

# Lecture 3 Coriolis force

$$\vec{F}_{\text{cor}} = 2m \vec{v} \times \vec{\Omega}$$

① velocity-dependent force, which cannot be written as gradient of a scalar potential, but as a curl of vector potential

② dissipationless  $\vec{F} \perp \vec{v}$  c.f. friction force  $\parallel \vec{v}$ .

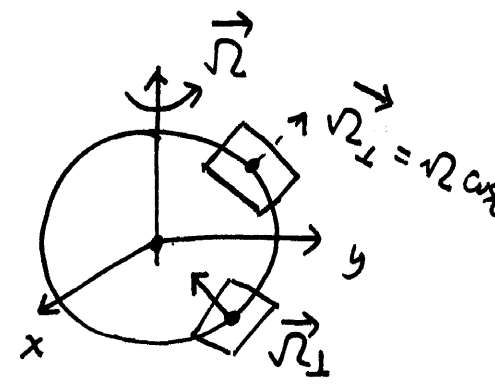
Analogy to Lorentz force  $\vec{F}_L = q \frac{\vec{v}}{c} \times \vec{B}$ .  $\vec{B} \leftrightarrow \vec{\Omega}$

Example: vortices in type II superconductor  $\leftrightarrow \vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$   
 vortices in superfluid  $^4\text{He}$   $\leftrightarrow \vec{\Omega} = \nabla \times \vec{A}_\Omega$

§ Direction of  $\vec{F}_{\text{cor}}$  on the earth.

For object moving on the surface of the earth

$\vec{v}$  is in the tangent plane, only the normal component of  $\vec{\Omega}_\perp$  can result in an  $\vec{F}_{\text{cor}}$  in-plane.



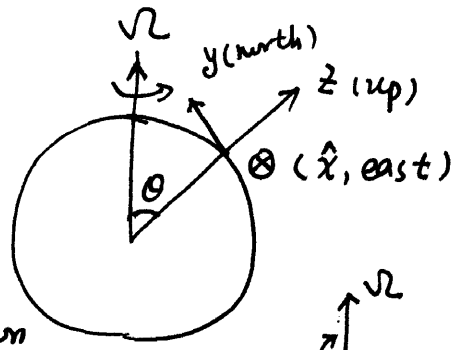
In the north-hemisphere  $\vec{\Omega}_\perp$  point out of the ground

$$\vec{F}_{\text{cor, in-plane}} = \vec{v} \times \vec{\Omega}_\perp \rightarrow \text{right hand side of } \vec{v}$$

In the south-hemisphere,  $\vec{F}_{\text{cor}} \rightarrow$  left hand side of  $\vec{v}$ .

§2. Easterly deflection of a falling object

$$m\ddot{\vec{r}} = \underbrace{m\vec{g}_0}_{m\vec{g}} + \vec{F}_{cf} + \vec{F}_{cor}$$



define up. direction ( $\hat{z}$ ) as the opposited direction of  $\vec{g}$ , north ( $\hat{y}$ ) perpendicular to  $\hat{z}$  and  $\vec{\Omega}$  lies in the  $yz$  plane.  $\hat{x}$  is the east.

$$\vec{\Omega} = (0, \Omega \sin\theta, \Omega \cos\theta), \quad \theta \text{ the angle between } \vec{\Omega} \text{ and } \hat{z}\text{-axis.}$$

$$\dot{\vec{r}} \times \vec{\Omega} = (\dot{y}\Omega \cos\theta - \dot{z}\Omega \sin\theta, -\dot{x}\Omega \cos\theta, \dot{x}\Omega \sin\theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{\vec{r}} = -g\hat{z} + 2\dot{\vec{r}} \times \vec{\Omega}$$

$$\ddot{x} = 2\Omega(\dot{y}\cos\theta - \dot{z}\sin\theta), \quad \ddot{y} = -2\Omega\dot{x}\cos\theta, \quad \ddot{z} = -g + 2\Omega\dot{x}\sin\theta$$

• zero order  $\Rightarrow x=y=0$  &  $z = h - \frac{1}{2}gt^2$

• first order  $\ddot{x} = +2\Omega g t \sin\theta \Rightarrow \boxed{x = \frac{1}{3}\Omega g t^3 \sin\theta}$

earth spins from west to east; the linear velocity at higher place is larger than that at lower altitude.

