**GMAPS**

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**Dynamics**

**& Kinematics**

**Worksheet**

**To see the additional comments and resources, make sure you select All Markup in the Review/Tracking pane**

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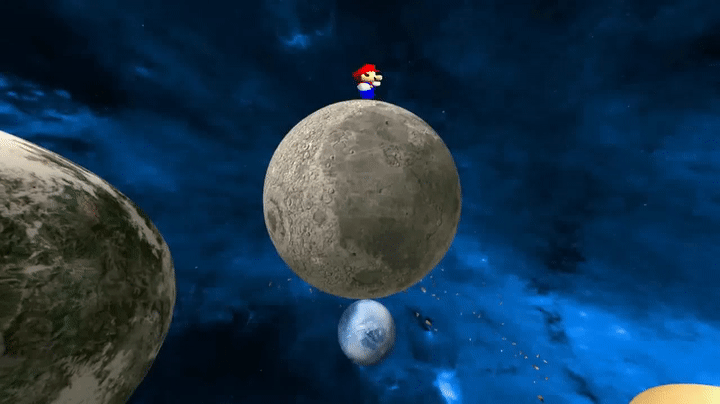
It makes sense to use Unity’s physics engine for much of your game development. So why bother to learn how to code physics yourself?

Well, education isn’t just about doing – it’s also about **understanding**.

If you understand how something works, you become much better at using it. When things go wrong, you can solve problems more quickly.

There’s actually a high chance that you might have to write your own physics for some projects.

You’ve already implemented this!



Or maybe you need to calculate the path of a projectile?

[](https://mathematica.stackexchange.com/questions/86255/animating-a-3d-shape-along-path-a-2d-and-3d-parametric-function-curve-update)

As you can guess, it’s all math!

Diagram, schematic

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**Some History - Aristotle**

Aristotle was a philosopher in Ancient Greece, born in 384 BC. He is one of the greatest thinkers in human history, influencing Politics, Science and [Philosophy](https://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html) for many centuries.

Graphical user interface

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Aristotle took a very common-sense view of motion, but which turns out to be wrong (like many “common-sense” things in life).

Aristotle thought that heavenly objects (e.g. planets) move forever in circles without any external force acting on them.

He thought that an earthly object will only move when a force is applied to it – and if the force is removed, the object will come to a stop.

Aristotle also believed that when objects were moved by people, this was due to “unnatural force” (e.g. an artificial force). And when the unnatural force ran out (like running out of energy), then “natural” motion would take over again.

[This](https://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/scientific-experiments/10-things-we-thought-were-true-before-scientific-method9.htm) is how the trajectory of a cannonball was shown in 1561.



Aristotle supposed that it would move in a straight line (due to the unnatural force), and then would fall straight down (due to a different, natural force).

Then along came Isaac Newton, who totally demolished Aristotle.



Aristotle’s views were eventually overthrown by one of the most influential scientists of all time, Isaac Newton, whose Three Laws of Motion are considered to be a correct model of how the universe works.

Isaac Newton was a complete 17th Century rock star scientist – though he had periods of madness when he accused everyone of plotting against him!

We’ll look at Newton’s three laws, and see how these relate to Unity Physics, and how we can implement them ourselves.

**Part 1 : Basic Dynamics & Kinematics**

**Newton’s 1st Law of Motion**

**An object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force.**

This is also called the **Law of Inertia**.

Okay, let’s see how this works in Unity.

A picture containing text, clipart

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Download **03\_KINEMATICS\_Worksheet.zip** from LMS. Unzip, and add the folder to the **Assets** folder in your worksheets project.

Go to the **Part 1** folder.

The **FirstLaw.cs** script is provided.

Add a **Vector3** public property called **force**, so that the force value applied to the sphere can be set in the Inspector.

In the Start() function, apply force **just once**. Apply different values along X, Y, Z each time you run it to see what happens.

Print out the position of the sphere after every frame.

Graphical user interface, application

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You should see something like this:

Graphical user interface, text

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The force was only applied once, in Start().

Does this follow Newton’s First Law? Explain.

In reality, we can’t get away from forces. There’s gravity, air resistance, the wind blowing, and so on. To get away from all those forces we’d have to fly into space.

But in a game, we control what happens. So, the example above simulates a world with no forces acting on an object except for the forces we program.

[](https://phys207-project.physics.wisc.edu/ann-seliger/newtons-1st-law-of-motion/)

A picture containing clipart

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Now, create a second sphere called **Ball2** that does *not* have a rigidbody.

Add a script called **Motion.cs** that moves the ball in the same way as **Imp1**, but using just your code and not Unity physics.

Add this code to **FixedUpdate()**.

