

**PHY 711 Classical Mechanics and  
Mathematical Methods**  
**9-9:50 AM MWF Olin 107**

## Plan for Lecture 18:

## Rotational motion (Chapter 5)

1. Rigid body motion in body fixed frame
  2. Conversion between body and inertial reference frames
  3. Symmetric top motion

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **Course schedule**

(Preliminary schedule – subject to frequent adjustment)

Date	F&W Reading Topic	Assignment	Due
1 Mon, 8/28/2017	Chap. 1 Introduction	#1	9/6/2017
2 Wed, 8/30/2017	Chap. 1 Scattering theory	#2	9/6/2017
3 Fri, 9/1/2017	Chap. 1 Scattering theory		
7 Mon, 9/11/2017	Chap. 3 Calculus of variations	#6	9/13/2017
8 Wed, 9/13/2017	Chap. 3 Lagrangian Mechanics	#7	9/15/2017
9 Fri, 9/15/2017	Chap. 3 and 6 Lagrangian mechanics and constraints	#8	9/20/2017
10 Mon, 9/18/2017	Chap. 3 and 6 Constants of the motion		
11 Wed, 9/20/2017	Chap. 3 and 6 Hamiltonian formalism	#9	9/27/2017
12 Fri, 9/22/2017	Chap. 3 and 6 Liouville equation		
13 Mon, 9/25/2017	Chap. 6 Canonical transformations		
14 Wed, 9/27/2017	Chap. 4 Motion from Small oscillations about equilibrium		
15 Fri, 9/29/2017	Chap. 1-4.6 Review		
Mon, 10/2/2017	Take-home exam – No class		
Wed, 10/4/2017	Take-home exam – No class		
16 Fri, 10/6/2017	Chap. 4 Vibrational modes		
17 Mon, 10/9/2017	Chap. 5 Rigid body motion	#10	10/16/2017
18 Wed, 10/11/2017	Chap. 5 Rigid body motion		
Fri, 10/13/2017	Fall break – No class		
19 Mon, 10/16/2017			
20 Wed, 10/18/2017			
21 Fri, 10/20/2017			
22 Mon, 10/23/2017			

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

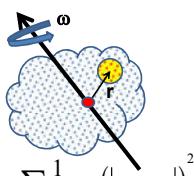
---

---

---

## Summary of previous results describing rigid bodies rotating about a fixed origin

$$\left( \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} \right)_{inertial} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Kinetic energy: } T &= \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p v_p^2 = \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p (\|\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p\|)^2 \\
 &= \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p) \cdot (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p) \\
 &= \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p [(\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega})(\mathbf{r}_p \cdot \mathbf{r}_p) - (\mathbf{r}_p \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega})^2] \\
 &= \boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \sum_p m_p (\mathbf{1} r_p^2 - \mathbf{r}_p \mathbf{r}_p)
 \end{aligned}$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167 – Lecture 18

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

Moment of inertia tensor  
Matrix notation:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} & I_{xz} \\ I_{yx} & I_{yy} & I_{yz} \\ I_{zx} & I_{zy} & I_{zz} \end{pmatrix} \quad I_{ij} \equiv \sum_p m_p (\delta_{ij} r_p^2 - r_{pi} r_{pj})$$

For general coordinate system:  $T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} I_{ij} \omega_i \omega_j$

For (body fixed) coordinate system that diagonalizes moment of inertia tensor:  $\tilde{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i = I_i \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i \quad i = 1, 2, 3$

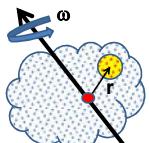
$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \tilde{\omega}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 \quad \Rightarrow T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i I_i \tilde{\omega}_i^2$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

4

Continued -- summary of previous results describing rigid bodies rotating about a fixed origin



$$\left( \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} \right)_{inertial} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Angular momentum: } \mathbf{L} &= \sum_p m_p \mathbf{r}_p \times \mathbf{v}_p = \sum_p m_p \mathbf{r}_p \times (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p) \\ &= \sum_p m_p [\boldsymbol{\omega}(\mathbf{r}_p \cdot \mathbf{r}_p) - \mathbf{r}_p(\mathbf{r}_p \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega})] \\ &= \tilde{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \sum_p m_p (I r_p^2 - \mathbf{r}_p \cdot \mathbf{r}_p) \end{aligned}$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

