

PHY 711 Classical Mechanics and Mathematical Methods

**10-10:50 AM MWF online or (occasionally) in
Olin 103**

**Discussion for Lecture 23: Rigid bodies –
Chap. 5 (F &W)**

- 1. Rigid body motion**
- 2. Moment of inertia tensor**
- 3. Torque free motion**

6	Mon, 9/07/2020	Chap. 2	Non-inertial coordinate systems		
7	Wed, 9/09/2020	Chap. 3	Calculus of Variation	#5	9/11/2020
8	Fri, 9/11/2020	Chap. 3	Calculus of Variation	#6	9/14/2020
9	Mon, 9/14/2020	Chap. 3 & 6	Lagrangian Mechanics	#7	9/18/2020
10	Wed, 9/16/2020	Chap. 3 & 6	Lagrangian & constraints	#8	9/21/2020
11	Fri, 9/18/2020	Chap. 3 & 6	Constants of the motion		
12	Mon, 9/21/2020	Chap. 3 & 6	Hamiltonian equations of motion	#9	9/23/2020
13	Wed, 9/23/2020	Chap. 3 & 6	Liouville theorem	#10	9/25/2020
14	Fri, 9/25/2020	Chap. 3 & 6	Canonical transformations		
15	Mon, 9/28/2020	Chap. 4	Small oscillations about equilibrium	#11	10/02/2020
16	Wed, 9/30/2020	Chap. 4	Normal modes of vibration	#12	10/05/2020
17	Fri, 10/02/2020	Chap. 4	Normal modes of vibration		
18	Mon, 10/05/2020	Chap. 7	Motion of strings	#13	10/07/2020
19	Wed, 10/07/2020	Chap. 7	Sturm-Liouville equations	#14	10/09/2020
20	Fri, 10/09/2020	Chap. 7	Sturm-Liouville equations		
21	Mon, 10/12/2020	Chap. 7	Fourier transforms and Laplace transforms		
22	Wed, 10/14/2020	Chap. 7	Complex variables and contour integration		
23	Fri, 10/16/2020	Chap. 5	Rigid body motion		
24	Mon, 10/19/2020	Chap. 5	Rigid body motion		



Schedule for weekly one-on-one meetings

Nick – 11 AM Monday (ED/ST)

Tim – 9 AM Tuesday

Gao – 9 PM Tuesday

Jeanette – 11 AM Wednesday

Derek – 12 PM Friday

Reminder –

Your midterm exam is due on Monday. If you have questions, please send me email as soon as possible.

Your questions on today's lecture –

From Gao –

1. Does the moment of inertia tensor happen to be diagonal or always when shifting into the center of mass frame?

Comment – The moment of inertia tensor is not necessarily diagonal in the center of mass coordinate system. Our example is a very special case.

Recap --

The physics of rigid body motion; body fixed frame vs inertial frame; results from Chapter 2:

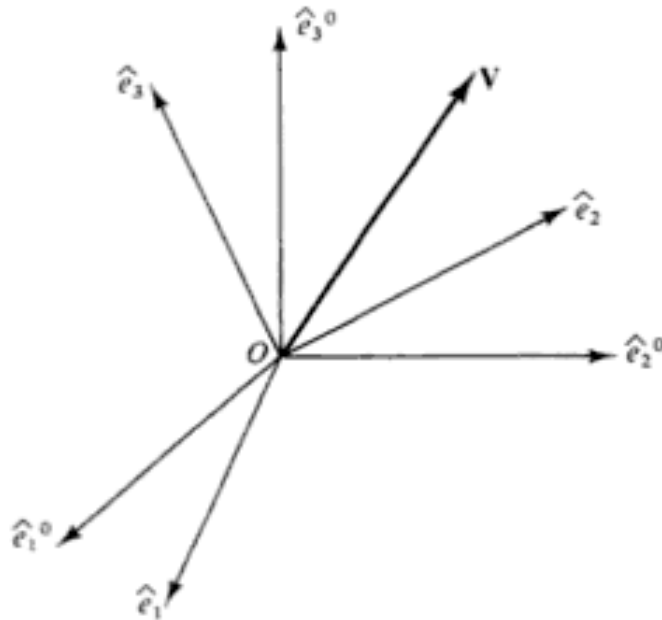


Figure 6.1 Transformation to a rotating co-ordinate system.

