

Physics Problems: Problem #2

For Lucas

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The Ferret¹

A small ferret is put into a circular wheel-cage, which has a frictionless central pivot. A horizontal platform is fixed to the wheel below the pivot as seen in Fig. 1. Initially, the ferret is at rest at one end of the platform.

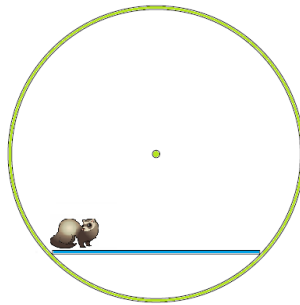


Figure 1: Ferret in a wheel.

When the platform is released the ferret starts running, but, because of the ferret's motion, the platform and wheel remain stationary. Determine how the ferret moves.

Bonus

Find out who dies in Fig. 2.

¹Gnädig, Honyek & Riley. *200 Puzzling Physics Problems*. Problem 13.

