

• def rank n tensor - a quantity that changes like the exterior product of n position vectors

T_{ij} changes under rotations like $v_i v_j$ (or $v_i v_j$)
 \wedge rank 2 $i, j = 1, \dots, 3$ (d in general)

T_{ij} can be represented as a matrix, but not all matrices are rank 2 tensors. In particular, the transformation matrix that relates \vec{v}' to \vec{v} is not a tensor.

e.g. $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 2×2 identity matrix is not a rank 2 tensor.

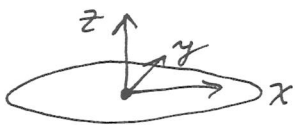
proof: $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1^2 & v_1 v_2 \\ v_2 v_1 & v_2^2 \end{pmatrix}$ $v_1^2 = 1 \Rightarrow v_1 \neq 0$
 $v_2^2 = 1 \Rightarrow v_2 \neq 0$
 but $v_1 v_2 = 0$. Impossible.

e.g. rank 2 tensors: θ_{ij} energy-momentum tensor
 I_{ij} moment of inertia tensor

(by the way, $I = \text{mass}$, $I_i \propto$ displacement vector of center of mass) $I_i = m \vec{r}_{cm}$
 \sim mean \sim standard deviation
 ϵ_{ij} dielectric tensor

T_{ijk} changes like $v_i v_j v_k$
 \wedge rank 3

Hold it! I thought that the moment of inertia about the center of mass for a disk (for example) was $\frac{1}{2} m R^2$. How is this a tensor?



$$I_{zz} = \frac{1}{2} m R^2 \quad I_{xx} = I_{yy} \neq 0$$

$$I_{xy} = 0 \quad ; \quad I_{yz} = 0 \quad ; \quad I_{xz} = 0$$

Examples:

scalar - rank 0 - no indices - does not transform under coordinate rotations

$$I = \int \rho dV = \text{mass} = m$$

↑
not standard notation

↑
density

↑
volume

vector - rank 1 - one index - transforms like X_i

$$I_i = \int x_i \rho dV = m(x_{cm})_i$$

$$\vec{I} = \int \vec{x} \rho dV = \int \vec{r} \rho dV = m \vec{x}_{cm}$$

↑
not standard notation

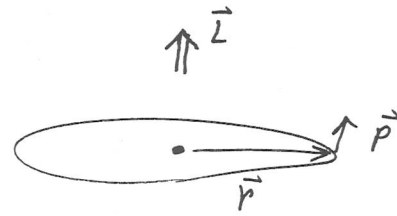
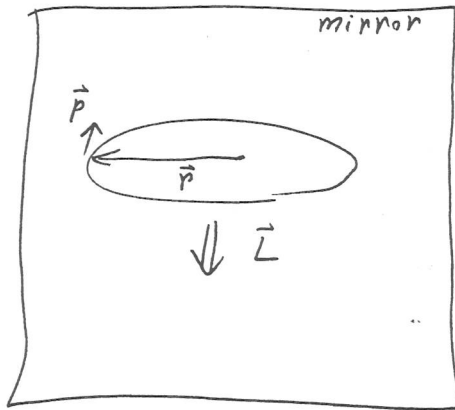
↑
center of mass location

rank 2 tensor - two indices - transforms like $x_i x_j$

$$I_{ij} = \int x_i x_j \rho dV$$

↑
standard notation

for moment of inertia tensor

Reflections

\vec{r}, \vec{p} are vectors (polar vectors)

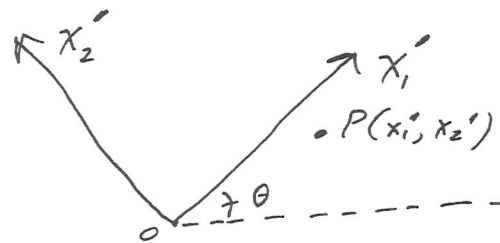
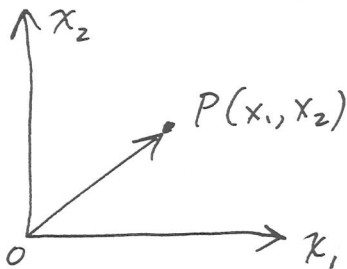
$\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$ is a pseudo vector (axial vector)

How does \vec{r} change under rotations?

Special case: rotations in 2 dimensions (can't rotate in 1-d)

Later we will generalize to higher dimensions.

R_θ is the rotation transformation by angle θ (one parameter)



Passive transformation: P stays fixed, axes are rotated by angle θ counterclockwise about origin.

Active transformation: axes stay fixed, P is rotated by angle θ clockwise about origin.

R_θ preserves: the lengths of vectors
the angle between vectors

such a transformation is called "orthogonal."

