

MEAM 520

Lecture 9: Quaternions

Cynthia Sung, Ph.D.

Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics

University of Pennsylvania

Lab 2: Inverse Kinematics for the Lynx

MEAM 520, University of Pennsylvania

September 23, 2020

This lab consists of two portions, with a pre-lab due on **Wednesday, September 30, by midnight (11:59 p.m.)** and a lab (code + report) due on **Wednesday, October 7, by midnight (11:59 p.m.)**. Late submissions will be accepted until midnight on Saturday following the deadline, but they will be penalized by 25% for each partial or full day late. After the late deadline, no further assignments may be submitted; post a private message on Piazza to request an extension if you need one due to a special situation. This assignment is worth 50 points.

You may talk with other students about this assignment, ask the teaching team questions, use a calculator and other tools, and consult outside sources such as the Internet. To help you actually learn the material, what you submit must be your own work, not copied from any other individual or team. Any submissions suspected of violating Penn's Code of Academic Integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. When you get stuck, post a question on Piazza or go to office hours!

Individual vs. Pair Programming

Work closely with your partner throughout the lab, following these guidelines, which were adapted from "All I really needed to know about pair programming I learned in kindergarten," by Williams and Kessler, *Communications of the ACM*, May 2000. This article is available on Canvas under Files / Resources.

- Start with a good attitude, setting aside any skepticism, and expect to jell with your partner.
- Don't start alone. Arrange a meeting with your partner as soon as you can.
- Use just one setup, and sit side by side. For a programming component, a desktop computer with a large monitor is better than a laptop. Make sure both partners can see the screen.
- At each instant, one partner should be driving (writing, using the mouse/keyboard, moving the robot) while the other is continuously reviewing the work (thinking and making suggestions).
- Change driving/reviewing roles at least every 30 minutes, even if one partner is much more experienced than the other. You may want to set a timer to help you remember to switch.
- If you notice an error in the equation or code that your partner is writing, wait until they finish the line to correct them.
- Stay focused and on-task the whole time you are working together.
- Take a break periodically to refresh your perspective.
- Share responsibility for your project; avoid blaming either partner for challenges you run into.
- Recognize that working in pairs usually takes more time than working alone, but it produces better work, deeper learning, and a more positive experience for the participants.

Lab 2 posted
Prelab due tomorrow **9/30, 11:59 p.m.**
(individual)

Lab due 10/7, 11:59 p.m.
(pair)

A Comparison of Transforms and Quaternions in Robotics

Jance Funda Richard P. Paul

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Abstract

Three dimensional (3-D) modeling of motions and transforms in robot kinematics is not uniformly performed using homogeneous transforms. In this paper, an alternative approach, representing quaternions/vector pairs as spatial operations, is discussed and analyzed. Key words: 3-D models, quaternions, the representation of homogeneous spatial operations, the geometric interpretation of homogeneous transforms and quaternions, 3-D models and computer-aided design of manipulators, etc. The two approaches are shown to be essentially equivalent in the context of the 3-D homogeneous transformation to rigid-body operators.

1 Introduction

A survey of different mathematical models for representing spatial relationships have been developed and successfully applied in robotics, computer vision, graphics, and other engineering disciplines. Most notable among the approaches in this problem is the technical technique. Although very elegant in expressing translational information, vector calculus does not lend itself naturally to representing 3-D rotations. In this system, spatial transformations have traditionally been expressed as a set of four vectors, arranged in the form of a 4x4 matrix known as homogeneous transformations.

This paper discusses an alternate mathematical model of spatial transformations, where 3-D rotations are represented via unit quaternions and translations are modeled via, ordinary vectors (i.e., transformational operations are represented as quaternions/vector pairs). As a consequence, quaternions appear as low-dimensional complex numbers, but their true significance lies in the fact that they subsume virtually all the properties of real and complex numbers with the exception of commutativity of multiplication. Moreover, quaternions can be viewed as rotational operators and can also be in their simplicity and conciseness, be used effectively to model 3-D rotations.

The intent of this paper is to compare quaternions/vector pairs and homogeneous transforms in terms of their computational properties both sequential and parallel implementations of some of the more frequently encountered operations involving spatial transformations are discussed and compared. Finally, an outline of a solution to inverse kinematics for the Puma robot arm is given, employing quaternion and trigonometry.

2 The Quaternion

A quaternion is a mathematical object of the form

$$q = a + bi + cj + dk \quad (1)$$

where $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$, and i, j, k are mutually orthogonal imaginary units, whose composition rules are listed in Table 1 as follows

$$i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1 \quad (2)$$

Thus, algebraically, the set of quaternions comprises a 4-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{R} with basis $\{1, i, j, k\}$ and $k = ijk$.

Quaternions were originally introduced by Sir William R. Hamilton in early 1840s while investigating the properties of complex quaternions.

However, Hamilton soon observed that within the scope of 3-D geometry, quaternions also refer to products of vectors, powers of vectors, and sums of vectors and vectors [10].

For instance, multiplication of two 3-D vectors using Eq. (2) as the defining relationship between the imaginary units, gives [8]

$$u_1 \otimes u_2 = -(u_1 \cdot u_2) + (u_1 \times u_2) \quad (3)$$

where u_i of the form $u_i = u_i^0 + u_i^1 i + u_i^2 j + u_i^3 k$, where $u_i^0 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $u_i^1, u_i^2, u_i^3 \in \mathbb{R}$ (i.e., u_i is a vector), and this constitutes a quaternion as defined by Eq. (1). For our purposes, it will be convenient to select a quaternion $q = a + bi + cj + dk$ and a 3-D vector (u_1, u_2, u_3) , which also seems to be the most natural interpretation of Eq. (1). Observe that vectors can also be represented as quaternions with null vector parts. We will address the solution of Eq. (1) as follows

$$q = [a, (b, c, d)] = [a, \vec{u}] \quad (4)$$

Two quaternions $q_1 = [a_1, \vec{u}_1]$ and $q_2 = [a_2, \vec{u}_2]$ are added simply by adding their components, i.e.,

$$q = q_1 + q_2 = [a_1 + a_2, \vec{u}_1 + \vec{u}_2] \quad (5)$$

Employing the composition rule of Eq. (3), along with the result of Eq. (5), we find that the general multiplication rule for quaternions is

$$[a_1, \vec{u}_1] \otimes [a_2, \vec{u}_2] = (a_1 a_2 - \vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_2, a_1 \vec{u}_2 + a_2 \vec{u}_1 + \vec{u}_1 \times \vec{u}_2) \quad (6)$$

Note that due to the presence of a cross product term in the vector part, all Eq. (6), quaternion multiplication is in general not commutative.

The conjugate q^* , norm $|q|$ and inverse q^{-1} of a quaternion $q = [a, \vec{u}]$ are defined in a straightforward fashion by the following equations

$$q^* = [a, -\vec{u}] \quad (7)$$

$$|q| = \sqrt{a^2 + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}} = \sqrt{a^2 + u^2} \quad (8)$$

$$q^{-1} = \frac{q^*}{|q|^2} = \frac{a}{a^2 + u^2} + \frac{\vec{u}}{a^2 + u^2} \quad (9)$$

If $|q| = 1$, then the quaternion q is referred to as a unit quaternion. Note that for unit quaternions $q = q^{-1}$.

In order to characterize quaternions algebraically, let Q denote the set of all possible quaternions. It can be easily shown that for two Q together with the binary operations of quaternion addition (+) and multiplication (\otimes), as defined by Eqs. (6), comprise a noncommutative division ring with identity and no zero divisors. [12] Moreover, notice that Q is a subring of \mathbb{H} and that adding a quaternion to a scalar is a commutative operation. Hence, Q is a real division algebra of dimension 4 (recall that Q can also be regarded as a 4-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{R}) and as such, the \mathbb{H} - Q has a real division algebra. A famous theorem in the theory of algebraic structures states

quaternions that constitute Q , i.e., the set of all unit quaternions, form a 3-sphere in \mathbb{R}^4 and Q is isomorphic to the group of unit quaternions.

Funda, J and Paul, RP. "A comparison of transforms and quaternions in robotics." ICRA 1988.

Quick Primer on Paper Reading

A Comparison of Transforms and Quaternions in Robotics

What is the paper about (high level)?

Janez Funda
grad student
(CIS 1991)

Richard P. Paul
advisor

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Who wrote it?

What year was the paper published?

What are the
major claims?
Methods?
Evaluation?
Conclusion?

Abstract

Three-dimensional (3-D) modeling of rotations and translations in robot kinematics is most commonly performed using homogeneous transforms. In this paper, an alternate approach, employing quaternion/vector pairs as spatial operators, is discussed and analyzed. Sequential and parallel algorithms for some of the common spatial operations are given for both homogeneous transforms and quaternion/vector pairs and compared in terms of computational efficiency. The two approaches are shown to be essentially equivalent in the absence of the need for frequent renormalization of rotational operators.

