University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2025

1. Homogeneous Transforms (20 points)

Consider the robot arm in Figure 1.

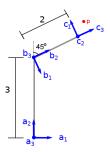


Figure 1: Robot arm diagram. Note that a_3 , b_3 , and c_2 are pointed out of the page.

There are three coordinate frames A, B, C with their corresponding basis vectors. Let Ap denote the coordinates of the point p in frame A, Bp be the same point in frame B, and Cp the same point in frame C. Define the homogeneous transforms T_1 , T_2 , T_3 as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} ^Ap \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = T_1 \begin{bmatrix} ^Bp \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} ^Bp \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = T_2 \begin{bmatrix} ^Cp \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} ^Ap \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = T_3 \begin{bmatrix} ^Cp \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (a) Find the homogeneous transform T_1 . (6 points)
- (b) Find the homogeneous transform T_2 . (6 points)
- (c) Find the homogeneous transform T_3 . (Hint: Use T_1 and T_2). (8 points)

2. Rotation Matrix Sudoku (20 points)

Only three elements of the rotation matrix below are known (entries with * are unknown). Use the properties of rotation matrices to determine the missing elements. Either prove your solution is unique, or provide an alternative solution. (*Note: Show your work to receive partial credit. You may show your math or include a code segment.) ¹

$$\begin{bmatrix} * & 0.892 & 0.423 \\ * & * & * \\ -0.186 & * & * \end{bmatrix}$$

3. Rodrigues' Formula (20 points)

- (a) Are the axis and angle always uniquely defined for a rotation? If not, explain the conditions under which the axis and angle are not uniquely defined. (7 points)
- (b) Write the axis-angle representation and the quaternion corresponding to the rotation matrix. (13 points)

$$\begin{pmatrix}
-1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -\cos(\pi/6) & \sin(\pi/6) \\
0 & \sin(\pi/6) & \cos(\pi/6)
\end{pmatrix}$$

¹Given the computational nature of this problem, you should use this opportunity to get comfortable doing calculations in Python 3 using PyCharm's interactive console. You'll find Numpy arrays invaluable, including the associated Numpy functions for 'inv', 'cross,' 'dot,' and matrix multiplication using the '@' symbol.

4. Transforms and and Python Plotting (30 points)

Figure 2 shows a robot coordinate system (B) and a world coordinate system (A).

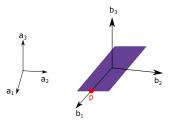


Figure 2: Robot frame B (with basis vectors b_1 , b_2 , b_3) in the world frame A (with basis vectors a_1 , a_2 , a_3).

Assume that the position of a robot in meters d(t) and the orientation R(t) are given (both with respect to the world frame) as

$$d(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(0.1 * t) \\ \sin(0.12 * t) \\ \sin(0.08 * t) \end{bmatrix} \qquad R(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(t) & -\sin(t) & 0 \\ \sin(t) & \cos(t) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Note: All angles in this problem are in radians!

- (a) Compute, as a function of time, the linear velocity v(t) of the robot in the world frame. (5 points)
- (b) Suppose there is a point on the robot we are interested in, e.g. a camera that is offset on the x axis. Say the position of this point is given by

$${}^{B}p(t) = {}^{B}p = \begin{bmatrix} c \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

for some constant c. Note that the above is represented in the robot frame. What is the position of this point in the world frame as a function of time? In other words, find ${}^{A}p(t)$. Your expression should include c. (8 points)

(c) Using Python, graph both robot position and ${}^Ap(t)$ over time for c=0.25 on the same plot. Include a title, axes labels, and legend. You may find the online documentation for matplotlib helpful (e.g. https://matplotlib.org/mpl_toolkits/mplot3d/tutorial.html#line-plots). An example is shown in Figure 3. (8 points)

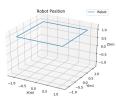


Figure 3: An example plot of robot position.

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(d) Suppose at time t = 1 the gravity vector measured in body coordinates is $[1.1, 0.9, -9.7]^T$. What is the expected gravity measured in body coordinates at time t = 5? (9 points)