



INSTITUTO  
SUPERIOR  
TÉCNICO

# MOBILE ROBOTICS course

---

## KINEMATICS MODELS OF MOBILE ROBOTS

Maria Isabel Ribeiro  
Pedro Lima

[mir@isr.ist.utl.pt](mailto:mir@isr.ist.utl.pt)

[pal@isr.ist.utl.pt](mailto:pal@isr.ist.utl.pt)

Instituto Superior Técnico (IST)  
Instituto de Sistemas e Robótica (ISR)  
Av. Rovisco Pais, 1  
1049-001 Lisboa  
PORTUGAL

April.2002

**All the rights reserved**



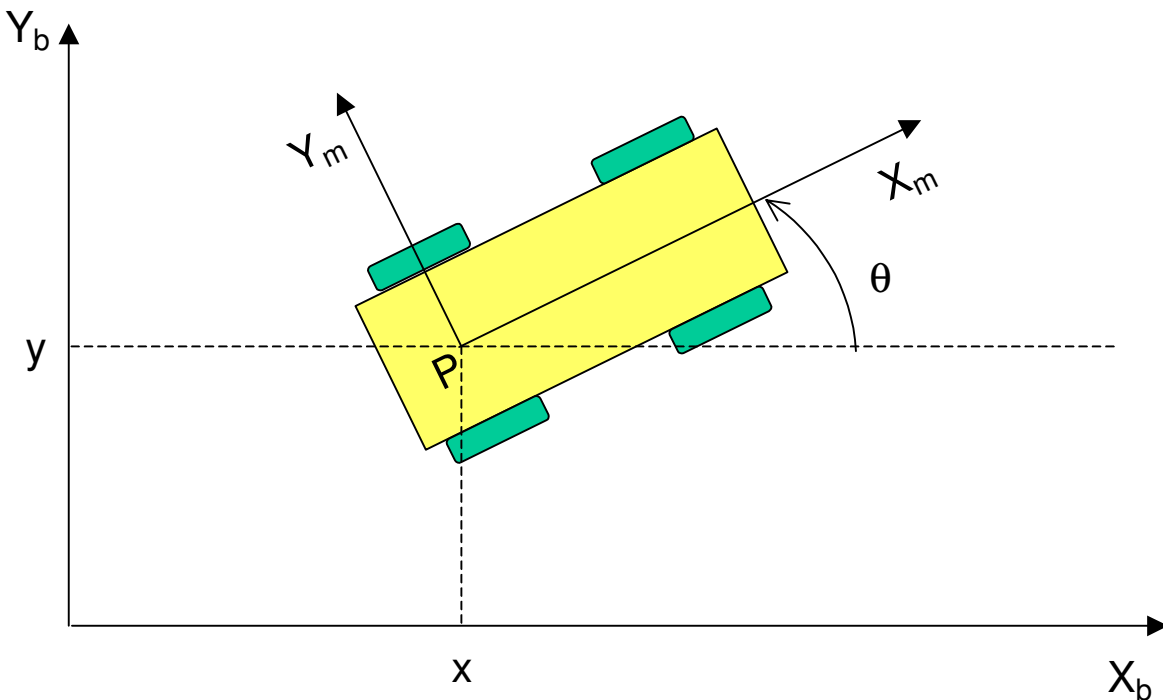
# References

---

- Gregory Dudek, Michael Jenkin, “Computational Principles of Mobile Robotics”, Cambridge University Press, 2000 (Chapter 1).
- Carlos Canudas de Wit, Bruno Siciliano, Georges Bastin (eds), “Theory of Robot Control”, Springer 1996.



- What is a **kinematic** model ?
- What is a **dynamic** model ?
- Which is the difference between kinematics and dynamics?
  
- **Locomotion** is the process of causing an autonomous robot to move.
  - In order to produce motion, forces must be applied to the vehicle
- **Dynamics** – the study of motion in which these forces are modeled
  - Includes the energies and speeds associated with these motions
- **Kinematics** – study of the mathematics of motion without considering the forces that affect the motion.
  - Deals with the geometric relationships that govern the system
  - Deals with the relationship between control parameters and the behavior of a system in state space.



