

# Flight Mechanics/Dynamics

Dr. Shashi Ranjan Kumar

Assistant Professor  
Department of Aerospace Engineering  
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay  
Powai, Mumbai, 400076 India





- Complex numbers  $\mathbb{C} = \{a + bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R}, i^2 = -1\}$  form a plane.
- Their operations are related to two-dimensional geometry.
- Any complex number has a length, given by the Pythagorean formula

$$|a + bi| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

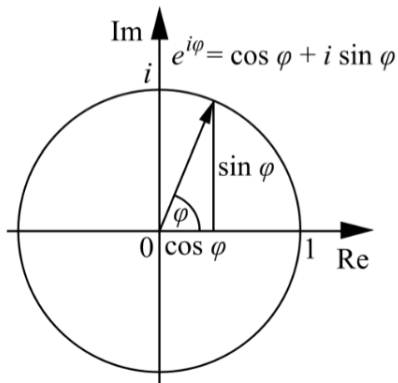
- We can add and subtract in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

$$a + bi + c + di = (a + c) + (b + d)i$$

- We can also multiply in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

$$(a + bi)(c + di) = (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i$$

- **What does this last formula mean?** difficult to interpret
- Fortunately, there is a better way to multiply complex numbers.



We can use complex arithmetic (multiplication) to perform a geometric operation (rotation).

- Geometrically, this formula says  $e^{i\phi}$  lies on the unit circle in  $\mathbb{C}$ .
- If we multiply  $e^{i\phi}$  by a positive number  $r$ , we get a complex number of length  $r$ ,  $re^{i\phi}$ .
- If we denote  $a + bi = r_1e^{i\theta_1}$  and  $c + di = r_2e^{i\theta_2}$  then

$$(a + bi)(c + di) = r_1r_2e^{\theta_1+\theta_2}$$


- To multiply two complex numbers, multiply their lengths and add their angles.
- In particular, if we multiply a given complex number  $z$  by  $e^{i\phi}$  then it is rotated by  $\phi$  degrees.



- The 19th century Irish mathematician and physicist *William Rowan Hamilton* was fascinated by the role of  $\mathbb{C}$  in two-dimensional geometry.
- For years, he tried to invent an algebra of “triplets” to play the same role in three dimensions.
- On October 16th, 1843, while walking with his wife to a meeting of the Royal Society of Dublin, Hamilton discovered a 4-D division algebra called the *quaternions*.



- Although, similar concept was developed by Gauss in 1819 (but unfortunately not published).



Here as he walked by  
on the 16th of October 1843  
Sir William Rowan Hamilton  
in a flash of genius discovered  
the fundamental formula for  
quaternion multiplication  
 $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$   
& cut it on a stone of this bridge



- Hamilton noticed that

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

- The quaternions are denoted as

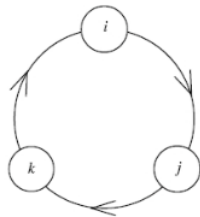
$$\mathbb{H} = \{a + bi + cj + dk : a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

- Cyclic symmetry:

$$ij = k = -ji$$

$$jk = i = -kj$$

$$ki = j = -ik$$



- Quaternions don't commute.
- $i$ ,  $j$  and  $k$  are recognized as unit vectors.



- The quaternion product is the same as the cross product of vectors.

$$\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{i}$$

$$\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j}$$

- However, unlike the unit vectors  $\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{k} = 0$ , we have

$$\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{i} = -1$$

$$\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{j} = -1$$

$$\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{k} = -1$$

$$\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{k} = -1$$



- A Hamilton quaternion can be considered as scalar part and a vector part

$$[Q] = \langle q_0, \mathbf{q} \rangle = q_0 + \underbrace{q_1\mathbf{i} + q_2\mathbf{j} + q_3\mathbf{k}}_{\mathbf{q}}$$

- $1, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}$  serves as basis for quaternion vector space.
- Quaternions span the space of real and imaginary numbers.
- Quaternion algebra includes scalar and vector algebra.
- Addition, subtraction and multiplication: Similar way as in vector algebra.
- **Addition:**

$$\begin{aligned}[Q] + [S] &= (q_0 + q_1\mathbf{i} + q_2\mathbf{j} + q_3\mathbf{k}) + (s_0 + s_1\mathbf{i} + s_2\mathbf{j} + s_3\mathbf{k}) \\ &= (q_0 + s_0) + (q_1 + s_1)\mathbf{i} + (q_2 + s_2)\mathbf{j} + (q_3 + s_3)\mathbf{k}\end{aligned}$$