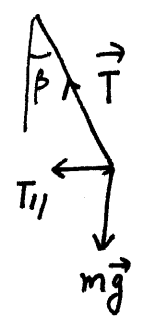
Estimat: for  $\theta = 90^\circ$ ,  $h = 100m$

$$\Delta x = \frac{1}{3}\Omega g \left(\frac{2h}{g}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \approx 2cm.$$

§4: Foucault pendulum: (See the spin of the earth)

The rotation of the oscillation plane.

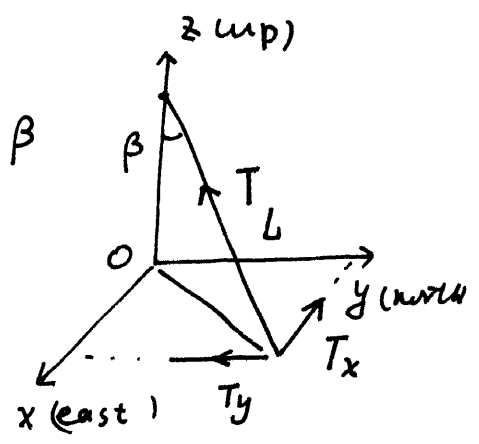
$$m \ddot{\vec{r}} = \vec{T} + \underbrace{m \vec{g}_0 + m(\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}) \times \vec{\Omega}}_{m \vec{g}}$$



$$T_{||} \approx T \cdot \beta \approx mg \beta$$

$$T_{\perp x} \approx -mg \frac{x}{L}$$

$$T_y \approx -mg \frac{y}{L}$$

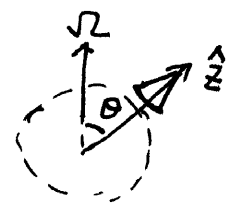


$$\Rightarrow \left. \begin{aligned} \ddot{x} &= -\frac{g}{L} x + 2\dot{y} \Omega \cos \theta \\ \ddot{y} &= -\frac{g}{L} y - 2\dot{x} \Omega \cos \theta \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$\Omega_z = \Omega \cos \theta$  is the component of  $\vec{\Omega}$  perpendicular the  $xy$  plane  
 $\theta$  the angle between  $\hat{\Omega}$  &  $\hat{z}$

define  $\omega_0^2 = \frac{g}{L} \Rightarrow$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \ddot{x} - 2\Omega_z \dot{y} + \omega_0^2 x &= 0 \\ \ddot{y} - 2\Omega_z \dot{x} + \omega_0^2 y &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\}$$



define  $\eta = x + iy \Rightarrow \ddot{\eta} + 2i\Omega_z \dot{\eta} + \omega_0^2 \eta = 0$

eigen-frequency

$$e^{-i\alpha t} \Rightarrow -\alpha^2 + 2i\Omega_z \alpha - \omega_0^2 = 0$$

$$\alpha = \Omega_z \pm \sqrt{\Omega_z^2 + \omega_0^2} \approx \Omega_z \pm \omega_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \eta(t) = e^{-i\Omega_z t} [c_1 e^{i\omega_0 t} + c_2 e^{-i\omega_0 t}]$$

if we choose linear polarization at  $t=0$ , i.e.  $C_1 = C_2$

$$\Rightarrow x(t) + iy(t) = e^{-i\Omega_z t} \cos \omega_0 t$$

Rotation of oscillation plane at  $\Omega_z = \Omega \cos \theta$ .