Getting Into the Swing

Student Activity

Name ________________

Class ________________

Activity Overview

This activity will introduce the Calculator-Based Ranger™ 2 motion sensor and the Vernier EasyData® App. You will collect distance and time data using a swinging pendulum and fit a model to the data.

Background Information

Pendulum motion has fascinated people for hundreds of years. Galileo studied pendulum motion by watching a swinging chandelier and timing it with his pulse.

In 1851, Jean Foucault demonstrated that the earth rotates by using a long pendulum which swung in the same plane while the earth rotated beneath it.

Equipment

- TI-84 Plus CE
- CBR™ 2 motion sensor
- USB Connection Cable for CBR 2 motion sensor
- **Note**: To plug the CBR 2 into the computer, a mini-standard USB adaptor is needed.

Materials for Each Group

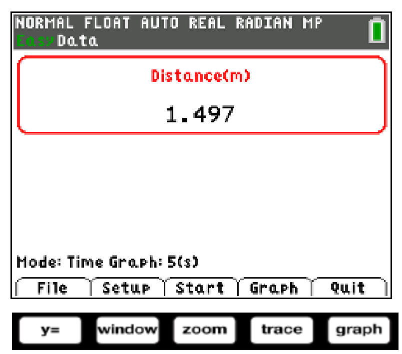
- String (approximately one meter long) and pendulum bob (ball or other mass)

Set Up

Step 1:

Connect the CBR 2 to the TI-84 Plus CE with the USB cable. If the EasyData® App does not open, press apps and select EasyData. The CBR 2 will begin collecting distance data, the distance of the closest object from the CBR 2.

Note: In the EasyData App, the tabs at the bottom of the screen indicate the menus that can be accessed by pressing the calculator keys directly below the tabs.



Step 2:

Work in groups of three. One person will operate the calculator, one person will hold the CBR 2, and the third person will pull and release the pendulum.

Step 3:

Hang the pendulum bob from a rigid support or over the edge of a desk or table. Arrange the support so the bottom of the pendulum bob clears the table or other surface by several centimeters.

Position the CBR 2 so that it points at the pendulum bob.

Questions (before data collection)

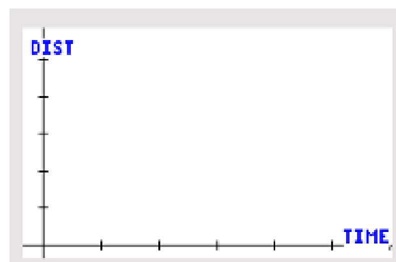
1. Pull the pendulum back from its at rest position, release it, and observe its swing. What is your estimate for the straight-line distance between the two extreme points of the pendulum's swing? Record this estimate.

2. Estimate the distance of the pendulum bob from the CBR 2 when the pendulum is at rest. Record this distance.

3. What is the approximate time for one swing of the pendulum? (Consider recording the time for multiple swings and then determine the average time for one swing.)

Step 4:

Before collecting data, make a prediction of what the graph of distance versus time should look like for several swings of the pendulum. Sketch your prediction on the graph to the right.



Step 5:

When ready to collect data, the calculator operator should press the zoom key to select **Start**.

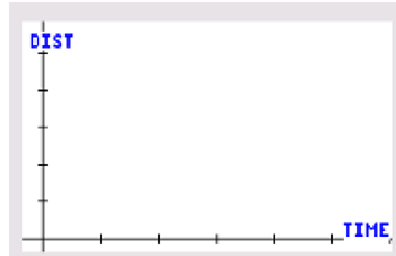
Step 6:

A graph of *distance versus time* is displayed.

How does the graph compare with your prediction?

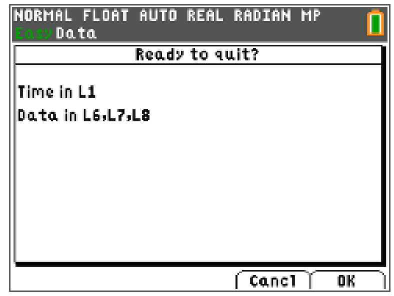
Step 7:

Sketch the actual graph of your *distance versus time* graph on the graph to the right. Label the tick marks on each axis.



Step 8:

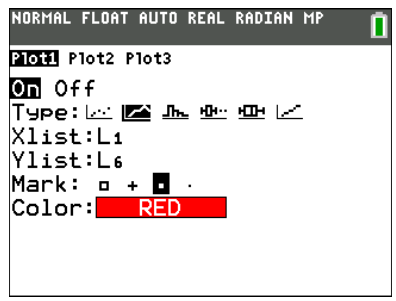
Exit the EasyData App by pressing [graph] to select **Main**. Press [graph] again to select **Quit**.



