User Manual 4.9 Rotations and quaternions

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[User Manual 4.9 Rotations and quaternions](#)

Introduction

Scope

This section describes rotation and quaternions.

Javadoc

The relevant packages are documented here :

Library	Javadoc
Patrius	[Package fr.cnes.sirius.patrius.math.geometry.euclidean.threed](#)
Patrius	[Package fr.cnes.sirius.patrius.math.complex](#)

Links

Useful Documents

None as of now.

Package Overview

The relevant functionality can be found in the following packages :

- `fr.cnes.sirius.patrius.math.complex` for the Quaternion class.
- `fr.cnes.sirius.patrius.math.cnesmerge.geometry.euclidean.threed` for the Rotation class.
- `fr.cnes.sirius.patrius.math.geometry.euclidean.threed` for the RotationOrder class.

Features Description

Rotations

The Rotation is part of the math package fr.cnes.sirius.patrius.math.geometry.euclidean.threed.

The Rotation is represented by a quaternion: it is a unit quaternion (a quaternion of norm one). The [Rotation class](#) represents an algebraic rotation (i.e. a mathematical rotation).

In a three dimensional space, a rotation r is a function that maps vectors to vectors $r: \vec{v} \mapsto \vec{w}$. The rotation can be defined by one angle θ and one axis $\vec{u}$, transforming $\vec{v}$ into

$\vec{w}$ as described in the following figure.

There are several ways to represent rotations. Amongst the most used are quaternions and rotation matrices. The following paragraphs aim to discuss each of them.

Quaternions

An advantageous way to deal with rotations is by using quaternions (class `Quaternion`). The quaternion that represents the rotation r defined by an angle θ and a **normalized** axis $\vec{u}$ is :

$$Q = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} \cos(\theta / 2) \\ \vec{u}.\sin(\theta / 2) \end{array} \right)$$

With $\vec{u} = (u_x, u_y, u_z)$, Q can also be written as :

$$Q = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} \cos(\theta / 2) \\ u_x.\sin(\theta / 2) \\ u_y.\sin(\theta / 2) \\ u_z.\sin(\theta / 2)\end{array} \right)$$

Quaternions that represent rotations are normalized :

$$||Q|| = q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 = 1$$

For normalized quaternions, the inverse quaternion Q^{-1} is the same as the conjugate Q^*:

$$Q^{-1} =Q^* = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} \cos(\theta / 2) \\ -\vec{u}.\sin(\theta / 2) \end{array} \right)$$

The image $\vec{w}$ of a vector $\vec{v}$ transformed by the rotation represented by Q is given by :

$$\vec{w} = Q.\vec{v}.Q^{*}$$

Examples of rotations and associated quaternions

The rotation defined by the angle $\theta = \pi/2$ and the axis $\vec{u} = \vec{z}$ is represented by the quaternion :

$$Q = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} \cos(\pi / 4) \\ 0.\sin(\pi / 4) \\ 0.\sin(\pi / 4) \\ 1.\sin(\pi / 4)\end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} \sqrt 2 / 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \sqrt 2 / 2\end{array} \right)$$

The rotation defined by the angle $\theta = 2\pi/3$ and the axis $\vec{u} = (1,1,1)$ (witch has to be normalized) is represented by the quaternion :

$$Q = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} cos(\pi / 3) \\ 1/\sqrt 3.sin(\pi / 3) \\ 1/\sqrt 3.sin(\pi / 3) \\ 1/\sqrt 3.sin(\pi / 3)\end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} 1 / 2 \\ 1 / 2 \\ 1 / 2 \\ 1 / 2\end{array} \right)$$

Rotation composition with quaternions

$r_1: \vec{w_1} \mapsto \vec{w_2}$ and $r_2: \vec{w_2} \mapsto \vec{w_3}$ being two known rotations, the rotation composition $r: \vec{w_1} \mapsto \vec{w_3}$ can be computed as well. The quaternion corresponding to that new rotation is:

$Q = Q_{2}.Q_{1}$.

