



University of Colorado  
Boulder

# Introduction to Virtual Reality

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## **Linear Algebra for 3D Graphics**

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Goal: specify geometry,  
positions, translations,  
rotations, etc. in 3D space

# Terminology & Operations

# Points and Vectors



Point: a position in space

Vector: an oriented line segment

Written as  $\vec{a}$  or in bold (**a**)

Magnitude (norm):  $\|\vec{a}\|$

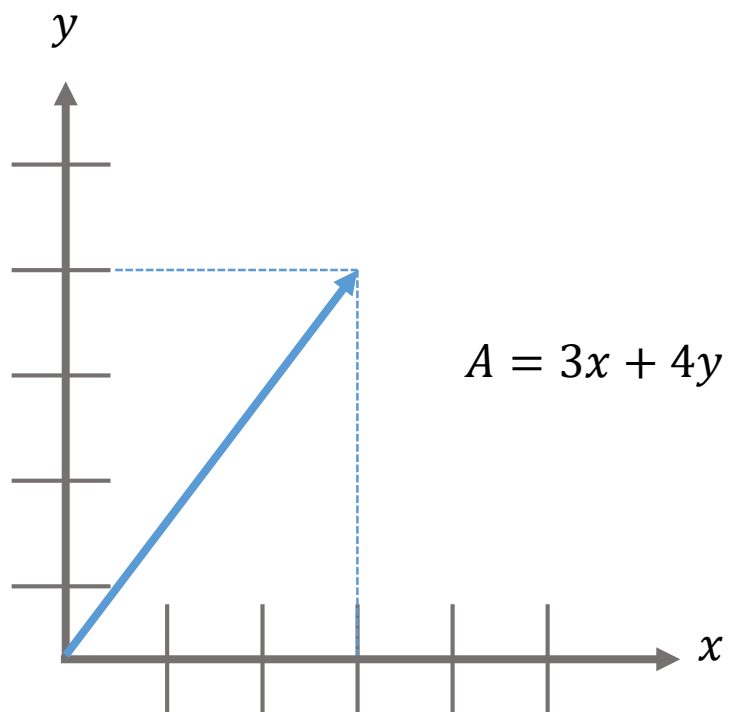
Vectors have **length** and **direction**

Absolute position not important

Stores offsets, displacements, locations

Often used to represent a position (but requires an origin)

# Vectors and Coordinate Systems



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^T = (x \ y)$$

$$\|A\| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

# Vector Operations

## Vector addition

Geometric perspective: parallelogram rule

Cartesian perspective: add coordinate components

## Vector scaling

## Vector multiplication

Dot (scalar) product

Cross product

# Coordinate Systems and Basis Vectors

Define a (2D) coordinate system with

- A reference point  $O$  (origin)

- 2 basis vectors  $\vec{u}, \vec{v}$  (for now assume they are not parallel)

Translating between coordinate systems

How to convert from  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$  in  $O \vec{u}, \vec{v}$  to  $\begin{pmatrix} a' \\ b' \end{pmatrix}$  in  $O' \vec{u}', \vec{v}'$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \vec{t} + M \begin{pmatrix} a' \\ b' \end{pmatrix}$$

# Vectors and Matrices

Vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 47 \\ 5 \\ 68 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix

Index

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \dots & a_{3n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & a_{m3} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

← second row

↑  
third column



# Matrix Operations

Main ones we will use:

**Transpose**

Dot product

Multiplication (matrix product)

Others:

Addition

Subtraction

Etc.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 & 9 & 13 \\ 2 & 6 & 10 & 14 \\ 3 & 7 & 11 & 15 \\ 4 & 8 & 12 & 16 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Matrix Operations

Main ones we will use:

Transpose

**Dot product**

Multiplication (matrix product)

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = [ax + by]$$

Others:

Addition

Subtraction

Etc.

