

# Tracking Error in SO(3)

The SO(3) group represents three-dimensional rotations. When defining an error for feedback control with angular velocities, several methods are commonly used:

- **Axis-Angle Error:** If  $\mathbf{R}$  is the current rotation matrix and  $\mathbf{R}_d$  is the desired rotation matrix, the axis-angle error can be found by:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{R}} = \mathbf{R}_d \mathbf{R}^T$$

Convert matrix  $\tilde{\mathbf{R}}$  to an axis-angle representation where the resulting vector represents the error.

- **Quaternion Error:** For unit quaternions  $\mathbf{q}$  and  $\mathbf{q}_d$ , the error quaternion is:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{q}_d \cdot \mathbf{q}^*$$

Convert  $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}$  to a 3-vector for control purposes.

- **Logarithmic Map (Matrix Logarithm):** The matrix logarithm of the rotation difference can provide a skew-symmetric matrix, which can be converted to a vector using a conversion function.

$$\tilde{\mathbf{S}} = \log(\mathbf{R}_d \mathbf{R}^T)$$

Where  $\log$  denotes the matrix logarithm. The error vector can be extracted from the skew-symmetric matrix.

Here's an example of computing the logarithmic map error in Python:

```
import numpy as np
from scipy.linalg import logm

def skew_to_vector(skew_matrix):
    return np.array([skew_matrix[2, 1], skew_matrix[0, 2], skew_matrix[1, 0]])

def so3_error(R, Rd):
    error_matrix = Rd @ R.T
    error_log = logm(error_matrix)
    error_vector = skew_to_vector(error_log)
    return error_vector

# domega = domega_d + Kp * error_vector + Kd * omega_error
```

This error vector is used in the control law to command angular velocities, where  $\mathbf{R}$  is the current orientation,  $\mathbf{R}_d$  is the desired orientation.

For further reading on  $SO(3)$  and control theory, the following resources can be useful:

1. [A Mathematical Introduction to Robotic Manipulation](#) by Richard M. Murray, Zexiang Li, and S. Shankar Sastry.
2. [Robotics: Modelling, Planning and Control](#) by Bruno Siciliano et al.
3. [Modern Robotics: Mechanics, Planning, and Control](#) by Kevin M. Lynch and Frank C. Park.
4. [Space Vehicle Dynamics and Control](#) by Bong Wie.
5. [Stanford University's Introduction to Robotics Course \(CS223A\)](#).