

Nonlinear control and aerospace applications

Rotations

Carlo Novara

Politecnico di Torino
Dip. Elettronica e Telecomunicazioni

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames
- 3 Direction cosine matrices
- 4 Euler angles
- 5 Rotation matrices
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem
- 7 Quaternions
- 8 Changes of representation

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames
- 3 Direction cosine matrices
- 4 Euler angles
- 5 Rotation matrices
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem
- 7 Quaternions
- 8 Changes of representation

Introduction

more technical

?

- Controlling the **orientation** (or **attitude**) of a spacecraft (or aircraft) is fundamental.
 - ▶ Spacecrafts and space stations orbiting around a planet, or during interplanetary navigation,
 - ★ must capture the solar energy through panels,
 - ★ need a communication link between on-board antennas and Earth stations/receivers or relay satellites.
 - ▶ Scientific satellites and space vehicles carry payloads to be pointed toward either celestial objects or Earth targets (e.g., the Hubble).
- Depending on the mission objectives, the orientation must be known and controlled with respect to
 - ▶ a region on Earth (Earth pointing satellites) or
 - ▶ a celestial frame (inertial pointing satellites).

Introduction

- A spacecraft can be described as a rigid body, which moves with respect to some inertial frame.
- The body movement is given by a combination of a *translation* and a *rotation*.
- The **objective** here is to build the *mathematical tools* for properly describing the *rotational motion* of a rigid body.
 - ▶ This is fundamental to obtain the equations of motion of a spacecraft, which in turn are fundamental for spacecraft attitude control.
- Four rotation representations will be considered:
 - 1 Direction cosine matrices
 - 2 Euler angles
 - 3 Angle-axis
 - 4 Quaternions (Euler parameters).

Introduction

Notation

- Scalars: $a, b, A, B \in \mathbb{R}$.
- Column vectors:

$$\mathbf{r} = (r_1, \dots, r_n) = [r_1 \ \dots \ r_n]^T = \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ \vdots \\ r_n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}.$$

- Row vectors: $\mathbf{r}^T = [r_1 \ \dots \ r_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$.
- Matrices: $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$.
- Products:

$$\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{p} = \sum_{i=1}^n r_i p_i \quad \text{dot product}$$

result is a scalar

$$\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} r_2 p_3 - r_3 p_2 \\ r_3 p_1 - r_1 p_3 \\ r_1 p_2 - r_2 p_1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{cross product.}$$

result is a vector

- Vector ℓ_2 (Euclidean) norm:

$$|\mathbf{r}| = \|\mathbf{r}\| = \|\mathbf{r}\|_2 = \sqrt{\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{r}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{r}} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n r_i^2} = \mathbf{r}.$$

not in bold

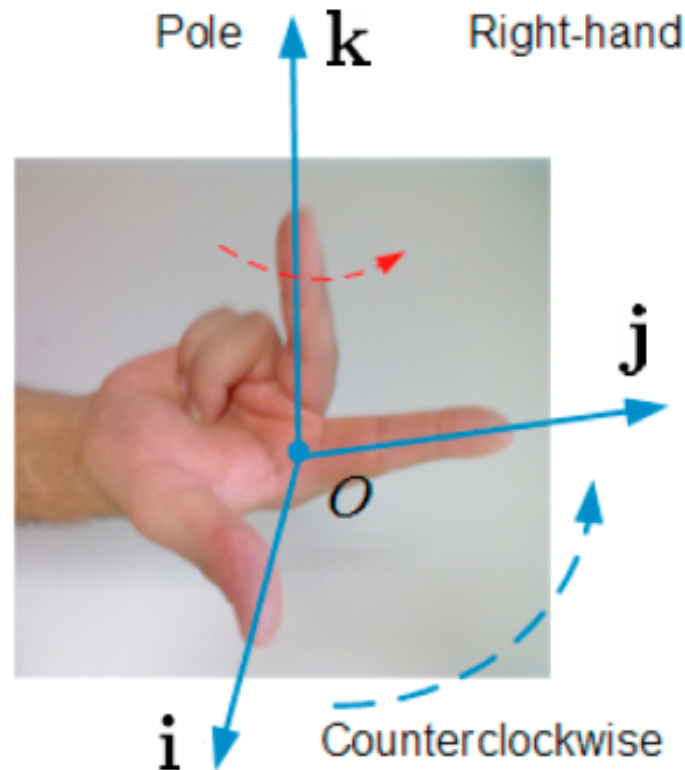
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames**
- 3 Direction cosine matrices
- 4 Euler angles
- 5 Rotation matrices
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem
- 7 Quaternions
- 8 Changes of representation

Reference frames

Definition

An orthogonal *frame of reference* $\mathcal{R} = \{O, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}\}$ (or *Cartesian coordinate system*) is formed by an origin O and a set of three unit vectors $\{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}\}$ with origin in O , that are mutually orthogonal.

with unitary norm



Reference frames

- Three main kinds of RFs (reference frames) can be distinguished:
 - 1 *Body frames:*
 - ★ Origin and axes are defined by points of a rigid body, either a spacecraft or a planet.
 - ★ Typically, the body Center of Mass (CoM) is taken as the origin.
 - 2 *Trajectory frames: made with the body*
 - ★ A trajectory is the path of CoM of a body through the space (typically, an orbit).
 - ★ The body CoM is taken as the origin.
 - ★ The axes are aligned with three instantaneous directions of the trajectory.
 - 3 *Celestial frames:*
 - ★ Origin and axes are defined by points and directions in the solar system or in the universe.

Reference frames

Vector representations

- Consider a reference frame $F = \{O, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}\}$.
- A vector $\mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ can be written as a linear combination of the unit vectors of F as

$$\mathbf{r} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} \leftarrow \text{physical vector}$$

where x, y, z are the *coordinates*.

- The vector can also be represented as

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \text{coordinate vector.}$$

column vector

Reference frames

Vector representations

$$\mathbf{r} = \vec{r} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} \leftarrow \text{physical vector}$$

*defined in an absolute reference frame
the coordinate vector doesn't depend on the RF*

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \text{coordinate vector.}$$

representation in a system

- The physical vector is an “abstract” object. We can think about it as a vector defined in an “absolute” reference frame.
- The coordinate vector is the representation of the physical vector in a given RF \Rightarrow the coordinate vector depends on the RF.
- The physical vector is often denoted with \vec{r} . For simplicity, we use the same symbol \mathbf{r} for both the physical and the coordinate vector.

Reference frames

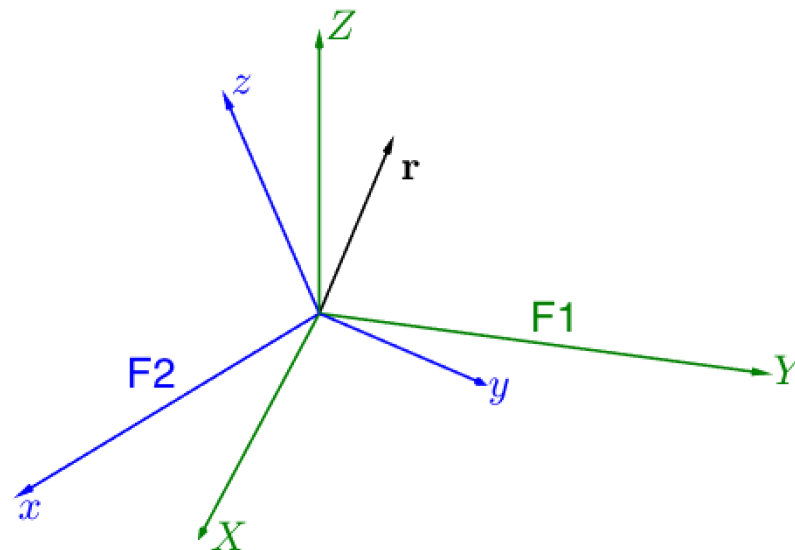
Vector representations: example

- Consider two RFs:
 - ▶ $F1 = \{O, \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{J}, \mathbf{K}\}$, with axes X, Y, Z .
 - ▶ $F2 = \{O, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}\}$, with axes x, y, z .
- The physical vector

$$\mathbf{r} = -0.45\mathbf{I} + 0.04\mathbf{J} + 0.19\mathbf{K} = -0.4\mathbf{i} - 0.24\mathbf{j} + 0.16\mathbf{k}$$

has two different representations (coordinate vectors):

$$[-0.45 \ 0.04 \ 0.19]^T \quad \text{and} \quad [-0.4 \ -0.24 \ 0.16]^T.$$



- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames
- 3 Direction cosine matrices**
- 4 Euler angles
- 5 Rotation matrices
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem
- 7 Quaternions
- 8 Changes of representation

