

1. Basic Kinematic Equations

We recall the standard constant-acceleration (1D) formulas:

$$v_f = v_i + a t, \tag{1}$$

$$s = v_i t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2, \tag{2}$$

$$v_f^2 = v_i^2 + 2 a s. \tag{3}$$

Here:

- v_i is the initial velocity,
- v_f is the final velocity,
- a is the (constant) acceleration,
- t is the time elapsed,
- s is the displacement over that time.

2. Feasibility of Direct Deceleration Within t_p

We want to move from speed v to zero velocity (i.e. stop at the target/trajectory) within a maximum allotted time t_p . Suppose we try a *single* constant deceleration $a > 0$ (treating the direction toward the trajectory as positive, so the acceleration is actually a negative in the real direction, but we label its magnitude as a).

2.1 Deceleration distance and time

Using equation (3) with $v_f = 0$:

$$0^2 = v^2 + 2(-a)s \implies s = \frac{v^2}{2a}.$$

Also, the time to slow from v to 0 at deceleration a is

$$t_{\text{dec}} = \frac{v}{a}.$$

2.2 Checking if $t_{\text{dec}} \leq t_p$

If

$$\frac{v}{a} \leq t_p,$$

then we can simply decelerate with constant a and reach zero velocity before or at t_p . Equivalently,

$$a \geq \frac{v}{t_p}.$$

Hence, a single-phase deceleration is *feasible* if the required deceleration is not too large and the time needed does not exceed t_p .

3. Accelerate–Then–Decelerate Strategy

If instead we discover that

$$\frac{v}{a} > t_p \quad (\text{i.e. we cannot stop in time } t_p),$$

we may need a two-phase approach:

1. **Accelerate** toward the trajectory for a certain duration t_i with (positive) acceleration a , raising the speed from v to $v + a t_i$.
2. Then **decelerate** from $v + a t_i$ down to zero over the remaining distance, so that the total time is exactly t_p .

You wrote two equations describing this process:

- **Equation (i):** The deceleration d (which we will set equal to a for easy simplification) is

$$d = \frac{(v + a t_i)^2}{2 \left[s - (v t_i + \frac{1}{2} a t_i^2) \right]},$$

where s is the total distance available before reaching the trajectory, and the denominator accounts for the distance left for deceleration.

- **Equation (ii):** The total time t_p is split into t_i (acceleration) plus the deceleration time, which is

$$\frac{v + a t_i}{d},$$

so

$$\frac{v + a t_i}{d} + t_i = t_p.$$

3.1 Substituting $d = a$

In the particular setup, we put $d = a$ to simplify the equation, so we can rewrite these as:

$$(i) \quad a = \frac{(v + a t_i)^2}{2 \left[s - (v t_i + \frac{1}{2} a t_i^2) \right]},$$

$$(ii) \quad \frac{v + a t_i}{a} + t_i = t_p.$$

3.2 Solving for t_i and a

From (ii),

$$\frac{v + a t_i}{a} = t_p - t_i \implies v + a t_i = a (t_p - t_i) \implies v = a t_p - a t_i - a t_i = a (t_p - 2 t_i).$$

Hence

$$t_p - 2t_i = \frac{v}{a} \implies t_i = \frac{t_p - \frac{v}{a}}{2}.$$

Substitute this t_i into (i) to get a *quadratic* equation in a alone. After simplifying, one obtains:

$$t_p^2 a^2 - (4s - 2vt_p)a - v^2 = 0.$$

Solving via the quadratic formula gives

$$a = \frac{(4s - 2vt_p) \pm \sqrt{(4s - 2vt_p)^2 + 4t_p^2 v^2}}{2t_p^2}.$$

Choose the sign (plus or minus) that leads to a physically valid solution (often the $+$ branch for a positive a).

4. Summary

1. Check feasibility of direct deceleration:

If $\frac{v}{a} \leq t_p$, then we can decelerate from v to 0 within t_p without needing a two-phase approach.

2. Otherwise, use accelerate-then-decelerate:

Solve the system above (with $d = a$) to find the needed acceleration a and the switching time t_i so that the total time is exactly t_p .