

---

## NAME

**transform\_ray** - rotate and translate rays

## PARAMETERS

**transform\_ray** uses an IRAF compatible parameter interface

**input** *file*

Input ray stream. If the filename is the string `stdin`, it reads from the standard input stream.

**output** *file*

Output ray stream. If the filename is the string `stdout`, it writes to the standard output stream.

**coeff**

The transformation coefficients. See *Specifying Coefficients* for more information.

**x** *double*

**y** *double*

**z** *double*

Coordinates of the optional translation

**translate** *before | after | none*

What order to apply the translation relative to the transformation specified by the **coeff** parameter. If *none*, no translation is performed.

**version** *boolean*

Print out **transform\_ray**'s version and exit.

**help** *boolean*

Print out help and exit.

**debug** *list*

A list of debug flags. The available flags are:

`xfrm`

Output the final rotation and translation matrices to the standard error stream. The rotation is applied before the translation.

## DESCRIPTION

**transform\_ray** performs translation and rotation of rays (their position, direction, and polarization). It reads and writes rays in **bpipe** format.

Transformations may be supplied as a combination of an optional translation with any of the following:

- a quaternion
- rotation about an axis
- a 3x3 rotation matrix
- a 4x4 affine transformation matrix

Transformations are done by left-multiplying vectors by matrices. The translation may be applied before or after the above transformation. See the `translate` parameter for more information.

## Specifying Coefficients

The **coeff** parameter accepts a number of different transformation coefficient specifications.

### \* Quaternions

A quaternion is represented as four comma separated floating point numbers in the order *w*, *x*, *y*, *z*. White space is ignored.

For example, a rotation about the *X* axis by 90 degrees would be specified as

```
coeff="0.70710678, 0.70710678, 0, 0"
```

### \* Rotations about an axis

Rotations about arbitrary axes are represented by four comma separated floating point numbers in the order *angle* (in radians), *x*, *y*, *z*. The angle must be prefixed with a @ character. White space is ignored.

For example, a rotation about the *X* axis by 90 degrees would be specified as

```
coeff="@1.5707963267949, 1, 0, 0"
```

### \* 3X3 Rotation Matrix

A 3X3 rotation matrix is represented in row-major order by nine floating point numbers. Numbers may be separated by commas or spaces. The characters "{}()" may be used to group numbers for convenience.

For example, to represent a rotation about *X* by 90 degrees, the following matrix

```
1  0  0
0  0 -1
0  1  0
```

may be specified as

```
coeff="(1, 0, 0), (0, 0, -1), ( 0, 1, 0 )"
```

Recall that transformations are performed by left-multiplying vectors by matrices.

### \* 4X4 Affine Transformation Matrix

An affine transformation matrix is represented in row-major order by sixteen floating point numbers. Numbers may be separated by commas or spaces. The characters "{}()" may be used to group numbers for convenience.

Recall that transformations are performed by left-multiplying vectors by matrices. The translation elements in the affine matrix should be in the rightmost column.

For example, to represent a rotation about *X* by 90 degrees followed by a translation by (3,4,5) the following matrix

```
1  0  0  3
0  0 -1  4
0  1  0  5
0  0  0  1
```

may be specified as

```
coeff="( 1, 0, 0, 3) ( 0, 0, -1, 4 ) (0, 1, 0, 5) ( 0, 0, 0, 1)"
```

---

## **COPYRIGHT & LICENSE**

Copyright 2013 Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

This software is released under the GNU General Public License. You may find a copy at  
<http://www.fsf.org/copyleft/gpl.html>

## **AUTHOR**

T. Gaetz

D. Jerius