

2025 Jun 01

\$001

5) Newton's Laws of Motion

5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, Conflicted and added to

d) As I mentioned in the Chapt. 1 lecture, I believe you must accept elements of Newtonian Physics as a package
force, mass, acceleration, center of mass, inertial frames, inertial forces, time.
They exist in relation to each other.

They can't be defined separately
The elements can't be defined in isolation from each other.

A perspective many people (but some may disagree)

5002 [2025 Jun 01]

But you do have to
talk about the elements in some
order

1) Inertial frame

All physical laws
(including beyond
classical physics)
are referenced to inertial
frames,

except general relativity
which tells us
what are inertial frames

Elementary

Inertial frames

are free-fall frames
in a uniform gravitational
field, Not rotating
with respect to the bulk
mass of observable universe
(which often goes without saying)

Some may
disagree but I think
the disagreement
is a matter
of perspective

[2025/01/09] [5003]
A local frame NOT accelerating
with respect to an
inertial frame is
also an inertial frame

Now at first thought,
you might say this
a pretty useless concept
since we use
Newtonian physics
all the time wherever
we are on Earth
and we are NOT
in free-fall

But the center-of-mass
of the Earth is under
the gravitational field of
the whole universe as
far as we can tell, but
local planetary motions are due
local gravitation of Sun & Moon & Planets

5004

2025 Jun 09

Show Image 1

The observer in an orbiting spacecraft
is a uniform gravitational field

so they are in
an elementary inertial frame

so is the observer
in the falling elevator

For the Earth, neglecting air drag

the Center of mass (CM)

is in Free-fall

— imagine the Earth relative
to
observable
universe
was NOT rotating

and the external grav

due to Sun & Moon

was uniform over

the Earth (which is
Not true)

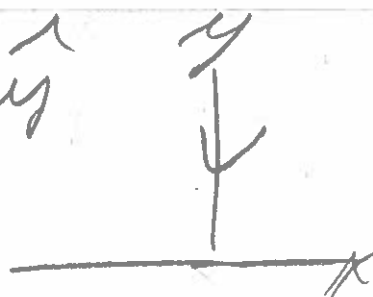
Then any point on the
surface of the

Earth would be
unaccelerated relative CM of Earth →

and ~~it~~ would be
an elementary inertial
frame

with Earth gravity
just being a force
in that frame

Near Earth's surface

$$\mathbf{F} = -mg \hat{y}$$


Now the
Earth is rotating
(relative to the
observable universe)
and Sun & Moon grav. fields
are NOT uniform over
Earth

But on the size scale of
humans & most of artifacts
these are small perturbations
that can be neglected.

and we can usually treat
any point on surface of Earth
as defining an inertial frame

5006

2025 Jan 01

On larger scales you need to invoke tidal forces

- force due to structure of spacetime in general relativity
Understanding

inertial forces to convert non inertial frames into inertial frames

So, in fact, there is an inertial frame wherever you want.

— easy in principle to define that inertial frame but sometimes hard in practice

Images Tidal force

64

— differential force

But it is actually partially an inertial force too

of gravitating on a large body

— tends to stretch free-falling bodies

— an being orbit is being

— in free fall. They give rise to Earth tides

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5007

Images 5

Centrifugal force

center
fleeing
force

Any
inertial
force

(which is NOT
the same as centripetal
force — though they
are closely related)
gives equatorial
bulges to Earth
& other rotating
astro-bodies

— We don't notice the centrifugal force
" " " " much on the
small scale, but bulk Earth
notices it

It is the cause of effective
gravity of earth to
vary

from 9.832 m/s^2 poles

9.780 m/s^2 at equator

0.5% variation just below
human perception

50081 [2025 Jun 01]

Images 6 & 7, 8 Coriolis Force

an inertial force
trickier than
centrifugal

— cause by motion
in a rotating
frame

— Cause anticyclone
cyclone
weather

— observable on small scale
by Foucault's pendulum.

Whole hierarchy of inertial frames
Images 9, 10

and it tops out with
expanding universe

Why did Celestial Mechanics
from Newton to Einstein
always get right answers without
our modern understanding of inertial frames.
They just treated free-fall frames as non-inertial
frames converted to inertial frames by inertial
forces rather than as elementary inertial frames and
always got the right answers.

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c) Forces cause

Accelerations relative
to inertial frame ^{it}_{unbalanced}

& Also maintain structures
like holding up this
building when ⁱⁿ_{balance}.

They can be inertial forces
arise from nature
of spacetime

On 'ordinary' forces

cause by fields

of force $\rightarrow$ sometimes
obviously between
bodies & sometimes
~~Not~~

— Contact forces are
those that at macroscopic
scale

happen just between
matter in contact

50110

2025 Jun 04

Gravity is a special case

because classically we treat it as

a long range force
but general relativity
~~tells~~ it's actually
an inertial force
because gravity
gives the structure of
spacetime

d) Accelerations
rate of change
of velocity

Since you can define
an inertial frame
wherever you want,

But you
need to
define to
understand
both velocity
and acceleration.

you can say
all accelerations
are caused by
forces ordinary
or inertial.

But if you choose to regard a
frame as non-inertial then one

Accelerations
Not
caused
by
forces

(2025 Jun 01)

5014

e) Newton's 2nd Law For a point mass

An ideal classical
point particle

→ they don't exist, but
they are the ideal limit
of actual macroscopic
bodies

F_{net}

net force
on the
body

$= m a$

mass
of the
body.

It's resistance
to acceleration

acceleration

Forces
we regard
as inertial
frame invariant

All local
inertial frames
~~are~~ Not accelerated
with respect
to each other
the same acceleration

5012

$$\underline{r'} = \underline{r} + \underbrace{\underline{v}_{frame} t}_{\text{constant}}$$

$$\therefore \underline{v'} = \underline{v} + \underline{v}_{frame}$$

$$\underline{a'} = \underline{a}$$

Can local frames be accelerated with respect to each other?