# Matrix Operations

Main ones we will use:

Transpose

Dot product

**Multiplication (matrix product)**

Others:

Addition

Subtraction

Etc.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = [ax + by]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ax + by \\ cx + dy \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} w & x \\ y & z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} aw + bx & ax + bz \\ cw + dx & cx + dz \end{bmatrix}$$

# Operations

Main ones we will use:

Transpose

Dot product

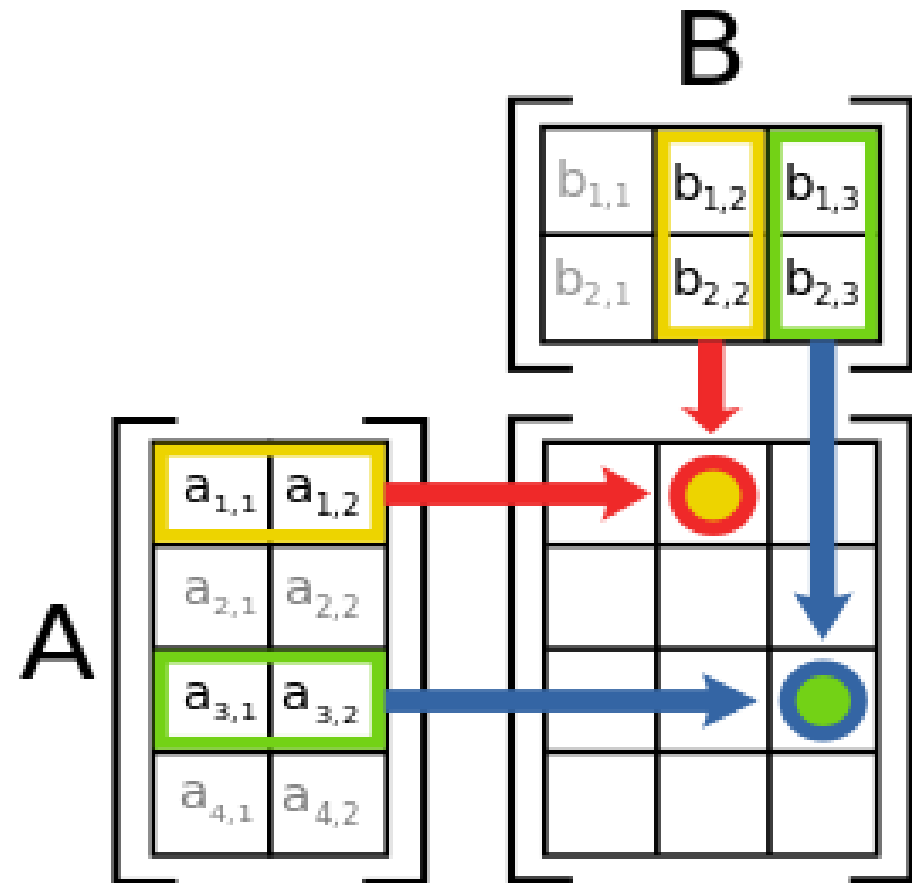
**Multiplication (matrix product)**

Others:

Addition

Subtraction

Etc.



# Why is this important for us?

Must specify objects in 3 dimensions!

GPU designed for matrix operations

Matrices provide a simple way of understanding  
**transformations**

# Transformations

# Motivation

Many different coordinate systems

World (scene), model, camera, etc.

Must transform between coordinate systems to ensure everything appears as intended

Objects are at the correct location in the world

Can view objects from different angles

May want to move objects around (animation)

May want to scale objects (perspective)

# General Idea

Object in model coordinates

Transform into world coordinates

Represent points (vertices) in an object as vectors

Multiply by matrices to achieve desired results

Examples:

<http://jsbin.com/satunaromo/edit?html,js,output>

<http://jsbin.com/zanurugena/edit?html,js,output>

<http://jsbin.com/wovupusife/edit?js,output>

See the JavaScript Matrix Transformation Examples on Moodle



# Outline

2D transformations: rotation, scale, shear

Composing transforms

3D rotations

Homogeneous Coordinates

General transformation Matrix

Other options for 3D rotations

- Euler angles

- Axis-angle

- Quaternions

# Scale

$$Scale(s_x, s_y) = \begin{pmatrix} s_x & 0 \\ 0 & s_y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ax + by \\ cx + dy \end{bmatrix}$$

