

Topic 2: Dynamics

Advanced Placement Physics

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Olympiads School

Dynamics

While we use **kinematics** to describe the motion of any object mathematically, we use **dynamics** to describe *what* causes motion (or more precisely, *what causes motion to change?*)

- Newton's three laws of motion

Newton's Laws

First Law of Motion

An object at rest or in uniform motion will remain at rest or in uniform motion unless acted on by a net external force.

- Uniform motion: constant velocity
- An object “at rest” is also in uniform motion with $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$
- The mass of the object must be constant
- As long as an object moves in uniform motion, it must be that $\mathbf{F}_{\text{net}} = \mathbf{0}$
- Common examples:
 - e.g.: a spacecraft in “deep space” has no forces acting on it
 - e.g.: a hockey puck sliding on very smooth ice has gravity and normal force, but the net force is zero
 - e.g.: a car travelling on a highway at 100 km/h has many forces acting on it, but the net force is zero

Second Law of Motion

The sum of the forces acting on an object is proportional to its mass and its acceleration.

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{net}} = \Sigma \mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$$

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
Net force (sum of all forces)	\mathbf{F}_{net}	N
Mass	m	kg
Acceleration	\mathbf{a}	m/s ²

This equation is also a “special case” that assumes that mass is constant

Third Law of Motion

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

For every action force on an object (B) due to another object (A), there is a reaction force which is equal in magnitude but opposite in direction, on object (A), due to object (B):

$$\mathbf{F}_{A \text{ on } B} = -\mathbf{F}_{B \text{ on } A}$$

- The action and reaction forces act on different objects!
- Third law is the consequence of the first and second law. Action/reaction forces are *internal* forces.

Forces

A **force** is the interaction between the objects.

- When there is interaction, then forces are created
- A “push” or a “pull”

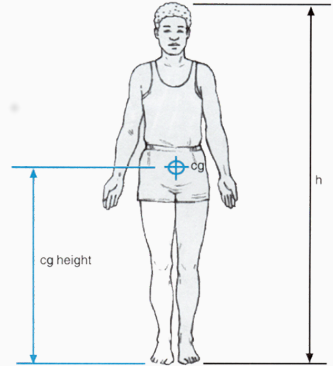
There are two broad categories of forces:

- **Contact forces** act between two objects that are in contact with one another
- **Non-contact forces** act between two objects without them touching each other. They are also called “action-at-a-distance” force

Center of Mass

Newton considered all forces acting at a single point of an object called the center of mass (“CM”)

- The center of mass is also called the center of gravity (“CG”), if the entire object is inside of a gravitational field
- If the density of an object is constant, then the CM/CG is also the geometric center (centroid) of the object
- In a later topic, we will study how to compute the centers of mass of different objects



Static & Dynamic Equilibrium

If the net force on an object is zero ($\Sigma \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{0}$) then the object is in a *state of equilibrium*

- Dynamic equilibrium: the object is moving relative to us
- Static equilibrium: the object is not moving relative to us

Common Forces

Common Forces

Common everyday forces that we encounter in Physics 12 include:

- Weight (gravitational force) \mathbf{W} (or \mathbf{F}_G)
- Normal force \mathbf{N}
- Friction (static \mathbf{f}_s and kinetic \mathbf{f}_k)
- Tension \mathbf{T}
- Applied force \mathbf{F}_a
- Spring force \mathbf{F}_e
- Drag \mathbf{D} (fluid resistance, then again in fluid mechanics)
- Buoyant force \mathbf{B} (discussed in fluid mechanics)
- Electrostatic force \mathbf{F}_E (discussed in E & M exam)
- Magnetic force \mathbf{F}_M (discussed E & M exam)

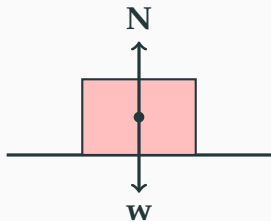
Gravity

Gravity is the force of attraction between all objects with mass

$$\mathbf{w} = m\mathbf{g}$$

- Near surface of Earth, use $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ (or $g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2$ for your AP exam)
- You may be asked to find the value of g on some “unknown planet”.
- \mathbf{w} always points **down** (the direction of \mathbf{w} is how “down” is defined)

