

Chapter 6: Momenta, Impulses, + Collisions

- Topics: - linear + angular momenta of a single particle
- conservation of momentum
- impact

6.1 Linear Momentum + Its Conservation

Consider a particle of mass m , position \vec{r} , and velocity \vec{v} .
Recall the definition of linear momentum:



6.1.1 Linear Impulse + Linear Momentum

The integral form of the "balance of linear momentum" $\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$ is:



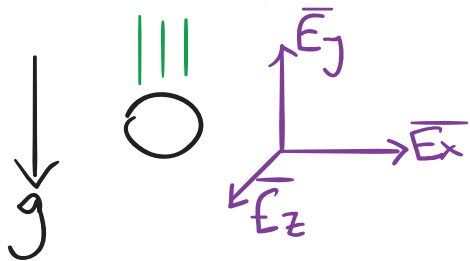
6.1.2 Conservation of Linear Momentum

Let \vec{c} be a vector. \vec{G} is conserved in the direction of \vec{c} iff

This implies:

If \vec{c} is a constant vector, $\vec{F} \cdot \vec{c} = 0$, i.e.

6.1.3 Example: Particle in a gravitational field



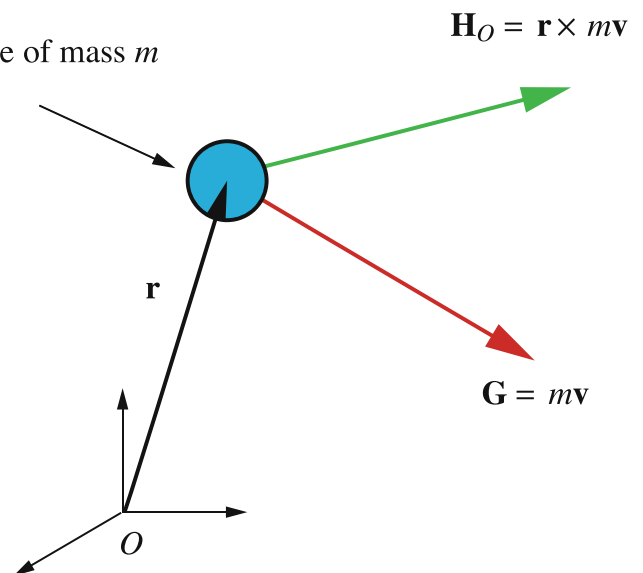
Q: In which directions is linear momentum conserved?

6.2 Angular Momentum + Its Conservation

Let the angular momentum about the point O , \vec{H}_O , of a particle of mass m be defined as:



Particle of mass m



In Cartesian coordinates,

In cylindrical polar coordinates

When the motion is planar, this simplifies to:

6.2.1 Angular Momentum Theorem

How does the angular momentum evolve in time?

The final result we call the angular momentum theorem



6.2.2 Conservation of Angular Momentum

The angular momentum in the direction of a vector \bar{c} is conserved iff

This implies

If \bar{c} is constant, this reduces to

In this class, often we can choose $\bar{E}_z = \bar{c}$.

6.2.3 Central Force Problems

When the resultant force \bar{F} is parallel to \bar{r} : $\dot{\bar{H}}_0 = \bar{r} \times \bar{F} = \bar{0}$.

Therefore, \bar{H}_0 is conserved.

Let $\bar{H}_0 = h \bar{h}$.

We can set-up these problems

such that $\bar{E}_z = \bar{h}$, $\bar{r} = r \bar{e}_r$, +
 $\bar{v} = \dot{r} \bar{e}_r + r \dot{\theta} \bar{e}_\theta$ by choosing

$\bar{H}_0 = h \bar{E}_z = \bar{r}(t_0) \times m \bar{v}(t_0)$ (w/ initial cond. $\bar{r}(t_0) + \bar{v}(t_0)$)

