

October 30, 2009

Physics 121

Prof. E. F. Redish

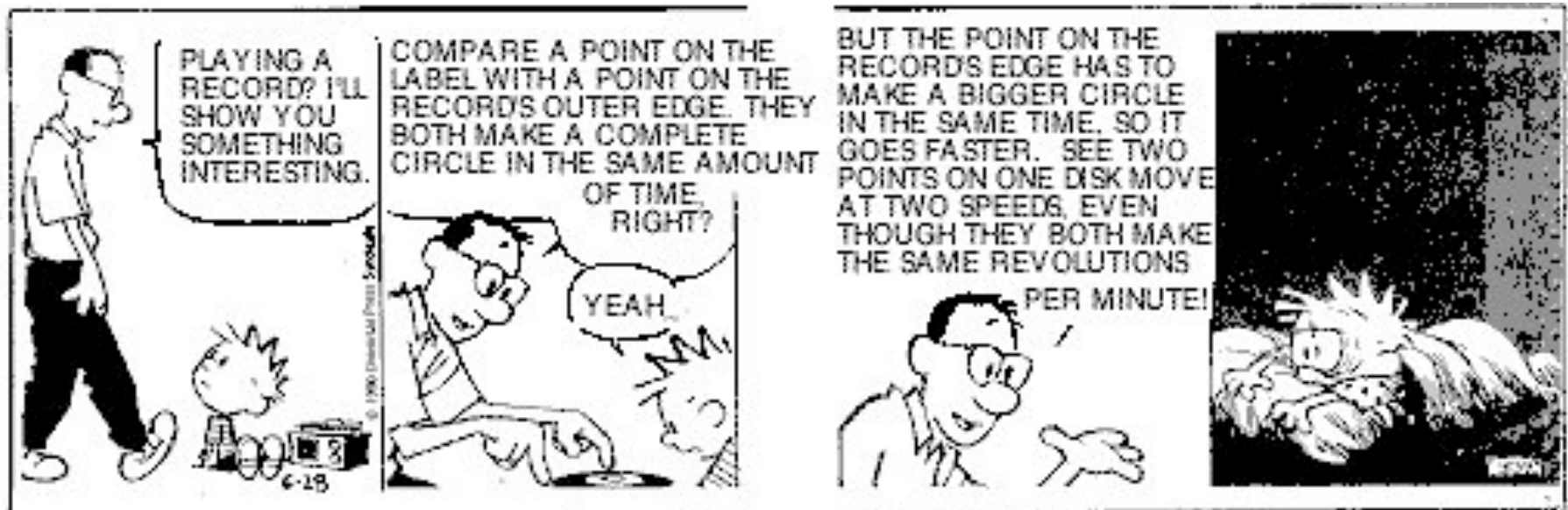
■ Theme Music: by Joni Mitchell*

Circle Game

■ Cartoon: Bill Watterson

Calvin & Hobbes

*playing
the original
cover
by Tom Rush



Outline

- Quiz 7: Energy
- ILD 5: Circular motion
- Circular Motion
 - position
 - velocity
 - acceleration
 - equations
 - force

Circular Motion



- We've focused so far on motion along a line (1D motions) or 2D where the motions along two perpendicular directions are each independent 1D motions.
- Let's consider an example (the simplest one) in which the only change in a velocity is its direction.
- **Uniform circular motion**
= motion in a circle at a constant speed.