5

Descriptions of rotation about a given origin -- continued

For (body fixed) coordinate system that diagonalizes moment of inertia tensor:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i = I_i \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i \quad \boldsymbol{\omega} = \tilde{\omega}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3$$

$$\mathbf{L} = I_1 \tilde{\omega}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + I_2 \tilde{\omega}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + I_3 \tilde{\omega}_3 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3$$

$$\text{Time derivative: } \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} = \left( \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} \right)_{body} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{L}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} &= I_1 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + I_2 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + I_3 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 + \\ &\quad \tilde{\omega}_2 \tilde{\omega}_3 (I_3 - I_2) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \tilde{\omega}_1 (I_1 - I_3) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_1 \tilde{\omega}_2 (I_2 - I_1) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 \end{aligned}$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

6

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

Descriptions of rotation about a given origin -- continued  
Note that the torque equation

$$\frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} = \left( \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} \right)_{body} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{L} = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

is very difficult to solve directly in the body fixed frame.

For  $\boldsymbol{\tau} = 0$  we can solve the Euler equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} = 0 &= I_1 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + I_2 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + I_3 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 + \\ &\tilde{\omega}_2 \tilde{\omega}_3 (I_3 - I_2) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \tilde{\omega}_1 (I_1 - I_3) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_1 \tilde{\omega}_2 (I_2 - I_1) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 \\ I_1 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_2 \tilde{\omega}_3 (I_3 - I_2) &= 0 \\ I_2 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \tilde{\omega}_1 (I_1 - I_3) &= 0 \\ I_3 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 + \tilde{\omega}_1 \tilde{\omega}_2 (I_2 - I_1) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

7

Euler equations for rotation in body fixed frame :

$$I_1 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_2 \tilde{\omega}_3 (I_3 - I_2) = 0$$

$$I_2 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \tilde{\omega}_1 (I_1 - I_3) = 0$$

$$I_3 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 + \tilde{\omega}_1 \tilde{\omega}_2 (I_2 - I_1) = 0$$

Solution for symmetric top --  $I_2 = I_1$  :

$$I_1 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_2 \tilde{\omega}_3 (I_3 - I_1) = 0$$

$$I_1 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \tilde{\omega}_1 (I_1 - I_3) = 0$$

$$I_3 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \tilde{\omega}_3 = (\text{constant})$$

$$\text{Define : } \Omega \equiv \tilde{\omega}_3 \frac{I_3 - I_1}{I_1} \quad \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 = -\tilde{\omega}_2 \Omega \quad \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 = \tilde{\omega}_1 \Omega$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

8

Solution of Euler equations for a symmetric top -- continued

$$\dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 = -\tilde{\omega}_2 \Omega \quad \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 = \tilde{\omega}_1 \Omega$$

$$\text{where } \Omega \equiv \tilde{\omega}_3 \frac{I_3 - I_1}{I_1}$$

$$\text{Solution : } \tilde{\omega}_1(t) = A \cos(\Omega t + \varphi)$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_2(t) = A \sin(\Omega t + \varphi)$$

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i I_i \tilde{\omega}_i^2 = \frac{1}{2} I_1 A^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_3 \tilde{\omega}_3^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{L} &= I_1 \tilde{\omega}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + I_2 \tilde{\omega}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + I_3 \tilde{\omega}_3 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 \\ &= I_1 A (\cos(\Omega t + \varphi) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + \sin(\Omega t + \varphi) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2) + I_3 \tilde{\omega}_3 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3 \end{aligned}$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

9

Euler equations for rotation in body fixed frame :

$$I_1 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_2 \tilde{\omega}_3 (I_3 - I_2) = 0$$

$$I_2 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \tilde{\omega}_1 (I_1 - I_3) = 0$$

$$I_3 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 + \tilde{\omega}_1 \tilde{\omega}_2 (I_2 - I_1) = 0$$

Solution for asymmetric top --  $I_3 \neq I_2 \neq I_1$  :

Suppose :  $\dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 \approx 0$  Define :  $\Omega_1 \equiv \tilde{\omega}_3 \frac{I_3 - I_2}{I_1}$

Define :  $\Omega_2 \equiv \tilde{\omega}_3 \frac{I_3 - I_1}{I_2}$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

