

# Physics

## Forces and Newton's Laws



## ➤ Dynamics

1. Forces

2. How and why do objects move?

## ➤ Newton's 3 laws of motion

What causes acceleration?

Introduce a new concept:

FORCE

Dynamics **is the study of forces and the** *resulting* motion.

# Ancient View

- Objects tend to stop if they are in motion
- Force is required to keep something moving

# Modern View

- Objects tend to remain in their initial state
- Force is required to *change* motion



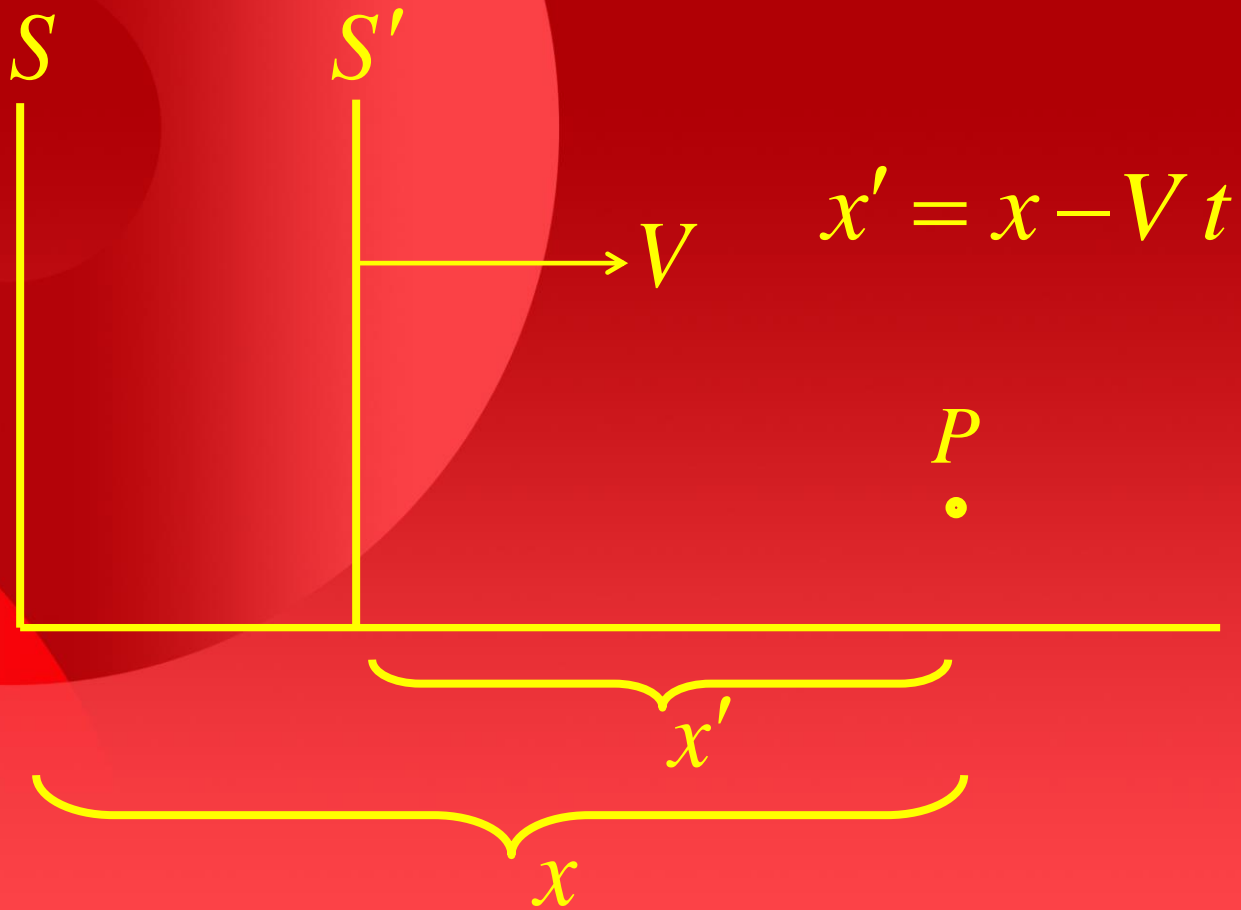
Isaac Newton (1643–1727) wrote  
*Principia Mathematica* in 1687  
and proposed three “laws” of  
motion.

