

# Physics Class Notes

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## Physics Class Notes

Try to do all 20 chapters. (cut out fluids?) 4 hours 20 minutes of class time every week.

Scientific notation review SI system: m (meters), kg (kilograms), s (seconds)

<http://www.scaleofuniverse.com>

Physics is the study of energy

Magnitude of a vector is another name for its length. It's essentially a quantity. It's the size of the thing you are measuring. Arrows are really useful for this. . . . How do I find components? Vectors have components. You've gotta have a reference frame. Usually we use the XY grid. Euclidean space. How do I find the magnitude of a vector if I have the angle and the magnitude?

Cross product review.

Note: R's built in `%*%` and `crossprod` do not give the correct results.

**USE `pracma`**

```
A <- 1:3
B <- c(-1, 0, 2)
C <- c(1, 1, 0)
library(pracma)
BC <- cross(B, C)
cross(A, BC)
```

```
## [1] -8 -5 6
```

```
# same result
```

```
(B * dot(A, C)) - (C * dot(A, B))
```

```
## [1] -8 -5 6
```

## Motion

What do we mean when we say something is relative?

First we need to choose a reference frame.

X will represent the position of objects.  $X_0$  is our initial position.  $X_f$  is our final position. Change is found by

$$\Delta x = x_f - x_0$$

How fast are we changing? Velocity vs. Speed, what's the difference.

Velocity is a vector. Position is technically a vector too.

$$v = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$$

This is only the average velocity. In general,  $X$  is a function of **time**. Time is the independent variable here.  $X(t)$ .

This is instantaneous velocity

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt}$$

What if velocity is changing?

$$\Delta v = v_f - v_0$$

Average acceleration is

$$a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$$

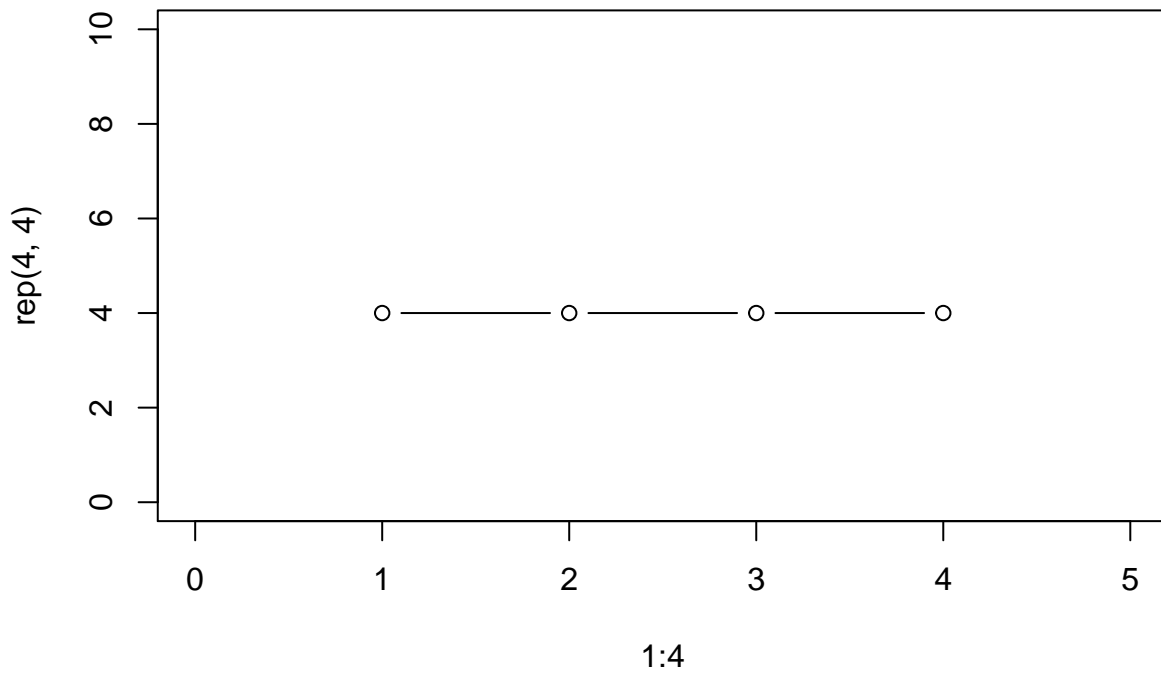
Instantaneous acceleration is

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt}$$

The derivative of acceleration is referred to as **jerk**.

