

## 1 | Proving the Parallel Axis Theorem

We will begin with the definition of rotational inertia about an origin:

$$I = \sum_i m_i l_i^2 \quad (1)$$

As per defined by the problem  $l'_i = x'_i \hat{i} + y'_i \hat{j}$ , the displacement vector from  $l_i$  to the  $CM$ .

We also understand that  $\vec{R}_{CM} = X_{CM} \hat{i} + Y_{CM} \hat{j}$ , the components to the location of the center of mass.

Therefore, the actual position  $\vec{l}_i$  of the axis of rotation can be expressed as:

$$l_i = \vec{R}_{CM} + \vec{l}'_i \quad (2)$$

Substituting this expression into that for  $I$ :

$$I = \sum_i m_i l_i^2 \quad (3)$$

$$= \sum_i m_i (\vec{R}_{CM} + \vec{l}'_i)^2 \quad (4)$$

$$= \sum_i m_i ((\vec{R}_{CM})^2 + 2(\vec{R}_{CM})(\vec{l}'_i) + (\vec{l}'_i)^2) \quad (5)$$

We can see that the first and last terms will result in the expression we need, and therefore we are bound to figure why the following expression would result in 0:

$$\sum_i 2(\vec{R}_{CM}) m_i \vec{l}'_i \quad (6)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2(\vec{R}_{CM}) \sum_i m_i \vec{l}'_i \quad (7)$$

Recall that  $\vec{l}'_i$  is the location of the distance from a given point mass in the body to the center of mass. Of course, this makes  $\sum_i m_i \vec{l}'_i$  the expression for the center of mass *in the center of mass reference frame*.

We know that the coordinate of the center of mass in the center of mass reference frame is 0, making this whole expression 0.

Therefore:

$$I = \sum_i m_i l_i^2 \quad (8)$$

$$= \sum_i m_i ((\vec{R}_{CM})^2 + 2(\vec{R}_{CM})(\vec{l}'_i) + (\vec{l}'_i)^2) \quad (9)$$

$$= (\vec{R}_{CM})^2 \sum_i m_i + \sum_i m_i (\vec{l}'_i)^2 \quad (10)$$

$$= (\vec{R}_{CM})^2 M + \sum_i m_i (\vec{l}'_i)^2 \quad (11)$$

$$= D^2 M + I_{CM} \blacksquare \quad (12)$$

## 2 | 5-Ring Object

We will leverage the parallel axis theorem to figure the inertia at the center point.

We can see the distance from the center of mass of each side-sphere to the axis of rotation is  $2R$ . Furthermore, we can see the mass of the ring is  $\frac{1}{5}M$ .

As been demonstrated before, the rotational inertia of a ring is:

$$I = MR^2 \quad (13)$$

For the ring with  $\frac{1}{5}$  mass then:

$$I_{CM} = \frac{1}{5}MR^2 \quad (14)$$

Applying the parallel axis theorem, then, to each of the four side-objects:

$$I = I_{CM} + \frac{1}{5}MD^2 \quad (15)$$

$$= \frac{1}{5}MR^2 + \frac{4}{5}MR^2 \quad (16)$$

$$= MR^2 \quad (17)$$

We repeat this procedure four times, to result in the outer rings' rotational inertia of:

$$4MR^2 \quad (18)$$

The last ("middle") ring has simply the rotational inertia about its center of origin:

$$\frac{1}{5}MR^2 \quad (19)$$

And therefore, the total rotational inertia is:

$$I = \frac{21}{5}MR^2 \quad (20)$$

## 3 | Spinning Top

### 3.1 | Torque

We are asked to find the magnitude and direction of torque  $\vec{\tau}_0$  applied by the string. This is easily achieved with the expression for torque  $\vec{\tau} \times \vec{F}_0$ .