# NEWTONS FIRST LAW



An object will remain at rest or move with constant velocity unless acted upon by a net external force.

# FRAMES OF REFERENCE





- A non-accelerating frame is called an inertial frame
- Newton's first law holds only in inertial frames
- In an accelerating frame we experience apparent forces.

*How much does a body resist?*

The resistance depends on mass.  
The more massive an object, the more resistant it will be to changing its state of motion.

Easy to  
push



Hard to  
push



Inertia: resistance to change in motion *i.e.* resistance to acceleration

➡ Mass is a measure of inertia

Is mass the same as:

size? NO

density? NO

weight ? NO



more force leads to more acceleration

$$\Rightarrow a \propto F$$

more mass leads to less acceleration

$$\Rightarrow a \propto \frac{1}{m}$$

conclude that:  $a \propto \frac{F}{m}$

# Newton's Second Law



$$F = ma \quad (\text{or } a = F / m)$$

where  $F = F_1 + F_2 + F_3 + \dots$

Definition of mass is:  $m = F/a$

But you need an independent  
way of measuring force!

How?



Force is a vector  
(magnitude and direction)

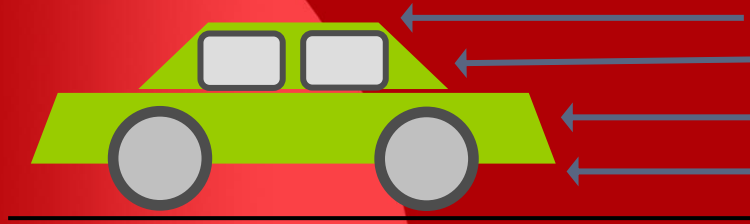
The direction of acceleration  
is in direction of the force!

# Contact forces

objects in contact exert  
forces on each other

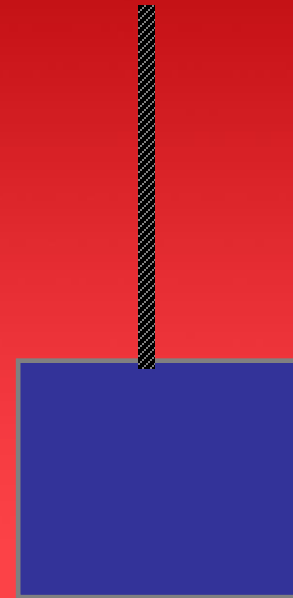


» you push on a box



» air pushes on a car  
(air resistance)

» tension in a rope

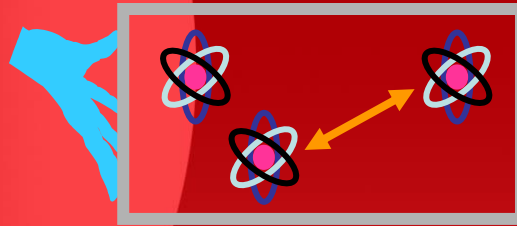


➤ Force has dimensions of  
[mass]  $\times$  [acceleration]  
 $= M L T^{-2}$

➤ In the MKS system the unit of force is the Newton. It has the symbol N where:

$$1 \text{ N} = 1 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}/\text{s}^2$$

- Only external forces are considered in the Second Law



- Internal force: Forces between atoms in block
- External force: Hand pushing on block

