



# Chapter 4 Dynamics

## Part 1

4.1 Moving Coordinate Systems

4.2 Kinematics of WMRs

# Outline

- 4.1 Moving Coordinate Systems
  - 4.1.1 Context of Measurement
  - 4.1.2 Change of Reference Frame
  - 4.1.3 Example: Attitude Stability Margin
  - 4.1.4 Recursive Transformation of States of Motion
  - Summary
- 4.2 Kinematics of Wheeled Mobile Robots

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# 4.1.1 Context of Measurement

- Police says “you were going 30 m/s southbound on I-279”.
- Any measurement in physics lacks meaning without several contextual elements:
  - a unit system (e.g. meters, seconds)
  - a number system (e.g. base 10 weighted positional)
  - a coordinate system (e.g. directions north, east)
  - a reference frame to which the measurement is ascribed (e.g. your car).
  - a reference frame with respect to which the measurement is made (e.g. the earth).

# Coordinate Systems

- Conventions for representation of physical quantities.
  - Any set of quantities that fixes all degrees of freedom of a system.
  - Cartesian systems represent vectors by projections onto three orthogonal axes.
  - The Euler angle definition expresses the three degrees of rotational freedom.
- Mathematical laws alone govern conversion from coordinate system to coordinate system.
- Conversion of coordinates does not change the magnitude or direction of a measurement - only the way you describe it.

# Reference Frames

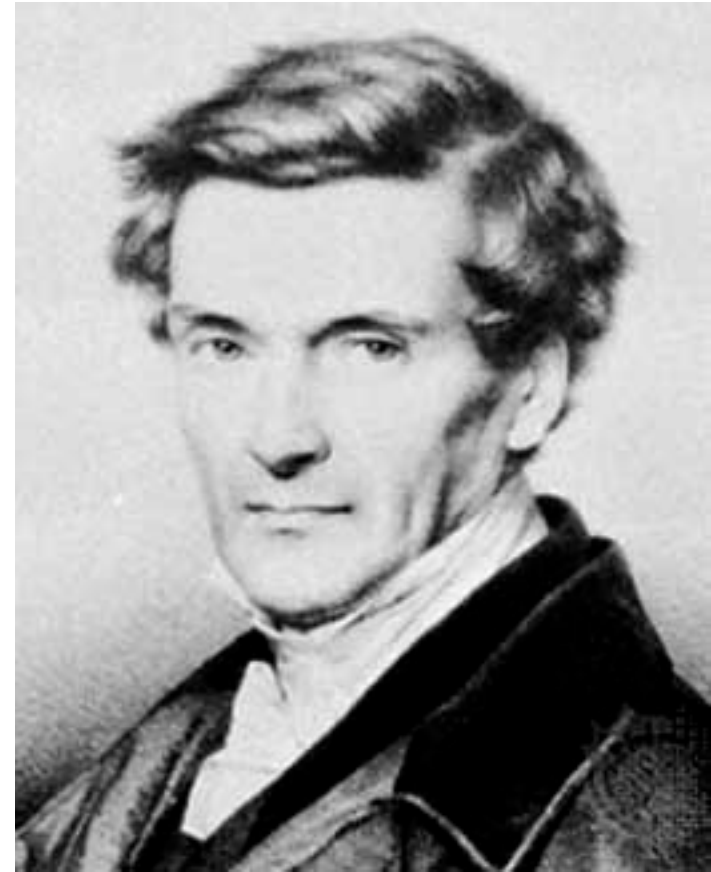
- Allows us to reconcile the differences in observations of the same property of an object by two observers with different states of motion.
  - Laws of physics are necessary to convert among frames of reference (i.e to predict a measurement made by one observer from those of another).
  - A reference frame is a real physical body. The state of motion of such a body distinguishes it from other frames of reference.
- A phenomenon, when observed from one frame of reference, may or may not look the same when observed from a second frame of reference.
- Two frames are equivalent with respect to a measurement when the measurement is the same in both frames. If they are not equivalent, a method of converting between the frames of reference is often available.

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# Coriolis

- Cauchy recommended him to a job at Ecole Polytechnique.
- Introduced the terms 'work' and 'kinetic energy' with their present scientific meaning
- Best remembered for “*Sur les équations du mouvement relatif des systèmes de corps* (1835)” which introduced the Coriolis force.
- Also wrote a mathematical theory of billiards!



**Gaspard-Gustave de Coriolis**  
1792-1843 Paris, France



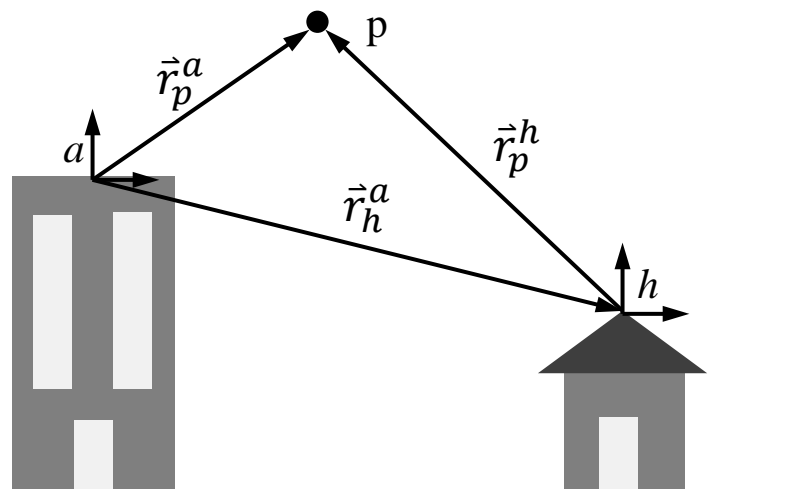
## 4.1.2.1 Mutually Stationary Frames

- Motion of particle can be expressed wrt either frame.
- Position vectors are related:

$$\vec{r}_p^a = \vec{r}_p^h + \vec{r}_h^a$$

- Differentiate wrt time:

$$\vec{v}_p^a = \vec{v}_p^h$$



# 4.1.2.2 Galilean Transformation

Translating (Const V) Frames

- Motion of particle can be expressed wrt either frame.
- Position vectors are related:

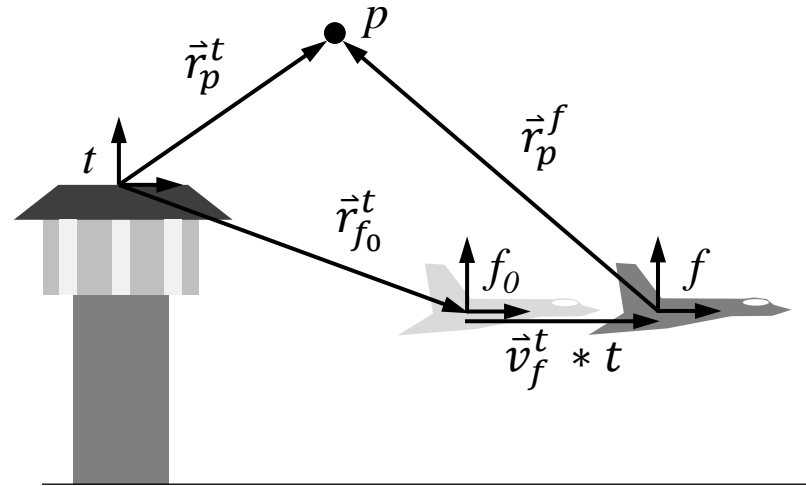
$$\vec{r}_p^t = \vec{r}_p^f + \vec{r}_{f_0}^t + \vec{v}_f^t \cdot t$$

- Differentiate wrt time:

$$\vec{v}_p^t = \vec{v}_p^f + \vec{v}_f^t$$

- Frames are equivalent for acceleration:

$$\vec{a}_p^t = \vec{a}_p^f$$

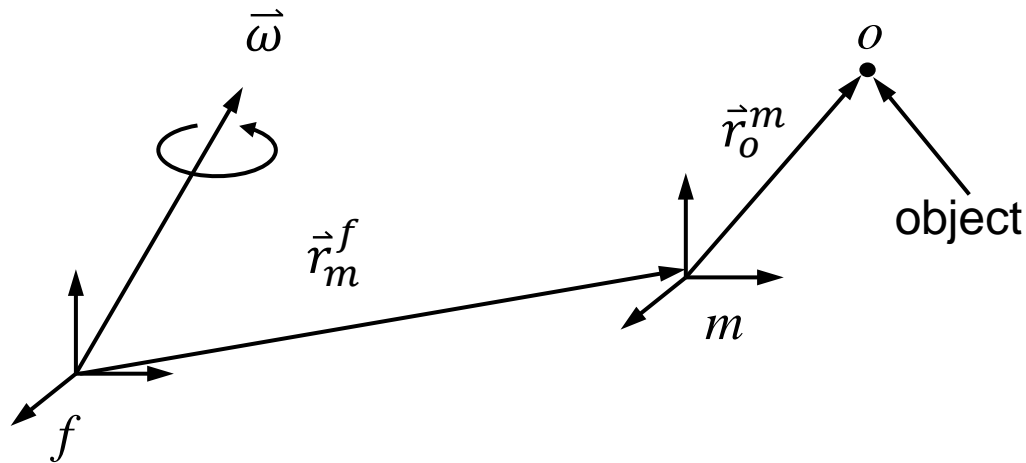


Relates particle velocity for an observer in the control tower to that observed in the airplane.

Called “Galilean Transformation”

## 4.1.2.3 Rotating Frames

- When two frames are rotating with respect to each other, something must be accelerating.
- Let  $\omega$  denote angular velocity of  $m$  frame with respect to  $f$  frame.
- Lets **predict measurements of observer in  $f$**  given those of observer in  $m$ .



## 4.1.2.3 Coriolis Equation

- Coriolis Equation (aka Transport Theorem) relates derivatives of same vector by both observers.

$$\left(\frac{d\vec{u}}{dt}\right)_f = \left(\frac{d\vec{u}}{dt}\right)_m + \vec{\omega} \times \vec{u}$$

- $\vec{u}$  is any vector (position, velocity, acceleration, force)
- $\vec{\omega}$  is angular velocity of moving frame wrt fixed one.

## 4.1.2.4 Velocity Transformation

- Positions add by vector addition.

$$\overset{\Delta f}{r}_o = \overset{\Delta f}{r}_m + \overset{\Delta m}{r}_o$$

- Time derivative in fixed frame.

