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\chapter{VECTORS AND FRAMES}
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This chapter introduces the basic concepts of vectors and frames in the three dimensional space  $R^3$ . A frame of reference is defined by using three orthonormal unit vectors. This allows deriving the elementary rotation matrices that define the relation between two frame of references. These rotation matrices have interesting properties with regards to the evaluation of their determinant and their inverse transformation. The properties of these rotation matrices will be outlined. Further, we obtain the geometric vector relations between a moving frame  $R_1$  and a fixed  $R_0$ .

Next, we introduce the notion of robot arm at the topological and mathematical levels. Both levels will be dealing with the geometrical description. A robot arm is introduced as a series of links that are interconnected by means of joints. Two types of joints are used for interconnecting the robot links. The topology of robot arms is decomposed into two subsystems: the transporter and the effector. The transporter is the robot positioning subsystem, while the effector is the orienting subsystem. Several types of transporter geometry are studied by the well known coordinate systems.

A second look on the orientation matrices is presented with the objective to investigate the mathematical transformations that are required for each type of interconnection topology. Finally, we study the properties of the global (composite) rotation matrix of a moving frame. This presents an extension to the properties of the set of rotation matrices which has been studied earlier. Throughout this book the sentence "frame of reference", or simply "frame" designate the same meaning.

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\section{Three dimensional space vectors}
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A cartesian coordinate system is defined, in the three dimensional space, by introducing

three orthonormal vectors  $X, Y,$  and  $Z$ . Figure 2.1 shows a cartesian coordinate system which is defined using three orthonormal vectors  $X, Y,$  and  $Z$ . The set of vectors  $\{X, Y, Z\}$  is referred to as orthonormal when the vectors are orthogonal and each has unit of length. These unit vectors can be expressed respectively as:

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\begin{eqnarray}
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$$\begin{matrix} X & = & 1.X+0.Y+0.Z & \text{\nonumber} \\ Y & = & 0.X+1.Y+0.Z & \\ Z & = & 0.X+0.Y+1.Z & \text{\nonumber} \end{matrix}$$

To simplify this notation, we can write them in the following form:

$$\begin{matrix} X & = & (1,0,0)^t & \text{\nonumber} \\ Y & = & (0,1,0)^t & \\ Z & = & (0,0,1)^t & \text{\nonumber} \end{matrix}$$

where  $(t)$  denotes the transposition.

A cartesian frame of reference  $\mathcal{R}$  is defined by using the

three

orthonormal vectors  $\{X, Y, Z\}$

and their intersecting origin  $O$ :

$$R = \{ X, Y, Z \ ; \ \text{\mbox{and}} \ ; \ 0 \}$$

Figure 2.2 shows a cartesian frame of reference defined by three orthonormal vectors  $\{X, Y, Z\}$  and  $O$  as origin. Observed in frame  $\mathcal{R}$ , a point  $A$  can be associated a vector  $OA_{\mathcal{R}}$ , where the subscript  $\theta_{\mathcal{R}}$  denotes that the vector is observed in frame  $\mathcal{R}$ . Let the scalars  $A_x, A_y$ , and  $A_z$  denotes the projection of vector  $OA_{\mathcal{R}}$  on the axis  $X, Y$ , and  $Z$  of frame  $\mathcal{R}$ , respectively. Therefore we can express the vector as follows:

$$OA_{\mathcal{R}} = A_x.X + A_y.Y + A_z.Z$$

Figure 2.3 shows point  $A$  which is observed in frame  $\mathcal{R}$ .

This notation can be shortly reduced to:

$$OA_{\mathcal{R}} = (A_x \ A_y \ A_z)^t$$

More generally, a vector  $U$  whose components are  $U_x, U_y$  and  $U_z$  with respect to axes  $X, Y$ , and  $Z$  of frame  $\mathcal{R}$  can be expressed as follows:

$$U = (U_x \ U_y \ U_z)^t$$

**Definition**: The norm or length of a vector  $U$  is denoted as  $|U|$  and is defined by:

$$|U| = \sqrt{U_x^2 + U_y^2 + U_z^2}$$

**Definition**: The dot product or scalar product of two vectors  $U$  and  $V$  which are observed in frame  $\mathcal{R}$ , is a scalar defined by:

[

$$U^t \cdot V = U_x \cdot V_x + U_y \cdot V_y + U_z \cdot V_z$$

The dot product is proportional to the cosine of the angle between the two vectors and their lengths. Let  $\theta$  be the angle between the vectors  $U$  and  $V$ , the dot product can then be expressed as follows:

$$U^t \cdot V = |U| \cdot |V| \cdot \cos(\theta)$$

The dot product  $U^t \cdot V$  is commutative law because:

$$U^t \cdot V = V^t \cdot U = |U| \cdot |V| \cos(\theta) = |V| \cdot |U| \cdot \cos(-\theta)$$

The dot product  $U^t \cdot U$  is nil if the vector  $U$  is nil. When the vector  $U$  is not nil, then the dot product is always a positive scalar. The dot product of two non nil and non-colinear vectors  $U$  and  $V$  is nil if and only vectors  $U$  and  $V$  are orthogonal. In this case the angle  $\theta$  between these vectors is equal to  $\pm \pi/2$ , i.e.  $\cos(\theta) = 0$ .

The dot product is linear function because we have:

$$(\alpha \cdot U + \beta \cdot V) \cdot W = \alpha (U \cdot W) + \beta (V \cdot W)$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are two arbitrary scalars.

