A Short Course on

## **Spatial Vector Algebra**

The Easy Way to do Rigid Body Dynamics

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## Mathematical Structure

spatial vectors inhabit two vector spaces:

- $M^6$  motion vectors
- $F^6$  force vectors

with a scalar product defined *between* them

$$\boldsymbol{m} \cdot \boldsymbol{f} = work$$

$$\boldsymbol{\downarrow} \quad \text{``\cdot''} : \mathsf{M}^6 \times \mathsf{F}^6 \mapsto \mathsf{R}$$

ipatial Vector Algebra

Spatial vector algebra is a concise vector notation for describing rigid–body velocity, acceleration, inertia, etc., using 6D vectors and tensors.

- fewer quantities
- fewer equations
- less effort
- fewer mistakes

## Bases

A coordinate vector  $\underline{m} = [m_1, ..., m_6]^T$ represents a motion vector  $\underline{m}$  in a basis  $\{d_1, ..., d_6\}$  on M<sup>6</sup> if

$$\boldsymbol{m} = \sum_{i=1}^{6} m_i \boldsymbol{d}_i$$

Likewise, a coordinate vector  $\mathbf{f} = [f_1, ..., f_6]^T$ represents a force vector  $\mathbf{f}$  in a basis  $\{e_1, ..., e_6\}$  on  $F^6$  if

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^{6} f_i \boldsymbol{e}_i$$

## Bases

If  $\{d_1, ..., d_6\}$  is an arbitrary basis on M<sup>6</sup> then there exists a unique *reciprocal basis*  $\{e_1, ..., e_6\}$  on F<sup>6</sup> satisfying

 $\boldsymbol{d}_i \cdot \boldsymbol{e}_j = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0: i \neq j \\ 1: i = j \end{array} \right.$ 

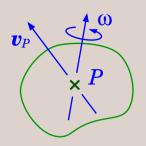
With these bases, the scalar product of two coordinate vectors is

 $\boldsymbol{m} \boldsymbol{\cdot} \boldsymbol{f} = \boldsymbol{\underline{m}}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\underline{f}}$ 

## **Spatial Vector Algebra**

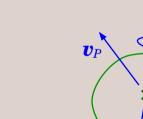
Velocity

The velocity of a rigid body can be described by



- **1.** choosing a point, *P*, in the body
- **2.** specifying the linear velocity,  $v_P$ , of that point, and
- 3. specifying the angular velocity,  $\omega$ , of the body as a whole

Velocity

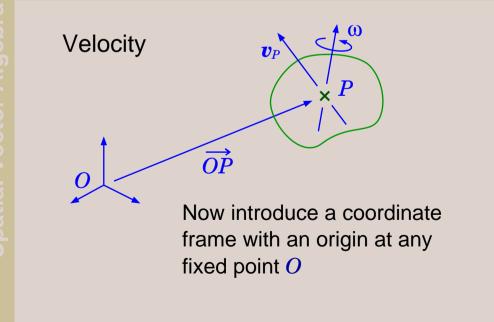


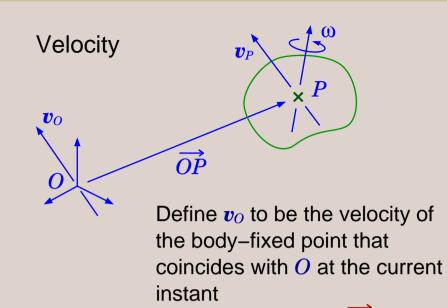
The body is then deemed to be

translating with a linear velocity  $\boldsymbol{v}_{P}$ 

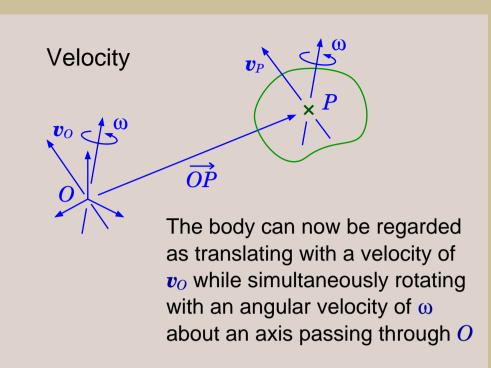
while simultaneously

rotating with an angular velocity  $\omega$  about an axis passing through P





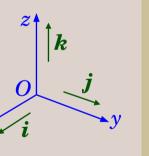
 $\boldsymbol{v}_{O} = \boldsymbol{v}_{P} + \overrightarrow{OP} \times \boldsymbol{\omega}$ 



Introduce the unit vectors i, jand k pointing in the x, y and z directions.

