



上海科技大学  
ShanghaiTech University

## CS283: Robotics Spring 2024: Kinematics

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# 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

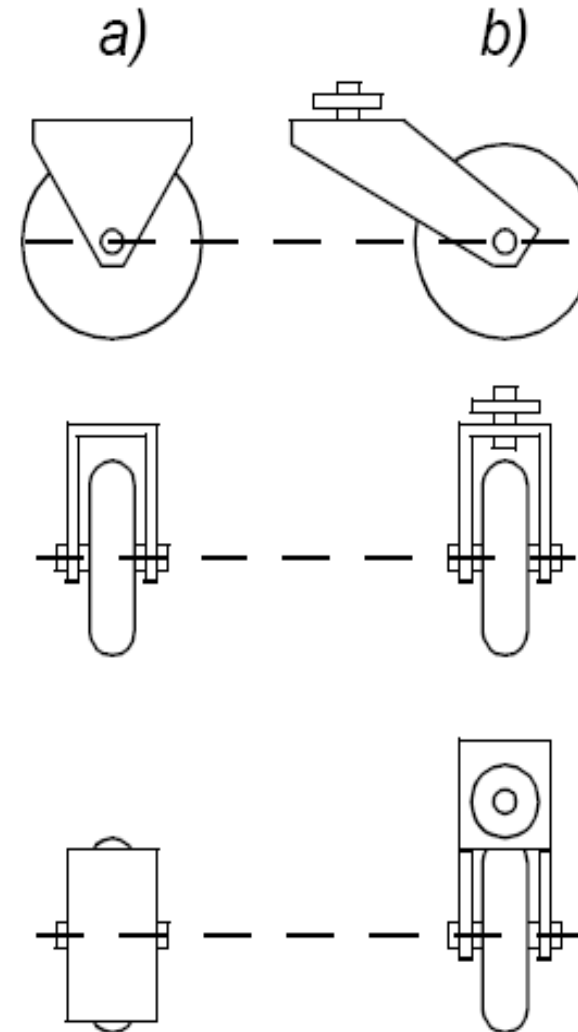
- Robot:
  - I know how fast the wheels turned =>
  - I know how the robot moved =>
  - I know where I am 😊
- Marine Navigation: Dead reckoning (using heading sensor)
- Sources of error (AMR pages 269 - 270):
  - Wheel slip
    - Uneven floor contact (non-planar surface)
    - Robot kinematic: tracked 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

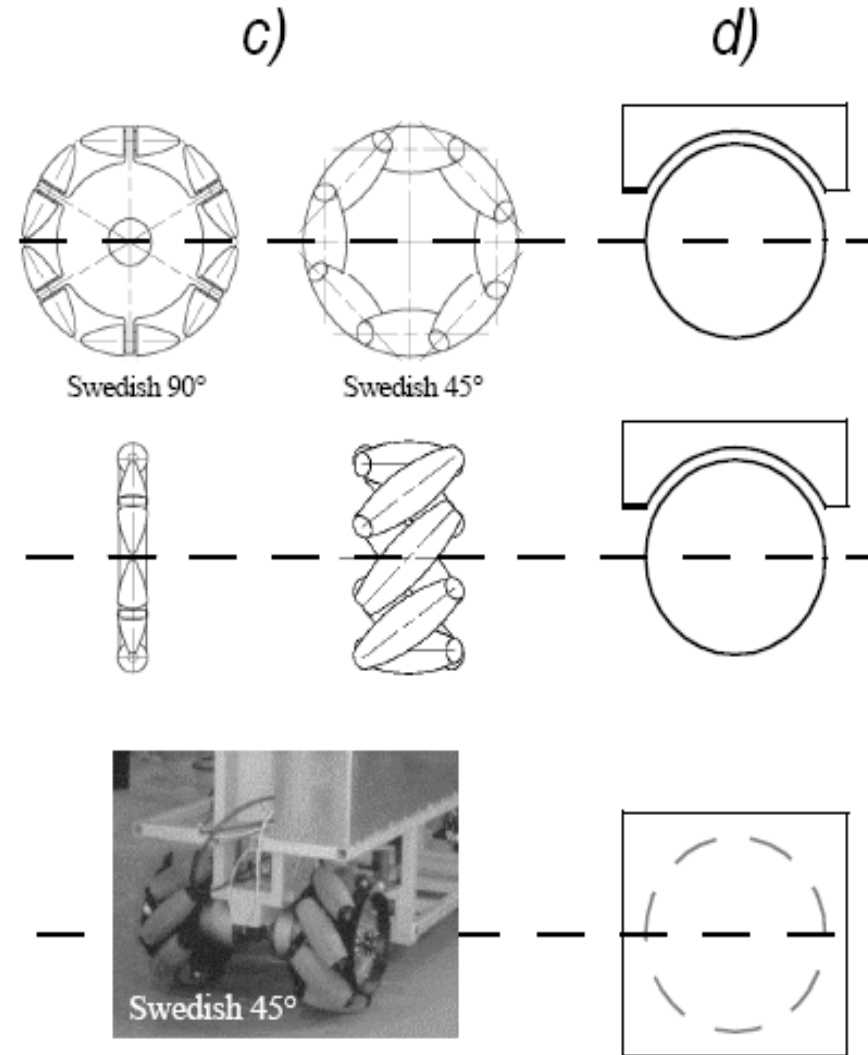
# The Four Basic Wheels Types I

- 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



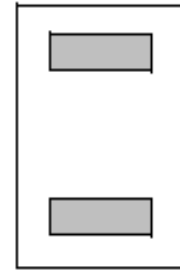
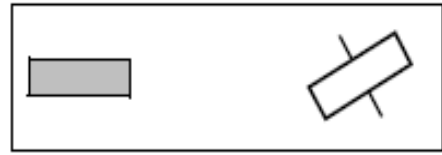
# Characteristics of Wheeled Robots and Vehicles

- Stability of a vehicle is be 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.



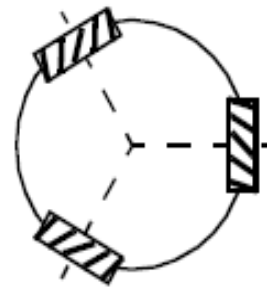
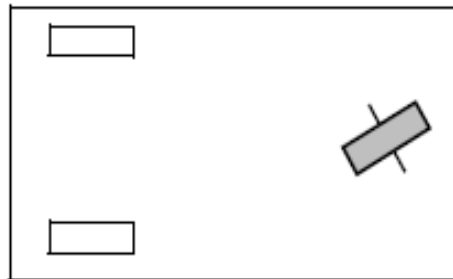
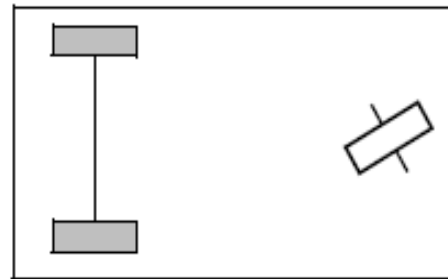
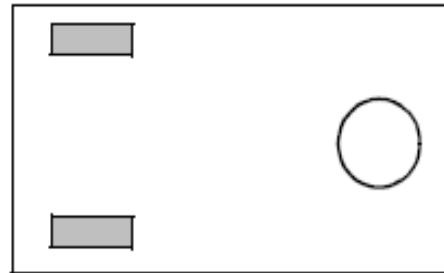
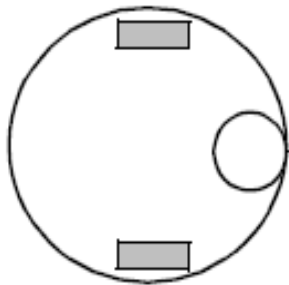
# Different Arrangements of Wheels I