Let V be a general vector, e.g., the position of a particle. This vector can be characterized by its components with respect to either orthonormal triad. Thus we can write

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^3 V_i^0 \hat{e}_i^0 \quad (6.1a)$$

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^3 V_i \hat{e}_i \quad (6.1b)$$

Recall from Chapter 2 -- Comparison of analysis in “inertial frame” versus “non-inertial frame”

Denote by $\hat{e}_i^0$ a fixed coordinate system

Denote by $\hat{e}_i$ a moving coordinate system

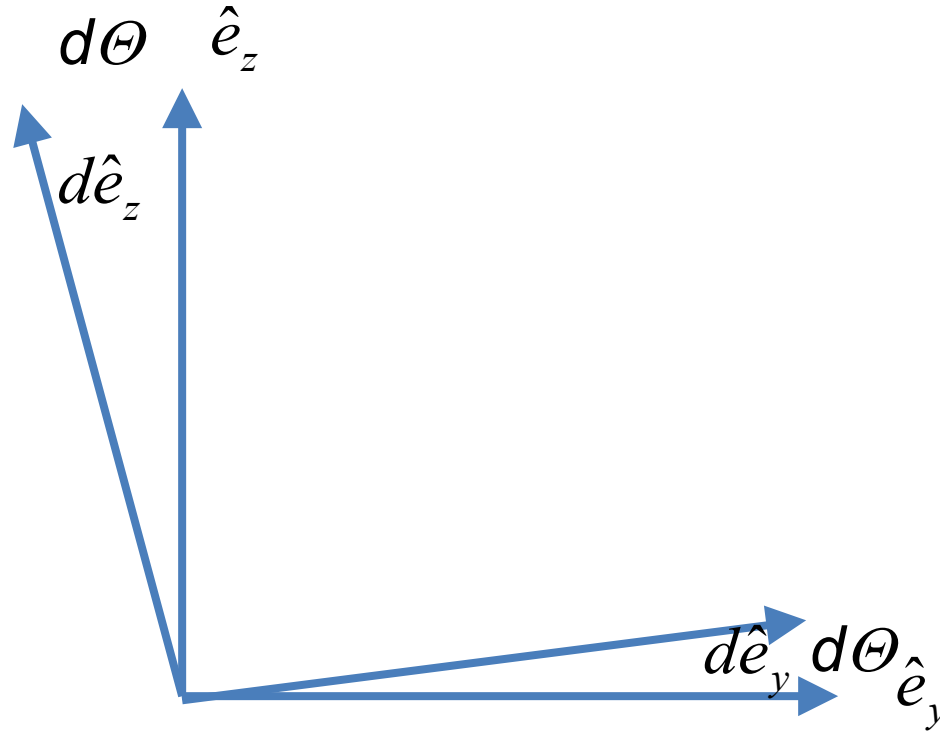
For an arbitrary vector $\mathbf{V}$: $\mathbf{V} = \sum_{i=1}^3 V_i^0 \hat{e}_i^0 = \sum_{i=1}^3 V_i \hat{e}_i$

$$\left(\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt} \right)_{inertial} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{dV_i^0}{dt} \hat{e}_i^0 = \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{dV_i}{dt} \hat{e}_i + \sum_{i=1}^3 V_i \frac{d\hat{e}_i}{dt}$$

$$\text{Define: } \left(\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt} \right)_{body} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{dV_i}{dt} \hat{e}_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt} \right)_{inertial} = \left(\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt} \right)_{body} + \sum_{i=1}^3 V_i \frac{d\hat{e}_i}{dt}$$