**Definition:** The cross product of two vectors  $U$  and  $V$ , that are observed in framed  $R^3$ , is a vector  $U \times V$  which is orthogonal to  $U$  and  $V$  in the right-handed sense. The cross product vector is defined as follows:

$$U \times V = \begin{bmatrix} U_x \\ U_y \\ U_z \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U_y \cdot V_z - U_z \cdot V_y \\ U_z \cdot V_x - U_x \cdot V_z \\ U_x \cdot V_y - U_y \cdot V_x \end{bmatrix}$$

```

U_x.V_y-U_y.V_x
\end{array}
\right]
\end{equation}

```

The cross product  $U \times V$  can also be expressed as function off the product of the vector lengths and the sine of the angle from  $U$  to  $V$ :

```

\begin{equation}
|U \times V| = |U|.|V|.sin(\theta)
\end{equation}

```

Figure 2.4 shows vectors  $U$  and  $V$  and the vector that defines their cross product. The cross product  $U \times V$  defines a vector  $W=U \times V$  which is orthogonal to both vectors  $U$  and  $V$ , we can easily verify that:

```

\[
W^t.U = W^t.V=0
\]

```

`\section{Frame rotation}`

The prime interest of finding the rotation matrix between two frame of references  $R_1$  and  $R_0$  is to determine a transfer matrix which

allows converting the coordinate of a vector, that is observed in a frame, into the coordinate of the same vector with respect to the other frame. We assume the frame

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R_1 = \{ X_1.Y_1.Z_1 \; \& \; 0_1 \}

```

is subject to some motion with respect to a fixed reference coordinate system

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R_0 = \{ X_0.Y_0.Z_0 \; \& \; \theta_0 \}

```

Initially we assume the origin  $\theta_1$  coincides with  $\theta_0$  and vectors  $X_1, Y_1$  and  $Z_1$  coincide with vectors  $X_0, Y_0$  and  $Z_0$ , respectively. Figure 2.5 shows two initially coinciding frame of references. \\

Assume the frame  $R_1$  is rotated by an angle  $\theta$  about the  $Z_0$  axis. As frame  $R_1$  is only rotated, both origin still coincide but the orientation of  $R_1$  is now changing as a result of the rotation. Figure 2.6 shows the frame  $R_1$  after rotating this frame by an angle  $\theta$  about axis  $Z$  can be expressed with respect to frame  $R_0$  as follows:

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\begin{eqnarray}

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$$\begin{aligned} X_{\{1,0\}} &= (\cos(\theta), \sin(\theta), 0)^t \\ Y_{\{1,0\}} &= (-\sin(\theta), \cos(\theta), 0)^t \\ Z_{\{1,0\}} &= (0, 0, 1)^t \end{aligned}$$

where  $X_{\{1,0\}}$ ,  $Y_{\{1,0\}}$ , and  $Z_{\{1,0\}}$  denote the orthonormal vectors of frame  $R_1$ .

Note that the first index is used as the vector identifier and the second index is used to state that these vectors are observed with respect to frame  $R_0$ .

Considering now a vector  $O_1A$  whose components are  $A_{\{x1\}}$ ,  $A_{\{y1\}}$ , and  $A_{\{z1\}}$  with respect to frame  $R_1$ . By definition we have:

$$O_1A_{\{R1\}} = A_{\{x1\}} \cdot X_{\{1,0\}} + A_{\{y1\}} \cdot Y_{\{1,0\}} + A_{\{z1\}} \cdot Z_{\{1,0\}}$$

To express this vector in  $R_0$  we can substitute the vectors  $X_{\{1,0\}}$ ,  $Y_{\{1,0\}}$ , and  $Z_{\{1,0\}}$  with their expressions that give the coordinate of that vector with respect to  $R_0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} O_0A_{\{R0\}} &= A_{\{x1\}} \cdot (\cos(\theta) \cdot X_{\{0,0\}} + \sin(\theta) \cdot Y_{\{0,0\}}) \\ &\quad + A_{\{y1\}} \cdot (-\sin(\theta) \cdot X_{\{0,0\}} + \cos(\theta) \cdot Y_{\{0,0\}}) + A_{\{z1\}} \cdot Z_{\{0,0\}} \end{aligned}$$

where vectors  $X_{\{0,0\}}$ ,  $Y_{\{0,0\}}$ , and  $Z_{\{0,0\}}$  are the orthonormal vectors of frame  $R_0$  which are observed with respect to the same frame. By grouping the terms with respect to vectors  $Z_{\{0,0\}}$ ,  $Y_{\{0,0\}}$  and  $X_{\{0,0\}}$  we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} O_0A_{\{R0\}} &= (A_{\{x1\}} \cdot \cos(\theta) - A_{\{y1\}} \cdot \sin(\theta)) \cdot X_{\{0,0\}} \\ &\quad + (A_{\{x1\}} \cdot \sin(\theta) + A_{\{y1\}} \cdot \cos(\theta)) \cdot Y_{\{0,0\}} + A_{\{z1\}} \cdot Z_{\{0,0\}} \end{aligned}$$

Vector  $O_0A$  is represented in  $R_0$  by the general relation:

$$O_0A_{\{R0\}} = A_{\{x0\}} \cdot X_{\{0\}} + A_{\{y0\}} \cdot Y_{\{0\}} + A_{\{z0\}} \cdot Z_{\{0\}}$$

This vector can be expressed in matrix form:

$$O_0A_{\{R0\}} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) & 0 \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} A_{\{x1\}} \\ A_{\{y1\}} \\ A_{\{z1\}} \end{bmatrix}$$

```

A_{z1}
\end{array}
\right]
=
\left[
\begin{array}{c}
A_{x0} \\
A_{y0} \\
A_{z0}
\end{array}
\right]
\]

```

The transfer matrix from  $R_1$  into frame  $R_0$  represents the rotation matrix about the  $Z_0$  axis by an angle  $\theta$ . The rotation matrix is denoted by  $ROTZ(\theta)$ , we have:

```

\l[
O_0A_{R0} = ROTZ(\theta).O_1A_{R1}
\]

