

Companion Material to
“To Slerp, Or Not To Slerp”
 Game Developer, August 2006

By Dr. Xin Li

Computer Science Department
 Digipen Institute of Technology

Pseudo code: (*Input:* $q_0=[s_0, v_0]$, $q_n=[s_n, v_n]$, n ; *Output:* each q_k in the loop)

```

 $\alpha = \cos^{-1}(\text{dot}(q_0, q_n));$ 
 $\beta = \alpha / n;$ 
 $u = (s_0 v_n - s_n v_0 + v_0 \times v_n) / \sin(\alpha);$ 
 $q_c = [\cos(\beta), \sin(\beta)u];$ 
 $q_k = q_0;$ 
for ( $k=1; k < n; ++k$ )
     $q_k = q_c q_k;$  // quaternion multiplication
  
```

Listing 1: Power Function

Pseudo code: (*Input:* $q_0=[s_0, v_0]$, $q_n=[s_n, v_n]$, n ; *Output:* each q_k in the loop)

```

 $\alpha = \cos^{-1}(\text{dot}(q_0, q_n));$ 
 $\beta = \alpha / n;$ 
 $C = \cos(\beta);$ 
 $S = \sin(\beta);$ 
 $q_k = q_0;$ 
 $\hat{q}_k = (q_n - \cos(\alpha)q_0) / \sin(\alpha);$ 
for ( $k=1; k < n; ++k$ ) {
     $q_{\text{tmp}} = Cq_k + S\hat{q}_k;$  // scalar-quaternion product
     $\hat{q}_k = C\hat{q}_k - Sq_k;$  // scalar-quaternion product
     $q_k = q_{\text{tmp}};$ 
}
  
```

Listing 2: Tangent Quaternion

Pseudo code: (*Input:* $q_0=[s_0, v_0]$, $q_n=[s_n, v_n]$, n ; *Output:* each q_k in the loop)

```
 $\alpha = \cos^{-1}(\text{dot}(q_0, q_n));$   
 $\beta = \alpha / n;$   
 $c = c_k = \cos(\beta) + i\sin(\beta);$   
 $\hat{q}_0 = [q_n - \cos(\alpha)q_0] / \sin(\alpha);$   
for ( $k=1, c_k=c; k < n, ++k$ ) {  
     $q_k = c_k \cdot a * q_0 + c_k \cdot b * \hat{q}_0;$  // .a and .b are real and imaginary components  
     $c_k = c_k * c;$  // complex number multiplication  
}
```

Listing 3: Complex Number

Pseudo code: (*Input:* $q_0=[s_0, v_0]$, $q_n=[s_n, v_n]$, n ; *Output:* each q_k in the loop)

```
 $\alpha = \cos^{-1}(\text{dot}(q_0, q_n));$   
 $\beta = \alpha / n;$   
 $A = 2\cos(\beta);$   
 $\hat{q}_0 = (q_n - \cos(\alpha)q_0) / \sin(\alpha);$   
 $q_{k-1} = q_0;$   
 $q_k = \cos(\beta)q_0 + \sin(\beta)\hat{q}_0;$   
for ( $k=2; k < n; ++k$ ) {  
     $q_{\text{tmp}} = q_k;$   
     $q_k = Aq_k - q_{k-1};$  // Chebyshev recurrence  
     $q_{k-1} = q_{\text{tmp}};$   
}
```

Listing-4: Chebyshev Sequence

Appendix 3.1

By definition

$$\begin{aligned} |s_0 v_n - s_n v_0 + v_0 \times v_n| &= \sqrt{(s_0 v_n - s_n v_0 + v_0 \times v_n)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{s_0^2 v_n^2 + s_n^2 v_0^2 + (v_0 \times v_n)^2 - 2s_0 s_n v_0 v_n + s_n v_0 \cdot (v_0 \times v_n) - s_n v_0 \cdot (v_0 \times v_n)} \end{aligned}$$

Since $(v_0 \times v_n)^2 = |v_0 \times v_n|^2$ (Lagrange's Identity), and since $s_n v_0 \cdot (v_0 \times v_n)$ and $s_n v_0 \cdot (v_0 \times v_n)$ are both zeros, we replace, rearrange, regroup and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |s_0 v_n - s_n v_0 + v_0 \times v_n| &= \sqrt{s_0^2 v_n^2 + s_n^2 v_0^2 + v_0^2 v_n^2 - (v_0 \cdot v_n)^2 - 2s_0 s_n v_0 v_n} \\ &= \sqrt{s_0^2 v_n^2 + s_n^2 v_0^2 + v_0^2 v_n^2 + s_0^2 s_n^2 - s_0^2 s_n^2 - 2s_0 s_n v_0 v_n - (v_0 \cdot v_n)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(s_0^2 + v_0^2)(v_n^2 + s_n^2) - ((s_0 s_n)^2 + 2s_0 s_n v_0 v_n + (v_0 \cdot v_n)^2)} \\ &= \sqrt{1 - (q_0 \cdot q_n)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{1 - \cos^2(\alpha)} = \sin(\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

