

Angular distance

Let

$$P_1 = (r_1, \theta_1, \phi_1), \quad P_2 = (r_2, \theta_2, \phi_2)$$

The angular distance θ_{12} between P_1 and P_2 is

$$\begin{aligned} \cos \theta_{12} &= \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 + \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2) \\ &= \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - r_{12}^2}{2r_1 r_2} \\ &= \frac{x_1 x_2 + y_1 y_2 + z_1 z_2}{r_1 r_2} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$r_{12}^2 = (x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2 + (z_1 - z_2)^2$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= r_1 \sin \theta_1 \cos \phi_1 & x_2 &= r_2 \sin \theta_2 \cos \phi_2 \\ y_1 &= r_1 \sin \theta_1 \sin \phi_1 & y_2 &= r_2 \sin \theta_2 \sin \phi_2 \\ z_1 &= r_1 \cos \theta_1 & z_2 &= r_2 \cos \theta_2 \end{aligned}$$