

# Rigid Body Dynamics

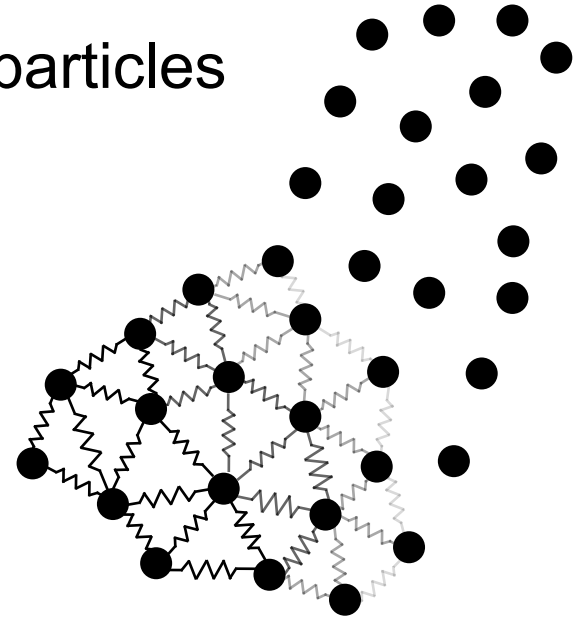
and a brief introduction to rotation representations

# Learning objectives

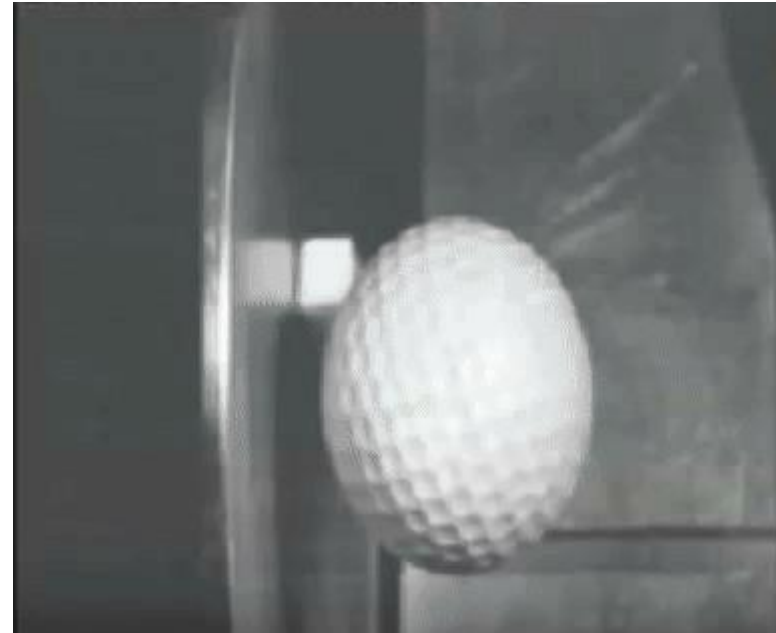
- Understand rigid body representations and core physical concepts
  - Center of mass, local and global coordinate frames, 3d rotation representations, etc
  - Linear angular momenta, mass and moment of inertia, forces and torques, etc
- Understand the differential equations underlying rigid body dynamics
- Learn typical numerical integration schemes for rigid bodies

# Particle Dynamics

- We've seen what it takes to simulate particles:
  - Keep track of positions  $\mathbf{x}$  and velocities  $\mathbf{v}$
  - Underlying ODE:  $\mathbf{f} = m\mathbf{a}$
- Let's assume intermolecular forces couple the motion of these particles
- As these forces get stronger...
  - How can you ensure the simulation remains numerically stable?
  - What happens in the limit?

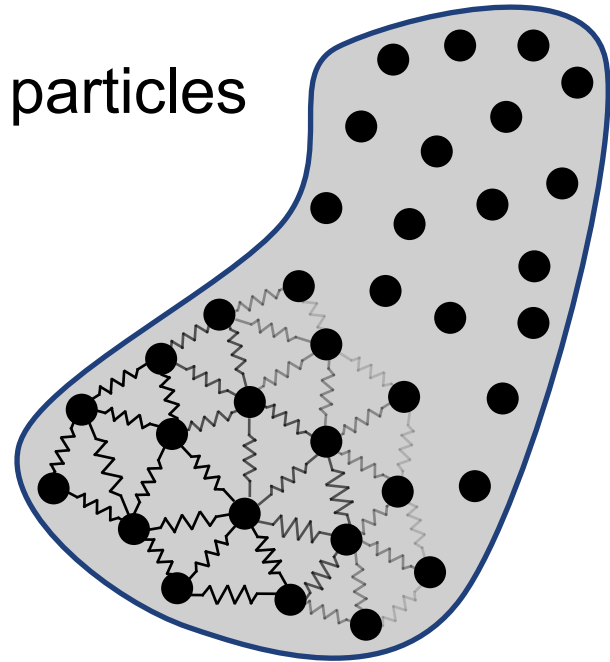


**No object is truly rigid, but this is nevertheless a VERY convenient approximation!**



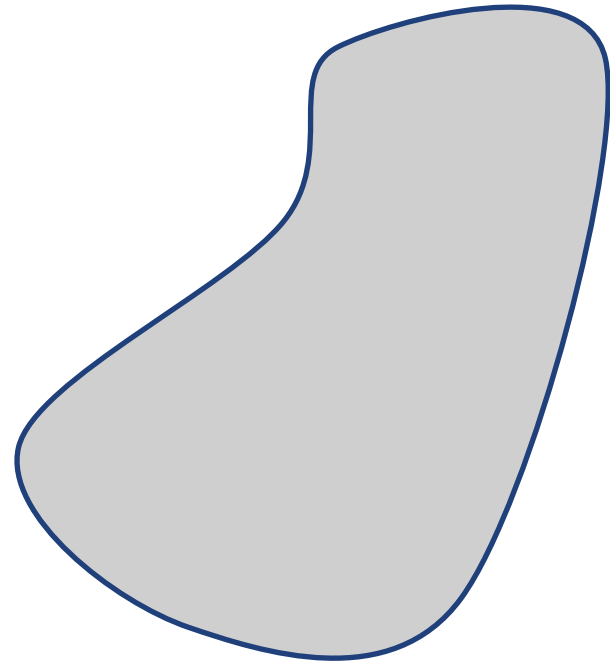
# Particles moving through space

- We've seen what it takes to simulate particles:
  - Keep track of positions  $\mathbf{x}$  and velocities  $\mathbf{v}$
  - Underlying ODE:  $\mathbf{f} = m\mathbf{a}$
- Let's assume intermolecular forces couple the motion of these particles
- As these forces get stronger...
  - How can you ensure the simulation remains numerically stable?
  - What happens in the limit?
- Rather than simulating lots of particles connected via stiff springs, we will model the entire group as one *rigid body*

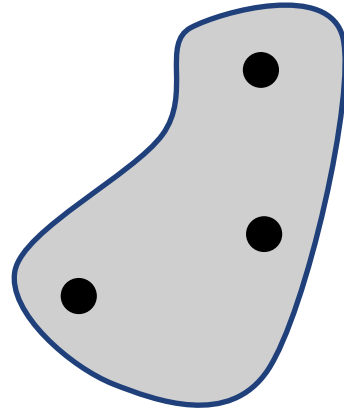


# What is a rigid body?

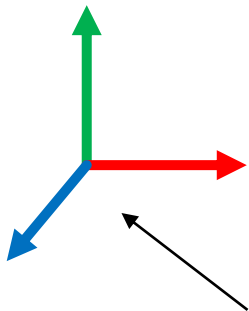
- Rigid Body: an ensemble of particles that cannot move relative to each other
  - Distance between any two particles on a rigid body remains constant
  - Shape does not change
- How can a rigid body move through space?
  - It can translate
  - It can rotate
  - Or a composition of the two
- As we model the motion of the rigid body, we must therefore keep track of its *position* and *orientation* relative to a global frame of reference



