Hierarchical Modeling

Reading

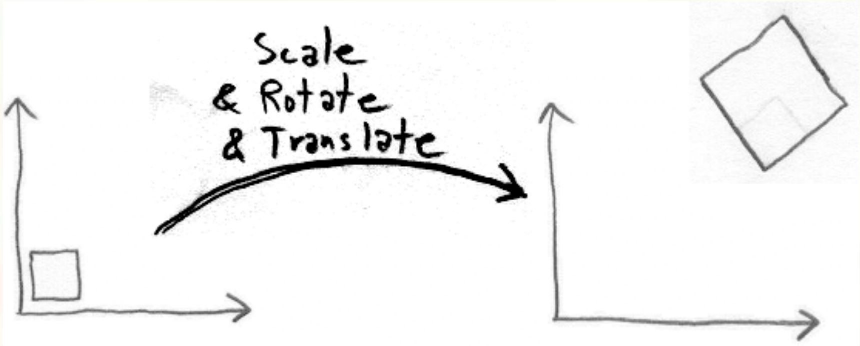
- Angel, sections 9.1 - 9.6 [reader pp. 169-185]
- *OpenGL Programming Guide*, chapter 3
  - Focus especially on section titled "Modelling Transformations".

Hierarchical Modeling

- Consider a moving automobile, with 4 wheels attached to the chassis, and lug nuts attached to each wheel:

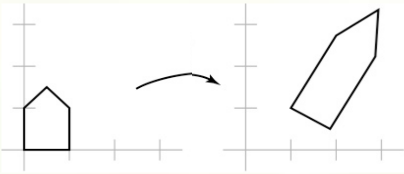
Symbols and instances

- Most graphics APIs support a few geometric **primitives**:
  - spheres
  - cubes
  - triangles
- These symbols are **instanced** using an **instance transformation**.

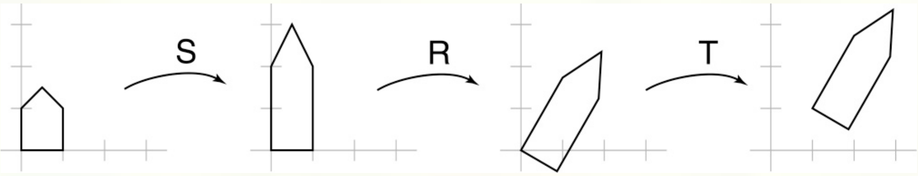


Use a series of transformations

- Ultimately, a particular geometric instance is transformed by one combined transformation matrix:



- But it's convenient to build this single matrix from a series of simpler transformations:

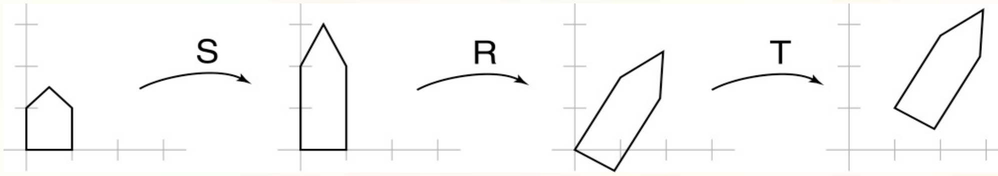


- We have to be careful about how we think about composing these transformations.

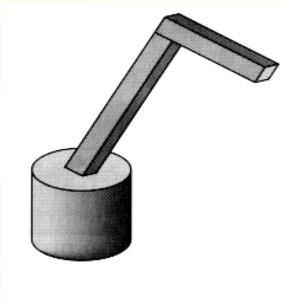
  (Mathematical reason: Transformation matrices don't commute under matrix multiplication)

Two ways to compose xforms

- Method #1:
  Express every transformation with respect to global coordinate system:

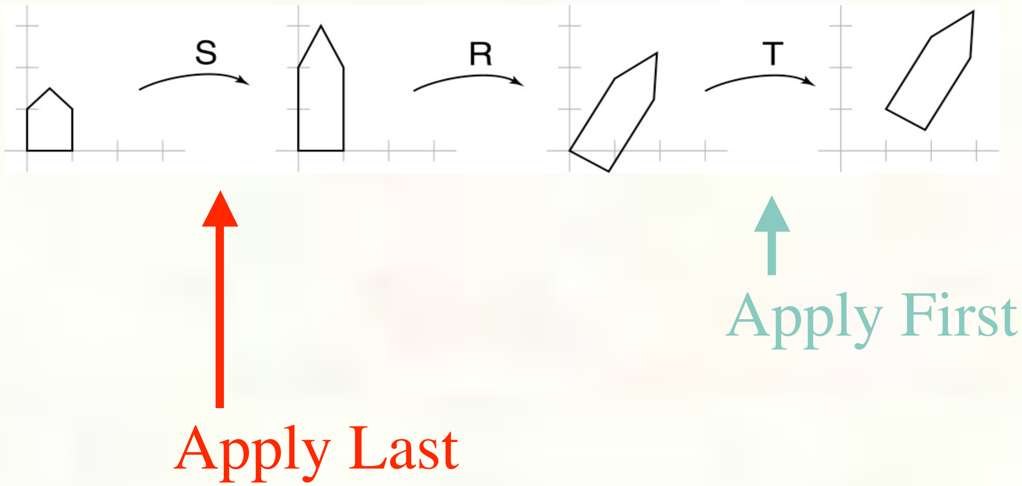


- Method #2:
  Express every transformation with respect to a “parent” coordinate system created by earlier transformations:



The goal of this second approach is to build a series of transforms. Once they exist, we can think of points as being “processed” by these xforms as in Method #1

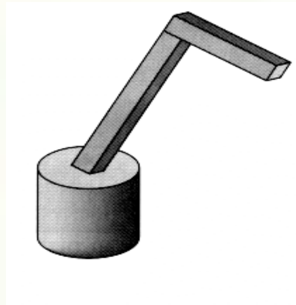
#1: Xform for global coordinates



- FinalPosition = $M_1 * M_2 * \ldots * M_n$ * InitialPosition

Note: Positions are column vectors: $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

#2: Xform for coordinate system

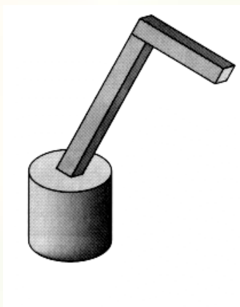


Apply First

Apply Last

$$\text{FinalPosition} = M_1 * M_2 * \ldots * M_n * \text{InitialPosition}$$

Xform direction for coord. sys



Global coord sys

Coord sys resulting from M1.

Coord sys resulting from M * M2

Local coord sys, resulting from M1 * M2 * … * Mn

- FinalPosition = $M_1 * M_2 * \ldots * M_n$ * InitialPosition

  Translate/Rotate:

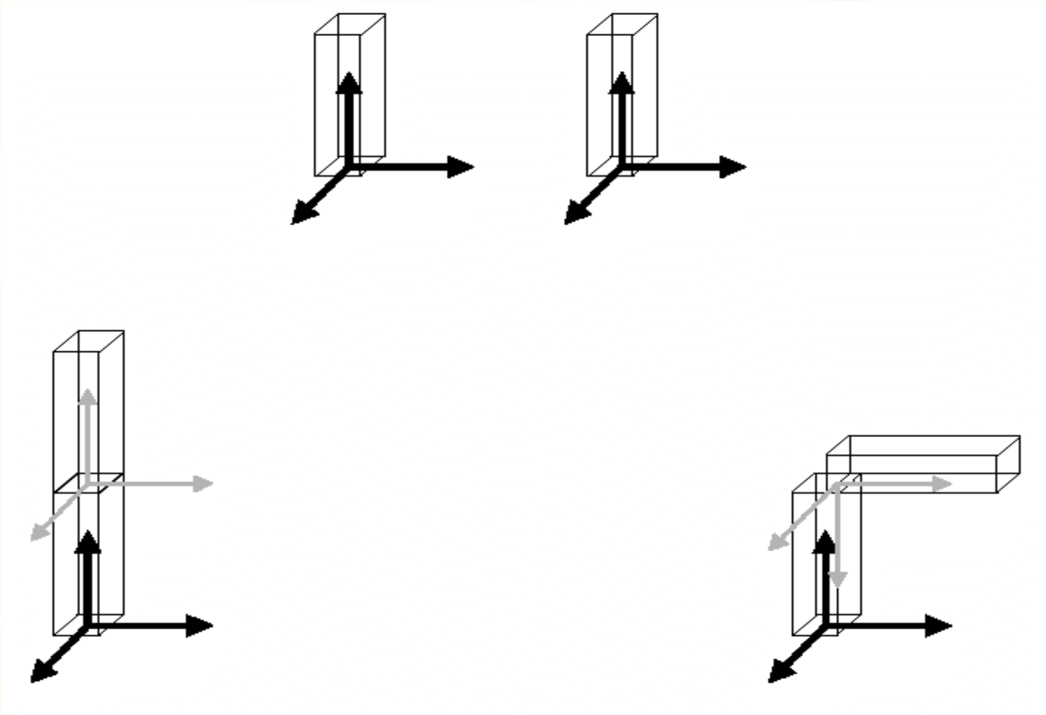
  FROM previous coord sys

  TO new one

  with transformation expressed in

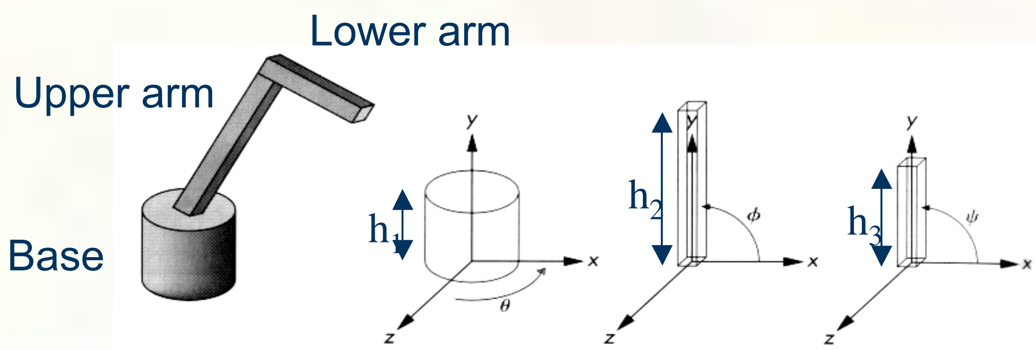
  the ‘previous’ coordinate system.

Connecting primitives



3D Example: A robot arm

- Consider this robot arm with 3 degrees of freedom:
  - Base rotates about its vertical axis by θ
  - Upper arm rotates in its *xy*-plane by ϕ
  - Lower arm rotates in its *xy*-plane by ψ



- **Q:** What matrix do we use to transform the base?
- **Q:** What matrix for the upper arm?
- **Q:** What matrix for the lower arm?

Robot arm implementation

- The robot arm can be displayed by keeping a global matrix and computing it at each step:

```
Matrix M_model;
main()
{
    . . .
    robot_arm();
    . . .
}
robot_arm()
{
    M_model = R_y(theta);
    base();
    M_model = R_y(theta)*T(0,h1,0)*R_z(phi);
    upper_arm();
    M_model = R_y(theta)*T(0,h1,0)*R_z(phi)
                          *T(0,h2,0)*R_z(psi);
    lower_arm();
}
```

Do the matrix computations seem wasteful?