Yes, but they differ in their inertial forces

But either way

$$\underline{F}_{net} = m \underline{a}$$

is inertial frame invariant

it's valid with respect

to all inertial frames

whether invoking inertial forces or NOT

We will clarify point soon.

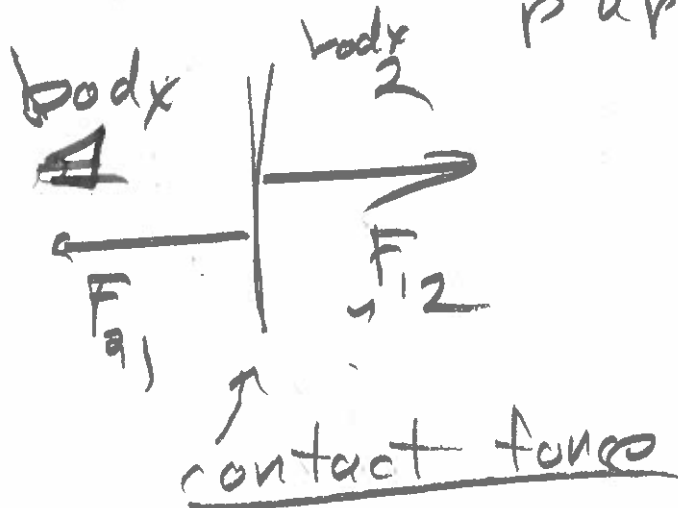
501B

f) Newton's 3rd law

For every force
there is an equal
& opposite force

Ordinary
forces,
not
(neutral)
forces
except
gravit
(consider
as
an
inertial
force

Key point they don't
have to be
on the same body
& so they don't
have to cancel
for acceleration
purposes.



Otherwise
inertial
forces
do NOT
obey the
3rd Law

But
these
lead
special
problems
that
I can
see.

Long
range
force
like
gravity



or Coulomb's law

5014)

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Fine
points

① Newton's 3rd is
classical law
— it assumes the
speed of signaling of
a force is instantaneous.

But the classical limit
that is true.

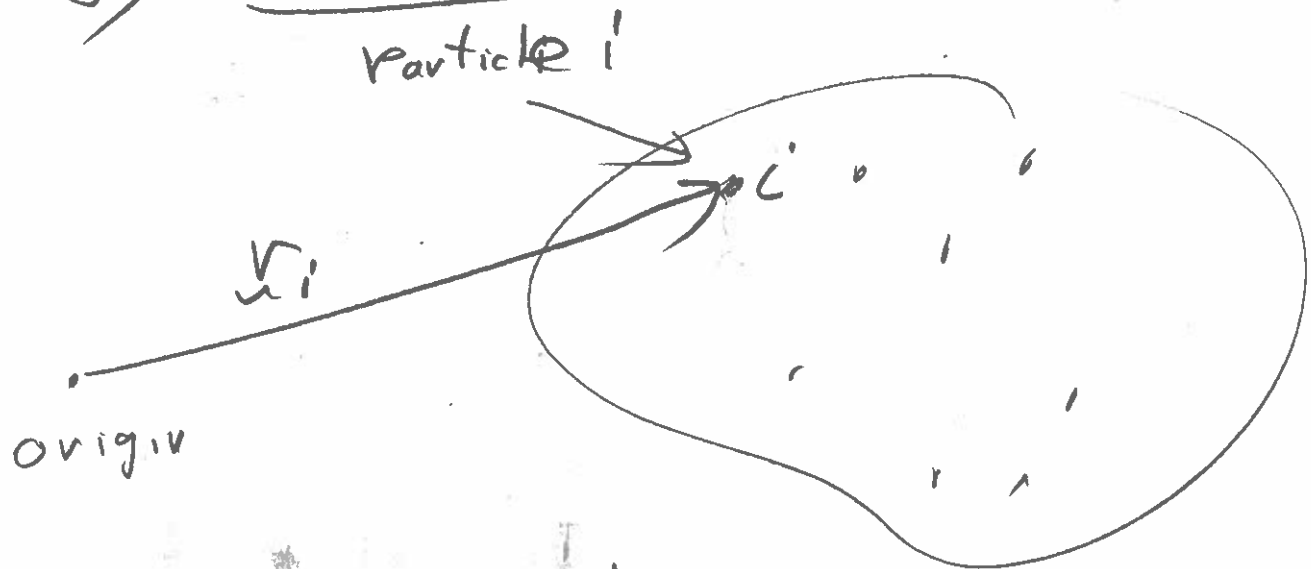
② Even classically Newton's
3rd law is NOT
strictly true as stated
Magnetic forces can
give rise to tricky
exceptions

But there is a generalized
version that is true
~~But~~ we aren't going to
worry about that
at our level.

20

5013

9) Center of Mass



You can model body

a body as a collection
of classical point masses

↳ the ideal limit
of actual small bits
above the
quantum mechanical
level

mass of particle i is m_i

$$M = \sum_i m_i \quad \text{total mass of body}$$

The center of mass position
is defined by

$$M \vec{r} = \sum_i m_i \vec{r}_i$$

5016

2025 Jun 04

or

$$\mathbf{r} = \frac{\sum_i m_i \mathbf{r}_i}{M}$$

Mass weighted average position

If you go to the continuum limit

$$\mathbf{r} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_i \rho_i \mathbf{r}_i \Delta V_i$$

If you have a nice regular shape, the integral can even be done

ρ_i average of small volume ΔV_i

$$\mathbf{r} = \frac{1}{M} \int \mathbf{r}' \rho(\mathbf{r}') dV$$

What if you have several objects

object j with mass M_j

particle with mass m_{ji}

$$M_j \mathbf{r}_j = \sum_i m_{ji} \mathbf{r}_{ji}$$

$$M \mathbf{r} = \sum_j M_j \mathbf{r}_j = \sum_{ji} m_{ji} \mathbf{r}_{ji}$$

So the center of mass of a set of objects equal the center of mass of set of total point particles

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Images 18, 70, 1512

Centers of Mass of symmetric object is easy to find.