This can be proven as follows:

$$\vec{w_2} = Q_{1}.\vec{w_1} .Q_{1}^{-1}$$ $$\vec{w_3} = Q_{2}.\vec{w_2} .Q_{2}^{-1}$$

Substituting $\vec{w_2}$ in the expression of $\vec{w_3}$:

$$\vec{w_3} = Q_{2}.Q_{1}.\vec{w_1} .Q_{1}^{-1}.Q_{2}^{-1} = (Q_{2}.Q_{1}).\vec{w_1} .(Q_{2}.Q_{1})^{-1} = Q.\vec{w_1} .Q^{-1}.$$

Notice that in the expression of the quaternion Q the rightmost quaternion is the one corresponding to the first rotation to be performed.

Rotation matrices

The matrix representation of a rotation is very intuitive altough more redundant compared to quaternions. A rotation matrix is a 3x3 (real) square matrix.
If the rotation r transforms an inital basis $(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z})$ to a new one $(\vec{i}, \vec{j}, \vec{k})$ the columns of the rotation matrix are given by the components of the rotated basis vectors, expressed in the initial one.

$$M = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} i_x & j_x & k_x \\ i_y & j_y & k_y \\ i_z & j_z & k_z \end{array} \right)$$

The matrix M has the following properties:

- M is orthogonal (each column has norm 1)
- $det(M) = 1$
- $M^{-1} = M^{T}$

Rotation matrix in term of quaternions

Given a quaternion $Q = (q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3)$ the rotation matrix has the following expression in term of the components of Q:

$M = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} q_0^2 + q_1^2-q_2^2 -q_3^2 & 2q_1q_2 + q_0q_3 & 2q_0q_2 + q_1q_3 \\ 2q_0q_3 + q_1q_2 & q_0^2 + q_1^2-q_2^2 -q_3^2 & 2q_2q_3 + q_0q_1 \\ 2q_1q_3 +$

q_0q_2 & $2q_0q_1 + q_2q_3$ & $q_0^2 + q_1^2-q_2^2 -q_3^2 \end{array} \right)$[/math]

Rotation interpolation

There are two implemented rotations interpolation methods :

- LERP
- SLERP

LERP

The LERP (linear interpolation method) is a method of curve fitting using linear polynomials. It is used for rotation interpolation goal in the PATRIUS library and relies on quaternion properties. Let q_{0} and q_{1} be two normed quaternions and t an interpolation parameter in the [0;1] range. We can defined q_{t} as the interpolated quaternion so as:

$q_{t}= q_{0} + t\times(q_{1}- q_{0})$

SLERP

The SLERP (spherical linear interpolation method) refers to constant-speed motion along a unit-radius great circle arc, given the ends and an interpolation parameter between 0 and 1.It is used for rotation interpolation goal in the PATRIUS library. It relies on quaternion capabilities. Let q_{0} and q_{1} be two normed quaternions and t an interpolation parameter in the [0;1] range.

First method: We can defined q_{t} as the interpolated quaternion so as :

$q_{t} = q_{0} (q_{0}^{-1} q_{1})'$

where-prime- operation is defined such as : $t, q(\theta, \vec{u})$: q' = q(t \times \theta, \vec{u})$

Second method: Another approch is to compute qt so as:

$q_{t} = q_{0} \frac{\sin (1-t)\lambda}{\sin \lambda} + q_{1} \frac{\sin (t \lambda)}{\sin \lambda}$

with lambda defined so as:

$\cos \lambda = q_{0} . q_{1}$

This latest approach saves computing time when dealing with many SLERP computing.

Getting Started

Building Rotations

Rotations can be represented by several different mathematical entities (matrices, axis and angle,

Cardan or Euler angles, quaternions). The user can build a rotation from any of these representations, and any of these representations can be retrieved from a [Rotation instance](). In addition, a rotation can also be built implicitly from a set of vectors and their image or just a vector and its image.

Rotation quaternion

The rotation can be built from a rotation quaternion using one of the following constructors :

- ***Rotation(boolean needsNormalization, double q0, double q1, double q2, double q3)***
- ***Rotation(boolean needsNormalization, final Quaternion quaternion)***
- ***Rotation(boolean needsNormalization, final double[] q)***

A rotation can be built from a normalized quaternion, i.e. a quaternion for which $q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 = 1$. If the quaternion is not normalized, the constructor can normalize it in a preprocessing step.

