

# Virtual Humans – Winter 23/24

Lecture 2\_2 – Rotations and Kinematic chains

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# Ingredients to build a Virtual Human

## Building a human model

- Kinematic parameterization
  - Rotation Matrices
  - Euler Angles
  - Quaternions
  - Twists and Exponential maps
  - Kinematic chains
  
- Subject shape model
  - Geometric primitives
  - Detailed Body Scans
  - Human Shape models

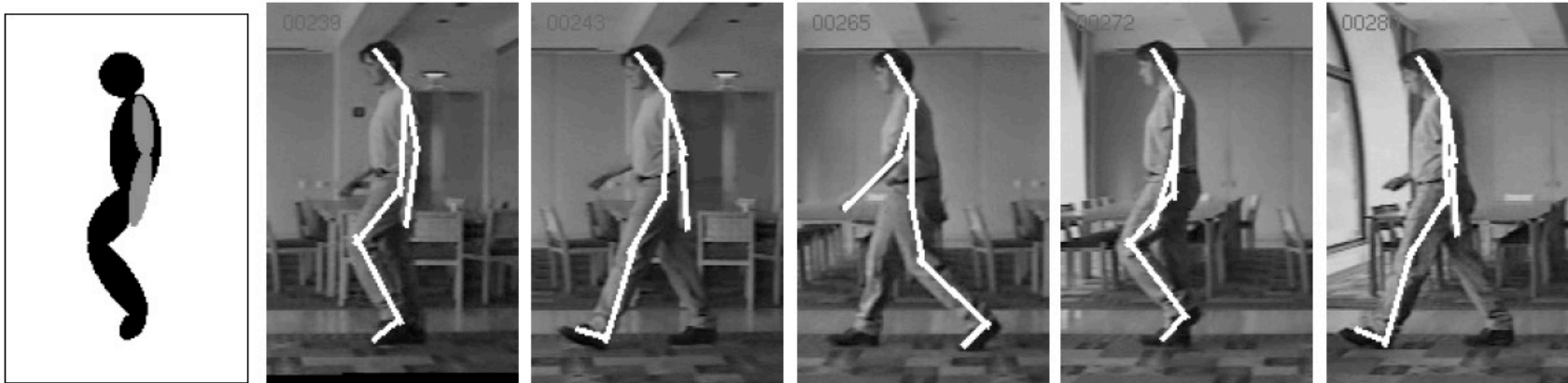
## Fitting model to observations

- Inference
  - Observation likelihood
  - Local optimization
  - Particle Based optimization
  - Directly regressing parameters

# Kinematic Chains

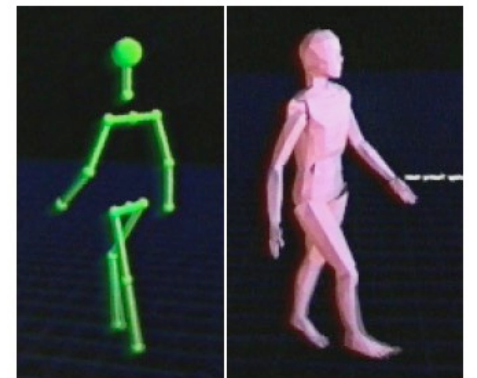
## Motivated from robotics:

The human motion can be expressed via a „**kinematic chain**“, a series of local rigid body motions (along the limbs).



The model parameters to optimize, correspond to rigid body motions (RBM).

How to model RBM ?



# Kinematic Parameterization

- 1) Pose configurations are represented with a **minimum** number of **parameters**
- 2) **Singularities** can be avoided during optimization
- 3) Easy computation of **derivatives** segment positions and orientations w.r.t parameters
- 4) Human **motion constrains** such as articulated motion are naturally described
- 5) Simple rules for **concatenating** motions

# Ingredients to build a Virtual Human

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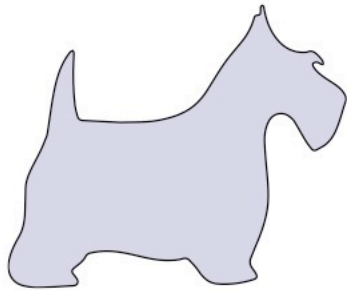
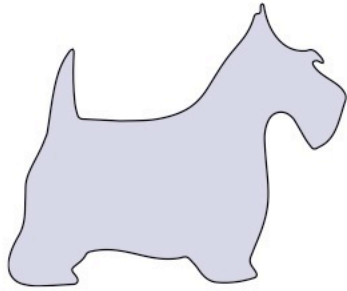
## Fitting model to observations

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  - Directly regressing parameters

# Informally, what is a rotation?

- It is useful to characterize a **transformation** by its **invariances**.
- A rotation is a linear transformation which preserves angles and distances, and does not mirror the object

# Commutativity of Rotations – 2D



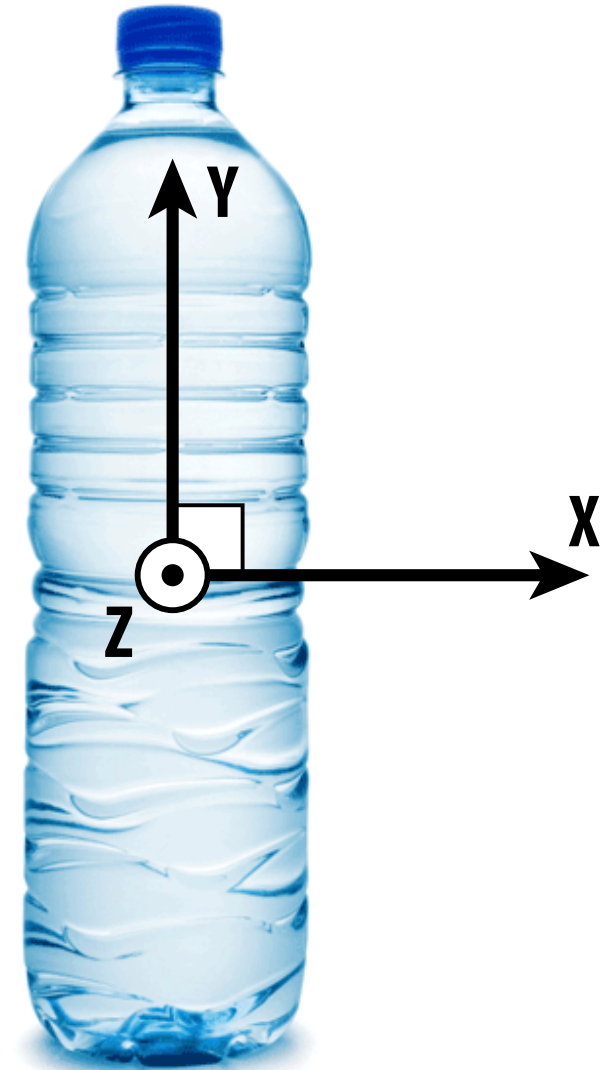
# Commutativity of Rotations – 3D

Try it at home – grab a bottle!

- Rotate  $90^\circ$  around Y, then Z, then X
- Rotate  $90^\circ$  around Z, then Y, then X
- Was there any difference?



**CONCLUSION: bad things can happen if we're not careful about the order in which we apply rotations!**





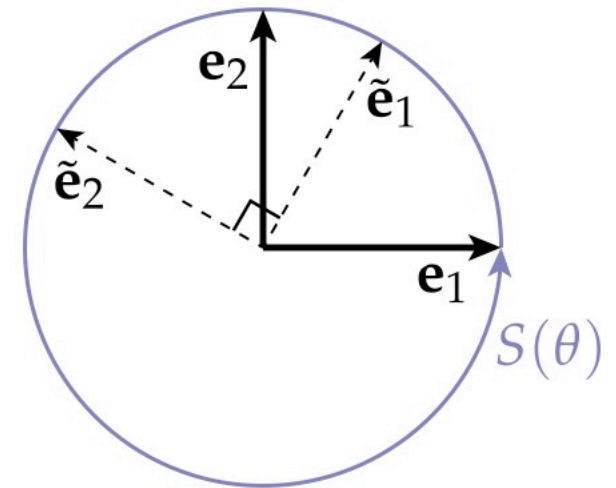
# Representing rotations – 2D

- How to get a rotation matrix in 2D?
- Suppose we have a function  $S(\theta)$ , that for a given  $\theta$ , gives me the point  $(x, y)$  around a circle.
- What's  $e_1$  rotated by  $\theta$ ?  $\tilde{e}_1 = S(\theta)$
- What's  $e_2$  rotated by  $\theta$ ?  $\tilde{e}_2 = S(\theta + \pi/2)$
- How about  $u := a.e_1 + b.e_2$ ?

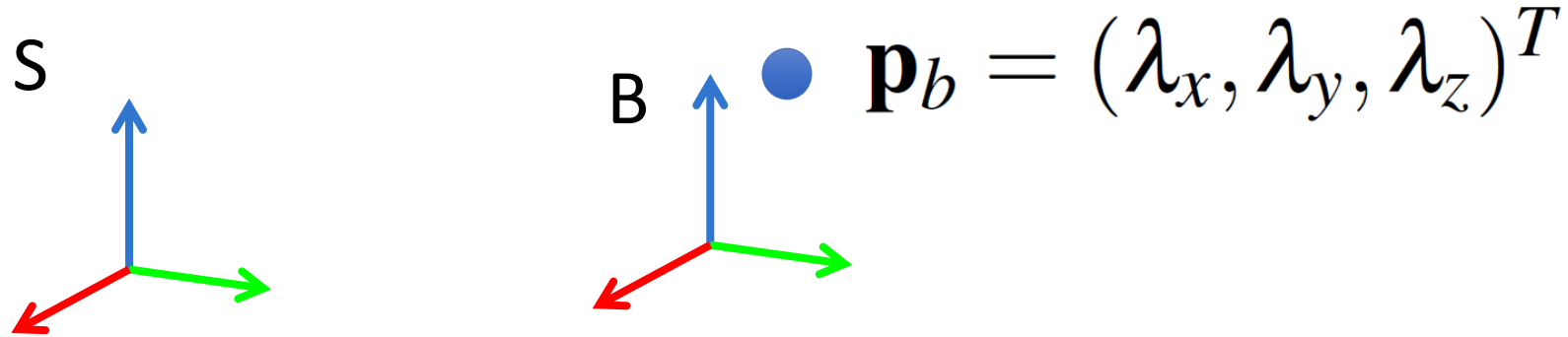
$$\mathbf{u} := aS(\theta) + bS(\theta + \pi/2)$$

- What then must the matrix look like?

$$\begin{bmatrix} S(\theta) & S(\theta + \pi/2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & \cos(\theta + \pi/2) \\ \sin(\theta) & \sin(\theta + \pi/2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$



# Rotation Matrices



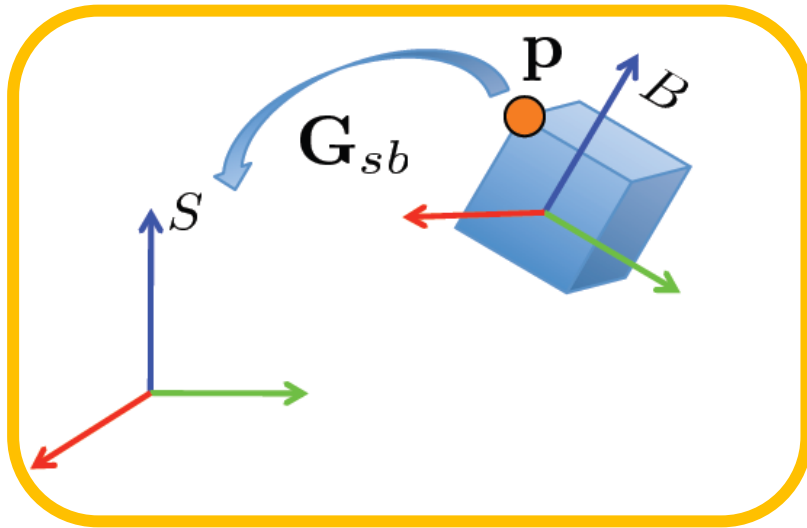
$$\mathbf{p}_s = \lambda_x \mathbf{x}_s^B + \lambda_y \mathbf{y}_s^B + \lambda_z \mathbf{z}_s^B$$

$$\mathbf{p}_s = \mathbf{R}_{sb} \mathbf{p}_b \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{R}_{sb} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_s^B & \mathbf{y}_s^B & \mathbf{z}_s^B \end{bmatrix}$$

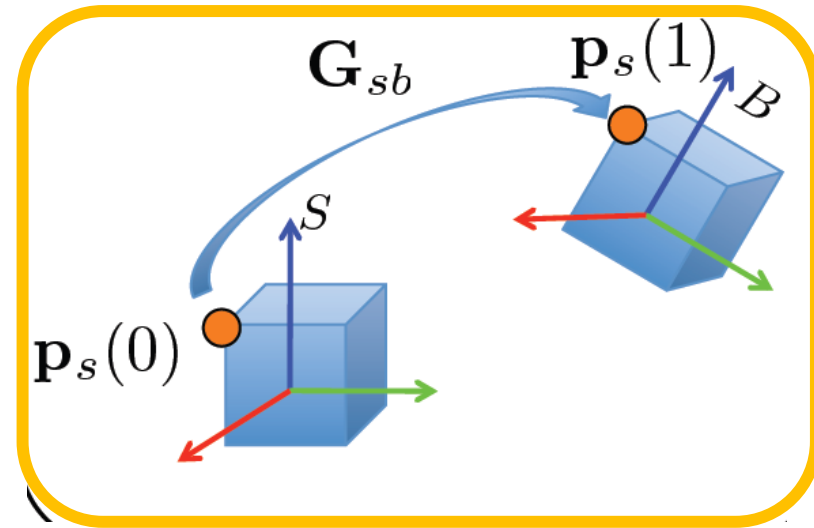
The columns of a rotation matrix are the principal axis of one frame expressed relative to another

