

# Flight Mechanics/Dynamics

Dr. Shashi Ranjan Kumar

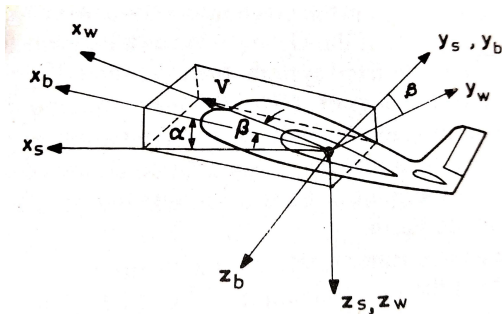
Assistant Professor  
Department of Aerospace Engineering  
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay  
Powai, Mumbai, 400076 India





- DCM: transforms a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  from one frame to other frame.
- If  $(X, Y, Z)$  and  $(x, y, z)$  are the representations of a vector in frames  $a$  and  $b$ , respectively, then

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}}_{R^b} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} & C_{23} \\ C_{31} & C_{32} & C_{33} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Rotation Matrix}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}}_{R^a} \Rightarrow R^b = C_a^b R^a$$

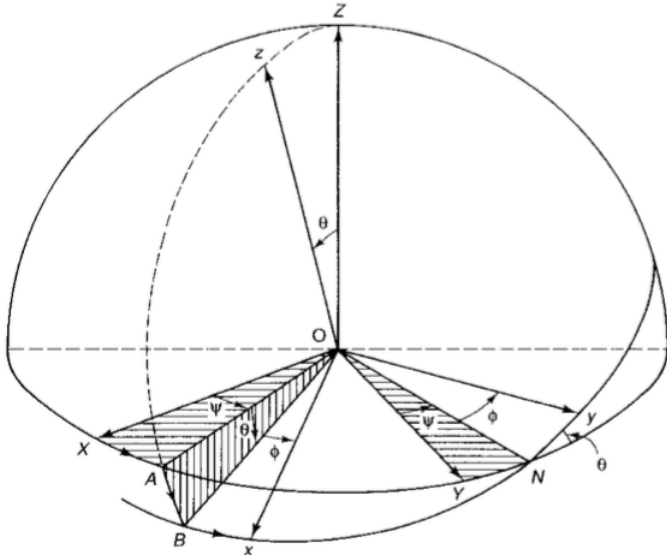




- Euler angles

- ⇒ Method to specify the angular orientation of one coordinate frame w.r.t. another frame
- ⇒ A series of three ordered right-handed rotations
- ⇒ Correspond to the conventional roll pitch yaw angles
- Euler angles are **not uniquely defined** since there is an infinite set of choices.
- No standardized definitions of the Euler angles.
- For a particular choice of Euler angles, the rotation order selected and/or defined should be consistent.
- Interchange in order of rotation  $\implies$  different Euler angle representation.
- Rotations are made about the  $Z, Y, X$  axes through an angle  $\psi, \theta, \phi$  angles.
- These rotations are made in the positive (**anticlockwise sense**) when looking down the axis of rotation toward the origin.

## Euler Angle Rotations ( $ZY'Z''$ )

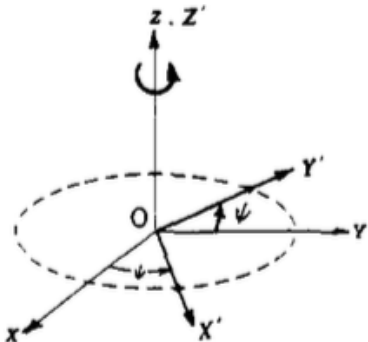




- Euler angles: Three elemental rotations
- Extrinsic rotations: Rotations about the axes of the **original coordinate system**, which is assumed to remain motionless.
- Intrinsic rotations: Rotations about the axes of **rotating coordinate system**, which changes its orientation after each elemental rotation.
- Another classification
  - ⇒ Proper Euler angles
  - ⇒ Tait-Bryan angles
- Proper Euler angles :  $(xxz, zyz, xyx, xzx, yzy, yxy)$
- Tait-Bryan angles :  $(zyx, zxy, xyz, xzy, yzx, yxz)$
- **What is the major difference between Proper Euler and Tait-Bryan angles?**
- Tait-Bryan angles represent rotations about three **distinct** axes, while proper Euler angles use the **same axis** for both the **first** and **third** elemental rotations.