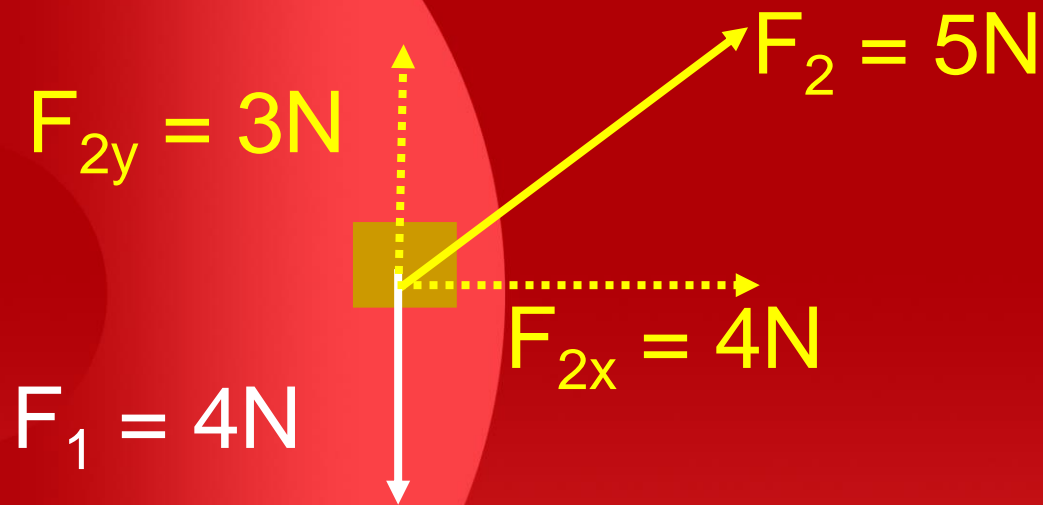
$$F = F_1 + F_2 + F_3 \cdots + F_N$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^N F_i \quad (\text{Greek "Sigma"})$$

is the TOTAL force.

Forces can added in two ways:

- (1) Graphically (arrows)
- (2) Algebraically (components)



$$\Sigma F_x = F_{2x} = 4\text{ N}$$

$$\Sigma F_y = F_{2y} - F_1 = -1\text{ N}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\Sigma F| &= \sqrt{\Sigma F_x^2 + \Sigma F_y^2} \\ &= \sqrt{17}\text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

# Weight

Force of attraction between an object and an astronomical body (Earth, Moon, etc.)

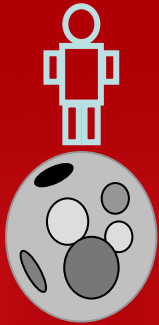


Weight = Force of gravity:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & F & = & m & a \\ & \swarrow & & \swarrow & \swarrow \\ W & = & m & g \end{array}$$

Weight (like any force) is a vector.

Units: Newtons (N)



Same mass  
Different weight



$$m = 100 \text{ kg}$$
$$W = 160 \text{ N}$$

$$m = 100 \text{ kg}$$
$$W = 980 \text{ N}$$

Insert astronaut clip

# NEWTONS THIRD LAW

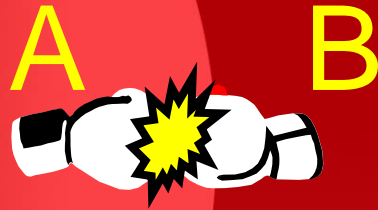


For every action there is an  
equal and opposite reaction.



Is boxing glove A hitting glove B,  
or is glove B hitting glove A?