— Fast geometric center by symmetry

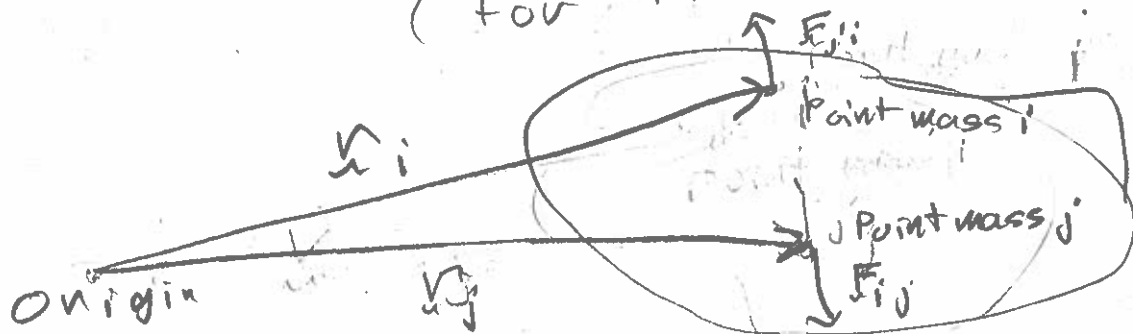
Hanging object at rest
Center of mass must be low pivot point

— stable equilibrium
→ perturbation damp out

Balancing equilibrium, center ~~mass above~~ pivot point
— unstable equilibrium

h) Newton's 2nd Law

(for finite objects)



Sum over all i

$$F_{\text{net}} = m_i a_i$$
$$F_{\text{net}} = F_{\text{ext}} + \sum_j F_{ji}$$

Force of j on i
Sum of all of these

5018

$$\underline{F_{\text{net}}}_{\text{on on body}} = \sum_i \underline{F_{\text{net}i}} = \sum_i m_i \underline{a_i}$$

$$= \sum_i \underline{F_{i \text{ ext}}} + \sum_{\substack{i, j \\ i \neq j}} \underline{F_{ji}} = \sum_i m_i \underline{a_i}$$

$$\underline{F_{\text{net}}} = \sum_i m_i \underline{a_i}$$

$$\underline{F_{\text{net}}} = M \underline{a_{\text{cm}}}$$

By Newton's 3rd law these forces cancel pairwise

To be more mathematical

$$\sum_{\substack{i, j \\ i \neq j}} \underline{F_{ji}} = \sum_{\substack{j, i \\ j \neq i}} \underline{F_{ji}}$$

just interchanging the labels

$$= \sum_{ji} (-F_{ji}) \quad \text{by 3rd law.}$$

$$= - \sum_{ji} \underline{F_{ji}}$$

These two are the same, but this can only be if they are zero.

This is the way Newton's law is usually stated

So the net Force on body (which is necessarily the net external force)

Key points

5019

1) $F_{\text{net}} = 0$

then $a_{\text{cm}} = 0$

and the center of mass
moves in straight line
uniform motion

This is Newton's 1st law

One perspective is that
it is a special case of
the 2nd law

and so there really are
only Two laws of Motion.

I believe this the good
perspective

since you really need

some way of measuring time

to say there is uniform motion and that requires

2nd law and mass

to verify means of
counting time flow.

5020

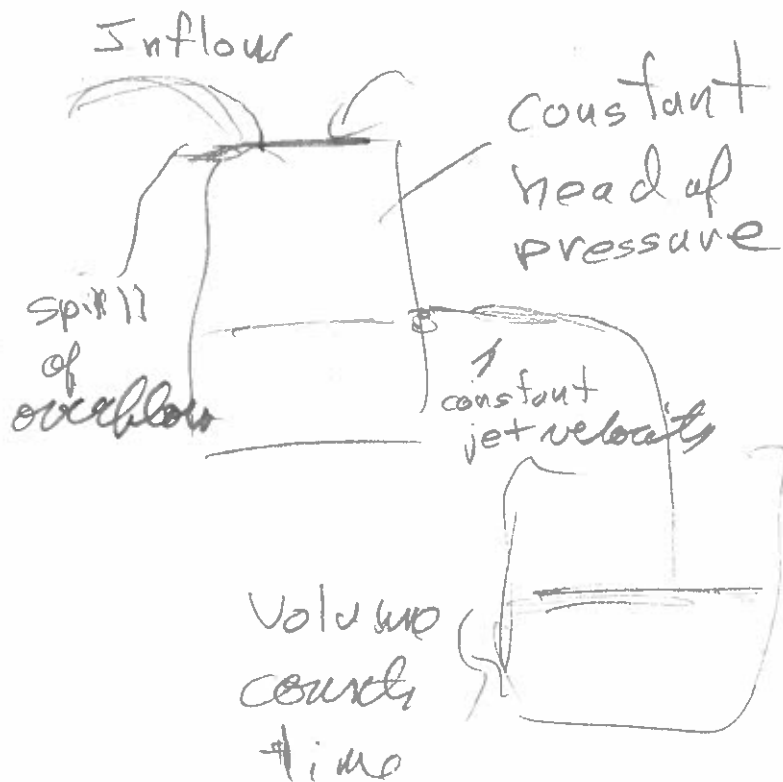
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e.g.
pendulum clock



- Oscillator like a pendulum
- well analyse later, but the periods of oscillation are ideally constant

Ideal water clock



But you need Newtonian physics to tell you jet has constant flow speed.