```

This matrix can be derived from the expression of vectors  $X_{1,0}$ ,  $Y_{1,0}$ , and  $Z_{1,0}$ . It is important to note that the columns of  $ROTZ(\theta)$  are the vectors  $X_{1,0}$ ,  $Y_{1,0}$  and  $Z_{1,0}$ , respectively.

```

\l[
ROTZ(\theta) =
\left[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) & 0 \\
\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}
\right]
=
\left[
\begin{array}{ccc}
C(\theta) & -S(\theta) & 0 \\
S(\theta) & C(\theta) & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}
\right]
\]

```

where  $C(\theta)$  denotes  $\cos(\theta)$  and  $S(\theta)$  is  $\sin(\theta)$ , respectively. Similarly, we denote by  $ROTX(\alpha)$  and  $ROTY(\beta)$  the rotation matrices about the  $X_0$  by an angle  $\alpha$  and  $Y_0$  by an angle  $\beta$ , respectively. Figures 2.7 and 2.8 show the effect on frame  $R_1$  of these two rotations. These figures assume that in both cases the frame  $R_1$  was initially coinciding with the fixed frame of reference, we have therefore:

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\begin{equation}
ROTX(\alpha) = \left[
\begin{array}{ccc}

```

$$\begin{array}{l} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\alpha) & -\sin(\alpha) \\ 0 & \sin(\alpha) & \cos(\alpha) \end{array}$$

The rotation matrix  $\text{ROTY}(\beta)$  is defined by:

$$\text{ROTY}(\beta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\beta) & 0 & \sin(\beta) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin(\beta) & 0 & \cos(\beta) \end{bmatrix}$$

The three rotation matrices  $\text{ROTX}(\alpha)$ ,  $\text{ROTY}(\beta)$ , and  $\text{ROTZ}(\theta)$  define the set of fundamental rotations in the cartesian coordinate system. Note that every rotation matrix becomes the identity matrix whenever the rotation angle becomes nil.

### Rotation matrices

For ease of discussion we denote by  $\text{ROTW}$  an arbitrary rotation matrix, where  $W$  may be  $X$ ,  $Y$  or  $Z$ . The rotation matrices define the set  $S = \{\text{ROTW} : W = X, Y, Z\}$  of fundamental rotations in the three dimensional space. There are three fundamental properties for the set  $S$  of rotation matrices:

- The determinant
- The inverse
- The product

The **determinant** of any rotation matrix  $\text{ROTW}(\alpha)$ , of the set  $S$ , is equal to the unit:

$$\det(\text{ROTW}(\alpha)) = 1 \quad \text{for } W = X, Y \text{ or } Z$$

We can easily see that for an arbitrary angle  $\alpha$  and for  $W = X, Y$ , or  $Z$ , we

have:

$$\det(\text{ROTW}(\alpha)) = \cos(\alpha)\cos(\alpha) + \sin(\alpha)\sin(\alpha) = 1$$

The *inverse matrix* of every rotation matrix  $\text{ROTW}(\alpha)$ , of the set  $S$ , is a matrix whose transpose is identical to  $\text{ROTW}(\alpha)$ ,

$$[\text{ROTW}(\alpha)]^{-1} = [\text{ROTW}(\alpha)]^t$$

`\end{equation}`

where  $\theta^t$  denotes the transpose of a matrix.

To prove this relation, consider a matrix  $M$  and let  $M^{-1}$  denotes its inverse matrix, we have:

`\begin{equation}`

$$M^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(M)} [\text{Co}(M)]^t$$

`\end{equation}`

where  $\text{Co}(M)$  denotes the co-factor matrix associated to  $M$ . Using this formula for a rotation matrix  $\text{ROTW}$ , we obtain:

`\begin{equation}`

$$[\text{ROTW}(\alpha)]^{-1} = [\text{Co}(\text{ROTW})]^t$$

`\end{equation}`

Note that the determinant  $\det(\text{ROTW}(\alpha))=1$  and the co-factor matrix associated with any matrix of the set  $SS$  is identical to that matrix. The inverse matrix can then be obtained by means of a transposition:

`\begin{equation}`

$$[\text{ROTW}(\alpha)]^{-1} = [\text{Co}(\text{ROTW})]^t$$

`\end{equation}`

Assume a rotation matrix  $\text{ROTW}(\alpha)$  represents the transfer matrix between frame  $R_1$  can be expressed with

respect to  $R_0$  by the equation:

`\begin{equation}`

$$U_{R_0} = \text{ROTW}(\alpha).U_{R_1}$$

`\end{equation}`

Figure 2.9 shows the correspondence between

frames  $R_0$  and  $R_1$ . The inverse rotation matrix  $[\text{ROTW}(\alpha)]^t$  is the transfer matrix from frame  $R_{R_0}$  to frame  $R_{R_1}$ , we

have:

`\[`

$$R_{R_1} = [\text{ROTW}(\alpha)]^t.U_{R_0}$$

`\]`

Consider a rotation matrix  $\text{ROTW}(\alpha)$ , we note that the extra-diagonal terms of that

matrix depend on the anti-symmetric function  $\sin(\alpha)$ . The transpose matrix of an arbitrary rotation matrix  $\text{ROTW}(\alpha)$  is then equal to  $\text{ROTW}(-\alpha)$ , for  $W=X,Y$ , or  $Z$  and for arbitrary value of  $\alpha$ . Figure 2.9 shows the correspondence between frames  $R_0$  and  $R_1$  in case of a single rotation  $\alpha$  about axis  $W=Z$ . Therefore, we have:

`\begin{equation}`

$$[\text{ROTW}(\alpha)]^{-t} = [\text{ROTW}(\alpha)]^t = \text{ROTW}(-\alpha)$$

`\end{equation}`

The ordered product of rotation matrices of the same type is identical to one single rotation whose magnitude is the sum of that of the rotation matrices. In the following we develop this observation. Assume the frames  $R_0$  and  $R_1$  initially coincide with respect to their origin and their orthonormal vectors. As shown in Figure 2.10, the operation of rotating the frame  $R_1$  by

successive angles  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  using the same type of rotation is equivalent to a product of rotation matrices. The resulting rotation matrix  $M$ , which represents the transfer matrix from frame  $R_1$  to frame  $R_0$ , is then given by the product of rotation matrices:

$$M = \prod_{i=1}^k \text{ROTW}(\alpha_i)$$

The successive rotations of frame  $R_1$  is associative operation with respect to the angles  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ . This results in a single rotation matrix whose angle is the sum  $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i$ , therefore we have:

$$M = \prod_{i=1}^k \text{ROTW}(\alpha_i) = \text{ROTW} \left( \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \right)$$

Figure 2.11 shows the successive transformation of frame  $R_1$  and their resulting overall rotation matrix with respect to  $R_0$ . This result is valid only in case of a single type of rotation, i.e. the parameter  $\omega$  is the same for all the rotations. Note that the order of these successive rotation does not affect the resulting rotation matrix provided that all the rotations belong to the same type.

When successive rotations are performed but with different type, then the order of rotations become primordial. This is because the product of two rotation matrices is {not commutative law} when different type of rotations are considered. For example, consider the product of two matrices from the set  $SS$  such as  $\text{ROTX}(\theta_1) \cdot \text{ROTY}(\theta_2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{ROTX}(\theta_1) \cdot \text{ROTY}(\theta_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta_1 & -\sin \theta_1 \\ 0 & \sin \theta_1 & \cos \theta_1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_2 & 0 & \sin \theta_2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_2 & 0 & \cos \theta_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ & = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_2 & 0 & \sin \theta_2 \\ \sin \theta_2 \cos \theta_1 & \cos \theta_1 & \sin \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \\ -\sin \theta_2 \cos \theta_1 & \sin \theta_1 & \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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-C1S2&S1&C1C2
\end{array}
\right]\nonumber
\end{eqnarray}
where  $C1=\cos(\theta_1), S1=\sin(\theta_1), C2=\cos(\theta_2)$ , and
 $S2=\sin(\theta_2)$ .
Next , we compute the product  $ROTY(\theta_2).ROTX(\theta_1)$  as follows:
\begin{eqnarray}
ROTY(\theta_2).ROTX(\theta_1) & = & \left[
\begin{array}{ccc}
C2&0&S2 \\
0&1&0 \\
-S2&0&C2
\end{array}
\right]
\cdot
\left[
\begin{array}{ccc}
1&0&0 \\
0&C1&-S1 \\
0 & S1 & C1
\end{array}
\right] \\
& = & \left[
\begin{array}{ccc}
C1&S1S2&C1S2 \\
0&C1&-S1 \\
-S2&S1C2&C1C2
\end{array}
\right] \nonumber
\end{eqnarray}
For this example, we can see that
the matrix product is not commutative law
for the set of fundamental rotations.

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The geometric interpretation of this property may be illustrated as follows. First the frame  $R_1$  is rotated by an angle  $\theta_1$  about the  $X_1$  axis, and then the frame  $R_1$  is rotated by an angle  $\theta_2$  about the  $Y_1$  axis. The second rotation is performed with respect to  $Y_1$  axis which has been affected by the first rotation  $ROTX(\theta_1)$ . Therefore, the order of rotations is crucial in findings the overall rotation matrix.

