

For circular motion, we know that the total force in the radius direction pointing to the center equals to  $ma_{cp}$ . All we need to do is to **find all the forces at that position**, add them in radius direction and solve the equation.  $\sum F_r = mv^2/r$ . We should use  $v$  at that position too. Applies to all problems.

1, Ch. 6 Prob #46 - circ motion centrifuge

To test the effects of high acceleration on the human body, NASA has constructed a large centrifuge at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston. In this device, astronauts are placed in a capsule that moves in a circular path of radius 15 m. If the astronauts in this centrifuge experience a centripetal acceleration 9 times that of gravity (or "9 g's"), what must be the speed of the capsule?

**Picture the Problem:** The astronauts travel along a circular path at constant speed.  $a_{cp} = v^2/r$

**Strategy:** Solve equation 6-15 for the speed required to attain the desired acceleration.

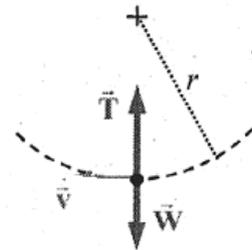
**Solution:** Solve equation 6-15 for the speed:  $v = \sqrt{ra_{cp}} = \sqrt{r(9.0g)} = \sqrt{(15\text{ m})(9.0)(9.81\text{ m/s}^2)} = \boxed{36\text{ m/s}}$

**Insight:** This speed corresponds to 23 revolutions per minute for the centrifuge, or 1 revolution every 2.6 seconds.

2, Jill of the Jungle swings on a vine 6.5 m long. What is the tension in the vine if Jill, whose mass is 61 kg, is moving at 2.4 m/s when the vine is vertical?

**Picture the Problem:** The free-body diagram for Jill is shown at right.

**Strategy:** The center of Jill's circular motion is the pivot point of the vine. There are two forces acting on Jill, the tension due to the vine upward and gravity downward. These two forces add together to produce her centripetal acceleration in the upward direction. Write Newton's Second Law for Jill in the vertical direction and solve for  $T$ :



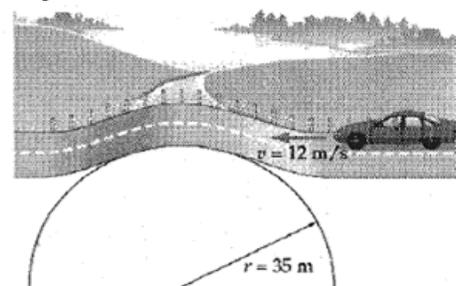
**Solution:** Write Newton's Second Law for Jill in the vertical direction and solve for  $T$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_r &= T - W = ma_{cp} \\ T &= W + ma_{cp} = mg + mv^2/r \\ &= (61\text{ kg}) \left[ 9.81\text{ m/s}^2 + \frac{(2.4\text{ m/s})^2}{6.5\text{ m}} \right] \\ T &= 650\text{ N} = \boxed{0.65\text{ kN}} \end{aligned}$$

**Insight:** The tension in the vine will be at its maximum at the bottom of her circular path because it is at that point that the vine must both support her weight and provide the upward centripetal force. Her speed is a maximum there as well, making the centripetal force the largest at that point.

3. Driving in your car with a constant speed of 12 m/s, you encounter a bump in the road that has a circular cross section, as indicated in Figure 6-35. If the radius of curvature of the bump is  $r = 35\text{ m}$ , find the apparent weight of a 67 kg person in your car as you pass over the top of the bump.

**Picture the Problem:** The car follows a circular path at constant speed as it passes over the bump.



**Strategy:** The centripetal acceleration is downward, toward the center of the circle, as the car passes over the bump. Write Newton's Second Law in the vertical direction and solve for the normal force  $N$ , which is also the apparent weight of the passenger.

**Solution: 1.** Write Newton's Second Law for the passenger and solve for  $N$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_r &= mg - N = ma_{cp} = mv^2/r \\ N &= m(g - v^2/r) \end{aligned}$$

2. Insert numerical values:

$$N = (67\text{ kg}) \left[ 9.81\text{ m/s}^2 - \frac{(12\text{ m/s})^2}{35\text{ m}} \right] = 380\text{ N} = \boxed{0.38\text{ kN}}$$

**Insight:** This apparent weight is 42% less than the normal 0.66-kN weight of the passenger. Attention that  $a_{cp}$  and the net force is pointing to center. Also the unit is kN, not N. Normal force is less than  $mg$ , the total acceleration is downward. That's how the car "falls" (changes direction) after the bump.

