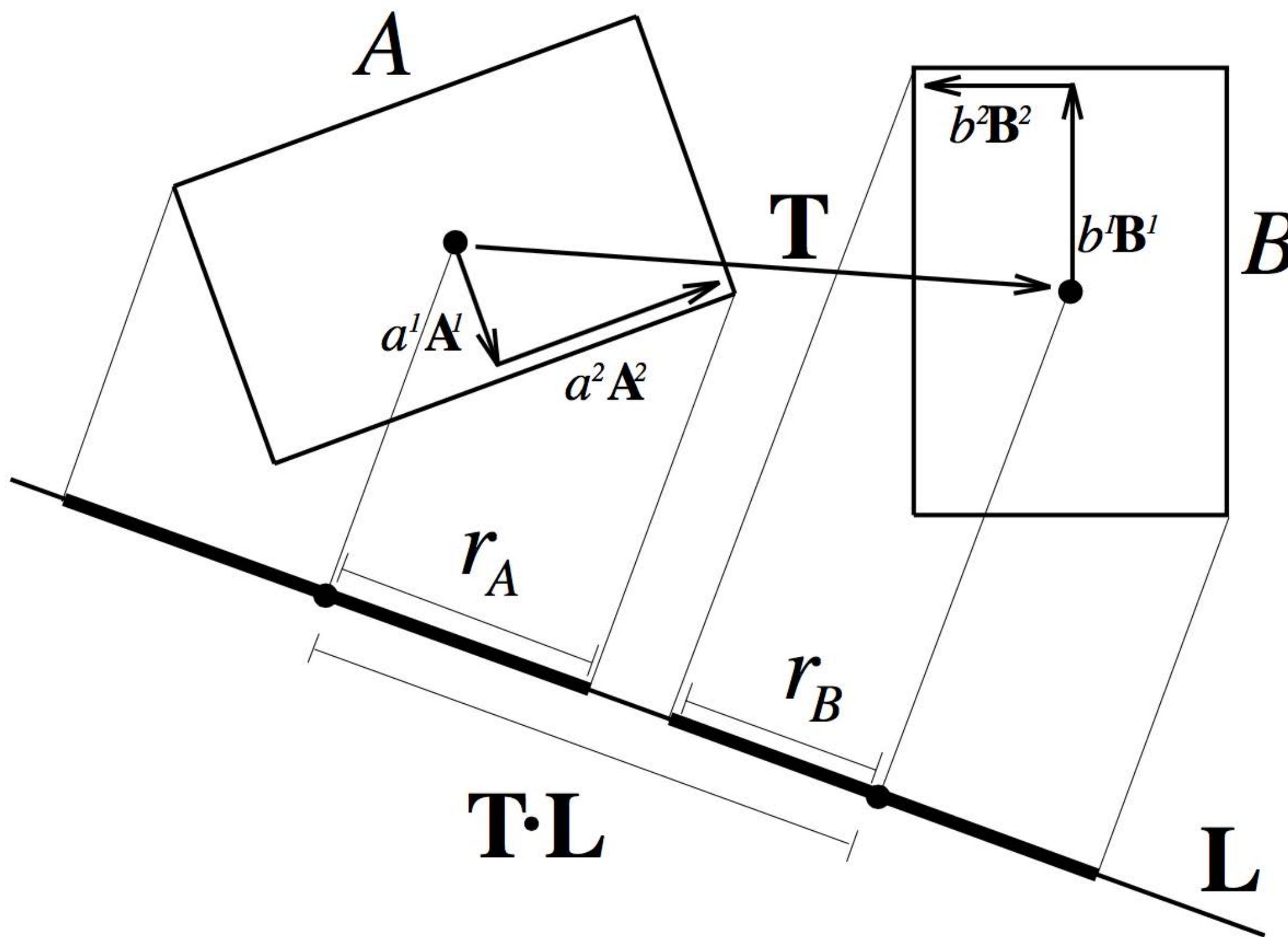


Oriented Bounding Box  
(OBB)

# Only a “separating axis” needs to be found



# Separating Axis Theorem





# Hyperplane separation theorem

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from [Separating axis theorem](#))

In geometry, the **hyperplane separation theorem** is a theorem about disjoint convex sets in  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space. There are several rather similar versions. In one version of the theorem, if both these sets are closed and at least one of them is compact, then there is a hyperplane in between them and even two parallel hyperplanes in between them separated by a gap. In another version, if both disjoint convex sets are open, then there is a hyperplane in between them, but not necessarily any gap. An axis which is orthogonal to a separating hyperplane is a **separating axis**, because the orthogonal projections of the convex bodies onto the axis are disjoint.

The hyperplane separation theorem is due to Hermann Minkowski. The Hahn–Banach separation theorem generalizes the result to topological vector spaces.

A related result is the [supporting hyperplane theorem](#).

In geometry, a **maximum-margin hyperplane** is a [hyperplane](#) which separates two 'clouds' of points and is at equal distance from the two. The margin between the hyperplane and the clouds is maximal. See the article on [Support Vector Machines](#) for more details.

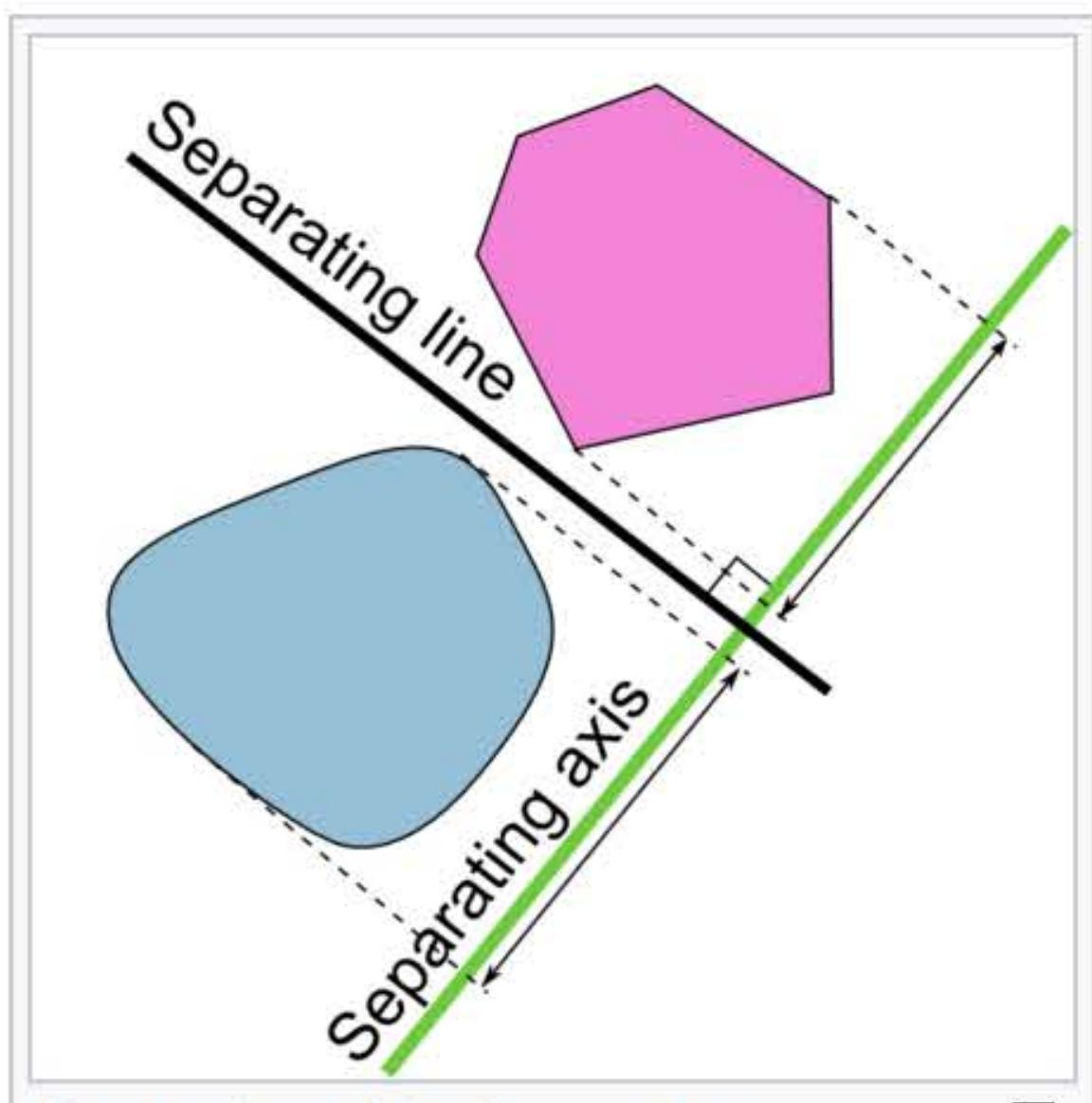
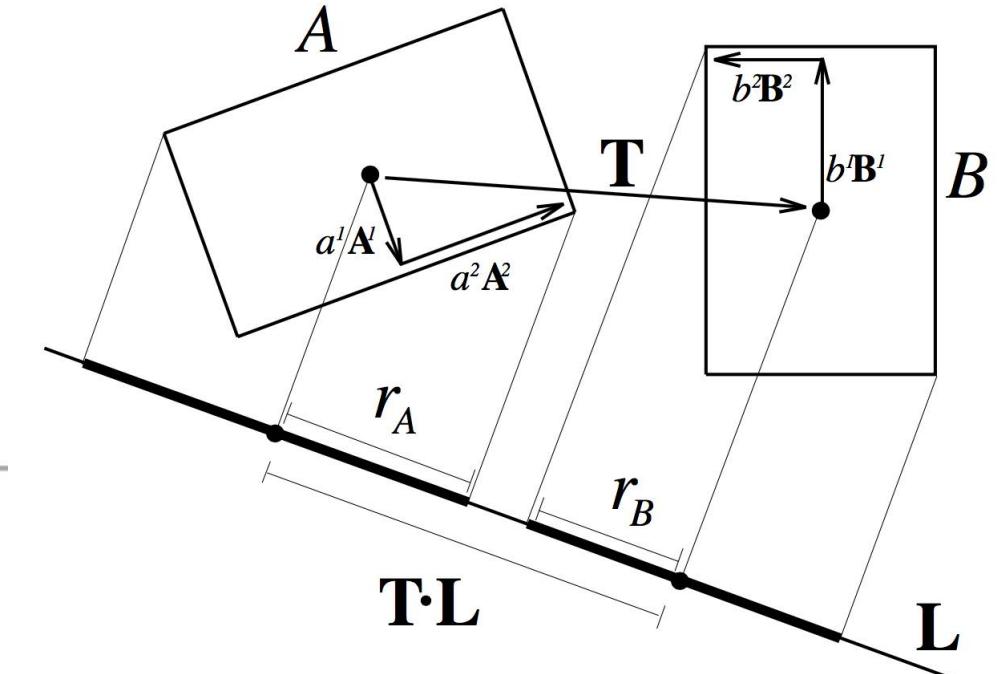
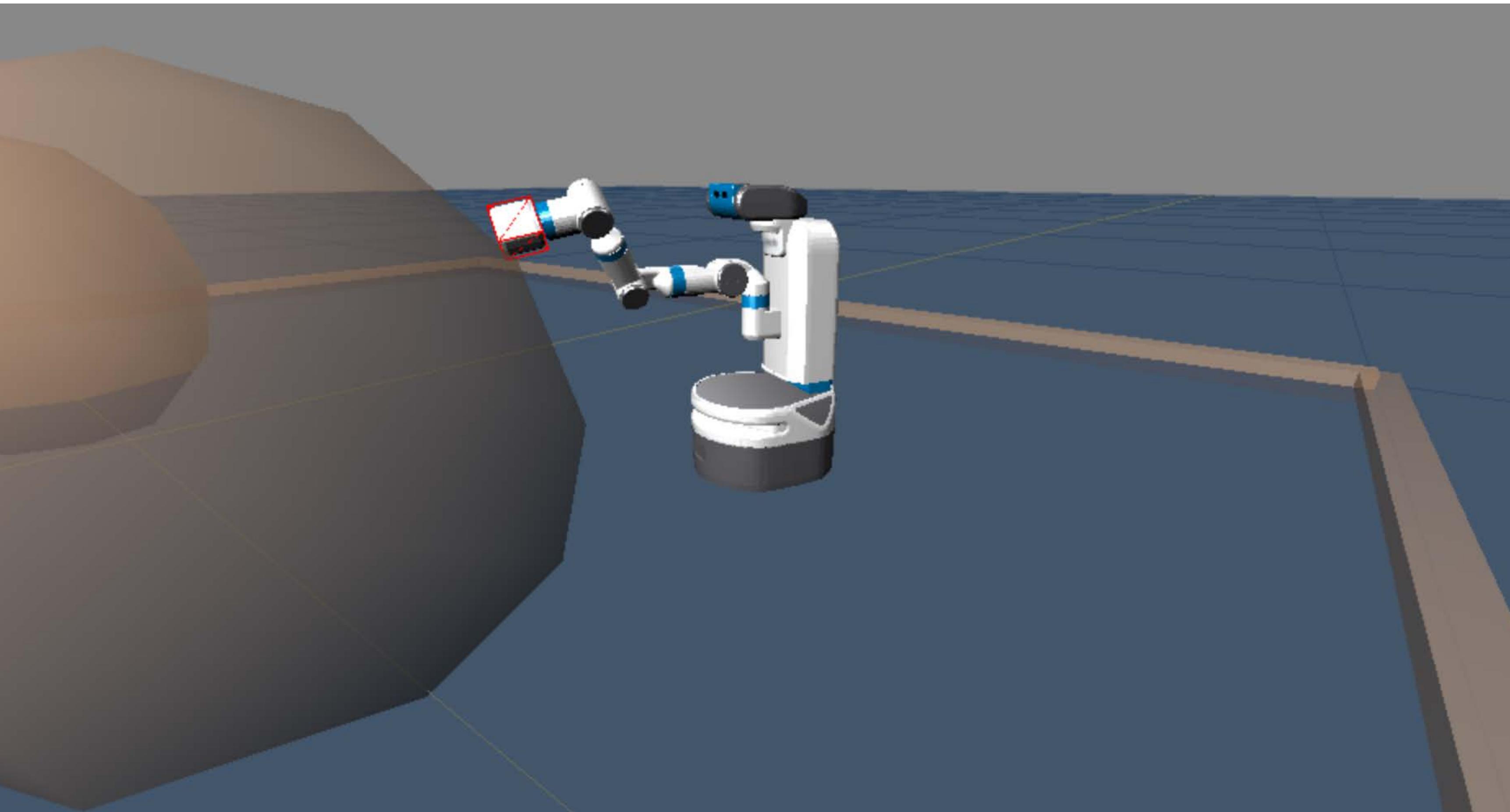


