

Spatial Descriptors and Transformations

- Descriptions:
- * Position
 - * Orientation
 - * Frames

A position vector P on a frame A can be represented as ${}^A P$

$${}^A P = \begin{bmatrix} P_x \\ P_y \\ P_z \end{bmatrix}$$

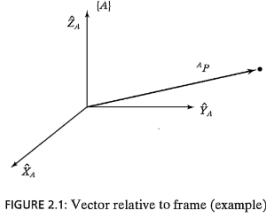
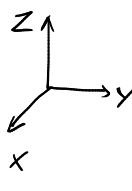
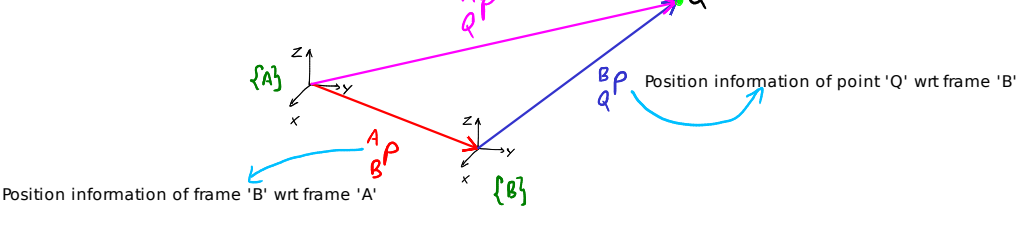


FIGURE 2.1: Vector relative to frame (example).



Mapping involving Translated Frames:



- * There are two frames {A} and {B}, each consist of three orthonormal vectors 'X', 'Y' and 'Z'
- * There is a point Q in 3D space, which can be described from frame {B} as a positional vector of point 'Q' wrt 'B' ${}^B Q P$
- * The positional information of {B} wrt {A} can be represented as ${}^A_B P$

Now, the positional information of 'Q' wrt {A} can be represented as ${}^A_Q P = {}^B_Q P + {}^A_B P$

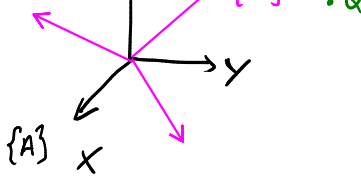
Description of Orientation

Orientation describes how the axes (XYZ) of one frame is aligned wrt other frame (XYZ)

$${}^A_B R = \begin{bmatrix} {}^A \hat{x}_B & {}^A \hat{y}_B & {}^A \hat{z}_B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$${}^A_B R = \begin{bmatrix} {}^A \hat{x}_B & {}^A \hat{y}_B & {}^A \hat{z}_B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_B \cdot \hat{x}_A & \hat{x}_B \cdot \hat{y}_A & \hat{x}_B \cdot \hat{z}_A \\ \hat{y}_B \cdot \hat{x}_A & \hat{y}_B \cdot \hat{y}_A & \hat{y}_B \cdot \hat{z}_A \\ \hat{z}_B \cdot \hat{x}_A & \hat{z}_B \cdot \hat{y}_A & \hat{z}_B \cdot \hat{z}_A \end{bmatrix}$$

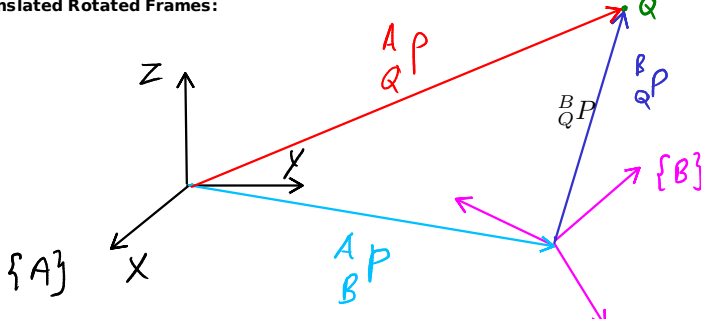
Mapping involving Rotated Frame:



- * Two frames {A} and {B} having no translation but oriented differently
- * The positional information of point 'Q' wrt 'B' is known, the positional info of 'Q' wrt 'A' can be represented as

$${}^A_Q P = {}^A_B R {}^B_Q P \quad \text{where, } {}^A_B R \text{ is the Rotation information of frame \{B\} wrt \{A\}}$$

Mapping involving Translated Rotated Frames:



Here, frame {B} is oriented differently from frame {A}, the point Q wrt {B} is known

