

Small Oscillations

- Motion near a point of stable equilibrium.

DOF= 1 (one dimension)

- For a system of DOF = 1, with potential  $U(q)$ :
  - **stable equilibrium** at  $U(q)_{\min}$ , upward parabola, where  $F = -\frac{dU}{dq} = 0$ 
    - restoring force for small displacements  $q - q_0$  is  $F = -\frac{dU(q-q_0)}{dq}$
  - **Unstable equilibrium** at  $U(q)_{\max}$ , downward parabola, where  $F = -\frac{dU}{dq} = 0$  as well.
- Consider small deviation from point of stable equilibrium, we use taylor expansion to show that it is really a small displacement. that is,

$$U \approx U(q_0) + \frac{dU(q_0)}{dq}(q - q_0) + \frac{d^2U(q_0)}{2dq^2}(q - q_0)^2$$
$$\text{while } \frac{dU(q_0)}{dq}(q - q_0) = 0$$

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letting  $x = q - q_0$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} U(x) = U(q_0) + (\frac{1}{2})\frac{d^2U(q_0)}{dq^2}x^2 \\ \text{putting into the form of } U(x) = U(x_0) + (\frac{1}{2})kx^2. \end{cases}$$

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$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{d^2U(q_0)}{dq^2} > 0$$

we get KE, while choosing  $U(q_0) = 0$ :

$$T = \frac{1}{2}a(q)^2\dot{q}^2 = \frac{1}{2}a(q_0 + x)\dot{x}^2 \approx \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2, \quad m=a(q_0) \Rightarrow$$

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$$L = T - U = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

EOM for DOF = 1 small Oscillations

using EL on Equation 3, we can get the EOM for one dimensional small Oscillations:

$$m\ddot{x} = -kx$$
$$\Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \omega_0^2x = 0, \text{ where } \omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \text{ freq of osc.}$$

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by magic of ODE, EOM reduces down to:

$$x(t) = C_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + C_2 \sin(\omega_0 t)$$

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where  $C_1, C_2$  are constants

by trig magic, this could also be written as

$$x(t) = a \cos(\omega_0 t + \alpha),$$

where  $\begin{cases} a = \sqrt{C_1^2 + C_2^2} \text{ amplitude of oscillation} \\ \omega_0 \text{ frequency of oscillation} \\ \tan \alpha = C_2/C_1 \text{ phase at } t=0 \end{cases}$ 6

energy for 1D small Oscillation

checking  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial t} = 0 \Rightarrow$  energy-conservation:

$$E = T + U = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$
$$= \frac{1}{2}ma^2\omega_0^2, [\text{constant}]$$

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Damped 1D oscillation, and Complex representation

- when there is damping (friction, resistance, etc)  $F_{\text{fric}} = -\beta\dot{x}$ , the EOM becomes:

$$\ddot{x} + 2\gamma\dot{x} + \omega_0^2x = 0,$$

where  $2\gamma = \frac{\beta}{m}, \omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$ 8

with ansatz  $x(t) = e^{rt}$ ,  $\dot{x} = re^{rt}$ ,  $\ddot{x} = r^2e^{rt}$ , the solution to Equation 8 is:

$$r^2 + 2\gamma r + \omega_0^2 = 0,$$

which has solution  $r_+, r_- = -\gamma \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2}$ 9

$$\Rightarrow x(t) = C_1e^{r_+t} + C_2e^{r_-t},$$

notice the r subscripts here:  $r_+, r_-$

underdamped, overdamped, and critically damped

Recall from your ODE class...

Equation 9 has the following 3 cases, each with different physical interpretation:

1. underdamped:

$$\gamma < \omega_0 \Rightarrow 2 \text{ complex roots: } \begin{cases} r_{\pm} = -\gamma \pm i\sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} \\ = -\gamma \pm i\omega \\ \omega = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} \end{cases}$$

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The EOM is thus a linear combination of two complex exponentials:

$$x(t) = e^{-\gamma t}(C_1e^{i\omega t} + C_2e^{-i\omega t})$$
$$= e^{-\gamma t}(A \cos(\omega t) + B \sin(\omega t))$$

-- where  $\begin{cases} A = C_1 + C_2 \\ B = i(C_1 - C_2) \end{cases}$ 11

$$= ae^{-\gamma t} \cos(\omega t + \alpha)$$

$a, \alpha$  are constants

“The solution is a damped oscillation with frequency $\omega$ , and amplitude exponentially decaying with time.”

