USING LIE DERIVATIVES WITH DUAL QUATERNIONS IN ROBOTICS

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Abstract. We introduce the notion of the Lie derivative in the context of dual quaternions that represent poses and twists. First we define the wrench in terms of dual quaternions. Then we show how the Lie derivative helps understand how actuators affect an end effector in parallel robots, and make it explicit in the case of robot-driven parallel robots. We also show how to use Lie derivatives with the Newton-Raphson Method to solve the forward kinematic problem for over constrained parallel actuators. Finally, we derive the equations of motion of the end effector in dual quaternion form, which include the effect of inertia in the actuators. A large part of our methods is an approximation of the normalization of a pure dual quaternion perturbation of the identity, which shows that it is equal up to the second order to the exponential of the pure dual quaternion.

1. Introduction and notation

We assume that the reader is familiar with the notion of pose and rigid motion, and the use of dual quaternions to represent pose and
We use the terms pose and rigid motion interchangeably, since a pose can be considered as a rigid motion relative to a fixed reference frame, and the mathematical operations to manipulate them are identical. Thus we also use the terms rotation and orientation interchangeably, and similarly with translation and position. We refer the reader to [1, 5, 10, 12, 6, 15, 16, 18, 21, 24, 25, 26]. We recall that a pose or rigid motion is a rotation $R$ followed by a translation $t$.

Rotations can be represented unit quaternions [2, 23], which we briefly describe here. A quaternion is a quadruple of real numbers, written as $A = w + xi + yj + zk$, with the algebraic operations $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$. Its conjugate is $\overline{A} = w - xi - yj - zk$, its norm is $|A| = (w^2 + x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{1/2}$, its normalization is $\hat{A} = A/|A|$, its real part is $\text{Re}(A) = w = \frac{1}{2}(A + \overline{A})$, and its imaginary part is $\text{Im}(A) = ix + jy + kz = \frac{1}{2}(A - \overline{A})$. It is called a unit quaternion if $|A| = 1$, a real quaternion if $\text{Im}(A) = 0$, and a pure quaternion if $\text{Re}(A) = 0$. Note the multiplicative inverse is given by $A^{-1} = \overline{A}/|A|^2$.

We identify three dimensional vectors with pure quaternions, by identifying $i$, $j$, and $k$ with the three standard unit vectors. A unit quaternion $Q$ represents the rotation $r \mapsto Qr\overline{Q}$. A rotation by angle $a$ about an axis $s$, where $|s| = 1$, has two unit quaternion representations: $\pm(\cos(\frac{1}{2}a) + s\sin(\frac{1}{2}a)) = \pm \exp(\frac{1}{2}as)$. Composition of rotations corresponds to multiplication of unit quaternions.

We can represent quaternions as four dimensional vectors, and give it the inner product $A \cdot B = \text{Re}(AB) = \text{Re}(\overline{A}B)$. (1)

A dual quaternion is a pair of quaternions, written as $\eta = A + \epsilon B$, with the extra algebraic operation $\epsilon^2 = 0$.

A unit dual quaternion $\eta = Q + \epsilon B$ is a dual quaternion such that $\overline{\eta}\eta = 1$, equivalently, that $Q$ is a unit quaternion and $B \cdot Q = 0$. A pure dual quaternion $A + \epsilon B$ is a dual quaternion such that both $A$ and $B$ are pure quaternions.

The conjugate dual quaternion of $\eta = \eta = A + \epsilon B$ is $\overline{\eta} = \overline{A} + \epsilon \overline{B}$. Conjugation reverses the order of multiplication:

$$\eta_1\eta_2 = \overline{\eta}_2\overline{\eta}_1.$$ (2)

There is another conjugation for dual quaternions: $(A + \epsilon B)^* = A - \epsilon B$, but we have no cause to use it in this paper, except in equation (8) below.
If $\eta = A + \epsilon B$ is a dual quaternion with $A \neq 0$, then its multiplicative inverse can be calculated using the formula

$$\eta^{-1} = A^{-1} - \epsilon A^{-1} B A^{-1}.$$  \hfill (3)

If $\eta$ is a unit dual quaternion, then there is a computationally much faster formula:

$$\eta^{-1} = \overline{\eta}.$$  \hfill (4)

For a dual quaternion $A + \epsilon B$, it is not really possible to mix $A$ and $B$ additively. The quaternion $A$ is unitless, whereas the quaternion $B$ has units of length. For this reason, when measuring how large a dual quaternion is, everything must be with respect to $l$, the characteristic length scale. The size of a dual quaternion is defined to be

$$\|A + \epsilon B\| = \left( |A|^2 + l^{-2}|B|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$  \hfill (5)

We set $\mathbb{D}$ for the set of invertible dual quaternions (that is, $A + \epsilon B$ where $A \neq 0$), $\mathfrak{d}$ for the set of dual quaternions, $S\mathbb{D}$ for the set of unit dual quaternions, and $\mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{d}$ for the set of pure dual quaternions.