Example: 2D reflection about y-axis:

$$Scale(-1, 1) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

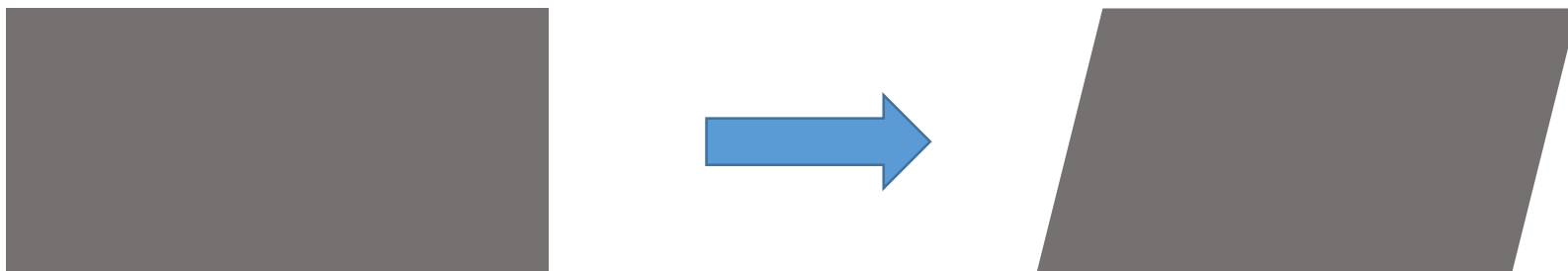
What would this be in 3 dimensions?

# Shear

$$\textit{Shear} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ax + by \\ cx + dy \end{bmatrix}$$

What if you wanted to shear vertically?



# 2D Rotations

$$\textit{Rotate}(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ax + by \\ cx + dy \end{bmatrix}$$

# Translations

Example: move x by +5, leave y and z unchanged

Need matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = M \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x + 5 \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ax + by \\ cx + dy \end{bmatrix}$$

# Translations

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$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ax + by \\ cx + dy \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \\ w' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ w \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x + 5 \\ y \\ z \\ w \end{bmatrix}$$

# Homogenous Coordinates

| Homogeneous    |               | Cartesian   |
|----------------|---------------|---|
| $(1, 2, 3)$    | $\Rightarrow$ | $\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$   |
| $(2, 4, 6)$    | $\Rightarrow$ | $\left(\frac{2}{6}, \frac{4}{6}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$     |
| $(4, 8, 12)$   | $\Rightarrow$ | $\left(\frac{4}{12}, \frac{8}{12}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$   |
| $\vdots$       |               | $\vdots$  |
| $(1a, 2a, 3a)$ | $\Rightarrow$ | $\left(\frac{1a}{3a}, \frac{2a}{3a}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$ |

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (x, y, w) & \leftrightarrow & \left(\frac{x}{w}, \frac{y}{w}\right) \\ \text{Homogeneous} & & \text{Cartesian} \end{array}$$

# Homogeneous Transformation Matrix

Homogeneous: combine rotation and translation into a single matrix!

For 2D: Always 3 x 3!

For 3D: Always 4 x 4!

