

1.0 Linear Motion.

Motion is one of the key branches of physics. It finds applications in numerous fields such as engineering, medicine, geology, sport science and so on.

1.1 Variables (Quantities in Motion)

(i) Distance: is a change in position relative to a reference point. It is a scalar quantity measured in metre (m) and as such, it can only be positive.

(ii) Displacement: is a change in position relative to a reference point in a particular direction. It is a vector quantity and also measured in metre (m) and represented by d , s , and x . Displacement, being a vector, can be positive or negative.

(iii) Average Speed: is the rate of change of distance. It is a scalar quantity, measured in (m) per second (s), m/s. Since speed is likely to change over the course of motion,

$$\text{Average Speed} = \frac{\text{Total distance covered}}{\text{Total time taken}}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta d}{\Delta t} = \frac{d_2 - d_1}{t_2 - t_1}$$

(iv) Instantaneous speed: is the speed recorded at a given point in time.

$$v = \frac{d}{t}$$

(V) Average velocity: is the rate of change of displacement and is also measured in m/s.

$$A_v = \frac{\text{Total displacement}}{\text{Total time taken}}$$
$$= \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = \frac{s_2 - s_1}{t_2 - t_1}$$

Instantaneous velocity: is a specified position or a particular point in time. ~~is a scalar~~

$$V = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = \frac{ds}{dt}$$

(VI) Average Acceleration: is the rate of change of velocity and is measured in (m/s^2) . It is also a vector quantity.

$$A_a = \frac{\text{change in velocity}}{\text{time taken}}$$

$$A_a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} = \frac{v_2 - v_1}{t_2 - t_1}$$

Acceleration occurs due to change in the

(i) magnitude of the velocity only,

(ii) direction of the velocity only, or

(iii) magnitude and direction of the velocity.

(VII) Instantaneous acceleration: is the acceleration at a specified position or particular point in time.

$$a = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} = \frac{dv}{dt}$$

(viii) Free Acceleration is the \downarrow experienced by an object undergoing vertical motion in the vicinity of the earth and this has value $g = 9.8 \text{ ms}^{-2}$.
When an acceleration is negative, it is called deceleration.

1.2 Equation of Motion:

$$v = u + at \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2 \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$s = \frac{1}{2}(u+v)t \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$$s = vt - \frac{1}{2}at^2 \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

Example 1 Find v when $u = 2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$, $a = 3 \text{ ms}^{-2}$ and $t = 4 \text{ s}$.

Sol Using $v = u + at$

$$v = 2 + 3 \times 4$$

$$= 2 + 12$$

$$= 14 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

Example 2 Find s when $v = 0.2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$, $u = 3.8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and $t = 10 \text{ s}$.

Sol
$$s = \frac{(u+v)}{2} t$$

$$s = \frac{3.8 + 0.2}{2} \times 10$$

$$s = 20 \text{ m}$$

Example 3 Find s , when $v = 15 \text{ m s}^{-1}$, $a = 6 \text{ m s}^{-2}$
and $t = 5 \text{ s}$.

Sol

$$s = vt - \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$s = 15 \times 5 - \frac{1}{2} \times 6 \times 5^2$$

$$= 75 - 75$$

$s = 0 \text{ m}$. This is possible, since we are dealing with vector quantities.

Example 4 Find a when $v = 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$, $u = 13 \text{ m s}^{-1}$, $s = 8 \text{ m}$

Sol

$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$$

$$a = \frac{v^2 - u^2}{2s} = \frac{3^2 - 13^2}{2 \times 8} = \frac{9 - 169}{16} = -10 \text{ m s}^{-2}$$

Example 5 A plane flies from London Heathrow Airport to Dubai Airport a distance of 5500 km at an average of 1200 km/h. The return trip was made at an average speed of 1050 km/h. Find the average speed for the whole journey.

