

Classical Mechanics  
Phy 235, Lecture 20.

Frank L. H. Wolfs  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University of Rochester

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

1

And look at this one ....  
My favorite plane and no smog in Beijing.



PH-BFT at PEK (Beijing)

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2

**Yesterday was Dutch-American Heritage Day**

*Dutch-American Heritage Day marks the longstanding history and shared bonds between the Netherlands and the United States.*

*In 1776, the Netherlands became the first country to formally recognize the United States of America. On that day, the governor of Sint Eustasius ordered the island's cannons fired in response to the 13-gun salute from the Andrew Doria as it sailed into the harbor of the Dutch island. Only four months before, the United States declared its independence from Great Britain. This simple act is recorded as the first salute to the American flag by a foreign nation.*

*The ties between the Netherlands and New York extend further back to 1609 when Henry Hudson sailed the Dutch ship, the Half Moon, into what is now known as New York Harbor. Hudson's voyage led to the founding of New Netherlands and the trading post New Amsterdam.*

From: <http://nlintheusa.com/nlus/>

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3

## Course Announcements.

- Exam 3:
  - Tuesday November 18, 8.00 am – 9.20 am (B&L 109).
  - Extra office hours today between 3 pm and 7 pm in the POA.
- Homework set # 10 (the last homework assignment) will be due on Friday December 5.

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 4

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Course Announcements.

- The term paper for this course is due on Wednesday November 26. Please remember that the first draft of your paper must be discussed with the fellows in the writing center. I will receive a confirmation from your meeting.
- NOTE: the 10 pages for the term paper is a guideline. It will be difficult to discuss your topic with appropriate details in less than 10 pages. A few additional pages is not a problem. But I do not want a 100-page paper either!
- Make sure you refer to all the instructions on the PHY 235 webpages.

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 5

5

---

---

---

---

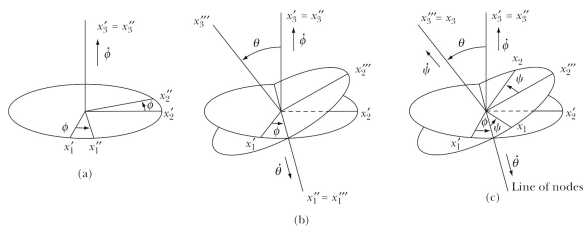
---

---

---

---

## Euler Angles. A quick review.



Note:  $x'$  is fixed reference frame,  $x$  is body reference frame.

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 6

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Euler Angles. Transformation Matrix.

Rotation around  $x_3''''$  axis.
Rotation around  $x_1''$  axis.
Rotation around  $x_3'$  axis.

$$\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\psi & \sin\psi & 0 \\ -\sin\psi & \cos\psi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ 0 & -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos\phi & \sin\phi & 0 \\ -\sin\phi & \cos\phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \cos\psi \cos\phi - \cos\theta \sin\phi \sin\psi & \cos\psi \sin\phi + \cos\theta \cos\phi \sin\psi & \sin\psi \sin\theta \\ -\sin\psi \cos\phi - \cos\theta \sin\phi \cos\psi & -\sin\psi \sin\phi + \cos\theta \cos\phi \cos\psi & \cos\psi \sin\theta \\ \sin\theta \sin\phi & -\sin\theta \cos\phi & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix}$$

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 7

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Euler Angles. Angular Velocity.

$$\bar{\omega} = \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \\ \omega_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\phi}_1 + \dot{\theta}_1 + \dot{\psi}_1 \\ \dot{\phi}_2 + \dot{\theta}_2 + \dot{\psi}_2 \\ \dot{\phi}_3 + \dot{\theta}_3 + \dot{\psi}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\phi} \sin\theta \sin\psi + \dot{\theta} \cos\psi \\ \dot{\phi} \sin\theta \cos\psi - \dot{\theta} \sin\psi \\ \dot{\phi} \cos\theta + \dot{\psi} \end{pmatrix}$$

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 8

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Lagrange's equations for the three Euler angles.

- We can obtain a Lagrange's equation for each Euler angle:

- $\phi$  :  $\frac{d}{dt} \{ I_1 \omega_1 \sin\theta \sin\psi + I_2 \omega_2 \sin\theta \cos\psi + I_3 \omega_3 \cos\theta \} = 0$

- $\theta$  :  $\dot{\phi} \{ (I_1 \omega_1 \sin\psi + I_2 \omega_2 \cos\psi) \cos\theta - I_3 \omega_3 \sin\theta \} - \frac{d}{dt} \{ I_1 \omega_1 \cos\psi - I_2 \omega_2 \sin\psi \} = 0$

- $\psi$  :  $(I_1 - I_2) \omega_1 \omega_2 - I_3 \dot{\omega}_3 = 0$  ← Only equation that contains just angular velocities.

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 9

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Lagrange's equations for the three Euler angles.

- Since our choice of coordinate axes was arbitrary, we can find the following relations for the three components of the angular velocity:

$$(I_1 - I_2)\omega_1\omega_2 - I_3\dot{\omega}_3 = 0$$

$$(I_2 - I_3)\omega_2\omega_3 - I_1\dot{\omega}_1 = 0$$

$$(I_3 - I_1)\omega_3\omega_1 - I_2\dot{\omega}_2 = 0$$

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 10

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Example: symmetric top.

- Two different principle moments:  $I_1 = I_2$  and  $I_3$ .

- One of the Euler equations tells us:

$$I_3\dot{\omega}_3 = 0$$

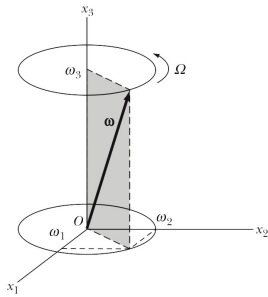
- We thus conclude that

$$\omega_3(t) = \text{constant} = \omega_3$$

- The other two Euler equations:

$$\dot{\omega}_1 = -\left(\frac{I_3 - I_1}{I_1}\omega_3\right)\omega_2 = -\Omega\omega_2$$

$$\dot{\omega}_2 = \left(\frac{I_3 - I_1}{I_1}\omega_3\right)\omega_1 = \Omega\omega_1$$



Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 11

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

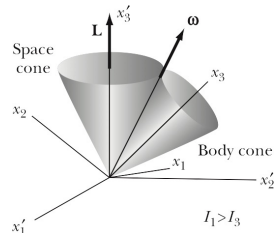
---

## No external forces: angular momentum is conserved.

- Since there are no external forces acting on the system, the angular momentum remains fixed in the fixed reference frame.
- The rotational kinetic energy is also constant.

$$T_{rot} = \frac{1}{2}\bar{\omega} \cdot \bar{L}$$

- This requires that the angle between the angular momentum and the angular velocity is constant.



Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 12

12

---

---

---

---

---

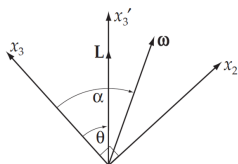
---

---

---

### Problem 11.27

A symmetric body moves without the influence of forces or torques. Let  $x_3$  be the symmetry axis of the body and  $L$  be along  $x_3'$ . The angle between the angular velocity vector and  $x_3$  is  $\alpha$ . Let  $\omega$  and  $L$  initially be in the  $x_2$ - $x_3$  plane. What is the angular velocity of the symmetry axis about  $L$  in terms of  $I_1, I_3, \omega$ , and  $\alpha$ ?



Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 13

13

---

---

---

---

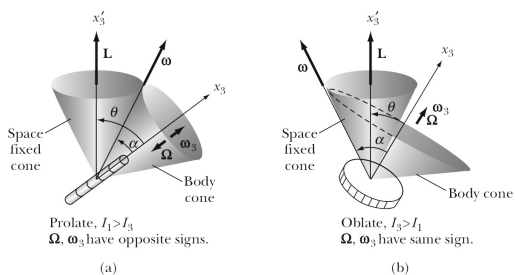
---

---

---

---

### Prolate and Oblate Rotation.



Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 14

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### External torques: the Euler equations of a rigid body in a force field.

- When the external torque is not equal to 0, the angular momentum of the system is not conserved.
- In this case, we need to use the Euler equations of a rigid body in a force field:

$$N_1 = \frac{dL_1}{dt} + (\bar{\omega} \times \bar{L})_1 = \frac{dL_1}{dt} + (\omega_2 L_3 - \omega_3 L_2) = I_1 \dot{\omega}_1 - (I_2 - I_3) \omega_2 \omega_3$$

$$N_2 = \frac{dL_2}{dt} + (\bar{\omega} \times \bar{L})_2 = \frac{dL_2}{dt} + (\omega_3 L_1 - \omega_1 L_3) = I_2 \dot{\omega}_2 - (I_3 - I_1) \omega_3 \omega_1$$

$$N_3 = \frac{dL_3}{dt} + (\bar{\omega} \times \bar{L})_3 = \frac{dL_3}{dt} + (\omega_1 L_2 - \omega_2 L_1) = I_3 \dot{\omega}_3 - (I_1 - I_2) \omega_1 \omega_2$$

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 15

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

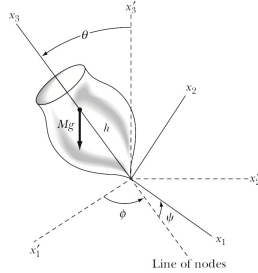
## Symmetric top with external torque.

