

---

# Rotation Matrices

## Lecture #2

### ECE 761: Robotics

Class taught at North Dakota State University  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Please visit [www.BisonAcademy.com](http://www.BisonAcademy.com) for corresponding lecture notes,  
homework sets, and solutions.

---

---

# Rotation Matrices

As the robot moves, often times the angle of each frame changes. Likewise, in order to go from one link to the next, a rotation and translation is required.

This lecture looks at rotation matrices.

In the  $\{x, y, z\}$  plane, you can rotate about any or all axis. For simplicity, we will look at three separate rotations:

- Rotating about the X axis
- Rotating about the Y axis, and
- Rotating about the Z axis.

In addition, we will be referring to a point (P) relative to a specific reference frame. P1, for example, refers to the  $\{x, y, z\}$  coordinate of point P relative to reference frame 1.

---

---

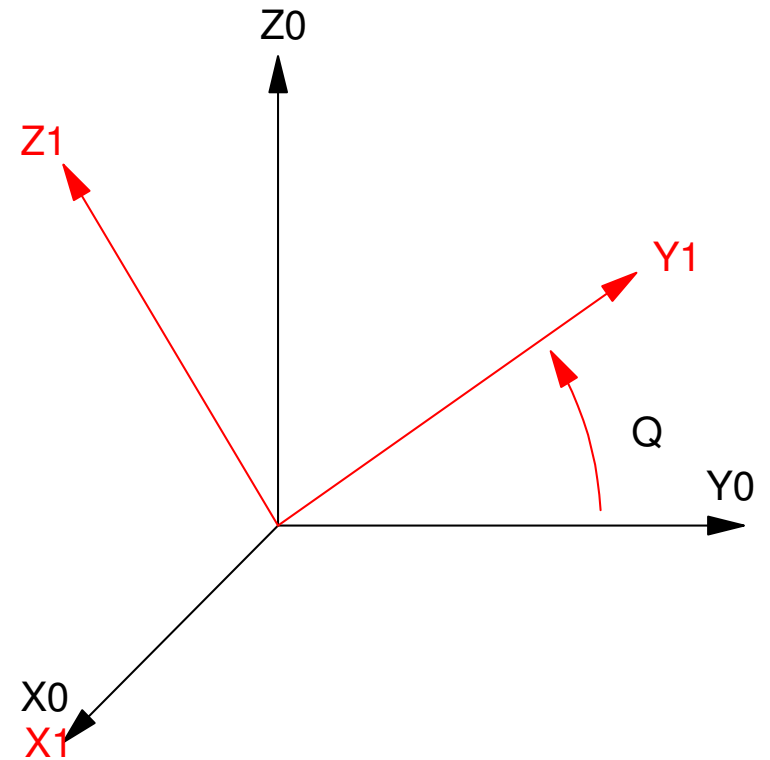
# Rotation About the X Axis

Find the position of point P0, relative to frame 1

- Rotate Frame #0 by  $\theta$  about it's x-axis to get to frame 1.

$$P_1 = T_{10} \cdot P_0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta & 0 \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



---

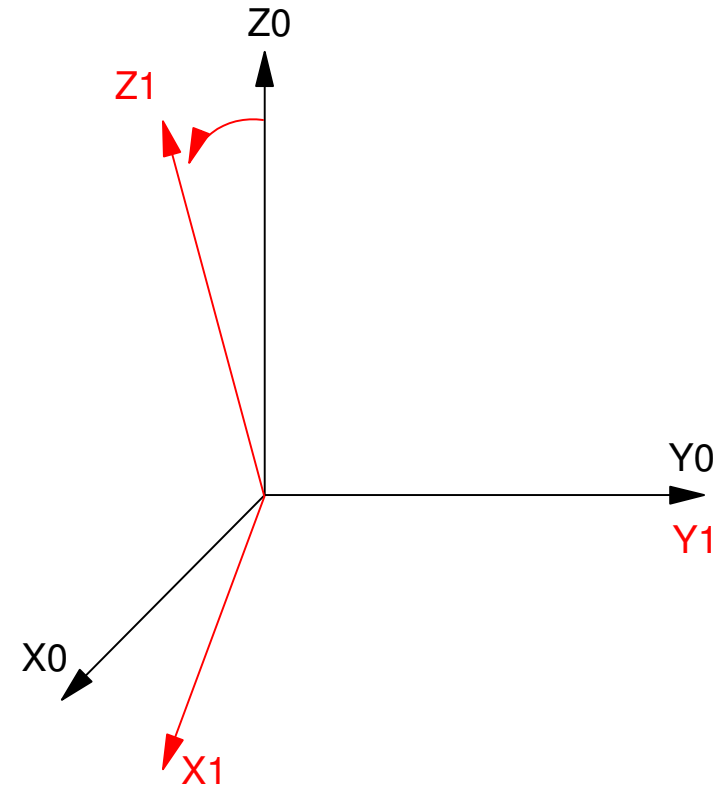
## Rotate About the Y-Axis:

Find the position of point P0, relative to frame 1

- Rotate Frame #0 by  $\theta$  about it's y-axis to get to frame 1.

$$P_1 = T_{10} \cdot P_0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



---

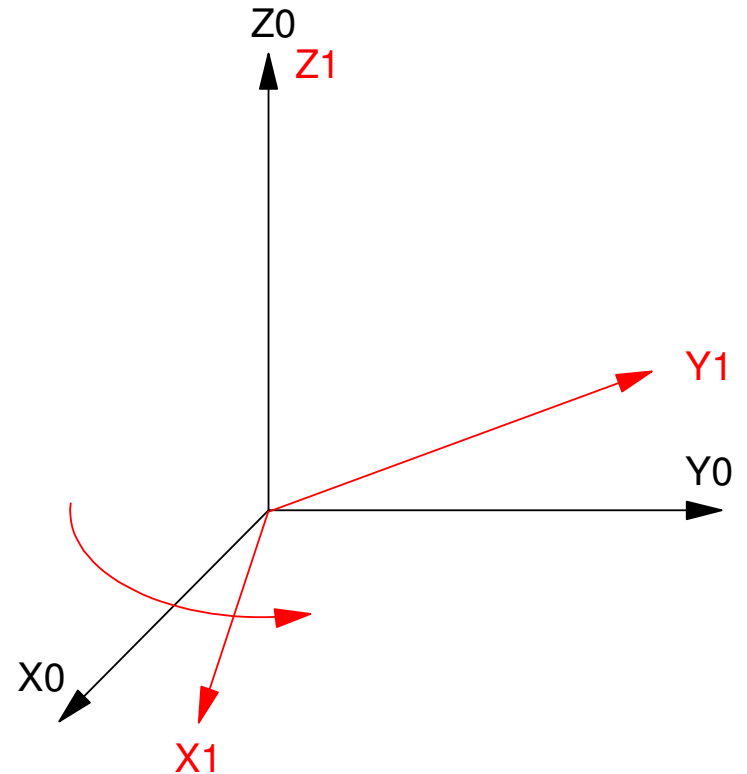
# Rotate about the z-axis

Find the position of point P0, relative to frame 1

- Rotate Frame #0 by  $\theta$  about it's y-axis to get to frame 1.

$$P_1 = T_{10} \cdot P_0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



---

Example: A point relative to the zero reference frame is (1,2,3).

$$P_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Where is it at if you

- Rotate 90 degrees about the X axis
- Rotate 90 degrees about the X axis
- Rotate 90 degrees about the X axis

---

**Solution:** For convenience, define c and s to be the sine and cosine of 90 degrees:

```
c = cos(90*pi/180);  
s = sin(90*pi/180);
```

From the above equations

```
Rx = [1, 0, 0, 0; 0, c, s, 0; 0, -s, c, 0; 0, 0, 0, 1];  
Ry = [c, 0, -s, 0; 0, 1, 0, 0; s, 0, c, 0; 0, 0, 0, 1];  
Rz = [c, s, 0, 0; -s, c, 0, 0; 0, 0, 1, 0; 0, 0, 0, 1];
```

```
P0 = [1; 2; 3; 1]
```

```
Rx * P0
```

```
Ry * P0
```

```
Rz * P0
```

No Rotation	X Axis	Y Axis	Z Axis
1	1	-3	2
2	3	2	-1
3	-2	1	3

---

Example 2: Where is the point if you

- Rotate 20 degrees about the Y axis, then
- Rotate 30 degrees about the Z axis?

