

Physics for Scientists and Engineers I

PHY 2048, Section 4

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

- I. General
- II. International System of Units
- III. Conversion of units
- IV. Dimensional Analysis
- V. Problem Solving Strategies

I. Objectives of Physics

- Find the limited number of fundamental laws that govern natural phenomena.
- Use these laws to develop theories that can predict the results of future experiments.
- Express the laws in the language of mathematics.
- Physics is divided into six major areas:
 1. Classical Mechanics (PHY2048)
 2. Relativity
 3. Thermodynamics
 4. Electromagnetism (PHY2049)
 5. Optics (PHY2049)
 6. Quantum Mechanics

II. International System of Units

QUANTITY	UNIT NAME	UNIT SYMBOL
Length	meter	m
Time	second	s
Mass	kilogram	kg
Speed		m/s
Acceleration		m/s ²
Force	Newton	N
Pressure	Pascal	Pa = N/m ²
Energy	Joule	J = Nm
Power	Watt	W = J/s
Temperature	Kelvin	K

POWER	PREFIX	ABBREVIATION
10 ¹⁵	peta	P
10 ¹²	tera	T
10 ⁹	giga	G
10 ⁶	mega	M
10 ³	kilo	k
10 ²	hecto	h
10 ¹	deka	da
10 ⁻¹	deci	D
10 ⁻²	centi	c
10 ⁻³	milli	m
10 ⁻⁶	micro	μ
10 ⁻⁹	nano	n
10 ⁻¹²	pico	p
10 ⁻¹⁵	femto	f

III. Conversion of units

Chain-link conversion method: The original data are multiplied successively by conversion factors written as unity. Units can be treated like algebraic quantities that can cancel each other out.

Example: 316 feet/h → m/s

$$\left(316 \frac{\cancel{\text{feet}}}{\cancel{\text{h}}}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\cancel{1 \text{ h}}}{3600 \text{ s}}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1 \text{ m}}{3.28 \cancel{\text{ feet}}}\right) = 0.027 \text{ m/s}$$

IV. Dimensional Analysis

Dimension of a quantity: indicates the type of quantity it is; **length [L]**, **mass [M]**, **time [T]**

Dimensional consistency: both sides of the equation must have the same dimensions.

Example: $x = x_0 + v_0 t + at^2/2$

$$[L] = [L] + \frac{[L]}{[T]} [T] + \frac{[L]}{[T^2]} [T^2] = [L] + [L] + [L]$$

Note: There are no dimensions for the constant (1/2)

Table 1.6

Units of Area, Volume, Velocity, Speed, and Acceleration

System	Area (L ²)	Volume (L ³)	Speed (L/T)	Acceleration (L/T ²)
SI	m ²	m ³	m/s	m/s ²
U.S. customary	ft ²	ft ³	ft/s	ft/s ²

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Significant figure → one that is reliably known.

Zeros may or may not be significant:

- Those used to position the decimal point are not significant.
- To remove ambiguity, use scientific notation.

Ex: 2.56 m/s has 3 significant figures, 2 decimal places.
 0.000256 m/s has 3 significant figures and 6 decimal places.
 10.0 m has 3 significant figures.
 1500 m is ambiguous → 1.5 × 10³ (2 figures), 1.50 × 10³ (3 fig.),
 1.500 × 10³ (4 figs.)

Order of magnitude → the power of 10 that applies.

V. Problem solving tactics

- Explain the problem with your own words.
- Make a good picture describing the problem.
- Write down the given data with their units. Convert all data into S.I. system.
- Identify the unknowns.
- Find the connections between the unknowns and the data.
- Write the physical equations that can be applied to the problem.
- Solve those equations.
- Always include units for every quantity. Carry the units through the entire calculation.
- Check if the values obtained are reasonable → order of magnitude and units.

MECHANICS → Kinematics

Chapter 2 - Motion along a straight line

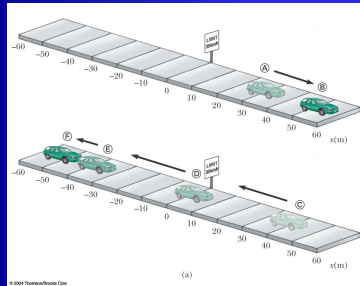
- I. Position and displacement
- II. Velocity
- III. Acceleration
- IV. Motion in one dimension with constant acceleration
- V. Free fall

Particle: point-like object that has a mass but infinitesimal size.