# Local and global coordinate frames



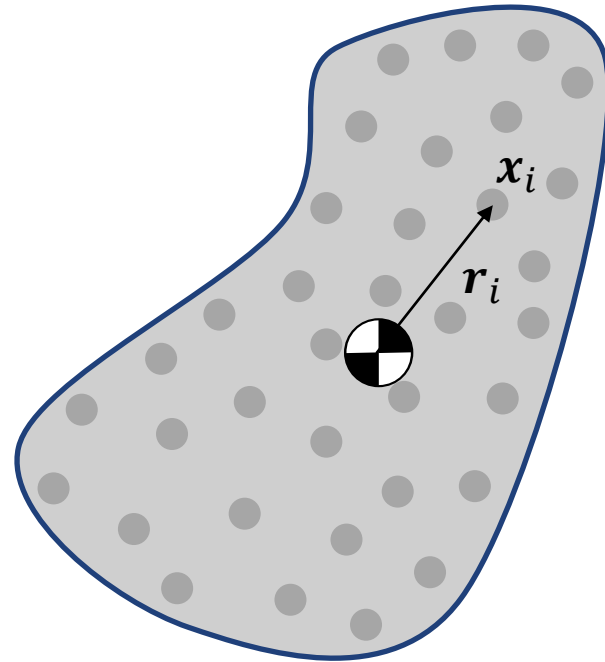
- What is the position of this rigid body in the global coordinate frame?
  - Every point on the rigid body has different world frame coordinates...
- Choose one point on the rigid body and store its position explicitly
  - Typically, this is the *center of mass*



global or world  
coordinate frame

# Center of mass: $p$

- Think of it as the mass-weighted geometric center of the rigid body:





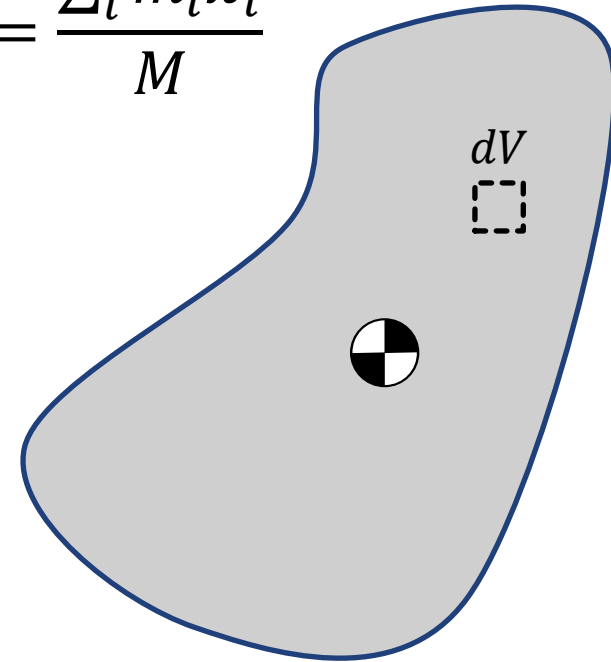
## Center of mass: $\mathbf{p}$

- Think of it as the mass-weighted geometric center of the rigid body:

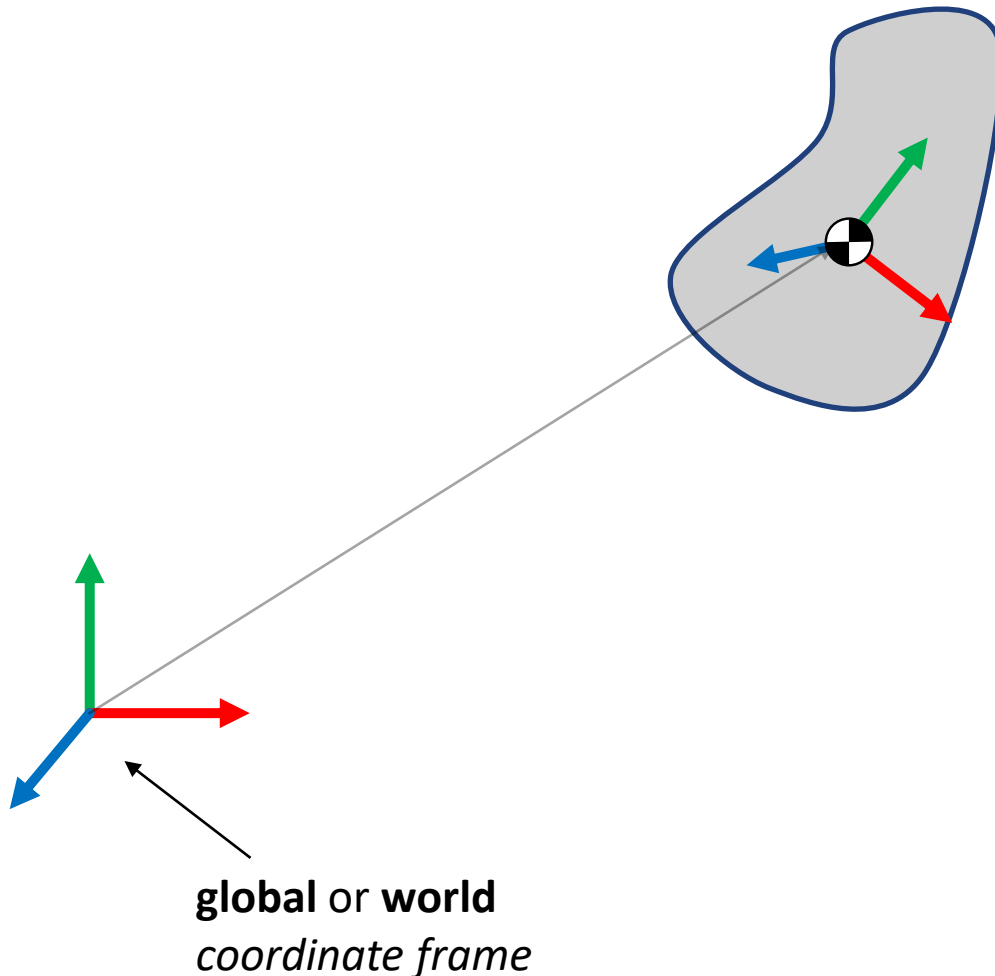
$$\sum_i m_i \mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow \sum_i m_i \overrightarrow{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{x}_i)} = \sum_i m_i (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow \mathbf{p} = \frac{\sum_i m_i \mathbf{x}_i}{M}$$

- In general:

$$\mathbf{p} = \frac{\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{x}_{dV} \overset{\substack{\text{local density} \\ \downarrow}}{\rho} dV}{\underbrace{\int_{\Omega} \rho dV}_{\text{total mass}}}$$



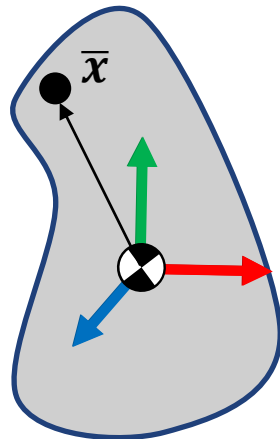
# Local and global coordinate frames



- Choose one point on the rigid body and store its position explicitly
  - Typically, this is the *center of mass*  $\mathbf{p}(t)$
- This point will act as the *origin* of the RB's local coordinate frame (i.e. it has local coordinates  $(0, 0, 0)$ )
- Also need an orientation  $\mathbf{R}(t)$  which tells us how the rigid body has rotated relative to the world frame
- $\mathbf{R}$  transforms vectors from local frame to global coordinates!
- Using  $\mathbf{p}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{R}(t)$  we can compute the world coordinates of any point on the RB

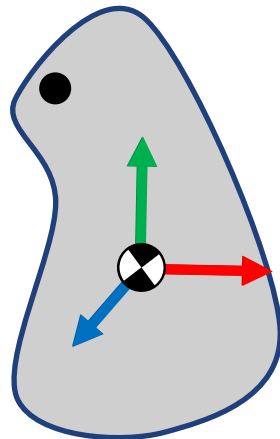
# Rigid Body Kinematics

- What are the world coordinates of an arbitrary point  $\bar{x}$  that is expressed in the local coordinate frame of the rigid body?