Normal Force

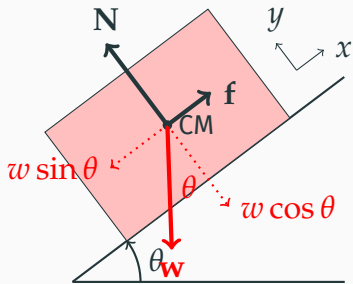


$$w = mg = -N$$

- A force a surface exerts on another object that it is in contact with
- Always **perpendicular** to the contact surface
- **Special case:** When an object is on a horizontal surface with no additional applied force, the magnitude of the normal force is equal to the magnitude of the weight of the object, i.e. $N = w$

Normal Force on a Slope

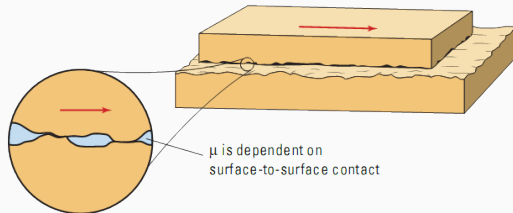
For this case, we label the x -axis to be along the slope, and y -axis to be perpendicular to the slope.



- If on a slope: $N = w \cos \theta$
 - N decreases as ramp angle θ increases
- w has a component along the ramp $w \sin \theta$ that wants to slide the block down.
- Friction force f opposes the motion
 - Be careful: if the block is moving *up* the ramp with an applied force, then f will point *down* the ramp

Friction

- A force that opposes the sliding of two surface against one another
- Always act in a direction that opposes motion or attempted motion
- Depends on:
 - Normal force N : The force the two surfaces are pressed against each other
 - Coefficient of friction (μ_s and μ_k): Smoothness of the surfaces, which itself depends on
 - The material(s) the surfaces are made of
 - The use of lubricants



Static Friction

Static friction between the two surfaces is when there is no relative motion between them

- Increases with increasing applied force
- Maximum when the object is just about to move

$$f_s \leq \mu_s N$$

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
Magnitude of static friction	f_s	N
Static friction coefficient	μ_s	no units
Magnitude of normal force	N	N

Kinetic Friction

Kinetic friction between two surfaces is when they are moving relative to each other. f_k is constant along the path of movement as long as \mathbf{N} stays constant

$$f_k = \mu_k N$$

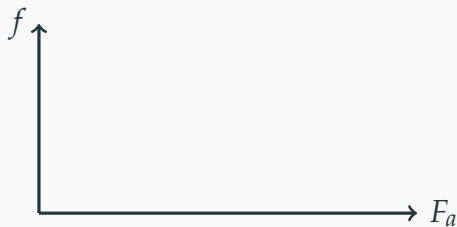
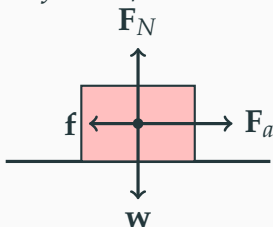
Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
Magnitude of kinetic friction	F_k	N
Kinetic friction coefficient	μ_k	no units
Magnitude of normal force	N	N

Static and Kinetic Coefficients of Friction

Kinetic friction coefficient is always lower than the static coefficient, otherwise nothing will ever move:

$$\mu_k \leq \mu_s$$

Consider a simple case of a box being pulled along a level floor. The free-body diagram is simple (left). How do the magnitudes of the applied force F_a and friction f compare?



Drag

Drag (or **fluid resistance**) is the force opposing to the motion of an object moving in a fluid, with magnitude:

$$D = \frac{1}{2}\rho V_{\infty}^2 A_{\text{ref}} C_d$$

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
Magnitude of drag force	D	N
Density of the fluid	ρ	kg/m ³
Free-stream fluid velocity	V_{∞}	m/s
Reference area	A_{ref}	m ²
Drag coefficient	C_d	(no unit)

Drag coefficient depends on the shape and surface smoothness of the object. For blunt objects, A_{ref} is the frontal area; for streamlined objects A_{ref} is the planform (top-view) area

Drag

In AP Physics you are *not* asked to know the drag equation. However, you should know that drag (air resistance) depends on the motion of the object and is not a constant.

Terminal Velocity

When we take drag force into account, we understand that the drag force increases as an object speeds up, and therefore a free-falling object does *not* accelerate infinitely. Instead it reaches a **terminal velocity**.

There is no air resistance just as the object *begins* to fall. Acceleration is due to gravity alone.



Drag increases as v increases. Magnitude of acceleration decreases, but the object continues to gather speed



Terminal velocity is reached when the drag force equals the object's weight. Not net force; no acceleration.



