Physics 121, March 25, 2008. Rotational Motion and Angular Momentum.



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Physics 121. March 25, 2008.

- Course Information
- Topics to be discussed today:
 - Review of Rotational Motion
 - Rolling Motion
 - Angular Momentum
 - Conservation of Angular Momentum

Physics 121. March 25, 2008.

- Homework set # 7 is now available and is due on Saturday April 5 at 8.30 am.
- There will be no workshops and office hours for the rest of the week. We will be busy grading exam # 2.
- The grades for exam # 2 will be distributed via email on Monday March 31.
- You should pick up your exam in workshop next week. Please check it carefully for any errors.

Physics 121. Quiz lecture 17.

• The quiz today will have 4 questions!



Rotational variables. A quick review.

- The variables that are used to describe rotational motion are:
 - Angular position θ
 - Angular velocity $\omega = d\theta/dt$
 - Angular acceleration $\alpha = d\omega/dt$
- The rotational variables are related to the linear variables:
 - Linear position $l = R\theta$
 - Linear velocity $v = R\omega$
 - Linear acceleration $a = R\alpha$



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Rotational Kinetic Energy. A quick review.

• Since the components of a rotating object have a non-zero (linear) velocity we can associate a kinetic energy with the rotational motion:

$$K = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{2} m_{i} v_{i}^{2} = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{2} m_{i} (\omega r_{i})^{2} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \sum_{i} m_{i} r_{i}^{2} \right\} \omega^{2} = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^{2}$$

The kinetic energy is proportional to square of the rotational velocity ω. Note: the equation is similar to the translational kinetic energy (1/2 mv²) except that instead of being proportional to the the mass m of the object, the rotational kinetic energy is proportional to the moment of inertia I of the object:

$$I = \sum_{i} m_{i} r_{i}^{2}$$
 or $I = \int r^{2} dm$ Note: units of *I*: kg m²

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Torque.

• In general the torque associated with a force F is equal to

 $\vec{\tau} = rF\sin\phi = \vec{\mathbf{r}} \times \vec{\mathbf{F}}$

- The arm of the force (also called the moment arm) is defined as $r\sin\phi$. The arm of the force is the perpendicular distance of the axis of rotation from the line of action of the force.
- If the arm of the force is 0, the torque is 0, and there will be no rotation.
- The maximum torque is achieved when the angle ϕ is 90°.

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Torque. A quick review.

 The torque τ of the force F is related to the angular acceleration α:

 $\tau = I\alpha$

• This equation looks similar to Newton's second law for linear motion:

F = ma

• Note:

linear	<u>rotational</u>
mass m	moment I
force F	torque $ au$

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Rolling motion. A quick review.

- Rolling motion is a combination of translational and rotational motion.
- The kinetic energy of rolling motion has thus two contributions:
 - Translational kinetic energy = $(1/2) M v_{cm}^2$.
 - Rotational kinetic energy = $(1/2) I_{cm} \omega^2$.



• Assuming the wheel does not slip: $\omega = v / R$.

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How different is a world with rotational motion? Sample problem.

- Consider the loop-to-loop. What height *h* is required to make it to the top of the loop?
- First consider the case without rotation:
 - Initial mechanical energy = *mgh*.
 - Minimum velocity at the top of the loop is determine by requiring that $mv^2/R > mg$

or

$v^2 > gR$

- The mechanical energy is thus equal to
 - $(1/2)mv^2 + 2mgR > (5/2)mgR$
- Conservation of energy requires



How different is a world with rotational motion? Sample problem.

- What changes when the object rotates?
 - The minimum velocity at the top of the loop will not change.
 - The minimum translational kinetic energy at the top of the loop will not change.
 - But in addition to translational kinetic energy, there is now also rotational kinetic energy.
 - The minimum mechanical energy is at the top of the loop has thus increased.
 - The required minimum height must thus have increased.
- OK, let's now calculate by how much the minimum height has increased.



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How different is a world with rotational motion? Sample problem.

