# **ROTATIONAL DYNAMICS**

## <u>Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law – A Closer Look</u>

- Consider 2 particles with action/reaction pair of forces:
  - Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law  $\rightarrow \vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2} = -\vec{F}_{2 \text{ on } 1}$

- Puts no restrictions on the direction of  $\vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}$ 

- Symmetry Considerations
  - Attempt to write a formula for the force  $\vec{F}_{1 on 2}$
  - No "universal" xyz directions  $\rightarrow$  What can  $\vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}$  depend on?

2

 $r_{12}$ 

- Relative position vector  $\vec{r}_{12}$  and relative velocity vector  $\vec{v}_{12}$  only
- If  $\vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}$  depends <u>only</u> on  $\vec{r}_{12}$  mathematically:
  - Direction of  $\vec{r}_{12} \rightarrow$  only "defined" direction in space
  - $\vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}$  must point in direction of  $\vec{r}_{12}$  (or opposite direction)
  - Forces of this type are called "central" forces

## **Central Forces and Torque**

• Mathematical definition of central force:  $\vec{r}_{12} \times \vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2} = 0$ 

- True in every reference frame!

• Calculating in a particular reference frame S:

$$\vec{r}_{12} \times \vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2} = 0$$
  
$$(\vec{r}_2 - \vec{r}_1) \times \vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2} = 0$$
  
$$(\vec{r}_2 \times \vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}) - (\vec{r}_1 \times \vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}) = 0$$

$$\left(\vec{r}_{2} \times \vec{F}_{1 \text{ on } 2}\right) + \left(\vec{r}_{1} \times \vec{F}_{2 \text{ on } 1}\right) = 0$$

The quantity  $\vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i$  is called the "torque"  $(\vec{\tau}_i)$  on the i<sup>th</sup> particle

<u>Internal</u> central forces produce zero net torque on a system

2

Χ

0 <u>External</u> forces and <u>non-central</u> internal forces can exert non-zero net torque on a system

#### • Examples:

- <u>Central forces</u>: gravity, electric
- <u>Non-central force</u>: magnetic (depends on position <u>and velocity</u>)

#### Static Equilibrium

- "Equilibrium"  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbf{F}_{net} = 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{a}_{CM} = 0$
- "Static Equilibrium"  $\rightarrow \mathbf{a}_i = 0$  for every particle
  - <u>Examples</u>: buildings, bridges  $\rightarrow$  (not <u>perfectly</u> static!)
  - Requires:  $\vec{F}_{net, external} = 0$  and  $\vec{\tau}_{net, external} = \sum_{i} (\vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i) = 0$
  - Useful for calculating structural loads and stresses
- <u>Examples</u>:
  - Shelf  $\rightarrow$  calculate tension in cable
  - Calculate force of wall on plank
  - Door of width w and height  $h \rightarrow draw direction of each F_{hinge}$





#### Angular Momentum

• Consider the net torque on a system of particles

$$\vec{\tau}_{net} = \sum_{i} \left( \vec{r}_{i} \times \vec{F}_{i} \right) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \vec{\tau}_{net} = \sum_{i} \left( \vec{r}_{i} \times \frac{d \vec{p}_{i}}{dt} \right) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \vec{\tau}_{net} = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \sum_{i} \left( \vec{r}_{i} \times \vec{p}_{i} \right) \right)$$

- $\vec{r}_i \times \vec{p}_i$  is referred to as "angular momentum" ( $\vec{L}_i$ ) of i<sup>th</sup> particle
- Internal, central forces exert zero net torque
- Net torque must be provided by <u>external</u> forces:

 $\vec{\tau}_{net, external} = \frac{d \vec{L}_{total}}{dt}$  (Similar to Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Law)

– If zero net external torque  $\rightarrow$  angular momentum is conserved

- Both  $\vec{\tau}$  and  $\vec{L}$  depend on choice of origin
  - Unlike force and momentum (only depend on xyz directions)
  - However, the equation above is true in <u>all</u> reference frames

#### **Examples**

- Pendulum at some instant (angle θ, speed ν)
  - Using top of string as origin:
  - Calculate torque and angular momentum
  - Plug in to  $T_{net} = dL/dt$

Repeat, using mass's lowest point as origin

- Wooden board falls off table
  - Mass m, starting from rest
  - Using edge of table as origin:
  - Calculate T<sub>net</sub> and a<sub>right edge of board</sub> at t=0
  - (Assume board stays rigid  $\rightarrow$  v proportional to r)
- Why does a helicopter need a tail rotor?



