



# Complex Numbers and Quaternions

## in Theme 2. Attitude

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Bachelor's Degree in Video Game Design  
and Development



- 1 Remember
- 2 Complex numbers
- 3 Quaternions
- 4 Rotations using Quaternions



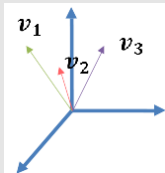
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# Remember

What happen if...

## Composition of rotations / Changes of basis



We know how to relate:

- $\mathbf{v}_1$  with  $\mathbf{v}_2$  (dual:  $F_1 \mathbf{v}$  to  $F_2 \mathbf{v}$ ) by using  $(\mathbf{u}_1, \phi_1)$  or  $\mathbf{r}_1$  or  $(\phi_1, \theta_1, \psi_1)$
- $\mathbf{v}_2$  with  $\mathbf{v}_3$  (dual:  $\mathbf{v}_{\{F_2\}}$  to  $\mathbf{v}_{\{F_3\}}$ ) by using  $(\mathbf{u}_2, \phi_2)$  or  $\mathbf{r}_2$  or  $(\phi_2, \theta_2, \psi_2)$

Which values takes:

$(\mathbf{u}_3, \phi_3)$  or  $\mathbf{r}_3$  or  $(\phi_3, \theta_3, \psi_3)$  to transform  $\mathbf{v}_1$  to  $\mathbf{v}_3$  (dual:  $F_1 \mathbf{v}$  to  $F_3 \mathbf{v}$ )?



### Composition of rotations / Changes of basis

We know:

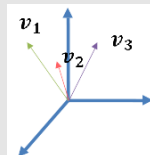
$$\mathbf{v}_1 = (3, 2, -1)^T$$

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \text{ to } \mathbf{v}_2 \text{ by } \mathbf{u}_1 = (0, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2})^T, \phi_1 = 10^\circ$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 \text{ to } \mathbf{v}_3 \text{ by } \mathbf{u}_2 = (\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, 0, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2})^T, \phi_2 = 20^\circ$$

Which values have:

$(\mathbf{u}_3, \phi_3)$  transforming  $\mathbf{v}_1$  to  $\mathbf{v}_3$ ?



### Answer

$$\mathbf{u}_3 = (0.5017, 0.2323, 0.8333)^T, \phi_3 = 26.44^\circ$$



## What we know since now

- Rotation matrix,  $\mathbf{R} \rightarrow 9$  components. Easy to compose rotations.
- Euler principal axis and angle,  $(\mathbf{u}, \phi) \rightarrow 4$  components. Compose rotations by transforming to rotation matrices.
- Rotation vector,  $\mathbf{r} \rightarrow 3$  components. Compose rotations by transforming to rotation matrices
- Euler angles,  $(\phi, \theta, \psi) \rightarrow 3$  components. Compose rotations by transforming to rotation matrices

Good for memory storage but... not so good if we have to operate with them



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## Complex numbers

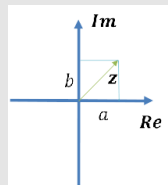
**Property.** Unitary complex numbers in 2D retains information about direction.

$$z = a + bi$$

**Norm.**

$$\|z\| = \sqrt{z\bar{z}} = \sqrt{a^2 + abi - abi - b^2i^2} = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

where  $i^2 = -1$







## Definitions and Properties

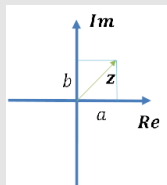
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# Complex numbers

in 2D

## Product

What happens if we multiply two complex numbers?

$$z_1 = a + bi$$

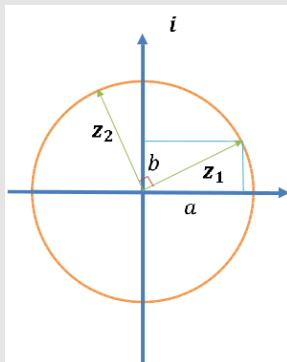
$$z_2 = i$$

$$z_1 z_2 = ai - b = -b + ai$$

Rotates the vector  $90^\circ$ .