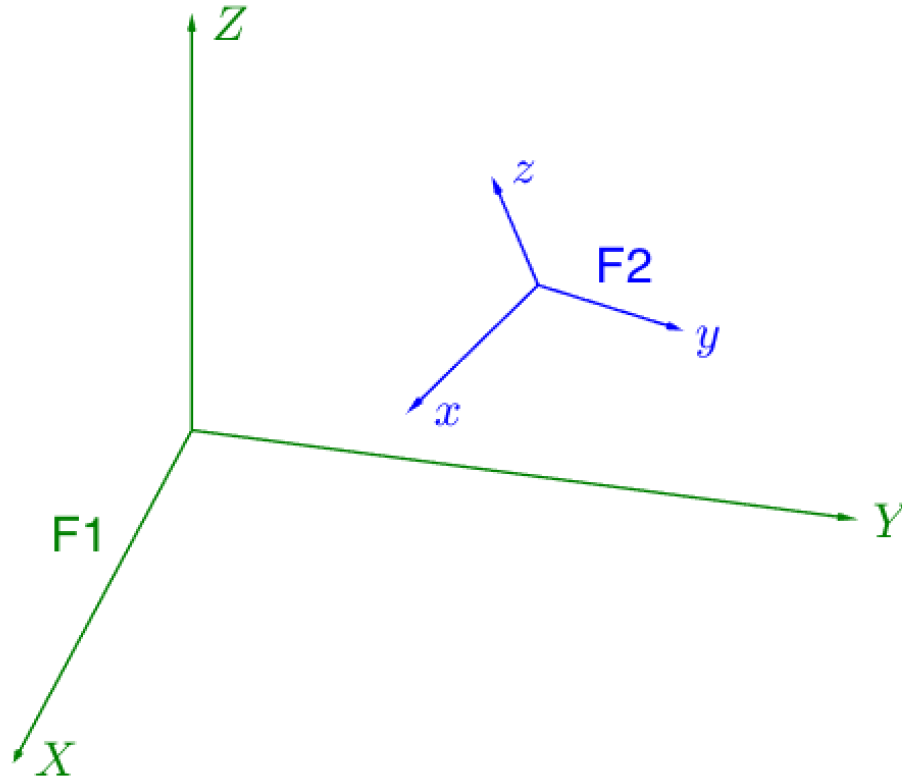
Direction cosine matrices

- Consider two RFs:

- ▶ $F1 = \{O_1, \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{J}, \mathbf{K}\}$, with axes X, Y, Z .

- ▶ $F2 = \{O_2, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}\}$, with axes x, y, z .

reference
frames



Direction cosine matrices

- Consider a particle with position $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R}_o + \mathbf{r}$

position with respect to F1
position in the second reference frame
origin of F2

$$\mathbf{R} = X\mathbf{I} + Y\mathbf{J} + Z\mathbf{K}$$

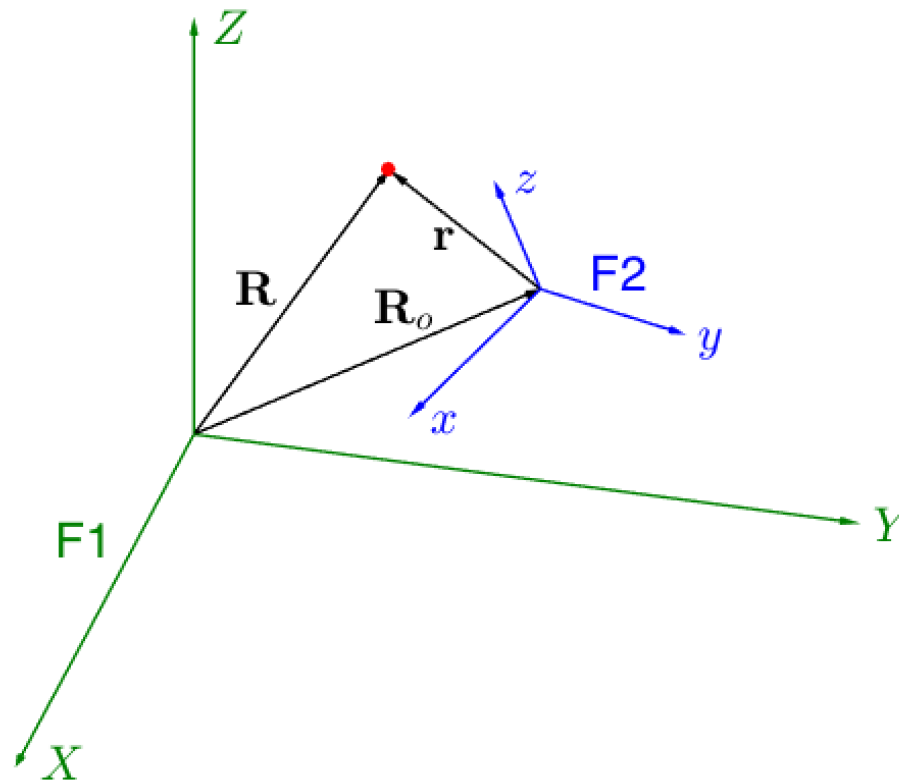
$$\mathbf{R}_o = X_o\mathbf{I} + Y_o\mathbf{J} + Z_o\mathbf{K}$$

$$\mathbf{r} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$$

position of the particle in F1

position of the origin of F2

position of the particle in F2.



Direction cosine matrices

- What is the relation between the coordinates X , Y and Z and the coordinates x , y and z ? To answer, consider that:

because the products $\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{i}$ and $\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{k}$ are 0 because of orthogonality

$$\begin{aligned}
 X &= \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{I} = (\mathbf{R}_o + \mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{I} = X_o + x\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{k} \\
 Y &= \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{J} = (\mathbf{R}_o + \mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{J} = Y_o + x\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{k} \\
 Z &= \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{K} = (\mathbf{R}_o + \mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{K} = Z_o + x\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{k}.
 \end{aligned}$$

- In matrix form:

Products of the unit vectors of the frames

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_o \\ Y_o \\ Z_o \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{T} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{T} \doteq \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{k} \end{bmatrix}.$$

9 scalar numbers

The dot products $\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{i}$, $\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{j}$, ..., are the 9 *direction cosines* representing the orientation of each axis of one frame wrt each axis of the other.

\mathbf{T} is the *direction cosine matrix* (DCM).

Direction cosine matrices

- The DCM can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{T} \doteq \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{k} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} & T_{13} \\ T_{21} & T_{22} & T_{23} \\ T_{31} & T_{32} & T_{33} \end{bmatrix} = [T_{ij}].$$

- Translations and rotations can be treated independently. Thus, in the following, we assume

$$\mathbf{R}_o = 0. \rightarrow \text{the systems have the same origin} \quad \sim \text{the vector } \begin{bmatrix} x_o \\ y_o \\ z_o \end{bmatrix} \text{ goes to } \phi$$

- Then,

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{T} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{relationship between the coordinates of the two systems}$$

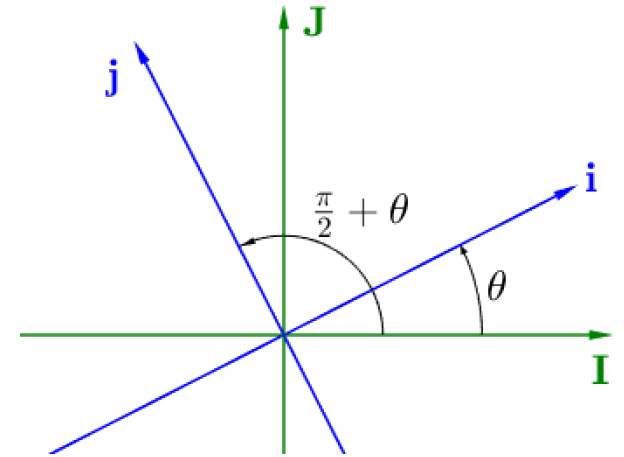
This shows that \mathbf{T} is a **transformation**, giving the coordinates in F1 from the coordinates in F2.

Direction cosine matrices

- In two dimensions (e.g., with $z = Z = 0$) the direction cosines are

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{i} &= \cos \theta = \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{j} \\ \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{j} &= \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \theta\right) = -\sin \theta = -\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{i}\end{aligned}$$

where θ is the rotation angle.



