

## 2.8. Free axes

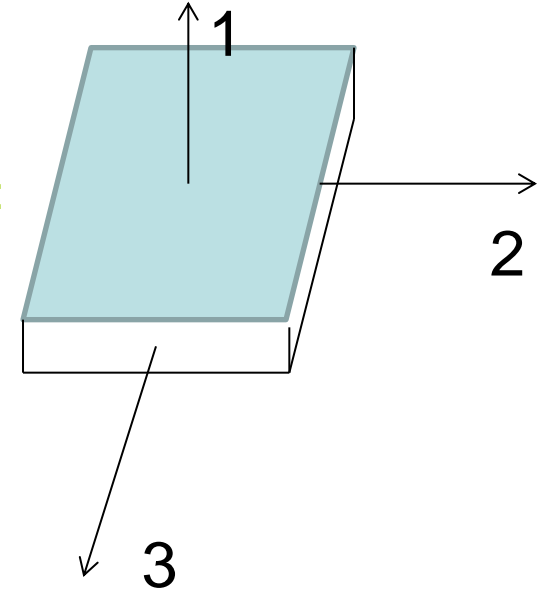
Up til now: Axis of rotation mounted Question: **What is the stable axis**, as soon a body gets moved to turn ?

Up until now:  **$I = \text{Scalar}$**

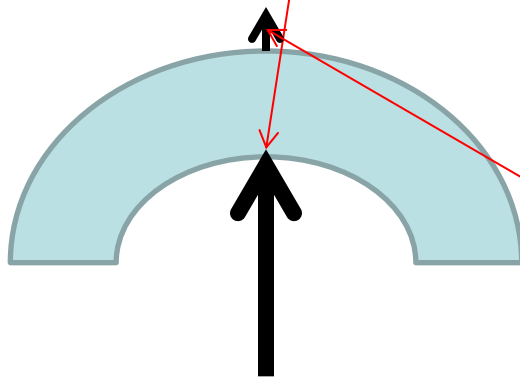
But does not be a scalar

The 3 axes are  
Are the main axes of inertia:

$I_1$   $I_2$   $I_3$



Example : **gyration**  
(fixed at c.m.),  
symmetric spinning top



Here in  
one direction

The following axes can  
be defined: current axes of rotation

Axis of the figure  $\vec{A}$

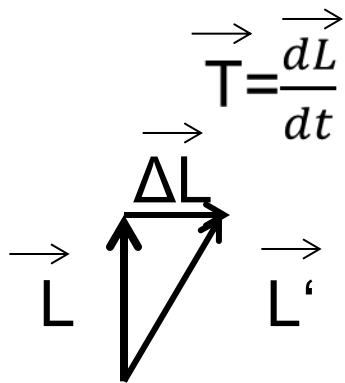
Axis of rotation  $\vec{\omega}$

Axis of angular momentum  $\vec{L}$

After „to put into rotation “: No  $\vec{T}$ 's

$$\vec{L} = \text{Constant} \quad \vec{\omega} \parallel \vec{L} \parallel \vec{A}$$

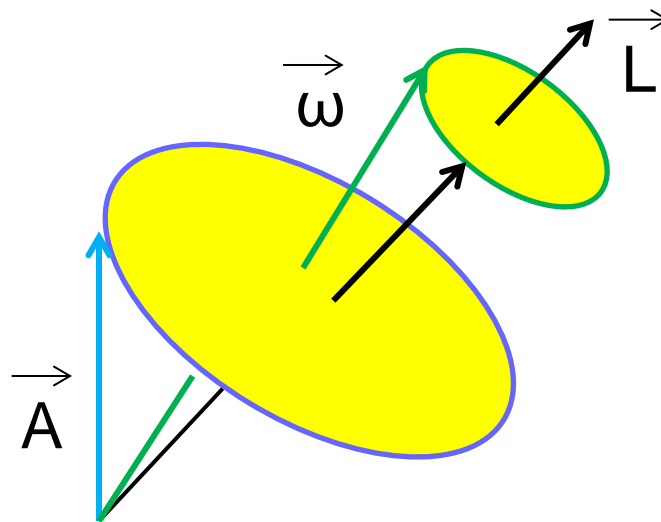
But a small kick against the axis of figure:  $\Rightarrow$  Creates T