- Two wheels

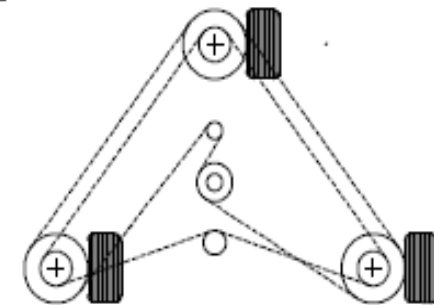


*Center of gravity below axle*

- Three wheels



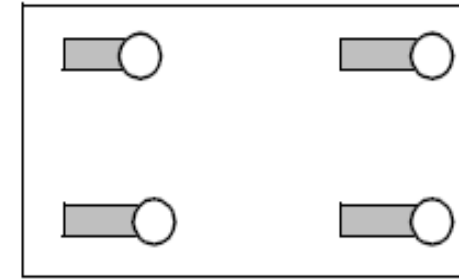
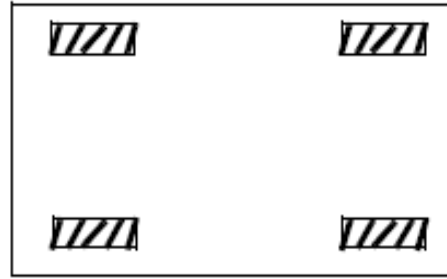
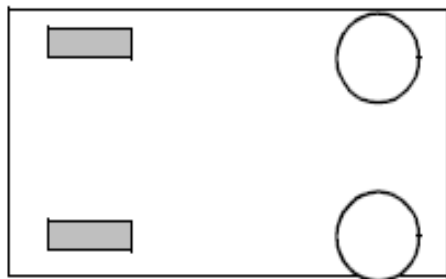
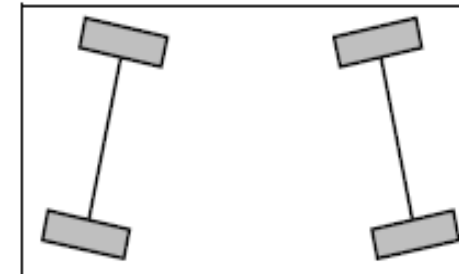
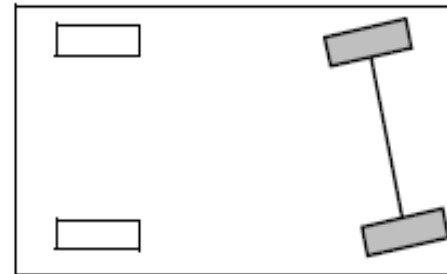
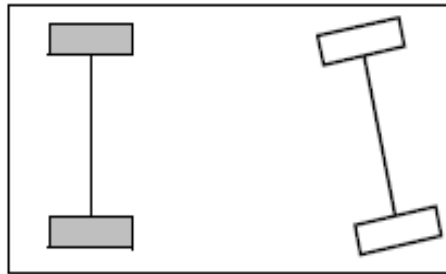
Omnidirectional Drive



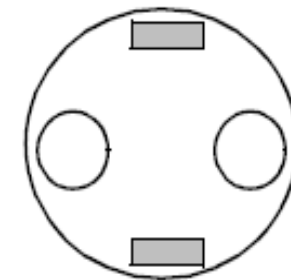
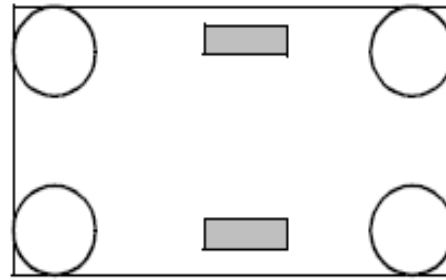
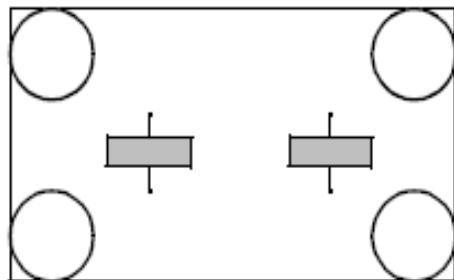
Synchro Drive

# Different Arrangements of Wheels II

- Four wheels

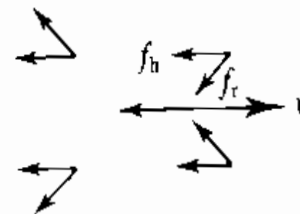
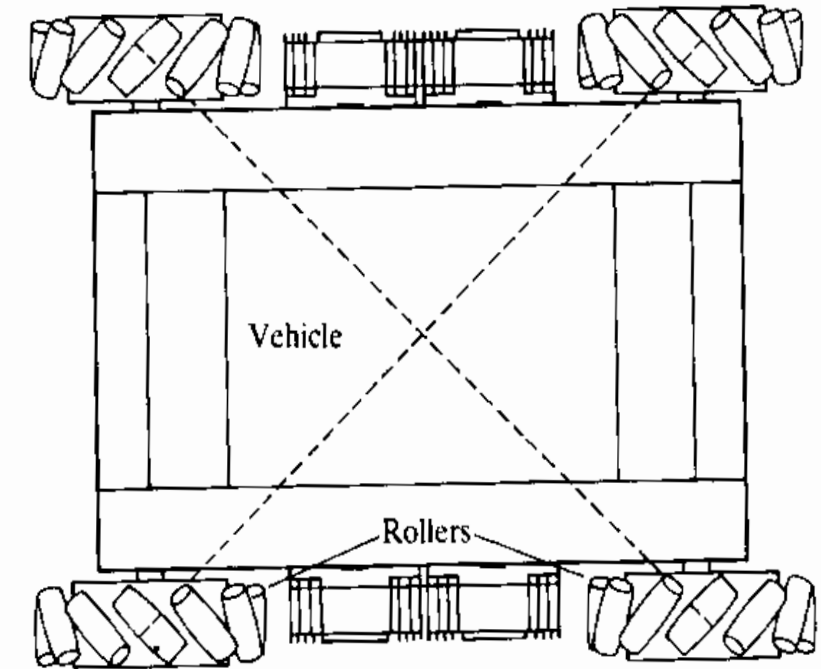
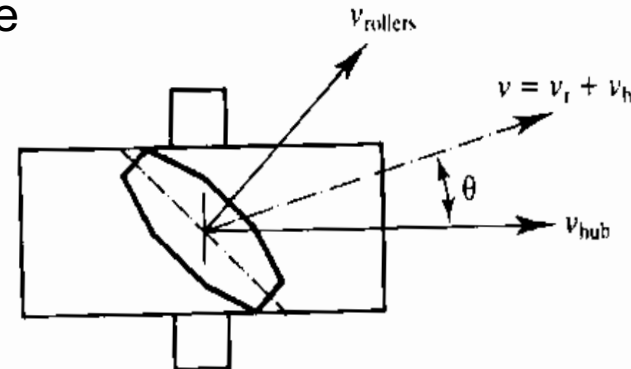
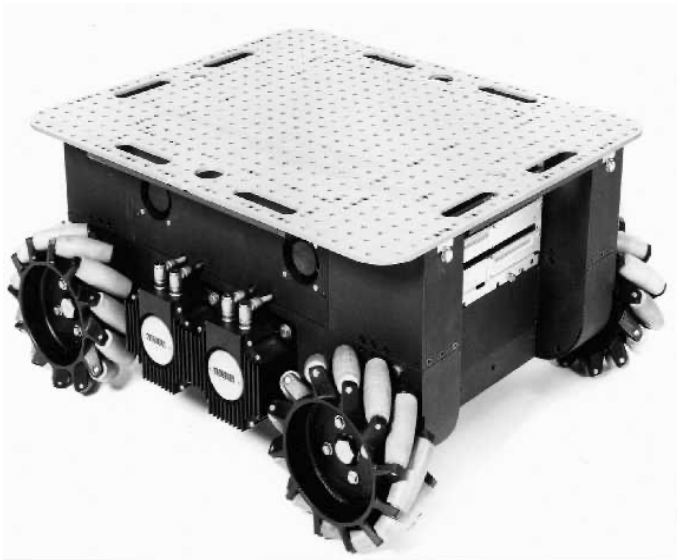


- Six wheels

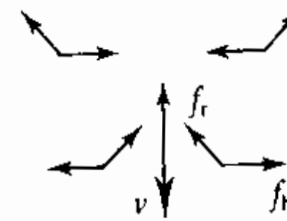


# Uranus, CMU: Omnidirectional Drive with 4 Wheels

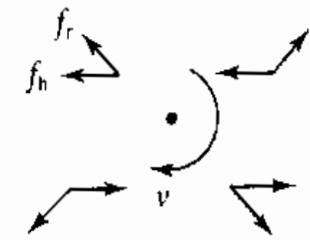
- Movement in the plane has 3 DOF
  - thus only three wheels can be independently controlled
  - It might be better to arrange three swedish wheels in a triangle



