Module 3 - Newton's Approach

ME3050 - Dynamics Modeling and Controls

Mechanical Engineering
Tennessee Technological University

Topic 1 - Newton's Laws of Motion

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- Brief Biography
- First Law
- Second Law
- Third Law

Early Life:

Isaac Newton was born (according to the Julian calendar, in use in England at the time) on Christmas Day, 25 December 1642 ...

... at Woolsthorpe Manor in Woolsthorpe-by-Colsterworth, a hamlet in the county of Lincolnshire.

Education:

From the age of about twelve until he was seventeen, Newton was educated at The King's School, Grantham, which taught Latin and Greek and probably imparted a significant foundation of mathematics ...

In June 1661, he was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge ...

... the college's teachings were based on those of Aristotle, whom Newton supplemented with modern philosophers such as Descartes, and astronomers such as Galileo and Thomas Street, through whom he learned of Kepler's work.

Development of Calculus:

In 1665, he discovered the generalised binomial theorem and began to develop a mathematical theory that later became calculus. Soon after Newton had obtained his BA degree in August 1665, the university temporarily closed as a precaution against the Great Plague. Although he had been undistinguished as a Cambridge student, [16] Newton's private studies at his home in Woolsthorpe over the subsequent two years saw the development of his theories on calculus, [17] optics, and the law of gravitation.

Foundation of Mechanics:

The Principia was published on 5 July 1687 ... In this work, Newton stated the three universal laws of motion. Together, these laws describe the relationship between any object, the forces acting upon it and the resulting motion, laying the foundation for classical mechanics. They contributed to many advances during the Industrial Revolution which soon followed and were not improved upon for more than 200 years. Many of these advancements continue to be the underpinnings of non-relativistic technologies in the modern world...

First Law

Newton's First Law of Motion

Every object persists in its state of rest or uniform motion in a straight line unless it is compelled to change that state by forces impressed on it.

The key point here is that if there is no net force acting on an object (if all the external forces cancel each other out) then the object will maintain a constant velocity. If that velocity is zero, then the object remains at rest. If an external force is applied, the velocity will change because of the force.

Text: NASA

Second Law

Newton's Second Law of Motion

Force is equal to the change in momentum (mV) per change in time. For a constant mass, force equals mass time acceleration (F = ma).

For an external applied force, the change in velocity depends on the mass of the object. A force will cause a change in velocity; and likewise, a change in velocity will generate a force. The equation works both ways.

Text: NASA

Third Law

Newton's Third Law of Motion

For every action, there is an equal and opposite re-action.t

In other words, if object A exerts a force on object B, then object B also exerts an equal force on object A. Notice that the forces are exerted on different objects. The third law can be used to explain the generation of lift by a wing and the production of thrust by a jet engine.

Text: NASA