School of Engineering
Brown University

EN40: Dynamics and Vibrations

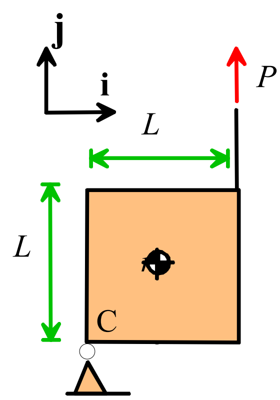
Homework 7: Rigid Body Dynamics
Due Friday August 6, 2021

1 A three bladed 10 kW vertical wind-turbine has total mass 150kg (50kg per blade), rotor diameter 5.5m and rotor height 6m.

1.1 The rotor spins at an angular speed of 260 rpm and generates power at a rate of 10kW. What is the torque exerted by the wind on the rotor?

1.2 Suppose that the rotor is spun up from rest by a constant torque with magnitude calculated in problem 1.1, with the generator disconnected. How long will it take the rotor to reach 260 rpm? (you can treat the rotors as slender rods with their axis vertical).

2. The point of this problem is to illustrate the choices you can make when you apply the moment-angular momentum equation to calculate the acceleration and angular acceleration of a rigid body subjected to forces. The figure shows a cube with side length L and mass m that is being tipped over by force P applied to one corner. The corner at C is pinned.



2.1 Draw a free body diagram showing the forces acting on the cube

2.2 Write down the rigid body kinematics equation that relates the angular acceleration α_z and linear acceleration a_{Gx} of the center of mass of the cube

2.3 Write down **F**=m**a** for the cube (use your solution to 2.2 for the acceleration of the COM)

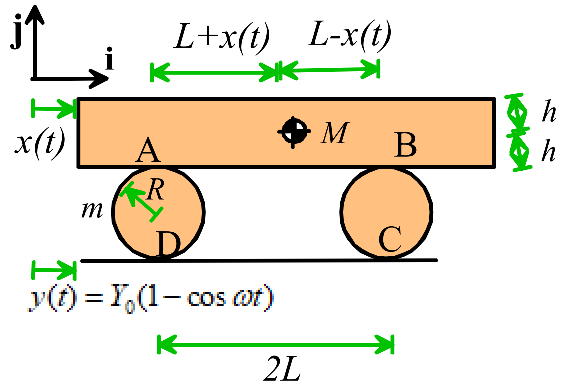
2.4 Write down the equation that relates the total moment acting on the cube to the time derivative of its angular momentum. Take moments (and angular momentum) about the center of mass. Hence, solve the equations in 2.3. and 2.4 to calculate the angular acceleration of the cube and the acceleration of its COM $\mathbf{a}_G$

2.5 Repeat 2.4, but this time apply the moment – d**h**/dt relation by taking moments about the contact point *C*. Notice that (just like when you do statics) you can simplify the algebra by choosing to take moments about a convenient point – it doesn't change the answer, but can make your life easier.

2.6 Repeat 2.4, but this time use special version of the moment – d**h**/dt relation for bodies that rotate about a fixed point.

3. The figure shows a platform with mass M supported on two cylindrical rollers with radius R and mass m. At time $t=0$ the system is at rest with the COM of the platform midway between the rollers. The base then starts to move with a harmonic displacement

$$y(t) = Y_0(1 - \cos\omega t)$$



The goal of this problem is to calculate the motion $x(t)$ of the platform. To do this, we first need to calculate the acceleration of the platform, and then integrate it.

3.1 Find a formula for the horizontal acceleration of the base a_{base}, in terms of Y_0, ω, t

3.2 Draw free body diagrams showing forces acting on the rollers, and forces acting on the platform. Include gravity. Assume no slip at the contacts.

3.3 Write down the equations of translational and rotational motion for the rollers (i.e. $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}_G^{roller}$, $\sum \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{a}_G^{roller} + I_{Gzz}\alpha\mathbf{k}$), in terms of (unknown) reaction forces, and (unknown) linear acceleration of the COM and angular acceleration. You can assume both rollers have the same acceleration.

3.4 Write down the equation of translational and rotational motion for the platform.

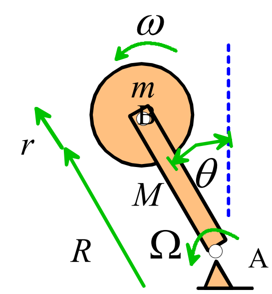
3.5 Find kinematic equations relating the acceleration of the platform, the acceleration of the base, and the angular & linear accelerations of the COM of the rollers (use the rigid body kinematics equation for velocity between D and A, and D and the COM, and then take the time derivative to get the equation for acceleration).

3.6 Use the results of 4.3-4.5 to show that the acceleration of the block is related to that of the base by

$$a_x^{block} = -\frac{m}{(4M + 3m)} a_x^{base}$$

and hence find a formula for the displacement $x(t)$ of the block, in terms of $m, M\,Y_0, \omega, t$

4. The figure shows an experiment that is often used to test control systems, and is sometimes used to stabilize walking robots. The bar AB has mass *M* and length *R* and rotates freely about A. It is stabilized in an inverted position by a reaction wheel with mass *m* and radius *r* at B. The goal of this problem is to design a simple 'Proportional-Derivative' (P-D) controller for the device.



4.1 Suppose that the bar AB rotates with angular speed $\Omega = d\theta / dt$ and the reaction wheel rotates with angular speed ω ***relative to AB*** (i.e. the total angular speed of the reaction wheel relative to a non-rotating frame is $\Omega + \omega$). Find a formula for the total angular momentum of the system about A (treat the bar as a slender rod).