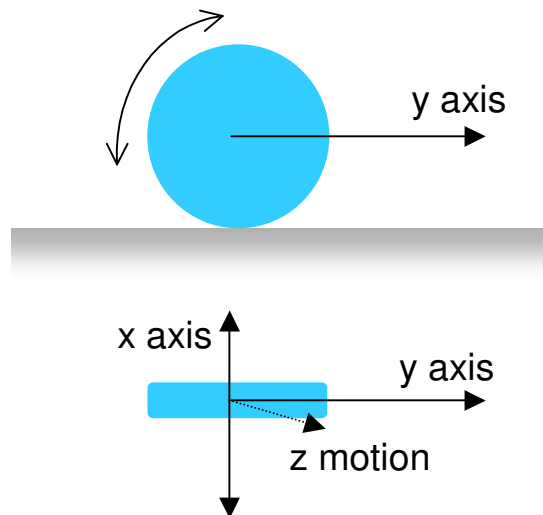
- $\{X_m, Y_m\}$  – moving frame
- $\{X_b, Y_b\}$  – base frame

$$q = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{robot posture in base frame}$$

$$R(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Rotation matrix expressing the orientation of the base frame with respect to the moving frame

- Idealized rolling wheel

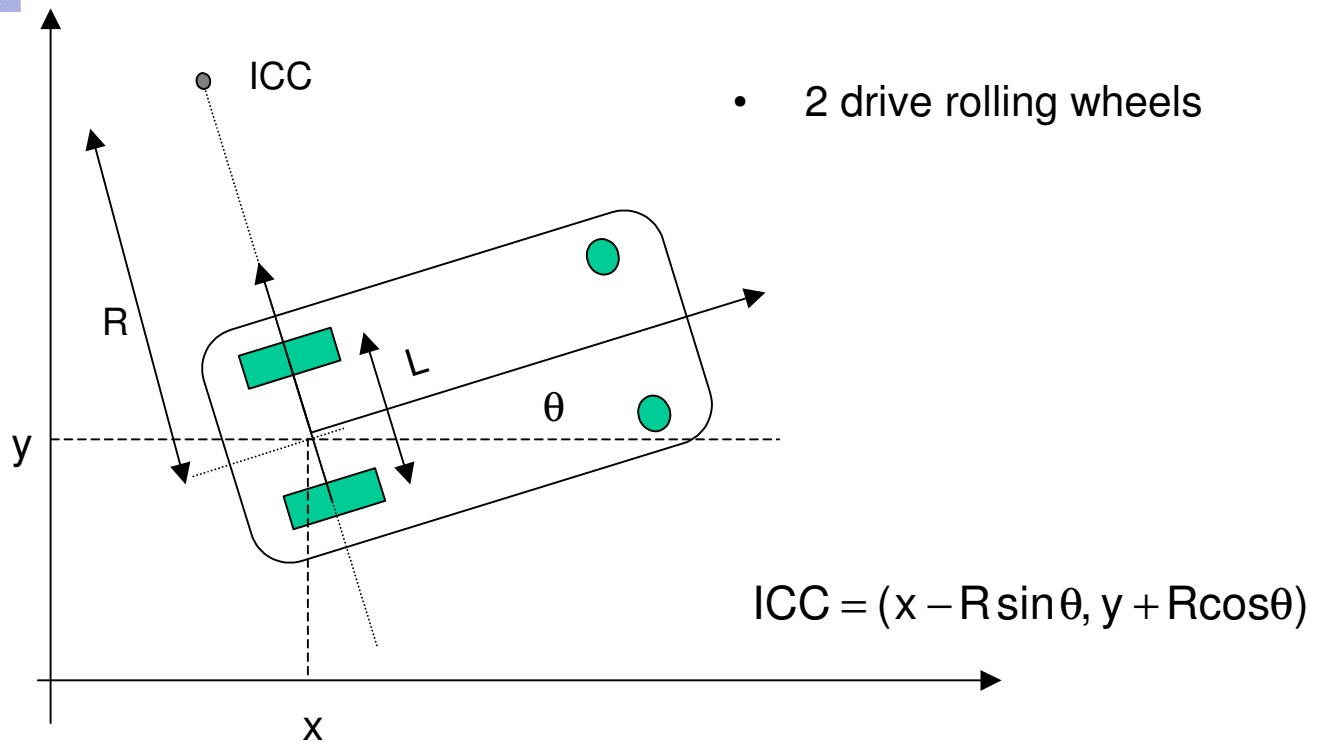


- If the wheel is free to rotate about its axis (x axis), the robot exhibits preferential rollong motion in one direction (y axis) and a certain amount of lateral slip.
- For low velocities, **rolling** is a reasonable **wheel model**.
  - This is the model that will be considered in the kinematics models of WMR

### Wheel parameters:

- $r$  = wheel radius
- $v$  = wheel linear velocity
- $w$  = wheel angular velocity

# Differential Drive



- $v_r(t)$  – linear velocity of right wheel
  - $v_l(t)$  – linear velocity of left wheel
  - $r$  – nominal radius of each wheel
  - $R$  – instantaneous curvature radius of the robot trajectory, relative to the mid-point axis
- control variables**



$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} R - \frac{L}{2} \text{ — Curvature radius of trajectory described by LEFT WHEEL} \\ R + \frac{L}{2} \text{ — Curvature radius of trajectory described by RIGHT WHEEL} \end{array} \right.$$

$$w(t) = \frac{v_r(t)}{R + \frac{L}{2}}$$

$$w(t) = \frac{v_r(t) - v_l(t)}{L}$$

$$w(t) = \frac{v_l(t)}{R - \frac{L}{2}}$$

