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# Translation Matrices

## Lecture #3

### 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.

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# Translation Matrices

A transform matrix is a way to

- Shift a point by the vector (x, y, z)
- Rotate the coordinate frame, and
- Zoom in and out with a scaling factor of w.

Since each point is defined by a 4x1 vector, the transformation matrix needs to be a 4x4 matrix:

$$a_{4 \times 1} = T_{4 \times 4} b_{4 \times 1}$$

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T is composed of three parts:

- A 3x3 rotation matrix (identity in this example)
- A 3x1 translation matrix (  $[b_x, b_y, b_z]^T$  )
- A 1x1 scalar (w) defining the zoom in / zoom out factor.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_x \\ a_y \\ a_z \\ \dots \\ a_w \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \vdots & x \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \vdots & y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \vdots & z \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \vdots & w \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \\ \dots \\ b_w \end{bmatrix}$$

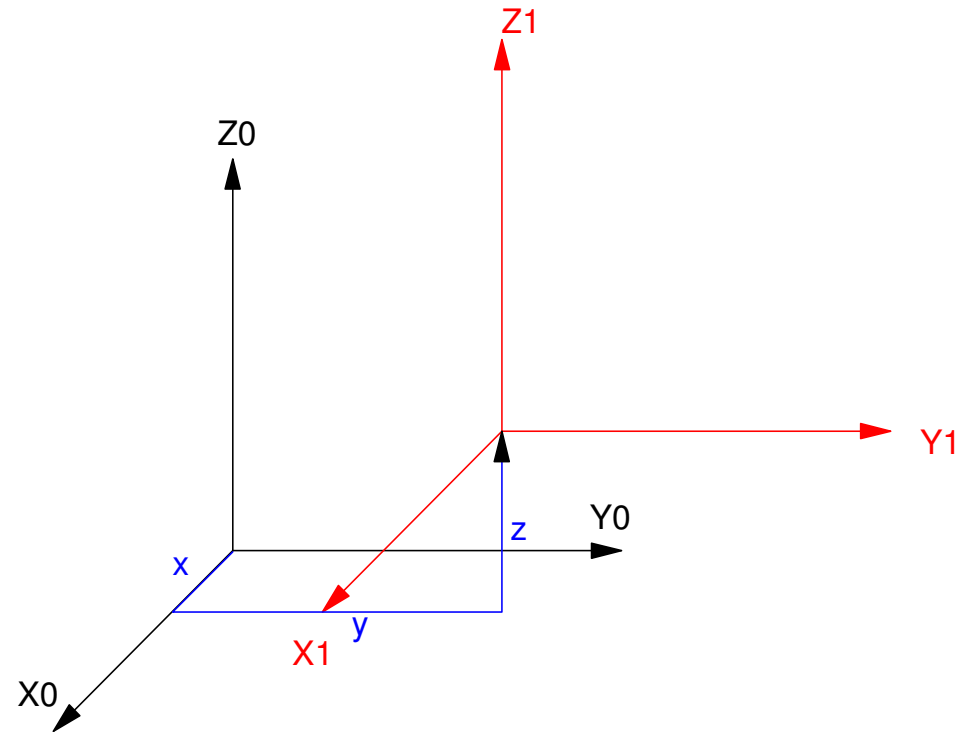
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Example 1: Shift the point [1,2,3] by [x, y, z] Use a scaling factor of 1

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1+x \\ 2+y \\ 3+z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Point b has been shifted by [x,y,z].



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Zoom in with a scaling factor of 2

$$a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

This means if you plot the point (1,2,3), it will be doubled

- zoomed in with a factor of 2

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Example 3: Project a 3D image of an arrow on the YZ plane.

The arrow has eight points

Arrow

	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
-	1.	1.	1.	1.5	0.	- 1.5	- 1.	- 1.
	0.	0.	1.	1.	2.	1.	1.	0.
	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.