- Rotation about  $Z$  axis in anticlockwise direction by an angle  $\psi$



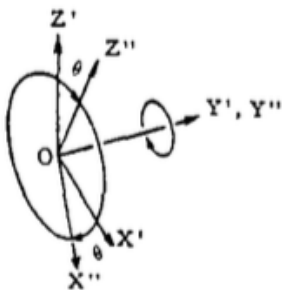
$$\begin{bmatrix} X' \\ Y' \\ Z' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \psi & \sin \psi & 0 \\ -\sin \psi & \cos \psi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \mathbf{A} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \psi & \sin \psi & 0 \\ -\sin \psi & \cos \psi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



- Rotation about  $Y$  axis in anticlockwise direction by an angle  $\theta$



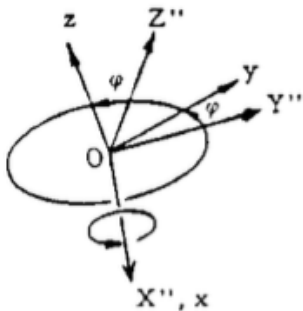
$$\begin{bmatrix} X'' \\ Y'' \\ Z'' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X' \\ Y' \\ Z' \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \mathbf{B} \begin{bmatrix} X' \\ Y' \\ Z' \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$



- Rotation about  $X$  axis in anticlockwise direction by an angle  $\phi$



$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X'' \\ Y'' \\ Z'' \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= D \begin{bmatrix} X'' \\ Y'' \\ Z'' \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$$





- Consecutive rotations in the order  $\psi, \theta, \phi$  i.e., (**yaw, pitch and roll**) on reference frame  $XYZ \Rightarrow$  new reference frame  $xyz$ .
- Rotation matrix for representing these three rotations

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{D} \begin{bmatrix} X'' \\ Y'' \\ Z'' \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{DB} \begin{bmatrix} X' \\ Y' \\ Z' \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{DBA} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}$$

- Equivalently,

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\mathbf{DBA}}_C \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}$$



- Equivalent rotation matrix  $C = DBA$  can be written as

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \psi & \sin \psi & 0 \\ -\sin \psi & \cos \psi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta \cos \psi & \cos \theta \sin \psi & -\sin \theta \\ \cos \psi \sin \theta \sin \phi - \sin \psi \cos \phi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \sin \phi + \cos \psi \cos \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ \cos \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi + \sin \psi \sin \phi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi - \cos \psi \sin \phi & \cos \theta \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

- This rotation matrix is called **Euler angle transformation matrix**.
- Range of Euler angles:

$$-\pi \leq \psi \leq \pi, \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad -\pi \leq \phi \leq \pi$$

- Is there any issue with  $|\theta| > \pi/2$ ?



- Equivalent rotation matrices

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C} &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta \cos \psi & \cos \theta \sin \psi & -\sin \theta \\ \cos \psi \sin \theta \sin \phi - \sin \psi \cos \phi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \sin \phi + \cos \psi \cos \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ \cos \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi + \sin \psi \sin \phi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi - \cos \psi \sin \phi & \cos \theta \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} & C_{23} \\ C_{31} & C_{32} & C_{33} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

- How to obtain Euler angles from given DCM matrix?

$$\theta = \sin^{-1}(-C_{13})$$

$$\phi = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{C_{23}}{\sqrt{1 - C_{13}^2}} \right)$$

$$\psi = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{C_{12}}{\sqrt{1 - C_{13}^2}} \right)$$

- Are there some issues with these expressions?