Forward



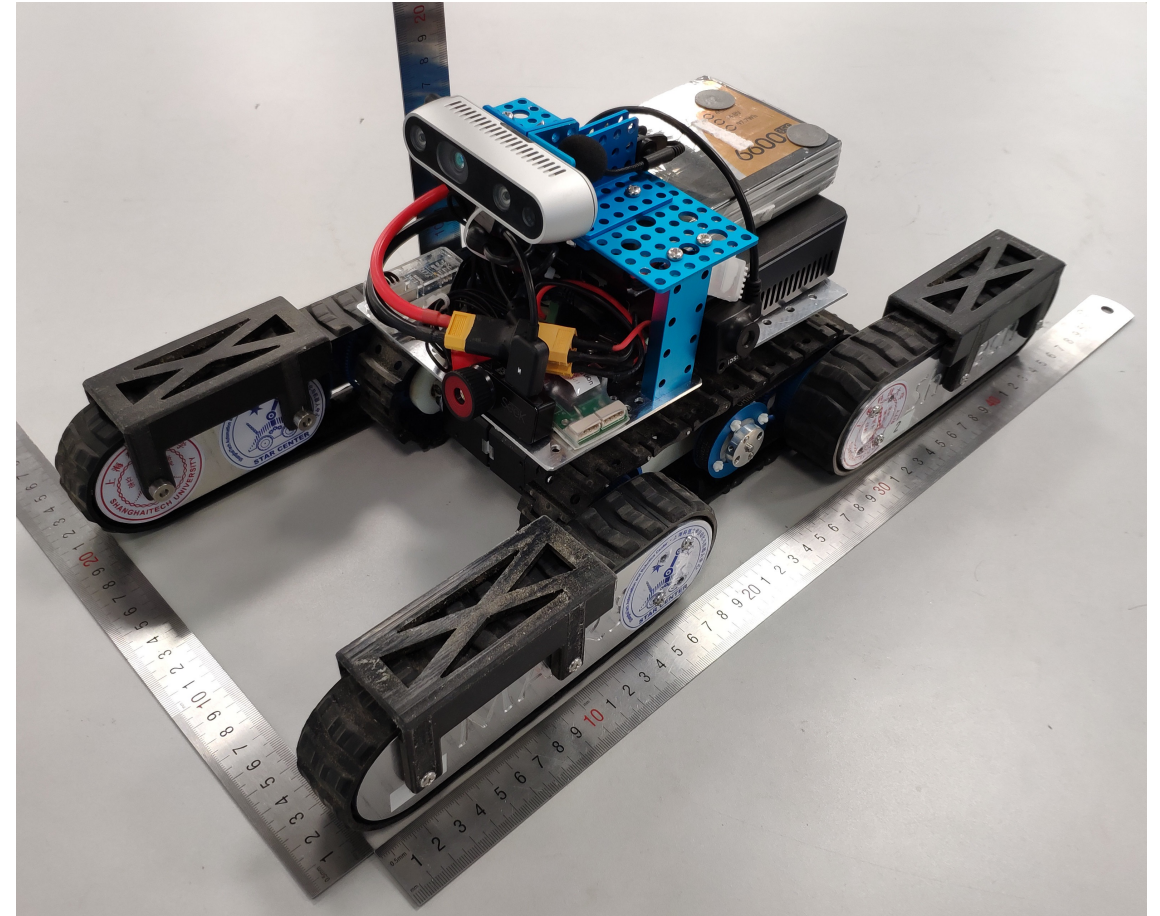
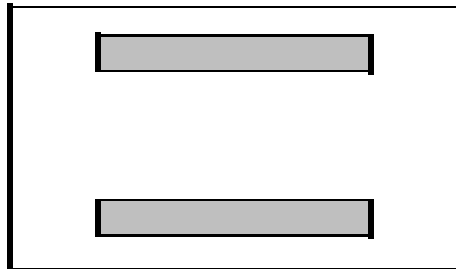
Right



Clockwise

# MARS Rescue Robot: Tracked Differential Drive

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



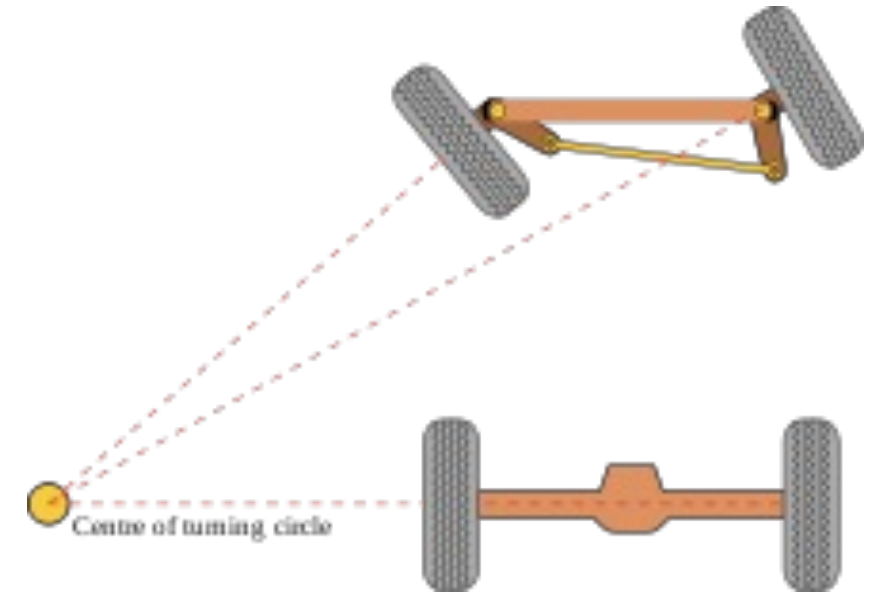
# Differential Drive Robots





# 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*

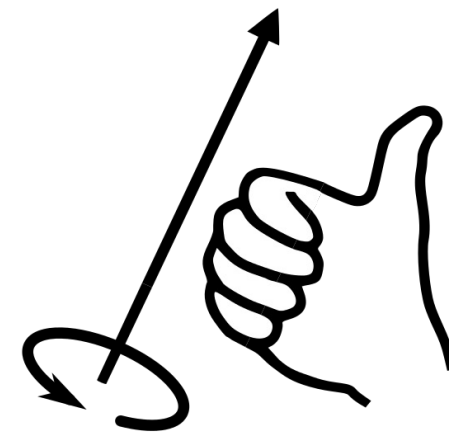
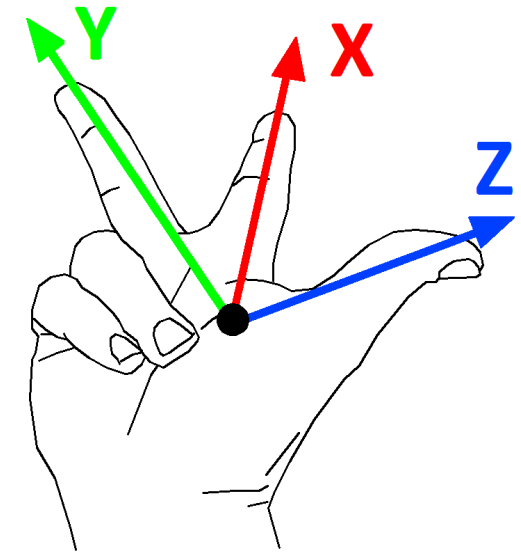
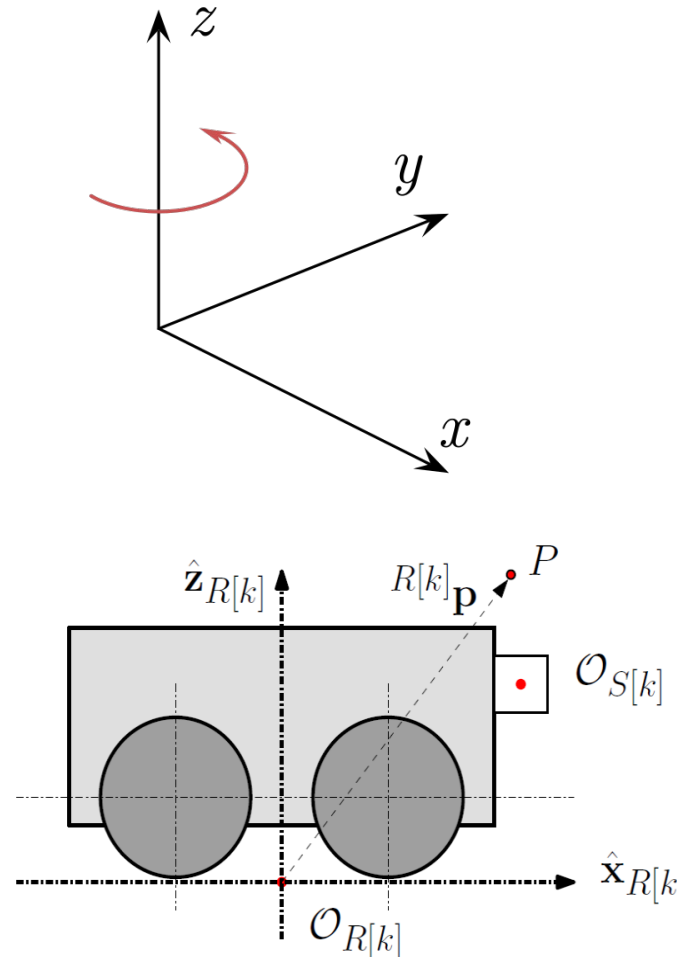
# COORDINATE SYSTEM