- **Subtraction:** Addition of negative quaternion  $-[Q] = (-1)[Q]$

$$\begin{aligned}[Q] - [S] &= (q_0 + q_1\mathbf{i} + q_2\mathbf{j} + q_3\mathbf{k}) - (s_0 + s_1\mathbf{i} + s_2\mathbf{j} + s_3\mathbf{k}) \\ &= (q_0 - s_0) + (q_1 - s_1)\mathbf{i} + (q_2 - s_2)\mathbf{j} + (q_3 - s_3)\mathbf{k}\end{aligned}$$

- **Multiplication:**

$$\begin{aligned}[Q][S] &= (q_0 + q_1\mathbf{i} + q_2\mathbf{j} + q_3\mathbf{k})(s_0 + s_1\mathbf{i} + s_2\mathbf{j} + s_3\mathbf{k}) \\ &= (q_0s_0 - q_1s_1 - q_2s_2 - q_3s_3) + (\textcolor{red}{q}_0\textcolor{red}{s}_1 + \textcolor{blue}{q}_1\textcolor{blue}{s}_0 + q_2s_3 - q_3s_2)\mathbf{i} \\ &\quad + (\textcolor{red}{q}_0\textcolor{red}{s}_2 - q_1s_3 + \textcolor{blue}{q}_2\textcolor{blue}{s}_0 + q_3s_1)\mathbf{j} + (\textcolor{red}{q}_0\textcolor{red}{s}_3 + q_1s_2 - q_2s_1 + \textcolor{blue}{q}_3\textcolor{blue}{s}_0)\mathbf{k}\end{aligned}$$

- Using dot product of vectors  $\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{s} = q_1s_1 + q_2s_2 + q_3s_3$ , we have

$$\boxed{[Q][S] = \langle q_0, \mathbf{q} \rangle \langle s_0, \mathbf{s} \rangle = \langle q_0s_0 - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{s}, \textcolor{red}{q}_0\textcolor{red}{s} + \textcolor{blue}{s}_0\textcolor{blue}{q} + \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{s} \rangle}$$

- Product of two quaternions is still a quaternion, with scalar part  $(q_0s_0 - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{s})$  and vector part  $(q_0\mathbf{s} + s_0\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{s})$ .



- The set of quaternions is closed under multiplication and addition.

### Example

Consider two quaternions below and find their quaternion product.

$$[Q] = 3 + \mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$$

$$[S] = 2 - \mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{s} = -2, \quad \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{s} = -8\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j}.$$

$\Rightarrow$  We know that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q_0, \mathbf{q} \rangle \langle s_0, \mathbf{s} \rangle &= \langle q_0 s_0 - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{s}, q_0 \mathbf{s} + s_0 \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{s} \rangle \\ &= 6 - (-2) + 3(-\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}) + 2(\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) + (-8\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j}) \\ &= 8 - 9\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 11\mathbf{k} \end{aligned}$$



- **Scalar multiplication:**

$$\lambda[Q] = \lambda q_0 + \lambda q_1 \mathbf{i} + \lambda q_2 \mathbf{j} + \lambda q_3 \mathbf{k}$$

- **Conjugate:**

$$[Q]^* = q_0 - \mathbf{q} = q_0 - q_1 \mathbf{i} - q_2 \mathbf{j} - q_3 \mathbf{k}$$

- We have the following relations

$$([Q]^*)^* = q_0 - (-\mathbf{q}) = [Q]$$

$$[Q] + [Q]^* = 2q_0$$

$$[Q]^*[Q] = (q_0 + \mathbf{q})(q_0 - \mathbf{q})$$

$$= q_0 q_0 - (-\mathbf{q}) \cdot \mathbf{q} + q_0 \mathbf{q} + (-\mathbf{q}) q_0 + (-\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{q})$$

$$= q_0^2 + \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{q}$$

$$= q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 = [Q][Q]^*$$



- **Norm of Length of quaternion:**

$$\begin{aligned} N([Q]) &= [Q][Q]^* = [Q]^*[Q] = (q_0 + \mathbf{q})(q_0 - \mathbf{q}) \\ &= q_0^2 + \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{q} = q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 \end{aligned}$$