The display routine in Matlab

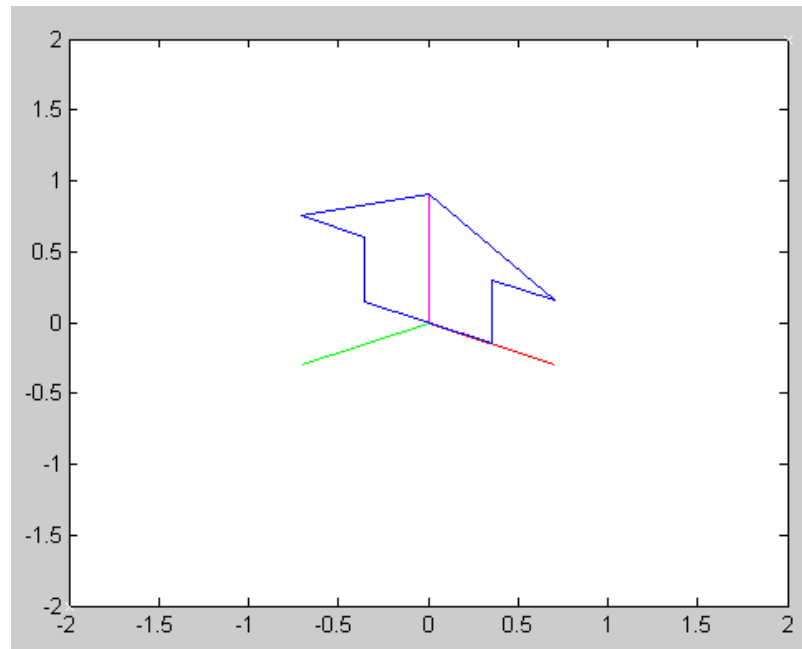
```
function Display3D(DATA, T)
```

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## To draw this in Matlab

```
c = cos(25*pi/180);  
s = sin(25*pi/180);  
Ty = [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);  
Tz = [c,-s,0,0;s,c,0,0;0,0,1,0;0,0,0,1]  
Tdisp = Ty*Tz;
```

```
Display3D(ARROW,Tdisp);
```



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Plot the arrow as you move closer to it (meaning the scaling factor  $w$  changes from 0.1 to 3.0)

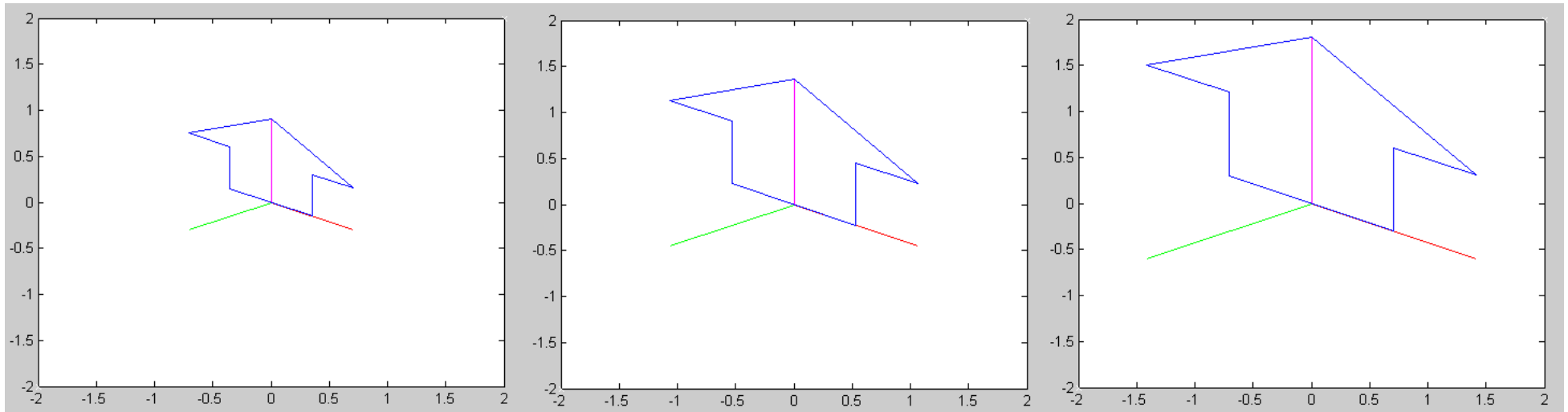
$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & w \end{bmatrix}$$

```
T = eye(4,4);  
for i=0:300  
    w = i/100;  
    T(4,4) = w;  
  
    Display3D(ARROW,T*Tdisp);  
    pause(0.01);  
end
```