A pose of the form

$$r \mapsto Qr\overline{Q} + t,$$  \hfill (6)

can be represented by the unit dual quaternion

$$\eta = Q + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon tQ.$$  \hfill (7)

Composition of poses corresponds to multiplication of unit dual quaternions. If $r$ is a 3-vector, and $s$ is the image of $r$ under the action of the pose $\eta = Q + \epsilon B$, then

$$1 + \epsilon s = \eta(1 + \epsilon r)\overline{\eta},$$  \hfill (8)

but generally it is easier to use the formula

$$s = Qr\overline{Q} + 2B\overline{Q} = (Qr + 2B)\overline{Q}.$$  \hfill (9)

A twist is the pair of vectors $(w, v)$ that describe the change of pose in the moving reference frame, where $w$ is the angular velocity, and $v$ is the translational velocity, that is, if $r$ is a constant vector, then

$$\frac{d}{dt}(Qr\overline{Q} + t) = Q(w \times r + v)\overline{Q} + t.$$  \hfill (10)

Then a twist can be represented by a pure dual quaternion:

$$\varphi = \eta^{-1}\dot{\eta}, \quad \text{or} \quad \dot{\eta} = \eta\varphi,$$  \hfill (11)

where

$$\varphi = \frac{1}{2}w + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon v.$$  \hfill (12)

We make the identification

$$\mathfrak{d} \cong \mathbb{R}^8.$$  \hfill (13)
using the basis
\[ \{ \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5, \beta_6, \beta_7, \beta_8 \} = \{ i, j, k, \epsilon i, \epsilon j, \epsilon k, 1, \epsilon \}, \] (14)
and similarly, we make the identification
\[ s \mathbb{D} \cong \mathbb{R}^6, \] (15)
using the basis \( \{ \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5, \beta_6 \}. \) With these identifications, we can define the dot product between two dual quaternions by transferring the usual definition of dot product on \( \mathbb{R}^8, \) that is
\[ (A + \epsilon B) \cdot (C + \epsilon D) = A \cdot C + B \cdot D. \] (16)
In this way, every dual quaternion \( \eta \) can be written in component form as
\[ \eta = \sum_{i=1}^{8} \eta_i \beta_i, \] (17)
and every pure dual quaternion \( \theta \) as
\[ \theta = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \theta_i \beta_i. \] (18)

2. Dual Quaternions to Represent Wrenches

Let the pose \( \eta \) represent the reference frame that moves with the end effector. It is not necessary (although it can simplify things) that the center of mass of the end effector coincides with the origin of the moving frame.

The **wrench dual quaternion** is defined to be
\[ \tau = 2q + 2\epsilon p, \] (19)
where \( q \) and \( p \) are the torque and force, respectively, applied to the end effector at the origin of the moving frame, measured with respect to the moving frame.

If \( r_0 \) is the center of mass of the end effector in the moving frame, then the twist about the center of mass is given by
\[ \varphi_0 = \varphi + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon w \times r_0, \] (20)
where \( \varphi = \eta^{-1} \dot{\eta}, \) and the wrench applied about the center of mass is
\[ \tau_0 = \tau + 2p \times r_0. \] (21)

The reason for introducing the factor 2 in definition (19) is so that the rate of change of work done to the end effector is given by
\[ \frac{d}{dt} (\text{work done}) = \tau \cdot \varphi = \tau_0 \cdot \varphi_0. \] (22)
See [4] for the origins of the term twist and wrench as pairs of 3-vectors, which are examples of screws.

3. The normalization of a dual quaternion

A dual number is anything of the form $a + \epsilon b$, where $a$ and $b$ are real numbers.

The norm of a dual quaternion $\eta = A + \epsilon B$ is the dual number defined by the two steps:

$$|\eta|^2 = \eta \overline{\eta} = |A|^2 + 2\epsilon (B \cdot A),$$

$$|\eta| = \sqrt{|\eta|^2} = |A| + \epsilon (A \cdot B)/|A|.$$  

(23)  

(24)

The norm preserves multiplication, that is, if $\eta_1$ and $\eta_2$ are two dual quaternions, then

$$|\eta_1 \eta_2| = |\eta_1| |\eta_2|.$$  

(25)

If $\eta = Q + \epsilon B$ is an invertible dual quaternion, then we define its normalization to be the unit dual quaternion

$$\widehat{\eta} = |\eta|^{-1} \eta = \eta |\eta|^{-1} = Q/|Q| + \epsilon (B - (B \cdot Q)Q/|Q|^2).$$  

(26)

We remark that the normalization of an invertible dual quaternion is used in the computer graphics industry [15, 16].) While this normalization formula might seem initially quite complicated, after thinking about it one can see that it is the simplest projection that enforces $|Q| = 1$ and $B \cdot Q = 0$.

The normalization also satisfies the following properties.

- If $\eta$ is a unit dual quaternion, then $\widehat{\eta} = \eta$.
- Normalization preserves multiplication, that is, if $\eta_1$ and $\eta_2$ are two dual quaternions, then

$$\widehat{\eta_1 \eta_2} = \widehat{\eta_1} \widehat{\eta_2}.$$  

(27)

- If $\theta$ is pure, then

$$\widehat{(1 + \theta)} = 1 + \theta + \frac{1}{2} \theta^2 + O(\theta^3).$$  

(28)

(See Section[10] for the proof of this.)

Equation (28) plays a large role in the methods in this paper.

Let us clarify the big-Oh notation. We say that

$$\eta(\theta) = O(\gamma(\theta))$$  

(29)

if there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that if $\|\theta\|$ is sufficiently small, then

$$\|\eta(\theta)\| \leq c \|\gamma(\theta)\|.$$  

(30)
We show at the beginning of Section 10 that this definition does not depend upon the characteristic length \( l \).

We remark that since the exponential of a dual quaternion [20] is defined by
\[
\exp(\theta) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\theta^k}{k!},
\]
and if \( \theta \) is a pure dual quaternion, then by equation (28) we have
\[
\exp(\theta) = (1 + \hat{\theta}) + O(\theta^3).
\]

4. Lie derivatives

The notion of the Lie derivative, sometimes in our context called the directional derivative, is a combination of two ideas that may be found in the literature. First is the concept of a Lie derivative with respect to a vector field [28, 30]. Secondly, the definition of the Lie algebra is that it is the vector space of vector fields that are invariant under left multiplication by elements of the Lie group [19, 29]. In this way, we can define the Lie derivative of a function with respect to an element of the Lie algebra. One place in the literature where they are combined is in [13, equation (5), Chapter II].