$$R = \frac{L (v_l(t) + v_r(t))}{2 (v_l(t) - v_r(t))}$$

$$v(t) = w(t)R = \frac{1}{2}(v_r(t) + v_l(t))$$

## Kinematic model in the robot frame

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_x(t) \\ v_y(t) \\ \dot{\theta}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r/2 & r/2 \\ 0 & 0 \\ -r/L & r/L \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_l(t) \\ w_r(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

- $w_r(t)$  – angular velocity of right wheel
- $w_l(t)$  – angular velocity of left wheel

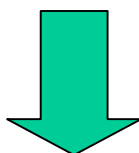
**Useful for velocity control**



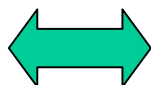
## Kinematic model in the world frame

$$v(t) = w(t)R = \frac{1}{2}(v_r(t) + v_l(t))$$

$$w(t) = \frac{v_r(t) - v_l(t)}{L}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= v(t) \cos \theta(t) \\ \dot{y}(t) &= v(t) \sin \theta(t) \\ \dot{\theta}(t) &= w(t)\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &= \int_0^t v(\sigma) \cos(\theta(\sigma)) d\sigma \\ y(t) &= \int_0^t v(\sigma) \sin(\theta(\sigma)) d\sigma \\ \theta(t) &= \int_0^t w(\sigma) d\sigma\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(t) \\ \dot{y}(t) \\ \dot{\theta}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta(t) & 0 \\ \sin \theta(t) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v(t) \\ w(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\dot{q}(t) = S(q)\xi(t)$$

control  
variables





- Particular cases:

- $v_l(t) = v_r(t)$

- **Straight line trajectory**

$$v_r(t) = v_l(t) = v(t)$$

$$w(t) = 0 \Rightarrow \dot{\theta}(t) = 0 \Rightarrow \theta(t) = \text{cte.}$$

- $v_l(t) = -v_r(t)$

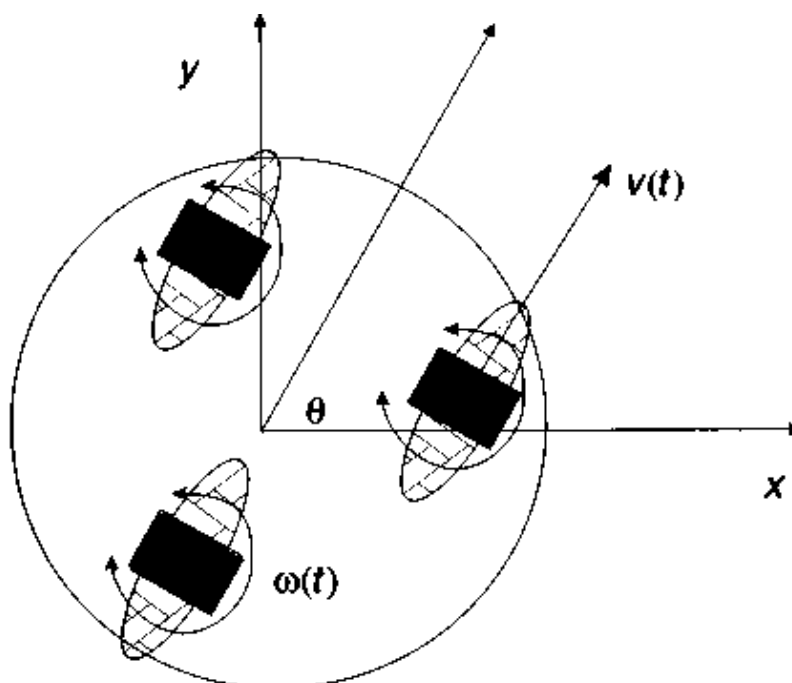
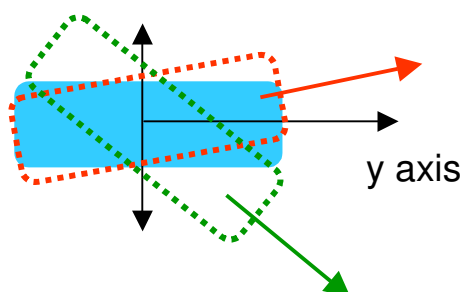
- **Circular path with ICC (instantaneous center of curvature) on the mid-point between drive wheels**

$$v(t) = 0$$

$$w(t) = \frac{2}{L} v_R(t)$$

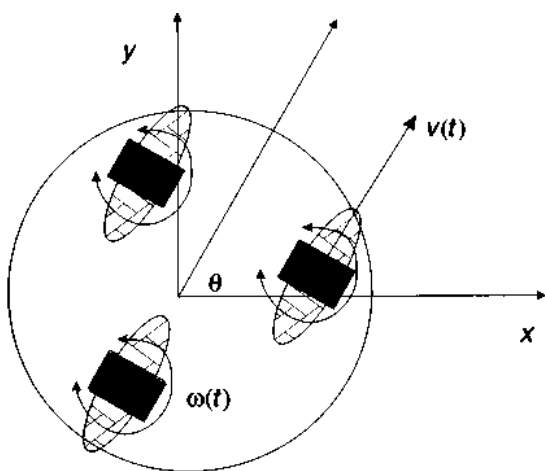
# Synchronous drive

- In a synchronous drive robot (synchro drive) each wheel is capable of being driven and steered.
- Typical configurations
  - Three steered wheels arranged as vertices of an equilateral triangle often surmounted by a cylindrical platform
  - All the wheels turn and drive in unison
    - This leads to a holonomic behavior
- **Steered wheel**
  - The orientation of the rotation axis can be controlled



# Synchronous drive

- All the wheels turn in unison
- All of the three wheels point in the same direction and turn at the same rate
  - This is typically achieved through the use of a complex collection of belts that physically link the wheels together
- The vehicle controls the direction in which the wheels point and the rate at which they roll
- Because all the wheels remain parallel the synchro drive always rotate about the center of the robot
- The synchro drive robot has the ability to control the orientation  $\theta$  of their pose directly.
- **Control variables (independent)**
  - $v(t), w(t)$



$$x(t) = \int_0^t v(\sigma) \cos(\theta(\sigma)) d\sigma$$

$$y(t) = \int_0^t v(\sigma) \sin(\theta(\sigma)) d\sigma$$

$$\theta(t) = \int_0^t w(\sigma) d\sigma$$

- The ICC is always at infinity
- Changing the orientation of the wheels manipulates the direction of ICC