- For two quaternions  $[Q]$  and  $[S]$ , we have

$$([Q][S])^* = [S]^*[Q]^*$$

⇒ Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} ([Q][S])^* &= [(q_0 + \mathbf{q})(s_0 + \mathbf{s})]^* \\ &= (q_0 s_0 - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{s} + q_0 \mathbf{s} + s_0 \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{s})^* \\ &= (q_0 s_0 - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{s} - q_0 \mathbf{s} - s_0 \mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{s}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [S]^*[Q]^* &= (s_0 - \mathbf{s})(q_0 - \mathbf{q}) \\ &= q_0 s_0 - (-\mathbf{s}) \cdot (-\mathbf{q}) + q_0(-\mathbf{s}) + s_0(-\mathbf{q}) + (-\mathbf{s}) \times (-\mathbf{q}) \\ &= (q_0 s_0 - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{s} - q_0 \mathbf{s} - s_0 \mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{s}) = ([Q][S])^* \end{aligned}$$



- Norm of product of two quaternions is equal to product of their norms.

$$N([Q][S]) = N([Q])N([S])$$

⇒ Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} N([Q][S]) &= ([Q][S])([Q][S])^* \\ &= [Q][S][S]^*[Q]^* \\ &= [Q]N([S])[Q]^* \\ &= N([Q])N([S]) \end{aligned}$$

- Also, by using mathematical induction, one may write

$$N([Q_1][Q_2] \dots [Q_n]) = N([Q_1])N([Q_2]) \dots N([Q_n])$$



- **Inverse of quaternion:** If  $[Q] \neq 0$  then its inverse is defined by

$$[Q][Q]^{-1} = [Q]^{-1}[Q] = 1$$

- Using norm concept,  $[Q]^{-1} = \frac{[Q]^*}{N(Q)}$ ,  $N(Q) \neq 0$ . Does it make sense?

$$[Q][Q]^{-1} = [Q]^{-1}[Q] = \frac{[Q][Q]^*}{N(Q)} = 1$$

- If  $[Q]$  is unit quaternion then

$$[Q]^{-1} = \frac{[Q]^*}{N(Q)} = [Q]^*$$

- Inverse and conjugate for the unit quaternions are the same.



### Identities:

- How to define zero and unit quaternions?
- A **zero** quaternion is quaternion with **zero scalar** and **zero vector**.
- A **unit** quaternion is defined as any quaternion whose norm is 1.

$$[0] = 0 + 0\mathbf{i} + 0\mathbf{j} + 0\mathbf{k}, \quad [1] = 1 + 0\mathbf{i} + 0\mathbf{j} + 0\mathbf{k}$$

- Unlike direction cosine matrix, where six redundancies are present, the quaternion has only one.
- For unit quaternion,

$$q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 = 1$$

- $\sqrt{q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2}$  can be used for normalizing factor for each parameter.



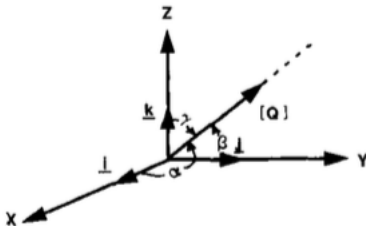
- How to identify if two quaternions are equal?
- Equality of quaternions:** Two quaternions are equal if both their scalars as well as their vectors are equal.

$$[Q] = [S]$$

$$\Rightarrow q_0 = s_0, q_1 = s_1, q_2 = s_2, q_3 = s_3$$

$$\Rightarrow [Q]_i = [S]_i \quad \forall i = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

- Can we express 3D vector as quaternion?
- Any three dimensional vector can be expressed as quaternion with zero scalar.







- Quaternions obey the associative and commutative laws of addition, and the associative and distributive laws of multiplication.
- For three quaternions,  $Q_1, Q_2, Q_3$

