

# Harold's High School Physics

## 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

### Cheat Sheet

7 April 2026

#### The 7 Base Units of Measure

Quantity Name	Symbol (Value)	Metric Units (SI)	Imperial Units (English)
1. Length / Distance	$w, x, y, z$	meter ( $m$ )	foot ( $ft$ )
2. Mass	$m$	kilogram ( $kg$ )	slug (or $lb$ )
3. Time	$t$	second ( $s$ )	
4. Temperature	$T$	Kelvin ( $K$ ) Celsius ( $^{\circ}C$ )	Fahrenheit ( $^{\circ}F$ )
5. Electrical Current	$i$	Ampere ( $A$ )	
6. Amount of Substance	$M, \chi$	mole ( $mol$ )	1 mol = $6.022\ 140\ 76 \times 10^{23}$
7. Luminous Intensity	$lv$	Candela ( $cd$ )	
<b>Note:</b> The 7 base units are mutually independent from each other. <b>All</b> other units of measurement can be derived from them.			


#### Derived Units of Measure



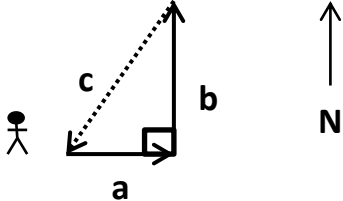

Quantity Name	Symbol (Value)	Metric Units (SI)	Imperial Units (English)
Length / Displacement	$d, l, h, r, s$	meter ( $m$ )	foot ( $ft$ )
Area	$A, SA$	$m^2$	$ft^2$
Volume	$V$	liter ( $l$ )	fluid ounce (fl)
Velocity / Speed	$v, s$	$\frac{m}{s}$	$\frac{ft}{s}$
Acceleration	$a, g$	$\frac{m}{s^2}$	$\frac{ft}{s^2}$
Impulse	$I$	$N \cdot s$ $kg \cdot \frac{m}{s}$	$lb \cdot \frac{ft}{s}$
Linear Momentum	$p$	$kg \cdot \frac{m}{s}$	$lb \cdot \frac{ft}{s}$
Force	$F$	Newton ( $N$ )	pound ( $lb$ )
Energy / Work / Heat	$E, W,$ $K$ or $KE,$ $U_g, U_s, U_E,$ $Q$	Joule ( $J$ )	calorie ( $cal$ )
Power	$P$	Watt ( $W$ )	horsepower ( $hp$ )

## Conversions

Constant Name	Symbol	Metric Units (SI)	Imperial Units (English)
Length	$x$	1.0 m	39.37 in 3.281 ft
		2.54 cm	1.0 in
		30.48 cm	1.0 ft
		1.61 km	1.0 mi
		1.0 km	0.621 mi
		1 km = 1,000 m	1 mi = 5,280 ft = 1,760 yd
Mass	$m$	1.0 kg	2.205 lb
		0.454 kg	1.0 lb
		1.0 g	0.035 oz
		14.594 kg	1 slug
		(standard gravity)	1 slug = 32.174 lb
Time	$t$	1 yr = 365.24 d 1 d = 24 h	1 h = 60 min 1 min = 60 s
		0 °C	32 °F
Temperature	$T$	100 °C	212 °F
		-17.8 °C	0 °F
		37.8 °C	100 °F
		0 K = -273.15 °C	-459.67 °F
		1.00 N	0.225 lb
Force	$F$	4.45 N	1.00 lb
		3.785 L	1.0 gallon
Volume	$V$	1.0 L	1.057 quarts 0.264 gallons


## How to Solve Physics Word Problems

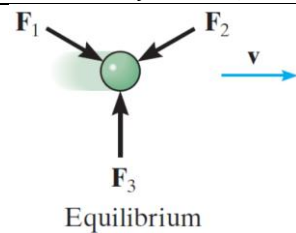
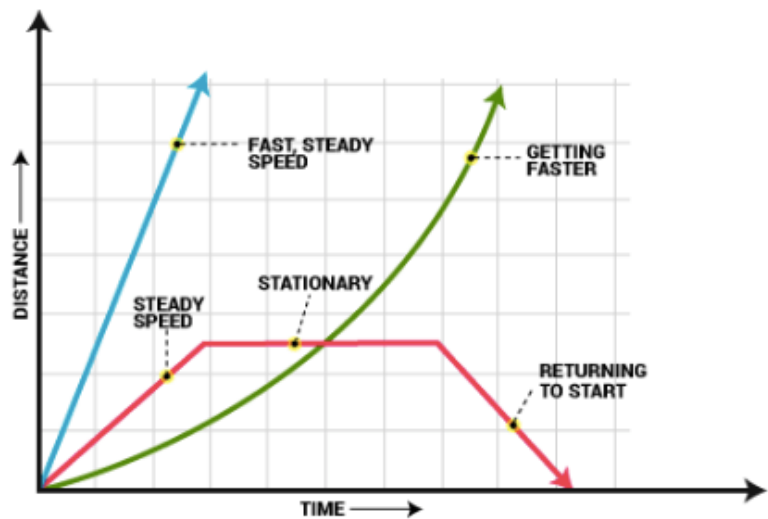
<b>Modified GUESS Method</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read</li> <li>2. Diagram</li> <li>3. Givens</li> <li>4. Observations</li> <li>5. Unknowns</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Equations</li> <li>7. Solve</li> <li>8. Substitute</li> <li>9. Double-Check</li> </ol>	
<b>Scenario</b>			
<p>A marching band cadet marches on a football field. First, he marches 10 yards East, then 40 feet North. What is the shortest distance he must march to return to where he started?</p>			

