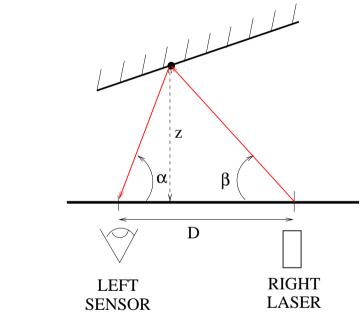


How is triangulation used in many range sensors?

In this diagram:



you can see how the ray at angle β from the laser intersects the viewpoint at angle α from the sensor. If you know the distance D between the two then simple geometry can be used to calculate the distance z.

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