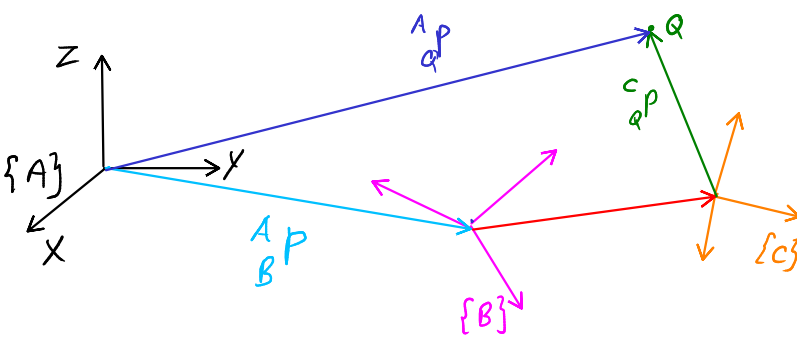
The Position information of point Q wrt A can be identified by:

- * Orienting the frame {B} similar to {A}, It can be done by multiplying ${}^A_B R {}^B_Q P$
- * Add the transformed point Q wrt {B} and positional information of {B} wrt {A}

$${}^A_Q P = {}^A_B P + {}^A_B R {}^B_Q P$$

Exercise: Suppose there are three bodies which are associated with frames {A}, {B} and {C} and there is a point Q in space. The positional information of point Q wrt C is known. The positional information of Q wrt A can be identified as

$${}^A_Q P = {}^A_B P + {}^A_B R {}^B_C P + {}^A_B R {}^B_C R {}^C_Q P$$



Note: Here, if the number of bodies are increased the complexity of multiplying the rotation and translation information gets complex.

This complexity can be reduced by using Transformation Matrix, which maps one frame to another frame in matrix form.

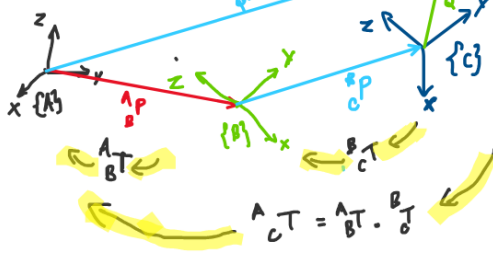
Homogeneous Transformation Matrix: It is a 4x4 matrix, which maps a homogeneous position vector from one frame to another.

Where, homogeneous position vector is added with 1 at the end. Which will make it to $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$${}^A_B T = \begin{bmatrix} {}^A_B R & {}^A_B P \\ \eta & \sigma \end{bmatrix}$$

Where, η is the Prespective vector, the prespective vector is used if the transformation is non-orthogonal otherwise [0, 0, 0] for orthogonal projection σ is the scaling factor, normally it will be set to 1

Compound Transformation:



$$\begin{aligned} {}^A_Q P &= {}^A_C T {}^C_Q P = {}^A_B T {}^B_C T {}^C_Q P \\ {}^A_C T &= {}^A_B T {}^B_C T \end{aligned} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} {}^A_B R & {}^A_B P \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} {}^B_C R & {}^B_C P \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- SO(3) (Special Orthogonal Group in 3D):
 - Refers to the group of 3D rotations about the origin.
 - It consists of all orthogonal 3x3 rotation matrices R with determinant $\det(R) = 1$:
$$SO(3) = \{R \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3} \mid R^T R = I, \det(R) = 1\}$$
 - Represents pure rotation without any translation.
- SE(3) (Special Euclidean Group in 3D):
 - Refers to the group of rigid transformations (rotation + translation) in 3D space.
 - It combines SO(3) for rotation and \mathbb{R}^3 for translation:
$$SE(3) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} R & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mid R \in SO(3), t \in \mathbb{R}^3 \right\}$$
- Encodes both the orientation (rotation) and the position (translation) of an object.