Define three transformations. The point relative to reference frame 0 is

$$P_1 = T_{10} \cdot P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos 20^\circ & 0 & \sin 20^\circ & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin 20^\circ & 0 & \cos 20^\circ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P_2 = T_{21} \cdot P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos 30^\circ & -\sin 30^\circ & 0 & 0 \\ \sin 30^\circ & \cos 30^\circ & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot P_1$$



---

## in MATLAB

```
c = cos(20*pi/180);
s = sin(20*pi/180);

Rx = [1,0,0,0;0,c,s,0;0,-s,c,0;0,0,0,1];
Ry = [c,0,-s,0;0,1,0,0;s,0,c,0;0,0,0,1];
Rz = [c,s,0,0;-s,c,0,0;0,0,1,0;0,0,0,1];

T10 = Ry;

c = cos(30*pi/180);
s = sin(30*pi/180);

Rx = [1,0,0,0;0,c,s,0;0,-s,c,0;0,0,0,1];
Ry = [c,0,-s,0;0,1,0,0;s,0,c,0;0,0,0,1];
Rz = [c,s,0,0;-s,c,0,0;0,0,1,0;0,0,0,1];

T21 = Rz;

P0 = [1;2;3;1]
P1 = T10 * P0
P2 = T21 * P1
```

---

The point relative to the zero reference frame is:

P0 =

1  
2  
3  
1

The point relative to the first reference frame (rotated 20 degrees about the y axis)

P1 =

-0.0864  
2.0000  
3.1611  
1.0000

---

---

The point relative to the second reference frame (finally rotated 30 degrees about the z axis)

P2 =

0.9252  
1.7752  
3.1611  
1.0000

In the rotated coordinate system, the point is located at  $P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.9252 \\ 1.7752 \\ 3.1611 \end{pmatrix}$ .

---

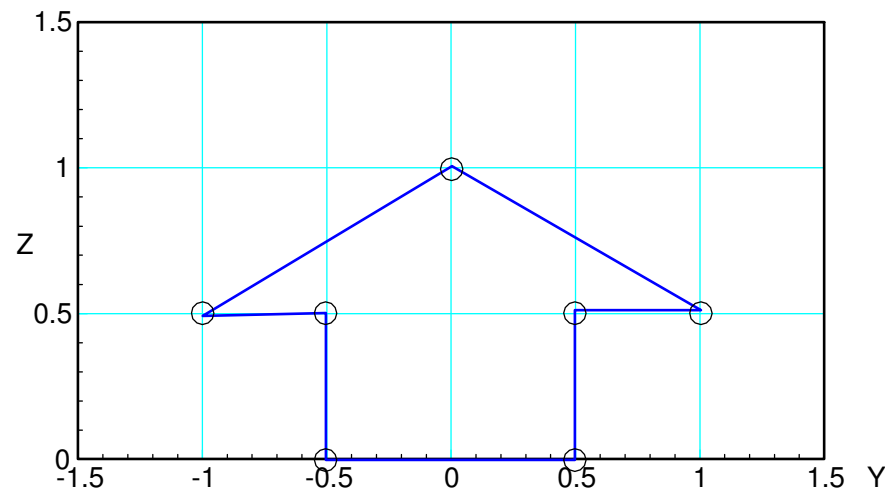
# Displaying a 3D Object

To illustrate the use of rotation matrices, let's draw an arrow and then

- Rotate the camera about the X, Y, and Z axis, then
- Rotate the arrow about the X, Y, and Z axis

Define the arrow by eight points:

$$Arrow = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -0.5 & 0.5 & 0.5 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -0.5 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 & 1 & 0.5 & 0.5 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



---

Project the arrow on the YZ plane. An m-file to display a set of points (passed in DATA) along with a transformation matrix is as follows:

```
function Display3D(DATA, T)
```

