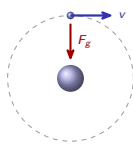


Energy & Momentum of Rotating Systems

AP Physics 1 ■ Unit 6

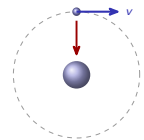
AP Physics 1



Energy & Momentum of Rotating Systems

What we will cover

- 1 Rotational kinetic energy
- 2 Work and power of a torque
- 3 Angular momentum and impulse
- 4 Conservation of angular momentum
- 5 Rolling without slipping
- 6 Orbiting satellites



1

Rotational kinetic energy

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Rotational kinetic energy

A spinning object stores energy even if its centre stays put:

Energy of spin

$$K_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$$

Mass $\rightarrow I$, speed $\rightarrow \omega$. Double the spin, quadruple the energy.

A rolling object has both: $K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2 + \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$.

Down a ramp

$$mgh = \frac{1}{2} m v^2 + \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$$

A shape with mass near the rim (a hoop) puts more energy into spin, so it moves slower at the bottom.

2

Work and power

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Work and power

Work and power of a torque

A torque does work when it turns an object through an angle:

Rotational work and power

$$W = \tau \Delta\theta, \quad P = \tau \omega$$

$W_{\text{net}} = \Delta K_{\text{rot}}$. A changing torque: work = area under a τ - θ graph.

Worked example

Motor: $\tau = 15 \text{ N m}$ over $\Delta\theta = 8 \text{ rad}$:

$$W = 15 \times 8 = 120 \text{ J}$$

At $\omega = 20 \text{ rad/s}$:

$$P = 15 \times 20 = 300 \text{ W}$$

3 Angular momentum

Energy & Momentum of Rotating Systems
└ Angular momentum

Angular momentum and impulse

Angular momentum 角动量 is the rotational twin of momentum:

Spin that resists change

$$L = I\omega$$

$$\Delta L = \tau \Delta t$$

Angular impulse 角冲量 = net torque $\times$ time.

Worked example

$L_i = 30$; a torque $\tau = 5 \text{ N m}$ acts for 4 s:

$$\Delta L = 5 \times 4 = 20$$

$$L_f = 30 + 20 = 50 \text{ kg m}^2/\text{s}$$

4 Conservation

Energy & Momentum of Rotating Systems
└ Conservation

Conservation of angular momentum

With **zero net external torque**, angular momentum is conserved – even as the body changes shape:

Before = after

$$I_i \omega_i = I_f \omega_f$$

A skater pulls their arms in: I drops, so ω rises – they spin **faster**.



5 Rolling

Energy & Momentum of Rotating Systems
└ Rolling

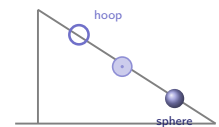
Rolling without slipping

Rolling without slipping 无滑滚动 locks forward speed to spin:

The rolling condition

$$v = \omega r, \quad K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$$

Race down a ramp: the **solid sphere wins**, the hoop comes last – more I means more energy lost to spin.



6 Satellites

Orbiting satellites

Gravity 引力 supplies the centripetal force. Set them equal:

Orbital speed

$$\frac{GMm}{r^2} = \frac{mv^2}{r} \Rightarrow v = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

- speed is independent of the satellite's mass
- a **bigger** orbit means a **slower** speed



Satellites are continuous free-fall around Earth

7 Recap

Unit 6 – key takeaways

1 Rotational energy

$K_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$; rolling splits energy in two

2 Angular momentum

$L = I\omega$; angular impulse $\tau \Delta t = \Delta L$

3 Conservation

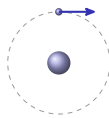
no external torque $\Rightarrow I_i\omega_i = I_f\omega_f$ (skater)

4 Orbits

gravity is the centripetal force; $v = \sqrt{GM/r}$

Check yourself

- 1 A skater pulls their arms in – what happens to their spin rate?
- 2 Down a ramp: hoop, disk, or sphere – which wins?
- 3 Does orbital speed depend on the satellite's mass?
- 4 A bigger orbit radius means a faster or slower speed?



Answers 1. it speeds up 2. the sphere 3. no 4. slower