

We know that

$$R(\hat{a}; \theta) = I + \hat{a} \cdot \vec{J} \sin \theta + (\hat{a} \cdot \vec{J})^2 (1 - \cos \theta)$$

Also,  $\text{tr}(\hat{a} \cdot \vec{J}) = 0$  and  $\text{tr}(\hat{a} \cdot \vec{J})^2 = -2\hat{a} \cdot \hat{a}$

$= -2$ . Therefore,

$$a) \text{tr} R(\hat{a}; \theta) = \text{tr} I + [\text{tr}(\hat{a} \cdot \vec{J})^2] (1 - \cos \theta) \Rightarrow$$

$$\boxed{\text{tr} R = 3 - 2(1 - \cos \theta) = 1 + 2 \cos \theta}$$

b) Since  $\tilde{J}_k = -J_k$ , we have

$$(\hat{a} \cdot \tilde{J}) = -\hat{a} \cdot \vec{J} \quad \text{and} \quad (\hat{a} \cdot \tilde{J})^2 = (\hat{a} \cdot \vec{J})^2$$

$$\therefore \tilde{R}(\hat{a}; \theta) = I - \hat{a} \cdot \vec{J} \sin \theta + (\hat{a} \cdot \vec{J})^2 (1 - \cos \theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{R(\hat{a}; \theta) - \tilde{R}(\hat{a}, \theta) = 2\hat{a} \cdot \vec{J} \sin \theta}$$