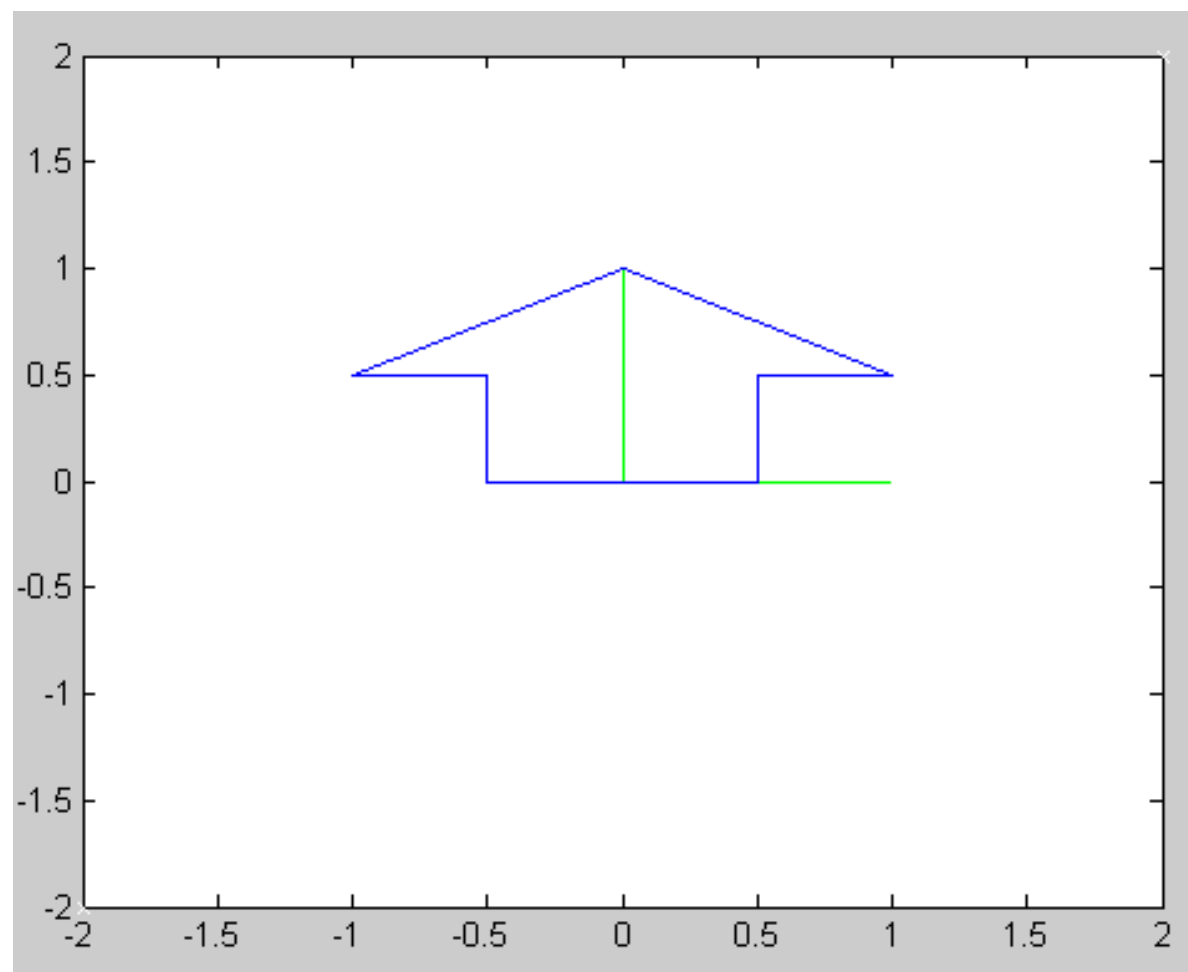
The previous arrow looks like the following:

```
X = [0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0]';  
Y = [-0.5,0.5,0.5,1,0,-1,-0.5,-0.5]';  
Z = [0,0,0.5,0.5,1,0.5,0.5,0]';
```

```
ARROW = [X,Y,Z,0*X+1]'
```

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	1.0000	0	-1.0000	-0.5000	-0.5000
0	0	0.5000	0.5000	1.0000	0.5000	0.5000	0
1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