θ

d

d/4

d

m

## CM Frame of a Physical System

- Empty space  $\rightarrow$  homogeneous and isotropic
  - All points are physically the same  $\rightarrow$  no point is "special"
  - All directions physically the same  $\rightarrow$  no direction is "special"



- System of particles  $\rightarrow$  breaks this symmetry
  - A "special" reference frame can be defined for the system:
  - Origin = CM of system (called the "CM frame")
  - x'y'z' axes  $\rightarrow$  defined by particle positions ("principal axes")
  - Angular velocity vector  $\hat{\Omega}_{CM} \rightarrow$  defined by particle velocities

## Angular Momentum in CM Frame

$$\vec{p}_{system} = M_{system} \vec{v}_{CM}$$
  $KE_{system} = \frac{1}{2} M_{system} v_{CM}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} m_i (v'_i)^2$ 

- For a system of particles measured in the CM frame:
  - Total momentum must be zero, but total KE can be non-zero!
- Angular Momentum (calculated in an inertial frame S):

"orbital" angular momentum (zero in CM frame)

#### **Rotating CM Frame**

- "Special" reference frame for a system of particles:
  - Must allow for rotating axes to account for angular momentum
- Let S be an inertial (non-rotating) CM frame

- Let S' be a rotating CM frame with matrix R(t)  
- Recall: 
$$\vec{v} ' = R \vec{v} - [\vec{\Omega} \times (R \vec{r})]$$
  
 $\vec{L}_{system} ' = \sum_{i} m_{i} (\vec{r}_{i} ' \times \vec{v}_{i} ') = 0$  For some "special"  $\vec{\Omega}$   
 $\vec{L}_{system} ' = \sum_{i} m_{i} [R \vec{r}_{i} \times (R \vec{v}_{i} - \vec{\Omega} \times (R \vec{r}_{i}))] = 0$   
 $\vec{L}_{system} ' = \sum_{i} m_{i} [(R \vec{r}_{i}) \times (R \vec{v}_{i})] - \sum_{i} m_{i} [(R \vec{r}_{i}) \times (\vec{\Omega} \times (R \vec{r}_{i}))] = 0$   
 $\vec{L}_{system} ' = R [\vec{L}_{spin, inertial} - \sum_{i} m_{i} [\vec{r}_{i} \times (\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}_{i})]] = 0$   
 $\vec{L}_{spin, inertial} = \sum_{i} m_{i} [\vec{r}_{i} \times (\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}_{i})]$  This can be used to calculate the "special"  $\vec{\Omega}$   
For a given system (which makes L' = 0)

#### Inertia Tensor

$$\begin{split} \vec{L}_{spin, inertial} &= \sum_{i} m_{i} \left[ \vec{r}_{i} \times \left( \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}_{i} \right) \right] \\ \vec{L}_{spin, inertial} &= -\sum_{i} m_{i} \left[ \vec{r}_{i} \times \left( \vec{r}_{i} \times \vec{\Omega} \right) \right] \\ \vec{L}_{spin, inertial} &= -\sum_{i} m_{i} \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -z_{i} & y_{i} \\ z_{i} & 0 & -x_{i} \\ -y_{i} & x_{i} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -z_{i} & y_{i} \\ z_{i} & 0 & -x_{i} \\ -y_{i} & x_{i} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Omega_{x} \\ \Omega_{y} \\ \Omega_{z} \end{pmatrix} \right] \\ \vec{L}_{spin, inertial} &= \left[ \sum_{i} m_{i} \begin{pmatrix} (y_{i}^{2} + z_{i}^{2}) & -x_{i} & y_{i} & -z_{i} & x_{i} \\ -x_{i} & y_{i} & (x_{i}^{2} + z_{i}^{2}) & -y_{i} & z_{i} \\ -z_{i} & x_{i} & -y_{i} & z_{i} & (x_{i}^{2} + y_{i}^{2}) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Omega_{x} \\ \Omega_{y} \\ \Omega_{z} \end{pmatrix} \right] \equiv \vec{I} \vec{\Omega} \end{split}$$

"Inertia Tensor" – fully describes the distribution of mass in a system

Diagonal elements are called "moments of inertia"