- Recall about the ranges of these Euler angles
- **How to determine the quadrant in which these angles lie?**
- As pitch angle  $\theta$  lies in  $-\pi/2 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$ ,

$$\theta \in \begin{cases} [0, \pi/2] & C_{13} \leq 0 \\ [-\pi/2, 0] & C_{13} \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

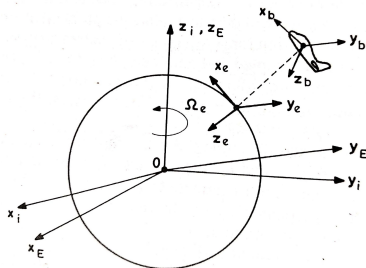
- **What about bank angle  $\phi$ ?**
- As  $C_{33} = \cos \phi \cos \theta$ , and  $\cos \theta > 0$ , sign of  $C_{33}$  is same as that of  $\cos \phi$ .
- Also,  $C_{23} = \sin \phi \cos \theta$ , and  $\cos \theta > 0$ , sign of  $C_{23}$  is same as that of  $\sin \phi$ .

$$\phi \in \begin{cases} \text{First quadrant} & C_{33} > 0 \ \& \ C_{23} > 0 \\ \text{Second quadrant} & C_{33} < 0 \ \& \ C_{23} > 0 \\ \text{Third quadrant} & C_{33} < 0 \ \& \ C_{23} < 0 \\ \text{Fourth quadrant} & C_{33} > 0 \ \& \ C_{23} < 0 \end{cases}$$

- We can also obtain the quadrants of  $\psi$  using  $C_{11}$  and  $C_{12}$  in a similar way.



- Transformation between inertial and Earth-fixed system

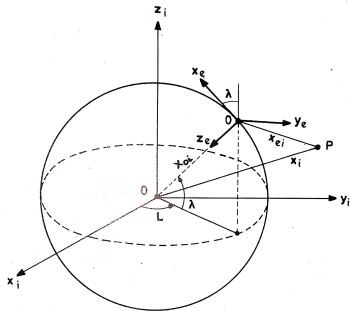


- At  $t = 0$ , both systems coincide, and for  $t > 0$ ,  $\psi = \Omega_e t$ .
- Transformation matrix

$$X_E = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \Omega_e t & \sin \Omega_e t & 0 \\ -\sin \Omega_e t & \cos \Omega_e t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} X_i$$



- Transformation between inertial and navigation system



- What are the necessary rotations here?
- $\psi = L, \theta = -(\pi/2 + \lambda), \phi = 0.$
- Transformation matrix

$$T_i^e = \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \lambda \cos L & -\sin \lambda \sin L & \cos \lambda \\ -\sin L & \cos L & 0 \\ -\cos \lambda \cos L & -\cos \lambda \sin L & -\sin \lambda \end{bmatrix}$$



### Example

With respect to an Earth-centered inertial frame, a vehicle has the following velocity components

$$u_i(t) = u_{oi} + a_{xi}t, \quad v_i(t) = a_{yi}t, \quad w_i(t) = 0.$$

Assuming  $u_{oi} = 100$  ft/s,  $a_{xi} = 25$  ft/s<sup>2</sup>, and  $a_{yi} = 50$  ft/s<sup>2</sup>, determine the position and velocity with reference to the Earth-fixed ( $x_E y_E z_E$ ) and navigation ( $x_e y_e z_e$ ) systems, at a time instant of 50 seconds. Assume that at  $t = 0$ , the vehicle is located on the equator with  $L = 0$ .

- At  $t = 0$ ,  $x_i = R_e = 2.0973364 \times 10^7$  ft,  $y_i = z_i = 0$ .
- Vehicle's coordinates

$$x_i(t) = x_{oi} + \int_0^t u_i dt = R_e + u_{oi}t_1 + \frac{1}{2}a_{xi}t_1^2, \quad y_i(t) = \frac{1}{2}a_{yi}t_1^2, \quad z_i = 0$$

- $x_i = R_e + 36250$  ft,  $y_i = 62500$  ft,  $z_i = 0$  ft



- Angular velocity of Earth about  $z$ -axis

$$\Omega_e = \frac{2\pi}{24 \times 3600} = 0.7172 \times 10^{-4} \text{ rad/s}$$

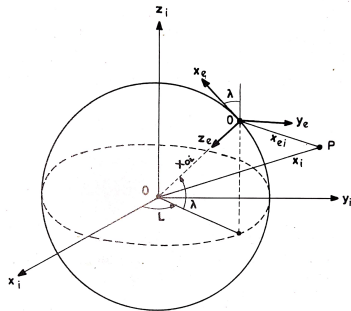
- Angle of rotation

$$\Omega_e t_1 = 0.7172 \times 10^{-4} \times 50 = 3.636 \times 10^{-3} \text{ rad}$$