- The screen indicates data lists. Time is in **L1**, distance in **L6**, velocity in **L7**, and acceleration in **L8**.
- Press [graph] to select **OK**.
- The connection cable can be removed from the calculator.

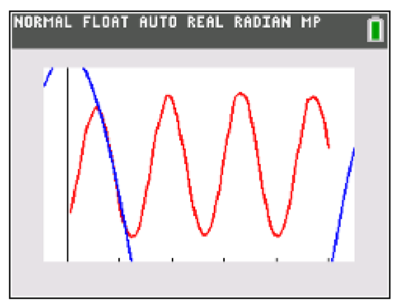
Step 9:

- Press [2nd] [stat plot]. If Plot 1 is not turned on with the configuration shown at the right, turn **Plot1** on with **L1** and **L6** for the Xlist and Ylist, respectively.
- Press [zoom] [9] to select **ZoomStat** and your data will be displayed.



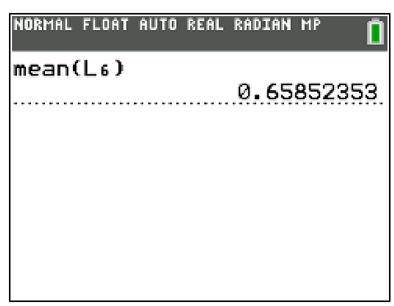
Step 10:

- Press [y=]. Enter $Y_1 = \cos(x)$, and press [graph].
- Note that the function does not fit the data well. The function will need to be transformed.



Step 11:

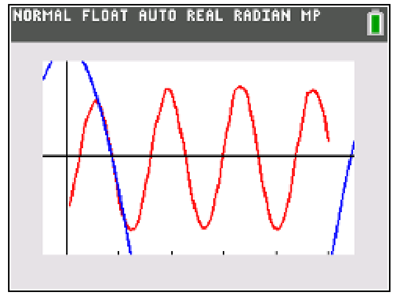
- Press [2nd] [quit] to go to the Home Screen.
- Determine the mean of the distance data by pressing [2nd] [list], arrow to **MATH**, and select **mean(**. Enter [2nd] [L6] [ )], and press [enter].
- Record the mean rounded to two decimal places. ________



Name ________________
Class ________________

Step 12:

Press [y=]. Enter the mean of the distance data to the right of Y_2 =.
Press [graph].



Questions

4. How does the mean of the distance data relate to the motion of the pendulum?

   How does the mean of the position data compare to your answer to Question 2?

Note: The general form of the cosine function is f(x) = a(cos(b(x - c))) + d. In the equation f(x) = cos(x), the parameters have these values: a = 1, b = 1, c = 0, and d = 0. Do not change the values of these parameters until you determine a new value for a parameter based on your data.

5. Use your value for the mean of the position data to determine the appropriate parameter in the equation y = a(cos(b(x - c))) + d.

   What does this parameter represent?

   Write your equation. ________________________

   Edit Y_1 to graph this equation.

6. On the Home Screen, determine the maximum of the distance data. Press [2nd] [list], arrow to **MATH**, and select **max(**. Enter [2nd] [L6] [ )], and press [enter].

   Edit Y2 to graph the maximum of the distance data. Adjust the maximum value, as needed, to align with the peaks of the graph of the data. Regraph.

   Use this maximum distance value and the mean of the distance data to determine the appropriate parameter in the equation y = a(cos(b(x - c))) + d.

   What does this parameter represent?

Write your new equation. __________________________

Edit Y_1 to graph this equation. Adjust the value of this parameter, as needed.

7. Press trace, and use the trace feature to explore the graph of the pendulum data. Locate the coordinates of a maximum point. Explain how a coordinate of this point could be used to determine a horizontal translation for the function.

   Which parameter does this represent?

   Write the equation that includes this transformation. ________________________

   Edit Y_1 to graph this equation.

8. The time required to complete one swing of the pendulum was estimated in Question 3. Trace on the graph to determine the time it takes to complete one swing. How do these values compare?

   Use this information to determine the number of swings that would take place in 2π seconds.

   What does the number of swings in 2π seconds represent?

   Which parameter does this represent in the function?

   Write the equation that includes this transformation. ________________________

   Edit Y_1 to graph this equation.

9. Edit your equation, as needed, to better match the graph of the data. Record your final equation.

   Y_1= _______________________

10. How would the equation differ if the sine function were used rather than the cosine function?

11. Using the sine function, develop an equation that models the data.

