

7. The point P is displaced vertically by $2R$, where R is the radius of the wheel. It is displaced horizontally by half the circumference of the wheel, or πR . Since $R = 0.450$ m, the horizontal component of the displacement is 1.414 m and the vertical component of the displacement is 0.900 m. If the x axis is horizontal and the y axis is vertical, the vector displacement (in meters) is $\vec{r} = (1.414 \hat{i} + 0.900 \hat{j})$. The displacement has a magnitude of

$$|\vec{r}| = \sqrt{(\pi R)^2 + (2R)^2} = R\sqrt{\pi^2 + 4} = 1.68 \text{ m}$$

and an angle of

$$\tan^{-1} \left(\frac{2R}{\pi R} \right) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{2}{\pi} \right) = 32.5^\circ$$

above the floor. In physics there are no “exact” measurements, yet that angle computation seemed to yield something *exact*. However, there has to be some uncertainty in the observation that the wheel rolled half of a revolution, which introduces some indefiniteness in our result.