

# VECTOR ALGEBRA AND SWERVE

ThunderChickens – FRC Team 217

[Swerve drivebase example](#)

Several thin, parallel green lines of varying lengths and orientations are positioned on the right side of the slide, creating a dynamic, abstract graphic element.

# WHAT IS A VECTOR?

- ▶ Has a direction and magnitude
  - ▶ Velocity
  - ▶ Position
  - ▶ Force
- ▶ Has a head and a tail
  - ▶ The tail is the starting point of the vector
  - ▶ The head is the pointed end of the vector arrow
- ▶ Can be broken into components
- ▶ Can be added and subtracted
- ▶ Has three different methods of “multiplication”
  - ▶ By a scalar
  - ▶ By another vector:
    - ▶ Dot product (gives us a scalar)
    - ▶ Cross product (also called the vector product because it gives us a vector)

# WHAT IS A SCALAR?

- ▶ Has a magnitude but no direction
  - ▶ Speed
  - ▶ Volume
  - ▶ Mass
- ▶ Described by real numbers\*
  - ▶ \*Some branches of mathematics also use complex (imaginary) numbers

# BREAKING DOWN 2-D VECTORS

- ▶ Given a 2-D vector  $\vec{v}$  with magnitude  $\|\vec{v}\|$  and direction  $\theta$ :

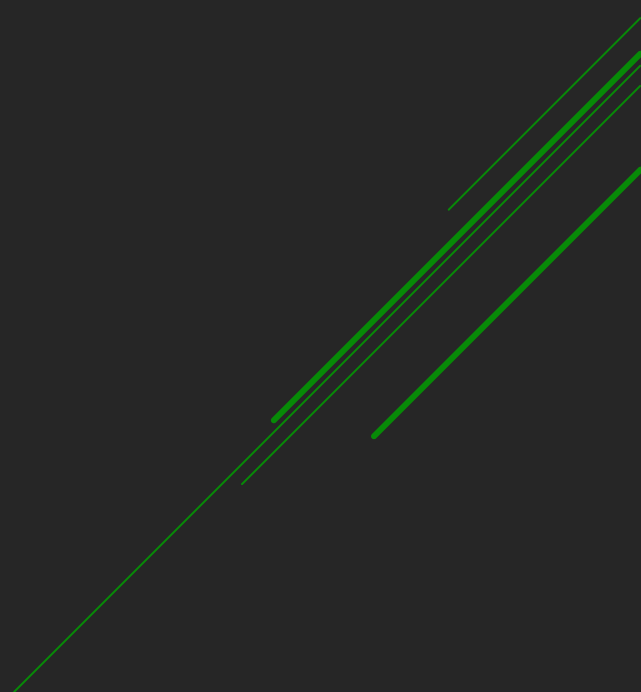
- ▶  $\vec{v} = \langle \|\vec{v}\| \cos(\theta), \|\vec{v}\| \sin(\theta) \rangle$   
 $= \|\vec{v}\| \cos(\theta) \hat{i} + \|\vec{v}\| \sin(\theta) \hat{j}$ 
    - ▶  $\|\vec{v}\| \cos(\theta)$  is the  $\hat{i}$  component,  $\|\vec{v}\| \sin(\theta)$  is the  $\hat{j}$  component
    - ▶  $\hat{i}$  is a unit vector pointing along x
    - ▶  $\hat{j}$  is a unit vector pointing along y
    - ▶ A unit vector has a magnitude of 1

- ▶ You can also go backwards. Given  $\vec{v} = \langle x, y \rangle$ :

- ▶  $\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$
  - ▶  $\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$

# SCALING VECTORS

- ▶ Given  $\vec{v} = \langle x, y \rangle$  and a scalar  $c$ :
  - ▶  $c\vec{v} = \langle cx, cy \rangle$
  - ▶  $\|\vec{v}\|$  is scaled by  $c$
  - ▶  $\theta$  is unchanged

