

Deriving Moments of Inertia

Deriving moment of inertia from kinetic energy

$$\begin{aligned}T &= \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2} \int (r\dot{\theta})^2 dm \\&= \frac{1}{2} \left[\int r^2 dm \right] \dot{\theta}^2 \\&= \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2 \\I &= \int r^2 dm\end{aligned}$$

Hoop of radius R

$$\begin{aligned}I &= \int R^2 dm \\&= MR^2\end{aligned}$$

Disc of radius R ($\sigma = M/\pi R^2$)

$$\begin{aligned}I &= \int r^2 dm \\&= \int r^2 \cdot \sigma r dr d\theta \\&= \sigma \int_0^R \int_0^{2\pi} r^3 d\theta dr \\&= \sigma \cdot 2\pi \int_0^R r^3 dr \\&= \sigma 2\pi \cdot \frac{R^4}{4} \\&= \frac{M}{\pi R^2} \cdot \frac{\pi R^4}{2} \\&= \frac{MR^2}{2}\end{aligned}$$

Rod of length L from center ($\lambda = M/L$)

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int r^2 dm \\ &= \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} x^2 \lambda dx \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{3} \left[\left(\frac{L}{2} \right)^3 + \left(\frac{L}{2} \right)^3 \right] \\ &= \frac{M}{L} \cdot \frac{L^3}{12} \\ &= \frac{ML^2}{12} \end{aligned}$$

Rod of length L from end ($\lambda = M/L$)

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int r^2 dm \\ &= \int_0^L x^2 \lambda dx \\ &= \lambda \frac{L^3}{3} \\ &= \frac{M}{L} \cdot \frac{L^3}{3} \\ &= \frac{ML^2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Rod of length L through vertical

Equivalent to a disc.

Rectangle of sides a and b from corner ($\sigma = M/ab$)

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int r^2 dm \\ &= \int_0^a \int_0^b (x^2 + y^2) \sigma dx dy \\ &= \sigma \int_0^a \left(x^2 b + \frac{b^3}{3} \right) dx \\ &= \sigma \left(\frac{a^3}{3} b + \frac{b^3}{3} a \right) \\ &= \frac{M}{ab} \frac{a^3 b + ab^3}{3} \\ &= M \frac{a^2 + b^2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Rectangle of sides a and b from center ($\sigma = M/ab$)

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int r^2 dm \\ &= \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \int_{-b/2}^{b/2} (x^2 + y^2) \sigma dx dy \\ &= \sigma \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} \left(x^2 b + \frac{b^3}{12} \right) dx \\ &= \sigma \left(\frac{a^3}{12} b + \frac{b^3}{12} a \right) \\ &= \frac{M}{ab} \cdot \frac{a^3 b + ab^3}{12} \\ &= M \frac{a^2 + b^2}{12} \end{aligned}$$