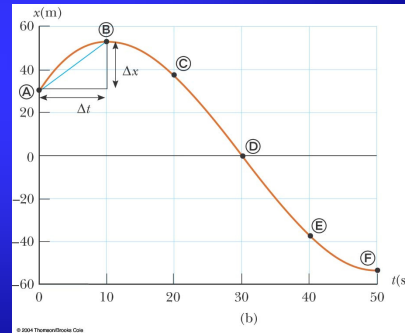
I. Position and displacement

Position: Defined in terms of a frame of reference: x or y axis in 1D.

- The object's position is its location with respect to the frame of reference.



Position-Time graph: shows the motion of the particle (car).



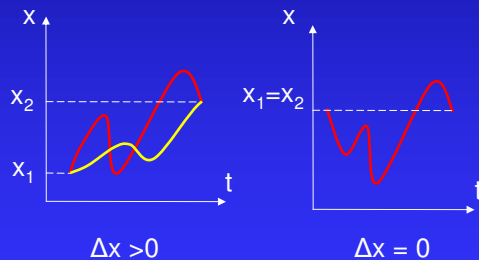
The smooth curve is a guess as to what happened between the data points.

I. Position and displacement

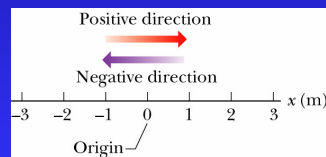
Displacement: Change from position x_1 to $x_2 \rightarrow \Delta x = x_2 - x_1$ (2.1) during a time interval.

- Vector quantity: Magnitude (absolute value) and direction (sign).

- Coordinate (position) \neq Displacement $\rightarrow x \neq \Delta x$



Coordinate system



Only the initial and final coordinates influence the displacement \rightarrow many different motions between x_1 and x_2 give the same displacement.

Distance: length of a path followed by a particle.

- Scalar quantity

Displacement \neq Distance

Example: round trip house-work-house \rightarrow distance traveled = 10 km
displacement = 0

Review:

- Vector quantities need both magnitude (size or numerical value) and direction to completely describe them.

- We will use + and - signs to indicate vector directions.

- Scalar quantities are completely described by magnitude only.

II. Velocity

Average velocity: Ratio of the displacement Δx that occurs during a particular time interval Δt to that interval.

$$v_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = \frac{x_2 - x_1}{t_2 - t_1} \quad (2.2)$$

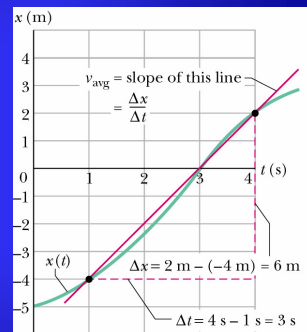
- **Vector quantity** \rightarrow indicates not just how fast an object is moving but also in which direction it is moving.

- SI Units: m/s

- Dimensions: Length/Time [L]/[T]

- The slope of a straight line connecting 2 points on an x-versus-t plot is equal to the average velocity during that time interval.

Motion along x-axis



Average speed: Total distance covered in a time interval.

$$S_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\text{Total distance}}{\Delta t} \quad (2.3)$$

$S_{\text{avg}} \neq$ magnitude V_{avg}

S_{avg} always >0

Scalar quantity

Same units as velocity

Example: A person drives 4 mi at 30 mi/h and 4 mi at 50 mi/h \rightarrow Is the average speed $>$, $<$, $=$ 40 mi/h ? <40 mi/h

$$t_1 = 4 \text{ mi}/(30 \text{ mi/h}) = 0.13 \text{ h} \quad ; \quad t_2 = 4 \text{ mi}/(50 \text{ mi/h}) = 0.08 \text{ h} \rightarrow t_{\text{tot}} = 0.213 \text{ h}$$

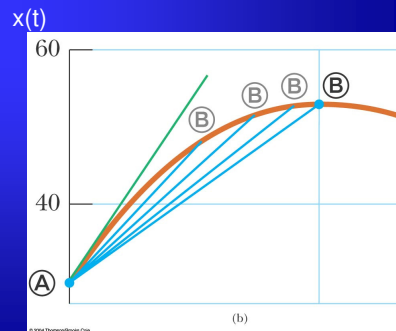
$$\rightarrow S_{\text{avg}} = 8 \text{ mi}/0.213 \text{ h} = 37.5 \text{ mi/h}$$