The gloves hit each other



For the boxing gloves:

Action: A pushes on B

Reaction: B pushes on A

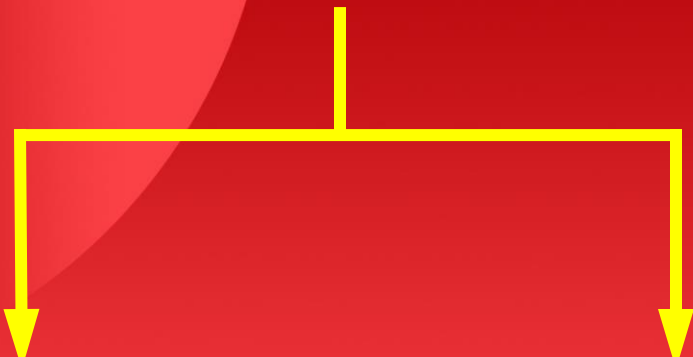
# Action and Reaction forces:

- Are in opposite directions
- Have the same magnitude

$$F_{A \text{ on } B} = - F_{B \text{ on } A}$$

# Action and Reaction forces:

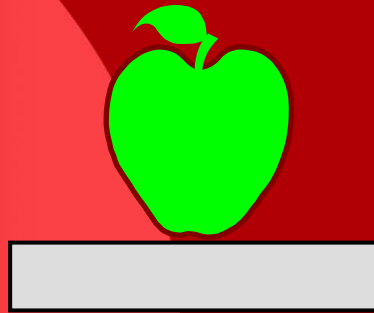
- act on different objects



A diagram consisting of a vertical line that splits into two horizontal lines, which then lead to two downward-pointing arrows. The arrows point towards the text of the equation below.

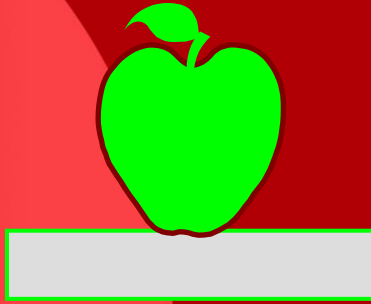
$$F_{A \text{ on } B} = - F_{B \text{ on } A}$$





**Action:** force of the Earth on the apple (gravity)

**Reaction:** NOT force of the table on the apple BUT force of the apple on the Earth



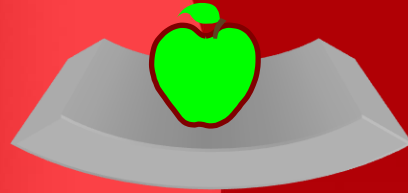
The table *does* exert a force on the apple.

The reaction force is: the apple exerts a force on the table.

How can a table exert a force on an apple?



No apple, no force



With the apple, the table bends ever so slightly so there is a force upward (like a diving board)

How come this physics student  
can walk?



You push your foot backwards against the ground -- but you want to walk forwards! Why do you push backwards?

Newton to the rescue! The ground pushes forward on your foot -- this is how you walk!