#	Step	Example
	1. Carefully <b>read</b> the problem. Translate each word of each sentence into math.	Reread the problem several times to make sure you did not miss anything.
	2. Draw a <b>diagram</b> . Clearly label everything.	
<b>G</b>	3. Write down the <b>givens</b> as variables with units. What information did they provide? Are any of them extraneous?	$a = 10 \text{ yards East}$ $b = 40 \text{ feet North}$
	4. Calculate <b>observations</b> or easily derived information. Don't forget unit conversions for consistency.	$10 \text{ yards} \times \left(\frac{3 \text{ feet}}{1 \text{ yard}}\right) = 30 \text{ feet}$
<b>U</b>	5. Write down the <b>unknowns</b> . What are they asking for?	<p>The shortest distance is a straight line, or the hypotenuse. 'c'.</p> $c = \underline{\quad? \quad} <\text{units}>$
<b>E</b>	6. Recall relevant <b>equations</b> and formulas.	<p>Since the path marched is a right triangle, we can use the Pythagorean Theorem:</p> $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
<b>S</b>	7. <b>Solve</b> symbolically for the unknown variable. Reduce algebraically to the simplest form. Do not substitute until fully solved.	$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ $c = \sqrt{c^2} = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$
<b>S</b>	8. <b>Substitute</b> the givens into the solved formula. Use a calculator as needed to calculate the answer.	$a = 30 \text{ feet}$ $b = 40 \text{ feet}$ $c = \sqrt{(30 \text{ feet})^2 + (40 \text{ feet})^2} = 50 \text{ feet}$
<b>✓✓</b>	9. <b>Double-check</b> your work. Ask yourself if the answer is reasonable and makes sense. Don't forget the units. Box in your answer.	<p>The shortest distance the cadet must march is 50 feet.</p>


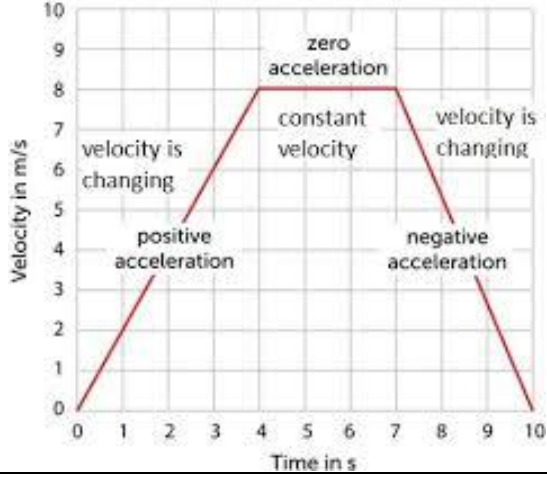
See also: [GUESS Method](#) for problem-solving.