Properties of Transformation Matrix:

Matrix Inverse: Transformation Mat of B wrt A = Mat inverse of Transformation Mat of A wrt B

$${}^A_B T = {}^B_A T^{-1}$$

Euler Rotation (X, Y, Z):

To Transform the orientation from Frame {A} to Frame {B}, perform the below three steps:

- Rotate {A} about X axis to an angle $\alpha = \{\alpha^1\}$
- Rotate $\{\alpha^1\}$ about Y axis to an angle $\beta = \{\alpha^2\}$
- Rotate $\{\alpha^2\}$ about Z axis to an angle $\gamma = \{\alpha^3\}$

$${}^A_B R = {}^{A_2}_{B_2} R_{x_2}(\alpha) {}^{A_1}_{A_2} R_{y_1}(\beta) {}^{A_0}_{A_1} R_{z_0}(\gamma)$$

$$\begin{aligned} {}^A_B R &= R_Z(\alpha) R_Y(\beta) R_X(\gamma) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha & 0 \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta & 0 & \sin \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \beta & 0 & \cos \beta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \gamma & -\sin \gamma \\ 0 & \sin \gamma & \cos \gamma \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$${}^A_B R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta & \cos \alpha \sin \beta \sin \gamma - \sin \alpha \cos \gamma & \cos \alpha \sin \beta \sin \gamma + \sin \alpha \sin \gamma \\ \sin \alpha \cos \beta & \sin \alpha \sin \beta \sin \gamma + \cos \alpha \cos \gamma & \sin \alpha \sin \beta \cos \gamma - \cos \alpha \sin \gamma \\ -\sin \beta & \cos \beta \sin \gamma & \cos \beta \cos \gamma \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\beta = \text{atan2}(-r_{31}, \sqrt{r_{11}^2 + r_{21}^2})$$

$$\alpha = \text{atan2}\left(\frac{r_{21}}{\cos \beta}, \frac{r_{11}}{\cos \beta}\right)$$

$$\gamma = \text{atan2}\left(\frac{r_{32}}{\cos \beta}, \frac{r_{33}}{\cos \beta}\right)$$

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix (Use of Skew Symmetric Matrix):

Derivative of Rotation matrix

$$R R^T = I$$

Differentiating w.r.t. time

$$\dot{R} R^T + R \dot{R}^T = 0$$

$$\dot{R} R^T + (\dot{R} R^T)^T = 0$$

$$S + S^T = 0$$

$$S = \dot{R} R^T$$

Skew symmetric matrix

$$S^T = -S$$

$$S + S^T = 0$$

$$S = \dot{R} R^T$$

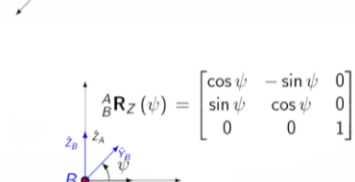
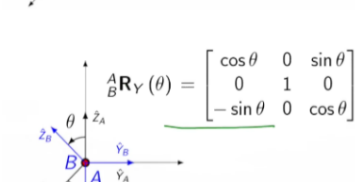
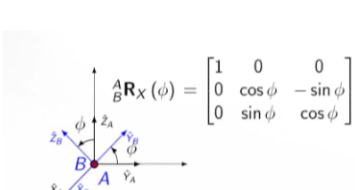
$$\dot{R} R^T = S$$

$$\dot{R} = S(R^T)^{-1}$$

$$\dot{R} = S R$$

Derivation of Rotation Matrices:

$${}^A_B R = \begin{bmatrix} {}^A \hat{x}_B & {}^A \hat{y}_B & {}^A \hat{z}_B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$



Exercise: Find the rotation matrix between {B} and {A} => Project \hat{x}_B on $\{\hat{A}\}$, \hat{y}_B on $\{\hat{A}\}$, \hat{z}_B on $\{\hat{A}\}$

$${}^A_B R = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_B \cdot \hat{x}_A & \hat{x}_B \cdot \hat{y}_A & \hat{x}_B \cdot \hat{z}_A \\ \hat{y}_B \cdot \hat{x}_A & \hat{y}_B \cdot \hat{y}_A & \hat{y}_B \cdot \hat{z}_A \\ \hat{z}_B \cdot \hat{x}_A & \hat{z}_B \cdot \hat{y}_A & \hat{z}_B \cdot \hat{z}_A \end{bmatrix}$$

Lecture to check:

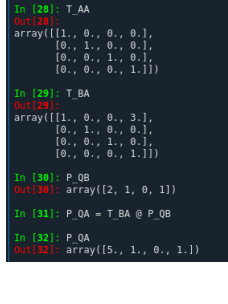
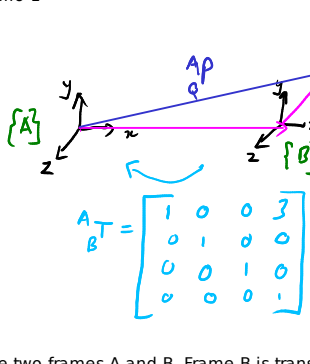
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<https://natanaso.github.io/ece276a2020/schedule.html>