# 2 Views of Rotations

Rotations can be interpreted either as



Coordinate transformation



Relative motion in time

# Rotation matrix drawbacks

- Need for **9 numbers**
- **6 additional constrains** to ensure that the matrix is orthonormal and belongs to  $SO(3)$

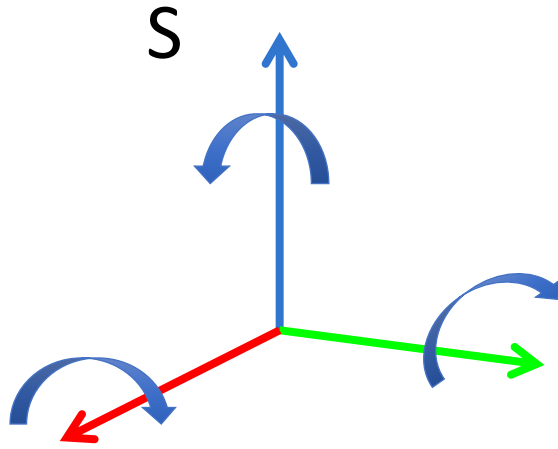
$$SO(3) := \{R \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3} \mid RR^T = Id, \det(R) = 1\}$$

- Suboptimal for numerical optimization

# Euler Angles

- One of the most **popular** parameterizations
- Rotation is encoded as **the successive rotations** about three principal axis
- Only **3 parameters** to encode a rotation
- **Derivatives** easy to compute

# Euler Angles



$$\mathbf{R}_x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ 0 & -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_y = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta & 0 & -\sin \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \beta & 0 & \cos \beta \end{bmatrix}$$

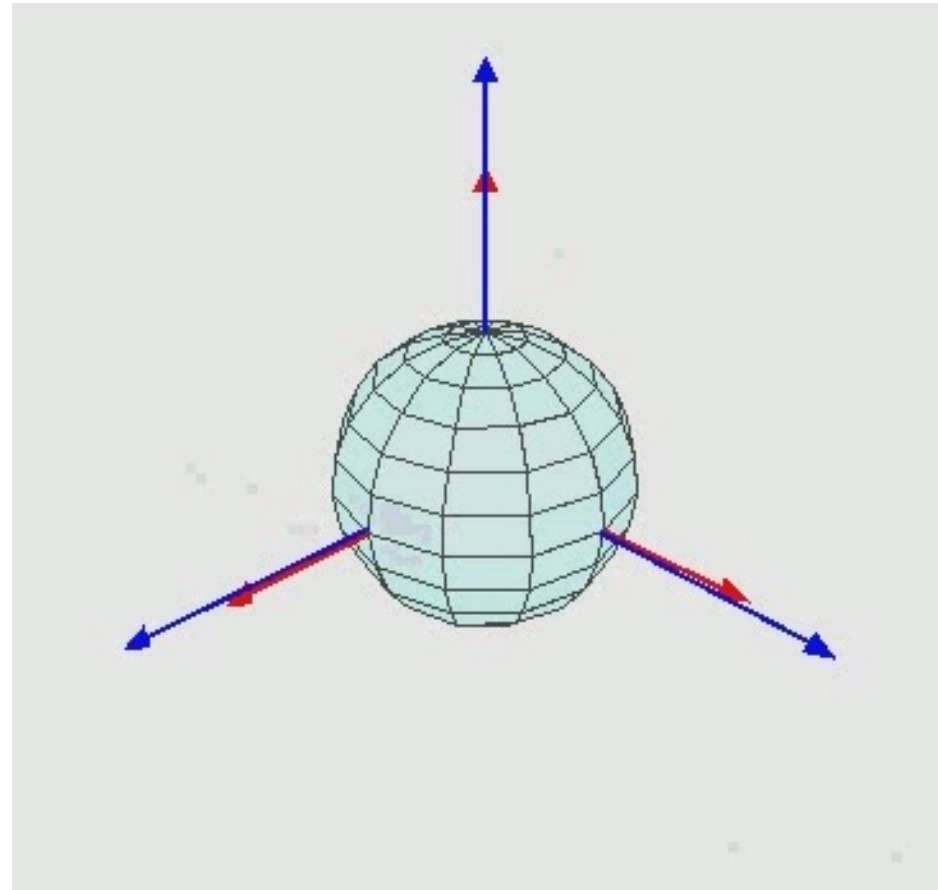
$$\mathbf{R}_z = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\gamma) & \sin(\gamma) & 0 \\ -\sin(\gamma) & \cos(\gamma) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{R}(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = \mathbf{R}_x(\alpha) \mathbf{R}_y(\beta) \mathbf{R}_z(\gamma)$$

# Euler Angles: Confusion

- Careful: Euler angles are a typical source of confusion!
- When using Euler angles **2 things** have to be specified:
  1. Convention: X-Y-Z, Z-Y-X, Z-Y-Z ...
  2. Rotations about the static spatial frame or the moving body frame (intrinsic vs extrinsic rotation)

# Example of intrinsic rotations ( $z, x', z''$ )



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler\\_angles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler_angles)



# Gimbal Lock

- When using Euler angles  $\theta_x, \theta_y, \theta_z$ , may reach a configuration where there is no way to rotate around one of the three axes!
- Recall rotation matrices around the three axes:

$$R_x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta_x & -\sin \theta_x \\ 0 & \sin \theta_x & \cos \theta_x \end{bmatrix} \quad R_y = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_y & 0 & \sin \theta_y \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_y & 0 & \cos \theta_y \end{bmatrix} \quad R_z = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_z & -\sin \theta_z & 0 \\ \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The product of these represents rotation by the three Euler angles.

$$R_x R_y R_z = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_y \cos \theta_z & -\cos \theta_y \sin \theta_z & \sin \theta_y \\ \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_y + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z - \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_y \sin \theta_z & -\cos \theta_y \sin \theta_x \\ -\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_y + \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_y \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_x \cos \theta_y \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gimbal Lock

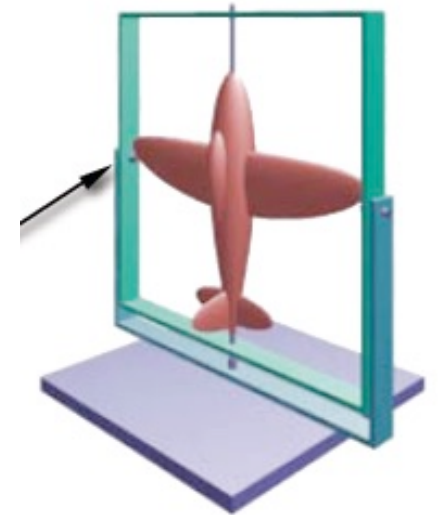
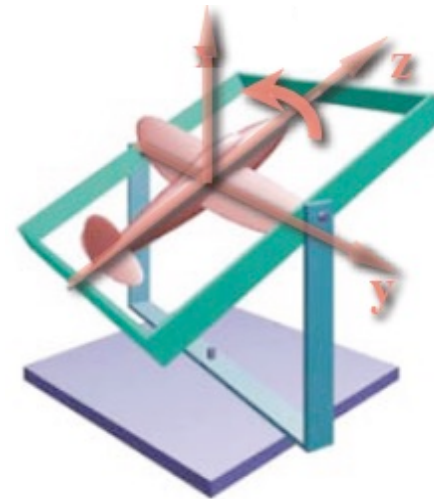
- Consider the special case where  $\theta_y = \pi/2$  (so,  $\cos(\theta_y) = 0$ ,  $\sin(\theta_y) = 1$ )

$$R_x R_y R_z = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_y \cos \theta_z & -\cos \theta_y \sin \theta_z & \sin \theta_y \\ \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_y + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z - \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_y \sin \theta_z & -\cos \theta_y \sin \theta_x \\ -\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_y + \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_y \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_x \cos \theta_y \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\implies \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z - \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_z & 0 \\ -\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z + \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_z & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- We are left with a planar rotation. Notice it depends only of  $\theta_x$ ,  $\theta_z$ .  
Not on  $\theta_y$ .

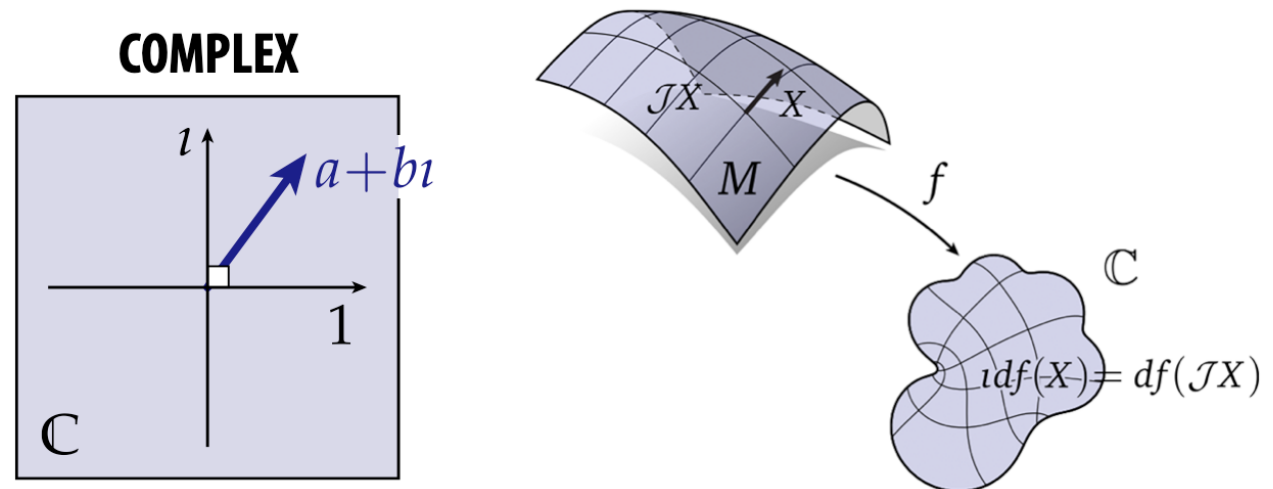
# Euler Angles: Drawbacks

- Gimbal lock: When two of the axis align one degree of freedom is lost!
- Parameterization is not unique
- Lots of conventions



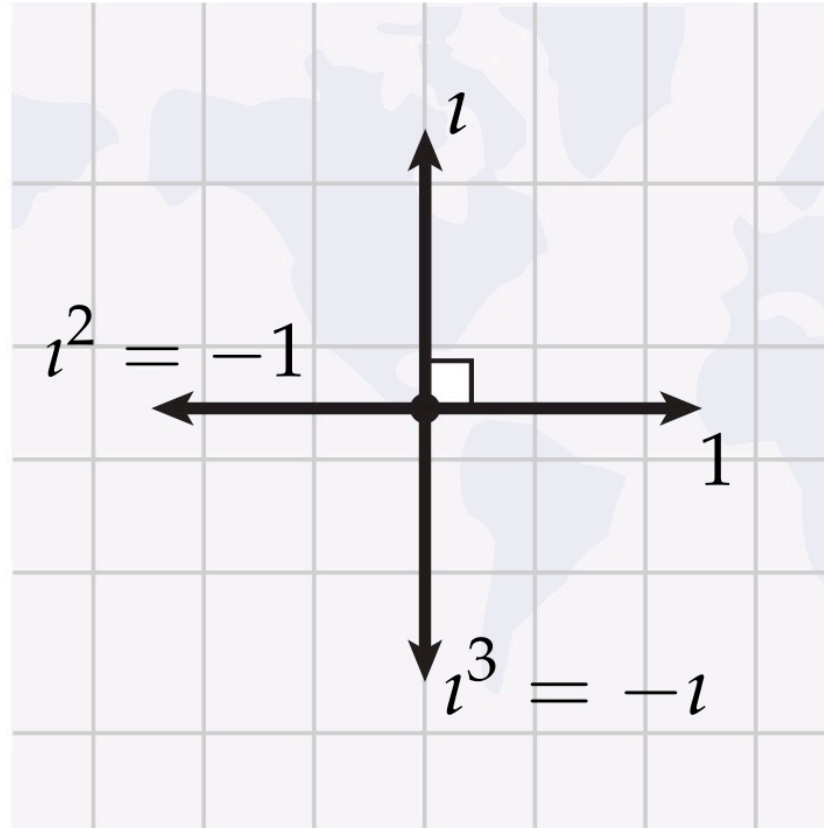
# Complex Analysis - Motivation

- Natural way to encode geometric transformations in 2D.
- Simplifies code/notation/debugging/thinking.
- Moderate reduction in computational cost/ bandwidth/storage.
- Fluency in complex analysis can lead to deeper/novel solutions to problems...



