Problem Set 4: Uniform Circular Motion

Design Engineering Challenge: "The Big Dig" 2.007 Contest Platter Strategies: Ball Liberation

For the Spring 2004 contest table ("The Big Dig", see http://pergatory.mit.edu/2.007) the platter holds heavy (shot put) and light (street-hockey) balls. In problem Set 3, we investigated a machine concept where the machine has magically acquired the shot-put and is racing off with it. In fact, you were asked to consider carrying vs. rolling the shot-put. But what strategies can you think of to free the shot-put from the platter? What about the street hockey balls? Here we will investigate two strategies, indirect and direct.

- 1. How can you liberate the shot-put(s) (and what are the physics) without actually touching them (and enable your vehicle to acquire them)?
- 2. How can you liberate the shot-put(s) by touching them (and what are the physics) (and enable your vehicle to acquire them)?
- 3. How can you liberate the street hockey balls (and what are the physics) without actually touching them (and enable your vehicle to acquire them)?
- 4. How can you liberate the street hockey balls by touching them (and what are the physics) (and enable your vehicle to acquire them)?
- 5. What do you think is the best strategy?

