

## Angular momentum of a rigid body

### $\vec{L}$ in non-inertial frame

$$\vec{L} = \sum m(\vec{r} \times \vec{v}) = \sum m[\vec{\Omega}r^2 - \vec{r}(\vec{\Omega} \cdot \vec{r})]$$

$$L_i = \boxed{I_{ij}\Omega_j} \quad \vec{L} = I * \vec{\Omega}$$

If  $(x_1 x_2 x_3)$  are principal axis,  $L_1 = I_1 \Omega_1$ ,  $L_2 = I_2 \Omega_2$ ,  $L_3 = I_3 \Omega_3$

### Free motion of a rigid body

angular momentum is conserved if no external torque. Motion in inertial COM frame is simpler.

- *ex motion of a symmetric top*  $I_1 = I_2 = I_3 = I$ ,  $\tilde{I} = I \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$\vec{L} = I\vec{\Omega} \rightarrow \dot{\vec{L}} = 0 \Rightarrow \dot{\vec{\Omega}} = 0$  Uniform rotation about fixed axis parallel to  $\vec{L}$

- *ex rigid rotor*  $I_1 = I_2 = \sum m x_3^2$ ,  $I_3 = 0$

$\vec{L} = I\vec{\Omega}$ ,  $\vec{\Omega} \perp x_3$  by geometry We have  $\dot{\vec{\Omega}} = 0 \Rightarrow$  Motion is unif in plane perp to  $\vec{\Omega}$  and that it stays in that plane.

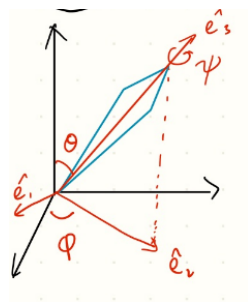
- *ex asymmetric top*  $I_1 = I_2 = I_{\perp} \neq I_3 \Rightarrow \tilde{I} = \begin{pmatrix} I_{\perp} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{\perp} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_3 \end{pmatrix}$   $x_3$  is symm. axis, for any orthogonal

axes

## Rigid body EOM

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\vec{p}} = \vec{F} \\ \dot{\vec{L}} = \vec{K} \text{ torque} \end{cases}$$

### Euler angles: $\psi$ spin, $\theta$ nutation, $\varphi$ precession



$(\theta \in [0, \pi], \varphi \in [0, 2\pi], \psi \in [0, 2\pi])$  in turns of rotation  $R = R(\hat{z}, \varphi)R(\hat{X}, \theta)R(\hat{Z}, \psi)$

### The lagrangian in Euler angles

- First:  $T = \frac{1}{2}(I_1 \Omega_1^2 + I_2 \Omega_2^2 + I_3 \Omega_3^2)$
- Rotation in components:

$$\Omega_1 = \dot{\varphi} \sin \theta \sin \psi + \dot{\theta} \cos \psi$$

$$\Omega_2 = \dot{\varphi} \sin \theta \cos \psi - \dot{\theta} \sin \psi$$

$$\Omega_3 = \dot{\varphi} \cos \theta + \dot{\psi}$$

- $T = \frac{1}{2}I_1(\dot{\varphi} \sin \theta \sin \psi + \dot{\theta} \cos \psi)^2 + \frac{1}{2}I_2(\dot{\varphi} \sin \theta \cos \psi - \dot{\theta} \sin \psi)^2 + \frac{1}{2}I_3(\dot{\varphi} \cos \theta + \dot{\psi})^2$
- $L(\theta, \varphi, \psi, \dot{\theta}, \dot{\varphi}, \dot{\psi}) = T - U$

### Free motion of symmetric top in Euler angles

$$I_1 = I_2 = I_{\perp} \Rightarrow T = \frac{1}{2}I_{\perp}(\dot{\theta}^2 + \dot{\varphi}^2 \sin^2 \theta) + \frac{1}{2}I_3(\dot{\varphi} \cos \theta + \dot{\psi})^2$$

$$\Omega_{\perp} = L_z/I_{\perp}, \quad \Omega_3 = L_z \cos \theta / I_3 \quad \text{E-L} \rightarrow$$

$$\theta : \frac{d}{dt} I_{\perp} \dot{\theta} = I_{\perp} \sin \theta \cos \theta \dot{\varphi}^2 - I_3 \dot{\varphi} \sin \theta (\dot{\varphi} \cos \theta + \dot{\psi})$$

