

Centre of mass =

The centre of mass of a set of particles is the point with respect to which the linear momentum of the set is zero.

where as linear momentum of the set of particles is given by

Linear momentum = $\sum m_i \vec{v}_i$, where \vec{v}_i are position vectors of the masses m_i w.r.t. origin.

Let C be the centre of mass of a set of particles $m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_n$ and let \vec{r} be its position vector.

Let the ~~points~~ masses m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n are located at $P_1(r_1), P_2(r_2), \dots, P_n(r_n)$.

If position vectors of the masses m_i with respect to C are \vec{r}'_i , then, as c.m. is the point with respect to which linear momentum is zero

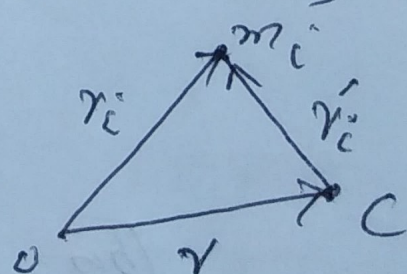
$$\text{So } \sum m_i \vec{r}'_i = 0 \quad (1); \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

From figure

$$\vec{r} + \vec{r}'_i = \vec{r}_i$$

$$\vec{r}'_i = \vec{r}_i - \vec{r}$$

using into (1)



$$\sum m_i (\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}) = 0$$

$$\sum m_i \vec{r}_i - \sum m_i \vec{r} = 0$$

$$\sum m_i \vec{r} = \sum m_i \vec{r}_i$$

$$(\sum m_i) \vec{r} = \sum m_i \vec{r}_i$$

$$\vec{r} = \frac{\sum m_i \vec{r}_i}{\sum m_i}$$

(2)

Relation (2) gives the position vector of centre of mass of the set of masses m_i .

If we use $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$
 $\vec{r}_i = x_i\hat{i} + y_i\hat{j} + z_i\hat{k}$ into eq (2)

we get

$$x = \frac{\sum m_i x_i}{\sum m_i}, \quad y = \frac{\sum m_i y_i}{\sum m_i}$$

$$\text{and } z = \frac{\sum m_i z_i}{\sum m_i}$$

Further if $m_1 = m_2 = \dots = m_n$

then from (2)

$$\vec{r} = \frac{\sum \vec{r}_i}{n} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{or } x = \frac{\sum x_i}{n}, \quad y = \frac{\sum y_i}{n}, \quad z = \frac{\sum z_i}{n}$$

This is called centroid of the points

P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n . (As we study in geometry)

In the case of a set of two particles, we have from (2)

$$\vec{v} = \frac{m_1 \vec{v}_1 + m_2 \vec{v}_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

and from (3)

$$\vec{v} = \frac{\vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2}{2} \text{ (a formula for mid point)}$$

~~~~~x

i, Centre of mass of a thin rod of uniform thickness

Let  $m$  be the mass of a uniform thin rod of length  $l$ , let one end of the rod be taken as origin.

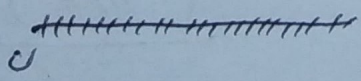
Let the rod be divided into  $n$  parts such that  $\Delta m_i$  is mass of it,  $i$ th part, Then by def. of the com.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum m_i x_i}{\sum m_i} \text{ (one dimensional)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{x} = \lim_{\Delta m \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sum x_i \Delta m_i}{\sum m_i}$$

$$= \frac{\int_0^l x \, dm}{\int_0^l dm} = \frac{\int_0^l x \rho \, dx}{\int_0^l \rho \, dx}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{x^2}{2} \Big|_0^l}{l} = \frac{l^2/2}{l} = l/2$$

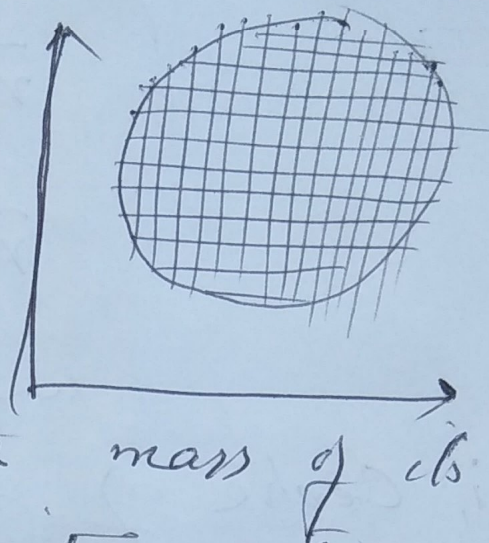


(ii) Centre of mass of a plane lamina.

Let  $m$  be the mass of the lamina and  $A$  its area.

We divide the lamina into  $n$  parts (rectangles),

so that  $\Delta m_i$  ~~and  $\Delta A_i$~~  is the mass of  $i$ th part and  $\vec{r}_i$  its position vector.



Then, by def of C.M.

$$\vec{y} = \frac{\sum m_i \vec{r}_i}{\sum m_i}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{y} = \frac{\sum \vec{r}_i \Delta m_i}{\sum \Delta m_i}$$

As lamina can be considered as a collection of infinite no. of masses  $\Delta m_i$ , so

$$\vec{y} = \lim_{\Delta m_i \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sum \vec{r}_i \Delta m_i}{\sum \Delta m_i}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{y} = \frac{\int_R \vec{r} dm}{\int_R dm}$$

$$= \frac{\int_R \vec{r} \rho dA}{\int_R \rho dA}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \rho = \frac{m}{V} \\ m = \rho V \\ m = \rho A \end{array} \right]$$

$$\vec{y} = \frac{\int_R \vec{r} dA}{\int_R dA} \quad \text{if density is constant.}$$

(iii) Centre of mass of a solid

To find the c.m. of a solid, let us divide the solid into  $n$  parts in such a way that mass of its  $i$ th part is  $\Delta m_i$  and each part is assumed to be a rectangular // piped shape.

Then by def of c.m.

$$\bar{y} = \frac{\sum m_i y_i}{\sum m_i}$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{y} = \frac{\sum y_i \Delta m_i}{\sum \Delta m_i}$$

Since solid can be considered as a collection of infinite small masses  $\Delta m_i$ .

$$\therefore \bar{y} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i \Delta m_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \Delta m_i}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum y_i \rho \Delta V_i}{\sum \rho \Delta V_i}$$

$$= \frac{\int \rho y dV}{\int \rho dV}$$

$$= \int y \rho dV / \int \rho dV \quad \text{if } \rho = \text{const.}$$

In case of cartesian components,

$$\text{From } \bar{r} = \frac{\int \rho r dV}{\int \rho dV} = \frac{\int \rho r dV}{m}$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{x} = \frac{\int \rho x dx dy dz}{m}, \quad \bar{y} = \frac{\int \rho y dx dy dz}{m}$$

$$\text{and } \bar{z} = \frac{\int \rho z dx dy dz}{m}$$

$$\text{or } m\bar{x} = \int \rho x dx dy dz$$

$$m\bar{y} = \int \rho y dx dy dz$$

$$\text{and } m\bar{z} = \int \rho z dx dy dz$$

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