These standard abstract definitions can be made more concrete in our special case where the Lie group is the set of unit dual quaternions, and the Lie algebra is the set of pure dual quaternions.

If one has a quantity that is a function of pose \( g(\eta) \), then we usually think of its derivative as the Jacobian with respect to the components of \( \eta \). But it really makes more sense to compute the derivative with respect to the components of the perturbation of \( \eta \). The latter is the Lie derivative.

The definition is this. Given a differentiable function \( g \) whose domain is the unit dual quaternions, \( \mathbb{SD} \), we can extend it arbitrarily to a differentiable function whose domain is an open neighborhood of \( \mathbb{SD} \) in \( \mathcal{D} \). Given a unit dual quaternion \( \eta \) and a pure dual quaternion \( \theta \), we define the Lie derivative of \( g(\eta) \) in the direction of \( \theta \) to be
\[
\mathcal{L}_\theta g = \lim_{r \to 0} \frac{g(\eta(1 + r\theta)) - g(\eta)}{r} = \frac{d}{dr} g(\eta(1 + r\theta)) \bigg|_{r=0}.
\]

Since \( \eta(1 + r\theta) \) isn’t necessarily a unit dual quaternion, it is not obvious that the definition of the directional Lie derivative doesn’t depend upon how the domain of \( g \) was extended from \( \mathbb{SD} \), but it is, as is shown in Lemma 1 below.
Given a generic function \( g \) whose domain is the invertible dual quaternions, \( \mathbb{D} \), we define its Jacobian to be the dual quaternion
\[
\frac{\partial g}{\partial \eta} = \sum_{i=1}^{8} \frac{\partial g}{\partial \eta_i} \beta_i.
\]
(34)
If its domain is the pure dual quaternions, \( \mathbb{D}_0 \), we have the same formula except with 8 replaced by 6.

Using the chain rule for partial derivatives, we obtain the following formula, which is useful for explicitly calculating the Lie derivative if the function \( g \) is known.
\[
L_\theta g = \frac{\partial g}{\partial \eta} \cdot (\eta \theta).
\]
(35)
We define the partial Lie derivatives to be
\[
L_i g = L_{\beta_i} g, \quad (1 \leq i \leq 6),
\]
(36)
and its full Lie derivative to be the pure dual quaternion
\[
L g = \sum_{i=1}^{6} L_i g \beta_i,
\]
(37)
so that for all pure dual quaternions \( \theta \) it satisfies:
\[
\theta \cdot L g = L_\theta g.
\]
(38)
To gain some intuition, write
\[
\theta = \frac{1}{2} a + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon b,
\]
(39)
so that
\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} = 2 \frac{\partial}{\partial a} + 2 \epsilon \frac{\partial}{\partial b}.
\]
(40)
Then we see that \( \theta \) represents a change in pose by an infinitesimal translation \( b \) and an infinitesimal rotation \( a \), measured in the moving frame of reference. Thus \( L_\theta g \) is a pure dual quaternion giving twice the change in \( g \) with respect to an infinitesimal rotation, plus \( \epsilon \) times twice the change of \( g \) with respect to an infinitesimal translation.

One important property of the Lie derivative is that if \( \eta \) represents a pose, with twist \( \varphi \), then
\[
\frac{d}{dt}[g(\eta)] = L_\varphi g.
\]
(41)
The Lie derivative satisfies various rules, which are also useful for explicitly calculating the Lie derivative when \( g \) is known.

- If \( g(\eta) \) is linear in \( \eta \), then
  \[
  L_\theta g(\eta) = g(\eta \theta).
  \]
  (42)
• The product rule: if \( \times \) is any product, such as inner product or dual quaternion product, then
\[
\mathcal{L}_\theta(g_1 \times g_2) = g_1 \times (\mathcal{L}_\theta g_2) + (\mathcal{L}_\theta g_1) \times g_2.
\] (43)

• The chain rule:
\[
\mathcal{L}_\theta(h(g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_m)) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial g_i} h(g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_m) \mathcal{L}_\theta g_i.
\] (44)

5. Applications to parallel robots

Suppose that the position of the end effector of a parallel robot is given by \( n \) actuators, described by quantities
\[
\ell = (\ell_j)_{1 \leq j \leq n}.
\] (45)

For example, for a cable-driven parallel robot, these represent the lengths of the cables, and typically \( n = 8 \). For the Gough or Stewart Platforms [10], we have \( n = 6 \).

Let us also denote the force exerted by the actuators by
\[
f = (f_j)_{1 \leq j \leq n},
\] (46)
defined so that the rate of change of work performed through the actuators is given by
\[
\frac{d}{dt} (\text{work done}) = f \cdot \dot{\ell}.
\] (47)

Suppose we have a function \( L : \mathbb{S}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \), which calculates the required actuator values, \( \ell \), from the pose \( \eta \) of the moving frame. This is the inverse kinematics function. If it is a simple cable-driven parallel robot, this can be computed using Pythagoras’s Theorem, from the positions of the actuators on the fixed frame, and the positions of where the cables are attached to end effector. But this formula could be more complicated in other situations.

We also define the \((n \times 6)\) matrix \( \Lambda \) by
\[
\Lambda \theta = \mathcal{L}_\theta L.
\] (48)

From equation (11) we obtain
\[
\dot{\ell} = \Lambda \varphi.
\] (49)

There is also a \((6 \times n)\) matrix \( T \) that maps the actuator forces to the wrench dual quaternion:
\[
\tau = Tf.
\] (50)
This can be computed by balancing the force and torque exerted upon the end-effector. But it can also be computed with the following important identity:

\[ T = \Lambda^T. \] (51)

This is because the rate of change of work done on the parallel robot can be computed in two different ways, either using equation (22), or (47). Substituting in equations (49) and (50), we obtain

\[ T f \cdot \varphi = f \cdot \Lambda \varphi. \] (52)

Since this is true for arbitrary actuator forces \( f \) and end effector twists \( \varphi \), the result follows.

