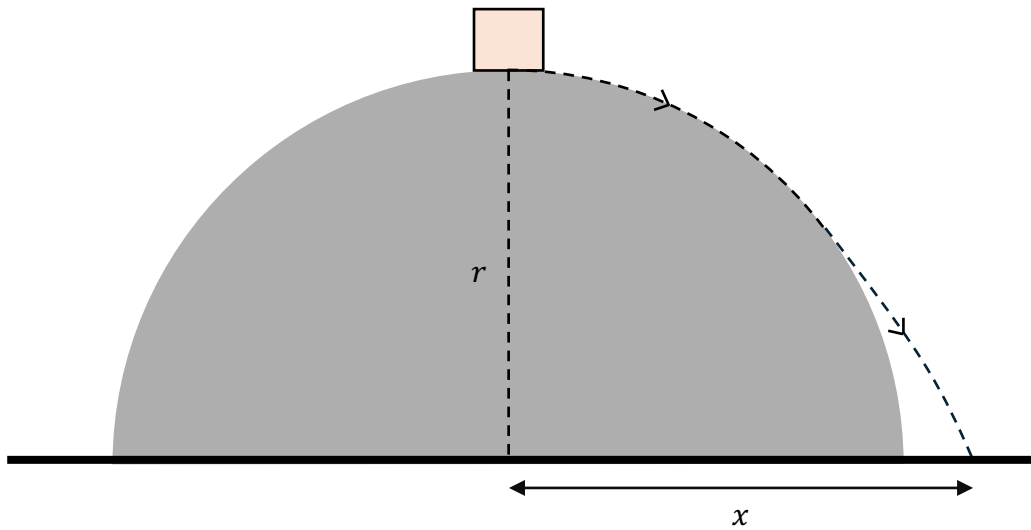
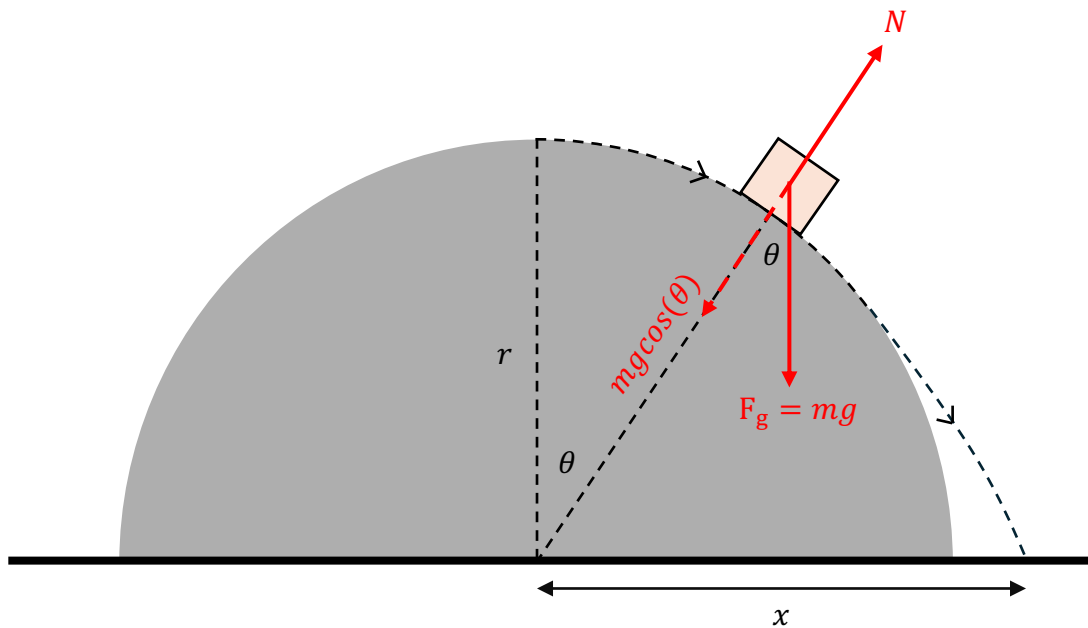


Solution 1: Starting from rest, a block falls from a frictionless semi-circle. Find x .



While block remains on semi-circle. The radial component of the gravitational force (F_g) minus the normal force (N) must equal the centripetal force (F_c).

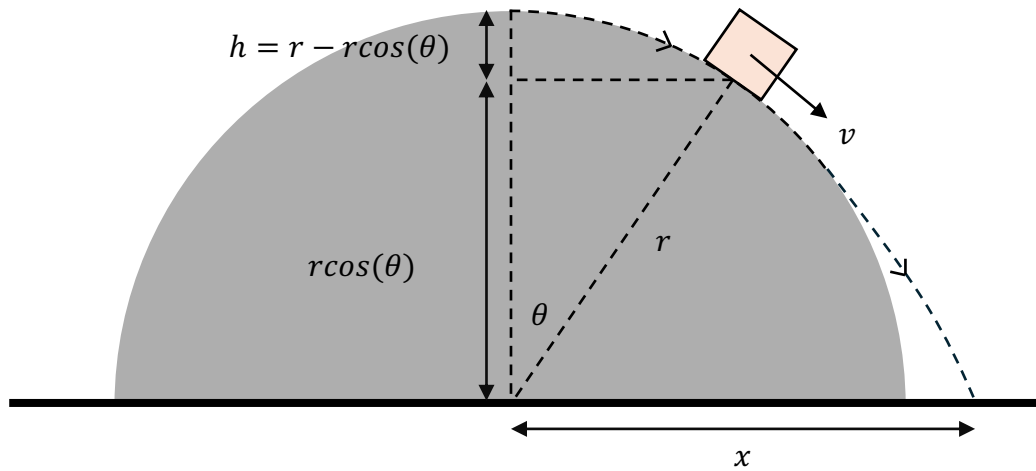


$$N = mg\cos(\theta) - F_c = mg\cos(\theta) - \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