Illustration of the hyperplane separation theorem.

Consider AABB link tested against spherical obstacles in link frame

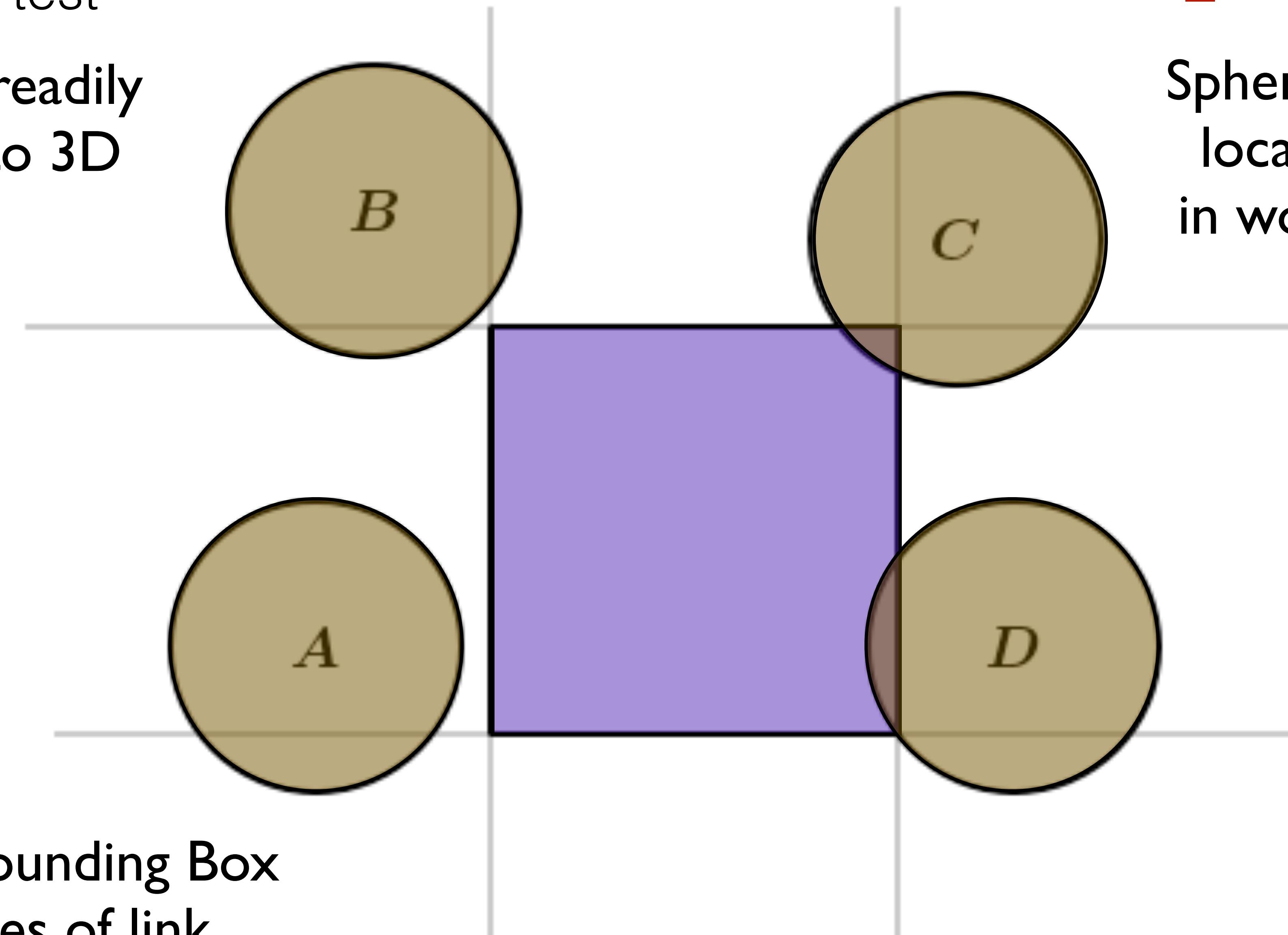


Sphere-bbox test

2D example readily  
generalizes to 3D

`robot_obstacles[i]`

Sphere obstacles with  
location and radius  
in world coordinates



Axis Aligned Bounding Box  
in coordinates of link

`robot.links[x].bbox = [[x_min,y_min,z_min], [x_max,y_max,z_max]]`



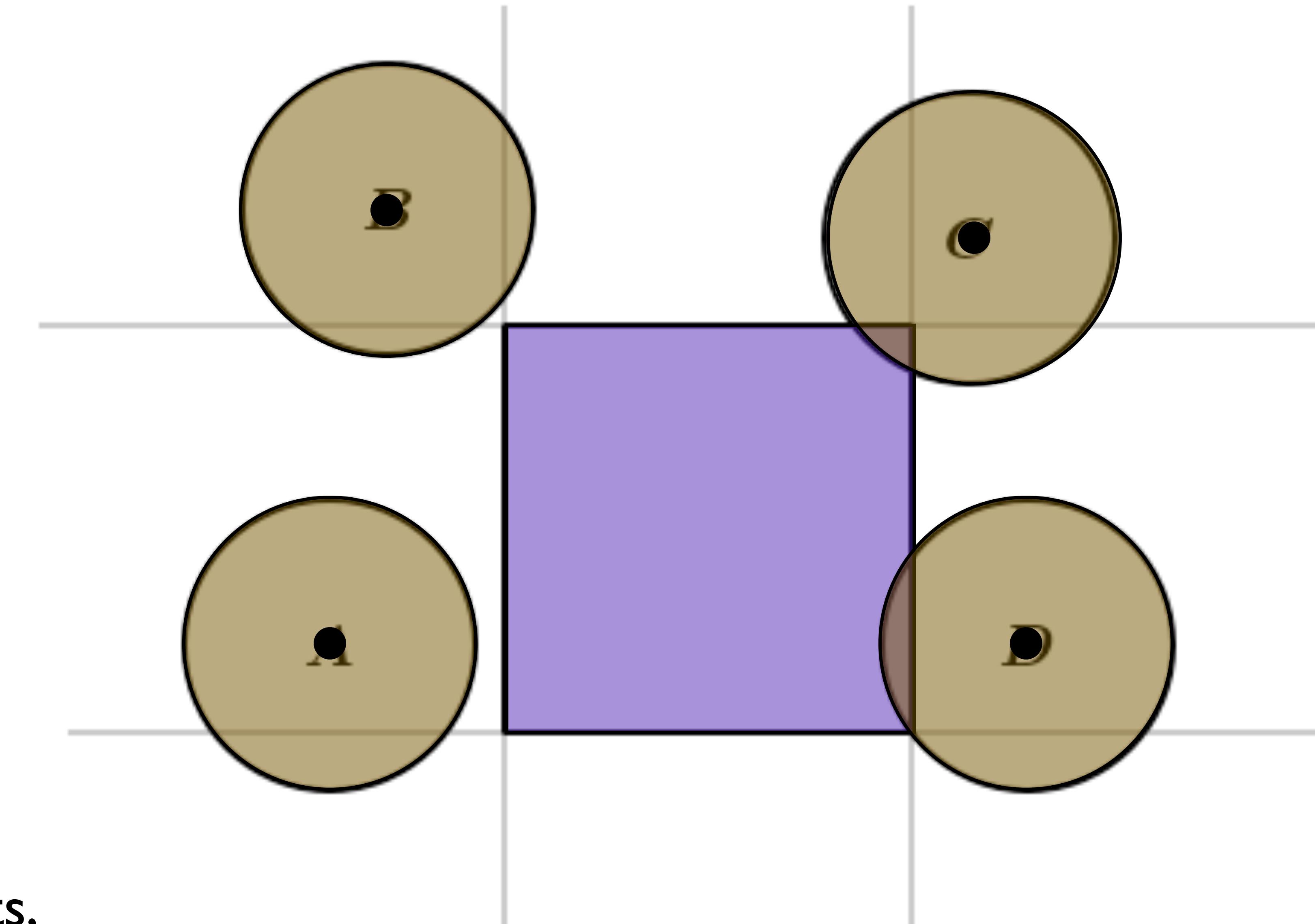
## Sphere-bbox test

If sphere separable from  
AABB in any dimension,  
return no collision

$\text{loc\_y} - \text{radius} > \text{y\_max}$ ?

