



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

Spacecraft Attitude Dynamics

Prof. Franco Bernelli

Fundamental Properties

Transport Theorem

Let N and B be two coordinate frames with a relative angular velocity $\underline{\omega}_{B/N}$

\underline{x} is a generic vector then

Rule of the derivative of a vector moving in a rotating frame.

$$\frac{^N d}{dt} \underline{x} = \frac{^B d}{dt} \underline{x} + \underline{\omega}_{B/N} \times \underline{x}$$

\uparrow angular velocity of frame B relative to frame N .

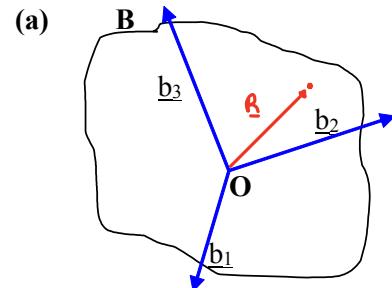
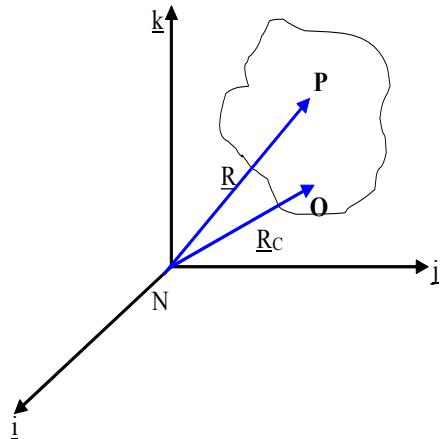
\uparrow Time derivative took in the moving frame

$$\dot{\underline{x}} = \frac{^N d}{dt} \underline{x}$$



Angular Momentum of a Rigid Body

→ Abstract model mostly is really infinitely rigid.



The angular momentum of a rigid body B is defined with respect to an origin fixed on the rigid body. For an infinitesimal point mass we have:

$$dh_o = \underline{R} \times \dot{\underline{R}} dm$$

→ contribution of the point mass to the total angular momentum.

The total angular momentum is then:

$$\underline{h}_o = \underline{R}_C \times \dot{\underline{R}}_C M \text{ wrt origin.} + \int_B (\underline{r} \times \dot{\underline{r}}) dm$$

angular momentum of the rigid body wrt the center of mass

\underline{h}_o = angular momentum of the total mass concentrated in the center of mass wrt origin. + angular momentum of the rigid body about its centre of mass \underline{h}

$$\text{If } \omega = c \rightarrow \underline{h}_o = \int_B (\underline{r} \times \underline{c}) dm$$



Rotational Angular Momentum of a Rigid Body (Exercise)

$$\underline{h} = \int_B \underline{r} \times (\underline{\omega} \times \underline{r}) dm$$

velocity in the body frame.

Show that the angular momentum about the centre of mass evaluated in the body frame is:

$$\underline{h} = I \underline{\omega}$$

|| + important

$$\underline{I} = \underline{I}^T \text{ symmetric.}$$

where

$$I = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} = \int_B (y^2 + z^2) dm & I_{xy} = \int_B -xy dm & I_{xz} = \int_B -xz dm \\ I_{yx} = \int_B -yx dm & I_{yy} = \int_B (x^2 + z^2) dm & I_{yz} = \int_B -yz dm \\ I_{zx} = \int_B -zx dm & I_{zy} = \int_B -zy dm & I_{zz} = \int_B (x^2 + y^2) dm \end{bmatrix}$$

Inertia of
the rigid
body around a specified
axis

inertial product → they can
be equally positive or
negative terms.
Off-diagonal terms are
already symmetrical

along the diagonal there
are only positive values



Properties of the inertia matrix

$$I_{xx} - I_{yy} = \int_B (x^2 + y^2 + z^2) dm \geq I_{zz} = \int_B (x^2 + y^2) dm$$

↳ Equals only if the satellite lies on the z axis.

