

3. We are only concerned with horizontal forces in this problem (gravity plays no direct role). We take East as the $+x$ direction and North as $+y$. This calculation is efficiently implemented on a vector capable calculator, using magnitude-angle notation (with SI units understood).

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{F}}{m} = \frac{(9.0 \angle 0^\circ) + (8.0 \angle 118^\circ)}{3.0} = (2.9 \angle 53^\circ)$$

Therefore, the acceleration has a magnitude of 2.9 m/s^2 .