- In fact, product makes

$$\angle z_1 z_2 = \angle z_1 + \angle z_2$$





# Complex numbers

in 2D

## Product

**What happens if we multiply two complex numbers?**

$$z_1 = a + bi = (a, b)^T$$

$$z_2 = \cos \alpha + i \sin \alpha = (\cos \alpha, \sin \alpha) = e^{i\alpha}$$

$$z_1 z_2 = a \cos \alpha - b \sin \alpha + i(b \cos \alpha + a \sin \alpha)$$

$$z_1 z_2 = (a \cos \alpha - b \sin \alpha, b \cos \alpha + a \sin \alpha)^T$$

Hence

$$z_1 z_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

Example:

$$z_1 = 2 + 3i = (2, 3)^T$$

$$z_2 = \cos 30 + i \sin 30 = e^{i30}$$

$$z_2 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + i \frac{1}{2}$$

$$z_1 z_2 = \sqrt{3} - \frac{3}{2} + i \left( \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} + 1 \right)$$

$$z_1 z_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$



- 1 Remember
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## Definition

**Quaternions** are a number system that extends the **Complex numbers**.

$$\hat{q} = q_0 + iq_1 + jq_2 + kq_3 \in \mathbb{H}$$

where  $i$ ,  $j$ , and  $k$  are the fundamental quaternion units, accomplishing

$$i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$$

$$ij = k, jk = i, ki = j$$

$$ji = -k, kj = -i, ik = -j$$



## Product (called Hamilton product)

$$\hat{q}\hat{p} = (q_0 + iq_1 + jq_2 + kq_3)(p_0 + ip_1 + jp_2 + kp_3) = \dots$$

**Problem.** Do it!

Unlike multiplication of real or complex numbers, multiplication of quaternions is **not commutative**.



### Product

We change to a new representation of a quaternion,

$$\hat{\mathbf{q}} = \begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ \mathbf{q} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $q_0$  is called its **scalar part** and  $\mathbf{q}$  is called its **vector part**.

Now,

$$\hat{\mathbf{q}}\hat{\mathbf{p}} = \begin{pmatrix} q_0 p_0 - \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{p} \\ q_0 \mathbf{p} + p_0 \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{p} \end{pmatrix}$$



### Product

It can be also written using **quaternion matrices**,

$$\hat{q}\hat{p} = \begin{pmatrix} q_0 p_0 - \mathbf{q}^\top \mathbf{p} \\ q_0 \mathbf{p} + p_0 \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{p} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\hat{q}\hat{p} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} q_0 & -\mathbf{q}^\top \\ \mathbf{q} & q_0 \mathbf{I}_3 + [\mathbf{q}]_\times \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{Q}(\hat{q})} \hat{p} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} p_0 & -\mathbf{p}^\top \\ \mathbf{p} & p_0 \mathbf{I}_3 + [\mathbf{p}]_\times \end{pmatrix}}_{\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}(\hat{p})} \hat{q}$$

$$\hat{q}\hat{p} = \begin{pmatrix} q_0 & -q_1 & -q_2 & -q_3 \\ q_1 & q_0 & -q_3 & q_2 \\ q_2 & q_3 & q_0 & -q_1 \\ q_3 & -q_2 & q_1 & q_0 \end{pmatrix} \hat{p} = \begin{pmatrix} p_0 & -p_1 & -p_2 & -p_3 \\ p_1 & p_0 & p_3 & -p_2 \\ p_2 & -p_3 & p_0 & p_1 \\ p_3 & p_2 & -p_1 & p_0 \end{pmatrix} \hat{q}$$





# Quaternions

## Example

### Problem

Given

$$\dot{q} = (1, 2, 2, 1)^T$$

$$\dot{p} = (-1, 1, 2, -2)^T$$

Calculate

$$\dot{q}\dot{p} =$$

$$\dot{p}\dot{q} =$$



### Definitions

- Since quaternions contains imaginary numbers, there exists the **conjugate quaternion**

$$\tilde{\mathbf{q}} = q_0 - iq_1 - jq_2 - kq_3 = \begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ -\mathbf{q} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Quaternions have a **norm**

$$\|\mathbf{q}\|^2 = \mathbf{q}\tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \tilde{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{q} = q_0^2 + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q} = (q_0 \ \mathbf{q}^T) \begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ \mathbf{q} \end{pmatrix} = q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2$$

with  $\|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{p}\| = \|\mathbf{q}\| \|\mathbf{p}\|$  and  $\|\alpha\mathbf{q}\| = |\alpha| \|\mathbf{q}\|$

- A quaternion is said to be a **pure quaternion** if  $q_0 = 0$ .