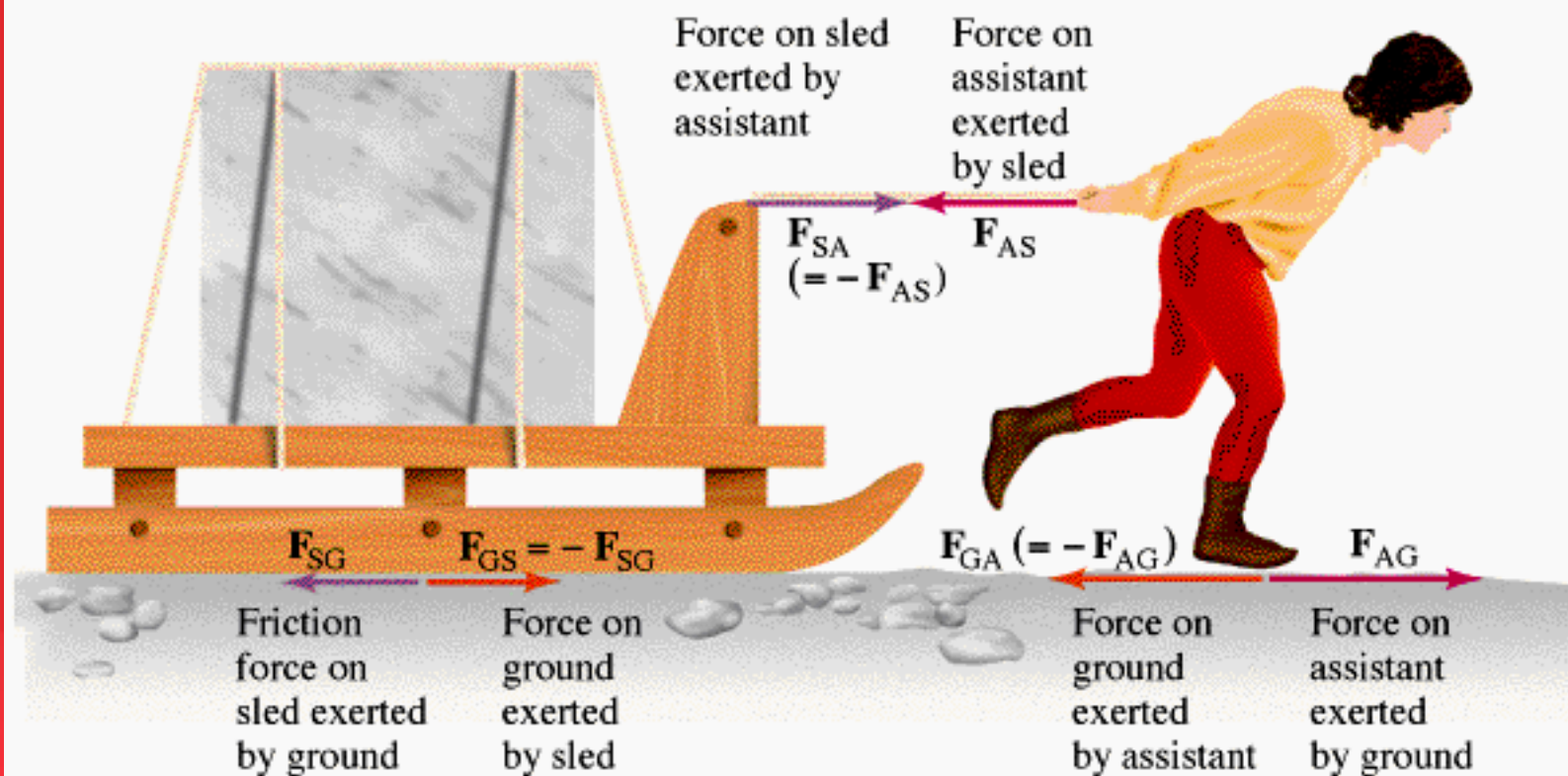


➤ That's Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> law: *you kick something -- it kicks you right back!*