Properties of the frame motion (rotation):



$$d\hat{e}_y = d\Theta \hat{e}_z$$

$$d\hat{e}_z = -d\Theta \hat{e}_y$$

$$\Rightarrow d\hat{\mathbf{e}} = d\Theta \times \hat{\mathbf{e}}$$

$$\frac{d\hat{\mathbf{e}}}{dt} = \frac{d\Theta}{dt} \times \hat{\mathbf{e}}$$

$$\frac{d\hat{\mathbf{e}}}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \hat{\mathbf{e}}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} d\hat{e}_y \\ d\hat{e}_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(d\Theta) & \sin(d\Theta) \\ -\sin(d\Theta) & \cos(d\Theta) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{e}_y \\ \hat{e}_z \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \hat{e}_y \\ \hat{e}_z \end{pmatrix} \approx \begin{pmatrix} 0 & d\Theta \\ -d\Theta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{e}_y \\ \hat{e}_z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left(\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt}\right)_{inertial} = \left(\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt}\right)_{body} + \sum_{i=1}^3 V_i \frac{d\hat{e}_i}{dt}$$

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

Effects on acceleration:

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

$$\left(\frac{d^2\mathbf{V}}{dt^2}\right)_{inertial} = \left(\frac{d^2\mathbf{V}}{dt^2}\right)_{body} + 2\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \left(\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt}\right)_{body} + \frac{d\boldsymbol{\omega}}{dt} \times \mathbf{V} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{V}$$

Kinetic energy of rigid body :

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

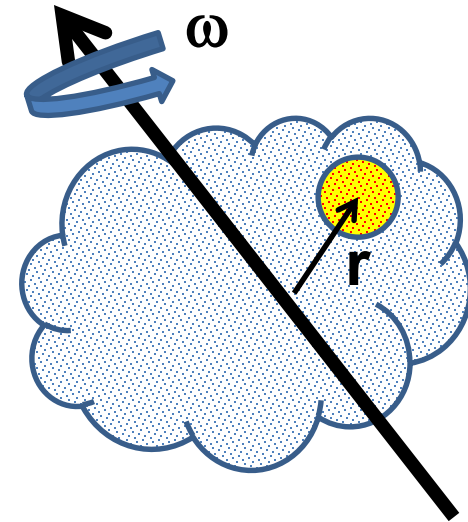
=0 for rigid body

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

$$T = \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p v_p^2 = \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p \left(\left| \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p \right| \right)^2$$

$$= \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p) \cdot (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p)$$

$$= \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p \left[(\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega})(\mathbf{r}_p \cdot \mathbf{r}_p) - (\mathbf{r}_p \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega})^2 \right]$$



$$T = \sum_p \frac{1}{2} m_p \left[(\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega})(\mathbf{r}_p \cdot \mathbf{r}_p) - (\mathbf{r}_p \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega})^2 \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega}$$

Moment of inertia tensor:

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \sum_p m_p (\mathbf{1} r_p^2 - \mathbf{r}_p \mathbf{r}_p) \quad (\text{dyad notation})$$

Matrix notation :

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} & I_{xz} \\ I_{yx} & I_{yy} & I_{yz} \\ I_{zx} & I_{zy} & I_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I_{ij} \equiv \sum_p m_p (\delta_{ij} r_p^2 - r_{pi} r_{pj})$$

Moment of inertia tensor:

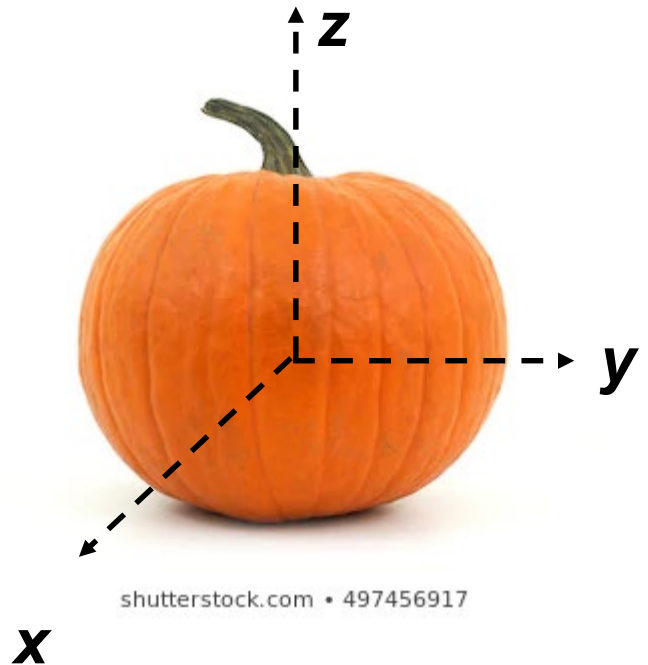
$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \sum_p m_p \left(\mathbf{1} r_p^2 - \mathbf{r}_p \mathbf{r}_p \right) \quad (\text{dyad notation})$$