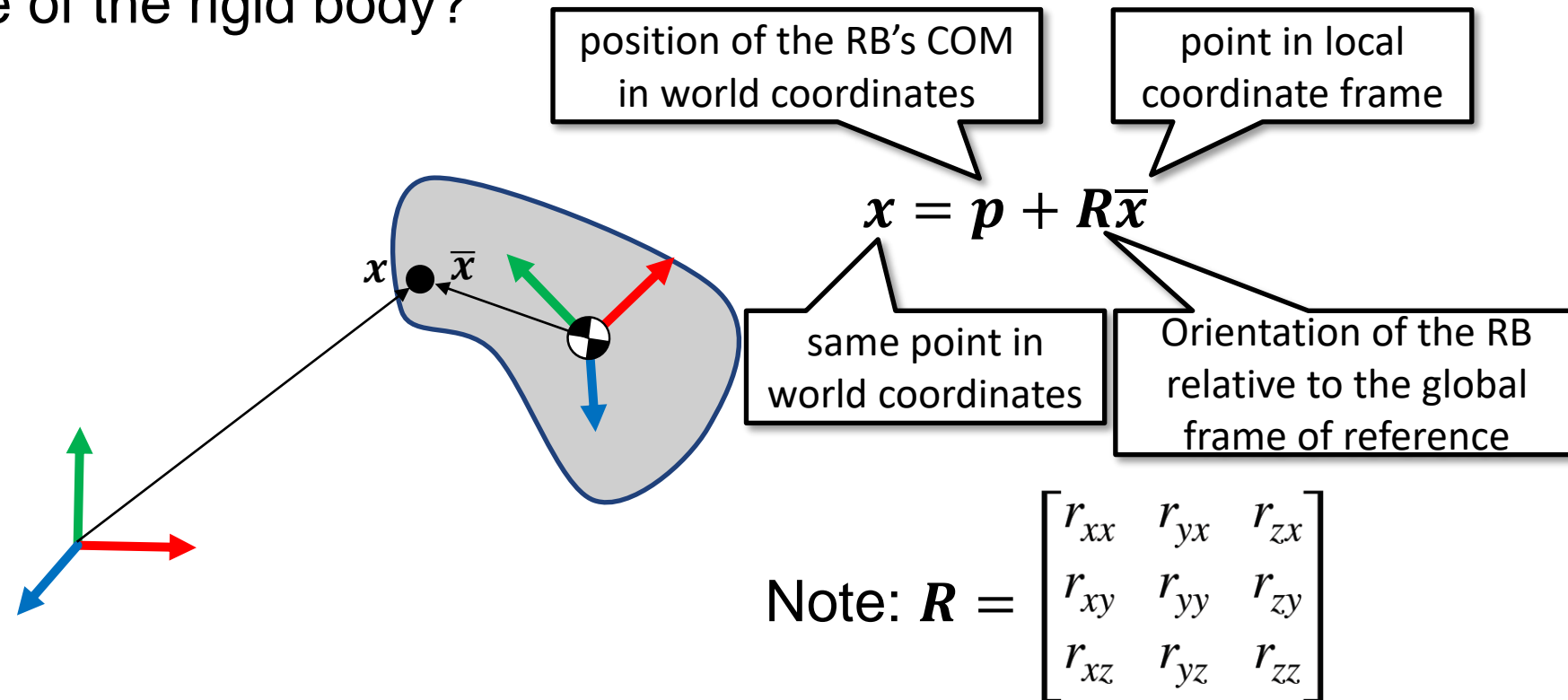
# Rigid Body Kinematics

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# Rigid Body Kinematics

- What are the world coordinates of an arbitrary point  $\bar{x}$  that is expressed in the local coordinate frame of the rigid body?



# Rigid Body Kinematics

- What is the meaning of  $\mathbf{p}(t)$ ?
  - Position of the rigid body's Center of Mass at time  $t$ .
- What does  $\mathbf{R}(t)$  tell us?
  - Consider the x-axis in body space,  $(1, 0, 0)$ , what is the direction of this vector in world space at time  $t$ ?

$$\mathbf{R}(t) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{xx} \\ r_{xy} \\ r_{xz} \end{bmatrix}$$

The first column of  $\mathbf{R}(t)$

- Columns of  $\mathbf{R}(t)$  encode global coordinates of body space  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  vectors at time  $t$ .

# Rigid Body Kinematics

- We know how to compute world coordinates for any point on the RB:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{p}(t) + \mathbf{R}(t)\bar{\mathbf{x}}$$

- How do we compute this point's velocity,  $\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} = \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t)$ ?

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) + \dot{\mathbf{R}}(t)\bar{\mathbf{x}}$$

- $\dot{\mathbf{p}} \equiv \mathbf{v}$  is the velocity of the COM (aka the *linear velocity* of the rigid body)
- $\dot{\mathbf{R}}$  is a matrix that tells us how  $\mathbf{R}$  changes over time
  - But what does it *mean*?

# Rigid Body Kinematics – angular velocity

- Assume a rigid body has 0 COM velocity, but it is spinning
  - rotation is about the COM
  - some points on the RB are moving faster than others
  - which points on the RB have 0 velocity (i.e. they don't move in space)?
- Define spin as *angular velocity* – a vector  $\boldsymbol{\omega}(t)$ 
  - Direction of  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$  gives the axis (in world coordinates!) that the RB is rotating about
  - Magnitude of  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$  encodes the speed with which the RB is spinning (rad/s)



# Quiz

- Consider a 2D rigid body that is circling around a fixed point
  - What's the *speed* of the rigid body?

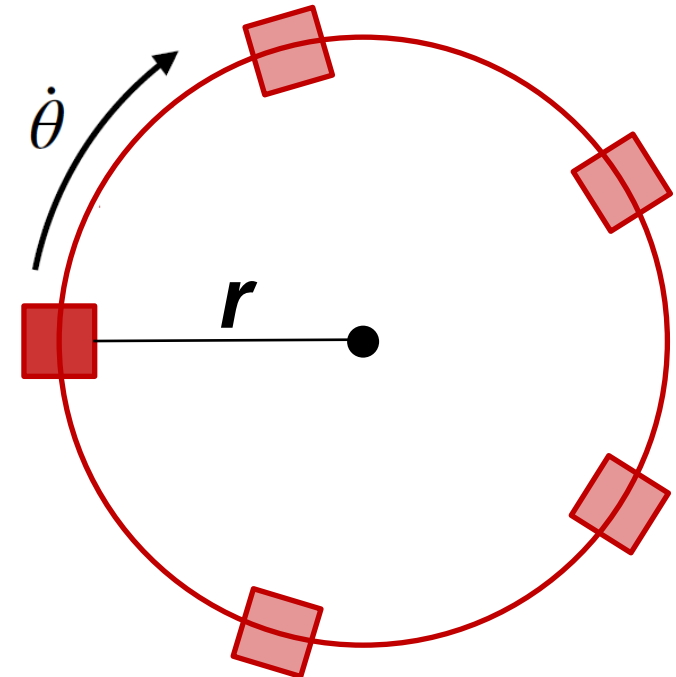
$$|v| = |r| |\dot{\theta}|$$

- And it's velocity?

direction is an in-plane vector orthogonal to  $r$

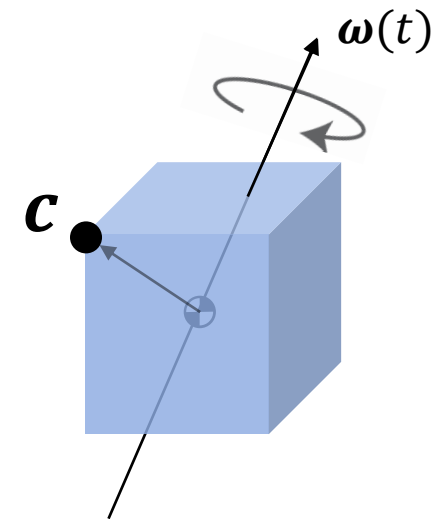
- What's the angular velocity of the rigid body?

$$\dot{\theta}$$



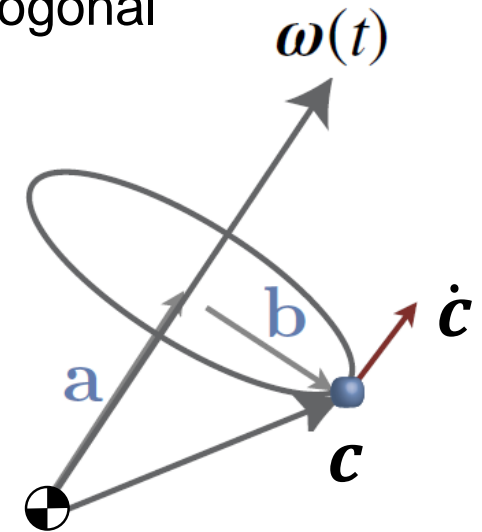
# Rigid Body Kinematics

- So, an RB in 3D is spinning in place, about the COM
  - How fast is this corner point moving?