$\text{loc\_y} + \text{radius} < \text{y\_min}$ ?

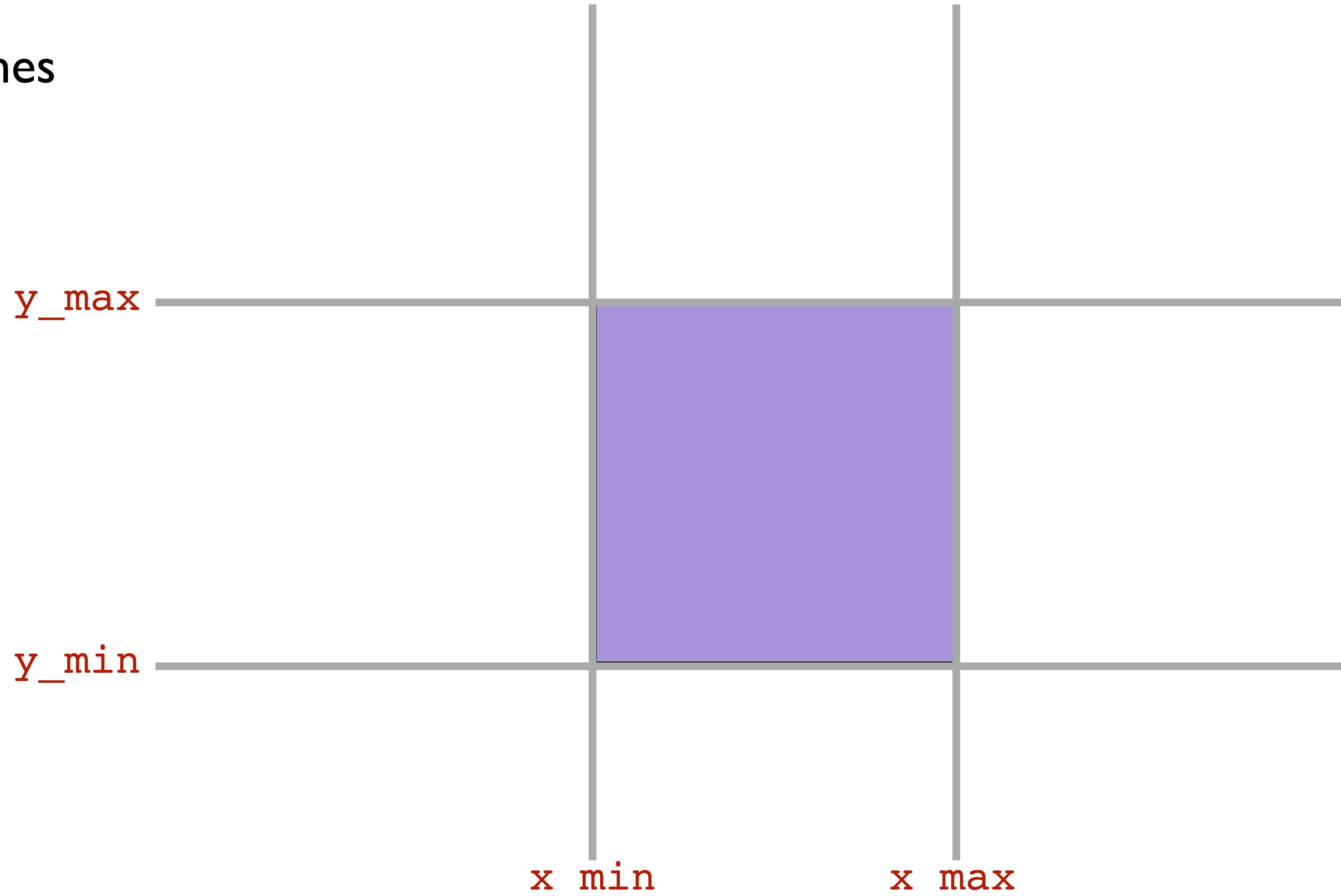
If sphere collides on all tests,  
return collision



$\text{loc\_x} + \text{radius} < \text{x\_min}$ ?

$\text{loc\_x} - \text{radius} > \text{x\_max}$ ?

# Separating planes

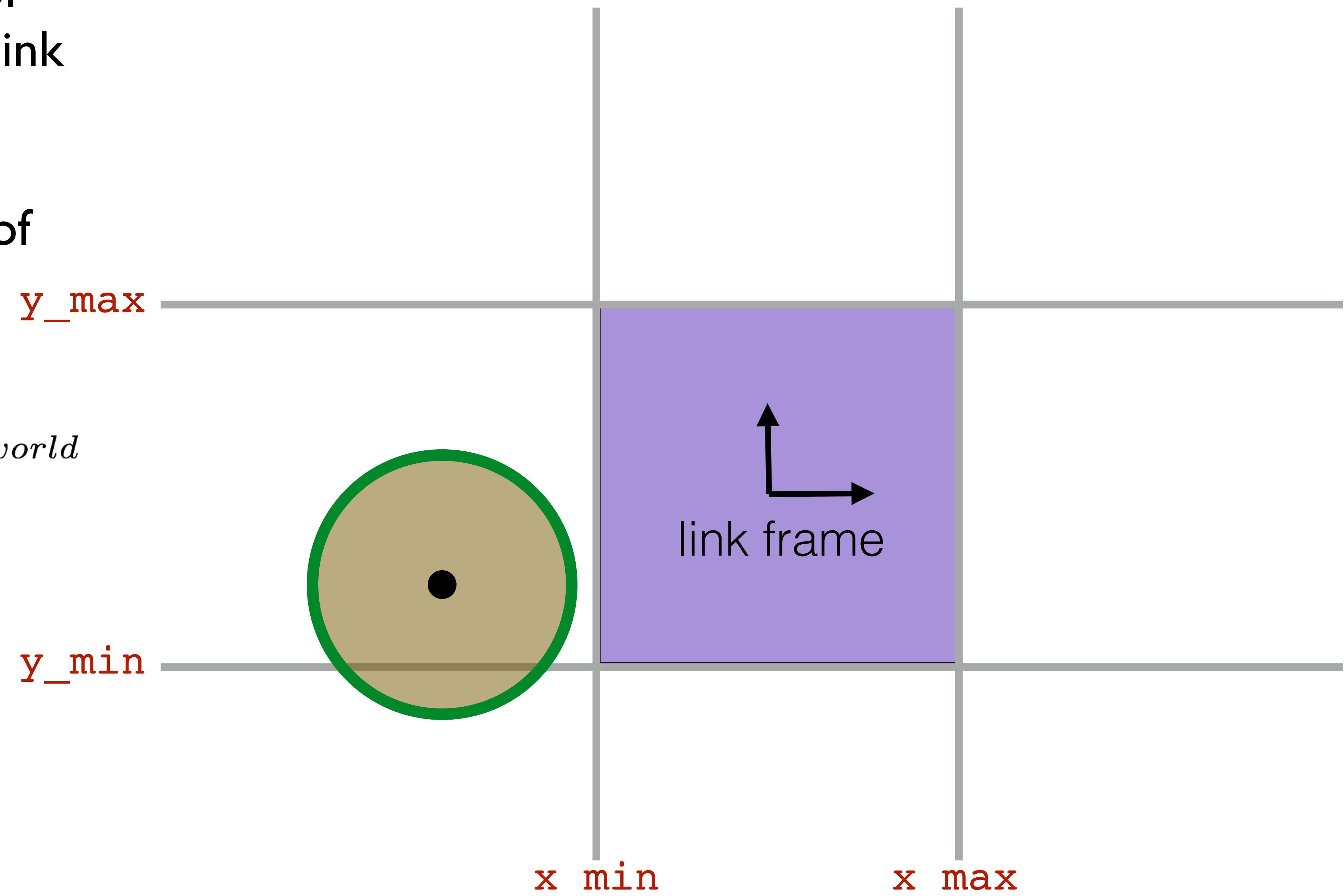


# Transform centers of sphere obstacles into link coordinates

(Remember inverse of homogeneous transform?)

$$p^{link} = (T_{link}^{world})^{-1} p^{world}$$

world frame

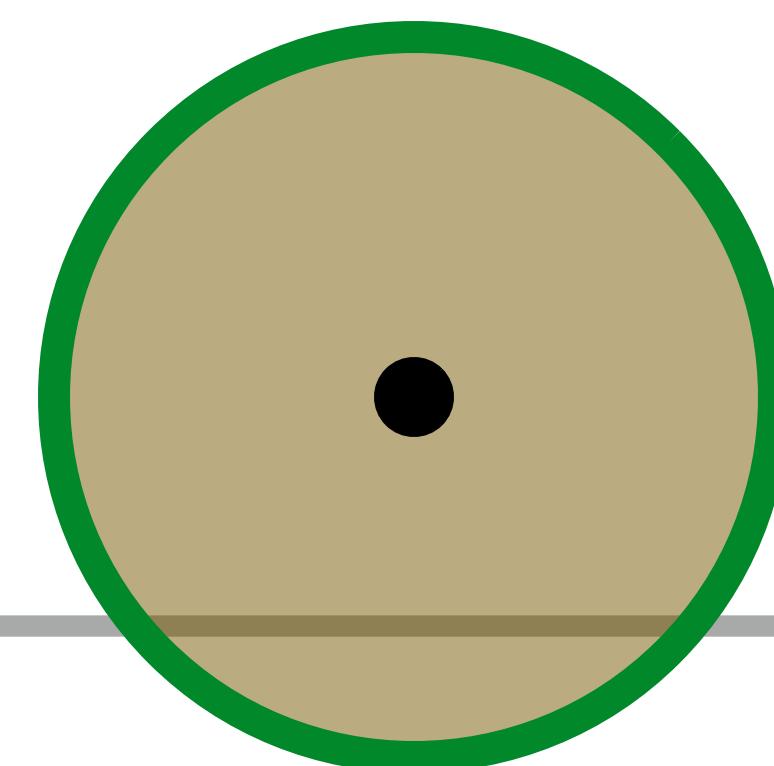


$\text{loc\_y} - \text{radius} > \text{y\_max}$ ?