Off-diagonal elements are called "products of inertia"

Reference frame for a system of particles is almost complete:

1) origin  $\rightarrow$  CM

- 2) angular velocity  $\rightarrow$  using L and I
- 3) need to find "principal axes"

## Inertia Tensor for Mass Distributions

- For a system of particles:  $\tilde{I} = \sum_{i} m_{i} \begin{pmatrix} (y_{i}^{2} + z_{i}^{2}) & -x_{i} y_{i} & -z_{i} x_{i} \\ -x_{i} y_{i} & (x_{i}^{2} + z_{i}^{2}) & -y_{i} z_{i} \\ -z_{i} x_{i} & -y_{i} z_{i} & (x_{i}^{2} + y_{i}^{2}) \end{pmatrix}$
- Inertia tensor extends naturally to mass distributions:  $\begin{pmatrix} y^2 + z^2 \\ -x y \\ -z x \end{pmatrix}$

$$\tilde{I} = \int \rho (x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \, dz \begin{pmatrix} (y^2 + z^2) & -x y & -z x \\ -x y & (x^2 + z^2) & -y z \\ -z x & -y z & (x^2 + y^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

Elements of inertia tensor depend on choice of xyz axes

- Is there a "special" set of xyz axes for a given system?
- Yes! Possible (but <u>difficult</u>) to find "principal axes" such that  $\frac{1}{2}$  products of inertia are zero  $\rightarrow$  in this reference frame:

$$\tilde{I} = \sum_{i} m_{i} \begin{pmatrix} (y_{i}^{2} + z_{i}^{2}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (x_{i}^{2} + z_{i}^{2}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (x_{i}^{2} + y_{i}^{2}) \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} L_{x} = I_{xx} \ \Omega_{x} \\ L_{y} = I_{yy} \ \Omega_{y} \\ L_{z} = I_{zz} \ \Omega_{z} \end{array}$$

Note: L and  $\vec{\Omega}$  can point in different directions!

For a system which is symmetric about an axis: <sup>dir</sup>

- The symmetry axis is one of the principal axes of the system

## **Rigid Body Rotation**

- Physics definition of "rigid body"
  - System of particles which maintains its shape (no deformation)
  - i.e. velocity of particles in CM frame comes from rotation only
  - Notation:  $\omega$  = angular velocity of rigid body (<u>inertial</u> CM frame)

ω

Tension

F<sub>cent</sub>

- View from rotating CM frame
  - Every particle stands still in equilibrium (I is constant)
  - Centrifugal forces balanced by internal stresses
- Rigid body model for solid objects  $\rightarrow$  reasonably good
  - In reality, solids can 1) deform and 2) dissipate energy as heat
  - Rigid body model  $\rightarrow$  not applicable to fluids, orbits, stars, etc.

## Example: Rotating Skew Rod

ω

 $\langle$ 

Х

- Rigid massless rod (length 2d):
  - Rotates as shown with mass m at each end
  - At the instant shown:
  - Calculate L<sub>system</sub>, using 2 different methods:
  - 1)  $\vec{r}_i \times \vec{p}_i$ , and 2) calculate the inertia tensor
  - Notice **L** and  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$  don't point same direction!
- Is an external torque needed to sustain this motion?
  - If so, calculate it
- Use symmetry to guess the principal axes
  - Verify guess by calculating inertia tensor in principal frame

## **Fixed-Axis Rotation**

- Common practice  $\rightarrow$  hold  $\omega$  constant (not L)  $\rightarrow \frac{d L}{dt} \neq 0$ 
  - If L and  $\omega$  not <u>parallel</u>  $\rightarrow$  "axle" must exert an external torque!
- Example: Rotating ceiling fan
  - If mass is <u>symmetrically</u> distributed:
  - L and  $\omega$  parallel  $\rightarrow$  fan turns smoothly
  - If mass distribution has asymmetry (poor alignment, etc.):
  - L and  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$  not parallel  $\rightarrow$  fan wobbles
- High rotation speeds  $\rightarrow$  wheels, lathes, etc.
  - Mounting must be able to exert external torque
  - Enough to handle a "tolerable" amount of asymmetry





#### Parallel-Axis Theorem

<u>Often</u>: fixed axis does <u>not</u> pass through CM of system

ω

- <u>Example</u>: door hinge - how to calculate L<sub>door</sub>?

