

6.5 Rolling

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **rolling**.

You must be able to:

- use the **rolling without slipping** 无滑滚动 condition: $v = \omega r$ (and $a = \alpha r$)
- state that a rolling object's total kinetic energy is $\frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$
- explain that the contact point is instantaneously at rest
- reason about which shape wins a downhill race

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later —follow the steps and you can do the Practice and Exam-style questions yourself.

■ The no-slip condition

When a wheel rolls without slipping, its speed and spin are locked:

$$v = \omega r.$$

A wheel of radius 0.3 m spinning at 10 rad s^{-1} rolls forward at $v = 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$.

■ Total kinetic energy

A rolling object carries both translational and rotational KE:

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2.$$

■ The downhill race

Sharing energy between motion and spin, a shape with a **smaller** rotational inertia (per mr^2) keeps more for speed and reaches the bottom first: solid sphere before cylinder before ring.

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above.

2.1 A wheel of radius 0.4 m rolls without slipping at $\omega = 5 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$. Find its forward

speed. [2]

2.2 State the speed of the point where a rolling wheel touches the ground. [1]

2.3 Write the two terms in the total kinetic energy of a rolling object. [2]

2.4 A rolling ball of radius 0.1 m moves at 2 m s^{-1} . Find its angular velocity. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 For rolling without slipping, the link between speed and spin is [1]

- **A** $v = \omega/r$
- **B** $v = \omega r$
- **C** $v = r/\omega$
- **D** $v = \omega^2 r$

3.2 Released together down the same ramp, which reaches the bottom first? [1]

- **A** a hollow ring
- **B** a solid cylinder
- **C** a solid sphere
- **D** they tie

3.3 A hoop and a solid disc (same mass and radius) roll from rest down the same ramp.

(a) State which arrives first. [1]

- (b) Explain why, in terms of how the energy is shared. [2]

3.4 A ball of radius 0.2 m rolls without slipping at 6 m s^{-1} .

- (a) Find its angular velocity. [2]
(b) State what happens to v if it begins to skid (slip). [1]

4 Go further

You are ready for more on this subtopic:

- work through the interactive **6.5 Rolling** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Energy and Momentum of Rotating Systems** section of the AP Physics C: Mechanics handout on the **Know** page for the full explanation and worked diagrams.

Solutions

2.1 $v = \omega r = 5 \times 0.4 = 2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$.

2.2 Zero (instantaneously at rest).

2.3 $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$ (translational) and $\frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$ (rotational).

2.4 $\omega = v/r = 2/0.1 = 20 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$.

3.1 B — $v = \omega r$.

3.2 C —the solid sphere (smallest rotational inertia per mr^2) wins.

3.3 (a) The solid disc. (b) The hoop puts more energy into spin (larger I), leaving less for speed, so it is slower.

3.4 (a) $\omega = v/r = 6/0.2 = 30 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$. (b) $v = \omega r$ no longer holds —the speeds decouple.