4. A 0.075 kg toy airplane is tied to the ceiling with a string. When the airplane's motor is started, it moves with a constant speed of 1.21 m/s in a horizontal circle of radius 0.44 m, as illustrated in Figure 6-40. Find the angle the string makes with the vertical and the tension in the string.

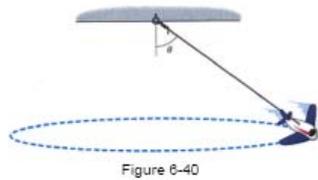


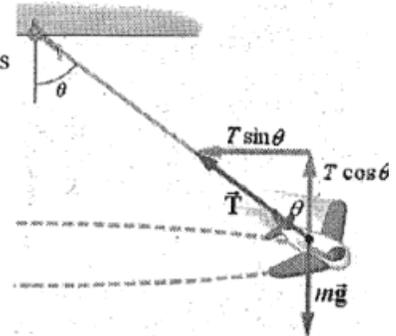
Figure 6-40

Notice that the circular motion is in the horizontal plane. The center is at the center of that circle but not the point on the ceiling. The radius of this motion is the radius of that circle, not the length of the string. The acceleration and total net force is pointing to the circle center along the horizontal plane. It is important to identify there are only 2 forces. Tension and mg. Decompose Tension along horizontal plane and along vertical direction. Because the net force is in

horizontal plane and there is no acceleration in vertical direction (y direction). This problem requires some 9<sup>th</sup> grade algebra equation solving skills.

**Picture the Problem:** The free-body diagram of the airplane is depicted at right.

**Strategy:** Let the x axis point horizontally from the airplane towards the center of its circular motion, and let the y axis point straight upward. Write Newton's Second Law in both the horizontal and vertical directions and use the resulting equations to find  $\theta$  and the tension  $T$ .



**Solution: 1. (a)** Write Newton's Second Law in the x and y directions:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum F_x &= T \sin \theta = m a_{cp} = m v^2 / r \\ \sum F_y &= T \cos \theta - mg = 0 \end{aligned}$$

2. Solve the y equation for  $T$  and substitute the result into the x equation, and solve for  $\theta$ :

$$\begin{aligned} T &= mg / \cos \theta \\ T \sin \theta &= \left( \frac{mg}{\cos \theta} \right) \sin \theta = m v^2 / r \\ \tan \theta &= v^2 / rg \end{aligned}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{(1.21 \text{ m/s})^2}{(0.44 \text{ m})(9.81 \text{ m/s}^2)} \right] = \boxed{19^\circ}$$

3. (c) Calculate the tension from the equation in step 2:

$$T = \frac{mg}{\cos \theta} = \frac{(0.075 \text{ kg})(9.81 \text{ m/s}^2)}{\cos 19^\circ} = \boxed{0.78 \text{ N}}$$

**Insight:** This airplane is pretty small. The toy weighs only 0.74 N = 2.6 ounces and flies in a circle of diameter 2.9 ft.

5. A hockey puck of mass  $m$  is attached to a string that passes through a hole in the center of a table, as shown in Figure 6-46. The hockey puck moves in a circle of radius  $r$ . Tied to the other end of the string, and hanging vertically beneath the table, is a mass  $M$ . Assuming the tabletop is perfectly smooth, what speed must the hockey puck have if the mass  $M$  is to remain at rest? (Use  $g$  for acceleration due to gravity, and  $m$ ,  $r$ , and  $M$  as necessary.)

90. **Picture the Problem:** The hockey puck travels in a circle with the string tension providing the necessary centripetal force.

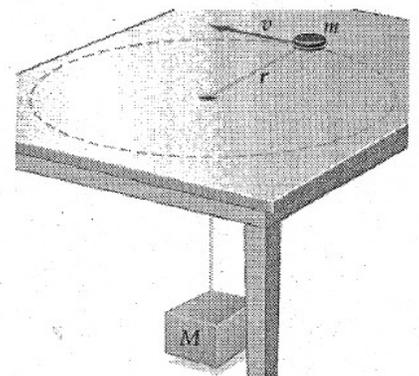
**Strategy:** The tension in the string will be the same everywhere as long as the lip of the tabletop is frictionless. From Newton's Second Law on the hanging mass  $M$ , the tension in the string equals  $T = Mg$ . Set the tension equal to the centripetal force required to keep the hockey puck traveling in a circle of radius  $r$  at constant speed  $v$ , then solve for  $v$ .