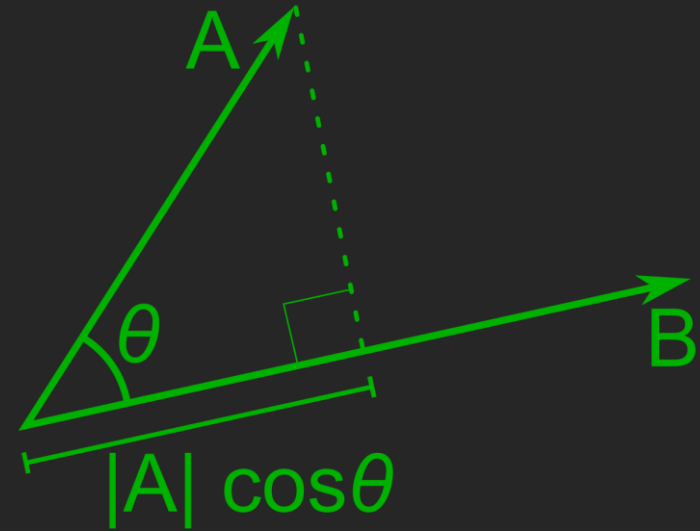


# ADDING AND SUBTRACTING VECTORS

- ▶ Given  $\vec{u} = \langle u_1, u_2 \rangle$  and  $\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ :
  - ▶  $\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \langle u_1 + v_1, u_2 + v_2 \rangle$ 
    - ▶ NOTE: Adding vectors does NOT add the vector magnitudes together; it adds the component magnitudes together
  - ▶  $\vec{u} - \vec{v} = \langle u_1 - v_1, u_2 - v_2 \rangle$
- ▶ Geometrically:
  - ▶ Adding vectors attaches the tail of the second vector to the head of the first
  - ▶ Subtracting vectors:
    - ▶ Flips the second vector's head and tail (scales it by -1)
    - ▶ Attaches the tail of the flipped second vector to the head of the first

# DOT PRODUCT

- ▶ Given  $\vec{u} = \langle u_1, u_2 \rangle$  and  $\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ :
  - ▶  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2$
- ▶ What does this mean?
- ▶ Given  $\|\vec{u}\|$ ,  $\|\vec{v}\|$ , and the angle  $\theta$  between  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$ :
  - ▶  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos(\theta)$
- ▶ Dot product  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$  gives us the magnitude of  $\vec{u}$  in the direction of  $\vec{v}$ , and vice versa

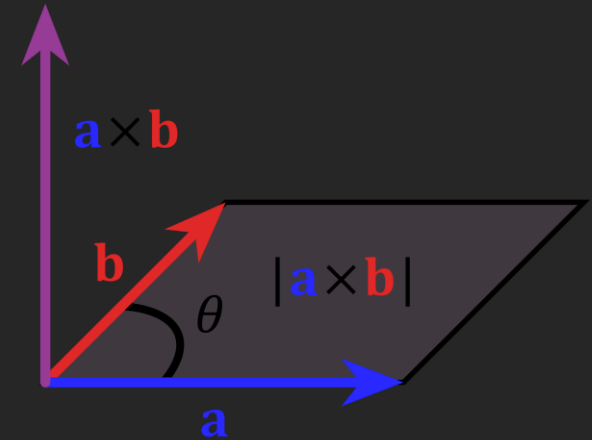


# CROSS PRODUCT

- ▶ Given  $\vec{u} = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle$  and  $\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{u} \times \vec{v} &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \hat{i} & u_1 & v_1 \\ \hat{j} & u_2 & v_2 \\ \hat{k} & u_3 & v_3 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \hat{i}(u_2v_3 - u_3v_2) - \hat{j}(u_1v_3 - u_3v_1) + \hat{k}(u_1v_2 - u_2v_1) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} u_2v_3 - u_3v_2 \\ u_3v_1 - u_1v_3 \\ u_1v_2 - u_2v_1 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ What does this mean?
- ▶ Given  $\|\vec{u}\|$ ,  $\|\vec{v}\|$ , and the angle  $\theta$  between  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$ :
  - ▶  $\|\vec{u} \times \vec{v}\| = \|\vec{u}\|\|\vec{v}\||\sin(\theta)| = \text{Area of a parallelogram}$
- ▶ Cross product  $\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$  gives us a vector perpendicular to both  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  with magnitude equivalent to the area of the parallelogram formed by  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$