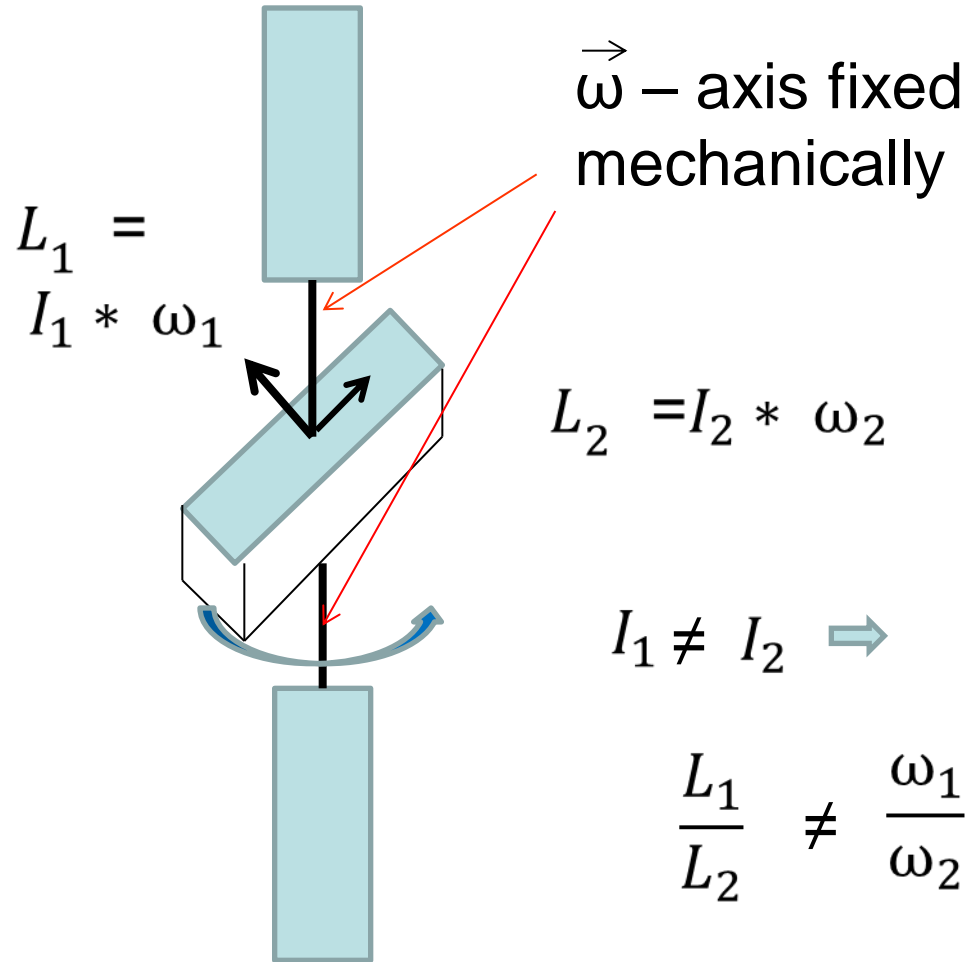
$$\vec{dL} = \vec{T} dt$$

L-axis gets tilted, all axes have different directions

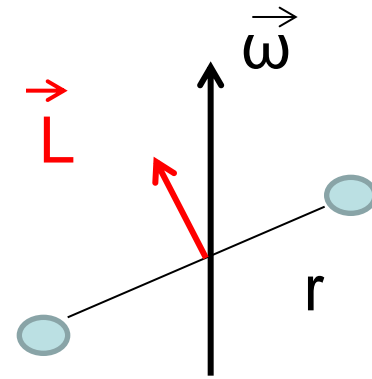
the  $\omega$  – and the A axis move around the fixed L axis on surface of a cone



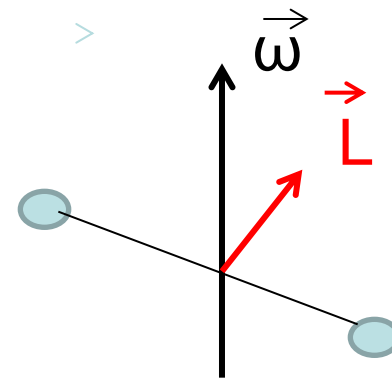
# Example for the connection of $\vec{L}$ and $\vec{\omega}$ :



Easier to see for two masses



After rotation by 180 deg.