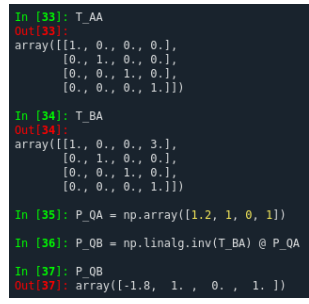
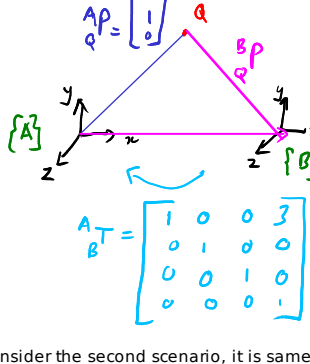
UC San Diego Lecture on Robotics

Some examples of Transformation matrices:

Scenario-1

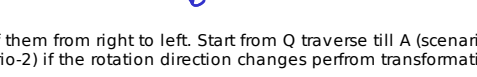


Scenario-2



There are two frames A and B. Frame B is translated by 3 units in X direction (no rotation). Consider a point Q represented in B frame as P_QB. Now the point P_QB can be written in A frame by

$$A_P = A_B^T B_P$$



$$B_P = (A_B)^T A_P = B_A^T A_P$$

Read both of them from right to left. Start from Q traverse till A (scenario-1) and B(scenario-2) if the rotation direction changes perform transformation inverse (in case of scenario-2)

Additional information related to rotation (Group Theory Aspect)

1. Complex Numbers and U(1) Rotation

Concept:

- Complex numbers can rotate vectors in 2D.
- The unit circle in the complex plane is the group U(1).

Definition:

$U(1) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$

These are complex numbers of the form:

$$z = e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta)$$

Action:

Multiplying any complex number/vector $v \in \mathbb{C}$ by $z \in U(1)$ rotates it by angle θ .

Example:

Let's rotate the point $v = 1 + 0i$ by $\theta = 90^\circ = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

$$z = e^{i\pi/2} = \cos(\pi/2) + i \sin(\pi/2) = i$$
$$zv = i \cdot (1 + 0i) = i$$

So $1(1)$ rotated by 90° becomes $i(1)$.

2. U(2) - Unitary 2x2 Matrices

Concept:

U(2) is the group of 2x2 complex matrices U such that:

$$U^\dagger U = I$$

Where:

- U^\dagger : Conjugate transpose of U
- I : Identity matrix

These matrices preserve complex inner products (important in quantum mechanics).

Example:

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\psi} \end{bmatrix} \in U(2)$$

Check:

$$U^\dagger = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-i\phi} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\psi} \end{bmatrix}, \quad U^\dagger U = I$$

3. SO(2) - Rotations in 2D (Real Space)

Definition:

SO(2) - group of real 2x2 orthogonal matrices with determinant = 1

These are 2D rotation matrices:

$$R(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Connection to U(1):

- $R(\theta)$ acts on real vectors.
- $e^{i\theta}$ acts similarly on complex numbers.

$SO(2) \cong U(1)$ (isomorphic)

Example:

Rotate vector $v = [1, 0]^T$ by 45° .

$$R\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \frac{\pi}{4} & -\sin \frac{\pi}{4} \\ \sin \frac{\pi}{4} & \cos \frac{\pi}{4} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$Rv = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Unitary Matrix Intuition

Geometric Intuition:

Just like real orthogonal matrices preserve vector lengths and angles in \mathbb{R}^2 , unitary matrices preserve them in \mathbb{C}^2 .

- U(1) rotates 1D complex vectors \rightarrow circle
- U(2) rotates 2D complex vectors \rightarrow 4D space

3. Properties of U(2)

- Complex entries
- Preserves complex inner product
- Determinant satisfies:

$$(Ux, Uy) = (x, y)$$
$$|\det(U)| = 1$$

4. Numeric Example of U(2)

Let's construct a simple 2x2 unitary matrix:

Let:

$$U = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let's verify whether this is unitary.