Instantaneous velocity: How fast a particle is moving at a given instant.

$$v_x = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = \frac{dx}{dt} \quad (2.4)$$

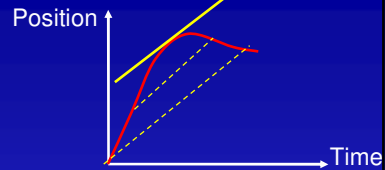
- Vector quantity

- The limit of the average velocity as the time interval becomes infinitesimally short, or as the time interval approaches zero.
- The instantaneous velocity indicates what is happening at every point of time.
- Can be positive, negative, or zero.
- The instantaneous velocity is the slope of the line tangent to the x vs. t curve (green line).



Instantaneous velocity:

Slope of the particle's position-time curve at a given instant of time. V is tangent to $x(t)$ when $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$



When the velocity is constant, the average velocity over any time interval is equal to the instantaneous velocity at any time.

Instantaneous speed: Magnitude of the instantaneous velocity.

Example: car speedometer.

- Scalar quantity

Average velocity (or average acceleration) always refers to an specific time interval.

Instantaneous velocity (acceleration) refers to an specific instant of time.

III. Acceleration

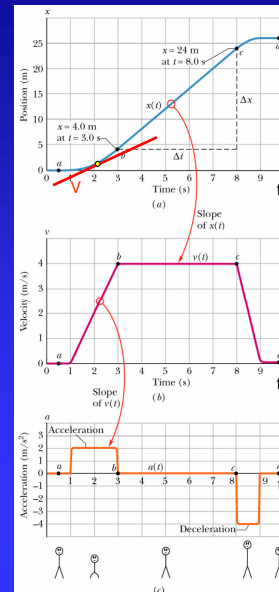
Average acceleration: Ratio of a change in velocity Δv to the time interval Δt in which the change occurs.

$$a_{avg} = \frac{v_2 - v_1}{t_2 - t_1} = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} \quad (2.5)$$

- Vector quantity

- Dimensions $[L]/[T]^2$, Units: m/s^2

- The average acceleration in a "v-t" plot is the slope of a straight line connecting points corresponding to two different times.



Instantaneous acceleration: Limit of the average acceleration as Δt approaches zero.

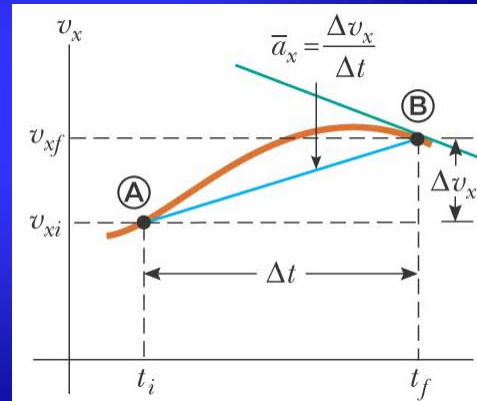
- Vector quantity
$$a = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} \quad (2.6)$$

- The instantaneous acceleration is the slope of the tangent line (v-t plot) at a particular time. (green line in B)

- Average acceleration: blue line.

- When an object's velocity and acceleration are in the same direction (same sign), the object is speeding up.

- When an object's velocity and acceleration are in the opposite direction, the object is slowing down.



- Positive acceleration does not necessarily imply speeding up, and negative acceleration slowing down.

Example (1): $v_1 = -25\text{m/s}$; $v_2 = 0\text{m/s}$ in 5s \rightarrow particle slows down, $a_{\text{avg}} = 5\text{m/s}^2$

- An object can have simultaneously $v=0$ and $a \neq 0$

Example (2): $x(t) = At^2 \rightarrow v(t) = 2At \rightarrow a(t) = 2A$; At $t=0\text{s}$, $v(0)=0$ but $a(0)=2A$

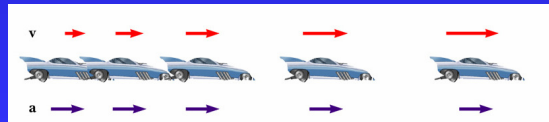
Example (3):



- The car is moving with constant positive velocity (red arrows maintaining same size) \rightarrow Acceleration equals zero.