- Recall 
$$\vec{L}_{system} = M_{total} \vec{v}_{CM} \times \vec{r}_{CM} + (\tilde{I}_{principal}) \vec{\omega}$$

- For rigid body rotation:  $\vec{v}_{CM} = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_{CM}$ 

- Parallel-Axis Theorem:
  - Let d be the perpendicular distance from CM to fixed axis

$$I_{orbital, axis} = M d^{2} \longrightarrow I_{axis} = I_{principal} + M d^{2}$$
$$I_{door about hinges} = \left(\frac{1}{12} M_{door} (2 d)^{2} + M_{door} d^{2}\right) = \frac{1}{3} M_{door} (2 d)^{2}$$

## Rotational KE

• For a rotating rigid body (in inertial frame) :

$$KE_{system} = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{2} m_{i} v_{i}^{2} = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{2} m_{i} (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_{i}) \cdot (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_{i})$$
$$KE_{system} = \frac{1}{2} \vec{\omega} \cdot \left[ \sum_{i} m_{i} (\vec{r}_{i} \times (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_{i})) \right] \qquad \text{(Using vector identity)}$$

$$KE_{system} = \frac{1}{2} \vec{\omega} \cdot (\tilde{I} \vec{\omega}) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{\omega} \cdot \vec{L}$$

(maximum angle between  $\vec{\omega}$  and  $\vec{L}$  is 90°)

(For non-rigid bodies, must also include motion of particles toward/away from CM)

- In principal axis frame:  $KE_{principal} = \frac{1}{2} I_{xx} \omega_x^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_{yy} \omega_y^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_{zz} \omega_z^2$
- <u>Example</u>: "average" frisbee toss
  - Estimate  $\text{KE}_{\text{translation}}$  and  $\text{KE}_{\text{rotation}}$  in Joules



## **Rolling Without Slipping**

- System's  $\vec{v}_{CM}$  and  $\vec{\omega}$  : independent of each other
  - No relation between translational / rotational motion in general
  - However, by using a force  $\rightarrow$  the 2 can be coupled
- <u>Example</u>: friction



- Relative <u>velocity</u> of ball's surface / floor causes <u>kinetic</u> friction
- This force has 2 effects:
- 1) pushes the ball to the right (affecting  $\vec{v}_{CM}$ )
- 2) exerts a CCW torque on the ball (affecting  $\vec{\omega}$ )
- Rolling without slipping  $\rightarrow$  condition where  $v_{CM} = R \omega$ 
  - $v_{contact}$ =0  $\rightarrow$  fixed-axis rotation about contact pt. (static friction)



#### **Examples**

- "Sweet spot" of baseball bat or tennis racket
  - Goal: Minimize effect of ball impact on hands
  - Assume quick impulse  $\rightarrow F_{hand}$  has no effect
  - If collision is elastic, calculate x such that:
  - $v_{end of bat} = 0$  (closest to hands) due to collision

- Belt around two rotors (m<sub>1</sub>, r<sub>1</sub> and m<sub>2</sub>, r<sub>2</sub>)
  - Belt (mass m<sub>b</sub>) moves at speed v
  - Calculate the total KE of the system
  - What happens to belt as v gets large?



X

## "Stability" of Rotating Objects

- Consider a rotating object which is deflected:
  - The larger L<sub>initial</sub> gets:
  - The smaller the deflection angle
- Example: riding a bicycle
  - At low speed  $\rightarrow$  leaning leads to falling over
  - At high speed  $\rightarrow$  same amount of torque has less impact
- Coin (mass M, radius R) rolls without slipping on table
  - Traces out circular path (of radius d >> R) on table
  - Coin must lean inward by (small) angle  $\beta$  to do so
  - Calculate  $\beta$  if circle takes time T to complete



#### **Euler's Equations**

• Linear Momentum:  $\vec{p}_{system} = m \vec{v}_{CM}$  and is conserved

– Since m is a scalar and is constant  $\rightarrow \mathbf{v}_{CM}$  is constant

- <u>Angular Momentum</u>:  $\vec{L}_{spin, inertial} = \tilde{I} \vec{\omega}$  and is conserved
  - $\rightarrow$  <u>not</u> a simple scalar and <u>can</u> vary with time
  - No such thing as "conservation of  $\omega$ "  $\rightarrow$  even with no torque!