If sphere separable from  
AABB in any dimension,  
return no collision

$\text{loc\_y} + \text{radius} < \text{y\_min}$ ?

no collision



$\text{loc\_x} + \text{radius} < \text{x\_min}$ ?

$\text{loc\_x} - \text{radius} > \text{x\_max}$ ?

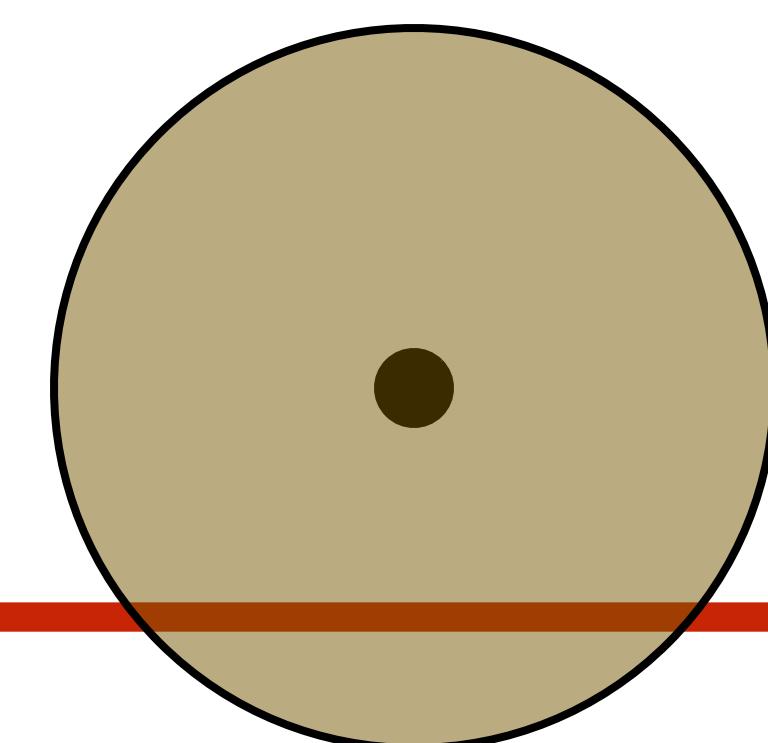
$\text{loc\_y}-\text{radius} > \text{y\_max}$ ?

If sphere collides on all tests,  
return collision

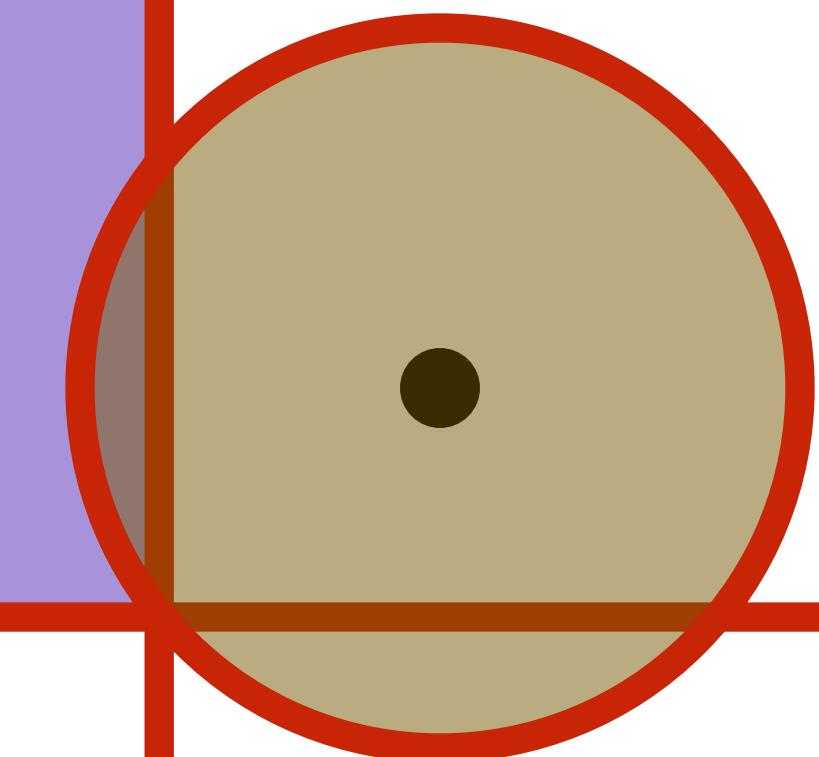
$\text{loc\_y}+\text{radius} < \text{y\_min}$ ?

no collision

$\text{loc\_x}+\text{radius} < \text{x\_min}$ ?



$\text{loc\_x}-\text{radius} > \text{x\_max}$ ?



collision

$\text{loc\_y} - \text{radius} > \text{y\_max}$ ?

