

Problem 3: Choose system of coordinates, such that axes x, y, z are orthogonal to the 6 flat surfaces, and let

$$-a/2 < x < a/2, \quad -b/2 < y < b/2, \quad -c/2 < z < c/2.$$

The tensor of inertia of the board prior to being dropped:

$$\begin{aligned} I_{xx}^0 &= \int_{-c/2}^{c/2} \int_{-b/2}^{b/2} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \frac{M}{abc} (y^2 + z^2) dx dy dz = \\ &= \frac{M}{abc} \left(ac \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{b}{2} \right)^3 + ab \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{c}{2} \right)^3 \right) = \frac{M}{12} (b^2 + c^2) \end{aligned}$$

by symmetry $I_{yy}^0 = \frac{M}{12} (a^2 + c^2), \quad I_{zz}^0 = \frac{M}{12} (b^2 + a^2)$

$$I_{xy}^0 = - \int_{-c/2}^{c/2} \int_{-b/2}^{b/2} \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \frac{M}{abc} (xy) dx dy dz = 0$$

$$I_{yx}^0 = I_{xz}^0 = I_{zx}^0 = I_{yz}^0 = I_{zy}^0 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow I^0 = \frac{M}{12} \begin{pmatrix} b^2 + c^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a^2 + c^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b^2 + a^2 \end{pmatrix} = M \cdot A$$

The principal moments of inertia $\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3$ are the eigenvectors of I^0 , so $\vec{e}_1 = (1, 0, 0), \vec{e}_2 = (0, 1, 0), \vec{e}_3 = (0, 0, 1)$.

The corresponding moment of inertia are eigenvalues,

$$I_1^0 = \frac{M}{12} (b^2 + c^2), \quad I_2^0 = \frac{M}{12} (a^2 + c^2), \quad I_3^0 = \frac{M}{12} (b^2 + a^2)$$

After we clipped the corner, the new tensor of inertia is given by $I^0 - I^1 = MA + mB = M(A + \frac{m}{M}B) = M(A + \epsilon B),$

where $\varepsilon = \frac{m}{M}$, $B = -\frac{1}{m} I'$, and I' is the tensor of inertia of the missing corner, at $(x, y, z) = (a/2, b/2, c/2)$:

$$I' = m \begin{pmatrix} (\frac{b}{2})^2 + (\frac{c}{2})^2 & -\frac{a}{2} \frac{b}{2} & -\frac{a}{2} \frac{c}{2} \\ -\frac{a}{2} \frac{b}{2} & (\frac{a}{2})^2 + (\frac{c}{2})^2 & -\frac{b}{2} \frac{c}{2} \\ -\frac{a}{2} \frac{c}{2} & -\frac{b}{2} \frac{c}{2} & (\frac{b}{2})^2 + (\frac{a}{2})^2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{m}{4} \begin{pmatrix} b^2 + c^2 & -ab & -ac \\ -ab & a^2 + c^2 & -bc \\ -ac & -bc & b^2 + a^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow B = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} -b^2 - c^2 & ab & ac \\ ab & -a^2 - c^2 & bc \\ ac & bc & -b^2 - a^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The new principal axes and principal moments are

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \vec{X}_i &= \vec{e}_i + \varepsilon \vec{X}_i^{(1)} + \varepsilon^2 \vec{X}_i^{(2)} + \dots \\ I_i &= I_i^0 + \varepsilon I_i^{(1)} + \varepsilon^2 I_i^{(2)} + \dots \end{aligned} \right\} i = 1, 2, 3$$

with $I_i = \lambda_i$ and $I_i^{(0)} = a_i$ in notations used in class

Now, just plug in the \vec{e}_i 's and B into the formulas for the 1st and 2nd order corrections to eigenvectors and eigenvalues and you are done!

Note that, when you calculate 2nd order corrections, the double sum $\sum_{\substack{j \neq i \\ k \neq i, j}}$ reduces to a single sum because there are just three different indices: 1, 2, 3.