- It follows that

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}.$$

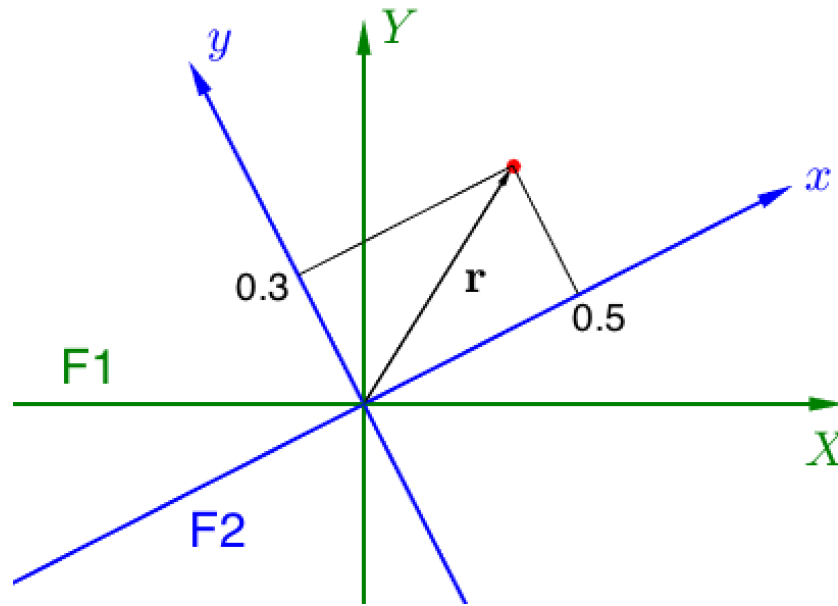
Direction cosine matrices

Example: 2D coordinate transformation

- Suppose that F2 is rotated wrt F1 of an angle $\theta = 0.15\pi$ rad.
- Consider a particle with position in F2 given by

$$\mathbf{r} = 0.5 \mathbf{i} + 0.3 \mathbf{j} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

in F₂

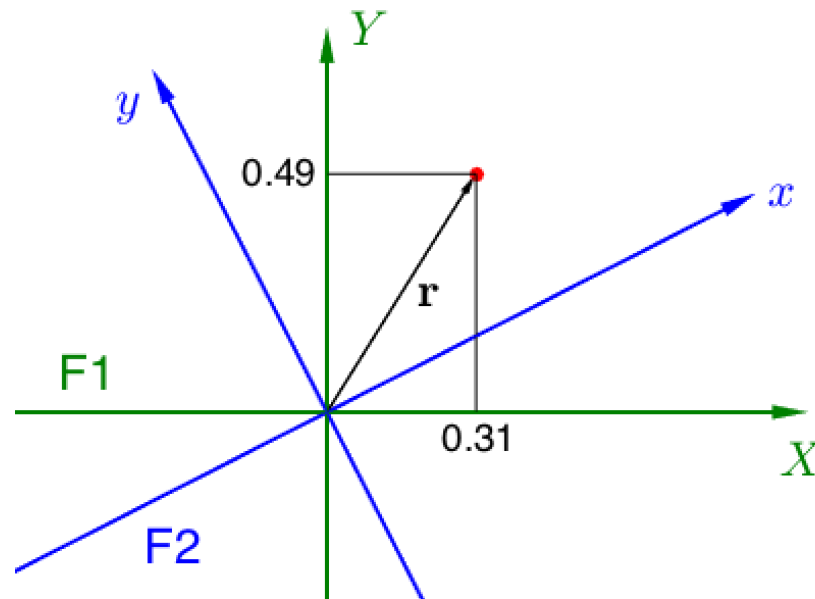


Direction cosine matrices

Example: 2D coordinate transformation

- The particle position in F1 is obtained through the following transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \end{bmatrix} &= \mathbf{Tr} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.891 & -0.454 \\ 0.454 & 0.891 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3093 \\ 0.4943 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$



Direction cosine matrices

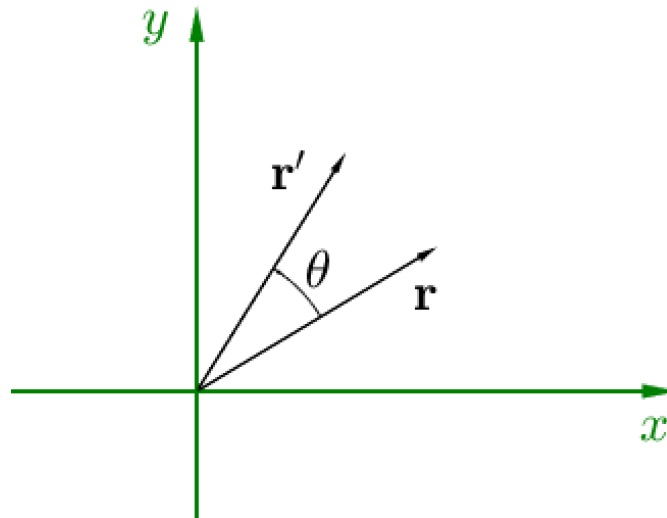
Example: 2D vector rotation

- Another interpretation of the DCM is the following:
Consider a vector \mathbf{r} in a reference frame with axes x, y :

$$\mathbf{r} = 0.5 \mathbf{i} + 0.3 \mathbf{j} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Applying the DCM, we obtain a vector \mathbf{r}' rotated of an angle θ in the same reference frame:

$$\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{r} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3093 \\ 0.4943 \end{bmatrix}.$$



Direction cosine matrices

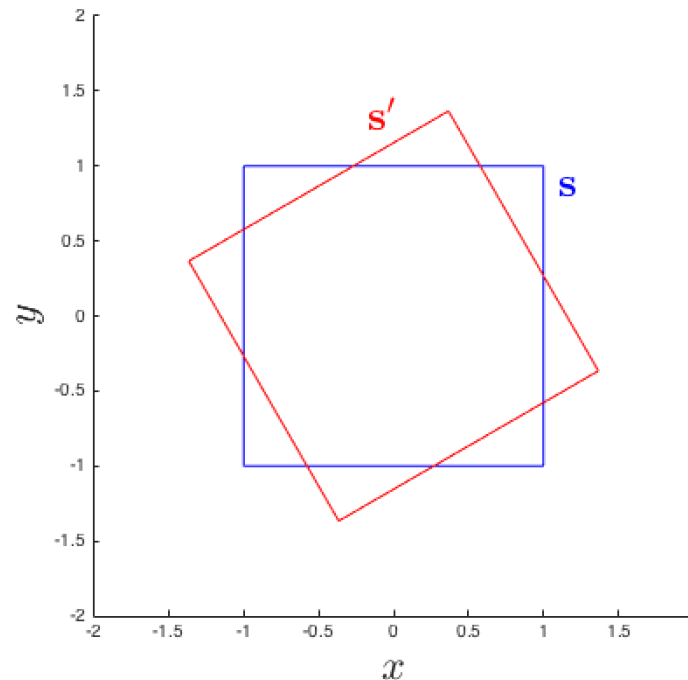
Example: 2D rotation of a square

- A square can be represented by the following matrix:

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{\text{coordinates of a point}}{\textcircled{1}} & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{the columns} \\ \text{are the vertices.} \end{array}$$

- Applying the DCM with $\theta = \pi/6$ rad:

$$\mathbf{S}' = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.366 & -1.366 & -0.366 & 1.366 \\ 1.366 & 0.366 & -1.366 & -0.366 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{rotated} \\ \text{square.} \end{array}$$



Direction cosine matrices

Discussion

- A DCM \mathbf{T} has 2 interpretations:
 - 1 **Transformation** of coordinates $F2 \rightarrow F1$.
 - 2 **Rotation** of vectors in a given fixed frame.
In the case of vectors that are **frame axes**, $F1 \rightarrow F2$.
- The following terminology is often used:
 - ▶ **transformation** \leftrightarrow **alias**
 - ▶ **rotation** \leftrightarrow **alibi**.
- Both interpretations are important.
- Any time that an DCM is used, it is necessary to understand **which interpretation is being used**.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames
- 3 Direction cosine matrices
- 4 Euler angles**
- 5 Rotation matrices
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem
- 7 Quaternions
- 8 Changes of representation

Euler angles

$c \rightarrow \cos$ $s \rightarrow \sin$

- In three dimensions, we define the *elementary rotation matrices*:

$$\mathbf{T}_1(\phi) \doteq \begin{bmatrix} \hat{1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c\phi & -s\phi \\ 0 & s\phi & c\phi \end{bmatrix}$$

coordinate that doesn't change

taken from the previous 2-D matrices

rotation about X (or x)
of an angle ϕ

$$\mathbf{T}_2(\theta) \doteq \begin{bmatrix} c\theta & 0 & s\theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s\theta & 0 & c\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

rotation about Y (or y)
of an angle θ

$$\mathbf{T}_3(\psi) \doteq \begin{bmatrix} c\psi & -s\psi & 0 \\ s\psi & c\psi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

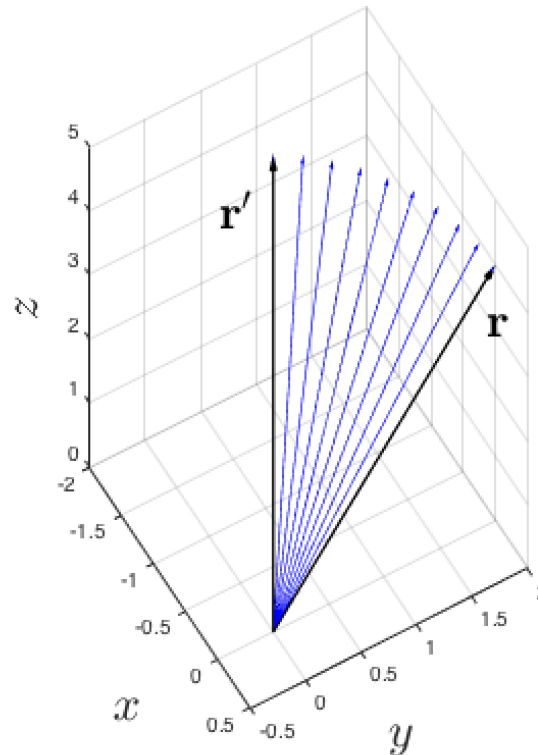
rotation about Z (or z)
of an angle ψ .