☐ Associative addition

$$(Q_1 + Q_2) + Q_3 = Q_1 + (Q_2 + Q_3)$$

☐ Commutative addition

$$Q_1 + Q_2 = Q_2 + Q_1$$

☐ Associative multiplication

$$(Q_1 Q_2) Q_3 = Q_1 (Q_2 Q_3)$$

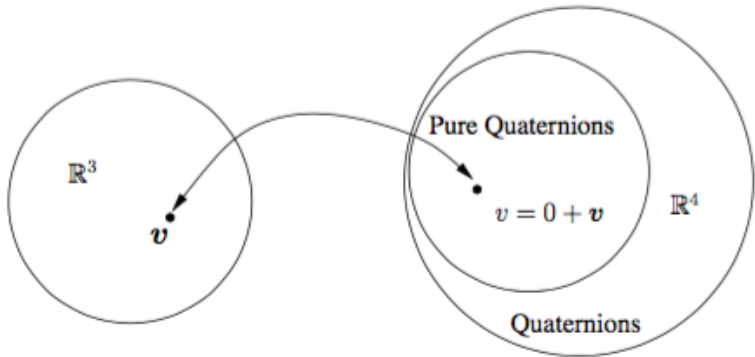
☐ Distributive multiplication

$$Q_1(Q_2 + Q_3) = Q_1 Q_2 + Q_1 Q_3$$

- Is the multiplication of quaternions commutative?



- Pure quaternions: Quaternion with zero real or scalar part
- Any vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is a pure quaternion.





- How quaternion  $[Q] \in \mathbb{R}^4$  operate on a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ?
- Define quaternion operator with unit quaternion  $[Q]$  as

$$L_Q(\mathbf{v}) = [Q]\mathbf{v}[Q]^\star = (q_0^2 - \|\mathbf{q}\|^2)\mathbf{v} + 2(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{q} + 2q_0(\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v})$$

⇒ Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} L_Q(\mathbf{v}) &= [Q]\mathbf{v}[Q]^\star = (q_0 + \mathbf{q})(\mathbf{0} + \mathbf{v})(q_0 - \mathbf{q}) \\ &= (q_0 + \mathbf{q})(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{q} + \{q_0\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{q}\}) \\ &= q_0(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{q}) - \mathbf{q} \cdot \{q_0\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{q}\} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} + q_0\{q_0\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{q}\} \\ &\quad + \mathbf{q} \times \{q_0\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{q}\} \\ &= \mathbf{q} \cdot \{\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{q}\} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} + q_0\{q_0\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{q}\} + \mathbf{q} \times \{q_0\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{q}\} \\ &= (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} + q_0^2\mathbf{v} + 2q_0\{\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v}\} + \mathbf{q} \times \{\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v}\} \\ &= (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} + q_0^2\mathbf{v} + 2q_0\{\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v}\} + \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{q}) \\ &= (q_0^2 - \|\mathbf{q}\|^2)\mathbf{v} + 2(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{q} + 2q_0\{\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{v}\} \end{aligned}$$



### Operation of Unit Quaternion on Vector

This operator  $L_Q$  does not change the length of the vector  $\mathbf{v}$ .

$$\|L_Q(\mathbf{v})\| = \|[Q]\mathbf{v}[Q]^*\| = |[Q]| \|\mathbf{v}\| |[Q]^*| = \|\mathbf{v}\|$$

The direction of  $\mathbf{v}$ , if along  $\mathbf{q}$  (say  $\mathbf{v} = k\mathbf{q}$ ), is left unchanged by the operator  $L_Q$ .

$$\begin{aligned}[Q]\mathbf{v}[Q]^* &= [Q](k\mathbf{q})[Q]^* = (q_0^2 - |\mathbf{q}|^2)(k\mathbf{q}) + 2(\mathbf{q} \cdot (k\mathbf{q}))\mathbf{q} + 2q_0(\mathbf{q} \times (k\mathbf{q})) \\ &= k(q_0^2 + \|\mathbf{q}\|^2)\mathbf{q} = k\mathbf{q}\end{aligned}$$

- Any vector along  $\mathbf{q}$  is thus not changed under operator  $L_Q$ . This makes us guess that the operator  $L_Q$  acts like a rotation about  $\mathbf{q}$ .
- The operator  $L_Q$  is linear over  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . For any two vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and any  $a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

$$L_Q(a_1\mathbf{v}_1 + a_2\mathbf{v}_2) = a_1L_Q(\mathbf{v}_1) + a_2L_Q(\mathbf{v}_2).$$



### Rotation of Vector using Quaternion

For any unit quaternion

$$[Q] = q_0 + \mathbf{q} = \cos \frac{\theta}{2} + \hat{q} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$$

and for any vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , the action of the operator  $L_Q(\mathbf{v}) = [Q]\mathbf{v}[Q]^*$  on  $\mathbf{v}$  is equivalent to a rotation of the vector through an angle  $\theta$ , about  $\hat{q}$  as the axis of rotation.