Where v is the radial velocity of the block. When the normal force is 0, the block no longer remains in contact with the semi-circle.

$$mg\cos(\theta) - \frac{mv^2}{r} = 0, \quad g\cos(\theta) = \frac{v^2}{r}, \quad v^2 = gr\cos(\theta)$$

Now apply conservation of energy to obtain another equation of v and θ .



$$mgh = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

$$mg(r - r\cos(\theta)) = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

$$2gr(1 - \cos(\theta)) = v^2$$

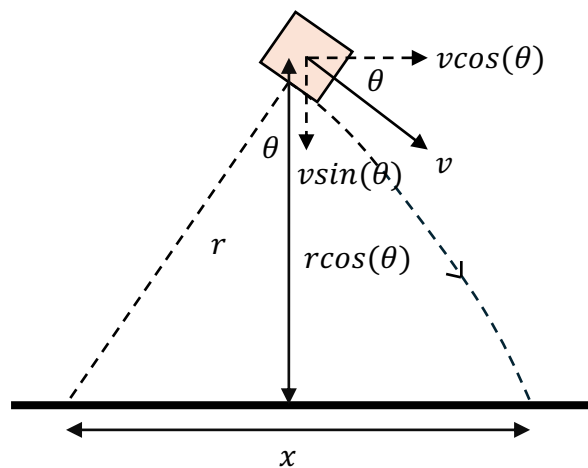
Solving for v and θ :

$$v^2 = gr\cos(\theta) = 2gr(1 - \cos(\theta))$$

$$\cos(\theta) = 2(1 - \cos(\theta))$$

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{2}{3}, \quad \sin(\theta) = \sqrt{1 - \frac{2^2}{3^2}} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}, \quad v^2 = \frac{2}{3}gr$$

After this point, the normal force is 0 and the block enters a parabolic trajectory.



$$y = y_0 - v_{0y}t - \frac{1}{2}gt^2, \quad x = x_0 + v_{0x}t$$

When $y = 0$:

$$y_0 - v_{0y}t - \frac{1}{2}gt^2 = 0, \quad t = -\frac{v_{0y} \pm \sqrt{v_{0y}^2 + 4\frac{1}{2}gy_0}}{2\frac{1}{2}g} = -\frac{v_{0y}}{g} \pm \sqrt{\frac{v_{0y}^2}{g^2} + \frac{2y_0}{g}}$$

Taking the positive solution:

$$\begin{aligned} t &= -\frac{v_{0y}}{g} + \sqrt{\frac{v_{0y}^2}{g^2} + \frac{2y_0}{g}} = -\frac{v \sin(\theta)}{g} + \sqrt{\frac{v^2 \sin^2(\theta)}{g^2} + \frac{2r \cos(\theta)}{g}} \\ t &= -\frac{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}gr} \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}}{g} + \sqrt{\frac{\frac{2}{3}gr \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}\right)^2}{g^2} + \frac{2r \frac{2}{3}}{g}} \\ t &= \sqrt{\frac{r}{g}} \left(-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}\right)^2 + 2 \frac{2}{3}} \right) \\ t &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{27}} \sqrt{\frac{r}{g}} (-\sqrt{10} + \sqrt{46}) \end{aligned}$$

Finding x :

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x_0 + v_{0x}t = r \sin(\theta) + v \cos(\theta)t \\ &= r \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}gr} \frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{27}} \sqrt{\frac{r}{g}} (-\sqrt{10} + \sqrt{46}) \\ &= r \frac{1}{27} (9\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{8}(-\sqrt{10} + \sqrt{46})) \\ x &= r \frac{1}{27} (5\sqrt{5} + 4\sqrt{23}) \end{aligned}$$

Plot of trajectory for $r = 1$:

```
 $\theta = \text{ArcCos}[2/3];$ 
```

```
 $v = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \sqrt{g r};$ 
```

```
 $x = \frac{1}{27} (5 \sqrt{5} + 4 \sqrt{23}) r;$ 
```

```
 $r = 1;$ 
```

```
 $g = 9.81;$ 
```

```
Show[
```

```
  PolarPlot[r, {x, Pi/2 -  $\theta$ , Pi/2}, PlotStyle -> Red],
```

```
  ParametricPlot[{v Cos[ $\theta$ ] t + r Sin[ $\theta$ ], -v Sin[ $\theta$ ] t - 1/2 g t^2 + r Cos[ $\theta$ ]}, {t, 0, t0}, PlotStyle -> Red],
```

```
  RegionPlot[x^2 + y^2 < r^2, {x, -1.2 r, 1.2 r}, {y, 0, 1.2 r}, BoundaryStyle -> None]
```

```
]
```

