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# Circular Motion

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# 1. A review of the concepts

1. Uniform Circular Motion- An object that moves in a circle at a constant speed ( $v$ ) is said to experience uniform circular motion. The magnitude of the velocity remains constant, but the direction is continuously changing.

1. Radial- behavior toward and away from the center of the circle
2. Tangential- behavior along the edge of the circle
3. Centripetal forces- a force that acts on a body moving in a circular path and is directed toward the center around which the body is moving.

# Rotation vs Revolution

1. Rotation(or spin)- when a body turn about an internal axis
2. Revolution- when a body turns about an external axis
  - a. Earth rotates around an axis
  - b. Earth revolves around the sun

## **2. At least 3 common mistakes or misconceptions relevant to the topic and how to avoid them**

1. Variables
2. What equation to use
3. Frequency VS Period

## Variables

$v$  = Velocity; m/s

$v_t$  = tangential velocity; m/s

$r$  = Radius; m

$M$  = Mass; kg

$F_c$  = Centripetal force; kg\*m/s<sup>2</sup>

$a_c$  = Centripetal acceleration;  
m/s<sup>2</sup>

$f$  = Frequency; Hz

$T$  = Period; s

## What equation to use

$$a_c = v^2/r$$

$$F_c = mv^2/r$$

$$T = 1/f$$

$$v = 2\pi r/T$$

# Frequency VS Period

Frequency (f)

The number of revolutions per second

Measured in Hertz

1 Hz = 1 revolution/second

Period (T)

The time it takes to make a full revolution

Measured in seconds

$T = 1/f$

# FRQ strategies

- How do you figure out what an FRQ is asking you to do?
  - Always look at the units being used, kg, v, m, and m/s.
  - Look for keywords like radius, period, and speed.
    - Most FRQ will tell you what to find, if not use these ideas.
- Is there any information needed to answer different FRQs that might be implied rather than directly stated?
  - Centripetal forces like tension, friction and gravity are usually implied in FRQ's

## Example problem 1: Ball and chain

You are swinging a 15 kg ball attached to its 5m long chain and it is moving at 20 m/s. What is the force of tension of the chain?

Equation you will need:

$$F_c = mv^2/r$$

Step 1: use equation to solve

$$F_c = mv^2 / r$$

$$= (15 \text{ kg}) (20 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})^2 / (5 \text{ m})$$

$$= 1200 \text{ N}$$

## Example problem 2: Amusement park ride

A person on an amusement park ride is 6 meters from the center. The ride makes 120 revolutions every minute. What is the speed of the passenger on the edge of the ride?

Step 1: convert

$$\frac{120 \text{ rev}}{\text{min}} \times \frac{2\pi \text{ rad}}{1 \text{ rev}} = 753.98 \text{ rad/min}$$

Step 2: use equation to solve

$$v = r\omega$$

$$v = (6\text{m})(753.98 \text{ rad/min})$$

$$v = 4524 \text{ m/min}$$

## Example problem 3:

What is the centripetal acceleration of the person on the ride?

Step 1: use equation to solve

$$a_c = v^2 / r$$

$$a_c = (4524)^2 / (6m)$$

$$a_c = 3411096 \text{ m/min}^2$$

## Example problem 4: tangential velocity

What is the tangential velocity of a ball spun on a 2m long string if the ball makes 10 revolutions every 2 seconds?

Step 1: convert

$$\frac{10 \text{ rev}}{2 \text{ s}} \times \frac{2\pi \text{ rad}}{1 \text{ rev}} = 31.4 \text{ rad/s}$$

Step 2: use equation to solve

$$v = r\omega$$

$$v = (2 \text{ m})(31.4 \text{ rad/s})$$

$$v = 62.8 \text{ m/s}$$

## Example problem 5: centripetal acceleration

What is the centripetal acceleration of a car that rounds a bend that has a 50m radius at 10 m/s?

Step 1: use equations to solve

$$a_c = v^2 / r$$

$$a_c = (10 \frac{m}{s})^2 / (50m)$$

$$a_c = 2 \text{ m/s}^2$$

## 4. Five practice multiple choice questions for the class

<https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/2949ccb4-2736-4bce-adc6-a0f4ebe9e96a>