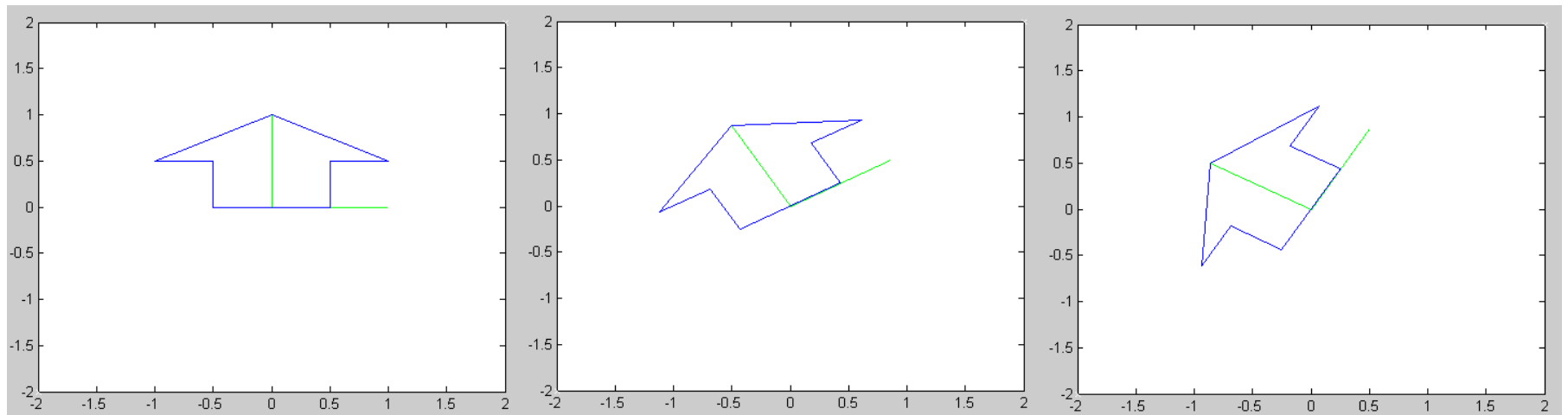
```
T = eye(4,4);  
Display3D(ARROW, T);
```



# Rotate the camera about the X axis

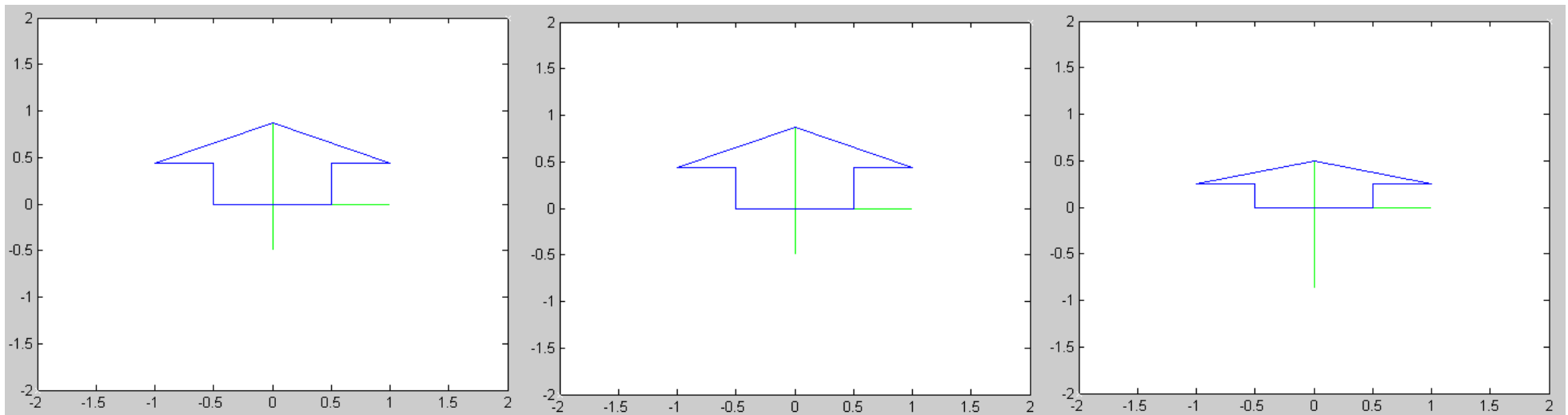
```
c = cos(5*pi/180);  
s = sin(5*pi/180);  
Rx = [1,0,0,0;0,c,s,0;0,-s,c,0;0,0,0,1];
```

```
T = eye(4,4);  
for i=1:1000  
    T = Rx*T;  
    Display3D(ARROW, T);  
    pause(0.01);  
end
```