## Chapter 1: Let's Move! (Velocity)

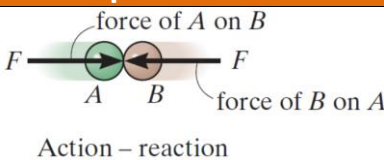
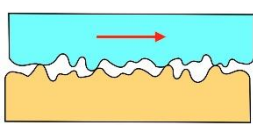
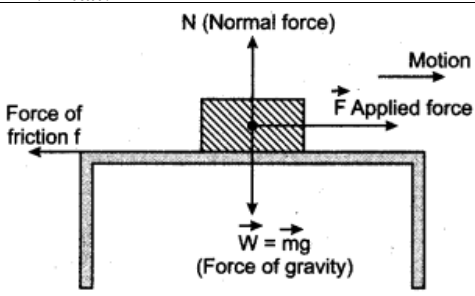
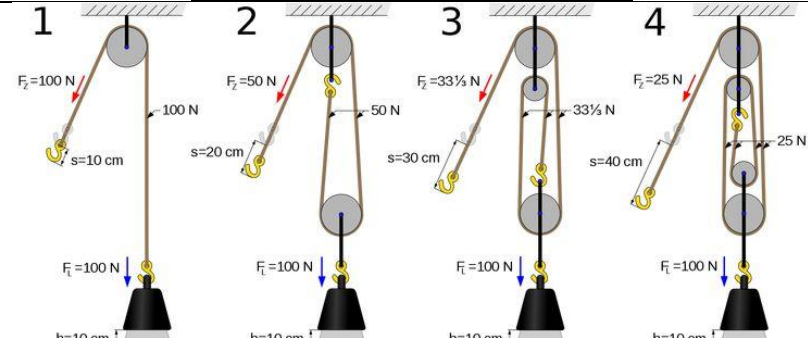
Term	Equation	Description												
Vector Quantity	$\vec{x} = 10 \frac{m}{s} \text{ East}$	A quantity that includes direction. (e.g., magnitude and direction)												
Scalar Quantity	$b$	A quantity that does <b>not</b> include direction.												
Friction	$F_\mu$	A force that resists motion when two bodies are in contact.												
Inertia	$I$	The tendency of a body to resist changes in its velocity.												
Average Velocity	$v_{ave} = \frac{v_f - v_i}{\Delta t}$	The average of the velocity over a given time interval.												
Instantaneous Velocity	$v = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$	The velocity at a given instant in time.												
Acceleration	$a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$	A change in an object's velocity.												
														
Rulers	When using a ruler that is marked off in 16 <sup>th</sup> s of an inch, report your answers to a hundredth of an inch.													
Units	$g = -9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$	<b>You must always list the units after the number.</b> (The units are just as important as the number.)												
Significant Figures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All non-zero figures (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, &amp; 9) are significant.</li> <li>A zero (0) is significant if it is between two significant digits.</li> <li>A zero (0) is also significant if it is at the end of the number <i>and</i> to the right of the decimal point.</li> </ol>													
Using SigFigs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When <b>adding</b> and <b>subtracting</b> measurements, you must report your answer to the same precision as the <u>least</u> precise number in the problem.</li> <li>When <b>multiplying</b> and <b>dividing</b> measurements, you must report your answer with the same number of significant figures as the measurement that has the <u>fewest</u> significant figures.</li> <li>There is always some <b>error</b> in the last significant figure of a measurement.</li> </ol>													
Precision vs. Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Precision:</b> The consistency and reproducibility of measurements (e.g., 10 decimal places).</li> <li><b>Accuracy:</b> How close a measurement is to the <u>true</u> or accepted value.</li> </ul>													
Scientific Notation	$14,000,000 = 1.4 \times 10^7 = 1.4E7$	$0.00000014 = 1.4 \times 10^{-7} = 1.4E-7$												
Systematic Errors	<p><i>"Science cannot prove anything."</i></p> <p>There is always a possibility that our experiments are wrong since they contain systematic errors.</p>													
Unit Conversion (Train Track Method)	<p style="text-align: center;">17 years = ? sec</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>17 yr</td> <td>365.24 days</td> <td>24 hours</td> <td>60 min</td> <td>60 sec</td> <td><b>536,464,512 sec</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1 yr</td> <td>1 day</td> <td>1 hour</td> <td>1 min</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		17 yr	365.24 days	24 hours	60 min	60 sec	<b>536,464,512 sec</b>		1 yr	1 day	1 hour	1 min	
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Prefixes	Prefix	Abbreviation	Meaning	Scientific
	giga	G	1,000,000,000	$10^9$
	mega	M	1,000,000	$10^6$
	<b>kilo</b>	<b>k</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b><math>10^3</math></b>
	hector	H	100	$10^2$
	deca	Da	10	$10^1$
	<b>centi</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b><math>10^{-2}</math></b>
	<b>milli</b>	<b>m</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b><math>10^{-3}</math></b>
	micro	$\mu$	0.000001	$10^{-6}$
nano	n	0.000000001	$10^{-9}$	
<b>Speed</b>	$s = \frac{\Delta d}{\Delta t}$	Speed ( $s$ ) is a scalar quantity.		
<b>Velocity</b>	$v = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$	Velocity ( $v$ ) is a vector quantity.		
<b>Relative Velocity</b>	$v_{relative} = v_{moving\_object} - v_{reference\_object}$			
<b>Unit Consistency</b>	Before solving a problem, look at the units and make sure they are consistent. If they are not, convert the inconsistent units before you continue. ( $ft$ vs. $m$ )			
<b>Newton's First Law of Motion (Law of Inertia)</b>	An object will remain at rest, or in motion at a constant velocity ( $v$ or constant speed in a straight line), unless acted upon by a net external force ( $F$ ).			
<b>Velocity with Acceleration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When acceleration and velocity are in the <b>same</b> direction (<math>\Rightarrow</math>), an object's speed <b>increases</b>. (<math>\uparrow</math>)</li> <li>When acceleration and velocity are in <b>opposite</b> directions (<math>\Leftarrow</math>), an object's speed <b>decreases</b>. (<math>\downarrow</math>)</li> </ul>			
<b>Velocity Graph</b>				
<b>Slope = Velocity</b>	The slope of a position ( $x$ ) versus time ( $t$ ) graph is the velocity ( $v$ ).			