- Any rotation can be expressed as a product of \mathbf{T}_1 , \mathbf{T}_2 and \mathbf{T}_3 .
- ψ , θ and ϕ are called the *Euler angles*.

Euler angles

Example: 3D elementary rotation of a vector

- Consider the vector $\mathbf{r} = 0\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$.
- The matrix $\mathbf{T}_3(\pi/3)$ rotates any vector about the z axis of an angle $\pi/3$ rad $= 60^\circ$.
- The rotated vector is $\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{T}_3(\pi/3)\mathbf{r} = -1.73\mathbf{i} + 1\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$.

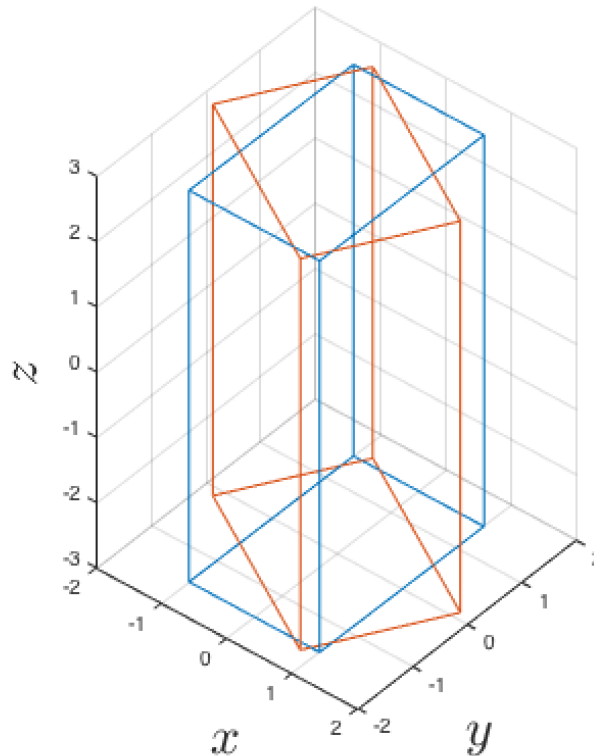


z component
unchanged

Euler angles

Example: 3D elementary rotation of an hyper-rectangle

- An hyper-rectangle can be represented by a matrix whose columns are the vertices (blue).
- Applying $\mathbf{T}_3(\pi/3)$ to this matrix, we obtain an hyper-rectangle rotated about the z axis of an angle $\pi/3$ rad = 60° (red).



Euler angles

- There exist 12 possible combinations of the 3 elementary rotations (with non-sequentially repeated indexes), which can be grouped as follows:
 - ▶ 6 Tait–Bryan rotations: *index are all different*
 - ★ $123 \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_1(\phi)\mathbf{T}_2(\theta)\mathbf{T}_3(\psi);$
 - ★ $321 \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_3(\psi)\mathbf{T}_2(\theta)\mathbf{T}_1(\phi);$
 - ★ ...
 - ▶ 6 proper Euler rotations: *two indexes are repeated
not sequentially*
 - ★ $313 \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_3(\phi)\mathbf{T}_1(\theta)\mathbf{T}_3(\psi);$
 - ★ $323 \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_3(\psi)\mathbf{T}_2(\theta)\mathbf{T}_3(\phi);$
 - ★ ...
- Commonly used: Tait–Bryan 123 and 321; proper Euler 313.

Euler angles

- Tait–Bryan 123:

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{T}_{123} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\mathbf{T}_{123}(\phi, \theta, \psi) \doteq \mathbf{T}_1(\phi)\mathbf{T}_2(\theta)\mathbf{T}_3(\psi)$ is the *rotation matrix* (or *attitude matrix*) given by

$$\mathbf{T}_{123} = \begin{bmatrix} c\theta c\psi & -c\theta s\psi & s\theta \\ c\phi s\psi + s\phi s\theta c\psi & c\phi c\psi - s\phi s\theta s\psi & -s\phi c\theta \\ s\phi s\psi - c\phi s\theta c\psi & s\phi c\psi + c\phi s\theta s\psi & c\phi c\theta \end{bmatrix}.$$

Euler angles

→ dovrebbe essere la rotazione
attorno all'originale θ
del sist. di riferimento FISSO

- Tait–Bryan 321:

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{T}_{321} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\mathbf{T}_{321}(\psi, \theta, \phi) \doteq \mathbf{T}_3(\psi)\mathbf{T}_2(\theta)\mathbf{T}_1(\phi)$ is the rotation matrix

$$\mathbf{T}_{321} = \begin{bmatrix} c\theta c\psi & -c\phi s\psi + s\phi s\theta c\psi & s\phi s\psi + c\phi s\theta c\psi \\ c\theta s\psi & c\phi c\psi + s\phi s\theta s\psi & -s\phi c\psi + c\phi s\theta s\psi \\ -s\theta & s\phi c\theta & c\phi c\theta \end{bmatrix}.$$

↓
quella usata dal solito per calcolo di L
in sperimentale - 2.°

Euler angles

- Proper Euler 313:

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{T}_{313} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

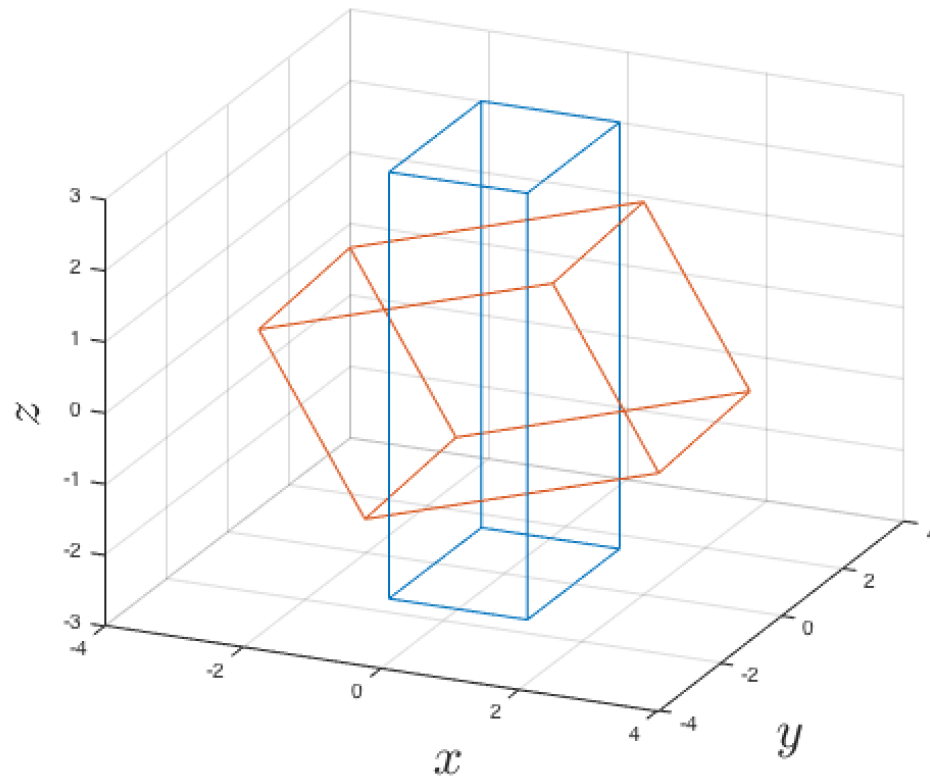
where $\mathbf{T}_{313}(\phi, \theta, \psi) \doteq \mathbf{T}_3(\phi)\mathbf{T}_1(\theta)\mathbf{T}_3(\psi)$ is the rotation matrix

$$\mathbf{T}_{313} = \begin{bmatrix} c\phi c\psi - s\phi c\theta s\psi & -c\phi s\psi - s\phi c\theta c\psi & s\phi s\theta \\ s\phi c\psi + c\phi c\theta s\psi & -s\phi s\psi + c\phi c\theta c\psi & -c\phi s\theta \\ s\theta s\psi & s\theta c\psi & c\theta \end{bmatrix}.$$

Euler angles

Example: 3D generic rotation of an hyper-rectangle

- An hyper-rectangle can be represented by a matrix whose columns are the vertices (blue).
- Applying $\mathbf{T}_1(\pi/4)\mathbf{T}_2(\pi/3)\mathbf{T}_3(\pi/3)$ to this matrix, we obtain the rotated hyper-rectangle shown in the figure (red).



