

Newtonian Mechanics

Dynamics

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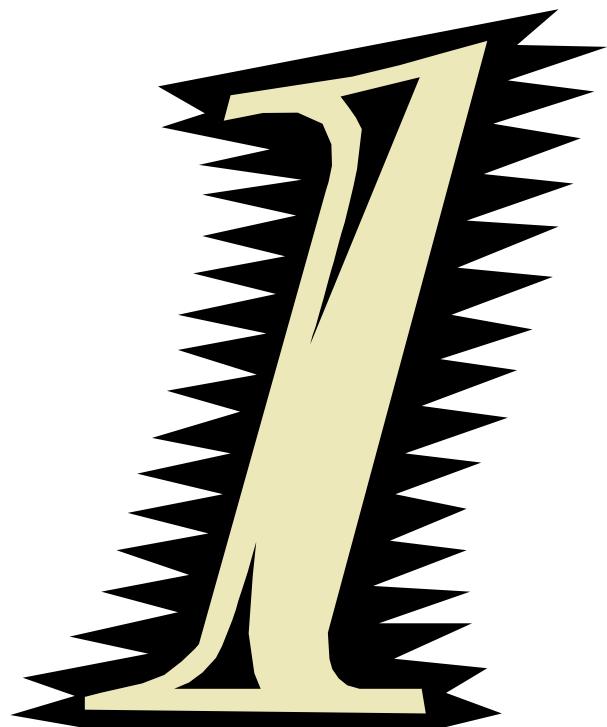
Newton's laws of Motion

- ***Newton's laws of motion*** are three physical laws which provide relationships between the *forces* acting on a body and the *motion* of the body.

Newton's Laws: Force and Motion

- The First Law: Force and Inertia
- The Second Law: Force, Mass and Acceleration
- The Third Law: Action and Reaction

Newton's first law



Newton's first law of motion.....



An object at rest tends to stay at rest and object in motion tends to stay in motion unless acted upon by an external force.

What does this mean ?

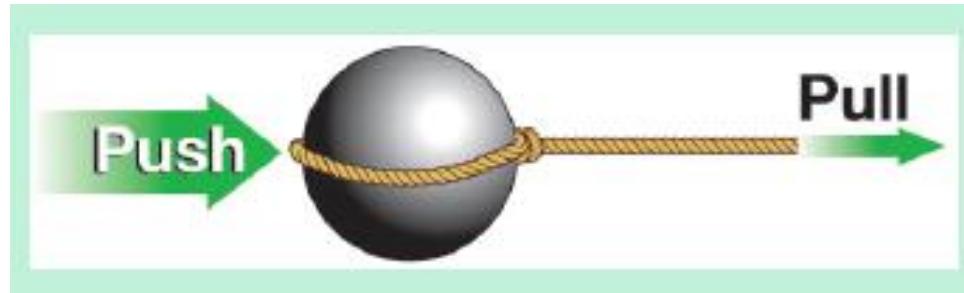
Basically, an object will keep doing what it was doing, unless acted on by an external force.

If the object was sitting still, it will remain stationary. If it was moving at a constant velocity, it will keep moving at a constant velocity.

It takes force to change the motion of an object.

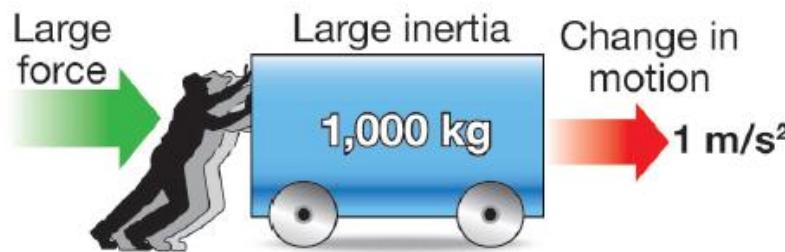
The definition of force

- The simplest concept of force is a push or a pull.
- In other words, force is the *action* that has the ability to create or change motion.



Force

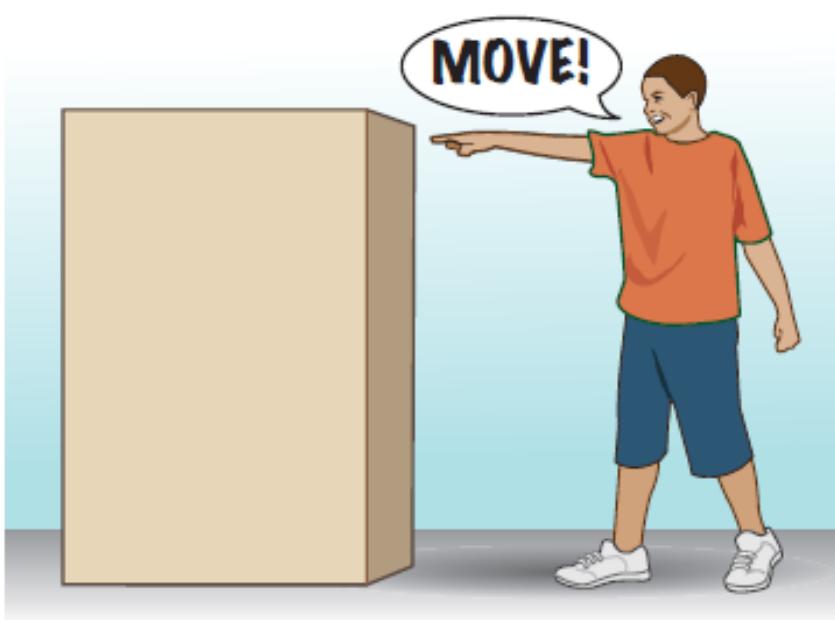
- Force is an action that can change motion.
 - A force is what we call a push or a pull, or any action that has the ability to change an object's motion.
 - Forces can be used to increase the speed of an object, decrease the speed of an object, or change the direction in which an object is moving.



- **Inertia** is the resistance of any physical object to a change in its state of motion or rest, or the tendency of an object to resist any change in its motion.

Force

This will not work.

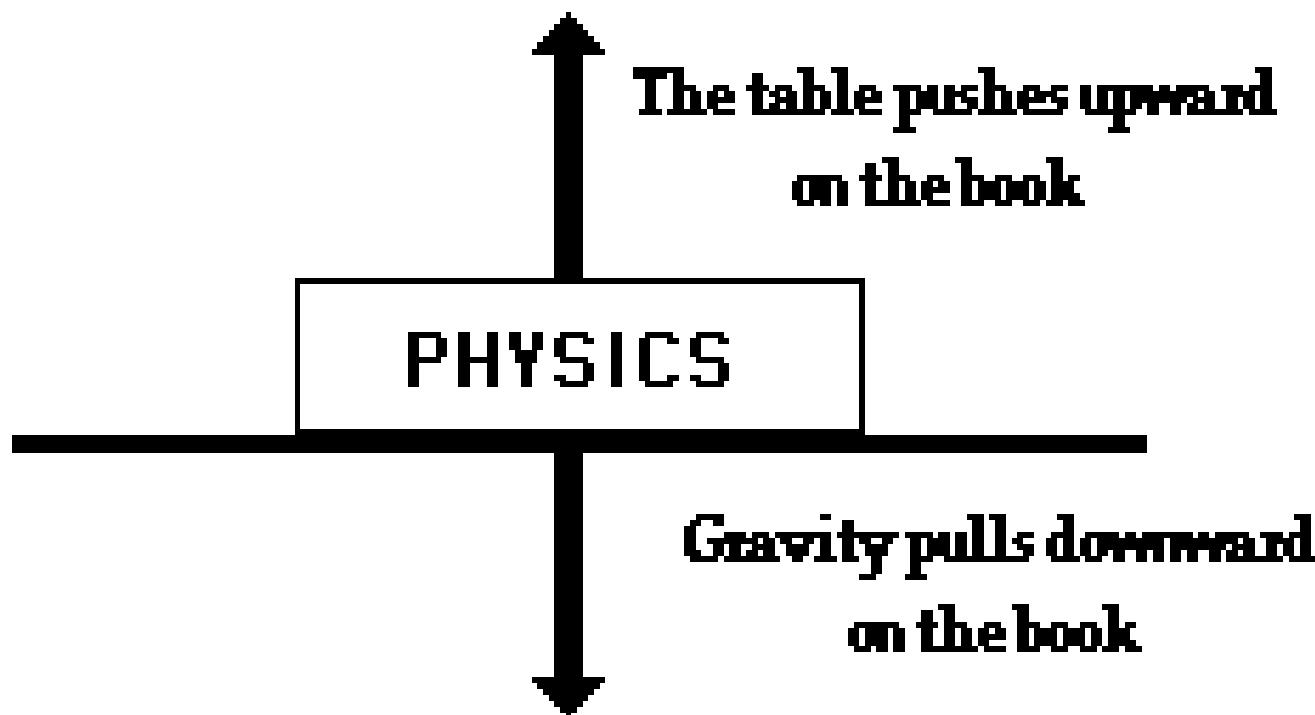


Only **force** has the ability to change motion.



Balanced force

The forces on the book are balanced.



Balanced & Unbalanced

- If the forces on an object **are equal and opposite or if the total force is zero** they are said to be balanced, and the object experiences no change in motion.
- If they are **not equal and opposite or if the total forces is not zero**, then the forces are unbalanced and the motion of the object changes.

These are some examples from real life

A soccer ball is sitting at rest. It takes an unbalanced force of a kick to change its motion.



Forces are Balanced

Objects at Rest
 $(v = 0 \text{ m/s})$

Objects in Motion
 $(v \neq 0 \text{ m/s})$

$$a = 0 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$a = 0 \text{ m/s}^2$$

Stay at Rest

Stay in Motion
(same speed and dir'n)

Newton's First Law

Applied to Rocket Liftoff

"Every object persists in its state of rest or uniform motion in a straight line unless it is compelled to change that state by forces impressed on it."

Before firing:

Object in state of rest, airspeed zero.

Engine fired:

Thrust increases from zero.