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This shows the arrow getting bigger as you get closer to it



Arrow with scaling factor ( $w$ ) equal to  $\{ 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 \}$

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## Translation:

Shift the data in the X direction

$$T_x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Shift the data in the Y direction:

$$T_y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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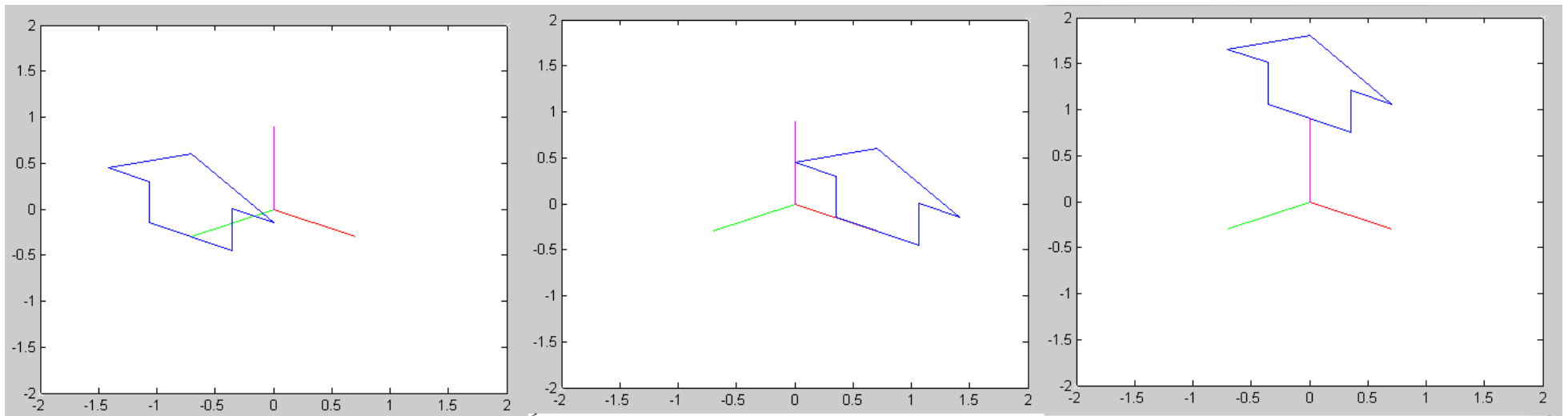
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Shift the data in the Z direction

$$T_z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

For example: Translate the arrow in the x, y, and z direction:

```
T = eye(4,4);  
for i=0:100  
    T(1,4) = i / 100;           % x  
    Display3D(T*ARROW,Tdisp);  
    pause(100);  
end
```



Translation in the x, y, and z direction by one unit

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Example: Where is the point (1, 2, 3) if you translate it by (4,5,6)?

```
>> P = [1;2;3;1]
```

```
1  
2  
3  
1
```

```
>> T = eye(4);
```

```
>> T(1,4) = 4;
```

```
>> T(2,4) = 5;
```

```
>> T(3,4) = 6;
```

```
>> T
```

```
1      0      0      4  
0      1      0      5  
0      0      1      6  
0      0      0      1
```

```
>> T*P
```

```
5  
7  
9  
1
```

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## Translation Plus Rotation.

What happens if you combine a translation matrix plus a rotation matrix?

