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# UNIT DUAL QUATERNIONS AND ARCS

#### HESNA KABADAYI AND YUSUF YAYLI

ABSTRACT. In this paper we obtain sine and cosine rules for dual spherical triangle on the dual unit sphere  $S^2$  by representing great circle arcs by dual quatrenions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As it is well known that an arc of a unit circle (subtending an angle  $\theta$  at the origin) can be represented by a complex number of unit norm  $\cos \theta + i \sin \theta$ .

Great circle arcs on a unit sphere represented by a unit quaternion and sine and cosine rules are obtained by J. P. Ward (see [1], pg. 98-102).

A similar correspondence is possible with dual quaternions and great circle arcs on the dual unit sphere  $\overset{\sim}{S^2}$ .

The sine and cosine rules for dual and real spherical trigonometry have been well known for a long time. (see [2], [3], [4], [5]).

Here in this paper we obtain sine and cosine laws by means of this correspondence between great circle arcs on dual unit sphere and dual quaternions.

### 2. DUAL QUATERNIONS AND ARCS

Consider a unit dual quaternion  $q = \cos \varphi + \hat{q} \sin \varphi$ . We may associate this dual quaternion by the great circle arcs which is obtained when the diametral plane with normal  $\hat{q}$  intersects the unit dual sphere.

Let A, B and C be the unit dual vectors and  $q = \langle A, B \rangle + A \wedge B$  and  $p = \langle B, C \rangle + B \wedge C$  be dual unit quaternions.

The quaternion product of p and q is readily checked to be

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$$pq = \langle A, B \rangle \langle B, C \rangle - \langle A \wedge B, B \wedge C \rangle + \langle B, C \rangle A \wedge B + \langle A, B \rangle B \wedge C + (B \wedge C) \wedge (A \wedge B) = \langle A, C \rangle + A \wedge C.$$

Considering that p and q are unit dual quaternions, they are screw operators at the same time. Hence q(A) = B, p(B) = C implies that pq(A) = C. This means that the line  $d_1$  which corresponds A transforms into the line  $d_2$  which corresponds C. We write (using  $\sim$  to specify the geometrical correspondence)

$$arcAB \sim q = \langle A, B \rangle + A \wedge B$$
  
=  $\cos \varphi + \hat{q} \sin \varphi$   
=  $\cos (\theta + \varepsilon \theta^*) + \sin (\theta + \varepsilon \theta^*) \frac{A \wedge B}{\|A \wedge B\|}$   
$$arcBC \sim p = \langle B, C \rangle + B \wedge C$$
  
=  $\cos \phi + \hat{p} \sin \phi$   
=  $\cos \phi + \sin \phi \frac{B \wedge C}{\|B \wedge C\|}$   
 $arcAC \sim pq = \langle A, C \rangle + A \wedge C.$ 

Hence we write

arcAB + arcBC = arcAC

or

$$arcq + arcp = arcpq.$$

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $A_1, A_2, ..., A_n$  be unit dual vectors. Then

 $arcA_1A_2 + arcA_2A_3 + \dots + arcA_{n-1}A_n = arcA_1A_n.$ 

*Proof.* Denoting  $q_k q_{k+1}$  by  $q_{k(k+1)}$  we have

$$arcA_1A_2 \sim q_{12} = \langle A_1, A_2 \rangle + A_1 \wedge A_2$$
$$arcA_2A_3 \sim q_{23} = \langle A_2, A_3 \rangle + A_2 \wedge A_3$$

$$arcA_{n-1}A_n \sim q_{(n-1)n} = \langle A_{n-1}, A_n \rangle + A_{n-1} \wedge A_n$$
$$arcA_1A_n \sim q_{1n} = \langle A_1, A_n \rangle + A_1 \wedge A_n.$$

Noting that  $q_{12}(A_1) = A_2$  we have

$$(q_{(n-1)n}...q_{23}q_{12}) (A_1) = (q_{(n-1)n}...q_{23}) (A_2) = q_{(n-1)n} (A_{n-1}) = A_n.$$

Hence we get

$$q_{(n-1)n} \dots q_{23} q_{12} = \langle A_1, A_n \rangle + A_1 \wedge A_n$$
$$= q_{1n}.$$

Thus

$$\operatorname{arc}\left(q_{(n-1)n}\dots q_{23}q_{12}\right) = \operatorname{arc}q_{1n}$$

Therefore

$$arcA_1A_2 + arcA_2A_3 + \dots + arcA_{n-1}A_n = arcA_1A_n$$

or

$$arcq_{(n-1)n} + \dots + arcq_{23} + arcq_{12} = arcq_{1n}$$

Note that when dual quaternions are taken as real quaternions this result reduces the case in [1].  $\hfill \Box$ 

### 3. The Sine and Cosine Laws for a Dual Spherical Triangle

We consider two different points A and B on the dual unit sphere given by dual unit vectors  $\hat{x} = x + \varepsilon x^*$ ,  $\hat{y} = y + \varepsilon y^*$  respectively. We introduce the set of all dual vectors given by  $\hat{c_{\lambda}} = c_{\lambda} + \varepsilon c_{\lambda}^* = (1 - \hat{\lambda})\hat{x} + \hat{\lambda}\hat{y}$ , where  $\hat{\lambda} = \lambda + \varepsilon \lambda^*$  and  $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ . We put  $\hat{c_{\lambda}} = \left| \hat{c_{\lambda}} \right| \hat{e_{\lambda}}$ ; then  $\hat{e_{\lambda}}$  is a point  $C_{\lambda}$  on the dual unit sphere. The set of all points  $C_{\lambda}$  with  $0 \le \lambda \le 1$  is called the dual great -circle- arc arcAB. We will say that  $C_{\lambda}$  runs along arcAB from A to B if  $\lambda$  increases from 0 to 1. With the arcABwe will always mean this arc in the sense from A to B.