Appendix 3.2

Let $[1, 0]$ be an identity quaternion.

$$\begin{aligned} q_k &= (\sin(\alpha - k\beta) q_0 + \sin(k\beta) [\cos(\alpha), \sin(\alpha) u] q_0) / \sin(\alpha) \\ &= (\sin(\alpha - k\beta) [1, 0] q_0 + \sin(k\beta) [\cos(\alpha), \sin(\alpha) u] q_0) / \sin(\alpha) \\ &= (\sin(\alpha - k\beta) [1, 0] + \sin(k\beta) [\cos(\alpha), \sin(\alpha) u]) q_0 / \sin(\alpha) \\ &= ((\sin(\alpha) \cos(k\beta) - \cos(\alpha) \sin(k\beta)) [1, 0] + \sin(k\beta) [\cos(\alpha), \sin(\alpha) u]) q_0 / \sin(\alpha) \\ &= ([\sin(\alpha) \cos(k\beta), \sin(k\beta) \sin(\alpha) u]) q_0 / \sin(\alpha) \\ &= [\cos(k\beta), \sin(k\beta) u] q_0 \end{aligned}$$

Appendix 4.1

Let $q_n=[s_n, v_n]$ and $q_0=[s_0, v_0]$ be unit quaternions.

[1] \hat{q}_k is a unit quaternion.

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\hat{q}_k| &= \sqrt{\frac{(\cos(k\beta)s_n - \cos(\alpha - k\beta)s_0)^2}{\sin(\alpha)^2} + \frac{(\cos(k\beta)v_n - \cos(\alpha - k\beta)v_0)^2}{\sin(\alpha)^2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} \sqrt{\cos(\alpha - k\beta)^2 + \cos(k\beta)^2 - 2\cos(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(k\beta)(q_0 \cdot q_n)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} \sqrt{\cos(\alpha - k\beta)^2 + \cos(k\beta)^2 - 2\cos(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(k\beta)\cos(\alpha)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} \sqrt{\sin(\alpha)^2} \\
 &= 1
 \end{aligned}$$

[2] The dot product $q_k \cdot \hat{q}_k$ equals zero.

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_k \cdot \hat{q}_k &= \frac{1}{\sin^2(\alpha)} (\sin(k\beta)q_n + \sin(\alpha - k\beta)q_0) \cdot (\cos(k\beta)q_n - \cos(\alpha - k\beta)q_0) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sin^2(\alpha)} (\sin(k\beta)\cos(k\beta) + \sin(k\alpha)\cos(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(\alpha) \\
 &\quad + \sin(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(k\beta)\cos(\alpha) - \sin(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(\alpha - k\beta)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sin^2(\alpha)} (\sin(\alpha - k\beta)(\cos(\alpha)\cos(k\beta) + \sin(\alpha)\sin(k\beta)) \\
 &\quad + \sin(k\beta)\cos(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(\alpha) \\
 &\quad - \sin(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(k\beta)\cos(\alpha) - \sin(k\beta)\cos(k\beta)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sin^2(\alpha)} (\sin^2(\alpha)\cos(k\beta)\sin(k\beta) + \sin(k\beta)\cos^2(\alpha)\cos(k\beta) - \sin(k\beta)\cos(k\beta)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sin^2(\alpha)} (\cos(k\beta)\sin(k\beta)(\sin^2(\alpha) + \cos^2(\alpha)) - \sin(k\beta)\cos(k\beta)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sin^2(\alpha)} (\cos(k\beta)\sin(k\beta) - \sin(k\beta)\cos(k\beta)) \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Appendix 4.2

