

The Euler Angles of a Rigid Body

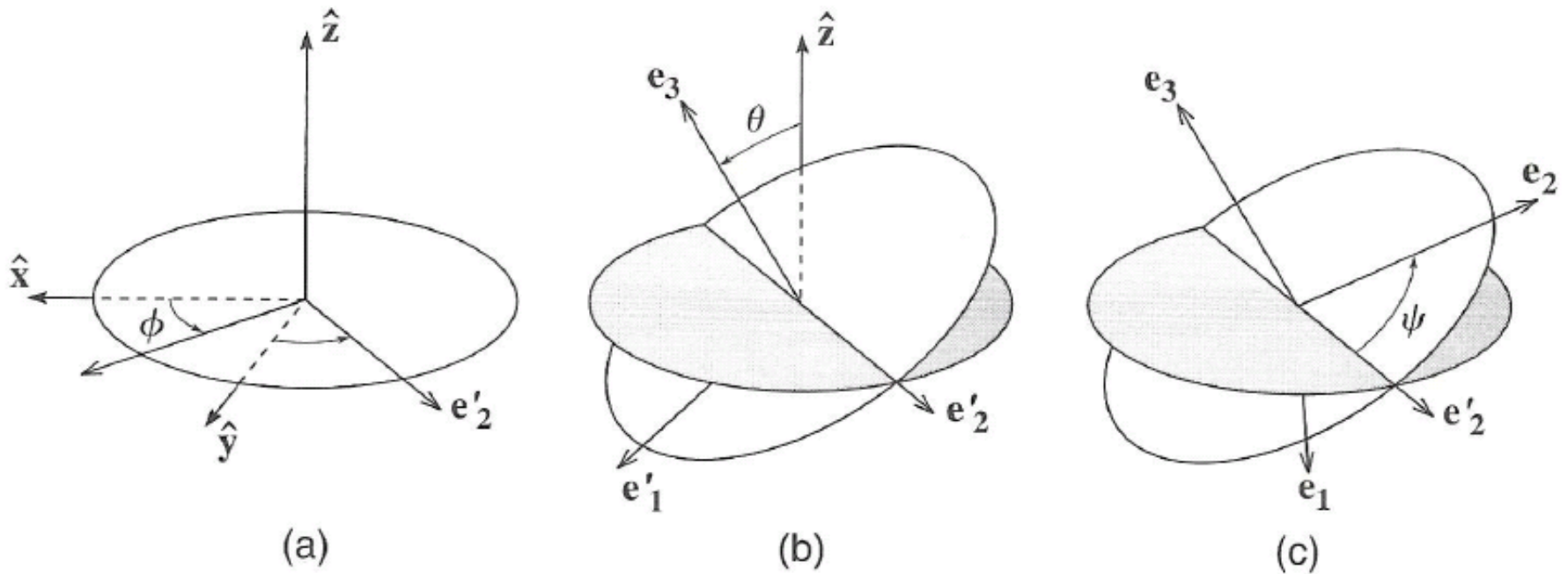
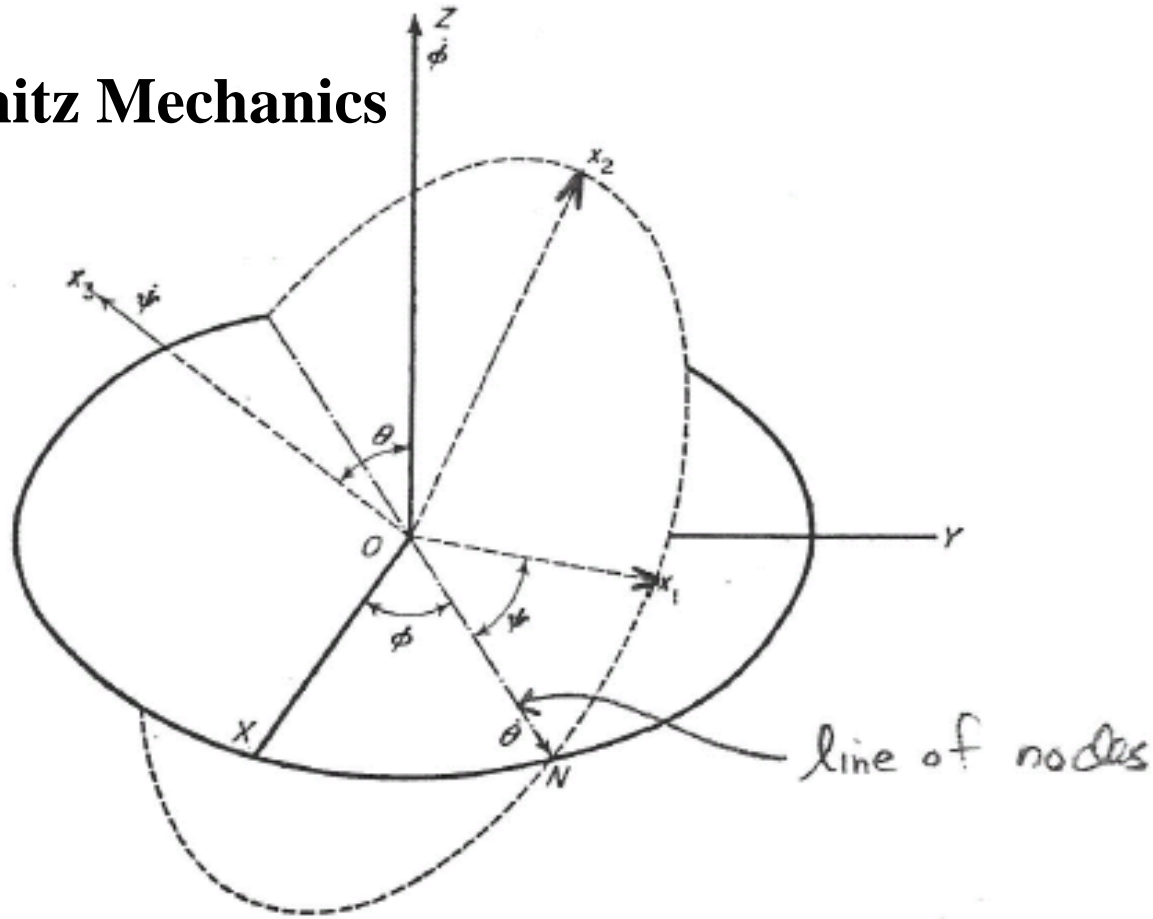


Figure 10.10 Definition of the Euler angles θ , ϕ , and ψ . Starting with the body axes e_1, e_2, e_3 and space axes $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ aligned, the three successive rotations bring the body axes to any prescribed orientation.

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Landau-Lifshitz Mechanics



Differences from Taylor:

Note that here the "line of nodes" is the rotated "X" axis, as opposed to the rotated "y" axis. Here the angle ψ is from the "line of nodes" to the final e_1 axis, whereas for Taylor it is the angle from the e_2' axis to the final e_2 axis.

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