

Merry-go-round

The equation of motion in of a ball a stationary x,y plane is defined by:

Out[1]//TraditionalForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} x(t) = t v_x - \frac{R}{2} \\ y(t) = t v_y \end{pmatrix}$$

In[2]:= (* Naming the rotational coordinate system x', y' and is obtained by multiplying the stationary coordinate system by the rotation matrix λ *)

Out[3]//TraditionalForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(t \omega) & -\sin(t \omega) \\ \sin(t \omega) & \cos(t \omega) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

In[4]:= (* substituting x,y by their equations and compute the matrix multiplication yields*)

In[5]:= $x[t_]:=Vx*t-R/2$

In[6]:= $y[t_]:=Vy*t$

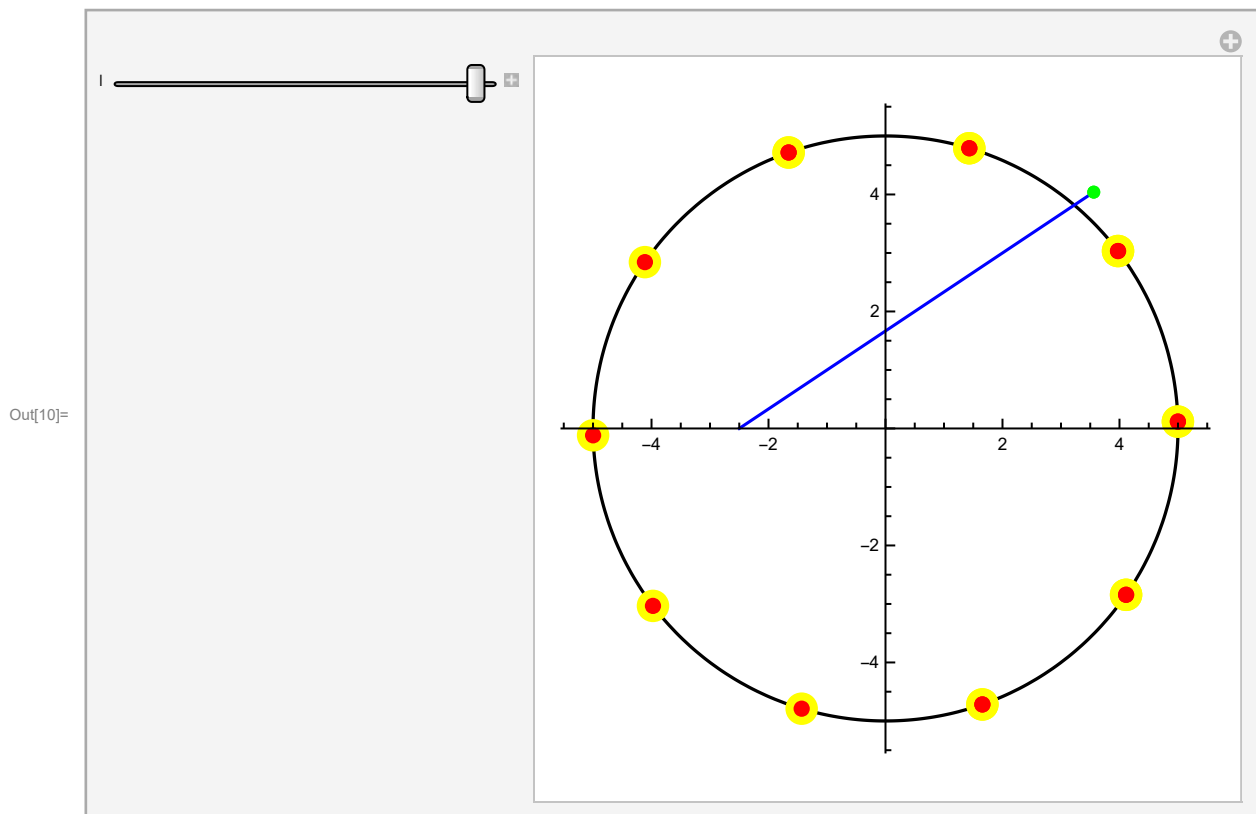
Out[7]//TraditionalForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} \left(t V_x - \frac{R}{2}\right) \cos(t \omega) - t V_y \sin(t \omega) \\ \left(t V_x - \frac{R}{2}\right) \sin(t \omega) + t V_y \cos(t \omega) \end{pmatrix}$$