6. SECOND LIE DERIVATIVES

If \( g \) is a function of dual quaternions, we define its Hessian to be the \((8 \times 8)\) matrix

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial \eta_i \partial \eta_j}
\end{bmatrix}_{1 \leq i, j \leq 8}.
\] (53)

Thus the expression \( \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial \eta^2} \) \( \gamma \) should be interpreted with \( \gamma \) treated as an eight dimensional vector.

We also need to compute second Lie derivatives. Calculations show that

\[ \mathcal{L}_\theta \mathcal{L}_\psi g = (\eta \psi) \cdot \left[ \left. \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial \eta^2} \right|_{\theta = 0} \right] (\eta \theta) + \frac{\partial g}{\partial \eta} \cdot (\eta \theta \psi). \] (54)

As a corollary, we obtain the well known identity:

\[ \mathcal{L}_\theta \mathcal{L}_\psi g - \mathcal{L}_\psi \mathcal{L}_\theta g = \mathcal{L}_{(\theta \psi - \psi \theta)} g, \] (55)

which implies that Lie derivatives do not necessary commute.

Another way one might try to define the second derivative is to use the formula \( \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial \theta^2} g(\eta(1 + \theta)) \bigg|_{\theta = 0} \). Unfortunately, this definition doesn’t work, as it depends upon the choice of how to extend the domain of \( g \) to all dual quaternions. The obvious choice of extension is to use the normalization:

\[ \tilde{g}(\eta) = g(\hat{\eta}). \] (56)

We have the following formula for the Hessian of \( \tilde{g} \):

\[ \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{g}}{\partial \theta^2} \tilde{g}(\eta(1 + \theta)) \bigg|_{\theta = 0} = \left. \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{L}_i \mathcal{L}_j g(\eta) + \mathcal{L}_j \mathcal{L}_i g(\eta)) \right]_{1 \leq i, j \leq 6} \right. \] (57)

This equation is proved in Section 10.
7. An example of a cable-driven parallel robot

In this section, we consider only a single cable attached to a point $\tilde{r}$ on the end effector. Let us suppose that the cable attaches via an assembly, which is free to rotate about an axis parallel to the unit vector $n$, and passing through the point $s$. Attached to the assembly, at a fixed distance $h_0$ from the fixed point $s$, by a rod perpendicular to $n$, is the center of a pulley of radius $r$, which rotates in the plane containing the axis of rotation and the point on the end effector $\tilde{r}$. A cable passes over the pulley in the $n$ direction from the center of the pulley at the point $a$. See Figure 1.

Then in this case, the length of cable required is

$$\ell(\tilde{r}) = \ell_0 + c(\tilde{r}) + r \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{r}{d(\tilde{r})} \right) + r \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{v(\tilde{r})}{d(\tilde{r})} \right),$$  \hspace{1cm} (58)
where ℓ₀ is the length of cable from the actuator to the point \( a \), and

\[
\begin{align*}
\nu(\tilde{r}) &= (\tilde{r} - s) \cdot n, \quad (59) \\
h(\tilde{r}) &= \sqrt{|\tilde{r} - s|^2 - \nu(\tilde{r})^2}, \quad (60) \\
d(\tilde{r}) &= \sqrt{(h(\tilde{r}) - \ell_0)^2 + \nu(\tilde{r})^2} = \sqrt{|\tilde{r} - s|^2 - 2\ell_0 h(\tilde{r}) + h_0^2}, \quad (61) \\
c(\tilde{r}) &= \sqrt{d(\tilde{r})^2 - r^2}, \quad (62)
\end{align*}
\]

that is, \( \nu(\tilde{r}) \) and \( h(\tilde{r}) \) are the vertical and horizontal distances (that is, measured parallel and perpendicular to \( n \)) between \( s \) and \( \tilde{r} \), \( d(\tilde{r}) \) is the distance from \( \nu(\tilde{r}) \) to the center of the pulley, and \( c(\tilde{r}) \) is the distance from \( \nu(\tilde{r}) \) to where the cable meets the pulley.

If the attachment point to the end effector is at \( r \) in the moving frame of reference, and if the pose of the end effector is \( \eta = Q + \epsilon B \), then

\[
\tilde{r} = Qr\overline{Q} + 2B\overline{Q} = (Qr + 2B)\overline{Q}. \quad (63)
\]

Now, if \( \theta = \frac{1}{2}a + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon b \) is a pure dual quaternion, then

\[
\mathcal{L}_\theta(\eta) = \eta\theta = \frac{1}{2}Qa + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon(Qb + Ba), \quad (64)
\]

that is

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathcal{L}_\theta(Q) &= \frac{1}{2}Qa, \\
\mathcal{L}_\theta(B) &= \frac{1}{2}(Qb + Ba). 
\end{align*} \quad (65, 66)
\]

Remembering \( \overline{a} = -a \), and that \( ar - ra = 2a \times r \), we obtain

\[
\mathcal{L}_\theta(\tilde{r}) = Q(a \times r + b)\overline{Q}. \quad (67)
\]

And if \( \psi = \frac{1}{2}c + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon d \) is another pure dual quaternion, then

\[
\mathcal{L}_\psi \mathcal{L}_\theta(\tilde{r}) = Q(c \times (a \times r + b))\overline{Q}. \quad (68)
\]

