



上海科技大学  
ShanghaiTech University

## CS283: Robotics Spring 2025: Kinematics

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ShanghaiTech University

# ADMIN

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# Project

- 2 credit points!
- Work in groups, min 2 students, max 3 students!
- Next lecture: Topics will be proposed...
  - You can also do your own topic, but only after approval of Prof. Schwertfeger
    - Prepare a short, written proposal till next Tuesday!
- Topic selection: Next Thursday!
  - One member writes an email for the whole group to Bowen: zhangyq12023 (at)shanghaitech.edu.cn ; Put the other group members on CC
  - Subject: [Robotics] Group Selection
- One graduate student from my group will co-supervise your project
- Weekly project meetings!
- Oral "exams" to evaluate the contributions of each member
- No work on project => bad grade or fail

# Grading

- Grading scheme is not 100% fixed

- Approximately:

• Lecture:	50%
• Quizzes during lecture (reading assignments):	4%
• Homework:	18%
• Midterm:	8%
• Final:	20%
• Project:	50%
• Paper Presentation:	5%
• Project Proposal:	5%
• Intermediate Report:	5%
• Weekly project meetings:	10%
• Final Report:	10%
• Final Demo:	10%
• Final Webpage:	5%

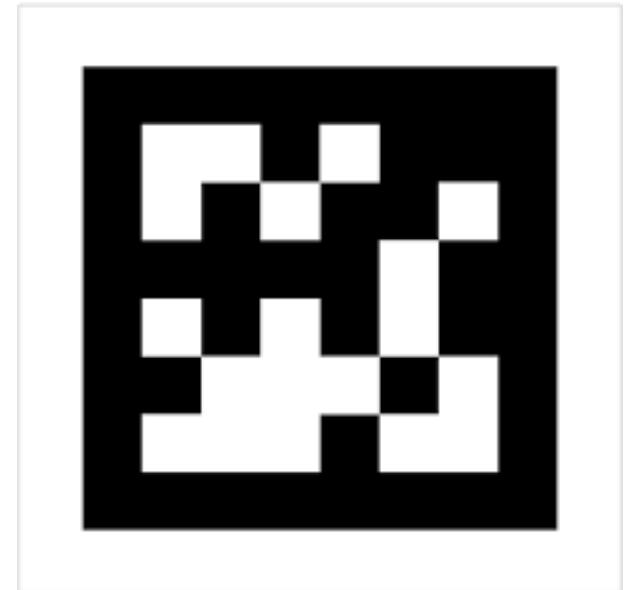
# Campus Autonomy: High Speed Navigation

- Use ROS move\_base and TEB planner for high speed robot control.
  - Include robot dynamics (mass, acceleration, ...)
  - Use 3D LRF to detect and predict motion of obstacles (open source software available)
  - High-speed navigation through light crowds of students.
- 
- Difficulty: medium
  - Requite: good demo
  - Supervisor: Yongqi



# Ground Truth Localization via AprilTags

- Print (very big) AprilTags – and distribute in scenario (e.g. underground parking)
- Use Faro 3D scanner to (semi-) automatically detect and locate AprilTags ->
- Build ground truth 3D map of AprilTag poses
- Write a small program to detect AprilTags in the sensor data
- (If observed with more than one camera, minimize error)
- Generate ground truth trajectories with this
- Difficulty: Medium
- Graduate Supervisor: Bowen Xu



# Robot Dog Project

- Reserved for certain students
- Program advanced capabilities for robot
- Difficulty: High
- Graduate Supervisor: Xin Duan



# Fetch Robot

- Some nice project with fetch robot
- Difficulty: Advanced
- Supervisor: Yaxun Yang



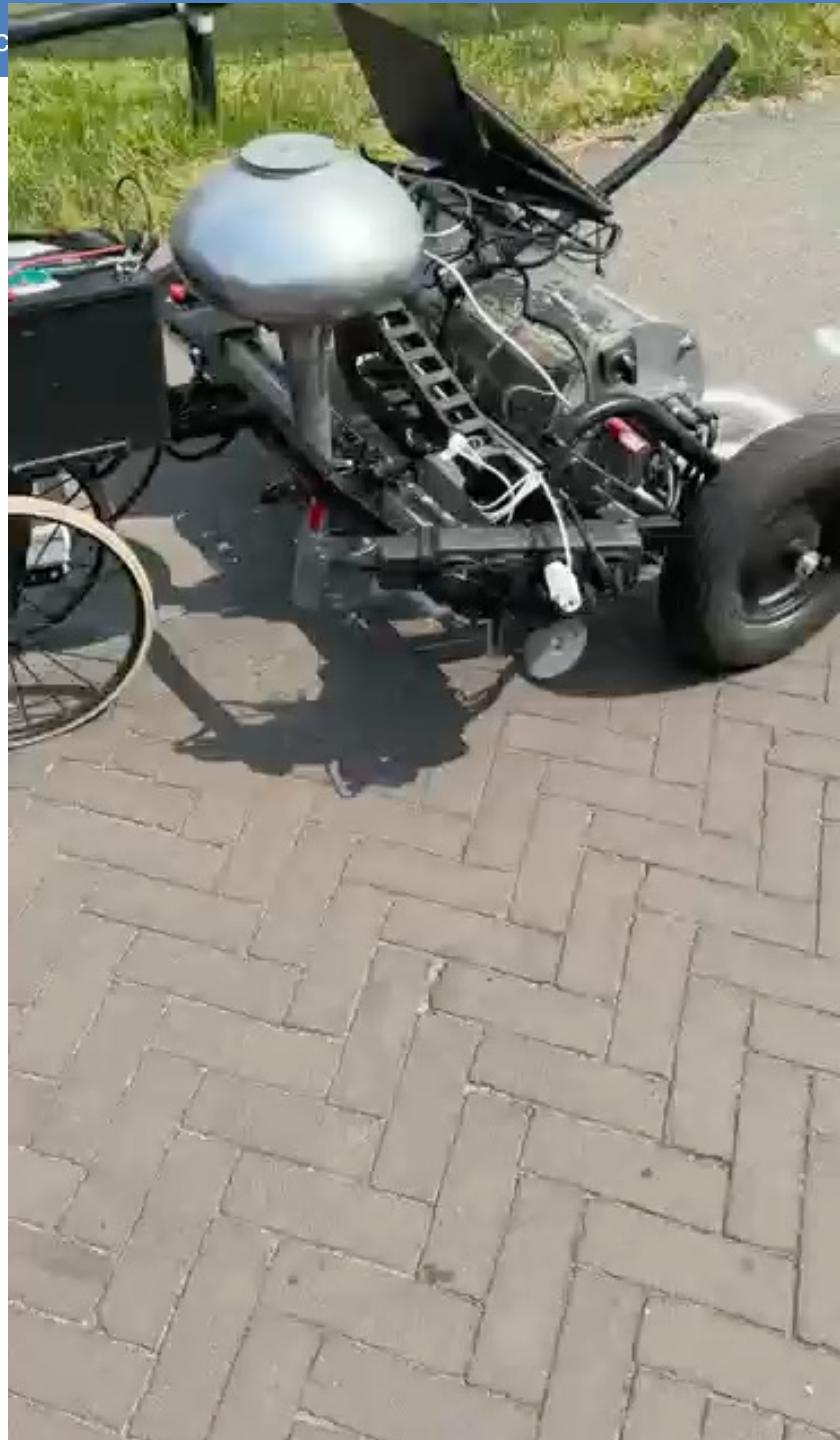
# Cotton Project Revival

- Difficulty: Advanced
- Supervisor: Prof. Schwertfeger
- Big project – 2 teams can share the work:
- Re-do the cotton collection hardware
- Revive the perception and control part



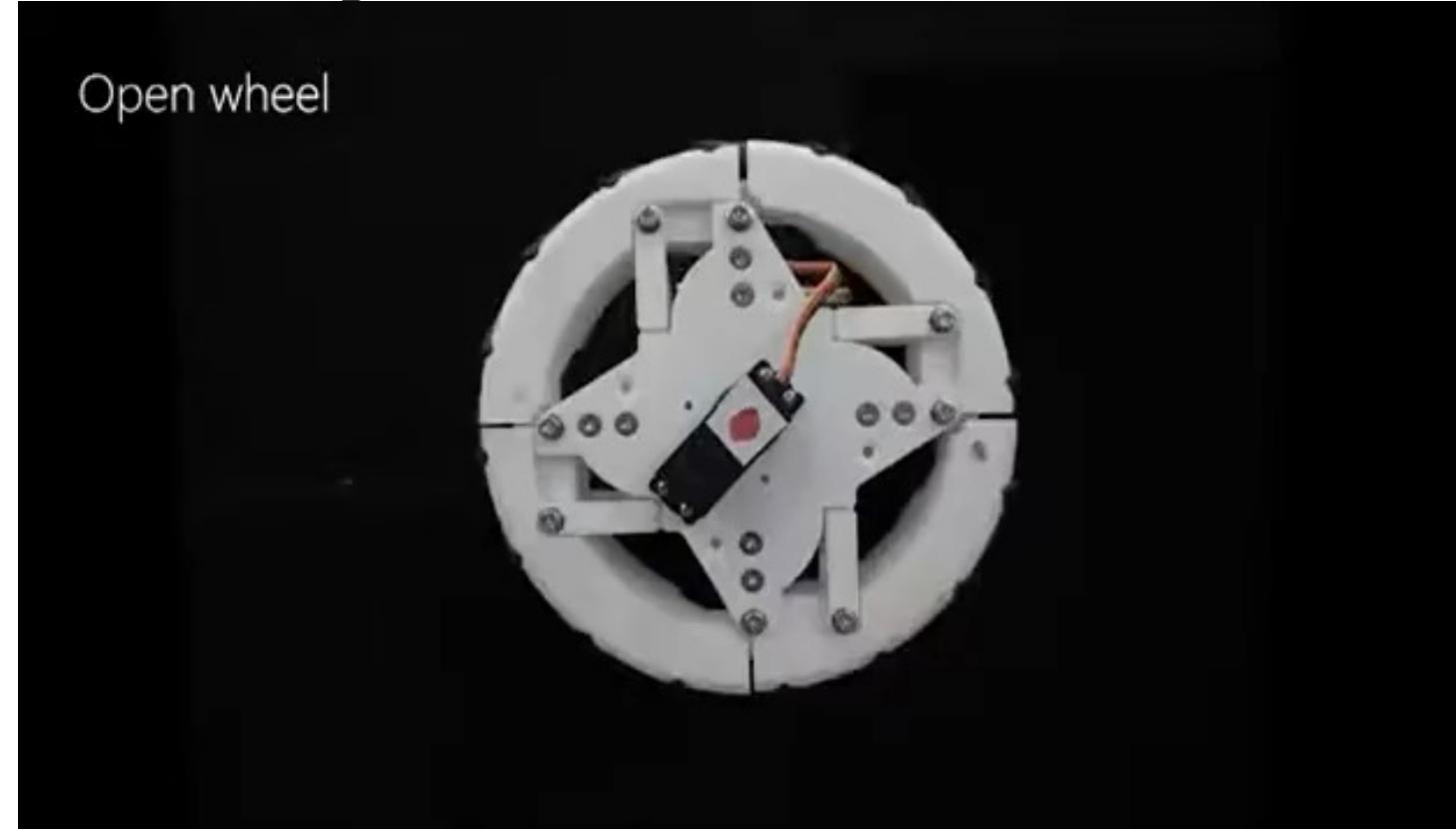
# Project Suggestion: Draw with Sand

- Build and program such a robot ...
- Quite difficult ...
- But cool ...
- Bigger group (with sub-tasks) allowed