Example (4):

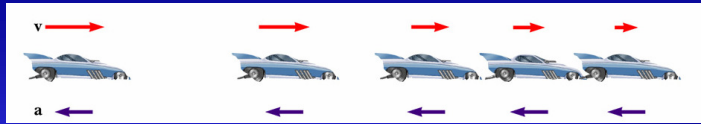
+ acceleration
+ velocity



- Velocity and acceleration are in the same direction, "a" is uniform (blue arrows of same length) \rightarrow Velocity is increasing (red arrows are getting longer).

Example (5):

- acceleration + velocity



- Acceleration and velocity are in opposite directions.
- Acceleration is uniform (blue arrows same length).
- Velocity is decreasing (red arrows are getting shorter).

IV. Motion in one dimension with constant acceleration

- Average acceleration and instantaneous acceleration are equal.

$$a = a_{avg} = \frac{v - v_0}{t - 0}$$

- Equations for motion with constant acceleration:

$$v = v_0 + at \quad (2.7)$$

$$v_{avg} = \frac{x - x_0}{t} \rightarrow x = x_0 + v_{avg} t \quad (2.8)$$

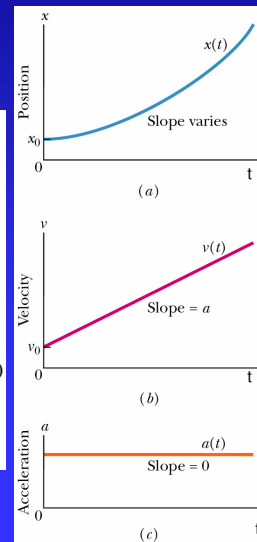
$$v_{avg} = \frac{v_0 + v}{2} \text{ and } (2.7) \rightarrow v_{avg} = v_0 + \frac{at}{2} \quad (2.9)$$

$$(2.8), (2.9) \rightarrow x - x_0 = v_0 t + \frac{at^2}{2} \quad (2.10)$$

$$(2.7), (2.10) \rightarrow v^2 = v_0^2 + a^2 t^2 + 2a(v_0 t) = v_0^2 + a^2 t^2 + 2a(x - x_0 - \frac{at^2}{2})$$

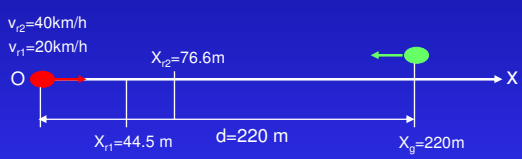
$$\rightarrow v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a(x - x_0) \quad (2.11)$$

t missing



PROBLEMS - Chapter 2

P1: A red car and a green car move toward each other in adjacent lanes and parallel to the x-axis. At time $t=0$, the red car is at $x=0$ and the green car is at $x=220$ m. If the red car has a constant velocity of 20 km/h, the cars pass each other at $x=44.5$ m, and if it has a constant velocity of 40 km/h, they pass each other at $x=76.6$ m. What are (a) the initial velocity, and (b) the acceleration of the green car?



$v_{r2}=40\text{ km/h}$
 $v_{r1}=20\text{ km/h}$
 $x_{r2}=76.6\text{ m}$
 $x_{r1}=44.5\text{ m}$
 $d=220\text{ m}$
 $x_g=220\text{ m}$

$$\left(40 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{h}}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1\text{ h}}{3600\text{ s}}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{10^3\text{ m}}{1\text{ km}}\right) = 11.11\text{ m/s}$$

$$x_r = v_{r0}t + v_r t \quad (1)$$

$$x_g = x_{g0} + v_{g0}t + \frac{1}{2}at^2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_{r1} = v_{r1}t_1 \rightarrow t_1 = \frac{44.5\text{ m}}{5.55\text{ m/s}} = 8\text{ s}$$

$$x_{r2} = v_{r2}t_2 \rightarrow t_2 = \frac{76.6\text{ m}}{11.11\text{ m/s}} = 6.9\text{ s}$$