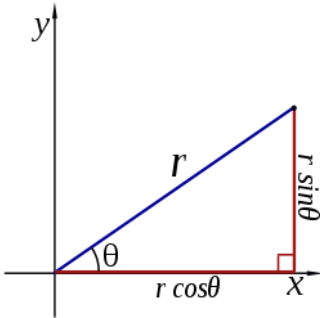
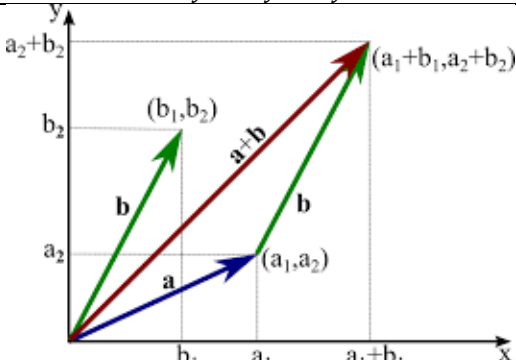
## Chapter 2: Force and Acceleration

Term	Equation	Description
<b>Newton's Second Law of Motion</b> (Law of Acceleration)	At any instant of time, the net force on an object is equal to the object's mass multiplied by its acceleration ( $F = ma$ ) or, equivalently, the rate at which the object's momentum changes with time ( $\Delta p/\Delta t$ ).	$\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$  <p>Accelerated motion</p>
<b>Free Fall</b>	The motion of an object when the only force acting on it is the force due to gravity ( $F_g$ ).	
<b>Air Resistance</b>	The force with which air resists motion through it.	
<b>Acceleration</b>	$\mathbf{a} = \frac{\Delta \mathbf{v}}{\Delta t}$	A change in an object's velocity.
<b>Acceleration Graph</b>		
<b>Slope = Acceleration</b>	The slope of a velocity ( $v$ ) versus time ( $t$ ) graph is the acceleration ( $a$ ).	
<b>Force</b>	$\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$	Force ( $\mathbf{F}$ ) is any interaction that, when unopposed, changes the motion of an object.
<b>Acceleration</b>	$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_0 + \mathbf{a}t$	$\mathbf{a} = \frac{\Delta \mathbf{v}}{\Delta t} = \frac{\mathbf{v}_f - \mathbf{v}_0}{t}$
<b>Velocity</b>	$\mathbf{v}^2 = \mathbf{v}_0^2 + 2\mathbf{a} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x}$	Derivation: Solve for $t$ , set $t = t$ , then simplify. $\frac{\mathbf{v}_f + \mathbf{v}_0}{2} = \frac{\Delta \mathbf{x}}{t} \text{ and } \mathbf{v}_f = \mathbf{v}_0 + \mathbf{a}t$
<b>Position</b> (Displacement)	$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{v}_0t + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a}t^2$ $\Delta \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}_0t + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a}t^2$	Displacement ( $\Delta \mathbf{x}$ ) is the area underneath a velocity versus time graph.
<b><math>a</math> is Constant</b>	$\mathbf{J} = \frac{\Delta \mathbf{a}}{\Delta t}$ (Jerk/Jolt)	These equations of motion apply <b>only</b> when the acceleration ( $\mathbf{a}$ ) is constant.
<b>Gravity</b>	$\mathbf{g} = -9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$ $\mathbf{g} = -32.2 \frac{ft}{s^2}$	The acceleration due to gravity ( $\mathbf{g}$ ) on the surface of the Earth is the same for all objects. It is negative ( $-$ ) since it is directed downwards ( $\downarrow$ ).
<b>Weight vs. Mass</b>	$weight = mg$	Weight is a force. Since $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$ , and $\mathbf{a}$ on Earth is $\mathbf{g}$ , then $weight = mg$ .