# Finish Omni-Wheel-Leg Journal Paper

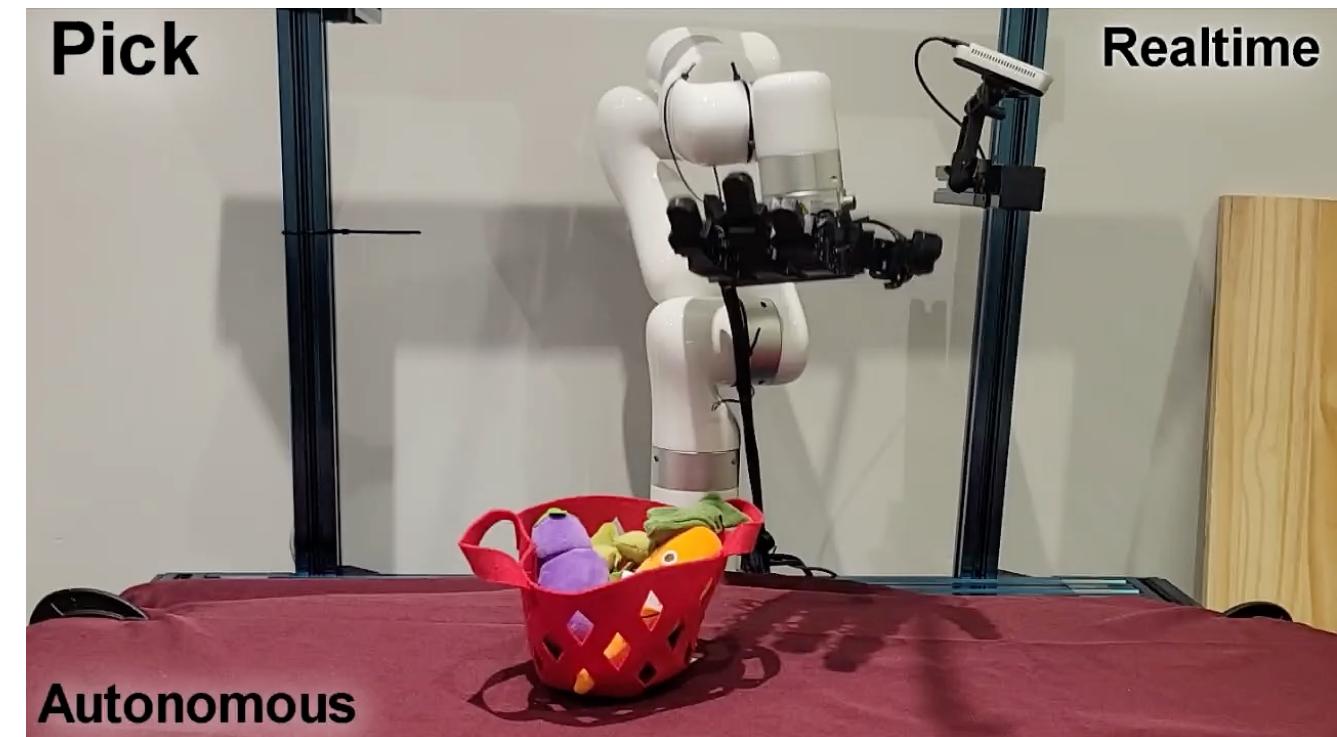
- Do final work on journal paper
- Extension of this paper:
- **OmniWheg: An Omnidirectional Wheel-Leg Transformable Robot**
- Ruixiang Cao; Jun Gu;  
Chen Yu; Andre Rosendo
- [https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/  
document/9982030](https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9982030)
- Advisor: Fujing



# Leap Hand

- Install <https://v1.leaphand.com/> LeaHand on Kinova Arm
- Get all the software to work well together
- Work together with Yaxun on her paper

- Difficulty medium
- Supervisor: Yaxun Yang



# Robot Introspection for LLMs

- Collect all kinds of robot status data, e.g.:
  - Size, height, weight, capabilities, max speed, urdf, ...
  - Current speed, current power consumption, current direction, current mission objective, current battery status, current CPU temp, cpu usage, mem usage
  - ROS status, running nodes, available topics & services, joint values, console log, ...
  - All kinds of other, robot intrinsic data
- Feed it into an LLM
- Generate a benchmark to test how well the LLM understands the robot
- Supervisor: Prof. Schwertfeger

- Max one group per topic!
- In case of double selection we will discuss alternatives with both groups
- If no one changes it, it will be “First come - First Serve”

Difficulty:					
Name	Advisor	Hardware	Software	Algorithm	
1 Campus Autonomy: High Speed Navigation	Yongqi	low	low	medium +	
2 April Tag Localization	Bowen	medium	medium	medium	
3 Robot Dog Project	Xin Duan	medium	low	medium	
4 Fetch Project	Yaxun Yang	low	medium	medium	
5 Cotton Project Revival: Gripping	Prof. Schwertfeger	medium+	low	low	
6 Cotton Project Revival: Perception & Autonomy	Prof. Schwertfeger	low	advanced	low	
7 Writing Project	Prof. Schwertfeger	advanced	medium	medium	
8 OmniWheg Project	Fujing	medium	medium	medium	
9 Leap Project	Yaxun Yang	medium	medium	medium	
10 Robot Introspection for LLMs	Prof. Schwertfeger	low	medium	medium	

# KINEMATICS

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# Motivation

- Autonomous mobile robots move around in the environment.  
Therefore **ALL** of them:
  - They need to know **where** they **are**.
  - They need to know **where** their **goal** is.
  - They need to know **how** to get there.

## • **Odometry!**

- Robot:
  - I know how fast the wheels turned =>
  - I know how the robot moved =>
  - I know where I am ☺

# Odometry

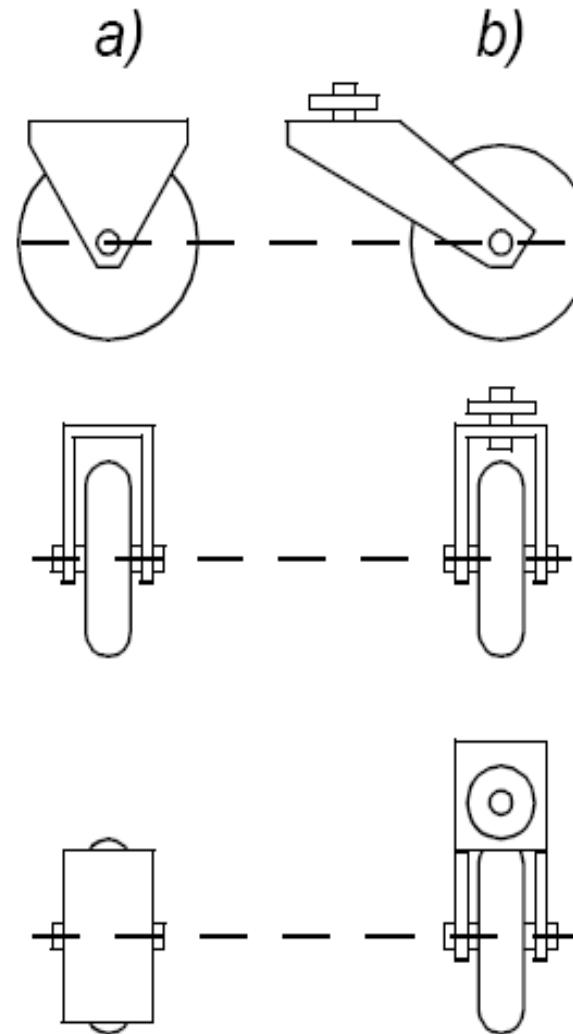
- Robot:
  - I know how fast the wheels turned =>
  - I know how the robot moved =>
  - I know where I am ☺
- Marine Navigation: Dead reckoning (using heading sensor)
- Sources of error (AMR pages 269 - 270):
  - Wheel slip
    - Uneven floor contact (non-planar surface)
    - Robot kinematic: tracked vehicles, 4 wheel differential drive..
  - Integration from speed to position: Limited resolution (time and measurement)
  - Wheel misalignment
  - Wheel diameter uncertainty
  - Variation in contact point of wheel

# Mobile Robots with Wheels

- Wheels are the most appropriate solution for most applications
- Three wheels are sufficient to guarantee stability
- With more than three wheels an appropriate suspension is required
- Selection of wheels depends on the application

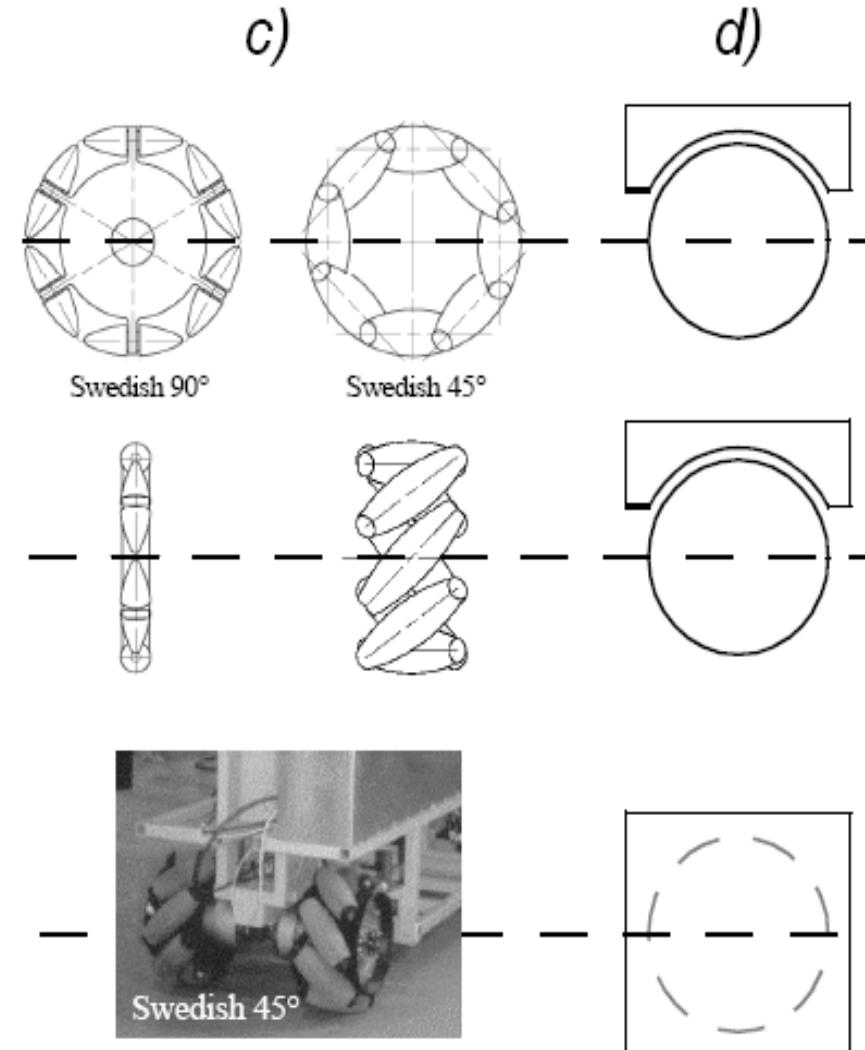
# The Four Basic Wheels Types I

- a) Standard wheel: Two degrees of freedom; rotation around the (motorized) wheel axle and the contact point
- b) Castor wheel: Three degrees of freedom; rotation around the wheel axle, the contact point and the castor axle



# The Four Basic Wheels Types II

- c) Swedish wheel: Three degrees of freedom; rotation around the (motorized) wheel axle, around the rollers and around the contact point
- d) Ball or spherical wheel: Suspension technically not solved

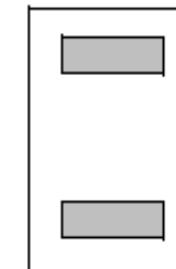
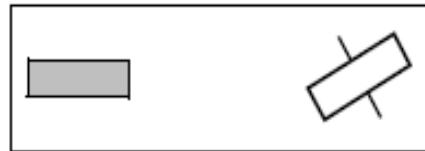


# Characteristics of Wheeled Robots and Vehicles

- Stability of a vehicle is guaranteed with 3 wheels
  - center of gravity is within the triangle with is formed by the ground contact point of the wheels.
- Stability is improved by 4 and more wheel
  - however, this arrangements are hyperstatic and require a flexible suspension system.
- Bigger wheels allow to overcome higher obstacles
  - but they require higher torque or reductions in the gear box.
- Most arrangements are non-holonomic (see chapter 3)
  - require high control effort
- Combining actuation and steering on one wheel makes the design complex and adds additional errors for odometry.

