

10.22 Tether-ball: Simulate particle wrapping around cylinder (it is “just geometry”).

The following figures show a particle Q of mass $m = 100$ g attached to a thin massless taut inextensible (constant-length) string B . The other end of the string is wrapped around a horizontal cylinder N of radius $R = 3$ cm that is rigidly fixed on Earth (a Newtonian reference frame). The taut string is tangent to the cylinder’s surface.

Right-handed unit vectors $\hat{n}_x, \hat{n}_y, \hat{n}_z$ are fixed in N with \hat{n}_z along the cylinder’s axis. Point N_0 is fixed on the cylinder along its symmetry axis. Initially, Q ’s position from N_0 is $R\hat{n}_x + (70\text{ cm})\hat{n}_y$, and Q ’s initial velocity is $(v_0 = -4 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})\hat{n}_x$.

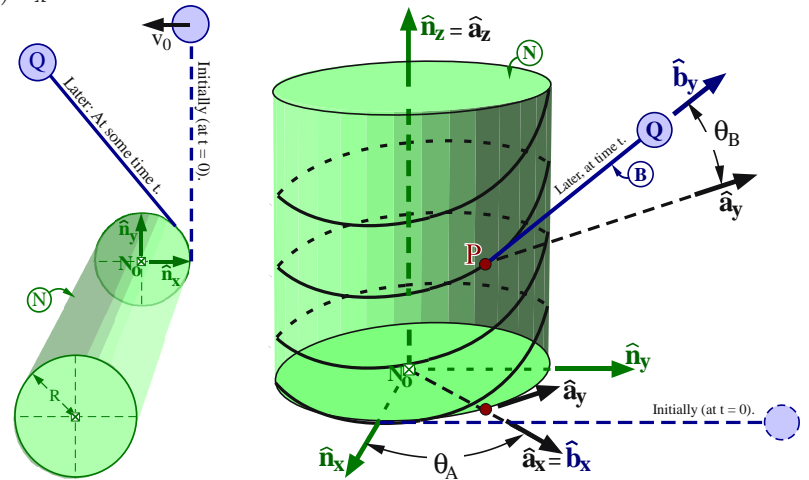
The horizontal cylinder (left) has \hat{n}_y vertical and \hat{n}_z horizontal.

The vertical cylinder (right) has \hat{n}_y horizontal and \hat{n}_z vertical.

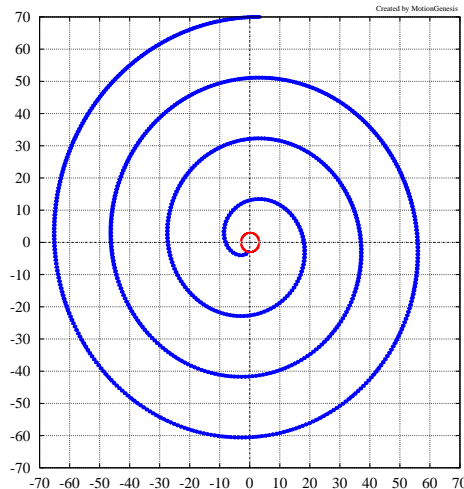
Answer each question below and plot Q ’s trajectory in N until the instant before Q hits the cylinder.

Use Earth’s gravitational constant $g = 0$ or $g = 9.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$.

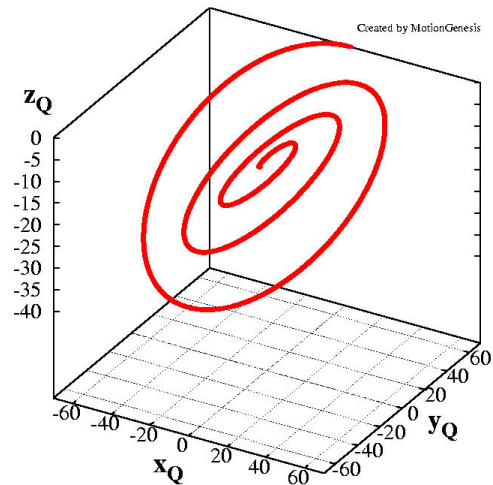
Note: Problem relates to tether-ball and tendons wrapping around bone.



Question (†† Vertical cylinder is optional)	Horizontal cylinder $g = 0 \text{ m/s}^2$	Horizontal cylinder $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$	Vertical cylinder $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$
Time for Q to hit the cylinder (3 digits):	2.041666 sec	1.536 sec	1.7259 sec
Is string tension always positive?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is $\hat{n}_z \cdot \mathbf{v}^Q$ always perpendicular to string tension?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is Q ’s $K + U$ conserved? (kinetic plus gravitational potential energy)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is Q ’s speed in N constant?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is Q ’s angular momentum about N_0 conserved?	Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is Q ’s angular momentum about B_N conserved? (B_N is the point of N touching the unwrapped string)	Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No



Horizontal cylinder: Trajectory for $g = 9.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$



Vertical cylinder: Trajectory for $g = 9.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$

Solution at www.MotionGenesis.com ⇒ [Get Started](#) ⇒ Pendulum/Tether ball (wrap particle around cylinder).