## Chapter 3: Friction

Term	Equation	Description																		
<b>Newton's Third Law of Motion</b> (Law of Action and Reaction)	If object A exerts a force on object B, then B will exert an equal but opposite force on A.																			
<b>Static Friction (<math>\mu_s</math>)</b>	The frictional force between two surfaces that are <u>stationary</u> relative to each other.																			
<b>Kinetic Friction (<math>\mu_k</math>)</b>	The frictional force between two surfaces that are <u>moving</u> relative to each other.																			
<b>Tension (<math>T</math>)</b>	A force transmitted through a rope or similar object (e.g., a thread or chain) when it is pulled.																			
<b>Streamlined Shape</b>	A shape that reduces air resistance.																			
<b>Wind Resistance</b>	The faster an object moves through the air, the stronger the air resistance.																			
<b>Terminal Velocity</b>	The maximum velocity ( $v_{max}$ ) attained by a falling object.																			
<b>Normal Force (<math>N</math> or <math>F_N</math>)</b>	$F_f = \mu \cdot F_n$																			
<b>Coefficient of Friction (<math>\mu</math>)</b>	<p>The coefficient of friction is unitless. It represents a percentage of the normal force that is opposing the applied force. Static friction (<math>\mu_s</math>) is generally larger than kinetic friction (<math>\mu_k</math>).</p> $0 \leq \mu \leq 1$ <table border="1" data-bbox="795 1291 1234 1543"> <thead> <tr> <th>Material</th> <th>Static (<math>\mu_s</math>)</th> <th>Kinetic (<math>\mu_k</math>)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Zero friction</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ice or grease</td> <td>0.15</td> <td>0.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper</td> <td>0.35</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wood</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rubber</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>0.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Material	Static ( $\mu_s$ )	Kinetic ( $\mu_k$ )	Zero friction	0	0	Ice or grease	0.15	0.03	Paper	0.35	0.25	Wood	0.5	0.4	Rubber	0.9	0.8
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<b>Block and Tackle</b> (Pully System)																				

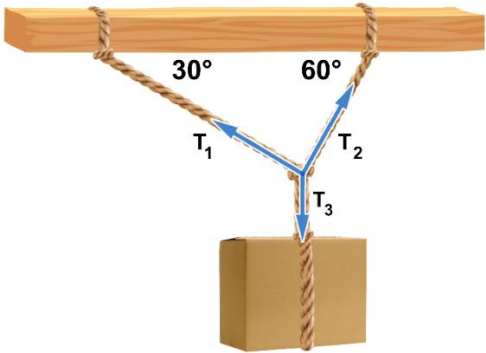
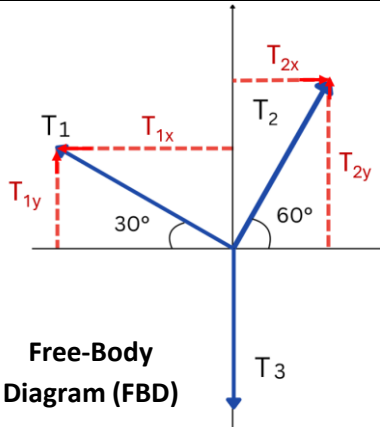
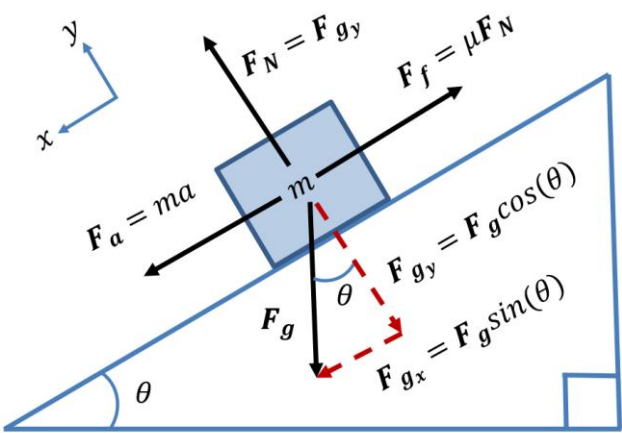
## Chapter 4: Two-Dimensional Vectors


