NCEA Level 2 Physics
Assignment M1: Kinematics and momentum

The acceleration due to gravity on the moon is $1.62\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-2}}$.

Suppose I have two identical cannons, one on the moon and one on the earth, both orientated to shoot at an angle 30° to the horizontal. The barrel of each cannon imparts an impulse of 60 N s on the 1 kg cannonball, over a time period of 0.01 s.

1. What is the average force imparted on the cannonball by the firing mechanism while it is in the barrel?
2. If the acceleration of the cannonball is constant while it is in the barrel, calculate this acceleration; use this acceleration to find the length of the barrel.
3. Now assume that the cannonball has left the cannon, at a height of 1 m above the (flat) ground.
   (a) Explain why we can model the cannonball as a projectile. Draw a force diagram in your answer.
   (b) Calculate the following, for both the earth and the moon:
      - The maximum height reached by the cannonball.
      - The time taken for the cannonball to hit the ground.
      - The distance travelled, measured along the ground, by the cannonball.
   (c) Compare and contrast the paths travelled by the cannonballs on the earth and the moon. Include a diagram of each path.
4. Suppose now I place one of my cannons in space, so no external forces are acting on it; assume that I have parked my space ship next to the cannon so that it is stationary with respect to me.

   Again, the cannon fires an 1 kg cannonball, imparting an impulse of 60 N s for 0.01 s.
   (a) What average force is imparted on the *cannon* during the firing? Justify your answer.
   (b) If the cannon has a mass of 0.5 t (500 kg), with what speed will it now be flying in the opposite direction to the cannon ball?

Guidelines for writing physics in general

- Use full sentences, note any assumptions you make, and write a couple of words to justify each step.
- Feel free to draw diagrams or pictures, even if nothing explicitly asks you to.

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