# CROSS PRODUCT – PROOF

► Given  $\vec{u} = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle$  and  $\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$ :

$$\text{► } \vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2 \\ u_3 v_1 - u_1 v_3 \\ u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{► } \begin{bmatrix} u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2 \\ u_3 v_1 - u_1 v_3 \\ u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{bmatrix} &= u_1(u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2) + u_2(u_3 v_1 - u_1 v_3) + u_3(u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1) \\ &= u_1 u_2 v_3 - u_1 u_3 v_2 + u_2 u_3 v_1 - u_1 u_2 v_3 + u_1 u_3 v_2 - u_2 u_3 v_1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{► } \begin{bmatrix} u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2 \\ u_3 v_1 - u_1 v_3 \\ u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} &= v_1(u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2) + v_2(u_3 v_1 - u_1 v_3) + v_3(u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1) \\ &= u_2 v_1 v_3 - u_3 v_1 v_2 + u_3 v_1 v_2 - u_1 v_2 v_3 + u_1 v_2 v_3 - u_2 v_1 v_3 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

# PROPERTIES OF VECTORS

- ▶ Commutative property:  $\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{u}$
- ▶ Associative property:  $\vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = (\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{w}$
- ▶ Identity property:  $1\vec{v} = \vec{v}$
- ▶ Zero property:  $0\vec{v} = \vec{0}$ 
  - ▶  $\vec{0} = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$
- ▶ Distributive property:
  - ▶  $c(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) = c\vec{u} + c\vec{v}$
- ▶  $(c + d)\vec{v} = c\vec{v} + d\vec{v}$
- ▶ Two non-zero vectors  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  are parallel if  $\vec{u} = c\vec{v}$  for some scalar  $c$
- ▶ Cancellation property: If  $\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{u} + \vec{w}$ , then  $\vec{v} = \vec{w}$

# PROPERTIES OF THE DOT PRODUCT

- ▶ Commutative property:  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}$
- ▶ Not associative
  - ▶ The dot product returns a scalar, so  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}$  is invalid
- ▶ Scalar multiplication property:  $c(\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}) = c\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{u} \cdot c\vec{v}$
- ▶ Zero property:  $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{0} = 0$
- ▶ Distributive property:  $\vec{u} \cdot (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{w}$
- ▶ Bilinear property:  $\vec{u} \cdot (c\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = c(\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}) + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{w}$
- ▶ Two non-zero vectors  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  are orthogonal if  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$
- ▶ No cancellation
  - ▶  $\langle 6,3 \rangle \cdot \langle 3,2 \rangle = 24 = \langle 6,3 \rangle \cdot \langle 4,0 \rangle$ , but  $\langle 3,2 \rangle \neq \langle 4,0 \rangle$
  - ▶ Using the distributive property,  $\vec{u} \cdot (\vec{v} - \vec{w}) = 0$ , so  $\langle 3,2 \rangle - \langle 4,0 \rangle = \langle -1,2 \rangle$  is orthogonal to  $\langle 6,3 \rangle$

# PROPERTIES OF THE CROSS PRODUCT

- ▶ Anti-commutative property:  $\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = -(\vec{v} \times \vec{u})$
- ▶ Not associative
  - ▶ Satisfies the Jacobi Identity:  $\vec{u} \times (\vec{v} \times \vec{w}) - \vec{v} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{w}) + \vec{w} \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) = 0$
- ▶ Scalar multiplication property:  $c(\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) = c\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \vec{u} \times c\vec{v}$
- ▶ Zero property:  $\vec{v} \times \vec{0} = \vec{0}$
- ▶ Distributive property:  $\vec{u} \times (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = \vec{u} \times \vec{v} + \vec{u} \times \vec{w}$
- ▶ Bilinear property:  $\vec{u} \times (c\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = c(\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) + \vec{u} \times \vec{w}$
- ▶ Two non-zero vectors  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  are parallel if  $\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = 0$
- ▶ No cancellation
  - ▶  $\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \vec{u} \times \vec{w}$  does not imply  $\vec{v} = \vec{w}$
  - ▶ Using the distributive property,  $\vec{u} \times (\vec{v} - \vec{w}) = 0$