Chart

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Text

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So far, you’ve just been moving an object by changing its position based on applying a force once, or simply setting the object’s velocity and moving the object based on that. But what about other more complex problems that you might have when developing a game?

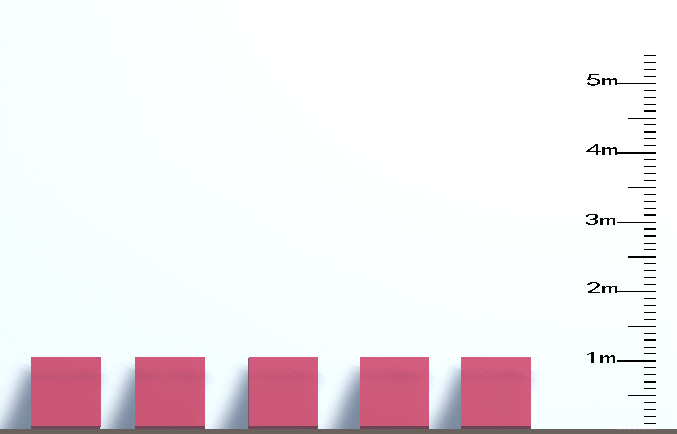
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One problem you might face is how to make a character jump to a certain height.

We can also solve this using one of the SUVAT equations!

A picture containing table

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Here’s the basic math for how it’s done:

v\*v = u\*u + 2as

u\*u = v\*v - 2as

u = sqrt(v\*v - 2as)

So, open the **JumpToHeight** folder, and create a new file called **JumpToHeight.cs**.

Complete the code below to make each cube jump to a different height (each cube’s individual jump height is set by **Height** in the Inspector.

Add this script to each cube in the scene, and set its jump height.

Press the space bar to make the cubes jump.

Timeline

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Text

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**Part 2 : Shooting Pool**

Now we’ll figure out how to shoot a pool ball with a pool cue! We’ll do this without using any Unity Physics APIs.

A cartoon character with horns and pink ears

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Open **Part 2 Pool** in your **GMAPS\_Oct\_2023\_Worksheets STUDENT** project.

First, we need a class to represent a 2D ball. For now, we’ll create a simple class that responds to the change in velocity caused by interacting with a pool cue.

The pool cue is really just the mouse. We click on the ball, then drag and release the mouse to set the ball’s velocity. The black line below is the “pool cue”, which we’ll draw as we drag the mouse.

Text, timeline

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So, to create the effect of a pool cue hitting the ball, we must:

* Check if the mouse position is inside the ball
* Draw a line from the mouse to the ball, to represent the ball’s velocity after releasing the mouse.
* Set the velocity of the ball
* Move the ball according to its velocity

1. First, we’ll create a ball prefab.

* Open the **Pool** scene.
* From the **Sprites** folder, drag **ball** into the scene. Make sure its transform is reset to all zeros.

Graphical user interface

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The ball should appear at the bottom left of the table.

Shape, rectangle

Description automatically generated

* Drag the ball object from the Hierarchy into the Prefabs folder.
* Drag the ball so that it sits somewhere near the centre of the table. Rotate the camera around a bit. You might find that the ball isn’t visible from some angles.
* This is due to the order of the ball sprite in the rendering layer.

See if you can figure out how to fix this so that the ball is always visible above the table (hint, check the ball’s **SpriteRenderer** component).

Ok, the ball game object is in place. Now to create the script.

* Create a C# script called **Ball2D.cs**. Add this script to the ball prefab. If you’ve done it correctly, you should see the script as a component on the ball object in the scene.

We need to keep track of the ball’s *position* and *velocity*. Both of these will be represented as 2D vectors, using **HVector2D**.

* In Ball2D, declare two public variables called **Position** and **Velocity**. Set them to be new HVector2D objects with x=0 and y=0.



Set the actual Position.x and Position.y values in Start.

Text

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* Declare a public float variable called **Radius**.

To set the value of Radius, we need to know the sprite size. Add this code to the Start function:

Text, Word

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This should be fairly obvious, apart from the **pixelsPerUnit** property.

In the last line, since the sprite is square shaped, we can just divide the x value (which is the sprite’s width) by 2 to get the radius of the ball.

We now have a ball object in the scene, with a Ball2D script attached to it.

**Text

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1. In the diagram below, we see that if the distance from the ball’s centre position to the mouse is *less than or equal to the ball’s radius*, then the mouse position is *inside the ball*.

Diagram

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How to calculate the distance from the ball’s centre position to the mouse position?

One way would be to create a vector from the ball to the mouse, and then calculate the vector’s magnitude. But that would require creating a new object, when all we need is a simple mathematical calculation.

The diagram below should help you figure it out using basic trigonometry.