Euler angles

Extrinsic and intrinsic rotations

- Let \mathbf{T}_\diamond denote a rotation matrix, where \diamond stands for any combination of 1, 2 and 3 with non-sequentially repeated numbers.
- Given a rotation matrix \mathbf{T}_\diamond , two RFs can be defined:
 - ▶ Fixed frame, with axes (X, Y, Z) .
 - ▶ Rotating frame, with axes (x, y, z) .
- Consider for example the matrix $\mathbf{T}_{123} = \mathbf{T}_1(\phi)\mathbf{T}_2(\theta)\mathbf{T}_3(\psi)$. The rotating frame is constructed as follows:
 - ▶ Beginning: $(x, y, z) = (X, Y, Z)$
 - ▶ \mathbf{T}_1 : rotation about the x -axis $\rightarrow (x, y', z')$
 - ▶ \mathbf{T}_2 : rotation about the y' -axis $\rightarrow (x', y', z'')$
 - ▶ \mathbf{T}_3 : rotation about the z'' -axis $\rightarrow (x'', y'', z'')$.

Euler angles

Extrinsic and intrinsic rotations

- Any rotation has two interpretations:
 - ▶ **Extrinsic rotation**: about the axes of the fixed frame.
 - ▶ **Intrinsic rotation**: about the axes of the rotating frame. *axis of the body frame*
- An extrinsic rotation corresponds to an intrinsic rotation of the same angles but with inverted order of the elementary rotations.
- For example, the matrix $\mathbf{T}_{123} = \mathbf{T}_1(\phi)\mathbf{T}_2(\theta)\mathbf{T}_3(\psi)$ corresponds to

extrinsic rotation:

- 1) a rotation by ψ about Z ;
- 2) a rotation by θ about Y ;
- 3) a rotation by ϕ about X .

*of original
ref. frame*

intrinsic rotation:

- 1) a rotation by ϕ about x ;
- 2) a rotation by θ about y' ;
- 3) a rotation by ψ about z'' .

body frame

*the order of
the rotations
changes*

- An extrinsic rotation is denoted with $Z - Y - X$, an intrinsic rotation with $x - y' - z''$, where y' and z'' are the rotated axes.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames
- 3 Direction cosine matrices
- 4 Euler angles
- 5 Rotation matrices**
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem
- 7 Quaternions
- 8 Changes of representation

Rotation matrices

Properties

- \mathbf{T}_{\diamond} are *linear transformations* (\diamond stands for any combination of 1, 2 and 3 with non-sequentially repeated numbers).
- \mathbf{T}_{\diamond} are *orthogonal matrices*, that is, square matrices with real entries whose columns are orthonormal vectors.
- Main property:

$$\mathbf{T}_{\diamond}^{-1} = \mathbf{T}_{\diamond}^T, \quad \mathbf{T}_{\diamond}^T \mathbf{T}_{\diamond} = \mathbf{T}_{\diamond} \mathbf{T}_{\diamond}^T = \mathbf{I}.$$

- Orthogonal transformations preserve
 - ▶ the lengths of vectors;
 - ▶ the angles between vectors.

Rotation matrices

Properties

- Orthogonal matrices have all the eigenvalues (either complex or real) with absolute value equal to 1. 3D rotation matrices have one eigenvalue equal to 1.
- Orthogonal matrices have the determinant equal to 1 or -1 . Rotation matrices have the determinant equal to 1.
- For null angles, \mathbf{T}_\diamond become identity matrices.
 - ▶ It follows for example that $\mathbf{T}_{123} = \mathbf{T}_3(\psi)$ for $\theta = \phi = 0$.
- The matrix product is **non-commutative** \Rightarrow the rotation composition depends on the order.
- \mathbf{T}_\diamond has 9 elements (3×3 matrix), which depend on 3 angles only;
 - ▶ the minimum number of parameters required to describe a rotation is 3.

*set of
orthogonal matrices*

Rotation matrices

Singularities

- Consider for example the Tait–Bryan 123 rotation with $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$:

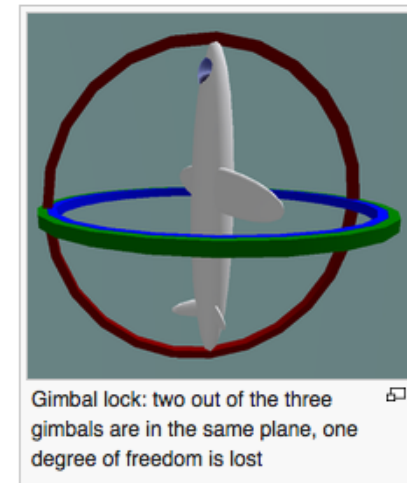
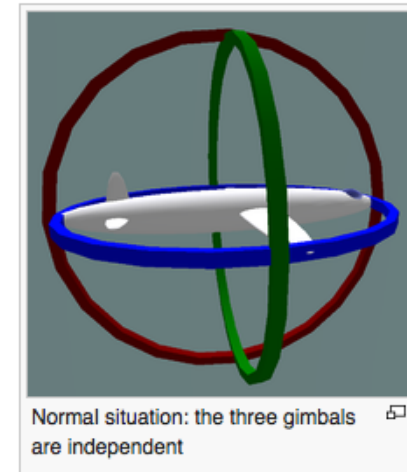
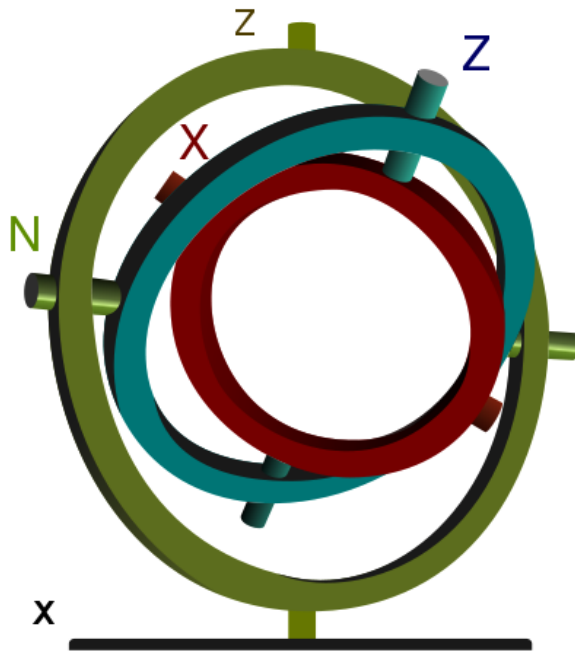
$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{T}_{123}(\phi, \frac{\pi}{2}, \psi) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ c\phi s\psi + c\psi s\phi & c\phi c\psi - s\psi s\phi & 0 \\ s\phi s\psi - c\psi c\phi & c\phi s\psi + c\psi s\phi & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \sin(\phi + \psi) & \cos(\phi + \psi) & 0 \\ -\cos(\phi + \psi) & \sin(\phi + \psi) & 0 \end{bmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

- Only the sum of ϕ and ψ can be determined from the DCM.
 - ▶ One angle is undermined.
- This phenomenon is known as the *gimbal lock*, and corresponds to a loss of a degree of freedom.

Rotation matrices

Singularities

Three-gimbal system:
used on boats and
inertial platforms.



lose info about
one angle

Rotation matrices

Singularities

- Critical situations:
 - ▶ Tait–Bryan rotations: $\cos \theta = 0$;
 - ▶ proper Euler rotations: $\sin \theta = 0$.
- In these situations, a **degeneracy at the poles** occurs:
 - ▶ it is not possible to determine ϕ and ψ from the DCM;
 - ▶ only the sum or the difference of ϕ and ψ can be determined.
- The singularity corresponds to a loss of a degree of freedom.
- We will see that
 - ▶ singularities appear in the kinematic equations;
 - ▶ gimbal lock can be overcome using non-minimal representations.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames
- 3 Direction cosine matrices
- 4 Euler angles
- 5 Rotation matrices
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem**
- 7 Quaternions
- 8 Changes of representation

Euler's rotation theorem

Theorem

Any movement of a rigid body where one point is fixed is equivalent to a rotation about an axis passing through the fixed point. The axis of rotation is the eigenvector \mathbf{u} (eigenaxis) corresponding to the eigenvalue 1 of the rotation matrix.