If sphere collides on all tests,  
return collision

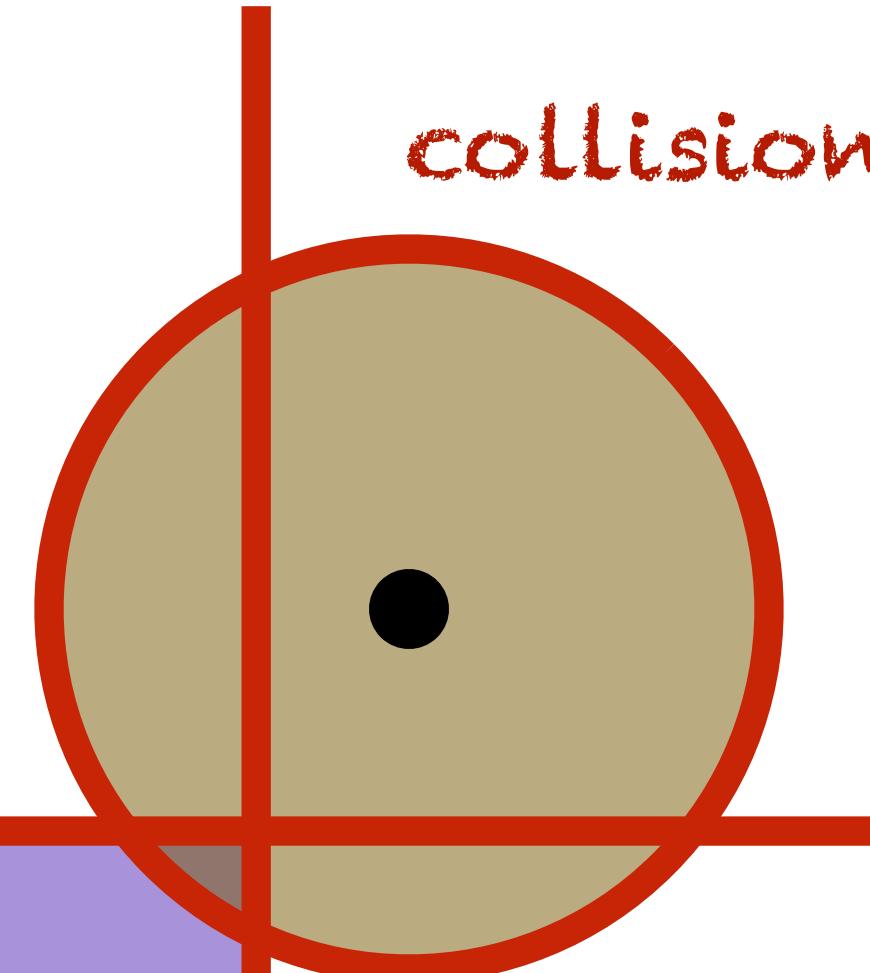
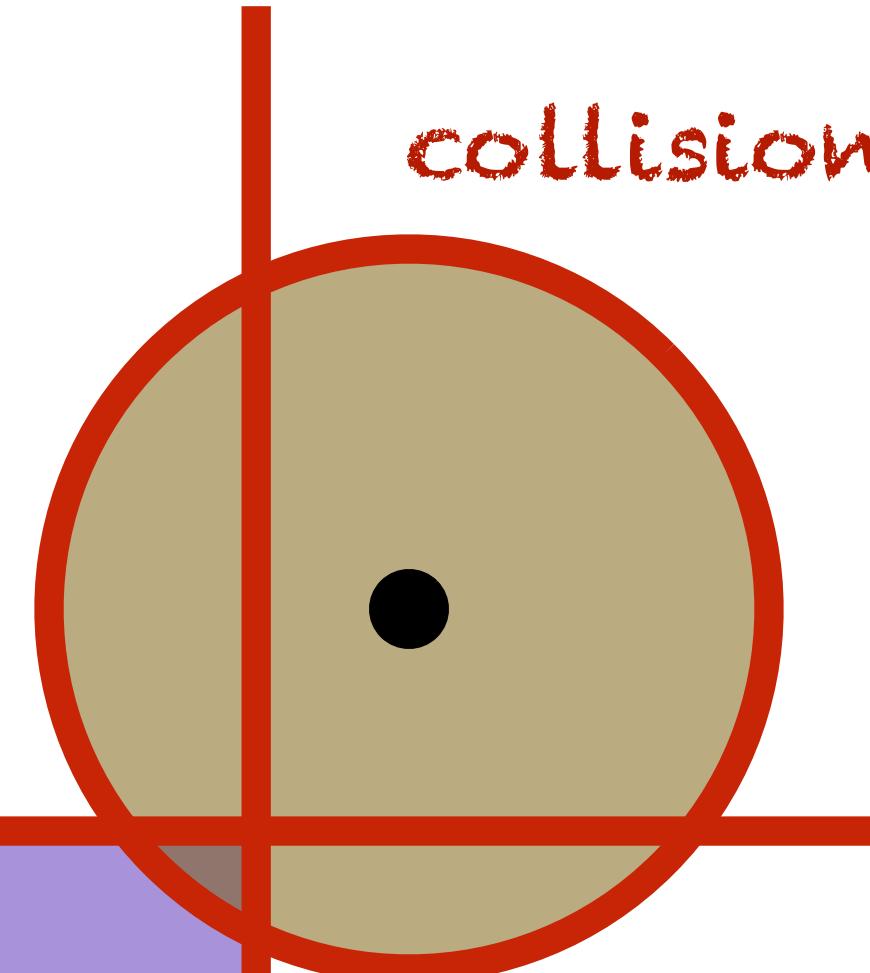
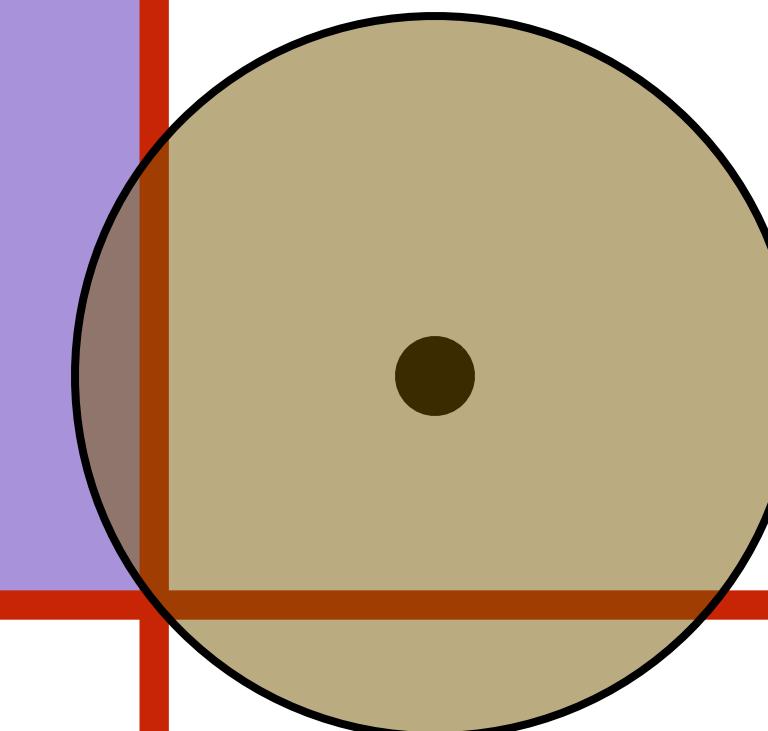
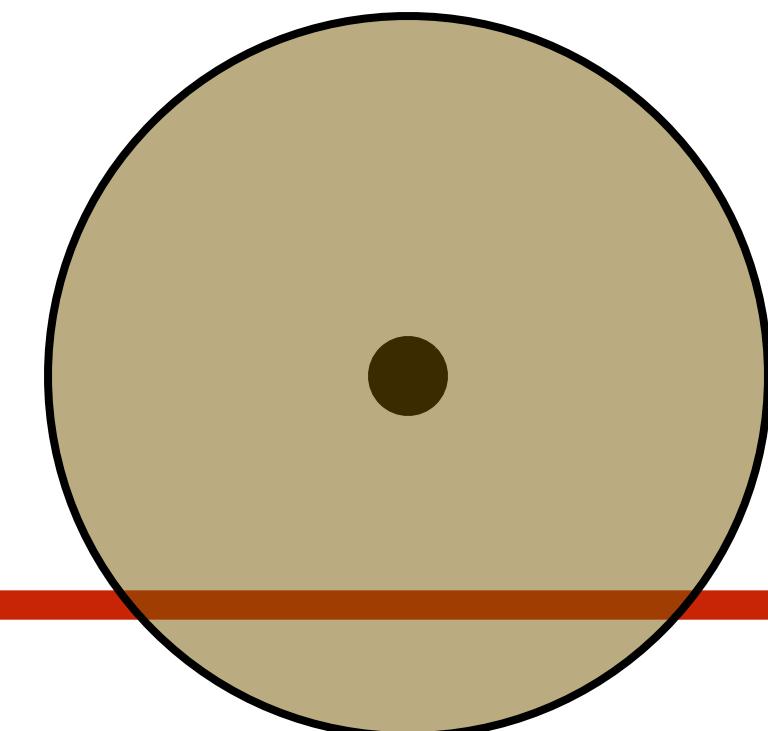
$\text{loc\_y} + \text{radius} < \text{y\_min}$ ?

$\text{loc\_x} + \text{radius} < \text{x\_min}$ ?

$\text{loc\_x} - \text{radius} > \text{x\_max}$ ?

no collision

collision



# Is this obstacle in collision?

loc\_y-radius>y\_max?

# no collision

loc\_y+radius < y\_min?

`loc_x+radius < x_min?`

`loc_x-radius>x_max?`

????????????????

# collision

A large, light brown circle with a thick black outline, centered on a white background. A thin gray vertical line runs through the center of the circle, and a thin gray horizontal line intersects it at right angles.

A large tan circle with a black outline, containing a smaller dark brown circle at its center. The circle is divided into four quadrants by a vertical and horizontal gray line. The bottom-left quadrant is filled with purple, while the other three quadrants are tan. A thin gray border surrounds the entire circle.

A large, light brown circle with a thick black outline and a small dark brown dot in the center. A horizontal gray bar is positioned at the bottom of the circle.

The image consists of a square frame divided into four quadrants by a horizontal and a vertical gray line. The bottom-right quadrant features a large circle with a tan fill, a thick black outline, and a small dark circular center. The top-left quadrant contains a smaller circle with a purple fill, a black outline, and a brown circular center.



True separating axis  
not tested

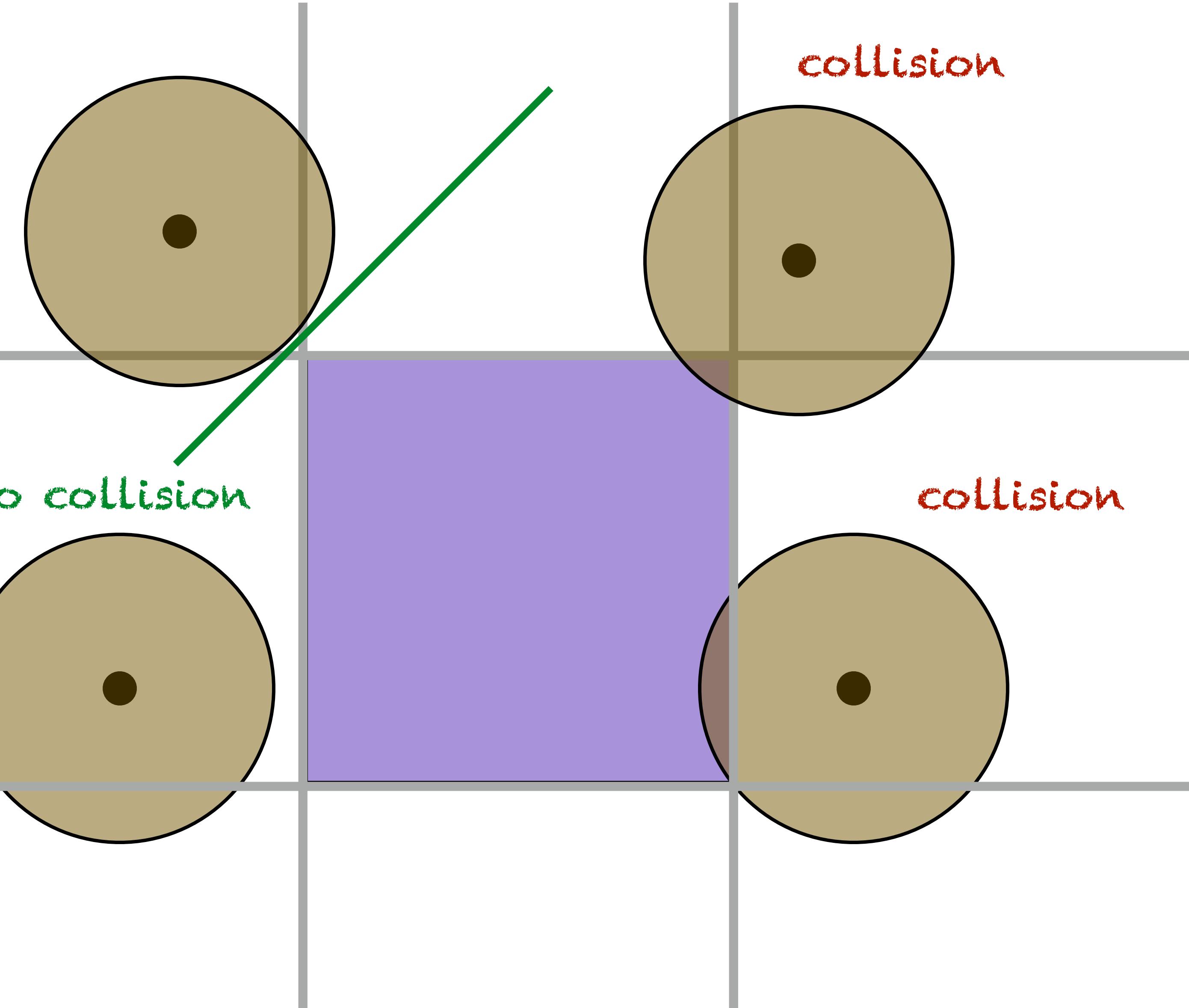
$\text{loc\_y}-\text{radius} > \text{y\_max?}$