1 Introduction

A variety of different mathematical tools for expressing spatial relationships have been developed and successfully applied in robotics, computer vision, graphics, and other engineering disciplines. Most notable among the approaches to this problem is the *vectorial technique*. Although very elegant in expressing translational information, vector calculus does not lend itself naturally to representing 3-D rotations. In this system, spatial transformations have traditionally been expressed as a set of four vectors, arranged in the form of a 4×4 matrix termed a *homogeneous transform*. [9]

This paper discusses an alternate mathematical model of spatial transformations, where 3-D rotations are represented via *quaternions*

However, Hamilton soon observed that within the scope of 3-D geometry quaternions also arise as products of vectors, powers of vectors, and sums of scalars and vectors. [3][4]

For instance, multiplication of two 3-D vectors using Eq.(2) as the defining relationship between the imaginary units, gives [8]

$$\vec{v}_1 * \vec{v}_2 = -(\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2) + (\vec{v}_1 \times \vec{v}_2) \quad (3)$$

which is of the form $s + \vec{v}$, where $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ (i.e., \vec{v} is a vector), and thus constitutes a quaternion as defined by Eq.(1). For our purposes, it will be convenient to treat a quaternion as a sum of a scalar (s) and a 3-D vector ($\langle x, y, z \rangle$), which also seems to be the most natural interpretation of Eq.(1). Observe that vectors can thus be represented as quaternions with null scalar parts. We will abbreviate the notation of Eq.(1) as follows

$$q = [s, \langle x, y, z \rangle] = [s, \vec{v}] \quad (4)$$

Two quaternions $q_1 = [s_1, \vec{v}_1]$ and $q_2 = [s_2, \vec{v}_2]$ are added simply by adding their components, i.e.,

$$q = q_1 + q_2 = [s_1 + s_2, \vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2] \quad (5)$$

Employing the composition rule of Eq.(2), along with the result of Eq.(3), we find that the general multiplication rule for quaternions is

Quick Primer on Paper Reading

$$\bar{q} = [s, -\vec{v}] \quad (7)$$

$$N(q) = \|q\| = \sqrt{q * \bar{q}} = \sqrt{s^2 + |\vec{v}|^2} \quad (8)$$

$$q^{-1} = \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{q} * \bar{q} = \frac{\bar{q}}{N(q)^2} \quad (9)$$

Necessary math
background?

Inverse Kinematics for Puma 560				
Component	Cost			
	*	+	$\sqrt{}$	trig
θ_1	2	2	1	2
θ_2	5	4	1	4
θ_3	2	4	0	4
$[s, \langle x, y, z \rangle]$	16	8	0	4
θ_4	0	1	0	2
θ_5	4	2	2	1
θ_6	0	1	0	0
Total	29	22	4	17

Quality and
format of data?

6 Discussion

Major takeaways?

The main purpose of this paper was to compare the computational efficiency of some of the common spatial operations using homogeneous transforms on the one hand, and quaternion/vector pairs on the other. The table of Section 4.4 summarizes the main results, indicating that the two approaches are virtually equivalent for the case of *non-normalizing sequential* procedures, but also that the *non-normalizing* vectorial algorithms parallelize slightly better than their algebraic counterparts. If the cost of normalizing the rotational operator is included in the total cost, however, the quaternion/vector approach yields much more efficient implementations on both single and multi-processor systems. Clearly, the non-normalizing procedures (where the rotational operators are never normalized) and their normalized versions as defined above (where the rotational operators are normalized at every call) correspond to the two extremes. In practice, the need for normalization will be intermediate to the above two cases, depending mostly on the presence of chains of products, which are likely to denormalize rotational operators. Note, however, that the cost of testing for whether or not a rotational matrix needs renormalization (Eq.(32)) accounts for approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the cost of the normalizing process itself. Consequently, it is uncertain if normalizing homogeneous transforms “by need” will result in a more efficient overall performance.

In summary, the differences in computational efficiency between the two approaches are not sufficiently significant to warrant a particular choice on that basis alone. Instead, the deciding factor may be the nature of a particular computation or the available hardware.

Ask yourself: Should I read the rest of the paper?

Quick Primer on Paper Reading

- Read each section in more depth
- Mark terms you do not know
- Write questions you have for the authors
- Take a careful look at tables and figures – do they make sense?

Funda, J. and Paul, R.P. "A comparison of transforms and quaternions in robotics." Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA). 1988. pp 886-891. doi: 10.1109/ROBOT.1988.12172

A Comparison of Transforms and Quaternions in Robotics

Jance Funda Richard P. Paul

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Abstract

Three-dimensional (3-D) modeling of motions and transformations in robot kinematics is an increasingly important and heterogeneous function. In this paper, an abstract approach, representing quaternions/vector pairs as spatial operators, is discussed and analyzed. Key words and variables, significant for the topic of homogeneous spatial operators are given. Analytic formulas for quaternions and quaternions/vector pairs are given. The computational efficiency of the two approaches are shown to be essentially equivalent in the context of the need for inverse transformations to standard operators.

1 Introduction

A survey of different mathematical tools for expressing spatial relationships have been developed and successfully applied in robotics, computer vision, graphics, and other engineering disciplines. Most notable among the approaches in this position is the technical technique. Although very elegant in expressing translational information, vector calculus does not lend itself naturally to representing 3-D rotations. In this system, spatial transformations have traditionally been expressed as a set of four vectors, arranged in the form of a 4x4 matrix known as homogeneous transformations.

This paper discusses an alternative mathematical model of spatial transformations, where 3-D rotations are represented via unit quaternions and translations are modeled via, ordinary vectors (i.e., transformational operators are represented as quaternions/vector pairs). As a consequence, quaternions appear as low-dimensional complex numbers, but their true significance lies in the fact that they subsume virtually all the properties of real and complex numbers with the exception of commutativity of multiplication. Moreover, quaternions can be viewed as rotational operators and can, due to their simplicity and conciseness, be used effectively to model 3-D rotations.

The intent of this paper is to compare quaternions/vector pairs and homogeneous transforms in terms of their computational properties both sequential and parallel implementations of some of the more commonly encountered operations involving spatial transformations are discussed and compared. Finally, an outline of a solution to inverse kinematics for the Puma robot arm is given, employing quaternions and transformations.

2 The Quaternion

A quaternion is a mathematical object of the form

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

where $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$, and i, j, k are mutually orthogonal imaginary units, whose composition can be stated concisely as follows

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

Thus, algebraically, the set of quaternions comprises a four-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{R} with basis $\{1, i, j, k\}$ and $\delta = 25.35$

Quaternions were originally introduced by the Welshman R. Hamilton in early 1840s while investigating the two-parameter group of rotations.

However, Hamilton soon observed that within the scope of 3-D geometry quaternions also acted as products of vectors, powers of vectors, and sums of vectors and vectors [10].

For instance, multiplication of two 3-D vectors using Eq. (2) as the defining relation to between the imaginary units, gives [8]

$$u_1 \otimes u_2 = -\langle u_1, u_2 \rangle + \langle u_1 \times u_2 \rangle$$

which is of the form $s + v$, where $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and $v \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$ (i.e., v is a vector), and this constitutes a quaternion as defined by Eq. (1). For one purpose, it will be convenient to treat a quaternion $q = s + v$ as a scalar $\{s\}$ and a 3-D vector $\{v\}$, which also seems to be the most natural interpretation of Eq. (1). Observe that vectors can thus be represented as quaternions with null scalar parts. We will adhere to the notation of Eq. (1) as follows

$$q = \{s\} + \{v\} = \{s, v\}$$

Two quaternions $q_1 = \{s_1, v_1\}$ and $q_2 = \{s_2, v_2\}$ are added simply by adding their components, i.e.,

$$q = q_1 + q_2 = \{s_1 + s_2, v_1 + v_2\}$$

Employing the composition rule of Eq. (2), along with the result of Eq. (3), we find that the general multiplication rule for quaternions is

$$\begin{aligned} \{s_1, v_1\} \otimes \{s_2, v_2\} &= \{s_1 s_2 - \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle, s_1 v_2 + s_2 v_1 + v_1 \times v_2\} \\ &= \{s_1 s_2 - \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle, s_1 v_2 + s_2 v_1 + v_1 \times v_2\} \end{aligned}$$

Note that due to the presence of a cross product term in the vector part, all Eq. (5), quaternion multiplication is non-commutative.

The conjugate $\{q\}^*$, where $\{q\}$ is a quaternion $\{s, v\}$, of a quaternion $q = \{s, v\}$ are defined in a straightforward fashion by the following equations

$$q^* = \{s, -v\}$$

$$|q|^2 = |v|^2 = s^2 + v^2 = |q|^2$$

$$q^{-1} = \frac{s}{|q|^2} - \frac{v}{|q|^2}$$

If $|q| = 1$, then the quaternion q is referred to as a unit quaternion. Note that for unit quaternions $q = q^{-1}$.