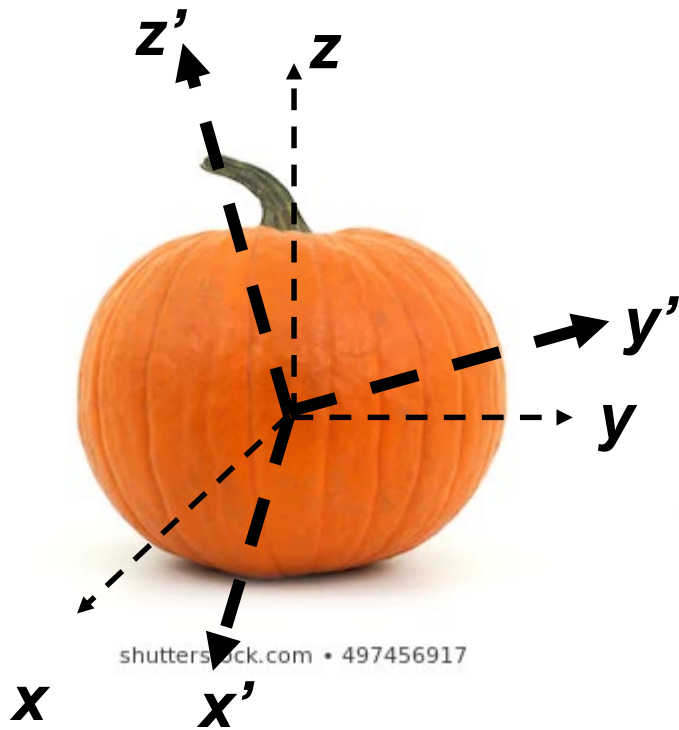
Note: For a given object and a given coordinate system, one can find the moment of inertia matrix

Matrix notation :

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} & I_{xz} \\ I_{yx} & I_{yy} & I_{yz} \\ I_{zx} & I_{zy} & I_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I_{ij} \equiv \sum_p m_p \left(\delta_{ij} r_p^2 - r_{pi} r_{pj} \right)$$





Moment of inertia in
original coordinates

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} & I_{xz} \\ I_{yx} & I_{yy} & I_{yz} \\ I_{zx} & I_{zy} & I_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I_{ij} \equiv \sum_p m_p \left(\delta_{ij} r_p^2 - r_{pi} r_{pj} \right)$$

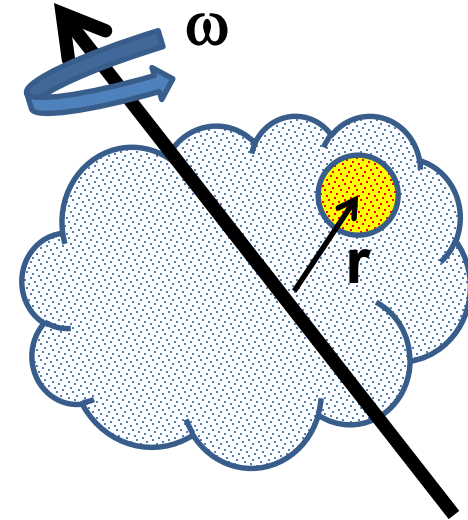
Moment of inertia in principal axes $(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}', \mathbf{z}')$