**Truly: no good reason to use 2D vectors instead of complex numbers...**

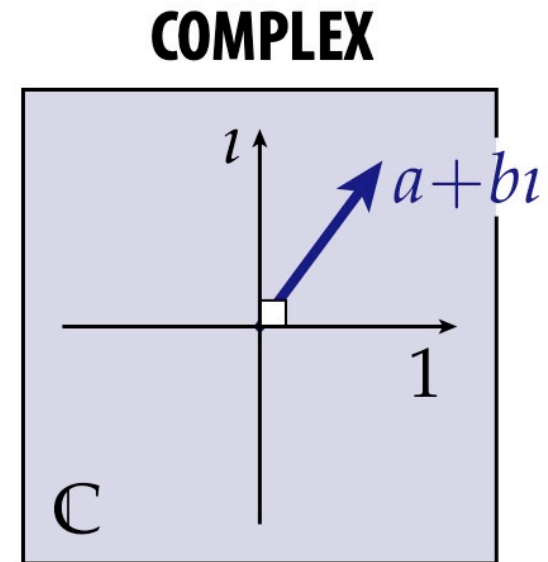
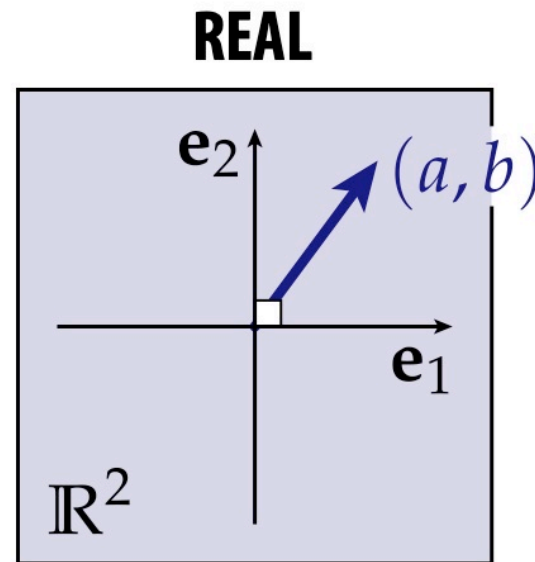
# Imaginary units – Geometric description



**Imaginary unit is just a quarter-turn  
in the counter-clockwise direction.**

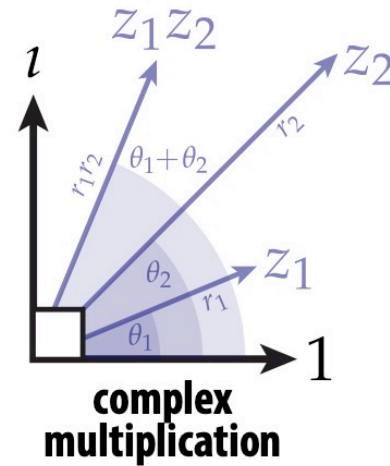
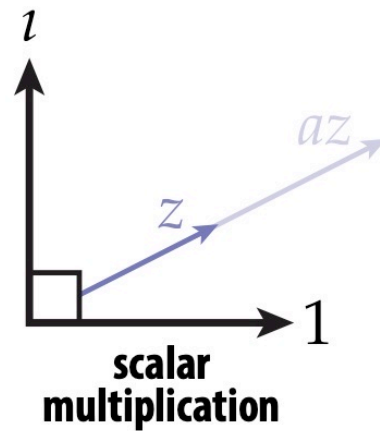
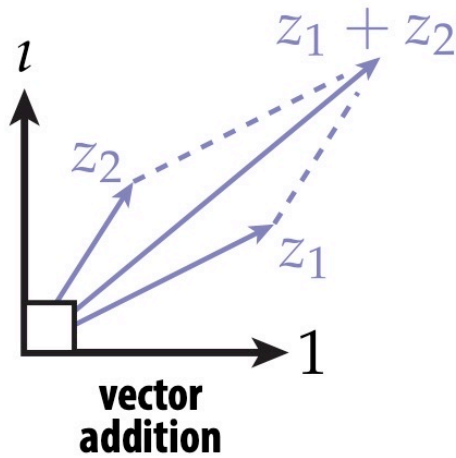
# Complex Numbers

- Complex numbers are then just two vectors
- Instead of  $e_1, e_2$  use "1" and " $i$ " to denote two bases.
- Otherwise behaves like a 2D space
- ... except that we are also going to get a very useful new notation of the *product* between the two vectors.



# Complex Arithmetic

- Same operations as before, plus one more



- Complex multiplication:
  - Angles add
  - Magnitude multiplies

**“POLAR FORM”\*:**

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 &:= (r_1, \theta_1) \\ z_2 &:= (r_2, \theta_2) \\ z_1 z_2 &= (r_1 r_2, \theta_1 + \theta_2) \end{aligned}$$

have to be more careful here!

↓

**\*Not quite how it really works, but basic idea is right.**

# Complex product – Rectangular form (1, $i$ )

$$z_1 = (a + bi)$$

$$z_2 = (c + di)$$

$$z_1 z_2 = ac + adi + bci + bdi^2 =$$

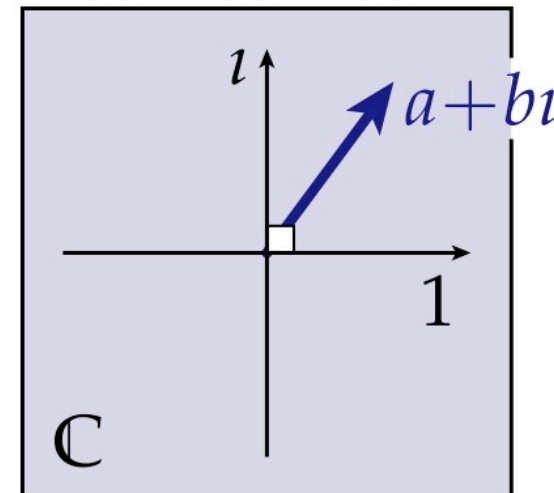
$$\boxed{(ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i.}$$

↑  
“real part”  
 $\text{Re}(z_1 z_2)$

↑  
“imaginary part”  
 $\text{Im}(z_1 z_2)$

two quarter turns—  
same as -1

- We used a lot of “rules” here. Can you justify them geometrically?
- Does this product agree with our geometric description (last slide)?





# Complex product – Polar form

- Perhaps most beautiful identity in maths.

$$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$$

- Specialization of Euler's formula.

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta)$$

- Can use to implement complex product.

$$z_1 = ae^{i\theta}, \quad z_2 = be^{i\phi}$$

$$z_1 z_2 = abe^{i(\theta+\phi)}$$

**(as with real exponentiation, exponents *add*)**



**Leonhard Euler**  
(1707–1783)

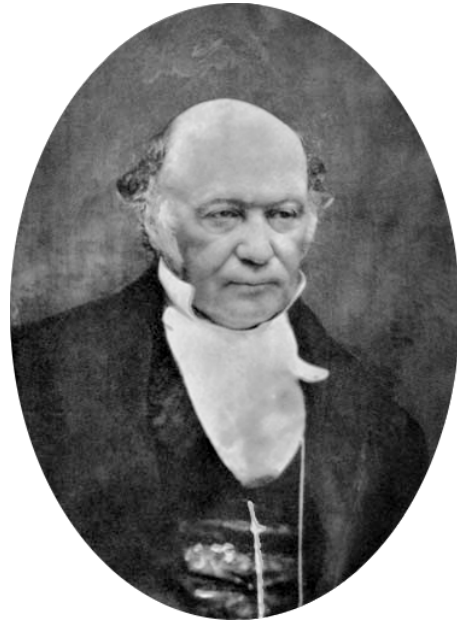
# 2D rotations: Matrices vs. Complex

Suppose we want to rotate a vector  $\mathbf{u}$  by an angle  $\theta$ , then by an angle  $\phi$ .

REAL / RECTANGULAR		COMPLEX / POLAR
$\mathbf{u} = (x, y)$	$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$	$u = re^{i\alpha}$
$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta \\ x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$		$a = e^{i\theta}$
$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} (x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta) \cos \phi - (x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta) \sin \phi \\ (x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta) \sin \phi + (x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta) \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$		$b = e^{i\phi}$
$= \dots \text{some trigonometry} \dots =$		$abu = re^{i(\alpha + \theta + \phi)}$
$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos(\theta + \phi) - y \sin(\theta + \phi) \\ x \sin(\theta + \phi) + y \cos(\theta + \phi) \end{bmatrix}.$		

# Quaternions generalize complex numbers

- TLDR: Kinda like complex numbers but for 3D rotations
- Weird situation: can't do 3D rotations w/ only 3 components!



**William Rowan Hamilton**  
(1805-1865)

Here as he walked by  
on the 16th of October 1843  
Sir William Rowan Hamilton  
in a flash of genius discovered  
the fundamental formula for  
quaternion multiplication  
 $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$   
& cut it on a stone of this bridge

# Quaternions

- A quaternion has 4 components:

$$\mathbf{q} = [q_w \ q_x \ q_y \ q_z]^T$$

- They generalize complex numbers

$$\mathbf{q} = q_w + q_x \mathbf{i} + q_y \mathbf{j} + q_z \mathbf{k}$$

with additional properties:  $\mathbf{i}^2 = \mathbf{j}^2 = \mathbf{k}^2 = \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{k} = -1$

- Unit length quaternions can be used to carry out rotations. The set they form is called  $S^3$

# Quaternions

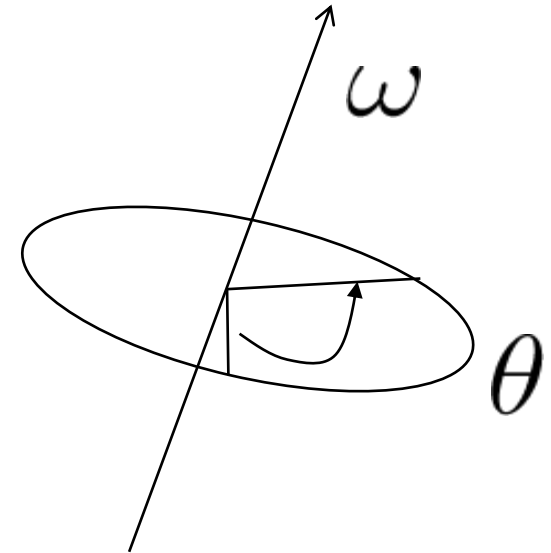
- Quaternions can also be interpreted as a **scalar** plus a **3-vector**

$$\mathbf{q} = [q_w \ \mathbf{v}]^T$$

- Where

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

$$\mathbf{v} = \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \boldsymbol{\omega}$$



- **Much easier to remember (and manipulate) than matrix!**

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta + u_x^2 (1 - \cos \theta) & u_x u_y (1 - \cos \theta) - u_z \sin \theta & u_x u_z (1 - \cos \theta) + u_y \sin \theta \\ u_y u_x (1 - \cos \theta) + u_z \sin \theta & \cos \theta + u_y^2 (1 - \cos \theta) & u_y u_z (1 - \cos \theta) - u_x \sin \theta \\ u_z u_x (1 - \cos \theta) - u_y \sin \theta & u_z u_y (1 - \cos \theta) + u_x \sin \theta & \cos \theta + u_z^2 (1 - \cos \theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

# Quaternions

- Rotations can be carried away directly in parameter space via the quaternion product:

- Concatenation of rotations:

$$\mathbf{q}_1 \circ \mathbf{q}_2 = (q_{w,1}q_{w,2} - \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2, q_{w,1}\mathbf{v}_2 + q_{w,2}\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2)$$

- If we want to rotate a vector  $\mathbf{a}$

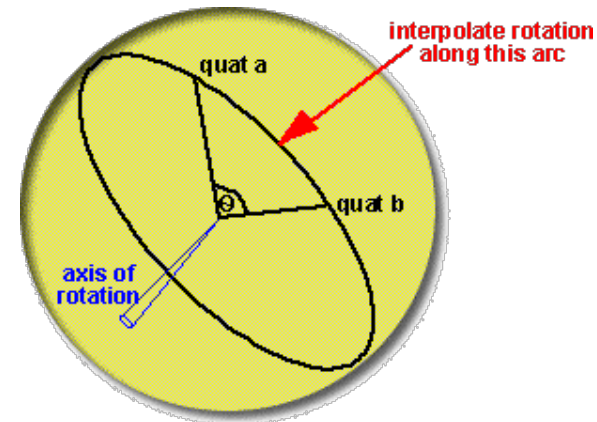
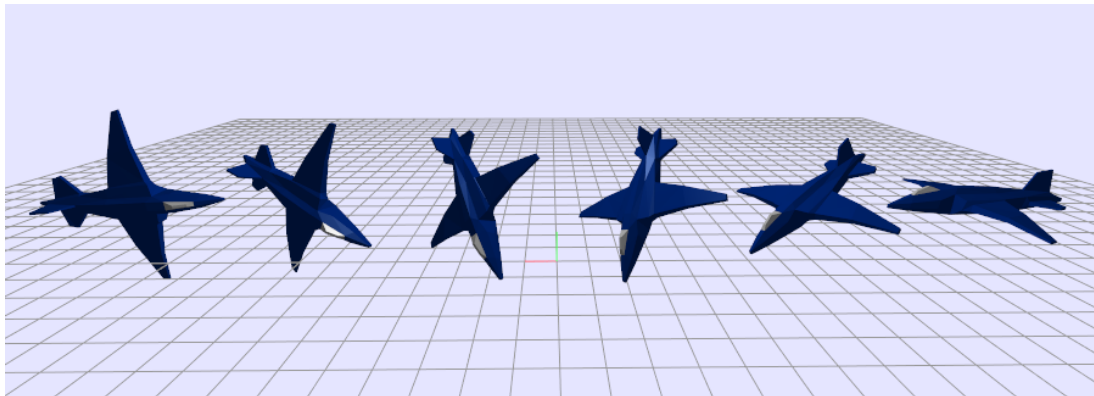
$$\mathbf{a}' = \text{Rotate}(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{q} \circ \tilde{\mathbf{a}} \circ \bar{\mathbf{q}}$$

where  $\bar{\mathbf{q}} = (q_w - \mathbf{v})$  is the quat conjugate.

