Phet Lab: Lady Bug Revolution



Explain these two velocities:

Angular velocity:

Linear velocity:

- 1. From where do you measure angular velocity?
- 2. What units do you use for angular velocity?
- 3. From where do you measure linear velocity?
- 4. What units do you use for linear velocity?
- 5. If two bugs are located on the rotating disks the same radial distance from the center, what can you conclude about their angular velocities and linear velocities?
- 6. If you move one bug farther from the center, what two variables change?

- 7. What variable stays the same?
- 8. Try to adjust the speed and location of a bug so that it skids off the rotating disk. Describe those conditions.
- 9. Now change the radius only until it no longer skids off. How did it change?
- 10. Now change the angular velocity only until it no longer skids off. How did it change?
- 11. Can you change the linear velocity directly? If not, what does the linear velocity depend on?
- 12. Is the centripetal force directed towards or away from the center?
- 13. If a bug skids off the rotating disk, what can you conclude about the friction force compared to the centripetal force? (Which one keeps the bug from sliding out?)
- 14. If you put a heavier (more mass) bug on the rotating disk, which variables would be affected:
 - a. Radius
 - b. Angular velocity
 - c. Linear velocity
 - d. Centripetal Force