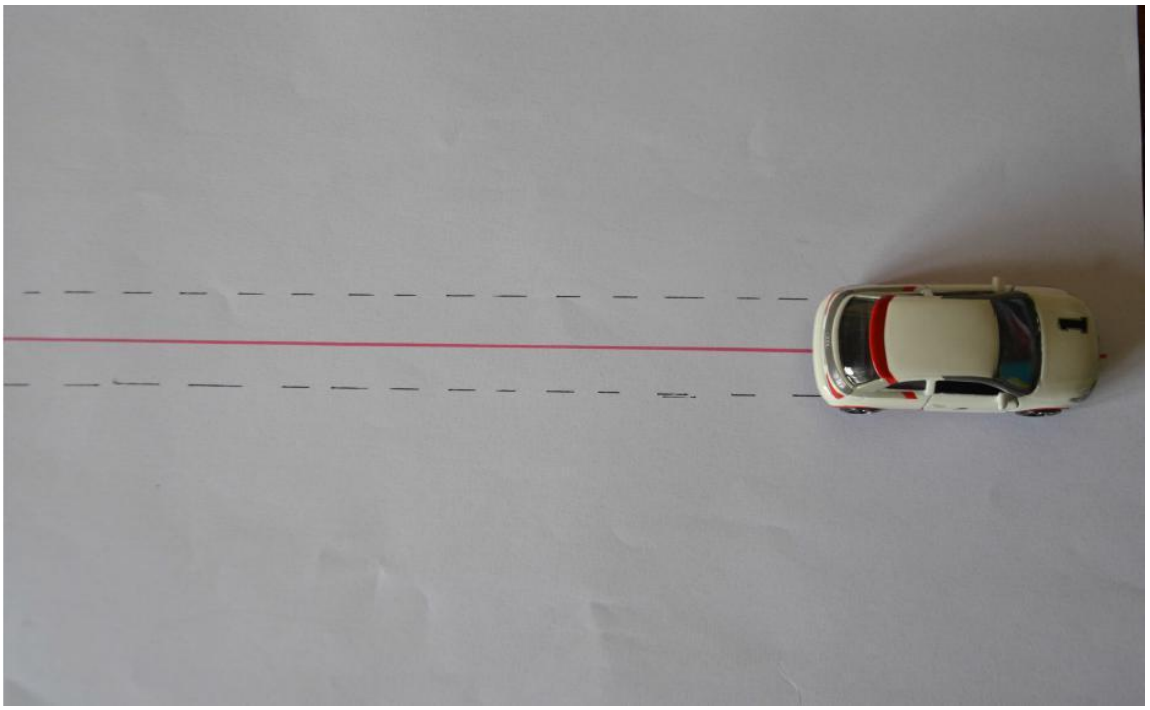
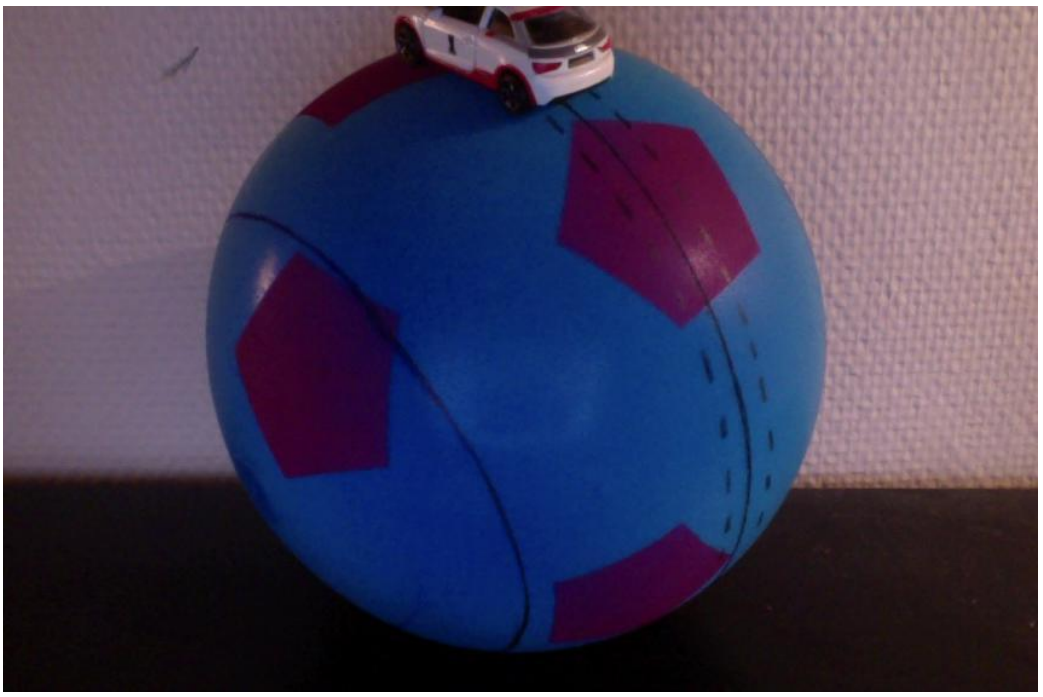
Let's imagine a small car whose wheels cannot turn. This car can therefore only go "straight ahead". The path it follows will therefore necessarily be a straight line. Below is an example on a flat surface. But the car will go straight on any surface.



Here are two possible paths on a ball: a great circle and a smaller circle.

We can see that the car can drive along the great circle (the great circle goes "straight ahead").



However, we can see that the car cannot drive along the smallest circle. Since its wheels cannot turn, we cannot move it forward without it leaving the circle, as shown below. Therefore, the car cannot go "straight ahead" and follow the small circle.