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} I_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Angular momentum of rigid body:

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

=0 for rigid body



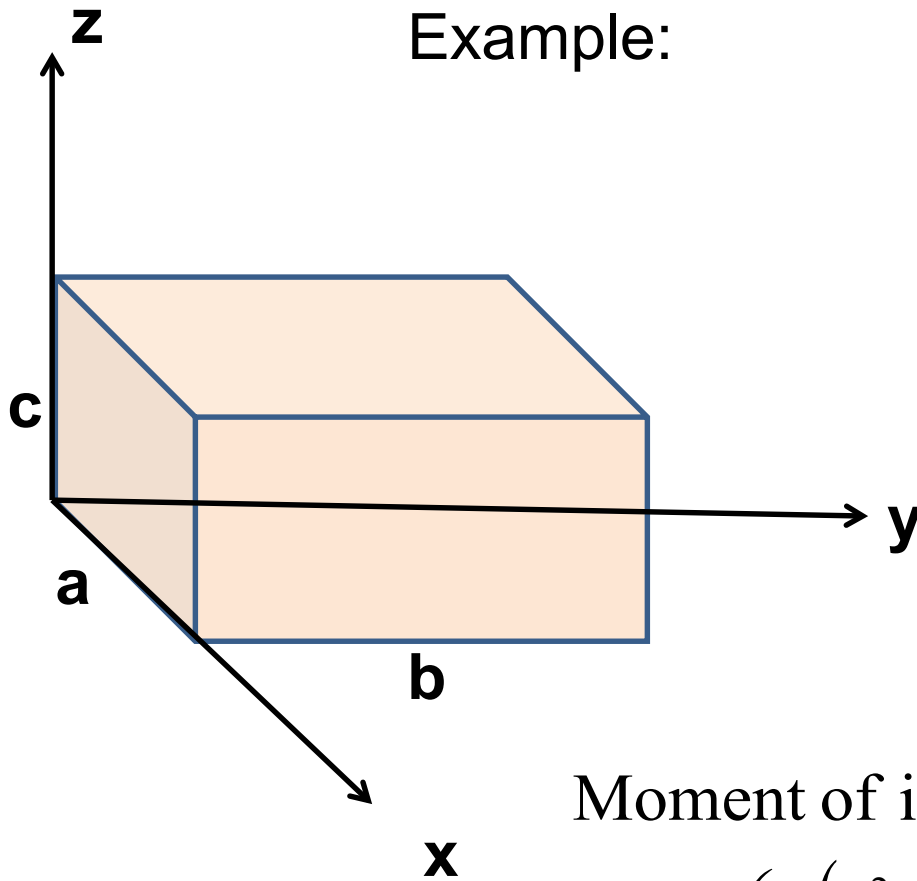
→ $\left(\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} \right)_{inertial} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}$

$$\mathbf{L} = \sum_p \mathbf{r}_p \times (m_p \mathbf{v}_p) = \sum_p m_p \mathbf{r}_p \times (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_p)$$

$$= \sum_p m_p \left(\boldsymbol{\omega} r_p^2 - \mathbf{r}_p (\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \mathbf{r}_p) \right) = \vec{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega}$$

where $\vec{\mathbf{I}} \equiv \sum_p m_p \left(\mathbf{1} r_p^2 - \mathbf{r}_p \mathbf{r}_p \right)$

Example:



Moment of inertia tensor :

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} = M \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3}(b^2 + c^2) & -\frac{1}{4}ab & -\frac{1}{4}ac \\ -\frac{1}{4}ab & \frac{1}{3}(a^2 + c^2) & -\frac{1}{4}bc \\ -\frac{1}{4}ac & -\frac{1}{4}bc & \frac{1}{3}(a^2 + b^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

Properties of moment of inertia tensor:

- Symmetric matrix → real eigenvalues I_1, I_2, I_3
- → orthogonal eigenvectors

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i = I_i \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