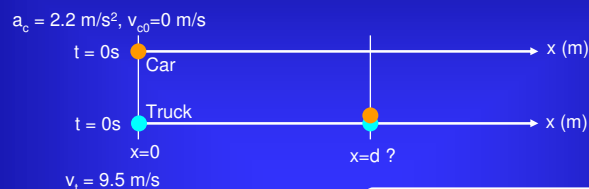
$$x_{r2} - x_g = v_{g0}t_2 + 0.5 \cdot a_g \cdot t_2^2 \rightarrow 76.6 - 220 = -v_{g0} \cdot (6.9\text{ s}) - 0.5 \cdot (6.9\text{ s})^2 a_g$$

$$x_{r1} - x_g = v_{g0}t_1 + 0.5 \cdot a_g \cdot t_1^2 \rightarrow 44.5 - 220 = -v_{g0} \cdot (8\text{ s}) - 0.5 \cdot (8\text{ s})^2 a_g$$

The car moves to the left (-) in my reference system $\rightarrow a < 0, v < 0$

$a_g = 2.1\text{ m/s}^2$
 $v_{g0} = 13.55\text{ m/s}$

P2: At the instant the traffic light turns green, an automobile starts with a constant acceleration a of 2.2 m/s^2 . At the same instant, a truck, traveling with constant speed of 9.5 m/s , overtakes and passes the automobile. (a) How far beyond the traffic signal will the automobile overtake the truck? (b) How fast will the automobile be traveling at that instant?



$$x_T = d = v_T t = 9.5 t \rightarrow (1) \quad \text{Truck}$$

$$x_c = d = v_{c0}t + \frac{1}{2}a_c t^2 \rightarrow d = 0 + 0.5 \cdot (2.2\text{ m/s}^2) \cdot t^2 = 1.1t^2 \quad (2) \quad \text{Car}$$

$$(a) 9.5 \cdot t = 1.1 \cdot t^2 \rightarrow t = 8.63\text{ s} \rightarrow d = (9.5\text{ m/s})(8.63\text{ s}) = 82\text{ m}$$

$$(b) v_f^2 = v_0^2 + 2 \cdot a_c \cdot d = 2 \cdot (2.2\text{ m/s}^2) \cdot (82\text{ m}) \rightarrow v_f = 19\text{ m/s}$$

P3: A proton moves along the x-axis according to the equation: $x = 50t + 10t^2$, where x is in meters and t is in seconds. Calculate (a) the average velocity of the proton during the first 3s of its motion.

$$v_{\text{avg}} = \frac{x(3) - x(0)}{\Delta t} = \frac{(50)(3) + (10)(3)^2 - 0}{3} = 80\text{ m/s}$$

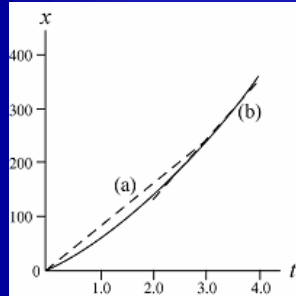
(b) Instantaneous velocity of the proton at $t = 3\text{ s}$.

$$v(t) = \frac{dx}{dt} = 50 + 20t \rightarrow v(3\text{ s}) = 50 + 20 \cdot 3 = 110\text{ m/s}$$

(c) Instantaneous acceleration of the proton at $t = 3\text{ s}$.

$$a(t) = \frac{dv}{dt} = 20\text{ m/s}^2 = a(3\text{ s})$$

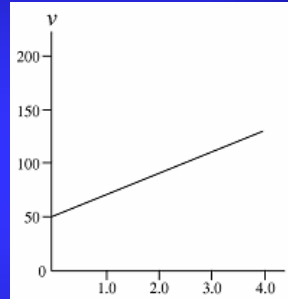
(d) Graph x versus t and indicate how the answer to (a) (average velocity) can be obtained from the plot.



(e) Indicate the answer to (b) (instantaneous velocity) on the graph.

(f) Plot v versus t and indicate on it the answer to (c).

$$x = 50t + 10t^2$$



$$v = 50 + 20t$$

P4. An electron moving along the x -axis has a position given by: $x = 16t - \exp(-t)$ m, where t is in seconds. How far is the electron from the origin when it momentarily stops?

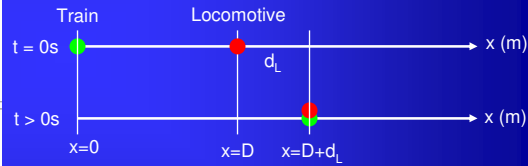
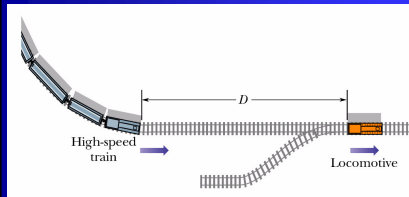
$x(t)$ when $v(t)=0$??

