

# Constant acceleration motion <sup>4-6-Theory-Constant Accel</sup>

## Differential Equation

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \vec{r}(t) = \vec{a}_0$$

no  $t$ ; this vector doesn't change.

is  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x) = c$  ↙ same

then  $f(x) = a + bx + \frac{c}{2}x^2$

↗ ↖  
can be anything

Is  $c = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left( a + bx + \frac{c}{2}x^2 \right)$

$$= \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( a + bx + \frac{c}{2}x^2 \right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{d}{dx} \left[ 0 + b + \frac{c}{2} 2x \right]$$

$$= \frac{d}{dx} [b + cx]$$

$$= c \quad \text{yes!}$$

$$\text{IS } \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \vec{r}(t) = \vec{a}_0$$

then

$$\vec{r}(t) = \vec{r}_0 + \vec{v}_0 [t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2} \vec{a}_0 [t-t_0]^2$$

$\vec{r}_0$  is position  
at  $t_0$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \vec{r}_0$$

velocity at  
time  $t=t_0$

$$\vec{v}(t_0) = \vec{v}_0$$

$t_0$  is time when  
 $\vec{r}_0, \vec{v}_0$   
measured.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v}(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{r}(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \vec{r}_0 + \vec{v}_0 [t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2} \vec{a}_0 [t-t_0]^2 \right] \\ &= 0 + \vec{v}_0 + \frac{1}{2} \vec{a}_0 2[t-t_0] \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{v}(t) = \vec{v}_0 + \vec{a}_0 [t-t_0]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}(t) &= (x_0 \hat{i} + y_0 \hat{j} + z_0 \hat{k}) \\ &+ (v_{0,x} \hat{i} + v_{0,y} \hat{j} + v_{0,z} \hat{k}) [t-t_0] \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} (a_{0,x} \hat{i} + a_{0,y} \hat{j} + a_{0,z} \hat{k}) [t-t_0]^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (x_0 + v_{0,x}[t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2}a_{0,x}[t-t_0]^2)\hat{i} \\
&+ (y_0 + v_{0,y}[t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2}a_{0,y}[t-t_0]^2)\hat{j} \\
&+ (z_0 + v_{0,z}[t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2}a_{0,z}[t-t_0]^2)\hat{k}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\vec{r}(t) \cdot \hat{i} &= x(t) = x_0 + v_{0,x}[t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2}a_{0,x}[t-t_0]^2 \\
y(t) &= y_0 + v_{0,y}[t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2}a_{0,y}[t-t_0]^2 \\
z(t) &= z_0 + v_{0,z}[t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2}a_{0,z}[t-t_0]^2
\end{aligned}$$



only

## Velocity and Acceleration - II

A particle moves in the x-direction with constant acceleration. At time  $t = -1s$  it is at  $1m\hat{i}$  moving with velocity  $-3\frac{m}{s}\hat{i}$  and subject to an acceleration of  $1\frac{m}{s^2}\hat{i}$ .

- What is the expression for the particle's position as a function of time?
- What is the position and velocity at  $t = 4s$ ?
- What is the minimum value of the x-component of the particle's position and when does it get there?

Know if constant  $\vec{a}$  then

$$\vec{r}(t) = \vec{r}_0 + \vec{v}_0 [t - t_0] + \frac{1}{2} \vec{a}_0 [t - t_0]^2$$

$\vec{r}(t_0)$   $\vec{v}(t_0)$   $t_0 = \text{when position \& velocity measured.}$

$$t_0 = -1s$$

$$\vec{r}(-1s) = 1m\hat{i}$$

$$\vec{v}(-1s) = -3\frac{m}{s}\hat{i}$$

$$\vec{a}(-1s) = \text{at all times} = 1\frac{m}{s^2}\hat{i}$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = 1\text{m}\hat{z} + (-3\text{m/s}\hat{z})[t - (-1\text{s})] + \frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2\hat{z})[t - (-1\text{s})]^2$$

$$= \underline{1\text{m}\hat{z}} + \underline{(-3\text{m/s}t)\hat{z}} + \underline{(-3\text{m})\hat{z}} \\ + \frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2t^2)\hat{z} + \underline{\frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2\hat{z})(2st)} \\ + \underline{\frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2\hat{z})(1\text{s})^2}$$

$$= \underbrace{-1.5\text{m}\hat{z}}_{\vec{r}(0\text{s}) = -1.5\text{m}\hat{z}} + \underbrace{(-2\text{m/s}t)\hat{z}}_{\vec{v}(0\text{s}) = -2\text{m/s}\hat{z}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2t^2)\hat{z}}_{\vec{a} = 1\text{m/s}^2\hat{z}}$$

$$\vec{r}(4\text{s}) = 1\text{m}\hat{z} + (-3\text{m/s}\hat{z})[4\text{s} - (-1\text{s})] + \frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2\hat{z})[4\text{s} - (-1\text{s})]^2 \\ = -1.5\text{m}\hat{z}$$

$$\vec{r}(4\text{s}) = -1.5\text{m}\hat{z} + (-2\text{m/s}4\text{s})\hat{z} + \frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2(4\text{s})^2)\hat{z} \\ = -1.5\text{m}\hat{z}$$

$$\vec{v}(t) = \frac{d}{dt}\vec{r}(t) = \frac{d}{dt}(-1.5\text{m}\hat{z} + (-2\text{m/s}t)\hat{z} + \frac{1}{2}1\text{m/s}^2t^2\hat{z}) \\ = 0 + -2\text{m/s}\hat{z} + \frac{1}{2}1\text{m/s}^2\hat{z}2t \\ = (-2\text{m/s} + 1\text{m/s}^2t)\hat{z}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{d}{dt} \left[ 1\text{m}\hat{i} + (-3\text{m/s}\hat{i})[t - (-1\text{s})] + \frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2\hat{i})[t - (-1\text{s})]^2 \right] \\
 &= 0 + (-3\text{m/s}\hat{i})1 + \frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2\hat{i})2[t - (-1\text{s})] \\
 &= -3\text{m/s}\hat{i} + 1\text{m/s}^2[t - (-1\text{s})]\hat{i} \\
 &= (-2\text{m/s} + 1\text{m/s}^2 t)\hat{i}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{v}(4\text{s}) = 2\text{m/s}\hat{i}$$

