

## Motion along a Line

- Describing Motion:
  - Displacement
  - Velocity
  - Acceleration
- Uniformly Accelerated Motion
- Free Fall

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## Describing Motion along a Line

What is the position, velocity, and acceleration of the blue dot at each instant of time during its motion?



What would a graph of position vs. time look like?

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## Linear kinematics variables

$t$ :	time	$\bar{v}$ :	average velocity
$t_i$ :	initial time	$\bar{a}$ :	average acceleration
$t_f$ :	final time	$a$ :	acceleration at $t$
$x$ :	position at $t$	$v$ :	velocity at $t$
$x_0$ :	position at $t = 0$	$v_0$ :	velocity at $t = 0$
$x_i$ :	position at $t_i$	$v_i$ :	velocity at $t_i$
$x_f$ :	position at $t_f$	$v_f$ :	velocity at $t_f$

These are the variables we use to refer to position, velocity and time for describing motion along a line.

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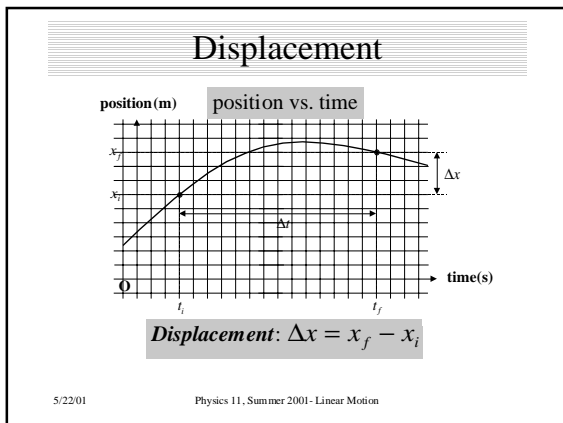
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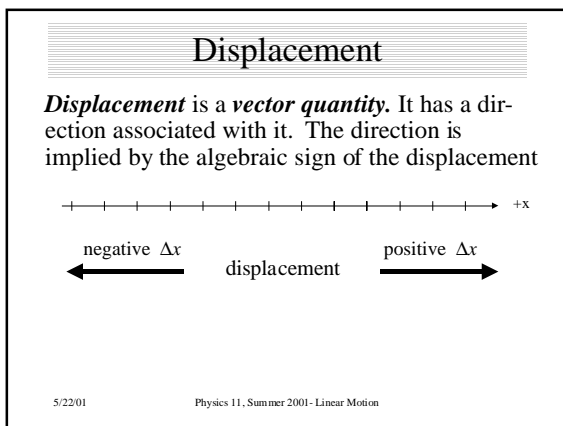
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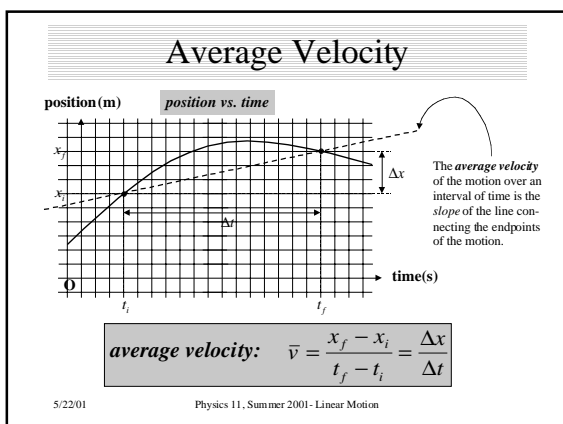
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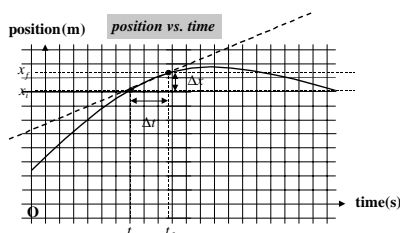
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### Instantaneous Velocity



If we look at successively smaller time intervals, we can obtain a better estimate of the velocity at a particular instant in time.

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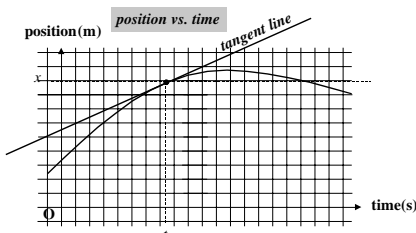
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### Instantaneous Velocity



Graphically, the *instantaneous velocity*,  $v$ , at time,  $t$ , is given by the slope of the *tangent line* to the position vs. time graph

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### Instantaneous Velocity

Mathematically, the instantaneous velocity,  $v$ , at time,  $t$ , is expressed as the limiting value of  $\Delta x / \Delta t$  as  $\Delta t$  shrinks to zero around a particular time,  $t$

Mathematicians express this formally as ...

$$v = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$$

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### Displacement & Velocity

Like displacement, velocity is also a vector quantity. The direction of the velocity vector implied by the algebraic sign of the velocity

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### Concept Check

A ladybug walks along a meter stick. Here is a graph of the position of the ladybug as a function of time.

