

Abstract

This document is a review of the Physics 12 course. I had some time on my hands and I really needed to study for exams so here goes nothing. If you find any mistakes, please let me know so I can fix them. I hope this helps you!

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1 Dynamics

1.1 Vectors and Scalars

Scalars are quantities that have magnitude only.

Vectors are quantities that have both magnitude and direction.

Scalars are represented by regular letters, while vectors are represented by letters with an arrow on top.

1.2 Kinematics

Distance is the total length of the path traveled by an object. The symbol for distance is d .

Position is the location of an object in space. We measure position as the distance and direction of an object from a reference point. The symbol for position is \vec{d} .

Displacement is the change in position of an object. The symbol for displacement is $\Delta\vec{d}$.

For one-dimensional motion, displacement is given by the equation:

$$\Delta\vec{d} = \vec{d}_2 - \vec{d}_1 \quad (1)$$

Where:

- \vec{d}_2 is the final position
- \vec{d}_1 is the initial position

It is important to note that displacement is the change in position, and therefore does not take into account the distance of the path taken to get from the initial to the final position.

Average Speed is the rate of change of distance. The symbol for average speed is v_{av} .

Average speed is given by the equation:

$$v_{av} = \frac{\Delta d}{\Delta t} \quad (2)$$

Average Velocity is the rate of change of displacement. The symbol for average velocity is \vec{v}_{av} .

Average velocity is given by the equation:

$$\vec{v}_{av} = \frac{\Delta\vec{d}}{\Delta t} \quad (3)$$

Instantaneous Speed is the speed of an object at a specific point in time. The symbol for instantaneous velocity is v .

Instantaneous Velocity is the velocity of an object at a specific point in time. The symbol for instantaneous velocity is \vec{v} .

On a position-time graph, the slope of the secant line between two points is the average velocity. The slope of the tangent line at a point is the instantaneous velocity.

The equation for the slope of a line is:

$$m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \quad (4)$$

Where m is the slope, and (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) are two points on the line.

Acceleration is the rate of change of velocity. The symbol for acceleration is \vec{a} . Acceleration is given by the equation:

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\Delta\vec{v}}{\Delta t} \quad (5)$$

As with velocity, acceleration can be either average or instantaneous. This time the average acceleration is given by the slope of the secant line on a velocity-time graph, and the instantaneous acceleration is given by the slope of the tangent line at a point.

1.3 The Equations of Motion

The **Equations of Motion** are a set of five equations that describe the motion of an object under constant acceleration.

Each equation relates the displacement, initial velocity, final velocity, acceleration, and time of an object, such that you can solve for any one of these variables given the other three.

Using the equations of motion you can solve any kinematics problem involving constant acceleration.

Equation	Formula	Variables Present	Variables Absent
1	$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f)\Delta t$	$\Delta \vec{d}, \vec{v}_i, \vec{v}_f, \Delta t$	\vec{a}
2	$\vec{v}_f = \vec{v}_i + \vec{a}\Delta t$	$\vec{v}_f, \vec{v}_i, \vec{a}, \Delta t$	$\Delta \vec{d}$
3	$\Delta \vec{d} = \vec{v}_i\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}\Delta t^2$	$\Delta \vec{d}, \vec{v}_i, \vec{a}, \Delta t$	\vec{v}_f
4	$\vec{v}_f^2 = \vec{v}_i^2 + 2\vec{a}\Delta \vec{d}$	$\vec{v}_f, \vec{v}_i, \vec{a}, \Delta \vec{d}$	Δt
5	$\Delta \vec{d} = \vec{v}_f\Delta t - \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}\Delta t^2$	$\Delta \vec{d}, \vec{v}_f, \vec{a}, \Delta t$	\vec{v}_i

Table 1: Equations of Motion

1.4 Deriving the Equations of Motion

1.4.1 Equation 1

The first equation of motion can be derived graphically, or analytically. Here is the analytical derivation.

Suppose an object is moving with an initial velocity \vec{v}_i , and an acceleration \vec{a} over time Δt reaching a final velocity \vec{v}_f . The average velocity of the object is given by:

$$\vec{v}_{av} = \frac{\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f}{2} \quad (6)$$

Recall the definition of average velocity:

$$\vec{v}_{av} = \frac{\Delta \vec{d}}{\Delta t} \quad (7)$$

Substituting our average velocity into the definition of average velocity and solving for $\Delta \vec{d}$ gives:

$$\frac{\Delta \vec{d}}{\Delta t} = \frac{\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f}{2} \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \left(\frac{\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f}{2} \right) \Delta t \quad (9)$$

Therefore the first equation of motion is:

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f)\Delta t \quad (10)$$

1.4.2 Equation 2

The second equation of motion is derived from the definition of acceleration.

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\Delta \vec{v}}{\Delta t} \quad (11)$$

$$\vec{a}\Delta t = \Delta \vec{v} \quad (12)$$

$$\vec{a}\Delta t = \vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i \quad (13)$$

$$\vec{v}_i + \vec{a}\Delta t = \vec{v}_f \quad (14)$$

Therefore the second equation of motion is:

$$\vec{v}_f = \vec{v}_i + \vec{a}\Delta t \quad (15)$$

1.4.3 Equation 3

The third equation of motion is derived from the first and second equations of motion.

Substituting the second equation of motion into the first equation of motion gives:

$$\vec{v}_f = \vec{v}_i + \vec{a}\Delta t \quad (16)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f)\Delta t \quad (17)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_i + \vec{a}\Delta t)\Delta t \quad (18)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2}(2\vec{v}_i + \vec{a}\Delta t)\Delta t \quad (19)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = (\vec{v}_i + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}(\Delta t))\Delta t \quad (20)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \vec{v}_i\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}(\Delta t)^2 \quad (21)$$

Therefore the third equation of motion is:

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \vec{v}_i\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}\Delta t^2 \quad (22)$$

1.4.4 Equation 4

The fourth equation of motion is derived from the first and second equations of motion.

We can first solve the second equation of motion for Δt :

$$\vec{v}_f = \vec{v}_i + \vec{a}\Delta t \quad (23)$$

$$\vec{a}\Delta t = \vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i \quad (24)$$

$$\Delta t = \frac{\vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i}{\vec{a}} \quad (25)$$

Substituting this into the first equation of motion gives:

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f)\Delta t \quad (26)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f) \left(\frac{\vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i}{\vec{a}} \right) \quad (27)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{(\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_f)(\vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i)}{\vec{a}} \right) \quad (28)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\vec{v}_f^2 - \vec{v}_i^2}{\vec{a}} \right) \quad (29)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} = \frac{\vec{v}_f^2 - \vec{v}_i^2}{2\vec{a}} \quad (30)$$

$$\Delta \vec{d} 2\vec{a} = \vec{v}_f^2 - \vec{v}_i^2 \quad (31)$$

$$2\vec{a}\Delta \vec{d} + \vec{v}_i^2 = \vec{v}_f^2 \quad (32)$$

Therefore the fourth equation of motion is:

$$\vec{v}_f^2 = \vec{v}_i^2 + 2\vec{a}\Delta \vec{d} \quad (33)$$

1.4.5 Equation 5

The fifth equation of motion is derived from the second and third equations of motion.

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