

3 Newton-Euler equations

3.1 Linear momentum

3.1.1 Single particle systems

The definition of linear momentum is given as:

$$\vec{p} = m\vec{v} \quad (3.1)$$

When we recall Newton's original formulation for the second law we find that:

$$\Sigma \vec{F} = \frac{d(m\vec{v})}{dt} = m\vec{a} = \vec{\dot{p}} \quad (3.2)$$

Thus the sum of all forces in a system is nothing but the rate of change of momentum with respect to time. We can integrate $\Sigma \vec{F}$ with respect to time to find that:

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} \Sigma \vec{F} dt = \vec{p}(t_1) - \vec{p}(t_0) \quad (3.3)$$

Which is nothing but the change in momentum over some time interval $[t_0, t_1]$. This quantity is referred to as impulse.

3.1.2 Multi-particle systems

We can extend the definition of equation 3.1 to any system of N particles. We do this by adding up all the internal and external forces acting on a particle together:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (\vec{F}_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \vec{f}_{ij}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \vec{\dot{p}}_i \quad (3.4)$$

Since we know all internal forces of a system should cancel out as they can't cause a net change in momentum of the system we get:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \vec{F}_i = \sum_{i=1}^N \vec{\dot{p}}_i \quad (3.5)$$

We can simplify this even further. Recall the definition of the center of mass:

$$\vec{r}_C = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i \vec{r}_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i \vec{r}_i}{m} \quad (3.6)$$

Taking the time derivative of this we find that:

$$\vec{\dot{r}}_C = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i \vec{\dot{r}}_i}{m} \quad (3.7)$$

Which gives the following result when substituting it back in equation 3.4:

$$\Sigma \vec{F} = m\vec{\dot{r}}_C \quad (3.8)$$

Thus the system of multiple particles can be described as an equipollent system with all forces acting on the center of mass of the system C .

3.2 Angular momentum

3.2.1 Single particle systems

Euler's second law of motion states that the angular momentum about some point O and it's time derivative can be given as:

$$\vec{H}_O = \vec{r} \times (m\vec{v}) \quad (3.9)$$

$$\dot{\vec{H}}_O = \dot{\vec{r}} \times (m\vec{v}) + \vec{r} \times (m\vec{a}) \quad (3.10)$$

The cross product of a vector with itself will always be $\vec{0}$, thus the time derivative of angular momentum is given as:

$$\dot{\vec{H}}_O = \vec{r} \times (m\vec{a}) = \vec{r} \times \vec{F} = \vec{M}_O \quad (3.11)$$

Which is nothing but the resultant moment vector about point O .

3.2.2 Multi-particle systems

This definition can be extended to a system of particles by, again, summing all the individual components together:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \vec{r}_i \times (\vec{F}_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \vec{f}_{ij}) = \sum_{i=1}^N (\vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i) + \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N (\vec{r}_i \times \vec{f}_{ij}) \quad (3.12)$$

Since Newton's 3rd law states $F_{action} = -F_{reaction}$ for every internal force \vec{f}_{ij} there is another internal force \vec{f}_{ji} which has the same line of action but in the opposite direction. Because of this we find the relation:

$$\vec{r}_i \times \vec{f}_{ij} = -\vec{r}_j \times \vec{f}_{ji} \quad (3.13)$$

This means the sum of all moments as a result of internal forces will form a moment pair with opposite direction, effectively canceling them all out. This leaves us with:

$$\dot{\vec{H}}_O = \sum_{i=1}^N (\vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i) \quad (3.14)$$