 $\omega$  and  $v_0$  can now be expressed in terms of their Cartesian coordinates:

 $\underline{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega}_{x} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega}_{y} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega}_{z} \end{bmatrix} \quad \underline{\boldsymbol{v}}_{O} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{v}_{Ox} \\ \boldsymbol{v}_{Oy} \\ \boldsymbol{v}_{Oz} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \qquad \boldsymbol{\omega} = \boldsymbol{\omega}_{x} \, \boldsymbol{i} + \boldsymbol{\omega}_{y} \, \boldsymbol{j} + \boldsymbol{\omega}_{z} \, \boldsymbol{k}$  $\boldsymbol{v}_{O} = \boldsymbol{v}_{Ox} \, \boldsymbol{i} + \boldsymbol{v}_{Oy} \, \boldsymbol{j} + \boldsymbol{v}_{Oz} \, \boldsymbol{k}$ coordinate vectors what they represent



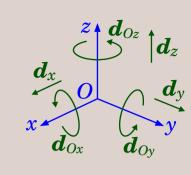
The motion of the body can now be expressed as the sum of six elementary motions:

a linear velocity of  $v_{Ox}$  in the x direction

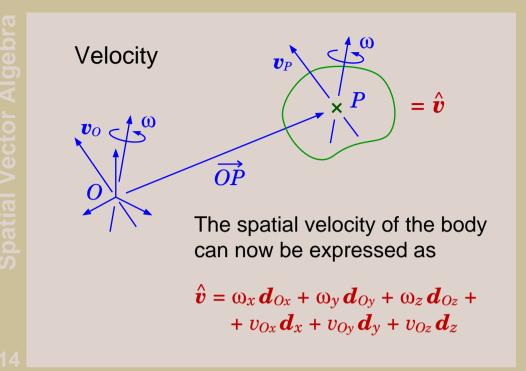
- + a linear velocity of  $v_{Oy}$  in the y direction
- + a linear velocity of  $v_{Oz}$  in the z direction
- + an angular velocity of  $\omega_x$  about the line Ox
- + an angular velocity of  $\omega_y$  about the line Oy
- + an angular velocity of  $\omega_z$  about the line Oz

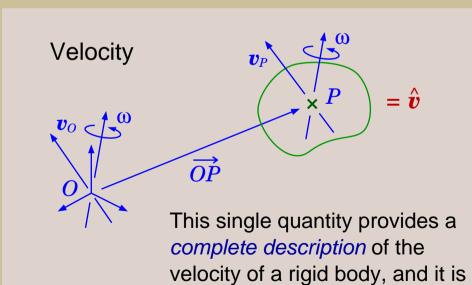
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Define the following *Plücker basis* on M<sup>6</sup>:



 $d_{Ox}$  unit angular motion about the line Ox $d_{Oy}$  unit angular motion about the line Oy $d_{Oz}$  unit angular motion about the line Oz $d_x$  unit linear motion in the *x* direction  $d_y$  unit linear motion in the *y* direction  $d_z$  unit linear motion in the *z* direction

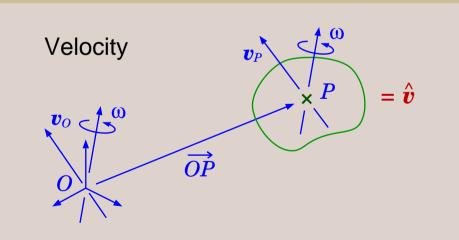




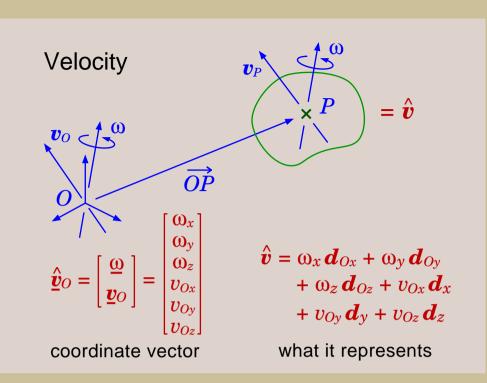
invariant with respect to the

location of the coordinate frame

Spatial Vector Algebra



The six scalars  $\omega_x$ ,  $\omega_y$ ,...,  $v_{Oz}$  are the *Plücker* coordinates of  $\hat{v}$  in the coordinate system defined by the frame *Oxyz* 



