

# Isometries of $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Animation and Quaternions

Remember  $H = \{ \text{quaternions } q = (a, x) \mid a \in \mathbb{R}, x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \}$

Pure quaternions  $H_0 = \{ (0, x) = x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \}$

We can describe the reflection in the plane with equation  $n \cdot x = 0$   $n = (n_1, n_2, n_3, 0)$

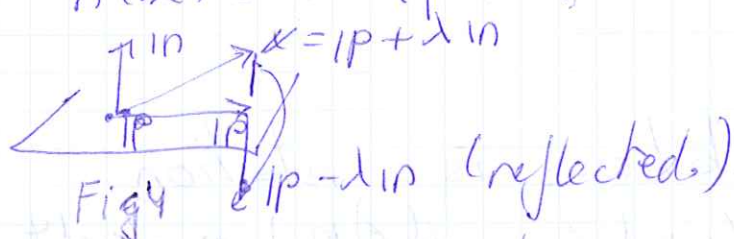
as follows: consider the quaternion

$$\begin{aligned} n &= (0, n) \\ p &= (0, p) \end{aligned} \quad \left\{ \begin{aligned} S_n(p) &= -n p n^{-1} \end{aligned} \right.$$

- Control: invariant points  $S_n(x) = -n x n^{-1} = x$  or  $-n x = x n$ . This is true iff  $x \perp n$

Now, write  $x = p + \lambda n$  with  $p \perp n$

$$S_n(x) = -n(p + \lambda n)n^{-1} = -n p n^{-1} - \lambda n = p - \lambda n$$



Example, Reflection in the  $x_1, x_3$ -plane  $n = j$

$$S(x) = -j x j^{-1} = -j x (-j) = j x j$$



Description of rotations with axes through 0  
Every rotation is the product of two reflections (in this case in planes through 0)

Consider  $R = S_{q_2} S_{q_1}$  with  $|q_1| = |q_2| = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} R(x) &= -q_2 (-q_1 x q_1^{-1}) q_2^{-1} \\ &= (q_2 q_1) x (q_2 q_1)^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} q_i &= (0, q_i) \\ x &= (0, x) \end{aligned}$$

with  $|q_2 q_1| = 1$  so  $(q_2 q_1)^{-1} = \overline{q_2 q_1}$

we call  $\underline{q} = q_2 q_1$

Rotation of axis  $n$  and angle (counterclockwise)  $\theta$  is given by  $R_{q, \theta} = (\cos \frac{1}{2} \theta, \sin \frac{1}{2} \theta n)$

$R_q(x) = q x q^{-1}$  with  $x = (0, x)$ ,  $q = (\cos \frac{1}{2} \theta, \sin \frac{1}{2} \theta n)$  with  $|n| = 1$  and in the direction of  $n$ .

Example  $R_j = -j \times j$

$j = (\cos \frac{\pi}{2}, \sin \frac{\pi}{2} (0, 1, 0))$ .  $R_j$  is a rotation of  $90^\circ$  in the  $x_2$ -axis  
(A typical singularity when representing rotations with Euler-angles)

- The product of two rotations is a rotation

$R_{q_1}$  and  $R_{q_2}$   $q_1 = (\cos \frac{1}{2} \theta, \sin(\frac{1}{2} \theta) n_1)$ ,  $q_2 = (\cos \frac{1}{2} \varphi, \sin(\frac{1}{2} \varphi) n_2)$ ;  $|n_1| = |n_2| = 1$

$R_{q_2} R_{q_1}(x) = q_2 q_1 x \overline{q_1} \overline{q_2} = q_2 q_1 x \overline{q_2 q_1}$  is

a rotation given by  $q = q_2 q_1 =$

$= (\cos \frac{1}{2} \varphi, \sin \frac{1}{2} \varphi n_2) (\cos \frac{1}{2} \theta, \sin \frac{1}{2} \theta n_1) =$