# Rotate the Camera About the Y Axis

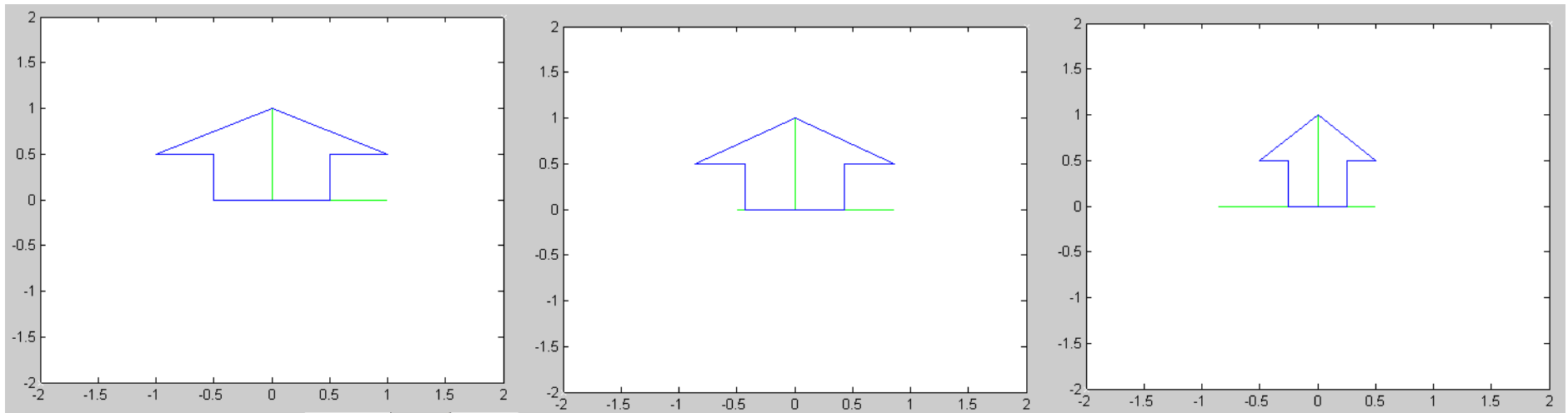
```
Ry = [c,0,-s,0;0,1,0,0;s,0,c,0;0,0,0,1];  
      0.9962      0      0.0872      0  
      0      1.0000      0      0  
     -0.0872      0      0.9962      0  
      0      0      0      1.0000  
T = eye(4,4);  
for i=1:1000  
    T = Ry*T;  
    Display3D(ARROW, T);  
    pause(0.01);  
end
```





# Rotate the Camera About the Z Axis

```
Rz = [c,-s,0,0;s,c,0,0;0,0,1,0;0,0,0,1]
      0.9962  -0.0872      0      0
      0.0872   0.9962      0      0
           0      0      1.0000      0
           0      0      0      1.0000
T = eye(4,4);
for i=1:1000
    T = Rz*T;
    Display3D(ARROW, T);
    pause(0.01);
end
```

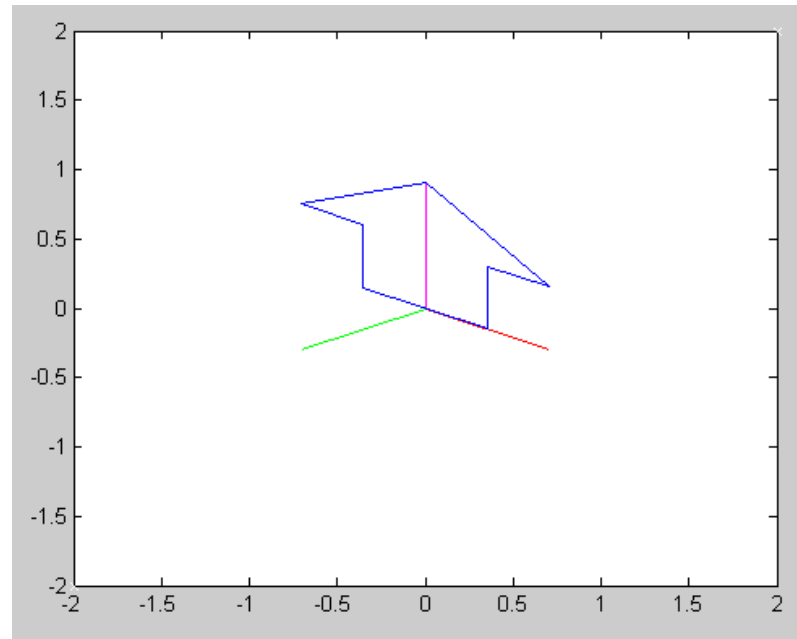


---

## 3D Perspective:

Move the camera 45 degrees about the Z axis then 25 degrees about the Y axis

```
c = cos(-25*pi/180);  
s = sin(-25*pi/180);  
Ry = [c,0,-s,0;0,1,0,0;s,0,c,0;0,0,0,1];  
c = cos(45*pi/180);  
s = sin(45*pi/180);  
Rz = [c,-s,0,0;s,c,0,0;0,0,1,0;0,0,0,1]  
Tdisp = Ry*Rz  
Display3D(ARROW,Tdisp);
```



