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Date: _____

Section

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The Masters School

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Physics



Rotational Motion I

1. A girl sits on a merry go round at a distance of 1.5 m from the center. If the girl moves through an arc length of 2.5 m, through what angular displacement does she move?

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{\Delta s}{r} = \frac{2.5}{1.5} = \boxed{1.67 \text{ radians}}$$

- b. What measurement is this in degrees?

$$\frac{1.67 \cancel{\text{ rad}}}{1} \times \frac{180^\circ}{\pi \cancel{\text{ rad}}} = \boxed{95.68^\circ}$$

2. A passenger cart on a ferris wheel moves through a distance of 12 m before it stops to drop off passengers. If the passenger carts are all 35 m from the axis of rotation of the Ferris wheel, what angular displacement does each cart move through during this part of the ride?

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{\Delta s}{r} = \frac{12 \text{ m}}{35 \text{ m}} = \boxed{.343 \text{ rad}}$$

- b. What measurement is this in degrees?

$$\frac{.343 \cancel{\text{ rad}}}{1} \times \frac{180^\circ}{\pi \cancel{\text{ rad}}} = \boxed{19.64^\circ}$$

3. A car tire rotates counterclockwise 3.5 times during a time interval of .75 seconds. What is the angular speed of the tire?

$$(3.5)(\text{revolutions}) = 3.5(2\pi \text{ rad}) \\ = 7\pi \text{ rad}$$

$$\omega_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t} = \frac{7\pi \text{ rad}}{.75} = \boxed{29.32 \text{ rad/s}}$$

- b. Calculate the angular speed in revolutions per minute.

$$\frac{29.32 \cancel{\text{ rad}}}{\cancel{\text{ s}}} \times \frac{1 \text{ rev}}{2\pi \cancel{\text{ rad}}} \times \frac{60 \cancel{\text{ s}}}{1 \text{ min}} = \boxed{280 \text{ rev/min}}$$

4. A girl ties a toy airplane to the end of a string and swings it around her head. What is the plane's angular speed if that plane moves through an angular displacement of 3.3 rad during 1.5 s?

$$\omega = \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t} = \frac{3.3 \text{ rad}}{1.5 \text{ s}} = \boxed{2.2 \text{ rad/s}}$$

5. A figure skater begins spinning counterclockwise at an angular speed of 4.0π rad/s. During a 3.0s interval, she slowly pulls her arms inward and finally spins at 8.0π rad/s. What is her average angular acceleration during this time interval?

$$\alpha_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\Delta\omega}{\Delta t} = \frac{\omega_f - \omega_i}{\Delta t} = \frac{(8\pi \text{ rad/s}) - (4\pi \text{ rad/s})}{3 \text{ sec.}} = \frac{4\pi \text{ rad/s}}{3}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{avg}} = 4.19 \text{ rad/s}^2$$

6. While pitching, a softball pitcher swings the ball with an angular speed of 10.5 rad/s. If the pitcher's arm is .66 m long, what is the tangential speed of the ball just before the pitcher releases it?

$$\begin{aligned} \omega &= 10.5 \text{ rad/s} & v_t &= r\omega \\ r &= .66 \text{ m} & &= (.66)(10.5) \\ & & v_t &= 6.93 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

7. An athlete spins in a circle before letting go of a discus. If the athlete spins at an angular speed of 12.3 rad/s and holds the discus at a distance of .75 m from the center of the torso, what is the discus's linear speed (tangential speed) when the athlete releases it?

$$\begin{aligned} \omega &= 12.3 \text{ rad/s} & v_t &= r\omega \\ r &= .75 \text{ m} & &= (.75)(12.3) \\ & & v_t &= 9.225 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

8. A young boy swings a yo-yo horizontally above his head at an angular acceleration of $.35 \text{ rad/s}^2$. If the yo-yo string is .5 m long, what is the tangential acceleration of the yo-yo at the end of the string?

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= .35 \text{ rad/s}^2 & a_t &= r\alpha \\ r &= .5 \text{ m} & &= (.5)(.35) \\ & & a_t &= .175 \text{ m/s}^2 \end{aligned}$$