

6.4.8. The Rotated Direction in 3-space

We look at rotations from the group of versor quaternions³²⁶ described from a basis $\{1, \mathbf{i}_1, \mathbf{i}_2, \mathbf{i}_3\}$ (6.134) in the simple real linear unitary form (6.136)

$$(6.204) \quad U = u_0 + u_1 \mathbf{i}_1 + u_2 \mathbf{i}_2 + u_3 \mathbf{i}_3 \in \mathbb{H}, \quad \text{where } UU^\dagger = u_0^2 + u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 = 1, \quad \text{and } \forall u_k \in \mathbb{R}.$$

We start with the simplified³²⁷ 1-rotor versor elements of the angular form with an angle φ

$$(6.205) \quad U_\varphi = 1 \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi + \mathbf{i}_\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi = e^{+\mathbf{i}_\varphi \frac{1}{2}\varphi}, \quad \text{as multivector } = U = \mathbf{v}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \wedge \mathbf{u} = e^{+\frac{1}{2}\varphi},$$

where \mathbf{i}_φ is the bivector unit for the rotation plane *direction* of this circular angular form.

To get a full regular rotation $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{x}) = \underline{\mathcal{R}}\mathbf{x} = \underline{\mathbf{U}}\mathbf{x}\underline{\mathbf{U}}^\dagger$ of *directions* in 3-space we combine two $U(1)$ plane circular 1-rotors to a 2-rotor $U = U_\varphi U_\theta$ and by that achieve two angular independent parameters θ and φ arguments, e.g. unit *spherical coordinates* $(1, \theta, \varphi)$ for S^2 . In our practice, we prefer to represent this independency by two orthogonal angular bivectors

$$(6.206) \quad \theta = \theta \mathbf{i}_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi = \varphi \mathbf{i}_3$$

where the two perpendicular plane *directions* are given by the two chosen orthogonal basis bivectors \mathbf{i}_2 and \mathbf{i}_3 that autonomous implies the third basis bivector *direction* $\mathbf{i}_1 = \mathbf{i}_2 \mathbf{i}_3$.

A scalar has no *direction*, so its unit is a pure 1 and the versor basis is just $\{1, \mathbf{i}_1, \mathbf{i}_2, \mathbf{i}_3\}$.

Whence we write the two $U(1)$ 1-rotors as $\underline{U}_\theta := e^{+\frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2} = e^{+\frac{1}{2}\theta}$ and $\underline{U}_\varphi = e^{+\frac{1}{2}\varphi \mathbf{i}_3} = e^{+\frac{1}{2}\varphi}$.

We combine these to a new $SU(2)$ isomorph 2-rotor by multiplication

$$(6.207) \quad U = \underline{U}_\varphi \underline{U}_\theta = e^{+\frac{1}{2}\varphi \mathbf{i}_3} e^{+\frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2} = e^{+\frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2} e^{+\frac{1}{2}\varphi \mathbf{i}_3}, \quad \text{and its reverse } U^\dagger = \underline{U}_\theta^\dagger \underline{U}_\varphi^\dagger = e^{-\frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\varphi \mathbf{i}_3}.$$

6.4.8.2. Rotation of a Chosen Direction in 3 Space

In the Cartesian tradition the *directions* in 3-space are given by an orthonormal 1-vector dextral basis $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3\}$. By this we select the chosen *direction* as $\sigma_3 = -\mathbf{i} \mathbf{i}_3$.

For the regular rotation of a chosen *direction* σ_3 we use what we called *the canonical form for any orthogonal transformation* (5.193) and (6.70)

$$(6.208) \quad \mathbf{n} = \underline{\mathcal{R}}\sigma_3 = U \sigma_3 U^\dagger = U_\varphi U_\theta \sigma_3 U_\theta^\dagger U_\varphi^\dagger = e^{+\frac{1}{2}\varphi \mathbf{i}_3} e^{+\frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2} \sigma_3 e^{-\frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\varphi \mathbf{i}_3}$$

Separating the operating factors to achieve the form (6.204)

$$(6.209) \quad U = U_\varphi U_\theta = (\cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi + \mathbf{i}_3 \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi) (\cos \frac{1}{2}\theta + \mathbf{i}_2 \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta) \\ = \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta - \mathbf{i}_1 \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta + \mathbf{i}_2 \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta + \mathbf{i}_3 \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta, \\ \text{and the reverse}$$

$$(6.210) \quad U^\dagger = U_\theta^\dagger U_\varphi^\dagger = (\cos \frac{1}{2}\theta - \mathbf{i}_2 \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta) (\cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi - \mathbf{i}_3 \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi) \\ = \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta + \mathbf{i}_1 \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta - \mathbf{i}_2 \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta - \mathbf{i}_3 \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta.$$

