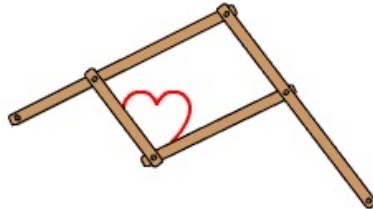


Lecture 8: Forward Kinematics II

Prof. DC

~~December 18, 2024~~ Feb 19, 2026

Modern Robotics Ch. 4



Denavit-Hartenberg Parameters

- In the 1950s, when Dick Hartenberg, a professor, and Jacques Denavit, a PhD student, developed a way to represent mathematically how mechanisms move
- They showed that the position of one link connected to another could be represented **minimally** using only four parameters
 - Known as the Denavit-Hartenberg (DH) parameters
- In 1981, Richard Paul demonstrated its value for the kinematic analysis of robotic systems



Screw Motions as Matrix Exponential

The screw axis $\mathcal{S}_i$ can be expressed in matrix form as:

$$[\mathcal{S}_i] = \begin{bmatrix} [\omega_i] & v \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in se(3)$$

To express a **screw motion** given a screw axis, we use the matrix exponential:

$$\underline{T} = \underline{e}^{[\mathcal{S}]\theta} \in SE(3)$$

Proposition 3.25. *Let $\mathcal{S} = (\omega, v)$ be a screw axis. If $\|\omega\| = 1$ then, for any distance $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ traveled along the axis,*

$$e^{[\mathcal{S}]\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{[\omega]\theta} & (I\theta + (1 - \cos\theta)[\omega] + (\theta - \sin\theta)[\omega]^2)v \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.88)$$

If $\omega = 0$ and $\|v\| = 1$, then

$$e^{[\mathcal{S}]\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} I & v\theta \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Product of Exponentials Approach

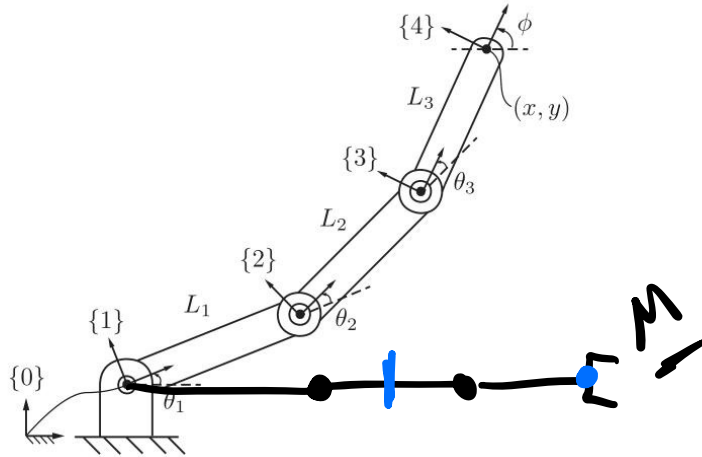


Figure 4.1: Forward kinematics of a 3R planar open chain. For each frame, the $\hat{x}$ - and $\hat{y}$ -axis is shown; the $\hat{z}$ -axes are parallel and out of the page.

Let each joint i have a configuration defined by θ_i

Initialization steps:

- Choose a fixed frame $\{s\}$
- Choose an end-effector (tool) frame attached to the robot $\{b\}$
- Put all joints in *zero position*
- Let $M \in SE(3)$ be the configuration of $\{b\}$ in the $\{s\}$ frame when the robot is in the zero position

Product of Exponentials Approach

(Find)

- Given zero position M
- For each joint i , define the screw axis
- For each motion of a joint, define the screw motion $\rightarrow l^{[s]\theta}$
- These operations compose nicely through multiplication, giving us the Product of Exponentials (PoE) formula!

$$T(\theta) = \underbrace{e^{[s_1]\theta_1} e^{[s_2]\theta_2} \dots e^{[s_{n-1}]\theta_{n-1}} e^{[s_n]\theta_n}} M$$

Finding $M = \begin{bmatrix} R & P \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

opt 1) identify axis of rotation (s)

$$R_y = \begin{bmatrix} c_\theta & 0 & +s_\theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_\theta & 0 & c_\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

opt 2) by inspection

$$R = \begin{matrix} \hat{x}_3 & \hat{y}_3 & \hat{z}_3 \\ \begin{matrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$P = [L_1, 0, -L_2]^T$$