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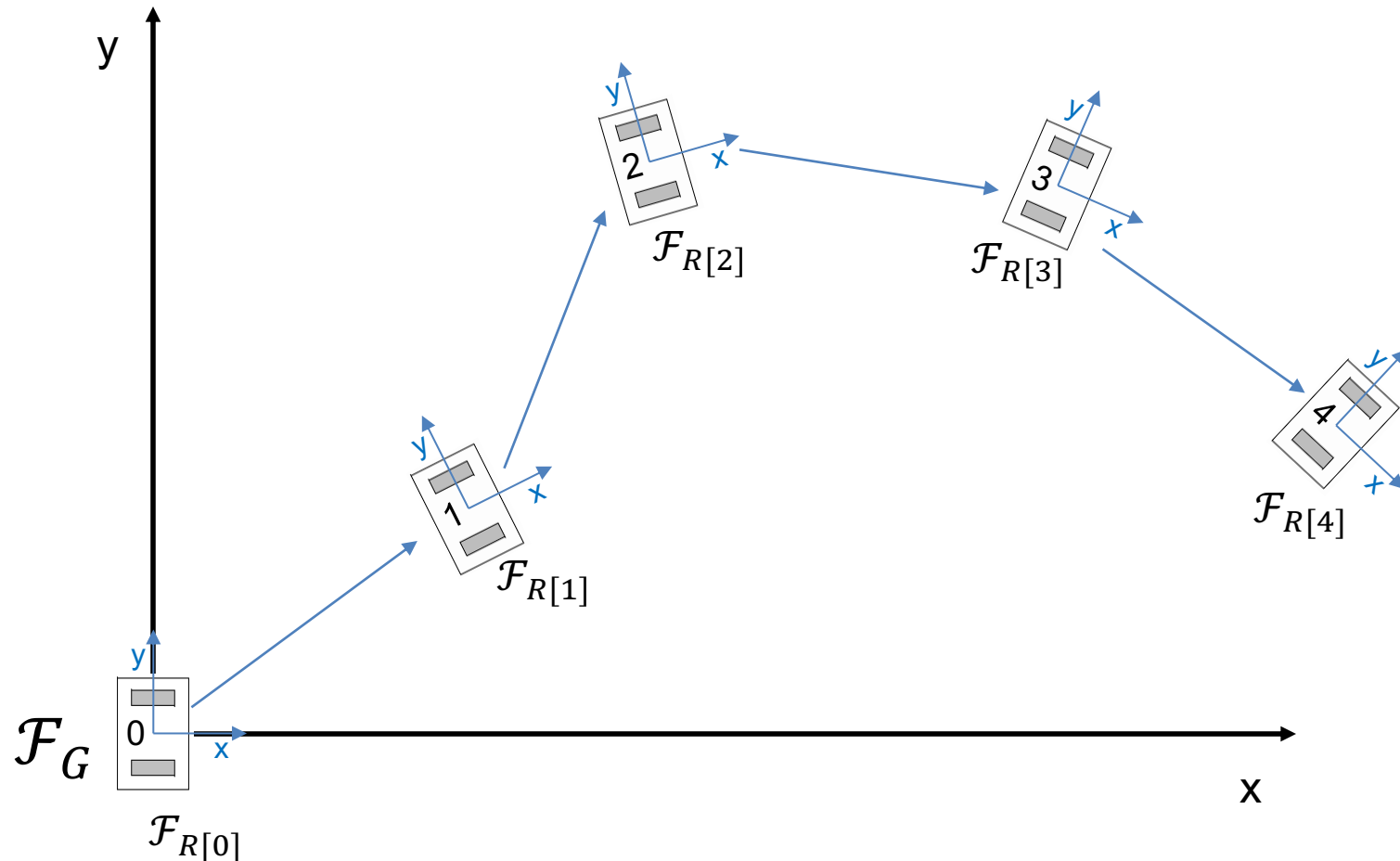


# Right Hand Coordinate System

- 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 ???



# Odometry



With respect to the robot start pose:

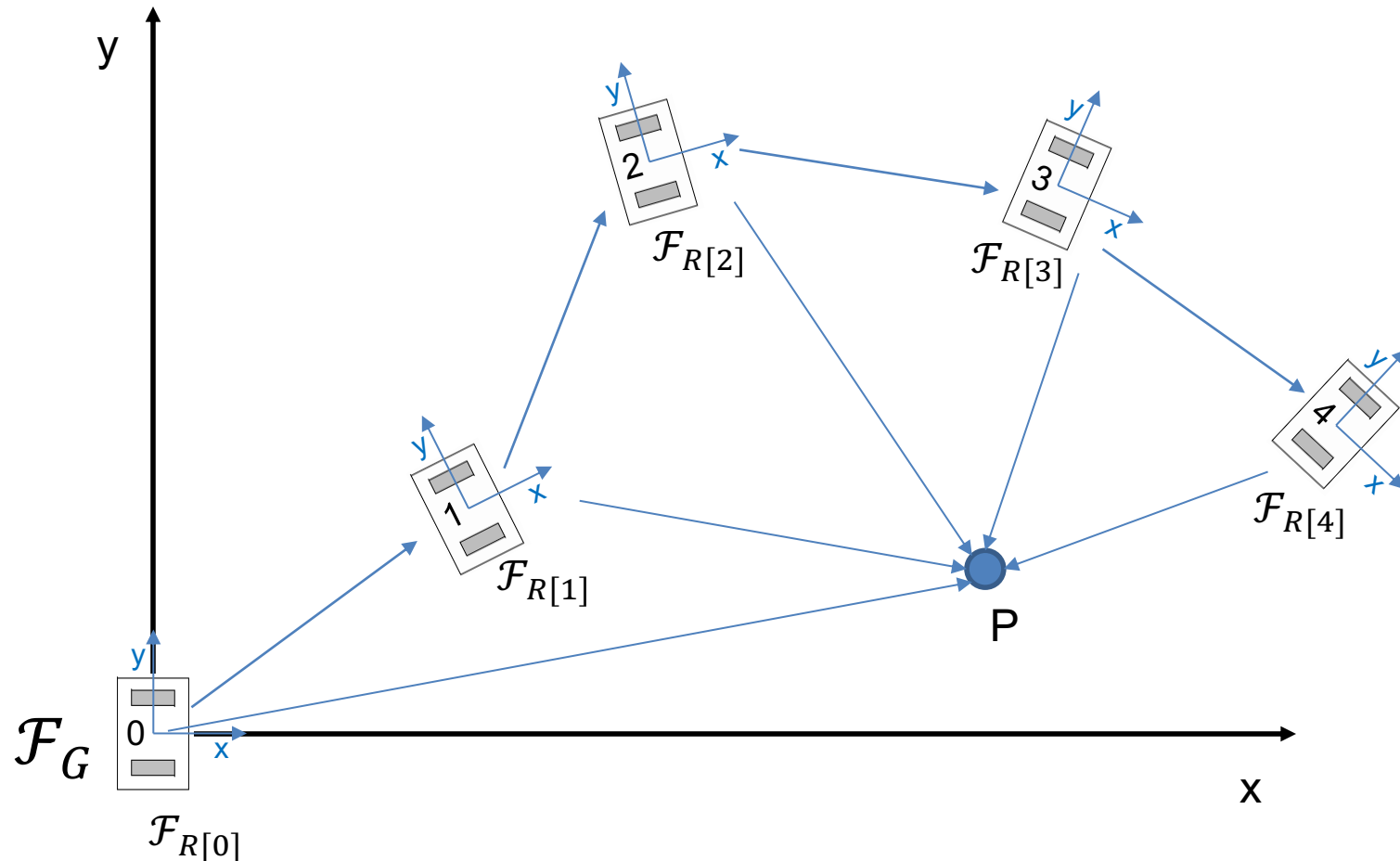
Where is the robot now?