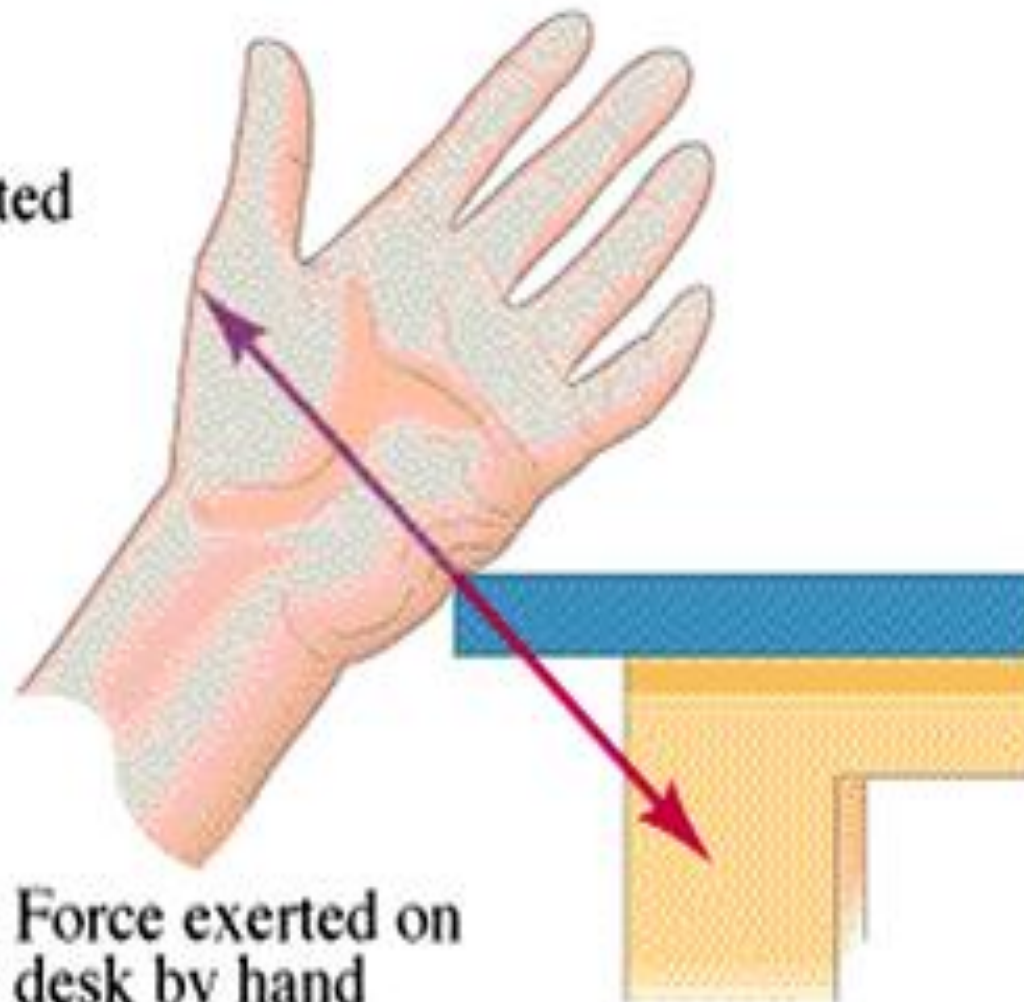
Or:

Whenever one object exerts a force on a second, the second exerts an equal and opposite force on the first.





