

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

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Outline

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

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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.

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Circular Motion: Checking for coherence and reconciling

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Uniform Circular Motion: Position

Period = time to go around once
 $T = 4(t_3 - t_1)$ (Why?)

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

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Uniform Circular Motion: Velocity

$\Delta \vec{r} = \vec{r}_2 - \vec{r}_1$

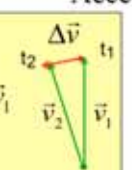
$\langle \vec{v} \rangle = \frac{\Delta \vec{r}}{\Delta t}$

$\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$

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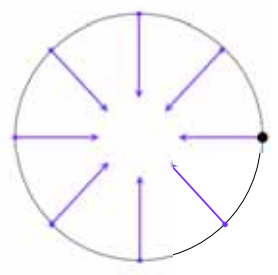
**Uniform Circular Motion:
Acceleration**

$\Delta \vec{v} = \vec{v}_2 - \vec{v}_1$



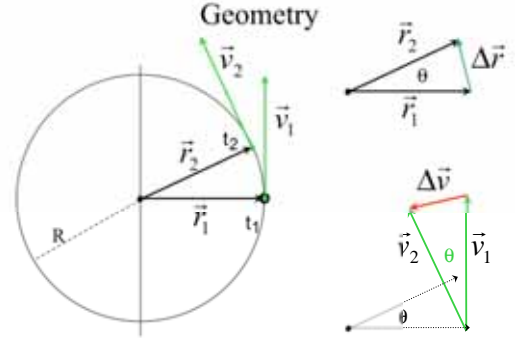
$\langle \vec{a} \rangle = \frac{\Delta \vec{v}}{\Delta t}$

$\vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$



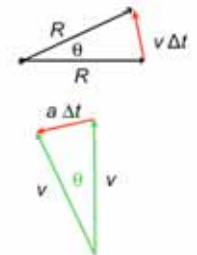
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**Uniform Circular Motion:
Geometry**



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**Uniform Circular Motion:
Equation**



Similar triangles imply

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

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

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

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Uniform Circular Motion: Acceleration vector

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

\vec{r} = position vector

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

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

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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?

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Uniform Circular Motion: Forces

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

$$\vec{a} = -\frac{v^2}{R} \hat{r} \quad \text{in order for the object to move in a circle with constant speed.}$$

$$\frac{\vec{F}^{net}}{m} = -\frac{v^2}{R} \hat{r} \quad \text{Therefore, to do this, we need a net force.}$$

$$\vec{F}^{net} = -\frac{mv^2}{R} \hat{r} \quad \text{A(n inward) radial net force is needed to maintain circular motion.}$$

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