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_f (\overset{\Delta f}{r}_o) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_f (\overset{\Delta f}{r}_m + \overset{\Delta m}{r}_o) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_f (\overset{\Delta f}{r}_m) + \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_f (\overset{\Delta m}{r}_o)$$

Note:

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_x (\overset{\Delta x}{r}_y) = \overset{\Delta x}{v}_y$$

- Apply Coriolis Equation to 2<sup>nd</sup> term on right.

$$\overset{\Delta f}{v}_o = \overset{\Delta f}{v}_m + \overset{\Delta f}{\omega}_m \times \overset{\Delta m}{r}_o + \overset{\Delta m}{v}_o$$

## 4.1.2.4 General Velocity Relation

Extra  
Component 1

Extra  
Component 2

$$\dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^f = \dot{\mathbf{v}}_m^f + \boldsymbol{\omega}_m^f \times \mathbf{r}_o^m + \dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^m$$

$\dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^f$  : velocity of particle relative to fixed observer

$\dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^m$  : velocity of particle relative to moving observer

$\dot{\mathbf{v}}_m^f$  : linear velocity of moving observer relative to fixed

$\boldsymbol{\omega}_m^f$  : angular velocity of moving observer relative to fixed

$\mathbf{r}_o^m$  : position of particle relative to moving observer

## 4.1.2.5 General Acceleration Relation

- Apply to velocity relation

From Last Slide

$$\dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^f = \dot{\mathbf{v}}_m^f + \dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_m^f \times \mathbf{r}_o^m + \dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^m$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\bigg|_f (\dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^f) = \frac{d}{dt}\bigg|_f (\dot{\mathbf{v}}_m^f + \dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_m^f \times \mathbf{r}_o^m + \dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^m)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\bigg|_f (\dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^f) = \frac{d}{dt}\bigg|_f (\dot{\mathbf{v}}_m^f) + \frac{d}{dt}\bigg|_f (\dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_m^f \times \mathbf{r}_o^m) + \frac{d}{dt}\bigg|_f (\dot{\mathbf{v}}_o^m)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{a}}_o^f = \dot{\mathbf{a}}_m^f + \dot{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_m^f \times \mathbf{r}_o^m + \dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_m^f \times [\dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_m^f \times \mathbf{r}_o^m] + 2\dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_m^f \times \mathbf{v}_o^m + \dot{\mathbf{a}}_o^m$$

## 4.1.2.5 General Acceleration Relation

$$\overset{\Delta f}{a}_o = \overset{\Delta f}{a}_m + \overset{\Delta f}{\alpha}_m \times \overset{\Delta m}{r}_o + \overset{\Delta f}{\omega}_m \times [\overset{\Delta f}{\omega}_m \times \overset{\Delta m}{r}_o] + 2\overset{\Delta f}{\omega}_m \times \overset{\Delta m}{v}_o + \overset{\Delta m}{a}_o$$

Extra  
Component 1

Extra  
Component 2

Extra  
Component 3

Extra  
Component 4

$\overset{\Delta f}{a}_o$  : acceleration of particle relative to fixed observer

$\overset{\Delta m}{a}_o$  : acceleration of particle relative to moving observer

$\overset{\Delta f}{a}_m$  : Einstein acceleration (of moving frame wrt fixed)

$2\overset{\Delta f}{\omega}_m \times \overset{\Delta m}{v}_o$  : Coriolis acceleration

$\overset{\Delta f}{\alpha}_m \times \overset{\Delta m}{r}_o$  : Euler acceleration

$\overset{\Delta f}{\omega}_m \times [\overset{\Delta f}{\omega}_m \times \overset{\Delta m}{r}_o]$  : Centripetal acceleration



# Outline

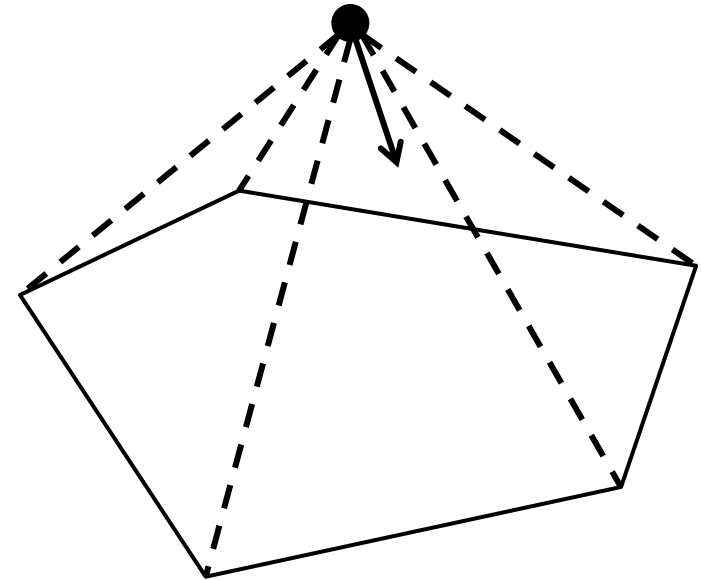
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## 4.1.3 Attitude Stability Margin Estimation

- Staying upright
- Keeping contact with terrain.
- Important when:
  - Lifting heavy loads
  - Turning at speed
  - Operating on sloped terrain
- Many vehicles do one or more of these things.

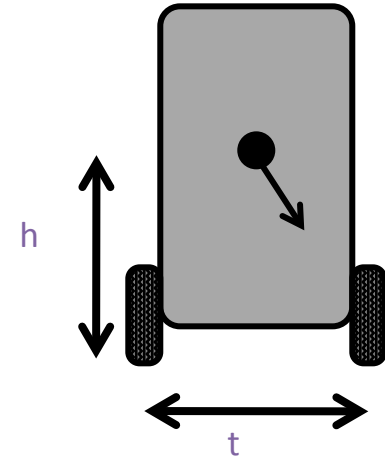
# Liftoff Criterion

- Preventing liftoff will prevent rollover.
- For liftoff, issue is the direction of the net noncontact force vector acting at the cg
  - Any unbalanced moment about any tipover axis.



## 4.1.3.1 Proximity to Wheel Ltoff

- Place a 2 axis accel right at the cg.
- BUT:
  - CG may not be accessible.
  - It may move due to:
    - articulations
    - payload changes
    - changing human passengers.

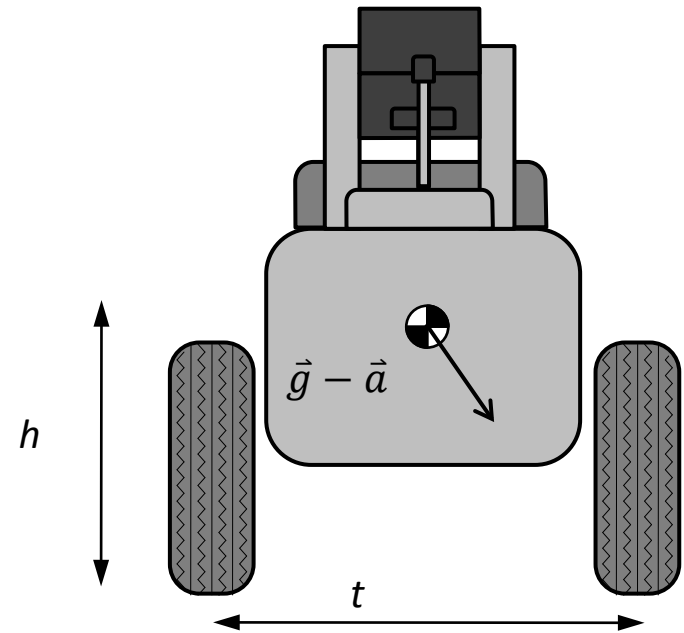


## 4.1.3.1 Proximity to Wheel Liftoff

- Define the specific force acting at the cg:

$$\vec{t} = \vec{a} - \vec{g}$$

- An accelerometer can measure specific force but it cannot usually be placed at the cg.
  - Therefore transform it.



Vehicle is viewed from rear when executing a hard left turn. For the specific force direction shown, the inner (left) wheels are about to lift off.

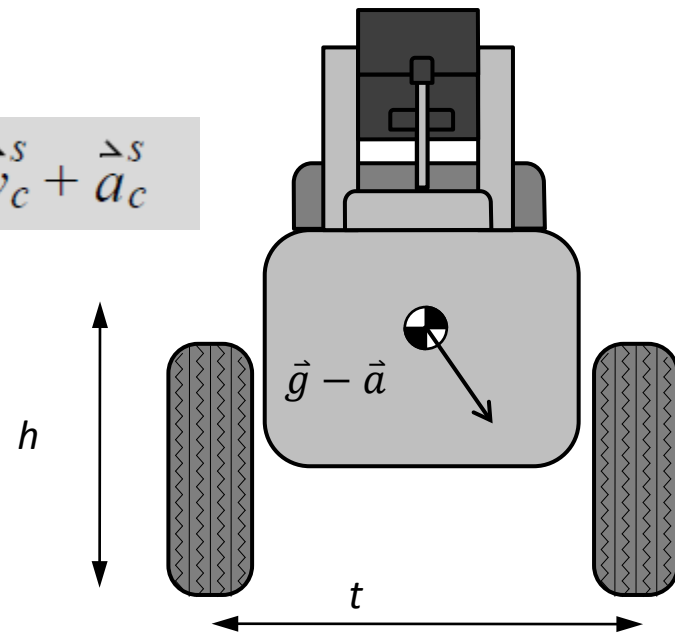
# 4.1.3.1 Proximity to Wheel Liftoff

## Transformation

- Use earlier result:
  - f frame in inertial (i) frame.
  - m frame is sensor (s) frame.
  - o frame is cg ( c ) frame
- Simply substitute the letters to get:

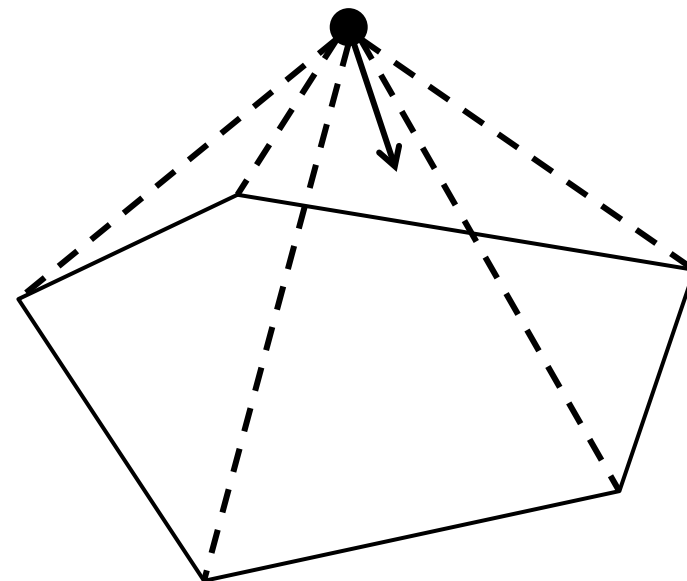
$$\vec{a}_c^i = \vec{a}_s^i + \vec{\alpha}_s^i \times \vec{r}_c^s + \vec{\omega}_s^i \times [\vec{\omega}_s^i \times \vec{r}_c^s] + 2\vec{\omega}_s^i \times \vec{v}_c^s + \vec{a}_c^s$$

- Subtract the gravity vector from both sides to get the real (s) and transformed (c) accelerometer readings



## 4.1.3.3 Computational Requirements

- Geometry
  - Location of the center of gravity (cg).
  - Convex polygon formed by the wheel contact points.
- Forces
  - Gravity vector.
  - Inertial forces being experienced due to accelerated motion.