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = v = 16e^{-t} - 16te^{-t} = 16e^{-t}(1-t)$$

$$v=0 \rightarrow (1-t)=0; (e^{-t} > 0) \rightarrow t=1s$$

$$x(1) = 16/e = 5.9m$$

P5. When a high speed passenger train traveling at 161 km/h rounds a bend, the engineer is shocked to see that a locomotive has improperly entered into the track from a siding and is a distance $D = 676$ m ahead. The locomotive is moving at 29 km/h. The engineer of the high speed train immediately applies the brakes. (a) What must be the magnitude of the resultant deceleration if a collision is to be avoided? (b) Assume that the engineer is at $x=0$ when at $t=0$ he first spots the locomotive. Sketch $x(t)$ curves representing the locomotive and high speed train for the situation in which a collision is just avoided and is not quite avoided.



$$v_T = 161 \text{ km/h} = 44.72 \text{ m/s} = v_{T0} \rightarrow 1D \text{ movement with } a < 0 = \text{cte}$$

$$v_L = 29 \text{ km/h} = 8.05 \text{ m/s} \text{ is constant}$$

$$d_L = v_L t = 8.05 t \rightarrow t = \frac{d_L}{8.05} \quad (1) \quad \text{Locomotive}$$

$$d_L + D = v_{T0} t + \frac{1}{2} a_T t^2 \rightarrow d_L + 676 = 44.72 t + \frac{1}{2} a_T t^2 \quad (2) \quad \text{Train}$$

P5.

$$v_{Tf} = v_{T0} + a_T t = 0 \rightarrow a_T = \frac{-44.72 \text{ m/s}}{t} = (\text{eq. 1}) = \frac{(-44.72 \text{ m/s})(8.05 \text{ m/s})}{d_L} = \frac{-360 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2}{d_L} \quad (3)$$

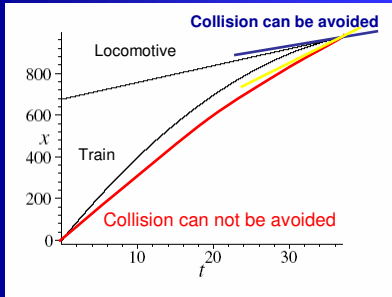
$$v_{Tf}^2 = v_{T0}^2 + 2a_T(D + d_L) = 0 \rightarrow a_T = \frac{-(44.72 \text{ m/s})^2}{2(676 \text{ m} + d_L)} \quad (4)$$

$$(3) = (4) \rightarrow d_L = 380.3 \text{ m}$$



$$\text{from (1)} \rightarrow t = \frac{d_L}{8.05} = 47.24 \text{ s}$$

$$(1) + (3) \rightarrow a_T = \frac{-360 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2}{380.3 \text{ m}} = -0.947 \text{ m/s}^2$$



$$x_L = 676 + 8.05 t$$

$$x_T = 44.72 t + 0.5 a_T t^2$$

- Collision can be avoided:

Slope of $x(t)$ vs. t locomotive at $t = 47.24 \text{ s}$ (the point where both lines meet) = v instantaneous locom > Slope of $x(t)$ vs. t train

- Collision cannot be avoided:

Slope of $x(t)$ vs. t locomotive at $t = 47.24 \text{ s} <$ Slope of $x(t)$ vs. t train

- The motion equations can also be obtained by indefinite integration:

$$dv = a dt \rightarrow \int dv = \int a dt \rightarrow v = at + C; \quad v = v_0 \text{ at } t = 0 \rightarrow v_0 = (a)(0) + C \rightarrow v_0 = C \rightarrow v = v_0 + at$$

$$dx = v dt \rightarrow \int dx = \int v dt \rightarrow \int dx = \int (v_0 + at) dt \rightarrow \int dx = v_0 \int dt + a \int t dt \rightarrow x = v_0 t + \frac{1}{2} at^2 + C';$$

