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Physics 221L Lab 12 ROTATIONAL MOTION: Rolling Objects 4/15 Purpose of the experiment:   
To use our cumulative knowledge of Physics to perform an experiment without the benefit of computers   
Theory   
An object exhibits both rotational motion and transitional motion as it rolls down a plank. If it rolls without slipping, its bottom is momentarily at rest and the distance, velocity, and acceleration of the centre of mass is directly related to the angle of rotation, angular velocity, and angular acceleration of the centre of mass. The total mechanical energy of the object is the sum of its kinetic energy of its centre of mass, rotational energy about its centre of mass and gravitational potential energy of its centre of mass. (Rotational Motion)   
Let m – mass of the object   
v – Velocity of the object   
g – Gravitational pull   
h – Height above the reference ground   
I – moment of inertia of the object   
w – Angular velocity of the object   
Then:   
Total mechanical energy = ½ Mv2 + ½ Iw2 + mgh   
Where: ½ Mv2 – kinetic energy   
½ Iw2 – rotational energy   
mgh – potential energy   
  
Apparatus   
1. Plank 4. Stopwatch   
2. Object that rolls well   
3. Meter stick.   
Procedure   
The object was timed as it rolls a distance of 1 meter starting from rest near the top of the inclined plank and recorded. The height of the inclined plank was also recorded.   
The plank was turned over and the first procedure repeated, making sure that the object rolls the same distance along the plank and that, the vertical distance is the same.   
The average time for each side of the plank and the standard deviation of the mean for each side was determined using the formulas below   
Average time = total time/number of trials   
Standard mean deviation = √ (variance)   
Results/Experimental data   
Data table   
Trail   
Time in seconds (side A)   
Time in seconds (side B)   
1   
2. 78   
2, 24   
2   
2. 42   
2, 63   
3   
2. 58   
2. 70   
4   
2. 24   
2. 24   
5   
2. 71   
2. 75   
6   
2. 28   
2. 34   
7   
2. 22   
2. 64   
Average   
2. 46   
2. 51   
S. D. M = √Variance   
0. 211   
0. 207   
Mass of the object = 2. 036Kg Radius of the object = 0. 027mHeight = 0. 08m   
Data analysis and calculations   
Final velocity “ v” (of the centre of mass) in terms of “ x” and “ t” for the object to roll a distance 1m along the plank in average time t for each side of the plank (experimental velocity).   
H = 0. 08m 0. 08m   
X = 1m 900 1m   
For rotational velocity down the slope   
Velocity of centre of mass = 0m/s   
For translational motion down the slope   
Velocity of centre of mass v = u + at   
Where; v - final velocity   
u – Initial velocity   
t – Time taken   
From the equation s = ut + ½ at2where; s = displacement   
a = acceleration   
Since u = 0 i. e. the object is at rest at the starting point then s = ½ at2   
s = 1m 1m = ½ at2   
For side A 1 = ½ a (2. 462) thus; a = (1 \* 2)/2. 462   
a = 0. 33049m/s2   
Velocity VA = at = (0. 3349 \* 2. 46) = 0. 813m/s   
For side B 1 = ½ a (2. 512)thus; a = (1 \* 2)/2. 512   
a = 0. 3175m/s2   
Velocity VB = at = (0. 3175 \* 2. 51) = 0. 7968m/s   
Uncertainty in the final velocity by using the S. D. M. for the time and an estimated uncertainty in distance.   
Uncertainty in velocity for side A of the plank   
Mean = (2. 78+2. 42+2. 58+2. 24+2. 71+2. 28+2. 22)/7   
Mean = 2. 46s   
S. D. M = [(2. 78-2. 462) +(2. 42-2. 462)+(2. 58-2. 462)+(2. 24-2. 462)+(2. 71-2. 462)+(2. 282-2. 462)+(2. 22-2. 46)2]/6 = 0. 211   
Percentage uncertainty = (0. 211/2. 46) \* 100 = 8. 5%   
Uncertainty in time = x+/- least count   
Least count 0. 01/2 = 0. 005   
Percentage uncertainty = 0. 5%   
Total uncertainty = (8. 5+0. 5) = 9%   
Uncertainty in VA = 0. 813±9%   
0. 73983≤ 0. 813 ≥0. 88617   
Uncertainty in velocity for side B of the plank   
Mean = (2. 24+2. 63+2. 70+2. 24+2. 75+2. 34+2. 64)/7   
Mean = 2. 51s   
S. D. M = [(2. 24-2. 512)+(2. 63-2. 512)+(2. 70-2. 512)+(2. 24-2. 512)+(2. 75-2. 512)+(2. 34-2. 512)+(2. 64-2. 512)]/6 = 0. 207   
Percentage uncertainty in time = (0. 207/2. 51) \* 100%   
= 8. 23%   
Percentage uncertainty in distance = (0. 005/1) \* 100%   
= 0. 5%   
Total uncertainty = (8. 23+0. 005) = 8. 73%   
Uncertainty in VB = (8. 73/100) 0. 7968 = ±0. 0696   
Uncertainty in VB = 0. 7968 ± 0. 0696   
Predicting the velocity using conservation of mechanical energy along with the measured vertical distance h.   
  
0. 08m θ 1m   
900   
(Sin 900/1) = (sin θ/0. 08)   
θ = 4. 60   
From mgh = ½ Iw2 + ½ Mv2   
Mass = 2. 036Kg   
Radius = 0. 027m   
w = v/r   
Mgh = ½ I(v/r)2 + ½ mv2 = ½ Iv2/r2 + ½ mv2   
Mgh = v2( ½ I/r2 + ½ m)   
v2 = mgh/(½ I/r2 + ½ m)   
v = √ [ mgh/(½ I/r2 + ½ m)]   
But I = ½ mr2   
v = √ [ (1/4m + ½ m)]   
v = √mgh/(3/4 m)   
v = √[3gh/4]   
v = √0. 5886   
v = 0. 7672m/s   
Questions   
Description of the rolling object.   
The disk exhibits both rotational motion and transitional motion as it rolls down the plank. Since it rolls without slipping, its bottom is momentarily at rest and the distance, velocity, and acceleration of the centre of mass is directly related to the angle of rotation, angular velocity, and angular acceleration of the centre of mass. The total mechanical energy of the disk is the sum of its kinetic energy of its centre of mass, rotational energy about its centre of mass and gravitational potential energy of its centre of mass.   
1. Time for different sides of the plank.   
The total time for the sides are different, time for when the plank is warped concave up is longer than when the concave is warped down since the disk faces higher friction when the concave is warped up hence taking more time and energy in overcoming friction to reach the end   
Check the plank for warps. Make a sketch that shows the warp of the plank. Make sure to label the top and bottom sides.   
Concave warped upconcave warped down   
2. Relationship between final velocity and predicted if the plank is warped concave up, Concave down as from the data.   
Predicted velocity is lower on both cases as evidenced by the data i. e. predicted velocity is 0. 7672m/s while velocity in the first and second case are 0. 7968m/s and 0. 813m/s respectively. This is so because predicted velocity does not take care of friction effects and errors in performing the experiment.   
Reference   
Rotational Motion Retrieved 15th April 2013. www. cliffsnotes. com/study\_guide/Rotational-Motiom-of-a-Rigid-Body. topicArticleId-10453, articled-10419. html