



FIGURE 1. qq

Imagine a hoop with mass  $M$  and radius  $R$  that will only roll without slipping on the floor. Place a point object with mass  $m$  on top of the hoop and then the system starts from at rest. Question: where does  $m$  leave  $M$ ?

Reference <https://www.physicsforums.com/threads/came-up-with-a-problem-that-i-cant-solve.871352/>

The system is described by the following generalised coordinates:  $x$  is the coordinate of hoop's centre of mass  $S$  and  $\phi$  is the angle between axis  $Y$  and the vector  $\mathbf{SA}$ . Here  $OXY$  is an inertial frame.

One obviously has  $\mathbf{OA} = (x + R \sin \phi) \mathbf{e}_x + (R + R \cos \phi) \mathbf{e}_y$ . And so

$$\mathbf{v}_A = (\dot{x} + R\dot{\phi} \cos \phi) \mathbf{e}_x - R\dot{\phi} \sin \phi \mathbf{e}_y.$$

The kinetic energy of the system is

$$T = \frac{1}{2} M \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} M R^2 \left( \frac{\dot{x}}{R} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m |\mathbf{v}_A|^2;$$

After some calculation

$$T = \left( \frac{m}{2} + M \right) \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m R^2 \dot{\phi}^2 + m R \dot{x} \dot{\phi} \cos \phi.$$

The gravity potential is  $V = mgR \cos \phi$ .

The energy integral:

$$T + V = h. \quad (1)$$

From the initial condition one has  $h = mgR$ .

The Lagrangian  $L = T - V$  does not depend on  $x$ , consequently the system has another first integral

$$p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = (m + 2M) \dot{x} + m R \dot{\phi} \cos \phi. \quad (2)$$

From the initial conditions it follows that  $p = 0$ .

Taking into account initial conditions, integrate formula (2):

$$(m + 2M)x + m R \sin \phi = 0. \quad (3)$$

From formulas (1) and (2) we can express  $\dot{\phi}$  as a function of  $\phi$ :  $\dot{\phi}^2 = f(\phi)$ .

Observe that by the 2nd Newton Law

$$m \dot{\mathbf{v}}_A = \mathbf{N} + m \mathbf{g}.$$

When the point leaves the hoop the reaction force  $\mathbf{N} = 0$  and the 2nd Newton Law implies

$$R(\ddot{\phi} \sin \phi + \dot{\phi}^2 \cos \phi) = g, \quad \ddot{x} + R\ddot{\phi} \cos \phi - R\dot{\phi}^2 \sin \phi = 0. \quad (4)$$

From (2) it follows that

$$\ddot{x} = -\frac{mR}{m+2M}(\ddot{\phi} \cos \phi - \dot{\phi}^2 \sin \phi).$$

Substituting this formula to (4) we have got

$$\dot{\phi}^2 = \frac{g}{R} \cos \phi.$$

Now from (2) we express  $\dot{x}$  and together with the last formula substitute them in (1) to obtain

$$3 \cos \phi - \frac{m}{m+2M}(\cos \phi)^3 = 2.$$

From this equation one finds the angle of living  $\phi \in (0, \pi/2)$ .