

1 Intro

1.1 Basic Notation

Position vector (point): $P = \begin{bmatrix} P_x \\ P_y \\ P_z \end{bmatrix}$.

Names are attached as a subscript: P_{home} .

Frame: $\{\cdot\}$, \cdot is uppercase/numeric name.

“Base frame” (of a robot) is conventionally $\{0\}$.

Position vector in frame $\{\text{ref}\}$: ${}^{\text{ref}}P$.

Origin of frame $\{X\}$: $P_{X_{\text{org}}}$.

Rotation matrix of $\{B\}$ wrt. $\{A\}$: ${}^A_B R$.

Homogeneous transform matrix of $\{B\}$ wrt. $\{A\}$: ${}^A_B T$.

1.2 Transformations

Note that while ${}^A_B R$ “measures” $\{B\}$ ’s rotation in $\{A\}$ (${}^A_B R \hat{X}_A = \hat{X}_B$), when applied as a transformation (on position vectors), the “direction” is reversed, producing a $\{B\}$ -to- $\{A\}$ frame substitution (${}^A P = {}^A_B R {}^B P$).

The same goes for other transforms, e.g., homogeneous transforms T .

For frames $\{A\}$ and $\{B\}$:

if they differ only by a **rotation**, then ${}^A P = {}^A_B R {}^B P$;

if they differ only by a **translation**, then ${}^A P = {}^B P + {}^A P_{B_{\text{org}}}$ (where ${}^A P_{B_{\text{org}}} = P_{B_{\text{org}}} - P_{A_{\text{org}}}$);

otherwise if **both**, then ${}^A P = {}^A_B T {}^B P$.

1.2.1 Rotations

Remember to use the right-hand corkscrew rule to figure which way is the positive angle.

1.2.1.1 Matrix Repr.

The rotation of $\{B\}$ wrt. $\{A\}$ can be represented as a 3×3 matrix:

$${}^A_B R = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{X}_B \cdot \hat{X}_A & \hat{Y}_B \cdot \hat{X}_A & \hat{Z}_B \cdot \hat{X}_A \\ \hat{X}_B \cdot \hat{Y}_A & \hat{Y}_B \cdot \hat{Y}_A & \hat{Z}_B \cdot \hat{Y}_A \\ \hat{X}_B \cdot \hat{Z}_A & \hat{Y}_B \cdot \hat{Z}_A & \hat{Z}_B \cdot \hat{Z}_A \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{Z}$ are the orthonormal basis vectors of a frame.

Rotations about a given axis by θ :

$$R_X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ 0 & \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_Y = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & 0 & \sin(\theta) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin(\theta) & 0 & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_Z = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) & 0 \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Rotation matrices are orthogonal: ${}^B_A R = {}^A_B R^{-1} = {}^A_B R^T$.

1.2.1.2 Roll-pitch-yaw Repr.

Aka. fixed-angle representation.

Three rotations about a fixed set of axes (e.g. the base frame’s).

Modern terminology calls this *extrinsic* Euler angles.

For XYZ $\rightarrow \gamma \beta \alpha$:

$$R = R_Z(\alpha) R_Y(\beta) R_X(\gamma)$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta & \cos \alpha \sin \beta \sin \gamma - \sin \alpha \cos \gamma & \cos \alpha \sin \beta \cos \gamma + \sin \alpha \sin \gamma \\ \sin \alpha \cos \beta & \sin \alpha \sin \beta \sin \gamma + \cos \alpha \cos \gamma & \sin \alpha \sin \beta \cos \gamma - \cos \alpha \sin \gamma \\ -\sin \beta & \cos \beta \sin \gamma & \cos \beta \cos \gamma \end{bmatrix}$$

Useful inverses:

$$\beta = \text{atan2}(-r_{31}, \sqrt{r_{11}^2 + r_{21}^2})$$

$$\alpha = \text{atan2}\left(\frac{r_{21}}{\cos \beta}, \frac{r_{11}}{\cos \beta}\right)$$

$$\gamma = \text{atan2}\left(\frac{r_{32}}{\cos \beta}, \frac{r_{33}}{\cos \beta}\right)$$

A second solution exists from the $-\text{sqrt}$ branch ($\beta' = \pi - \beta$, with corresponding α', γ').

Singularity when $\cos \beta = 0 \iff \beta = (n + \frac{1}{2})\pi$; only $\alpha \pm \gamma$ is recoverable.

1.2.1.3 Euler Angles Repr.

Three rotations about a moving set of axes (that attach to the rotating object).

Modern terminology calls this *intrinsic* Euler angles.

Note that extrinsic and intrinsic Euler angles are equivalent via a reversal of axis order;

For ZYX $\rightarrow \alpha \beta \gamma$:

$$R = R_Z(\alpha) R_Y(\beta) R_X(\gamma)$$

As this is identical to the roll-pitch-yaw representation, the same formula applies, but with the angles pertaining to different axes.

1.2.1.4 Angle-Axis Repr.

Aka. Axis-Angle representation.

Rotation is described by a vector + a scalar:

an axis of rotation k and an angle of rotation θ about that axis.

$$k = \begin{bmatrix} k_x \\ k_y \\ k_z \end{bmatrix}$$

Invariant: $\|k\| = 1$.

Problems:

- 0-vector is ambiguous: the axis becomes undefined.
- 0-degree rotations are problematic: they result in a 0-vector.