• The total kinetic energy at the top of the loop is equal to $K_{f} = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^{2} + \frac{1}{2}Mv^{2} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{I}{r^{2}} + M\right)v^{2}$ • This expression can be rewritten as $K_f = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2}{5}M + M \right) v^2 = \frac{7}{10} M v^2$ h • We now know the minimum mechanical energy required to reach this point and thus the minimum height:

$$h \ge \frac{27}{10}R$$

Note: without rotation $h \ge 25/10 R \parallel!!$

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Torque and rotational motion.

• Let's test our understanding of the basic aspects of torque and rotational motion by working on the following concept problems:



Torque.

- The torque associated with a force is a vector. It has a magnitude and a direction.
- The direction of the torque can be found by using the right-hand rule to evaluate r x F.
- For extended objects, the total torque is equal to the vector sum of the torque associated with each "component" of this object.



- We have seen many similarities between the way in which we describe linear and rotational motion.
- Our treatment of these types of motion are similar if we recognize the following equivalence:

<u>linear</u>	rotational
mass m	moment I
force F	torque $\tau = r \ge F$

 What is the equivalent to linear momentum? Answer: angular momentum.



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- The **angular momentum** is defined as the vector product between the position vector and the linear momentum.
- Note:
 - Compare this definition with the definition of the torque.
 - Angular momentum is a vector.
 - The unit of angular momentum is kg m²/s.
 - The angular momentum depends on both the magnitude and the direction of the position and linear momentum vectors.
 - Under certain circumstances the angular momentum of a system is conserved!



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- Consider an object carrying out circular motion.
- For this type of motion, the position vector will be perpendicular to the momentum vector.
- The magnitude of the angular momentum is equal to the product of the magnitude of the radius *r* and the linear momentum *p*:

 $L = mvr = mr^2(v/r) = I\omega$

• Note: compare this with *p* = *mv*!



- An object does not need to carry out rotational motion to have an angular moment.
- Consider a particle *P* carrying out linear motion in the *xy* plane.
- The angular momentum of *P* (with respect to the origin) is equal to

$$\vec{\mathbf{L}} = \vec{\mathbf{r}} \times \vec{\mathbf{p}} = mrv\sin\theta \,\hat{\mathbf{k}} =$$
$$= mvr_{\perp}\hat{\mathbf{k}} = pr_{\perp}\hat{\mathbf{k}}$$

and will be constant (if the linear momentum is constant).



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Conservation of angular momentum.

• Consider the change in the angular momentum of a particle:

$$\frac{d\vec{\mathbf{L}}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{\mathbf{r}} \times \vec{\mathbf{p}}) = m \left(\vec{\mathbf{r}} \times \frac{d\vec{\mathbf{v}}}{dt} + \frac{d\vec{\mathbf{r}}}{dt} \times \vec{\mathbf{v}} \right) =$$
$$= m \left(\vec{\mathbf{r}} \times \vec{\mathbf{a}} + \vec{\mathbf{v}} \times \vec{\mathbf{v}} \right) = \vec{\mathbf{r}} \times \sum \vec{\mathbf{F}} = \sum \vec{\tau}$$

• Consider what happens when the net torque is equal to 0:

 $dL/dt = 0 \rightarrow L = constant (conservation of angular momentum)$

- When we take the sum of all torques, the torques due to the internal forces cancel and the sum is equal to torque due to all external forces.
- Note: notice again the similarities between linear and rotational motion.

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Conservation of angular momentum.

• The connection between the angular momentum L and the torque τ

$$\sum \vec{\tau} = \frac{d\vec{L}}{dt}$$

is only true if L and τ are calculated with respect to the same reference point (which is at rest in an inertial reference frame).

• The relation is also true if L and τ are calculated with respect to the center of mass of the object (note: center of mass can accelerate).



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Conservation of angular momentum.

- Ignoring the mass of the bicycle wheel, the external torque will be close to zero if we use the center of the disk as our reference point.
- Since the external torque is zero, angular momentum thus should be conserved.
- I can change the orientation of the wheel by applying internal forces. In which direction will I need to spin to conserve angular momentum?



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Done for today! More about rotational motion on Thursday.



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