Robot arm implementation, better

- Instead of recalculating the global matrix each time, we can just update it *in place* by concatenating matrices on the right:

```
Matrix M_model;
main()
{
    . . .
    M_model = Identity();
    robot_arm();
    . . .
}
robot_arm()
{
    M_model *= R_y(theta);
    base();
    M_model *= T(0,h1,0)*R_z(phi);
    upper_arm();
    M_model *= T(0,h2,0)*R_z(psi);
    lower_arm();
}
```

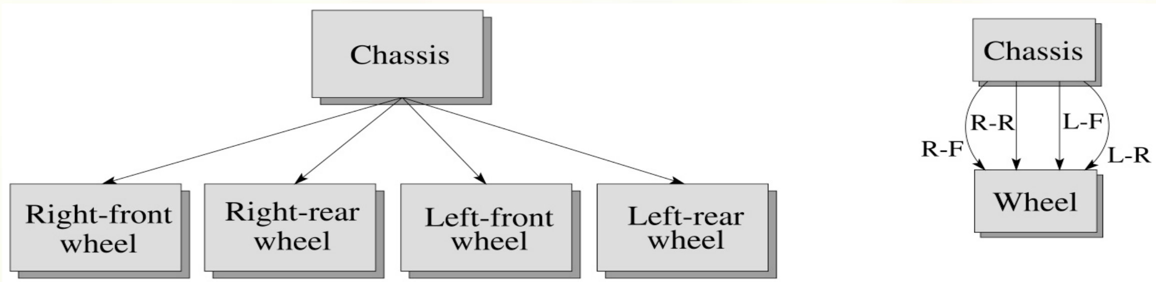
Robot arm implementation, OpenGL

- OpenGL maintains a global state matrix called the **model-view matrix**, which is updated by concatenating matrices on the ***right***.

```
main()
{
    . . .
    glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
    glLoadIdentity();
    robot_arm();
    . . .
}
robot_arm()
{
    glRotatef( theta, 0.0, 1.0, 0.0 );
    base();
    glTranslatef( 0.0, h1, 0.0 );
    glRotatef( phi, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 );
    lower_arm();
    glTranslatef( 0.0, h2, 0.0 );
    glRotatef( psi, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 );
    upper_arm();
}
```

Hierarchical modeling

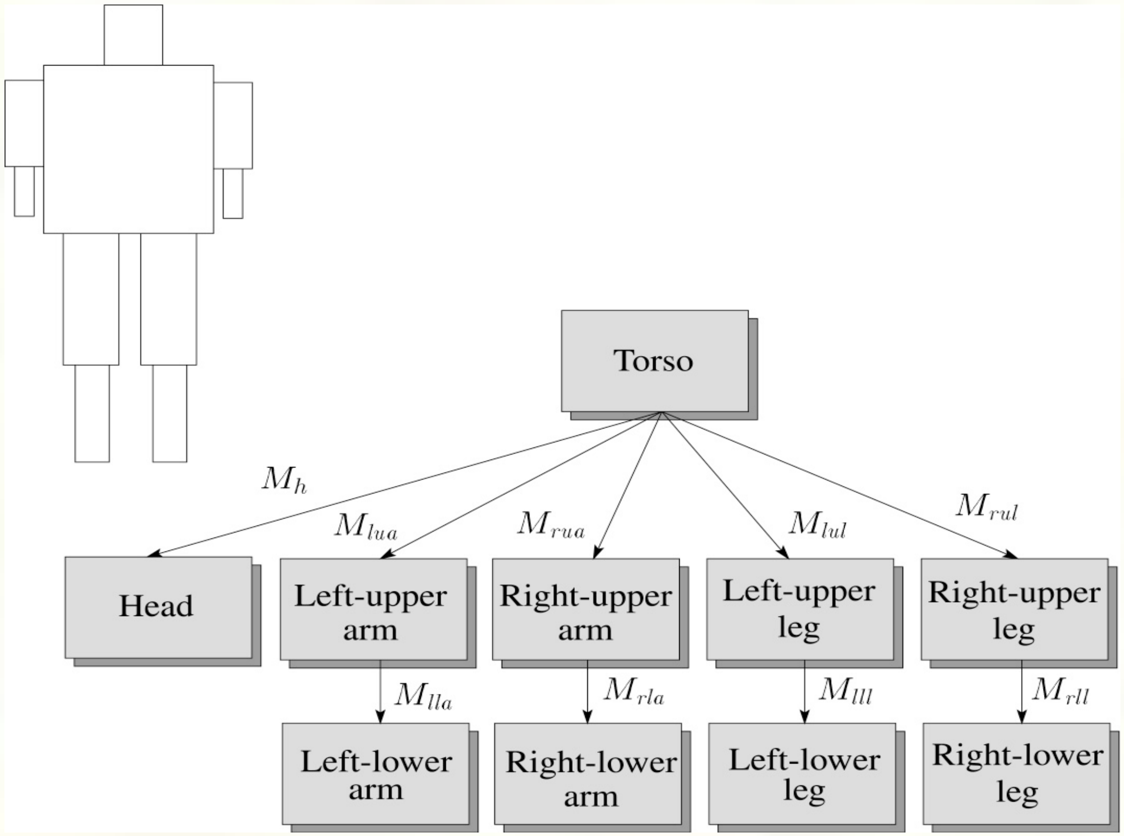
- Hierarchical models can be composed of instances using trees or DAGs:



  - edges contain geometric transformations
  - nodes contain geometry (and possibly drawing attributes)

How might we draw the tree for the robot arm?

A complex example: human figure



Q: What's the most sensible way to traverse this tree?

Human figure implementation, OpenGL

```
figure()
{
    torso();
    glPushMatrix();
        glTranslate( ... );
        glRotate( ... );
        head();
    glPopMatrix();
    glPushMatrix();
        glTranslate( ... );
        glRotate( ... );
        left_upper_arm();
        glPushMatrix();
            glTranslate( ... );
            glRotate( ... );
            left_lower_arm();
        glPopMatrix();
     glPopMatrix();
     . . .
}
```

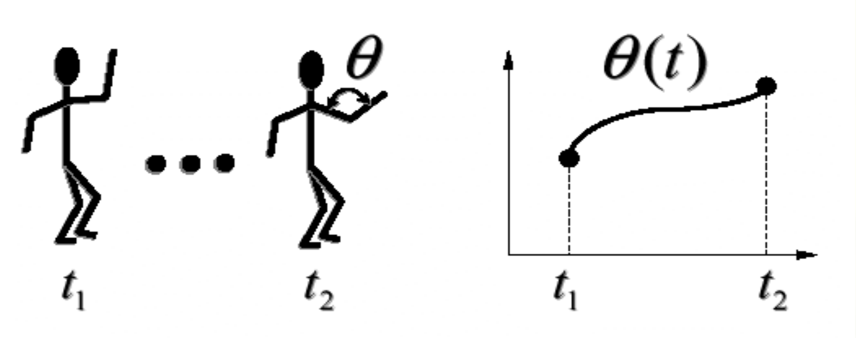
Animation

- The above examples are called **articulated models**:
  - rigid parts
  - connected by joints
- They can be animated by specifying the joint angles (or other display parameters) as functions of time.

Key-frame animation

- The most common method for character animation in production is **key-frame animation**.
  - Each joint specified at various **key frames** (not necessarily the same as other joints)
  - System does interpolation or **in-betweening**

- Doing this well requires:
  - A way of smoothly interpolating key frames: **splines**
  - A good interactive system
  - A lot of skill on the part of the animator



Scene graphs

- The idea of hierarchical modeling can be extended to an entire scene, encompassing:
  - many different objects
  - lights
  - camera position
- This is called a **scene tree** or **scene graph**.