But there ~~is~~ a perspective that the 1st law is a necessary independent law

Google AI answers Both ways depending on how

- a) is Newton's 1st law a special case of 2nd law? Yes
- b) is Newton's 1st law redundant? NO.

ii) $F_{\text{net}} = m a_{\text{cm}}$

15021

Just tells you about
the CM motion
Internal motions have
to be analyzed on their own
— Also using Newtonian
physics applied to
parts,

Image 15 Fosbury flop

iii) ~~Changing Mass Systems (OMIT Lecture)~~

(e.g. Rockets) need a
generalization of Newton's 2nd Law
momentum flow in inertial frame

$F_{\text{net}} + \left(- \frac{dm}{dt} (v_{\text{eject}} - v) \right) = \frac{dp}{dt}$

Wik:
2nd
law
sort
of
conserve

$\frac{dp}{dt} = \frac{dm}{dt} (v - v_{\text{eject}})$
in outside frame

but
 $dm = -dv$
Rocket

$\left(\frac{dp}{dt} \right)_{\text{loss}} = - \left(\frac{dm}{dt} \right) (v - v_{\text{eject}})$

$\frac{dp}{dt} = m \frac{dv}{dt} + v \frac{dm}{dt} = m g + v \frac{dm}{dt}$

e.g., rocket

$p = mv$
is
momentum

velocity v
or
etc.

5022

(2025 Jun 01)

22

(iii) A generalization of Newton's 2nd Law

is needed for mass changing objects

mit in
loss,
include
velocity
pt. 6
th
th
vertical
plication
loss

F_{net}

$$+ \frac{dm}{dt} v_{\text{inflow}} = \frac{dp}{dt} = m \frac{dv}{dt} + v \frac{dm}{dt} = ma + v \frac{dm}{dt}$$

Rate of mass inflow to system
 $\frac{dm}{dt} < 0$ for outflow
velocity relative to outside inertial frame

Rate of change of momentum of object.

Example Rocket

The Rocket ejects burnt f at speed v_{ej} opposite direction of motion.

Assume motion along x-axis and $F_{\text{net}} = 0$.

$\frac{dm}{dt} < 0$ for mass loss

$$v_{\text{inflow}} = v - v_{ej}$$

velocity of rocket

The outflow velocity is reduced from v by v_{ej} .

$$\frac{dm}{dt} (v - v_{ej}) = ma + v \frac{dm}{dt}$$

$$ma = -v_{ej} \frac{dm}{dt}$$

$$m \frac{dv}{dt} = -v_{ej} \frac{dm}{dt}$$

$$m dv = -v_{ej} dm$$

$$dv = -v_{ej} \frac{dm}{m}$$

$$v - v_0 = -v_{ej} \ln\left(\frac{m}{m_0}\right)$$

$$v - v_0 = v_{ej} \ln\left(\frac{m_0}{m}\right) = v_{ej} \ln\left[\frac{m_0}{m(t)}\right]$$

Tsiolkovsky Rocket Equation (Wik)

$m_0 > m$
because of mass loss

$\therefore v > v_0$

You have to specify $m(t)$ to find $v(t)$

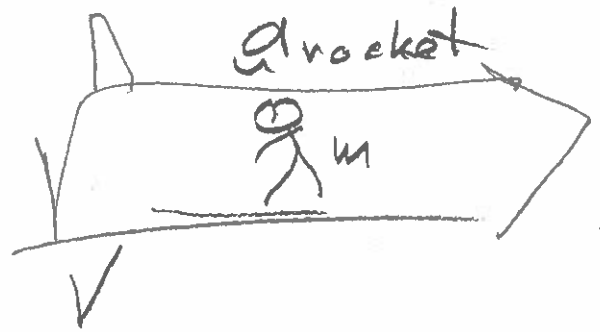
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(5023)

iv) Inertial Forces

$$\underline{F}_{\text{net}} = m \underline{a}$$

But say you
are in an
accelerating



rocket relative outside
inertial frame

but you want to treat
the inside as an inertial

frame (Not derivator)
Separate $\underline{a} = \underline{a}' + \underline{a}_{\text{rocket}}$

$$\underline{F}_{\text{net}} = m \underline{a}' + m \underline{a}_{\text{roc}}$$

$$\underline{F}'_{\text{net}} = \underline{F}_{\text{net}} - m \underline{a}_{\text{roc}} = m \underline{a}'$$

$$\underline{F}'_{\text{net}} = m \underline{a}' \quad \text{recovered}$$

$$\underline{F}'_{\text{inertial}} = -m \underline{a}_{\text{roc}}$$

it pulls on you atom by atom
like gravity backward.

All inertial
forces
are
mass
proportional
like
gravity

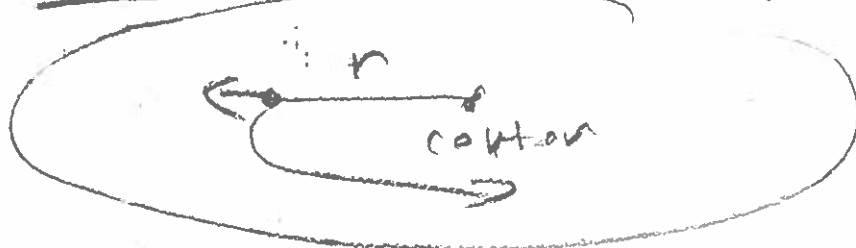
5024

toward the rear
of the rocket

and like gravity
it is proportional
to your mass.

These facts are what
led Einstein to conclude
gravity is an inertial force
is developing general relativity

Rotating frame with angular velocity ω



$$F_{\text{net}} = m \underline{a} = m \underline{a}' + m \underline{a}_{\text{frame}} \\ = m \underline{g}' - m \omega^2 r \hat{r}$$

$$\underline{F}'_{\text{net}} = \underline{F}_{\text{net}} + m \omega^2 r \hat{r} = m \underline{a}'$$

outward pointing
centrifugal force

centrifugal
acceleration
formula
But it's
NOT the
centripetal
force

the centrifugal force

5025

pushes you ~~outward~~
at one by atom.

To stay in place in
the rotating frame
there must be
some ordinary force
to act as the
centripetal force

any you are at rest
in carnival centrifuge

Show
image Video

Once the
door closes,
there is
no escape!

You need the
wall to supply
a contact force
on your back.

Show Image 16 video.

it's just fun

What if you are moving in the
rotating frame, then
there is the Coriolis Force, but that
is a velocity-dependent force and is beyond our
scope to analyze.