Q: What is the ladybug's displacement from  $t=0$  s to  $t=5$  s?

$\Delta x = 1.0 \text{ cm} - 0.0 \text{ cm} = +1.0 \text{ cm}$  →

Q: What is the ladybug's average velocity from  $t=0$  s to  $t=5$  s?

$\bar{v} = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = \frac{+1.0 \text{ cm}}{5.0 \text{ s}} = +0.20 \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{s}}$  →

Q: What is the ladybug's instantaneous velocity at:

point (a)  $v = +3.0 \text{ cm} / 1.0 \text{ s} = +3.0 \text{ cm/s}$  →

point (b)  $v = 0.0 \text{ cm} / 2.0 \text{ s} = 0.0 \text{ cm/s}$

point (c)  $v = (1.0 \text{ cm} - 3.0 \text{ cm}) / 1.0 \text{ s} = -2.0 \text{ cm/s}$  ←

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### Concept Tests

A person initially at point P in the illustration stays there a moment and then moves along the axis to Q and stays there a moment. She then runs quickly to R, stays there a moment, and then strolls slowly back to P. Which of the position vs time graphs below correctly represents this motion?

An object goes from one point in space to another. After it arrives at its destination, its displacement is:

1. either greater than or equal to
2. always greater than
3. always equal to
4. either smaller than or equal to
5. always smaller than
6. either smaller or larger

than the distance it traveled.

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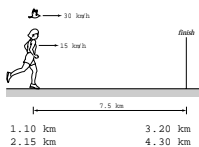
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### Concept Tests

A marathon runner runs at a steady 15 km/hr. When the runner is 7.5 km from the finish, a bird begins flying from the runner toward the finish at 30 km/hr. The bird reaches the finish, turns around and flies back to the runner, then turns around again repeating the back-and-forth until the runner reaches the finish. How many kilometers does the bird travel?



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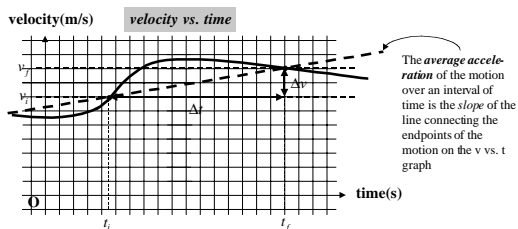
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### Average Acceleration



$$\text{average acceleration: } \bar{a} = \frac{v_f - v_i}{t_f - t_i} = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$$

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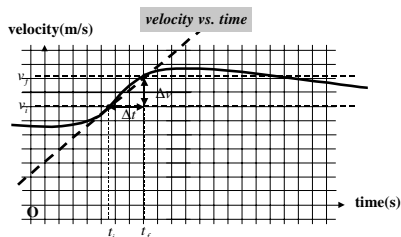
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### Instantaneous Acceleration



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### Instantaneous Acceleration

The graph shows velocity in m/s on the vertical axis and time in seconds on the horizontal axis. A curve represents the velocity over time. At a specific time  $t$ , a tangent line is drawn to the curve. The slope of this tangent line represents the instantaneous acceleration at that time.

Graphically, the *instantaneous acceleration*,  $a$ , at time,  $t$ , is given by the slope of the tangent line to the velocity vs. time graph

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### Instantaneous Acceleration

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### Displacement, Velocity & Acceleration

Like displacement and velocity, acceleration is also a **vector quantity**. The direction of the acceleration vector is implied by the sign of the acceleration

The diagram shows a horizontal axis with a right-pointing arrow labeled '+x'. Below the axis, three rows of arrows indicate the direction of different quantities. For each quantity, a left-pointing arrow is labeled 'negative' and a right-pointing arrow is labeled 'positive'.

negative $\Delta x$	displacement	positive $\Delta x$
negative $v$	velocity	positive $v$
negative $a$	acceleration	positive $a$