$= (\cos \frac{1}{2} (\varphi + \theta) - \sin \frac{1}{2} \varphi \sin \frac{1}{2} \theta n_1 \cdot n_2,$

$\cos \frac{1}{2} \alpha)$

$, \cos \frac{1}{2} \theta \sin \frac{1}{2} \varphi n_2 + \cos \frac{1}{2} \varphi \sin \frac{1}{2} \theta n_1 + \sin \frac{1}{2} \varphi \sin \frac{1}{2} \theta (n_2 \times n_1)$

$\sin \frac{1}{2} \alpha) n$

Example i) Rotation around the direction  $(4, 2, 4)$  and angle  $\pi/3$  (positive oriented) is given by  $R_q$  with  $q = \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1}{6}(-2, 1, 2)\right)$

$$R_q(x) = \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + \frac{1}{3}i + \frac{1}{6}j + \frac{1}{3}k\right)(x_1i + x_2j + x_3k) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + \frac{1}{3}i - \frac{1}{6}j \\ -\frac{1}{3}k \end{pmatrix}$$

ii) Product of rotation given by quaternions  $q_1 = \left(\frac{1}{5}, \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\right)\right)$  and  $q_2 = \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}\left(0, \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}\right)\right)$

$$\cos \theta_{1/2} = \frac{1}{5}, \quad \cos \theta_{2/2} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} = \frac{1}{5} \cdot \frac{2}{3} - \begin{pmatrix} 2/5 \\ 4/5 \\ 2/5 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1/3 \\ 2/3 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{15} - \frac{8}{15} = -\frac{6}{15}$$

$$\sin \frac{\alpha}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{189}}{15} = \frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}$$

vectorial part is  $\frac{1}{5} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1/3 \\ 2/3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{2}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2/5 \\ 4/5 \\ 2/5 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1/3 \\ 2/3 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 2/5 \\ 4/5 \\ 2/5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2/15 \\ 13/15 \\ 5/15 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5} \text{in} = \begin{pmatrix} -2/15 \\ 13/15 \\ 5/15 \end{pmatrix} \quad ; \quad \text{in} = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{21}}(-2, 13, 4)$$

$$q = \left(-\frac{6}{15}, \frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}(-2, 13, 4)\right) \quad ; \quad q = q_2 q_1$$

Exercise 1) Show that given  $p = (0, ip)$  and  $q = (0, iq)$ ,  $pq = qp$  iff  $ip \perp iq$

e) As in example ii) above, what is the axis of the rotation  $R_{q_1} R_{q_2}$  ??

## Application: Animation, rotation

The "fastest" way of seeing the change of orientation of a body is by a rotation in 3D

(think of the <sup>different</sup> orientation as two points on  $S^3$ )

The conventional way is by using a set of Euler angles  $\{ \psi, \phi, \theta \}$  (first problem, to choose the order)



Fig 6

We can express every rotation as

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos\phi & 0 & \sin\phi \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin\phi & 0 & \cos\phi \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\psi & -\sin\psi \\ 0 & \sin\psi & \cos\psi \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{pmatrix}$$

We have chosen order first around x-axis, then y-axis and finally z-axis.

Observe that if for instance  $\phi$  is  $90^\circ$  (or  $-90^\circ$ )

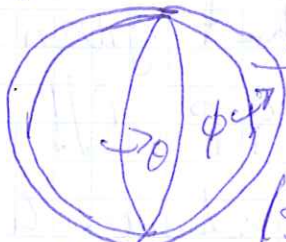
then we have  and we do not know what to do (say what instructions to give a camera)