Two-dimensional rotations form a mathematical "group" $U(1)$

Properties: 1) $R_{\theta_2} R_{\theta_1} (\vec{x}) = R_{\theta_3} (\vec{x})$ $\theta_3 = \theta_1 + \theta_2$

two successive rotations are equivalent to a third rotation,

2) $R_0 = \mathbb{I}$ identity. $R_0 \vec{x} = \vec{x}$ $R_{2\pi n} \vec{x} = \vec{x}$
n integer

3) $R_{-\theta} R_{\theta} (\vec{x}) = \mathbb{I} \vec{x} = \vec{x}$

every element of the group has an inverse,

The order of 2-d rotations is irrelevant. This kind of group is called "abelian".

$$R_{\theta_2} R_{\theta_1} (\vec{x}) = R_{\theta_1} R_{\theta_2} (\vec{x})$$

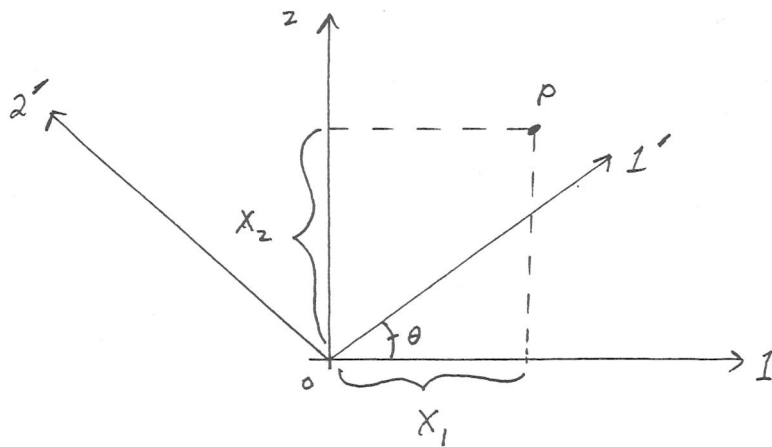
or

$$R_{-\theta_2} R_{-\theta_1} R_{\theta_2} R_{\theta_1} (\vec{x}) = \vec{x}$$

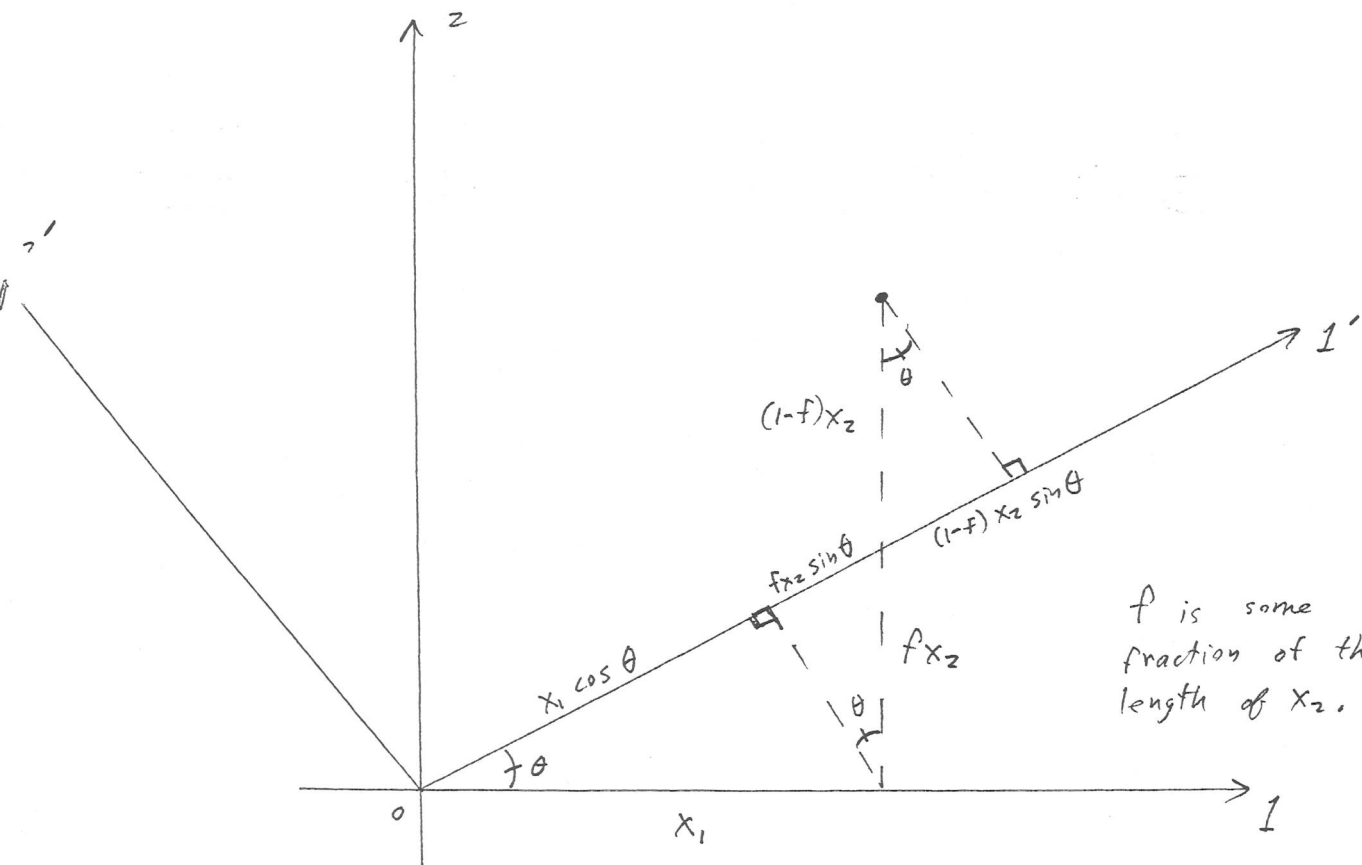
Not true for 3-d rotations (e.g. rotations of book).