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## 4.1.4 Recursive Transformation of States of Motion

- Suppose we have a sequence of frames numbered:
  - 1,2...k,k+1...n
- Their motions can be related by the results just derived...

$${}^{\Delta k}r_o = {}^{\Delta k}r_{k+1} + {}^{\Delta k+1}r_o \quad \text{Eqn 4.18}$$

$${}^{\Delta k}v_o = {}^{\Delta k}v_{k+1} + \omega_{k+1}^{\Delta k} \times {}^{\Delta k+1}r_o + {}^{\Delta k+1}v_o$$

$${}^{\Delta k}a_o = {}^{\Delta k}a_{k+1} + \alpha_{k+1}^{\Delta k} \times {}^{\Delta k+1}r_o + \omega_{k+1}^{\Delta k} \times [\omega_{k+1}^{\Delta k} \times {}^{\Delta k+1}r_o] + 2\omega_{k+1}^{\Delta k} \times {}^{\Delta k+1}v_o + {}^{\Delta k+1}a_o$$

## 4.1.4.1 Conversion to Coordinatized Form

- Recall:  $\vec{\omega} \times \vec{u} \Rightarrow \underline{\omega} \times \underline{u} = [\underline{\omega}]^{\times} \underline{u} = -[\underline{u}]^{\times} \underline{\omega}$

- Where:

$$[\underline{u}]^{\times} \cong \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -u_z & u_y \\ u_z & 0 & -u_x \\ -u_y & u_x & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Also, we can write the transport theorem in matrix form:

$$\left(\frac{d\underline{u}}{dt}\right)_f = \left(\frac{d\underline{u}}{dt}\right)_m + [\underline{\omega}]^{\times} \underline{u}$$

# 4.1.4.1 Conversion to Coordinatized Form

- Now, use this to rewrite Equation 4.18.

$$\underline{r}_{-o}^k = \underline{r}_{-k+1}^k + \underline{r}_{-o}^{k+1}$$

$$\underline{v}_o^k = \begin{bmatrix} I & | & -[\underline{r}_{-o}^{k+1}]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{v}_{k+1}^k \\ \underline{\omega}_{k+1}^k \end{bmatrix} + \underline{v}_o^{k+1}$$

$$\underline{a}_o^k = \begin{bmatrix} I & | & -[\underline{r}_{-o}^{k+1}]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{a}_{k+1}^k \\ \underline{\alpha}_{k+1}^k \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} [\underline{\omega}_{k+1}^k]^\times \times & | & 2[\underline{\omega}_{k+1}^k]^\times & | & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{r}_{-o}^{k+1} \\ \underline{v}_o^{k+1} \\ \underline{\omega}_{k+1}^k \\ \underline{a}_o^{k+1} \end{bmatrix}$$

## 4.1.4.1 Conversion to Coordinatized Form

- Define the notation:

$$\underline{\rho} \cong \left[ \underline{r} ; \underline{v} ; \underline{a} \right] \quad \underline{x} \cong \left[ \underline{r} ; \underline{v} ; \underline{\omega} ; \underline{a} ; \underline{\alpha} \right]$$

- Then, previous **position, velocity and acceleration** results can be written as:

$$\underline{\rho}_o^k = H(\underline{\rho}_o^{k+1}) \underline{x}_{-k+1}^k + \Omega(\underline{x}_{-k+1}^k) \underline{\rho}_o^{k+1}$$

- Typically
  - $\underline{x}_{-k+1}^k$  represent articulations
  - $\underline{\rho}_o^k$  represent state of motion of each frame

# 4.1.4.2 General Recursive Forms

## Velocity Transform

- Consider just the velocity transform:

$$\underline{v}_o^k = \begin{bmatrix} I & | & -[r_o^{k+1}]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{v}_{k+1}^k \\ \underline{\omega}_{k+1}^k \end{bmatrix} + \underline{v}_o^{k+1} \quad (4.23)$$

- We will write this compactly as:

$$\underline{v}_o^k = H(r_o^{k+1}) \dot{\underline{x}}_{k+1}^k + \underline{v}_o^{k+1} \quad (4.24)$$

- Where H is defined as it occurs in Equation 4.23.

# 4.1.4.2 General Recursive Forms

## Acceleration Transform

- Consider just the acceleration transform:

$$\underline{a}_o^k = \begin{bmatrix} I & | & -[\underline{r}_o^{k+1}]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{a}_{k+1}^k \\ \underline{\alpha}_{k+1}^k \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} [\underline{\omega}_{k+1}^k]^\times & | & 2[\underline{\omega}_{k+1}^k]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{r}_o^{k+1} \\ \underline{v}_o^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \underline{a}_o^{k+1} \quad (4.25)$$

- We will write this compactly as:

$$\underline{a}_o^k = H(\underline{r}_o^{k+1}) \ddot{\underline{x}}_{k+1}^k + \Omega(\underline{\omega}_{k+1}^k) \underline{\rho}_o^{k+1} + \underline{a}_o^{k+1} \quad (4.26)$$

- Where  $H$ ,  $\Omega$  etc. are defined as they occur in Equation 4.25.

## 4.1.4.3 The Articulated Wheel

- Let  $n=k+1$  have a maximum value of 2.
  - Two intermediate frames relate zeroth frame (0) to object frame (o).

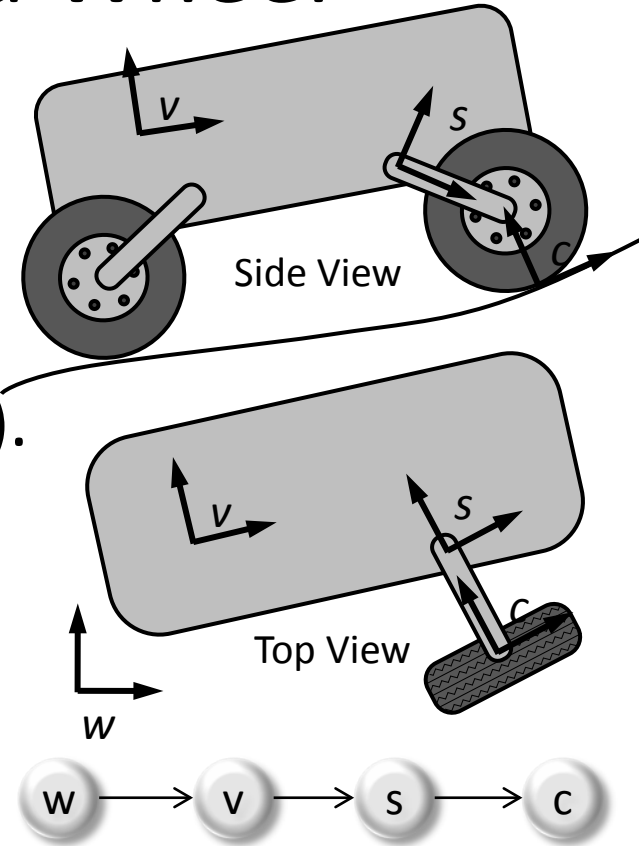
- Write Equation 4.24 twice:

$$\underline{v}_o^0 = H(r_o^1) \dot{x}_1^0 + \underline{v}_o^1$$

$$\underline{v}_o^1 = H(r_o^2) \dot{x}_2^1 + \underline{v}_o^2$$

- Substitute second into first:

$$\underline{v}_o^0 = H(r_o^1) \dot{x}_1^0 + H(r_o^2) \dot{x}_2^1 + \underline{v}_o^2 \quad (4.27)$$



## 4.1.4.3 The Articulated Wheel

- For acceleration, write Equation 4.26 twice:

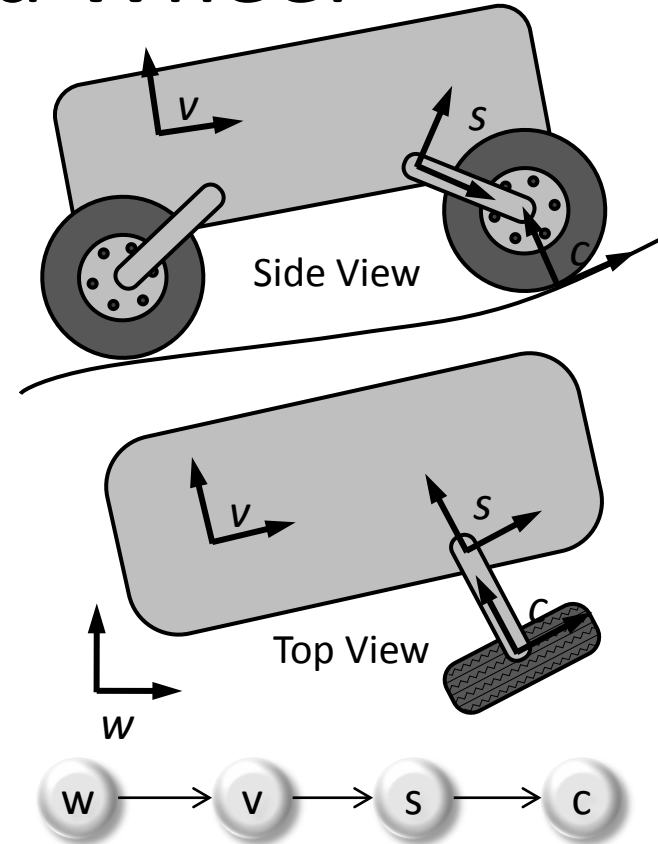
$$\underline{a}_o^0 = H(\underline{r}_o^1)\ddot{\underline{x}}_1^0 + \Omega(\underline{\omega}_1^0)\underline{\rho}_o^1 + \underline{a}_o^1$$

$$\underline{a}_o^1 = H(\underline{r}_o^2)\ddot{\underline{x}}_2^1 + \Omega(\underline{\omega}_2^1)\underline{\rho}_o^2 + \underline{a}_o^2$$

- Substitute second into first:

$$\underline{a}_o^0 = H(\underline{r}_o^1)\ddot{\underline{x}}_1^0 + \Omega(\underline{\omega}_1^0)\underline{\rho}_o^1 + H(\underline{r}_o^2)\ddot{\underline{x}}_2^1 + \Omega(\underline{\omega}_2^1)\underline{\rho}_o^2 + \underline{a}_o^2$$

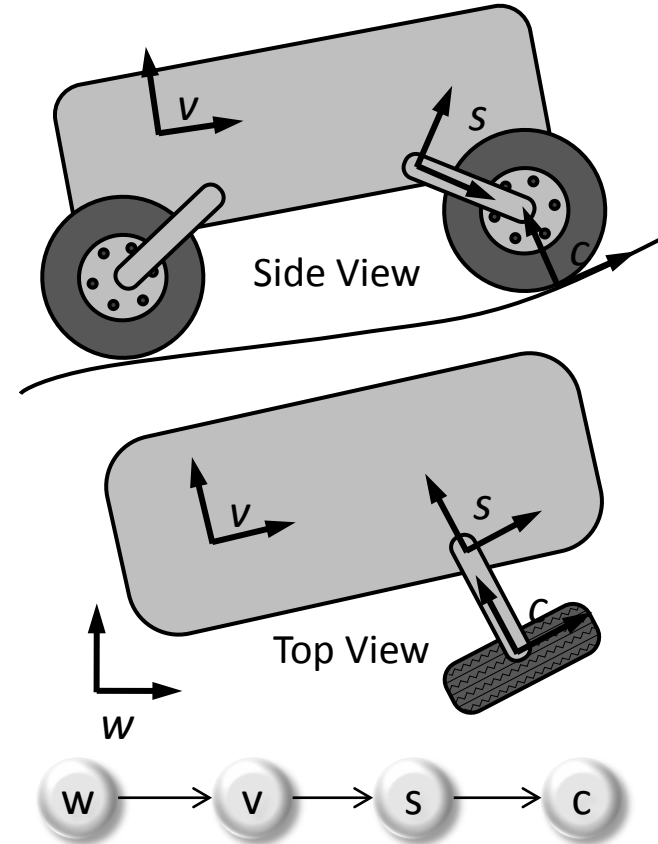
(4.29)





## 4.1.4.4 Velocity Transforms for Articulated Wheel

- Let these frames be defined:
  - 0: world frame (w)
  - 1: body frame (v)
  - 2: suspension/steering (s)
  - o: wheel contact pt (c)
- Then equation 4.27 becomes:



**Articulated Wheel  
Velocity Kinematics**

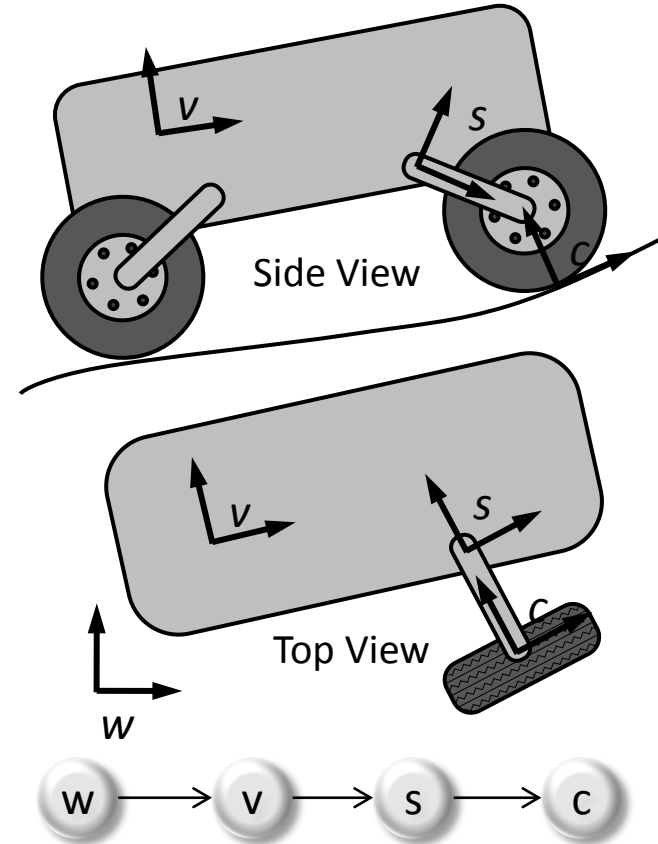
$$\underline{v}_c^w = H(r_c^v) \dot{x}_v^w + H(r_c^s) \dot{x}_s^v + \underline{v}_c^s$$

$$\underline{v}_c^w = \begin{bmatrix} I & -[r_c^v]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{v}_v^w \\ \underline{\Omega}_v^w \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I & -[r_c^s]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{v}_s^v \\ \underline{\Omega}_s^v \end{bmatrix} + \underline{v}_c^s \quad (4.30)$$

## 4.1.4.4 Velocity Transforms for Articulated Wheel

- Under the same substitutions Equation 4.29 becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{a}_c^w &= H(\underline{r}_c^v) \ddot{\underline{x}}_v^w + \Omega(\underline{\omega}_v^w) \underline{\rho}_c^v + H(\underline{r}_c^s) \ddot{\underline{x}}_s^v + \Omega(\underline{\omega}_s^v) \underline{\rho}_c^s + \underline{a}_c^s \\ \underline{a}_c^w &= \begin{bmatrix} I & -[\underline{r}_c^v]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{a}_v^w \\ \underline{\alpha}_v^w \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} [\underline{\omega}_v^w]^\times \times & 2[\underline{\omega}_v^w]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{r}_c^v \\ \underline{v}_c^v \end{bmatrix} \\ &+ \begin{bmatrix} I & -[\underline{r}_c^s]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{a}_s^v \\ \underline{\alpha}_s^v \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} [\underline{\omega}_s^v]^\times \times & 2[\underline{\omega}_s^v]^\times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{r}_c^s \\ \underline{v}_c^s \end{bmatrix} + \underline{a}_c^s \end{aligned} \quad (4.31)$$



**Articulated Wheel  
Acceleration Kinematics**

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# Summary

- Measurements require a context to be precisely meaningful.
- A coordinate system and a reference frame are different.
- Two frames may or may not be equivalent for measuring velocity and higher derivatives.
- The Coriolis Equation provides a general coordinate-free mechanism to differentiate any vector attached to a moving frame of reference.
  - General transformations of position, velocity, and acceleration can be derived from it.
- Basic stability margin estimation is based on lift-off and an acceleration transformation.
- A two step recursion is sufficient to model the velocity and acceleration kinematics relating the wheel contact point motion to the motion and articulation of a WMR.

# Outline

- 4.1 Moving Coordinate Systems
- 4.2 Kinematics of Wheeled Mobile Robots
  - 4.2.1 Aspects of Rigid Body Motion
  - 4.2.2 WMR Velocity Kinematics for Fixed Contact Point
  - 4.2.3 Common Steering Configurations
  - Summary

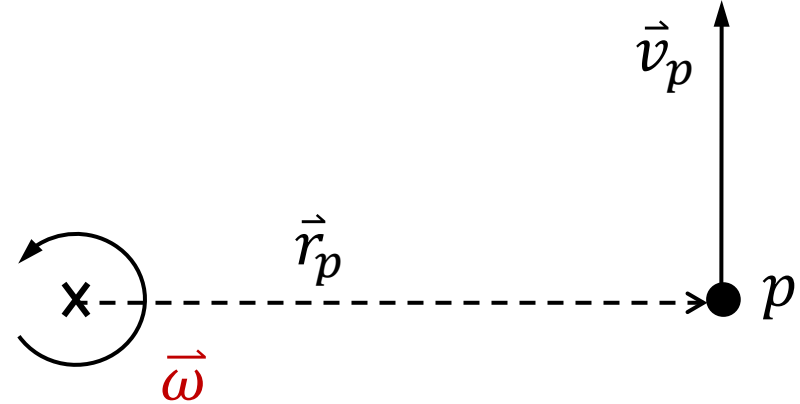
# 4.2.1.1 Pure Rotation of a Point

- Suppose particle  $p$  moves in **pure rotation**.

$$\vec{r}_p = r[\cos(\psi)\hat{i} + \sin(\psi)\hat{j}]$$

- Differentiate:

$$\vec{v}_p = r\omega[-\sin(\psi)\hat{i} + \cos(\psi)\hat{j}]$$



- ... **orthogonal to**  $\vec{r}_p$

- In other “words”

$$\vec{v}_p = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_p$$

- Magnitudes are:

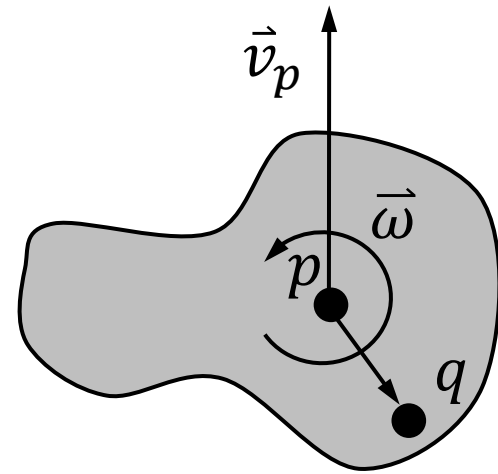
$$v_p = r_p \omega$$

Eqn A

# Pure Rotation of a Particle on a Body

- Now consider a particle  $p$  on a body executing **general planar motion**.
  - Not pure rotation...
- The body has some some  $V$  and  $\omega$  at the position of  $p$ .
- For some world frame  $W$ , define the ratio.

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{v}_p^W / \omega$$



# Pure Rotation of a Particle on a Body

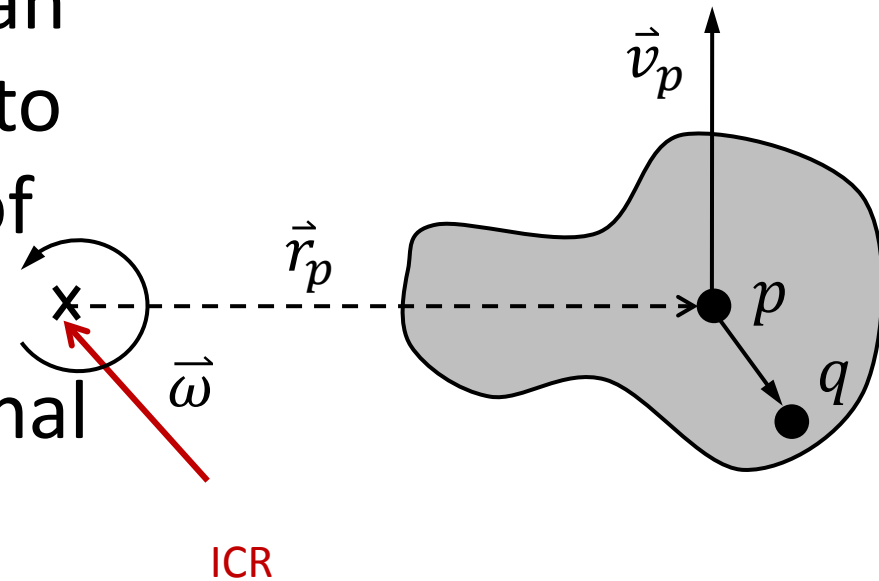
- Rewrite this as:

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{v}_p^w / \omega$$

From  
Last  
Slide

$$\mathbf{v}_p^w = \mathbf{r}\omega$$

- This is **Eqn A**! Hence we can interpret 'r' as the radius to an instantaneous center of rotation (ICR) for point p located r units in orthogonal direction to v.



- In vector terms:

$$\mathbf{v}_p^{icr} = \vec{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p^{icr}$$



# Pure Rotation of a Particle on a Body

- Consider a **neighboring point q**:

$$\vec{r}_q^{icr} = \vec{r}_p^{icr} + \vec{r}_q^p$$

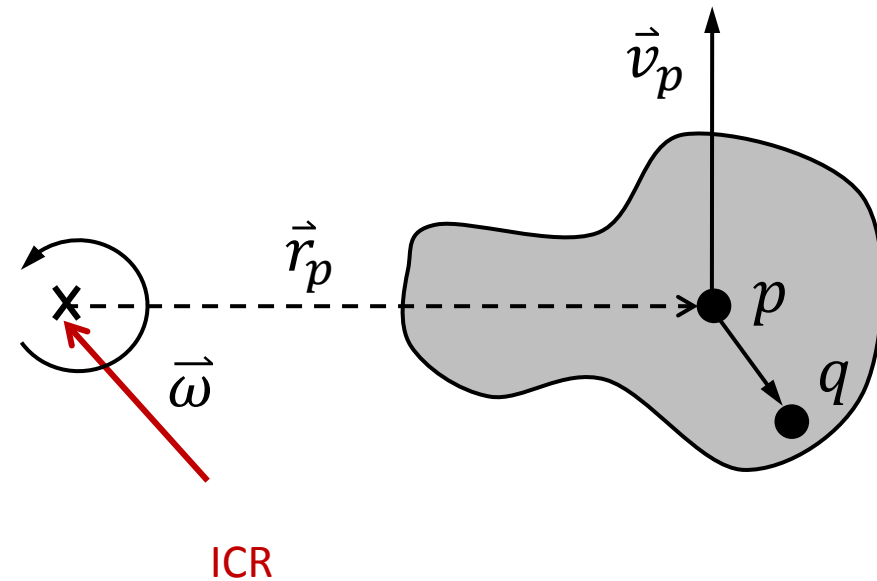
- Differentiate in the world frame:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_w (\vec{r}_q^{icr}) = \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_w (\vec{r}_p^{icr}) + \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_w (\vec{r}_q^p)$$

- But the last term is:



$$\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_w (\vec{r}_q^p) = \cancel{\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_b} (\vec{r}_q^p) + \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_q^p = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_q^p$$



# Pure Rotation of a Particle on a Body

- Substituting:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\bigg|_w (\dot{\vec{r}}_q^p) = \cancel{\frac{d}{dt}\bigg|_b} (\dot{\vec{r}}_q^p) + \vec{\omega} \times \dot{\vec{r}}_q^p = \vec{\omega} \times \dot{\vec{r}}_q^p$$