In order to characterize quaternions algebraically, let Q denote the set of all possible quaternions. It can be easily shown that for two Q together with the binary operations of quaternion addition ($+$) and multiplication (\otimes), as defined by Eqs. (2) and (3), comprise a noncommutative division ring with identity and no zero divisors. [12] Moreover, notice that Q is a subring of \mathbb{H} and that adding a quaternion to a real scalar is a commutative operation. Hence, Q is a real division algebra. It should be noted that Q can also be regarded as a four-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{R} and as such, the Q -ring lacks real division algebra. A famous theorem in the theory of algebraic structures states

quaternions that constitute Q , i.e., the set of all unit quaternions, form a manifold isomorphic to the 3-sphere S^3 .

Funda, J and Paul, RP. “A comparison of transforms and quaternions in robotics.” ICRA 1988.

Main contributions:

- Explanation of quaternion math as applied to rotations in 3D space
- Evaluation of computational complexity for basic rotations, inverses, and normalization

Your evaluation

Completeness:	4.92
Methods:	4.66
Evaluation:	4.53
Analysis:	4.59
Clarity:	4.52

Side comments:

- images/figures
- page limits

Strengths

- Well-organized
- Succinct summary of quaternions and homogeneous transformations
- Analysis supported by data tables

Weaknesses

- Requires significant math background
- Lack of intuition in what quaternions mean physically
- Evaluation on PUMA IK only on quaternions
- Conclusion is wishy-washy

Questions from the class

- Practical applications
(quaternions vs homogeneous transformations)
- Re-normalization
- Evaluation of computational complexity vs. running on real hardware
(and the effect of modern hardware)

- Kudos to everyone who found the typo in eq. 18:

$$q * v * q^{-1} = [0, 2(u \cdot v)u + (s^2 - u \cdot u)v + 2(u \times v)]$$

We'll come back to these at the end.

a 3x3 rotation matrix

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

a 3x1 vector

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{bmatrix}$$

the corresponding
eigenvector of
the matrix **R**

a scalar

$$\lambda$$

an eigenvalue of
the matrix **R**

a simple equation

$$\mathbf{R}\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$$

What is the geometric
meaning of the vector?
It's the axis of rotation.

What will the associated
eigenvalue be?
+1 (no scaling)

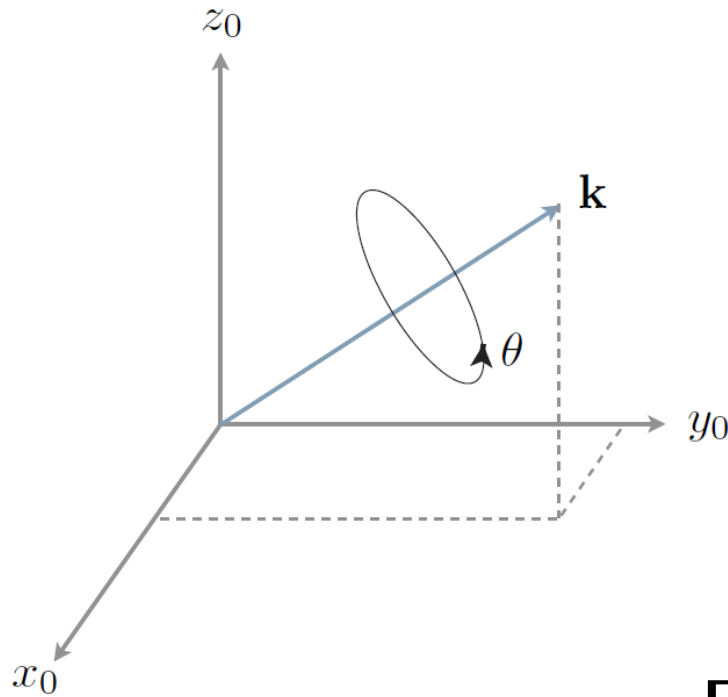
What does this equation mean?

Multiplying the vector by the rotation matrix only scales the vector;
it doesn't change the vector's direction.

This should remind you of eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

Angle/Axis Representation (Lecture 3)

Rotation by an angle about an axis in space



$$\mathbf{k} = \begin{bmatrix} k_x \\ k_y \\ k_z \end{bmatrix} \text{ with } \|\mathbf{k}\| = 1$$

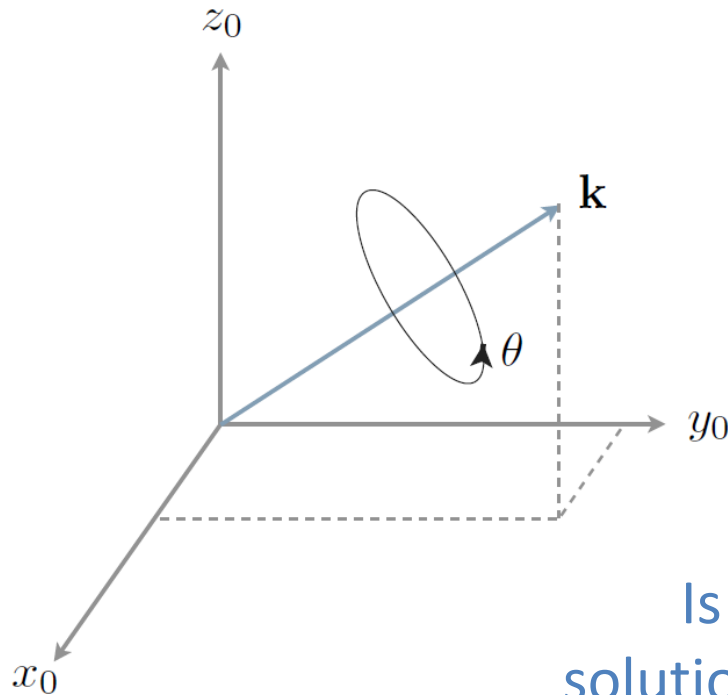
$$\text{Let } v_\theta = \text{vers } \theta = 1 - c_\theta$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{k},\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} k_x^2 v_\theta + c_\theta & k_x k_y v_\theta - k_z s_\theta & k_x k_z v_\theta + k_y s_\theta \\ k_x k_y v_\theta + k_z s_\theta & k_y^2 v_\theta + c_\theta & k_y k_z v_\theta - k_x s_\theta \\ k_x k_z v_\theta - k_y s_\theta & k_y k_z v_\theta + k_x s_\theta & k_z^2 v_\theta + c_\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Angle/Axis Representation (Lecture 3)

Is \mathbf{k} defined in frame 0 or frame 1?
Both.

Any rotation matrix can be represented this way!



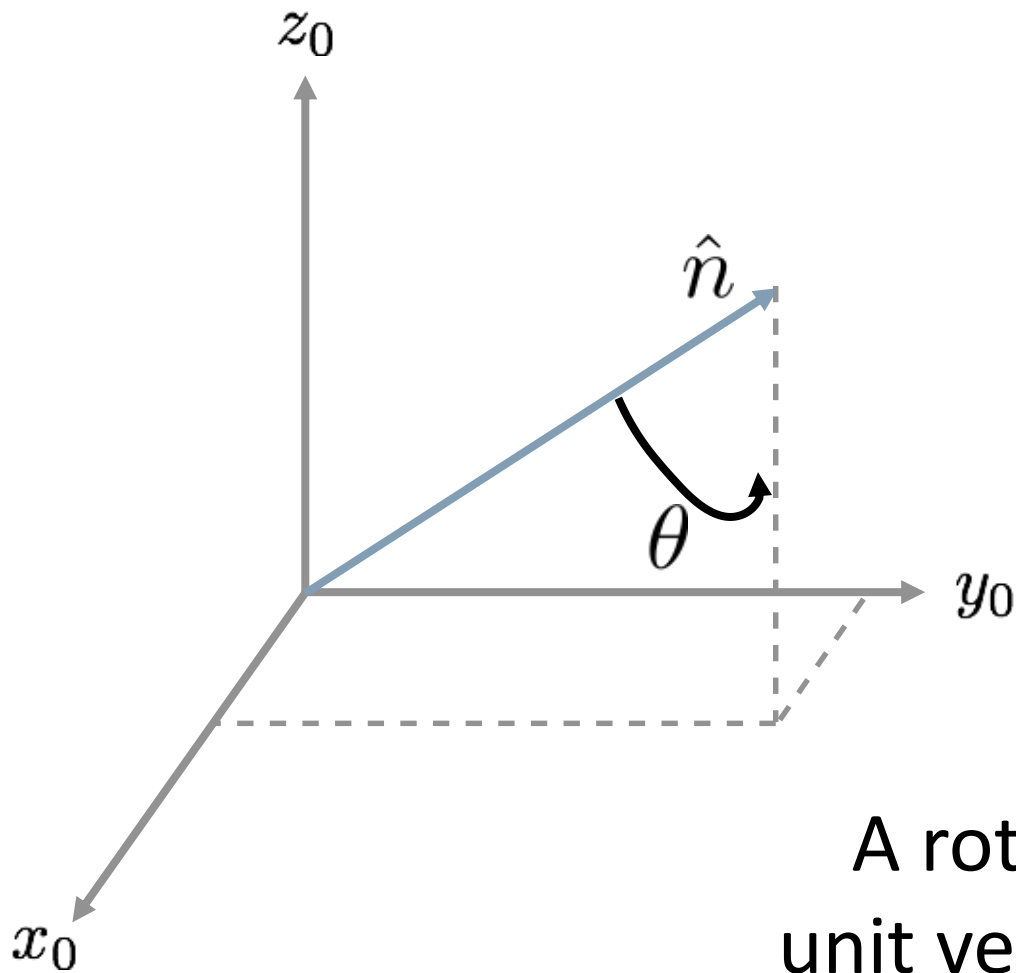
Is axis/angle
solution unique?
No: $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{k},\theta} = \mathbf{R}_{-\mathbf{k},-\theta}$

