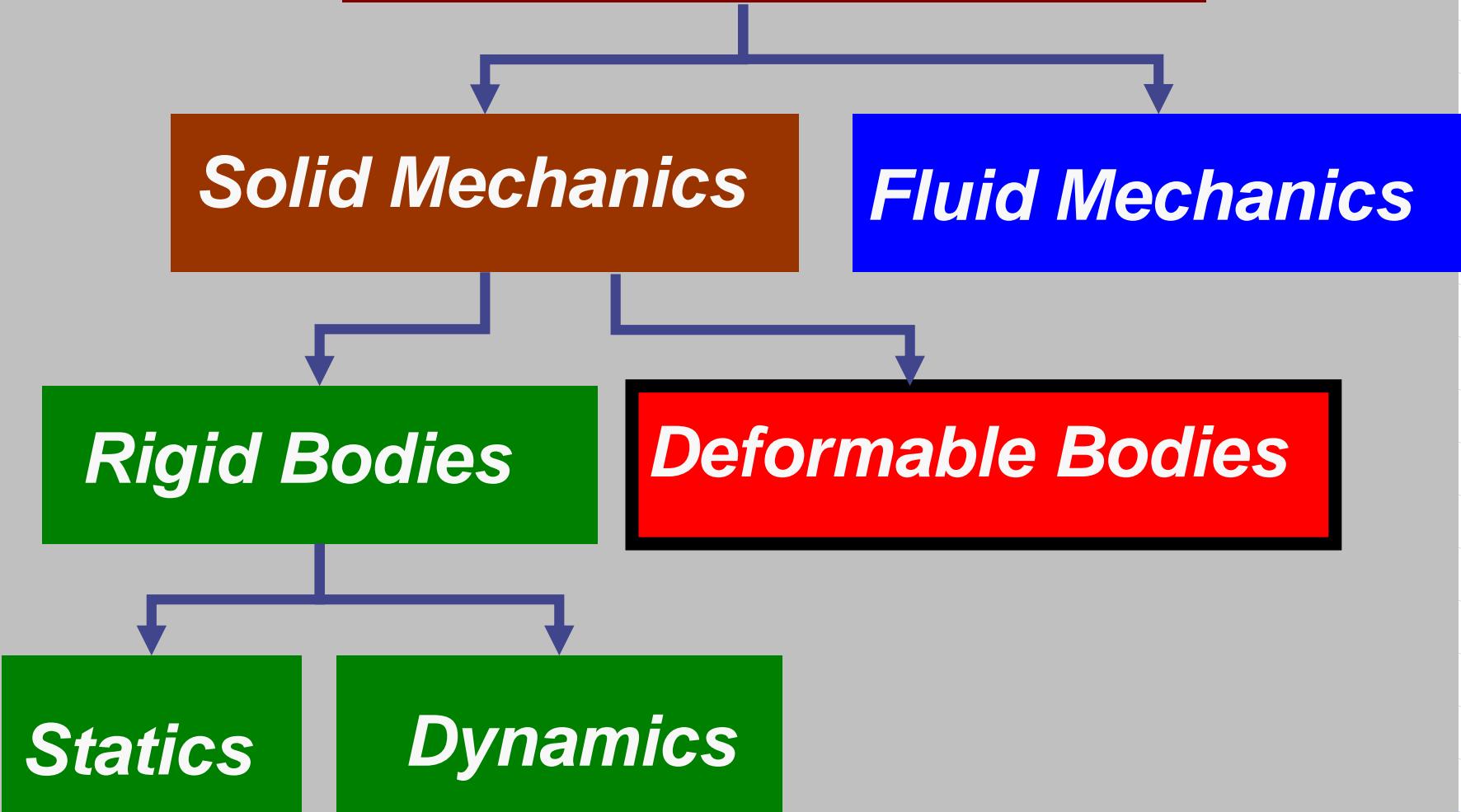


Chapter 2 – Kinematics of Particles – p1

- ◆ Kinematics of a Particle
- ◆ Rectilinear Motion
- ◆ Particle Motion Cases
- ◆ Kinematic Equations
- ◆ Relative Rectilinear Motion

Prepared by: *Ahmed M. El-Sherbeeny, PhD* – Spring 2026

Engineering Mechanics





What is Dynamics?

Scientific Definition

Dynamics is a scientific discipline that deals with systems undergoing changes in state.

Engineering Definition

Dynamics is a branch of Mechanics that deals with the relation between forces and the motion of *bodies*.

$$F = ma$$

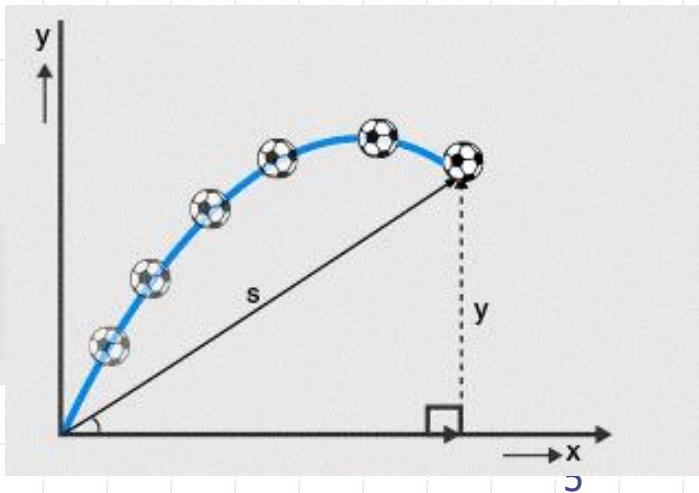


Dynamics is divided into two parts:

Kinematics – the study of motion without reference to any forces

- Study of the geometry of motion
- A purely mathematical construct

KINEMATICS
THE BRANCH OF MECHANICS CONCERNED
WITH THE MOTION OF OBJECTS WITHOUT
REFERENCE TO THE FORCES WHICH CAUSE
THE MOTION.



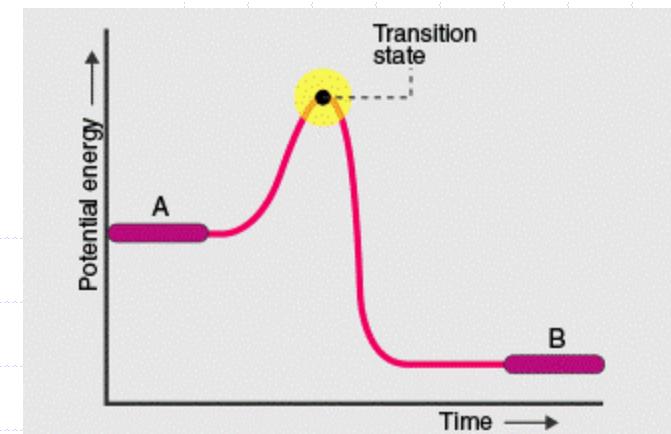
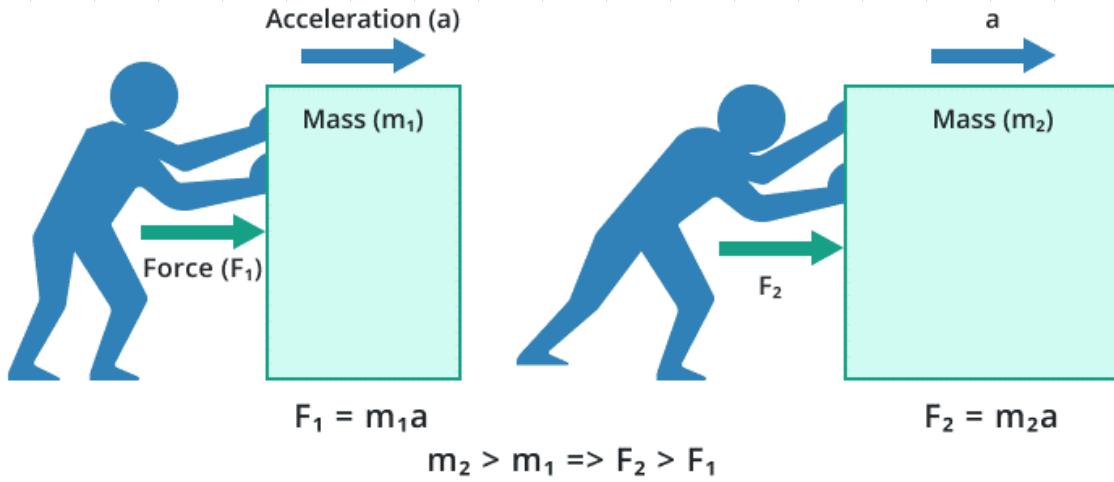
Kinetics – the study of motion that results from forces action on bodies

- Used to predict motion caused by given forces

- OR -

to determine the forces required to produce a given motion

- Based on physical law



KINETICS

IT IS THE STUDY OF FORCES THAT ARE ACTING ON AN OBJECT UNDER A PARTICULAR MECHANISM.