Proof. From linear algebra, a rotation matrix \mathbf{T} has one eigenvalue equal to 1. The corresponding eigenvector \mathbf{u} is unchanged by the rotation:

$$\mathbf{T}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}. \quad \text{it is not changed by the transformation}$$

axis of the rotation

This means that \mathbf{u} has the same components in the original and rotated reference frames. It follows that \mathbf{u} is the axis of rotation. \square

- From this theorem, it follows that any rotation can be described by 2 quantities, involving 4 variables:

- a rotation angle (1 variable)
 - a rotation axis (3 variables)
- \leftarrow angle-axis representation.

(3 free dimensions)

Euler's rotation theorem

Example

- Consider the rotation matrix

$$\mathbf{T}_{123} \left(\frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi}{4} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ \frac{3\sqrt{2}\sqrt{3}}{8} & \frac{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{3}}{8} & -\frac{1}{4} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{8} & \frac{5\sqrt{2}}{8} & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} \end{bmatrix}.$$

- The eigenvalues are $\{0.0464 + 0.9989i, 0.0464 - 0.9989i, 1\}$. The corresponding eigenvectors are

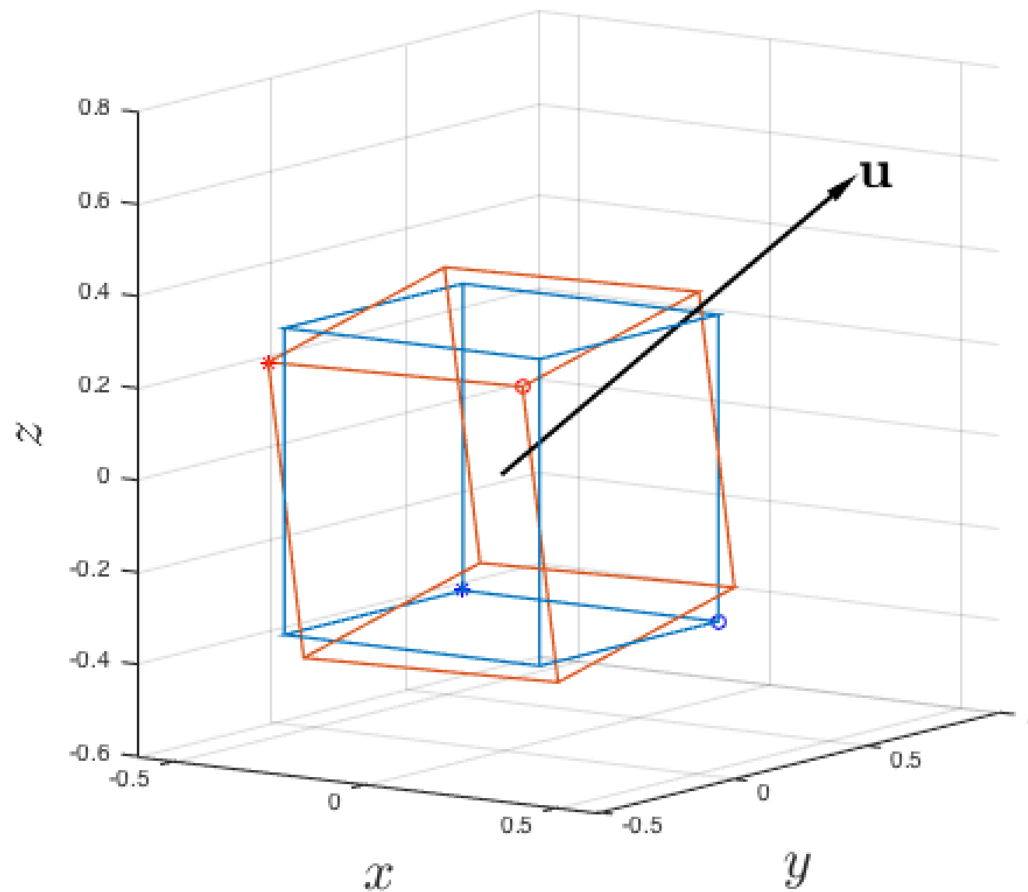
$$\begin{bmatrix} -0.25 + 0.53i & -0.25 - 0.53i & 0.57 \\ 0.60 & 0.60 & 0.52 \\ -0.27 - 0.47i & -0.27 + 0.47i & 0.64 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- The last column $\mathbf{u} = [0.57 \ 0.52 \ 0.64]^T$ is a vector representing the axis of rotation (eigenaxis).

Euler's rotation theorem

Example

- The result of $\mathbf{T}_{123} \left(\frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi}{4} \right)$ applied to a cube is shown in the figure. The axis of rotation is $\mathbf{u} = [0.57 \ 0.52 \ 0.64]^T$.



Euler parameters

- Based on the Euler's theorem, the following 4 variables (called the *Euler parameters*) can be used to describe a rotation of an angle β about an axis defined by a unit vector $\mathbf{u} = u_1\mathbf{i} + u_2\mathbf{j} + u_3\mathbf{k}$:

$$\begin{aligned} q_0 &\doteq \cos \frac{\beta}{2} \\ q_1 &\doteq u_1 \sin \frac{\beta}{2} \\ q_2 &\doteq u_2 \sin \frac{\beta}{2} \\ q_3 &\doteq u_3 \sin \frac{\beta}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

components of the rotation axis

- Note that only 3 of these 4 parameters are independent:

$$\sqrt{\sum_{i=0}^3 q_i^2} = 1.$$

- As we'll see next, the vector $\mathbf{q} = (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3)$ is a *quaternion*.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames
- 3 Direction cosine matrices
- 4 Euler angles
- 5 Rotation matrices
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem
- 7 Quaternions**
- 8 Changes of representation

Quaternions

- Quaternions are mathematical objects introduced by the Irish mathematician Hamilton that are
 - ▶ a generalization of complex numbers to a 3D-space;
 - ▶ efficient rotation operators.
- The Euler parameters form a *quaternion*.
- Advantages wrt Euler angles/rotation matrices:
 - ▶ more efficient from a computational point of view;
 - ▶ less sensitive to rounding errors;
 - ▶ gimbal lock avoided.

set of elements of the space such that
any element is a linear combination
of basis

Definition

Quaternions are elements of a 4D linear vector space with basis $\{1, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}\}$, where the basis vectors satisfy the following multiplication rules:

$$\mathbf{i}^2 = \mathbf{j}^2 = \mathbf{k}^2 = \mathbf{i} \otimes \mathbf{j} \otimes \mathbf{k} = -1$$

$$\mathbf{i} \otimes \mathbf{j} = -\mathbf{j} \otimes \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{j} \otimes \mathbf{k} = -\mathbf{k} \otimes \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{i}$$

$$\mathbf{k} \otimes \mathbf{i} = -\mathbf{i} \otimes \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{j}.$$

Quaternions

- The following notations are equivalent to indicate a quaternion q :

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{q} &= \overset{\text{first part is real part}}{q_0} + \overset{\text{vector part} \rightarrow \text{imaginary part}}{\mathbf{q}} \\ &= q_0 + q_1 \mathbf{i} + q_2 \mathbf{j} + q_3 \mathbf{k} \\ &= \cos \frac{\beta}{2} + \mathbf{u} \sin \frac{\beta}{2} \quad \text{from Euler parameters} \\ &= e^{\mathbf{u} \frac{\beta}{2}} \\ &= \left(\cos \frac{\beta}{2}, u_1 \sin \frac{\beta}{2}, u_2 \sin \frac{\beta}{2}, u_3 \sin \frac{\beta}{2} \right) \\ &= (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3) \\ &= (q_0, \mathbf{q}) = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 \\ \mathbf{q} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \frac{\beta}{2} \\ \mathbf{u} \sin \frac{\beta}{2} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ q_0 is the *real part*,
- ▶ \mathbf{q} is the *imaginary (or vector) part*.
- ▶ A quaternion with null real part is said *pure*.

Quaternions

Algebra

- There exists the *null element*, that is $\mathfrak{0} = (0, \mathbf{0})$.
- The *complex conjugate* of a quaternion $\mathfrak{q} = q_0 + \mathbf{q}$ is

$$\mathfrak{q}^* \doteq q_0 - \mathbf{q} = (q_0, -\mathbf{q}) = \cos \frac{\beta}{2} \ominus \mathbf{u} \sin \frac{\beta}{2} = e^{\ominus \mathbf{u} \frac{\beta}{2}}.$$

- The *norm* of a quaternion is

$$|\mathfrak{q}| = \|\mathfrak{q}\| = \|\mathfrak{q}\|_2 = |\mathfrak{q}^*| = \sqrt{\mathfrak{q} \cdot \mathfrak{q}^*} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=0}^3 q_i^2}.$$

- The *reciprocal* of a quaternion \mathfrak{q} is

$$\mathfrak{q}^{-1} = \mathfrak{q}^* / |\mathfrak{q}|$$

$$\mathfrak{q}^{-1} = \mathfrak{q}^*$$

for a unit quaternion.