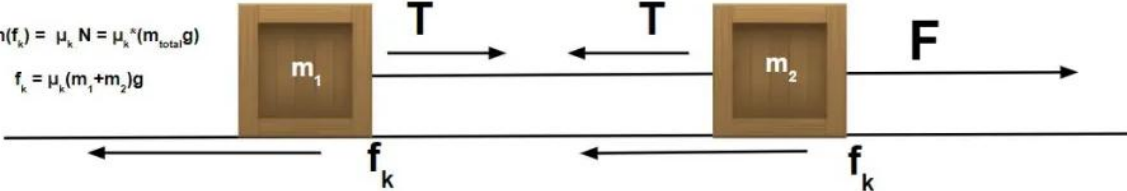

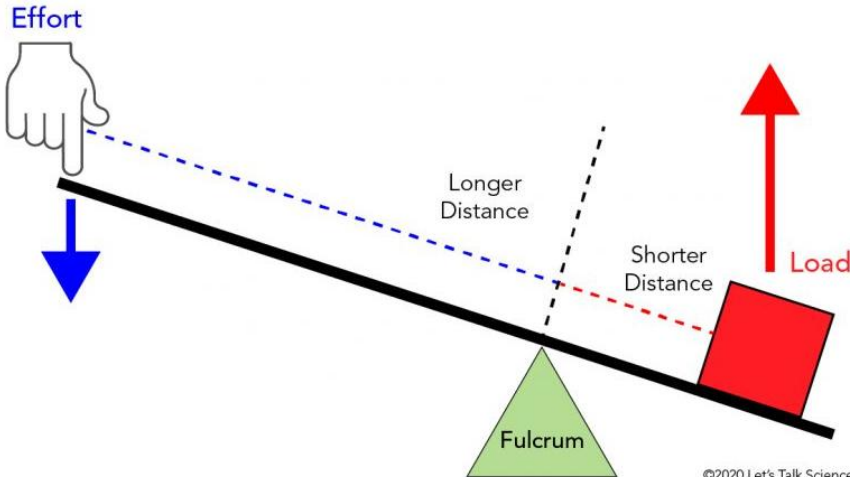
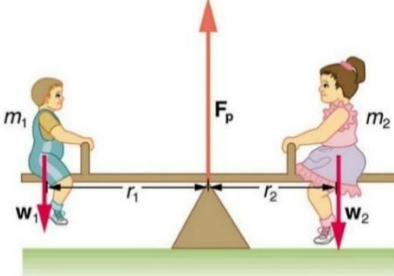
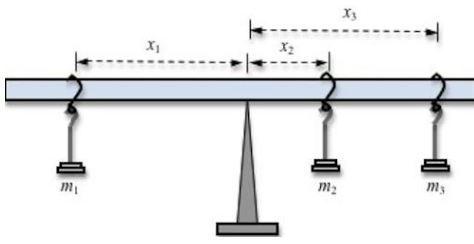
Term	Equation	Description
<b>Vector Anatomy</b>	<p>An arrow is used to represent a two-dimensional vector.</p> <p><b>You must always put an arrowhead on your vectors.</b></p> <p>The length of the arrow is the magnitude (a scalar quantity).</p> <p>The counterclockwise angle from the positive x-axis is the direction.</p> <p>3D arrow symbols: <math>\odot</math> out of page (+), <math>\otimes</math> into the page (-).</p>	
<b>Vectors "Float"</b>	Arrows representing vectors can be moved freely, as long as their length and direction are not changed.	
<b>Hypotenuse</b>	The longest side of a right triangle.	
<b>Trig Review</b>		
<b>Converting Between Coordinate Systems</b>	<p><b>Polar <math>\rightarrow</math> Rect.</b></p> <p><math>r \angle \theta \rightarrow (x, y)</math></p> <p><math>x = r \cos \theta</math></p> <p><math>y = r \sin \theta</math></p> <p><math>\tan \theta = \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)</math></p>	<p><b>Rect. <math>\rightarrow</math> Polar</b></p> <p><math>(x, y) \rightarrow r \angle \theta</math></p> <p><math>r^2 = x^2 + y^2</math></p> <p><math>r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}</math></p> <p><math>\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)</math></p>
<b>Vertical Component</b>	$A_y = A \cdot \sin(\theta)$	
<b>Horizontal Component</b>	$A_x = A \cdot \cos(\theta)$	
<b>Angle</b>	<p><math>\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{A_y}{A_x}\right)</math></p> <p>You may need to add <math>180^\circ</math> to put <math>\theta</math> into quadrants I or II.</p>	
<b>Magnitude</b>	<p><math> A  = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2}</math></p> <p><math>a^2 + b^2 = c^2</math></p>	
<b>Vector Addition</b>	<p>When adding vectors <b>A</b> and <b>B</b> to get <b>C</b>, add each dimension separately.</p> <p><math>C_x = A_x + B_x</math></p> <p><math>C_y = A_y + B_y</math></p> 	