#### \section{Relation between cartesian frames}

In general the origin of frame  $R_1$  may be placed anywhere in the three dimensional space. Let us consider point  $A$  which is observed in frame  $R_1$ . The point  $A_1$  can be associated a vector  $O_1A_{R1}$ . Let  $M_0^1$  denotes the rotation matrix of frame  $R_1$  relative to  $R_0$  This orientation matrix converts a vector observed

in frame  $\mathcal{R}_1$ , referenced by the upper subscript, to a vector which means that this matrix can be product of three, the product of two, or a single rotation matrix from the set  $\mathcal{S}$  of fundamental rotation matrices. \\

The point  $A$  can also be observed in frame  $\mathcal{R}_0$  the vector associated to point  $A$  is  $O_0A_{\{R0\}}$ . To find the relation between vectors  $O_0A_{\{R1\}}$  and  $O_0A_{\{R0\}}$ , one may express the vector  $O_0A_{\{R0\}}$  as the sum of two vectors:

\begin{itemize}  
\item  
The translation of the origins  $O_0$  and  $O_1$  with reference to frame  $\mathcal{R}_0$ . This vector is denoted by  $O_0O_1$ .  
\item  
The vector  $O_1A_{\{R0\}}$  which is observed in frame  $\mathcal{R}_0$ . This vector can be obtained from vector  $O_1A_{\{R1\}}$  by using the orientation matrix  $M$ , we have:  $O_1A_{\{R0\}}=M^{-1}O_1A_{\{R1\}}$  \\
Therefore, the vector  $O_0A_{\{R0\}}$  can be expressed as:

\end{itemize}  
\begin{equation}  
O\_0A\_{\{R0\}}=O\_0O\_1+M^{-1}O\_1A\_{\{R1\}}  
\end{equation}

Figure 2.11 shows a point  $A$  which is observed with respect to frame  $\mathcal{R}_0$  and  $\mathcal{R}_1$ .

#### \section{Definition of a robot arm}

A robot arm is, in general, a manipulator that consists of several rigid bodies, called links or articulators, connected in series by revolute or prismatic joints. Figures 2.12 shows a revolute and a prismatic joint, respectively. \\

A revolute joint allows link  $L_{\{i+1\}}$  to rotate with respect to the previous link  $L_i$ . A rotation angle  $\theta_{\{i+1\}}$  can be used to define the angular position of  $L_{\{i+1\}}$  relative to  $L_i$ . \\

A prismatic joint allows link  $L_{\{i+1\}}$  to translate with respect to the previous link  $L_i$ . A translation variable  $\theta_{\{i+1\}}$  can also be used to define the linear position of  $L_{\{i+1\}}$  relative to  $L_i$ .

#### \subsection{Description of an articulated robot arm}

The first end of the articulated chain, of a robot arm, is attached to a supporting base while the other end is free and equipped with a special tool which is called the grasping system. Obviously, the grasping system is designed for grasping and manipulating objects. The grasping system allows rigid attachment of the manipulated object with the robot arm. This operation is

required prior to moving the object. Functionally a robot arm having six degrees of freedom (d.o.f) can be divided into two substructures which are the "Transporter" and the "Effector" parts. Figure 2.13 shows the transporter and effector parts. The transporter is responsible of transferring and positioning the effector which includes the grasping system and the work piece. Usually the end part utilizes three rotary motions called pitch, yaw and roll, and their combination orients the grasping system according to the desired orientation of the manipulated object. The end part, with these three typical motions, allows orienting the effector part of the arm. Figure 2.13 shows a typical combination of rotary motion for the grasping system.\\

The work volume is a sphere of influence for the robot arm which can position the transporter unit to any position and orientation within the sphere. The Transporter places or positions the effector which can orient itself in a convenient way according to the desired position and orientation of the manipulated object. The transporter is the positioning mechanism, while the effector is the orienting mechanism for the arm. In general, the transporter includes three links that are the shoulder, elbow, and forearm while the effector part includes the three known orientations that are the yaw, pitch, and roll. Figure 2.13 shows the characteristics degrees of freedom for a six-revolute robot arm. \\

Clearly, to position and orient the work piece both transporter and effector subsystems should coordinate their motion in a convenient way. As both transporter and effector have each a number of degrees of freedom, it becomes important to find a solution for these degrees of freedom such that to satisfy the requirements on the position and orientation of the work piece. The system that solves this problem is called the motion coordination system. The design of motion coordination systems will be discussed in Chapter 3.

#### \subsection{Types of Transporters}

There are four basic categories of construction which define the architecture of the transporter part of a robot. These are

defined by using several mathematical coordinate systems that are the cartesian, cylindrical, spherical, and revolute structures. In the following sub-section we study these structures.

`%\subsubsection{The cartesian structure}`  
 A `{\em cartesian transporter}` consists of three mutually orthogonal linear axes. The three degrees of freedom are all prismatic translations. Figure 2.14 shows a cartesian robot arm. The cartesian structure is the simplest structure because it does not require any mathematical transformation in order to convert the coordinate of the transporter end point into the link coordinates. `\\`

Figure 2.14 shows a cartesian transporter which is composed of three prismatic joints. The position of the joint gives directly the coordinates of the transporter end point.

`%\subsubsection{The cylindrical structure}`  
 A `{\em cylindrical transporter}` consists of two prismatic and one revolute joints. Figure 2.15 shows a cylindrical transporter whose two prismatic degrees of freedom are denoted by  $l$  and  $r$ , respectively and  $\theta$  denotes its revolute degree of freedom. The coordinates  $X, Y,$  and  $Z$  of the

transporter end point are given as follows:

$$\begin{eqnarray} X & = & r \cdot \cos(\theta) \\ Y & = & r \cdot \sin(\theta) \\ Z & = & l \end{eqnarray}$$

Generally, the cylindrical transporter, as any robotic structure, can be moved by controlling its three degrees of freedom  $r, l$  and  $\theta$ . The operation of positioning the transporter end point at a location defined by  $X, Y,$  and  $Z$  is equivalent to solving the system equation previously defined. One needs to find a closed form formula in order to evaluate the variables  $r, l,$  and  $\theta$  which correspond to the transporter end point  $X, Y,$  and  $Z$ . When  $r$  is not nil, one can find the solution:

$$\begin{eqnarray} r & = & \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2} \\ \cos(\theta) & = & \frac{X}{\sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}} \end{eqnarray}$$

$$1 = \frac{Y}{\sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}} \sin(\theta)$$

The knowledge of  $\cos(\theta)$  and  $\sin(\theta)$  allows finding a unique solution  $\theta$ .

$$\begin{aligned} X &= r \cos(\theta) \cos(\varphi) \\ Y &= r \cos(\theta) \sin(\varphi) \\ Z &= r \sin(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

To position the spherical transporter end point at a location defined by  $X, Y,$  and  $Z$  one can find two solutions provided that  $r$  is not nil:

$$r = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}$$

when  $\theta$  is defined in the interval  $[-\pi, \pi]$ , then two solutions  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are expected. These are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_1 &= \arcsin\left(\frac{Z}{\sqrt{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}}\right) \\ \theta_2 &= \pi - \theta_1 \end{aligned}$$

The angle  $\varphi$  can only be uniquely found if and only if  $\cos(\theta) \neq 0$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(\varphi) &= \frac{X}{\cos(\theta)} \\ \sin(\varphi) &= \frac{Y}{\cos(\theta)} \end{aligned}$$

When both cosine and sine functions are defined, then one can find a unique solution  $\varphi$ . Note here that both solutions satisfy the requirement of having the transporter end point located at the desired cartesian point  $(X, Y, Z)$ .

$$\text{A general revolute structure consists of arbitrary combination of prismatic and revolute joints. Figure 2.17 shows an example of a three-revolute transporter. The three degrees of freedom are denoted by } \theta_1, \theta_2, \text{ and } \theta_3, \text{ respectively. Chapter 3 deals with the analysis of general structures. The method to obtain the coordinate of the end point will be explained in that chapter. The following expressions represent these coordinates which are given here to}$$

illustrate this commonly used general structure:

```
\begin{eqnarray}
X & = & S1.(S2L_2 + S23L_3) \nonumber \\
Y & = & -C1.(S2L_2 + S23L_3) \\
Z & = & L_1 + C2L_2+C23L_3 \nonumber
\end{eqnarray}
```

where  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ , and  $L_3$  denote the link lengths, respectively, and  $S1=\sin(\theta_1)$ ,  $C1=\cos(\theta_1)$ ,  $S2=\sin(\theta_2)$ ,  $C2=\cos(\theta_2)$ ,  $S23=\sin(\theta_2 + \theta_3)$ , and  $C23=\cos(\theta_2+\theta_3)$ .

In chapter 3 we will extensively analyze this structure and develop a methodology for deriving the coordinate equations together with the solution  $\theta_i = F_i(X,Y,Z)$ , where  $i=1,2,3$ .

### \subsection{Algebraic relationships of articulated structures}

In this section we study the relation between two consecutive links interconnected by means of a joint. Two types of joints will be investigated: the revolute and prismatic types. The resulting relations will be used, in chapter 3, to develop a complete method for deriving the geometric model of a robot arm. Generally, a geometric model is useful to obtain the coordinate of the robot end point with respect to a fixed frame of reference. The geometric model is one important method for designing the motion coordination system of a robot arm.

Figure 2.18 shows the assignment of frame  $R_i$  to link  $L_i$ . Consider two successive links  $L_i$  and  $L_{i+1}$  of an articulated system which is shown on Figure 2.19. The link  $L_i$  is geometrically formed by the vector  $O_{i-1}O_i$  and supports its frame of reference  $R_i = \{X_i, Y_i, Z_i\}$ .

This frame is chosen such that vector  $O_{i-1}O_i$  is parallel to axis  $Z_i$ . since, the link axis is supported by vector  $Z_i$ . Similarly, link  $L_{i+1}$  is geometrically formed by the vector  $O_iO_{i+1}$  and supports its frame of reference  $R_{i+1} = \{X_{i+1}, Y_{i+1}, Z_{i+1}\}$ . Frame  $R_{i+1}$  is chosen such that vector  $O_iO_{i+1}$  is parallel to axis  $Z_i$ .

Initially, both frames  $R_i$  and  $R_{i+1}$  are parallel. This means that all three orthonormal vectors of  $R_i$  and  $R_{i+1}$  are respectively parallel to each other. In this case both links will be aligned. In the following we study the case of revolute and prismatic joints..

\subsection{Case of a revolute joint}  
 Link  $L_{i+1}$  is said to be revolute with respect to link  $L_i$  when frame  $R_{i+1}$  can rotate relative to either axes  $X_i, Y_i$ , or  $Z_i$ . When observed in frame  $R_i$ , the end point  $O_{i+1}$  of  $L_{i+1}$  can be associated a vector  $O_{iO_{i+1}}$  which will be denoted by  $O_{iO_{i+1,i}}$  to indicate that the vector is observed in frame  $R_i$ . Figure 2.20 shows the case of a revolute joint that interfaces the links  $L_i$  and  $L_{i+1}$ . \\

As frame  $R_{i+1}$  can rotate with respect to  $R_i$ , then a transfer matrix  $M_i^{i+1}$  can be used to represent the rotation between links  $L_i$  and  $L_{i+1}$ . Therefore, vector

$O_{iO_{i+1,i}}$  can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\begin{aligned} &\begin{aligned} &O_{iO_{i+1,1}} = M_i^{i+1} \cdot O_{iO_{i+1,i+1}} \end{aligned} \\ &\end{aligned} \\ &\end{aligned}$$

where  $O_{iO_{i+1,i+1}}$  denote the vector  $O_{iO_{i+1}}$  observed in frame  $R_{i+1}$ . Note here that vector  $O_{iO_{i+1,i+1}}$  has simple expression because link  $L_{i+1}$  is parallel to axis  $Z_{i+1}$ . Therefore, the vector  $O_{iO_{i+1,i+1}}$  always has the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned} &\begin{aligned} &O_{iO_{i+1,i+1}} = O_{i-1} O_{i+1} M_i^{i+1} \cdot O_{iO_{i+1,i+1}} \end{aligned} \\ &\end{aligned}$$

This expression gives the coordinate of the end point  $O_{i+1}$  of  $L_{i+1}$  with respect to the origin of the previous link  $L_i$ . \\

For the case shown in Figure 2.19, link  $L_{i+1}$  is animated by a revolute motion about  $X_i$  axis. Note there that  $X_i$  is parallel to  $X_{i+1}$  axis whatever the value of the

rotation angle. Let denote by  $\theta_{i+1}$  the rotation angle that define the rotation matrix between frames  $R_i$  and  $R_{i+1}$ . The rotation matrix  $M_i^{i+1}$  is equal to  $ROTX(\theta_{i+1})$ , then for this example we have:

$$\begin{aligned} &\begin{aligned} &\begin{aligned} &O_{i-1} O_{i+1,i} &= & \left[ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ L_i \end{array} \right] \end{aligned} \\ &\end{aligned} \\ &\end{aligned}$$

+

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & C(i+1) & -S(i+1) \\ 0 & S(i+1) & C(i+1) \end{bmatrix}$$

.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ L_{i+1} \end{bmatrix}$$

& = &

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -S(i+1).L_{i+1} \\ L_i + C(i+1).L_{i+1} \end{bmatrix}$$

\end{eqnarray\*}

One can verify that for  $\theta_{i+1}=0$ , both links will be aligned and the coordinate of  $O_{i+1}$ , with respect to  $R_i$ , will be  $[0 \ ; \ 0 \ ; \ L_i + L_{i+1}]^t$ . We also note that the vectors  $X_{i+1}$ ,  $Y_{i+1}$ , and  $Z_{i+1}$  are identical to the columns of the rotation matrix when referenced with respect to  $R_i$ , we have:

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_{i+1,i} \\ Y_{i+1,i} \\ Z_{i+1,i} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & C(\theta_{i+1}) & S(\theta_{i+1}) \\ 0 & -S(\theta_{i+1}) & C(\theta_{i+1}) \end{bmatrix}^t \begin{bmatrix} X_i \\ Y_i \\ Z_i \end{bmatrix}$$