Then the first and second derivatives of \( \ell(\tilde{r}) \) are

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathcal{L}_\phi(\ell(\tilde{r})) &= \frac{\partial \ell(\tilde{r})}{\partial \tilde{r}} \cdot \mathcal{L}_\phi(\tilde{r}), \quad (69) \\
\mathcal{L}_\psi \mathcal{L}_\phi(\ell(\tilde{r})) &= \mathcal{L}_\psi(\ell(\tilde{r})) \cdot \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ell(\tilde{r})}{\partial \tilde{r}^2} \right] \mathcal{L}_\phi(\tilde{r}) + \left[ \frac{\partial \ell(\tilde{r})}{\partial \tilde{r}} \right] \mathcal{L}_\psi \mathcal{L}_\phi(\tilde{r}). \quad (70)
\end{align*}
\]

Computation of \( \frac{\partial \ell(\tilde{r})}{\partial \tilde{r}} \) and \( \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ell(\tilde{r})}{\partial \tilde{r}^2} \right] \) is elementary, albeit intricate. Thus one can compute \( \Lambda \) and its Lie derivative, which will be required in the following sections.
8. Forward kinematics for parallel robots

Let the set of admissible actuator values, \( L \subset \mathbb{R}^n \), be the range of the function \( L \). Then the forward kinematics function is

\[
Y : L \rightarrow S\mathbb{D},
\]

which is a left inverse to \( L \). Because of possible measurement errors, \( Y \) should produce decent answers even if the actuator values are merely close to \( L \).

We focus on the over-constrained problem, that is, when the number of actuators \( n \) is greater than 6. If \( n = 6 \), a much simpler approach is possible by simply applying the Newton-Raphson method directly to \( L \). In that case, only first derivatives of \( L \) are required.

This problem has been solved by many others, for example, [22, 31]. But we feel that this is much more easily solved using dual quaternions. The function \( Y \) takes actuator values \( \ell = (\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_n) \), and seeks to find the pose \( \eta \) so that \( L(\eta) \) is close as possible to \( \ell \). We do this by seeking to minimize the loss function

\[
b(\eta) = \frac{1}{2} |L(\eta) - \ell|^2.
\]

We use the Newton-Raphson Method, which given \( \eta_k \) close to a minimum of the loss function, finds \( \eta_{k+1} \) which is much closer to the same minimum of the loss function. Because this method as usually stated works only on linear vector spaces, we first have to define a map \( \theta \mapsto \tilde{b}_k(\theta) \), with \( \tilde{b}_k(0) = \eta_k \), from the linear vector space of pure dual quaternions to the manifold of unit dual quaternions [14].

Most papers on the Newton-Raphson Method on manifolds construct this map using the so called exp function [7, 8, 9]. So the map is

\[
\tilde{b}_k(\theta) = b(\eta_k \exp(\theta)).
\]

The exp map in these papers is following the path of a geodesic on the manifold, and this is equivalent to using the equations of motion of the end effector as described in Section [9]. Another exp map is to follow a one-parameter subgroup, or equivalently, equation (31). We do not take these approaches, as they can be computationally expensive. Our approach is to normalize:

\[
\tilde{b}_k(\theta) = b(\eta_k(1 + \theta)).
\]

This is numerically close to the second approach, as is shown by equation (32).
In order to apply the Newton-Raphson, we need to compute the Jacobian
\[
\delta_k = \left. \frac{\partial \tilde{b}_k}{\partial \theta} \right|_{\theta = 0} = (\mathcal{L}_i b(\eta))_{1 \leq i \leq 6}, \tag{75}
\]
and its Hessian \(H_k\), which by equation (57) is
\[
H_k = \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{L}_i \mathcal{L}_j b(\eta) + \mathcal{L}_j \mathcal{L}_i b(\eta)) \right]_{1 \leq i, j \leq 6}. \tag{76}
\]

The Newton-Raphson method we use is to iterate:
\[
\eta_{k+1} = \eta_k (1 - H_k^{-1} \delta_k). \tag{77}
\]

For the criterion of when to terminate the Newton-Raphson Method, we measure \(\|\eta_{k+1} - \eta_k\|\).

This method works well in practice, because typically we measure the pose frequently, and thus the current pose won’t be much different than the previously measured pose. Thus the previously measured pose is a good starting value for using the Newton-Raphson method for finding the current pose. We found that only about two or three iterations of the Newton-Raphson method were generally required, and that it easily ran at a thousand times per second on a modern computer.

9. Dynamics of the end effector

We define the no-load forces to be the actuator forces if there is no end effector present:
\[
f_0 = M_0 \ddot{\ell}, \tag{78}
\]
where \(M_0\) is a positive definite \((n \times n)\) matrix denoting what we shall call the effective no-load mass of the actuators.

Let us suppose that the kinetic energy of the parallel robot is given by
\[
e = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\varphi} \cdot M \dot{\varphi}, \tag{79}
\]
where \(M\) is a \((6 \times 6)\) positive definite matrix, which depends only upon \(\eta\), and which we call the effective mass of the parallel robot. If \(m_e\) is the mass of the end effector, \(M_e\) is the moment of inertia tensor of the end effector about its center of mass, and \(r_0\) is the center of mass of the end effectors, all measured with respect to the moving frame, then
\[
e = \frac{1}{2} m_e |v + w \times r_0|^2 + \frac{1}{2} w \cdot M_e w + \frac{1}{2} \dot{\ell} \cdot M_0 \dot{\ell}, \tag{80}
\]
that is
\[
M = 4 \begin{bmatrix} M_e - m_e (r_0^*)^2 & m_e r_0^* \\ -m_e (r_0^*) & m_e l \end{bmatrix} + \Lambda^T M_0 \Lambda, \tag{81}
\]
where \( I \) is the \((3 \times 3)\) identity matrix, and \( \star \) is the Hodge star operator of \( \mathbf{r} \) [27]:
\[
\mathbf{r}^* = \begin{bmatrix}
0 & -r_3 & r_2 \\
r_3 & 0 & -r_1 \\
-r_2 & r_1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

(82)

Note that
\[
(\mathbf{r}^*)\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{s}.
\]

(83)

The next result is proved in Section 10.