Let A, B and C be three points on the dual unit sphere  $S^2$  given by the linearly independent dual unit vectors  $\hat{x} = x + \varepsilon x^*$ ,  $\hat{y} = y + \varepsilon y^*$  and  $\hat{z} = z + \varepsilon z^*$  respectively. We will always suppose that the notations is such that det (x, y, z) > 0. These points together with the dual great -circle- arcs arcAB, arcBC, arcCA form a dual spherical triangle  $\Delta ABC$ . (see [2])

Having defined a dual spherical triangle there is naturally defined six dual angles  $a^o = a + \varepsilon a^*$ ,  $b^o = b + \varepsilon b^*$ ,  $c^o = c + \varepsilon c^*$  called arc angles and  $A^o = u + \varepsilon u^*$ ,  $B^o = v + \varepsilon v^*$ ,  $C^o = w + \varepsilon w^*$  called vertex angles (see figure 3.1).

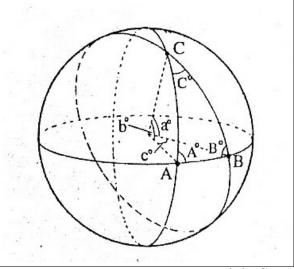


Figure 3.1 Dual spherical triangle  $\Delta ABC$ 

We can represent arcs dual quaternionically. If  $q = \cos a^o + \stackrel{\wedge}{q} \sin a^o$ ,  $p = \cos c^o + \stackrel{\wedge}{p} \sin c^o$  then  $qp = \cos c^o \cos a^o - \left\langle \stackrel{\wedge}{q}, \stackrel{\wedge}{p} \right\rangle \sin c^o \sin a^o + \stackrel{\wedge}{q} \sin a^o \cos c^o + \stackrel{\wedge}{p} \cos a^o \sin c^o + \stackrel{\wedge}{q} \stackrel{\wedge}{\wedge} \stackrel{\wedge}{p} \sin c^o \sin a^o$ . On the other hand  $arcAB \sim p$ ,  $arcBC \sim q$ ,  $arcAC \sim qp$  and writing  $arcAC \sim \cos b^o + \stackrel{\wedge}{m} \sin b^o$  we get, by equating scalar and vector parts:

$$\cos c^{o} \cos a^{o} - \left\langle \stackrel{\wedge}{q}, \stackrel{\wedge}{p} \right\rangle \sin c^{o} \sin a^{o} = \cos b^{o} \tag{3.1}$$

$$\hat{q}\sin a^{o}\cos c^{o} + \hat{p}\cos a^{o}\sin c^{o} + \hat{q}\wedge\hat{p}\sin c^{o}\sin a^{o} = \hat{m}\sin b^{o}.$$
(3.2)

Note that  $\hat{p}, \hat{q}, \hat{m}$  are unit dual vectors in the direction of  $A \wedge B, B \wedge C$  and  $A \wedge C$  respectively i.e.

$$\hat{p} = \frac{A \wedge B}{\|A \wedge B\|}, \ \hat{q} = \frac{B \wedge C}{\|B \wedge C\|}, \ \hat{m} = \frac{A \wedge C}{\|A \wedge C\|}.$$

We define

$$\langle B, C \rangle = \cos a^o, \ B \wedge C = \stackrel{\wedge}{q} \sin a^o.$$

Similar definitions are given for dual angle  $b^o$  and  $c^o$ .

If  $a^o = a + \varepsilon a^*$ , we have consequently  $\sin a > 0$ . This implies (see [2])  $|\sin a^o| = \sin a^o$ . Similarly  $|\sin b^o| = \sin b^o$ ,  $|\sin c^o| = \sin c^o$ . It is moreover readily seen that A, B, C are dual unit vectors having the same sense as  $\hat{p} \wedge \hat{m}, \hat{p} \wedge \hat{q}$  and  $\hat{m} \wedge \hat{q}$  respectively. The angle  $A^o$  of  $\Delta ABC$  is defined as the dual angle given by

$$\left\langle \stackrel{\wedge}{p}, \stackrel{\wedge}{m} \right\rangle = -\cos A^o, \ \stackrel{\wedge}{p} \wedge \stackrel{\wedge}{m} = A\sin A^o.$$

Similar definitions for the angles  $B^o$  and  $C^o$  are given, i.e.