Tension in a Cable

Tension is the force exerted on and by a cable, rope, or string.

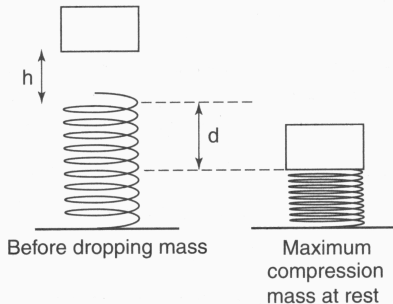
- You can't push on a rope
- Assume the cable/rope/string to be mass less
- Force can change direction when used with pulleys

Spring Force

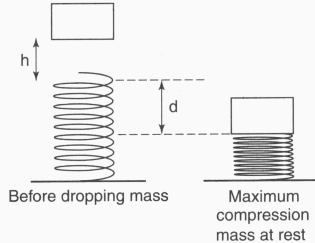
The spring force F_e is the force a compressed or stretched spring exerts onto objects connected to it. It obeys Hooke's Law:

$$\mathbf{F}_e = -k\mathbf{x}$$

where \mathbf{x} is the relative displacement of the ends of the spring.

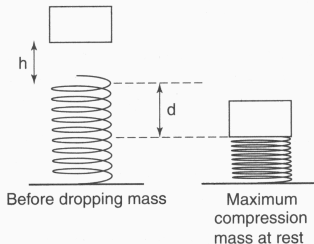


Spring Force



- As the object falls onto the spring, the spring begins to compress
- As the spring compresses, the spring force (pointing up!) increases linearly (Hooke's law)
- At some point, the spring force balances the weight of the block
 - At this point, the *acceleration* is zero
 - But the velocity continues to be downward
- The spring continues to compress until velocity is zero

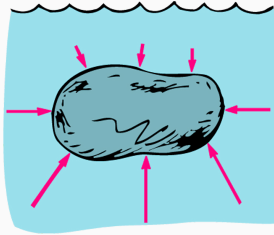
Spring Force



- Solving this problem using dynamics is difficult, because:
 - Spring force scales linearly with *displacement*, but
 - Net force scales linearly with *acceleration* (2nd time derivative of displacement)
- Note that the block continues to *increase* velocity even after it starts to compress the spring.
- Acceleration is zero only after the spring has compressed some amount

Buoyancy

When an object is submerged inside a fluid (e.g. water, air, etc), the fluid exerts a pressure at the surface of the object. We can integrate the pressure over the entire surface area S to find the total force \mathbf{B} the fluid exerts on the object.



Buoyancy

The buoyant force is given by:

$$\mathbf{B} = \rho_{\text{fluid}} g \hat{\mathbf{k}} \iiint dV = \rho_{\text{fluid}} g V \hat{\mathbf{k}}$$

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
Buoyant force	\mathbf{B}	N
Density of the fluid	ρ_{fluid}	kg/m ³
Volume of the object	V	m ³

We will discuss this later in the course, when we deal with fluid mechanics.

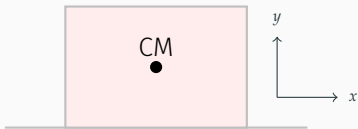
Free-Body Diagrams

Free Body Diagrams

- Acceleration (if there is going to be any at all) depends on net force \mathbf{F}_{net}
- Without a vector sum of all the forces, we cannot determine the magnitude, direction of the acceleration, or how acceleration will evolve in time
- We use **free body diagrams** (FBD) to represent all the forces.
 - Very important in solving any dynamics problems
 - Don't try to save this step, even if the problem does not ask for it
 - Always draw FBD for solving classical mechanics problem

Free Body Diagrams

Step 1: Draw a “big dot” to represent the CM of the object (This makes sense, because we assume that all masses are point masses anyway)



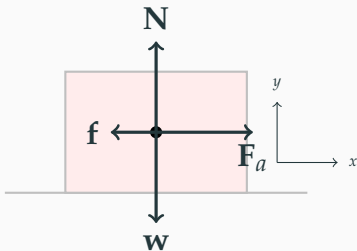
Step 2: Define a coordinate system (x and y axes)

- We can define the axes in any arbitrary direction, *but we want to simplify our problem, not to make it more complicated*, so instead:
- Define them such that the sum of along one axis (usually y) is always zero

Free Body Diagrams

Step 3: Identify all the forces are acting on the object

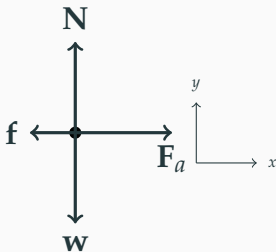
- Make note of the direction of the forces.
- Gravity is a must!



Free Body Diagrams

Step 4: The free-body diagram itself does not require drawing the object itself

- Make sure the arrows representing the forces originate at the CM
- It is generally a good practice to approximately scale the lengths of the arrows to the magnitude of the forces



Solving Force Problem

- If you have chosen your coordinate system properly, you should have
 - Normal force along the \hat{j} direction
 - Friction force along the \hat{i} axis
- Break down the forces into the x and y components
- Sum the forces in the direction that doesn't have a net force (usually y axis)
- Sum the forces in the other axis, and find out what the acceleration is
- Solve the motion of the object

Multi-Body Problems

Applying Newton's Third Law on Connected Bodies



- The objects are connected by a cable or a solid linkage with negligible mass
- All objects (usually) have the same acceleration
- Require multiple free-body diagrams

Solving Connected-Bodies Problems

To solve a connected-bodies problem, you can follow these procedures:

1. Draw a FBD on each of the objects
2. Sum all the forces on all the objects along the direction of motion
 - Direction of motion is usually very obvious
 - All internal forces should cancel and do not figure into the acceleration of the system
3. Compute the acceleration of the entire system using Newton's second law
 - Remember that (usually) every object has the same acceleration!
4. Go back to the FBD of each of the objects and compute the unknown forces (usually tension)

Connected Bodies: Example

Example: A tractor-trailer pulling two trailers starts from rest and accelerates with an acceleration a on a straight, level road. The mass of the truck itself (T) is 5450 kg, the mass of the first trailer (A) is 31 500 kg, and the mass of the second trailer (B) is 19 600 kg.

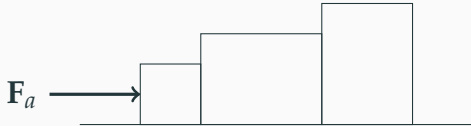
1. What magnitude of force must the truck generate in order to accelerate the entire vehicle?
2. What magnitude of force must each of the trailer hitches withstand while the vehicle is accelerating?

Assume that frictional forces are negligible in comparison with the forces needed to accelerate the large masses.

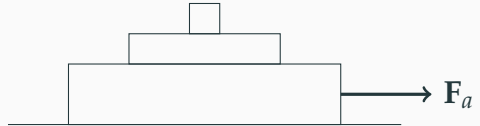
Connected Bodies

Other type of connected bodies problem may be like this

Multiple objects pressed against one another:



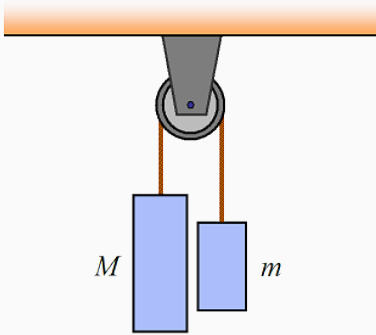
Multiple objects stacked on top of one another:



Pulley Problems

Example Problem: Atwood Machine

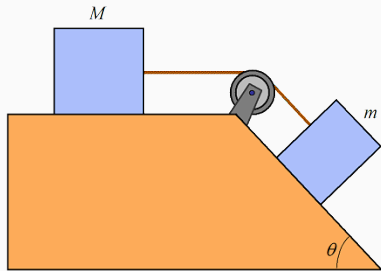
An **Atwood machine** is made of two objects connected by a rope that runs over a pulley. The pulley allows the direction of force and direction of motion to change between two objects.



Example: The object on the left has a mass of M and the object on the right has a mass of m .

- What is the acceleration of the masses?
- What is the tension in the rope?

A Slightly More Difficult Problem



Two blocks of mass m and M are connected via pulley with a configuration as shown on the left. The coefficient of static friction is μ_s , between blocks and surface. What is the maximum mass m so that no sliding occurs?

Multiple Pulleys

When there are multiple pulleys involved, we have to remember that tension force is distributed evenly along the cable.

Example: A block of mass m is pulled, via two pulleys as shown, at constant velocity along a surface inclined at angle θ . The coefficient of kinetic friction is μ_k , between block and surface. Determine the pulling force F . Ignore the mass of the pulleys.