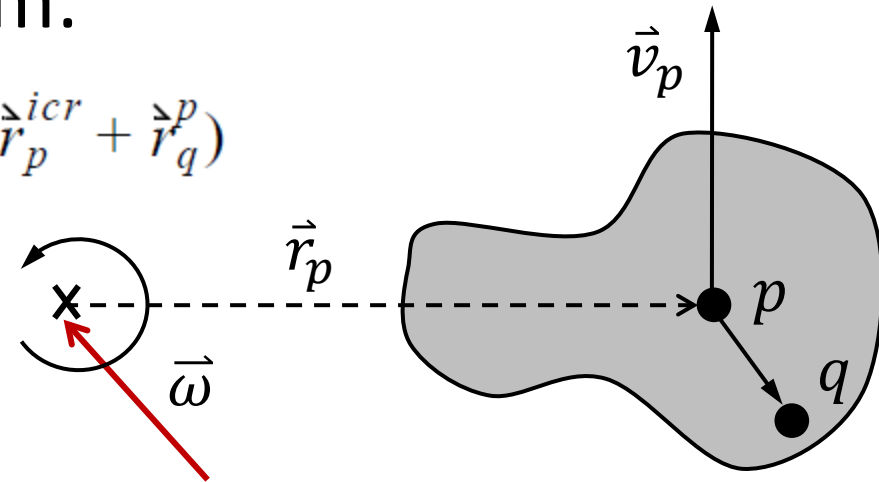
From  
Last  
Slide

$$\overset{\Delta icr}{\vec{v}}_q = \overset{\Delta icr}{\vec{v}}_p + \vec{\omega} \times \dot{\vec{r}}_q^p$$

- Substitute for the first term:

$$\overset{\Delta icr}{\vec{v}}_q = \vec{\omega} \times \dot{\vec{r}}_p + \vec{\omega} \times \dot{\vec{r}}_q^p = \vec{\omega} \times (\dot{\vec{r}}_p + \dot{\vec{r}}_q^p)$$

- That is:



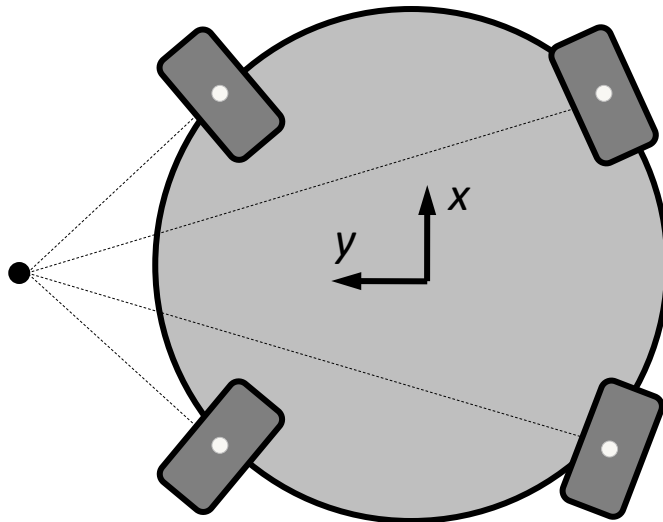
$$\overset{\Delta icr}{\vec{v}}_q = \vec{\omega} \times \dot{\vec{r}}_q^{icr}$$

**Every point** on the body is executing a pure rotation about the ICR.

ICR

## 4.2.1.2 Jeantaud Diagrams

- Fixing just the **directions of the velocities of two points** on a body determines the ICR.
- Hence, **all steered wheels of a vehicle must be consistent to avoid wheel slip and energy loss.**
- Wheels do not slip if they move along the normal to the line to the ICR.
- If all wheels are consistent, any two directions and one velocity can be used to predict the motion.



This is called a  
Jeantaud Diagram.

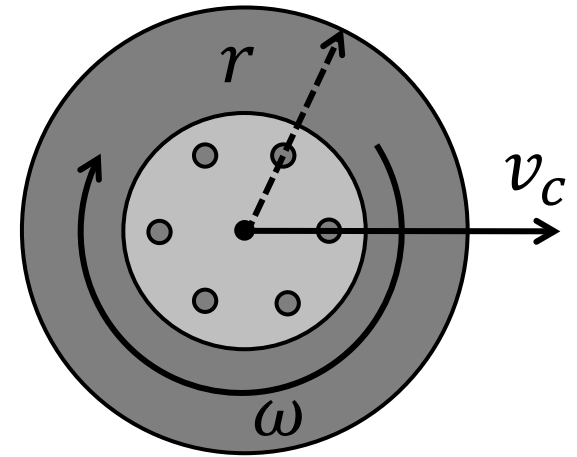
This vehicle can  
“crab steer”.

## 4.2.1.3 Rolling Contact

- Wheels normally have up to two degrees of freedom.
  - steer
  - drive
- Angular and linear velocity are related as follows ...

$$v_c = r\omega$$

- under a no slip assumption:



$$v_c = r\omega$$

## 4.2.1.4 Rolling without Slipping

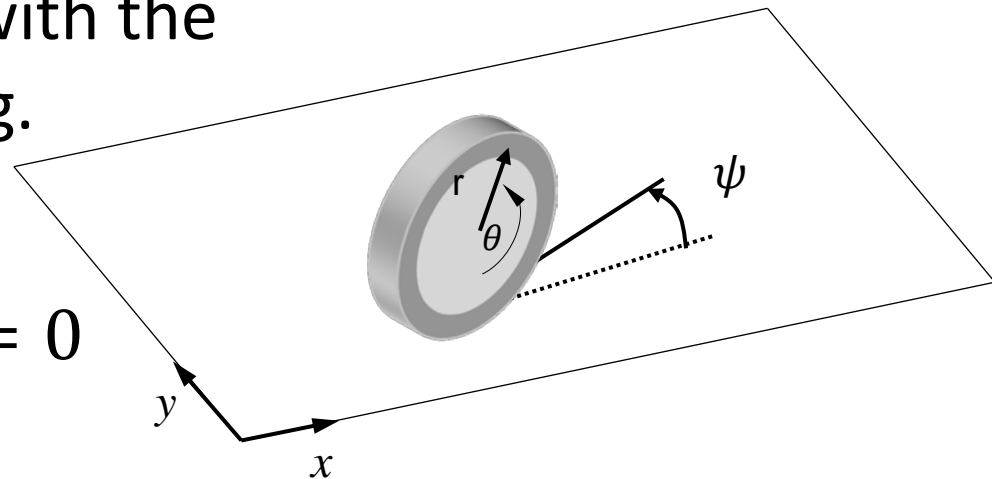
- This constraint means  $\dot{x}$  and  $\dot{y}$  are not independent.
  - They must be aligned with the direction of pure rolling.

- The dot product ...

$$- [\dot{x} \quad \dot{y}] \cdot [s \psi \quad -c \psi] = 0$$

- Written out ...

$$- \dot{x} s \psi - \dot{y} c \psi = 0$$



Disallowed  
Direction

# Pfaffian Constraints

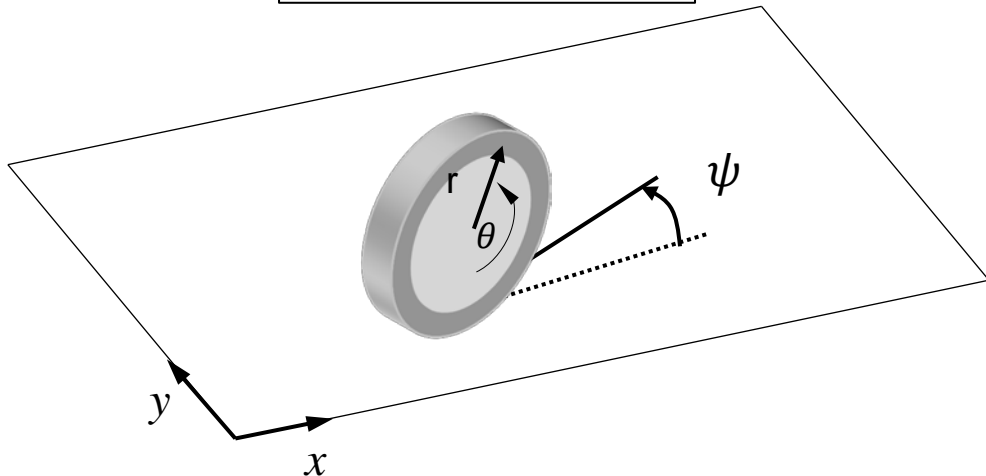
- Define the wheel configuration vector:

$$\underline{x} = [x \ y \ \psi \ \theta]^T$$

$$\dot{x}s\psi - \dot{y}c\psi = 0$$

- And the weight vector:

$$\underline{w}(x) = [\sin\psi \ -\cos\psi \ 0 \ 0]$$



- The constraint in Pfaffian form is:

$$\underline{w}(x)\underline{\dot{x}} = 0$$

# Nonholonomic Constraints

- Typically (not always) wheels cannot move sideways (without slipping).
- Creates severe mathematical difficulties.
- Most wheels, and therefore most WMR's, are subject to these nonholonomic constraints.

# Definition

- Such constraints are “nonholonomic” because they cannot be put in the form:

$$c(\underline{x}) = 0$$

- The integral would be:

$$\int_0^t \underline{w}(\underline{x}) \underline{\dot{x}} dt = \int_0^t (\dot{x} \sin \psi(t) - \dot{y} \cos \psi(t)) dt$$

- Even when  $\psi(t) = t^2$ , these integrals are the well-known Fresnel integrals which have **no closed form solution**.
  - And hence **cannot be reduced to the form**  $c(\underline{x}) = 0$ .



# Outline

- 4.1 Moving Coordinate Systems
- 4.2 Kinematics of Wheeled Mobile Robots
  - 4.2.1 Aspects of Rigid Body Motion
  - 4.2.2 WMR Velocity Kinematics for Fixed Contact Point
  - 4.2.3 Common Steering Configurations
  - Summary

## 4.2.2 Character of WMR Models

- Unlike manipulators, the simplest models of how mobile robots move are differential equations that are:

- Nonlinear

$$\dot{\underline{x}} = \underline{f}(\underline{x}, \underline{u})$$

- Underactuated

$$w(\underline{x}) \dot{\underline{x}} = 0$$

- Constrained

- Much of the difficulty of mobile robots can be traced to this fact.

# Motion Prediction

- The process of integrating the differential equations for known inputs can be called **motion prediction**. It is important for:
  - estimating state in odometry, Kalman filter system models, and more generally in pose estimation of any kind.
  - predicting state in predictive control
  - simulating motion in simulators.

# Rate Kinematics

- For (WMRs), we care about the rate kinematics.
- Of basic interest are two questions..

– For state estimation

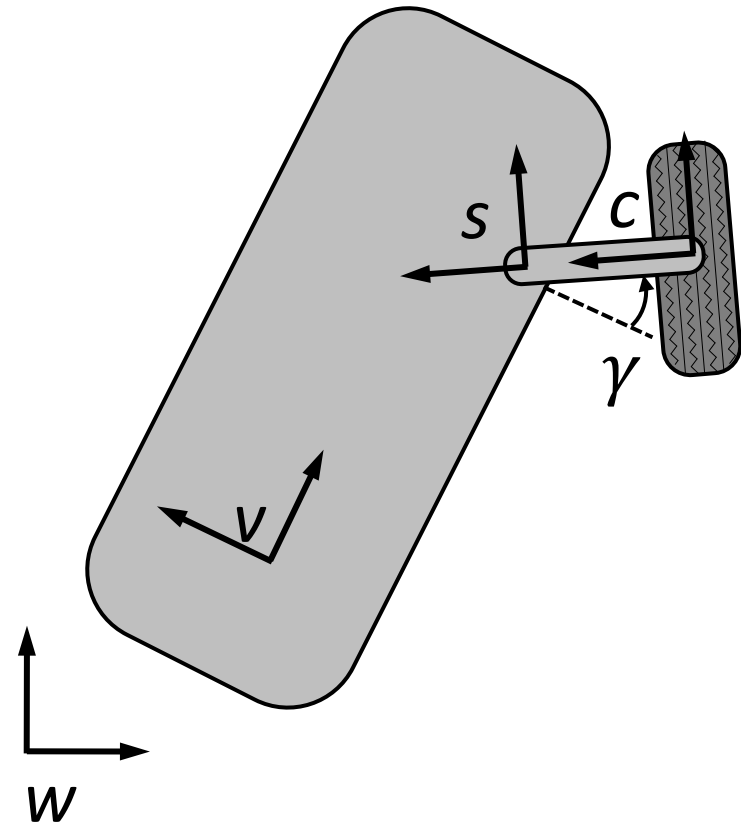


– For control



# Frame Conventions

- $w$ : world
- $v$ : vehicle
- $s$ : steer
- $c$ : contact point.
- Regard vehicles as rigid bodies (no suspension).
  - Except for steering and wheel rotation.
- Contact point moves on wheel and on floor but it is fixed in wheel frame.