We will do this in components. Observing the point at which the string is attached, we noticed that it has two components: one towards the positive  $y$  direction, and one towards the positive  $z$  direction. That:

$$\vec{r} = R\hat{j} + H\hat{k} \quad (21)$$

Furthermore, we can see from the graph that  $\vec{F}_0 = F_0\hat{i}$ . Their dot products, therefore, are:

$$\vec{\tau}_0 = (R\hat{j} + H\hat{k}) \times (F_0\hat{i}) \quad (22)$$

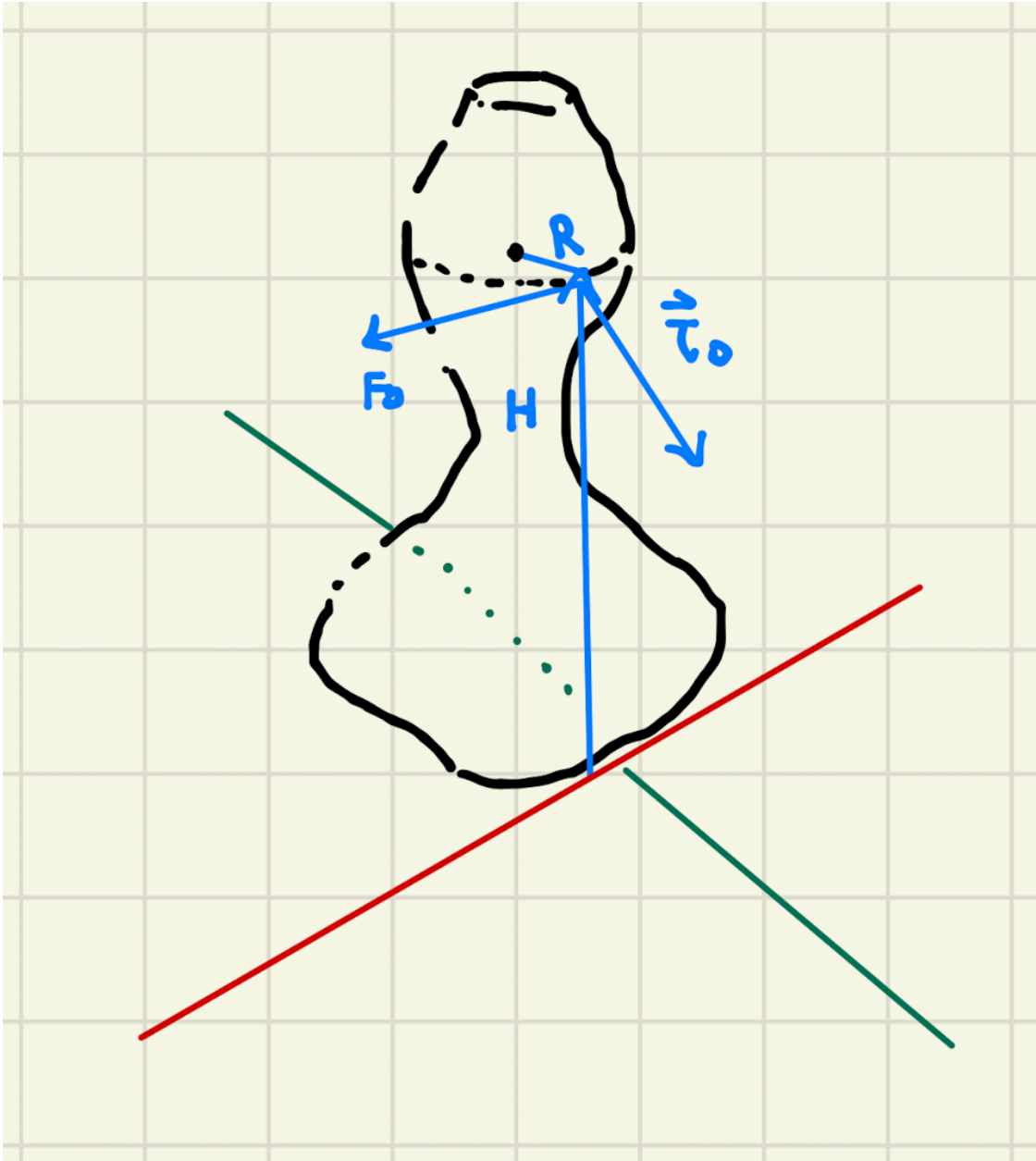
$$= RF_0(\hat{j} \times \hat{i}) + HF_0(\hat{k} \times \hat{i}) \quad (23)$$

$$= -RF_0\hat{k} + HF_0\hat{j} \quad (24)$$

$$= HF_0\hat{j} - RF_0\hat{k} \quad (25)$$

And therefore:

$$\begin{cases} \tau_{0x} = 0 \\ \tau_{0y} = HF_0 \\ \tau_{0z} = -RF_0 \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

3.2 | Diagram of  $\vec{\tau}_0$ 

## 3.3 | Balancing Forces

To figure the net torque on the system, we will need to add the torques contributing to the net torque in the system.