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} k_x^2 \text{siv } \theta + \cos \theta & k_x k_y \text{siv } \theta - k_z \sin \theta & k_x k_z \text{siv } \theta + k_y \sin \theta \\ k_y k_x \text{siv } \theta + k_z \sin \theta & k_y^2 \text{siv } \theta + \cos \theta & k_y k_z \text{siv } \theta - k_x \sin \theta \\ k_z k_x \text{siv } \theta - k_y \sin \theta & k_z k_y \text{siv } \theta + k_x \sin \theta & k_z^2 \text{siv } \theta + \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\text{siv}(\theta) = 1 - \cos \theta$.

Useful inverses:

$$\theta = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{2}(r_{11} + r_{22} + r_{33} - 1)\right)$$

$$k = \frac{1}{2 \sin \theta} \begin{bmatrix} r_{32} - r_{23} \\ r_{13} - r_{31} \\ r_{21} - r_{12} \end{bmatrix}$$

Singularity when $\sin \theta = 0 \iff \theta = n\pi$.

Fallback for $\theta = \pi$: read $k_i^2 = \frac{r_{ii} + 1}{2}$ from the diagonal; signs fixed by off-diagonals $r_{ij} = 2k_i k_j$ ($i \neq j$).

1.2.1.5 Euler Parameters Repr.

We can avoid singularities of three-parameter representations by, well, using four parameters.

For a rotation with axis represented by a unit vector k and angle θ , its four Euler parameters are:

$$\varepsilon_1 = k_x \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\varepsilon_2 = k_y \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\varepsilon_3 = k_z \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\varepsilon_4 = \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$$

Invariant: $\varepsilon_1^2 + \varepsilon_2^2 + \varepsilon_3^2 + \varepsilon_4^2 = 1$.

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - 2(\varepsilon_2^2 + \varepsilon_3^2) & 2(\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3 \varepsilon_4) & 2(\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_4) \\ 2(\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 \varepsilon_4) & 1 - 2(\varepsilon_1^2 + \varepsilon_3^2) & 2(\varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_4) \\ 2(\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_4) & 2(\varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_4) & 1 - 2(\varepsilon_1^2 + \varepsilon_2^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

Useful inverses:

$$\varepsilon_4 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + r_{11} + r_{22} + r_{33}}$$

$$\varepsilon_1 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + r_{11} - r_{22} - r_{33}}$$

$$\varepsilon_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - r_{11} + r_{22} - r_{33}}$$

$$\varepsilon_3 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - r_{11} - r_{22} + r_{33}}$$

... shortcut if $\varepsilon_4 \neq 0$:

$$\varepsilon_1 = \frac{r_{32} - r_{23}}{4\varepsilon_4}$$

$$\varepsilon_2 = \frac{r_{13} - r_{31}}{4\varepsilon_4}$$

$$\varepsilon_3 = \frac{r_{21} - r_{12}}{4\varepsilon_4}$$

No singularities by construction.

1.2.2 Translations

Translations can be represented by vector-vector addition; no matrices are needed.

1.2.3 Homogeneous Transforms

Essentially, a combination of rotations and translations. Can be used to represent any “movement” of a frame or rigid body (or a point, but they do not have an orientation).

$${}^A P = {}^A_B R {}^B P + {}^A P_{B_{\text{org}}}$$

“P in frame A = P in frame B, first rotated by B’s orientation in A, then translated by B’s origin’s offset in frame A”

This can be represented as a 4×4 homogeneous transform matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} {}^A P \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} {}^A_B R & | & {}^A P_{B_{\text{org}}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} {}^B P \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

By a slight abuse of notation, this is symbolically written as ${}^A P = {}^A_B T {}^B P$.

The homogeneous transform matrix is invertible. Multiple homogeneous transforms can be trivially converted to a single transform by computing the product of their respective matrices.

Because the rotation matrix is **orthogonal**, these transformation matrices are relatively easy to invert:

$${}^A_B T^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} {}^A_B R & | & {}^A P_{B_{\text{org}}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} {}^A_B R^T & | & -{}^A_B R^T {}^A P_{B_{\text{org}}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 1 \end{bmatrix} = {}^B_A T$$

2 Terminology and Concepts

2.1 Joints

Revolute: rotation about an axis.

Prismatic: translation along an axis.

Both types of joints have an axis. For revolute joints, this is the axis of rotation; for prismatic joints, this is the axis of translation. The axes also have an orientation, determining the positive angle (using the right-hand corkscrew rule) or translation direction.

The choice of orientation is arbitrary, and usually are done to make the angle/translation signs more intuitive.

2.2 Frames

A *frame* is a local coordinate system that rigidly attaches to some object, usually a link or part of a robot.

Conventionally, frame 0, notated $\{0\}$, is the *base* frame of a robot, used to describe the robot's position and orientation in the world. Then, for a robot with n joints, we have frames $\{1\}$ to $\{n\}$ rigidly attached to each link (frame $\{i\}$ on link L_i). The end-effector gets a special additional frame, the *tool center point* (TCP).

3 Kinematics

3.1 Denavit-Hartenberg Parameters (modified)

In D-H convention, the transformation from one frame to another is only represented by 4 parameters; two degrees of freedom are removed (one translational, one rotational). This works because the D-H convention **restricts** how a frame can be placed relative to its adjacent frames (in a linkage setup). With proper placement of frames, the convention can still capture any link geometry and model both revolute and prismatic joints.

Note that this course specifically uses the *Modified D-H parameters*, and so will all the notes below.

