GLOBAL EDITION

Physics for Scientists and Engineers

A Strategic Approach with Modern Physics

FIFTH EDITION

Randall D. Knight

PHYSICS

For Scientists and Engineers | A Strategic Approach

WITH MODERN PHYSICS

GLOBAL EDITION

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For Scientists and Engineers | A Strategic Approach | 5e

WITH MODERN PHYSICS

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RANDALL D. KNIGHT

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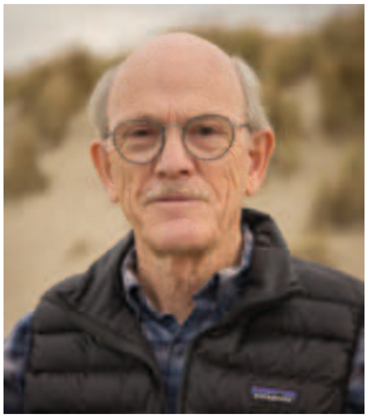
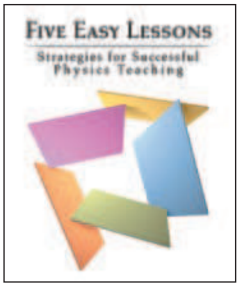


RANDY KNIGHT taught introductory physics for 32 years at Ohio State University and California Polytechnic State University, where he is Professor Emeritus of Physics. Professor Knight received a PhD in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics before joining the faculty at Ohio State University. His growing awareness of the importance of research in physics education led first to *Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach* and later, with co-authors Brian Jones and Stuart Field, to *College Physics: A Strategic Approach* and the new *University Physics for the Life Sciences*. Professor Knight's research interests are in the fields of laser spectroscopy and environmental science. When he's not in front of a computer, you can find Randy hiking, traveling, playing the piano, or spending time with his wife Sally and their five cats.

Preface to the Instructor

This fifth edition of *Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach* continues to build on the research-driven instructional techniques introduced in the first edition and the extensive feedback from thousands of users. From the beginning, the objectives have been:

- To produce a textbook that is more focused and coherent, less encyclopedic.
- To integrate proven results from physics education research into the classroom in a way that allows instructors to use a range of teaching styles.
- To provide a balance of quantitative reasoning and conceptual understanding, with special attention to concepts known to cause student difficulties.
- To develop students' problem-solving skills in a systematic manner.



A more complete explanation of these goals and the rationale behind them can be found in the Ready-To-Go Teaching Modules and in my paperback book, *Five Easy Lessons: Strategies for Successful Physics Teaching*. Please request a copy from your local Pearson sales representative if it is of interest to you (ISBN 978-0-805-38702-5).

What's New to This Edition

The fifth edition of *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* continues to utilize the best results from educational research and to tailor them for this course and its students. At the same time, the extensive feedback we've received from both instructors and students has led to many changes and improvements to the text, the figures, and the end-of-chapter problems. Changes include:

- The Chapter 6 section on drag has been expanded to include drag in a viscous fluid (Stokes' law). The Reynolds number is introduced as an indicator of whether drag is primarily viscous or primarily inertial.
- Chapter 14 on fluids now includes the flow of viscous fluids (Poiseuille's equation) and a discussion of turbulence.
- An optional Advanced Topic section on coupled oscillations and normal modes has been added to Chapter 15.
- Chapter 20 now includes an extensive quantitative section on entropy and its application.
- A vector review has been added to Chapter 22, the first electricity chapter, and the worked examples make extra effort to remind students how to work with vectors. Returning to vectors after not having used them extensively since mechanics is a stumbling block for many students.
- The number of applications illustrated with sidebar figures has been increased and now includes accelerometers, helicopter rotors, quartz oscillators, laser printers, and wireless chargers.
- There are more than 400 new or significantly revised end-of-chapter problems. Scores of other problems have been edited to improve clarity. Difficulty ratings have been recalibrated based on Mastering® Physics.
- Several substantial new Challenge Problems have been added to cover interesting and contemporary topics such as gravitational waves, normal modes of the carbon dioxide molecule, and Bose-Einstein condensates.
- New Ready-To-Go Teaching Modules are an easy-to-use online instructor's guide. These modules provide background information about topics and techniques that are known student stumbling blocks along with suggestions and assignments for use before, during, and after class.

Textbook Organization

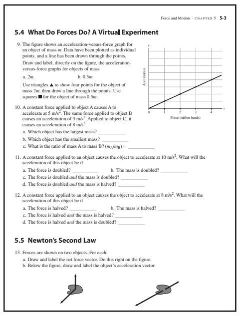
Physics for Scientists and Engineers is divided into eight parts: Part I: *Newton's Laws*, Part II: *Conservation Laws*, Part III: *Applications of Newtonian Mechanics*, Part IV: *Oscillations and Waves*, Part V: *Thermodynamics*, Part VI: *Electricity and Magnetism*, Part VII: *Optics*, and Part VIII: *Relativity and Quantum Mechanics*. Note that covering the parts in this order is by no means essential. Each topic is self-contained, and Parts III–VII can be rearranged to suit an instructor's needs. Part VII: *Optics* does need to follow Part IV: *Oscillations and Waves*; optics can be taught either before or after electricity and magnetism.

The complete 42-chapter version of *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* is intended for a three-semester course. A two-semester course typically covers 30–32 chapters with the judicious omission of a few sections.

There's a growing sentiment that quantum physics is becoming the province of engineers, not just physicists, and that even a two-semester course should include a reasonable introduction to quantum ideas. The Ready-To-Go Teaching Modules outline a couple of routes through the book that allow many of the quantum physics chapters to be included in a two-semester course. I've written the book with the hope that an increasing number of instructors will choose one of these routes.

The Student Workbook

A key component of *Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach* is the accompanying *Student Workbook*. The workbook bridges the gap between textbook and homework problems by providing students the opportunity to learn and practice skills prior to using those skills in quantitative end-of-chapter problems, much as a musician practices technique separately from performance pieces. The workbook exercises, which are keyed to each section of the textbook, focus on developing specific skills, ranging from identifying forces and drawing free-body diagrams to interpreting wave functions.



Force and Motion · CHAPTER 5 5-3

5.4 What Do Forces Do? A Virtual Experiment

9. The figure shows an acceleration-versus-force graph for an object of mass m. Data have been plotted as individual points, and a line has been drawn through the points. Draw and label, directly on the figure, the acceleration-versus-force graphs for objects of mass
   a. $2m$ b. $0.5m$
   Use triangles ▲ to show four points for the object of mass $2m$, then draw a line through the points. Use squares ■ for the object of mass $0.5m$.