Step 1: Compute U^\dagger

Conjugate transpose:

$$U^\dagger = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -i \\ -i & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 2: Check $U^\dagger U = I$

$$U^\dagger U = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -i \\ -i & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 + (-i)i & 1 + (-i)1 \\ (-i)1 + 1i & (-i)i + 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 + 1 & 1 - i + i \\ -i + i & -i^2 + 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = I$$

Confirmed: U is unitary, so $U \in U(2)$

5. Apply U(2) to a Vector

Let's apply U to a vector $v = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$:

$$Uv = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 + i + 0 \\ i + 1 + 0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 + i \\ 1 + i \end{bmatrix}$$

The output is a rotated + scaled complex vector (unit length preserved).

6. General Form of U(2)

Any matrix in U(2) can be written as:

$$U = e^{i\phi} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ -b^* & a \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{with } |a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$$

This has 4 real parameters:

- 1 global phase ϕ
- 3 real parameters from $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$

Special Case: SU(2)

If $\det(U) = 1$, the matrix is in SU(2) (Special Unitary group). SU(2) is closely related to:

- 3D rotations (covers SO(3) twice)
- Quantum spin systems
- Quaternions

What is SU(2)?

SU(2) = Set of 2x2 unitary matrices with determinant 1

A matrix $U \in SU(2)$ satisfies:

- $U^\dagger U = I$ (unitary)
- $\det(U) = 1$

General Form:

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ -b^* & a \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{with } |a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$$

This gives SU(2) 3 real degrees of freedom.

Connection to Rotations (SO(3)):

- SU(2) describes 3D rotations, like SO(3), but is a double cover: One rotation in SO(3) \leftrightarrow two matrices in SU(2)
- SU(2) is isomorphic to unit quaternions

$$q = \cos(\theta/2) + \sin(\theta/2)(n_x i + n_y j + n_z k)$$

Example:

Let $a = \cos(\theta/2)$, $b = z \sin(\theta/2)$

Then:

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta/2) & i \sin(\theta/2) \\ i \sin(\theta/2) & \cos(\theta/2) \end{bmatrix} \in SU(2)$$

Application:

- SU(2) rotates qubit states in quantum mechanics (e.g. Bloch sphere rotations)
- Used in quantum gates, spin systems, quaternion math

Let me know if you want the SU(2) \rightarrow SO(3) mapping or code examples.

Absolutely! Let's build a concrete example of an SU(2) matrix, and then show its correspondence to both a 3D rotation in SO(3) and a unit quaternion.

Step 1: Pick a Rotation

Let's rotate by $\theta = 120^\circ$ ($2\pi/3$ radians) around the z-axis.

$$\hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(1, 1, 1)$$

This is a standard axis for testing SU(2) \rightarrow SO(3) \rightarrow quaternion correspondence.

Step 2: Build SU(2) Matrix

General form of an SU(2) matrix for rotation by angle θ around axis $\hat{n} = (n_x, n_y, n_z)$:

$$U = \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) I + i \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) (n_x \sigma_x + n_y \sigma_y + n_z \sigma_z)$$

Where:

- $\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z$ are Pauli matrices:

$$\sigma_x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \sigma_y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \sigma_z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now plug in:

- $\theta = \frac{2\pi}{3} \Rightarrow \frac{\theta}{2} = \frac{\pi}{3}$
- $\cos(\frac{\pi}{3}) = \frac{1}{2}$
- $\sin(\frac{\pi}{3}) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
- $\hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(1, 1, 1)$

Then:

$$U = \frac{1}{2} I + i \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (\sigma_x + \sigma_y + \sigma_z) = \frac{1}{2} I + \frac{i}{2} (\sigma_x + \sigma_y + \sigma_z)$$

Now compute:

$$\sigma_x + \sigma_y + \sigma_z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 - i \\ 1 + i & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

So:

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{i}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 - i \\ 1 + i & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} + \frac{i}{2} & \frac{i}{2}(1 - i) \\ \frac{i}{2}(1 + i) & \frac{1}{2} - \frac{i}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Simplify:

- $i(1 - i) = i - i^2 = i + 1$
- $i(1 + i) = i + i^2 = i - 1$

Final matrix:

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} + \frac{i}{2} & \frac{1-i}{2} \\ \frac{1+i}{2} & \frac{1}{2} - \frac{i}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

✓ This matrix is in SU(2).