Setting the scalar coefficients in front, and then left multiply the reversed by σ_3

$$(6.211) \quad U = \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta - \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_1 + \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2 + \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_3,$$

$$(6.212) \quad \sigma_3 U^\dagger = \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta \sigma_3 + \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta \sigma_2 + \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta \sigma_1 - \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i},$$

because:

$$\sigma_3, \quad \sigma_3 \mathbf{i}_1 = \sigma_2, \quad \sigma_3 \mathbf{i}_2 = -\sigma_1, \quad \sigma_3 \mathbf{i}_3 = \mathbf{i}.$$

$$\text{From } \left\{ \begin{array}{llll} 1,1:1: & \sigma_3, & 2,2:2: & \mathbf{i}_1 \sigma_2 = \sigma_3, & 3,3:3: & \mathbf{i}_2 \sigma_1 = -\sigma_3, & 4,4:4: & -\mathbf{i}_3 \mathbf{i} = \sigma_3, \\ 2,1:1: & -\mathbf{i}_1 \sigma_3 = \sigma_2, & 1,2:2: & \sigma_2, & 4,3:3: & \mathbf{i}_3 \sigma_1 = \sigma_2, & 3,4:4: & -\mathbf{i}_2 \mathbf{i} = \sigma_2, \\ 3,1:1: & \mathbf{i}_2 \sigma_3 = \sigma_1, & 4,2:3: & -\mathbf{i}_3 \sigma_2 = \sigma_1, & 1,3:2: & \sigma_1, & 2,4:4: & -\mathbf{i}_1 \mathbf{i} = \sigma_1, \\ 4,1:1: & \mathbf{i}_3 \sigma_3 = \mathbf{i}, & 3,2:3: & \mathbf{i}_2 \sigma_2 = \mathbf{i}, & 2,3:4: & \mathbf{i}_1 \sigma_1 = \mathbf{i}, & 1,4:2: & \mathbf{i}, \end{array} \right\} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_3 \\ \sigma_2 \\ \sigma_1 \\ \mathbf{i} \end{bmatrix}$$

we get by (6.211) U operating on the product (6.212) $\sigma_3 U^\dagger$ the specific *direction* from (6.208)

³²⁶ This is synonymous with the $SO(3)$ group from the $Spin(3)$ Lie group isomorphic to the special unitary group $SU(2)$.

³²⁷ With a simplified rotor, we understand a rotor that only exists along its own plane and therefore belongs to the $U(1)$ group.

$$(6.213) \quad \mathbf{n} = U_\varphi U_\theta \sigma_3 U_\theta^\dagger U_\varphi^\dagger = U \sigma_3 U^\dagger = \\ + (\cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta)^2 \sigma_3 - (\sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta)^2 \sigma_3 - (\cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta)^2 \sigma_3 + (\sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta)^2 \sigma_3 \\ + \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta (\sigma_2 + \sigma_2 + \sigma_2 + \sigma_2) \\ + (\cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi)^2 \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta (\sigma_1 + \sigma_1) - (\sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi)^2 \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta (\sigma_1 + \sigma_1) \\ + \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi (\cos \frac{1}{2}\theta)^2 (\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{i}) - \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi (\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta)^2 (\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{i})$$

The last pseudoscalar terms vanish, and we write out its 1-vector component *directions*

$$(6.214) \quad n_3 \sigma_3 = ((\cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi)^2 + (\sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi)^2) ((\cos \frac{1}{2}\theta)^2 - (\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta)^2) \sigma_3 = \cos \theta \sigma_3,$$

$$(6.215) \quad n_2 \sigma_2 = 2 \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi 2 \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta \sigma_2 = \sin \varphi \sin \theta \sigma_2,$$

$$(6.216) \quad n_1 \sigma_1 = 2((\cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi)^2 - (\sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi)^2) \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta \sin \frac{1}{2}\theta \sigma_1 = \cos \varphi \sin \theta \sigma_1,$$

from which the unit 1-vector *direction* from (6.140) is

$$(6.217) \quad \mathbf{n} = U \sigma_3 U^\dagger = n_1 \sigma_1 + n_2 \sigma_2 + n_3 \sigma_3 = \sin(\theta) (\cos(\varphi) \sigma_1 + \sin(\varphi) \sigma_2) + \cos(\theta) \sigma_3 \in (V_3, \mathbb{R}), |\mathbf{n}|=1,$$

whose Cartesian coordinates are expressed by its unit *spherical coordinates* $(1, \theta, \varphi)$

$$(6.218) \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} n_1 = \cos \varphi \sin \theta \\ n_2 = \sin \varphi \sin \theta \\ n_3 = \cos \theta \end{array} \right\} \text{with pole angle } \theta, \text{ and azimuthal angle } \varphi$$