# Quaternions are ideal for interpolation

- Interpolating Euler angles can yield strange-looking paths, non-uniform rotation speed, ...
- Simple solution with quaternions: "SLERP" (spherical linear interpolation):

$$\text{Slerp}(q_0, q_1, t) = q_0(q_0^{-1}q_1)^t, \quad t \in [0, 1]$$



# Quaternions

- ✓ Quaternions have no singularities
- ✓ Derivatives exist and are linearly independent
- ✓ Quaternion product allows to perform rotations
- ✓ Good for interpolation
- ✗ But all this comes at the expense of using 4 numbers instead of 3
- ✗ Enforce quadratic constraint  $\|\mathbf{q}\|_2 = 1$



# Axis-angle

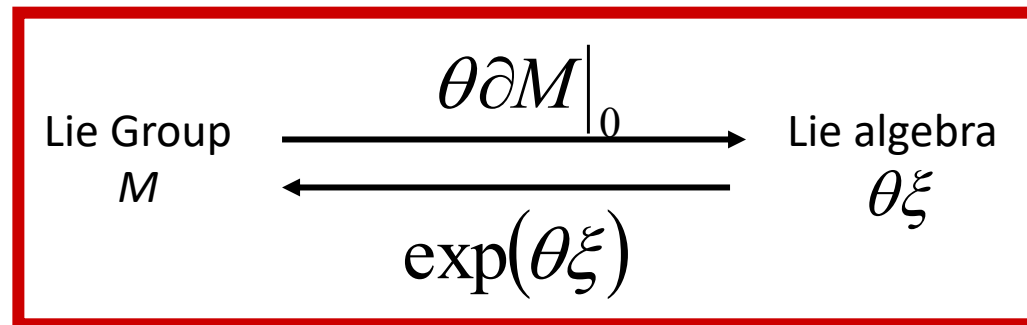
For human motion modeling it is often needed to specify the axis of rotation of a joint

Any rotation about the origin can be expressed in terms of the axis of rotation  $\omega \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and the angle of rotation  $\theta$  with the **exponential map**

$$\mathbf{R} = \exp(\theta \hat{\omega})$$

# Lie Groups / Lie Algebras

**Definition:** A group is an  $n$ -dimensional *Lie-group*, if the set of its elements can be represented as a continuously differentiable manifold of dimension  $n$ , on which the group product and inverse are continuously differentiable functions as well



# Axis-angle

- Given a vector  $\omega$  the **skew symmetric** matrix is

$$\theta \hat{\omega} = \theta \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\omega_3 & \omega_2 \\ \omega_3 & 0 & -\omega_1 \\ -\omega_2 & \omega_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

You will also find  
it as  $\omega_{\times}$

- It is the matrix form of the cross-product:

$$\omega \times \mathbf{p} = \hat{\omega} \mathbf{p}$$

# Exponential map

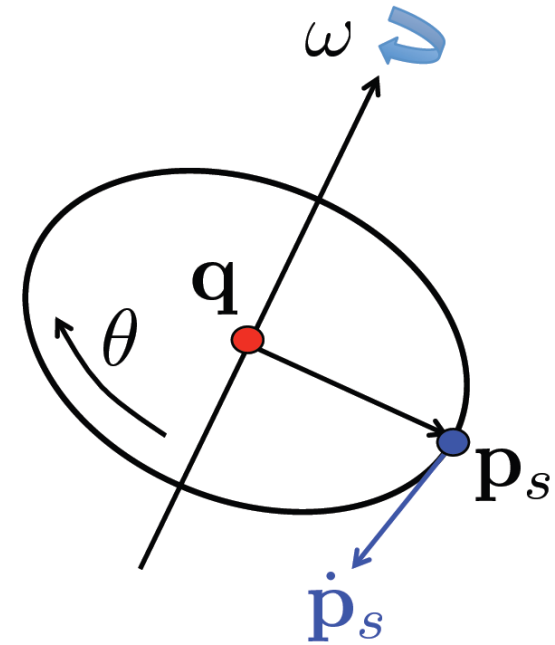
- The exponential map recovers the rotation matrix from the axis-angle representation (Lie-algebra)

$$\mathbf{R}(\theta, \omega) = \exp(\theta \hat{\omega})$$

# Exponential map

**Proof:** exponential map

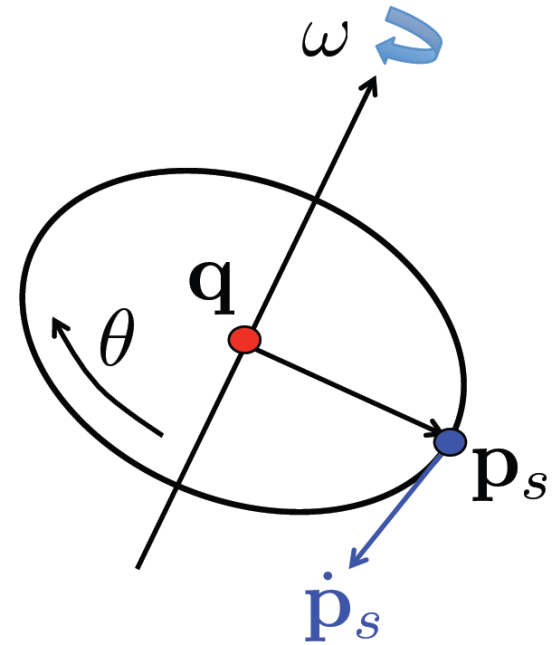
$$\dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) = ?$$



# Exponential map

**Proof:** exponential map

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{p}(t) = \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}\mathbf{p}(t)$$



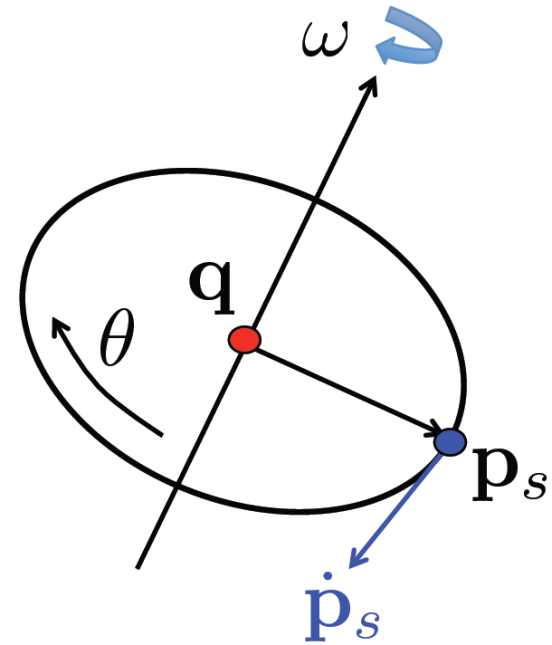
# Exponential map

**Proof:** exponential map

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{p}(t) = \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}\mathbf{p}(t)$$



$$\mathbf{p}(t) = \exp(\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}t)\mathbf{p}(0)$$



# Exponential map

**Proof:** exponential map

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{p}(t) = \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}\mathbf{p}(t)$$

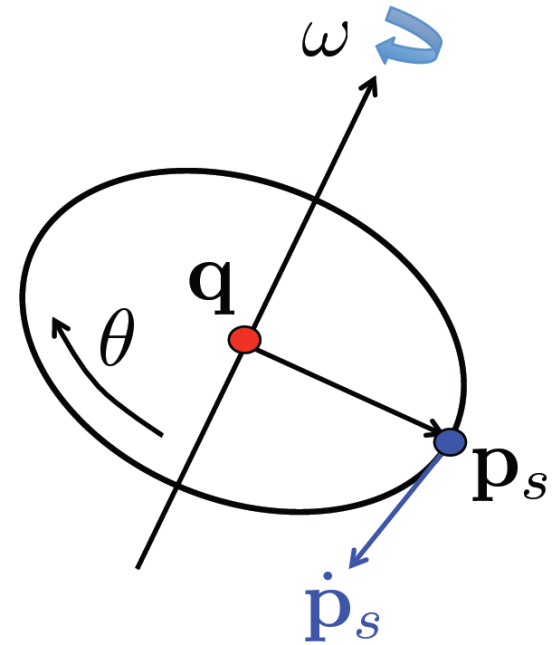


$$\mathbf{p}(t) = \exp(\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}t)\mathbf{p}(0)$$



If we rotate  $\theta$  units of time

$$\mathbf{R}(\theta, \boldsymbol{\omega}) = \exp(\theta \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}})$$





# Exponential map

$$\exp(\theta \hat{\omega}) = e^{(\theta \hat{\omega})} = I + \theta \hat{\omega} + \frac{\theta^2}{2!} \hat{\omega}^2 + \frac{\theta^3}{3!} \hat{\omega}^3 + \dots$$

Exploiting the properties of skew symmetric matrices

Rodriguez formula:

$$\exp(\theta \hat{\omega}) = I + \hat{\omega} \sin(\theta) + \hat{\omega}^2 (1 - \cos(\theta))$$

Closed form!

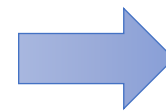
# Twists

- What about translation ?
- The **twist coordinates** are defined as

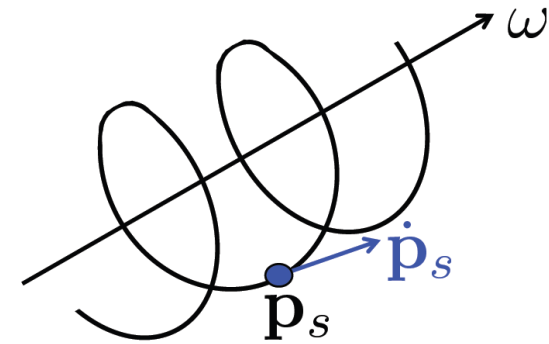
$$\theta \xi = \theta(v_1, v_2, v_3, \omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3)$$

- And the **twist** is defined as

$$[\theta \xi]^\wedge = \theta \hat{\xi} = \theta \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\omega_3 & \omega_2 & v_1 \\ \omega_3 & 0 & -\omega_1 & v_2 \\ -\omega_2 & \omega_1 & 0 & v_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\dot{\mathbf{p}} = \hat{\xi} \mathbf{p}$$



# Exponential map

- The rigid body motion can be computed in closed form as well

$$\mathbf{G}(\theta, \omega) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{3 \times 3} & \mathbf{t}_{3 \times 1} \\ \mathbf{0}_{1 \times 3} & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \exp(\theta \hat{\xi})$$

- From the following formula

$$\exp(\theta \hat{\xi}) = \begin{bmatrix} \exp(\theta \hat{\omega}) & (I - \exp(\theta \hat{\omega}))(\omega \times v + \omega \omega^T v \theta) \\ \mathbf{0}_{1 \times 3} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Which representation should I use?

Number of parameters	Singularities	Human constraints	Concatenate motion	Optimization (derivatives)
Twists	Quaternions	Twists	Quaternions	Twists
Euler Angles	Twists	Quaternions	Twists	Euler Angles
Quaternions	Euler Angles	Euler Angles	Euler Angles	Quaternions

# Ingredients to build a Virtual Human

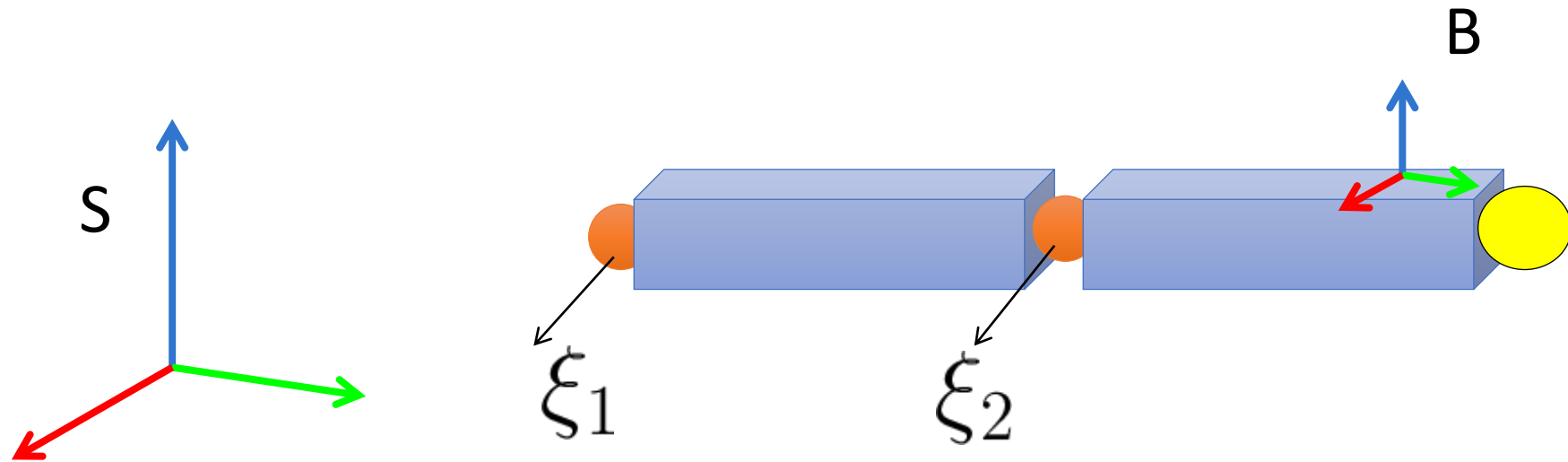
## Building a human model

- Kinematic parameterization
  - Rotation Matrices
  - Euler Angles
  - Quaternions
  - Twists and Exponential maps
  - **Kinematic chains**
  
- Subject shape model
  - Geometric primitives
  - Detailed Body Scans
  - Human Shape models

## Fitting model to observations

- Inference
  - Observation likelihood
  - Local optimization
  - Particle Based optimization
  - Directly regressing parameters