Quaternions

Algebra

- Sum: $\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{p} = q_0 + p_0 + \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{p}$.
- Dot product: $\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{p} = \sum_{i=0}^3 q_i p_i$.
- Quaternion product (Hamilton product):

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{q} \otimes \mathbf{p} &= (q_0 + \mathbf{q}) \otimes (p_0 + \mathbf{p}) = \dots \\ &= (q_0 p_0 - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{p}) + (q_0 \mathbf{p} + p_0 \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{p})\end{aligned}$$

of vector
parts

$$\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{p} = \sum_{i=1}^3 q_i p_i$$

dot product

$$\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} q_2 p_3 - q_3 p_2 \\ q_3 p_1 - q_1 p_3 \\ q_1 p_2 - q_2 p_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

cross product.

- ▶ The identity element is $\mathcal{I} \doteq (1, 0)$: $\mathbf{q} \otimes \mathcal{I} = \mathbf{q}$, $\mathcal{I} \otimes \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}$.
- ▶ The quaternion product is associative, non-commutative.
- ▶ The cross product is non-associative, anti-commutative. \rightarrow odd a minus

Quaternions

Algebra

- The cross product can also be written as

$$\mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{p} = \begin{matrix} \text{elements of } \mathbf{q} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -q_3 & q_2 \\ q_3 & 0 & -q_1 \\ -q_2 & q_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{elements of } \mathbf{p} \\ \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}, \quad \text{matrix by definition} \quad \mathbf{q} \times \doteq \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -q_3 & q_2 \\ q_3 & 0 & -q_1 \\ -q_2 & q_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- The quaternion product can also be computed as

$$\mathbf{q} \otimes \mathbf{p} = (q_0 p_0 - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{p}) + (q_0 \mathbf{p} + p_0 \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \times \mathbf{p})$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} q_0 & -\mathbf{q}^T \\ \mathbf{q} & q_0 \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{q} \times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_0 \\ \mathbf{p} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} p_0 & -\mathbf{p}^T \\ \mathbf{p} & p_0 \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{p} \times \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q_0 \\ \mathbf{q} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Quaternions

Rotations

- Let a 3D vector $\mathbf{r} = (x, y, z)$ be given.
- Consider a rotation of \mathbf{r} about an axis $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$ of an angle β :

$$\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{T}(\beta, \mathbf{u})\mathbf{r}$$

rotation matrix (circled around \mathbf{T})
rotation axis (circled around \mathbf{u})
original vector (circled around \mathbf{r})

- Both \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{r}' can be seen as the vector parts of quaternions with null real part, given by $(0, \mathbf{r})$ and $(0, \mathbf{r}')$.

Theorem

Define the unit quaternion

$$\mathbf{q} \doteq \left(\cos \frac{\beta}{2}, u_1 \sin \frac{\beta}{2}, u_2 \sin \frac{\beta}{2}, u_3 \sin \frac{\beta}{2} \right).$$

The rotated vector \mathbf{r}' can be computed as follows:

$$(0, \mathbf{r}') = \mathbf{q} \otimes (0, \mathbf{r}) \otimes \mathbf{q}^*.$$

Quaternions

Rotations

- **Rotation composition:** Given a rotation composition

$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}_1 \mathbf{T}_2 \dots \mathbf{T}_n, \text{ matrix product}$$

the quaternion corresponding to the rotation \mathbf{T} is

$$\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}_1 \otimes \mathbf{q}_2 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{q}_n$$

where \mathbf{q}_i is the quaternion corresponding to the rotation \mathbf{T}_i .

- **Inverse rotation:** Given a rotation defined by a unit quaternion \mathbf{q} , the inverse rotation is defined by the quaternion

$$\mathbf{q}^{-1} = \mathbf{q}^*.$$

Quaternions

Rotations

- Elementary rotations:

$$\mathbf{T}_1(\phi) \leftrightarrow \mathbf{q}_1(\phi) = \left(\cos \frac{\phi}{2}, \sin \frac{\phi}{2}, 0, 0 \right)$$

$$\mathbf{T}_2(\theta) \leftrightarrow \mathbf{q}_2(\theta) = \left(\cos \frac{\theta}{2}, 0, \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, 0 \right)$$

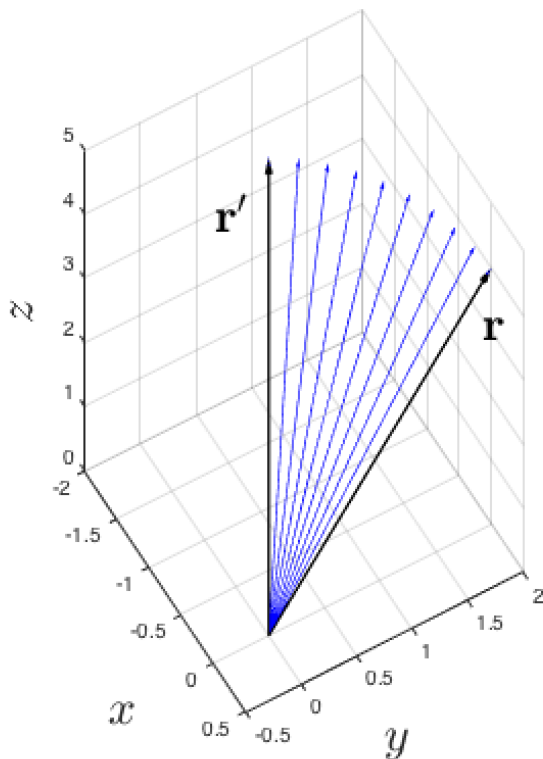
$$\mathbf{T}_3(\psi) \leftrightarrow \mathbf{q}_3(\psi) = \left(\cos \frac{\psi}{2}, 0, 0, \sin \frac{\psi}{2} \right).$$

These are called the *elementary quaternions*.

Quaternions

Example: 3D elementary rotation of a vector

- Consider the vector $\mathbf{r} = 0\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$.
- The quaternion $q_3(\pi/3)$ rotates any vector about the z axis of an angle $\pi/3$ rad $= 60^\circ$.
- The rotated vector is computed as $(0, \mathbf{r}') = q_3 \otimes (0, \mathbf{r}) \otimes q_3^*$, giving $\mathbf{r}' = -1.73\mathbf{i} + 1\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$.

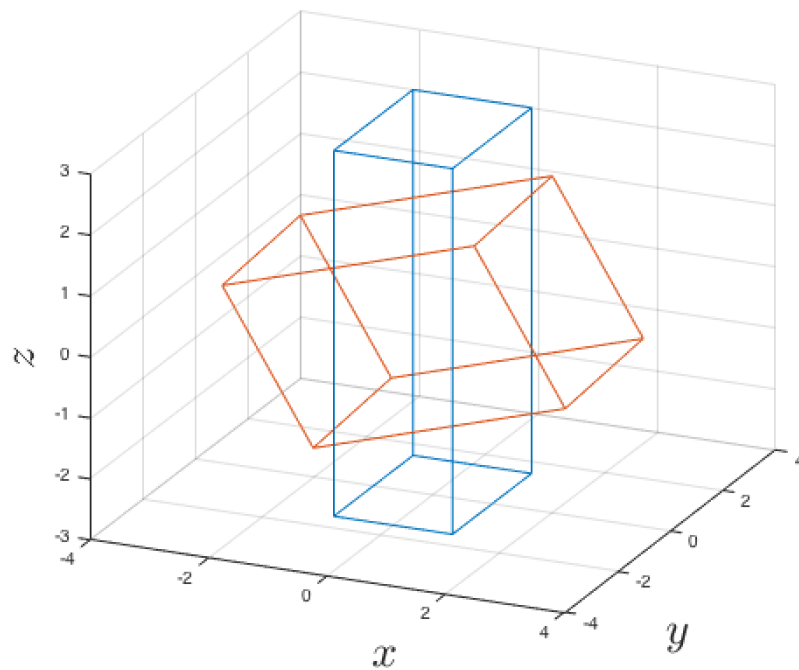


Same result as that obtained with the rotation matrix $\mathbf{T}_3(\pi/3)$.

Quaternions

Example: 3D generic rotation of an hyper-rectangle

- An hyper-rectangle can be represented by a matrix whose columns are the vertices (blue).
- Applying $\mathfrak{q}_1(\pi/4) \otimes \mathfrak{q}_2(\pi/3) \otimes \mathfrak{q}_3(\pi/3)$ to each column of this matrix, we obtain the rotated hyper-rectangle shown in the figure (red).