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 $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$

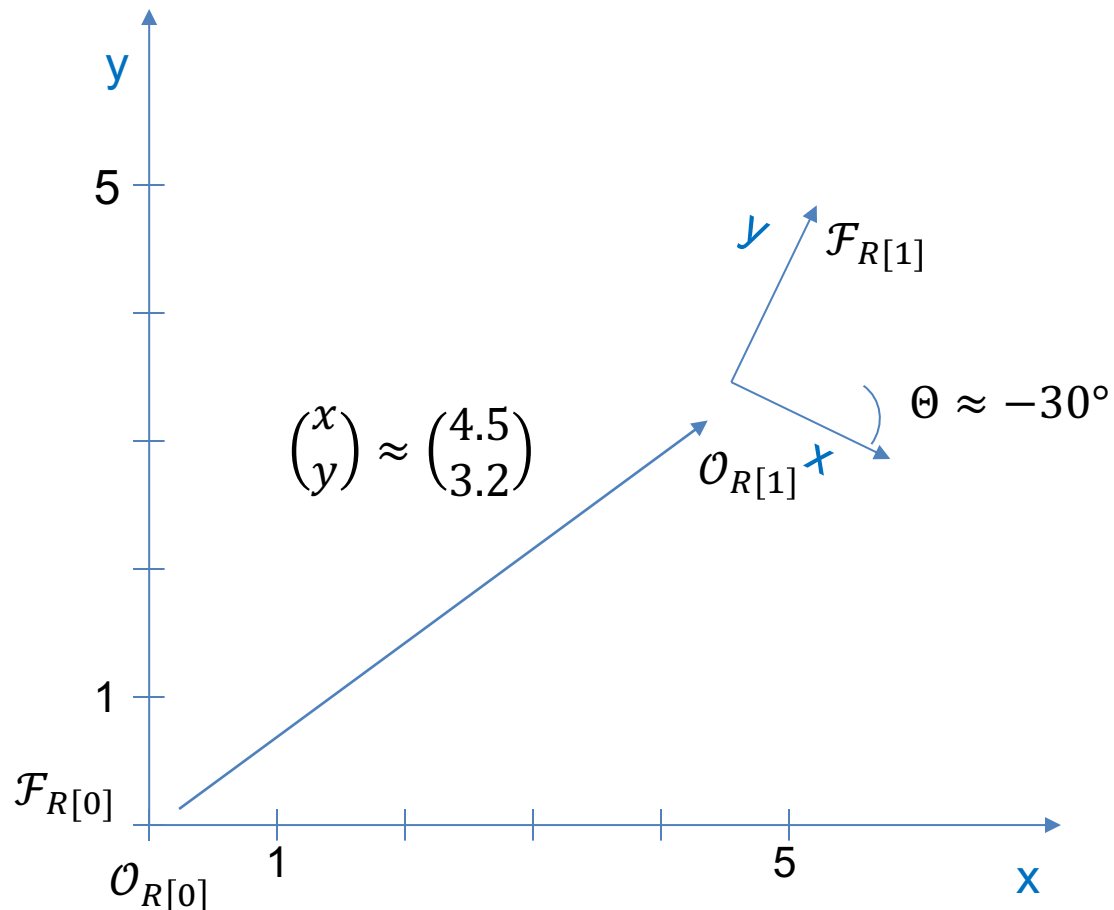


$\mathcal{O}_{R[X]}$  : Origin of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$   
(coordinates (0, 0))

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

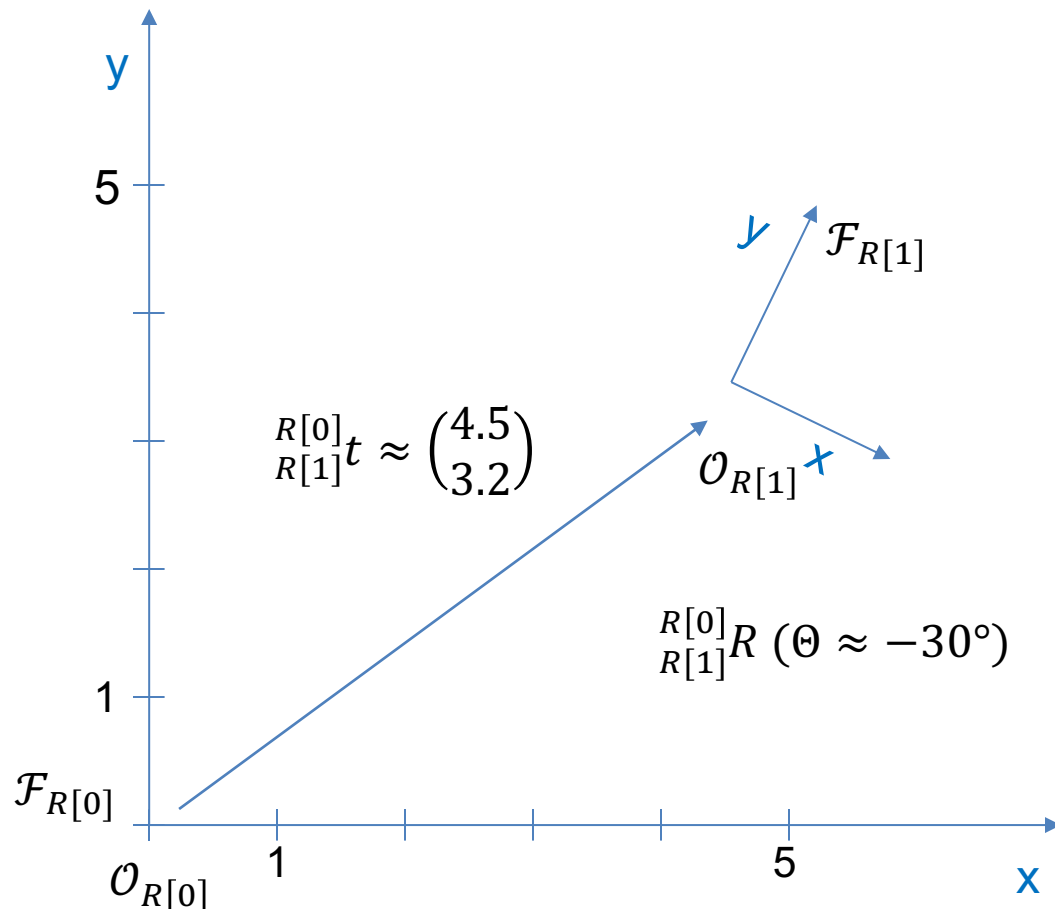
- Object P is observed at times 0 to 4
- Object P is static (does not move)
- The Robot moves (e.g.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[0]} \neq \mathcal{F}_{R[1]}$ )
- $\Rightarrow$  (x, y) coordinates of P are different in all frames, for example:
  - $\overrightarrow{\mathcal{O}_{R[0]}P} \neq \overrightarrow{\mathcal{O}_{R[1]}P}$