10. A constant force applied to object A causes A to accelerate at 5 m/s^2. The same force applied to object B causes an acceleration of 3 m/s^2. Applied to object C, it causes an acceleration of 8 m/s^2.
    a. Which object has the largest mass? ______
    b. Which object has the smallest mass? ______
    c. What is the ratio of mass A to mass B? (m_A/m_B) = ______

11. A constant force applied to an object causes the object to accelerate at 10 m/s^2. What will the acceleration of this object be if
    a. The force is doubled? ______ b. The mass is doubled? ______
    c. The force is doubled *and* the mass is doubled? ______
    d. The force is doubled *and* the mass is halved? ______

12. A constant force applied to an object causes the object to accelerate at 8 m/s^2. What will the acceleration of this object be if
    a. The force is halved? ______ b. The mass is halved? ______
    c. The force is halved *and* the mass is halved? ______
    d. The force is halved *and* the mass is doubled? ______

5.5 Newton's Second Law

13. Forces are shown on two objects. For each:
    a. Draw and label the net force vector. Do this right on the figure.
    b. Below the figure, draw and label the object's acceleration vector.

The workbook exercises, which are generally qualitative and/or graphical, draw heavily upon the physics education research literature. The exercises deal with issues known to cause student difficulties and employ techniques that have proven to be effective at overcoming those difficulties. The workbook exercises can be used in class as part of an active-learning teaching strategy, in recitation sections, or as assigned homework.

Instructor Resources

A variety of resources are available to help instructors teach more effectively and efficiently. These can be downloaded from the Instructor Resources area of Mastering® Physics.

- **Ready-To-Go Teaching Modules** are an online instructor's guide. Each chapter contains background information on what is known from physics education research about student misconceptions and difficulties, suggested teaching strategies, suggested lecture demonstrations, and suggested pre- and post-class assignments.
- **Mastering® Physics** is Pearson's online homework system through which the instructor can assign pre-class reading quizzes, tutorials that help students solve a problem with hints and wrong-answer feedback, direct-measurement videos, and end-of-chapter questions and problems. Instructors can set up their own assignments or utilize pre-built assignments that have been designed with a balance of problem types and difficulties.
- **PowerPoint Lecture Slides** can be modified by the instructor but provide an excellent starting point for class presentations. The lecture slides include QuickCheck questions.
- **QuickCheck "Clicker Questions"** are conceptual questions, based on known student misconceptions, for in-class use with some form of personal response system. They are designed to be used as part of an active-learning teaching strategy. The Ready-To-Go teaching modules provide information on the effective use of QuickCheck questions.
- The **Instructor's Solution Manual** is available in both Word and PDF formats. We do require that solutions for student use be posted only on a secure course website.
- All of the textbook figures, key equations, Problem-Solving Strategies, Tactics Boxes, and more can be downloaded.
- The **TestGen Test Bank** contains over 2000 conceptual and multiple-choice questions. Test files are provided in both TestGen® and Word formats.

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Preface to the Student

From Me to You

The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible.
—Albert Einstein

The day I went into physics class it was death.
—Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*

Let's have a little chat before we start. A rather one-sided chat, admittedly, because you can't respond, but that's OK. I've talked with many of your fellow students over the years, so I have a pretty good idea of what's on your mind.

What's your reaction to taking physics? Fear and loathing? Uncertainty? Excitement? All the above? Let's face it, physics has a bit of an image problem on campus. You've probably heard that it's difficult, maybe impossible unless you're an Einstein. Things that you've heard, your experiences in other science courses, and many other factors all color your *expectations* about what this course is going to be like.

It's true that there are many new ideas to be learned in physics and that the course, like college courses in general, is going to be much faster paced than science courses you had in high school. I think it's fair to say that it will be an *intense* course. But we can avoid many potential problems and difficulties if we can establish, here at the beginning, what this course is about and what is expected of you—and of me!

Just what is physics, anyway? Physics is a way of thinking about the physical aspects of nature. Physics is not better than art or biology or poetry or religion, which are also ways to think about nature; it's simply different. One of the things this course will emphasize is that physics is a human endeavor. The ideas presented in this book were not found in a cave or conveyed to us by aliens; they were discovered and developed by real people engaged in a struggle with real issues.

You might be surprised to hear that physics is not about "facts." Oh, not that facts are unimportant, but physics is far more focused on discovering *relationships* and *patterns* than on learning facts for their own sake.

For example, the colors of the rainbow appear both when white light passes through a prism and—as in this photo—when white light reflects from a thin film of oil on water. What does this pattern tell us about the nature of light?

Our emphasis on relationships and patterns means that there's not a lot of memorization when you study physics. Some—there are still definitions and equations to learn—but less than in many other courses. Our emphasis, instead, will be on thinking and reasoning. This is important to factor into your expectations for the course.

Perhaps most important of all, *physics is not math!* Physics is much broader. We're going to look for patterns and relationships in nature, develop the logic that relates different ideas, and search for the reasons *why* things happen as they do. In doing so, we're going to stress qualitative reasoning, pictorial and graphical reasoning, and reasoning by analogy. And yes, we will use math, but it's just one tool among many.

It will save you much frustration if you're aware of this physics–math distinction up front. Many of you, I know, want to find a formula and plug numbers into it—that is, to do a math problem. Maybe that worked in high school science courses, but it is *not* what this course expects of you. We'll certainly do many calculations, but the specific numbers are usually the last and least important step in the analysis.

As you study, you'll sometimes be baffled, puzzled, and confused. That's perfectly normal and to be expected. Making mistakes is OK too *if* you're willing to learn from the experience. No one is born knowing how to do physics any more than he or she is born knowing how to play the piano or shoot basketballs. The ability to do physics comes from practice, repetition, and struggling with the ideas until you "own" them and can apply them yourself in new situations. There's no way to make learning effortless, at least for anything worth learning, so expect to have some difficult moments ahead. But also expect to have some moments of excitement at the joy of discovery. There will be instants at which the pieces suddenly click into place and you *know* that you understand a powerful idea. There will be times when you'll surprise yourself by successfully working a difficult problem that you didn't think you could solve. My hope, as an author, is that the excitement and sense of adventure will far outweigh the difficulties and frustrations.

Getting the Most Out of Your Course

Many of you, I suspect, would like to know the "best" way to study for this course. There is no best way. People are different and what works for one student is less effective for another. But I do want to stress that *reading the text* is vitally important. The basic knowledge for this course is written down on these pages, and your instructor's *number-one expectation* is that you will read carefully to find and learn that knowledge.

Despite there being no best way to study, I will suggest *one* way that is successful for many students.