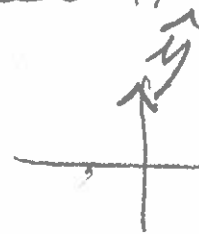
5026

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5.4 Mass & Weight

Weight is force of gravity
on an object.

total
mass
 $M = \sum_i m_i$



↙ Near Earth's surface

$$\vec{F}_{\text{grav}} = \sum_i m_i g (-\hat{y})$$

independent
of position

$$= (\sum_i m_i) g (-\hat{y})$$

$$= mg (-\hat{y})$$

or for just
magnitude

$$W = F_{\text{grav}} = mg$$

[2025 Jun 01]

5027

What is mass?

omit 5027-5033 in class

To reiterate from p. 1001-1006
with some expansion

- a) Quantity of resistance
to acceleration
(relative to
an inertial
frame
— goes without
saying
usually)
- b) "Change" of
gravitational force

→ equality in Newtonian Physics
is an unexplained
coincidence.

In general relativity (our
modern understanding) it's
fundamental. Gravity is
mass proportional, so it's
an inertial force

5028

(2025 Jun 01)

A brief intro to the
world's most famous
physics equation $E=mc^2$

What does it mean?

Two things,

- i) All energy has mass
a resistance to
acceleration
and a gravitational
effect

Note sometimes we talk
of negative energies

But they are in fact
always contributions
to total energy at
any point and the
total is always positive

So as we know there is
no negative mass in
a total sense.

[2025 Jun]

[5029]

ii) There is such a thing as rest mass (energy) an intrinsic energy of a fundamental particle that can be a rest in an inertial frame e.g., electrons, protons, neutrons

We can then massive particles and they are fundamentally identical in a way no macroscopic particle can be

Why do we believe this:

All QM relies on it and QM is the best verified of all physical theories

All energy can be converted into all other energy forms but not necessarily easily

5030

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There is no practical way
of converting large
amounts of rest
mass energy into
other forms

$\frac{1}{2}$ kg
matter

$\frac{1}{2}$ kg
antimatter

But
there are no large
amounts
of antimatter
don't
exist
in our
universe

→
run them together

and $E = mc^2 = 1 \text{ kg} \cdot (3 \times 10^8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})^2$

$\approx 10^{17} \text{ J} \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ Mt TNT}}{4 \times 10^{16} \text{ J}} \right)$

$\approx 25 \text{ Mt TNT}$ with

Equivalent to large hydrogen
bomb.

photons are massless

— but they do have mass
because they have energy

But they have NO rest
mass

[DO25, un01]

[503]

and they can't be at rest.

Special relativity dictates they have an invariant speed $c = 2.99792458 \times 10^8$ m/s

relative to all inertial frames (which are all frames really)

Why wasn't $E = mc^2$ noticed before special relativity (in which it is actually a very easy to prove result)?

In the 19th century, energy and mass were considered separate conserved things.

The changes in mass in all ordinary reactions below measurement.

5032)

For example
heat a sample.

You add heat energy
but change is far too
small for ordinary
measurements

Only with radioactivity
and nuclear reactions
were energy changes
big enough to
create noticeable
mass changes

Nuclear reactions
are of order 10^6 times
more energetic
than chemical
reactions.

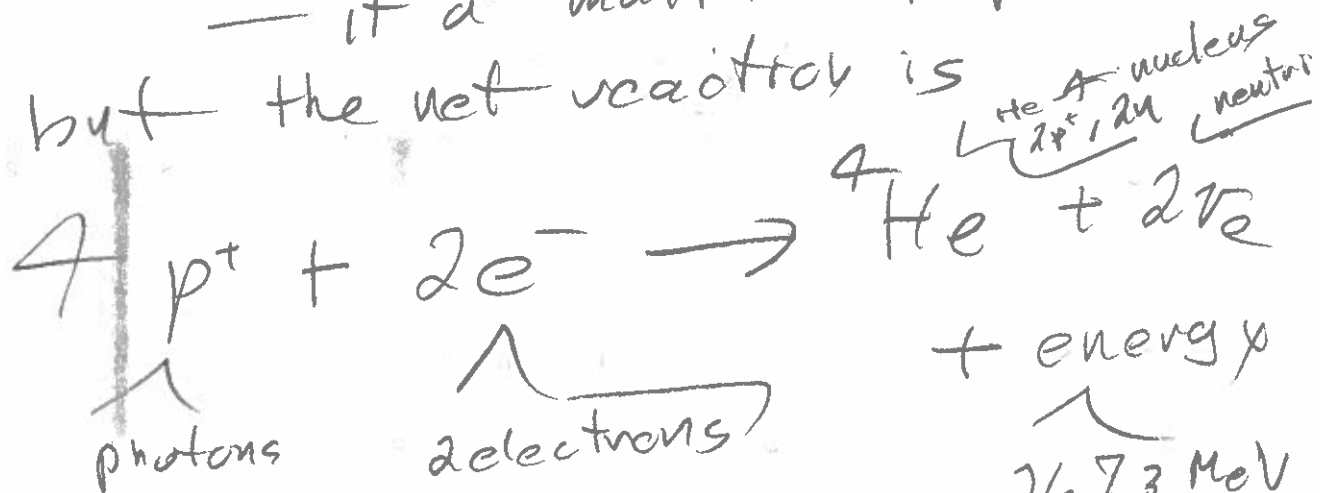
Ever since 1900 people have
been mesmerized by
that factor of 10^6

(2028 Jun 05)

B033

So much energy
from ~~50~~ little fuel,
It's hard to access, but
we do in nuclear reactors
& nuclear bombs

For example
H nuclear burning in the Sun
— it a multistep process
but the net reaction is



— an exothermic
reaction

26.73 MeV
comparable
chemical
reaction
are of
order
eV

Overall 0.7%
decrease in rest
from products to reactants

But "rest mass" here

includes nuclear binding
energy not just intrinsic
rest,

→ Actually intrinsic rest mass energy
increases since 4 protons have less
than 2 protons, 2 neutrons

5034

2020 Jan 01

5.6 Common Forces

Actually just 3

i) Gravity near Earth's surface

$$F_{\text{grav}} = mg(-\hat{y})$$

The only one here for which we have force law formally

ii) Normal Force

perpendicular to surface

The ideal force of ideal rigid surface (perpendicular)

It is a contact force. Acts only on surface.

rigid surface

you push on it normally & by 3rd law it pushes back with equal and opposite force.