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

$$\mathbf{k} = \frac{1}{2s_{\theta}} \begin{bmatrix} r_{32} - r_{23} \\ r_{13} - r_{31} \\ r_{21} - r_{12} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{r_{11} + r_{22} + r_{33} - 1}{2} \right)$$

$\mathbf{R}\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k} \Rightarrow \mathbf{k}$ is the eigenvector of \mathbf{R} corresponding to eigenvalue $\lambda = 1$



$$\hat{n} = \begin{bmatrix} n_x \\ n_y \\ n_z \end{bmatrix} \quad |\hat{n}| = 1$$

A rotation around the
unit vector \hat{n} by the angle θ
can be represented as a **quaternion** as follows:

$$Q = (\underbrace{\cos(\theta/2)}_{\text{scalar}}, \underbrace{n_x \sin(\theta/2), n_y \sin(\theta/2), n_z \sin(\theta/2)}_{\text{three-component vector}})$$

$$Q = (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3)$$

$$Q = (\cos(\theta/2), n_x \sin(\theta/2), n_y \sin(\theta/2), n_z \sin(\theta/2))$$

What is the magnitude of this quaternion?

$$(\cos(\theta/2))^2 + (n_x \sin(\theta/2))^2 + (n_y \sin(\theta/2))^2 + (n_z \sin(\theta/2))^2$$

$$\cos^2(\theta/2) + n_x^2 \sin^2(\theta/2) + n_y^2 \sin^2(\theta/2) + n_z^2 \sin^2(\theta/2)$$

$$\cos^2(\theta/2) + (n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2) \sin^2(\theta/2)$$

$$\cos^2(\theta/2) + \sin^2(\theta/2) \quad |\hat{n}| = 1$$

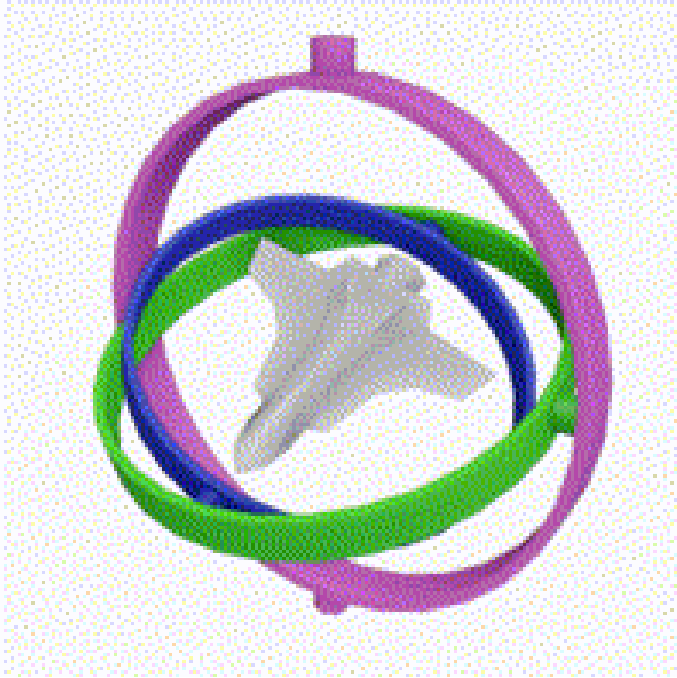
$$= 1 \quad \text{This is a } \textit{unit} \text{ quaternion.}$$

Rotations in 3D have only three degrees of freedom.

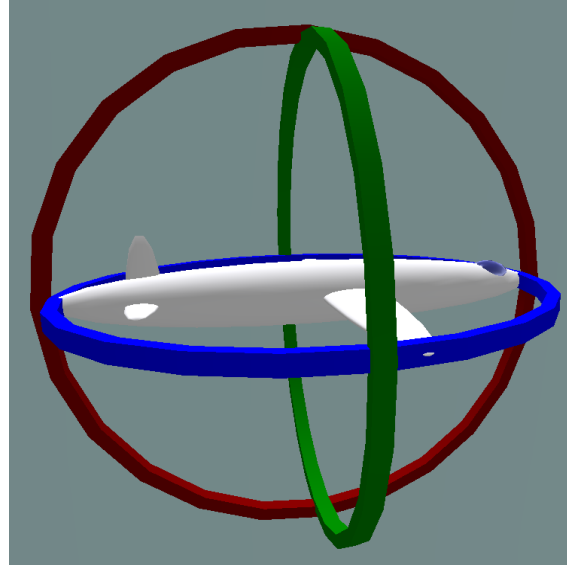
Unit quaternions use one extra number to avoid gimbal lock.

Gimbal Lock

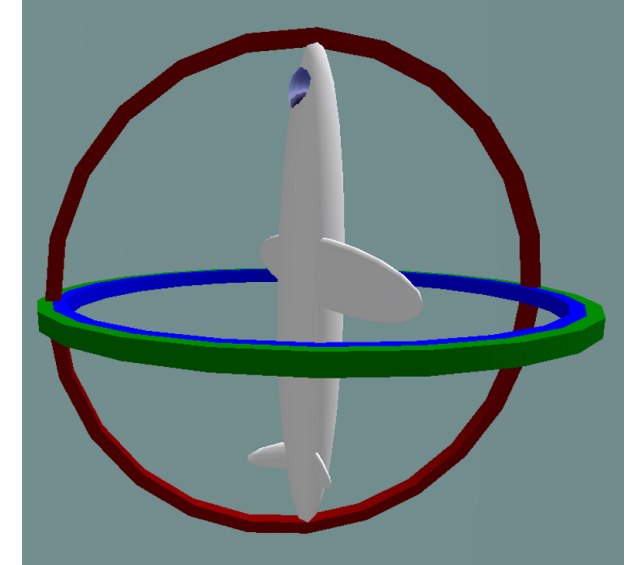
ZYZ Euler Angles



Normally, you have access to full 3 DOF rotations



When axes align, you lose a DOF



Euler angles and yaw-pitch-roll **can suffer** from gimbal lock: they each use three parameters to describe the rotation.

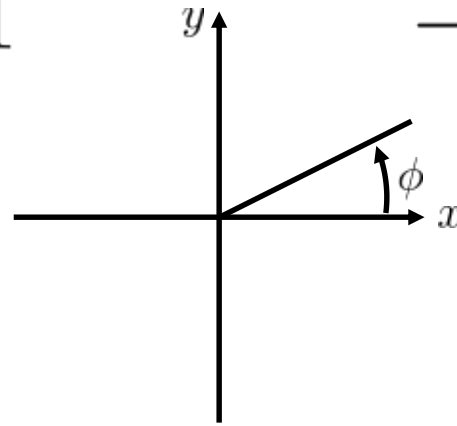
Axis-angle, 3x3 rotation matrices, and quaternions **do not suffer** from gimbal lock: they use extra parameters to avoid it.

$$Q = (\cos(\theta/2), n_x \sin(\theta/2), n_y \sin(\theta/2), n_z \sin(\theta/2))$$

What values will the components have?

$$-1 \leq \cos \phi \leq 1$$

$$-1 \leq \sin \phi \leq 1$$



when $-\pi \leq \theta \leq \pi$, $0 \leq \cos(\theta/2) \leq 1$

when $\pi \leq \theta \leq 3\pi$, $-1 \leq \cos(\theta/2) \leq 0$

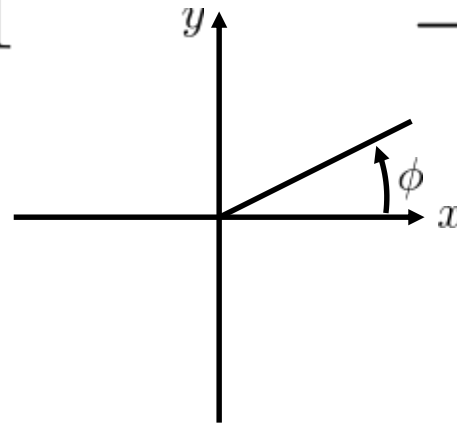
Dividing the angle by two allows you to specify more than half a rotation in either direction.