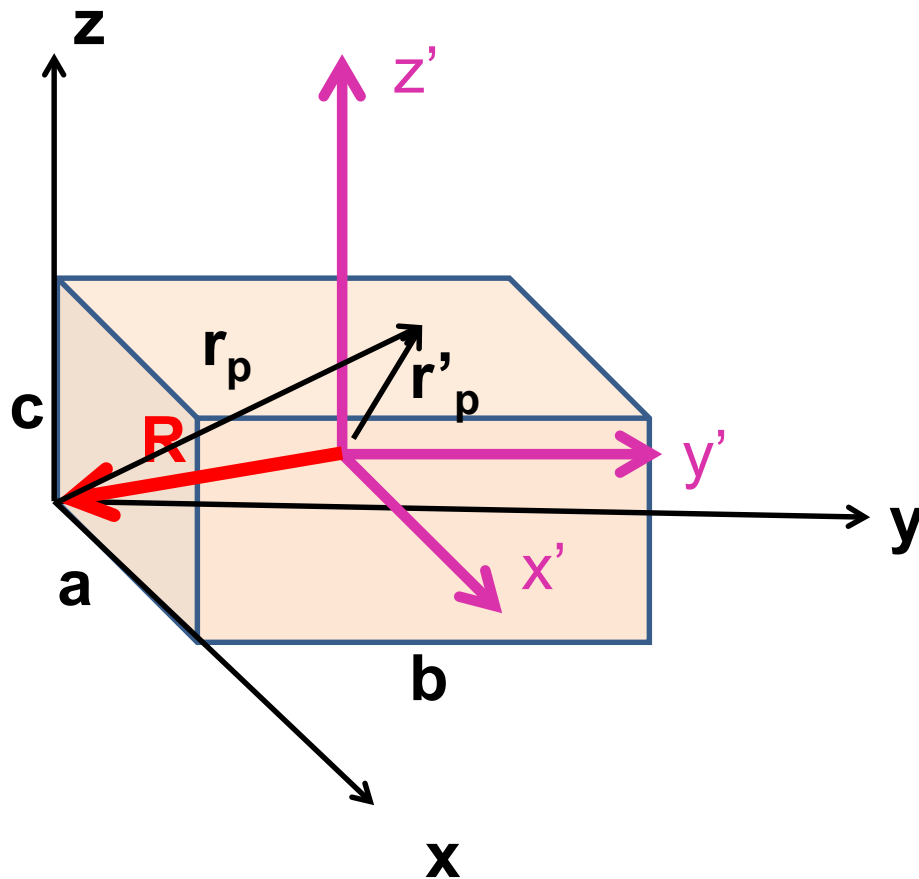
Moment of inertia tensor :

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} = M \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3}(b^2 + c^2) & -\frac{1}{4}ab & -\frac{1}{4}ac \\ -\frac{1}{4}ab & \frac{1}{3}(a^2 + c^2) & -\frac{1}{4}bc \\ -\frac{1}{4}ac & -\frac{1}{4}bc & \frac{1}{3}(a^2 + b^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

For $a = b = c$:

$$I_1 = \frac{1}{6}Ma^2 \quad I_2 = \frac{11}{12}Ma^2 \quad I_3 = \frac{11}{12}Ma^2$$