The world is non-abelian: You cook your food, they
You eat it!

2-dimensional notations



Passive Transformation:
leave P fixed and
rotate axes by angle
 θ counter clockwise.



f is some
fraction of the
length of x_2 .

$$X_1' = x_1 \cos \theta + f x_2 \sin \theta + (1-f) x_2 \sin \theta$$

now you see the fraction f is irrelevant

$$X_1' = x_1 \cos \theta + x_2 \sin \theta$$

By a similar geometrical construction, you can find x_2' .

$$x_1' = x_1 \cos \theta + x_2 \sin \theta$$

$$x_2' = -x_1 \sin \theta + x_2 \cos \theta$$

Re write these equations in matrix form

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1' \\ x_2' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{check this!}$$

And remember how to multiply matrices

$$\underline{A} \cdot \underline{B} = \underline{C} \quad \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c_{11} = a_{11} b_{11} + a_{12} b_{21}$$

$$c_{12} = a_{11} b_{12} + a_{12} b_{22}$$

$$c_{21} = a_{21} b_{11} + a_{22} b_{21}$$

$$c_{22} = a_{21} b_{12} + a_{22} b_{22}$$

One more time in condensed form

$\underline{\vec{x}}' = \underline{\lambda} \underline{\vec{x}}$ where $\underline{\lambda}$ is the 2-dim transformation matrix with components

$$\underline{\lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{11} & \lambda_{12} \\ \lambda_{21} & \lambda_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_{11} = \cos \theta$$

$$\lambda_{12} = \sin \theta$$

$$\lambda_{21} = -\sin \theta$$

$$\lambda_{22} = \cos \theta$$

$\underline{\lambda}$ is what we called R_θ last time.)

It is often useful to write the transformation in
Index Notation

$$\vec{X}' = \underline{\lambda} \vec{X} \iff X'_i = \sum_{j=1}^2 \lambda_{ij} X_j$$

↓
ith row
jth column
entry of λ matrix

For example, when $i=1$ this gives

$$X'_1 = \lambda_{11} X_1 + \lambda_{12} X_2 = \cos \theta X_1 + \sin \theta X_2$$

which is the same equation we had previously.

Two things to notice:

- ① j is a "dummy" index — because j is summed over, one can call it by any name, k for example

$$X'_i = \sum_{k=1}^2 \lambda_{ik} X_k$$

- ② In matrix multiplication the sum occurs over adjacent indices. In the example above, the k 's touch each other.
-

One can solve the transformation equations

$$X'_1 = X_1 \cos \theta + X_2 \sin \theta$$

$$X'_2 = -X_1 \sin \theta + X_2 \cos \theta$$

(2 equations in 2 unknowns)

for the unprimed variables using algebra to get

$$X_1 = X'_1 \cos \theta - X'_2 \sin \theta$$

$$X_2 = X'_1 \sin \theta + X'_2 \cos \theta$$

But this is the hard way. The easy way is to notice that primed and unprimed are arbitrary labels for the axes and it doesn't matter which is which. If you change

primed \leftrightarrow unprimed

then you must also change $\theta \leftrightarrow -\theta$.

Write the inverse transformation in matrix form

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1' \\ x_2' \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \underline{\vec{x}} = \underline{\underline{\mu}} \underline{\vec{x}'}$$

where the matrix $\underline{\underline{\mu}}$ is the transpose of $\underline{\underline{\lambda}}$

$$\underline{\underline{\mu}} = \underline{\underline{\lambda}}^T \quad (\text{switch rows and columns})$$

$$\mu_{ij} = \lambda_{ji}$$

Now we have $\underline{\vec{x}} = \underline{\underline{\mu}} \underline{\vec{x}'}$ from above and