$$I_{xx} - I_{yy} = \int_B (y^2 - x^2) dm \leq I_{zz} = \int_B (x^2 + y^2) dm$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_{xx} + I_{yy} &\geq I_{zz} \\ I_{xx} - I_{yy} &\leq I_{zz} \\ I_{xx} &\geq 2I_{zy} \end{aligned}$$

} Triangular Inequalities

$$I_{xz} = \int_B (z^2 + y^2) dm \geq z I_{zy} = z \int_B -zy dm$$



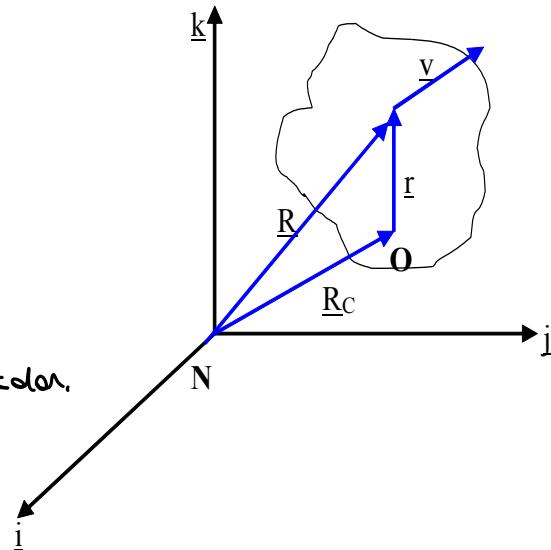
Rotational Kinetic Energy of a Rigid Body

$$2T = \int_B \underline{v} \cdot \underline{v} dm$$

Which evaluated in body coordinates is:

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \underline{\omega} \cdot H = \frac{1}{2} \underline{\omega} \cdot I \underline{\omega}$$

→ It is a scalar.



$$I = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} & I_{xz} \\ I_{yx} & I_{yy} & I_{yz} \\ I_{zx} & I_{zy} & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{If } I \text{ is a diagonal matrix} \rightarrow \text{Using a principal inertial frame}$$
$$I = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow T = \frac{1}{2} (I_{xx}\omega_x^2 + I_{yy}\omega_y^2 + I_{zz}\omega_z^2)$$



Fundamental properties

Angular Momentum Vector

$$\underline{h} = [I_1 \omega_1 \quad I_2 \omega_2 \quad I_3 \omega_3]^T$$

→ Simplifications are valid only if
 \mathbf{I} is diagonal (using a principal inertial frame)
axis 1,2,3 are called principal axis.

$$\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} I_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Some text book use x, y, z instead of 1, 2, 3 for the principal axis.

→ It is a valid approximation usually the bulk of the mass is in an uniform "cubical" shape while appendages are small or light.

$$\underline{h} = [H_1 \quad H_2 \quad H_3]^T$$

$$I_i \omega_i = H_i$$

Rotational Kinetic Energy function

$$T = \frac{1}{2} (I_1 \omega_1^2 + I_2 \omega_2^2 + I_3 \omega_3^2)$$

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{H_1^2}{I_1} + \frac{H_2^2}{I_2} + \frac{H_3^2}{I_3} \right)$$



Geometric Interpretation

$$2T = I_\eta \omega^2 = I_x \omega_x^2 + I_y \omega_y^2 + I_z \omega_z^2 \rightarrow \text{overall the sum must be constant where every single component would change.}$$

$$\frac{\omega_x^2}{2T/I_x} + \frac{\omega_y^2}{2T/I_y} + \frac{\omega_z^2}{2T/I_z} = 1$$



kinetic energy ellipsoid

$$h^2 = \underline{h} \cdot \underline{h} = I_x^2 \omega_x^2 + I_y^2 \omega_y^2 + I_z^2 \omega_z^2$$

$$\frac{\omega_x^2}{h^2/I_x^2} + \frac{\omega_y^2}{h^2/I_y^2} + \frac{\omega_z^2}{h^2/I_z^2} = 1$$



