

Robotics: Calibration

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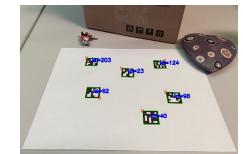
13.10.2025

What we know¹

- How to detect objects in image
 - Checkerboard
 - Aruco markers
- ► How to estimate Homography
 - Maps points between planes
 - Estimated from correspondences
 - Robust no depth estimation
- Camera intrinsics calibration
 - Use checkerboard images
 - Estimate camera matrix K
- Pose estimation
 - Estimates camera-object pose
 - Uses PnP algorithm
 - \triangleright Requires K and correspondences

¹Images from docs.opencv.org







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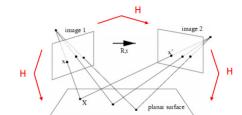
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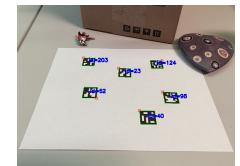


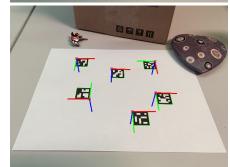
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Where is robot?

- Consider homogrpahy how we can get 3D points in robot frame?
 - 1. Manually measure Aruco positions with respect to the base frame
 - ▶ Place Aruco markers in the plane of interest
 - Might be hard to measure accuratelly
 - 2. Manually position robot to calibration target
 - Compose 3D points of the target with FK
 - 3. Use an Aruco marker grasped by the robot
 - Use FK to compute position of the marker in the robot frame
 - We need to move in the plane of interest
 - ▶ We will not have precise estimation of marker w.r.t. hand
- ► Limited to plane-to-plane mapping

Calibrating camera pose

- Hand-eye calibration
- ightharpoonup Solve $A^iX = YB^i$
 - ▶ Measurements: $A^i, B^i \in SE(3)$
 - **E**stimated parameters: $X, Y \in SE(3)$
- ► Camera can be mounted w.r.t.
 - ► Robot base frame (eye-to-hand calibration)
 - Gripper frame (eye-in-hand calibration)
- Eye-to-hand calibration
 - $ightharpoonup A^i = T^i_{\mathsf{RG}}$
 - $\triangleright B^i = T_{CT}^i$
 - $ightharpoonup X = T_{\mathsf{GT}}$
 - $Y = T_{\mathsf{RC}}$
- ► Eye-in-hand calibration
 - $ightharpoonup A^i = T^i_{\mathsf{CT}}$
 - $B^i = T_{\mathsf{GR}}^i$
 - $ightharpoonup X = T_{\mathsf{TR}}$
 - $ightharpoonup Y = T_{CG}$

Code for AX = YB calibration

```
def solve_AX_YB(a: list[SE3], b: list[SE3]) -> tuple[SE3, SE3]:
    """Solve A^iX=YB^i, return X, Y"""

rvec_a = [T.rotation.log() for T in a]
    tvec_a = [T.translation for T in a]
    rvec_b = [T.rotation.log() for T in b]
    tvec_b = [T.translation for T in b]

Rx, tx, Ry, ty = cv2.calibrateRobotWorldHandEye(rvec_a, tvec_a, rvec_b, tvec_b)
    return SE3(tx[:, 0], SO3(Rx)), SE3(ty[:, 0], SO3(Ry))
```

Influence of Aruco marker size

- Depth estimation of small Aruco markers is hard
 - Large errors results in imprecise calibration
 - Large markers limit the motion
- ► Solution: minimization of reprojection errors
 - Original measurements are in pixels
 - ► We can perform fine optimization in pixel space
 - Reprojection error:
 - $X^*, Y^* = \arg\min_{X,Y} \left(\sum_i u_i \pi(x_i(X,Y)) \right)$
 - **lack u_i** detected 2D point, $oldsymbol{x}_i$ 3D point in camera frame, π projection
 - $ightharpoonup x_i$ is computed by FK and X and Y poses
 - Initial guess is from Hand-eye calibration

Influence of robot kinematics

- Robot kinematics is not perfect
 - 1. Different configuration of the robot has different errors
 - 2. Often errors in joint offsets
- ▶ Solution #1: restricts to a subset of configurations
 - ▶ When solving IK, use only similar configurations
 - ► For the calibration but also for the robot operation!
- ► Solution #2: callibrate joint offset
 - As in the reprojection error minimization

 - FK is adjusted to include joint offsets
- Calibration is not a one-time task
 - Calibrate robot before each important task
 - ► Calibrate robot after any significant change

Conclusion

- ► Calibration depends on the task
 - Homography
 - Camera intrinsics
 - Camera pose
 - Robot kinematics
- Calibration is not a one-time task
 - Good to automate it

Laboratory

- ► Laboratory at KN
- ► Hoop detection and homography