

# TikZ 3D Tools

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v1.0

## 1 Manual

### TikZ Library `3dtools`

```
\usetikzlibrary{3dtools} %  $\TeX$  only
```

This library provides additional tools to create 3d-like pictures.

TikZ has the `3d` and `tpp` libraries which deal with the projections of three-dimensional drawings. This library provides some means to manipulate the coordinates. It supports linear combinations of vectors, vector and scalar products.

**Note:** Hopefully this library is only temporary and its contents will be absorbed in slightly extended versions of the `3d` and `calc` libraries.

### 1.1 Coordinate computations

The `3dtools` library has some options and styles for coordinate computations.

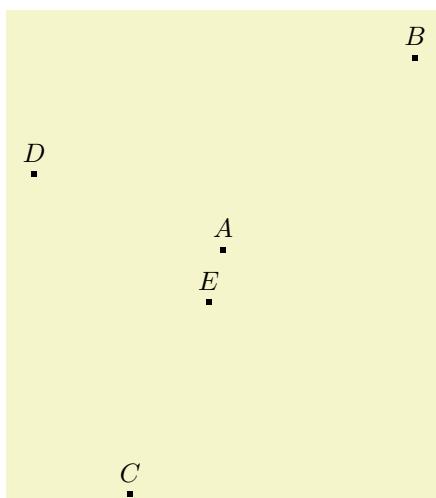
`/tikz/3d parse` (no value)

Parses an expression and inserts the result in form of a coordinate.

`/tikz/3d coordinate` (no value)

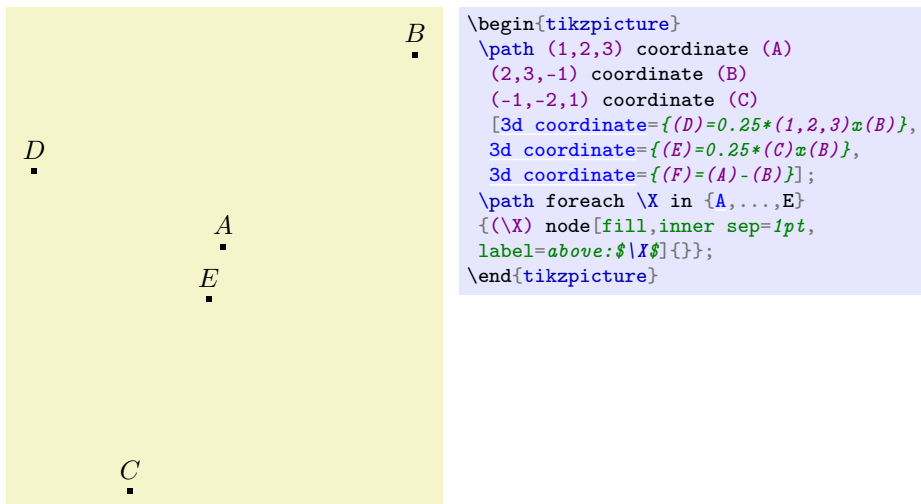
Allow one to define a 3d coordinate from other coordinates.

Both keys support both symbolic and explicit coordinates.



```
\begin{tikzpicture}
\path (1,2,3) coordinate (A)
(2,3,-1) coordinate (B)
(-1,-2,1) coordinate (C)
[3d parse={0.25*(1,2,3)x(B)}]
coordinate(D)
[3d parse={0.25*(C)x(B)}]
coordinate(E);
\path foreach \X in {A,...,E}
{(\X) node[fill,inner sep=1pt,
label=above:$\X$]{};
\end{tikzpicture}
```

Notice that, as of now, only the syntax `\path (1,2,3) coordinate (A);` works, i.e. `\coordinate (A) at (1,2,3);` does *not* work, but leads to error messages.



The actual parsings are done by the function `\pgfmathtdparse` that allows one to parse 3d expressions. The supported vector operations are + (addition +), - (subtraction -), \* (multiplication of the vector by a scalar), x (vector product  $\times$ ) and o (scalar product).

`\pgfmathtdparse{<x>}`

Parses 3d expressions.

In order to pretty-print the result one may want to use `\pgfmathprintvector`, and use the math function TD for parsing.

`\pgfmathprintvector{<x>}`

Pretty-prints vectors.

$0.2 \vec{A} - 0.3 \vec{B} + 0.6 \vec{C} = (-1, -1.7, 1.5)$	<pre> \pgfmathparse{TD("0.2*(A) -0.3*(B)+0.6*(C)")}% \$0.2\,\vec A-0.3\,\vec B+0.6\,\vec C =(\pgfmathprintvector\pgfmathresult)\$ </pre>
---	--

The alert reader may wonder why this works, i.e. how would TikZ “know” what the coordinates  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are. It works because the coordinates in TikZ are global, so they get remembered from the above example.