1. **Read each chapter *before* it is discussed in class.** I cannot stress too strongly how important this step is. Class attendance is much more effective if you are prepared. When you first read a chapter, focus on learning new vocabulary, definitions, and notation. There's a list of terms and notations at the end of each chapter. Learn them! You won't understand what's being discussed or how the ideas are being used if you don't know what the terms and symbols mean.

2. **Participate actively in class.** Take notes, ask and answer questions, and participate in discussion groups. There is ample scientific evidence that *active participation* is much more effective for learning science than passive listening.
3. **After class, go back for a careful re-reading of the chapter.** In your second reading, pay closer attention to the details and the worked examples. Look for the *logic* behind each example (I've highlighted this to make it clear), not just at what formula is being used. And use the textbook tools that are designed to help your learning, such as the problem-solving strategies, the chapter summaries, and the exercises in the *Student Workbook*.
4. **Finally, apply what you have learned to the homework problems at the end of each chapter.** I strongly encourage you to form a study group with two or three classmates. There's good evidence that students who study regularly with a group do better than the rugged individualists who try to go it alone.

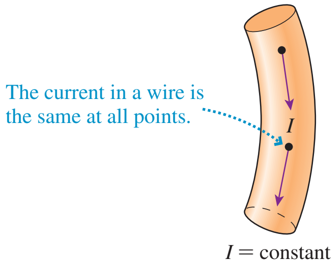
Did someone mention a workbook? The companion *Student Workbook* is a vital part of the course. Its questions and exercises ask you to reason *qualitatively,* to use graphical information, and to give explanations. It is through these exercises that you will learn what the concepts mean and will practice the reasoning skills appropriate to the chapter. You will then have acquired the baseline knowledge and confidence you need *before* turning to the end-of-chapter homework problems. In sports or in music, you would never think of performing before you practice, so why would you want to do so in physics? The workbook is where you practice and work on basic skills.

Many of you, I know, will be tempted to go straight to the homework problems and then thumb through the text looking for a formula that seems like it will work. That approach will not succeed in this course, and it's guaranteed to make you frustrated and discouraged. Very few homework problems are of the "plug and chug" variety where you simply put numbers into a formula. To work the homework problems successfully, you need a better study strategy—either the one outlined above or your own—that helps you learn the concepts and the relationships between the ideas.

Getting the Most Out of Your Textbook

Your textbook provides many features designed to help you learn the concepts of physics and solve problems more effectively.

- **TACTICS BOXES** give step-by-step procedures for particular skills, such as interpreting graphs or drawing special diagrams. Tactics Box steps are explicitly illustrated in subsequent worked examples, and these are often the starting point of a full *Problem-Solving Strategy*.
- **PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES** are provided for each broad class of problems—problems characteristic of a chapter or group of chapters. The strategies follow a consistent four-step approach to help you develop confidence and proficient problem-solving skills: **MODEL, VISUALIZE, SOLVE, REVIEW**.
- Worked **EXAMPLES** illustrate good problem-solving practices through the consistent use of the four-step problem-solving approach The worked examples are often very detailed and carefully lead you through the *reasoning* behind the solution as well as the numerical calculations.
- **STOP TO THINK** questions embedded in the chapter allow you to quickly assess whether you've understood the main idea of a section. A correct answer will give you confidence to move on to the next section. An incorrect answer will alert you to re-read the previous section.
- Blue annotations on figures help you better understand what the figure is showing. They will help you to interpret graphs; translate between graphs, math, and pictures; grasp difficult concepts through a visual analogy; and develop many other important skills.



- Schematic *Chapter Summaries* help you organize what you have learned into a hierarchy, from general principles (top) to applications (bottom). Side-by-side pictorial, graphical, textual, and mathematical representations are used to help you translate between these key representations.
- Each part of the book ends with a **KNOWLEDGE STRUCTURE** designed to help you see the forest rather than just the trees.

Now that you know more about what is expected of you, what can you expect of me? That's a little trickier because the book is already written! Nonetheless, the book was prepared on the basis of what I think my students throughout the years have expected—and wanted—from their physics textbook. Further, I've listened to the extensive feedback I have received from thousands of students like you, and their instructors, who used the first four editions of this book.

You should know that these course materials—the text and the workbook—are based on extensive research about how students learn physics and the challenges they face. The effectiveness of many of the exercises has been demonstrated through extensive class testing. I've written the book in an informal style that I hope you will find appealing and that will encourage you to do the reading. And, finally, I have endeavored to make clear not only that physics, as a technical body of knowledge, is relevant to your profession but also that physics is an exciting adventure of the human mind.

I hope you'll enjoy the time we're going to spend together.

Brief Contents

Detailed Contents

Useful Data

M_e	Mass of the earth	5.97×10^{24} kg	
R_e	Radius of the earth	6.37×10^6 m	
g	Free-fall acceleration on earth	$9.80\ \text{m/s}^2$	
G	Gravitational constant	$6.67 \times 10^{-11}\ \text{N m}^2/\text{kg}^2$	
k_B	Boltzmann's constant	1.38×10^{-23} J/K	
R	Gas constant	8.31 J/mol K	
N_A	Avogadro's number	6.02×10^{23} particles/mol	
T_0	Absolute zero	−273°C	
σ	Stefan-Boltzmann constant	$5.67 \times 10^{-8}\ \text{W/m}^2\,\text{K}^4$	
p_{atm}	Standard atmosphere	101,300 Pa	
v_{sound}	Speed of sound in air at 20°C	343 m/s	
m_p	Mass of the proton (and the neutron)	1.67×10^{-27} kg	
m_e	Mass of the electron	9.11×10^{-31} kg	
K	Coulomb's law constant ($1/4\pi\epsilon_0$)	$8.99 \times 10^9\ \text{N m}^2/\text{C}^2$	
ϵ_0	Permittivity constant	$8.85 \times 10^{-12}\ \text{C}^2/\text{N m}^2$	
μ_0	Permeability constant	1.26×10^{-6} T m/A	
e	Fundamental unit of charge	1.60×10^{-19} C	
c	Speed of light in vacuum	3.00×10^8 m/s	
h	Planck's constant	6.63×10^{-34} J s	4.14×10^{-15} eV s
$\hbar$	Planck's constant	1.05×10^{-34} J s	6.58×10^{-16} eV s
a_B	Bohr radius	5.29×10^{-11} m	

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning
femto-	10^{-15}
pico-	10^{-12}
nano-	10^{-9}
micro-	10^{-6}
milli-	10^{-3}
centi-	10^{-2}
kilo-	10^{3}
mega-	10^{6}
giga-	10^{9}
terra-	10^{12}