$$Q = (\cos(\theta/2), n_x \sin(\theta/2), n_y \sin(\theta/2), n_z \sin(\theta/2))$$

What values will the components have?

$$-1 \leq \cos \phi \leq 1$$

$$-1 \leq \sin \phi \leq 1$$



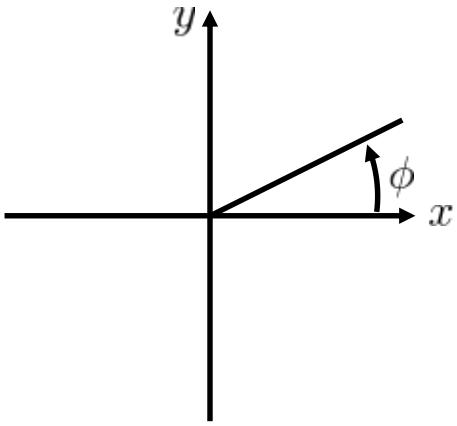
Recall the two solutions for inverse axis/angle:

$$R_{k,\theta} = R_{-k,-\theta}$$

These two solutions are indistinguishable in quaternions because $\sin(\theta/2)$ is multiplied by all of the components of the unit vector showing the rotation axis.

$$Q = (\cos(\theta/2), n_x \sin(\theta/2), n_y \sin(\theta/2), n_z \sin(\theta/2))$$

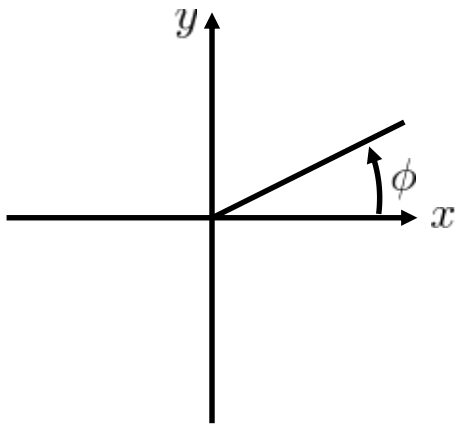
What quaternion represents zero rotation?



What quaternion represents a full 360° rotation?

$$Q = (\cos(\theta/2), n_x \sin(\theta/2), n_y \sin(\theta/2), n_z \sin(\theta/2))$$

What quaternion represents 180° rotation around the x-axis?



What quaternion represents 60° rotation around the z-axis?

$$Q = (\cos(\theta/2), n_x \sin(\theta/2), n_y \sin(\theta/2), n_z \sin(\theta/2))$$

How can we convert between quaternions and rotation matrices?

$$Q = (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3) \quad \theta = ? \quad \hat{n} = ?$$

$$q_0 = \cos(\theta/2) \begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \theta = 2 \cos^{-1}(q_0) \\ \searrow \theta = 2 \operatorname{atan2} \left(\frac{\pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2}}{q_0} \right) \end{array}$$

$$\sin(\theta/2) = \pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2}$$

$$\hat{n} = \begin{bmatrix} n_x \\ n_y \\ n_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} q_1 / \pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2} \\ q_2 / \pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2} \\ q_3 / \pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q = (\cos(\theta/2), n_x \sin(\theta/2), n_y \sin(\theta/2), n_z \sin(\theta/2))$$

How can we convert between quaternions and rotation matrices?

where $v_\theta = \text{vers } \theta = 1 - \cos \theta$

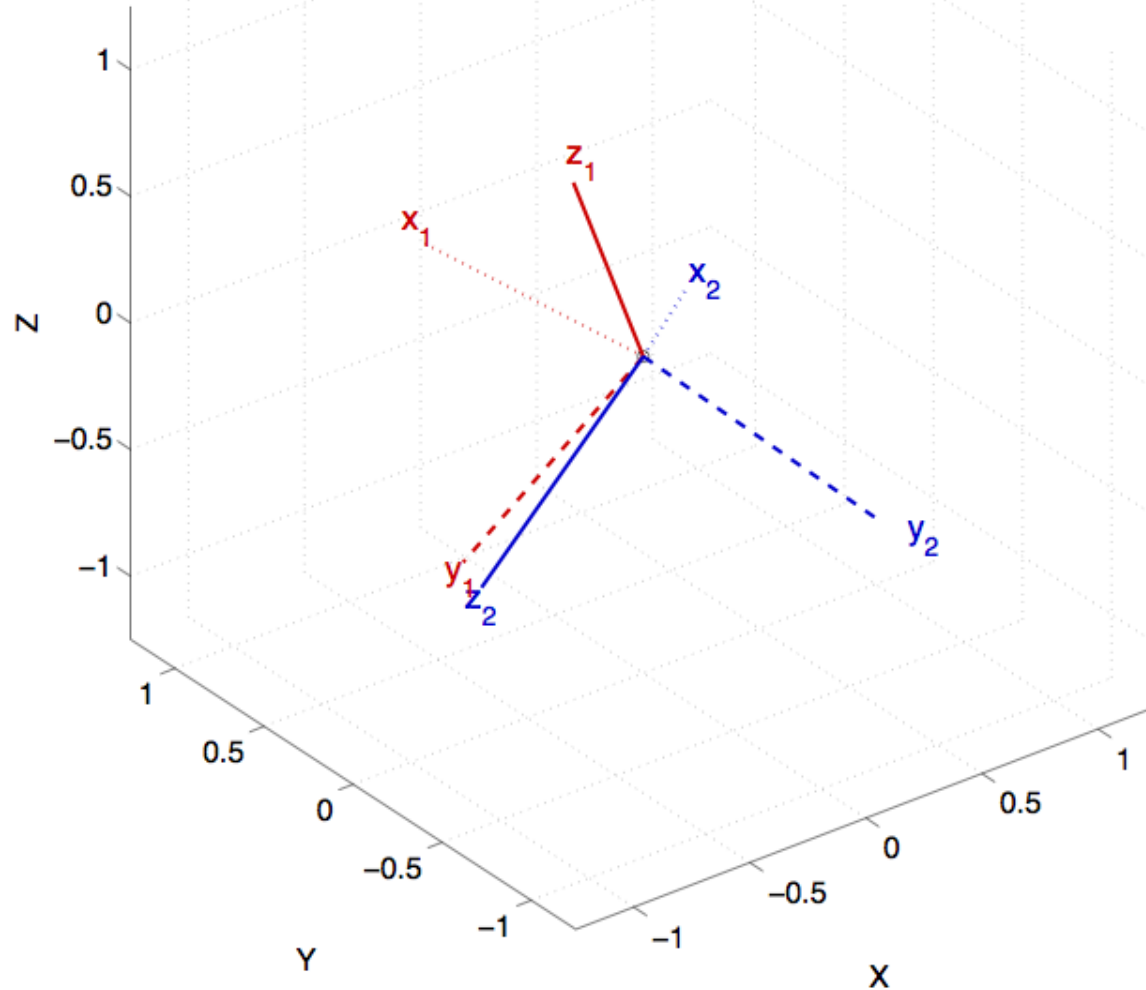
$$R_{k,\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} k_x^2 v_\theta + c_\theta & k_x k_y v_\theta - k_z s_\theta & k_x k_z v_\theta + k_y s_\theta \\ k_x k_y v_\theta + k_z s_\theta & k_y^2 v_\theta + c_\theta & k_y k_z v_\theta - k_x s_\theta \\ k_x k_z v_\theta - k_y s_\theta & k_y k_z v_\theta + k_x s_\theta & k_z^2 v_\theta + c_\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\theta = 2 \operatorname{atan2} \left(\frac{\pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2}}{q_0} \right)$$

Plug into axis/angle
formula from SHV

$$\hat{k} = \hat{n} = \begin{bmatrix} n_x \\ n_y \\ n_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} q_1 / \pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2} \\ q_2 / \pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2} \\ q_3 / \pm \sqrt{1 - q_0^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