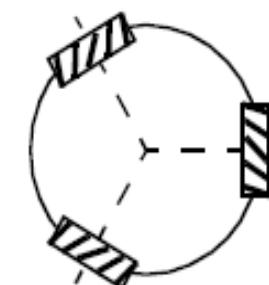
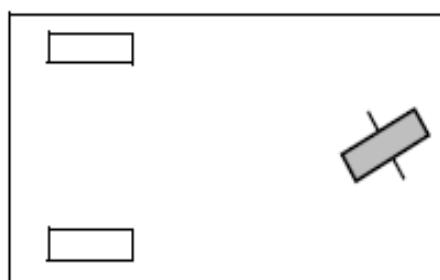
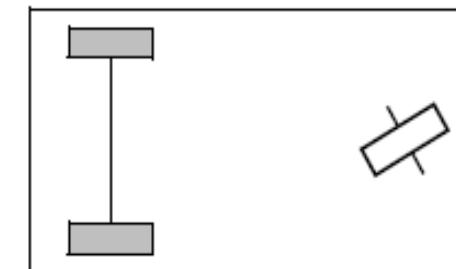
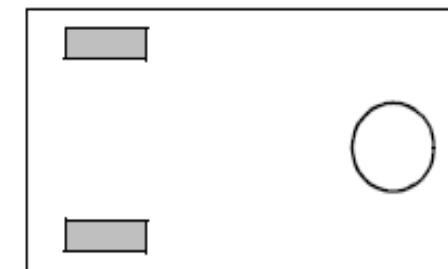
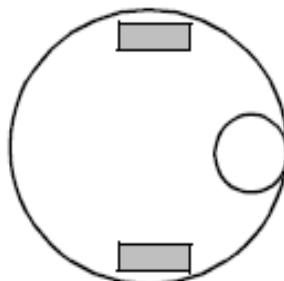
# Different Arrangements of Wheels I

- Two wheels

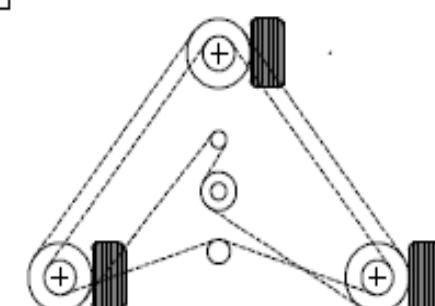


*Center of gravity below axle*

- Three wheels



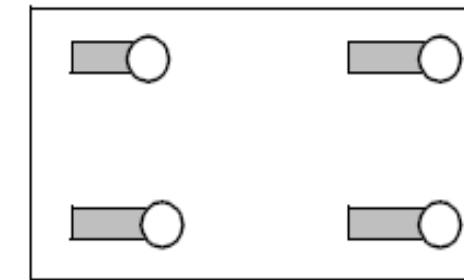
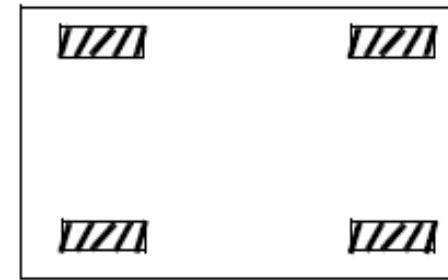
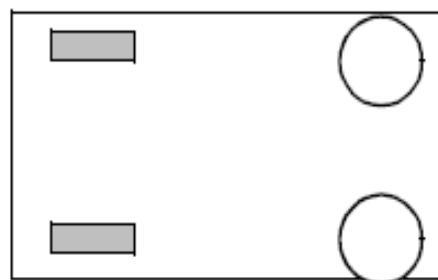
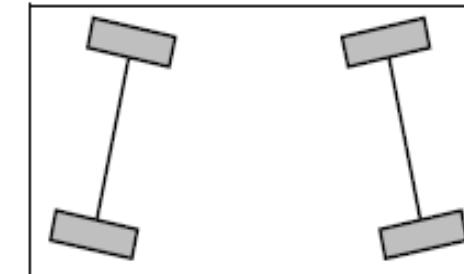
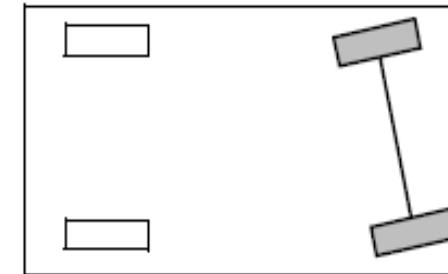
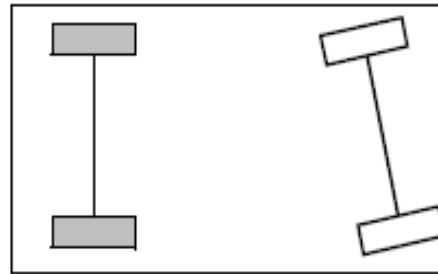
Omnidirectional Drive



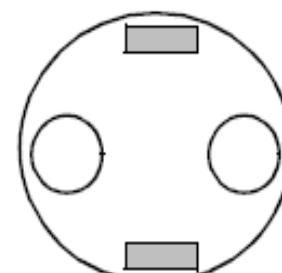
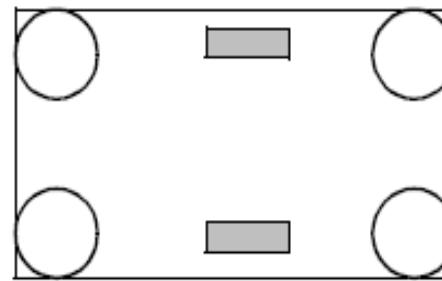
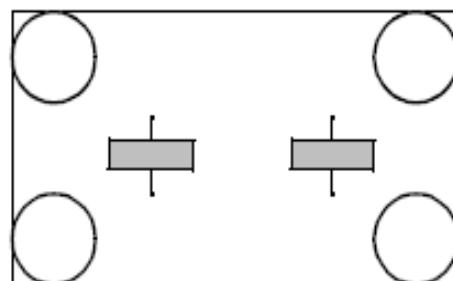
Synchro Drive

# Different Arrangements of Wheels II

- Four wheels

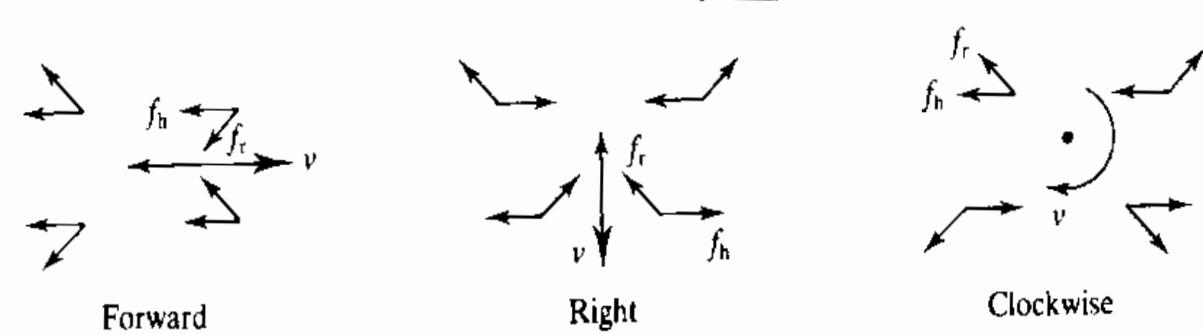
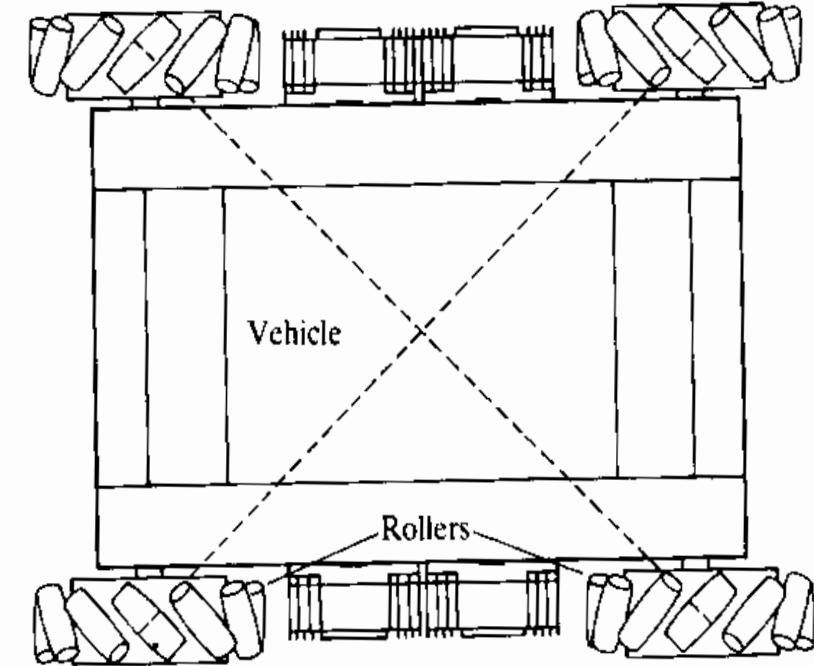
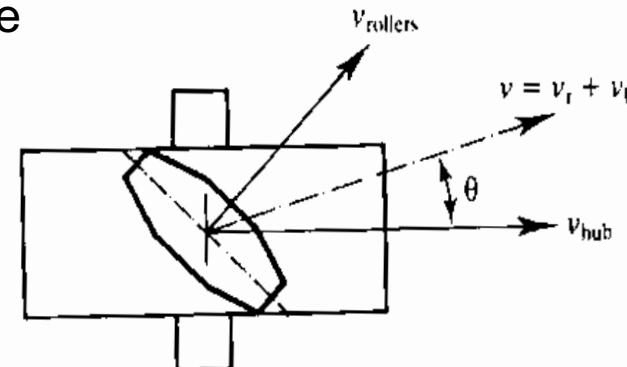
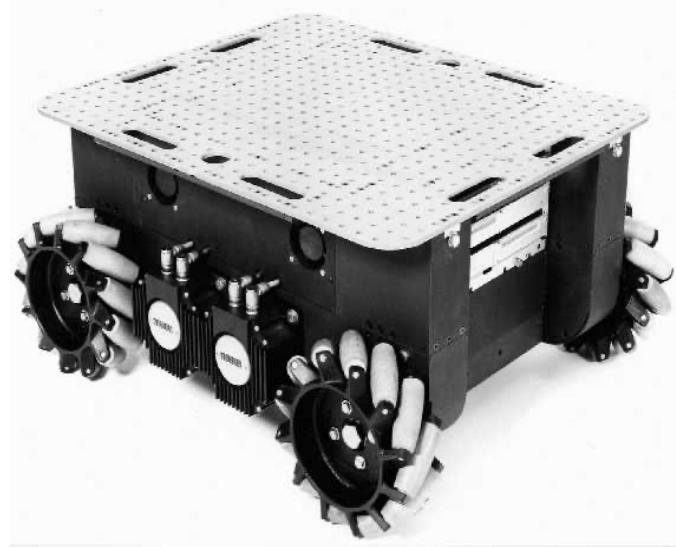