Force exerted  
on hand  
by desk



Force exerted on  
desk by hand



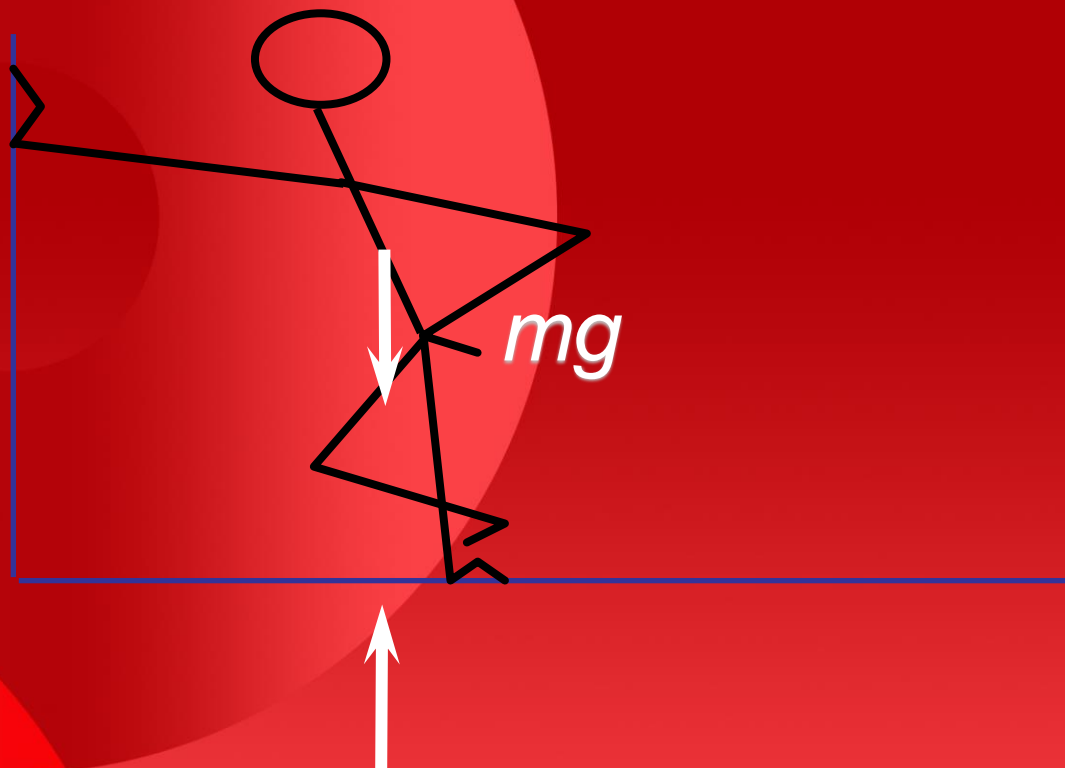
$F_{w \text{ on } m}$

$F_{m \text{ on } w}$

$F_{m \text{ on } f}$

$F_{f \text{ on } m}$

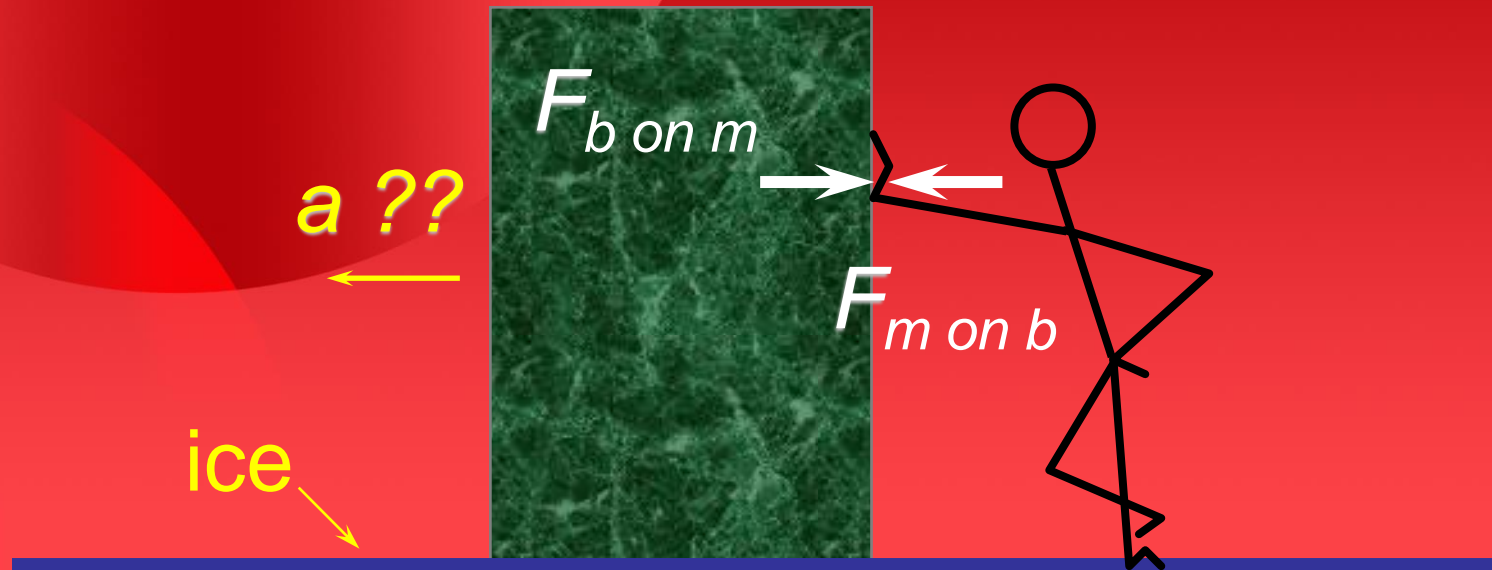




*reaction force ?*

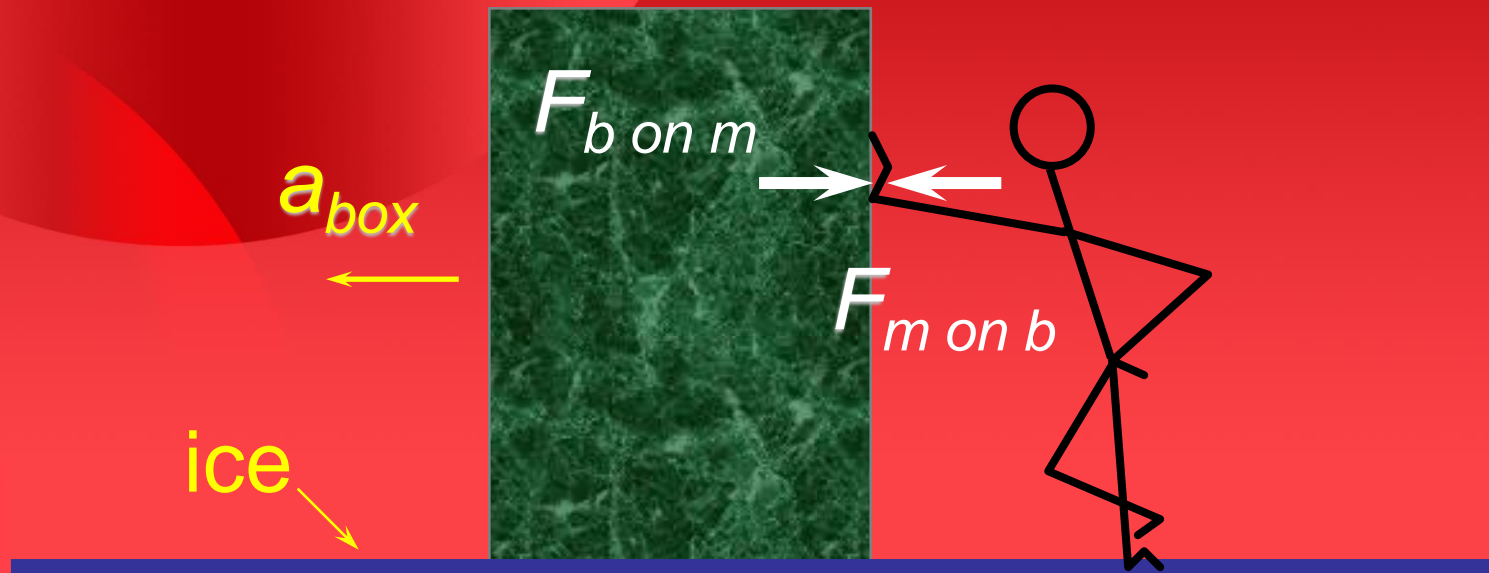
Since  $F_{b \text{ on } m} = -F_{m \text{ on } b}$

then why isn't  $F_{\text{net}} = 0$  and  $a = 0$ ?



Consider *only the box* as the system !  
Free Body Diagram: isolate the force  
on the object !!

$$F_{\text{on box}} = F_{m \text{ on } b} = m a_{\text{box}}$$



CLAIM: If something is moving, there must be a net force on it.

FALSE. A body moving at constant velocity has no net force on it. An accelerating body must have a net force on it.



CLAIM: All equal and opposite forces are action-reaction pairs.

FALSE. The weight of a book sitting on a tabletop and the normal force of the table acting on the book are equal and opposite, but they are not an action-reaction pair!

CLAIM: If there is a force on an object, it must be accelerating.

FALSE. Only a *net* force on the object leads to acceleration.