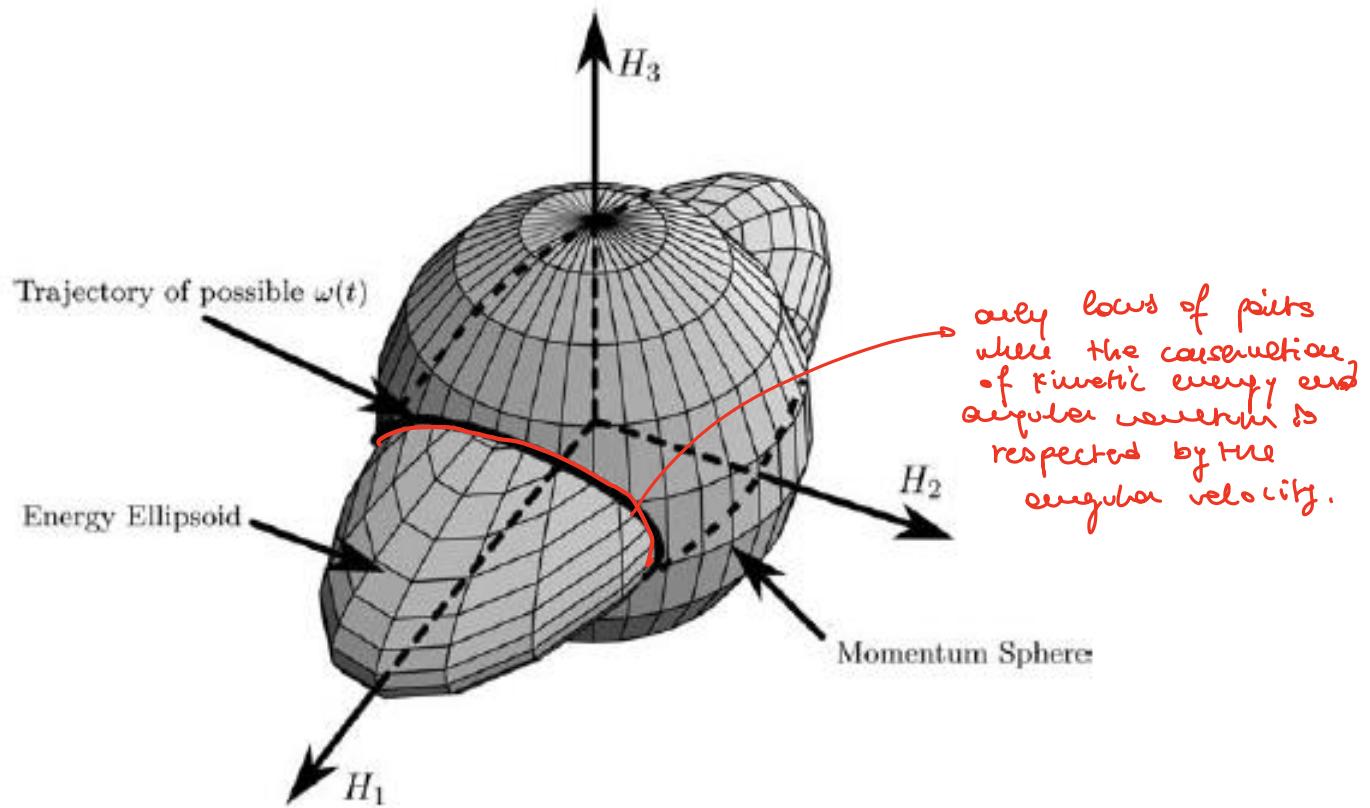
angular momentum ellipsoid

ellipsoids represents all possible angular velocities compatible either with the given kinetic energy or with the given angular momentum