$\underline{\vec{x}'} = \underline{\underline{\lambda}} \underline{\vec{x}}$ from before. Combining these

$$\underline{\vec{x}} = \underline{\underline{\mu}} (\underline{\vec{x}'}) = \underline{\underline{\mu}} (\underline{\underline{\lambda}} \underline{\vec{x}}) = (\underline{\underline{\mu}} \underline{\underline{\lambda}}) \underline{\vec{x}}$$

this can only be true if

$$\underline{\underline{\mu}} \underline{\underline{\lambda}} = \underline{\underline{I}} \quad (2 \times 2 \text{ identity matrix}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

or

$$\underline{\underline{\lambda}}^T \underline{\underline{\lambda}} = \underline{\underline{I}} \quad \text{also} \quad \underline{\underline{\lambda}} \underline{\underline{\lambda}}^T = \underline{\underline{I}}$$

or

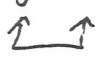
$$\underline{\lambda}^{-1} = \underline{\lambda}^T \quad (\text{inverse} = \text{transpose})$$

A matrix $\underline{\lambda}$ that obeys $\underline{\lambda}^T \underline{\lambda} = \underline{\mathbb{I}}$ is called "orthogonal." That means the transformation preserves:

- 1) Lengths of vectors
- 2) Angles between vectors

Let's write the orthogonality relation in index notation for practice:

$$\underline{\lambda}^T \underline{\lambda} = \underline{\mathbb{I}} \iff \sum_{j=1}^2 (\lambda^T)_{ij} \lambda_{jk} = \mathbb{I}_{ik}$$



 adjacent index
 is summed over
 in matrix multiplication

Now two alterations:

$$(\lambda^T)_{ij} = \lambda_{ji} \quad \text{transpose switches } i \leftrightarrow j$$

\mathbb{I}_{ik} is the element in the i th row, j th column of the identity matrix.

1 if $i=k$ and 0 if $i \neq k$

There is a symbol for this

$$\delta_{ik} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i=k \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq k \end{cases} \quad \text{the Kronecker delta}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^2 \lambda_{ji} \lambda_{jk} = \delta_{ik} \quad \text{orthogonality}$$

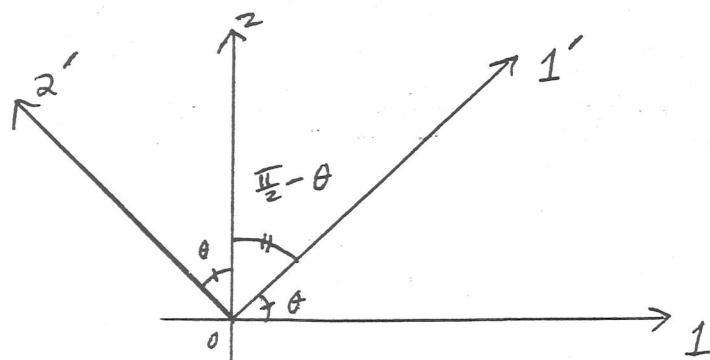
↑
 No longer matrix multiplication since the summed indices don't touch.

Direction Cosines

$$\underline{\underline{\lambda}} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{11} & \lambda_{12} \\ \lambda_{21} & \lambda_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \cos(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) \\ \cos(\frac{\pi}{2} + \theta) & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

λ_{11} is the cosine of the angle between $1'$ and 1 axes

λ_{12}	"	$1'$	2
λ_{21}	"	$2'$	1
λ_{22}	"	$2'$	2



The orthogonality condition imposes 3 constraints on the 4 elements of the $\underline{\underline{\lambda}}$ matrix, leaving one "degree of freedom."

$$\sum_{j=1}^2 \lambda_{ji} \lambda_{jk} = \delta_{ik}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \lambda_{11} \lambda_{11} + \lambda_{21} \lambda_{21} = 1 \quad (i=1, k=1)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \lambda_{12} \lambda_{12} + \lambda_{22} \lambda_{22} = 1 \quad (i=2, k=2)$$

$$\textcircled{3} \lambda_{11} \lambda_{12} + \lambda_{21} \lambda_{22} = 0 \quad (i=1, k=2 \quad \underline{\underline{or}} \quad i=2, k=1)$$

\swarrow same constraint \nearrow

Generalize to 3 dimensions

$$X_1' = \lambda_{11} X_1 + \lambda_{12} X_2 + \lambda_{13} X_3$$

$$X_2' = \lambda_{21} X_1 + \lambda_{22} X_2 + \lambda_{23} X_3$$

$$X_3' = \lambda_{31} X_1 + \lambda_{32} X_2 + \lambda_{33} X_3$$

In matrix form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_1' \\ X_2' \\ X_3' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{11} & \lambda_{12} & \lambda_{13} \\ \lambda_{21} & \lambda_{22} & \lambda_{23} \\ \lambda_{31} & \lambda_{32} & \lambda_{33} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

In condensed form: $\underline{\underline{\vec{X}'}} = \underline{\underline{\lambda}} \underline{\underline{\vec{X}}}$

In index notation: $X_p' = \sum_{a=1}^3 \lambda_{pa} X_a$

The 3-dimensional rotation matrix is also orthogonal:

$$\underline{\underline{\lambda}} \underline{\underline{\lambda}}^T = \underline{\underline{I}} \iff \sum_{j=1}^3 \lambda_{ij} (\lambda^T)_{jk} = \delta_{ik}$$

