



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 ϕ 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

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

After some calculation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 \ddot{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 leaving $\phi \in (0, \pi/2)$.