**Solution:** Set the string tension equal to the centripetal force and solve for  $v$ :

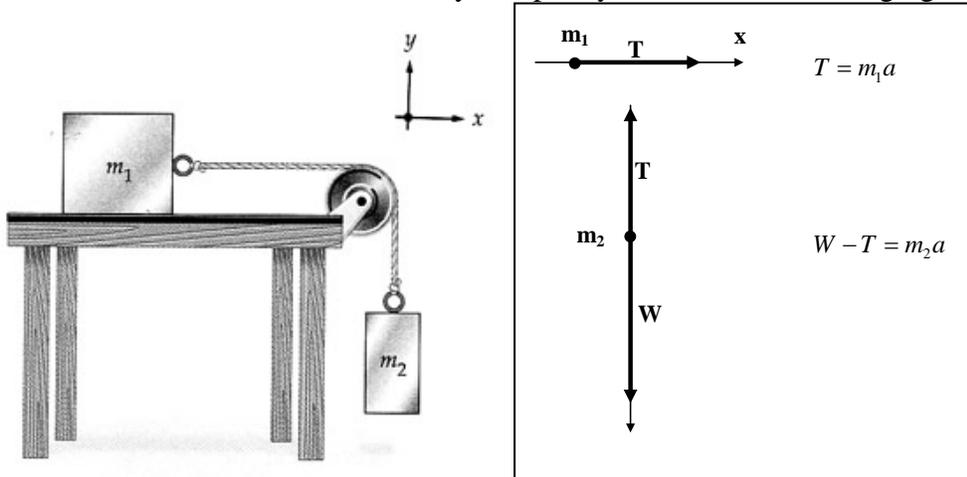
$$\begin{aligned} T &= Mg = m a_{cp} = m v^2 / r \\ v &= \sqrt{\frac{Mrg}{m}} \end{aligned}$$

**Insight:** Another way to look at the problem is to ask what mass  $M$  would be required to keep  $m$  traveling in a circle of radius  $r$  at constant speed  $v$ , and the answer is  $M = m v^2 / r g$

Notice that for the hockey puck the total force in radius direction is  $T$ . When you submit answer to this kind of question, click the "eye" icon to check your format. Do not include  $v =$  in your answer.



6. **Pulley Problem:** An object of mass  $m_1$  ( $= 30$  kg) sits on a horizontal frictionless table. A rope is attached to it, which runs horizontally to a pulley, then down to a hanging mass  $m_2$  ( $= 5$  kg).



(Please use the  $x$  and  $y$  directions shown to answer the questions below.)

a.) Find the acceleration of each mass, and the size of the tension in the rope:

(Note: Make sure to find the general expressions first; this is an extremely important skill. Only after that, plug in the numerical values.)

$$\mathbf{m_1:} \quad a_x = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ m/s}^2, \quad a_y = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$\mathbf{m_2:} \quad a_x = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ m/s}^2, \quad a_y = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ m/s}^2 \quad T = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ N}$$

(Is it less, the same, or more than the weight of  $m_2$ ? Does this make sense?)

**Checking limits:** Using your general expression from above,

b.) if  $m_1$  was instead zero, what would be the acceleration of  $m_2$ ?

$$a_x = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ m/s}^2, \quad a_y = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ m/s}^2$$

c.) if  $m_2$  was instead zero, what would be the acceleration of  $m_1$ ?

$$a_x = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ m/s}^2, \quad a_y = \boxed{\phantom{000}} \text{ m/s}^2$$

(Do your answers from part b/c agree with your intuition?)

d.) In general, with this pulley set-up, is it possible for  $m_1$  to remain stationary? What about if the table was not frictionless? Explain.