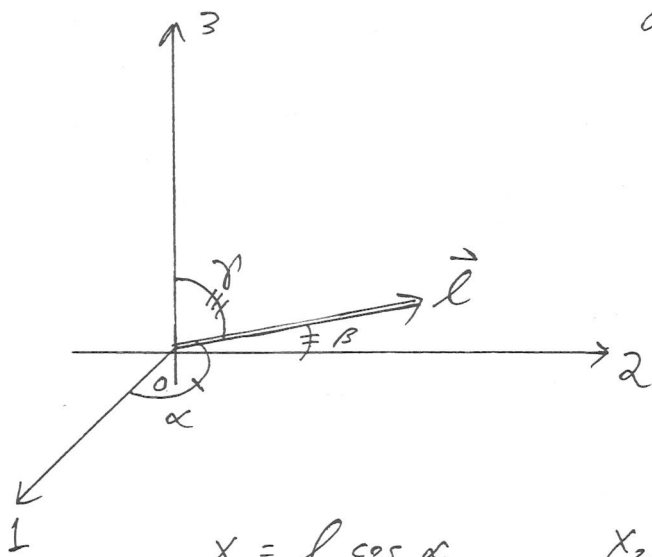
The elements of $\underline{\underline{\lambda}}$ are still direction cosines, but now in 3 dimensions:

λ_{11} is the cosine of the angle between $1'$ and 1 axes

λ_{23} " " $2'$ and 3

λ_{ij} " " i' and j

α is the angle between the vector \vec{l} and the 1 axis



β between \vec{l} and 2 axis

γ between \vec{l} and 3 axis

$$x_1 = l \cos \alpha \quad x_2 = l \cos \beta \quad x_3 = l \cos \gamma$$

The three direction cosines are not independent:

$$(\text{Length of } \vec{l})^2 = l^2 = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{3-dim} \\ \text{Pythagorean} \\ \text{theorem} \end{array} \right)$$

$$l^2 = l^2 (\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma)$$

$$\boxed{1 = \cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma}$$

What does this have to do with rotations in 3-dim?

Take \vec{l} in the direction of the 1' axis;

$$\lambda_{11} = \cos \alpha \quad \lambda_{12} = \cos \beta \quad \lambda_{13} = \cos \gamma$$

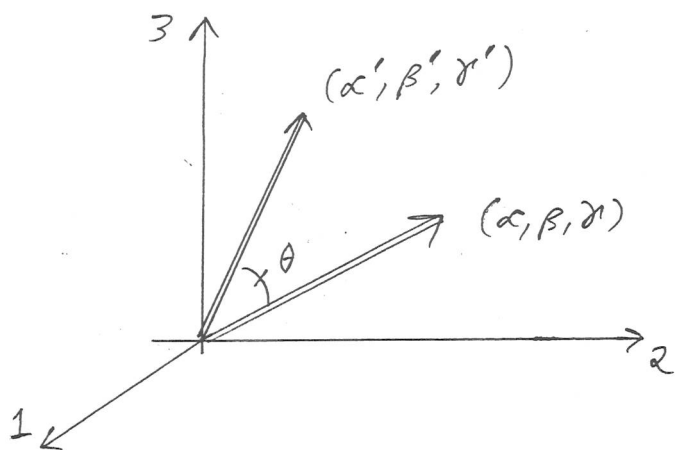
$$\boxed{\lambda_{11}^2 + \lambda_{12}^2 + \lambda_{13}^2 = 1}$$

Take \vec{l} in the direction of the 2' axis:

$$\boxed{\lambda_{21}^2 + \lambda_{22}^2 + \lambda_{23}^2 = 1}$$

$$\vec{l} \text{ along } 3' \Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda_{31}^2 + \lambda_{32}^2 + \lambda_{33}^2 = 1}$$

So far, we have 3 constraints on the 9 elements of $\underline{\lambda}$. We will get 3 more after a digression into math.



Here are 2 lines with different direction cosines. The angle between the lines is θ .

Part of your homework is to prove that:

$$\cos \theta = \cos \alpha \cos \alpha' + \cos \beta \cos \beta' + \cos \gamma \cos \gamma'$$

The angle θ between the 1' and 2' axes is $\frac{\pi}{2}$, so

$$\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 0 = \lambda_{11} \lambda_{21} + \lambda_{12} \lambda_{22} + \lambda_{13} \lambda_{23}$$

The 2' and 3' axes are also $\frac{\pi}{2}$ apart:

$$0 = \lambda_{21} \lambda_{31} + \lambda_{22} \lambda_{32} + \lambda_{23} \lambda_{33}$$

And finally, the 3' and 1' axes are $\frac{\pi}{2}$ apart:

$$0 = \lambda_{31} \lambda_{11} + \lambda_{32} \lambda_{12} + \lambda_{33} \lambda_{13}$$

These equations are 3 more constraints on λ_{ij} .

There are a total of 6 constraints on the 9 elements, leaving 3 degrees of freedom for 3-dimensional rotations.

