

16-745 Optimal Control Lecture 15

Reid Graves

March 13, 2025

1 Last Time

- Deterministic Optimal Control summary
- Linear Quadratic Regulator (LQR) vs. Model Predictive Control (MPC)
- Differential Dynamic Programming (DDP) vs. Direct Collocation (DIRCOL)

2 Today

- Optimization with Quaternions

Quaternion Recap

- 4D Unit Vectors
- Multiplication Rule

$$q_1 * q_2 = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 \\ v_1 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} s_2 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 s_2 - v_1^T v_2 \\ s_1 v_2 + s_2 v_1 + v_1 \times v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$L(q_1) = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 & -v_1^T \\ v_1 & s_1 I + \hat{v}_1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow q_1 * q_2 = L(q_1) q_2 R(q_2) q_1$$

- Conjugate

$$q^\dagger = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ -v \end{bmatrix} = T q, \quad T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{bmatrix}$$

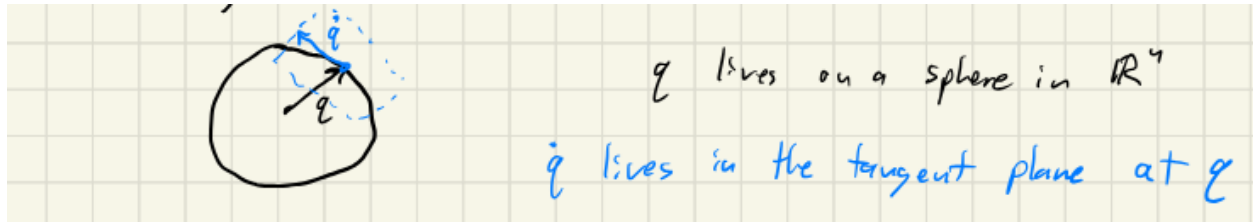
- Identity

$$q_I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- “Hat map” for Quaternions:

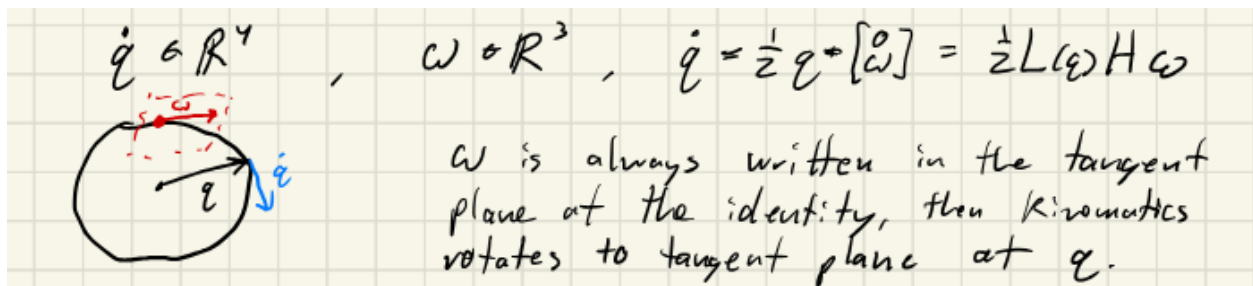
$$\hat{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \omega \end{bmatrix} = H\omega, \quad H = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I \end{bmatrix}$$

3 Geometry of Quaternions



- q lives on a sphere in \mathbb{R}^4
- \dot{q} lives in the tangent plane at q

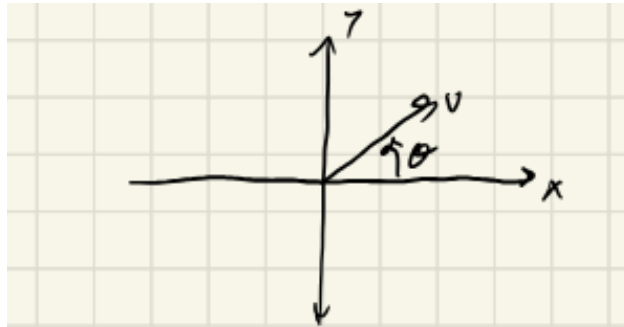
3.1 Kinematics



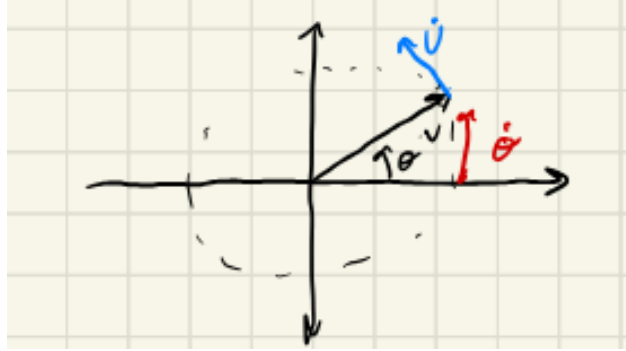
$$\dot{q} \in \mathbb{R}^4, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad \dot{q} = \frac{1}{2} q * \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \omega \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} L(q) H \omega$$

ω is always written in the tangent plane at the identity, then kinematics rotates to tangent plane at q .