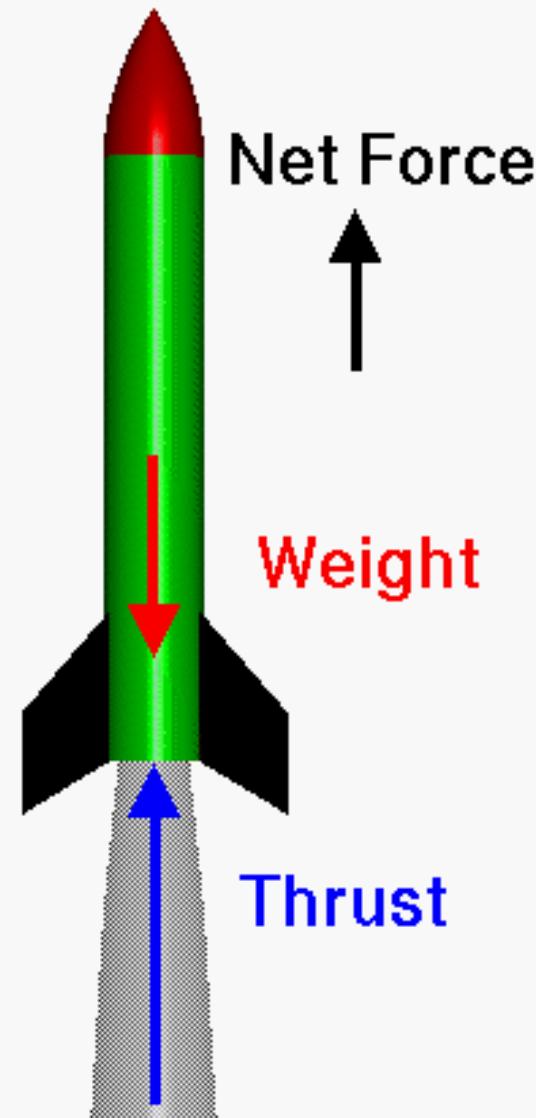
Weight decreases slightly as fuel burns.

When Thrust is greater than Weight:

Net force (Thrust - Weight) is positive upward.

Rocket accelerates upward

Velocity increases



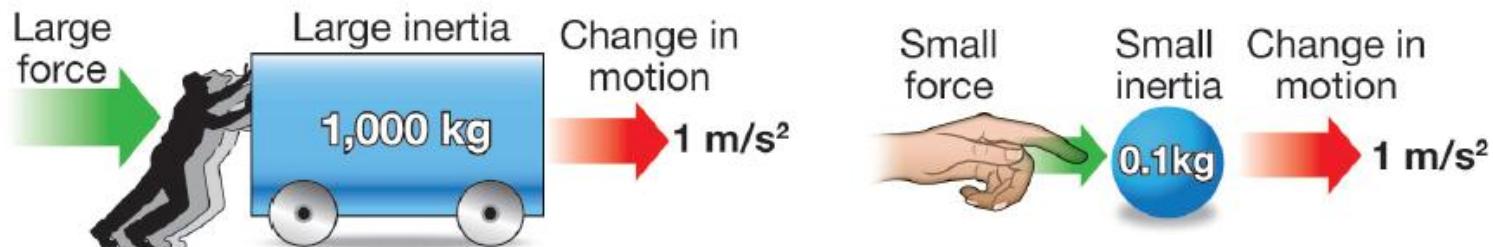
Newton's First Law is also called the *Law of Inertia*

Inertia: the tendency of an object to resist changes in its state of motion

The First Law states that *all objects have inertia*. The more mass an object has, the more inertia it has (and the harder it is to change its motion).

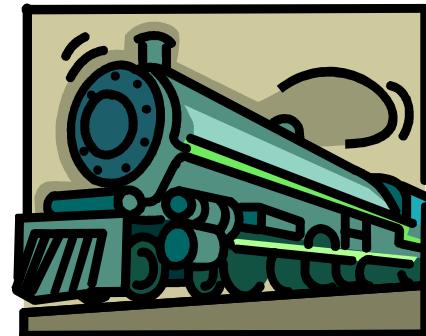
Inertia

- Inertia is a term used to measure the ability of an object to resist a change in its state of motion.
- An object with a lot of inertia takes a lot of force to start or stop; an object with a small amount of inertia requires a small amount of force to start or stop.
- The word “inertia” comes from the Latin word *inertus*, which can be translated to mean “lazy.”



Examples from Real Life

A powerful locomotive begins to pull a long line of boxcars that were sitting at rest. Since the boxcars are so massive, they have a great deal of inertia and it takes a large force to change their motion. Once they are moving, it takes a large force to stop them.



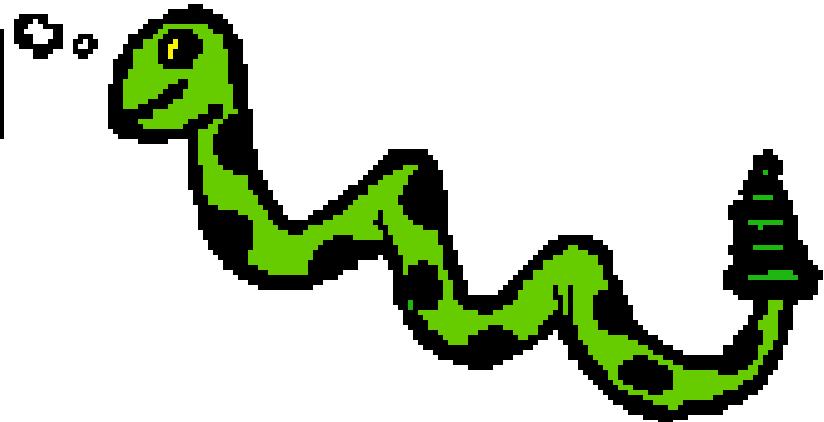
If objects in motion tend to stay in motion, why don't moving objects keep moving forever?

Things don't keep moving forever because there's almost always an unbalanced force acting upon it.

Example : A book sliding across a table slows down and stops because of the force of *friction*.



**Even today people
still believe that a
force is required to keep
an object moving.**



Forces Don't Keep Objects Moving

Newton's first law of motion declares that a force is not needed to keep an object in Motion.

For example : Slide a book across a table and watch it slide to a rest position. The book in motion on the table top does not come to a rest position because of the *absence* of a force; rather it is the *presence* of a force - that force being the force of friction - that brings the book to a rest position.

In the absence of a force of friction, the book would continue in motion with the same speed and direction - forever! (Or at least to the end of the table top.)

If you throw a ball upwards it will eventually slow down and fall because of the force of *gravity*.



How do these systems in a car overcome the law of inertia?

- The engine
 - supplies force that allows you to change motion by pressing the pedal.
- The brake system
 - is designed to help you change your motion by slowing down.
- The steering wheel and steering system
 - is designed to help you change your motion by changing your direction.

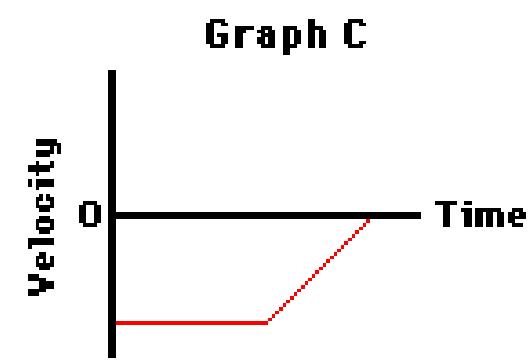
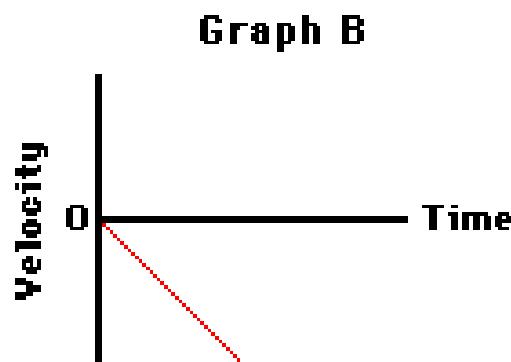
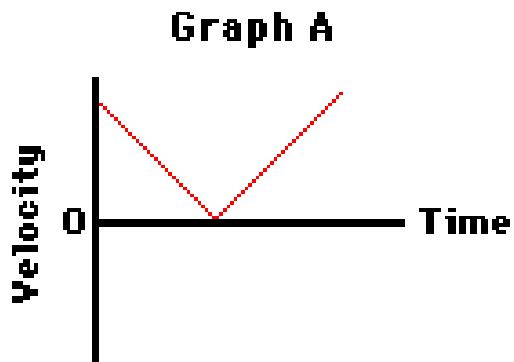
There are many more applications of Newton's first law of motion. Several applications are listed below. *Perhaps you could think about the law of inertia and provide explanations for each application.*

- Blood rushes from your head to your feet while quickly stopping when riding on a descending elevator.
- The head of a hammer can be tightened onto the wooden handle by banging the bottom of the handle against a hard surface.
- To dislodge ketchup from the bottom of a ketchup bottle, it is often turned upside down and thrusted downward at high speeds and then abruptly halted.
- While riding a skateboard (or wagon or bicycle), you fly forward off the board when hitting a curb or rock or other object that abruptly halts the motion of the skateboard.

Check your understanding !

Question 1

- Luke drops an approximately 5.0 kg fat cat (weight = 50.0 N) off the roof of his house into the swimming pool below. Upon encountering the pool, the cat encounters a 50.0 N upward resistance force (assumed to be constant).
a) Which one of the velocity-time graphs best describes the motion of the cat? Support your answer with sound reasoning.



Answer

- **Graph B is correct.** The cat first accelerates with a negative (downward) acceleration until it hits the water. Upon hitting the water, the cat experiences a balance of forces (50 N downwards due to gravity and 50 N upwards due to the water).
- Thus, the cat will finish its motion moving with a constant velocity. Graph B depicts both the initial negative acceleration and the final constant velocity.