### \subsection{Case of prismatic link}

Link  $L_{i+1}$  is said to be prismatic with respect to link  $L_i$  when frame  $R_{i+1}$  can only be translated relative to some or all axes  $X_i, Y_i$ , or  $Z_i$  of frame  $R_i$ . Figure 2.20 shows a frame  $R_{i+1}$  that can be translated with respect to axis  $Z$  of frame  $R_i$ .

As frame  $R_{i+1}$  can only be translated with respect to  $R_i$ , then a transfer matrix  $M_i^{i+1}$  is the identity matrix. Therefore, vector  $O_i O_{i+1,i}$  can be expressed as follows:

$$O_i O_{i+1,i} = M_i^{i+1}.O_i O_{i+1,i+1} = O_i O_{i+1,i+1}$$

$\end{equation}$

Note here that vector

$O_i O_{i+1,i+1}$

has also simple expression because

link  $L_{i+1}$  is

parallel to axis

$Z_{i+1}$ . Assume

frame  $R_{i+1}$

can be translated with

respect to axis  $Z_i$ , then

the vector  $O_i O_{i+1,i+1}$

will be expressed as follows:

$\begin{equation}$

$O_i O_{i+1,i+1} = (O \ ; \ O \ ; \ L_{i+1} + \theta_{i+1})^t$

$\end{equation}$

where  $\theta_{i+1}$  is the

linear translation variable which is

defined along axis  $Z_i$ . Note

here that the variable  $\theta_{i+1}$  will

appear as a component of the axis  $X_{i+1}, Y_{i+1}$  or

$Z_{i+1}$  when the

translation of  $R_{i+1}$  with respect to  $R_i$

is defined with respect to that axis. Now, we can

express the vector

$O_{i+1} O_{i+1,i}$  as follows:

$\begin{equation}$

$O_{i-1} O_{i+1,i} = O_{i-1} O_{i,i} + O_i O_{i+1,i+1}$

$\end{equation}$

This expression gives the coordinate of the

end point  $O_{i+1}$  of  $L_{i+1}$  with

respect to the origin of

the previous link  $L_i$ .

For the case shown in the Figure 2.20, link  $L_{i+1}$

is animated by a prismatic motion along

axis  $Z_i$ . Note here that

$R_{i+1}$  will

remain parallel to  $R_i$  whatever

the value of the linear variable

$\theta_{i+1}$ .

$\section{Properties of rotation matrices}$

Consider the links  $L_{i-1}, L_i$  which are attached to

frames  $R_{i-1}, R_i$ , and  $R_{i+1}$

respectively. Let  $M_{i-1}^i$  and

$M_i^{i+1}$  denote

the rotation matrices between frames

$R_i$  and  $R_{i-1}$ , and

between frames  $R_{i+1}$  and  $R_i$ , respectively. Figure 2.20

shows the three links

$L_{i-1}, L_i$  and  $L_{i+1}$ . The product

$M_{i-1}^i M_i^{i+1}$  represents

the translation matrix between frames

$R_{i+1}$  and  $R_{i-1}$ , which is

function of two independent variables

$\theta_i$  and  $\theta_{i+1}$ . In other

words the

product  $M_{i-1}^i M_i^{i+1}$  gives the coordinates of vectors  $X_{i+1}, Y_{i+1}$ , and  $Z_{i+1}$  with respect to frame  $R_{i-1}$ .

$$M_{i-1}^i M_i^{i+1} = [X_{i+1, i-1} \ Y_{i+1, i-1} \ Z_{i+1, i-1}]$$

Figure 2.20 shows the correspondence between the frames  $R_{i+1}, R_i$  and  $R_{i-1}$ , respectively.

To simplify this notation, we take the following contracted form:

$$M_{i-1}^i M_i^{i+1} = M_{i-1}^{i+1}$$

In the general case we also have:

$$M_i^{i+1} M_{i+1}^{i+2} \dots M_{j-1}^j = M_i^j = [X_{i, j} \ Y_{i, j} \ Z_{i, j}]$$

Note that there is a correspondence chain between the frames  $R_i, R_{i-1}, \dots$  and  $R_i$ , respectively.

In the following we determine some properties of the translation matrices which are

- (1) the determinant of the product,
- (2) the inverse of product, and
- (3) commutativity of matrix product.

The determinant of the product of rotation matrices is always equal to one:

$$|M_i^j| = |M_i^{i+1} M_{i+1}^{i+2} \dots M_{i-1}^i| = \prod_{k=i}^{j-1} |M_{k-1}^k| = 1$$

The inverse of a product  $M_i^j$  of rotation matrices is equal to its transposed matrix

$$[M_i^j]^t = [M_i^{i+1} \dots M_{j-1}^j]^{-1} = [M_{j-1}^{j-1}]^{-1} \dots [M_i^{i+1}]^{-1} = [M_{j-1}^{j-1}]^{-1} \dots [M_i^{i+1}]^t = M_{j-1}^{j-1} \dots M_i^i = M_j^i$$

Note that  $M_i^i$  is the identity matrix  $I_3$ .

In general, the matrix product is not commutative for the set  $S$  of rotation matrices:

$$M_i^{i+1} M_{i+1}^{i+2} \neq M_{i+1}^{i+2} M_i^{i+1}$$

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\begin{center}
{\bf Exercises}
\end{center}
\begin{enumerate}
\item
Consider two vectors  $U=(1 \ ; \ 5 \ ; \ -2)^t$  and  $V=(3 \ ; \ -2 \ ; \ 1)^t$ 
\begin{enumerate}
\item
Determine their scalar product  $U \cdot V$ .
\item
Determine their length
\item
Determine two vectors  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  which
are orthogonal to vectors  $U$  and  $V$ ,
respectively.
\item
Determine a unit length vector  $W$  which
is orthogonal to both vectors  $U$  and  $V$ .
\end{enumerate}
\item
Consider two vectors  $U$  and  $V$  as defined
in problem 1.1, and consider the
vector  $W=(-3 \ ; \ 5 \ ; \ 2)^t$ . Find
the angle between vector  $U$  and  $W$ 
and the angle between  $V$  and  $W$ .
\item
Consider the vectors  $U$  and  $V$ . Let  $\alpha$  be
their scalar product  $\alpha = U^t \cdot V$ 
\begin{enumerate}
\item
Determine in which geometrical
condition  $\alpha$  is minimum or maximum.
\item
Assume the vector  $W=U \times V$ , where  $U=(2 \ ; \ 6 \ ; \ 3)^t \ ; \ V=(3 \ ; \ -X \ ; \ Y)^t$ .
For
what values of  $X$  and  $Y$  the length of
vector  $W$  is minimum or maximum.
\end{enumerate}
\item
The orthonormal vectors  $X$  and  $Y$  of
a frame of reference  $R$  are
defined by  $X=(-1 \ ; \ 0 \ ; \ 0)^t$ 
and  $Y=0 \ ; \ -1 \ ; \ 0)^t$ .
\begin{enumerate}
\item
Find a vector  $Z$  that defines a right-handed
frame  $R(X,Y,Z)$ .
\item
Find a vector  $Z$  that defines a left-handed frame  $R(X,Y,Z)$ .
\item
Find the rotation matrix between the two frames.