The 6 constraints can be summarised in index notation:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \lambda_{11} \lambda_{11} + \lambda_{12} \lambda_{12} + \lambda_{13} \lambda_{13} &= 1 \\ \lambda_{21} \lambda_{21} + \lambda_{22} \lambda_{22} + \lambda_{23} \lambda_{23} &= 1 \\ \lambda_{31} \lambda_{31} + \lambda_{32} \lambda_{32} + \lambda_{33} \lambda_{33} &= 1 \\ \lambda_{11} \lambda_{21} + \lambda_{12} \lambda_{22} + \lambda_{13} \lambda_{23} &= 0 \\ \lambda_{21} \lambda_{31} + \lambda_{22} \lambda_{32} + \lambda_{23} \lambda_{33} &= 0 \\ \lambda_{31} \lambda_{11} + \lambda_{32} \lambda_{12} + \lambda_{33} \lambda_{13} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^3 \lambda_{ij} \lambda_{kj} = \delta_{ik}$$

check this!

And notice that it is exactly the orthogonality relation $\underline{\lambda}^T \underline{\lambda} = \underline{I}$

The 3 degrees of freedom can be seen as follows.

You must specify a direction for the axis of rotation. This requires 2 numbers (latitude and longitude) or (θ and φ in spherical polar coordinates).

Then you must specify the angle of twist about that axis — one number.

Now that we know how the displacement vector \vec{x} transforms under rotations, we know how any vector transforms

$$\vec{x}' = \underline{\lambda} \vec{x}$$

$$x'_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 \lambda_{ij} x_j$$

$$\vec{p}' = \underline{\lambda} \vec{p}$$

$$p'_i = \sum_{k=1}^3 \lambda_{ik} p_k$$

Remember that scalars do not transform at all

$$s' = s$$

and rank- n tensors transform like the exterior product of n displacement vectors. So how does the exterior product $v_i v_j$ transform?

$$v'_i v'_j = \left(\sum_{k=1}^3 \lambda_{ik} v_k \right) \left(\sum_{l=1}^3 \lambda_{jl} v_l \right)$$

$$= \sum_k \sum_l \lambda_{ik} \lambda_{jl} (v_k v_l)$$

one factor of λ for each index

$$T'_{ij} = \sum_{k,l} \lambda_{ik} \lambda_{jl} T_{kl}$$

↑
2 sums!

The generalization is straight forward

$$T'_{ijk} = \sum_a \sum_b \sum_c \lambda_{ia} \lambda_{jb} \lambda_{kc} T_{abc} \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} 3 \text{ indices} \\ \Rightarrow 3 \lambda\text{'s} \end{array} \right)$$

the Dot Product (or Scalar Product)
between two vectors

def $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \sum_i A_i B_i = A_1 B_1 + A_2 B_2 + A_3 B_3$

The scalar product of two vectors is a scalar. Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A}' \cdot \vec{B}' &= \sum_i A'_i B'_i = \sum_i \left(\sum_j \lambda_{ij} A_j \right) \left(\sum_k \lambda_{ik} B_k \right) \\ &= \sum_j \sum_k \left(\sum_i \lambda_{ij} \lambda_{ik} \right) A_j B_k = \sum_j \sum_k \delta_{jk} A_j B_k \\ &= \sum_j A_j B_j = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \end{aligned}$$

So the scalar product in the primed system is the same as the scalar product in the unprimed system; there is no λ transformation required.

In case you are wondering about the Kronecker delta:

$$\sum_{n=1}^3 \delta_{kn} X_n = X_k \quad \left| \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Special case - } k=2 \\ \delta_{21} X_1 + \delta_{22} X_2 + \delta_{23} X_3 = X_2 \\ \quad \quad \quad \searrow \quad \quad \quad \searrow \\ \quad \quad \quad 0 \quad \quad \quad 0 \end{array} \right.$$

The Cross Product (or Vector Product)

$$\vec{D} = \vec{A} \times \vec{B}$$

$$D_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} A_j B_k$$

where ϵ_{ijk} is the Levi-Civita symbol (permutation symbol)

$$\epsilon_{ijk} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if any indices are the same} & \epsilon_{112} = 0 \\ & & \epsilon_{333} = 0 \\ +1, & \text{if } ijk \text{ forms an even permutation of } 123 \\ & & 123, 231, 312 \\ -1, & \text{if } ijk \text{ forms an odd permutation of } 123 \\ & & 321, 213, 132 \end{cases}$$

For example:

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 &= \epsilon_{123} A_2 B_3 + \epsilon_{132} A_3 B_2 \text{ and the other seven terms} = 0 \\ &= A_2 B_3 - A_3 B_2 \end{aligned}$$

Triple Product

$$(\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) \cdot \vec{C} = \vec{D} \cdot \vec{C} = \sum_i D_i C_i = \sum_i \left(\sum_j \sum_k \epsilon_{ijk} A_j B_k \right) C_i$$

All the indices are dummies - all are summed over

so they can be renamed $i \rightarrow K$

$j \rightarrow I$

$k \rightarrow J$

$$= \sum_K \sum_I \sum_J \epsilon_{KIJ} A_I B_J C_K$$

$$= \sum_K \sum_I \sum_J \epsilon_{ISK} B_J C_K A_I$$

$$= (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) \cdot \vec{A}$$

$$\epsilon_{RIJ} = -\epsilon_{IRJ}$$

$$= +\epsilon_{IJK}$$

every time you swap two adjacent indices you incur a minus sign.

