

2-D special linear transformations

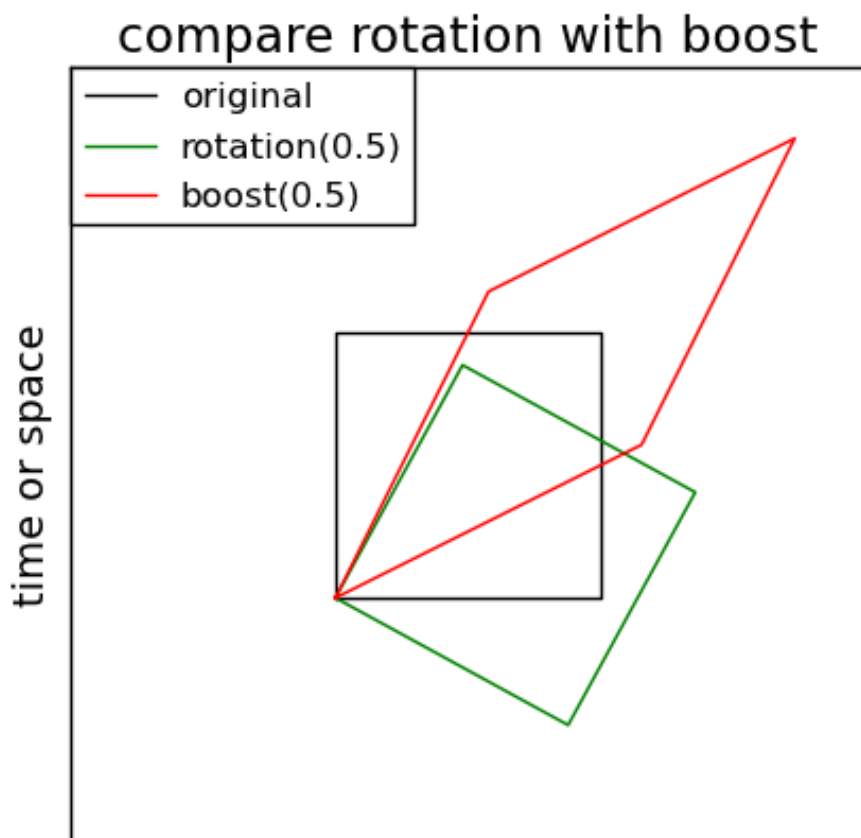
This compares boost and rotation transformations of the unit square. Both are elements of a special linear group, with determinant 1.0. This guarantees that the area is maintained, as the Jacobian is just this determinant. See the [wikipedia discussion](#)

The following shows how python, with matplotlib and numpy, makes this easy to show.

Additionally, the IPython 0.12 notebook allows nice generation of a document

```
In [1]: def R(theta):
        return matrix([[cos(theta), -sin(theta)], [sin(theta), cos(theta)]])
def B(beta):
    return matrix([[1, beta], [beta, 1]])/sqrt(1-beta**2)
def plot_square(T, **kwargs):
    unitsquare = array([[0,0], [0,1], [1,1], [1,0], [0,0]])
    t = unitsquare*T
    plot(t[:,0], t[:,1], '-', **kwargs)
```

```
In [2]: fig=figure(1, figsize=(5,5)); clf()
plot_square(R(0), color='k', label='original')
plot_square(R(0.5), color='g', label='rotation(0.5)')
plot_square(B(0.5), color='r', label='boost(0.5)')
setp(gca(), xlim=(-1,2), ylim=(-1,2), xlabel='space', ylabel='time or space',
      xticks=[], yticks=[], title='compare rotation with boost')
legend(loc='upper left')
display(fig)
```



space