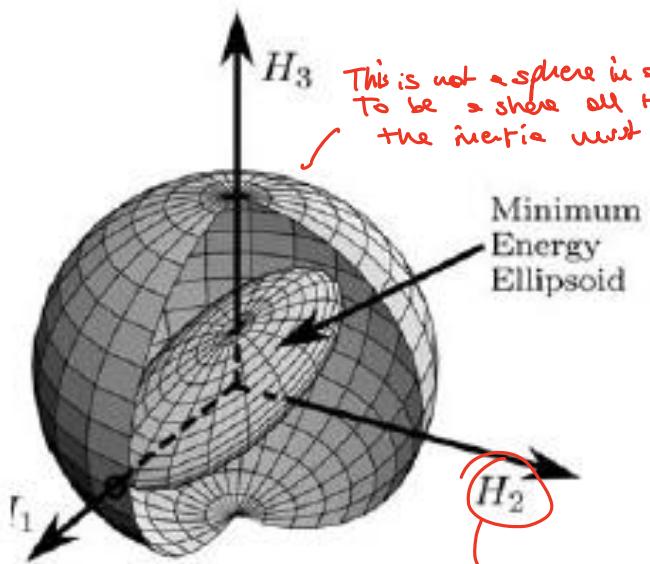
Geometric Interpretation

$$I_3 > I_2 > I_1 \leftarrow \text{Assumption}$$

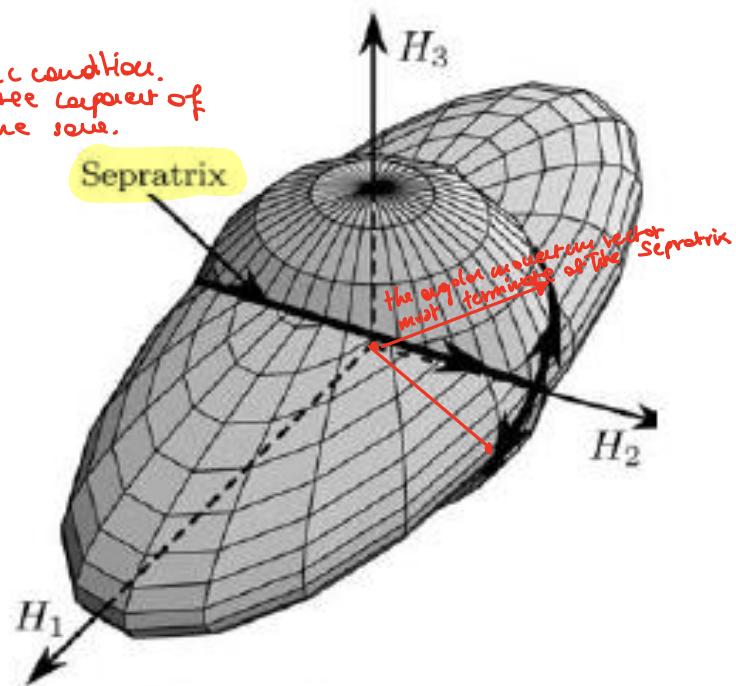


Geometric Interpretation

$$I_3 > I_2 > I_1$$



(a) Minimum energy case



(b) Intermediate energy case

NOTE The only case where the intersection is not a line but a surface is with a perfectly spherical body.



Geometric Interpretation

the intersection of the two ellipsoids is evaluated as

$$\frac{\omega_x^2}{2T/I_x} + \frac{\omega_y^2}{2T/I_y} + \frac{\omega_z^2}{2T/I_z} = 1$$

Since only if all three semi-axes are equal
and if we look at the equation it happens only
when the inertia momenta are equal.

$$\frac{\omega_x^2}{h^2/I_x^2} + \frac{\omega_y^2}{h^2/I_y^2} + \frac{\omega_z^2}{h^2/I_z^2} = 1$$

not sure

$$\boxed{\omega_x^2 \left[I_x \left(\frac{I_x}{h^2} - \frac{1}{2T} \right) \right] + \omega_y^2 \left[I_y \left(\frac{I_y}{h^2} - \frac{1}{2T} \right) \right] + \omega_z^2 \left[I_z \left(\frac{I_z}{h^2} - \frac{1}{2T} \right) \right] = 0}$$

Are all numbers

The initial condition origin the angular momentum and the kinetic energy + I_i can't change.
→ Equation is function of ω_i .

In order to obtain a real solution, the three terms $I_{x,y,z} - \frac{h^2}{2T}$ must show differences in sign

It is possible to find the solution
at least one different sign.