$$\varphi : \frac{d}{dt} (I_{\perp} \dot{\varphi} \sin^2 \theta + I_3 \cos \theta (\dot{\varphi} \cos \theta + \dot{\psi})) = 0$$

$$\psi : \frac{d}{dt} I_3 (\dot{\varphi} \cos \theta + \dot{\psi}) = 0$$

choosing  $\hat{z}$  along the angular momentum, we have  $L_3 = L_z \cos \theta = I_3 \Omega_3 = I_3 (\dot{\varphi} \cos \theta + \dot{\psi})$   
 $\Rightarrow \dot{L}_3 = \text{const} \Rightarrow \theta = \text{const} \quad \Omega_3 = \frac{L_z \cos \theta}{I_3} \quad \dot{\varphi} = \frac{L_3}{I_{\perp} \cos \theta} = \frac{L_z}{I_{\perp}} = \text{const}$

- *ex heavy symmetric top with one pt fixed* By parallel axis thm,  $I'_{ij} I_{ij} + M(l^2 \delta_{ij} - l_i l_j)$

$$\Rightarrow I'_{\perp} = I_{\perp} + Ml^2, \quad I'_3 = I_3, \quad U = mgZ = Mgl \cos \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow L = T - U = \frac{1}{2}I'_{\perp}(\dot{\theta}^2 + \dot{\varphi}^2 \sin^2 \theta) + \frac{1}{2}I_3(\dot{\psi} + \dot{\varphi} \cos \theta)^2 = Mgl \cos \theta$$

E-L :

$$L_z = p_{\varphi} = (I'_{\perp} \sin^2 \theta + I_3 \cos^2 \theta) \dot{\varphi} \quad \text{const}$$

$$L_3 = p_{\psi} = I_3 (\dot{\psi} + \dot{\varphi} \cos \theta) \quad \text{const}$$

Considering energy conservation

$$E = T + U \Rightarrow \underbrace{E - \frac{L_3^2}{2I_3} - Mgl}_{E'} = \frac{1}{2}I'_{\perp} \dot{\theta}^2 + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2I'_{\perp}} \frac{(L_z - L_3 \cos \theta)^2}{\sin^2 \theta} - Mgl(1 - \cos \theta)}_{U_{\text{eff}}(\theta)}$$

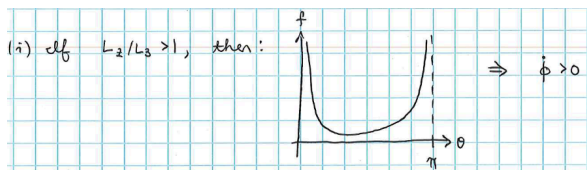
effective 1 dof problem. recognizing

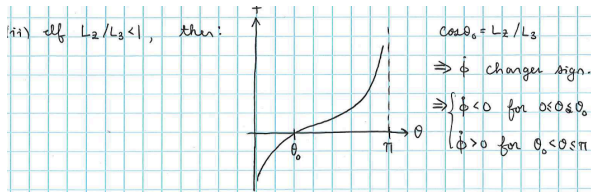
$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{d\theta}{dt} \Rightarrow t = \int \frac{d\theta}{(\sqrt{2[E - U_{\text{eff}}(\theta)]/I'_{\perp}})}$$

Considering  $U_{\text{eff}}$ : when  $\theta = 0$ ,  $L_z = L_3$  when  $\theta \approx 0 \Rightarrow U_{\text{eff}} \approx \left( \frac{L_3^2}{8I'_{\perp}} - \frac{Mgl}{2} \right) \theta^2$

Motion about  $\theta = 0$  stable if  $L_3^2 > 4I'_{\perp} Mgl \Rightarrow \Omega_3^2 > 4I'_{\perp} Mgl / I_3^2$ , or stable if spinning ab. symm. axis is fast enough.

- Nutation: consider  $\dot{\varphi} = \frac{L_3}{I'_{\perp}} \frac{(L_z/L_3) - (\cos \theta)}{\sin^2 \theta} = \frac{L_3}{I'_{\perp}} f(\theta)$





considering the sign and trends of  $f(\theta)$  given constraints on  $\theta$ , we can differentiate different nutation motion. If  $\theta_0$  in graph 2 is out of range, the nutation is smooth; if  $\theta_0$  is in range, the nutation is oscillatory (will change sign and spin in spiral.); if  $\theta_0$  is on the endpoint of our constrained range, the nutation is spiky and “not smooth” at points.

## Euler equations