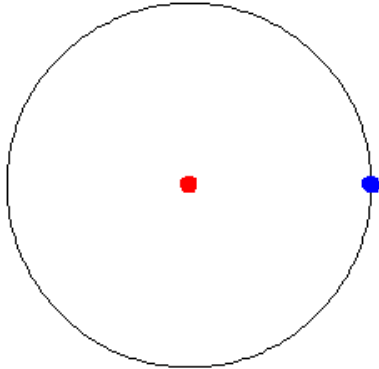

Circular Motion



AP Physics C

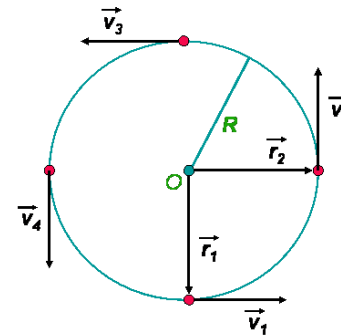
Speed/Velocity in a Circle



Consider an object moving in a circle around a specific origin. The **DISTANCE** the object covers in **ONE REVOLUTION** is called the **CIRCUMFERENCE**. The **TIME** that it takes to cover this distance is called the **PERIOD**.

$$\bar{s}_{circle} = \frac{d}{T} = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

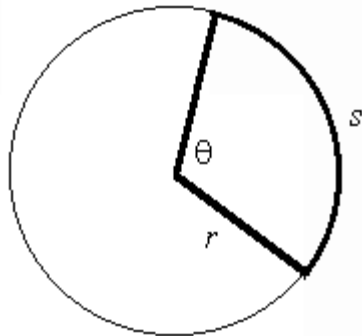
Speed is the **MAGNITUDE** of the velocity. And while the speed may be constant, the **VELOCITY** is **NOT**. Since velocity is a vector with **BOTH** magnitude **AND** direction, we see that the direction of the velocity is **ALWAYS** changing.



We call this velocity, **TANGENTIAL** velocity as its direction is drawn **TANGENT** to the circle.

Centripetal Acceleration

Suppose we had a circle with angle, θ , between 2 radii. You may recall:



$$\theta = \frac{s}{r}$$

s = arc length in meters

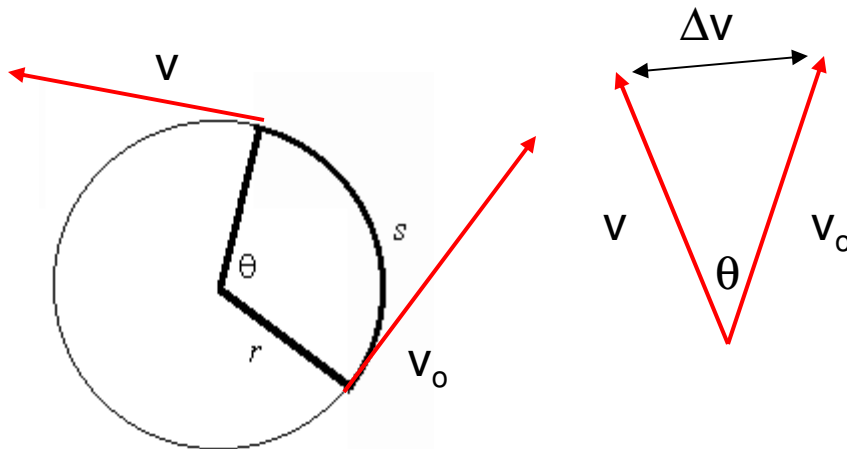
$$\theta = \frac{s}{r} = \frac{\Delta v}{v}$$