3.1.1 Frame Placement

Frame i rigidly attaches to link i . (i is 1-indexed, but the robot base frame is frame 0.)

One way to determine frame placements is by forward-progressing the constraints. We start with some *sensible* placement of the base frame $\{0\}$, then for each subsequent frame $\{i\}$, its placement is constrained by how $\{i-1\}$ was placed.

- Let x_i, y_i, z_i be the axes of frame $\{i\}$ (lines in 3d space with an arrow).
- Let L_i be *link* i , and J_i be *joint* i .
- Let n_i be the *common normal* between z_i and z_{i+1} : the line perpendicular to (and intersecting) both z_i and z_{i+1} (and if they are parallel, any such solution).

Frame axis assignment:

- z_i is the axis of J_i (the joint connecting L_{i-1} and L_i)
 - for revolute, oriented so the positive angle follows the right-hand corkscrew rule
 - for prismatic, oriented in the positive direction
- x_i is (parallel to) n_i
 - oriented from z_i to z_{i+1}
- y_i can then be deduced uniquely
 - oriented to form a right-handed coordinate system

The origin of the frame $\{i\}_{\text{org}}$ is of course the intersection point of z_i and x_i .

One consequential property of the placement rules is that x_i intersects and is perpendicular to z_{i+1} (and z_i). Also, z_i is collinear to the common normal between x_{i-1} and x_i , just like how x axes are to z axes.

3.1.1.1 Conventions/Tips

On base frame placement:

While $\{0\}$ has some freedom in its placement (z_0 is unconstrained since there is no joint 0), a strategic placement can simplify the D-H parameters. One common strategy is to place $\{0\}$ to coincide with $\{1\}$ when the J_1 is at its "home" or zero position, so that $a_0 = 0$ and $\alpha_0 = 0$. Another is to align z_0 with z_1 and place x_0 to 1. align with x_1 while J_1 is in its "home" state and 2. so $\{0\}_{\text{org}}$ is on the base/mount surface.

Frame $\{n\}$ placement:

- orient x_n to align with x_{n-1} when joint n is at its zero position
- α_{n-1} and α_n are then determined as usual from axes $n-1$ and n .

TCP frame: typically a generic 6-DOF transform from $\{n\}$ (tool geometry rarely fits D-H constraints).

- align z with the end-effector's *approach* direction (e.g. the shaft of a drill)
- align x with the end-effector's *lateral* direction, if it has one (e.g. the gripping direction of a gripper)

3.1.2 Transformations

After the frames are placed, the transformation T_i from $\{i-1\}$ to $\{i\}$ can be represented by the 4 (Modified) D-H parameters:

Param	Symbol	Description	Alternative Description
Link length	a_{i-1}	distance from z_{i-1} to z_i (along x_{i-1})	$ (P_i - P_{i-1}) \cdot (\hat{z}_{i-1} \times \hat{z}_i) / \ \hat{z}_{i-1} \times \hat{z}_i\ $
Link twist	α_{i-1}	angle from z_{i-1} to z_i (about x_{i-1})	$\text{atan2}((\hat{z}_{i-1} \times \hat{z}_i) \cdot \hat{x}_{i-1}, \hat{z}_{i-1} \cdot \hat{z}_i)$
Joint offset	d_i	distance from x_{i-1} to x_i along z_i	displacement, if prismatic
Joint angle	θ_i	angle from x_{i-1} to x_i about z_i	angle, if revolute

Intuitively, a_{i-1} and α_{i-1} describe the geometry of link i (z_{i-1} and z_i 's relative position), while d_i and θ_i describe the configuration of joint i (how L_i moves relative to L_{i-1} by J_i).

Additional notes:

- α specifically measures the angles between *projections* of the z axes onto a plane normal to x (with sign given by the right-hand corkscrew rule). Same idea for θ
- when the orientation of x_i has multiple solutions (when z_{i-1} and z_i intersect or are collinear), x_i is conventionally oriented to make α_{i-1} be zero or positive
- when the placement of x_i has multiple solutions (when z_{i-1} and z_i are parallel), x_i is conventionally placed to pass through $\{i-1\}_{\text{org}}$

$${}^{i-1}T_i = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_i & -\sin \theta_i & 0 & a_{i-1} \\ \sin \theta_i \cos \alpha_{i-1} & \cos \theta_i \cos \alpha_{i-1} & -\sin \alpha_{i-1} & -d_i \sin \alpha_{i-1} \\ \sin \theta_i \sin \alpha_{i-1} & \cos \theta_i \sin \alpha_{i-1} & \cos \alpha_{i-1} & d_i \cos \alpha_{i-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

3.2 Inverse Kinematics

Given desired end-effector pose, find joint parameters. Generally non-linear; no general algorithm exists.

3.2.1 Existence and Multiplicity

Workspace: volume reachable by the end-effector.

- Reachable workspace*: all points reachable in at least one orientation.
- Dexterous workspace*: subset where all orientations are reachable.
- Interior points typically admit multiple orientations; boundary points only one.
- Joint limits* shrink workspace volume or reduce orientations per point.

Multiplicity: a single target pose often has several IK solutions.

- Planar RRR: 2 solutions (elbow-up / elbow-down).
- PUMA 560 (6R): 8 solutions = 4 arm configurations \times 2 wrist-flips, where flipping is $\theta_4' = \theta_4 + \pi, \theta_5' = -\theta_5, \theta_6' = \theta_6 + \pi$.
- $n > 6$ DOF: infinitely many solutions - *redundant manipulator*.