```

```

\end{enumerate}
\item
A fixed frame  $R_0$  is given by:
\begin{itemize}
\item
Its origin  $O_0$ 
\item
Its orthonormal vectors  $X_0, Y_0$  and  $Z_0$ .
\end{itemize}
Another frame  $R_1$ , in motion
relative to  $R_0$ . The frame  $R_1$  is
defined by its origin  $\theta_0 \theta_{1,0} = (1, 3, 2)^t$  and
its orthonormal vectors  $X_{1,0} = (a \ ; \ b \ ; \ c)^t$  and
 $Y_{1,0} = (u \ ; \ v \ ; \ w)^t$  which
are given with reference to  $R_0$ .
\begin{enumerate}
\item
Determine the vector  $Z_{1,0}$ 
\item
Determine the transfer matrix between the
frames  $R_1$  and  $R_0$ .
\end{enumerate}
\item
A frame  $R_1$ , which originally coincide with a fixed frame  $R_0$ , is
rotated by an angle  $\theta = 30^\circ$  about the  $X_0$ 's axis.
\begin{enumerate}
\item
Determine the rotation matrix  $ROTX(\theta)$ .
\item
Determine the vectors
 $X_{1,0}$ ,  $Y_{1,0}$ , and  $Z_{1,0}$  of
frame  $R_0$ .
\item
Suppose the frame  $R_1$  is translated
relative to  $R_0$  by the
vector  $(1 \ ; \ 2 \ ; \ 1)^t$ . A
point  $A$ , which
observed in frame  $R_0$ , is given by:  $O_0A = (1 \ ; \ -2 \ ; \ 2)^t$ .
Determine the coordinates of  $A$  in  $R_1$ .
\end{enumerate}
\item
Consider the product of two rotation matrices:
 $ROTX(\theta).ROTY(\alpha) = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 & \\ 1 & 0 & \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$ 
Determine the angles  $\theta$  and  $\alpha$  and discuss the solutions.
\item
Demonstrate that the orientation of an object can
be fully described by means of three
independent angles in the 3-dimensional space. Define
these angles and discuss their relation and
their order.
\item
Give example of six degrees of freedom robot arms having
transporter and effector parts.
\begin{enumerate}
\item
How do you partition these d.o.f. among