This does the rotation →

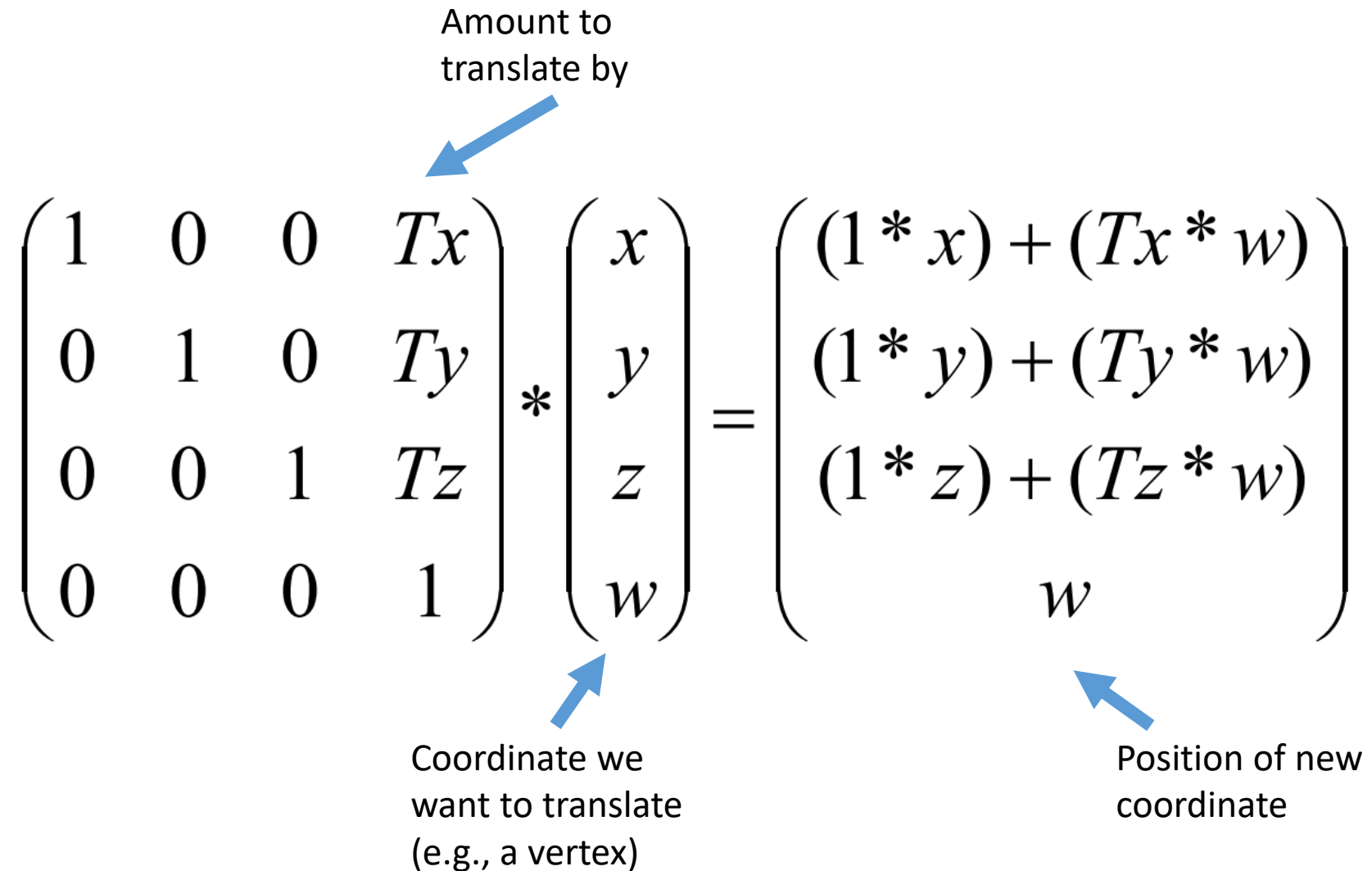
This does the displacement →

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



# Example 1: Just Translation

Amount to translate by


$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & Tx \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & Ty \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & Tz \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ w \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (1 * x) + (Tx * w) \\ (1 * y) + (Ty * w) \\ (1 * z) + (Tz * w) \\ w \end{pmatrix}$$

Coordinate we want to translate (e.g., a vertex)

Position of new coordinate

# Example 1: Just Translation

Amount to  
translate by



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 * 10 + 0 * 10 + 0 * 10 + 10 * 1 \\ 0 * 10 + 1 * 10 + 0 * 10 + 0 * 1 \\ 0 * 10 + 0 * 10 + 1 * 10 + 0 * 1 \\ 0 * 10 + 0 * 10 + 0 * 10 + 1 * 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 + 0 + 0 + 10 \\ 0 + 10 + 0 + 0 \\ 0 + 0 + 10 + 0 \\ 0 + 0 + 0 + 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 20 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Coordinate we  
want to translate  
(e.g., a vertex)



Position of new  
coordinate



## Example 2: Scale

$$\begin{pmatrix} sx & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & sy & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & sz & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ w \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x * sx \\ y * sy \\ z * sz \\ w \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example 2: Scale

$$\begin{bmatrix} .8 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & .5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 150 \\ 150 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 120 + 0 + 0 + 0 \\ 0 + 75 + 0 + 0 \\ 0 + 0 + 1 + 0 \\ 0 + 0 + 0 + 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 120 \\ 75 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example 3: Rotation

Rotation is more tricky!

What axis do you want to rotate around?