Shape

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Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWe’ll write a function to do this. But finding the distance between two objects isn’t really part of any specific object’s functionality, so we’ll create a general *utility* script for this.

Create a class called **Util.cs**. Add a static function called **FindDistance**, as shown below. Complete the missing code.

A picture containing graphical user interface

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A static function applies at the class level. So, to calculate the distance between two HVector2D objects, we write:

Text

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Test your code to make sure it works properly!

1. A picture containing text

   Description automatically generatedNow to check if the mouse position is inside the ball. Another way of saying “inside the ball” is ***colliding*** with the ball. So, we’ll write a function in Ball2D called **IsCollidingWith**, as shown below.

Complete the missing code.

Graphical user interface

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1. To check if the mouse position is inside the ball, we make use of our answers to (a) and (b).

Where should we put this code, though?

Inside Ball2D?

Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceBut checking if the mouse is inside the ball is really part of the pool cue’s functionality.

So we should create a new class called **PoolCue.cs** and put the code in there.

Timeline

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Add this script to the **PoolCue** object in the scene.

The **LineFactory** and **Ball** objects in the scene should be dragged into the relevant slots in the Inspector.

**🡪 IMPORTANT!** Run the game. What happens? The line keeps getting drawn even after the mouse is released! How to fix this? Basically, you also need to check if the mouse button is up. If it is, disable line drawing and set the **drawnLine** object to null.

Do that now.

Okay, we’ve solved the first two problems:



* Check if the mouse position is inside the ball
* Draw a line from the mouse to the ball, to represent the ball’s velocity after releasing the mouse.

Now for the other two:

* Set the velocity of the ball
* Move the ball according to its velocity

**Text

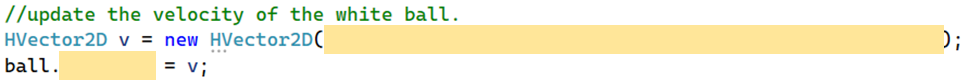
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1. The **Ball2D** script has a **Velocity** property. We need to set this to the correct value to make the ball object move.

A picture containing text

Description automatically generatedThis velocity value is set when we release the mouse while drawing the cue. The velocity is actually the vector from the mouseup position to the ball position. So, we need to set this velocity value when the mouse is released. Where in your code is this done?

Add this line of code somewhere in PoolCue.cs.



Run the game. Print out the ball’s velocity. Does the ball move? Nope! We still have to add that code to the Ball2D class.

1. Add this code to **Ball2D**.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

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It’s always good practice to separate your code into specific functions. In this case, we define a function for updating the ball’s physics.

* Text

  Description automatically generated with medium confidenceComplete the physics code below.

Chart, bar chart

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You can now move the ball by using only the mouse as a pool cue and your knowledge of Newtonian dynamics and kinematics!