Kinematics of a Particle



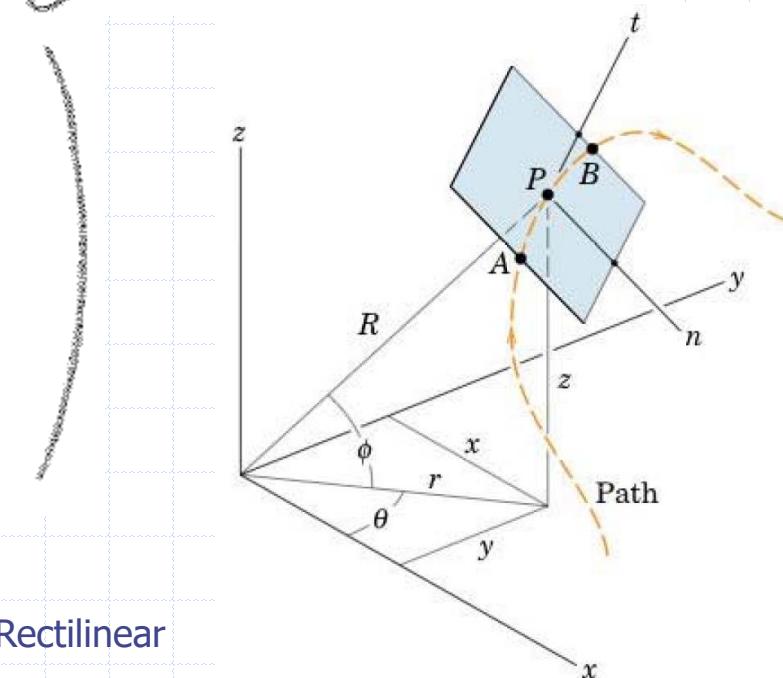
Although each of these planes is rather large, from a distance their motion can be modeled as if each plane were a particle

Kinematics of Particles

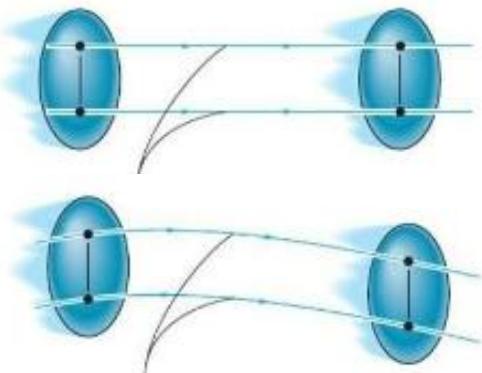
Relates motion and time w/o ref. to forces that cause the motion

Here, "motion" is quantified by

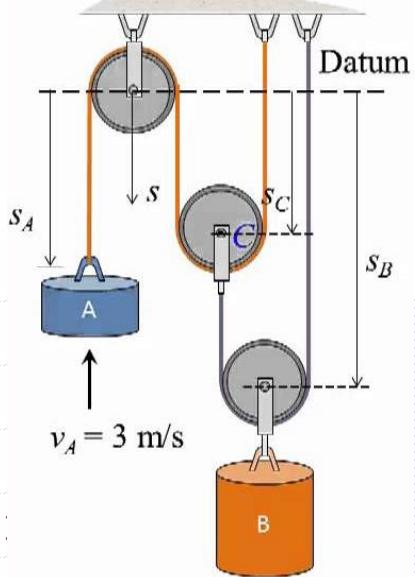
- Position \vec{r}
- Velocity \vec{v}
- Acceleration \vec{a}



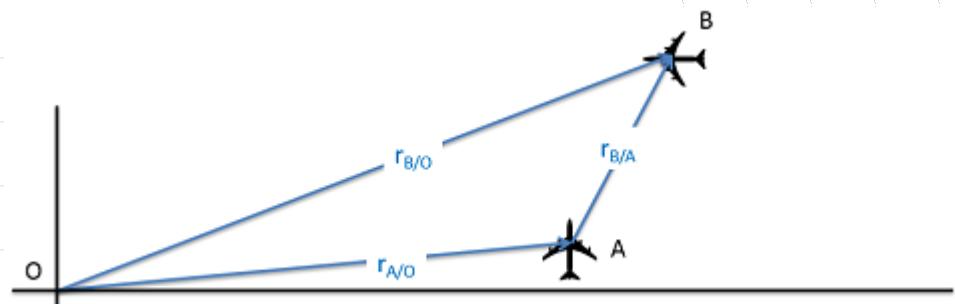
Motion Types:



Path of curvilinear translation



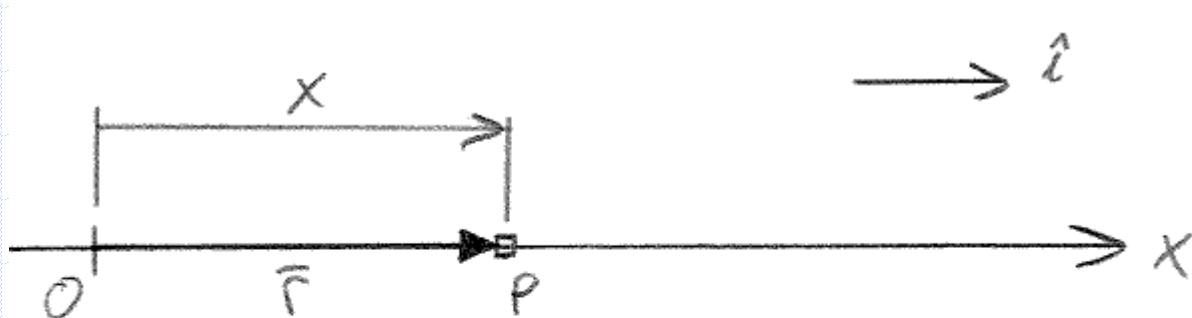
- ① Rectilinear)
- ② Curvilinear)
- ③ Relative
- ④ Dependent }



Rectilinear Motion of Particles



Particle is constrained to move in a straight line.



$$\bar{r} = \overrightarrow{OP} = x\hat{i}$$

Position Vector

Comments:

A Scalars

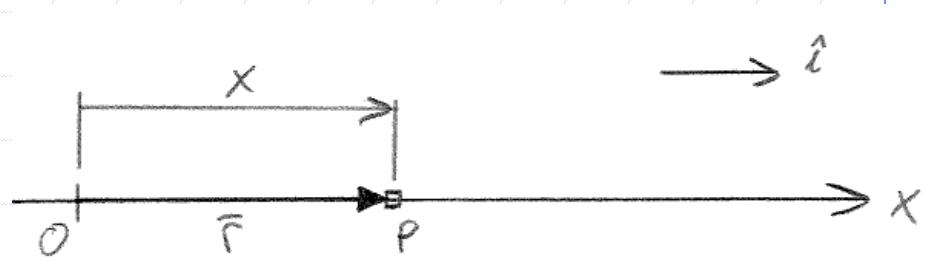
- Magnitude of ρ  specifies distance of P away from O
- sign of x indicates the direction of P relative to O

Scalar notation suffices.
(Rectilinear Motion only!)

Position X

X = algebraic dist. from O to P

(m, ft, mi, etc.)



Velocity v

We define

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt}$$

(m/s ,
 ft/s ,
 mph ,
etc.)

Instantaneous
Velocity

Acceleration a

Ave. Acc. = $\frac{\Delta \mathcal{V}}{\Delta t}$ $\left(\frac{\text{m/s}}{\text{s}} = \text{m/s}^2, \text{ft/s}^2, \text{etc.} \right)$

In the limit as $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$

$$a = \frac{d\mathcal{V}}{dt} = \frac{d^2X}{dt^2}$$

Instantaneous
Acceleration

Shorthand:

$$(\cdot) = \frac{d(\cdot)}{dt}$$

\Rightarrow

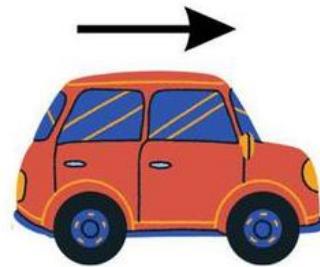
$$\mathcal{V} = \dot{X}$$

$$a = \ddot{\mathcal{V}} = \ddot{X}$$

IMPORTANT POINTS

- ◆ Dynamics is concerned with bodies that have accelerated motion
- ◆ Kinematics is a study of the geometry of the motion
- ◆ Kinetics is a study of the forces that cause the motion
- ◆ Rectilinear kinematics refers to straight-line motion

Speed = 15 m/s
Velocity = 15 m/s
towards south



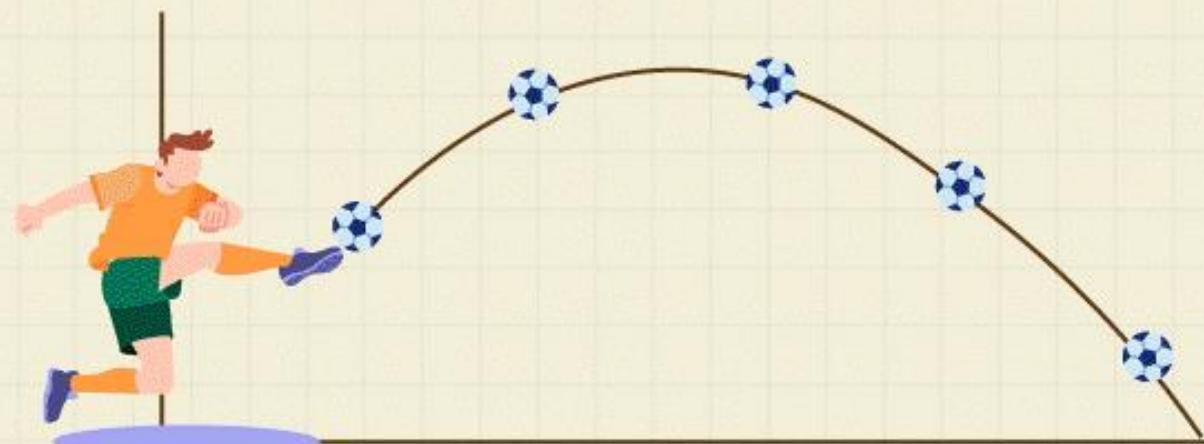
- ◆ Speed refers to the magnitude of velocity
- ◆ Average speed is the total distance traveled divided by the total time; this is different from the average velocity which is the displacement divided by the time

$$\text{average speed} = \frac{\text{tot. distance}}{\text{tot. time}}$$

$$v_{avg.} = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$$

- ◆ The acceleration, $a = dv/dt$, is negative when the particle is slowing down or decelerating.
- ◆ A particle can have an acceleration and yet have zero velocity