$$s = \Delta v t$$

$$\frac{\Delta v t}{r} = \frac{\Delta v}{v}$$

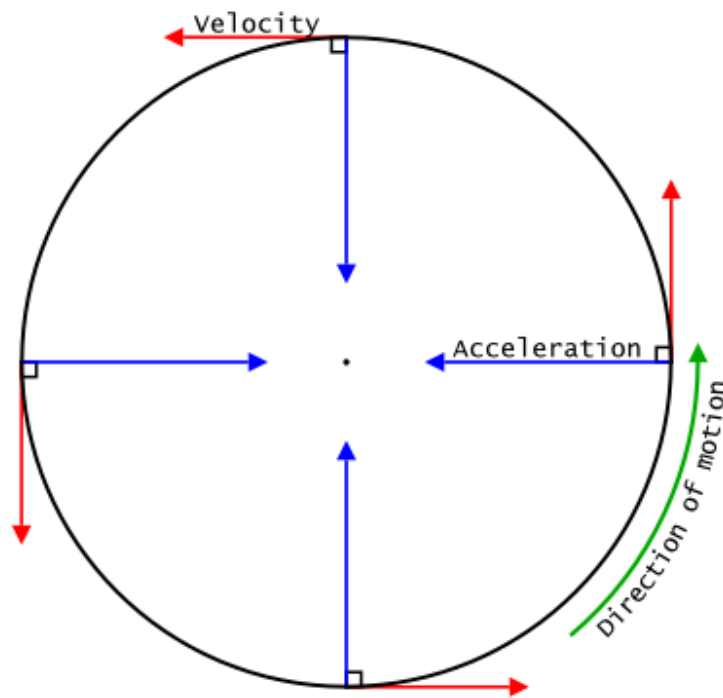
$$\frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{\Delta v}{t} = a_c$$

a_c = centripetal acceleration



Centripetal means “center seeking” so that means that the acceleration points towards the CENTER of the circle

Drawing the Directions correctly



So for an object traveling in a counter-clockwise path. The velocity would be drawn TANGENT to the circle and the acceleration would be drawn TOWARDS the CENTER.

To find the MAGNITUDES of each we have:

$$v_c = \frac{2\pi r}{T} \quad a_c = \frac{v^2}{r}$$

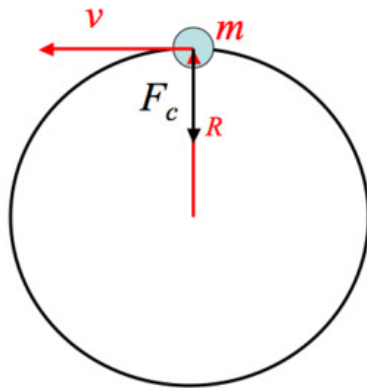
Circular Motion and N.S.L

Recall that according to Newton's Second Law, the acceleration is directly proportional to the Force. If this is true:

$$F_{NET} = ma \quad a_c = \frac{v^2}{r}$$

$$F_{NET} = F_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

$$F_c = \textit{Centripetal Force}$$



Since the acceleration and the force are directly related, the force must ALSO point towards the center. This is called CENTRIPETAL FORCE.

NOTE: The centripetal force is a NET FORCE. It could be represented by one or more forces. So NEVER draw it in an F.B.D.

Examples



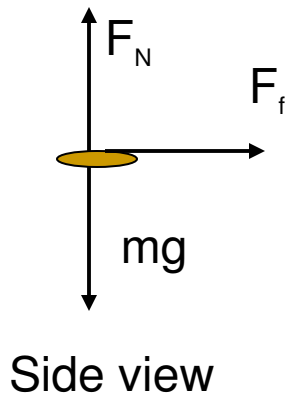
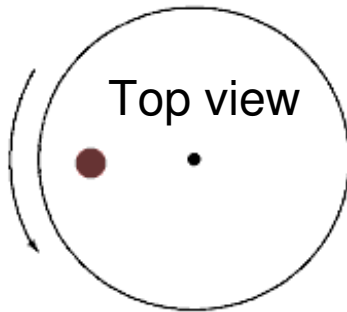
The blade of a windshield wiper moves through an angle of 90 degrees in 0.28 seconds. The tip of the blade moves on the arc of a circle that has a radius of 0.76m. What is the magnitude of the centripetal acceleration of the tip of the blade?

$$v_c = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

$$v_c = \frac{2\pi(.76)}{(.28 * 4)} = 4.26 \text{ m/s}$$

$$a_c = \frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{(4.26)^2}{0.76} = 23.92 \text{ m/s}^2$$

