

Maximum radii of rolling spheres

Two lines $g:\vec{x}$ and $h:\vec{x}$ are given:

- $g:\vec{x}=\vec{p}+\lambda\vec{v}$
- $h:\vec{x}=\vec{q}+\mu\vec{u}$

Suppose a sphere S with radius $r>0$ rolls on g tangentially.
Additionally r should not be chosen such that h is touching S .

Because the radius of S is unchanged during its' movement, the center M is always parallel to g with distance r .
There is a line $m:\vec{x}$, that contains all M , and thus is parallel to g .

- $M\in m$
- $d(M;g)=r$
- $m\parallel g$.

There may exist a point M , where both g and h are touching S at one point. For such M , the distance of M to g is equal to that of M to h . Both these distances will be equal to r as previously stated.

$$d(M;g)=d(M;h)=r$$

Construction of $m:\vec{x}$

Because m has a distance r to g , a vector \vec{n} with length r perpendicular to g can be constructed which will represent m . There is a group of vectors that can represent that vector n .

- $\vec{n}\perp g$
- $|\vec{n}|=r$
Because it may be important where the sphere rolls on g , let the group of vectors be \vec{n}_θ , where \vec{n}_0 ($\theta=0$) then is the vector that is "straight above" g . This results to the following:

- $\{\vec{n}_0\times\vec{v}\}\perp\begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\1\end{pmatrix}$

We know that the vector $\vec{n}_0\times\vec{v}$ is perpendicular to the x_1x_2 plane by description. This allows us to reconstruct the structure to find a vector \vec{n}_0 :

- $\left[\begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\1\end{pmatrix}\times\vec{v}\right]\perp\vec{n}_0$

The bracket creates a vector that is perpendicular to the line $g:\vec{x}$. When we combine this with the line again, we create a factor of \vec{n}_0 :

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\1\end{pmatrix}\times\vec{v}\right]\times\vec{v} &= \omega^{-1}\cdot\vec{n}_0 \\ \left[\begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\1\end{pmatrix}\times\begin{pmatrix}v_1\\v_2\\v_3\end{pmatrix}\right]\times\vec{v} &= \omega^{-1}\cdot\vec{n}_0 \\ \left[\begin{pmatrix}-v_2\\v_1\\0\end{pmatrix}\right]\times\vec{v} &= \omega^{-1}\cdot\vec{n}_0 \\ \begin{pmatrix}-v_2\\v_1\\0\end{pmatrix}\times\begin{pmatrix}v_1\\v_2\\v_3\end{pmatrix} &= \omega^{-1}\cdot\vec{n}_0 \\ \begin{pmatrix}v_1v_3\\v_2v_3\\-v_2^2-v_1^2\end{pmatrix} &= \omega^{-1}\cdot\vec{n}_0 \end{aligned}$$

The vector on the left side is always pointing towards below the line g , hence I will only flip the vector with the factor of -1 to make the vector face the upper side of g . This makes it possible to normalize the vector without any directional issues (to follow the definition of \vec{n}_0):

$$\begin{pmatrix}-v_1v_3\\-v_2v_3\\v_2^2+v_1^2\end{pmatrix}=\omega^{-1}\cdot\vec{n}_0$$

As of now the left side is a factor of the vector we need. The length of the vector will be r .

$$\begin{aligned} n_0 &:= \begin{pmatrix}-v_1v_3\\-v_2v_3\\v_2^2+v_1^2\end{pmatrix}\cdot\frac{r}{\left|\begin{pmatrix}-v_1v_3\\-v_2v_3\\v_1^2+v_2^2\end{pmatrix}\right|} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix}-v_1v_3\\-v_2v_3\\v_2^2+v_1^2\end{pmatrix}\cdot\frac{r}{\sqrt{(-v_1v_3)^2+(-v_2v_3)^2+(v_1^2+v_2^2)^2}} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix}-v_1v_3\\-v_2v_3\\v_2^2+v_1^2\end{pmatrix}\cdot\frac{r}{\sqrt{v_1^2v_3^2+v_2^2v_3^2+v_1^4+2v_1^2v_2^2+v_2^4}} \end{aligned}$$

For simplification, I will represent this factor as ω .

- $\omega=\frac{1}{\sqrt{v_1^2v_3^2+v_2^2v_3^2+v_1^4+2v_1^2v_2^2+v_2^4}}$

This vector allows us to now define the line $m:\vec{x}$:

$$m:\vec{x}=\vec{p}+\vec{n}_0+\lambda\vec{v}$$

Note that the 0 is a parameter for rotation, not a unit vector.

Construction of $m_\theta:\vec{x}$

We will now rotate the line m around g with distance r .

For rotation we can use $\vec{i}\cos(\theta)+\vec{j}\sin(\theta)$, where $\vec{i}\perp\vec{j}$.