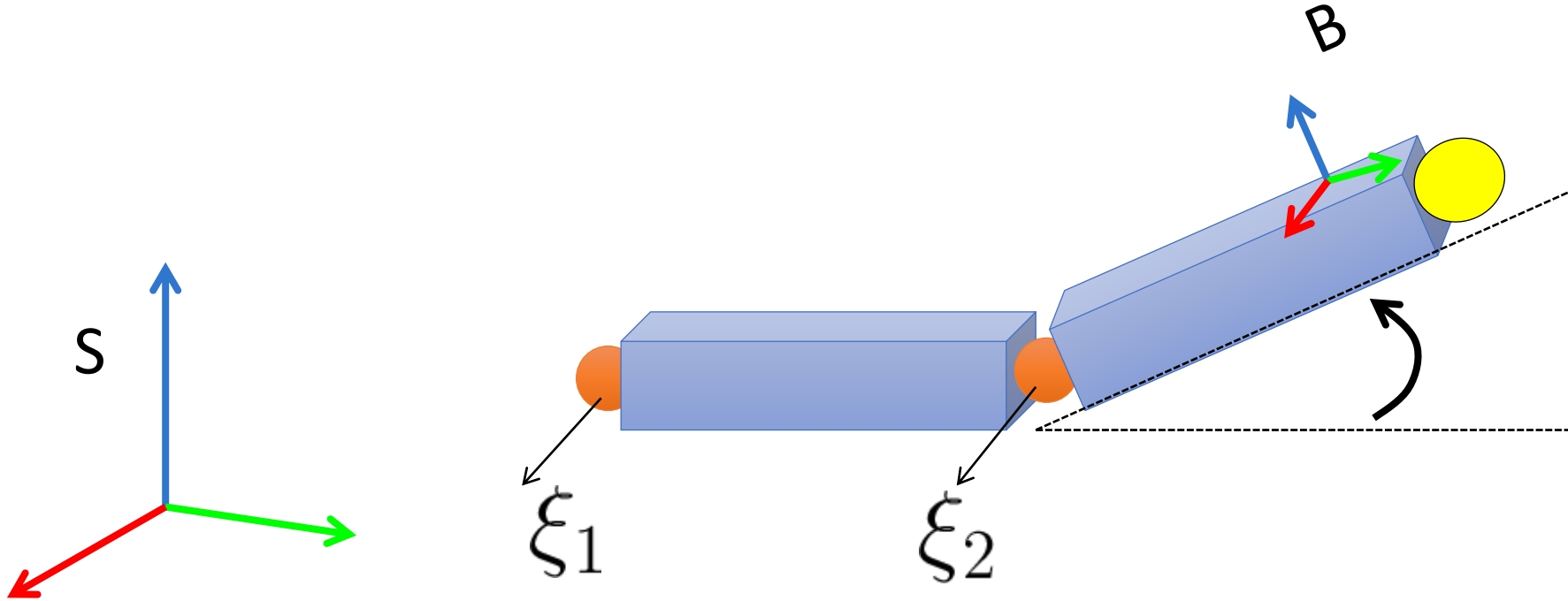
# Articulation



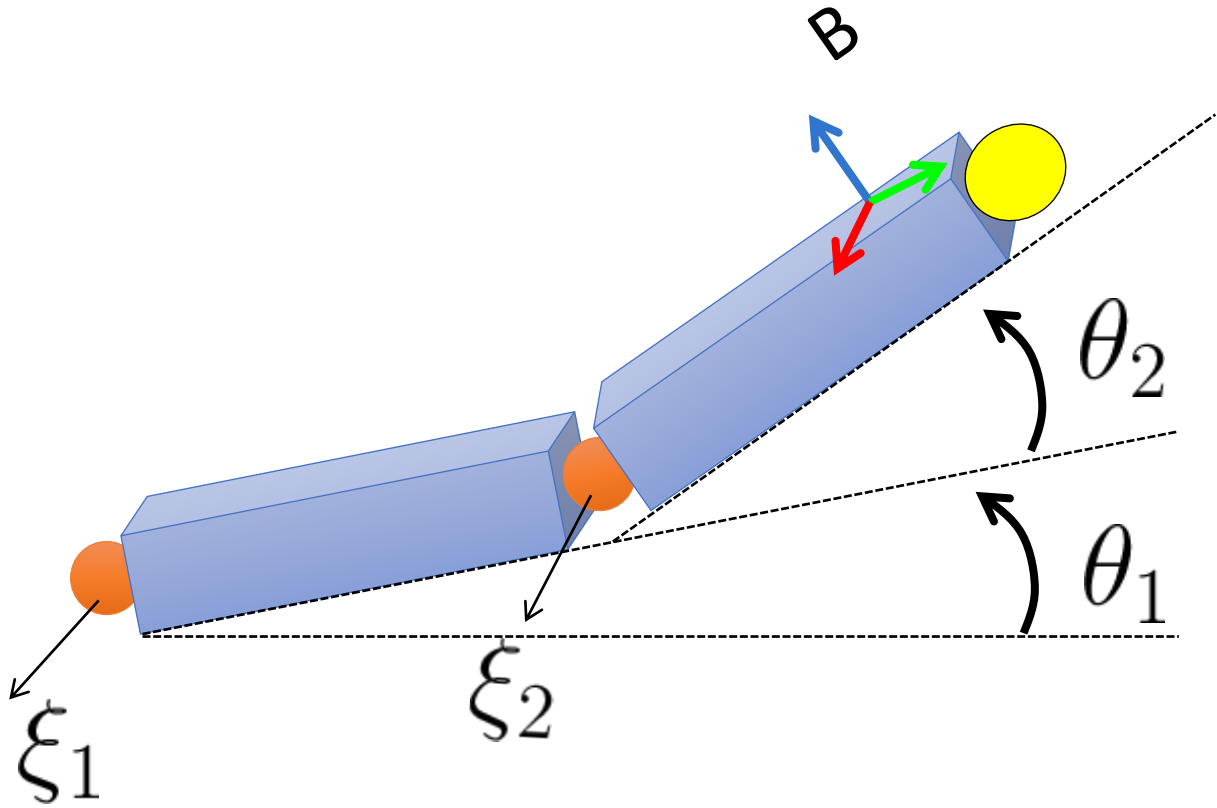
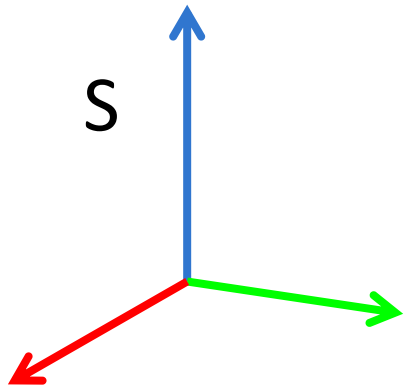
In a rest position we have

$$\mathbf{p}_s(0) = \mathbf{G}_{sb}\mathbf{p}_b$$

# Articulation

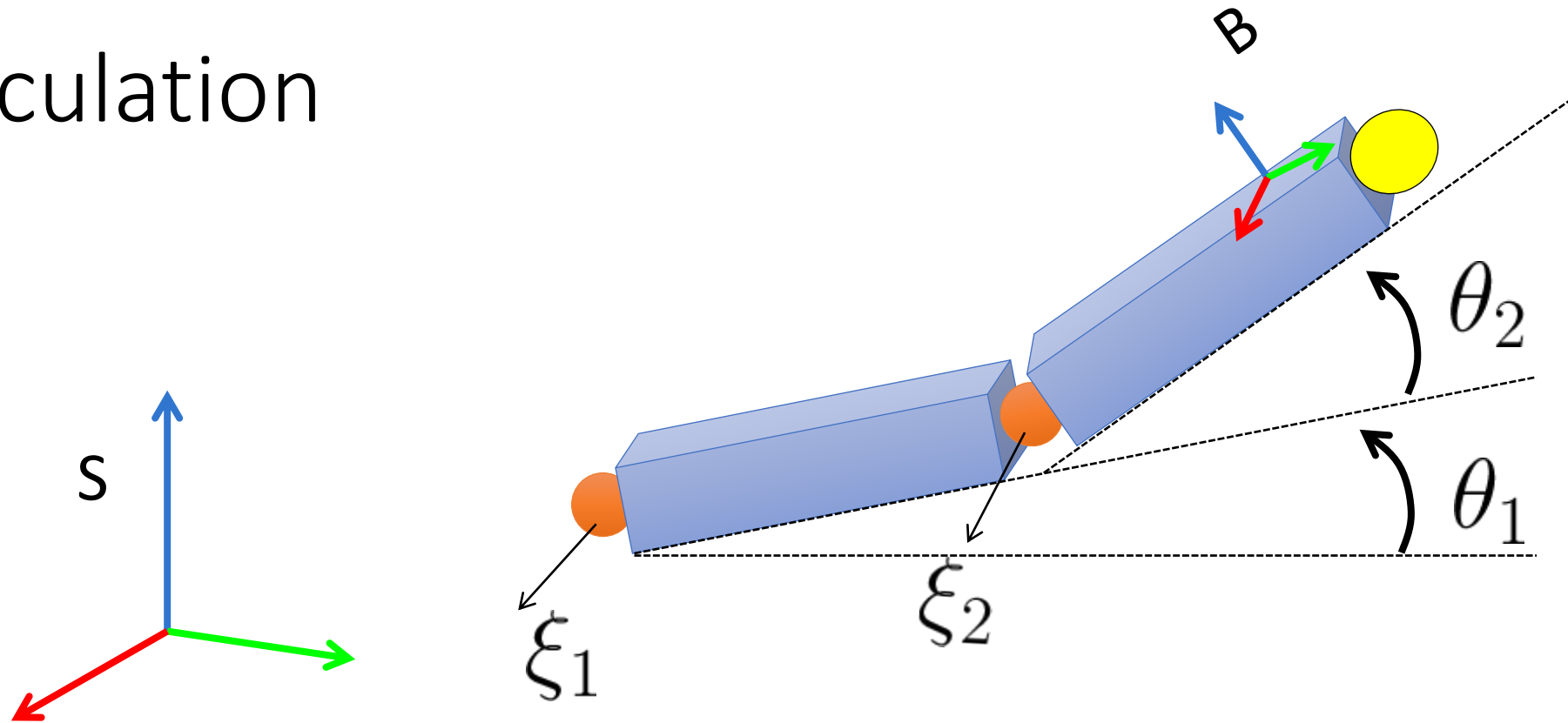


# Articulation





# Articulation



The coordinates of the point in the spatial frame

$$\bar{\mathbf{p}}_s = \mathbf{G}_{sb}(\theta_1, \theta_2) = e^{\hat{\xi}_1 \theta_1} e^{\hat{\xi}_2 \theta_2} \mathbf{G}_{sb}(\mathbf{0}) \bar{\mathbf{p}}_b$$

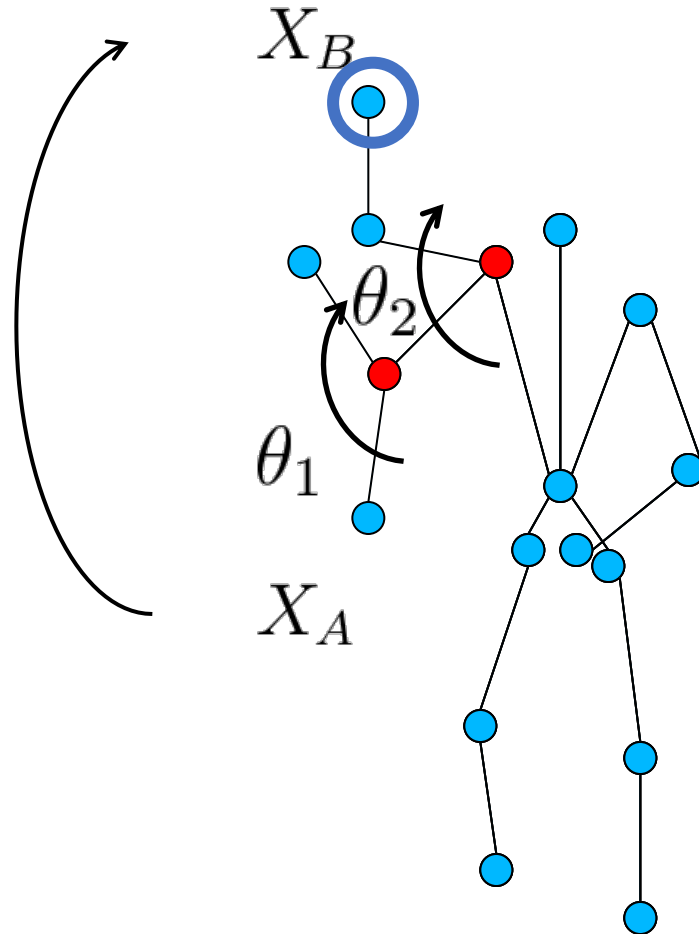
# Product of exponentials

$$\mathbf{G}_{sb}(\Theta) = e^{\hat{\xi}_1 \theta_1} e^{\hat{\xi}_2 \theta_2} \dots e^{\hat{\xi}_n \theta_n} \mathbf{G}_{sb}(\mathbf{0})$$

- $\mathbf{G}_{sb}(\Theta)$  is the mapping from coordinate B to coordinate S
- BUT  $\exp(\theta_i \hat{\xi}_i)$  **IS NOT** the mapping from segment i+1 to segment i.
- Think of  $\exp(\theta_i \hat{\xi}_i)$  simply as the relative motion of that joint.

