

# CONSERVATION OF ANGULAR MOMENTUM

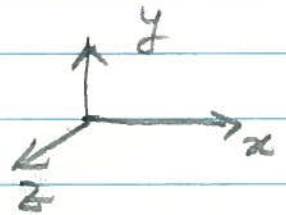
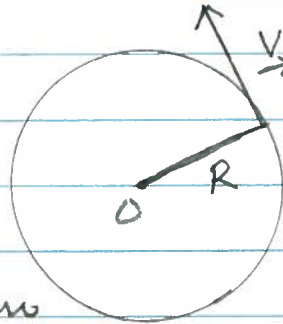
## - KEPLER'S LAWS.

A single mass  $m$  moving on a circle of radius  $R$  at a uniform velocity has a tangential velocity

$$\vec{v} = R\omega \hat{t}$$

It therefore has a linear momentum

$$\vec{p} = MR\omega \hat{t}$$



The angular momentum of this object is defined by

$$\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$$

where  $\vec{r} = R\hat{e}$  so  $\vec{L}$  is  $\perp$  to the plane of the circle and will be along  $\pm \hat{z}$ .

$$\vec{L} = \pm MR^2\omega \hat{z}$$

If a tangential force is applied to  $M$ .

$$M\vec{a}_t = \vec{F}_t$$

and there will be a torque about  $z$   $\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F}_t$

and it will have an angular acceleration  $\alpha$ .

$$\vec{a}_t = R\alpha \hat{t}$$

Now

$$\vec{\tau} = \pm RMa \hat{z} = \pm MR^2\alpha \hat{z}$$

$$= \pm MR^2 \frac{\Delta\omega}{\Delta t} \hat{z} = \frac{\Delta \vec{L}}{\Delta t}$$

That is, if you want angular momentum to change with time you must apply a torque.

Newton's law for rotation in terms of angular momentum.

Next, apply it to a rigid body rotation

$\vec{\omega}$  &  $\vec{\alpha}$  are common

but  $i$ th mass has

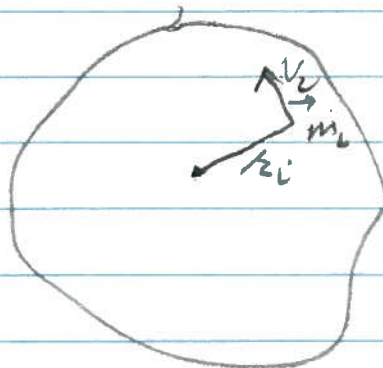
$$\vec{v}_i = \vec{r}_i \times \vec{\omega}$$

$i$ th mass has angular momentum

$$\vec{l}_i = m_i \vec{r}_i \times \vec{v}_i = m_i \vec{r}_i \times (\vec{r}_i \times \vec{\omega}) \quad \text{for C.C.W. rotation}$$

right hand rule

- $\vec{\omega}$  along thumb
- $\vec{p}_i$  " finger
- $\vec{l}_i$  L Palm



Total angular momentum of Rigid Body

$$\vec{L} = \sum m_i \vec{r}_i \times \vec{v}_i$$

$$= I \vec{\omega}$$

compare this to the total linear momentum

$$\vec{P} = M \vec{v}$$

So again  $I$  replaces  $M$  and  $\omega$  replaces  $v$ .