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Solve for F_{Normal}
By 3rd Law

$$F_{\text{Normal}} = mg$$

By 2nd law on block

$$ma = 0 \Rightarrow F_g - F_{\text{Normal}}$$

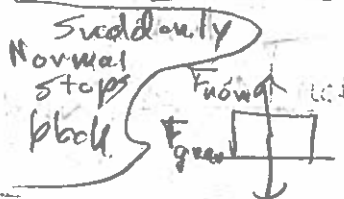
$$F_{\text{Normal}} = mg$$

Rigid surface

So if



In free-fall no internal pressure in block,



Hits table and at speed of sound (or so), the pressure force communicates stop through Block Layer-by-layer pressure holds up block.

But those are internal and do not change center of mass motion

Free-body-diagram

You draw on it the forces exerted on on body by external forces

NOT forces the body exerts.

→ If you draw them, you get into a complicated mess of cancelling forces.

Note gravity is a body force

→ it acts on body atom by atom

The Normal force is a contact force — only acts at the surface of contact.

5036

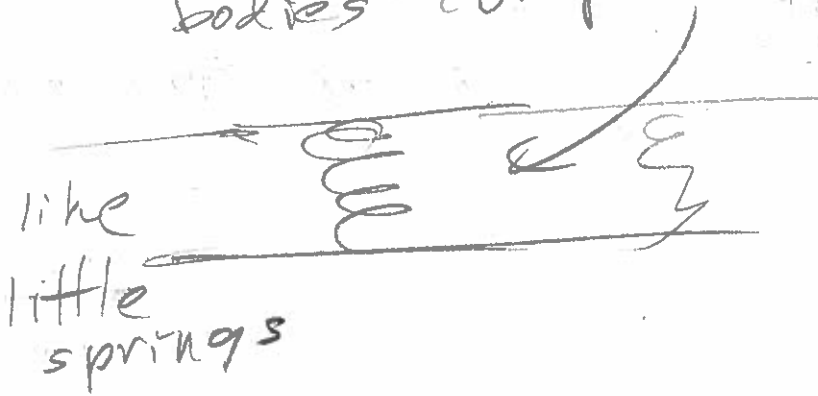
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Emphasizes

We only know its value using 2nd law or 3rd law

the Normal force is an ideal force with no intrinsic force law.

Real rigid bodies compress, and from the amount of compression you can calculate the intrinsic resistance force. We touch on elasticity later.



a) Example

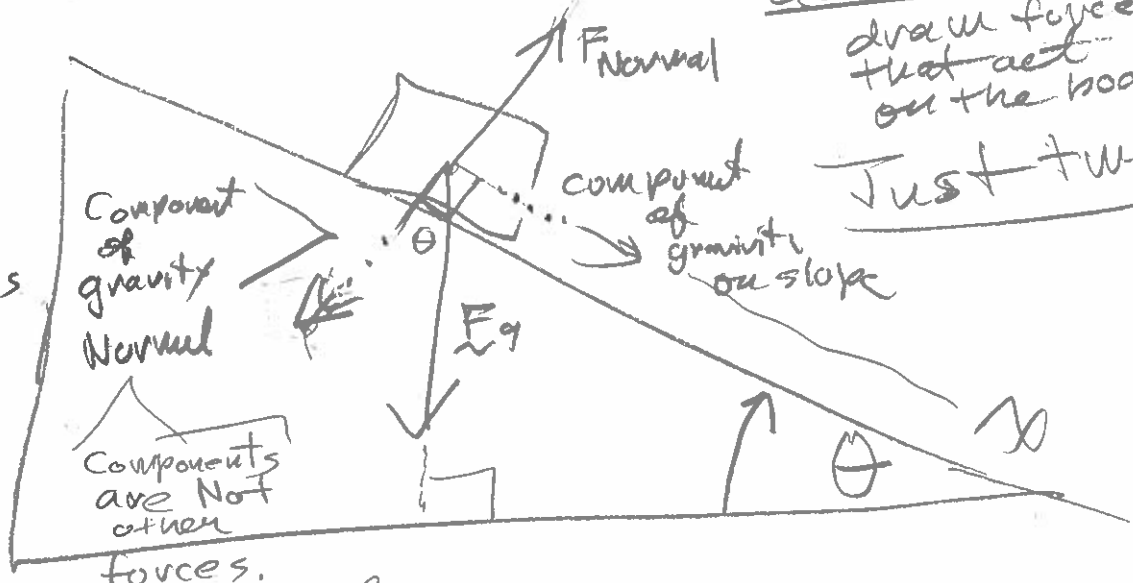
Inclined plane - Frictionless

Question

draw forces that act on the body

Just two

The inclined plane is rigid and provides a constraint force.



There are only 2 forces on Block

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Question What is F_{Normal}
 $F_{\text{normal}} = mg \cos \theta$
it must cancel gravity

Question What is the net force in the x -direction

$$F_x = F_g \sin \theta$$
$$= mg \sin \theta$$

Question What is the acceleration down the incline?

$$F_{x \text{ net}} = ma_x = mg \sin \theta$$

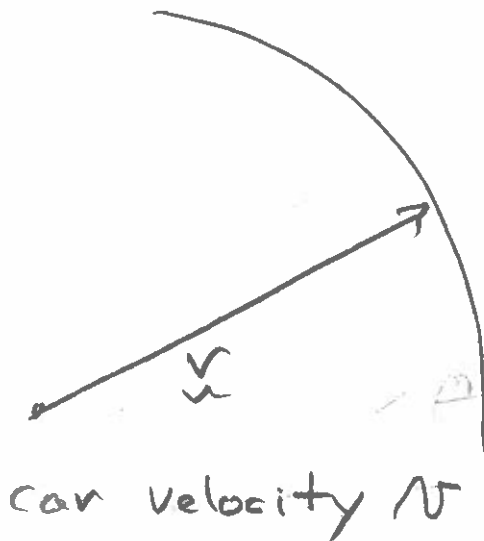
$\therefore a_x = g \sin \theta$

independent of mass
a consequence of gravity
be a mass independent force.