2. Overdamped

$$\gamma > \omega \Rightarrow x(t) =$$
$$c_1e^{-\gamma + \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega^2}t} + c_2e^{-\gamma - \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega^2}t}$$

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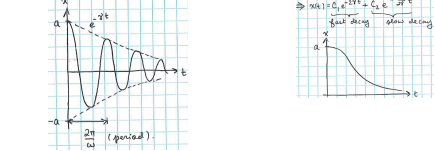
when  $\gamma \gg \omega_0, \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \gamma + \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2} \approx 2\gamma \\ \gamma - \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega^2} = \frac{\omega^2}{2\gamma} \end{cases}$ 13

$$x(t) = c_1e^{-2\gamma t} + c_2e^{(-\omega_0^2/2\gamma)t}$$

3. Critically damped

$$\gamma = \omega_0 \Rightarrow x(t) = c_1e^{-\gamma t} + c_2te^{-\gamma t}$$

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Forced Oscillations

When external force (F) is applied to the system, the largrangian becomes

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx^2 + F(t)x$$

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$$\text{EL} \Rightarrow \ddot{x} + \omega_0^2x = \frac{F(t)}{m}, \text{ where } \omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$

- Example: Simple pendulum with moving pivot

$$\begin{cases} x = X + l \sin \varphi \\ y = l \cos \varphi \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \dot{x} = \dot{X} + l\dot{\varphi} \cos \varphi \\ \dot{y} = -l\dot{\varphi} \sin \varphi \end{cases}$$
$$\Rightarrow L = T - U$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2}ml^2\dot{\varphi}^2 - mgl(1 - \cos \varphi) - ml\dot{X} \sin \varphi$$

Expand ab.  $\varphi = 0 \Rightarrow L = \frac{1}{2}ml^2\dot{\varphi}^2 - \frac{1}{2}mgl\varphi^2 - ml\dot{X}\varphi$ 17

$$\text{EL} \Rightarrow \ddot{\varphi} + \omega_0^2\varphi = -\frac{\ddot{X}}{l}, \text{ where } \omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g}{l}}$$

reintroducing damping via external forcing

$$\ddot{x} + 2\gamma\dot{x} + \omega_0^2x = f(t), f(t) = \frac{F(t)}{m}$$

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When damping  $f(t) = f_0 \cos(\Omega t)$ , solution via complex number:

$$\ddot{z} + 2\gamma\dot{z} + \omega_0^2 = f_0e^{i\Omega t}$$
$$\text{ansatz } z(t) = z_0e^{i\Omega t} \Rightarrow z_0 = \frac{f_0}{\omega_0^2 + 2i\gamma\Omega + \Omega_0^2}$$

$$z_0 = a(\Omega) \cos(\Omega t + \delta(\Omega))f_0$$

is a particular solution, where

$$\begin{cases} a(\Omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(\omega_0^2 - \Omega^2)^2 + (2\gamma\Omega)^2}} \\ \delta(\Omega) = \arctan\left(2\gamma\frac{\Omega}{\omega_0^2 - \Omega^2}\right) \end{cases}$$

We can study the properties of the system by looking at the amplitude and phase of the solution.

- Amplitude:

$$a(\Omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(\omega_0^2 - \Omega^2)^2 + (2\gamma\Omega)^2}}$$

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, when  $\gamma \ll \omega_0$ , response strongest and amplitude largest when  $\omega_r = \omega_0$ .



- Phase lag:  $\tan \delta(\Omega) = 2\gamma\frac{\Omega}{\Omega^2 - \omega_0^2}$   
in phase as  $\Omega \rightarrow 0$ , and out of phase as  $\Omega \rightarrow \omega_0$ .

- Genral solution to sinusoidal forcing:

$$x(t) = a(\Omega)f_0 \cos(\Omega t + \delta(\Omega)) + a_0e^{-\gamma t} \cos(\omega t + \alpha)$$

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$$\xrightarrow{t \gg \frac{1}{\gamma}} a(\Omega)f_0 \cos(\Omega t + \delta(\Omega))$$

Forgets initial condition after time.

- Power obsorbed by oscillation

$$p = F\dot{x} = m f \dot{x}$$

Avg power of oscillation

$$P_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T m f \dot{x} dt = -\frac{1}{2}m f_0 a(\Omega) \Omega \sin \delta(\Omega)$$

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simplifies to  $P_{\text{avg}}(\Omega) = \gamma m f_0^2 \Omega^2 a(\Omega)^2$

Absorption around resonance frequency  $\Omega = \omega_0 + \varepsilon$  is maximum:

$$P = \frac{\gamma m f_0^2}{4(\varepsilon^2 + \gamma^2)} \approx \frac{m f_0^2}{4\gamma}$$

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Oscillations DOF>1

For a system with n DOF:  $q = (q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n)$ , PE =  $U(q)$