**Warning.** The expressions that are used in the coordinates will only be evaluated when they are retrieved. So, if you use, say, random numbers, you will get each time a *different* result.

$$\vec{R} = (0.53, 0.25, 0.7)$$

$$\vec{R} = (0.87, 0.38, 0.48)$$

```
\begin{tikzpicture}
\path[overlay] (rnd,rnd,rnd)
coordinate (R);
\node at (0,1)
{\pgfmathparse{TD("(R)")}%
$\vec{R}=(\pgfmathprintvector{\pgfmathresult})$};
\node at (0,0)
{\pgfmathparse{TD("(R)")}%
$\vec{R}=(\pgfmathprintvector{\pgfmathresult})$};
\end{tikzpicture}
```

$$(1, 0, 0)^T \times (0, 1, 0)^T = (0, 0, 1)^T$$

```
\pgfmathparse{TD("(1,0,0)x(0,1,0)")}%
$(1,0,0)^T\times(0,1,0)^T=$
(\pgfmathprintvector{\pgfmathresult})^T$
```

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 5$$

```
\pgfmathparse{TD("(A)o(B)")}%
$\vec{A}\cdot\vec{B}=$
\pgfmathprintnumber{\pgfmathresult}$
```

Notice that, as of now, the only purpose of brackets (...) is to delimit vectors. Further, the addition + and subtraction - have a *higher* precedence than vector products x and scalar products o. That is, (A)+(B)o(C) gets interpreted as  $(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) \cdot \vec{C}$ , and (A)+(B)x(C) as  $(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) \times \vec{C}$ .

$$(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) \cdot \vec{C} = -11$$

```
\pgfmathparse{TD("(A)+(B)o(C)")}%
$(\vec{A}+\vec{B})\cdot\vec{C}=$
\pgfmathprintnumber{\pgfmathresult}$
```

$$(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) \times \vec{C} = (9, -5, -1)$$

```
\pgfmathparse{TD("(A)+(B)x(C)")}%
$(\vec{A}+\vec{B})\times\vec{C}=$
(\pgfmathprintvector{\pgfmathresult})$
```

Moreover, any expression can only have either one o or one x, or none of these. Expressions with more of these can be accidentally right.

## 1.2 Orthonormal projections

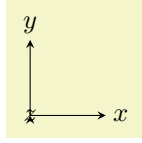
This library can be used together with the `tikz-3dplot` package. It also has its own means to install orthonormal projections. Orthonormal projections emerge from subjecting 3-dimensional vectors to orthogonal transformations and projecting them to 2 dimensions. They are not to be confused with the perspective projections, which are more realistic and supported by the `tpp` library. Orthonormal projections may be thought of a limit of perspective projections at large distances, where large means that the distance of the observer is much larger than the dimensions of the objects that get depicted.

`/tikz/3d/install view`

(no value)

Installs a 3d orthonormal projection.

The initial projection is such that  $x$  is right and  $y$  is up, as if we had no third direction.



```
\begin{tikzpicture}[3d/install view]
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (1,0,0)
node[pos=1.2] {$x$};
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (0,1,0)
node[pos=1.2] {$y$};
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (0,0,1)
node[pos=1.2] {$z$};
\end{tikzpicture}
```

The 3d-like picture emerge by rotating the view. The conventions for the parametrization of the orthogonal rotations in terms of three rotation angles  $\phi$ ,  $\psi$  and  $\theta$  are

$$O(\phi, \psi, \theta) = \begin{pmatrix} s_\phi c_\psi & s_\psi & -s_\phi c_\theta - c_\phi s_\psi s_\theta \\ c_\phi c_\theta - s_\phi s_\psi s_\theta & c_\psi s_\theta & s_\phi s_\theta - c_\phi c_\theta s_\psi \\ -s_\phi s_\psi c_\theta - c_\phi s_\theta & c_\psi c_\theta & c_\psi c_\theta \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here,  $c_\phi := \cos \phi$ ,  $s_\phi := \sin \phi$  and so on.

`/tikz/3d/phi` (initially 0)

3d rotation angle.

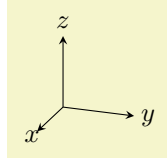
`/tikz/3d/psi` (initially 0)

3d rotation angle.

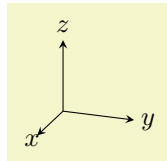
`/tikz/3d/theta` (initially 0)

3d rotation angle.