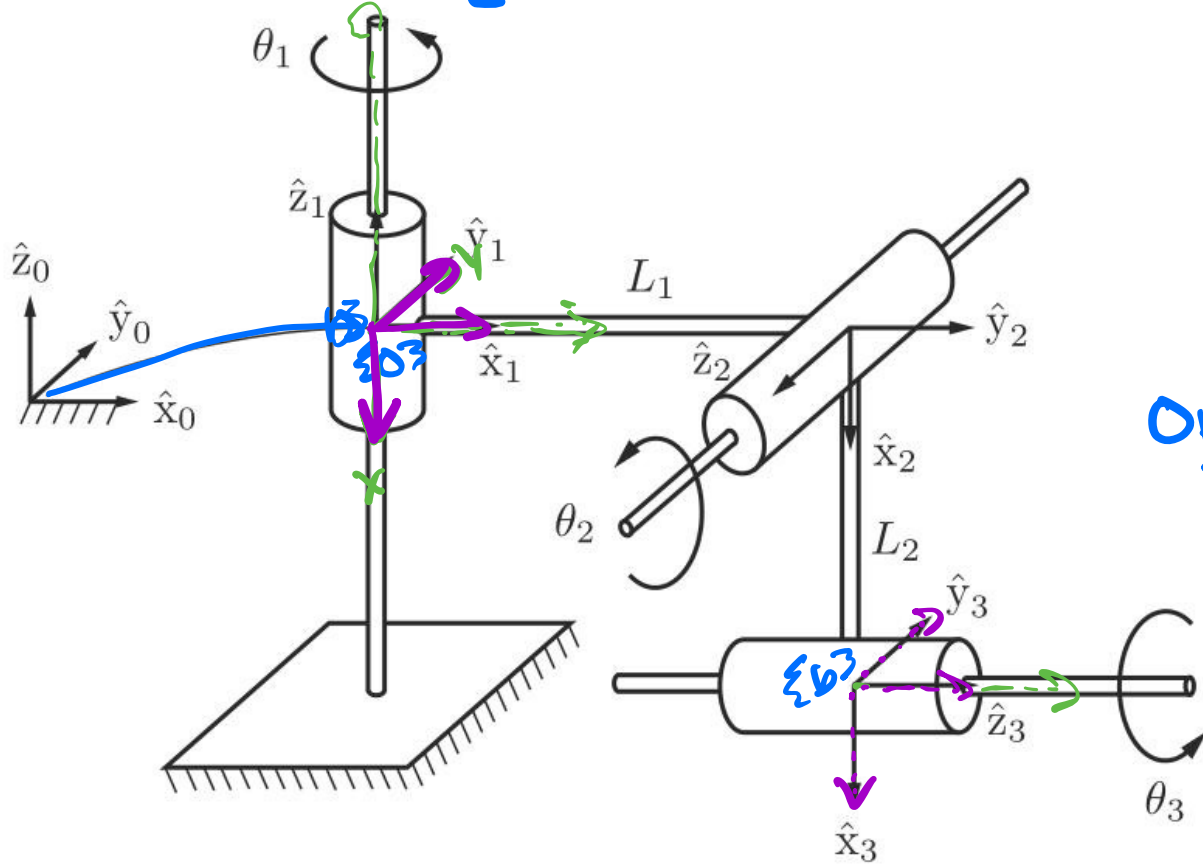


Figure 4.3: A 3R spatial open chain.

How to read this diagram (1)

Revolute joint

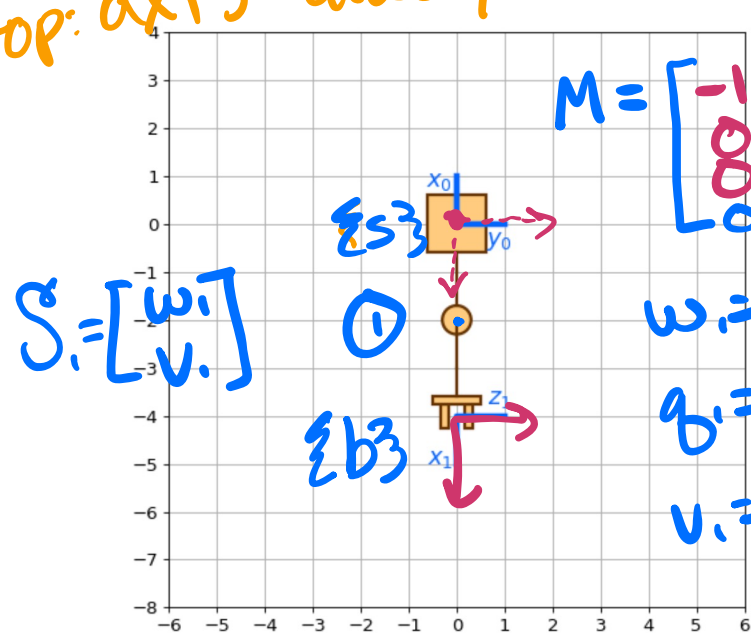
top



side



π top: axis always of of pg



$$M = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\omega = [0, 0, -1]^T$$