- Stable equilibrium  $\frac{\partial U(q)}{\partial q_i} \Big|_{q=0}$

Example: Oscillation with 2 mass and 3 springs

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx_1^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}k'(x_1 - x_2)^2$$

EOM:

$$M \cdot \ddot{x} = -K\ddot{x}, \text{ where } M = \begin{pmatrix} m & 0 \\ 0 & m \end{pmatrix},$$

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$$\ddot{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}, K = \begin{pmatrix} k + k' & -k' \\ -k' & k + k' \end{pmatrix}$$

ansatz:  $\ddot{x} = \text{Re}[\tilde{a}e^{i\omega t}]$  Then the EOM eq becomes solving the eigenvalue problem:

$$\det(\omega^2 M - K) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \omega^2 = \frac{k}{m} \left\{ \begin{matrix} \overrightarrow{x_-} = a_- \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cos(\omega_- t + \delta_-) \\ \omega_+^2 = \frac{k+2k'}{m} \left\{ \begin{matrix} \overrightarrow{x_+} = a_+ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \cos(\omega_+ t + \delta_+) \end{matrix} \right. \end{matrix} \right. \quad 25$$

with constants  $a_-$ ,  $a_+$ ,  $\delta_-$ ,  $\delta_+$ .

New Coords

$$\begin{cases} Q_1 = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}}(x_1 + x_2) \\ Q_2 = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}}(x_1 - x_2) \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow L = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{Q}_1^2 + \dot{Q}_2^2) - \frac{1}{2}(\omega_-^2 Q_1^2 + \omega_+^2 Q_2^2) \quad 26$$

$$\stackrel{\text{E-L}}{\Rightarrow} \ddot{Q}_1 = -\omega_-^2 Q_1, \ddot{Q}_2 = -\omega_+^2 Q_2$$

Decoupled oscillators with coords  $Q_1, Q_2$ .

General Coords

for general coords  $q_i$ , let  $x_i = q_i - q_i^{(0)}$

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} k_{ij} x_i x_j, \quad k_{ij} = k_{ji} = \frac{\partial^2 U(q)}{\partial q_i \partial q_j} \text{ symm mat}$$

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} m_{ij} \dot{x}_i \dot{x}_j, \quad m_{ij} = m_{ji} = a_{ij}(q^{(0)})$$

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the largrangian, in Matix form:

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\vec{x}}^T \cdot M \cdot \dot{\vec{x}} - \frac{1}{2} \vec{x}^T \cdot K \vec{x} \stackrel{\text{EL}}{\Longrightarrow} (\omega^2 M - K) \cdot \vec{a} = \vec{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \det(\omega^2 M - K) = 0$$

Solving the det for omega gives the normal freq (Eigenvalues)of system  $\omega_\alpha^2$ . plug in Evalue into Equation 28 for eigenvec(normal modes)  $\vec{a}^\alpha$  of system.

- General motion

$$x_i(t) = \sum_\alpha x_i^\alpha \text{Re}[C_\alpha e^{i\omega_\alpha t}]$$

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- EXAMPLE: Normal freq is given

$$\omega = \{0, \sqrt{2}\omega_0, \sqrt{3}\omega_0\}.$$

$$\omega = \sqrt{2}\omega_0 \Rightarrow a_1 = -a_3 = -a_2 = a e^{i\delta} \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{\theta} = a(1 \quad -1 \quad -1)^T \cos(\sqrt{2}\omega_0 t + \delta) \quad 30$$

$$\omega = \sqrt{3}\omega_0 \Rightarrow a_1 = 0, a_2 = -a_3 = a e^{i\delta} \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{\theta} = a(0 \quad 1 \quad -1)^T \cos(\sqrt{3}\omega_0 t + \delta)$$

- EXAMPLE: double pendulum

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = l_1 \sin \varphi_1 & y_1 = -l_1 \cos \varphi_1 \\ x_2 = l_1 \sin \varphi_1 + l_2 \sin \varphi_2 & y_2 = l_1 \cos \varphi_1 + l_2 \cos \varphi_2 \end{cases} \quad 31$$

$$\Rightarrow T = \frac{1}{2} m_1 l_1 \dot{\varphi}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 (l_1^2 \dot{\varphi}_1^2 + l_2^2 \dot{\varphi}_2^2 + 2l_1 l_2 \dot{\varphi}_1 \dot{\varphi}_2 \cos(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)) \quad 32$$

$$U = -m_1 g l_1 \cos \varphi_1 - m_2 g (l_1 \cos \varphi_1 + l_2 \cos \varphi_2)$$