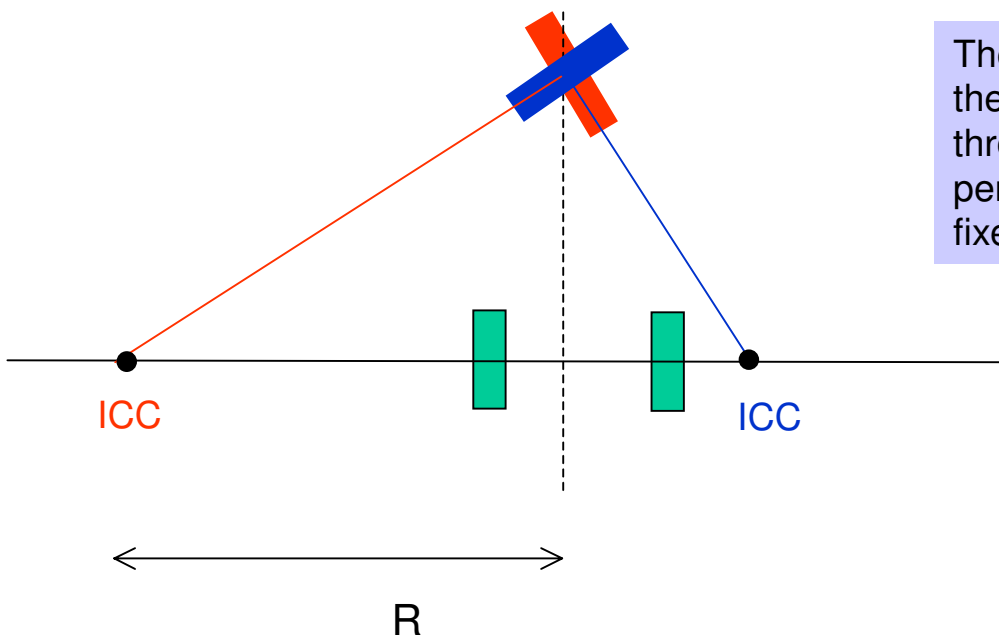
# Synchronous Drive

- Particular cases:
  - $v(t)=0, w(t)=w=cte.$  during a time interval  $\Delta t$ 
    - The robot rotates in place by an amount  $w \Delta t$
  - $v(t)=v, w(t)=0$  during a time interval  $\Delta t$ 
    - The robot moves in the direction its pointing a distance  $v \Delta t$