Sol

$$s = 5500 \text{ km}$$

$$u_1 = 1200 \text{ km/h}$$

$$u_2 = 1050 \text{ km/h}$$

$$t_2 = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{average speed}}$$

$$= \frac{5500}{1050} = \frac{110}{21}$$

$$t_1 = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{average speed}} = \frac{5500}{1200} = \frac{55}{12}$$

$$t_2 = 5.24 \text{ hours}$$

$$t_1 = 4.58 \text{ hours}$$

$$\text{Average speed} = \frac{\text{total distance}}{\text{total time}}$$

$$= \frac{5500 + 5500}{4.58 + 5.24} = 1120 \text{ km/h}$$

Example 6 the safe take-off velocity of a port
 London passenger plane is set at 210 km/h . find
 the minimum acceleration that the air plane
 needs to move on a 2.2 km runway

sol

$$u = 0 \text{ m/s}^{-1}$$

$$v = 210 \text{ km/h}^{-1}$$

$$s = 2.2 \text{ km} = 2200 \text{ m}$$

$$v = \frac{210 \times 1000}{3600}$$

$$= 58.3 \text{ m/s}^{-1}$$

Along $v^2 = u^2 + 2as$

$$a = \frac{v^2 - u^2}{2s} = \frac{58.3^2 - 0}{2 \times 2200} = 0.79 \text{ m/s}^{-2}$$

Example 7 A taxi driver moving at a velocity of
 10 m/s realised that he had 35 sec to get to
 his destination which is 800 m away. He therefore
 accelerated at 3 m/s^2 for the rest of the journey.
 Did he succeed in getting to his destination on
 time

sol

$$u = 10 \text{ m/s}^{-1} \quad a = 3 \text{ m/s}^{-2}, \quad s = 800 \text{ m} \quad t = ?$$

Along

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2 \quad \text{by substitution}$$

$$800 = 10t + \frac{1}{2}(3)t^2$$

$$800 = 10t + 1.5t^2 \times 2$$

$$3t^2 + 20t - 1600 = 0$$

$$3t^2 + 20t - 1600 = 0$$

$$(t - 20)(3t + 80) = 0$$

$$t - 20 = 0$$

$$t = 20$$

$$3t + 80 = 0$$

$$3t = -80$$

$$t = \frac{-80}{3}$$

Example A particle moves such that its position x metres at time t seconds is given by the expression $x = 3t^3 - 13t^2 - 2t$.

1) Determine the position of the particle when time $t = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ and 5 .

Sol At $t = 0$, then

$$x = 3t^3 - 13t^2 - 2t = 3(0)^3 - 13(0)^2 - 2(0) = 0 \text{ m.}$$

$$\text{At } t = 1, \quad x = 3(1)^3 - 13(1)^2 - 2(1) = 3 - 13 - 2 = -12 \text{ m}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{At } t = 2, \quad x &= 3t^3 - 13t^2 - 2t \\ &= 3(2)^3 - 13(2)^2 - 2(2) \\ &= 24 - 52 - 4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{At } t = 3, \quad x &= 3(3)^3 - 13(3)^2 - 2(3) \\ &= 81 - 117 - 6 \\ x &= -42 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{At } t = 4, \quad x &= 3t^3 - 13t^2 - 2t \\ &= 3(4)^3 - 13(4)^2 - 2(4) \\ &= 192 - 208 - 8 \\ x &= -20 \text{ m.} \end{aligned}$$

At $t = 5$, the position $x = 3t^3 - 13t^2 - 2t$

$$x = 3(5)^3 - 13(5)^2 - 2(5)$$

$$x = 375 - 325 - 10$$

$$x = 40\text{m.}$$

1.3 Free Fall Motion

Example 1 A metal coin is thrown straight upwards with an initial velocity of 20m/s . Calculate the distance covered from the point of projection and velocity after 2s . Take $g = 10\text{ms}^{-2}$

Sol

$$u = 20\text{ms}^{-1} \quad s = ut + \frac{1}{2}gt^2$$

$$g = 10\text{ms}^{-2} \quad s = 20 \times 2 - \frac{1}{2}(10)(2)^2$$

$$t = 2\text{s} \quad = 40 - 20 = 20\text{m.}$$

$$s = ?$$

$$v = ?$$

Example 2 An apple fruit falls freely from a tree at a height of 2.4m . How long does it take to reach the ground?