using  $\cos \varphi \approx 1 - \frac{\varphi^2}{2}$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{\varphi}_1 \quad \dot{\varphi}_2) \begin{pmatrix} (m_1 + m_2) l_1^2 & m_2 l_1 l_2 \\ m_2 l_1 l_2 & m_2 l_2^2 \end{pmatrix} (\dot{\varphi}_1 \quad \dot{\varphi}_2)^T - \frac{1}{2} (\varphi_1 \quad \varphi_2) \begin{pmatrix} (m_1 + m_2) l_1 g & 0 \\ 0 & m_2 g l_2 \end{pmatrix} (\varphi_1 \quad \varphi_2)^T$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \dot{\vec{\varphi}}^T M \cdot \dot{\vec{\varphi}} - \frac{1}{2} \vec{\varphi}^T K \vec{\varphi}$$

When  $m_1 = m_2 = m$ ,  $l_1 = l_2 = l \Rightarrow \quad M = m l^2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, K = m g l \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\det((\omega^2 M - K)) = 0 \Rightarrow \omega^2 = (2 \pm \sqrt{2} \omega_0^2)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1^- \\ a_2^- \end{pmatrix} = C_- \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_1^+ \\ a_2^+ \end{pmatrix} = C_+ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad 34$$

Normal Coords

$\{x_i\} = \{Q_\alpha\}$ , where  $x_i = \sum_{\alpha=1}^n A_{i\alpha} Q_\alpha \Rightarrow$

$$\sum_j (\omega_\alpha^2 m_{ij} - k_{ij} A_{j\alpha}) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^n (\dot{Q}_\alpha^2 - \omega_\alpha^2 Q_\alpha^2) \stackrel{\text{EL}}{\Longrightarrow} \ddot{Q}_\alpha + \omega_\alpha^2 Q_\alpha = 0$$

Motion of Rigid Body

- EXample: rotor

rotation with constraint  $|\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j|$ . COM coords are useful here

$$\begin{cases} \vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2 \\ \vec{R} = \frac{m_1 \vec{r}_1 + m_2 \vec{r}_2}{m_1 + m_2} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \vec{r}_1 = \vec{R} + m_2 \vec{r} / M \\ \vec{r}_2 = \vec{R} - m_1 \vec{r} / M \end{cases} \quad 35$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} M \dot{\vec{R}}^2 + \mu \dot{\vec{r}}^2, \quad \mu = m_1 \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{polar}}{\Longrightarrow} L = \frac{1}{2} M \dot{R}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu a^2 (\dot{\theta}^2 + \dot{\varphi}^2 \sin^2 \theta) \quad 36$$

frames of reference



$$(XYZ) \stackrel{R(\theta, \varphi, \psi)}{\Longrightarrow} (x_1, x_2, x_3)$$

Velocity of pt in body:  $\vec{v} = \vec{V} + \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}$ , where V is Translational vel, Omega is angular vel, r is position vector.

Largrangian for Rigid Body

$$T = \frac{1}{2} M V^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_a m_a [\Omega^2 r_a^2 - (\vec{\Omega} \cdot \vec{r}_a)^2]$$

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$$T_{\text{translational}} + T_{\text{rotational}}$$

consider rotation,

$$\Omega^2 = \sum_i \Omega_i^2, \quad \vec{\Omega} \cdot \vec{r}_a = \sum_i \Omega_i x_{a,i}$$

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$$\Rightarrow T_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} \Omega_i \Omega_j I_{ij}, \quad I_{ij} \equiv \sum_a m_a (\delta_{ij} r_a^2 - x_{a,i} x_{a,j})$$

$$\Rightarrow L = \frac{1}{2} M V^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} I_{i,j} \Omega_i \Omega_j - U$$

Inertial Tensor

- Discrete

$$I = \begin{pmatrix} \sum m(y^2 + z^2) & -\sum mxy & -\sum mxz \\ -\sum mxy & \sum m(x^2 + z^2) & -\sum myz \\ -\sum mxz & -\sum myz & \sum m(x^2 + y^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

