
Matrix Methods

Applied to

Engineering Rigid

Body Mechanics

T Crouch

Coventry (Lanchester) Polytechnic, England



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**MATRIX METHODS
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RIGID BODY MECHANICS**



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MATRIX METHODS APPLIED TO ENGINEERING RIGID BODY MECHANICS

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Preface

The purpose of this book is to present the solution of a range of rigid body mechanics problems using a matrix formulation of vector algebra. The treatment has other notable features. It employs a coherent letter and number suffix notation and also exploits the relationship between the orthogonal transformation matrix and angular velocity. Particular emphasis is placed upon the positioning of appropriate frames of reference and specifying their relative position.

In writing this text it has been assumed that the reader will have a knowledge of mathematics and mechanics normally associated with the first year of an Engineering Degree course.

The plan of the book is simple. There are four chapters, Chapter 1 Kinematics, Chapter 2 Dynamics, Chapter 3 Solution of Kinematics Problems and Chapter 4 Solution of Dynamics Problems. Chapters 1 and 2 give a succinct statement of the essential theory formulated in terms of matrix algebra, while Chapters 3 and 4 give a selection of solved problems and problems for solution. The reader is therefore advised to study the problems to which reference is made at various points in the text as they occur. A proper approach to the solution of dynamics problems demands that kinematic considerations have priority. It is suggested, therefore, that the reader studies Chapters 1 and 3 before proceeding to Chapters 2 and 4. Answers to the problems for solution are provided, with some indication of the salient features of their solution in most cases.

Coventry 1980

T. Crouch

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Principal Symbols and Notation

The following lists give only the principal use of the symbols for scalar quantities. A given symbol might be used to denote a variety of physical quantities. The interpretation to be given to a symbol will be clear from the context in which it is employed.

Kinematics

1 Scalars

$a, b, c, d, u, v, w,$ r, s, t	Length, components of vectors
$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \theta, \phi, \psi$	Angles
ω, Ω	Components of angular velocity
$\dot{\omega}, \dot{\Omega}$	Components of angular acceleration
ℓ	Direction cosine

2 Vectors

With the exception of the lower case Greek letter omega, upper case letters written inside braces are used to designate vector quantities as follows:

$\{R\}$	Position and relative position
$\{V\}$	Linear velocity
$\{A\}$	Linear acceleration
$\{B\}$	Any vector
$\{\omega\}$	Angular velocity
$\{\dot{\omega}\}$	Angular acceleration

These general symbols for vector quantities are qualified in two ways by appropriate suffixes. Thus

$$\{R_A\}_1 \quad \text{or} \quad \{R_{A01}\}_1$$

specifies the position of the point A measured in frame 1, where O_1 , often omitted, is the origin of frame 1, while

$$\{R_{BA}\}_4$$

specifies the position of the point B relative to the point A measured in frame 4. It so happens the the relative position vector is independent of the frame in which its is measured, but the number suffix is retained for reasons explained in the text.

Similarly,

$$\{V_A\}_1 \quad \text{or} \quad \{V_{AO_1}\}_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \{V_{PQ}\}_3$$

specify the velocity of the point A relative to O_1 measured in frame 1 and the velocity of the point P relative to the point Q measured in frame 3 respectively.

Also

$$\{A_A\}_1 \quad \text{or} \quad \{A_{AO_1}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{A_{DC}\}_1$$

specifiy the acceleration of the point A relative to the point O_1 measured in frame 1 and the acceleration of the point D relative to the point C measured in frame 1 respectively.

Numbers are also used as suffixes inside the braces to qualify position, velocity and acceleration. Thus

$$\{R_4\}_1 \quad , \quad \{V_4\}_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \{A_4\}_1$$

specify the position, velocity and acceleration respectively of the centre of mass of body 4 measured in frame 1.

The angular velocity vector is qualified by number suffixes. Thus

$$\{\omega_3\}_2 \quad \text{or} \quad \{\omega_{32}\}$$

specify the angular velocity of body 3 measured with respect to body 2 or the angular velocity of body 3 relative to body 2. A similar notation is used for angular acceleration. The angular velocity and acceleration vectors can be further qualified by lower case superscript letters inside the braces. Thus

$$\{\omega_2^n\}_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \{\omega_2^p\}_1$$

specify, respectively, the components of the angular velocity vector normal to and parallel to to some line joining points(specified in a particular context) fixed in body 2. Similarly,

$$\{A_{BA}^n\}_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \{A_{BA}^p\}_1$$

specify, respectively, the components of the linear acceleration of B relative to A normal to and parallel to the line joining B and A.

The usual modulus notation is employed to indicate the magnitude of a vector. Thus

$$|R_A|_1, |V_{BA}|_1 \text{ and } |\omega_2|_1 \text{ or } |\omega_{21}|$$

are magnitudes of the corresponding vectors. In the case of the relative position vector, which is independent of the frame used for its measurement the number suffix is omitted. Thus the magnitude of

$$\{R_{BA}\}_1 = \{R_{BA}\}_4 = \{R_{BA}\}_n$$

is written

$$|R_{BA}|.$$

A vector can be described by resolving it along the axes of a particular reference frame, when it is said to be referred to that frame. The frame to which a vector is referred is written outside the braces after the first number suffix and separated from it by a solidus or oblique stroke. Thus

$$\{V_{BA}\}_{1/3} = \begin{bmatrix} u_3 \\ v_3 \\ w_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

is the column matrix which describes the velocity of B relative to A, measured in frame 1, in frame 3.