- Vehicle's coordinates in Earth-fixed axes

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_E \\ y_E \\ z_E \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \Omega_e t_1 & \sin \Omega_e t_1 & 0 \\ -\sin \Omega_e t_1 & \cos \Omega_e t_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ y_i \\ z_i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2.1009841 \times 10^7 \\ -13869.95 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$





- Let  $X_i$  denotes the position of particle  $P$  in inertial frame of reference.
- One may write  $X_i = X_{oi} + X_{ei} \implies X_{ei} = X_i - X_{oi}$ .
- Components in navigation frame  $X_e = T_i^e X_{ei}$

$$T_i^e = \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \lambda \cos L & -\sin \lambda \sin L & \cos \lambda \\ -\sin L & \cos L & 0 \\ -\cos \lambda \cos L & -\cos \lambda \sin L & -\sin \lambda \end{bmatrix}$$



- $L = 0^\circ, \lambda = 0^\circ$

- $X_{oi} = \begin{bmatrix} R_e \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

- Transformation matrix

$$T_i^e = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Vehicle's coordinates in navigation frame

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} x_e \\ y_e \\ z_e \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R_e + 36250 \\ 62500 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R_e \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 62500 \\ -36250 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$



- Transformation from inertial system to body axes system

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta \cos \psi & \cos \theta \sin \psi & -\sin \theta \\ \cos \psi \sin \theta \sin \phi - \sin \psi \cos \phi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \sin \phi + \cos \psi \cos \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ \cos \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi + \sin \psi \sin \phi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi - \cos \psi \sin \phi & \cos \theta \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

- Transformation from body axes system to inertial system

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta \cos \psi & \cos \theta \sin \psi & -\sin \theta \\ \cos \psi \sin \theta \sin \phi - \sin \psi \cos \phi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \sin \phi + \cos \psi \cos \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ \cos \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi + \sin \psi \sin \phi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \cos \phi - \cos \psi \sin \phi & \cos \theta \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}^T$$



- Transformation from wind axes system to body axes system
- What are the rotations involved here?**
- First rotation is  $\psi = -\beta$ , second  $\theta = \alpha$ , third would be any  $\phi$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & 0 & -\sin \alpha \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \alpha & 0 & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(-\beta) & \sin(-\beta) & 0 \\ -\sin(-\beta) & \cos(-\beta) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta & -\cos \alpha \sin \beta & -\sin \alpha \\ \cos \beta \sin \alpha \sin \phi + \sin \beta \cos \phi & -\sin \beta \sin \alpha \sin \phi + \cos \beta \cos \phi & \cos \alpha \sin \phi \\ \cos \beta \sin \alpha \cos \phi - \sin \beta \sin \phi & -\sin \beta \sin \alpha \cos \phi - \cos \beta \sin \phi & \cos \alpha \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

- What are the components of velocity in the body axes frame?**
- $V_w = [V \ 0 \ 0]^T$
- Velocity components in body frame

$$V_b = CV_w = C \begin{bmatrix} V \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta \\ \cos \beta \sin \alpha \sin \phi + \sin \beta \cos \phi \\ \cos \beta \sin \alpha \cos \phi - \sin \beta \sin \phi \end{bmatrix} V$$



- Conventional definition of angle of attack and sideslip

$$\alpha = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{w}{u} \right), \quad \beta = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{v}{V} \right)$$

- This definition holds only if  $\phi = 0$
- For  $\phi \neq 0$ , a part of angle of attack gets converted to sideslip.
- Effective  $\alpha$  reduces and effective  $\beta$  is not zero, even for  $\beta = 0$ .
- For  $\beta = 0, \phi \neq 0$ ,

$$\alpha_{\text{eff}} = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{w}{u} \right) = \tan^{-1}(\tan \alpha \cos \phi)$$

$$\beta_{\text{eff}} = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{v}{V} \right) = \sin^{-1}(\sin \alpha \sin \phi)$$

- For  $\phi = 90^\circ$ ,  $\alpha_{\text{eff}} = 0$ ,  $\beta_{\text{eff}} = \alpha$
- All angle of attack gets converted to sideslip.