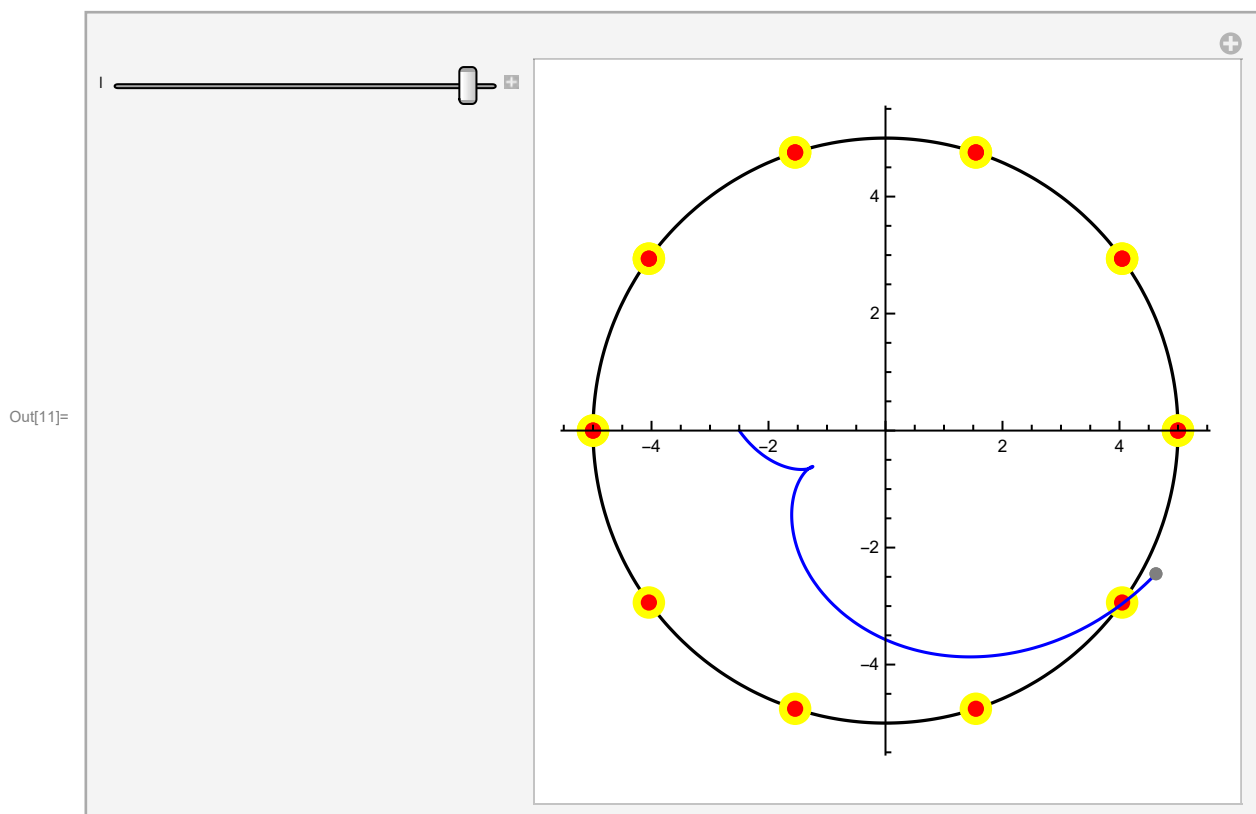
The trajectory of this equation of motion in a stationary coordinate system is shown below:

(* Taking $R=5$, $\omega=5$, $Vx=6$, $Vy=4$ *)

In[9]:= $R = 5; \omega = 5; Vx = 6; Vy = 4;$

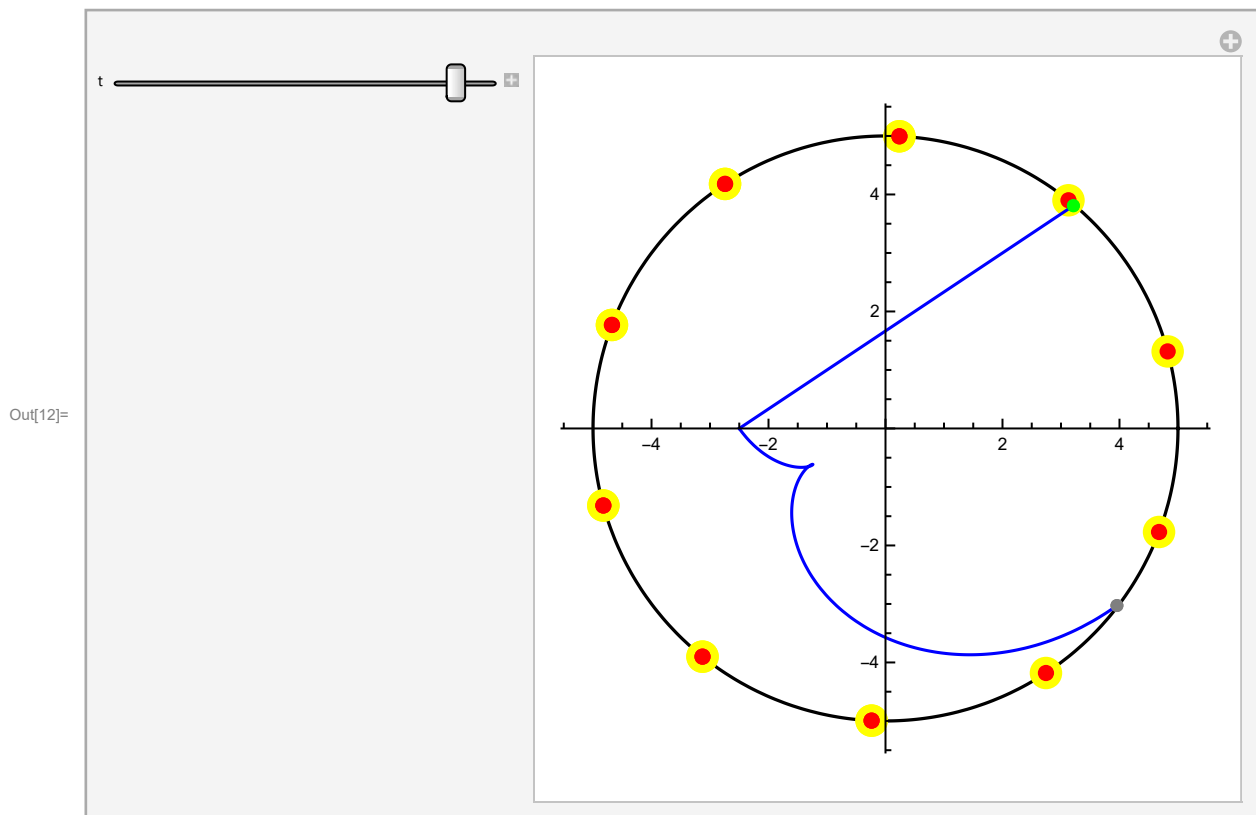


The trajectory of ball when we observe it in a rotating non-inertial frame:



It is important to show this observation, both of the trajectories will exit the

merry-go-round at the same time, which gives us an intuition that the ball have physically exited the merry-go-round no matter what frame you are observing it from:



Another interesting observation is when we set $\omega = 0$, the trajectories will follow the same path - as expected:

