Moment of a force

The *moment* of a force (also known as *torque*) is a measure of the tendency of the force to rotate an object around a given axis. For instance a force acting on a lever causes a moment about the lever's pivot point.

- A force F acting along a line whose minimum distance from point P is d causes a moment $M = Fd$ about the point P.
- A force $\mathbf{F}$ acting at a point with position vector $\mathbf{r}$ has moment $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{F}$ about the origin (where $\times$ denotes the vector or cross product).

Moment has dimensions ML^2T^{-2} and SI unit Nm, Newton metres.

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