From above we know that for this equation:

- $\vec{i} = \vec{n}_0$
- $\phi^{-1}\vec{j} = \phi^{-1}\vec{n}_{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \phi^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \vec{v}$

Again we have a factor for a vector (\vec{j}) . Vector \vec{i} already has length 1 by definition.

$$\begin{aligned} n_{\frac{\pi}{2}} &:= \begin{pmatrix} -v_2 \\ v_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{r}{\left| \begin{pmatrix} -v_2 \\ v_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right|} \\ &:= \begin{pmatrix} -v_2 \\ v_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{r}{\sqrt{(-v_2)^2 + (v_1)^2 + (0)^2}} \\ &:= \begin{pmatrix} -v_2 \\ v_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{r}{\sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2}} \end{aligned}$$

Again we separate the factor with a variable.

- $\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{v_1^2+v_2^2}}$
- For the next, \hat{z} is the unit vector of the third axis x_3 (z)

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{n}_\theta &= \vec{i} \cos(\theta) + \vec{j} \sin(\theta) \\ &= \vec{n}_0 \cos(\theta) + \vec{n}_{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin(\theta) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -v_1 v_3 \\ -v_2 v_3 \\ v_2^2 + v_1^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{r}{\sqrt{v_1^2 v_3^2 + v_2^2 v_3^2 + v_1^4 + 2 v_1^2 v_2^2 + v_2^4}} \cdot \cos(\theta) + \begin{pmatrix} -v_2 \\ v_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{r}{\sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2}} \cdot \sin(\theta) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -v_1 v_3 \\ -v_2 v_3 \\ v_2^2 + v_1^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot r \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \begin{pmatrix} -v_2 \\ v_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot r \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \\ &= r \cdot \left[\begin{pmatrix} -v_1 v_3 \\ -v_2 v_3 \\ v_2^2 + v_1^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \begin{pmatrix} -v_2 \\ v_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] \\ &= r \cdot \left[- \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] \\ &= r \cdot \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] \end{aligned}$$

This makes it able to represent $m_\theta:\vec{x}$ as follows:

$$m_\theta:\vec{x} = \vec{p} + r \cdot \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] + \lambda \vec{v}$$



Calculating for r

| For two lines, their distance is defined as follows:

- $d(g_1;g_2) = \frac{\left| \vec{n} \circ \left(\overrightarrow{OR} - \overrightarrow{OP} \right) \right|}{\left| \vec{n} \right|}$

We know that the distance of the two lines is exactly r . \vec{n} here is the cross product from both the directions. \overrightarrow{OR} will here be the independent vector from $m_\theta:\vec{x}$. $\overrightarrow{OP} = \vec{q}$.

$$\begin{aligned} d(m_\theta;h) &= \frac{\left| \vec{n} \circ \left(\overrightarrow{OR} - \overrightarrow{OP} \right) \right|}{\left| \vec{n} \right|} \\ r &= \frac{\left| \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left(\vec{p} + r \cdot \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] - \vec{q} \right) \right|}{\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right|} \\ r &= \frac{\left| \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} + r \cdot \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \right|}{\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right|} \quad | \cdot \left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| \\ \left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| \cdot r &= \left| \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} + r \cdot \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \right| \end{aligned}$$

Die linke Seite kann per definition nicht negativ werden. Zunächst wird die rechte Seite als positiver Wert behandelt, danach als negativ.

Positiv:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| \cdot r &= \left| \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} + r \cdot \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \right| \\ \left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| \cdot r &= \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} + r \cdot \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \\ \left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| \cdot r - r \cdot \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] &= \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \\ \left(\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] \right) \cdot r &= \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \\ r &= \frac{\left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q}}{\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right]} \\ r &= \frac{\left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left(\vec{p} - \vec{q} \right)}{\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right]} \end{aligned}$$

Negativ:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| \cdot r &= \left| \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} + r \cdot \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \right| \\ \left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| \cdot r &= - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} - r \cdot \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] + \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \\ \left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| \cdot r + r \cdot \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] &= - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} + \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \\ \left(\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| + \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right] \right) \cdot r &= - \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} + \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q} \\ r &= \frac{- \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{p} + \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \vec{q}}{\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| + \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right]} \\ r &= \frac{\left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left(-\vec{p} + \vec{q} \right)}{\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| + \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right]} \\ r &= \frac{- \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left(\vec{p} - \vec{q} \right)}{\left| \vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right| + \left[\vec{v} \times \vec{u} \right] \circ \left[- \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \times \vec{v} \cdot \omega \cdot \cos(\theta) + \left(\hat{z} \times \vec{v} \right) \cdot \phi \cdot \sin(\theta) \right]} \end{aligned}$$