- Six wheels



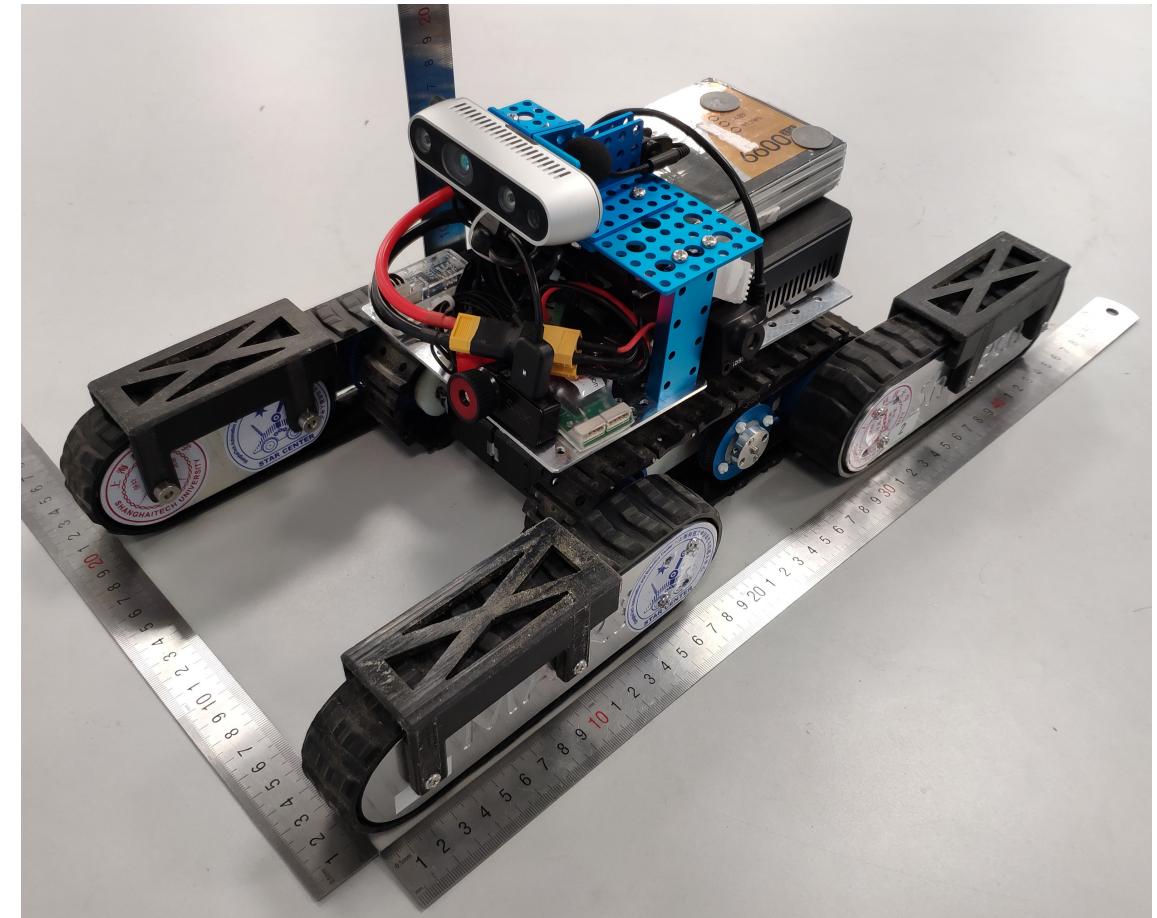
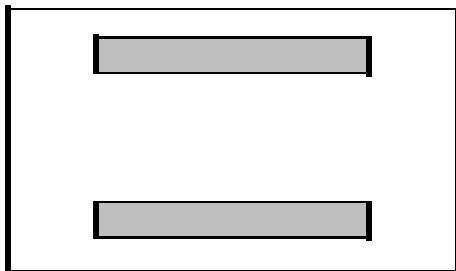
# Uranus, CMU: Omnidirectional Drive with 4 Wheels

- Movement in the plane has 3 DOF
  - thus only three wheels can be independently controlled
  - It might be better to arrange three swedish wheels in a triangle



# MARS Rescue Robot: Tracked Differential Drive

- Kinematic Simplification:
  - 2 Wheels, located at the center

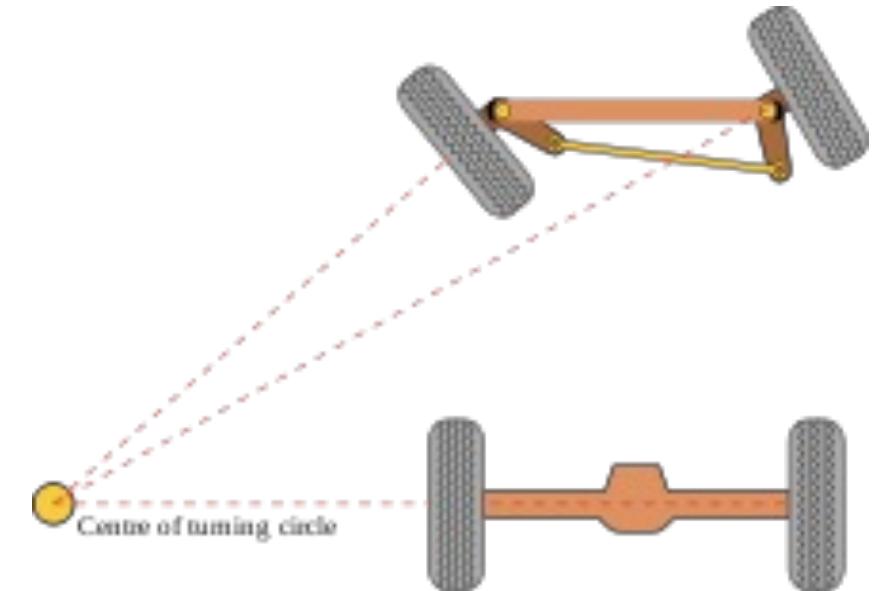


# Differential Drive Robots



# Ackermann Robot

- No sideways slip than differential drive during turning ☺
- Cannot turn on the spot ☹



# Introduction: Mobile Robot Kinematics

- Aim
  - Description of mechanical behavior of the robot for *design* and *control*
  - Similar to robot manipulator kinematics
  - However, mobile robots can move unbound with respect to its environment
    - there is no direct way to measure the robot's position
    - Position must be integrated over time
    - Leads to inaccuracies of the position (motion) estimate  
-> *the number 1 challenge in mobile robotics*

# Kinematics vs. Kinetics

## **Kinematics:**

- ▶ Greek origin: “motion”, “moving”
- ▶ Describes motion of points and bodies
- ▶ Considers position, velocity, acceleration, ..
- ▶ Examples: Celestial bodies, particle systems, robotic arm, human skeleton

## **Kinetics:**

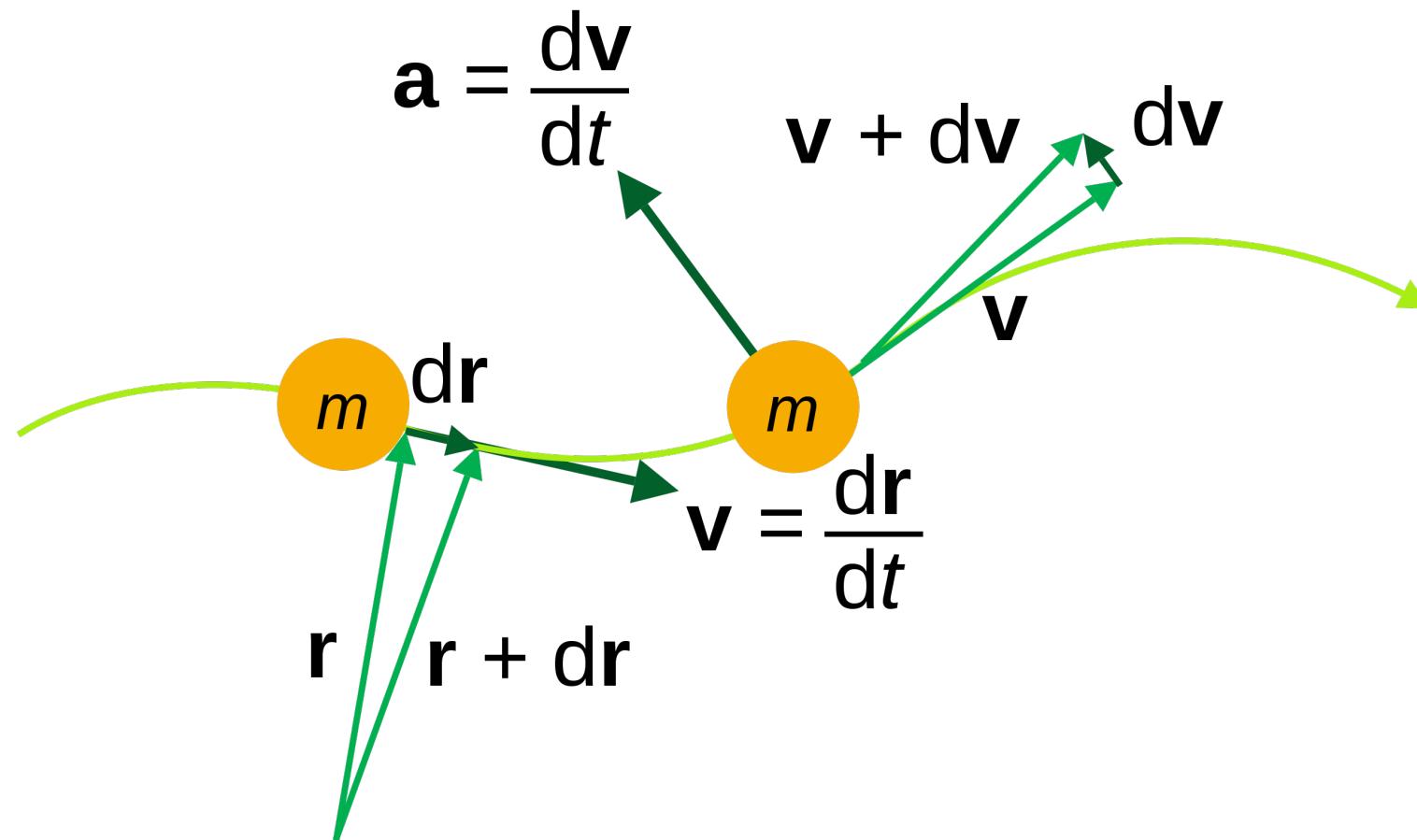
- ▶ Describes causes of motion
- ▶ Effects of forces/moment
- ▶ Newton's laws, e.g.,  $F = ma$

Kinematics and Control Slides:  
Andreas Geiger  
<https://uni-tuebingen.de/fakultaeten/mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche-fakultaet/fachbereiche/informatik/lehrstuhle/autonomous-vision/lectures/self-driving-cars/>

# What are kinematics?

- Describes the motion of points, bodies (objects), and systems of objects
  - Does not consider the forces that cause them (that would be kinetics)
  - Also known as “the geometry of motion”
- For robotics:
  - Describes the motion of the vehicle
  - Puts position/orientation in relation with translational/angular velocities and accelerations
  - Used for regularization, prediction, etc.

# What are kinematics?



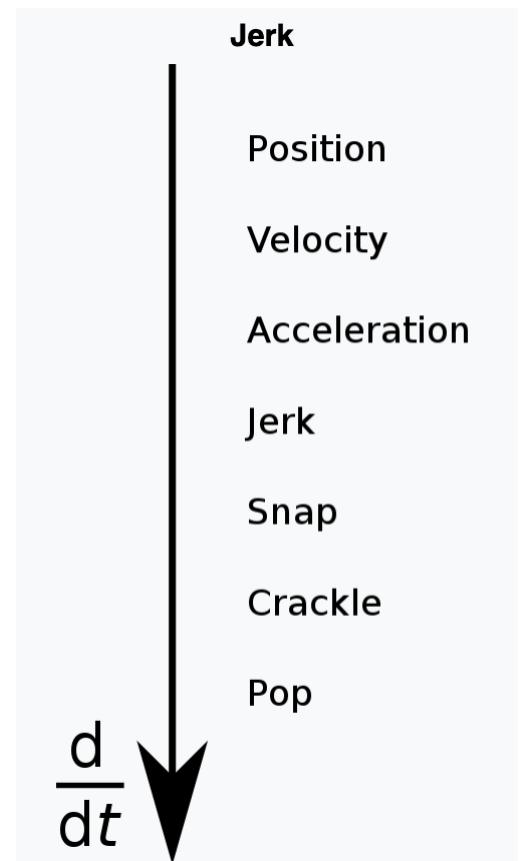
# What are kinematics?

- It does not stop at acceleration, but theory involves an arbitrarily high number of derivatives:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{v}_0 t + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a}_0 t^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \mathbf{j} t^3 + \dots$$

$$\theta(t) = \theta_0 + \omega_0 t + \frac{1}{2} \alpha_0 t^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \zeta t^3 + \dots$$

Jerk equations: minimal setting for solutions showing chaotic behavior!