$$\frac{\text{Chain rule:}}{\vec{\tau}} = \frac{d \ \vec{L}_{spin, inertial}}{dt} = \left(\frac{d \ \tilde{I}}{dt}\right) \vec{\omega} + \tilde{I} \left(\frac{d \ \vec{\omega}}{dt}\right)$$

$$\text{To evaluate d I /dt, recall:}$$

$$\ln \text{ "rotating principal axis CM frame"} \rightarrow \mathbf{I'} \text{ is constant for a rigid body}$$

$$\frac{d \ \tilde{I} \ '}{dt} = 0 = \frac{d \ \tilde{I}}{dt} - \vec{\omega} \times \tilde{I}$$

$$\vec{\tau} = (\vec{\omega} \times \tilde{I}) \ \vec{\omega} + \tilde{I} \left(\frac{d \ \vec{\omega}}{dt}\right)$$
(similar to  $\mathbf{F} = \text{m d}\mathbf{v}/\text{d}t$ )
$$\text{Notice } \vec{\omega} \text{ can change even if torque is zero!}$$

dt

dt

## **Stable/Unstable Rotations**

- Rigid-body rotation about any principal axis:
  - Every particle in equilibrium (as viewed in rotating CM frame)
  - Is this equilibrium stable? If  $\vec{\omega}$  has small off-axis component:
  - Do Euler's equations predict it will grow / shrink / neither?
- Consider rotating principal-axis system with  $(\omega_y, \omega_z) \ll \omega_x$

- Euler's equations (to 1<sup>st</sup> order in  $\omega_y$  and  $\omega_z$  ) become:

 $I_{xx} \frac{d \omega_x}{dt} = 0$  (No external torque)

$$I_{yy} \frac{d \omega_y}{dt} + (I_{xx} - I_{zz}) \omega_x \omega_z = 0$$

$$I_{zz} \frac{d \omega_z}{dt} + (I_{yy} - I_{xx}) \omega_x \omega_y = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2 \omega_y}{dt^2} - \left(\frac{\left(I_{xx} - I_{zz}\right)\left(I_{yy} - I_{xx}\right)}{I_{yy} I_{zz}} \omega_x^2\right) \omega_y = 0$$
  
"C" = Constant  
C < 0 : rotation about x-axis is stable

C > 0: rotation about x-axis is stable C > 0: rotation about x-axis is unstable Largest & smallest moments of inertia: stable axis Intermediate moment of inertia: unstable axis

#### **Precession**

- In general  $\rightarrow$  motion of  $\omega$  very complicated
  - Euler's Equations coupled nonlinear DE's
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgVpOorcKqc
  - <u>Terminology</u>: "Precession" and "Nutation"
  - Precession  $\rightarrow$  motion of  $\omega$  simpler to describe than nutation
- Torque-free precession
  - L has large stable-axis component  $\rightarrow \omega$  "circles" L
  - Example: spinning coin tossed in air "wobbles"
- Torque-induced precession
  - Causes L and  $\omega$  to rotate around fixed axis
  - Example: Precession of Earth axis due to Moon/Sun







#### <u>Gyroscopes</u>

- Devices for studying / utilizing precession and nutation
  - Basic setup: single axis with low friction & good alignment
  - Can be used to produce strong L due to "spin":
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVKz9G3YXiw
- Commonly used in sensor systems
  - Can be used to measure orientation, latitude, acceleration, etc.
- Example: "Uniform Precession"
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H98BgRzpOM&feature=related
  - Wheel has mass M, radius R, string attached distance d from center
  - Horizontal wheel spins at angular velocity  $\omega_{spin}$ , calculate  $\omega_{precession}$





#### "State" of a System

- "Microscopic state" of a system of particles  $\rightarrow m_i$ ,  $\vec{r}_i$ ,  $\vec{v}_i$ 
  - Given the system's current state and forces between particles:
  - Use Newton's Laws to predict future motion of each particle
- "Macroscopic state" of a system  $\rightarrow \mathbf{P}_{total}$ , KE, PE, L
  - Quantities associated with the system as a whole
  - Conservation Laws predict the future motion of the system
- Experiments in early-mid 1900's
  - Showed that elementary particles (like e<sup>-</sup>) have L and energy
  - So they act more like <u>systems</u> than particles!
  - Quantum Mechanics explains how this can be possible