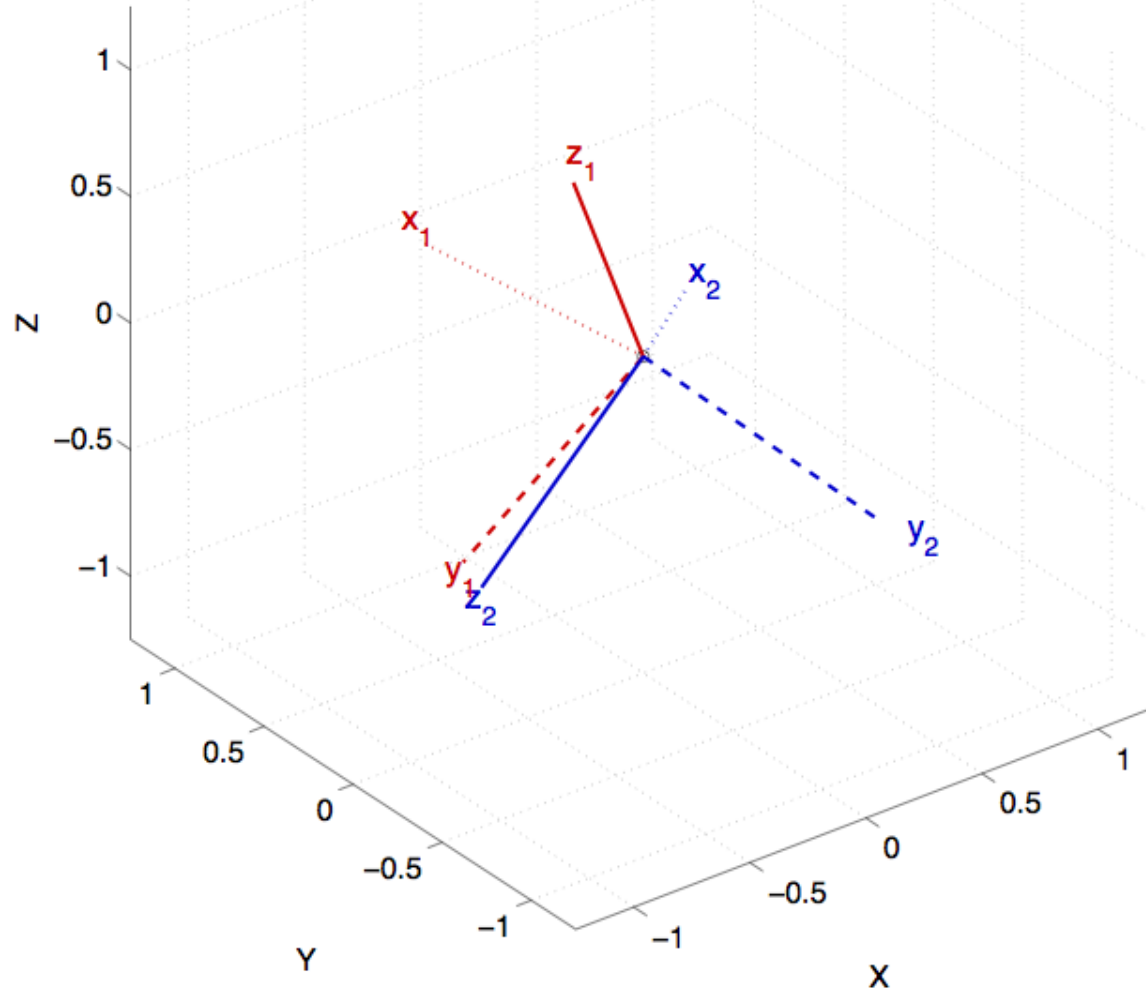
Imagine we have two right-handed frames in 3D:
their origins are coincident, but they are at different orientations.



We want to animate a
frame rotating from
orientation 1 to
orientation 2.

What are all the ways
we could animate this
motion?

Imagine we have two right-handed frames in 3D:
their origins are coincident, but they are at different orientations.



We could interpret using:
Rotation matrix elements
Euler angles
Quaternions
Axis/Angle from 1 to 2

What do we care about?

We want the motion
to be intuitive.
We want each
intermediate frame
to be **valid** (three
orthogonal unit vectors).

Matrix Elements

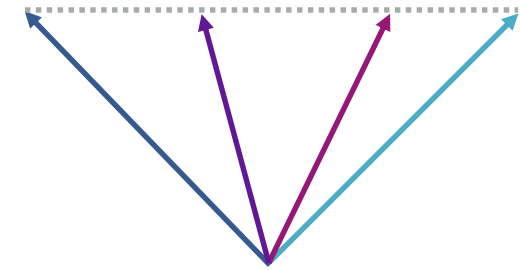
$$R_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -0.1817 & 0.7236 & 0.6658 \\ -0.6198 & -0.6100 & -0.4938 \\ 0.7634 & -0.3230 & 0.5594 \end{bmatrix}$$



Linear interpolation

$$R_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6404 & 0.3577 & -0.6797 \\ -0.3121 & 0.9298 & 0.1952 \\ 0.7018 & 0.0872 & 0.7071 \end{bmatrix}$$

Each axis changes
linearly from
old to new:
from x_1 to x_2
from y_1 to y_2
from z_1 to z_2



$$\det(\mathbf{R}) \neq 1$$

The intermediate
frames are not valid.

Euler Angles

Each Euler angle changes linearly from old to new:
 from ϕ_1 to ϕ_2
 from θ_1 to θ_2
 from ψ_1 to ψ_2

$$\det(\mathbf{R}) = 1$$

The intermediate frames are valid.

Inverse Euler angles yields two solutions.

Interpolating between the worst pair often creates wild motions.

We sometimes see weird motion even for the best pair.

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

Use atan2 to determine ϕ for both θ options

$$= \begin{bmatrix} c_\phi c_\theta c_\psi - s_\phi s_\psi & -c_\phi c_\theta s_\psi - s_\phi c_\psi & c_\phi s_\theta \\ s_\phi c_\theta c_\psi + c_\phi s_\psi & -s_\phi c_\theta s_\psi + c_\phi c_\psi & s_\phi s_\theta \\ -s_\theta c_\psi & s_\theta s_\psi & c_\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Use atan2 to determine ψ for both θ options

Two solutions for θ because sign of s_θ is not known.

$$\phi = ? \quad \theta = ? \quad \psi = ?$$

Quaternions (SLERP)

The Quaternion changes from old to new:
from $Q1$ to $Q2$

Linear interpolation (LERP) yields non-unit quaternions, which are not valid frames, just like interpolating rotation matrices.

Spherical linear interpolation (SLERP) yields only unit quaternions.

SLERP on quaternions yields exactly the same motion as linear interpolation of the angle in Axis/Angle

Rotations are often interpolated using quaternions.

This makes them very useful for mobile robots.

Beyond representing the orientation of a frame in 3D,
what can we do with quaternions?

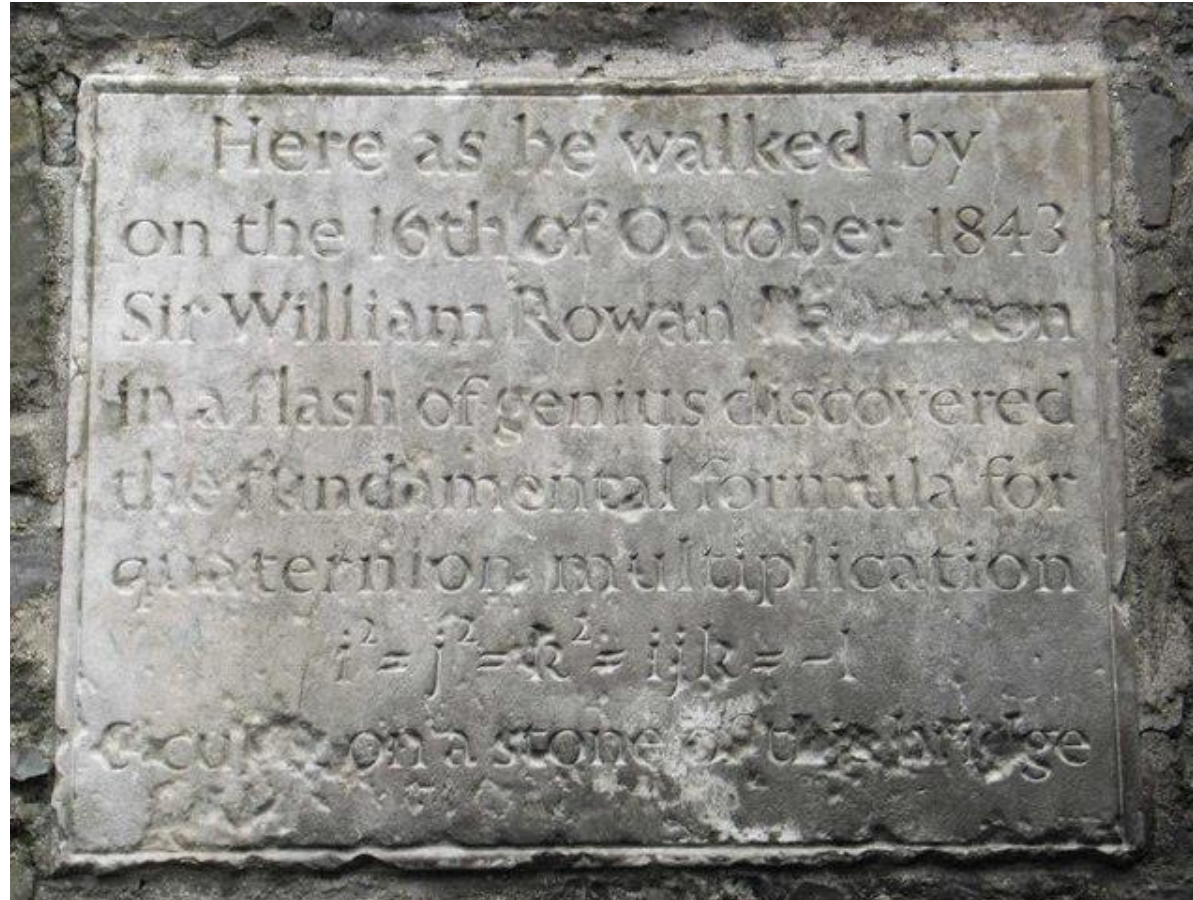
The same things you can do with a rotation matrix:
compose successive rotations,
calculate the coordinates of a vector in another frame,
and apply the rotation as an operator on a vector.