### Definitions

- There exists the **identity quaternion**

$$\mathring{q}_I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \mathring{q}\mathring{q}_I = \mathring{q} = \mathring{q}_I\mathring{q}$$

- The **inverse** (or **reciprocal**) **quaternion** of a non-zero quaternion  $\mathring{q}$

$$\mathring{q}^{-1} = \frac{\tilde{\mathring{q}}}{\|\mathring{q}\|^2} \rightarrow \mathring{q}\mathring{q}^{-1} = \mathring{q}^{-1}\mathring{q} = \mathring{q}_I$$

- The **unit quaternion** (or **versor**) of a non-zero quaternion  $\mathring{q}$

$$\mathbf{U}_q = \frac{\mathring{q}}{\|\mathring{q}\|}$$



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### Unit quaternions as Rotations

What happens when we take a **unit quaternion**  $\hat{q}$  ( $\|\hat{q}\| = 1$ ) and a **pure quaternion**  $\hat{v} = (0, \mathbf{v}^\top)^\top$ , and calculate

$$\hat{w} = \hat{q} \hat{v} \tilde{\hat{q}} ?$$

- $\|\hat{w}\| = 1 \cdot \|\hat{v}\| \cdot 1 = \|\hat{v}\| = \|\mathbf{v}\|$
- $Re(\hat{w}) = Re(\hat{q}(\hat{v}\tilde{\hat{q}})) = Re((\hat{v}\tilde{\hat{q}})\hat{q}) = Re(\hat{v}(\tilde{\hat{q}}\hat{q})) = Re(\hat{v}) = 0$

So  $\hat{w} = \hat{q} \hat{v} \tilde{\hat{q}}$  is another **pure quaternion**  $\hat{w} = (0, \mathbf{w}^\top)^\top$  (another **vector**  $\mathbf{w}$ ) the **same length** as  $\mathbf{v}$ , but **ROTATED** from where it was according to the **unit quaternion**  $\hat{q}$ .



# Rotations using Quaternions

How to proceed

## Unit quaternions as Rotations

We want to rotate a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  into a new vector  $\mathbf{w}$  using a unit quaternion  $\hat{q}$ :

- Step 1: Insert the vector  $\mathbf{v}$  in the shape of a pure quaternion,  $\hat{\mathbf{v}} = (0, \mathbf{v}^T)^T$
- Step 2: Calculate  $\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \hat{q}\hat{\mathbf{v}}\tilde{\hat{q}} = \mathbf{Q}(\hat{q})\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}(\tilde{\hat{q}})\hat{\mathbf{v}}$  with

$$\mathbf{Q}(\hat{q})\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}(\tilde{\hat{q}}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0}_3^T \\ \mathbf{0}_3 & \mathbf{R}(\hat{q}) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{R}(\hat{q}) = \begin{pmatrix} q_0^2 + q_1^2 - q_2^2 - q_3^2 & 2q_1q_2 - 2q_0q_3 & 2q_1q_3 + 2q_0q_2 \\ 2q_1q_2 + 2q_0q_3 & q_0^2 - q_1^2 + q_2^2 - q_3^2 & 2q_2q_3 - 2q_0q_1 \\ 2q_1q_3 - 2q_0q_2 & 2q_2q_3 + 2q_0q_1 & q_0^2 - q_1^2 - q_2^2 + q_3^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

is an orthonormal matrix.



# Rotations using Quaternions

## How to proceed

### $\mathbf{R}(\hat{q})$ is a Rotation matrix

From the past two slides it can be concluded that

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{R}(\hat{q})\mathbf{v}$$

with  $\mathbf{R}(\hat{q})$  being a rotation matrix associated to the unit quaternion  $\hat{q}$ .