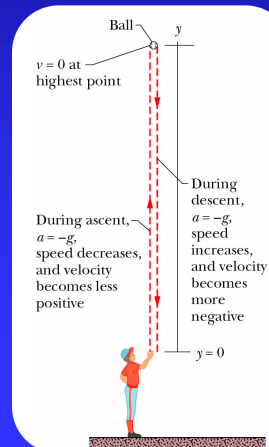
$$x = x_0 \text{ at } t = 0 \rightarrow x_0 = v_0(0) + \frac{1}{2} a(0) + C' \rightarrow x_0 = C' \rightarrow x = x_0 + v_0 t + \frac{1}{2} at^2$$

V. Free fall

Motion direction along y -axis ($y > 0$ upwards)

Free fall acceleration: (near Earth's surface)
 $a = -g = -9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ (in mov. eqs. with constant acceleration)

Due to gravity \rightarrow downward on y , directed toward Earth's center



Approximations:

- Locally, Earth's surface essentially flat → free fall "a" has same direction at slightly different points.
- All objects at the same place have same free fall "a" (neglecting air influence).

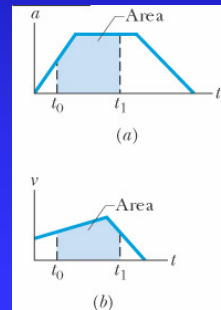
VI. Graphical integration in motion analysis

From $a(t)$ versus t graph → integration = area between acceleration curve and time axis, from t_0 to t_1 → $v(t)$

$$v_1 - v_0 = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} a \cdot dt$$

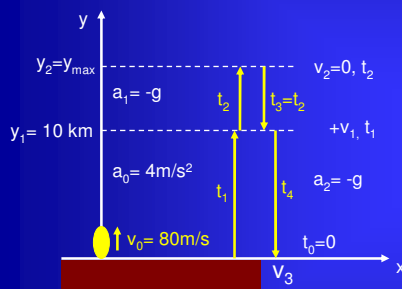
Similarly, from $v(t)$ versus t graph → integration = area under curve from t_0 to t_1 → $x(t)$

$$x_1 - x_0 = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} v \cdot dt$$



P6: A rocket is launched vertically from the ground with an initial velocity of 80m/s. It ascends with a constant acceleration of 4 m/s² to an altitude of 10 km. Its motors then fail, and the rocket continues upward as a free fall particle and then falls back down.

- What is the total time elapsed from takeoff until the rocket strikes the ground?
- What is the maximum altitude reached?
- What is the velocity just before hitting ground?



$$y_1 - y_0 = v_0 t_1 + 0.5 \cdot a_0 t_1^2 \rightarrow 10^4 = 80 t_1 + 2 t_1^2 \rightarrow t_1 = 53.48 \text{ s}$$

$$a_0 = \frac{v_1 - v_0}{t_1} \rightarrow v_1 = (4 \text{ m/s}^2) \cdot (53.48 \text{ s}) + 80 \text{ m/s} = 294 \text{ m/s}$$

2) Ascent → $a = -9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$

$$a_1 = -g = \frac{0 - v_1}{t_2} \rightarrow t_2 = \frac{-294 \text{ m/s}}{-9.8 \text{ m/s}^2} = 29.96 \text{ s}$$

$$\text{Total time ascent} = t_1 + t_2 = 53.48 \text{ s} + 29.96 \text{ s} = 83.44 \text{ s}$$

3) Descent → $a = -9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$

$$0 - y_1 = -v_1 t_4 + 0.5 \cdot a_2 t_4^2 \rightarrow -10^4 = -294 t_4 - 4.9 t_4^2 \rightarrow t_4 = 24.22 \text{ s}$$

$$t_{\text{total}} = t_1 + 2t_2 + t_4 = 53.48 \text{ s} + 2 \cdot 29.96 \text{ s} + 24.22 \text{ s} = 137.62 \text{ s}$$

$$h_{\text{max}} = y_2 \rightarrow y_2 - 10^4 \text{ m} = v_1 t_2 - 4.9 t_2^2 = (294 \text{ m/s})(29.96 \text{ s}) - (4.9 \text{ m/s}^2)(29.96 \text{ s})^2 = 4410 \text{ m} \rightarrow h_{\text{max}} = 14.4 \text{ km}$$

$$a_2 = -g = \frac{v_3 - (-v_1)}{t_4} \rightarrow v_3 = -g \cdot t_4 - v_1 = -531.35 \text{ m/s}$$