# Offset Wheel Equation

- Key assumption: wheel contact point is fixed to wheel. So...  $\underline{v}_s^v = \underline{v}_c^s = 0$

$$\underline{v}_c^w = \begin{bmatrix} I & -[r_{-c}^v]^{\times} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{v}_v^w \\ \underline{\omega}_v^w \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I & -[r_{-c}^s]^{\times} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{v}_s^v \\ \underline{\omega}_s^v \end{bmatrix} + \underline{v}_c^s \quad (4.30)$$

- Eqn 4.30 becomes

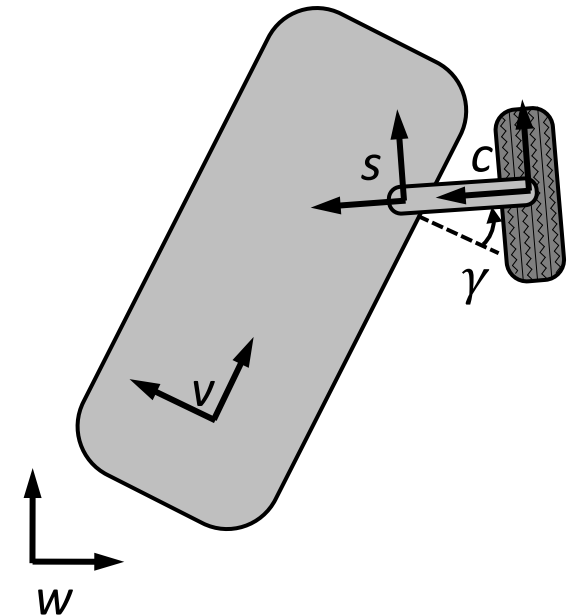
$$\underline{v}_c^w = \underline{v}_v^w - [r_{-c}^v]^{\times} \underline{\omega}_v^w - [r_{-c}^s]^{\times} \underline{\omega}_s^v \quad (4.39)$$

**Offset Wheel Equation**

- When s and c frames are coincident

$$\underline{v}_c^w = \underline{v}_v^w - [r_{-c}^v]^{\times} \underline{\omega}_v^w \quad (4.40)$$

**Wheel Equation**



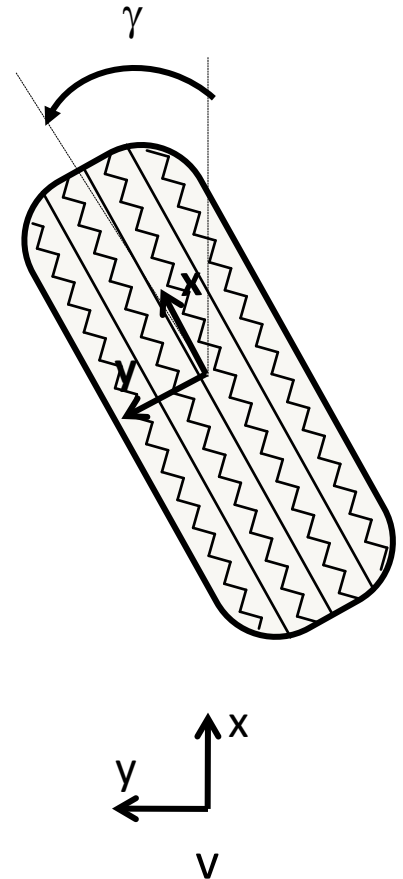
## 4.2.2.1.1 Wheel Steering Control

- For steering, note that **direction** (not magnitude) of s frame and c frame velocities must be parallel.
- So, propagate velocity from v frame to s frame:

$$\underline{v}_s^w = \underline{v}_v^w - [r_{-s}^v]^x \underline{\omega}_v^w$$

- Express in vehicle coordinates and extract steer angle:

$$\gamma = \text{atan2}\left[\left(\underline{v}_s^w\right)_y, \left(\underline{v}_s^w\right)_x\right]$$



## 4.2.2.1.2 Wheel Speed Control

- Assuming
  - a) the wheels are steered appropriately
  - b) no slip
- Then, the magnitude of wheel speed is also the component in the forward direction.
- Compute it in vehicle coordinates where posn vectors are easy to get:

$$\begin{matrix} v \\ \underline{v}_c \end{matrix}^w = \begin{matrix} v \\ \underline{v}_v \end{matrix}^w - [r_{-c}^v]^x \begin{matrix} \omega \\ \underline{\omega}_v \end{matrix}^w - [R_s^v r_{-c}^s]^x \begin{matrix} \omega \\ \underline{\omega}_s \end{matrix}^v$$

- That gives the wheel speed as

$$v_c^w = \sqrt{\left(\begin{matrix} v \\ \underline{v}_c \end{matrix}^w\right)_x^2 + \left(\begin{matrix} v \\ \underline{v}_c \end{matrix}^w\right)_y^2} \quad \omega_{wheel} = v_c^w / r_{wheel}$$



## 4.2.2.2.1 Wheel Sensing

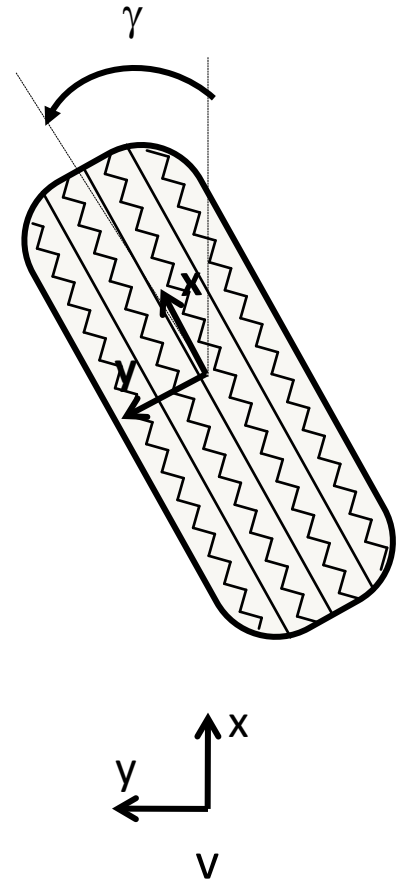
- Wheel linear speed:

$$v_k = r_k \omega_k$$

- Wheel speed components:

$$(v_k)_x = v_k \cos(\gamma_k)$$

$$(v_k)_y = v_k \sin(\gamma_k)$$



## 4.2.2.2.2 Multiple Offset Wheels

- Write the offset wheel equation in vehicle coordinates:

$$\begin{matrix} v & w \\ \underline{v}_c & \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} v & w \\ \underline{v}_v & \end{matrix} - [r_{-c}^v]^x \begin{matrix} v & w \\ \underline{\omega}_v & \end{matrix} - [R_s^v r_{-c}^s]^x \begin{matrix} v \\ \underline{\omega}_s \end{matrix}$$

- This is of the form:

$$\begin{matrix} v & w \\ \underline{v}_c & \end{matrix} = H_c^v(\gamma) \begin{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} v & w \\ \underline{v}_v & \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} v & w \\ \underline{\omega}_v & \end{matrix} \end{bmatrix} + Q_c^s(\gamma) \begin{matrix} v \\ \underline{\omega}_s \end{matrix}$$

- If we write one of these for each wheel, stack em up, the result looks like:

$$\begin{matrix} v & w \\ \underline{v}_c & \end{matrix} = H_c^v(\gamma) \underline{\dot{x}}_v^w + Q_c^s(\gamma) \dot{\underline{\gamma}}$$

## 4.2.2.2.2 Multiple Offset Wheels (Inv)

- Result from last slide again is:  $\underline{v}_c^w = H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})\underline{\dot{x}}_v^w + Q_c^s(\underline{\gamma})\underline{\dot{\gamma}}$
- The LHS and steer angles are known, and this is normally overdetermined, so use the left pseudoinverse:

$$\underline{\dot{x}}_v^w = [H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})^T H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})]^{-1} H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})^T [\underline{v}_c^w - Q_c^s(\underline{\gamma})\underline{\dot{\gamma}}]$$

Robot linear and angular velocity

Steer Angles

Wheel Speeds

Steer Angle Rates

# WMR Kinematics

## Box 4.2: WMR Forward Kinematics: Offset Wheels

Offset wheel equations for all wheels can be grouped together to produce

$$\underline{v}_c^w = H_c^v(\underline{\gamma}) \underline{\dot{x}}_v^w + Q_c^s(\underline{\gamma}) \underline{\dot{\gamma}}$$

where each pair of rows of  $H_c^v$  and  $Q_c^s$  comes from an offset equation expressed in body coordinates,  $\underline{v}_c^w$  is the wheel velocities,  $\underline{\dot{x}}_v^w$  is the linear and angular velocity of the vehicle, and  $\underline{\gamma}$  is the steer angles.

The inverse mapping (for two or more wheels) can be computed with:

$$\underline{\dot{x}}_v^w = [H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})^T H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})]^{-1} H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})^T [\underline{v}_c^w - Q_c^s(\underline{\gamma}) \underline{\dot{\gamma}}]$$

For nonoffset wheels  $H_c^v$  simplifies, and  $Q_c^s$  disappears.

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# Example: Differential Steer (Inv)

- Let 'l' and 'r' denote left and right wheel frames.
- The dimensions are:

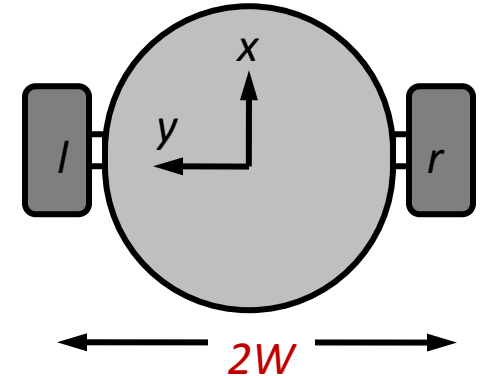
$$\underline{v}_l^v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & W \end{bmatrix}^T \quad \underline{v}_r^v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -W \end{bmatrix}^T$$

- In body frame, velocities have only an x component. Equation 4.40 reduces to:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_r \\ v_l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_x + \omega W \\ v_x - \omega W \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & W \\ 1 & -W \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$$

Can solve for 2 dof of 3 dof motion. Other dof is zero in body frame (for this choice of body frame).

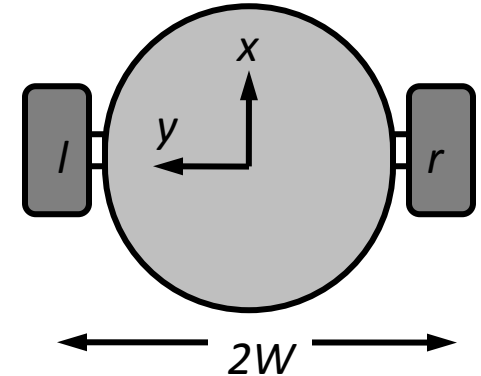
- Two equations giving sideways wheel velocities were of the form  $v_y=0$ , so these were not written.