# VECTORS IN SWERVE: OVERVIEW

- ▶ The four wheels in swerve can each be represented by vectors
  - ▶ Magnitude is speed
  - ▶ Direction is wheel angle
  - ▶ Swerve wheels operate in 2-D space, so we can break down the vectors into  $\langle x, y \rangle$
- ▶ A matrix is a collection of vectors, so we can represent the wheel vectors in a 4x2 matrix (4 rows, 2 columns  $\Rightarrow$  4 wheels,  $\langle x, y \rangle$ )
  - ▶ In code, a matrix is a 2-D array `wheels[rows][columns]`
  - ▶ We will start at the front left wheel and go around clockwise when numbering our rows

# VECTORS IN SWERVE: SPEED AND STRAFE

- ▶ Speed (forwards and backwards) and strafe (left and right) can be represented as a vector:  $\langle \text{strafe}, \text{speed} \rangle$ 
  - ▶ strafe is left/right = x, speed is fwd/back = y
- ▶ All wheels have the same speed/strafe vector
  - ▶ All wheels point in the same direction and travel the same speed when strafing

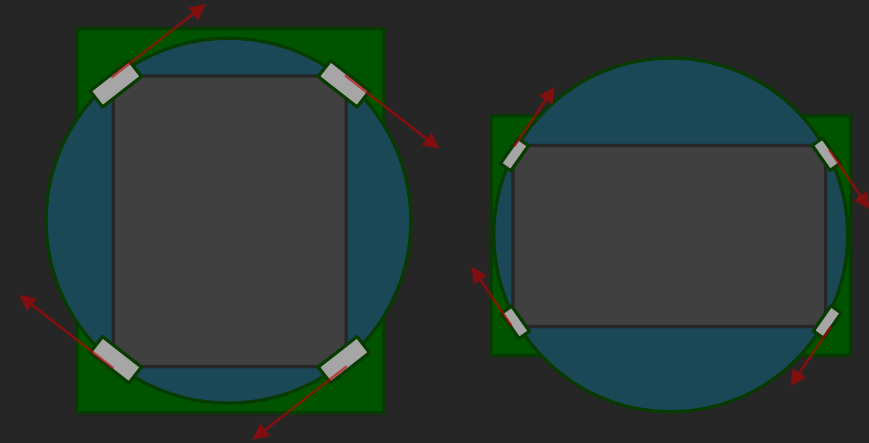
```
double[][] strafeMatrix = new double[4][2]; // 4 vectors, each containing 2 elements (x and y)
for (double[] strafeVector : strafeMatrix) {
    strafeVector[0] = strafe; // strafe is x
    strafeVector[1] = speed; // speed is y
}
return strafeMatrix;
```

# VECTORS IN SWERVE: TURNING

- ▶ When turning in swerve, the wheels lie tangent to a circle
- ▶ Vectors point clockwise when turning right, counter-clockwise when turning left
- ▶ The vector is related to the distance between the front and back wheels, and between the left and right wheels:
  - ▶  $\vec{v} = \langle length, width \rangle$
  - ▶ As the bot gets longer, the wheels point farther from forward
  - ▶ As the bot gets wider, the wheels point closer to forward

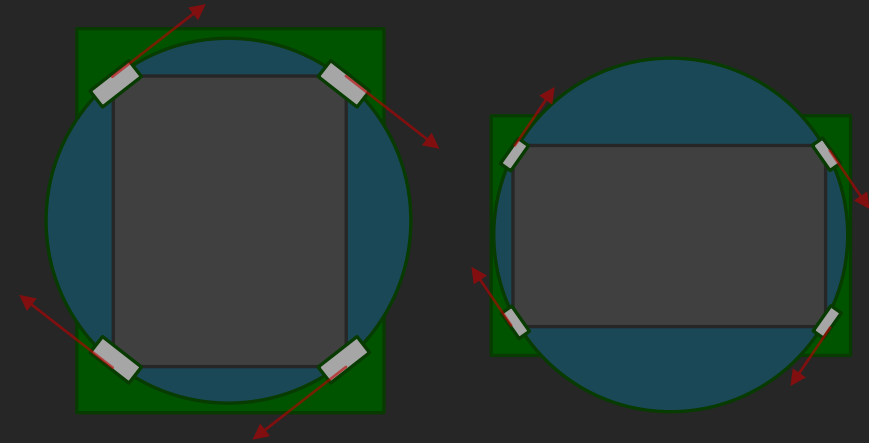
▶ Clockwise turn:  $\begin{bmatrix} length & width \\ length & -width \\ -length & -width \\ -length & width \end{bmatrix} * 1/\sqrt{length^2 + width^2}$