# Spatial Vector Algebra

## Now try question set A

**P**x

**n**0

 $\vec{OP}$ 

## Force

A general force acting on a rigid body can be expressed as the sum of

- $P \times \frac{\mathbf{n}_{P}}{\mathbf{n}_{P}}$
- a linear force *f* acting along a line passing through any chosen point *P*, and
- a couple,  $n_P$

**Spatial Vector Algebr** 

## Force

If we choose a different point, *O*, then the force can be expressed as the sum of

 a linear force *f* acting along a line passing through the new point *O*, and

• a couple  $\mathbf{n}_{O}$ , where  $\mathbf{n}_{O} = \mathbf{n}_{P} + \overrightarrow{OP} \times \mathbf{f}$ 

19

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## Force

Now place a coordinate frame at *O* and introduce unit vectors *i*, *j* and *k*, as before, so that

 $\boldsymbol{n}_{O} = n_{Ox}\boldsymbol{i} + n_{Oy}\boldsymbol{j} + n_{Oz}\boldsymbol{k}$  $\boldsymbol{f} = f_{x}\boldsymbol{i} + f_{y}\boldsymbol{j} + f_{z}\boldsymbol{k}$ 

$$\underline{\boldsymbol{n}}_{O} = \begin{bmatrix} n_{Ox} \\ n_{Oy} \\ n_{Oz} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \underline{\boldsymbol{f}} = \begin{bmatrix} f_x \\ f_y \\ f_z \end{bmatrix}$$

Spatial Vector Algebra

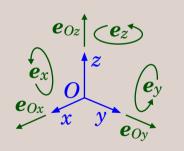
 $\boldsymbol{n}_{0}$ 

The total force acting on the body can now be expressed as the sum of six elementary forces:

a moment of  $n_{Ox}$  in the x direction

- + a moment of  $n_{Oy}$  in the y direction
- + a moment of  $n_{Oz}$  in the z direction
- + a linear force of  $f_x$  acting along the line Ox
- + a linear force of  $f_y$  acting along the line Oy
- + a linear force of  $f_z$  acting along the line Oz

Define the following *Plücker basis* on  $F^6$ :



 $\overrightarrow{OP}$ 

**P**×

 $e_x$  unit couple in the x direction

- $e_y$  unit couple in the y direction
- $e_z$  unit couple in the z direction
- $e_{Ox}$  unit linear force along the line Ox
- $e_{Oy}$  unit linear force along the line Oy
- $e_{Oz}$  unit linear force along the line Oz

Spatial Vector Algebra

## Force

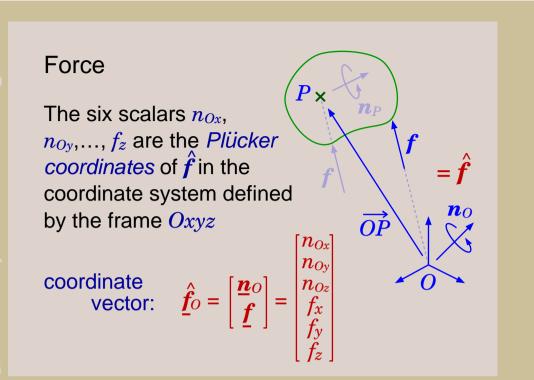
The spatial force acting on the body can now be expressed as

 $\hat{\boldsymbol{f}} = n_{Ox} \boldsymbol{e}_x + n_{Oy} \boldsymbol{e}_y + n_{Oz} \boldsymbol{e}_z$  $+ f_x \boldsymbol{e}_{Ox} + f_y \boldsymbol{e}_{Oy} + f_z \boldsymbol{e}_{Oz}$ 

This single quantity provides a *complete description* of the forces acting on the body, and it is *invariant* with respect to the location of the coordinate frame

P×

**O**É



## Plücker Coordinates

- Plücker coordinates are the standard coordinate system for spatial vectors
- a Plücker coordinate system is defined by the *position and orientation* of a *single* Cartesian frame
- a Plücker coordinate system has a total of twelve basis vectors, and covers both vector spaces (M<sup>6</sup> and F<sup>6</sup>)