```

the transporter and effector substructures.

\item

Show that the orientation of the effector is generally dependent on the first 3d.o.f. i.e., the interface between the transporter and the effector is designed such that the effector base depend on the orientation of the end segment of the Transporter.

\item

Four types of transporters have been defined in Chapter 1, what is the advantage of each in terms of:

\begin{enumerate}

\item

Accessibility of the end, point.

\item

Complexity of the relations between the coordinate of the end point and the coordinate of each degree of freedom.

\end{enumerate}

\end{enumerate}

\item

Consider the four types of transporters that have been defined in Chapter 1. Using the coordinate system in the cartesian, cylindrical, spherical, and revolute spaces, find the expression of the transporter end point coordinate as function of the three degrees of freedom.

\item

Consider a set of rotation matrices

$\{M_{i+1}:i=\theta,\dots,n\}$ ,

where  $M_{i+1}$  denotes

the transfer matrix between frames  $R_{i+1}$  and  $R_i$ .

\begin{enumerate}

\item

What is the geometrical interpretation of the matrix  $M_0^n = \{X_n, Y_n, Z_n\}$ , where  $X_n$ ,  $Y_n$ , and  $Z_n$  are column vectors.

\item

Express the vectors  $X_n, Y_n$ , and  $Z_n$  in a frame  $R_k$  where  $0 \leq k \leq n$ .

\item

What is the geometrical interpretation of the inverse matrix  $\left[ M_0^n \right]^{-1}$ .

\item

What should be the value of  $n$  such that the equation  $M = M_0^n$  admits one and only solution. The matrix  $M$  is a constant and given matrix.

\end{enumerate}

\end{enumerate}

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\begin{center}

{\bf Trignometric Formulas}

\end{center}

$\sin(-\theta) = -\sin(\theta)$

$\cos(-\theta) = \cos(\theta)$

$\sin^2(\theta) + \cos^2(\theta) = 1$

$\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \sin(\alpha)\cos(\beta)$

$+ \cos(\alpha)\sin(\beta)$

$\cos(2\theta) = \cos^2(\theta) - \sin^2(\theta)$

$\tan(\alpha + \beta) = \frac{\tan(\alpha) + \tan(\beta)}{1 - \tan(\alpha)\tan(\beta)}$

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