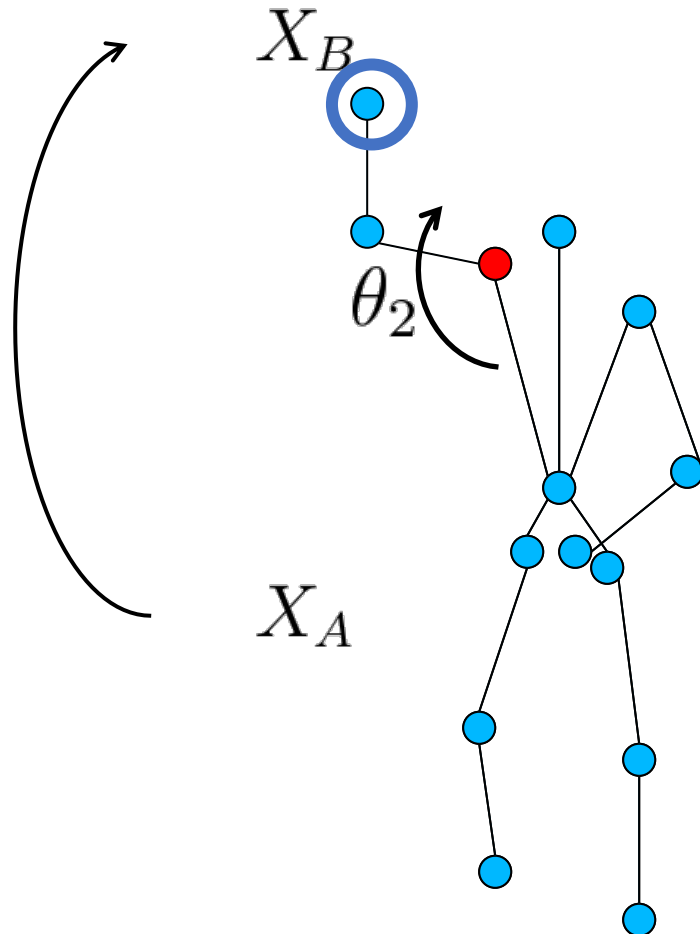
# Inverse Kinematics

Suppose we want to find the angles to reach a specific goal



# Inverse Kinematics

Suppose we want to find the angles to reach a specific goal



$$\arg \min_{\theta_1 \dots \theta_n} \left\| \exp(\theta_1 \hat{\xi}_1) \dots \exp(\theta_n \hat{\xi}_n) \mathbf{X}_A - \mathbf{X}_B \right\|^2$$

- The problem is non-linear

• Linearize with the articulated **Jacobian**

# Articulated Jacobian

The **Jacobian** using twists is extremely simple and easy to compute

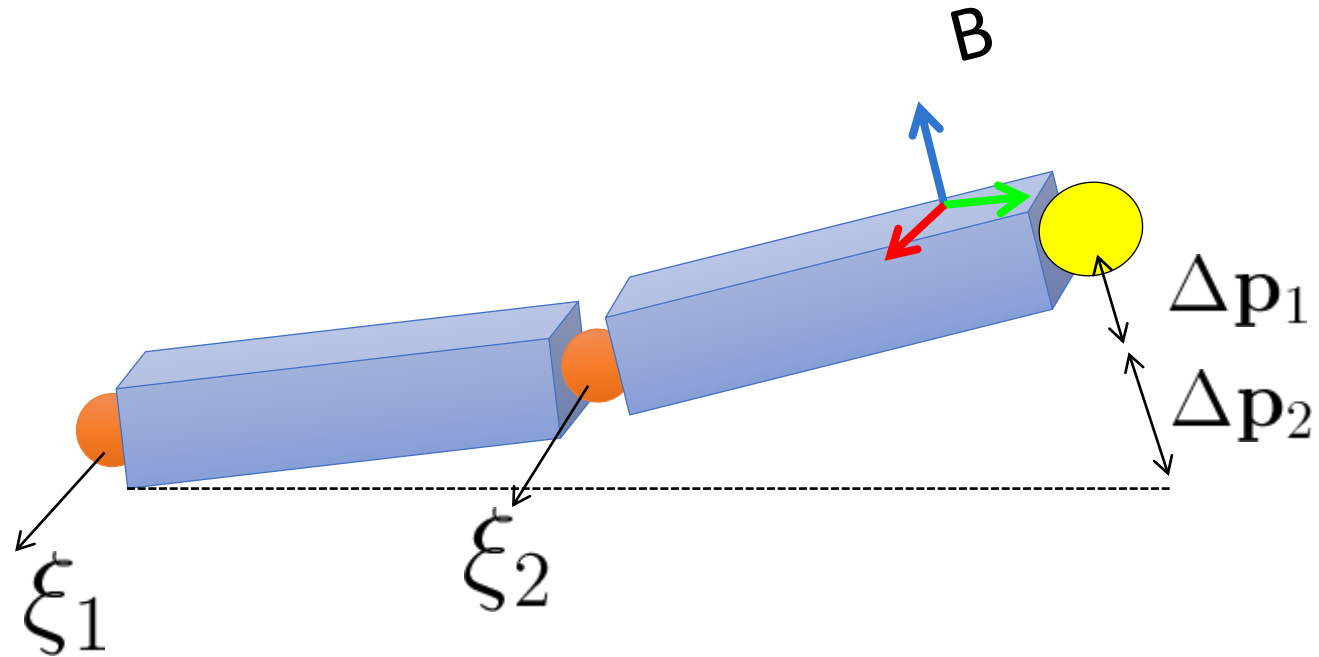
$$\mathbf{J}_\Theta = [\xi_1 \quad \xi'_2 \quad \dots \quad \xi'_n]$$

- 1) Every column corresponds to the contribution of i-th joint to the end-effector motion
- 2) Maps an increment of joint angles to the end-effector twist

$$\mathbf{J}_\Theta \Delta \Theta = \xi_T$$

# Articulated Jacobian

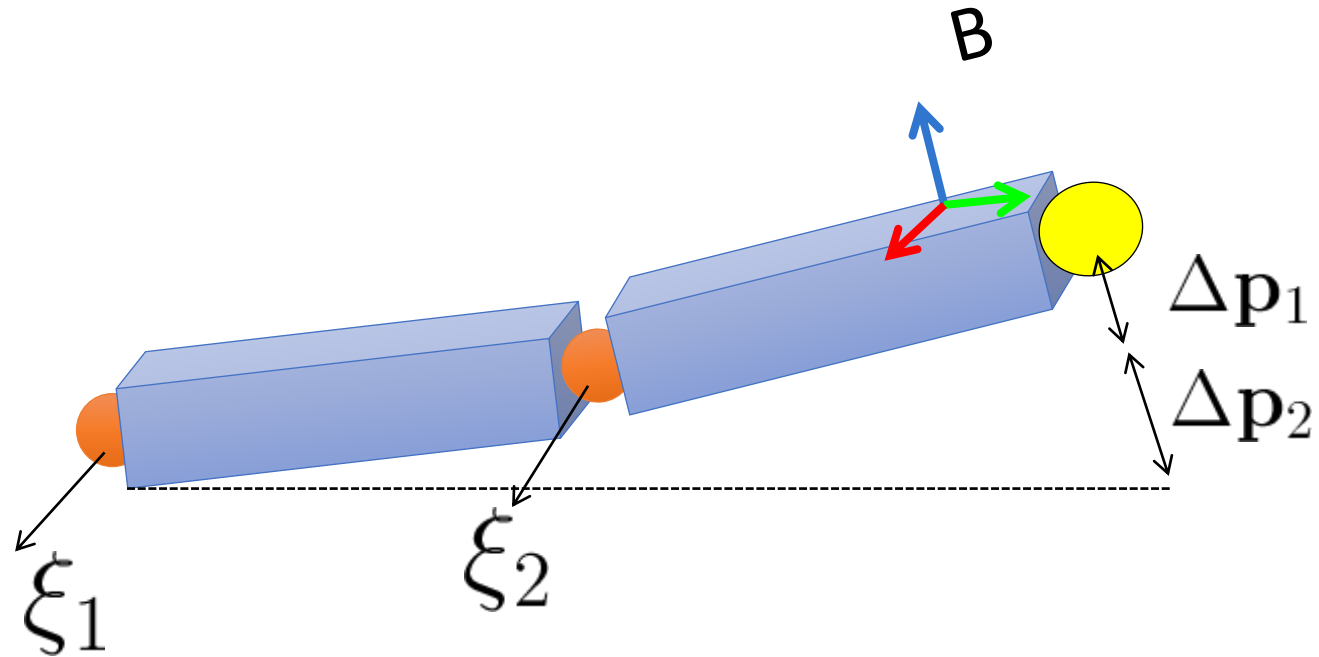
Intuition: Linear combination of twists



$$\Delta \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s = [ \mathbf{J}_\theta \cdot \Delta \theta ]^\wedge \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s = [ \xi_1 \Delta \theta_1 + \xi_2' \Delta \theta_2 + \dots + \xi_n' \Delta \theta_n ]^\wedge \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s$$

# Articulated Jacobian

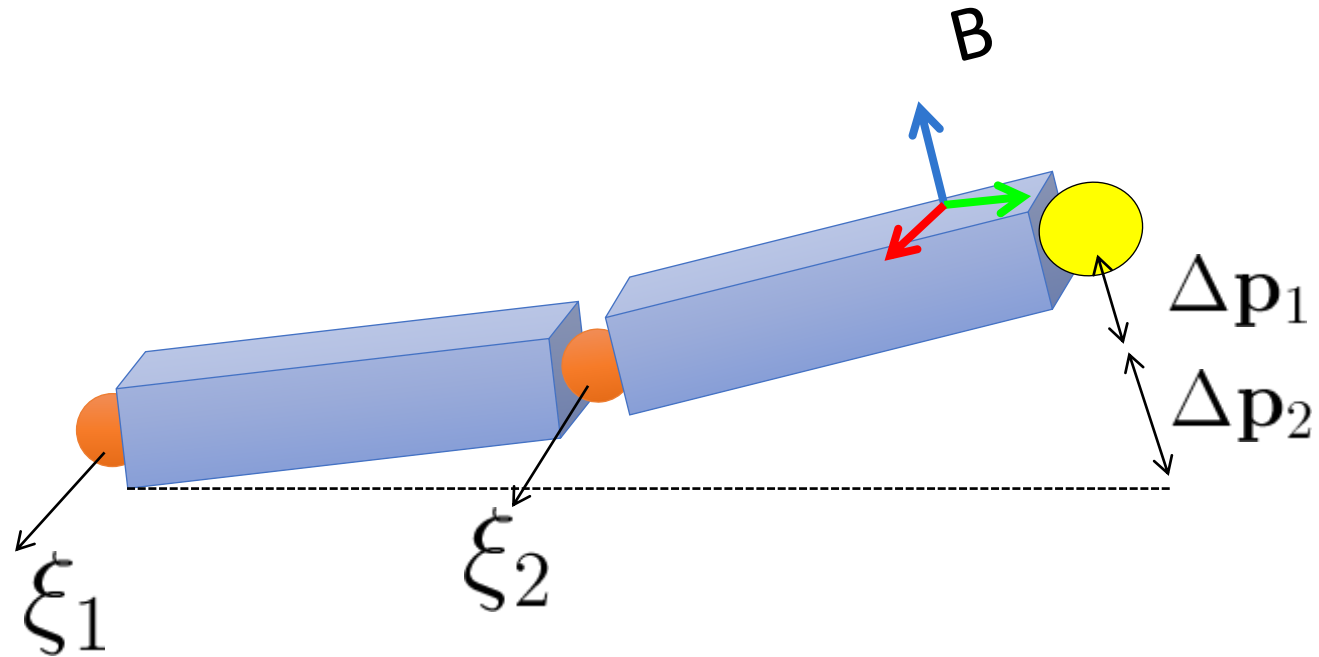
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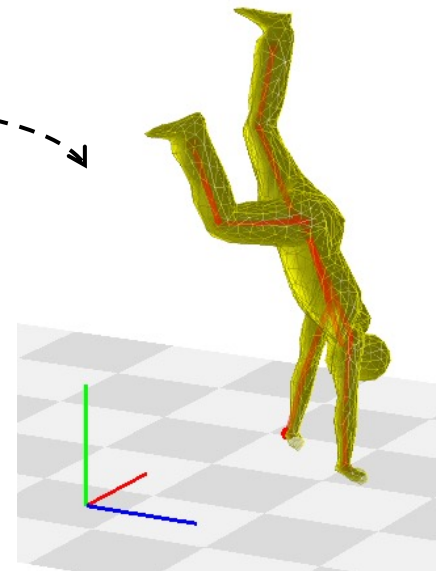
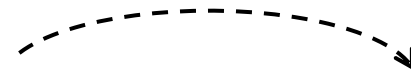
$$\Delta \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s = [\mathbf{J}_\Theta \cdot \Delta \Theta]^\wedge \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s = \boxed{\xi_1 \Delta \theta_1} + \xi_2' \Delta \theta_2 + \dots + \xi_n' \Delta \theta_n]^\wedge \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s$$



# Pose Parameters

Pose parameters: root + joint angles

$$\mathbf{x}_t = (\xi, \theta_1 \dots \theta_n)$$



# Pose Jacobian

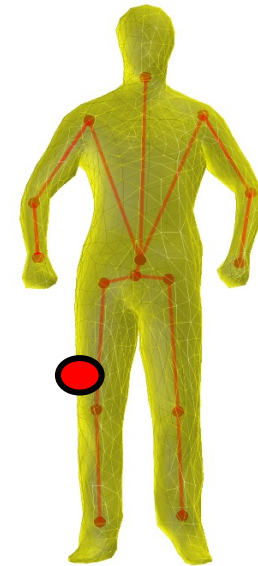
Maps increments in the pose parameters to increments in end-effector position

$$\mathbf{J}_x : \Delta \mathbf{x} \mapsto \Delta \mathbf{p}_s$$

$$\mathbf{J}_x(\mathbf{p}_s) = \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \mathbf{I}_{[3 \times 3]} & -\hat{\mathbf{p}}_s \\ \hat{\xi}_1 \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s & \hat{\xi}'_2 \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s \dots \hat{\xi}'_n \bar{\mathbf{p}}_s \end{array} \right]$$