# Example: Differential Steer (Fwd)

- Inverse kinematics again are:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_r \\ v_l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & W \\ 1 & -W \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$$



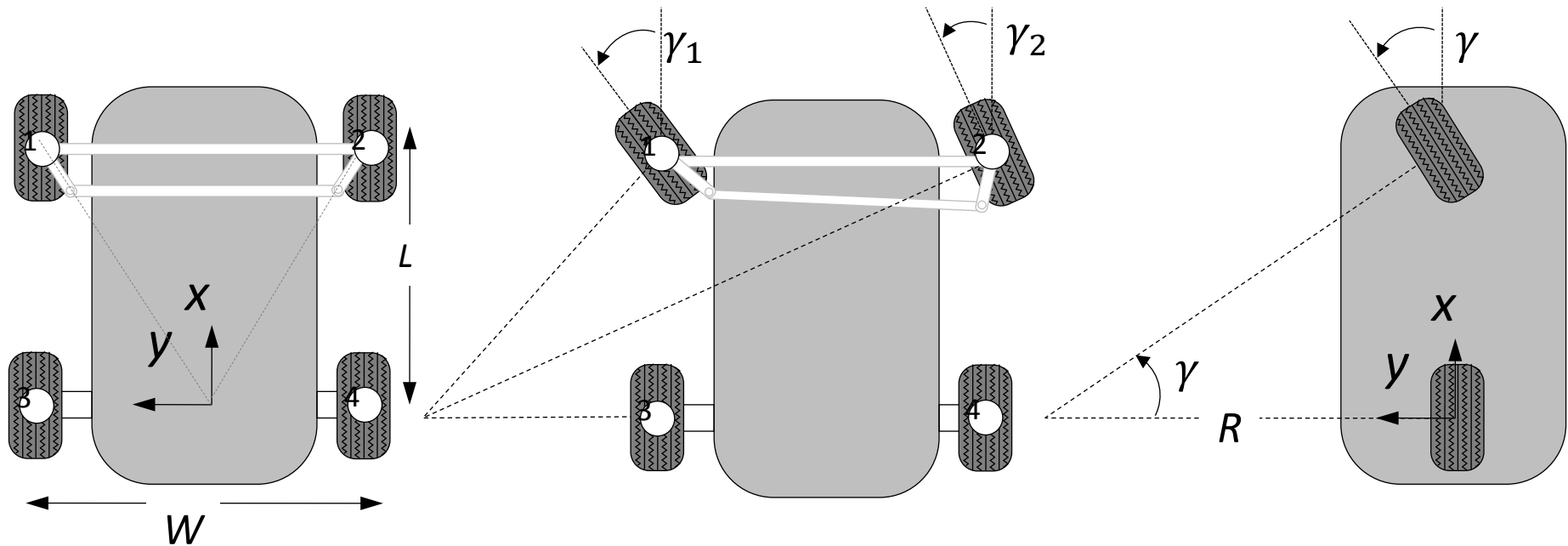
- This is easy to invert:

Again, other dof is zero in body frame due to nonholonomic constraints

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ \omega \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2W} \begin{bmatrix} W & W \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_r \\ v_l \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{W} & -\frac{1}{W} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_r \\ v_l \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example: Ackerman Steer

- Special mechanism ensures wheels are lined up properly.





# Example: Ackerman Steer (Inverse)

- Position vector to front wheel in body (vehicle) frame:

$$\underline{r}_f^v = \begin{bmatrix} L & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

- Cross product skew matrix:

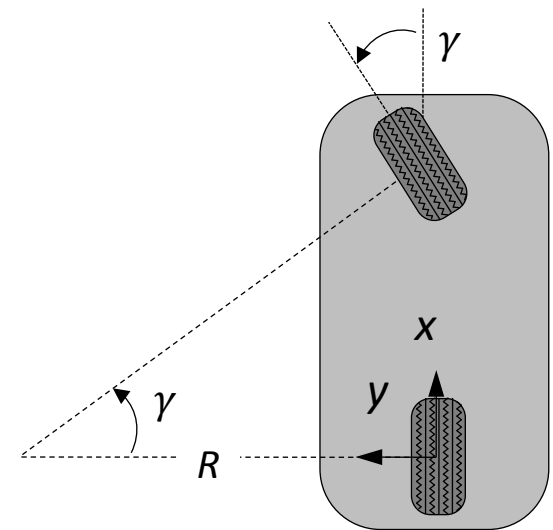
$$[\underline{r}_f^v]^\times = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -(\underline{r}_f^v)_z & (\underline{r}_f^v)_y \\ (\underline{r}_f^v)_z & 0 & -(\underline{r}_f^v)_x \\ -(\underline{r}_f^v)_y & (\underline{r}_f^v)_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -L \\ 0 & L & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Wheel equation in body frame reduces to:

$$\underline{v}_f^w = \underline{v}_v^w - [\underline{r}_c^v]^\times \underline{v}_v^w \Rightarrow \underline{v}_f = \begin{bmatrix} v_x & \omega L \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$\underline{v}_c^w = \underline{v}_v^w - [\underline{r}_c^v]^\times \underline{v}_v^w$$

Wheel Equation



Bicycle Model

BTW rear wheel velocity is trivial

# Example: Ackerman Steer (Inverse)

- Last result is of the form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}^w = H_c^v \dot{x}_v^w$$

Jacobian does not depend on the steer angle

$$v_f = \begin{bmatrix} v_x & \omega L \end{bmatrix}^T$$

From Last Page

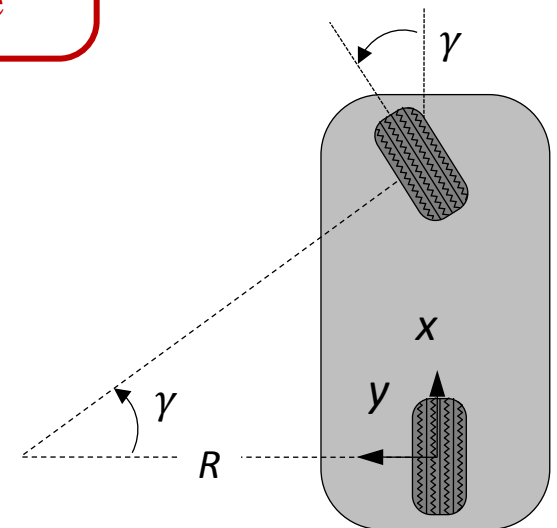
- Written out:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{fx} \\ v_{fy} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & L \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$$

- So, the angle of the front wheel can be computed:

$$\tan(\gamma) = \frac{\omega L}{v_x} = \kappa L = \frac{L}{R}$$

The "Car" Equation



Bicycle Model

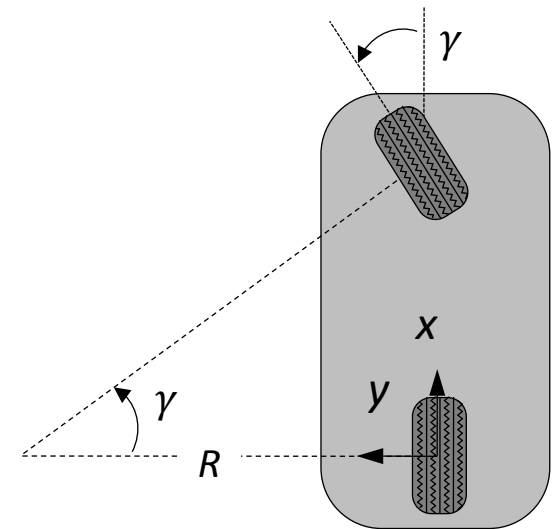
# Example: Ackerman Steer (Fwd)

- Inverse kinematics again are:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{fx} \\ v_{fy} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & L \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$$

- This is easy to invert:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ \omega \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & L \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} v_{fx} \\ v_{fy} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_{fx} \\ v_{fy}/L \end{bmatrix}$$



Bicycle Model

# Example: Generalized Bicycle

- Models any vehicle whose wheels do not slip.

$$\underline{v}_i^w = \underline{v}_v^w - [r_{-i}^v]^{\times} \underline{\omega}_v^v$$

**Wheel Equation**  
(in vehicle coordinates)

- Wheel position vectors:

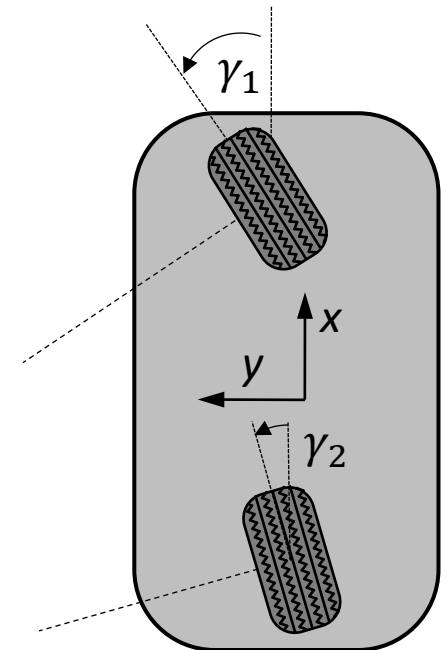
$$\underline{r}_1^v = [x_1 \ y_1]^T \quad \underline{r}_2^v = [x_2 \ y_2]^T$$

- Skew matrix for wheel i:

$$[r_{-i}^v]^{\times} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & y_i \\ 0 & 0 & -x_i \\ -y_i & x_i & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- For a single wheel (i):

$$\underline{v}_i = \left[ (V_x - \omega y_i) \ (V_y + \omega x_i) \right]^T$$



# Example: Generalized Bicycle

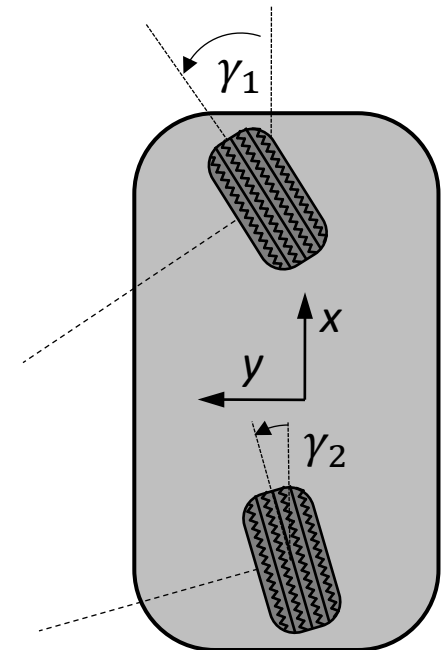
- Models any vehicle whose wheels do not slip.
- Gather equations for both wheels:

$$v_i = \left[ (V_x - \omega y_i) \quad (V_y + \omega x_i) \right]^T$$

**Wheel Equation  
(This case)  
(from last slide)**

$$\underline{v}_c^w = H_c^v \dot{\underline{x}}_v^w$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{1x} \\ v_{1y} \\ v_{2x} \\ v_{2y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_x - \omega y_1 \\ v_y + \omega x_1 \\ v_x - \omega y_2 \\ v_y + \omega x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -y_1 \\ 0 & 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & 0 & -y_2 \\ 0 & 1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$$



- Forward kinematics is again LPI:

$$\dot{\underline{x}}_v^w = \left[ (H_c^v)^T (H_c^v) \right]^{-1} (H_c^v)^T \underline{v}_c^w$$

# Example: 4 Wheel Steer (Inv)

- Position vectors in body (vehicle) frame:

$$\underline{r}_{s1}^v = [L \ W]^T \quad \underline{r}_{s2}^v = [L \ -W]^T \quad \underline{r}_{s3}^v = [-L \ W]^T \quad \underline{r}_{s4}^v = [-L \ -W]^T$$