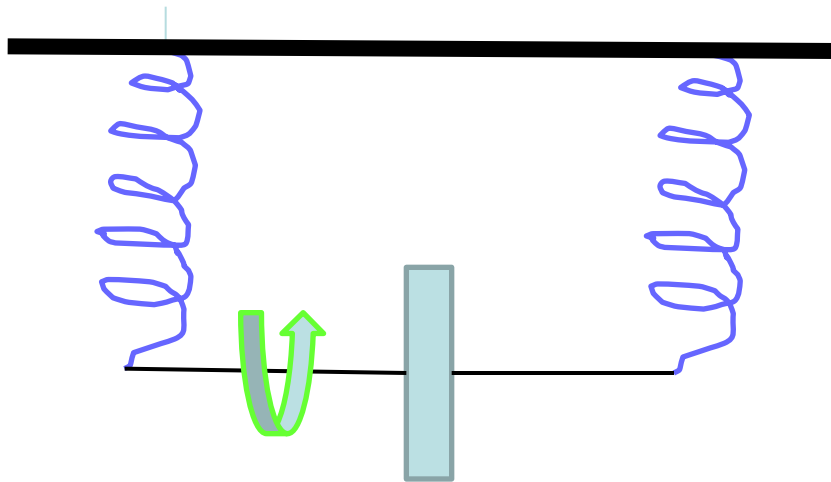


Because  $\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$   $\vec{L} \perp \vec{r}$   $\rightarrow$  L always turns around

$\rightarrow \frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = \vec{T} \neq 0 \rightarrow$

The mount of the set-up have to take up torques  $\rightarrow$  the run has unbalance!!

To a better demonstration of unbalance an experiment is used with three mobile axes.



To balance out means:

$$\sum_i T_i = 0$$

One has to mount masses in such a way that:

$$\vec{L} = I * \vec{\omega} ; \vec{L} \parallel \vec{\omega}$$

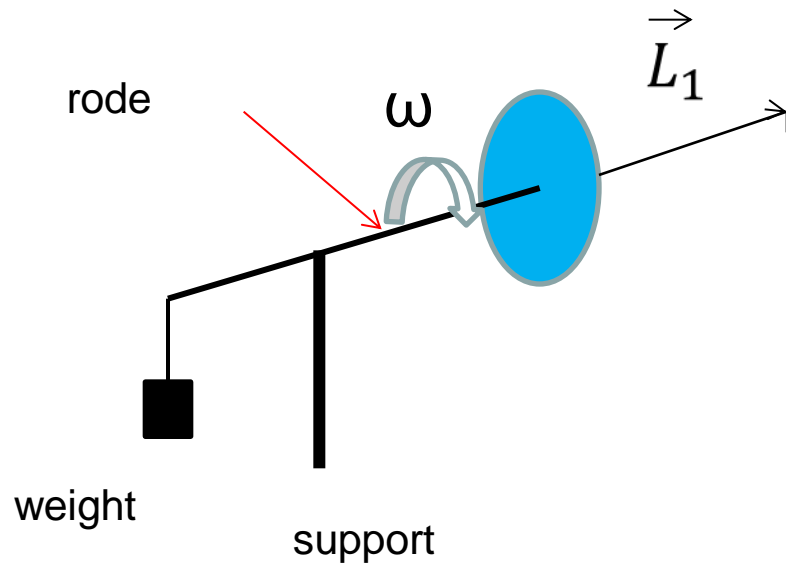
# Precession

Spinning tops influenced from outside: Torques change of  $\vec{L}$ , so far  $\vec{T}$  is in action.

a) Direction of  $\vec{L}$  remains, then  $\vec{T} \parallel \vec{L}$

b) Direction of  $\vec{L}$  changes, if  $\vec{L} \not\parallel \vec{T}$

Example **Gyroscope**:

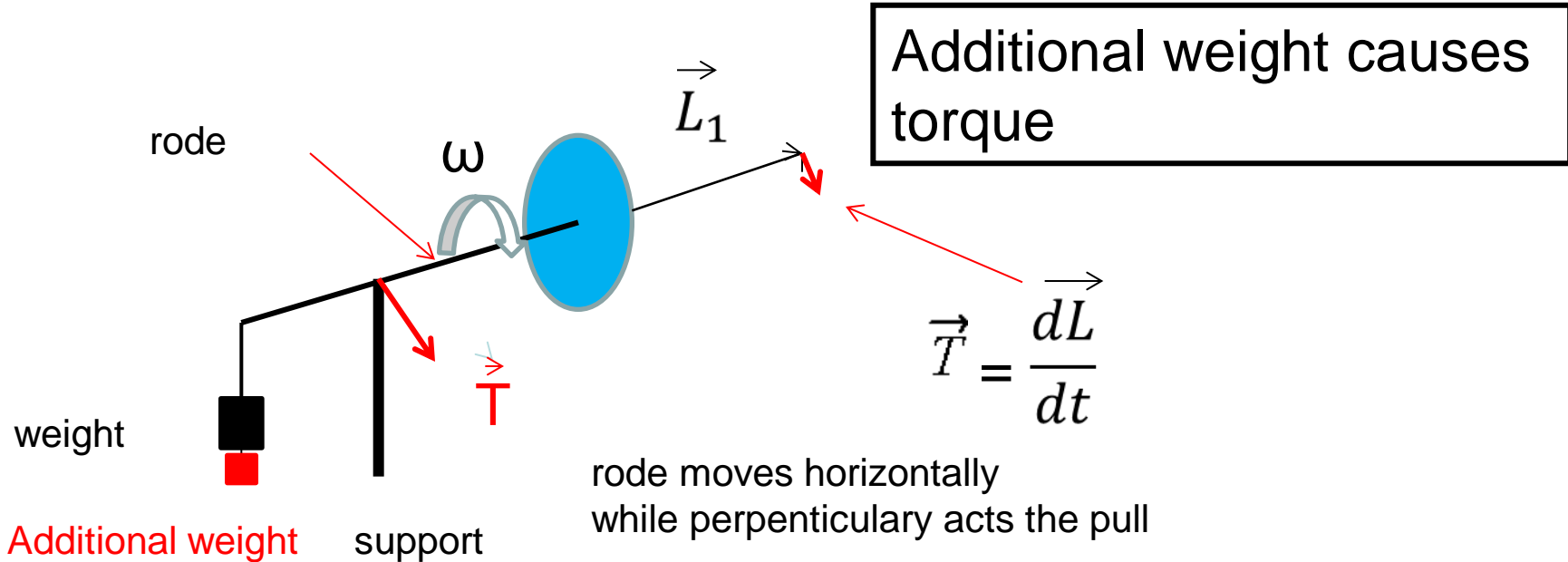


$$1) \Sigma T_i = 0$$

Equilibrium:

$$\vec{L} = \text{constant}$$





For  $\omega_p < \omega$

$\vec{L}$

$\vec{dL}$

$d\phi$

$$\vec{T} = \frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} \quad \vec{dL} = \vec{T} \cdot dt$$

If the additional weight works always: The rode rotates with the frequency of precession

$$dL = d\phi \cdot L \quad \frac{dL}{dt} = \omega_p \cdot L$$

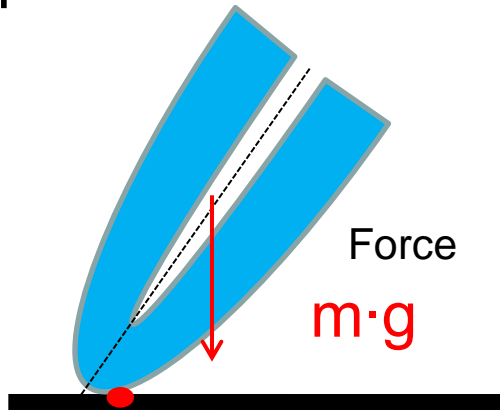
$$\vec{T} = \vec{\omega}_p \times \vec{L}$$

$$\omega_p = \frac{T}{L}$$

e.g.  $\omega_p$ : larger, if L smaller

Good to see with the top:  
friction causes that L gets smaller >  
 $\omega_p$   
increases!