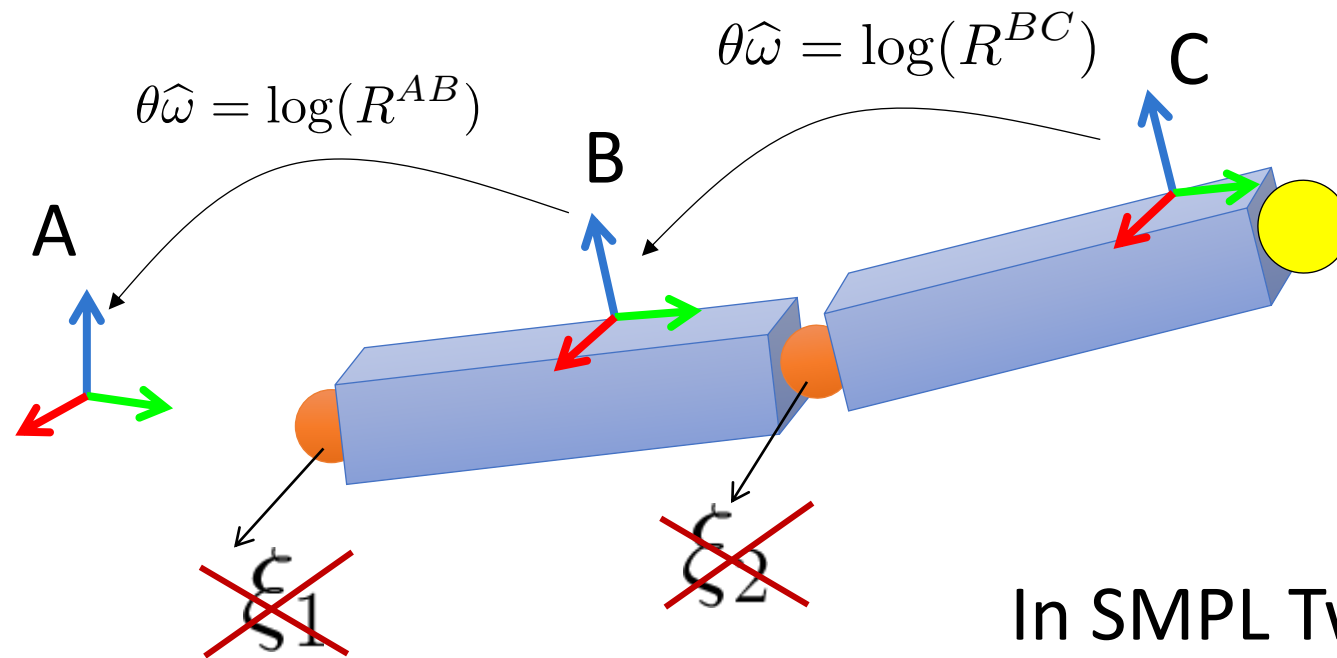
6 columns of  
Root

N columns for one  
per joint



# In SMPL (de-facto body model)

In SMPL rotations are local, from child to parent



In SMPL Twists are in the coordinates of the parent joint!

# Slide credits and further reading

- Keenan Crane – Computer Graphics (slides on quaternions). CMU computer graphics lecture
- Pons-Moll & Rosehnan – ICCV'2011 Tutorial on Model Based Pose Estimation
  - Book chapter: [model based human pose estimation](#) available on pdf on my website.
- A [Mathematical Introduction to Robotic Manipulation](#)
  - excellent rigorous treatment of twists and exponential maps for articulated bodies

Slides below are originals for heavy editing

# Ingredients to build a Virtual Human

## **1) Kinematic parameterization**

- Rotation Matrices
- Euler Angles
- Quaternions
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- Kinematic chains

## 2) Subject model

- Geometric primitives
- Detailed Body Scans
- Human Shape models

## 3) Inference

- Observation likelihood
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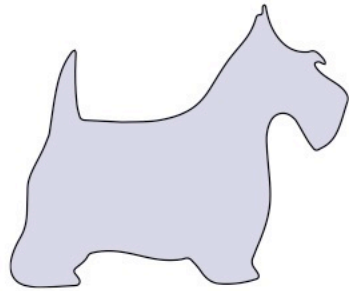
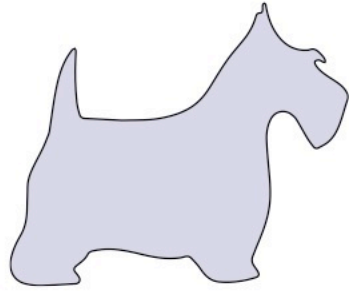
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# Commutativity of Rotations—2D

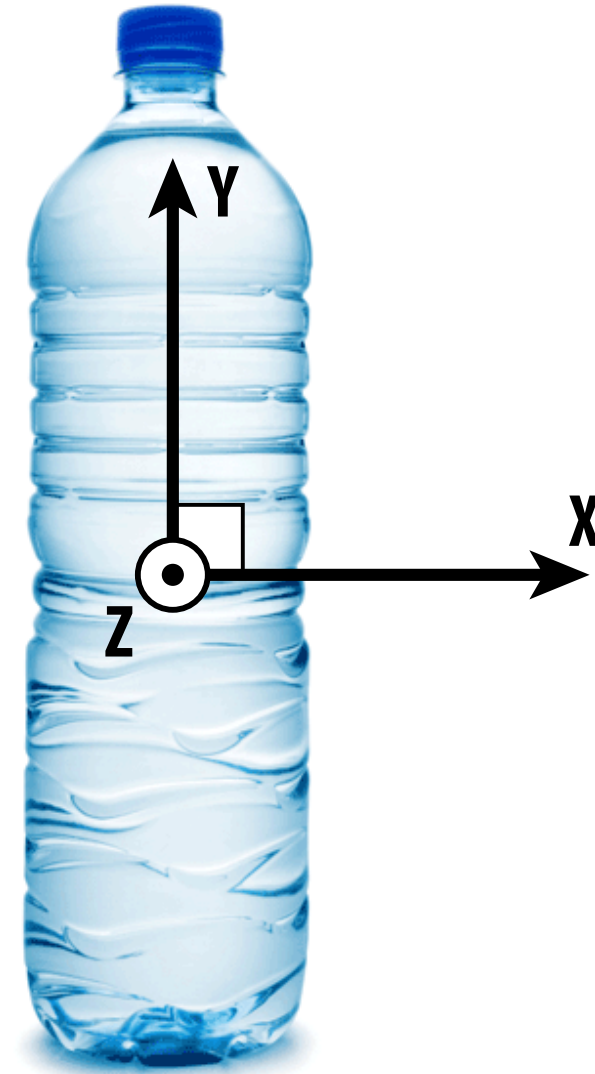
- In 2D, order of rotations doesn't matter:





# Commutativity of Rotations—3D

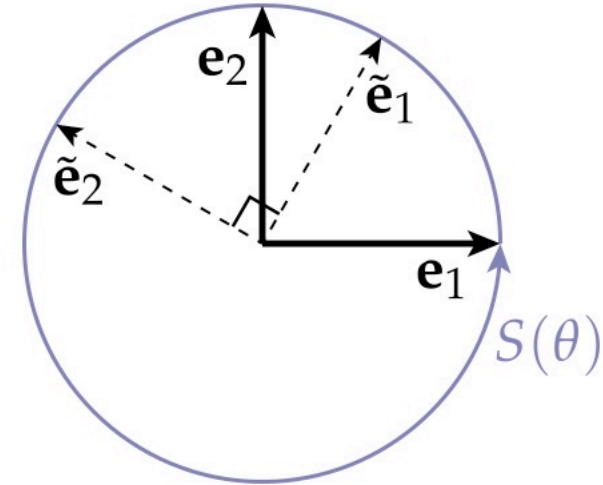
- What about in 3D?
- Try it at home—grab a water bottle!
  - Rotate  $90^\circ$  around Y, then  $90^\circ$  around Z, then  $90^\circ$  around X
  - Rotate  $90^\circ$  around Z, then  $90^\circ$  around Y, then  $90^\circ$  around X
  - (Was there any difference?)



**CONCLUSION: bad things can happen if we're not careful about the order in which we apply rotations!**

# Representing Rotations—2D

- First things first: how do we get a rotation matrix in 2D?  
(Don't just regurgitate the formula!)
- Suppose I have a function  $S(\theta)$  that for a given angle  $\theta$  gives me the point  $(x,y)$  around a circle (CCW).
  - Right now, I *do not care how this function is expressed!*\*
- What's  $e_1$  rotated by  $\theta$ ?
- What's  $e_2$  rotated by  $\theta$ ?
- How about  $u := ae_1 + be_2$  ?



What then must the matrix look like?

**\*I.e., I don't yet care about sines and cosines and so forth.**

# Gimbal Lock

- When using Euler angles  $\theta_x, \theta_y, \theta_z$ , may reach a configuration where there is *no way to rotate around one of the three axes!*

- Recall rotation matrices around three axes:

$$R_x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta_x & -\sin \theta_x \\ 0 & \sin \theta_x & \cos \theta_x \end{bmatrix} \quad R_y = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_y & 0 & \sin \theta_y \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_y & 0 & \cos \theta_y \end{bmatrix} \quad R_z = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_z & -\sin \theta_z & 0 \\ \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Product of these matrices represents rotation by Euler angles:

$$R_x R_y R_z = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_y \cos \theta_z & -\cos \theta_y \sin \theta_z & \sin \theta_y \\ \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_y + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z - \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_y \sin \theta_z & -\cos \theta_y \sin \theta_x \\ -\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_y + \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_y \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_x \cos \theta_y \end{bmatrix}$$

- Consider special case  $\theta_y = \pi/2$  (so,  $\cos \theta_y = 0$ ,  $\sin \theta_y = 1$ ):

$$\implies \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z - \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_z & 0 \\ -\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_z + \sin \theta_x \sin \theta_z & \cos \theta_z \sin \theta_x + \cos \theta_x \sin \theta_z & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Product of exponentials

Product of exponentials formula

$$\mathbf{G}_{sb}(\Theta) = e^{\hat{\xi}_1 \theta_1} e^{\hat{\xi}_2 \theta_2} \dots e^{\hat{\xi}_n \theta_n} \mathbf{G}_{sb}(\mathbf{0})$$

$\mathbf{G}_{sb}(\Theta)$  is the mapping from coordinate B to coordinate S

BUT  $\exp(\theta_i \hat{\xi}_i)$  **IS NOT** the mapping from segment  $i+1$  to segment  $i$ .

Think of  $\exp(\theta_i \hat{\xi}_i)$  simply as the relative motion of that joint

# Overview

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- Euler Angles
- Quaternions
- Twists and Exponential maps
- **Kinematic chains**

## 2) Subject model

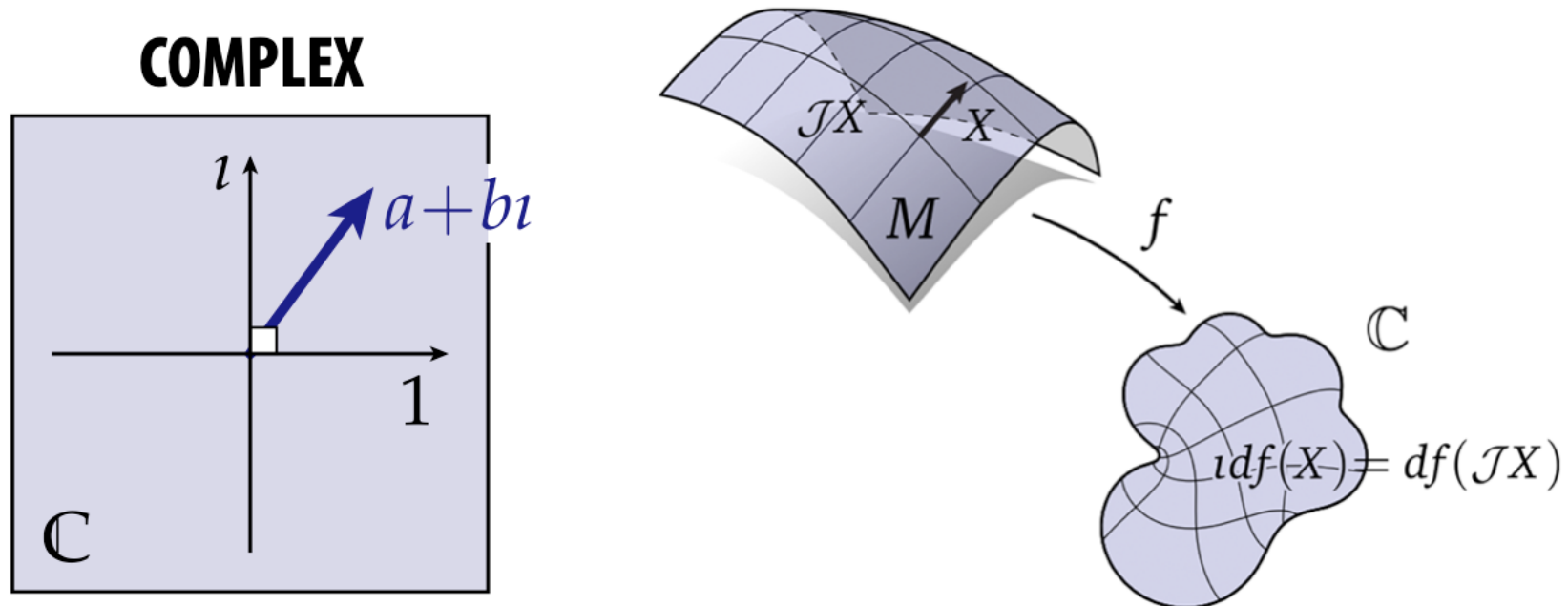
- Geometric primitives
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## 3) Inference

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- Particle Based optimization

