



Classical Mechanics: A Deep Dive into Newtonian Physics

1 Newton's Laws of Motion

Newton's three laws form the foundation of classical mechanics, explaining how objects move and interact.

♦ First Law (Law of Inertia)

"An object at rest remains at rest, and an object in motion continues in uniform motion unless acted upon by an external force."

- This means that objects resist changes in their state of motion.
- The property of resisting change in motion is called **inertia**.
- 🚗 Example: If you're in a moving car and the driver suddenly hits the brakes, your body keeps moving forward because of inertia!

♦ Second Law ($F = ma$)

"The acceleration of an object depends on the net force acting on it and its mass."

- The equation: $F = ma$
 - F = Force (Newton, N)
 - m = Mass (kg)
 - a = Acceleration (m/s^2)
- 🚀 Example: A heavier object requires more force to move than a lighter object.


♦ Third Law (Action-Reaction)

"For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction."

- 🏀 Example: When you throw a basketball downward, the ground pushes it back up!
- 🚀 Rocket propulsion works on this principle: gases are expelled downward, and the rocket moves upward.

2 Work, Energy, and Power

♦ Work (W)

- Work is done when a force causes displacement.
- Formula: $W = F \times d \times \cos(\theta)$
 - F = Force applied (N)
 - d = Displacement (m)
 - θ = Angle between force and displacement
-  Example: Lifting a box up requires work, but carrying it horizontally without changing its height does **not** do work against gravity!

♦ Energy (E)

Energy is the ability to do work. It exists in many forms:

1. **Kinetic Energy (KE)** – Energy of motion.
 - Formula: $KE = (1/2)mv^2$
2. **Potential Energy (PE)** – Stored energy due to position.
 - Formula: $PE = mgh$
 - Example: A ball held at a height has gravitational potential energy.

♦ Power (P)

Power is the **rate** at which work is done.

- Formula: $P = W/t$
 - Unit: Watt (W)
 - Example: A 100W light bulb consumes energy at a rate of 100 joules per second.
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3 Momentum and Collisions

♦ Linear Momentum (p)

Momentum measures an object's motion.

- Formula: $p = mv$
- **Conservation of Momentum:** The total momentum of a system remains constant unless an external force acts on it.
- Example: In billiards, when a cue ball hits another ball, the total momentum before and after the collision is the same.

♦ Types of Collisions

1. **Elastic Collision** – Kinetic energy is conserved.
 - Example: Two billiard balls colliding.
 2. **Inelastic Collision** – Some kinetic energy is lost as heat/sound.
 - Example: A car crash.
 3. **Perfectly Inelastic Collision** – Objects stick together after the collision.
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4 Circular Motion and Gravitation

◆ Centripetal Force (F_c)

Objects moving in a circle require a force directed toward the center of the circle.

- Formula: $F_c = (mv^2)/r$
- Example: The Moon orbits the Earth due to gravitational centripetal force.

◆ Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation


"Every mass attracts every other mass with a force proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of their distance."

- Formula: $F = G(m_1 m_2)/r^2$
 - G = Gravitational constant ($6.674 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2$)
 - Example: The Earth's gravity pulls objects downward with an acceleration of **9.8 m/s²**.
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5 Special Relativity (Einstein's Magic)

For speeds close to the speed of light ($c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$), Newtonian mechanics breaks down, and Einstein's **Theory of Relativity** takes over.

◆ Time Dilation (Slower Time at High Speeds)

- Time moves slower for objects moving near the speed of light.
- Formula: $t' = t / \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$
-  Example: If an astronaut travels close to the speed of light and returns, they will have aged less than people on Earth!

◆ Mass-Energy Equivalence

Einstein's famous equation: $E = mc^2$

- **Energy (E)** and **mass (m)** are interchangeable.
 - Example: Nuclear reactions release huge amounts of energy from tiny masses!
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Fun Fact: The Fastest Thing in the Universe?

The **speed of light** ($c = 299,792,458 \text{ m/s}$) is the fastest possible speed. Nothing with mass can travel at light speed because it would require **infinite energy**. 