ILD 5

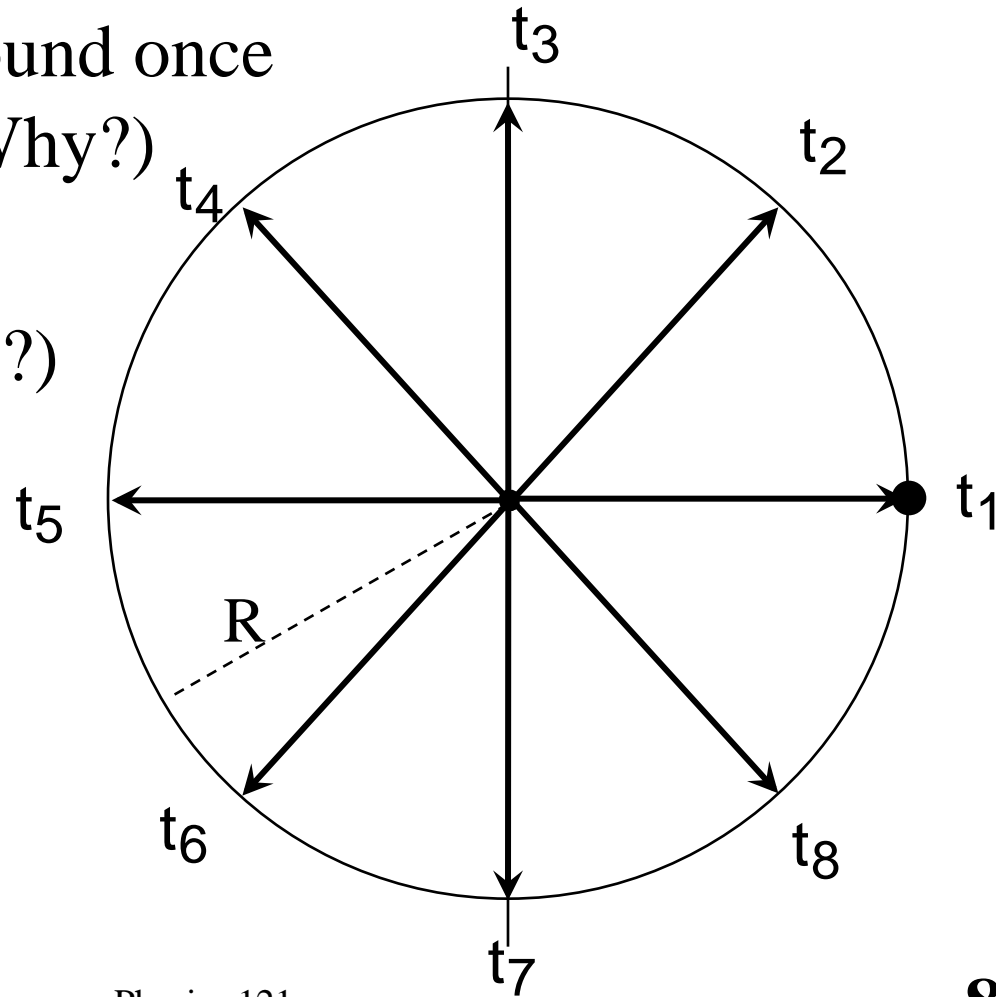
Circular Motion:
Checking for coherence
and reconciling