— To get min of x-comp of position

[Extrema correspond to derivative  
vanishing]

$$\text{min pos}^n \text{ when } \underbrace{\frac{d}{dt} x(t)}_{v_x(t) = 0} = 0$$

$$v_x(t) = (-2\text{m/s} + 1\text{m/s}^2 t)$$

$$\boxed{0 \text{ at } t = 2\text{s}}$$

what is  $x(2\text{s})$ ?

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{r}(2\text{s}) &= -1.5\text{m}\hat{i} + (-2\text{m/s} \cdot 2\text{s})\hat{i} + \frac{1}{2}(1\text{m/s}^2)(2\text{s})^2 \\
 &= -3.5\text{m}
 \end{aligned}$$



## Velocity and Acceleration - III

One particle moves with constant acceleration of  $-0.5 \frac{m}{s^2} \hat{i}$ . At time  $t = 0s$  it is at the origin moving at  $20 \frac{m}{s} \hat{i}$ .

A second particle is at the origin stationary, until at  $t = 4s$  it starts to accelerate at a constant  $3 \frac{m}{s^2} \hat{i}$ .

- When does the second particle pass the first?
- Where are they when they pass?
- During the period between  $t = 0s$  and when they pass, what is the farthest apart they are, and when does that happen?

For first particle

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}_1(t) &= \vec{r}_0 + \vec{v}_0[t-t_0] + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}_0[t-t_0]^2 \\ &= 0m\hat{i} + 20\frac{m}{s}\hat{i}[t-0s] + \frac{1}{2}(-0.5\frac{m}{s^2}\hat{i})[t-0s]^2 \\ &= (20\frac{m}{s}t - 0.25\frac{m}{s^2}t^2)\hat{i}\end{aligned}$$

For 2<sup>nd</sup> particle before  $t=4s$

$$\vec{r}_2(t) = 0m\hat{i} \quad (t < 4s)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}_2(t) &= 0m\hat{i} + 0\frac{m}{s}\hat{i}[t-4s] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}(3\frac{m}{s^2}\hat{i})[t-4s]^2 \\ &= 1.5\frac{m}{s^2}[t-4s]^2\hat{i} \quad (t \geq 4s)\end{aligned}$$

pass  $\rightarrow$  same location

There is  $t_p$  when

$$\vec{r}_1(t_p) = \vec{r}_2(t_p)$$

assuming after 4s

$$(20\text{m/s}t_p - 0.25\text{m/s}^2 t_p^2) = (1.5\text{m/s}^2)(t_p - 4\text{s})^2$$

~~$20\text{m/s}t_p$~~

$$20\text{m/s}t_p - 0.25\text{m/s}^2 t_p^2 = 1.5\text{m/s}^2 t_p^2 - 12\text{m/s}t_p + 24\text{m}$$

$$0 = 1.75\text{m/s}^2 t_p^2 - 32\text{m/s}t_p + 24\text{m}$$

quadratic for  $t_p$

$$t_p = \frac{-(-32\text{m/s}) \pm \sqrt{(-32\text{m/s})^2 - 4(1.75\text{m/s}^2)(24\text{m})}}{2(1.75\text{m/s}^2)}$$

$$= \frac{32\text{m/s} \pm 29.26\text{m/s}}{3.5\text{m/s}^2}$$

$$= 17.5\text{s} \text{ or } 0.783\text{s}$$

$$\vec{r}_2(17.5\text{s}) = 1.5\text{m/s}^2 [17.5\text{s} - 4\text{s}]^2 \hat{i} = 273\text{m} \hat{i}$$



Vector from  $\vec{r}_2$  to  $\vec{r}_1$  is

$$\vec{r}_1(t) - \vec{r}_2(t)$$

max x-component at max separation

$$(20\text{m/s} - 0.25\text{m/s}^2 t) \hat{i} - 1.5\text{m/s}^2 [t - 4\text{s}]^2 \hat{i}$$

$$(20\text{m/s} - 0.25\text{m/s}^2 t - 1.5\text{m/s}^2 t^2 + 12\text{m/s} t - 24\text{m})$$

↑

x-comp of separation

$$\frac{d}{dt} \text{ x-comp of sep.}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} (-1.75\text{m/s}^2 t^2 + 30\text{m/s} t - 24\text{m})$$

$$= -3.5\text{m/s}^2 t + 30\text{m/s}$$

$$0 \text{ at } t = 8.57\text{s}$$

that's when sep. is maximum

$$-1.75\text{m/s}^2 (8.57\text{s})^2 + 30\text{m/s} (8.57\text{s}) - 24\text{m}$$

$$= 104.6\text{m}$$

Could also have gotten this  
by saying "max sep." when  $\vec{v}$ 's same