

Algebra-Based Physics-1: Midterm 1

Dr. Jordan Hanson - Whittier College Dept. of Physics and Astronomy

October 11, 2024

1 Unit 0: Estimation, Unit Analysis, Vectors, and Kinematics I

1. Which of the following represents the density of lead?

- A: 0.11 g cm^{-3}
- B: 1.10 g cm^{-3}
- C: 11.0 g cm^{-3}
- D: 111 g cm^{-3}

2. A train leaves Los Angeles Union Station for the Bay Area (Emoryville) at 60 km/hr . If the destination is 600 km to the North, how long before the train reaches the destination?

- A: 0.50 hours
- B: 5.00 hours
- C: 10.0 hours
- D: 24.0 hours

3. What is 25 m s^{-1} in km hr^{-1} ?

- A: 15 km hr^{-1}
- B: 25 km hr^{-1}
- C: 60 km hr^{-1}
- D: 90 km hr^{-1}

4. Suppose a ship accelerates from 0 km hr^{-1} to 10 km hr^{-1} in 60 seconds. What is the acceleration?

- A: $60 \text{ km hr}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- B: $6 \text{ km hr}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- C: $1/6 \text{ km hr}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- D: $1/60 \text{ km hr}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$

5. Estimate the area of the North Quad of Whittier College (the open space outside the SLC):

- A: 5000 m^2
- B: 5000 cm^2
- C: 500 m^2
- D: 500 cm^2

6. A coffee bean is about 0.5 cm^3 in volume. How many could fit in a 2 liter bottle?

- A: 4×10^1
- B: 4×10^2
- C: 4×10^3
- D: 4×10^4

7. Let $\vec{v} = v_x \hat{i} + v_y \hat{j}$ represent a velocity vector. The wind velocity is 10 km/hr , Southwest. North and East vector components are positive, while South and West are negative. What are v_x and v_y ?

- A: 7.1 and 7.1 km/hr
- B: -7.1 and 7.1 km/hr
- C: 7.1 and -7.1 km/hr
- D: -7.1 and -7.1 km/hr

8. What is the angle the velocity makes with the x-axis, in the previous exercise?

- A: 225 degrees
- B: 180 degrees
- C: 135 degrees
- D: 90 degrees

9. (a) Let $\vec{v} = -2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j}$, and $\vec{w} = 2\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$. Draw each in a 2D coordinate system below. (b) What is $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$? (c) What is $\vec{v} - \vec{w}$? (d) Add $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$ and $\vec{v} - \vec{w}$ to your coordinate system. (e) What is $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}$?

2 Unit 1: Kinematics II and III

1. Suppose a cyclist has a velocity of 15 m s^{-1} at $t = 0$. If the acceleration is 3 m s^{-2} , (a) what is the velocity at $t = 4$ seconds? (b) What is the displacement of the cyclist at $t = 4$ seconds? (c) Are the average and instantaneous velocities different at $t = 0$ or $t = 4$ seconds?

2. Consider the motion of the system depicted in Fig. 1.
 (a) From the given data, calculate the speed of the system at points P and Q. (b) Is the acceleration of the system positive or negative? Estimate the acceleration.

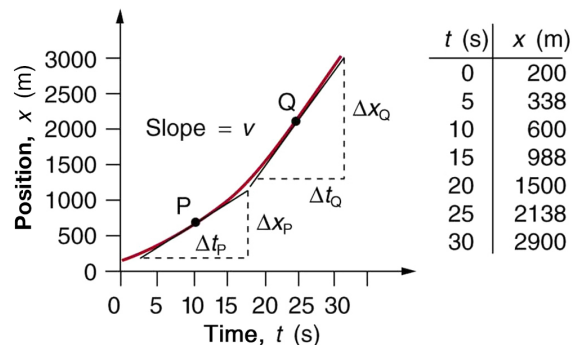


Figure 1: A system moves with non-constant velocity.

3. A swan on a lake gets airborne by flapping its wings and running on top of the water. (a) If the swan must reach a velocity of 6.00 m s^{-1} to take off and it accelerates from rest at an average rate of 0.8 m s^{-2} , how far will it travel before becoming airborne? (b) How long does this take?

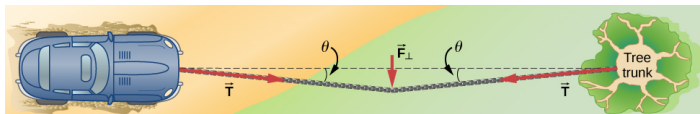


Figure 2: The net force is zero, just as the vehicle begins to move.