Uniform Circular Motion: Position

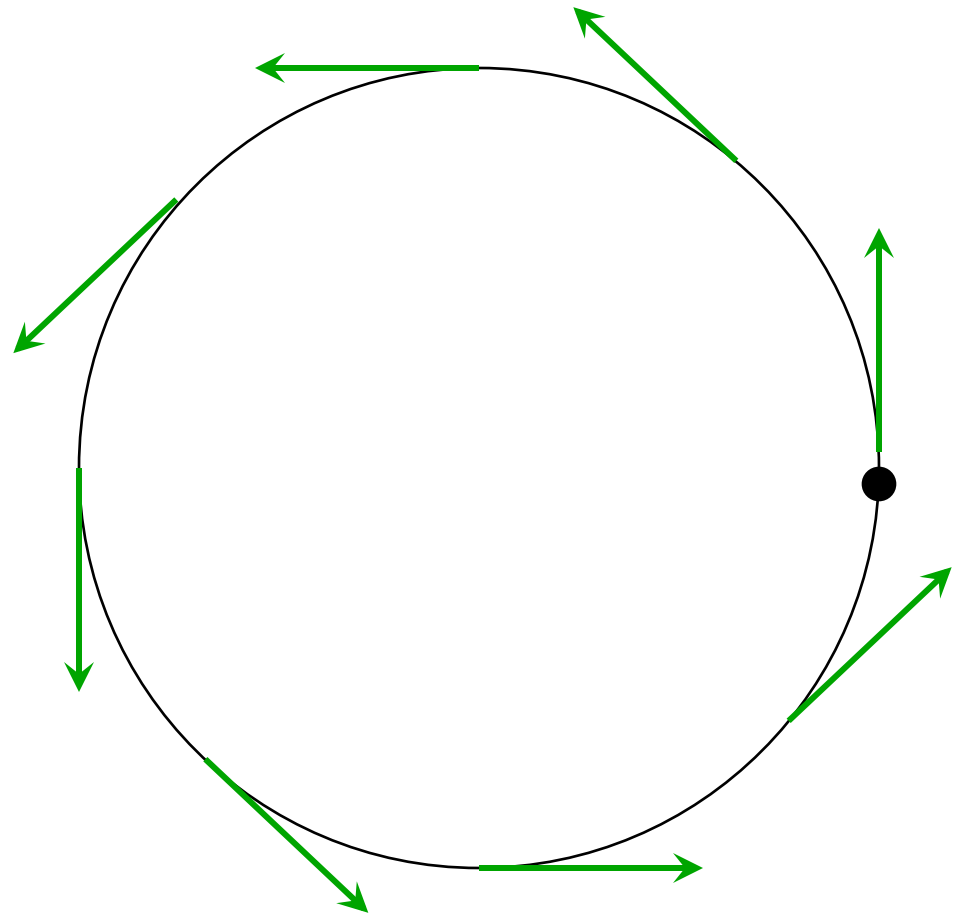
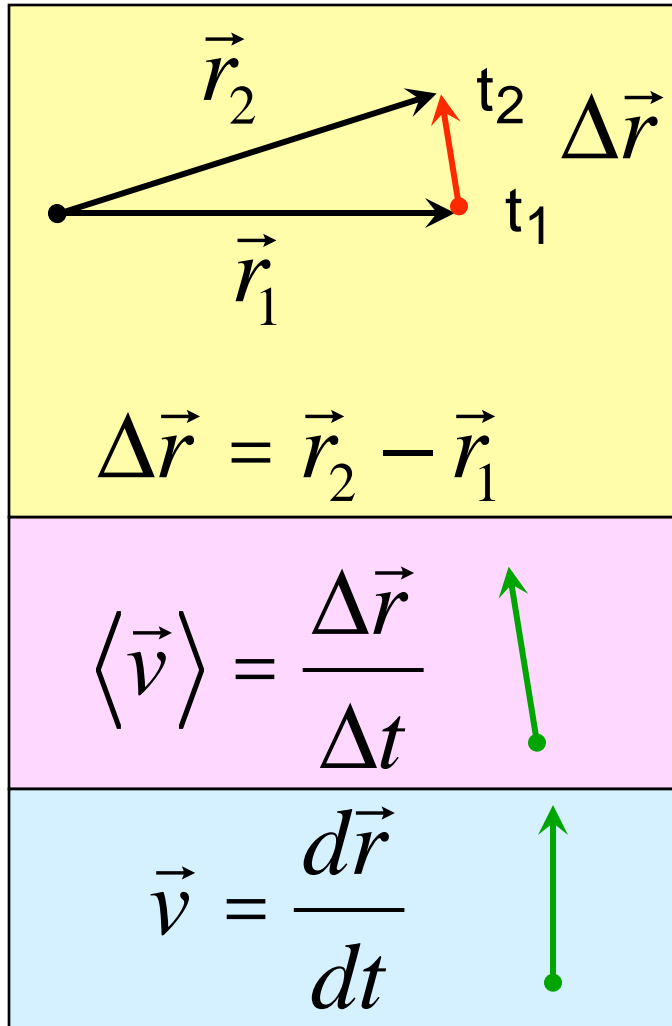
Period = time to go around once

$$T = 4 (t_3 - t_1) \text{ (Why?)}$$

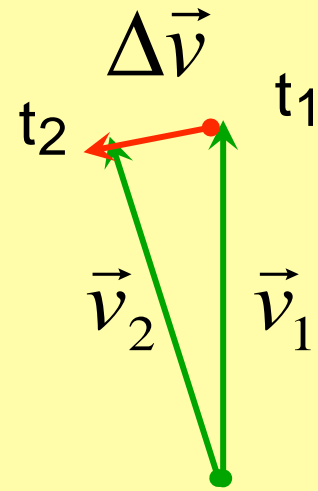


Speed = $2\pi R / T$ (Why?)