Examples



What is the minimum coefficient of static friction necessary to allow a penny to rotate along a 33 1/3 rpm record (diameter= 0.300 m), when the penny is placed at the outer edge of the record?

$$F_f = F_c$$

$$\mu F_N = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

$$\mu mg = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

$$\mu = \frac{v^2}{rg}$$

$$33.3 \frac{\text{rev}}{\text{min}} * \frac{1 \text{ min}}{60 \text{ sec}} = 0.555 \text{ rev/sec}$$

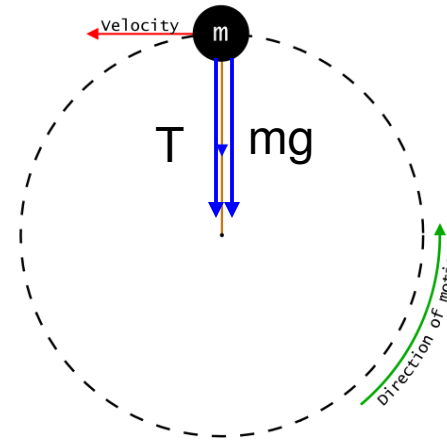
$$\frac{1 \text{ sec}}{0.555 \text{ rev}} = 1.80 \text{ sec/rev} = T$$

$$v_c = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \frac{2\pi(0.15)}{1.80} = 0.524 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\mu = \frac{v^2}{rg} = \frac{(0.524)^2}{(0.15)(9.8)} = 0.187$$

Examples

The maximum tension that a 0.50 m string can tolerate is 14 N. A 0.25-kg ball attached to this string is being whirled in a vertical circle. What is the maximum speed the ball can have (a) at the top of the circle, (b) at the bottom of the circle?



$$F_{NET} = F_c = ma_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

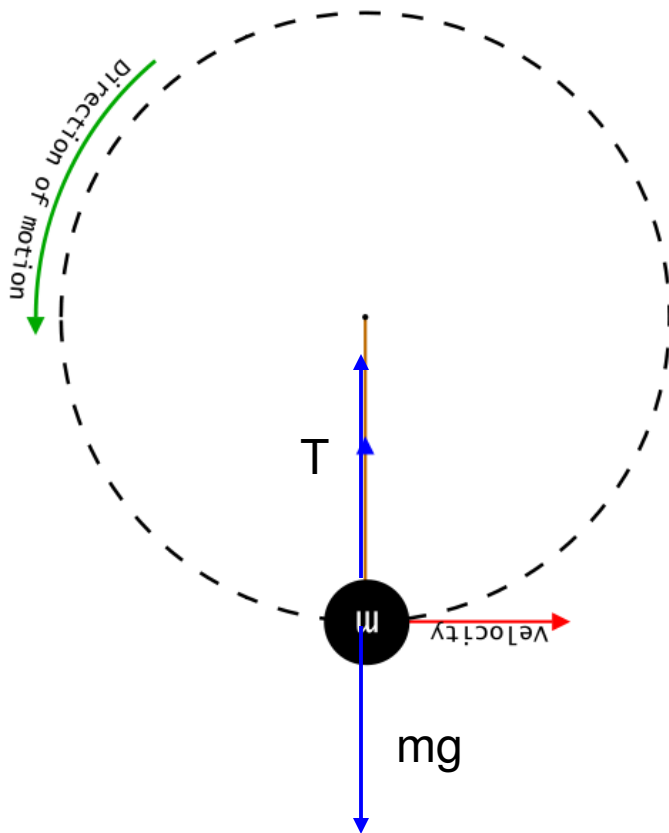
$$T + mg = \frac{mv^2}{r} \rightarrow r(T + mg) = mv^2$$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{r(T + mg)}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.5(14 + (0.25)(9.8))}{0.25}}$$

$$v = 5.74 \text{ m/s}$$

Examples

At the bottom?



$$F_{NET} = F_c = ma_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

$$T - mg = \frac{mv^2}{r} \rightarrow r(T - mg) = mv^2$$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{r(T - mg)}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.5(14 - (0.25)(9.8))}{0.25}}$$

$$v = 4.81 \text{ m/s}$$