

Decomposition of angular momentum of a system

$$\vec{L}^{\text{sys}} = \sum m_i \vec{r}_i \times \vec{v}_i$$

Define $\vec{r}_i' = \vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_{\text{cm}}$ = position w.r.t. cm

Observe $\sum m_i \vec{r}_i' = \underbrace{\sum m_i \vec{r}_i}_{m \vec{r}_{\text{cm}}} - \vec{r}_{\text{cm}} \underbrace{\sum m_i}_m = 0$

"the trivial integral"

Also $\sum m_i \vec{v}_i' = \frac{d}{dt} (\sum m_i \vec{r}_i') = 0$

derivative of the trivial integral

$$\vec{L}^{\text{sys}} = \sum m_i (\vec{r}_{\text{cm}} + \vec{r}_i') \times (\vec{v}_{\text{cm}} + \vec{v}_i')$$

$$= \underbrace{\left(\sum m_i \right) \vec{r}_{\text{cm}} \times \vec{v}_{\text{cm}}}_{m \vec{r}_{\text{cm}} \times \vec{v}_{\text{cm}}} + \underbrace{\left(\sum m_i \vec{r}_i' \right) \times \vec{v}_{\text{cm}}}_0 + \underbrace{\vec{r}_{\text{cm}} \times \left(\sum m_i \vec{v}_i' \right)}_0 + \underbrace{\sum m_i \vec{r}_i' \times \vec{v}_i'}_{\vec{L}^{\text{sys}}}$$

any mom w.r.t origin at cm.

$$\vec{L}^{\text{sys}} = \underbrace{\vec{r}_{\text{cm}} \times M \vec{v}_{\text{cm}}}_{\text{any mom of the cm}} + \underbrace{\vec{L}^{\text{sys}}}_{\text{any mom about the cm}}$$

$\vec{L}^{\text{sys}}$ does not depend on choice of origin iff $\vec{r}_{\text{cm}}$ is stationary
 $(\Rightarrow \vec{v}_{\text{cm}} = 0)$

Summary

K2

$$\vec{p}^{sys} = M \vec{v}_{cm}$$

← no "internal
momenta"

$$T^{sys} = \frac{1}{2} M v_{cm}^2 + T'^{sys}$$

$$\vec{L}^{sys} = \vec{r}_{cm} \times M \vec{v}_{cm} + \vec{L}'^{sys}$$

change in
Angular momentum of a system of particles

$$\vec{L}^{\text{sys}} = \sum \vec{L}_i$$

$$\frac{d\vec{L}^{\text{sys}}}{dt} = \sum \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i$$

$$= \sum \vec{r}_i \times \left(\vec{F}_i^{\text{ext}} + \sum_{j \neq i} \vec{F}_{ij} \right)$$

$$= \underbrace{\sum \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{\text{ext}}}_{\text{define this to be the external torque } \vec{\tau}^{\text{ext}}} + \underbrace{\sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_{ij}}_{\sum_{\text{pairs}} (\vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_{ij} + \vec{r}_j \times \vec{F}_{ji})}$$

$$\sum_{\text{pairs}} (\vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_{ij} + \vec{r}_j \times \vec{F}_{ji})$$

$$(\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j) \times \vec{F}_{ij}$$

zero, for central internal forces
because $\vec{F}_{ij} \parallel \vec{r}_{ij}$

$$\boxed{\frac{d\vec{L}^{\text{sys}}}{dt} = \vec{\tau}^{\text{ext}} \equiv \sum \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{\text{ext}}}$$

valid w/ any origin
in an IRF

Corollary: if external torque vanishes (e.g. an isolated system)
 $\vec{L}^{\text{sys}}$ is conserved

Corollary: if certain components of $\vec{\tau}^{\text{ext}}$ vanish,
those same components of $\vec{L}^{\text{sys}}$ are conserved

Recall $\frac{d\vec{L}^{sys}}{dt} = \vec{\tau}^{ext} = \sum \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{ext}$

$$= \sum (\vec{r}_{cm} + \vec{r}_i') \times \vec{F}_i^{ext}$$

$$= \vec{r}_{cm} \times \underbrace{\sum \vec{F}_i^{ext}}_{\vec{F}^{ext}} + \underbrace{\sum \vec{r}_i' \times \vec{F}_i^{ext}}_{\vec{\tau}^{ext}}$$

$\vec{\tau}^{ext} =$ ext. torque measured wrt. origin of cm

Since $\vec{L}^{sys} = M\vec{r}_{cm} \times \dot{\vec{r}}_{cm} + \vec{L}^{int, sys}$

$$\frac{d\vec{L}^{sys}}{dt} = \underbrace{M\vec{r}_{cm} \times \ddot{\vec{r}}_{cm}}_{\vec{r}_{cm} \times \vec{F}^{ext}} + \frac{d\vec{L}^{int, sys}}{dt}$$

Compare previous eqn:

$$\boxed{\frac{d\vec{L}^{int, sys}}{dt} = \vec{\tau}^{ext}}$$

change in angular mom. wrt. cm
equals external torque wrt. cm

→ valid even if cm frame
is not inertial!

[cf. Fetter & Walecka]

summary

$$\frac{d\vec{p}^{\text{sys}}}{dt} = \vec{F}^{\text{ext}} \quad (\text{valid in IRF})$$

$$\frac{dE_{\text{mech}}^{\text{sys}}}{dt} = \frac{dW^{\text{ext}}}{dt} = P^{\text{ext}} \quad (\text{ditto})$$

← power delivered by external force

$$\frac{d\vec{L}^{\text{sys}}}{dt} = \vec{\tau}^{\text{ext}} \quad \leftarrow \text{torque caused by external force}$$

(valid in IRF if in cm frame)