# Position, Orientation & Pose



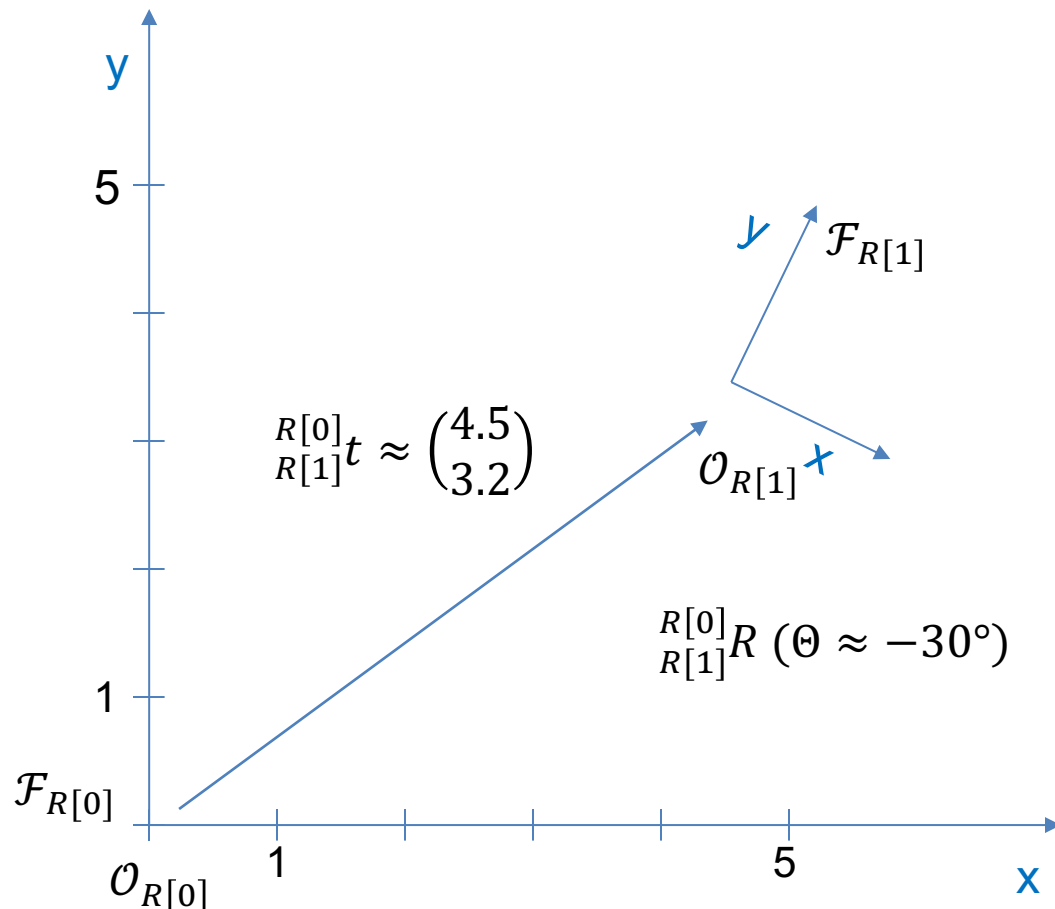
- **Position:**
  - $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$  coordinates of any object or point (or another frame)
  - with respect to (wrt.) a specified frame
- **Orientation:**
  - $(\theta)$  angle of any oriented object (or another frame)
  - with respect to (wrt.) a specified frame
- **Pose:**
 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

- $O_{R[X]}$  : Origin of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$ 
  - $\overrightarrow{O_{R[X]}O_{R[X+1]}}$  : **Position** of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X+1]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$

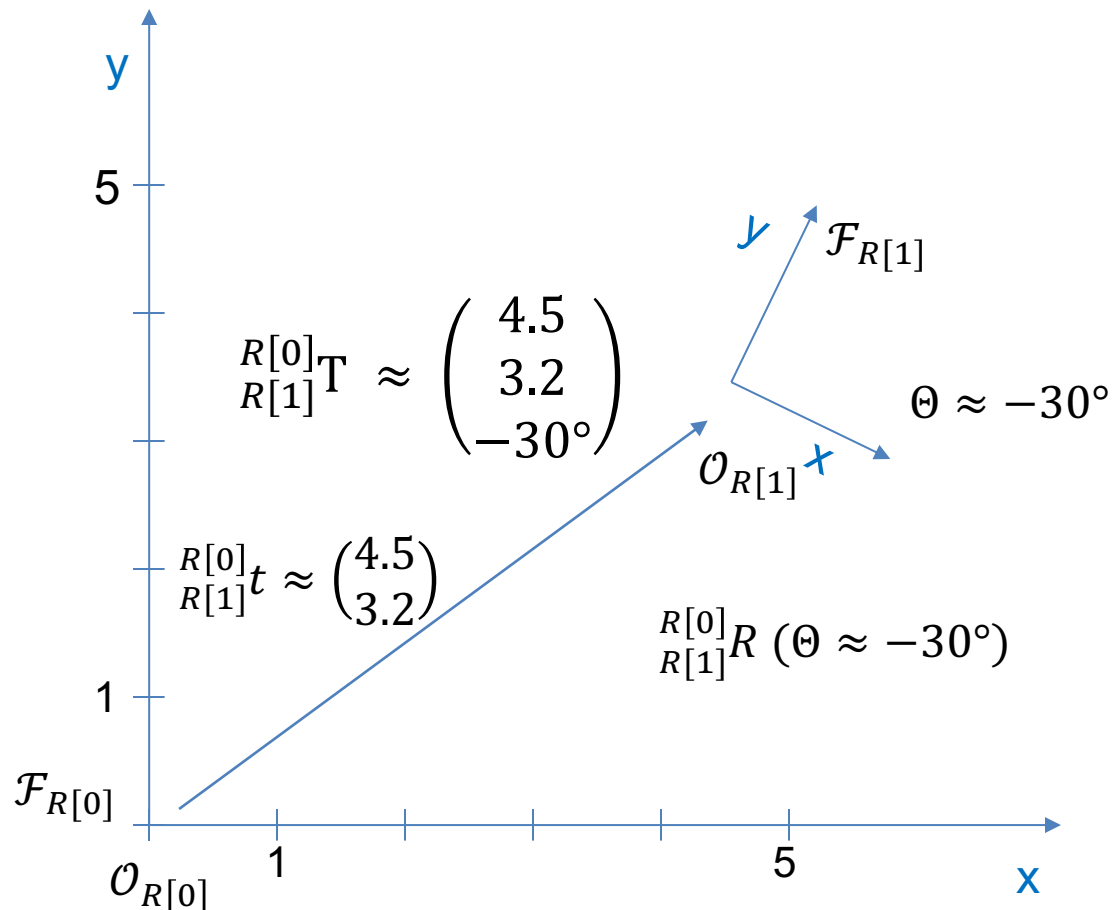
so  $O_{R[X+1]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$

$\triangleq$   ${}^{R[X]}_{R[X+1]}t$  : **Translation**

- The angle  $\theta$  between the x-Axes:
  - **Orientation** of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X+1]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$

$\triangleq$   ${}^{R[X]}_{R[X+1]}R$  : **Rotation** of  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X+1]}$  wrt.  $\mathcal{F}_{R[X]}$

