

#### Torque



# Definition

 is a measure of how much a force acting on an object causes that object to rotate, symbol is τ, (Greek letter tau)

•  $\tau = \mathbf{r}_{\perp}\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{r}\mathbf{F}\sin\theta$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = \text{distance from pivot to}$ force, F is the applied force and  $\theta$  is the angle between r and F  SI unit of torque is N•m, this is not the same as a joule

• Torque is a vector,  $\mbox{rFsin}\theta$  is a vector cross-product

## **Equal Torques**



#### $\tau = rFsin\theta = 20 lb \bullet ft$

 The magnitude of the torque depends on the magnitude of the applied force, the distance between the force and the pivot and the direction the force acts

Only the component of the force  $\perp$  to the beam can cause rotation





# **Centre of Mass (gravity)**

- The point at which the mass of an object seems to act
- The centre of mass of a homogenous symmetric object is on an axis of symmetry
- An object is in a stable position when the centre of gravity is directly above or below the lowest support point.

 No torque will result when a vertical line passes through the centre of gravity and the point of support

# Locating Centre of Mass

• A long, thin beam has 3 masses distributed along it as shown. Locate the centre of mass relative to the left edge of the beam.





#### Net Torque = 0, stable



#### Net torque =0, unstable



# Net torque $\neq$ 0, Unstable







A 3.0 m long uniform beam has a weight of 60
N and is attached to a wall. Determine the torque acting on the attachment point.



# Solution

• The weight of the beam acts as if all the mass is concentrated at the centre of the beam.



#### Calculation

•  $\tau = rFsin\theta = 1.5 \text{ m x } 60\text{N x } sin 90^{\circ}$ 

• τ = 90 N•m



# **Static Equilibrium**

• No acceleration and no rotation

•  $\Sigma \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{0}, \ \Sigma \boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{0}$ 

 A uniform beam with a weight of 300 N is pivoted at its centre of gravity. A 350 N weight is placed 1.5 m from the pivot. How far from the pivot should a 550 N weight be placed so that the beam does not rotate?



# Solution

Since the beam is supported at the centre of gravity, the beam would be balanced without the placement of the extra weights.



# Solution

- $\tau_{350 \text{ N}} + \tau_{550 \text{ N}} = 0$
- $\tau_{350 \text{ N}} = \tau_{550 \text{ N}}$
- 1.5 m x 350 N = r x 550 N
- r = 0.95 m



 $\theta = 90^{\circ}$ 

 Determine the upward force exerted by the biceps muscle on the forearm.







• τ<sub>muscle</sub> = 19.2 N•m



A 65 kg person is ¾ of the way up the 4.0 m ladder as shown in the diagram. What are the magnitude and direction of the torque about the base of the ladder at P produced by the person?

	Magnitude of torque	Direction
А	9.8 x 10² N∙m	clockwise
В	9.8 x 10² N∙m	counter clockwise
С	1.7 x 10³ N∙m	clockwise
D	1.7 x 10³ N∙m	counter clockwise



# Solution

•  $\tau = rFsin\theta$ 

- $\tau = 3.0 \text{ m x } 65 \text{ kg x } 10 \text{ m/s}^2 \text{ x sin } 30^\circ$
- $\tau = 3.0 \text{ m x } 65 \text{ kg x } 10 \text{ m/s}^2 \text{ x } \frac{1}{2}$
- $\tau = 3.0 \text{ m x} 325 \text{ N}$
- τ = 975 N∙m

• A 4.00 m long ladder weighing 380 N is leaning against a wall. The ladder makes a 60° angle with the ground and there is no friction between the ladder and the wall. Determine the force of friction between the ladder and the floor.







#### Solution y-direction

#### $\Sigma \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{0}$

 $F_{N \text{ from ground}} + F_g = 0$  $F_{N \text{ from }} ground = 380 \text{ N up}$ 

 $F_N$  from ground on ladder

![](_page_32_Picture_4.jpeg)

# Solution

if the wall wasn't there, the ladder would pivot about the point of contact with the ground.

 $\Sigma \tau = 0$ 

![](_page_33_Picture_3.jpeg)

# Solution

 $\theta = 60^{\circ}$ 

30

- $0 = (4.00 \text{ m})(F_{N \text{ wall}})(\sin 60^{\circ})+(-2.0 \text{ m})(380 \text{ N})(\sin 30^{\circ})$
- 0 = 3.464 m x F<sub>N wall</sub> + -380 N•m
- 380 N•m = 3.464 m x F<sub>N wall</sub>
- F<sub>N wall</sub> = 110 N
- Since  $F_{N \text{ wall}} = F_{\text{friction}}$
- F<sub>friction</sub> = 110 N

• A uniform 3.5 m beam of negligible mass, hinged at P, supports a hanging block as shown. If the tension  $F_{\tau}$  in the horizontal cord is 150 N, what is the mass of the hanging block?

![](_page_35_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Solution

- $\Sigma \tau = 0$
- $\tau_{cord} + \tau_{mass} = 0$
- 2.8 m x 150 N x sin 37° + 3.5 m x  $F_g$  x sin 53° = 0
- 252.76 N•m = 2.795 m x F<sub>g</sub>
- F<sub>g</sub> = 90.43 N
- m = 9.2 kg

![](_page_36_Figure_7.jpeg)

### **Torque & Rotational Inertia**

 A net force causes a mass to accelerate (translational motion)

A net torque causes a mass to rotate, which is accelerated motion

### **Angular Acceleration**

$$\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\alpha} = \frac{\Sigma \tau}{I} = \frac{\tau_{net}}{I}$$

 I is the moment of inertia or rotational inertia (units are kg•m<sup>2</sup>)

• 
$$I = \Sigma mr^2$$

• Units of  $\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\alpha}$  are radians/s<sup>2</sup>

### **Definition of Radian**

 A radian is the angle subtended by an arc that is equal to the radius of the circle

![](_page_39_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Arc length

• Length of arc, s, =  $\theta$ r

![](_page_40_Figure_2.jpeg)

 Two cylinders have the same mass but different radii. Which one has the higher moment of inertia?

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_2.jpeg)

 Consider two objects: a hoop and a solid disc. If they start from the same position on an inclined ramp, which one would make it to the bottom of the ramp first?

![](_page_42_Figure_2.jpeg)

the mass is evenly distributed over the entire area.

the same mass as disc but it is crammed into a smaller section away from the center.

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

- the solid disc would beat the hoop to the bottom of the ramp!
- mr<sup>2</sup> is the rotational inertia of the object: the disc has more of its mass at a greater radius
- ... more inertia

• 
$$I_{disc} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ mr}^2$$

• 
$$I_{hoop} = \mathrm{mr}^2$$

![](_page_44_Figure_2.jpeg)

the mass is evenly distributed over the entire area. the same mass as disc but it is crammed into a smaller section away from the center.

 A 15 N force acts on a 4.0 kg wheel 33 cm in radius. There is a frictional torque of 1.1 N•m at the axle.
Determine the angular acceleration of the wheel.

![](_page_45_Figure_2.jpeg)

 $\vec{F}$ 

•  $I = \Sigma mr^2 = 0.4356 \text{ kg} \cdot m^2$ 

$$\overset{\rightarrow}{\alpha} = \frac{\Sigma \stackrel{\rightarrow}{\tau}}{I} = \frac{rF \sin \theta + -1.1N \bullet m}{0.4356N \bullet m^2}$$

![](_page_46_Picture_3.jpeg)

$$\vec{\alpha} = 8.8 \, \frac{rad}{s^2}$$