## Chapter 5: Two-Dimensional Motion

Term	Equation	Diagram
<b>Projectile</b>	An object that has an initial velocity ( $v_0$ ) but experiences only the force of gravity ( $g$ ).	
<b>Parabolic Motion</b>	Motion along a parabolic path, which is exhibited by projectiles.	
<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Two-dimensional (2D) situations can often be analyzed as two one-dimensional (2x 1D) situations.</b> Time ( $t$ ) spans all dimensions.	
<b>Orthogonal</b>	In two-dimensional (2D) motion, perpendicular ( $\perp$ ) components of the motion operate independently.	
<b>Graph Orientation</b>	The way we define the angle makes motion up ( $\uparrow$ ) and motion to the right ( $\rightarrow$ ) (or to the east) positive (+). These are the best definitions to use with our one-dimensional (1D) motion equations.	
<b>Projectile Motion</b>		
	<b>Horizontal (x-axis)</b>	<b>Vertical (y-axis)</b>
<b>Position Equations</b>	$x(t) = x_0 + v_x t + \frac{1}{2} a_x t^2$	$y(t) = y_0 + v_y t - \frac{1}{2} g t^2$
<b>Velocity Equations</b>	$v_x = v \cos(\theta)$	$v_y = v \sin(\theta)$
<b>Range Equations</b>	$\text{range} = x_{max} = \frac{v^2 \cdot \sin(2\theta)}{g}$	$\text{height} = y_{max} = y\left(\frac{t_{max}}{2}\right)$
<b>Air Resistance</b>	Assume no air/wind resistance (drag).  (If we factor in air/wind resistance, then differential calculus is needed.)	

## Chapter 6: Newton's Second Law and Two-Dimensional Motion

Term	Equation	Diagram
<b>Translational Equilibrium</b>	The state in which the net force ( $F$ ) acting on an object is equal to zero (0).	
<b>Static Translational Equilibrium</b>	The state in which an object is in translational equilibrium and <b>is not</b> moving ( $v = 0$ ).	
<b>Dynamic Translational Equilibrium</b>	The state in which an object is in translational equilibrium and <b>is</b> moving ( $v \neq 0$ ).	
<b>Accelerometer</b>	A device that measures acceleration ( $a$ ).	
<b>Axis of Rotation</b>	An imaginary line around which all points of a rotating body move in circles.	
<b>Rotational Equilibrium</b>	Force ( $F$ ) causes changes in translational motion, while torque ( $\tau$ ) causes changes in rotational motion.	
	Tension ( $T$ ) is a force on a string, rope, or cable.	
<b>Tension</b>		 <p><b>Free-Body Diagram (FBD)</b></p>
	<p><b>Horizontal Forces</b></p> $T_{1x} = T_{2x}$ $T_1 \cos(30^\circ) = T_2 \cos(60^\circ)$	<p><b>Vertical Forces</b></p> $T_{1y} + T_{2y} = T_3$ $T_1 \sin(30^\circ) + T_2 \sin(60^\circ) = mg$
<b>Gravity Components (on an inclined plane)</b>	On an incline, whose angle ( $\theta$ ) is defined relative to the horizontal, the component of the force due to gravity:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel to the incline: <math>mg \cdot \sin(\theta)</math>.</li> <li>Perpendicular to the incline: <math>mg \cdot \cos(\theta)</math>.</li> </ul>	
	$F_x = mg \cdot \sin(\theta)$	$F_y = mg \cdot \cos(\theta)$
		

Coefficient of Friction	<p><b>Static</b></p> $\mu_s = \frac{\sin(\theta)}{\cos(\theta)} = \tan(\theta)$	Use as the maximum angle before the mass starts to slide down the incline. $0 \leq \mu \leq 1$
	<p><b>Kinetic</b></p> $\mu_k = \frac{g \sin(\theta) - a}{g \cos(\theta)}$	Use when the mass is accelerating down the incline.
Translational Motion of Two Objects		
	<p>Friction(<math>f_k</math>) = <math>\mu_k N = \mu_k (m_{total}g)</math> <math>f_k = \mu_k (m_1 + m_2)g</math></p> 	
Torque	$\tau = F_{\perp} \cdot r$	
Lever Arm	The distance between the axis of rotation and the force used to produce rotational motion.	
	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">©2020 Let's Talk Science</p>	
Static Rotational Equilibrium (Rigid Bodies)	$\sum F = \sum ma = 0$	$\sum \tau = \sum Fr = 0$
		