This is not obvious! $(\vec{A} \times \vec{B})$ and $(\vec{B} \times \vec{C})$ point in completely different directions and have completely different lengths.

The triple product is often written $(\vec{A}, \vec{B}, \vec{C})$ because

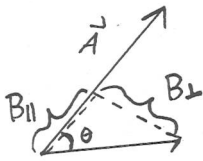
$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A} \times \vec{B} \cdot \vec{C} &= \vec{B} \times \vec{C} \cdot \vec{A} = \vec{C} \times \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \\ &= \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \times \vec{C} = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{C} \times \vec{A} = \vec{C} \cdot \vec{A} \times \vec{B}\end{aligned}$$

As long as $\vec{A}, \vec{B}, \vec{C}$ are in cyclic order, the dot and cross can be anywhere.

Physical Interpretations:

Dot Product:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} &= (\text{Length of } \vec{A}) (\text{the part of } \vec{B} \text{ that lies along } \vec{A}) = |\vec{A}| B_{\parallel} \\ &= (\text{Length of } \vec{B}) (\text{the part of } \vec{A} \text{ that lies along } \vec{B}) = |\vec{B}| A_{\parallel}\end{aligned}$$



The dot product picks out parallel components of vectors.

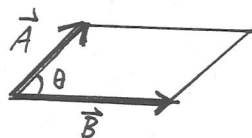
$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \cos \theta$$

Cross Product:

$$\begin{aligned}|\vec{A} \times \vec{B}| &= (\text{Length of } \vec{A}) (\text{the part of } \vec{B} \text{ that lies perpendicular to } \vec{A}) \\ &= |\vec{A}| B_{\perp} \\ &= (\text{Length of } \vec{B}) (\text{the part of } \vec{A} \text{ that lies perpendicular to } \vec{B}) \\ &= |\vec{B}| A_{\perp}\end{aligned}$$

The cross product picks out perpendicular components of vectors.

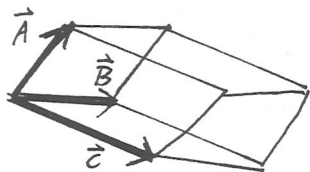
$|\vec{A} \times \vec{B}|$ is the area of the parallelogram with sides along \vec{A} and \vec{B}



$$|\vec{A} \times \vec{B}| = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \sin \theta$$

Triple Product

$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \times \vec{C}$ is \pm Volume of the parallelepiped with edges along \vec{A} , \vec{B} , and \vec{C} . If $\{\vec{A}, \vec{B}, \vec{C}\}$ form a right-handed system, then $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \times \vec{C}$ is positive.



A useful vector identity

$$\vec{A} \times (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = \vec{B} (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{C}) - \vec{C} (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}) \quad [\text{BAC-CAB rule}]$$

for the proof (not given here), you need the Levi-Civita identity:

$$\sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{kmn} = \delta_{il} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{jl}$$

Suppose that \hat{e} is a unit vector (length 1 unit) in some direction

$$\hat{e} = \frac{\vec{A}}{|\vec{A}|} \quad \hat{e} \cdot \hat{e} = 1$$

then any vector \vec{v} can be decomposed as

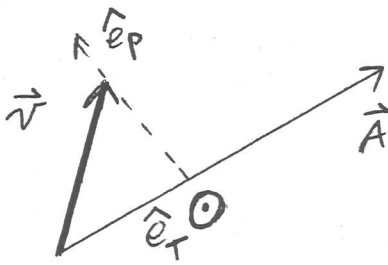
$$\vec{v} = \underbrace{\hat{e} (\vec{v} \cdot \hat{e})}_{\text{component of } \vec{v} \text{ along } \hat{e}} + \underbrace{\hat{e} \times (\vec{v} \times \hat{e})}_{\text{component of } \vec{v} \text{ perpendicular to } \hat{e}}$$

Proof: $\hat{e} \times (\vec{v} \times \hat{e}) = \vec{v} \underbrace{(\hat{e} \cdot \hat{e})}_1 - \hat{e} (\hat{e} \cdot \vec{v}) \quad [\text{BAC-CAB rule}]$

$$\vec{v} = \hat{e} (\vec{v} \cdot \hat{e}) + \hat{e} \times (\vec{v} \times \hat{e}) \quad \blacksquare$$

1 Feb 2000

3-dimensional coordinate-free rotation



rotate \vec{v} by angle φ around axis along \hat{A} (unit vector)

Choose one axis along $\hat{A} = \hat{e}_A$

Choose the second axis (P) through the tip of \vec{v} , \hat{e}_P

The third axis is $\hat{e}_T = \hat{e}_A \times \hat{e}_P$

The component of \vec{v} along \hat{A} is $v_A = \vec{v} \cdot \hat{A}$

The component of \vec{v} in the P direction is

$$v_P = |\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})| = |\hat{A} \times (\vec{v} \times \hat{A})|$$

The component of \vec{v} in the T direction is $v_T = 0$.