$$\mathbf{R}_2^0 = \mathbf{R}_1^0 \mathbf{R}_2^1 \qquad \mathbf{v}_p^0 = \mathbf{R}_1^0 \mathbf{v}_p^1 \qquad \mathbf{p}_b^0 = \mathbf{R} \mathbf{p}_a^0$$

But how do we multiply quaternions together
and multiply a quaternion into a vector?

We need to define a quaternion operator.

Quaternions were discovered by Sir William Rowan Hamilton in 1843



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

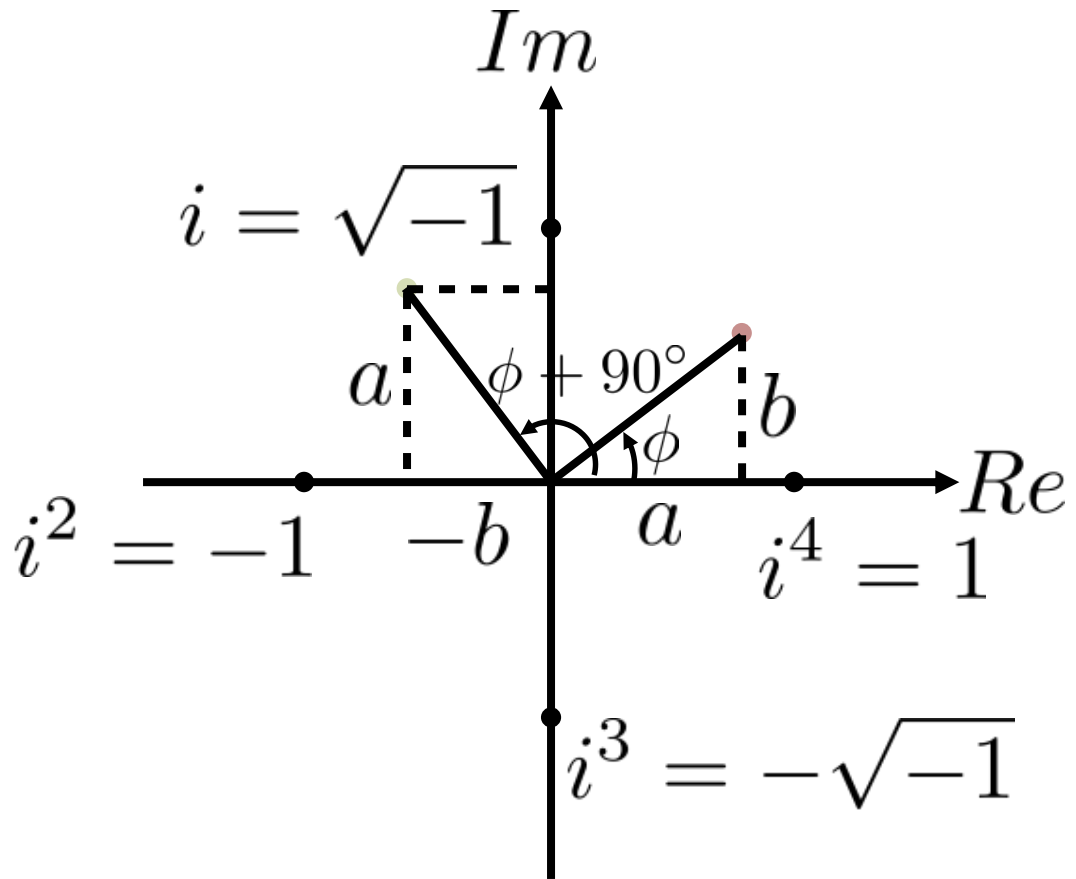
A brief review of unit-magnitude complex numbers

$$a + ib$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = 1$$

$$b = \sin \phi \quad a = \cos \phi$$

$$\phi = \text{atan2} \left(\frac{b}{a} \right)$$



Multiplying by i causes a 90° rotation in the plane.

$$(a + ib)(i) = -b + ia$$

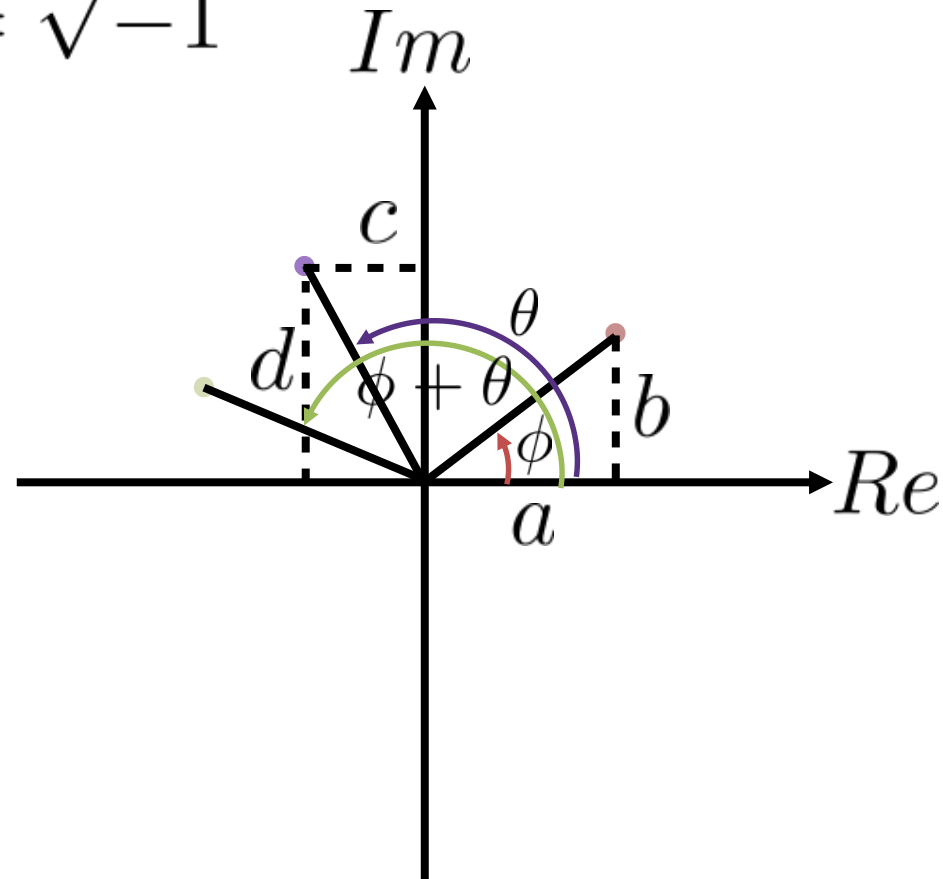
Multiplying complex numbers

$$a + ib$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = 1$$

$$c + id \quad c^2 + d^2 = 1$$

$$i = \sqrt{-1}$$



$$(a + ib)(c + id)$$

$$= ac + ibc + iad + i^2bd$$

$$= ac - bd + i(bc + ad)$$

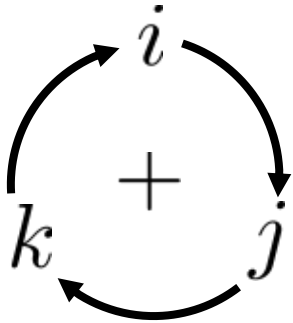
$$= \cos(\phi + \theta) + i \sin(\phi + \theta)$$

Multiplying two unit complex numbers yields a unit complex number whose angle is the sum of the original two angles.

That sounds like what we want to do with quaternions!

Hamilton defined three independent square roots for -1

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



Order of multiplication matters!

$$i = jk = -kj$$

$$j = ki = -ik$$

$$k = ij = -ji$$

This extension of complex numbers gives us a way to multiply quaternions together.