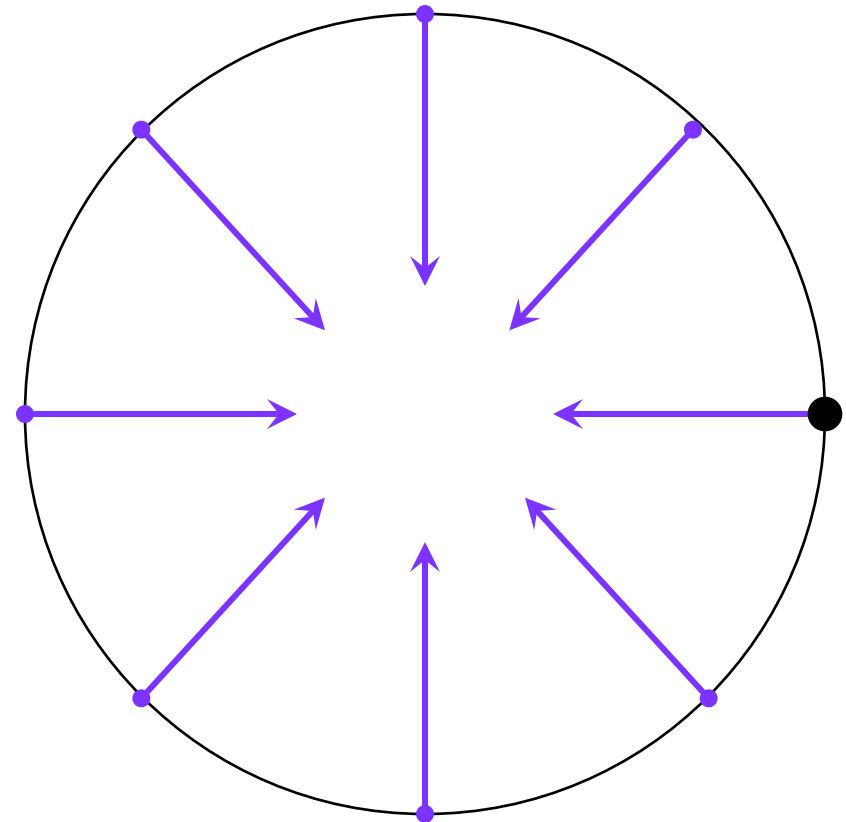


Uniform Circular Motion: Velocity

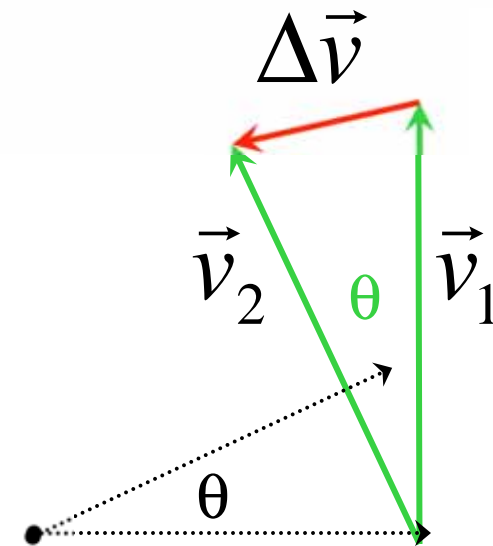
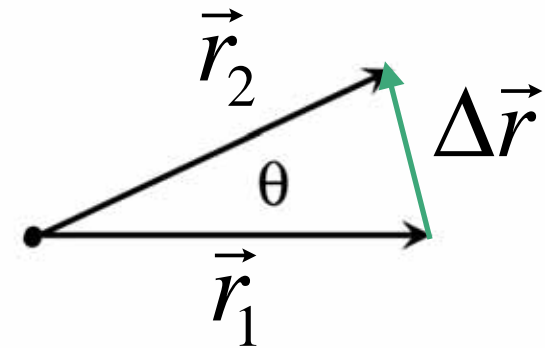
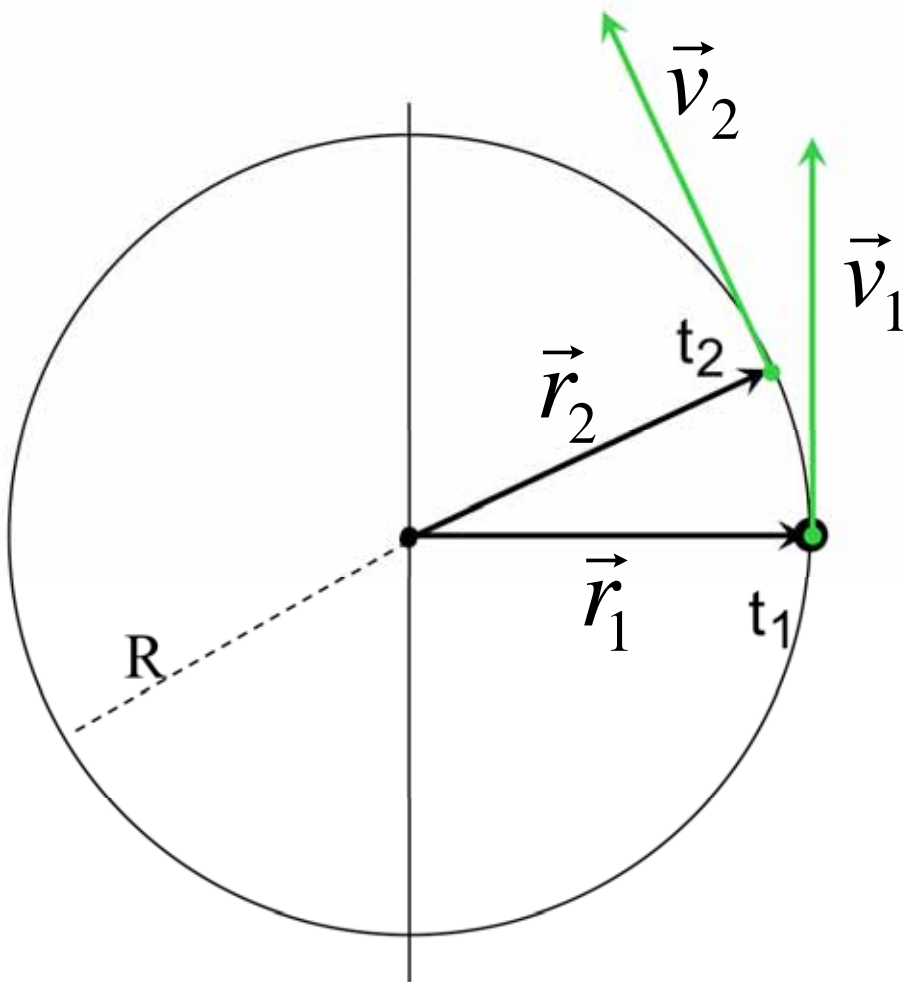