# In practice

- Often we use finite models to simplify/smoothify the system
  - Locally constant acceleration

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{v}_0 t + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a}_0 t^2$$

- Locally constant velocity

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{v}_0 t$$

# Why do we want to introduce kinematic models

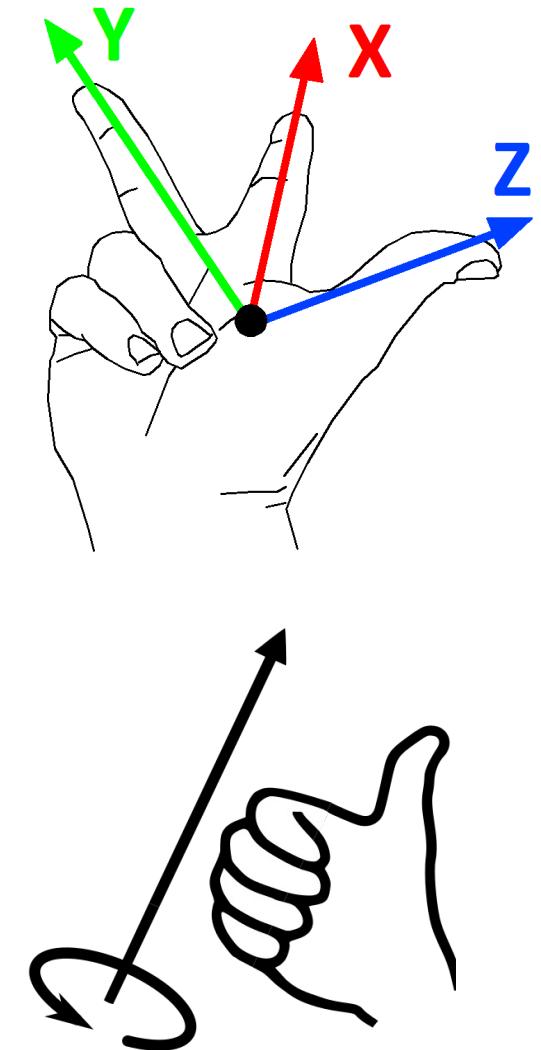
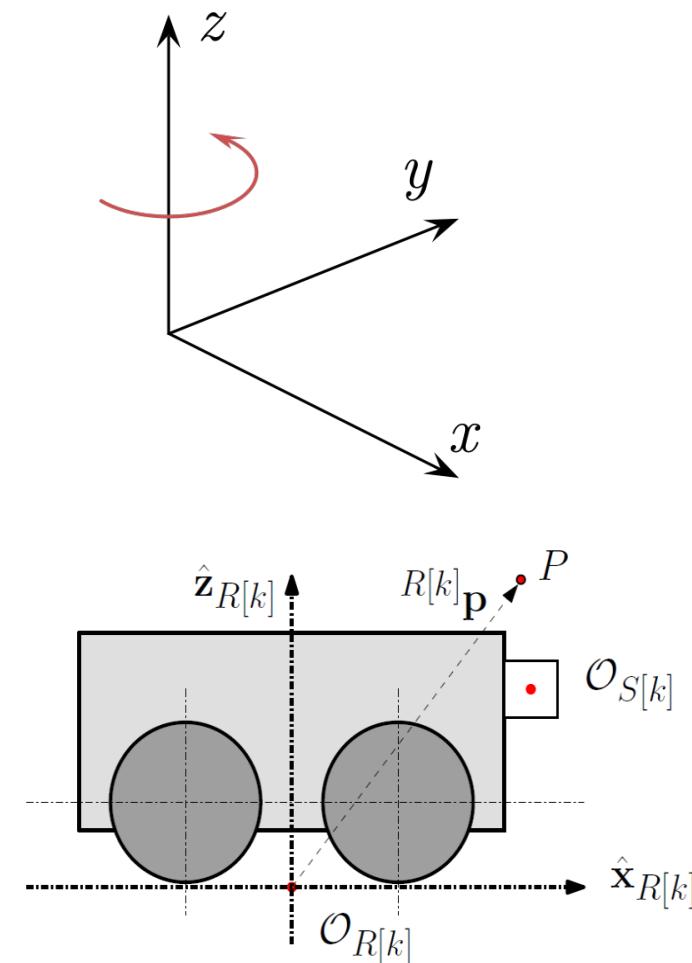
- For prediction
  - E.g.: If we have an initial estimate, we can use a kinematic model to generate a prior pose at a later point
- For smoothness
  - E.g.: If we estimate poses, we may constrain their difference to be consistent with some prior or measured velocity
- To impose constraints
  - E.g.: The motion may be more specific and include kinematic constraints
- For control
  - E.g.: Knowledge of how the system is moving is beneficial for reaching the goal pose

# COORDINATE SYSTEM

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# Right Hand Coordinate System

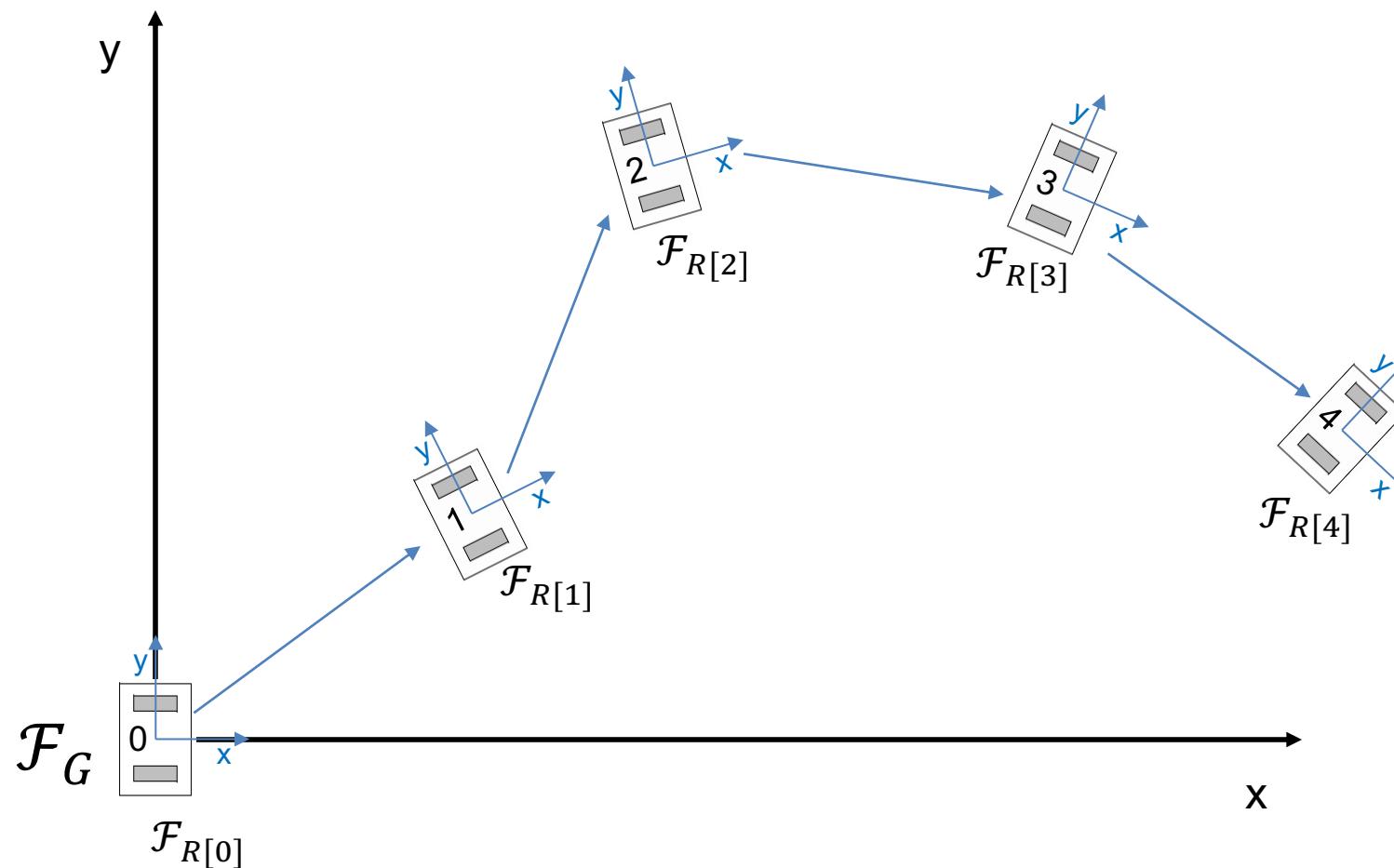
- Standard in Robotics
- Positive rotation around X is anti-clockwise
- Right-hand rule mnemonic:
  - Thumb: z-axis
  - Index finger: x-axis
  - Second finger: y-axis
  - Rotation: Thumb = rotation axis, positive rotation in finger direction
- Robot Coordinate System:
  - X front
  - Z up (Underwater: Z down)
  - Y ???



Right Hand Rule [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right-hand\\_rule](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right-hand_rule)

# Odometry

With respect to the robot start pose:  
Where is the robot now?

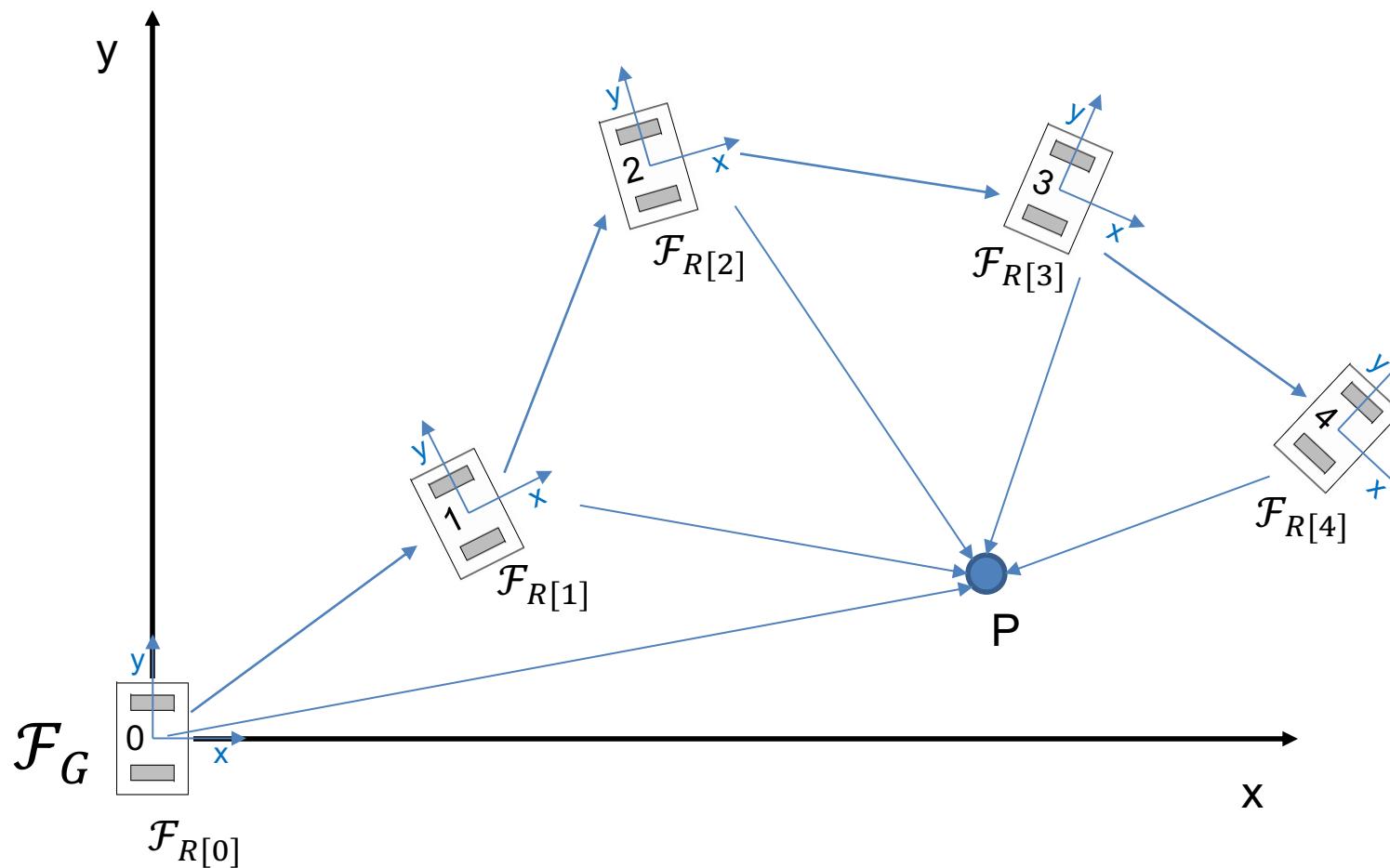


Two approaches – same result:

- Geometry (easy in 2D)
- Transforms (better for 3D)

$\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$  : The ***F***rame of reference  
(the local coordinate system) of the  
***R***obot at the time ***X***

# Use of robot frames $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$

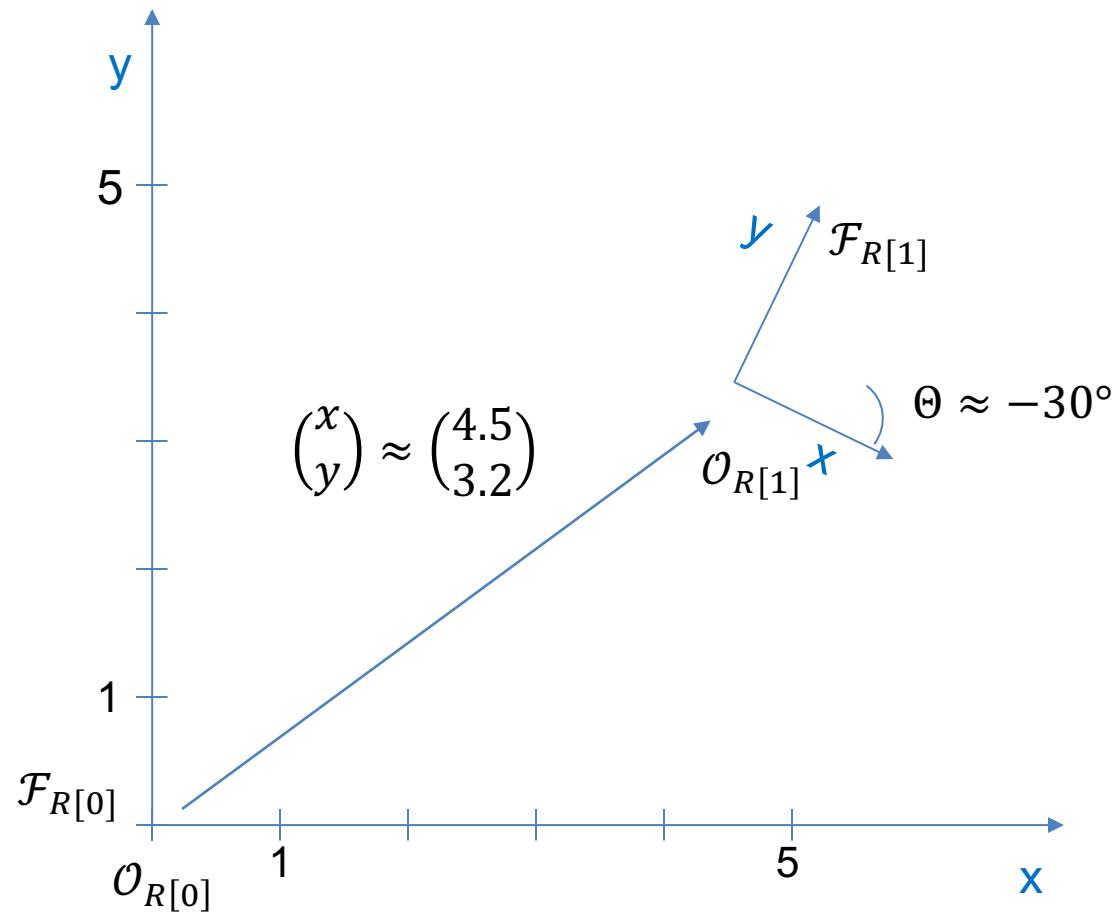


$O_{R[X]}$  : Origin of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$   
(coordinates  $(0, 0)$ )

$\overrightarrow{O_{R[X]}P}$  : position vector from  $O_{R[X]}$  to  
point P -  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$

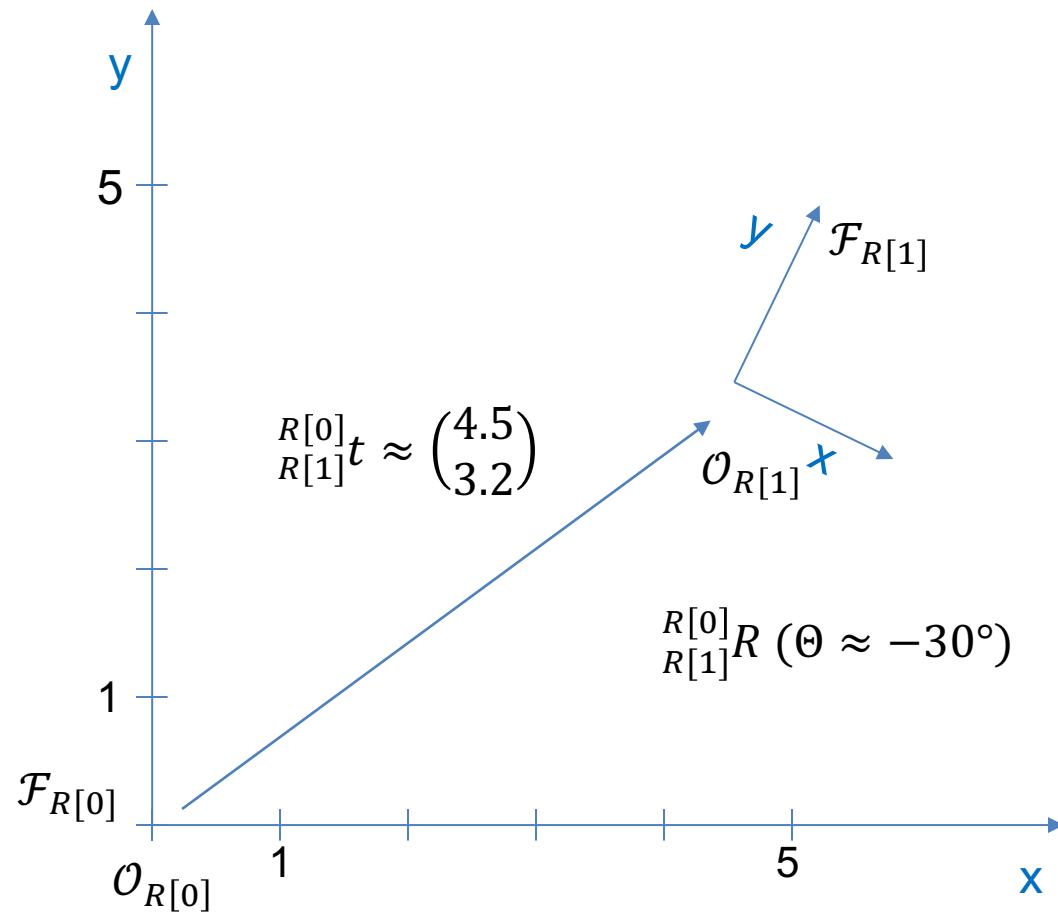
- Object P is observed at times 0 to 4
- Object P is static (does not move)
- The Robot moves  
(e.g.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[0]} \neq \mathcal{F}_{R[1]}$  )
- =>  $(x, y)$  coordinates of P are  
different in all frames, for example:
  - $\overrightarrow{O_{R[0]}P} \neq \overrightarrow{O_{R[1]}P}$

# Position, Orientation & Pose



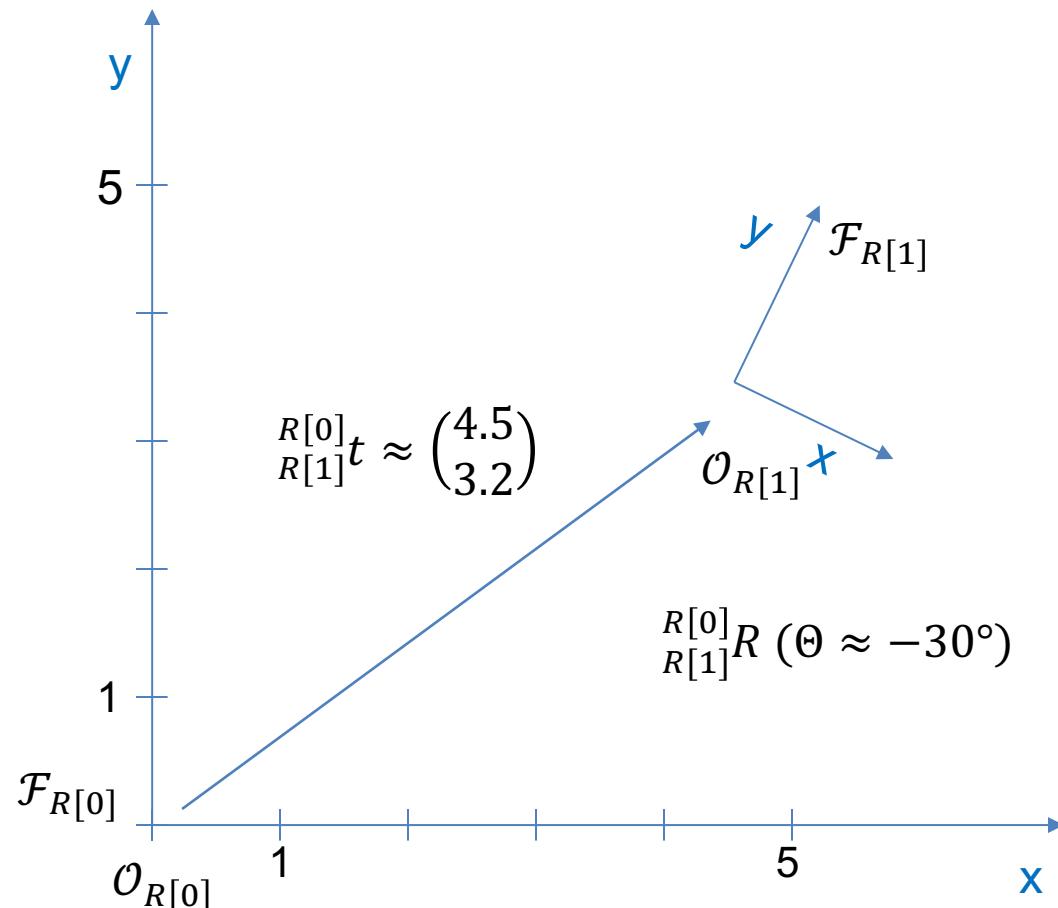
- **Position:**
  - $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$  coordinates of any object or point (or another frame)
  - with respect to (wrt.) a specified frame
- **Orientation:**
  - $(\theta)$  angle of any oriented object (or another frame)
  - with respect to (wrt.) a specified frame
- **Pose:**
  - $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta \end{pmatrix}$  position and orientation of any oriented object
  - with respect to (wrt.) a specified frame