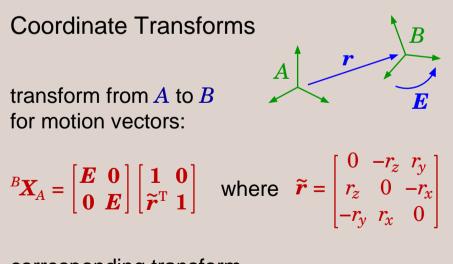
## **Plücker Coordinates**

- the Plücker basis *e<sub>x</sub>*, *e<sub>y</sub>*,..., *e<sub>Oz</sub>* on F<sup>6</sup> is reciprocal to *d<sub>Ox</sub>*, *d<sub>Oy</sub>*,..., *d<sub>z</sub>* on M<sup>6</sup>
- so the scalar product between a motion vector and a force vector can be expressed in Plücker coordinates as

 $\hat{\boldsymbol{v}}\cdot\hat{\boldsymbol{f}}=\hat{\boldsymbol{v}}_{O}^{\mathrm{T}}\hat{\boldsymbol{f}}_{O}$ 

which is invariant with respect to the location of the coordinate frame

Spatial Vector Algebra



corresponding transform for force vectors:

$${}^{B}\boldsymbol{X}_{A}^{*} = ({}^{B}\boldsymbol{X}_{A})^{-\mathrm{T}}$$

## **Basic Operations with Spatial Vectors**

Relative velocity

If bodies A and B have velocities of  $v_A$  and  $v_B$ , then the relative velocity of B with respect to A is

$$\boldsymbol{v}_{\mathrm{rel}} = \boldsymbol{v}_B - \boldsymbol{v}_A$$

Rigid Connection
 If two bodies are rigidly connected then
 their velocities are the same

## Spatial Vector Algebra

## Summation of Forces

If forces  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  both act on the same body, then they are equivalent to a single force  $f_{tot}$  given by

 $f_{\rm tot} = f_1 + f_2$ 

Action and Reaction
 If body A exerts a force f on body B,
 then body B exerts a force -f on body A
 (Newton's 3rd law)

## Scalar Product

If a force f acts on a body with velocity v, then the power delivered by that force is

power =  $\boldsymbol{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{f}$ 

## Scalar Multiples

A velocity of  $\alpha v$  causes the same movement in 1 second as a velocity of v in  $\alpha$  seconds. A force of  $\beta f$  delivers  $\beta$  times as much power as a force of f Spatial Vector Algebra

## Now try question set B

## atial Vector Algebra

## **Spatial Cross Products**

There are *two* cross product operations: one for motion vectors and one for forces

 $\hat{\boldsymbol{v}}_{O} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{m}}_{O} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega} \\ \boldsymbol{v}_{O} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{m} \\ \boldsymbol{m}_{O} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \boldsymbol{m} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \boldsymbol{m}_{O} + \boldsymbol{v}_{O} \times \boldsymbol{m} \end{bmatrix}$  $\hat{\boldsymbol{v}}_{O} \times^{*} \hat{\boldsymbol{f}}_{O} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega} \\ \boldsymbol{v}_{O} \end{bmatrix} \times^{*} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{n}_{O} \\ \boldsymbol{f} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \boldsymbol{n}_{O} + \boldsymbol{v}_{O} \times \boldsymbol{f} \\ \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \boldsymbol{f} \end{bmatrix}$ 

where  $\hat{v}_0$  and  $\hat{m}_0$  are motion vectors, and  $\hat{f}_0$  is a force.

## Differentiation

• The derivative of a spatial vector is itself a spatial vector

• in general, 
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\mathbf{s} = \lim_{\delta t \to 0} \frac{\mathbf{s}(t+\delta t) - \mathbf{s}(t)}{\delta t}$$

• The derivative of a spatial vector that is fixed in a body moving with velocity  $\boldsymbol{v}$  is  $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\boldsymbol{s} = \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{v} \times \boldsymbol{s} & \text{if } \boldsymbol{s} \in \mathsf{M}^6\\ \boldsymbol{v} \times^* \boldsymbol{s} & \text{if } \boldsymbol{s} \in \mathsf{F}^6 \end{cases}$ 

Differentiation in Moving Coordinates  $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{s} \end{bmatrix}_{o} = \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{s}_{o} + \mathbf{v}_{o} \times \mathbf{s}_{o} \qquad \text{or } x^{*} \text{ if } \mathbf{s} \in F^{6}$   $\begin{array}{c} & & \\ &$  Spatial Vector Algebra

## Acceleration

... is the rate of change of velocity:

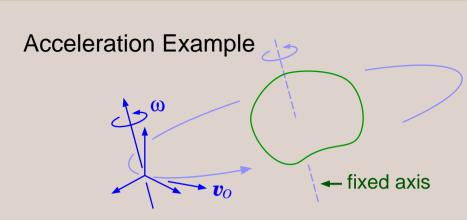
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{a}} = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\,\hat{\boldsymbol{v}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{v}}_O \end{bmatrix}$$

but this is not the linear acceleration of any point in the body!