Newton's Second Law



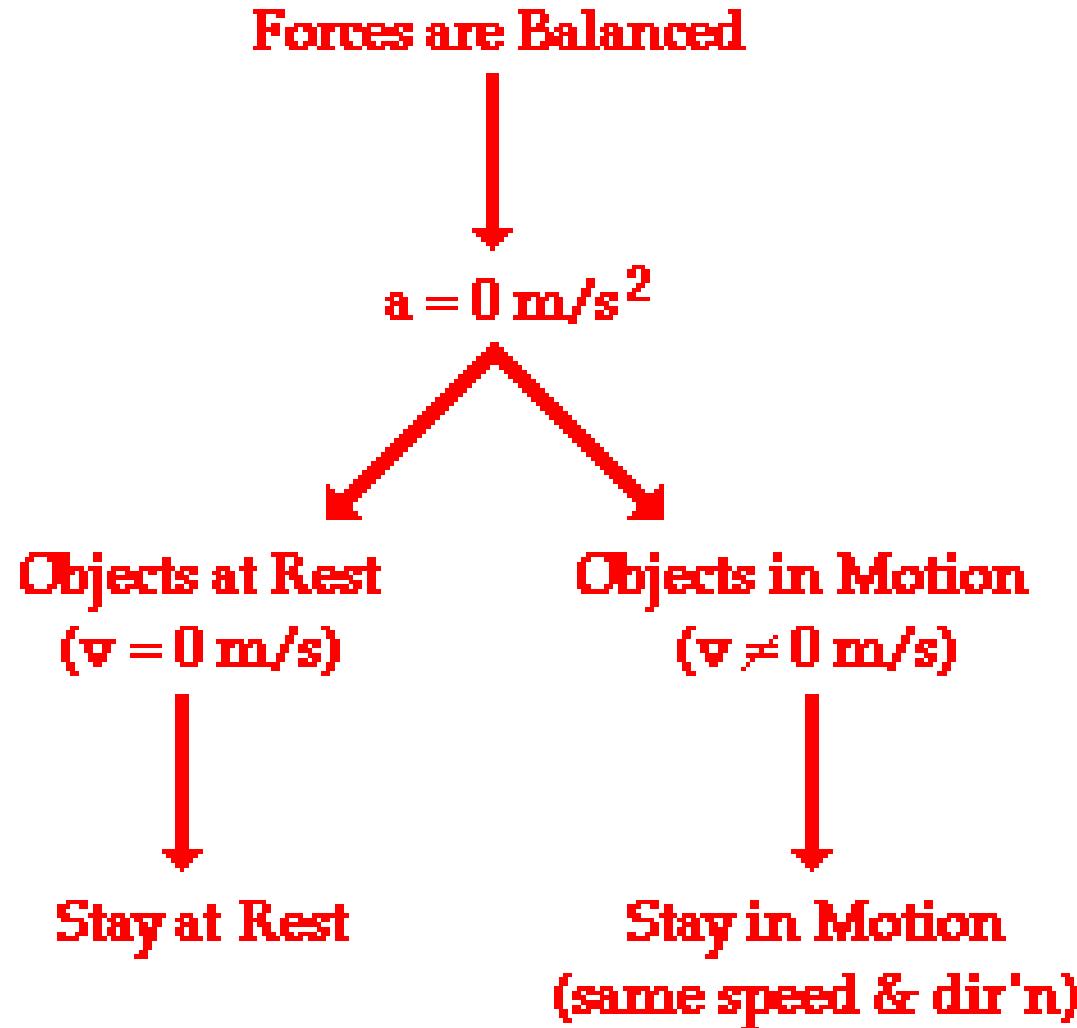
Newton's second law of motion.....

*Force equals
mass times acceleration*

$$F = ma$$

Acceleration: a measurement of how quickly an object is changing speed.

From 1st law...
when forces are balanced.....

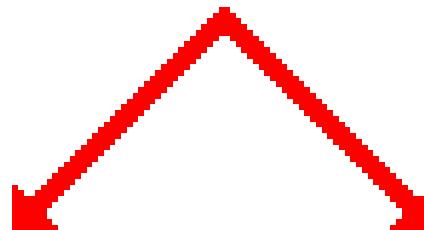


When forces are unbalanced...

Forces are Unbalanced



There is an acceleration



**The acceleration
depends directly
upon the
"net force"**

**The acceleration
depends inversely
upon the
object's mass.**

What does $F = ma$ mean?

Force is *directly proportional* to mass and acceleration.

Imagine a ball of a certain mass moving at a certain acceleration.
This ball has a certain force.

- Now imagine we make the ball twice as big (double the mass) but keep the acceleration constant. $F = ma$ says that this new ball has *twice the force* of the old ball.
- Now imagine the original ball moving at twice the original acceleration. $F = ma$ says that the ball will again have *twice the force* of the ball at the original acceleration.

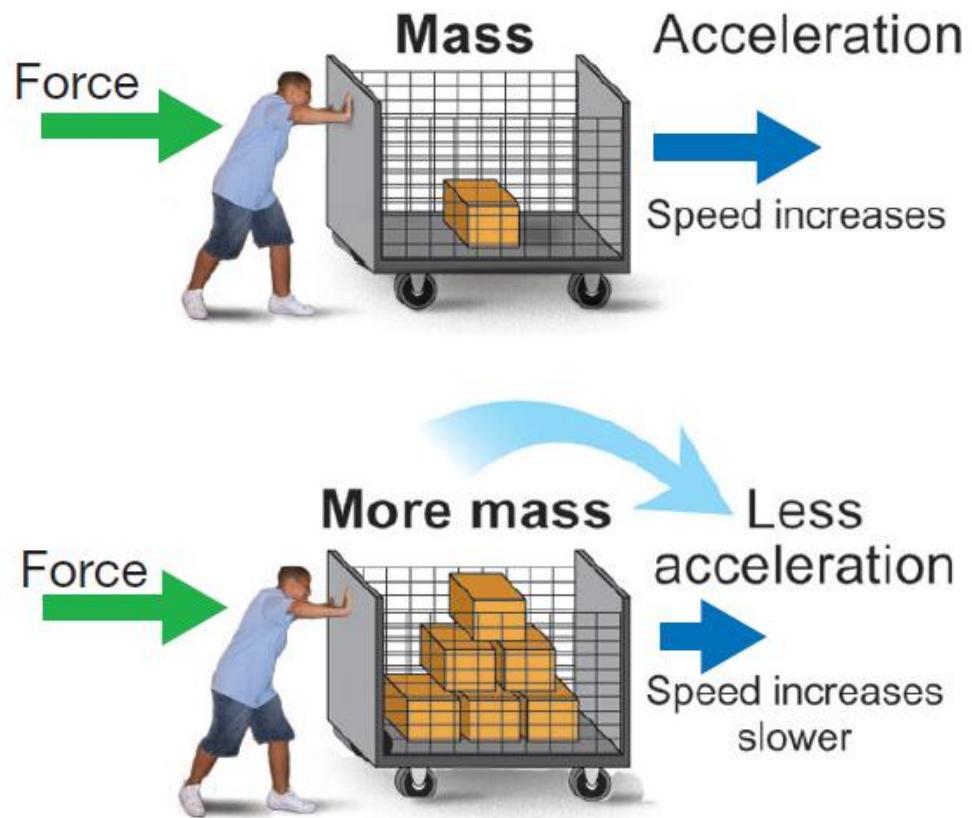
Newton's Second Law

- If you apply more force to an object, it accelerates at a higher rate.



Newton's Second Law

- If the same force is applied to an object with greater mass, the object accelerates at a slower rate because mass adds inertia.



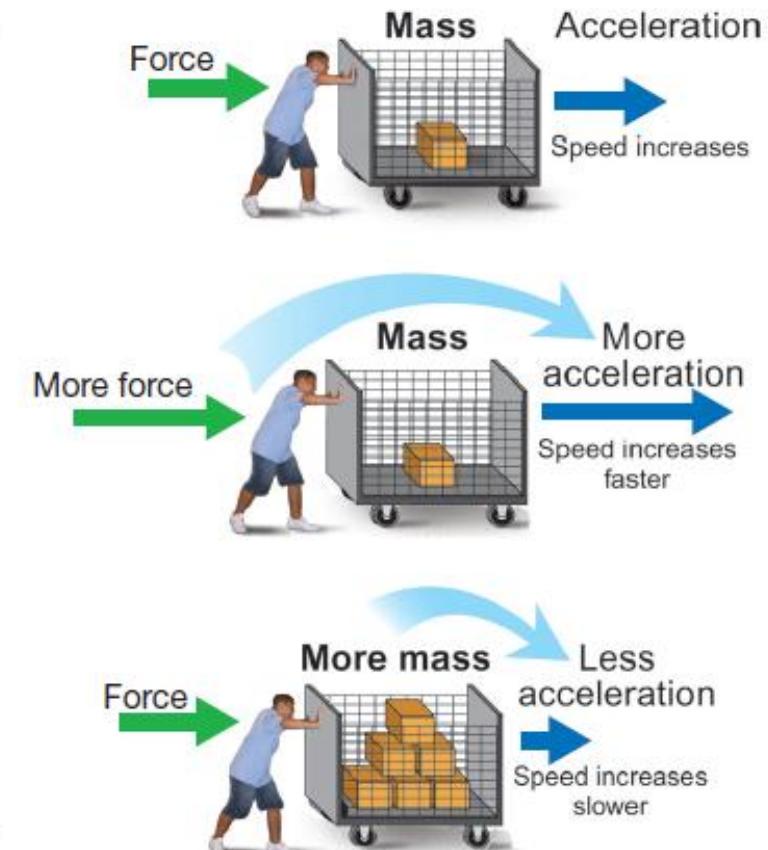
Newton's Second Law

$$a = \frac{F}{m}$$

Acceleration (m/s^2)

Force (N)

Mass (kg)



Mass will resist changes in motion

- When you are standing on a bus, and the bus starts very quickly, your body seems to be pushed backward, and if the bus stops suddenly, then your body seems to be pushed forwards. Notice that when the bus turns left, you will seem to be pushed to the right, and when the bus turns right, you will seem to be pushed to the left.
- Also consider a full shopping cart. If you try to push it from a stationary position, it will take some effort to get it moving. The same is true if you try to stop it when it is moving at a high speed, or try to turn it left or right.