Step 3: Convert SU(2) to Quaternion

Any SU(2) matrix corresponds to a unit quaternion:

$$q = \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) (n_x i + n_y j + n_z k)$$

Using same parameters as above:

- $\theta/2 = \pi/3$
- $\cos(\pi/3) = 0.5, \sin(\pi/3) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
- $\hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(1, 1, 1)$

$$q = 0.5 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{3}}(i + j + k) = 0.5 + 0.5i + 0.5j + 0.5k$$

✓ This is the unit quaternion corresponding to the same 3D rotation.

Step 4: Convert Quaternion to SO(3)

To get the 3D rotation matrix (SO(3)) from a unit quaternion:

$$q = w + xi + yj + zk = 0.5 + 0.5i + 0.5j + 0.5k$$

Use this formula:

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - 2(y^2 + z^2) & 2xy - wz & 2xz - wy \\ 2(xy - wz) & 1 - 2(x^2 + z^2) & 2(yz - wx) \\ 2(xz - wy) & 2(yz - wx) & 1 - 2(x^2 + y^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

Plug in:

- $w = 0.5, x = 0.5, y = 0.5, z = 0.5$

Compute:

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - 2(0.25 + 0.25) & 2(0.25 - 0.25) & 2(0.25 + 0.25) \\ 2(0.25 - 0.25) & 1 - 2(0.25 + 0.25) & 2(0.25 - 0.25) \\ 2(0.25 - 0.25) & 2(0.25 + 0.25) & 1 - 2(0.25 + 0.25) \end{bmatrix}$$
$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

✓ This is a 120° rotation about the axis (1,1,1) - same as SU(2) and quaternion!

Summary of the Correspondence	
Description	Object
Rotation	120° about $\hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(1, 1, 1)$
SU(2) Matrix	Complex 2x2 matrix (above)
Quaternion	$q = 0.5 + 0.5i + 0.5j + 0.5k$
SO(3) Matrix	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
✓ All three represent the same 3D rotation in different mathematical languages:	
• SU(2) for quantum spin/qubit	
• Quaternion for efficient 3D math	
• SO(3) for matrix-based rotation	

3. SO(2) - Rotations in 2D (Real Space)

Definition:

SO(2) = group of real 2x2 orthogonal matrices with determinant = 1

These are 2D rotation matrices:

$$R(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Connection to U(1):

- $R(\theta)$ acts on real vectors.
- $e^{i\theta}$ acts similarly on complex numbers.

$SO(2) \cong U(1)$ (isomorphic)

Example:

Rotate vector $v = [1, 0]^T$ by 45° :

$$R\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \frac{\pi}{4} & -\sin \frac{\pi}{4} \\ \sin \frac{\pi}{4} & \cos \frac{\pi}{4} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$Rv = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

4. SO(3) - Rotations in 3D

Definition:

SO(3) = real 3x3 orthogonal matrices with determinant = 1

These represent rotations in 3D space.

A generic rotation about the z-axis:

$$R_z(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- SO(3) is non-abelian (order matters)
- Cannot be written as simply as U(1) or SO(2)

5. Quaternions and Rotations

Quaternion Basics:

A quaternion:

$$q = a + bi + cj + dk$$

Where:

- $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$
- $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$

Unit Quaternions:

$$|q| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2} = 1 \Rightarrow \text{Unit Quaternion}$$

Used to represent rotations in 3D without gimbal lock.

Rotation using Quaternions:

To rotate a vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$ using quaternion q :

- Convert v to pure quaternion: $v = 0 + v_x i + v_y j + v_z k$
- Use:

$$v' = qvq^{-1}$$

Where $q^{-1} = q^*$ if $|q| = 1$

Numeric Example:

Rotate vector $v = [1, 0, 0]^T$ by 180° around the z-axis.

- Axis $\hat{n} = [0, 0, 1]$
- Angle $\theta = \pi$

Quaternion:

$$q = \cos(\pi/2) + \sin(\pi/2)(0i + 0j + 1k) = 0 + 0i + 0j + 1k = k$$

Vector $v = 0 + 1i + 0j + 0k$

Then:

$$v' = qvq^{-1} = k(i)(-k) = -i \Rightarrow v' = [-1, 0, 0]$$

Rotated by 180°

Summary of Connections				
Group	Dim	Acts on	Structure	Notes
U(1)	1D	\subset (1D complex)	Abelian	Rotations in complex plane
SO(2)	2D	\mathbb{R}^2	Abelian	Same as U(1), real-valued
U(2)	4D	\mathbb{C}^2	Non-Abelian	Quantum systems
SO(3)	3D	\mathbb{R}^3	Non-Abelian	3D rotations
Quaternions	4D	\mathbb{R}^4 via action	Non-Abelian	Efficient rotation representation

What is SO(3)?

