

Level 2: Circular Motion and Gravity

$r = 3.42 \text{ m}$
 $T = 4.1 \text{ sec.}$
 $m = 95 \text{ kg}$

The Carousel at Valleyfair has a radius of 3.42 m and takes 4.1 sec to circle once. What is the **centripetal force** you would feel if your mass was 95 kg and **how many g's** will you feel? (Find v first!) (763 N, 0.82 g's)

①
$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

$(5.24 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})$

②
$$F_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

 763 N

③
$$\left| \frac{\text{total force}}{m \cdot g} \right|$$

2. Two similar trucks each having a mass of 200,000 kg are 40 m apart.
 a. What is the gravitational force of attraction between them? (ans. 0.00167 N)

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

 $r = 40 \text{ m}$
 $m_1 = m_2 = 200,000 \text{ kg}$

- b. What is the weight (how much gravity pulls on mass) of 1 truck? ($1.96 \times 10^6 \text{ N}$)

$$W = m \cdot g$$

- c. Using the 2 numbers you just calculated, WHY do you think the two trucks do not become attracted to each other like a magnet?

$$\frac{\text{weight}}{F_g} = \frac{1.96 \times 10^6 \text{ N}}{0.00167 \text{ N}} = \text{force downward } 1.17 \times 10^9 \times \text{larger!}$$

 Not enough mass!

3. Calculate the **centripetal force** exerted by the sun on the earth. (The radius of the earth's orbit is $1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$. You will also need the mass of the earth and its period (T) in seconds.) (ans. $3.56 \times 10^{22} \text{ N}$)

$r = 1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$
 $m = 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$
 $T = 365 \text{ d} \times 24 \text{ hr} \times 3600 \text{ sec} = 3.1536 \times 10^7 \text{ sec}$

①
$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

 $(29,880 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})$

$$F_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

4. a. Find the **gravitational force** between the earth and the sun. (The radius of the earth's orbit is $1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$.) (ans. $3.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ N}$)

$$F_g = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

 $r = 1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$
 $M_E = 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$
 $M_S = 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$

- b. Compare your answers to number 3 and number 4a. Explain what you notice.

Same... $F_g = F_c$ to stay in orbit!

5.

- a. What is the acceleration due to gravity at a point 400,000 m above the earth's surface? (8.7 m/s^2) **Don't forget the radius of the earth!**

$$r = 6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m} + 400,000 \text{ m} = 6.77 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$$

$$m = 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$$

$$g = \frac{Gm}{r^2}$$

- b. What velocity must a satellite maintain to stay in orbit at the distance from part a? ($\approx 7,676 \text{ m/s}$)

$$F_g = F_c$$

$$mg = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

so

$$g = \frac{v^2}{r}$$

6. How far away from the center of the Earth (r) would you (150 kg) need to go in order for the acceleration due to gravity to be equal to 7.65 m/sec^2 ? ($\approx 7,220,758 \text{ m}$)

$$g = \frac{Gm}{r^2}$$

$$g = 7.65 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$m = 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$$

$$7.65 = \frac{G(5.98 \times 10^{24})}{r^2}$$

7. What would your weight (in N) be if acceleration due to gravity was $7.65 \text{ m/sec}^2 = g$ (1147.5 N)

$$W = m \cdot g$$

8. The space shuttle flies at roughly 200 miles above the earth's surface. Calculate your weight in Newtons at that height if your mass is 110 kg. **Don't forget the radius of the earth and to find g first!** (ans. 979 N) (Find g at that location, then $w = mg$)

$$r = 200 \text{ miles} \times 1609 = 3.22 \times 10^5 \text{ m} + 6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m} = \underline{6.69 \times 10^6 \text{ m}}$$

① Find g

$$g = \frac{Gm}{r^2}$$

$$m = 5.98 \times 10^{24}$$

② $W = m \cdot g$ ($m = 110 \text{ kg}$)

9. Use an equation to solve for the acceleration due to gravity at the earth's surface. Does this number look right?

$$g = \frac{Gm}{r^2}$$

should be $\approx 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$!