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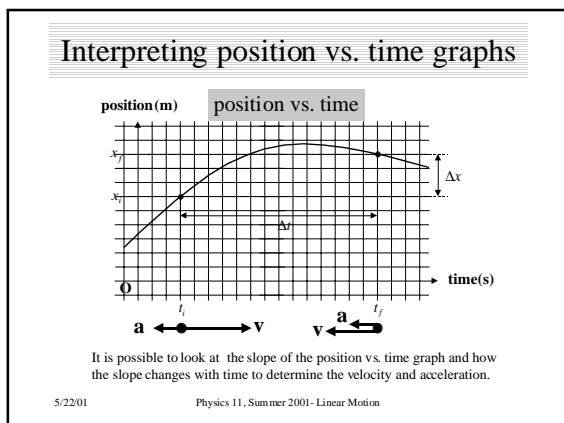
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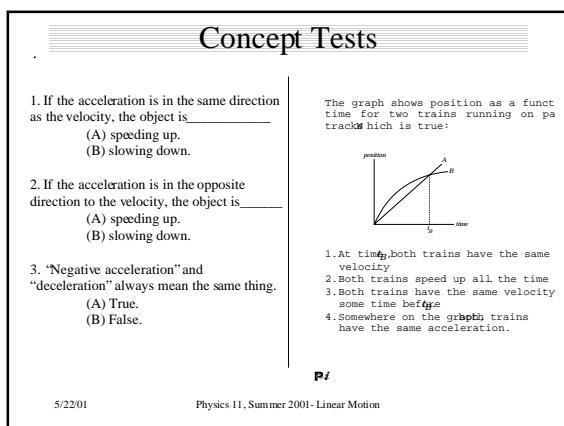
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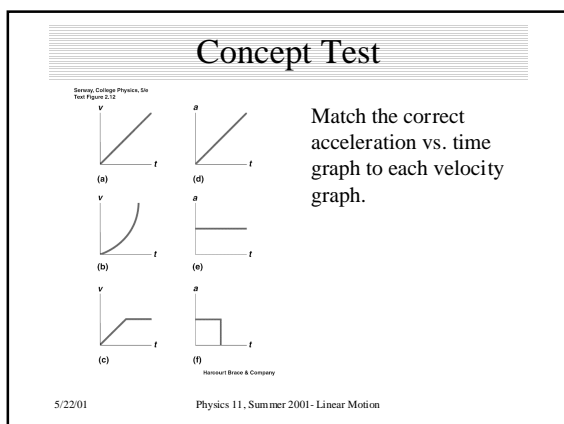
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## Uniformly Accelerated Motion

Constant acceleration means  $a = \bar{a}$  doesn't change with time, therefore:

$$a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} = \frac{v - v_0}{t}$$

And so:

$$v = v_0 + at$$

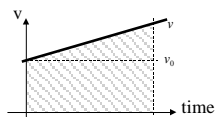
$$\Delta x = \frac{(v_0 + v)}{2} t = \frac{(v_0 + (v_0 + at))}{2} t$$

$$= v_0 t + \frac{1}{2} at^2$$

$$\Delta x = \frac{(v_0 + v)}{2} t = \frac{(v_0 + v)(v - v_0)}{2a}$$

$$= \frac{(v^2 - v_0^2)}{2a} \Rightarrow v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a\Delta x$$

Displacement is equal to the shaded area under the  $v$  vs.  $t$  graph, shown below.



$$\Delta x = v_0 t + \frac{1}{2} (v - v_0) t$$

$$\Delta x = \frac{(v_0 + v)}{2} t = \bar{v} t$$

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## Uniformly Accelerated Motion

**Equations of uniformly accelerated motion**  
(after Serway, Table 2-3)

	Equation	missing variable
(1)	$v = v_0 + at$	$x - x_0$
(2)	$x - x_0 = \frac{1}{2} (v + v_0) t$	$a$
(3)	$x - x_0 = v_0 t + \frac{1}{2} at^2$	$v$
(4)	$v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a(x - x_0)$	$t$

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## Free Fall



A freely falling object is an object moving under the influence of gravity only, regardless of its initial motion. Objects thrown upward or downward and those objects released from rest are all falling freely once they are released.

Once they are in free fall, all objects have a downward acceleration towards the ground which is the free fall acceleration,  $g$ .

Magnitude of  $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$  (or nearly so, in most places)

If we erect a linear  $y$ -coordinate axis so that  $y$  increases as one moves upward from the surface of the earth, then the free fall acceleration has a negative sign in this coordinate system.

$$a = -g = -9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$$

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## Free Fall

+y

**Free Fall Equations**

	Equation	missing variable
(1)	$v = v_0 - gt$	$y - y_0$
(2)	$y - y_0 = \frac{1}{2}(v + v_0)t$	$g$
(3)	$y - y_0 = v_0t - \frac{1}{2}gt^2$	$v$
(4)	$v^2 = v_0^2 - 2g(y - y_0)$	$t$

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## Free Fall- example

A stone is thrown straight up from a 50.0 m tall building at 20.0 m/s.

A) How much time is required for the stone to reach the highest point of motion?

B) How high does the stone go?

C) How much time until the stone passes its launch point on the way down?

D) What is the stone's velocity when it passes its launch point on the way down?

E) What is the stone's velocity at  $t=5.0$  s ?

F) What is the stone's velocity at the instant before it contacts the ground?

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