Projectile Motion



The trajectory of a kicked football

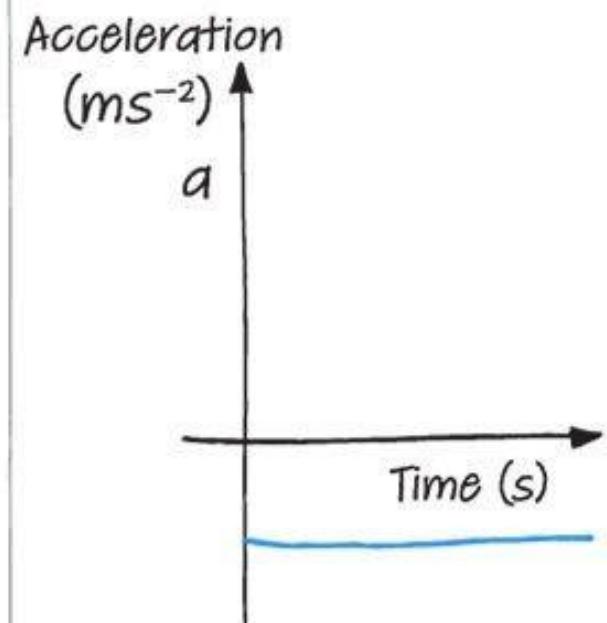
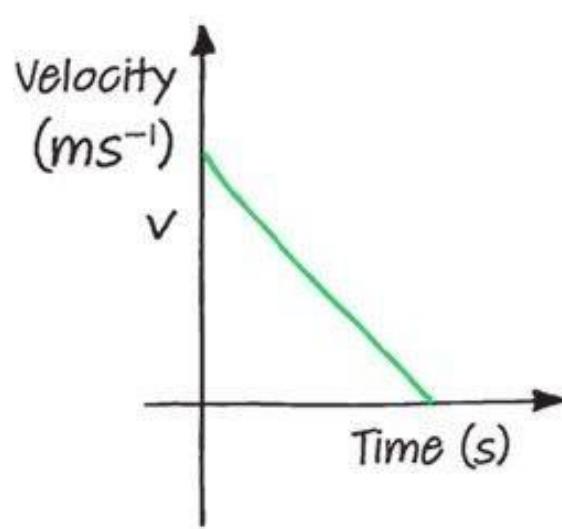
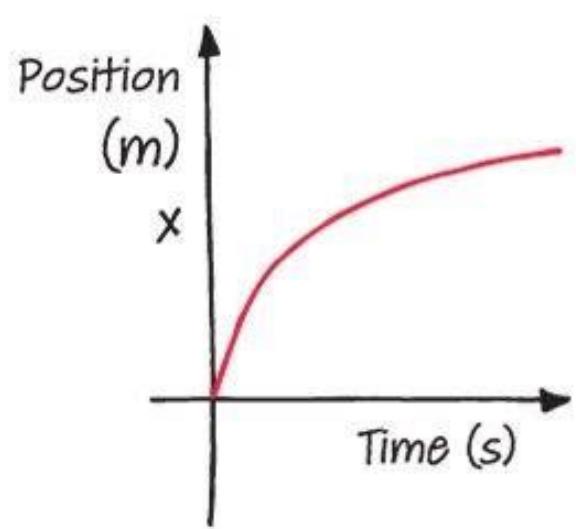
POSITION-TIME

Area
Slope

VELOCITY-TIME

Area
Slope

ACCELERATION-TIME



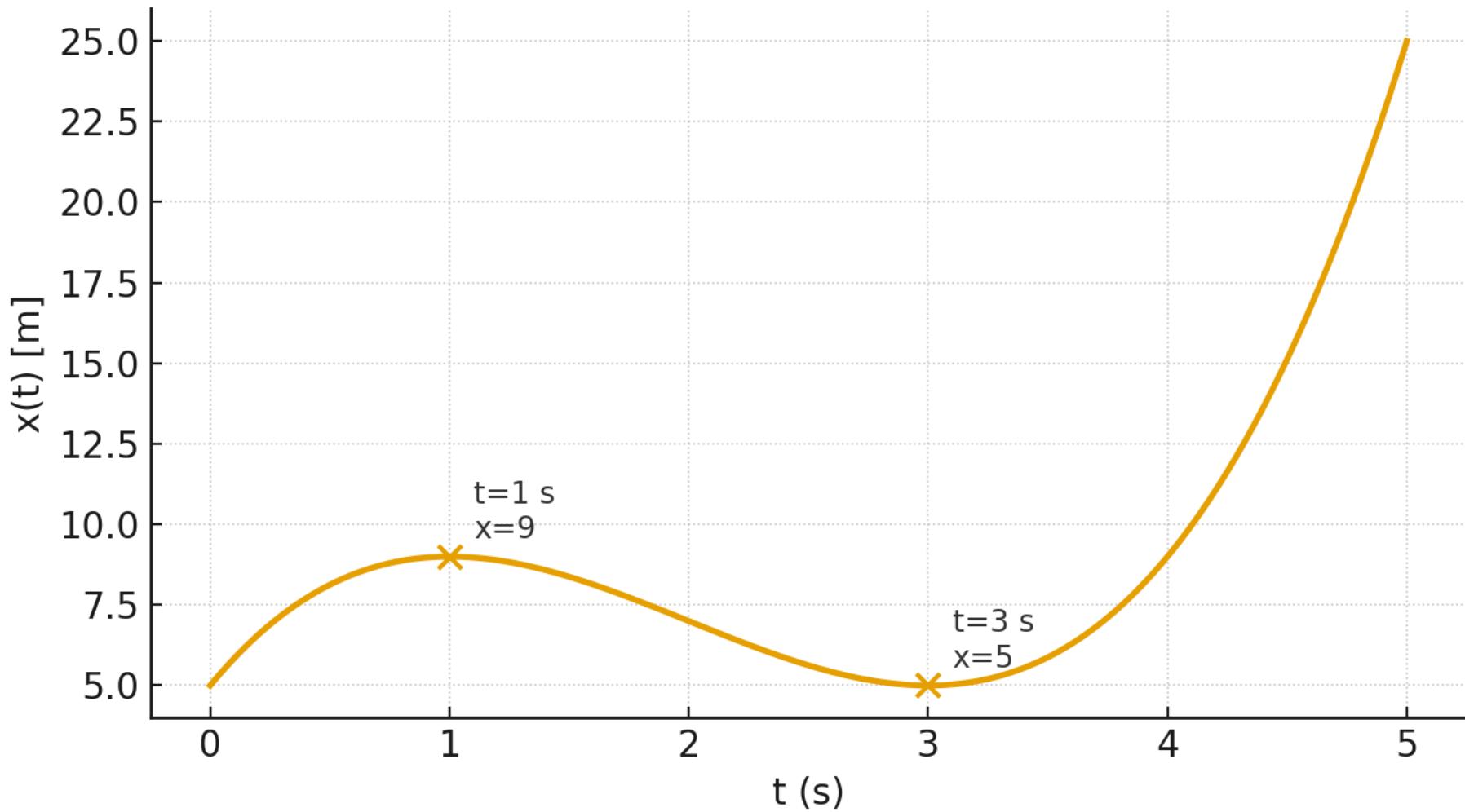
Example 1

- ◆ A particle moves along a line with position:

$$x(t) = t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t + 5 \quad (\text{m, t in s})$$

- ◆ Tasks:
 - Find the total distance traveled from $t=0$ to $t=5$ s.
 - Determine acceleration at the critical times when velocity is zero.