Note that some conventions put the scalar part of the quaternion as the fourth component and the vector part as the first three components. The scalar part is put as the first component.

The rotation quaternion can be retrieve using ***getQuaternion()*** or ***getQi()***.

Axis-angle representation

The rotation can be built from an axis (x, y, z) and an angle θ with the following constructor :

```
// 90 deg rotation around z-axis
Vector3D axis = new Vector3D(0, 0, 1);
double angle = FastMath.PI / 2.;
Rotation r = new Rotation(axis, angle);
```

If necessary, the quaternion is normalized.

The axis and the angle can be retrieved using ***getAxis()*** and ***getAngle()***.

Matrix representation

The rotation can be built from a rotation matrix with the following constructor :

- ***Rotation(double[][] m, double threshold)***

The rotation matrix can be retrieved using ***getMatrix()***.

Euler Angles

The RotationOrder class

The RotationOrder class contains static attributes, themselves being RotationOrder objects, describing every vector sequence that can be used to create a Rotation using Euler or Cardan angles.

Using Euler angles in rotations

A Rotation object can so be created using three angles and a RotationOrder describing the associated sequence of basis vectors. The user can also get the Cardan or Euler angles by giving a sequence, using the getAngles(RotationOrder) method. In some cases, there are singularities that make a rotation impossible to describe with a giver rotation order.

Code example :

```
Rotation rotation = new Rotation(RotationOrder.YZX, 0.12, 0.54, 0.45);
double[] angles = rotation.getAngles(RotationOrder.ZXY);
```

Others representations

See [Rotation javadoc](#).

Using Rotations

The Rotation is part of the package fr.cnes.sirius.patrius.math .geometry.euclidean.threed.

The Rotation is represented by a rotation quaternion : it is a unit quaternion (a quaternion of norm one).
The [Rotation class](#) represents an algebraic rotation (i.e. a mathematical rotation).

Rotate a vector

A rotation is an operator which basically rotates three dimensional [vectors](#) into other three dimensional [vectors](#) using ***applyTo()***.

```
// vector A
Vector3D a = new Vector3D(1, 0, 0);
// build rotation r1
Vector3D u1 = new Vector3D(0, 0, 1);
double theta1 = FastMath.PI / 2. ;
Rotation r1 = new Rotation(u1, theta1);
// vector B, image of A by r1
Vector3D b = r1.applyTo(a);
```

Compose rotations

Since a rotation is basically a vectorial operator, several rotations can be composed together and the composite operation r = r2 o r1 is also a rotation. r1 is applied before r2 and the operator ***applyTo()*** is used.

```
// build rotation r1
Vector3D u1 = new Vector3D(0, 0, 1);
double theta1 = FastMath.PI / 2. ;
Rotation r1 = new Rotation(u1, theta1);
```

```
// build rotation r2
Vector3D u2 = new Vector3D(1, 0, 0);
double theta2 = FastMath.PI / 2. ;
Rotation r2 = new Rotation(u2, theta2);
// build r2 o r1
Rotation r2_o_r1 = r2.applyTo(r1);
// vector D, image of A by r2 o r1
Vector3D d = r2_o_r1.applyTo(a);
```

Change the basis of a vector

The rotation could be used to change the basis of a vector using ***applyInverseTo()***.

```
// Define frame R2 by building the rotation r12 in frame R1
Vector3D u12_R1 = new Vector3D(1, 1, 1);
double theta12 = FastMath.PI* 3. / 2.;
Rotation r12_R1 = new Rotation(u12_R1, theta12);
// vector A, expressed in R1
Vector3D a_R1 = new Vector3D(0.5, 0.5, 0);
// vector A, expressed in R2
Vector3D a_R2 = r12_R1.applyInverseTo(a_R1);

// Build rotation r, in R1 frame
Vector3D u_R1 = new Vector3D(0, 0, 1);
double theta = FastMath.PI;
Rotation r_R1 = new Rotation(u_R1, theta);
// Vector B, image of A by the rotation r, expressed in R1
Vector3D b_R1 = r_R1.applyTo(a_R1);
// Vector B, changed of basis, expressed in R2
Vector3D b_R2 = r12_R1.applyInverseTo(b_R1);
```

Change the basis of a rotation

Let be r a rotation built from the coordinates of its rotation axis. This vector is expressed in a frame R_1 ; the rotation is supported only in this frame. Let be r_{12} the rotation from R_1 to R_2, i.e. the image of the axis x_1 expressed in R_1 using the rotation r_{12} is the axis x_2 expressed in R_2 : $r_{12}(x_1) = x_2$ with x_1, x_2 and r_{12} expressed in R_1.