X-axis

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Y-axis

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

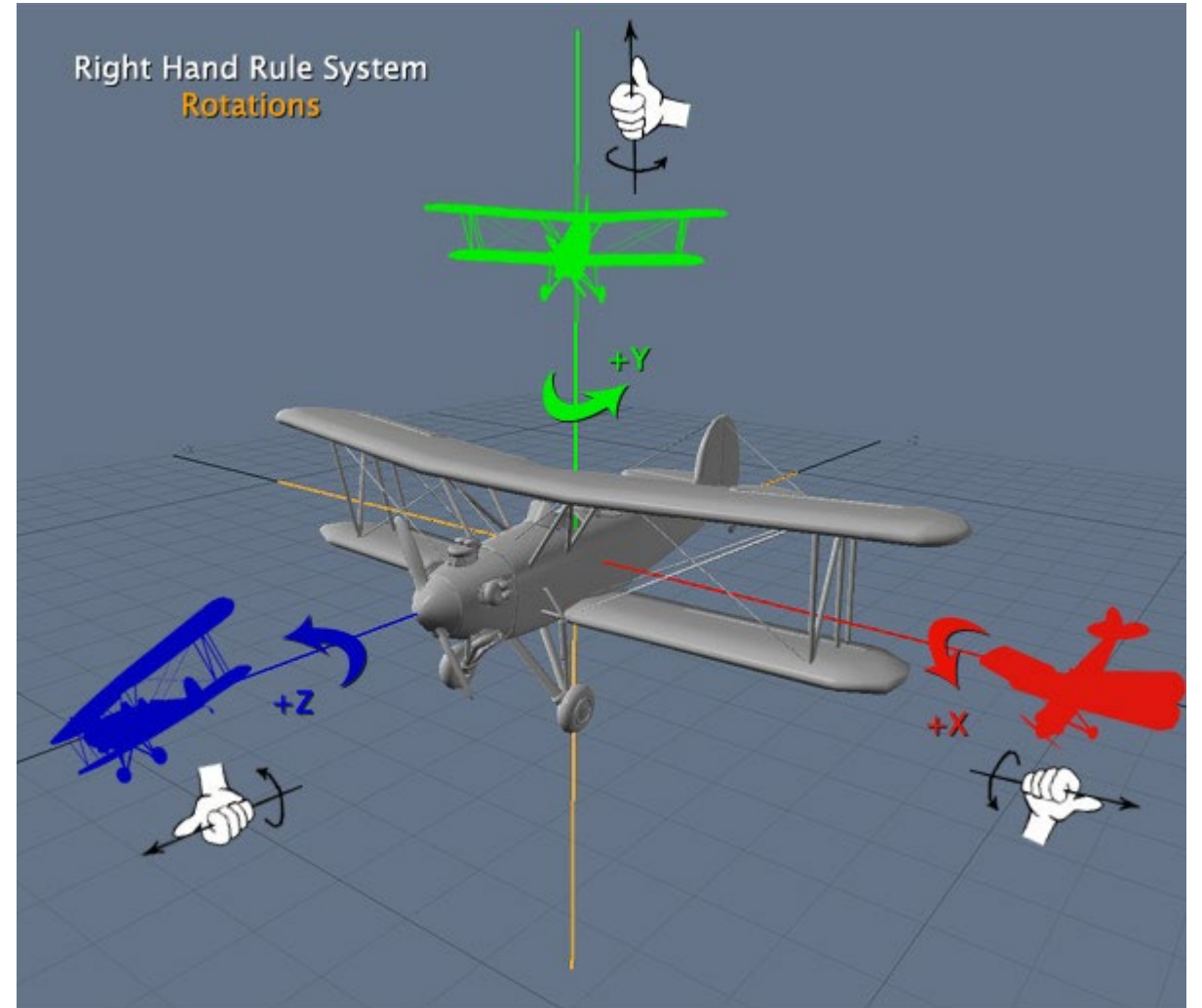
Z-axis

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Which way is positive?

Normally:

Use the right-hand rule



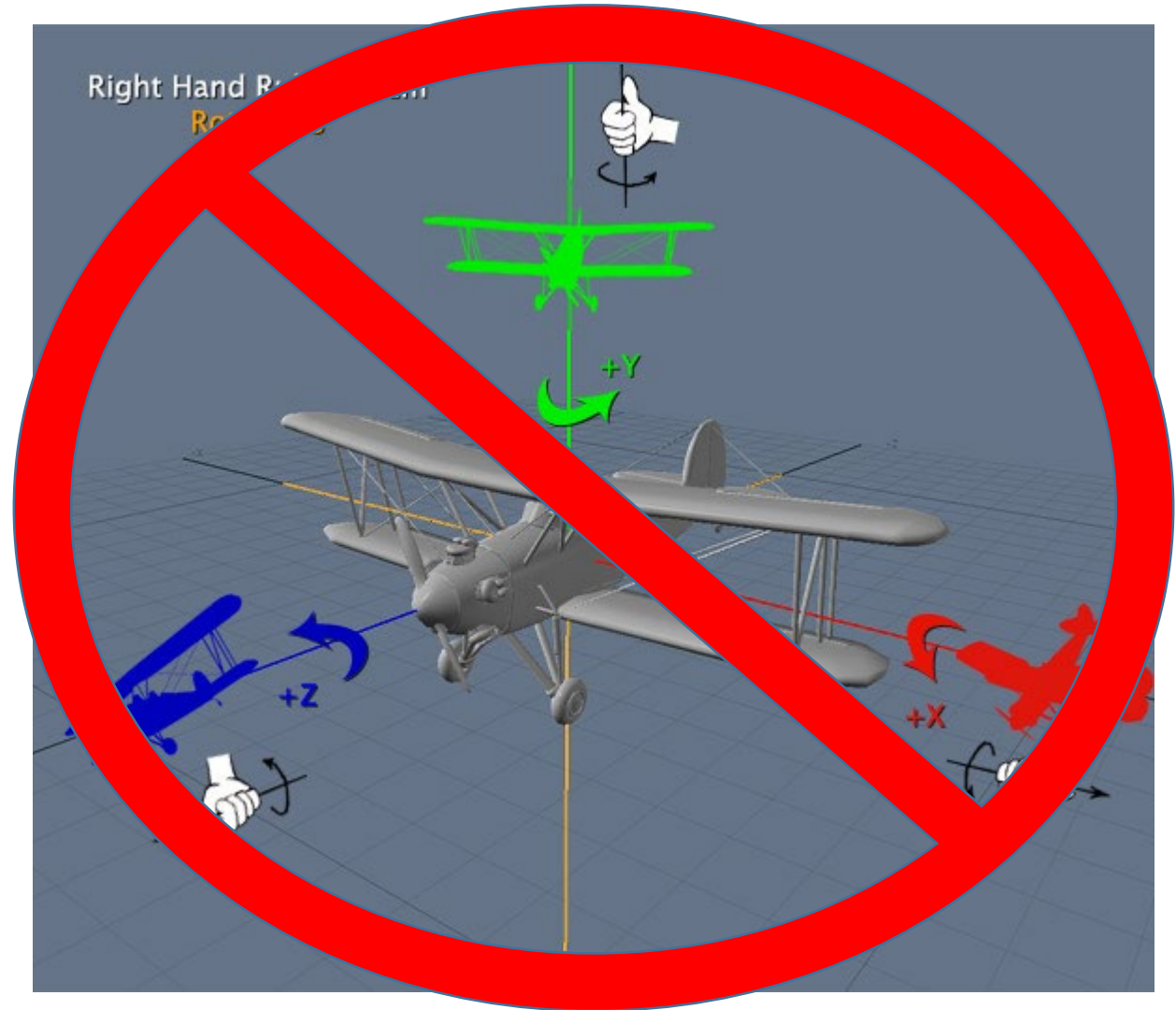
# Which way is positive?

Normally:

Use the right-hand rule

Unity:

Left-hand rule



# Cheat Sheet

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{X-Rotation in 3D} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\phi & -\sin\phi & 0 \\ 0 & \sin\phi & \cos\phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Z-Rotation in 3D} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \cos\phi & -\sin\phi & 0 & 0 \\ \sin\phi & \cos\phi & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Scale in 3D} \\ \begin{bmatrix} S_x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & S_y & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & S_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad (4 \times 4) * (4 \times 1) = (4 \times 1)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Y-Rotation in 3D} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \cos\phi & 0 & \sin\phi & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin\phi & 0 & \cos\phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Translation in 3D} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & T_x \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & T_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & T_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Matrix Multiplication} \\ \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \\ m & n & o & p \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \\ q \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$



# Combining Transformations

# What if we want to rotate and translate?

Simply multiply the matrices  
ORDER MATTERS!

Generally the order you want is:

1. Scale
2. Rotate
3. Translate



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# THANKS!

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