



# Robotics

CSE4316

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<https://mnourgwad.github.io/CSE4316>

## Lecture 6: **Forward Kinematics**



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## Lecture: 6

# Forward Kinematics

- Forward Kinematics
- Algebraic Approach
- Denavit–Hartenberg (DH) Convention

# Forward Kinematics

- You have a robotic arm that starts out aligned with the  $x_0$ -axis.
- for a specific values of joint space  
 $\mathbf{q} = [q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n]^T$
- The Quest: What is the position of the robot arm tip?

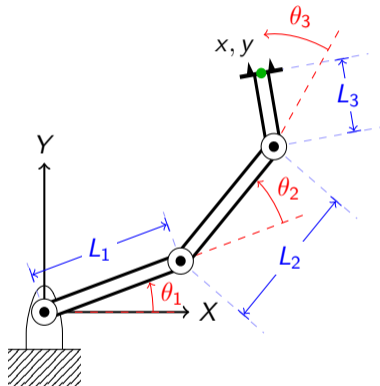
To find the robot forward kinematics:

## 1 Geometric Approach

- ▶ suitable for the simple situations.
- ▶ For robots with more links and whose arm extends into 3D, the geometry gets much more tedious.

## 2 Algebraic Approach

- ▶ Involves coordinate transformations.

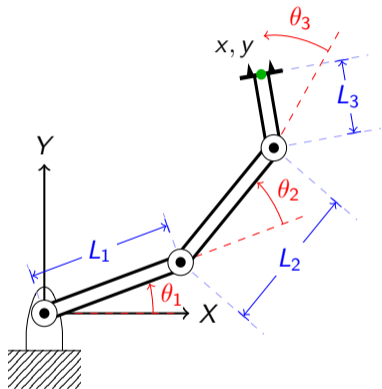


# Forward Kinematics

## Example

For the 3R arm, link lengths are  $L_1, L_2, L_3$ . For specific  $\mathbf{q} = [\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3]^T$ , get its tooltip position (the green dot in the  $X_0 Y_0$  frame).

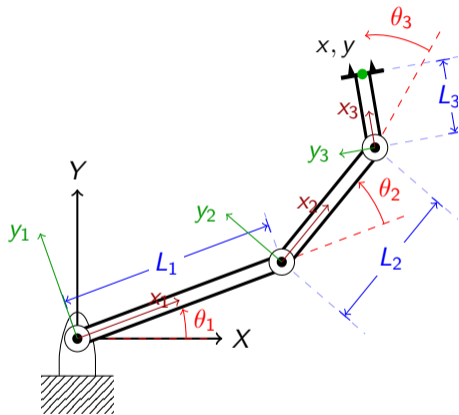
- **Geometric Approach**
  - ▶ just extend the results we already obtained with the 2R arm.
- **Algebraic Approach**
  - ▶ this approach we will learn next



# Forward Kinematics

## Algebraic Approach

- we start by frame assignment following a **convention**
  - we can get the position of the tooltip by:
    - ▶ rotating by  $\theta_1$  will put you in frame {1}.
    - ▶ Translate along the  $X_1$  axis by  $L_1$ .
    - ▶ Rotating by  $\theta_2$  will reach frame {2}.
    - ▶ and so on until we are in frame {3}.
- $$H = R_z(\theta_1) * T_{x1}(L_1) * R_z(\theta_2) * T_{x2}(L_2) * R_z(\theta_3)$$
- tooltip position relative to frame {3} is  $(L_3, 0)$ .
    - ▶ Multiplying  $H$  by that position vector will give the tooltip coordinates relative to frame {0}.



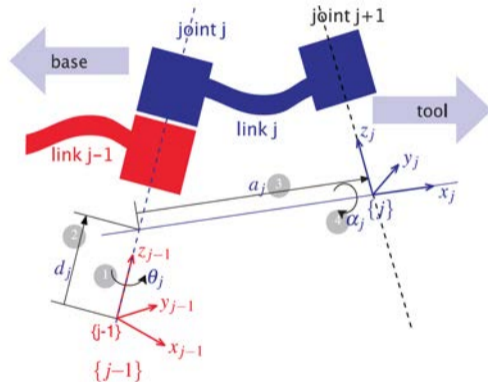
# Forward Kinematics

## Algebraic Approach

- We will develop a set of **conventions** that provide a **systematic procedure** for performing this analysis.
- It is possible to carry out forward kinematics analysis even **without** respecting these conventions,
  - ▶ as we did for the two-link planar manipulator example.
- However, the kinematic analysis of an  $n$ -link manipulator can be extremely **complex**
- the conventions introduced **simplify** the analysis considerably.
  - ▶ they give rise to a universal language with which robot engineers can communicate.
- A commonly used **convention for selecting frames** of reference in robotic applications is the **Denavit–Hartenberg (DH)**