# Rigid Body Kinematics

- So, an RB in 3D is spinning in place, about the COM
  - How fast is this corner point moving?
  - Let  $c$  be the world coordinates vector from the COM to the point of interest
  - Decompose  $c$  into two vectors,  $a$  and  $b$ , one aligned with  $\omega$ , one orthogonal
    - $a$  does not change over time as RB spins (i.e.  $\dot{a} = 0$ )
    - but  $b$  does:
      - $|\dot{b}| = |b||\omega|$
      - $\dot{b}$  is perpendicular to  $\omega$  and to  $b$
      - So,  $\dot{b} = \omega \times b$
  - Therefore,  $\dot{c} = \omega \times a + \omega \times b = \omega \times c$



# Rigid Body Kinematics: what is $\dot{\mathbf{R}}$ ?

- Recall that columns of  $\mathbf{R}(t)$  store world coords of local  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  axes
  - What do columns of  $\dot{\mathbf{R}}$  represent?

$$\begin{bmatrix} r_{xx} \\ r_{xy} \\ r_{xz} \end{bmatrix}$$

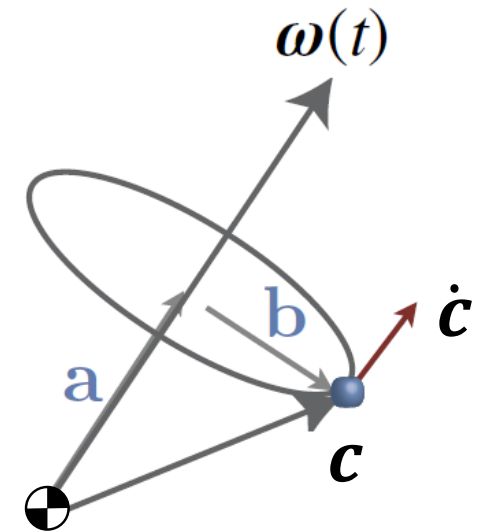
first column of  $\mathbf{R}(t)$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{r}_{xx} \\ \dot{r}_{xy} \\ \dot{r}_{xz} \end{bmatrix} = \boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \times \begin{bmatrix} r_{xx} \\ r_{xy} \\ r_{xz} \end{bmatrix}$$

first column of  $\dot{\mathbf{R}}(t)$

- So:

$$\dot{\mathbf{R}}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \times \begin{bmatrix} r_{xx} \\ r_{xy} \\ r_{xz} \end{bmatrix} & \boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \times \begin{bmatrix} r_{yx} \\ r_{yy} \\ r_{yz} \end{bmatrix} & \boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \times \begin{bmatrix} r_{zx} \\ r_{zy} \\ r_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$



# Rigid Body Kinematics

- Consider two vectors in 3D, **a** and **b**. Their cross product is:

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} a_y b_z - b_y a_z \\ -a_x b_z + b_x a_z \\ a_x b_y - b_x a_y \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{skew-symmetric matrix } [\mathbf{a}]} \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{a}] \mathbf{b}$$

- Therefore:

$$\dot{\mathbf{R}}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \times \begin{bmatrix} r_{xx} \\ r_{xy} \\ r_{xz} \end{bmatrix} & \boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \times \begin{bmatrix} r_{yx} \\ r_{yy} \\ r_{yz} \end{bmatrix} & \boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \times \begin{bmatrix} r_{zx} \\ r_{zy} \\ r_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [\boldsymbol{\omega}(t)] \begin{bmatrix} r_{xx} \\ r_{xy} \\ r_{xz} \end{bmatrix} & [\boldsymbol{\omega}(t)] \begin{bmatrix} r_{yx} \\ r_{yy} \\ r_{yz} \end{bmatrix} & [\boldsymbol{\omega}(t)] \begin{bmatrix} r_{zx} \\ r_{zy} \\ r_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = [\boldsymbol{\omega}(t)] \mathbf{R}(t)$$

# Rigid Body Kinematics

- We know how to compute world coordinates for any point on the RB:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{p}(t) + \mathbf{R}(t)\bar{\mathbf{x}}$$

- How do we compute this point's velocity,  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t)$ ?

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{v}(t) + \dot{\mathbf{R}}(t)\bar{\mathbf{x}}$$

where  $\dot{\mathbf{R}}(t) = [\boldsymbol{\omega}(t)]\mathbf{R}(t)$ , and  $\mathbf{v} = \dot{\mathbf{p}}$ . Expanding this out gives us (and leaving out time dependence):

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}} &= \mathbf{v} + [\boldsymbol{\omega}]\mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}} \\ &= \mathbf{v} + [\boldsymbol{\omega}](\mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})\end{aligned}$$

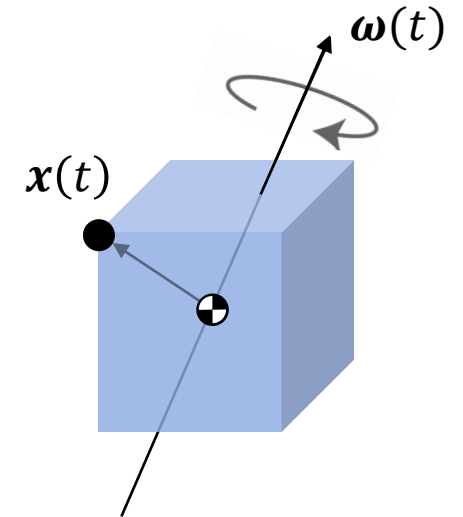
- **Always be careful which coordinate frame quantities are expressed in!!!**

# Rigid Body Kinematics

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{v}(t) + \boldsymbol{\omega}(t) \times (\mathbf{x}(t) - \mathbf{p}(t))$$

linear component

angular component



Do you know how to compute the acceleration,  $\ddot{\mathbf{x}}(t)$ ?

## Quiz – true or false

- If a (uniform density) cube has non-zero angular velocity:
  - a corner point always moves faster than the COM
  - a corner point can move slower than the COM
  - a corner point always moves at the same speed as the COM
- If a (uniform density) cube has non-zero angular velocity and zero linear velocity
  - the COM may or may not be moving
  - a corner point may or may not be moving



# Rigid Body Dynamics

The diagram illustrates the equation  $F = ma$  with three callout boxes. A box labeled "Forces" points to the  $F$  term. A box labeled "Mass" points to the  $m$  term. A box labeled "Accelerations" points to the  $a$  term.

$$F = ma$$

# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

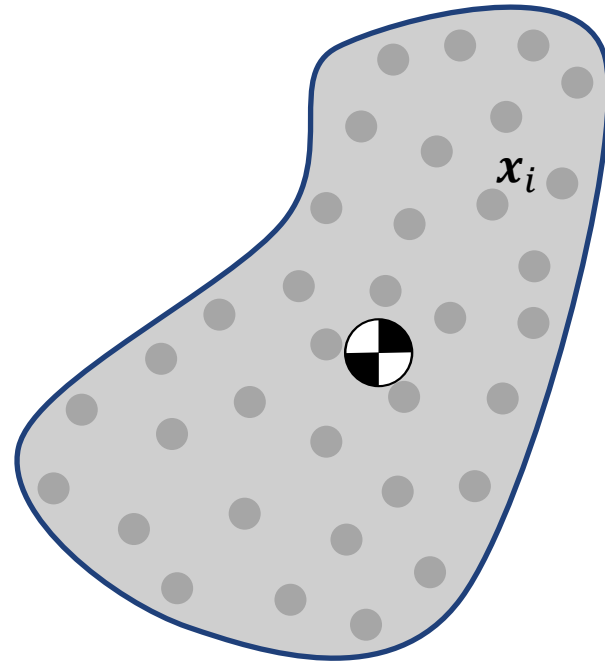
- Recall the kinetic energy of a mass point:

$$K = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{x}}^T m \dot{\mathbf{x}}$$

- What is the kinetic energy of a rigid body?

$$K = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i^T m_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i$$

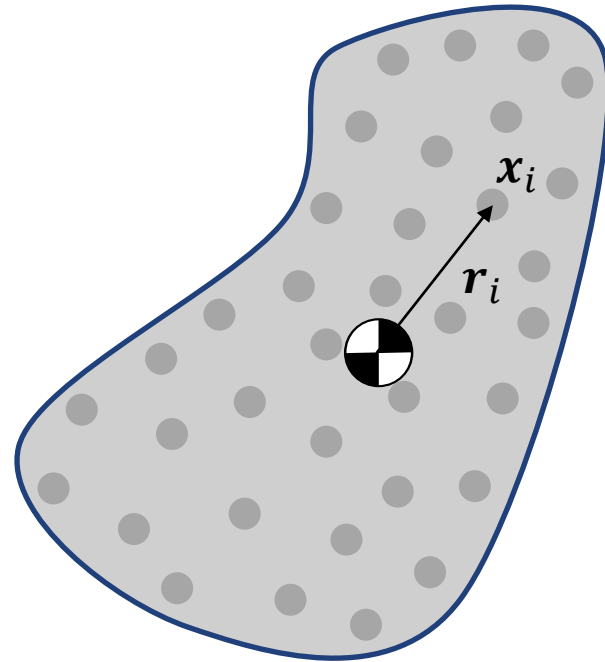
- But recall,  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p})$ , so let's work this out...



# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

- Kinetic energy of a rigid body:

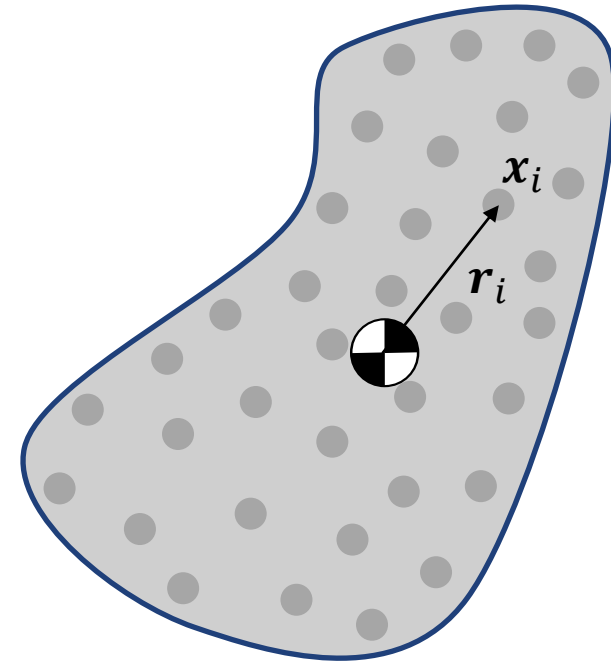
$$\begin{aligned}
 K &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i^T m_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p}))^T m_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p})) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i \mathbf{v} + 2 \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T \left( \sum_i m_i \right) \mathbf{v} + \sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

- Kinetic energy of a rigid body:

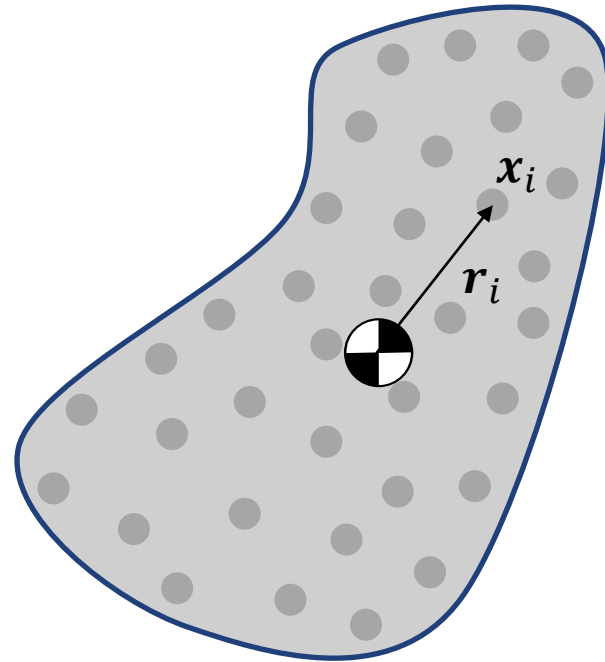
$$\begin{aligned}
 K &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i^T m_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p}))^T m_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p})) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i \mathbf{v} + 2 \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) \\
 &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T \left( \sum_i m_i \right) \mathbf{v}}_{\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T M \mathbf{v} - \text{kinetic energy due to the linear motion of the RB's COM}} + \sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

- Kinetic energy of a rigid body:

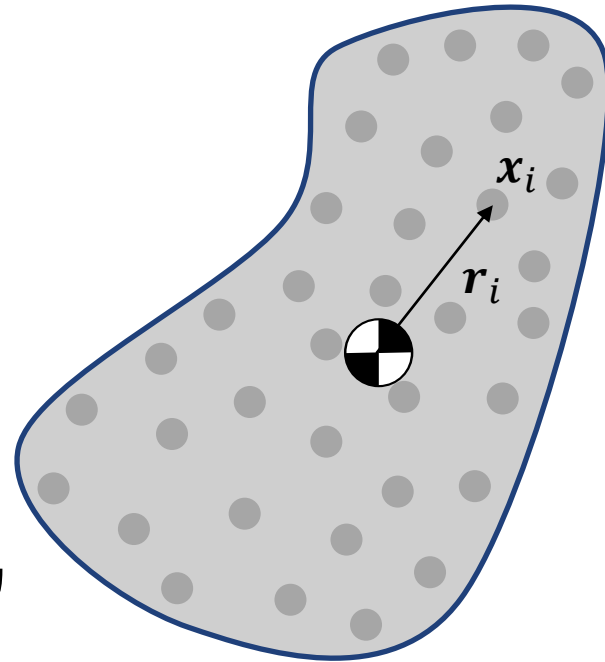
$$\begin{aligned}
 K &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i^T m_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p}))^T m_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p})) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i \mathbf{v} + 2 \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T \left( \sum_i m_i \right) \mathbf{v} + \underbrace{\sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)}_{=0} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) \\
 &= \mathbf{v}^T \sum_i m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) = -\mathbf{v}^T \sum_i m_i (\mathbf{r}_i \times \boldsymbol{\omega}) = -\mathbf{v}^T \left( \sum_i m_i \mathbf{r}_i \right) \times \boldsymbol{\omega} = 0
 \end{aligned}$$



# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

- Kinetic energy of a rigid body:

$$\begin{aligned}
 K &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i^T m_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p}))^T m_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \overbrace{(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p})}^{\mathbf{r}_i}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i \mathbf{v} + 2 \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T \left( \sum_i m_i \right) \mathbf{v} + \sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)}_{?}
 \end{aligned}$$



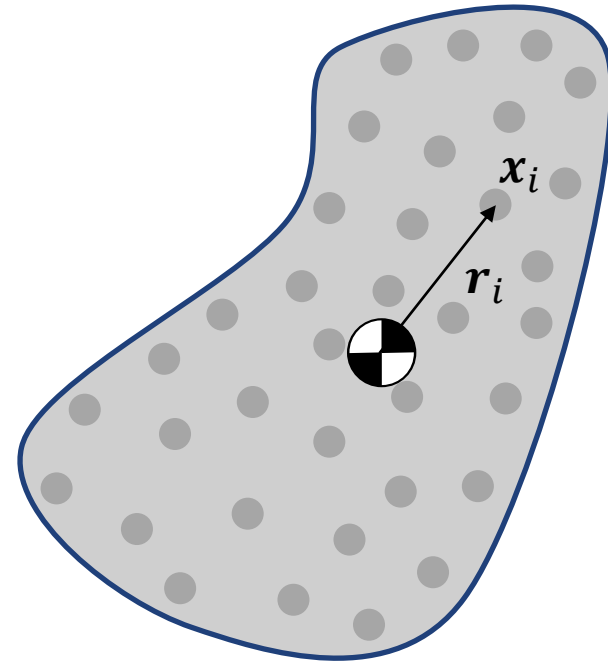
# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) &= m_i ([\boldsymbol{\omega}] \mathbf{r}_i)^T [\boldsymbol{\omega}] \mathbf{r}_i \\
 &= m_i ([\mathbf{r}_i] \boldsymbol{\omega})^T [\mathbf{r}_i] \boldsymbol{\omega} \\
 &= \boldsymbol{\omega}^T m_i [\mathbf{r}_i]^T [\mathbf{r}_i] \boldsymbol{\omega}
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall: if  $\mathbf{r}_i = (x, y, z)^T$ , then  $[\mathbf{r}_i] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -z & y \\ z & 0 & -x \\ -y & x & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , so

