


Solving Circular Motion Problems in the Horizontal Plane


1. David winds up with a 150 g pebble in his slingshot. The slingshot thongs are 43 cm long and are revolving 5 times per second. What is the tension in the thongs?



$$\begin{aligned}
 m &= 0.150 \text{ kg} \\
 r &= 0.43 \text{ m} \\
 f &= 5 \text{ Hz} \\
 T &= F_{\text{net}} = F_c \\
 &\text{need } \vec{v}.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 v &= 2\pi r f \\
 v &= 2\pi (0.43 \text{ m})(5 \text{ Hz}) \\
 v &= 13.5 \text{ m/s} \\
 T &= F_{\text{net}} \\
 T &= F_c \\
 T &= \frac{mv^2}{r} \\
 T &= \frac{(0.15 \text{ kg})(13.5 \text{ m/s})^2}{(0.43 \text{ m})} \\
 \underline{T} &= \underline{64 \text{ N}}
 \end{aligned}$$

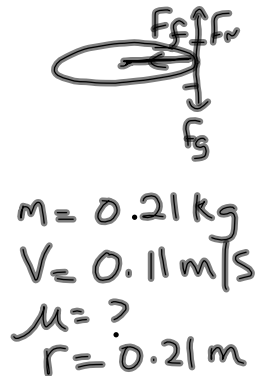
2. David knows from past experience that if he swings the sling shot too fast the tension becomes too great and the thongs snap. If the thongs can withstand a maximum tension of 120 N, what is the maximum rpm's allowed?



$$\begin{aligned}
 m &= 0.15 \text{ kg} \\
 r &= 0.43 \text{ m} \\
 T &= 120 \text{ N} = F_c \\
 \text{rpm} &= ? \\
 f &= ? \quad (v = 2\pi r f)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 T &= F_{\text{net}} = F_c \\
 T &= \frac{mv^2}{r} \\
 v &= \sqrt{\frac{Tr}{m}} \\
 v &= \sqrt{\frac{(120 \text{ N})(0.43 \text{ m})}{0.15 \text{ kg}}} \\
 v &= 18.5 \text{ m/s} \\
 v &= 2\pi r f \\
 f &= \frac{v}{2\pi r} = \frac{18.5 \text{ m/s}}{2\pi(0.43)} = 6.85 \text{ Hz} \\
 \text{rpm's} &= 6.85 \frac{\text{rev}}{\text{s}} \times \frac{60 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ min}} = 411 \text{ rpm's}
 \end{aligned}$$

3. A 210 g potato is sitting 21 cm from the center of a microwave oven tray slides off the rotating tray if its linear speed exceeds 11 cm/s. Determine the coefficient of static friction between the potato and the tray.



$$m = 0.21 \text{ kg}$$

$$V = 0.11 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\mu = ?$$

$$r = 0.21 \text{ m}$$

$$F_{\text{net}} = F_f$$

$$F_c = F_f$$

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

$$\frac{v^2}{r} = \mu g$$

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

$$\frac{(0.11 \text{ m/s})^2}{(0.21 \text{ m})(9.8 \text{ m/s}^2)} = \mu$$

$$0.0059 = \mu$$

4. Suppose that the drum in your washer spins with a frequency of 6.2 Hz. The diameter of the drum is 58.0 cm and your wet woolen sweater has a mass of 3.2 kg early in the spin. Determine the linear speed of your sweater and the centripetal force exerted by the wall of the drum on the sweater.



$$f = 6.2 \text{ Hz}$$

$$m = 3.2 \text{ kg}$$

$$r = 0.29 \text{ m}$$

$$V = ?$$

$$F_c = ?$$

$$V = 2\pi r f$$

$$= 2\pi (0.29 \text{ m})(6.2 \text{ Hz})$$

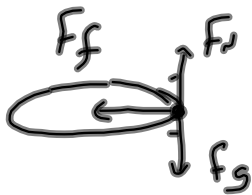
$$= 11.3 \text{ m/s}$$

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

$$= \frac{(3.2 \text{ kg})(11.3 \text{ m/s})^2}{0.29 \text{ m}}$$

$$= 1400 \text{ N}$$

5. What is the maximum speed at which a 1200 kg car can round a curve on a flat road if the radius of curvature is 75 m and the coefficient of static friction is 0.20?



$$\begin{aligned}
 m &= 1200 \text{ kg} \\
 r &= 75 \text{ m} \\
 \mu &= 0.20 \\
 V &= ?
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_c &= f_f \\
 \frac{mV^2}{r} &= \mu mg
 \end{aligned}$$

$$V = \sqrt{\mu gr}$$

$$V = \sqrt{(0.2)(9.8 \text{ m/s}^2)(75 \text{ m})}$$

$$V = 12 \text{ m/s}$$

6. What is the purpose of the spin cycle on an automatic washer? How does it work?

Purpose- to remove water from clothes

-The water has inertia and because the holes can exert no force on the water, it escapes through the holes.

-The sides of the drum however, prevent the clothes from flying off. The sides of the drum exert a normal force on the clothes, but not on the water where the holes are. You could say that the clothes are forced away from the water.