Under the rotation by φ

$v'_A = v_A$ no change to component along axis

$$v'_P = v_P \cos \varphi$$

$$v'_T = v_P \sin \varphi$$

$$\vec{v}' = v'_A \hat{e}_A + v'_P \hat{e}_P + v'_T \hat{e}_T$$

$$= v_A \hat{e}_A + v_P \cos \varphi \hat{e}_P + v_P \sin \varphi \hat{e}_T$$

$$= (\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A}) \hat{A} + |\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})| \cos \varphi \hat{e}_P + |\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})| \sin \varphi \hat{e}_T$$

We are trying to express \vec{v}' in terms of the givens \hat{A} , \vec{v} , and φ only.

$$\vec{v}' = (\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A}) \hat{A} + \underbrace{[\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})]}_{\substack{\text{already in the} \\ \text{p direction}}} \cos \varphi + |\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})| \hat{e}_T \sin \varphi$$

The last change to make is to write \hat{e}_T as

$$\hat{e}_T = \hat{e}_A \times \hat{e}_p = \hat{A} \times \frac{[\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})]}{|\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})|}$$

and notice that $\hat{A} \times \hat{A} = 0$ in the numerator

$$\hat{e}_T = \frac{\hat{A} \times \vec{v}}{|\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})|}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v}' &= (\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A}) \hat{A} + [\vec{v} - \hat{A}(\vec{v} \cdot \hat{A})] \cos \varphi + \hat{A} \times \vec{v} \sin \varphi \\ &= \vec{v} \cos \varphi + (\hat{A} \cdot \vec{v}) \hat{A} (1 - \cos \varphi) + \hat{A} \times \vec{v} \sin \varphi \end{aligned}$$

$$v'_1 = v_1 \cos \varphi + (A_1 v_1 + A_2 v_2 + A_3 v_3) A_1 (1 - \cos \varphi) + (A_2 v_3 - A_3 v_2) \sin \varphi$$

$$v'_2 = v_2 \cos \varphi + (A_1 v_1 + A_2 v_2 + A_3 v_3) A_2 (1 - \cos \varphi) + (A_3 v_1 - A_1 v_3) \sin \varphi$$

$$v'_3 = v_3 \cos \varphi + (A_1 v_1 + A_2 v_2 + A_3 v_3) A_3 (1 - \cos \varphi) + (A_1 v_2 - A_2 v_1) \sin \varphi$$

$\vec{v}' = \underline{\lambda} \vec{v}$ to find λ_{21} for example look in the 2' line and write all occurrences of v_1

$$\lambda_{21} = A_1 A_2 (1 - \cos \varphi) + A_3 \sin \varphi$$

To find λ_{12} look in the 1' line and write all occurrences of v_2

$$\lambda_{12} = A_2 A_1 (1 - \cos \varphi) - A_3 \sin \varphi$$

Here is a complete list of the λ_{ij} direction cosines:

$$\lambda_{11} = \cos \varphi + A_1^2 (1 - \cos \varphi)$$

$$\lambda_{22} = \cos \varphi + A_2^2 (1 - \cos \varphi)$$

$$\lambda_{33} = \cos \varphi + A_3^2 (1 - \cos \varphi)$$

$$\lambda_{12} = A_2 A_1 (1 - \cos \varphi) - A_3 \sin \varphi$$

$$\lambda_{21} = A_1 A_2 (1 - \cos \varphi) + A_3 \sin \varphi$$

$$\lambda_{23} = A_3 A_2 (1 - \cos \varphi) - A_1 \sin \varphi$$

$$\lambda_{32} = A_2 A_3 (1 - \cos \varphi) + A_1 \sin \varphi$$

$$\lambda_{31} = A_1 A_3 (1 - \cos \varphi) - A_2 \sin \varphi$$

$$\lambda_{13} = A_3 A_1 (1 - \cos \varphi) + A_2 \sin \varphi$$

How to use:

① Decompose the axis \hat{A} into x, y, z components and make sure \hat{A} is a unit vector ($\hat{A} \cdot \hat{A} = 1$)

If not, divide \vec{A} by its length $|\vec{A}|$.

② Once you know A_1, A_2, A_3 , and φ you can find the rotation matrix $\underline{\lambda}$

③ $\underline{\lambda}$ transforms vectors

$$\underline{\vec{x}'} = \underline{\lambda} \underline{\vec{x}}$$

$$\underline{\vec{v}'} = \underline{\lambda} \underline{\vec{v}}$$