Top:

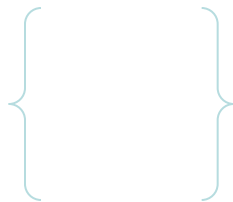


1. Observation: **Precession**

2. Observation: raising

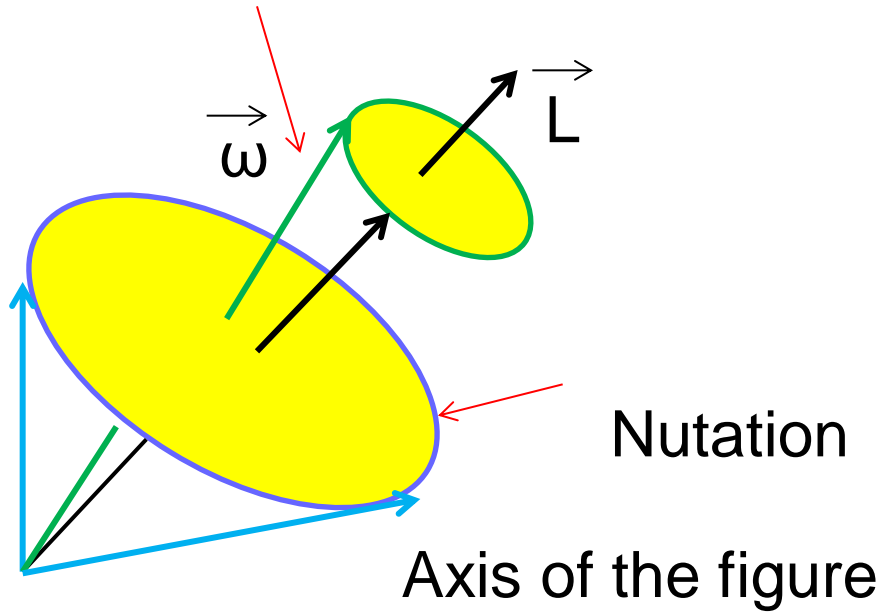
Scrolling from the axis leads torque around c.m.

which leads to raising!

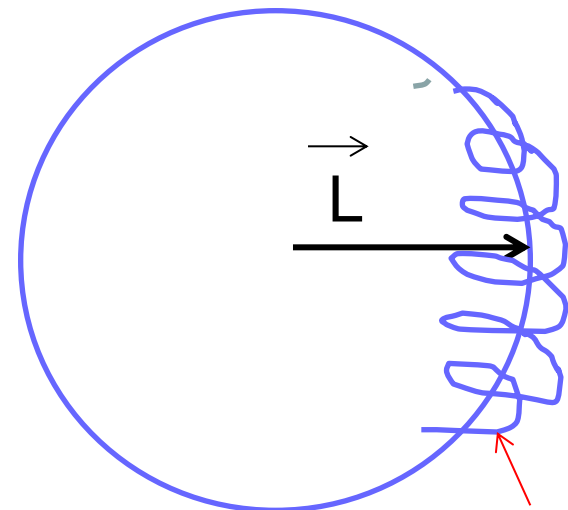


Again free axes:

Current axis

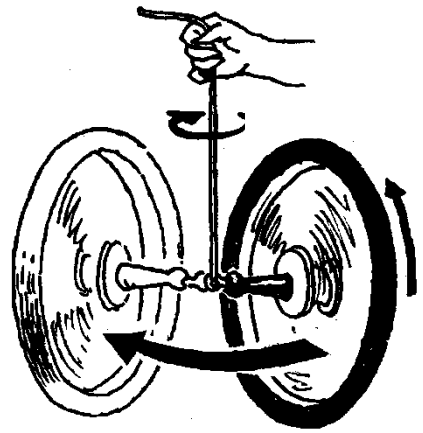
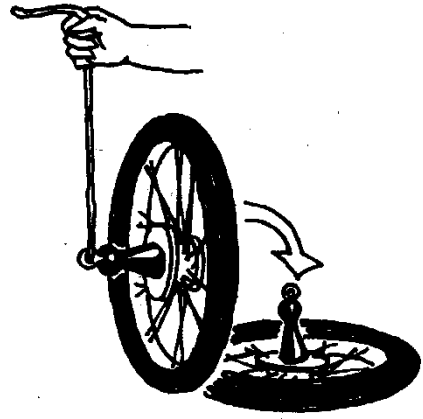


With precession:



Path of the axis of figure (Nutation)





Mathematical  
description of  $L$  and  $\omega$   
A theme for theory