Multiple solutions are useful for collision avoidance; the controller must still pick one (heuristic: smallest joint movement from current configuration).

Solution methods: *closed-form* (algebraic or geometric) and *numerical*. Only closed-form is in scope.

3.2.2 Geometric Solution to Planar RRR

For a 3-link planar manipulator (link lengths L_1, L_2, L_3) reaching $\{3\}$ -frame pose (x, y, φ) , solve via the base-elbow-wrist triangle.

Given a desired end-effector pose (x_e, y_e, φ) , back off by L_3 along the EE's orientation to get the wrist target: $x = x_e - L_3 \cos \varphi, y = y_e - L_3 \sin \varphi$

φ is unchanged since link 3 is rigidly oriented with $\{3\}$.

1. θ_2

law of cosines on the L_1 - L_2 triangle (cos term sign flip as the interior elbow angle is $\pi - \theta_2$):

$$x^2 + y^2 = L_1^2 + L_2^2 + 2L_1L_2 \cos \theta_2$$

$$\theta_2 = \arccos\left(\frac{x^2 + y^2 - L_1^2 - L_2^2}{2L_1L_2}\right)$$

Elbow-up: $\theta_2' = -\theta_2$.

2. θ_1

Let $\beta = \text{atan2}(y, x)$ (angle from base to wrist) and ψ be the interior angle at the base of the same triangle:

$$L_2^2 = x^2 + y^2 + L_1^2 - 2L_1\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \cos \psi$$

then $\theta_1 = \beta \pm \psi$ (elbow-up / elbow-down).

3. θ_3

Trivially, orientation closes out: $\theta_3 = \varphi - \theta_1 - \theta_2$.

This trick is planar-specific; non-planar arms require their own derivation.

3.2.3 Algebraic Solution to Planar RRR

For a planar RRR robot, we have

$${}^3T = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3) & -\sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3) & 0 & L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + L_1 \cos \theta_1 \\ \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3) & \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3) & 0 & L_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + L_1 \sin \theta_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \varphi & -\sin \varphi & 0 & x \\ \sin \varphi & \cos \varphi & 0 & y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

For a target $\{3\}$ pose of (x, y, φ) , we want to solve for the joint angles θ_1, θ_2 , and θ_3 .

Clearly, we have

$$\cos \varphi = \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3)$$

$$\sin \varphi = \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3)$$

$$x = L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + L_1 \cos \theta_1$$

$$y = L_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + L_1 \sin \theta_1$$

Firstly, θ_2

Square and sum the equations for x and y

$$x^2 + y^2 = L_1^2 + 2L_1L_2(\cos \theta_1 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + \sin \theta_1 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)) + L_2^2$$

$$= L_1^2 + 2L_1L_2 \cos \theta_2 + L_2^2$$

$$\cos \theta_2 = \frac{x^2 + y^2 - L_1^2 - L_2^2}{2L_1L_2}$$

A clean way to obtain both solutions is to use atan2:

$$\theta_2 = \text{atan2}(\pm \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta_2}, \cos \theta_2)$$

Secondly, θ_1

With knowledge of $\cos \theta_2$ and $\sin \theta_2$, we can trig identity our way into reduced equations for x and y :

$$x = L_2 \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + L_1 \cos \theta_1 = L_2(\cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 - \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2) + L_1 \cos \theta_1$$

$$= (L_2 \cos \theta_2 + L_1) \cos \theta_1 - (L_2 \sin \theta_2) \sin \theta_1$$

$$y = L_2 \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + L_1 \sin \theta_1 = L_2(\sin \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 + \cos \theta_1 \sin \theta_2) + L_1 \sin \theta_1$$

$$= (L_1 + L_2 \cos \theta_2) \sin \theta_1 + (L_2 \sin \theta_2) \cos \theta_1$$

Extract the common, now-known coefficients:

$$K_1 = L_2 \cos \theta_2 + L_1$$

$$K_2 = L_2 \sin \theta_2$$

Now, once we have

$$x = K_1 \cos \theta_1 - K_2 \sin \theta_1$$

$$y = K_1 \sin \theta_1 + K_2 \cos \theta_1$$

we perform *trigonometric substitution*: define γ and r as the angle (opposite K_2) and the hypotenuse of the right triangle with legs K_1 and K_2

$$r = \sqrt{K_1^2 + K_2^2}$$

$$\gamma = \text{atan2}(K_2, K_1)$$

and so

$$\frac{x}{r} = \cos \gamma \cos \theta_1 - \sin \gamma \sin \theta_1 = \cos(\gamma + \theta_1)$$

$$\frac{y}{r} = \cos \gamma \sin \theta_1 + \sin \gamma \cos \theta_1 = \sin(\gamma + \theta_1)$$

finally

$$\theta_1 = \text{atan2}\left(\frac{y}{r}, \frac{x}{r}\right) - \gamma$$

Lastly, θ_3

Observe that $\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3 = \text{atan2}(\sin \varphi, \cos \varphi)$, so

$$\theta_3 = \text{atan2}(\sin \varphi, \cos \varphi) - \theta_1 - \theta_2$$

3.3 Jacobians

Forward kinematics are functions of "joint angles" \mapsto "end-effector pose".

Jacobians are the derivatives of these functions wrt. time; Jacobians map joint velocities to cartesian velocity (of end-effector).

It is the "full" derivative of a vector-valued multivariate function, represented as a matrix of partial derivatives.

A function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ has a Jacobian J of size $m \times n$.