10

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

Euler equations for asymmetric top -- continued

$$I_1 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_2 \tilde{\omega}_3 (I_3 - I_2) = 0$$

$$I_2 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \tilde{\omega}_1 (I_1 - I_3) = 0$$

$$I_3 \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 + \tilde{\omega}_1 \tilde{\omega}_2 (I_2 - I_1) = 0$$

If  $\dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 \approx 0$ , Define:  $\Omega_1 \equiv \tilde{\omega}_3 \frac{I_3 - I_2}{I_1}$        $\Omega_2 \equiv \tilde{\omega}_3 \frac{I_3 - I_1}{I_2}$

$$\dot{\tilde{\omega}}_1 = -\Omega_1 \tilde{\omega}_2 \quad \dot{\tilde{\omega}}_2 = \Omega_2 \tilde{\omega}_1$$

If  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$  are both positive or both negative :

$$\tilde{\omega}_1(t) \approx A \cos(\sqrt{\Omega_1 \Omega_2} t + \varphi)$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_2(t) \approx A \sqrt{\frac{\Omega_2}{\Omega_1}} \sin(\sqrt{\Omega_1 \Omega_2} t + \varphi)$$

$\Rightarrow$  If  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$  have opposite signs, solution is unstable.

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

11

---



---



---



---



---



---



---

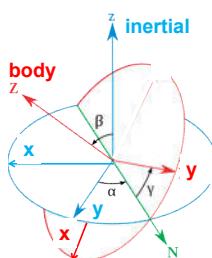


---



---

Transformation between body-fixed and inertial coordinate systems – Euler angles



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler\\_angles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler_angles)

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

12

---



---



---



---



---



---



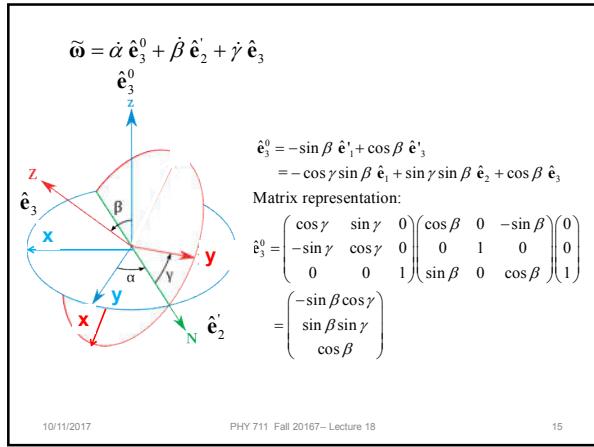
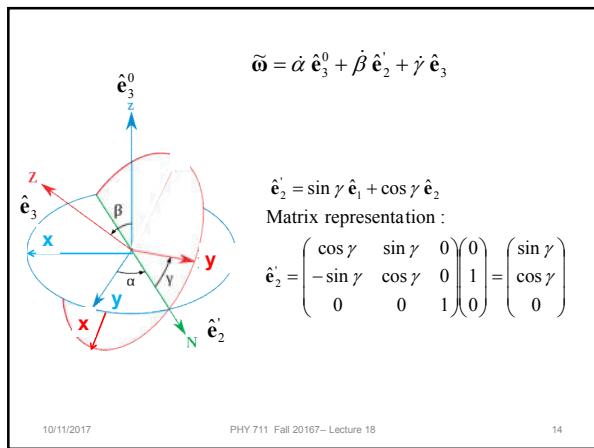
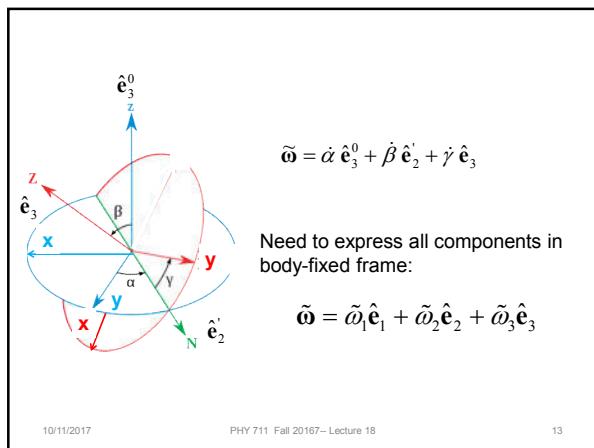
---