- Offset vectors in body frame:

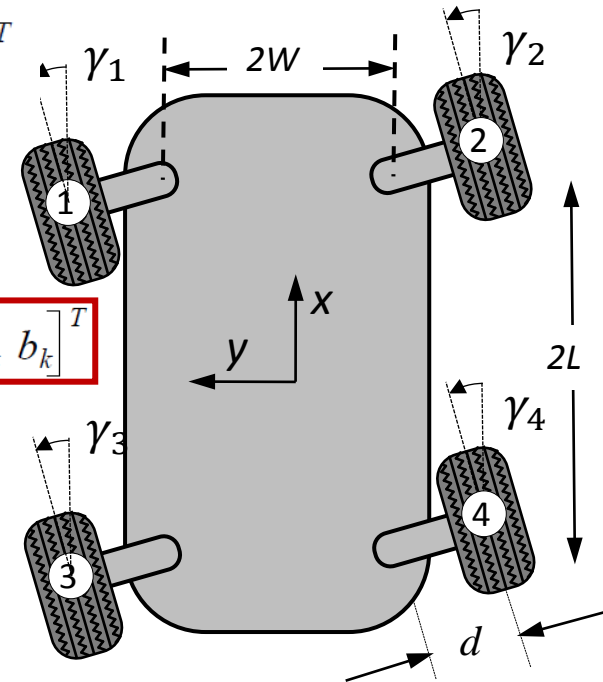
$$\begin{aligned} \underline{r}_{c1}^{s1} &= d \begin{bmatrix} -s\gamma_1 & c\gamma_1 \end{bmatrix}^T & \underline{r}_{c2}^{s2} &= d \begin{bmatrix} s\gamma_2 & -c\gamma_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \\ \underline{r}_{c3}^{s3} &= d \begin{bmatrix} -s\gamma_3 & c\gamma_3 \end{bmatrix}^T & \underline{r}_{c4}^{s4} &= d \begin{bmatrix} s\gamma_4 & -c\gamma_4 \end{bmatrix}^T \end{aligned} \quad \boxed{\underline{r}_{ck}^{sk} = [a_k \ b_k]^T} \quad (4.62)$$

**NB: There are typos in the book for these eqns.**

- Equations for each wheel are:

$$\underline{v}_c^w = \underline{v}_v^w - [\underline{r}_c^v]^\times \underline{\omega}_v^w - [\underline{r}_c^s]^\times \underline{\omega}_s^v$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{ix} \\ v_{iy} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -(y_{si}^v + b_i) \\ 0 & 1 & (x_{si}^v + a_i) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ \omega \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -b_i \\ a_i \end{bmatrix} \dot{\gamma}_i$$



4 Wheel Steer

# Example: 4 Wheel Steer (Inv)

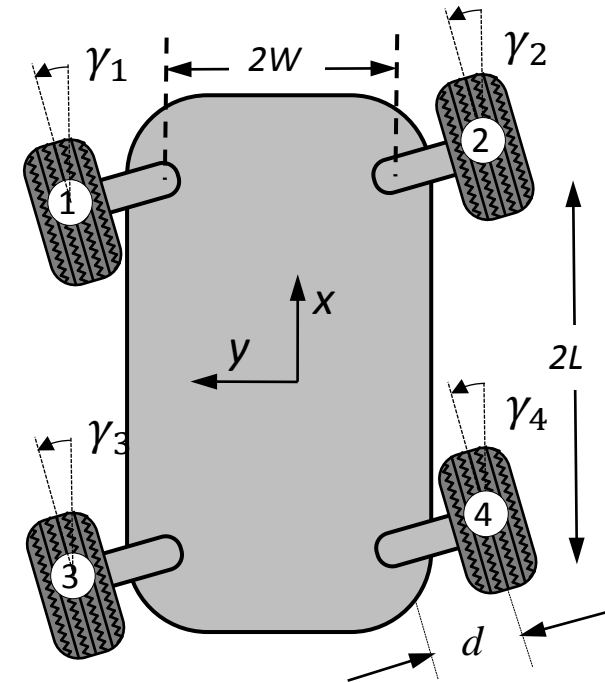
- All together, these are of the form:

$$\underline{v}_c^w = H_c^v(\underline{\gamma}) \underline{\dot{x}}_v^w + Q_c^s(\underline{\gamma}) \dot{\underline{\gamma}}$$

$$\underline{\dot{x}}_v^w = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{v}_x & \dot{v}_y & \dot{\omega} \end{bmatrix}^T \quad \dot{\underline{\gamma}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\gamma}_1 & \dot{\gamma}_2 & \dot{\gamma}_3 & \dot{\gamma}_4 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_{1x} & v_{1y} & v_{2x} & v_{2y} & v_{3x} & v_{3y} & v_{4x} & v_{4y} \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$H_c^v(\underline{\gamma}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -(y_1 + b_1) \\ 0 & 1 & x_1 + a_1 \\ 1 & 0 & -(y_2 + b_2) \\ 0 & 1 & x_2 + a_2 \\ 1 & 0 & -(y_3 + b_3) \\ 0 & 1 & x_3 + a_3 \\ 1 & 0 & -(y_4 + b_4) \\ 0 & 1 & x_4 + a_4 \end{bmatrix} \quad Q_c^s(\underline{\gamma}) = \begin{bmatrix} -b_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ a_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -b_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -b_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -b_4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & a_4 \end{bmatrix}$$



4 Wheel Steer

- Forward kinematics is simple:

$$\underline{\dot{x}}_v^w = [H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})^T H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})]^{-1} H_c^v(\underline{\gamma})^T [\underline{v}_c^w - Q_c^s(\underline{\gamma}) \dot{\underline{\gamma}}]$$

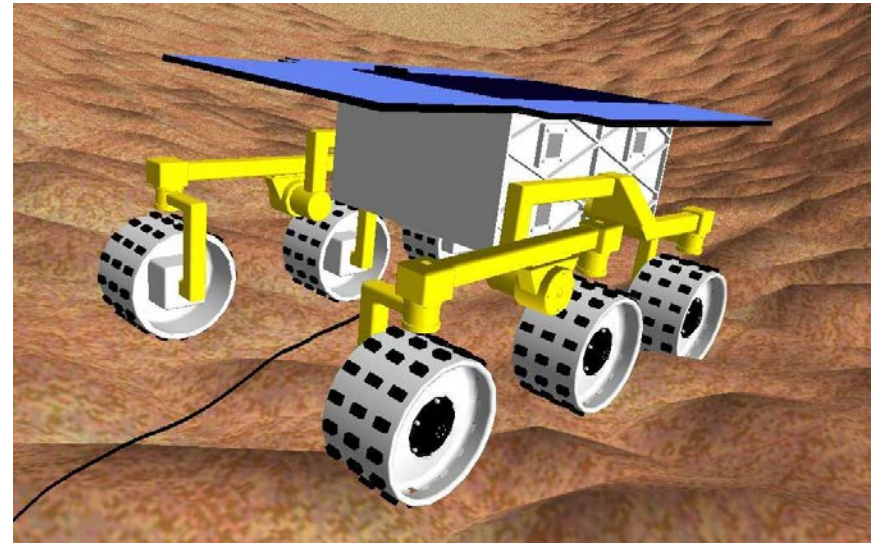
# 3D Case

- Works even if some vectors are out of the plane.

$$\underline{v}_c^w = \underline{v}_v^w - [r_{-c}^v]^{\times} \underline{\omega}_v^w$$

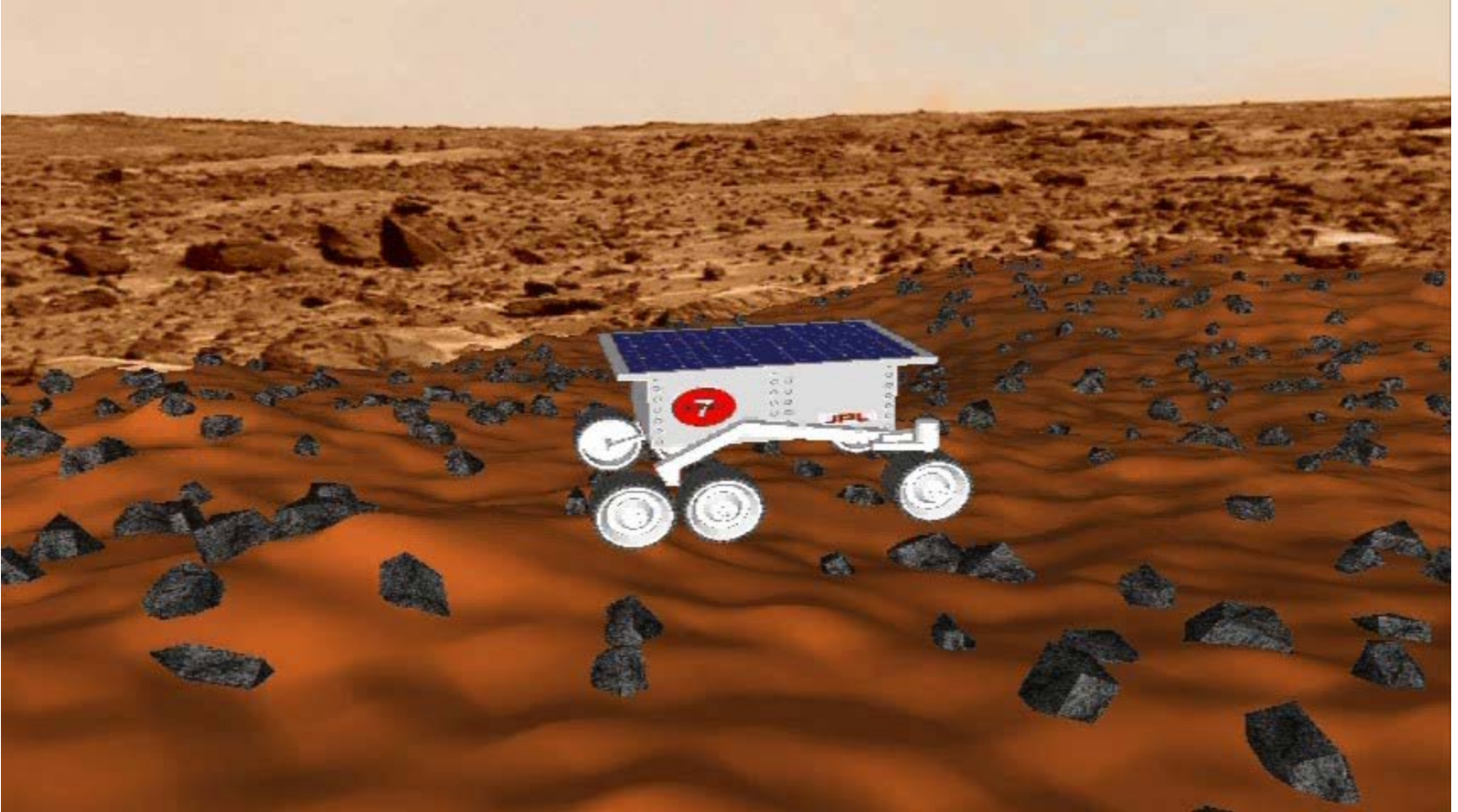
Wheel Equation

Out of plane





# Video



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# Summary

- The kinematic equations governing the motion of wheeled vehicles are those of planar rigid bodies.
  - Its all about the ICR.
- Rate kinematics for wheeled mobile robots are pretty straightforward
  - in the general case in 3D.
- The inverse problem is often overdetermined.
  - This is solved like any overdetermined system.