Use i , j , and k to express quaternion components algebraically.

$$Q = (\underbrace{q_0}_{\text{scalar}}, \underbrace{q_1, q_2, q_3}_{\text{three-component vector}})$$

$$Q = q_0 + iq_1 + jq_2 + kq_3$$

Multiplying Two Quaternions

$$X = (x_0, \underbrace{x_1, x_2, x_3}_{\vec{x}}) \quad Y = (y_0, \underbrace{y_1, y_2, y_3}_{\vec{y}})$$

$$Z = XY = ?$$

$$= (x_0 + ix_1 + jx_2 + kx_3)(y_0 + iy_1 + jy_2 + ky_3)$$

$$= x_0y_0 + x_0iy_1 + x_0jy_2 + x_0ky_3 \dots$$

$$= \underbrace{x_0y_0 - \vec{x}^T \vec{y}}_{z_0} + \underbrace{x_0\vec{y} + y_0\vec{x} + \vec{x} \times \vec{y}}_{\vec{z}}$$

$$\boxed{XY = x_0y_0 - \vec{x}^T \vec{y} + x_0\vec{y} + y_0\vec{x} + \vec{x} \times \vec{y}}$$

What is the Identity Quaternion?

$$Q_I = ?$$

$$QQ_I = Q_IQ = Q$$

$$XY = x_0y_0 - \vec{x}^T \vec{y} + x_0\vec{y} + y_0\vec{x} + \vec{x} \times \vec{y}$$

$$Q_I = (1, 0, 0, 0)$$

What does it mean?

No rotation!

$$\begin{aligned} Q_I Y &= (1 + 0i + 0j + 0k)(y_0 + iy_1 + jy_2 + ky_3) \\ &= Y \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} X Q_I &= (x_0 + ix_1 + jx_2 + kx_3)(1 + 0i + 0j + 0k) \\ &= X \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

What is the Conjugate for a Unit Quaternion?

$$Q = (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3)$$

$$Q^* = ?$$

Recall Complex Conjugates

$$c = a + ib \quad c^* = ?$$

$$cc^* = c^*c = 1$$

$$c^* = a - ib$$

$$cc^* = (a + ib)(a - ib)$$

$$= a^2 - iab + iab - i^2b^2$$

$$= a^2 + b^2$$

$$= 1 \checkmark$$

$$QQ^* = Q^*Q = Q_I$$

$$Q^* = (q_0, -q_1, -q_2, -q_3)$$

$$Q = (\cos(\theta/2), \quad n_x \sin(\theta/2), \\ n_y \sin(\theta/2), \quad n_z \sin(\theta/2))$$

Doing a rotation of the same magnitude in the opposite direction.

How do we apply a unit quaternion's rotation to a vector?

$$Q = (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3) \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{bmatrix}$$

Put the vector into quaternion form
with zero as its real component.

$$Q_v = (0, v_x, v_y, v_z)$$

Calculate the new, rotated coordinates of v
by premultiplying by Q and post-multiplying by Q^*

$$QQ_vQ^*$$

How do we apply a unit quaternion's rotation to a vector?

$$Q = (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3)$$

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$QQ_vQ^*$$

$$Q = \left(\cos \frac{\theta}{2}, \left(\sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \mathbf{n} \right)$$

Nonzero scalar

$$QQ_v = \left(-(s_{\theta/2}) \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}, (c_{\theta/2}) \mathbf{v} + (s_{\theta/2}) \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v} \right)$$

$$Q_v = (0, \mathbf{v})$$

$$QQ_vQ^* = (-s_{\theta/2}c_{\theta/2} \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} + c_{\theta/2}s_{\theta/2} \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{n},$$

$$Q^* = \left(\cos \frac{\theta}{2}, -\left(\sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \mathbf{n} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (s_{\theta/2}^2 \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{n} + c_{\theta/2}^2 \mathbf{v} + s_{\theta/2}c_{\theta/2} \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v} \\ & - c_{\theta/2}s_{\theta/2} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{n} - s_{\theta/2}^2 (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v}) \times \mathbf{n} \\ & \quad \quad \quad - \mathbf{v}_{\perp} \end{aligned}$$

$$QQ_vQ^* = (0, s_{\theta} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{v}_{\perp} c_{\theta} + \mathbf{v}_{\parallel})$$

Rotation by ⁴⁰theta!

$$Q = (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3)$$

multiplication of quaternions

$$XY = x_0y_0 - \vec{x}^T \vec{y} + x_0\vec{y} + y_0\vec{x} + \vec{x} \times \vec{y}$$

identity quaternion

$$Q_I = (1, 0, 0, 0)$$

$$QQ_I = Q_IQ = Q$$

conjugate quaternion

$$QQ^* = Q^*Q = Q_I$$

$$Q^* = (q_0, -q_1, -q_2, -q_3)$$

applying quaternion to a vector

$$QQ_vQ^*$$

$$Q_v = (0, v_x, v_y, v_z)$$

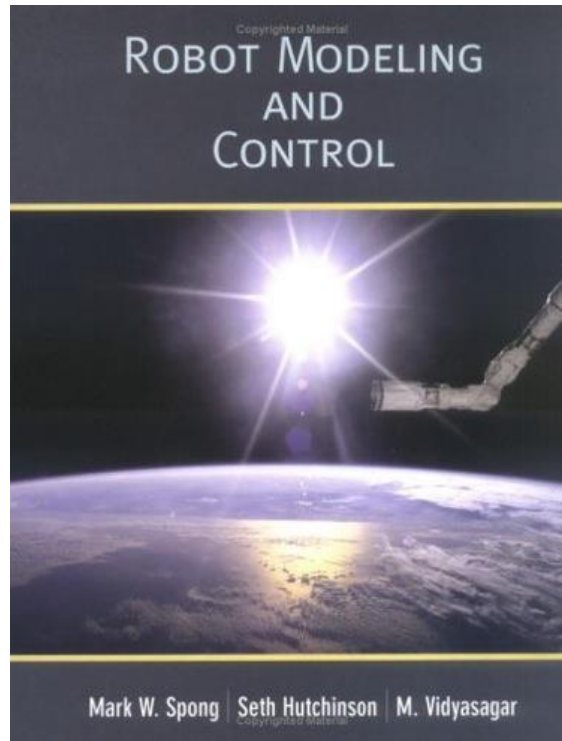
Back to your questions

- Practical applications
(quaternions vs homogeneous transformations)
- Re-normalization
- Evaluation of computational complexity vs. running on real hardware
(and the effect of modern hardware)

var4 = (var1 + var2) * var3

```
mov  eax,var1  
add  eax,var2  
mul  var3  
mov  var4,eax
```

Next time: Trajectory Planning in Joint Space!



Chapter 5: Path and Trajectory Planning

- Read 5.5

Lab 2: Inverse Kinematics for the Lynx

MEAM 520, University of Pennsylvania
September 23, 2020

This lab consists of two portions, with a pre-lab due on **Wednesday, September 30, by midnight (11:59 p.m.)** and a lab (code + report) due on **Wednesday, October 7, by midnight (11:59 p.m.)**. Late submissions will be accepted until midnight on Saturday following the deadline, but they will be penalized by 25% for each partial or full day late. After the late deadline, no further assignments may be submitted; post a private message on Piazza to request an extension if you need one due to a special situation. This assignment is worth 50 points.

You may talk with other students about this assignment, ask the teaching team questions, use a calculator and other tools, and consult outside sources such as the Internet. To help you actually learn the material, what you submit must be your own work, not copied from any other individual or team. Any submissions suspected of violating Penn's Code of Academic Integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. When you get stuck, post a question on Piazza or go to office hours!

Individual vs. Pair Programming

Work closely with your partner throughout the lab, following these guidelines, which were adapted from "All I really needed to know about pair programming I learned in kindergarten," by Williams and Kessler, *Communications of the ACM*, May 2000. This article is available on Canvas under Files / Resources.

- Start with a good attitude, setting aside any skepticism, and expect to jell with your partner.
- Don't start alone. Arrange a meeting with your partner as soon as you can.
- Use just one setup, and sit side by side. For a programming component, a desktop computer with a large monitor is better than a laptop. Make sure both partners can see the screen.
- At each instant, one partner should be driving (writing, using the mouse/keyboard, moving the robot) while the other is continuously reviewing the work (thinking and making suggestions).
- Change driving/reviewing roles at least every 30 minutes, even if one partner is much more experienced than the other. You may want to set a timer to help you remember to switch.
- If you notice an error in the equation or code that your partner is writing, wait until they finish the line to correct them.
- Stay focused and on-task the whole time you are working together.
- Take a break periodically to refresh your perspective.
- Share responsibility for your project; avoid blaming either partner for challenges you run into.
- Recognize that working in pairs usually takes more time than working alone, but it produces better work, deeper learning, and a more positive experience for the participants.

1

Lab 2: Inverse Kinematics due 10/7

- Pre-lab due tomorrow
- You can now do all the tasks