Last Lecture

Statics and dynamics of rotational motion

Today

Everything you need to know about dynamics of rotation

Important Concepts

- Equations for angular motion are mostly identical to those for linear motion with the names of the variables changed.
- ⇒Location where forces are applied is now important.
- Rotational inertia or moment of inertia (rotational equivalent of mass) depends on how the material is distributed relative to the axis.

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Torque • How do you make something rotate? Very intuitive! • Larger force clearly give more "twist". • Force needs to be in the right direction (perpendicular to a line to the axis). • The "twist" is bigger if the force is applied farther away from the axis (bigger lever arm). • In math-speak: $\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F}$ $|\tau| = |r||F|\sin(\phi)$ • F Torque is out of the page

More Ways to Think of Torque

- Magnitude of the force times the component of the distance perpendicular to the force (aka lever arm).
- Magnitude of the radial distance times the component of the force perpendicular to the radius.
- Direction from Right-Hand-Rule for cross-products and can also be thought of as clockwise (CW) or counter-clockwise (CCW).
- ⇒For torque, gravity acts at the center of mass.

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