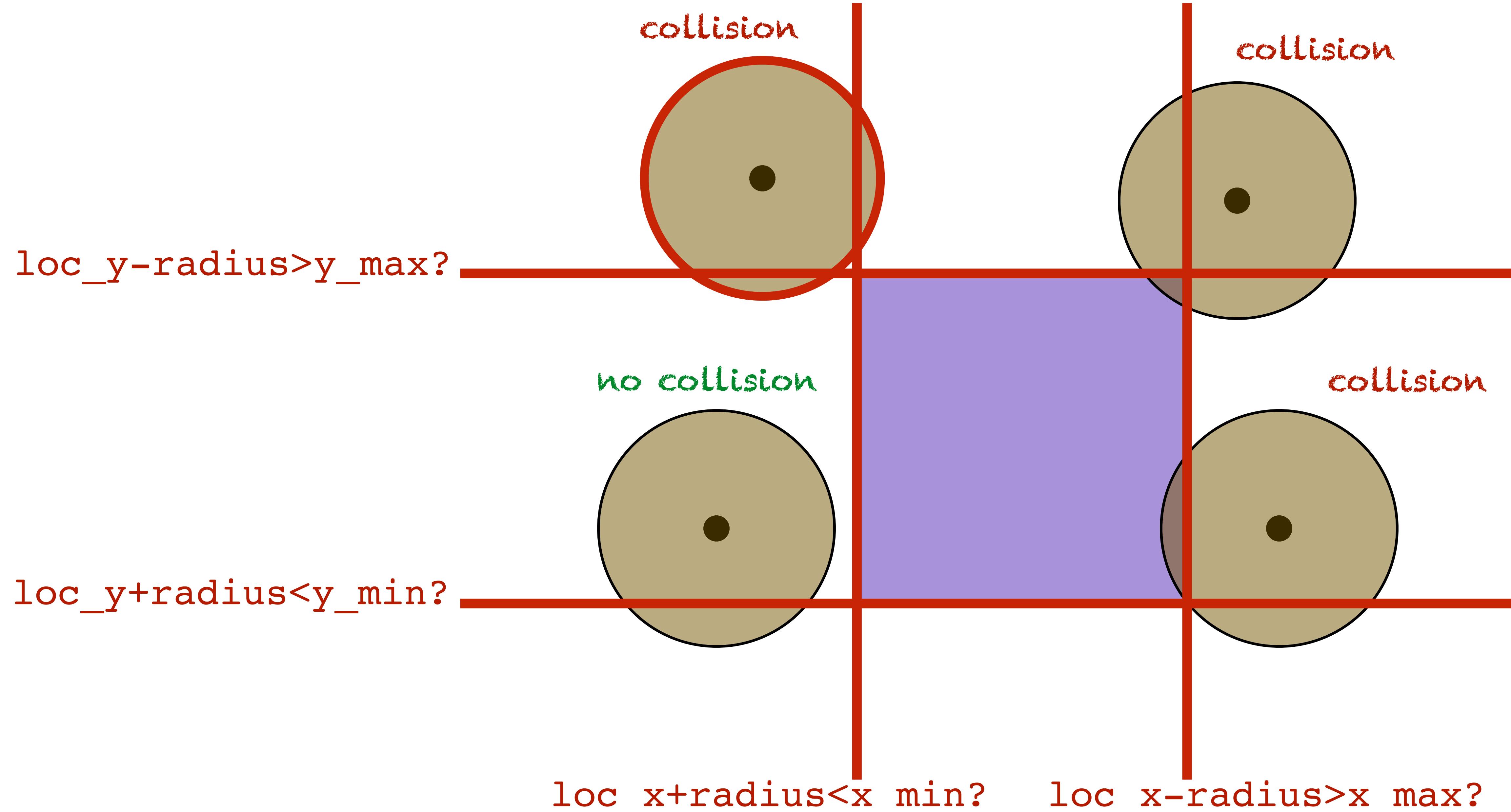
no collision

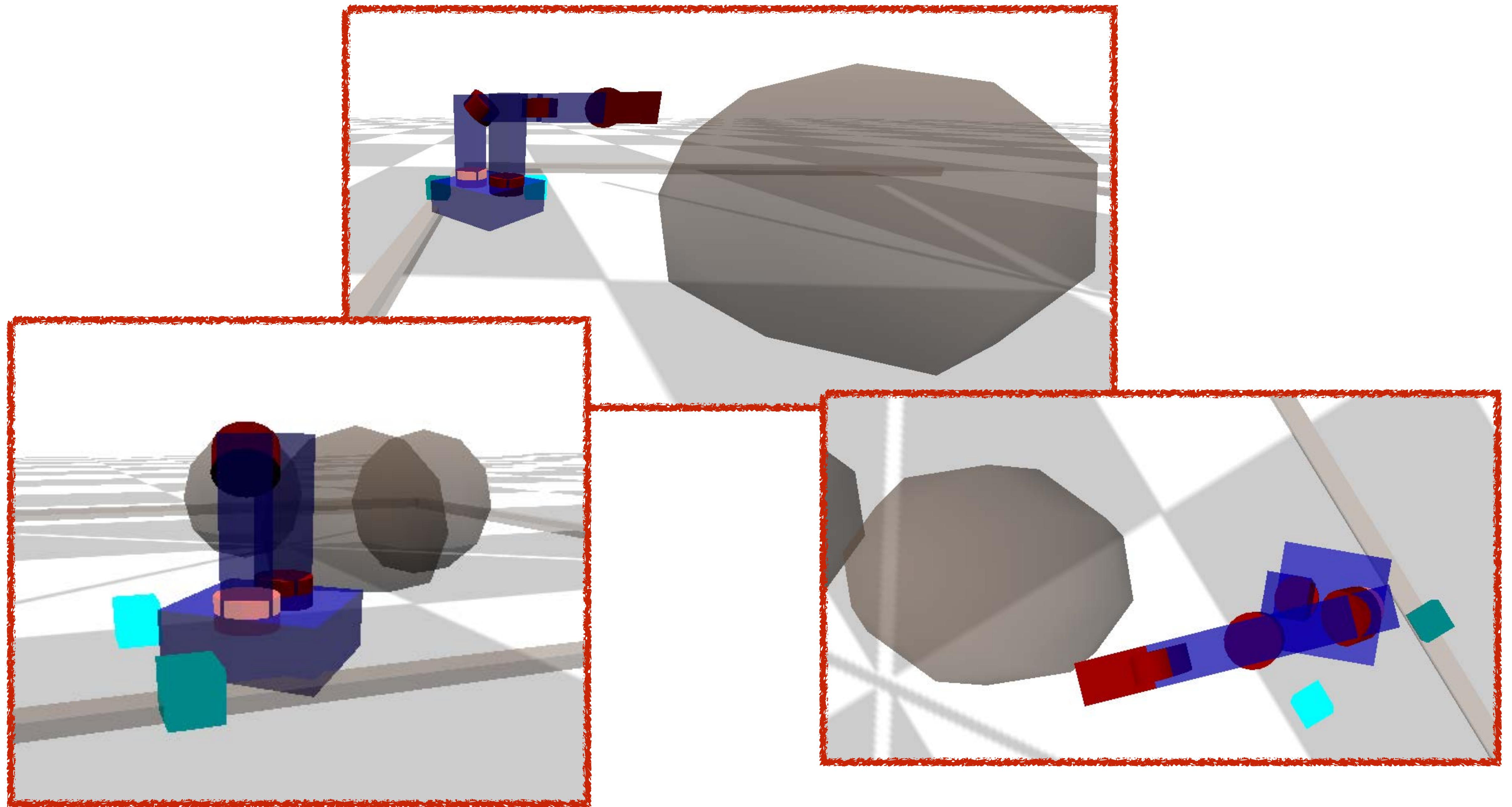
$\text{loc\_y}+\text{radius} < \text{y\_min?}$