# Translation, Rotation & Transform



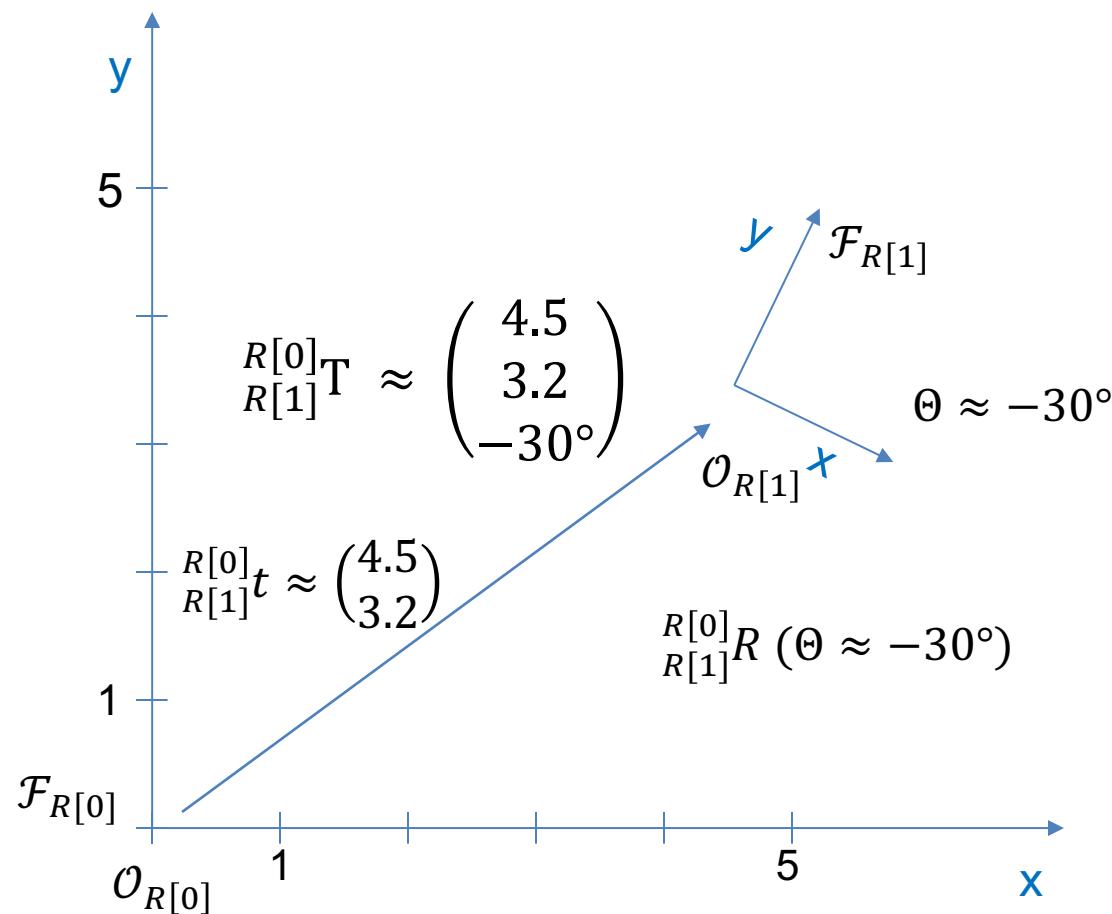
- **Translation:**
  - $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$  difference, change, motion from one reference frame to another reference frame
- **Rotation:**
  - $(\Theta)$  difference in angle, rotation between one reference frame and another reference frame
- **Transform:**
  - $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ \Theta \end{pmatrix}$  difference, motion between one reference frame and another reference frame

# Position & Translation, Orientation & Rotation



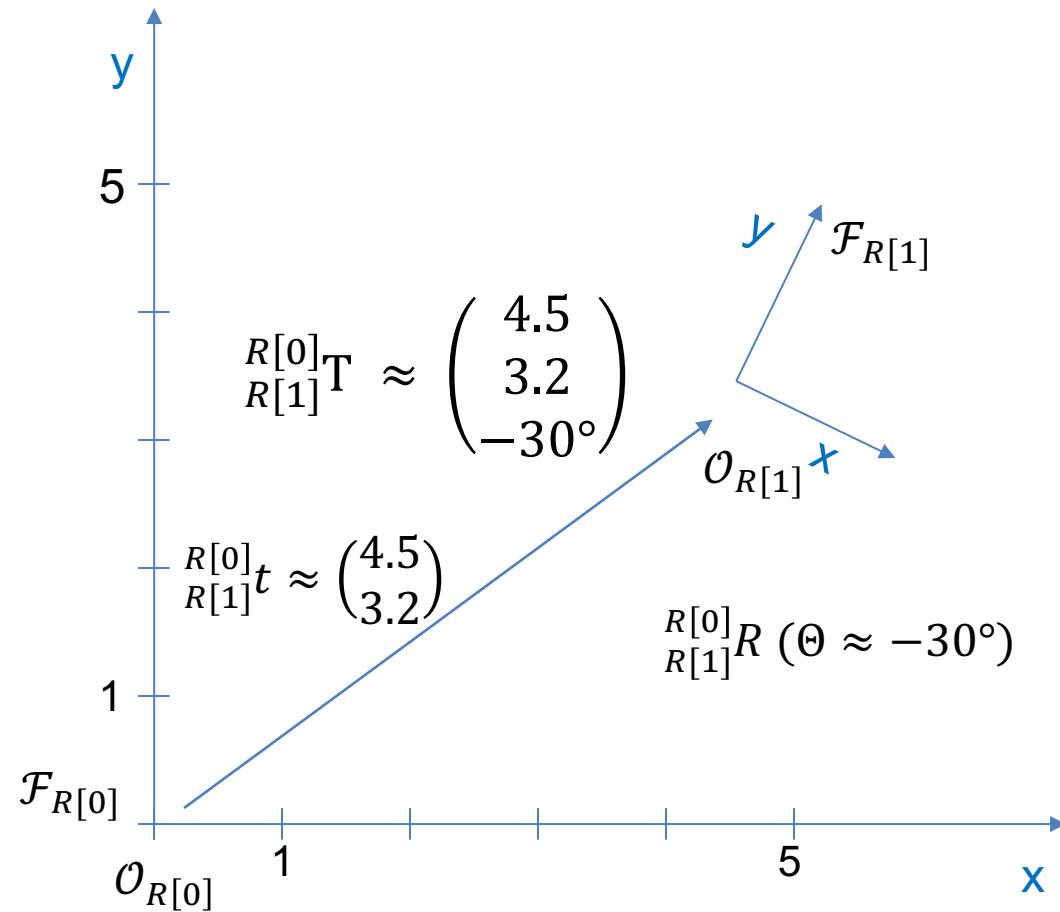
- $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$  : Frame of reference of the robot at time X
- Where is that frame  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$ ?
  - Can only be expressed with respect to (wrt.) another frame (e.g. global Frame  $\mathcal{F}_G$ ) =>
  - Pose of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_G$
- $\mathcal{O}_{R[X]}$  : Origin of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$
- $\overrightarrow{\mathcal{O}_{R[X]} \mathcal{O}_{R[X+1]}}$  : Position of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X+1]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$ 
  - so  $\mathcal{O}_{R[X+1]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$
  - $\triangleq R^{[X]}_{[X+1]} t$  : Translation
- The angle  $\Theta$  between the x-Axes:
  - Orientation of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X+1]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$
  - $\triangleq R^{[X]}_{[X+1]} R$  : Rotation of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X+1]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$

# Transform



- $R[X+1]^T : \text{Translation}$ 
  - Position vector  $(x, y)$  of  $R[X + 1]$  wrt.  $R[X]$
- $R[X+1]^R : \text{Rotation}$ 
  - Angle ( $\Theta$ ) of  $R[X + 1]$  wrt.  $R[X]$
- **Transform:**  $R[X+1]^T \equiv \begin{cases} R[X+1]^t \\ R[X+1]^R \end{cases}$

# Geometry approach to Odometry



We want to know:

- Position of the robot ( $x, y$ )
- Orientation of the robot ( $\theta$ )
- => together: Pose  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta \end{pmatrix}$

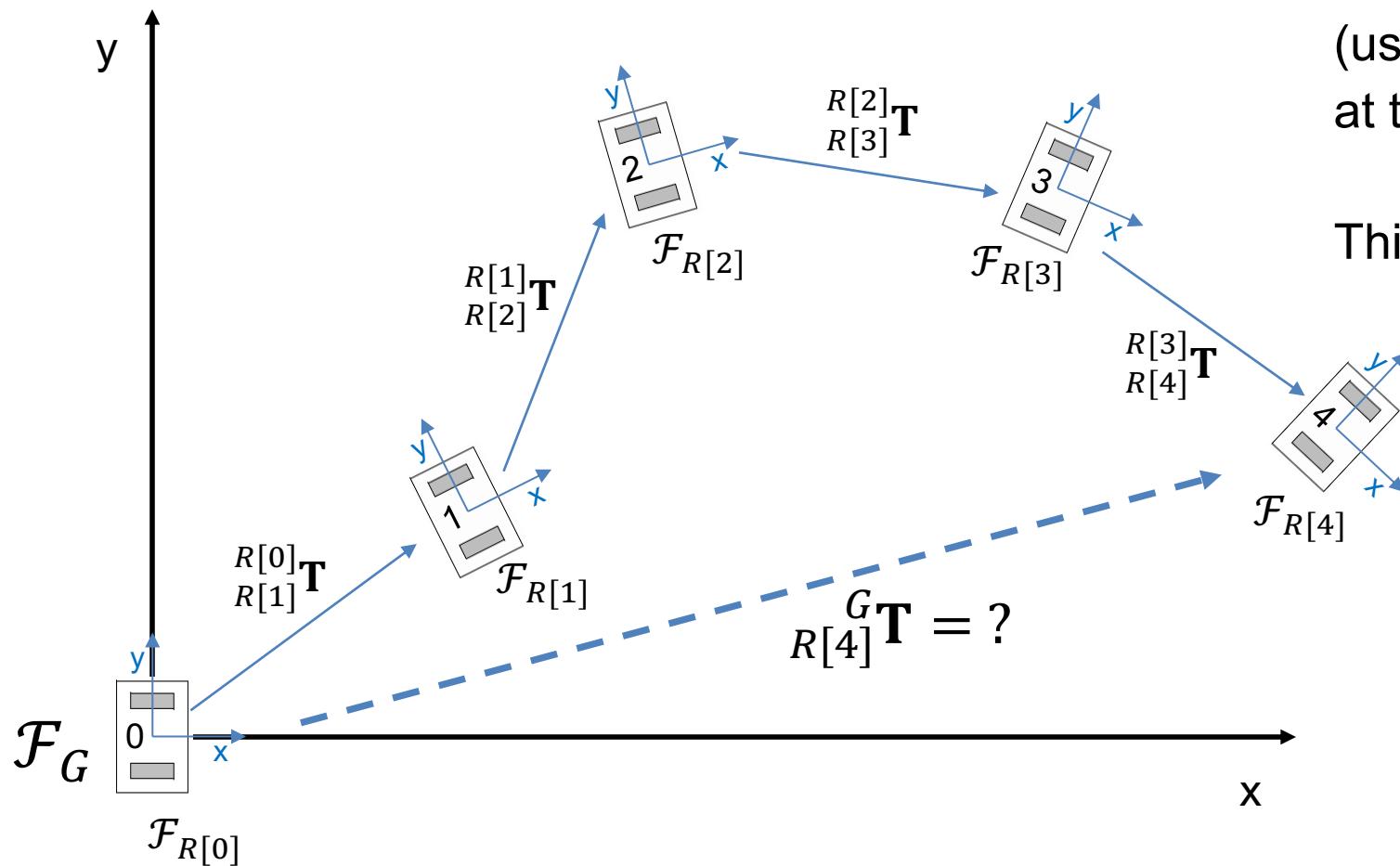
With respect to (wrt.)  $\mathcal{F}_G$  : The global frame; global coordinate system

$$\mathcal{F}_{R[0]} = \mathcal{F}_G \Rightarrow {}^G\mathcal{F}_{R[0]} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$${}^G\mathcal{F}_{R[1]} = {}^{R[0]}_{R[1]}T \approx \begin{pmatrix} 4.5 \\ 3.2 \\ 30^\circ \end{pmatrix}$$

# Mathematical approach: Transforms

***Where is the Robot now?***



The pose of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$  with respect to  $\mathcal{F}_G$  (usually  $= \mathcal{F}_{R[0]}$ ) is the pose of the robot at time X.