3 The transformation or rotation matrix

The transformation matrix is a 3×3 orthogonal matrix of direction cosines written

$$[\ell].$$

It is used to change the frame to which a vector is *referred*. If, for example, a vector $\{B\}_n$ is referred to frame 1, then the transformation matrix which changes the reference frame to frame 2 is

$$[\ell_1]_2.$$

Thus

$$\{B\}_n/2 = [\ell_1]_2 \{B\}_n/1.$$

The transformation matrix can be regarded as the matrix which specifies a rotation, or sequence of rotations, which a frame undergoes to align it with another. If, for example, frame 1 is to be aligned with frame 2, then the rotation matrix would be written

$$[\ell_2]_1.$$

If this alignment is achieved by a sequence of simple rotations about a single axis of appropriately positioned intermediate frames 3 and 4, then this operation would be specified by the product of rotation matrices

$$[\ell_2]_1 = [\ell_3]_1 [\ell_4]_3 [\ell_2]_4.$$

Dynamics

1 Scalars

A, B, C, D, E, F, I, J	Terms in the inertia matrix
k	Spring rate, constant
m	Mass
T	Kinetic energy
V	Potential energy
g	Magnitude of gravitational acceleration
W	Work

The general symbols can be qualified by appropriate suffixes.

I can take the suffixes xx, xy, xz etc. to denote the axes involved. A, B, C etc. can take number suffixes to denote the reference frame.

m can take a suffix P to indicate that it refers to a particle, or a number suffix to indicate the body to which it refers.

T can take a suffix P to indicate that it refers to a particle, or a number suffix to indicate the body to which it refers. It can be further qualified to indicate that the energy is evaluated at some particular position. Thus, for example

$$T_{4rot} |_{\alpha}$$

is the rotational kinetic energy in body 4 when in some position defined by the angle α . V can be qualified in a similar manner.

W can take suffix statements such as A → B → C to specify the path traced out by the point of application of the force involved.

2 Vectors

Upper case letters written inside braces are used to designate vector quantities as follows:

{F}	Force
{G}	Linear momentum
{H}	Angular momentum (Angular momentum)
{L}	Couple moment
{M}	Force moment
{W}	Weight
{V}	Vector operator del

The general symbols for vector quantities are qualified in two ways by appropriate suffixes and also by superscripts.

In the case of the force vector, number suffixes inside the braces are used to specify a contact force between two bodies. As, for example,

$$\{F_{23}\}$$

which is the force *on* body 2 *due to* body 3. Similarly,

$$\{L_{23}\}$$

is the couple on body 2 due to body 3. Also

$$\{F_2\}$$

is the external force on body 2. It might be, for example,

$$\{F_2\} = \{F_{23}\} + \{F_{24}\} + \{F_{25}\} + \dots$$

where 3, 4 and 5 are bodies which exert a force on body 2. A similar notation can be used in respect of couples. Components of $\{F\}$ and $\{L\}$ can be singled out by writing an appropriate superscript inside the braces, as for example,

$$\{F^x\} \text{ and } \{L^y\}$$

or

$$\{F^n\} \text{ and } \{L^p\}$$

where the superscripts n and p refer to components parallel to some reference direction.

A number suffix is used outside the braces to specify the frame to which the vector is referred. Thus

$$\{F_{34}\}_3$$

is the column matrix which describes the force on body 3 due to body 4 which is referred to frame 3. The $\{L\}$ can be similarly subscripted.

In the case of linear momentum a number suffix inside the braces specifies the body concerned and the first number suffix outside the braces specifies the frame in which the momentum is measured. This frame will invariably be an inertial reference frame which, in this text, is always designated 1. It is always included by way of emphasis. The second number suffix outside the braces, written after a solidus, specifies the frame to which the vector is referred. Thus

$$\{G_3\}_{1/4}$$

is the column matrix which describes the linear momentum of body 3, measured with respect to frame 1, the vector being referred to frame 4.

In the case of angular momentum of a body about its centre of mass, a number suffix inside the braces specifies the body concerned and the number suffixes outside the braces have the same significance as in the case of linear momentum. Thus

$$\{H_3\}_{1/4}$$

is the column matrix which describes the angular momentum of body 3 about its centre of mass, measured with respect to frame 1, the vector being referred to frame 4. If the angular momentum about a point

other than the centre of mass is to be specified, point Q say, then this is written

$$\{H_{3Q}\}_{1/4}.$$

In the case of the moment vector, a single letter suffix is used to specify the point about which moments are taken and a single number suffix outside the braces specifies the frame to which both force and position vectors are referred. Thus

$$\{M_A\}_3$$

is the column matrix which describes the moment of a force, or system of forces and couples about A, the vector being referred to frame 3.

In the case of the weight vector, a number suffix specifies the body to which it refers and a single number suffix outside the braces specifies the frame to which the vector is referred. Hence

$$\{W_4\}_2$$

is the column matrix which describes the weight of body 4, the vector being referred to frame 2.

3 The inertia matrix

The inertia matrix is a 3×3 symmetric matrix written

$$[I]$$

Number suffixes are used in the same way as for vectors. Thus

$$[I_3]_{3/3}$$

describes the inertia of body 3, measured with respect to frame 3 and referred to frame 3. Unless expressly stated otherwise, the centre of mass of body 3 will be at the origin of frame 3. Similarly,

$$[I_3]_{4/5}$$

describes the inertia of body 3, measured with respect to frame 4 and referred to frame 5.