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\mathbf{r}_i]^T [\mathbf{r}_i] &= - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -z & y \\ z & 0 & -x \\ -y & x & 0 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -z & y \\ z & 0 & -x \\ -y & x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} y^2 + z^2 & -xy & -xz \\ -xy & x^2 + z^2 & -yz \\ -xz & yz & x^2 + y^2 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{r}_i \mathbb{I} - \mathbf{r}_i \mathbf{r}_i^T
 \end{aligned}$$

a 3x3 identity matrix



# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

$$\text{So: } \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) = \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\omega}^T \underbrace{\sum_i m_i (\mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{r}_i \mathbb{I} - \mathbf{r}_i \mathbf{r}_i^T)}_{\text{Moment of Inertia tensor } \mathbf{I}} \boldsymbol{\omega}$$

Moment of Inertia tensor  $\mathbf{I}$ ,  
expressed in world coordinates

Note that  $\mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i - \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i$ , therefore:

$$\mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{r}_i \mathbb{I} = (\mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i)^T (\mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i) \mathbb{I} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \mathbf{R} \mathbf{R}^T = \mathbf{R} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \mathbf{R}^T$$

and

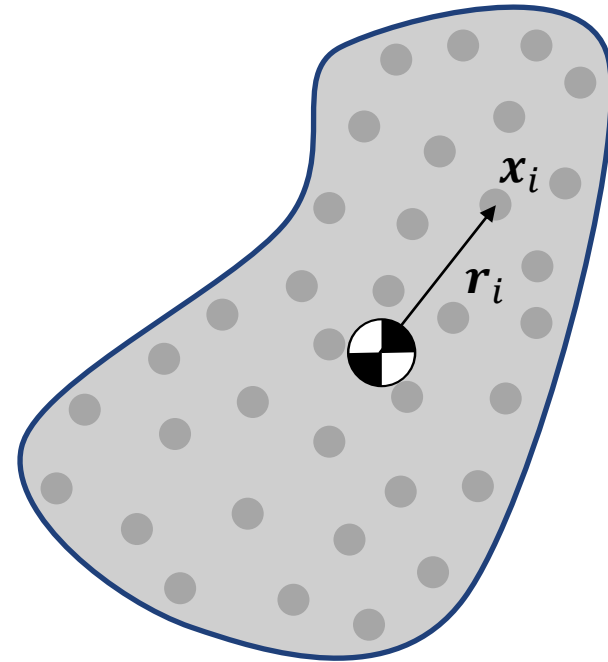
$$\mathbf{r}_i \mathbf{r}_i^T = (\mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i)(\mathbf{R}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i)^T = \mathbf{R} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T \mathbf{R}^T$$

So:

Local coordinates *Moment of Inertia* tensor  $\mathbf{I}_b$

$$\mathbf{I} = \sum_i m_i (\mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{r}_i \mathbb{I} - \mathbf{r}_i \mathbf{r}_i^T) = \mathbf{R} \underbrace{\sum_i m_i (\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \mathbb{I} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T)}_{\text{World coordinates } \mathbf{I}_b} \mathbf{R}^T$$

World coordinates *Moment of Inertia* tensor  $\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{R} \mathbf{I}_b \mathbf{R}^T$



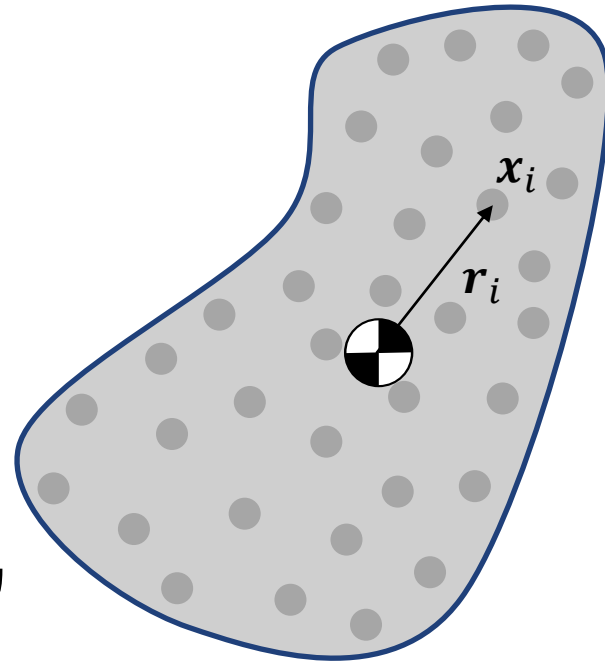


# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

- Kinetic energy of a rigid body:

$$\begin{aligned}
 K &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i^T m_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p}))^T m_i (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{p})) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i \mathbf{v} + 2 \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T \left( \sum_i m_i \right) \mathbf{v} + \underbrace{\sum_i \mathbf{v}^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)^T m_i (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}_i)}_{\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{I} \boldsymbol{\omega}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{I} \boldsymbol{\omega}$  - kinetic energy due to the angular motion of the RB



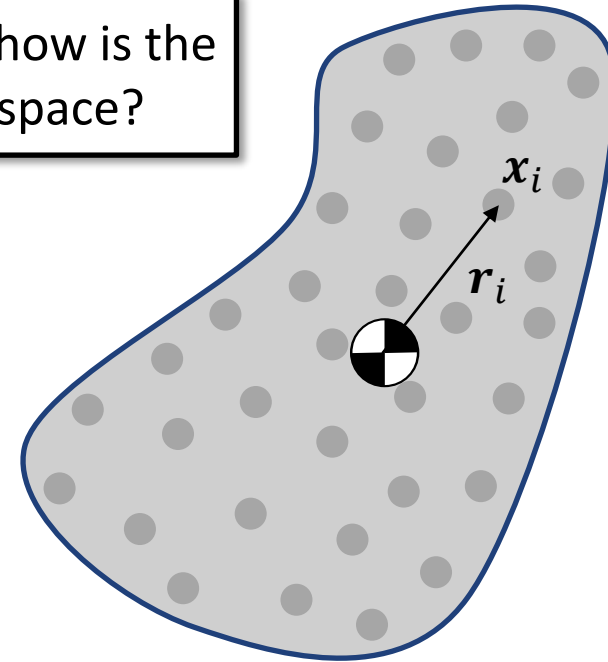
# Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

- Kinetic energy of a rigid body:

$$K = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i^T m_i \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}^T M \mathbf{v} + \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{I} \boldsymbol{\omega}$$

First order of mass: where is the mass concentrated?

Second order of mass: how is the mass distributed in space?

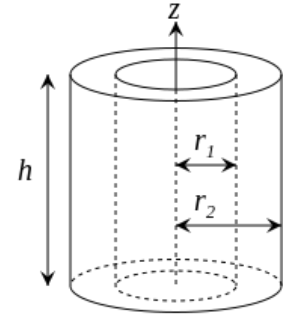


# Moment of Inertia

- It is “mass” for rotational motions
  - “The more mass an object has, the more force it takes to move it”
- Is constant in body coordinates
  - Only needs to be computed once!
- In world coordinates, it changes as the RB rotates:  $I = RI_bR^T$ 
  - Can it ever be constant in world coordinates?
- What does  $I\omega$  mean?
  - $\omega$  is a world coordinates vector,  $I\omega$  is also expressed in world coordinates

# Moment of Inertia

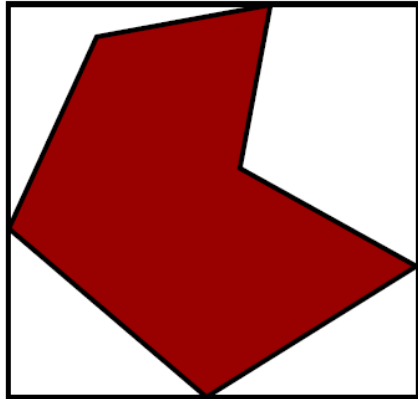
- $I_b = \sum_i m_i (\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \mathbb{I} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i^T)$ , or in the continuous case  $\int_{\Omega} \rho (\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{dV}^T \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{dV} \mathbb{I} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{dV} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{dV}^T) dV$
- For basic shapes, closed form solutions to the integral exist:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_moments\\_of\\_inertia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_moments_of_inertia)
- It is always possible to choose a local coordinate frame such that  $I_b$  only has non-zero elements on the diagonal
  - These are called principal moments of inertia  $I_x, I_y, I_z$
  - If someone already gives you a Mol, you can do an eigenvalue decomposition on it to retrieve both the principal moments of inertia, and the axes of the local coordinate frame where off-diagonal entries vanish.