**Theorem 1.** If the kinetic energy satisfies equation (79) with equation (81) holding, and the potential energy \( \nu \) is calculated in the usual manner from the mass of the end effector in a constant gravitational field \( \mathbf{g} \), then the equation of motion is
\[
\mathbf{\tau} = \mu + \mathbf{Ma},
\]

(84)

where
\[
\mu = 2\mathbf{w} \times (\mathbf{M}_e \mathbf{w}) + 2\xi \mathbf{m}_e \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{v} \\
+ 2m_e((\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{r}_0)(\mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{r}_0) + \mathbf{r}_0 \times (\mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{v}) + \epsilon \mathbf{w} \times (\mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{r}_0)) \\
+ \Lambda^T \mathbf{M}_0 (\mathcal{L}_\varphi \Lambda) \varphi - 2m_e(\mathbf{r}_0 \times \mathbf{\dot{g}} + \epsilon \mathbf{\dot{g}}),
\]

(85)

with
\[
\mathbf{\dot{g}} = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{g} \mathbf{Q},
\]

(86)

and
\[
\mathbf{M}_\alpha = 2\mathbf{M}_e \mathbf{w} + 2m_e(\mathbf{r}_0 \times \mathbf{\dot{v}}) + 2\xi \mathbf{m}_e \mathbf{\dot{v}} + \Lambda^T \mathbf{M}_0 \Lambda \mathbf{\alpha}.
\]

(87)

The various terms in equation (85) can be interpreted as follows.
- \( \mathbf{M}_e \dot{\mathbf{w}} \) and \( \mathbf{m}_e \mathbf{v} \) are inertial resistance to change of angular and translational velocities.
- \( \mathbf{m}_e \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{v} \) is the centripetal force required to rotate and move at the same time.
- \( \mathbf{w} \times (\mathbf{M}_e \mathbf{w}) \) is the precession torque (so that if the moment of inertia is not isotropic, then the body spins in a counterintuitive manner, see, for example, [17]).
- \( \Lambda^T \mathbf{M}_0 (\mathcal{L}_\varphi \Lambda) \varphi + \Lambda^T \mathbf{M}_0 \Lambda \mathbf{\alpha} = \mathbf{Tf}_0 \)

(88)

is the wrench required to move the actuators, where the no-load forces may be computed using
\[
\mathbf{f}_0 = \mathbf{M}_0 \mathcal{L}_\varphi (\Lambda \mathbf{\varphi}) + \mathbf{M}_0 \Lambda \mathbf{\alpha}.
\]

(89)

- \( \mathbf{m}_e \mathbf{\dot{g}} \) is the force due to gravity, translated into the moving frame of reference.
• All terms containing \( r_0 \) are corrections required since the center of gravity isn’t necessarily the same as the origin of the moving frame of reference. They could be derived by first finding the equations of motion when \( r_0 = 0 \), and then applying equations (20) and (21).

10. Proofs

We first discuss the ‘big-Oh’ notation in more detail. In [20], we show how to define the ‘functional calculus’ of dual quaternions. That is, given a continuously differentiable function \( f : \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C} \), satisfying \( f(\bar{z}) = \overline{f(z)} \), we can make sense of \( f(\eta) \) for any dual quaternion \( \eta = A + \epsilon B \). First we can define \( f \) on quaternions by realizing that any unit vector \( n \) satisfies \( n^2 = -1 \). Next, if \( B \) is decomposed as \( B = B_1 + b_2 \), where \( B_1 \) commutes with \( A \), and \( b_2 \) is a pure quaternion that anti-commutes with \( \text{Im}(A) \), and setting

\[
\begin{align*}
  f_x(z) &= \lim_{h \to 0, h \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{f(z + h)}{h}, \quad (90) \\
  f_{iy}(z) &= \lim_{h \to 0, h \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{f(z + ih)}{ih}, \quad (91) \\
  h_f(z) &= \begin{cases} 
    \frac{f(z) - f(\bar{z})}{z - \bar{z}} & \text{if } \text{Re}(z) \neq 0 \\
    f_{iy}(z) & \text{if } \text{Re}(z) = 0
  \end{cases} \quad (92)
\end{align*}
\]

then we have

\[
f(A + \epsilon B) = f(A) + \epsilon f_x(A) \text{Re}(B_1) + \epsilon f_{iy}(A) \text{Im}(B_1) + \epsilon h_f(A)b_2. \quad (93)
\]

This means that for any functions \( f \) and \( g \), that \( \|f(A + \epsilon B)\| \leq \|g(A + \epsilon B)\| \) for all quaternions \( B \) if and only if \( |f(A)| \leq |g(A)|, |f_x(A)| \leq |g_x(A)|, |f_{iy}(A)| \leq |g_{iy}(A)|, \) and \( |h_f(A)| \leq |h_y(A)| \). In particular, the comparision of size does depend upon which characteristic length \( l \) is used.

Proof of Equation (28). Since \( \bar{\theta} = -\theta \), we have

\[
|1 + \theta|^2 = 1 - \theta^2. \quad (94)
\]

Hence using Taylor’s series

\[
|1 + \theta|^{-1} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \theta^2 + O(\theta^3) \quad (95)
\]

from which it follows that

\[
(1 + \bar{\theta}) = (1 + \theta)(1 + \theta)^{-1} = 1 + \theta + \frac{1}{2} \theta^2 + O(\theta^3). \quad (96)
\]

□
Lemma 1. The definition of $L_{\theta}g$ in equation (33) does not depend upon the extension of $g$ from $SD$ to a neighborhood of $SD$ in $D$.

