

Rotations about the axis x,y,z are as follows:

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

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

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

## 1 Representing Rotation

There are number of ways to represent a rotation. One way is by using a matrix like above.

Second way of representing this rotation is by using axis-angle notation.

$$\hat{w} = 0\hat{i} + 1\hat{j} + 0\hat{k}$$

Third way of representing a rotation is by quaternions.

$q = [\cos\frac{\theta}{2}, \hat{w}\sin\frac{\theta}{2}]$ , where  $\hat{w}$  is a vector  $(w_x, w_y, w_z)$ .

## 2 Converting axis-angle to a quaternion

Axis-angle rotation is represented by a 1x3 matrix in the form  $[x, y, z]$ .

From the given angle and vector we can convert to the quaternion using the following formula.

$$q = [\cos\frac{\theta}{2}, \vec{r}\sin(\frac{\theta}{2})], \text{ where } \vec{r} = [x, y, z]$$

## 3 Converting quaternion to a rotation matrix

$$q = [q_s, q_x, q_y, q_z]$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - 2q_y^2 - 2q_z^2 & 2q_xq_y - 2q_zq_s & 2q_xq_z + 2q_yq_s \\ 2q_xq_y + 2q_zq_s & 1 - 2q_x^2 - 2q_z^2 & 2q_yq_z - 2q_xq_s \\ 2q_xq_z - 2q_yq_s & 2q_yq_z + 2q_xq_s & 1 - 2q_x^2 - 2q_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## 4 Rotation matrix to Axis-Angle

In this exercise theta is limited to  $[0, \pi]$ . The general form of the equation is:

$$\theta = \arccos\left(\frac{\text{trace}(R)-1}{2}\right)$$

$$\hat{r} = \frac{1}{2\sin\theta}[(r_{32} - r_{23})\hat{i} + (r_{13} - r_{31})\hat{j} + (r_{21} - r_{12})\hat{k}]$$

There exists singularities when  $\theta = 0, \pm\pi$ .

- when  $\theta = 0$ , there are infinite solutions (no rotation).  $\hat{r}$  can be any vector
- when  $\theta = \pi$

$$R(r, \theta) = \begin{bmatrix} r_x^2 v_\theta + c\theta & r_x r_y v_\theta - r_z s\theta & r_x r_z v_\theta + r_y s\theta \\ r_x r_y v_\theta + r_z s\theta & r_y^2 v_\theta + \cos\theta & r_y r_z v_\theta - r_x s\theta \\ r_x r_z v_\theta - r_y s\theta & r_y r_z v_\theta + r_x s\theta & r_z^2 v_\theta + c\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $c\theta = \cos(\theta)$ ,  $s\theta = \sin(\theta)$ ,  $v_\theta = 1 - \cos(\theta)$

substituting  $\theta = \pi$  in to the above equation will give the following matrix:

$$R(r, \theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 2x^2 - 1 & 2xy & 2xz \\ 2xy & 2y^2 - 1 & 2yz \\ 2xz & 2yz & 2z^2 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{R_{1,1}+1}{2}} \quad (1)$$

$$y = \sqrt{\frac{R_{2,2}+1}{2}} \quad (2)$$

$$z = \sqrt{\frac{R_{3,3}+1}{2}} \quad (3)$$

solve for  $[x, y, z]$  using the diagonals (1),(2),(3). To find the signs of  $x, y, z$ , it is better to find  $y$  and  $z$  using the first row (interdependence of variables) instead of the diagonals.

If  $x=0$ , solve for  $y$  and use second row to solve for  $x$  and  $y$ . If  $y=0$ , solve for  $z$  and use third row to solve for  $z$  and  $x$ .

For  $\theta = \pi$  there are two solution with different signs.