Conversion Factors

Length
1 in = 2.54 cm
1 mi = 1.609 km
1 m = 39.37 in
1 km = 0.621 mi

Velocity
1 mph = 0.447 m/s
1 m/s = 2.24 mph = 3.28 ft/s

Mass and energy
1 u = 1.661×10^{-27} kg
1 cal = 4.19 J
1 eV = 1.60×10^{-19} J

Time
1 day = 86,400 s
1 year = 3.16×10^7 s

Pressure
1 atm = 101.3 kPa = 760 mm of Hg
1 atm = $14.7\ \text{lb/in}^2$

Rotation
1 rad = $180°/\pi$ = 57.3°
1 rev = 360° = 2π rad
1 rev/s = 60 rpm

Mathematical Approximations

Binomial approximation: $(1 + x)^n \approx 1 + nx$ if $x \ll 1$
Small-angle approximation: $\sin\theta \approx \tan\theta \approx \theta$ and $\cos\theta \approx 1$ if $\theta \ll 1$ radian

Greek Letters Used in Physics

Alpha		α	Mu		μ
Beta		β	Pi		π
Gamma	Γ	γ	Rho		ρ
Delta	Δ	δ	Sigma	Σ	σ
Epsilon		ϵ	Tau		τ
Eta		η	Phi	Φ	ϕ
Theta	Θ	θ	Psi		ψ
Lambda		λ	Omega	Ω	ω

Problem-Solving Strategies and Model Boxes

PART I

Newton's Laws

OVERVIEW

Why Things Move

Each of the seven parts of this book opens with an overview to give you a look ahead, a glimpse at where your journey will take you in the next few chapters. It's easy to lose sight of the big picture while you're busy negotiating the terrain of each chapter. In addition, each part closes with a Knowledge Structure to help you consolidate your knowledge. You might want to look ahead now to the Part I Knowledge Structure on page 230.

In Part I, the big picture, in a word, is *motion.*

- **How do we describe motion?** It is easy to say that an object moves, but it's not obvious how we should measure or characterize the motion if we want to analyze it mathematically. The mathematical description of motion is called *kinematics,* and it is the subject matter of Chapters 1 through 4.
- **How do we explain motion?** Why do objects have the particular motion they do? Why, when you toss a ball upward, does it go up and then come back down rather than keep going up? What "laws of nature" allow us to predict an object's motion? The explanation of motion in terms of its causes is called *dynamics,* and it is the topic of Chapters 5 through 8.

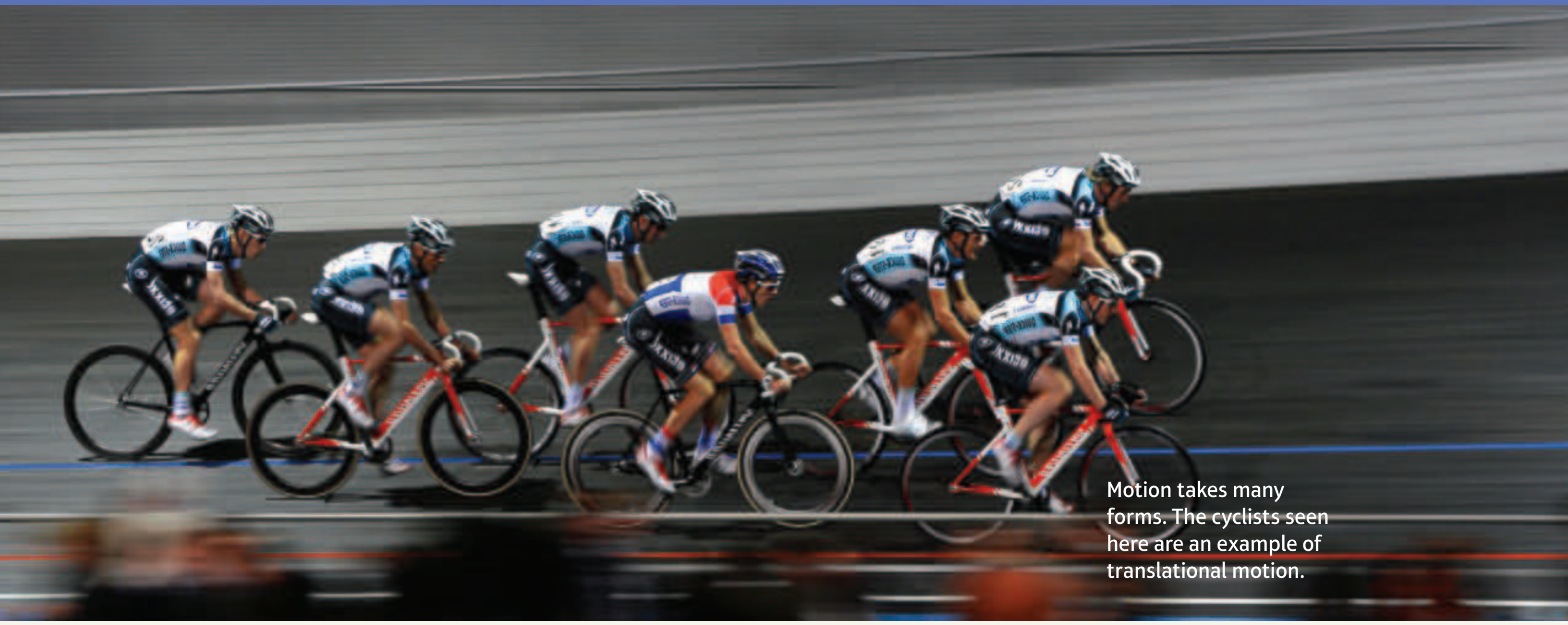
Two key ideas for answering these questions are *force* (the "cause") and *acceleration* (the "effect"). A variety of pictorial and graphical tools will be developed in Chapters 1 through 5 to help you develop an *intuition* for the connection between force and acceleration. You'll then put this knowledge to use in Chapters 5 through 8 as you analyze motion of increasing complexity.

Another important tool will be the use of *models.* Reality is extremely complicated. We would never be able to develop a science if we had to keep track of every little detail of every situation. A model is a simplified description of reality—much as a model airplane is a simplified version of a real airplane—used to reduce the complexity of a problem to the point where it can be analyzed and understood. We will introduce several important models of motion, paying close attention, especially in these earlier chapters, to where simplifying assumptions are being made, and why.