$$q = [2, 0, 0]^T$$

$$v = [0, -2, 0]^T$$

$$S_i = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_i \\ v_i \end{bmatrix}$$

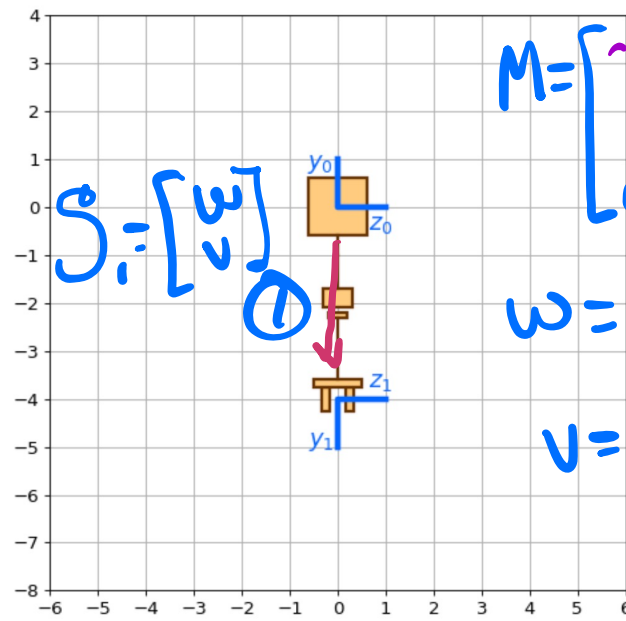
$\square$ denotes $\{s\}$ $\{0\}$
 π denotes our tool $\{b\}$

prismatic joint

side



top



$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\omega = 0$$

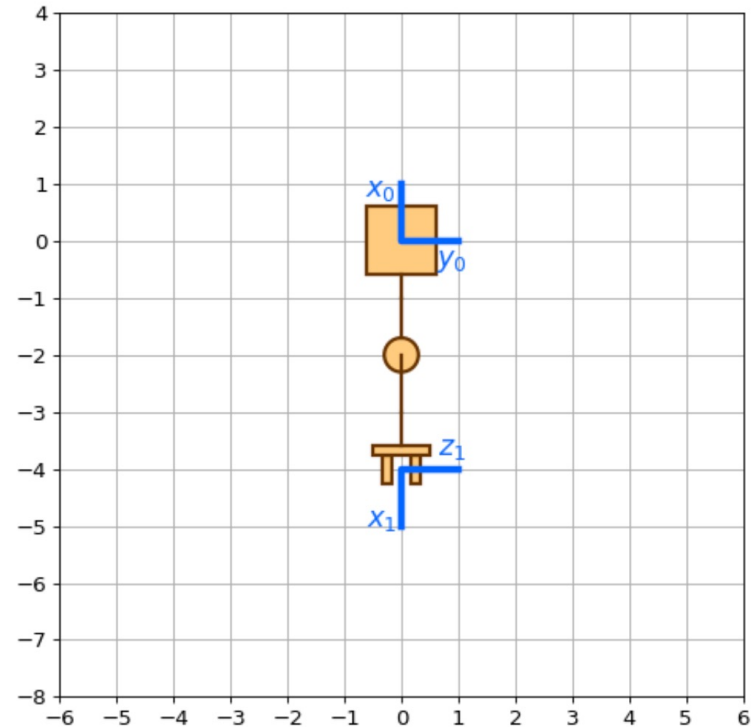
$$v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S_i = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_i \\ v_i \end{bmatrix}$$