**Solution.** See the free-body diagrams and Newton's-law equations above next to the picture. There are two simultaneous equations, with two variables, the tension and the acceleration. They are solved as follows:

$$(1) \quad T = m_1 a$$

$$(2) \quad W - T = m_2 g - T = m_2 a$$

Use (1) to eliminate  $T$  from (2).

$$m_2 g - m_1 a = m_2 a \quad \text{or} \quad a = g \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

$$m_2 g = (m_1 + m_2) a$$

Then from (1) above we can find the tension:

$$T = g \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

Putting in the numbers,  $m_1 = 30$  kg and  $m_2 = 5$  kg, gives  $a = 1.4 \text{ m/s}^2$   
 $T = 42 \text{ N}$

Translating this to the boxes above gives  $a_x = 1.4 \text{ m/s}^2$ ,  $a_y = 0$  for  $m_1$ , and  $a_x = 0$ ,  $a_y = -1.4 \text{ m/s}^2$  for  $m_2$ . We note that the tension is less than the weight of  $m_2$ ,  $m_2g=49 \text{ N}$ . This agrees with the drawing, where the weight overcomes the tension and makes  $m_2$  accelerate downwards.

(b) Suppose  $m_1 = 0$ . Then the expression for  $a$  above gives  $a = g$ , which makes sense;  $m_2$  just falls freely.

(c) And how about if  $m_2 = 0$ ? Then  $a = 0$ . No force pulling downwards.

(d) It would be hard for  $m_1$  not to be dragged along by  $m_2$ . But if there was enough static friction, that could hold the two of them stationary.

Notice: assume the table is long enough, as long as  $m_2 > 0$ , the net force on  $m_1$  will not be zero, and  $m_1$  would be dragged and be accelerated continuously. Net force  $> 0$  means continuous velocity change. The speed will not reach a "terminal speed" and stop increasing. (Unless it hits the end of the table).

Due to the same reason, when you push a box with a constant force **larger than the kinetic friction**, the total force is forwarding, it keeps increasing the box's speed. The speed will not stop increasing, unless you can not catch that speed and can not touch and provide that much force any more). When you push your friends on snow or ice, your force is easily larger than the kinetic friction, and you speed up your friend and quickly you can not catch up any more and have to let go. Once you let go, the push force is no longer there. The net force is friction which gives a backward acceleration. And the object will start to slow down due to the acceleration, but will not stop immediately.

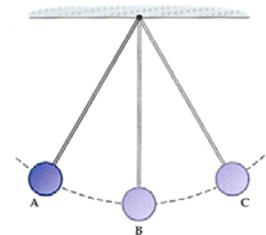
7, To get out of bed in the morning, do you have to do work?

 yes You must do work against the force of gravity to raise your body upward out of bed.

8, Is it possible to do work on an object that remains at rest?

 no Key: Work requires that a force acts through a distance.

9, A pendulum bob swings from point A to point B along the circular arc indicated in Figure 7-14.



(a) Indicate whether the work done on the bob by gravity is positive, negative, or zero.   positive  negative  zero

(b) Indicate whether the work done on the bob by the string is positive, negative, or zero.  positive  negative   zero

From A to B, the pendulum moved a little bit "down", along the gravity direction. Angle between the motion and gravity force is less than 90 degrees.  $\cos(\theta) > 0$ .  $W = F \cdot d \cdot \cos(\theta)$

From A to B, Earth did positive work to the pendulum. The pendulum's kinetic energy increased. When gravity does positive work, kinetic energy increases, but gravity potential energy decreases.

The string is always perpendicular to the motion direction.  $\cos(90) = 0$ .  $W = F \cdot d \cdot \cos(90) = 0$

The string didn't cost any energy to do the work. It is not a spring. It has no contribution to the speed change of the pendulum.

10. A pitcher throws a ball at 90 mph and the catcher stops it in her glove.

(a) Is the work done on the ball by the pitcher positive, negative, or zero?

 positive  negative  zero

(b) Is the work done on the ball by the catcher positive, negative, or zero?

positive   negative  zero

#### Solution or Explanation

(a) The pitcher does positive work on the ball by exerting a force in the same direction as the motion of the ball. This results in an increase of kinetic energy, and an increase in speed from 0 to 90 mph. (b) The catcher does negative work on the ball. This is because the force exerted by the catcher is opposite in direction to the motion of the ball. Since the work done on the ball is negative, its speed decreases.