- SO(3) - Special Orthogonal Group in 3D
- It consists of all 3x3 rotation matrices R that:
 - Preserve length and angles: $R^T R = I$ (orthogonal)
 - Have $\det(R) = +1$ (no reflection)

Each element in SO(3) represents a rotation in 3D space.

Axis-Angle Representation of SO(3)

Key Idea:

Every rotation in 3D can be described by:

- A unit vector $\hat{n} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, the axis of rotation
- An angle $\theta \in [0, \pi]$, how much to rotate around that axis

This is called the axis-angle representation.

Representing SO(3) as a Solid Ball

We can represent SO(3) as points inside a solid 3D ball of radius π .

How?

We map each rotation to a vector:

$$\vec{v} = \theta \hat{n} \quad \text{where } \theta \in [0, \pi]$$

So:

- The direction of \vec{v} gives the rotation axis \hat{n}
- The length $|\vec{v}|$ gives the angle of rotation θ

What the Ball Represents:

- The interior of the ball (not including surface): all rotations with angle $\theta < \pi$
- The surface of the ball (rotations with angle $\theta = \pi$): all rotations by π (180°)
- The center $(0,0,0)$: the identity rotation (no rotation at all)

Why Radius π ?

Because:

- Rotating by θ is the same as rotating by $-\theta$ around $-\hat{n}$
- The maximum unique angle of rotation is π (180°)
- After $\theta = \pi$, rotations start repeating (you come back the "long way")

Important Topology Note

- Points on opposite sides of the surface of the ball represent the same rotation.
- So the ball has a non-trivial topology.
- It's a 3D ball with antipodal points on the surface identified - this is called projective 3-space, or \mathbb{RP}^3

What's Rotated About What?

Let's clarify that:

- You're rotating a vector \vec{v} in 3D space
- You rotate it around a fixed axis \hat{n}
- By an angle θ
- This defines a rotation matrix $R \in SO(3)$
- You apply the rotation: $\vec{v}_{\text{rotated}} = R \cdot \vec{v}$

Example

Let's rotate around axis $\hat{n} = [0, 0, 1]$ by $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ (90°)

Then the axis-angle vector is:

$$\vec{v} = \theta \hat{n} = \frac{\pi}{2} [0, 0, 1] = [0, 0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$$

This lies halfway from the origin to the surface of the SO(3) ball, along the z-axis.

The corresponding rotation matrix is:

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This rotates vectors 90° around the z-axis.

Conceptual Setup: SO(3) = Set of 3D Rotations

Every element of SO(3) is a rotation in 3D space:

- Defined by a rotation axis (a unit vector $\hat{n} \in \mathbb{R}^3$)
- And a rotation angle $\theta \in [0, \pi]$

So a rotation can be uniquely described by a vector:

$$\vec{r} = \theta \cdot \hat{n}$$

That means SO(3) can be represented as:

- All vectors inside a solid 3D ball of radius π (i.e., $|\vec{r}| \leq \pi$)

Orthogonal Group O(3)

- O(3) consists of set of 3×3 orthogonal matrices (determinant +1 or -1)
- Direct product with inversion group

$$O(3) = SO(3) \otimes C_2$$

- Each element of SO(3) will be specified by three parameters

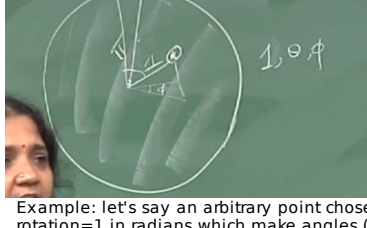
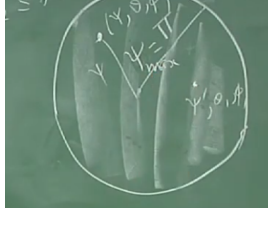
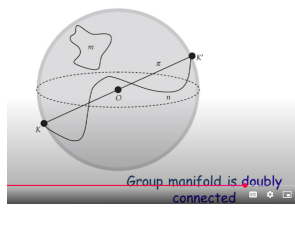
$$R_a(\psi) = R(\psi, \theta, \phi)$$