Assuming $I_x > I_y > I_z$

$$I_x > \frac{h^2}{2T} > I_z$$

If this is the case there will
be a change in the sign in one of $I_i - \frac{h^2}{2T}$

There must be a change in sign in
one of three → in order to have a
real solution to the problem.



Geometric Interpretation

we still assume that $I_x > I_y > I_z$

analyze its projections onto the three coordinate planes

$$\omega_x^2 \left(\frac{I_x(I_x - I_z)}{h^2 - 2TI_z} \right) + \omega_y^2 \left(\frac{I_y(I_y - I_z)}{h^2 - 2TI_z} \right) = 1$$

This conic section is representing an ellipse

projection onto the (x-y) plane

$$\omega_y^2 \left(\frac{I_y(I_y - I_x)}{h^2 - 2TI_x} \right) + \omega_z^2 \left(\frac{I_z(I_z - I_x)}{h^2 - 2TI_x} \right) = 1$$

This conic section is representing an ellipse

projection onto the (y-z) plane

$$\omega_x^2 \left(\frac{I_x(I_x - I_y)}{h^2 - 2TI_y} \right) + \omega_z^2 \left(\frac{I_z(I_z - I_y)}{h^2 - 2TI_y} \right) = 1$$

This conic section is representing an hyperbole

projection onto the (x-z) plane

we can not say a lot about the generator \rightarrow but for sure we will have different sign of the coefficient

Analyzing the planar conic curves and the signs of all coefficients, we have that

$$h^2 - 2TI_z > 0$$

$$h^2 - 2TI_x < 0$$

$$h^2 - 2TI_y ?$$



Geometric Interpretation

All the line keeps always the same amount of kinetic energy.

at some level of energy with a different angular momentum.

Different angular momentum change the intersection on the ellipsoid.

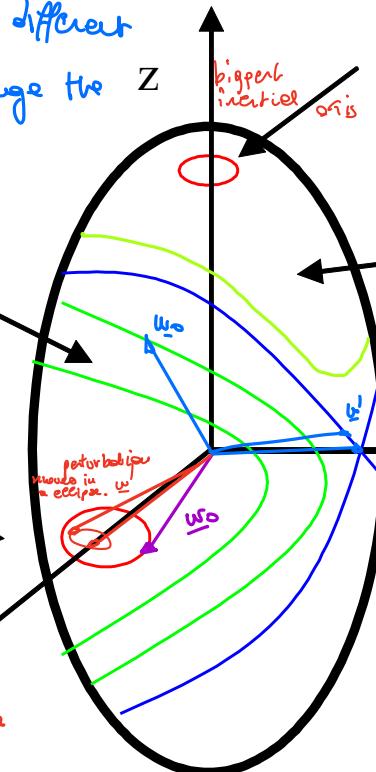
$$2TI_x < h^2 < 2TI_y$$

$$h^2 = 2TI_x$$

Δ' coming from initial projection on the xy plane

Solid inertial axis

X



decay in angular momentum leads
perturbation \rightarrow to waves decay the separation
 \rightarrow intermediate axis of inertia
is not stable

$$h^2 = 2TI_y$$

Angular velocity could change
in time as long as it conserve
angular momentum and kinetic
energy.

Given this initial condition we could
change only along the red line.



Risvolto fine Periodo Bernelli

We have given a notion of stability looking only with a geometric perspective. In future we will look at the same problem with a different notation of stability. (mathematical one).

TRANSPORT THEOREM PROOF

$$\text{STATEMENT} \Rightarrow {}^N \frac{d \underline{x}}{dt} = {}^S \frac{d \underline{x}}{dt} + \underline{\omega}_{B/N} \wedge \underline{x}$$

NOTE Valid for $\underline{o} = \underline{o}'$ I think

$\underline{x}|_N - \underline{x}|_B$ same vector represented in two different reference frames

$\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ base for reference frame B