- Note that matrix multiplication is not commutative: the order makes a difference. For example, define two matrices:

$T_x$  is a rotation matrix about the X axis by 45 degrees

```
>> Tx = [1, 0, 0, 0; 0, c, -s, 0; 0, s, c, 0; 0, 0, 0, 1]
```

1.0000	0	0	0
0	0.7071	0.7071	0
0	-0.7071	0.7071	0
0	0	0	1.0000

$T_t$  is a translation matrix of (4, 5, 6)

```
>> Tt = T
```

1	0	0	4
0	1	0	5
0	0	1	6
0	0	0	1

---

If you translate then rotate, the net result is:

>>  $T_x * T$

1.0000	0	0	4.0000
0	0.7071	0.7071	7.7782
0	-0.7071	0.7071	0.7071
0	0	0	1.0000

If you rotate then translate, then

>>  $T * T_x$

1.0000	0	0	4.0000
0	0.7071	0.7071	5.0000
0	-0.7071	0.7071	6.0000
0	0	0	1.0000

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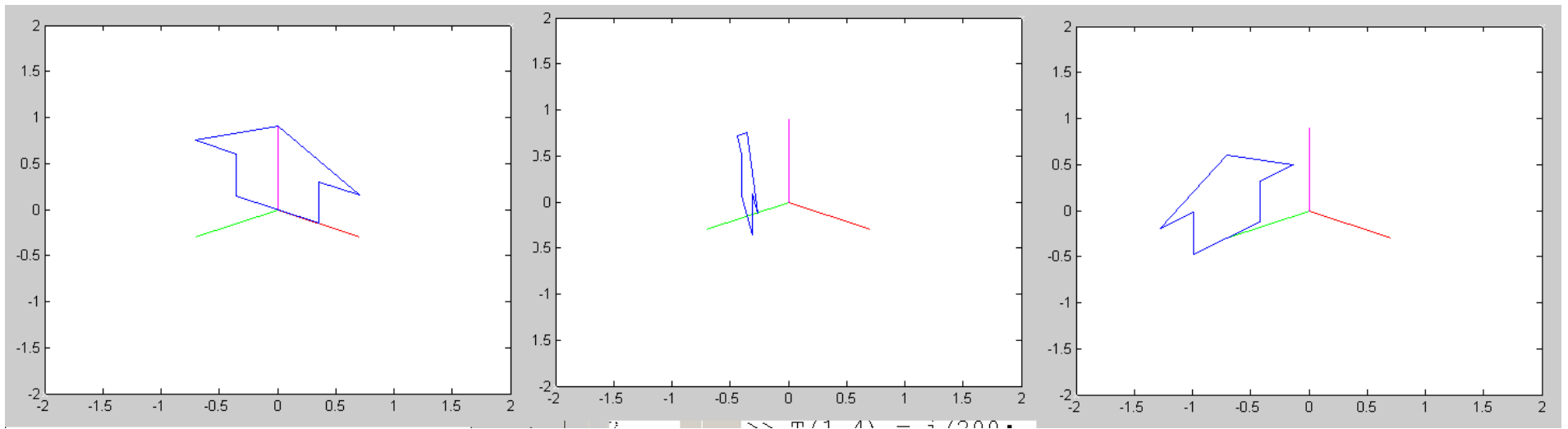
In Matlab, you can see this effect as follows:

- Rotate about the X axis while
- Translating about the Z axis:

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

```
for i=1:200  
    T = Tz ^ i;  
    T(1,4) = i/200;  
    Display3D(T*ARROW,Tdisp);  
    pause(0.01);  
end
```





The arrow spins about its Z-axis ( $T_z$ ) while translating along the x-axis

In other words, when you mix a translation and a rotation matrix:

- You translate (x, y, z) relative to the original axis, and then
- Rotate the object

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## Homework #3

- Translate your shape from homework #2  
*convince yourself that the translation matrices work*
- Display the object after a series of translations and rotations  
*convince yourself that translations and rotations can be done sequentially*