Determinant of SO(3) = +1 (proper rotations)

Cs would consist of identity and diag(1, -1, -1) element

The group manifold of the parameter space of group SO(3) is a solid sphere of radius π which is compact

SO(3) group manifold



Example: let's say an arbitrary point chosen in the sphere which has rotation=1 in radians which make angles (theta and phi) (in spherical coordinates)

Lie Algebra

- Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} is a vector space on which is defined a binary operation having the following properties

- For all x and y in \mathfrak{g} , $[x, y]$ is in \mathfrak{g} .
 - For all x, y and z in \mathfrak{g} , and scalars λ and μ , $[\lambda x + \mu y, z] = \lambda [x, z] + \mu [y, z]$.
 - $[x, y] = -[y, x]$.
 - $[x, [y, z]] + [y, [z, x]] + [z, [x, y]] = 0$. [Jacobi identity]
- $[\cdot, \cdot]$ is called Lie Bracket
- Lie Bracket $[x, y] = 0$ for all x, y implies Lie algebra is abelian

Lecture 39, Prof Ramadevi IITB

1. What Are Quaternions?

Quaternions extend complex numbers from 2D to 4D and are used heavily in 3D rotations.

Definition:

A quaternion is written as:

$$q = w + xi + yj + zk$$

Where:

- $w, x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$
- i, j, k are imaginary units satisfying:

$$i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$$

And non-commutative multiplication:

$$ij = k, \quad ji = -k, \quad jk = i, \quad kj = -i, \quad ki = j, \quad ik = -j$$

So quaternions live in \mathbb{R}^4 .

Unit Quaternions

A unit quaternion satisfies:

$$|q| = \sqrt{w^2 + x^2 + y^2 + z^2} = 1$$

Unit quaternions represent 3D rotations, just like SO(3).

Quaternion as Rotation

A unit quaternion:

$$q = \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) (xi + yj + zk)$$

represents rotation of angle θ around axis $\vec{v} = (x, y, z)$, where \vec{v} is a unit vector.

To rotate a 3D vector $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$:

- Turn it into a pure quaternion: $v_q = 0 + xi + yj + zk$
- Compute:

$$v' = qv_q q^{-1}$$

What is U(2)?

U(2) is the unitary group of 2x2 complex matrices:

$$U(2) = \{U \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times 2} \mid U^\dagger U = I\}$$

Where:

- U^\dagger is conjugate transpose
- $U^\dagger U = I$ means length is preserved under multiplication
- Elements of U(2) are like "complex rotations" in 2D complex vector spaces

Structure of U(2)

U(2) contains:

- SU(2): special unitary group with determinant = 1
- A global phase: multiplication by $e^{i\phi}$

Formally:

$$U(2) \cong SU(2) \times U(1)$$

So U(2) is like "SU(2) with an overall complex phase".

Connection Between Quaternions and SU(2) \subset U(2)

Every unit quaternion corresponds to a 2x2 complex matrix in SU(2).

Given quaternion:

$$q = a + bi + cj + dk$$

Its corresponding matrix in SU(2) is:

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} a + bi & c + di \\ -c + di & a - bi \end{bmatrix} \in SU(2)$$

✓ This matrix is unitary and has determinant = 1.

So How Are Quaternions Related to U(2)?

- Unit quaternions \leftrightarrow SU(2) (1-to-1)
- SU(2) \subset U(2), so quaternions can be embedded in U(2)
- U(2) allows a global phase $e^{i\phi}$ times a unit quaternion matrix

So U(2) can be thought of as:

$$U(2) \cong (\text{unit quaternion matrix}) \times (\text{complex phase})$$

Example

Let's take a unit quaternion:

$$q = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) (0i + 0j + 1k) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}k$$

This is a rotation by 90° about the z-axis.

Corresponding SU(2) matrix:

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i \\ -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \end{bmatrix} \in SU(2) \subset U(2)$$

This matrix rotates 3D vectors just like the quaternion.

Summary Table			
Structure	Description	Dimension	Rotation Use
Quaternion	\mathbb{R}^4 numbers with i, j, k	4	Efficient rotation
Unit Quaternion	Norm = 1	3 (S ³)	Represents 3D rotation
U(2)	2x2 unitary matrices	4	Rotations + phase
SU(2)	2x2 unitary with det=1	3	Exactly matches unit quaternions
SO(3)	3x3 real rotation matrices	3	Physical rotations in 3D