The rotation r, changed of basis to be expressed in R_2 is obtained by ***r_{12}.applyTo(r.revert())***.

```
// Define frame R2 by building the rotation r12 in frame R1
Vector3D u12_R1 = new Vector3D(1, 1, 1);
double theta12 = FastMath.PI* 3. / 2.;
Rotation r12_R1 = new Rotation(u12_R1, theta12);
// Build rotation r, in R1 frame
Vector3D u_R1 = new Vector3D(0, 0, 1);
```

```
double theta = FastMath.PI;
Rotation r_R1 = new Rotation(u_R1, theta);
// Change the basis of r
Rotation r_R2 = r12_R1.applyTo(r_R1.revert());
```

Using Quaternions

The `Quaternion` class provides all elementary operations on quaternions: sum, product, inverse, conjugate, norm, dot product, etc. Below are some examples of use:

• Computing the product of two quaternions:

```
Quaternion qA = new Quaternion(qA0,qA1,qA2,qA3);
Quaternion qB = new Quaternion(qB0,qB1,qB2,qB3);
Quaternion qProduct = Quaternion.multiply(qA,qB);
```

• Getting the inverse of a quaternion :

```
Quaternion q = new Quaternion(0,5.1,4,8);
Quaternion qInverse = q.getInverse();
```

Using Rotations interpolation

LERP Use case

Here is an exemple on how one can compute LERP in Java language using PATRIUS:

```
final Vector3D axis = new Vector3D(1,1,1);
final Rotation r1 = new Rotation(axis,FastMath.PI/6.);
final Rotation r2 = new Rotation(axis,FastMath.PI/3.);

final Rotation r = Rotation.lerp(r1, r2, 0.5);
```

then one can retrieve corresponding rotation angle and axis:

```
final double rangle = r.getAngle();
final Vector3D raxis = r.getAxis();
```

Same example given in Scilab using Celestlab macros library:

```
alpha1 = CL_deg2rad(30.);
q1 = CL_rot_axAng2quat([1;1;1],alpha1);
alpha2 = CL_deg2rad(60.);
q2 = CL_rot_axAng2quat([1;1;1],alpha2);
q = q1 + 0.5* (q2 - q1);
q = (1/norm(q))* q
[axis, angle] = CL_rot_quat2axAng(q)
```

SLERP Use example

Here is an exemple on how one can compute LERP in Java language using PATRIUS:

```
final Vector3D axis = new Vector3D(1,1,1);
final Rotation r1 = new Rotation(axis,FastMath.PI/6.);
final Rotation r2 = new Rotation(axis,FastMath.PI/3.);

final Rotation r = Rotation.slerp(r1, r2, 0.5);
```

then one can retrieve corresponding rotation angle and axis:

```
final double rangle = r.getAngle();
final Vector3D raxis = r.getAxis();
```

Same example given in Scilab using Celestlab macros library:

```
alpha1 = CL_deg2rad(30.);
q1 = CL_rot_axAng2quat([1;1;1],alpha1);
alpha2 = CL_deg2rad(60.);
q2 = CL_rot_axAng2quat([1;1;1],alpha2);
q = CL_rot_quatSlerp(q1,q2,.5);

[axis, angle] = CL_rot_quat2axAng(q)
```

Contents

Interfaces

None as of now.

Classes

The relevant classes are :

Class	Summary	Javadoc
Quaternion	This class implements quaternions.	[...]
Rotation	This class implements rotations in a three-dimensional space.	[...]
RotationOrder	This class is a utility representing a rotation order specification for Cardan or Euler angles specification.	[...]

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