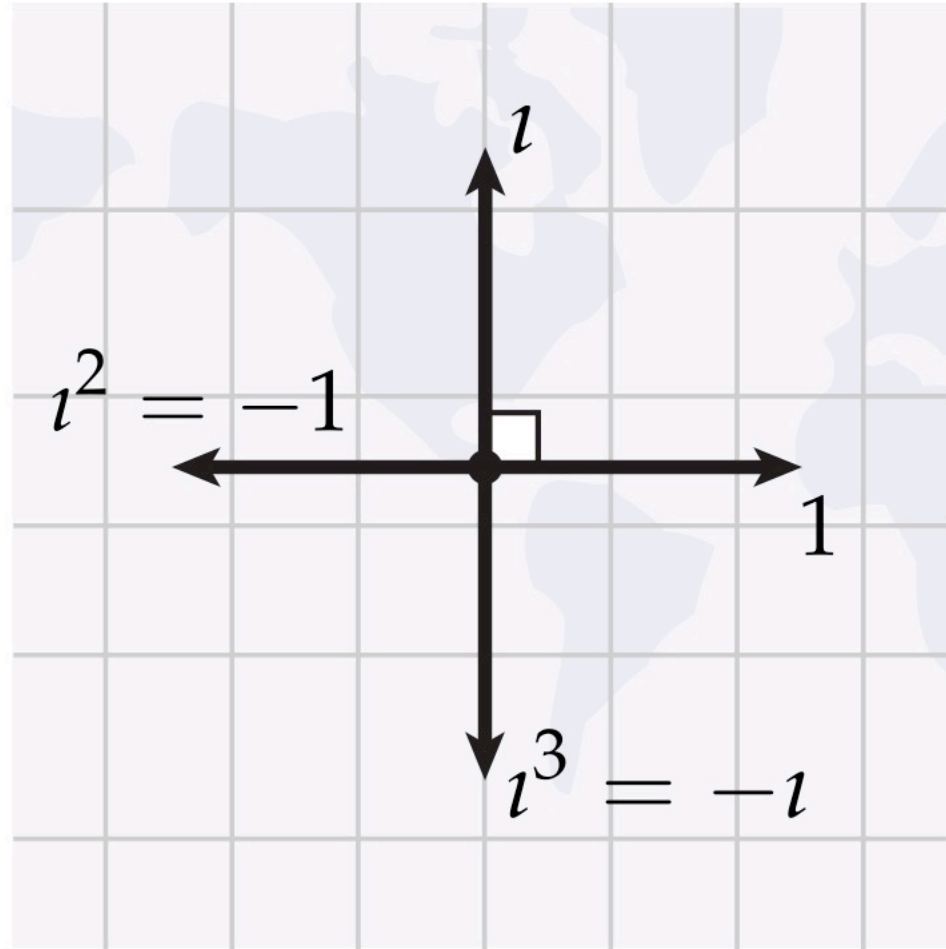
# Complex Analysis—Motivation

- Natural way to encode geometric transformations in 2D
- Simplifies code / notation / debugging / *thinking*
- *Moderate* reduction in computational cost/bandwidth/storage
- Fluency with complex analysis can lead into deeper/novel solutions to problems...



Truly: no good reason to use 2D vectors instead of complex numbers...

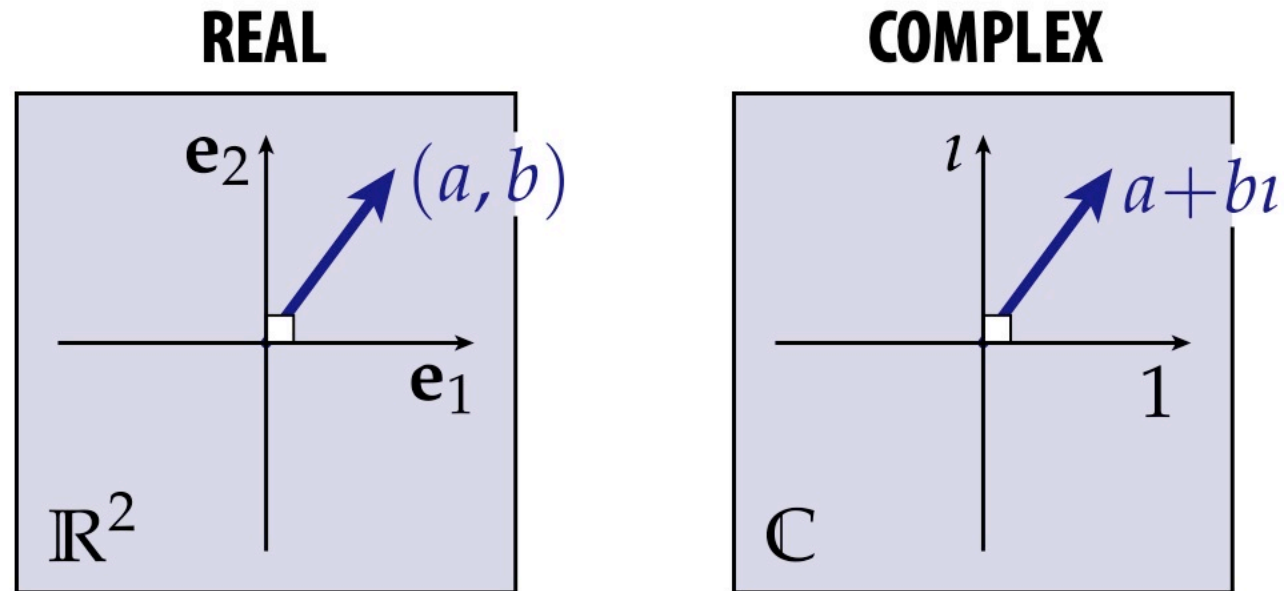
# Imaginary Unit—Geometric Description



**Imaginary unit is just a quarter-turn  
in the counter-clockwise direction.**

# Complex Numbers

- Complex numbers are then just 2-vectors
- Instead of  $e_1, e_2$ , use "1" and "i" to denote the two bases
- Otherwise, behaves exactly like a real 2-dimensional space

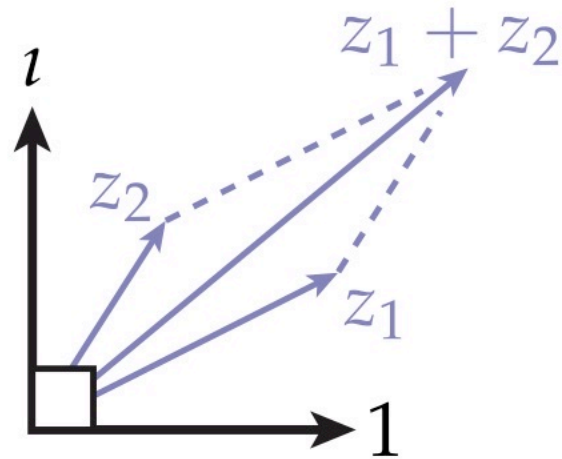


- ...except that we're also going to get a very useful new notion of the *product* between two vectors.

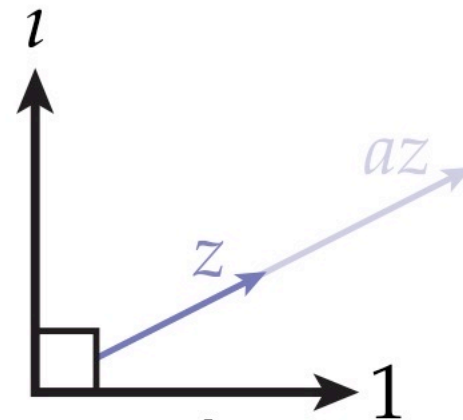


# Complex Arithmetic

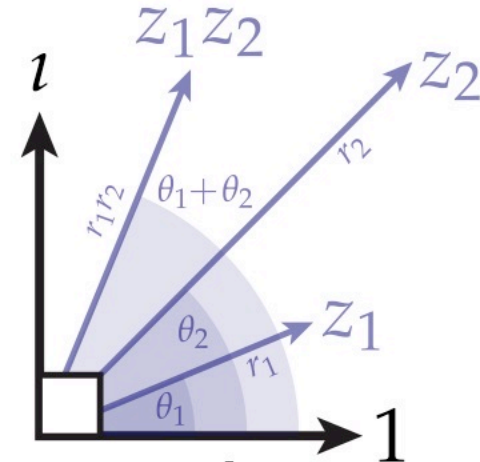
- Same operations as before, plus one more:



vector  
addition



scalar  
multiplication



complex  
multiplication

- Complex multiplication:

- angles *add*
- magnitudes *multiply*

“POLAR FORM”\*:

$$z_1 := (r_1, \theta_1)$$

$$z_2 := (r_2, \theta_2)$$

$$z_1 z_2 = (r_1 r_2, \theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

have to be more  
careful here!



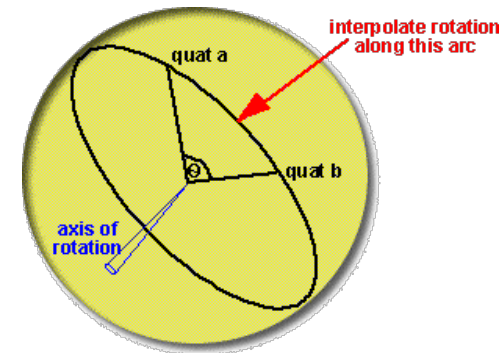
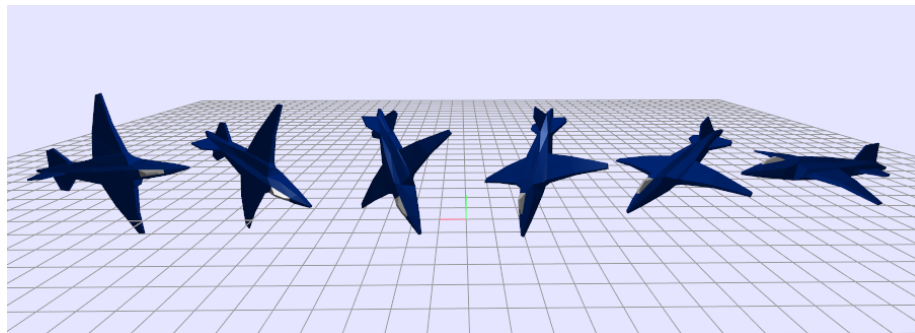
\*Not quite how it really works, but basic idea is right.

# Quaternions are ideal for interpolation

## Interpolating Rotations

- Suppose we want to smoothly interpolate between two rotations (e.g., orientations of an airplane)
- Interpolating Euler angles can yield strange-looking paths, non-uniform rotation speed, ...
- Simple solution\* w/ quaternions: "SLERP" (spherical linear interpolation):

$$\text{Slerp}(q_0, q_1, t) = q_0(q_0^{-1}q_1)^t, \quad t \in [0, 1]$$



\*Shoemake 1985, "Animating Rotation with Quaternion Curves"

# Complex Product—Rectangular Form

- Complex product in “rectangular” coordinates (1,  $i$ ):

$$z_1 = (a + bi)$$

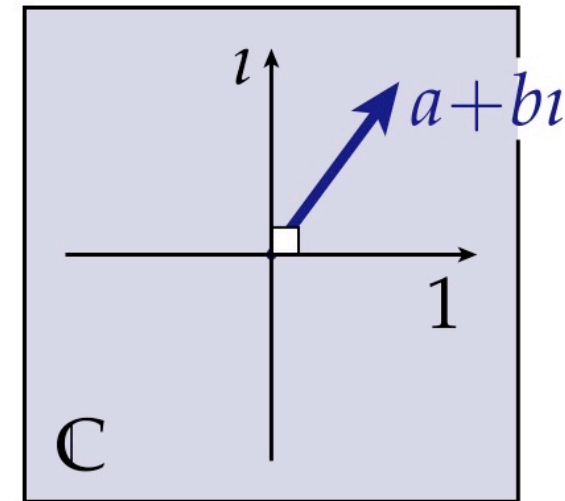
$$z_2 = (c + di)$$

$$z_1 z_2 = ac + adi + bci + bd \overset{\text{two quarter turns—}}{\underset{\text{same as } -1}{i^2}} =$$

$$(ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i.$$

↑ “real part”  $\text{Re}(z_1 z_2)$       ↑ “imaginary part”  $\text{Im}(z_1 z_2)$

- We used a lot of “rules” here. Can you justify them geometrically?
- Does this product agree with our geometric description (last slide)?



# Quaternions

- Rotations can be carried away directly in parameter space via the quaternion product:

- Concatenation of rotations:

$$\mathbf{q}_1 \circ \mathbf{q}_2 = (q_{w,1}q_{w,2} - \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2, q_{w,1}\mathbf{v}_2 + q_{w,2}\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2)$$

- If we want to rotate a vector  $\mathbf{a}$

$$\mathbf{a}' = \text{Rotate}(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{q} \circ \tilde{\mathbf{a}} \circ \bar{\mathbf{q}}$$

where  $\bar{\mathbf{q}} = (q_w - \mathbf{v})$  is the quat conjugate

# 2D Rotations: Matrices vs. Complex

- Suppose we want to rotate a vector  $\mathbf{u}$  by an angle  $\theta$ , then by an angle  $\phi$ .

REAL / RECTANGULAR	COMPLEX / POLAR
$\mathbf{u} = (x, y)$ $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$	$u = re^{i\alpha}$ $a = e^{i\theta}$ $b = e^{i\phi}$
$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta \\ x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$	$abu = re^{i(\alpha + \theta + \phi)}$
$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} (x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta) \cos \phi - (x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta) \sin \phi \\ (x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta) \sin \phi + (x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta) \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$	
$= \dots \text{some trigonometry} \dots =$	
$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos(\theta + \phi) - y \sin(\theta + \phi) \\ x \sin(\theta + \phi) + y \cos(\theta + \phi) \end{bmatrix}$	

# Complex Product—Polar Form

- Perhaps most beautiful identity in math:

$$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$$

- Specialization of *Euler's formula*:

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta)$$

- Can use to “implement” complex product:

$$z_1 = ae^{i\theta}, \quad z_2 = be^{i\phi}$$

$$z_1 z_2 = abe^{i(\theta+\phi)}$$

(as with real exponentiation, exponents *add*)



Leonhard Euler  
(1707–1783)