The *laws of motion* were discovered by Isaac Newton roughly 350 years ago, so the study of motion is hardly cutting-edge science. Nonetheless, it is still extremely important. Mechanics—the science of motion—is the basis for much of engineering and applied science, and many of the ideas introduced here will be needed later to understand things like the motion of waves and the motion of electrons through circuits. Newton's mechanics is the foundation of much of contemporary science, thus we will start at the beginning.

Motion can be slow and steady, or fast and sudden. This rocket, with its rapid acceleration, is responding to forces exerted on it by thrust, gravity, and the air.

1 Concepts of Motion



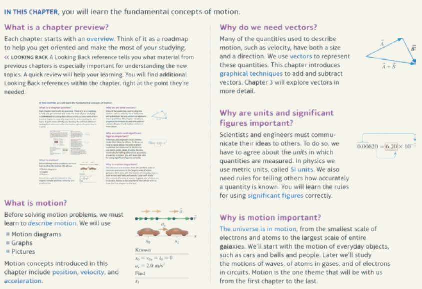
Motion takes many forms. The cyclists seen here are an example of translational motion.

IN THIS CHAPTER, you will learn the fundamental concepts of motion.

What is a chapter preview?

Each chapter starts with an **overview**. Think of it as a roadmap to help you get oriented and make the most of your studying.

« LOOKING BACK A Looking Back reference tells you what material from previous chapters is especially important for understanding the new topics. A quick review will help your learning. You will find additional Looking Back references within the chapter, right at the point they're needed.

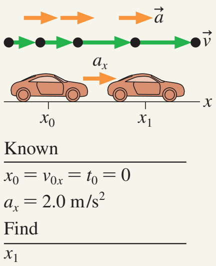


What is motion?

Before solving motion problems, we must learn to ***describe* motion**. We will use

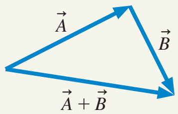
- Motion diagrams
- Graphs
- Pictures

Motion concepts introduced in this chapter include **position**, **velocity**, and **acceleration**.



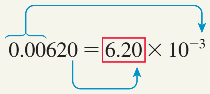
Why do we need vectors?

Many of the quantities used to describe motion, such as velocity, have both a size and a direction. We use **vectors** to represent these quantities. This chapter introduces **graphical techniques** to add and subtract vectors. Chapter 3 will explore vectors in more detail.



Why are units and significant figures important?

Scientists and engineers must communicate their ideas to others. To do so, we have to agree about the *units* in which quantities are measured. In physics we use metric units, called **SI units**. We also need rules for telling others how accurately a quantity is known. You will learn the rules for using **significant figures** correctly.



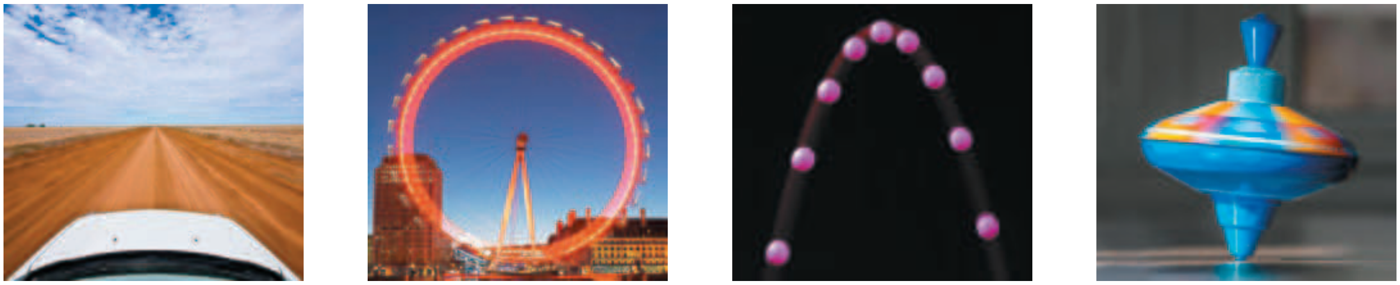
Why is motion important?

The universe is in motion, from the smallest scale of electrons and atoms to the largest scale of entire galaxies. We'll start with the motion of everyday objects, such as cars and balls and people. Later we'll study the motions of waves, of atoms in gases, and of electrons in circuits. Motion is the one theme that will be with us from the first chapter to the last.

1.1 Motion Diagrams

Motion is a theme that will appear in one form or another throughout this entire book. Although we all have intuition about motion, based on our experiences, some of the important aspects of motion turn out to be rather subtle. So rather than jumping immediately into a lot of mathematics and calculations, this first chapter focuses on *visualizing* motion and becoming familiar with the *concepts* needed to describe a moving object. Our goal is to lay the foundations for understanding motion.

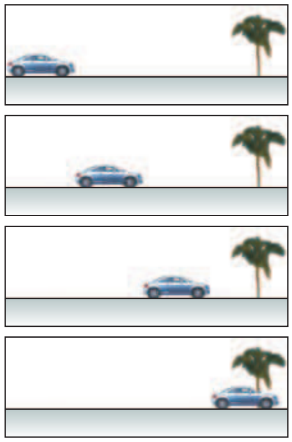
FIGURE 1.1 Four basic types of motion.



Linear motion **Circular motion** **Projectile motion** **Rotational motion**

To begin, let's define **motion** as the change of an object's position with time. FIGURE 1.1 shows four basic types of motion that we will study in this book. The first three—linear, circular, and projectile motion—in which the object moves through space are called **translational motion.** The path along which the object moves, whether straight or curved, is called the object's **trajectory.** Rotational motion is somewhat different because there's movement but the object as a whole doesn't change position. We'll defer rotational motion until later and, for now, focus on translational motion.

FIGURE 1.2 Four frames from a video.

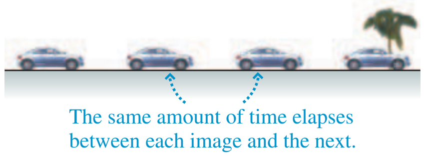


Making a Motion Diagram

An easy way to study motion is to make a video of a moving object. A video camera, as you probably know, takes images at a fixed rate, typically 30 every second. Each separate image is called a *frame*. As an example, FIGURE 1.2 shows four frames from a video of a car going past. Not surprisingly, the car is in a somewhat different position in each frame.