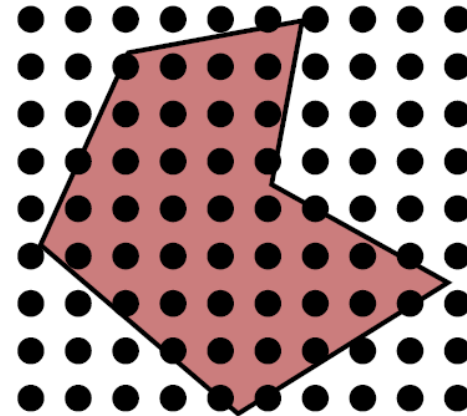
# Moment of Inertia

- In practice, the local moment of inertia is often approximated. For instance:

Bounding box



Point sampling



# Rigid Body Dynamics

The diagram illustrates the equation  $F = ma$  with three callout boxes. A box labeled "Forces" points to the  $F$ . A box labeled "Mass" with a green checkmark points to the  $m$ . A box labeled "Accelerations" points to the  $a$ .

$$F = ma$$

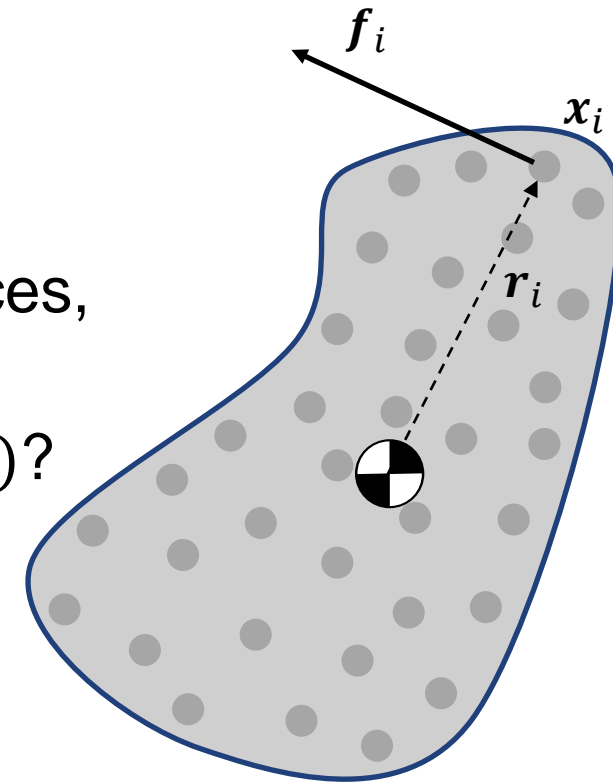
Forces

Mass ✓

Accelerations

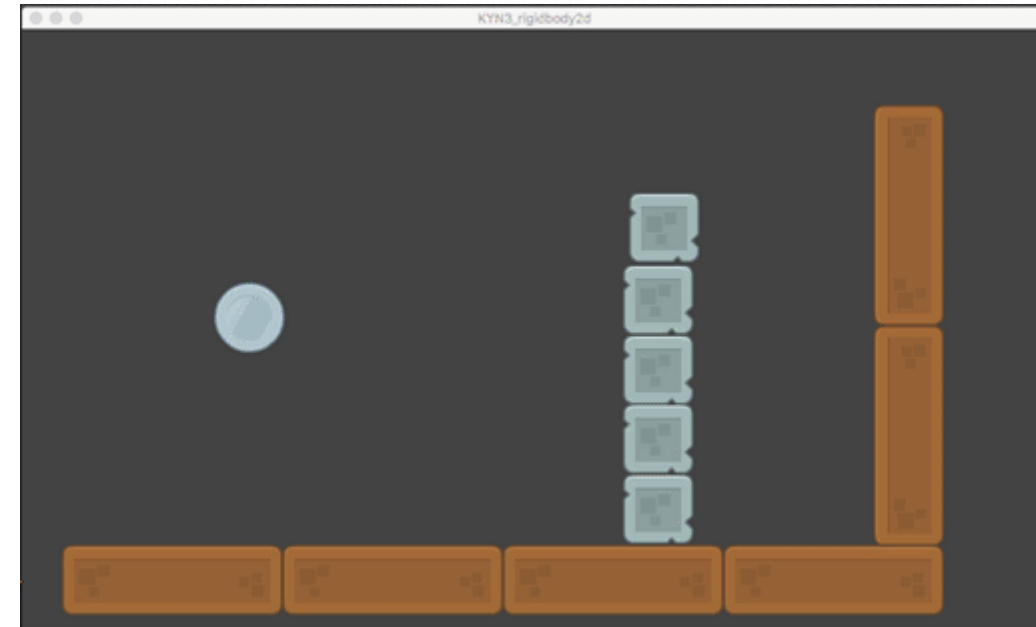
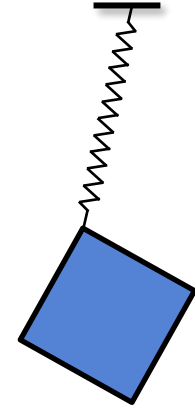
# Rigid Bodies: forces and torques

- $\mathbf{f}_i(t)$  denotes the total force from external forces acting on the  $i^{th}$  particle at time  $t$ .
  - Total/net force acting on the rigid body:  $\mathbf{F}(t) = \sum_i \mathbf{f}_i(t)$
  - Total/net torque on the rigid body:  $\boldsymbol{\tau}(t) = \sum_i \mathbf{r}_i \times \mathbf{f}_i(t)$
- Net torque depends on the point of application of individual forces, but net force does not
- What are the net force and torque due to gravity (e.g.  $\mathbf{f}_i = m_i \mathbf{g}$ )?
  - $\mathbf{F} = \sum_i m_i \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{g} \sum_i m_i = M \mathbf{g}$
  - $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \sum_i \mathbf{r}_i \times m_i \mathbf{g} = -\sum_i m_i [\mathbf{g}] \mathbf{r}_i = -[\mathbf{g}] \sum_i m_i \mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{0}$



# Rigid Bodies: forces and torques

- Where do forces come from?
  - Gravity
  - Springs
  - User interaction – e.g. pick an object with the mouse and drag it around
  - Joint constraints
  - Collisions and Frictional Contact
  - Motors or muscles
  - Etc.





# Rigid Body Dynamics

The diagram illustrates the equation  $F = ma$  with callouts for each term. A box labeled "Forces" with a green checkmark points to  $F$ . A box labeled "Mass" with a green checkmark points to  $m$ . A box labeled "Accelerations" points to  $a$ .

$$F = ma$$

# Linear and angular momenta

- **p**: total *linear momentum* of the RB

$$\mathbf{p} = M\mathbf{v}$$

- Linear momentum of an RB is the same as if it was just a particle with mass  $M$  and velocity  $\mathbf{v}(t)$ !
- **L**: total *angular momentum* of the RB is defined analogously

$$\mathbf{L} = I\boldsymbol{\omega}$$

- Angular moment does not depend on linear COM motion, only on rotation about the COM.

# Newton's second law of motion and conservation of momentum

$$\mathbf{F} = M\mathbf{a} = M \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{d(M\mathbf{v})}{dt} = \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = \dot{\mathbf{p}}$$

- This expression tells us how the linear velocity of the RB changes over time in response to net force applied to the rigid body.
  - Change in linear momentum is equivalent to the net force acting on the rigid body.
- Analogous expression holds for conservation of angular momentum
  - Change in angular momentum is equivalent to the net torque acting on the rigid body.

$$\dot{\mathbf{L}} = \frac{d\mathbf{L}}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

# Conservation of angular momentum

$$\dot{\mathbf{L}} = \boldsymbol{\tau}, \mathbf{L} = I\boldsymbol{\omega}$$
$$\dot{\mathbf{L}} = \dot{I}\boldsymbol{\omega} + I\dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

Does the Mol change  
over time?