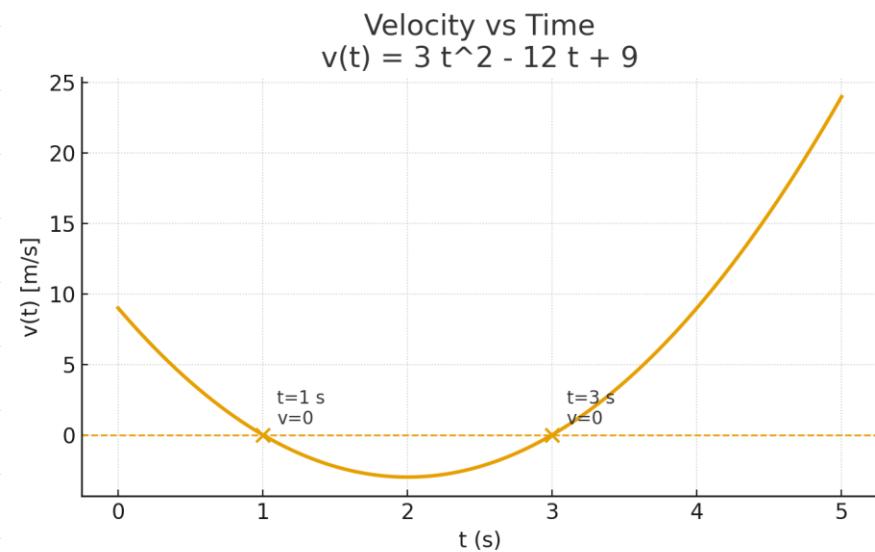
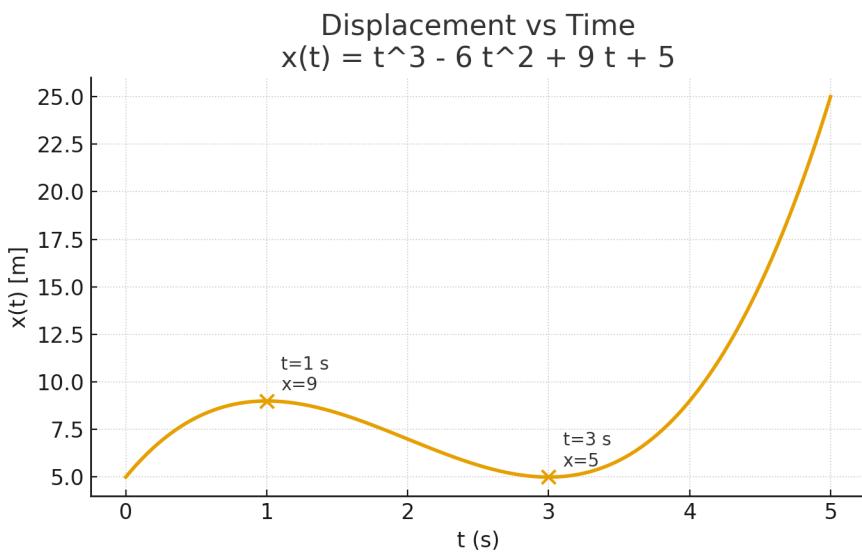
Displacement vs Time

$$x(t) = t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t + 5$$


Step 1. Velocity

◆ $v(t) = dx/dt = 3t^2 - 12t + 9$
 $= 3(t^2 - 4t + 3) = 3(t-1)(t-3)$

◆ Turning points where $v(t)=0$:
 $t = 1 \text{ s}, t = 3 \text{ s}$

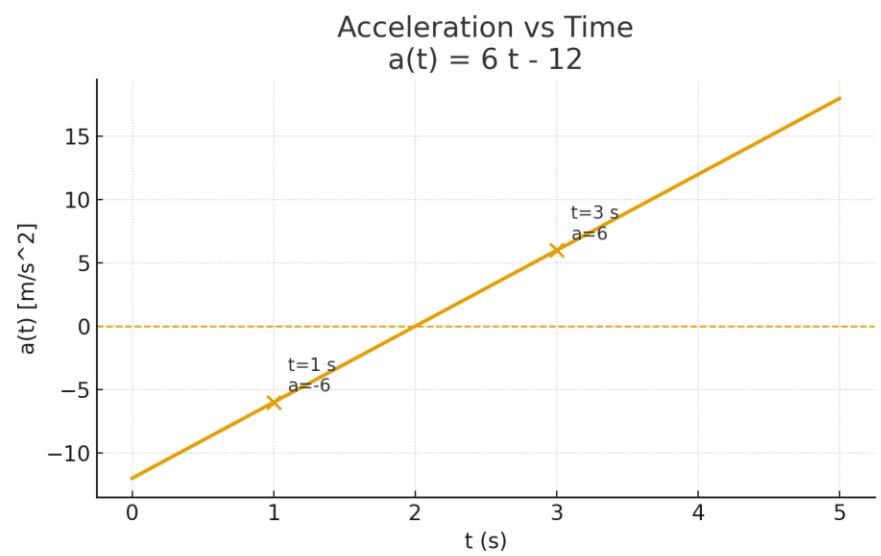
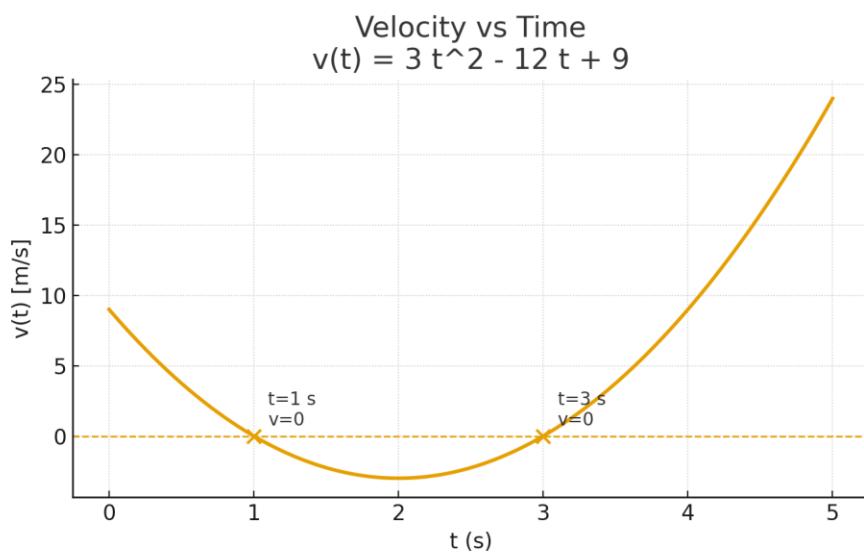


Step 2. Acceleration

◆ $a(t) = dv/dt = 6t - 12$

◆ $a(1) = -6 \text{ m/s}^2$ (negative, local maximum)

◆ $a(3) = +6 \text{ m/s}^2$ (positive, local minimum)



Step 3. Positions

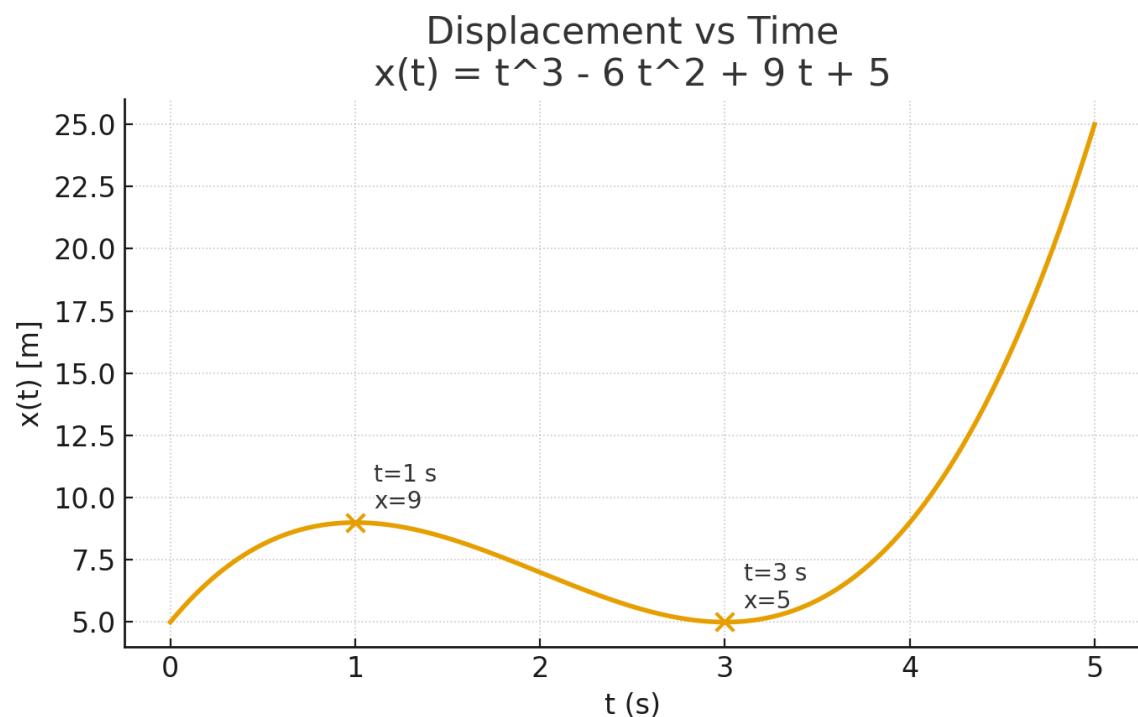
◆ Evaluate position at key times:

$$◆ x(0) = 5 \text{ m}$$

$$◆ x(1) = 9 \text{ m}$$

$$◆ x(3) = 5 \text{ m}$$

$$◆ x(5) = 25 \text{ m}$$



Step 4. Distances

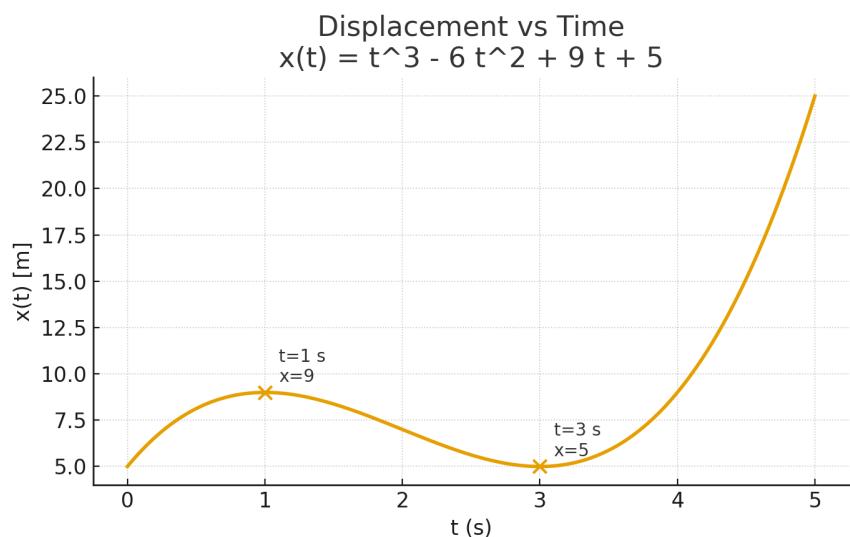
◆ Distance traveled in each interval:

◆ $0 \rightarrow 1 \text{ s}: |9 - 5| = 4 \text{ m}$

◆ $1 \rightarrow 3 \text{ s}: |5 - 9| = 4 \text{ m}$

◆ $3 \rightarrow 5 \text{ s}: |25 - 5| = 20 \text{ m}$

◆ **Total Distance**
= 28 m (Answer)

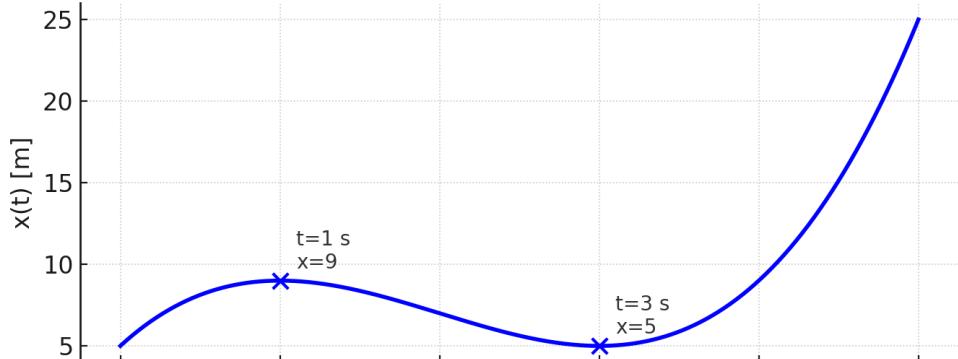


Notes

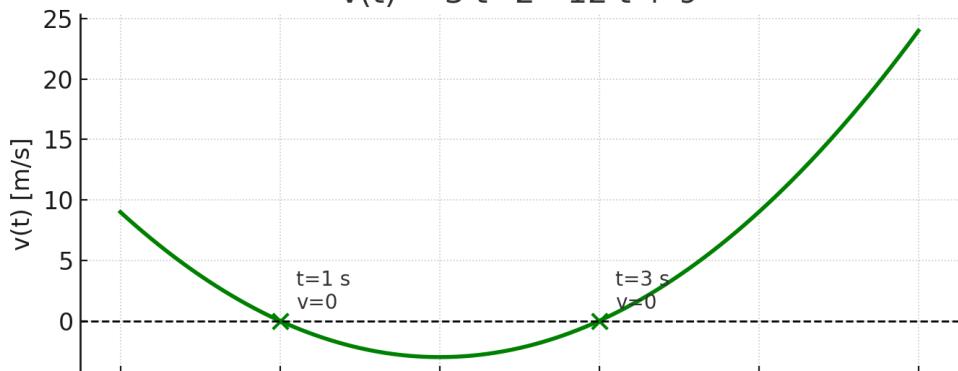
- Displacement vs Distance:
displacement = 20 m,
distance = 28 m
- At $t=1$ s and $t=3$ s: $\text{velocity} = 0$,
acceleration changes sign

Displacement, Velocity, and Acceleration

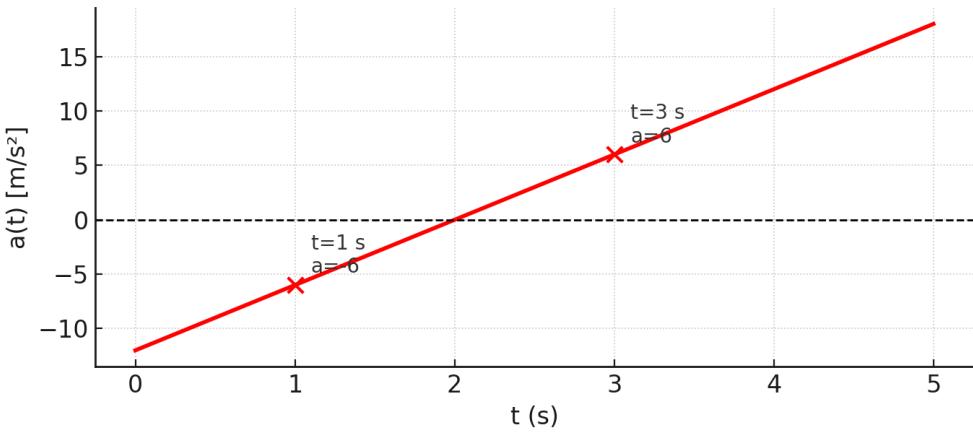
Displacement vs Time
 $x(t) = t^3 - 6 t^2 + 9 t + 5$



Velocity vs Time
 $v(t) = 3 t^2 - 12 t + 9$



Acceleration vs Time
 $a(t) = 6 t - 12$



Determination of Particle Motions

- Typically acc. Known (measured, via $\bar{F} = m\bar{a}$)
- Vel. & pos. found via integration

Common Cases:

$$\textcircled{1} \quad a = a(t)$$

Integrate Directly
(Show by Example)

$$\textcircled{2} \quad a = a(x)$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad a = a(v)$$

Special Cases:

€

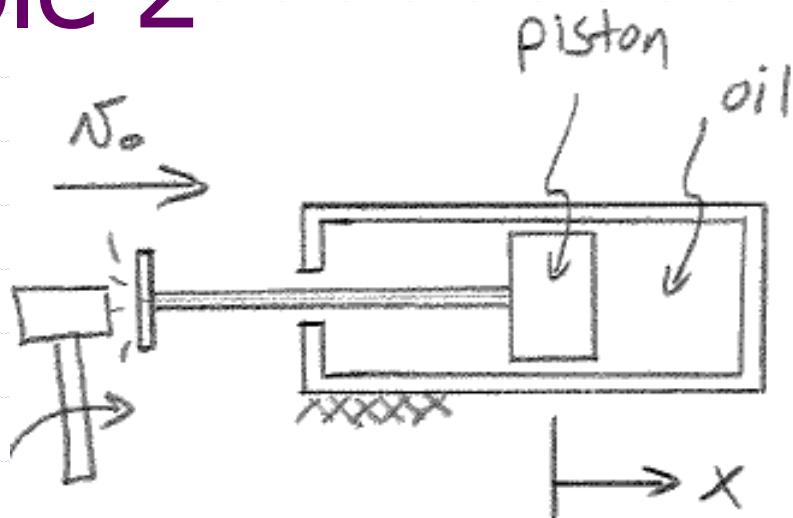
④ $a = 0$

⑤ $a = \text{const}$

}

lead to
Kinematic Equations

Example 2



@ $t = 0$, $x = 0$, $N = N_0 > 0$

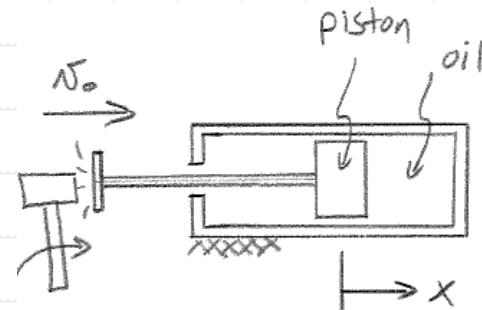
$$a(N) = -KN \quad (\text{Case ③})$$

$K > 0$ is constant

Express $\textcircled{A} \ N = N(t)$

$\textcircled{B} \ X = X(t)$

$\textcircled{C} \ N = N(X)$



PART A: Find $N = N(t)$

$$a(N) = \frac{dN}{dt} \Rightarrow dt = \frac{dN}{a(N)} = -\frac{dN}{KN}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^t dt = -\frac{1}{K} \int_{N_0}^N \frac{dN}{N}$$

$$\int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln|x| + C$$

$$\Rightarrow t - 0 = \frac{-1}{k} (\ln|N| - \ln|N_0|)$$

$$= \frac{-1}{k} \ln\left(\frac{N}{N_0}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{N}{N_0}\right) = -Kt$$

$$y = e^x \Rightarrow x = \ln(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{N}{N_0} = e^{-Kt}$$

$$\therefore N(t) = N_0 e^{-Kt}$$

PART B: Find $X = X(t)$

$$N(t) = \frac{dX}{dt}$$



Known from (A)

$$\Rightarrow dX = N(t) dt = N_0 e^{-Kt} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{X_0}^X dX = N_0 \int_0^t e^{-Kt} dt$$

$$\int e^{ax} dx = \frac{1}{a} e^{ax} + C$$

$$\Rightarrow x - x_0^0 = N_0 \cdot \frac{1}{K} e^{-Kt} \Big|_0^t$$
$$= -\frac{N_0}{K} (e^{-Kt} - 1)$$

$$\therefore x(t) = \frac{N_0}{K} (1 - e^{-Kt})$$

PART C: Find $N = N(X)$

$$a(N) = \frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{dN}{dX} \frac{dX}{dt} = \frac{dN}{dX} N$$



