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Problem 5.5.6. Rotate a general \mathbf{u} in plane of rotation \mathbf{i} .

Proof. Solve using hints from book

Let $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp}$.

Let $re^{i\theta} = a + bi$.

Let $re^{i\theta/2} = c + di$, for a c and d where $(c + di)^2 = a + bi$

Let $\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp}$

as \mathbf{i} may be decomposed into $\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \triangleq \mathbf{u}_{\parallel}$ (the component of \mathbf{u} parallel to the plane \mathbf{i}), and \mathbf{i}_{\perp} (the vector in the plane of rotation \mathbf{i} that is perpendicular to \mathbf{u}_{\parallel}), as all unit pseudoscalars in the same plane are the same. Like the author, I will use the facts of Exercise 5.10 without justification. The hardest part for me in deriving this proof was management of variable names. Defining the same value with two variable names, $\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \triangleq \mathbf{u}_{\parallel}$, was important to me in creating this proof so that between equation 8 and 9 I didn't try to reduce $\mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\parallel}$ (i.e. $\mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \mathbf{u}_{\parallel}$) to a scalar, yet still demonstrating in the proof that I using the commutative property of the geometric product for parallel vectors, and as such I was swapping their order without changing the sign.

$$-\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{i}_{\perp} \mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \quad (1)$$

$$re^{-i\theta/2} = c + d-\mathbf{i} \quad (2)$$

$$= c - d\mathbf{i} \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{v} \triangleq \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \mathbf{e}^{i\theta} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \quad (4)$$

$$= \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \mathbf{e}^{i\theta/2} e^{i\theta/2} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \mathbf{e}^{-i\theta/2} \mathbf{e}^{i\theta/2} \quad (5)$$

$$= \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} (c + d\mathbf{i})(c + d\mathbf{i}) + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} (c - d\mathbf{i})(c + d\mathbf{i}) \quad (6)$$

$$= \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} (c + d\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp})(c + d\mathbf{i}) + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} (c - d\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp})(c + d\mathbf{i}) \quad (7)$$

$$= (c\mathbf{u}_{\parallel} + d\mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp})(c + d\mathbf{i}) + (c\mathbf{u}_{\perp} - d\mathbf{u}_{\perp} \mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp})(c + d\mathbf{i}) \quad (8)$$

$$= (c\mathbf{u}_{\parallel} + d\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp})(c + d\mathbf{i}) + (c\mathbf{u}_{\perp} + d\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \mathbf{i}_{\perp})(c + d\mathbf{i}) \quad (9)$$

$$= (c\mathbf{u}_{\parallel} - d\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp} \mathbf{u}_{\parallel})(c + d\mathbf{i}) + (c\mathbf{u}_{\perp} - d\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp} \mathbf{u}_{\perp})(c + d\mathbf{i}) \quad (10)$$

$$= (c - d\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp}) \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} (c + d\mathbf{i}) + (c - d\mathbf{i}_{\parallel} \mathbf{i}_{\perp}) \mathbf{u}_{\perp} (c + d\mathbf{i}) \quad (11)$$

$$= (c - d\mathbf{i}) \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} (c + d\mathbf{i}) + (c - d\mathbf{i}) \mathbf{u}_{\perp} (c + d\mathbf{i}) \quad (12)$$

$$= e^{-i\theta/2} \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} e^{i\theta/2} + e^{-i\theta/2} \mathbf{u}_{\perp} e^{i\theta/2} \quad (13)$$

$$= e^{-i\theta/2} \mathbf{u} e^{i\theta/2} \quad (14)$$

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Proof. Solve using project and reject, providing a different geometric interpretation

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Instead of declaring $\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{i}_{\parallel}\mathbf{i}_{\perp}$, instead let's construct the plane by giving two unit vectors in the plane, a and b , knowing that we want to rotate the plane from a to b without concerning ourselves with the number of degrees.

From Chapter 7

$$\mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \triangleq P_B(\mathbf{u}) \triangleq (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{B})/\mathbf{B} \quad (15)$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{\perp} \triangleq (\mathbf{u} \wedge \mathbf{B})/\mathbf{B} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{v} \triangleq \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \mathbf{e}^{i\theta} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \quad (17)$$

$$= \mathbf{u}_{\parallel} \mathbf{ab} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \quad (18)$$

$$= P_B(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{ab} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \quad (19)$$

$$= (\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})^{-1})\mathbf{ab} + (\mathbf{u} \wedge \mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})^{-1} \quad (20)$$

$$= (\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})^{-1})\mathbf{ab} + (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b}) - (\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})))(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})^{-1} \quad (21)$$

$$= (\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})^{-1})\mathbf{ab} + \mathbf{u} - (\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b}))(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})^{-1} \quad (22)$$

$$= \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b}))(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})^{-1}(\mathbf{ab} - 1) \quad (23)$$

$$= \mathbf{u} + P_B(\mathbf{u})(\mathbf{ab} - 1) \quad (24)$$

$$= \mathbf{u} + (P_B(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{ab} - P_B(\mathbf{u})) \quad (25)$$

Equation 24 Gave me some insights as to multivectors. When I first thought about $\mathbf{ab} - 1$, I thought \mathbf{ab} is a scalar added to a bivector, and from that result subtract 1. Should I do the subtraction? And then I thought, no, $\mathbf{ab} - 1$ should be thought of not as a value to be reduced, but instead a list of implicitly-defined functions to be applied in parallel (i.e. parallel like in circuits, not parallel as in vectors) to $P_B(u)$, after which the results of applying those implicit functions to $P_B(u)$ are then summed, taking the signs into account of course.

Equation 25 has an interesting geometric interpretation to me because it means, looking at figure 5.18 of the book, in the plane of rotation, draw a straight vector starting from the projection of \mathbf{u} onto the plane to its position after rotation within the plane, placing the head of the vector there. That vector represens an amount of “translation” that needs to be added to \mathbf{u} to make \mathbf{v} . I like this proof because I understand rotation as a translation of an offset more than I do for 2 reflections, which I still don't really understand. Also I still don't know how to take the dot project of a vector with a bivector, as in the book I don't think it has been defined by chapter 5, but given that I found the formula for project and reject in chapter 7, I was still able to make my own formula just by using properties of the geometric product, and learn some things along the way.

License of proof

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