

Total Acceleration

$\vec{a}_t = R\alpha$, in the direction tangent the circle

Important: If we assume R and α are constant, $|\vec{a}_t|$ will be constant.

There's also \vec{a}_c that always points to the center

$$\vec{a}_c = \frac{v^2}{R} = R\omega^2 (-\hat{r})$$

\hat{r} means towards the center of the circle

\vec{a}_c and \vec{a}_t combine to get \vec{a}_{tot}

By definition, \vec{a}_c is always tangential to \vec{a}_t

$$a_{\text{tot}} = \sqrt{a_c^2 + a_t^2}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{a_c}{a_t}$$