Mass will resist changes in motion (continued)

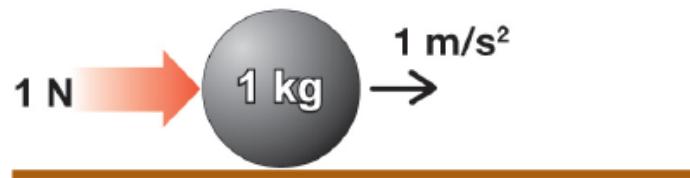
- In both cases, an object with **mass** is opposing a change in motion. In the first case, it is your body that tries to stay moving as it was before the change. Your body also tries to stay in a straight line when the bus turns, although it appears to be moving to the side.
- What is really happening is that your body is still moving straight and the bus turns in the opposite direction. The shopping cart exhibits the same behavior. When it is stationary, it tries to stay stationary, and when you try to stop it moving, it will try to continue. Your body and the cart both have mass.

Mass will resist changes in motion (continued)

- From this, we can define a property of mass:
Mass will resist changes in motion.
- This says that any object with mass will resist any change in motion.
- Objects with greater mass will resist change in motion more than objects with less mass.
- In the SI system, the unit of mass is the kilogram (kg).

Unit of Force

- A force of one Newton is exactly the amount of force needed to cause a mass of one kilogram to accelerate at one m/s^2 .
- We call the unit of force the Newton (N).



Units

$$\text{Acceleration (m/s}^2\text{)} \longrightarrow \mathbf{a = \frac{F}{m}}$$

Force (newtons, N)

Mass (kg)

More about $F = ma$

If you *double* the mass, you *double* the force. If you *double* the acceleration, you *double* the force.

What if you double the mass *and* the acceleration?

$$(2m)(2a) = 4F$$

Doubling the mass *and* the acceleration *quadruples* the force.

What does $F = ma$ say?

$$F = ma$$

basically means that the force of an object comes from its mass and its acceleration.

Weight as the effect of a gravitational field on a mass

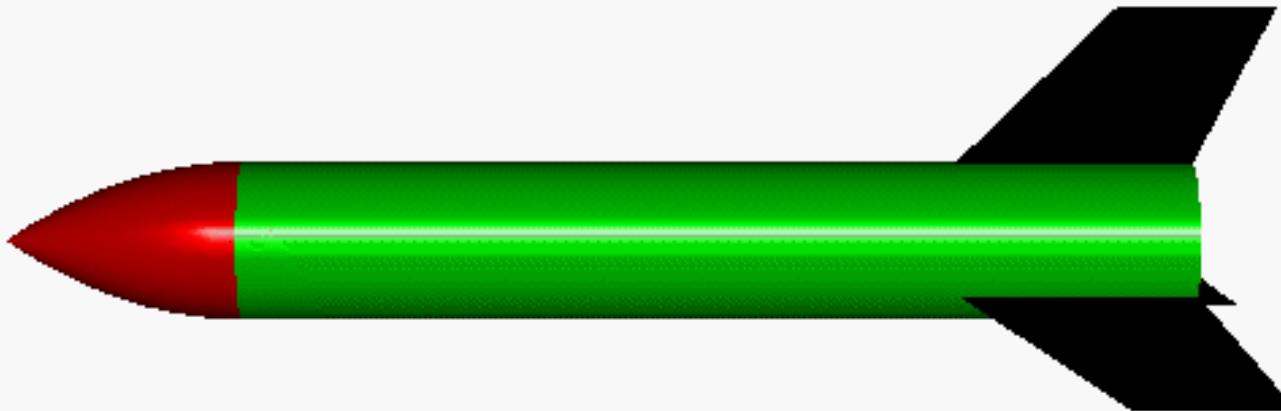
- In everyday usage the term "weight" is commonly used to mean mass, which scientifically is an entirely different concept.
- On the surface of the Earth, the acceleration due to gravity (the "strength of gravity") is approximately constant; **this means that the ratio of the weight force of a motionless object on the surface of the Earth to its mass is almost independent of its location**, so that an object's weight force can stand as a proxy for its mass, and vice versa.

Definition of Weight

- The word *weight* denotes a quantity of the same nature as a *force*.
- The weight of a body is the product of its mass and the acceleration due to gravity.

Newton's Second Law

Definitions



Differential Form: Force = change of momentum
with change of time

$$F = \frac{d(mv)}{dt}$$

or:

Force = change in mass X velocity with time

$$F = \frac{(m_1 V_1 - m_0 V_0)}{(t_1 - t_0)}$$

With mass constant: Force = mass X acceleration

$$F = m a$$

Force, acceleration, momentum and velocity are all vector quantities.

Each has both a magnitude and a direction.

Using the second law of motion

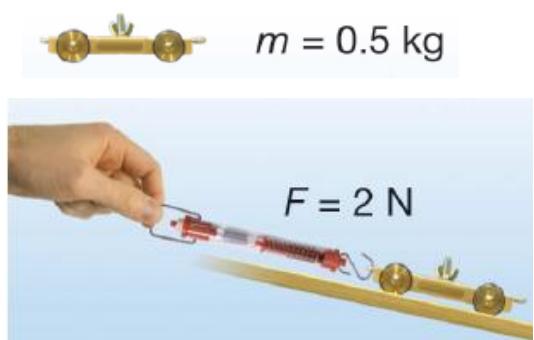
- The force F that appears in the second law is the **net force**.
- There are often many forces acting on the same object.
- Acceleration results from the combined action of all the forces that act on an object.
- When used this way, the word *net* means “total.”

Using the second law of motion

- To solve problems with multiple forces, you have to add up all the forces to get a single net force before you can calculate any resulting acceleration.



Calculating acceleration



A cart rolls down a ramp. Using a spring scale, you measure a net force of 2 newtons pulling the car down. The cart has a mass of 500 grams (0.5 kg). Calculate the acceleration of the cart.

1. You are asked for the acceleration (a).
2. You are given mass (m) and force (F).
3. Newton's second law applies: $a = F \div m$
4. Plug in numbers. (Remember: $1 \text{ N} = 1 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m/s}^2$)

Three forms of the second law

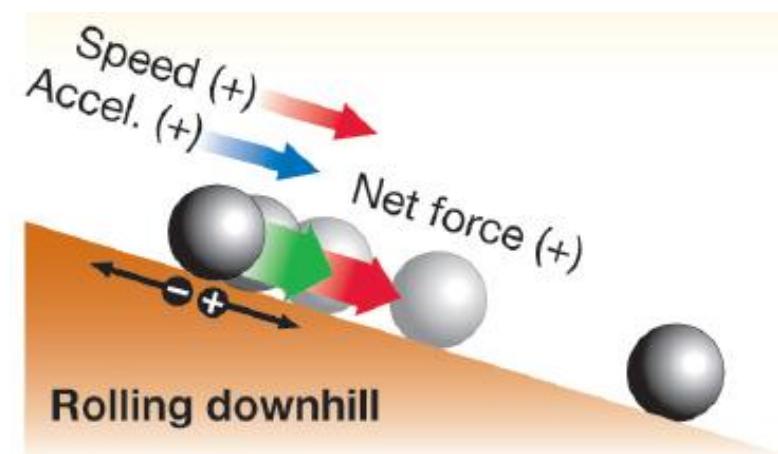
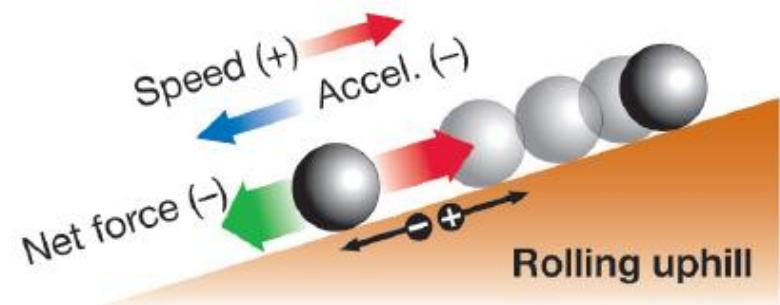
Use...	if you want to find...	and you know...
$a = \frac{F}{M}$	The acceleration (a)	The net force (F) and the mass (m)
$F = ma$	The net force (F)	The acceleration (a) and the mass (m)
$M = \frac{F}{a}$	The mass (m)	The acceleration (a) and the net force (F)

Finding the acceleration of moving objects

- The word **dynamics** refers to problems involving motion.
- In dynamics problems, the second law is often used to calculate the acceleration of an object when you know the force and mass.

Direction of acceleration

- Speed *increases* when the net force is in the same direction as the motion.
- Speed *decreases* when the net force is in the opposite direction as the motion.

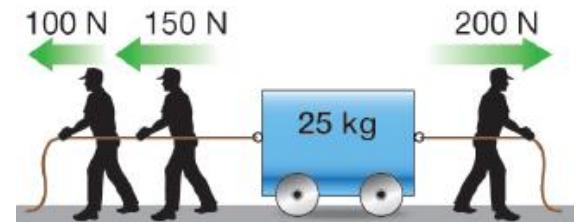


Positive and negative acceleration

- We often use positive and negative numbers to show the direction of force and acceleration.
- A common choice is to make velocity, force, and acceleration positive when they point to the right.

Acceleration from multiple forces

Three people are pulling on a wagon applying forces of 100 N, 150 N, and 200 N. Determine the acceleration and the direction the wagon moves. The wagon has a mass of 25 kilograms.



1. You are asked for the acceleration (a) and direction
2. You are given the forces (F) and mass (m).
3. The second law relates acceleration to force and mass: $a = F \div m$
4. Assign positive and negative directions. Calculate the net force then use the second law to determine the acceleration from the net force and the mass.

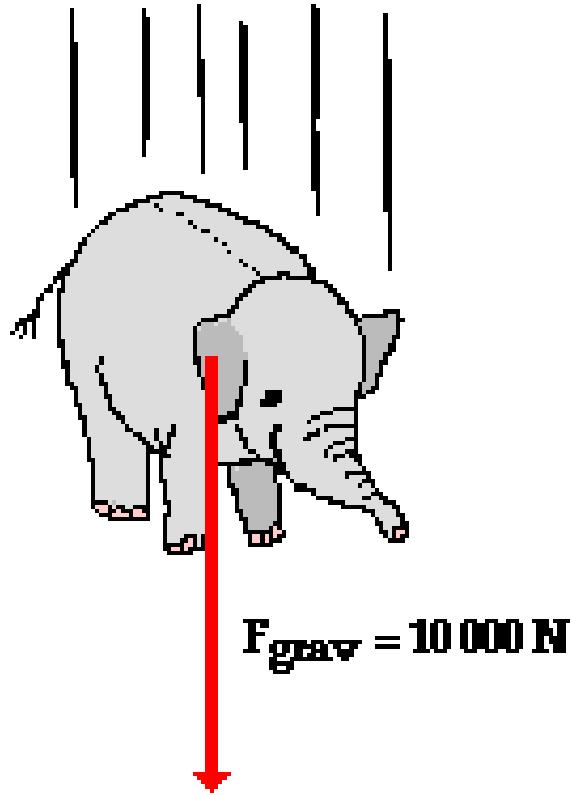
Finding force from acceleration

- Wherever there is acceleration there must also be force.
- Any change in the motion of an object results from acceleration.
- Therefore, any change in motion must be caused by force.

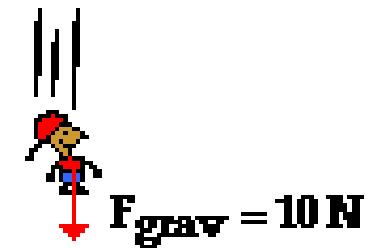
Coming back to...Free Fall Motion

- As learned in an earlier chapter, free fall is a special type of motion in which the only force acting upon an object is gravity. Objects that are said to be undergoing *free fall*, are not encountering a significant force of air resistance; they are falling under the sole influence of gravity.
- Under such conditions, all objects will fall with the same rate of acceleration, regardless of their mass. But why?
- Consider the free-falling motion of a 1000-kg baby elephant and a 1-kg overgrown mouse.

$$m = 1000 \text{ kg}$$



$$m = 1 \text{ kg}$$



$$a = \frac{F_{\text{net}}}{m} = \frac{10000 \text{ N}}{1000 \text{ kg}}$$

$$a = 10 \text{ m/s/s}$$

$$a = \frac{F_{\text{net}}}{m} = \frac{10 \text{ N}}{1 \text{ kg}}$$

$$a = 10 \text{ m/s/s}$$

Explanation on free fall....based on previous diagram

- If Newton's second law were applied to their falling motion, and if a free-body diagram were constructed, then it would be seen that the 1000-kg baby elephant would experience a greater force of gravity. This greater force of gravity would have a direct affect upon the elephant's acceleration; thus, based on force alone, it *might be thought* that the 1000-kg baby elephant would accelerate faster. But acceleration depends upon two factors: force and mass. The 1000-kg baby elephant obviously has more mass (or inertia). This increased mass has an inverse affect upon the elephant's acceleration. And thus, the direct affect of greater force on the 1000-kg elephant is *offset* by the inverse affect of the greater mass of the 1000-kg elephant; and so each object accelerates at the same rate - approximately 10 m/s/s. The ratio of force to mass (F_{net}/m) is the same for the elephant and the mouse under situations involving free fall.
- This ratio (F_{net}/m) is sometimes called the **gravitational field strength** and is expressed as 9.8 N/kg (for a location upon Earth's surface). The gravitational field strength is a property of the location within Earth's gravitational field and not a property of the baby elephant nor the mouse. All objects placed upon Earth's surface will experience this amount of force (9.8 N) upon every 1 kilogram of mass within the object. Being a property of the location within Earth's gravitational field and not a property of the free falling object itself, all objects on Earth's surface will experience this amount of force per mass. As such, all objects free fall at the same rate regardless of their mass. Because the 9.8 N/kg gravitational field at Earth's surface causes a 9.8 m/s² acceleration of any object placed there, we often call this ratio the acceleration of gravity

Check your understanding!

Question 1

- Determine the accelerations that result when a 12-N net force is applied to a 3-kg object and then to a 6-kg object.

Answer 1

- Determine the accelerations that result when a 12-N net force is applied to a 3-kg object and then to a 6-kg object.
- Answer : A 3-kg object experiences an acceleration of **4 m/s²**. A 6-kg object experiences an acceleration of **2 m/s²**

Question 2

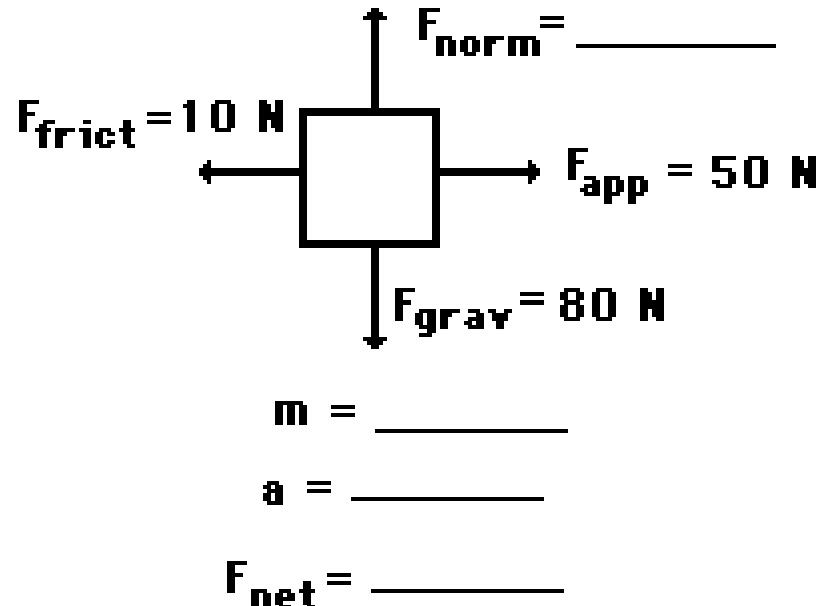
- Suppose that a sled is accelerating at a rate of 2 m/s^2 . If the net force is tripled and the mass is doubled, then what is the new acceleration of the sled?

Answer 2

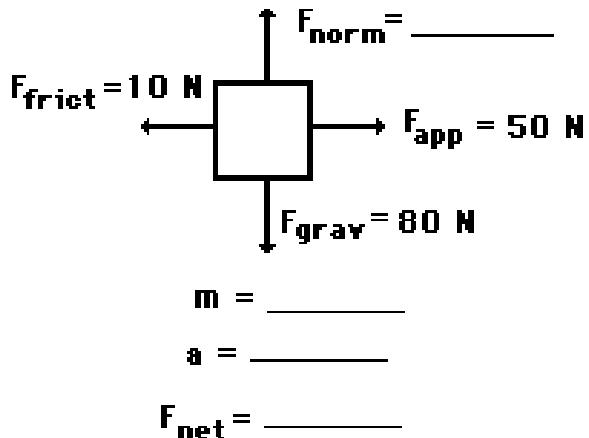
- Suppose that a sled is accelerating at a rate of 2 m/s^2 . If the net force is tripled and the mass is doubled, then what is the new acceleration of the sled?
- Answer: 3 m/s^2
- The original value of 2 m/s^2 must be multiplied by 3 (since a and F are directly proportional) and divided by 2 (since a and m are inversely proportional)

Question 3

- An applied force of 50 N is used to accelerate an object to the right across a frictional surface. The object encounters 10 N of friction. Use the diagram to determine the normal force, the net force, the mass, and the acceleration of the object. (Neglect air resistance.)

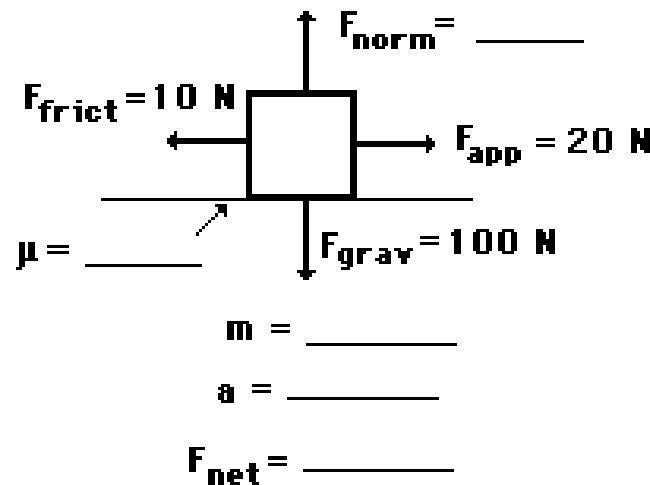


Answer 3



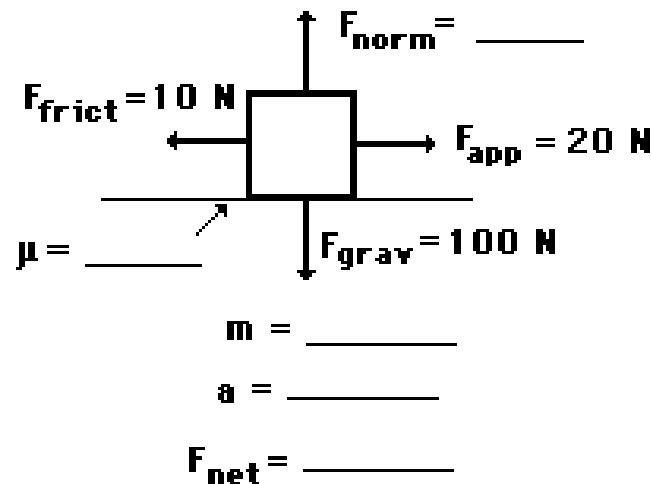
- Note: To simplify calculations, an approximated value of g is often used as 10 m/s^2
- $F_{\text{norm}} = 80 \text{ N}$; $m = 8.16 \text{ kg}$; $F_{\text{net}} = 40 \text{ N}$, right; $a = 4.9 \text{ m/s}^2$, right
- (If you are using $g = 10$, $F_{\text{norm}} = 80 \text{ N}$; $m = 8 \text{ kg}$; $F_{\text{net}} = 40 \text{ N}$, right; $a = 5 \text{ m/s}^2$, right)
- Since there is no vertical acceleration, normal force = gravity force. The mass can be found using the equation $F_{\text{grav}} = m g$
- The F_{net} is the vector sum of all the forces: 80 N , up plus 80 N , down equals 0 N . And 50 N , right plus 10 N , left = 40 N , right.
- Finally, $a = F_{\text{net}} / m = (40 \text{ N}) / (8.16 \text{ kg}) = 4.9 \text{ m/s}^2$.

Question 4



- An applied force of 20 N is used to accelerate an object to the right across a frictional surface. The object encounters 10 N of friction. Use the diagram to determine the normal force, the net force, the coefficient of friction (μ) between the object and the surface, the mass, and the acceleration of the object. (Neglect air resistance.)
- The coefficient of friction (COF), often symbolized by the Greek letter μ , is a dimensionless scalar value which describes the ratio of the force of friction between two bodies and the force pressing them together. The coefficient of friction depends on the materials used; for example, ice on steel has a low coefficient of friction, while rubber on pavement has a high coefficient of friction.*

Answer 4



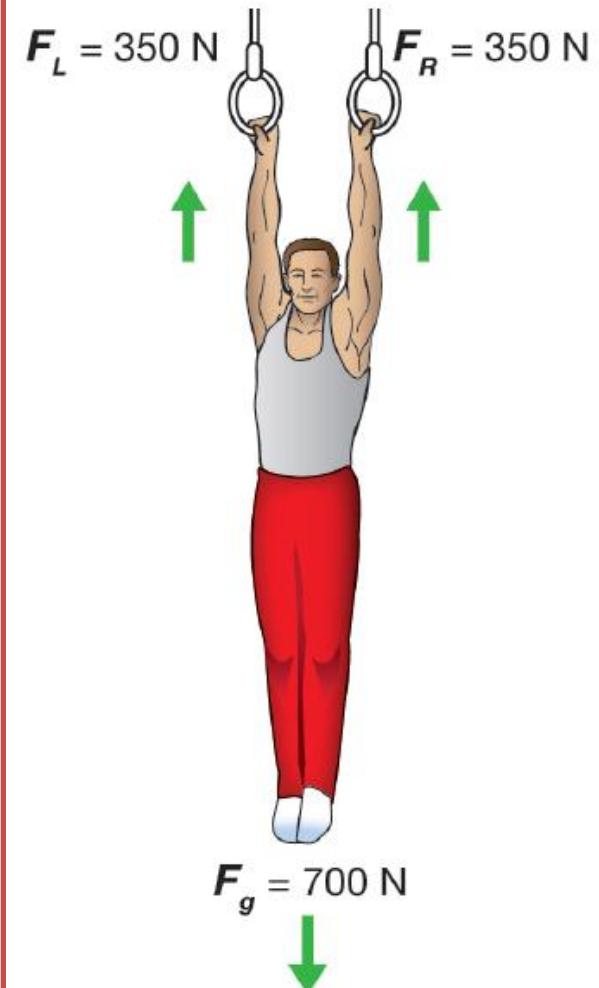
- $F_{\text{norm}} = 100 \text{ N}$; $m = 10.2 \text{ kg}$; $F_{\text{net}} = 10 \text{ N}$, right; "mu" = 0.1; $a = 0.980 \text{ m/s}^2$, right
- (If you are using $g=10$, $F_{\text{norm}} = 100 \text{ N}$; $m = 10 \text{ kg}$; $F_{\text{net}} = 10 \text{ N}$, right; "mu" = 0.1; $a = 1 \text{ m/s}^2$, right)
- Since there is no vertical acceleration, the normal force is equal to the gravity force. The mass can be found using the equation $F_{\text{grav}} = m g$.
- Using "mu" = $F_{\text{frict}} / F_{\text{norm}}$, "mu" = $(10 \text{ N}) / (100 \text{ N}) = 0.1$.
- The F_{net} is the vector sum of all the forces: 100 N, up plus 100 N, down equals 0 N. And 20 N, right plus 10 N, left = 10 N, right.
- Finally, $a = F_{\text{net}} / m = (10 \text{ N}) / (10.2 \text{ kg}) = 0.980 \text{ m/s}^2$.

Equilibrium

- The condition of zero acceleration is called **equilibrium**.
- In equilibrium, all forces cancel out leaving zero net force.
- Objects that are standing still are in equilibrium because their acceleration is zero.

Equilibrium

- Objects that are moving at constant speed and direction are also in equilibrium.
- A **static** problem usually means there is no motion.



Calculating force



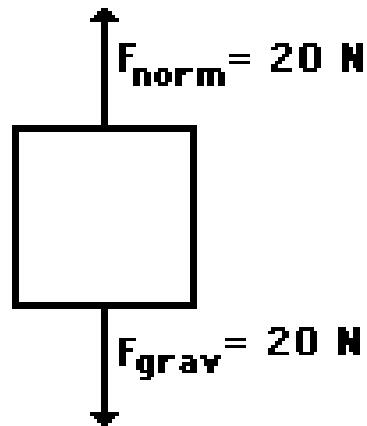
A woman is holding two dogs on a leash. If each dog pulls with a force of 80 Newtons, how much force does the woman have to exert to keep the dogs from moving?

1. You are asked for force (F).
2. You are given two 80 N forces and the fact that the dogs are not moving ($a = 0$).
3. Newton's second law says the net force must be zero if the acceleration is zero.
4. The woman must exert a force equal and opposite to the sum of the forces from the two dogs.

Check your understanding on
balanced forces!!

Who is wrong here? Anna or Noah?

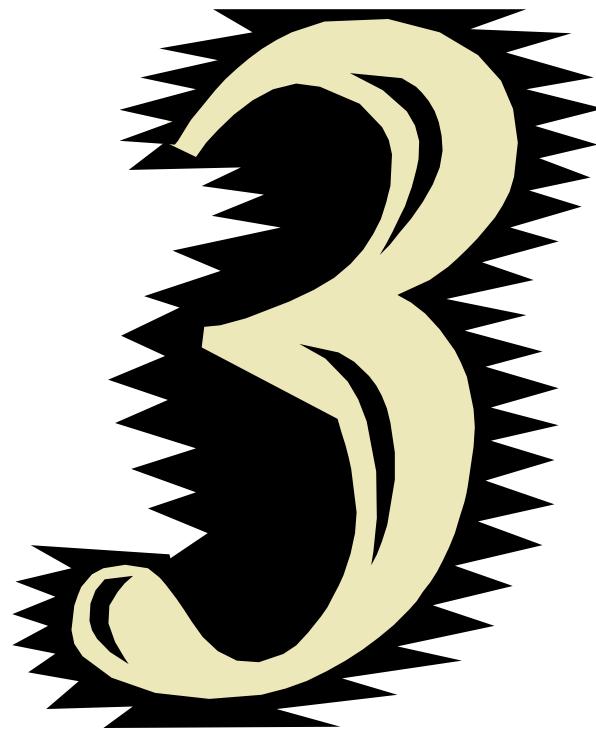
- Two students are discussing on an object that is being acted upon by two individual forces (both in a vertical direction). During the discussion, Anna suggests to Noah that the object under discussion could be moving. In fact, Anna suggests that if friction and air resistance could be ignored (because of their negligible size), the object could be moving in a horizontal direction. According to Anna, an object experiencing forces as described at the right could be experiencing a horizontal motion.
- Noah objects, arguing that the object could not have any horizontal motion if there are only vertical forces acting upon it. Noah claims that the object must be at rest, perhaps on a table or floor. After all, says Noah, an object experiencing a balance of forces will be at rest. Who do you agree with?



Answer

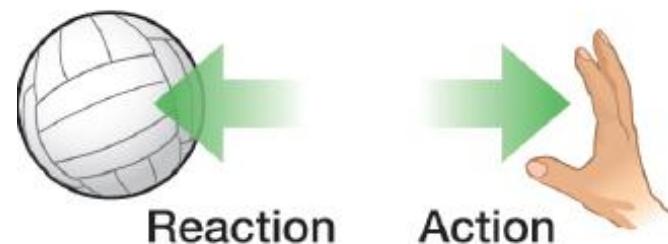
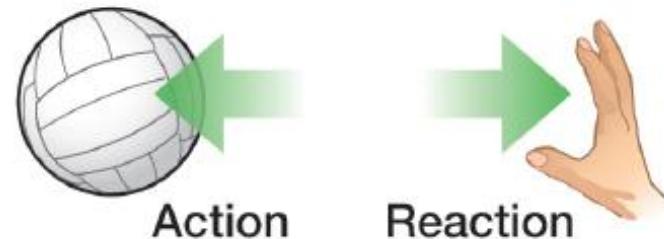
- **Anna** is correct.
- Noah may know the formulas but he does not know (or does not believe) Newton's laws. If the forces acting on an object are balanced and the object is in motion, then it will continue in motion with the same velocity.
- *Remember: forces do not cause motion. Forces cause accelerations.*

Newton's Third Law



Newton's third law of motion.....

- *For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.*



What does this mean?

For every force acting on an object, there is an equal force acting in the opposite direction.

Right now, gravity is pulling you *down* in your seat, but Newton's Third Law says your seat is pushing *up* against you with *equal force*. This is why you are not moving. There is a *balanced force* acting on you— gravity pulling down, your seat pushing up.



What happens if....

What happens if you are standing on a skateboard or a slippery floor and push against a wall?

You slide in the opposite direction (away from the wall), because you pushed on the wall but the wall pushed back on you with equal and opposite force.



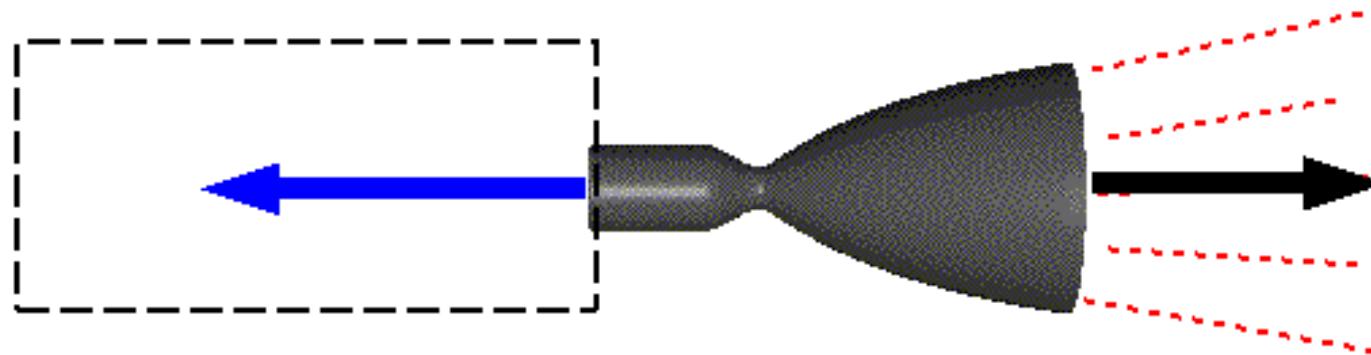
Newton's 3rd Law Demo

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQh8ji_4fZs

Newton's Third Law

Rocket Engine Thrust

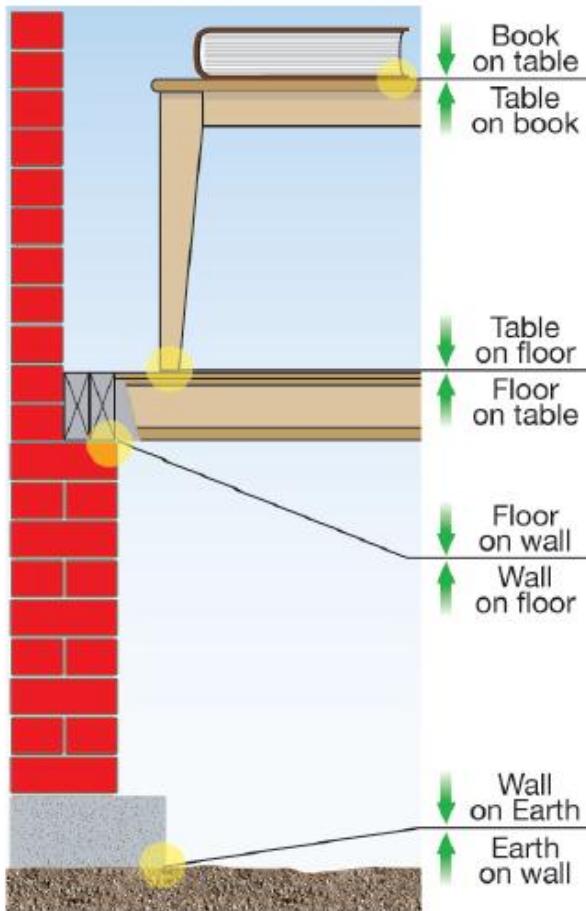
Exhaust Flow Pushed Backward



Engine Pushed Forward

For every action, there is an equal and opposite re-action.

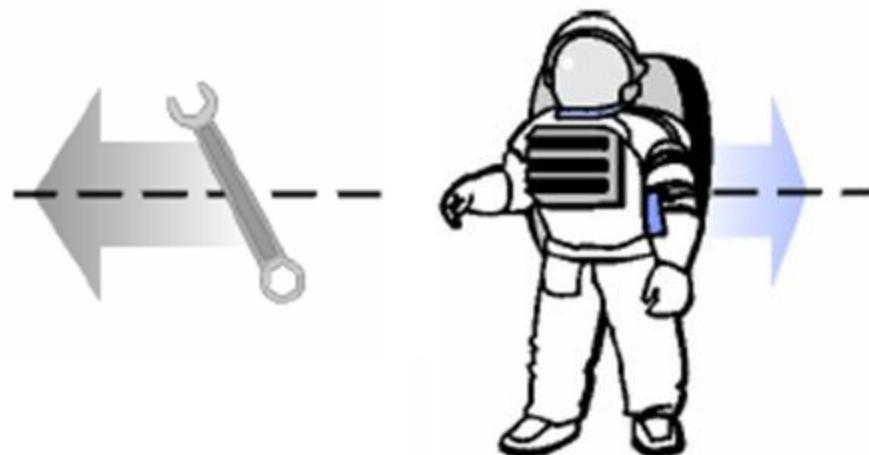
The Third Law: Action and Reaction



- “For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.”
- This statement is known as Newton’s third law of motion.
- Newton’s third law discusses pairs of objects and the interactions between them.

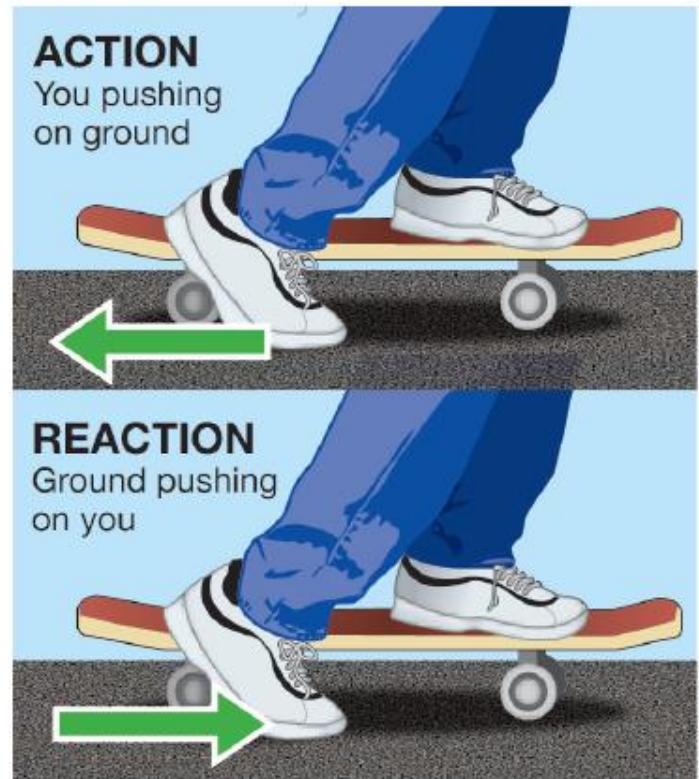
Forces occur in pairs

- The astronauts working on the space station have a serious problem when they need to move around in space: There is nothing to push on.
- One solution is to throw something opposite the direction you want to move.



Forces occur in pairs

- The two forces in a pair are called *action* and *reaction*.
- Anytime you have one, you also have the other.
- If you know the strength of one you also know the strength of the other since both forces are always equal.



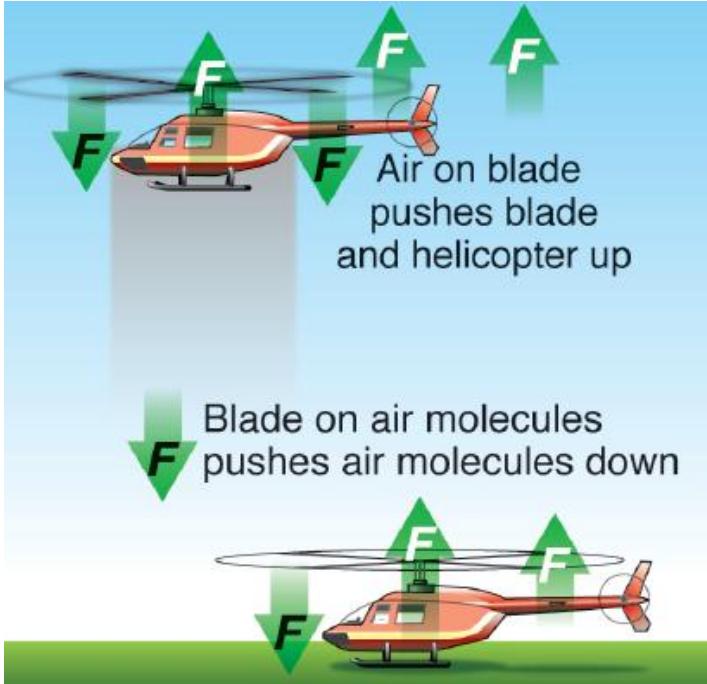
Third Law...

- Action and reaction forces act on different objects, *not* on the same object.
- The forces cannot cancel because they act on different objects.

Action & Reaction

- The act of moving or the ability to move from one place to another is called *locomotion*.
- Any animal or machine that moves depends on Newton's third law to get around.
- When we walk, we push off the ground and move forward because of the ground pushing back on us in the opposite direction.

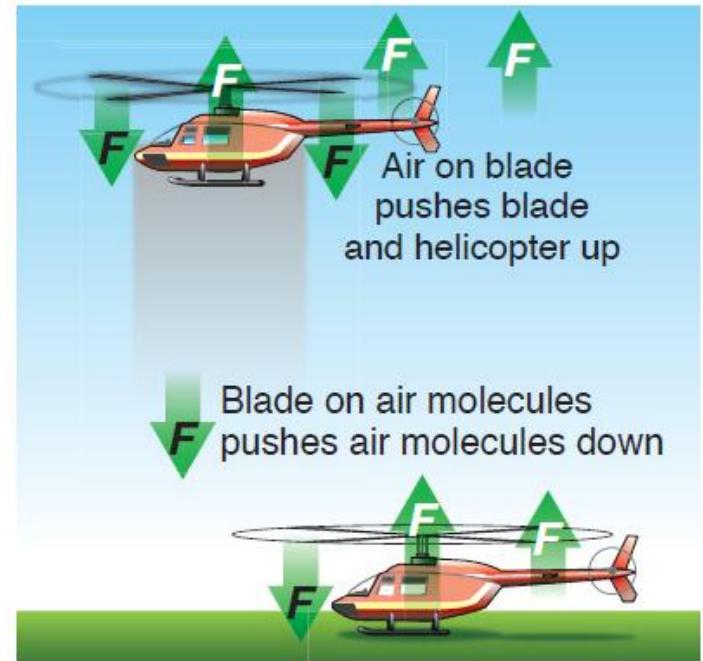
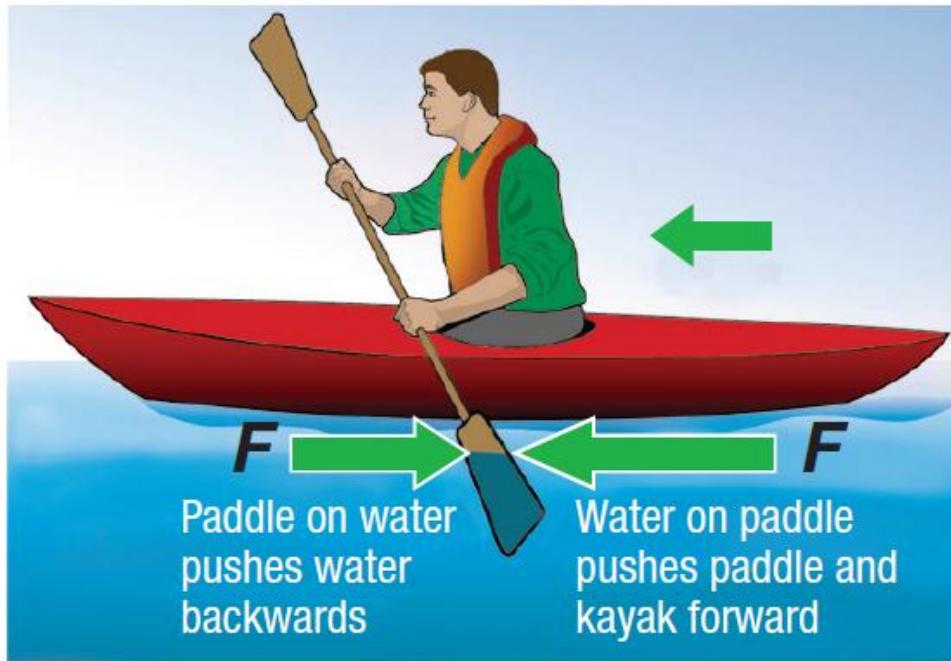
Action & Reaction



- Jets, planes, and helicopters push air.
- In a helicopter, the blades of the propeller are angled such that when they spin, they push the air molecules down.

The rotor blades of an helicopter are just like the wings of an airplane or a bird. As they move through the air, they pull the air above them downwards. That's the "**action**" part of the action-reaction. When the blades push the air downward, the helicopter is lifted. The air has considerable mass and inertia, and resists being pulled down—it tries to push the wings up instead. That's the "**reaction**" part, and that's also aerodynamic lift. The blades pull air downwards, and the reaction to this pushes the helicopter upwards.

Action Reaction Forces



Momentum as the product of mass and velocity

Momentum or Linear momentum or translational momentum is the product of the mass and velocity of an object.

$$\text{Momentum} = \text{mass} \times \text{velocity}$$

For example, a heavy truck moving fast has a large momentum—it takes a large and prolonged force to get the truck up to this speed, and it takes a large and prolonged force to bring it to a stop afterwards. If the truck were lighter, or moving slower, then it would have less momentum.

- Like velocity, linear momentum is a vector quantity, possessing a direction as well as a magnitude:
- **Units:** kgms^{-1} or Ns

Force as a rate of change of Momentum

- Consider a body of mass m , initially moving with a velocity of magnitude u . A force F acts on the body and causes it to accelerate to a final velocity of magnitude v .
- We can write Newton's second law in the form

$$F = m \left(\frac{v - u}{t} \right)$$

- and a simple rearrangement shows the relation between force and momentum

$$F = \frac{mv - mu}{t}$$

Remember, momentum = mass x velocity.

- Now, mv is the **final momentum** of the body and mu is the **initial momentum** of the body. Therefore, we have

Force = rate of change of momentum

$$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$

Principle of Conservation of Momentum

- **The Principle of the Conservation of Momentum states that:** if objects collide, the total momentum before the collision is the same as the total momentum after the collision (provided that no external forces - for example, friction - act on the system).
- Of course, energy is also conserved in any collision, but it isn't always conserved in the form of kinetic energy.

Case 1

- To do any calculations for momentum, there are some simple rules to follow to make it easy:
- Always decide which direction is positive and which is negative, then stick to it.
- Always remember that the total momentum before the collision will be the same as the total momentum after the collision.
- So,

If these two objects collide



Then the result could be



- **The conservation of momentum states:**
- Momentum_{before} = Momentum_{after}
- So, $(P_1 + P_2)$ before = $(P_1 + P_2)$ after
- Or, $m_1u_1 + m_2u_2 = m_1v_1 + m_2v_2$
- But notice that in this example, $v_1 = 0$. So that term cancels and makes finding an answer much easier.

Case 2

- If the objects change direction in the collision or are going in different directions before the collision, make sure that you have got the signs for the velocities and therefore the momentums correct.
- Example 1**

If these two objects collide



Because the objects are moving in opposite directions, we have to treat one of the velocities as negative.
And so:

$$\text{Initial } P = m_1 u_1 + (-m_2 u_2)$$

Example 2

Initially:



Becomes, after a collision:

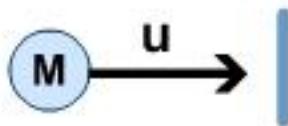


Note that the direction and sign of velocity (and therefore momentum) of M₁ changes after the collision.

Case 3

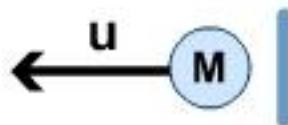
- When objects **bounce back** after a collision, be careful about the change in momentum.

Example Initially:



Then there is an elastic collision (ie v and u have the same magnitude but opposite directions)

Finally:



So change in momentum = final P - initial P

$$= -mu - (+ mu)$$

$$= -2mu$$

Explosions

- Explosions are a special type of collision. Momentum is conserved in an explosion. This is made easier by the fact that usually, the momentum **before** an explosion is **zero**. The Principle of the Conservation of Momentum states that the momentum **after** the explosion must therefore be **zero** as well.
- **What's the momentum of the universe?**

What is the momentum of the Universe?

- If the universe began with a Big Bang (for instance - an explosion), the momentum of the universe before the explosion was zero.

So what is its momentum ?

Force can be defined as the rate of change of momentum as:

$$F = m a$$

But, $a = \frac{v - u}{t}$

$$\text{So, } F = m \left(\frac{v - u}{t} \right) = \frac{m v - m u}{t} = \frac{\text{change in momentum}}{\text{time}}$$

Principle of Conservation of Momentum

Elastic and Inelastic collisions

- **Perfectly Elastic collisions**
- All momentum is conserved
- Kinetic energy **is** conserved as well.
- Relative speed of approach = relative speed of separation.
- (So if one is catching the other at 10m/s before the collision, it will be moving apart from it at 10m/s after the collision)
- **Perfectly Elastic** collisions are surprisingly common. All collisions between atoms are Perfectly Elastic according to the Kinetic Theory of Gases.

Principle of Conservation of Momentum

Elastic and Inelastic collisions

- **Perfectly Inelastic collisions**
- All momentum is conserved (as always).
- Kinetic energy is **not** conserved.
- The relative speed of separation is zero.
- (In other words, that means the objects stick together after the collision, they will move together, so just consider them as one object whose mass is the same as that of the two original masses combined).

Why is kinetic energy not conserved while momentum is conserved in a perfectly inelastic collision?

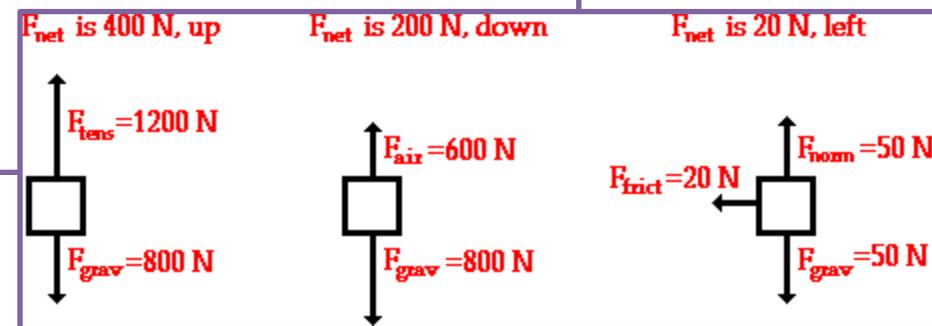
- It goes into heat, sound, work done to deform the colliding bodies etc. Other forms of energy, in other words.
- Momentum is not a type of energy. Momentum and energy are totally different physical quantities with different physical dimensions. (Energy is the capacity to do work)

Conservation of momentum in a system occurs provided that there are no *external* forces acting on a system. This is a consequence of Newton's 2nd law and Newton's 3rd law.

Newton's 2nd law says that the net force acting on a body is equal to the rate of change of its momentum.

This is the full, general statement of the 2nd law. $F = \Delta p/\Delta t$.

If the mass of the body is constant, this reduces to $F = m(\Delta v/\Delta t) = ma$. Therefore, if a net force acts on an object, its momentum will change with time. If there is no net force, then its momentum will not change.



How and when momentum is conserved ?

- Now, consider a system of interacting particles. The particles are moving around randomly. Every once in a while, two particles (1 and 2) may collide. While this is happening, particle 1 exerts a force on particle 2. However, Newton's 3rd law says that particle 2 must therefore, at the same time, exert a force on particle 1 of equal strength and opposite direction. These forces are also exerted over the same time interval (while the particles are in contact). Therefore, the change in momentum of particle 1 will be equal in magnitude and opposite in direction to the change in momentum of particle 2.
- These two momentum changes therefore cancel each other out. Each particle may individually change its momentum, but there will be no change to the *total* momentum of the system. In other words, since Newton's 3rd says that these *internal* forces always occur in matched "action-reaction" pairs, they cannot ever cause a change to the overall momentum of the system. Only an *external* force (a force from something that is not part of the system of particles) can cause a change in the total momentum of the system. In the absence of a net external force, $F_{\text{tot}} = 0$ and hence $\Delta p_{\text{tot}} = 0$. In the absence of external forces, momentum is *conserved*.

Any Questions?