We have already deducted above  $\vec{\tau}_0 = HF_0\hat{j} - RF_0\hat{k}$ . Given  $\vec{F}_1$  is attached to the origin of the system, it contributes no torque. Therefore, to figure out the net torque we only need to deduct that for  $\vec{F}_2$ .

$$\vec{\tau}_2 = \vec{r}_2 \times \vec{F}_2 \quad (27)$$

$$= -\frac{H}{2} \hat{k} \times F_2 \hat{i} \quad (28)$$

$$= -\frac{HF_2}{2} \hat{j} \quad (29)$$

As we know, the object simply rotates about the  $\hat{k}$  axis. Therefore, the net torque along  $\hat{j}$  would have to be zero.

Therefore:

$$-\frac{HF_2}{2} + HF_0 = 0 \quad (30)$$

We further understand that the object does not move. This means that it has a net force of 0 as well. That is:

$$F_0 + F_2 - F_1 = 0 \quad (31)$$

We are given  $F_0$ . We therefore have two equations for two variables, rendering it suitable for solving.

$$-\frac{HF_2}{2} + HF_0 = 0 \quad (32)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2HF_0 - HF_2 = 0 \quad (33)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2F_0 - F_2 = 0 \quad (34)$$

$$\Rightarrow F_2 = 2F_0 \quad (35)$$

$$F_0 + F_2 - F_1 = 0 \quad (36)$$

$$\Rightarrow F_0 + 2F_0 - F_1 = 0 \quad (37)$$

$$\Rightarrow F_1 = 3F_0 \quad (38)$$

Per the setup of the problem,  $\vec{F}_1$  is in the  $-\hat{i}$  direction, and  $\vec{F}_2$  in the  $\hat{i}$  direction. Hence:

$$\begin{cases} \vec{F}_1 = -3F_0 \hat{i} \\ \vec{F}_2 = 2F_0 \hat{i} \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

### 3.4 | Rotational Inertia

We have already determined the net torque of the system.

$$\vec{\tau}_2 = -\frac{HF_2}{2} \hat{j} \quad (40)$$

$$\vec{\tau}_0 = HF_0 \hat{j} - RF_0 \hat{k} \quad (41)$$

$$\vec{\tau}_{net} = (HF_0 - \frac{HF_2}{2}) \hat{j} - RF_0 \hat{k} \quad (42)$$

We also know from the setup of the problem that the left term works out such that, given the values of  $F_0$  and  $F_2$ , it is zero in this scenario. Hence:

$$\vec{\tau}_{net} = -RF_0\hat{k} \quad (43)$$

Based on Newton's Second Law, we understand that:

$$\vec{\tau}_{net} = I\vec{\alpha} \quad (44)$$

If the top has rotational inertia  $I_0$ , therefore:

$$I_0\vec{\alpha} = -RF_0\vec{k} \quad (45)$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\alpha} = \frac{-RF_0}{I_0}\vec{k} \quad (46)$$

### 3.5 | Kinematics Equations

Our system is angularly accelerating at a constant angular acceleration of  $\vec{\alpha}_0$ . As such, we integrate twice to figure the kinematics equations.

First, as derived above:

$$\vec{\alpha}(t) = \frac{-RF_0}{I_0}\vec{k} \quad (47)$$

Taking the first integral of this expression, we get that:

$$\vec{\omega}(t) = \int \vec{\alpha}(t)dt = \frac{-RF_0}{I_0}t\vec{k} + C \quad (48)$$

where, as  $\omega = 0$  at  $t = 0$ :

$$\vec{\omega}(t) = \frac{-RF_0}{I_0}t\vec{k} \quad (49)$$

Performing the integral yet again, we have that:

$$\vec{\theta}(t) = \int \vec{\omega}(t)dt = \frac{-RF_0}{2I_0}t^2\vec{k} + C \quad (50)$$

where again, as  $\theta = 0$  at  $t = 0$ :

$$\vec{\theta}(t) = \frac{-RF_0}{2I_0}t^2\vec{k} \quad (51)$$

## 4 | Rectangular Rod

To find the rotational inertia of a rectangular rod, we need to perform three integrations: building up strips, slices, and finally the inertia of the actual rod.