Sol

$$u = 0\text{ms}^{-1} \quad g = 9.8\text{ms}^{-2}$$

$$h = 2.4\text{m} \quad t = ?$$

$$t = \sqrt{\frac{2 \times 2.4}{9.8}}$$

Using $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}gt^2$

$$u = 0. \quad s = 0 \times t + \frac{1}{2}gt^2 \quad t = \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{7}$$

$$s = \frac{1}{2}gt^2 \quad t = \underline{\underline{0.705}}$$

$$t^2 = \sqrt{\frac{2s}{g}}$$

Example 3 A 500g parcel is dropped from a height of 60m, from a plane which is moving upwards with a velocity of 5.0 m/s. Determine!

- (i) the initial velocity of the parcel.
- (ii) the time taken for the parcel to reach the ground? take $g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2$

Soln

$$h = 60 \text{ m} \quad g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2 \quad t - 4 = 0$$

$$u = ? \quad t = ? \quad t = 4$$

Using $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}gt^2$

$$t + 3 = 0$$

$$t = -3$$

$$60 = -5t + \frac{1}{2}10t^2$$

$$60 = -5t + 5t^2$$

$$5t^2 - 5t - 60 = 0$$

$$t^2 - t - 12 = 0$$

$$(t - 4)(t + 3) = 0$$

Since time cannot be negative, it follows that only solution is $t = \underline{\underline{4.05}}$

1.4 Free fall motion

Example 1 An object is projected straight upwards with an initial velocity of u . If T is the time taken to return to the point of projection (time of flight), H the greatest height and g is the acceleration due to gravity, show that

$$(i) T = \frac{2u}{g} \quad (ii) H = \frac{u^2}{2g}$$

Q.1

(1) $u = 0 \text{ ms}^{-1}$
 $t = T_s$
 $s = H$

Along $v = u + gt$

$$T = 2t$$

$$t = \frac{1}{2}T \text{ ————— (2)}$$

$$0 = u - g\left(\frac{1}{2}T\right)$$

$$u = \frac{1}{2}gT$$

$$T = \frac{2u}{g}$$

(11) Along $v^2 = u^2 + 2gh$

$$0 = u^2 - 2gh$$

$$2gh = u^2$$

$$H = \frac{u^2}{2g}$$

Example 2 An object is thrown vertically upwards with an initial velocity of 3 m/s from a ladder which is 5 m above ground level. Taking g to be 10 m/s^2

(1) Express the height h of the object above the ground as a function of time t .

(2) Use the expression in (1) to find the time the object hits the ground and velocity

and velocity with which it strikes the ground.

Soln $h = 5\text{m}$, $g = 10\text{ms}^{-2}$ $u = 3\text{ms}^{-1}$

Using $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}gt^2$ ——— (1)

~~$h = 5\text{m}$~~ $h = 5 + s$ ——— (2)

$$s = 3t - \frac{1}{2}10t^2$$

$$= 3t - 5t^2$$

Therefore from (2)

$$h = 5 + 3t - 5t^2$$

Since the object hits the ground when the height is zero, thus

$$0 = 5 + 3t - 5t^2$$

$$5t^2 - 3t - 5 = 0$$

Using
$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$t = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{(-3)^2 + 4(5)(5)}}{2(5)} = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{109}}{10}$$

$$t = \frac{3 + \sqrt{109}}{10} \approx 1.34 \text{ or } t = \frac{3 - \sqrt{109}}{10} \approx -0.745$$

Since time cannot be negative, it implies that the time taken to reach the ground is $t = 1.34\text{s}$

Using $v^2 = u^2 + 2gs$

$$= (-3)^2 + 2(10)(5)$$

$$= 9 + 100$$

$$v = \sqrt{109}$$

$$v = 10.4\text{ms}^{-1}$$