

Lecture 07.2 - Physics 523

Rotating Reference frames

Usually ref. frame is some rotating rigid body (e.g. earth, or spaceship w/artificial gravity...)

Euler's Theorem If point P in a body is fixed, then most general motion is rotation about some axis through P.
(fairly intuitive)

Rate of rotation: Angular velocity $\omega \rightarrow$ can give it a dir., due to Euler's thm. $\vec{\omega} = \omega \hat{u}$ (use RHR to specify sign)
 \uparrow lies along axis of rotation through P.

Generalization of $v = \omega r$:

$$\vec{v} = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}$$

or $\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}$

in general, for fixed vector \vec{a} in frame S_1 ,
 $\frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{a}$ in frame S_0

Addition of angular velocities:

3 frames, $S_0, S_1, + S_2$ S_1 has $\vec{\omega}_{10}$ relative to S_0 S_2 has $\vec{\omega}_{21}$ rel. to S_1

What is $\vec{\omega}_{20}$? We know translational velocities add

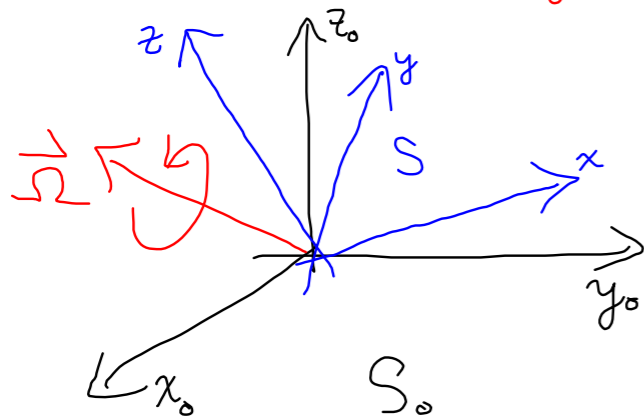
$$\vec{v}_{20} = \vec{v}_{10} + \vec{v}_{21} \quad \vec{\omega}_{20} \times \vec{r} = \vec{\omega}_{10} \times \vec{r} + \vec{\omega}_{21} \times \vec{r} = (\vec{\omega}_{10} + \vec{\omega}_{21}) \times \vec{r}$$

$$\vec{\omega}_{20} = \vec{\omega}_{10} + \vec{\omega}_{21}$$

We want eom in frame S , rotating w/ ang. freq. $\vec{\Omega}$ relative to another frame S_0

eg. frame S rotating along w/ earth $\rightarrow |\vec{\Omega}_{\text{earth}}| = 7.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ rad/s}$

For the purpose of our ongoing discussion, ignore other rotations (eg. earth-moon system)



Consider vector \vec{a} (any physical quantity)

want to relate $\frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \Big|_{S_0}$ to $\frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \Big|_S$

$$\vec{a} \Big|_S = \sum_i a_i \hat{e}_i \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{unit vectors} \\ \text{fixed in } S \end{array} \right. \quad \frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \Big|_S = \sum_i \frac{da_i}{dt} \hat{e}_i \quad \left(\frac{d\hat{e}_i}{dt} \Big|_S = 0 \right)$$

But \hat{e}_i not fixed in S_0 frame $\frac{d\hat{e}_i}{dt} \Big|_{S_0} = \vec{\Omega} \times \hat{e}_i$ from earlier discussion

$$\frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \Big|_{S_0} = \sum_i \frac{da_i}{dt} \hat{e}_i + a_i \frac{d\hat{e}_i}{dt} = \underbrace{\sum_i \frac{da_i}{dt} \hat{e}_i}_{\frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \Big|_S} + \underbrace{\sum_i a_i \vec{\Omega} \times \hat{e}_i}_{\vec{\Omega} \times (\sum_i a_i \hat{e}_i) = \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{a}} = \frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \Big|_S + \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{a}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \Big|_{S_0} = \frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \Big|_S + \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{a}}$$

We can use this relation to express Newton's EOM's in arbitrary rotating frame

Newton's 2nd

$$\vec{F} = m \ddot{\vec{r}}|_{S_0} \quad S_0 \text{ is inertial frame}$$

↳ need this vector in arb. rotating frame S , $\vec{\Omega}$ rel. to S_0

$$\vec{v}|_{S_0} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}|_{S_0} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}|_S + \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2}|_{S_0} &= \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)_{S_0} \left[\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}|_S + \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r} \right] = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)_S \left[\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}|_S + \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r} \right] + \vec{\Omega} \times \left[\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}|_S + \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r} \right] \\ &= \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2}|_S + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}|_S + \vec{\Omega} \times (\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{S_0} \quad \vec{F} = m \ddot{\vec{r}}|_{S_0} = m \ddot{\vec{r}}|_S + 2m \vec{\Omega} \times \dot{\vec{r}}|_S + m \vec{\Omega} \times (\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r})$$

just $-m\vec{A}$ for this frame

$$m \ddot{\vec{r}}|_S = \vec{F} + 2m \dot{\vec{r}} \times \vec{\Omega}|_S + m (\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}) \times \vec{\Omega}$$

↳ Coriolis force centrifugal force

↑ this was vanishing in our examples on Tuesday

Centrifugal Force

If relative velocity of 2 frames vanishes, as in our examples so far, $\vec{F}_{\text{cor}} = 0$

→ small when object at rest in rotating frame, or $\dot{\vec{r}}$ is small

$$\frac{F_{\text{cor}}}{F_{\text{cf}}} \sim \frac{V}{R\Omega} = \frac{v}{V}$$

↳ for earth, $\sim 10^3$ mi/hr near equator

$$\vec{F}_{\text{cf}} = m (\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}) \times \vec{\Omega}$$