Modeling Robot Joints as Screw Motions

Case 1: Revolute Joint

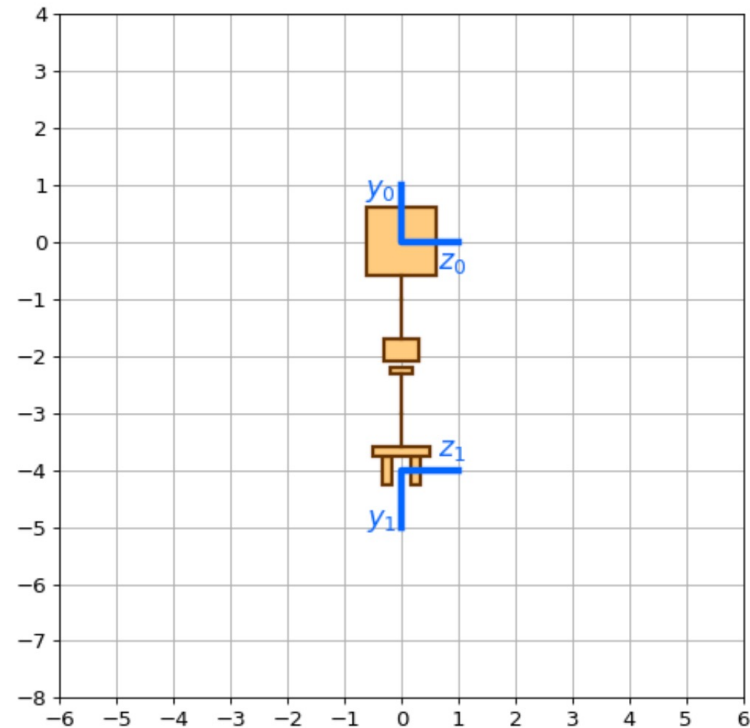
- $\|\omega\| = 1$
- $v = -\omega \times q + h\omega$
- $v = -\omega \times q$



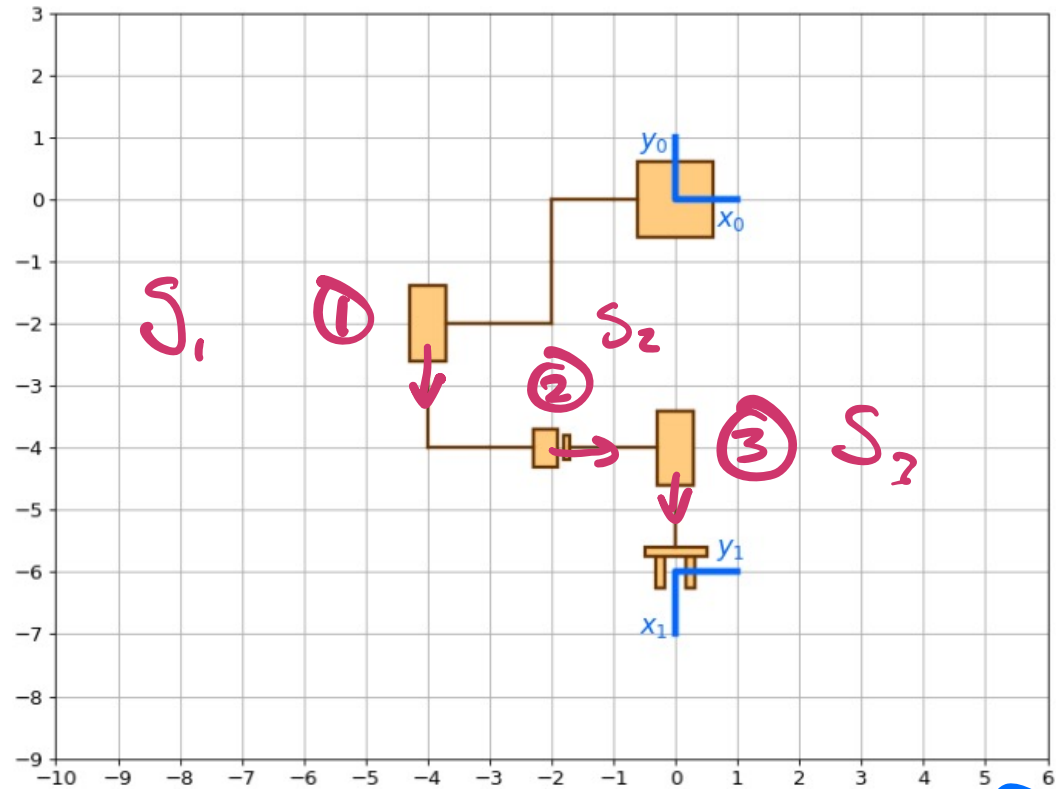
Modeling Robot Joints as Screw Motions

Case 2: Prismatic Joint

- $\|\omega\| = 0$
- $\|v\| = 1$
- Axis of movement defines v



How to read this diagram (2)