# Transform



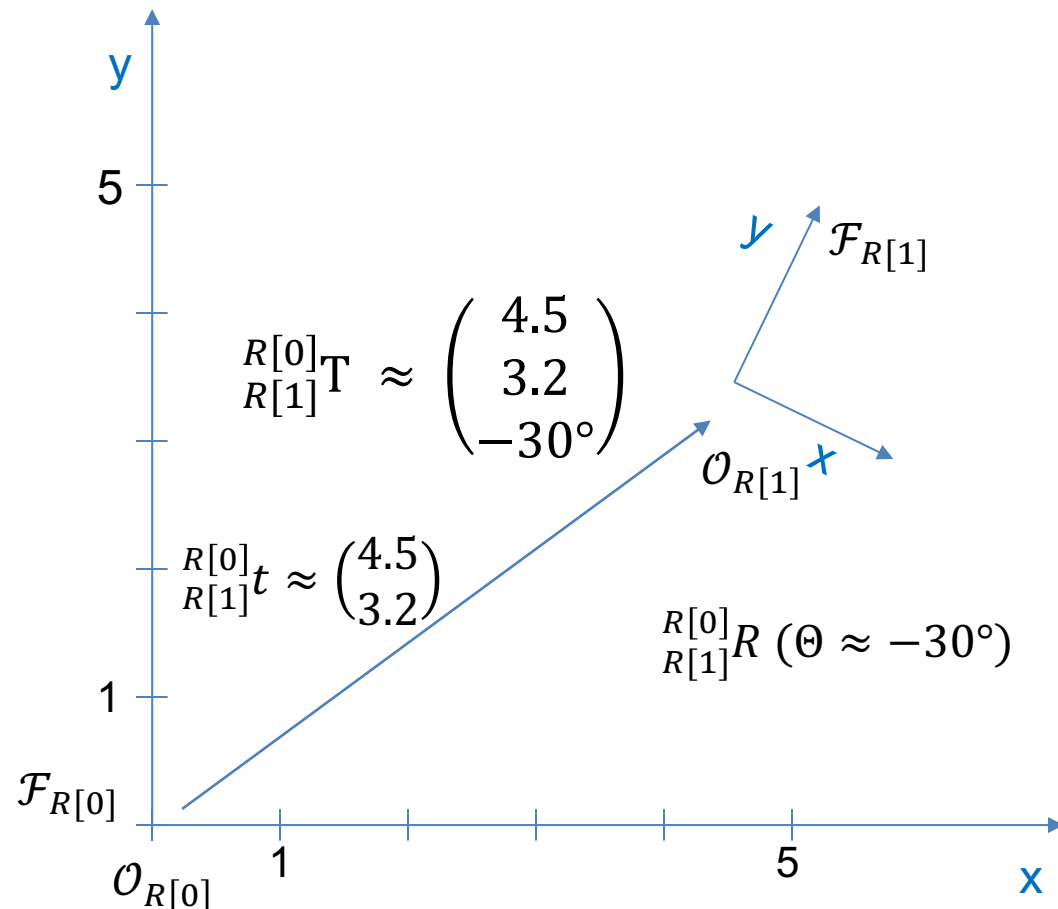
- $R_{R[X+1]}^{R[X]} \mathbf{t}$  : **Translation**
  - Position vector  $(x, y)$  of  $R[X + 1]$  wrt.  $R[X]$
- $R_{R[X+1]}^{R[X]} R$  : **Rotation**
  - Angle  $(\theta)$  of  $R[X + 1]$  wrt.  $R[X]$
- **Transform:**  $R_{R[X+1]}^{R[X]} \mathbf{T} \equiv \begin{Bmatrix} R_{R[X+1]}^{R[X]} \mathbf{t}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

# 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

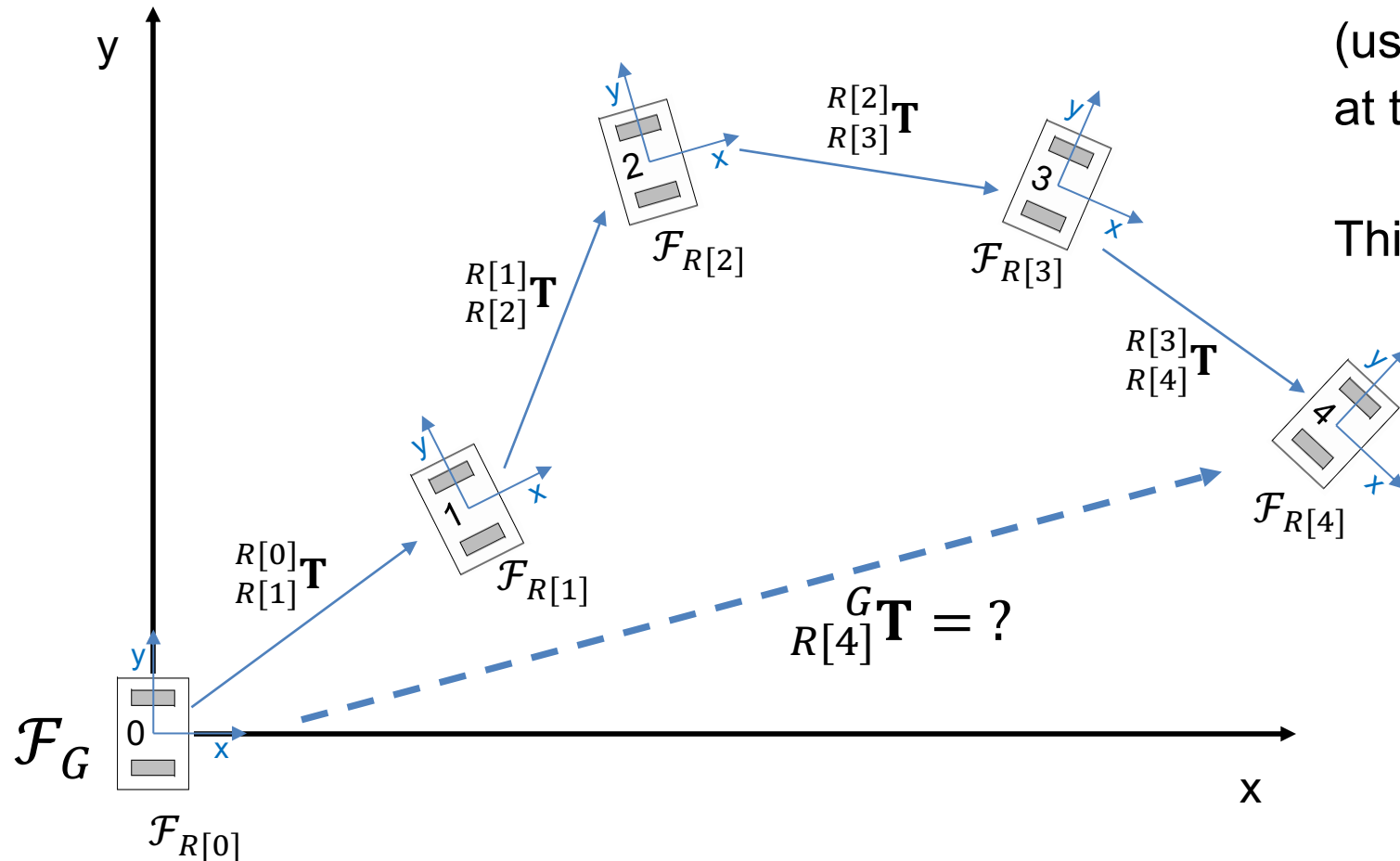


$$\mathcal{F}_{R[0]} = \mathcal{F}_G \Rightarrow {}^G\mathcal{F}_{R[0]} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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