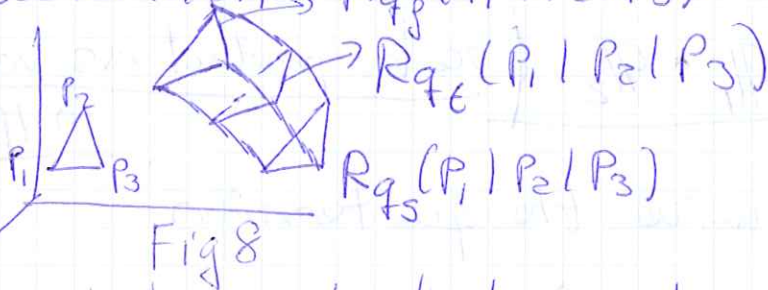
Fig 7

This a singularity is called the gimbal lock

Advantage of using quaternions: no singularities

Also computational advantage:  
Representation of rotations: 4 elem. Quat      Euler 9 elem

We can do an animation by interpolating the start and final position (orientation) of a body. Remember each position of the body is a rotation in 3D given by a quaternion  $R_{q_s}(P_1 | P_2 | P_3)$

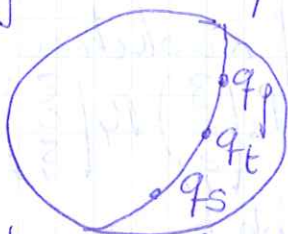


Orientation at start point gives of a rotation with quaternion  $q_s$

Orientation at final point gives of a rotation with quaternion  $q_f$

Orientation at intermediate point  $0 \leq t \leq 1$  gives of a rotation with quaternion  $q_t$

We have seen that the set of all unit quaternions form the unit sphere  $S^3$  in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . So  $q_s$  and  $q_f$  are two points in  $S^3$ . A path from  $q_s$  to  $q_f$  is a great circle in  $S^3$



(really is  $S^3$  in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ )  
Fig 9

Any intermediate quaternion  $q_t$  will be on that great circle

The method is called:  
spherical linear interpolation  
(SLERP)

$$\text{SLERP}(q_s, q_f, t) = q_s (q_s^{-1} q_f)^t \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

with a lot of calculations, we approximate by

$$q_t = \text{SLERP}(q_s, q_f, t) = q_s \frac{\sin((1-t)\theta)}{\sin\theta} + q_f \frac{\sin(t\theta)}{\sin\theta}$$

where  $q_s = (\cos\theta_s, \sin\theta_s, q_{1s})$   $|q_{1s}| = |q_{1f}| = 1$

$$q_f = (\cos\theta_f, \sin\theta_f, q_{1f})$$

and  $\cos\theta = q_{1s} \cdot q_{1f}$  (scalar product as vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ )

Exercise. Determine the quaternion

$$q_t = \text{SLERP}(q_s, q_f, t) \text{ above.}$$

Exercise Determine the rotation with quaternion  $q = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(z, -1, z)\right)$ . (The matrix, thanks)

Exercise Figure 8 is wrong. Why??

Exercise Calculate the angle  $\theta$  in SLERP above when  $q_s = \left(\frac{1}{5}(z, -4/5, z/5)\right)$  and  $q_f = \left(\frac{2}{3}(0, 1/3, -2/3)\right)$

### Rendering Rotation Surfaces

A surface of revolution is obtained by rotating a curve in  $x_1, x_2$ -plane around the  $x_3$ -axis  $2a$  radians

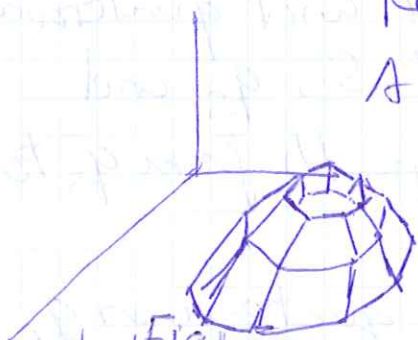


Figure 10

We can have a surface of revolution by rotating the rectangle, say  $P_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} P_2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} P_3 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} P_4 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

through  $2a_j/n$  for  $0 \leq j \leq n$ . We obtain  $n+1$  instances of the rectangle to obtain a mesh that can be filled to render the surface

$$\text{instances} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{2a_j}{n} & -\sin \frac{2a_j}{n} & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \frac{2a_j}{n} & \cos \frac{2a_j}{n} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$