In robotics, our FK functions have output dimension $m = 6$ (3 for position + 3 for orientation), and input dimension n is the number of joints.

Sometimes $m = 3$ when only dealing with position (or orientation)... or even $m = 2$ for planar robots.

We have two main methods to compute the Jacobian of a FK function: velocity propagation and direct differentiation.

3.3.0.1 Notation

Absolute (wrt. $\{0\}$) angular velocity of $\{i\}$: ω_i .

Absolute (wrt. $\{0\}$) linear velocity of $\{i\}$: v_i .

These measures, as usual, can be expressed in any frame, e.g. ${}^A\omega_i$.

Without a TL-script, the frame of expression is implicitly $\{0\}$.

Angular velocity is represented as a vector; direction is axis and magnitude is speed.

Note that the cross-product $\omega \times P$ gives the tangential linear velocity at P due to w .

Generalized joint parameter (represents either θ or d): q_i

$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{bmatrix} q_1 \\ \dots \\ q_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Jacobian (linear + angular): \mathbf{J}

Liner-velocity Jacobian: \mathbf{J}_v

Angular-velocity Jacobian: \mathbf{J}_ω

3.3.1 Velocity Propagation

Quite intuitive; roughly,

- describe each link's "own" (relative to its own frame) velocity as a function of its joint velocity
- start from base and "propagate" the velocities down the chain using the transformations between frames
- express the end-effector velocity in the base frame
- extract the Jacobian by matching coefficients of \dot{q}_i

This works for both linear and angular velocities.

Start with a static base:

$${}^0\omega_0 = 0$$

$${}^0v_0 = 0$$

For **revolute** joint $i+1$:

$${}^{i+1}\omega_{i+1} = {}^{i+1}R^i \omega_i + \dot{\theta}_{i+1} \hat{Z}$$

$${}^{i+1}v_{i+1} = {}^{i+1}R^i (v_i + \omega_i \times {}^iP_{i+1})$$

For **prismatic** joint $i+1$:

$${}^{i+1}\omega_{i+1} = {}^{i+1}R^i \omega_i$$

$${}^{i+1}v_{i+1} = {}^{i+1}R^i (v_i + \omega_i \times {}^iP_{i+1}) + \dot{d}_{i+1} \hat{Z}$$

End-effector $\{e\}$ rigidly attached to $\{n\}$ at offset nP_e :

$${}^n\omega_e = {}^n\omega_n$$

$${}^n v_e = {}^n v_n + {}^n \omega_n \times {}^n P_e$$

Re-express in the base frame:

$${}^0 v_e = {}^0 R^n v_e$$

$${}^0 \omega_e = {}^0 R^n \omega_e$$

3.3.2 Direct Differentiation

This method, unlike velocity propagation, does not work well for angular velocities - differentiating a rotation matrix is technically possible ($\dot{R} = [\omega] \times R$) but extracting the angular Jacobian column-by-column this way is painful.

- obtain the FK function $[x, y, z] = f(q_1, \dots, q_n)$
- differentiate f wrt. t ; compute all its partial derivatives $\frac{\partial f}{\partial q_n}$
- arrange partials in a matrix to obtain (linear-velocity-only) Jacobian \mathbf{J}_v

$$\dot{x} = \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial q_1} \dot{q}_1 + \dots + \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial q_n} \dot{q}_n$$

$$\dot{y} = \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial q_1} \dot{q}_1 + \dots + \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial q_n} \dot{q}_n$$

$$\dot{z} = \frac{\partial f_z}{\partial q_1} \dot{q}_1 + \dots + \frac{\partial f_z}{\partial q_n} \dot{q}_n$$

$$\mathbf{J}_v = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | \\ \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial q_1} & \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial q_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial q_n} \\ | & | & | \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow & \nabla^\top f_x & \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow & \nabla^\top f_y & \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow & \nabla^\top f_z & \rightarrow \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial q_1} & \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial q_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial q_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial q_1} & \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial q_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial q_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_z}{\partial q_1} & \frac{\partial f_z}{\partial q_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_z}{\partial q_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{J} \dot{\mathbf{q}}$$

3.4 other stuff

Singularities values of \mathbf{q} that result in $\det(\mathbf{J}) = 0$

Statics

The Jacobian also maps end-effector forces to joint torques:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{J}^\top \mathbf{F}$$

Derivation:

consider mechanical power in both joint space and cartesian space:

$$\text{Power} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{F}^\top \dot{\mathbf{x}}$$

$$\text{Power} = \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{q}} = \boldsymbol{\tau}^\top \dot{\mathbf{q}}$$

then, by the conservation of energy,

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}^\top \dot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{F}^\top \dot{\mathbf{x}}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}^\top \dot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{F}^\top (\mathbf{J} \dot{\mathbf{q}})$$

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}^\top = \mathbf{F}^\top \mathbf{J}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{J}^\top \mathbf{F}$$

Above uses \mathbf{J}_v only - assumes no end-effector moment. For a full wrench $\mathcal{F} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{F} \\ \mathbf{N} \end{bmatrix}$, the $6 \times n$ Jacobian is required.

At a sing

4 Dynamics and Control

4.1 Trajectory Planning

Design a *time profile* $u = f(t)$ for the robot to follow between waypoints; \dot{u} and \ddot{u} then follow by differentiation. Not concerned with the geometric path / route - only the temporal evolution.