- A vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , we decompose it as  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{n}$ , where  $\mathbf{a}$  is the component along the vector  $\mathbf{q}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  is the component normal to  $\mathbf{q}$ .
- Under the operator  $L_Q$ ,  $\mathbf{a}$  is invariant, while  $\mathbf{n}$  is rotated about  $\mathbf{q}$  through an angle  $\theta$ .
- Since the operator is linear, the image  $[Q]\mathbf{v}[Q]^*$  is indeed interpreted as a rotation of  $\mathbf{v}$  about  $\mathbf{q}$  through an angle  $\theta$ .



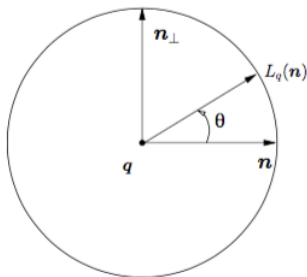
- The operator  $L_q$  on vectors  $\mathbf{n}$

$$\begin{aligned}L_Q(\mathbf{n}) &= (q_0^2 - \|\mathbf{q}\|^2)\mathbf{n} + 2(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{q} + 2q_0(\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{n}) \\&= (q_0^2 - \|\mathbf{q}\|^2)\mathbf{n} + 2q_0(\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{n}) \\&= (q_0^2 - \|\mathbf{q}\|^2)\mathbf{n} + 2q_0\|\mathbf{q}\|(\hat{\mathbf{q}} \times \mathbf{n})\end{aligned}$$

- Denote  $\mathbf{n}_\perp = \hat{\mathbf{q}} \times \mathbf{n}$ . Now,

$$\begin{aligned}L_Q(\mathbf{n}) &= (q_0^2 - \|\mathbf{q}\|^2)\mathbf{n} + 2q_0\|\mathbf{q}\|\mathbf{n}_\perp \\&= \left(\cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}\right)\mathbf{n} + 2\sin \frac{\theta}{2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}_\perp \\&= \cos \theta \mathbf{n} + \sin \theta \mathbf{n}_\perp\end{aligned}$$

- Resulting vector is a rotation of  $\mathbf{n}$  through an angle  $\theta$  in the plane defined by  $\mathbf{n}$  and  $\mathbf{n}_\perp$ .



- $L_{-[Q]} = [-Q]v[-Q]^* = [Q]v[Q]^*$  **How?**
- Negative quaternion  $-[Q]$

$$-[Q] = \cos \frac{2\pi + \theta}{2} + \hat{q} \sin \frac{2\pi + \theta}{2}$$

- It represents the rotation about the same axis through the angle  $2\pi + \theta$ , essentially the same rotation.



### Rotation of Coordinate Frame using Quaternion

For any unit quaternion  $[Q] = q_0 + \mathbf{q} = \cos \frac{\theta}{2} + \hat{q} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$  and for any vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  the action of the operator  $L_{Q^*}(\mathbf{v}) = [Q]^* \mathbf{v} [Q]^{**} = [Q]^* \mathbf{v} [Q]$  is a rotation of the coordinate frame about the axis  $\hat{q}$  through an angle  $\theta$  while  $\mathbf{v}$  is not rotated.

- Rotation of  $\mathbf{v}$  under the operator  $L_Q$  can also be interpreted from the perspective of an observer attached to the vector  $\mathbf{v}$ .
- What he sees happening is that the coordinate frame rotates through the angle  $-\theta$  about the same axis defined by the quaternion.
- $L_{Q^*}$  rotates the vector  $\mathbf{v}$  with respect to the coordinate frame through an angle  $-\theta$  about  $\mathbf{q}$ .
- $L_Q(\mathbf{v}) = [Q]\mathbf{v}[Q]^*$  may be interpreted as a point or vector rotation with respect to the (fixed) coordinate frame.
- $L_{Q^*}(\mathbf{v}) = [Q]^*\mathbf{v}[Q]$  may be interpreted as a coordinate frame rotation with respect to the (fixed) space of points.





## Reference

- ① George M. Siouris, *Aerospace Avionics Systems: A Modern Synthesis*, Academic Press, Inc. 1993.
- ② Bandhu N. Pamadi, *Performance, Stability, and Control of Airplanes*, AIAA Education Series, 1998.

Thank you for your attention !!!