

Lecture 19: Quaternions



Note: $\hat{e} = e_{b1}\hat{b}_1 + e_{b2}\hat{b}_2 + e_{b3}\hat{b}_3$

$$\hat{e} = e_{n1}\hat{i} + e_{n2}\hat{j} + e_{n3}\hat{k}$$

b/c the vector is fixed in both frames: $e_{b1} = e_{n1} = e_i$

$$\hat{e} = [C]^T \hat{e}$$

\hat{e} is the eigenvector of $[C]$ corresponding to the eigenvalue of +1

We would prefer not to find the eigenvectors of a 3×3 matrix \rightarrow time consuming
Instead, we can derive this principal axis directly from the rotation matrix.

Full derivation is in Schaub & Junkins (Sec 2.9)

Note: the eigenvector is normalized \Rightarrow length = 1 = $e_1^2 + e_2^2 + e_3^2$

$\cos \theta = \frac{1}{2}(C_{11} + C_{22} + C_{33} - 1)$, C_{ij} is the i th row, j th column of the rotation matrix

θ is the required rotation angle about the principal axis.

$$\hat{e} = \frac{1}{2\sin\theta} \begin{bmatrix} C_{23} - C_{32} \\ C_{31} - C_{13} \\ C_{12} - C_{21} \end{bmatrix}$$

\hat{e} = principal axis, unit length

$\pm\theta, \pm\hat{e}$, but we choose θ such that the rotation vector = $\theta\hat{e}$

A single s/c orientation can be described with 2 possible combinations of θ & \hat{e} :

$$\theta, \hat{e} \text{ or } -\theta, -\hat{e}$$

Quaternions: Euler Parameters

Key idea: Quaternions describe s/c attitude by describing the rotation matrix between the body-fixed

& inertial frames.

$$q_1 = e_1 \sin(\theta/2)$$

$$q_2 = e_2 \sin(\theta/2)$$

$$q_3 = e_3 \sin(\theta/2)$$

$$q_4 = \cos(\theta/2)$$

Note: $q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 + q_4^2 = 1$

Benefit of quaternions is that they are non-singular: they do not have a divide by zero.
-also work well for large & small rotations.

Can also map directly between rotation matrix & quaternions

$$[C] = \begin{bmatrix} 1-2(q_2^2+q_3^2) & 2(q_1q_2+q_3q_4) & 2(q_1q_3-q_2q_4) \\ 2(q_2q_1-q_3q_4) & 1-2(q_1^2+q_3^2) & 2(q_2q_3+q_1q_4) \\ 2(q_3q_1+q_2q_4) & 2(q_3q_2-q_1q_4) & 1-2(q_1^2+q_2^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\beta_0 = q_4 = \pm \frac{1}{2}(1 + C_{11} + C_{22} + C_{33})^{1/2}$$

$$\beta_1 = q_1 = \frac{1}{q_4}(C_{23} - C_{32})$$

$$\beta_2 = q_2 = \frac{1}{q_4}(C_{31} - C_{13})$$

$$\beta_3 = q_3 = \frac{1}{q_4}(C_{12} - C_{21})$$

\pm term gives 2 sets of quaternions that describe a single orientation (ie a single rotation)

Note: quaternions are not singular, but this mapping has a singularity (when $q_4 = 0$)

If $\theta = 180^\circ \Rightarrow q_4 = 0 \Rightarrow$ body-fixed coordinate system is opposite the inertial system \Rightarrow S/C is upside down

If $q_4 < 0$, $\theta > 180^\circ \rightarrow$ S/C has traveled thru "upside down" to get to the current orientation

"long-way" rotation

\Rightarrow quaternions have some path dependence

If $\beta_0 = q_4 = \cos(360/2) = -1 \Rightarrow$ S/C has executed a complete rotation

$\vec{\beta}$ & $-\vec{\beta}$ describe the same orientation

$$\beta_0 = \cos(\theta/2) \quad \beta_i = e_i \sin(\theta/2)$$

$$\beta_0' = \cos(-\theta/2) = \cos(\theta/2) = \beta_0$$

$$\beta_i' = -e_i \sin(-\theta/2) = -e_i (-\sin(\theta/2)) = e_i \sin(\theta/2) = \beta_i$$

For a long-way rotation: $\hat{e}, \theta' = \theta - 2\pi$

$$\beta_0' = \cos(\theta/2) = \cos(\theta/2 - \pi) = -\cos(\theta/2) = -\beta_0$$

$$\beta_i' = e_i \sin(\theta/2) = e_i \sin(\theta/2 - \pi) = -e_i \sin(\theta/2) = -\beta_i$$

If β_0 is close to 1, you are describing a small rotation.

Another benefit of quaternions is that there is a linear mapping to angular momentum:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 & -\beta_1 & -\beta_2 & -\beta_3 \\ \beta_1 & \beta_0 & -\beta_3 & \beta_2 \\ \beta_2 & \beta_3 & \beta_0 & -\beta_1 \\ \beta_3 & -\beta_2 & \beta_1 & \beta_0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \\ \omega_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

↳ this is the angular velocity of the s/c's rotation

The first column is multiplied by zero, but we use it because it makes the matrix orthogonal.

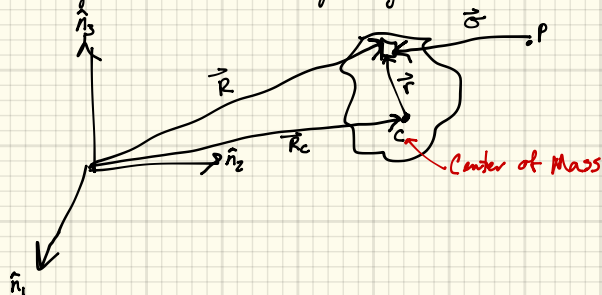
$\vec{\beta}$ is a unit vector \Rightarrow matrix is orthonormal.

Why do we like orthonormal matrices?

B/c the inverse is the transpose. Use this to get $\vec{\omega}$ as $f(\vec{\beta})$

Rigid body Dynamics:

Angular Momentum of the Rigid body:



Find the angular momentum about some arbitrary point P.

Note: $\vec{\sigma} = \vec{R} - \vec{R}_P$

Angular momentum: $\vec{H}_P = \int_B \vec{\sigma} \times \vec{\sigma} \, dm$

Take the derivative of \vec{H}_P :

$$\dot{\vec{H}}_P = \int_B \dot{\vec{\sigma}} \times \vec{\sigma} \, dm + \int_B \vec{\sigma} \times \dot{\vec{\sigma}} \, dm$$

$$= \int_B \vec{\sigma} \times \ddot{\vec{R}} \, dm - \int_B \ddot{\vec{\sigma}} \, dm \times \vec{R}_P$$

$$\int_B \ddot{\vec{\sigma}} \, dm = \int_B \ddot{\vec{R}} \, dm - \int_B dm \ddot{\vec{R}}_P \Rightarrow \int_B \ddot{\vec{\sigma}} \, dm = M(\ddot{\vec{R}}_C - \ddot{\vec{R}}_P)$$

Note: $\int_B \vec{R} \, dm = M \vec{R}_C$

External torque applied to the system:

$$\vec{L}_p = \int_B \vec{r} \times \vec{R} \, dm$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{H}_p = \vec{L}_p - M(\vec{R}_c - \vec{R}_p) \times \ddot{\vec{R}}_p$$

If $\vec{R}_c = \vec{R}_p$ or $\ddot{\vec{R}}_p = 0$, then $\vec{H}_p = \vec{L}_p$.