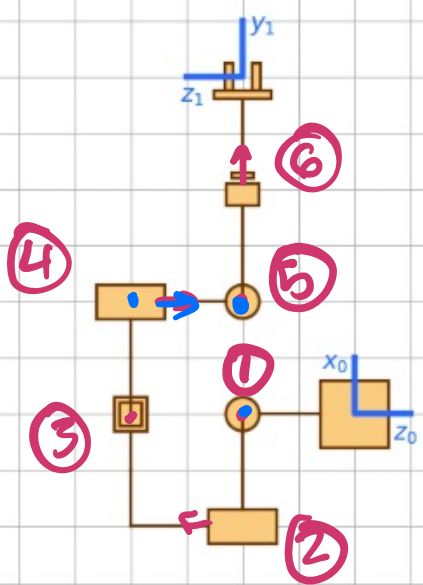
Example 1

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$




$$\begin{aligned} w_2 &= 0 \\ v_2 &= [1 \ 0 \ 0]^T \\ w_3 &= [0 \ -1 \ 0]^T \\ q_3 &= [0 \ -4 \ 0]^T \end{aligned}$$

Example 2

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$


$$q_1 = [0 \ 0 \ -2]^T, \quad v = [2 \ 0 \ 0]^T$$

$$q_0 = [-2 \ 0 \ -2]^T$$

$$v_2 = [0 \ -2 \ 0]^T$$

⑥ $w_6 = 0$

$$q_4 = [2 \ 0 \ -4]^T$$

$$V_H = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$q_5 = [2 \ 0 \ -2]^T$$

$$v = [1 \ 0 \ 0]^T$$

$$v_5 = [2 \ 0 \ 2]^T$$

So Far: Spatial Forward Kinematics

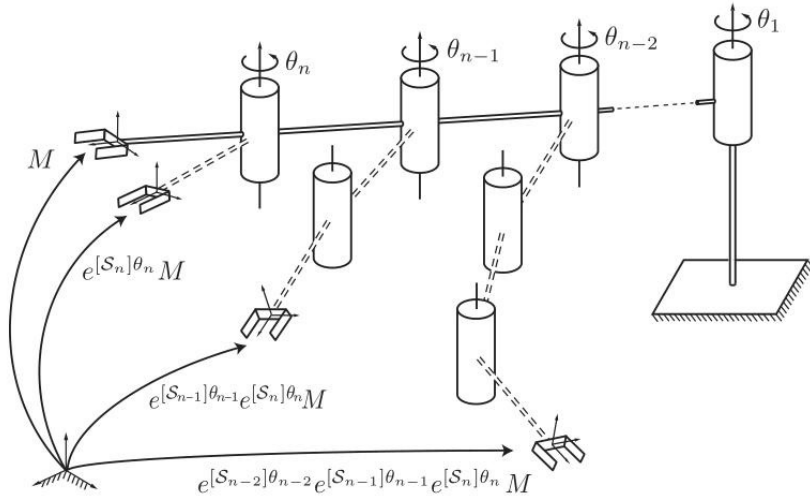


Figure 4.2: Illustration of the PoE formula for an n -link spatial open chain.

- Initialization steps:
 - Choose a fixed frame $\{s\}$
 - Choose an end-effector (tool) frame $\{b\}$
 - Put all joints in *zero position*
 - Let $M \in SE(3)$ be the configuration of $\{b\}$ in the $\{s\}$ frame when the robot is in the zero position
- For each joint i , define the screw axis
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PoE in the End-Effector (Body) Frame

- Recall some identities:

$$e^{M^{-1}PM} = M^{-1}e^PM \rightarrow e^PM = Me^{M^{-1}PM}$$

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$$T(\theta) = e^{[S_1]\theta_1} e^{[S_2]\theta_2} \dots e^{[S_{n-1}]\theta_{n-1}} e^{[S_n]\theta_n} M$$

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- What is $M^{-1}[S_i]M$ (or $[Ad_{M^{-1}}]S_i$)?
 - Screw axis in the body frame: $[B_i]$

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- What is $M^{-1}[S_i]M$ (or $[Ad_{M^{-1}}]S_i$)?