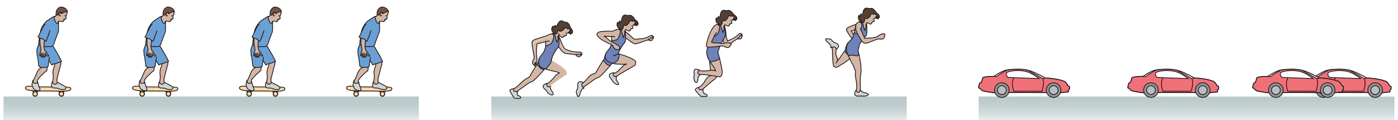
Suppose we edit the video by layering the frames on top of each other, creating the composite image shown in FIGURE 1.3. This edited image, showing an object's position at several *equally spaced instants of time,* is called a **motion diagram.** As the examples below show, we can define concepts such as constant speed, speeding up, and slowing down in terms of how an object appears in a motion diagram.

FIGURE 1.3 A motion diagram of the car shows all the frames simultaneously.



> **NOTE** It's important to keep the camera in a *fixed position* as the object moves by. Don't "pan" it to track the moving object.

Examples of motion diagrams

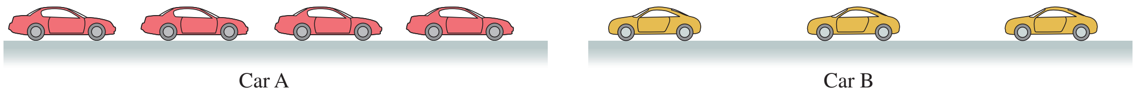


Images that are *equally spaced* indicate an object moving with *constant speed.*

An *increasing distance* between the images shows that the object is *speeding up.*

A *decreasing distance* between the images shows that the object is *slowing down.*

STOP TO THINK 1.1 Which car is going faster, A or B? Assume there are equal intervals of time between the frames of both videos.



NOTE Each chapter will have several *Stop to Think* questions. These questions are designed to see if you've understood the basic ideas that have been presented. The answers are given at the end of the book, but you should make a serious effort to think about these questions before turning to the answers.

We can model an airplane's takeoff as a particle (a descriptive model) undergoing constant acceleration (a descriptive model) in response to constant forces (an explanatory model).

1.2 Models and Modeling

The real world is messy and complicated. Our goal in physics is to brush aside many of the real-world details in order to discern patterns that occur over and over. For example, a swinging pendulum, a vibrating guitar string, a sound wave, and jiggling atoms in a crystal are all very different—yet perhaps not so different. Each is an example of a system moving back and forth around an equilibrium position. If we focus on understanding a very simple oscillating system, such as a mass on a spring, we'll automatically understand quite a bit about the many real-world manifestations of oscillations.

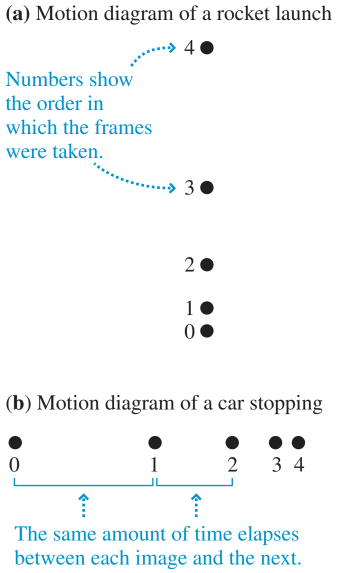
Stripping away the details to focus on essential features is a process called *modeling*. A **model** is a highly simplified picture of reality, but one that still captures the essence of what we want to study. Thus "mass on a spring" is a simple but realistic model of almost all oscillating systems.

Models allow us to make sense of complex situations by providing a framework for thinking about them. One could go so far as to say that developing and testing models is at the heart of the scientific process. Albert Einstein once said, "Physics should be as simple as possible—but not simpler." We want to find the simplest model that allows us to understand the phenomenon we're studying, but we can't make the model so simple that key aspects of the phenomenon get lost.

We'll develop and use many models throughout this textbook; they'll be one of our most important thinking tools. These models will be of two types:

- *Descriptive models:* What are the essential characteristics and properties of a phenomenon? How do we describe it in the simplest possible terms? For example, the mass-on-a-spring model of an oscillating system is a descriptive model.
- *Explanatory models:* Why do things happen as they do? Explanatory models, based on the laws of physics, have predictive power, allowing us to test—against experimental data—whether a model provides an adequate explanation of our observations.

FIGURE 1.4 Motion diagrams in which the object is modeled as a particle.



The Particle Model

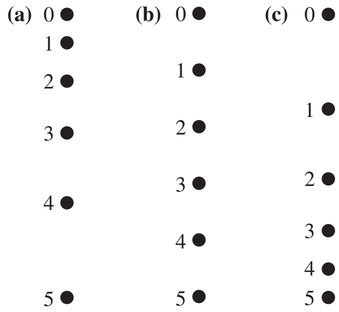
For many types of motion, such as that of balls, cars, and rockets, the motion of the object *as a whole* is not influenced by the details of the object's size and shape. All we really need to keep track of is the motion of a single point on the object, so we can treat the object *as if* all its mass were concentrated into this single point. An object that can be represented as a mass at a single point in space is called a **particle.** A particle has no size, no shape, and no distinction between top and bottom or between front and back.

If we model an object as a particle, we can represent the object in each frame of a motion diagram as a simple dot rather than having to draw a full picture. **FIGURE 1.4** shows how much simpler motion diagrams appear when the object is represented as a particle. Note that the dots have been numbered 0, 1, 2, . . . to tell the sequence in which the frames were taken.

Treating an object as a particle is, of course, a simplification of reality—but that's what modeling is all about. The **particle model** of motion is a simplification in which we treat a moving object as if all of its mass were concentrated at a single point. The particle model is an excellent approximation of reality for the translational motion of cars, planes, rockets, and similar objects.

Of course, not everything can be modeled as a particle; models have their limits. Consider, for example, a rotating gear. The center doesn't move at all while each tooth is moving in a different direction. We'll need to develop new models when we get to new types of motion, but the particle model will serve us well throughout Part I of this book.

STOP TO THINK 1.2 Three motion diagrams are shown. Which is a dust particle settling to the floor at constant speed, which is a ball dropped from the roof of a building, and which is a descending rocket slowing to make a soft landing on Mars?



1.3 Position, Time, and Displacement

To use a motion diagram, you would like to know *where* the object is (i.e., its *position*) and *when* the object was at that position (i.e., the *time*). Position measurements can be made by laying a coordinate-system grid over a motion diagram. You can then measure the (x, y) coordinates of each point in the motion diagram. Of course, the world does not come with a coordinate system attached. A coordinate system is an artificial grid that *you* place over a problem in order to analyze the motion. You place the origin of your coordinate system wherever you wish, and different observers of a moving object might all choose to use different origins.