$\text{loc\_x}+\text{radius} < \text{x\_min?}$

$\text{loc\_x}-\text{radius} > \text{x\_max?}$



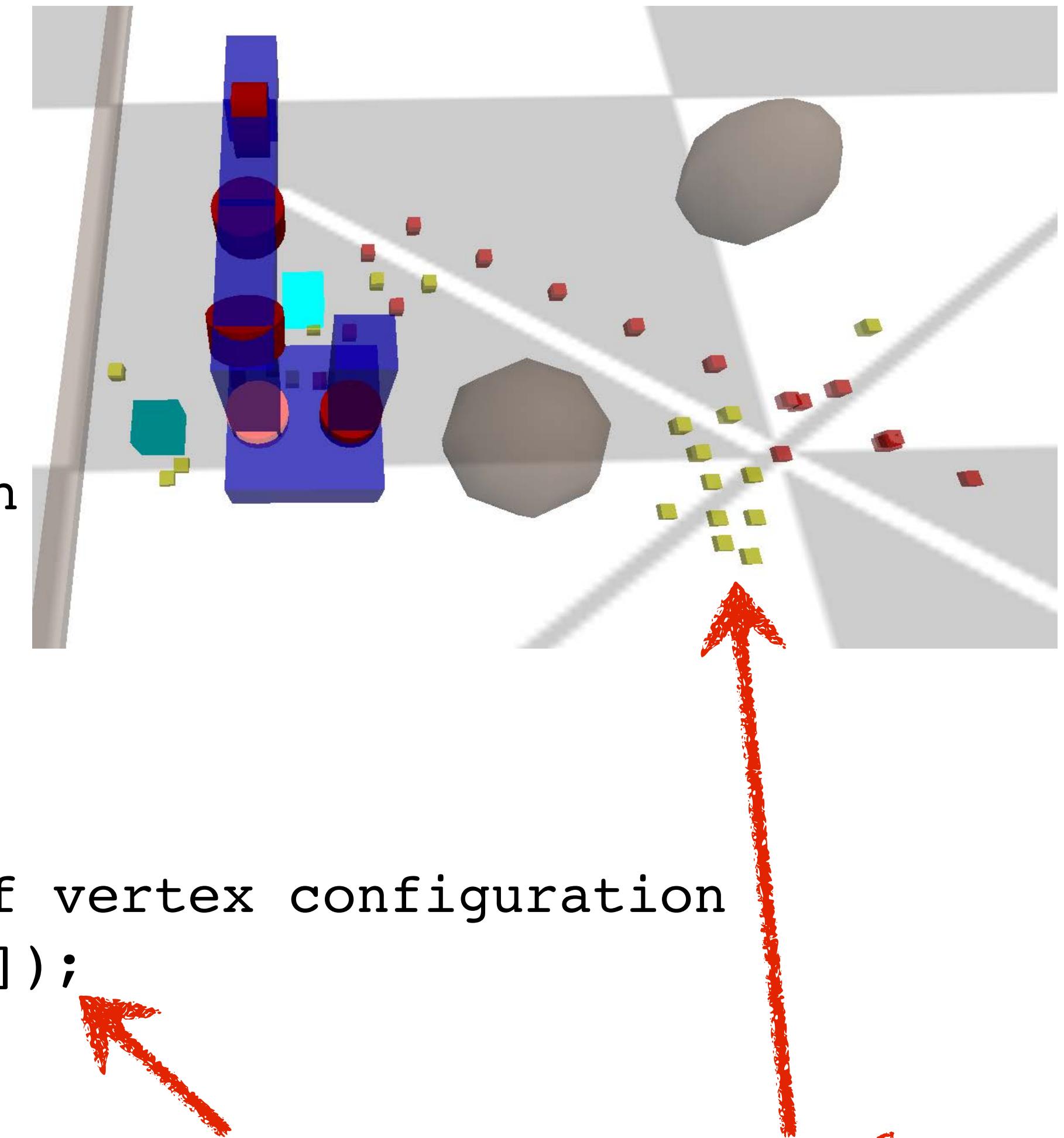




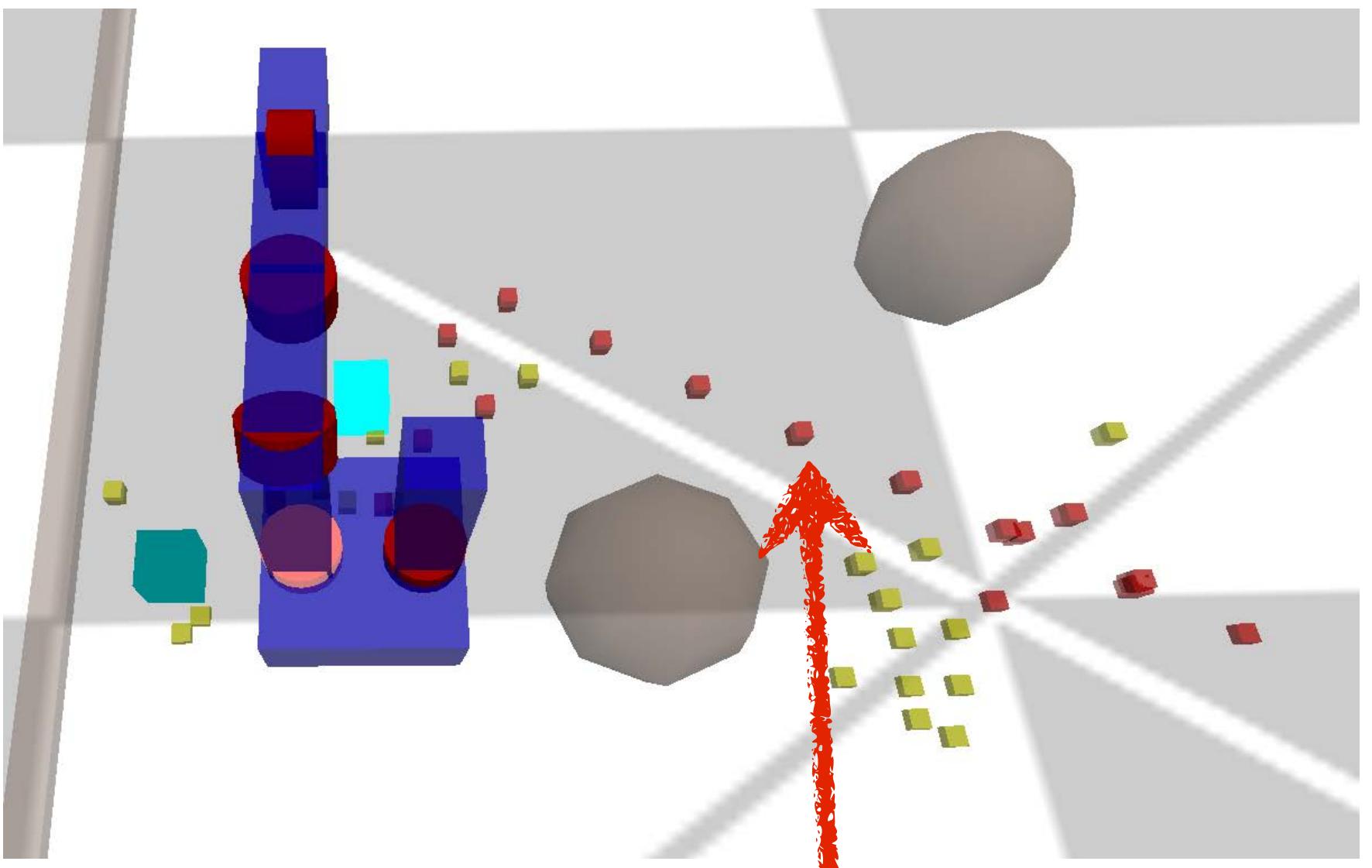
# Last notes about planning visualization

## kineval\_rrt\_connect.js

```
function tree_init(q) {  
  
    // create tree object  
    var tree = {};  
  
    // initialize with vertex for given configuration  
    tree.vertices = [];  
    tree.vertices[0] = {};  
    tree.vertices[0].vertex = q;  
    tree.vertices[0].edges = [];  
  
    // create rendering geometry for base location of vertex configuration  
    add_config_origin_indicator_geom(tree.vertices[0]);  
  
    // maintain index of newest vertex added to tree  
    tree.newest = 0;  
  
    return tree;  
}
```

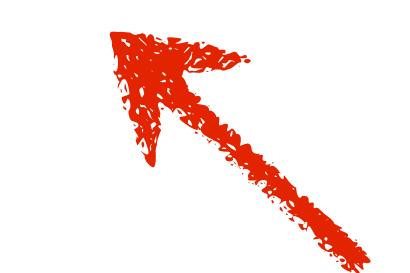


creates "geom" property of tree vertex with cube at base location for explored tree configuration



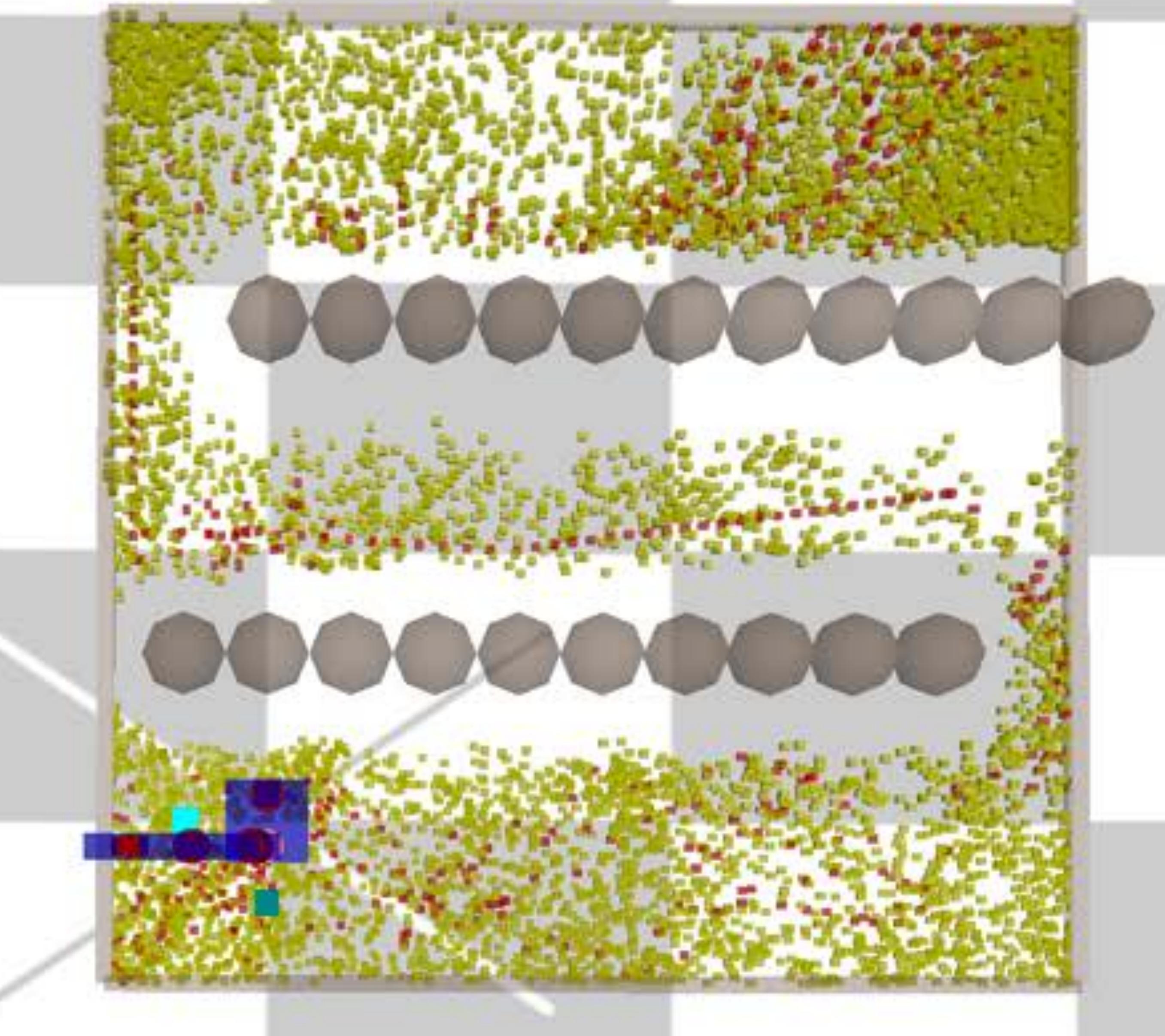
### kineval\_rrt\_connect.js

```
for (i=0;i<robot_path.length;i++) {  
    robot_path[i].geom.material.color = {r:1,g:0,b:0};  
}
```