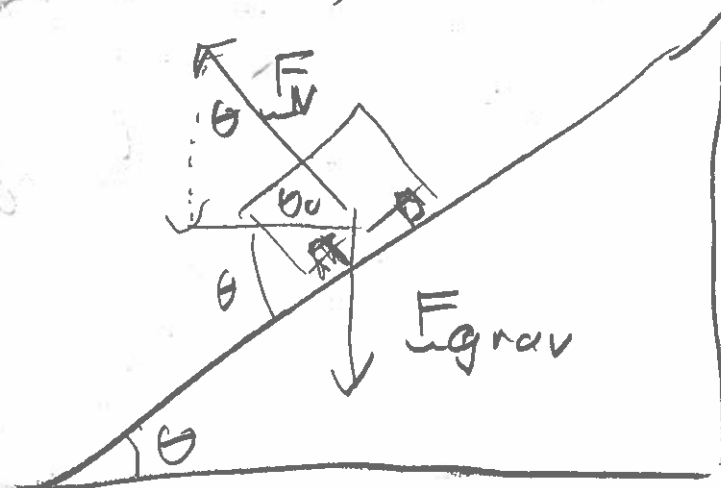
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b) Example Road banking

Top view



Side View



Free body diagram

Given the car is making the turn with no friction force acting. True for all contents as well.

Rigid Bank is a constraint force

$$\therefore F_{\text{centripetal}} = \frac{mv^2}{r} (-\hat{r})$$

$$F_{\text{net}} = F_N + F_{\text{grav}}$$

$$a_{\text{vertical}} = 0, F_N \cos \theta = mg \text{ to cancel gravity}$$

$$a_{\text{horizontal}} = \frac{v^2}{r}, F_N \sin \theta = \frac{mv^2}{r} \text{ to supply centripetal Force}$$

Solve for θ

$$\tan \theta = \frac{v^2}{gr}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left[\frac{v^2}{gr} \right]$$

$$v = 10 \text{ m/s}$$

$$r = 100 \text{ m}$$

$$g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \approx 10$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left[\frac{100}{10^3} \right]$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(0.1) \approx 0.1 \text{ radians} \approx 60^\circ$$

using small angle approximation

What of F_{Normal} ?

We have no intrinsic formula, but the 2nd law tells us

$$0 = F_{\text{Normal}} - mg \cos \theta$$

$$F_{\text{Normal}} = \frac{mg}{\cos \theta} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{since} \\ a_r = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$$= m \left(\frac{10}{1 - \frac{1}{2} \theta^2} \right)$$

$$\approx m = 10 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{kg}}$$

Using Taylor's series

$$\text{Car mass} = 10^3 \text{ kg}, F_N = 10^4 \text{ N}$$

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dimensional analysis

$$\left[\frac{v^2}{gr} \right]$$

$$= \frac{L^2/T^2}{(L/T^2)L}$$

= 1, and so dimensions are OK.

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So a car moving at $v = 10 \text{ m/s}$ will make the turn without friction.

{ Also true for contents, Passengers just sink in their seats. Little stress force on structure of car. Just compression.

Faster, it will tend to slide up.

Slower, it will tend to slide down

Now relying on friction is bad.

Hard on tires & road

It can go to zero

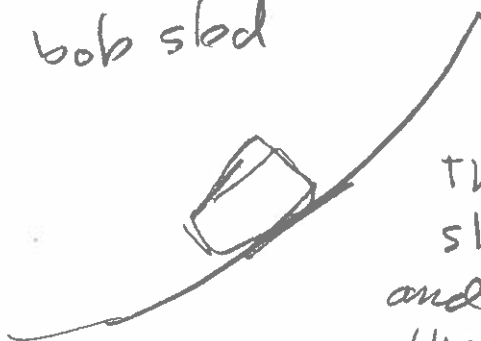
if the road is icy.

The conclusion is always drive at the ramp speed.

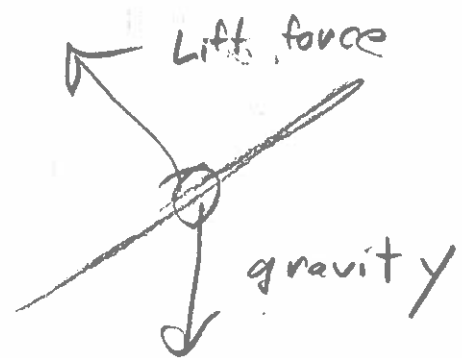
It's there for a reason.

Analogous systems

bob sled



The sled slides up and down until the required centripetal force doesn't need friction