# Denavit-Hartenberg (DH) Notation

- Each joint is assigned a coordinate frame. Using **DH convention**,
- In this convention, each homogeneous transformation  $A_i$  is represented as a product of four basic transformations
$$A_i = Rot_z(\theta_i) Trans_z(d_i) Trans_x(a_i) Rot_x(\alpha_i)$$
- the four quantities  $\theta_i$ ,  $a_i$ ,  $d_i$ ,  $\alpha_i$  are parameters associated with link  $i$  and joint  $i$
- They are called: link length, link twist, link offset, and joint angle, respectively



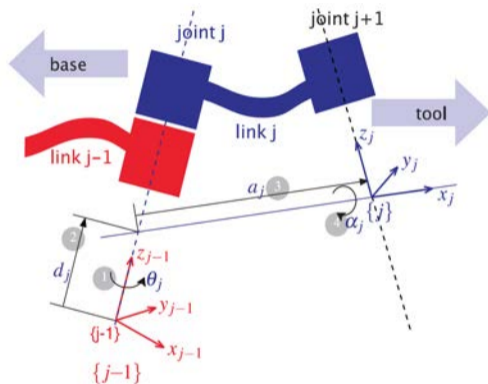
Peter Corke, *Robotics, Vision and Control*, Springer-Verlag, 2011

# Denavit–Hartenberg Convention

## DH Coordinate Frame Assumptions

- The axis  $x_j$  is perpendicular to the axis  $z_{j-1}$ .
- The axis  $x_j$  intersects the axis  $z_{j-1}$ .

DH Convention can NOT be applied if these assumptions are not fulfilled



Peter Corke, *Robotics, Vision and Control*, Springer-Verlag, 2011



# Denavit–Hartenberg Convention

## Summary of DH Convention Procedure

- Step 1: Locate and label the joint axes  $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1}$ .
  - ▶  $z_i$  to be the axis of actuation for joint  $i + 1$
  - ▶  $z_0$  is the axis of actuation for joint 1,  $z_1$  is the axis of actuation for joint 2, for revolute joint,  $z_i$  is axis of revolution, for prismatic joint,  $z_i$  is its translation axis.
- **Step 2:** Establish the base frame. Set the origin anywhere on the  $z_0$ -axis. The  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  axes are chosen conveniently to form a right-handed frame.

For  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , perform Steps 3 to 5.

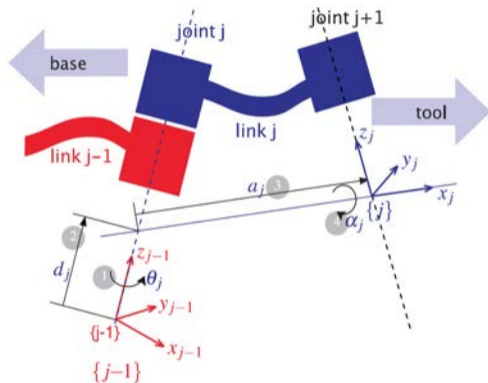
- **Step 3:** Locate the origin  $O_i$  where the common normal to  $z_i$  and  $z_{i-1}$  intersects  $z_i$ .
  - ▶ If  $z_i$  intersects  $z_{i-1}$  locate  $O_i$  at this intersection.
  - ▶ If  $z_i$  and  $z_{i-1}$  are parallel, locate  $O_i$  in any convenient position along  $z_i$ .
- **Step 4:** Establish  $x_i$  along the common normal between  $z_{i-1}$  and  $z_i$  through  $O_i$ , or in the direction normal to the  $z_{i-1} - z_i$  plane if they intersect.
- **Step 5:** Establish  $y_i$  to complete a right-handed frame.

# Denavit–Hartenberg Convention

## Summary of DH Convention Procedure

- Step 6: Create a table of link parameters:

link	$a_i$	$\alpha_i$	$d_i$	$\theta_i$
1				
...				



Joint angle	$\theta_i$	angle from $X_{i-1}$ to $X_i$ about $Z_{i-1}$	revolute var.
Link offset	$d_i$	distance from $O_{i-1}$ to $X_i$ along $Z_{i-1}$	prismatic var.
Link length	$a_i$	distance between $Z_{i-1}$ and $Z_i$ along $X_i$	constant
Link twist	$\alpha_i$	angle from $Z_{i-1}$ to $Z_i$ about $X_i$	constant

# Denavit–Hartenberg Convention

## Summary of DH Convention Procedure

- Step 8: Form the homogeneous transformation matrices  $A_i$  by substituting the above parameters into  $A_i$  matrices:

$$A_i = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_i & -\cos \alpha_i \sin \theta_i & \sin \alpha_i \sin \theta_i & a_i \cos \theta_i \\ \sin \theta_i & \cos \alpha_i \cos \theta_i & -\sin \alpha_i \cos \theta_i & a_i \sin \theta_i \\ 0 & \sin \alpha_i & \cos \alpha_i & d_i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Step 9:** Form the transformation matrix  $T_n^0 = A_1 \cdots A_n$

This then gives the position and orientation of the tool frame expressed in base coordinates.