## Chapter 7: Uniform Circular Motion and Gravity

Term	Equation	Diagram
<b>Centripetal Force</b>	A force directed to the center of a circle.	
<b>Period (<math>T</math>)</b>	The time it takes to complete one full cycle (full circle or revolution).	
<b>Frequency (<math>f</math>)</b>	The number of cycles that can be completed every second.	
<b>Gravity (<math>g</math>)</b>	The acceleration of the attractive force that exists between all physical objects that have mass.	
<b>Satellite</b>	A body that orbits another body.	
<b>Frequency</b> (Hertz (Hz))	$f = \frac{1}{T}$ $T = \frac{1}{f}$	<p>www.explainthatstuff.com</p>
<b>Speed</b> $\left(\frac{m}{s}\right)$	$v = \frac{\text{circumference}}{\text{time per revolution}} = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$	How fast it is going in circles.
<b>Centripetal Acceleration</b> $\left(\frac{m}{s^2}\right)$	$a_c = \frac{v^2}{r}$	
<b>Centripetal Force</b> (Newtons, N)	$F_c = ma_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$	
<b>Gravitational Force</b>	$F_g = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$	
<b>Gravitational Constant (<math>G</math>)</b>	$G \approx 6.67430 \times 10^{-11} \frac{Nm^2}{kg^2}$	

<b>Kepler's Laws</b> (of planetary motion)	<p><b>1. Orbits:</b> All planets move in elliptical orbits, with the sun at one focal point.</p> $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$	
	<p><b>2. Areas:</b> A line that connects a planet to the sun sweeps out equal areas in equal time intervals.</p> $A_1 = A_2$	
	<p><b>3. Periods:</b> The square of a planet's period is proportional to the cube of its orbit's semi-major axis.</p> $T^2 \propto a^3$	

## Planetary Constants

Property	Symbol	Sun	Earth	Moon	Mars
<b>Mass</b>	$M$	$1.989 \times 10^{30}$ kg	$5.972 \times 10^{24}$ kg	$7.346 \times 10^{22}$ kg	$6.42 \times 10^{23}$ kg
<b>Radius</b>	$R$	$6.96 \times 10^8$ m (mean)	$6.371 \times 10^6$ m (mean)	$1.74 \times 10^6$ m	$3.39 \times 10^6$ m
<b>Gravity</b> (Acceleration)	$g$	$274 \frac{m}{s^2}$	$9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$	$1.625 \frac{m}{s^2}$	$3.71 \frac{m}{s^2}$
<b>Distance</b> (Between each center of mass)	$r$	NA	$\sim 1.496 \times 10^{11}$ m (1 AU) (Earth to Sun)	$\sim 3.844 \times 10^8$ m (Moon to Earth)	$\sim 2.279 \times 10^{11}$ m (1.52 AU) (Mars to Sun)

## Chapter 8: Energy

Term	Equation	Description
<b>Energy</b>	$E$	The ability to do work.
<b>Potential Energy (PE)</b>	$PE = mgh$	Energy that is stored but not currently doing work.
		Potential energy is <b>relative</b> , so it must be defined relative to a reference point.
<b>Kinetic Energy (KE)</b>	$KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$	Energy in the form of motion.
<b>PE → KE</b>		
<b>Heat (<math>W_f</math>)</b> (Work due to Friction)	$W_f = Q$	Examples: Brake pads, bent paper clip
<b>Work (W)</b>	$W = Fd$	The magnitude of an object's displacement times the parallel component of the applied force.
	$W = F_{\parallel} \cdot \Delta x$	When a body does work, it <b>loses</b> energy. When a body is worked on, it <b>gains</b> energy.
<b>Total Energy (TE)</b>	$TE = PE + KE = constant$	
	$TE = PE + KE + W_f = constant$ (added <b>Work</b> energy due to friction) $TE = PE + KE + W_f + W = constant$ (added <b>Work</b> energy due to force)	
	$E = U_g + K + Q + W = constant$ (alternate representation)	
<b>Rotational Kinetic Energy (KE)</b>	Rotational energy of a uniform sphere (e.g., ball bearing): $KE = \frac{1}{5}mv^2$	
<b>The First Law of Thermodynamics</b>	Energy ( $E$ ) cannot be created or destroyed. It can only change forms.	
<b>Power</b>	$P = \frac{\Delta W}{\Delta t}$	The amount of energy converted or transferred per unit of time.
	$P = Fv = \frac{Fd}{t}$	
<b>Units</b>	$E$	Joules (J) ( $kg \cdot m^2/s^2$ )
	$W$	
	$PE$ or $U$	
	$KE$ or $K$	
	$TE$ or $E_{Total}$	
	$P$	Watt (W) (J/s)

## Sources

These chapters and content are taken verbatim from the High School textbook:

- Dr. Jay L. Wile (2023). [Discovering Design with Physics](#), 1<sup>st</sup> Edition.

## Image Sources

- Dr. Carl Rod Nave (1998). HyperPhysics, Conservation of Energy. <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/conser.html>