Given u_0, u_f, t_f , design $u(t)$. u can be either Cartesian or joint-space.

Joint space: design $f_{\theta_i}(t)$ for each joint independently.

- Pro: cheap (no IK at runtime); free of singularity / workspace issues.
- Con: Cartesian path is non-linear, may collide.

Cartesian space: design $f_x(t), f_y(t), \dots$ directly.

- Pro: enforces geometric path shape and end-effector orientation.
- Con: must solve IK at every time step; intermediate points may leave workspace, switch IK branches, or pass near singularities.

4.1.1 Straight Line

$$u(t) = \frac{u_f - u_0}{t_f} t + u_0 \text{ for } t < t_f, \text{ else } u_f.$$

Velocity discontinuous at endpoints \rightarrow jerky motion, vibrations, wear. Rarely usable directly.

4.1.2 Cubic Polynomial

$$u(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + a_3 t^3$$

4 conditions: $u(0) = u_0, u(t_f) = u_f, \dot{u}(0) = 0, \dot{u}(t_f) = 0$.

$$a_0 = u_0, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = \frac{3}{t_f^2}(u_f - u_0), \quad a_3 = -\frac{2}{t_f^3}(u_f - u_0)$$

Boundary accelerations are nonzero ($\ddot{u}(0) = 2a_2$); acceleration is discontinuous at $t = 0, t_f$.

4.1.3 Quintic Polynomial

Adds $\ddot{u}(0) = 0$ and $\ddot{u}(t_f) = 0$ for 6 total conditions.

$$u(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + a_3 t^3 + a_4 t^4 + a_5 t^5$$

$$a_0 = u_0, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = 0$$

$$a_3 = \frac{10}{t_f^3} \Delta, \quad a_4 = -\frac{15}{t_f^4} \Delta, \quad a_5 = \frac{6}{t_f^5} \Delta$$

where $\Delta = u_f - u_0$. Smooth acceleration throughout.

4.1.4 Linear with Parabolic Blends (LSPB)

Three segments:

1. parabolic blend $[0, t_b]$ at constant acceleration \ddot{u}
2. linear (constant-velocity) middle $[t_b, t_f - t_b]$
3. parabolic deceleration $[t_f - t_b, t_f]$ at $-\ddot{u}$

Assumptions:

- equal blend durations t_b (symmetric)
- symmetric about midpoint: $(t_b, u_b) = \left(\frac{t_f}{2}, \frac{u_0 + u_f}{2}\right)$
- velocity continuous at end of first blend: $\dot{u}t_b = \frac{u_b - u_0}{t_b - t_0}$

In the first blend, $\dot{u} = \ddot{u}t$ and $u = u_0 + \frac{1}{2}\ddot{u}t^2$.

Substituting symmetry into the velocity-matching condition yields the quadratic $\ddot{u}t_b^2 - \dot{u}t_b + (u_f - u_0) = 0$

Taking the minus branch ($t_b \leq \frac{t_f}{2}$):

$$t_b = \frac{t_f}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{\ddot{u}^2 t_f^2 - 4\dot{u}(u_f - u_0)}}{2\ddot{u}}$$

$$u_b = u_0 + \frac{1}{2}\ddot{u}t_b^2$$

Existence: requires $\ddot{u} \geq 4\frac{u_f - u_0}{t_f^2}$

(else discriminant is negative - chosen acceleration too small for the linear region to exist).

Piecewise trajectory:

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} u_0 + \frac{1}{2}\ddot{u}t^2 & t < t_b \\ \frac{u_b - u_0}{t_b - t_0}(t - t_0) + u_0 & t_b \leq t < t_f - t_b \\ u_f - \frac{1}{2}\ddot{u}(t_f - t)^2 & t \geq t_f - t_b \end{cases}$$

4.1.5 Multi-Segment Trajectories

Concatenate per-segment trajectories with constant- u dwell intervals between moves. Each segment uses one of the schemes above.

4.2 Manipulator Dynamics

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + V(q, \dot{q}) + G(q) = \tau$$

$M(q)$ is the $n \times n$ mass matrix;

$V(q, \dot{q})$ is an n -dim vector of centrifugal ($\propto \dot{q}_i^2$) and Coriolis ($\propto \dot{q}_i \dot{q}_j, i \neq j$) terms;

$G(q)$ is an n -dim vector of gravitational forces.

M is positive-definite and symmetric, hence invertible.

V can be derived from M (out-of-scope) and vanishes if M is constant.

4.2.1 Newton-Euler Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} F &= m\dot{v} \\ N &= {}^c I \dot{\omega} + \omega \times {}^c I \omega \end{aligned}$$

${}^c I$ is the inertia tensor at the body's center-of-mass frame $\{c\}$.

Two passes:

1. *Outward iteration* ($\{0\} \rightarrow \{e\}$): propagate velocities and accelerations, then compute each link's net force/moment at its CoM.
2. *Inward iteration* ($\{e\} \rightarrow \{0\}$): solve for the inter-link wrench transmitted across each joint; extract joint torque/force by projection onto the joint axis.

4.2.1.1 Outward Iteration

Initial conditions: ${}^0\omega_0 = 0, {}^0\dot{\omega}_0 = 0, {}^0v_0 = -g$.

Gravity trick: setting 0v_0 to the opposite of the gravity vector is a clean substitution for the G component of the dynamics equation.