### Example

An aircraft is tested in a low-speed wind tunnel at an angle of attack of  $20^\circ$ , sideslip of  $10^\circ$ , and a bank angle of  $10^\circ$ . An internal strain gage balance was used to measure the aerodynamic forces acting on the model, which gives components of force in the body axes system. The measurements are  $F_x = 21.7$  lb,  $F_y = -33$  lb, and  $F_z = -91$  lb. Determine the transformation matrix from body to wind axes, and lift, drag, and side forces acting on the model.

- Transformation matrix

$$C_w^b = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta & -\cos \alpha \sin \beta & -\sin \alpha \\ \cos \beta \sin \alpha \sin \phi + \sin \beta \cos \phi & -\sin \beta \sin \alpha \sin \phi + \cos \beta \cos \phi & \cos \alpha \sin \phi \\ \cos \beta \sin \alpha \cos \phi - \sin \beta \sin \phi & -\sin \beta \sin \alpha \cos \phi - \cos \beta \sin \phi & \cos \alpha \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

- $C_b^w = (C_w^b)^T$



- Transformation matrix

$$C_b^w = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9254 & 0.3188 & 0.2049 \\ -0.1631 & 0.8232 & -0.3882 \\ -0.3420 & 0.4698 & 0.8138 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Force components

$$\begin{bmatrix} F_{xw} \\ F_{yw} \\ F_{zw} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9254 & 0.3188 & 0.2049 \\ -0.1631 & 0.8232 & -0.3882 \\ -0.3420 & 0.4698 & 0.8138 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 21.7 \\ -33 \\ -91 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -9.0809 \\ 4.6226 \\ -96.9833 \end{bmatrix}$$

- What are the forces (lift, drag, and side force) on aircraft?
- Lift  $L = 96.9833$ , Drag  $D = 9.08909$ , Side force  $Y = 4.6226$ .



- Similar to DCM orientation, Euler angles also vary with time when an input angular velocity vector is applied between the two reference frames.
- Angular velocity vector  $\omega$ , in body-fixed coordinate system, has components  $p$ ,  $q$ , and  $r$  in the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  directions, respectively.
- Consider each derivative of an Euler angle as the magnitude of the angular velocity vector in the coordinate system in which the angle is defined.
- For example,  $\dot{\psi}$  is the magnitude of  $\dot{\psi}$  that lies along  $Z$  axis of the Earth-fixed coordinate system.



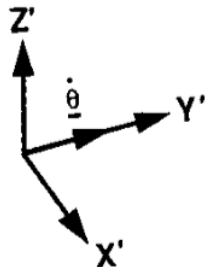
$$\dot{\psi} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\psi}_x \\ \dot{\psi}_y \\ \dot{\psi}_z \end{bmatrix} = C \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\dot{\psi} \sin \theta \\ \dot{\psi} \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ \dot{\psi} \cos \theta \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$$





- Similarly, the components of  $\dot{\theta}$  in  $X'Y'Z'$  are given by  $(0, \dot{\theta}, 0)^T$ .
- In body frame, it can be obtained as

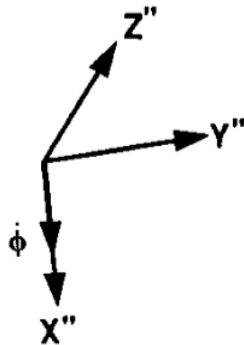
$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\theta} &= \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta}_x \\ \dot{\theta}_y \\ \dot{\theta}_z \end{bmatrix} = DB \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \dot{\theta} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \dot{\theta} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \dot{\theta} \cos \phi \\ -\dot{\theta} \sin \phi \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$