$$\left\langle \stackrel{\wedge}{p}, \stackrel{\wedge}{q} \right\rangle = -\cos B^{o}, \ \stackrel{\wedge}{p} \wedge \stackrel{\wedge}{q} = B\sin B^{o} \text{ and } \left\langle \stackrel{\wedge}{m}, \stackrel{\wedge}{q} \right\rangle = -\cos C^{o}, \ \stackrel{\wedge}{m} \wedge \stackrel{\wedge}{q} = C\sin C^{o}.$$

Now (3.1) implies the law of cosine in dual spherical trigonometry as follows:

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $\triangle ABC$  be a dual spherical triangle on the dual unit sphere  $S^2$ . Then

$$\cos c^o \cos a^o + \cos B^o \sin c^o \sin a^o = \cos b^o \tag{3.3}$$

and

$$\cos a^o = \cos b^o \cos c^o + \cos A^o \sin b^o \sin c^o \tag{3.4}$$

$$\cos c^o = \cos a^o \cos b^o + \cos C^o \sin a^o \sin b^o. \tag{3.5}$$

**Corollary 1.** The real and dual parts of the formula (3.3), (3.4), (3.5) are given by

$$\cos u = \frac{\cos a - \cos c \cos b}{\sin c \sin b}, \quad \sin u = \frac{-\sin a}{u^* \sin b \sin c} \left( b^* \cos w + c^* \cos v - a^* \right)$$
$$\cos v = \frac{\cos b - \cos c \cos a}{\sin c \sin a}, \quad \sin v = \frac{-\sin b}{v^* \sin a \sin c} \left( a^* \cos w + c^* \cos u - b^* \right)$$
$$\cos w = \frac{\cos c - \cos a \cos b}{\sin a \sin b}, \quad \sin w = \frac{-\sin c}{w^* \sin a \sin b} \left( b^* \cos u + a^* \cos v - c^* \right).$$
$$Since \ \hat{q} \wedge \hat{p} = -B \sin B^o \ and \ since \ \left\langle B, \hat{p} \right\rangle = 0 \ and \ \left\langle B, \hat{q} \right\rangle = 0, \ from \ (3.2) \ we \ get$$
$$\sin B^o \sin c^o \sin a^o = -\left\langle B, \hat{m} \right\rangle \sin b^o.$$

Hence

$$\frac{\sin B^o}{\sin b^o} = \frac{-\left\langle B, \stackrel{\wedge}{m} \right\rangle}{\sin c^o \sin a^o} = \frac{-\left\langle B, A \wedge C \right\rangle}{\sin a^o \sin b^o \sin c^o} = \frac{\left\langle A, B \wedge C \right\rangle}{\sin a^o \sin b^o \sin c^o}$$

Thus, since the right hand side is unchanged on cyclic interchange we obtain:

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $\triangle ABC$  be a dual spherical triangle on the dual unit sphere  $S^2$  then

$$\frac{\sin A^o}{\sin a^o} = \frac{\sin B^o}{\sin b^o} = \frac{\sin C^o}{\sin c^o}.$$
(3.6)

**Corollary 2.** The real and dual part of the Formula (3.6) is given by

$$\frac{\sin u}{\sin a} = \frac{\sin v}{\sin b} = \frac{\sin w}{\sin c}$$

and

$$u^* \frac{\cos u}{\sin a} - a^* \cot a \frac{\sin u}{\sin a} = v^* \frac{\cos v}{\sin b} - b^* \cot b \frac{\sin v}{\sin b} = w^* \frac{\cos w}{\sin c} - c^* \cot c \frac{\sin w}{\sin c}.$$

Note also that sine law is obtained from (3.2) by taking the scalar product of both sides with B. One other possibility is taking the vector product of this equation with B implies

$$0 = B \wedge \stackrel{\wedge}{q} \sin a^{o} \cos c^{o} + B \wedge \stackrel{\wedge}{p} \cos a^{o} \sin c^{o} - B \wedge \stackrel{\wedge}{m} \sin b^{o}.$$
(3.7)

Note that

$$B \wedge \hat{q} = \frac{B \wedge (B \wedge C)}{\sin a^{o}} = \frac{\left[\langle B, C \rangle B - C\right]}{\sin a^{o}}$$
$$B \wedge \hat{p} = \frac{B \wedge (A \wedge B)}{\sin c^{o}} = \frac{\left[A - \langle B, A \rangle B\right]}{\sin c^{o}}$$

and

$$B \wedge \overset{\wedge}{m} = \frac{B \wedge (A \wedge C)}{\sin h^o} = \frac{\left[ \langle B, C \rangle A - \langle B, A \rangle C \right]}{\sin h^o}.$$

Using  $\langle B, A \rangle = \cos c^{o}, \langle B, C \rangle = \cos a^{o}$  and  $\langle A, C \rangle = \cos b^{o}$  implies the identity in (3.7).

*Remark* 3.3. The results above coincide with the ones for real spherical triangles when the vectors are real.

ÖZET:Bu çalışmada, birim dual kuaterniyonlara dual yaylar karşılık getirilmiş, birim dual kuaterniyonları kullanarak dual küresel üçgenler için bilinen kosinüs ve sinüs bağıntılarını elde edilmiştir.

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