- ▶ Base turning vectors must be unit vectors, scalar is  $1/\sqrt{length^2 + width^2}$



# VECTORS IN SWERVE: TURNING

- ▶ The turning matrix is scaled by the magnitude of the input turn value
  - ▶ Since the base turn vectors are unit vectors, this makes each wheel have a turn speed equal to the input turn value
  - ▶ A negative turn value flips the direction of all vectors, resulting in a counter-clockwise turn



```
turnMatrix[0][0] = kBotLength;  
turnMatrix[0][1] = kBotWidth;  
  
turnMatrix[1][0] = kBotLength;  
turnMatrix[1][1] = -kBotWidth;  
  
turnMatrix[2][0] = -kBotLength;  
turnMatrix[2][1] = -kBotWidth;  
  
turnMatrix[3][0] = -kBotLength;  
turnMatrix[3][1] = kBotWidth;
```

```
double botMagnitude = Num.distance(kBotLength, kBotWidth);  
for (double[] turnVector : turnMatrix) {  
    // convert turnVector into unit vector  
    turnVector[0] /= botMagnitude;  
    turnVector[1] /= botMagnitude;  
    // multiply by scalar (turn)  
    turnVector[0] *= turn;  
    turnVector[1] *= turn;  
}  
  
return turnMatrix;
```



# VECTORS IN SWERVE: COMBINING THE VECTORS

- ▶ The final movement vector for the wheels is the sum of the two vectors (speed and strafe, and turn)
  - ▶ For the two vectors, larger magnitude = more influence on the final vector
- ▶ The speed of a wheel cannot be greater than 1.0, so scale down all vectors by the largest magnitude or 1.0, whichever is greater
  - ▶ If the largest magnitude is less than 1, we don't want to scale it down; doing so will result in constant max speed

```
// NOTE: matrix starts with the leftMaster and goes clockwise
double[][] wheelMatrix = getStrafeMatrix(speed, strafe);

// need to keep track of the max magnitude of the wheel vectors
// since none of them can be greater than 1
double maxWheelMagnitude = 1;

// variables in this block are not accessible elsewhere
{
    // get turn matrix
    double[][] turnMatrix = getTurnMatrix(turn);
```

```
    for (int i = 0; i < wheelMatrix.length; i++) {
        // add turnMatrix to wheel matrix
        wheelMatrix[i][0] += turnMatrix[i][0];
        wheelMatrix[i][1] += turnMatrix[i][1];
        // update max magnitude
        double wheelMagnitude = Num.distance(wheelMatrix[i]); // fun fact: Num.distance(double... axis) can accept a 1-D array
        maxWheelMagnitude = Math.max(maxWheelMagnitude, wheelMagnitude);
    }

    // divide all wheel vectors by the max magnitude so none exceed 1
    for (double[] wheelVector : wheelMatrix) {
        wheelVector[0] /= maxWheelMagnitude;
        wheelVector[1] /= maxWheelMagnitude;
    }
}
```

# SETTING MOTOR OUTPUT

- ▶ Given a wheel vector  $\vec{v} = \langle x, y \rangle$ :
  - ▶  $speed = \|\vec{v}\|$
  - ▶  $angle = \theta = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)$ 
    - ▶ Forward is 0 rad, increases turning clockwise, so we flip x and y
- ▶ Set the percent output of the drive motor to *speed*
- ▶ Use Motion Magic to set the turn motor to `Converter.radToEnc(angle, ticksPerRev)` (from [FRC-217-Libraries](#))

```
// speed is magnitude of vector
double speed = Num.distance(wheelMatrix[i]);
// only calculate angle if we're trying to move
if (speed != 0) {
    // calculate angle
    // NOTE: 0 rad is up, increases going clockwise, so x and y are flipped
    double angle = Math.atan2(wheelMatrix[i][0], wheelMatrix[i][1]);

    // set the turn motor
    kTurnMotors[i].set(ControlMode.MotionMagic, Converter.radToEnc(angle, 4096));
}
// set the drive motor
kDriveMotors[i].set(ControlMode.PercentOutput, speed);
```