For each link $i = 0, \dots, n-1$:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^{i+1}\omega_{i+1} &= {}^{i+1}R^i \omega_i + \dot{\theta}_{i+1} \hat{Z} \\ {}^{i+1}\dot{\omega}_{i+1} &= {}^{i+1}R^i \dot{\omega}_i + ({}^{i+1}R^i \omega_i \times \dot{\theta}_{i+1} \hat{Z}) + \ddot{\theta}_{i+1} \hat{Z} \\ {}^{i+1}\dot{v}_{i+1} &= {}^{i+1}R^i ({}^i\dot{v}_i + {}^i\dot{\omega}_i \times {}^i P_{i+1} + {}^i\omega_i \times ({}^i\omega_i \times {}^i P_{i+1})) \\ &\quad + 2 {}^{i+1}\omega_{i+1} \times (\dot{\theta}_{i+1} \hat{Z}) + \ddot{\theta}_{i+1} \hat{Z} \end{aligned}$$

Prismatic terms (\dot{d}, \ddot{d}) drop for revolute joints; rotational $\dot{\theta}, \ddot{\theta}$ terms drop for prismatic.

Propagate the linear acceleration to the CoM:

$${}^{i+1}\dot{v}_{c_{i+1}} = {}^{i+1}\dot{v}_{i+1} + {}^{i+1}\dot{\omega}_{i+1} \times {}^{i+1}P_{c_{i+1}} + {}^{i+1}\omega_{i+1} \times ({}^{i+1}\omega_{i+1} \times {}^{i+1}P_{c_{i+1}})$$

Net wrench at the CoM:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^{i+1}F_{i+1} &= m_{i+1} {}^{i+1}\dot{v}_{c_{i+1}} \\ {}^{i+1}N_{i+1} &= c_{i+1} I_{i+1} {}^{i+1}\dot{\omega}_{i+1} + {}^{i+1}\omega_{i+1} \times (c_{i+1} I_{i+1} {}^{i+1}\omega_{i+1}) \end{aligned}$$

4.2.1.2 Inward Iteration

Initial: ${}^{n+1}f_{n+1}$ and ${}^{n+1}n_{n+1}$ set to the external forces.

For $i = n, \dots, 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^i f_i &= {}^{i+1}R^i {}^{i+1}f_{i+1} + {}^i F_i \\ {}^i n_i &= {}^{i+1}R^i {}^{i+1}n_{i+1} + {}^i P_{c_i} \times {}^i F_i + {}^i P_{i+1} \times ({}^{i+1}R^i {}^{i+1}f_{i+1}) + {}^i N_i \end{aligned}$$

Extract the joint torque/force by projection onto the joint axis:

$$\tau_i = \begin{cases} {}^i n_i \cdot \hat{Z} & \text{if revolute} \\ {}^i f_i \cdot \hat{Z} & \text{if prismatic} \end{cases}$$

4.2.2 Inertia Tensor

For a body with a frame $\{A\}$ at a chosen reference point:

$$A I = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & -I_{xy} & -I_{xz} \\ -I_{xy} & I_{yy} & -I_{yz} \\ -I_{xz} & -I_{yz} & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$

Mass moments of inertia (diagonal):

$$I_{xx} = \iiint_V (y^2 + z^2) \rho \, dV$$

$$I_{yy} = \iiint_V (x^2 + z^2) \rho \, dV$$

$$I_{zz} = \iiint_V (x^2 + y^2) \rho \, dV$$

Mass products of inertia (off-diagonal):

$$I_{xy} = \iiint_V xy \rho \, dV$$

$$I_{xz} = \iiint_V xz \rho \, dV$$

$$I_{yz} = \iiint_V yz \rho \, dV$$

Principal axes: a frame orientation for which all products of inertia vanish; diagonal entries are then the *principal moments*. For dynamics, place the frame at each link's COM, giving ${}^c I_i$.

E.g. **rectangular block** ($l \times w \times h$), frame at the centre, axes aligned with edges (all products vanish by symmetry):

$$I_{xx} = \frac{m}{12}(w^2 + h^2), \quad I_{yy} = \frac{m}{12}(l^2 + h^2), \quad I_{zz} = \frac{m}{12}(l^2 + w^2)$$

4.2.3 Cartesian-Space Dynamics

Premultiply joint-space dynamics by J^{-T} and use $\tau = J^T F, \ddot{x} = J\ddot{q} + \dot{J}\dot{q}$:

$$M_x \ddot{x} + V_x + G_x = F$$

where

$$M_x = J^{-T} M J^{-1}$$

$$V_x = J^{-T} (V - M J^{-1} \dot{J} \dot{q})$$

$$G_x = J^{-T} G$$

Useful when forces are naturally expressed in task space (e.g. polishing).

One may also use the Jacobian expressed in $\{e\}$ so the force aligns with tool axes regardless of pose: ${}^c J_v = {}^c R^0 J_v$

4.2.4 Friction

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + V(q, \dot{q}) + G(q) = \tau - \tau_f$$

where τ_f is the friction forces.

Common models:

- *Viscous*: $\tau_f = k\dot{q}$.
- *Coulomb*: $\tau_f = c \operatorname{sgn}(\dot{q})$ (constant magnitude, sign of velocity).
- *Combined*: $\tau_f = c \operatorname{sgn}(\dot{q}) + k\dot{q}$.