---



---



$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \dot{\alpha} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3^0 + \dot{\beta} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + \dot{\gamma} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3$$

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \dot{\alpha} \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \beta \cos \gamma \\ \sin \beta \sin \gamma \\ \cos \beta \end{pmatrix} + \dot{\beta} \begin{pmatrix} \sin \gamma \\ \cos \gamma \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \dot{\gamma} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \tilde{\omega}_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + \tilde{\omega}_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2 + \tilde{\omega}_3 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_3$$

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \dot{\alpha} \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \beta \cos \gamma \\ \sin \beta \sin \gamma \\ \cos \beta \end{pmatrix} + \dot{\beta} \begin{pmatrix} \sin \gamma \\ \cos \gamma \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \dot{\gamma} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_1 = \dot{\alpha}(-\sin \beta \cos \gamma) + \dot{\beta} \sin \gamma$$

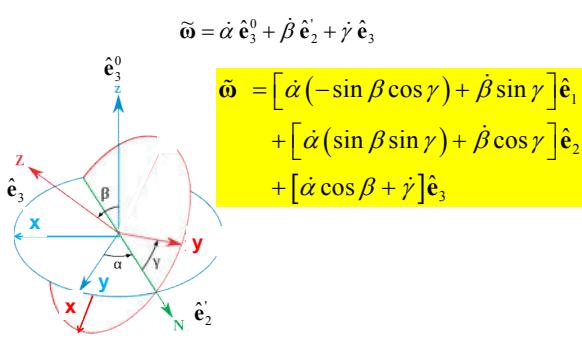
$$\tilde{\omega}_2 = \dot{\alpha}(\sin \beta \sin \gamma) + \dot{\beta} \cos \gamma$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_3 = \dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

16



10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

17

### Rotational kinetic energy

$$\begin{aligned} T(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dot{\alpha}, \dot{\beta}, \dot{\gamma}) &= \frac{1}{2} I_1 \tilde{\omega}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_2 \tilde{\omega}_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_3 \tilde{\omega}_3^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} I_1 [\dot{\alpha}(-\sin \beta \cos \gamma) + \dot{\beta} \sin \gamma]^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} I_2 [\dot{\alpha}(\sin \beta \sin \gamma) + \dot{\beta} \cos \gamma]^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} I_3 [\dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}]^2 \end{aligned}$$

If  $I_1 = I_2$ :

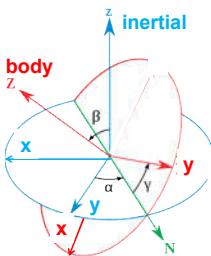
$$T(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dot{\alpha}, \dot{\beta}, \dot{\gamma}) = \frac{1}{2} I_1 (\dot{\alpha}^2 \sin^2 \beta + \dot{\beta}^2) + \frac{1}{2} I_3 [\dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}]^2$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

18

Transformation between body-fixed and inertial coordinate systems – Euler angles



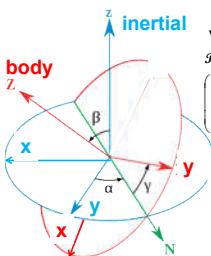
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler\\_angles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler_angles)

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

19

## General transformation between rotated coordinates – Euler angles



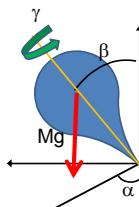
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler\\_angles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler_angles)

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

20

Motion of a symmetric top under the influence of the torque of gravity:



$$\dot{\beta}, \dot{\gamma}\Big) = \frac{1}{2} I_1 (\dot{\alpha}^2 \sin^2 \beta + \dot{\beta}^2) +$$

$$\frac{1}{2} I_3 [\dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}]^2 - Mgl \cos \beta$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

21

$$L(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dot{\alpha}, \dot{\beta}, \dot{\gamma}) = \frac{1}{2} I_1 (\dot{\alpha}^2 \sin^2 \beta + \dot{\beta}^2) + \frac{1}{2} I_3 [\dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}]^2 - Mgl \cos \beta$$