4.2 Hence, use a free body diagram and the moment-angular momentum relation about A to show that θ satisfies the equation of motion

$$\left(\frac{1}{3}MR^2 + \frac{1}{2}m(r^2 + 2R^2)\right)\frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} - \left(\frac{MR}{2} + mR\right)g\sin\theta + \frac{1}{2}mr^2\frac{d\omega}{dt} = 0$$

4.3 The EOM suggests that we could stabilize the pendulum with a simple feedback controller that spins the wheel with an angular acceleration

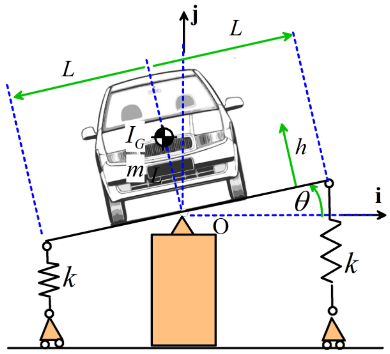
$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = k_D\frac{d\theta}{dt} + k_P\theta$$

where k_P, k_D are two constants (called the 'proportional' and 'derivative' gain of the controller.

For the special case M=0 (just to keep the algebra simple), show (by linearizing the EOM and using the solutions to differential equations for vibrating systems)

(i) The pendulum will be stabilized for any proportional gain satisfying $k_P > 2Rg / r^2$

(ii) For a critically damped response the derivative gain must satisfy $k_D = 2\sqrt{(1 + \frac{2R^2}{r^2})\left(k_P - \frac{2Rg}{r^2}\right)}$



5. The figure shows a simplified idealization of a commercial instrument for measuring the inertial properties of large objects. It operates by measuring the amplitude and frequency of small oscillations of a platform, together with the horizontal and vertical reaction forces at the pivot.

The goal of this problem is to find a formula for the distance of the COM from the pivot and the mass moment of inertia of the object, in terms of these quantities.

5.1 Use the energy method to derive an equation of motion for the system, and hence find a formula for the natural frequency of vibration of the system, in terms of k, L, h, I_G, m

5.2 Draw a free body diagram showing the forces acting on the platform/vehicle together

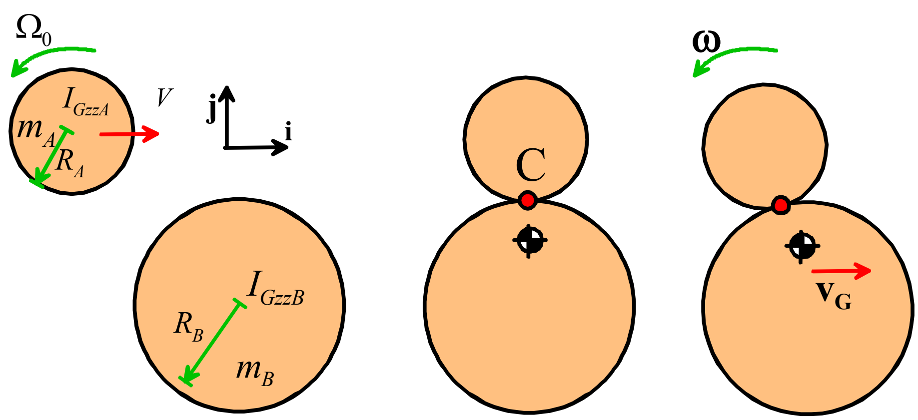
5.3 Assume that the platform vibrates at its natural frequency with a small amplitude $\theta = \theta_0 \sin \omega t$. Show that the horizontal reaction force at O has the form

$$H(t) \approx H_0 \sin \omega_n t$$

and find a formula for H_0 in terms of $m, h, \theta_0, \omega_n, t$

5.4 Finally, show that I_G and h can be calculated from the following formulas

$$h = \frac{H_0}{m\omega_n^2 \theta_0} \qquad\qquad I_G = \frac{2kL^2}{\omega_n^2} - \frac{H_0 g}{\omega_n^4 \theta_0}\left(1 + \frac{H_0}{\theta_0 mg}\right)$$



6. Several publications describe candidate approaches to capturing a tumbling spacecraft. This example from Stanford sets up a small-scale experiment to test strategies on an air-table. The figure shows a tumbling satellite (A) that has mass m_A and mass moment of inertia I_{GzzA} captured by a larger spacecraft (B) that has mass m_B and mass moment of inertia I_{GzzB}. At time *t=0* B is stationary, while A moves in the **i** direction with speed V (at its COM) and spins with angular velocity $\Omega_0 \mathbf{k}$. The capture is similar to a plastic collision: the two spacecraft remain in contact after they touch, and no relative rotation of the two occurs. After the capture the center of mass of combined craft moves with velocity vector $\mathbf{v}_G$ and angular velocity $\boldsymbol{\omega}$, to be determined.

6.1 Write down the total linear momentum of the system before the capture.

6.2 Find the position vector of the center of mass of the system at the instant of capture (take the origin at point C)

6.3 Choose a point about which to calculate the initial angular momentum (there are an infinite number of choices – anything is fine), and determine the initial angular momentum about the point you chose.

6.4 Explain why both linear and angular momentum of a system consisting of the two satellites is conserved (angular momentum is conserved about all points).

6.5 Hence, show that $\mathbf{v}_G$ and $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ are given by

$$\mathbf{v}_G = \frac{m_A}{m_A + m_B} V \mathbf{i}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \frac{I_{GzzA}(m_A + m_B)\Omega_0 - m_A m_B (R_A + R_B) V}{(m_A + m_B)(I_{GzzA} + I_{GzzB}) + m_A m_B \left(R_A + R_B\right)^2} \mathbf{k}$$