Changing origin of rotation



$$I_{ij} \equiv \sum_p m_p (\delta_{ij} r_p^2 - r_{pi} r_{pj})$$

$$I'_{ij} \equiv \sum_p m_p (\delta_{ij} r'^2_p - r'_{pi} r'_{pj})$$

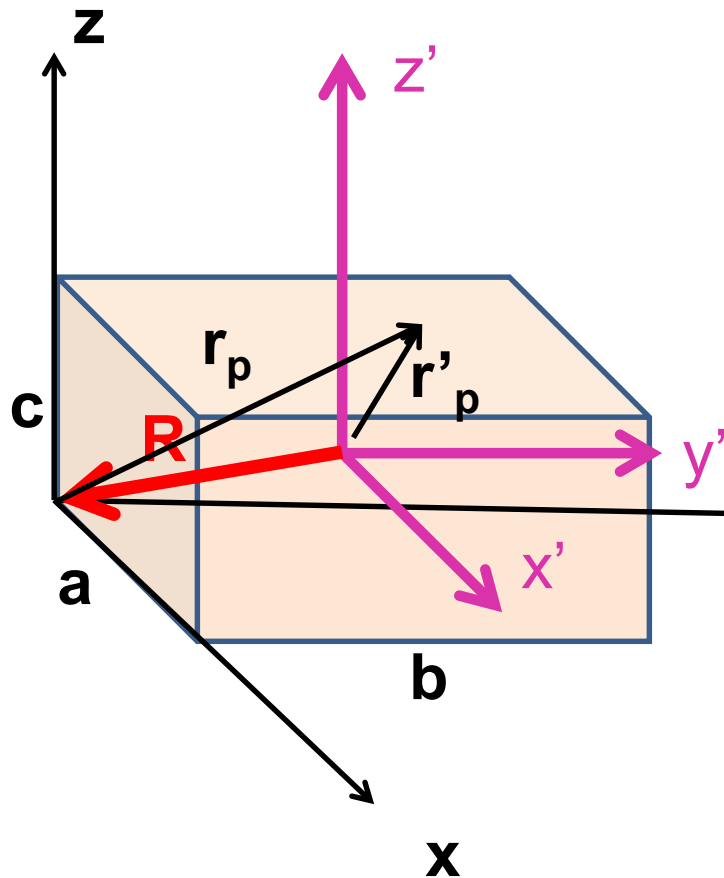
$$\mathbf{r}'_p = \mathbf{r}_p + \mathbf{R}$$

Define the center of mass :

$$\mathbf{r}_{CM} = \frac{\sum_p m_p \mathbf{r}_p}{\sum_p m_p} \equiv \frac{\sum_p m_p \mathbf{r}_p}{M}$$

$$I'_{ij} = I_{ij} + M(R^2 \delta_{ij} - R_i R_j) + M(2\mathbf{r}_{CM} \cdot \mathbf{R} \delta_{ij} - r_{CMi} R_j - R_i r_{CMj})$$

$$I'_{ij} = I_{ij} + M(R^2 \delta_{ij} - R_i R_j) + M(2\mathbf{r}_{CM} \cdot \mathbf{R} \delta_{ij} - r_{CMi} R_j - R_i r_{CMj})$$



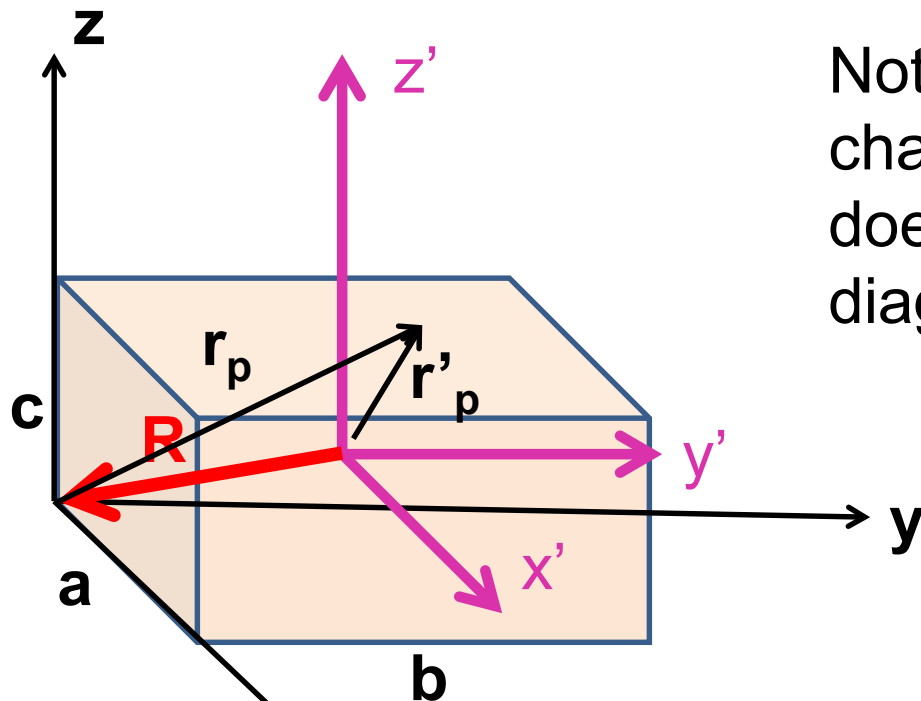
Suppose that $\mathbf{R} = -\frac{a}{2} \hat{\mathbf{x}} - \frac{b}{2} \hat{\mathbf{y}} - \frac{c}{2} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$

