Equation solution for the toilet paper problem!



The downward acceleration a_f of the freely falling toilet paper roll (f):

$$a_f = \frac{W}{M} = \frac{Mg}{M} = g$$

The downward acceleration a_u of the unrolling toilet paper (u):

$$a_u = \frac{W-T}{M} = g - \frac{T}{M}$$

The equation for angular acceleration of the unrolling toilet paper:

$$\alpha = \frac{\tau}{I} = \frac{R T}{\gamma M R^2} = \frac{T}{\gamma M R}$$

where τ is the torque causing the toilet paper to unroll, I is its moment of inertia, and γ is the ratio of the actual moment of inertia I of the roll to MR² (a number between $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1).

The constraint between angular and linear acceleration of the unrolling toilet paper:

 $a_u = \alpha R \text{ or } \alpha = \frac{a_u}{R}$

Combining these equations and eliminating α :

$$a_u = \frac{g}{1+\gamma} < g \quad Q.E.D.$$