This is equivalent to  $R[X]^G \mathbf{T}$

Chaining of Transforms

$$R[X+1]^G \mathbf{T} = R[X]^G \mathbf{T} R[R[X+1]]^G \mathbf{T}$$

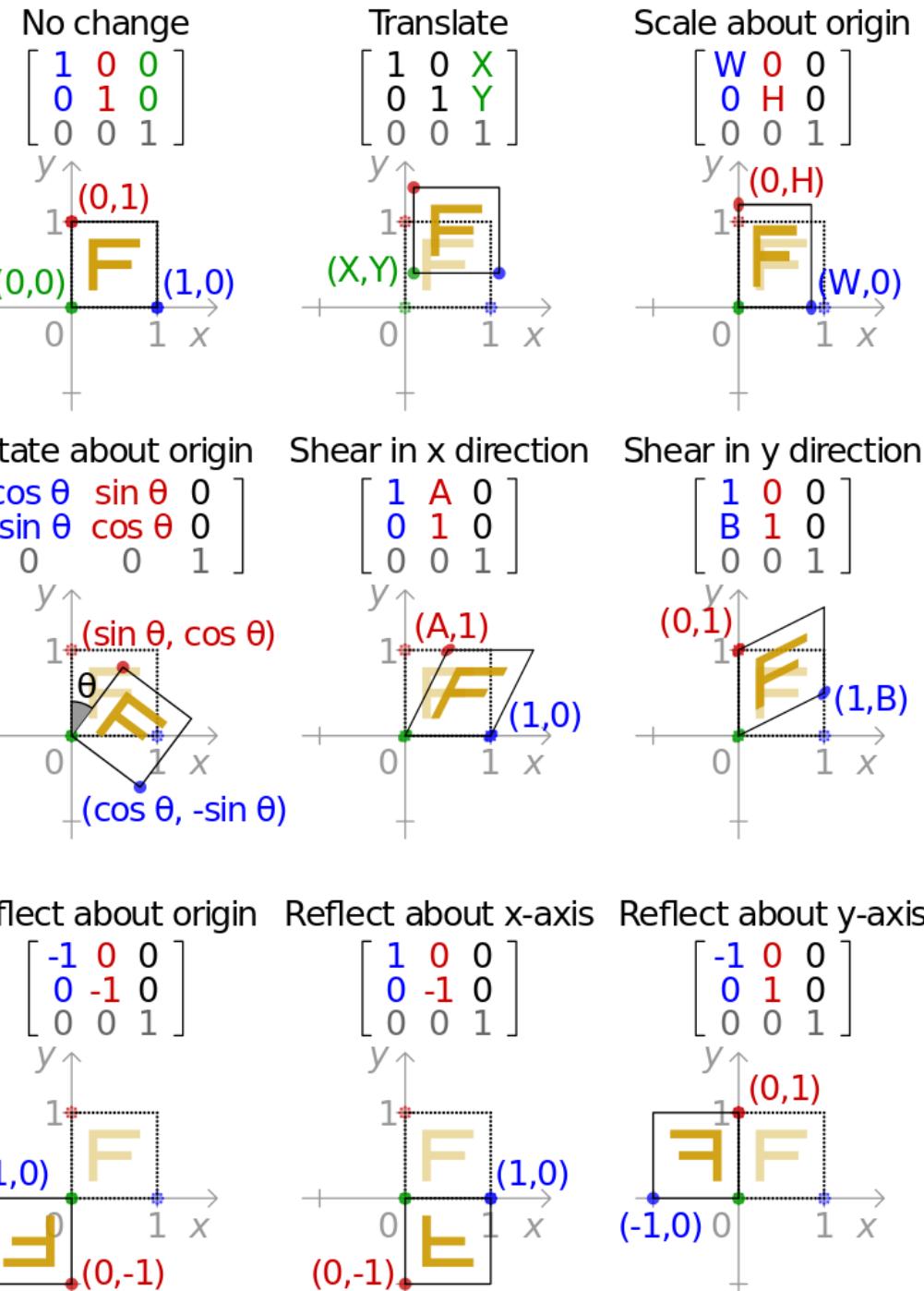
often:  $\mathcal{F}_G \equiv \mathcal{F}_{R[0]} \Rightarrow R[0]^G \mathbf{T} = id$

# TRANSFORMS & STUFF ☺

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# Affine Transformation

- Function between affine spaces. Preserves:
  - points,
  - straight lines
  - planes
  - sets of parallel lines remain parallel
- Allows:
  - Interesting for Robotics: translation, rotation, (scaling), and chaining of those
  - Not so interesting for Robotics: reflection, shearing, homothetic transforms
- Rotation and Translation:  $\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta & X \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta & Y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$



# Math: Rigid Transformation

- Geometric transformation that preserves Euclidean distance between pairs of points.
- Includes reflections (i.e. change from right-hand to left-hand coordinate system and back)
- Just rotation & translation: rigid motions or proper rigid transformations:
  - Decomposed to rotation and translation
  - => subset of Affine Transformations
- In Robotics: Just use term **Transform** or **Transformation** for rigid motions (without reflections)

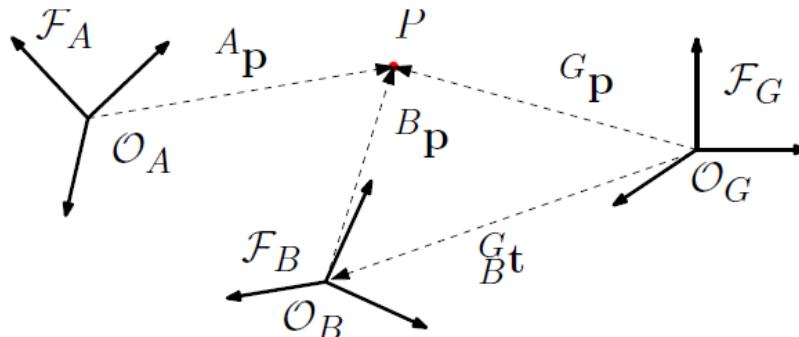
# Lie groups for transformations

- Smoothly differentiable Group
- No singularities
- Good interpolation
- SO: Special Orthogonal group
- SE: Special Euclidian group
- Sim\_ilarity transform group

Group	Description	Dim.	Matrix Representation
SO(3)	3D Rotations	3	3D rotation matrix
SE(3)	3D Rigid transformations	6	Linear transformation on homogeneous 4-vectors
SO(2)	2D Rotations	1	2D rotation matrix
SE(2)	2D Rigid transformations	3	Linear transformation on homogeneous 3-vectors
Sim(3)	3D Similarity transformations (rigid motion + scale)	7	Linear transformation on homogeneous 4-vectors

<http://ethaneade.com/lie.pdf>

# Transform



Notation	Meaning
$\mathcal{F}_{R[k]}$	Coordinate frame attached to object 'R' (usually the robot) at sample time-instant $k$ .
$O_{R[k]}$	Origin of $\mathcal{F}_{R[k]}$ .
${}^R[k]p$	For any general point $P$ , the position vector $\overrightarrow{O_{R[k]}P}$ resolved in $\mathcal{F}_{R[k]}$ .
${}^H\hat{x}_R$	The x-axis direction of $\mathcal{F}_R$ resolved in $\mathcal{F}_H$ . Similarly, ${}^H\hat{y}_R$ , ${}^H\hat{z}_R$ can be defined. Obviously, ${}^R\hat{x}_R = \hat{e}_1$ . Time indices can be added to the frames, if necessary.
${}^R[k]S[k']R$	The rotation-matrix of $\mathcal{F}_{S[k']}$ with respect to $\mathcal{F}_{R[k]}$ .
${}^RSt$	The translation vector $\overrightarrow{O_R O_S}$ resolved in $\mathcal{F}_R$ .

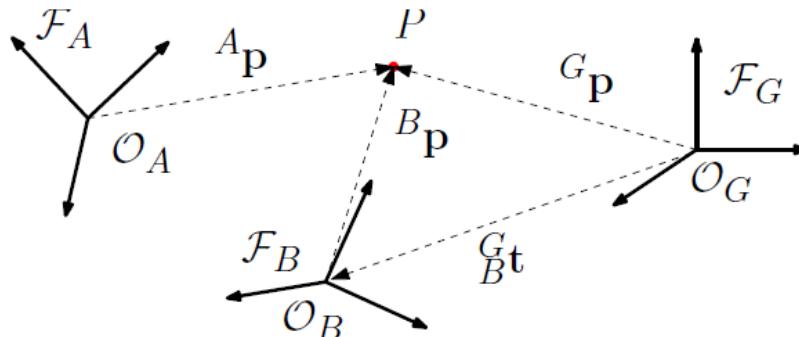
Transform  
between two  
coordinate frames

$$\begin{aligned} {}^Gt &\triangleq \overrightarrow{O_G O_A} \text{ resolved in } \mathcal{F}_G \\ {}^Gp &= {}^A\mathbf{R} {}^Ap + {}^At \\ &\triangleq {}^A\mathbf{T}({}^Ap). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} {}^Gp \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} {}^A\mathbf{R} & {}^At \\ \mathbf{0}_{1 \times [2,3]} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} {}^Ap \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad {}^A\mathbf{T} \equiv \begin{Bmatrix} {}^At \\ {}^A\mathbf{R} \end{Bmatrix}$$

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

# Transform: Operations



Transform between two coordinate frames (chaining, compounding):

$${}^G_B \mathbf{T} = {}^G_A \mathbf{T} {}^A_B \mathbf{T} \equiv \begin{Bmatrix} {}^G_A \mathbf{R} {}^A_B \mathbf{t} + {}^G_A \mathbf{t} \\ {}^G_A \mathbf{R} {}^A_B \mathbf{R} \end{Bmatrix}$$

Inverse of a Transform :

$${}^A_B \mathbf{T} = {}^A_B \mathbf{T}^{-1} \equiv \begin{Bmatrix} - {}^B_A \mathbf{R}^\top {}^A_B \mathbf{t} \\ {}^A_B \mathbf{R}^\top \end{Bmatrix}$$

Relative (Difference) Transform :  ${}^B_A \mathbf{T} = {}^G_B \mathbf{T}^{-1} {}^G_A \mathbf{T}$

See: **Quick Reference to Geometric Transforms in Robotics** by Kaustubh Pathak on the webpage!

**Chaining :**  $R[X+1]^G \mathbf{T} = R[X]^G \mathbf{T} \ R[X+1]^R \mathbf{T} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} R[X]^R & R[X]^R t + R[X]^G t \\ R[X]^G R & R[X+1]^R \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} R[X+1]^G t \\ R[X+1]^G R \end{pmatrix}$

In 2D Translation:  $\begin{bmatrix} R[X+1]^G t_x \\ R[X+1]^G t_y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos R[X]^G \theta & -\sin R[X]^G \theta & R[X]^G t_x \\ \sin R[X]^G \theta & \cos R[X]^G \theta & R[X]^G t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R[X] t_x \\ R[X+1] t_x \\ R[X] t_y \\ R[X+1] t_y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

In 2D Rotation:

$$R[X+1]^G R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos R[X+1]^G \theta & -\sin R[X+1]^G \theta \\ \sin R[X+1]^G \theta & \cos R[X+1]^G \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos R[X]^G \theta & -\sin R[X]^G \theta \\ \sin R[X]^G \theta & \cos R[X]^G \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos R[X+1]^R \theta & -\sin R[X+1]^R \theta \\ \sin R[X+1]^R \theta & \cos R[X+1]^R \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

In 2D Rotation (simple):  $R[X+1]^G \theta = R[X]^G \theta + R[X+1]^R \theta$

# In ROS: nav\_2d\_msgs/Pose2DStamped

- First Message at time 97 : G
- Message at time 103 : X
- Next Message at time 107 : X+1

$$\begin{matrix} R[X] & t_x \\ R[X+1] & \\ R[X] & t_y \\ R[X+1] & \\ R[X] & \Theta \\ R[X+1] & \end{matrix}$$

$$R[X+1]^G\mathbf{T} = R[X]^G\mathbf{T} R[X+1]^R\mathbf{T}$$

```
std_msgs/Header header
uint32 seq
time stamp
string frame_id
geometry_msgs/Pose2D pose2D
float64 x
float64 y
float64 theta
```