Time, in a sense, is also a coordinate system, although you may never have thought of time this way. You can pick an arbitrary point in the motion and label it "$t = 0$ seconds." This is simply the instant you decide to start your clock or stopwatch, so it is the origin of your time coordinate. Different observers might choose to start their clocks at different moments. A video frame labeled "$t = 4$ seconds" was taken 4 seconds after you started your clock.

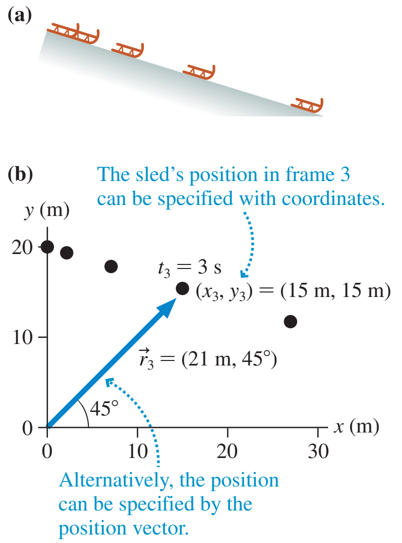
We typically choose $t = 0$ to represent the "beginning" of a problem, but the object may have been moving before then. Those earlier instants would be measured as negative times, just as objects on the x-axis to the left of the origin have negative values of position. Negative numbers are not to be avoided; they simply locate an event in space or time *relative to an origin*.

To illustrate, **FIGURE 1.5a** shows a sled sliding down a snow-covered hill. **FIGURE 1.5b** is a motion diagram for the sled, over which we've drawn an xy-coordinate system. You can see that the sled's position is $(x_3, y_3) = (15\text{ m}, 15\text{ m})$ at time $t_3 = 3$ s. Notice how we've used subscripts to indicate the time and the object's position in a specific frame of the motion diagram.

NOTE The frame at $t = 0$ s is frame 0. That is why the fourth frame is labeled 3.

Another way to locate the sled is to draw its **position vector:** an arrow from the origin to the point representing the sled. The position vector is given the symbol $\vec{r}$. Figure 1.5b shows the position vector $\vec{r}_3 = (21\text{ m}, 45°)$. The position vector $\vec{r}$ does not tell us anything different than the coordinates (x, y). It simply provides the information in an alternative form.

FIGURE 1.5 Motion diagram of a sled with frames made every 1 s.



Scalars and Vectors

Some physical quantities, such as time, mass, and temperature, can be described completely by a single number with a unit. For example, the mass of an object is 6 kg and its temperature is 30°C. A single number (with a unit) that describes a physical quantity is called a **scalar.** A scalar can be positive, negative, or zero.

Many other quantities, however, have a directional aspect and cannot be described by a single number. To describe the motion of a car, for example, you must specify not only how fast it is moving, but also the *direction* in which it is moving. A quantity having both a *size* (the "How far?" or "How fast?") and a *direction* (the "Which way?") is called a **vector.** The size or length of a vector is called its *magnitude*. Vectors will be studied thoroughly in Chapter 3, so all we need for now is a little basic information.

We indicate a vector by drawing an arrow over the letter that represents the quantity. Thus $\vec{r}$ and $\vec{A}$ are symbols for vectors, whereas r and A, without the arrows, are symbols for scalars. In handwritten work you must draw arrows over all symbols that represent vectors. This may seem strange until you get used to it, but it is very important because we will often use both r and $\vec{r}$, or both A and $\vec{A}$, in the same problem, and they mean different things! Note that the arrow over the symbol always points to the right, regardless of which direction the actual vector points. Thus we write $\vec{r}$ or $\vec{A}$, never $\overleftarrow{r}$ or $\overleftarrow{A}$.

Displacement

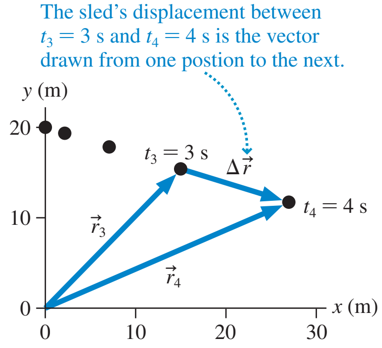


FIGURE 1.6 The sled undergoes a displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$ from position $\vec{r}_3$ to position $\vec{r}_4$.

We said that motion is the change in an object's position with time, but how do we show a change of position? A motion diagram is the perfect tool. **FIGURE 1.6** is the motion diagram of a sled sliding down a snow-covered hill. To show how the sled's position changes between, say, $t_3 = 3$ s and $t_4 = 4$ s, we draw a vector arrow between the two dots of the motion diagram. This vector is the sled's **displacement,** which is given the symbol $\Delta\vec{r}$. The Greek letter delta (Δ) is used in math and science to indicate the *change* in a quantity. In this case, as we'll show, the displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$ is the change in an object's position.

NOTE $\Delta\vec{r}$ is a *single* symbol. It shows "from here to there." You cannot cancel out or remove the Δ.

Notice how the sled's position vector $\vec{r}_4$ is a combination of its early position $\vec{r}_3$ with the displacement vector $\Delta\vec{r}$. In fact, $\vec{r}_4$ is the *vector sum* of the vectors $\vec{r}_3$ and $\Delta\vec{r}$. This is written

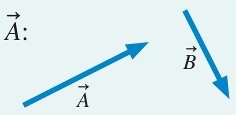
$$\vec{r}_4 = \vec{r}_3 + \Delta\vec{r} \tag{1.1}$$

Here we're adding vector quantities, not numbers, and vector addition differs from "regular" addition. We'll explore vector addition more thoroughly in Chapter 3, but for now you can add two vectors $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ with the three-step procedure of « **TACTICS BOX 1.1**.

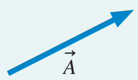
TACTICS BOX 1.1

Vector addition

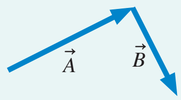
To add $\vec{B}$ to $\vec{A}$:



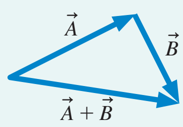
❶ Draw $\vec{A}$.



❷ Place the tail of $\vec{B}$ at the tip of $\vec{A}$.



❸ Draw an arrow from the tail of $\vec{A}$ to the tip of $\vec{B}$. This is vector $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$.



If you examine Figure 1.6, you'll see that the steps of Tactics Box 1.1 are exactly how $\vec{r}_3$ and $\Delta\vec{r}$ are added to give $\vec{r}_4$.

NOTE A vector is not tied to a particular location on the page. You can move a vector around as long as you don't change its length or the direction it points. Vector $\vec{B}$ is not changed by sliding it to where its tail is at the tip of $\vec{A}$.