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**PART 3: Reflection**

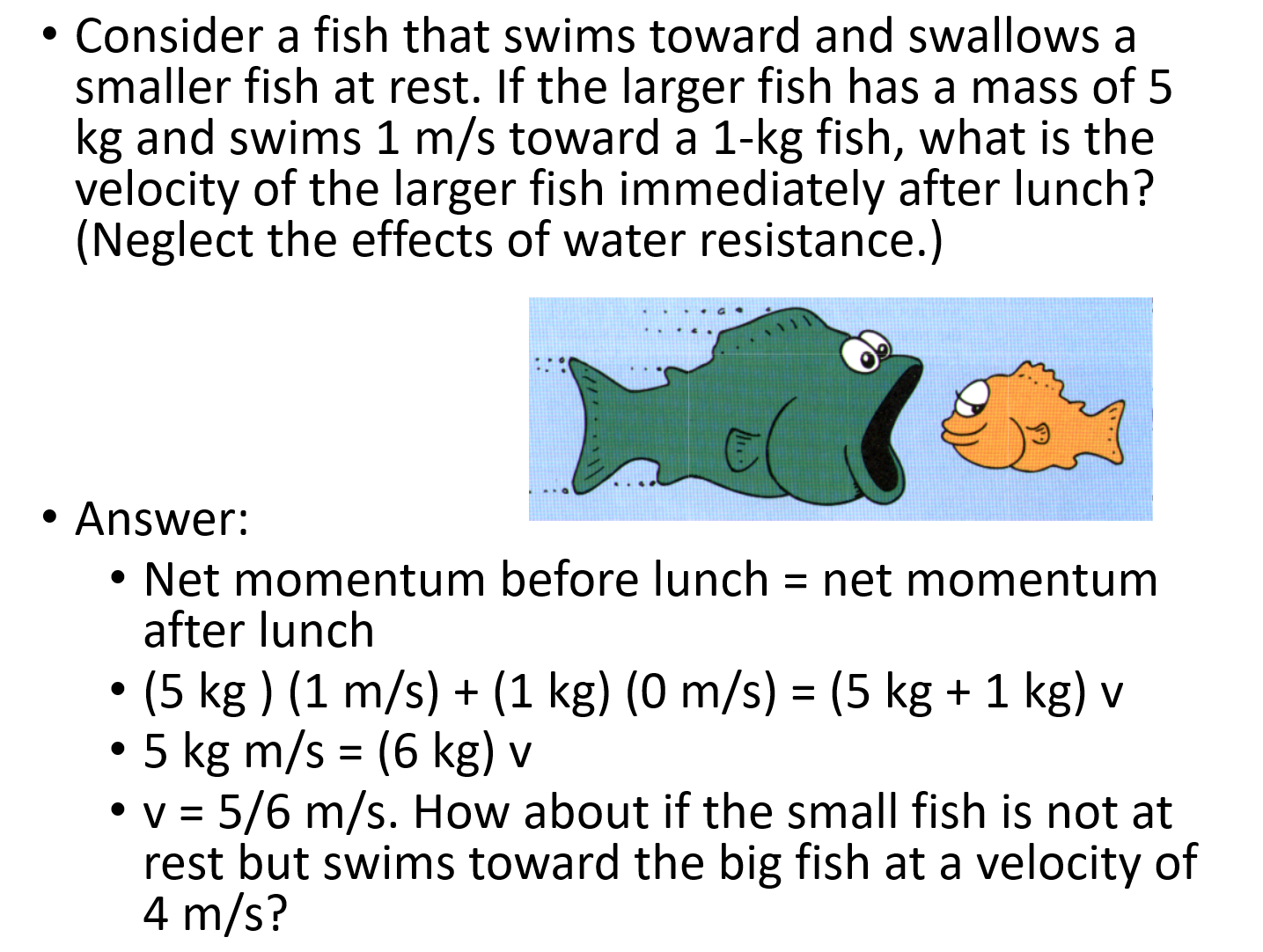
1. What was the most difficult part of this worksheet. Explain why you found it difficult, and how you managed to overcome this (if at all).

I found the most difficult part of this worksheet to be understanding the theory behind the formula and converting it from an equation to lines of code. Having to think of a way to understand an abstract concept like these equations. I never studied physics before today, so I felt like I had to play catchup to the rest of my classmates who did take physics in secondary school. In order to deal with this, I had to put in extra effort to go online and do more research by going on Google or watch explanatory YouTube videos to understand what the physics were and how they were used, as well as asking my lecturer for more explanations and concrete examples that I could use to visualise what he was explaining. I even went as far as to ask my ex-secondary school classmates who took physics to try and explain as well.

1. Choose a kinematics and dynamics topic that are you still unsure about. Explain that topic, and the steps you will take to clarify your doubts. You will be graded on how well you analyse your problem with understanding that topic.

If you are confident about all the topics, select what you consider to be the most difficult topic and explain ONE more advanced concept related to the topic. You will be graded on the complexity of the concept, and how well you explain it.

I am still unsure about the conservation of momentum. While I understand that if no external force is present then there will be no change in momentum, I do not understand how that conservation of momentum can be maintained as shown in this slide here.



My understanding is that because the fish at rest is not moving, it should not have any momentum, and thus the bigger fish would only be affected by the new mass of the smaller fish inside it. However, I do not understand how to do the calculation properly when the smaller fish is swimming towards the big fish.

To get a better understanding of this topic, I intend to ask more questions to my lecturer to get more examples that I can observe and visualise. I also will attempt to do more research using Google or YouTube to find more tutorials and explanations. Lastly, I can attempt to ask ChatGPT or online forums to get more examples or explanations on not just how the conservation of momentum works, but how it can be applied in game development as well.

1. Write a reflection about this worksheet. You may like to include how effective it is to motivate and help you learn, how well it relates to games development, etc.

Overall, I found this worksheet fun to do because I was able to learn an entirely new topic, physics. I found it very interesting and motivational because I was able to research and explore new concepts, even though it was all basically alien to me. I found it very helpful as it bridged the gap between what I viewed as something tedious and a nuisance and something impossible for me to grasp because of my poor understanding of math and something very interesting to me which was game development. I think it relates well to game development because now that I have explored this topic in greater detail, I have come to realise that physics play a major role in game development. Almost all free game engines come with some form of physics engine and simulation capability and for good reason. By learning about physics and kinematics, I am better able to use the physics engines to simulate real physics in games. Not only that, but I am also able to create my own form of physics to suit my own needs that the game engines may not be properly adapted or incapable of simulating the physics the way I want such as manipulating momentum and acceleration myself.