3.2 Analogy with unit complex numbers in 2D



$$\begin{aligned}
v &= \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta) \\
\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \end{bmatrix} &\Rightarrow v^T v = 1 \\
\dot{v} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial \theta} \dot{\theta} &= \begin{bmatrix} -\sin(\theta) \\ \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{rotation matrix}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{2D "hat map"}}
\end{aligned}$$



Kinematics rotates $\dot{\theta}$ from tangent plane at $\theta = 0$ to tangent at current v

4 Differentiating Quaternions

- Two key facts
 1. Derivatives are really 3D tangent vectors
 2. Rotations compose by multiplication, not addition

4.1 Infinitesimal Rotation

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta q &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \\ a \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}a\theta \end{bmatrix} \approx \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}\phi \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{small axis-angle vector}} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \phi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} H \phi
\end{aligned}$$

4.2 Compose with q

$$\begin{aligned}
q' &= q * \delta q = L(q) \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} H \phi \right) \\
&= q + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{L(q) H}_{\substack{G(q) \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 3} \\ \text{"Attitude Jacobian"}}} \phi
\end{aligned}$$

- Note: we can use any 3-parameter rotation representation we want for ϕ . They all linearize the same (up to a permutation/scaling)

$$q = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{\|\phi\|}{2}\right) \\ \frac{\phi}{\|\phi\|} \sin\left(\frac{\|\phi\|}{2}\right) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{axis-angle}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{1 - \phi^T \phi} \\ \phi \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{vector part of } q} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \phi^T \phi}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \phi \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Gibbs/Rodrigues}}$$

- We'll use the vector part of q in class
- This lets us differentiate w.r.t quaternions by inserting $G(q)$ in the right places:

$$\begin{aligned} f(q) : \underbrace{|\mathbb{H}|}_{\text{Quaternions ("Hamilton")}} &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ (Gradient of a scalar-valued function)} \\ \nabla f &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} \frac{\partial q}{\partial \phi} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} G(q) \\ f(q) : \mathbb{H} &\rightarrow \mathbb{H} \quad \text{Jacobian of a quaternion-valued function} \\ \phi' &= \underbrace{\left[G(f(q))^T \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} G(q) \right]}_{\nabla f \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}} \phi \\ G(f(q))^T &: \text{transform output} \\ G(q) &: \text{transform input} \end{aligned}$$

- Hessian of $f(q) : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\nabla^2 f = G(q)^T \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial q^2} G(q) + \underbrace{\overbrace{I}^{3 \times 3} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial q} q \right)}_{\text{comes from } \frac{\partial G}{\partial q}}^{\text{scalar}}$$

- Now we can do Newton's method and DDP and SQP with quaternions

5 Example: Pose Estimation

- Given a bunch of vectors to known landmarks in the environment, determine robot's attitude.
- Called "Wahba's Problem"

$$\begin{aligned} \min_q J(q) &= \sum_{k=1}^m \| {}^N x_k - Q(q) {}^B x_k \|_2^2 = \| r(q) \|_2^2 \\ &= r(q)^T \underbrace{r(q)}_{\text{"residual"}} \\ {}^N x_k &: \text{Known vectors in world frame (from map)} \\ {}^B x_k &: \text{Observed vectors in body frame (from camera)} \end{aligned}$$

- ${}^N x_k$ and ${}^B x_k$ are unit vectors (“directions”)

$$r(q) = \begin{bmatrix} {}^N x_1 - Q(q) {}^B x_1 \\ {}^N x_2 - Q(q) {}^B x_2 \\ \vdots \\ {}^N x_m - Q(q) {}^B x_m \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \underbrace{\nabla r(q)}_{3m \times 3} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial r}{\partial q}}_{3m \times 4} \underbrace{G(q)}_{4 \times 3}$$

- Background: Gauss-Newton for Least-Squares:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x J(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \|R(x)\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} r(x)^T r(x) \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial x} &= r^T(x) \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial^2 J}{\partial x^2} &= \left(\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \right)^T \left(\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \right) + (I \otimes r^T(x)) \frac{\partial^2 \text{vec}(r)}{\partial x^2} \\ \text{throw this out: } &(I \otimes r^T(x)) \frac{\partial^2 \text{vec}(r)}{\partial x^2} \\ &\Rightarrow \left(\frac{\partial J}{\partial x^2} \right)^{-1} \nabla J \approx \left[\left(\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \right)^T \left(\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \right) \right]^{-1} \frac{\partial r^T}{\partial x} r(x) \end{aligned}$$

6 Gauss-Newton For Wahba’s Problem

$q \leftarrow q_0$ (initial guess)
 do:
 $\nabla r(q) = \frac{\partial r}{\partial q} G(q)$
 $\phi = - [(\nabla r^T \nabla r)^{-1} \nabla r^T] r(q)$
 $q \leftarrow q * \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{1 - \phi^T \phi} \\ \phi \end{bmatrix} = L(q) \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{1 - \phi^T \phi} \\ \phi \end{bmatrix}$
 (multiplicative update)
 (in general, do line search)
 while $\|r(q)\| > \text{tol}$