

To convert a set of three Euler angles, ϕ_1, ϕ_2, ϕ_3 (1, 2, 3 are the first, second, third Euler rotations, not the axes of rotation) to the equivalent quaternion:

Note: You must know the Euler rotation axis sequence, i.e 123, 321, 213, 121, etc.

- 1) form three quaternions from the three Euler angles:
 - a. for a “1” rotation axis, the quaternion is
 $\sin(\phi/2) \ 0.0 \ 0.0 \ \cos(\phi/2)$
 - b. for a “2” rotation axis, the quaternion is
 $0.0 \ \sin(\phi/2) \ 0.0 \ \cos(\phi/2)$
 - c. for a “3” rotation axis, the quaternion is
 $0.0 \ 0.0 \ \sin(\phi/2) \ \cos(\phi/2)$
- 2) multiply the three quaternions in the correct order.

for example,

given:

rotation order 312

$$\phi_1 = 30 \text{ deg}$$

$$\phi_2 = 60 \text{ deg}$$

$$\phi_3 = 45 \text{ deg}$$

$$Q_1 = 0.0 \ 0.0 \ \sin(30/2) \ \cos(30/2) = 0.0 \ 0.0 \ 0.258819045 \ 0.965925826$$

$$Q_2 = \sin(60/2) \ 0.0 \ 0.0 \ \cos(60/2) = .5 \ 0.0 \ 0.0 \ 0.866025404$$

$$Q_3 = 0.0 \ \sin(45/2) \ 0.0 \ \cos(45/2) = 0.382683432 \ 0.0 \ 0.0 \ 0.923879533$$

$$Q_f = Q_1 Q_2 Q_3$$

$$= 0.360423406 \ 0.43967974 \ 0.391903837 \ 0.723317411$$