“chain rule”

Given

$$\Rightarrow dX = \frac{N dN}{a(N)} = \frac{N dN}{-KN} = \frac{-1}{K} dN$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{x_0}^x dx = \frac{-1}{K} \int_{N_0}^N dN$$

$$\Rightarrow x - x_0 = \frac{-1}{K} (N - N_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow N - N_0 = -Kx$$

$$\therefore N(x) = N_0 - Kx$$

Uniform Rectilinear Motion

Case ④:

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow v = \text{const.}$$

Then $v = \frac{dx}{dt} \Rightarrow dx = v dt$

$$\Rightarrow x - x_0 = v(t - 0)$$

$$x = x_0 + vt$$

pos. - time

Uniformly Accelerated Rectilinear Motion

Case ⑤: $a = \text{const.}$

Then

$$a = \frac{dN}{dt} \Rightarrow dN = a dt$$

$$\Rightarrow N - N_0 = a(t - 0)$$

$$N = N_0 + at$$

Vel. - time

Now consider

$$N = \frac{dX}{dt} \Rightarrow dX = N(t) dt$$

$N_0 + at$

$$\Rightarrow dX = (N_0 + at) dt$$

$$\Rightarrow X - X_0 = N_0 t + a \frac{t^2}{2}$$

$$X = X_0 + N_0 t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$

pos-time

Another relationship - Invoke chain rule

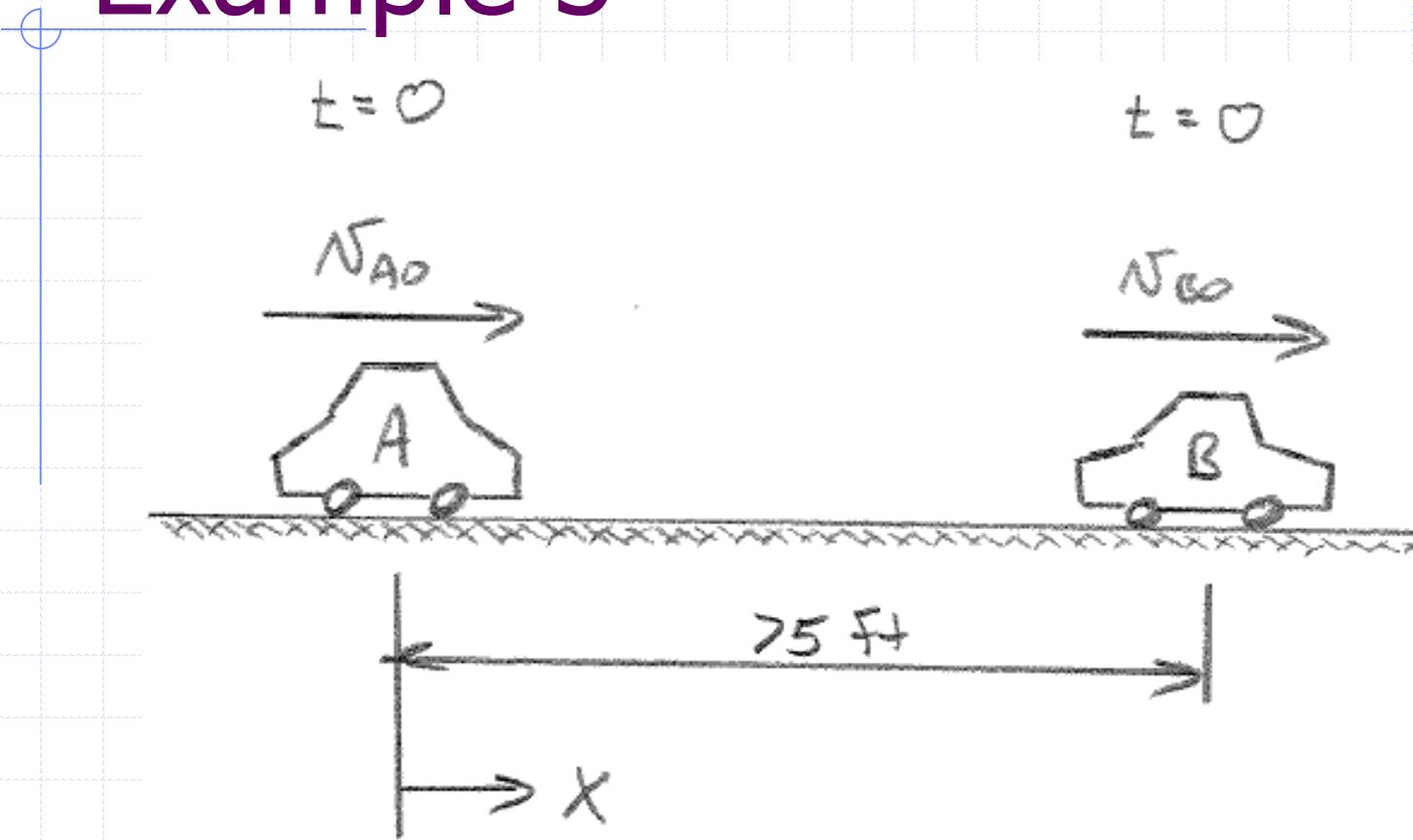
$$a = \frac{d\bar{v}}{dt} = \bar{v} \frac{d\bar{v}}{dx} \Rightarrow \bar{v} d\bar{v} = a dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\bar{v}^2}{2} - \frac{\bar{v}_0^2}{2} = a(x - x_0)$$

$$\bar{v}^2 - \bar{v}_0^2 = 2a(x - x_0)$$

vel. - pos.

Example 3



Data:

$$N_A(t=0) = N_{A0} = 24 \text{ mph}, \quad a_A = 1.8 \text{ ft/s}^2$$

$$N_B(t=0) = N_{B0} = 36 \text{ mph}, \quad a_B = -1.2 \text{ ft/s}^2$$

Find:

- Ⓐ When & where A overtakes B
- Ⓑ Corresponding speed of each car

PART A: Use kinematic eqns for $a = \text{const.}$

$$N = N_0 + at \quad \text{--- ①}$$

$$X - X_0 = N_0 t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2 \quad \text{--- ②} \quad \xleftarrow{\text{pos. - time}}$$

$$N^2 - N_0^2 = 2a(X - X_0) \quad \text{--- ③}$$

Car A: $X_A(t) = X_{A0} + N_A o t + \frac{1}{2} a_A t^2$

— ④

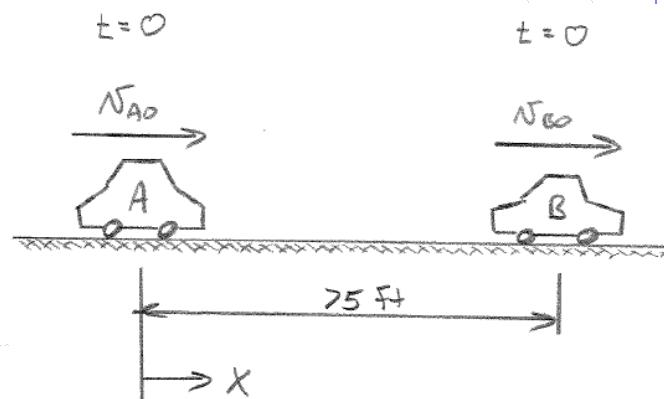
Car B: $X_B(t) = X_{B0} + N_B o t + \frac{1}{2} a_B t^2$

Here, $X_{A0} = 0$, $X_{B0} = 75 \text{ ft}$

$$N_{AO} = \left(24 \frac{\text{mi}}{\text{hr}}\right) \left(\frac{5280 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ mi}}\right) \left(\frac{1 \text{ hr}}{3600 \text{ s}}\right) = 35.2 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}}$$

$$N_{BO} = 36 \text{ mph} = 52.8 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}}$$

a_A, a_B given



A overtakes B when $X_A(t) = X_B(t)$

$$\Rightarrow X_{AO} + N_{AO}t + \frac{1}{2}a_A t^2 = X_{BO} + N_{BO}t + \frac{1}{2}a_B t^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (a_A - a_B)t^2 + 2(N_{AO} - N_{BO})t + 2(X_{AO} - X_{BO}) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (3 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}^2})t^2 + (-35.2 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}})t + (-150 \text{ ft}) = 0$$

of form $at^2 + bt + c = 0$

so $t_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

$$\Rightarrow t_1 = 15.05 \text{ s}$$

$$t_2 = -3.32 \text{ s} \leftarrow \text{nonsense}$$

$$\therefore t = t_1 = 15.1 \text{ s}$$

For positions, plug $t = t_1$ into ④.

$$X_p = 733.7 \text{ ft} \quad (\text{or } \sim 737 \text{ ft?})$$

[try this tool](#)



PART B:

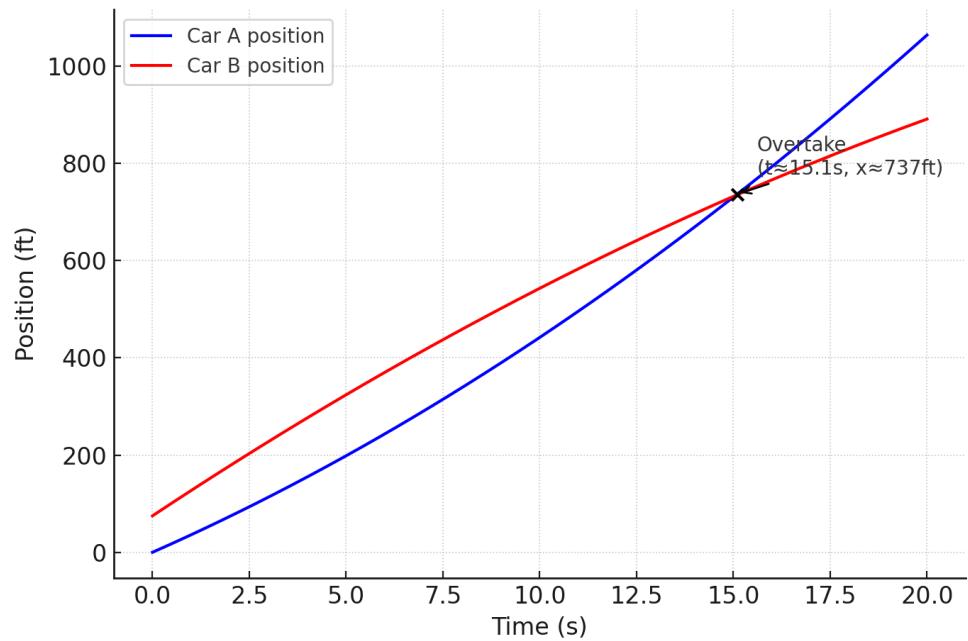
Find $N_A(t_1)$, $N_B(t_1)$

€ Easy! Use ①.

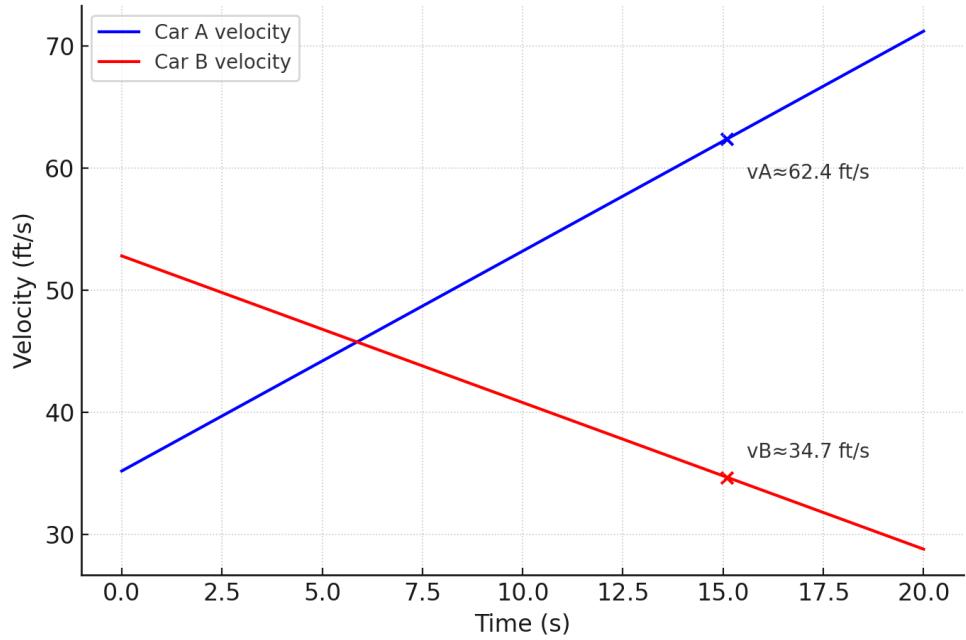
$$N_A(t_1) = N_{A0} + a_A t_1 = 62.3 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}} = 42.5 \text{ mph}$$

$$N_B(t_1) = N_{B0} + a_B t_1 = 34.7 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}} = 23.7 \text{ mph}$$

Position vs Time



Velocity vs Time

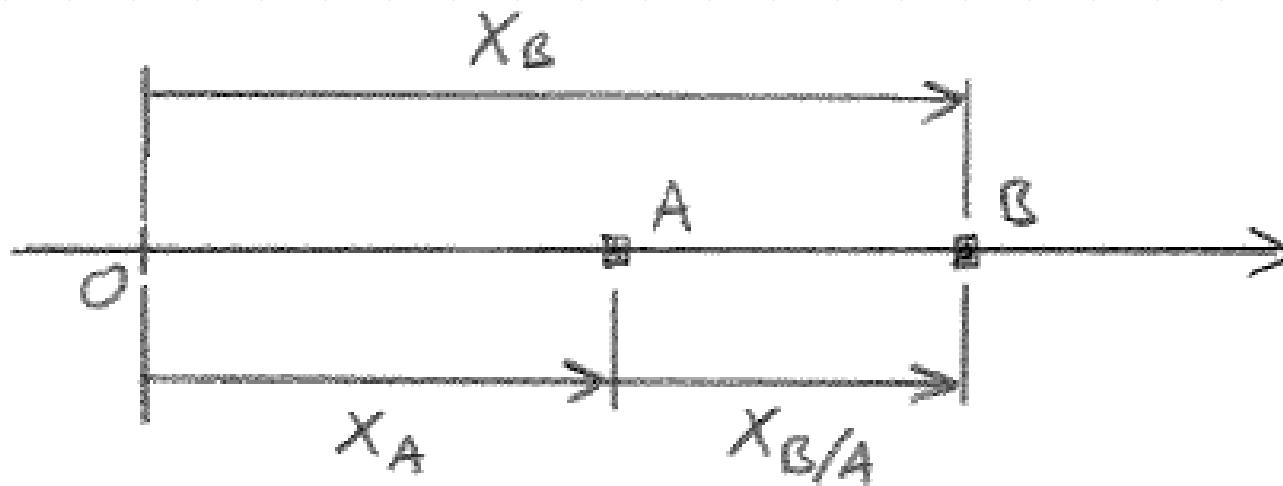


Relative Rectilinear Motion

→ Relative motions are often more important than absolute motions.

We define $X_{B/A} = X_B - X_A$

B/A reads "B with respect to A"



$\frac{d}{dt}$ to obtain

$$N_{B/A} = N_B - N_A$$

$$a_{B/A} = a_B - a_A$$



Rectilinear Motion

Velocity and Acceleration

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt} \quad a = \frac{dv}{dt}$$

Cases 1,2,3: $a = a(t)$, $a = a(x)$, $a = a(v)$

Integrate directly.

Rectilinear Motion

Velocity and Acceleration

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt} \quad a = \frac{dv}{dt}$$

Cases 4,5: $a = 0$, $a = \text{constant}$

$$x = x_o + vt$$

$$v = v_o + at$$

$$x - x_o = v_o t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$

$$v^2 - v_o^2 = 2a(x - x_o)$$

Sample Problem 2/1

The position coordinate of a particle which is confined to move along a straight line is given by $s = 2t^3 - 24t + 6$, where s is measured in meters from a convenient origin and t is in seconds. Determine (a) the time required for the particle to reach a velocity of 72 m/s from its initial condition at $t = 0$, (b) the acceleration of the particle when $v = 30$ m/s, and (c) the net displacement of the particle during the interval from $t = 1$ s to $t = 4$ s.

Solution. The velocity and acceleration are obtained by successive differentiation of s with respect to the time. Thus,

$$[v = \dot{s}]$$

$$v = 6t^2 - 24 \text{ m/s}$$

$$[a = \ddot{s}]$$

$$a = 12t \text{ m/s}^2$$



(a) Substituting $v = 72 \text{ m/s}$ into the expression for v gives us $72 = 6t^2 - 24$, from which $t = \pm 4 \text{ s}$. The negative root describes a mathematical solution for t before

① the initiation of motion, so this root is of no physical interest. Thus, the desired result is

$$t = 4 \text{ s}$$

Ans.

(b) Substituting $v = 30 \text{ m/s}$ into the expression for v gives $30 = 6t^2 - 24$, from which the positive root is $t = 3 \text{ s}$, and the corresponding acceleration is

$$a = 12(3) = 36 \text{ m/s}^2$$

Ans.

(c) The net displacement during the specified interval is

$$\Delta s = s_4 - s_1 \quad \text{or}$$

$$\Delta s = [2(4^3) - 24(4) + 6] - [2(1^3) - 24(1) + 6]$$

$$= 54 \text{ m}$$

Ans.