## Acceleration

- *O* is a fixed point in space,
- and v<sub>0</sub>(t) is the velocity of the body-fixed point that coincides with O at time t,
- so v<sub>0</sub> is the velocity at which body–fixed points are streaming through O.
- *v*<sub>0</sub> is therefore the rate of change of stream velocity

## Spatial Vector Algebra



If a body rotates with constant angular velocity about a fixed axis, then its spatial velocity is constant and its spatial acceleration is zero; but each body–fixed point is following a circular path, and is therefore accelerating.

## Acceleration Formula

Let *r* be the 3D vector giving the position of the body–fixed point that coincides with *O* at the current instant, measured relative to any fixed point in space

we then have 
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{v}} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega} \\ \boldsymbol{v}_O \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{r}} \end{bmatrix}$$

but 
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{a}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\omega} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{v}}_O \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\omega} \\ \ddot{\boldsymbol{r}} - \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \dot{\boldsymbol{r}} \end{bmatrix}$$

**Spatial Vector Algebra** 

## **Basic Properties of Acceleration**

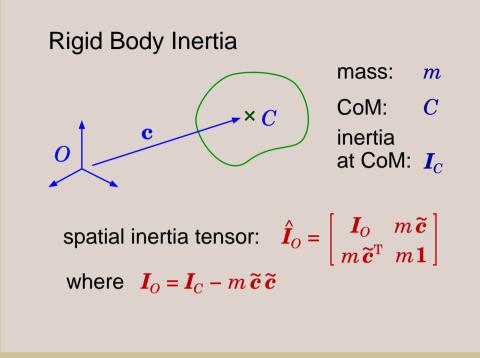
- Acceleration is the time-derivative of velocity
- Acceleration is a true vector, and has the same general algebraic properties as velocity
- Acceleration formulae are the derivatives of velocity formulae

If  $v_{tot} = v_1 + v_2$  then  $a_{tot} = a_1 + a_2$ 

(Look, no Coriolis term!)

## Now try question set C

**Spatial Vector Algebra** 



41

## **Basic Operations with Inertias**

Composition

If two bodies with inertias  $I_A$  and  $I_B$  are joined together then the inertia of the composite body is

 $\boldsymbol{I}_{\text{tot}} = \boldsymbol{I}_A + \boldsymbol{I}_B$ 

Coordinate transformation formula

 $\boldsymbol{I}_{B} = {}^{B}\boldsymbol{X}_{A}^{*}\boldsymbol{I}_{A}{}^{A}\boldsymbol{X}_{B} = ({}^{A}\boldsymbol{X}_{B})^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{I}_{A}{}^{A}\boldsymbol{X}_{B}$ 

**Spatial Vector Algebra** 

**Equation of Motion** 

$$\boldsymbol{f} = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}(\boldsymbol{I}\boldsymbol{v}) = \boldsymbol{I}\boldsymbol{a} + \boldsymbol{v} \times^* \boldsymbol{I}\boldsymbol{v}$$

- **f** = net force acting on a rigid body
- *I* = inertia of rigid body
- **v** = velocity of rigid body
- Iv = momentum of rigid body
- **a** = acceleration of rigid body

## **Motion Constraints**

If a rigid body's motion is constrained, then its velocity is an element of a subspace,  $S \subset M^6$ , called the *motion subspace* 

degree of (motion) freedom: $\dim(S)$ degree of constraint: $6 - \dim(S)$ 

S can vary with time

# Spatial Vector Algebra

## Motion Constraints

Motion constraints are caused by constraint forces, which have the following property:

A constraint force does no work against any motion allowed by the motion constraint

(D'Alembert's principle of virtual work, and Jourdain's principle of virtual power)

## **Motion Constraints**

Constraint forces are therefore elements of a constraint–force subspace,  $T \subset F^6$ , defined as follows:

 $T = \{ \boldsymbol{f} \mid \boldsymbol{f} \cdot \boldsymbol{v} = 0 \forall \boldsymbol{v} \in S \}$ 

This subspace has the property

 $\dim(T) = 6 - \dim(S)$ 

Spatial Vector Algebra

## Matrix Representation

- The subspace S can be represented by any 6 × dim(S) matrix S satisfying range(S) = S
- Likewise, the subspace T can be represented by any 6 × dim(T) matrix T satisfying range(T) = T

## **Properties**

- any vectors  $v \in S$  and  $f \in T$  can be expressed as  $\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{S} \boldsymbol{\alpha}$  and  $\boldsymbol{f} = \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{\lambda}$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\lambda$  are dim(S) ×1 and dim(T) ×1 coordinate vectors
- $S^{\mathrm{T}}T = 0$ , which implies . . .
- $S^{\mathrm{T}}f = 0$  and  $T^{\mathrm{T}}v = 0$  for all  $f \in T$  and  $v \in S$

**Constrained Motion Analysis** 

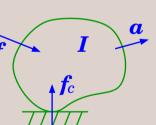
## An Example:

A force, **f**, is applied to a body that is constrained to move in a subspace S = range(S) of M<sup>6</sup>. The body has an inertia of *I*, and it is initially at rest. What is its acceleration?

 $\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{S} \boldsymbol{\alpha}$  $a = S\dot{\alpha} + \dot{S}\alpha$  $\mathbf{S}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{f}_{c} = \mathbf{0}$ 

 $\boldsymbol{f} + \boldsymbol{f}_c = \boldsymbol{I}\boldsymbol{a} + \boldsymbol{v} \times^* \boldsymbol{I}\boldsymbol{v}$ 

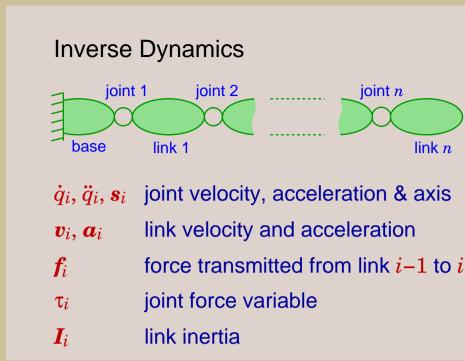
v = 0 implies  $\alpha = \mathbf{0}$  $a = S\dot{\alpha}$  $f + f_c = Ia$ 



solution:  $f + f_c = IS\dot{\alpha}$  $S^{\mathrm{T}}f = S^{\mathrm{T}}IS\dot{\alpha}$  $\dot{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} = (\boldsymbol{S}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{I}\boldsymbol{S})^{-1}\boldsymbol{S}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{f}$ 

 $\boldsymbol{a} = \boldsymbol{S} (\boldsymbol{S}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{I} \boldsymbol{S})^{-1} \boldsymbol{S}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{f}$ 

Now try question set D



joint n

link n

• velocity of link i is the velocity of link i-1plus the velocity across joint i

 $\boldsymbol{v}_i = \boldsymbol{v}_{i-1} + \boldsymbol{s}_i \, \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}_i$ 

- acceleration is the derivative of velocity  $\boldsymbol{a}_i = \boldsymbol{a}_{i-1} + \dot{\boldsymbol{s}}_i \, \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}_i + \boldsymbol{s}_i \, \ddot{\boldsymbol{q}}_i$
- equation of motion

$$\boldsymbol{f}_i - \boldsymbol{f}_{i+1} = \boldsymbol{I}_i \, \boldsymbol{a}_i + \boldsymbol{v}_i \times^* \boldsymbol{I}_i \, \boldsymbol{v}_i$$

• active joint force  $\tau_i = \boldsymbol{s}_i^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{f}_i$ 

The Recursive Newton–Euler Algorithm

(Calculate the joint torques  $\tau_i$  that will produce the desired joint accelerations  $\ddot{q}_i$ .)

$$v_{i} = v_{i-1} + s_{i} \dot{q}_{i} \qquad (v_{0} = 0)$$

$$a_{i} = a_{i-1} + \dot{s}_{i} \dot{q}_{i} + s_{i} \ddot{q}_{i} \qquad (a_{0} = 0)$$

$$f_{i} = f_{i+1} + I_{i} a_{i} + v_{i} \times^{*} I_{i} v_{i} \qquad (f_{n+1} = f_{ee})$$

$$\tau_{i} = s_{i}^{T} f_{i}$$