The rotation angles can be used to define the view. The conventions are chosen in such a way that they resemble those of the `tikz-3dplot` package, which gets widely used.



```
\begin{tikzpicture}[3d/install view={phi=110,psi=0,theta=70}]
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (1,0,0)
node[pos=1.2] {$x$};
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (0,1,0)
node[pos=1.2] {$y$};
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (0,0,1)
node[pos=1.2] {$z$};
\end{tikzpicture}
```



```
\begin{tikzpicture}[3d/install view={phi=110,psi=0,theta=70}]
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (1,0,0)
node[pos=1.2] {$x$};
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (0,1,0)
node[pos=1.2] {$y$};
\draw[-stealth] (0,0,0) -- (0,0,1)
node[pos=1.2] {$z$};
\end{tikzpicture}
```

### 1.3 Predefined pics

`/tikz/pics/3d circle through 3 points=<options>` (no default, initially empty)

Draws a circle through 3 points in 3 dimensions. If the three coordinates are close to linearly dependent, the circle will not be drawn.

`/tikz/3d circle through 3 points/A` (initially (1,0,0))

First coordinate. Can be either symbolic or explicit. Symbolic coordinates need to be defined via `\path (x,y,z) coordinate (name);`.

`/tikz/3d circle through 3 points/B` (initially (0,1,0))

Second coordinate, like above.

`/tikz/3d circle through 3 points/C` (initially (0,0,1))

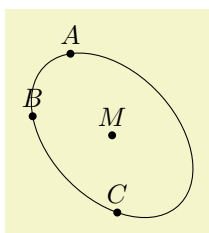
Third coordinate, like above.

`/tikz/3d circle through 3 points/center name` (initially M)

Name of the center coordinate that will be derived.

`/tikz/3d circle through 3 points/auxiliary coordinate prefix`  
(initially tmp)

In TikZ the coordinates are global. The code for the circle is more comprehensible if named coordinates are introduced. Their names will begin with this prefix. Changing the prefix will allow users to avoid overwriting existing coordinates.



```
\begin{tikzpicture}[3d/install view={phi=30,psi=0,theta=70}]
\foreach \X in {A,B,C}
{\pgfmathsetmacro{\myx}{3*(rnd-1/2)}
\pgfmathsetmacro{\myy}{3*(rnd-1/2)}
\pgfmathsetmacro{\myz}{3*(rnd-1/2)}
\path (\myx,\myy,\myz) coordinate (\X);}
\path pic{3d circle through 3 points={%
A={(\A)},B={(\B)},C={(\C)}}};
\foreach \X in {A,B,C,M}
{\fill (\X) circle[radius=1.5pt]
node[above]{\X};}
\end{tikzpicture}
```

To do:

- transform to plane given by three non-degenerate coordinates
- transform to plane given by normal and one point
- maybe layering/visibility

## 1.4 3D-like decorations

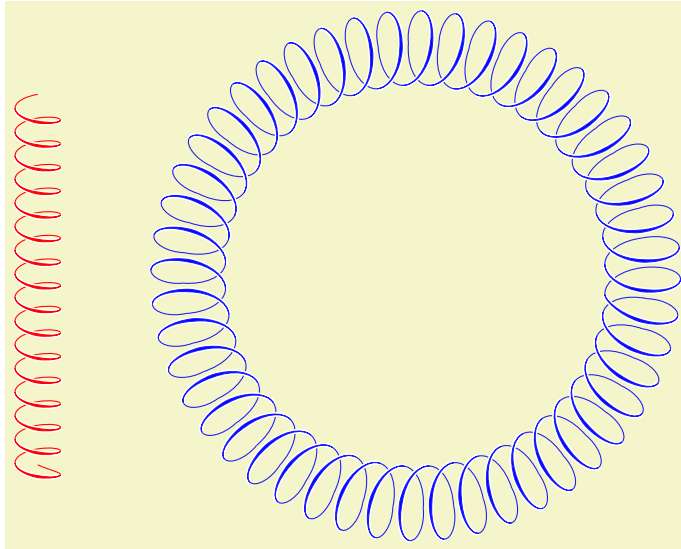
`/tikz/decorations/3d complete coil` (no value)

3d-like coil where the front is thicker than the back.

`/tikz/decorations/3d coil closed`

(no value)

Indicates that the coil is closed.



```
\begin{tikzpicture}
\draw[decoration={3d coil color=red,aspect=0.35, segment length=3.1mm,
amplitude=3mm,3d complete coil},
decorate] (0,1) -- (0,6);
\draw[decoration={3d coil color=blue,3d coil opacity=0.9,aspect=0.5,
segment length={2*pi*3cm/50}, amplitude=5mm,3d complete coil,
3d coil closed},
decorate] (5,3.5) circle[radius=3cm];
\end{tikzpicture}
```