## 4.1 | Strip

We begin by recalling that the expression for rotational inertia is:

$$I = \sum_i m_i l_i^2 \quad (52)$$

Furthermore, we understand the mass of our entire volume is  $M$ . Therefore, the mass density along the object would be  $\frac{M}{HWL}$ .

To figure the inertia of an infinitesimal strip of point masses, we perform a simple integration along the  $w$  axis:

$$I_{strip} = \int_{-W/2}^{W/2} l^2 dm \quad (53)$$

$$= \int_{-W/2}^{W/2} l^2 \frac{dm}{dl} dl \quad (54)$$

$$= \int_{-W/2}^{W/2} l^2 \frac{M}{HWL} dl \quad (55)$$

$$= \frac{M}{HWL} \left( \frac{(W/2)^3}{3} - \frac{(-W/2)^3}{3} \right) \quad (56)$$

$$= \frac{M}{HWL} \left( \frac{W^3}{24} - \frac{-W^3}{24} \right) \quad (57)$$

$$= \frac{M}{HWL} \left( \frac{W^3}{12} \right) \quad (58)$$

$$= \frac{M}{HL} \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) \quad (59)$$

## 4.2 | Slice

We will now find the inertia of a slice. The procedure is essentially the same, but that there is no longer any non-constant components. Therefore, the inertias, as we are rotating about the same axis of a rigid body together, simply stack ("add"). That is: the rotational inertia of a slice is simply  $H$  times that of a strip.

$$I_{slice} = H I_{strip} \quad (60)$$

$$= H \frac{M}{HL} \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) \quad (61)$$

$$= \frac{M}{L} \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) \quad (62)$$

## 4.3 | Final Rotational Inertia

Finally, we will leverage the parallel axis theorem to deduct rotational inertia of the entire rod.

At every plate  $i$ , we note that it will be  $l_i$  away from the axis of rotation  $\hat{k}$ . By the parallel axis theorem:

$$I = I_{cm} + mD^2 \quad (63)$$

where,  $l_i = D$  and  $m = \frac{M}{L}$  — the mass of each slice.

That is, then:

$$I_{\text{slice about } \hat{k}} = \frac{M}{L} \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) + m_i (l_i)^2 \quad (64)$$

We aim to find the sum of all such rotational inertia slices about  $\vec{k}$  along  $L$ , meaning we will figure:

$$I = \sum_L \left( \frac{M}{L} \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) + m_i (l_i)^2 \right) \quad (65)$$

Splitting this summation into two parts:

$$I = \sum_L \frac{M}{L} \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) + \sum_L m_i (l_i)^2 \quad (66)$$

We can see that, because the lack of differentials on the left side, the left expression can simply be simplified to route multiplication:

$$I = \sum_L \frac{M}{L} \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) + \sum_L m_i (l_i)^2 \quad (67)$$

$$= M \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) + \sum_L m_i (l_i)^2 \quad (68)$$

The right side, however, requires integration. The actual integral is, fortunately, almost the same procedure as before—summing up differential  $l_i$  along  $L$  via differential masses  $m_i$ . We will leverage the mass density of a slice again:  $\frac{M}{L}$  ("total mass divided by all slices").

$$\sum_L m_i (l_i)^2 = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} l^2 dm \quad (69)$$

$$= \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} l^2 \frac{dm}{dl} dl \quad (70)$$

$$= \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} l^2 \frac{M}{L} dl \quad (71)$$

$$= \frac{M}{L} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} l^2 dl \quad (72)$$

$$= \frac{M}{L} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} l^2 dl \quad (73)$$

$$= \frac{M}{L} \left( \frac{l^3}{3} \Big|_{-L/2}^{L/2} \right) \quad (74)$$

$$= \frac{M}{L} \left( \frac{L^3}{12} \right) \quad (75)$$

$$= M \left( \frac{L^2}{12} \right) \quad (76)$$

Substituting this back into our above expression for  $I$  again:



$$I = M \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) + \sum_L m_i (l_i)^2 \quad (77)$$

$$= M \left( \frac{W^2}{12} \right) + M \left( \frac{L^2}{12} \right) \quad (78)$$

$$= \frac{1}{12} M (W^2 + L^2) \blacksquare \quad (79)$$