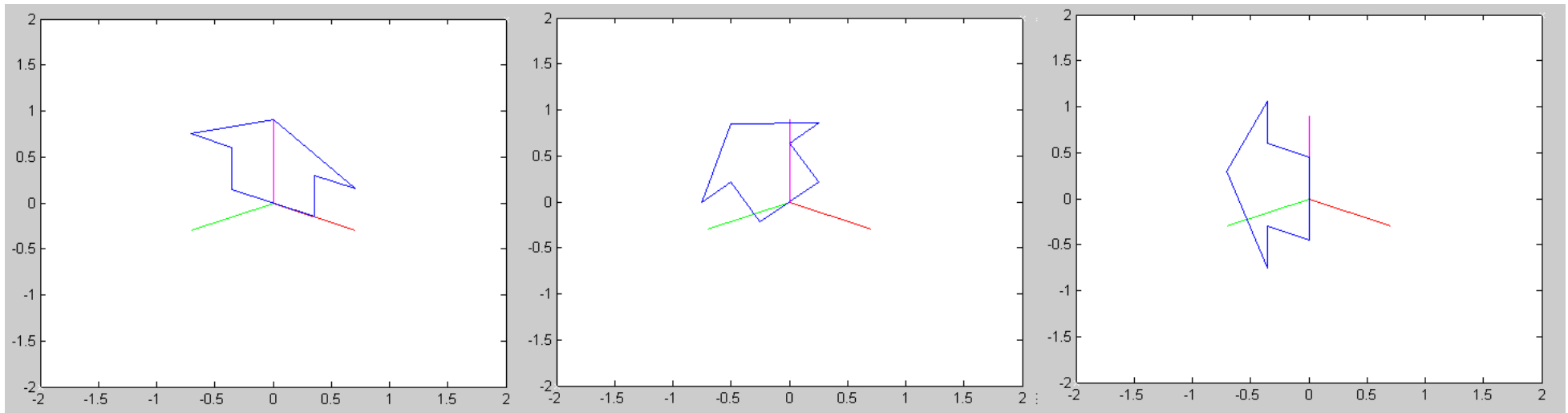
---

# Rotate the Arrow About the X Axis

You can also rotate the object while keeping the axis fixed

```
c = cos(5*pi/180);  
s = sin(5*pi/180);  
Rx = [1,0,0,0;0,c,s,0;0,-s,c,0;0,0,0,1];  
T01 = inv(Rx);
```

```
T = eye(4,4);  
for i=1:1000  
    T = T01*T;  
    Display3D(T*ARROW, Tdisp);  
    pause(0.01);  
end
```



---

Note: The arrow positions are relative to reference frame 1:

$$P_1$$

Relative to the zero reference frame, the points are:

$$P_0 = T_{01}P_1$$

$$P_0 = (T_{10})^{-1}P_1$$

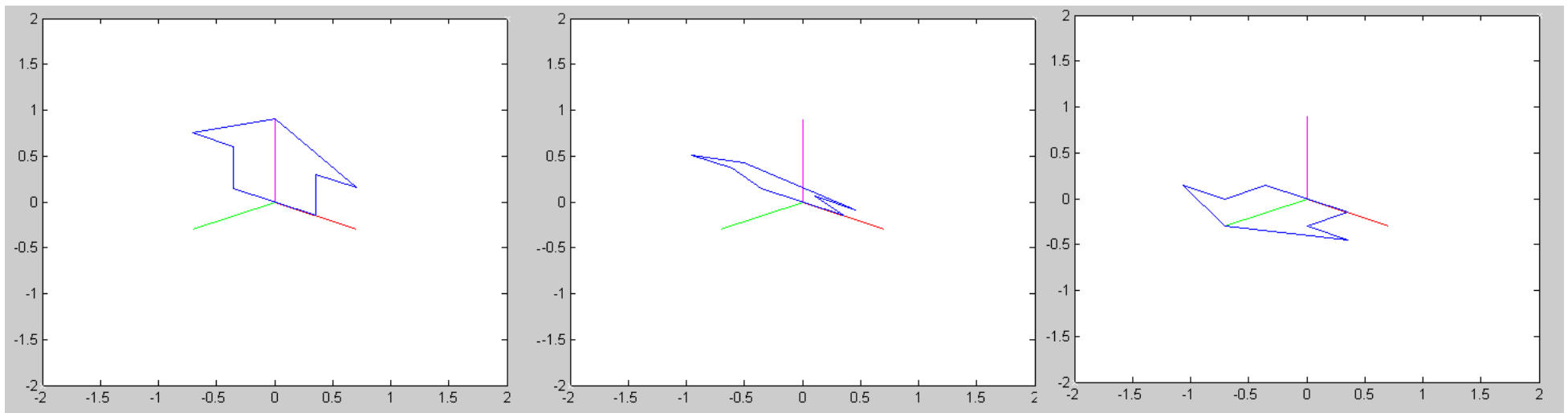
---

---

# Rotate the Object About the Y Axis

```
c = cos(5*pi/180);  
s = sin(5*pi/180);  
Ry = [c,0,-s,0;0,1,0,0;s,0,c,0;0,0,0,1];  
T01 = inv(Ry);
```

```
T = eye(4,4);  
for i=1:1000  
    T = T01*T;  
    Display3D(T*ARROW, Tdisp);  
    pause(0.01);  
end
```

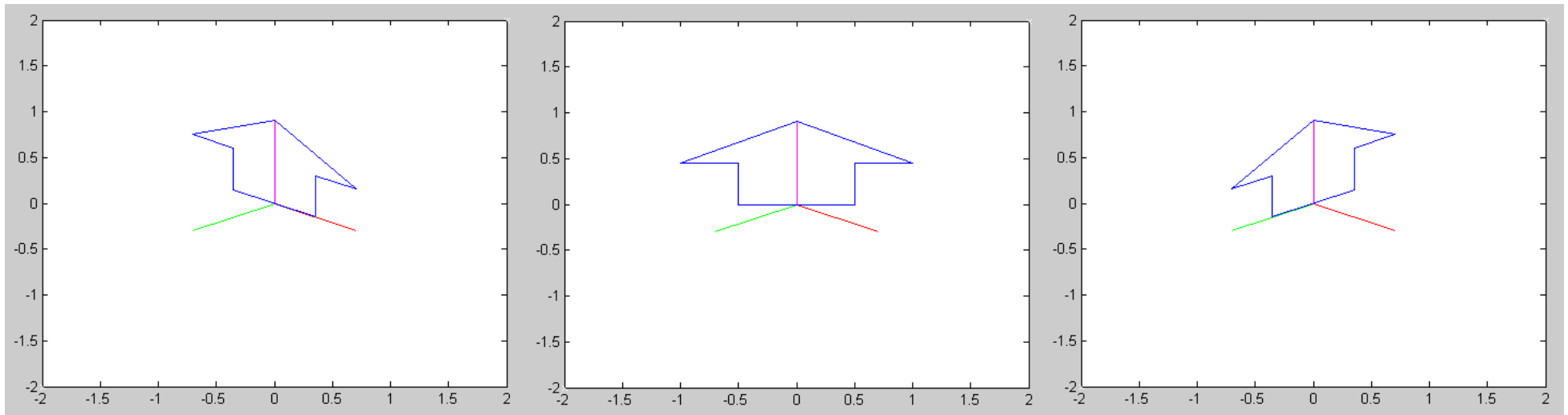


---

# Rotate the Object About the Z Axis

```
c = cos(5*pi/180);  
s = sin(5*pi/180);  
Rz = [c,s,0,0;-s,c,0,0;0,0,1,0;0,0,0,1];  
T01 = inv(Rz);
```

```
T = eye(4,4);  
for i=1:1000  
    T = T01*T;  
    Display3D(T*ARROW, Tdisp);  
    pause(0.01);  
end
```



---

## Homework #2:

- Define a shape other than an arrow
- Rotate this object about
  - the x-axis
  - the y-axis
  - the z-axis

### Demonstrate your code

- YouTube video
- Screen capture
- Share your screen on Zoom

Goal: Convince yourself that rotation matrices really do work.

---