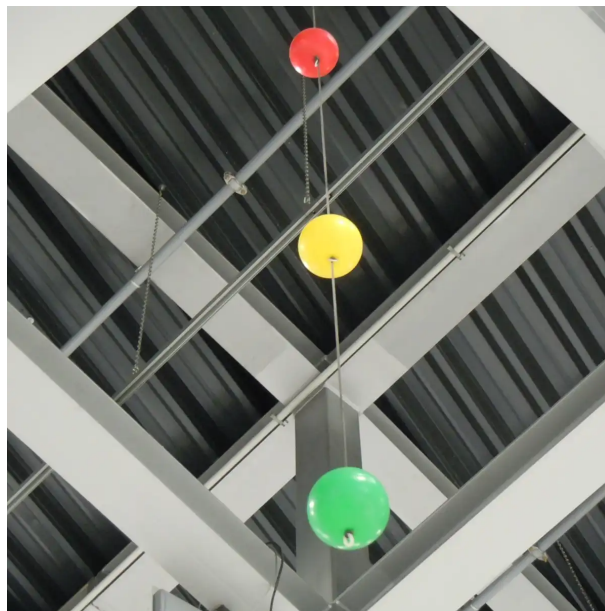


Three balls on a string

Norman Tuck

Do you find three different orbit patterns the balls make as they rotate?



Watch the three balls on the string among the roof.

Press the lever to the right or left to make the motor move faster or slower.

The three balls run in several steady or irregular loops. Sometimes one of the balls is moving not at all.

The higher each ball moves from its stationary position, the more potential (height) energy it has. The faster each ball revolves, the more kinetic (motion) energy it has.

The patterns the balls make represent a minimum combination of potential and kinetic energy for all the balls revolving at a given speed.