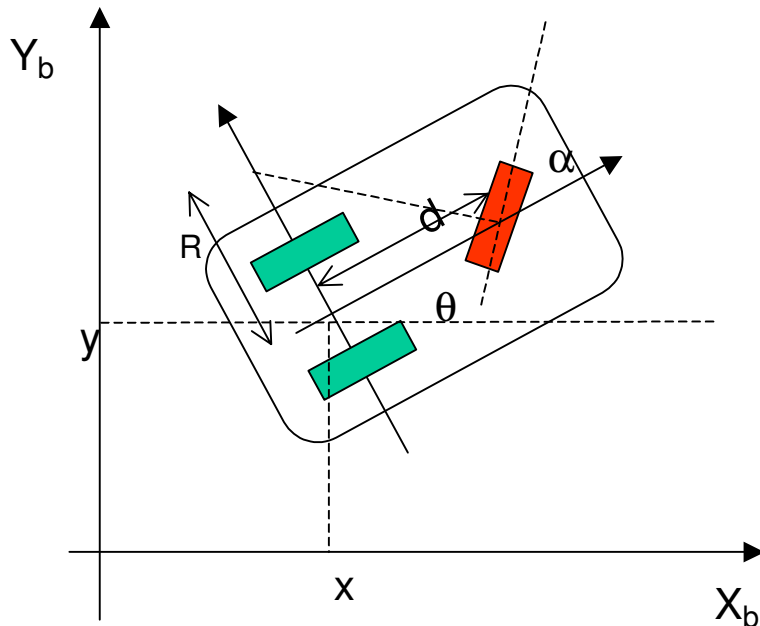
# Tricycle

- Three wheels and odometers on the two rear wheels
- Steering and power are provided through the front wheel
- **control variables:**
  - steering direction  $\alpha(t)$
  - angular velocity of steering wheel  $w_s(t)$



The ICC must lie on the line that passes through, and is perpendicular to, the fixed rear wheels





If the steering wheel is set to an angle  $\alpha(t)$  from the straight-line direction, the tricycle will rotate with angular velocity  $w(t)$  about a point lying a distance  $R$  along the line perpendicular to and passing through the rear wheels.

$r$  = steering wheel radius

$v_s(t) = w_s(t) r$  linear velocity of steering wheel

$$R(t) = d \operatorname{tg}\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha(t)\right)$$

$$w(t) = \frac{w_s(t) r}{\sqrt{d^2 + R(t)^2}}$$

angular velocity of the moving frame relative to the base frame

$$w(t) = \frac{v_s(t)}{d} \sin \alpha(t)$$

## Kinematic model in the robot frame

$$v_x(t) = v_s(t) \cos \alpha(t)$$

$$v_y(t) = 0$$

$$\dot{\theta}(t) = \frac{v_s(t)}{d} \sin \alpha(t)$$

with no slippage

## Kinematic model in the world frame

$$\dot{x}(t) = v_s(t) \cos \alpha(t) \cos \theta(t)$$

$$\dot{y}(t) = v_s(t) \cos \alpha(t) \sin \theta(t)$$

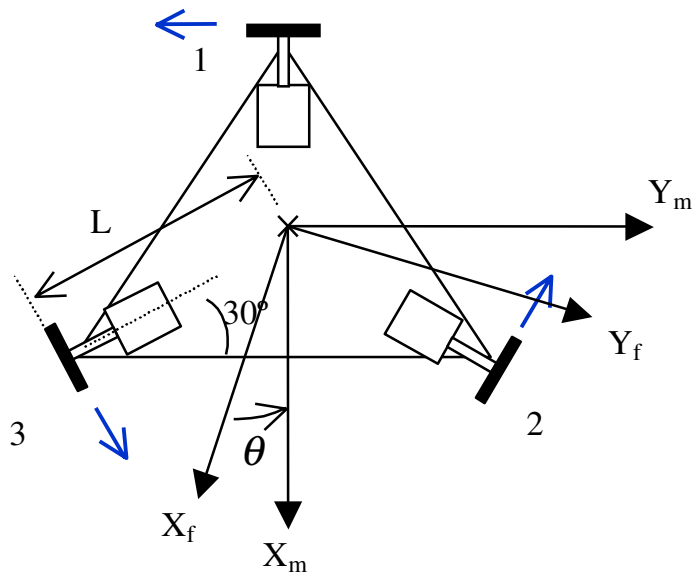
$$\dot{\theta}(t) = \frac{v_s(t)}{d} \sin \alpha(t)$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(t) \\ \dot{y}(t) \\ \dot{\theta}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta(t) & 0 \\ \sin \theta(t) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v(t) \\ w(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$v(t) = v_s(t) \cos \alpha(t)$$

$$w(t) = \frac{v_s(t)}{d} \sin \alpha(t)$$



Swedish wheel

## Kinematic model in the robot frame

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}r & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}r \\ -\frac{2}{3}r & \frac{1}{3}r & \frac{1}{3}r \\ \frac{r}{3L} & \frac{r}{3L} & \frac{r}{3L} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$w_1, w_2, w_3$  – angular velocities of the three Swedish wheels