Equation 1.1 told us that $\vec{r}_4 = \vec{r}_3 + \Delta\vec{r}$. This is easily rearranged to give a more precise definition of displacement: **The displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$ of an object as it moves from one position $\vec{r}_a$ to a different position $\vec{r}_b$ is**

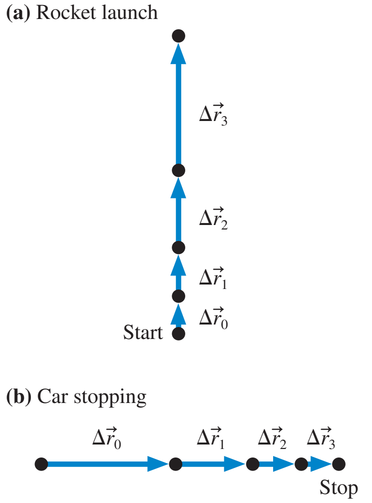
$$\Delta\vec{r} = \vec{r}_b - \vec{r}_a \tag{1.2}$$

That is, displacement is the change (i.e., the difference) in position. **Graphically, $\Delta\vec{r}$ is a vector arrow drawn from position $\vec{r}_a$ to position $\vec{r}_b$.**

Motion Diagrams with Displacement Vectors

The first step in analyzing a motion diagram is to determine all of the displacement vectors, which are simply the arrows connecting each dot to the next. Label each arrow with a *vector* symbol $\Delta\vec{r}_n$, starting with $n = 0$. FIGURE 1.7 shows the motion diagrams of Figure 1.4 redrawn to include the displacement vectors.

FIGURE 1.7 Motion diagrams with the displacement vectors.



NOTE When an object either starts from rest or ends at rest, the initial or final dots are *as close together* as you can draw the displacement vector arrow connecting them. In addition, just to be clear, you should write "Start" or "Stop" beside the initial or final dot. It is important to distinguish stopping from merely slowing down.

Now we can conclude, more precisely than before, that, as time proceeds:

- An object is speeding up if its displacement vectors are increasing in length.
- An object is slowing down if its displacement vectors are decreasing in length.

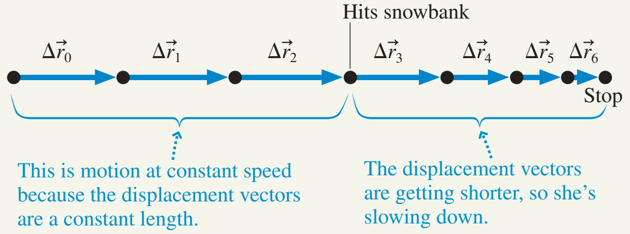
EXAMPLE 1.1 ■ Headfirst into the snow

Alice is sliding along a smooth, icy road on her sled when she suddenly runs headfirst into a large, very soft snowbank that gradually brings her to a halt. Draw a motion diagram for Alice. Show and label all displacement vectors.

MODEL The details of Alice and the sled—their size, shape, color, and so on—are not relevant to understanding their overall motion. So we can model Alice and the sled as one particle.

VISUALIZE FIGURE 1.8 shows a motion diagram. The problem statement suggests that the sled's speed is very nearly constant until it hits the snowbank. Thus the displacement vectors are of equal length as Alice slides along the icy road. She begins slowing when she hits the snowbank, so the displacement vectors then get shorter until the sled stops. We're told that her stop is gradual, so we want the vector lengths to get shorter gradually rather than suddenly.

FIGURE 1.8 The motion diagram of Alice and the sled.



A stopwatch is used to measure a time interval.

Time Interval

It's also useful to consider a *change* in time. For example, the clock readings of two frames of a video might be t_1 and t_2. The specific values are arbitrary because they are timed relative to an arbitrary instant that you chose to call $t = 0$. But the **time interval** $\Delta t = t_2 - t_1$ is *not* arbitrary. It represents the elapsed time for the object to move from one position to the next.

The time interval $\Delta t = t_b - t_a$ measures the elapsed time as an object moves from position $\vec{r}_a$ at time t_a to position $\vec{r}_b$ at time t_b. The value of Δt is independent of the specific clock used to measure the times.

To summarize the main idea of this section, we have added coordinate systems and clocks to our motion diagrams in order to measure *when* each frame was exposed and *where* the object was located at that time. Different observers of the motion may choose different coordinate systems and different clocks. However, all observers find the *same* values for the displacements $\Delta\vec{r}$ and the time intervals Δt because these are independent of the specific coordinate system used to measure them.

1.4 Velocity

The victory goes to the runner with the highest average speed.

It's no surprise that, during a given time interval, a speeding bullet travels farther than a speeding snail. To extend our study of motion so that we can compare the bullet to the snail, we need a way to measure how fast or how slowly an object moves.

One quantity that measures an object's fastness or slowness is its **average speed,** defined as the ratio

$$\text{average speed} = \frac{\text{distance traveled}}{\text{time interval spent traveling}} = \frac{d}{\Delta t} \tag{1.3}$$

If you drive 15 miles (mi) in 30 minutes $\left(\frac{1}{2}\text{ h}\right)$, your average speed is

$$\text{average speed} = \frac{15\text{ mi}}{\frac{1}{2}\text{ h}} = 30\text{ mph} \tag{1.4}$$

Although the concept of speed is widely used in our day-to-day lives, it is not a sufficient basis for a science of motion. To see why, imagine you're trying to land a jet plane on an aircraft carrier. It matters a great deal to you whether the aircraft carrier is moving at 20 mph (miles per hour) to the north or 20 mph to the east. Simply knowing that the ship's speed is 20 mph is not enough information!

It's the displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$, a vector quantity, that tells us not only the distance traveled by a moving object, but also the *direction* of motion. Consequently, a more useful ratio than $d/\Delta t$ is the ratio $\Delta\vec{r}/\Delta t$. In addition to measuring how fast an object moves, this ratio is a vector that points in the direction of motion.

It is convenient to give this ratio a name. We call it the **average velocity,** and it has the symbol $\vec{v}_{avg}$. **The average velocity of an object during the time interval Δt, in which the object undergoes a displacement $\Delta\vec{r}$, is the vector**

$$\vec{v}_{avg} = \frac{\Delta\vec{r}}{\Delta t} \tag{1.5}$$

An object's average velocity vector points in the same direction as the displacement vector $\Delta\vec{r}$. This is the direction of motion.

NOTE In everyday language we do not make a distinction between speed and velocity, but in physics *the distinction is very important.* In particular, speed is simply "How fast?" whereas velocity is "How fast, and in which direction?" As we go along we will be giving other words more precise meanings in physics than they have in everyday language.