Visualizing Quaternions

Part II

Quaternion Fields

Curves, Surfaces, and Volumes
OUTLINE

- **Quaternion Curves**: generalize the Frenet Frame, optimize in quaternion space

- **Quaternion Surfaces**: generalize Gauss map, optimize in quaternion space

- **Quaternion Volumes**: visualize degrees of freedom of a joint
What are Frames used For?

- Move objects and object parts in an animated scene.
- Move the camera generating the rendered viewpoint of the scene.
- Attach tubes and textures to thickened lines, oriented textures to surfaces.
- Compare shapes of similar curves.
- Collect orientation data of moving object (e.g., a joint)
Motivating Problem: Framing Curves

The (3,5) torus knot.

- Line drawing $\approx$ useless.
- Tubing based on parallel transport, not periodic.
- Closeup of the non-periodic mismatch.
Motivating Problems: Curves

Closeup of the non-periodic mismatch.

*Can’t apply texture.*
Motivating Problems: Surfaces

A smooth 3D surface patch: two ways to get bottom frame.

No unique orthonormal frame is derivable from the parameterization.
3D Curves: Frenet and PT Frames

Now give more details of 3D frames: Classic Moving Frame:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
T'(t) \\
N'(t) \\
B'(t)
\end{bmatrix} = 
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & k_1(t) & k_2(t) \\
-k_1(t) & 0 & \sigma(t) \\
-k_2(t) & -\sigma(t) & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
T(t) \\
N(t) \\
B(t)
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

Serret-Frenet frame: \( k_2 = 0 \), \( k_1 = \kappa(t) \) is the curvature, and \( \sigma(t) = \tau(t) \) is the classical torsion. LOCAL.

Parallel Transport frame (Bishop): \( \sigma = 0 \) to get minimal turning. NON-LOCAL = an INTEGRAL.
Frenet frame is *locally* defined, e.g., by

\[ B(t) = \frac{x'(t) \times x''(t)}{\|x'(t) \times x''(t)\|} \]

but has problems on the “roof.”
3D curve frames, contd

Bishop’s Parallel Transport frame is integrated over whole curve, non-local, but no problems on “roof:”
3D curve frames, contd

**Geodesic Reference Frame** is the frame found by tilting North Pole of “canonical frame” along a great circle until it points in desired direction (tangent for curves, normal for surfaces).
Sample Curve Tubings and their Frames

Easily see PT has least “Twist,” but lacks periodicity.
3D Frames to Quaternion Frames

- **Quaternion Correspondence.** The unit quaternions $q$ and $-q$ correspond to a single 3D rotation $R_3(q)$:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
q_0^2 + q_1^2 - q_2^2 - q_3^2 & 2q_1q_2 - 2q_0q_3 & 2q_1q_3 + 2q_0q_2 \\
2q_1q_2 + 2q_0q_3 & q_0^2 - q_1^2 + q_2^2 - q_3^2 & 2q_2q_3 - 2q_0q_1 \\
2q_1q_3 - 2q_0q_2 & 2q_2q_3 + 2q_0q_1 & q_0^2 - q_1^2 - q_2^2 + q_3^2
\end{bmatrix}
\]

- **Rotation Correspondence.**

\[q = (\cos \frac{\theta}{2}, \hat{n}\sin \frac{\theta}{2})\], with $\hat{n}$ a unit 3-vector, $\hat{n} \cdot \hat{n} = 1$. $R(\theta, \hat{n})$ is usual 3D rotation by $\theta$ in the plane perpendicular to $\hat{n}$.

- **Extract quaternion:** Either directly from sequence of quaternion multiplications, or indirectly from $R_3(q)$. 

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Quaternion Frame Evolution

Just as in 2D, let columns of $R_3(q)$ be a 9-part frame: $(T, N, B)$.