4.3 Manipulator Control

4.3.1 Second Order Linear Systems

E.g., **Mass-Spring System**

Frictionless:

$$\begin{aligned} m\ddot{x} + kx &= 0 \\ x &= R \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}t - \varphi\right) \end{aligned}$$

With viscous friction b :

$$m\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + kx = 0$$

Characteristic equation:

$$\begin{aligned} m\lambda^2 + b\lambda + k &= 0 \\ \lambda_1, \lambda_2 &= \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4mk}}{2m} \end{aligned}$$

- Underdamped: complex conjugate roots

$$x = e^{p_1 t} (c_1 \cos(qt) + c_2 \sin(qt))$$

where $\lambda_{1,2} = p \pm qi$

- Critically damped: repeated real root

$$x = (c_1 + c_2 t) e^{\lambda t}$$

- Overdamped: two real roots

$$x = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t}$$

In a control system that models a mass-spring-damper system, $k_p = k$ as the *stiffness* of the system...

For some arbitrary choice of k_p , critical damping is achieved by $k_v = b = 2\sqrt{mk_p}$.

Note that this is a PD (proportional-derivative) controller.

4.3.2 Control Law Partitioning

One can partition the controller into two parts, a model-based compensator and a servo controller, s.t. the servo controller's parameters are completely independent of the non-design physical parameters.

1. Given system dynamics $m\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + kx = F$
2. Design model-based compensator:
 - delegate highest-order control (f): $F = mf + b\dot{x} + kx$
 - system is reduced to unit mass ($\ddot{x} = f$)
3. Design servo controller
 - $f = -k_v \dot{x} - k_p x$

I.e.,

$$m\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + kx = F = m(-k_v \dot{x} - k_p x) + b\dot{x} + kx$$

$$\ddot{x} + k_v \dot{x} + k_p x = 0$$

Unit-mass removes m from the critical damping condition, so $k_v = 2\sqrt{k_p}$.

4.3.3 Nonzero Setpoint

Following a partitioned controller, the servo controller can be trivially parameterized:

$$f = -k_v \dot{x} - k_p (x - x_d)$$

where x_d is the desired setpoint.

4.3.4 Trajectory Following

Once again, only the servo controller changes:

$$f = \ddot{x}_d - k_v (\dot{\theta} - \dot{\theta}_d) - k_p (x - x_d)$$

where $\ddot{x}_d, \dot{x}_d, \ddot{x}_d$ are the desired position, velocity, and acceleration at the current time step.

Note that if we define the *tracking error* as $e = x - x_d$, then the closed-loop dynamics of the error is $\ddot{e} + k_v \dot{e} + k_p e = 0$

which is a mass-spring-damper system in of itself!

4.3.5 Motor Physics

For a permanent magnet DC motor:

- $\tau_m = k_m i_a$
- $V_{\text{emf}} = k_e \dot{\theta}_m$

where k_m is the motor's torque constant; k_e is its electrical constant

A simple circuit model of one motor is

$$\begin{aligned} L_a \frac{di_a}{dt} + R_a i_a &= V_a - V_{\text{emf}} \\ &= V_a - k_e \dot{\theta}_m \end{aligned}$$

...but let's assume the inductance L_a is negligible:

$$R_a i_a = V_a - k_e \dot{\theta}_m$$

For a rotary shaft (+ gear) we have its moment of inertia I and viscous friction b .

Consider a motor-load gear-gear system...

Motor-side dynamics:

$$I_m \ddot{\theta}_m = \tau_m - b_m \dot{\theta}_m - Fr_m$$

Load-side dynamics (no additional τ as it is not motorized):

$$I \ddot{\theta} = Fr - b \dot{\theta}$$

With $\eta = \frac{r}{r_m}$, the combined dynamics can be expressed in load-side terms as

$$(I + I_m \eta^2) \ddot{\theta} + (b + b_m \eta^2) \dot{\theta} = \tau$$

which once again is a mass-spring-damper system (driven by τ , with zero proportional component).

A partitioned control system:

$$\tau = (I + I_m \eta^2) f + (b + b_m \eta^2) \dot{\theta}$$

$$f = \ddot{\theta}_d - k_v (\dot{\theta} - \dot{\theta}_d) - k_p (\theta - \theta_d)$$

- set desired stiffness k_p , then $k_v = 2\sqrt{k_p}$

Finally, $\tau_m = \frac{1}{\eta} \tau$ and $\tau_m = k_m i_a$ so

$$\begin{aligned} V_a &= R_a i_a + k_e \dot{\theta}_m \\ &= R_a \left(\frac{\tau}{k_m \eta} \right) + k_e \eta \dot{\theta} \end{aligned}$$

A function of voltage in terms of velocity and desired torque.

4.3.6 Multi-joint Control

A model-based compensator could *also* isolate individual joints in a multi-joint system!

Take the manipulator dynamics model $\tau = M(q)\ddot{q} + V(q, \dot{q}) + G(q)$

- $\tau = M(q)f + V(q, \dot{q}) + G(q)$
- $f = \ddot{q}_d - K_v(\dot{q} - \dot{q}_d) - K_p(q - q_d)$

note that K_v and K_p are now matrices, but they are diagonal for decoupled control:

$$\begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{q}_1 \\ \ddot{q}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \ddot{q}_n \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} k_{v1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & k_{v2} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & k_{vn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{q}_1 - \dot{q}_{d1} \\ \dot{q}_2 - \dot{q}_{d2} \\ \vdots \\ \dot{q}_n - \dot{q}_{dn} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} k_{p1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & k_{p2} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & k_{pn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q_1 - q_{d1} \\ q_2 - q_{d2} \\ \vdots \\ q_n - q_{dn} \end{bmatrix}$$