Counterclockwise Rotation

If you want to rotate a vector r with coordinates (x,y) and angle α counterclockwise over an angle β to get vector r with coordinates (x',y') then the following holds:

$$x = r * cos(\alpha)$$

$$y = r * sin(\alpha)$$

$$x' = r' * cos(\alpha + \beta)$$

$$y' = r' * sin(\alpha + \beta)$$

Trigonometric addition gives us:

$$cos(\alpha + \beta) = cos(\alpha)cos(\beta) - sin(\alpha)sin(\beta)$$

$$sin(\alpha + \beta) = cos(\alpha)sin(\beta) + sin(\alpha)cos(\beta)$$

As the length of the vector stays the same,

$$x' = r * cos(\alpha)cos(\beta) - r * sin(\alpha)sin(\beta)$$

$$y' = r * cos(\alpha)sin(\beta) + r * sin(\alpha)cos(\beta)$$

This equates to:

$$x' = x * cos(\beta) - y * sin(\beta)$$

$$y' = x * sin(\beta) + y * cos(\beta)$$

Written as matrix multiplication with row vectors, this becomes,

$$[x',y'] = [x,y] \cdot egin{bmatrix} \cos(eta) & \sin(eta) \ -\sin(eta) & \cos(eta) \end{bmatrix}$$

with the rotation matrix equal to,

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

Written as matrix multiplication with column vectors, this becomes,

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\beta) & -\sin(\beta) \\ \sin(\beta) & \cos(\beta) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

with the rotation matrix equal to,

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

Note that the position of -sin(eta) in the rotation matrix has changed.

Clockwise Rotation

If rotation is clockwise, then the rotation matrix for multiplication with row vectors becomes,

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

As
$$sin(-eta) = -sin(eta)$$
 and $cos(-eta) = cos(eta)$

this equates to

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

So clockwise rotation of a vector $\left[x,y\right]$ can be expressed as,

$$[x',y'] = [x,y] \cdot egin{bmatrix} \cos(eta) & -\sin(eta) \ \sin(eta) & \cos(eta) \end{bmatrix}$$

So clockwise rotation of a vector $\left[x,y\right]$ can be expressed as,

$$[x',y'] = [x,y] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\beta) & -\sin(\beta) \\ \sin(\beta) & \cos(\beta) \end{bmatrix}$$

The rotation matrix for multiplication with column vectors becomes,

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

which equates to,

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

So clockwise rotation of a vector $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$ can be expressed as,

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\beta) & \sin(\beta) \\ -\sin(\beta) & \cos(\beta) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Author: Reinoud Bosch