Proof. Let $g_1$ and $g_2$ be two extensions of $g$ from $SD$ to a neighborhood of $SD$ in $D$. Define

$$\tilde{g}(\eta) = g_1(\tilde{\eta}) = g_2(\tilde{\eta}).$$

Then

$$\frac{d}{dr} \tilde{g}(\eta(1 + r\theta)) \bigg|_{r=0} = \frac{d}{dr} g_1(\eta(1 + r\theta)) \bigg|_{r=0} = \frac{d}{dr} g_1(\eta(1 + r\theta)) \bigg|_{r=0},$$

where the second equality follows from equation (28). Similarly for $g_2$. □

Proof of Equation (57). We wish to find the Jacobian $\delta_i$ and the Hessian $H$ of $\tilde{b}$ at the origin, where

$$\tilde{b}(\theta) = b(\eta(1 + \theta)).$$

We can find this by considering its Taylor series expansion

$$\tilde{b}(\theta) = \tilde{b}(0) + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \delta_i \theta_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{6} H_{i,j} \theta_i \theta_j + O(\theta^3),$$

where

$$\theta = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \theta_i \beta_i.$$

Using the Taylor series, and using equation (28), one obtains

$$\tilde{b}(\theta) = b(\eta(1 + \theta)) = b(\eta(1 + \theta + \frac{1}{2} \theta^2 + O(\theta^3)))$$

$$= b(\eta) + \frac{\partial b}{\partial \eta} \cdot (\eta(\theta + \frac{1}{2} \theta^2))$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2}(\eta \theta) \cdot \left[ \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial \eta^2} \right] (\eta \theta) + O(\theta^2)$$

$$= b(\eta) + \frac{\partial b}{\partial \eta} \cdot (\eta(\theta))$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2}(\eta \theta) \cdot \left[ \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial \eta^2} \right] (\eta \theta) + \frac{\partial b}{\partial \eta} \cdot (\frac{1}{2} \eta \theta^2) + O(\theta^3).$$

Now by comparing coefficients, and considering equations (35) and (54), we obtain

$$\delta_i = L_{\theta_i} b(\eta), \quad (1 \leq i \leq 6),$$

(103)
and

\[
H_{i,j} = (\eta \beta_i) \cdot \left[ \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial \eta^2} \right] (\eta \beta_j) + \frac{\partial b}{\partial \eta} \cdot (\frac{1}{2} \eta (\beta_i \beta_j + \beta_j \beta_i))
= \frac{1}{2} (L_i L_j b(\eta) + L_j L_i b(\eta)), \quad (1 \leq i, j \leq 6).
\]

Now we work on proving Theorem 1. We use the Euler-Lagrange equations. However, some may consider it easier to use standard formulas for rotating bodies, and Newtonian physics, to obtain the same result.

Define the cross product of two pure dual quaternions \( \alpha = a + \epsilon b \) and \( \beta = c + \epsilon d \) by

\[
\alpha \times \beta = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha \beta - \beta \alpha) = a \times c + \epsilon (a \times d + b \times c).
\]

Define the adjoint products of pure dual quaternions by

\[
\alpha \triangleright \beta = c \times a + d \times b + \epsilon (c \times d),
\]

\[
\alpha \triangleright \beta = -\beta \triangleright \alpha,
\]

which can also be defined by the property that for all pure dual quaternions \( \alpha, \beta, \) and \( \gamma \) we have

\[
(\alpha \times \beta) \cdot \gamma = \alpha \cdot (\gamma \times \beta) = \beta \cdot (\alpha \times \gamma).
\]

**Theorem 2.** If the kinetic energy \( e \) satisfies equation (79), and \( v = v(\eta) \) denotes the potential energy, then the equation of motion is

\[
\tau = \mu_1 + \mu_2 + M \alpha,
\]

where

\[
\mu_1 = L_\dot{\varphi} M \varphi - \frac{1}{2} L (\varphi \cdot M \varphi) + L v,
\]

and for any constant pure dual quaternion \( \psi \) we have

\[
\psi \cdot \mu_2 = 2 \varphi \cdot M (\psi \times \varphi) = 2 M \varphi \cdot (\psi \times \varphi),
\]

that is,

\[
\mu_2 = 2 (M \varphi) \times \varphi.
\]

**Proof.** In preparation to apply the Euler-Lagrange Equation, given \( \eta_0 \in SD \), we define a map from an open neighborhood of the origin in \( \mathbb{R}^6 \) to an open neighborhood of \( \eta_0 \) in \( SD \)

\[
\theta \mapsto \eta(\theta)
= \eta_0(1 + \theta)
= \eta_0(1 + \theta + \frac{1}{2} \theta^2) + O(\theta^3),
\]
where in the last inequality we used equation (28). Then we have
\[ \varphi = \eta^{-1} \dot{\eta} \]
\[ = (1 + \theta)^{-1} (\dot{\theta} + \frac{1}{2}(\dot{\theta}\theta + \theta\dot{\theta})) + O(\theta^2) \]  
(114)
and
\[ \alpha = \ddot{\theta} + O(\theta). \]  
(115)
The Lagrangian of the parallel robot is
\[ l = e - v = \frac{1}{2} \varphi \cdot M \varphi - v. \]  
(116)
We use the local coordinate system \( \theta \) given by equation (113). The Euler-Lagrange Equation [3, 11] tells us
\[ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial l}{\partial \dot{\theta}} \right) - \frac{\partial l}{\partial \theta} = \tau. \]  
(117)
We suppose that \( \eta_0 = \eta(t_0) \), and \( \theta(t_0) = 0 \), and from now on in this proof, all equations are stated assuming the condition \( t = t_0 \). Thus we only prove our results when \( t = t_0 \). But since \( t_0 \) is arbitrary, this is not a limitation. However, it is important that derivatives are calculated before setting \( t = t_0 \). In particular, this means that for any function \( f \) of \( \eta \) that
\[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} = \mathcal{L} f. \]  
(118)
We have
\[ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial e}{\partial \theta} \right) = M \alpha + \dot{M} \varphi \]
\[ = M \alpha + \left( \dot{\theta} \cdot \frac{\partial M}{\partial \theta} \right) \dot{\theta} \]
(119)
and
\[ \frac{\partial e}{\partial \theta} = \dot{\theta} \cdot M \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\dot{\theta} \theta - \theta \dot{\theta}) + \frac{1}{2} \dot{\theta} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial M}{\partial \theta} \right) \dot{\theta} \]
\[ = \varphi \cdot M \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\varphi \theta - \theta \varphi) + \frac{1}{2} \varphi \cdot \left( \frac{\partial M}{\partial \theta} \right) \varphi. \]  
(120)
Note that if \( f \) is any linear function whose domain is the pure dual quaternions, then
\[ \psi \cdot \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\theta) \right) = f(\psi). \]  
(121)
Thus taking the dot product of equation (120) with any constant pure dual quaternion $\psi$, we obtain the result. □

**Lemma 2.** If $v$ is the potential energy of the end effector in a constant gravity field $g$, then

$$\mathcal{L}v = -2m_0(r_0 \times \tilde{g} + \epsilon \tilde{g}),$$

where

$$\tilde{g} = QgQ.$$  \hspace{1cm} (123)

**Proof.** By equation (9), the position of the end effector’s center of mass in the stationary frame of reference is

$$h = Qr_0Q + 2bQ,$$  \hspace{1cm} (124)

where the pose is $\eta = Q + \epsilon B$. Hence the potential energy is

$$v(\eta) = -m_0g \cdot h.$$  \hspace{1cm} (125)

Thus the result follows if for any constant pure dual quaternion $\psi = \frac{1}{2}a + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon b$, we have

$$\mathcal{L}_\psi(g \cdot h) = 2\psi \cdot (r_0 \times \tilde{g} + \epsilon \tilde{g}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (126)

By equation (67), we have

$$\mathcal{L}_\psi h = Q(a \times r_0 + b)Q.$$  \hspace{1cm} (127)

Noting that for any three quaternions $A$, $B$, and $C$, we have

$$(AB) \cdot C = \text{Re}(C(AB)) = A \cdot (C\bar{B}) = B \cdot (\bar{A}C),$$  \hspace{1cm} (128)

we obtain that

$$\mathcal{L}_\psi(g \cdot h) = \tilde{g} \cdot (a \times r_0 + b) = 2\psi \cdot (r_0 \times \tilde{g} + \epsilon \tilde{g}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (129)

□

**Proof of Theorem 1.** The potential energy part is covered by Lemma 2. For the parts coming from the kinetic energy, using linearity, it is sufficient to prove it for the additive parts of $M$. The part not involving $m_0$ is proved using Theorem 2, various vector identities, and remembering equation (83).

So we only need to prove the kinetic energy portion in the case $M = \Lambda^T m_0 \Lambda$. The easiest way to show this is to simply differentiate $M_0 \dot{\ell} = M_0 \Lambda \dot{\varphi}$ with respect to time. To do it directly from the formulas...
is more complicated, as we now show. For any constant pure dual quaternion \( \psi \), we have

\[
\psi \cdot (\mathcal{L}_\varphi (M\varphi) - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L} (\varphi \cdot M\varphi)) \\
= (\mathcal{L}_\varphi (\psi \cdot M\varphi) - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L} (\varphi \cdot M\varphi)) \\
= \mathcal{L}_\varphi ((\Lambda \psi) \cdot M_0(\Lambda \varphi)) - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_\psi ((\Lambda \varphi) \cdot M_0(\Lambda \varphi)) \\
= \mathcal{L}_\varphi \mathcal{L}_\varphi L \cdot M_0 \mathcal{L}_\psi L + \mathcal{L}_\varphi \mathcal{L}_\psi L \cdot M_0 \mathcal{L}_\varphi L - \mathcal{L}_\psi \mathcal{L}_\varphi L \cdot M_0 \mathcal{L}_\varphi L \\
= \mathcal{L}_\varphi (\Lambda \varphi) \cdot M_0 \Lambda \psi + \mathcal{L} (\varphi \psi - \psi \varphi) L \cdot M_0 \Lambda \varphi \\
= \psi \cdot \Lambda^T M_0 \mathcal{L}_\varphi (\Lambda \varphi) + \Lambda (\varphi \psi - \psi \varphi) \cdot M_0 \Lambda \varphi \\
= \psi \cdot \Lambda^T M_0 \mathcal{L}_\varphi (\Lambda \varphi) + (\varphi \psi - \psi \varphi) \cdot M_0 \varphi, \\
\]

where we used equation (55). Then it is simply a matter of collecting terms.

\[ \square \]

11. Conclusion

There are many papers advocating for the use of dual quaternions in robotics \cite{1, 12, 26}. But this paper contains formulas we have not seen elsewhere, namely equation (4) which simplifies the computation of the inverse of a unit dual quaternion, equation (28) which gives a second order expansion of the normalization of dual quaternions close to 1, and Theorem 2 which gives dynamics of the end effector in the language of dual quaternions as well as including the effects of driving the actuators. We also haven’t seen Lie derivatives discussed in the context of dual quaternions and robotics, nor the Newton-Raphson Method to solve for unit dual quaternions. We also feel that the use of dual quaternions to represent twists, as in equations (11) and (12), and as in \cite{12, 26}, hasn’t received enough emphasis.

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