Uniform Circular Motion: Acceleration

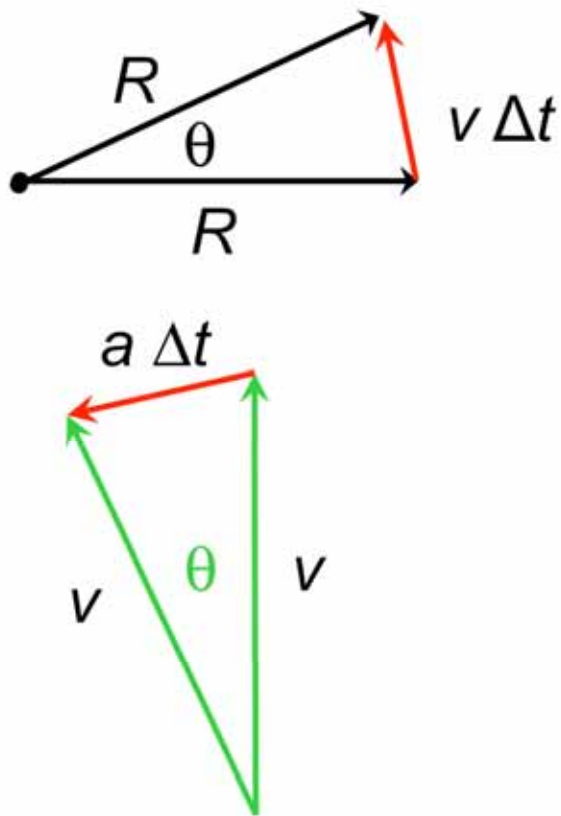
$\Delta \vec{v} = \vec{v}_2 - \vec{v}_1$ 
$\langle \vec{a} \rangle = \frac{\Delta \vec{v}}{\Delta t}$ 
$\vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$ 



Uniform Circular Motion: Geometry



Uniform Circular Motion: Equation



Similar triangles imply

$$\frac{v \Delta t}{R} = \frac{a \Delta t}{v}$$

$$\frac{a}{v} = \frac{v}{R}$$

$$a = \frac{v^2}{R}$$

Uniform Circular Motion: Acceleration vector

$$a = \frac{v^2}{R} \quad \text{pointing in to center}$$

\vec{r} = position vector

$$\frac{\vec{r}}{R} = \hat{r} = \text{unit vector in direction of position vector}$$

$$\vec{a} = -\frac{v^2}{R} \hat{r}$$

Uniform Circular Motion: Forces

- Newton 1 says an object with no net force acting on it moves in a straight line with a constant speed.
- So if an object moves in a circle at a constant speed, there must be a net force on it.
(The velocity is changing direction, so there is an acceleration.)
- How much force is needed to cause an object to move in a circle at a constant speed?

Uniform Circular Motion: Forces

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{F}^{net}}{m}$$

always

$$\vec{a} = -\frac{v^2}{R} \hat{r}$$

in order for the object to move
in a circle with constant speed.

$$\frac{\vec{F}^{net}}{m} = -\frac{v^2}{R} \hat{r}$$

Therefore, to do this,
we need a net force.

$$\vec{F}^{net} = -\frac{mv^2}{R} \hat{r}$$

A(n inward) radial
net force is needed to
maintain circular motion.