$$\begin{aligned}
q_{k+1} &= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} (\sin((k+1)\beta)q_n + \sin(\alpha - (k+1)\beta)q_0) \\
&= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} (\sin(k\beta + \beta)q_n + \sin(\alpha - k\beta - \beta)q_0) \\
&= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} (\sin(k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_n + \cos(k\beta)\sin(\beta)q_n + \\
&\quad \sin(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_0 - \cos(\alpha - k\beta)\sin(\beta)q_0) \\
&= \frac{\cos(\beta)}{\sin(\alpha)} (\sin(k\beta)q_n + \sin(\alpha - k\beta)q_0) + \frac{\sin(\beta)}{\sin(\alpha)} (\cos(k\beta)q_n - \cos(\alpha - k\beta)q_0) \\
&= \cos(\beta)q_k + \sin(\beta)\hat{q}_k
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{q}_{k+1} &= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} (\cos((k+1)\beta)q_n - \cos(\alpha - (k+1)\beta)q_0) \\
&= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} (\cos(k\beta + \beta)q_n - \cos(\alpha - k\beta - \beta)q_0) \\
&= \frac{1}{\sin(\alpha)} (\cos(k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_n - \sin(k\beta)\sin(\beta)q_n - \\
&\quad \cos(\alpha - k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_0 - \sin(\alpha - k\beta)\sin(\beta)q_0) \\
&= \frac{\cos(\beta)}{\sin(\alpha)} (\cos(k\beta)q_n - \cos(\alpha - k\beta)q_0) - \frac{\sin(\beta)}{\sin(\alpha)} (\sin(k\beta)q_n + \sin(\alpha - k\beta)q_0) \\
&= \cos(\beta)\hat{q}_k - \sin(\beta)q_k
\end{aligned}$$

Appendix 6.1

Mathematical Induction:

From (Equation 6.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned}q_0(\cos(\beta)) &= \cos(0)q_0 + \sin(0)\hat{q}_0 = q_0 \\q_1(\cos(\beta)) &= \cos(\beta)q_0 + \sin(\beta)\hat{q}_0\end{aligned}$$

[1] Basis: when $k=1$

$$\begin{aligned}q_2(\cos(\beta)) &= \cos(2\beta)q_0 + \sin(2\beta)\hat{q}_0 \\&= \cos^2(\beta)q_0 - \sin^2(\beta)q_0 + 2\sin(\beta)\cos(\beta)\hat{q}_0 \\&= \cos^2(\beta)q_0 - (1 - \cos^2(\beta))q_0 + 2\sin(\beta)\cos(\beta)\hat{q}_0 \\&= 2\cos^2(\beta)q_0 + 2\sin(\beta)\cos(\beta)\hat{q}_0 - q_0 \\&= 2\cos(\beta)(\cos(\beta)q_0 + \sin(\beta)\hat{q}_0) - q_0 \\&= 2\cos(\beta)q_1(\cos(\beta)) - q_0(\cos(\beta))\end{aligned}$$

[2] Hypothesis: Assume it is true for any $k>1$

$$\begin{aligned}q_{k-1}(\cos(\beta)) &= \cos((k-1)\beta)q_0 + \sin((k-1)\beta)\hat{q}_0 \\q_k(\cos(\beta)) &= \cos(k\beta)q_0 + \sin(k\beta)\hat{q}_0,\end{aligned}$$

[3] Induction: Prove when $k+1$

$$\begin{aligned}q_{k+1}(\cos(\beta)) &= \cos((k+1)\beta)q_0 + \sin((k+1)\beta)\hat{q}_0 \\&= \cos(k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_0 - \sin(k\beta)\sin(\beta)q_0 + \\&\quad \sin(k\beta)\cos(\beta)\hat{q}_0 + \cos(k\beta)\sin(\beta)\hat{q}_0 \\&= 2\cos(k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_0 - \cos(k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_0 - \sin(k\beta)\sin(\beta)q_0 + \\&\quad 2\sin(k\beta)\cos(\beta)\hat{q}_0 - \sin(k\beta)\cos(\beta)\hat{q}_0 + \cos(k\beta)\sin(\beta)\hat{q}_0 \\&= 2\cos(k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_0 + 2\sin(k\beta)\cos(\beta)\hat{q}_0 - \\&\quad (\cos(k\beta)\cos(\beta)q_0 + \sin(k\beta)\sin(\beta)q_0 + \\&\quad \sin(k\beta)\cos(\beta)\hat{q}_0 - \cos(k\beta)\sin(\beta)\hat{q}_0) \\&= 2\cos(\beta)(\cos(k\beta)q_0 + \sin(k\beta)\hat{q}_0) - (\cos((k-1)\beta)q_0 + \sin((k-1)\beta)\hat{q}_0) \\&= 2\cos(\beta)q_k(\cos(\beta)) - q_{k-1}(\cos(\beta))\end{aligned}$$