3 Unit 2: Forces I and II

1. Consider the effort to pull a vehicle from a ditch in Fig. 2. (a) If we can pull with $F_{\perp} = 1000 \text{ N}$, and observe that the rope makes a 7 degree angle with respect to the line between the vehicle and the tree, what is the tension in the rope? (b) If the vehicle has 900 kg , and the coefficient of kinetic friction is 0.05 , what is the acceleration of the vehicle as it starts to move?
2. A $20,000 \text{ kg}$ jet fighter lands on an aircraft carrier, moving at 120 km/hr . A tow cable grabs the aircraft and pulls it to a stop in 100 meters . (a) What is the average acceleration? (b) What force does the tow cable exert to stop the jet?
3. Two children pull a third child on a snow saucer sled exerting forces \vec{F}_1 and \vec{F}_2 as shown from above in Fig. 3. Find the acceleration of the 50 kg sled and child

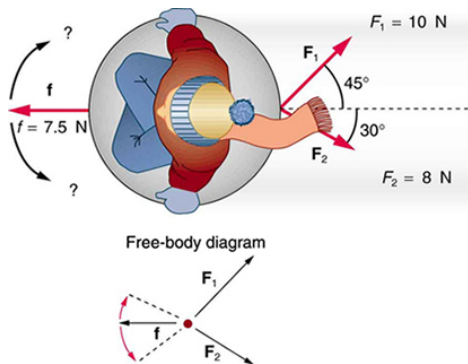


Figure 3: Two people pull on a third person on a sled, on an icy surface.

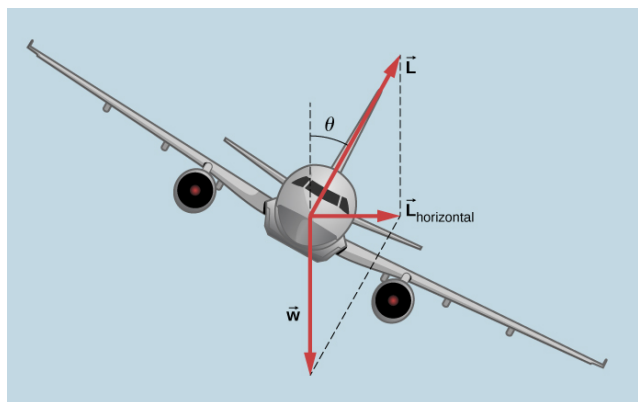


Figure 4: A plane banks into a circular turn.

system. Note that the direction of friction will be in the opposite direction of the sum of \vec{F}_1 and \vec{F}_2 .

3. Consider Fig 4, in which a plane flies in a circular trajectory. Suppose the total mass is 6000 kg, $\theta = 30$ degrees, and magnitude of the lift force in Fig. 4 is 80,000 N. (a) What is the centripetal force? (b) If the speed is 600 km hr^{-1} , what is the turn radius? (c) What time will pass before the plane has gone halfway around the circle (to turn around)?

4. Consider three springs connected *in parallel* to an object of mass m . Each spring has a spring constant k , and each spring is attached to the floor and the object. (a) Draw a free-body diagram. (b) Derive an expression for the displacement of the springs. (c) Show that, in the limit that $k \rightarrow \infty$, the displacement goes to zero. This is a basic model for the suspension of a vehicle or cart.

5. What is the terminal velocity of a 60 kg skydiver with area $A = 0.25 \text{ m}^2$, and drag coefficient $C = 0.5$? Use the standard density of air: $\rho = 1.2 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$. (b) What is the terminal velocity if she opens the parachute, increasing the cross-sectional area by a factor of 100?

4 Unit 3: Forces III and IV

1. (a) Show that the acceleration of any object down an incline with friction is $a = g(\sin \theta - \mu \cos \theta)$. (b) What expression do you get as $\mu \rightarrow 0$?
2. (a) Use the expression derived in the previous exercise to calculate the acceleration of a snowboarder traveling down a 10 degree incline. Use the standard values of g and coefficient of kinetic friction between waxed wood and snow. (b) How far down the slope will the person travel after 30 seconds, and what is their speed?
6. (a) Granite has a standard Young's modulus of about $45 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^{-2}$. Calculate the change in length of a granite column supporting 10,000 N of weight. The column has a diameter of 20 cm, and is 10 meters tall. (b) Suppose the granite column was replaced with a new material with half the Young's modulus. What would the new change in length be?