Constants of the motion :

$$p_\alpha = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\alpha}} = I_1 \dot{\alpha} \sin^2 \beta + I_3 [\dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}] \cos \beta$$

$$p_\gamma = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\gamma}} = I_3 [\dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}]$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\beta}^2 + \frac{p_\gamma^2}{2I_3} + V_{\text{eff}}(\beta)$$

$$L(\beta, \dot{\beta}) = \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\beta}^2 + \frac{(p_\alpha - p_\gamma \cos \beta)^2}{2I_1 \sin^2 \beta} + \frac{p_\gamma^2}{2I_3} - Mgl \cos \beta$$

$$V_{\text{eff}}(\beta) = \frac{(p_\alpha - p_\gamma \cos \beta)^2}{2I_1 \sin^2 \beta} + Mgl \cos \beta$$

10/11/2017

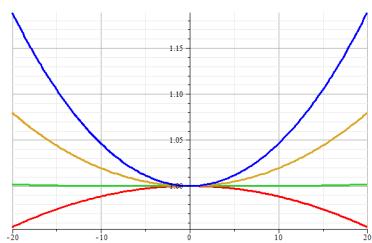
PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

22

$$E = \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\beta}^2 + \frac{p_\gamma^2}{2I_3} + \frac{(p_\alpha - p_\gamma \cos \beta)^2}{2I_1 \sin^2 \beta} + Mgl \cos \beta$$

$$E' = E - \frac{p_\gamma^2}{2I_3} = \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\beta}^2 + \frac{(p_\alpha - p_\gamma \cos \beta)^2}{2I_1 \sin^2 \beta} + Mgl \cos \beta$$

Stable/unstable  
solutions near  
 $\beta=0$



10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

23

Suppose  $p_\alpha = p_\gamma$  and  $\beta \approx 0$

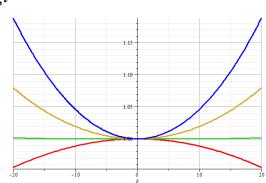
$$E' = E - \frac{p_\gamma^2}{2I_3} = \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\beta}^2 + \frac{(p_\alpha - p_\gamma \cos \beta)^2}{2I_1 \sin^2 \beta} + Mgl \cos \beta$$

$$E' \approx \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\beta}^2 + \frac{p_\gamma^2 (1 - 1 + \frac{1}{2} \beta^2)^2}{2I_1 \beta^2} + Mgl (1 - \frac{1}{2} \beta^2)$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\beta}^2 + \left( \frac{p_\gamma^2}{8I_1} - \frac{Mgl}{2} \right) \beta^2 + Mgl$$

$\Rightarrow$  Stable solution if

$$p_\gamma \geq \sqrt{4Mgl I_1}$$



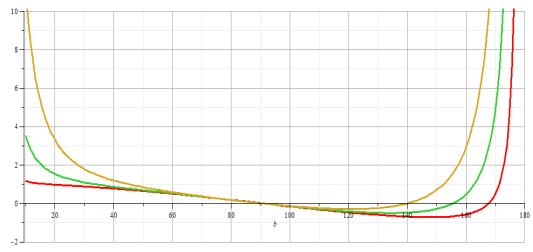
10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

24

More general case:

$$E' = E - \frac{p_\gamma^2}{2I_3} = \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\beta}^2 + \frac{(p_\alpha - p_\gamma \cos \beta)^2}{2I_1 \sin^2 \beta} + Mgl \cos \beta$$



10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

25

---

---

---

---

---

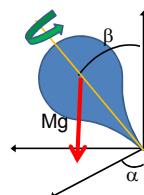
---

---

---

---

---



### Constants of the motion :

$$p_\gamma = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\gamma}} = I_3 [\dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}]$$

$$p_\alpha = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\alpha}} = I_1 \dot{\alpha} \sin^2 \beta + I_3 [\dot{\alpha} \cos \beta + \dot{\gamma}] \cos \beta$$

$$= I_1 \dot{\alpha} \sin^2 \beta + p_\gamma \cos \beta$$

$$E' = E - \frac{p_\gamma^2}{2I_z} = \frac{1}{2} I_z \dot{\beta}^2 + \frac{(p_\alpha - p_\gamma \cos \beta)^2}{2I_z \sin^2 \beta} + Mgl \cos \beta$$

10/11/2017

PHY 711 Fall 20167– Lecture 18

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---