# SETTING MOTOR OUTPUT

## (SIMPLIFIED MATH)

- ▶ We can combine all the vectors together and calculate a simple equation for each wheel instead of doing it step by step
- ▶ Front left example:

$$r = \text{Num.distance}(\text{botLength}, \text{botWidth})$$

$$x = \text{strafe} + \text{turn} \frac{\text{botLength}}{r}$$

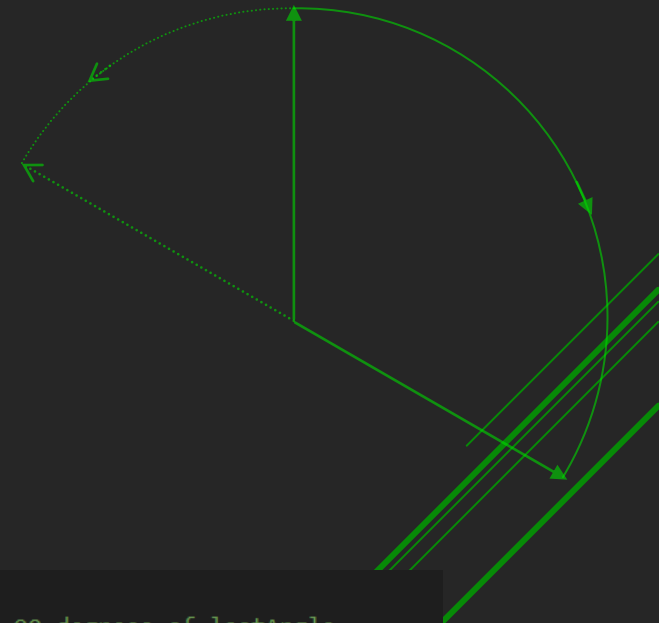
$$y = \text{speed} + \text{turn} \frac{\text{botWidth}}{r}$$

$$\text{double flSpeed} = \text{Num.distance}(x, y)$$

$$\text{double flAngle} = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)$$

# OPTIMIZE SWERVE ANGLE

- ▶ If the last wheel angle was 0 rad, and the new target angle is  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$  rad, we normally turn the wheel  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$  rad
  - ▶ Inefficient for the turning motor
- ▶ Instead, flip the drive direction and turn to  $-\frac{\pi}{3}$  rad
  - ▶ Turns the wheel half the distance

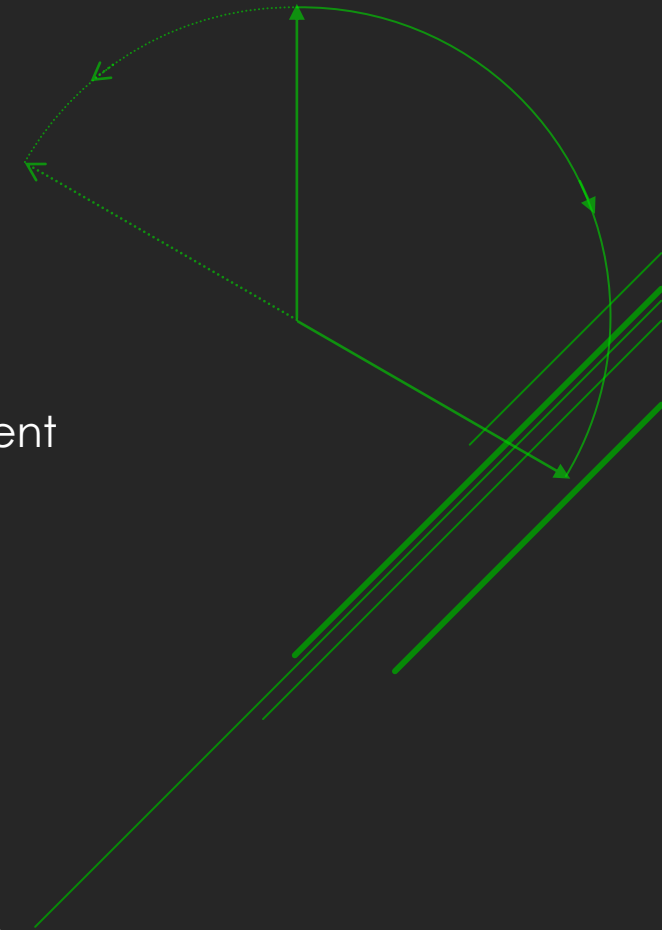


```
/*
 * We want to make it so the wheels turn as little as possible, so
 * we need to optimize the angle. Theoretically, a wheel should never
 * have to turn more than 90 degrees from its current position.
 *
 * The code block below is equivalent to and more efficient than:
 * while (angle - lastAngle[i] > Math.PI / 2) {
 *     angle -= Math.PI;
 *     speed *= -1;
 * }
 * while (angle - lastAngle[i] < -Math.PI / 2) {
 *     angle += Math.PI;
 *     speed *= -1;
 * }
 */
```

```
double angleDiff = angle - lastAngle[i];
// get how many half rotations we have to make to get within 90 degrees of lastAngle
// add signof(angleDiff) * Math.PI / 2 to angleDiff so we get within 90 degrees and not 180
int numHalfRotations = (int)((angleDiff + Math.signum(angleDiff) * Math.PI / 2) / Math.PI);
// subtract off that many half rotations
angle -= numHalfRotations * Math.PI;
if (numHalfRotations % 2 == 1) {
    // every half rotation, the wheel is flipped, so we need to flip speed
    // odd numbers of half rotations (% 2 == 1) results in a flipped speed
    speed *= -1;
}
lastAngle[i] = angle;
```