Draw an x-t graph for an object that isn't moving.

```
plot(1:4, rep(4, 4), type = "b", ylim = c(0, 10), xlim = c(0, 5))
```



Try this:

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt}$$

$$dv = a dt$$

$$\int dv = \int a dt$$

First kinematic equation

$$v(t) = at + v_0$$

## 8-29-17

Still talking about linear motion.

$$x(t) = 3t^2 - 5t + 21$$

- What is the initial position of a particle?

$$x(0) = 21$$

- What is the initial velocity of the particle?

$$x'(0) = -5$$

- Find the acceleration of the particle?

$$x''(0) = 6$$

- How far has the particle traveled after 8 seconds?

$$x(8) = 3 * 8^2 - 5 * 8 + 21$$

- How long does it take the particle to travel a distance of 52m?

Set  $x(t) = 52$  and solve for  $t$ .  $52 = 3t^2 - 5t + 21 = 3t^2 - 5t - 31 = 0$  and just use the quadratic equation to solve.

- How fast is the particle traveling when it reaches this position?

Plug in the positive solution to the above quadratic into the first derivative of our function.  $v(4.07) = 6(4.07) - 5$ .

Reminder of our first kinematic equation

$$v(t) = at + v_0$$

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$dx = v dt$$

$$\int dx = \int v dt$$

$$x = \int v_0 + at dt = \int v_0 dt + \int at dt = v_0 t + \frac{1}{2} at^2 + C$$

where  $C$  is  $x_0$ , our initial position.

**This is our second kinematic equation:**

$$x(t) = x_0 + v_0 t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$

Set  $t = \frac{v-v_0}{a}$  and  $a = \frac{v-v_0}{t}$  and solve.

## Kinematic Equations

$$v_f = v_o + at$$

$$x_f = x_o + v_o t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$

$$v_f^2 = v_o^2 + 2a(x_f - x_o)$$

$$x_f = x_o + \frac{1}{2}(v_f + v_o)t$$

Figure 1:

How long does it take a rocket, traveling at a constant speed of 600 m/s to travel 1300 m?

Everything is known for this problem except time. So pick one of the equations that includes t in an easy way. (we used the 4th one).

If a car is initially traveling at a speed of 20 m/s and is accelerating at a constant rate of  $6m/s^2$ . How long will it take to reach a speed of 40 m/s?

What is known?  $a, v_o, v_f$ .

Not known?  $t, x_f$ .

Use the first one for this.

Suppose you throw a rock straight up in the air with an initial speed of 20 m/s. Find the maximum height of the rock. (homework problem).

Known:  $x_0 = 0, v_0 = 20m/s, a = -9.8m/s^2, v_f = 0$  Not :  $x_f, t$

**Don't forget that a is a vector. Make sure your signs are correct!!**

Use the third one.

You are driving your car down state street at a constant speed of 15 m/s. All of a sudden a lost cow wanders onto the road 20 meters in front of you. You immediately apply the breaks and your car comes to a stop after 2.6 s. Do you hit the cow?

Use the 4th one.

Moving on to motion in 2D and 3D.

**Orthogonality** is important. The basis are independent from one another. (video of shooting and dropping a bullet and bowling ball feather drop in the worlds largest vacuum chamber. Spoiler alert: the hit the ground at the same time).

A component is simply a projection of a vector onto another reference frame.

Gravity doesn't care when dealing with orthogonal basis.

Recall def for vectors.

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

What about

$$r(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + \dots$$

**Note: kinematic equations only work with one direction.**

Time is NOT a vector. It is a scalar.

## 8-31-17

Two projection angles that add to 90 degrees will have the same projection distance.

(Phet interactive web app.) [phet.colorado.edu](http://phet.colorado.edu)

We want to know the range given two values, initial velocity and angle.  $v_0, \theta$ . Start with y dimension since it helps us more to find t since we have  $a = \text{acceleration} = 9.8 \frac{m}{s^2}$ .

$$v_{fy} = v_{0y} + a_y t$$

With our example in class:

$$t = \frac{2v_0 \sin(\theta)}{g}$$

$$R = \frac{2v_0^2 \sin\theta \cos\theta}{g} = \frac{v_0^2 \sin(2\theta)}{g}$$

Now on to orbital mechanics.

Acceleration. If you are moving in a circle you are constantly changing direction so you are constantly accelerating.

Centripetal force is

$$F = \frac{mv^2}{r}$$

where m is the mass v is the velocity and r is the radius from the center.

Centripetal force always points towards the center. In this equation

$$a = \frac{v^2}{r}$$

Period is the amount of time it takes for something to happen once.

The orbital period is

$$\text{time} = \frac{2\pi r}{v}$$

**9-5-17**

Newton's Laws: - Inertia -  $F = ma$  -  $F_{12} = F_{21}$

**Inertia** is the tendency of an object to resist changes in its motion.

**Newton's 2nd Law** is often considered the most fundamental law of nature. The foundation for all motion.

$$F_{net} = ma$$

$$\sum F = ma$$