Same result as that obtained
with the rotation matrix
 $\mathbf{T}_1(\pi/4)\mathbf{T}_2(\pi/3)\mathbf{T}_3(\pi/3)$.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Reference frames
- 3 Direction cosine matrices
- 4 Euler angles
- 5 Rotation matrices
- 6 Euler's rotation theorem
- 7 Quaternions
- 8 Changes of representation**

Changes of representation

- Four different rotation representations have been introduced:

- ① Direction cosine matrix (DCM)

$$\mathbf{T} = [T_{ij}] = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} & T_{13} \\ T_{21} & T_{22} & T_{23} \\ T_{31} & T_{32} & T_{33} \end{bmatrix}.$$

- ② Euler angles (ϕ, θ, ψ) :

- ★ Tayt-Brian angles 321;
- ★ proper Euler angles 313.

- ③ Angle-axis (β, \mathbf{u}) .

- ④ Quaternions (Euler parameters) $\mathbf{q} = (q_0, \mathbf{q})$.

- In the following, we will see how to change representation.

Changes of representation

DCM \leftrightarrow Euler angles

- Euler angles \rightarrow DCM: trivial.
- DCM \rightarrow Tayt-Brian angles 321 ($-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$):

$$\phi = \text{atan2}(T_{32}, T_{33})$$

$$\theta = \text{atan2}(-T_{31}, s\phi T_{32} + c\phi T_{33})$$

$$\psi = \text{atan2}(-c\phi T_{12} + s\phi T_{13}, c\phi T_{22} - s\phi T_{23}).$$

- DCM \rightarrow Proper Euler angles 313 ($\theta \neq 0$):

$$\phi = \text{atan2}(T_{13}, -T_{23})$$

$$\theta = \text{atan2}(s\phi T_{13} - c\phi T_{23}, T_{33})$$

$$\psi = \text{atan2}(-c\phi T_{12} - s\phi T_{22}, c\phi T_{11} + s\phi T_{21}).$$

- $\text{atan2}(x, y)$ = four quadrant inverse tangent of y/x (see the next slide).

Changes of representation

Note

- Function $\text{atan2}(x, y)$:

$$\text{atan2}(y, x) = \begin{cases} \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) & \text{if } x > 0, \\ \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) + \pi & \text{if } x < 0 \text{ and } y \geq 0, \\ \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) - \pi & \text{if } x < 0 \text{ and } y < 0, \\ +\frac{\pi}{2} & \text{if } x = 0 \text{ and } y > 0, \\ -\frac{\pi}{2} & \text{if } x = 0 \text{ and } y < 0, \\ \text{undefined} & \text{if } x = 0 \text{ and } y = 0. \end{cases}$$

- In Matlab, $\text{atan2}(0, 0) = 0$.

Changes of representation

DCM \leftrightarrow angle-axis

- Angle-axis \rightarrow DCM:

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1^2(1 - c\beta) + c\beta & u_1u_2(1 - c\beta) - u_3s\beta & u_1u_3(1 - c\beta) + u_2s\beta \\ u_1u_2(1 - c\beta) + u_3s\beta & u_2^2(1 - c\beta) + c\beta & u_2u_3(1 - c\beta) - u_1s\beta \\ u_1u_3(1 - c\beta) - u_2s\beta & u_2u_3(1 - c\beta) + u_1s\beta & u_3^2(1 - c\beta) + c\beta \end{bmatrix}.$$

- DCM \rightarrow angle-axis ($s\beta \neq 0$):

$$\beta = \arccos\left(\frac{T_{11} + T_{22} + T_{33} - 1}{2}\right)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{2s\beta} \begin{bmatrix} T_{32} - T_{23} \\ T_{13} - T_{31} \\ T_{21} - T_{12} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Changes of representation

DCM \leftrightarrow quaternions

- Quaternions \rightarrow DCM:

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} q_0^2 + q_1^2 - q_2^2 - q_3^2 & 2(q_1q_2 - q_0q_3) & 2(q_1q_3 + q_0q_2) \\ 2(q_1q_2 + q_0q_3) & q_0^2 - q_1^2 + q_2^2 - q_3^2 & 2(q_2q_3 - q_0q_1) \\ 2(q_1q_3 - q_0q_2) & 2(q_2q_3 + q_0q_1) & q_0^2 - q_1^2 - q_2^2 + q_3^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- DCM \rightarrow quaternions ($q_0 \neq 0$):

$$q_0 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{T_{11} + T_{22} + T_{33} + 1}$$

$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{1}{4q_0} \begin{bmatrix} T_{32} - T_{23} \\ T_{13} - T_{31} \\ T_{21} - T_{12} \end{bmatrix}.$$

If $q_0 = 0$, more complicated formulas can be used.

- No singularities occur: \mathbf{q} can always be computed from \mathbf{T} (gimbal lock avoided).

Changes of representation

Quaternions \leftrightarrow Euler angles

- Euler angles \rightarrow quaternions: elementary quaternions.
- Quaternions \rightarrow Euler angles: pass through the DCM.

Quaternions \leftrightarrow angle-axis

- Angle-axis \rightarrow quaternions: trivial.
- Quaternion \rightarrow angle-axis ($\beta \neq 2k\pi, k = 0, 1, \dots$):

$$\beta = 2 \arccos q_0$$
$$u_i = q_i / \sin \frac{\beta}{2}.$$

Changes of representation

Examples

- Euler angles 313 \rightarrow DCM. Consider the 313 Euler angles $(\frac{\pi}{8}, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{3})$. The corresponding DCM is

$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}_3 \left(\frac{\pi}{8} \right) \mathbf{T}_1 \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right) \mathbf{T}_3 \left(\frac{\pi}{3} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.227 & -0.935 & 0.270 \\ 0.757 & -0.005 & -0.653 \\ 0.612 & 0.353 & 0.707 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that numerical approximations may be critical.

- DCM \rightarrow Euler angles 313:

$$\phi = \text{atan2}(T_{13}, -T_{23}) = \frac{\pi}{8}$$

$$\theta = \text{atan2}(s\phi T_{13} - c\phi T_{23}, T_{33}) = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\psi = \text{atan2}(-c\phi T_{12} - s\phi T_{22}, c\phi T_{11} + s\phi T_{21}) = \frac{\pi}{3}.$$

Changes of representation

Examples

- Euler angles \rightarrow quaternions. Consider the 313 Euler angles $(\frac{\pi}{8}, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{3})$. The corresponding elementary quaternions are

$$\mathbf{q}_3\left(\frac{\pi}{8}\right) = \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{16}, 0, 0, \sin \frac{\pi}{16}\right) = (0.981, 0, 0, 0.195)$$

$$\mathbf{q}_1\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{8}, \sin \frac{\pi}{8}, 0, 0\right) = (0.924, 0.383, 0, 0)$$

$$\mathbf{q}_3\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6}, 0, 0, \sin \frac{\pi}{6}\right) = (0.866, 0, 0, 0.5).$$

The total rotation quaternion is

$$\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}_3\left(\frac{\pi}{8}\right) \otimes \mathbf{q}_1\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \otimes \mathbf{q}_3\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = (0.695, 0.362, -0.123, 0.609).$$

Changes of representation

Examples

- DCM \rightarrow quaternions. Consider the DCM

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.227 & -0.935 & 0.270 \\ 0.757 & -0.005 & -0.653 \\ 0.612 & 0.353 & 0.707 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The corresponding quaternion is $\mathbf{q} = (q_0, \mathbf{q})$, where

$$q_0 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{T_{11} + T_{22} + T_{33} + 1} = 0.695$$

$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{1}{4q_0} \begin{bmatrix} T_{32} - T_{23} \\ T_{13} - T_{31} \\ T_{21} - T_{12} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.362 \\ -0.123 \\ 0.609 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Changes of representation

Examples

- Quaternions \rightarrow DCM. Consider the quaternion

$$\mathbf{q} = (0.695, \quad 0.362, \quad -0.123, \quad 0.609) .$$

The corresponding DCM is

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.227 & -0.935 & 0.270 \\ 0.757 & -0.005 & -0.653 \\ 0.612 & 0.353 & 0.707 \end{bmatrix} .$$

- Quaternions \rightarrow DCM \rightarrow Euler angles 313:

$$\phi = \text{atan2} (T_{13}, -T_{23}) = \frac{\pi}{8}$$

$$\theta = \text{atan2} (s\phi T_{13} - c\phi T_{23}, T_{33}) = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\psi = \text{atan2} (-c\phi T_{12} - s\phi T_{22}, c\phi T_{11} + s\phi T_{21}) = \frac{\pi}{3} .$$