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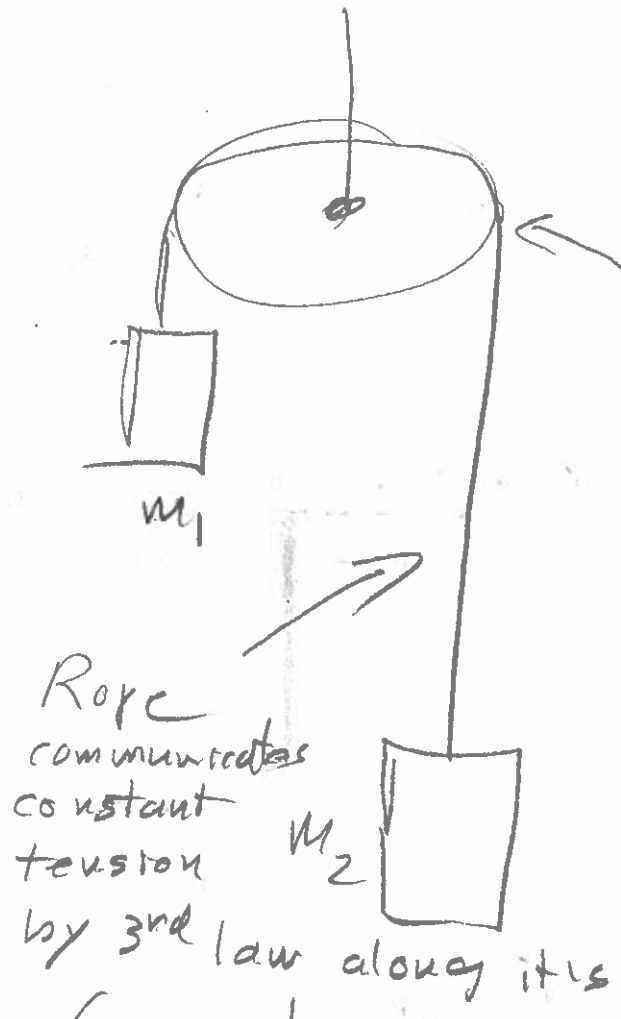
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Example b)

Atwood's Machine

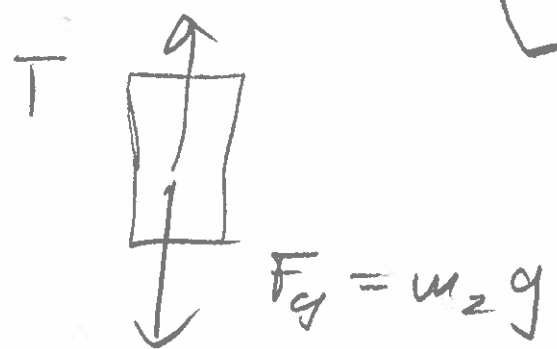
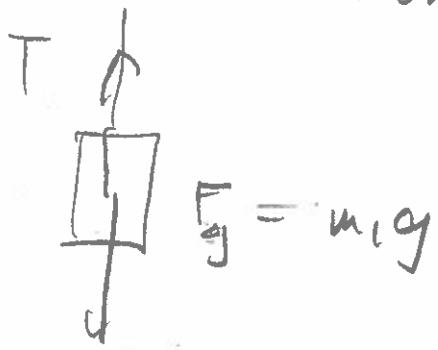
invented 1784 (wiki)
to verify laws
of Motion's thousands
year after pulleys
had been invented
for practical uses

Pulley with
no-slip condition
on rope (realistic)
and pulley having
no rotational inertia
(idealized) and
the wheel
turns
with
out
Friction



Question

Draw Free body diagram
for both masses,



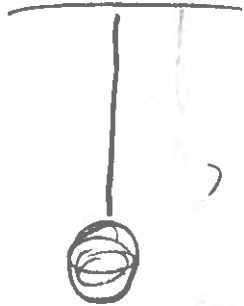
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iii)

Tension Force

of ideal rope



It cannot resist

compression or shearing

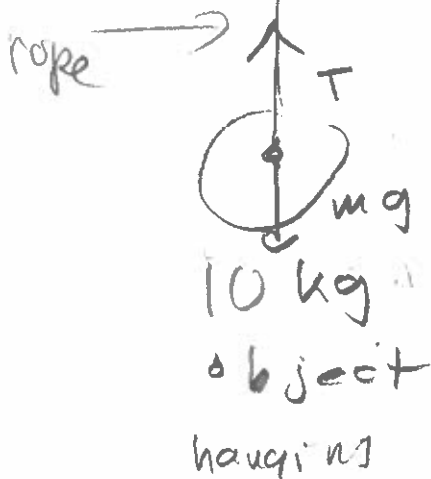
You can push on
on a rope, But
it doesn't
resist.

You can't push with a rope,

- No mass
- can only exert a tension force
and Tension force cannot vary

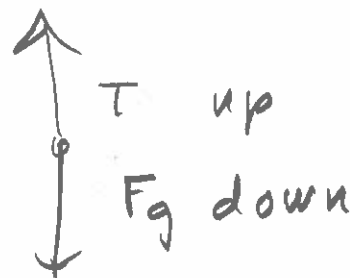
The ideal rope just exerts a pulling force.

Example (a)



Question

Draw the free body diagram.



No intrinsic force law for ideal rope.

What is T by 2nd Law

$$T = mg$$

$$F = ma$$

but a = 0

$$0 = T - mg$$

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Solve for acceleration
of m_1 and m_2 ?

Write down $F = ma$ for
both masses

$$① m_1 a_1 = T - m_1 g$$

$$② m_2 a_2 = m_2 g - T$$

Assume a
From 1 to 2
is the
+ve direction

Eliminate T .

Apply constant $a_1 = a_2$

① + ②

$$(m_1 + m_2)a = (m_2 - m_1)g$$

$$a = \frac{(m_2 - m_1)}{(m_2 + m_1)}g$$

Exploit
symmetry

You can make a as small
as you like making
it much easier to study
than $a = g$

Solve for T eliminating a

① - ② m_2

$$0 = \frac{T}{m_1} - g - (g + \frac{T}{m_2})$$

$$= T \left(\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2} \right) - 2g$$

$$T = \frac{2g}{\left(\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2} \right)} = \frac{2m_1 m_2 g}{m_1 + m_2}$$

$$T = \frac{2g}{\left(\frac{1}{m_1} + \frac{1}{m_2} \right)}$$

$$= \frac{2m_1 m_2 g}{m_1 + m_2}$$

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Remember We

have no intrinsic
force law for ideal
tension and must
rely on 2nd or 3rd law
to determine it

Question

$$T(m_1 = m_2 = m) \stackrel{?}{=} mg \quad \text{reasonable}$$

$$T(m_2 \rightarrow \infty) = 2m_1 g \quad \text{not easily anticipated.}$$

5.7) Free body diagrams

We have already
covered them.