Homework 2

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Problem 1

In the graph below, is there any time, or time interval, for which the following hold? (a) $v = 0,\ a = 0$; (b) $v = 0,\ a \neq 0$; (c) $v \neq 0, a = 0$; (d) $v > 0,\ a > 0$; (e) $v > 0,\ a < 0$; (f) $v < 0,\ a < 0$; (g) $v < 0,\ a > 0$.

Solution

Problem 2

The figure below shows the v versus t graphs for cars A and B. At $t = 0$ both are at $x = 0$. Estimate: (a) where and when they meet again; and (b) their velocities when they meet.

Solution

To find when and where the cars meet again after $t = 0$, we must find when Δx is equal for both cars. Car A has constant velocity which means that Δx is given by;

$$\Delta x = v_A t$$

where v_A is the velocity of Car A. Also, we can see that Car B has constant acceleration which means that Δx is given by;

$$\Delta x = v_{0B} t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$

where v_{0B} is the initial velocity of car B. We set these equations equal to eachother and re-arrange it to solve for time.

$$v_A t = v_{0B} t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$
$$v_A t = \left(v_{0B} + \frac{1}{2} a t \right) t$$
$$v_A - v_{0B} = v_{0B} + \frac{1}{2} a t - v_{0B}$$
$$2 \left(v_A - v_{0B} \right) = \frac{1}{2} a t \cdot 2$$
$$t = \frac{2 \left(v_A - v_{0B} \right)}{a}$$

Looking at the graph we can estimate a for car B to be 3 m/s^2, then substituting our variables, we find that the cars meet again at;

$$\frac{2 \left(8.00 - 0.00 \right)}{3.00} = \frac{16}{3} \text{ s}$$

or approximately 5.33 seconds. Then we use the time in one of our original equation for Δx and find that the cars meet again at;

$$(8) \cdot \left(\frac{16}{3} \right) = \frac{128}{3} \text{ m}$$

which is approximately 42.66 meters. Now, we already know that v_A is constant so it will be 8, however, for car B we must use our acceleration estimate a and t to find the velocity.

$$v_B = v_{0b} + at$$

$$v_B = 0 + (3) \cdot \left(\frac{16}{3}\right)$$

$$v_B = 16 \text{ m/s}$$

Problem 3

A Honda Fit is initially with a speed of 115 km/h. Find its acceleration and the time taken to stop given that: (a) it brakes to a stop in 64.0 m; (b) it crashes head-on into a barrier and crumples by 1.00 m.

Solution

Given that we are missing time, we can use the following equation to solve for acceleration in both circumstances;

$$v^2 = 2a\Delta x + v_0^2$$
$$v^2 - v_0^2 = 2a\Delta x$$

$$a = \frac{v^2 - v_0^2}{2\Delta x} \tag{1}$$

and solve for time using

$$\Delta x = \frac{v + v_0}{2}t$$
$$2\Delta x = (v + v_0)\,t$$

$$t = \frac{2\Delta x}{v + v_0} \tag{2}$$

We have a unit conversion from km/h to m/s so that we have consistent units for distance and so that the timescale matches the distance units.

$$115 \text{ km h}^{-1} \cdot 1000 \text{ m/km} \cdot \frac{1}{3600} \text{ h s}^{-1} = 31.944 \text{ m/s}$$

Now we subsitute our values into Eq.1 to find that aceleration when braking to a stop is;

$$\frac{0 - 31.944^2}{2\,(64.0)} = -8.0 \text{ m/s}^2$$

The time elapsed over that distance using Eq.2 is;

$$t = \frac{2\Delta x}{v + v_0}$$

$$\frac{2(64.0)}{0 + 31.944} = 4.0 \text{ s}$$

For the case where the car is stopped by a pole 1.00 m away. We use the same equations;

$$\frac{0 - 31.944^2}{2(1.00)} = -510.2 \text{ m/s}^2$$

and

$$\frac{2(1)}{0 + 31.944} = 0.06 \text{ s}$$

Problem 4

An object moves with constant acceleration. At $t = 2.50$ s, the position of the object is $x = 2.00$ m and its velocity is $v = 4.50$ m/s. At $t = 7.00$ s, $v = -12.0$ m/s. Find: (a) the position and the velocity at $t = 0$; (b) the average speed from 2.50 s to 7.00 s, and (c) the average velocity from 2.50 s to 7.00 s.

Solution

Part a:

We start by finding the acceleration

$$v = at + v_0$$
$$v - v_0 = at$$
$$a = \frac{v - v_0}{t}$$
$$\frac{-12.00 - 4.50}{4.50} = \frac{-16.50}{4.50} \text{ m/s}^2$$

Then the velocity at $t = 0$ is

$$v = at + v_0$$
$$v_0 = v - at$$
$$v_0 = 4.50 - \left(\frac{-16.50}{4.50}\right)2.50$$
$$v_0 = 13.66 \text{ m/s}$$

and the position at $t = 0$ is;

$$x_0 = x - \frac{v + v_0}{2}t$$
$$x_0 = 2 - \frac{4.50 + 13.66}{2}2.50$$
$$x_0 = -20.7$$

Part b:

We need to find the position at $t = 7.00$ to find the position which we can use equation 2 for;

$$t = \frac{2(x - x_0)}{v + v_0}$$
$$t(v + v_0) = 2(x - x_0)$$
$$\frac{t(v + v_0)}{2} = x - x_0$$
$$x = \frac{t(v + v_0)}{2} + x_0$$
$$\frac{4.50(-12.0 + 4.50)}{2} + 2.00 = -14.875 \text{ m}$$

and then use position to solve for speed using the difference in position over time.

$$s_{avg} = \left|\frac{-14.875 - 2.00}{4.50}\right| = 3.75 \text{ m/s}$$

The average velocity during that same duration is calculated using the same equation except for the fact that preserve the directionality.

$$v_{avg} = \frac{-14.875 - 2.00}{4.50} = -3.75 \text{ m/s}$$

3

Problem 5

A ball thrown vertically up from the ground rises to height of 24.0 m. How high would it rise on the moon if given the same initial speed? The acceleration due to gravity on the moon is one- sixth that on earth.

Solution

We need to solve for initial velocity given the information that we have and use it to find the change in position with a different free-fall acceleration.

$$v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a\Delta x$$
$$v_0^2 = v^2 - 2a\Delta x$$
$$v_0^2 = (0)^2 - 2(-9.8)(24)$$
$$v_0 = \sqrt{470.4}$$

Now we substitute the initial velocity into the same equation with the new free-fall acceleration to solve for Δx.

$$v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a\Delta x$$
$$v^2 - v_0^2 = 2a\Delta x$$
$$\Delta x = \frac{v^2 - v_0^2}{2a}$$
$$\Delta x = \frac{(0)^2 - \left(\sqrt{470.4}\right)^2}{2(-1.635)}$$
$$\Delta x = 143.9 \text{ m}$$

Problem 6

A ball is thrown up from the top of a building 55.0 m high. It rises to a maximum height of 20.0 m above the roof. (a) When does it land on the ground below? (b) At what velocity does it land? (c) When is it 20.0 m below the roof?

Solution

We start by finding the time it takes for the ball to reach its maximum height above the roof of 20.0 m.

$$\Delta x = vt - \frac{1}{2}at^2$$
$$20.0 = (0)t - \frac{1}{2}(-9.8)t^2$$
$$\frac{20.0}{9.8/2} = t^2$$
$$\sqrt{\frac{40.0}{9.8}} = t$$

Problem 7

From the v versus t graph below, plot the following graphs: (a) a versus t; (b) x versus t. (c) What is the average acceleration for the first 6.0 s? (d) What is the instantaneous acceleration at 2.0 s? Assume $x = 0$ at $t = 0$.

Problem 8

The length of a train is 44.5 m. Its front is 100. m from a pole. It accelerates from rest at 0.500 m/s^2. (a) How long does it take to go past the pole? (b) At what speeds do its front and rear pass the pole?