and $\mathbf{r}_{CM} = -\mathbf{R}$

$$I'_{ij} = I_{ij} - M(R^2 \delta_{ij} - R_i R_j)$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{I}}' = M \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3}(b^2 + c^2) & -\frac{1}{4}ab & -\frac{1}{4}ac \\ -\frac{1}{4}ab & \frac{1}{3}(a^2 + c^2) & -\frac{1}{4}bc \\ -\frac{1}{4}ac & -\frac{1}{4}bc & \frac{1}{3}(a^2 + b^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$- M \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4}(b^2 + c^2) & -\frac{1}{4}ab & -\frac{1}{4}ac \\ -\frac{1}{4}ab & \frac{1}{4}(a^2 + c^2) & -\frac{1}{4}bc \\ -\frac{1}{4}ac & -\frac{1}{4}bc & \frac{1}{4}(a^2 + b^2) \end{pmatrix}$$



Note: This is a special case; changing the center of rotation does not necessarily result in a diagonal $\mathbf{I}'$

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}}' = M \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{12}(b^2 + c^2) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{12}(a^2 + c^2) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{12}(a^2 + b^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

Descriptions of rotation about a given origin

For general coordinate system

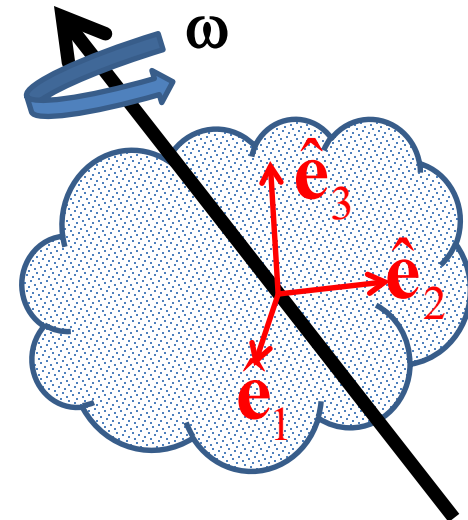
$$T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} I_{ij} \omega_i \omega_j$$

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

$$\vec{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i = I_i \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

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

$$\Rightarrow T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i I_i \tilde{\omega}_i^2$$



Descriptions of rotation about a given origin -- continued
Time rate of change of angular momentum

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

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

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

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

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

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 :

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

Torqueless 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 -- $I_2 = I_1$:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Solution of Euler equations for a symmetric top -- continued

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Solution:} \quad \tilde{\omega}_1(t) &= A \cos(\Omega t + \phi) \\ \tilde{\omega}_2(t) &= A \sin(\Omega t + \phi) \\ \tilde{\omega}_3(t) &= \tilde{\omega}_3 \quad (\text{constant}) \end{aligned}$$

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

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

Torqueless 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 -- $I_3 \neq I_2 \neq I_1$:

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

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

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

Suppose : $\dot{\tilde{\omega}}_3 \approx 0$

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

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

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 -- $I_3 \neq I_2 \neq I_1$:

Approximate solution --

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

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

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: $\Omega_1 \equiv \tilde{\omega}_3 \frac{I_3 - I_2}{I_1}$ $\Omega_2 \equiv \tilde{\omega}_3 \frac{I_3 - I_1}{I_2}$

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

If Ω_1 and Ω_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 Ω_1 and Ω_2 have opposite signs, solution is unstable.