# OPTIMIZE SWERVE ANGLE – EXPLANATION OF EFFICIENT ALGORITHM

- ▶ While the angle diff  $> \frac{\pi}{2}$ , subtract  $\pi$  and flip direction of speed
  - ▶  $O(n)$  (linear) time complexity, takes longer if our wheels are rotated around multiple times
    - ▶ For absolute encoders that only read one rotation, this is very efficient
    - ▶ For relative encoders that read to `Integer.MAX_VALUE`, this is very inefficient
- ▶ Instead, for relative encoders:
  1. Calculate how many rotations of  $\pi$  we need
    - ▶ Any decimal remainder is our angle, so cast to int (truncate)
  2. Subtract off that many rotations of  $\pi$
  3. Odd number of rotations = flip direction of speed
    - ▶ Rotating by  $\pi$  is a semicircle; an even number of  $\pi$  rotations is a full circle



# FIELD SENSE

- ▶ Instead of speed and strafe being relative to the robot, make them relative to the field
  - ▶ Get angle from gyro/PigeonIMU
  - ▶ Find difference between angle and the “zero” angle for Field Sense
    - ▶ The “zero” angle is set when Field Sense toggles from disabled to enabled
  - ▶ Modify the speed and strafe inputs to form a vector with angle:
    - ▶  $\theta - gyroDiff$  if both  $gyroDiff$  and the wheel angle each increase as they turn the same direction
      - ▶ Ex: as both turn right, both angles increase
      - ▶  $strafe = strafe \cos(gyroDiff) - speed \sin(gyroDiff)$
      - ▶  $speed = speed \cos(gyroDiff) + strafe \sin(gyroDiff)$
    - ▶  $\theta + gyroDiff$  if  $gyroDiff$  and the wheel angle each increases as they turn opposite directions
      - ▶ Ex: the wheel angle increases as it turns right, but the gyro increases as it turns left
      - ▶  $strafe = strafe \cos(gyroDiff) + speed \sin(gyroDiff)$
      - ▶  $speed = speed \cos(gyroDiff) - strafe \sin(gyroDiff)$

# FIELD SENSE – EXPLANATION OF MATH

- ▶ To rotate a vector, one must perform a linear transformation using the rotation matrix:

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

- ▶ When  $\theta = 0$ ,  $R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = [\hat{i} \quad \hat{j}]$
- ▶ Increasing  $\theta$  positively rotates vectors counter-clockwise
- ▶  $\cos(\theta) = \cos(-\theta)$ , but  $\sin(\theta) = -\sin(-\theta)$ , so adding vs subtracting *gyroDiff* only flips the sign of  $\sin(\theta)$
- ▶ When we subtract *gyroDiff*, we want to turn counter-clockwise as *gyroDiff* increases, which is equivalent to increasing  $\theta$  positively, so  $\theta = \text{gyroDiff}$
- ▶ Matrix algebra:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} -\sin(\theta) \\ \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos(\theta) - y \sin(\theta) \\ y \cos(\theta) + x \sin(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$