

Rotational Dynamics | A2 Unit 5

Rotational with Constant Angular Acceleration

AKA “angular suvat equations”

AKA “ $\theta\omega_1\omega_2\alpha t$ equations”

We have seen the *suvat* equations concerning *linear motion* with constant acceleration:

$$v = u + at$$

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$$

$$s = \frac{1}{2}(u + v)t$$

where s = Displacement (metres, m)

u = Initial velocity (metres per second, ms^{-1})

v = Final velocity (metres per second, ms^{-1})

a = Acceleration (metres per second squared, ms^{-2})

t = Time (seconds, s)

We could define a similar set of equations concerning *angular motion* with constant acceleration:

$$\omega_2 = \omega_1 + \alpha t$$

$$\theta = \omega_1 t + \frac{1}{2}\alpha t^2$$

$$\omega_2^2 = \omega_1^2 + 2\alpha\theta$$

$$\theta = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2)t$$

where θ = Angular displacement (radians, rad)

ω_1 = Initial angular velocity (radians per second, rad s^{-1})

ω_2 = Final angular velocity (radians per second, rad s^{-1})

α = Angular acceleration (radians per second squared, rad s^{-2})

t = Time (seconds, s)

Multiplying by the radius, r , takes us from an angular variable to its linear equivalent:

$$s = r\theta$$

$$v = r\omega$$

$$a = r\alpha$$

nb: what distance do we travel if our angular displacement is 2π ?