$\underline{x} = x_1 \underline{e}_1 + x_2 \underline{e}_2 + x_3 \underline{e}_3$ in the B reference frame

$$\begin{aligned} {}^A \frac{d \underline{x}}{dt} &= \frac{dx_1}{dt} \underline{e}_1 + \frac{dx_2}{dt} \underline{e}_2 + \frac{dx_3}{dt} \underline{e}_3 + x_1 {}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_1}{dt} + x_2 {}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_2}{dt} + x_3 {}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_3}{dt} \\ &= {}^B \frac{d \underline{x}}{dt} + x_1 {}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_1}{dt} + x_2 {}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_2}{dt} + x_3 {}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_3}{dt} \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

$$e_i \cdot e_j = 1 \quad \text{if } i=j$$

$$e_i \cdot e_j = 0 \quad \text{if } i \neq j$$

recall that

$${}^A \frac{d(e_i \cdot e_i)}{dt} = 0$$

$${}^A \frac{d(e_i \cdot e_i)}{dt} = e_i \cdot {}^A \frac{d e_i}{dt} + {}^A \frac{d e_i}{dt} \cdot e_i = e_i \cdot {}^A \frac{d e_i}{dt} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow e_i \perp {}^A \frac{d e_i}{dt} \quad (1)$$

$${}^A \frac{d(e_i \cdot e_j)}{dt} = 0 \rightarrow e_i \cdot {}^A \frac{d e_j}{dt} = -e_j \cdot {}^A \frac{d e_i}{dt} \quad (2)$$

Next we will write each derivative of the unit vector as a function of the angular velocity components.

$${}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_1}{dt} = w_{11} \underline{e}_1 + w_{12} \underline{e}_2 + w_{13} \underline{e}_3$$

$${}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_2}{dt} = w_{21} \underline{e}_1 + w_{22} \underline{e}_2 + w_{23} \underline{e}_3$$

$${}^A \frac{d \underline{e}_3}{dt} = w_{31} \underline{e}_1 + w_{32} \underline{e}_2 + w_{33} \underline{e}_3$$

due to (2) $w_{ii} = w_{11} = w_{33} = 0$

Due to ②

$$\underline{e}_1 \frac{^A \partial \underline{e}_1}{\partial t} = - \underline{e}_2 \circ \frac{^A \partial \underline{e}_2}{\partial t}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \omega_{12} = -\omega_{21} \\ \omega_{13} = -\omega_{31} \\ \omega_{23} = -\omega_{32} \end{array} \right.$$

$$^A \frac{\partial \underline{e}_1}{\partial t} = \omega_{12} \underline{e}_2 + \omega_{13} \underline{e}_3$$

$$^A \frac{\partial \underline{e}_2}{\partial t} = -\omega_{21} \underline{e}_1 + \omega_{23} \underline{e}_3 \quad \text{Now}$$

$$^A \frac{\partial \underline{e}_3}{\partial t} = -\omega_{31} \underline{e}_1 - \omega_{32} \underline{e}_2$$

$$A = N$$

$$\underline{w}_{B/H} = \omega_1 \underline{e}_1 + \omega_2 \underline{e}_2 + \omega_3 \underline{e}_3 \quad ③$$

$$③ \rightarrow ④ \quad \text{we use } ^N \frac{\partial \underline{e}_i}{\partial t} = \underline{w}_{B/H} \wedge \underline{e}_i$$

Substituting this into ④ we will get

$$^N \frac{\partial \underline{x}}{\partial t} = \frac{^B \partial \underline{x}}{\partial t} + x_1 \underline{w}_{B/H} \wedge \underline{e}_1 + x_2 \underline{w}_{B/H} \wedge \underline{e}_2 + x_3 \underline{w}_{B/H} \wedge \underline{e}_3$$

$$^N \frac{\partial \underline{x}}{\partial t} = \frac{^B \partial \underline{x}}{\partial t} + \underline{w}_{B/H} \wedge \underbrace{(x_1 \underline{e}_1 + x_2 \underline{e}_2 + x_3 \underline{e}_3)}_{\underline{x}}$$

$$\boxed{^N \frac{\partial \underline{x}}{\partial t} = \frac{^B \partial \underline{x}}{\partial t} + \underline{w}_{B/H} \wedge \underline{x}}$$