- Continuous

$$I_{ij} = \int \rho(x) (\delta_{ij} r^2 - x_i x_j) \, dV$$

$$I_{xx} = \int \rho(x) (y^2 + z^2) \, dV, I_{xy} = I_{yx} = - \int \rho(x) xy \, dV$$

$$I_{yy} = \int \rho(x) (x^2 + z^2) \, dV, I_{yz} = I_{zy} = - \int \rho(x) yz \, dV$$

$$I_{zz} = \int \rho(x) (x^2 + y^2) \, dV, I_{zx} = I_{xz} = - \int \rho(x) zx \, dV$$

example:

$$\begin{aligned} I_{xx} &= \int [b^2 \dot{y}^2 + c^2 \dot{z}^2] \, abc \, d\hat{x} \, d\hat{y} \, d\hat{z} \\ &= abc \int \int \int (b^2 \dot{y}^2 + c^2 \dot{z}^2) \, d\hat{x} \, d\hat{y} \, d\hat{z} \end{aligned}$$

change form into spherical coord:

$$\begin{aligned} I_{xx} &= abc \int \int \int [b^2 r^2 \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \phi + c^2 r^2 \cos^2 \theta] r^2 \sin \theta \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= abc \int \int \int [b^2 \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \phi + c^2 \cos^2 \theta] r^4 \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= \frac{abc}{15} [b^2 c^2 + c^4] \end{aligned}$$

- Example: coplanar system principal axis: Z  $\Rightarrow I_{13} = I_{23} = 0$   
 $I_3 = I_1 + I_2$

Principle axis and principal moments of inertia

In the principal frame:

$$T_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2} (I_1 \Omega_1^2 + I_2 \Omega_2^2 + I_3 \Omega_3^2) \quad 41$$

- spherical top  $I_1 = I_2 = I_3$
- Symmetric top  $I_1 = I_2 \neq I_3$
- Asymmetric top  $I_1 \neq I_2 \neq I_3$
- EXample:

$$\det(I - \lambda \mathbf{1}) = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda \text{ prncp. mom.}$$

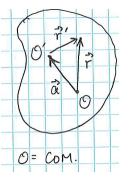
$$\vec{v} = \text{eigenvec.} = \text{prncp. axis}$$

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- EXample: continuous with axis of symmetry  $\rho(\vec{r}) = \rho = \rho(r, x_3) \Rightarrow I_{ij} = \int \rho(\vec{r}) (r^2 \delta - x_i x_j) \, dV$

Parallel axis theorem

when changing Origin diff. from COM(O),



$$I_{ij} = I'_{ij} - M(a^2 \delta_{ij} - a_i a_j)$$

For a cube, when finding I at corner, first find I at COM, and

$$I'_{xx} = I_{xx} + M(b^2 + c^2) = \frac{4}{3} M(b^2) + c^2$$

$$I'_{yy} = I_{yy} + M(a^2 + c^2) = \frac{4}{3} M(a^2 + c^2) \quad 43$$

$$I'_{zz} = I_{zz} + M(a^2 + b^2) = \frac{4}{3} M(a^2 + b^2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_{13} &= - \int dV \, g(\vec{r}) \, x_1 x_3 \\ &= - \int d\hat{x} \, d\hat{y} \, d\hat{z} \, g(r, \theta, \phi) \, r \cos \theta \, r \sin \theta \sin \phi \\ &= - \int d\hat{x} \, r \cos \theta \, g(r, \theta, \phi) \, r \sin \theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \cos \phi \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$I_{23} = 0$  by same analysis w/  $\cos \theta \rightarrow \sin \theta$ .

$$\Rightarrow I = \begin{pmatrix} I_{11} & I_{12} & 0 \\ I_{21} & I_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_3 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow x_3 = \text{principal axis};$$

i.e., symmn. axis = princ. axis

$$\begin{aligned} I_{12} &= - \int dV \, g(\vec{r}) \, x_1 x_2 \\ &= - \int d\hat{x} \, d\hat{y} \, d\hat{z} \, g(r, \theta, \phi) \, r^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta \sin \phi \cos \phi \\ &= - \int d\hat{x} \, r \cos \theta \, d\hat{y} \, g(r, \theta, \phi) \, r^2 \sin \theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \cos \phi \sin \phi \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow I = \begin{pmatrix} I_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad x_1, x_2, x_3 = \text{principal axes}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 - I_2 &= \int dV \, g(\vec{r}) \, (x_1^2 - x_2^2) \\ &= \int d\hat{x} \, d\hat{y} \, d\hat{z} \, g(r, \theta, \phi) \, r^2 \sin^2 \theta (\cos^2 \phi - \sin^2 \phi) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow I_1 = I_2 \equiv I_{\perp}$$

$$\Rightarrow I = \begin{pmatrix} I_{\perp} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{\perp} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_3 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \text{any two } \perp \text{ axes in } x_1 x_2 \text{-plane are principal axes.}$$

Appendix

- Taylor expansion:

$$f(x)|_0 \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + f''(a) \frac{(x - a)^2}{2}$$

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- small angle approximation:

$$\sin(\theta) \approx \theta \quad \cos(\theta) \approx 1 - \frac{\theta^2}{2}$$

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