Derivatives of the $i$-th column $R_i$ in quaternion coordinates have the form:

$$\dot{R}_i = 2W_i \cdot [\dot{q}(t)]$$

e.g. $W_1 = \begin{bmatrix} q_0 & q_1 & -q_2 & -q_3 \\ q_3 & q_2 & q_1 & q_0 \\ -q_2 & q_3 & -q_0 & q_1 \end{bmatrix}$

where $i = 1, 2, 3$ and rows form mutually orthonormal basis.
Quaternion Frame Evolution . . .

When we simplify by eliminating $W_i$ . . .

we find the square root of the 3D frame eqns!

Tait (1890) derived the quaternion equation that makes all 9 3D frame equations reduce to: $\dot{q} = (1/2)q \ast (0, k)$ or:

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{q}_0 \\
\dot{q}_1 \\
\dot{q}_2 \\
\dot{q}_3 
\end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix}
0 & k_2 & -k_1 & -\sigma \\
-k_2 & 0 & \sigma & -k_1 \\
-k_1 & -\sigma & 0 & -k_2 \\
\sigma & k_1 & k_2 & 0
\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}
q_0 \\
q_1 \\
q_2 \\
q_3
\end{bmatrix}
$$
Properties of Tait’s quaternion frame equations:

- **Antisymmetry** $\Rightarrow q(t) \cdot \dot{q}(t) = 0$ as required to keep constant unit radius on 3-sphere.

- **Nine equations and six constraints** become **four equations and one constraint**, keeping quaternion on the 3-sphere. $\Rightarrow$ **Good for computer implementation.**

- **MATHEMATICA** code implementing this differential equation is provided.
Quat ernion Frames . . .

- Analogous treatment (given in Hanson Tech Note in Course Notes) applies also to the Weingarten equations, allowing a direct quaternion treatment of the classical differential geometry of *surfaces* as well.
Example of a Quaternion Frame Curve

Left Curve = torus knot tubed with Frenet frame; Right Curve is projection from 4D of (twice around) quaternion Frenet frames:

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
-1 & -0.5 & 0 & 0.5 & 1 \\
-1 & -0.5 & 0 & 0.5 & 1 \\
\end{array}
\]

Minimizing Quaternion Length Solves Periodic Tube

Quaternion space optimization of the non-periodic parallel transport frame of the (3,5) torus knot.

Minimizing Quaternion Length Works

Result of Quaternion space optimization of the (3,5) torus knot frame.
Remember: no unique way to disambiguate bottom frame.
Can also Optimize Quaternion Frames on Patch:

(a) (b) (c) (d)

Quaterror frames for (a) Geodesic Ref. (b) One edge Parallel Transport. (c) Random. (d) Minimal area result.
3D Frames for Patch

(a) Quaternion frames for (a) Geodesic Ref. (b) One edge Parallel Transport. (c) Random. (d) Minimal area result.
Quaternion Volumes

Last possible orientation field = Volumes:

- Collections of oriented objects in a volume.
- 3 degree-of-freedom control monitoring
- 3 degree-of-freedom biological and robotic joints

⇒ all map to Quaternion Volumes
Quaternion Volumes

Lattice with Frames

Quaternions Points
Joystick as Quaternion volume

Motion of joystick maps to quaternion volume.
Joystick as quaternion volume

“Solid cone” describes the joystick access space as a quaternion volume
Quaternion volumes: Shoulder data

Quaternion shoulder joint data before correction for doubling.
Shoulder data with neighbors forced to be in same hemisphere of quaternion space as their predecessors.
(a) A dense sample of shoulder orientation data in quaternion space.

(b) Implicit surface model fitted to the data. (Herda et al.)
SUMMARY

- Quaternions nicely represent frame sequences.
- Curve frames $\Rightarrow$ quaternion curves.
- Surface patch frames $\Rightarrow$ quaternion surface patches.
- Minimizing quaternion length or area finds parallel transport “minimal turning” set of frames.
- Volume sampled frames $\Rightarrow$ quaternion volumes.

Use Quaternions for Global Picture of any orientation sequence or collection!