- For this top,  $I_1 = I_2$ .
- There is a non-zero torque along the  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  axes.
- We conclude:

$$(I_1 - I_2)\omega_1\omega_2 - I_3\dot{\omega}_3 = 0$$

$$-I_3\dot{\omega}_3 = 0$$

$$\omega_3 = \text{constant}$$



Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 16

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

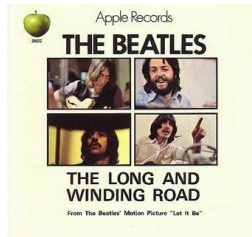
---

---



## 3 Minute 37 Second Intermission.

- Since paying attention for 1 hour and 15 minutes is hard when the topic is physics, let's take a 3 minute 37 second intermission.
- You can:
  - Stretch out.
  - Talk to your neighbors.
  - Ask me a quick question.
  - Enjoy the fantastic music.



Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 17

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Symmetric top with external torque. Effective energy.

- Since no non-conservative forces are acting on the system, energy is conserved.
- Since the angular velocity around the  $x_3$  axis is constant, we can subtract the kinetic energy associated with this motion from the total energy. This produces the *effective energy*  $E'$ :

$$E' = \frac{1}{2}I_1\dot{\theta}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{(p_\phi - p_\psi \cos\theta)^2}{I_1 \sin^2\theta} + Mgh\cos\theta$$

- The momenta are constant and the effective energy only depends on  $\theta$  and  $d\theta/dt$ . The problem has been reduced to a one-dimensional problem.

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 18

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Symmetric top with external torque. Effective potential energy.

- One term of the effective energy depends on  $d\theta/dt$ , the last two terms depend on  $\theta$ .
- The effective potential energy is defined as

$$V(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(p_\phi - p_\psi \cos\theta)^2}{I_1 \sin^2\theta} + Mgh \cos\theta$$

- The potential energy shows the limits of motion for a given effective energy.

Frank L. H. Wolfs      Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

19

### Symmetric top with external torque.

- The effective energy has a minimum value at a specific angle  $\theta_0$ .
- At this angle stable precession can be produced if the angular velocity is sufficiently large.

$$\omega_3 \geq \frac{2}{I_3} \sqrt{Mgh I_1 \cos\theta_0}$$

- In general, there are two precession rates since there are two possible values of  $\beta$ :

$$\dot{\phi} = \frac{p_\phi - p_\psi \cos\theta_0}{I_1 \sin^2\theta_0} = \frac{\beta}{I_1 \sin^2\theta_0}$$

Frank L. H. Wolfs      Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

20

### Symmetric top with external torque.

- When the angle of inclination is not  $\theta_0$ , the system will nutate.

Frank L. H. Wolfs      Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 21

---

---

---

---

---

---

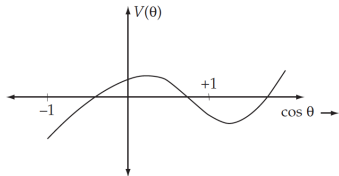
---

---

21

### Problem 11.30.

Investigate the equation for the turning points of the nutational motion by setting  $\frac{d\theta}{dt} = 0$  in the equation of the effective energy. Show that the resulting equation is cubic in  $\cos\theta$  and has two real roots and one imaginary root.



Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 22

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Stability of Rigid-Body Rotations.

- The rotation of a rigid body is stable if the system, when perturbed from its equilibrium condition, carries out small oscillations about it.
- Consider we use the principal axes of rotation to describe the motion, and we choose these axes such that  $I_3 > I_2 > I_1$ :
  - If the system rotates around the  $x_1$  axis, small perturbations around the  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  axes will cause it to oscillate around the equilibrium values. Rotation around the  $x_1$  axis is stable.
  - Rotation around the  $x_2$  axis is unstable.
  - Rotation around the  $x_3$  axis is stable.

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 23

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Problem 11.34.

Consider a symmetrical rigid body rotating freely about its center of mass. A frictional torque ( $N_f = -b\omega$ ) acts to slow down the rotation. Find the component of the angular velocity along the symmetry axis as a function of time.

Frank L. H. Wolfs Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 24

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ENOUGH FOR TODAY?**

Frank L. H. Wolfs      Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Slide 25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---