This is the *spherical map* $\underline{\mathcal{R}}_{(\theta, \varphi)}: \sigma_3 \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$, which specifies a *direction* relative to the polar *direction*.

When it comes to the versor quaternion plane *direction* we can translate from (6.217) to the dual space by using (6.142)

$$(6.219) \quad \mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{i}\mathbf{n} = n_1 \mathbf{i}_1 + n_2 \mathbf{i}_2 + n_3 \mathbf{i}_3, \quad \text{where } \mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n}^2 = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2 = 1$$

This is the *spherical rotation map* $\underline{\mathcal{R}}_{(\theta, \varphi)}: \mathbf{i}_3 \rightarrow \mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n}$.

By this, we get a resulting transversal bivector *direction* $\mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{i}\mathbf{n}$ of a simplified circular 1-rotor

$$(6.220) \quad U_{\varphi_\mathbf{n}} = e^{\mathbf{i}\mathbf{n} \frac{1}{2}\varphi_\mathbf{n}} = e^{+\mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n} \frac{1}{2}\varphi_\mathbf{n}} = 1 \cos \frac{1}{2}\varphi_\mathbf{n} + \mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n} \sin \frac{1}{2}\varphi_\mathbf{n}$$

Now we will imagine that the angular parameter $\varphi_\mathbf{n} = \omega t$ is a development parameter in one oscillation, which has its own autonomous 1-vector *direction* \mathbf{n} .

On top of this, we will also imagine that the *direction* \mathbf{n} can oscillate too. Then the *direction* of the circular plane $\mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n}$ is oscillating too, then (6.220) is not as simple as it looks.

E.g., an oscillation in the \mathbf{i}_3 plane by the function $e^{\mathbf{i}_3 \varphi_3} = e^{\mathbf{i}_3 \omega_3 t}$ and along \mathbf{i}_2 by $e^{\mathbf{i}_2 \varphi_2} = e^{\mathbf{i}_2 \omega_2 t}$

$$(6.221) \quad \mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n}(\varphi_3) = e^{\mathbf{i}_3 \varphi_3} \mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{n}_0} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n}(\varphi_2) = e^{\mathbf{i}_2 \varphi_2} \mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{n}_0}.$$

The reader may in thought consider the impact, that a merge of these angular development parameters φ_3, φ_2 in the two governed 1-rotors, and imagine the form of

$\mathbf{i}_\mathbf{n}(\varphi_3, \varphi_2) = \mathbf{i}\mathbf{n}(\varphi_3, \varphi_2)$ for the resulting rotating, rotation plane.

A comment to the inverse of (6.208):

$$(6.222) \quad \sigma_3 = \underline{\mathcal{R}}^{-1}(\mathbf{n}) = U^\dagger \mathbf{n} U = U_\varphi^\dagger U_\theta^\dagger \mathbf{n} U_\theta U_\varphi = e^{-\frac{1}{2}\varphi \mathbf{i}_3} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2} \mathbf{n} e^{+\frac{1}{2}\theta \mathbf{i}_2} e^{+\frac{1}{2}\varphi \mathbf{i}_3}.$$

It just gives the same as reversing both angular parameters,

$$(6.223) \quad \begin{array}{l} -n_1 = \cos -\varphi \sin -\theta \\ n_2 = \sin -\varphi \sin -\theta \\ n_3 = \cos -\theta \end{array}$$

Therefore, not a parity inversion but the double reversion is just a reflection in one plane \mathbf{i}_1

$$(6.224) \quad \mathbf{n}' = \underline{\mathcal{R}}^{-1} \sigma_3 = U^\dagger \sigma_3 U = U_\varphi^\dagger U_\theta^\dagger \sigma_3 U_\theta U_\varphi = -n_1 \sigma_1 + n_2 \sigma_2 + n_3 \sigma_3.$$