- Similarly, the components of  $\dot{\phi}$  in  $X''Y''Z''$  are given by  $(\dot{\psi}, 0, 0)^T$ .
- In body frame, it can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\phi} &= \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi}_x \\ \dot{\phi}_y \\ \dot{\phi}_z \end{bmatrix} = D \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$





- Components of  $\omega$  in body-fixed coordinate system is given by

$$\omega = \dot{\psi} + \dot{\theta} + \dot{\phi}$$

- Now, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \omega_x \\ \omega_y \\ \omega_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\psi}_x + \dot{\theta}_x + \dot{\phi}_x \\ \dot{\psi}_y + \dot{\theta}_y + \dot{\phi}_y \\ \dot{\psi}_z + \dot{\theta}_z + \dot{\phi}_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi} - \dot{\psi} \sin \theta \\ \dot{\psi} \cos \theta \sin \phi + \dot{\theta} \cos \phi \\ \dot{\psi} \cos \theta \cos \phi - \dot{\theta} \sin \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

- Euler angle rates

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\psi} \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\phi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{q \sin \phi + r \cos \phi}{\cos \theta} \\ q \cos \phi - r \sin \phi \\ p + \tan \theta (q \sin \phi + r \cos \phi) \end{bmatrix}$$

- What happen when  $\theta = \pm 90^\circ$ ? Gimbal lock problem
- How to avoid such difficulties? Nonsingular representation, e.g., quaternions



- For  $\theta = \pi/2$ ,  $p = \dot{\phi} - \dot{\psi}$ ,  $q = \dot{\theta} \cos \phi$ ,  $r = -\dot{\theta} \sin \phi$
- Azimuth and elevation rates

$$\dot{\psi} = \frac{q \sin \phi + r \cos \phi}{\cos \theta} = \frac{\dot{\theta} \cos \phi \sin \phi - \dot{\theta} \sin \phi \cos \phi}{\cos \theta} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$\dot{\phi} = p + \frac{\sin \theta (q \sin \phi + r \cos \phi)}{\cos \theta} = p + \frac{0}{0}$$

Indeterminate forms!!!

- Using L'Hospital rule, and the fact that  $\frac{d()}{d\theta} = \frac{d()}{dt} \frac{dt}{d\theta}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\psi}|_{\theta=\pi/2} &= \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{\frac{d}{d\theta} (q \sin \phi + r \cos \phi)}{\frac{d(\cos \theta)}{d\theta}} \\ &= \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{\dot{q} \sin \phi + q \cos \phi \dot{\phi} - r \sin \phi \dot{\phi} + \dot{r} \cos \phi}{-\dot{\theta} \sin \theta} \\ &= - \frac{\dot{q} \sin \phi + \dot{r} \cos \phi + \dot{\phi} \dot{\theta}}{\dot{\theta}} \end{aligned}$$



- Also, for  $\theta = \pi/2$ ,  $p = \dot{\phi} - \dot{\psi}$

$$\dot{\phi}|_{\theta=\pi/2} = p + \dot{\psi}|_{\theta=\pi/2} = p - \frac{\dot{q} \sin \phi + \dot{r} \cos \phi + \dot{\phi} \dot{\theta}}{\dot{\theta}}$$

- On solving this equation,

$$\dot{\phi}|_{\theta=\pi/2} = \frac{p}{2} - \frac{\dot{q} \sin \phi + \dot{r} \cos \phi}{2\dot{\theta}}$$

- Also,  $\dot{\theta} = q \cos \phi - r \sin \phi$ .
- For  $\theta \approx \pi/2$ , use these limiting values, else use the usual update equations.

## Homework

Find out the relation between angular velocities in wind and body axes system



## Reference

- ① Bernard Etkin and Llyod Duff Reid, *Dynamics of Flight Stability and Control*, John Wiley and Sons, Third Edition, 1996.
- ② Bandhu N. Pamadi, *Performance, Stability, and Control of Airplanes*, AIAA Education Series, 1998.
- ③ George M. Siouris, *Aerospace Avionics Systems: A Modern Synthesis*, Academic Press, Inc. 1993.

Thank you for your attention !!!