# DH Convention Examples

## Planar Elbow Manipulator

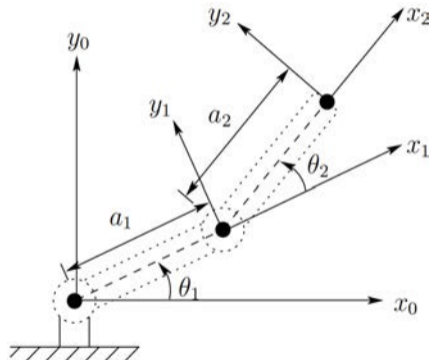
link	$a_i$	$\alpha_i$	$d_i$	$\theta_i$
1	$a_1$	0	0	$\theta_1^*$
2	$a_2$	0	0	$\theta_2^*$

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & -s_1 & 0 & a_1 c_1 \\ s_1 & c_1 & 0 & a_1 s_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} c_2 & -s_2 & 0 & a_2 c_2 \\ s_2 & c_2 & 0 & a_2 s_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_2^0 = A_1 A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} c_{12} & -s_{12} & 0 & a_1 c_1 + a_2 c_{12} \\ s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 & a_1 s_1 + a_2 s_{12} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = a_1 c_1 + a_2 c_{12} \quad y = a_1 s_1 + a_2 s_{12}$$



# DH Convention Examples

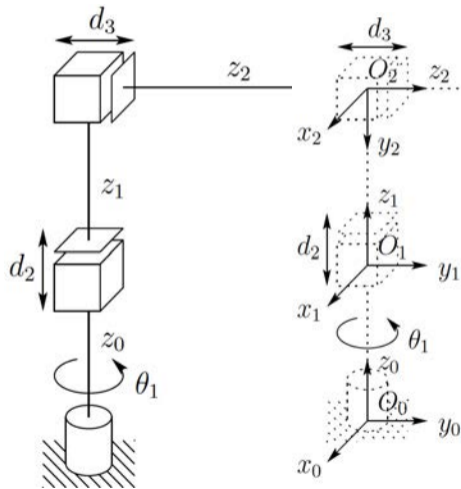
## Three-Link Cylindrical Robot

link	$a_i$	$\alpha_i$	$d_i$	$\theta_i$
1	0	0	$d_1^*$	$\theta_1^*$
2	0	-90	$d_2^*$	0
3	0	0	$d_3^*$	0

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & -s_1 & 0 & 0 \\ s_1 & c_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & d_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & d_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & d_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_3^0 = A_1 A_2 A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & 0 & -s_1 & -s_1 d_3 \\ s_1 & 0 & c_1 & c_1 d_3 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & d_1 + d_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



# DH Convention Examples

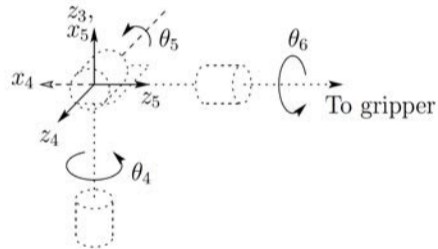
## Spherical Wrist

link	$a_i$	$\alpha_i$	$d_i$	$\theta_i$
4	0	-90	0	$\theta_4^*$
5	0	90	0	$\theta_5^*$
6	0	0	$d_6^*$	$\theta_6^*$

$$A_4 = \begin{bmatrix} c_4 & 0 & -s_4 & 0 \\ s_4 & 0 & c_4 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_5 = \begin{bmatrix} c_5 & 0 & s_5 & 0 \\ s_5 & 0 & -c_5 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_6 = \begin{bmatrix} c_6 & -s_6 & 0 & 0 \\ s_6 & c_6 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & d_6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_6^3 = \begin{bmatrix} c_4 c_5 c_6 - s_4 s_6 & -c_4 c_5 s_6 - s_4 c_6 & c_4 s_5 & c_4 s_5 d_6 \\ s_4 c_5 c_6 + c_4 s_6 & -s_4 c_5 s_6 + c_4 c_6 & s_4 s_5 & s_4 s_5 d_6 \\ -s_5 c_6 & s_5 s_6 & c_5 & c_5 d_6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Thanks for your attention.

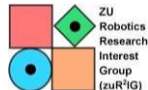
## Questions?

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Robotics Research Interest Group (zuR<sup>2</sup>IG)  
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