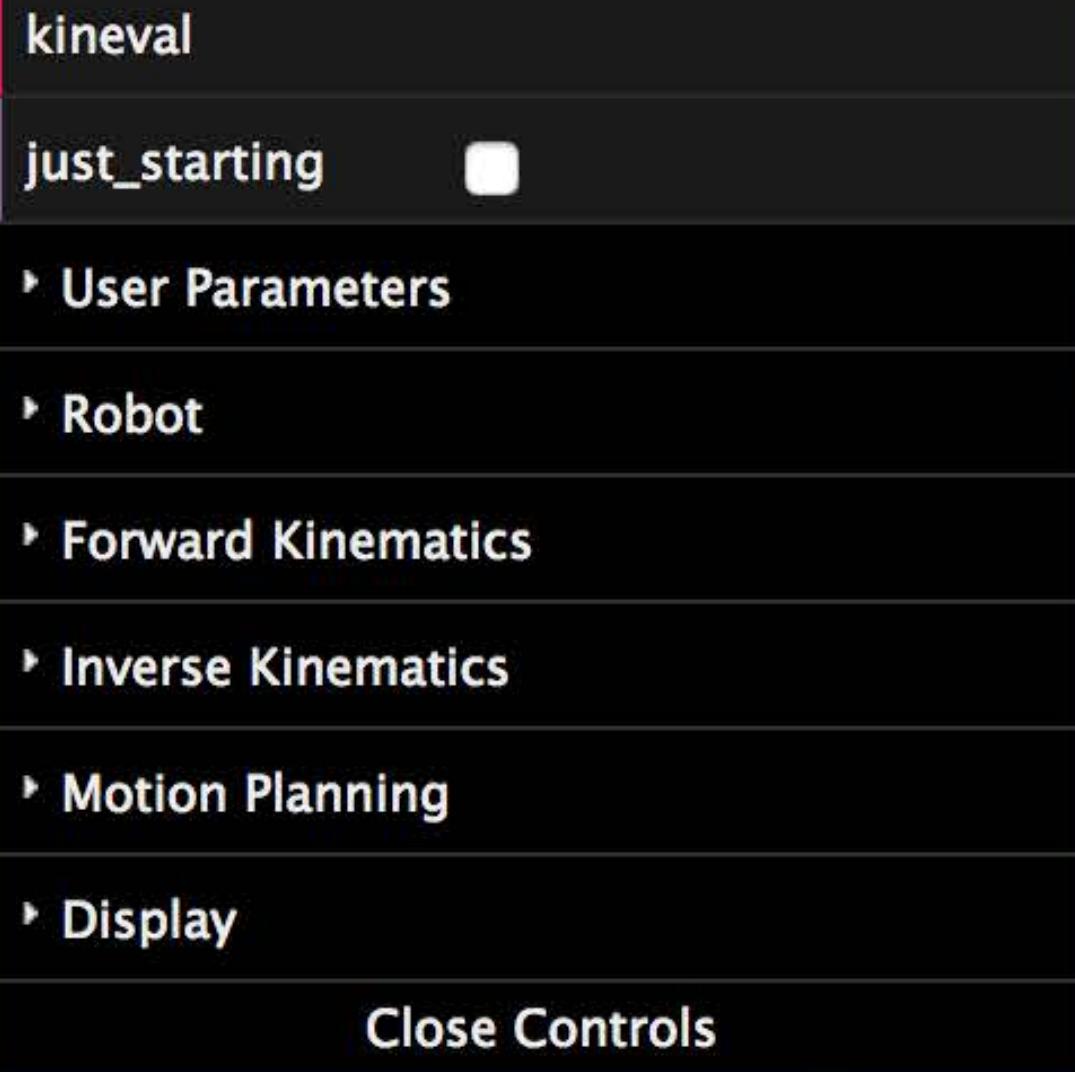
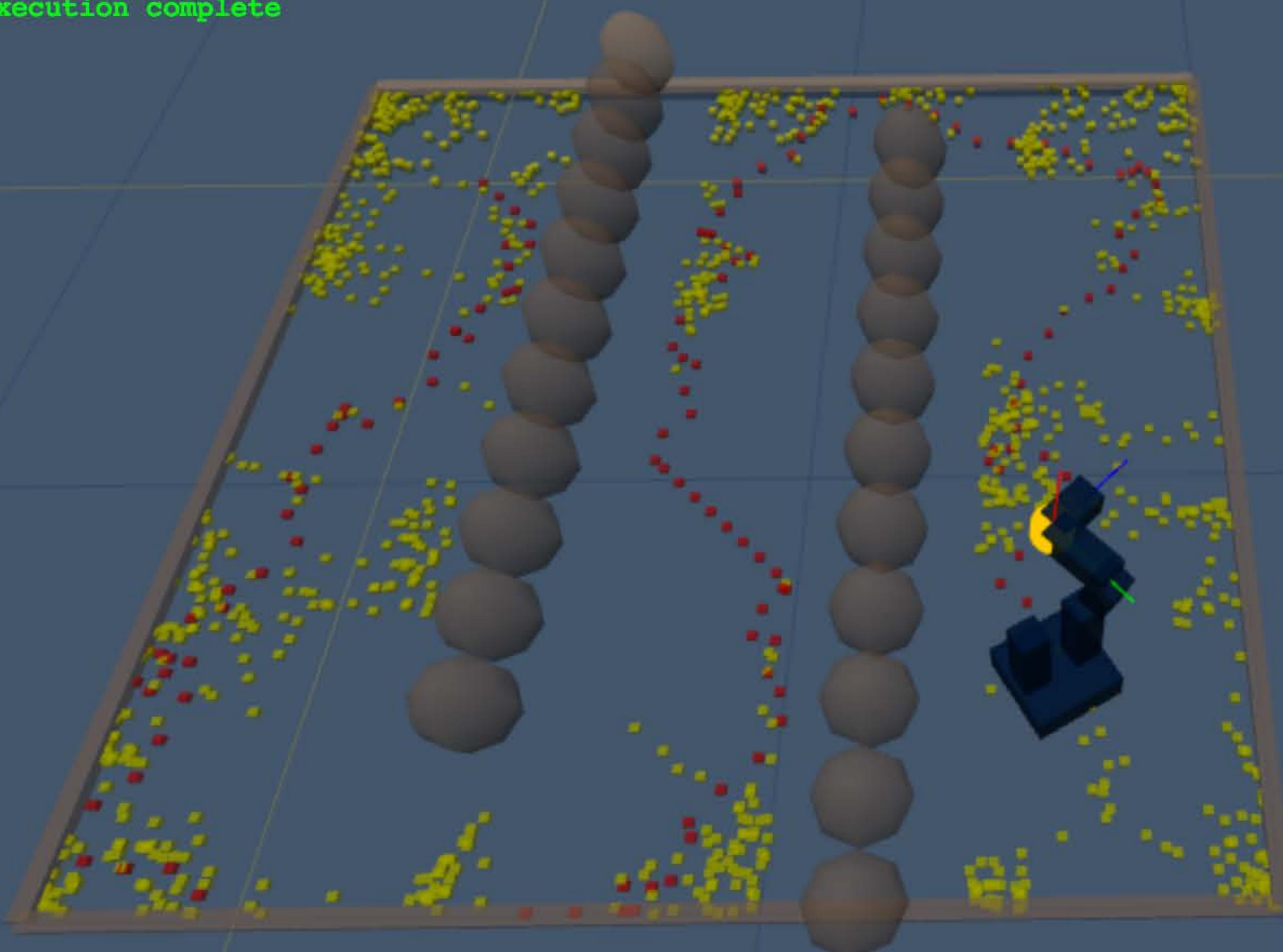


found motion path highlighted  
in red with this code

make sure to test  
against all provided  
worlds!



planner execution complete



make sure to test  
against all provided  
worlds!

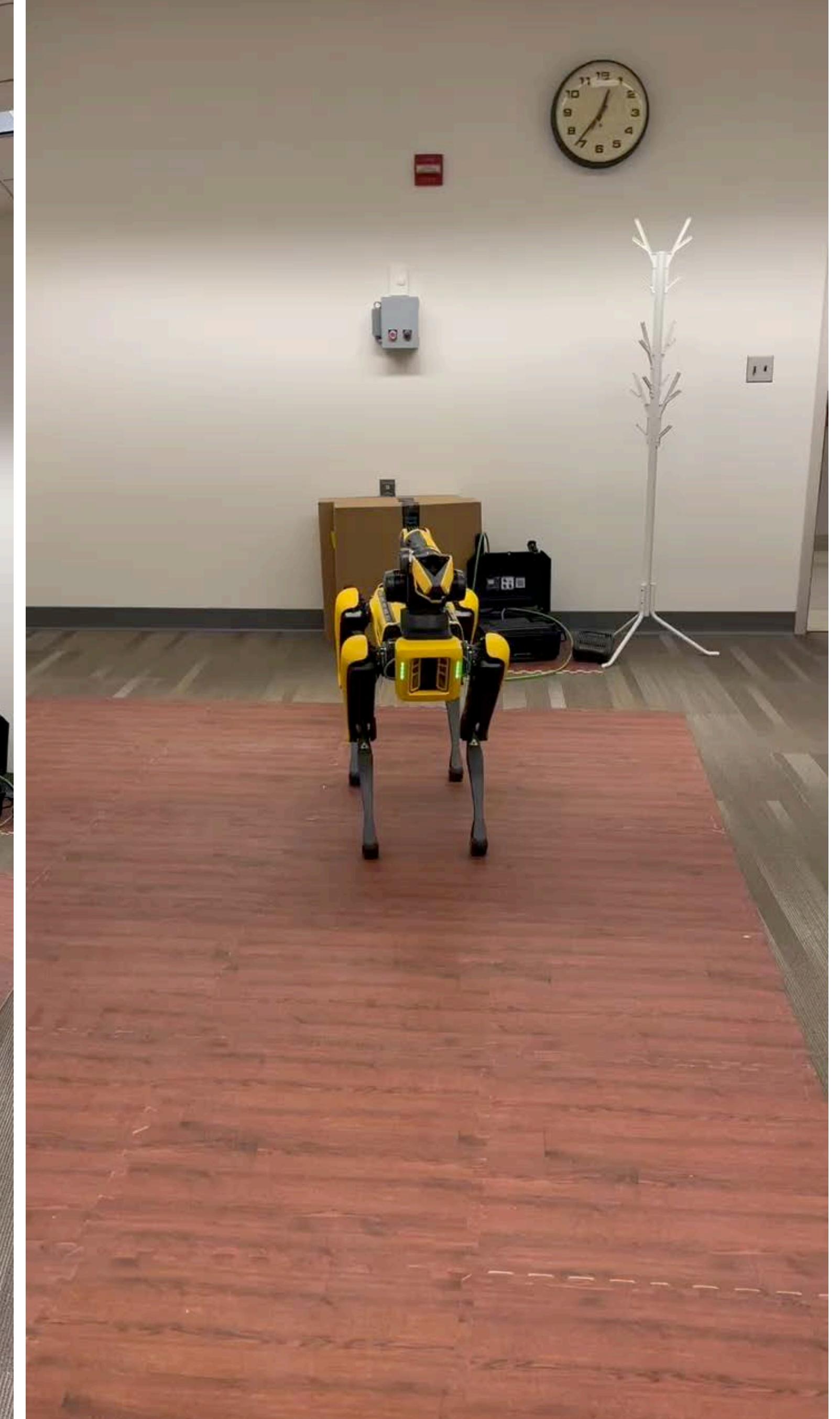
Thanks to all the robot dance  
videos



Brown University - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VNlIgN58hbg>



# Hachi Dances Too!



# Next Lecture

# Planning - VI - Potential Fields