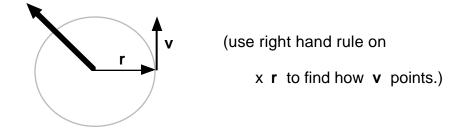
PHYS120 Lecture 25 - Angular momentum and torque

*Demonstrations:* none *Text.* Fishbane 9-4, 9-5, 9-6, 10-1, 10-2, 10-3 *Problems*: 38, 42, 43 from Ch. 9; 18, 20 from Ch. 10

What's important: •angular momentum and torque •summary of angular kinematics and dynamics •links between angular and linear equations

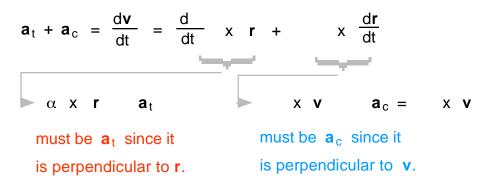
#### Vectors for $, \alpha :$

We have said for circular motion that  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{r}$ . In fact, in vector form  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x} \mathbf{r}$ .



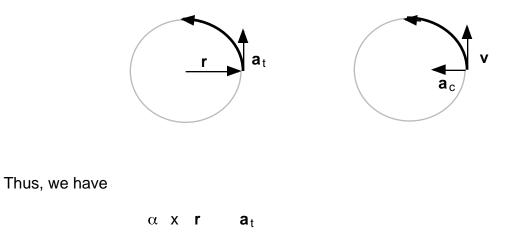
NOTE: the cross product cannot be inverted to read  $\omega = \mathbf{v} / \mathbf{r}$ .

The link between  $\alpha$  and **a**<sub>t</sub> is found by expressing the total acceleration vector in terms of its tangential and centripetal components:



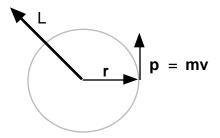
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To confirm the orientation of the tangential and centripetal acceleration, recall



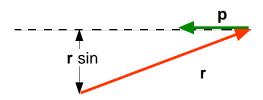
## **Angular Momentum**

There are angular analogues of momentum and force. First, angular momentum L is  $\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p}$ .



i) Note that we can also write this as

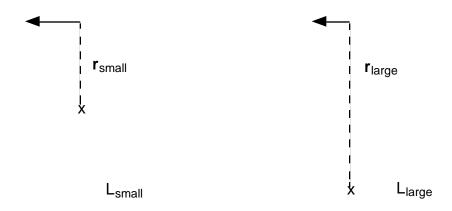
 $L = \mathbf{r} \mathbf{p} \sin = (\mathbf{r} \sin) \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{r} \mathbf{p}$ 



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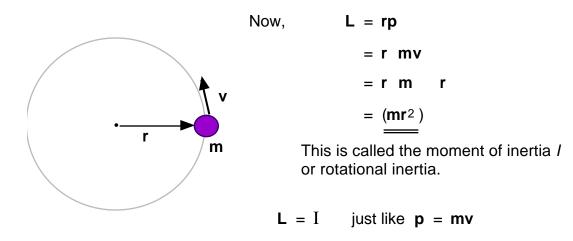
ii ) Note, if **r** is parallel to **p**, then the angular momentum vanishes since = 0.

iii) Note: L is defined with respect to some point in space.



#### Moment of inertia

The angular momentum **L** is related to the angular velocity  $\Omega$  through the moment of inertia. Consider the motion of a single mass **m** around a point:



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### Torque

In linear kinematics, force is the rate of change of momentum:  $\mathbf{F} = m \, d\mathbf{p} / dt$ . In angular motion, **torque** is the rate of change of **angular momentum**:

$$= \frac{dL}{dt} = \frac{dI}{dt} = I \frac{d}{dt} = I$$

To link to F, evaluate the derivative in full:

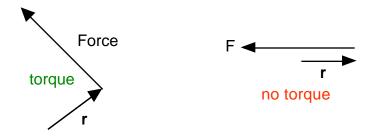
$$= \frac{dL}{dt} = \frac{d \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p}}{dt} = \left(\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt}\right) \times \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r} \times \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = 0 + \mathbf{r} \times F$$

$$= \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{m} \mathbf{v}$$

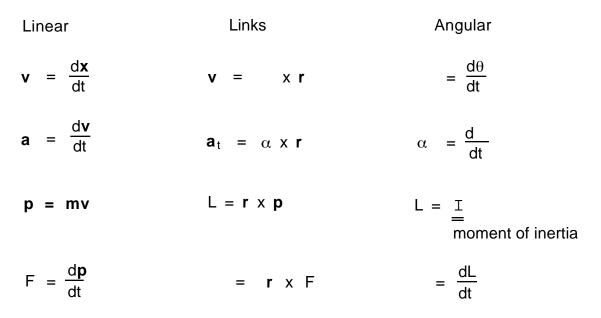
$$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{v} \text{ is a cross product of a vector with itself and hence vanishes.}$$

$$= \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{F}$$
 or  $= \mathbf{r} \mathbf{F}$ 

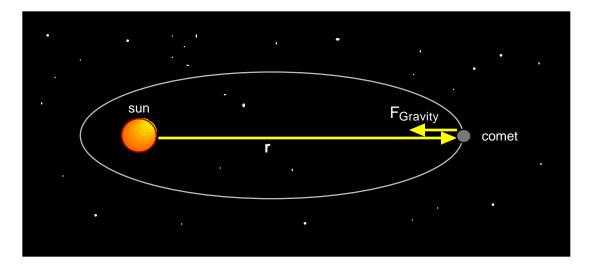
The maximum torque occurs when  $\mathbf{r}$  is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{F}$ . If  $\mathbf{r}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{F}$ , then there is no torque (the force still acts, but there does not change the angular momentum):



# Summary



Example: Motion of a comet around the sun



**r** x F = 0, since they are parallel.  $\frac{dL}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{or } L \text{ is a constant.}$ 

Note that the linear momentum  ${\bf p}$  changes in magnitude during the orbit, even though the angular momentum is constant.

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