- Screw axis in the body frame: $[B_i]$

- Body form of PoE:

$$T(\theta) = M e^{[B_1]\theta_1} \dots e^{[B_{n-1}]\theta_{n-1}} e^{[B_n]\theta_n}$$

Example 3: Body Form

$$\mu = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 8 & 8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \omega_1 = [0 \ 1 \ 0]^T$$

$$q_2 = [-2 \ -2 \ 0]^T$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \omega_2 = 0, \quad v_2 = [0 \ 1 \ 0]^T$$

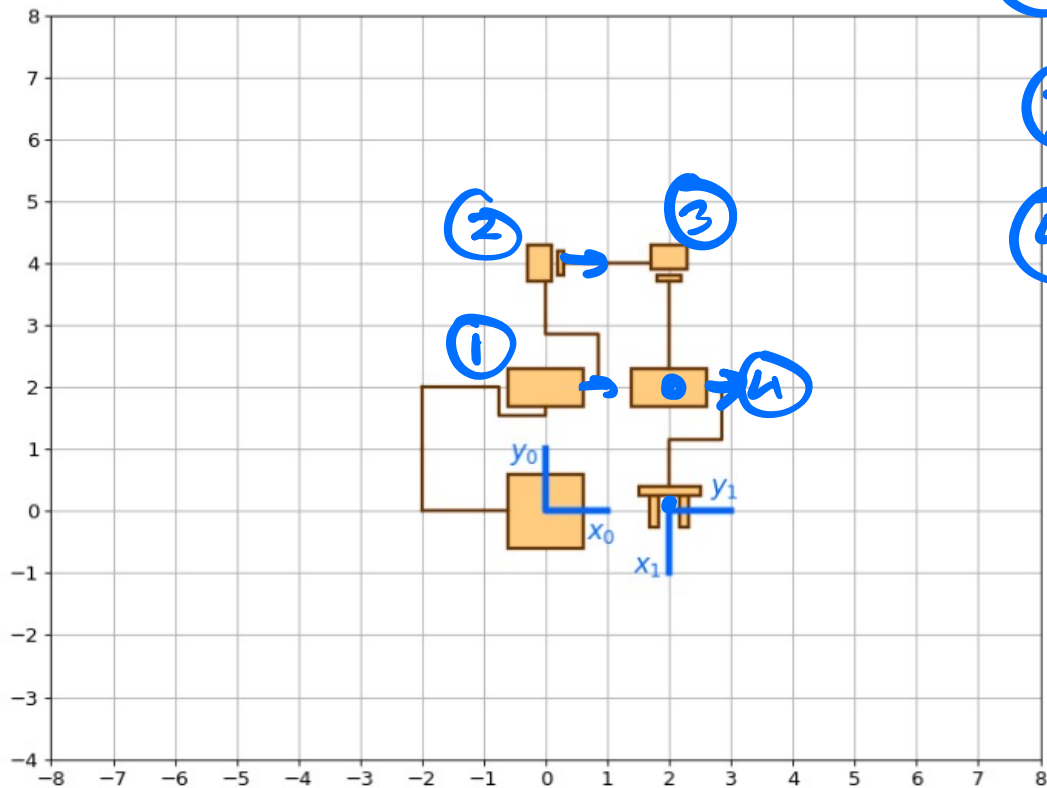
$$\textcircled{3} \quad \omega_3 = 0, \quad v_3 = [1 \ 0 \ 0]^T$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad \omega_4 = [0 \ 1 \ 0]^T$$

$$q_4 = [-2 \ 0 \ 0]^T$$

$$v_4 = [0 \ 0 \ 2]^T$$

$$B_4 = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_4 \\ v_4 \end{bmatrix}$$



Summary

- Learned the basics of **forward kinematics**, which gives us a model for computing position and orientation of the end-effector
- Uses the **product of exponentials formula** to define this transformation as composed matrix multiplications
- Our **fancy screw motion matrix exponential** is just another way to write down **homogenous transformations**!

Summary

- Learned the basics of **forward kinematics**, which gives us a model for computing position and orientation of the end-effector
- Uses the **product of exponentials formula** to define this transformation as composed matrix multiplications
- Our **fancy screw motion matrix exponential** is just another way to write down **homogenous transformations!**
- Our usual homogenous transformation matrices can also be used for forward kinematics (the Denavit-Hartenberg (DH) representation)
 - We define a frame for each link in the frame of the previous link. So to compute the position of the end effector, a frame for each link must be defined in terms of the previous link
 - **With screw motions, we have only two reference frames** (base and tool), and then each joint screw motion is defined in the base frame