### CONSERVATION LAWS

Linear Mom<sup>m</sup>

$$F_{ext} = 0$$

$$\vec{P} = \text{const.}$$

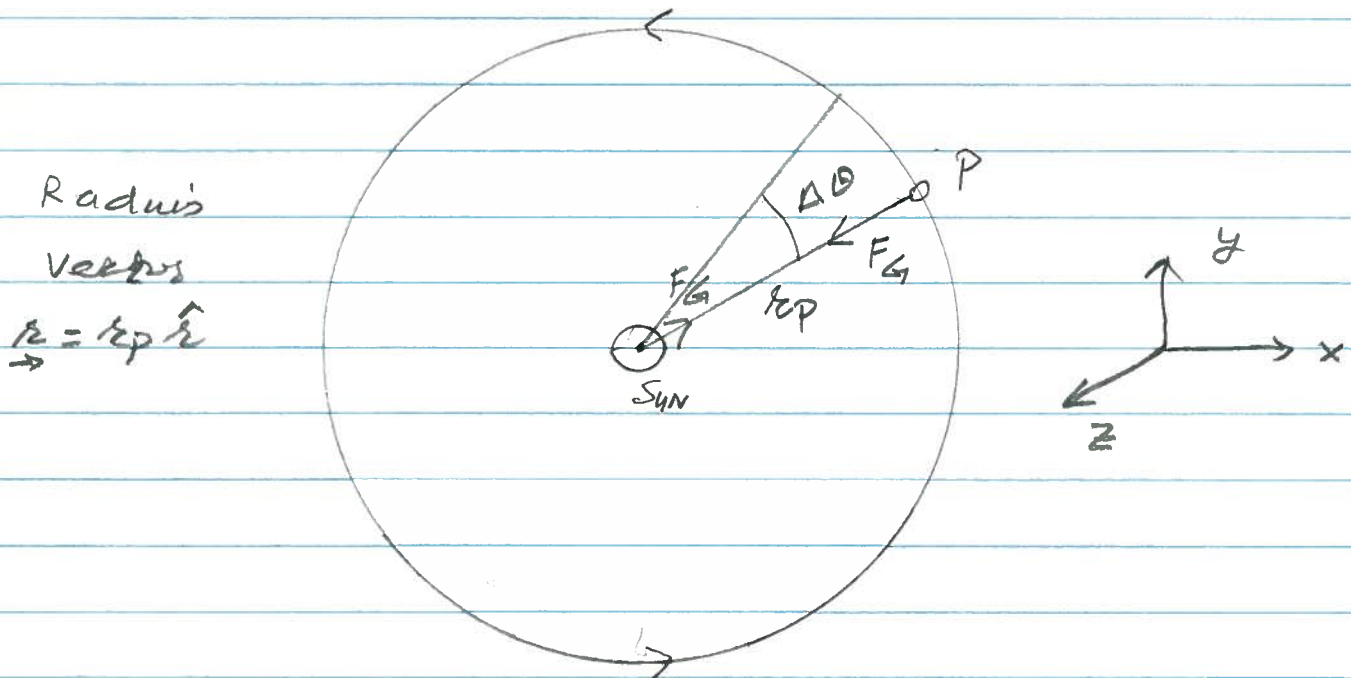
Angular Mom<sup>m</sup>

$$\tau_{ext} = 0$$

$$\vec{L} = \text{const.}$$

Let us apply this to motion of planets around Sun in circular orbits

- Kepler's laws: i) PLANETS MOVE IN PLANAR ORBITS.  
 ii) As planet goes around the sun the radius sweeps out equal areas in equal intervals of time.



The only force acting on the planet is the Gravitational force due to the Sun

$$\vec{F}_G = - \frac{GM_S M_P}{r_p^2} \hat{e}$$

If we take the torque about an axis through the Sun

$$\vec{\tau}_p = \vec{r} \times \vec{F}_G = 0 \quad \text{because } [\hat{e} \times \hat{e}] = 0.$$

Hence angular momentum of planet around this axis must be constant

$$\vec{L}_p = M_p r_p^2 \omega_p \hat{e}$$

Since  $\vec{L}_p$  cannot change direction orbit must

lie in  $xy$ -plane. [It is also a plane because  $\vec{F}_G$  is only along  $\hat{z}$ ].

Next, consider that the radius  $r$  rotates through angle  $\Delta\theta$  in time  $\Delta t$ .

Area swept out by  $r$  becomes

$$\Delta A = \frac{1}{2} r_p^2 \Delta\theta$$

and area swept per second

$$\frac{\Delta A}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2} r_p^2 \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} r_p^2 \omega = \frac{1}{2} \frac{L_p}{M_p}$$

= const.

because magnitude of  $L_p$  is constant.