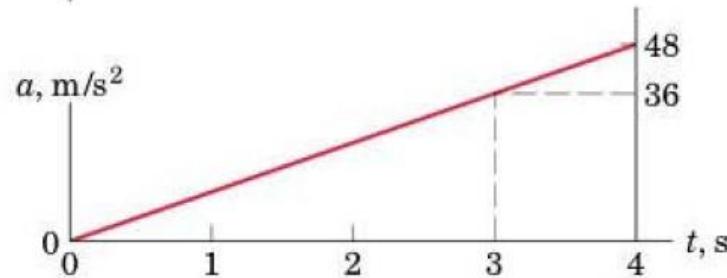
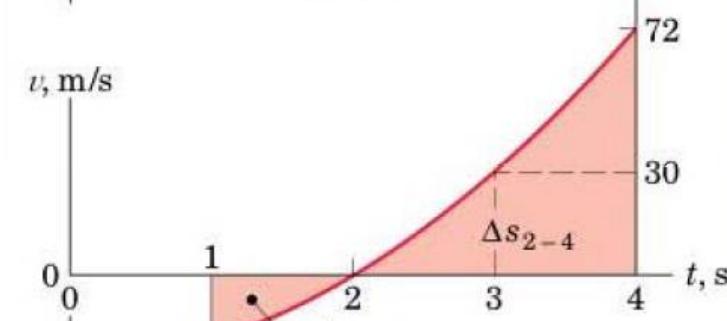
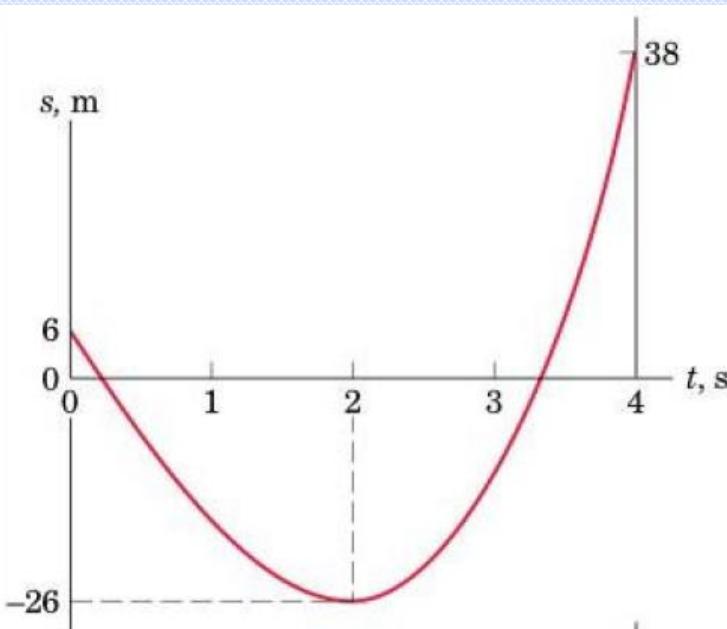
② which represents the net advancement of the particle along the s -axis from the position it occupied at $t = 1 \text{ s}$ to its position at $t = 4 \text{ s}$.

To help visualize the motion, the values of s , v , and a are plotted against the time t as shown. Because the area under the v - t curve represents displacement,

③ we see that the net displacement from $t = 1 \text{ s}$ to $t = 4 \text{ s}$ is the positive area Δs_{2-4} less the negative area Δs_{1-2} .

Helpful Hints

- ① Be alert to the proper choice of sign when taking a square root. When the situation calls for only one answer, the positive root is not always the one you may need.
- ② Note carefully the distinction between italic s for the position coordinate and the vertical s for seconds.
- ③ Note from the graphs that the values for v are the slopes (\dot{s}) of the s - t curve and that the values for a are the slopes (\dot{v}) of the v - t curve. *Suggestion:* Integrate $v dt$ for each of the two intervals and check the answer for Δs . Show that the total distance traveled during the interval $t = 1$ s to $t = 4$ s is 74 m.



Sample Problem 2/4

A freighter is moving at a speed of 8 knots when its engines are suddenly stopped. If it takes 10 minutes for the freighter to reduce its speed to 4 knots, determine and plot the distance s in nautical miles moved by the ship and its speed v in knots as functions of the time t during this interval. The deceleration of the ship is proportional to the square of its speed, so that $a = -kv^2$.

Solution. The speeds and the time are given, so we may substitute the expression for acceleration directly into the basic definition $a = dv/dt$ and integrate. Thus,

$$-kv^2 = \frac{dv}{dt} \quad \frac{dv}{v^2} = -k dt \quad \int_8^v \frac{dv}{v^2} = -k \int_0^t dt$$

(2)

$$-\frac{1}{v} + \frac{1}{8} = -kt \quad v = \frac{8}{1 + 8kt}$$

Now we substitute the end limits of $v = 4$ knots and $t = \frac{10}{60} = \frac{1}{6}$ hour and get

$$4 = \frac{8}{1 + 8k(1/6)} \quad k = \frac{3}{4} \text{ mi}^{-1} \quad v = \frac{8}{1 + 6t} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

The speed is plotted against the time as shown.

The distance is obtained by substituting the expression for v into the definition $v = ds/dt$ and integrating. Thus,

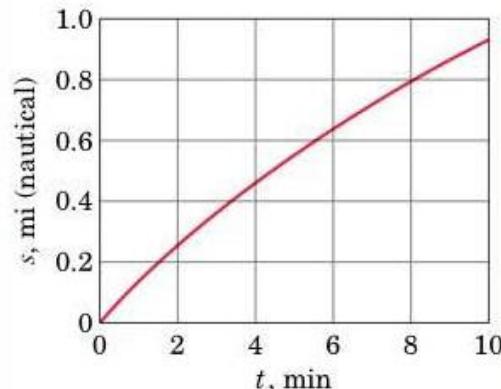
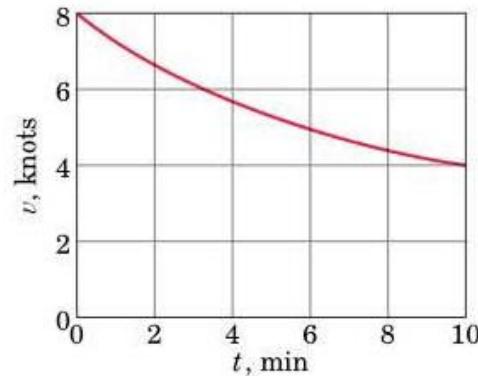
$$\frac{8}{1 + 6t} = \frac{ds}{dt} \quad \int_0^t \frac{8 dt}{1 + 6t} = \int_0^s ds \quad s = \frac{4}{3} \ln(1 + 6t) \quad \text{Ans.}$$

The distance s is also plotted against the time as shown, and we see that the ship has moved through a distance $s = \frac{4}{3} \ln(1 + \frac{6}{6}) = \frac{4}{3} \ln 2 = 0.924$ mi (nautical) during the 10 minutes.

Helpful Hints

(1) Recall that one knot is the speed of one nautical mile (6076 ft) per hour. Work directly in the units of nautical miles and hours.

(2) We choose to integrate to a general value of v and its corresponding time t so that we may obtain the variation of v with t .



2/1 The velocity of a particle is given by $v = 25t^2 - 80t - 200$, where v is in feet per second and t is in seconds. Plot the velocity v and acceleration a versus time for the first 6 seconds of motion and evaluate the velocity when a is zero.

Ans. $v = -264$ ft/sec



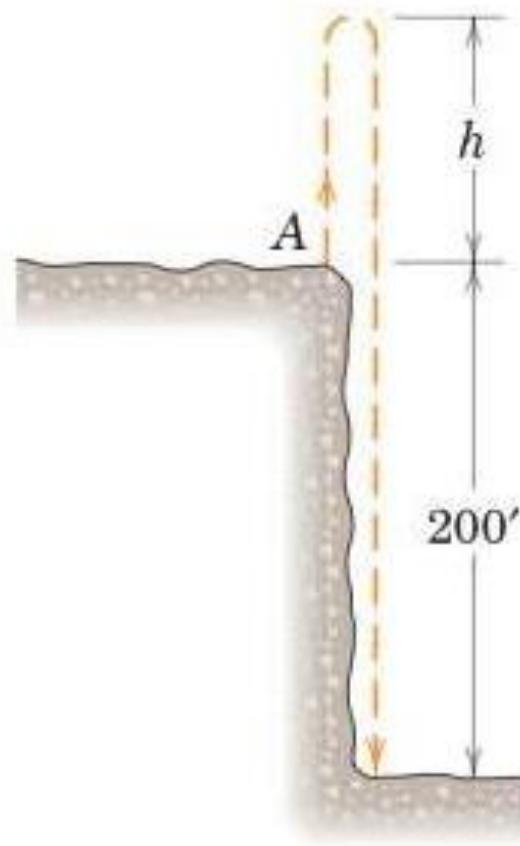
2/2 The position of a particle is given by $s = 2t^3 - 40t^2 + 200t - 50$, where s is in meters and t is in seconds. Plot the position, velocity, and acceleration as functions of time for the first 12 seconds of motion. Determine the time at which the velocity is zero.



2/6 The acceleration of a particle is given by $a = -ks^2$, where a is in meters per second squared, k is a constant, and s is in meters. Determine the velocity of the particle as a function of its position s . Evaluate your expression for $s = 5$ m if $k = 0.1 \text{ m}^{-1}\text{s}^{-2}$ and the initial conditions at time $t = 0$ are $s_0 = 3$ m and $v_0 = 10$ m/s.

2/8 The velocity of a particle moving in a straight line is decreasing at the rate of 3 m/s per meter of displacement at an instant when the velocity is 10 m/s. Determine the acceleration a of the particle at this instant.

2/10 A ball is thrown vertically up with a velocity of 80 ft/sec at the edge of a 200-ft cliff. Calculate the height h to which the ball rises and the total time t after release for the ball to reach the bottom of the cliff. Neglect air resistance and take the downward acceleration to be 32.2 ft/sec².



2/11

A rocket is fired vertically up from rest. If it is designed to maintain a constant upward acceleration of $1.5g$, calculate the time t required for it to reach an altitude of 30 km and its velocity at that position.

Ans. $t = 63.9$ s, $v = 940$ m/s

2/32 A motorcycle patrolman starts from rest at A two seconds after a car, speeding at the constant rate of 120 km/h, passes point A. If the patrolman accelerates at the rate of 6 m/s^2 until he reaches his maximum permissible speed of 150 km/h, which he maintains, calculate the distance s from point A to the point at which he overtakes the car.