Angular acceleration

# Conservation of angular momentum

$$\dot{\mathbf{L}} = \boldsymbol{\tau}, \mathbf{L} = I\boldsymbol{\omega}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{L}} = \dot{I}\boldsymbol{\omega} + I\dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

$$I = RI_bR^T \Rightarrow \dot{I} = \dot{R}I_bR^T + R\dot{I}_bR^T + RI_b\dot{R}^T$$

Recall:  $\dot{R} = [\boldsymbol{\omega}]R$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{I} &= \dot{R}I_bR^T + R\dot{I}_bR^T + RI_b\dot{R}^T = [\boldsymbol{\omega}]RI_bR^T + 0 - RI_bR^T[\boldsymbol{\omega}] \\ &\Rightarrow \dot{I}\boldsymbol{\omega} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times I\boldsymbol{\omega} + I\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \boldsymbol{\omega} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times I\boldsymbol{\omega} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow I\dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \boldsymbol{\tau} - \boldsymbol{\omega} \times I\boldsymbol{\omega}$$

# The " $F = ma$ " of rigid body dynamics: aka the Newton–Euler equations of motion

The diagram illustrates the Newton-Euler equations of motion for a rigid body. The equation is presented as:

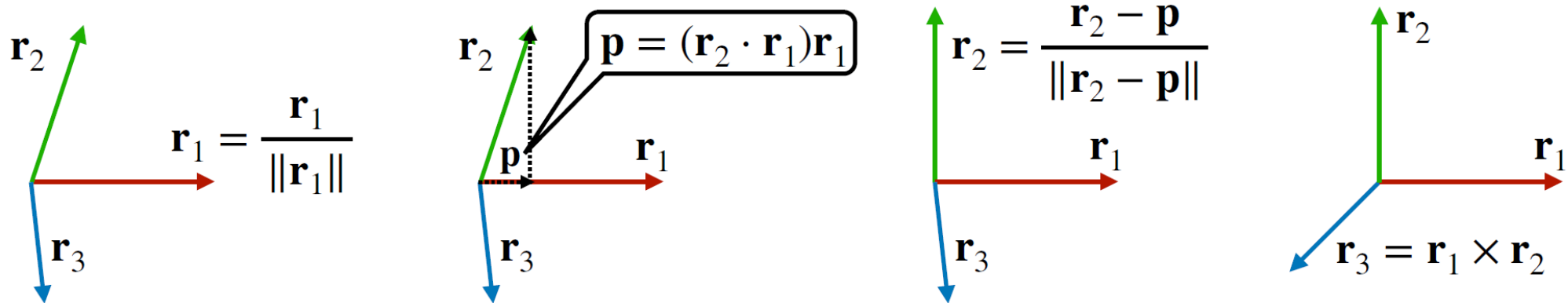
$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} F \\ \tau - \omega \times I \omega \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Force}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} M \mathbb{I} & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Mass}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \dot{v} \\ \dot{\omega} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Acceleration}}$$

Callouts identify the components: "Force" points to the left-hand side vector, "Mass" points to the middle matrix, and "Acceleration" points to the right-hand side vector.

Note: linear and angular components of a rigid body's motion are decoupled!

# Time stepping scheme (Symplectic Euler)

- At each time step:
  - Compute net force  $\mathbf{F}$  and net torque  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$
  - Update linear and angular velocities:  $\mathbf{v}_{i+1} = \mathbf{v}_i + h \frac{\mathbf{F}}{M}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1} = \boldsymbol{\omega}_i + h \mathbf{I}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\tau} - \boldsymbol{\omega}_i \times \mathbf{I} \boldsymbol{\omega}_i)$ 
    - Note:  $\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{R} \mathbf{I}_b \mathbf{R}^T$ , so  $\mathbf{I}^{-1} = \mathbf{R} \mathbf{I}_b^{-1} \mathbf{R}^T$
  - Update COM position:  $\mathbf{p}_{i+1} = \mathbf{p}_i + h \mathbf{v}_{i+1}$
  - Update orientation:
    - Option 1:  $\mathbf{R}_{i+1} = \mathbf{R}_i + h \dot{\mathbf{R}}_{i+1} = \mathbf{R}_i + h [\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}] \mathbf{R}_i = (\mathbb{I} + h [\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}]) \mathbf{R}_i$ 
      - Main issue, over time  $\mathbf{R}$  will no longer be an orthonormal matrix. Fix via Gram-Schmidt orthonormalization process.



# Time stepping scheme (Symplectic Euler)

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      - Main issue, over time  $\mathbf{R}$  will no longer be an orthonormal matrix. Fix via Gram-Schmidt orthonormalization process.
    - Option 2: first compute matrix corresponding to a rotation with angular speed  $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}$  for a time period  $h$ , then apply this after the rotation at previous time step:  $\mathbf{R}_{i+1} = \mathbf{Rot}\left(h |\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}|, \frac{\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}}{|\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}|}\right) \mathbf{R}_i$
    - Option 3: use a different parameterization of rotations



# Quaternions

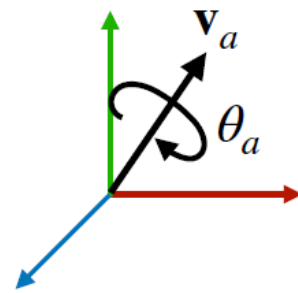
- Quaternions: a generalization of complex numbers to higher dimensions

$$\mathbf{q} = w + x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}, \text{ where } \mathbf{i}^2 = \mathbf{j}^2 = \mathbf{k}^2 = \mathbf{ijk} = -1$$

- Quaternions are often written as  $\mathbf{q} = [w, \mathbf{v}]$ , where vector  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$
- Quaternion multiplication:  $\mathbf{q}_1 * \mathbf{q}_2 = [w_1 w_2 - \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2, w_1 \mathbf{v}_2 + w_2 \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2]$
- Unit quaternions (i.e.  $w^2 + x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ ) encode a much more compact parameterization of 3D rotations

# Unit quaternions

- Rotation quaternions:  $\mathbf{q}(\theta_a, \mathbf{v}_a)$



axis angle  $(\theta_a, \mathbf{v}_a)$



$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{bmatrix} w \\ \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta_a}{2} \\ \sin \frac{\theta_a}{2} \mathbf{v}_a \end{bmatrix}$$

- Rotating vectors:

$$\text{Rot}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{q}) \equiv \mathbf{q}\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{q} * (\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{v}) * \mathbf{q}^{-1}$$

- Let  $\mathbf{q}_1$  and  $\mathbf{q}_2$  be two rotation quaternions. The quaternion  $\mathbf{q}_1 * \mathbf{q}_2$  represents the rotation obtained by first applying rotation  $\mathbf{q}_2$ , then rotating by  $\mathbf{q}_1$  - analogous to the way in which rotations are composed using rotation matrices.

# Time stepping scheme using Quaternions

- At each time step:
  - Compute net force  $\mathbf{F}$  and net torque  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$
  - Update linear and angular velocities:  $\mathbf{v}_{i+1} = \mathbf{v}_i + h \frac{\mathbf{F}}{M}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1} = \boldsymbol{\omega}_i + h \mathbf{I}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\tau} - \boldsymbol{\omega}_i \times \mathbf{I} \boldsymbol{\omega}_i)$
  - Update COM position:  $\mathbf{p}_{i+1} = \mathbf{p}_i + h \mathbf{v}_{i+1}$
  - Update orientation:
    - Option 1:  $\mathbf{q}_{i+1} = \mathbf{q}_i \left( h |\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}|, \frac{\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}}{|\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}|} \right)$
    - Option 2:  $\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{i+1} = \frac{1}{2} (0, \boldsymbol{\omega}_{i+1}) \mathbf{q}_i$ ,  $\mathbf{q}_{i+1} = \mathbf{q}_i + h \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{i+1}$ 
      - Can you show that in the limit, as  $h \rightarrow 0$ , these two options are equivalent?
      - Normalization of quaternions is still necessary, but easier/faster than orthonormalizing rotation matrices
      - Easy to extract rotation angle/axis, therefore easy to compute rotation matrix from a quaternion - useful, for example, when computing world-coordinates moment of inertia. Coordinate frame transformations, on the other hand, can be implemented using quaternion operations directly.
        - Use the right representation for your problem!

# Numerical simulation models

## Particles

State:

Position  
Velocity

Physical Properties:

Mass

## Rigid Bodies

State:

Position  
Orientation  
Linear Velocity  
Angular Velocity

Physical Properties:

Mass  
Moment of Inertia

$$"F = ma"$$

# Additional material

- Quaternions:  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quaternion>
- Skew symmetric matrix:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skew-symmetric\\_matrix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skew-symmetric_matrix)
- Rigid body lecture notes from David Baraff:  
<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~baraff/sigcourse/notesd1.pdf>  
<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~baraff/sigcourse/notesd1.pdf>
- Brian Mirtich's thesis  
<https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~jfc/mirtich/thesis/mirtichThesis.pdf>
- Impulse-based collision processing  
"Nonconvex Rigid Bodies with Stacking", Guendelman et al., 2003  
hand-written course notes