It can be also checked that (Exercise)

$$\mathbf{R}(\hat{q}) = (q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^\top \mathbf{q})\mathbf{I}_3 + 2\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^\top + 2q_0[\mathbf{q}]_\times$$

So, what is the rotation encoded in  $\mathbf{R}(\hat{q})$ ?



# Rotations using Quaternions

## Encoding

What is the rotation encoded in  $\mathbf{R}(\hat{q})$ ?

We know that

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{R}(\hat{q})\mathbf{v}$$

$$\mathbf{R}(\hat{q}) = (q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{I}_3 + 2\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T + 2q_0[\mathbf{q}]_{\times}$$

Let's take  $\mathbf{q} \parallel \mathbf{v} \rightarrow \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{q}$

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{R}(\hat{q})\mathbf{v} = (q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{v} + 2(\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} + 2q_0(\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v})$$

$$\mathbf{w} = (q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})\lambda \mathbf{q} + 2(\lambda \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} = \lambda(q_0^2 + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{v}$$

According to the Rodrigues' rotation formula, the component parallel to the axis  $\mathbf{u}$  will not change magnitude nor direction under the rotation.

Hence

$$\mathbf{q} = \beta \mathbf{u}$$





# Rotations using Quaternions

## Encoding

What is the rotation encoded in  $R(\dot{q})$ ?

We know that

$$\mathbf{w} = R(\dot{q})\mathbf{v}$$

$$R(\dot{q}) = (q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{I}_3 + 2\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T + 2q_0[\mathbf{q}]_{\times}$$

Let's take  $\mathbf{q} \perp \mathbf{v}$

$$\mathbf{w} = R(\dot{q})\mathbf{v} = (q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{v} + 2(\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} + 2q_0(\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v})$$

$$\mathbf{w} = (q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})\mathbf{v} + 2q_0(\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v})$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{v} + 2 \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{v}_{\perp} = \cos \theta \mathbf{v} + \sin \theta \mathbf{v}_{\perp}$$



# Rotations using Quaternions

## Encoding

What is the rotation encoded in  $\mathbf{R}(\dot{q})$ ?

Using both results, it can be demonstrated, for  $\|\mathbf{u}\| = 1$ , that,

$$\dot{q} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \\ \mathbf{u} \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}$$

Exercise: Calculate  $\|\dot{q}\|$



# Rotations using Quaternions

## Composing

### Composing rotations

If we can rotate a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  by using a unit quaternion as

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \hat{\mathbf{q}} \hat{\mathbf{v}} \tilde{\hat{\mathbf{q}}}$$

what happens if we rotate this image by using another quaternion  $\hat{\mathbf{p}}$ ?

$$\hat{\mathbf{t}} = \hat{\mathbf{p}} \hat{\mathbf{w}} \tilde{\hat{\mathbf{p}}} = \hat{\mathbf{p}} \hat{\mathbf{q}} \hat{\mathbf{v}} \tilde{\hat{\mathbf{q}}} \tilde{\hat{\mathbf{p}}}$$

Hence, the quaternion that rotate  $\mathbf{v}$  first by using the quaternion  $\hat{\mathbf{q}}$  and second  $\hat{\mathbf{p}}$  is  $\hat{\mathbf{p}}\hat{\mathbf{q}}$



- $\mathbf{R}(\mathring{q})$  is a rotation matrix, so demonstrate that

$$\mathbf{R}^T(\mathring{q}) = \mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathring{q})$$

. Hence, it can be derivated from

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{R}(\mathring{q})\mathbf{v}$$

that

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{R}^T(\mathring{q})\mathbf{w}$$



■ Demonstrate that

$$\mathbf{Q}(\tilde{\mathbf{q}}) = \mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{q})^T$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}(\tilde{\mathbf{q}}) = \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}(\mathbf{q})^T$$

■ Demonstrate that

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{q} \mathbf{p}}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}(\mathbf{p})$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{q} \mathbf{p}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{q})$$



- Quaternion's questions from exams in the Exams folder