# 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  ${}^G\mathbf{T}_{R[X]}$

## Chaining of Transforms

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

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

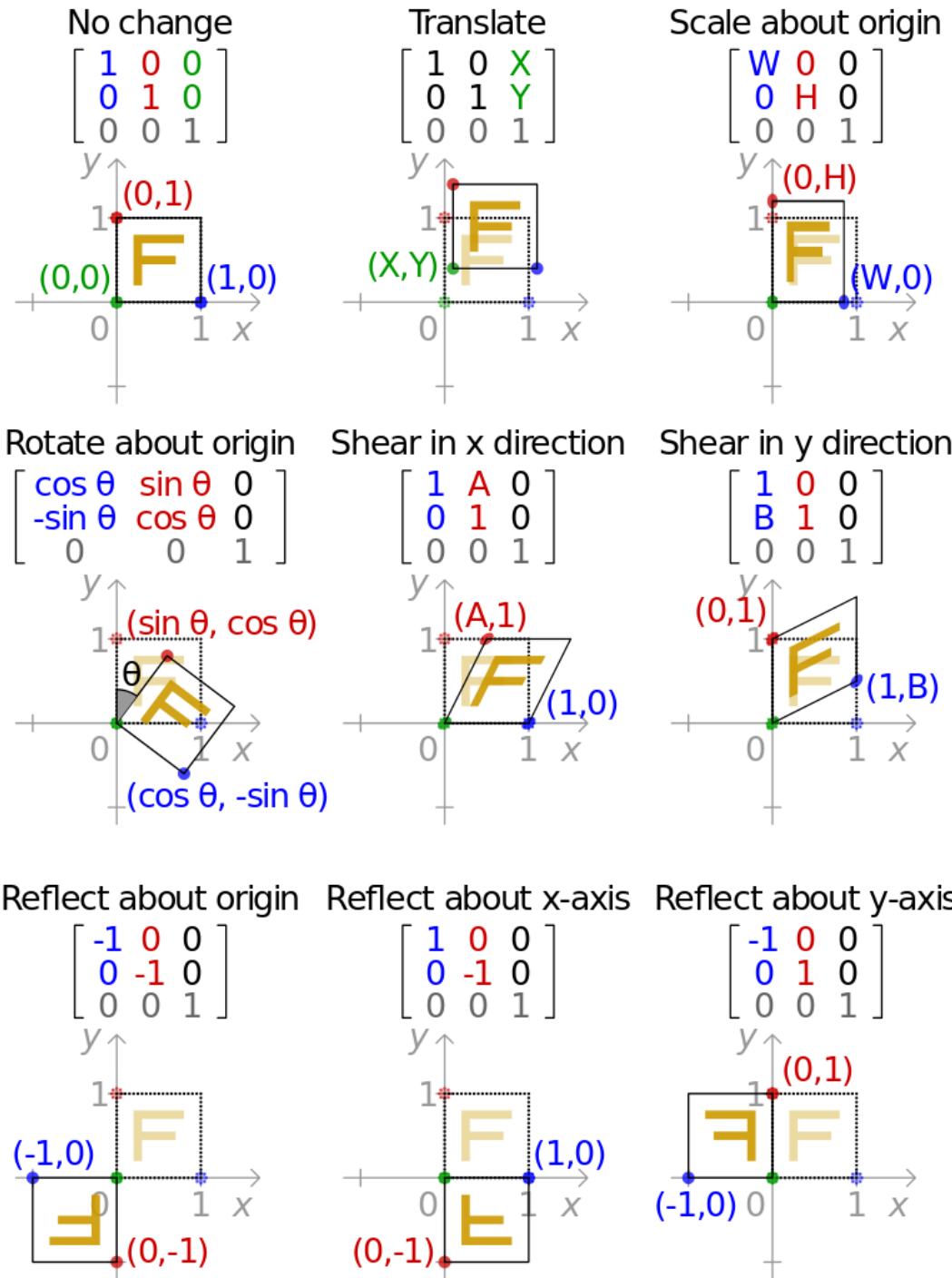
# TRANSFORMS & STUFF 😊

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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

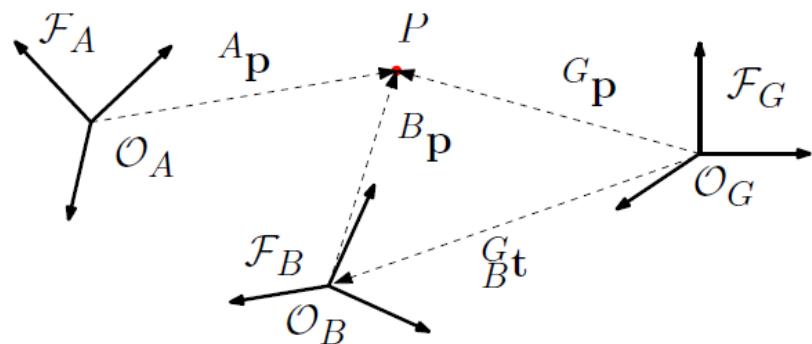
- Geometric transformation that preserves Euclidean distance between pairs of points.
- Includes reflections (i.e. change from right-hand to left-hand coordinate system and back)
- Just rotation & translation: rigid motions or proper rigid transformations:
  - Decomposed to rotation and translation
  - => 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

# 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 $\mathcal{F}_{R[k]}$ .
${}^R_S t$	The translation vector $\overrightarrow{O_R O_S}$ resolved in $\mathcal{F}_R$ .

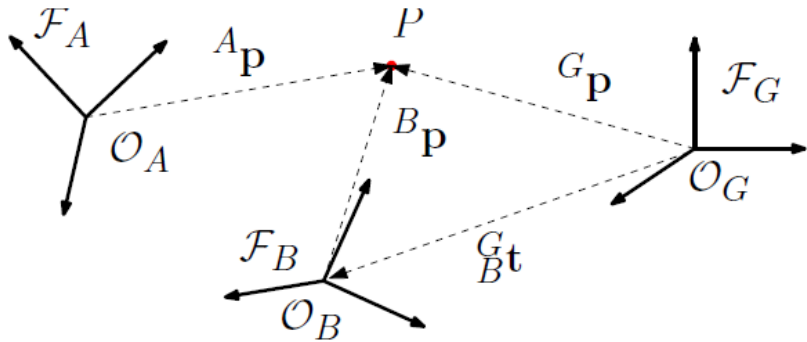
Transform  
between two  
coordinate frames

$${}^G_A t \triangleq \overrightarrow{O_G O_A} \text{ resolved in } \mathcal{F}_G \quad \begin{pmatrix} {}^G p \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} {}^G_A R & {}^G_A t \\ \mathbf{0}_{1 \times [2,3]} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} {}^A p \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad {}^G_A T \equiv \left\{ \begin{matrix} {}^G_A t \\ {}^G_A R \end{matrix} \right\}$$

$${}^G p = {}^G_A R \cdot {}^A p + {}^G_A t \\ \triangleq {}^G_A T ({}^A p).$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & {}^G_A t_x \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & {}^G_A t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Transform: Operations



Transform between two coordinate frames (chaining, compounding):

$${}^G\mathbf{T} = {}^G\mathbf{T} {}^A\mathbf{T} \equiv \begin{Bmatrix} {}^G\mathbf{R} {}^A\mathbf{t} + {}^G\mathbf{t} \\ {}^G\mathbf{R} {}^A\mathbf{R} \end{Bmatrix}$$

Inverse of a Transform :

$${}^B\mathbf{T} = {}^A\mathbf{T}^{-1} \equiv \begin{Bmatrix} -{}^A\mathbf{R}^T {}^A\mathbf{t} \\ {}^A\mathbf{R}^T \end{Bmatrix}$$

Relative (Difference) Transform :  ${}^B\mathbf{T} = {}^G\mathbf{T}^{-1} {}^G\mathbf{T}$

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

**Chaining :** 
$${}_{R[X+1]}^G \mathbf{T} = {}_{R[X]}^G \mathbf{T} \quad {}_{R[X+1]}^{R[X]} \mathbf{T} \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} {}_{R[X]}^G \mathbf{R} & {}_{R[X+1]}^{R[X]} \mathbf{t} + {}_{R[X]}^G \mathbf{t} \\ {}_{R[X]}^G \mathbf{R} & {}_{R[X+1]}^{R[X]} \mathbf{R} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} {}_{R[X+1]}^G \mathbf{t} \\ {}_{R[X+1]}^G \mathbf{R} \end{array} \right\}$$

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

**In 2D Rotation:**

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

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



# In ROS: nav\_2d\_msgs/Pose2DStamped

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

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

$$R_{[X]} \mathbf{T} \begin{matrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{matrix}$$

$$R_{[X+1]} \mathbf{T} \begin{matrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{matrix}$$

$$R_{[X]} \Theta$$

$$R_{[X+1]} \Theta$$

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

# 3D Rotation

- Many 3D rotation representations:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotation\\_formalisms\\_in\\_three\\_dimensions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotation_formalisms_in_three_dimensions)

- Euler angles:
  - Roll: rotation around x-axis
  - Pitch: rotation around y-axis
  - Yaw: rotation around z-axis
  - Apply rotations one after the other...
    - => Order important! E.g.:
      - x-z-x; x-y-z; z-y-x; ...
  - ☹ Singularities
  - Gimbal lock in Engineering
    - "a condition caused by the collinear alignment of two or more robot axes resulting in unpredictable robot motion and velocities"

