

Rigid Body Dynamics

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Center of Mass:

The center of mass R is the centroid of a body with continuous mass and uniform density. It is also known as the center of gravity.

$$R = \frac{1}{M} \int_V \rho(r) r dV$$

Where:

M : the mass

ρ : the density

Experiment:

The box will be pushed into multiples steps until its center of mass goes beyond the edge of the table ,so it's going to fall into the ground.



Kinetic energies:

The kinetic energy is due to the energy of the motion of a solid.

For a non-rotating object it can be determined as:

$$E_t = \frac{1}{2} M v_c^2$$

Where:

v_c : velocity of center of mass

If the body is rotating:

$$E_r = \frac{1}{2} \int_M v^2 dm = \frac{1}{2} \int_M (r\omega)^2 dm = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$$

Where:

ω : angular velocity

r : distance of any mass dm from that line

I : body moment inertia

The total energy of a body's center mass is the sum of its translational and

rotation energy

$$E_k = E_t + E_r$$

Moments of Inertia:

Translational Inertia:

$$F = ma$$

Rotational Inertia:

$$\tau = I\alpha$$

Where:

τ : Torque

α : Angular acceleration

The moment of inertia is given by the integrating each differential mass element

$$I = \int_M r^2 dm$$

Where:

r : distance from axis of rotation

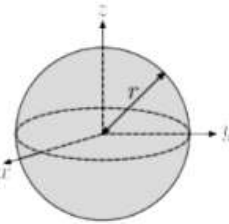
The same equation can be written in terms of density

$$I = \int_V r^2 \rho(r) dV$$

For the **same object**, **different axes of rotation will have different moments of inertia** about those axes. In general, the moments of inertia are not equal unless the object is symmetric about all axes. Let's see some examples extracted from [Wikipedia's "List of moments of inertia"](#) (density is assumed to be constant in all the cases).

For a solid sphere or ball of radius r and mass m , the moment of inertia for any axis passing through the centroid is:

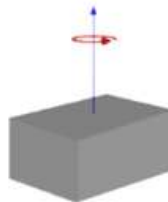
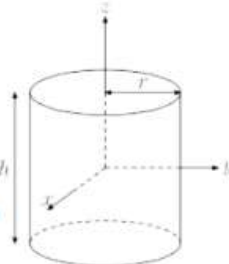
$$I = \frac{2}{5} mr^2 \quad (9)$$



For a solid cylinder of radius r , height h and mass m , the moments of inertia about the main axes are:

$$I_z = \frac{1}{2} mr^2 \quad (10)$$

$$I_x = I_y = \frac{1}{12} m(3r^2 + h^2) \quad (11)$$



For a solid rectangular box of height h , width w , depth d , and mass m :

$$I_h = \frac{1}{12} m(w^2 + d^2) \quad (12)$$

$$I_w = \frac{1}{12} m(d^2 + h^2) \quad (13)$$

$$I_d = \frac{1}{12} m(w^2 + h^2) \quad (14)$$

Parallel axis theorem

This theorem allow us to establish a new rotation axis, but it should be parallel to the center of

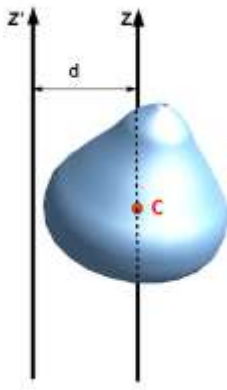
mas axis.

$$I_{z'} = I_z + md^2$$

Where:

I_z : Moment of inertia of center of mass

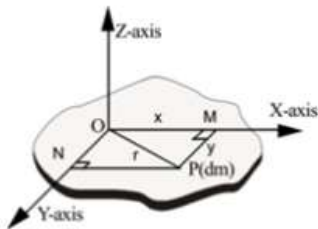
$I_{z'}$: Moment of inertia of new rotation axis



Parallel axis theorem

This theorem states that the moment of inertia of a perpendicular axis to the plane is the sum of the inertia moment of x and y.

$$I_z = I_x + I_y$$



Stretch rule (Routh's rule)

This rule states that if a rigid body is compressed or stretched to an axis rotation, its moment of inertia won't change as long as the mass distribution doesn't change.

Experiment:

If a constant torque τ is applied for a fixed duration T , the angular acceleration α is constant during the interval of time and its value is:

$$\alpha = \frac{\tau}{I}$$

The final angular velocity ω will be:

$$\omega = \omega_0 + \alpha T$$

In this case the τ is 0.1 and T is 1



Moments of Inertia:

0.0416667
0.056780260521
0.0683333